

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

### From the Editor

As the year comes to a close many of us will take time to take stock of the past year and look forward to the future. This edition includes several links for articles that look to the future of sustainable buildings and materials.

And as a reminder, sponsors for 2013 are currently being solicited, so if you are a regular reader, please consider supporting *Sustainability E-News* in 2013. [Contact the TMS office](#) for more information. And thank you for your support!

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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.*

### PRODUCT NEWS

A few of the latest ideas on improving concrete are featured below. ~Tina

#### **Are Biomimicry, Geomimicry Keys to Developing Eco-Cement?**

##### **The Conversation**

In the race to cut carbon emissions, the development of eco-cements is an important step toward creating a more sustainable building material. [This article](#) describes how the use of biomimicry and geomimicry can help make eco-friendly cement and concrete in the future. "The production of carbon-negative cement and building materials is one of the most attractive and forceful of these industrial ecological initiatives, because it addresses the problem directly and can be scaled to the required dimensions," writes John Mathews, professor of strategic management at Macquarie Graduate School of Management in Australia.

#### **Biological Concrete Absorbs Atmosphere's CO2**

##### **TG Daily**

The research team from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Spain has developed a new form of biological concrete that soaks up atmospheric carbon dioxide and speeds up the growth of mosses, microalgae and lichens. "The biological concrete acts not only as an insulating material and a thermal regulator, but also as an ornamental alternative," says the team. "The idea is to create a patina in the form of a biological covering or a living painting" according to [this piece](#).

### GREEN BUILDING NEWS

#### **Sponsors of TMS's Sustainability E-Newsletter**

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## 2 Net-zero Buildings Offer Insight into Possibilities

### CitiesSpeak

Two presentations about net-zero-energy buildings led Raksha Vasudevan to focus on how understanding ways the buildings were designed could shape how we view building sustainable communities. Life-cycle analysis comes into play, as do integrated design, plug-load issues and the potential of passive design. [Read more.](#)

## USA Today Attacks LEED Schools

### LEEDUser.com

USA Today is at it again with another attack on LEED, this time focused on schools. At least author Tom Frank has done a better job of asking the right questions, this time, in contrast to his bizarre accusations in previous articles that LEED buildings wrongly reward teams for reaping low-hanging fruit according to [this article](#) by Nadav Malin. To read the USA Today article, [click here.](#)

## New York City's 10-year Energy Law to Take Effect

### Lexology.com

New York City, NY, has established a goal of reducing citywide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The city already has one of the lowest per capita GHG emissions rates among comparable cities because of its extensive public transit system. To learn more, [click here.](#)

## Report on NYC Buildings' Energy Efficiency Reveals Surprises

### NY TIMES

A report that tracks the energy use of New York City's largest buildings has been released. [This article](#) provides details about which buildings are achieving higher-than-expected energy efficiency, such as the Chrysler and Empire State buildings, as well as those that fail to make the grade, such as the LEED Gold-certified 7 World Trade Center and the MetLife Building. "Some scores will not be flattering, but identifying buildings with the most opportunity to improve is a big part of driving energy savings," said Andrew Burr, a performance expert at the Institute for Market Transformation.

## GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

### Fortune 500 Leaders Split Over Future of CSR

#### CSR WIRE.COM

Some corporate bosses believe that CSR professionals will become obsolete as sustainable practices are embedded into all levels of companies, according to a recent survey. Not everyone agrees with that premise, however. "The [CSR] positions aren't going to go away; they are actually going to grow. You'll see leadership of organizations adding C-level executives as it becomes a strategic priority for the highest levels of companies," argues David Katz of Viacom according to [this blog](#).

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