

Nordic Chapter Newsletter



Lund University, Lund, Sweden Photo: Mikael Risedal

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Registration still open for the 1st Annual Chapter Event, Lund, Sweden!

On the 31st of March, the Nordic Chapter will host the ASHRAE President Bill McQuade and Director and Regional Chair ASHRAE European Region XIV Mahroo Eftekhari (UK Chapter) at Medicon Village in Lund, Sweden. During the day we will listen to presentations on energy, technology and indoor environment from several presenters, including:

- Distinguished Lecturer (DL) Alkis Triantafyllopoulos (Hellenic Chapter, Greece)
- Björn Eldvall (European Spallation Source, ESS, Sweden)
- Peter Brander (Boverket – the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Sweden)
- Dennis Johansson (Head of Building Services Division, Lund University, Sweden) and Hans Bagge (Head of Building Physics Division, Lund University, Sweden),
- Björn Palm (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden)
- Jonas Lindhe (Alfa Laval, Sweden)
- Rikard Strid (KTC, Sweden)
- Samir Hernandez (Novo Nordisk, Danmark)

During the lunch, we will hopefully hear Bill McQuade talk about his life and his journey into ASHRAE.

There will be an evening event at Medicon Village, a three-course dinner where we can mingle and talk about indoor environment!



Registration information and Prices

The registration fee covers the cost of the conference facility, coffee, snacks and lunch. The registration fee DOES NOT cover hotel or transportation costs. A list of suggested hotels in Lund (with different price ranges) will be available on our website.

ASHRAE members: 1 000 SEK

Non-ASHRAE members: 1 200 SEK

ASHRAE Student and YEA members: 750 SEK.

Evening Dinner: 700 SEK

Register before March 6th!

To register and pay (credit card) for our 1st Annual Chapter Event, visit our homepage:

<https://ashrae-nordic.org/event2026/>

Promoting a Healthy and Sustainable Built Environment in Oslo

Government Affairs Committee

Oslo, the capital city of Norway, has long been at the forefront of sustainable urban development. The city's commitment to creating a healthy and sustainable built environment for all its residents is evident in its ambitious legislative initiatives and strategic plans. One of the most significant legislative issues currently being addressed in Oslo is the revision of the municipal master plan to align with the city's climate strategy and sustainability goals.

Legislative Framework and Climate Strategy

In 2020, the Oslo City Council adopted a comprehensive climate strategy aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2030. This strategy is not just a standalone document but is integrated into the city's broader legislative framework, influencing various aspects of urban planning and development. The revision of the municipal master plan is a critical component of this strategy, focusing on sustainable land use, green infrastructure, and climate resilience.

Key Legislative Initiatives

1. Sustainable Land Use: One of the primary goals of the revised master plan is to promote sustainable land use practices. This includes prioritizing urban development along existing public transportation networks, thereby reducing the need for car travel and minimizing urban sprawl. The plan also emphasizes the importance of preserving green spaces and natural habitats within the city, which are crucial for

ASHRAE PRESIDENTIAL THEME 2025-2026

Bill McQuade has announced his presidential theme, workforce Healthy Buildings: Designing for life. As a part of this theme, ASHRAE has released an Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) video series looking at each of the challenges faced within each area under IEQ. These areas include indoor air quality, thermal comfort, water, Legionellosis, IAQ and decarbonization, acoustics, lighting, and measuring and assessing IAQ. See the link below to watch the videos!

<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/ieq-resources/ieq-resources-videos>

Exploring career opportunities with the ASHRAE job board

The ASHRAE Job Board is a premier platform for professionals in the fields of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC&R). Whether you are an engineer seeking new opportunities or an employer looking for top talent, the ASHRAE Job Board offers a comprehensive and user-friendly experience.

Visit: <https://jobs.ashrae.org/>

maintaining biodiversity and providing recreational areas for residents.

2. Green Infrastructure: The city is investing heavily in green infrastructure projects that enhance the urban environment while also addressing climate change. These projects include the creation of green roofs, urban gardens, and the expansion of parks and green corridors². Such initiatives not only improve air quality and reduce urban heat islands but also promote physical and mental well-being among residents.

3. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Oslo's legislative framework encourages the adoption of energy-efficient building practices and the use of renewable energy sources. The city provides incentives for retrofitting existing buildings to improve their energy performance and mandates strict energy efficiency standards for new constructions³. Additionally, there is a strong focus on increasing the use of solar panels and other renewable energy technologies in both residential and commercial buildings.

4. Climate Resilience: To ensure that Oslo can withstand the impacts of climate change, the revised master plan includes measures to enhance the city's climate resilience. This involves improving the management of stormwater through the use of permeable surfaces and green infrastructure, as well as implementing flood protection measures in vulnerable areas¹. The plan also promotes the use of sustainable building materials and construction practices that reduce the environmental footprint of new developments.

Community Engagement and Collaboration

A key aspect of Oslo's approach to creating a healthy and sustainable built environment is the emphasis on community engagement and collaboration. The city actively involves residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in the planning process,

ensuring that the needs and preferences of the community are taken into account³. Public consultations, workshops, and online platforms are used to gather input and foster a sense of ownership among residents.

Moreover, Oslo collaborates with various national and international organizations to share best practices and learn from other cities' experiences. This collaborative approach helps the city stay at the cutting edge of sustainable urban development and ensures that its legislative initiatives are informed by the latest research and innovations.

Conclusion

Oslo's legislative efforts to promote a healthy and sustainable built environment are a testament to the city's commitment to sustainability and climate action. By integrating sustainability into its legislative framework and actively involving the community in the planning process, Oslo is setting a strong example for other cities to follow. The ongoing revision of the municipal master plan, with its focus on sustainable land use, green infrastructure, energy efficiency, and climate resilience, will play a crucial role in shaping a greener and healthier future for all residents.

1: The City of Oslo's follow-up of the climate strategy

2: Green Infrastructure: A Nature and Health Perspective for the Municipality of Oslo.

3: Sustainability Report for the City of Oslo

Editorial: Excellence as Daily Practice in the HVAC&R Community

Reflecting on ASHRAE's Core Value and Its Role in Advancing the Built Environment

From Chapter Operations

Excellence is one of ASHRAE's foundational values, and within the HVAC&R community it represents far more than a professional aspiration. It is a disciplined approach to engineering, decision making, and stewardship of the built environment. In the Nordic region—where climate conditions, energy systems, and building traditions demand thoughtful solutions—the pursuit of Excellence is essential to delivering safe, efficient, and resilient buildings.

At its heart, Excellence is a commitment to applying the best available knowledge to every stage of a project. Whether designing a ventilation strategy for a school, optimizing heat recovery in an industrial facility, or improving indoor air quality in a healthcare environment, the engineer's responsibility begins with understanding the needs of occupants and the constraints of the building. This requires technical competence, but also curiosity and humility: the willingness to question assumptions, validate performance, and learn from real world outcomes.

The Nordic context offers many opportunities for how Excellence is expressed in practice. For example, consider a hypothetical mid-sized office building undergoing a ventilation upgrade to improve IAQ and reduce energy consumption. By

applying a structured commissioning process aligned with ASHRAE Guideline 0 and Nordic regulatory expectations, the engineering team could identify opportunities to recalibrate control sequences, improve filtration efficiency, and enhance heat recovery. The result would be a measurable reduction in energy use and an improvement in occupant comfort. The success of the project could not necessarily rely on novel technologies; but emerged from disciplined application of established methods. This is the essence of Excellence—consistent, evidence-based practice that delivers meaningful outcomes.

Excellence also requires transparency and knowledge sharing. Engineers must be able to explain their decisions, document assumptions, and communicate performance outcomes in a way that supports learning across the industry. This culture of openness strengthens trust among stakeholders and accelerates the adoption of better practices. It also aligns with ASHRAE's mission to advance the arts and sciences of HVAC&R for the benefit of society.

Companies who support ASHRAE Nordic Chapter, such as KTC, LTech, and Schneider Electric, often share this commitment to Excellence, contributing expertise, case studies, and technical insights that enrich the community. Their alignment with ASHRAE's values reinforces the importance of collaboration in elevating engineering practice across the region.

Looking ahead, the value of Excellence will play a central role in addressing emerging challenges such as decarbonization, digitalization, and climate adaptation. As buildings become more complex and expectations for performance increase, the demand for rigorous engineering will only grow. Excellence ensures that innovation is grounded in evidence, that new technologies are applied responsibly, and that the built environment continues to evolve in a way



that supports health, efficiency, and resilience.

Ultimately, Excellence is not a destination but a continuous process. It is reflected in every calculation, every commissioning report, every operational adjustment, and every lesson learned. By embracing this value, the ASHRAE community—and the Nordic region in particular—strengthens its ability to deliver buildings that serve people and the planet with integrity.



Upcoming Events

Date	Type of Event	Location	Event
March 31, 2026	Presidential Visit	Lund, Sweden	ASHRAE President Bill McQuade will visit the Nordic Chapter in Lund, Sweden Social Event, Chapter Meeting, Technical Seminars Register here: https://ashrae-nordic.org/event2026/
TBD	Chapter Meeting	Virtual	

ASHRAE Nordic Chapter Summary

ASHRAE Nordic Chapter is a local branch of ASHRAE, a global society founded in 1894. ASHRAE's mission is to advance human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. With more than 50,000 members from over 132 nations, ASHRAE is an engineering organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world. The organization contributes to shaping tomorrow's built environment through research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education. The geographic area covered by ASHRAE Nordic Chapter is Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland), Iceland, Norway, Finland (Åland), and Sweden.

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Sponsors!





Information from ASHRAE

Save the Date! 2026 Topical Conference:

**Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium,
April 13-14, 2026 Los Angeles, CA**

[Registration is Now Open!](#)

After a sold-out debut, the Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium returns bigger, bolder, and more empowering than ever!

Join us for two full days of connection, inspiration, and leadership growth with women from across the HVACR industry from students and early-career professionals to seasoned veterans. This isn't just for engineers it's for every woman making an impact on the built environment. Whether you're here to build your network, develop your leadership skills, or cheer on the next generation through the Young Women in ASHRAE EmpowerHERment Award competition YOU BELONG HERE! **2026 ASHRAE Building Decarbonization Conference, September 23-25, 2026 Seattle, WA**

YEA Developing Leader Award

- Nominations accepted until **May 1, 2026**.
 - Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.
-

Proposed Bylaws Amendment: New Membership Model

ASHRAE members will vote on the Bylaws amendments to finalize the proposed new membership model on the April 2026 ballot. If approved by the membership, the new model will be effective July 1, 2027. Please review the [new simplified model](#) here and reach out to [Daniel Gurley](#) with any questions.

Society Scholarships Now Available!

The ASHRAE Society Scholarship deadline is coming up on May 1st! High School Senior and College Freshman have a chance to receive up to \$5,000 in scholarships for the 2026-2027 school year. Please invite any full-time student in an engineering program to apply for this prestigious scholarship!

Visit [Scholarship Program](#) for a full list of eligibility criteria and application requirements. Reach out to Savanna Smith (scholarships@ashrae.org) with any questions.



New ASHRAE Tech Hour: IEQ – Codes, Impact on People, and Considerations

Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) directly affects occupant health, comfort, and performance. This Tech Hour explores how indoor air quality, thermal comfort, lighting, and acoustics influence the spaces we inhabit. Learn how current codes and guidelines can be used to design healthier, high-performance buildings. Featuring Robert Bean, Erik Miller-Klein, Deborah Steimel-Clair, and Marwa Zaatari. Watch it now on ASHRAE 365 and earn one PDH within 12 months of the release date. Learn more at ashrae.org/techhour.

2026 Winter Leadership U Participants

We are excited to announce this year's Leadership U participants! Selected through a competitive, points-based application process, these outstanding Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) leaders will attend the upcoming conference alongside Society Officers - participating in board meetings, key events, and exclusive networking opportunities. Leadership U provides a unique, behind-the-scenes look at Society leadership while investing in the continued growth of ASHRAE's future leaders.

- Bria Poe, Birmingham Chapter, Region VII
 - Ganesh Ravi, Singapore Chapter, Region XV
 - Tommaso Dallavalle, Italy Chapter, Region XIV
 - Jacob Brausch, Sacramento Valley Chapter, Region X
-

YEA Developing Leader Award

The YEA Committee is excited to announce the Developing Leader Award. This award is designed to recognize those members who started their involvement as soon as they joined ASHRAE.

In the spirit of the ASHRAE Distinguished/Exceptional Service Award, this award is earned by earning points in a variety of categories.

More involvement = more points!

- Nominations accepted until May 1st, 2026
 - [Click here](#) to learn more and apply
-

YEA Webinar: Why Engineers Burn Out (And How to Prevent it!)

- Date: **March 25, 2026**
- Time: 11am-12pm EST
- Click [here](#) to register