



Green Newsletter
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IAPMO R&T to Certify "Green" Products



IAPMO R&T is pleased to announce that it is now certifying "Green" products in order to better meet today's global environmental needs. The Green certification program offers the consumer a choice to select products that not only meet the minimum requirements of applicable codes and standards, but also those that can be readily identified as products that are more friendly to the environment.

"IAPMO R&T has always been on the forefront of certification issues related to plumbing products" said Shahin Moinian, senior director of IAPMO R&T. "This new certification program allows the manufacturers to identify their green products in a better manner and allows the Authorities Having Jurisdiction, as well as consumers, to recognize such products much easier."

"We are proud to be the first major plumbing product certification program in North America to offer a 'Green' product certification program," said Russ Chaney, executive director of The IAPMO Group.

For more information on the list of products that may be Green certified and the procedures for such certification, please contact Tricia Schwenke or Zenona Ortega at 1-877-4 UPC MARK.

A New Workforce



Mention "blue-collar worker" to people and they typically conjure up images of the stereotypical coal miner; "white-collar" and they think of a tie and briefcase, Starbucks, and talking non-stop on a cell phone. Both of these idioms have been around for a while and we're all familiar with them. But now there's a new shirt to throw into the laundry: the "green-collar worker."

Workers from many professions are turning their talents to an industry that is focused on sustainability and protecting the environment - hence, the color green. The term has really gained traction in the presidential race, used often by Democrats Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. The candidates are touting green-collar jobs as the answer to lost job opportunities in the manufacturing industry that are drying up or shipping out.

But what classifies as a green-collar job? The definition is pretty broad; basically work that fits into the new ecological economy. Interesting to note is that it includes jobs from the blue and white sector - engineering, marketing, building and construction, etc.

The demand for green-collar jobs is expected to grow immensely in the next few years. The

American Solar Energy Society projects that a quarter of the U.S. workforce could have green jobs by 2030. Currently there are an estimated 8.5 million U.S. jobs with an environmental focus.

California has already declared a shortage of solar panel installers. Along with several other cities and states, California has also passed numerous policies and programs aimed at conservation and sustainability. A skilled workforce will soon be needed to help implement these changes.

Green Plumbers and Mechanical Contractors

Whether you buy into melting glaciers or not, keeping up with green technology over the next few years may be necessary to keep your job. In the past, being green may have just given you a competitive edge. But green building is quickly growing out of its "testing" phase and will soon become the norm. Ignoring the change may get you locked out.

Plumbers and mechanical workers are ideally situated to take advantage of this new market. Green building practices focus on zero waste, sustainability, energy efficiency, and water conservation - a direct relation to our industry.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) has established itself as the model for sustainable building. Many of the points to achieve LEED ratings are attained through smart plumbing and mechanical practices. It may be worthwhile to consider becoming a LEED AP. As green building grows and becomes the norm, plumbing and mechanical contractors are going to be selected based upon their expertise and knowledge in sustainable building practices.



Corona, Calif., Wants Growth to be Green

There are more than 500 cities in California, but only 30 or so have adopted a "green" building program. Last year the City of Corona was added to that list, passing the Corona Green Building Ordinance to encourage implementation of green and sustainable building practices in remodels and new construction. The ordinance is not mandatory, but it does offer a noteworthy incentive - plan review guaranteed to be fast tracked and accomplished in half the time.

The city selected the LEED method for compliance for commercial and industrial buildings. The minimum threshold of compliance is 20 points, which may be increased in the future, said Keith Clarke, Building Official for Corona. The maximum achievable is 69. Points are given for features such as building reuse, recycled content, light pollution, water efficient landscaping, energy performance, renewable energy, low-emitting materials, thermal comfort and innovative design.

The California Green Builder Program (CGB) system is used for residential construction. The point system is based on features such as: exceeds state energy efficiency standards by 15 percent; improves insulation installation; all heating and cooling systems designed by a licensed Mechanical Engineer; all ducts shall be certified in the field for no leakage; water conservation of 20 percent saved per home; reduced turf in front yard landscaping; weather-based irrigation controller; use of engineered/composite wood products; and use of low VOC paints, lacquers, floor covering.

The program is in its early stage, but the city hopes that builders and developers will soon see its advantage and get on board. While building green may have an initial increase in cost of around 2 percent, the payback in energy savings is quickly realized. Homeowners

and businesses are seeing the advantage to building green and becoming more conscious of their impact on the environment. Staying current on green building practices and offering it to customers will certainly give contractors a competitive edge.

No Stranger to Conservation

In addition to its recent Green Building Ordinance, the city has also long been active in water conservation. Corona offers a variety of programs aimed at raising awareness and extending the water supply. The city offers residential homes a \$60 rebate for Ultra-Low Flush Toilets (1.6 gallon-per-flush) and \$165 for High Efficiency Toilets (1.28 gallon-per-flush or less). The City of Corona Department of Water and Power also provides its customers with a variety of low-flow plumbing retrofit devices. These devices include high-quality, low-flow showerheads (rated 2.5 gpm or less), faucet aerators (rated 2.2 gpm or less) and an indoor residential water-audit kit. Rebates are also offered for high efficiency washing machines, weather-based irrigation controllers, low-precipitation rate sprinkler nozzles and synthetic turf.

Commercial and Industrial rebates are offered for the following:

- o Ultra-low-flush toilet or urinal replaced - \$135
- o Pre-rinse, self-closing spray head replaced - \$60
- o Cooling tower conductivity controller installed - \$625
- o Coin/Card high-efficiency commercial clothes washer - \$130
- o Water Broom - \$150
- o X-Ray Processor Re-Circulating Device - \$3,120

In addition to rebates, the city also offers programs to teach residents how to design beautiful landscapes suited for Southern California's dry climate. Free surveys are shared with homeowners to provide them with information on the best time and frequency to irrigate their landscape.

The city also operates a recycled water distribution system. The recycled water system produces approximately 6 millions gallons a day. The City of Corona's infrastructure for the recycled water program consists of more than 27 miles of pipeline, three storage reservoirs and three pump stations. The recycled water is used for industrial processes, golf courses, parks, school grounds, landscape maintenance districts, freeways and other large landscaped areas.

With the Green Building Ordinance and conservation programs in place, Corona is looking forward to green and sustainable growth.

"Most (builders) are aware of this new concept, but most have not designed or built a green building," said Keith Clarke. "I am hopeful that many will participate in the future. I have heard only positive and supportive comments from the development community."

UN Addresses Water Management

The following is an excerpt of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's address as prepared for delivery to the Davos World Economic Forum, on Jan. 24:

"The challenge of securing safe and plentiful water for all is one of the most daunting challenges faced by the world today.

Until only recently, we generally assumed that water trends do not pose much risk to our businesses. While many countries have engaged in wastewater treatment and some conservation efforts, the notion of water sustainability in a broad sense has not been seriously examined.

Our experiences tell us that environmental stress due to lack of water may lead to conflict and would be greater in poor nations.

Ten years ago - even five years ago - few people paid much attention to the arid regions of western Sudan. Not many noticed when fighting broke out between farmers and herders, after the rains failed and water became scarce.

Today everyone knows Darfur. More than 200,000 people have died. Several million have fled their homes.

There are many factors at work in this conflict, of course. But almost forgotten is the event that touched it off — drought. A shortage of life's vital resource.

We can change the names in this sad story. Somalia. Chad. Israel. The occupied Palestinian territories. Nigeria. Sri Lanka. Haiti. Colombia. Kazakhstan. All are places where shortages of water contribute to poverty. They cause social hardship and impede development. They create tensions in conflict-prone regions. Too often, where we need water we find guns.

Population growth will make the problem worse. So will climate change. As the global economy grows, so will its thirst. Many more conflicts lie just over the horizon.

A recent report by International Alert identified 46 countries, home to 2.7 billion people, where climate change and water-related crises create a high risk of violent conflict. A further 56 countries, representing another 1.2 billion people, are at high risk of political instability. That's more than half the world.

This is not an issue of rich or poor, North or South.

In China, the mighty Yangtze River no longer reaches the sea. Some experts predict that by 2015 China will not be able to meet the water needs of tens of millions of people living in the countryside.

Water stress affects one third of the United States and one fifth of Spain.

In the Himalayas, melting glaciers endanger the water supply of hundreds of millions of people in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

In my own country of [Republic of] Korea, I used to drink water straight out of the little river near my house. Today, I'd get sick, or worse.

All regions are experiencing the problem."

Full speech:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/sgsm11388.doc.htm>

Climate Talks in Hawaii

A two-day closed-door meeting between the world's biggest greenhouse polluters has concluded. The U.S. led Hawaii meeting, called the Major Economics Meeting on Energy Security and Climate, was attended by representatives from 16 major economies, as well as the EU and the United Nations.

The tone at the meeting was reported as being "good," a notable change from the talks held in Bali in 2007. The Bush administration has faced global criticism for its refusal to set

mandatory limits on carbon emissions, and its rejection of the Kyoto Protocol. Because of this some viewed this meeting as an effort by the U.S. to try and take over the climate talks and establish its own agenda.

The White House insisted that the meeting was meant to spur U.N. negotiations for an international climate agreement by 2009. At the meeting, the U.S. reiterated that it would not set mandatory emission reductions, instead supporting "aspirational" long-term goals set voluntarily by countries. U.S. delegates to the meeting did stress support of mandatory steps such as fuel-efficiency standards and the use of alternate fuels.

While no agreement was met, the discussions were viewed as progress.

"Normally, we get sterile pre-prepared statements of policy, but this time there was a very frank discussion exploring the very difficult and different conditions facing each of the countries. It was very constructive," said one EU delegate to the Associated Press.



Connecticut Requires LEED Silver

Starting in January 2009, new legislation in Connecticut will require all construction projects exceeding \$5 million to meet LEED's silver standard (33 points). By 2010, all renovations topping \$2 million will have to meet these standards. The requirement applies to both public and private projects.

State facilities are already required to achieve these standards. Connecticut is one of the first states to require large construction projects to build green.

"It's great to see that Connecticut is leading the way with something like this," Taryn Holowka, communications director for the U.S. Green Building Council, told the *News-Times*. "It's a step in the right direction for moving green building practices into the mainstream."

"Flush Rush," Rainwater and HET's in Albuquerque

Albuquerque, New Mexico's "Flush Rush" campaign has proved to be a huge success. The campaign was aimed at encouraging customers to take advantage of the city's rebates to replace high flow toilets with low flow toilets. In the last six months of 2007, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority said its program replaced 7,159 high flow toilets, compared with 2,978 toilets in all of 2006.

The rush was to take advantage of the \$150 rebate before the end of 2007. This January, the rebate decreased to \$125 and will go down again to \$100 in 2009, the last year the program will be offered.

"It's a tribute to our customers that they responded in such numbers to our 'flush rush' campaign," said the Authority's Conservation Officer, Katherine Yuhas. "We're hoping to see a similar response this spring, when our emphasis will be on outdoor conservation and xeriscaping. About 40 percent of our water use is for landscaping, so there are still many opportunities for savings in this area."

For more information on rebates and conservation tips, visit www.abcwus.org/waterconservation.

Rainwater and HET's

Flush with their success, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority board has voted 4-2 to adopt new standards for water conservation and efficiency.

Included in these standards is a requirement for all new homes to have a rainwater collection system installed. The rules establish that 85 percent of rainwater must be captured from the roof. Buildings larger than 2,500 square feet must have a water cistern and pump. Smaller buildings require rain barrels, cisterns or catchment basins.

HET's with a 1.2 gallon or less flush are required in new homes as well. Also included in the new standards: swamp coolers must be recirculating and equipped with two speed blowers and low-voltage thermostats: turf will not be allowed on slopes with a 5:1 grade or steeper, or in sprinkler-irrigated areas smaller than 10 feet in any dimension.

Water Reclamation Plant Opens In Orange County



The world's largest reclamation plant has begun operation, turning 70 million gallons of effluent into clean drinking water every day. The plant, located in Orange County, Calif., will supplement water for 2.3 million people. Its completion comes none too soon, as a federal judge recently ordered a 30 percent reduction in water pumped from the Sacramento Delta, a primary source of the county's fresh water.

The plant takes treated sewage from a neighboring treatment plant and runs it through an advanced filtration system. The resulting water is so pure that lime has to be added to it to keep it from leaching materials out of the pipes. (The upcoming Mar/April Issue of OFFICIAL Magazine will feature an in-depth explanation of the treatment process and the psychological aspects of reclaimed water)

The water will be used to replenish the county's underground aquifer, and injected as a saltwater barrier to push the saltwater back into the ocean.

While the water from the plant costs more (\$550 per acre-foot) than water from Northern California, it helps the state save in other areas. Having the water supply locally reduces the amount of electricity and energy needed to transport the water from up north. It also reduces the amount of treated sewage discharged off the coast, which in turn may save the county from having to build a new \$300 million dollar ocean outfall.

"This is as advanced a reclamation system as you are going to get right now," said Krista

Clark, director of regulatory affairs for the Association of California Water Agencies, in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*. "It will keep Orange County's groundwater basin reliable and produce super-quality drinking water in the future."

Energy Tax Breaks in Stimulus Package



The U.S. Senate Finance Committee has added major energy-efficiency tax incentives to the proposed national economic stimulus package. The action brought praise from the Alliance to Save Energy.

"Today's action by the Senate Finance Committee can help American consumers combat spiraling home energy costs that are expected to average roughly \$2,200 this year and will have a downstream, positive impact on jobs and our economy," Alliance President Kateri Callahan said in a press release. "Energy-efficiency tax incentives put money into the economy by encouraging the purchase of energy-efficient products and services and put money back into the pockets of consumers and businesses by lowering their monthly energy bills."

"It is particularly beneficial that the consumer credits for energy-efficiency home retrofits and the manufacturer credits for high-efficiency appliances, which expired at the end of 2007, would be extended for two years," Callahan continued. "This would keep all the energy-efficiency tax incentives 'live' through 2009, as Congress already extended through 2008 the incentives for commercial buildings and new homes."

The press release said the tax provisions would provide:

- Tax credits up to a total of \$500 for homeowners who install new ENERGY STAR windows, exterior doors, or pigmented metal roofs; install highly energy-efficient furnaces, boilers, central air conditioners, heat pumps, or water heaters; or add insulation (the amounts vary for each product; see www.ase.org/taxcredits for details)
- Tax credits for manufacturers of energy-efficient clothes washers, dishwashers, and refrigerators (see www.energytaxincentives.org for details)
- Tax deductions for owners or tenants of new or renovated commercial buildings who cut by at least half the annual heating, cooling, ventilation, water heating, and interior lighting costs that meet the national ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2001; (see www.energytaxincentives.org for details)
- Builders of new homes that exceed a national model energy code by 50 percent (subject to certification) and producers of manufactured homes producers that exceed a national model code by 30 percent or that meet ENERGY STAR standards (see www.energytaxincentives.org for details).

The bill also includes incentives for wind farms, biomass energy plants and investment in solar energy. The Senate version is sure to face opposition - the President and Senate GOP leaders have warned against adding to the bill - but lobbyists for the solar and wind industry say that tax incentives are key to attracting investors.

"Investors need certainty," said Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa). "They won't put their money out for a wind energy facility unless there's a reasonable expectation that tax incentives will continue into the future."

"The stimulus package should underscore the nation's commitment to energy efficiency and alternative energy."

TOTO USA Signs Green Energy® Agreement

TOTO USA has signed an agreement to purchase 480,000 kilowatt hours of Green Energy® from Georgia Power. TOTO USA is the North American division of TOTO Ltd., the world's largest plumbing products manufacturer.

Green Energy® is electricity generated from solar, wind, water, landfill methane and biomass. The majority of Green Energy produced by Georgia Energy comes from the methane gas landfill facility in Dekalb County.

"As a socially responsible manufacturer, TOTO strives to conserve environmental resources in everything we do," said Lenora Campos, public relations manager. "By adding earth-friendly green energy that spares landfills to our energy portfolio, we continue in our ongoing efforts to provide products and engage in business practices that conserve our natural resources, reduce pollution and enhance environmental sustainability."



Events Calendar:

**ACCA 2008
Conference & Indoor Air
Expo**
February 5-7, 2008
The Broadmoor
Colorado Springs, CO
www.indoorairexpo.com

**The International
Builders Show**
February 13-16, 2008
Orange County Convention
Center, Orlando, FL
www.buildersshow.com

ISH China 2008
Feb 19-22, 2008
Shanghai International Expo
Centre
Shanghai, China
www.messefrankfurt.com

**Mechanical Contractors
North American Association
(MCAA) 2008**
March 2-8, 2008
Palm Desert, CA
www.mcaa.org

**The Midwest Builders
Show and Conference
March 12-13, 2008**
Donald E. Stephens
Convention Center
Rosemont, IL
www.midwestbuildersshow.com

**CMX-CIPHEX National
Trade Show**
March 27-29, 2008
Metro Toronto Convention Center
www.cmxciphexshow.com

**IAPMO Technical
Committee
Meeting 2008**
May 5-9, 2008
The Adams Mark Hotel
Denver, CO
www.iapmo.org

Green West Expo 2008
May 20-22, 2008
LA Convention Center
Los Angeles, CA
www.greenwestexpo.com

Partners and Memberships



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