

## Treating the building as a system

### **Building science workshop in Poughkeepsie**

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation is partnering with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to present a building science workshop with nationally recognized building consultants Joseph Lstiburek and Terry Brennan.

The one-day training session, presented Nov. 5 in Poughkeepsie, is intended for architects, engineers, home builders, remodelers, HVAC contractors, code officials, home inspectors, home energy raters and other trade allies.

### **Workshop outline**

- I. Introduction
- II. Rain and ground water
- III. Pressures and mechanical systems
- IV. Condensation details
- V. Construction details
- VI. Moisture
- VII. Carbon monoxide and indoor air quality
- VIII. Problem solving

Attendees will receive seven professional development credit hours; four manuals on topics including water management, ventilation and insulation; a continental breakfast; and a chance to have lunch with one of the instructors.

The workshop on Nov. 5 will be held at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel in Poughkeepsie from 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., with registration starting at 7 a.m. The cost is \$200 per person after a 50 percent training incentive from NYSERDA. You may also register online at [www.home-performance.org](http://www.home-performance.org) (select "events"). For more details, contact Jim Hammel at (315) 638-1757 or by e-mail at [jhammel@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jhammel@twcny.rr.com).

Joseph Lstiburek is a principal of Building Science Corporation and an American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Fellow. He has 25 years of experience in design, construction, investigation and building science research. He investigates building failures and is internationally recognized as an authority on moisture related building problems and indoor air quality. He has written numerous books and technical papers on building science, indoor air quality and durability.

### **What is building science?**

Building science is the physics of heat transfer, air movement, and moisture transport in buildings. Those certified by the Building Performance Contractors Association (BPCA) treat the building as a system, where all parts interact. They typically provide the following services:

- Advanced diagnostic testing and problem solving
- Air and duct sealing
- Heating, cooling and ventilation, service, design and installation
- Insulation installation
- General contracting services
- Home energy ratings, Energy Star and model energy code certifications

Terry Brennan is a nationally recognized building scientist and educator. He owns a company that provides forensic, analysis, research and training services to the building community, the research community, the public health community and owners and occupants of buildings. He is on the editorial boards of *Environmental Building News* and *Heating, Piping and Air Conditioning Magazine*.

## Heating season is heating up

### Upgraded any customers to natural gas heat lately?

As described in the last two issues of Trade Ally News, Central Hudson recently completed a four-part direct mail marketing campaign to convince low-volume natural gas users to convert their home heating systems to natural gas, especially those who had been oil heat customers. Given the tremendous pricing advantage currently enjoyed by natural gas, we expect this campaign to result in record numbers of conversions before the coming heating season. We hope it will have been a positive and profitable experience for you, our valued trade allies.

Those trade allies who wisely chose to participate in our longstanding free offer of enclosing valuable coupons for discounts on gas heat installations on our Web site and in informational packets that we mail to inquiring customers or distribute at public events like the Dutchess County Fair, received an unexpected free bonus: We printed and enclosed copies of every one of those coupons in the fourth and final mailing we sent on Oct. 14 to our gas heat conversion prospects. This spread the sales message of those participating to about 3,200 prime prospects.

Now, you can do us a favor. We'd appreciate it if you would let us

know which of our customers you have assisted recently in their desire to upgrade to natural gas heat. Your input will help us update their account status, and to serve them and you more efficiently in the future.

### Report gas heat conversions promptly

Please contact Kelly Devens in Marketing with the names and addresses of those customers you have converted to gas heat in the last few months (and those you will continue to work for through the winter) so we can update our records. Contact Kelly at (845) 486-5550 or send her an e-mail at [kdevens@cenhud.com](mailto:kdevens@cenhud.com).

## Markouts are as easy as dialing 811

Central Hudson's Trade Allies and Hudson Valley contractors have the option of using the national 811 service to contact Dig Safely New York before excavating so utility lines may be identified and marked out.

The Federal Communications Commission issued 811 to eliminate the confusion of multiple "Call Before You Dig" numbers across the country. One phone call to 811 quickly and easily begins the process of getting underground utility lines marked.

This easy-to-remember number is an additional resource to the Dig Safely New York hotline, (800) 962-7962, which is still printed on some utility facilities across the state. Both "one-

call" numbers are toll-free, and connect excavators to a statewide system that alerts utilities, municipalities and other parties that operate underground facilities of the intent to excavate at specific sites so these facilities can be marked out.

### Two-day lead time

Ensuring that utility lines and underground facilities are identified prior to digging or excavating is an important safety measure. Anyone, including contractors and homeowners, planning to excavate must contact Dig Safely New York at least two days prior to digging in order to prevent accidental contact with utility lines.

"Serious consequences can result by contacting and damaging underground lines," said Charles A. Freni, Central Hudson's Senior Vice President of Customer Services. "Contact with underground facilities such as natural gas pipelines and high-voltage electric lines can also cause serious injury to excavators and the public, result in property damage, and interrupt vital utility services to homes, businesses and critical facilities, such as schools and hospitals."

Excavators can be subject to civil penalties and other liabilities, including costs to repair damage caused by excavation undertaken without prior notification. These regulations are designed to protect excavators, the general public, and the owners of underground facilities.