



Mechanical Insulation Plays a Critical Role in Nation's Future

Election season is finally over, and the National Insulation Association (NIA) is ready to roll up its sleeves and get to work. We congratulate President-elect Donald J. Trump and are encouraged by his vow to invest in our nation's infrastructure. Part of NIA's work, through its Foundation for Education, Training, and Industry Advancement, is to inform and educate our nation's leaders on the benefits of mechanical insulation. We hope to work with both the White House and Congress to ensure that we are investing in products that are American made, highly efficient, and will save billions of dollars well into the future. NIA takes its role as the voice of the insulation industry very seriously, and we intend to use our voice to educate our leaders on how our technology is crucial to creating jobs, ensuring energy-efficient buildings, and lowering carbon emissions.

It is worthwhile to review just how many benefits mechanical insulation can offer to commercial and industrial buildings. Mechanical insulation is a proven energy-efficiency and emission-reduction technology that will improve personnel safety and reduce costs while also creating tens of thousands of jobs. Extrapolating from the results of more than 1,100 energy assessments of large- and medium-size plants (and using the results from NIA's assessments of small plants and the utility industry), the U.S. Department of Energy's Save Energy Now program estimated that increased maintenance of mechanical insulation in areas where it was missing or damaged could:

- Deliver \$3.7 billion in annual energy savings.
- Reduce 37.9 million metric tons of carbon emissions.
- Provide a return on investment in 11.3 months (106% annual return).
- Create more than 27,000 jobs per year for insulation contractors, 90–95% of which represent small businesses across the United States.
- Promote American manufacturing, since 98% of the materials required for these opportunities are made in the United States of America, with most of the rest made in Canada.

These estimates are based primarily on process heating and steam systems. They do not include manufacturing processes or other opportunities, which could yield even more savings and create more job opportunities.

Through the increased use and maintenance of commercial and industrial insulation—collectively known as mechanical insulation—we have the potential to slash the building and manufacturing sectors' energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions while creating new jobs. Mechanical insulation systems are used for piping, equipment, vessels, HVAC, boilers, and other similar mechanical equipment and piping applications in industrial and commercial applications at above and below service temperature conditions. Mechanical insulation is a vital component in creating and maintaining high-performance buildings.

Buildings are responsible for 40% of U.S. energy demand and 40% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Making efficiency gains in this area is crucial if we are to markedly reduce America's energy consumption and effectively combat emissions. At the residential level, insulation is well understood for its efficiency benefits and is widely used. However, the most significant untapped potential is in the commercial and industrial sectors, which together consume 2.5 times more energy than homes, according to the Energy Information Administration. Our association and our industry look forward to continuing to work with our leaders to bring the incredible benefits of mechanical insulation to facilities and buildings across the United States.

Sincerest regards,

Michele M. Jones, CMP
Executive Vice President/
Chief Executive Officer

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