

THE GREEN TIP

KEY SUSTAINABILITY SUBJECTS FOR THE MONTHS AHEAD

By Bill Griese, Tile Council of North America, LEED AP BD+C

I am pleased to assume the Green Tip authoring duties for *TileLetter*. I will strive each month to provide brief yet effective thoughts to add some perspective to today's complex subject of sustainability.

This month, I will introduce a few subjects that we will either be hearing much more about in the months ahead or that have been around for a while with no sign of departure anytime soon.

Green Squared is a multi-attribute sustainability product standard for tiles and related installation materials which

is currently undergoing the balloting and consensus process in the ANSI A108 Committee.

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) are a standardized way of reporting a product's environmental impact so that consumers can make informed decisions. These are similar to the food industry's "Nutrition Facts" strategy for reporting data on food products.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a suite of rating systems which can be used voluntarily in the design and assessment of green buildings.

The *International Green Construction Code (IGCC)* is set to launch in early 2012. Like other building codes, such as the plumbing code or electrical code, the green code will be considered law if adopted by local jurisdictions.

Expectations for sustainability and criteria for evaluation are ever-evolving. From a big picture standpoint, it is critical that our industry focuses on the above subjects as they will occupy a large portion of the green building spotlight for the foreseeable future.

(Ed. Note: MAPEI's Dr. Ephraim Senbetta, who had been authoring this column since January 2011, recently received a Fulbright Scholar Grant to teach in his native Ethiopia. See more information in this month's *Faces in the News* section.)



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