

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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### From the Editor

When I speak to audiences about sustainability and masonry I always try to make the point that sustainability is much bigger than just LEED certification. Sustainability includes not only economics and societal impacts, but there's also more to the environment than what one finds covered in the LEED checklist. Attributes like durability are important to the discussion of what defines a sustainable building. Another is resiliency. The Portland Cement Association (PCA) has published a guide, [Functional Resilience: Prerequisite for Green Building](#), which has been previously featured in this newsletter. This edition looks at other recent activities around resilience.

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*NOTE: Inclusion in this newsletter is not an endorsement of the products and materials featured, nor have these products been evaluated by TMS or the editor. Furthermore, the views expressed in the articles featured are those of the article authors.*

### **RESILIENCE**

Resilience is defined as the ability to recover readily from adversity. In building terms, it often refers to the ability of buildings to survive and maintain habitability when exposed to natural or manmade disasters. Most would agree that resiliency is a sustainable attribute and one often associated with masonry construction. Check out the links below for more opportunities to learn more about this sustainable attribute. ~Tina

#### **Building Museum Lecture Series Features 'Designing for Disaster'**

National Building Museum hosted National Institute of Building Sciences President Henry L. Green, who recently spoke on "Designing a Resilient Community." The lecture provided attendees with a description of resilience, the value of a communitywide approach, and the benefit of mitigation. The presentation previews an upcoming exhibit at the museum on "Designing for Disaster." View the presentation [here](#).

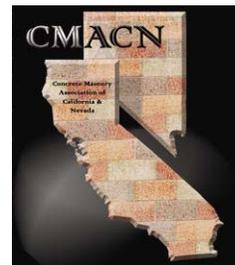
#### **Disaster Prep Essential to Sustainable Development**

Aris Papadopoulos, CEO of Titan America, spoke to 1,000 people at Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, about the need to consider resilience, or disaster risk reduction, as urbanization plans ramp up. "Disaster

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losses can take back 20 years of development progress. It's a tremendously important issue," he said, according to [this article](#).

### Resilient Buildings Workshop

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative invite you to attend the Resilient Buildings Workshop: Integrating Materials, Systems, Resilience and Sustainability.

The workshop is free of charge and will take place at the National Building Museum on Oct. 18. The Resilient Buildings Workshop is a collaborative effort between federal government and private sector. To learn more, [click here](#).

### CODES and more

I've included articles on work on sustainable infrastructure in the past, both because such projects can include masonry pavements, retaining walls and more, and also because work in related areas often flows across industry boundaries. I hope you find the links below insightful. ~Tina

### PCA Critiques the 2012 IGCC in 'IGCC: Pearl or Peril?'

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) recently released a review of the new International Green Construction Code (IGCC) with an overview about how concrete and masonry systems fair with regard to the specific requirements of the IGCC. To read more, [click here](#).

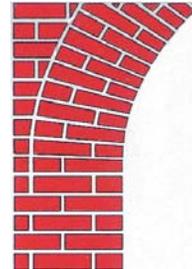
### Building Commissioning Guidelines Published

Building enclosure commissioning is a relatively recent addition to green building criteria. The 4th public comment draft of LEED 2012 included reference to the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Guideline 3-2012: Building Enclosure Commissioning Process. Guideline 3-2012 is available as a [free download](#) on the Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) website.

### New ISO Standard on Concrete, Sustainability, Environment

A new standard released by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) aims to help the construction industry manage the environmental impact of using concrete. "Today, the concept of sustainability is required in every aspect of social, economic, and cultural activities. ISO 13315-1 will help the construction industry answer the need of sustainability and will provide a strong support at all

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phases of the life cycle of concrete structures," said Koji Sakai, chair of ISO/TC 71/SC8 in [this article](#).

### Traversing the Greenroads to Sustainable Roadbuilding

The first Greenroads certification has been awarded to a bridge project in Bellingham, Wash. Similar to LEED, Greenroads is a rating system for roadwork that has 11 project requirements, 37 voluntary credits and four certification levels. Read more in this [Journal of Commerce article](#).

### Green Infrastructure Solutions Gain Mainstream Momentum

An increasing number of regulatory mandates and economic benefits to taxpayers will help expand the demand for green infrastructure, writes Bob Drake, who sees "broad agreement across disciplines" from civil engineers to environmentalists in this [CE News article](#). Drake points to the Envision rating system as a good tool for measuring and promoting sustainability in infrastructure projects.

## PRODUCT NEWS

### Canada Plans Labeling System for Building Materials

Canada is planning a labeling system that would determine building products' contents and carbon footprint. The 2030 Challenge for Products initiative is expected to "transform the United States and global building sectors from being the major contributor of greenhouse gas emissions, to a central part of the solution to the climate change, energy consumption and economic crises," said Francesca Desmarais, 2030 Challenge for Products director in this [Journal of Commerce article](#).

### U.K. Orders Public Companies to Report Carbon Emissions

Companies listed on the London Stock Exchange will be required to disclose greenhouse-gas emissions beginning in April 2013, the U.K. government has said. The move will affect more than 1,500 companies. "Counting your business costs while hiding your greenhouse-gas emissions is a false economy. British companies need to reduce their harmful emissions for the benefit of the planet," said Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. [Read more](#).

### Nanotechnology Advances Creation of Stronger "Green" Cements

The use of nanotechnology to help develop stronger



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and more versatile building materials -- especially cement -- is a focus of scientists and cement makers. This [technical article](#) discusses the work of a research team's use of "inorganic oxide nanotubes as natural means of reinforcements of cement pastes" and says their ability to "calculate the stability of cementitious nanotubes ... is an important step in developing suitable synthesis processes for these nanotubes."

## **USGBC and LEED**

Some more follow up from the delay in LEED. ~Tina

### **Industry Groups Pleased with LEED v4 Postponement**

The [recent announcement](#) by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) that it has postponed the ballot vote on the next version of the LEED certification program (LEED v4) until June 1, 2013, pleased industry trade groups that are critical of the new guidelines and the process by which the new standards have been devised, according to [this EcoStructure article](#).

### **Trade Groups Question LEED Changes**

Planned revisions to LEED standards include criteria that would restrict the use of some chemicals in building products. Several trade groups have asked the General Services Administration not to adopt the green building standards according to [this article](#). Foam insulation, polyvinyl chloride piping and heat-reflecting roof membranes are among the products that would be affected.

## **EDUCATION**

There are several opportunities over the next few months to expand your knowledge of sustainability, masonry and more. Check out the links below. ~Tina

### **TMS Annual Meeting Provides Educational Opportunities**

Mark your calendar for [TMS's 2012 Annual Meeting](#), which will be held on September 13-18 in Greenville, SC. A full slate of presentations and activities is planned. We hope you'll be able to join us as we celebrate TMS's 35th "birthday" as a professional society.

### **Resilient Buildings Workshop: Integrating Materials, Systems, Resilience and Sustainability**

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### **Register for Greenbuild 2012 Today**

Registration is open for the [Greenbuild International Conference and Expo](#) — the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green building. To be held November 14-16, 2012 in San Francisco, California. Learn about what education will be available at Greenbuild 2012 and [access the education program »](#)

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