



Green Newsletter  
January 2009

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## IAPMO to Honor "Greenest" Contractors

At its 80th Annual Education and Business Conference, Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2009, in San Diego, and all subsequent conferences, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) will award recognition to a Green Contractor of the Year.

The award will honor the IAPMO member contractor who best fulfills or symbolizes a commitment to environmental sustainability through his or her work in the plumbing and mechanical industries. It will be given in addition to IAPMO's long-standing annual honors, the Industry Person of the Year, Government Person of the Year and American Flag awards, and the George Kauffman Lifetime Achievement Award, given each year a worthy honoree is nominated and selected by the IAPMO Board of Directors.

"IAPMO has been committed to green practices since the organization's inception more than 80 years ago," said Russ Chaney, executive director of IAPMO, "and now it's time to recognize those within our industry who share the same strong commitment to insuring our planet's future."

Green Contractor nominations should be presented to the Board through the Committee for Awareness and Understanding of a Sustainable Environment (C.A.U.S.E.), the Green Technical Committee or the Board itself, which will select the recipient at its summer meeting and present the award each year at conference. Nominations for both the Green Contractor and Kauffman awards will be accepted between Jan. 1 and May 15, 2009. ([Click here](#) to download the application form.)

While it is tradition to surprise the winners of the Government and Industry Persons of the Year and American Flag awards at conference, the winner of the Green Contractor award will be notified in advance to ensure he or she is present to accept the honor. Recipients of the award will be featured in IAPMO's publications, including *Official* magazine and the online *Green Newsletter* and *I-Connection*.

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## Comment Period Extended for IAPMO Solar, Swimming Pool Codes

IAPMO is calling for all proposed changes to the *Uniform Solar Energy Code* and *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Code* for the 2009 edition of each. The updated versions will be published in November.

The deadline for comments from IAPMO members, as well as any interested parties from the general public, for the *Uniform Solar Energy Code (USEC)* is Monday, Feb. 16. The deadline for comments on the *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Code (USPSHT)* is Wednesday, May 20. (The deadline had been previously set for Jan. 5, but has been extended in each case).

The Call for Comments forms are available to download in both PDF and Word document formats at <http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/UniformSwimmingPool-HotTub-SpaandUniformSolarEnergyCode.aspx>. Detailed instructions for submitting comments are included on the second page of the download.

The *USEC* and *USPSHT* are part of the ANSI consensus process for the first time in this 2009 code development cycle.

For more information on the standards-making process, please contact the Codes and Standards Administration at (909) 472-4110.

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## Two TIA's Proposed for UPC

In accordance with the IAPMO Regulations Governing Committee Projects, IAPMO would like to announce that two Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) to the 2009 edition of the *Uniform Plumbing Code* are being submitted for public comment.

TIA (Log No. 001-09) is on *UPC*, Sections 211.0, and 405.2.

TIA (Log No. 002-09) is on *UPC*, IAPMO Installation Standard 7-2008.

We invite all interested parties to review the proposed TIAs and to respond by filling out the comment forms located at <http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/TIADecisions.aspx>

The final closing date for receiving comment forms for both TIA's is Friday, January 9, 2009.

For more information or guidance, call Lynne Simnick at (909) 472-4110 or direct your Web browser to [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org).

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## "Green Dream Team" Signals Climate Change Agenda

As inauguration day approaches, there has been much discussion about what President-elect Barack Obama will bring to the green movement.

Hopes of environmental advocates are riding high after Obama's announcement of the "Green Dream Team", those who will fill the top energy and environment jobs in his administration. Obama's choices signal a commitment to battling climate change and will likely lead to significant policy reforms, a major change in direction from the Bush administration.

Most notable is Obama's pick of Stephen Chu as the new Secretary of Energy. Chu, a Nobel physics laureate, currently heads the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, part of the Department of Energy's network of research centers. Environmental advocates praise Chu as someone who knows the threat posed by climate change and understands the need for technological leaps in the way energy is used.

Obama also named Lisa Jackson, a respected state environmental official from New Jersey, as head of the US Environmental Protection Agency; former environmental lawyer and US Senator Ken Salazar as Interior secretary; Nancy Sutley, deputy mayor of Los Angeles, to run the White House Council on Environmental Quality; John Holdren, a Harvard University expert on climate change, will serve as the White House science advisor; Jane Lubchenco, marine biologist, for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Obama created a new position to coordinate policy on environment and climate change. Filling the position will be Carol Browner, former head of the EPA during the Clinton administration.

The appointments will help Obama fulfill his campaign promises, which he reiterated at an international conference on climate change in November. Obama told the audience that he intends to stick to his pre-election promise of aggressive carbon-reduction, beginning with a federal cap-and-trade system aimed at cutting U.S. emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020, and an 80% reduction by 2050.

"Few challenges facing America — and the world — are more urgent than combating climate change," said Obama. "My presidency will mark a new chapter in America's leadership on climate change that will strengthen our security and create millions of new jobs."

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## A Green Economic Stimulus

As President-elect Barack Obama and Congress craft a federal stimulus package aimed at creating 5 million jobs, environmental groups are encouraging congress to use water efficiency and energy efficiency programs to stimulate the economy.

The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) is urging Obama's transition team to consider the short-term and long-term benefits of investment in water-efficiency. The AWE prepared a position paper titled "Transforming Water: Water Efficiency as Stimulus and Long-Term Investment", showing how water efficiency programs yield jobs, water savings and other economic benefits and



will be a cost effective investment to consider for a stimulus package.

Some of the major findings of the report:

- Direct investment on the order of \$10 billion in water/energy efficiency programs can boost U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by \$13 to \$15 billion and employment by 150,000 to 220,000 jobs. It could save up to 10 trillion gallons of water, with resulting energy reductions as well.
- Water/energy efficiency programs can be rapidly deployed and scaled to need. The paper provides a formula to use for scaling jobs to amount of investment.
- Some of the best opportunities for conservation investment are in lower-income areas where water distribution infrastructure has not been adequately maintained or replaced and where household and commercial appliance stocks tend to be older and less efficient.
- The long-term strategic, economic, social, and environmental benefits of water/energy efficiency program make them "no-regret" investments in the nation's future.
- Investing in water/energy efficiency programs now will, over the longer term, help advance national energy policy, promote sustainable resource use, contribute towards Green House Gas emissions reduction, and lessen mounting regional conflicts over water resource.

The paper can be downloaded from the AWE website at: [http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Obama\\_Transition\\_Team\\_Consults\\_AWE.aspx](http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Obama_Transition_Team_Consults_AWE.aspx)

On the energy efficiency end, the Alliance to Save Energy, Edison Electric Institute, Energy Future Coalition and the Natural Resources Defense Council have released proposals ranging from low-income home weatherization and energy efficiency retrofits for homes and commercial and government buildings, to strengthened national model building energy codes, enhanced product efficiency standards and energy efficiency investments by utilities.

More on the energy programs being proposed can be found at <http://www.ase.org/content/news/detail/5280>

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#### **WaterSense New Home Certification Available for Comment**

The EPA is inviting all interested parties to provide comments on the proposed inspection procedures and draft certification system, which outlines the process for certifying new homes for compliance with the Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home Specification.

The draft certification system includes the general procedures for builder application and receipt of the WaterSense label. For more detailed information and to obtain a copy of the draft inspection procedures and certification system for WaterSense labeling of new homes, please visit [www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/homes.htm](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/homes.htm).

The public comment period for the draft inspection procedures and certification system is open until February 16, 2009. Please send any comments or suggestions regarding the draft inspection procedures and certification system to [watersensenewhomes@epa.gov](mailto:watersensenewhomes@epa.gov). (Please note: all comments become part of the public record.)

If you have questions, please contact the WaterSense Helpline at (866) WTR-SENS (987-7367) or e-mail [watersense@epa.gov](mailto:watersense@epa.gov).

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#### **Portland Green Building Policy Open for Public Comment**

Portland, OR has opened for public comment its proposed High Performance Green Building Policy. The new policy proposes a green building "feebate" — a market-based instrument that combines a fee for conventional construction, a waiver option for moderate green improvements and a reward for high performance green building projects.

New commercial construction projects larger than 20,000 square feet and multifamily construction larger than 5,000 square feet will be affected. Using LEED and Earth Advantage standards, construction will be evaluated through third-party verification of energy efficiency, site development, waste reduction, water conservation, sustainable material use and indoor air quality.

- Buildings that meet a high performance green building standard, including LEED Gold and Platinum, will receive a one-time green building reward payment from the City of Portland

and be eligible for other incentives from the Energy Trust of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Energy.

- Buildings that meet a green building standard, such as LEED Silver, will qualify for a waiver from Portland's fee and be eligible for incentives from the Energy Trust of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Energy.
- Buildings that do not meet the green building standards will pay a one-time green building fee for the projected carbon pollution for operating that building for 15 to 30 years.
- Affordable housing projects that meet what otherwise is the "waiver" standard will receive a reward payment.

For new single-family residential construction, the policy requires a performance target for the percentage of new homes that are built to green building standards. If the industry target is met over the next three years, no new regulations will take effect; if the target is not met, a feebate similar to that for new commercial construction will come into effect.

The policy proposes the following performance targets:

- In 2009, 20% of new homes certified as Earth Advantage or LEED for Homes.
- In 2010, 30% of new homes certified as Earth Advantage or LEED for Homes.
- In 2011, 40% of new homes certified as Earth Advantage or LEED for Homes.

More information can be found at <http://www.portlandonline.com/osd/index.cfm?c=45879&>

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### **EPA Implements Environmental Fugitives Most-Wanted List**

A new Web tool is available to enlist the public and other law enforcement agencies in tracking down fugitives accused of violating environmental laws and evading arrest.

"Putting this information on the EPA's Web site will increase the number of 'eyes' looking for environmental fugitives," said Granta Y. Nakayama, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Two EPA fugitives were captured this year, and this Web site could help us find more fugitives in the future."

The Web site includes photos of the accused, summaries of their alleged environmental violations, and information on each fugitive's last known whereabouts. The alleged violations include smuggling of ozone-depleting substances, illegally disposing of hazardous waste, discharging pollutants into the air and water, laundering money and making criminally false statements.

One of the 23 current fugitives is Mauro Valenzuela, 39, a former mechanic for Sabertech. Among his several charges, Valenzuela is alleged to have illegally transported hazardous materials on a commercial aircraft. In 1996, Valenzuela allegedly transported waste oxygen generators onboard ValuJet flight 592 without proper markings and other safety measures. The jet crashed, killing all 110 passengers and crew onboard. Valenzuela failed to appear in federal court nine years ago.

The Web site also lists EPA's captured fugitives. Earlier this year, EPA found two men on the run. David Allen Phillips escaped prison four years ago after being convicted of Clean Water Act crimes in Montana. He fled to Mexico, was turned over to authorities by the Mexican government last March, and awaits further sentencing. David Ortiz fled after the appeal of his conviction for Clean Water Act crimes in 2004. He remained at large for almost four years until his capture last March in Colorado and is currently in prison.

Anyone who encounters a fugitive should notify EPA by submitting the "Report a Fugitive" form on the Web site. The information will be electronically sent to EPA's national criminal investigation office in Washington, D.C. The public may also choose to report the information to their local police or, if outside the United States, to the nearest U.S. Embassy. Some fugitives may be armed and dangerous, and EPA warns the public against trying to apprehend them.

Many of the alleged violators listed on the Web site have fled the country. EPA depends on cooperation with Interpol and other international law enforcement agencies to locate their whereabouts.

The FBI, U.S. Secret Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms also maintain web sites featuring fugitives from the law, but EPA is the first federal law enforcement agency to feature an environmental crimes fugitive Web site.

Criminal charges are only allegations of misconduct. Individuals who have been charged with environmental crimes are presumed innocent.

Information on EPA's Fugitives Web site: [epa.gov/fugitives](http://epa.gov/fugitives)

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### Only in Dubai — First Refrigerated Beach Planned

No more doing that bare-foot "hot!" dance across the sand, at least not in Dubai. Its newest hotel in the making, the Palazzo Versace, will feature a refrigerated beach, allowing guests to relax comfortably on the sand despite the often-scorching weather.

The plan involves a system of heat-absorbing pipes built under the sand and giant wind blowers.

"We will suck the heat out of the sand to keep it cool enough to lie on. This is the kind of luxury that top people want," said Soheil Abedian, president of Palazzo Versace.

The plans have infuriated environmentalists, who say the carbon generated by such a project would contribute to climate change, whose worst effects would be felt by the poor. It is estimated that 60% of Dubai's power consumption is used for air-conditioning.

Backers of the project have defended the project, saying the \$592 million luxury resort will not go ahead if eco-friendly technology cannot be secured.

"Once all options are looked at regarding developing the beach, if an environmentally sustainable approach cannot be found and guaranteed, then Sunland Group can confirm that they will not develop the beach in this format," the builders confirmed.

Sunland Group officials said that they were exploring "re-using the air normally exhausted from the building to provide localized cooling" and using a "selection of materials with heat-reflective properties".

Dubai is already a target of environmental watch groups, who say the city-state is living in its own mega-rich bubble, not caring about the concerns of the rest of the world.

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### Events Calendar:

#### 2009 ASHRAE Winter Conference

January 24-28, 2009  
McCormick Place  
Chicago, IL  
[www.ashrae.org](http://www.ashrae.org)

#### 2009 AWWA Water Conservation Workshop

January 25-27, 2009  
Portland, OR  
[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

#### International AHR Expo

January 26-28, 2009  
McCormick Place  
Chicago, IL  
[www.ahrexpo.com/showinfo/](http://www.ahrexpo.com/showinfo/)

#### 2009 International Water Conservation & Xeriscape Conf.

February 26-27, 2009  
Marriott Pyramid Hotel  
Albuquerque, NM  
[www.xeriscapenm.com/](http://www.xeriscapenm.com/)

#### Educode 2009

February 23-27, 2009  
The Orleans Hotel and Casino  
Las Vegas, NV  
[www.educode.us/](http://www.educode.us/)

#### ACCA Conference

**& Indoor Air Expo**  
February 24-26, 2009  
Fort Worth Convention Ctr.  
Fort Worth, TX  
[www.acca.org/conference/](http://www.acca.org/conference/)

#### 2009 MCAA Convention

March 1-5, 2009  
JW Marriott Desert Ridge  
Resort & Spa  
Scottsdale, AZ  
[www.mcaa.org/education/](http://www.mcaa.org/education/)

#### ISH 50

March 10-14, 2009  
Frankfurt am Main  
<http://ish.messefrankfurt.com>

#### International Water Efficiency Conference

March 30 - April 2, 2009  
Newport Beach Marriott  
Newport Beach, CA  
<http://www.waterec.net>

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Partners and Memberships



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