



The HVAC&R Industry

A weekly eNewsletter from ASHRAE



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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

Alaska Pays Residents for High Energy Costs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—Alaska's legislature has approved a one-time \$1,200 payment to nearly every state resident as a way for them to handle the highest energy prices in the United States. When coupled with annual payments Alaskans get from a trust fund related to the state's oil and natural gas production, nearly every adult and child is expected to get \$3,200 or more in October. For Alaskans, the payment is worth six cords of firewood or 200 gallons (760 L) of heating oil.

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U.S. Wind Power Growth May Be Threatened

WASHINGTON—Wind farms in the United States generate more electricity than in any other nation in the world and are on track to expand by more than 45% this year, according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). However, the organization says the expiration of the federal production tax credit (PTC) at the end of 2008 threatens this progress. AWEA's executive director says "[T]he pipeline of investment for 2009 has been on hold for months, with escalating risks and costs for the industry, because of the uncertainty about the production tax credit."

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Home Energy Costs Generating 'Fuel Poverty'

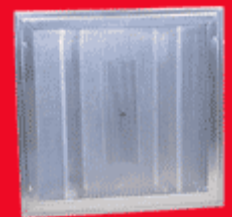
PRINCETON, N.Y.—Rapidly increasing energy prices are forcing many U.S. households to struggle to pay their fuel bills, a situation called "fuel poverty." It is not just rising energy prices that is the problem, say economic researchers, but rather the combination of steep increases in heating and cooling bills along with an economic downturn, job cuts, higher food and mortgage costs. This confluence of factors has helped push more families across more income levels to dip into their savings and use credit cards to pay higher heating and cooling bills.

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ORNL, Johnson Controls Partner on Energy Conservation Project

MILWAUKEE—The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has signed an \$89 million energy savings performance contract with Johnson Controls to apply advanced energy conservation solutions, including a biomass

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gasification system, to ORNL's Oak Ridge, Tenn., campus. As the project's cornerstone, a wood gasification biomass system will take the place of the existing natural gas steam plant and steam distribution system. Also, a 94% efficient "super boiler" will be installed, along with advanced electric metering, energy efficient lighting, water conservation measures, compressed air cooling, comprehensive HVAC improvements and a building management system.

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ASHRAE News

[Don't Precool Conference Rooms, Says Former ASHRAE President](#)

ALTON, Ill.—"Overchilling" is one of the top complaints of meeting planners, according to a recent *USA Today* article. Hospitality executives say that the temperature of meeting rooms is commonly set to less than 68°F (20°C) before being occupied to account for a "body-warmth factor." However Kent Peterson, P.E., Presidential Member ASHRAE, countered that if you have to precool a room, it's because something is seriously wrong with the air-conditioning system. "You should start out at 74 (°F [23°C]), and as the temperature starts to rise up to 78 (°F [26°C]), the air conditioning system will turn on and keep the temperature down," he said. Heat-producing bodies, he added, should be taken into consideration when the system is designed, via cooling-load calculations.

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[ASHRAE Awards Scholarships](#)

ASHRAE has announced the recipients of 16 scholarships totaling \$85,000 for the 2008–09 academic year. The students are pursuing courses leading to a career within the HVAC&R industry. ASHRAE has awarded 180 scholarships during the past 19 years totaling more than \$925,000. In addition, ASHRAE has launched a Web page for its scholarship program, www.ashrae.org/scholarships. The page provides a summary of all ASHRAE scholarship opportunities, along with testimonials from former scholarship recipients.

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Feature of the Week

[Temperature and Humidity Control in Surgery Rooms](#)

By John Murphy, Member ASHRAE

According to the author, it is important to consider both temperature and humidity when designing the HVAC system for a surgery room. This article presents system alternatives that can meet both requirements.

This article was originally published in June 2006. [Click here](#) to download the article. It will be available here through August 28.

After August 28, 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](http://ashrae.org/bookstore).

Product News

Used Oil Boiler From Clean Burn

LEOLA, Pa.—Clean Burn introduces the CB-500-CTB large-capacity, used-oil, coil-tube boiler. It is designed to recycle up to 3.6 gph (3.8 mL/s) of used oil to generate hot water. Applications include baseboard heating, space heating, infloor heating and ice melt.

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Pumping Relay From Schneider Electric/SE Relays

PALATINE, Ill.—SE Relays, a subsidiary of Schneider Electric, announces the Square D® 8501KA series alternating relay for multiple-load pumping applications such as irrigation systems, water treatment, compressors and HVAC fans. The relay toggles loads between multiple pumps to reduce runtimes and wear.

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Environmental Monitoring Software From Onset Computer Corp.

BOURNE, Mass.—Onset Computer Corp., announces the new version of HOBOLink Web-based energy and environmental monitoring software. The software provides 24/7 Web access to energy use and environmental data. The new version features data-scaling options for presenting energy and environmental data so it can be viewed in real-world measurement units, as well as rainfall graphs that display hourly and daily rainfall totals for the last day, week or month.

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