



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

U.S. EPA To Track GHG Emissions

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will require large producers of greenhouse gas emissions to begin collecting emission data under a new reporting system that becomes effective Jan. 1, 2010. This new program will apply to roughly 10,000 facilities, covering an estimated 85% of U.S. GHG emissions. The program is designed to provide a better understanding of where GHGs are coming from and will guide development of policies and programs to reduce emissions. Businesses will also be able to compare their emissions to similar facilities.

DOE Finds It Wasted Money, Energy To Save Money, Energy

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has found significant problems in its own energy-efficiency programs after an internal audit. An article in *The Washington Post* cited examples such as the payment of \$850,000 to retrofit four DOE buildings that were torn down years earlier. Other examples include paying a contractor to maintain a facility that was not being used, and payments for energy conservation projects that were never undertaken or that did not work.

Showerheads Harbor Germs That Cause Lung Disease, Study Finds

BOULDER, Colo.—New research suggests that ordinary showerheads are awash in germs, particularly a type that can cause lung disease in people whose immune systems are compromised. An analysis of showerheads in nine U.S. cities found that about 30% contained high levels of *Mycobacterium avium*—bacteria that can cause lung infections when inhaled or swallowed. The researchers, from the University of Colorado, said the bacteria levels were 100 times higher than those found in typical household water. The study was published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on Monday.

U.S. DOE Providing Cash to Renewable Energy Projects

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Treasury Department have awarded more than \$1 billion in cash assistance to renewable energy developers in lieu of earned federal tax credits. More than \$550 million was awarded this week in the latest round of funding. The 25 projects in 14 states include five large wind farms, as well as biomass, solar, and geothermal energy facilities, plus a project that uses microturbines for combined heat and power. The

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awards are designed to provide upfront capital for renewable energy projects.

Renewable Energy Contractor Accused of Stealing \$1.5 Million

BEND, Ore.—An Oregon contractor who installed renewable energy equipment faces \$1.5 million in fraud charges. The man, who operated several businesses, is accused of defrauding more than two dozen clients, sometimes by returning to job sites and taking equipment. He also is accused of accepting thousands of dollars of deposit money and not delivering promised installations. Among the defrauded clients was a center that rescued blind and deaf dogs. The contractor is in jail on \$500,000 bond.

ASHRAE News

Review Open for Proposed High-Performance Buildings Standard

The fourth public review of BSR/ASHRAE/USGBC/IESNA Standard 189.1P, *Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, is under way. The standard provides minimum criteria that apply to new buildings and major renovation projects covering water use efficiency, energy efficiency, the building's impact on the atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality (IEQ). The review period ends on Nov. 2, and comments received will be discussed at a Nov. 13–14 interim meeting.

Feature of the Week

Underfloor for Schools

By **James E. Megerson, P.E.**, Member ASHRAE, and **Christopher R. Larson, P.E.**, Member ASHRAE

This article presents a case study of a project to install raised access floors for a suburban Kansas City, Mo., school district. As a result of the project, the district has standardized its HVAC systems around UFAD and displacement ventilation. The installations fall within the district's energy budget and have the added benefit of improving IAQ.

Product News

Design Library From Reliable Controls

VICTORIA, British Columbia—Reliable Controls announces GrafXSet 2.0 graphic developer's subscription library. It helps design professionals generate 3-D system graphics. In addition to providing a set of images and animations, the library allows users to request custom graphics.

Preassembled Solar System From Ready Solar

SAN MATEO, Calif.—Ready Solar offers the Solar in a Box preassembled, all-ac solar electric system. The system is designed to be easily installed in light-commercial applications. It features microinverters that convert dc into ac at each panel, which reduces losses due to shading, increases production and makes the systems safer without wall-mounted inverters and dc disconnects.

Corrosion Inspection Device From GE Sensing & Inspection

BILLERICA, Mass.—GE Sensing & Inspection Technologies introduces the Phasor CV/DM inspection device that identifies corrosion spots. It combines a phased array imaging device and a conventional flaw detector into one instrument. The device's probe has 28 adjacent, discrete elements that allow extensive linear coverage, while its software allows the user to select and display thickness measurement in each discrete beam.

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