

The Utah Society For Health Care Engineering is committed to developing long-range plans and programs that meet the needs of members and the future challenges of the health care facilities management profession.



Utah Chapter of the American Society of Healthcare Engineering

Newsletter

JULY 2026

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A MESSAGE FROM

USHE President Rebecca Weidler

Hello USHE Community,

Thank you for your support and participation in the May Conference 2026. The USHE Board of Directors is committed to making our conferences successful! A special thank you goes to our Board volunteers who work behind the scenes to bring these conferences to life three times a year. These events require an incredible amount of time and dedication, and we truly appreciate all the work that you do.

We also extend our thanks to our USHE Professional Members and Sponsors for your continued contributions to our community. We would not be here without your support!

I hope that you are all doing well and are enjoying the summertime. I love the warm weather and longer days. I love spending time with family and friends listening to outdoor music, hiking, paddleboarding, playing volleyball, and enjoying the sunshine both poolside and along shorelines. Take some time this summer to slow down and make some new memories with those you care about! Be safe everyone!

All the best,

Rebecca Weidler, USHE President



USHE is the local chapter of the American Society of Healthcare Engineering. ASHE, that is dedicated to optimizing the health care physical environment.



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Health care facilities can use existing building commissioning to accomplish much more than just energy savings



Defining existing building commissioning

What is existing building commissioning (EBCx), also known as retrocommissioning? Some think it is an energy-saving project. Others think it is a “fix” for underperforming systems. In reality, EBCx is often nothing more than a process that we commonly associate with energy-saving projects. However, it applies to much more, including building envelopes, active and passive fire protection systems, and even test, adjust and balance protocols, which are a form of EBCx when used to verify that airflow and pressure relationships still match the design intent.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and ASHRAE say the same thing in their own language. EBCx is the process of verifying system performance. NFPA 3, Standard for Commissioning of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems, defines EBCx for existing fire protection and life safety systems that were not previously commissioned as the process of verifying that system performance and operation meet the original design intent; current owner requirements; and applicable governing laws, regulations, codes and standards. ASHRAE defines EBCx as the commissioning process applied to an existing facility that was not previously commissioned. NFPA’s and ASHRAE’s definitions are very similar, and both push the work back to intent,

owner’s project requirements, and the codes and standards at the time of design.

This also is why EBCx can’t be a one-and-done event. EBCx without a plan and policy to maintain system performance ultimately results in system degradation, sometimes called “drift,” and the owner must pay to recommission the system again. EBCx paired with continuous commissioning is far more effective, but it requires proactive identification of system issues before they become the typical staff complaints of noisy airflow, hot/cold calls, smoke detectors improperly shutting down air-handling units, smells of hamburgers or helicopters, or dripping diffusers that everyone senses and can’t ignore.

Life safety systems are not exempt from this conversation. For integrated life safety systems, NFPA 4, Standard for Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety System Training, states that “where integrated systems have not been commissioned in accordance with NFPA 3, an integrated system test plan shall be developed.”

Continue reading online at <https://www.hfmmagazine.com/defining-existing-building-commissioning>

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ASHE NEWS

ASHE Academy

Looking to sharpen your skills or prepare for the next step in your career? **ASHE Academy 2026, taking place September 21-25 in Chicago**, offers in-depth education designed specifically for healthcare facility professionals. Courses cover topics such as healthcare facilities management, physical environment compliance, construction, project management, infection control, and leadership, with opportunities to earn continuing education credits and prepare for industry certifications.

Whether you're new to the field or a seasoned professional, ASHE Academy provides practical, real-world training you can apply immediately in your organization. It's also a great opportunity to connect with peers from across the country, share best practices, and bring fresh ideas back to your team.

SAVE THE DATES:

Healthcare Facilities Innovation Conference August 2-5, 2026 | Minneapolis, MN

Health care facility safety and patient safety go hand-in-hand. Attend this conference, where patient safety and health care facility expertise meet.

Facilities & Engineering Week October 25-31, 2026

Every year, in the last week of October, we celebrate the important role that facility team members have in ensuring a safe and efficient environment for all patients, residents, visitors and staff within hospitals.

PDC Summit February 28-March 3, 2027 | New Orleans

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SUSTAINABILITY

University of Utah Health Earns National Energy to Care Recognition

Congratulations to University of Utah Health for receiving multiple honors through the 2026 ASHE Energy to Care Awards. The Energy to Care program recognizes health care facilities that demonstrate excellence in energy management, reducing energy use while supporting healthier, more sustainable healing environments.

2026 Energy to Care Award Recipients

- Business Services Building
- Critical Care Pavilion
- Madsen Health Center
- Parkway Health Center
- Redwood Health Center
- Orthopaedics Center

2026 Sustained Performance Award Recipients

- Sugarhouse Health Center
- Patient Care Pavilion
- Madsen Health Center
- Orthopaedics Center
- Centerville Health Center

These awards are a testament to the dedication of the facilities, engineering, and operations teams who continually seek opportunities to improve building performance and environmental stewardship. Congratulations to everyone at University of Utah Health on this well-deserved national recognition!



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USHE NEWS

USHE Earns ASHE Platinum Elite Chapter Award

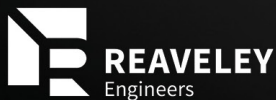
USHE is proud to announce that we have been recognized by ASHE as a **2026 Platinum Elite Chapter** for our achievements and service during 2025.

The Platinum Elite designation is ASHE's highest level of chapter recognition and is awarded to chapters that demonstrate excellence in member engagement, educational programming, leadership development, and support of ASHE's mission. This honor reflects the strength of our chapter and the commitment of our volunteers to advancing healthcare engineering across Utah.

Throughout the year, USHE hosted educational conferences, networking events, and professional development opportunities designed to help healthcare facility professionals stay informed, connected, and prepared to meet the evolving challenges of our industry. None of these accomplishments would be possible without the dedication

of our Board of Directors, committee members, volunteers, sponsors, speakers, and members who generously share their time, knowledge, and expertise.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributes to making USHE a vibrant and successful organization. This recognition belongs to our entire chapter, and we look forward to building on this momentum as we continue to serve our members, strengthen our healthcare engineering community, and support excellence in healthcare facilities throughout Utah.



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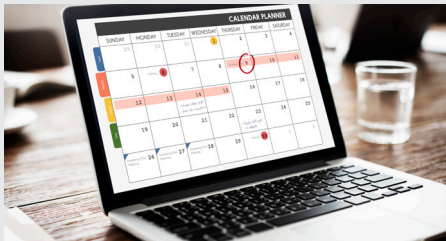
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USHE NEWS

Register for the Fall USHE Conference

As we finalize our fantastic fall conference agenda, make sure you are registered to attend. We'll have a full day of education, industry insights, and outstanding speakers.

SEPTEMBER 24



USHE Golf Tournament

Space is running out for our USHE Golf Tournament on Friday, September 25 at Bountiful Ridge Golf Club, so register as soon as possible.

It's the perfect opportunity to connect with colleagues, enjoy some friendly competition, and wrap up the conference on a fun and relaxed note.



READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? JOIN OUR BOARD TODAY

USHE invites you to nominate talented professionals to serve on our Board of Directors. The board helps steer the future of USHE and helps lead our commitment in developing long-range plans and programs that meet the needs of the members and the future of the healthcare facilities management profession. Interested in getting involved with USHE? Well it is a great time to get involved and bring the USHE mission alive. We have some board positions open. If you are interested and want to learn more, email us at communications@ushe.org.

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