News

ACI Announces 5th Annual 24 Hours of Concrete Knowledge

ACI announced the return of its highly anticipated global event, 24 Hours of Concrete Knowledge. Now in its fifth year, this free, virtual conference will take place July 8-9, 2025, bringing together experts, professionals, and students worldwide for 24 continuous hours of learning, collaboration, and innovation.

Hosted in cooperation with more than 20 ACI international chapters and industry partners across multiple time zones, 24 Hours of Concrete Knowledge provides a platform for the global concrete community to exchange knowledge on the latest advancements, research, and trends in concrete technology and construction. Each event hour features presentations from a different region of the world, offering diverse perspectives and real-world case studies.

Highlights of the 2025 event include:

- Presentations from ACI chapters and international partners in 24 countries;
- Real-time Q&A sessions with global experts;
- Insight into sustainable concrete practices, innovations in materials, structural design, and more; and
- Opportunities to connect with peers and thought leaders from around the world.

Participation is free and open to anyone interested in concrete. For schedule information and to register, visit **www.concrete.org/newsandevents/24hoursofconcreteknowledge**.

ACI Sponsors 45th Annual ICC Building Safety Month

ACI sponsored the 45th annual International Code Council (ICC) Building Safety Month. Celebrated every May, this international campaign raises awareness about building safety. The sponsorship included Week 5 (May 25-31, 2025) of the campaign with the theme Going into Overtime, covering what's next for the building safety industry, including global trends, artificial intelligence, emissions reduction, and more.

As a global society of 35,000 members dedicated to the development, dissemination, and adoption of consensus-based standards, technical resources, and educational programs, ACI supports Building Safety Month to highlight the important role of building codes in creating safe and sustainable communities. Building Safety Month is also aligned with ACI's Strategic Plan goals, which include advancing expertise, disseminating knowledge, engaging globally, advancing resiliency and sustainability, and enhancing the ACI experience.

Being properly informed about the design and construction of concrete is crucial to ensure the necessary criteria are met to safeguard the public.

"ACI offers a variety of resources for building officials, including select free publications, a new personnel qualifications document, and access to the four-part *Concrete International* magazine building safety article series addressing the assessment of existing concrete buildings," said Steve Szoke, ACI Code Advocacy Engineer. "Furthermore, ACI Certification programs qualify personnel for testing and inspecting structural concrete to help ensure proper performance and safety."

Code officials are encouraged to visit **www.concrete.org/tools/codeofficials** for free access to ACI referenced standards and ICC-approved continuing education programs.

In addition to the special services free to code officials, the Institute strives to provide competency and build confidence for all concrete projects with 30+ ACI Certification programs, hundreds of online learning courses, education publications, and certificate programs.

For more information about ICC's Building Safety Month, visit **www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/building-safety-month**.

ACI Launches ACI 323 PLUS—Digital Subscription to Low-Carbon Concrete Code

ACI announced the release of ACI 323 PLUS, an annual digital subscription that provides interactive access to ACI CODE-323-24: Low-Carbon Concrete—Code Requirements and Commentary. This new subscription, built on the ACI PLUS Platform, delivers an interactive experience optimized for performance on desktop and laptop computers.

Designed to enhance how users engage with the Code, ACI 323 PLUS includes:

- Interactive in-document access to related resources and FAQs;
- Robust digital notetaking, including the ability to create up to 10 unique sets of notes for personal use or sharing with other ACI 323 PLUS users;
- Chapter-, section-, and provision-based navigation; and
- Screen capture functionality for quick reference and collaboration.

ACI CODE-323-24 introduces a carbon budget approach and emphasizes the use of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for benchmarking, aiming to standardize methodologies for reducing carbon emissions in concrete construction. The Code covers cast-in-place concrete with specified compressive strength between 2500 and 8000 psi and is intended for jurisdictions seeking to adopt low-carbon concrete practices.

The Code can be adopted as a standalone standard or used alongside structural design codes or low-carbon material codes. It is presented in a format that allows for reference without change to its language, while the accompanying

Commentary provides background, suggestions, and deeper insight into Code provisions.

In conjunction with this release, ACI is also offering the On-Demand Course: ACI CODE-323: Low-Carbon Concrete Code, which explains the definition of low-carbon concrete, an overview of the new ACI CODE-323, and the development and purpose of the Code in more depth.

ACI Releases New Joint Standard with PTI

ACI, in collaboration with the Post-Tensioning Institute (PTI), announced the joint release of ACI/PTI CODE-320-25: Post-Tensioned Structural Concrete—Code Requirements and Commentary in PDF. This new Code provides minimum requirements and guidance for the materials, design, and detailing of post-tensioned concrete buildings and, when applicable, nonbuilding structures.

ACI/PTI CODE-320-25 was developed through a consensus process and outlines minimum requirements for post-tensioned structural concrete systems, including members with bonded and unbonded tendons. The PTI Technical Advisory Board Code Task Group played a key role in developing the provisions and Commentary, and ACI acknowledges their expertise and dedication.

While the Code was initially available to ACI 320 PLUS subscribers, the release of the PDF edition now makes it more widely accessible before the upcoming printed version.

ACI/PTI CODE-320-25 is now available in PDF through the ACI Store. Explore the ACI 320 PLUS subscription and discover more valuable concrete resources at **www.concrete.org**.

To explore PTI's ongoing work in the post-tensioning industry, visit **www.post-tensioning.org**.

NEU's Validation/Verification Program Begins Assessing Environmental Claims

NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete, a leader in the global concrete industry in advancing reduced-carbon concrete technologies, has begun its third-

party Validation/Verification Program. This initiative provides an independent, impartial assessment of environmental claims for technologies focused on reduced-carbon cement, concrete, and related solutions.

With the surge in technological developments addressing carbon emissions in construction, the need for credible and verifiable environmental claims has never been greater. NEU's program is designed to ensure products and technologies meet the carbon reduction amount stated in those claims, building industry confidence in their ability to mitigate carbon emissions effectively.

The NEU Validation/Verification Program follows internationally accepted International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards to provide impartial validation of future outcomes or verification of historical data. It assesses the reasonableness, methods, and results of environmental claims without involving product certification or ongoing compliance inspections.

The process ultimately can produce either a Validation Statement, which supports claims for future outcomes, or a Verification Statement, which confirms the accuracy of historical claims. Each assessment is conducted by NEU's team of subject-matter experts, ensuring unbiased and credible results.

Manufacturers and developers can begin the process by downloading an application from **www.neuconcrete.org** or contacting info@neuconcrete.org. For a more comprehensive understanding of the program and its benefits, the organization also offers a free informative webinar by NEU's Validation Director, Mahmut Ekenel, FACI. Housed on NEU's website, the on-demand webinar discusses the details of the program and how to go through the validation/verification process.

Association Representing U.S. Cement Manufacturing Industry Takes a New Name

The Portland Cement Association (PCA), the national association representing U.S. cement manufacturers since 1916, announced that it is changing its name to the American Cement Association (ACA). President and CEO Mike Ireland shared the news in Birmingham, AL, USA, during the 67th IEEE-IAS/PCA Cement Conference.

"The most important reason for the name change is that in recent years, U.S. cement manufacturers have expanded the types of materials they produce beyond portland cement, working to develop more lower-emission cements in an effort to decarbonize the industry and increase domestic cement manufacturing capacity. The name 'Portland Cement Association' no longer accurately reflects the modern mindset of today's manufacturers, or the materials they currently produce," Ireland said.

Lower-emissions cement consumption has grown more than tenfold since 2021 and now accounts for more than 60% of total cement consumed in the United States. In 2024, all 50 state Departments of Transportation approved the use of portland-limestone cement (PLC). PLC reduces the carbon footprint of projects by up to 10%.

"Additionally, the rebranding makes it clear that we are a national association that speaks for cement manufacturers across the country," Ireland said.

During the announcement, Monica Manolas, Region President, Ash Grove Cement Company, and ACA Board Vice Chair, shared a video with conference attendees, revealing the association's new slogan: Sustainable Cement for Resilient Concrete.

"The slogan summarizes the industry's commitment to staying the course with our Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality," Manolas said. "We continue to focus on developing new technologies and products to achieve not only net zero by 2050 but also to increase the capacity of American cement manufacturing to meet demand."

For more information, visit **www.cement.org**.

SCA Hosts 2025 Slag Cement School

The Slag Cement Association (SCA) concluded its fourth annual Slag Cement School in Houston, TX, USA. The educational event, held on April 21-22, 2025, featured technical presentations on the benefits of slag cement in concrete design and construction, as well as sustainability tools and resources available to the concrete industry. On the second day, attendees went on an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour of Texas Lehigh Cement Company LP's new slag cement plant.

SCA President Jan Prusinski welcomed more than 80 attendees from 15 different states to Slag Cement School. Along with the technical presentations from SCA members, the event also included networking opportunities for industry professionals.

"The Slag Cement Association is thrilled with the record-breaking turnout at this year's Slag Cement School," said Nick Brimley, SCA Director of Membership and Marketing. "The high level of engagement we saw reflects the growing interest in slag cement in not only the region but the entire country."

For more information on Slag Cement School and to receive updates on next year's event, visit **www.slagcement.org/school**.

U.S. Green Building Council Launches LEED v5

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) launched LEED v5, the latest version of its flagship LEED (Leadership

in Energy and Environmental Design) green building program. LEED v5 builds on the global impact of LEED, updating and strengthening its sustainability standard for the building industry while providing user-friendly tools for building owners and teams to pursue certification through enhanced technology updates.

"Since its public launch 25 years ago, LEED has profoundly impacted millions of people in cities and communities around the world," said Peter Templeton, President and CEO of USGBC. "LEED v5 raises the bar, further defining and evolving best practices and giving stakeholders across the building industry clear pathways to address today's challenges to our health, climate, and communities."

For more information, visit **www.usgbc.org/leed/v5**.

In Remembrance

William L. (Bill) Barringer, FACI, passed away April 25, 2025, in Albuquerque, NM, USA, at the age of 91. He received his bachelor's degree in universal studies and his master's degree in civil engineering from The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, with postgraduate courses in infrastructure surety. Barringer was a licensed professional engineer.

He founded the ACI New Mexico Chapter and served as its first President, totaling three terms. Barringer also served as the Chapter's Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Director, and Executive Director. He was a certified examiner for ACI Certification programs.

Barringer became a Fellow of ACI for his contributions to the concrete industry and the Institute. He received multiple ACI awards, including the 2000 Chapter Activities Award and 2015 Certification Award. He was a member of ACI Committees 211, Proportioning Concrete Mixtures, and 214, Evaluation of Results of Tests Used to Determine the Strength of Concrete, and the ACI Technical Activities Committee (TAC) Construction Standards Subcommittee.

He was also a Research Engineer at the New Mexico Department of Transportation and Quality Control Engineer for Albuquerque Gravel Products.