



UNEP ASHRAE Connect

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

UNEP ASHRAE Connect aims to establish focal points of communication between ASHRAE chapters and National Ozone Units in the developing world to leverage resources in support of RAC initiatives undertaken by UNEP's OzonAction Regional Networks. Support is considered only after an NOU submits a formal, detailed request using the agreed request form/template; the submission is reviewed before any type and scope of support is confirmed.

Is ASHRAE funded by government?	No. ASHRAE is funded by individuals in the HVAC&R industry who pay annual dues. ASHRAE supports resource development through sale of publications and fees for training. ASHRAE also funds non-proprietary research with contributions by members and cost sharing with companies, governments or other associations. While ASHRAE standards are often adopted by governments, ASHRAE remains an independent technical society.
Do governments fund ASHRAE standards?	No. ASHRAE standards are developed by volunteer committees structured to achieve balance and broad technical input. Governments around the world may adopt ASHRAE standards based upon their acceptance by industry and their non-proprietary guidance.
What type of support can ASHRAE provide or not provide?	ASHRAE CAN assist NOUs by providing technical guidance, workforce development, access to educational opportunities and job boards, and public outreach, and based on a tiered support to: Tier A (knowledge exchange) Tier B (technical assistance) Tier C (strategic collaboration). ASHRAE CANNOT provide financial support, promote commercial products or services, make employment placements, nor certify work or skill level.
Is there a cost to use UNEP ASHRAE Connect?	No. Participation by ASHRAE members and chapters in the initiative is made voluntarily to assist developing countries adopt sustainable RAC technologies, apply them safely, and comply with the Montreal Protocol. Support is considered only after an NOU submits a formal, detailed request using the agreed request form/template; the submission is reviewed before any type and scope of support is confirmed by ASHRAE.

Are ASHRAE volunteers participating in Connect eligible to receive financial support for travel and/or time?	Generally, funds for travel or other expenses are not offered to ASHRAE volunteers participating in Connect. For example, requests for Knowledge Exchange, such as speaking at conferences or participating in training, would not be financially supported by ASHRAE or UNEP OzonAction. If, however, a request from an NOU would benefit from ongoing involvement by ASHRAE volunteers or development of technical content would benefit other NOUs, financial support might be considered. NOUs should consult with their Regional Network Coordinator.
Does ASHRAE offer a certification program?	Yes, ASHRAE certifies individuals for their understanding of bodies of knowledge applying engineering disciplines, such as HVAC Design, Building Commissioning, and Building Energy Modeling. ASHRAE does not offer hands-on technician certification.
Who can join ASHRAE?	Any individual with an interest in HVAC&R technology can join ASHRAE. ASHRAE also offers student memberships.
Does ASHRAE function at a national level?	ASHRAE operates at a global level and at regional and local levels. ASHRAE's local level organization is through chapters. The geographic area can correspond to a country or to a portion of a country. Chapters can be formed wherever there is an sufficient number of ASHRAE members who wish to organize local activity.
What is required to form an ASHRAE chapter?	A certain number of ASHRAE members in a geographic area (often around 25–50) is needed to justify forming a chapter. Chapters can cover a geographic area such as a country, can include areas in several countries, or there be several chapters within a country.
What is the process to form a chapter?	Members petition the Society to form a chapter. ASHRAE provides guidance documents to create the needed infrastructure if the minimum membership requirements are met.
Is there an ASHRAE presence that can be created when there are less than what is required to form a chapter?	If there are as few as 10 to 15 members in a distinct geographic area, those members can create a section of an ASHRAE chapter. Sections are subgroups that operate under the umbrella of a parent chapter. This is ideal for areas with member interest but not quite enough to justify a full chapter.
What is the advantage of an ASHRAE chapter or section?	Chapters and their sections organize monthly meetings with technical speakers and various educational activities throughout the year. This helps individual practitioners to advance their understanding of new technologies. Chapters and their sections also interact with local institutions, such as universities and technical institutes, local governments, and pre-college schools to promote the industry and create awareness of the technology.
Does ASHRAE have student branches?	Yes, ASHRAE also supports 240 student branches in more than 60 countries. Student branches are affiliated with ASHRAE chapters.
Is ASHRAE global?	ASHRAE has chapters in more than 60 countries. ASHRAE also facilitates an alliance of national associations from 50 nations.
Do ASHRAE chapters help create national industry associations for technicians or manufacturers that align with ASHRAE standards and practices.	Members are reserved to individuals. For example, they can be engineers, operators, instructors, sales engineers, installers, researchers, or government officials. ASHRAE chapters often interact with national associations for manufacturers or contracting companies, but ASHRAE does not form national associations for manufacturers or contracting companies.

Where can I learn about ASHRAE's activities?	Visit www.ashrae.org . ASHRAE sponsors research, writes standards, issues guidelines, develops position statements, and has more than 100 committees focused on specific aspects of HVAC&R technology.
Can ASHRAE support regional training even without sufficient members for a local chapter?	Yes. ASHRAE organizes conferences and can organize training around the world based on demand. ASHRAE also has on-demand, web-based training, and virtual learning opportunities.
Do ASHRAE and UNEP OzonAction Partner on activities?	<p>ASHRAE and UNEP OzonAction have a longstanding collaboration dating to 2007. They implement a biannual work plan. The key aspects of the partnership are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Cooperation to develop training and provide guidance on environmentally acceptable refrigerant choices. • Support for National Ozone Units to make informed decisions about low-GWP technologies and alternatives to ozone-depleting substances. • Co-hosting of Lower-GWP Awards to recognize sustainable refrigeration and air-conditioning projects in developing countries. • Promotion of workforce development initiatives like the International Network of Women in Cooling (INWIC). <p>This partnership aligns closely with the goals of the Montreal Protocol and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, making it a cornerstone of global HVAC&R sustainability efforts. Information about the partnership and jointly developed tools are available at: www.ashrae.org/ashrae-unep-portal.</p>

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Tools developed through the ASHRAE UNEP Partnership available at:
www.ashrae.org/ashrae-unep-portal.