



Green Newsletter  
October 2008

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## **IAPMO Joins the YouTube Community**

IAPMO has been protecting the public's health and safety for more than eighty years by working in concert with government and industry to implement comprehensive plumbing and mechanical systems around the world. Our association is comprised of plumbing and mechanical experts and we're proud of it — and we know that no one knows more than our members do.

In August, IAPMO co-convened with the World Plumbing Council, the International Emerging Technology Symposium, a forward-glimpsing clearinghouse of ideas and solutions presented by plumbing industry leaders.

A host of innovators and industry heavyweights gathered in Chicago to present future solutions to today's challenges within the manufacturing, engineering and trade industries as they pertain to water and energy conservation, sanitation and health, renewable energies and the sustainability of the environment.

These issues affect everyone, and the industry has to do everything it can to come together and work as one.

That's why we've created The IAPMO Group YouTube Channel, where expert advice meets new ideas from professionals like you.

The IAPMO Channel launches with video from the symposium, to help increase awareness of the challenges and to help drive the dialogue for solutions. If you missed the event, check out the video of EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson's keynote address (broken into four parts), and view interviews with many of the presenters and attendees.

We're gathering great advice, and we hope you'll share yours by creating and submitting videos that we all can learn from. Join the discussion at <http://www.youtube.com/IAPMOGroup>

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## **Uniform Solar Energy and Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Codes Adopt ANSI Consensus Development Process**

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), publishers of the ANSI-accredited Uniform Plumbing Code and Uniform Mechanical Code, have announced two of their other codes, the Uniform Solar Energy Code (USEC) and Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Code (USPC), will henceforth be developed under an ANSI-accredited consensus process.

IAPMO first adopted the USEC and USPC in September 1976. The provisions of these codes apply to the erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to or maintenance of any solar energy or swimming pool, spa or hot tub system. Under the new process, anybody wishing to amend these codes may submit a proposal, which will be grouped with all other proposals into a monograph to be evaluated by the Technical Committee.

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At present, the Technical Committee — representing all facets of the swimming pool, spa and solar energy industries, including producers, users and general interest categories — has met and acted upon these proposals; ballots have been sent and the ensuing Report on Proposals distributed to the Technical Committee. IAPMO is currently calling for comments on both the USEC and USPC and plans to publish the 2009 editions of these codes in September of next year.

The 2006 editions of the UPC and UMC were the first to be developed under the consensus process as accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

"The ANSI code development process has been so positive and successful for the UPC and UMC that we are thrilled to have ANSI endorse the consensus process we are now employing for the USEC and USPC," said Lynne Simnick, IAPMO director of Code Development.

For more information on the Uniform Codes and/or to find out more about the ANSI consensus process and how you can contribute, please contact Simnick at (909) 472-4110 or [lynne.simnick@iapmo.org](mailto:lynne.simnick@iapmo.org).

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### Energy Star Program Draws Criticism

Energy Star has become one of the most recognized "green" labels for homeowners and contractors alike. Customers see the label and trust the product lives up to the manufacturers' promise of energy efficiency. But an article from Consumer Reports (CR) says that "Energy Star has lost some luster."

The article criticizes the program for allowing manufacturers to test their own product without any independent verification, for being too lax in its monitoring of manufacturers claims, and too slow to develop and implement new technology.

Kathleen Hogan, director of the EPA's Climate Protection Partnerships Division, responded to the criticism by issuing a [letter to the editor](#) of CR.

The EPA also posted a [fact sheet \(PDF\)](#) on the Energy Star Web site addressing the criticism of CR. In its response, it conceded that the Energy Star specification for refrigerators should be modified as necessary to ensure labeled products deliver promised savings, but stressed that the EPA stands behind the integrity of the Energy Star program.

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### Renewable Energy Tax Credits Extended

The renewable energy industry breathed a huge sigh of relief last week when President Bush signed the economic recovery package. The massive bailout bill contains about \$18 billion in energy tax credits that are seen as crucial to the continued growth of the alternative energy industry.

The signing of the bill ends more than a year of arguing between the House and Senate over extending the tax credits, which were set to expire at the end of this year.

The solar industry was perhaps the biggest winner, the legislation extending for 8 years the 30% tax credit for both residential and commercial solar installations. The bill also eliminates the \$2,000 monetary cap for residential solar electric installations, as well as the prohibition on utilities from benefiting from the credit.

The bill extends the Renewable Energy Production Credit for wind to 2010, and biomass,

geothermal, solar, and hydro to 2011. A new marine/tidal credit was also added.

The R&D tax credit was extended for two years. Industry advocates say that without the credit, high tech, biotech and aerospace companies have trouble hiring the highly skilled workers needed to compete with foreign competitors.

Extended through December 31, 2013 is a deduction for commercial building owners whose buildings meet certain energy standards. The deduction is as much as \$1.80 per square foot for buildings that achieve a 50 percent energy savings target.

Other aspects of the bill include: authorization of \$800 million for clean energy bonds for renewable energy generating facilities; establishment of a new tax credit ranging from \$2,500 to \$7,500 for purchasers of plug-in electric-drive vehicles; extension of the residential tax credits for energy saving appliances, energy efficient homes, and on-site renewable energy.

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### **Oregon Issues Approval of Alternative Wastewater Systems**

The State of Oregon Building Codes Division has issued Alternate Method Ruling No. OPSC 08-4, for the approval of commercial and industrial wastewater conservation systems as an alternate for providing water for flushing toilets and urinals.

The ruling addresses water conservation systems for commercial and industrial installations for the use of flushing toilets and urinals. The ruling is limited to used water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom wash basins, clothes-washers, and laundry tubs. It does not include wastewater from toilets, urinals, kitchen sinks or dishwashers.

The full document can be downloaded here: [www.cbs.state.or.us/external/bcd/programs/plumbing](http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/bcd/programs/plumbing)

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### **Bush Signs Great Lakes Compact**

It's been a seven-year legislative process, but the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact cleared its final hurdle and has been signed by President Bush.

The bill is an agreement between the eight bordering states, and ensures the sustainable use of the Great Lakes, addressing the growing demand for water and the increased pressure to divert water from the lakes. The compact bars states or countries that do not border the lake from tapping into the lake, and requires states to regulate their own large-scale water use.

Not everyone is satisfied with the compact. Two advocates, Traverse City environmental attorney Jim Olson and Rep. Bart Stupak (Dem), are warning that a loophole in the compact allows water to be exported outside the Great Lakes basin in containers smaller than 5.7 gallons, or in larger containers if water is incorporated into the product.

Olson says that water collected or pumped to produce a product with the intent of being sold — such as bottled water — is not subject to the prohibitions on diversions in the compact.

"Once water is a product, the regulation is difficult to defend," Olson wrote. "A state or nation must prove there will be substantial harm from export of water in a larger container. This will be next to impossible ... whether the container is a bottle, 5 gallons, 10 gallons, or 10,000 gallons."

Stupak is worried the loophole would allow Great Lakes water to be subject to the North

American Free Trade Agreement and other trade pacts.

"While the original intent of the compact was good," said Stupak, "the version ratified by the (eight Great Lakes) states and now Congress falls short of its intended goal."

The compact was endorsed by presidential nominees Barack Obama and John McCain, as well as business and environmental groups in the region.

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### U.S. Energy Department Turns on Headquarters' Solar Energy System

The U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman last month inaugurated one of the largest solar power systems in the Nation's Capital, installed atop the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Forrestal Building. At a rooftop ceremony, Secretary Bodman energized the system for the first time. The solar electric photovoltaic (PV) system will generate approximately 200 megawatt hours of electricity annually, provide up to eight percent of the Forrestal complex's energy during peak hours, and save as much as \$26,000 in utility costs in its first year of operation.

"The significance of this solar array is both practical and symbolic—it improves the way the Department consumes energy and it is a symbol of America's commitment to using the best available new technologies to confront the energy challenges we face today and will face tomorrow," said Secretary Bodman.

Read the full story: <http://www.energy.gov/news/6521.htm>

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### Events Calendar:

**WaterSmart Innovations  
Conference and Expo**  
October 8 -12, 2008  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
[www.watersmartinnovations.com](http://www.watersmartinnovations.com)

Visit the IAPMO Green Booth: #214,  
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**2008 ASPE Convention  
and Engineered Plumbing Expo**  
October 25-29, 2008  
Long Beach, California  
<http://aspe.org/>

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and Engineered Plumbing  
Expo**  
October 25-29, 2008  
Long Beach, California  
<http://aspe.org/>

**2008 World Toilet Summit**  
November 4-6, 2008  
The Venetian Macao Resort Hotel,  
Macao  
[www.worldtoilettevents.com](http://www.worldtoilettevents.com)

**GreenBuild Expo**  
November 19-21, 2008  
Boston Convention Center  
Boston, MA  
[www.greenbuildeexpo.org/](http://www.greenbuildeexpo.org/)

**Ecobuild Fall & AEC-ST**  
December 8-11, 2008  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.aecocobuildfall.com](http://www.aecocobuildfall.com)

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