

**THE RESEARCH & TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES
REPORT**

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FOR TC/TG/MTG/SSPC CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS & RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

2026 WINTER MEETING

The Winter meetings of the Research Administration Committee (RAC), Technical Activities Committee (TAC), Technology Council, and the Board of Directors were recently completed with the results below. This report also includes information for RAC's and TAC's upcoming Spring & Annual meeting.

NEW PROJECTS AWARDED

The following four projects were approved for award in Las Vegas as follows:

- **0001-PRP**, “*Update of 2 ASHRAE Publications: Application of Manufacturers’ Sound Data, @1998, and Practical Guide to Noise and Vibration Control, © 1991, © 2005*”; Responsible Committee: TC 2.6 Sound & Vibration Co-Sponsors: None Co-funding: None; Estimated Duration: 12 months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$110,034 Contractor: Stantec Consulting Inc.
- **1882-TRP**, *Procedure for Estimating Occupied Space Sound Levels in the Application of UFAD Air Terminals and Air Outlets*”; Responsible Committee: TC 2.6 Sound & Vibration; Co-Sponsors: TC 5.3 Room Air Distribution; Co-funding: None; Estimated Duration: 18 Months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$120,669 Contractor: University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
- **1959-TRP**, “*Update People Load Data for Cooling Load calculations*”; Responsible Committee: TC 4.1 Load Calculations Data and Procedures; Co-Sponsors: None; Estimated Duration: 15 Months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$55,000 Contractor: University of Hong Kong.
- **1972-TRP**, “*Data Center Direct-to-Chip Liquid Cooling Resiliency – Failure Modes and IT Throttling Impacts; Liquid Cooling Energy Use Metrics and Modeling*”; Responsible Committee: TC 9.09, Mission Critical Facilities, Data Centers, Technology Spaces and Electronic Equipment; Co-Sponsors: TC 4.10 Indoor Environmental Modeling & TC 7.6 Building Energy Performance; Estimated Duration: 36 Months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$240,400 Contractor: University of Pretoria.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR BID IN SPRING 2025

A portion of the following eleven tentative research projects (TRPs) could potentially be released for bid or re-bid this Spring if ready by May 15th:

Approved Work Statements Available for Possible Bid in Spring 2026 if ready:

- **1886-TRP-R**, “*Kinetic and Mechanistic Study of the Breakdown and Interactions of HFO Refrigerants*”; Responsible Committee: **TC 3.02** (Refrigerant System Chemistry and Contaminant Control); Co-Sponsors: **None**; Co-funding: None; Recommended Contractor: TBD; Estimated Duration: 12 months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$120k Status: **No bids received in Fall 2025. Expand bidders list and can rebid in Spring 2026**
- **1939-TRP-C**, “*A Tool to Evaluate Weather Inputs for Robust Building Performance Analysis and Design*”; Responsible Committee: **TC 4.02** (Climatic Design Information); Co-Sponsors: **TC 2.05** (Global Climate Change); Co-funding: **None**; Recommended Contractor: TBD; Estimated Duration: 30 months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$225k Status: **Clear RAC Approval conditions with RL so project can bid.**
- **1941-TRP-C**, “*Experimental Program to Update the ASHRAE Duct Fitting Database (DFDB)*”;

Responsible Committee: **TC 5.02**, (Duct Design); Co-Sponsors: **None**, Co-funding: None; Recommended Contractor: TBD; Estimated Duration: 24 months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$180k Status: **Expand bidders list and clear RAC Approval conditions with RL so project can bid in Spring 2026.**

- **1955-TRP-C**, “Healthcare Anteroom Ventilation” Responsible Committee: **TC 9.06** (Healthcare Facilities), Co-Sponsors: **SSPC 170** (Ventilation of Healthcare Facilities); Co-funding: None; Recommended Contractor: TBD; Estimated Duration: 24 months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$250k-300k Status: **Clear RAC Approval conditions with RL so project can bid in Spring 2026.**
- **1960-TRP-C**, “Operating cost, energy, and carbon saving benefits of pre-cooling in district energy systems”; Responsible Committee: **TC 6.02** (District Energy); Co-Sponsors: **TC 6.09** (Thermal Energy Storage) ; Co-funding: None; Recommended Contractor: TBD; Estimated Duration: 24 months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$222k Status: **Clear RAC Approval conditions with RL so project can bid in Spring 2026.**
- **1999-TRP-C**, “Updating Climatic Design Conditions for the 2029 ASHRAE Handbook – Fundamentals and ASHRAE Standard 169”; Responsible Committee: **TC 4.02** (Climatic Design Information); Co-Sponsors: **TC 4.01** (Load Calculation Data and Procedures); Co-funding: None; Recommended Contractor: TBD; Estimated Duration: 24 months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$200k Status: **Clear RAC Approval conditions with RL so project can bid in Spring 2026.**
- **2000-TRP-C**, “Develop Cost and Performance Indexes to Evaluate Effectiveness of Virtual Airflow Sensors in HVAC Applications”; Responsible Committee: **TC 7.05** (Smart Building Systems); Co-Sponsors: **None**; Co-funding: None; Recommended Contractor: TBD; Estimated Duration: 24 months; Cost to ASHRAE: \$275k Status: **Clear RAC Approval conditions with RL so project can bid in Spring 2026.**

WORK STATEMENTS REVIEWED AND APPROVED OR RETURNED WITH COMMENTS

A total of **three** work statements were submitted by the TCs for review at the RAC winter meeting. None were accepted-is, one was conditionally accepted, and two were returned with comments. See below for the status of each project after this review.

Conditionally Approved Work Statements:

1939-WS, A tool to evaluate weather inputs for robust building performance analysis and design

Work Statements Returned with Comments:

1976-WS, Ozone Removal Efficiency and Generation of Byproducts on VOC-Loaded Gas-Phase Air Cleaning Devices
2008-WS, Effect of Test Concentration and Chemical Composition on Air Cleaner Effectiveness Values in Chamber Testing

A revised work statement for any of the returned projects listed above can be submitted to the MORTS on or before March 15, 2026 to be considered at RAC’s Spring meeting or on or before May 15, 2026 in order to be considered at RAC’s Annual meeting. If a work statement can’t be revised that quickly, the next scheduled deadline for RAC consideration is August 15, 2026.

WORK STATEMENTS PREVIOUSLY RETURNED TO TCs

TC/TGs should work with their Research Liaison to respond to written comments on the work statement provided by RAC via letter and revise the work statement appropriately. Please note that topics will be dropped from this plan if the work statement is not approved for bid after four years on the Research Implementation plan.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH TOPIC ACCEPTANCE REQUESTS (RTARs)

RAC reviewed **three** RTARs at the Winter 2026 meeting. The current RTAR form can be found on the “Research” page of the ASHRAE website at www.ashrae.org/research

Conditionally Approved RTARs:

1983-RTAR, Condensation Heat Transfer of Novel Low GWP Refrigerants on Enhanced Tube Bundles Including Effects

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of Non-Condensables

RTARs Returned with Comments:

2007-RTAR, Effective Dispersal Volume Dynamic Reaching Height for Flammable Refrigerant Releases

2011-RTAR, Research for the Development of an ASHRAE Building EQ (BEQ) API for Integration with DOE's BETTER and QBAT Web Service Tools

The next submission date for RTARs and WSs is March 15, 2026. The standing RAC submission dates for new and revised RTARs and WSs are as follows each year:

March 15 – RAC Spring meeting consideration in April

May 15 – RAC Annual meeting consideration in June

August 15 – RAC Fall meeting consideration in Sept. or Oct.

December 15 – RAC Winter meeting consideration in January/February

UNSOLICITED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Three unsolicited research proposals (URP) were submitted for review at the RAC Winter meeting. **One** was accepted for TC review and two are still being evaluated:

Sent to TC for evaluation:

2002-URP, Engineering Equations for Moist Air Transport Properties Research - Matthias Kunick

RAC still evaluating:

2009-URP - Impact of an UVC-based air purifier on airborne surrogates of eukaryotic viruses significant for pig and farmers' health – Caroline Duchaine, Quebec Heart and Lung Institute Research Centre

2010 -URP - *High-Sensitivity IEQ Monitoring via Air Conditioner Condensate Analysis*

SOCIETY RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Society Research Implementation Plan is now being updated following the winter meeting of RAC. New RTARs will be added, and tentative research project TRPs will be added or dropped depending upon their bid status. This change to the way the implementation plan is updated necessitated that time limits be placed on how long a topic can remain on the plan without being approved for bid. The winter updates to the plan should be in place by **April 1, 2026** or sooner and placed on www.ashrae.org/research.

DEADLINES

The following deadlines apply for the next several months. Please recognize that they are not arbitrarily set but are set to meet subsequent events. So, if you miss them, your input may be delayed for six months or in some cases, for a year. All research submissions should be sent to the Manager of Research and Technical Services (MORTS), Steve Hammerling, (morts@ashrae.net).

February 20, 2026 Meeting request portal (www.ailogistics.com/ashrae) to request meetings for Annual Meeting in Austin opens

February 25, 2026 Debate, Panel, Seminar, Forum, Workshop, and Debate Proposals Due
Conference Papers due

March 1, 2026 Austin Registration Opens

March 6, 2026 **Completed TC/TG/TRG Meeting room request web forms for 2026 Annual meeting are due at www.ailogistics.com/ashrae.** A link to the form and Annual Conference Policies & Procedures is TC web page of the ASHRAE website - www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/technical-committees.

Meeting requests must be submitted for the following reasons:

- Main/Full Committee plans to meet in-person in Austin
- Subcommittee(s) plans to meet virtually in advance of the Conference prior to June

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24th. We recommend that all subcommittees meet virtually in advance of the 2026 Annual Conference.

- Pre-determined 2-hour time blocks for committee meetings.

Lastly, **ASHRAE does NOT provide projectors**, but ASHRAE will provide a screen, table, and power for a **members' projector**, if requested on the Meeting room request web form.

March 16, 2026	<u>New or revised Work Statements and RTARs with TC vote are due to MORTS for RAC consideration at the 2026 RAC Spring meeting.</u> New RTARs are encouraged to use the ASHRAE Research Portal at https://app.ashrae-research.com Also on this date, TRPs that will bid in the spring are posted for bid on this date.
March 25, 2026	Conference Paper Accept/Revise/Reject Notifications. Extended Abstract Accept/Reject Notifications.
March 25, 2026	Revised Conference Papers Due
April 2, 2026	Debate, Panel, Seminar, Forum, Workshop Scheduling Notifications
April 7, 2026	<u>TC/TG/TRG meeting minutes from the Las Vegas meeting are posted</u> on TC website and distributed to membership by this date or sooner. Please make a special effort to meet this deadline. We have received complaints that TC minutes are typically released just prior to the next Society meeting. Members outside of your committee are interested in your committee's work.
April 22, 2026	Conference Paper Final Accept/Reject Notifications
May 15, 2026	<u>New or revised Work Statements and RTARs with TC vote are due to MORTS for RAC consideration at the 2025 RAC Annual meeting.</u> ⁶
May 15, 2026	Bids are due for all TRPs released for bid in spring 2026.
May 27, 2026	<u>TC/TG/TRG meeting agenda for the Austin meeting are posted on TC website</u> and distributed to membership. Please make a special effort to meet this deadline. We have received complaints that many TC agendas are released just prior to the TC's meeting.
May 27, 2026	Conference Paper Abstracts and Paper Session Requests Due for 2027 Winter meeting in Chicago, IL.
May 27, 2026	All PowerPoint presentations for the Austin meeting program must be uploaded to ASHRAE website by this date for review.
June 17, 2026	Conference Paper Abstract Accept/Reject Notifications for 2027 Winter meeting in Chicago sent by CEC
June 18, 2026	Website Opens for Extended Abstracts and Seminar, Workshop, Forum, Debate, and Panel Proposals for 2026 Winter meeting in Chicago, IL.
June 27, 2026	ASHRAE 2026 Annual conference begins in Austin, TX
June 30th, 2026	<u>Contractor recommendations are due to MORTS for all TRPs bid in spring 2026.</u> E-mail to ddaniel@ashrae.org
August 3, 2026	Debate, Panel, Seminar, Forum, Workshop, and Debate Proposals due for Chicago meeting.

August 15, 2026	<u>New or revised Work Statements and RTARs with TC vote are due to MORTS for RAC consideration at the 2026 RAC Fall meeting.</u>
September 2, 2026	Chicago meeting Conference Papers Due Chicago meeting Extended Abstracts due
September 23, 2026	Conference Paper Accept/Revise/Reject Notifications for 2027 Winter meeting in Chicago sent by CEC
October 2, 2026	Chicago meeting Debate, Panel, Seminar, Forum, Workshop Scheduling notifications sent by CEC
October 7, 2026	Revised Chicago meeting Conference Papers Due.
October 26, 2026	Chicago meeting Conference Paper Final Accept/Reject notifications sent by CEC.
December 28, 2026	All PowerPoint presentations for the Chicago meeting must be uploaded to ASHRAE website by this date for review.
January 23, 2027	ASHRAE 2027 winter conference begins in Chicago, IL

OTHER NEWS:

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 2025-2026 Homer Addams Award

The Homer Addams Award is intended for a graduate student that worked on an ASHRAE research project in the past 2 years and lead authored a technical paper on the project results. There was not a recipient selected this year. Please consider nominating for next year. The award includes a \$5,000 honorarium payment and the submission deadline for nominations each year is December 15th. For more information on this award, please go to the research page of the ASHRAE Website at www.ashrae/research.

2. 2026 Service to ASHRAE Research Award Recipient – Jeff Haberl and Raymond Rite

Jeff Haberl and Raymond Rite were presented to the Service to ASHRAE Research Award at the 2026 Winter Meeting in Las Vegas. Mr. Haberl was nominated by TCs 4.7 and 7.6 and Mr. Rite was nominated by TCs 1.3, 8.4, 8.5 and 8.11.
RAC approved changes to the award criteria to allow multiple awards per year if candidates get 20 points. Information is available at www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/research/research-grants-awards. The deadline for nominations is September 1st.

3. 2025-2026 George Hightower Award Recipient – Pratik Deokar for work on TC 1.3

The award recognizes contributions to the activities of ASHRAE Technical Committee including contributions to the handbook and program during the past four years. Dr. Deokar will be invited to receive this award at the Plenary Awards session in Austin.

4. 2025-2026 New Investigator Award Recipient – Dr. Jun Li

There were 12 nominations and Dr. Jung Li with the University of Minnesota was selected as the recipient. The ASHRAE New Investigator Award (NIA) assists new university faculty members to develop research capabilities in HVAC&R related fields. The award includes a \$125,000 award payment and the submission deadline for nominations each year is December 1st. For more information on this award, please go to the research page of the ASHRAE Website at www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/research/new-investigator-award.

5. Functional Group (FG) Title and Scope Changes Approved.

TAC did not consider any TC/TG/TRG/MTG title or scope changes in Las Vegas

6. Functional Group (FG) Mergers or Disbanding

TAC approved the disbanding of MTG.RAC (Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Plant Assessment Guide) in Las Vegas

7. CEC’s Standing Request for Future Society Meeting Program Track Suggestions

The Conferences and Expositions Committee (CEC) oversees ASHRAE’s annual and winter conferences and other specialty conferences and expositions globally. The CEC continually works to improve the conference experience for all attendees. To help keep a “pulse” on the technical issues facing professionals in the HVAC&R marketplace, and to create meetings that reach all of ASHRAE’s constituencies, the CEC seeks ideas for tracks for the 2026 and 2027 meeting conferences as well as topics for specialty conferences from TC members. Please submit your suggestions to ASHRAE Staff member Ragan McHan (rmchan@ashrae.org). You can also add your track suggestion in the “Comment” section of the TC Activity form for the as Vegas meetings.

B. REMINDERS & REQUESTS

1. Rosters Access & Distribution

Remember, the current 2025-2026 roster for your TC, TG or MTG is in effect until after the June meeting this year. The links for updating the current roster were sent out the week of January 12th, 2026. All updates are due on or before **Friday, March 6th**. In addition, each member can view all of the rosters of their committees on the ASHRAE Website by logging into the member’s only section at www.ashrae.org/myactivecommittees. Click on the "blue" roster text at the left-hand side of a committee to reveal the roster with linked contact information. The new committee rosters for Society year 2026-2027 will be created based upon the update information that each TC, TG or MTG chair provides to their Section Head and staff using the Online roster update form.

2. Option for TC Subcommittee Meetings via Conference Calls and Web Meetings

More and more TCs are taking advantage of a new Society service that allows TCs to hold subcommittee meetings by phone and/or web prior to a Society meeting. Many TCs are finding this to be a more efficient way for them to conduct subcommittee business and it also allows TC members that can’t travel to meetings on a regular basis a way to still contribute to the TC. Such a change can also eliminate potential conflicts with the TC’s program sessions at Society meetings. Please pass your conference call/web meeting/webinar requests on to the Manager of Research & Technical Services, Steve Hammerling, at shammerling@ashrae.org.

3. The Professional Development Committee (PDC) is seeking ideas for new ASHRAE Learning Institute (ALI) courses.

The on-going need is for practical courses of broad interest to be presented as face-to-face seminars or short courses, instructor-led online courses, and self-paced courses. Examples would include courses with a focus on new technologies that need to be shared, fundamentals for engineers new to the discipline, standard applications that need explanation, and courses based on new design guides. Does your TC have a potential course idea?

The objective of the ASHRAE Learning Institute (ALI) is to provide quality, authoritative and practical technical information of broad interest.

Contact Karen Murray (ASHRAE staff) at kmurray@ashrae.org with new course ideas.

4. TAC Presentation template Available for TC members to use with local Chapter

The presentation (For ASHRAE Chapter use: "Introduction to Technical Committees (PPT)") template allows TC members, without a lot of effort, to give a presentation to their local chapter on TAC and the TCs in general and to also customize a few slides with information specific to their own TC or TCs. The template is posted now on the Technical Committee page of the ASHRAE website for download - <http://www.ashrae.org/tcs>

5. ASKTAC

An email has been set up for members to ask TAC any TAC/TC related questions, comments, etc. Any questions or comments, please email - asktac@ashrae.net.

6. Make a Special Effort to welcome new Members, and Visitors to TC meeting

Potential new members for your committee have been encouraged to drop-by your meeting. As a result, please make a special effort to recognize and warmly welcome all visitors to your meeting – A TC can never have too

many willing and able volunteers.

7. New TC websites administration

Chairs and webmasters were recently sent instructions on how to access and edit TC website information. The changes are intended to make things easier to edit and administer content. Please email staff (shammerling@ashrae.org) if you have questions.

C. UPCOMING WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

1. 2026

- **ACREX India 2026** (ASHRAE Endorsed Event) – March 12-24, 2026 – Mumbai, India - www.acrex.in
- **Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium** (ASHRAE Topical Conference) – April 13-14, 2026 – Omni Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA - www.ashrae.org/2026WIA
- **Fourth ASHRAE Developing Economies Conference** (ASHRAE Topical Conference) – April 24-25, 2026 – Varanasi (Kashi), Uttar Pradesh - www.ashrae.org/developingecon2026
- **CIBSE Technical Symposium 2026** (ASHRAE Endorsed Event) March 26-27, 2026 - Loughborough University - Leicestershire, UK - www.cibse.org/whats-on/cibse-technical-symposium
- **12th International Conference on Indoor Air Quality, Ventilation, and Energy Conservation in Buildings (IAQVEC 2026)** (ASHRAE Endorsed Event) - May 18 to 22, 2026 - Los Angeles, California - <https://iaqvec2026.org/>
- **CATE 2026** (ASHRAE Endorsed Event) – May 26-29, 2026 – Tuscon, AZ - www.cate2026.org
- **Health in Buildings – HYGEIA2026** (ASHRAE Endorsed Event) – May 27-29, 2026 – Island of Kos, Greece www.ashrae.gr/hygeia2026.php
- **ISIAQ Indoor Air 2026** (ASHRAE Endorsed Event) – June 14-18, 2026 – Singapore - www.indoorair2026.org
- **ASHRAE Annual Meeting** - June 27-July 1, 2026 – Austin, TX
- **2026 ASHRAE Building Decarbonization Conference** (ASHRAE Topical Conference) – September 23-25, 2026 – Seattle, WA - www.ashrae.org/2026Decarb
- **ROOMVENT2026** (ASHRAE Endorsed Event) – September 15-18, 2026, Prague, Czech Republic - www.roomvent2026.com
- **AHR Expo Mexico** - September 29 - October 1, 2026 - Guadalajara, Mexico - www.ahrepomexico.com
- **Ninth International Conference on Energy Research and Development (ICERD-9)** (ASHRAE Topical Conference) – November 16-18, 2026 – Kuwait University City, Kuwait - www.ashrae.org/icerd9
- **Seventh International Conference on Efficient Building Design** (ASHRAE Topical Conference) – October 8-9, 2026 – Beirut, Lebanon - www.ashrae.org/beirut2026

2. 2027

- **ASHRAE Winter Meeting** - Jan. 23-27, 2027 – Chicago, IL
- **AHR Expo** - Jan. 25-27, 2027 – Chicago, IL
- **ASHRAE Annual Meeting** - June 12-16, 2027 – New Orleans, LA
- **AHR Expo Mexico** – September 21-23, 2027 – Mexico City, Mexico www.ahrepomexico.com

3. 2028

- **ASHRAE Winter Meeting** - Jan. 31-Feb. 4, 2028 – Orlando, FL
- **AHR Expo** - Feb. 7-9, 2028 – Orlando, FL
- **ASHRAE Annual Meeting** - June 24-28, 2028 – St. Louis, MO

D. UPCOMING TC AWARD NOMINATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

2026-2027 Service to ASHRAE Research Award Nomination Process and Deadline

RAC approved changes to the award criteria to allow multiple awards per year if candidates get 20 points. Information is available at www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/research/research-grants-awards. The deadline for nominations is September 1st.

2026-2027 Hightower Award Nomination Process and Deadline

Nominations for the 2026-2027 George B. Hightower Technical Achievement Award are due to your Section Head by December 1, 2026. The award recognizes outstanding technical leadership and contributions on a TC/TG/TRG during the past four years, excluding research and standards activities. Please go to the Technical Committee page of the ASHRAE website at the following link under the “Procedures and Forms...” heading: <http://www.ashrae.org/tcs>

2026-2027 New Investigator Award Recipient

The ASHRAE New Investigator Award (NIA) assists new university faculty members to develop research capabilities in HVAC&R related fields. The award includes a \$125,000 award payment and the submission deadline for nominations each year is December 1st. For more information on this award, please go to the research page of the ASHRAE Website at www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/research/new-investigator-award.

2026-2027 Homer Addams Award

The Homer Addams Award is intended for a graduate student that worked on an ASHRAE research project in the past 2 years and lead authored a technical paper on the project results. The submission deadline for nominations each year is December 15th. For more information on this award, please go to the research page of the ASHRAE Website at www.ashrae/research.

Please let me know if I can be of any other assistance.

Sincerely,
Steve Hammerling