



Green Newsletter
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WaterSmart A Reminder of the Challenges Ahead

It's been said many times before: water is going to be the most sought after resource in the coming years.

While we tend to think of water shortages as local problems, the success of the inaugural WaterSmart Innovations Conference was a clear indication as to the global nature of the situation. The conference drew 1,200 participants from 42 states, the District of Columbia as well as 17 foreign nations – all water efficiency leaders sharing the same story of limited resources and looking for solutions.

Attendees merely had to look outside to recognize the need for water conservation. The water crisis facing the host city of Las Vegas is very real – Lake Mead, the prime source of water for the city, lost another six feet this year, despite strict restrictions along the Colorado River limiting the amount of water used.

"Three years of 2002 hydrology and we don't have a Lake Mead anymore. So that is why we have to keep our eyes open," said Southern Nevada Water Authority General Manager Pat Mulroy.

Since seven states depend on the Colorado River for their irrigation and drinking water, the 10-40 percent reduction in flow predicted by scientists would have a catastrophic impact.

"Temperatures are going to go up and, likely, precipitation will go down," said University of Arizona Climatologist Dr. Overpeck, a nationally renowned expert on southwest desert climate and keynote speaker at the conference. "At the same time, we're going to get more drought, longer drought."

Overpeck is convinced that rising levels of greenhouse gases caused by human activity are contributing to the rising temperatures.

"The issue of global warming is especially critical in the semi-arid regions such as the Western United States where rising temperatures and decreasing precipitation rates are already having an effect on snow pack levels, and ultimately the availability of water in the Colorado River basin," commented Overpeck during his presentation. "We must develop an adaptation capability, and our ability to use water more efficiently is going to be a critical step in doing so."

The situation is even more dire in areas outside the U.S. Prince Feisal of Jordan, during his keynote address, said that even though his country uses 20-percent more water than they have locally, it is still only a tenth of what Nevadans use.

"Residents of our capital are supplied with municipal water one day a week," he explained. The residents store all their water in tanks and ration it the rest of the week. One bucketful of water would wash 10 cars in Jordan, said the water minister.

Officials in the region are worried the water shortage could become even more serious than the conflict over oil. "We don't want water to create war in the region. We want this water to create the peace," said his Excellency Raed Soud, Jordan Minister of Water and Irrigation.

Like most of the conference goers, he hoped to share ideas as well as learn new ones.

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There was ample opportunity for both, as the conference offered 150 professional sessions in a variety of tracks as well as an expo hall featuring nearly 140 exhibitors.

"We're thrilled that such a broad cross-section of disciplines – from water agency officials to elected leaders, landscape professionals, golf course supervisors and water-use consultants – connected to make WSI a success," said program Chairman Doug Bennett.

"The fact that so many people from such a range of professions came together to discuss the challenges and solutions related to urban water efficiency underscores the conference's goal of sharing ideas and experiences on a global scale," Bennett said.

IAPMO's Director of Special Programs Pete DeMarco attended the conference and provided a presentation on the status of the Green Plumbing and Mechanical Supplement as part of the educational program.

"The WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Expo was a great event to highlight IAPMO's Green initiatives. The attendees were extremely interested to learn about the leadership role IAPMO has taken in the ongoing effort to develop a Green Plumbing and Mechanical Supplement that will work towards the implementation of water and energy efficient technologies," said DeMarco. " IAPMO is looking forward to continuing our partnership with the Southern Nevada Water Authority and to next year's Conference, which is scheduled for October 7 – 9, 2009."

PDFs of all the PowerPoint presentation given at the conference are available at <http://www.watersmartinnovations.com/sessions.php>

For more about WaterSmart 2009 go to www.watersmartinnovations.com.



WaterSmart Conference 2008, from left to right: Ohannes Dembekjian, IAPMO Director of Continuous Compliance; Pete DeMarco, IAPMO Director of Special Programs; Ben Grumbles, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water; James Hanlon, EPA Director of Waste Water Management.

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Watch the ETS Webinar and Earn 12 AIA Units

Those who were unable to attend the International Emerging Technology Symposium, can now view the entire event online. As part of IAPMO's efforts to supply the plumbing and mechanical industry with the most modern educational tools, IAPMO has produced an educational webinar from the symposium that you can download and watch on your computer, at your convenience — in your home, at the office, or on the road.

The videos provide 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. Not only will you learn vital emerging technology in green, sustainable plumbing and HVAC systems, but you'll also

earn 12.0 AIA Environmental / Sustainability Learning Units.

Purchase the Webinar today at www.iapmvideos.org.

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ASHRAE Reconstitutes Standard 189.1P Committee

In a surprising move, ASHRAE is reconstituting the committee developing "Proposed Standard 189: Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings."

According to an update posted on their website, ASHRAE "recognized the increasing interest in the standard and wanted to ensure maximum input and appropriate expertise in its development. As such, ASHRAE recommended to its two cosponsors that the roster of SPC 189.1 be reconstituted. IESNA has approved the reconstitution, and USGBC is considering the motion. ASHRAE greatly values and acknowledges the outstanding work completed by the SPC to date, and has encouraged all SPC members to reapply for the new committee."

The standard will continue to be developed as "a new minimum, code-enforceable standard for green buildings." ASHRAE has been working on the project with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES) since 2006.

An anonymous source told Environmental Building News (EBN) that ASHRAE was expecting the standard to be appealed on procedural grounds, a process that could potentially hold it up for years. By reconstituting the committee now with additional committee members, ASHRAE may hope to move more efficiently toward completion.

To read the [greenbuilding.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com/auth/article.cfm/2008/10/17/Uncertain-Future-for-ASHRAE-Standard-189/#comments) article (EBN): <http://www.buildinggreen.com/auth/article.cfm/2008/10/17/Uncertain-Future-for-ASHRAE-Standard-189/#comments>

The American Institute of Steel Construction has also published a statement regarding the ASHRAE committee being disbanded: www.aisc.org

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Federal Judge Rules in AHRI's Favor

A New Mexico federal district judge on Oct. 3 ruled in favor of the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute's (AHRI) claim that Albuquerque's green building ordinances could not be enforced without a federally equal or higher counterpart.

In the case of AHRI vs. City of Albuquerque, the court granted a preliminary injunction to stop the city from enforcing an ordinance that would mandate a 90 percent minimum AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency) for residential furnaces and a 14 minimum SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) for residential central air conditioners and heat pumps.

AHRI argued that Albuquerque's proposed minimums exceed federal standards, which require furnaces to achieve at least 78 percent AFUE and central air conditioners to achieve at least 13 SEER. The federal minimum standard for central air conditioners was raised from 10 SEER to 13 SEER and became effective in 2006; the federal furnace standard was raised in 2007 to 80% AFUE, and will become effective in 2015. Heating and cooling equipment that far exceeds federal minimums is available for consumers and building owners to purchase, said an AHRI press release.

"The city's goals in enacting Albuquerque's Energy Conservation Code and the Albuquerque High Performance Buildings Ordinance are laudable," wrote Chief District Judge Martha Vazquez in her 24-page order. "Unfortunately, the drafters of the code were unaware of the long-standing federal statutes governing the energy efficiency of certain HVAC and water heating products and expressly preempting state regulation of these products when the code was drafted and, as a result, the code, as enacted, infringes on an area preempted by federal law."

Since the outcome of the case may give traction to other green building litigation, it is being watched closely by the green building legal community and by other local governments.

The date for the final hearing will be scheduled this month.

Read the AHRI press release: <http://ari.org/Pages/ShowMeMore.aspx?src=single&lpk=744>

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Tucson Passes Ordinances on Grey Water and Rainwater Harvesting

Tucson is hoping two new ordinances will go a long ways in stretching the city's limited water resources.

The first, which was passed by city council in September, mandates that parallel grey-water plumbing systems be installed in all new homes by 2010.

Under the new ordinance, all single dwelling family residential units are required to include a building drain or drains for lavatories, showers, and bathtubs, segregated from drains for all other plumbing and fixtures, and connected a minimum three feet from the limit of the foundations, to allow for the future installation of gray water systems. Additionally, all single family and duplex residential dwelling units must include either a separate multiple pipe outlet or a diverter valve, and an outside "stub-out" installation on clothes washing machine hook-ups, to allow separate discharge for direct irrigation.

The second ordinance approved by Tucson City Council requires new commercial developments to use harvested rainwater for landscape irrigation. Starting June 2010, 50 percent of landscaping water requirements must be met by capturing rainwater.

Environmentalists had originally pushed for a 100 percent rainwater use, but developers pushed to lower the threshold, saying it would be easier and less expensive to comply with.

To view the ordinances, visit: <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water/ordinances.htm>

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Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water Infrastructure

It is out of sight and out of mind, but America's aging water system is in dire need of an overhaul, says a new Penn State Public Broadcasting (WPSU-TV) documentary.

"Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water Infrastructure," tells of America's distressed

essential infrastructure systems: drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. These complex and aging systems—some in the ground for more than 150 years—are critical components for basic sanitation, health, public safety, economic development, and a host of other necessities of life.

The documentary explores major water, sewage, and stormwater infrastructure issues facing communities across the country, including: Atlanta, Boston, Herminie (PA), Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.

The 90-minute documentary began airing around the country last month. To check if it is airing on your local station, to purchase a DVD copy, or to view a four-minute trailer, go to <http://liquidassets.psu.edu>.

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Doing More With Less Water – WaterSense Partners of the Year Award Winners

One less drop in the bucket means kudos for three organizations and one individual who are promoting water efficiency and saving water. The first WaterSense Partners of the Year are being recognized for encouraging Americans to tap into their water resources wisely over the last year.

"EPA commends these partners for being blue ribbon winners in water efficiency," said Benjamin H. Grumbles, EPA's assistant administrator for water. "These water stars are helping WaterSense transform the way Americans view and value our most precious liquid asset and, as a result, we are saving more and wasting less for future generations."

While EPA's WaterSense program depends on the efforts of more than 1,000 partners, these four exceptional partners earned this special distinction from EPA:

- Promotional Partner of the Year: The Saving Water Partnership
- Manufacturer Partner of the Year: Kohler Co.
- Retailer and Distributor Partner of the Year: Ferguson
- Irrigation Partner of the Year: Timothy Malooly of Shorewood, Minn.

These organizations and individual represent the best of WaterSense's four partner categories. The Saving Water Partnership is a collaboration between Seattle Public Utilities and 17 participating local water utilities. Kohler Co. is a leading bathroom and kitchen product manufacturer. Ferguson is one of the country's largest wholesale distributors of plumbing supplies. Timothy Malooly is a WaterSense irrigation partner and president of two Minnesota-based irrigation firms: Irrigation Consultants & Control and Irrigation By Design.

The 2008 Partners of the Year helped advance the WaterSense mission through a range of activities demonstrating creativity and collaboration, and promoting water efficiency from New York City's Times Square to the Minnesota Zoological Garden. Three of the winning organizations have also worked together to educate plumbers and consumers on the benefits of WaterSense labeled products.

In 2007, WaterSense partners were responsible for labeling, selling and promoting more than 193,400 WaterSense labeled products, saving the United States more than 277 million gallons of water annually.

WaterSense, a partnership program launched in 2006 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water.

The first WaterSense Partner of the Year awards were presented at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas, Nev., the first national water-efficiency conference for an interdisciplinary audience.

WaterSense Partner of the Year awards: epa.gov/watersense/awards.htm

Information on the WaterSense program: epa.gov/watersense

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Michigan Requires 10% Renewable Electricity by 2015

Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm has approved the state's first comprehensive energy package that includes a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requiring 10% of the state's electricity to come from renewable resources by 2015.

Senate Bill 213 requires utilities to obtain renewable energy credits (RECs) equal to 2% of their electricity supply in 2012, increasing each year until the number of RECs equal 10% of their electricity supply in 2015. The bill specifies biomass, solar, wind, hydroelectric power, geothermal, municipal solid waste and landfill gas as sources of renewable energy.

Granholm noted that a cost cap protects Michigan ratepayers' money by ensuring that the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies will save more money than they cost. This energy efficiency requirement is projected to save consumers and businesses \$1.04 billion a year by 2025.

Also included in the RPS package, SB 1048 provides a 10% tax credit for energy efficiency improvements to homes, such as insulation, furnaces, water heaters, windows, and appliances.

H.B. 5524 expands the authorities of the state Public Service Commission to monitor utilities, oversee rate increases, and manage long-term generation plans. It also requires utilities to implement net metering programs to harness consumer-generated electricity and allow customers to earn credit for power fed back to the grid.

"This comprehensive package will create tens of thousands of new energy jobs by making Michigan even more attractive to job-creating companies that are looking for a place to expand as they meet the growing demand for energy from renewable sources like wind and solar power," Granholm said. "It also helps reduce costs for our citizens by requiring new energy efficiency programs and reducing the need for additional coal-burning power plants."

Two recent studies identified the tremendous job-creating package this type of policy can have for Michigan, according to the Governor's press release. The U.S. Department of Energy found that Michigan is one of only four states with the potential to create more than 30,000 manufacturing jobs in wind production alone, while the Center for American Progress estimates that Michigan can create more than 60,000 jobs by investing in wind, solar, biofuels and energy efficiency.

The governor noted that green energy manufacturing is considered to be a perfect fit for Michigan given the state has superior tool and die, metal fabrication, and metal working capabilities; manufacturing expertise and facilities that can be retrofitted to produce things like wind turbines; a manufacturing supplier network that is already starting to supply green tech manufacturers; tremendous research and development expertise in our universities and corporate research centers; a world-class workforce; and an outstanding wind resource.

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Wal-Mart Aims to Be Leader of Sustainability in China

Wal-Mart has announced a major effort to make Wal-Mart China a leader in sustainability in China by committing to make its stores more sustainable. The company plans to design and open a new store prototype that uses 40 percent less energy and will reduce energy use at

existing stores by 30 percent by 2010. In addition, during the next two years, Wal-Mart China will aim to cut water use in all of its stores in half by investing in new hardware and systems and developing best practices that will help its associates and stores use water more efficiently.

The company also pledged to bring more environmentally sustainable products to its store shelves.

Additionally, Wal-Mart laid out a series of requirements for companies who want to do business with Wal-Mart. These requirements include:

- Required demonstration of compliance with environmental laws and regulations-- China's desire for a cleaner environment is clear, and the laws on the books reflect that. Wal-Mart is taking a number of steps to further strengthen and enforce supplier compliance with environmental and social standards, including the creation of a new supplier agreement that will require factories to certify compliance with laws and regulations where they operate as well as rigorous social and environmental standards. The agreement will be phased in beginning with suppliers in China in January 2009 and expanding to suppliers around the world by 2011.
- Partner with suppliers to improve energy efficiency and use fewer natural resources-- Wal-Mart will partner with suppliers to improve energy efficiency in the top 200 factories it sources from directly in China by 20 percent by 2012. The company will share information and best practices with all of the factories it sources from as well as its competitors.
- Higher standards of product safety and quality--Wal-Mart aims to drive returns on defective merchandise virtually out of existence by 2012.
- Greater transparency and ownership--By 2009, Wal-Mart will require all direct import suppliers plus all suppliers of private label and non-branded products to provide the name and location of every factory they use to make the products it sells. The company will also have all suppliers it buys from directly to source 95 percent of their production from factories that receive the highest ratings on environmental and social practices by 2012.

To read the full press release: <http://walmartstores.com/FactsNews/NewsRoom/8696.aspx>

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EPA Finalizes Climate Change Strategy to Help Manage Water Resources

The EPA has released the final version of the "National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change". The 114 page document outlines the strategies the EPA plans on taking in response to climate change.

The water strategy identifies specific response actions in five areas:

- Mitigation of greenhouse gases
- Adaptation to climate change
- Research related to water and climate change
- Education on climate change
- Water program management of climate change

Potential impacts of climate change on water resources reviewed in the strategy include increases in certain water pollution problems, changes in availability of drinking water supplies, and collective impacts on coastal areas. The strategy reflects input provided during a public comment period earlier this year.

"Water is key to clean energy and climate change," said Benjamin H. Grumbles, EPA's assistant administrator for water. "Our water and climate strategy charts a course for timely

and practical action, connecting the dots, drops, and watts for coordinated, sustainable results."

Information on the strategy can be found at: epa.gov/water/climatechange

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Events Calendar:

GreenBuild Expo
November 19-21, 2008
Boston Convention Center
Boston, MA
www.greenbuildexpo.org/
IAPMO Green Booth: #369

Going Green for Groundwater
November 18-20, 2008
Desert Hot Springs, CA
www.groundwater.org/

Ecobuild Fall & AEC-ST
December 8-11, 2008
Washington, D.C.
www.aececobuildfall.com
IAPMO Green Booth: #529

2009 AWWA Water Conservation Workshop
January 25-27, 2009
Portland, OR
www.awwa.org

2009 International Water Conservation & Xeriscape Conference
February 26-27, 2009
Marriott Pyramid Hotel
Albuquerque, NM
www.xeriscapenm.com/

Educode 2009
February 23-27, 2009
The Orleans Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, NV
www.educode.us/

Partners and Memberships



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