

Volume XXVII, Issue 5

Serving the Hudson Valley and Western Connecticut

January 2014

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### **Upcoming Events**

- January 18 through 23 -ASHRAE 2014 Winter Conference New York City
- February 12 -Desiccant Dehumidification Systems
- March 12 -Save the date
- April 23 -Parks and Rec Tour
- May 14 -Golf Outing
- June 11 -Save the date
- August 14 through 16 -ASHRAE Region 1 2014 CRC Hosted by Bi-State Chapter

### Meeting Wednesday January 22, 2014 AHR Expo— Javits Convention Center 11th Avenue between 34th and 39th Streets, NYC

10:00am to 6:00pm

Please join us on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the AHR Expo being held at the Javits Convention Center in New York City. The Expo runs all day – from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm – feel free to attend as your schedule permits. For those who will be attending in the afternoon, there will be a group of Bi-State Chapter members who will be journeying to Annie Moore's Bar & Restaurant for some post-Expo appetizers, drinks and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm (Address: 50 East 43rd Street – right by Grand Central Station). Appetizers will be provided by the Bi-State Chapter – members will be responsible for their own drinks at the bar.

If you have not already registered for the AHR Expo and are planning to attend, we suggest you register by going to

https://registration3.experientevent.com/showAHR141/. Registration is free through January 20th – an on-site registration fee of \$20 will apply starting on January 21st. Please also note that shuttle buses will be available to those who have registered for the Expo – the complete list of routes and boarding points can be found here:

http://www.ahrexpo.com/images/shuttlebus.pdf.

There is no Chapter Meeting charge this month for those of you who will be joining us at Annie Moore's Bar & Restaurant.

### 2014 AHR Expo Mobile App Available

The 2014 AHR Expo mobile app is available. It provides the following information: exhibitor, session and speaker listings, maps, updates and material from event organizers. Search the app store for AHR 2014 using your device or point your mobile browser to http://m.core-apps.com/ahr2014

### President's Message

By Terry Connor, LEED AP

Our chapter meeting for January will be a gathering on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the AHR Expo being held at the Javits Convention Center in New York City. The Expo runs all day – from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm – feel free to attend as your schedule permits. For those who will be attending in the afternoon, there will be a group of Bi-State Chapter Members who will be journeying to Annie Moore's Bar & Restaurant for some post-Expo appetizers, drinks and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm (Address: 50 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street – right by Grand Central Station). Appetizers will be provided by the Bi-State Chapter – members will be responsible for their own drinks at the bar.

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There is no Chapter Meeting charge this month for those of you who will be joining us at Annie Moore's Bar & Restaurant.

Our February Chapter Meeting will have us back at Casa Rina on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> for a presentation on Desiccant Dehumidification Systems by Mark Piegay from Kathabar Dehumidification Systems, Inc. This presentation is approved for PDH Credit by NY State – we hope that you will be able to attend what should be an excellent and informative evening.

Terry Connor, LEED AP Bi-State Chapter President

### Revisions to ASHRAE Standard 169, Climatic Data for Building Design Standards

The newly updated Standard 169, *Climatic Data for Building Design Standards*, serves as a comprehensive source of climate data for those involved in building design, and provides a variety of climatic information for designing, planning and sizing building energy systems and equipment.

"Using the results from ASHRAE Research Project 1453 'Updating the ASHRAE Climatic Data for Design and Standards,' the data and tables in the standard were completely replaced," Dru Crawley, chair of the committee writing the standard, said.

An additional "Extremely Hot" Climate Zone 0 with humid (0A) and dry (0B) zones has been added, and the standard now includes climatic data for 5,564 locations throughout the world. "With this major revision, Standard 169 now includes climate zone maps for the entire world, as opposed to the 2006 standard which only included a U.S. climate zone map," Crawley said. "This allows users outside the U.S. to more easily determine which climate zone their location is in."

The standard touches on dry-bulb, dew-point and wet-bulb temperatures; enthalpy; humidity ration; wind conditions; solar irradiation; latitude; longitude; and elevation for locations worldwide. Standard 169 also includes statistical data, such as mean temperatures; daily ranges; degree hours; and seasonal percentages within ranges of temperatures, to name just a few.

The cost of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 169, Climatic Data for Building Design Standards, is \$72 (\$61, ASHRAE members). To order, contact ASHRAE Customer Contact Center at 1-800-527-4723 (United States and Canada) or 404-636-8400 (worldwide), fax 678-539-2129, or visit www.ashrae.org/bookstore.

### **Research Promotion Contribution Form**

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#### **ASHRAE Publishes Revised Standard on Ventilation in Health Care Facilities**

A newly revised standard for ventilation of health care facilities can help designers by providing the minimum requirements for the design of ventilation systems for health care facilities to provide environmental control for comfort, as well as infection and odor control. ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013, *Ventilation of Health Care Facilities*, was written by ASHRAE and the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE). When the standard was first published in 2008, it was the first American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard in the nation to specifically address ventilation in health care facilities.

"Without high-quality ventilation in health care facilities, patients, health care workers and visitors can become exposed to contaminants through normal respiration of particles in the air." Paul Ninomura, chair of the 170 committee, said. "Ventilation systems and designs for health care facilities are intended to provide a comfortable environment for patients, health care workers and visitors while diluting, capturing and exhausting airborne contaminants including potentially infectious airborne agents."

Standard 170 has been in constant maintenance since 2008 and the past five years have provided an opportunity to review and further improve it. The revised standard features updates, changes and clarifications dealing with humidity, ducted returns, recirculating rooms units and duct lining, to name just a few refinements.

One trend that almost all classes of buildings have seen on the rise lately has been energy efficiency. Health care facilities can be energy extensive buildings and energy recovery can provide significant savings. Provisions for the application of energy recovery are now specifically addressed in 170-2013. However, as the standard stipulates, if energy recovery systems are utilized, the systems cannot allow for any cross-contamination of exhaust air back to the supply airstream. Run around coils are just one example of a system that is permitted, according to Ninomura.

The standard also addresses some issues that may reduce costs to build and operate health care facilities. Standard 170 allows relative humidity to be as low as 20 percent for some rooms. This may result in smaller capacity of humidification equipment, lower operating costs and reduced maintenance costs. The standard permits some use of plenum returns in outpatient facilities, which in turn may result in lower construction and operating costs. Additionally, some hospitals are interested in utilizing displacement ventilation to reduce operating costs. The standard addresses the application of displacement ventilation within patient rooms.

Poorly ventilated health care facilities may increase the concentration of airborne contaminants including fungi or mold, which may cause allergic responses in even healthy workers and occupants. Considering the various occupancies and patient populations, great care must be taken in the design of health care ventilation systems.

The cost of ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Approved Standard 170-2013, *Ventilation of Health Care Facilities*, is \$58 (\$48, ASHRAE members). To order, contact ASHRAE Customer Contact Center at 1-800-527-4723 (United States and Canada) or 404-636-8400 (worldwide), fax 678-539-2129, or visit <a href="www.ashrae.org/bookstore">www.ashrae.org/bookstore</a>.

### **European Union to Partially Ban Use of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**

The European Union recently struck a tentative deal to partially ban the use of a group of super greenhouse gases known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used in refrigeration and air-conditioning. The review of the EU F-Gas Regulation will cap the amount of HFCs which can be placed on the European market and will gradually reduce it over time. By 2030, the volume of HFCs on the market is expected to be cut to 21% of present levels.

HFCs are a group of chemicals with global warming potentials hundreds to thousands of times higher than carbon dioxide. Their use currently accounts for about 2% of European emissions and this is growing rapidly.

Alongside the cap and phase-down, the EU has agreed to ban the use of HFCs in new equipment in a number of sectors, most notably commercial refrigeration by 2022. In addition, from 2020 very high global warming potential (GWP) HFCs (over 2500 times more potent that CO2) will no longer be used to service and maintain refrigeration equipment.





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Dubai - April 13-15, 2014

**HVAC Design: Level II - Applications** 

New York, USA

New York City - February 27-28, 2014

Georgia, USA

Atlanta - March 20-21, 2014

Combined: Level I & II

New York, USA

New York City - February 24-28, 2014

Georgia, USA

Atlanta - March 17-21, 2014

Register: www.ashrae.org/hvacdesign

#### **ASHRAE Publishes 2013 Version of Thermal Comfort Standard**

Major revisions for design and measurement of comfortable spaces are included in a newly published 2013 standard from ASHRAE. ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55-2013, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*, combines the 2010 standard and 18 published addenda into a consolidated standard. The core of the standard in Sections 4 and 5 specifies methods to determine thermal environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, air speed and radiant effects) in buildings and other spaces that a significant proportion of the occupants will find acceptable at a certain metabolic rate and clothing level. Section 7 of the standard includes new requirements for the measurement and evaluation of existing thermal environments and is also applicable to commissioning.

The standard has been re-written with a renewed focus on application by practitioners and use of clear, enforceable language. Requirements are now clearly stated and calculation procedures appear sequentially. Other noteworthy additions to the standard include an allowance for the cooling effect of air movement as a way to extend the upper limit of the comfort zone in naturally conditioned spaces and addition of a predictive model for occupant clothing behavior based on extensive field research. These additions provide new methods for improving occupant comfort while minimizing energy use, according to Gwelen Paliaga, chair of the committee that wrote the standard.

Documentation requirements to show that a design meets Standard 55 are contained in Section 6 and a sample compliance form is provided in appendix J. Both of these sections are clarified and streamlined for use by owners and third party rating systems.

The 18 addenda published since 2010 are summarized in detail in Informative Appendix M, and the most noteworthy changes are summarized here:

- The normative body of the standard, comprising Sections 3 through 8, have been rewritten and reorganized.
- Requirements are more clearly stated, definitions are added to Section 3, and informative supporting information has been moved from the body to informative appendices.
- Procedures are clarified and appear in a more sequential manner. For example, a "representative occupant" with representative "clothing insulation" and "metabolic rate" shall be defined as input into thermal comfort calculations.
- The cooling effect of air movement now applies to naturally conditioned spaces as well as mechanically conditioned spaces, and in each case correction factors are given that adjust the comfort boundaries when air movement is present.
- A new alternate procedure for estimating occupant clothing insulation based on outdoor weather was added. This procedure is based on extensive field research and can be used for design calculations, annual simulations and control of occupied spaces.
- Major revisions to Section 7 procedures for measuring comfort in existing spaces including survey and physical measurement methods and a new section on evaluating and reporting results.
- The standard now requires that two of the key comfort parameters, air speed and air temperature, must be calculated as an average that the occupant experiences at three heights across the body and over a period of time.

The cost of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55-2013, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*, is \$95 (\$81, ASHRAE members). To order, contact ASHRAE Customer Contact Center at 1-800-527-4723 (United States and Canada) or 404-636-8400 (worldwide), fax 678-539-2129, or visit <a href="www.ashrae.org/bookstore">www.ashrae.org/bookstore</a>.

#### Large Companies Seeing Carbon Tax in Their Financial Futures

Nearly 30 of the largest corporations in the United States, including the five major oil companies, are planning their future growth with the expectation that the federal government will force them to pay a price for carbon pollution as a way to control climate change. A new report by the environmental data company CDP has found that at least 29 companies, including ExxonMobil, Walmart and American Electric Power, are incorporating a price on carbon into their long-term financial plans. Both supporters and opponents of action to fight climate change say the development is significant because businesses that chart a financial course to make money in a carbon-constrained future could be more inclined to support policies that address climate change.

### **ASHRAE Certification Programs**

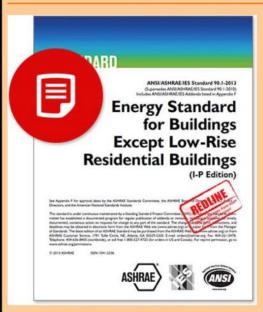
Receive the recognition you deserve by earning an ASHRAE Certification at the 2014 ASHRAE Winter Conference and AHR Expo.

Take advantage of ASHRAE's special administration of the certification examinations on January 23, 2014. All exams will begin at 9:00 a.m. (candidates must report to the testing room at 8:30 a.m.). These exams are being offered in conjunction with the 2014 ASHRAE Winter Conference and AHR Expo in New York City. Refresh your knowledge in preparation of earning an ASHRAE certification with learning opportunities at the show and conference.

For more information, visit www.ashrae.org/NYCExams

### **Hot Products from ASHRAE**

#### Latest Edition of Standard 90.1 Now Available as a Redline



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About Standard 90.1-2013: Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings (ANSI approved; IES co-sponsored)

provides the minimum requirements for energy-efficient design of most buildings. Learn more

**About Redlines:** A redline document is a quick, easy way to compare all the changes between the active standard and the previous version. Redlines allow users to instantly identify additions, deletions, and other formatting and content changes. Learn more

Visit <u>www.ashrae.org/bookstore</u> to learn more about this and other outstanding ASHRAE publications!

### **ASHRAE Learning Institute**

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Commercial Building Energy Audits NEW!

Saturday, Jan 18 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Healthcare Facilities: Best Practice Design & Applications

Saturday, Jan 18 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Significant Changes to Standard 90.1-2010 and IECC-2012 NEW!

Tuesday, Jan 21-9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Energy Modeling Best Practices and Applications** 

Tuesday, Jan 21-9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Effective Energy Management in New and Existing Buildings

Wednesday, Jan 22 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Operations and Maintenance of High-Performance Buildings

Thursday, Jan 23 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Complying with Standard 90.1-2013 NEW!

Thursday, Jan 23 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Introduction to Building Enclosure Commissioning NEW!

Thursday, Jan 23 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Half-Day Short Courses

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Electric Rates, Rules and Regulations NEW!

Saturday, Jan 18 - 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Laboratory Design: The Basics and Beyond

Sunday, Jan 19 - 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Air-to-Air Energy Recovery Applications: Best Practices

Sunday, Jan 19 - 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mathematical Optimization Techniques and their Applications:

to HVAC&R Systems and Components

Sunday, Jan 19 - 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Combined Heat & Power: Design through Operations

Monday, Jan 20 - 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

High-Performance Building Design: Applications and Future Trends

Monday, Jan 20 - 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

IAQ Best Practices for Design, Construction and Commissioning NEW!

Monday, Jan 20 - 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Commissioning for High-Performance Buildings

Monday, Jan 20 - 2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Designing High-Performance Healthcare Facilities NEW!

Monday, Jan 20 - 2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Exceeding Standard 90.1-2013 to Meet LEED® Requirements NEW!

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**Data Center Energy Efficiency** 

Tuesday, Jan 21 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fundamentals and Applications of Standard 55 NEW!

Tuesday, Jan 21 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Design of Commercial Ground Source Heat Pumps NEW!

Tuesday, Jan 21 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Applications of Standard 62.1-2013: Multiple Spaces

**Equations and Spreadsheets NEW!** 

Wednesday, Jan 22 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Troubleshooting Humidity Control Problems** 

Wednesday, Jan 22 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



£ 2014 Winter Conference and AHR Expo in New York!

Conference Jan. 18-22 | AHR Expo Jan. 21-23

www.ashrae.org/newyork

Special first timer registration fee available!

Technical Program—features a building-oriented theme, featuring tracks on building information systems; environmental health; international design; and, featured for this Conference, tall building performance.

AHR Expo—The ASHRAE co-sponsored AHR Expo takes place Jan. 21–23

(NOTE DAY CHANGE: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) at Javits Convention Center.

www.ahrexpo.com

ASHRAE Certification—all six certification programs are being offered: Building Energy Assessment Professional, Building Energy Modeling Professional, Commissioning Process Management Professional; High-Performance Building Design Professional; Healthcare Facility Design Professional; and Operations & Performance Management Professional.

ASHRAE Learning Institute—23 Professional Development Seminars and Short Courses are offered, including 11 new courses that include Standards 55 and 90.1, electric rates and regulations, health care facilities, building energy audits and ground source heat pumps.



AHR EXPO 🕮



### **ASHRAE Conferences** 2013-2014

Attend to See What's New, Learn New Skills, Earn PDHs, Network with Peers

### ASHRAE IAQ 2013: Environmental Health in Low Energy Buildings

Oct. 15-18, 2013 | Vancouver, BC, Canada www.ashrae.org/IAQ2013

Comprehensive overview presented via papers.

Co-organizer:



### **ASHRAE 2014 Winter Conference**

Jan. 18-22, 2014 | New York, NY Jan. 21-23, 2014 | AHR Expo www.ashrae.org/newyork

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April 24-25, 2014 | Manila, Philippines www.ashrae.org/Developing2014 First ASHRAE conference on this topic.

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#### ASHRAE 2014 Annual Conference

June 28-July 2, 2014 | Seattle, Wash. www.ashrae.org/seattle

2nd Annual Research Summit presented.

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Sept. 10-12, 2014 | Atlanta, Ga. www.ashrae.org/Simulation2014 Single collaboration of Energy Modeling and SimBuild Conferences.

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### **Refrigeration Commissioning Guide Seeks to Ensure Systems Work Correctly**

Sixty percent of energy use in supermarkets is attributed to refrigeration, and studies have shown commissioning could result in 7 to 25 percent energy savings. A new guide from ASHRAE outlines a commissioning process that would result in substantial savings. "Refrigeration Commissioning Guide for Commercial and Industrial Systems" provides user-friendly, how-to guidance for commissioning of custom-engineered refrigeration systems in commercial and industrial facilities. The book was funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory The book is available for free download at <a href="https://www.ashrae.org/freeRefCxGuidance">www.ashrae.org/freeRefCxGuidance</a>.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that supermarkets typically use approximately 3,000,000 kWh of electricity per year, with 60 percent of that energy use attributed to refrigeration (EPA 2007). Portland Energy Conservation, Inc. (PECI) predicts that commissioning in existing grocery stores would result in 7 percent to 25 percent energy savings per year (PECI 2010). Based on these estimates, this commissioning guide, if widely adopted, would lead to substantial energy savings.

The guide will help achieve cost-effective and cost-efficient refrigeration systems for new projects, expansions, remodels and existing systems that simply need a tune-up. For commercial facility owners and managers, this means improved profitability through lower operating and service costs as well as reduced product loss. For industrial plants, this means improved "up time" and improved labor productivity in addition to reduced operating cost, according to Richard Royal, chair of the committee that wrote the guide.

Also included in the Guide is information on commissioning during planning and design; construction and installation; and system start-up and first-year operation. A matrix helps delineate roles and responsibilities. Examples of commissioning checklists and acceptance plans can be used for reference or template.

A printed version of the Guide is slated to be available in early January 2014. The cost of the printed version is \$99 (\$84, ASHRAE members). To order, contact ASHRAE Customer Contact Center at 1-800-527-4723 (United States and Canada) or 404-636-8400 (worldwide), fax 678-539-2129, or visit <a href="www.ashrae.org/bookstore">www.ashrae.org/bookstore</a>.



### **APPLY**

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### **Bi-State Chapter Officers and Governors 2013—2014**

Position	First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone	Fax
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Young Engineers in ASHRAE	TJ	Kieper	kiepertj@gmail.com	(518) 928-6965	
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Refrigeration	John	Fusco	jfusco@olace.com	(914) 919-3178	(914) 747-0453
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Historian	Robert	Roston	bob@rostonfamily.com	(914) 761-3364	(203) 504-7949
Reception	Joseph	Trongone	jatrong@optonline.net	(914) 332-7658	
Administrator	Cliff	Konitz	c.konitz@verizon.net	(845) 297-5864	(845) 297-5864
Golf	Steven	Abbattista	sabbattista@olace.com	(914) 919-3102	(914) 747-0453

### Why Be Involved in a Local Chapter?

- Learn about the latest technologies presented in the program sessions
- Attain continuing education credits
- Meet industry associates and discuss local concerns
- Network amongst designers, installers, vendors, educators, in your local area to help improve business for all
- Share experiences with others
- Enjoy a social hour
- Carry out ASHRAE's mission on a local level

To advance the arts and sciences of heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigerating to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world.

### Notice to business card advertisers:

We are currently accepting business card advertisements for this year's newsletters. The cost of a business card ad is \$125.00. The newsletter is published monthly, September through June (ten issues). That means for \$125.00 (\$12.50 an issue), your business card ad will circulate to approximately 300 recipients a month or an advertising cost of approximately 4 cents/recipient.

If you are interested in placing an ad, please forward a business card and check (payable to ASHRAE Bi-State) to:

#### **ASHRAE Bi-State Chapter**

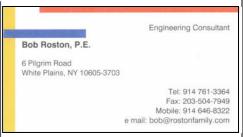
DL Flow Tech 2421 Route 52 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533



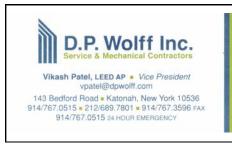
















# EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT 1 PAULDING STREET ELMSFORD, NY 10523 PHONE: 914-592-1776 FAX: 914-592-1904 e mail: larrysturgis@gmail.com Westchester, Pulnam, Rockland, Orange Ulster, Sullivan, Dutchess, Fairfield & Litchfield, Ct.

LAWRENCE STURGIS

### **Employment Opportunities**

Employment ads may be submitted for inclusion in **The Exchanger** as follows:

- 1. \$100.000 from companies placing ad for one (1) month.
- 2. \$150.00 from companies placing ad for two (2) months.
- 3. No charge for members looking for employment.

### ASHRAE, CAMEE Partner to Provide Planning Tools to Consulting Engineers

Two tools to help consulting engineers in regard to project planning and in fair risk/reward sharing with clients are now available for free to ASHRAE members through an agreement with The Council of American Mechanical and Electrical Engineers (CAMEE).

CAMEE represents mechanical/electrical engineering firms, providing a much-needed forum for improving bottom -line business with improved business practices, reduced professional liability and increased profitability. CAMEE is a coalition of mechanical/electrical engineering firms within the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

For access to the publications and for more information, visit www.ashrae.org/freeeptools. For more information on CAMEE and ACEC, visit www.acec.org/camee.



ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a building technology society with more than 50,000 members worldwide. The Society and its members focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality and sustainability within the industry. Through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

ASHRAE will be the global leader, the foremost source of technical and educational information, and the primary provider of opportunity for professional growth in the arts and sciences of heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigerating.

### Upcoming Meetings

Month	Date	Promotion	Main Presentation	Tech Session
January	1/18/2004 through 1/23/2014		ASHRAE 2014 Winter Conference New York City	
February	2/12/2014	Research Promotion	Desiccant Dehumidification Systems Kathabar Dehumidification Systems	
March	3/12/2014	Sustainability	Save the date	
April	4/23/2014	Membership Promotion	Parks and Rec tour	
May	5/14/2014	Student Scholarships	Golf Outing	
June	6/11/2014	Refrigeration	Save the date	
August	8/14/2004 through 8/16/2014		ASHRAE Region 1 2014 CRC hosted by Bi-State Chapter	

### **Outdoor Pollutants Can Get Indoors, According to Study**

A recent study found that indoor air consistently contains about 25% of the particle pollution that is measured outside. Randy Martin, lead author of the study and associate research professor of environmental engineering at Utah State University, studied the effects of outdoor pollution on indoor air quality on "red" air quality days. Air quality is considered unhealthy for the general population once it is classified as red, meaning it has an index value of 151 to 200 on the American Lung Association's air quality index. Martin and his team found that contaminants such as ammonium nitrate mix with indoor air at particulate sizes small enough to "penetrate all the way down into your respiratory system and deposit itself in the deepest lung tissue in the sacs, which can interfere with your oxygen exchange in your capillaries."

### **Defense Department Ends Restrictions on LEED Gold, Platinum Certifications**

A law signed by President Barack Obama late last year lifts limitations on using U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) funds to pursue LEED Gold and Platinum certifications. In the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2012, section 2830(b)(1) provided, "No funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2012 may be obligated or expended for achieving any LEED gold or platinum certification." The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014 negates the continuation of that rule by including it in "Legislative Provisions Not Adopted." The DoD manages more than 500 installations worldwide comprising nearly 300,000 buildings covering 2.3 billion ft<sup>2</sup> (214 million m<sup>2</sup>). It owns more LEED-certified buildings than any other entity.