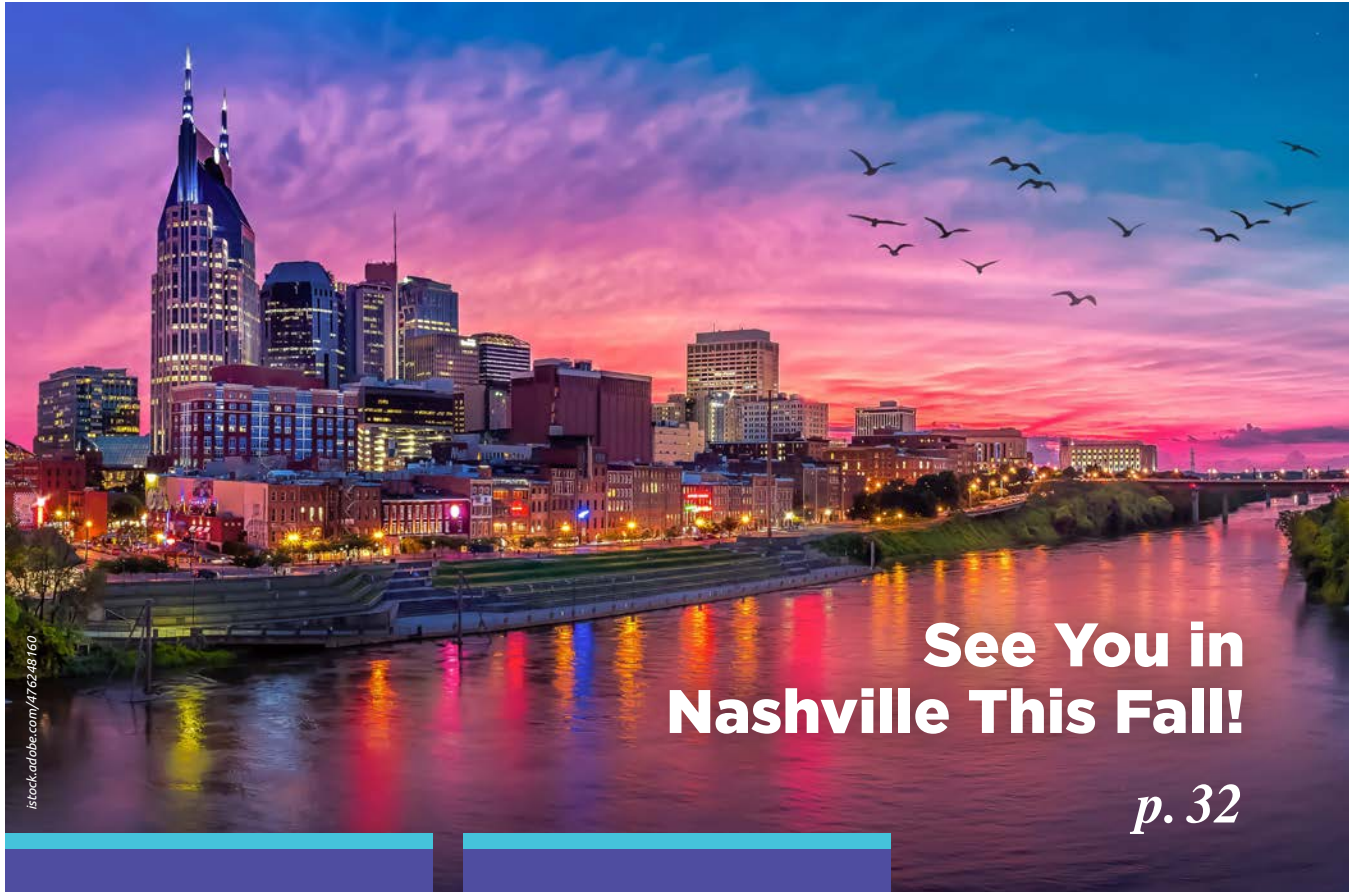




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SOUTHEASTERN INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



**See You in
Nashville This Fall!**

p. 32

**Highlights of
the 2023 FMI
Talent Study**

p. 12

**5 Construction
Technology
Trends**

p. 38

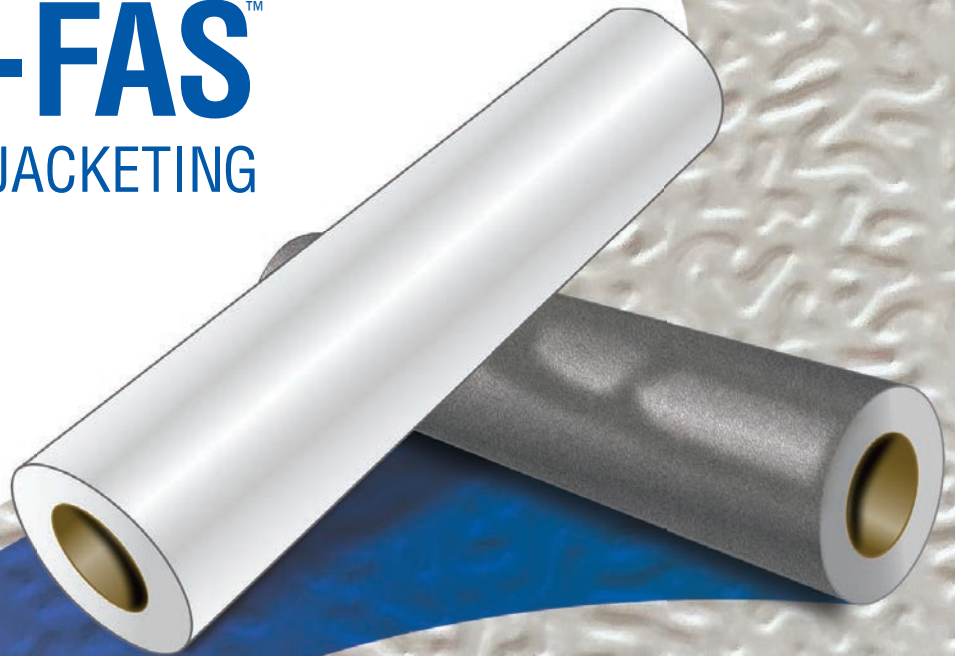


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2023 NUMBER 2—SPRING EDITION

WHAT'S INSIDE

President's Message	4
Executive Director's Report.....	6
SEICA Leadership	8
Membership and Dues	10
Highlights of the 2023 FMI Talent Study	12
SEICA's Own Laura Dover Is NIA's New President	20
Economic & Energy News.....	22
Nashville Bound: SEICA's 2023 Fall Conference.....	32
OSHA Updates	34
5 Construction Technology Trends	38

A Quarterly Publication of the Southeastern Insulation Contractors Association

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SHARE YOUR OPINION WITH SEICA!

As members of SEICA, your input and ideas are critical for the success of this newsletter. We welcome your thoughts on useful, current, interesting, and informative content for the SEICA Newsletter. We invite you to become a regular contributor—please send your ideas and content to director@seica.org. You will be glad you did!



*"Life becomes more meaningful when you realize the simple fact that you'll never get the same moment twice."
—Unknown*

President's Message

Summer is here, school is out, life is busy, and it is getting warmer every day! Work is keeping us all busy these days, which I am very thankful for. I tell people outside our industry that each day in the insulation world is a new day—we rarely, if ever, face the same problem twice! For me, that is one of the reasons why I love this industry and my job so much. It is solving the day-to-day issues that keeps us moving forward, whether it is the new project that is like nothing we have ever done before or when the potential customer who walks in knowing nothing later becomes a satisfied and knowledgeable client. What I love are the little moments at the office where we work together to find a solution. It is why I want to keep on working for this industry.

Back in March, I had the opportunity to visit Maui for the NIA Convention. It was a wonderful opportunity to network and learn even more about the industry. Plus the scenery was amazing, too! The keynote speaker was Kenyon Salo, who is a skydiver for the Denver Broncos football team. He was so incredible to listen to and really got the entire group out of their comfort zone to learn new facts about each other, which is so important at industry events.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Spring Conference at the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa in Point Clear, Alabama. This resort is very family friendly, and I am very happy that so many of you are bringing your families to kick off the start of summer with us in Alabama, June 25-27.

Katie Burell

SEICA President

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Executive Director's Report

Welcome to the first issue of the redesigned SEICA Newsletter with an updated cover design, modernized images and fonts, and new article layouts! The Board of Directors voted to redesign the SEICA Newsletter, and we hope you like the changes.

In addition, we are thrilled to now offer the newsletter digitally. A PDF version of each newsletter will be emailed to the full SEICA membership, allowing more members to have easy access to the publication's valuable industry information. You can also find the newsletter on our website at www.seica.org/newsletters.

Included with the printed newsletter is your *2023 Membership Directory*, which continues to be a print-only publication (it will not be available online). Our 2023 membership and advertising renewals also are complete, and I offer a sincere thank you to everyone who updated their contact information and responded quickly—it is greatly appreciated!

For 2023, our membership totals are:

- 31 Members with 38 additional locations
- 36 Associates
- 33 Advertisers

I am looking forward to seeing many of you very soon at the Spring Conference at the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa in Point Clear, Alabama. We appreciate the support of our 15 event sponsors who are contributing \$8,050 to help make this a successful meeting!

I welcome your feedback (my contact information is below) on the redesigned newsletter and your suggestions on how we can better serve our members and the industry.

Erin Penberthy

SEICA Executive Director

Phone: 571-266-3129

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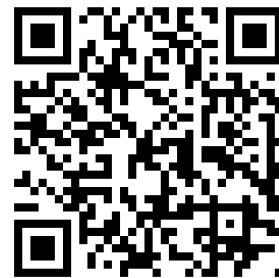
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for membership. The amount and method of payment shall be such as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

Only active members shall be entitled to vote in the affairs of the Association and each active member shall be entitled to one vote.

A branch office of a member who desires to receive the benefits of SEICA is eligible for membership. The branch office shall pay annual dues as herein prescribed but shall not be liable for an initiation fee if its principal office is a member at the time it applies for membership.



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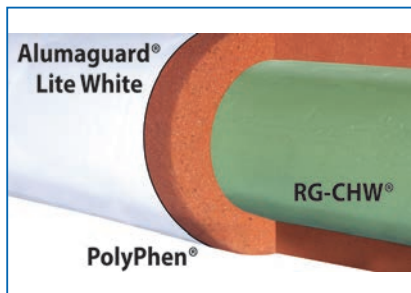
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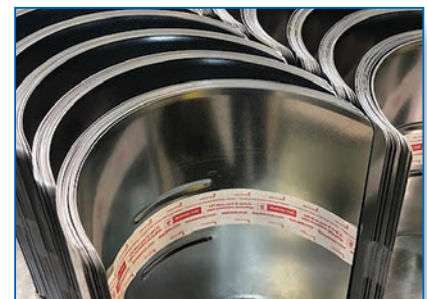
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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE *2023 FMI Talent Study*

In the *2023 Talent Study* report, FMI updates its data from 2017 by surveying executives and field leaders about the challenges related to attracting and retaining talent across jobs. More than half of survey respondents reported that talent shortages are having a high-to-severe impact on their companies but only 19% have succession plans for key strategic roles. And the problem continues to worsen as more people retire or leave the industry.

With the construction industry needing to hire an estimated 546,000 additional workers on top of the normal pace of hiring in 2023, FMI found that company culture and brand will be key components in attracting new talent to the industry.

The Lack of Talent in the Pipeline and How to Add to It

Talent shortages have plagued engineering and construction (E&C) firms for decades, but the situation has been exacerbated in recent years by a wave of exits as the last of the Baby Boomers hit retirement age, and by the Great Resignation, a broad term for the exodus of talent through the pandemic and competition from other industries.

In October 2022, Bureau of Labor Statistics data (<https://tinyurl.com/4n7wm98a>) showed that the quits rate for construction remained steady at 2.4% after peaking at 3.3% in March 2022. The transportation, warehousing, and utilities sectors had a 3.1% quits rate. For comparison, information services had a quits rate of just 0.9%.

A 2021 analysis by Associated Builders and Contractors (<https://tinyurl.com/9s684xz8>) showed slightly higher inflows than outflows of staff to construction, but the problem remains that



incoming workers do not have the necessary skills, experience, and training to keep up with current backlogs.

The pipeline is broken. Respondents to FMI's 2023 Talent Survey reported a rise in expected exits over the next 5 years at all levels, and 93% of those surveyed reported difficulties finding qualified talent currently. This is having a moderate to severe impact on firms, according to most respondents, and will be particularly pronounced as the nonresidential sector continues to enjoy robust backlogs and companies face resulting risks of burnout, difficulty growing, and wage pressures.

While attracting and retaining talent is an industrywide problem, the survey also revealed that companies can do much more to counter the issue. Many firms are missing the opportunity to develop and plan for crucial field leaders and other strategically important positions.

Skilled field leaders reported disillusionment amid a growing workload and lack of support. Likewise, a formalized look at succession planning beyond the C-suite will support broader enterprise thinking and expand bench strength.

To retain existing talent and attract new workers, companies in the built environment can focus on creating a more inclusive work culture and improving hiring practices. Our research also shows that companies supporting diversity efforts consistently and across the board enjoy a healthier corporate culture. There is talent out there, but companies need to be smart and strategic about how to find, attract and keep it.





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How Companies Are Developing and Retaining Field Leaders

Field leaders are the backbone of construction companies. A good project manager or superintendent typically needs years of training and experience to effectively manage projects, develop people, and create loyal customers. Yet, field leaders are widely overlooked in terms of training and development and feeling the pressure of increasingly complex and demanding work.

“Between safety and quality control and all the requirements [today], it’s just getting harder to follow up with all these things and get things done without the proper resources to manage the project because we’re getting squeezed for pricing, and [the home office staff] want us to be competitive in the market,” states one senior project manager.

“Project schedules are not realistic in today’s world,” said another field leader. “The general contractor does not understand the importance of

having proper input from all subs before favoring finish end trades. It’s all about looks to the owners, and function is second until things do not work due to rush scheduling.”

In our research, field leaders listed the following challenges as their biggest hurdles:

- Unrealistic project schedules,
- Difficulty staffing projects (lack of skills and labor), and
- Balance between leading teams and executing work.

Unsurprisingly, field leaders who have received proper training are almost 20% more likely to feel they are equipped to manage and lead their projects compared to their counterparts without training. Companies have made strides in recent years—78% of companies now prepare a formal budget for training and development, up from 57% in 2015—but there is room for improvement.



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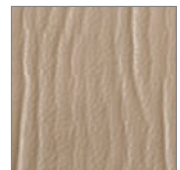
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Leveraging Training to Boost Next-Generation Leaders

Attrition in the construction industry continues to rise as older workers retire and the pool of skilled workers shrinks. Respondents to the *2023 FMI Talent Study* forecast 22% turnover for executives and senior managers, and almost 30% for field managers over the next 5 years. Few firms are ready for this magnitude of change.

While the majority of companies have some succession planning in place, only a slim portion

(19%) have plans in place for the transition of key strategic roles. This has obvious ramifications for the short term. At the upper levels of an organization, it can take 5 to 7 years to train a successor, sometimes longer if ownership transfer is involved.

But the issue isn't simply replacing key roles. "You've got to be training the 35-year-old project manager to think beyond project execution/project management and task orientation," says Rob Pulley, a Senior Consultant with FMI's leadership and organizational development practice. "As deep as you can go into the organization, your people need to be thinking about what's ahead if you're going to excel and create a competitive advantage. That's how you develop people into the enterprise leaders that you need for the next 10 or 15 years."

To be successful at running a company, today's leaders must be able to perform as well as transform their companies. It's not enough to run the day-to-day operations profitably. Leaders need to



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view their operations in the context of their geographies, sectors, clients, and competitors, focusing on developing talent and creating organizations that are resilient and flexible.

Using Culture to Set Your Firm Apart from the Competition

Today's recruits are strongly swayed by culture as many C-suite leaders noted in our talent study. "The next generation wants to know you care, and they want to be a part of something, so you have to be transparent and have open conversations," one executive said. "Young folks today want to work for firms with a purpose and live it out," said another. "If you have it, it's an advantage."

The data also reflect this. Those who scored their company culture a 5 out of 5 in our talent study were almost 30% more likely to use culture to attract and retain talent compared to those who scored culture less than a 5. Those who scored their company as 4 on the 5-point scale on

culture were still 25% more likely to leverage culture in pursuit of skilled employees. For talent in a market rife with competition for their skills, it can be a differentiator. Below that threshold, companies may be losing out on talent.

Staying Committed to People

There is no avoiding the talent cliff. The firms that focus on talent across the organization and engage employees in decisions, goals, and strategy where appropriate will create the motivated and loyal workforce needed to drive the business forward. Don't miss out on this great opportunity.

The full study by FMI's Jake Appelman, Ethan Cowles, Rob Pulley, and Michelle Thompson has been excerpted with permission from the 2023 FMI Talent Study. For more information, visit www.fmicorp.com. To download the full study, visit <https://fmicorp.com/insights/industry-insights/2023-fmi-talent-study>.



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SEICA'S OWN

Laura Dover

IS NIA'S NEW PRESIDENT

SEICA Past President Laura Dover has begun her term as the National Insulation Association's (NIA's) 2023-2024 President. She is the first female contractor President of NIA, and the second female NIA President. Laura served as the first female President of SEICA from 2014 to 2015 and is President of Dover Insulation, Inc., which is based in Marion, North Carolina. Dover Insulation joined SEICA in 1998 and joined NIA in 1996. Joining Laura on NIA's Executive Committee are her Past President Advisors, fellow SEICA member Dave Cox of Owens Corning, and the first female NIA President Dana Vlk, who retired from Distribution International.

Mechanical insulation has been a source of pride for the Dover family—for more than 100 years and spanning three generations—since Harry Dover, Laura's grandfather, took a job as a mechanical insulator at a newly built paper mill in Western North Carolina. William Dover, Laura's father, established Dover Insulation in 1965 to do first-class work on schedule and to deliver exceptional value and customer service, regardless of the size or scope of the job. In 2004 upon the death of her father, Laura took on the role of President and she and her team have advanced the company's mission and the tradition of honest service upon which her father established the company.

During her term as NIA's President, Laura will emphasize how we as an industry and association are **Better Together**, a theme that delivers the core message of mechanical insulation: Work Hard, Work Smart, Work Together. Throughout the year, she will work to increase awareness of the value of the industry and all mechanical insulation professionals.

In Laura's first "Industry Message" for NIA's *Insulation Outlook* magazine, she shared:

"My company's story is not all that unique in our industry. There are many small, family-owned insulation companies in the United States, many of whom are members of NIA. What we do is as important today—and in many ways the techniques

and materials are very similar—as when my grandfather started his career as a teenager. Insulators still save energy, provide personnel protection, assist with noise control, prevent mold, control moisture and condensation, and much more....

"As a graduate of the University of North Carolina (UNC) and an avid basketball fan, I am a devotee of the late Dean Smith, the legendary basketball coach who led the Tar Heels when I was a college student at UNC. Perhaps most importantly, Coach Smith was a mentor to many players off the basketball court and a top-notch leader. In his book, *The Carolina Way*, Smith says the Carolina mission was to "play hard, work smart, work together." For Smith and his teams over the years, emphasis on this simple mission led to incredible success for his players, on and off the basketball court.



"In our industry, I would suggest that this motto can be used to reinforce how we should come together to deliver the message of mechanical insulation: Work hard, work smart, work together. My theme as NIA President this year is **Better Together**. To elevate and raise awareness of the value of our industry, mechanical insulation professionals—contractors (large and small, merit and union), as well as suppliers, distributors, fabricators, and manufacturers—can accomplish much more when we come together."

Laura's term as President concludes at NIA's 68th Annual Convention, April 17-19, 2024, at the Naples Grande Beach Resort in Naples, Florida.

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Economic & Energy News



Construction Material Pricing

Construction Input Prices Down Year Over Year for Second Straight Month

Construction input prices increased 0.2% in April compared to the previous month, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) analysis of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Producer Price Index (PPI) data released in mid-May. Nonresidential construction input prices rose 0.4% for the month.

Overall construction input prices are down 1.1% over the past year, while nonresidential construction input prices have fallen 0.8%. Prices increased in two of the three energy subcategories in April. Crude petroleum prices rose 14.2% in April, while unprocessed energy materials were up 5.2%. Natural gas prices were down 20.1% for the month.

"Construction input prices were relatively tame in April and were down on an annual basis for the second straight month," said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. "This PPI release provides some good news for an industry that has dealt with

a nearly 40% increase in construction costs since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. But inflation remains a pressing issue for the industry and the broader economy. The Consumer Price Index, which is more important for monetary policy and broader economic sentiment, was up 4.9% year over year in April, well above the Federal Reserve's 2% inflation target.

"Despite the annual decline in input costs, contractors' profit margins are still under pressure," said Basu. "Due to higher borrowing and labor costs

and the substantial increase in materials prices over much of 2021 and 2022, the proportion of contractors that expect their profit margins will increase over the next two quarters has slipped in recent months, according to ABC's Construction Confidence Index." Visit www.abc.org for more information.

Higher Material Prices Here to Stay

Construction Dive reports that more upward pressure on the cost of building products will lead to a permanent shift in prices according to construction industry sources. Although prices for key input commodities should continue to fall in 2023 and 2024, according to a report from Oxford Economics, the level still remains greatly elevated compared to pre-pandemic. About 82.5% of construction materials experienced a significant cost increase since 2020, with an average jump of 19%, according to a construction materials report from construction cost data tracking firm Gordian. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/24jyp33f> to read the full analysis.



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Regional Energy News

Alabama-based coal miner Drummond says it plans to reduce and offset emissions from its operations to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. "Right now, our emissions as an organization are 1.9 million tons [of carbon dioxide] a year," Drummond's Colombia CEO, Jose Miguel Linares, told journalists. "We're looking for projects to see where we can reduce our emissions, how to offset what we cannot avoid and include all our allies in a commitment to reaching carbon neutrality by 2050," Linares said. (Reuters, <https://tinyurl.com/2s3uv3p3>)

North Carolina's success in attracting an electric vehicle factory, semiconductor plant, and other deals helped it edge out **Georgia** to be named as the top state for business competitiveness, according to *Site Selection* magazine. Factors considered include the total number of new and expanded facilities in the state, capital investment, and total number of new jobs created. In the rankings, North Carolina led the field,

followed by Georgia, Ohio, and Indiana. (Robesonian, <https://tinyurl.com/ms8sku8m>)

A consultant commissioned by **South Carolina** lawmakers reported the state could save up to \$362 million if it joins the PJM Interconnection, and \$187 million if it participates in a new Southeast transmission organization. The consultant recommended the state also consider authorizing the South Carolina Public Service Commission and regulated utilities to explore options for expanded retail rate choices such as green tariffs and giving large commercial and industrial customers the ability to negotiate rates. (Utility Dive, <https://tinyurl.com/4nnm5s9k>)

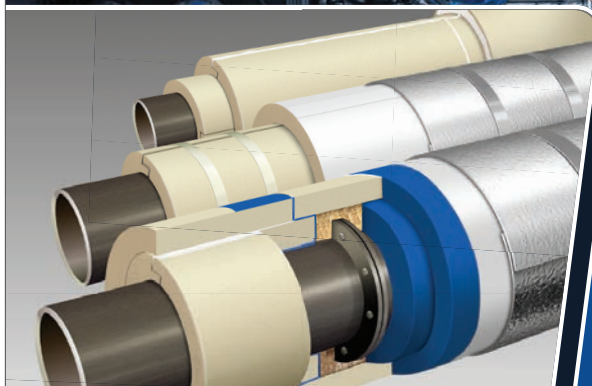
A restored **Tennessee** Valley Authority Board resumes considering how to replace two coal-fired power plants, affirming its CEO's decision to replace one unit with natural gas. (Knoxville News Sentinel, <https://tinyurl.com/2dx7vmpa>)

Virginia Beach, **Virginia**, recently joined a statewide Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program to help finance energy



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efficiency projects. The program will give the city access to low-cost and long-term financing that will go towards energy efficiency improvement in commercial and industrial properties. (WAVY, <https://tinyurl.com/mtec8wu8>)



News from ASHRAE

ASHRAE Completes Draft of First-Ever Pathogen Mitigation Standard

ASHRAE recently announced the completion of the first draft of its standard for maintaining healthy indoor air quality (IAQ), with final approval expected in June and publishing anticipated in July.

ASHRAE Standard 241P, Control of Infectious Aerosols provides minimum requirements for HVAC-related measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, influenza, and other airborne viruses in homes, offices, schools, hospitals during periods of high risk. The standard offers guidance for creating healthier environments in the buildings where we work, live, and play.

“The entire world was touched by the effects of the pandemic, and we learned that an effective way to protect ourselves from the spread of pathogens is to improve the indoor air quality and ventilation in the buildings that we occupy,” said 2022-23 ASHRAE President Farooq Mehboob. “Nowhere in the world do we have a standard that universally addresses the concept of mitigating pathogen spread and IAQ, and ASHRAE is proud to lead in the development of the guidance.”

The standard will address long-range transmission of infectious aerosols and provides minimum requirements for:

- Equivalent outdoor air (combined effect of ventilation, filtration, and air cleaning) for use during Infection Risk Mitigation Mode,
- Room air distribution to reduce risk,
- Characterization of filter and air cleaner effectiveness and safety,
- Commissioning, including development and implementation of a Building Readiness Plan,
- System operation in Infection Risk Mitigation Mode during periods of high risk,
- Maintenance tasks and their minimum frequency, and
- Residences and health care facilities.

“Standard 241P is built on ASHRAE’s longstanding leadership position as a developer of consensus indoor air quality standards and the guidance developed by the ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force in response to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said ASHRAE Presidential Fellow and Standard Project Committee 241P Chair William Bahnfleth, Ph.D., P.E. “This experience, combined with the efforts of a truly world-class international project committee, have allowed us to produce this review draft in only 10 weeks. It is a groundbreaking document that we expect to have significant impact. We look forward to the public’s comments as we work to complete the final version of the standard for publication.”

ASHRAE Publishes First Zero Energy and Zero Carbon Building Evaluation Standard

ASHRAE has released a new standard to measure zero net carbon and energy goals in buildings. ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 228-2023, Standard Method of Evaluating Zero Net Energy and Zero Net Carbon Building Performance, sets requirements for evaluating whether a building or group of buildings meets a definition of “zero net energy” or a definition of “zero net carbon” during building operation. The standard draws from ASHRAE Standard 105, among others, to address energy and carbon flows across a site boundary, their measurement, and their balance.

“Achieving a zero-energy building has been viewed by many as a difficult goal to meet, with





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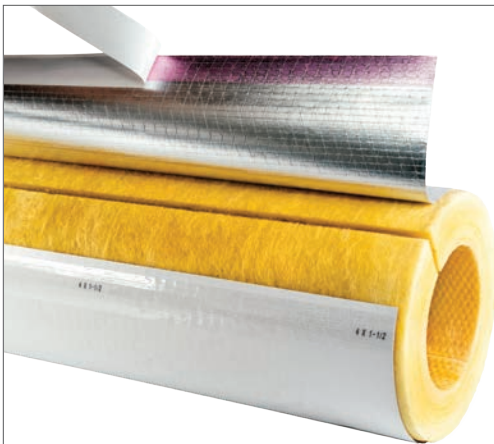
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unforeseeable roadblocks and differing guidance,” said Keith Emerson, P.E., who is Chair of the Standards Project Committee 228. Standard 228 provides a consistent method for determining whether new and existing sites have reached zero energy. We hope this standard will become a helpful resource for building professionals in strategic decarbonization planning.”

Additional features of Standard 228 are as follows:

- Allowances for sites that lack the opportunity to produce adequate renewable energy, while placing additional requirements on the use of external carbon and renewable energy in the calculation.
- Defined calculation of energy in terms of source—a multiplier on the energy crossing the

site boundary to include energy used or lost in extraction, generation, and transit to the site.

- The main energy calculation is made in terms of annual average factors. Allowance is made for the calculation of individual hours where data is available.

Standard 228 does not apply to the establishment of building energy performance goals or limits; design guidance or design requirements; embodied energy of building materials and systems; and transportation to and from a building. The standard is also not intended to circumvent any safety, health, or environmental requirements.

Standard 228 has been published on continuous maintenance. A Standing Standard Project



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Committee (SSPC 228) has been formed to update the standard through the publication of addenda or revisions to any part of the standard. SSPC 228 is chaired by Dr. Paul Torcellini. Instructions for how to submit a change can be found on the ASHRAE website at ashrae.org/continuous-maintenance.

For more information, visit www.ashrae.org.

From the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and the BlueGreen Alliance (BGA)

New Supply Chain Analysis Assesses U.S. Clean Technology Manufacturing Capacity and Risks

BGA has released two tools that can support State Energy Offices and their partners in understanding domestic supply chains for clean energy technologies. First, a map of the U.S. manufacturing base for clean energy displays all known facilities that

currently manufacture components for the solar, wind, energy storage/battery, electric grid, and building materials sectors. Second, a downloadable spreadsheet of supply chain gaps for clean energy highlights and assesses domestic manufacturing capacity in key components of each sector. BGA's spreadsheet assesses whether U.S. production is nonexistent, limited, moderate, or significant in meeting domestic demand.

BGA expects future updates to these tools may include analyses of additional supply chains, including electrolyzers, geothermal, electric vehicles, and emissions intensive materials like steel, aluminum, and cement that go into solar panels and wind turbines.

BGA is an alliance of labor unions and environmental organizations working together to address environmental challenges, support quality jobs, and build a clean energy economy. To view these tools, visit <https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/resources/clean-energy-supply-chain-analysis>.

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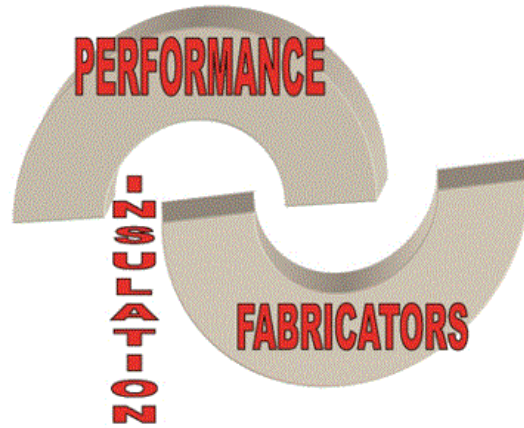
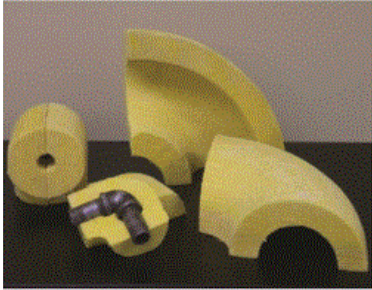
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NASHVILLE BOUND: SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SEICA 2023 Fall Conference



Registration Opens in August!

What: SEICA 2023 Fall Conference

Where: Omni Nashville Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

When: October 8-10, 2023

Registration Deadline: September 12, 2023

About the Omni Nashville Hotel

Located in the center of downtown Nashville and joined to the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum, the Omni Nashville Hotel is a modern expression of Music City's distinct culture and character through a rich blend of Nashville's history and the influence of Music Row—a perfect home base for exploring some of the best this vibrant city has to offer.

The hotel features three restaurant options, a 24-hour fitness center, full-service spa, and LEED Silver Certified NC (new construction). Guests can enjoy southern-inspired all-day dining at Kitchen Notes, reserve a table at Bob's Steak & Chop House to sample the finest steaks and wines, and shop for local goods at Five and TENN.

Bring Your Family and Explore Downtown Nashville

With the downtown Nashville location near Ryman Auditorium, Music City Center, Bridgestone Arena, and iconic Broadway, SEICA's hotel base at the Omni puts attendees at center stage!

Other nearby attractions include:

- **Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum**—visit the home of America's music.
- **Grand Ole Opry**—catch the show that made country music famous.
- **Johnny Cash Museum**—this world class collection tells the story of Cash's life.
- **The Parthenon**—explore the world's only full-scale reproduction of the famous Greek temple.
- **Walk of Fame Park**—see the stars honoring legendary figures in the music industry.

Visit the hotel's website (<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/nashville/things-to-do>) for more details on local attractions, sample itineraries, and tours.

More Information to Come!

More event and registration details will be available in August. Visit www.seica.org/2023-fall-conference to get the latest information or contact SEICA Executive Director Erin Penberthy via email at director@seica.org.



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OSHA Updates

U.S. Department of Labor Announces 15 Members of Advisory Committee on Construction Safety, Health (ACCSH)

The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the appointments of 15 people to serve as ACCSH members. The committee provides advice and assistance to the Secretary of Labor and the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health on Construction Safety Act-related policy matters and the setting of construction standards.

Members will serve 2-year terms and represent the interests of the public, employers, employees, and state and federal government. The committee—which has broad experience with issues relevant to construction safety and health—generally meets two to four times a year. The appointed members include the following:

Five employee representatives:

- Christina Trahan Cain, North America’s Building Trades Unions
- Liliana A. Calderon, International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
- Ryan Papariello, Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America
- Kenneth G. Seal, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
- Robert Seman, International Union of Operating Engineers

Five employer representatives:

- Kevin Cannon, Associated General Contractors of America
- Matthew Compher, Quanta Services Inc.
- Michael P. Lawler, Walsh Construction Company
- Greg Sizemore, Associated Builders and Contractors
- Mindy Uber, Skanska USA Building Inc.

Two public representatives:

- Dr. Marissa G. Baker, University of Washington
- Eric D. Fidler, Manitowoc Company Inc.

Two state government representatives:

- Christopher Scott Mabry, North Carolina Department of Labor
- Charles Stribling, Kentucky Labor Cabinet Department of Workplace Standards

One federal representative:

- Dr. G. Scott Earnest, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Christina Trahan Cain will serve as the ACCSH chair. The Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, also known as the Construction Safety Act, established the committee. To learn more about ACCSH, visit www.osha.gov/advisorycommittee/acssh.





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If you would like to be added to SEICA's contact list, or would like to
provide feedback on the newsletter, please email Erin Penberthy
at director@seica.org.





OSHA Announces National Emphasis Program (NEP) to Prevent Falls

OSHA has announced its NEP to reduce or eliminate workplace fall hazards associated with working at heights. Considering that falls remain the leading cause of fatalities and serious injuries in all industries, OSHA has determined that an increase in enforcement and outreach activities is warranted. The targeted enforcement program is based on historical Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data and OSHA enforcement history. BLS data shows that of the 5,190 fatal workplace injuries in 2021, 680 were associated with falls from elevations, about 13% of all deaths. The program establishes guidance for locating and inspecting fall hazards and allows OSHA compliance safety and health officers to open inspections whenever they observe someone working at heights. An outreach component of the program will focus on educating employers about effective ways to keep their workers safe. If a compliance officer determines an inspection is not necessary after entering a worksite and observing work activities, they will provide outreach on fall protection and leave the site. Visit www.osha.gov/news to read more.

OSHA Encourages Stakeholders to Share Feedback on Effectiveness of Leading Indicators to Improve, Develop Resource Tool

OSHA is asking for stakeholder input on their current use of leading indicators and their impact on managing their safety and health management systems.

Leading indicators are proactive and preventive measures that can provide insight on the effectiveness of safety and health activities and reveal potential problems. They are vital in reducing worker fatalities, injuries, illnesses, and financial impacts.

As OSHA considers developing a Leading Indicators Resource, the agency welcomes stakeholders to share their

experience and expertise and provide detailed feedback on how/where they are used at their workplace. OSHA is interested in various perspectives on stakeholders' answers to questions, such as the following:

- What leading indicators do you use?
- What lagging indicators do you use (OSHA incident rates, for example)?
- What leading indicators are, or could be, commonly used in your industry?
- What metrics do you share with top management?
- How do you determine the effectiveness of your leading indicators?
- Do you link your leading indicators to outcome data, such as OSHA incident rates to evaluate results?
- How could employers be encouraged to use leading indicators in addition to lagging indicators to improve safety management systems?
- What barriers and challenges, if any, have you encountered to using leading indicators?

To read the full list of OSHA's questions visit <https://www.osha.gov/leading-indicators/research>. Submit comments through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Docket No. OSHA-2023-0006) by July 17, 2023.



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5 Construction Technology Trends

By Laura Cataldo

A more data-driven and technology focused approach to work is prevalent in the world today and can present more opportunities to the construction companies that embrace it. Some of the key components for a digital-driven construction industry are:

- 1 Automation:** As more companies make their digital transformation, automation is in the forefront, even in construction. By automating processes that were slower, like data entry and document management, it can allow for more time and resources to concentrate on complex tasks. Automation on the jobsite is also becoming a reality with some trades that have identified repetitive tasks that can be automated, reducing manpower needs. With automation, construction companies can collect and analyze data to make more informed decisions in real-time and optimize processes on and off-site.
- 2 Prefabrication:** Many construction companies use prefabrication to help design and manufacture parts off-site, which helps meet deadlines quicker, with fewer resources, and without impacting quality. Experts can work on parts with quality assurance in mind and make sure each component is accurate and ready for assembly and installation onsite. Technologies like augmented reality and 3D printing can work with the prefabrication process to improve accuracy and provide an opportunity to track progress in real-time.
- 3 Collaboration:** When building big, complex projects, it usually involves multiple teams working together. Using collaborative digital technologies can help all parties communicate faster, share and analyze project data, and improve organization. This helps identify issues before they arise and can also help with revisions during planning and design, making teams more responsive to changing priorities.
- 4 Building Information Modeling (BIM):** In order to help track projects and detect conflicts early in the design and construction process, many contractors are utilizing BIM. BIM can be used to store data such as drawings, product specs, and cost estimates and also can generate 3D visuals that can lead to better error detection and design planning. Any changes can be seen in real time by all users. BIM technology can help plan and execute every step of the project from concept through design and construction.
- 5 Sustainability:** Technology can also play a big role in creating a more sustainable environment. Digital data that monitors energy usage can help building owners and contractors make more informed decisions on the products, systems, and design components that have the most positive environmental impact. Technology like BIM Energy Evaluation helps monitor how a building's design, exterior envelope, and systems impact energy efficiency.

Laura Cataldo is a Director with Baker Tilly working with real estate and construction firms of all sizes to evaluate business practices and assist with management challenges. Reprinted with permission from www.bakertilly.com/construction.

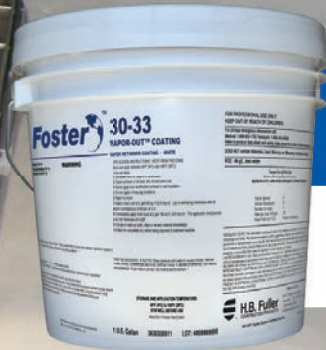
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