

NEW BILL REPLACES SENATE BILL 12

The 2009 Texas legislative session ended on June 1. Quite a few bills were filed that would have affected school construction and energy management. One bill in this area, Senate Bill 300, passed. It repeals the requirement of Senate Bill 12 from 2007 that school districts set a goal of saving energy.

The new rules require that districts:

- Create and follow a long range energy conservation plan to reduce electric consumption by five percent annually, beginning with the 2008 state fiscal year
- Include no-cost strategies in the plan
- Identify first costs, lifetime costs, and potential savings for all strategies

Other bills to eliminate the ratchet from electric demand charges for schools and create statewide standards for school construction died in committees.

Senate Bill 547, which continues to delay electric deregulation in far east Texas (mainly the area served by Southwest Electric Power Co.) also passed.

SUSTAINABILITY EVEN WITHOUT CERTIFICATION

Even if buildings are not designed to meet LEED requirements, they can still have many energy saving and sustainable features. MEP systems can include equipment that reduces energy and/or water consumption. Other features may enhance indoor or outdoor environmental quality. Some of these features include:

- High efficiency lighting, including premium ballasts and fluorescent systems in gyms, to reduce electric demand
- High performance air conditioning and heating, including geothermal systems
- Non-ozone depleting refrigerants
- Demand control ventilation to maintain acceptable indoor air quality
- Low flush fixtures to reduce water consumption

Each of these design elements would earn points toward LEED certification. For districts that do not want to pursue LEED certification for their buildings, including some of the features listed above leads to efficient, energy saving, environmentally friendly facilities.

TEMA FORMS DFW AREA CHAPTER

The organizational meeting of the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Energy Managers Association (TEMA). Officers elected for the upcoming year were: Steve Hanner (Allen ISD), President; Ed Shefall (Richardson ISD), Vice-President; and Ken Carden (Whitesboro ISD), Secretary/Treasurer.



Pictured: Ken Carden, Steve Hanner, and Ed Shefall

TEMA was founded to serve publicly funded institutions by promoting energy efficient practices and providing energy management training. Membership is open to all government employees; however, the initial focus is on school districts. More information is available at www.texasema.org.

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TISD AND EMA ON WINNING TEAM

Amber Phillips, EMA, participated in the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Event. The event was intended to increase the group's membership and create awareness about its role in the community.



Amber (pictured seated next to Tim Loper, Tyler ISD's Director of Facilities) was on Tyler ISD's orange team. Their group raised more money than any other team. The Tyler Area Chamber holds the national record for the most new members recruited during a chamber of commerce membership drive.

TXAIRE: TEXAS ALLERGY, INDOOR ENVIRONMENT, AND ENERGY INSTITUTE

The Tyler Economic Development Council and UT-Tyler College of Engineering and Computer Science conducted a forum on East Texas Economic Development initiatives and various research projects at UT-Tyler. James D. McClure, P.E., Robert E. (Ed) Cliver, P.E. and Mike Clendenin, P.E. attended from EMA.

The Texas allergy, Indoor Environment, and Energy Institute (TxAIRE) research was discussed at the forum and a tour of the lab conducted. The lab located in UT-Tyler's new engineering building includes test equipment to measure the efficiency of filters for HVAC systems per ASHRAE standards. TxAire is a collaboration grant project. The mission in addition to IAQ and health effects research is to develop new technology that can be produced commercially. For more information about the research see www.txaire.uttyler.edu/news.

COPELL ISD STUDENT WINS LOGO CONTEST

The new Texas Energy Managers Association (TEMA) held a statewide logo contest for their organization. Students from all across Texas were invited to participate. The winning logo was submitted by Sarah Pak of Coppell Middle School North. The school received a check from TEMA for Sarah's efforts.



Pictured above are: Victor Melton, CFBISD, Shannon Weaver, Art Teacher and Assistant; Larry Harvey, Garland ISD; Sarah Pak, Thom Hulme, Coppell ISD school board; and James McClure, EMA.



Pictured: Dr. Lin, Professor & Chair, M.E. Department

ENGINEERING

AIR CONDITIONING
COMMUNICATIONS
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LIGHTING
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EMERGENCY POWER
ENERGY
FIRE/SAFETY
LIGHTING
MASTER PLANNING
MEDIA
RESEARCH STUDIES
SUSTAINABILITY
SECURITY
TECHNOLOGY
WORKSHOPS/
TRAINING

SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

35 YEARS SERVICE
575 TEXAS ISDs
47 COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES
OTHER SCHOOLS
THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY

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Company Spotlight

- James McClure will serve as President of the ASHRAE East Texas Chapter for 2009-2010
- Congratulations to Catherine Hollenshead, who is now a licensed Engineer in Texas
- Congratulations to Trenton Biggs, who got married in June
- Condolences to Cameron Symes on the loss of his sister, and Gary Bristow on the loss of his nephew
- Jason Reed won the annual EMA Cup Golf Tournament held in June