



Green Newsletter June 2008

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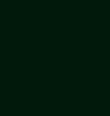
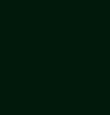
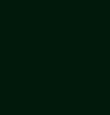


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WaterSense Drafts New Home Specifications, Releases NOI for Urinals

WaterSense has released its draft specifications for water-efficient homes. The specifications, which apply to new single-family homes and townhouses three stories or less, are expected to reduce water consumption by approximately 20 percent. The specification is designed to ensure not only sustainable, efficient water use, but also a high level of user performance and satisfaction.

To achieve the WaterSense label, homes will have to meet criteria in three areas:

- Indoor water use (plumbing and plumbing fixtures and fittings, appliances, and other water using equipment)
- Outdoor water use (landscape design and irrigation systems)
- Homeowner education (the builder must develop and provide the homeowner an operating and maintenance manual for all water-using equipment or controls installed in the house or yard).

As a member of the EPA WaterSense stakeholder committee and as a member of the plumbing fixture and fitting task group, members of IAPMO staff have been involved in the development of the new home specification.

"IAPMO is also a promotional partner of the EPA WaterSense program, and is in full agreement that protecting and preserving the nation's water supply is critical to the United States' economic future and the health of its citizens," said Dave Viola, IAPMO Director of Special Services. "As such, the WaterSense Single-Family New Homes Specification will play an important role in development of the IAPMO Green Plumbing and Mechanical Supplement."

The public comment period for the draft is open for 60 days, ending July 18, 2008.

The draft can be viewed at www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/homes.htm

WaterSense has also released a notification of intent(NOI) to develop water-efficiency and performance criteria required for urinals to earn the WaterSense label.

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LEED 2009 Open for Public Comment

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is seeking public comment on LEED 2009, the next evolution of the green building certification system. The public comment period will be open for 30 days, from May 19 through June 22.

The changes include a greater emphasis on water-efficiency. The new rating system would require a 20 percent reduction in water use for new building construction. WaterSense is likely to expand even more due to LEED 2009, as the new system recommends that "WaterSense certified fixtures and fixture fittings should be used where available."

LEED 2009 represents a reorganization of the existing LEED rating systems for commercial buildings, combined with a series of major technical advancements focused on improving energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and addressing other environmental and human health outcomes, says the USGBC press release.

"Continuing to seek the right balance between technical advancement and market transformation was a driving force behind the LEED 2009 work," explained Scot Horst, Chairman of the volunteer LEED Steering Committee, which leads the technical development of the LEED rating system. "The 'big ideas' we've proposed include transparent weightings of LEED credits so the highest-priority credits achieve the most points, a new mechanism for incorporating bioregional credits, and a more nimble framework that supports rapid response to emerging environmental and human health issues."

The LEED Green Building Rating System was developed by USGBC to drive market transformation in the building industry by defining a consensus metric for leadership in green building that forms a basis for continuous improvement. The evolution of LEED is based on technical, scientific and market-based advancements.

[Read the full press release]

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NIBS Completes High Performance Building Report

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) will be presenting its report on high performance buildings to Congress and the Department of Energy on June 18.

The U.S. Congress drafted Section 914 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to address high performance buildings that combine the objectives of reducing resource energy consumption while improving the environmental impact, functionality, human comfort and productivity of the building.

Congress turned to the NIBS to provide direction for this undertaking, who in turn formed a High-Performance Building Council in 2007 to conduct the study. The project represents the collaboration of approximately 100 private sector and governmental organizations, including IAPMO.

The High-Performance Building Council adopted the following definition:

High-performance buildings, which address human, environmental, economic and total societal impact, are the result of the application of the highest level design, construction, operation and maintenance principles – a paradigm change for the built environment.

"This definition presupposes that buildings must be designed and built in the context of larger human, environmental, and economic concerns, and that high-performance building standards are the means for doing so. All the parts of the building need to be addressed in a cohesive, "whole building" approach, taking into account the ways in which the design, construction, operation, occupancy, repair, usability, extendibility, and retirement of buildings are interconnected throughout their whole life cycle."

The Council created committees to research, examine and make recommendations on eight attributes: cost-effectiveness, sustainability, security and safety, accessibility, productivity, functionality, historic preservation, and aesthetics.

The recommendations and the full report can be downloaded at: www.iapmo.org/HPBCFinalReport.pdf

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ARCSA Offers Rainwater Catchment Systems Accreditation Program

The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association is offering training to its members to become a Rainwater Catchment Systems Accredited Professional. Based on the U.S. Green Building Council's process, the training seeks to set a minimum level of demonstrated knowledge of rainwater catchment systems.

To become accredited, you must be a member of ARCSA; submit an application detailing your experience and background in the subject; pass a written exam; participate in an ARCSA workshop; and pay a \$120 fee, which covers the exam and workshop.

Workshops are scheduled for the following dates:

- July 14 in Salem, Indiana
- July 26 in San Marcos, Texas
- September 15 in Santa Monica, California (in conjunction with ARCSA's 2008 Annual Conference)

Topics include water issues and concerns, basics of rainwater catchment, water sanitation, rainwater for landscape and water gardens, wildlife and livestock, in-home rainwater use, rules, regulations, guidelines and restrictions, maintenance of rainwater systems, and applications for LEED certification.

Find out more: http://www.arcsa.org

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Discovery Channel Launches "Planet Green"

"Planet Green" launched this week, becoming the first ever 24/7 TV network devoted to green. Replacing the Discovery Home Network, the show is expected to reach 50 million homes with more than 250 hours of original green lifestyle programming.

Discovery pulled in celebrities such as Adrian Grenier, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Emeril Lagasse to draw in audiences.

The network says it will resist finger wagging or a heavy hand approach, instead promising the shows to be sexy, interesting, and irreverent.

Battlefield Earth, which will debut later in the year, pits rocker Tommy Lee against rapper Ludacris in a competition to determine who's the greenest. In Greenovate, viewers learn how to save over 40 percent on energy bills while increasing their property value.

Greensburg, directed by DiCaprio, covers the green rebuilding effort of the small town of Greensburg, Kansas, which was wiped out by a tornado on May 4, 2007. Mean Green Machines puts the latest green vehicles, bikes, and aircraft against their traditional counterparts.

"Ecotainment is a new genre, and we have a lot of great content that's very diverse," said Planet Green president and GM Eileen O'Neil, in a Reuters interview. "We're bringing green into the mainstream. We need to reach even more people so they see the entertainment value but also the green message. That's what we're all about."

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Schwarzenegger Declares Statewide Drought

It's official - after two years of below-average rainfall and snowmelt run-off, Gov. Schwarzenegger has declared a drought in California.

"We must recognize the severity of the crisis that we face," the governor said in a news conference.

The governor signed an executive order directing the state Department of Water to speed up transfer of water to areas impacted the worst, and to assist water districts with conservation efforts and farmers suffering losses.

The governor also used the press conference to push his \$11.9 billion water plan. Democrats have opposed the plan because it calls for buildings dams and doesn't promote conservation enough.

"I hope legislators get the point," said the governor. "Let's get to work and let's get a water infrastructure package done this year."

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UC Davis Launches Cooling Challenge

UC Davis energy-efficiency experts today are launching a novel program designed to slash electricity use by rooftop air conditioners in the western United States by more than 40 percent.

The "Western Cooling Challenge," sponsored by the UC Davis Western Cooling Efficiency Center, will be introduced at a Denver meeting of energy-conscious retail business leaders. The meeting is the first Retailer Energy Alliance Supplier Summit and is hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The challenge aims to accelerate the adoption of regionally appropriate cooling technologies for new and existing low-rise, nonresidential buildings (such as suburban retail and office buildings).

"Many western states are hot and dry but use cooling systems that were designed for warm and humid climates," said Dick Bourne, associate director of the UC Davis Western Cooling Efficiency Center. "With technologies specifically designed for the West, we can dramatically reduce the energy used to cool our buildings."

Read the full story: http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=8533

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The Invisible US Energy-Efficiency Boom

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) has released a report stating energy-efficiency is a booming business that is flying under the radar. Energy efficiency may be the farthest reaching, least polluting, and fastest growing energy success story of the last 50 years, the report says.

U.S. energy consumption in 2008 is half what it was in 1970, from 18,000 Btus to 8,900 Btus. But there is a potential for an additional 25-30 percent reduction over the next 20-25 years.

"The greatest American success story in dealing with energy in recent decades is also the least understood and the most invisible. This report shows that energy efficiency is among the most cost-effective solutions available to consumers, businesses, policymakers, and investors. Energy efficiency has made great strides, but we need to look at picking up the pace. The energy-related challenges of the 21st century require a dramatic shift in direction - from an emphasis on energy supply to an emphasis on energy efficiency," said ACEEE Director of Economic Analysis John A. "Skip" Latner, co-author of the new report.

Read the full story: www.aceee.org/press/e083pr.htm

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California is Considering Water Credit

California is considering giving credits to developers toward their final water-use impact if they install water conservation features in new homes.

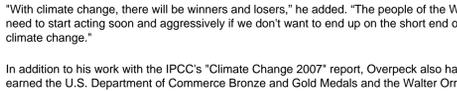
"AB 2219 encourages water conservation by providing an incentive for developers to use more water saving features in the design of their subdivisions," said Assemblywoman Nicole Parra, D-Hanford, author of the bill.

Subdivisions of more than 500 units must currently undergo a water assessment to determine if there is sufficient water to supply the new residents. Parra's bill would allow developers to apply credits to their water-use impact if they installed features such as low-flow toilets, smart irrigation controllers, or other water efficient measures.

The bill was approved by the Assembly, and has been sent over to the Senate.

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Green West Expo Debut



The first ever Green West Expo and Conference debuted in Los Angeles May 20-22. Held in the LA Convention Center, the event sought to bring all things green under one roof - from fuel-cell cars, soybean based cleaning products, bamboo fiber bathrobes, and zero-flush urinals.

The conference session included keynote speakers LA City Councilman Eric Garcetti and Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster. Sessions included discussions on topics such as investing in green companies, sustainable architecture as a competitive edge, public policy, and solar power.

The show also included a Sustainable Living Spaces exhibit inspired by Eric Lloyd Wright, grandson to the famous Frank Lloyd Wright. The 1600 square foot exhibit emphasized the use of natural and non-toxic materials. External walls were constructed from Apex blocks made from expanded polystyrene, while the interior walls were PIUR panels made from recycled re-grooved foam. The house also featured water-efficient toilets and faucets.

Green West returns to the LA Convention Center next year, June 2-4.

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Ecobuild America Spring 2008

Two events combined at the Anaheim Convention Center to bring together the latest in green building and sustainable design. Held May 19-22, Ecobuild America and AEC-ST boasted 120 seminars and workshops covering new practices, trends and products of the green building wave.

"Things have really changed in the last few years, cities and governments are really starting to push green building forward," said speaker Bethany Trumble, Farnsworth Group Inc. Her seminar, Codes and Government Regulations: How They Can Help or Hinder A LEED Project, gave an overview of what some cities are doing to move green forward.

Howard County, Maryland, said noted, offers five-year tax credits - a 25 percent credit for LEED Silver, 50 percent for LEED Gold, and 75 percent for LEED Platinum. She cautioned that cities must measure the impact of such an incentive. Nevada suspended its program that allowed a 50 percent, ten-year abatement, citing a \$110 million revenue shortfall. Sixty-seven Nevada developments registered for LEED under the program, including two billion dollar projects in Las Vegas. (The Patagonia Distribution Center project earned the maximum credit, worth \$80,000 to the developer each year.)

Other seminars covered a wide variety of green building, including geothermal energy, BIM best practices, energy efficient walls and insulations assemblies, residential green building, programs, and advancements in solar technology.

Ecobuild Fall is set to take place December 8-11 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. To find out more: www.ecobuildamerica.com/fallhome.html

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Solar Water Heaters required in Hawaii

A new bill drafted in Hawaii requires solar water heaters to be installed in new single-family dwellings beginning in 2010. Advocates say the law will cut electricity costs for an average home by 30 percent, and in a state with the highest electricity rates, may save households about \$1000 a year.

Hawaii is the first state in the nation to pass such a law.

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Largest Solar Rooftop Planned in New Jersey

Summit, NJ will soon be home to the largest solar rooftop installation in the United States. Schering-Plough Corporation, a pharmaceutical company, plans to have a solar system installed on eight rooftops on buildings throughout its campus. Installed by PPL Renewable Energy, the 1.7-megawatt system is expected to be operating by the end of 2008.

"Solar energy technology helps reduce clients' operating costs by using a reliable and renewable power source to meet their energy needs," said Steve Gabrielle, senior business development manager of PPL Renewable Energy, in a press release. "Schering-Plough will be able to use the clean energy supplied by the solar panels to meet about 12 percent of its peak energy needs."

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Hairy Solar Cells Could Be Breakthrough

Researchers at the University of California, San Diego, are researching "hairy" solar cells, a new technique that could dramatically improve the efficiency for solar photovoltaic cells.

The "hairy" cells, which are actually nanowires visible only on the microscopic level, are grown on a cheap conductive surface made of indium tin oxide. They are then coated with an organic polymer.

The German universities of Jena, Göttingen, and Bremen are collaborating with Harvard on a similar technology that bonds nanowires with spun glass. The nanowires are placed on a highly conductive bottom layer, and are separated from a metallic top layer by a "spacer layer" formed from spun-on glass.

Nanowires can conduct electrons from the film surface of a solar cell to an electrode, making them more efficient than current thin film cells that have no direct conduit.

Whether "hairy" solar cells are the next big thing depends on whether the process can be scaled up to a manufacturing level. Other challenges must be overcome as well: the polymer for the UC San Diego process degrades when exposed to air. But the research looks promising and is hopefully a step toward a solar future.

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Jonathan Overpeck Named keynote speaker at WaterSmart

Jonathan Overpeck, coordinating lead author for the United Nations' Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report, will be the keynote luncheon speaker at the inaugural WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition, Oct. 8-10, 2008, in Las Vegas.

Presidential by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Program, WaterSmart Innovations will serve to broaden the knowledge of innovations in urban water efficiency and water conservation including products, programs and outreach. It is anticipated to be the largest and most comprehensive conference of its kind. More information is available at www.WaterSmartInnovations.com

Overpeck, slated to speak at the conference's keynote luncheon Oct. 9, is the director of the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he also is a professor of Geosciences and a professor of Atmospheric Sciences. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Hamilton College and a Master of Science and a doctorate from Brown University. He has published more than 120 papers on climate and the environmental sciences.

"The West is warming up and drying out, and humans are likely involved in causing this change," said Overpeck. "More warming is inevitable for the West, and this means we have to be more proactive in adapting to climate change and its likely impacts, including a tightening water supply."

"With climate change, there will be winners and losers," he added. "The people of the West need to start acting soon and aggressively if we don't want to end up on the short end of climate change."

In addition to his work with the IPCC's "Climate Change 2007" report, Overpeck also has earned the U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze and Gold Medals and the Walter Orr Roberts award of the American Meteorological Society for his interdisciplinary research. He is a Guggenheim Fellowship recipient and was the 2005 American Geophysical Union Bjerknes Lecturer. He serves on the Board of Reviewing Editors for Science Magazine.

For more information, visit http://www.watersmartinnovations.com

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General Electric Co Looks to Cut Water Usage

General Electric Co., the second-largest company in the US, is looking to reduce its water consumption by 20 percent by 2012, according to a Reuter's article. The push is expected to save the company \$15 to \$20 million a year in operating costs.

"There is going to be a price on water that is going to reflect its scarcity, and today it doesn't," Lorraine Bolsinger, vice president of GE's Ecomagination green-business push, said in the article. "We're going to see that change over time, certainly in the emerging markets."

Read the full story: www.reuters.com

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Go Green! Register online for IAPMO's 79th Annual Education and Business Conference at www.iapmo.org

Events Calendar:

AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition June 8-12, 2008 Georgia World Congress Center Atlanta, Georgia www.awwa.org/ace08/	PCBC 2008 June 24-27, 2008 Moscone Center San Francisco, CA www.pcbc2008.com	Canadian Institute Annual Business Conference (ABC) June 29 - July 2, 2008 Fairmont Chateau Whistler Whistler, BC www.ciph.com
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Southeast Building Conference July 30 & August 2, 2008 Orlando County Convention Center Orlando, FL www.sebcshow.com	IAPMO Emerging Technology Symposium August 19-20, 2008 O'Hare Marriott Chicago, IL www.iapmo.org	ARCSA Annual Conference September 16-18, 2008 Santa Monica, CA www.arcsa.org/2008conference.html
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World Plumbing Conference September 24-27, 2008 Calgary, Alberta, Canada www.worldplumbing.org/2008.html	79th IAPMO Annual Education & Business Conference Sept. 28 - Oct. 2, 2008 The Sheraton Atlanta Atlanta, Georgia www.iapmo.org	ISH North America October 1-3, 2008 The Sheraton Atlanta Atlanta, Georgia www.usa.messefairnurl.com
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