

ASHRAE

50

YEARS

JOURNAL

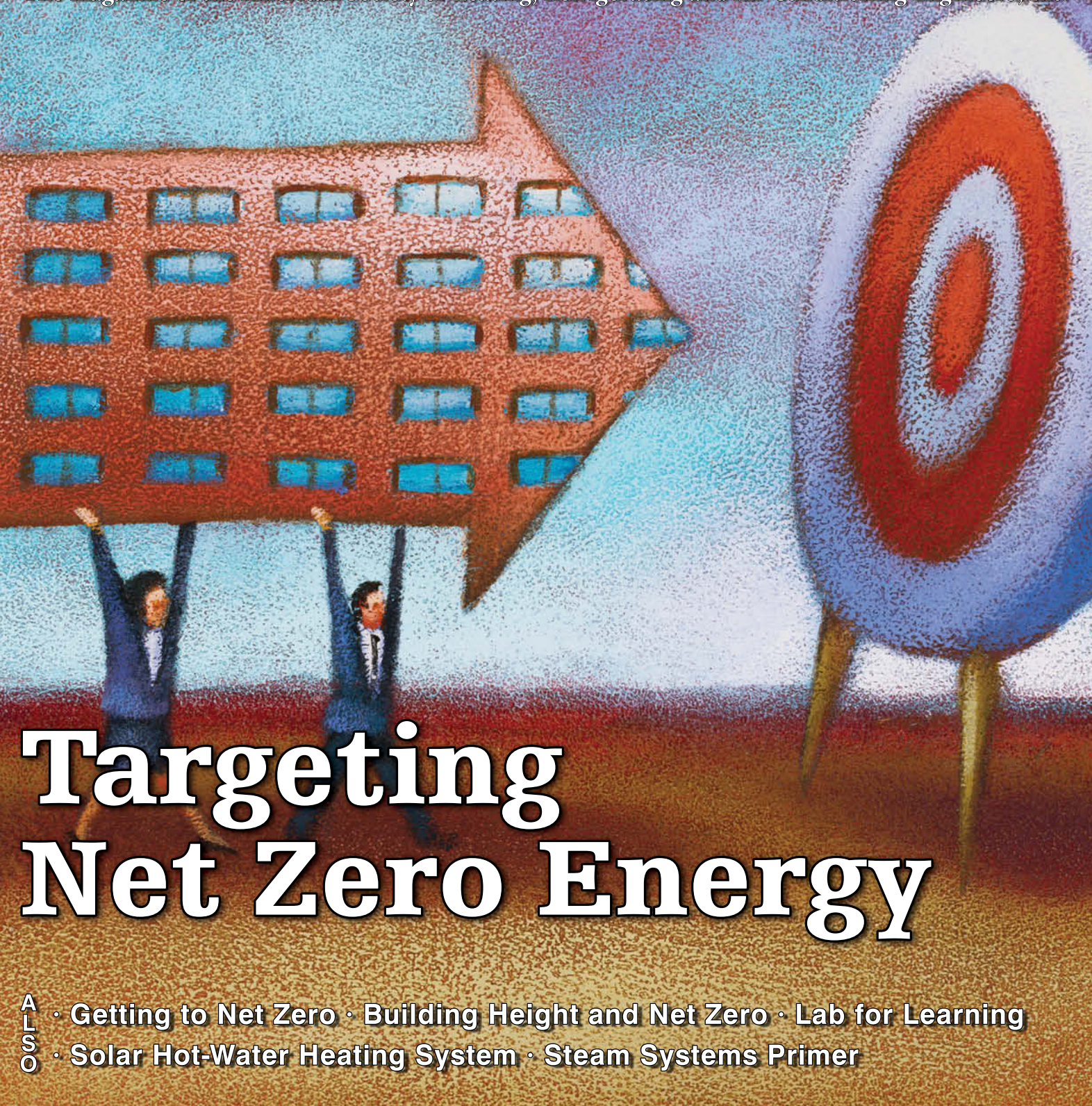
1959-2009

www.ashrae.org

September 2009

# ASHRAE® JOURNAL

The magazine of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.

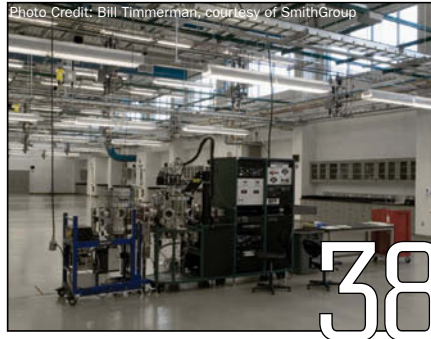


## Targeting Net Zero Energy

**A**LSO • Getting to Net Zero • Building Height and Net Zero • Lab for Learning  
**S**O • Solar Hot-Water Heating System • Steam Systems Primer

# CONTENTS

Vol. 51, No. 9 | September 2009



## Features

### 18 Getting to Net Zero

By Drury Crawley, Ph.D.; Shanti Pless; Paul Torcellini, Ph.D., P.E.

### 26 How High Can You Go?

Building Height and Net Zero

By Duncan Phillips, Ph.D., P.Eng.; Meiring Beyers, Ph.D.; Joel Good

### 38 Lab for Learning

By Eric Kirkland, P.E.; Robert Sty, P.E.

### 44 Solar Hot-Water Heating System

Lessons Learned

By Gaylen Atkinson; Tom Colvin, P.E.

### 54 ANNIVERSARY FEATURE

### Low Pressure Steam Heating Systems

A Steam Systems Primer

By Roy C.E. Ahlgren

## Standing Columns

### 72 Building Sciences

Mold in Alligator Alley

By Joseph W. Lstiburek, Ph.D., P.Eng.

### 84 Emerging Technologies

Mechanical Subcooling: What's Easiest is Not Always Best

By John Dieckmann;  
James Brodrick, Ph.D.

## Departments

- 5 Commentary
- 6 Industry News
- 10 Letters
- 16 Meetings and Shows
- 82 Products
- 90 People
- 93 Classified Advertising
- 96 Advertisers Index

**ASHRAE® Journal** (ISSN 0001-2491) **MISSION STATEMENT** | ASHRAE Journal reviews current HVAC&R technology of broad interest through publication of application-oriented articles. ASHRAE Journal's editorial content ranges from back-to-basics features to reviews of emerging technologies, covering the entire spectrum of professional interest from design and construction practices to commissioning and the service life of HVAC&R environmental systems. **PUBLISHED MONTHLY** | Copyright 2009 by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc., 1791 Tullie Circle N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329. Periodicals postage paid at Atlanta, Georgia, and additional mailing offices. **LETTERS/MANUSCRIPTS** | Letters to the editor and manuscripts for publication should be sent to: Fred Turner, Editor, ASHRAE Journal, fturner@ashrae.org. **SUBSCRIPTIONS** | \$8 per single copy (includes postage and handling on mail orders). Subscriptions for members \$6 per year, included with annual dues, not deductible. Nonmember \$59 (includes postage in USA); \$79 (includes postage for Canadian); \$149 international (includes air mail). Expiration dates vary for both member and nonmember subscriptions. Payment (U.S. funds) required with all orders. **CHANGE OF ADDRESS** | Requests must be received at subscription office eight weeks before effective date. Send both old and new addresses for the change. ASHRAE members may submit address changes at [www.ashrae.org/address](http://www.ashrae.org/address). **POSTMASTER** | Send form 3579 to: ASHRAE Journal, 1791 Tullie Circle N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329. Canadian Agreement Number 40064709.

**ONLINE at ASHRAE.org** | Feature articles are available online. Members can access articles at no cost. Nonmembers may purchase articles at [www.ashrae.org/bookstore](http://www.ashrae.org/bookstore). | **CUSTOM ARTICLE REPRINTS** | Reprints are available from The YGS Group, call 800-290-5460 or Email [ASHRAEreprints@theYGSgroup.com](mailto:ASHRAEreprints@theYGSgroup.com). **MICROFILM** | This publication is microfilmed by National Archive Publishing Company. For information on cost and issues available, contact NAPC at 800-420-NAPC or [www.napubco.com](http://www.napubco.com). **PUBLICATION DISCLAIMER** | ASHRAE has compiled this publication with care, but ASHRAE has not investigated and ASHRAE expressly disclaims any duty to investigate any product, service, process, procedure, design or the like which may be described herein. The appearance of any technical data, editorial material or advertisement in this publication does not constitute endorsement, warranty or guarantee by ASHRAE of any product, service, process, procedure, design or the like. ASHRAE does not warrant that the information in this publication is free of errors and ASHRAE does not necessarily agree with any statement or opinion in this publication. The entire risk of the use of any information in this publication and its supplement is assumed by the user.