

The Masonry Society Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

This edition is much longer than usual, but there is lots of news to cover. There are several links included to articles and blogs that question common approaches to green building and sustainable design. I think with any new approach to things, especially something as widely embraced and undefined as “green building”, it is important to stop and question. Am I on the right path? Are we accurate in our work? Is this the best approach? Check out the articles below, and let me know what you think.

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MEASURING GREEN

The articles below talk about the importance of measuring...“can’t manage what you don’t measure”, and measuring accurately. ~Tina

Energy Modeling Disciplines Must be Standardized

Pushing for LEED certification and focusing on building sustainability are all the rage, but there are barriers to uniformity in applications that need to be addressed, writes Kelly Vaughn. The Rocky Mountain Institute is now working with various industry partners to align existing practices so they can create an integrated design process not just for companies but for all industries concerned according to this [GreenerBuildings](#) article.

Can the Federal Government Go Green?

President Obama has ordered environmental executive Michelle Moore to make his administration more sustainable -- a tough task, given the scale and scattered nature of the organization. Moore has focused on soliciting feedback from federal employees to find simple, easy steps and spread the word about her efforts. "You could say I've got the required 'CEO' buy-in, so the real question has been, 'How do I get the rest to buy in?'" Moore said. Read more at [GreenBiz.com](#).

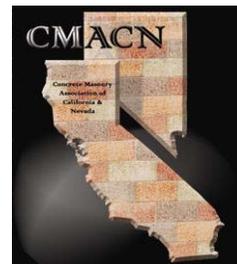
How to Cash in on Carbon Management

Carbon-management systems can be good for a firm's bottom line, as long as they're integrated into a broader strategy of environmental management, writes Jonathan Garrett, group head of

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sustainability at Balfour Beatty. His team used carbon-management tools to pinpoint potential savings in road-construction projects and was able to save money and 55,000 tons of carbon by switching to recycled tires and ash in its construction process. Read more in [The Guardian \(London\)/The Sustainable Business Blog](#).

STANDARDS, RATING SYSTEMS, and MORE

Several links below feature tools to help you navigate the vast number of standards, rating systems, and other programs adopted by various states, agencies, etc. I've also included a couple of blogs from writers with an interesting perspective on the usefulness of third-party rating programs. ~Tina

A New World for Commercial Buildings: ASTM's "BEPA" Standard

On February 10, 2011, ASTM formally published its Building Energy Performance Assessment (BEPA) Standard - E 2797-11. This standard will enable users to measure the energy performance of a commercial building in connection with a real estate transaction. Click [here](#) to read more.

USGBC Launches LEED for Homes Self-Scoring Tool

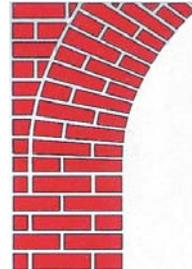
The LEED for Homes Self-Scoring Tool gives you an estimate of how your project might score in LEED for Homes. It also lets you confirm or change that estimated score by reviewing the actual credit requirements. Check it out at <http://www.leadforhomes.org/OST/homepage.aspx>.

Building Rating Database Website Launched

The Institute for Market Transformation and the Natural Resources Defense Council today announced the launch of [BuildingRating.org](#), the world's first comprehensive resource on energy performance rating and disclosure policies for homes and commercial buildings. BuildingRating.org contains a searchable library of rating and disclosure information and a user-friendly, interactive map of global policies and programs. BuildingRating.org users can search more than 100 countries and jurisdictions to learn where policies are enacted and how they are being implemented, what types of rating systems are used to evaluate energy performance, and how policies are impacting markets.



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Top States for LEED-Certified Projects in 2010

USGBC has released a list of the top states for LEED-certified projects on a per capita basis, versus the more traditional numbers of projects, or pure square footage. Read [MORE](#).

California Leads in Green Building Policies

The State of California is taking a leading role in supporting and incentivizing improvements in energy efficiency with two measures taking effect in 2011. To read more click [here](#).

CSR Rating Systems: Distraction or Useful Benchmark?

Efforts to establish third-party ratings and eco-labeling programs are a mixed blessing, writes John Rooks. They help consumers see that companies are doing good, but they also perpetuate the impression that businesses are so untrustworthy that even their environmental claims must be externally verified. Corporations should give up third-party ratings, Rooks argues, and focus on developing deep, authentic sustainability programs so rigorous and far-reaching that consumers will accept them on their own merits. Read more at [Environmental Leader](#).

Are Green Building Codes The Only Answer?

This blogger muses on other approaches to achieving green in [Are Green Building Codes The Only Answer?](#)

BUILDING PRODUCTS

Bahamas Officials Hear Benefits of Interlocking Concrete Blocks

Block World, a designer of concrete blocks, presented the product to public works and housing officials in the Bahamas. The blocks offer an alternative building material that can save homeowners time and cash. The blocks interlock with each and rebar frames, saving time and money over traditional methods. "With us, you would just lay the blocks like any other blocks, there is no form required, and the cost of that is probably at least 50% savings," said Block World General Manager Steve Wallace according to this [The Tribune \(The Bahamas\)](#) article.

Canadian Provinces Add Portland-Limestone Cement to Codes



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Two Canadian provinces, Ontario and Quebec, have rolled the use of Portland-limestone cement into their building codes. Labeled as an "alternative solution" to regular cement, production of Portland-limestone cement is purported to release 10% less emissions than production of traditional mix. The alternative cement substitutes limestone for 15% of the clinker in cement. Read more at CanadianConsultingEngineer.com.

Mlutkowski Named Director of Sustainability for ACI

The American Concrete Institute (ACI) announces Kevin P. Mlutkowski, LEED AP, as its Director of Sustainability. In this newly created position, Mlutkowski will work with ACI volunteers, committee members, representatives from other organizations inside and outside the concrete industry, and fellow staff to increase sustainability content in the Institute's programs, events, documents, products and student activities. For more information, contact: Kevin Mlutkowski at Kevin.mlutkowski@concrete.org.

Concrete JSI Industry Trends Reports Available

The two January editions of the Concrete JSI Industry Trends Report include information on Republicans challenging EPA regulation of greenhouse gases, President Obama budgeting for increased infrastructure spending, carbon emissions being linked to stock price, researchers finding a way to turn contaminated sediment into a concrete like building material, and more. You can obtain the current Report plus past archives under "Green Resources" at <http://www.concretejsi.com>.

EDUCATION

Intro to 2010 California Green Building Standards Code

ICC Offers Webinars on CALGreen Code. Designed for building inspectors, plan reviewers, building officials, and others, this 2-part webinar will help code professionals enforce and ensure compliance with the 2010 California Green Building Code. [Learn more](#).

Wall Street's Green Summit X Emphasizes Green Buildings

At this year's summit, there are fifteen speakers addressing the building sector, specifically how to

get carbon out of buildings. Read more about Green Summit X by clicking [here](#).

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