



The HVAC&R Industry

A weekly eNewsletter from ASHRAE



December 11, 2008: Vol. 7, No. 50

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

Energy Prices To Stay Low Through 2009

WASHINGTON—The "increasing likelihood of a prolonged global economic downturn" has caused energy prices to decrease, according to a new report by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). DOE's Energy Information Administration (EIA) says that oil prices will average the current \$50 per barrel cost throughout 2009. Residential heating oil prices are projected to average 24% less during this heating season compared to last year, and propane prices are expected to be 14% lower than last year. Natural gas prices are expected to be about 32% lower next year.

New Congressional Caucus Focuses on High Performing Buildings

WASHINGTON—A newly formed High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus is attempting to grow in membership and impact in anticipation of extensive debate on energy beginning in 2009. Cochaired by Reps. Russ Carnahan (D-Mo.) and Judy Biggert (R-Ill.), the House caucus has more than a dozen members. It will launch a membership drive early next year. The group will focus on increasing energy efficiency and lowering the carbon footprint of buildings. "We hope... the individual members will be called upon to help facilitate greater understanding and emphasis on building energy issues," said Doug Read, ASHRAE's government affairs director.

Economic Downturn Slowing Recycling

NEW YORK—The economic downturn is starting to negatively impact the market for recycled materials such as cardboard, plastic, newspaper and metals. Across the U.S., recyclable material is accumulating by the ton in the yards and warehouses of recycling contractors, which are unable to find buyers or are unwilling to sell at rock-bottom prices. The recyclables market is closely tied to economic conditions because demand for some recyclables tracks closely with markets for new products. For example, cardboard becomes boxes that package electronics, rubber is converted into shoe soles, and metal is made into auto parts.

AMCA Publishes New Applications Manuals

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill.—The Air Movement and Control Association International (AMCA) has approved two new applications manuals. The organization has published *AMCA 503-08, Application Manual for Fire, Ceiling (Radiation), Smoke and Fire/Smoke Dampers*. The publication provides guidance on understanding the various types and special nature of fire, ceiling radiation, smoke and fire/smoke damper products so that they may be properly selected, applied, installed, inspected, and maintained. Also approved was *AMCA Publication 504-08, Application Manual for Sun Control Devices*. The manual provides information and points to be considered when designing, specifying, and

detailing installations of sun control devices, such as overhangs, sun screens, fins and light shelves, for aesthetics and energy savings.

Biggest 'Carbon Dioxide Offenders' in UK

LONDON—The Palace of Westminster and the Bank of England have been exposed as among the UK's least energy-efficient public buildings by a new law that mandates measuring carbon dioxide emissions in public buildings. Around 18,000 buildings, including town halls, museums and schools, are being tested to score their energy efficiency on a sliding scale where A is the best and G is the worst. The Palace of Westminster and the Bank both scored a G. According to an article in the *Guardian* of London, many new buildings also fared badly, raising questions about the validity of sustainability claims made by architects and developers.

California Solar Project Could Become Largest in U.S.

FONTANA, Calif.—A California utility earlier this month unveiled what it says is the first component of what could become the largest rooftop solar installation ever attempted by a U.S. utility. The swath of 33,700 photovoltaic panels atop a 600,000 ft² warehouse is intended to ultimately become part of a larger photovoltaic array spanning 2 square miles (5.2 km²) on 150 commercial buildings. The current system is 2 MW, which can provide yearly power to 1,300 homes. The proposed final project would have a capacity of 250 MW, roughly equal to the total solar output of the U.S. last year. If approved by regulators, it could be completed in five years.

ASHRAE News

ASHRAE To Host Conference on Net-Zero Buildings

ASHRAE will host a specialty conference on how to drive the building industry toward market-viable net-zero-energy buildings. The conference, *Countdown to a Sustainable Energy Future...Net-Zero and Beyond*, will take place March 29–31, 2009, in San Francisco. The conference will provide a forum to discuss the role of policy and regulatory involvement in addition to providing practical information. Topics include building science, energy efficiency in HVAC, lighting and appliances, and renewable energy sources applied to buildings.

Feature of the Week

Increasing Energy Efficiency in Data Centers

By Roger Schmidt, Ph.D., P.E., Member ASHRAE; **Don Beaty, P.E.**, Member ASHRAE; and **Jay Dietrich, P.E.**

According to the authors, significant opportunities exist to improve data center energy use and efficiency through the implementation of best practices and leading edge engineering design strategies. It is estimated that data centers can reduce their energy use by 10% to 40% through the application of these practices and strategies. This article provides guidance on achieving energy improvements. It cites information gathered by ASHRAE TC 9.9, Mission Critical Facilities, and various ASHRAE publications, including the Datacom Book Series.

This article was originally published in December 2007.

After Dec. 24, 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

Web-Based BAS Monitor From Alerton

REDMOND, Wash.—Alerton introduces the BCM-WEB, a BACtalk™ control module (BCM) Web server that automatically reads BACnet® building automation system data and translates the data into Web pages. It enables users to create and edit schedules, alarms and trendlogs via the Web without special applets or software.

Thermostatic Expansion Valve From Danfoss

BALTIMORE—Danfoss introduces six models of the Universal TR6 thermostatic expansion valve. Using temperature and pressure sensors to open or close the diaphragm as needed, the valve meters refrigerant flow to maintain proper gas saturation in the coil. It also features an internal check valve, adjustable superheat and adaptable inlet and outlet ports

Commercial Building Lighting Control System From Lutron

COOPERSBURG, Pa.—Lutron Electronics Co. introduces the next generation of the Quantum™ total light management system for commercial buildings such as office buildings, schools and universities. The system dims or switches all electric lighting and controls daylight using automated window shades. It also manages, monitors, and reports on all the lighting usage in a building or campus to optimize energy performance and productivity and reduce maintenance and operating costs.

Subscription Management

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) is an international membership organization founded to advance the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration and related issues.

[Privacy Policy and Terms of Use](#) • [Disclaimer](#)

All contents copyright © 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
1791 Tullie Circle, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-2305.