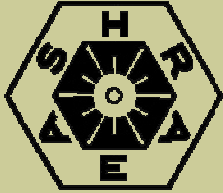


# ASHRAE Newsletter La Crosse Chapter

www.ashraelacrosse.org

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LaCrosse Area  
Chapter of ASHRAE  
c/o Larry Butz  
GEA-Consulting  
2420 N. Pine Creek Road  
La Crescent, MN 55947  
LButz@GEA-Consulting.com  
ph. 507-895-6826

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## Upcoming Events

**March 17, 2010**

- Maintain to Sustain by Bill Harrison

February 2010

## Energy Policy – Economics and the Environment by Kenric Scheevel Government Relations Representative Dairyland Power Cooperative

The energy crisis of the 1970's resulted in national energy policy focused on reducing America's dependence on foreign oil. At that time, the federal government banned the use of natural gas for generating electricity and urged utilities to build power plants which could utilize America's abundant and affordable domestic supply of coal.

Once again, calls to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil is driving national energy policy, only this time concerns about climate change due to rising atmospheric levels of CO2 are driving energy policy in an entirely different direction.

Energy policy is now focused on reducing our nations "carbon footprint" by adopting new generation and energy efficiency technology intended to enhance national security even as we move toward a "carbon free economy".

Wind turbines, photovoltaic solar cells, methane digesters, enhanced energy efficiency efforts and electric automobiles are generating visions of energy independence – not to mention a wave of new "green jobs".

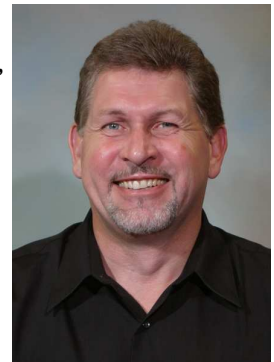
This presentation provides an overview of current legislative initiatives and the impact it will have on the electric energy sector. In particular it will focus on current legislation designed to reduce carbon emissions, and the projected impact on the cost of electricity in our region.

Kenric Scheevel is a Government Relations Representative for Dairyland Power Cooperative, headquartered in La Crosse, WI. His role is to monitor and influence legislative and regulatory policy at both the state and national levels in Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. Kenric also serves as community liaison, interacting with community leaders and local residents.

While discussing energy issues with elected officials, he often finds it helpful to discuss the cooperative difference - that is, how cooperatives are owned and governed by the members they serve.

Prior to joining the Government Relations Team at Dairyland, Kenric served eight years in the Minnesota State Senate, representing a relatively rural area in Southeastern Minnesota. A mechanical engineer by training, Kenric worked in the power generation industry and taught high school mathematics/physics earlier in his career.

Those wishing to attend this program remotely should contact Jim (JSpielbauer@trane.com).



Location: Trane Technology Center  
2313 S. 20th St. Room 1A/1B  
LaCrosse WI 54601  
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2010  
Agenda: 12:00 - 12:15 Lunch  
12:15 - 12:30 Business meeting  
12:30 - 1:30 Presentation  
Cost: None  
a la carte from Trane cafeteria  
RSVP: Please sign up by 1:00 p.m.,  
February 16th, 2010 at  
[www.ashraelacrosse.org](http://www.ashraelacrosse.org)

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**Membership**

Chris Hsieh

**Newsletter**

Jim Spielbauer

**Research Promotion**

Rick Heiden

**Student Activities**

Scott Hintz

**Engineers' Week 2010 Award Banquet and Celebration**

A Joint Meeting of: IEEE, ASME, ASHRAE, SME, WSPE


**ENGINEERS  
WEEK® 2010**  
February 14 - 20
**Electric Power: The Smart Grid and Green Energy**

by Ed West and Karolanne Hoffman, Dairyland Power

Local, regional, and national initiatives are changing our electric power systems. Two of the areas of interest and activity are the "Smart Grid" and "Green" energy. The presenters will discuss what the key aspects of activities are, how they are affecting producers and consumers, and future expectations.

How is the consumer affected by a "Smart Grid"?  
How does a "Smart Grid" help the power producer and distributor? What is considered "Green" power and how does the "Smart" grid help realize benefits of "Green" power?

These and other questions will be addressed.

Dinner cost of \$20.00 (paid at the door) will cover one of a three choice buffet dinner of Roasted Pork, Chicken breast, or Cod fillets. Contributions and any excess funds will go to the Coulee Region Engineering Societies Scholarship Fund.

Area Educators, Coulee Region Engineering Society members, and their guests are invited to join us. You need not be an Engineering Society member to attend.

Location: Lunda Center  
319 Seventh Street North  
LaCrosse WI 54601

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2010

Agenda: 5:00 PM Social and Displays

6:15 PM scholarship Presentations

6:30 Buffet Dinner

7:15 – 8:00 PM Presentations

Cost: \$20.00 at the door

RSVP: Please sign up by 1:00 p.m.,  
February 10, 2010 at  
[www.ashraelacrosse.org](http://www.ashraelacrosse.org)

**For Inspiration of Science and Technology (FIRST)**

by Paul Ulland, Engineering Mentor



"The Engineering Education for the Innovation Economy Act", a current proposed bill before the US Congress, calls for the expansion of engineering education for K-12 students. It notes that "only 4% of American college graduates major in engineering, compared to 13% of European students and 20% of those in Asia. The National Academies Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy prepared a report entitled 'Rising Above the Gathering Storm' to define and prioritize actions "that federal policymakers could take to enhance the science and technology enterprise so that the United States can successfully compete, prosper, and be secure in the global community of the 21st century." The Council on Competitiveness sees innovation as the single most important factor in determining America's success through the 21st century. FIRST is a program that has been introduced to the Coulee Region in response to the needs highlighted in the above documents.

FIRST (an acronym For Inspiration of Science and Technology) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1992 by Dean Kaman, a prolific inventor, entrepreneur and strong advocate for science and technology. Dr Woodie Flowers, MIT Mechanical Engineering Professor is a co-founder and national advisor to FIRST. Dean and Woodie found that designing and building robots to perform a variety of possible tasks or missions in a sports-like competition effectively engaged students in fun way and got students excited about science and technology. FIRST began by offering the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) to high school students and later expanded to offer an array of programs including FIRST LEGO League (FLL), Junior FIRST LEGO League, and most recently FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) programs.

In the summer of 2006, following the Coulee Region Engineers Week Banquet and Celebration

We're on the web  
[www.ashraelacrosse.org](http://www.ashraelacrosse.org)

with invited area STEM educators, a FIRST LEGO League workshop was offered and attended by several area middle school students. Several teams formed throughout the Coulee area and participated in different challenge themes each year since. Themes have included "Nanotechnology", "The Power Puzzle", "Climate Connections", and most recently "Smart Moves".

In 2008/2009 a high school FIRST Robotics Team formed in La Crescent, MN. They became one of several new rookie Minnesota high school FRC teams. Minnesota has grown from 3 teams in 2006 to 105 teams in 2010. Wisconsin now has 31 teams and Iowa 3. The closest FRC teams in the Coulee region include La Crescent, Rochester and Lake City in Minnesota, Platteville, Eau Claire and Madison in Wisconsin, and Iowa City and Cedar Falls in Iowa. FRC Teams were given their "Kit of Parts" and the nature of their competition on January 9th. They must ship their robots to their first competition sites on February 23rd. They have 6 weeks to design, build, program and test their robot! As Woodie Flowers puts it, "It's the hardest fun you'll ever have! The Milwaukee Regional FRC competition is coming up on March 11-13 at the US Cellular Arena and the Minnesota North Star and 10,000 Lakes Regionals April 1-3 at the University of Minnesota. The competitions are open to the public Join in the fun and cheer your favorite teams. You will never forget it!

More information may be found at several web sites including [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org) and [www.lacrescentrobotics.com](http://www.lacrescentrobotics.com)

## Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Engineers week is Feb 14 – 20. February 18 is **Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day 2010**. Use this special day to help high school girls better understanding the engineering profession. For more information go to the [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org) website.



## School District Tours to Showcase Renovations

by LaCrosse Tribune staff



The La Crosse School District will offer building tours at the three schools that recently received heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades and other facility renovations.

District officials will be available for the guided tours at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. at each location. The facility open house dates are Thursday at Longfellow Middle School, Monday at State Road Elementary School and Feb. 22 at Logan Middle School.

"This is a chance for the public to visit our schools and see what a difference the upgrades have made," said Janet Rosseter, district executive director of business services.

The school board recently approved upgrading HVAC systems at Summit and Hintgen schools to finish phase one of the \$18.5 million referendum voters approved in November 2008. It also includes installing door locks and motion sensors. The projects will be bid in spring, officials said.

## New Additions to the ASHRAE LaCrosse Chapter Library

The following were added to the chapter library:

- 2009 Annual Conference CD Seminar Recordings DVD, Louisville, KY
- 2009 Annual Conference CD Transaction Papers, Louisville, KY
- 2010 Winter Conference CD Transaction Papers, Orlando, FL

Library materials are currently available from Lane Liudahl, 787-4350. For information on other documents in the library go to <http://www.ashraelacrosse.org/3.html>