

AHRI Chairman Urges Members to Stay Involved In Regulatory Processes

MIAMI—2018 AHRI Board Chairman Chris Peel challenged members at the 2017 Annual Meeting in November to commit to continued involvement in the federal and state legislative and regulatory processes, while also supporting AHRI's efforts to make progress in workforce development.

Peel, president and COO of Rheem Manufacturing, said he has challenged AHRI staff to “take advantage of what I believe is a unique ‘window of opportunity’ with the current administration to make significant progress in our advocacy and certification efforts.”

Staff alone cannot accomplish what needs to be done, so Peel also challenged members to “take the initiative and proactively work together, not only with the DOE, but with the EPA, energy advocates and others to see that changes actually take place.” He encouraged members to take advantage of established events such as the State Summit (to be held in March in Boston) and the National Advocacy Conference (to be held in June in Washington), and also of AHRI staff’s ability

to arrange meetings for members with state and federal representatives.

“We cannot achieve these goals without your engagement in the process. We also need to speak with one voice as an industry... In fact, this is why our

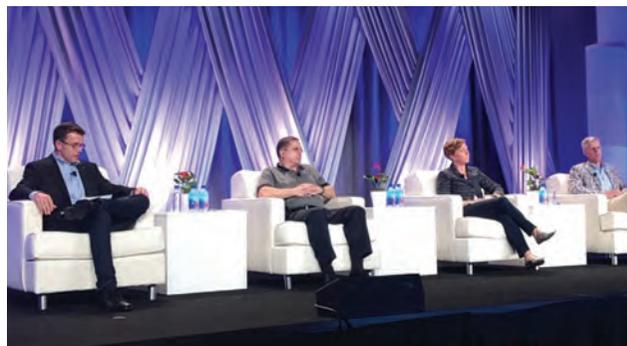


AHRI's Alison Andrews, manager, Business Process Improvement, hosts a NextGen Directory demo at the 2017 Annual Meeting. The new directory will make searches easier and improve security, while supporting regulatory reporting. An app will allow access in the field. The new directory launches Jan. 8.

association exists,” Peel said. “Whether you work for a small, midsize or large business, you have the same voice with your elected officials,” he added.

A major topic of discussion during the meeting was the next generation of AHRI's Directory of Certified Product Performance, scheduled to go live on Jan. 8.

The directory hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors each month, with an average of more than



Pictured during AHRI's Opening Policy Information session are (from left) Stephen Yurek, president and CEO; Karim Amrane, chief technical adviser; Caroline Davidson-Hood, general counsel; and Joe Trauger, senior vice president, Policy and Government Relations.

1.7 million certificates downloaded every year. The directory is a valued tool for the industry, with contractors and distributors relying heavily on it to identify AHRI Certified products and equipment and to download Certificates of Certified Performance for their customers. To improve the user experience, AHRI initiated a massive upgrade to the directory.

In addition to improved security benefits and ease of use for manufacturers, AHRI said several improvements are on tap for users. Among the many issues end users report with the current directory, unnecessarily complicated, non-intuitive search functions rank near the top. The new directory will include:

- Universal search across all programs;
- Smart quick search with auto suggestions;
- Advanced detailed search;
- Multilingual support in English, Chinese,

3 Priorities of AHRI

MIAMI—In addressing the members, AHRI Board Chairman Chris Peel focused on the three priorities of AHRI:

1. Leveraging its relationship with the U.S. Department of Energy for regulatory predictability;
2. Continue to enhance certification; and
3. Workforce and development efforts.

Arabic, Spanish, Korean and French;

- Search on discontinued and obsolete models; and
- Search for Energy Star and CEE qualified products.

In addition, a mobile app for IOS and Android platforms will enable easy access to the Directory from the field.

Learn more at www.ahrinet.org/Certification/NextGen-Directory.aspx. ■

EPA Increases Charge Limits For Hydrocarbon Refrigerants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved an increase in the charge limits of hydrocarbon refrigerants in new household refrigerators and freezers to 150 grams (5.3 ounces) from 57 grams (2.01 ounces), the amount allowed under the previous standard. The rule covers isobutane, propane and R-441A to be used in new household refrigerators, freezers and combination refrigerators and freezers. ■

Census Data Gives Snapshot of Home AC Market

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Census Bureau recently published its annual Survey of Construction (SOC), which provides data on characteristics of new homes started,

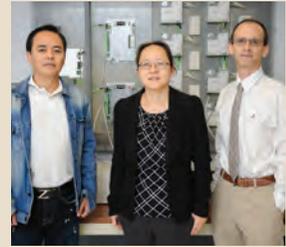
including air-conditioning and heating systems. In 2016, 93.5% of new single-family homes started included a central air-conditioning system, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), which crunched the data to trace changes between 2000 and 2016. The share of new homes with a forced air system decreased from 71% in 2000 to 57% in 2016, while air or ground heat pump systems increased from 23% in 2000 to 41% in 2016. ■

CIBSE Launches Special Interest Group

LONDON—CIBSE has launched the HVAC Systems Group, intended to support and encourage the efficient design, installation and operation of HVAC systems. CIBSE says the new group “will provide a ready means for sharing of new developments and

Research: How Occupancy Sensors Can Reduce HVAC Energy Use

TUSCALOOSA, ALA.—Researchers at the University of Alabama are studying how new and improved motion sensors could help reduce energy used for HVAC systems. The researchers have devised a program that uses sensors that sense when a certain number of people are in a room or building and automatically adjusts the air to accommodate that crowd.



(From left) Researchers Dr. Fei Hu, Dr. Zheng O'Neill and Dr. Charles O'Neill.

According to Zheng O'Neill, Ph.D., Member ASHRAE, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering who is leading the project, “When we complete the work, we should be able to say that if we use this kind of sensor-driven control strategy, we can achieve HVAC energy savings of at least 30%.” ■

experience in the effective design and operation of low carbon [HVAC] systems.” The group will also identify knowledge gaps in the design and operation of HVAC systems to promote research in these areas in addition to con-

tributing to the development of new publications and the maintenance of existing guidance. Antony R. (Tony) Day, executive director of the International Energy Research Centre, will chair the new group. ■

Google’s ‘Landscape’ Could Herald Lower, Longer Built Environment

LONDON—When complete, Google’s new London headquarters will be longer than the Shard—the tallest skyscraper in the UK—is tall. The Shard is 1,016 ft (310 m) tall. Google’s London headquarters is 1,082 ft (330 m) long. The building’s architects, Bjarke Ingels Group and Heatherwick Studios, call it a “landscape.” According to an article in *Business Insider*, while Google’s building is one of the first landscapers in the world, it likely won’t be the last. The article says trends such as corporate buildings leaving dense city centers; limiting build-



A rendering of Google’s new London headquarters.

ing heights to accommodate drones; and protecting buildings from severe weather will result in a marked flattening of the built environment. ■