

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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### From the Editor

ASTM Committee C15 recently approved revisions to the standard for loadbearing concrete masonry units (ASTM C90) that limit the scope of the standard to units made with traditional production methods. Recent changes in the material specifications for both clay brick and concrete masonry products address the introduction of new, and in many cases, untested materials and methods of production often introduced in the name of sustainability. Innovation is often a good thing, but it is important to recognize the background and history associated with material standards when trying to apply them to products beyond the original scope of the standard. In many cases, changes are significant enough to warrant development of new standards. Read more in the links below.

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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.*

### GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

Whether your company has already jumped on the "green bandwagon" or is just testing the waters, I hope the links below will be useful to you. ~Tina

#### 8 Questions to Help Organize Your Company for Sustainability

[GreenBiz.com](#)

The top companies in sustainability each align efforts internally across all departments, write Emily Chan and Mahima Sukhdev. There are eight things a company needs to figure out, including whether there is an inventory of existing sustainability efforts and whether all employees can explain the company's green philosophy. [Read more.](#)

#### Why Every Company Needs a "Green Team"

[SustainablePlant.com](#)

It pays to create formal organizational and management structures to underpin your company's environmental efforts, writes Gabriele Crognale in [this article](#). Setting up a "Green Team," with clearly designated responsibilities for each member, can make it easier to communicate and execute sustainability goals. Crognale shares her 10-step program for organizations wishing to fully capture the benefits of sustainability.

#### Green Building Investments: Moving to "Extreme Green"

[TMCNet.com](#)

Investments in green building are focusing on achieving "extreme green" or "net-zero" status. [This article](#) examines investment activity by venture capitalists since 2000 for 332 projects valued at \$4.06 billion as tracked by Lux Research. Among the highlights of the Lux report are the importance of integrated design to achieve energy-efficiency targets, growth in on-site energy generation, development of low carbon concrete and cements, and a surge in mergers and acquisitions.

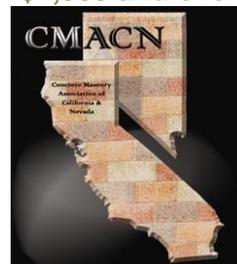
#### U.S. Carbon Emissions Hit 20-year Low

[Associated Press](#)

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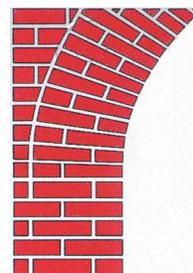
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National Concrete Masonry Association  
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America's carbon footprint has fallen to its lowest level in 20 years, researchers say, largely because of a transition from coal power plants to natural gas. "There's a very clear lesson here. What it shows is that if you make a cleaner energy source cheaper, you will displace dirtier sources," says climate scientist Roger Pielke Jr. in [this Associated Press article](#).

## PRODUCT NEWS

Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture Biopreferred program does not include building products at this time (wood is excluded), it is important to be aware of this program which encourages government and consumer purchasing based on only one of many sustainable material attributes. In most cases a more balanced approach is needed. Read more about the program in the link below. ~Tina

### New ASTM C90 Approved

#### NCMA

A new version of ASTM C90, "Standard Specification for Loadbearing Concrete Masonry Units," has been approved. This version, ASTM C90-12, contains a note in the scope advising users of the standard that the requirements are applicable to units using materials compliant with the standard and traditional production methods. This note also provides guidance that additional evaluations outside of the C90 requirements may be necessary for units using nontraditional materials, configurations or manufacturing methods. To learn more or get a copy visit the [ASTM website](#).

### AggreBind - Sustainable Alternative to Cement?

#### Architecture Dispatch

Don Hawkrige has developed a product used to bind all types of soil, including sand, into structurally sound, sealed building products that can be used for things such as the construction of affordable housing or roads in third world countries. [Read more](#).

### What to Know About the USDA Biopreferred.gov Program

#### BiofuelsDigest.com

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Biopreferred.gov is working to create standards, scorecards and processes for biobased product purchasing. "Translating desire into action at the federal government – well, that's a different order....[K]ey to that effort will be a federal biobased scorecard, that will give government buyers a benchmark, and give administrators the opportunities to set goals that have a way of translating desire into results," Jim Lane writes in [this blog](#).

## LEED

### Georgia Bans LEED Over Certified Wood Credits

#### LEEDUser.com

Following in Maine's footsteps, the State of Georgia has effectively banned LEED certification for State building projects. Governor Nathan Deal's executive order, echoing language used by Maine Governor Paul LePage, requires green building standards that equally recognize three forestry standards—the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the American Tree Farm System, and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

[Read more](#).

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## EDUCATION

The TMS Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching. Join us in Greenville, SC for numerous educational opportunities. ~Tina

### **TMS Seminar on The Role of Masonry in Sustainable Design and LEED**

The Masonry Society will present its popular seminar on masonry and sustainable design immediately prior to the TMS Annual Meeting. The seminar will be held on September 13 from 1:30 – 4:30pm. Certificates of attendance will be provided. Visit the TMS website for [more information](#) or to [register](#).

### **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**

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](#).

### **Greenbuild 2012 Registration**

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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