



**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Between**  
**ASHRAE**  
**And The**  
**International District Energy Association**

Founded in 1894, ASHRAE, Atlanta, GA advances the arts and sciences of heating ventilating, air-conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world.

Founded in 1909, the International District Energy Association (IDEA), Westborough, MA fosters the success of its members as leaders in providing reliable, economical, efficient and environmentally-sound district heating, district cooling, combined heat and power (CHP) and microgrid services.

The organizations jointly envision a future that will require the built environment and the energy systems serving cities, communities and campuses to be more sustainable, more resilient and less carbon-intensive. Toward that end, the organizations seek to collaborate on the following: identifying and advancing industry best practices; enhancing opportunities for education and awareness; shaping and advocating policies to achieve that future; and on cultivating a global community of leaders who are better prepared to address the economic, environmental and climate challenges facing society.

ASHRAE and IDEA agree to support this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to advance and promote the mutual interests of their respective members and are committed to working together toward achieving the following activities and goals:

**CONSISTENT LEADERSHIP COMMUNICATION**

Recognizing the importance of communication in organizational collaboration, both organizations commit to holding at least one liaison meeting annually (either in person or via conference call) of designated ASHRAE/IDEA senior representatives to:

- Ensure ongoing advancement of collaborative projects;
- Keep each organization informed of the other's major initiatives; and
- Discuss new opportunities for potential collaboration.

ASHRAE shall take responsibility for initiating the first annual liaison meeting with an initial objective to develop a mutually-agreeable work plan with 3 to 4 principal areas of focus. Action items with assigned responsibilities shall be recorded at each meeting by the hosting organization.

## **CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

Each organization agrees to provide the other with a meeting invitation and two complimentary VIP registrations to its primary annual meeting.

ASHRAE and IDEA agree to explore opportunities to provide speakers at the other organization's meetings to help provide updates and perspectives on technologies and trends of mutual interest.

Where mutually beneficial, each organization shall help publicize the other organization's meetings and promote attendance.

## **ADVOCACY**

Where mutually beneficial and to the extent allowed by laws and corporate policies, ASHRAE and IDEA shall endeavor to work together on policy and regulatory issues of shared interest. During annual liaison meetings, the parties will discuss their respective current public policy and legislative/regulatory objectives and seek to define areas of common interest and mutually beneficial goals and strategies.

Examples of collaborative opportunities to be considered include:

- Joint promotion of codes and standards at the local, state and federal levels;
- Recognition of the importance of thermal energy in technical, policy and regulatory matters;
- Promoting and advocating mutually beneficial positions during development and passage of state and federal legislation and regulatory matters; and
- Education of local, state, provincial and federal legislators and regulators on issues of significance to the members of each organization.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Recognizing that electronic and print publications are a primary means of disseminating new technologies, trends and practices, ASHRAE and IDEA agree to:

- Provide at least one complimentary subscription to the primary membership periodical to be received at the headquarters location of the other organization; [electronic or hardcopy]
- Explore opportunities to jointly produce publications of mutual benefit;
- Cross-market each organization's publications where appropriate and with industry standard distributor discounts; and use periodicals to promote the other organization's events, publications and other activities.

## **EDUCATION**

As leading providers of conventional and online educational services and in recognition of the vital role professional development has for our respective members, ASHRAE and IDEA agree, where appropriate, to:

- Cross-market educational offerings at the regional, national and international levels;
- Explore opportunities to co-develop new courses or other training programs that take advantage of the overlapping and complementary expertise between ASHRAE and IDEA; and
- Discuss ways that certification programs can be jointly developed and/or administered.

## **TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES COORDINATION**

ASHRAE and IDEA agree to foster technical cooperation in areas of common interest by:

- Encouraging members in each organization to participate on technical committees and task forces, providing opportunities to participate in and comment on proposed standards, guidelines, policies, and position statements developed on technical subjects as they relate to buildings and community developments; and
- Establishing liaison representatives to key technical committees where mutually beneficial to do so.

## **RESEARCH**

Recognizing the importance research plays in accelerating the transformation to a more sustainably-built environment, ASHRAE and IDEA agree to:

- Promote research in areas where research results will add to the body of knowledge in district energy;
- Disseminate research results quickly, focusing on high-impact findings and
- Identify opportunities for research funding from other sources.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS**

The administrative contacts for actions tied to this MOU shall be:

### **For ASHRAE:**

Jeff Littleton  
Executive Vice President  
ASHRAE  
1791 Tullie Circle NE  
Atlanta, GA 30320  
Tel: 404-636-8400  
Email: [jlittleton@ashrae.org](mailto:jlittleton@ashrae.org)

### **For IDEA:**

Robert P. Thornton  
President and CEO  
International District Energy Association  
1800 West Park Drive, Suite 350  
Westborough, MA 01581  
Tel: 508-366-9339  
Email: [rob.idea@districtenergy.org](mailto:rob.idea@districtenergy.org)

## **TERMINATION**

Either party may terminate this MOU, with or without stated cause, upon providing the other party with thirty (30) days written notice of intent to terminate.

## **TERM**

The term of this Memorandum of Understanding shall begin when signed by both parties and shall terminate at the end of three (3) years unless extended at that time by written agreement.

## LEGAL STANDING

This MOU reflects a mutual commitment by ASHRAE and IDEA to enhance their working relationship and individual member efforts toward achieving mutual objectives described above. This MOU does not create a binding obligation or agreement between the two organizations, and neither organization has any obligation to negotiate toward or enter into any binding written agreement or other commitment. In addition, this MOU does not create a partnership, joint venture, fiduciary relationship or any similar relationship between ASHRAE and IDEA. Furthermore, it is understood that this MOU is conceived as a dynamic document, meant to change as circumstances and priorities warrant, and therefore may be modified or amended by written agreement between both organizations.

### FOR ASHRAE


Sheila Hayter, P.E., President

  
Signature

5/22/19  
Date

### FOR IDEA

James Lodge, P.E., Chair

  
Signature

5/22/19  
Date

Jeff Littleton, Executive Vice President

  
Signature

5-22-19  
Date

Robert P. Thornton, President and CEO

  
Signature

May 22, 2019  
Date