



PRESS RELEASE

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HARDI JOINS THE NORTH AMERICAN SUSTAINABLE REFRIGERATION COUNCIL, SUPPORTS ALTERNATIVE REFRIGERANTS

COLUMBUS, Ohio— Heating, Air-conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International (HARDI), the trade group representing nearly all refrigerant distributors and wholesalers in the refrigeration market, has joined the North American Sustainable Refrigeration Council. NASRC is a nonprofit taking action to advance natural refrigerants and create a more climate-friendly future for supermarket refrigeration.

“We recognize the importance of supporting responsible energy consumption and understand the challenges of implementing sustainable practices in an established market,” said HARDI vice president government affairs & business development Jon Melchi. “To that end, we fully support the NASRC and are proud to join them in their efforts to help sustainable refrigerants gain a foothold in the HVACR supply chain.”

Natural refrigerants include carbon dioxide (CO₂), ammonia (NH₃) and hydrocarbons like propane and isobutane. Compared to traditional fluorocarbon refrigerants, which are potent greenhouse gases, natural refrigerants are considered “climate-friendly,” with global warming potentials (GWP) at or very close to zero. Natural refrigerant technology also offers improved energy efficiency and often can save the end-user money in the long run.

Keilly Witman is the former head of EPA’s GreenChill Partnership and one of the founders of NASRC. “We’re very excited to welcome HARDI on board,” says Witman, owner of KW Refrigerant Management Strategy and a member of the NASRC board of directors. “The key to our success is bringing all industry stakeholders to the table, and HARDI brings a critical piece of the puzzle in the form of refrigerant wholesalers and distributors.”

NASRC’s members include service contractors, systems manufacturers, policy specialists, component manufacturers, retail food end-users and now refrigerant distributors, dedicated to helping the supermarket industry transition to natural refrigerants.

“Natural refrigerants—as an entire suite of technologies—offer environmentally appealing solutions that can fit every store format, size and geographic location,” says NASRC executive director Liz Whiteley. “The catch is that right now there are hurdles in the marketplace that are

preventing the widespread adoption of these technologies. Our mission is simple: address those hurdles and allow natural refrigerants to prove themselves as a climate-friendly, energy efficient solution for retail food refrigeration.”

About HARDI

HARDI (Heating, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Distributors International) is the single voice of wholesale distribution within the HVACR industry.

HARDI members market, distribute, and support heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration equipment, parts and supplies. HARDI Distributor members serve installation and service/replacement contractors in residential and commercial markets, as well as commercial/industrial and institutional maintenance staffs. HARDI proudly represents more than 480 distributor members representing more than 5,000 branch locations, and close to 500 suppliers, manufacturer representatives and service vendors.

About NASRC

The North American Sustainable Refrigeration Council is committed to advancing natural refrigerants in order to shape a more sustainable future for supermarket refrigeration. The group’s focus is natural refrigerants, specifically, because naturals face a unique set of market challenges that do not affect other low-GWP options in the same way.

NASRC is addressing these challenges through its progress groups, each led by a director. The groups are tackling specific hurdles that limit the success of natural refrigerants, like codes and standards that don’t properly address naturals, or the lack of technician training for these types of systems. By taking action now, NASRC intends to open the door to a more sustainable future for supermarket refrigeration.

More information about NASRC is available at nasrc.org

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