



# Retrocommissioning & Energy Retrofits

Peter D'Antonio, PE, CEM, LEED-AP  
PCD Engineering



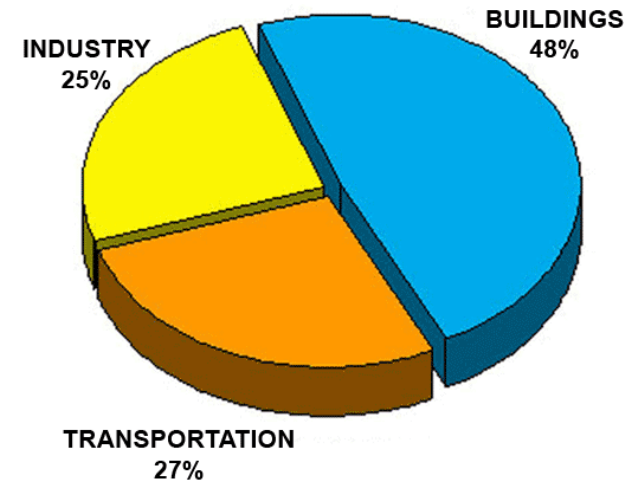
# Drivers

Buildings account for:

- ◆ **38%** of CO2 emissions
- ◆ **48%** of total energy use
- ◆ **76%** of U.S. electrical consumption

-AIA Sustainable Design Factsheet ([architecture2030.org](http://architecture2030.org))

We will build as many buildings  
in next 50 years as in last 5,000



US ENERGY CONSUMPTION

# Drivers



- ◆ Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007) ← EO 13514
  - Goal of net zero energy for all new commercial buildings by 2030
  - Specifies a zero-energy target for 50% of U.S. commercial buildings by 2040
  - Net zero for all U.S. commercial buildings by 2050
- ◆ ASHRAE Vision 2020 report (ASHRAE 2008) sets out requirements for developing the tools by 2020
- ◆ The AIA 2030 Challenge (AIA 2009) calls for incrementally reducing energy use, starting with a 50% reduction over existing buildings' 2010 energy use and increasing savings up to 2030

# Drivers

## Buildings Technologies Program

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### President Obama Announces Nearly \$4 Billion in Building Energy Upgrades

December 7, 2011

President Obama announced on December 2 nearly \$4 billion in combined federal and private sector energy upgrades to buildings over the next two years. These investments will save billions in energy costs, promote energy independence, and, according to independent estimates, create tens of thousands of jobs in the hard-hit construction sector. The \$4 billion investment includes a \$2 billion commitment, made through the issuance of a presidential memorandum, to energy upgrades of federal buildings using long-term energy savings to pay for up-front costs, at no cost to taxpayers. In addition, 60 Chief Executive Officers, mayors, university presidents, and labor leaders committed to invest nearly \$2 billion of private capital into energy efficiency projects. They also pledged to upgrade energy performance by a minimum of 20% by 2020 in 1.8 billion square feet of office, industrial, municipal, hospital, university, community college, and school buildings.

The commitments were announced by President Obama and former President Clinton along with representatives from more than 60 organizations as part of DOE's Better Buildings Challenge. The challenge is part of the Better Buildings Initiative launched in February by the president. President Clinton is spearheading the effort along with the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness to support job creation by catalyzing private sector investment in commercial and industrial building energy upgrades to make buildings 20% more efficient over the next decade. Such improvements would reduce energy costs for U.S. businesses by nearly \$40 billion. Last year, commercial buildings consumed roughly 20% of all energy used by the U.S. economy.

Among those pledging to reduce energy consumption were the District of Columbia, which is committed to a multi-pronged action plan to reduce energy consumption in more than 90 million square feet of city- and privately held buildings in the downtown core by at least 20% by 2020. And Prologis, a global leader in industrial real estate, has made it a key priority to work with its customers to reduce energy consumption in 100 million square feet by 20% by 2020. See the [White House press release](#).



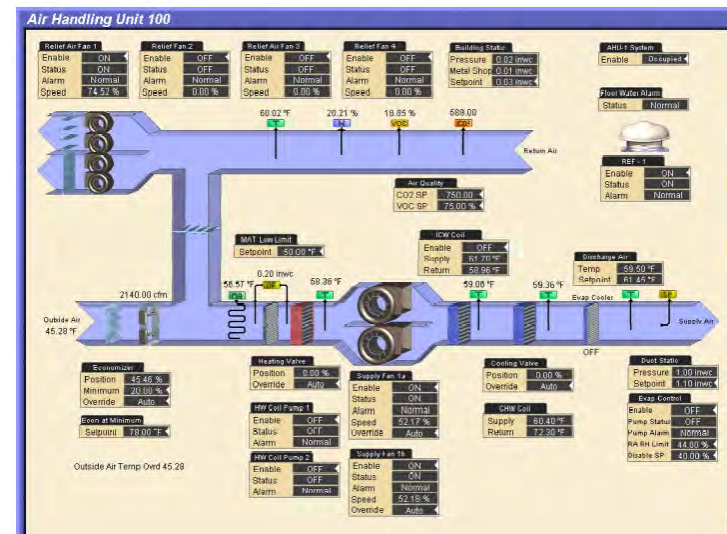
Workers like this one putting insulation into a wall will help transform public and private sector buildings through energy upgrades.  
Credit: Dennis Schroeder, NREL

# What is Existing Building Cx & Tune-Up?

Applying the commissioning process to improve the current conditions/operations of an existing building

Typically focuses on low cost improvements to:

- HVAC Systems
- HVAC Controls
- Lighting Controls



Evaluates building operation:

- What were the building systems originally designed to do?
- What are the building systems doing now?
- How can the building systems be optimized for current needs?



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# Why Commission?

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*“The results demonstrate that commissioning is arguably the single-most cost-effective strategy for reducing energy, costs, and greenhouse-gas emissions in buildings today.”*

**Building Commissioning: A Golden Opportunity for Reducing Energy Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions” –  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory July 2009**

# Typical Costs and Benefits

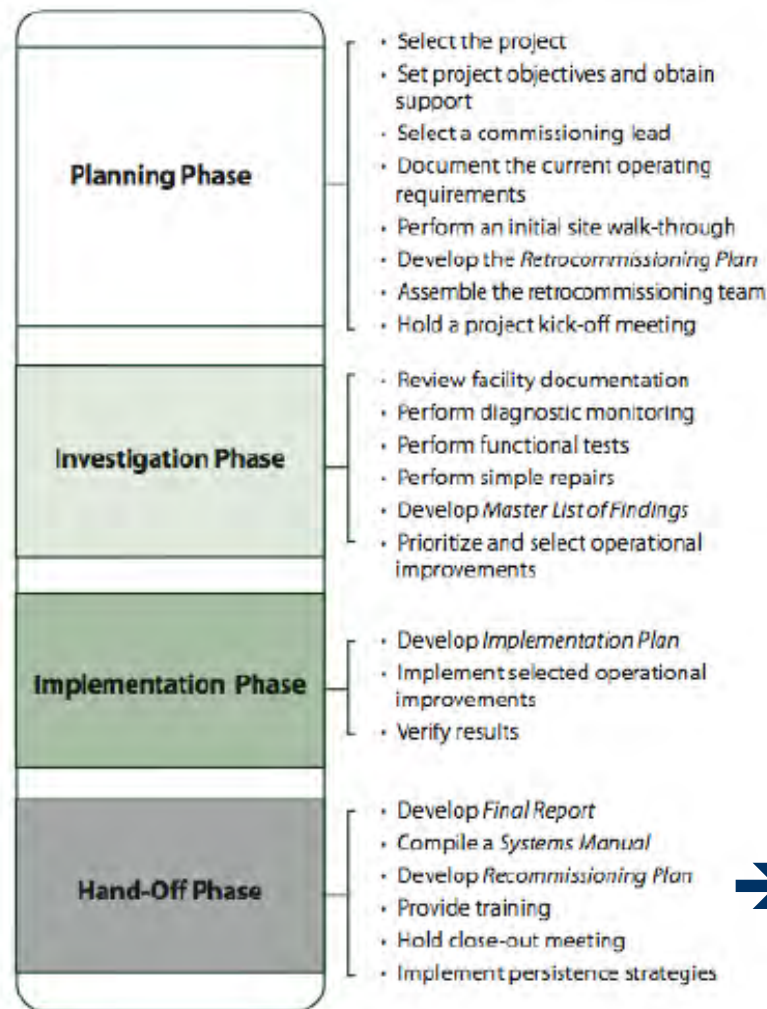
<b>Commissioning Analysis of 643 Buildings</b>	<b>Cost \$/Sq. Ft.</b>	<b>Benefit \$/Sq. Ft.</b>	<b>Return on Your Investment %</b>	<b>Simple Payback Period Years</b>	<b>Whole Building Energy Savings</b>
<b>Existing Building Cx</b>	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.27	91%	1.1	16%
<b>New Building Cx</b>	\$ 1.16	\$ 0.28	23%	4.2	13%

332 EBCx + 77 NBCx projects = 643 buildings

- ◆ Mills, E., et al, 2009, Building Commissioning



# The Tune-Up Process



➔ Persistence

Source: California  
Commissioning  
Collaborative  
(BCA and NEBB list  
similar processes)

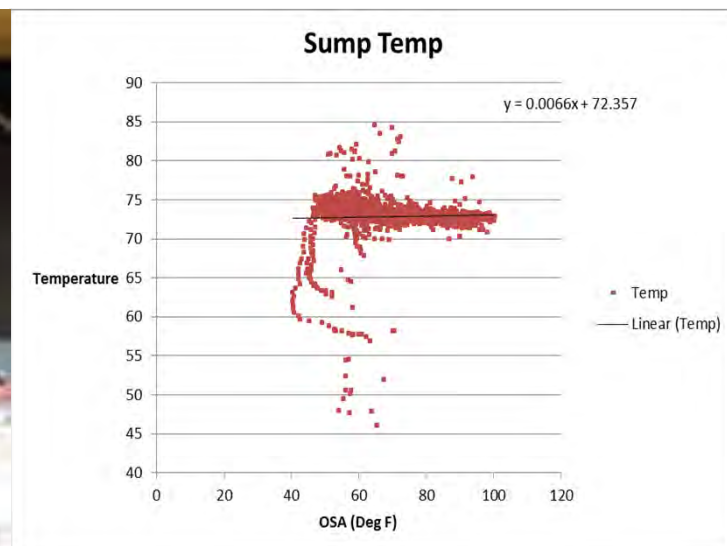
# Planning Good Candidates for Tune-Ups

- ◆ Unjustified high energy use
- ◆ Frequent failure of energy systems
- ◆ Excessive occupant comfort complaints
- ◆ Buildings with energy management systems
- ◆ Motivated owners / operators
- ◆ Outdated building documentation, lack of training on systems
- ◆ Building staff knows problems, but lacks time to fix

# Investigation – Sources of Issues

- ◆ Overrides due to other issues (warm-up time, poor comfort, etc.)
- ◆ Hardware issues –actuator operation, controls linkage, sensor calibration
- ◆ Improper control sequence, changes in space use

*New Buildings Institute: 64% of economizers tested required adjustment*



# Top Opportunities RCx

1. Optimize equipment scheduling
2. Optimize outside airflow control (free-cooling & minimum ventilation)
3. Reset/reduce supply air static pressure
4. Reset air and water temperatures
5. Return VFDs to variable speed operation – Restoring Auto Control
6. Repair inoperable controls hardware (dampers & valves)
7. Optimize plant sequencing (including lockout control)
8. Calibrate sensors
9. Fix leaks
10. Clean heat transfer surfaces

# Investigation – Inspection hall of fame



Restricted flow

# Investigation – Inspection hall of fame



When freezing  
isn't cold enough



# Investigation – Inspection hall of fame



When all else fails,  
put it in 'hand'!!!

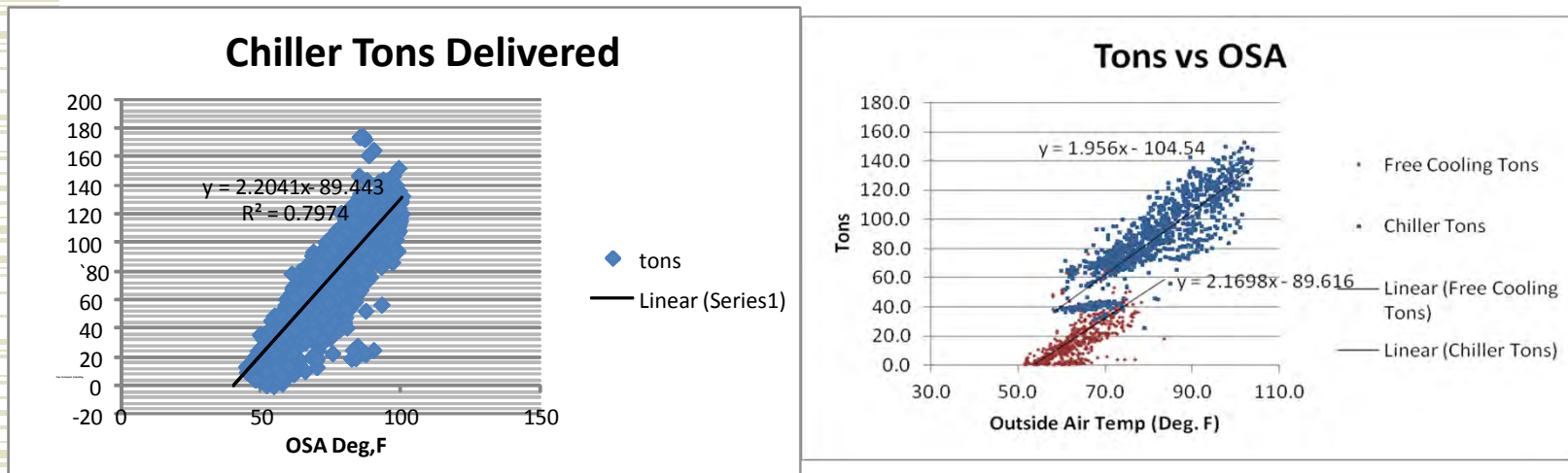
EO 13423 -Reduce use of 'hand' by 30% by 2015

# Persistence – Strategies for Success

- ◆ PO&M Plan
  - Equipment Lists
  - O&M and Systems Manuals
  - Points List and Sequence of Operation
  - System Diagrams
  - Equipment life and expected/documentated efficiency
  - Maintenance schedule and task descriptions
  - Form for data tracking and collection
- ◆ Training – plan and execute and periodic refreshers
- ◆ Ongoing discussion with occupants and O&M personnel
- ◆ Performance tracking

# Persistence – Performance Tracking

- ◆ Benchmark energy use (i.e. Energy Star or Utility Tracking Software)
- ◆ Performance and End-Use Monitoring
- ◆ Trend key system parameters (chiller efficiency, system pressure, run-time, etc)
- ◆ Diagnostic and Reporting Software



# Case Study (Tune-Up)

## PROJECT PROFILE

Millrock Park Campus  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Buildings 1, 2 and 3  
Re-Commissioning

Total Square Feet Re-commissioned: 370,000  
Annual Energy Saving Estimated: \$23,495  
Annual Energy Saving Verified: \$19,360  
Customer Cost: \$14,228  
Project Simple Payback: 9 months  
Annual CO2 Reduction Achieved: 259 Metric Tons



- ◆ Optimize equipment scheduling
- ◆ Duct static pressure reset
- ◆ Supply air temperature reset
- ◆ Optimize OA economizer
- ◆ Hot water temperature reset
- ◆ Optimize ventilation volume

# Case Study (Tune-Up)



Agilent Technologies  
Loveland, CO



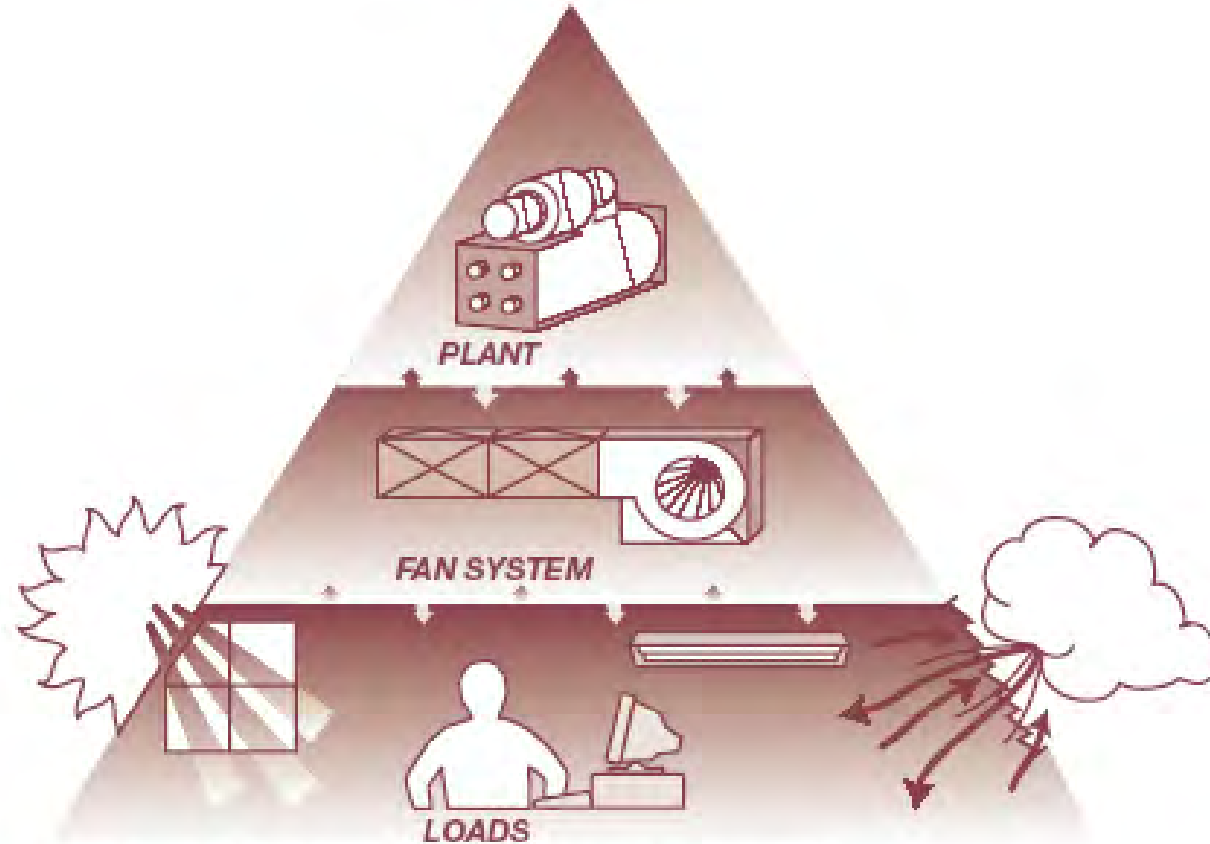
\$16,400 Implementation Cost

\$23,000 Savings

133,000 Square Feet

- ◆ Reduce VAV box min. settings
- ◆ Turn off exhaust fans at night
- ◆ Static pressure/Temperature resets
- ◆ Optimize IDEC system
- ◆ Fix data center air distribution
- ◆ Obviate chiller spiking

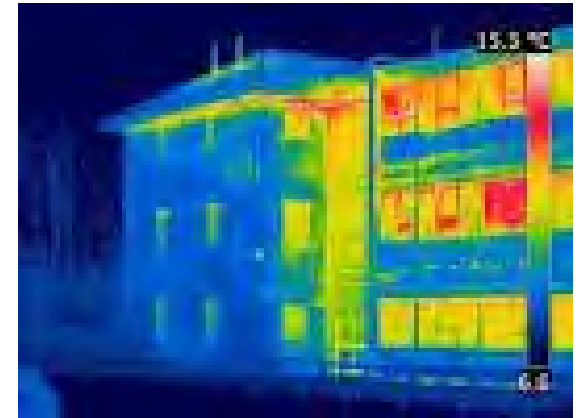
# Strategies for Success



*Heat Flow In Buildings: Building Systems Interactions*

# Loads

- ◆ Tune-up measures
- ◆ Reducing air infiltration
- ◆ Increased insulation
- ◆ Better windows
- ◆ Shading
- ◆ Equipment purchasing





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# Systems

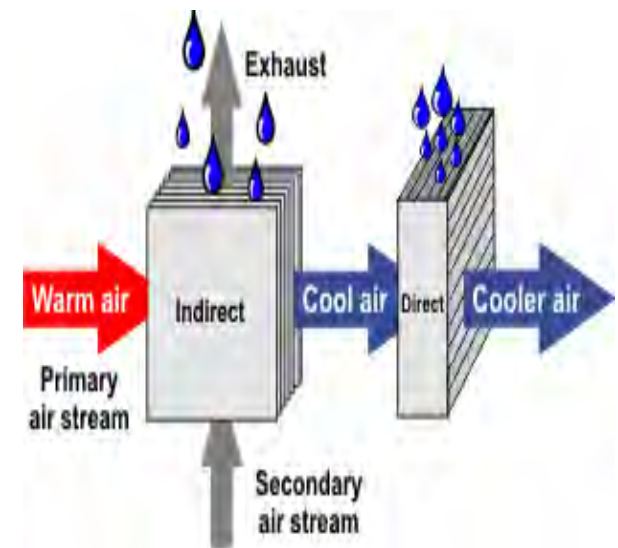
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- ◆ Tune-Ups
- ◆ CAV->VAV conversion
- ◆ Right-size fans/pumps
- ◆ Premium efficiency motors
- ◆ Heat recovery

# Plant

## High-Efficiency

- ◆ Tune-Ups
- ◆ Two-Stage Evaporative Cooling
- ◆ Ground Source Heat Pumps
- ◆ Thermal Energy Storage
- ◆ Dedicated Outdoor Air System
- ◆ Displacement Ventilation
- ◆ Radiant Cooling
- ◆ Variable Refrigerant Flow Systems
- ◆ Top it off with Renewables



# Case Study – Tune-Up & Retrofit



U.S. Army  
Fort Bragg, NC

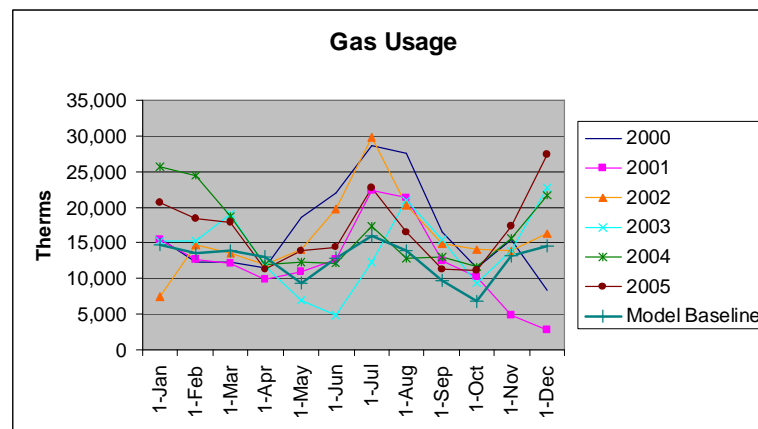


1M Square Feet (33 buildings)

- ◆ Optimize ventilation volume
- ◆ Optimize equipment scheduling
- ◆ Temperature resets
- ◆ CAV to VAV MZU conversion
- ◆ Chiller replacements
- ◆ Boiler retrofit

# Boulder County Justice Center

- ◆ 250,000 SF
- ◆ Saves ~\$125,000 annually (40%)
- ◆ 1973 Central plant overhaul
- ◆ Thermal storage option
- ◆ ~9 year payback
- ◆ 500 tons chiller, 20,000 MBH?



# Resources

Building Commissioning Association

<http://www.bcxa.org/>

CA Commissioning Collaborative

<http://www.cacx.org/>

Procedural Standards for Retro-Commissioning of Existing Buildings

<http://www.nebb.org>

Energy Star Building Upgrade Manual

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus\\_upgrade\\_manual](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_upgrade_manual)

ASHRAE Advanced Energy Design Guides – 50%

<http://www.ashrae.org/publications/page/aedg50pct>

# Net Zero Energy

- ◆ Yet, how realistic is this vision?
- ◆ How close do NZEBs come to realizing their design goals?
- ◆ How much does it cost to design and build a net zero energy building?

# ZEB Database

- ◆ 9 projects
- ◆ <20,000 SF
- ◆ 1 or 2 story commercial

<http://zeb.buildinggreen.com/>

High performance buildings database

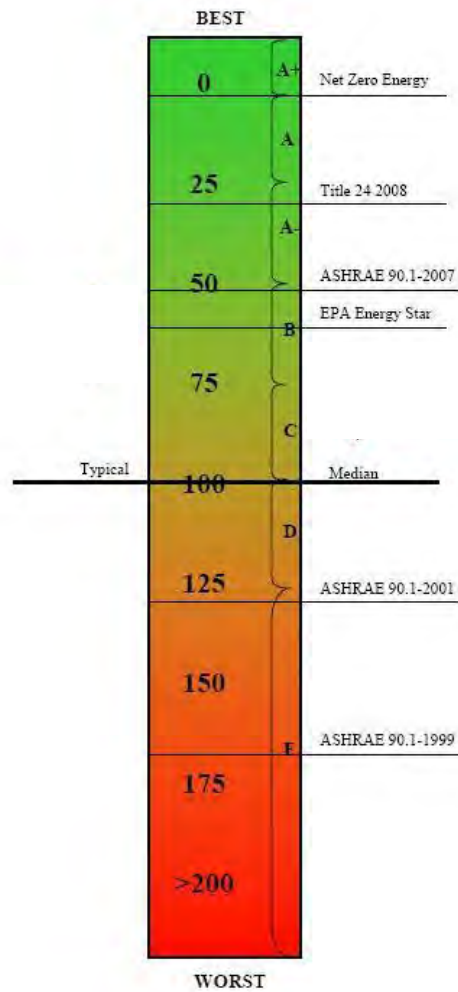
# Defining Net Zero Energy

- ◆ Zero net site energy use – (US)
  - Site renewable energy = building energy
- ◆ Zero net source energy use–
  - Includes transport energy
- ◆ Net zero energy emissions– (outside US)
  - Includes carbon emissions from fossil fuel use
- ◆ Net zero cost–
  - Good Luck!

# Getting There (Demand – Supply)

- ◆ Build Tight...Ventilate Right
- ◆ Daylighting
- ◆ Insulation 10/20/40/60
- ◆ Passive solar heating / control gain
- ◆ Energy reuse
- ◆ Natural ventilation / 'Free' cooling
- ◆ Evaporative cooling
- ◆ High-efficiency HVAC equipment
- ◆ Ground-source heat pumps
- ◆ Renewable Energy

# Getting There



# City of Denver – DHA

## Block 5B



- ◆ LEED-H Platinum
- ◆ Building 50%+ better than 90.1
- ◆ Advanced lighting design and controls
- ◆ GSHP, Heat Recovery
- ◆ PV handles 22% of electric usage



# Mapleleaf Orthopedics



- ◆ 8,000 SF medical office, completed Dec 2007
- ◆ Southern Colorado's 1<sup>st</sup> LEED Building – *LEED 2.2 Gold*
- ◆ CRES award winner  
[www.cres.org](http://www.cres.org)



# Mapleleaf Orthopedics

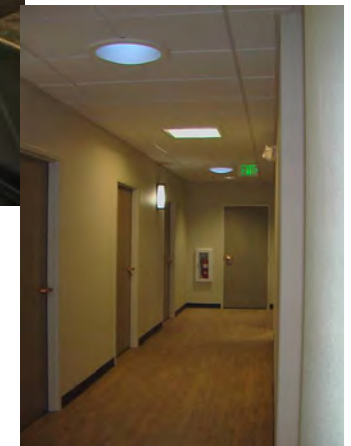
- ◆ 30kW PV System
  - meets 90%+ of energy needs
- ◆ Ground source heat pumps (GSHP)
  - 350%+ heating efficiency
  - 23 EER cooling
- ◆ Energy recovery ventilator (ERV)
  - reduces ventilation load by 75%
- ◆ 90% of spaces are daylight, Dimming and occupancy based lighting controls



**GSHP**



**ERV**



**Lighting**

# Mapleleaf Orthopedics – Performance Metrics

<b>Period March 2008 - August 2008 Extrapolated</b>	
kWh Used/Year	51,360
kWh Produced/Year	47,854
Net kWh Used/Year	3,506
Energy Use Intensity (Btu/Square Foot/Year)	16.5
CBECs: Office US 1990-2003*	88.0
CBECs: West Mountain Region 1990-2003*	81.2
<b>Mapleleaf Orthopedics Performs 80% Better Than a Typical Building</b>	
\$/Year	\$ 5,187
\$/SF/Yr	\$ 0.65

Source: EIA CBECs 2003: Table C.12 Consumption and Gross Energy Intensity by Year Constructed for Sum of Major Fuels for Non-Mall Buildings, 2003

# Hyland Village Community Center

Designed to net-zero energy

- ◆ Solar thermal (radiant floor and pool)
- ◆ Solar PV
- ◆ Trombe Wall
- ◆ Natural Ventilation
- ◆ DOAS



# Movement Climbing Gym

“Carbon Neutral”

- ◆ Daylighting
- ◆ DOAS
- ◆ Air source heat pumps
- ◆ Indirect evaporative cooling
- ◆ Solar Thermal - DHW
- ◆ Solar PV – 100 kW, 70% of energy



Thank You



Questions?

**Peter D'Antonio**, PCD Engineering

303-678-1108 x707, [peter@pcdengineering.com](mailto:peter@pcdengineering.com)

