



Green Building. Sustainable Construction. Water Conservation. LEED Certification. High-Efficiency Products. Low-Flow Products.



Understanding emerging technologies, changing standards and code requirements is becoming more complicated every day.

That is why the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC) has tapped into the expertise and opinions of a diverse group of professional p-h-c contractors to investigate the green building/water conservation movement and to determine direction for the future.

In the Fall of 2007, PHCC appointed a Green Construction and Water Conservation Task Force composed of contractors from across the country. The task force has met several times and has undertaken a number of initiatives, such as partnering on a research project with a group of senior level students studying sustainable construction at Purdue University and forming alliances with several national “green” organizations and committees.

“What makes this task force unique is that it represents all types of contractors with a wide range of experience,” said PHCC President Jim Finley. “These are people who deal with installation and maintenance issues on a daily basis. That’s what makes their

input valuable not only to our association, but the industry as well.”

“We are working to establish relationships with industry groups addressing the green issue so that PHCC stays informed, and also has a voice in what is discussed,” said Task Force Chairman Kevin Tindall, Tindall & Ranson Plumbing & Heating, Princeton, N.J. “Another objective is to determine best practices and strategies that we can share with PHCC members. All the while, we’ll be seeking practical and effective water conservation solutions that work within existing infrastructures.”



Kevin Tindall, Tindall & Ranson Plumbing & Heating, Princeton, N.J.

“The task force findings can be a guide for the p-h-c contractor by channeling the latest information on green practices, technologies and product development,” said Task Force Member John Roeber, Roebers, Inc., Castro Valley, Calif. “The benefits are two-fold. First, the association member will obtain trusted first-hand knowledge of systems that are reviewed by experienced contractors on the task force. Secondly, PHCC’s commitment to explore green issues will illustrate to consumers that the association is composed of forward-thinking professional contractors who are committed to the latest conservation methods.”

Task force members agree that timing is of the utmost importance.



Ron Dunsmoor, Eastern Mechanical Inc., Biddeford, Maine

“It is extremely important that PHCC has input in the early stages to help form what type of new standards that contractors will have to meet. We also need to be involved in and try to help determine how these changes will affect the operation of the entire plumbing system,” said Task Force Member Ron Dunsmoor, Eastern Mechanical Inc., Biddeford, Maine. “For instance, it’s the contractor who will get the call if a new energy-efficient system does not work, not anyone else. This happened when the 1.6 gallon flush toilets were mandated. That is why we need a platform to voice our concerns and recommendations for practical and effective solutions and get involved before new technologies are approved.”

But what about the naysayers who think the “green” movement

is a fad, and not worth the time and effort? Task force members say there are many benefits for the professional p-h-c contractor to get involved in green methods.



John Roeber, Roebers, Inc., Castro Valley, Calif.

“Besides the virtual explosion of profitable work available in this new area, green building can help revitalize the image of the plumber and our industry’s culture while teaching consumers how to reduce energy consumption and utilize more efficient technologies,” Roeber said.

“P-h-c contractors should get involved because we need to save our resources,” said Dunsmoor.

“As we have seen in the South, lack of enough water is a big issue, and we all know how OPEC has a hold on our economy. We can make a difference and affect the world economy.”

PHCC also is working to provide members with resources and education they need to successfully integrate green practices into their businesses. The association plans to host green construction seminars at upcoming PHCC meetings and a water conservation awareness rally on Capitol Hill during its Leadership and Legislative Conference '08. Additionally, the new green resource center on its Web site will be a growing source of information on best practices, consumer education materials and more. For more information, call (800)533-7694, or visit www.phccweb.org.