

Welcome to the GreenMech portion of this news conference.

There are an estimated 130 million mechanical rooms in the United States.

They were built for a time of energy abundance, fresh water and favorable climates.

Those days are behind us.

The rising price of carbon fuels, scarcity of fresh water, growing waste streams and the alarming climate changes caused by human activities... these are the new realities in our lives

In all of our lives.

January 22, on the eve of the President's State of the Union Address, 10 large corporations held a news conference to call for federal law that would "slow, stop and reverse the growth of global warming emissions "over the shortest period of time reasonably achievable".

Where was the HVAC industry at this news conference?

By most estimates, the buildings in america produce **50%** of the CO2 emitted...

That CO2 came from our equipment. Designed by our engineers and installed by our contractors and mechanical professionals.

So why wasn't the HVAC industry at that news conference?

I can think of a few other upcoming news conferences we are likely to be left out of.

How about the news conferences from any one of 50 state legislatures that just might take the Kyoto treaty seriously and just might pass legislation restricting CO2, or conserving water or saving energy or mandating better indoor environments?

When you read the analysis of the decision by these 10 large companies (GE, DuPont, Alcoa, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, BP & others), you'll find a wonderful stew of altruism and naked self interest.

They know change is coming and they want to be ahead of the curve. As the WSJ said, these companies feel they will be at the table or on the menu.

The weight of public pressure and scientific proof is compelling and frankly, some companies make money and take pride in their ability to anticipate future events.

We can do that, or we can walk around with big targets painted on our backs?

As an industry, we burn a lot of fuel, use a lot of electricity, consume a lot of fresh water and produce a lot of waste.

We do these things with mechanical systems and the cost of operating these systems will over the life time of a house or building dwarf the original cost to design and build that structure.

These costs are our current concerns, but there are externalities involved and that is twice the reason to pay attention. the operating costs might be for ourselves, but the external costs are most fully borne by our children.

and that's a pretty good reason to form a Green Mechanical Council, or as we call it... GreenMech.

But now, to the naked self interest part.

The dynamic combination of carbon taxes that will be imposed on electrical generation and our slide down the backside of the Peak Oil curve means that the cost of heating and cooling our buildings will be a new national priority... or crisis.

Americans will give up luxuries and the spending that might have gone to jewelry, second homes, ivy league educations, european travel, sail boats or whatever...will be redirected to improving our HVAC systems... because we don't lose our homes.

This will be an unprecedented national shift of major financial resources to the HVAC industry, but we should not forget...

that spending will be for GREEN mechanical systems.

And when you think about improving a hundred million mechanical rooms... that's a lot of green. That's a whole lot of green.

Like the LEED system established by the USGBC, buyers, specifiers and installers need a point system to fairly evaluate the value and performance of the equipment.

and GreenMech will do that.

We will work closely with ASHRAE to do research and evaluation of mechanical equipment and with USGBC to improve the performance of every green building.

But our basic strategy is this: we will substitute cheap oil, wasteful practices and pollution with better technology and smarter people. That's the happy part; more equipment for us to make and sell and much better and higher paying jobs for people in our industry.

This critical work cannot be done in China or Bangladesh. It cannot be done in Mexico or Vietnam. It will be street by street, house by house, and building by building by trained north american contractors.

The unhappy part is this new technology is more complex and less forgiving. We need better training for our installers and service contractors.

And that's why GreenMech is so pleased with our association with HVAC excellence, with the United Association and with Ferris State.

But if we are to recruit the best and the brightest, we will need the same kind of "Save the Planet" spirit that created Earth Day in 1970.

A technically inclined person today can make a lot of money troubleshooting copy machines, automobiles, network servers, heart monitors and so on.

But today, with the help of GreenMech, we can say that if these bright young technically inclined people want to save the world, they can build a career in the Green Mechanical Field.

and the website to learn more is greenmech.org.

As pogo said: "We are confronted by insurmountable opportunities"

Please allow me to introduce our executive director and our founding board members...

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Comments by Dan Chiles, GreenMech Chairman

at AHR, Dallas, Texas. 1.30.07