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ASPE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

PO BOX 293, GRAND CENTRAL STATION, NY, NY 10163

<http://www.aspenyc.org>

**MARCH
MEETING
INFORMATION**

Topic: Wastewater Heat Recovery

Speaker: Sean Dabroski

Sponser: G.A. Fleet

PDH CREDITS PROVIDED

Date: March 4th, 2026

Location: The Tailor Public House &
Kitchen - 505 8th Avenue

Time: Dinner Served: 5:30pm

Technical: 5:30-6:30pm

Social: 6:30-8:00pm



If you wish to receive only digital copies of the newsletter please email nycaspenewsletter@gmail.com.

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A Message

FROM THE PRESIDENT



My fellow ASPE NYC Members,

I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming the trend of warming weather- even if 35° now feels warm! While the temperatures rise, so is the number of exciting events we have planned for the year. We hope to see just as many people involved in these events as are engaged at our meetings each month!

This month, our ASPE Young Professionals will be hosting a night out with the NY Islanders! On Friday, March 13th, join us at UBS Arena at 4:30pm for a back-of-house tour as well as a happy hour before the game. Tickets are limited, and the event is open to ASPE AYP members only, so be sure to RSVP to David Alperin dalperin@burns-group.com and Dempsey Narcoses dnarcisse@syska.com quickly!

Also in March, ASPE's ASSE 6060 MedGas Workshop will be held in our own backyard! From March 23rd to 26th, registrants will have 32 hours of instruction with team-based, hands-on activities at the Viega Experience Center in Long Island City. For more information, please visit <https://aspe.org/medgas-workshop/> or contact medgas@aspe.org.


Later in the year, ASPE heads to Oklahoma City for our bi-annual Convention and Expo! Mark your calendars for October 8th to 14th, as this event is a great way for members to learn about products in the industry, network with peers, and earn CEUs. Visit <https://expo.aspe.org/> for more information!

As our chapter continues to host appealing events and AI becomes more advanced, it's important to stay vigilant of phishing scams and remember the contact information for our board. **Board members will only reach out to you via the emails/phones listed on the cover sheet**, and official chapter communications will only come from ny.aspe@gmail.com, nycaspenewsletter@gmail.com, or postmaster@mg.aspenyc.org. We are thankful to have such an engaged chapter, and we appreciate your diligence to keep it safe!

We look forward to seeing you all our next Chapter Meeting on March 4th! Same great time, same great place.

Yours in ASPE,
Sean Mooney, CPD





MedGas Workshop

American Society of Plumbing Engineers

March 23–26, 2026

Hosted by Viega
New York City (Queens)

ASPE's MedGas Workshop fulfills the training requirements for the ASSE 6060: Medical Gas Systems Designer professional certification. By attending, you will enjoy all of the benefits of our 32-hour in-person experience, which include:

- Personal interaction with our expert instructor, Mark Allen
- Team-based, hands-on activities
- Practical design exercises with calculation examples
- ASSE 6060 practice exam
- Copy of NFPA 99-2024: Health Care Facilities Code
- Quizzes to test knowledge retention
- Calculator and supplies for hands-on exercises
- Lunch, drinks, and snacks each day
- 1.2 ASPE CEUs

Third-party testing will be available through Sherman Engineering after the workshop on March 27. If you would like to sit for the exam, please contact Nikita Patel, PE, ASSE 6060, at npatel@shermanengineering.com or 570-899-9090.

"The knowledge provided was phenomenal, and I would argue you would be hard pressed to find a better seminar on medical gas."

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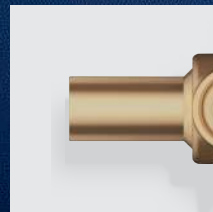
ADDITIONAL CONNECTIONS



1/2" PEX crimp inlets



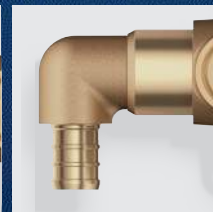
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1/2" Stub-out inlets/outlets



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1/2" PEX cold expansion elbow inlets

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The Statue of Liberty is depicted in a grayscale, slightly desaturated style. She is holding a large, black industrial pipe in her right hand. The pipe has white text on it: "USA CH" and "PIPE". The background is a faded, high-angle view of the New York City skyline, with various skyscrapers visible. The overall aesthetic is industrial and gritty.

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RENEWAL EXAM

The renewal will include instruction by Mark Allen via MS Teams followed by an exam.

QUESTIONS?
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01

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03

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04

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05

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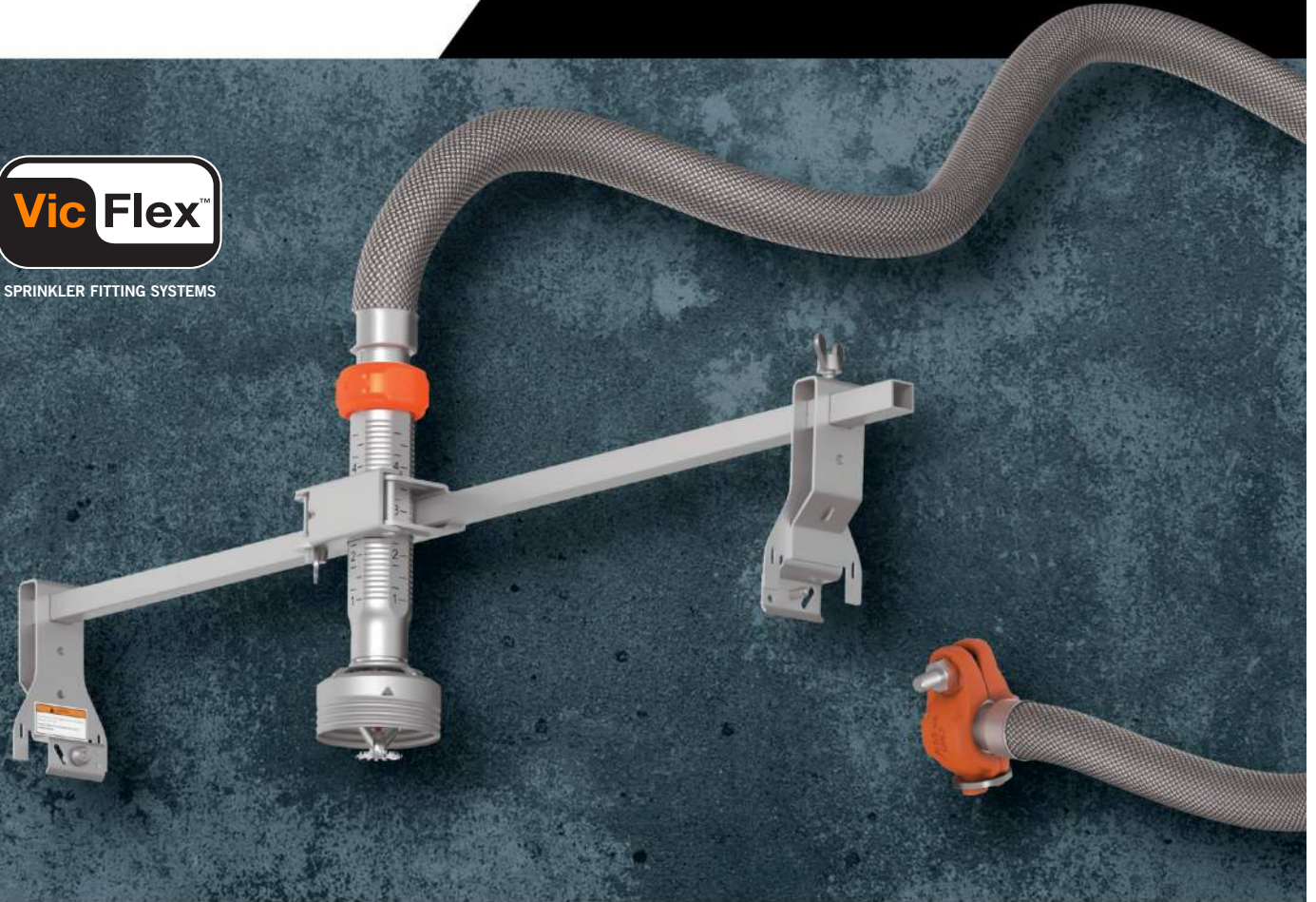




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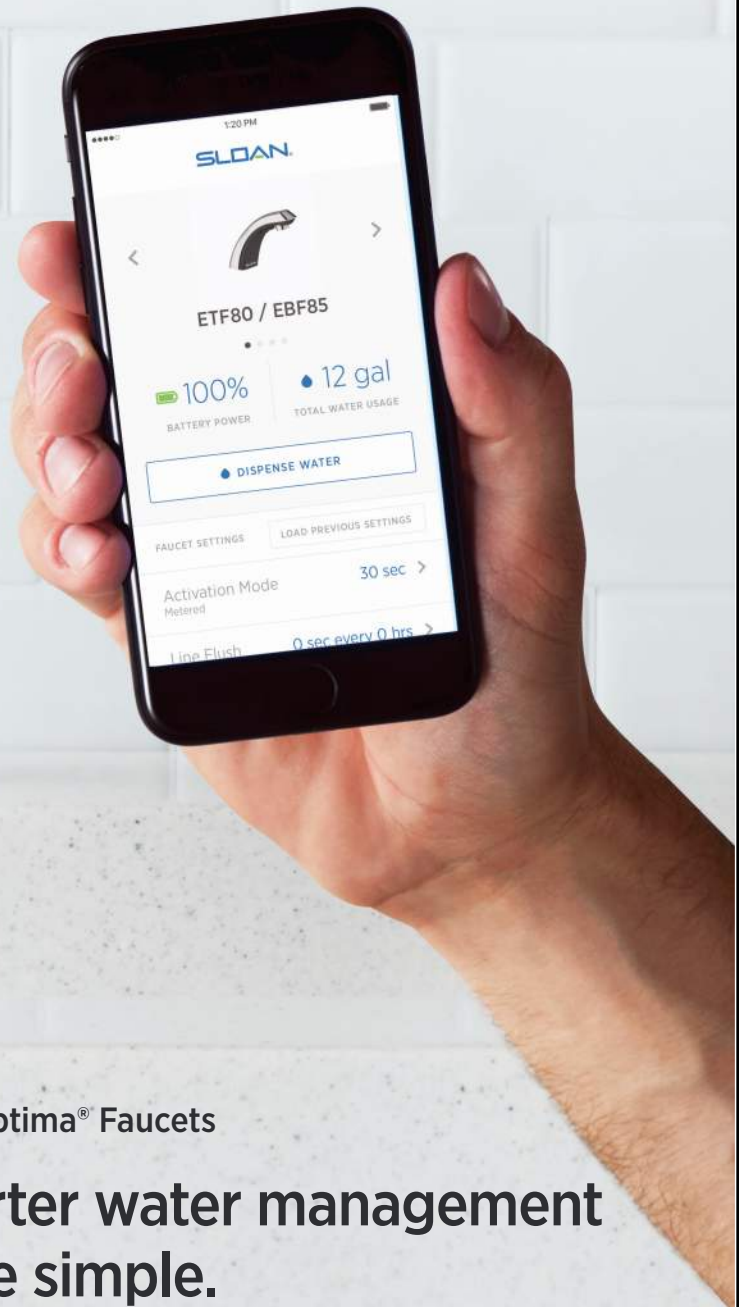
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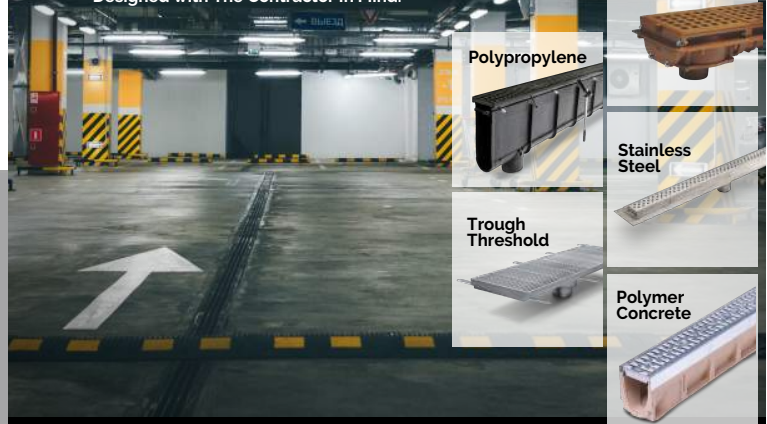
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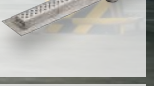
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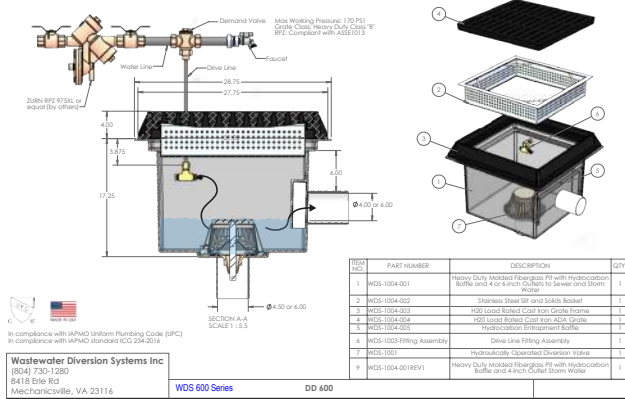


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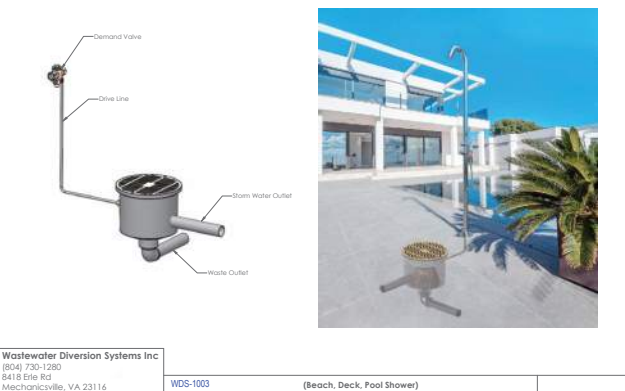
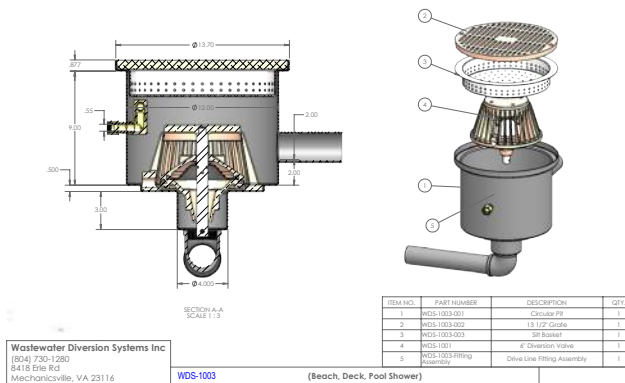
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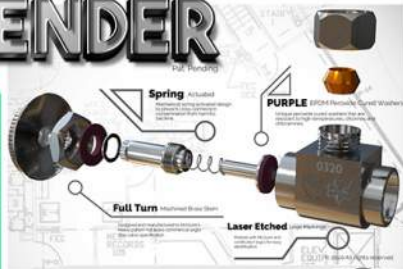
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Today I want to talk about an issue that we have all likely experienced at some point in our lives and that is waiting for hot water. Water is expected instantly from a sink or shower, and hot water is no exception, so how do we account for this in our plumbing designs? One such method and the focus of our discussion is by utilizing a hot water return system, which is a combination of components working together so every fixture in a house, apartment, restaurant and office building has hot water available at the moment it needs it.

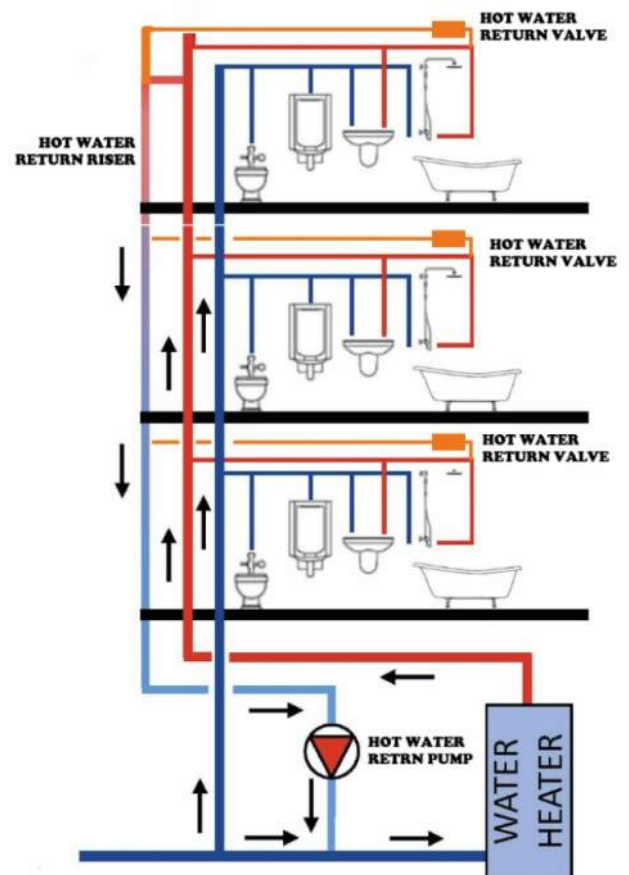
These components are the hot water source, the balancing valve and the return pump. It starts with the water heater which makes the hot water, acting as the source. This can be one of many types, using either gas, oil, electric resistance or heat pump.

From there the hot water gets distributed throughout the building, within walls, ceilings, shafts, though basement and cellars and even underground. As we learned in heat transfer class, heat flows from hot to cold, so it's in this distribution system where some of the water's heat is lost and it cools. We need to make up for that loss and get fresh hot water into the system when it's not being used. This is where the return pump comes into play. The pump is connected to a line; aptly named the return line; that comes from the furthest fixture in the system and any branch fixtures in between. It circulates fresh hot water from the water heater, through the system and back to the heater and operates on a set temperature that it tries to satisfy, usually between 115°F and 120°F.

To determine how much water we need to flow, we need to calculate the expected heat loss in the distribution system. There are a few formulas and methods that can be used since each distribution system is unique, but general a good rule of thumb in the industry is about 0.5 gpm per each domestic riser or long branch. With the use of more modern electronic mixing valves, we will need to also satisfy the minimum flow rate through the valve, and this is sometimes higher than the calculated loss. You should always go with the higher number.

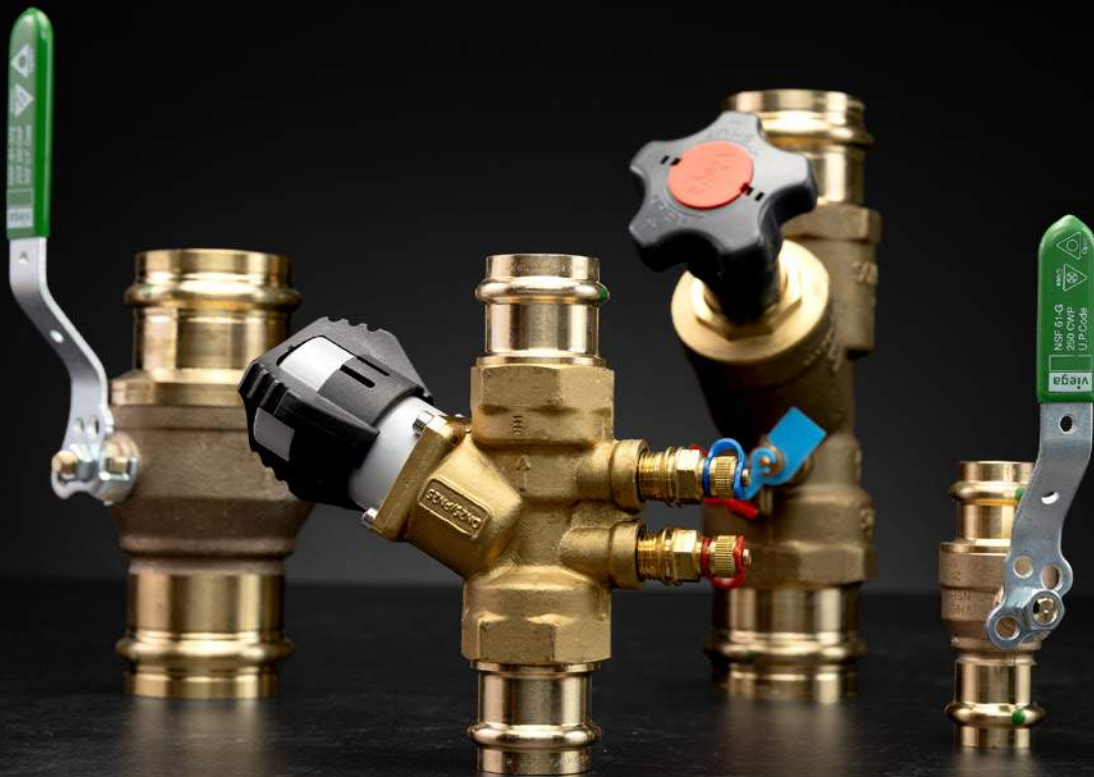
To ensure that every branch and fixture is satisfied, the return lines are fitted with a balancing valve, check valve and shutoff valves at each connection point. The balancing valves can be thermostatic, which automatically regulate flow, or manually set which require balancing of the system at startup. Thermostatic valves operate on temperature differential to control the amount of water flowing through each branch and back to the heater. When the temp is satisfied, they close, allowing other branches to continue flowing. With water flowing back to the heater, the cycle is completed.

At it's base form this system helps make up heat lost in distribution. An alternative method that can be used is an electric resistance temperature maintenance system but this is a topic for another day. Additional information on the design and setup of hot water return systems can be found in ASPE Design Handbook Volume 2, chapter 6.



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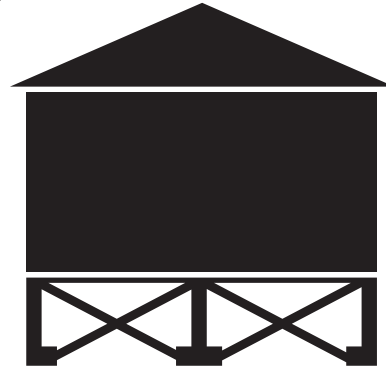
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FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The February meeting was initiated by Steve and began with the Pledge of Allegiance, after which, several announcements were made. Sean announced that Engineer's Week is February 22nd -28th and he encouraged members to take photos and share them with the board to enter a raffle. There is an ASSE 6060 Medical Gas Workshop March 23 rd -26th at the Viega Experience Center. Link to register can be found on the website. Eric announced an upcoming tour of the New Croton Reservoir. Details on the date of the tour and how to register will be announced in the future. The ASPE summer golf outing will be on Monday, August 10th . The Fishing Trip will be in September at a date to be determined.

Technical Presentation: Next Generation Water Conservation Technologies by Jonathan Farr, LFA

Jonathan Farr gave a technical presentation on next generation water conservation technologies. The presentation focused on engineering approaches to reducing potable water demand through onsite water reuse, decentralized treatment, and improved water system efficiency within commercial and residential buildings. Emphasis was placed on system design considerations, treatment performance, regulatory compliance, and long-term operational reliability.

Jonathan opened by discussing current pressures on municipal water and waste water infrastructure. Aging distribution networks, increasing population density, climate variability, and higher per-capita demand are placing significant strain on centralized treatment and conveyance systems. Conventional water infrastructure operates on a once-through model in which potable water is supplied, used, and discharged to the sanitary system. This approach requires substantial treatment capacity, high energy input, and large distribution infrastructure. Jonathan explained why water reuse matters, mentioning that globally, buildings use 15% of the world's potable water supply yet almost none reuse it. Water reuse creates resiliency, meets energy regulations, and saves money. He explained that building-scale water reuse reduces both potable water demand and wastewater discharge loading, providing measurable reductions in municipal system burden.

Jonathan mentioned that NYC permits **Onsite Non-Potable Water Systems (ONWS)** for rainwater, greywater, and – under stricter standards – blackwater, regulated through the **2022 NYC Plumbing Code, Chapter 13**, and **DOHMH** guidance. **NYC DEP** offers grants and significant water/wastewater fee discounts for qualifying onsite reuse projects. Chapter 13 of the NYC Plumbing Code sets treatment and design requirements based on water source and intended end-use. The **2022 Plumbing Code (ICC)** defines materials, installation standards (e.g., purple pipe, cross-connection control), and the permitting process for all ONWS.

Jonathan then defined key onsite reuse definitions. **Blackwater** – Waste water from toilets, dishwashers, kitchen sinks, and utility sinks. **Greywater** – Wastewater from clothes washers, bathtubs, showers, and bathroom sinks. **Rainwater** - Precipitation collected from roofs and above-grade surfaces. **Air Conditioning Condensate** – Water collected from evaporator coils. **Stormwater** – Precipitation collected at or below grade. **Foundation Drainage** – Nuisance groundwater from dewatering operations.

The presentation then addressed onsite water reuse systems and how they are integrated into a building's plumbing system. Typical systems collect graywater and, in some municipalities, blackwater from plumbing fixtures and route it to a localized treatment skid or modular treatment plant. Treated effluent is redistributed through a dedicated non-potable piping network serving approved reuse applications. Dual plumbing systems, separating potable from non-potable systems, as well as proper labeling and signage were identified as critical design requirements.

Jonathan highlighted 3 outputs you get from an ONWS. As mentioned, treated water can be reused for non-potable use such as toilet and urinal flushing, irrigation, cooling tower systems, washing machines, and ornamental features. ONWS can produce natural soil amendments that are carbon-rich and can be used onsite in landscaping, gardens, or even local parks. The 3rd output of an ONWS is recovered energy from the wastewater heat. The recovered energy can be used to pre-heat incoming water in a building's recirculation loop to offset heat pump costs in electric buildings.

Jonathan provided a detailed technical overview of the treatment plants used in building-scale reuse systems. Initial

treatment typically includes coarse screening and solids separation to remove debris and reduce downstream fouling. The filtered-out waste, or “cake” can be used as fertilizer. Primary biological treatment is then performed. Bugs are essentially consuming the waste that was not separated in the initial stage. Following biological treatment, membrane filtration or equivalent fine filtration removes remaining suspended solids and bacteria, producing high-clarity effluent. Final disinfection is typically achieved through ultraviolet irradiation, ensuring treated water meets reuse water quality targets. System performance is maintained through automated controls, continuous monitoring, and feedback loops regulating flow, turbidity, and disinfection effectiveness.

Jonathan emphasized the importance of designing reuse systems based on building demand profiles, influent characteristics, and required reuse quality. ONWS are engineered systems designed for the specific buildings they are installed in. Proper sizing of equalization tanks, treatment capacity, and storage volume is

necessary to balance variable wastewater generation and reuse demand. Peak flow conditions, diurnal load variation, and fixture usage patterns must be considered to maintain system stability and avoid hydraulic overload. Integration with building management systems allows real-time monitoring of system performance, alarm conditions, and water quality parameters.

The role of onsite water reuse in reducing potable water consumption and sanitary discharge was discussed in the context of high-density buildings. Jonathan explained that significant potable water offsets can be achieved when reuse is applied to large demand categories such as flushing and cooling tower makeup. In addition to reducing water consumption, onsite reuse reduces peak sewer discharge, saving building owners money over time, lowering infrastructure loading and contributing to improved system resilience during high-demand periods or municipal capacity constraints.

Operational and maintenance requirements were discussed with emphasis on reliability and lifecycle performance. Routine maintenance typically includes inspection of screening equipment, membrane cleaning or replacement, verification of biological treatment performance, and validation of disinfection systems. Continuous monitoring of turbidity, flow, and system alarms ensures consistent water quality and early detection of operational issues. Remote diagnostics and automated reporting enable proactive maintenance and minimize downtime. Proper commissioning, operator training, and service planning were identified as critical to sustained system performance.

Jonathan also reviewed economic and performance considerations. While onsite reuse systems require upfront capital investment, long-term operational savings can be realized through reduced potable water consumption, lower sewer discharge costs, and potential infrastructure offset benefits. Increasing municipal water and wastewater rates are improving the cost effectiveness of reuse technologies. Additional benefits include reduced environmental impact, improved building sustainability performance, and enhanced infrastructure resilience.

Key takeaways from the presentation included the engineering feasibility of building-scale onsite water reuse, the importance of proper system sizing and treatment design, and the role of decentralized reuse in reducing potable water demand and wastewater discharge. Jonathan reinforced that successful implementation depends on sound engineering design, regulatory compliance, routine maintenance, and coordinated operation. The presentation concluded with a technical question and answer session.





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Dear NYC ASPE Members,

Hopefully by now you've had a chance a drop by the Code Corner to see what its about. In case you haven't, this is a place to get an update into what's happening with discussions of the plumbing code committee. You have an opportunity to participate, NYC ASPE members can email me their concerns regarding particular code sections and the associated language which they believe needs to be discussed during code committee meetings.

Best Regards, Vinny Rotoli

Email: rotoliv@vfreengineering.com



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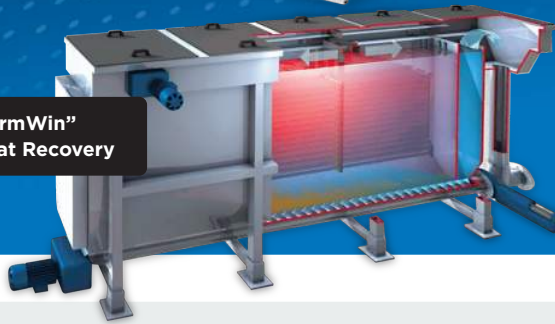
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