



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.

San Diego Least Energy-Intensive U.S. City

NEW ORLEANS—San Diego is the least energy-intensive major city in the U.S., and Minneapolis is the most. This is according to a University of Michigan researcher's recent rankings of energy demand for residential heating and cooling in the country's 50 largest metropolitan areas. He says the rankings are important because energy costs are likely to become "an increasingly important factor in individual decision-making about where to live in our mobile society." The paper is published in the journal *Cities*.

2008 Could Be Coolest Year in U.S. Since 1997

ASHEVILLE, N.C.—With an average national temperature of 55.9°F (13.28°C) through October, 2008 is shaping up to be the U.S.'s coolest year since 1997, when the nation's temperature was 55.7°F (13.17°C). However, through September, the entire Earth is experiencing its ninth-warmest year since records began in 1880. The National Climatic Data Center attributes the coolness in the U.S. to a combination of the cooling effects of La Niña early in the year, along with a wet and overcast year in the central and eastern U.S.

Inflatable House Provides 'Instant Survival'

SAN FRANCISCO—A California start-up company has developed an "inflatable house," designed to provide shelter and basic amenities after a disaster. Packaged into a 4 ft (1.2 m) tall cube, it inflates into a 12 ft (3.7 m) tall structure. It includes a bed, a couch, freeze-dried food, a 50 gallon (190 L) water bladder, a first-aid kit, a radio and a cookstove.

California Voters Approve High-Speed Rail System

SAN JOSE, Calif.—California voters have approved a proposition to sell nearly \$10 billion in bonds to finance the construction of a high-speed rail system. The rail line will run from San Diego through Los Angeles to San Francisco, with a branch running from Fresno to Sacramento. The electric-powered trains will operate at up to 220 mph (350 km/h). The system is also intended to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Officials say construction bids could be sent out by 2011.

Shuttle Mission To Make Space Station More Comfortable, 'Greener'

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—The space shuttle Endeavour mission beginning Nov. 14 will deliver several improvements, and add sustainable features to the international space station. Astronauts will be installing an extra toilet, more sleeping compartments with individual thermostats and laptop hookups. They also will be delivering the essentials of NASA's first attempt at a closed-loop environmental system in orbit, where almost everything gets recycled. Most significant is a water recovery system that will turn urine and condensation into fresh drinking water. Repairs, improvements and cleaning also will

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be done to the station's existing solar power system.

Innovation Gallery Highlights CLIMATIZACIÓN '09

MADRID, Spain—The International Air-Conditioning, Heating, Ventilation and Refrigeration Exhibition, CLIMATIZACIÓN '09, will be held Feb. 24–27, 2009 in Madrid. Among the highlights of the event is the Innovation Gallery, an exclusive area that will present the most innovative products and services marketed by the exhibiting companies. CLIMATIZACIÓN '09, the 13th staging of the 25-year-old industry showcase, will be the largest, occupying seven exhibit halls at Feria de Madrid.

ASHRAE News

New Report Illustrates Challenges of Meeting Federal Energy Targets

WASHINGTON—Federal agencies may have to make significant process changes to meet the mandated 30% energy reduction in federal buildings by 2015, according to a new report. The report calls for alteration of funding mechanisms by Congress, improved education and training, and case study development to assist in developing best practices. The report was at a workshop held by representatives of the Federal Facilities Council and private-sector organizations, including ASHRAE. It is a precursor to an ASHRAE legislative briefing in February 2009 to discuss federal agencies' progress in meeting the requirements and needs identified in the report.

Feature of the Week

Optimizing Chilled Water Plant Control

By Mark Hydeman, P.E., Fellow ASHRAE; and **Guo Zhou**, Associate Member ASHRAE
According to the authors, water-cooled chilled water plants use a significant amount of energy in typical commercial buildings. They account for between 10% and 20% of the overall facilities usage and serve roughly one-third of the commercial floor space. This article presents a parametric analysis technique to optimize the control sequences of chilled water plants that has been successfully applied to dozens of projects.

This article was originally published in June 2007.

After Nov. 26, 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

Condensing Units From McQuay

MINNEAPOLIS—McQuay introduces the Model RCS large tonnage (50 ton–140 ton [180 kW–490 kW]) condensing units. The units use R-410A HFC refrigerant. They feature all-aluminum construction, including their microchannel condensers, to reduce galvanic corrosion.

Facility Management Display From Emerson

ST. LOUIS—The Facility Status Display from Emerson Climate Technologies, Retail



Solutions Division, enables retailers to monitor alarms and other store information from the company's in-store facility management systems. Retailers may use multiple displays throughout the facility to provide general store information or specific information for each department, such as alarms, high case temperatures and open doors.

Commercial Balancing Valve From FlowCon

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—FlowCon introduces the Total Authority Valve™ (called FlowCon SM in Europe), a pressure-independent dynamic balancing valve for commercial HVAC systems. The valve is designed for multicircuit HVAC systems that typically include multiple fan coils, radiators and heat pumps. It is designed to keep the flow rate constant regardless of fluctuations in pressure or temperature, and instantly compensates for pressure fluctuations.

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