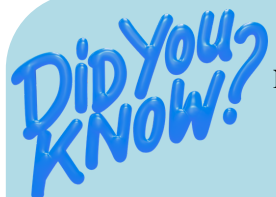


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ASHRAE has partnered with PNNL, NEMA and several industry partners to create the AI Data Center Energy Performance Framework.

The AI Data Center Energy Performance Framework has three objectives so far:

- Deliver a scalable framework for the efficient design, commissioning, retrofit, and operation of AI data centers
- Enhance energy and water efficiency through adoption of advanced technologies and best practices
- Support grid reliability and resilience by promoting load flexibility and grid-interactive operations

The framework is meant to cover hot topics like energy source, energy use and water use in data center design, construction and operations.

> [LEARN MORE](#)

MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING



Thursday, August 20, 2026
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



El Arroyo
1616 W 5th Street, Austin, TX 78703



From Index to Initiative: Using Assessments to Create Actionable Facility Plans



5:00 PM - Arrival & Check-in
5:45 PM - ASHRAE Intros / Announcements
6:00 PM - Main Presentation



\$35 Member Ticket / \$40 at the door
\$40 Non-Member Ticket / \$45 at the door

[REGISTER NOW](#)



YEA NETWORKING EVENT



Tuesday, August 25, 2026
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Hold Out Brewing
1208 W 4th Street, Austin, TX 78703



Sponsored by Texas Air Products



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Austin ASHRAE,

My name is Ricardo Soto, and I am Austin's 2026-2027 ASHRAE president. I wanted to use my first presidential message to say thanks to Thomas Lanard "Tom" Paxson who unfortunately passed away on June 30, 2026.



Tom was an integral part of your ASHRAE volunteer team. For the last two years, he served as our government affairs committee (GAC) chair. He set up our "Day on the Hill" event in 2025 and constantly reminded us to get to know our government officials. While politics is a touchy subject, he navigated it by reminding us to vote, reminding us to know who is representing us, and to reach out. Whether we like our politicians or not, he focused on making sure we were active and open to help.

On top of being GAC chair, he volunteered at our events and came to our meetings. Tom was always cracking jokes at his expense and reminded us to also question everything. He was a vibrant voice and could make any topic interesting.

You can find Tom's obituary at the following link:

[Thomas Lanard Paxson Obituary Jun 30, 2026 - Ramsey Funeral Home & Crematorium](#)

Tom's ceremony was August 8th, but there are links if you want to plant a tree or send flowers.

Thank you for your time ASHRAE, and thanks for everything Tom!

-Ricardo Soto



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PROGRAMS CTTC / VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Austin ASHRAE!

Please join us for our first chapter meeting of the 2026-27 ASHRAE Season. We are changing things up a little and doing a dinner meeting at El Arroyo.

For this month, our main technical presentation will feature an ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer (DL), Catherine Tinkler. Catherine will be presenting From Index to Initiative: Using Assessments to Create Actionable Facility Plans. Attention members! Invite your non-member friends and colleagues to the August Chapter Meeting! This is a great opportunity to introduce people to ASHRAE!

Parking

Street parking is limited but available. There is limited parking along the backside of El Arroyo and a parking garage directly across the street at Hartland Plaza.

Schedule:

- 5:00 PM - Happy hour! Arrive / Check-in / Mingle
- 5:45 PM - ASHRAE Intros / Meeting Announcements
- 6:00 PM - Main Technical Presentation

Main Presentation:

How can facility assessments move beyond identifying problems to driving smarter, long-term decisions? This session explores how comprehensive assessments, performance benchmarking, and regenerative design principles can help facility owners prioritize renewal efforts, improve energy efficiency and resilience, and align asset management with broader sustainability goals.

Attendees will also learn about the Facility Quality Initiatives (FQI) framework, which brings together facility condition, energy, resilience, decarbonization, and programmatic data to create actionable recommendations and measurable outcomes. The takeaway: turn facility data into strategic action—supporting healthier occupants, more resilient buildings, and more sustainable facilities.

Walker Anderson

Speaker:

Catherine Tinkler



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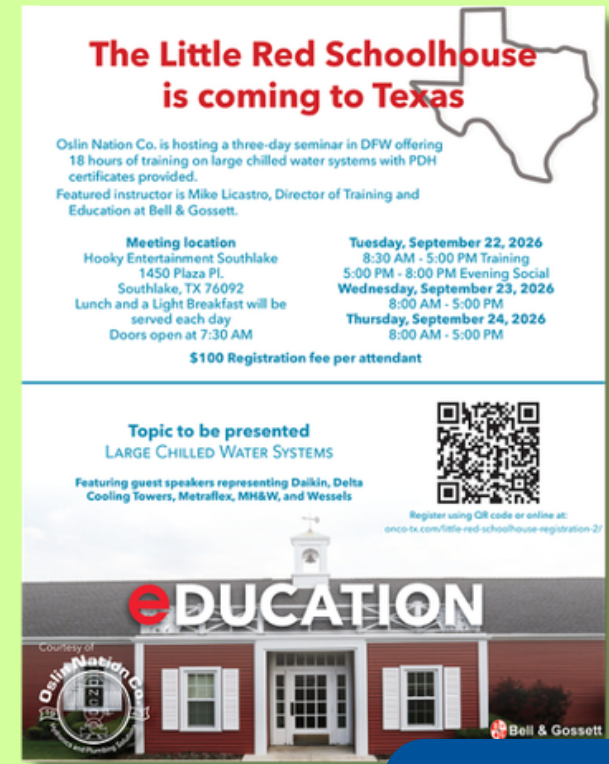
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MEMBERSHIP PROMOTIONS

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! The Membership Promotion committee would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who attended our end of year meeting and participated in the new member's raffle.

I'm happy to announce the first meeting will have a raffle for (2) tickets to the Texas Little Red School House seminar taking place in Dallas (This raffle is limited to Consulting Engineers & Contractors)! The breakdown of how to get raffle tickets is below

- (1) Ticket if you bring in a non-member to the meeting
- (1) Ticket if you're a non-member that goes to the meeting
- (3) Tickets if you bring in a non-member that signs up for ASHRAE at the meeting (or week of)
- (5) Tickets if you're the non-member that signs up for ASHRAE at the meeting (or the week of)



READ MORE



So please show up and bring someone new to ASHRAE to experience the community, networking, and knowledge that can be gained through being involved.

Don't forget – local Austin Chapter membership is essential to support our programs and events. For questions, contact Membership Promotion Chair, Branden Jodoi, at bjodoi@onco-tx.com.

Renew online at www.ashrae.org, and remember that paid members have the greatest impact on both Society and Chapter financial goals! Contact Us Have questions, suggestions, or need more information about membership?



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YOUNG ENGINEERS OF ASHRAE

Can't believe we're starting a new year! The YEA committee would like to say THANK YOU to our lovely sponsors and everyone who attended our local events during the 2025-2026 ASHRAE Year!

To kick off the year, YEA will be hosting a happy hour at Hold Out Brewing sponsored by Texas Air Products! Food & drinks will be provided. Swing by to hang out, connect, and grab a bite—Hold Out is home to one of Austin's top burgers!!! We're looking forward to seeing some new faces and catching up with all of the YEA folks! Let's kick off the year on a high note! Details below:



Location: Holdout Brewing

Address: 1208 W 4th Street, Austin, TX 78703

Date & Time: 8/25, 5-7 PM

Looking forward to seeing y'all there!

We'd also love to welcome new faces to our YEA Committee! If you're interested in getting involved, collaborating on events, or just want to learn more, don't hesitate to reach out to any of us below:

Kathleen Leyendecker –

Kathleen.leyendecker@hts.com

Trey Campsmith –

Trey.campsmith@hts.com



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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

ASHRAE, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association released an AI Data Center Energy Performance Framework designed to fulfill the need for standardization and collaboration on best practices for data center design and operation, per an industry survey. The framework offers best practices for data center performance but does not establish mandatory requirements or supersede existing codes. Topic areas cover energy and thermal efficiency, siting, design, operations, maintenance, retrofits, resiliency, and grid interactivity.

The Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) held its third advisory committee meeting to discuss establishing a high-performance building standard (ASHRAE 90.1-2022) for the new construction and renovation of state-funded buildings. This standard will apply to university buildings and state government buildings, among others. Other standards under consideration include the 2024 International Green Construction Code (IgCC), and rating systems such as LEED and Austin Energy Green Buildings (AEGB). The advisory committee is made up primarily of professionals in the building design and construction industry that have experience working on state-funded projects, as well as Texas A&M Energy Systems Laboratory (ESL). The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 27th.

In other related news to SECO, Eddy Trevino, the Executive Director, will retire effective at the end of August. Meghan Hope, who runs the Natural Resources Division and who has been with SECO for several years, will succeed Eddy.

Governor Abbott announced his latest legislative proposal within the "Keep Texas Affordable" agenda, this time aimed at lowering electricity bills by ending the municipally owned utility monopolies in Austin (Austin Energy) and San Antonio (CPS Energy) and opening these markets to retail electric competition. The press release states that introducing retail electric competition within these markets would allow residents to save approximately 10% on their monthly bills. The proposed legislation would also restrict utility revenues from being used for other local government spending, instead directing funding solely towards the provision of reliable electric service. The savings purported in Gov. Abbott's announcement is in conflict with Austin Energy's data, which shows a residential rate significantly less than the state average and average residential bills that are some of the lowest in the state. The "Keep Texas Affordable" agenda has previously addressed housing costs as well, suggesting that local sales tax could be withheld from municipalities the continue to implement "design specifications and other unnecessary mandates that prevent construction and raise construction costs."

Governor Abbott directed the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) and Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to conduct a verification and audit process of all data centers in the interconnection queue before any additional data center projects are able to advance. This move effectively put a pause on interconnection requests for data centers in Texas in the wake of local backlash in some communities, recent legislative hearings, and calls for a special session to address data center policy in the state. Additionally, a majority of data centers failed to respond to a water usage study. As a result of Gov. Abbott's directive, ERCOT announced that the selection of data centers for "Batch Zero," the first group of data centers to be considered for interconnection under the new rules, would be postponed. The directive asks that PUC and ERCOT obtain certain information for each data center project as part of their audit and to inform legislative action in next year's session including use of government incentives, energy and water use, and community impact measures to address noise and other factors. Under this new policy, and with interconnection effectively slowed to a halt for the audit process, some developers could potentially seek off-grid arrangements.

The Department of Energy (DOE) opened two opportunities for comment related to the appliance standards program. The first is a notice of proposed rulemaking to make changes to the process rule, which establishes procedures and guidelines for establishing equipment and appliance efficiency standards. DOE proposes making the process rule binding, where previously the regulation was non-binding guidance. The Department wrote in a statement that this change will protect consumer choice and decrease consumer costs, consistent with EO 14154 "Unleashing American Energy". Other changes include the creation of a defined threshold for significant energy savings based on full fuel cycle energy and specific thresholds for standards to be considered economically justified, addressing consumer cost, payback timelines, and limits on increases in incremental costs. These proposed thresholds would be required under the new rule, as the process rule would be binding for regulatory actions. Additionally, DOE released a separate but related RFI to gather information on potential improvements to the analytic methods, assumptions, and models supporting the development of appliance and equipment standards. Areas of interest include specific analytic issues raised by commenters on the 2025 RFI and recommendations offered in a 2021 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report. Comments are due August 21st, and September 8th, respectively.

Tracee Rhodes

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HISTORY

Life Members of the Austin Chapter

180 Technology Parkway • Peachtree Corners, GA 30092 • Tel: 404.636.8400 • Fax: 404.321.5478 • www.ashrae.org

Randy C. Schrecengost, P.E.
Austin Chapter #005
Historian
schrecengostrandy@stanleygroup.com

Stanley Consultants
6836 Austin Center Blvd., Suite 200
Austin, TX 78731
Tel: 512.427.3623

AUSTIN CHAPTER HISTORIAN

SOCIETY YEAR – 2026-2027

RE: Life Members of the Austin Chapter

Date: August 16, 2026

Dear Life Members:

This is an open invitation to all of you to attend the Austin Chapter meetings for **Society Year 2026 - 2027**. Please visit and get to know our younger dedicated members as they work hard in "advancing the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world". The meetings still follow what was done in the old days – just not the same. The members involved are great and success will occur over the years. Please put the meetings on your calendar and/or bookmark the Chapter website at [ASHRAE Austin - Home Page \(astarchapter.com\)](http://ASHRAE Austin - Home Page (astarchapter.com)). Stay connected and share your stories. If I've missed someone below, please let me know.

	Last Name	First Name	Print Grade	Grade Start Date
1	Huff	Daniel	Life Member	03/12/2025
2	Krawczyk	Mark	Life Member	02/12/2025
3	Grot	Richard	Life Member	02/07/2025
4	Chenault	Donald	Life Member	01/29/2024
5	Currie	John	Life Member	01/23/2024
6	Schurk	David	Life Member	02/13/2023
7	Davidson	Michael	Life Member	02/09/2023
8	Olsen	Mark	Life Member	02/22/2022
9	Becker	Joseph	Life Member	02/17/2022
10	Bloomquist	Larry	Life Member	02/15/2022
11	Patton	Sam	Life Member	02/15/2022
12	Risner	Phillip	Life Member	02/21/2021
13	Schrecengost	Randy	Life Member	02/21/2021
14	Braddock	Cliff	Life Member	02/21/2021
15	Sneed	Delmer	Life Member	06/26/2020
16	Parkman	David	Life Member	
17	Naughton	Philip	Fellow Life Member	
18	Green	Thomas	Life Member	
19	Harutunian	Hagob	Life Member	

Historian Randy

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BOG RECORDS



2026 August BOG Meeting Minutes

- 1. Kick-Off
 - a. Meeting started at 4:02 pm.
 - b. Attendees: Ricardo, Branden, Walker, Tracee, Kathleen, Lorenzo, Steve, Melanie, Chi Andy, Miguel
 - c. Have you contacted your RVC this month?
- 2. Goals for the Year
 - a. DRC MBO's (TBD)
 - i. Increasing our local government involvement. We've had technical session before with the city, think it might be time to loop them back in.
 - 1. Potentially a meeting where we have someone from the city of Austin come talk to us about updates
 - 2. Find Contact info – Mark
 - 3. Keith Mars – DSD, Lorenzo sending email to Keith. CC Tracee, Walker and Ricardo
 - ii. Increasing high school and university involvement and showcase Muggyh:
 - 1. Had a chance to preview Muggy and honestly, I think it will help if we get kids thinking about it before college.
 - 1. Does everyone know about Muggy?
 - iii. Increase our existing building knowledge.
 - 1. Honestly, Catherine's topic may work into this.
 - b. Additional Goals for Austin Chapter
 - i. Bring in new officers, chairs, BOG, and committee members
 - 1. Areas of Need:
 - a. Priority – CRC chair
 - b. History, GAC, MP

General Items

- a. Chapter operations
 - i. [ASHRAE MCQ](#)

MONTH	BOARD OF GOVERNORS	CHAPTER PRESIDENT	OFFICER OR COMMITTEE	MEETING
AUGUST	Develop items for CRC Meeting scheduled for the Fall.	Approves program for the year and publishes in the newsletter.	Chapter chairs submit MBOs to chapter president.	Obtain speaker presentations two weeks prior to each monthly meeting to check for contentment.
SEPTEMBER	Act on Agenda items for Fall CRC Meeting.		1. TREASURER-Mail out Dues Statements, after approval of budget at Sept. Meeting.	Confirm by Meeting vote-Board actions on budget and committee appointments. Follow up with announcement that chapter dues are payable as of Oct. 1 st .

- b. MBOs (Management by Objectives)
 - i. Please send Ricardo (Ricardo.soto@stantec.com) copy of your MBOs

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August 11, 20

from list sent by Ricardo/Randy
1 of Excellence)

it Par in all categories and stay in good graces with the region
following videos:
[Assessment Prevention Training Part 1](#)
[Assessment Prevention Training Part 2: Case Studies](#)
confirm video requirements.

dney, Tracee

ish Manufacturer's Association, ISIB in November – No real
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September '26

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Walker)
eting 8/20

Tinkler – DL from Houston
ssments to Create Actionable Facility Plans
5-7pm
around info to get attendance up.
mb: Current sign up+15 minutes
ngs on Austin Calendar