



Commercial Energy Codes Field Study Update

May 2019

A nighttime cityscape featuring a prominent brick building with arched windows in the foreground, a modern high-rise building in the background, and a fountain with blue lights in the lower left. The sky is dark blue with some clouds. A semi-transparent light blue box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

About IMT

Vision: A world where efficient buildings dramatically lower greenhouse gas emissions and positively transform our physical, social, and economic well-being.

Mission: Catalyze demand for high-performing buildings.

Target: 30% reduction in U.S. commercial, industrial, and multifamily building energy consumption by 2030; buildings contribute to electric grid flexibility and decarbonization

About the Field Study



Start: October 2016

Major Milestones:

- Completion of Sampling Plan
- Completion of data collection methodology, protocol and forms.
- Pilot of protocol
- Commence data collection

Current Progress: 50% data collected.

Next Steps: Analyze data, continue data collection and draft education materials

Project Partners

US Department of Energy
Pacific Northwest National Lab
Institute for Market Transformation
Cadmus
University of Central Florida
Florida Solar Energy Center
Mozingo Code Group
Colorado Code Consulting
Nebraska Energy Office
University of Nebraska at Lincoln
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Southface



Goals of the Field Study



Develop a replicable, cost and time effective methodology for states to evaluate code compliance in commercial buildings.



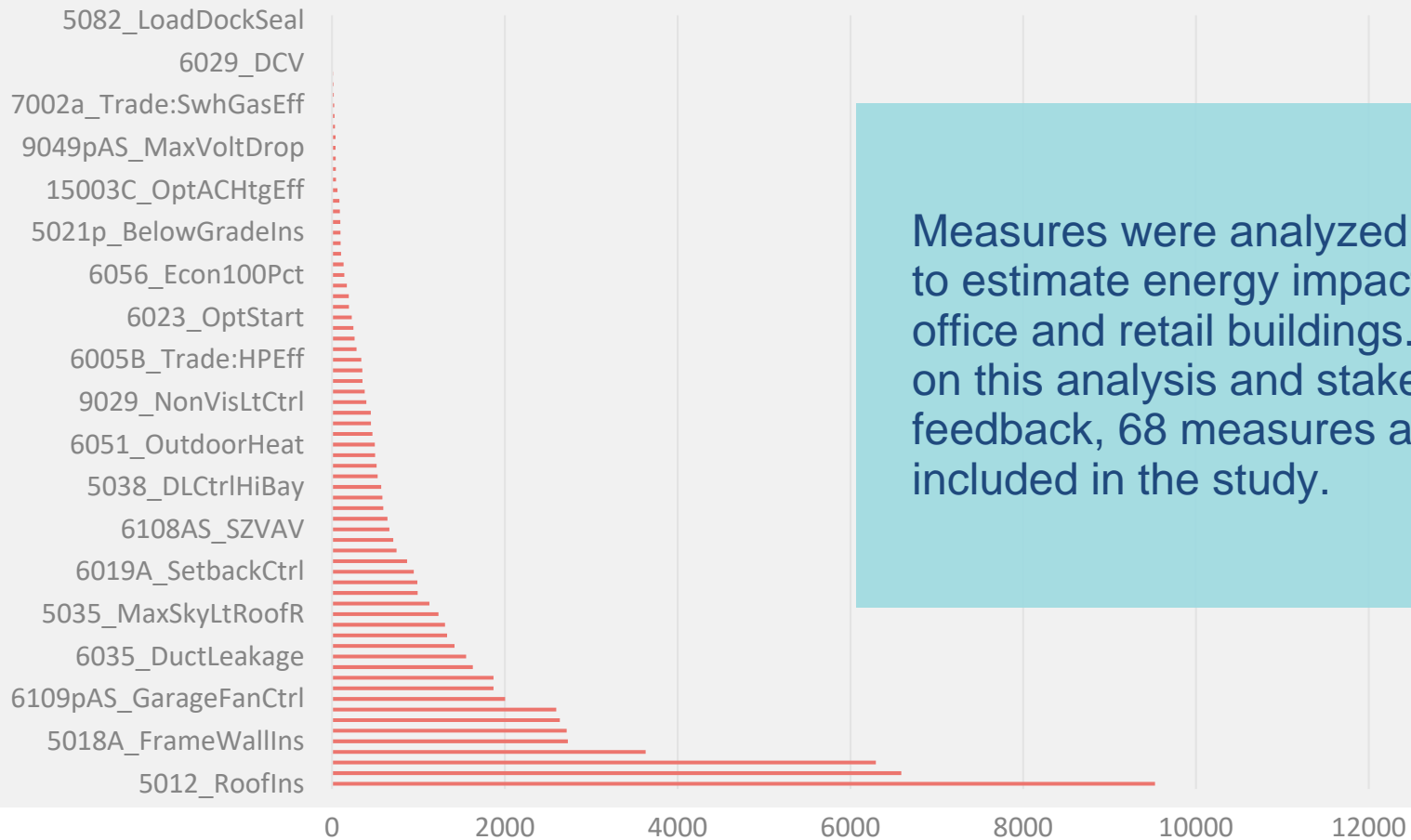
Construct a data set across target climate zones and states to test and refine the methodology.



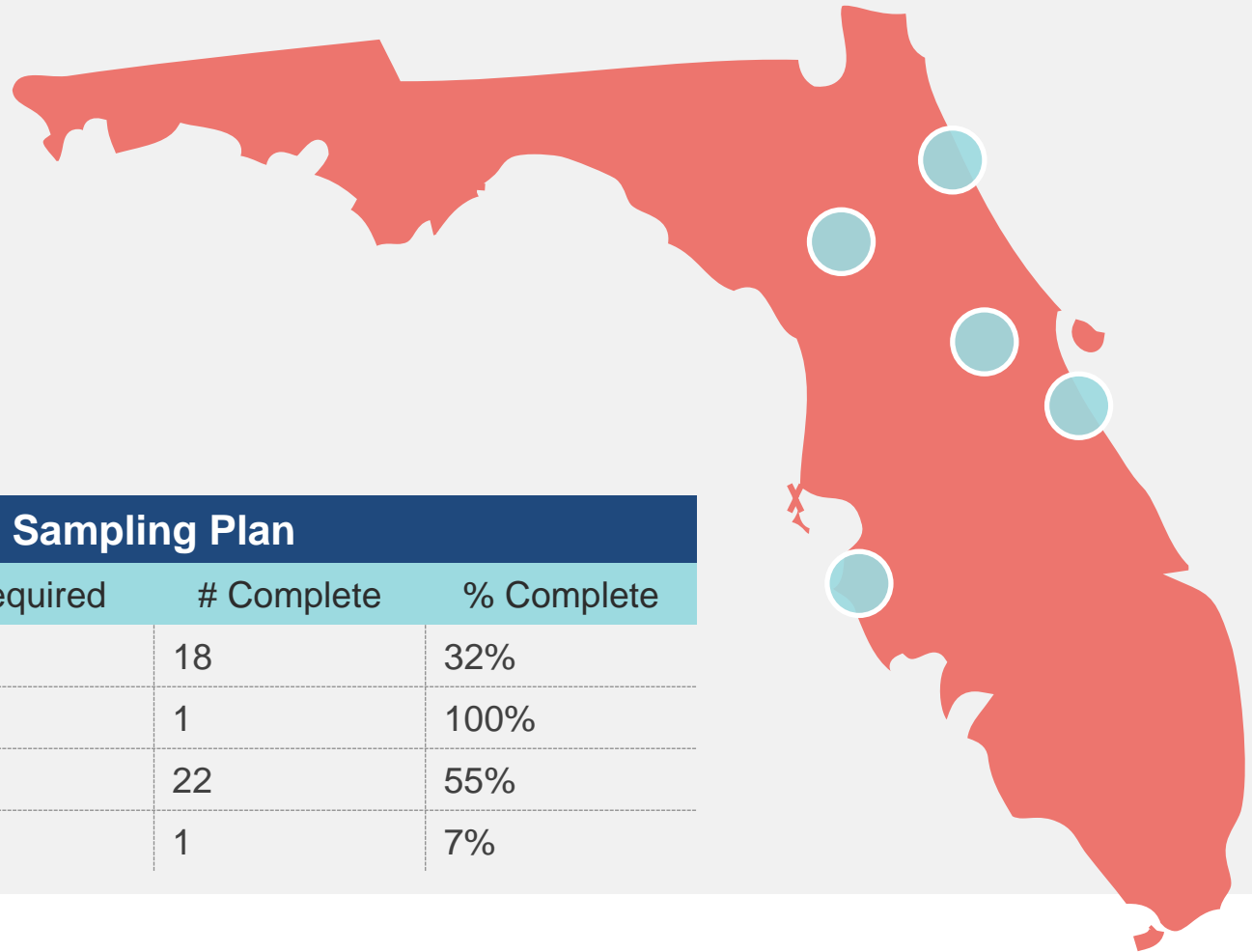
Develop training materials based on findings that can be leveraged by future education and outreach activities.

Potential Measure Impact

PV of Lost Cost Savings per 1,000 ft²



Study Areas : CZ2A



Sampling Plan

Building Type	# Required	# Complete	% Complete
Small Office	56	18	32%
Large Office	1	1	100%
Small Retail	40	22	55%
Large Retail	14	1	7%

**Roof
Insulation:**
\$9,525

**Interior
LPD:**
\$6,587

**Automatic
Lt Controls:**
\$6,294

**Add'tl
Retail LPD:**
\$3,628

**Frame Wall
Insulation:**
\$2,729

**Duct
Insulation:**
\$2,714

**Equipment
Sizing:**
\$2,635

**Window to
Wall Area:**
\$2,594

PRADA



**Interior
LPD:
\$3,636**

**Automatic
Lt Controls:
\$2,974**

**Roof
Insulation:
\$2,873**

**Equipment
Sizing:
\$2,536**

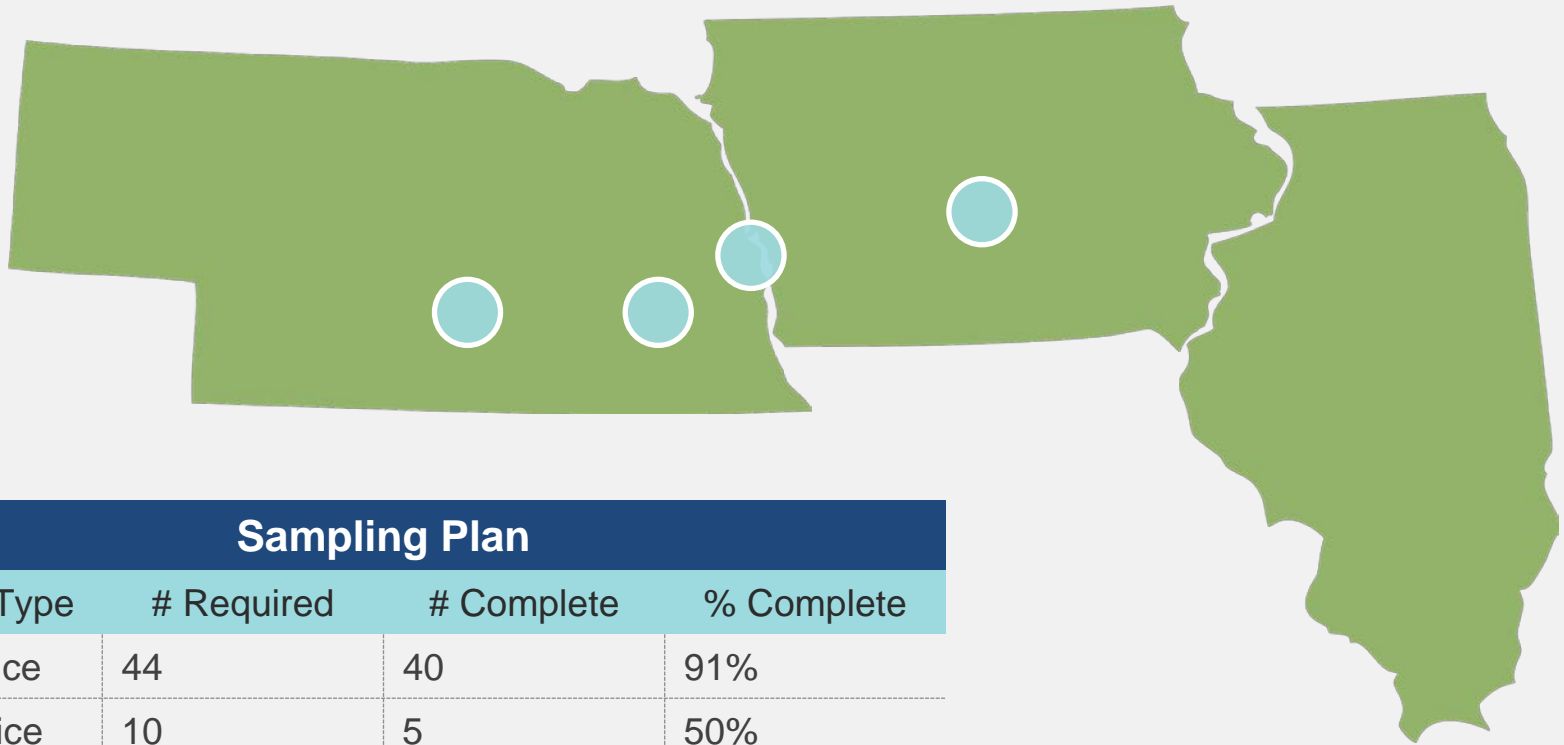
**Night Fan
Control:
\$2,065**

**Window to
Wall Area:
\$1,689**

**Manual Lt
Controls:
\$1,498**

**HVAC Pipe
Insulation:
\$1,406**

Study Areas : CZ5A



Sampling Plan

Building Type	# Required	# Complete	% Complete
Small Office	44	40	91%
Large Office	10	5	50%
Small Retail	46	21	45%
Large Retail	8	3	37%



**Roof
Insulation:**
\$15,113

**Interior
LPD:**
\$5,446

**Automatic
Lt Controls:**
\$5,412

**Frame Wall
Insulation:**
\$3,928

**Mass Wall
Insulation:**
\$3,730

**Window to
Wall Area:**
\$3,004

**Additional
Retail LPD:**
\$2,995

**Duct
Leakage:**
\$2,608



**Roof
Insulation:**
\$4,341

**Interior
LPD:**
\$3,022

**Mass Wall
Insulation:**
\$2,617

**Automatic
Lt Control:**
\$2,479

**Equipment
Sizing:**
\$2,237

**Duct
Leakage:**
\$1,845

**Night Fan
Control:**
\$1,813

**Window to
Wall Area:**
\$1,808

Pilot Phase

Data Collection Start: December 2017

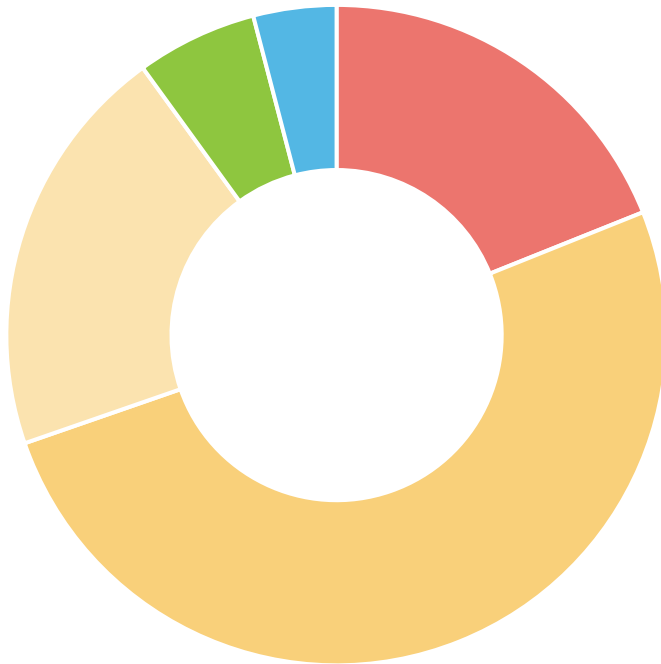
Goals of Pilot:

- Work out the kinks
- PNNL review of early forms for additional training
- Gather baseline time breakdown of tasks
- Refine data collection protocol document with lessons learned

Major Hurdles Identified:

- Recruitment
- Data Entry time after site visit
- Learning curve on protocol

Time/Task Breakdown



- Recruitment
- Plan Review
- Data Entry
- Site Visit
- Other

Time Breakdown				
	2A	5A	Total	/Bldg
Recruitment	11.3	20.6	212	16.3
Plan Review	68.2	22.7	568	43.7
Data Entry	9.6	26.8	228	26.8
Site Visit	4.3	5.9	66.5	5.1
Other	4.2	3	46	3.5
Total	92.1	55.1	938.5	72.2

Recruitment Strategies



Direct outreach to building departments for leads, permit data and access to buildings



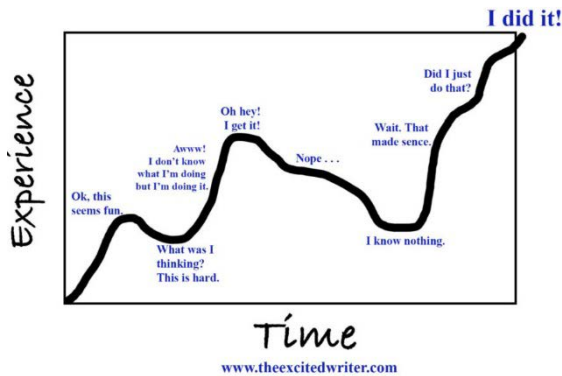
Outreach to other building stakeholders – architects, designers, owners, developers



Idea formulated and tested during the pilot phase: Drop-Ins

Refining Data Entry

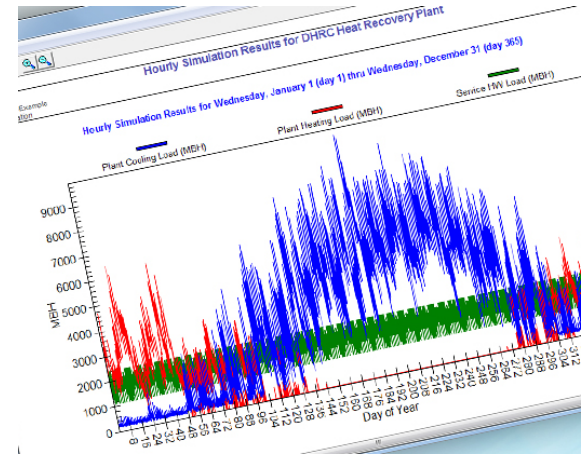
The Learning Curve



Learning curve on the data collection forms and translation from field forms to PNNL form



Completing plan review entry or site visit first



Elimination of load sizing measures from data collection

50% Data Collection



Data Collection Start: July 2018

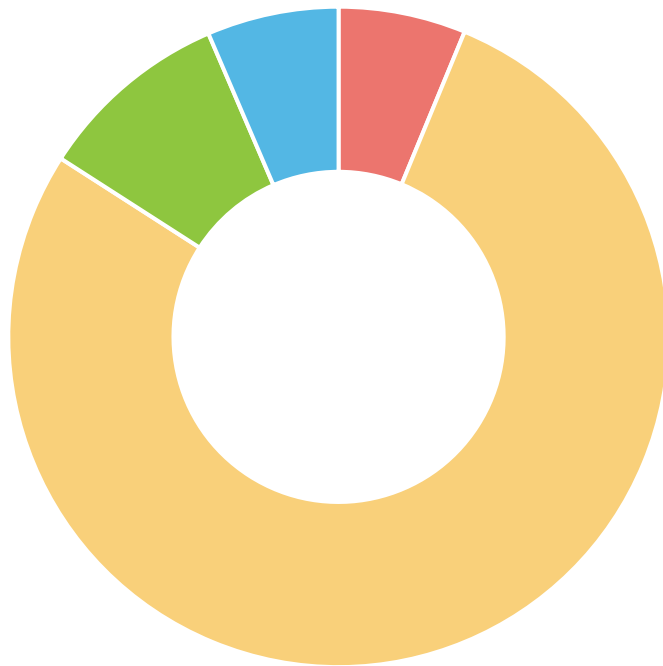
Continuing Work:

- Work to fulfill sample
- Refine data collection protocol document with lessons learned

Major Hurdles Identified:

- Data Entry time after site visit
- Gaps in protocol based on primary build to 2012 IECC
- Gaps in protocol based on primary build to prescriptive compliance
- Lack of specificity in protocol

Time/Task Breakdown



- Recruitment
- Review/Data
- Site Visit
- Other

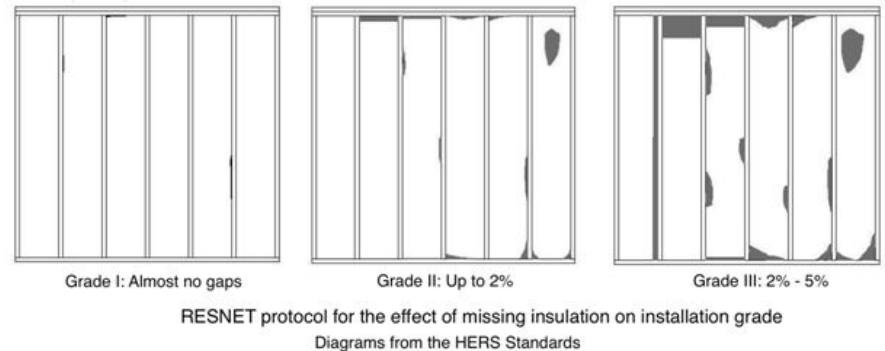
Time Breakdown				
	2A	5A	Total	/Bldg
Recruitment	1.1	3.9	285	2.9
Review/Data Entry	22.9	44.7	1955	36.2
Site Visit	3.1	5.1	422	4.4
Other	3	3	289	3
Total	30.1	56.7	2952	46.6

Insulation Installation



IECC 2012 §C402.2.3

The minimum thermal resistance of the insulating materials installed in the wall cavity between framing members shall be as specified in Table C402.2



ISSUE:

When insulation is installed with gaps, the thermal resistance (R-value) is reduced from the value listed on the material.

Fenestration Product Rating (NFRC)



IECC 2012 §C303.1.3

U-factors and SHGC of fenestration products shall be determined in accordance with NFRC and labeled by the manufacturer.



ISSUE:

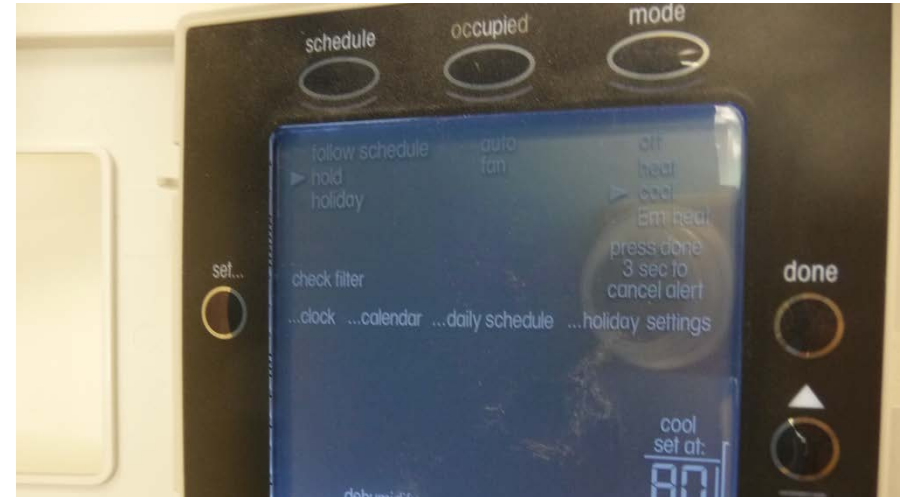
Many commercial windows are field fabricated. Without a label (or a certificate) verifying the U-factor and SHGC is difficult.

HVAC Controls



IECC 2012 §C403.2.4

Each heating and cooling system shall have set point overlap restriction, setback, automatic shutdown and start up capabilities, and damper controls.



ISSUE:

Different system types allow for varying degrees of sophistication. All need to be programmed properly at building turn over to be code compliant.

Protection of HVAC Pipe Insulation



IECC 2012 §C403.2.8.1

Piping insulation exposed to weather shall be protected from damage, including that due to sunlight, moisture, equipment maintenance and wind.



ISSUE:

When insulation isn't protected from UV, it deteriorates quickly. The thermal resistance of the insulation is reduced – in some places to zero.

Automatic Lighting Controls



IECC 2012 §C405.2.2.2

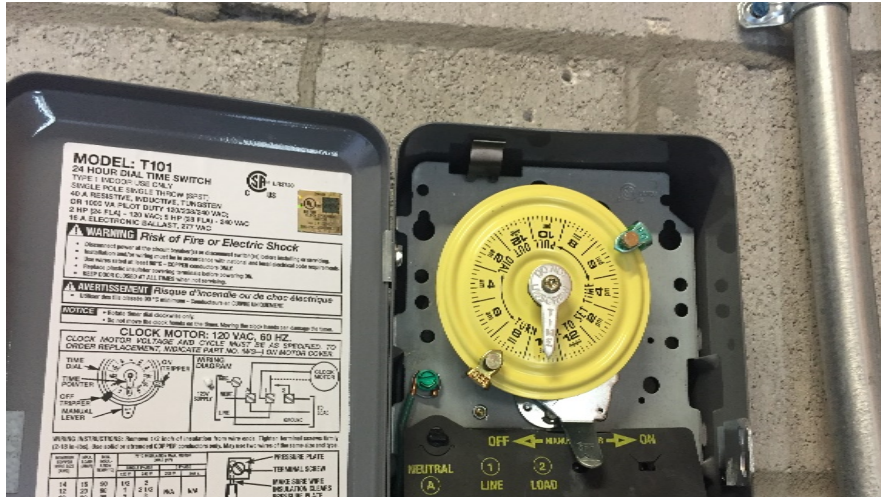
Occupancy sensors shall be installed in all classrooms, conference rooms, employee break rooms, private offices, restrooms, storage rooms...



ISSUE:

When lights aren't automatically controlled, they often don't get turned off. Does the bathroom light need to be on if no one is in there?

Exterior Lighting



IECC 2012 §C405.2.4

Lighting not designated for dusk-to-dawn operation shall be controlled by a photosensor and time switch or an astronomical time switch.



IECC 2012 §C405.6.2

The total exterior lighting power allowance for all exterior building applications is the sum of the base allowance plus individual allowances.

Energy Model Coordination

Expectations



IECC 2012 §C407.5.1

The standard reference design and proposed building shall be configured and analyzed as specified in Table C407.5.1(1).

Reality



ISSUE:

Table C407.5.1(1) includes a number of references to “as designed”. Where the model and the drawings diverge, the energy model is no longer valid.

Data Gaps



Skylights (high bay spaces)

Boilers, Chillers, WSHP

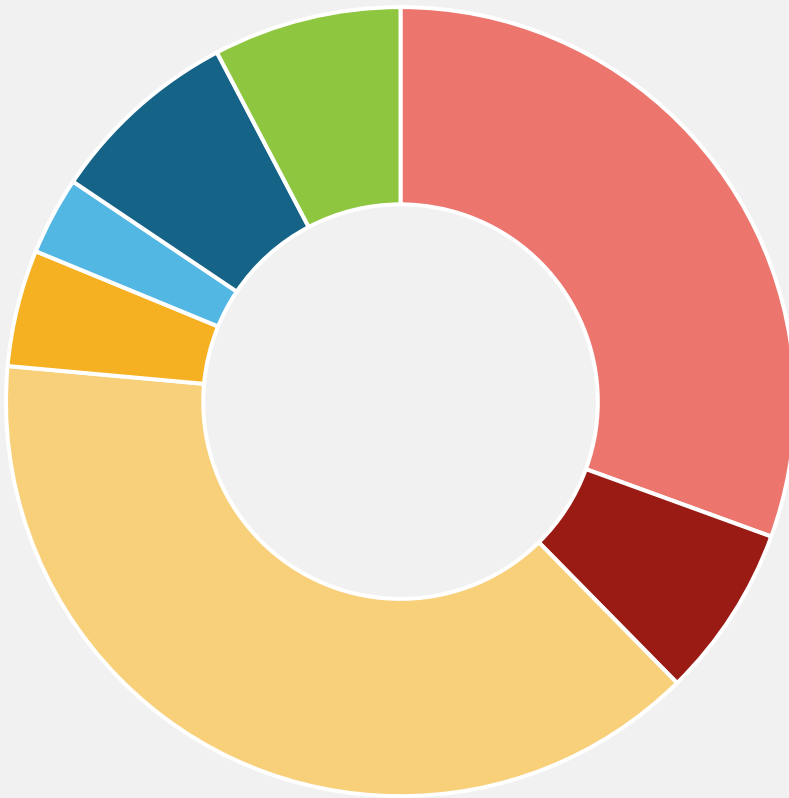
VAV Systems

Waterside Economizers

Parking Garages

Onsite renewable option

A Glimpse at PV Savings



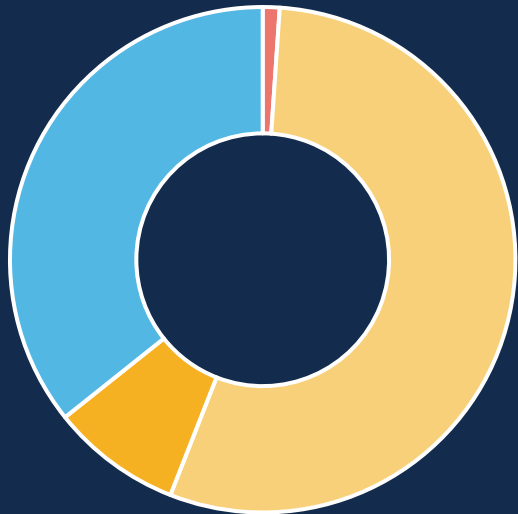
SQFT: 278,232

PV Lost: 1,271,144

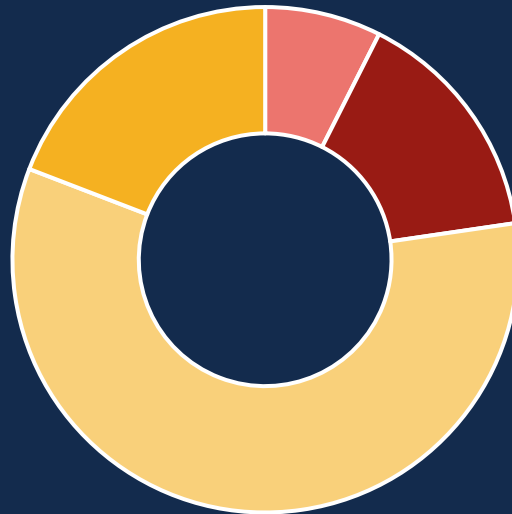
PV/1,000 sqft: 4,568

- Envelope
- Windows
- HVAC
- Controls
- Lighting
- Controls
- Hot Water

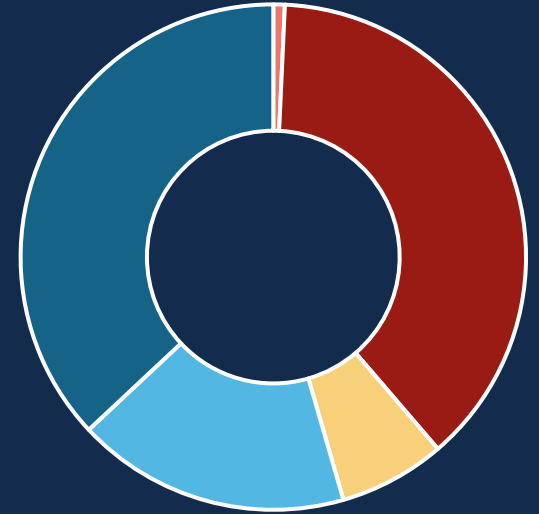
2A Office PV Savings



15,226 sqft
\$21,525 PV Lost
\$1,410/1,000 sqft

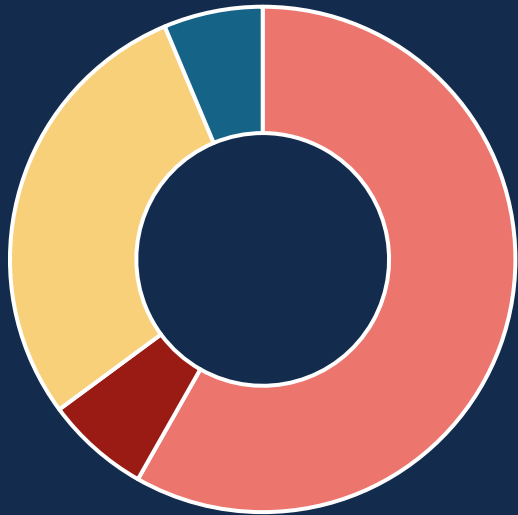


9,925 sqft
\$6,567 PV Lost
\$661/1,000 sqft

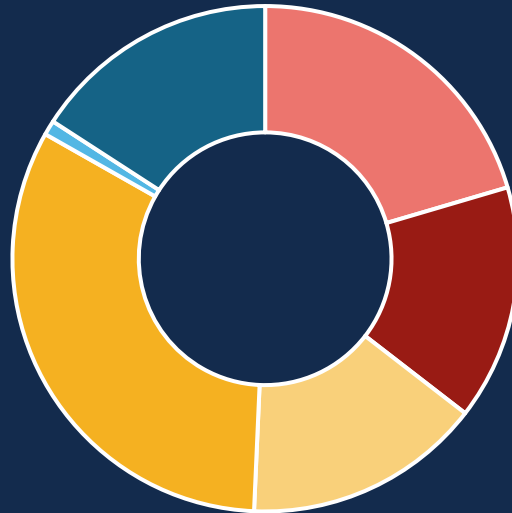


8,610 sqft
\$41,789 PV Lost
\$4,853/1,000 sqft

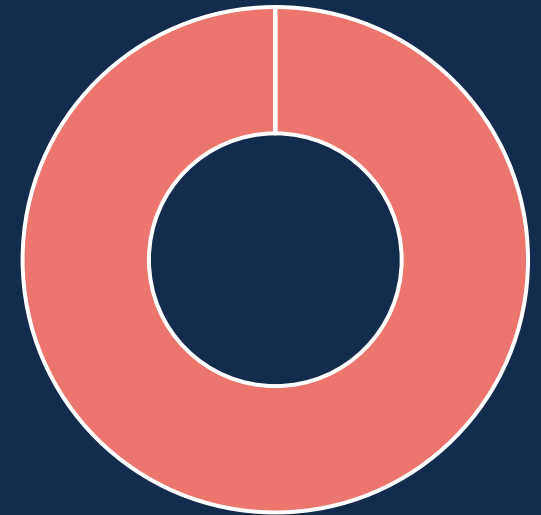
2A Retail PV Savings



8,320 sqft
\$22,570 PV Lost
\$2,712/1,000 sqft

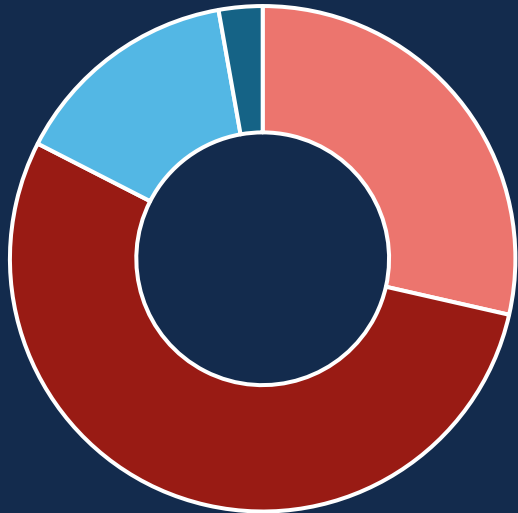


79,574 sqft
\$130,522 PV Lost
\$1,640/1,000 sqft

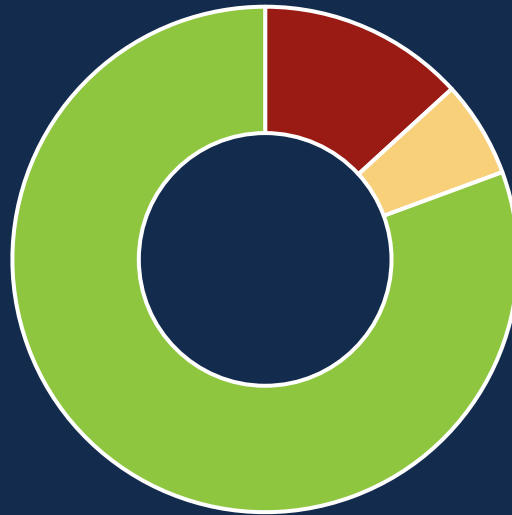


39,837 sqft
\$287,864 PV Lost
\$7,226/1,000 sqft

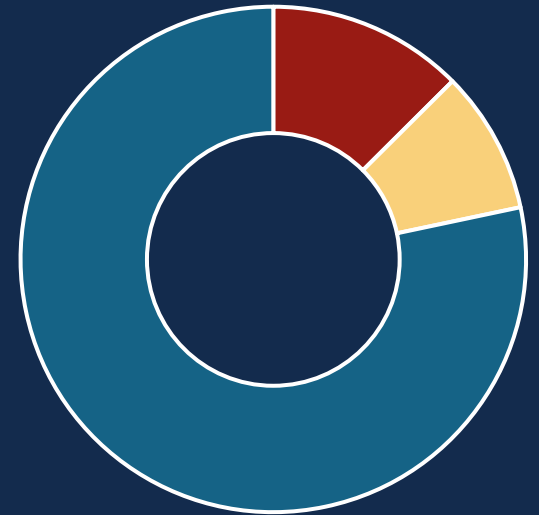
5A Office PV Savings



10,220 sqft
\$21,092 PV Lost
\$2,063/1,000 sqft

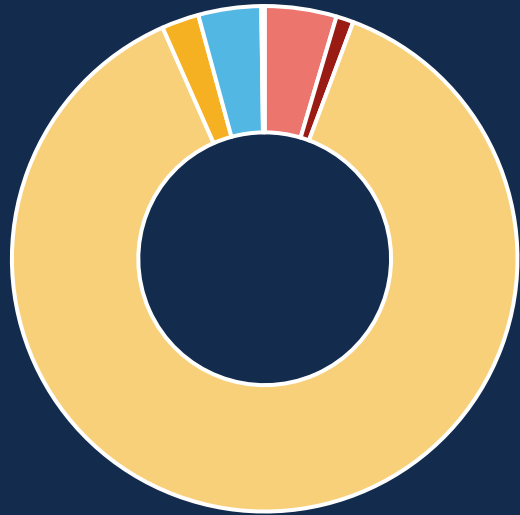


17,655 sqft
\$113,265 PV Lost
\$6,415/1,000 sqft

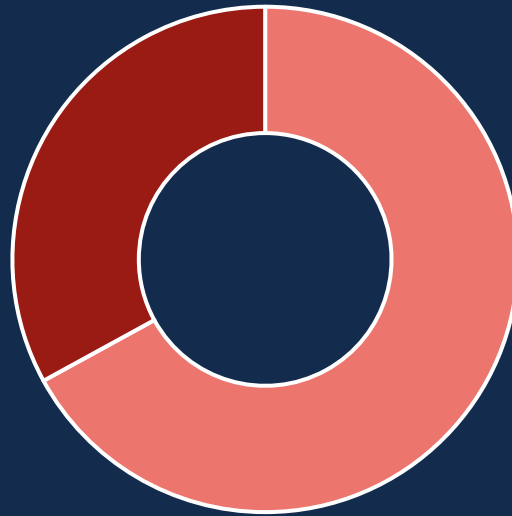


12,609 sqft
\$64,020 PV Lost
\$5,077/1,000 sqft

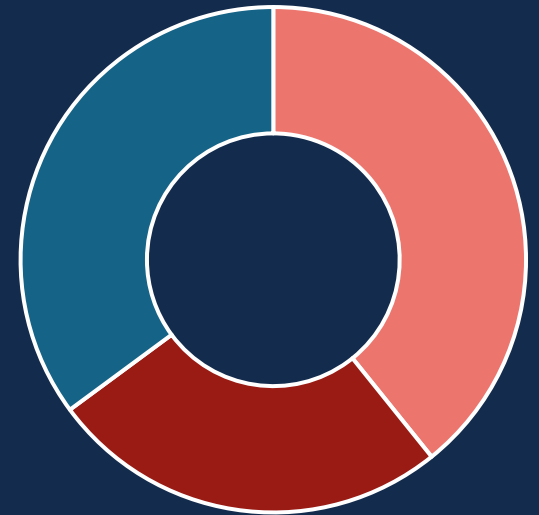
5A Retail PV Savings



52,238 sqft
\$536,882 PV Lost
\$10,277/1,000 sqft



9,728 sqft
\$11,267 PV Lost
\$1,158/1,000 sqft



14,250 sqft
\$13,781 PV Lost
\$967/1,000 sqft



What's Next?

End: March 2020

Major Milestones:

- Complete 100% data collection
- Draft and pilot education materials
- Revise protocol based on lessons learned
- Analyze data

Questions We're Asking:

- Is there a “top ten”?
- Are there regional variations?
- Are there code variations (IECC/90.1)?
- Does energy modeling have a disproportionate impact?
- What else is in the data?

An aerial photograph of a city skyline featuring several modern skyscrapers and a bridge crossing a body of water. The scene is captured during the day under a clear blue sky with light clouds. A semi-transparent teal rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

Questions?

Kimberly Cheslak
Energy Code Specialist
Institute for Market Transformation
kimberly.cheslak@imt.org