

## Recent changes to the ACI Aggregate Base Testing Technician certification

ACI introduced two new, separate certification programs that will replace the current Aggregate Base Testing Technician credential. The new Aggregate Base Testing Technician—ASTM Methods and Aggregate Base Testing Technician—AASHTO Methods programs operate similarly to programs that professionals are familiar with. The difference lies in their separation on an ASTM International and an American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) basis.

Orders for the new, program-specific workbooks and exam-session materials can be placed with the ACI Customer Service and Certification departments. For questions, contact the ACI Certification Help Desk at [aci.certification@concrete.org](mailto:aci.certification@concrete.org) or +1.248.848.3790.

## ACI Unveils Digital Badges for Members and Committee Members

ACI introduced a suite of digital badges designed to recognize and highlight the participation and service of its individual members and voting committee members. The initiative aligns with ACI's ongoing goal of enhancing the ACI member experience, modernizing member engagement, and providing professionals with unique ways to showcase their contributions to the concrete industry. Starting immediately, ACI individual members and voting committee members can download digital badges associated with their membership status and committee involvement within their personal profile on [concrete.org](http://concrete.org). The membership badge link is located under "MyACI," and the Committee Badges under "My ACI Committees."

Members may download and share badges across digital platforms, email signatures, portfolios, or professional networking sites, such as LinkedIn. In the future, ACI will also introduce digital badges for additional membership categories, including young professionals and students. By providing these visual credentials, ACI continues to elevate

the visibility of its members and volunteer community while highlighting the technical leadership that drives the Institute's mission.

## NEU Names Kerry Sutton as Executive Director

NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete announced the appointment of Kerry Sutton as its new Executive Director. In this role, Sutton will lead NEU's



Sutton

mission to foster global collaboration, accelerating the adoption and use of reduced-carbon concrete technologies.

Sutton brings over 25 years of extensive experience in the concrete sector, with a strong background in design, construction, and materials. Her appointment signals NEU's reinforced commitment to advance sustainable

practices through technical expertise and industry-wide collaboration. She transitions into this role from her position as an ACI Code Advocacy Engineer.

Throughout her career, Sutton has been instrumental in advancing the acceptance and adoption of ACI codes and standards. She is an active participant in the model code and standards development processes with leading organizations, including the International Code Council (ICC), ASTM International, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Committee on Materials and Pavements (COMP). Sutton also currently serves as the Technical Consultant for the Slag Cement Association (SCA), advising on standards development and sustainability initiatives. Her recent work includes participation in the Consensus Body for the Green Building Initiative (GBI), reflecting her dedication to sustainability.

Prior to her work with ACI, Sutton served as Director of Engineering for the Michigan Concrete Association and held roles as a Technical Service Engineer and Corporate Environmental Engineer with Holcim, Inc. She is a licensed professional engineer in Michigan. She received her BS in environmental engineering from Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI, USA, and her MS in civil engineering from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Her technical proficiency and leadership are expected to accelerate NEU's impact on the industry's path to carbon neutrality.

## NRMCA becomes latest PRO Allied Organization

PRO: An ACI Center of Excellence for Advancing Productivity and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) signed a Memorandum of



Example of an ACI Committee Member digital badge

Understanding (MOU) to confirm NRMCA and PRO's status as Allied Organizations, effective November 14, 2025.

"NRMCA is eager to partner with PRO to expand access to concrete-focused education for the design and construction community. By combining NRMCA's practical, ready mixed concrete expertise with ACI and PRO's platforms, we can help ensure concrete is placed, finished, and specified to the highest standards of quality, safety, and performance. Together, we are working toward a more knowledgeable workforce and more resilient, durable concrete construction for the communities we serve," said Brian Killingsworth, Executive Vice President, Strategic Operations, NRMCA.

"NRMCA leads the industry in ready mixed concrete, building resilient and sustainable communities nationwide. In alignment with PRO, we will expand our mutual efforts to promote best practices and strengthen concrete's value for project owners. I am pleased to establish this allied partnership with NRMCA to advance these objectives," added Phil Diekemper, Executive Director, PRO.

As an Allied Organization, NRMCA will collaborate with PRO and other member organizations to identify barriers to productivity and develop strategies that streamline project delivery. This includes participation in knowledge-sharing programs and outreach efforts that help drive industry-wide improvement. Additional Allied Organizations include the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC), the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI), and the Post-Tensioning Institute (PTI).

Established by ACI in 2023, PRO's mission is to collaborate with designers, material suppliers, builders, and other industry stakeholders to continually improve the constructability of design and productivity of construction for concrete structures of all types. PRO and its members aim to advance new technologies and processes that improve concrete construction productivity beyond historic levels. To learn more about PRO and to get involved, visit [www.concreteproductivity.org](http://www.concreteproductivity.org).



La Libertad Dam

## La Libertad Dam Wins ACI Members' Choice

La Libertad Dam, located in the municipalities of Linares and Montemorelos, Mexico, has been selected as the 2025 ACI Members' Choice winner. The roller-compacted concrete dam stands 45 m (148 ft) high and 1950 m (6398 ft) long, supporting potable water, irrigation, and ecological flow for the Monterrey region in Mexico. The project highlights sustainable construction practices using ECOPact low-emission concrete, reducing approximately 80,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.

The success of the dam would not have been possible without the effort, dedication, and commitment of every individual involved in the project. Their professionalism, innovation, and dedication to sustainability have been essential in completing infrastructure that will ensure Monterrey's water supply and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

## CSRI Names New President and CEO



Parous

**Lou Parous** was announced as the 13th President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI) by the Institute's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. In this role, he will oversee executive and strategic operations and guide the Institute's future growth and influence. Parous is experienced in international business and is a technical

professional in the global metals, engineering, technical services, and large-scale construction segment. Parous' communication skills and strategic mindset make him a consensus builder and innovator for the Institute. Parous has over 30 years of experience in the steel sector with a record of driving growth and transforming organizations.

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## **GCCA Launches “Cement and Concrete Industry Net Zero Action and Progress Report 2025/26”**

The Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) has released a new report that shows decarbonization actions of the global cement industry and the required government policies to accelerate net zero progress.

More than 60 standout projects from across the world are featured, highlighting ongoing development of innovation and technology, deployment of carbon capture, increasing use of alternative energy sources, and the use of new materials. The report details latest industry data showing that the sector is making progress and emphasises the need for urgent global government input to help accelerate action.

The report calls for urgent implementation of effective policies promoting the use of otherwise non-recyclable municipal and industrial waste as sustainable alternative fuels for cement kilns, as well as using construction demolition waste as recycled raw materials. Other key policies include changing building codes to encourage the wider adoption of blended cement and concrete products, as well as establishing market-driven national carbon pricing mechanisms that incentivise decarbonisation and investment in clean innovation.

To view the report, visit [https://gccassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/GCCA\\_ProgressReport\\_2025\\_AW\\_FINAL-1.pdf](https://gccassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/GCCA_ProgressReport_2025_AW_FINAL-1.pdf).

## **ACI Foundation Partners to Fund Research Advancing Low-Carbon Construction Codes**

The ACI Foundation announced its partnership with the Charles Pankow Foundation (CPF), American Institute of

Steel Construction (AISC), National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA), Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) Foundation, and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) to fund the research project “CURE – Code Updates for Reduction of Embodied-Carbon.”

Led by CPF, the objective of the CURE project is to identify and prioritize design provisions in current codes and standards that could result in a reduction of embodied carbon without compromising safety. The project aims to produce a comprehensive “road map” outlining areas for potential modification and further study.

The Phase 1 effort was announced in June 2025 during the SEI conference “Towards Zero Carbon 2025: Summit and Symposium.” Progress within the project has led to the development of a list of provisions that could potentially be revised, a more thorough understanding of the development history of these code provisions, and the ongoing monitoring of other codes, standards, and guides that connect to the project’s objective.

“Reducing embodied carbon in the built environment requires collaboration across materials, disciplines, and codes,” said Ann Masek, Executive Director, ACI Foundation. “The ACI Foundation is proud to support this forward-looking initiative that will inform future updates to existing codes and standards and accelerate the industry’s progress toward a more sustainable future.”

The CURE collaboration underscores the ACI Foundation’s commitment to advancing sustainable construction through research, innovation, and partnerships that bridge materials and engineering disciplines.

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