



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

[New York Mayor Proposes Wind Power for City](#)

NEW YORK—New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg wants to install wind turbines on the city's bridges and skyscrapers and in its waters as part of a plan to develop renewable energy. Bloomberg said he would ask private companies and investors to study how windmills can be built across the city, with the aim of weaning it off the U.S. power grid. He did not specify which skyscrapers and bridges would be candidates. Aides reportedly said that the City is looking at the generally windy coast off Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island for turbines that could generate 10% of the city's electricity needs within 10 years.

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[Inmate Escapes Through Jail AC Vent](#)

HEMPSTEAD, Texas—A man charged with murder recently escaped from a suburban Houston jail by climbing through an air-conditioning vent, authorities said. The vent was less than a foot wide, and authorities said the inmate had been losing weight since arriving at the Waller County Jail in the spring. The 6 ft (1.8 m), 160 lb (73 kg) man was caught a few days later swimming in a motel pool.

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[Researchers Study Ways To Tap Energy From Hot Pavement](#)

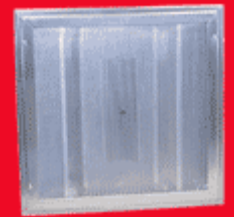
WORCESTER, Mass.—A team of Worcester Polytechnic Institute researchers have published a paper detailing a technique for using water-carrying pipes to convert the built-up heat in asphalt roads into usable energy. "The significance of this concept lies in the fact that the massive installed base of parking lots and roadways creates a low-cost solar collector," the researchers said. They added that additional benefits are that pavement can continue to generate energy after the sun goes down, and upgrades with heat exchangers could be fit into road construction.

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[California Utility Creates Large-Scale Solar PV Partnership](#)

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, Calif.—Pacific Gas and Electric Company has entered into utility-scale, photovoltaic contracts with two solar power companies to produce a total of 800 MW of renewable energy. The utility plans to cumulatively deliver 1.65 billion kWh annually. This would be equivalent to the amount of energy needed to serve approximately 239,000 residences each year. The two power plants are scheduled to be fully operational by 2013.

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Olympic Village Earns LEED® Gold Certification

BEIJING—The Olympic Village for the 2008 Olympics has received LEED® Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) under its LEED for Neighborhood Development pilot certification program. The village's 42 six- and nine-story residential high-rises, which house more than 16,000 Olympic athletes, are reportedly 50% more energy efficient than most buildings in Beijing, using solar panels for energy and recycling wastewater for heating and cooling. The Village includes a showcase "near-zero energy" welcome center.

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ASHRAE News

ASHRAE Seeks Input To Develop Research Strategic Plan

ASHRAE's research priorities are guided by its Research Strategic Plan, which is developed every five years by the Research Advisory Panel (RAP) with input from the membership. RAP is seeking input via an online survey. The Plan being developed looks forward to research priorities for 2010–2015. This survey asks for members' input on strategic research needs for that period. The survey includes 22 questions and takes 10 to 20 minutes. The deadline for completion is Sept. 8.

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

ASHRAE Develops Package To Help Building Teams on LEED® Projects

ASHRAE has developed a package to help architects, program managers, building owners, and others learn about LEED® requirements and the development of high-performing buildings. The ASHRAE Tools for LEED package includes three ASHRAE standards frequently used in conjunction with LEED v.2.2. Also included are the Standard 62.1 and Standard 90.1 User's Manuals and three books from the ASHRAE *Advanced Energy Design Guide* series. The hard-copy-only package price is \$426 (\$335 for ASHRAE members), a 30% discount compared to buying the component items separately.

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Feature of the Week

System Effect Factor: How it Affects Operating Cost

By **Bernard Ratledge**, Life Member ASHRAE

System effect factor (SEF) is caused by poorly designed and installed duct fittings, and wastes significant energy, often over the life of the building. SEF is the most common cause of the difference in predicted and actual fan hp. This article covers how to predict and prevent or mitigate SEF, and better ensure that the building will operate as intended.

This article was originally published in February 2006. [Click here](#) to download the article. It will be available here through Sept. 4.

After Sept. 4, 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

Cooling Tower Treatment From ProChemTech International

BROCKWAY, Pa.—ProChemTech International offers the MiniBrom biocide system. It is designed to treat cooling tower water without toxic chemicals, and minimize scale and corrosion. The system uses ion exchange to pretreat the makeup water to remove targeted elements that contribute to scale.

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Fuel Cell Data Center Backup Power From APC

WEST KINGSTON, R.I.—APC announces the Fuel Cell Extended Run (FCXR) product that provides hydrogen-based backup power for data centers. It features continuous battery monitoring to ensure generator availability, as well as the ability to refuel the generator.

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Butterfly Valve From NIBCO

ELKHART, Ind.—NIBCO announces the 285 PSI ductile-iron commercial/industrial butterfly valve, designed to replace conventional high-performance butterfly valves in nonsteam applications. Its ductile-iron body is designed to be as strong as cast steel—and more than twice as strong as cast iron—for higher durability and impact resistance. Applications include condensers, chilled water, water heating, isolation and throttling.

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