



GREEN Newsletter



Green Newsletter
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IAPMO is excited to announce the expansion of the I-Connection Newsletter to a bi-monthly publication. The Green Newsletter will come out the first week of every month, and will focus on the importance of building green.

IAPMO's Leadership and Commitment to Green Initiatives

This newsletter is designed to quickly and regularly communicate information and resources to IAPMO members regarding the various green building and water efficiency activities, and IAPMO's active involvement with them. IAPMO is firmly committed to promoting green building and water efficiency. IAPMO has long been and continues to be a leader in sustainable model code provisions through its commitment to promoting environmentally responsible construction practices that are safe and reliable.

IAPMO's involvement in sustainable initiatives predates the current trends among other organizations, as the Uniform Codes have long included provisions for water-efficient plumbing products, grey water and reclaimed water systems, solar energy systems, and environmentally friendly refrigerants.

Since the early 1990's, the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) has mandated water efficient plumbing fixtures and fittings. Furthermore, the latest edition of the UPC permits the use of higher efficiency plumbing fixtures and fittings, such as dual flush and 1.28 gallon per flush toilets, urinals that flush at ½ gallon or less, and faucets and showerheads that use up to 30% less water than required by federal law.

The UPC also allows for grey water to be used for irrigation purposes and reclaimed water for flushing water closets and urinals and supplying trap primers. The Uniform Mechanical Code permits the use of environmentally friendly refrigerants and relies upon ASHRAE 62.1 for proper indoor air quality requirements. Last and certainly not least, IAPMO has developed the Uniform Solar Energy Code since 1976.

By educating and updating the membership and industry professionals on green issues, activities and opportunities, this new e-newsletter will provide value to this very dynamic segment of the industry. Articles will highlight IAPMO's role as facilitator in the transition to increasingly sustainable construction practices and related changes in the model codes, standards, and product certifications.



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IAPMO Creates Committee to Lead Sustainability Efforts

The increasing awareness of a building's impact on our environment has caused an explosion of activities from many entities. As a result, numerous concurrent efforts are underway to establish green building and water efficiency programs and standards. Each of these efforts requires the expertise of plumbing and mechanical organizations to ensure that real water and energy benefits are achieved while maintaining public health and safety. In order to ensure that this happens and to ensure that IAPMO maintains its authoritative voice, the IAPMO Board of Directors has approved the creation of a committee of experts whose sole responsibilities will be to oversee IAPMO's ongoing involvement in green building and water efficiency activities, and to ensure that IAPMO's sustainability goals are being met. One of the primary objectives of the committee will be

to facilitate the transition of more sustainable construction practices in the Uniform Codes, referenced standards and product certification. The IAPMO Board is in the process of finalizing committee appointments so that the committee can begin its important work later this fall.

Is the Corn Really Green?

Ethanol has been touted as the answer to our dependency on foreign oil, and a fix in part to the global warming problem. The U.S. Senate is sowing the seeds on a plan that would increase the nation's production to 36 billion gallons by 2022. This is after the 2005 mandate of 7.5 billion by 2012, a goal we are already close to achieving.

While ethanol promoters have been basking in the golden spotlight, over the last few months they have heard an earful from the opposition. Apparently, ethanol isn't as green as some would have us believe, and many are warning of the impact on our resources.

One of the concerns with the increase in production is the amount of water needed to produce the gasoline alternative. The process requires four gallons of water to make one gallon of ethanol. That would add up to a staggering 144 billion gallons of water per year in the year 2022. With global warming a hot issue, and news stories every day about water shortage across the nation, the ethanol industry is facing tough opposition based on these calculations.

Another concern is the amount of land needed to grow the corn to meet the 2022 mandate. Renton Righelato and Dominick Spracklen of Science Magazine estimate that 43 percent of our nation's crops would be needed to meet the required ethanol production, and would only offset our gasoline consumption by 10 percent. Environmentalists are concerned that forests will be cleared to plant more crops to meet the proposed increase.

Consumers are already feeling the impact in rising food costs. Growing corn for fuel is in direct competition with cornfields for food and livestock feed. A bushel of corn has almost doubled in price over the last year, and it is being reflected at the grocery checkout line. Advocates claim this is having a global effect, especially in developing countries where corn is a staple of the diet.

The ethanol industries' answer to these critics is to point to technology. They say many of these issues are already being addressed. The water to corn ratio has been reduced to 3:1, and they claim developing technologies will reduce it to 1.3:1. Much of the water is now being recycled back into the water supply. There is also hope of a completely dry process in which no water is used, or the possibility of using grey water.

Cellulosic ethanol hopes to answer the problem of land usage and fuel crops competing with food crops. Cellulosic is obtained from wood, straw, and much of the plant's makeup. Instead of just using the corn, the process would use the whole plant, stalk, cob and all. This results in much better yields per acre, reducing the cost and the amount needed. The technology is there for cellulosic ethanol, it just hasn't seen widespread industrialization yet.

These are just some of the concerns of using ethanol, and it appears there are many more questions facing the industry. Some critics are claiming ethanol isn't the way to go, there are too many environmental concerns and that there are better options. But with the Senate pushing legislation to mandate its use, the U.S. may not have a choice.

WaterSmart Innovations Partnership



The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) announced a Memorandum of Understanding with the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to collaborate development and promotion of the WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition, to be held Oct. 8-10, 2008, in Las Vegas.

WaterSmart Innovations is projected to be the largest venue of its type in the world. It will bring together and broaden the knowledge of professionals from a wide array of disciplines by sharing information related to urban water efficiency. It is designed to appeal to professionals in the plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, water utility, development, landscaping and product manufacturing industries.

"We are excited about our partnership with WaterSmart Innovations," said Dave Viola, director of Special Services for IAPMO. "The IAPMO Group has long been a leader in water efficiency, and participation in this event reinforces our commitment to protecting our most precious resource."

Through WaterSmart innovations, attendees will have access to information about policies, products, programs and public education initiatives for increasing water efficiency in urban environments.

Doug Bennett, the conference's strategic relations coordinator and conservation manager for the SNWA, said the IAPMO partnership provides WaterSmart Innovations with access to an important constituency. "As a world leader in plumbing codes, research and standards development, IAPMO is recognized and respected at every level of the plumbing industry. The technical and regulatory expertise of IAPMO's staff and members will be a tremendous asset to the conference," Bennett said.

Visit www.watersmartinnovations.com for more information.

IAPMO Becomes Charter Sponsor of Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE)



The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) is a new national water efficiency organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water. Located in Chicago, the Alliance has been created to be a forceful advocate of water efficiency, provide comprehensive information on water efficient products, represent the interests of water efficiency in the development of codes and standards, and coordinate the various green building and water efficiency initiatives. The IAPMO Group has recently become a Charter Sponsor of the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) and IAPMO staff maintains a position on the AWE Board of Directors in an effort to provide support while ensuring that the plumbing and mechanical industry is represented.

Visit www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org to find out more.

UA/MCAA Green Partnership

Rockville, MD—United Association (UA) General President William Hite and Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) President David Kruse announced plans to launch several new joint initiatives to assist members and the public in support of sustainable construction practices. In June, the two organizations, including MCAA's subsidiaries, the Mechanical Service Contractors of America (MSCA), and the Plumbing Contractors of America (PCA), met in Toronto, Canada, and created a task force to begin laying the framework for their multi-faceted program.

As an initial step, the MCAA and the UA developed and agreed to a mission statement, which will be the foundation of their joint program. The adopted mission statement states: Together MCAA and the UA are committed to a green stewardship of our environment and increasing our energy independence. We will do this by providing our members with the on-going training, information and resources necessary to install, service and maintain mechanical and plumbing systems in a manner that will safeguard our health and the well-being of future generations by respecting and conserving the world's limited natural resources.

The task force also outlined several key areas for immediate action to include: input and expertise regarding plumbing codes; involvement and representation with the U.S. Green Building Council; legislation; education and training of members; marketing and grassroots efforts. Task Force co-chairs Kruse and Donald House (UA Director HVACR, Service and Residential), agree that task force activities will enhance business opportunities for both organizations in addition to educating consumers on the importance of reducing carbon emissions and conserving energy.

The UA, in conjunction with GreenMech and HVACR Excellence, has already implemented a "green awareness" certification program. MCAA will make this program available to its members

as well. This 20-hour training program is designed to help participants understand the emerging concepts, terminology, systems and products that are considered "green." The program will provide technicians and others with the information they need to understand, purchase and utilize energy efficient green products.

For additional information, contact stevea@uanet.org. For additional information on the Joint UA/MCAA Green Task Force, contact: Don House, UA, at 202-628-5823 (donh@uanet.org) or Barbara Dolim, MSCA, at 301-869-5800 (bdolim@mcaa.org).

Green Mechanical Council Charter Sponsorship



IAPMO has joined other leading mechanical system industry manufacturers, labor unions, contractor organizations, educators, students, and consultants and become a Charter Sponsor of Green Mechanical Council (GreenMech).

The Founding Members include: Watts-Radiant, HVAC Excellence, Legend Valve, Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA), Mechanical Service Contractors of America (MSCA), Mechanical Contractors Education and Research Foundation (MCERF), the FloorHeat Company, the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA), and Ferris State University.

GreenMech, an international not-for-profit organization, was formed in part "to bring bold, decisive and innovative action to the critical question of global warming," according to Dan Chiles, GreenMech chairman of the Board of Directors. "GreenMech members believe that no less than the planet's future is at stake."

Tom Meyer, Executive Director, describes GreenMech as a "clearing house of information and education for designers, installers, and service techs who deal with mechanical systems every day. They are the people who can have the most immediate effect on reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. We give them the information to take 'green' components, to make them into a 'green' system and to commission and service the systems to keep them 'green.' One of the benefits of manufacturer involvement is there is a feedback communication from the field to the manufacturers making practical changes and improvements to products based on field experience and ingenuity. It's a win-win deal." He goes on to say; "There is no doubt the world we know will change. GreenMech was formed to ensure the change is one the world can live with."

Visit <http://www.greenmech.org> for more information.

New WaterSense specification for residential lavatory faucets and HET toilets

WaterSense is a voluntary partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Its mission is to protect the nation's water supply by promoting and enhancing the market for water-efficient products and services.

One element of the program is the development of a labeling program for plumbing products that will generally be 20 percent more water-efficient than similar products in the marketplace. EPA has published specifications for tank-type High Efficiency Toilets (HETs) that have an effective flush volume of 1.28 gpf and residential lavatory faucets that have a maximum flow rate of 1.5 gpm.

Additionally, EPA is moving forward with a WaterSense Labeled New Homes Program. The intent of this program is to reduce indoor and outdoor water usage in new residential homes. To earn the WaterSense label, single-family homes and town homes must meet certain specifications that are still being developed. Any newly constructed single-family home or town home, three stories or less, can earn the WaterSense label if it has been verified to meet EPA's criteria. For more information, go to the EPA WaterSense website at <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>.

WaterSense IAPMO R&T recognition as EPA WaterSense Certifier



Ontario, CA — Concordant with the publication of the WaterSense High-Efficiency Lavatory Faucet Specification by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today, IAPMO R&T announced that it would provide product certification services for high-efficiency lavatory faucets under the WaterSense program.

IAPMO R&T is now accepting applications from manufacturers for certification of high-efficiency lavatory faucets under the new specification. Products meeting program requirements will be authorized to display the WaterSense logo, a trusted mark of compliance to the most stringent conservation standards, providing an added competitive edge in today's growing "green" market.

In addition to the high-efficiency lavatory faucet certification program, IAPMO R&T has been certifying high-efficiency tank-type toilets under the WaterSense program since February.

"We are excited to be able to offer this service to our clients," said Shahin Moinian, senior director of IAPMO R&T. "High-efficiency products are the future, and the WaterSense designation is an important way for manufacturers to stand out in the marketplace."

For information on certifying high-efficiency lavatory faucets or high-efficiency tank-type toilets under their appropriate WaterSense specification, contact Charles Gross at (909) 472-4136 or charles.gross@iapmo.org. For more information on this and other services offered by IAPMO R&T, please visit www.iapmo.org

California to create Green Building Code

Directed by the governor through an executive order mandating the state to begin the process of establishing "green building" regulations, the state of California announced plans to develop a green building code. IAPMO has been invited to assist in these efforts via a California Green Building Focus Group organized by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development. The goal of this effort is to establish separate residential and commercial green codes, and will likely reflect the provisions contained in the various regional and national green building and water efficiency programs and standards. The standards are to be drafted for consideration in the 2007 Code Adoption Cycle.

California Enacts Water Efficiency Legislation

On October 11, Assembly Bill 715, sponsored by Assembly Member John Laird, was signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. It will require that all water closets and urinals sold or installed in California shall be high-efficiency water closets (1.28 gpf single flush or dual flush) and urinals (0.5 gpf or less) by Jan 2014. There is a gradual transition for the manufacturers' percentage of complying models offered from 2010 until 2014. Blowout urinals are excluded from this requirement.

John Koeller, P.E., the Technical Advisor of the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) and the national Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) said, "This legislation is an excellent demonstration of how industry and government can work together in providing solid solutions to California's growing need for water efficient plumbing products."

In the future, the California Building Standards Code will also include a non water-supplied urinal to satisfy specified requirements. For additional information on the language of this legislation please see: <http://leginfo.ca.gov>

California Signs Solar Water Heating and Efficiency Bill

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation designed to provide incentives for the use of solar water heating systems. The bill authorizes the state to spend 250 million dollars on rebates over the next ten years. The goal is to have 200,000 solar water heaters installed in California by 2017.

Advocates for the bill claim that using solar water heaters will decrease California's greenhouse gas emissions. It will also help to reduce the dependence on natural gas and relieve some of the strain on limited supplies.

The heating systems use energy from the sun to heat the water, reducing the amount of energy needed for water and space heating. Installing a solar water heating system on an existing home costs between \$5000-\$6000. Advocates hope that creating an incentive will help the solar energy market grow.

The State's energy regulators have yet to determine how the money will be distributed, but the funds will come from a fee that will be added to natural gas utility bills.

The bill was part of a package that promotes and set standards for water and energy efficiency and conservation. "California is a world leader in improving technologies and promoting conservation while protecting our environment," Schwarzenegger said. "That is why I am pleased to sign this legislation that will help to protect our precious resources and continue to keep California at the forefront of energy and water efficiency."



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