

ASHRAE's Public Policy Priorities – SY 2020-2021

- **Support Sustainable Building Practices to Mitigate Climate Change**

Buildings and their heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) systems directly and indirectly contribute to GHG emissions. Buildings are responsible for more than 35% of global final energy use and nearly 40% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. ASHRAE supports energy efficient building design practices, including net zero energy buildings, and the use of sustainable technologies on a global basis to help reduce GHG emissions. In addition to government adoption of robust energy standards such as ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019, 90.2-2018 and 90.4-2019 and the 2018 IgCC for new construction, ASHRAE supports policies and programs to improve the energy performance of existing buildings, including through adoption of ASHRAE Standard 100-2018 and building benchmarking and labeling requirements.

- **Promote Healthy Buildings and Reduce Indoor Environmental Risks**

Supporting the health and well-being of building occupants is the most important element of the indoor environment. Indoor air quality and environmental health must extend beyond simple “acceptable” conditions to the optimization of air quality, thermal comfort, ventilation, filtration, lighting and acoustics, and the influence of these on productivity, learning and health. ASHRAE has included Indoor Environmental Quality as an initiative in its 2019-2024 Strategic Plan.

Importantly, ASHRAE supports policies that reduce the risk of disease transmission through building systems, including HVAC and water systems. To reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in building systems, ASHRAE has assembled an extensive library of resources, including guidance documents, webinars, training sessions, and standards. ASHRAE is happy to share its technical expertise to policy makers and elected officials to help fight this pandemic. ASHRAE has already supported several government entities in providing and disseminating technical resources, including the U.S. Department of Energy, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the International Energy Administration.

- **Advance Design and Construction of Resilient Buildings and Communities**

Resiliency is an increasingly important societal, economic, and technical issue that will have major impact on how buildings are designed, renovated and operated. ASHRAE has included Resilient Buildings and Communities as an initiative in its 2019-2024 Strategic Plan.

ASHRAE must establish a leadership role in advancing new practice paradigms and raising awareness about the importance of resilient buildings and communities. ASHRAE is committed to developing, publishing and maintaining a Resilient Building/Community Standard, accompanying Design Guide(s) and design tools, and educational programs. Additionally, it is critical that policy makers understand that building energy codes and standards are an essential element of resilient buildings.

- Ensure the Orderly and Safe Phasedown of High-GWP HFC Refrigerants
ASHRAE supports the global phasedown of the production and consumption of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) refrigerants that have high-Global Warming Potential (GWP), including through legislation, regulations, and policy. As governments commit to using lower GWP refrigerants, ASHRAE wants to ensure the safe application of these refrigerants, including through the adoption of ASHRAE Standard 15-2019, *Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems*, and Standard 34-2019, *Designation and Classification of Refrigerants*, and continued support for the ASHRAE Position Document on Refrigerants and their Responsible Use.
- Support Adoption of the Latest Edition of ASHRAE's Energy Standards into Building Codes
ASHRAE has an opportunity to make significant progress with the adoption of more recent versions of Standard 90.1 Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, which has provided the minimum requirements for the energy-efficient design in the United States for over 40 years. Although its adoption in the U.S. by States is required by the Energy Conservation and Production Act (ECPA), most States have not adopted the 2016 version of the standard. ASHRAE will increase advocacy efforts to adopt the latest version of 90.1, as well as advocate for effective enforcement of energy efficiency codes and standards. We will also prioritize the adoption of ASHRAE Standard 90.2 for residential energy performance requirements and Standard 90.4 for energy performance of data centers.

Additionally, ASHRAE will continue to encourage the adoption of energy efficiency standards around the world. Standard 90.1 has already been adopted in Brazil while ASHRAE standard 90.2 has been adopted by Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- Strengthen the HVACR Workforce
The HVACR industry is facing a serious shortage of skilled employees, which impacts ASHRAE's ability to accomplish any of its other Public Policy Priorities. ASHRAE supports policies that strengthen science, technology, engineering and math education at all levels; better align education and training programs with building design necessities; require quality certification programs that deliver better building performance; and promote and make available technical and career training in the HVACR industry.