

Committee Develops Sustainability Standards

PCA staff attended ASTM E60 Committee on Sustainability meetings April 12-15 in San Antonio, Texas. PCA continued efforts to preserve criteria consistent with the basic premises of sustainability. Issues addressed at the meetings ranged from construction waste to siting projects within a community plan. PCA focused on two major areas: design service life for whole building life cycle assessments and the development of a standard on multi-attributes. In addition, PCA was awarded a slot for a 2017 symposium on integrating resiliency into sustainability standards.

Design service life (DSL) is addressed in E2921-13 *Standard Practice for Minimum Criteria for Comparing Whole Building Life Cycle Assessments for Use with Building Codes and Rating Systems*. The DSL in the current edition is set at 75 years. Entities representing materials with short useful lives, including wood, routinely try to shorten the DSL to 60 years or less. The DSL truncates the time span for the assessment, penalizing materials and systems that have service lives longer than the arbitrarily set DSL.

A new work item involves the *Communication of Sustainable Attributes of Products*. This effort extends reporting beyond that required in environment product declarations (EPD) and is being developed to replace red-lists and health product declarations (HPD) developed and used by government agencies and within individual design firms. The current industry practice using red-lists and HPDs excludes the use of materials containing chemicals deemed to be harmful to either installers or building occupants. Many entities maintain lists, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Toxic Substances Control. The *Transparency List* maintained by Perkins and Will is an example of a design firm initiative. While the current priority at ASTM is dealing with volatile organic compounds (vocs), substances which can be found in concrete and masonry are also on most lists.

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