

ASHRAE Joins Letter to FHFA Urging Adoption of Standard 90.1-2019

ASHRAE signed onto a letter led by ACEEE directing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to require any mortgages for new homes guaranteed by them to meet minimum building energy code requirements (IECC 2021 or Standard 90.1-2019).

EPA Releases App for IAQ Assessments in Schools – Recorded Webinar Available

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed a mobile app that can help with IAQ assessments at. The tool can assist with implementing an IAQ management plan and tracking progress.

FERC Races to Install New Transmission Lines to Accommodate Renewables

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is faced with needing to maintain transmission operations while accounting for a constantly expanding energy need and a variety of energy sources. The agency has been debating a proposed rule that would require utilities to use a 20-year horizon when planning transmission projects, accounting for future needs and changes to energy sources and demand.

Department of Energy Launches Carbon Capture Program

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is initiating a competition for \$1.2 billion to be used for carbon removal projects. There are at least 13 projects that have applied for the funding, a sizeable applicant pool considering there are only 27 commissioned CO₂ removal plants worldwide.

Treasury Releases Guidance on Tax Benefits for Renewables in Low-income Areas

The Treasury Department has issued guidance for the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program. This program provides bonus tax credits for developers of small-scale solar and wind projects in low-income communities.

Johns Hopkins Releases Model State Legislation to Improve Indoor Air Quality

The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security announced the public availability of its model state legislation for improving indoor air quality (IAQ). The legislation is intended to enable states to improve IAQ in public spaces, due to the federal government's lack of authority to regulate indoor air. It would include a state advisory council to set IAQ standards according to the state's needs; a requirement for IAQ to be measured and the results to be posted publicly; and the establishment of a system for residents to report negative health impacts caused by poor IAQ. Pollutants measured could include mold, radon, carbon dioxide, particulate matter, and chemicals from cleaning products.

U.S. Reports Record Growth in Clean Energy Projects Since IRA

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was passed, in part, to spur investment in clean energy and climate-related industries; in this, it has succeeded as reported by the American Clean Power Association. In the year since its signing, there has been over \$270 billion invested in U.S. utility-scale clean power projects and manufacturing facilities. The manufacturing sector has seen 83 new or expanded facilities, including 52 solar, 14 battery storage, 11 wind power, and six offshore wind manufacturing facilities totaling more than \$22 billion in investments. According to the report authored by the American Clean Power Association, domestic clean energy investments in the U.S. over the last year have exceeded total investments made over the previous eight years.