



Government Affairs Newsletter

# FIRELINE



## GREEN EDITION

Promoting, Defending, and Growing the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Industries

VOLUME 5, No. 3

NOVEMBER 2007

### HPBA Joins the "Green" Scene

It is no secret that the latest trend to take Capitol Hill and industries by storm is the concept of "Green" appliances. Industries nation wide have begun to actively engage in research and development of "Green" appliances. There is not a clear, simple or universally accepted definition of "Green" at this time. It is generally accepted that green energy is a term describing what is thought to be environmentally friendly sources of power and energy. This typically refers to renewable and non-polluting energy sources, as well as reductions in energy used. The important questions that HPBA must answer are:

- Do our products **function** in a Green way?
- Are our products **made** in a Green way?
- Are our products **disposed / recycled** in a Green way?

For our industry codes, standards, regulations and legislation will come to define our place in the Green discussion. With this in mind, the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association has jumped into this discussion through participation in a variety

of different groups and organizations that are working on Green policies.

HPBA is working with the following organizations on a variety of Green policies:

- Alliance to Save Energy (ASE)
- EPA "Energy Star House"
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
- 25 x '25
- GAMA
- National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
- National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)

Currently, hearth products have been placed in the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) sections of various programs. The Healthy Homes project placed our industry products in the IAQ section in 1988. The EPA Energy Star House focused on our IAQ impacts in 2004. The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program places fireplaces in their IAQ section, as well as the National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) Green Building Standard (GBS).

In a continuing effort to advance the use of environmentally responsible technologies in residential construction, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), the International Code Council (ICC) and the NAHB Research Center have initiated a process for the development of an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard for green home building construction practices – the Green Building Standard (GBS). The entire process, from the formation of a consensus committee to public review and final ANSI approval, is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. The result will be a voluntary green home building standard that can be adopted by local green home building programs or local building departments as a conformance guide. After completion of the ANSI process, the standard will be promulgated as a joint publication by NAHB and the International Code Council (ICC).

The draft standard establishes guidelines that explain how builders can incorporate green building concepts into residential projects using a point system. HPBA has been, and will continue to be, involved in the process. HPBA products are incorporated into specific sections of the draft standard. However, our industry can improve the standard so that the hearth industry is fairly integrated into the new standard. The current GBS draft is in the first public comment stage. After an intensive debate and review process, the Government Affairs Committee has submitted a list of proposed changes in the GBS to NAHB.

To date, there have been over 250 bills introduced in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress dealing

with energy efficiency/ renewable energy, and over 150 bills dealing with climate change / green house gas. On the state and local level numerous bills have been introduced. This leads to an obvious task for HPBA: how do we define our products in terms of Green. To address these daunting questions, HPBA will utilize a variety of outside consultants. It is the task of the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association to proactively involve ourselves in investigating our role in Green in order to develop and control our place in the rapidly growing Green community.

The Government Affairs Department is fully committed to establishing our industry's place in all Green discussions. For further information, please contact any member of the department:

- Allan Cagnoli – Director of Government Affairs:  
[Cagnoli@hpba.org](mailto:Cagnoli@hpba.org)
- Tom Stroud – Senior Manager of Codes & Standards:  
[Stroud@hpba.org](mailto:Stroud@hpba.org)
- John Crouch – Director of Public Affairs:  
[Crouch@hpba.org](mailto:Crouch@hpba.org)
- Seth Voyles – Manager of Government Affairs:  
[Voyles@hpba.org](mailto:Voyles@hpba.org)