



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

Commercial Construction Costs Rising

NEW YORK—Commercial building costs for the third quarter of 2008 are projected to increase nearly 2% compared to the second quarter and nearly 6.5% over the third quarter of last year, according to Turner Construction Co.'s Building Cost Index. The index found that construction costs are rising faster than the Consumer Price Index. Turner attributed the increase mainly to price increases for steel, nonferrous metals, petroleum-based products and energy.

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Survey Gathering Energy-Saving Tips From Facility Owners, Managers

BETHESDA, Md.—A group of organizations, including the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE), and the Building Owners and Managers Association International (BOMA), have launched what is intended to be the largest-ever survey on energy-saving measures companies have undertaken. The goal of the online survey is to leverage the results of the survey to help companies identify best practices. The survey is open to owners and managers of nonresidential facilities. To ensure meaningful data, the survey applies only to facilities occupied before Jan. 1, 2007.

[Click here](#) to take the online survey.

Fla. Renewable Energy Program Criticized, Shut Down

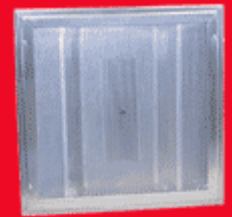
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—The Florida Public Service Commission recently terminated Florida Power & Light Company's (FPL) Sunshine Energy Program, under which customers paid monthly fees to develop renewable energy facilities. A Commission audit of the program found that only 20% of the \$11.4 million collected from customers was applied to its stated purpose. The majority of the collected funds were alleged to have been used for marketing and administrative costs. More than 38,000 customers voluntarily contributed nearly \$10 each month to the program for almost five years. Earlier this month, a Broward County man filed a lawsuit against FPL, seeking class-action status.

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Graduate Degrees Going Green

BOSTON—Some U.S. universities are creating "green" master's in business administration and other graduate programs to train students to think about energy efficiency and workplace conditions, as well as increasing profits. For example, Brandeis University has created a new branch of its MBA program that allows students to focus on environmental policy. Harvard University Graduate School of Design has introduced a

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concentration for master's students called "Sustainable Design." Colorado State University has launched a School of Global Environmental Sustainability.

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[U.S. DOE Engages Headquarters Solar Power System](#)

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) last week began using one of the largest solar power systems in the U.S. Capital. The system is installed atop DOE's Forrestal Building, one of its two headquarters buildings. At a rooftop ceremony, U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman energized the system for the first time. The solar electric photovoltaic system is expected to generate approximately 200 MWh of electricity annually, provide up to 8% of the Forrestal complex's energy during peak hours, and save as much as \$26,000 in utility costs in its first year of operation.

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ASHRAE News

[ASHRAE Publishes Standard 90.1-2007 User's Manual](#)

The User's Manual for ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2007, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, is available. The manual incorporates the 44 addenda approved since the 2004 edition. The 90.1-2007 User's Manual illuminates the standard by providing detailed instruction, calculation examples and compliance forms for the design of commercial and high-rise residential buildings. It includes sections on administration and enforcement, building envelope, HVAC systems, service water heating, power, lighting, the energy cost budget method, and the building performance rating method.

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[New Standard Provides Guidance on Testing Seismic Restraints](#)

ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 171-2008, *Method of Testing Seismic Restraint Devices for HVAC&R Equipment*, provides manufacturers a standard way of testing HVAC&R seismic restraint devices to prequalify them for earthquake-prone areas. It is the first national standard for seismic restraint testing of non-structural components that does not require shaker table testing, which is the required testing form in many California projects. The test procedures determine the maximum force a restraint can withstand without breakage or permanent deformation.

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Feature of the Week

[Understanding Basements](#)

By **Joseph Lstiburek, Ph.D., P.Eng.**, Fellow ASHRAE

This article explains varying configurations and common problems of basements. Particular emphasis is placed on proper insulation and basement water control.

This article was originally published in July 2006. [Click here](#) to download the article. It will be available here through Oct. 1.

After Oct. 1, 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

Microdrives From Hitachi America

TARRYTOWN, N.Y.—Hitachi America, Industrial Systems Division, offers the X200 series of microdrives. The drives feature Pump Sleep Mode functionality, which stops the pump when no pumping is taking place to reduce energy waste and mechanical issues due to operating at undesirably low speeds for prolonged periods of time.

[Read more](#)

CFD Software From Mentor Graphics

MARLBOROUGH, Mass.—The Mechanical Analysis Division of Mentor Graphics Corp. introduces Version 8 of FloTHERM 3-D computational fluid dynamics software for computing, telecommunications and semiconductor applications. The software predicts airflow and heat transfer in and around electronic equipment, including the coupled effects of conduction, convection and radiation.

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Ventilation/Heating Fan From Panasonic

SECAUCUS, N.J.—Panasonic Home & Environment announces two models in the WhisperWarm™ line of ventilation fans, designed to provide heat and ventilation. The fan's condenser motor is designed to operate at lower temperatures, to increase the life span of the motor and bearings.

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