

## **US Refrigerant Regulations Update and Emerging Trends**

Jennifer Butsch, Rajan Rajendran, and Ken Monnier E360 Breakfast, Orlando 2020

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## **Key Topics**

Policy Drivers for Low GWP Refrigerants

**US** Refrigerant Actions

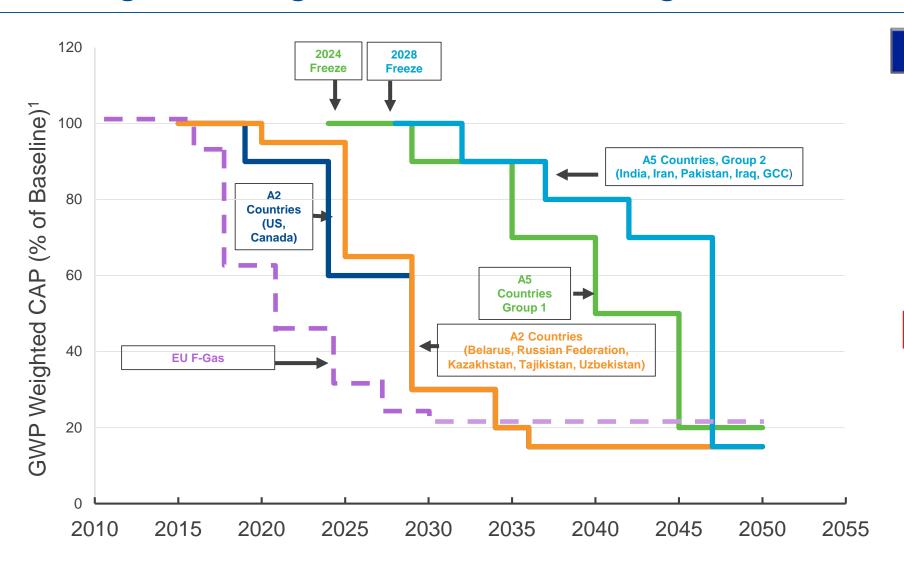
Refrigerant Properties of Lower GWP Alternatives

Codes and Standards

Beyond Refrigerants: Emerging Trends

# Policy Drivers for Low GWP Refrigerants

## Refrigerant regulations are coming – not IF, but WHEN and HOW



| F-Gas (EU): effective May 20, 2014             |                  |      |
|--|------------------|------|
| Commercial application                         | <b>GWP limit</b> | Date |
| Self-contained refrigeration                   | 2,500            | 2020 |
| Stationary refrigeration                       | 2,500            | 2020 |
| Self-contained refrigeration                   | 150              | 2022 |
| Centralized refrigeration                      | 150              | 2022 |
| <ul> <li>Except top side of cascade</li> </ul> | 1,500            | 2022 |

Stationary AC <3kg

| 4 | Environmental Canada (EC)                         | Reg. Oct.18 | , 2017 <sup>3</sup> |
|---|---|-------------|---------------------|
| - | Commercial application                            | GWP limit   | Date                |
|   | Refrigeration – centralized systems (MT/LT racks) | 2200        | 2020                |
|   | Refrigeration – condensing units                  | 2200        | 2020                |
|   | Refrigeration – LT stand-alone                    | 1500        | 2020                |
|   | Refrigeration – MT stand-alone                    | 1400        | 2020                |
|   | Mobile refrigeration                              | 2,200       | 2025                |
|   | Chillers Refrig & AC                              | 750         | 2025                |
|   | Domestic refrigeration                            | 150         | 2025                |

750

2025

Global trend to require the use of lower GWP refrigerants is well underway

## **US** Refrigerant Actions

### U.S. EPA Continues to Roll Back Previous Regulations

- SNAP Rules 20/21 Vacated at Federal Level due to Court Challenge
  - EPA currently not enforcing HFC delistings<sup>1</sup>
- Clean Air Act Section 608 Proposal
  - Would exclude HFCs from Section 608 of Refrigerant Management Program (RMP)<sup>2</sup>
    - Would still apply to ozone-depleting substances
  - Appliances with 50 or more pounds of refrigerant would no longer be subject to:
    - Conduct leak rate calculations when refrigerant is added to an appliance
    - Repair an appliance that leaks above a threshold leak rate
    - Conduct verification tests on repairs
    - Conduct periodic leak inspections on appliances that exceed the threshold leak rate
    - Report to EPA on chronically leaking appliances
    - Retrofit or retire appliances that are not repaired
    - Maintain related records



New EPA regulation expected in 2020

## US Lacks Federal HFC Regulations – States Take Lead

US Climate Alliance States committed to leading on climate change initiatives, including reduction of HFCs

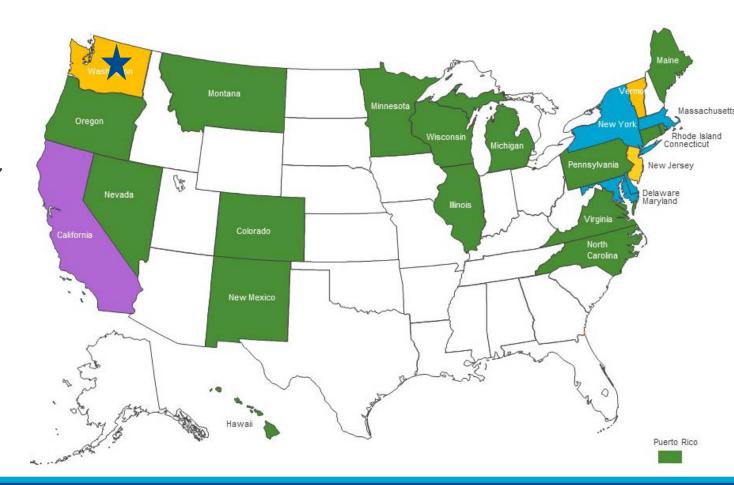
- 25 members and growing
  - 8 states have joined this year
  - Now make up over 55 percent of population and an \$11.7 trillion economy
- Three states have adopted US EPA SNAP 20/21
  - California, Washington, & Vermont
  - Allow for addition and removal of substitutes or use conditions based on risk to human health and environment

Climate Alliance

SNAP 20/21 In Process

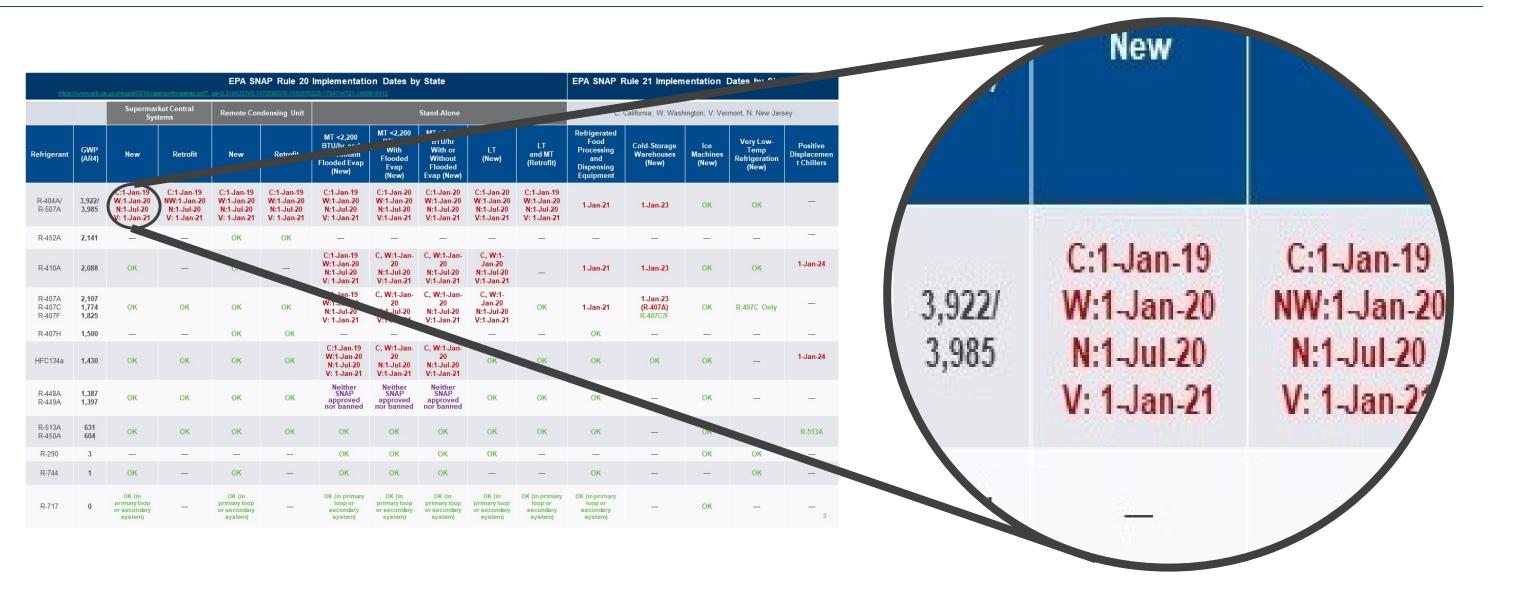
**SNAP 20/21** 

SNAP 20/21 Plus GWP Limits



It is desired that states be consistent in their approach when adopting SNAP rules

## State by State Adoption of EPA SNAP 20/21



## California Proposes Additional Rulemaking – AC and Chillers

| General End-Use   | Specific End-Use  | Prohibited<br>Substances                   | Effective Date                      |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <u>Air-conditioning</u>                                 |   |  |                                     |
| Air-conditioning<br>Equipment                           | Air-conditioning,<br>equipment (new),<br>residential and<br>non-residential                         | Refrigerants with a GWP of 750 or greater  | Prohibited as of<br>January 1, 2023 |
| Chillers - Air-conditioning, Industrial Process Cooling |   |  |                                     |
| Chillers  | Chillers (new) designed for minimum evaporator temperature > -15 °F (-26 °C)                        | Refrigerants with a GWP of 750 or greater  | Prohibited as of<br>January 1, 2024 |
| <u>Chillers</u>   | Chillers (new) designed for minimum evaporator temperature -15 °F (-26 °C) through - 58 °F (-50 °C) | Refrigerants with a GWP of 2200 or greater | Prohibited as of January 1, 2024    |

## CARB Proposal – Refrigeration and Ice Rink End Uses

| General End-Use            | Specific End-Use   | Prohibited<br>Substances                  | Effective Date                      |
|----------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Ice Rinks                  |  |   |                                     |
| Ice Rinks                  | Refrigeration Equipment (new) and Chillers (new) used in Ice Rinks                         | Refrigerants with a GWP of 750 or greater | Prohibited as of<br>January 1, 2024 |
| Refrigeration              |  |   |                                     |
| Refrigeration<br>Equipment | Refrigeration equipment (new), non-residential, containing more than 50 pounds refrigerant | Refrigerants with a GWP of 150 or greater | Prohibited as of<br>January 1, 2022 |

## CARB Proposal – Existing Retail Food Facilities

| Companies with Retail Food Facilities                              | Requirement  | Effective Date         |
|--|--|------------------------|
| Companies owning or operating 20 or more retail                    | Attain a company-wide weighted-<br>average GWP of 2,500 or a 25%<br>reduction in GHGp below 2018<br>levels | January 1, 2026        |
| food facilities  | Attain a company-wide weighted-<br>average GWP of 1,400 or a 55%<br>reduction in GHGp below 2018<br>levels | January 1, 2030        |
| Companies owning or operating fewer than 20 retail food facilities | Attain a company-wide weighted-<br>average GWP of 1,400 or a 55%<br>reduction in GHGp below 2018<br>levels | <u>January 1, 2030</u> |

### US HFC Phasedown - Federal

- Senate American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2019 (S2754)
  - Introduced by Senators John Kennedy (R-LA) and Tom Carper (D-DE)
- House American Innovation and Manufacturing Leadership Act of 2020 (HR5544)
  - Introduced by Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY), Pete Olson (R-TX),
     Scott Peters (D-CA), and Elise Stefanik (R-NY)
- Both Bills:
  - Phase down production & consumption of HFCs over 15 years (aligning with Kigali)
  - Authorize EPA to regulate HFCs and establish standards for HFC Management – servicing, repair, recovery, recycle, reclaim, etc.
  - Driven by previous technology investment, innovation, and jobs
  - Would not affect existing equipment and would give allowance for aftermarket servicing needs of industry
  - No federal preemption does not eliminate state rights
  - Not tied to Clean Air Act

### Letters of support from:













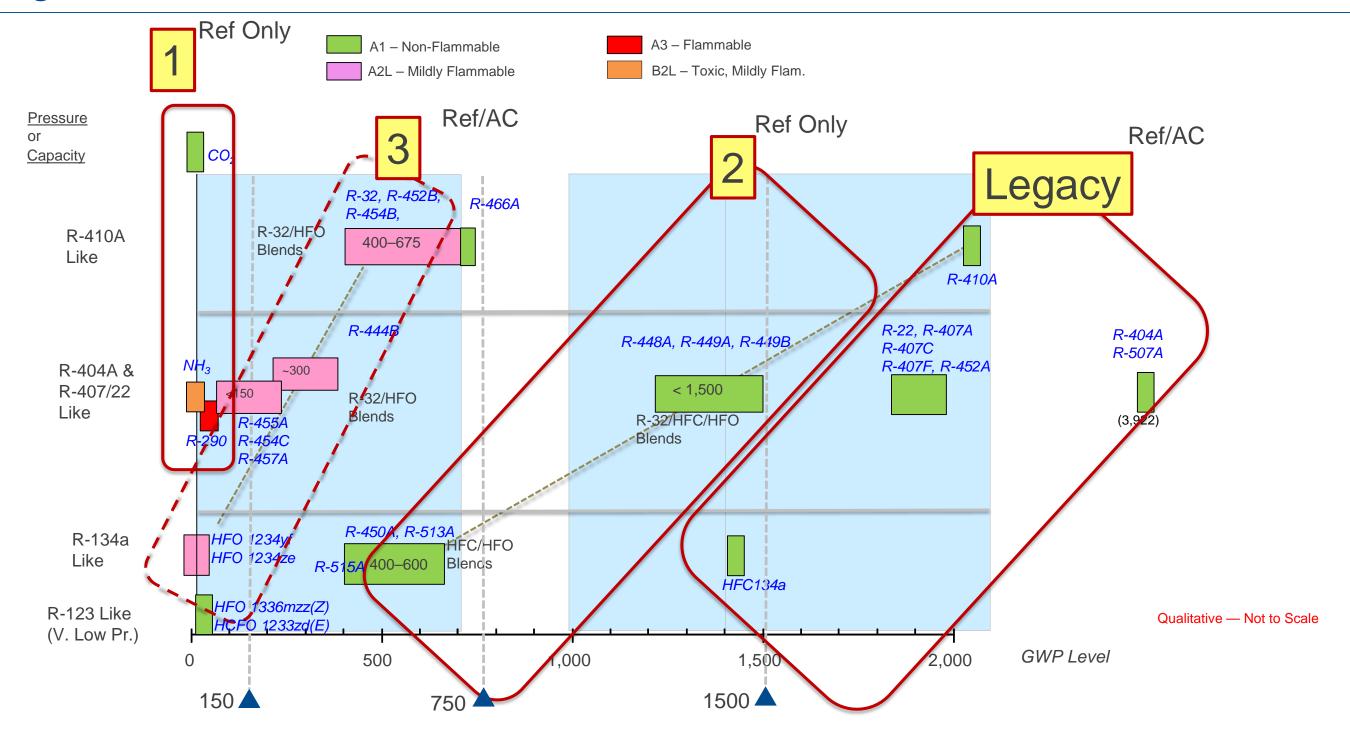
### A possible result if AIM Act passes?



A federal approach could minimize complexity and patchwork of regulations

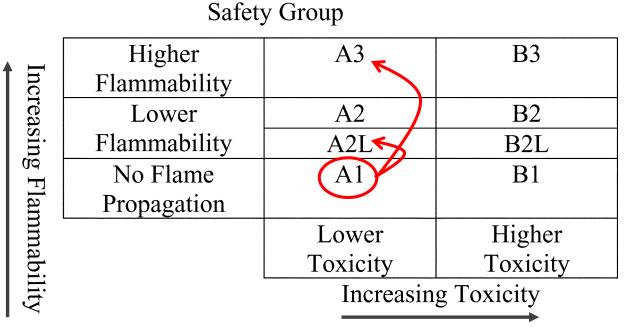
# Refrigerant Properties of Lower GWP Alternatives

### Refrigerant Alternatives Trend Toward Lower GWP



## Many of the New Lower GWP Refrigerants are Classified Flammable

- ANSI/ASHRAE Flammability Class 2L vs. 2 Flammability Classification Based on:
  - Burning velocity
    - Maximum velocity at which a flame propagates in a normal direction relative to unburned gas ahead of it
    - Lower burning velocity <10 cm/s = 2L</li>
    - Higher burning velocity >10 cm/s = 2 or 3
- Class 2 vs. 3 Flammability Classification Based on:
  - Heat of combustion and lower flammability limit (LFL)
- Refrigerants like HCFC-22, R-404A, R-410A, and R134a are all classified A1
- Refrigerants like R-32, R-454B, and R-1234ze are A2L, propane A3

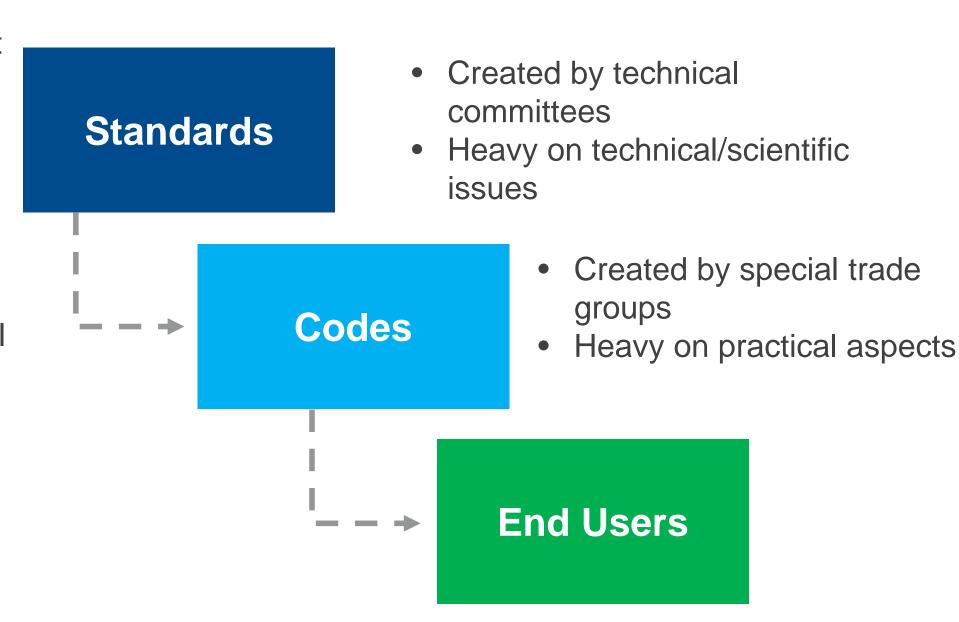


Will require equipment and facility redesign to meet application and safety standards

## Codes and Standards

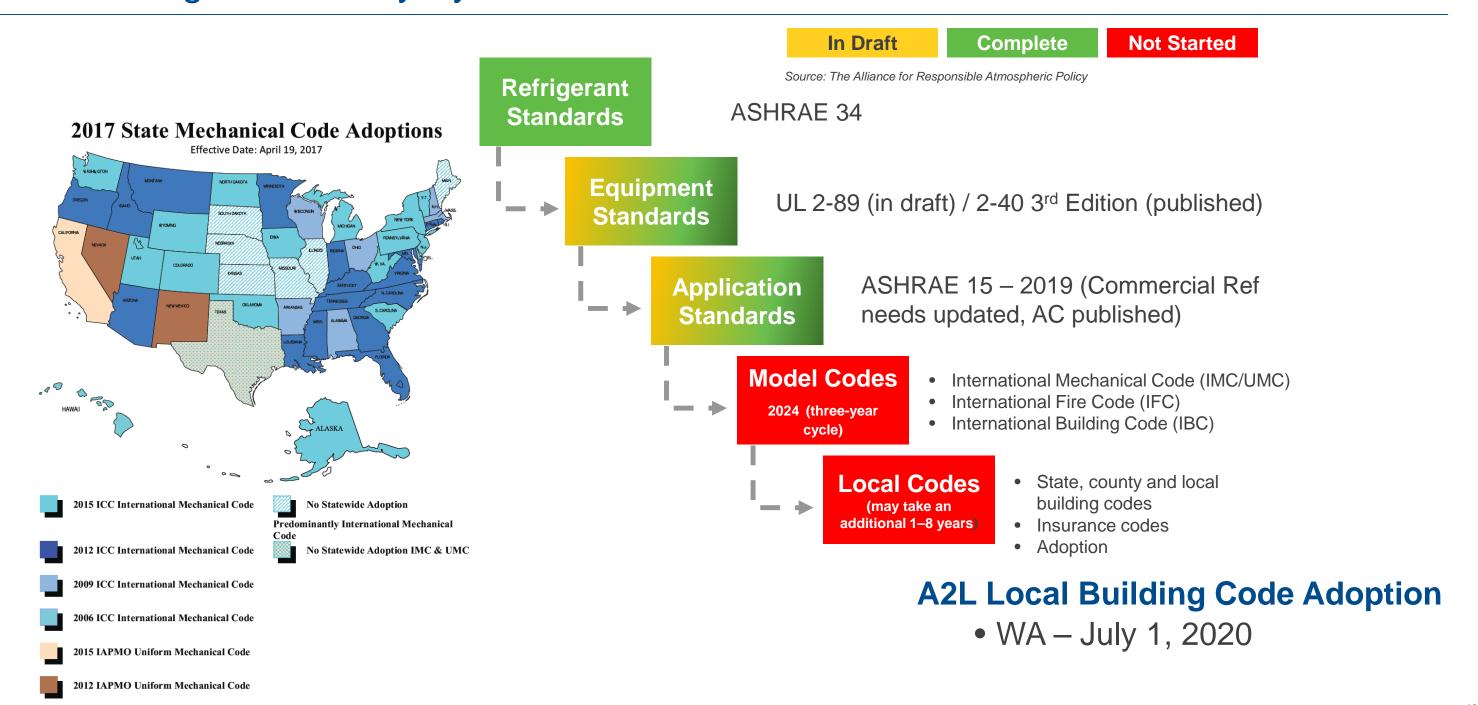
## Standards and Codes are Being Developed; More Work is Needed

- Provide guidelines on the safest way to use refrigerants and reduce risks
- Establish common practices for application, installation and repair of equipment when using refrigerants
- Create a legal framework for compliance of local and regional laws
- Provide for a technological baseline that will help advance the state of the art



Source: The Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy

## U.S. Safety Standard Development Continues to be a Work in Progress – Direct/High Probability Systems



## UL-60335-2-40 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Safety Requirements for Electrical Heat Pumps, Air-Conditioners and Dehumidifiers

- Recognizes A2L as a separate refrigerant classification
- Increased charge limits for A2L refrigerants vs A2/A3
- Defines mitigation methods for preventing leaks, as well as mitigating the potential of ignition of the refrigerant in the event of a leak:
  - Enhanced tightness to reduce potential sources of leaks
  - Room area limits
  - Continuous air circulation, or air circulation with refrigerant leak detection
  - Natural ventilation
  - Mechanical ventilation

## ASHRAE 15 – 2019 Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems

- Section 7 (2016 Addendum d) allows use of Group A2L refrigerants in comfort cooling
  - Typical equipment includes RTU, residential central air conditioning system
  - Mitigation methods: limit the refrigerant charge or provide leak detect and circulate air/ventilate the space when a leak has been detected.
- Section 8 (2016 Addendum h) differentiates and regulates the use of Group A2L refrigerants used in systems installed within a machinery room.
  - Typical equipment includes chillers and large indirect equipment
  - Mitigation methods: limit the refrigerant charge or provide leak detect and ventilate the space when a leak has been detected.
  - Defines ventilation rate requirements for A2L refrigerants
  - With adequate ventilation, Class 1, Division 2 for electrical installations is NOT required for Group A2L refrigerants.

## Application and Safety Standard Updates In Process for Commercial Refrigeration

Because of the timing of lower GWP refrigerant regulations, there is urgency in Creating A2L Equipment & Application Standards for Remote Commercial Refrigeration.

- AHRI Commercial Refrigeration Safety Standards Work Group
  - Modify UL 60335-2-89 Requirements for Commercial Refrigerating Appliances to:
    - add Remote Equipment to scope, both cases and high side equipment,
    - enable use of flammables (A2L, A2, and A3) at higher charge limits (Referencing IEC 2-89),
    - pull in electrical and refrigerant safety from UL 1995 which will sunset Jan 1, 2024.
  - Modify ASHRAE 15 Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems to include A2L Commercial Refrigeration application standards for Remote Refrigeration, referencing Europe (EN 378 and IEC 60335-2-40) and Commercial A/C (UL 60335-2-40) work.

Must be done in time for 2024 IMC/UMC update which begins Jan 2021.



### AHRI Safe Refrigerant Transition Task Force



AHRI's Safe Refrigerant Transition Task Force has been formed to address every step of the supply chain in the safe refrigerant transition to low global warming potential refrigerants. The task force comprises AHRI members and stakeholders employed with contractors, government agencies, the fire service, unions, training organizations and other businesses.

Participants have established the following working groups:

- Bulk Storage/Manufacturing Facilities
- Codes and Standards
- Communication
- Installation/Operation/Maintenance
- Safety Training
  - V.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)/Shipping/Packaging and ling/Warehouse
    - claim/Destruction

#### AHRI's Safe Transition Task Force

Goals are to evaluate end-to-end supply chain to enable the safe commercialization of low GWP refrigerants in a timely manner and support the effort to reverse the global warming trend.

- Communications
- Safety Training
- Codes and Standards
- Transportation/Storage/Packaging/Handling
- Bulk Storage and Manufacturing Facilities
- Installation/Operation/Maintenance
- Recovery/Reclaim/Destruction

### Establish structure to ensure continuous improvement

- Incident investigation
- Continuous maintenance standards
- Training upgrades

#### Task Force Contacts

Chris Bresee

Safe Transitio

October 1 at 1:0

Communications W

October 2 at 2:30p.m.

Installation/Operation/N October 9 at 10:30a.m

DOT/Shipping/Packaging &

Handling/Warehouse Work

October 10 at 10:00a.m.

Contact: Chris Bresee

Leverage learnings around the world

Widespread use of A2L refrigerants already in global HVAC&R industry in
European Union, Japan, India and Australia and auto industry (including
US and Canada)

WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.ahrinet.org/SafeRefrigerant">http://www.ahrinet.org/SafeRefrigerant</a>

Contact one of the following people if interested in working with the Safe Transition Task Force

Helen Water-Terrinoni <u>HWalter-Terrinoni@ahrinet.org</u> Christophe Bresee <u>CBresee@ahrinet.org</u>

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## Refrigerant Transition Summary

- Global and state policy are pushing the industry to transition to lower GWP refrigerants
- Many of these lower GWP options have mildly flammable properties
- A lot of work has been done so far to transition to these new refrigerants, but we are not finished.
- 2020 will be key year in this transition.
  - Ongoing Codes/Standards Work
  - Federal AIM/AIML Acts
  - Continue to monitor State Activity



## Beyond Refrigerants: Emerging Trends

## Megatrends Abound!

Three to ponder for our industry...

- 1. DECARBONIZATION
- 2. CONNECTIVITY AND COGNITION
- 3. HEALTH AND WELLNESS

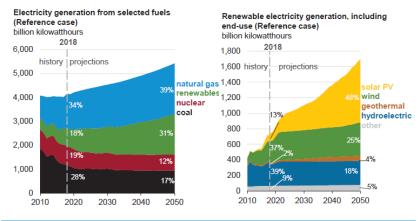
What are YOUR Top 3?



## How are the Trends Influencing Us?

### **Electric Utilities Landscape is Pivoting**

Electricity generation from natural gas and renewables increases, and the shares of nuclear and coal generation decrease—



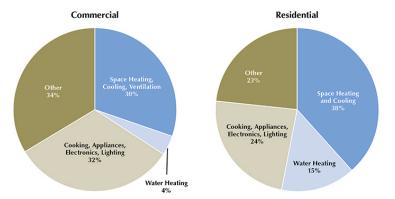
U.S. Energy Information Administration

#AEO2019 www.eia.gov/a

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### **HVACR Still a Major Emissions Driver**

#### FIGURE 1: Total CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from the Commercial and Residential Sectors (2016)



"Other" in both the commercial and residential sector includes items such as data servers, medical imaging equipment, ceiling fans, and pool pumps which are categorized as "miscellaneous electric loads" by EIA.

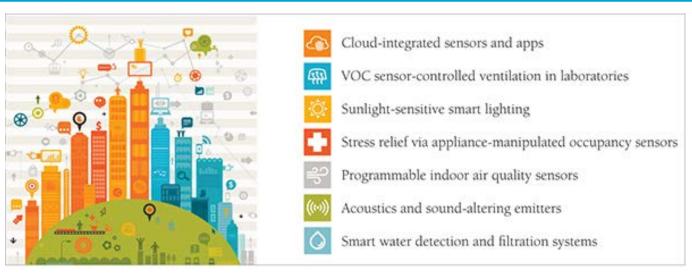
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2018 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Energy, 2018), https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/geo.

### **Connected Devices are Ubiquitous!**



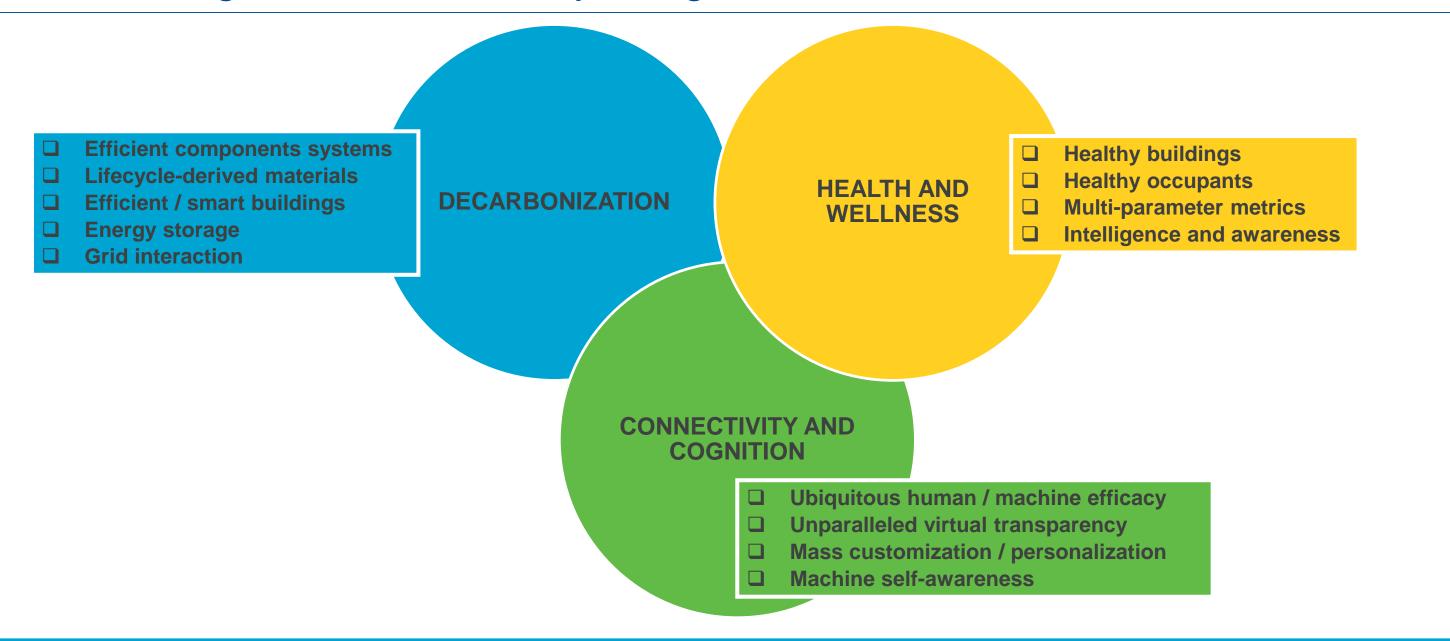
Source: SAS

### Wellness as a Value



Source: FMI Corp

### What Might HVACR Industry Bring to the Table?





## Questions?

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