



The HVAC&R Industry

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Advancing HVAC&R To Serve Humanity
And Promote a Sustainable World

The HVAC&R Industry, ASHRAE's free weekly eNewsletter for HVAC&R professionals, provides relevant, timely information about industry and technology for people who create healthy, comfortable indoor environments.

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Industry News

Economy Halts Skyscraper Projects

FRANKFURT, Germany—Construction work has stopped on 124 skyscrapers worldwide due to the global economic downturn. Construction data firm Emporis says that this represents 8.7% of all buildings taller than 100 m (330 ft) where work was already underway. Twenty-one out of 203 skyscrapers underway in the U.S. have been put on hold. Among the stalled projects is the Chicago Spire, planned to be the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. Construction was stopped after major work was done on its foundation.

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U.S. GHG Emissions Increased by 1.4% in 2007

WASHINGTON—Greenhouse gas emissions in the United States increased 1.4% in 2007 compared with 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). DOE's Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported earlier this month that U.S. greenhouse gas emissions increased mainly because of greater weather extremes and a decrease in hydropower production. Carbon dioxide emissions increased by 1.3% in 2007, while other greenhouse gases increased at a faster rate. Emissions of HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆, a group labeled collectively as "high-GWP gases" because of their high heat-trapping capabilities, increased by 3.3%.

[Click here](#) to read the *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases Report*.

First Refrigerated Beach Planned for Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—The world's first refrigerated beach is planned for the new Palazzo Versace hotel in Dubai. The beach will have a network of pipes beneath the sand containing a coolant that will absorb heat from the surface. The swimming pool will be refrigerated and there are also proposals to install giant blowers to waft a gentle breeze over the beach. In the Middle Eastern city, summer temperatures average 40°C (104°F) and can reach 50°C (122°F).

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Researchers Develop AC That Uses Water as Refrigerant

EAST LANSING, Mich.—A Michigan-based research team has developed an air-conditioning system that uses water vapor as the refrigerant. When water vapor is