

# residential SYSTEMS

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## GETTING A GRIP ON HDMI 1.3

Clearing Up the Confusion Over the Latest Standard

# Our Environmental Concerns

## HOW INTEGRATING YOUR CLIENT'S HOME CAN HELP SAVE THE PLANET

With every passing month, more and more is made of our impending ecological crisis: global warming, CO2 emissions, the skyrocketing price of oil and what we can all do to help. One option for new homebuilders and developers is something most people never consider (at least outside of our industry): integrating residential control systems.

Control systems integrators are now viewing through a green lens that include lighting control systems, integrated motorized window treatments, HVAC control systems, pool and spa control systems, security and surveillance control systems and residential entertainment systems. For the purposes of this article, we will address lighting control systems, integrated motorized window treatments, and HVAC control systems.

### LIGHTING CONTROL CHOICES

By integrating lighting control systems, motorized window treatments, and HVAC control systems, you can provide homeowners with unprecedented control over their homes and the benefit of living in a perhaps greener, more energy-efficient space.

One high-impact solution is integrated lighting control. Beyond giving the homeowner unparalleled control over the mood and décor of the home, a lighting control system can provide the benefit of increased energy efficiency. This efficiency is attained through creative system programming to minimize electricity usage by automatically turning off lights throughout the home at strategic



Integration of motorized window treatments, like this Lutron Sivoia System, can help to reduce energy usage.

times—lights that would otherwise have been left illuminated.

Further, installing LED lighting or compact fluorescent bulbs and fixtures into a lighting system can dramatically decrease your client's energy usage and electric bill. The initial investment on the part of the homebuilder or homeowner provides rewards for all parties involved. Installing a lighting control system has the potential to provide the following:

- The homebuilder has the opportunity to market an automated, elegant and “greener” product
- The homeowner is provided with an elegant control system that adds to property value and saves precious energy resources
- The integrator has the opportunity to sell and install a profitable lighting control system.

### MOTORIZED WINDOW OPTIONS

Installation of integrated motorized window treatments, such as motorized solar shades, also helps to reduce energy usage by acting as an insulator in the winter, and reducing solar loading in the warmer months. Deliver these energy savings to your client by programming the system to automatically open and close shades at strategic times throughout the day. The homeowner will also benefit from the protection of furniture fabrics and carpeting from damaging UV rays.

### HVAC SYSTEMS

Integrated HVAC control provides global access and control of all house thermostats from central control locations. This level of control enhances monitoring access to setback programming, ensuring that the homeowner uses as little energy as possible by properly timing system operations to minimize energy usage and provide correct climate comfort at appropriate times throughout the day. Encourage your clients to take advantage of the HVAC integration products available on the market—not to mention myriad other residential control systems—to gain easy access and control via the Internet. This is especially handy for second homes and part-time residences.

As individuals, we cannot hope to make a significant impact on global warming in the short term. But if we all pitch in, the effect will be cumulative.

### > CEDIA LAUNCHES SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST WEBINAR PROGRAM

2008 is expected to be a challenging year for the home builder in the U.S.—and, in turn, a challenging year for the electronic systems contractor.

As your industry organization, CEDIA is rolling out a new initiative that will help its members continue to thrive despite changing market conditions. Through its “Survival of the Fittest” campaign, CEDIA will deliver a series of member-driven forum discussions, putting the wisdom and experience of the entire membership base to work for you.

These webinar discussions, exclusively available to CEDIA members, will facilitate ESC-to-ESC conversations on the operational, market, and strategic issues that are key to survival. Topics will be selected based on member input, and content will be driven by participating members and industry experts.

The discussion will then continue in CEDIA's online Member Forum, where members can reflect on the content and suggest topics for future discussion.

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