

Presenters:

Samantha Dunn  
Housing Vermont

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gbA Architecture & Planning

Jon Haehnel  
BVH Integrated Services, P.C.

Steve Poole  
VHV Company

# Good Enough – Hitting the Energy Jackpot at Wentworth Community Housing



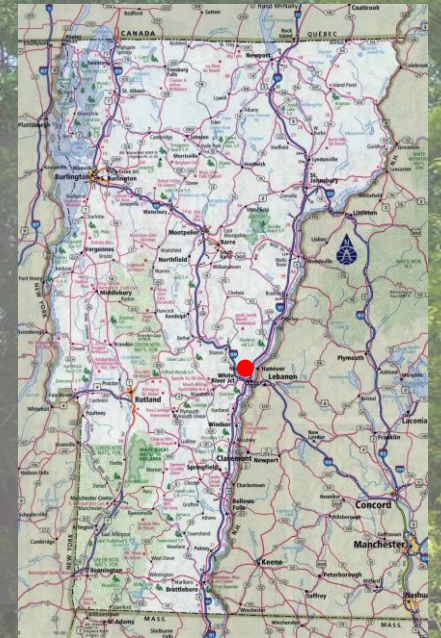


# CONTENT

- **Project Overview**
  - **The Building**
  - **How Did We Decide What To Build?**
  - **Decision Time**
  - **Design Coordination**
  - **Building the Building**
  - **Did it Work??**
  - **What's Next?**

# Project Overview

- Project Owners
  - Twin Pines Housing
  - Housing Vermont
- Building occupants
- Owner goals



**HOUSINGVERMONT**  
Building possibilities.





# Project Overview

## Housing Vermont

- ❖ 121 Buildings
- ❖ 3304 Units
- ❖ \$3.1 million on energy!





# Project Overview

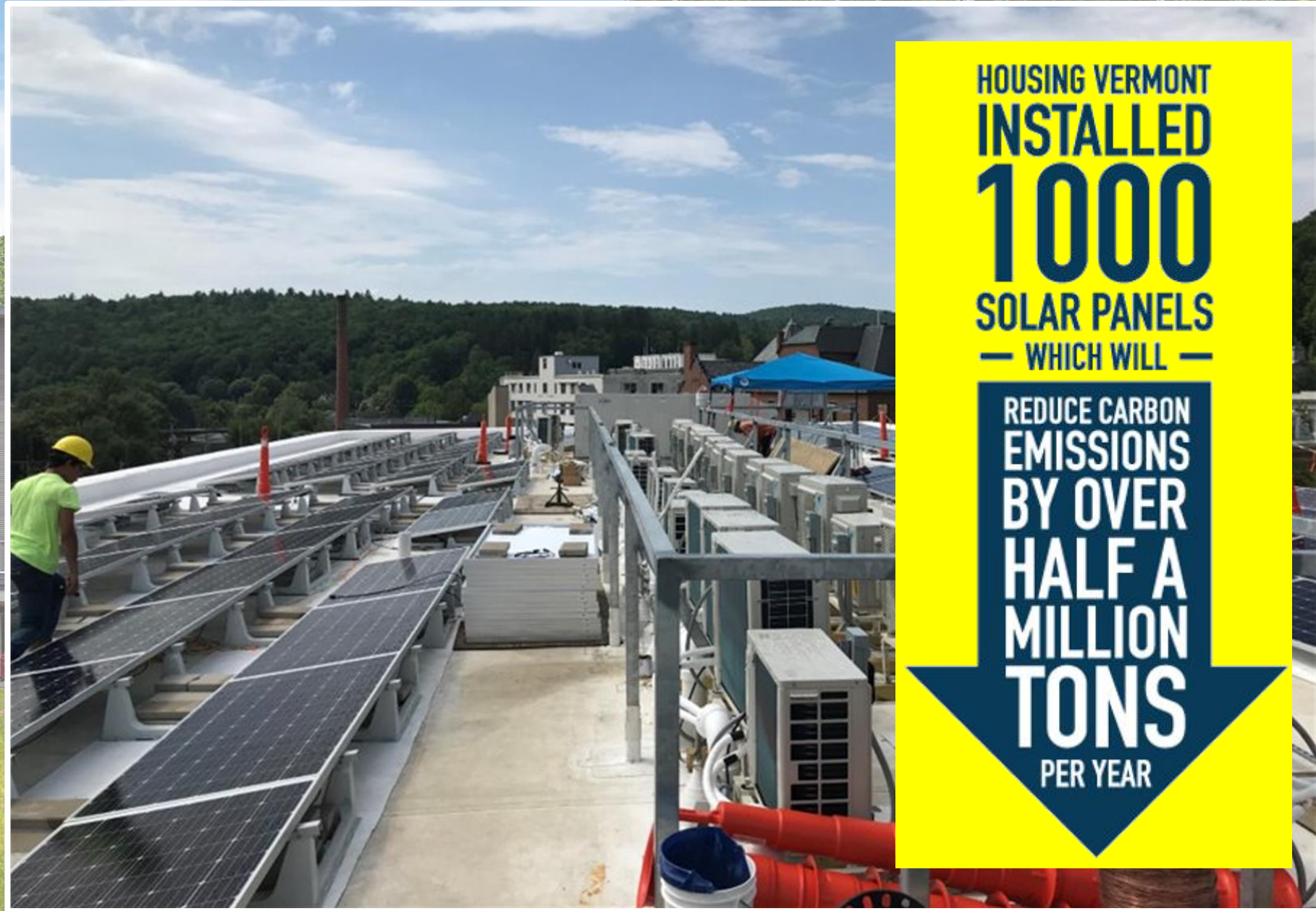
- ❖ Cost effective
- ❖ Low Life Cycle Cost
- ❖ Pleasant to live in!







# Project Overview





# Project Overview

- **The Team**
  - Architect – gbA Architects
  - Civil Engineer – Engineering Ventures
  - Structural Engineer – Sellers Treybal
  - Construction Manager – ReArch Company
  - Design-Build MEP – VHV and MEI
  - Fire Protection – Alpine Sprinkler
- **Why this Team?**



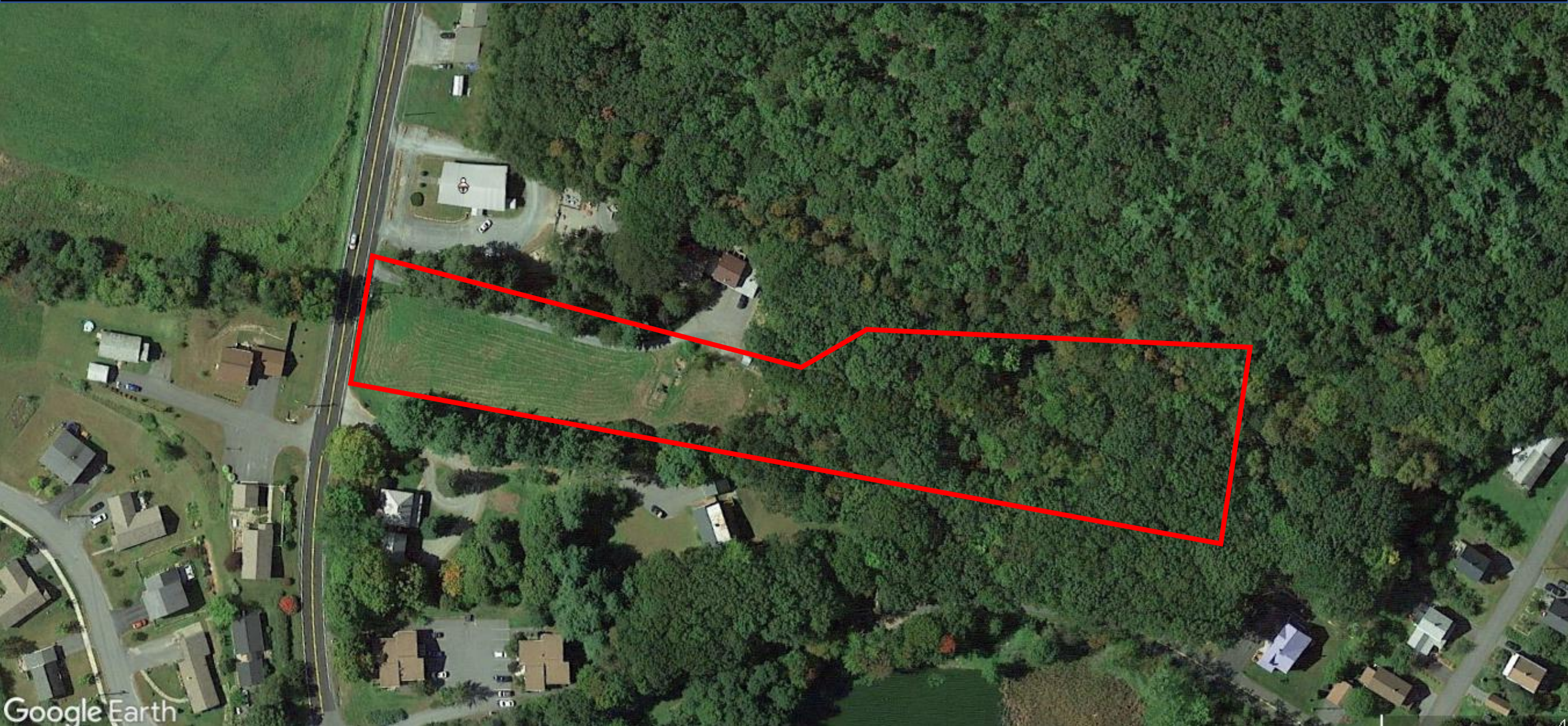


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# PROJECT SITE BEFORE CONSTRUCTION







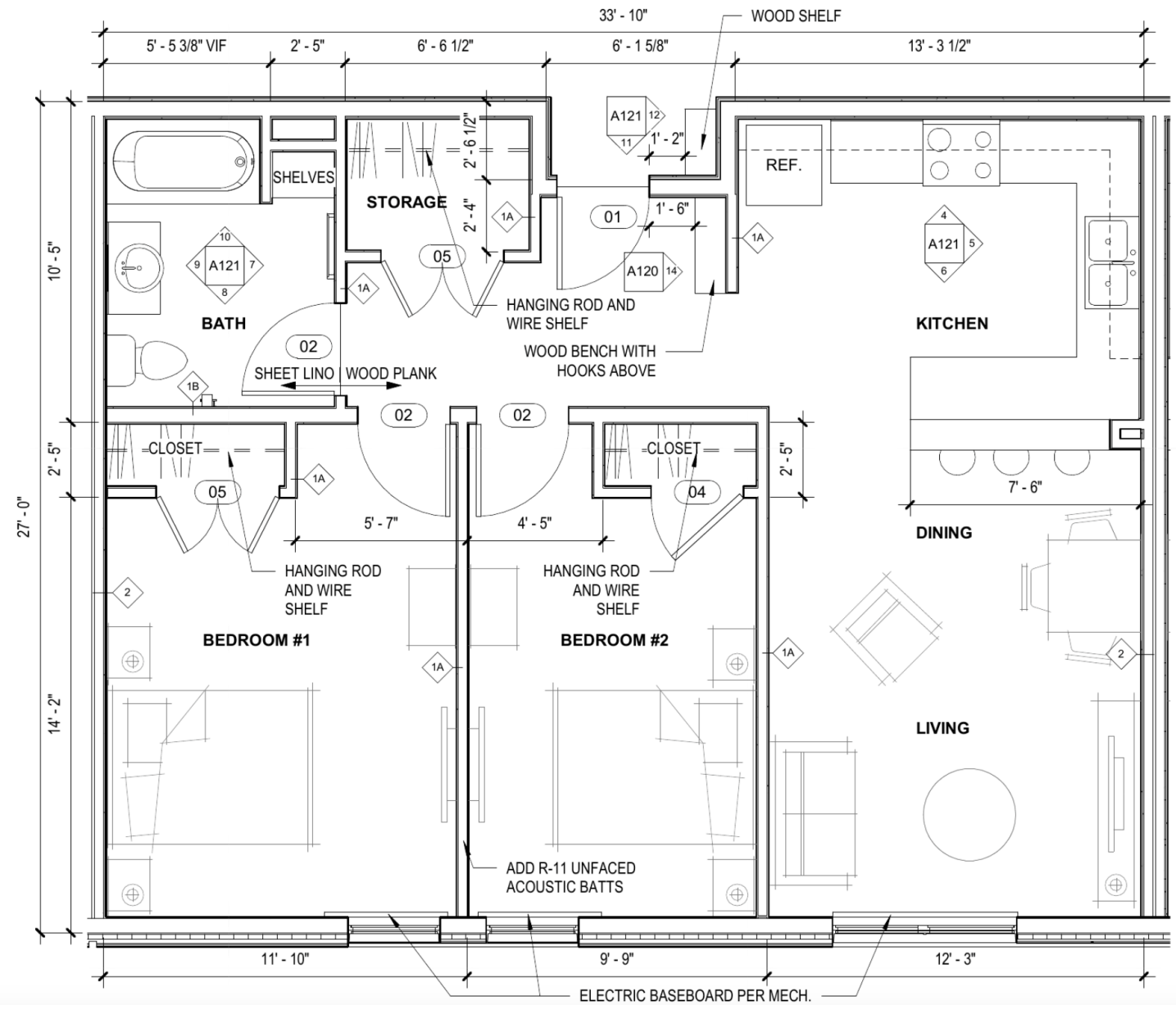
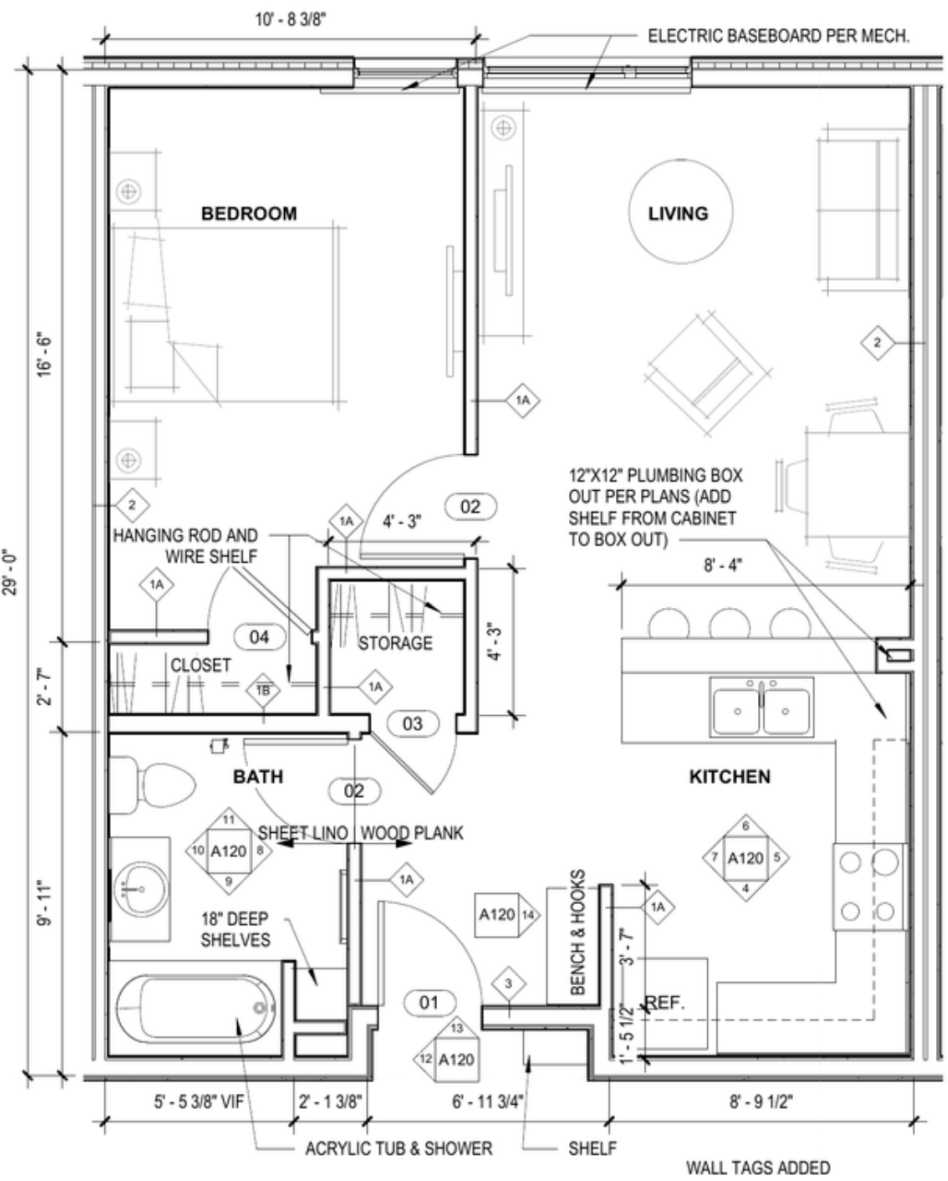




## The Building

- **33,930 SF**
- **Common area: 11,530 SF**
- **Three story with parking garage**
- **(15) 1 bedroom; (15) 2 bedroom**
- **Average unit size: 745 SF**
- **Site designed for Phase II Building**

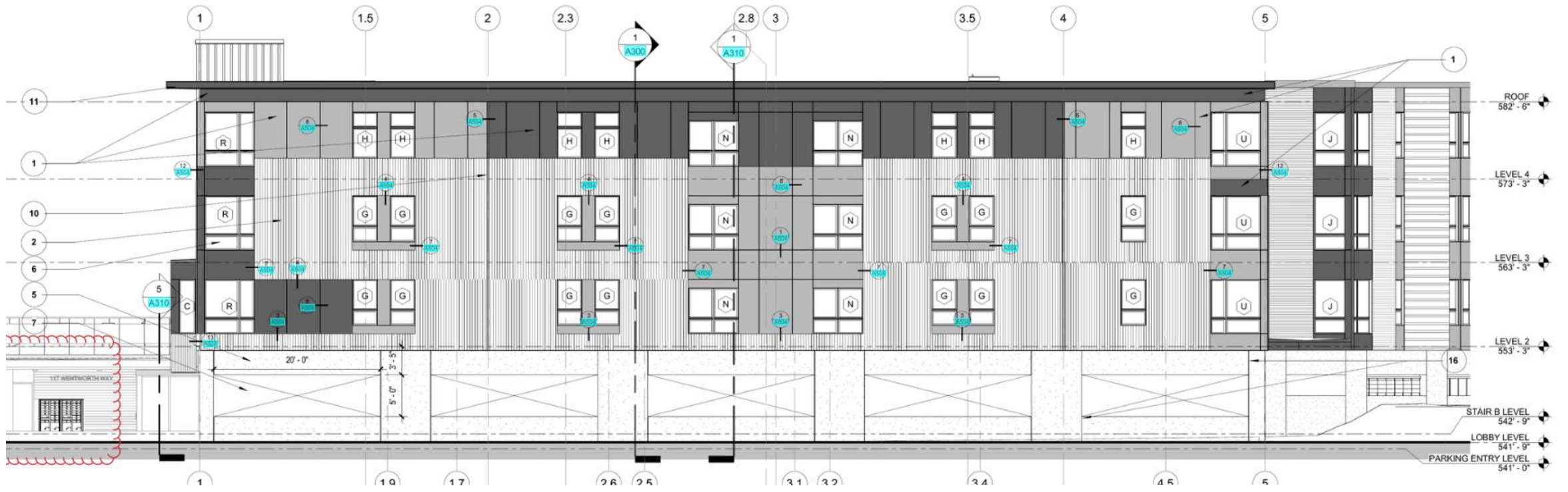






















# Commissioning Field Report

206 West Newberry Road  
 Bloomfield, CT 06002  
 Tel: (860) 286-9171  
 Fax: (860) 242-0236  
 www.bvhis.com



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|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Status:               | New                   |
| Location:             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor |
| Location Description: | Cellulose             |
| Test Type:            | Visual inspection     |

Results: Overall the cellulose insulation is looking good. The bays that are filled are densely packed with cellulose as it should. A few areas on the first floor were marked with red spray paint which represent bays missing insulation. The majority of them are known by the insulator such as the bays where interior walls meet exterior walls. The plan for them is to drill and fill the bays with cellulose. Along with this, bays that are too narrow to fill with cellulose should be filled with can foam instead.



The bays where an interior wall meets the exterior wall wrap behind a turned stud making access to the bay difficult. Because of this the plan is to drill and fill the bays with cellulose.

The arrows above point to a bay missing insulation at the intersection of column lines 5 and 6 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level. Fill the bay with either cellulose or foam.

Comments:

### Next Steps in Commissioning:

- 1.) Continued 1<sup>st</sup> instance testing on critical air barrier details (examples: sealed window installations, parking garage air barrier details, Zip roof to CMU wall, etc.).
- 2.) Continued visual inspections (example: Cellulose insulation).
- 3.) Compartmentalization preliminary test on mock-up unit.

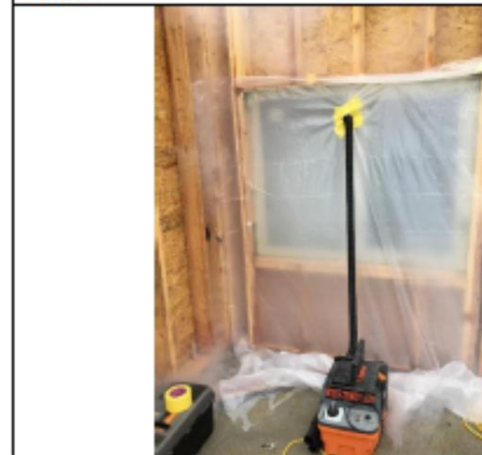
End of Report - See the BVH Portal for any outstanding items from previous reports



The installed window from outside. Locations where leaks were found are shown and described further below.



The installed window from inside.



The test setup from inside.



Fog wisped out at the lower corner of the sash even though the cam lock was engaged. This is not a major concern but highlights the importance of making sure the frames are installed square so the sashes close as they were designed to.



# Commissioning Field Report



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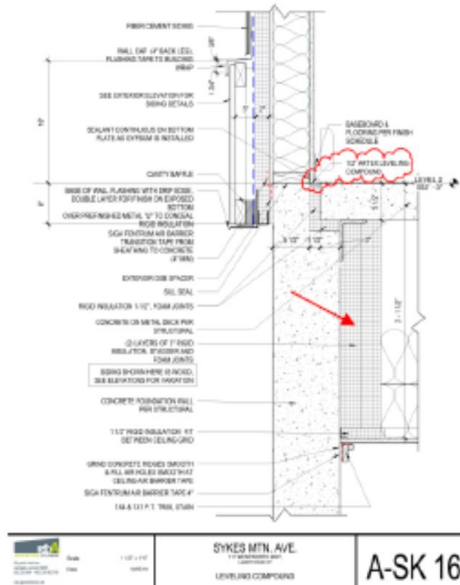
# Commissioning Field Report



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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Status:               | New:  |
| Location:             | A-SK16 , and/or 3/A500                          |
| Location Description: | Parking Garage Drywall to Foundation Transition |
| Test Type:            | Visual Inspection                               |

Results: Mark Selig from ReArch was concerned with the drywall seal to the foundation in the parking garage. In speaking with Mark, he stated that the interior rigid insulation in Drawing A-SK16 is being replaced with closed cell spray foam. If this is true, then we recommend the drywall be installed along the perimeter first, only one (1) sheet wide. This will allow the insulators to spray from the foundation directly to the top of the sheetrock. This transition, if done properly, will last longer and create a better seal to the foundation. The spray foam will also help seal penetrations through the foundation such as the roof drain pipes. Please also indicate where this switch to foam was approved.



Fog leaked at the foam in the corner when introduced at the clip shown at the right. See related recommendation above.

The rest of the comments are based on visual observations.



Make sure the ZIP stretch is stretched all the way into the corners. This opening was later infilled with more tape.

Hopefully the rough openings are not too tight. The window could tear the tape as it is pushed in.

If the rigid insulation indicated ultimately becomes spray foam, then we recommend the drywall around the perimeter of the garage be installed first for the foam to spray against. Please indicate where this change was

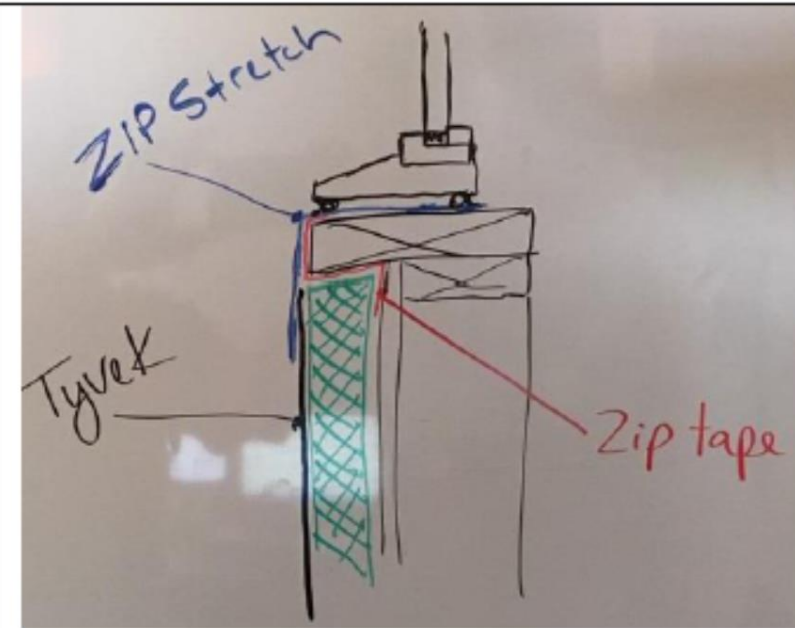


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**BVH**  
integrated  
services



The Tyvek has to be cut back in a square at the outer edge of the window buck so that the zip tape at the sheathing (the air barrier) can connect with the Zip Stretch tape at the rough opening. The Tyvek should not lap into the opening as seen above (blue arrows). The red lines show where the Tyvek should be cut to.

As discussed in the kick off meeting on 9-25-18, the Zip tape at the sheathing has to wrap the nose of the wood buck and the Tyvek has to be cut back to leave the buck exposed so the Stretch tape can connect to the Zip tape and then connect to the Tyvek. This is important for air barrier continuity. Also, make sure the Stretch tape comes into the rough opening far enough that the inner caulk bead will seal to the Stretch tape, not to wood.

It was done correctly at the mockup but a reminder to start at the bottom of the window and work up for proper shingling. This applies to all taped seams on the building.



### **Blower Door Test Results:**

The whole building leakage rate was 0.037 cubic feet per minute (CFM) at 50 Pascals of pressure (1.04 lbs./sq. ft.) per SF of exterior shell. The maximum air leakage rate allowed was 0.05 CFM at 50 pascals per SF of exterior shell so this building meets the standard. Adjusted CFM50 accounts for the change in air density due to temperature differences from inside and outside. Adjusted CFM50 is a more accurate measure of air flow under test conditions.

| <b>Field Measured<br/>CFM @<br/>50 Pascals</b> | <b>Temperature<br/>Adjusted CFM @<br/>50 Pascals</b> | <b>Square Feet of<br/>Building Shell</b> | <b>CFM50/SF</b> |
|--|--|--|-----------------|
| 1,497  | 1,513  | 40,892                                   | 0.037           |



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How do we decide what to build??

- Added Efficiency VT and Commons Energy to Design Team
- Design Charrette with Team
- Determine variables and Options to be considered

| WENTWORTH - ENVELOPE ANALYSIS              |        |                      |                      |                      |         |
|--|--------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Envelope                                   | RBES   | High Performance - A | High Performance - B | High Performance - C | Passive |
| Total Square Footage                       | 33,613 | 33,613               | 33,613               | 33,613               | 33,613  |
| Roof (const./R-value)                      | 60     | 66.6                 | 66.6                 | 66.6                 | 83.6    |
| Exterior Wall / Above Grade Wall (R-value) | 20     | 31                   | 31                   | 31                   | 40      |
| Total Window Area                          | 2729   | 2,729                | 2,729                | 2,729                | 2,729   |
| Window U Value                             | 0.28   | 0.28                 | 0.28                 | 0.15                 | 0.15    |
| Window SHGC                                | 0.3    | 0.4                  | 0.4                  | 0.4                  | 0.4     |
| Rim Joists / perimeter slab edge (R-value) | 20     | 31                   | 31                   | 31                   | 40      |
| Parking Garage Ceiling/Floor over unheated | 30     | 30                   | 30                   | 50                   | 50      |
| Slab on Grade (const./R-value)             | 15     | 15                   | 15                   | 15                   | 20      |
| Air infiltration - CFM50/sf                | 0.3    | 0.1                  | 0.05                 | 0.05                 | 0.05    |



How do we decide what to build??

- **Out-of-Box thinking!**
- **Developed envelope and systems options Matrix**
- **Optionitis!**

|                                  | <b>Envelope</b> |                    |                    |         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
|                                  | Base            | High Performance A | High Performance B | Passive |
| Total Square Footage             | 32,579          | 32,579             | 32,579             | 32,579  |
| Roof (const./R-value)            | 60              | 60                 | 60                 | 76      |
| Exterior Wall (R-value)          | 20              | 25                 | 25                 | 40      |
| Total Window Area                | 2,438           | 2,438              | 2,438              | 2,438   |
| Window U Value                   | 0.28            | 0.15               | 0.28               | 0.15    |
| Window SHGC                      | 0.3             | 0.4                | 0.3                | 0.4     |
| Rim Joists (R-value)             | 20              | 25                 | 25                 | 40      |
| Parking Garage Ceiling (R-value) | 30              | 38                 | 38                 | 40      |
| Slab on Grade (const./R-value)   | 15              | 15                 | 15                 | 20      |
| Air infiltration - CFM50/sf      | 0.3             | 0.05               | 0.05               | 0.05    |

| HVAC OPTIONS | Option 1   | Option 2  | Option 2A   | option 3  | option 3B  |
|--------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| Heat         | base board hot water higher temp water, non condensing boiler, 80% eff | 1. hydronic baseboard with condensing LP gas heat<br>low temp water | 1. radiant floor heat with condensing LP gas heat<br>low temp water | ERV with heating boost off of gas boiler, electric baseboard suppliment | ERV with tempered air, electric baseboard suppliment |



How do we decide what to build??

- **Building load calculations**

- 
- 

| Life Cycle Cost Analysis |           |                    |                            |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|                          | Hydronic  | Electric Baseboard | Electric Baseboard w/Solar |
| First Cost               | 1,353,944 | 1,215,944          | 1,335,994                  |
| Energy Costs             | 678,934   | 693,722            | 508,436                    |
| Maintenance              | 39,144    | 23,486             | 53,486                     |

|              |                  |                  |                  |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2,090,065</b> | <b>1,944,823</b> | <b>1,909,587</b> |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|



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| <b>Envelope</b>  | <b>RBES</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>Passive</b> | <b>Final Design</b> | <b>Final Design</b> |
|--|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total Square Footage                                       | 33,613      | 33,613   | 33,613   | 33,613   | 33,613         | 33,930              | 33,930              |
| Roof (const./R-value)                                      | 60          | 66.6     | 66.6     | 66.6     | 83.6           | 66                  | 66                  |
| Exterior Wall / Above Grade Wall (R-value)                 | 20          | 31       | 31       | 31       | 40             | 32.4                | 32.4                |
| Total Window Area  | 2729        | 2,729    | 2,729    | 2,729    | 2,729          | 2,729               | 2,729               |
| Window U Value   | 0.28        | 0.28     | 0.28     | 0.15     | 0.15           | 0.2                 | 0.2                 |
| Window SHGC  | 0.3         | 0.4      | 0.4      | 0.4      | 0.4            | 0.4                 | 0.4                 |
| Slab edge (R-value)  | 20          | 31       | 31       | 31       | 40             | 21                  | 21                  |
| Parking Garage Ceiling/Floor over unheated space (R-value) | 30          | 30       | 30       | 50       | 50             | 50                  | 50                  |
| Slab on Grade (const./R-value)                             | 15          | 15       | 15       | 15       | 20             | 15                  | 15                  |
| Air infiltration - CFM50/sf                                | 0.3         | 0.1      | 0.05     | 0.05     | 0.05           | 0.035               | 0.035               |

- **Construction Cost Differential (envelope): \$181,347 (\$5.34/sf)**
- **Operating Cost Savings: \$8,337/yr**

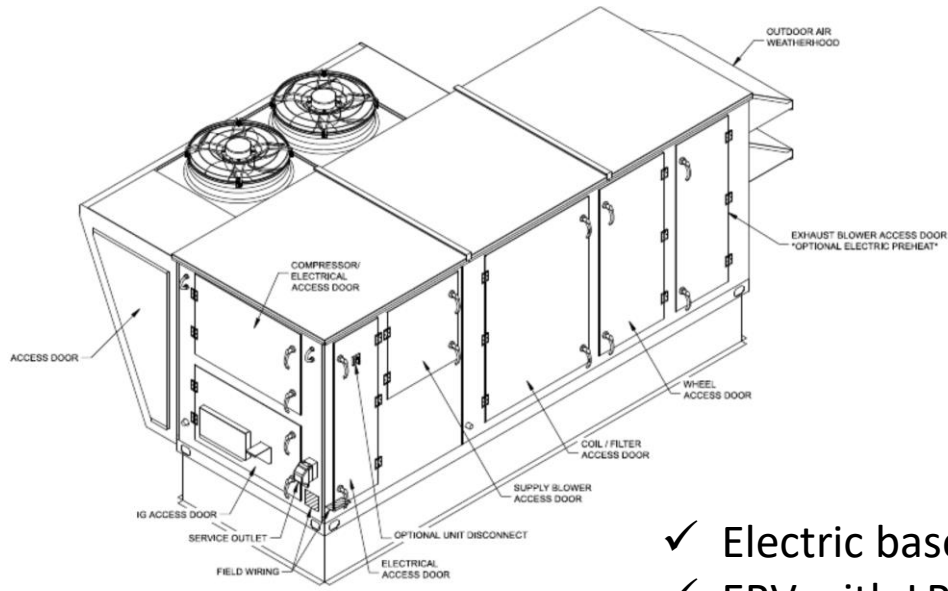


**Code Compliant**

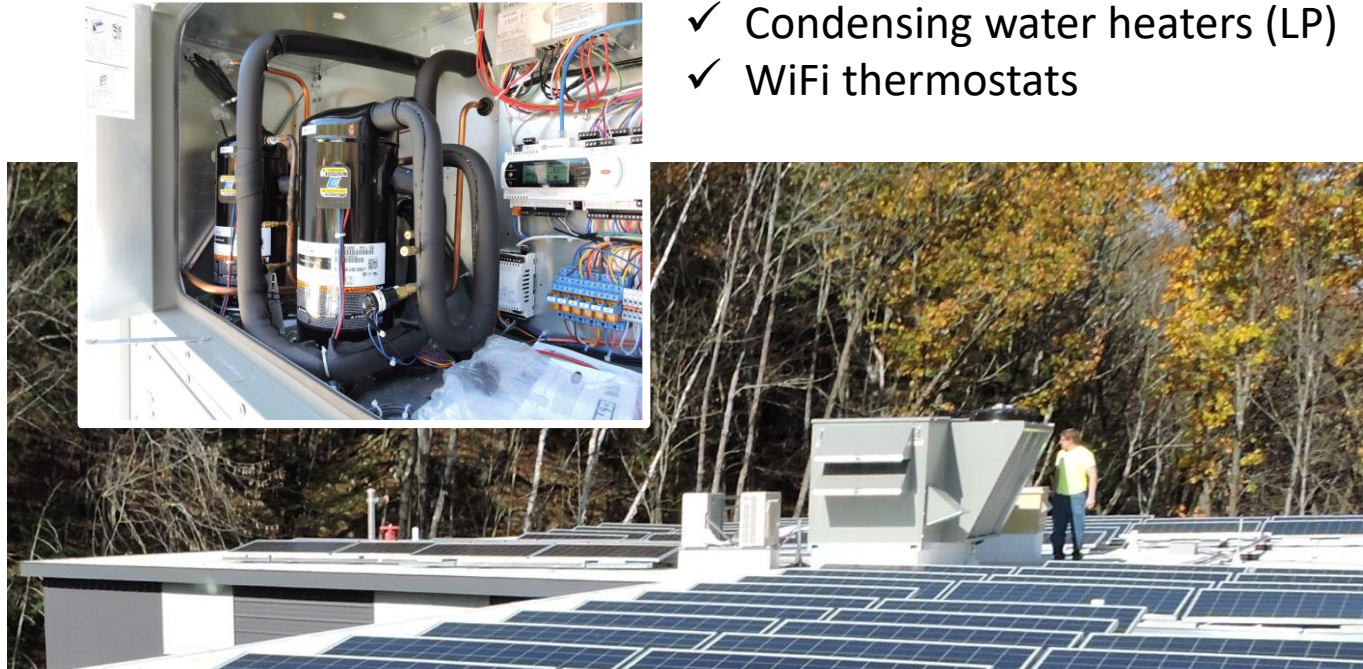


**Our Building  
(without high cost of a Yeti!)**





- ✓ Electric baseboard heat
- ✓ ERV with LP gas heat and cooling
- ✓ Condensing water heaters (LP)
- ✓ WiFi thermostats







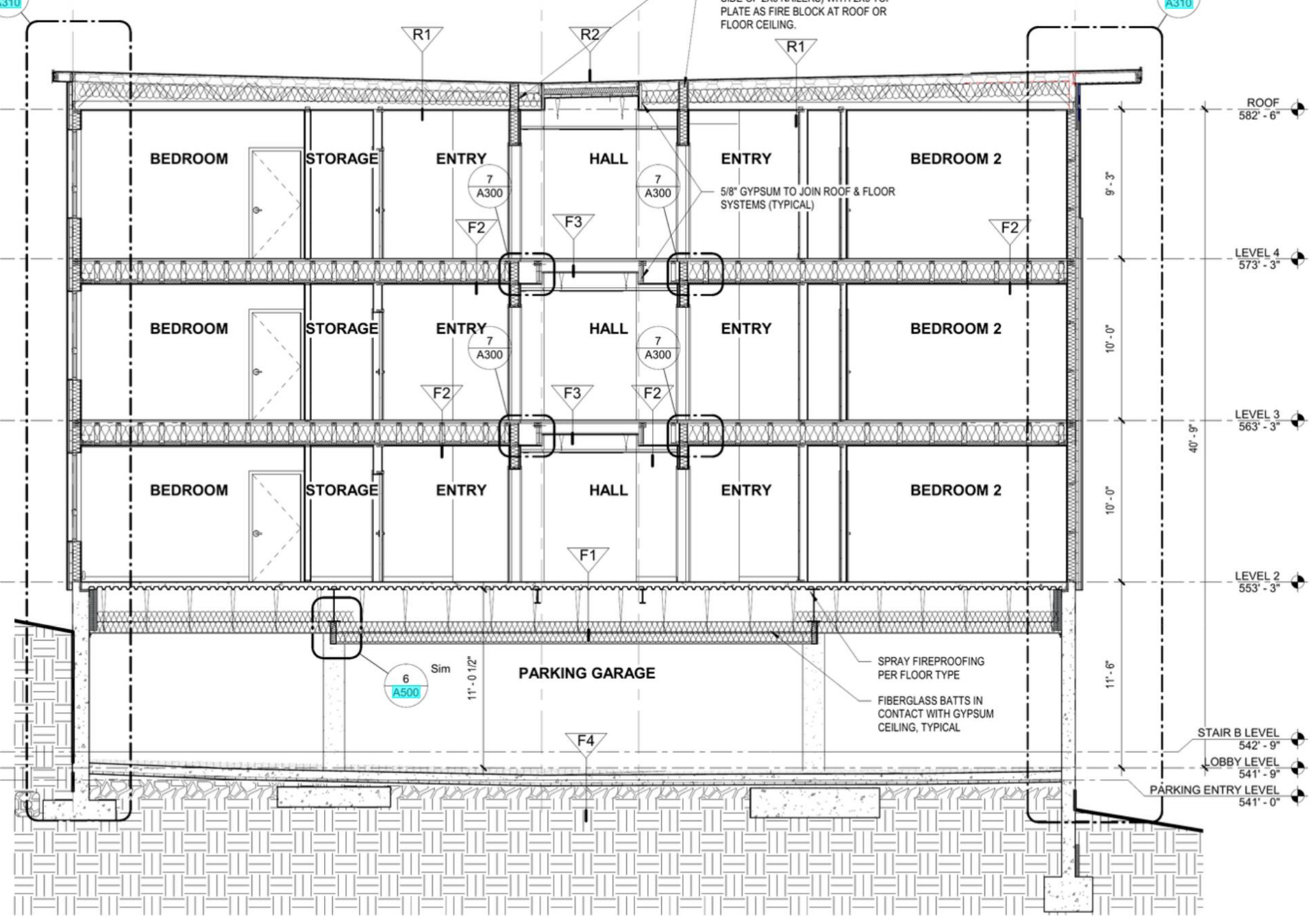
|           | <b>kWh<br/>Produced</b> |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| July      | 9,152                   |
| August    | 7,877                   |
| September | 6,484                   |
| October   | 3,548                   |
| November  | 1,511                   |
| December  | 812                     |



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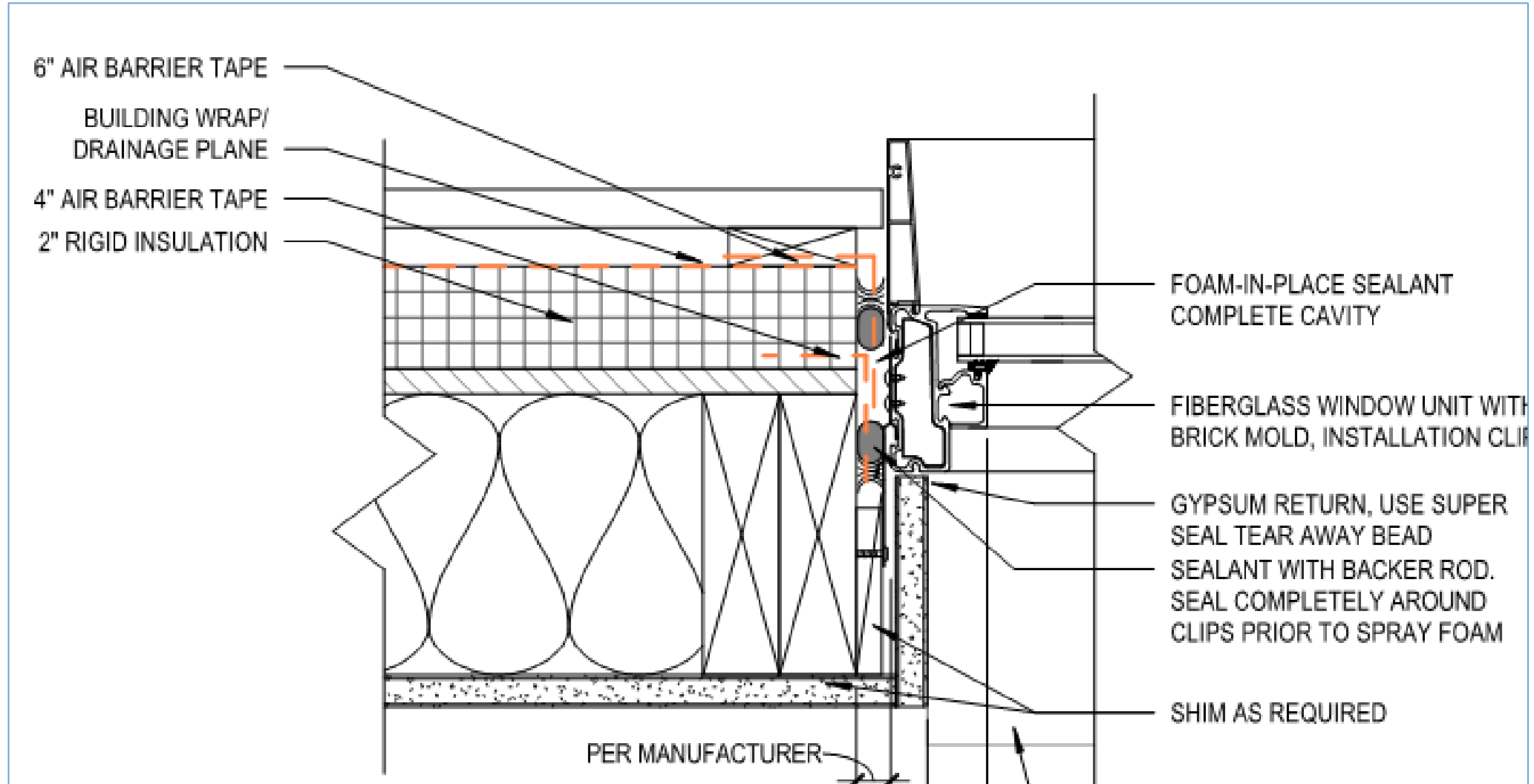




**1 BUILDING SECTION**

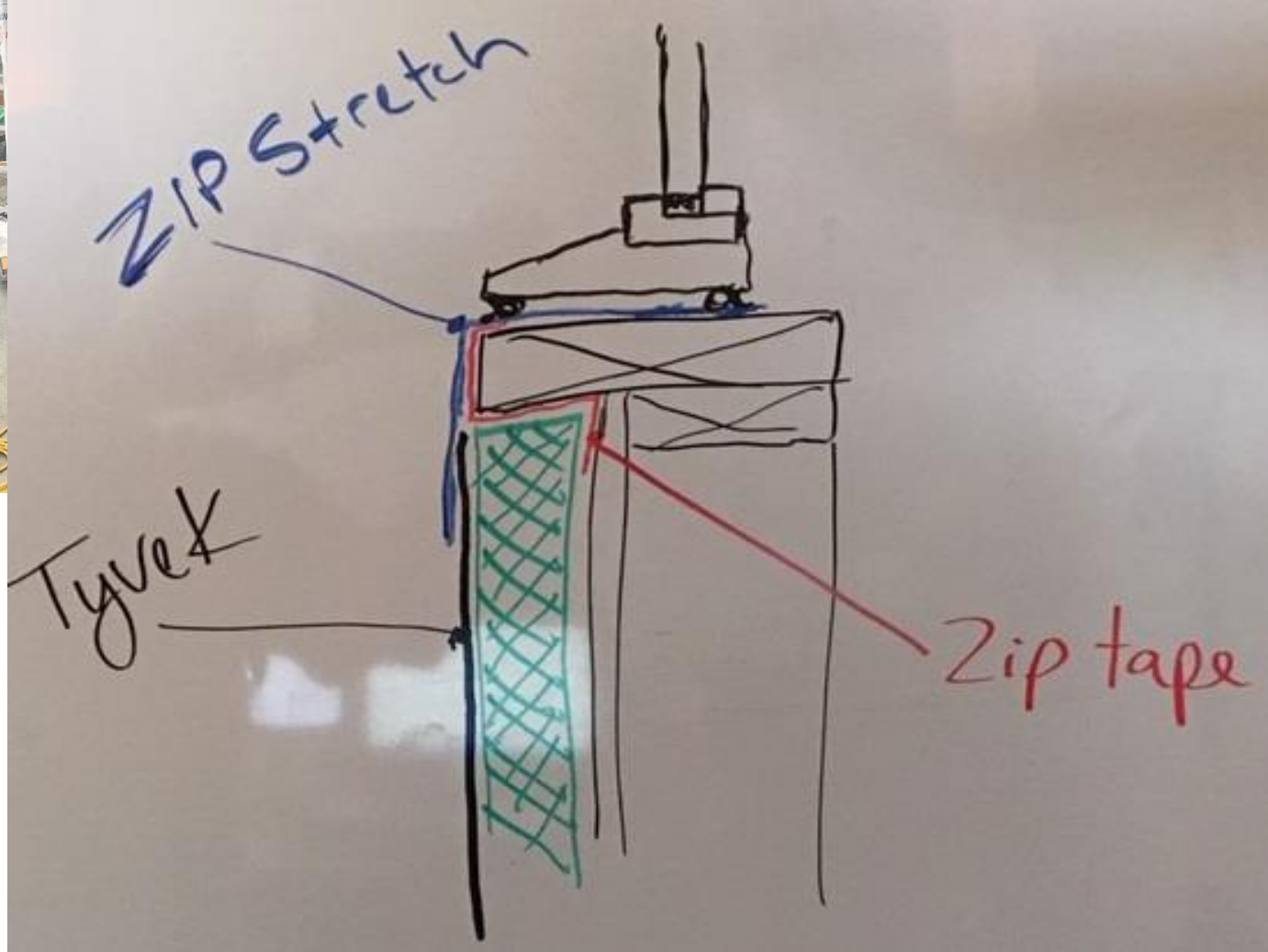
SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"

# Envelope Kick Off Meeting





# Mock Up Tests







# CONTENT

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# Visual Inspections



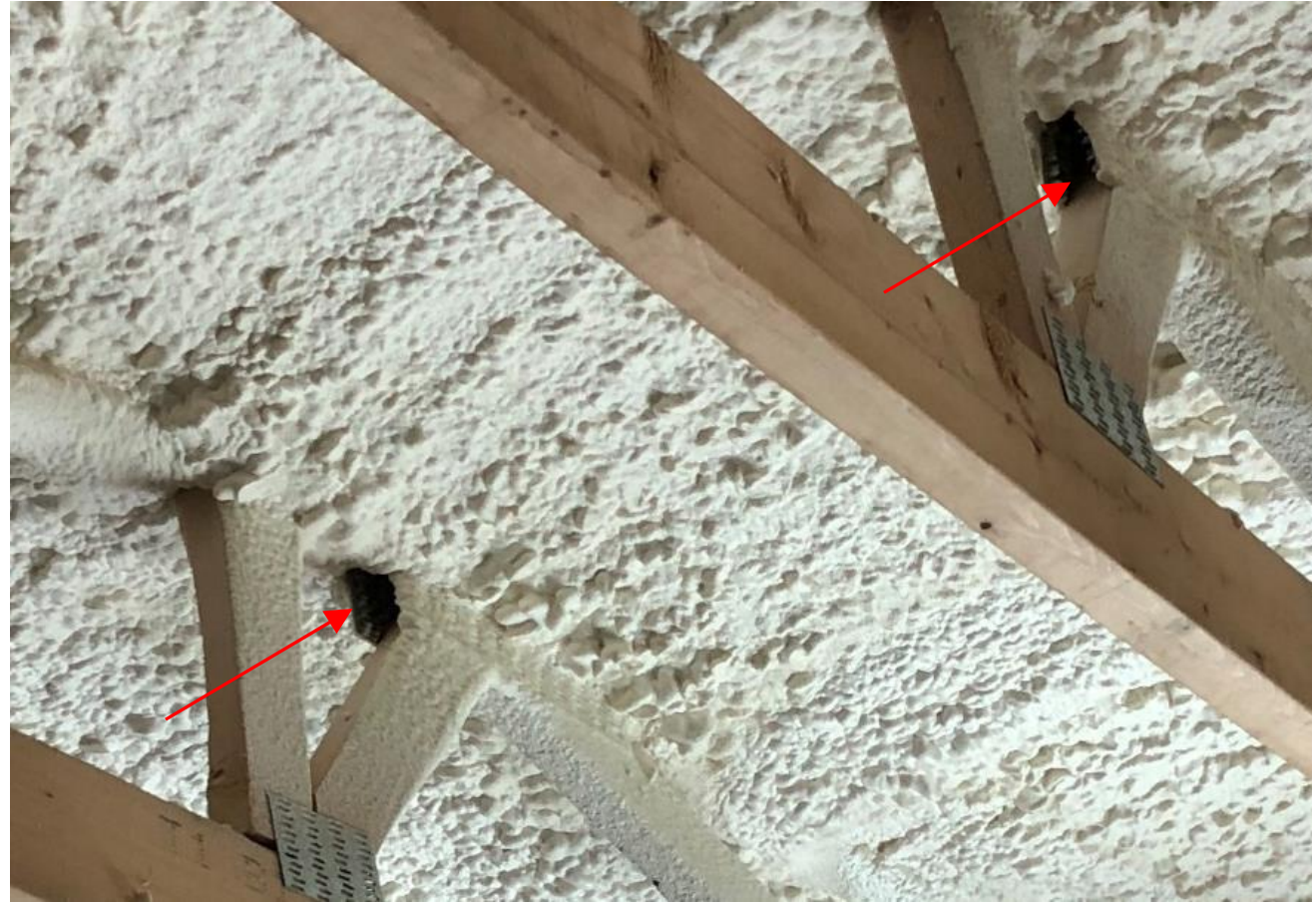
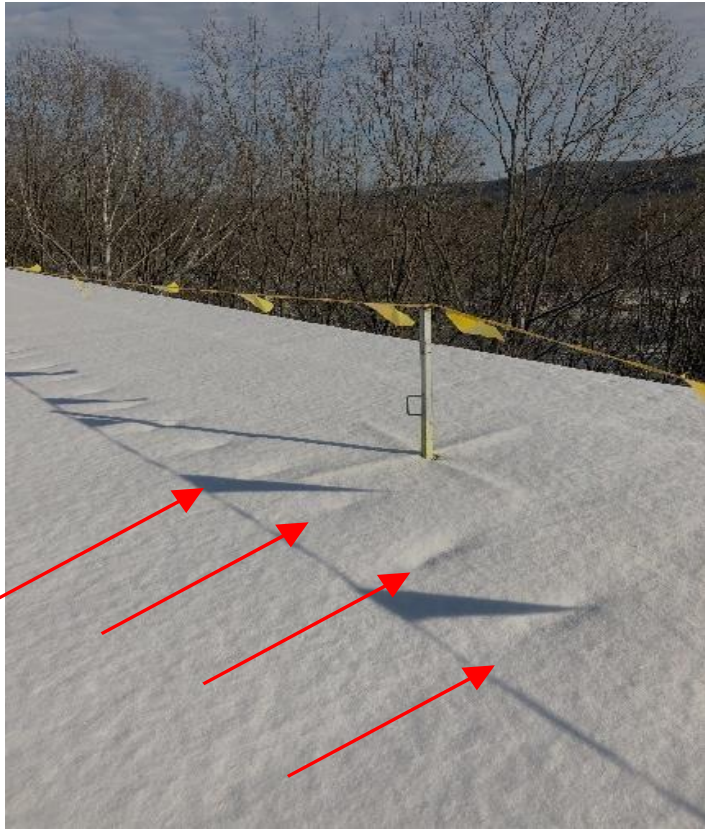


# Fog Tests



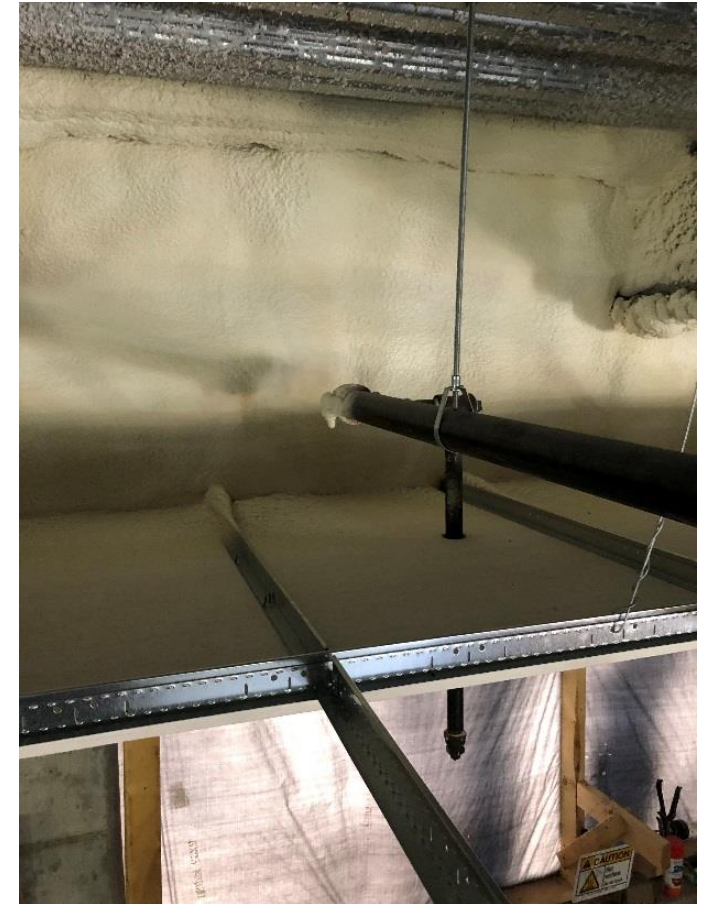


# Snow Melt on Roof





# Parking garage ceiling as air barrier





# Rafter Tails





# Compartmentalization Tests

The Unit 110 leakage rate was 369 CFM at 50 Pascals which equates to 0.12 cubic feet per minute (CFM) at 50 Pascals of pressure (1.04 lbs./sq. ft) per SF of the exterior shell. The maximum air leakage rate allowed was .10 CFM at 50 Pascals per SF of exterior shell and 0.20 CFM at 50 Pascals per SF of interior shell equating to 448.2 CFM at 50 Pascals. This result means the unit has met the air tightness standard.



| Field Measured<br>CFM @ 50<br>Pascals | Square Feet of<br>Unit Shell | CFM50/SF | Weighted Target<br>CFM |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| 369                                   | 2,962                        | 0.12     | 448.2                  |

Note\* photo was take before repairs were made.

# Test Unit



Wall to floor

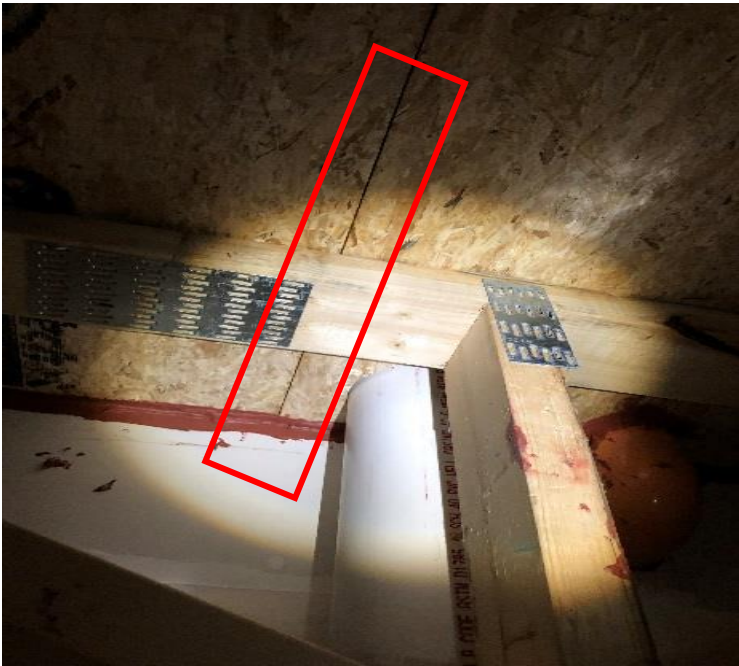


Drywall is not continuous behind interior partitions, resulting in leaks.



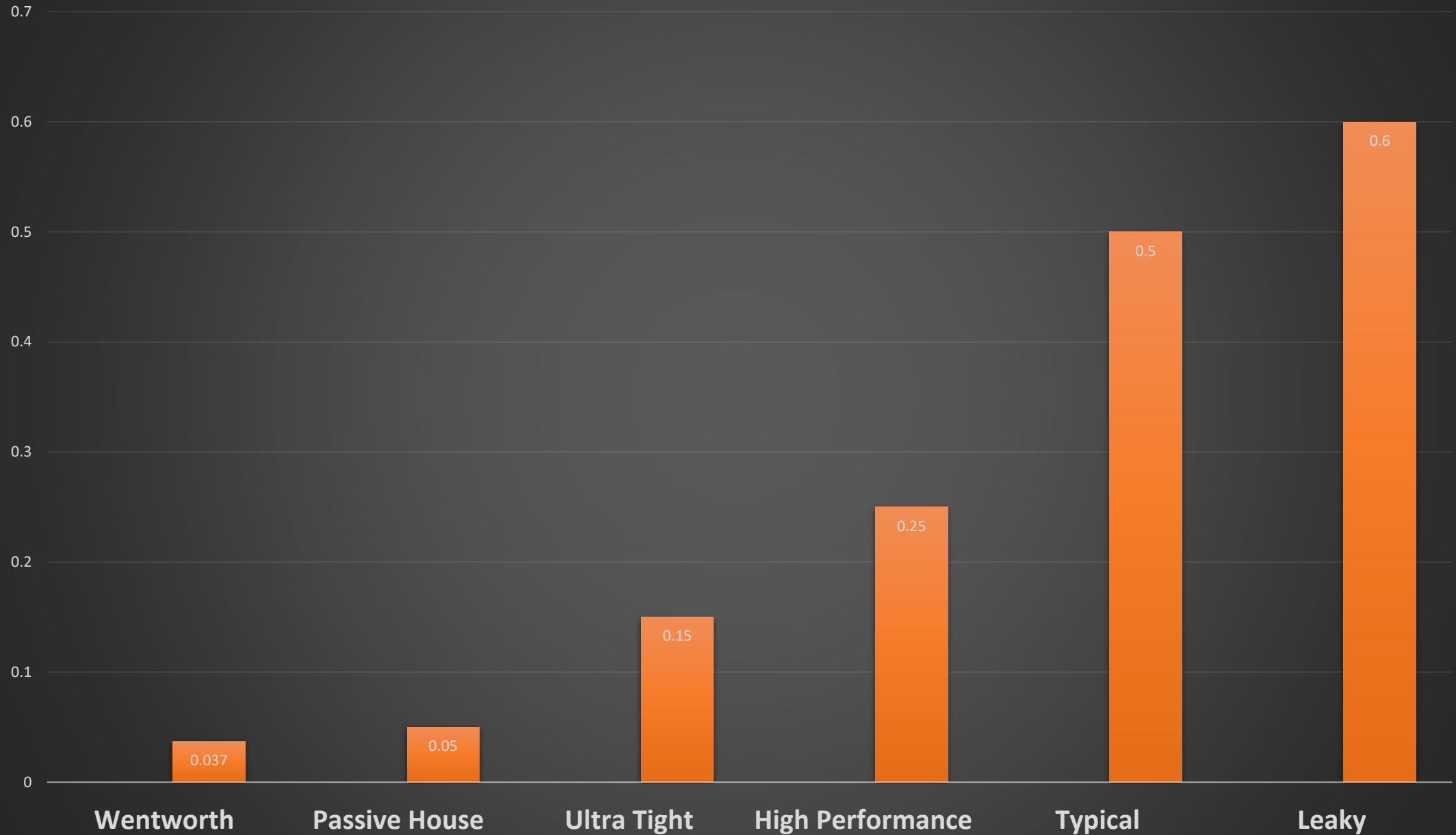
Pipe chase with seam missing tape





Plumbing penetrations  
OSB Seams in the ceiling  
Interior outlets-around 50 CFM at first

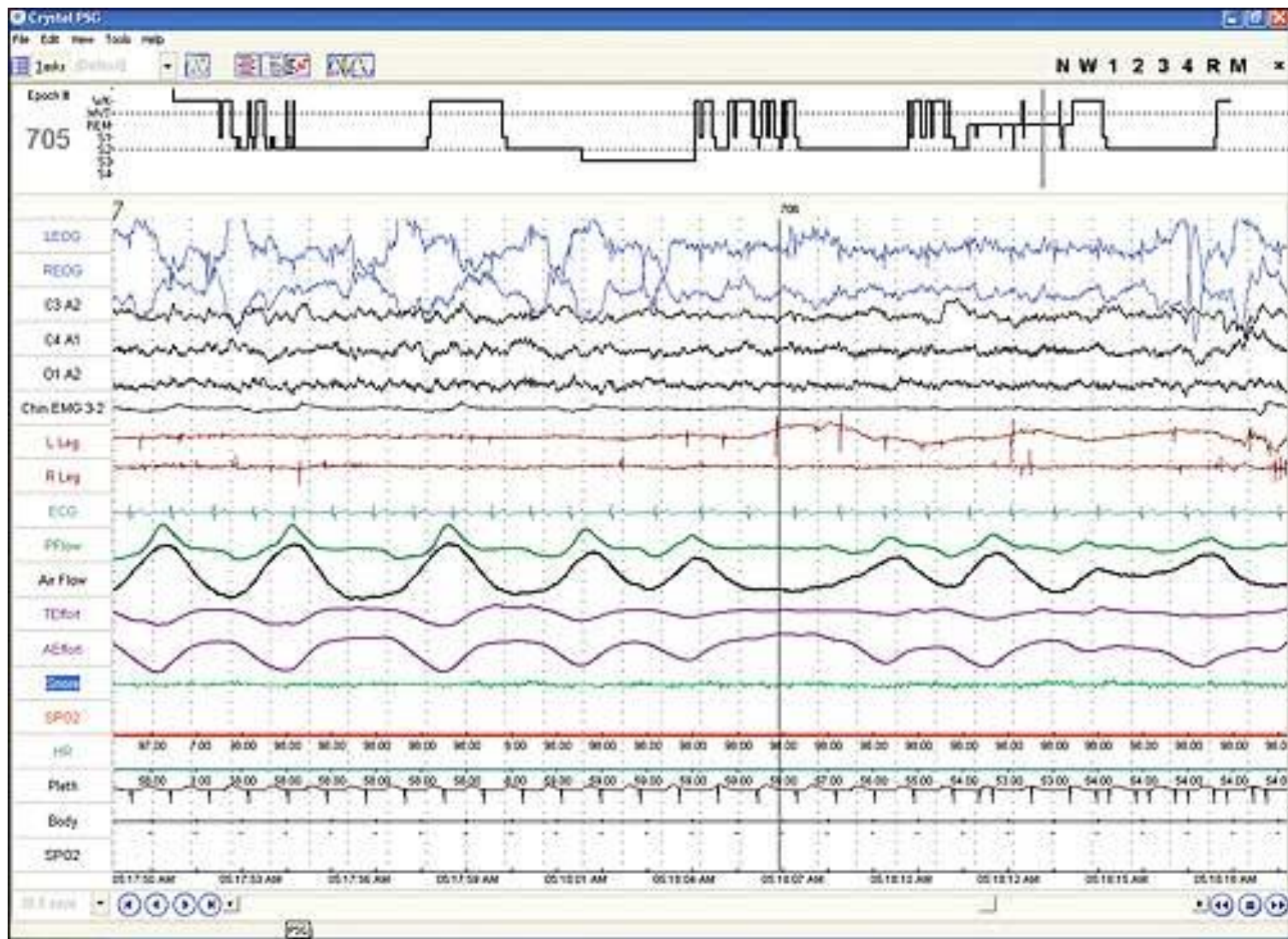
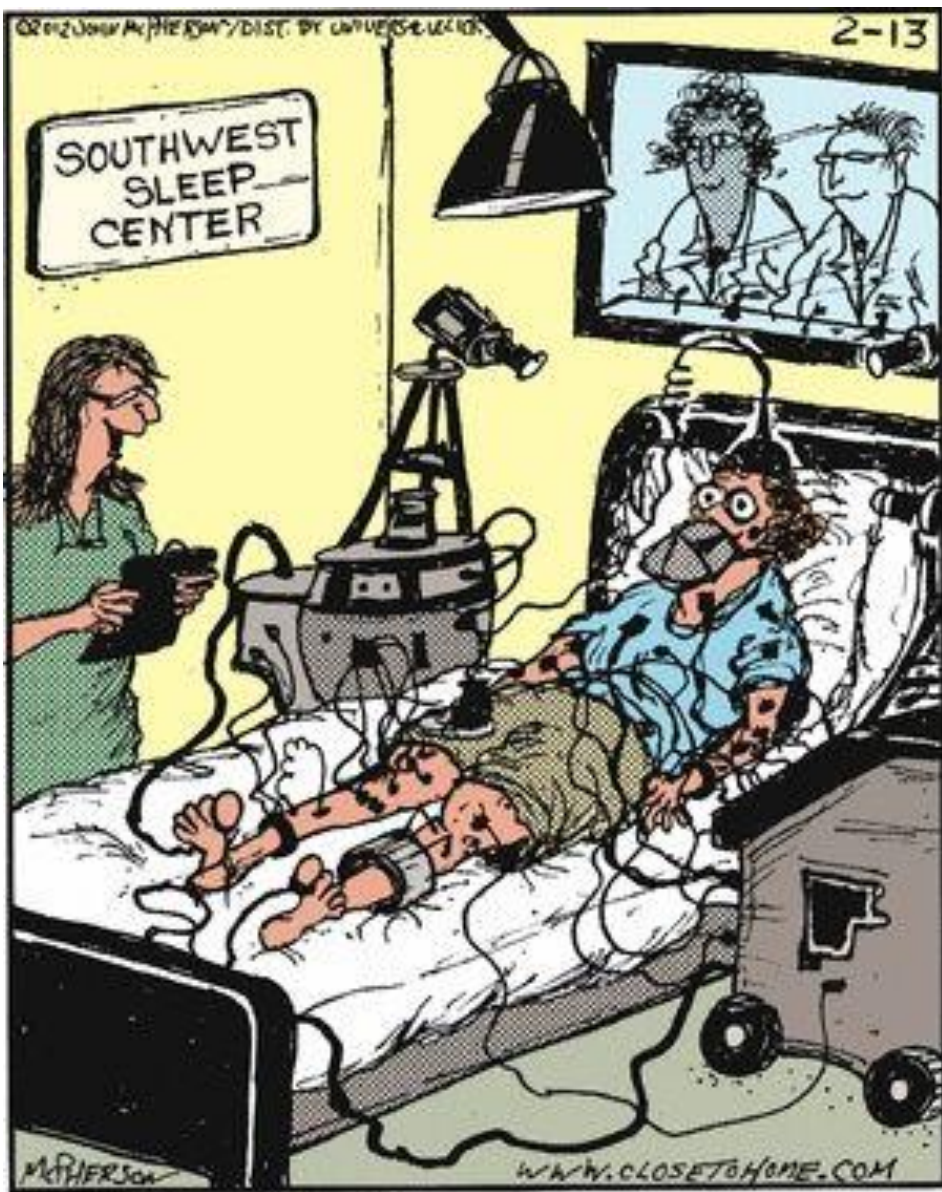
## Air Tightness (CFM50/sf)





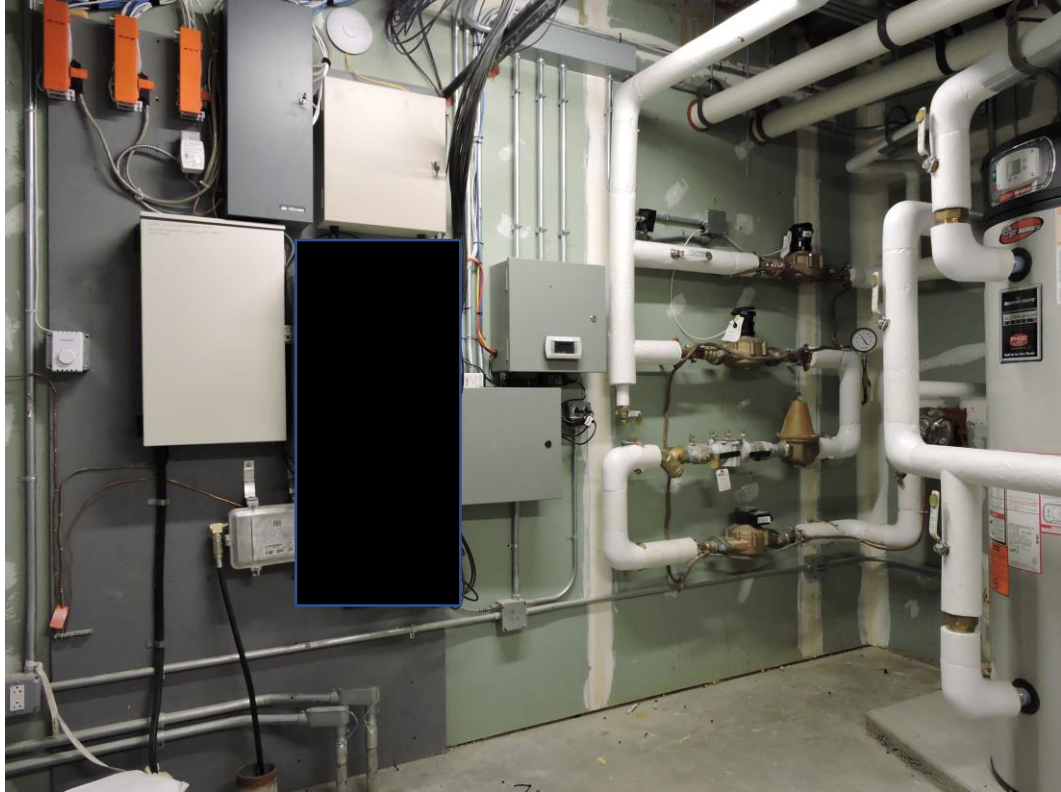
# RESULTS

- Project Overview
- The Building
- How Did We Decide What To Build?
- Decision Time
- Design Coordination
- Building the Building
- **Did it Work??**
- What's Next?



“OK, Mrs. Tully. We want you to relax, get a good night’s sleep, and we’ll evaluate any sleep issues that you have.”



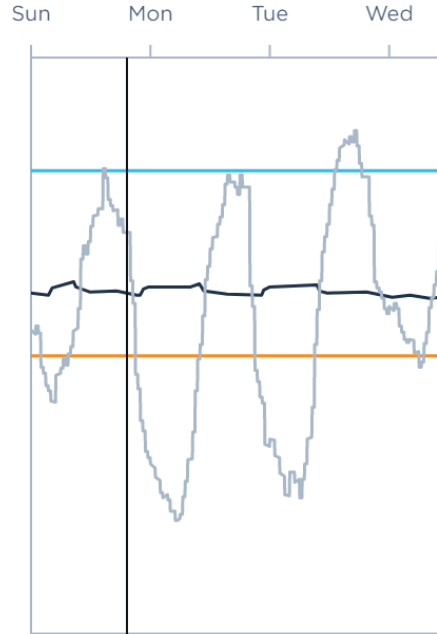


August 4, 2019  
7:15 PM

Aug 4, 2019 - Aug

### Temperature

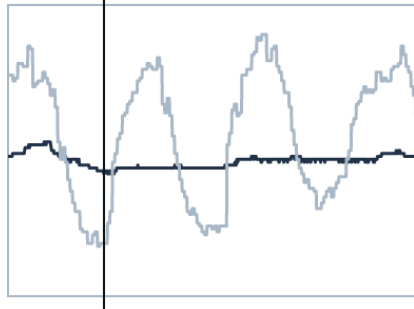
- Outdoor
- Indoor
- Cool
- Heat
- Sensors



### Humidity

- Outdoor
- Indoor

28%  
52%



August 5, 2019  
4:05 PM

Aug 4, 2019 - Aug 11, 2019

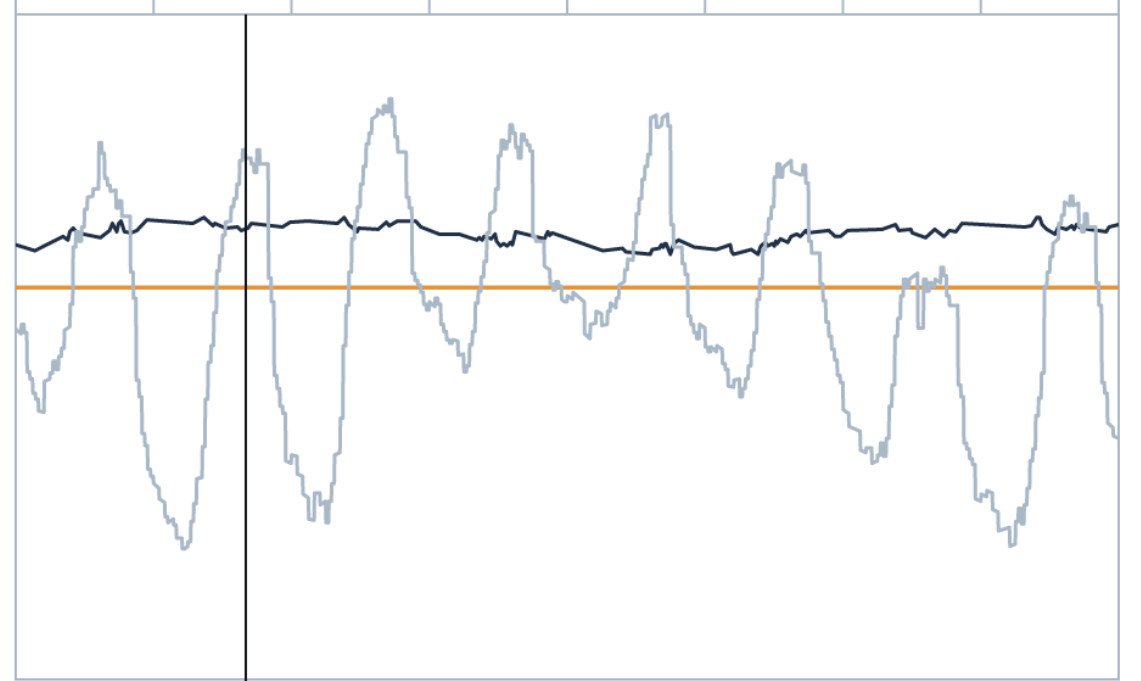
Export

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon

### Temperature

- Outdoor
- Indoor
- Cool
- Heat
- Sensors

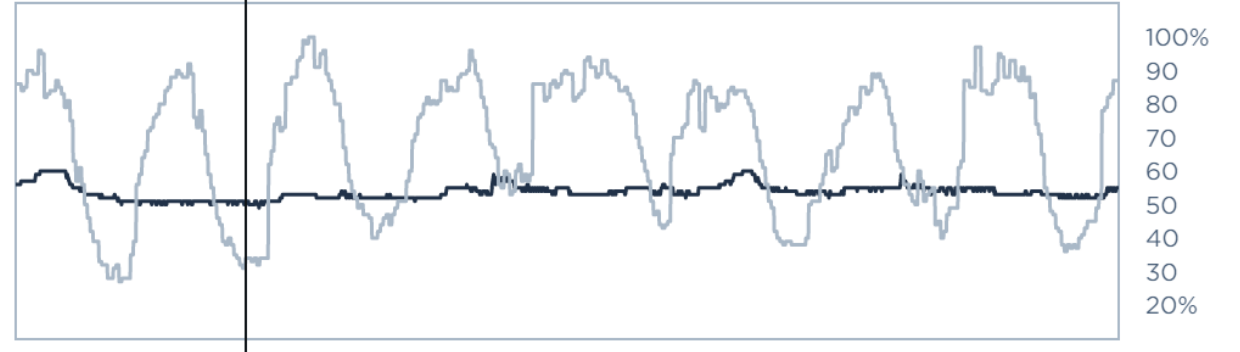
81°  
75°  
70°  
70°



### Humidity

- Outdoor
- Indoor

34%  
51%





January 25, 2020  
6:55 PM

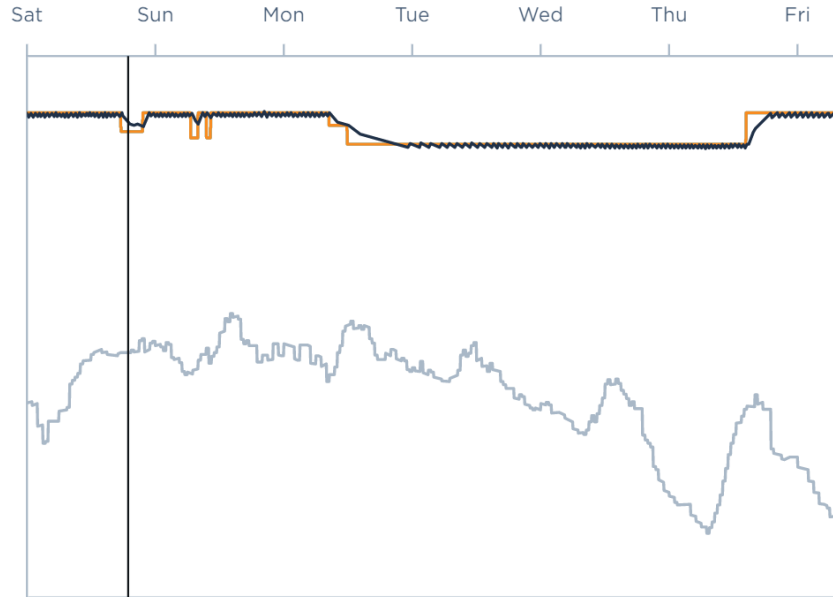
Jan 25, 2020 - Jan 31, 2020

E

### Temperature

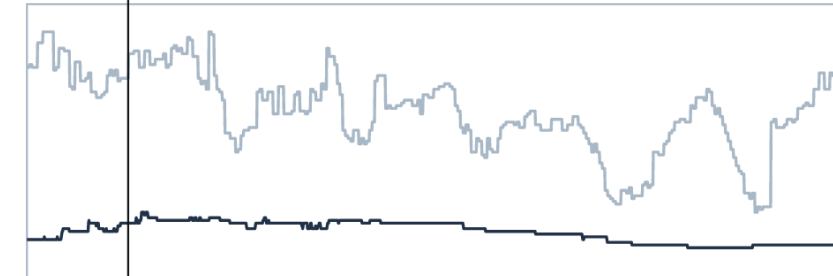
— Outdoor 36°  
— Indoor 73°  
— Cool 71°  
— Heat 71°

Sensors ▼



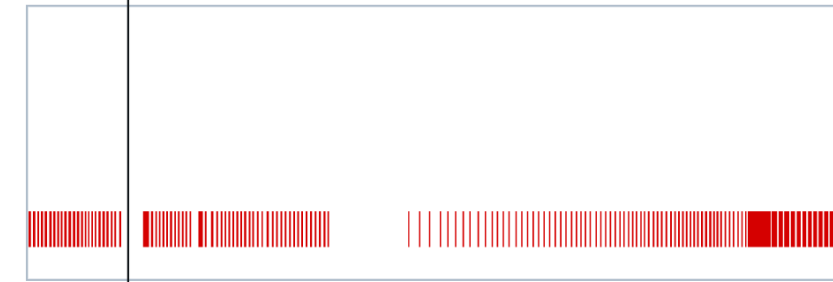
### Humidity

— Outdoor 83%  
— Indoor 30%



### System Runtime

■ Fan Off  
■ Cool Off  
■ Heat Off  
■ Aux Off



January 29, 2020  
8:10 PM

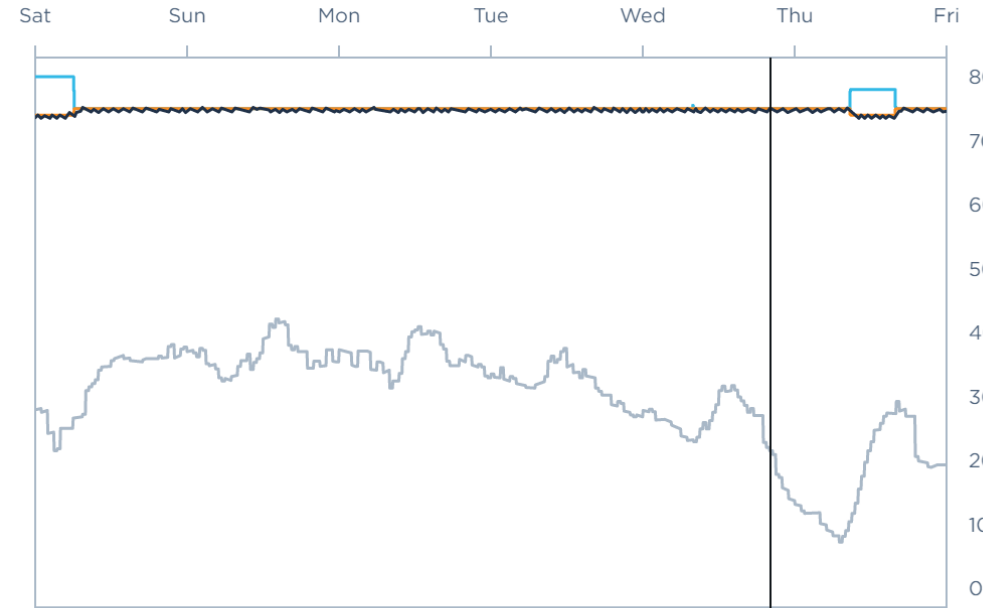
Jan 25, 2020 - Jan 30, 2020

Export

### Temperature

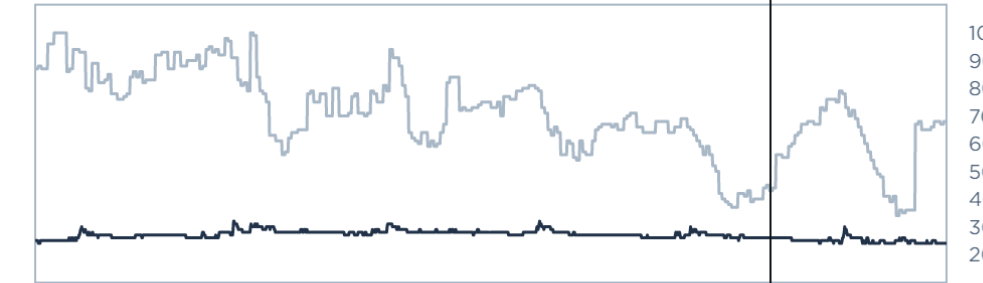
— Outdoor 22°  
— Indoor 75°  
— Cool 75°  
— Heat 75°

Sensors ▼



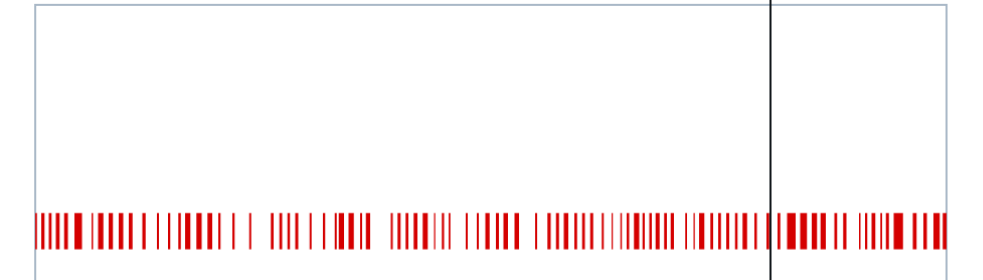
### Humidity

— Outdoor 43%  
— Indoor 26%



### System Runtime

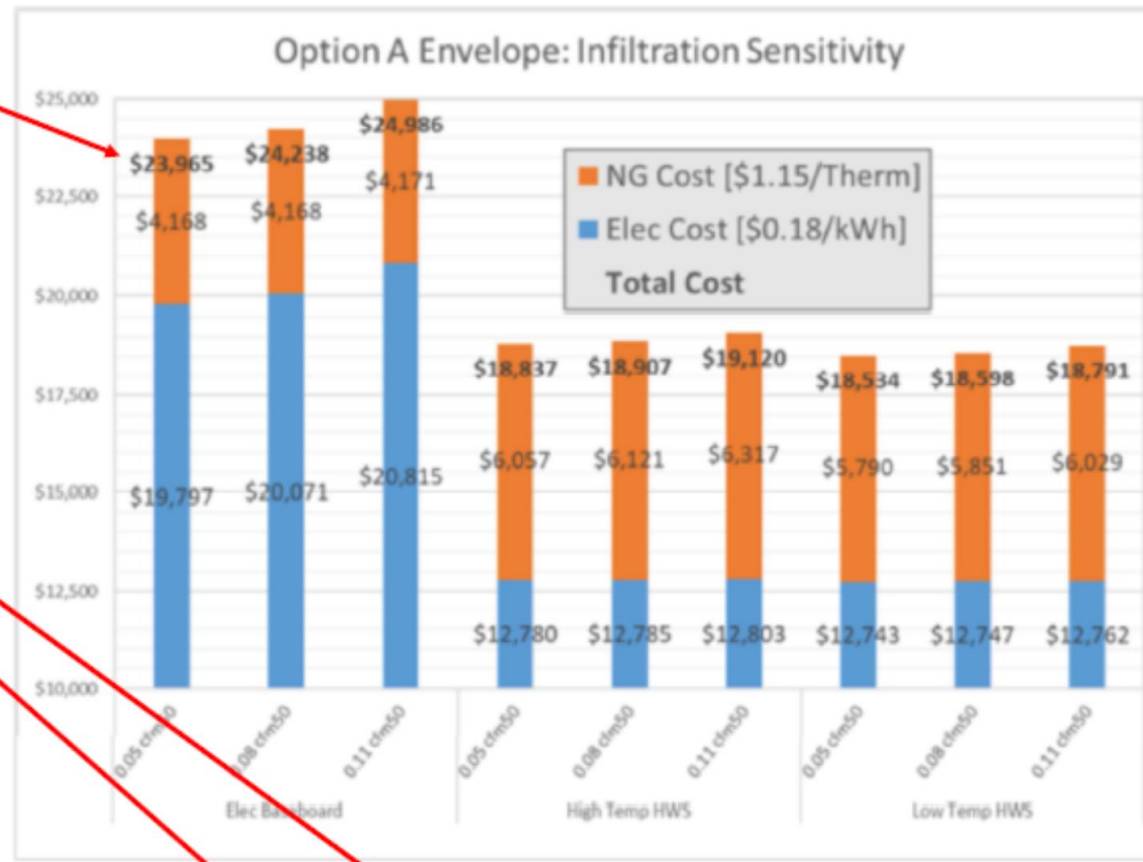
■ Fan Off  
■ Cool Off  
■ Heat Off  
■ Aux Off



**\$15,033**  $\Delta$

**\$8,932**

In 4 months, the electric heat and ventilation have consumed \$8,932 of energy. The numbers below look to me like the ERV is providing more heat than anticipated and the electric heat is using much less than predicted.



Wentworth Heating kbtu (electric and propane)

|           | Modeled       |              |                 | Actual        |              |            | Actual        |                            |                           |            |               |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------|
|           | Electric kbtu | Propane kbtu | Total Heat kbtu | Electric kbtu | Propane kbtu | Total kbtu | kbtu per unit | Electric cost @ \$0.18/kwh | Propane Cost @ \$2.15/gal | Total Cost | Cost per unit |
| September | 0             | 0            | 0               | 3,596         | 11,265       | 24,724     | 824           | \$ 190                     | \$ 266                    | \$ 456     | \$ 15         |
| October   | -             | 416          | 416             | 10,567        | 21,128       | 35,678     | 1,189         | \$ 557                     | \$ 499                    | \$ 1,057   | \$ 35         |
| November  | 82            | 2,982        | 3064            | 25,856        | 25,111       | 57,465     | 1,916         | \$ 1,364                   | \$ 593                    | \$ 1,957   | \$ 65         |
| December  | 996           | 8,050        | 9047            | 24,689        | 31,609       | 24,689     | 823           | \$ 1,302                   | \$ 747                    | \$ 2,049   | \$ 68         |

**\$3,413**

**\$5,519**



- **Not enough data collected yet**
- **Analyzing building performance data**
- **Use this information planning future buildings**
- **Information used for troubleshooting issues**
- **Enlightening energy usage data!**



# CONTENT

- **Project Overview**
- **The Building**
- **How Did We Decide What To Build?**
- **Decision Time**
- **Design Coordination**
- **Building the Building**
- **Did it Work??**
- **What's Next?**



- 
- ✓ **Building Commissioning and Fine-tuning performance with monitoring (Parson Platform)**
  - ✓ **Sizing of domestic hot water system**
  - ✓ **Using real time data to inform energy models and system sizing**
  - ✓ **Provision for electric resistance heating for high performance buildings in updated energy code! (<6 btu/sf)**





| Broad Category           | Primary Function                    | Further Breakdown (where needed)           | Source EUI (kBtu/ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Site EUI (kBtu/ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Reference Data Source - Peer Group Comparison |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Healthcare               | Ambulatory Surgical Center          |  | 138.3                              | 62.0                             | CBECS - Outpatient Healthcare                 |
|                          | Hospital                            | Hospital (General Medical & Surgical)*     | 426.9                              | 234.3                            | Industry Survey                               |
|                          |                                     | Other/Specialty Hospital                   | 433.9                              | 206.7                            | CBECS - Inpatient Healthcare                  |
|                          |                                     | Medical Office*                            | 121.7                              | 51.2                             | CBECS - Medical Office                        |
|                          |                                     | Outpatient Rehabilitation/Physical Therapy | 138.3                              | 62.0                             | CBECS - Outpatient Healthcare                 |
|                          |                                     | Residential Care Facility                  | 213.2                              | 99.0                             | Industry Survey                               |
|                          |                                     | Senior Care Community*                     | 213.2                              | 99.0                             | Industry Survey                               |
| Lodging/Residential      | Urgent Care/Clinic/Other Outpatient |  | 145.8                              | 64.5                             | CBECS   |
|                          | Barracks*                           |  | 107.5                              | 57.9                             | CBECS - Dormitory                             |
|                          | Hotel*                              |  | 146.7                              | 63.0                             | CBECS - Hotel & Motel/Inn                     |
|                          | Multifamily Housing*                |  | 118.1                              | 59.6                             | Fannie Mae Industry Survey                    |
|                          | Prison/Incarceration                |  | 156.4                              | 69.9                             | CBECS - Public Order and Safety               |
|                          | Residence Hall/Dormitory*           |  | 107.5                              | 57.9                             | CBECS - Dormitory                             |
|                          | Residential Care Facility           |  | 213.2                              | 99.0                             | Industry Survey                               |
|                          | Senior Care Community*              |  | 213.2                              | 99.0                             | Industry Survey                               |
|                          | Single Family Home                  |  | N/A                                | N/A                              |   |
|                          | Other - Lodging/Residential         |  | 143.6                              | 63.6                             |   |
| Manufacturing/Industrial | Manufacturing/Industrial Plant      |  | N/A                                | N/A                              |   |
| Mixed Use                | Mixed Use Property                  |  | 89.3                               | 40.1                             |   |
| Office                   | Medical Office*                     |  | 121.7                              | 51.2                             | CBECS - Medical Office                        |
|                          | Office*                             |  | 116.4                              | 52.9                             | CBECS - Office & Bank/Financial               |
|                          | Veterinary Office                   |  | 145.8                              | 64.5                             | CBECS - Clinic/Outpatient                     |
| Parking                  | Parking                             |  | N/A                                | N/A                              | None Available                                |

59.6

Wentworth Community Housing  
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# Good Enough – Hitting the Energy Jackpot at Wentworth Community Housing

