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# ASHRAE Concludes Successful Annual Conference in Tampa

The 2023 ASHRAE Annual Conference, held in Tampa, Fla., concluded on June 28 with resounding success.

The event brought together industry leaders, researchers and professionals in the HVAC&R industry to exchange knowledge, explore advancements and foster collaboration. More than 2,050 HVAC&R industry professionals attended the five-day conference and committee meetings.

Ginger Scoggins, P.E., Fellow ASHRAE, took office as the 2023–24 ASHRAE President. During her inaugural address as president, Scoggins introduced ASHRAE's new Society Year theme, “*Challenge Accepted: Tackling the Climate Crisis*.” She highlighted the climate change migration that has taken place globally in the past 50 years and spoke about ASHRAE's commitment to providing resources and thought leadership in global building decarbonization.

“We have worked to integrate a carbon-reduction focus throughout our ASHRAE committees, councils and leadership and provide our industry with a clear indication of our commitment to this issue,” Scoggins said. “ASHRAE has accepted the challenge of our time... and we need you to join us.”

Scoggins' presidential address manuscript and presentation can be found at [ashrae.org/president](http://ashrae.org/president).

ASHRAE also announced the approval of its anticipated pathogen mitigation standard, ASHRAE Standard 241, *Control of Infectious Aerosols*. This groundbreaking standard is a major step forward in reducing the risk of infectious disease spread in buildings. It is available for sale now at [ashrae.org/241](http://ashrae.org/241).

During the President's Luncheon, ASHRAE presented a special Presidential Certificate of Honor to former White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha for his advocacy during the pandemic that led to greater White House indoor air quality investments including the release of a National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and the Clean Air in Buildings Challenge. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Jha praised ASHRAE's leadership through the development of Standard 241 to improve indoor air quality as a

critical public health intervention in controlling the spread of infectious disease.

“This effort to try to improve indoor air quality and reduce the burden of respiratory pathogens is something we have talked about at the White House—a lot of experts have been talking about it,” Jha said. “Talking is important, but what ASHRAE did over the last six months in building out Standard 241, that just got approved, fundamentally changes the game. It is one of the most important public health interventions I have seen in years, if not decades. It is really heartening to see this organization take a central role in tackling the biggest challenges facing human health in the U.S. and around the world.”

During the plenary session, Jeff Littleton, ASHRAE Executive Vice President and Secretary, reported on the Society's current initiatives, and in his farewell address, outgoing 2022–23 ASHRAE President Farooq Mehboob reflected on his presidential year and the accomplishments realized through the 2022–23 Society theme, “*Securing Our Future*.”

“I reminded you that the future does not belong to those who sit and watch, but instead we must seek it, create it and secure it. I have been amazed by the dedication of our volunteers and staff who have tirelessly worked to move our society forward and secure its future,” Mehboob said.

In addition to tours, award recognitions and social events, the conference featured 90 sessions, covering a wide spectrum of topics including energy-efficient design strategies, renewable technologies and building decarbonization. The top technical session was the *ASHRAE Building Decarbonization Update*.

ASHRAE Learning Institute (ALI) offered 10 courses. New courses were as follows: *V in HVAC – Efficiently Improving IAQ Using the Ventilation Rate Procedures (Using Advanced Options for Standard 62.1-2022)*, *Introduction to Building Decarbonization, Starting the Path to Net Zero Buildings Using ASHRAE 90.1-2022* and *Fundamentals of Decarbonization Design Systems and Equipment Applications*.

The 2024 ASHRAE Winter Conference is Jan. 20–24 and the AHR Expo is Jan. 22–24 in Chicago.

# ASHRAE Awarded \$2.85 Million Grant for Energy Code Training Collaborative

ASHRAE, along with seven partnering organizations, announced that it has been awarded a \$2.85 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Building Technologies Office for Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI).

RECI is a product of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which provides an opportunity to advance the efficiency and resilience of buildings through successfully implementing updated energy codes in states and local jurisdictions throughout the United States.

The program invests \$225 million over five years, encompassing fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to “enable sustained cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes.”

The award will fund the “Energy Code Official-Training & Education Collaborative” (ECO-TEC), a project led by national model code organizations, ASHRAE and the International Code Council (ICC), with vital support from the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and agencies from the states of Oregon, Michigan, New Jersey and West Virginia.

The ECO-TEC will increase energy code enforcement activities through a multi-module training targeted to building energy code officials (ECOs).

An important component of the project will include connecting with disadvantaged and rural communities through new communication channels to expand the

workforce and provide career opportunities to those populations through training stipends.

The impacts from the project are expected to save the four state partners approximately \$18.5 million over the course of the project. This impact reflects the difference between “Standard” and “Improved” compliance and assumes that the partner states adopt the latest model energy codes.

The potential savings for 48 states (minus California and Washington) with “Improved” to “Aggressive Compliance” using their current codes range between \$12 to \$41 million in year one and \$149 to \$335 million by year five.

“Improved” to “Aggressive Compliance” would also prevent between 0.06 MMT (million metric tons) to 0.20 MMT of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in year one and 0.81 MMT to 1.77 MMT of CO<sub>2</sub> in year five.

Program effectiveness will be evaluated to ensure sustained compliance and impacts.

“The ECO-TEC will significantly contribute to advancing energy efficiency and resilience in our buildings, ultimately leading to a more sustainable future,” said Jeff Littleton, Executive Vice President, ASHRAE and Principal Investigator of the ECO-TEC. “By empowering code officials and professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills, we can effectively transform the built environment and promote sustainable practices nationwide. We are thrilled to partner on this important project.”

## ASHRAE, UNEP Announce Lower-GWP Award Selections

ASHRAE and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have announced the project selections for the 2023 ASHRAE-UNEP OzonAction Lower-GWP Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Innovation Awards. The annual international award program promotes innovative design, research and practice by recognizing people who have developed or implemented innovative technological concepts applied in developing countries to promote lower global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants through refrigeration and air-conditioning applications.

The projects in each category were selected based on delivering innovative solutions to meet refrigeration and air-conditioning needs by using lower-GWP technologies. The selection criteria included:

- Extent of need;
- Innovative aspects in transforming conventional practices; and
- Technical replicability to developing countries.

Judges also accounted for economic feasibility when possible, considering that growing acceptance of new technologies will favorably influence cost and availability.

For more information on the awards and its winners, visit [tinyurl.com/Lower-GWP-Awards](https://tinyurl.com/Lower-GWP-Awards). ■