



Green Newsletter
September 2009

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IAPMO Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement Now Available for Peer Review, Comments

IAPMO's Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement, the most comprehensive document ever created to standardize sustainable residential and commercial plumbing and mechanical systems, is now available for peer review and comment. The 45-day review period will conclude at 5 p.m. CDT on Friday, Oct. 9, at which point no more comments will be accepted.

The Green Supplement will complement IAPMO's Uniform Codes — or any other adopted plumbing and mechanical code — by introducing additional language pertaining to water and energy efficiency, HVAC system commissioning, the use of alternate water sources, such as gray water and harvested rainwater, and increased indoor environmental quality.

This preliminary version of the supplement and the peer review comment form can be obtained by contacting Maria Bazan by e-mail at maria.bazan@iapmo.org. Comments will only be accepted electronically via e-mail. Comments received will be compiled and serve as the agenda for the IAPMO Green Technical Committee meeting in Chicago, Nov. 17-19, at which time the committee will finalize the supplement for publishing by February 2010.

"This is an exceptional document for its foresight and balance in representing our industry's best direction toward more sustainable practices," said Bill Erickson, chairman of the Green Technical Committee. "The GTC is comprised of some of the very best minds representing all facets of the sustainable plumbing and mechanical fields. It's a tribute to the hard work of so many professionals dedicated to getting this supplement ready for the final steps of the development process. In all, more than 85 experts served on the GTC and its eight associated task groups."

IAPMO's Board of Directors created the Green Technical Committee (GTC) and charged these individuals with the development of the IAPMO Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement in an effort to fulfill the Board's call for a reduction in energy and water consumption as permitted in the Uniform Codes.

The Green Supplement is not a "greener" version of the Uniform Codes, but rather a separate document establishing requirements for sustainable building and water efficiency applicable to safe, reliable plumbing and mechanical systems. It will serve as an invaluable resource for code officials, plumbers, contractors, engineers and manufacturers in designing, installing and approving more sustainable plumbing and mechanical systems.

For more information about the Green Supplement and/or IAPMO's commitment to a sustainable environment, please direct your Web browser to www.iapmo.org/Pages/IAPMO_Green.aspx or contact Maria Bazan at (708) 995-3000 or maria.bazan@iapmo.org.

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EPA Seeks Input on WaterSense for Commercial Buildings

What should a WaterSense program for commercial buildings look like? How could we encourage water efficiency in universities and hotels? Or in golf courses and car washes?

To answer these questions, and others, WaterSense wants your feedback. EPA is considering expanding WaterSense to include the commercial and institutional sector, and as a first step, the EPA has released a white paper, Water Efficiency in the Commercial and Institutional Sector: Considerations for a WaterSense Program.

While there are gaps in the available data, this paper attempts to summarize the best available resources that EPA can use for planning a national commercial and institutional program. The paper

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also discusses the various directions a WaterSense commercial and institutional program could take.

EPA is seeking broad input to be used as guidance in developing a WaterSense program for the commercial and institutional sector. In particular, EPA is interested in hearing stakeholders' responses to our current research needs and program design options. EPA is welcoming comments, which may be submitted to watersense-ci@erg.com through September 20, 2009.

WaterSense will also be holding a meeting to discuss potential commercial and institutional sector program options coinciding with the WaterSmart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact the WaterSense Helpline at (866) WTR-SENS (987-7367) or watersense@epa.gov.

The whitepaper can be downloaded here: [Water Efficiency in the Commercial and Institutional Sector: Considerations for a WaterSense Program](#) (PDF) (55 pp, 957K, About PDF)

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WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition Offers Wide Range of Professional Sessions

The second WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition will present a wide range of professional sessions in several education and training tracks, October 7-9 at the South Point Hotel and Conference Center in Las Vegas.

The conference's Program Committee selected more than 130 of the highest quality presentations from about 270 abstracts submitted by water-efficiency professionals from around the globe. In addition to representatives from the United States, the Program Committee received proposals from Canada, Australia, Portugal and Mexico.

Education and training tracks at WaterSmart Innovations include Alternate Sources; Code, Policy and Rates; Conservation and Incentive Programs; Construction and Development; Drought Management; Education; Landscapes; Marketing and Outreach; Plumbing, Appliances and Fixtures; Special Topics; and Utility and Infrastructure. A complete list of sessions, along with speaker biographies, is available at www.WaterSmartInnovations.com.

This year, WSI also will feature poster sessions comprising 18 posters. Authors will be present at their poster displays Wednesday, October 7, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Thursday, October 8, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

IAPMO is a proud sponsor of the event. Be sure to stop by the IAPMO booth, #214-216.

About WaterSmart Innovations

Presented by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Program and other forward-thinking organizations, WaterSmart Innovations is a non-profit event that serves to broaden knowledge of innovations in urban water efficiency and water conservation including products, programs and outreach. More information is available at www.WaterSmartInnovations.com.

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Building Commissioning Big Opportunity for Energy, Cost Reduction

Building commissioning is arguably the single-most cost-effective strategy for reducing energy, costs, and greenhouse-gas emissions in buildings today, according to study by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Compiled by Evan Mills, a researcher at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the report gathered data on 643 buildings, representing 99 million square feet of floor space in 26 states. The study found that commissioning could save the U.S. \$30 billion annually and result in 360 million tons of CO₂-eq emissions reductions. It would also provide approximately 24,000 jobs and create an estimated \$4 billion industry.

Building commissioning is more than "just another pretty energy-saving measure" says Mills. It's a risk management strategy that ensures that building owners get what they pay for when constructing or retrofitting a building.



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Contrary to popular perception, the cost is relatively cheap, less than 0.4% of total construction costs, resulting in a median payback of 4 years on new construction. Whole building energy savings average 16% for existing and 13% new construction, resulting in cash on cash return of 91% and 23% respectively.

The report can be viewed at: <http://cx.lbl.gov/cx.html>

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Green Buildings Under Performing

Some buildings are not living up to their "green" label, according to an article in the New York Times. The article highlights the disconnect between design, construction and performance, holding up the Federal Building in downtown Youngstown, Ohio, as an example.

Though the building is LEED certified, it failed to qualify for the EPA's Energy Star label last year — its cooling system was woefully inefficient.

The article highlights an issue that many in the industry have had with LEED — once the building receives its "LEED Certified" plaque, there is no requirement to maintain performance.

The USGBC's own data shows that a quarter of certified buildings underperform, and most do not track performance following construction. In fact, less than half of 121 buildings certified through 2006 qualified for the Energy Star label. More disconcerting, 15 percent of those buildings used more energy per square foot than at least 70 percent of comparable buildings in the existing national stock.

The LEED program has been moving to close the "performance gap" to ensure buildings live up to their label. LEED V3 requires the sharing of whole-building energy and water usage data for the first 5 years of operation. Failure to do so could result in de-certification. Yet it does not appear that poor performance data will result in decertification. USGBC merely states that the "USGBC will be able to use the performance information collected to inform future versions of LEED."

The New York Times article can be read at: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/31/science/earth/31leed.html?pagewanted=1&_r=3&hp

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Los Angeles Reduces Water Use by 17% in One Year

The City of Los Angeles has reduced its water use by 17% according to a press release from the city.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced that, thanks to Phase III water restrictions, Angelenos reduced their water use in July 2009 by more than 17% overall from the previous year. Single-Family Residential properties decreased usage by 20.1%; Multi-Family Residential properties decreased usage by 8.3%; Commercial properties decreased water usage by 17.1%; Industrial properties decreased usage by 21.8%; and Government properties decreased usage by 34.4%.

"With the water shortage that we are facing, we must reduce our reliance on imported water," Mr. Villaraigosa said in a statement, "and I am very encouraged that Angelenos have reduced their water consumption, especially during these summer months."

The city also reduced its energy use by a record of 318 gigawatt-hours (GWh) for fiscal year 2008-09. That amount of energy savings equates to removing 53,000 households from the grid and avoiding 178,700 metric tons of greenhouse gases (GHG) each year.

Read the press release: http://mayor.lacity.org/PressRoom/PressReleases/LACITYP_006057

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Tuesday is "Green" Day in San Diego

One of the big hurdles of the sustainability movement is having a trained workforce in place ready to implement the new technologies and building practices coming onto the market.

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.



Drinking Water & Backflow Prevention Magazine subscriptions: 1-888-FOR-DWBP (888-367-3927)

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Whether you are a contractor looking to keep your competitive edge or a building official trying to keep up with a fast changing industry, knowing and understanding the expansion of "green" is no longer a choice, but a necessity.

As the leader in green codes since the late 1970s, with low-flow toilets and solar provisions, IAPMO is well situated to assist you in learning how green continues to affect the construction regulation arena.

Join us Tuesday, Sept. 29 for "green" education day at our 80th Annual Business and Education Conference, held in San Diego. Single day passes are available!

Below is a schedule of the classes offered:

9 a.m. — Reclaimed Gray Water Seminar

Presented by Don Vandertulip

This presentation will provide an overview of reclaimed water and related issues. Reclaimed water will be defined during this presentation and participants will learn about the characteristics of reclaimed water systems and health and safety issues that demand proper installation. The presentation will also include, but is not limited to, backflow protection, pipe color and identification, and the relevant code provisions pertaining to these systems. This presentation will identify municipal water utility typical reclaimed water quality, the road to achieving that quality and utility concerns if alternate waters of lesser quality are confused by the consumer with reclaimed water.

10:45 a.m. — Rainwater Harvesting

Presented by E.W. Bob Boulware

This presentation will provide an overview of rainwater catchment design and installation. Discussed during this presentation will be the performance objectives that rainwater catchment systems need to meet in order to maintain health and safety and proper functionality. Participants will also learn about the proper design and installation requirements for these systems and their components. Some of the requirements that will be discussed are those that govern cisterns, pumping, filtration and piping.

1:45 p.m. — Solar Energy Seminar

Presented by Eric Makela

This presentation will focus primarily on the residential installation of solar hot water heating, with reference to commercial differentials. Specifically, the presentation will include an overview of solar system types and elements, as well as solar hot water systems and their relationship to the Uniform Plumbing Code. This presentation will also include discussion of the pertinent provisions of the Uniform Solar Energy Code.

3:30 p.m. — 2009 UPC Chapter 16 Nonpotable Water Reuse Systems

Presented by Phil Campbell and Scott Hamilton

This presentation will provide an overview of the provisions in 2009 UPC Chapter 16 regarding Gray Water. Also discussed will be the significant changes in this Chapter from the previous code as this chapter has undergone extensive revisions.

Register Online: <https://forms.iapmo.org/conference2009/register.aspx>

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Video Spotlight

WaterSense Specification Development

Roy Sieber, ERG (WaterSense)

WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), helps consumers make informed purchasing decisions by labeling products that are certified to meet EPA criteria for water efficiency and performance.

At what point is a product category ready to be considered for the WaterSense label? In this session, Roy explores the answer to this question and discusses the five basic research needs required to move forward with WaterSense specification development. He also presents product specific case studies showcasing how WaterSense encourages innovation and helps define and develop performance criteria to ensure water savings and product performance.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmLw9zWriDM>

Join us at next year's Emerging Technology Symposium.

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IAPMO'S 80TH ANNUAL EDUCATION & BUSINESS CONFERENCE
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IAPMO Green Seminars:

| Seminar | Length | Credits |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| GreenSpeak | 3 hours | 0.3 CEUs |
| Intro to Green Plumbing and Mechanical Concepts | 1 day | 0.8 CEUs |
| Intro to Green Plumbing Concepts | 1/2 day | 0.4 CEUs |
| Intro to Green Mechanical Concepts | 1/2 day | 0.4 CEUs |
| 2009 UPC Chapter 16, Nonpotable Water Reuse Systems | 1.5 hours | 0.15 CEUs |
| LEED® for Contractors | 4 hours | 0.4 CEUs |
| Building Rating Systems - A Comparative Analysis | 4 hours | 0.4 CEUs |

For more information about IAPMO's Green Seminars, [download the brochure](#), visit www.iapmo.org/Pages/CareerServices.aspx, or email careerservices@iapmo.org

Events Calendar:

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

EPA WaterSense Pre-Rinse Spray Valves Research Meeting
Sept. 30, 2009
www2.gotomeeting.com/register

EPA WaterSense CI Stakeholder Meeting
October 5, 2009
South Point Hotel
Las Vegas, NV
www.epa.gov/watersense

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

IAPMO Green Technical Committee Meeting
Nov. 17-19, 2009
Chicago, IL
www.iapmo.org

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