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Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:42 PM
To: info
Subject: TMS Sustainability E-Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 10

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

May 28, 2013

Volume 5, Number 10

SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

This edition comes to you a little early because The Masonry Society is about to kick off it's Spring Meeting in Vancouver, Canada just prior to the 12th Canadian Masonry Symposium. TMS will meet May 31 to June 2 and the Symposium will run June 2-5. Lots of activities are in store for the week's events, and I hope you will join us there! To learn more, visit the [TMS website](#).

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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 BUILDING NEWS

The Death of Carbon Trading

TIME

Europe's carbon-trading program has stumbled, with regional lawmakers refusing to allow a move to curtail the supply of carbon and drive up prices. That effectively ends the market's claim to be a driver of corporate sustainability, [writes Bryan Walsh](#). Carbon markets "may be finished," he writes. "If carbon trading can't make it in Europe, it can't make it anywhere."

What Should We Call Sustainability?

GREENBIZ.COM

All of the terms for eco-friendly business practices -- including "CSR," "sustainability," "corporate citizenship" and "triple bottom line" -- are jargon and confusing, Steve Voien writes. It's time for a rebranding exercise to create a sharper and more specific label, he argues in [this article](#).

ENERGY NEWS

TMS Fellow, Adrian Page, shared some research from the Centre for Energy at the University of Newcastle on the thermal performance of

Sponsors of TMS's Sustainability E-Newsletter

Click on the links below to find out more about each of these organizations who have graciously sponsored this E-Newsletter. Sponsors designated with an Asterisk(*) are also TMS Members at the following levels:

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Platinum Level



housing. The study confirms the view that focusing only on R-value misses important thermal contributions masonry can have. Check out the link below. Also below are links to energy policy news. ~Tina

Thermal Performance of Masonry Walls

For the last 12 years, the Centre for Energy at the University of Newcastle (Australia) has been researching how to more effectively consider the role of thermal mass on the overall building thermal performance. The shortcomings on the reliance on R value alone and the important contribution of thermal mass have been demonstrated. To learn more, and get a copy of the report, [click here](#).

AIA Says: Don't Gut Energy Conservation Requirements

ECOSTRUCTURE

More than 350 associations and companies have voiced opposition to special interest efforts to gut energy conservation requirements for federal buildings. [Read more](#).

Boston to Require Energy Disclosures

ECOSTRUCTURE

Under new legislation, building owners must report energy and water use and greenhouse gas emissions. Boston will become the eighth city in the country with an energy rating policy, following similar recent legislation in Philadelphia and Minneapolis. The citywide building energy rating and disclosure policy applies to all commercial buildings 35,000 square feet or larger and residential buildings with 35 units or more according to [this article](#).

N.C. Bill Would Relax Energy-Efficiency Standards

NEWS & OBSERVER

Commercial-building projects in North Carolina would see a 30% reduction in commercial conservation standards, under a bill approved recently by a state House committee. Supporters of the bill say it would lower construction costs and spur economic activity. [Learn more](#).

Building Energy Labeling Program Expanded

ECOSTRUCTURE

ASHRAE's Building Energy Quotient is now two labels in one with the addition of an "As Designed" designation. [Read more](#) about this label.

Clay Brick Air Permeance Testing

Testing conducted by the National Brick Research Center (NBRC) on the air permeance of brick masonry has led to changes in the code requirements for air barriers. This testing demonstrated conclusively that brick masonry can qualify as an air barrier as both a material and as a wall assembly as designated by the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) Commercial Provisions. The results of this testing were published by NBRC in a one-page Clay Brick Air Permeance Testing [Handout](#). Clay brick joins fully grouted concrete masonry and other materials meeting the air barrier requirements.

[Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada](#)***



[Western States Clay Products Association](#)***

Gold Level



[Masonry Institute of America](#)***



Silver Level



PRODUCT NEWS

The links below feature several articles on news in the concrete industry. Much of the discussion is applicable to concrete masonry as well. Also included is a new article on some previously featured research on bio-based concrete. ~Tina

Will Recent Designations Spawn New Environmental Product Declarations?

CARBON CURE - This article on the emergence of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) was written by Steve Rizer, Editor of [ConstructionPro Week](#) newsletter, and originally published on May 10, 2013.

Now that a supplier of ready mix concrete has achieved three groundbreaking milestones involving environmental designations for its products, will a flood of other companies that provide materials for green buildings follow suit? The question arises after Central Concrete Supply Inc. became the first ready mix supplier in the United States to offer concrete environmental product declarations (EPDs). [Read more.](#)

Reducing Concrete's Carbon Footprint

EARTHTECHLING.COM

Canadian startup CarbonCure has developed a technology that infuses waste carbon dioxide into the mixing stage of concrete, which takes CO2 and sequesters it as calcium carbonate, resulting in more eco-friendly concrete blocks. "The best part is that the result is stronger, and reaches full strength before it leaves the factory; this strength should make it possible to design any given project to use less concrete," Daniel Mathews writes in [this article](#).

New Concrete Material Developed From Biobased Materials

IOWA FARMER TODAY

A new concrete material made from biobased construction materials such as high-lignin residue yielded a stronger product with fewer carbon emissions, according to Kyle Riding, an assistant professor of civil engineering at Kansas State University. Concrete use worldwide totals 7 billion cubic meters per year, and using biobased technology to create stronger concrete on a commercial level is possible because "the technology is known," Riding said [in this piece](#).

3D Printing Ink Now Comes in Concrete, Wood and Salt

EXTREME TECH

Emerging Objects, based in San Francisco, has developed a concrete ink for 3D printers, as well as a fiber-reinforced cement polymer that can create objects tougher than those made from standard concrete. The ink looks like concrete, is cheaper than plastic and can fit any nozzle that uses plastic ink. The firm foresees buildings being built using "cheaper, stronger, and more environmentally friendly than standard construction materials." [Read more.](#)

EDUCATION / EVENTS

New Concepts in LEED v4

USGBC



Bronze Level



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The USGBC member ballot on LEED version 4 (LEED v4) is taking place June 1–30. If approved, the new rating system could be available for registration as soon as the fall. To get you quickly up to speed on the credit requirements that will define your projects for years to come, USGBC is offering a free webcast on Tuesday, June 4th at 1:00 p.m. for LEEDUser members only, that will highlight LEED v4's biggest changes. [Learn more and register for the webcast.](#)

Call for Abstracts

The 9th International Masonry Conference will be held in Guimarães, Portugal in July 7-9, 2014, as a joint initiative from the University of Minho and the International Masonry Society. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is June 30, 2013 through the conference website (www.9imc.civil.uminho.pt).

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