



# ZERO NET ENERGY BUILDINGS: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

TH305

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Learning Units [As published]

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# **Course Description**

Buildings represent perhaps the greatest potential reservoir of energy savings available to us as a society, accounting for some 40 percent of our annual energy use. In recent years, a number of dedicated and resourceful practitioners have shown that constructing buildings that use no more energy than they are able to produce on-site—"zero net energy buildings"—is not only possible but also a practical and tangible example of our collective commitment to a clean energy future.

Yet zero net energy buildings remain, in large part, more of an aspiration than a reality. Recognizing the leadership potential of the public sector, the panel proposes that the road to full-scale deployment of zero net energy buildings starts with the facilities our states and communities construct.

The report **"Roadmap to Zero Net Energy Public Buildings: Recommended Steps for the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic"** was developed in collaboration with a group of regional building energy stakeholders and outlines key steps the public sector can take to facilitate the eventual broad adoption of zero net energy building practices. Ultimately the greatest benefit will come from greening our existing building stock. However, the report focuses on new construction because it provides the greatest opportunity for immediate action with the added benefit of substantial long-term energy and cost savings. This presentation will highlight the conclusions from the study, including immediate "critical next steps" that should be taken now and "intermediate-term steps" for the next 10 to 15 years. To underscore these issues, the presentation will conclude with a "lessons learned" session from two current Massachusetts zero net energy projects:

Currently in design is the **Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) Building** in Westborough, Massachusetts. This 45,000-gross-square-foot Field Headquarters Building includes offices, labs, meeting rooms, and classroom areas on the site of the existing DFW headquarters building on the campus of the former Lyman School. This project is to be a new home for the Environmental Review and Endangered Species Program, the Hunter Education Program, and the Department of Fish and Game's Office of Fishing and Boating Access. The facility will achieve zero net energy through solar photovoltaics and innovative mechanical systems as well as building envelope quality and reduction of all energy loads through building management. As part of the project, the existing approximately 12, 500-square-foot Richard Cronin Building and adjacent trailers will be demolished. The Cronin Building is in poor condition and is not adaptable for reuse. However, elements of the building will be salvaged and incorporated in the new project, and educational materials on the history of the facility and site will be developed.

Recently dedicated by Governor Deval Patrick, the **John W. Olver Transit Center** in Greenfield, Mass., is the first zero net energy building of its kind in the United States. The transportation hub will house community space and offices for the Franklin Regional Transit Authority and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The center will also serve as an Amtrak station with the completion of the Knowledge Corridor Rail Project in approximately two years and is expected to be a catalyst for redevelopment and growth in the region. Some of the key green features include air conditioning provided by an active chilled beam system, a solar wall that preheats fresh air by as much as 15 degrees during peak winter sun, second-stage preheating via a ground source heat pump, and daylight modeling used to determine optimal placement of windows, clerestory, and skylights. Renewable energy was provided through a combination of locally sourced biomass for heating and photovoltaic panels.

# Learning Objectives

- 1. Describe the barriers and lessons learned to design and maintain a zero-net-energy building.
- 2. Define zero net energy and how it relates to public policy.
- 3. Recognize the opportunity public buildings present in becoming demonstration projects for new technology and the importance of engaging all stakeholders in the process (occupants, design team, and others).
- 4. Develop a road map to achieve zero net energy and identify a menu of energy efficiency strategies to apply to their projects.

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Roadmap to ZNE Public Buildings
- Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Building
- John W. Olver Transit Center
- Summary
- Questions

# **Speakers**



Carolyn Sarno, Senior Program Manager NEEP (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships)



Daniel Bernstein AIA Architerra



Mark Walsh-Cooke PE, Principal Arup

# **Roadmap to ZNE Public Buildings**

Carolyn Sarno, Senior Program Manager NEEP (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships)

### Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships

Accelerating Energy Efficiency

#### **Mission**

Accelerate the efficient use of energy in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions

#### Approach

Overcome barriers to efficiency through collaboration, education & advocacy

#### Vision

Transform the way we think about and use energy in the world around us.

### Working Towards Zero

#### NEEP's Vision

The work done today on High Performance Buildings will pave the way for the development of zero net energy buildings, buildings that consume no more energy than they produce, on a broader scale throughout the region.

# Roadmap to Zero Net Energy

Public Buildings



- New Construction
- Developed with Leadership Group
- Key steps
  - Intermediate-term (10-15 years)
  - Critical (Now)

### What is a Zero Net Energy Building?

A zero net energy building produces as much energy as it consumes over the course of a year Why Public Buildings?

The public sector has a responsibility to lead.

The public sector has a longer investment horizon.

Intermediate Steps



# Information and Education



# **Building Energy Codes**



# **Utility Regulation**





#### Develop a "Path to Highest Performance" Information Campaign

- Bullet-point briefings
- Presentations
- Fact sheets
- Educational modules
  - K-12 and post-secondary curricula
- A public web site

#### Promote the Continued Development of Exemplary Public Buildings



Courtesy of Rhode Island Department of Education

#### Prioritize Measurement and Reporting of Public Building Energy Performance

- Ensuring consistent measurement of building energy performance
  - Rate and disclose energy
    - Mandatory
    - Well designed (recommendations for possible improvements)
  - Benchmarking
    - ENERGY STAR's
      Portfolio Manager

Bidg As 100 Cambridge	SSE Street, M	Boston, MA	i <b>ng</b> 20114
Source East:	00.000		
Square reet.	90,000		$\sim$
Fuel (Site): Nati	ural Gas		2
Fuel (Source):	Coal		
Carbon: 10,000	) tons/yr		
EUI:	125	Regional Po Average	arformance Rating
HVAC:	45%	47%	A1
Lighting:	35%	33%	A3
Plug Load:	20%	20%	B3
Heating System Effic	.87%	90%	C1
Building Envelope:			
Thermal Insulation:	R-35	R-27	B3
Air Leakage:	.23	.29	B2
Glazing:			
SHGC	32	25	A3
U-Value	.28	.35	A3

#### Implement Stretch Building Energy Codes

- Get gradually stricter over time
- Be outcome-based
  - Not relying solely on prescriptive requirements
- Include provisions for continuous commissioning of building systems
- Cover all energy consumed in the building including plug loads as well as major mechanical systems.

### **Massachusetts Stretch Code**



#### Create a Revolving Loan Fund or Similar Mechanism to Provide Capital for Energy Investments

- Budgets in NEEP's region grew 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2010
- End of an ARRA
- Initial capitalization an issue
  - Fund should be self-sustaining once it is established
  - ESCO's...?

### The Path Toward Zero

**Begins with:** 

- Significant reductions in as-designed building energy consumption
- Building operations that ensure as-designed performance.



# Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Building

Daniel Bernstein Architerra

# AIA/COTE Top 10 Green Building Toward Zero Net

Cambridge School of Weston Garthwaite Center for Science & Art Weston, MA





# AIA New Hampshire Merit Award Toward Zero Net Energy

Keene State College Technology, Design & Safety Center Keene, NH





# First Public Zero Net Office Building in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Field Headquarters Westborough, MA



# **Options Matrix**

<b>A</b> Site and Architecture	<b>B</b> <b>Mechanical</b> (Ground Source & Distribution)	<b>C</b> Electrical
Cronin Link	Traditional Closed Loop Wells (vertical or horizontal) Underfloor Air	Solar (photovoltaic)
Cronin Wrap	Standing Column Open Wells Radiant Heating & Cooling	Wind (turbines)
New Hinge, Wings, Bar	Extraction/Injection Open Wells Radiant Heating & Direct Cooling	Solar/Wind
	Add-ons 1. Biomass Backup 2. Solar Thermal 3. Distributed Heat Pump 4. Hydroelectric 5. Standing Column 6. Interseasonal Storage: ice pool below building heat lens	



Level 2







Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Basement
17,505 SF	14,975 SF	7,080 SF	5,405 SF

TOTAL 44,965 SF

# Architectural / Site Options Comparison

Options	2007 Study	Cronin Link	Cronin Wrap	Hinge	Wings	Bars
	-	-	-			
				-	-	-
Energy Performance	0			•	۲	•
LEED Platinum Potential				•	٠	•
Cost	٠		0		٠	•
Agency Image	0			•	•	•
Daylight	0	•		•		•
PV Roof	٠			•		•
Direct Exterior Views		•				
E-W Orientation	0			•		•
Compact Form	•	0		0		•
Convenient Entrance	0		0	0		•
Cronin Reuse		•		0	0	0
	4 1/2	7	5	8	7	9 1/2
🔿 Good 🌓 Better	Best				Cronin 📃 N	ew Construction

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# **Mechanical Options Comparison**

Options	Traditional Well Underfloor Air	Open Well Radiant	Extraction / Injection Well Radiant w/Direct Cooling
	the second	the sector of th	
Cost			
Efficiency	0		•
Operating Ease			
Durability			
Space Requirements	0	•	
Permitting			0
Indoor Environmental Quality			•
Peak Power Requirements	0		
	3	5	5 1/2

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Good

Better

Best

# **Electrical Options Comparison**

Options	Photovoltaics	Wind	PV + Wind	
	Æ			
Cost (Including Subsidies)	•			
Efficiency	•	0		
Operating Ease	•	0		
Durability	•	0		
Space Requirement	•	0		
Permitting	•	$\bigcirc$	0	
Acoustics	•	0	0	
Generation/ Load Match				
<b>Demonstration Potential</b>			•	
Carbon Footprint	0	•		
Regional Economic Development				
	8 1/2	3	6	

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Best

Better

Good

# Renewable Energy



#### Wind

250kW Turbine 50' blades 150'+ High at Hub

#### **Ground Source Heat Pumps**

2 to 3 Standing Column Wells 1,500 Feet Deep Or 20 Closed Loop Wells 500 Feet Deep


#### **Energy Modeling Results**





## Extraction / Injection Open Wells

**Radiant Heating & Direct Cooling** 



#### Extraction / Injection Open Wells

**Radiant Heating & Direct Cooling** 



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#### **Differential Glazing by Orientation**









North 25%

West 11%



#### Energy Plus Building Toward Carbon Neutral Campus

**ARCHI**TERRA

SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry Gateway Building Syracuse, NY





## Net Zero Energy



### Energy Plus



#### **Combined Heat & Power Plant**



















### Concourse & Café









# John W. Olver Transit Center

Mark Walsh-Cooke, Principal Arup

#### **Project Team**

Franklin Regional Council of Governments Franklin Regional Transit Authority

**Charles Rose Architects** 

Arup - MEP, fire/life safety, lighting, sustainability
RSE Associates (structural)
Nitsch Engineering (civil)
Groundview (landscape)
BET (building envelope)





"When you combine cutting edge design, zero net energy engineering, a downtown location that unites trains and busses and a project that has been an important part of our Recovery program, it is not surprising that this Center has such strong support."

> Jeffrey A. Simon, Director Massachusetts Recovery & Reinvestment Office

#### **Prior Site View**





#### Site Context



Courtesy of Charles Rose Architects

#### Getting to Zero Net Energy – Approach



### Building Program (Reduce Loads)

- Offices
- Community space
- Waiting and lobby
- Storage

Transit Waiting Tickets Cafe FRTA FRCOG Meeting Room Lobby Areas Service Zones





#### Façade Details (Passive Strategies)



#### Façade Details (Passive Strategies)

**Building Envelope** 

- Roof R=42
- Walls R=33
- Overhang R=36
- Glazing Argon filled DGU





### Daylight (Passive Strategies)



#### Systems (Active Strategies and Energy Recovery)

- Total energy wheel
- Ground source heat pumps
- Winter preheat
- Active chilled beams
- Demand controlled
   ventilation
- Lighting controls
- Premium efficiency motors
- Variable speed drives
- Cascade air
- LED lighting
- Energy monitoring and display




#### Renewable Strategies (Self Generation)







- 98kW PV Array
- Biomass Boiler
- Transpired Solar Collector

"We are here to not only celebrate this amazing transit hub that, thanks to President **Obama's commitment to getting Americans** back to work by infrastructure investments created jobs and made our Commonwealth more energy efficient, but also to thank Congressman Olver for a career that has spanned many decades."

> Governor Deval Patrick Commonwealth of Massachusetts



"Officials celebrate how public policy and design can come together to have a positive impact on sustainability, transportation, and economic development."

(L-R, US. Rep. James McGovern, John W. Olver, Governor Deval Patrick, U.S. Rep. Stephen Kulik, Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray, Peter Rogoff of the FTA, State Stimulus Chief Jeffrey Simon)

"Arup is helping the FRCOG achieve its goals for energy reduction saving many thousands of dollars in annual running costs"

> Linda Dunlavy Franklin Regional Council of Governments











$\mathcal{H}$		John W. Olver Trans	it Center	Find buildings Q
		Electricity Mechanical Lighting Photovoltaic   Image: LAYERS Golder Production (kWh) Image: Comparison Image: C		
	End Use Breakdown 12:00 AM – 2:33 PM FIRST FLOOR ELECT 0.05 RW LIGHTING 0.04 RW MECHANICAL EQU 5ECOND FLOOR EL 0.45 R	RICITY IPMENT ECTRICITY W WEEK MONTH YEAR	on energ	line building y dashboard

http://www.frta.org/JWO-Transit-Center-green-tech.html

#### John W Olver Transit Center Lessons Learned

- Communicate design assumptions
- Educate the building users
- Training for the building manager
- Continuous monitoring and reporting
- Continuous commissioning
- Renewable system power monitoring underway

### **Data From Monitoring**

• Placeholder slides

## Summary

- 1. Describe the barriers and lessons
- 2. Define zero net energy and how it relates to public policy.
- 3. Recognize the opportunity public buildings present
- 4. Develop a road map to achieve zero net energy

# **Contact Information**



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