



Green Newsletter
May 2009

In this Issue:

EPA's WaterSense®
Program Finalizes Product
Certification Process

EPA Releases Revised Draft
WaterSense® Water-
Efficient Single-Family New
Home Specification

Proposed Standard 189.1
Begins Third Public Review
with Increased Energy
Savings

Public Comment Period For
GBI 01-200XP Closes May
26, 2009

Texas Bill Would Require
HETs/HEUs by 2014

Texas Senate Passes Solar
Incentive Bill

AIA, COTE 2009 Top 10
Green Project Awards

Chairmen Waxman, Markey
Release Discussion Draft of
New Clean Energy

ENERGY STAR® Program
Recognizes Record Number
of Energy-Efficient Building
Designs

ASHRAE Appoints First
DOE Building Energy Codes
Fellow

Calendar



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EPA's WaterSense® Program Finalizes Product Certification Process

WaterSense has finalized its product certification system, strengthening the backbone of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) partnership program to promote water-efficient products and practices.

Since the program's inception, WaterSense has required all plumbing fixtures be independently certified before they can bear the WaterSense label — giving consumers confidence that these products meet the program's water efficiency and performance criteria. More than 1,000 product models in two categories have been certified to WaterSense specifications to date.

With the final certification system in place, EPA lays out the requirements for the process and procedures for the certification of all WaterSense labeled products, ensuring that only accredited bodies are licensed to certify them. This system took effect in April 2009, superseding an interim process in place since 2006.

IAPMO R&T, a licensed WaterSense certification organization, certifies both high-efficiency toilets (HETs) and high-efficiency lavatory faucets. IAPMO R&T's efficient certification program allowed NEOPERL to become the first manufacturer to be independently certified to meet the U.S. EPA WaterSense criteria for lavatory faucets.

IAPMO R&T has been working closely with the EPA to begin certification of high-efficiency flushing urinals to IAPMO Z124.9 and ASME A112.19.2 standards to earn the EPA's WaterSense mark. Urinals bearing the WaterSense mark should be available in the summer of 2009.

Given the success of high efficiency toilets, Shahin Moinian, senior director of IAPMO R&T, expects many of the manufacturers of HET's will pursue the WaterSense certification for urinals.

"Manufacturers seeking WaterSense certification can utilize R&T for the same trusted evaluation service they've always relied on," said Moinian. "Achieving WaterSense certification through IAPMO R&T is fast, efficient, and inexpensive."

For more information about the final WaterSense certification system, visit www.epa.gov/WaterSense/specs/certification.htm.

For certification through IAPMO R&T, visit <http://www.iapmort.org>

[\[return to top\]](#)

EPA Releases Revised Draft WaterSense® Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home Specification

EPA is pleased to announce the release of the revised draft [Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home Specification](#). This draft includes revisions to existing criteria including those for: hot water delivery systems, water softeners, landscapes, irrigation systems, and homeowner education.

Interested parties have the opportunity to submit comments on the revised draft Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home Specification until July 7, 2009. Please send any comments or suggestions to watersense-newhomes@erg.com. All comments become a part of the public record.

Additionally, EPA will be conducting a public meeting on the revised draft specification in June 2009 in Washington, DC. Please check the WaterSense Web site for additional information as it becomes available.

In order to facilitate the consistency and usefulness of comments received, please submit your comments using the [Template for Public Comment Submission \(MS Word\)](#). You may either

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download, save this document template, and directly insert your comments or attach your comments in your own document, provided that you clearly reference the text/section in question, your recommended changes, and why you think these changes are needed.

If you have any questions, please contact the WaterSense Helpline at (866) WTR-SENS (987-7367) or watersense@epa.gov.

[\[return to top\]](#)

Proposed Standard 189.1 Begins Third Public Review with Increased Energy Savings

The first draft of the reconstituted committee boasts increased user friendliness

With additional energy savings over the previous draft, the nation's first standard for high-performance green buildings began its third public review period May 1, marking the first draft released by the newly reconstituted Standard 189.1 committee. Comments on the draft standard will be accepted through June 15.

Proposed Standard 189.1, Standard for the Design of High Performance, Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, is being developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers in conjunction with the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). This is the first such green building standard in the United States.

"Standard 189.1 is essential for the further promotion of high-performance green buildings in the United States and for reaching net-zero-energy goals," says Kent Peterson, chair of the committee. "The committee is confident that this standard, with its increased energy savings over Standard 90.1, will help building owners and operators as well as local jurisdictions meet their sustainability targets."

The third public review draft has been reorganized to be more user-friendly while focusing on delivering and maintaining energy and water efficiency performance over the life of the building. Compared to the previous draft, this draft provides increased energy savings over ANSI/ASHRAE /IESNA Standard 90.1, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low Rise Residential Buildings.

Eliminated in this version is the requirement for 30% additional ventilation beyond Standard 62.1 in classrooms and office spaces, with instead an emphasis on source contaminant control to improve indoor air quality.

Meant to provide minimum criteria for green building practices, the standard is applicable to new commercial buildings and major renovation projects. When completed, it will address energy efficiency, a building's impact on the atmosphere, sustainable sites, water use efficiency, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality, among other high-performance green building issues.

The committee was expanded late last year to 34 voting members after an open call for members to broaden the expertise from a variety of interested categories. The proposed standard has generated substantial public interest, with more than 900 comments received during each of two previous public reviews.

To view a copy of the public review draft, go to www.ashrae.org/publicreviews. Copies of public review drafts are only available during public review periods. Publication of the standard is expected by early 2010.

[\[return to top\]](#)

Public Comment Period For GBI 01-200XP Closes May 26, 2009

The public comment period for the Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings (GBI 01-200XP) closes on May 26, 2009.

The Standard is being developed by Green Building Initiatives, an ANSI accredited standard developing organization that has become the first green building organization to commit to taking a commercial building rating system (Green Globes™) through an ANSI consensus process.

The assessment protocol—or rating system—contained within GBI's proposed standard will be available to the public for use during the design, construction, operations, and maintenance of



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commercial buildings.

For more information on the proposed standard, go to <http://www.thegbi.org/commercial/standards/#comment>

[\[return to top\]](#)

Texas Bill Would Require HET/HEU's by 2014

Texas State Rep. Allan Ritter has introduced legislation to mandate the use of High Efficiency Toilets (HET) and High Efficiency Urinals (HEU).

The bill would require all toilets to be 1.28 gallons per flush or less, and urinals 0.5 gallons per flush or less.

The water saving legislation would be phased in, and manufacturers would be required to report to Texas building officials a percentage of HETs and HEUs offered for sale in the state:

50 percent by January 1, 2010
67 percent by January 1, 2011
75 percent by January 1, 2012
85 percent by January 1, 2013
100 percent by January 1, 2014

The bill follows California's mandate of HET's and HEU's, but is unique in that it is the first piece of legislation to require plumbing fixtures to be certified under the EPA's WaterSense Program.

The text of the bill can be viewed at: <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/81R/billtext/html/HB026671.htm>

[\[return to top\]](#)

Texas Senate Passes Solar Incentive Bill

The Texas Senate has approved a bill to create a \$500 million rebate program to encourage homeowners and businesses to install solar-energy systems.

The bill would pay rebates of up to 30 percent of the cost of installing solar technology. The federal government also allows tax credits of up to 30 percent.

Homebuilders developing new subdivisions would be required to offer solar energy to home buyers, and the bill would also set up a loan program for public schools to install solar systems.

The bill also provides a rebate for solar products manufactured within the state, and establishes net metering policies requiring utilities to pay real-time market price to homeowners selling power back to the grid.

Funding for the bill would be paid for with an increase on utility bills, 20 cents a month for homeowners, \$2 for commercial users, and \$20 for industrial users. The bill is designed to collect up to \$100 million annually over five years.

"This will help tens of thousands of Texans install solar on their rooftops, kick starting a solar industry in the state that will create good paying green jobs while helping protect the planet," said Luke Metzger, director of Environment Texas.

Senators voted 26-4 to approve the measure, which now goes to the House.

[\[return to top\]](#)

AIA, COTE Announce 2009 Top Ten Green Projects

the opportunity to update and improve the UPC and UMC, participation in local IAPMO chapters and an invitation to attend IAPMO's Annual Education and Business Conference. The conference offers superb educational seminars. Find out more at www.iapmo.org.



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*Portola Valley Town Center (Siegel & Strain Architects) Portola Valley, CA
Photo credit: Cesar Rubio, courtesy of Siegel & Strain Architects*

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and its Committee on the Environment (COTE) have selected the top ten examples of sustainable architecture and green design solutions that protect and enhance the environment. The projects were honored at the AIA 2009 National Convention and Design Exposition in San Francisco.

The 2009 COTE Top Ten Green Projects program celebrates projects that are the result of a thoroughly integrated approach to architecture, natural systems and technology. They make a positive contribution to their communities, improve comfort for building occupants and reduce environmental impacts through strategies such as reuse of existing structures, connection to transit systems, low-impact and regenerative site development, energy and water conservation, use of sustainable or renewable construction materials, and design that improves indoor air quality.

The award winners can be viewed at: <http://www.iaatopten.org/hpb/#2009>

[\[return to top\]](#)

Chairmen Waxman, Markey Release Discussion Draft of New Clean Energy

Chairman Henry A. Waxman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Chairman Edward J. Markey of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee on March 31st released a draft of clean energy legislation that will create jobs, help end our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, and combat global warming. The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES) is a comprehensive approach to America's energy policy that charts a new course towards a clean energy economy.

"This legislation will create millions of clean energy jobs, put America on the path to energy independence, and cut global warming pollution," said Chairman Waxman. "Our goal is to strengthen our economy by making America the world leader in new clean energy and energy efficiency technologies."

"This legislation will create clean energy jobs that can't be shipped overseas, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and make America the global leader in energy technology. We will create jobs by the millions, save money by the billions, and unleash energy investment by the trillions," said Chairman Markey, who held many hearings on the major issues in the bill. "Chairman Waxman and I will work with our colleagues to ensure that we are protecting American consumers and that our clean energy future helps all parts of the country."

The American Clean Energy and Security Act will create millions of new clean energy jobs, save consumers hundreds of billions of dollars in energy costs, enhance America's energy independence, and cut global warming pollution. To meet these goals, the legislation has four titles:

- A clean energy title that promotes renewable sources of energy, carbon capture and sequestration technologies, low-carbon fuels, clean electric vehicles, and the smart grid and electricity transmission;
- An energy efficiency title that increases energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy, including buildings, appliances, transportation, and industry;
- A global warming title that places limits on emissions of heat-trapping pollutants; and
- A transitioning title that protects U.S. consumers and industry and promotes green jobs during the transition to a clean energy economy.

The Energy and Commerce Committee will complete consideration of the legislation by Memorial Day.

Text of the bill can be viewed at: http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1560&Itemid=1

[\[return to top\]](#)

ENERGY STAR® Program Recognizes Record Number of Energy-Efficient Building Designs

On April 30, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency unveiled the latest group of commercial building design projects that have been recognized as Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR. Together with representatives from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), EPA recognized 75 new commercial building design projects for their energy efficiency, representing a 60 percent increase in the number of qualifying projects over the last year.

"By designing buildings to be energy efficient, these architectural and engineering firms are leading the way in the fight against global warming," said Deborah Jordan, the EPA's Air Division director for the Pacific Southwest. "We congratulate this year's Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR recipients for their commitment to energy reductions in the built environment."

EPA's Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR connects the energy design intent of a building with its operating performance, ensuring energy efficiency throughout the building's life cycle. Projects that qualify for this designation are designed to create fewer greenhouse gas emissions and save money on energy bills over the lifetime of the building. Once built, this year's 75 new projects are estimated to save nearly 100,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and more than \$6 million in energy costs annually across more than 14 million square feet. On average, these projects are estimated to reduce carbon emissions by 50 percent, which meets AIA's goal for a 50 percent CO₂ reduction on newly constructed buildings by 2010.

An architecture firm can receive EPA's Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR by comparing the project's intended energy use against the energy use of comparable operating buildings by using EPA's no-cost online tool, Target Finder. Once built, building owners are then able to benchmark the actual performance of completed projects using another online EPA tool, Portfolio Manager. In this way, they can verify that the building is operating as intended.

Since the program's inception in 2004, nearly 170 building design projects submitted by 84 firms have achieved EPA's Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR. These projects—totaling nearly 28 million square feet of space—were designed to prevent more than 180,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions per year, a 46% reduction over average similar buildings, and save more than \$12 million in annual energy costs.

ENERGY STAR was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. In 2008, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved about \$19 billion on their energy bills while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 29 million vehicles.

For more information on EPA's Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR visit: www.energystar.gov/commercialbuildingdesign.

[\[return to top\]](#)

ASHRAE Appoints First DOE Building Energy Codes Fellow

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers has appointed its first Building Energy Codes ASHRAE Fellow in partnership with the Department of Energy. The new Fellow, Mike Erbesfeld, will assist the DOE in assessing the impact of updating state energy codes to meet the 2010 version of ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1.

"The fellowship is valuable in that I get to bring my industry perspective to the federal government, where I can illustrate the obstacles and pitfalls on the path to net-zero-energy buildings, says Erbesfeld. "At the same time, this collaboration will hopefully ease the communication among owners, designers and building code officials, creating a more efficient and streamlined process from design to certificate of occupancy."

Erbesfeld will be placed in the DOE's Office of Building Technologies, Building Energy Codes

Program. He will analyze energy code updates based on EnergyPlus analysis of benchmark buildings and cost databases, as well as perform compliance testing of COMcheck using benchmark buildings and recommend program and front end changes to simplify COMcheck use. COMcheck is a software program from the DOE that simplifies energy code compliance by offering a flexible computer-based alternative to manual calculations.

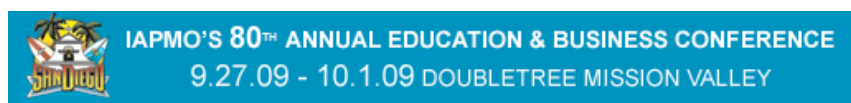
Erbesfeld's most recent role was as an ASHRAE Congressional Fellow in the office of Sen. Diane Feinstein, where he worked on legislative efforts that included tax credits and deductions to assist homeowners and businesses make energy efficient improvements and with HUD to ensure that their energy efficiency mortgage (EEM) program was utilized to its full potential.

He graduated from the University of Miami, Miami, Fla., with a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

ASHRAE launched its Washington Fellow program in 2007 to allow participants to work in the federal government in a technical advisory role for limited terms. The Society is accepting applications for additional DOE ASHRAE Fellows. For more information on the program, contact Doug Read, ASHRAE Program Director of Government Affairs, at dread@ashrae.org or (202) 833-1830.

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is an international organization of some 50,000 persons. ASHRAE fulfills its mission of advancing heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education.

[\[return to top\]](#)



Events Calendar:

2009 Hot Water Forum: Water Heating, Distribution, & Use Efficiency
June 07 - June 10, 2009
Asilomar Conference Center,
Pacific Grove, CA
<http://www.aceee.org>

AWWA Annual Conference & Expo
June 14-18, 2009
San Diego Convention Center
San Diego, CA
www.awwa.org

2009 ASHRAE Annual Meeting
June 20-24, 2009
Louisville, KY
www.ashrae.org

IAPMO 80th Annual Education and Business Conference
Sept 27 - Oct. 1, 2009
Doubletree Hotel
at Mission Valley
San Diego, CA
www.iapmo.org

WaterSmart Innovations Conference & Expo
October 7-9, 2009
Las Vegas, NV
www.watersmartinnovations.com

GreenBuild 2009
November 11-13, 2009
Phoenix, AZ
www.greenbuildexpo.org

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