



2006

ANNUAL REPORT

**Our Future
Depends on It.**

Think Green...You Know, the Color of Money



The prime directive of the Mechanical Contracting Education & Research Foundation (MCERF) remains that of providing the human and financial resources to meet our industry's biggest challenges...and unearthing its hidden opportunities! Identifying and providing the basic knowledge to help you develop new business, in new markets, has become a significant new dimension of MCERF's mission...one that is increasingly green in nature!

In 2006, the Foundation engaged in numerous green activities:

- MCERF distributed nearly 2500 copies of McGraw-Hill Construction's pioneering study, *Green Building SmartMarket Report*, to members of our industry. This report does an outstanding job of illuminating the current state of green building activity in the U.S. and serves as an excellent primer on green terms and concepts.
- The Foundation joined the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The USGBC is the developer and proprietor of the LEED rating system for rating the "greenness" of buildings. MCERF is working with the USGBC on ways to refine their evaluative criteria and enhance the point values given for efficient and maintainable mechanical systems.
- MCERF also became a founding member of the Green Mechanical Council, a group of manufacturers and contractor representatives seeking to train and otherwise support those technicians and practitioners who make green visions a reality by installing work and manufacturing products.
- The Foundation assisted in the curriculum research and beta testing of a new *Green 101* course that will be available through the Mechanical Contractors Association of America's (MCAA's) National Education Initiative.
- And thanks to Foundation efforts, two major players in the green arena will share their insights and knowledge with you at MCAA's 2007 convention: Rick Fedrizzi, president of the USGBC, and Harvey Bernstein, McGraw-Hill vice president and editor of the aforementioned *SmartMarket Report*.

I love the cover photograph; it embodies my thoughts toward the growing green trend in our industry. Like the girl, this trend is young and full of energy and promise. And, like the girl, we will have to get our hands dirty to succeed...it will be hard work. On the other hand (no pun intended), isn't work exactly what we're looking for from this new, green market?

The bottom line is this: green building is an area where you and I get one of those rare chances in life...the opportunity to do something good, while doing some good business! The Foundation strongly urges you to support and take advantage of all MCERF and industry-sponsored green activities over the coming months... unless, of course, you just don't like the color green. You know, the color of money!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. FitzGerald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert W. FitzGerald
President, MCERF

"If there is a future, it will be Green." — Petra Karin Kelly, social and environmental writer/activist

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MCERF Green Initiatives In 2006

Green Relationships Forged in 2006



United States Green Building Council

MCERF joined the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) in January of 2006. The USGBC is dedicated to transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, and it is the developer and proprietor of the LEED Green Building Rating System. LEED is the national benchmark for high performance green buildings, and MCERF will work with the USGBC to increase the value that owners perceive and reward for mechanical construction and maintenance.



The Green Mechanical Council

In December of 2006, MCERF joined the Board of Directors of the Green Mechanical Council. This is a group representing contractors, service representatives, and manufacturer-suppliers to the mechanical industry, whose primary aim is to improve the materials and methods of green construction and to provide specific education and training to help effect such improvements.

Green Products/Services

Green Building SmartMarket Report

This publication, produced by McGraw-Hill Construction (MHC), is an extremely useful introduction to the concepts and terminology of green construction in the U.S. It is exactly the publication MCERF would have designed for industry education if McGraw-Hill had not already done it. The Foundation partnered with MHC to make nearly 2,500 copies of the report available to members of the industry that McGraw-Hill would not have otherwise reached.



Green 101

MCERF was instrumental in the development of an industry-based curriculum and providing beta-testing sites and funding for *Green 101*, a course that will be taught by Professor Tim Wentz of the University of Nebraska — Lincoln. It is the result of over a year of intense preparation and relationship-building with many industry partners, including the United Association, and selected academic and manufacturer-supplier partners. This preparation includes the industry's first-ever survey to judge practitioner knowledge and comfort level with green and sustainable construction/service.

Green 101 will target those contractor and service professionals wanting to learn the basics of the subject, such as:

- identifying green and sustainable business opportunities
- using green to increase business volume and strengthen market share
- differentiating your firm from your competitors' through green products and services
- providing numerous examples of MCAA and MSCA companies currently enjoying success in the green and sustainable market segment.

MCERF Products & Services In 2006

Building Information Modeling (BIM) — Along with green and sustainable building, one of the newest and most promising technological advances for the mechanical construction and service industries is Building Information Modeling, or BIM. Like green building, BIM is a holistic approach to designing and building structures. In essence, every detail of every project can realistically be converted to digital information, from the most detailed design drawings to textual and descriptive information flow. BIM, at its limits, can create more than a 3-D or virtual representation of the structure and workings of a structure, it can carry that information to five dimensions, which include operational properties over time and the creation of value statements based on the supplied data. The potential to add value to the work provided by the mechanical industry is immense, and largely unexplored. MCERF looks to conduct and provide useful BIM education as we move into 2007.

Funding Educational Excellence Initiative — MCERF dedicates at least half its annual spendable funds to support this effort, which finances student chapter grants, internship opportunities, and faculty development and recognition programs. MCERF provided approximately \$185,000 in financial support to this effort in 2006. In 2007, MCERF will also allocate funds to cover student and faculty convention registrations. Supporting programs that augment the education and development of university-level faculty and their students destined to lead our industry is a critical industry effort undertaken by MCERF.



Online Piping Usage and Specification (OPUS) — This project began as an activity to update the venerable, but outdated, 1994 MCERF publication entitled *Guideline for Quality Piping Installation*. The development task force quickly decided that the replacement product should have a different focus to attract and benefit entering and young project personnel so they more quickly learn and specify the basic methods and materials used in our industry. Thus, what was once an oversized print product was slated to become an online tool to better the entire mechanical contracting industry.

In 2006, MCERF working in conjunction with project manager QuickPen International, made significant progress in developing the database and search engine pieces that will be necessary to make the tool work as planned. Official rollout of the new OPUS product is slated for the third quarter of 2007.

New MCERF Website Unveiled

MCERF unveiled its new website at MCAA's 2006 convention in Maui, HI. MCERF's vision is for the website to become a one-stop source for its growing list of products and services, many provided free of charge. The website will be an important resource for anyone wanting to learn more about the mechanical contracting or service industry, our partners, new and recent MCERF research studies, and about future online services, such as OPUS (the Online Piping Usage and Specification tool), due to go live in the late third quarter of 2007. MCERF's new website is made possible by the generous in-kind contributions of staff expertise and time from QuickPen International.



The Use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) to Prevent Tool Theft is a study that MCERF approved and began work on in 2006. This study, to be conducted by a university consortium led by the University of Nebraska — Lincoln, will be concluded by the end of 2007.

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Walpole, MA
Albert H. Bonfatti, Jr.

Edna Harke Memorial Fund
Mid-Michigan MCA
Lansing, MI

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Andover, MA
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Hart Engineering Corporation
Smithfield, RI
David F. Rampono

Harton Company, Inc.
North Kansas City, MO
Terry Harton

Hawk Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
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J.C. Higgins Corporation
Randolph, MA
Ronald G. LeDoux

Holmberg Company
Kirkland, WA
A. Pher Holmberg

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Monmouth Junction, NJ
David Hunt

HVAC Engineering, Inc.
Billerica, MA
Michael A. Picariello

HVAC Mechanical Systems, Inc.
North Billerica, MA
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I & R Mechanical, Inc.
Stoughton, MA
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The Ideal Supply Company
Jersey City, NJ
Donald A. Strittmatter

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Mark Greenwald

Industrial Climate Control Systems
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Roger Huelsenbeck

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John Crescenzo

Johnson Controls, Inc.
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Perry England

John C. Jones
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Joshua Construction, Inc.
Gaithersburg, MD
Stephen V. Levee

N.B. Kenney Company, Inc.
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Steven P. Kenney

Key Mechanical Company of Washington
Kent, WA
Frank Leonard

Kiewit Pacific Company
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Ken Riley

Kinetic Systems, Inc. – NE Division
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Thomas F. Schmidt

Kinetics Group, Inc.
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Kurt Gilson

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David P. Dupree

Stephen L. Lamb
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Lawton & Burns
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Pittsfield, MA
Steven C. Lay

Lee's Gas Supplies, Inc.
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John R. Erickson, Jr.

Limbach Company
Woburn, MA
Dennis L. Sacco

Limbach Company
Richmond, VA
Bernie L. Arnold

Limbach Company
Columbus, OH
Bill Meadows

Henry T. Limberg Company
Grove City, PA
William Limberg

Lori K. Mechanical Inc.
Vincentown, NJ
Lori Konecsny-Miceli

William F. Lynch Company, Inc.
Worcester, MA
William J. Lynch

M & R Mechanical Piping, Inc.
Highlands, NJ
Richard P. Gill

MacDonald-Miller Company, Inc.
Seattle, WA
Steve Lovely

Madlem Mechanical Inc.
Mountain View, CA
William C. Madlem II

Mainelli Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Omaha, NE
Gary Rutledge

Manders Plumbing & Heating Company
Kenilworth, NJ
Murray Manders

Marco Plumbing & Heating Company
Johnstown, OH
Robert K. Garee

Marelich Mechanical Company, Inc.
Hayward, CA
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James A. Maroney

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National Environmental Balancing Bureau

*Deceased

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