

Building Triage: What to Fix First



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RESNET Conference February 27, 2013







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Triage Your Buildings

Target Audience:

- Energy Efficiency Programs
- Retrofit/EE measure funders
- HERS Raters/energy auditors

Learning Objectives:

- Triage for programs
- Triage for owners of many buildings
- Triage before going into a single or multi-family building





What exactly do we mean by triage?

- Which buildings are hemorrhaging water or energy?
- What might be the cause?
- How do we staunch the flow?
- What's the potential for savings?



Essentially, which are the worst buildings and how do we get them fixed?





That sounds great, but how?

Do we look at age of building? Size? Kinds of mechanical systems? Insulation levels? Old windows? Infiltration? Duct leakage? Occupant type?

There are a lot of variables. It turns out that really only one thing matters...





How much energy does it use?

A Deutsche Bank study released January 2012 looked into trends in pre- and post-retrofit building performance and the reliability of savings projections using a sample of 231 multi-family buildings.

Four central findings:

- 1. Building retrofits save money.
- 2. Fuel measures save more than electric measures.
- 3. Actual savings are strongly correlated with pre-retrofit fuel usage.
- 4. Strategic capping of savings projections means reality matches up better with models.

Study involved Steven Winter Associates, Michael Blasnick & Associates Buildings were a variety of vintage, heating systems, utility data spanned a 9 year range (lots of weather varieties and data was weather normalized).

https://www.db.com/usa/img/DBLC_Recognizing_the_Benefits_of_Energy_Effic iency_01_12.pdf





So pre-retrofit usage is important...what about other things?

Only pre-retrofit fuel usage intensity was a statistically significant predictor of post-retrofit results.

What was not?

- Building age
- Building size
- Number of units
- High-rise vs low-rise
- Total square footage
- Heating system type
- Fuel type

https://www.db.com/usa/img/DBLC_Recognizing_the_Benefits_of_Energy_Effic iency_01_12.pdf





Metrics

Energy measurement relied on two metrics:

- Fuel use intensity: kBTU per square foot (weather-normalized fuel use for a typical year)
- **Owner-paid electric use intensity:** kWh per square foot (weather-normalized electric use for a typical year)

Why these two metrics?

- It's important to normalize to make an apples to apples comparison between buildings.
- You want to look at both a building's heating/cooling related energy usage as well as baseload usage.

https://www.db.com/usa/img/DBLC_Recognizing_the_Benefits_of_Energy_Effic_ iency_01_12.pdf





How do I determine pre-retrofit fuel usage intensity?





How do I determine pre-retrofit fuel usage intensity?

- 1. Get 1 year of utility bills for whatever fuel provides your heat.
- Determine the 3 lowest months of usage and average them together. This is your average monthly baseload.
- 3. Add up your annual usage.

4.	Multiply your monthly baseload by 12	and subtract from your annual usage.

- 5. Download the corresponding Heating Degree Days (HDD)—I like degreeday.net
- 6. Total the annual HDD.
- 7. Divide your annual heating related usage by HDD. Then divide by cond. sq. ft.
- 8. Now you have your weather-normalized fuel usage intensity!

Month starting:	HDD	therms		
2/1/12	801	134	Annual Therms	959
3/1/12	608	103	Baseline	21.6666667
4/1/12	398	65	Therms for heating	699
5/1/12	204	36	Btu for heating	69946805.5
6/1/12	94	19	Annual HDD	5026
7/1/12	2	24	btu/hdd	13916.9927
8/1/12	2	22	btu/hdd/cond sq ft	10.8051186
9/1/12	91	23		
10/1/12	281	42	Baseload	
11/1/12	699	106	Dascioad	
12/1/12	822	145		
1/1/13	1024	240		







Triage for Energy Efficiency Programs

The Problems:

-Who should get funding?

-How do we know that funding is working?



Funding Distribution

Financial Incentives for Energy Efficiency

Federal = State = Utility = Local =

According to DSIRE, there are currently 1,134 rebates for energy efficiency in the US...at least one in every state and the District of Columbia.

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State	Personal Tax	Corporate Tax	Sales Tax	Propert Tax	Rebates
Federal	2	3	0	0	0
Alabama					8 1
Alaska					1 2
Arizona				1	18 2
Arkansas					12
California					2 75 2
Colorado					44 3
Connecticut			1		1 10
Delaware					1
Florida		1			32 1
Georgia		1	1		21
Hawaii					4 1
Idaho	1				20
Illinois					2 30
Indiana					1 45
lowa					35
Kansas					1
Kentucky	1	1	1		1 29 1
Louisiana					1 3
Maine					4 3
Maryland			1	2 6	2 18 1
Massachusetts					2 31 2
Michigan					1 23
Minnesota					92 1
Mississippi					12







Funding Distribution

How is funding usually distributed for these programs?

First come first serve, usually with requirements for how bad certain components are.

Audit based suggestions.







Funding Distribution

We can do better.

Set thresholds and screen.



BTU/HDD/cond. Sq. ft





Low Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN) funding program in Massachusetts Low Income Multi Family Energy Retrofits

-9 utility companies contribute
-Specifically for existing affordable multi-family properties
-Originally only for properties with non-profits in the ownership structure, but now for for-profit owned also
-www.leanmultifamily.org

Funding recipients apply, receive a free energy audit, then receive funding for upgrades to heating systems, water heating systems, building envelope, lighting, controls, ventilation, and appliances.





Application and Review Process

Step 1: Owner completes online application form to provide information on ownership structure and development specific data.

Step 2: Applicant creates account in <u>WegoWise</u>, a web tool to benchmark energy use. Applicant enters basic building and utility meter data. (Some information required for WegoWise can be challenging to gather, e.g. building square footage and heating/ cooling/ hot water system details. Review the WegoWise data needs before completing your application.) WegoWise staff obtain energy usage data and calculate benchmark.



Step 3: Program reviews application and energy benchmark and informs owner if additional information is required.

Step 4: Program informs owner if project is selected for funding.





•All applicants must have their building's energy use assessed.

•The metric for assessment is heating energy intensity (BTU/HDD/cond. Sq. ft)

•Projects over 10 BTU/HDD/cond sq ft automatically qualify.

•Those between 7-9 are discussed to determine whether they can proceed or not

•Those ≤ 6 do not qualify.

•*All electrically heated buildings qualify (these are electric baseboard, not heat pumps).





To replicate:

-Need a metric and thresholds.-Need building information.-Need utility data.









Thresholds

-Need to know what's out there first for the housing stock that's being targeted.

- Knowledge based off experience with that housing stock
- Publicly available benchmarks (Portfolio Manager)
- Results from studies
- Benchmarks from large databases of similar buildings
- Benchmarks based off applicant's data (determine cutoffs after people apply)

-Questions to ask if using other people's numbers

- How similar are the buildings in their sample set to my target?
- Are those buildings in my area or is the data weather normalized?
- o Is it a large enough sample set to make you comfortable?





For the LEAN program:

- -Shell and equipment retrofits being funded
- -Heating dominate climate
- -For affordable multi-family housing

Settled on heating energy intensity for the metric

Thresholds set based off years of experience with affordable multifamily housing





Building Characteristics

Age & Type of Building Built in 1920 Multi-family home

Housing Category Low-income housing Resident type: Other

Structure Masonry (load-bearing) construction No basement

Size 4,947 square feet in total 4,000 sq. ft. in apartments 3 stories tall 4 apartments 11 bedrooms Energy Efficiency Not certified as a green building

Heating Gas heat Boiler (Hot water)

Cooling None

Hot Water Gas hot water heater Stand-alone storage water heater

Facilities No laundry O elevators No ventilated garage No pool Electric Accounts Apartments have electric meters 1 electric account

Gas Accounts Gas meters are all building-wide 1 gas account

Water Accounts Water meters are all building-wide 1 water account

Notes





Utility Data

End Date MM/DD/YYYY	Start Date MM/DD/YYYY	Usage Btu	Usage Therms	Total Charge
07/16/2011	06/17/2011	40,500,000 Btu	405 thm	\$761.53
06/16/2011	05/17/2011	107,950,000 Btu	1,080 thm	\$1,793.53
05/16/2011	04/17/2011	168,600,000 Btu	1,686 thm	\$2,735.46
04/16/2011	03/21/2011	216,800,000 Btu	2,168 thm	\$3,503.99
03/20/2011	02/17/2011	281,300,000 Btu	2,813 thm	\$4,543.54
02/16/2011	01/20/2011	289,600,000 Btu	2,896 thm	\$4,655.04
01/19/2011	12/20/2010	257,200,000 Btu	2,572 thm	\$4,162.26
12/19/2010	11/17/2010	230,300,000 Btu	2,303 thm	\$3,764.59
11/16/2010	10/17/2010	168,466,667 Btu	1,685 thm	\$2,722.26
10/16/2010	09/17/2010	89,500,000 Btu	895 thm	\$1,492.22
09/16/2010	08/17/2010	41,166,667 Btu	412 thm	\$764.11
08/16/2010	07/17/2010	38,533,333 Btu	385 thm	\$720.86
07/16/2010	06/17/2010	40,500,000 Btu	405 thm	\$761.53
06/16/2010	05/17/2010	107,950,000 Btu	1,080 thm	\$1,793.53
05/16/2010	04/17/2010	168,600,000 Btu	1,686 thm	\$2,735.46
04/16/2010	03/17/2010	216,800,000 Btu	2,168 thm	\$3,503.99





Not satisfied with just screen applicants....simultaneously a goal was set to benchmark 75% of the affordable multi-family housing stock in Massachusetts. -3 year initiative, currently in the last 6 months of the program -Over 8,000 buildings (not units, buildings) have been benchmarked to date -Program organizers get monthly lists of new buildings and benchmarks (a giant punch list of the worst buildings in the state, essentially) -Annual report generated with metrics -At end of program, comprehensive metric will be generated





And that's not all:

- When retrofits are performed, results are tracked
 - Determine measures with biggest impact
 - Quality assurance





Effect of Hvac/Lighting Upgrades (August 1, 2012)

Back to list of all upgrades

Nat	ural gas use 👻	in Btu - per square for	ot -	≣ Raw Data	☆ Bookmark	Download
▼Date	Range	≑ Full-Year Sum	Detailed Data per Month (Deselect All) Click a square to show or hide an item on the graph	(Click & drag	to zoom in
Aug 12 Aug 12	2 - Jul 13 1 - Jul 12	Less than 1 year of data 8.81K	250			
			200			
Befo	er: Upgraded H	quipment, Old Lights. Hvac Equipment and Lighting.	100			
Actu	t: \$0.00	unknown	50	_		
Cate HVA HVA Wate Light	egories C — Heating — Mer C — Cooling — Mer er — Domestic Hot ts and Appliances -	chanical Equipment chanical Equipment Water — Distribution – Lighting	0 Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb N	Aar Apr	May Ju	Jul

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Screening in Action

Effect of Hvac/Lighting Upgrades (August 1, 2012)

Back to list of all upgrades

Heating energy -	in Btu - per square foo	t (conditioned) -	≣ Raw Data	☆ Bookmark	Download
Date Range	≑ Full-Year Sum	Detailed Data per Month (Deselect All) Click a square to show or hide an item on the graph	(Click & drag	to zoom in
Aug 12 - Jul 13 Aug 11 - Jul 12	Less than 1 year of data 5.33	250			
		200			
Before: Old Hvac Ed After: Upgraded H	quipment, Old Lights. Ivac Equipment and Lighting.	150			
Cost: \$0.00 Actual Savings:	unknown	50			
Categories HVAC — Heating — Med HVAC — Cooling — Med Water — Domestic Hot Lights and Appliances —	chanical Equipment chanical Equipment Water — Distribution - Lighting	0 Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb M	Mar Apr	May Jur	Jul





Effect of Windows (April 7, 2010)

Back to list of all upgrades

	Heating energy -	in Btu - per square for	t (conditioned)	≣ Raw Data	☆ Bookmark	Download
•	Date Range	≑ Full-Year Sum	Detailed Data per Month (Deselect All) Click a square to show or hide an item on the graph	(Click & drag	to zoom in
,	Apr 10 - Mar 11 Apr 09 - Mar 10	13.4 13.6	800			
			600		\sim	
	Before:Bad WindoAfter:New WindoCost:\$0.00	ows	400			
	Expected Savings: Actual Savings:	30% 2% (0 Btu / conditioned sqft / HDD)	0 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct	Nov Dec	Jan Fe	b Mar
	Categories Building Envelope — W	lindows				

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LEAN Multifamily Benchmarking Inventory

- LEAN: Low-Income Energy Affordability Network
- Two components:
 - Benchmarking Inventory
 - Funding Program
- Project scope: 13,532 buildings benchmarked over three years (approx. 376 bldgs/mo) with individual quotas for utility companies

Gas Usage (therms/conditioned ft ²)	Energy Efficiency Classification
< .65	Energy Efficient
.6586	Better Than Average
.87 - 1.09	Worse Than Average
> 1.09	Poor

Benchmarks Generated by the Inventory

Whole Building Electricity Usage (kWh/bldg ft ²)	Energy Efficiency Classification
< 4.91	Energy Efficient
4.91 - 6.42	Better Than Average
6.43 - 7.85	Worse Than Average
> 7.85	Poor
Common Area Electricity Usage (kWh/Common Area ft ²)	Energy Efficiency Classification
< 1.35	Energy Efficient
1.35 - 2.94	Better Than Average
2.95 - 5.03	Worse Than Average
> 5.03	Poor
Electrically Heated (kWh/bldg ft ²)	Energy Efficiency Classification
< 12.46	Energy Efficient
12.46 - 15.11	Better Than Average
15.12 - 17.66	Worse Than Average
>17.66	Poor





Key Findings

The energy savings that would be achieved if each building that fell into the 'poor' were improved to function at the level of the 'median' buildings are substantial.

Massachusetts could expect to save:

- 53,076,549 kWh annually
- 2,058,616 therms annually
- And \$10,000,000 dollars

By improving just 1,464 buildings.

Energy savings from electrically heated buildings:

Utility Company	Energy Savings in kWh	# of Buildings
National Grid	16,956,159	185
Nstar	4,104,796	45
Unitil	91,484	1
WMECO	214,926	16

Energy savings from buildings with whole building electric usage:

Utility Company	Energy Savings in kWh	# of Buildings
National Grid	24,898,499	208
Nstar	5,881,222	157
Unitil	485,454	21
WMECO	444,009	8

Energy savings from buildings that utilize gas for heat and domestic hot water production:

Utility Company	Energy Savings in Therms	# of Buildings	
Berkshire Gas	14378	12	
Columbia	198,555	111	
NE Gas	47,661	36	
National Grid	1,099,587	395	
NStar	650,670	246	
Unitil	47,765	23	



Even Local Government is Catching On

- Commercial and sometimes multi-family buildings over a certain size
- Utility data for a year submitted annually

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 Sometimes results are made public

Last week, Boston became the latest to join in and Minneapolis did a few weeks before that. DC's first round of reporting is due April 1.



Buildingrating.org





For Auditors and HERS Raters

-Working with owners of many buildings -Motivating single family homeowners -Knowing what you're getting into before going on site -Tracking your results -Marketing to potential customers







Portfolio Owners

May want to do something...but where to start?

-Not likely to spend money on audits for all buildings. -May pay for 1 or 2.

-Want to see real savings before doing more.







Create a Punch List

All Energy 👧 Water Electricity 🔊 Oil Gas Less efficient Worst Buildings Inefficient & Expensive 4200 Bradbury Ct. Annual energy data: Cost : \$1,680 Usage : 134,426 (btu/sqft) Less expensive More expensive Best Buildings Efficient & Cheaper More efficient

Showing kWh/sq ft or BTU/sq ft prbably won't get your point across, but people understand visuals.





Market Analysis







For Single and Multi-Family Properties

Actual

Actual

Similar

Know what you're getting into before you go on site.



Where would you look in this building?

-Gas heat, gas hot water





For Single and Multi-Family Properties



Where would you look in this building? What is the potential for savings?





Savings Potential



Using 217 gallons/bedroom/day, 134 gallons more than similar buildings.

134 * 72 bedrooms = 9,648 gallons/day

9,648 * 365 days = 3,521,520 gallons per year

Cost? ~\$45,780 (at Boston water rates of about \$.013/gallon)

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Compare Against Similar Buildings

How do we determine "similar?"

- Climate zone
- Building type: single family attached + detached; low, mid, and high rise multifamily
- Heating fuel
- Hot water fuel
- Size



- 12,000+ buildings
- 190,000+ units
- nationwide coverage









Electric usage, not weather normalized. Electric usage spikes in September.







Electric usage, cooling energy. Most of spike not related to cooling.







The building owner will probably never get into this much depth. This is where your expertise comes into play.











M & V - Track Savings







New Construction

Ann ual End-Us eC on sumption	
Heating (kWh)	1807
Cooling (kWh)	1008
Water Heating (CCF)	154
Lights & Appliances (kWh)	4003

In REM/Rate, this is in the Fuel Summary Report.







New Construction

- 1st winter: usage 3x higher than expected.
- 2nd winter: usage still high
- 3rd winter: usage back to where it should be.

Natural gas use • in Therms • per square foot •
Detailed Data per Month (Deselect All) Click a square to show or hide an item on the graph
0.006
0.004

Market Yourself: Case Studies

- Track retrofits
- Quantify savings
- Package numbers with glossy photos
- Customers want numbers and reassurance

United Housing:

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In winter of 2009, United Housing Management LLC asked WegoWise and New Ecology to look into their Blue Mountain development and identify opportunities for energy and water efficiency work. An analysis of the development identified many problem areas, but the 68 Cheney Street building proved to be a particularly problematic water hog.

68 Cheney St. is a 12,000 square foot three-story masonry walk-up in Dorchester, Mass. built around 1920.

Analysis and Identification:

The graph below shows how much water 68 Cheney was using compared to similar low-rise apartment buildings in Dorchester. The green line represents the median usage from 80 low rise apartment buildings in the same neighborhood. The blue line is 68 Cheney's water usage.



Audit and Upgrade:

New Ecology performed an on-site water audit and identified malfunctioning flapper valves in toilets, leaky aerators and high-usage shower heads. Their audit report suggested replacing the toilets and installing low-flow faucets and shower heads. The upgrades cost United Housing about \$2,000 dollars and showed immediate results.



United Housing continues to monitor water use in 68 Cheney and has been saving nearly \$1,200/month as a result of their water conservation work. They have since expanded on the efforts at 68 Cheney and implemented the same retrofits in other buildings in the Blue Mountain development.

By analyzing usage data, identifying the worst performing building, following through on audit recommendations and continuing to monitor the payback on their investments, United Housing is greatly benefitting from following water conservation best practices.





Take Aways

- There is a lot of information to be had from dumb data
- Programs can be much smarter about funding to have a larger impact
- Programs and auditors have the ability to do QA on retrofits cheaply and remotely *and* catch problems before clients do
- Auditors can help property managers/owners finally get past their paralysis
- Auditors can show potential clients real results + numbers and understand what measures work the best

All you need is a little bit of this

Age & Type of Building
Built in 1920
Multi-family home

Housing Category Low-income housing Resident type: Other

Structure Masonry (load-bearing) construction No basement

Size

4,947 square feet in total 4,000 sq. ft. in apartments 3 stories tall 4 apartments 11 bedrooms Energy Efficiency Not certified as a green building

Heating Gas heat Boiler (Hot water)

Cooling

None

Hot Water Gas hot water heater Stand-alone storage water heater

Facilities No laundry 0 elevators No ventilated garage No pool

Electric Accounts Apartments have electric meters

1 electric account

Gas Accounts

Gas meters are all building-wide 1 gas account

Water Accounts Water meters are all building-wide

Notes

1 water account

And a little bit of that

End Date MM/DD/YYYY	Start Date MM/DD/YYYY	Usage Btu	Usage Therms	Total Charge
07/16/2011	06/17/2011	40,500,000 Btu	405 thm	\$761.53
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Thank you!

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