



BAY BREEZE BULLETIN



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President's Message

Welcome! And thank you for being a part of our San Jose ASHRAE community by checking out our newsletter. I am Rob, and am excited to serve as the San Jose Chapter president for the 2026-2027 year.

After last year's focus on community, family, and real human connection, the chapter saw a year of incredible growth in involvement, and participation, attendance. I want to thank our outgoing leadership, volunteers, sponsors, and members for helping rebuild momentum and significantly increase participation at our in-person events.

Society definitely noticed at the 2026 Region X Regional Conference. You can read more about last year's accomplishments and numerous awards our members earned in our blog article [here](#).

Following the highly-decorated last year, we plan to maintain our strong emphasis on in person engagement, with a focus on care woven throughout the year. As a organization that is so dependent on volunteer work, it is important that we take care of ourselves and each other.

We aim to deliver relevant technical programs, well-organized events, and meaningful opportunities for professional growth and connection. We will also work to engage new members, students, emerging professionals, and others across the Bay Area HVAC&R community.

Last year demonstrated what is possible when our members participate and support one another. I look forward to working with all of you to turn that renewed engagement into lasting chapter strength and make the year ahead productive and rewarding.

With love and care,



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Rob Potter'.

Rob Potter

2026-2027 San Jose Chapter President

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

www.sjashrae.org



ASHRAE PRESIDENTIAL THEME

Changing the Game on Building Resilience

Sarah E. Maston, P.E., BCxP, LEED AP, will serve as the 2026-27 Society president. Maston brings more than 25 years of experience in mechanical and HVAC systems and has held numerous leadership roles throughout ASHRAE. Her theme for the 2026-27 Society Year, **“Changing the Game: Retrofitting for Resilience,”** focuses on improving the efficiency, performance and resilience of existing buildings amid growing climate and infrastructure challenges.

“There is no one-size-fits-all solution or game plan for retrofitting buildings,” said Maston. “Every building has its own constraints—mechanical systems, budgets and operational needs. Also, financial constraints, or utility infrastructure, plays a part in deciding the game plan or resilience strategy of a building. That’s why teamwork is absolutely essential.”

Maston’s theme compares retrofitting buildings to developing a winning game plan. It highlights the importance of modern building codes, retro-commissioning and collaboration among building owners, operators, engineers, manufacturers, code officials and commissioning providers.

“We need to figure out how Team ASHRAE, with its wealth of knowledge and educational offerings, can help create a game plan to make existing buildings more efficient, healthy and resilient,” said Maston. “This year we are going to focus on codes, technical guidance and building our team.”

Learn more about President Maston and the 2026-27 Society theme or view the Presidential Presentation [here](#).



**Sarah E. Maston, P.E.,
BCxP, LEED AP
2026-2027 ASHRAE
President**



2026-2027 PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE CHALLENGE

ASHRAE Presidential Initiative Challenge Webinar Q&A

Registration
FREE

[REGISTER NOW](#)

September 8, 2026

10:00 AM (EST)/
7:00 AM (PST)
&
8:00 PM (EST)/
5:00 PM (PST)

For more information on
the Presidential Initiative
Challenge

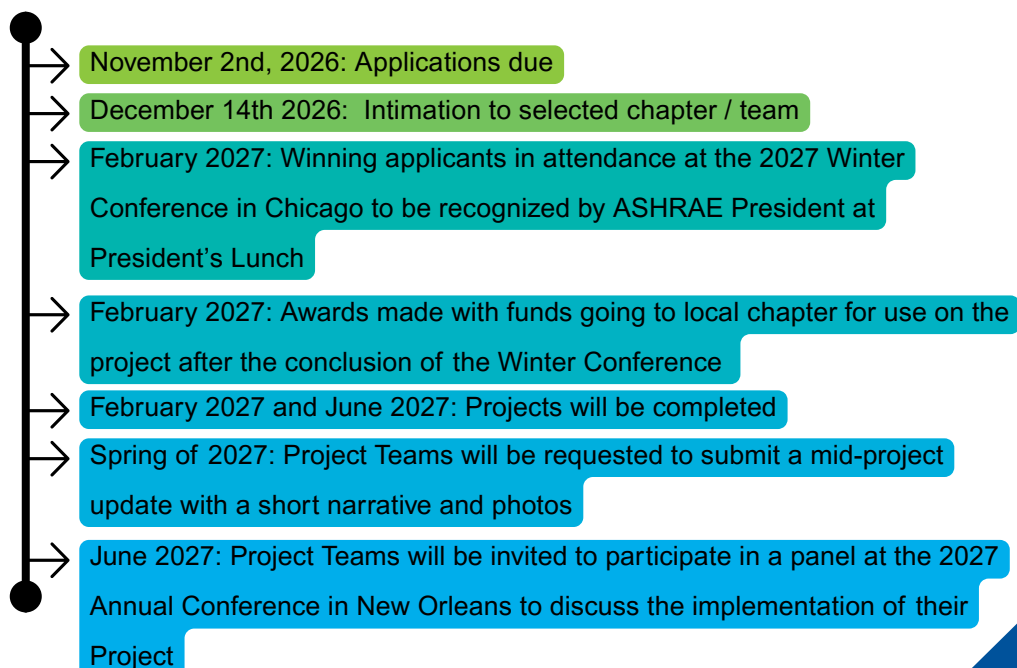
[CLICK HERE](#)

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The Challenge

The Presidential Initiative Challenge (previously the Decarbonization Challenge) is a year-long competitive fund (\$1,000 - \$10,000) program to implement projects within local chapters that are tied to the year's presidential theme. Sarah Maston has announced her presidential themes, Retro-Commissioning and Decarbonizing the Built Environment. This year's program will be centered around implementing decarbonization retrofit projects. This program is implemented through the YEA committee with grass roots outreach through the YEA chairs/committees at each chapter.

The intent of the program is to receive, review, award, and implement the funded projects within a single society year. Applicants are expected to meet the schedule below, and incorporate the schedule into their proposed projects:





September Social & Past President's Night

WELCOME BACK TO ASHRAE!

**WE'RE EXCITED TO KICK OFF THE 2026-27 SOCIETY YEAR
WITH OUR ANNUAL SEPTEMBER SOCIAL. THIS YEAR'S
EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE ROOFTOP PATIO AT
COPITA IN WILLOW GLEN AND WILL HONOR OUR PAST
CHAPTER PRESIDENTS. WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**6:00
pm**

**Sept
17**

**\$75
for members**



**COPITA WILLOW GLEN
1098 LINCOLN AVE, SAN JOSE**



www.sjashrae.org



September Social & Past President's Night

SPONSORSHIP

Event Sponsor - \$4000

INCLUDES FOUR EVENT TICKETS, RECOGNITION AT EVENT AND ON WEBSITE, & BRANDED SWAG. LIMITED TO ONE SPONSOR

Gold Sponsor - \$2000

INCLUDES TWO EVENT TICKETS, RECOGNITION AT EVENT AND ON WEBSITE

Bar Sponsor - \$500

INCLUDES ONE EVENT TICKET, RECOGNITION ON THE BAR AND ON WEBSITE

Sponsor a President - \$75

COVER THE COST OF ONE PAST PRESIDENT'S DINNER AND WE'LL PUT IT TOWARDS THE SAN JOSE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT



**COPITA WILLOW GLEN
1098 LINCOLN AVE, SAN JOSE**



sjashrae.org

CHICAGO

2027 ASHRAE WINTER CONFERENCE

JANUARY 23-27, 2027 | CHICAGO, IL



Registration Opens this Month!

With Technical Sessions, ALI courses, committee meetings, networking events, social gatherings, the AHR Expo, and much more, ASHRAE's Winter Conference delivers something for everyone. It's one of the year's best opportunities to learn from industry experts, expand your professional network, and stay ahead of emerging trends.

Click the links on the left for more information for the conference.

Are you a YEA member? Check out page 9 to learn about conference specific YEA programs!



[GENERAL](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)

[COMMITTEE
MEETINGS](#)

[TECHNICAL
PROGRAM](#)

[SPONSOR](#)

[AHR EXPO](#)



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

ASHRAE Announcements

ASHRAE Responds to DOE EPCA Proposed Rule

On August 21, ASHRAE President Sarah Maston sent a comment letter to the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding a proposed rulemaking to update its Process Rule. The proposed rule would revise the procedures DOE must follow when developing future energy conservation standards for certain appliances and equipment under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA). DOE's proposal would reinstate provisions from the 2020 Process Rule applicable to ASHRAE equipment, which clarify how the department will rely on ASHRAE Standard 90.1, Energy Standard for Sites and Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings when updating or amending energy conservation standards for ASHRAE covered equipment. ASHRAE's comments support DOE's proposed changes and provide feedback on the department's proposal to establish a minimum energy savings threshold for determining whether to pursue updates to equipment standards. The letter can be found [here](#).

Engineering Groups Call for Clarity on ED's Professional Degrees Definition

ASHRAE and seven other engineering-focused organizations sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) last week. The letter builds on a February request that ED consider graduate engineering degrees as "professional" in the context of its recently enacted "Reimagining and Improving Student Education" rule. Enacted July 1, the rule imposes new annual and lifetime limits on graduate student borrowing with greater limits for a small selection of degrees defined as "professional" by the department. Multiple lawsuits have challenged ED's methodology and authority, and the Department temporarily expanded its list to include some health-services degrees following a court order. In light of this uncertainty, the letter asks ED for greater clarity about its process, given the potential effects on graduate engineering students and programs.

Government Affairs | www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs



Government Affairs



Liz Becker
GAC Chair
2026 - 2027
LBecker@svminc.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

Local Announcements

ASHRAE Supports Standard 100 in California's Draft Building Energy Performance Strategy Report

On August 20, ASHRAE President Sarah Maston sent a comment letter to the California Energy Commission (CEC) regarding its draft Building Energy Performance Strategy Report, issued in July. The report includes recommendations for establishing statewide Building Performance Standards (BPS) for California and a statement that ASHRAE Standard 100, Energy and Emissions Building Performance Standard for Existing Buildings can serve as a strong starting point for a statewide BPS. ASHRAE's letter supports the inclusion of Standard 100 and responds to specific BPS criteria listed in the report. CEC's report stems from the passage of SB 48 in 2023 which requires a strategy for using statewide building benchmarking data to track and manage the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of large buildings to achieve energy and emissions reduction goals. The report contains the CEC's draft recommendations for this strategy.

California Releases 2025 Building Energy Action Plan

On August 7, the California Energy Commission released the 2025 Building Energy Action Plan with recommendations for accelerating the decarbonization of existing buildings statewide. The plan was first published in 2015 and updated in 2016, 2019, and 2021. The 2025 plan includes recommendations for decarbonizing existing buildings through improving energy efficiency and electrification to meet the state's energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Currently, buildings are responsible for about 26% of California's greenhouse gas emissions. Half of these are offsite from electricity generation and the other half from onsite combustion of gas for space and water heating. The plan states that efficient electrification of existing buildings is the primary pathway to reducing emissions, and the technological means for achieving these goals is the widespread adoption of efficient, electric heat pumps for space and water heating.

Government Affairs | www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs

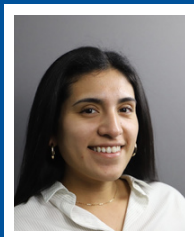


YOUNG ENGINEERS IN ASHRAE

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!



Yesenia Magallanes
YEA Co-Chair
2026 - 2027
Yesenia.Magallanes
@southlandind.com



Katherine Hennig
YEA Co-Chair
2026 - 2027
Katherine.Hennig
@southlandind.com

www.sjashrae.org

YEA Technical Committee Involvement

Are you interested or looking for opportunities to join a TC? Check out [The Young Member's Guide to Getting Involved in Technical Committees](#).

YEA Leadership International

- Cairo, Egypt | October 23-25, 2026
- Registration closes **September 2nd**
- Click [HERE](#) for more information

YEA Leadership Weekend 1.0 (Fall 2026)

- YEA Leadership Weekend (YLW) is an opportunity for YEA members to spend a weekend together developing soft skills, expanding their knowledge, and having a great time.
- Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Dates: **November 6-8, 2026**
- Registration OPEN NOW until September 23rd
- Click [HERE](#) for more information

ASHRAE Connect

- New to the ASHRAE Conference or looking for a more guided experience? This shadowing program pairs members with experienced ASHRAE participants to help them navigate committee meetings, conference events, and opportunities to get involved.
- ASHRAE 2027 Winter Conference
- Deadline to apply is **December 31st**
- Click [HERE](#) for more information

Leadership U

- This program allows YEA members to shadow an ASHRAE Vice President at an ASHRAE Conference to get an in-depth look at the ins and outs of ASHRAE.
- ASHRAE 2027 Winter Conference
- Registration closes **September 16th**
- Click [HERE](#) for more information

2027 ASHRAE WINTER CONFERENCE

CHICAGO, IL
JAN 23 - 27, 2027
AHR EXPO, JAN 25-27

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President	Rob Potter	robbypotter@gmail.com
President-Elect	Sarah Rock	srock@svminc.com
Treasurer	Elise Kiland	ekiland.ashrae@gmail.com
Secretary	Jacob Penzo	jacob.penzo@pragmaticpe.com
BOG Member #1	Cat Wood	catherinecwood118@gmail.com
BOG Member #2	Jacob Saxinger	Jake.Saxinger@trane.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Promotion Chair	Jacob Penzo	jacob.penzo@pragmaticpe.com
Research Promotion Chair	Daisy Ruiz	daisy.ruiz@rfmacdonald.com
Student Activities Chair	Sargon Ishaya	sargon@pragmaticpe.com
Student Activities K-12 Champion	Jay Cmiel	Jay.Cmiel@therma.com

Bocce Ball Chair

Pending

Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) Co-Chair	Yesenia Magallanes	yesenia.magallanes52@gmail.com
Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) Co-Chair	Katherine Hennig	Katherine.Hennig@southlandind.com
Chapter Historian	Sigrid Derickson	SDerickson@southlandind.com

Honors & Awards Chair

OPEN

DEI Chair	Rob Potter	robbypotter@gmail.com
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Women in ASHRAE Chair

OPEN

Communications Chair	Cat Wood	catherinecwood118@gmail.com
Webmaster	Cat Wood	catherinecwood118@gmail.com

Social Media Manager

OPEN

CTTC Chair	Sarah Rock	srock@svminc.com
Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Chair	Elizabeth Becker	LBecker@svminc.com
Refrigeration Chair	Jacob Saxinger	Jake.Saxinger@trane.com

Sustainability Chair

OPEN



Live Virtual Training

SEPTEMBER 2026

Explore the latest HVAC&R applications

Scholarship Available!

ASHRAE Members can now get **35%-50% off one ALI, AGT, or eLearning course** thanks to the Richard and Mary Farr, the Setty Family Foundation, and Jim and Nancy Fields funds. Apply at least 3 weeks before your course date.

Funds are limited, so don't wait!

[CLICK TO APPLY](#)

For the full catalog of Live Virtual Training courses:

[CLICK HERE](#)

www.sjashrae.org

NEW! Demystifying Dehumidification: Designing Efficient and Effective HVAC Moisture Removal Systems	Tuesday, September 8, 2026 – Part I Wednesday, September 9, 2026 – Part II	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm EDT	Free Humidity Control Design Guide for Commercial and Institutional Buildings Value: \$224
ASHRAE Global Training Commissioning Process in New and Existing Buildings (MENA) Provides region-specific content and instruction relevant to the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.	Thursday, September 10 & Friday, September 11	3:00 pm – 6:00 pm UAE	Save 30% on Standard 202-2024 -- The Commissioning Process Requirements for New Buildings and New Systems
Designing Residential Ventilation Systems to Meet ASHRAE Standard 62.2	Wednesday, September 9	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm EDT	Free Standard 62.2-2022, Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Residential Buildings Value: \$140
Updated! Laboratory Basics: Tools, Standards, and Design	Thursday, September 10	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm EDT	Free ASHRAE Laboratory Design Guide: Planning and Operation of Laboratory HVAC Systems, 2nd Value: \$155
Air-to-Air Energy Recovery Applications: Best Practices	Tuesday, September 15	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm EDT	Free ASHRAE Standard 84-2024, Method of Testing Air-to-Air Heat/Energy Exchangers Value: \$75
NEW! Ultra-Low-Energy Buildings and Microgrids Tools for Resilience and Decarbonization	Wednesday, September 16	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm EDT	Free Smart Grid Application Guide: Integrating Facilities with the Electric Grid Value: \$111
FREE! Guideline 36: A Brief Introduction	Thursday, September 17	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm EDT	N/A



Certified

ASHRAE Certification

Advance Your Career Today!



**Over 1,000 Test
Centers Worldwide**

*Safe, secure
and convenient.*

With already more than 4,000 certifications earned to-date, ASHRAE programs were founded to meet the industry needs of today and provide value to thousands of built-environment professionals, employers and building owners.

ashrae.org/certification

Building Commissioning Professional (BCxP)



- The BCxP certification validates competency to lead, plan, coordinate and manage a commissioning team to implement commissioning processes in new and existing buildings.
- Recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as meeting the Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines (BBWG).

40% Application Discount: BCxP | Use code BCxP2026

Apply by Sept. 30

Building Energy Assessment Professional (BEAP)



- The BEAP certification validates competency to assess commercial building systems and site conditions, analyze and evaluate equipment and energy usage, and recommend strategies to optimize building resource utilization.
- The BEAP certification is integral to ASHRAE's Building Energy Quotient (BuildingEQ) program by helping to ensure that only qualified practitioners can submit In Operation Workbooks to receive building ratings from ASHRAE.

Building Energy Modeling Professional (BEMP)



- The BEMP certification validates competency to evaluate, select, implement, calibrate and interpret the results of energy modeling software when applied to new and existing building and systems energy performance.
- The BEMP certification complements ASHRAE's Building Energy Quotient (BuildingEQ) program by helping to ensure that only qualified practitioners can submit As Designed Workbooks to receive building ratings from ASHRAE.

"Because of the high level of expertise, professionalism and ethics demonstrated by ASHRAE, achieving certification under their established requirements implies one of the highest levels of competence and knowledge available in the industry."

Jeffrey G Ross-Bain, BCxP, BEMP, Ross-Bain Green Building, LLC

NEW! Certified Decarbonization Professional (CDP)



- The CDP certification validates competency to assess, analyze, and develop effective and sustainable strategies that reduce/eliminate the life-cycle carbon footprint of new and existing buildings.

Certified HVAC Designer (CHD)



- The CHD certification validates competency of an HVAC Designer, working under the responsible charge of an engineer, to design HVAC systems to meet building/project requirements, including load calculations, equipment selection and sizing, mechanical equipment room design, duct and piping design and layout for the development of HVAC plans for permit and construction.
- In an Industry Need survey, ASHRAE member respondents who influence the hiring decision agree the CHD is a tool to identify competent new hire prospects.

High-Performance Building Design Professional (HBDP)



- The HBDP certification validates competency to design and integrate sustainable HVAC&R systems into high performing buildings.
- Today's building design market requires use of ground-breaking technologies in new and existing structures to meet the need of building owners.

Healthcare Facility Design Professional (HFDP)



- The HFDP certification validates competency to incorporate standards, guidelines as well as unique healthcare facility requirements and design principles in HVAC system design.
- Advances in technology, shifting environmental requirements and an increasingly older population have created a critical need for expansion and renovation of healthcare facilities.

The Benefits of an ASHRAE Certification

Value for Certification Earners

- ✓ Validation of specialized knowledge, skills and ability
- ✓ Unparalleled recognition
- ✓ Career development

Value for Employers

- ✓ Identify and recruit qualified professionals
- ✓ Elevated credibility among customers
- ✓ Greater employee job satisfaction

Easy Steps to ASHRAE Certification

1. Read the *Candidate Guidebook*

Visit ashrae.org/certification and download the guidebook for the program in which you are interested.

2. Complete the Application

Application discounts for ASHRAE Members.

3. Schedule an Examination

Schedule your exam at one of over 1,000 test centers worldwide.

4. Renew the Certification

Each certification is renewable every three years.

Certification@ashrae.org | 1-678-539-1105

Digital Badging

Helps you get the recognition you've earned.

