



*The Anthracite Chapter*

**NEWS**

**March 2021**

**ASHRAE - Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today**

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## President's Message

Hello ASHRAE members and friends!

Spring is almost here! Only ten days away! And this weekend we turn the clocks ahead to begin daylight savings. I am looking forward to the daylight lasting into the evening hours and getting outside.

As we begin to see the number of new coronavirus cases decline and the number of people getting vaccinated climb, an easing of gathering restrictions will hopefully follow soon. I look forward to when we can once again hold meetings IRL (in real life).

This month's virtual presentation subject is PP-RCT piping. Please see meeting information on the next page. **Don't hesitate to contact me if there are any questions, or issues, accessing the meeting.**

Mark your calendar for the upcoming chapter visit by ASHRAE President Chuck Gullede III, PE, HBDP. LEED AP, Fellow ASHRAE, 2020-21 on April 7<sup>th</sup> at noon. See our News and Notes section for more details.

This coming month we will be presenting nominees for next year's chapter officers and board of governors. Please reach out to any of our current chapter officers if you would like help to shape the future of our chapter. As we are all aware, ASHRAE is made up of volunteers and our chapter depends on our members involvement to thrive.

Best regards,

Michael Mecchi  
Anthracite ASHRAE President 2020-2021

ashrae\_anthracite



Chapter Website: <http://anthracite.ashraechapters.org>

# **ASHRAE ANTHRACITE CHAPTER MEETING**

**Tuesday March 16, 2021**

**At Noon, ET**

***(Virtual Presentation)***

## **PP-RCT for Plumbing, HVAC and Hydronics**

Present Polypropylene material, specifically “PP-RCT” for use for process water lines, as well as in HVAC and Hydronics applications. The presentation will compare and contrast the PP-RCT material to the two major metallic piping systems currently in use (copper and carbon steel) and demonstrate the benefits of PP-RCT over the metallic materials.

The presentation will review certifications, material and installation costs, material design review for pressure and temperature capabilities, insulating properties and benefits, and energy efficiency regarding comparative pumping pressures and flow rates. LEED and “Green” advantages are reviewed. Typical product applications are discussed.

Presented by

**Robert Marsiglia**

Rob Marsiglia is the National Business Development Manager (BDM) for Asahi/America’s Commercial piping systems, Northern region. Robert has over 35 years of experience with metallic and non-metallic piping and valve systems for commercial, industrial and sanitary/high purity applications. He holds an Associate Degree in Mechanical Technology and a Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering. As NBDM for commercial products his duties include engineering presentations, material selection and system design assistance, field training and installation supervision. Rob is a member of ASPE and ASHRAE, holds his CPDT, and is located in Ho-Ho-Kus NJ.

**There is no charge for this event, but you must RSVP to [c134@ashrae.net](mailto:c134@ashrae.net) with “Anthracite Chapter March 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting” in the subject line to receive the Go to Meeting invitation**

**A Certificate of Attendance will be sent to all attendees**

# **NEWS and Notes**

## **CRC 2022 Volunteers**

Thank you to those members who have volunteered to help the chapter host the Chapters Regional Conference (CRC) in 2022! I am very thankful to Dennis Gochoel for volunteering to be the 2022 CRC Committee Chair. And I believe we have volunteers for most of the chair positions, but ***WE STILL NEED MORE HELP!*** If you are willing and able, please reach out to Dennis or any chapter officer to be part of the team to help make the CRC a success.

## **President Gulledge Virtual Chapter Visit**

We will be co-hosting the Hampton Roads Chapter's April meeting along with other chapters in Region III that will feature a Presidential Address by ASHRAE president Chuck Gulledge III, PE, HBDP. LEED AP, Fellow ASHRAE, 2020-21. The date is Wednesday April 7<sup>th</sup> at noon. Registration details will be forthcoming within a week.

## **Technology Corner**

### **Natural Ventilation and R Type Occupancies**

While discussing a large multi-family housing project (within the Scope of the International Building Code) one of the team members pointed to a code reference within the International Mechanical Code Chapter 4 which appears to prohibit natural ventilation in large R occupancies. This particular reference first appeared in the 2012 versions. We'll actually reference the 2021 International Mechanical Code as its similar in reference.

1. [2021 IMC Chapter 4 Ventilation](#) – A user note (which first appeared in the 2018 edition) at the very top basically states mechanical ventilation is preferred for indoor air quality purposes.
2. [401.2 Ventilation Required](#) – States that Dwelling units complying with air leakage requirements of the International Energy Conservation Code or ASHRAE 90.1 shall be mechanically ventilated per [IMC 403](#).
  - a. This is especially interesting as it's basically saying anything regarded as a Dwelling Unit must be mechanically ventilated. But it doesn't go as so far as to just state it out right.

The above item is the reference we have the most interest in. Without diving into the IECC for the actual leakage test requirements in this note, it's fair to paraphrase by stating the following; "Within Dwelling Units, to comply with BOTH Energy code and Mechanical Code, you shall mechanically ventilate." The wording is strange as they could simply state; "Dwelling units shall be mechanically ventilated in compliance with IMC403". The explanatory material gives some direction, but we were really interested in how States and Commonwealths are intending to

enforce this and how they interpret the section. One of my colleagues posed the question to New York State. The answer we received via email was basically:

“We’re not saying you can’t naturally ventilate those spaces, we just prefer you don’t”

Interesting to say the least! In actuality all of us are mechanically ventilating these types of buildings as long as we have exhaust in accordance with 403 and are maintaining proper building pressure relationships. The only real question becomes, are you required to directly supply outside air to living areas as identified within table 403.1.1.1? Admittedly it’s not much but could still lean decision makers into less sustainable mechanical solutions for the building. Recall the “User Note” at the beginning of the IMC chapter 4, they specifically make reference to IAQ. I assume to separate natural ventilation from a means to reduce energy consumption. The fact that this note first appeared in a printing 3 years ago and 6 years after the original printing of the Natural Ventilation restriction in the 2012 IMC indicates there still be some movement on this. So, keep a look out!

### Take Away(s)

1. When we think of mechanical ventilation vs. natural ventilation 99.9% of us are strictly referring to outdoor air delivery, not forgoing exhaust (although exhaust is referenced in IMC 403).
2. Don’t forgo exhaust! I always thought that was obvious, but not always evidently.
3. Regulations and requirements are extremely fluid and can be interpreted a number of ways by different jurisdictions. It’s never a bad idea to ask the governing agency what they really expect while limiting your liability.
4. Stay creative in solutions to provide code compliant, safe, healthy and energy efficient applications. Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems are economical and energy efficient solutions to making any system compliant with even the most stringent ventilation standards.

Ryan J. Wanko P.E., C.E.M, LEED A.P.  
Mechanical Engineer

If you have a technical article that you would like to see included in a future edition of the *NEWS*, please submit articles to CTTC Chair Ryan Wanko [c134prg@ashrae.net](mailto:c134prg@ashrae.net) for consideration.

## ***Stranger Things*, ASHRAE Edition**

**Here is something strange: We don’t have any submissions for this month’s Stranger Things!**

### **Stranger Things Corner**

Please submit photos or stories to Newsletter Editor, Michael Mecchi ([c134@ashrae.net](mailto:c134@ashrae.net)) for consideration to be included in future editions.

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## ***ANTHRACITE CHAPTER MEETINGS & EVENTS 2020-21***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
Sept. 15		Golf Outing	
Oct. 20	Research Promotion/ Donor Recognition	Flow Measurement	Jon Zoppa
Nov. 17	Students/YEA	Pressure Booster Systems for Plumbing Applications	TBD
December	Family Night	No Meeting	--
Jan. 19	Research Promotion	Pipe Up	TBD
Feb. 9-11	Winter Conference	2021 ASHRAE Virtual Winter Conference	--
Feb. 16	Engineer's Week	TBD	TBD
Mar. 16	Nominating Night	PP-RCT for Plumbing, HVAC and Hydronics	Robert Marsiglia
<b>April 7</b>	<b>President Gulledge Chapter Visit</b>	<b>The ASHRAE Digital Lighthouse and Industry 4.0</b>	<b>ASHRAE President Chuck Gulledge</b>
April 20	Students/Membership	TBD	TBD
	ASHRAE Webcast	TBD	TBD
<b>May 18</b>	<b>Past-Presidents</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Jun. 15	Fun & Fellowship	Mark A. Hagan, PE Memorial Golf Outing	--
	Fun & Research Promotion	TBD	--
Aug.	Chapters Regional Conf.	2021 Region III CRC	--

\*ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer

### **ASHRAE MISSION**

- To advance the arts and sciences of heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigerating to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world.

### **ASHRAE VISION**

- ASHRAE will be the global leader, the foremost source of technical and educational information, and the primary provider of opportunity for professional growth in the arts and sciences of heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigerating.

### ***The Anthracite Chapter NEWS***

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