

Spring/Summer 2007

# California PHCC



The Official Publication of the PHCC of California



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## California is Going Green

(Steve Lehtonen, PHCC of California and Ray Herbert meet at the Capitol to discuss Green Strategies)



# California PHCC Signs Pact - Australia's *GreenPlumbers*



(L. to r.) Stephen J. Lehtonen, EVP, PHCC California  
and Ray Herbert, EVP MPMSAA at the California State Capitol

California's Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors (CAPHCC) have just concluded negotiations allowing the Association to use the enormously successful and effective *GreenPlumbers®* program of Australia in California.

*GreenPlumbers®* is a national training and accreditation program developed in 1999 by the Master Plumbers & Mechanical Services Association of Australia to assist plumbers in understanding their role in the environment and public health.

Originally a federally funded initiative for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in heating, cooling and hot water appliances, the training has now been expanded to include:

- ◆ water conservation,
- ◆ reduction in greenhouse gas emissions,
- ◆ alternative energy sources for hot water heating,
- ◆ alternative water sources, and
- ◆ residential and commercial buildings water and energy auditing.

The program and the emerging technologies have been a major catalyst for change in plumbing regulations and have reduced water consumption up to 50% from 1990 levels. Major industry leaders in Australia have actively supported the program and consumers have benefited from significant savings in operating costs and environmental improvements.



Ray Herbert, EVP MPMSAA presenting *GreenPlumbers*

California and Australia both face similar problems in water management, increasing population and climate change. California's Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors believe that implementing the *GreenPlumbers®* program can help meet and mitigate these challenges.

California's plumbing contractors serve almost 100,000 households each and every day. The PHCC goal is to train and deploy an army of thousands of residential "green" plumbers to promote the benefits of water conservation and the reduction of GHG emissions. The plan addresses an ongoing cultural change for both plumbers and consumers well past the four-year project

cycle. As a grassroots effort, the plan is a voluntary one that can be implemented quickly without legislation or regulation.

Californians consume on an average 180-250 gallons of water per person per day. Currently international best practice has identified that householders in countries with the right mix of water-saving technologies, consumer behavior, and an informed plumbing industry consume 40% less water than in California.

Australia, as an example, has an urban water consumption of 50-80 gallons of water per person per day.

Australia is the driest habitable continent in the world, however, rainfall varies greatly across the country. Over the past twenty years the Master Plumbers and Mechanical Services Association of Australia (MPMSAA) has implemented a number of water saving programs that have assisted water authorities and governments to achieve a significant water usage reduction through the use of new technologies, and behavioral changes of plumbing practitioners, which is achieved through environmentally sustainable education and training.

Current Australian strategies include the establishment of the National training and accreditation program "GreenPlumbers" which commenced in 1999 as a federally funded government initiative for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in heating, cooling and hot water appliances. This program has been expanded to include:

- ◆ Caring for our water – water conservation
- ◆ Climate Care – reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ Solar hot water – alternative energy choices for hot water heating
- ◆ Water efficient technology – alternative water sources
- ◆ Inspection reports – residential and commercial water and energy auditing



(L. to r.) Clyde McDonald, Legislative Aide to Assemblyman John Laird; and Ray Herbert, EVP MPMSAA

This program, coupled with emerging technologies has been a major catalyst for change in plumbing regulations and has assisted the plumbing industry with implementing measurable water savings on the level of up to 50% from 1990 levels. ■



(L. to r.) Stephen J. Lehtonen, EVP, PHCC California; Clyde McDonald, Legislative Aide to Assemblyman John Laird; Ray Herbert, EVP MPMSAA; and Hellan Dowden, PHCC Lobbyist



Steven J. Lehtonen, EVP, PHCC California speaking to the Capitol Press Corp.



Ray Herbert, EVP MPMSAA presenting GreenPlumbers