Upcoming Events

Friday, December 9th, 2016
• Monthly meeting
• YEA Event

Wednesday, January 18th, 2017
• Monthly meeting
• ASHRAE President Tim Wentz

A message from Mr. Richard Brooks, SWFL ASHRAE President

Greetings SWFL Chapter. We are now ending the 2016 calendar year. Our first three meetings of the year were HUGE successes. We have been very fortunate to have Distinguished ASHRAE lecturers for two of our first three meetings. We are going to mix it up a bit for our December meeting. The December meeting will be a tour of the Cape Coral Brewing Company on Friday 12/9 @ 6pm. The cost of this meeting is $25, which includes the Brewery Tour, Drink Ticket, and Food Ticket. Please plan to attend.

We will start 2017 with a spectacular guest speaker, ASHRAE President Tim Wentz. Our January meeting will be on a different day to accommodate Mr. Wentz’s travel schedule. The January meeting will be held on Wednesday 01/18/2017 (this is the third Wednesday and not the second Wednesday). Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend this very exciting meeting.

This month I would like to highlight one of our chapter’s newest chairs—Mr. Kevin Galbraith. Kevin is our chapter’s Refrigeration Chairperson. He works for the SuperValu Grocery Supermarket chain. He has been in the Refrigeration Industry for over 10 years. Kevin was born in South New Jersey, (which explains why he does not have a funny accent). While in NJ, he was a member of the Philadelphia ASHRAE chapter. He has a wife and currently resides in Clewiston, (soon to be a resident of Port Charlotte). Please say “Hello” to Kevin at our next meeting if you have not already done so.

Again, our Chapter’s Golf Tournament was a HUGE success. Thanks to the many Sponsors and Golf Teams who made this event a financial success. This event helps our chapter meet our Research Promotion goals. Our next big Research Promotion Fund raiser will be the Fishing Tournament around April 29th, 2017 at Pinchers. More details to follow as Shane Vaughn and his volunteer team define the details.

We are very excited about some upcoming STEM events. The Robotics Programs are starting up, we are presenting to Child Care of SW Florida, we are manning a booth for the Lee County Schools STEMtastic Event. Please plan to volunteer as your schedule allows. We ALWAYS need volunteers. Thank you in advance.

A reminder that next year’s CRC, (Chapters Regional Conference), is in Argentina. This conference will take place around the first week in August. Please start planning now to attend. Additionally, the ASHRAE Winter Meeting is in Las Vegas this January. Both events shall be great fun for all.

One last thing – Our Chapter is only as strong as its Members. I would encourage all of our Members to come to at least one meeting and bring someone who is not a Member. If you are not currently a Member, consider joining. For those potential new members under 30 years of age, ASHRAE makes it very easy to get started. Ask one of the officers to tell you about the Quick Start Program. New Affiliate Membership dues are only $52 for the first year. So we are making it EASY to become a member. Thank you all for your support! Your volunteering efforts are what make our Chapter strong!!!

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SWF ASHRAE Chapter Meeting Announcement

Date: Friday, December 9, 2016
Location: Cape Coral Brewing Company
Start Time: 6:00 p.m.
Cost: $25.00** Per Attendee which includes tour, drink ticket and food ticket

Contact: jmilliman@bandiflorida.com (239) 887-1762 or svaughan@bandiflorida.com (239) 340-0260

Main Event:
Tour of Cape Coral Brewing Company
839 Miramar Street
Cape Coral, FL 33904

Cape Coral Brewing Company proudly produces an impressive variety of ales - with the greatest attention to detail. With an American-made, 7-barrel brew house we are able to supply our 100 seat Tap Room and local, SWFL establishments with delicious, fresh craft beer. As Cape Coral’s first brewery, we look forward to sharing our brewing process and final results - with you!

Food Truck for that night will be: Ma Petite Creperie (French/Gluten-Free)
Check them out on Facebook!!
CTTC – Kathleen Simpson

"U.S. DOE Invests in Projects to Speed Adoption of Solar Power"

The Energy Department today announced $21.4 million in funding for 17 new projects to help reduce the "soft costs" commonly found in adopting solar energy, such as installation, permitting, and connecting to the grid. As more U.S. consumers turn toward renewable energy each year, nine of the awards will focus on how the solar industry can sustain and accelerate this growth by understanding the motivations and factors that influence the technology adoption process, particularly in low- and moderate-income communities. The other eight awards will focus on tackling solar market challenges at the state and regional levels through better strategic energy and economic planning.

"Soft costs have been a pervasive barrier to widespread solar energy in the United States," said Dr. Charlie Gay, Director of the Solar Energy Technologies Office. "Finding new ways to cut these costs remains critical in accelerating solar deployment nationwide and making solar affordable for all Americans."

The projects announced today are funded by the Department’s SunShot initiative and its ongoing work to enable the widespread deployment of safe, reliable, and cost-effective solar energy by developing strategies and solutions that directly reduce the costs and barriers to solar access and deployment. The projects are funded under two distinct topics:

Solar Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies (SEEDS)

The SEEDS program leverages decisions based on science and solar datasets to improve our understanding of how and why homeowners and businesses choose solar energy. Nine of the 17 projects announced today will partner with successful community-based outreach and engagement strategies to develop new models of how to scale the adoption of solar energy.

State Energy Strategies (SES)

Through SES’s SEW project teams work from state energy offices, regional energy providers, and their partners have the opportunity to gain the planning insights that can support their individual goals to maximize solar’s benefits within their various communities. Eight new projects announced today will help to better inform states how to more effectively adopt solar by providing technical and analytical assistance to help them meet their renewable energy goals. These projects will benefit states at two phases in the solar energy planning process: during the creation of solar deployment targets and identification of strategies to achieve these goals, and then during the implementation of these strategies. For instance, teams may seek technical and informational assistance from DOE to better understand system performance projections, transmission and distribution constraints, or the economic and environmental benefits of various solar programs and projects.

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Notice of Permanent Rulemaking in New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Rulemaking Register, published on Friday, October 27, 2016, gives notice of an amendment to an existing rule regarding asbestos abatement which can be found here.

The proposed amendments would clarify several definitions and amend existing recordkeeping requirements. The proposed amendments also would (1) require an owner or operator of a facility in which a major abatement project is occurring to notify the Department of any change in start or completion dates or of any break in operations (Env-A 1804.01); (2) include new, less burdensome alternative requirements for facility operators performing asbestos abatement activities involving vinyl asbestos floor tile, vinyl asbestos floor sheeting, asbestos roofing materials, asbestos siding and other preformed cementitious asbestos materials (in Env-A 1804.03); and (3) allow an applicant for an abatement entity or ADS contractor license to voluntarily provide proof of business liability insurance or bond, which would be noted by the Department on its website (Env-A 1810.01).

The rules also can be viewed in PDF here.

Deadline for submission of materials in writing or, if practicable for the agency, in the electronic format specified: 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30, 2016.

Contact person for copies and questions including requests to accommodate persons with disabilities: Name: Karla McManus; Address: Dept. of Environmental Services 29 Hazen Drive; P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095; Phone #: (603) 271-6854 Fax#: (603) 271-1381 Email: Karla.McManus@des.nh.gov

Renewable Energy Financing Districts Legislation Introduced in New Jersey

Legislation was introduced in the New Jersey Senate on November 3 (Senate Bill 2735) that would permit municipalities to establish renewable energy financing districts in order to make it easier to fund renewable energy improvements. The establishment of a renewable energy financing district will enable some municipalities to access federal Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs). Through the use of QECBs, which, due to federal tax incentives, have an interest rate of zero percent, these improvements could possibly pay for themselves given that an individual could receive more in energy savings and other rebates that they would be required to payout in annual special assessment taxes.

To view the full bill and a statement about what this bill would enact, click here.

This bill has two companion bills in the New Jersey Assembly (Assembly Bills 1488 and 1758). Since the NJ legislative biennial session does not end until December 2017, this bill has a good chance of moving its way through the legislative process.

CTTC – Kathleen Simpson

"Revised Section 608 Refrigerant Management Regulations"

EPA is updating the safe handling requirements under Section 608 that currently apply to ozone depleting refrigerants and extending them to substitutes like hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). These changes strengthen the existing program, in particular by requiring a number of industry best practices. This action reduces climate-damaging emissions from air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. EPA estimates that the annual emissions reductions from this rule will be approximately 7.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO2eq) and 114 ozone-depletion weighted metric tons (ODP tons).

Key Documents

- An advance copy of the rule can be found here.
- The docket for the rule can be found here.

Rule Summary

This rule makes the following changes to the existing requirements under Section 608:

1) Extends the requirements of the Refrigerant Management Program to cover substitute refrigerants, such as HFCs. Note that EPA has previously examined some substitutes under the Section 608 venting prohibition through previous rules. Such substitutes are also exempt from the requirements of this rule.

This fact sheet describes the requirements of the existing Section 608 Refrigerant Management Program. Fact sheets on how the rule affects the Program are found at the bottom of this page.

2) Lowers the leak rate thresholds that trigger the duty to repair refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment containing 50 or more pounds of refrigerant.
   a. Lowers from 35% to 30% for commercial refrigeration equipment
   b. Lowers from 35% to 30% for commercial refrigeration equipment
   c. Lowers from 35% to 50% for commercial refrigeration equipment

3) Requires quarterly/annual leak inspections or continuous monitoring devices for refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment that have exceeded the threshold leak rates.

4) Requires owners/operators to submit reports to EPA if systems containing 50 or more pounds of refrigerant leak 125% or more of their full charge in one calendar year.

5) Extends the sales restriction to HFCs and other non-exempt substitutes, with the exception of small cans (containing 2 pounds or less) of non-exempt substitutes (e.g., primarily HFC-134a) for motor vehicle air conditioning service. These small cans can continue to be sold without technician certification as long as the small cans have a self-sealing valve to keep refrigerant released.

6) Requires that after a record of refrigerant recovery during system disposal from systems with a threshold leak rate continue to be sold without technician certification so long as the small cans have a self-sealing valve to keep refrigerant released.

Refrigeration Update – Kevin Galbraith

Transcritical CO2 (H744) progress in the U.S.

Refrigerant component manufacturer Temprete expects a move to transcritical CO2. An estimated 200 plus transcritical units have been installed in U.S. supermarkets since 2013. Temprete who produces oil separators for CO2 and HFC systems expects more stringent refrigerant regulations to continue to push end users into CO2. Temprete also believes that efficiency losses due to CO2’s low critical point have been addressed. Article Credit: Michael Garry http://www.474.com/articles/7725/awaiting-more-transcritical-progress-in-the-u-s-rtp

US EPA issues new refrigerant leak management rules

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has updated the rules for refrigerant handling to include hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as well as the currently included ozone depleting refrigerants. The trigger leak rate for equipment containing 50 lbs have been reduced by $5-15% on a cost per pound of charge system by the Environmental Protection Agency. The update rules will be effective January 1, 2017. Article Credit: https://www.ashrae.org/resources--publication/periodicals/newletters/kindustry/hvac-r-industry-2016-11-03

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Come join ASHRAES Young Engineers of Southwest Florida as we tour the Cape Coral Brewing Company!

Friday December 9th, 2016

Meet @ 6:00 PM
Location:
839 Miramar Street
Cape Coral, Florida 33904

Cost: $25.00 per ticket which includes the following

1) Tour
2) Drink Ticket
3) Food Ticket—*Ma Petite Creperie Food Truck*

To RSVP contact jmilliman@bandiflorida.com / (239) 887-1762

or svaughan@bandiflorida.com / (239) 340-0260
Goal Amount: $15,000

Current Amount: $13,565

Goal Achievement: 90%

ASHRAE SWFL RP FUND