

## IEA Urges Action by Policymakers To Increase Energy Efficiency

**PARIS**—A global effort to deploy the right energy-efficiency policies could, on its own, see greenhouse gas emissions peak quickly and then fall even as the global economy doubles between now and 2040, the International Energy Agency states in its Energy Efficiency 2018 annual report. Such effort requires “an immediate step up” in action by the world’s policymakers.

“The impact of efficiency policies has been significant over the last decades. Globally, efficiency gains since 2000 prevented 12% more energy use than would have otherwise been the case in 2017,” the report states. “Energy efficiency is a major driver for uncoupling energy consumption from economic development.”

The positive impact of efficiency policies has been overwhelmed by fast-growing economic activities in emerging countries that boost energy demand, according to the report. Global energy demand rose

by nearly 2% in 2017. This was the fastest rise this decade, driven by economic growth and changes in consumer behavior, the IEA said.

However, the IEA report examines “the opportunities for improving global energy efficiency to 2040, and finds that efficiency gains alone could allow the world to extract twice as much economic value from the energy it uses compared to today.”

“The report sets out a vision for 2040 with 60% more building space and 20% more people, and double global GDP, while using only marginally more energy than today and cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 12%. Delivering this vision requires an immediate step up in policy action,” the IEA report states.

Doing so would reduce energy bills for consumers by more than \$500 billion per year, lower energy imports and cut air pollution in cities—a key issue for many countries, the IEA reports. ■

## Daikin Launches Inverter System

**LAS VEGAS**—Daikin North America launched its Daikin Fit System, billing it as the “future of condensing units for residential applications” at a Sept. 25 event.

A smart HVAC system with matching condenser, controls, gas furnace and evaporator coil, the system’s cabinet designs are smaller, lighter and quieter. The system is engineered with quiet inverter compressors with side discharge cabinet designs. It blends ductless-style condensing units’ features and performance with the ability to connect to

traditional ducted systems, according to Daikin.

The new Daikin Fit Inverter system’s low sound feature addresses an industry challenge, according to Kelly Hearnberger, vice president, residential products at Daikin North America. The system is smaller than other models, which results in installation and service benefits in zero lot-line homes, condominiums and rooftop terraces. The system requires 4 in. (102 mm) of clearance.

Daikin Fit provides up to 18-SEER efficiencies with the compressor. ■



### Uponor Opens New Plant in Minnesota

**HUTCHINSON, MINN.**—Uponor North America celebrated the grand opening of its newest expansion, a 237,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (22 018 m<sup>2</sup>) facility located in Hutchinson, Minn. The plant was completed earlier this year, six months ahead of schedule, and has already produced more than 30 million ft (9.1 million m) of PEX tubing, while adding more than 40 jobs in the community. ■

### ‘Smart’ AC System Cleans Indoor Air

**SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**—Engineers at the University of Utah found operating AC systems via a setting in which they turned on and off based on temperature and air quality cleaned the air almost as well as if the HVAC fan were operating all day, but it used 58% less energy. However, when heating and cooling systems operate normally without regards to air quality, the air was 31% dirtier than with the automatic setting. ■

### Refrigerant Approved For Ice Rinks

**MORRIS PLAINS, N.J.**—Honeywell announced that its Solstice® N40 (R-448A) refrigerant has been listed as acceptable by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use in retrofits in ice rinks in the United States. ■

### Facilities Use Seawater Air Conditioning

**HONOLULU**—The Department of Accounting and General Services and Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning have finalized an agreement to air condition eight state facilities in downtown Honolulu with water largely chilled by the ocean. ■