

Plumbing Engineer®

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Industry News

Water Efficiency Coalition gains traction

WASHINGTON — The newly formed Water Efficiency Coalition, which will be governed by the Alliance for Water Efficiency, is gaining momentum and members. Recently, the International Code Council's (ICC) Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas (PMG) group, the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE), the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute (PMI) and the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors — National Association (PHCC) have signed on.

The ICC joined with a consortium of the best plumbing minds in the U.S. to collaboratively develop solutions for continued worldwide improvement of water efficiency and conservation efforts across the plumbing industry. To advance these goals, a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to form the Water Efficiency Research Coalition. The MoU was signed in the offices of U.S. EPA administrator Stephen Johnson, who pledged to partner with these plumbing organizations to coordinate water efficiency research.

Representatives from the ICC and four other organizations will jointly develop and implement research programs to further improve water efficiency and sustainable plumbing products, applications and processes.

The coalition will support research projects that will aid or assist in the development of more water efficient and sustainable plumbing products, systems and practices. Sample potential research topics include: drain-line carry research on high-efficiency toilets; water re-use systems and safe applications for re-use water; non-water consuming urinals and sizing of water-efficient plumbing systems. The coalition will seek government grants and private party financing to fund the research projects.

PMI executive committee member Jack Krecek of Elkay Manufacturing Company represented PMI at the event. "It was an honor to represent the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute at the signing of the MoU," Mr. Krecek said. "Entering into this collaboration with such proactive and important organizations is an important and necessary step. PMI and its member companies become part of a process that promises to ensure sustainability of a precious and scarce natural resource, while maintaining the safety of the products we manufacture and ensuring consumer choices for plumbing product features and price points. Having the signing at the office of the EPA and in the presence of the EPA administrator underscored that the federal government fully acknowledges and understands the commitment of the signatories of this document to the efficient use of water."

According to the MoU, the coalition seeks "to provide a mechanism for voluntary cooperation on plumbing-related research projects that pertain to water efficiency." It initiates a spirit of cooperation between charter and future coalition members "to find common ground to share technical, scientific, legislative and regulatory information that will result in an organized and systematic approach towards the development of comprehensive



The best plumbing minds in the U.S. met to collaboratively develop solutions for continued worldwide improvement of water efficiency and conservation.

research programs." The goal of such research would be the advancement of water efficient and sustainable plumbing products, systems and practices.

"We, like the other organizations represented here today, recognize that plumbing systems are complex," said Pete DeMarco, IAPMO director of special programs. "To keep these systems working properly, decisions on further reductions in the amounts of water that we currently use must be based on good science if we are to avoid problems that could tarnish and jeopardize the entire water efficiency movement."

Code Council joins national effort to reduce fire deaths

WASHINGTON — The International Code Council (ICC) stood with fellow fire safety advocates near the U.S. Capitol to bring attention to several recent fire fatalities and to encourage usage of early detection and early suppression tools.

Senior vice president Sara Yerkes represented the Code Council. Other participating organizations included the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Association of Fire Marshals, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the Home Safety Council, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the National Fire Protection Association and the American Fire Sprinkler Association. Families of fire death victims and Washington, D.C., area fire departments were introduced as well.

Several of the participants endorsed the ICC's activities as essential to fire safety and promoted the adoption of the latest building and fire safety codes. The Code Council will soon release its 2009 International Codes and urges jurisdictions to adopt and administer building and fire safety codes to provide maximum public safety. In the event of a fire, properly installed and maintained fire detection and suppression systems can save lives.

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Industry Movers

Bradford White promotes McKenney

AMBLER, PA. — Bradford White has promoted Robert G. McKenney to the position of region sales manager. McKenney will oversee the company's sales efforts throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. He will report to director of sales Jim McGoldrick.



McKenney

Jahnke elected to Elkay board of directors

OAK BROOK, ILL. — Ronald C. Katz, executive chairman of Elkay Manufacturing Company announced that Timothy Jahnke, Elkay's president and CEO, has been elected to serve on the company's board of directors.



Jahnke

Engineered Software names new leaders

LACEY, WASH. — Engineered Software



Blondin

Inc. has named Michael Blondin chief operating officer and Christy Bermensolo vice president of engineering. Former vice president of engineering, Ray Hardee, P.E., will now be Engineered Software's chief executive officer.



Bermensolo

Zoeller Company VP of marketing retires

LOUISVILLE, KY. — Zoeller Company announced that Mike Babrowski, vice president of marketing will retire, effective February 20, 2009, after 26 years with the company. During Babrowski's tenure, Zoeller Pump Company became an acknowledged leader in the sump and sewage market in the United States. Babrowski was an active member of the Vendor Member Division and the American Supply Association, as well as of other business and professional organizations in Louisville.



Babrowski