



# BAY BREEZE BULLETIN



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

### Features

"President's" Message 1

### Upcoming Events

April Technical Meeting -  
Membership Night! 2

Annual Bocce Ball  
Tournament 5

May Technical Meeting 7

ASHRAE Annual  
Conference 9

### ASHRAE Committees

Communications 10

Government Affairs 11

Historian 13

Membership Promotion 14

Refrigeration 15

Student Activities 16

Young Engineers in  
ASHRAE 17

### Other

2026 Region X and XI CRC  
Sponsorship Opportunities 18

Call for ASHRAE Winter  
Conference Abstracts 19

[Check Out Our Other  
Newsletter Issues Here](#)

[www.sjashrae.org](http://www.sjashrae.org)

Normally this space is reserved for a thoughtful reflection by Jake on our chapter's progress, recent updates, and a sincere thank-you to all of you who show up, volunteer, and keep our events lively. However... this month's message has been temporarily reassigned.

You see, our President recently got married (congratulations again!), and while we're sure he's fully capable of juggling newlywed life and chapter duties, we thought it best (purely out of kindness and absolutely not opportunism) to give him a short break from the President's Message.

The chapter is doing great. **We'd love to see you at Bocce Ball and Membership Night, with giveaways at Membership Night!** And take a moment to read through the events and committee announcements; it's thoughtfully put together each month to keep everyone informed, so don't let it go to waste!

We would also like to extend our sincere yet exaggerated gratitude to absolutely everyone involved with the chapter. Thank you to the members who attend meetings, the volunteers who organize events, the presenters who share their knowledge, the students who participate, the sponsors who support us, and anyone who has ever liked, shared, RSVP'd, checked in, forwarded an email, or even thought positively about San Jose ASHRAE.

And we can't not take the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary dedication of the Chapter Chairs, who work tirelessly organizing events, coordinating speakers, managing communications, planning programs, and generally making sure everything runs smoothly.

Have a Happy April Fools Day!

Your 2025-2026 San Jose ASHRAE Chapter Chairs

San Jose ASHRAE Presents:

# MEMBERSHIP NIGHT

Join us for fun, raffle, and awards!

**WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>  
5:30 PM – 8:15 PM**

**Membership Awards**

**The (UN)ethical Engineer Interactive Presentation**  
*by Devin A. Abellon , P.E.*

**Membership Raffle:**  
*Members: Get an extra ticket for bringing a guest!*

**Delta Hotels Santa Clara Silicon Valley**  
**2151 Laurelwood Rd, Santa Clara, CA 95054**

More info below



**MEMBERSHIP NIGHT**

# APRIL TECHNICAL MEETING

The (un)Ethical Engineer:  
a study in principle and practice

Presented By  
Devin A. Abellon



**RSVP ONLINE**

[HTTPS://SJASHRAE.ORG/MEETINGINFO.PHP](https://sjashrae.org/meetinginfo.php)

**Date:** Wednesday - April 8, 2026

**Location:** Delta Hotels Santa Clara Silicon Valley  
2151 Laurelwood Rd, Santa Clara, CA 95054

**Time:**

Check-In and Social	5:30 PM
Dinner	6:30 PM - 8:15 PM

### PRESENTATION SUMMARY

As members within the HVAC industry engineers, contractors, architects, manufacturers, vendors & building owners are expected to exhibit the highest standard of honesty and integrity to safeguard the confidence that the public has in us. In this very competitive climate, however, it is sometimes tempting to "bend the rules" to some degree in order to gain an advantage over competition or to simply get the job done on time. But how much is too much? Is there a clearly defined line between ethical practice and "just the way things are done?"

"The (un)Ethical Engineer" is an interactive, multimedia, dramatic presentation that explores these issues through the eyes of a well-intentioned engineer.



# APRIL TECHNICAL MEETING

## SPEAKER

Devin A. Abellon , P.E.

**The (un)Ethical Engineer:  
a study in principle and  
practice**



### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Devin Abellon, P.E. is the Director of Engineered Solutions at Pac West Sales. He has 30 years of experience in the HVAC and plumbing industries with a focus on highperformance and sustainable building design and construction. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Santa Barbara and is a registered professional engineer in California and Arizona. He has been an active member of ASHRAE at the chapter, regional and society levels and currently serves as an ASHRAE Society Vice President, on ASHRAE’s Planning Committee and the Board of Directors DEI Advisory Subcommittee. He is also co-host of The Flourish Podcast.



# SAN JOSE ASHRAE ANNUAL BOCCE BALL TOURNAMENT

## CAMPO DI BOCCE

 565 UNIVERISTY AVE, LOS GATOS, CA 95032

**APRIL 30, 2026**

5:00 PM CHECK IN  
5:30 PM GAMES START  
7:30 PM ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADMISSION**

\$800 SINGLE TEAM  
\$60 DINING ONLY

## SPONSORSHIPS

A portion of all proceeds will be donated to RP goal under sponsor name.

**PLATINUM**  
\$2,600

- (1) team
- Can reserve 3 additional teams
- Featured Name/Logo on T-shirts
- Displayed on event banner\*

Limit 8

**GOLD**  
\$2,100

- (1) team
- Can reserve 1 additional team
- Name/Logo on T-shirts
- Displayed on TVs at event\*

Limit 10

**SILVER**  
\$1,600

- (1) team
- Name on T-shirts
- Display at event
- Shoutout at event\*

Unlimited

\*All sponsors shouted out in Newsletter.



# THANK YOU

TO OUR BOCCE BALL TOURNAMENT

# SPONSORS!

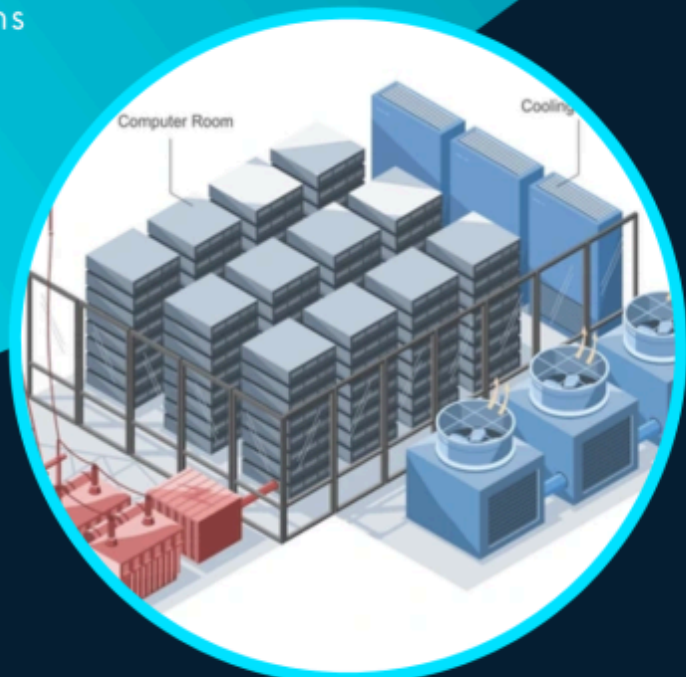




# MAY TECHNICAL MEETING

The Data Center Debate:  
Hot Topics on Cool Designs

Presented By  
Mehrdad Alipour



## RSVP ONLINE

[HTTPS://SJASHRAE.ORG/  
MEETINGINFO.PHP](https://sjashrae.org/meetinginfo.php)

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday - May 13, 2026
<b>Location:</b>	Delta Hotels Santa Clara Silicon Valley 2151 Laurelwood Rd, Santa Clara, CA 95054
<b>Time:</b>	
Check-In and Social	5:30 PM
Dinner	6:30 PM - 8:15 PM

### PRESENTATION SUMMARY

How should data centers be cooled? Air or liquid? High-temperature or low-temperature systems? Single-phase or phase-change technologies? System level: airside or waterside economization? Initial cost or long-term energy savings? Join us for this presentation as we explore the fundamentals of data center design before diving into modern cooling strategies, emerging technologies, and real-world challenges. We'll review two projects that highlight the key technical design decisions that engineers face today and show how it directly impact performance and energy efficiency in data centers.



# MAY TECHNICAL MEETING

## SPEAKER

Mehrdad Alipour P.E.

**The Data Center Debate:  
Hot Topics on Cool Designs**



### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Mehrdad Alipour, P.E. is a Director of Engineering and licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer specializing in mission-critical and data center infrastructure. He has over two decades of designing high-performance HVAC and energy systems for large scale facilities, with a strong focus on energy efficiency, reliability, and lifecycle optimization.

Mehrdad is an active ASHRAE member and contributor, with multiple publications in the ASHRAE Journal, including award-winning work on data center economization and energy optimization. He holds a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from San Jose State University and is a Data Center Energy Practitioner (DCEP), LEED Accredited Professional, and Certified Energy Manager (CEM).

His works focuses on practical and innovative engineering solutions to deliver reliable and energy efficient systems.



# 2026 ASHRAE Annual Conference

JUNE 27 - JULY 1, 2026 | AUSTIN, TEXAS

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

### EXPAND YOUR IMPACT IN HVAC&R

Attending an ASHRAE conference is your opportunity to connect with the brightest minds in HVAC&R and building science while gaining insights you can immediately apply to your work. Attendees include engineers, architects, designers, researchers, manufacturers, contractors, and emerging professionals from around the world. Register today to deepen your expertise, grow your career, and expand your professional network.

Register by April 27 for the best rates!

Registration and more information at:

[www.ashrae.org/conferences/2026-annual-conference-austin](http://www.ashrae.org/conferences/2026-annual-conference-austin)



## ASHRAE CONNECT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Applications due June 5th  
Click [HERE](#) for more information

Are you a first-time attendee at the ASHRAE Conference, or have you attended before but felt overwhelmed by the many options? This shadowing program offers the perfect opportunity to gain first-hand experience by following a member of ASHRAE through committee meetings and conference events.



# Communications

## What is the Communications Committee?

The Communications Committee is like the marketing team for the ASHRAE chapter. We market membership, events, and ASHRAE participation. Additionally, we keep our members updated on the latest information and oversee the chapter website and social media.

If you're interested in volunteering for the Communications Committee, reach out to our Chair!



Cat Wood  
Communications Chair  
Webmaster  
2025 - 2026  
catherinecwood118@gmail.com

## Proposed New Membership Model

Presidential Members Ginger Scoggins and Dennis Knight charged the Membership Models Presidential Ad Hoc to conduct a comprehensive review of the current membership model to address fair, equitable, value-added membership.

The Ad Hoc developed the following new Membership Model to simplify and expand ASHRAE's reach within the industry and around the world. The proposed model was approved by the Board of Directors on May 28, 2025. These proposed changes in ASHRAE's membership model will require amendments to the Society Bylaws. ASHRAE members will vote on the Bylaws amendments to finalize the proposed new model on the Spring 2026 ballot. **If approved by the membership, the new model will be effective July 1, 2027.**

Click [here](#) to view the full text of the Bylaws with redline and summarized changes.

Read more about the proposed changes and how it will impact your membership benefits and dues on our [Blog Page!](#)

### Cat Wood

2025-2026 San Jose Chapter Communications Chair & Webmaster



# Government Affairs

## What is the GAC?

The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is responsible for organizing ASHRAE members to educate local, state, provincial, and national government bodies and officials in areas of interest to ASHRAE members, and to promote effective cooperation between ASHRAE members and government.

If you're interested in volunteering for the Government Affairs Committee, reach out to our GAC Chair!

## ASHRAE Government Affairs

Stay informed on the latest news. Subscribe to ASHRAE's bi-weekly Government Affairs Update!

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

or visit

<https://www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs/government-affairs-updates>

[www.sjashrae.org](http://www.sjashrae.org)

## ASHRAE Announcements

### ASHRAE Hosts Congressional Briefing on Indoor Air Quality

On March 6, ASHRAE partnered with 9 other leading organizations in the building sciences and human health communities to convene a congressional briefing highlighting the vital role indoor air quality plays in bettering public health and increasing economic productivity. The program "Indoor Air Quality for a Healthier America" featured remarks from Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Don Beyer (D-VA) as well as expert panel discussions on IAQ fundamentals and policy opportunities. Among the panel speakers was ASHRAE Presidential Member Bill Bahnfleth, who spoke about the critical role of ASHRAE standards in undergirding efforts to improve IAQ.



Rep. Tonko speaking at briefing.

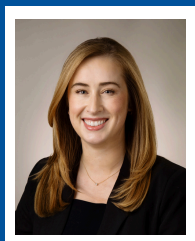
### Refrigerant Companies File New Legal Challenge to Federal Phasedown

On February 27, a group of refrigerant companies, represented by the New Civil Liberties Alliance, a public interest law firm focused on administrative power, requested that the U.S. Supreme Court overturn the federal law that requires the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the refrigerant gases that contribute to climate change. This law, the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act, passed in 2020, authorizes the EPA to limit production and use of HFCs, and the agency subsequently created a schedule for phasing out use of those gases. In 2025, a federal court ruling by the D.C. Circuit upheld this authority, and the New Civil Liberties Alliance is requesting that this decision be overturned. The EPA has not commented on this new lawsuit, and the Supreme Court has not yet decided whether it will consider this request.

Government Affairs | [www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs](http://www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs)



# Government Affairs



Elise Kiland  
GAC Chair  
2025 - 2026  
ekiland.ashrae@gmail.com

## ASHRAE Government Affairs

Stay informed on the latest news. Subscribe to ASHRAE's bi-weekly Government Affairs Update!

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

or visit

<https://www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs/government-affairs-updates>

[www.sjashrae.org](http://www.sjashrae.org)

## Federal Government Announcements

### FEMA to Relaunch BRIC Program

On March 18, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced it will relaunch the Building Resilient Communities and Infrastructure (BRIC) program. The program was canceled in April 2025 by the Trump administration. A federal court ruling last December found the cancellation was unlawful and ordered FEMA to reinstate the program by March 20. The BRIC program is the largest pre-disaster mitigation program, providing federal grants to states, tribes, and local governments for projects that reduce risks from natural disasters. In a [coalition letter](#) sent May 2025, ASHRAE urged FEMA to support the BRIC program.

## Local Announcements

### The California ASHRAE Government Outreach Event is Scheduled for April 27th!

We're excited to invite you to the upcoming CA ASHRAE Government Outreach Event on April 27th 2026, taking place on Capitol Hill in Sacramento, CA. This is a great opportunity to engage with policymakers and advocate for our industry.

Government outreach events aim to foster meaningful dialogue between the HVAC&R industry professionals and policymakers. Engagement in these discussions helps ASHRAE bridge the gap between technical expertise and legislative frameworks, furthering our mission to create a more sustainable future.

**Please reach out to our GAC Chair if you are interested in attending!**



*Government Outreach Day, 2025*

Government Affairs | [www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs](http://www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs)

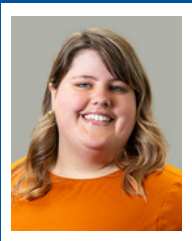


# Historian

## What is the Historical Committee?

The historical committee is responsible for preserving and documenting the history of the chapter. This includes its activities, achievements, and contributions to the HVAC&R industry.

If you're interested becoming a member of the historical committee, reach out to our Chapter Historian!



Sigrid Derickson  
Historian  
2024 - 2026  
SDerickson@southlandind.com

## Reminder! Help Needed for Past President Biographies

As part of our ongoing effort to document the history of our chapter, a survey was sent out on September 29 to past presidents. Our goal is to gather insights and stories that will help us write biographies for each past president—a project we aim to complete by the end of the society year.

### We are still seeking contact info for the following past presidents:

- Richard Lam (2019–2020)
- John Wagner (2015–2016)
- Orion Moore (2012–2013)
- Krystal Matthews (2011–2012)
- Scott Gainer (2008–2009)
- Brian Maher (2007–2008)
- Mark Henthorn (1999–2000)
- Tim Knoop (1997–1998)

If you are one of these individuals—or know how to reach them—please contact me or submit your information directly via [this form](#).

Sadly, we've learned of the passing of two past presidents:

- John Allen (1994–1995)
- Paul Hanzel (1992–1993)

We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends. If you have memories, stories, or photos of John or Paul that you'd be willing to share, please reach out. Every detail helps us honor their contributions.

Thank you for helping us celebrate and preserve the legacy of those who have shaped our chapter's journey!

### Sigrid Derickson

2025-2026 San Jose Chapter Historian

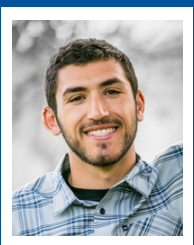


## What is the Membership Promotion Committee?

The Membership Promotion Committee works to recruit new members, retain existing ones, and engage members in ASHRAE activities. The committee promotes membership benefits, tracks renewals, welcomes and recognizes members, and collaborates with other committees to build a pipeline from students to professionals. These efforts strengthen the chapter by growing participation and supporting our membership goals.

If you're interested becoming a member of the membership promotion committee, reach out to our chair!

*Why did the air handler start a podcast?  
It had a ton to circulate.*



Jacob Penzo  
Membership Promotion Chair  
2025 - 2026  
[jacob.penzo@pragmaticpe.com](mailto:jacob.penzo@pragmaticpe.com)

[www.sjashrae.org](http://www.sjashrae.org)

# Membership Promotion

## HVAC Design Level I Non-member Registrants Get One-year FREE ASHRAE Membership!

Starting this April, non-member registrants for the HVAC Design Level I course (live or virtual) will now receive a complimentary one-year ASHRAE membership. Membership will begin the week following completion of the course. Participants will receive a welcome email once the membership begins. Please contact [members@ashrae.org](mailto:members@ashrae.org) with any questions.

### HVAC DESIGN: LEVEL I – ESSENTIALS

ASHRAE's HVAC Design: Level I – Essentials training provides participants with instruction that accelerates their transformation into effective design, construction, or facilities maintenance team members. Developed by industry-leading professionals selected by ASHRAE, the training provides attendees with the fundamentals and technical aspects of HVAC design. Attendees will gain practical skills and knowledge to design and maintain HVAC systems that can be used immediately.

In addition to gaining in-depth knowledge and understanding, attendees will receive real-world examples of HVAC systems based on the renovated ASHRAE Headquarters building. The training also teaches a systematic approach to guide a design team to a solution that optimally meets the client's expectations. Engineered drawings of the ASHRAE Headquarters renovation will also be discussed so participants are exposed to plan reading and visual understanding of system design.

More course information available [here](#).

**Jacob Penzo**  
2025-2026 MP Chair

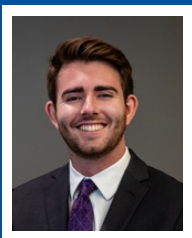


# Refrigeration

## What is the Refrigeration Committee?

The Refrigeration Committee supports refrigeration-focused education, professional development, and engagement among members whose work or interests involve refrigeration, cold storage, process cooling, and related systems. It also helps raise awareness of emerging topics such as refrigerant transitions, codes and standards, and new refrigeration technologies relevant to the local industry.

If you're interested in volunteering for the Refrigeration Committee, reach out to our Chair!



Andrew Barrett  
Refrigeration Chair  
2025 - 2026  
Andrew.barrett@trane.com

[www.sjashrae.org](http://www.sjashrae.org)

## ASHRAE Podcast: Transitioning to Low Global Warming Potential Refrigerants



In this podcast, Ryan Shanley, Senior Manager of Standards, moderates a discussion with guests Doug Reindl and Stet Sanborn on the transition from high-GWP to ultra-low-GWP refrigerants. The conversation also explores the current marketplace for A1, A2, and A3 refrigerants, along with the implications of increased use of flammable refrigerants on ASHRAE Standard 15 (Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems) and ASHRAE Standard 15.2 (Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems in Residential Applications).



Stet Sanborn, AIA, is a Vice President at SmithGroup. He currently serves at the Mechanical Discipline Leader for the San Francisco office and also oversees SmithGroup's national Performance, Analytics, and Climate-Impact Team. Stet is an active ASHRAE member, currently sits on ASHRAE's Taskforce for Building Decarbonization Executive Committee and has been recently appointed to the forthcoming Center of Excellence for Building Decarbonization. Stet was a co-author of the Advanced Energy Design Guide for Zero Energy Multifamily Buildings and provides technical assistance to the US Department of Energy Better Climate Challenge program as well as the Design and Construction Allies working group on advancing zero-carbon buildings.



Douglas Reindl, Ph.D., P.E., is a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and director of the Industrial Refrigeration Consortium at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has extensive experience in refrigeration systems and technologies in applications that range from domestic refrigeration to large-scale industrial refrigeration systems. He is an ASHRAE Fellow, a past chair and currently serves as a voting member of the ASHRAE Standard 15 committee.

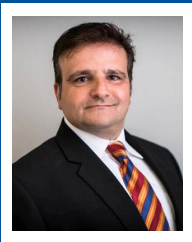


# Student Activities

## What is the Student Activities Committee?

The Student Activities Committee's primary mission is to promote awareness of ASHRAE and related careers among students from K-12 through college. The committee supports student branches at universities, organizes educational and networking events, and encourages participation in ASHRAE programs such as scholarships, competitions, and mentorship opportunities.

If you're interested becoming a member of the student activities committee, reach out to our student activities chair!



Sargon Ishaya  
Student Activities Chair  
2025 - 2026  
[sargon@pragmaticpe.com](mailto:sargon@pragmaticpe.com)

[www.sjashrae.org](http://www.sjashrae.org)

## Competition Deadlines

### 2026 Design Competition

*for a new university campus building in Denver, Colorado*

**Deadline: May 4, 2026**

Teams must be **registered by April 4th, 2026.**

### 2026 Applied Engineering Challenge

*for innovative residential heat exchange system between domestic hot and cold-water systems*

**Deadline: May 4, 2026**

Only teams who **pre-register by April 4th** will get the FTP site information emailed to them.

## Society Scholarships Now Available!

The **ASHRAE Society Scholarship** deadline is **May 1st!**

High School Senior and College Freshman have a chance to receive up to \$5,000 in scholarships for the 2026-2027 school year. Any full-time student in an engineering program is invited to apply for this prestigious scholarship!

Visit **Scholarship Program** for a full list of eligibility criteria and application requirements. Reach out to Savanna Smith ([scholarships@ashrae.org](mailto:scholarships@ashrae.org)) with any questions.

Student Activities | <https://www.ashrae.org/communities/student-zone>



## What is the Young Engineers in ASHRAE Committee?

The Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) committee focuses on engaging members 35 and younger through networking, technical tours, and social events. It promotes leadership development and career growth by connecting young engineers with training programs, mentorship, and society-level initiatives.

If you're interested in volunteering for the YEA Committee, reach out to our Chair!



Janan Mirza  
YEA Chair  
2025 - 2026  
Janan.Mirza@therma.com

# YOUNG ENGINEERS IN ASHRAE

## HVAC Design Essentials Training Scholarship

HVAC Design Essentials Training allows attendees to gain the fundamentals and technical aspects to design, install and maintain HVAC systems.

YEA offers attendance scholarships to the HVAC Design training. The full cost of registration to Level I or II of this training will be covered by ASHRAE. Any additional costs, such as airfare or hotel, are not covered by this scholarship.

- Applications **open April 2026**
- All applicants must be ASHRAE members and 35 years of age or younger as of July 1 of the current society year (student members not eligible).
- Click [here](#) to apply

## YEA Leadership Weekend 2.0 (Summer 2026)

Location: Vancouver, BC, Canada | Dates: **May 30-June 1, 2025**  
**Registration deadline is April 24, 2026** | Click [here](#) for more information

## YEA Developing & Inspirational Leader Awards

The Developing Leader Award is designed to recognize those members who started their involvement as soon as they joined ASHRAE. The Inspirational leader award goes to members who have gone above and beyond to make considerable contributions to the industry and community. Members may be nominated by an ASHRAE member or may nominate themselves.

- For more information, criteria, and to nominate:
  - [Developing Leader Award](#)
  - [Inspirational Leader Award](#)
- **Deadline: May 1, 2026.**

# 2026 Region X and XI CRC Sponsorship Opportunities

To Prospective Sponsors,

We are extending the Hawaii chapter’s sponsorship opportunities with you for the upcoming regional ASHRAE conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Hawaii ASHRAE Chapter will host the **2026 Chapters Regional Conference (CRC) for Regions X and XI** this August. This event will bring together **250+ attendees**, including:

- Industry professionals
- End-users
- Manufacturers
- Engineers
- Students

Attendees will be traveling from across:

- Arizona
- California
- Hawaii
- Nevada
- Alaska
- Oregon
- Washington
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- Northern & Southern Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Saskatoon
- Vancouver Island

This conference is an opportunity to connect, learn, and help shape the future of our industry.

**Sponsorship levels range from \$100 to \$15,000** with options tailored to maximize exposure and engagement with key industry stakeholders.

**Non-monetary donations are also being accepted** to enhance the attendee experience or for giveaways and raffles. Suggested items include gift cards, merchandise, promotional items, local products, services, or other unique or specialty items.

For the full sponsorship packet, see the ASHRAE Hawaii Chapter website:  
<https://ashraehawaiichapter.starchapter.com/meetinginfo.php?id=262&ts=1769128062>

For more information, please contact Jashua McDonough, CRC Gernal Chair, at:  
[Jashua.mcdonough@wsp.com](mailto:Jashua.mcdonough@wsp.com)

# ASHRAE Announces Call for Abstracts for 2027 Winter Conference in Chicago

*Abstracts due May 27, 2026*

Abstract submissions are now being accepted for the 2027 ASHRAE Winter Conference to be held in Chicago, Illinois, January 23 – 27, 2027. Abstracts (400 words or less) are due May 27, 2026. If accepted, final conference papers (8-page maximum) are due September 2, 2026. Accepted papers will be considered for publication in *Science and Technology for the Built Environment*, ASHRAE's research journal.

"Our technical program explores the full breadth of innovation across the HVAC&R industry, including thermal network modeling, energy storage and AI-supported building operations," said Technical Conference Chair Li Song. "Additionally, the conference highlights the growing importance of residential HVAC research through real world performance studies, advanced heat pump technologies, smart controls, and strategies that enhance comfort, resilience and energy efficiency across diverse housing types. We anticipate a lively event in Chicago where new ideas and forward-looking research help shape the future of our built environment."

Conference papers are requested for the following tracks:

- **"Residential HVAC Research and Demonstration"** track explores technologies and strategies that improve energy efficiency and climate resilience while still prioritizing occupant comfort, indoor environmental quality and cost for diverse residential housing types.
- **"Thermal Network Systems and Energy Storage"** track focuses on the applications such as networked building energy modeling, district heating and cooling, and advanced control architecture that optimizes energy systems across varying operating conditions.
- **"Nexus of Real and Artificial Intelligence"** track explores the relationship between human insight and AI-enabled controls to elevate building operations, with a focus on data center environments, building and campus design strategies, and power-delivery systems.
- **"Decarbonization Retrofits"** track focuses on reducing emissions from existing buildings through improvements to control modifications, commissioning, system or equipment replacements, and others.
- **"Research Summit"** track features active research, and the exchange of research findings, critical to the development of the HVAC&R industry and built environment. The track includes a partnership with ASHRAE's archival journal, *Science and Technology for the Built Environment*.
- **"Refrigerants and Refrigeration"** track explores refrigeration systems, which generate and use cold for a range of processes, from food preparation and conservation to vaccine preservation, to long-term protection of fragile ancient inks of historical documents and others.
- **"Fundamentals and Applications"** track will provide opportunities for papers of varying levels across a large topic base. Concepts, design elements and shared experiences for theoretical and applied concepts of HVAC&R design are included.
- **"HVAC&R Systems and Equipment"** track will focus on the development of new systems and equipment, improvements to existing systems and equipment and the proper application and operation of systems and equipment.

For more information on the call for abstracts and the 2026 ASHRAE Winter Conference, visit [ashrae.org/2027Winter](https://ashrae.org/2027Winter).