

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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### SPONSORED EDITION

#### From the Editor

This edition includes some interesting articles on several green rating programs and standards. The debate over LEED versus Green Globes continues, with one article predicting a rise in use of Green Globes while another reports on the drawbacks of the rating system. In addition, Maryland recently passed a new law that will favor the use of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) over LEED. This is interesting news as generally speaking, the uptake of the IgCC has been slower than expected. And of course, hearings on the IgCC just recently wrapped up, as [work continues](#) on the 2015 edition of that code.

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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 RATING SYSTEM NEWS

The first article below reports on the first use of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) that we've heard in a while. In an interesting quote from the article, the author writes that "...the USGBC is falling out of favor in this very green state [Maryland], including with school construction interests and others seeking state capital budget funding that are concerned LEED v4 strayed too far from high performance building." ~Tina

#### Maryland Sidesteps LEED in Favor of the IgCC GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

A new law portends fewer, if any, Maryland state and local government projects will be LEED certified in the future, in favor of projects built to the IgCC. The law broadens the definition of a "high performance building" to include any building that complies with a nationally recognized and accepted green building code, guideline, or standard that is reviewed and recommended by the Maryland Green Building Council and approved by the Secretaries of Budget and Management and General Services. View the article [here](#).

#### The 2015 IgCC Takes a Major Step Forward

##### GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

The 2015 IgCC will be released for use in the calendar year 2015 offering a more robust and greener Green Construction Code that will be a real alternative to

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

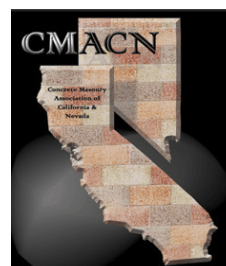
Click on the links below to find out more about each of these organizations who have graciously sponsored this E-Newsletter. Sponsors designated with an Asterisk(\*) are also TMS Members at the following levels:

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#### Platinum Level



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

LEED and Green Globes, with broader and wider adoption across the country. [Read more.](#)

## LEED v4 Materials Credits Spur Shift to Green Globes System

### SOURCEABLE

The materials credits in the latest version of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system have led states to turn to Green Globes as an alternative, according to [this article](#). The new credits have even led some states to ban the use of LEED, or parts of the standard, for government projects, according to this article. Meanwhile, the Green Globes system is reportedly simpler and less expensive than LEED, and it employs assessors that help projects achieve energy-efficiency throughout the process.

## Environmental Groups Take Aim at Green Building Standard

### WASHINGTON EXAMINER

The Sierra Club and Greenpeace are teaming up for "Greenwash Action," which will take shots at the Green Globes building standard. The General Services Administration approved it in November as an alternative to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED building standards for use in federal construction and renovations. Read more in [this article](#).

## PRODUCT NEWS

## Leveraging LEED v4 to Spur Market Transformation of Building Materials

### GBIG.ORG

Last month, Tom Lent, Policy Director of the Healthy Building Network sat down alongside Brendan Owens, VP of LEED Technical Development at USGBC, for a [lunch talk](#) entitled Building Material Transparency: We Should Care What's in Our Buildings.

## Building Products and Health: A Look at Risk vs. Hazard

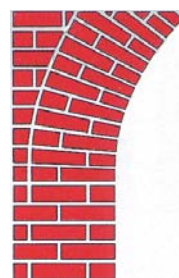
### BUILDING GREEN

Use of "hazard avoidance" versus "risk assessment" for understanding toxicity of building materials is hotly debated. Why, and is there a common-sense answer? The Living Building Challenge and other programs that include "red lists" of substances to avoid are based on the principle of hazard avoidance. The idea is attractive in its logic. Certain chemicals are dangerous; we should avoid using those chemicals. [Read more.](#)

## ANSI to Pilot Greenwash-Busting Eco-Label



National Concrete Masonry Association  
**FOUNDATION**



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**PCA**  
America's Cement Manufacturers™ \*\*



Silver Level

## Program

### BUILDING GREEN

An ANSI accreditation program is meant to help users determine which certification bodies and green labels are legit. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has launched a new pilot program meant to establish a method for certifying the environmental value of eco-labels—including whether their certification bodies are true third-party entities. The program establishes eligibility criteria for "Type I" (multi-attribute) environmental labeling certifications and creates a system for accrediting certification bodies using ANSI and ISO procedures. [Read more.](#)

### Greener Fly Ash Cement Market to Double to \$47 Billion in 2018

#### EDC MAGAZINE

Natural gas and solar can also help minimize CO2 emissions, but new innovations will be needed to meet long-term emissions goals, Lux Research says according to [this article](#).

## GREEN BUILDING NEWS

As we learn more about green building practices, sometimes we find that initial impressions may not always hold true. The first link below features a recent study of green buildings that contradicts past studies. ~Tina

### Study: Green Buildings Good for Environment, But Don't Make Workers Happier

#### UNIV of CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Researchers are hoping a new study that finds LEED-certified green buildings do nothing to improve the working conditions of the people employed in them will help them create better engineering strategies for environmentally friendly structures. The study -- which was conducted jointly by scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Nottingham in the U.K. -- contradicts earlier findings and suggests the worker disconnect is due in part to a lack of pre-construction analysis and measurement. To learn more, click [here](#).

### BIM Comes to Masonry

Of all the acronyms in the design and construction industry today, BIM (Building Information Management) has to be one of the most recognized. [This article](#) discusses the masonry situation in terms of existing and emerging BIM and other modeling capabilities, as well as challenges and benefits of a modeling system for masonry.

### New LCA Guides Available



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### Bronze Level



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**BUILDING GREEN**

Two new resources explain the strengths and limitations of life-cycle assessments for practitioners and the general public. [Learn more.](#)

**The 2014 AIA COTE Top Ten Green Projects****ECOBUILDING PULSE**

The American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment names the top green buildings of the year. [Read more.](#)

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES****Environmental Product Declarations Webinar****UL Environment**

This free one hour webinar course will provide an understanding of the global demand for environmental product declarations in the building industry, how they are developed, and their limitations. To learn more or to register, [click here.](#)

**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 23rd. 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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