

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

April is a busy month. Last week TMS held its Spring Meetings in Kansas City. A highlight for the Sustainability Committee was the final approval of a new brochure on masonry and sustainability which will be available online in the coming weeks. This week the [code change proposal hearings](#) for the International Green Construction Code are being held in Memphis, TN. Check out the links below for more information on this and other items of interest.

Christine "Tina" Subasic, PE, LEED AP
CSubasicPE@aol.com

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 RATING SYSTEM NEWS

The first article featured below discusses some of the IgCC code change proposals of interest to masonry industry in the area of hardscapes and heat islands. Also of interest below is an interactive tool by USGBC that provides data on LEED activity in each state. Check out the links below. ~Tina

IgCC Hearings Held

GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

The process of updating the 2012 International Green Construction Code (IgCC) moves to Memphis April 27 - May 3. The IgCC provides model code language, to be adopted by local governments as an overlay to existing codes to establish "baseline regulations for new and existing buildings related to energy conservation, water efficiency, building owner responsibilities, site impacts, building waste, and materials" and other matters. [Click here](#).

NGBS Consensus Committee, Task Groups to Hold First Meeting

icc

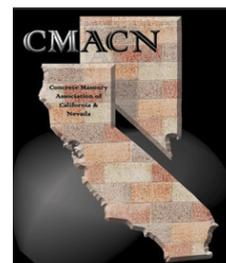
The [Consensus Committee](#) and [Task Groups](#) for the development of the 2015 edition of the National Green Building Standard will hold their [first meeting](#) June 9-10 at the National Housing Center in Washington, D.C. The [purpose of the meeting](#) is to orient all participants in the update process, initiate Task Group review of proposed changes to the 2015 edition, and to discuss options on several key areas of the standard. [Continue](#)

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Platinum Level



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

[reading story.](#)

USGBC's Online Tool Describes LEED Activity in Each State

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

An [online tool](#) from the U.S. Green Building Council lets you discover Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design activity in the commercial sector for each state and Washington, D.C. USGBC will include data on LEED for Homes and LEED for Neighborhood Development in the latter part of the year. [Read more.](#)

South Carolina Avoids LEED Ban Through Compromise

ECOBUILDING PULSE

While a new law does not ban the green building rating system, the Palmetto State pushes back on LEED's material disclosure credits. The bill, amends a 2007 law that required state-funded building projects to achieve LEED Silver or Green Globes certification so that local manufacturers that would now not qualify for certain credits under LEED v4 can still partake in government-funded green building projects. [Read more.](#)

PRODUCT NEWS

Lots of news about cement and concrete, including one example of applying technology to making concrete masonry units. ~Tina

Bamboo Products and their Environmental Impacts - Revisited

DOVETAIL REPORTS

In 2005 Dovetail investigated environmental attributes of bamboo, a material that had several years earlier been firmly embraced by the green movement in the absence of any serious attempt to determine what impacts actually result from its production and use. [This report](#) revisits bamboo products and environmental impacts associated with their production and use, focused on bamboo production in China.

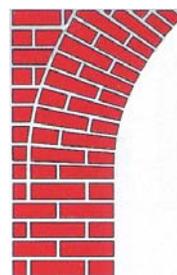
Concrete Puts Carbon Dioxide to Good Use

THE GLOBE AND MAIL (Toronto)

A process developed by CarbonCure Technologies absorbs carbon dioxide using a chemical process, producing environmentally friendly concrete. The CO₂ is transformed into solid limestone to make concrete blocks with all the performance of ordinary blocks, serving the rapidly growing market for green building materials, according to [this article](#). CarbonCure is at work to alter the technology so it could be used in



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America's Cement Manufacturers™ **



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Silver Level

precast and ready-mix concrete as well.

In Search of Greener Cement Alternatives, This Time From Ceramic Waste

GIZMAG

An international research team is developing what could be a greener alternative to Portland cement using ground up toilet bowls and stoneware. The pulverized ceramic is then mixed with water and an activator solution. The strength of the product is being evaluated, but when red clay brick was used, it proved stronger than traditional concrete. The researchers are also testing the possibility of using rice husk ash as an activator, and this could make the mixture entirely from reclaimed waste materials. [Read more.](#)

3 Greener Cements

DAILY COMMERCIAL NEWS

[This article](#) looks at three cements that don't emit as much greenhouse gases as does Portland cement. Two are from LaFarge, the other is from Solidia. LaFarge's Aether, which is in the final stages of development, uses "a new generation of clinker developed for lower carbon cements," and could become useful to precasters because it quickly gains in strength. Solidia's product could be the real game changer though since it appears to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions by as much as 70%.

Florida Cement Firm Replaces Coal with Waste to Green its Product

SUN-SENTINEL (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

Titan America, a Florida-based cement firm, has been harnessing items such as scrap cardboard and car bumpers to replace coal to fuel its plant. Titan's technology results in less trash going to landfills, less pollution and could help the state reach its goal of recycling 75% of municipal solid waste by 2020, according to [this article](#). The company plans to replace 30% of the coal it uses with this "alternative fuel" by next year.

EPA Finds Coal Fly Ash Safe in Concrete and Gypsum Wallboard

BUILDING GREEN

A [new study](#) supporting the encapsulated use of fly ash in building products is a strong clue as to how EPA might shape pending regulation.

GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

I often advise clients that while there are upfront costs, making sustainability part of their business should result in





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Bronze Level



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positive impacts on their bottom line. The article below expands on this idea. ~Tina

How to Make Sustainability More Profitable

GREENBIZ.COM

Studies show that only about a third of companies believe their CSR strategies are boosting their bottom lines. That suggests companies need to do more to make CSR part of their core strategy, rather than a disposable add-on, [writes Ellie Moss](#). "Companies who build sustainability into their core business strategy and embed sustainability into every employee's job will not be disappointed in the value that their sustainability strategy creates," Moss promises.

What Companies Should Know as They Consider Integrated Reporting

CFO.com

In 2012, SAP issued a report on corporate performance that included financial, environmental and social metrics, signaling its embrace of integrated reporting. SAP is among companies that have concluded that reporting performance solely from a financial perspective is not strong enough, writes Kristine Brands, an assistant professor at Regis University in [this article](#). There are solid reasons other companies should follow suit, but Brands notes that integrated reporting is a methodology still in its infancy and that there are no checklists or prescriptive guidance.

Europe Passes Historic Law: Big Corporations Must Report on Sustainability

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

Starting in 2017, public companies must report on environmental and social factors in their annual financial reports according to [this piece](#).

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Presentations for TMS Annual Meeting

The Masonry Society will hold its 2014 Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, AZ on October 9 -14, 2014. If you have a presentation you would like considered for the Meetings, please submit a title, paragraph description, and a one paragraph biography of the presenter to [TMS](#) by May 15th. Any topic related to masonry will be considered but topics must not be commercial or focused exclusively on proprietary products. TMS will consider topics during the summer based on those that are likely of the greatest interest to attendees.

North American Masonry Conference Calls for

Abstracts

TMS is pleased to announce the opening of Call for Abstracts for the 12th North American Masonry Conference to be held at University of Colorado Denver. Preliminary information on the conference, along with a link to submit your abstracts can be accessed [here](#).

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