

Building America's Top 3 Building Science Challenges

ERIC WERLING

Building America Program Director

Building Technology Office

The Early Days of Flight



Speed: ~100 mph

Range: ~100 miles

Payload: 100 lbs. mail



The Modern Aviation Era



Speed: 550 mph
Range: 9,500 miles
Payload: 380 + 85 tons



Quality & Performance =
Comfort, Value, Reliability, Efficiency

The Early Days of Housing



Airtightness: >10 ach50
HERS Index: >120
IAQ: Central Heat



The Modern Housing Era



Airtightness: <2 ach50
HERS Index: <60
IAQ: Indoor airPLUS

Quality & Performance = Value, Comfort, Reliability, Efficiency



A Definition of Quality ...

(A) When people and organizations focus primarily on quality, defined by the following ratio,

$$\text{Quality} = \frac{\text{Results of work efforts}}{\text{Total costs}}$$

quality tends to increase and costs fall over time.

(B) However, when people and organizations focus primarily on *costs*, costs tend to rise and quality declines over time.

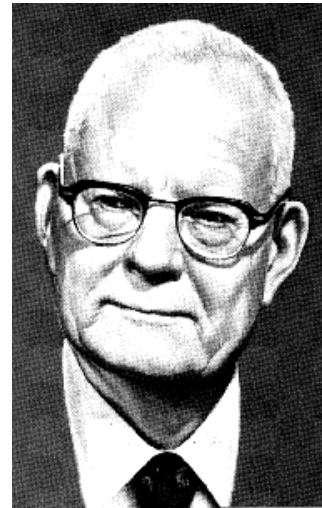
W. Edwards Deming

Another bit of wisdom ...

(from the same dead guy)

"It is not necessary to change.
Survival is not mandatory."

W. Edwards Deming



Modern Housing Trends

1. Homes Are “Greener”



Total New Green Building Market 2005-2010

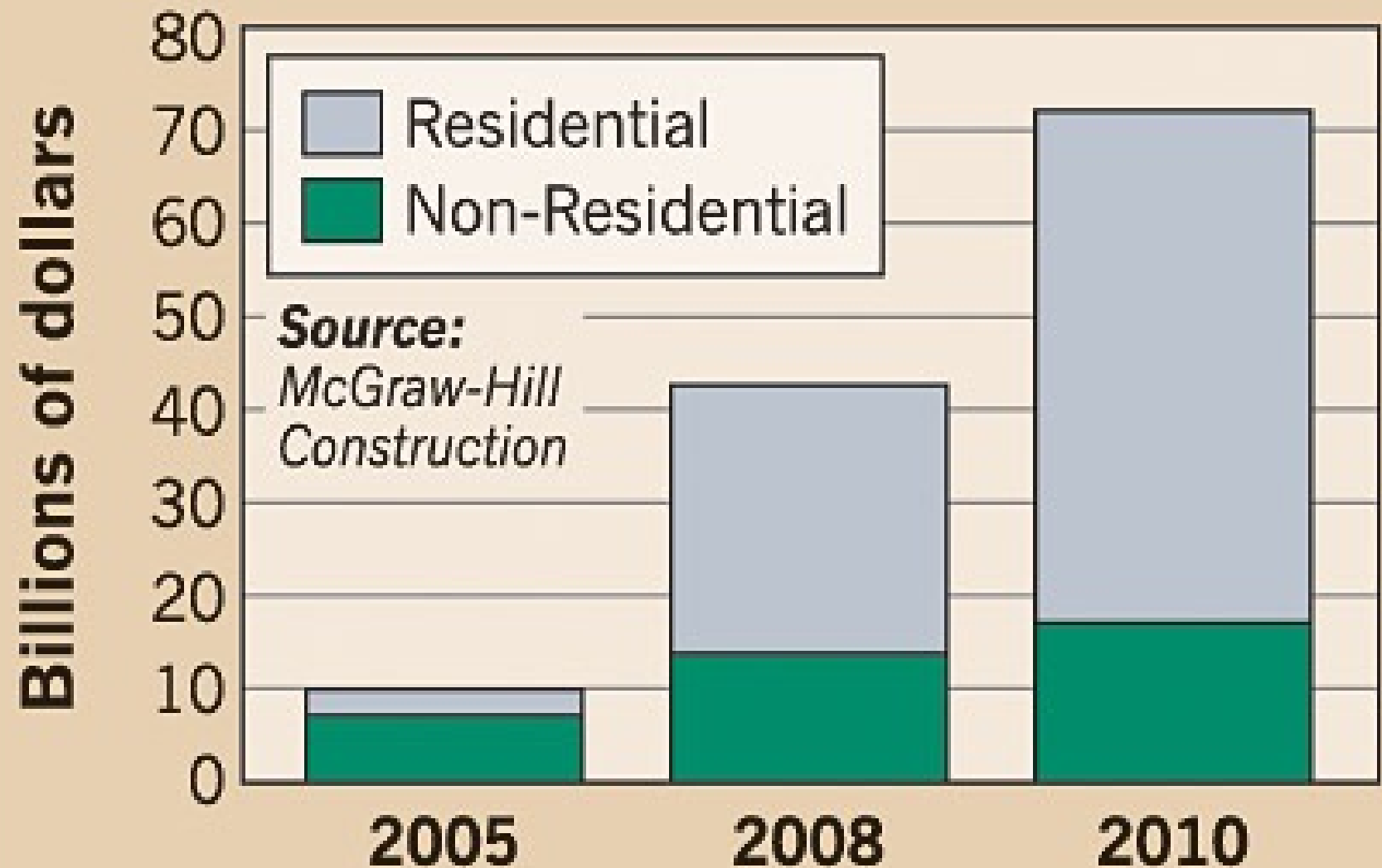
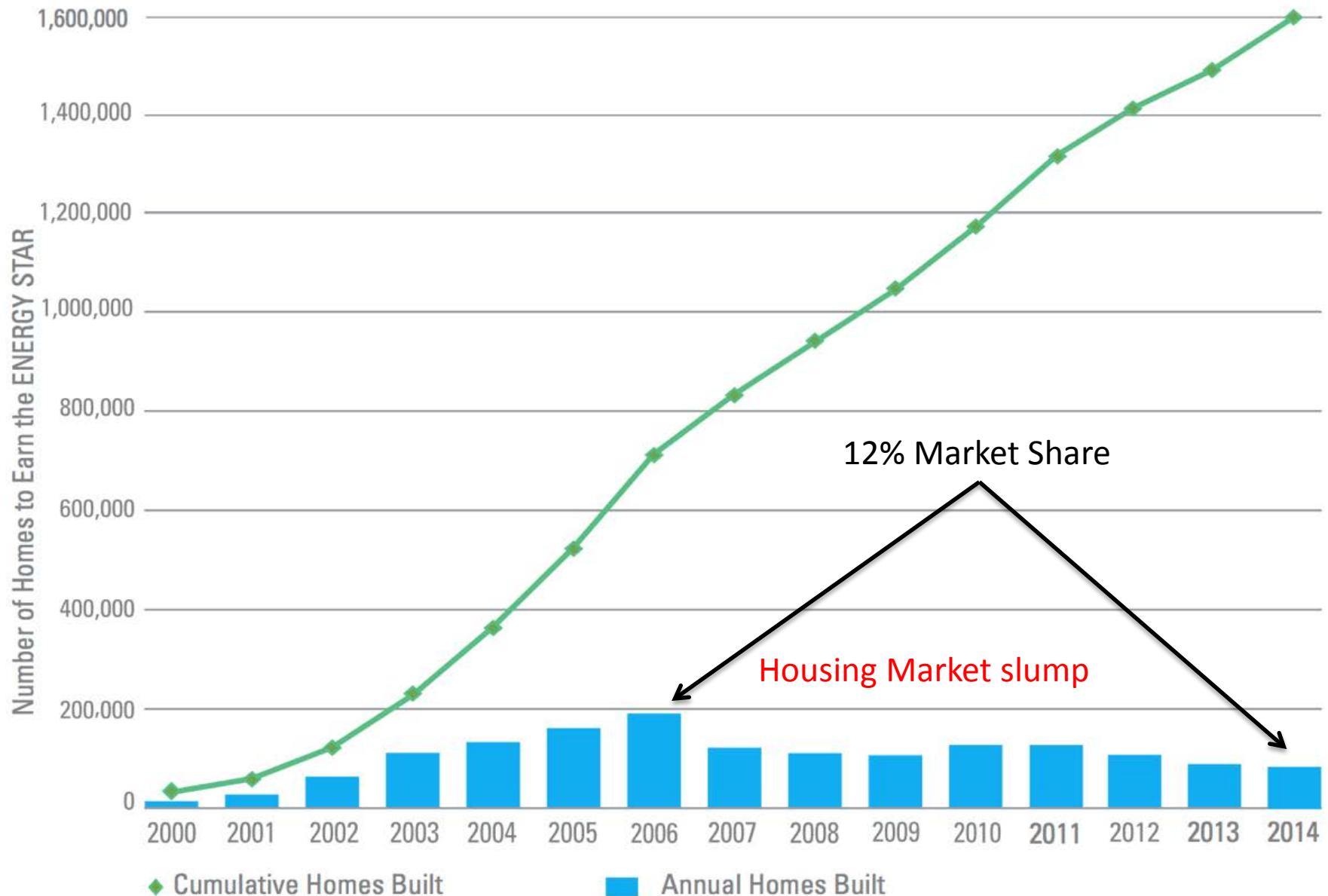


Fig. 3. Nearly 1.6 Million Homes Nationwide Have Earned the ENERGY STAR Label



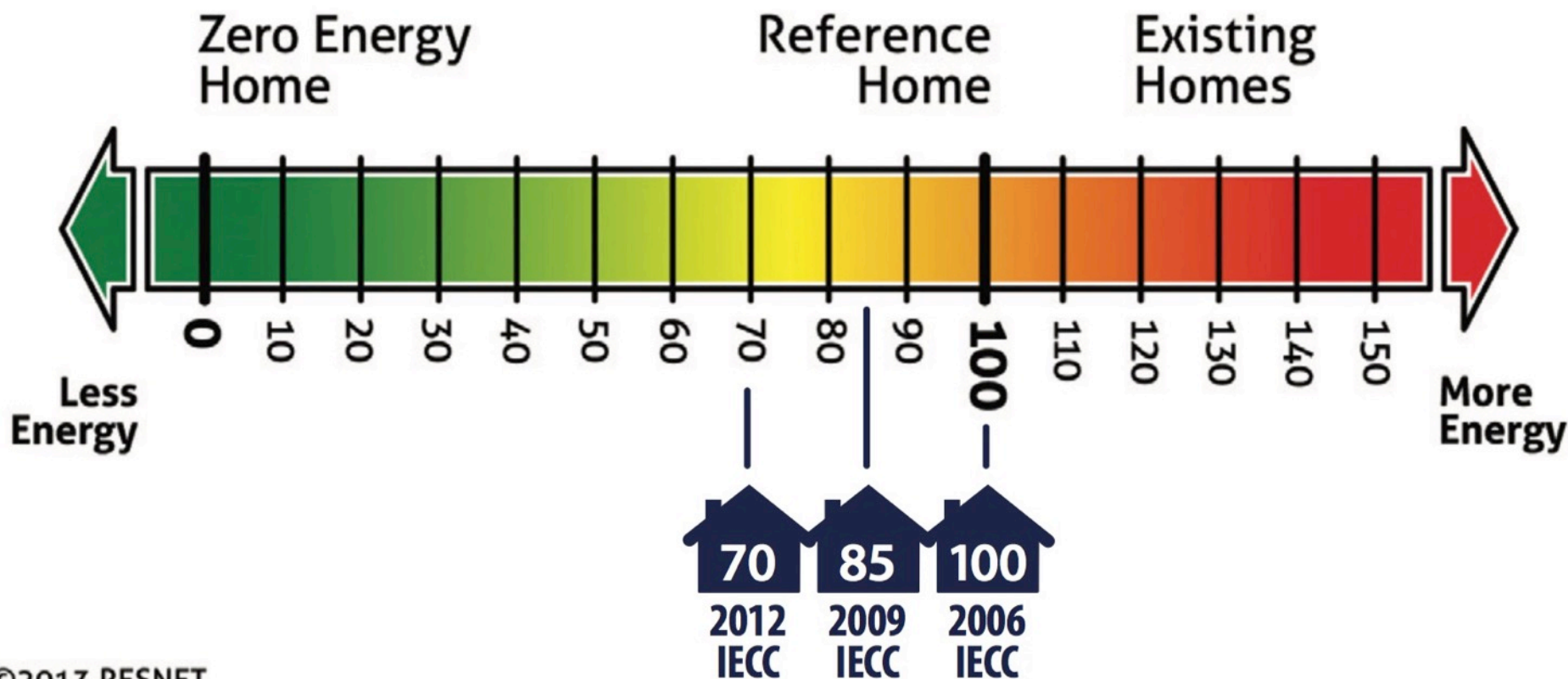
Modern Housing Trends

2. Home Energy Efficiency Is Being Measured



It's official: ANSI/RESNET Standard 301-2014

HERS® Index





1,735,669

TOTAL Number of HERS-rated Homes to Date

Number of homes
HERS-rated in 2015

190,180

30% increase
from 2014



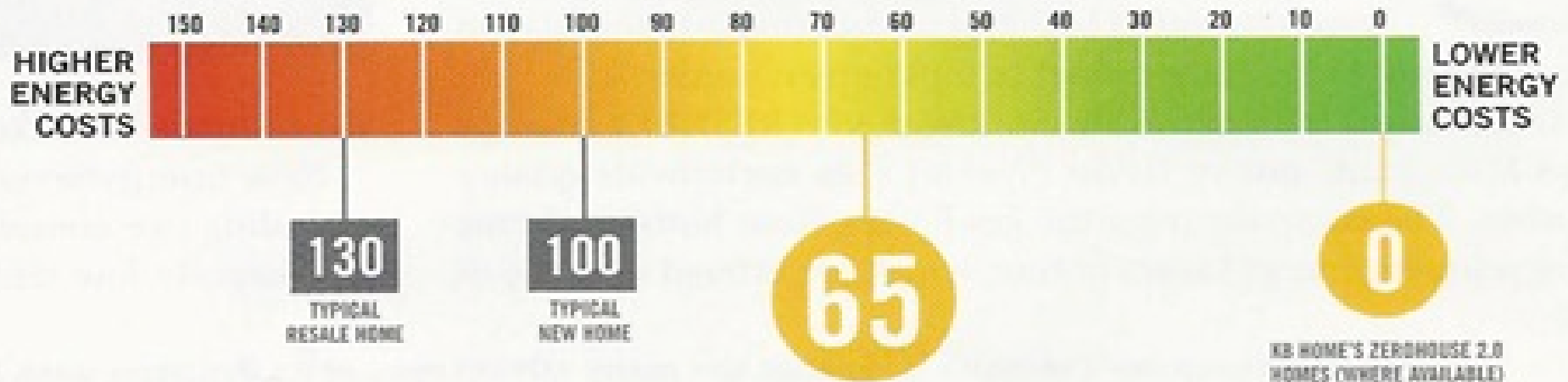
NEW HOMES
sold in the US
are HERS-rated

Builders use it ...

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN AVERAGE HERS INDEX SCORE



RESNET HOME ENERGY RATINGS INDEX



HERS Scores keep improving ...



Average HERS® Index
Score for 2015



More energy efficient
than in 2006



More energy efficient
than in the 1970s

Modern Housing Trends

3. Homes are Getting Tighter





Residential Diagnostics Database

[OBJECTIVES](#)

[ENVELOPE LEAKAGE](#)

[DUCT LEAKAGE](#)

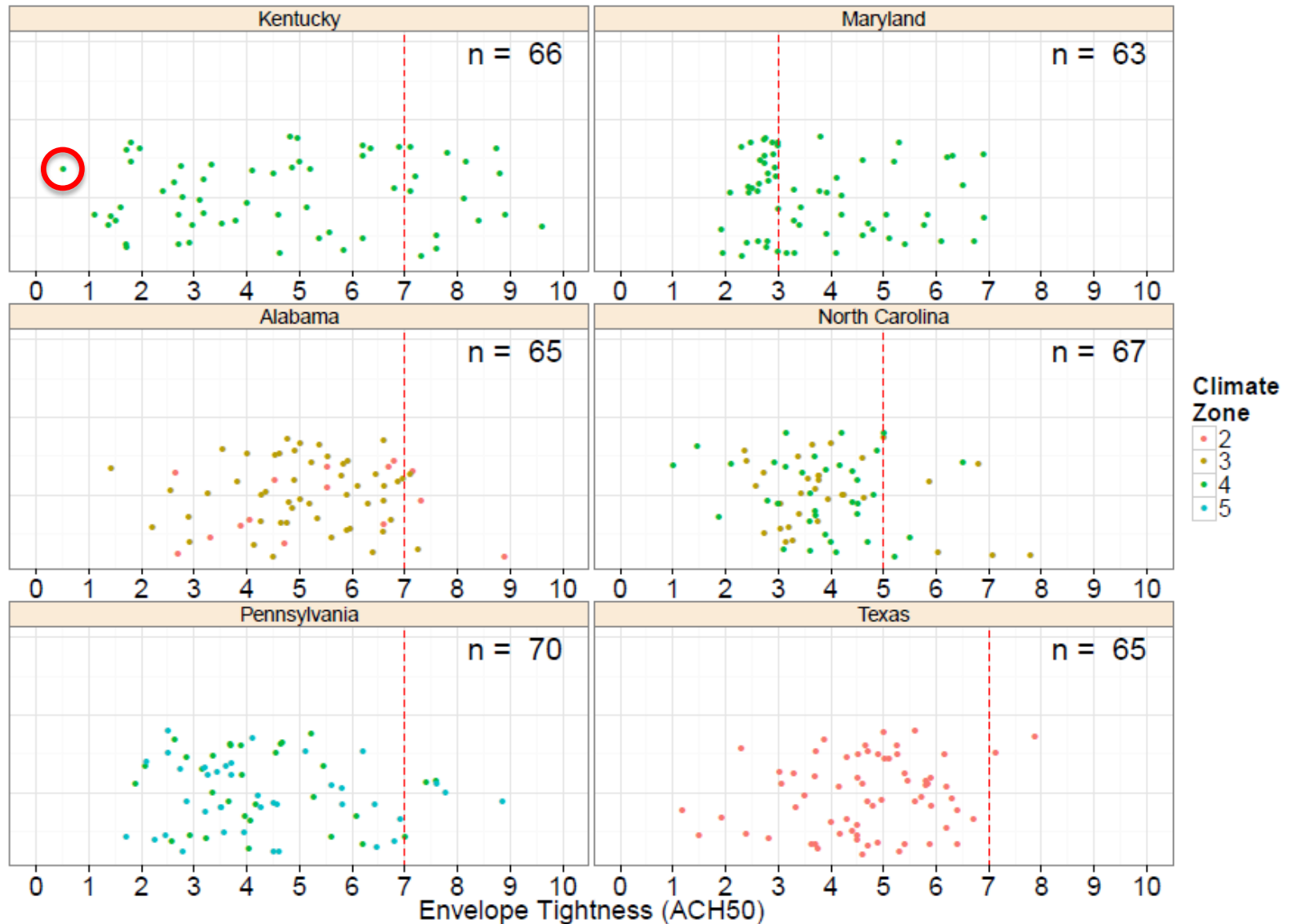
[CONTACT US](#)

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS](#)

CONCLUSIONS:

- Mean air-leakage of U.S. homes **>10 ACH50 (147,000 house measurements)**
- Post-2000 homes have **half** the air-leakage of Pre-1960 homes
- Rated homes (e.g., HERS) have air-leakage **30% lower** than typical homes

Envelope Tightness (from DOE Code Study)



The Next Housing Trend

4. Building Science



The Next Housing Trend

4. Building Engineering

(based on building science!)



Building America's Top 3 Building Science Challenges for High Performance Homes:



Solutions for New and Existing Homes with ...

1. Moisture Managed High-R Envelopes

- Less Likely to Get/Stay Wet

High performance homes with increased insulation, reduced infiltration, reduced risk of condensation, & adequate drying potential inside building assemblies

2. Optimized Low-Load Comfort Solutions

- Effectively Manage Airflow & Indoor RH for Comfort

High efficiency comfort systems for homes with low thermal loads, including optimal efficiency, managed air flow and RH control at all part load conditions

3. Smarter Indoor Air Quality Solutions

- Control Fresh Air Supply & Contaminant Removal

Added tightness with improved source control, dilution, and high efficiency filtration, with little or no energy penalty

Smarter, Healthier Homes



Live better.



Work better.



Last better.

Brought to you by a

Smarter, Healthier Housing Industry

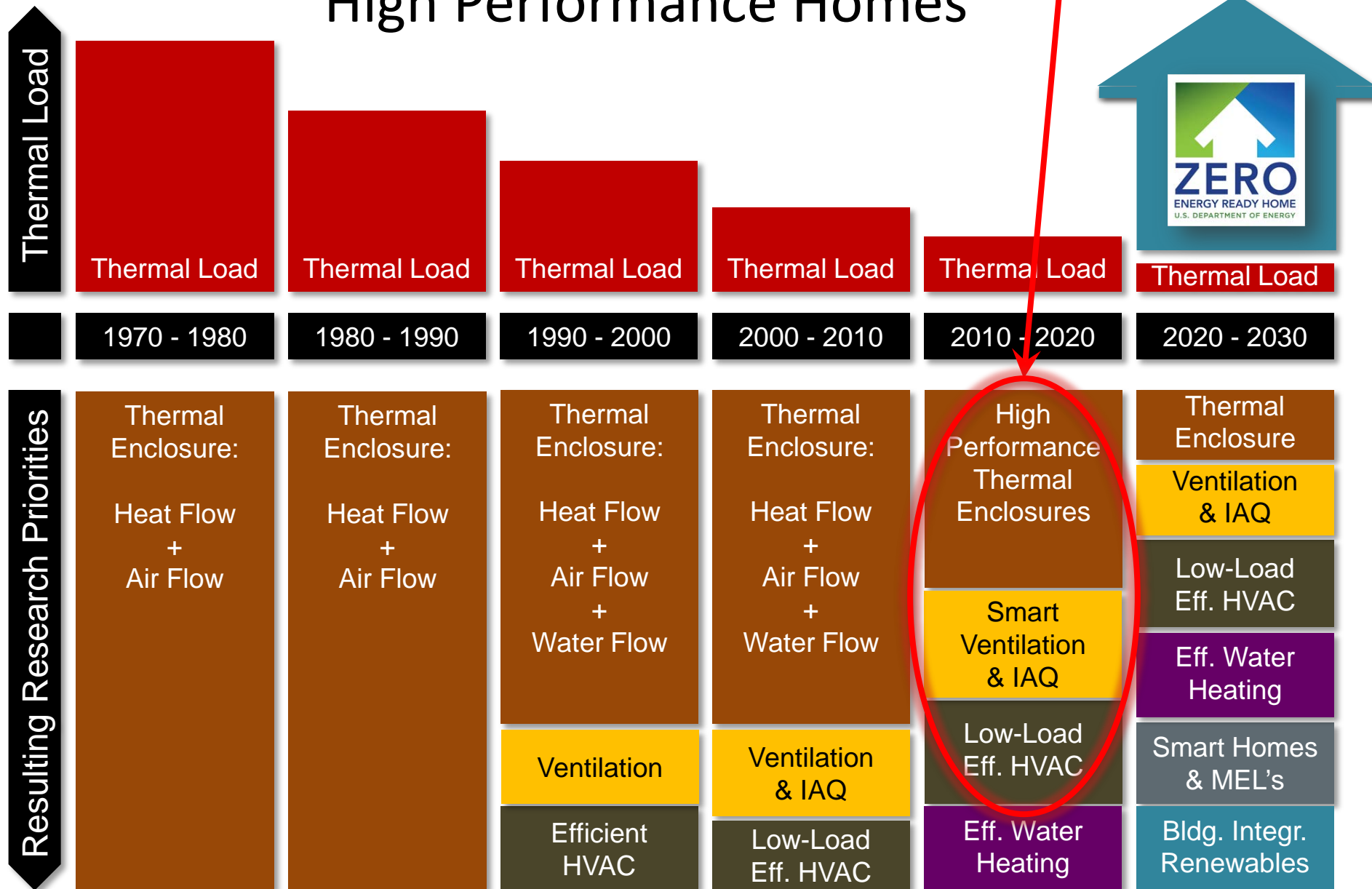
Brought to you by



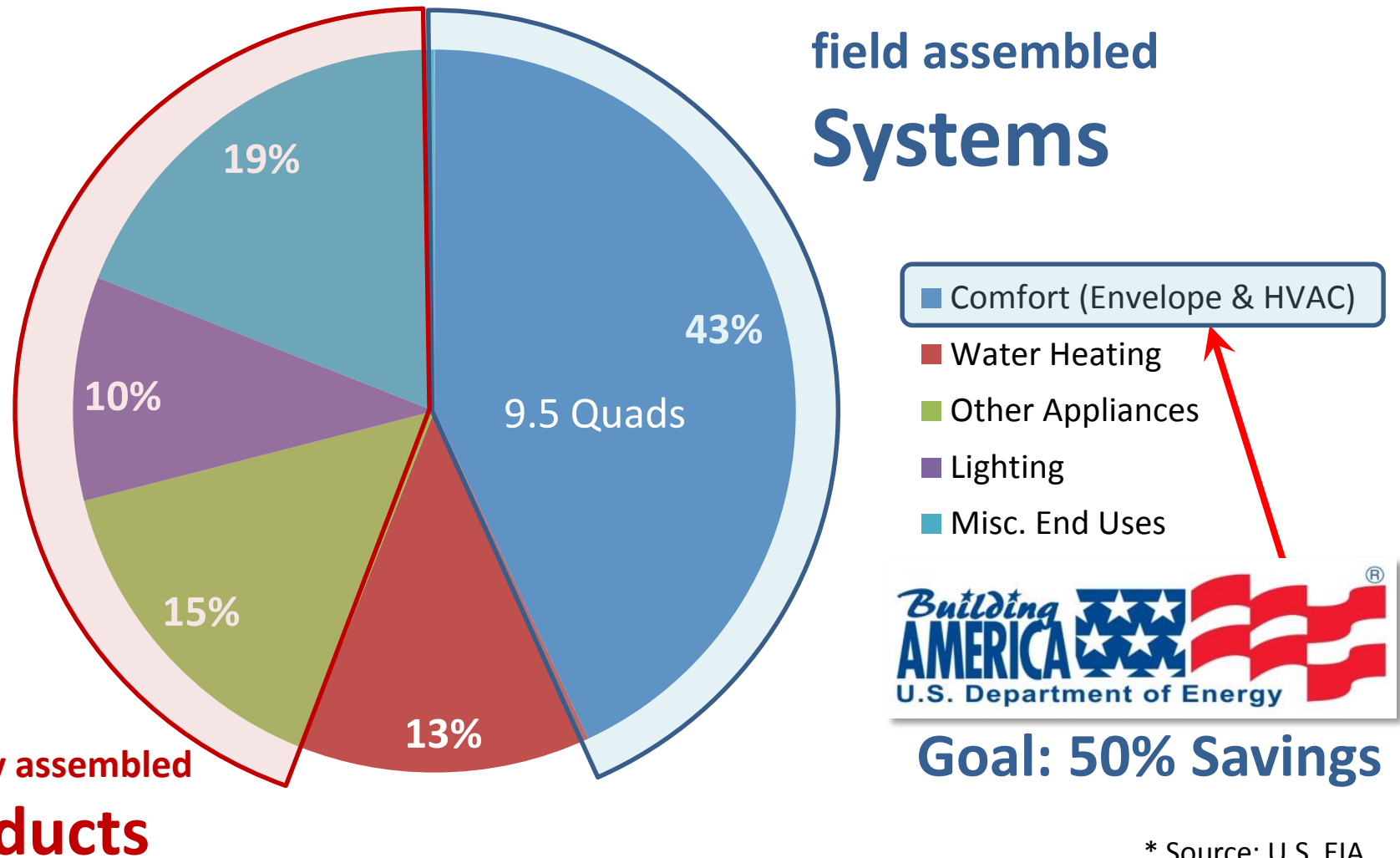
U.S. DOE Building America Research to Market Plan



Building America's Top 3 Challenges for High Performance Homes



U.S. Residential Buildings Primary Energy Consumption (22 Quads)*



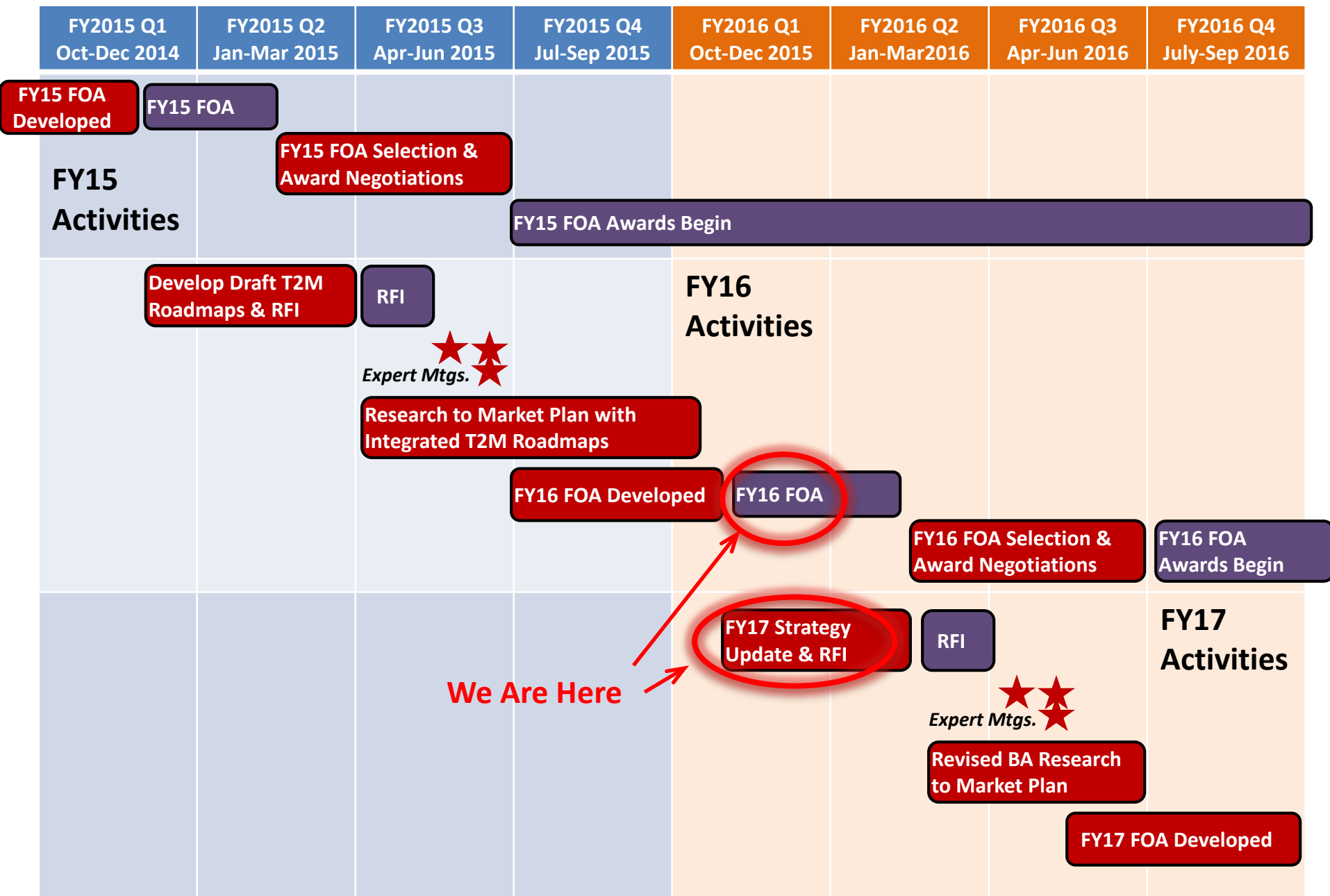
* Source: U.S. EIA

Now available for your
reading pleasure!


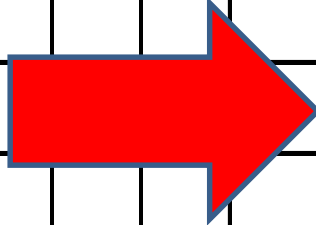
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Building America FY15-17 Planning Timeline



Building America Planned 3-Year FOA Schedule (subject to appropriations)

FY2015				FY2016				FY2017				FY2018				FY2019					
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
				FY15 FOA Award #1																	
				FY15 FOA Award #1																	
				FY15 FOA Award #2, etc.																	
				FOA16				FY16 FOA Award #1													
								FY16 FOA Award #2													
								FY16 FOA Award #3, etc.													
								FOA17				FY17 FOA Award #1									
												FY17 FOA Award #2									
												FY17 FOA Award #3, etc.									

Building America Integrated Roadmaps

- A. High Performance, Moisture Managed Envelope Systems
- B. Optimal Comfort Systems for Low Load Homes
- C. Optimal Ventilation Systems and IAQ Solutions for Low Load Homes

Overall Roadmap Objectives:

- Standard Practice as endpoints
- Manage risks to minimize problems of adoption
- Address optimal performance & cost-effectiveness
- Solutions must be practical & profitable for builders and home improvement contractors

KEY:

Research &
Development

Market
Engagement

Codes & Standards

DOE lead

Industry lead

A. Moisture Managed High Performance Envelopes



A. High Performance Moisture Managed Envelopes

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Moisture Risk Management	Moisture Managed Guidance/Tools & Best Practice Specs for priority High-R Envelope Systems in each climate				
	Lab and Field Moisture Risk Assessment of priority High-R Assemblies & Materials				
	Moisture Risk Assessment & Modeling Standards (e.g., ASHRAE 160)				
High Performance Envelope Solutions	Validate/Demonstrate High Performance Envelope Specs in Real World Test Homes				
	Specs in Voluntary Program Standards (ZERH, Energy Star & HPwES)		Moisture Managed High-R Envelopes addressed in 2021 IECC and IRC		

A. High Performance Moisture Managed Envelopes

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The Perfect Wall

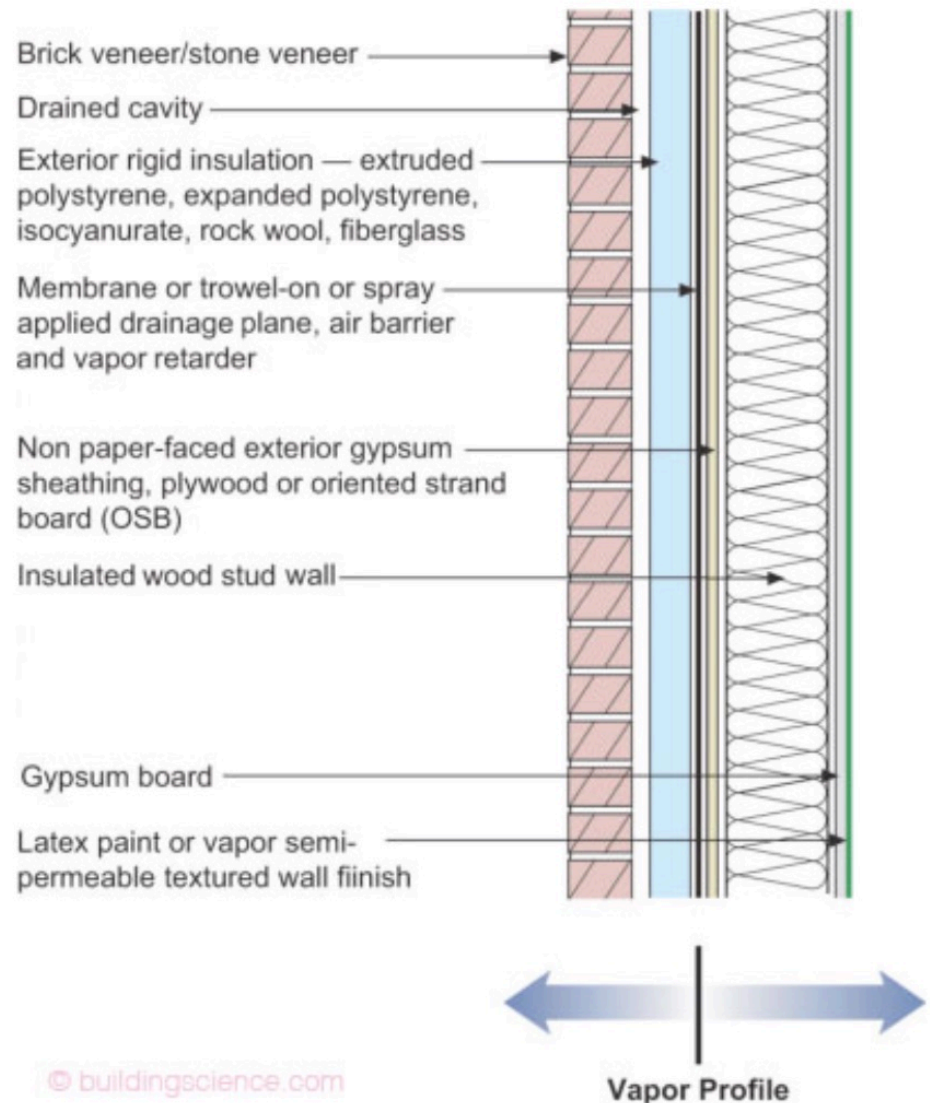
4 control layers:

- rain control
- air control
- vapor control
- thermal control



“The Residential Wall”

The best residential wall we know how to construct. Not cheap. Works almost everywhere – except in extreme cold climates where we would not insulate within the wood structural frame.



But nobody's Perfect, right?

(except maybe Joe)

- What if you leave out a control layer (or combine control layers)?
- What if a control layer is on the wrong side?
- What if installation is not perfect?
- What if people move in and start taking showers?

It gets complicated...



Maybe we need Expert advice?

Wouldn't it be
great if ...
**there was an
App ...**



**with an expert
inside?!**



A. High Performance Moisture Managed Envelopes

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Moisture Risk Management	Moisture Managed Guidance/Tools & Best Practice Specs for priority High-R Envelope Systems in each climate				
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Why Moisture Management?

Why Now?

1. Innovative building materials (gypsum board, OSB) have changed how envelopes behave
2. Proliferation of central air conditioning has changed the thermal conditions inside homes
3. Houses are getting tighter with more insulation

Moisture Risk Management

- Fear of greater moisture risk due to uncertainty about moisture & drying
- Moisture problems are costly
- Many variables affect these risks
- Some variables are outside our control ...



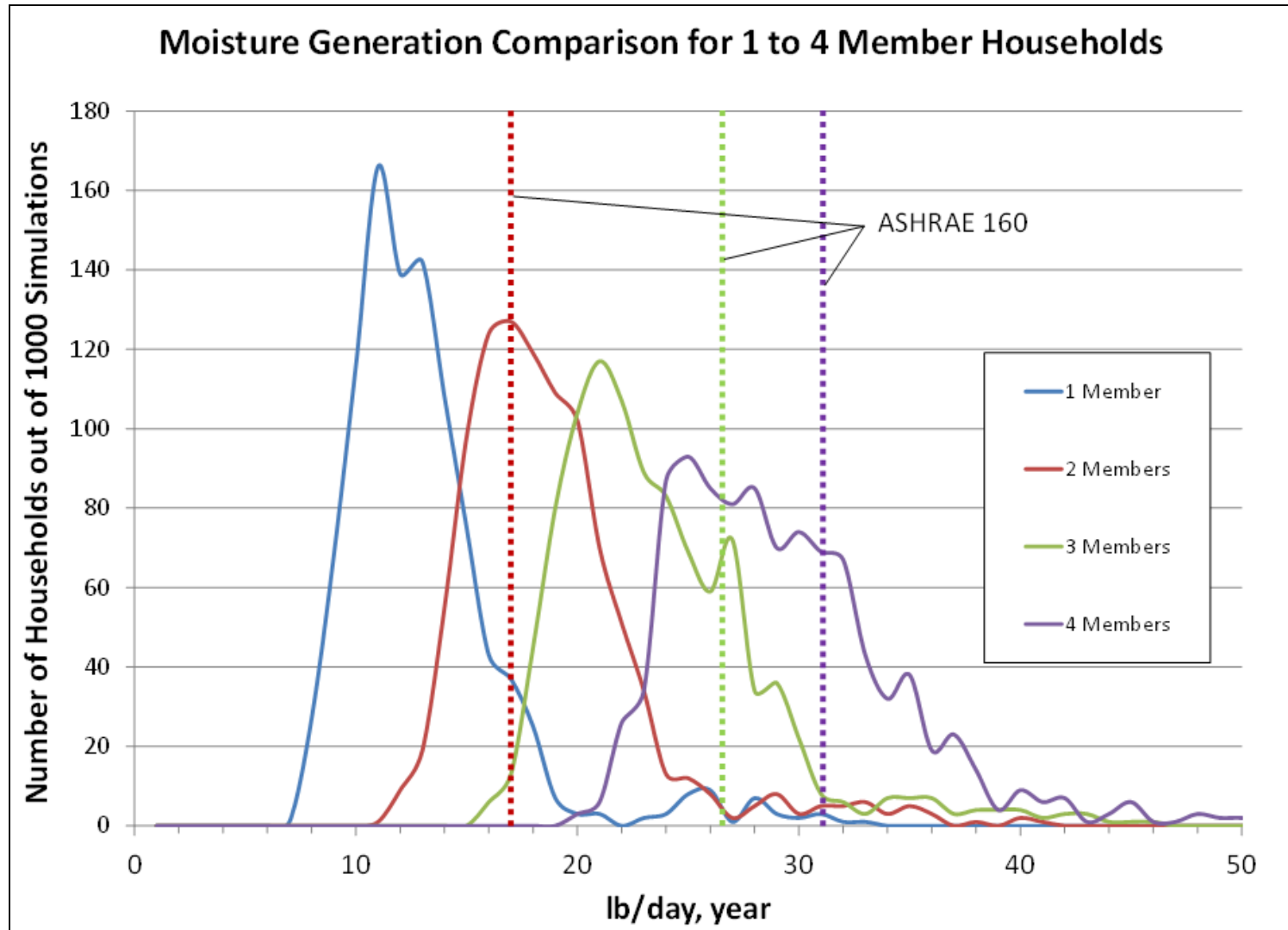
PAGE	12	Business
A12 The Olympian	13	
EDITOR: FRIEDA BUSH (news@theolympian.com); 754-5403		
MARKETS IN BRIEF	W [REDACTED] makes offer in defective siding lawsuit	
10/27/10 50.61 DOW		
3956.42 23.87		

Moisture Management Design Parameters

- **Moisture Loads:**
 - Climate
 - Bulk water leakage
 - Internal building moisture loads (people!)
 - Initial construction moisture

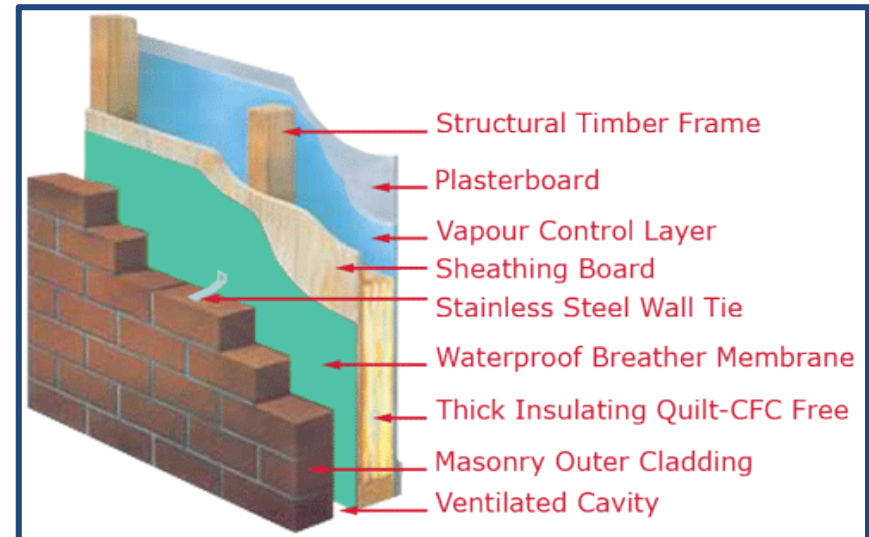


Probabilistic distribution of interior moisture sources



Moisture Management Design Parameters

- **Envelope Design:**
 - Air tightness
 - Interior vapor control
 - Insulation permeance
 - Water resistive barrier permeance
 - Exterior sheathing permeance
 - Cladding type and color

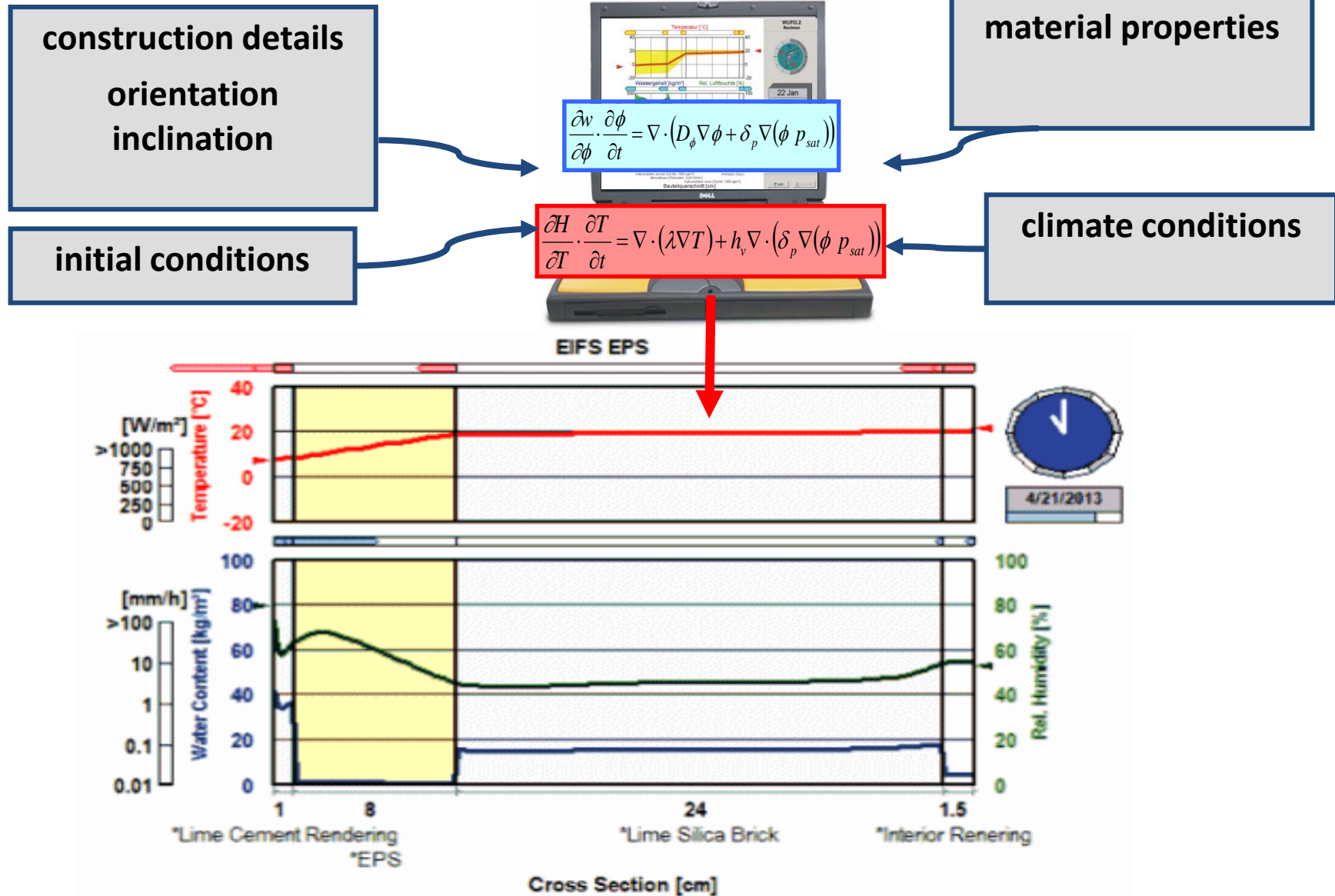


Lab and Field Moisture Assessment

- Test parameters that impact moisture durability
- Examine effects of moisture sources, including air leakage, through a combination of simulations and laboratory tests
- Calibrate hygrothermal simulation tool (WUFI) to better model the effects of air leakage in wall assemblies
- Calibrate model with laboratory and field tests



Modeling software modified...



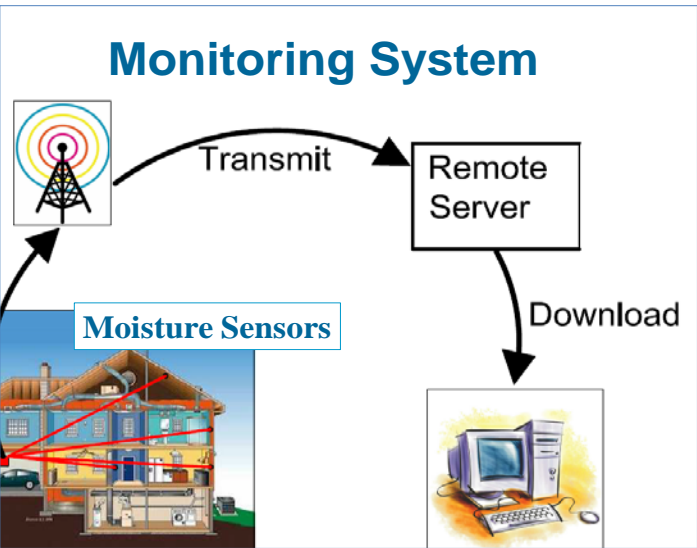


Building America Field Testing Project

Moisture Performance of High-R Wall Systems



Moisture Performance of High-R Wall Systems



Summary

Home Innovation will monitor and analyze the moisture performance of High-R wall systems across various climate zones. The research will address concerns and develop solutions related to long-term moisture performance in High-R walls.

Goals

1. Demonstrate moisture performance of well-designed high performance walls.
2. Identify wall systems with marginal performance and develop solutions that introduce an added factor of safety.
3. Develop a set of design criteria and code change proposals that ensure durability of high performance walls.

TEAM

Vladimir Kochkin
Nay Shah

Team: Home Innovation
Research Labs

Partners: American Chemistry
Council, NAHB, USDA Forest
Products Lab, VSI

Impact

Removing barriers to the adoption of High-R wall systems for low-load homes by providing new design guidance, code requirements and specific durable wall solutions

Key Idea/Takeaway

1. Increase the adoption of High-R walls.
2. A library of data for durable wall systems.
3. Improved code provisions that are up to date with the latest High-R wall technologies.

Moisture Performance of High-R Wall Systems



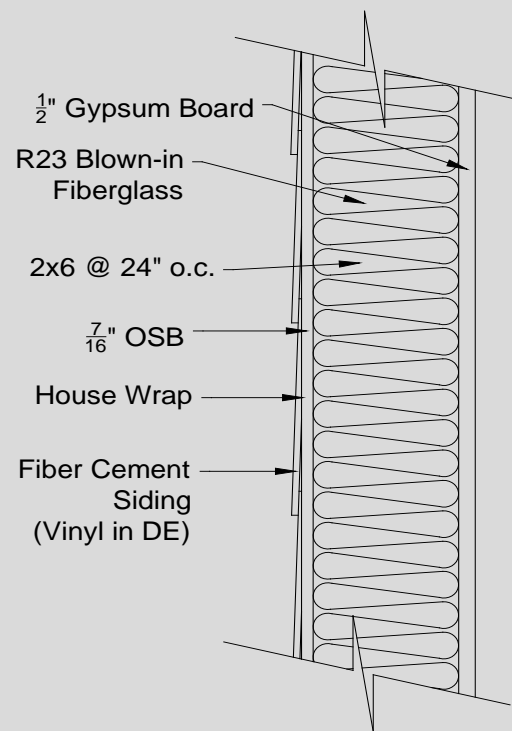
Completed Tasks

- Submission of draft Research Plan
- Submission of draft Field Measurement Method
- Established an Advisory Group (AG)
- Moisture sensor calibration study
- Announcement of the project at IBS

Next Steps

- Finalize prioritized library of wall systems by AG
- Share calibration data results
- Ramp up Builder Recruitment

Sensor Calibration on OSB

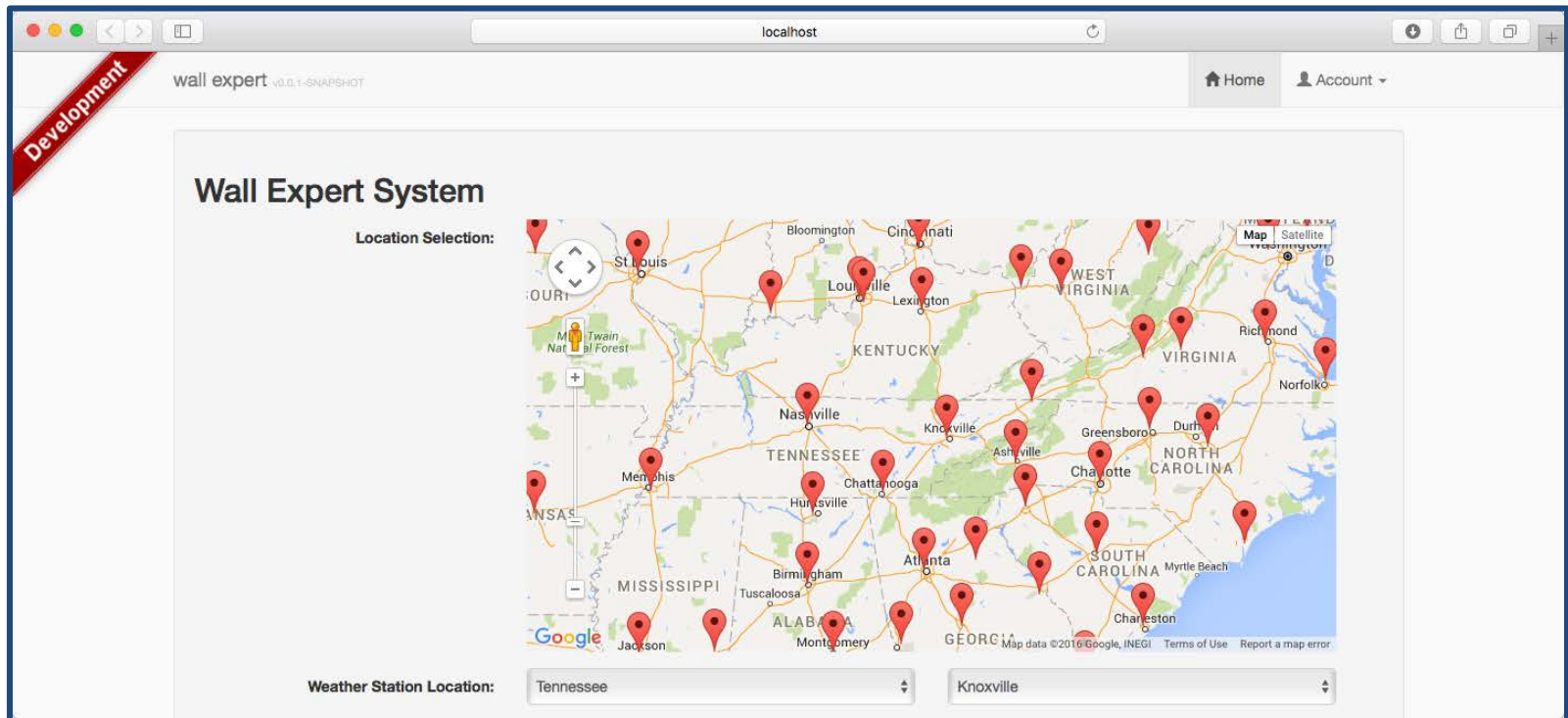


Wall Configuration

Building America Moisture Management Expert System CONCEPT

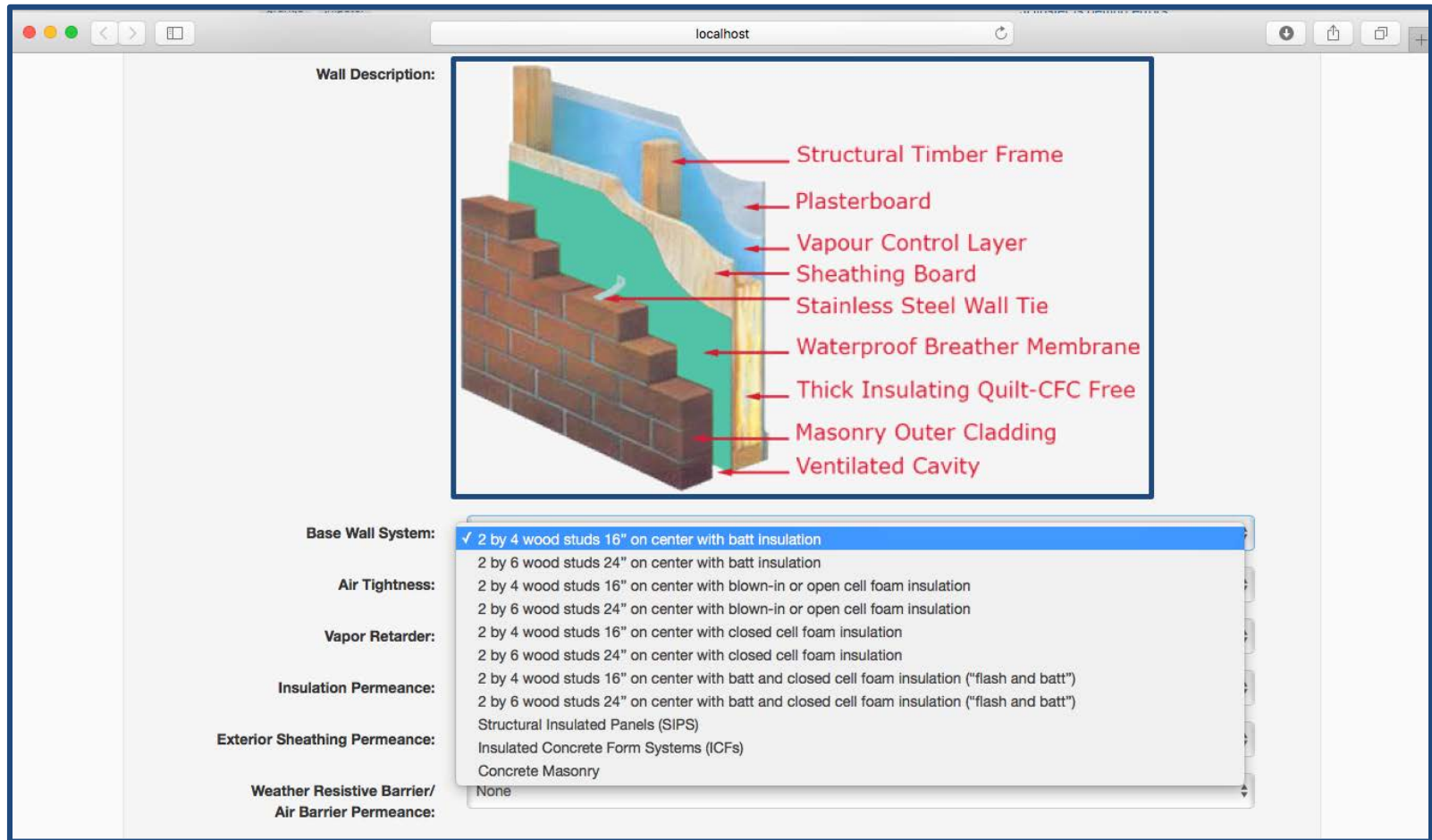


Proposed expert system development



- Select building location from map.

Proposed expert system development



- Select base wall system.

Proposed expert system development

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar set to 'localhost'. The page title is 'wall expert v0.0.1-SNAPSHOT'. A red diagonal banner in the top left corner reads 'Development'. The navigation bar includes 'Home' and 'Account' links. The main content area is titled 'Wall Expert System' and contains a form with the following fields:

- Weather Station Location:** Two dropdown menus for 'State' and 'City'.
- Base Wall System:** A dropdown menu showing '2 by 4 wood studs 16" on center with batt insulation'.
- Air Tightness:** A dropdown menu showing 'Very Leaky'.
- Vapor Retarder:** A dropdown menu showing 'Class I (< .1 perms)'.
- Insulation Permeance:** A dropdown menu showing 'High'.
- Exterior Sheathing Permeance:** A dropdown menu showing 'None'.
- Weather Resistive Barrier/ Air Barrier Permeance:** A dropdown menu showing 'None'.
- Cladding Type:** A dropdown menu showing 'Water Absorptive'.
- Color:** A dropdown menu showing 'Light'.

At the bottom of the page, there is copyright information: '© 2015 Oak Ridge National Laboratory', a link to 'Security & Privacy Notice', and a note: 'To report issues with the site please contact [site administrator](#)'.

- Answer questions about wall components

Proposed expert system development

- **Ongoing tasks**

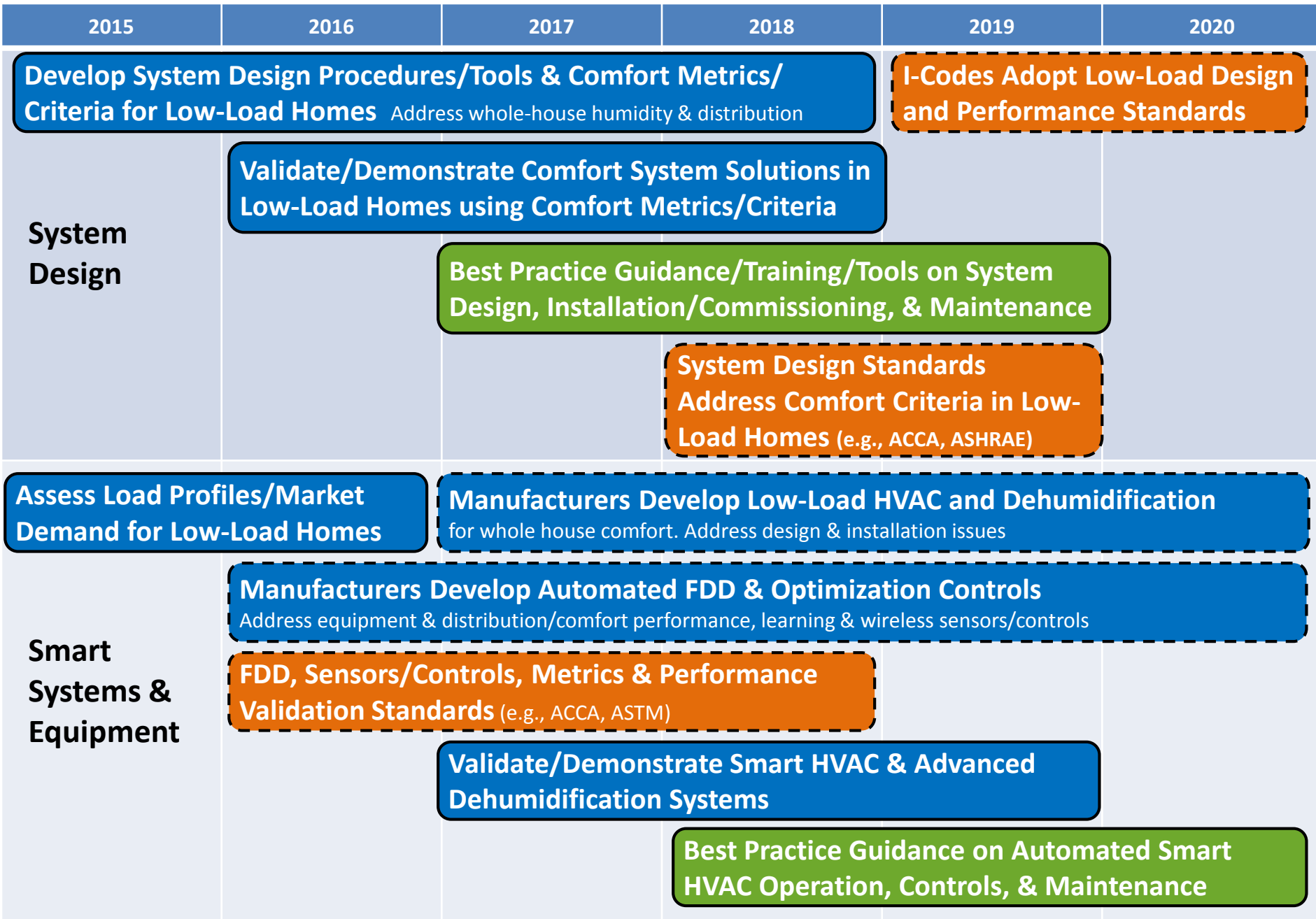
- Add “help” menu for wall component selections
- Complete “results” page
- Develop list of wall systems that are known to perform well (expert meeting planned for April 2016)
- Develop wall system graphics
- Continue to develop database of simulation results

- **Beta version ready in late 2016**

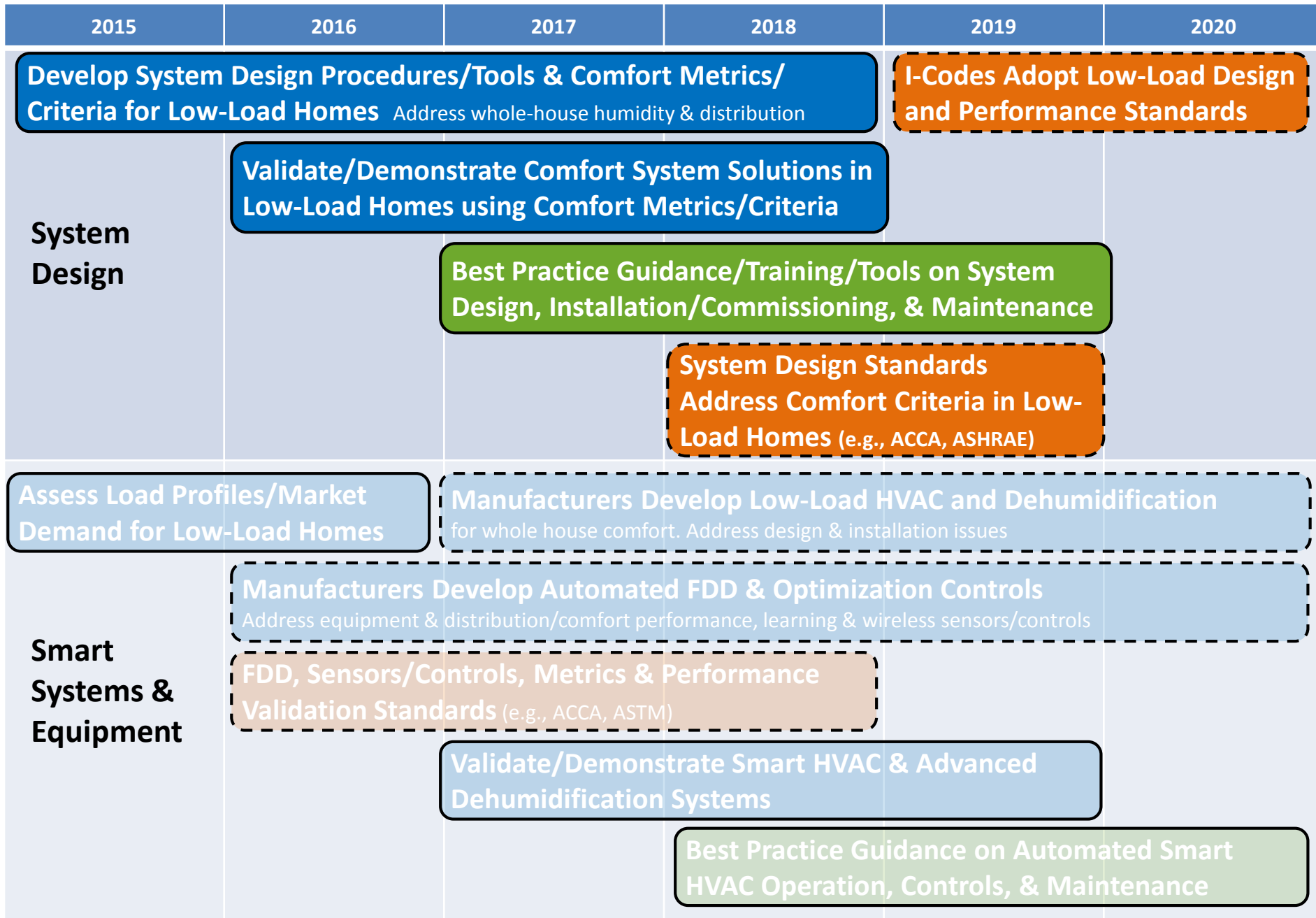
B. Optimal Comfort for Low-Load Homes



B. Optimal Comfort Systems for Low-Load Homes



B. Optimal Comfort Systems for Low-Load Homes



HVAC Loads Are Changing

Legacy Practice

- Ducts in attic
- Code thermal enclosure
- Only limited exhaust ventilation included
- Standard appliances and lighting

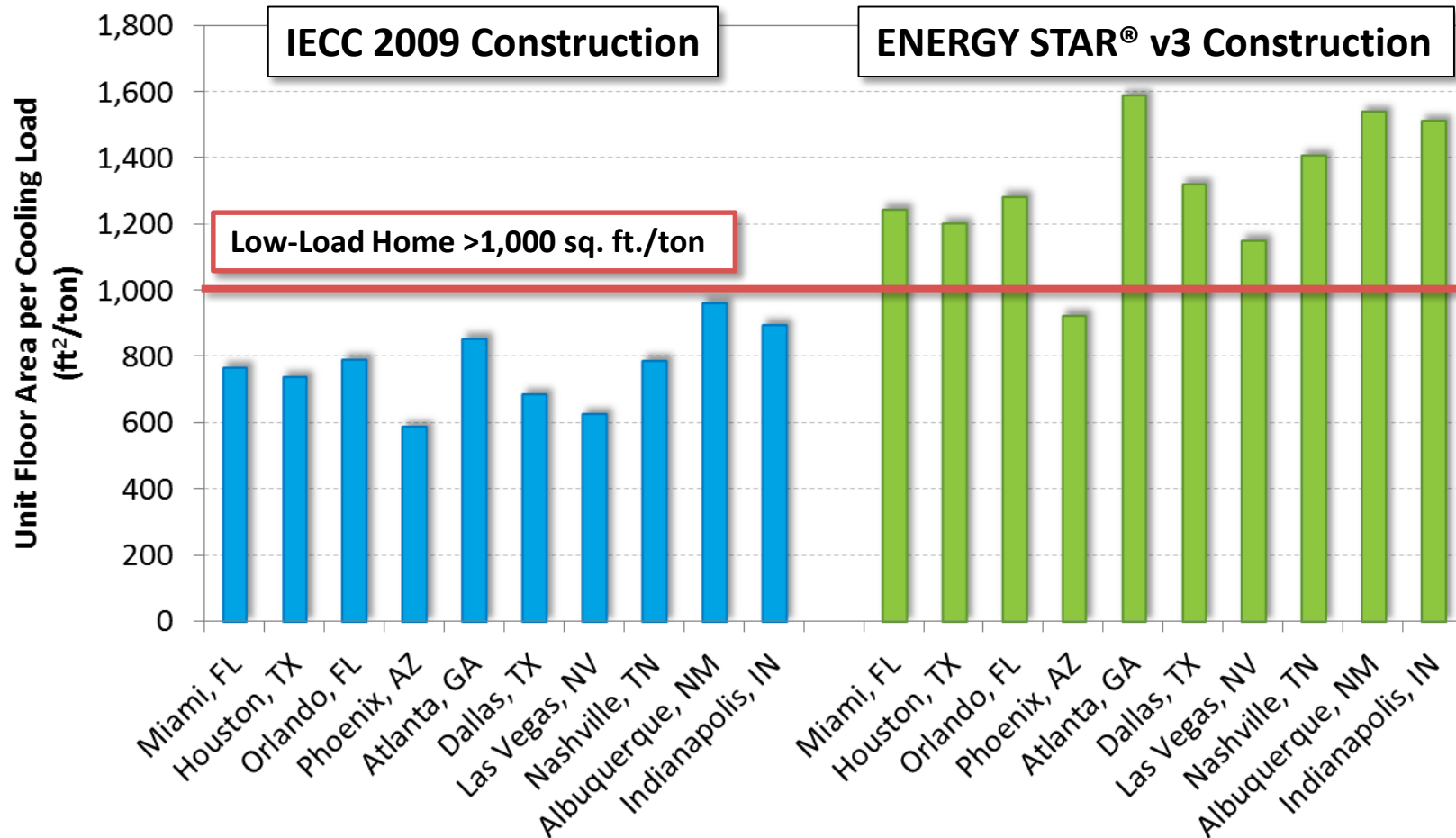
400 → 1,000 sq. ft. per ton of cooling

High Performance Homes

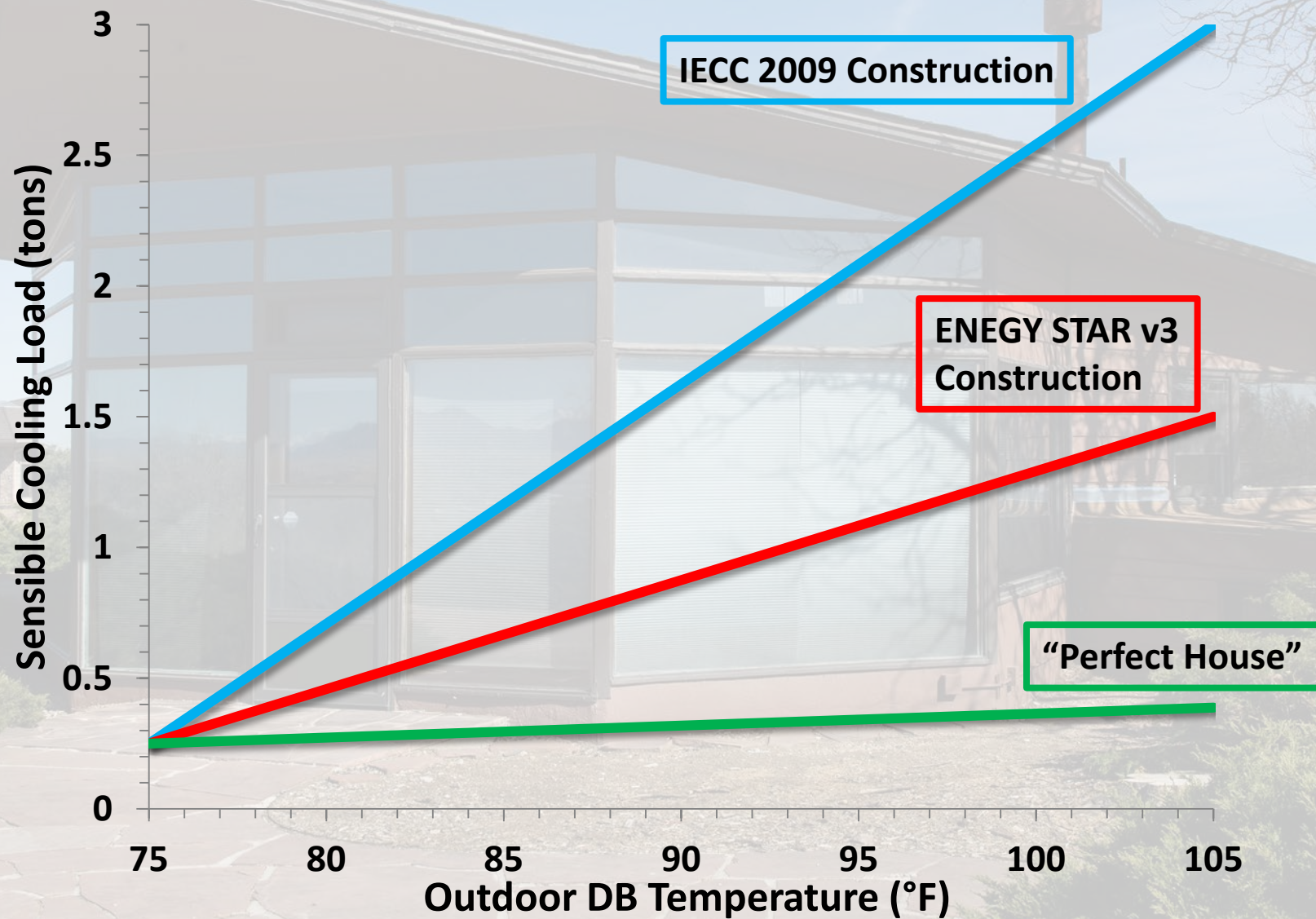
- Ducts in conditioned space
- High-R thermal enclosure
- Air tight construction requires mechanical ventilation
- ENERGY STAR appliances and lighting

1,200 → 2,000 sq. ft. per ton of cooling

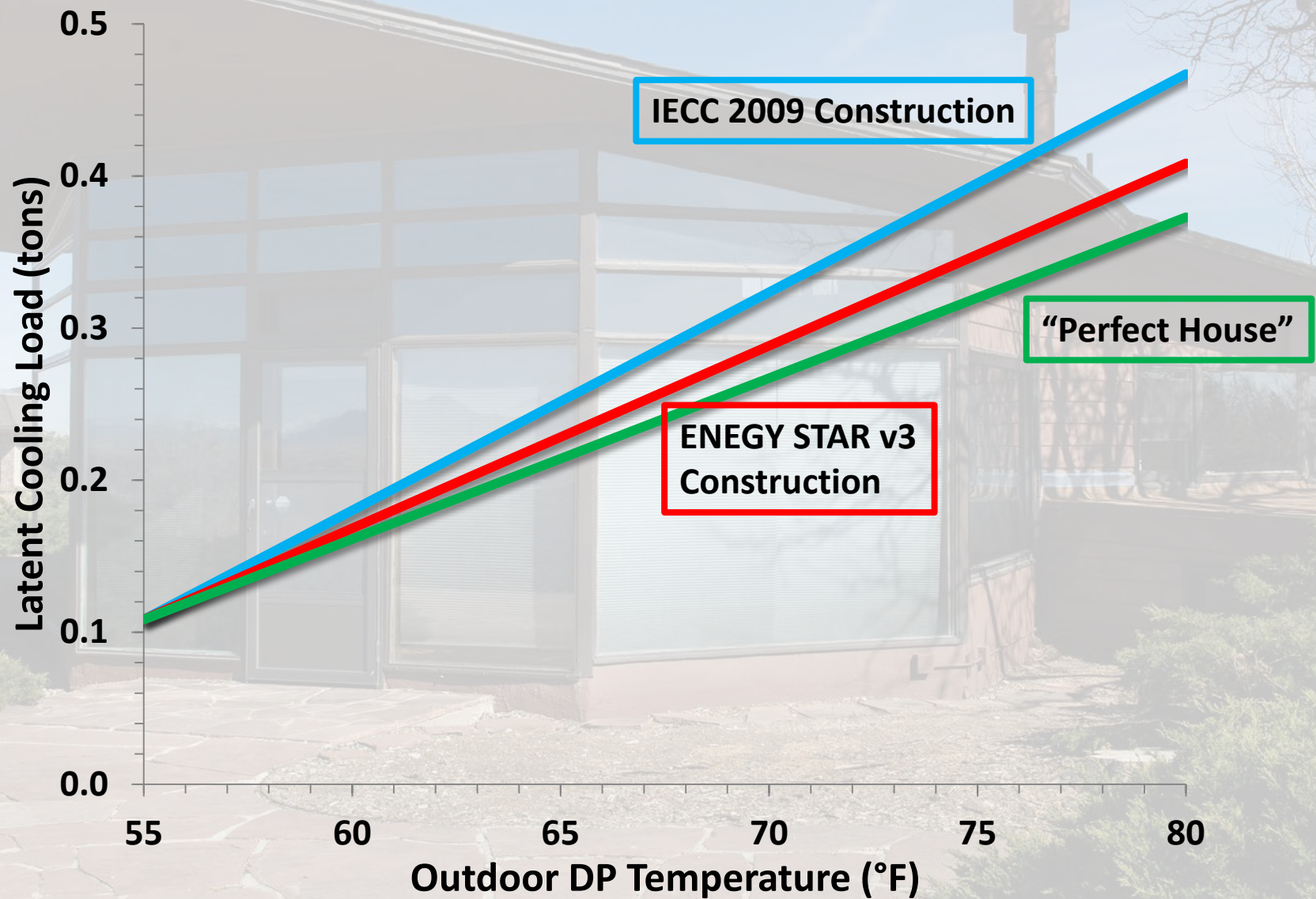
Normalized Cooling Loads



Low-Load Homes Behave Differently



Low-Load Homes Behave Differently

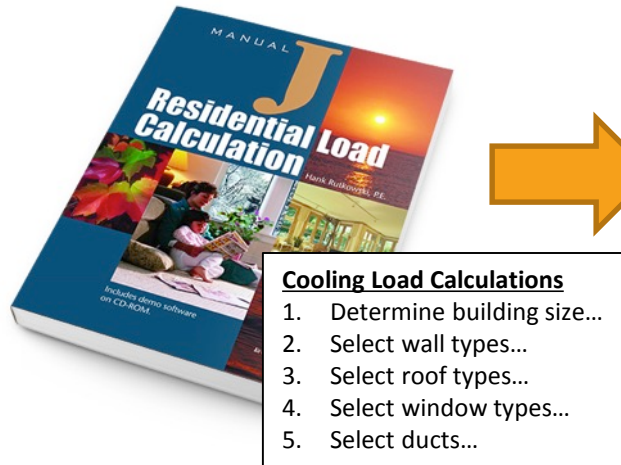


Comfort Issues to Address in Low-Load Homes

- **Part-load cooling humidity control**
 - Conventional equipment operation and selection procedures limit latent capacity
- **Room air flow and mixing**
 - Lower room sensible loads require less delivered air
- **Temperature non-uniformity**
 - Low-load homes can have large variation in room cooling loads due to local solar and internal gains
 - Single thermostat results in over- and under-conditioning of spaces

Selecting Dehumidification Equipment

Calculate building loads
using 1% DB temperature



Select the equipment

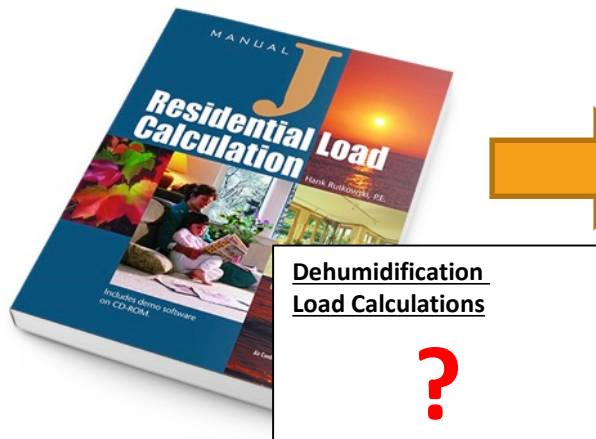
COOLING CAPACITY - XP14-024 with

Entering Wet Bulb Temperature	Total Air Volume	Total Cooling Capacity	85°F (29°C)		Sensible To Total Ratio (S/T)			Total Cooling Capacity		Outdoor 95°F (35°C)	
			Comp Motor kW Input	75°F 24°C	80°F 27°C	85°F 29°C	kBtuh	kW	Comp Motor kW Input	75°F 24°C	Sensible Ratio
63°F (17°C)	670	315	23.4	6.9	1.35	75	89	1.00	22.2	6.5	1.54
	820	385	24.4	7.2	1.36	80	96	1.00	23.2	6.8	1.55
	820	385	24.4	7.2	1.36	80	96	1.00	23.2	6.8	1.55
67°F (19°C)	670	315	24.8	7.3	1.36	59	72	85	23.6	6.9	1.55
	820	385	25.8	7.6	1.36	62	78	92	24.6	7.2	1.56
	820	385	25.8	7.6	1.36	62	78	92	24.6	7.2	1.56
71°F (22°C)	670	315	26.2	7.7	1.37	45	56	70	24.9	7.3	1.56
	820	385	27.2	8.0	1.37	46	61	75	25.8	7.6	1.57
	820	385	27.2	8.0	1.37	46	61	75	25.8	7.6	1.57

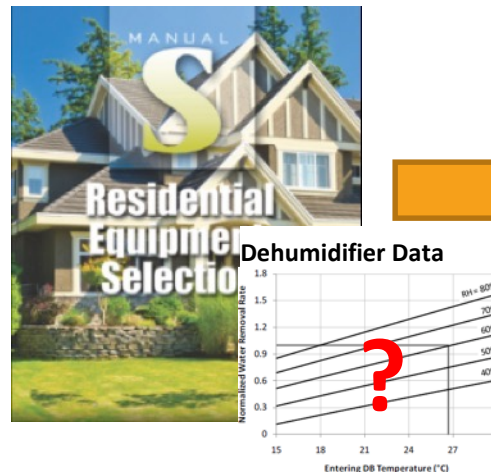
Install the equipment



Calculate building loads
using ?% DP temperature



Select the equipment

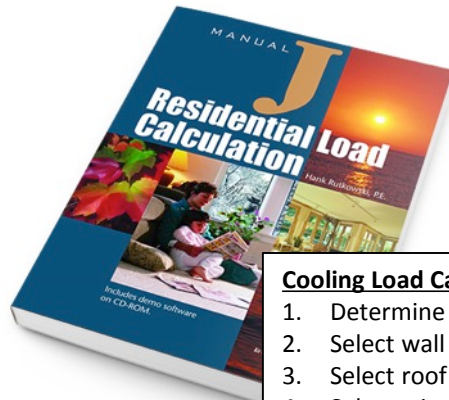


Install the equipment



Selecting Dehumidification Equipment

Calculate building loads using 1% DB temperature



Cooling Load Calculations

1. Determine building size...
2. Select wall types...
3. Select roof types...
4. Select window types...
5. Select ducts...

Select the equipment

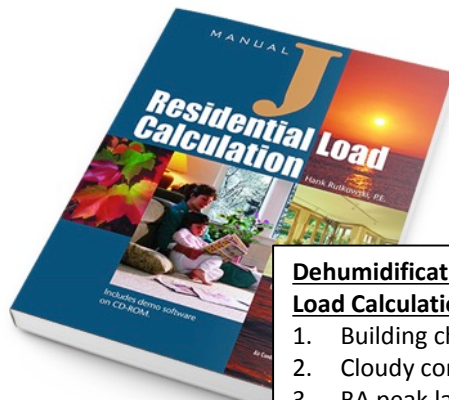


Entering Wet Bulb Temperature	Total Air Volume		85°F (29°C)				95°F (35°C)			
			Total Cooling Capacity		Sensible To Total Ratio (S/T)		Total Cooling Capacity		Sensible To Total Ratio (S/T)	
			cfm	L/s	kBtu/h	kW	75°F 24°C	80°F 27°C	85°F 29°C	75°F 24°C
63°F (17°C)	670	315	23.4	6.9	1.35	.75	.89	1.00	22.2	6.5
	820	385	24.4	7.2	1.36	.80	.96	1.00	23.2	6.8
	820	385	24.4	7.2	1.36	.80	.96	1.00	23.2	6.8
67°F (19°C)	670	315	24.8	7.3	1.36	.59	.72	.85	23.6	6.9
	820	385	25.8	7.6	1.36	.62	.78	.92	24.6	7.2
	820	385	25.8	7.6	1.36	.62	.78	.92	24.6	7.2
71°F (22°C)	670	315	26.2	7.7	1.37	.45	.56	.70	24.8	7.3
	820	385	27.2	8.0	1.37	.46	.61	.75	25.8	7.6
	820	385	27.2	8.0	1.37	.46	.61	.75	25.8	7.6

Install the equipment



Calculate building loads using 2% DP temperature



Dehumidification Load Calculations

1. Building characteristics...
2. Cloudy conditions...
3. BA peak latent internal gains...
4. Etc...

Select the equipment

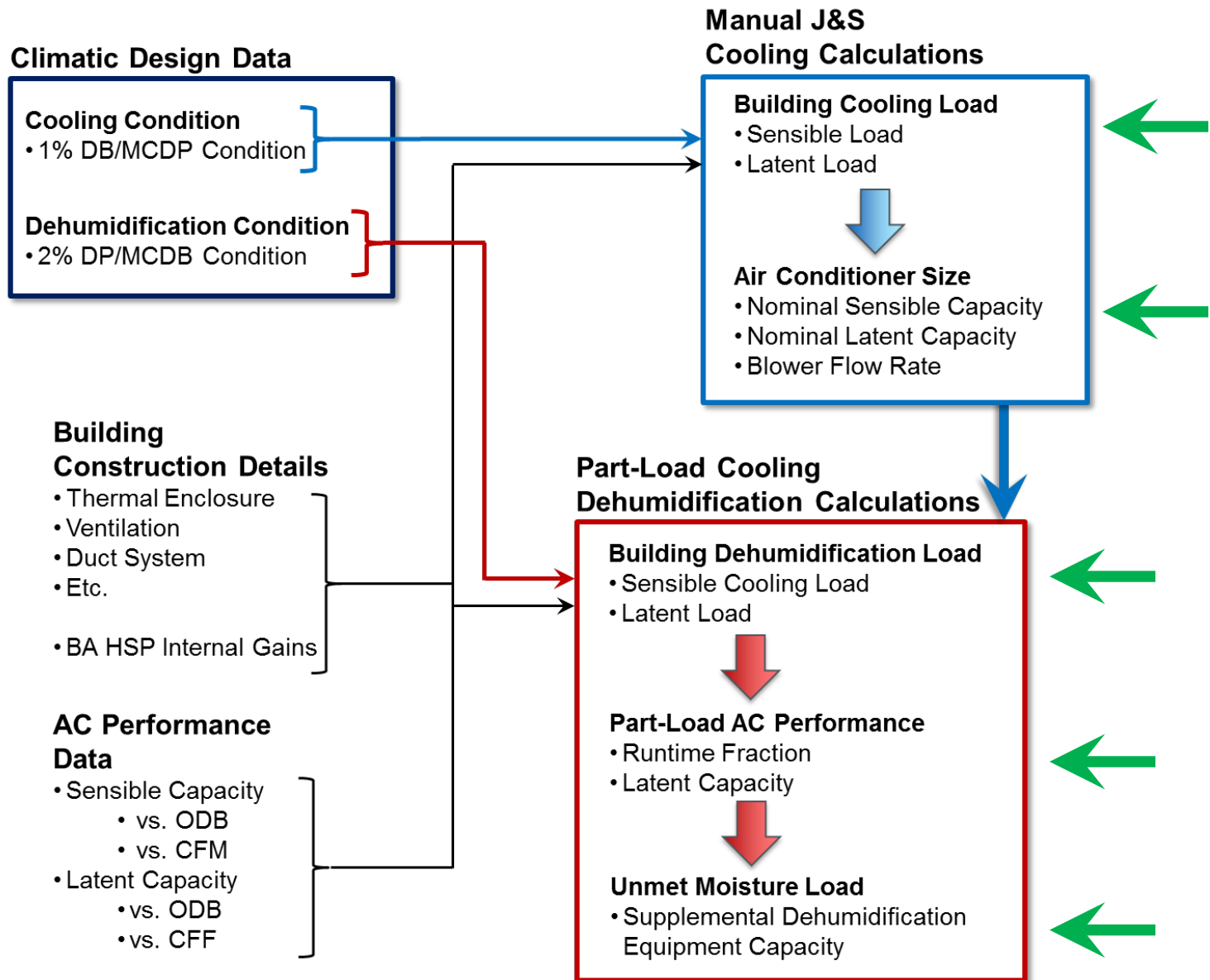


Entering Wet Bulb Temperature	Total Air Volume		85°F (29°C)				95°F (35°C)			
			Total Cooling Capacity		Sensible To Total Ratio (S/T)		Total Cooling Capacity		Sensible To Total Ratio (S/T)	
			cfm	L/s	kBtu/h	kW	75°F 24°C	80°F 27°C	85°F 29°C	75°F 24°C
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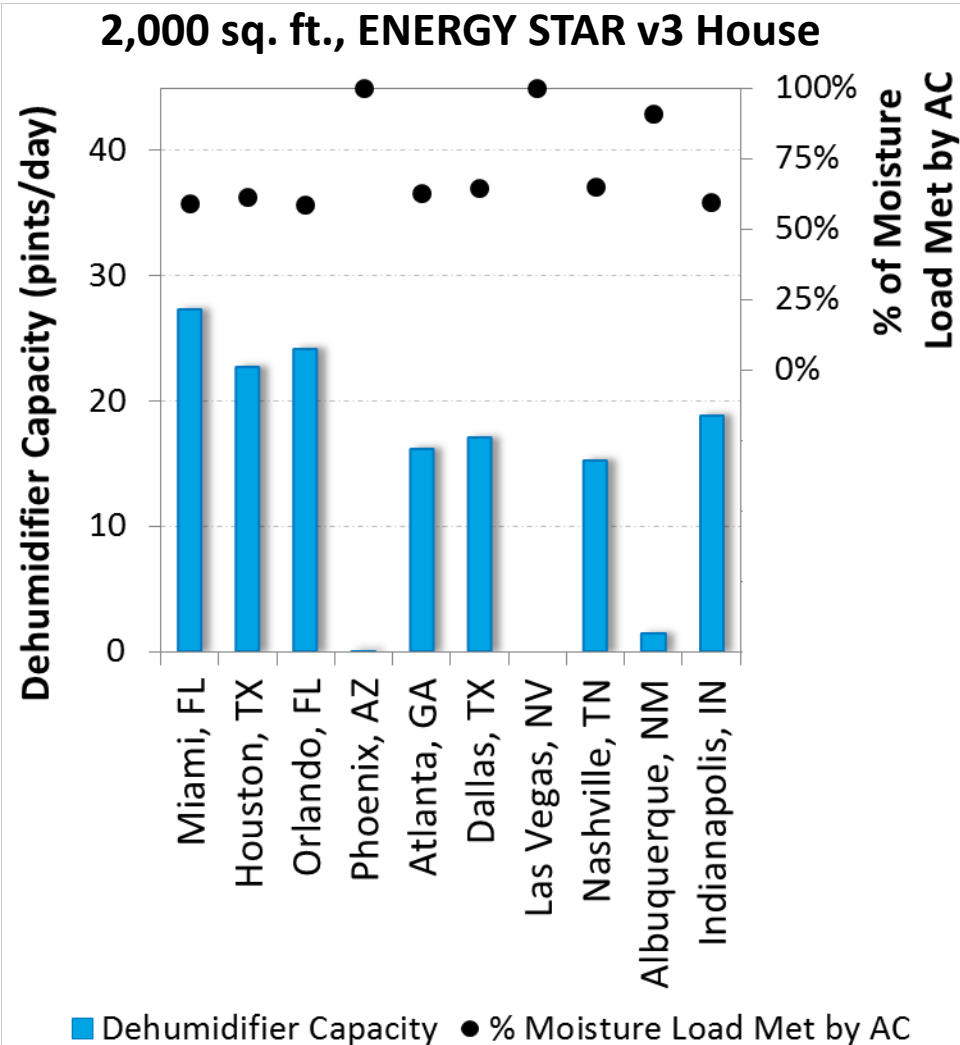
Install the equipment



Dehumidification Load Calculation

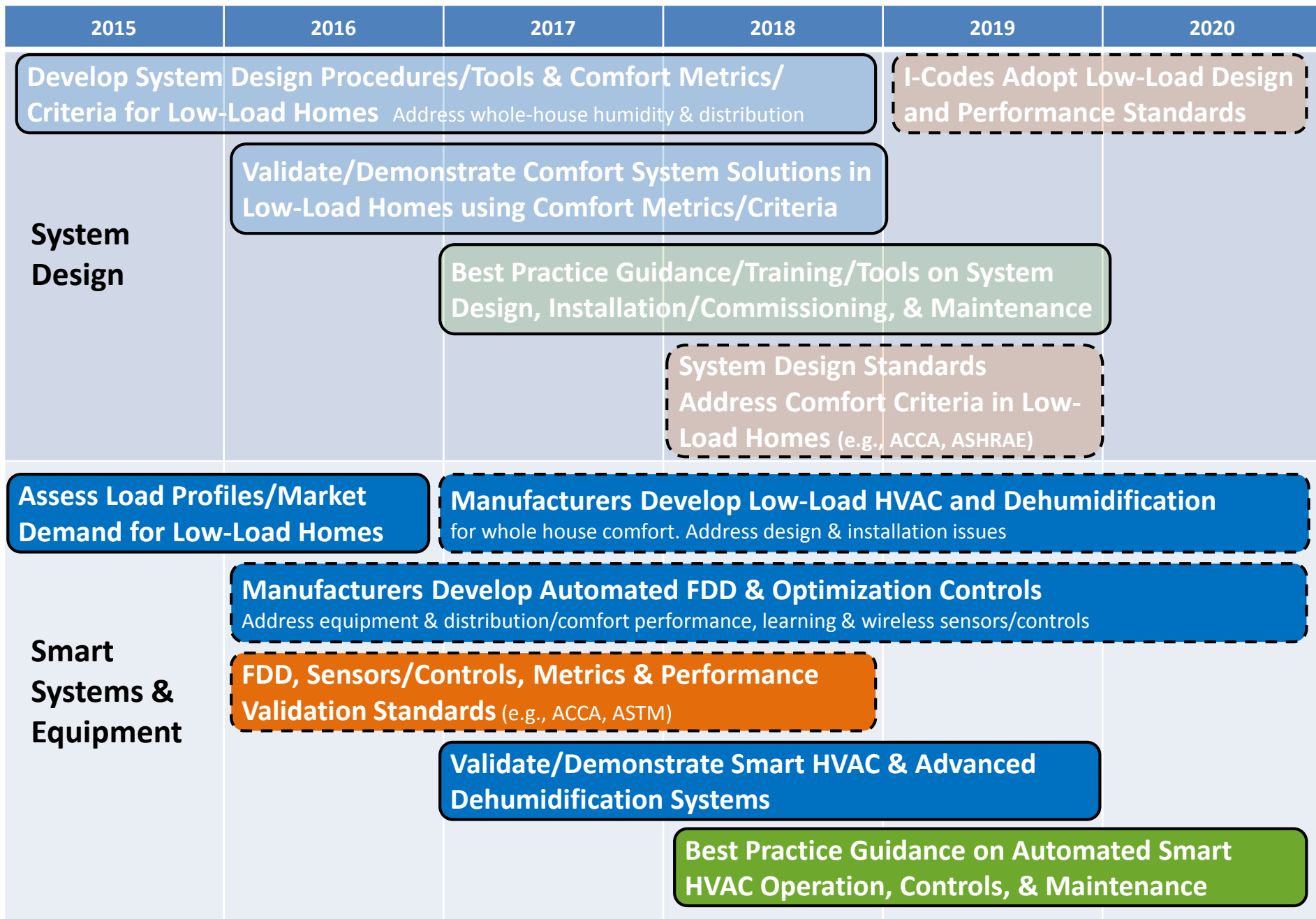


Selecting Dehumidification Equipment

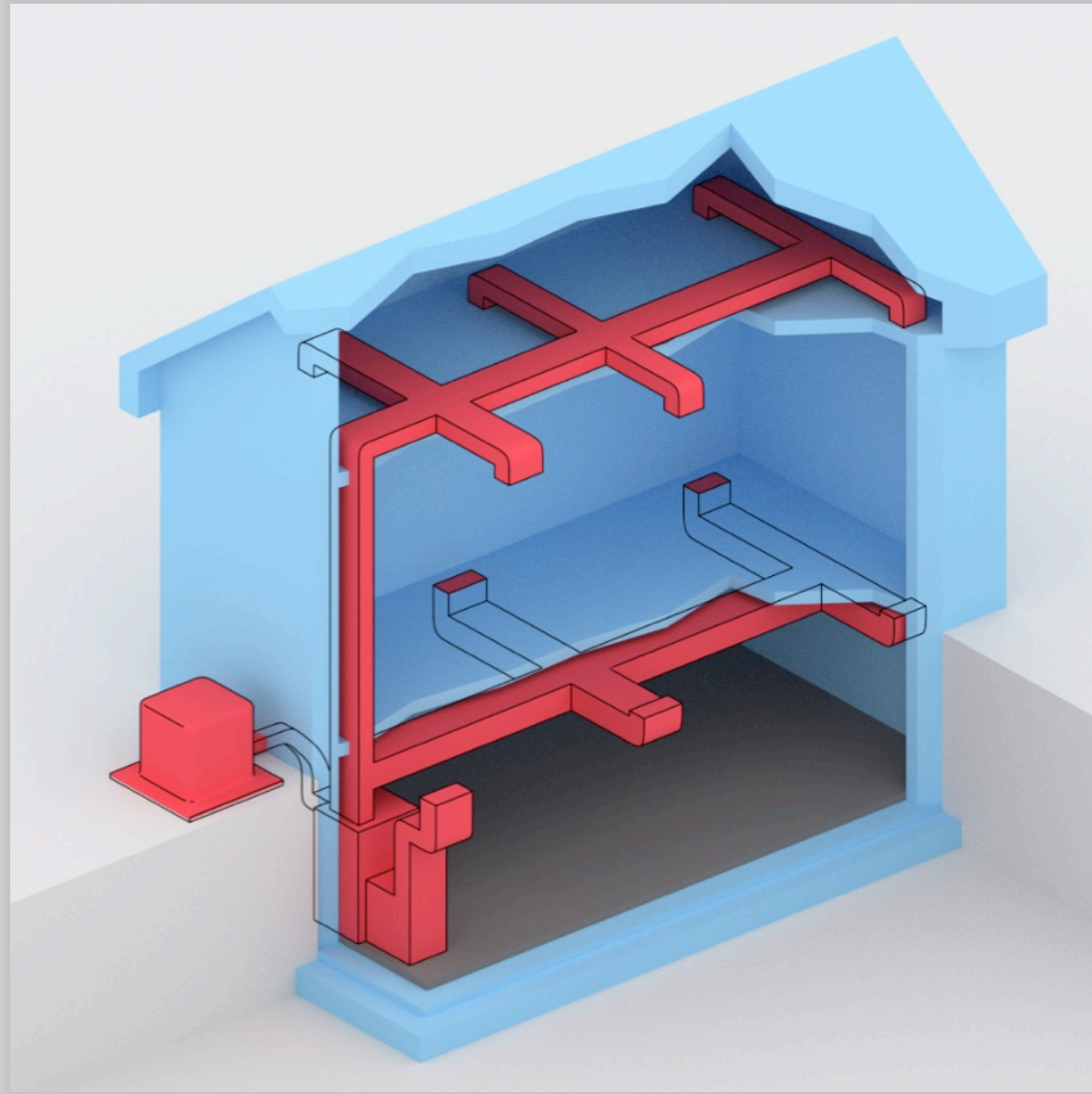


- Parametric analysis comparing procedure to EnergyPlus annual simulations
 - 3 constructions, 10 cities
- Smaller dehumidifiers than “expected”
- Dehumidifiers met the load 94% of the time
- With an RH setpoint of 55%, indoor RH never exceed 60%

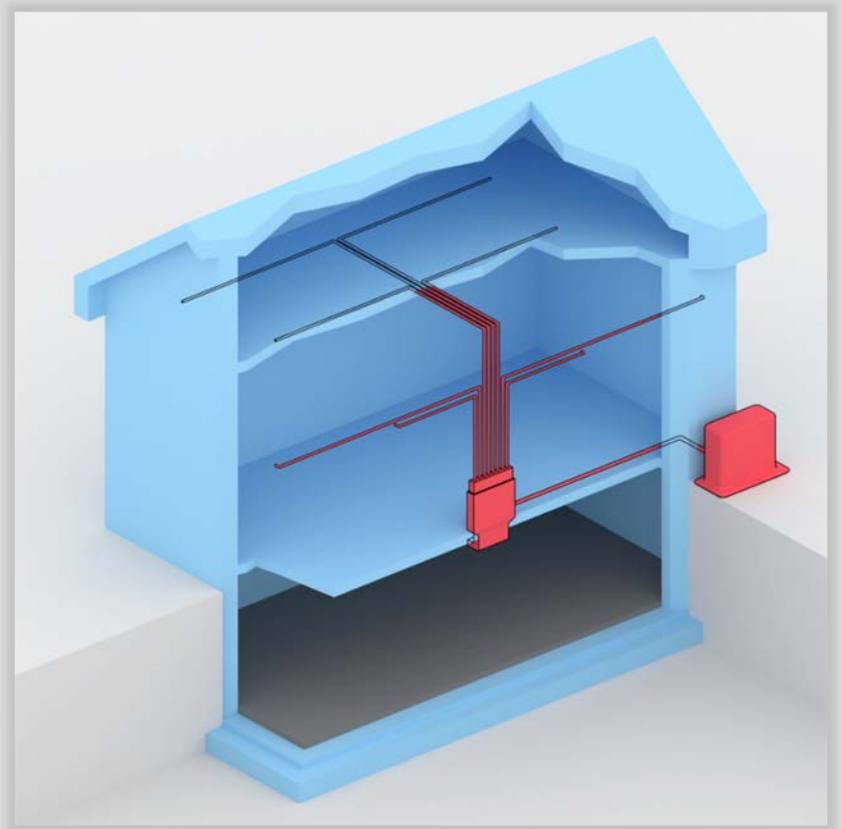
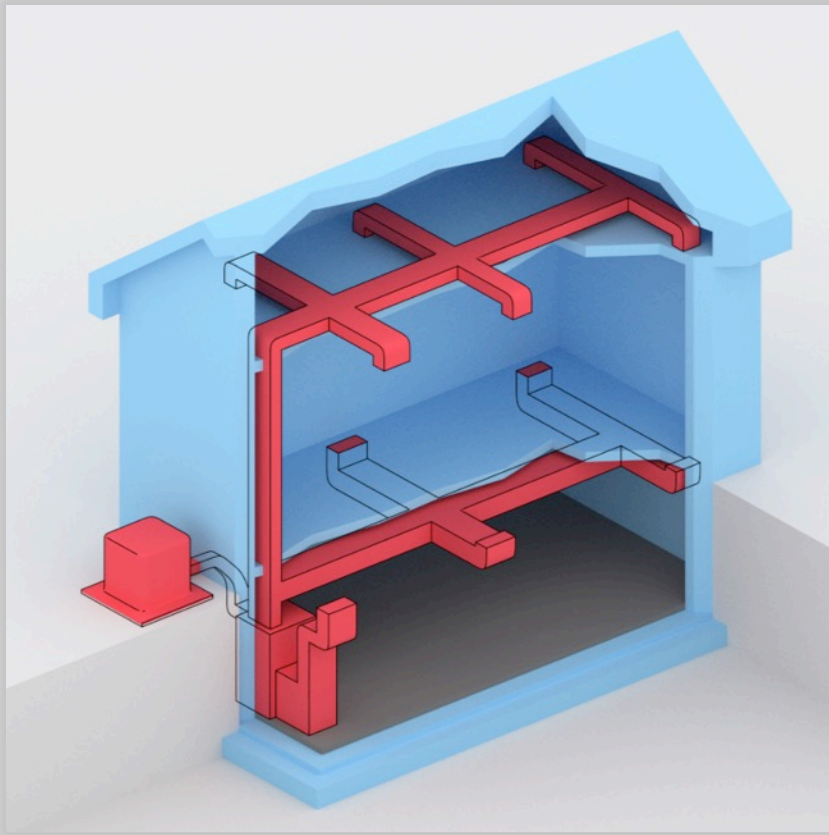
B. Optimal Comfort Systems for Low-Load Homes



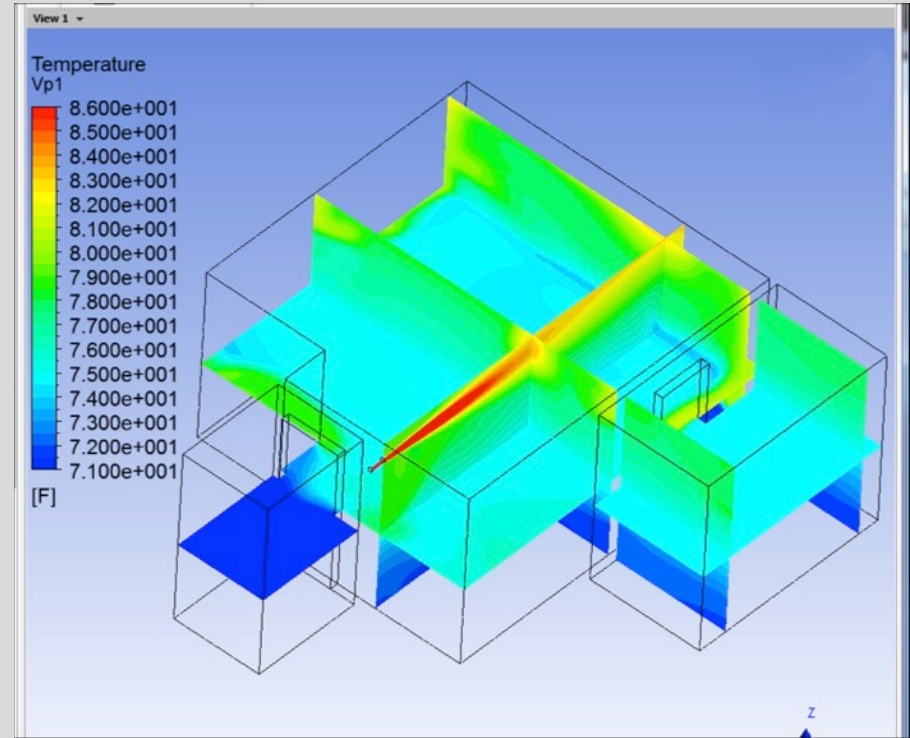
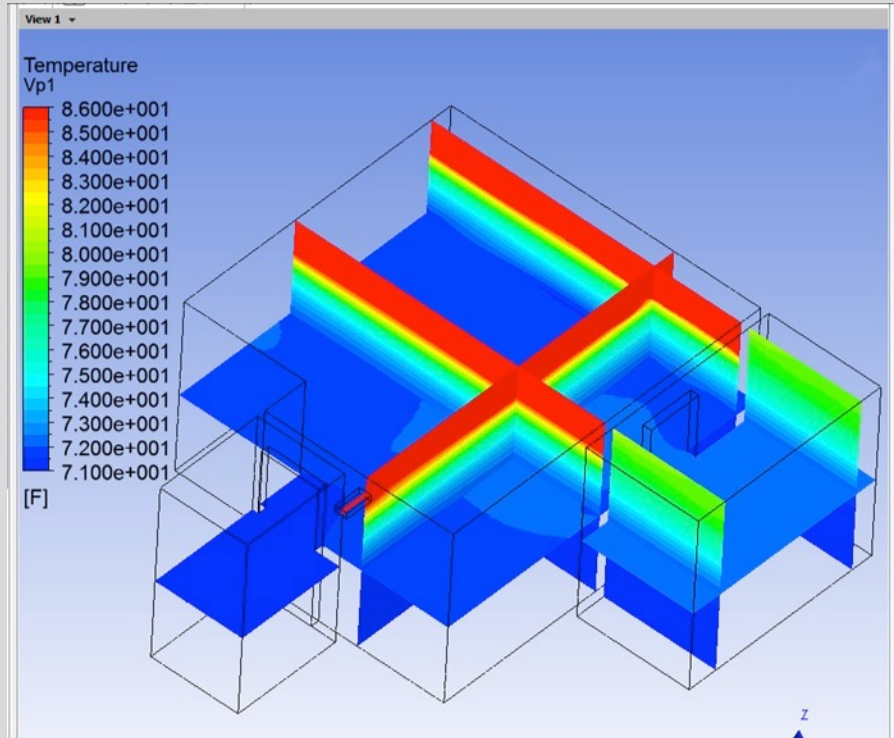
They Keep Putting Ducts in Attics...



If We Could Just Make Ducts Smaller...



“Plug-n-Play” Duct System



“Plug-n-Play” Duct System Prototype

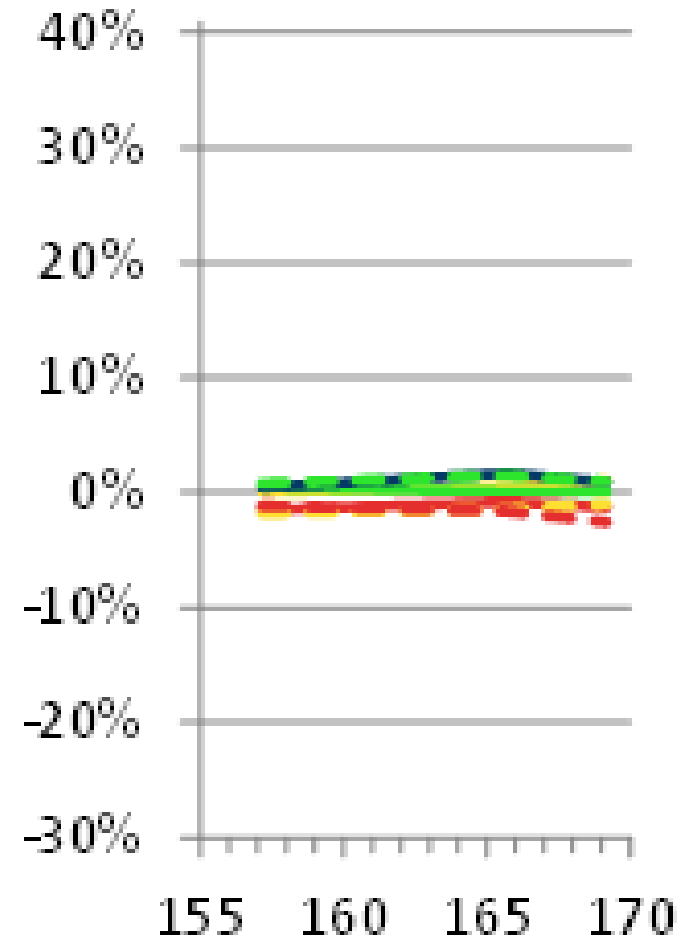
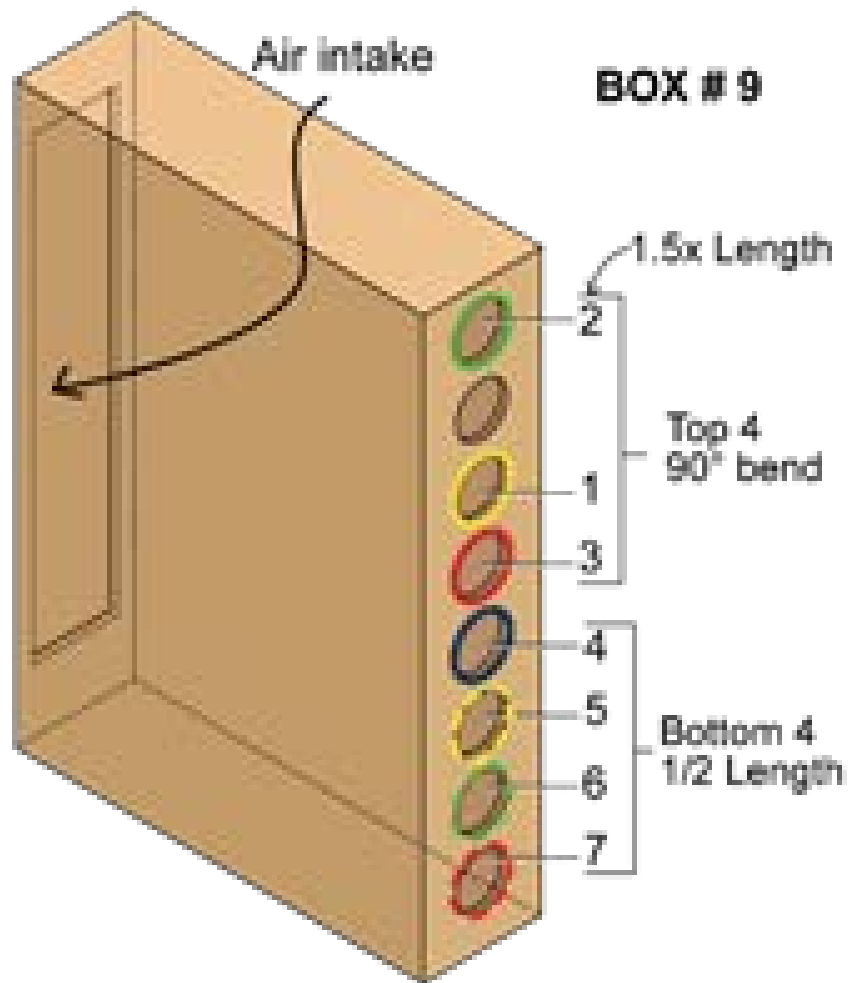


Figure 1: CFM and deviation in airflow

“Plug-n-Play” Duct System Prototype



40 CFM

60 CFM

80 CFM

125 CFM

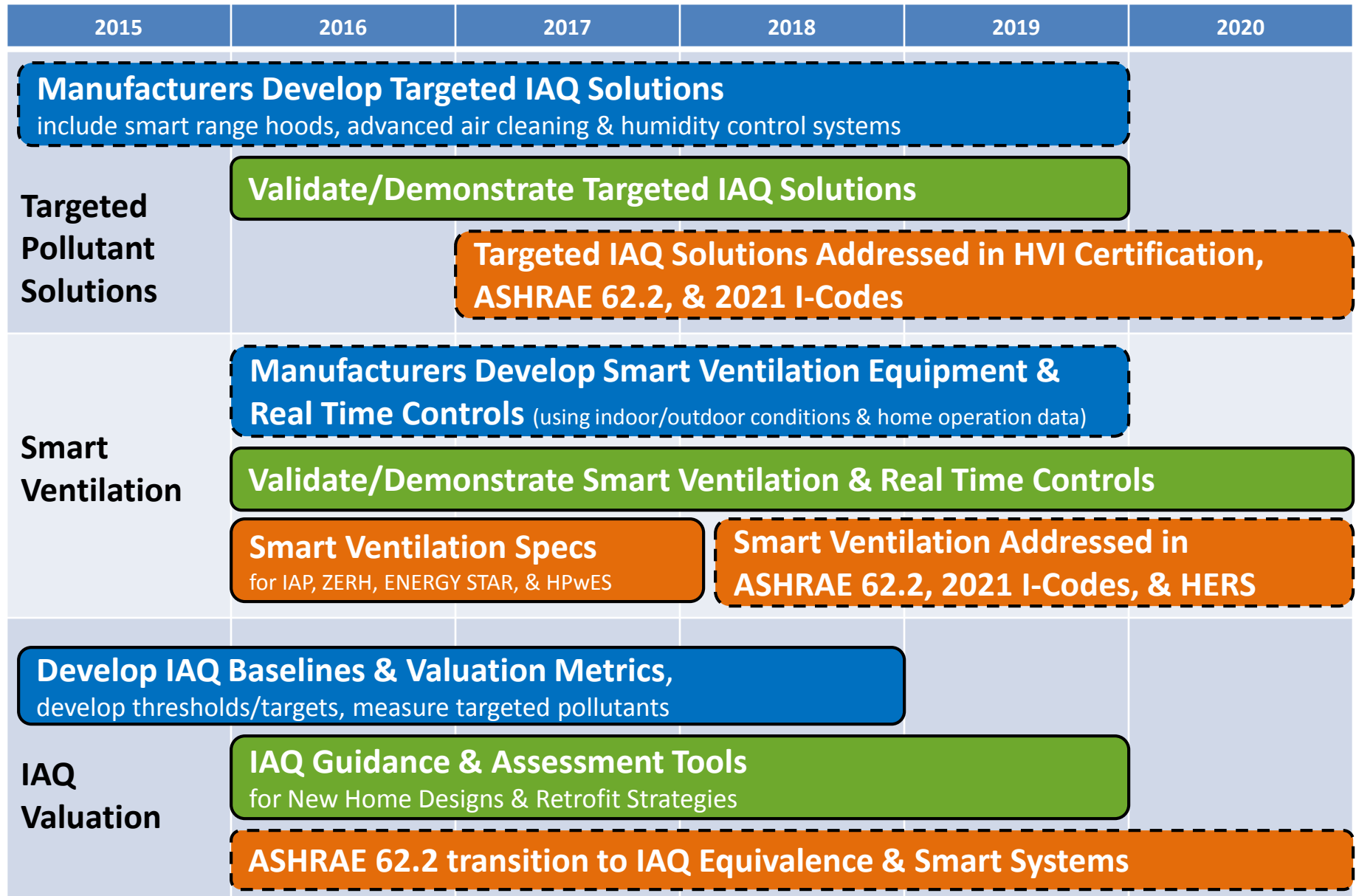
“Intelligent” HVAC Technology Development Framework (DRAFT)

Classes	Commissioning	Maintenance	Operations
Sensors and Smart Sensors	Digital thermometer with thermocouple probes, multi-meter, infrared temperature gun, thermo-hygrometer, thermal-imaging temperature gun (not common)	Digital thermometer with thermocouple probes, multi-meter, infrared temperature gun, thermo-hygrometer, thermal-imaging temperature gun (not common)	Temperature sensors, occupancy sensors, humidity sensors
Intelligent Sensing Devices	iManifold	Comfort Guard	Sensors with smartphone apps, Smart thermostat add-on, e.g. Nest dropcam, Ecobee remote temperature sensor
Controllers and Actuators			Standard fixed or binay (open/closed) dampers, constant speed fans
Intelligent Controllers and Actuators		Scheduled alerts to change the air filter	Ecovent, variable speed fans, multi-stage units such as INFINITY 18VS heat pump 25VNA8
Integrated Sensors & Controls	Automatic refrigerant charging using analog pressure indicators	Filterscan (can also go in intelligent sensing devices)	Analog and programmable thermostats such as Lux TX9600TS, Honeywell RTH2300B1012, Hunter Universal 7-Day
Intelligent Integrated Sensors & Controls	Automatic refrigerant charging using digital gauge sets, e.g., Mastercool 99661-A Digital Manifold Gauge Set (not highly intelligent)	Fault detection and diagnostic tools such as HVAC Service Assistant	Advanced thermostats such as NEST, Ecobee, Lennox iComfort, Carrier Infinity Touch

C. Optimal Ventilation and IAQ Solutions



C. Optimal Ventilation & IAQ Solutions



C. Optimal Ventilation & IAQ Solutions

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Targeted Pollutant Solutions	Manufacturers Develop Targeted IAQ Solutions include smart range hoods, advanced air cleaning & humidity control systems					
	Validate/Demonstrate Targeted IAQ Solutions					
	Targeted IAQ Solutions Addressed in HVI Certification, ASHRAE 62.2, & 2021 I-Codes					
Smart Ventilation	Manufacturers Develop Smart Ventilation Equipment & Real Time Controls (using indoor/outdoor conditions & home operation data)					
	Validate/Demonstrate Smart Ventilation & Real Time Controls					
	Smart Ventilation Specs for IAP, ZERH, ENERGY STAR, & HPwES		Smart Ventilation Addressed in ASHRAE 62.2, 2021 I-Codes, & HERS			
IAQ Valuation	Develop IAQ Baselines & Valuation Metrics, develop thresholds/targets, measure targeted pollutants					
	IAQ Guidance & Assessment Tools for New Home Designs & Retrofit Strategies					
	ASHRAE 62.2 transition to IAQ Equivalence & Smart Systems					

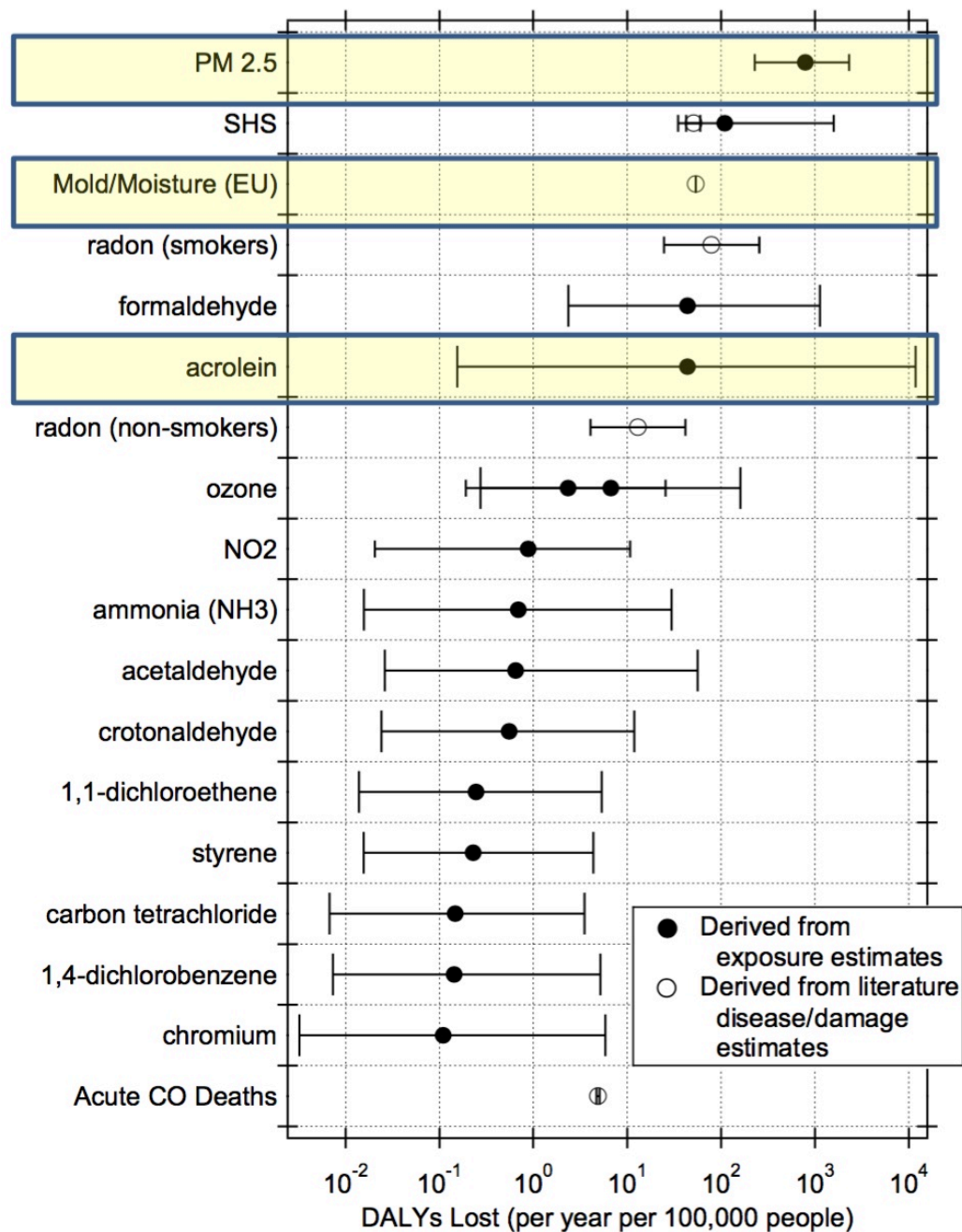
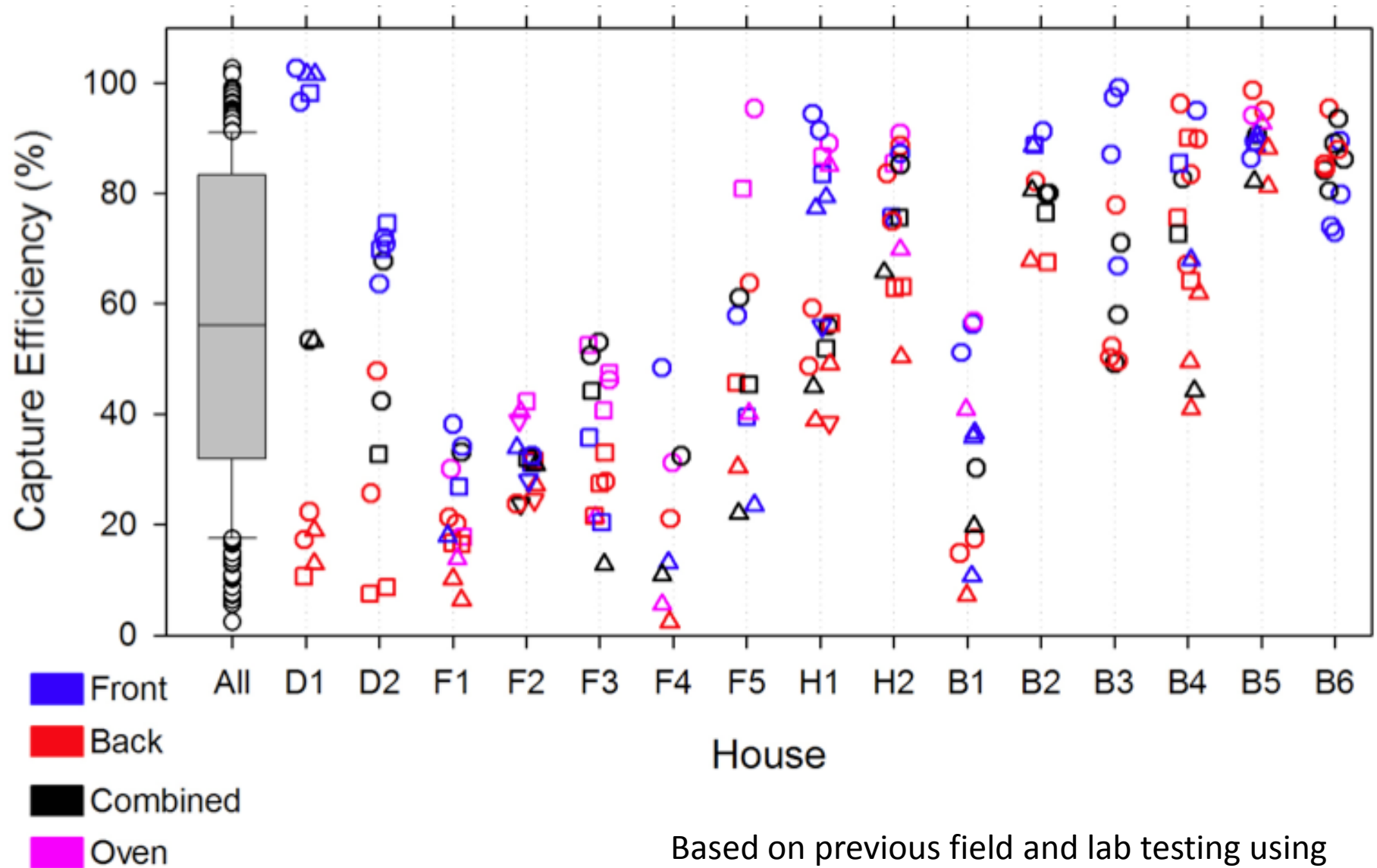


Figure 8. Estimated disability life years lost per 100,000 people per year due to chronic (long-term) exposure to indoor air pollutants³⁴

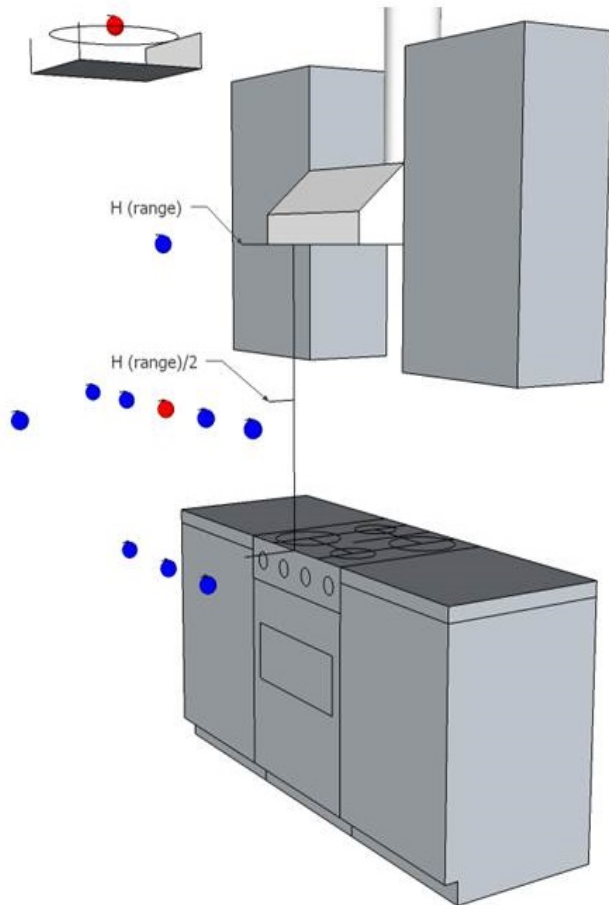
Range Hood Standard Development



Based on previous field and lab testing using
Tracer gas (CO_2 from gas burners directly)

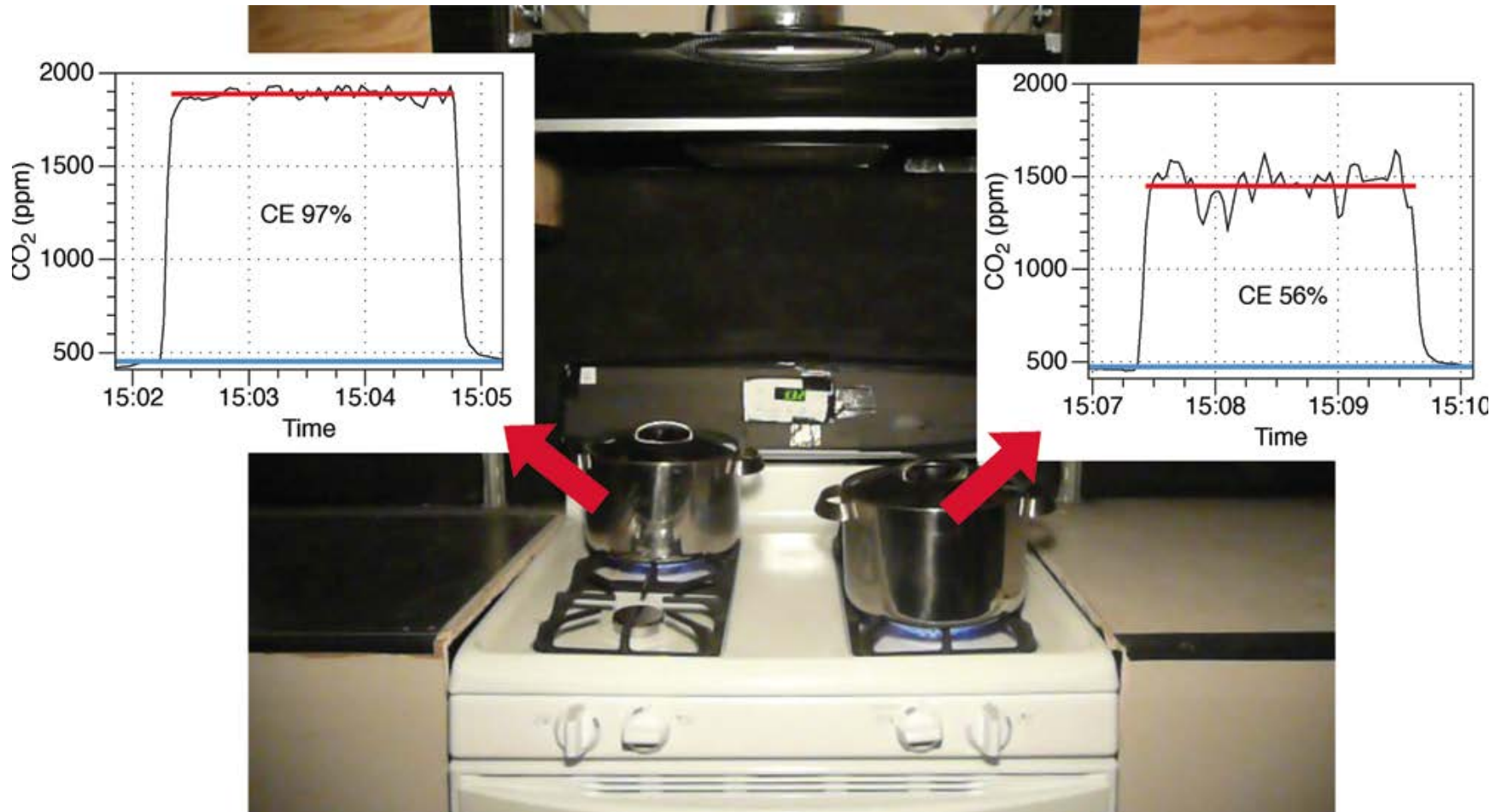
Range Hood Standard Development

Evaluated multiple sample points to find the “right” place to sample



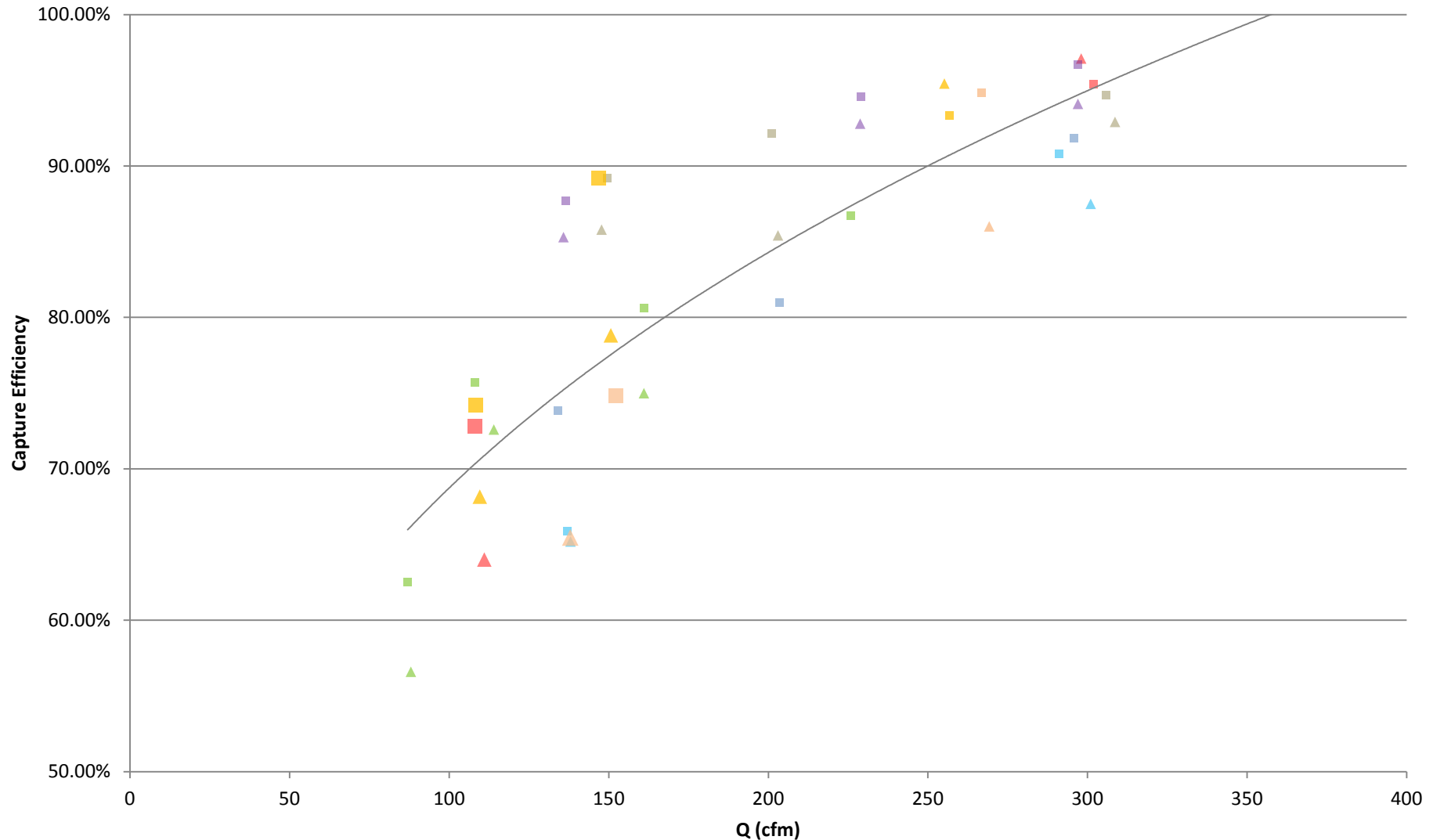
Range Hood Standard Development

Front and rear capture different: but most cooking on the front:
Should we test front and back or front only???



Range Hood Standard Development

Example Results: 8 hoods at different speeds



C. Optimal Ventilation & IAQ Solutions

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Partnership for Improved

Residential Construction



Multi-Parameter Smart Ventilation System

D. Parker, D. Chasar, C. Withers, E. Martin

*Florida Solar Energy Center
January 2016*



A Research Institute of the University of Central Florida

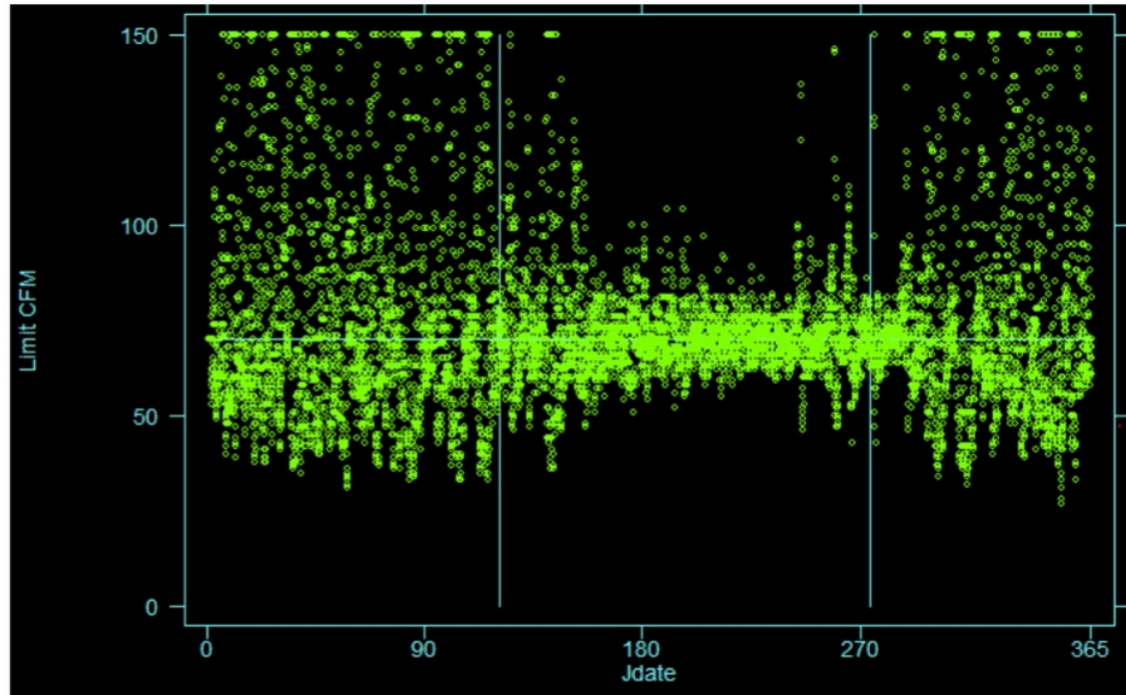
Smart Ventilation Algorithm

- Algorithm Basis: meet Standard 62-2 over 24 hrs
- Minimize sensible & latent loads: modulate fan flow
- Last 24 hours & current hour to determine fan flow
- Seeks to minimize sum of square deviation from multiple targets: temperature, W (absolute moisture), peak window
- Customizable time step; can potentially use broadband weather data & fixed interior targets so sensors not required
- Weights can be added to multiple parameters used to optimize flows



Dynamic Variation of Vent Rate

- Rather than using average profile, dynamically calculate at each time step using weather data
- Still hit the target
- Target: 70 cfm, hourly flow variation over year; avg. ~75 cfm



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Questions?

For More Information:

eric.werling@ee.doe.gov

