



# AIRAH Policy and Advocacy Strategic Themes

Resilience	Sustainability	Compliance
Innovation and Research	Refrigerant Transition	

## HVAC&R resilience

*Resilience means the capacity of a building and its associated systems, (eg., ventilation, heating/cooling, and fire safety), to operate during and after a severe storm or other unusual catastrophic events.*

As a critical enabler in the Australian economy, the HVAC&R industry does not have a unified strategy in safe-guarding the built environment and its occupants during extreme events.

For this reason AIRAH has constituted a special technical group of building and services experts and will develop an *AIRAH Resilience HVAC&R Framework* to deliver practical solutions across the entire HVAC&R supply chain.

## HVAC&R sustainability

*HVAC&R is responsible for using 24 per cent of the electricity generated in Australia and about 11 per cent of the total Australian national emissions. Building sustainability and national energy use and emissions cannot be addressed without addressing HVAC&R sustainability; the two concepts are interlinked.*

AIRAH is actively involved with:

- *National Construction Code 2019 (NCC)* projects on commissioning and energy efficiency.
- The continued development and wider application of the *NABERS Energy rating tool*, and the work of the *Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA)*.
- Developing an industry plan for ongoing maintenance and operation.

## HVAC&R compliance

*There is a high level of “undiscovered” non-compliance issues within some sectors of the HVAC&R industry.*

AIRAH is in the process of developing a series of *AIRAH Technical Guidelines* explaining the pertinent requirements of the relevant technical standards, the requirements of regulations, common areas of non-compliance, and ways to mitigate these, as well as best practices and ways to exceed minimum standards. We will continue to provide leading-edge training and continuing education programs to support all of our compliance efforts.

## Innovation and research

*There is increasing demand for improved energy performance in buildings and industrial processes. Continuous improvement in this highly technical field requires innovation and a strong research impetus. In areas such as:*

- New refrigerants and associated technology;
- New building design and delivery methods;
- Emerging technologies for HVAC;
- Higher performance standards for buildings and appliances;
- New controls and building monitoring and metering, incorporating fault and energy diagnosis;
- Thermal energy storage and distribution systems.

AIRAH is supporting the HVAC&R industry research agenda through the delivery of national surveys and workshops.

## Transition to low-global-warming potential refrigerants; PRIME

*One of the biggest changes and challenges facing the refrigeration and air conditioning industry is the move to low-global-warming-potential (GWP) refrigerants and associated technologies.*

AIRAH has helped develop a roadmap for the industry’s transition to a low-emissions future. This led to the formation of the *PRIME Steering Council (PSC)*, a cross-industry council formed to coordinate action and guide the industry through these immense changes.

AIRAH has also developed the *Flammable Refrigerants Safety Guide*, a series of complementary fact sheets, and continues to deliver seminars on the topic round Australia. In addition, AIRAH is updating key industry documents such as the *AIRAH Refrigerant Selection Guide* and the *Refrigerant Handling Code of Practice*, and strongly advocating for the development of new technical resources and training for these next-generation refrigerants.

AIRAH will continue to lead industry change by ensuring the implementation of the PRIME strategy.

Would you like to know more?

Go to [www.airah.org.au](http://www.airah.org.au)