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Looking Forward

The next meeting for the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry will be the fall meeting. It is being held right here in Philadelphia at the [LOEWS Philadelphia Hotel](#) in Center City. MDC plans to attend and exhibit at the conference which will take place October 15-16, 2009. Keep up-to-date with special events and important dates regarding this conference by visiting [MDC's website](#). More information will be available in our next issue of the MDC Advisor. We look forward to seeing you there!

ASHRAE's Annual Meeting is coming up in June 2009. **Mitchell Swann, P.E., LEED AP, CIBSE Fellow**, will chair a program at this meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Featured Presenters include **Stephen Del Percio, Esquire** of Arent Fox New York and **Anne Gorham, Esquire** of Stites and Harbison. Keep an eye out for an e-flyer in your email in the coming weeks!

Newsflash



MDC's Expert Witnesses recently spoke at several seminars across the country. Pictured above is **Bob McCue** with University of Pennsylvania Professor **John Pourdehnad** at the Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne offices in Los Angeles. This forum was hosted by and held at United Technologies' Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne offices in the Canoga Park area of the San Fernando Valley. **Mr. McCue** spoke alongside **John Pourdehnad** on the topic of Complexity and Program Management. For more information read the article below titled "Complexity and Program Management" and visit the [Forum Webpage](#).

ASHRAE 2009 Annual Meeting

Program Title:
Contracts?? (Ugh! Boring!) A Comparison of the AIA 2007 and AGC ConsensusDocs Contract Forms

When: **June 22, 2009**
Type: **Seminar 31**
Start Time: **11:00 AM**
End Time: **12:00 PM**

E. Mitchell Swann is an ASHRAE distinguished lecturer and traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada, Vancouver, British Columbia and Orlando, Florida to speak on the topic of Green Building Projects. His lecture was titled "**Sustainability: Indefinable Success in a Defined World.**" To view his presentation please click [here](#).

Mr. Swann also recently received his **CIBSE Fellow** designation. The Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) is headquartered in the UK and also includes Ireland, Australia, New Zealand & Hong Kong with representatives in Sri Lanka, the UAE, Qatar and mainland China. Visit the [CIBSE website](#) for more information.

MDC's **Bob McCue** and **Connie Lin** recently attended the annual meeting for the American Bar Association **Forum on the Construction Industry** in New Orleans. The conference was held this past April 16-18 at the Sheraton New Orleans, right next to the world renowned French Quarter.

Installing a Solar Power System on Residential House

Amal Kabalan, LEED A.P.
Consulting Engineer

In the article "[Pennsylvania Solar Energy Rebate on Hold: How Consumers Can Still Save Energy](#)" published in the February 2009 edition of the [MDC Advisor®](#), the steps that homeowners can take in order to reduce their energy consumption were outlined. This article discusses a case study that shows the effect of implementing two of the mentioned suggestions namely: increased attic insulation and powered, thermostatically controlled roof ventilation. Moreover, since the Pennsylvania Solar Energy Rebate program has been funded, a detailed analysis of costs and benefits of installing a solar power system on a residential house will be outlined and whether such a project is a viable option in light of all the federal and state incentives will be discussed.

The residential unit considered in this study is a suburban residential property located in West Chester, Pennsylvania - 28 miles west of Philadelphia. The owner, in previous efforts to reduce the energy consumption of the house, improved the attic insulation and added thermostatically powered, controlled roof ventilators. The implementation of those strategies showed a significant decrease in the energy usage and thus in the monthly bills.

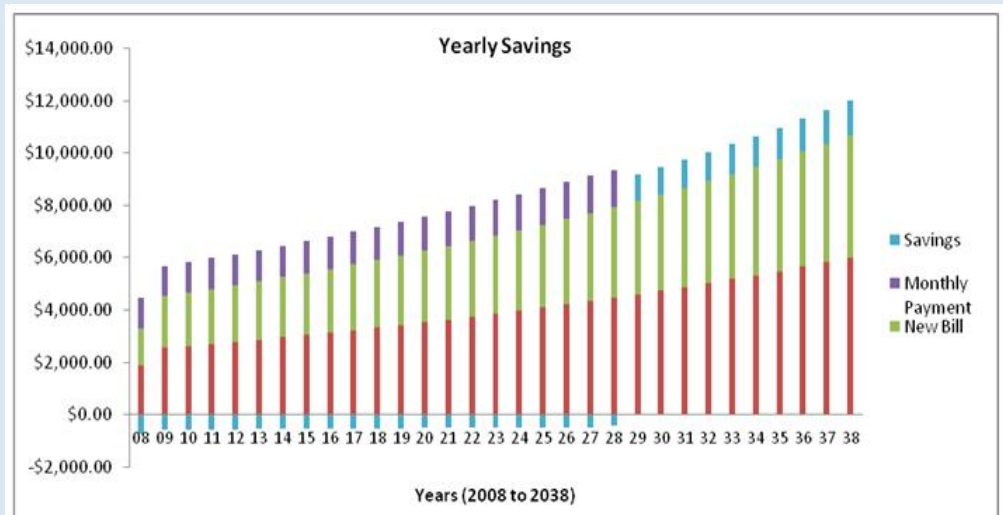


Figure 14: Energy bills over 30 years. The graph shows that the system will start generating profit in 20 years. This profit does not consider the added value of the house due to energy efficiency.

To read the entire article please [click here](#).

Complexity and Program Management

Robert C. McCue, P.E. of **MDCSystems®** and Professor John Pourdehnad of the University of Pennsylvania presented a one day seminar on Forensic Project Management and Managing Project Complexity at the Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne's annual In2:In Thinking Forum and Seminar in Canoga Park, CA. This seminar explored the connection between project failure events and increasing levels of project complexity facing modern project management organizations. Topics covered were:

- Forensic Program Management
- Situational Awareness
- Framework for Decision Making
- Integrative (Synthetic) Program Management
- Complexity and Program Leadership &
- Grounding Conceptual Knowledge

For more information regarding this seminar and the presentation, please contact Robert McCue directly at McCue@MDCSystems.com.

When Green Goes Away

E. Mitchell Swann, P.E., LEED A.P.
Consulting Engineer

Green is going away. Not the color, so your kid's next box of Crayola crayons is safe. Not cash, dough, moolah or whatever other shorthand for US dollar bills you use despite all the stories predicting its demise throughout the years. Within 5 to 7 years the term 'Green' used to describe buildings, processes or industries will, like Monty Python's dead parrot, "cease to be". This is not because the issues that have given rise to the current wave of Green building will have gone, been solved or no longer matter but almost due to the exact opposite being the case. Green or sustainable buildings have emerged in part because of and as a response to 'not Green' buildings.

Why is it leaving? Green is leaving precisely because it is so popular. Green was, at its beginning, shorthand for describing an idea or underlying principle at the core of a project, process or product. It is rare today to see a new project or product that does not tout, embrace or embellish some sort of 'Green-ness' that places it above whatever it was you were using before. Obviously the steady rollout by states and municipalities to enact some sort of 'Green building' legislation helps fuel this shift, but in many instances the

legislative push is actually being pulled by the industry instead of the other way around. And industry is being drawn by the marketplace. Sustainability is not a fad nor is it likely to lose its steam with a sudden drop in energy prices. People, many people, too many people are looking at this as an issue even if they are not always buying into Green claims made by manufacturers.

To download entire article please [click here](#).

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