Fact Sheet



ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a building technology society with 52,000 members worldwide. The Society and its members focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality and sustainability within the industry. Through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.





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Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today

ASHRAE's Sustainable Commitment: Even without rising energy prices, the threat of global warming, and a rapid decrease in our nonrenewable resources, creating sustainable built environments would be the responsible way to preserve our planet's resources for future generations. With that in mind, ASHRAE has pledged to become a leader in sustainability by increasing the stringency of the U.S. national building energy code (ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1) by some 30% in the 2010 version of the standard, developing guidance that will lead to net-zero-energy buildings by 2030, and publishing the nation's first standard for the design of high-performance green buildings.

Currently, buildings are responsible for 40% of all energy consumption. Sustainable buildings achieve high performance over the full life-cycle in the areas of consumption, atmospheric emissions, discharge of harmful liquid effluents and solid wastes, negative impacts on site ecosystems, and quality of indoor environment. ASHRAE is working to create a world with net-zero-energy buildings that consume annually only the energy provided by on-site renewable energy sources.

The ASHRAE Headquarters – Walking the Talk: ASHRAE renovated its Headquarters in Atlanta as a "sustainability showcase," featuring state-of-the-art HVAC&R systems and other sustainability measures. The building incorporates ASHRAE technology and demonstrates its strong commitment to sustainability. www.ashrae.org/building.

Building Energy Quotient: ASHRAE has developed a building energy labeling program to provide motivation for reducing energy use in commercial buildings by expressing the energy performance of buildings in a tangible way. The ASHRAE labeling program differs from existing labeling programs in that it focuses solely on energy use. ASHRAE's label will help building owners differentiate their product in a technically sound manner while providing tenants with the tools they need to select energy-efficient spaces. More information can be found at www.buildingeq.com.

Green Building Standard: Standard 189.1, Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, is the first high-performance green building standard in the United States. Developed by ASHRAE, the Illuminating Engineering Society and the U.S. Green Building Council and first published in 2010, the standard will serve as a benchmark for sustainable buildings. More information can be found at www. ashrae.org/greenstandard. Standard 189.1 also serves as jurisdictional compliance option to the International Green Construction Code authored by the International Code Council, ASTM International and the American Institute of Architects.

Market Transformation – Advanced Energy Design Guides: ASHRAE and several building organization partners haven written a series of guides that provide 30 percent energy savings over minimum building codes. The groups also have published the first in a series to provide 50 percent savings. The books, available for free download at www.ashrae. org/freeaedg, address small office buildings, small retail buildings, K-12 schools, self-storage units and warehouses, small hospitals and health care facilities and highway lodging. There are some 350,000 copies of the guide in circulation.

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High Performing Buildings Magazine: ASHRAE launched High Performing Buildings, a quarterly magazine created to help decision-makers in the building community learn about the latest developments in innovative technologies and energy-efficient design and operation. Targeted at building owners, facility managers, architects and engineers, High Performing Buildings features working case studies of exemplary buildings developed by leading practitioners in the sustainability movement. To subscribe for free, visit www.hpbmagazine. org.

Professional Certification: ASHRAE's certification programs are developed by industry practitioners who understand the knowledge and experience that are expected for superior building design and system operation. Earning an ASHRAE certification assures employers and clients that the certificant has mastered the body of knowledge associated with the respective field. More information on ASHRAE's certification programs is available at www. ashrae.org/certification.

Government Affairs: ASHRAE continues its efforts aimed at producing high-performance buildings through interaction with policymakers at all levels of government, both in the U.S. and internationally. ASHRAE led the formation of several building community consortia in response to activities at the U.S. Department of Energy and was instrumental in launching the High-Performance Building Caucus to provide support to U.S. Congress on buildings issues. The Washington, DC office's current priority areas include: energy efficiency; indoor environmental quality; water conservation; and encouraging students to enter the engineering profession through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition: To provide key decision makers with the technical information necessary to encourage development of high-performance buildings, ASHRAE led the formation of the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus and the private sector coalition supporting the caucus. More details on the caucus and the coalition are available at www.hpbccc.org.