



Delivering on Our Promise

Progress through Unity is the theme of my year as NIA President, and this month is a terrific time to focus on just that, as this issue of *Insulation Outlook* features articles full of information to help companies in the insulation industry—from

owners and design engineers through manufacturers and contractors—move forward to help their customers make the most of mechanical insulation. Recent issues have explored all the ways our industry's products and applications can help reduce or even block CO₂ emissions, helping customers reach their CO₂ reduction goals while improving process efficiency, saving money and energy, improving safety and noise conditions at their facilities, etc. Once end users understand the value of insulation as a vital component of their decarbonization strategy, how do you ensure their insulation system is designed, installed, and maintained to deliver on its promise?

“Design Considerations for Airports and Commercial Building Chilled Water Systems,” beginning on page 8, provides a comprehensive look at factors that must be considered when engineering systems for facilities where the potential for moisture (and its related problems) are high. This article is a must-read for anyone with interest in or responsibility for the performance of chilled water systems. Then, preventing one of the conditions that can easily develop with chilled water systems (and others) is the subject of Scott Sinclair's article, “Insulation Treatments and Corrosion under Insulation: What Works” (see page 26). After describing the corrosion process itself, Sinclair specifically looks at water repellent and hydrophobic industrial insulations to consider their effectiveness; and he details what material properties reduce the risk of corrosion. Given the tremendous cost this condition exacts from systems and businesses worldwide, this is a topic that will continue to demand attention.

Also demanding attention is green building. A new report from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) focuses on an area related to sustainability not yet covered in depth in this magazine: indoor air quality (IAQ). “News from the U.S. Green Building Council: New Report Shows Urgent Need to Support School Districts in Maintaining Safe and Healthy Indoor Air

Quality” (page 20) describes how the COVID-19 pandemic spurred attention on the issue, from local school districts up to the federal level, resulting in millions of dollars invested to help schools upgrade ventilation systems to slow the spread of COVID and avoid shutting down. A big challenge for improving IAQ is dealing with HVAC systems that were not designed with filtration, disinfection, and air quality in mind, making this another effort where the mechanical insulation industry can expect to be involved, working with schools—and, one has to think—all types of buildings as systems are upgraded. And in case you need more evidence that green building is more than a trend, the USGBC also reported on an approaching milestone: Nearly 100 net-zero certifications in the LEED Zero program (see page 24). *Progress through Unity*—if we continue to spread the message that mechanical insulation is an ideal first step toward sustainability, we will make a difference in the quest for net-zero buildings and grow our industry in the process.

The news from the USGBC supports that there are opportunities for those of us in the mechanical insulation industry even in the most trying economic times. If you find the current economic climate unsettling and hard to read, you are not alone. Anirban Basu explores the complicated landscape, breaking down the factors that make some optimistic about the state of the U.S. economy and others pessimistic and explaining why, in either case, the mechanical insulation industry is well positioned to come out ahead. Read his article, “Economic Signals Are Confusing and Contradictory,” on page 32.

Beyond the pages of this magazine, NIA offers other ways to focus on progress this month. In collaboration with the Energy Management Association and the Association for Materials Protection and Performance, your association is offering free industry webinars: “Insulation Pays off—Business Case for Energy Appraisals and Inspections” on September 14th, and “Managing CUI Risks When Moisture Lingers in Your Insulation System” on the 29th. You can register for either at www.insulation.org/webinars. Click on that link, too, to see other webinars in NIA's archives.

Joe Leo
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Insulation in Industrial Operations Saves 211,000,000,000 pounds of CO₂ annually.

But, we're still not out of the woods.

It would take 41 million acres of trees to remove this much CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Insulation has long been recognized as a low-cost method of conserving natural resources. However, process lines and equipment in industrial plants continue to be under-insulated despite the numerous benefits of a properly insulated mechanical system. It is time to make insulation a priority and not an option. Think insulation first to reduce carbon and greenhouse gas environmental impacts while saving energy costs and protecting both people and equipment.

Visit www.insulation.org for more information on the power of insulation or to find an experienced insulation contractor.

Find out more at: www.insulation.org/about-insulation/carbon-reductions

