



# The HVAC&R Industry

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Advancing HVAC&R To Serve Humanity  
And Promote a Sustainable World

The HVAC&R Industry, ASHRAE's free weekly eNewsletter for HVAC&R professionals, provides relevant, timely information about industry and technology for people who create healthy, comfortable indoor environments.

## Industry News

### Ventilation in New Capitol Visitor Center Will Reduce 'Smell' of Tourists

WASHINGTON—The Capitol Visitor Center, a 580,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (54 000 m<sup>2</sup>) addition to the U.S. Capitol complex, opened Dec. 2. One of the primary benefits of the new facility, says Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), is its ventilation system. "In the summertime, because (of) the high humidity and how hot it gets here, you could literally smell the tourists coming into the Capitol," said Reid. He added that will be alleviated by the new ventilation system. The facility is expected to host about 3 million visitors a year.

### Economy Doesn't Stop China From Beginning Its Tallest Skyscraper

SHANGHAI, China—Three months after opening the world's second-tallest skyscraper, Shanghai is about to start construction of an even taller building, defying an economic slowdown and slumping property values across the country. Construction of the 2,073 ft (632 m) Shanghai Tower began this week and is expected to be completed in 2014. "Launching construction at this time will help boost Shanghai's confidence in fighting the financial crisis," said the managing director of the construction company. The Shanghai Tower will dwarf China's current tallest building, the 1,614 ft (492 m) Shanghai World Financial Center, which opened across the street in August.

### San Francisco Launches Mandatory Building Ratings System

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco has launched its GreenPoints building ratings system. The mandatory regulation is similar to the voluntary LEED® rating system of the U.S. Green Building Council. The system will provide rubrics for efficiency, waste and energy in all new commercial and residential building projects and renovations. The code will increase requirements each year from 2009 until 2012, when all projects must have 75 GreenPoints, equivalent to a LEED Silver certification. In four years, the city expects the code to have eliminated 60,000 tons (54 000 Mg) of CO<sub>2</sub>, saved 220,000 MWh of power, and generated 37,000 MWh of renewable energy.

### Mobile Classroom To Showcase Sustainable Technologies at AHR Expo

WESTPORT, Conn.—Free access to hands-on learning opportunities will be offered to attendees at the 2009 AHR Expo®, being held Jan. 26–28 at Chicago's McCormick Place. The Partnership for Environmental Leadership, a collaboration of six sustainability industry associations, will drive its HVAC Mobile Green Classroom onto the Show floor. The training trailer includes demonstrations of new and innovative equipment for HVAC&R professionals and provides supplemental hands-on training opportunities. Simulators found inside the 40 ft (12 m) trailer include wind power generation, solar



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### **Not All 'Green' Buildings Are Healthy Buildings**

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Even though a building may be built with "green" principles, it may not be healthy for occupants, says an industry expert. "Not all green buildings have good indoor air quality," said Elia Sterling, Member ASHRAE, president of Theodor Sterling Associates. He told attendees at a recent construction solutions conference that voluntary building certification systems such as LEED® are inadequate to determine a building's health. That is because, he says, builders and designers decide which aspects of the building are examined when they seek certification. "As a result, it is possible for a building to be LEED certified without actually verifying that air quality objectives have been met," Sterling explained.

### **ASHRAE News**

#### **ASHRAE Issues Recommendations to New U.S. President, Congress**

WASHINGTON—ASHRAE has developed a document containing recommendations for the incoming U.S. president and Congress. The document, *Achieving National Goals for Buildings: Challenges and Opportunities Facing a New President and Congress*, was sent to President-Elect Obama. It contains advice on reducing energy use in buildings. Recommendations include convening a White House summit on energy efficiency, appointing a national energy efficiency advisor, and providing incentives to promote use of building commissioning, recommissioning and retrocommissioning.

### **Feature of the Week**

#### **Solar Technologies and the Building Envelope**

**By Paul A. Torcellini, Ph.D., P.E.**, Member ASHRAE; **Shanti D. Pless**, Associate Member ASHRAE; **Ron Judkoff**, Member ASHRAE; and **Drury Crawley, AIA**, Member ASHRAE

According to the authors, advances in solar technologies can be used along with aggressive efficiency strategies to vastly reduce the energy needs of buildings. This article covers specifying photovoltaic systems. It also covers technologies such as daylighting, increased insulation and Trombe™ walls and their roles in reducing energy use.

### **Product News**

#### **UVC Germicidal Light From Johnson Controls**

NORMAN, Okla.—The Unitary Products Group of Johnson Controls introduces the YORK® Affinity™ UVC germicidal light kit. It is installed inside HVAC systems, and is designed to eliminate odors caused by microbial organisms that grow in wet evaporator sections to improve IAQ and increase unit performance. The light uses a blend of inert gases in the bulb and a specialized power supply that maintains the optimal plasma temperature inside the bulb even in a low-temperature, moving airstream.

#### **Chillers From Armstrong**

TORONTO—Armstrong announces the QUANTUM line of chillers. It is available in water-cooled and air-cooled configurations. The unit features the company's Turbocor centrifugal technology, which increases efficiency; onboard diagnostics that can communicate serially with building automation systems; and oil-free, friction-free magnetic bearings.

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### **Air-Handling Units From Air Zone International**

HOUSTON—Air Zone International offers the Environmental Air Tower line of compact AHUs. The product is designed to deliver air into a raised floor plenum using up to three different air streams: economizer systems, primary pretreated air, and a mixture of bypass space return air and return air chilled using either chilled water or DX coils.

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### **Subscription Management**

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