



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

DOE Releases Guidelines for 50% Energy Savings in Retail Stores

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory have released two technical support documents that provide recommendations on how to achieve 50% energy savings in grocery stores and medium-sized retail buildings. According to the reports, reaching 50% is a positive return on investment at current energy prices and can be met without photovoltaic electricity generation. DOE technical support documents have previously provided the basis for the *Advanced Energy Design Guides* jointly developed by ASHRAE, DOE and other industry organizations.

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Hydraulic House 'Walks' To Escape Floods

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—Members of a Danish art collective and MIT researchers have developed what they call the "Walking House." They intend the prototype dwelling to be a solution to the problem of rising water levels as the house can simply walk away from floods on six computer-driven "legs." According to the designers, it uses solar cells and small windmills for power. It includes a system for collecting rain water, which it heats with solar power. A small greenhouse unit can be added to the module to provide food for inhabitants. The roughly 13 m² (140 ft²) dwelling moves at 60 m (197 ft) per hour.

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Scientists Consider Geoengineering To Fight Climate Change

NEW YORK—Geoengineering is the deliberate modification of Earth's environment on a large scale to suit human needs and promote habitability. According to an article in *Popular Mechanics* magazine, scientists are beginning to consider using various geoengineering techniques to combat climate change. Among the strategies discussed are mimicking a volcanic eruption by pumping the atmosphere with sulfur dioxide, launching trillions of mirrors into orbit to filter sunlight, and spraying seawater into the sky to thicken clouds.

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Company Develops Ice-Powered AC To Reduce Energy Use

WINDSOR, Colo.—A Colorado-based company has developed an energy-storage system that uses a tank of water to reduce the power required for air conditioning. The units are designed to be an adjunct to standard centralized air-conditioning units. Rather than run AC compressors during the day, the units freeze water during the night. During the day, the ice cools the refrigerant as it passes through the tank. According to the company, the process of shifting the time that the AC unit works reduces electricity use because the AC unit doesn't have to work as hard at night, making the overall system more energy-efficient.

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ASHRAE News

ASHRAE, USGBC Name Washington, D.C. Fellow

Michael Erbesfeld, a mechanical engineer at TLC Engineering for Architecture—Deerfield Beach (Fla.) Division, has been named as a Washington Congressional Fellow hosted by ASHRAE and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Erbesfeld will serve a one-year fellowship in Washington, D.C., and work on Capitol Hill in a technical advisory role. He has been assigned to the office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)

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Feature of the Week

Connecting Buildings to Central Chilled Water Plants

By James B. (Burt) Rishel, P.E., Fellow/Life Member ASHRAE

The proper connection of buildings to central chilled water plants is essential to ensure that the previous design parameters are maintained with a minimum of energy required by the pumps to move water through the chilled water system. This article covers basic design parameters and evaluates building connection technologies.

This article was originally published in November 2007. [Click here](#) to download the article. It will be available here through Nov. 19.

After Nov. 19, access to the article from this eNewsletter will no longer be available. It will remain available for free download by Members [here](#) and for purchase by nonmembers in the [ashrae.org bookstore](#).

Product News

DX Air Conditioner From Ecosaire/Dectron

ROSWELL, Ga.—The Ecosaire® by Dectron subsidiary of Dectron Internationale introduces the Signature Series Precision Comfort Control (PCC) air conditioner for office buildings,

hospitals, hotels, museums, schools and other commercial applications.

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Condensing Gas Water Heater From Lochinvar

LEBANON, Tenn.—Lochinvar introduces five models of the SHIELD™ condensing gas water heater. It features a stainless steel heat transfer system located outside of the tank, which minimizes loss of thermal efficiency over time due to lime scale buildup. The water heater offers rooftop or sidewall venting options, including conventional, direct vent and concentric direct vent, all using PVC or CPVC pipe with vent runs up to 100 ft (30 m).

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Programmable Thermostat From ecobee

TORONTO—ecobee introduces the Smart Thermostat. It connects to standard WiFi wireless networks, allowing users remote access to thermostat settings from a computer. It features a guided "wizard" function that leads users through each step of the programming process with a series of simple questions.

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