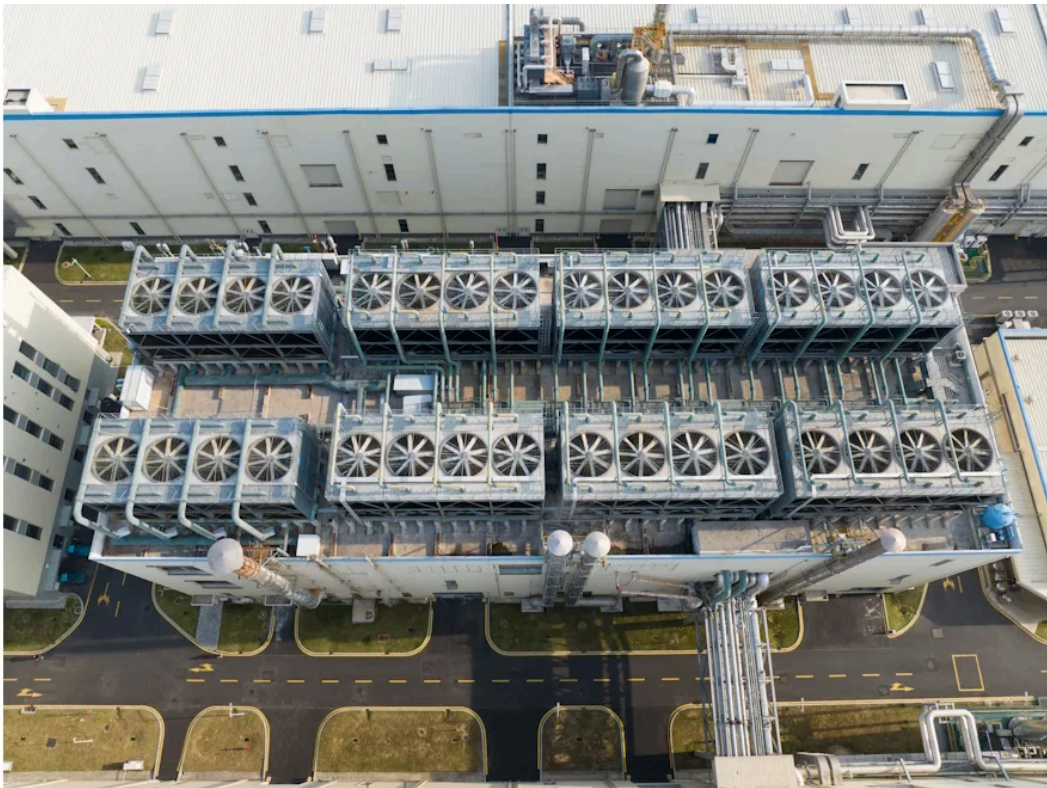


the NEWS

Guest Column

Awareness Is Key to Solving Climate Change and Attaining Healthy & Sustainable Built Solutions

By Tony Abate, chief technology officer



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POLICY TO PRACTICAL: IAQ, guided by ASHRAE 241, gives homes and offices a faster path to healthier air.

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As the United Nations General Assembly and Climate Week came to a close, the world was once again reminded of a simple but important truth: climate change and global warming are not a hoax or a distant threat. They are global issues affecting everyone right now.

The panel discussions, speeches, and commitments made during the UN meetings and Climate Week, coupled with the growing severity of storms and oppressive heat worldwide, underscore the need for greater awareness and to act. But while many of the discussions centered around large-scale solutions and policy, there is a rapidly growing issue demanding our attention closer to home—indoor air quality.

Indoor air quality plays a vital role in maintaining our health and well-being since we spend most of our time inside homes and offices. The world learned of the importance of indoor air quality during the COVID-19 pandemic and how the virus could spread through the air indoors.

Poor air quality can lead to respiratory issues, allergies, and even long-term chronic conditions. Additionally, optimizing indoor environments with sustainable practices—such as proper ventilation, low-emission materials, and air-purifying plants—not only reduces health risks but also lessens our environmental impact. Improving indoor air quality is an actionable step everyone can take toward a healthier, more sustainable future.

That's why raising awareness about indoor air quality is so critical. As more people recognize the direct impact of the air we breathe indoors on our overall health, awareness becomes the catalyst for meaningful change. When individuals and organizations are informed, they are empowered to act—whether by adopting healthier habits, investing in improved ventilation, or advocating for better building standards. Awareness leads to practical solutions that can significantly improve our daily lives and contribute to a more sustainable world.

It is essential that those involved in the built environment—architects, engineers, facility managers, and building owners— plan and add indoor air quality solutions that can save money and energy while boosting overall sustainability.

By implementing smart, cost-effective measures such as energy-efficient ventilation systems, regular maintenance, and the use of sustainable building materials, buildings can achieve healthier indoor environments and lower operational expenses. These solutions represent a win-win opportunity: protecting occupant health while delivering long-term economic and environmental benefits.

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One significant development in this area was the introduction of ASHRAE Standard 241, which was the first standard specifically designed to establish criteria for both optimal design and ongoing performance of healthy indoor spaces. As a member of the committee that crafted Standard 241, we developed clear guidelines for ventilation, filtration, and air cleaning to help ensure that buildings are equipped to maintain safe and healthy indoor environments.

Key to achieving healthy, sustainable residential and commercial buildings is the integration of high-tech air purification and monitoring technologies, including 24/7 sensors. These advanced systems continuously track air quality metrics and automatically adjust filtration and ventilation to maintain optimal conditions.

By leveraging real-time data and smart automation, building occupants benefit from consistently clean air, while property owners gain the ability to proactively address potential issues and optimize energy use. The adoption of these technologies not only enhances occupant health and comfort but also supports broader sustainability goals by reducing resource consumption and improving operational efficiency.

Climate change and global warming cannot be ignored. The events of Climate Week and the United Nations General Assembly helped amplify global awareness, making it clear that these are urgent issues we must confront together. The reality of the problem is undeniable, and while the challenges are complex, practical solutions already exist. The time to act is now.

KEYWORDS: Climate Action Plan Climate Change and HVACR IAQ

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Tony Abate is the Vice President & Chief Technology Officer at [AtmosAir Solutions](#), an indoor air purification and monitoring technology company. He was a guest panelist addressing indoor air quality during UN Climate Week and a member of the committee that authored ASHRAE's Standard 241.

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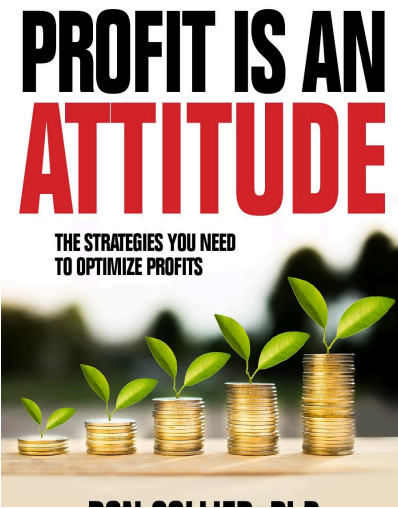
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