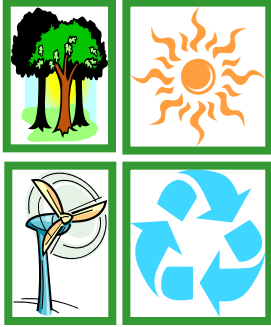


# The Mulvaney Pipeline



## Green Building Projects



Mechanical contractors play an integral role in the green building process. Of course you can't have a building, green or otherwise, without an architect or an owner - but mechanical contractors are critical to many of the features that define what a green building is.

The benefits of a green building are numerous - those most frequently cited include huge reductions in energy, water, and materials use, which lead to reduced environmental impact, reduced operating costs, and increased asset value. Green buildings are also healthier and more comfortable for their occupants, yielding increased tenant satisfaction, higher productivity, and reduced absenteeism.

Green buildings don't happen by accident - they require collaboration from day one among all the building and design professionals. Mechanical contractors are integral members of any successful Green Building project team.

In the United States, buildings account for:

- 36% of total energy use and 65% of electricity consumption
- 30% of greenhouse gas emissions
- 30% of raw materials use
- 30% of waste output/136 million tons annually
- 12% of potable water consumption



Development of a Green Building program is not just for new construction. The greater majority of "greening" opportunities reside in older buildings that were constructed during a time when energy consumption and environmental concerns were few. Some of the best, most rewarding projects are those accomplished on a piecemeal basis. Greening your building is best considered a continuous improvement process that keeps up with the newest technologies.

## CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE!

Our very own president and company founder was recently honored by Ability Beyond Disability during their 24th Annual Gala held in Danbury on April 14<sup>th</sup>. George was very flattered to receive their Robert S. Young Humanitarian Award. The organization gives this award, named for a former president of the board, annually to a person who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the community in general, not just to Ability Beyond Disability specifically. Ability Beyond Disability is a health and human services provider serving people in Connecticut and New York with developmental and neurological disabilities.



George has served as past president and a current board member of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut and is on the board of the University of Hartford's Construction Institute. His efforts on behalf of organizations such as Ability Beyond Disability and the Regional Hospice for Western Connecticut resulted in his selection and ultimate recognition as this year's recipient of the Young Award. "George has a great generosity of spirit," said Sharon Danosky, Vice President of Development and Community Relations for the organization. "We are privileged to honor him, and we are extremely grateful for his involvement and his dedication to improving the lives of people with disabilities." *Those wishing to make a donation may do so by contacting George or these organizations directly. Ability Beyond disability at (203) 775-4700 or Regional Hospice at (203) 797-1685.*

## GASOLINE PRICING... IS ETHANOL THE ANSWER?



The debate of ethanol vs. gasoline is a debate that has fierce champions on both sides of the issue. Proponents cheer the use of ethanol as the environmentally friendly, less expensive alternative, while others call it a foolish endeavor that results in lower performance and higher actual cost.

**The Case For:** Ethanol is an excellent, clean-burning fuel, potentially providing more horsepower than gasoline. In fact, ethanol has a higher octane rating (over 100) and burns cooler than gasoline. According to the DOE, the growing, fermenting and distillation chain actually results in a surplus of energy that ranges from 34 to 66 percent. Moreover, the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that an engine produces started out as atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> that the cornstalk captured during growth, making ethanol greenhouse gas neutral. Recent DOE studies note that using ethanol in blends lowers carbon monoxide (CO) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions substantially. In 2005, burning such blends had the same effect on greenhouse gas emissions as removing 1 million cars from American roads.

**The Case Against:** Alcohol is a corrosive solvent. Anything exposed to ethanol must be made of corrosion-resistant (and expensive) stainless steel or plastic--from fuel-injection components to the tanks, pumps and hoses that dispense it, as well as the tankers that deliver it. Growing corn is an intensive process that requires pesticides, fertilizer, heavy equipment and transport. When considering the viability of ethanol, the total impact of all that activity needs to be taken into account.



**The facts:** When strictly calculating the up front costs of growing crops for ethanol production, cost comparisons with gasoline appear to be somewhat lower. If one includes the less tangible indirect costs of ethanol, such as the energy to build the farm tractor, harvesters and fermentation equipment, along with the human energy, costs approach 20 to 30% more than gasoline. Since we are not making a scientific comparison, factions on both sides of the issue claim the high ground of fuel economy.

**The Reality:** One acre of corn can produce 300 gal. of ethanol per growing season. To replace 200 billion gal. of petroleum products, American farmers would need to dedicate 675 million acres, or 71 percent of the nation's 938 million acres of farmland, to growing feedstock. Clearly, ethanol alone won't kick our fossil fuel dependence--unless we want to replace our oil imports with food imports.



## The Stevenson Dam

The Stevenson Dam sits between Lake Zoar and the Housatonic River. Erected by the Connecticut Light and Power Company to provide water power for generating electricity by hydraulic turbines. The maximum base width is 81 feet, maximum height to crest elevation is 122 feet, and its length is 1,213 feet. It backs up Lake Zoar having, at crest elevation, a length of approximately 10 miles. It took two years to build and was completed on Nov. 24, 1919. The Power-house is located at the Monroe side and has an output capability of 28,750 kilowatts. During the most recent rainstorm event, peak water flow rates over the dam were estimated at 50,000 cubic feet per second. That's about 372,000 gallons every second.... which by coincidence is the very maximum flow rate the dam was designed to carry.

## Words to Live By

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

George Washington Carver

## Believe It, or Not!

- There is one slot machine in Las Vegas for every eight inhabitants.
- Every day 20 banks are robbed. The average take is \$2,500!
- The most popular first name in the world is Muhammad!
- If you counted 24 hours a day, it would take 31,688 years to reach one trillion!
- The average life span of a major league baseball is 6 pitches!
- The world's termites outweigh the world's humans 10 to 1!
- A mole can dig a tunnel 300 feet long in just one night!
- One in every 4 Americans has appeared on television!
- Over 10,000 birds a year die from smashing into windows!
- Recycling one glass jar, saves enough energy to watch T.V for 3 hours!
- Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails!
- A person uses approximately fifty-seven sheets of toilet paper each day!
- Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin!
- Men are 6 times more likely to be struck by lightning than women!
- The opposite sides of a dice cube always add up to seven!
- In Kentucky, it's the law that a person must take a bath once a year
- A cubic inch of gold can be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court!
- A hard working adult sweats up to 4 gallons per day.
- The state of "Franklin" was renamed in 1776 and is now called Tennessee.

## What the heck is it?



Take a guess!

Tell us what this is and you could WIN

Dinner for 2

E-mail or FAX your answer to our office. If more than one correct answer is received, a winner will be selected at random. If you e-mail your entry, you must write "NEWSLETTER CONTEST" in the subject line to avoid our SPAM filter.

Please e-mail to: [janette@mulvaneyinc.com](mailto:janette@mulvaneyinc.com)

The answer to the photo question from last time is "Cookie Dropper" - a kitchen tool used to cut and drop raw cookie dough on a baking sheet pan. The following 3 people submitted the correct answer.

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Caryl Frohnhoefer | Accuspec             |
| Jacque Hodges     | DiNapoli Development |
| Tony Pirrelli     | Rizzo Corporation    |

## What's Goin' On?

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| May 15-17, 2007 | Commercial Construction Conf & Show<br>Rosemont, Illinois  |
| Jun 23-27, 2007 | ASHRAE<br>Long Beach, CA                                   |
| Jun 27-28, 2007 | Buildings NY 2007 - Renovation and Remodel<br>New York, NY |
| Jul 21-24, 2007 | The BOMA Congress and Building Show<br>New York, NY        |
| Oct 4-26, 2007  | IFMA World WorkPlace<br>New Orleans, LA                    |
| Jan 19-23, 2008 | ASHRAE<br>New York, NY                                     |



## BUYING GREEN

Founded in 1989, Green Seal provides science-based environmental certification standards that are credible, transparent, and essential in an increasingly educated and competitive marketplace.

Green Seal standards help manufacturers, purchasers, and end users alike make responsible choices that positively impact business behavior and improve quality of life.

A non-profit organization, Green Seal issued its first environmental standards in 1991, and the first product certifications were completed in 1992. Hundreds of products and services from major companies such as 3M, Benjamin Moore, and Andersen Windows have now been certified to meet Green Seal standards, and the number of major product categories covered by standards has increased to more than 40.

Green Seal works with manufacturers, industry sectors, purchasing groups, and governments at all levels to "green" the production and purchasing chain. They utilize a life-cycle approach, which means they evaluate a product or service beginning with material extraction, continuing with manufacturing and use, and ending with recycling and disposal.



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