

MULTI-FAN BLOWER DOOR TESTING LESSONS LEARNED

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Photo: Jonathan Hillyer, 2009

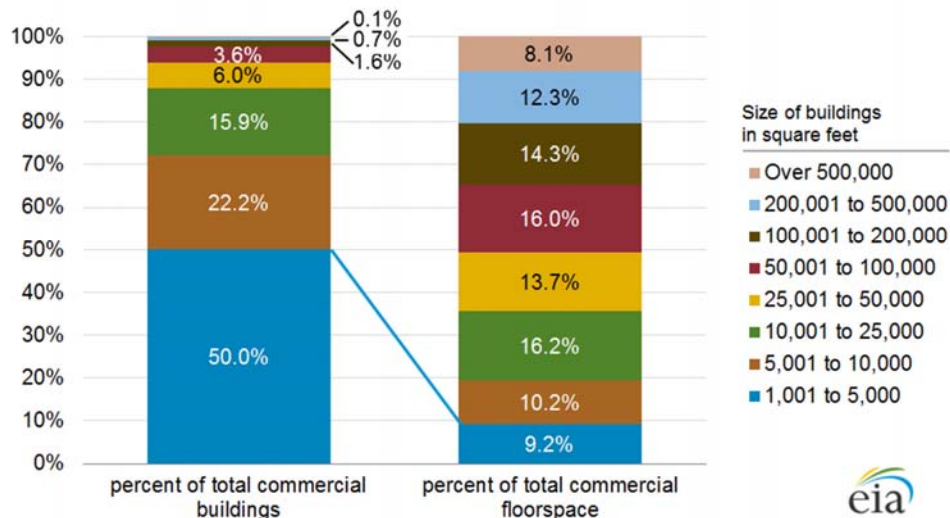
OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Why small commercial?
- ACBI Overview
- Southface's approach
- Lesson's learned
- Multi-Fan BD testing
- Cool BD videos
- New free resources
- Next steps



WHY SMALL COMMERCIAL? ($\leq 50K$ SF)

Figure 2. About half of all commercial buildings make up less than 10% of total floorspace

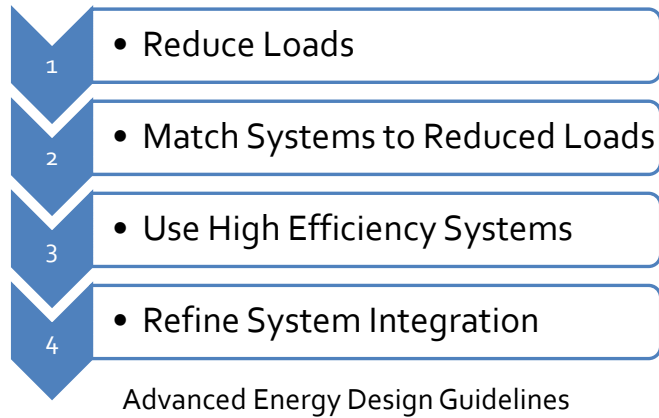


Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2012 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey



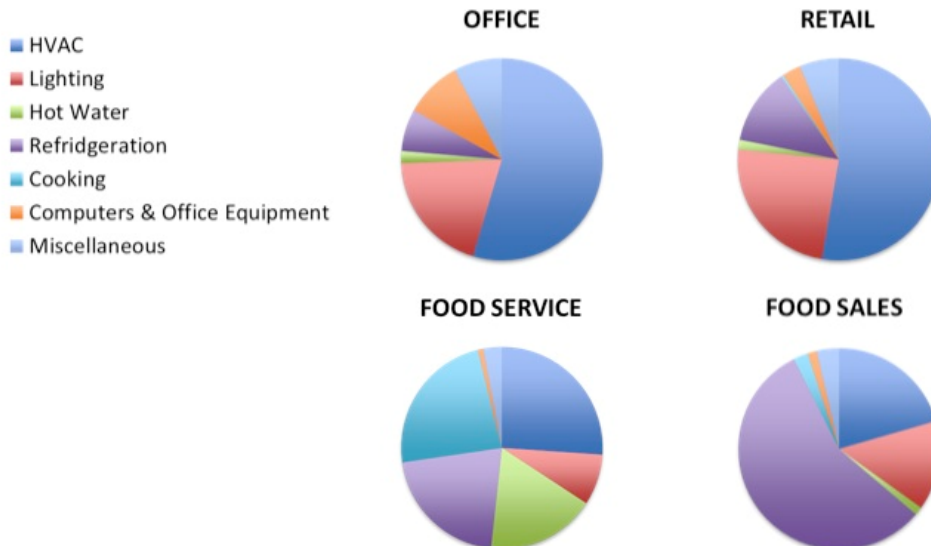
HERS RATERS & SMALL COMMERCIAL

- New market
- Building characteristics
- Systems
- Processes
- Who else is serving this market?



SMALL COMMERCIAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION

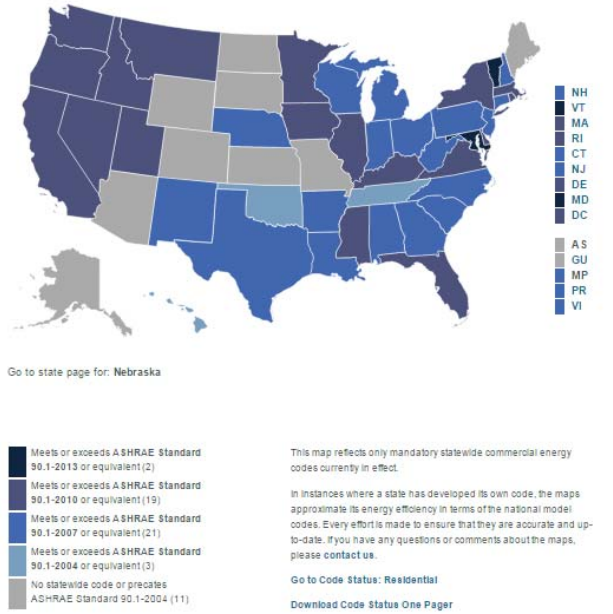
What is the biggest use of energy in small commercial buildings?



CODES AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Air Leakage Testing

- GSA – new buildings
- Washington – >5 stories
- US Army Corps – new buildings and major renovations
- ASHRAE 189.1
- LEED BD+C
- EarthCraft Light Commercial
- IECC 2012 & beyond



ADVANCED COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS INITIATIVE

Research



Demonstrate



Deploy



PARTNERSHIPS



SOUTHFACE APPROACH

20% improvement over existing

1. Benchmark
2. Assessment
3. Analysis
4. Recommendations & Projected Savings
5. Bids & Implementation
6. Verify
7. Ongoing support



BENCHMARK – ENERGY STAR PORTFOLIO MANAGER (ESPM)

MyPortfolio | Sharing | Planning | Reporting | Recognition

Salvation Army Fuqua Boys & Girls Club
 405 Lovejoy Street, Atlanta, GA 30313 | [Map It](#)
 Portfolio Manager Property ID: 3911773
 Year Built: 2001
[Edit](#)

Weather-Normalized Source EUI (kBtu/ft²) Why not score?
Current EUI: 114.8
(18.8% lower than median.)
Baseline EUI: 168.1
(20.8% higher than median.)

Summary | Details | Meters | **Goals** | Design

Energy Performance (kBtu/ft²)

Category	Source EUI (kBtu/ft ²)	Site EUI (kBtu/ft ²)
Baseline (Dec 2014)	168.1	~10
Current (Jul 2015)	114.8	~10

Current Baselines & Targets

Selected Baselines: Energy: Dec 2014 | Water: Dec 2014

Earliest Baselines: Energy: Dec 2009 | Water: Nov 2009
(calculated by Portfolio Manager)

Target: Target % Better than Baseline: 20%

Design Target: Not Set

[Set Baselines or Target](#)



BENCHMARK – ESPM

Metrics Comparison for Your Property & Your Target [Change Time Period](#)

Metric	Jun 2014	Current (Jul 2015)	Target*	Median Property*
ENERGY STAR score (1-100)	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	50
Source EUI (kBtu/ft²)	205.6	114.8	136.5	141.4
Site EUI (kBtu/ft²)	74.0	40.5	48.1	49.9
Source Energy Use (kBtu)	3,565,592.8	1,991,440.5	2,366,529.3	2,452,736.3
Site Energy Use (kBtu)	1,283,525.9	702,880.8	833,278.8	865,695.5
Energy Cost (\$)	41,538.34	28,032.45	29,955.46	34,525.86
Total GHG Emissions (Metric Tons CO2e)	203.8	114.0	135.5	140.4

* To compute the metrics at the target and median levels of performance, we will use the fuel mix associated with your property's current energy use.



ASSESSMENT & ANALYSIS



LIGHTING SURVEY		Current					Notes
Fixture Code	Fixture Name	Area Code	Fixture Qty	Controls Code	Sensor Qty	Lamps Out	
1	T12 - 1L - 2' - 20W	22	57	2	1	1	0
2	T12 - 2L - 2' - 20W	22	63	1	1	1	2
3	T12 - 1L - 4' - 34W	26	16	1	1	1	1
4	T12 - 2L - 4' - 34W	15	4	6	1	1	0
5	T12 - 3L - 4' - 34W	13	11	1	1	1	0
6	T12 - 4L - 4' - 34W	13	27	1	1	1	0
7	T12 - 1L - 4' - 40W	4	29	1	1	1	0
8	T12 - 2L - 4' - 40W	13	16	1	1	1	0
9	T12 - 4L - 4' - 40W	1	12	4	1	1	1
10	T12 U - 2L - 40W	20	18	3	1	1	1
11	T12 - 1L - 8' - 60W	20	20	2	1	1	1
12	T12 - 2L - 8' - 60W	18	27	2	1	1	0
13	T8 - 1L - 2' - 17W	18	26	1	1	1	0
14	T8 - 2L - 2' - 17W						
15	T8 - 1L - 4' - 32W						
16	T8 - 2L - 4' - 32W						
17	T8 - 3L - 4' - 32W						
18	T8 - 4L - 4' - 32W						
19	T8 - 1L - 8' - 59W						
20	T8 - 2L - 8' - 59W						
21	T8 U - 1L - 82W						
22	T8 U - 2L - 82W						
23	T5 - 1L - 4' - 54W						



RECOMMENDATIONS

Energy Projects (7)

Name	Date Implemented	Estimated Savings
Domestic hot water loop timer	12/31/2014	\$175
High-efficiency appliances	12/31/2014	\$4,921
Install vending machine controls	12/31/2014	\$161
LED lighting & lighting controls	11/20/2014	\$6,875
Low-flow plumbing fixtures	9/30/2014	\$344
Remove old appliance	9/1/2014	\$105
Upgrade HVAC controls	10/24/2014	\$4,204

Total Project Investment
\$78,681.00
 Total Estimated Savings
\$16,785.00



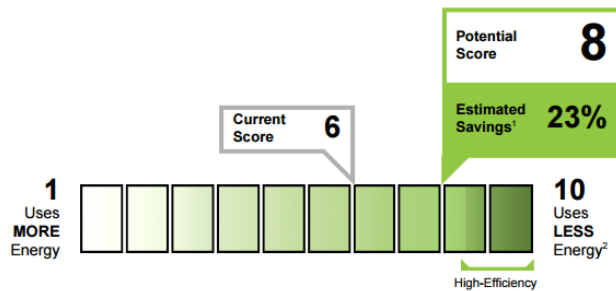
ASSESS – BUILDING ENERGY ASSET SCORE

BUILDING ENERGY ASSET SCORE 1
OVERALL BUILDING SCORE

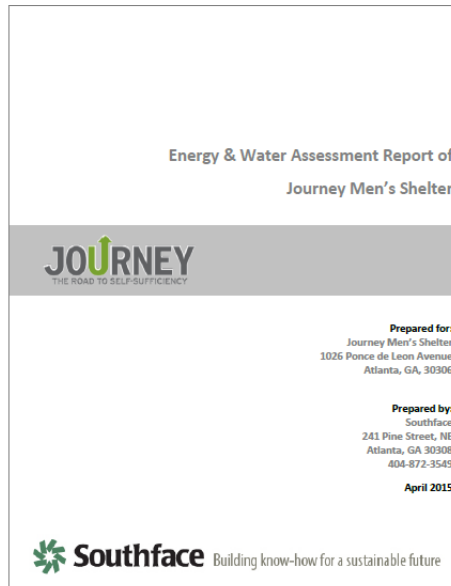
BUILDING INFORMATION

Fuqua Boys & Girls Clubs-Rerun
 405 Lovejoy Street
 Atlanta, GA 30313

Building Type: **Education** Score Date: **02/17/2015**
 Gross Floor Area: **17,480 ft²** Building ID #: **1338**
 Year Built: **2001**



PRESENTATION & REPORT



Executive Summary	
Next Steps	
Building Assessment Overview	
Facility Background	
Energy & Water Overview	
Energy & Water Consumption History	
Annual Energy and Water Use Breakout	
Building Envelope	
Lighting	
Plumbing Fixtures	
Domestic Hot Water	
Appliances & Plug Loads	
Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)	
Energy & Water Efficiency Projects	
Project Discussion	
No-Cost and Low-Cost Recommendations	
Other Sustainability Recommendations	
Appendix A: Project Assumptions	
Appendix B: Lighting Efficiency Retrofit Details – Proposed Lighting and Lighting Controls ..	
Appendix C: Georgia Power Rebate Program	
Appendix D: Project Implementation Verification Checklist	



BIDS, IMPLEMENTATION & VERIFICATION

1. ENERGY STAR Water Heater

- ENERGY STAR Tankless Water Heater minimum efficiency rating at or above 93% with combustion air inlet and exhaust piping fully ducted to exterior
- Activation flow rate at or below lowest flow water fixture (0.5 GPM)
- Water temperature max 125°F
- Accessible hot water lines insulated to min R-4

2. Bathroom Efficiency

- Bathroom sinks and hand sink in kitchen (4 sinks total), faucets are WaterSense labeled with maximum flow rate of 0.5 GPM
- Shower heads (2 heads total) are detention grade and WaterSense labeled with maximum flow rate of 1.5 GPM or less
- Toilets (3 toilets total) are single flush, WaterSense labeled with maximum flush rate of 1.28 GPF
- Urinal (1 urinal total) is WaterSense labeled with maximum flush rate of 0.125 GPF

3. Kitchen Efficiency

- ENERGY STAR Commercial Refrigerator (~49 CF capacity)
- ENERGY STAR Residential Refrigerator (~23 CF capacity)
- ENERGY STAR Commercial Dishwasher: under-the-counter high-temperature with built-in sanitation heat-booster
- Kitchen faucets (up to 2 faucets total) maximum flow rate of 2.2 GPM or less and preferably WaterSense labeled
- Pre-rinse spray valves (up to 2 total) are WaterSense labeled with maximum flow rate of 1.28 GPM or less



PERFORMANCE – FOLLOW UP

Performance Comparison

	Progress			Performance Goals		
	Year Ending 12/31/2014 (Baseline)	Year Ending 7/31/2015 (Selected)	% Change	Property's Target	National Median	ENERGY STAR Score of 75
ENERGY STAR Score	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	75
Energy						
Site EUI (kBtu/ft ²)	60.1	40.5	-32.5	48.1	49.9	N/A
Source EUI (kBtu/ft ²)	170.6	114.8	-32.7	136.5	141.4	N/A
\$	37,444.33	28,032.45	-25.14	29,955.46	34,525.86	N/A
\$/ft ²	2.16	1.62	-25.14	1.73	1.99	N/A
Greenhouse Gas Emissions						
Metric Tons CO ₂ e/year	169.3	114	-32.66	135.5	140.4	N/A
kgCO ₂ e/ ft ² /year	9.8	6.6	-32.66	7.8	8.1	N/A



LESSONS LEARNED – LIGHT COMMERCIAL

- Commercial Buildings are Systems Too!
 - Subcontractors and repair persons only know what they know
 - “Sprinkler pipes could freeze – better heat the vented attic!”
- Occupants aren’t “Owner” of commercial spaces
 - Turn things off? – not my job!
 - “Maybe it’s supposed to be on...”
- No feedback
 - Accountant pays utility bills but doesn’t share cost implications with others
- Landlord focus is on complaints
 - Often, doesn’t care about utilities
- Designers still old school –
 - Cheap first cost
 - Aesthetics



Light commercial projects typically don't have facility staff!



LESSONS LEARNED

- Utility rate structures matter
- Equipment off when unoccupied
- Combustion safety
- LED upgrades
 - New LED fixture
 - Keep fixture housing + LED "guts"
 - Swap LED tubes (ballasts)
- Vending machines
- Hot water
- Sprinkler piping
- Verification
- Implementation \neq job complete
 - Top down support & Education
- Ventilation

Lessons Learned
recognize mistakes
observe what works
document them
share them



MULTI-FAN BLOWER DOOR TESTING - AN EXCELLENT RESOURCE

<http://support.energyconservatory.com/hc/en-us/articles/202478994-Beyond-Residential>

- Explains both theory and application
- Great websites, videos and training information from both:
 - Retrotec
 - Energy Conservatory

Blower Door Applications Guide:
Beyond Single Family Residential

By Terry Brennan and Mike Clarkin of Camroden Associates
And
Gary Nelson, Collin Olson and Paul Morin of The Energy Conservatory



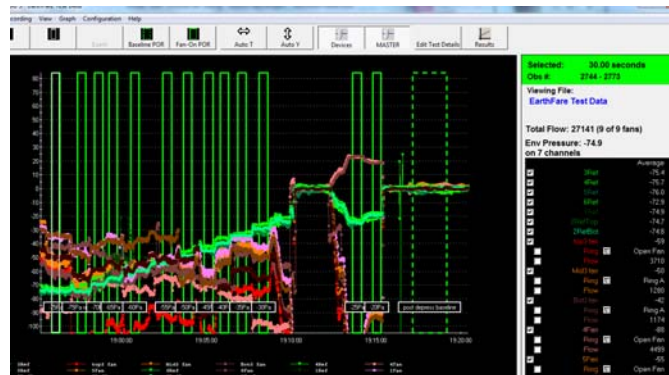
BIG PICTURE TEST PROCESS

- Follow a protocol
- Map equipment location
- Pre-test planning meeting of all participants – assign roles/stations
- Gather all equipment – confirm that it works
- Arrive, install equipment & prep building for testing
- Use software to perform testing
- Diagnose leaks and document results



BD TESTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

- Configure hardware and run software
- Prompts for baseline(s)
- Prompts for data recording periods
- Graphs results

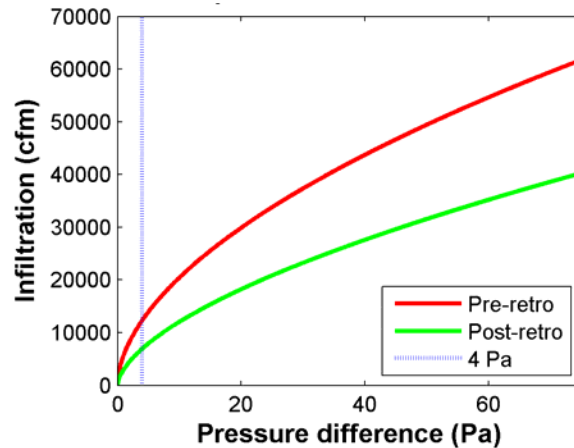


MULTI-POINT CURVE FIT – CONFUSING RESULTS

- ASTM Standard E779-03³: multi point test from ± 20 Pa to ± 75 Pa

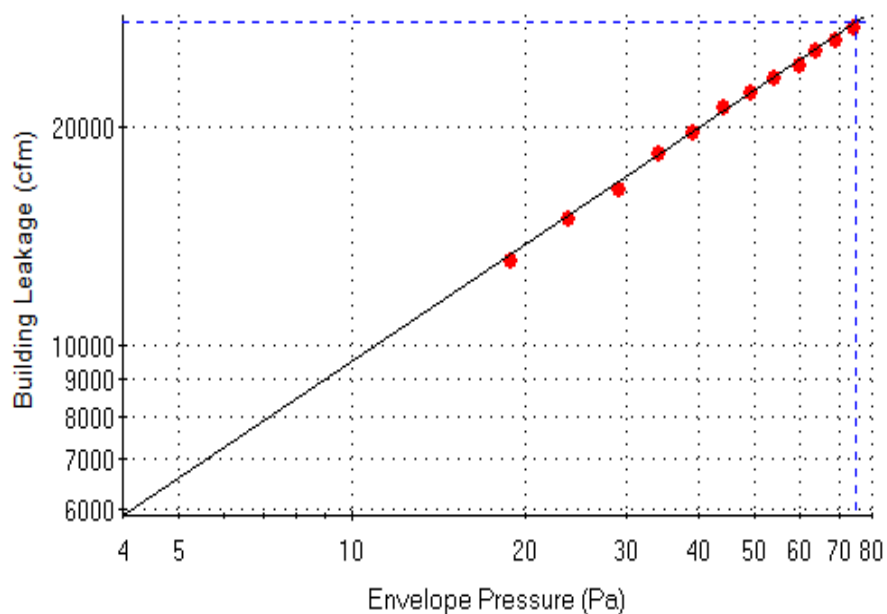
Power Law equation: $Q = C * \Delta P^n$

- Q – infiltration rate
- C – flow coefficient
- ΔP – pressure difference across envelope
- n – flow exponent



A BETTER WAY TO PLOT THE RESULTS

- Data becomes easier to read when plotted on logarithmic scale
- Curve allows leakage estimation at any pressure (e.g. 4 Pa)



ELR₇₅ – A BETTER METRIC

- Leakage occurs through skin of building (not through volume)
- Normalizing leakage at 75Pa (0.3 in w.c.) based on shell area is most common for commercial buildings

Example Calculation

A 1,280 square foot building has an SFBE of 3,224 square feet and a measured fan flow of 1,483 at CFM₇₅. Determine the Envelope Leakage Ratio at 75 Pa by dividing the cubic feet per minute of air volume moved through the fan by the total square footage of the building thermal envelope.

Top Flat Ceiling Area

$$20' \times 34' = 680ft^2$$

Building Envelope Floor Area (includes shaded area)

$$20' \times 30' + 20' \times 4' = 680ft^2$$

Gross Exterior Insulated Wall Area = 1,864ft²

$$1st\ Floor: (20' + 30' + 20' + 30') \times 10' = 1,000ft^2$$

$$2nd\ Floor: (20' + 34' + 20' + 34') \times 8' = 864ft^2$$

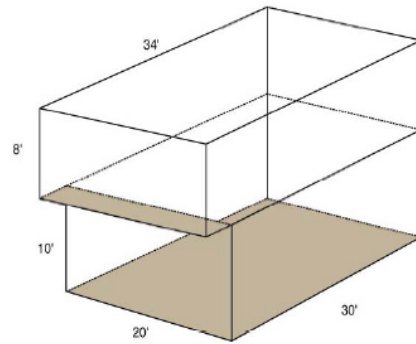
$$SFBE = 680ft^2 + 680ft^2 + 1864ft^2 = 3,224ft^2$$

$$Fan\ Flow\ Measurement = 1,483\ CFM_{75}$$

$$ELR_{75} = \frac{CFM_{75}}{SFBE}$$

$$ELR_{75} = \frac{1,483\ CFM_{75}}{3,224\ sf}$$

$$ELR_{75} = 0.46\ Envelope\ Passes$$



- Utility Chases
- Metal Roof Decking
- Gabled Roof Junctions
- Mechanical RTU Penetrations
- Roof Membrane Connections

BD REVEALS COMMON LEAKAGE PATHWAYS



UTILITY CHASE



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METAL BUILDING ROOF



Shims



Roof above shims

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GABLED ROOF



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RTU LEAKAGE



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FLAT ROOFED STRIP MALL



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PARAPET LEAK



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HOW TO GET FOG IN THE RIGHT PLACE



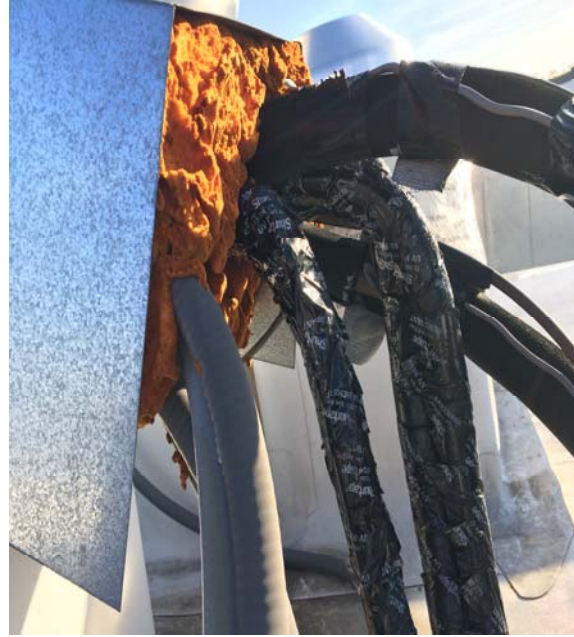
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INFLATED TPO MEMBRANE



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DETAILS



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WHAT'S WRONG?



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COMBUSTION SAFETY



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ORIGINAL 12 BUILDINGS

Test Buildings	Date of Test	Cond. Floor Area (s.f.)	SFBE	# of Stories	ELR75	Depressurization @-75Pa (masked)	Pressurization @+75Pa (masked)
	7/17/2014	17,283	48,330	1	0.240	11,602	12,355
	7/30/2014	2,318	9,775	1	0.141	1,378	1,366
	6/19/2014	3,533	12,437	2	0.189	2,353	2,674
	8/6/2014	5,946	11,637	3	0.167	1,938	2,331
	9/16/2014	12,864	36,845	1	0.456	16,794	20,319
	5/20/2014	11,117	29,008	3	0.461	13,365	14,234
	5/15/2014	17,176	41,635	1	0.560	23,322	23,539
	4/10/2014	5,910	15,422	1	0.702	10,823	9392**
	6/10/2014	34,200	69,600	2	0.887	61,751	74,721
	10/10/2014	34,200	69,600	2	0.578	40,212	44,683
	5/28/2014	3,035	8,804	1	1.277	11,245	12,154
	11/22/2014	3,035	8,804	1	1.412	12,428	12,422
	6/19/2014	7,912	20,956	1	0.423	8,854	9,234
	7/15/2014	5,020	15,402	2	1.438	22,151	22,308

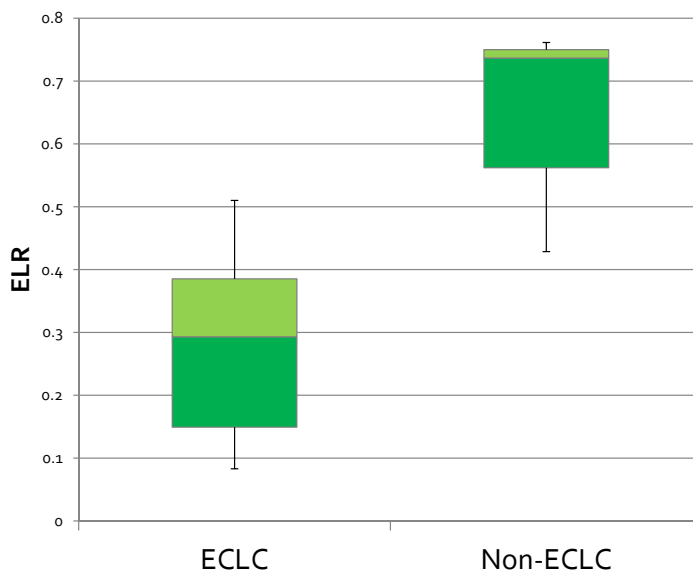
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ANALYZING TESTING RESULTS

- **All buildings are created unequal** – no apparent correlation between age, type of construction, location, etc.
- **Air Sealing** – starts at design
- **Existing buildings** – can be retro sealed
- **Designed air barrier** – 0.25 ELR_{75} ;
(average existing 0.76 – over 3 times leakier!)
- **Modeling tools** vary significantly in predicted savings from air sealing – approximately $\sim 10\%$

BUILDING ENVELOPE

Air Leakage Testing

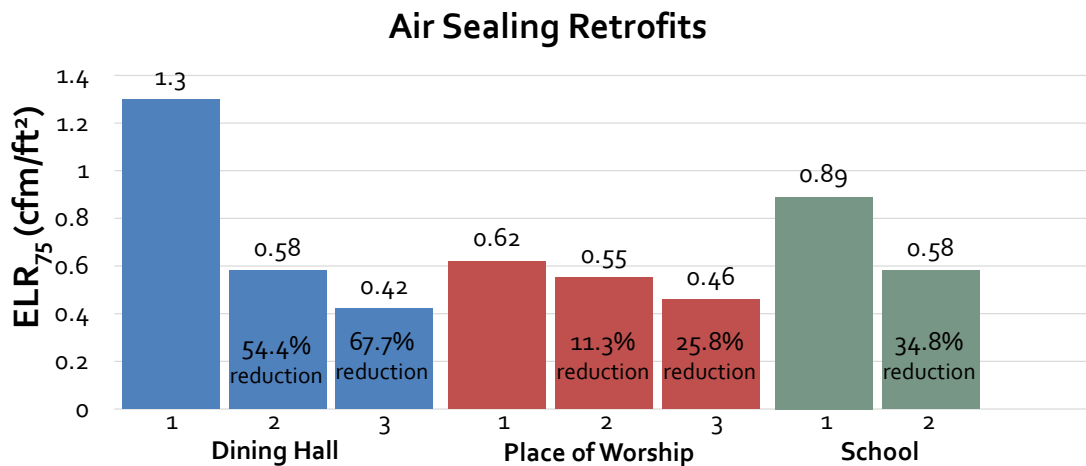


ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS – SIMILAR RESULTS

Test Buildings	Date of Test	Cond. Floor Area (s.f.)	SFBE	# of Stories	ELR75	Depressurization @ -75Pa (masked)	Pressurization @ +75Pa (masked)
	11/11/2014	4,261	13,219	1	0.429	5,666	5,518
	11/17/2014	6,692	16,829	2	1.201	20,214	19,589
	12/4/2014	2,128	5,760	1	0.623	3,587	3,628
	12/10/2014	1,081	3,562	1	0.626	2,230	2,269
	12/15/2014	1,480	5,480	1	0.562	3,081	3,501
	12/16/2014	2,207	8,878	1	0.750	6,662	6,745
	12/17/2014	1,586	6,743	1	0.761	5,134	5,134
	12/18/2014	1,895	7,907	1	0.737	5,825	5,662
	12/19/2014	1,561	6,674	1	0.330	2,200	2,181
	1/14/2015	12,142	32,873	1	0.639	21,020	22,286
	2/4/2015	3,416	9,336	1	0.493	4,601	4,672
	2/9/2015	4,236	10,390	1	0.500	5,195	5,194
	11/12/2015	11,417	20,297	3	0.184	3,740	4,738
	1/11/2016	3,020	8,123	1	0.517	4,200	4,553
	1/12/2016	4,315	14,359	1	1.028	14,758	16,428
	1/13/2016	3,900	12,000	1	1.244	14,933	15,513
	8/22/2012	21,628	44,259	2	0.339	15,019	n/a
	5/22/2014	11,202	37,370	1	0.188	7,030	n/a
	6/11/2014	1,634	4,847	2	0.394	1,910	2,352
	6/11/2014	500	2,545	1	0.251	638	791
	7/10/2014	6,082	13,937	1	1.021	14,224	
	7/29/2014	4,615	11,165	1	1.296	14,467	15,824
	8/4/2014	4,615	14,668	1	0.581	8,515	
	8/18/2014	4,615	14,668	1	0.422	6,192	6,402
	8/26/2014	1,135	3,949	1	0.313	1,238	
	8/26/2014	1,680	6,409	1	0.360	2,310	
	10/2/2014	1,135	3,949	1	0.13	514	
	10/2/2014	1,680	6,409	1	0.12	798	



AIR SEALING RETROFITS



Air leakage of existing buildings can be substantially reduced with **spray foam**



ENERGY MODELING CHALLENGES

- Commercial building air leakage testing is in its infancy (<400 buildings in largest known database); modeling default values are **unsubstantiated**
- Input for modeling software varies: ACH_{nat} , ACH_{50} , cfm/ft^2 of floor area, **cfm_4/ft^2 of envelope area @ 4 Pa (ELR_4)**
- Testing is conducted at accelerated pressures to minimize other driving forces – must extrapolate from multipoint regression analysis



TESTING PROCEDURE LESSONS LEARNED

- Reinforce masking
- Duplicate fans
- Foam insulation tubes
- Theatrical fog machine, flex duct and a really long pole
- Site communication



OTHER RESEARCH

- Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge
 - Small commercial on campus
- Third-party impact
- PPESCO
- EarthCraft Light Commercial Deep Energy



SOUTHFACE RESOURCES

- Assessment toolkit
 - Process
 - Data collection
 - Analysis
 - Report template
 - Implementation checklist
- Quick guides
 - Fire stations
 - Rec centers
 - Small commercial on campus
- Multi-fan multi-point testing
 - Test protocol
 - Report template

Please see sign up sheet – add your name and email and we'll send you a link to these resources



SOUTHFACE RESOURCES – ONE PAGE TEST SHEET

Multi-fan multi-point testing

- Test protocol
- Paper copy is great for results tracking while performing testing
- Spreadsheet version can perform calculations



ECLC Envelope Tightness Testing Procedure v1.0

Oak Brewery
630 East Lake Dr, Decatur, GA 30030

Date of Testing: 1/12/2016 (m-d-y)
Participants: ChristineP, MikeB, AlexP, RachelB

Building Conditioned Floor Area: 4319 ft²
Building Shell Area (SRB): 14379 ft²
ECLRTS = 1.0278

Outdoor Temperature at Start: 50 F
Indoor Temperature at Start: 50 F
Δ Temperature Difference: 0 F

Elevation of project: 2000 ft
Basic Description of Building (e.g., type of occupancy, number of stories, wall, roof and foundation assembly type, orientation, etc.): CMU walls, metal roof trusses flat roof, FRU serves whole building; adjacent space is church

Testing should not be performed if:
Δ Temp Difference X Height > 1180
Example: 30 F x 40' = 1,200 (so do not test)
If Building Baseline Pressure exceeds +/- 5 Pa, then adjust pressure testing interval (**see below)

All designated team members perform set-up as assigned. Apply masking to all Outside Air (OA), Make-Up Air (MUA), and Exhaust and Dryer (Eh) fans but do not seal flue!
Perform Pre Depressurization Baseline for 2 minutes (all fans covered)
Depressurize building to -75 Pa and record single point result *If Building Baseline pressure exceeds +/- 5 Pa, adjust range of test pressures. (Example, if Baseline is - During single point testing, team should check for leaks in designated areas while BD's are operating. Document discovered leaks and/or building issues. Perform zone press

USACE and ECLC Depressurization Multipoint Test
Continue depressurization from -75 Pa to -20Pa, adjusting fans for every 5 Pa interval*
*If Building Baseline pressure exceeds +/- 5 Pa, adjust range of test pressures. (Example, if Baseline is -10Pa, then test from -85 to -30 Pa)
After -30 Pa (last data point) is recorded, cover all fans and perform post-baseline for 120 seconds
Enter multipoint Depressurization curve fit value @ -75 Pa - [Curve fit data shall have an R² > 0.98 for valid test]
Reverse fans and add fan pressure reference tube(s)
Perform Pressurization to single point @ +75 Pa

USACE Pressurization - With fans covered, perform pre-pressurization baseline for 120 sec: THIS IS OPTIONAL TESTING
During pressurization testing, Fog machine leak identification can be performed
USACE Pressurization (enter multipoint curve fit value @ +75 Pa) THIS IS OPTIONAL TESTING
The building pressure will be ramped down every 5 Pa interval. After +20 Pa is recorded, cover all fans and perform post-baseline for 120 seconds.

Fan curve fit value for -50 Pa (for comparison): 11824 cfm@30
Fan curve fit value for +50 Pa (for comparison): 13076 cfm@30
With fans kept in pressurization mode, remove mask from OA (and hood MUA, if applicable). Record single point test value @ +50Pa
Turn fans around and setup for depressurization mode (OA+MUA unmasked). Record single point test value @ -50Pa
Keep fans in the same configuration (depressurization mode). Remove mask from exhaust fans/hood. Record single point test value @ -50Pa

Cover all BD fans and keep all fans off. ~~Remove mask from kitchen hood (if applicable).~~
Record building baseline pressure for two 30 second periods
Turn on all air handlers. Record building pressure for two 30 second periods
With air handlers running, turn on all exhaust fans. Record building pressure for two 30 second periods
If a kitchen hood is present, turn it on. With air handlers + all exhaust fans + hood on, record building pressure for two 30 second periods
Record building baseline pressure for two 30 second periods

Outdoor Temperature at Finish: 50 F
Indoor Temperature at Finish: 50 F
Description of weather conditions during testing: Sunny clear, cold from night

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- EarthCraft Light Commercial Guidelines
- ASHRAE Advanced Energy Design Guides
- ASHRAE Advanced Energy Retrofit Guides
- ASHRAE 189.1 – Green Building Standard
- ASHRAE Indoor Air Quality Guide
- ASHRAE Audit Guide
- Core Performance Standard



ACBI RESEARCH PLAN



Benchmark

- Multi-point Blower Door Test
- Measure building pressure under normal operation
- Pressure test for presence/function of dampers
- Measure Intentional Ventilation Rates

Interactions

- Circuit level monitoring
- Outdoor and indoor zonal temperature and Humidity monitoring

Impact

- Calibrate detailed models
- Assess infiltration impact on energy consumption

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Spray foam & moisture accumulation
- IAQ & ventilation
- CAZ guidelines
- Packaging of tools & resources
- Deployment
- Refinement



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- US Department of Energy
- Southface team
- ~50 buildings we have been able to test (and still counting)



RESEARCH HAS NO SHORT CUTS



Questions & Answers



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- SF HERS Training
- HERS Core Apr 18-23
- HERS CAZ May 23-24