

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

As I mentioned in the last edition, The Masonry Society's spring meetings and North American Masonry Conference are right around the corner. It's not too late to register, and both are a great opportunity to keep abreast of the latest in developments in masonry design and construction. For more information, check out the links in the newsletter below. Hope to see you there!

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PRODUCT NEWS

The National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) has recently proposed changes to the specification for loadbearing concrete masonry units, ASTM C90. While spurred by advances in production technology, this change also has potential "green" benefits. These include reduced material use and transportation costs and improved thermal properties. Read more at the link below. ~Tina

NCMA Proposes New Block Configuration to ASTM

ASTM C90, first published in 1931, has been the predominate standard for the specification of loadbearing concrete masonry units in the U.S. for decades, and some of the prescriptively-derived requirements have remained unchanged for more than a half-century. To reflect the multitude of production technology advances implemented over the past 50 years and to provide more flexibility in using alternative unit configurations, NCMA has forwarded a substantial change to ASTM that effectively reduces the minimum web requirements by up to 75 percent. To learn more, [click here](#).

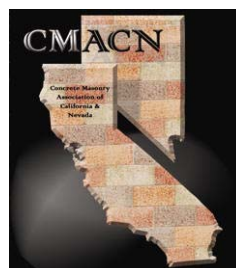
Sustainable Building Materials Set for Increased Demand

Demand for green building materials could climb to 13% a year through 2015. Among the materials that will be most in demand are recycled content concrete, lumber, green flooring material and efficient lighting and plumbing fittings. Read more at [Consulting-Specifying Engineer /Freedonia Group](#).

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Click on the links below to find out more about each of these organizations who have graciously sponsored this E-Newsletter

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Engineering Students Build Bricks with Recycled Glass

Two engineering graduate students at the University of Washington have discovered that recycled glass can be used to make bricks. Renuka Prabhakar and Grant Marchelli, who named their invention VitroBricks, said the production of glass-made bricks requires 80% less fuel as it depends on a shorter period of heating at a lower temperature than clay bricks. Prabhakar and Marchelli said bricks made from recycled glass are lighter, more durable and provide better insulation than typical building bricks. Read more at [Sustainable Industries](#).

Kingston Block & Masonry Supply receives U.S. EPA Award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has honored 14 individuals, organizations and/or businesses from New York with Environmental Quality Awards for their achievements protecting public health and the environment. "These honorees work tirelessly to protect the environment and to ensure that all of us can look forward to a cleaner, healthier world," said EPA Regional Administrator Judith Enck. "We can all be proud of what they have accomplished and the example they have set." Kingston Block & Masonry Supply was honored for saving over 1,250,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions from being released into the atmosphere to date by replacing up to 30 percent of Portland cement in their concrete mix design with Pozzotive. Read [more about the award](#).

Concrete Trends Report Available

The most recent edition of the Concrete JSI Industry Trends Report includes information on the U.S. House passing a bill that will block EPA regulation of greenhouse gases, EPA's budget being reduced for 2011 fiscal year, researchers developing self-healing concrete, and more. You can obtain the current Report by clicking [here](#).

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

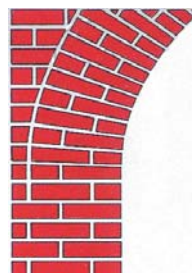
I've included a few blogs/commentaries on green design this time. The first two speak to the challenges of what is called "green" design. ~Tina

Realities of LEED and Measurable Energy Performance

This McClure Company Blogger presented energy performance case histories at the Green Building



[of America](#)



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\$500 to \$999



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\$250 to \$499



Association Central Pennsylvania chapter annual technical seminar, and shared his thoughts on the keynote given by speaker Marcus Sheffer on LEED and measureable energy performance. Read more at <http://blog.mcclureco.com/?p=820>.

Can Green Design Be Dumb Design?

Why are people recycling perfectly good shipping containers into narrow houses with low ceilings? If new shipping containers are still being produced and steel has a higher embodied energy than traditional home construction methods, then wouldn't it be more efficient to use them for their intended purpose? Read [MORE](#).

DOE Releases Guides for Energy-Efficient Building Design

The Department of Energy has launched the first Advanced Energy Design Guide series, developed to assist engineers and architects in the design of energy-efficient buildings. The guides contain recommendations to help achieve 50% energy savings on small and medium-sized buildings. It suggests designers use various energy-saving designs for building envelope assemblies, daylighting, heating and cooling systems and more. Read more at [Environmental Leader](#).

Energy Disclosure Fallout in Australia

Office owners and property yields will be most affected by the introduction of federal mandatory disclosure laws on how much energy commercial offices use, according to the Australian Property Institute. Read more by clicking [here](#).

BUSINESS TALK

Sustainable Companies Move Training Programs Online

On the road to sustainability, companies can reduce their carbon footprint simply by moving training programs online. Bringing employees online for training helps eliminate paper waste, reduces travel and its associated energy consumption and emissions, and cuts out the need for training-specific company facilities. Read more at [Environmental Leader](#).

How CEOs Learned to Love Sustainability

Chief executive officers of some of the world's biggest companies are starting to get the sustainable-business bug -- because they've realized that going green can be an easy way to

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save money. Cutting packaging, fuel and raw-materials costs offer companies an insurance policy against market volatility, managers explain. "We are able to do the right thing for the organization from a financial return and significantly reduce our greenhouse gases," says PepsiCo executive Mike O'Connell. "We find the sweet spot in both." Read more at [Bloomberg Businessweek](#).

Bloomberg LP's Sustainability Bet Pays Off

Bloomberg is saving two dollars in reduced operating costs for every dollar it spends on sustainability programs, according to the media and financial-services giant's first public CSR report. Bloomberg met most of its targets for energy and waste handling, but missed paper-use and recycling goals; in all, the company's CSR efforts prevented the release of 83,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents since 2008. Check out the article at [Environmental Leader](#).

Thompson Named NCMA Vice President of Engineering

This is not new news, but in case you hadn't heard, the NCMA board of directors recently approved Jason J. Thompson as its new vice president of engineering. Thompson, a structural engineer that has been with NCMA for 14 years, received the appointment during NCMA's annual convention in Las Vegas. Check out the [announcement](#) yourself.

EDUCATION

Just a reminder that the Spring Meetings of TMS and the 11th North American Masonry Conference are just around the corner. Committees, including the Sustainability Committee will be meeting on June 3, immediately prior to the (NAMC). Check out the links below for more information. ~Tina

For information on the **upcoming meetings of The Masonry Society**, click [here](#).

The [11th North American Masonry Conference](#) will be held on June 5-8, 2011 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The themes of the conference include masonry in seismic regions and green technology.

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