

# The Masonry Society

## **Sustainability E-News**

Learning More

March 31, 2023

Volume 15, Number 6

### SPONSORED EDITION

#### **From The Editor**

As we end the first quarter of the year, my thoughts are already turning toward the next few months. Looking ahead, The Masonry Society's Spring Business Meeting and the 14th North American Masonry Conference (14NAMC) are right around the corner. The 14NAMC provides a fantastic opportunity to learn about the latest in masonry research, education, products, and code developments under the theme of "Masonry: Rediscover the Possibilities." The conference and the preceding TMS Spring Business Meeting also provide great opportunities to network with experts in the masonry industry. I hope you'll join us! Registration and related information can be found in the links under EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES at the end of this newsletter.

I'd also like to take this time to say THANK YOU to our 2023 Sponsors! This newsletter wouldn't exist without you. Please thank them when you see them - or better yet, join them as a 2023 Sponsor. We still have a few spaces left to fill.

Christine "Tina" Subasic, PE, LEED AP  
[CSubasicPE@gmail.com](mailto:CSubasicPE@gmail.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 BUILDING NEWS**

The first article below is a reminder that the best ways to address carbon impacts are through reductions, not offsets. ~Tina

#### **Researchers find many carbon offsets may be bogus**

**BNN BLOOMBURG (Canada)**

Registries managing 11% of all carbon offset credits ever issued are using flawed accounting methods that allow developers to claim a greater carbon savings than is actually achieved, according to new research led by Barbara Haya of the University of Berkeley. "Offsetting is a misnomer -- you can't 'offset' your emissions," said Haya. "We need alternative ways of supporting climate mitigation because the current offset market is deeply not working." Read more [here](#).

#### **What's the ... Building Resilience Index?**

**MIT CSHUB**

Aris Papadopoulos of the Resilience Action Fund and Hessam AzariJafari [discuss the Building Resilience Index \(BRI\) on the newest episode of "What's the Matter With...?"](#) hosted by Andrew Laurent. The BRI is a new rating system that assesses buildings for their resilience to natural hazards. The essential question: How can we, as community members and stakeholders, use the BRI and similar metrics to better understand hazard risks near and far, and design strategies to better address them?

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

#### **Platinum Level**



**Concrete Masonry  
Association of California &  
Nevada \*\*\***



**International Masonry  
Institute \*\*\***

## **CODES and STANDARDS NEWS**

There is a lot of activity within ASHRAE related to decarbonization of the built environment. Several of their existing standards address decarbonization, even if under the guise of energy efficiency and life cycle assessment. However, there are a number of new resources as well, which the blog below touches on. ~Tina

### **ASHRAE accelerates building decarbonization**

#### **NEW BUILDINGS INSTITUTE**

[This blog](#) takes a deep dive into ASHRAE's pledge to assume a leadership role in decarbonization efforts in the built environment, insights from the ASHRAE winter conference, and more.

### **Starting April 21: New guidelines for LEED v4.1 credit substitutions**

#### **USGBC**

Projects pursuing LEED BD+C and LEED for Interior Design and Construction (ID+C) under LEED v4 can replace LEED v4 credits with LEED v4.1 credit language. However, projects that register after April 21 will be limited to only the most recent addenda versions of the LEED v4.1 credits. This aligns LEED credit substitutions with current addenda processes for all other LEED projects. [Read more.](#)

## **GREEN PRODUCT NEWS**

Lots of news related to products, including some of the latest efforts in reducing embodied carbon by a concrete masonry producer, and a warning about unintended consequences of some carbon-reducing measures. ~Tina

### **Fostering a Circular Economy of Manufacturing Materials workshop report**

#### **ASTM INTERNATIONAL**

[This report](#) presents the key outcomes from the Workshop: "Fostering a Circular Economy of Manufacturing Materials" jointly organized by ASTM International and NIST; key takeaways from the proceeding Survey: Manufacturing in a Circular Economy; and next steps for addressing the standards needs identified in both. The report, and the types of standards it proposes, will be of particular interest to material and product designers, manufacturing processors, recovery processors, system planners, and policymakers. ASTM Committee E60 is initiating new efforts to address some of the standards needs and welcome other experts in the field to join and expand upon existing development activities and initiate new ones.

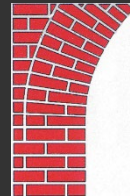
### **Block-Lite and CarbonBuilt Awarded \$150,000 from the 4 Corners Carbon Coalition**

#### **CMHA**

Arizona concrete masonry producer Block-Lite, plus partners CarbonBuilt and Aircapture, have been awarded \$150,000 to develop the world's first fully-integrated direct air capture (DAC)-to-concrete assembly. CarbonBuilt will install carbon dioxide-mineralizing equipment at the Flagstaff operation, tapping an array of modular Aircapture DAC devices engineered to isolate high-purity CO<sub>2</sub> from the onsite air intake. The project will enable Block-Lite to avoid 2,000 to 3,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and capture 500-plus metric tons of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> annually. [Read the full article.](#)



**Mason Contractors  
Association of America \*\***



**Western  
States Clay  
Products  
Association  
\*\*\***

## **Gold Level**



**Masonry  
Institute  
of**

**America  
\*\*\***



**Southeast Concrete Masonry  
Association \*\***

## **Silver Level**

## **Bronze Level**



**ACME Brick \*\*\***



**Cast Stone Institute \*\*\***

## Solar + storage to offset energy at Colorado cement plant

### SOLAR POWER WORLD

According to [this article](#), Holcim plans to use a ground-mounted solar array and battery energy storage system from TotalEnergies to offset over 40% of energy demand at a portland cement factory in Florence, Colorado. The move supports Holcim's plans to use 100% renewable energy to power all US operations by 2050.

## Concrete's cobra effect

### CONSTRUCTION SPECIFIER MAGAZINE

[This article](#), on page 10 of the January 2023 edition of Construction Specifier magazine, discusses the "unintended consequences of 'simple solutions' in reducing embodied carbon in concrete." Without careful consideration of the interactions that occur when making substitutions, poor performance can result. This is true not only with concrete, but has happened with other materials in attempts to be more 'sustainable.' The value of the known performance (generally associated with traditional materials) is often overlooked when procuring newer materials and is why thorough testing before use on a project is so important.

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Register now for The Masonry Society's Spring Meeting and for their 14th North American Masonry Conference. ~Tina

## TMS Spring business meeting registration open

### THE MASONRY SOCIETY

TMS will be hosting its 2023 Spring business and committee meetings, at the Marriott Omaha Downtown Capitol District Hotel on June 9-11, immediately prior to the 14NAMC. Preliminary information on the meetings and a tentative schedule are posted [here](#). If you are planning to [attend only the Spring Meetings click here to register](#). If you plan to attend the 14NAMC, your TMS meeting registration will be included in your [NAMC registration](#).

## 14<sup>th</sup> North American Masonry Conference to be held in June

### THE MASONRY SOCIETY

The 14th North American Masonry Conference (14NAMC) will be held June 11-14, 2023, in Omaha, Nebraska, United States. The conference will be jointly hosted by the Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and the Nebraska Masonry Alliance (NMA), and will be sponsored by The Masonry Society (TMS). The conference will feature more than 100 technical presentations, several keynote addresses, innovative learning sessions, and student competitions. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

To Subscribe, click [here](#).

To Sponsor, click [here](#).



Advancing the Knowledge of Masonry  
[www.masonrysociety.org](http://www.masonrysociety.org)

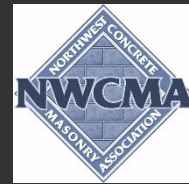


[Nelson Testing Laboratories](#)

\*\*



[North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association](#) \*\*



[Northwest Concrete Masonry Association](#) \*



[Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association](#) \*\*\*

## TMS Sustainability E-Newsletter Sponsors

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

- \*\*\* Sustaining Member
- \*\* Affiliate Member
- \* Individual Member

## Interested in becoming a Newsletter Sponsor?

Contact [TMS](#) for more information on becoming a Sustainability E-Newsletter Sponsor and having your organization's logo appear before thousands of subscribers.

Please note: Your email address is from a list solely owned and maintained by The Masonry Society (TMS) for our exclusive email purposes. If you are a TMS Member, participate in a TMS Committee, or have requested TMS mailings, your email is essential to your membership, committee participation (including virtual meeting announcements and ballots), delivery of various TMS e-publications, and meeting/seminar announcements. Unsubscribing through our email sender, Constant Contact, will block all emails from TMS. If you would like to specify what type of emails you would like to receive from TMS, have questions about our email policy, or would like to subscribe to our newsletters, please contact TMS directly at [info@masonrysociety.org](mailto:info@masonrysociety.org). To view the TMS Privacy Policy, click [here](#).