

# Energy Efficiency in Buildings



**Misty Conrad**

**Senior Technical Lead**

**June 20, 2012**

# DOE Laboratories



# NREL's Mission is Unique

Only national laboratory dedicated to renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) R&D

Ability to link scientific discovery, commercialization, and EE/RE program & project development

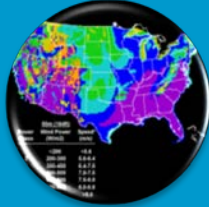




# Integrated Deployment Overview



Build  
Stakeholder  
Partnerships



Establish  
Analytical  
Framework



Advance  
Energy Policy



Apply the  
Business  
Perspective



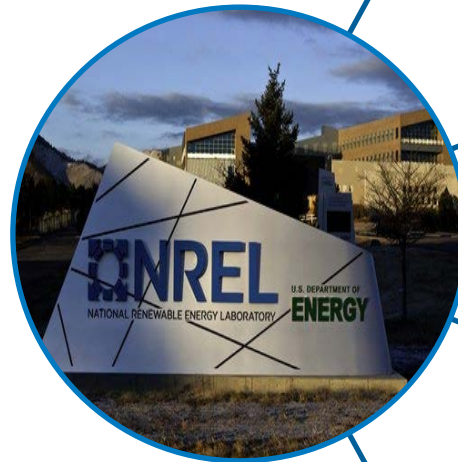
Get Early  
Successes



# What do we do?

## NREL's Role in Integrated Deployment

- Honest broker of Information
- Unbiased reference point & source of documentation
- Integration of Policy, Technical, Change Management, & *Financial*



- Tech Systems
- Market Analysis
- Policy Analysis
- Sustainability Analysis
- Models & Tools
- Grid Resiliency

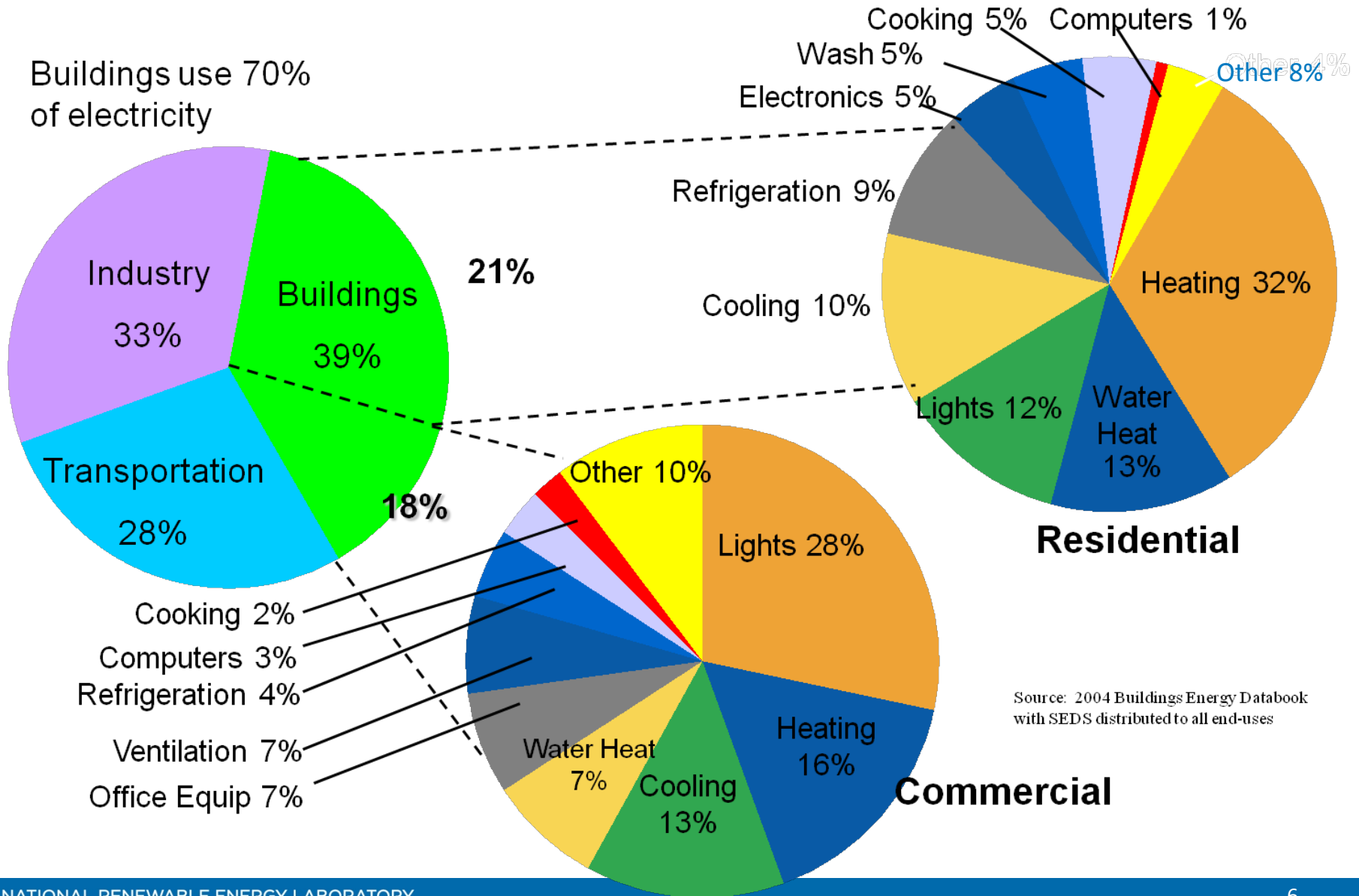
- Advanced Vehicles & Fuels
- Biomass
- Building
- Basic & Computational Science
- Solar & Wind
- Electric Infrastructure Systems
- Geothermal
- Hydrogen
- GIS Mapping

- Commercialization
- Cooperative R&D
- Licensing
- Tech Partnerships
- Entrepreneurship

- Strategic Energy, Climate and Sustainability Planning
- Energy Assessment
- Market Transformation
- Deployment
- Integrated Technology Application
- Training
- Technical Assistance

# Building Energy Use

Buildings use 70% of electricity



Source: 2004 Buildings Energy Databook with SEDS distributed to all end-uses



# Affecting Building Energy Use

- **New Construction**
  - Building Energy Codes
  - Policies (Lead by Example, solar water heating)
  - Advanced Building Design
    - Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Accreditation
    - Net Zero Energy (NZE) Buildings
- **Retrofits**
  - Policies
    - Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS)
    - Public Benefit Fund (PBF) Program
    - Pay As You Save (PAYS) Program
  - Weatherization
  - Utility Efficiency Programs
- **Behavior**
  - Education & Outreach programs
  - Conservation Programs
  - Demand Response

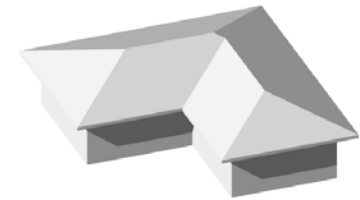
# Design Strategies for More Efficient Buildings

Use simulation during the design stage to make better decisions

- Every design decision has an environmental and financial impact

## Siting

- Orientation
- Building form/shape/footprint
- Aspect ratio



## Shading

- Interior shade: window blinds
- Exterior shade: overhangs, fins
- Building shade: trees and landscape



## Building Envelope

- Wall insulation
- Roof/ceiling insulation, radiant barrier, cool roof
- Window type, amount, placement





# Design Strategies for More Efficient Buildings

## Appliance

- Energy Star appliances
- Power save mode
- Vampire power/Phantom load; As high as 5% of residential energy consumption
- Timer / Smart power strips
- Laptop vs. PC (1/4 to 1/3 reduction)



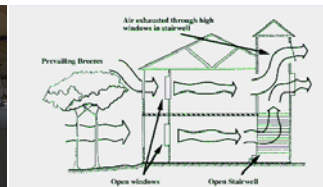
## Domestic Hot Water Heater

- Solar hot water system; Flat plate, Evacuate tubes, Thermosiphon
- Hybrid hot water heater
- Heat recovery
- Waste heat



## Mechanical System

- Maximize natural ventilation
- Ceiling fan
- High efficiency A/C



## Onsite Renewable Energy

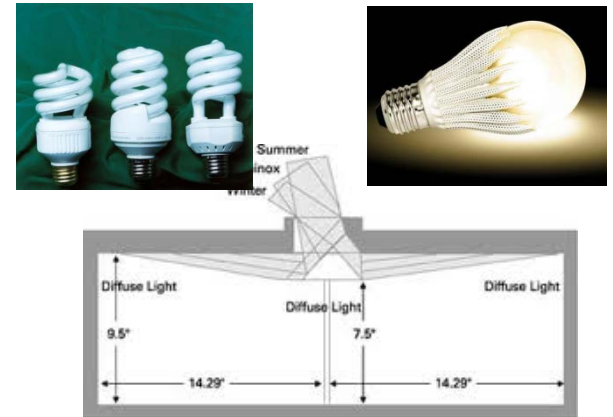
- Solar photovoltaic system



# Building Design Strategies: Lighting

## Lighting

- Daylighting and dimming controls
  - Daylighting system, light tube
- High efficiency fixtures
  - Indirect/direct
- High efficiency lighting
  - T8/T5 with electronic ballast, CFL, LED lighting
- Motion sensors on interior/exterior lighting
- Timers on interior/exterior lighting
- Task lighting, ambient lighting can be lower



Source: energy.gov



Source: energy.gov



Source: energy.gov



Source: energy.gov



Source: NREL 14972

# Retrofits through Utility Offerings

## Utilities could offer:

- Rebates
- Incentives
- Audits
- Demand Response Programs
- Training / O&M
- Financing
  - Pay As You Save Programs
  - Energy Services Contracting



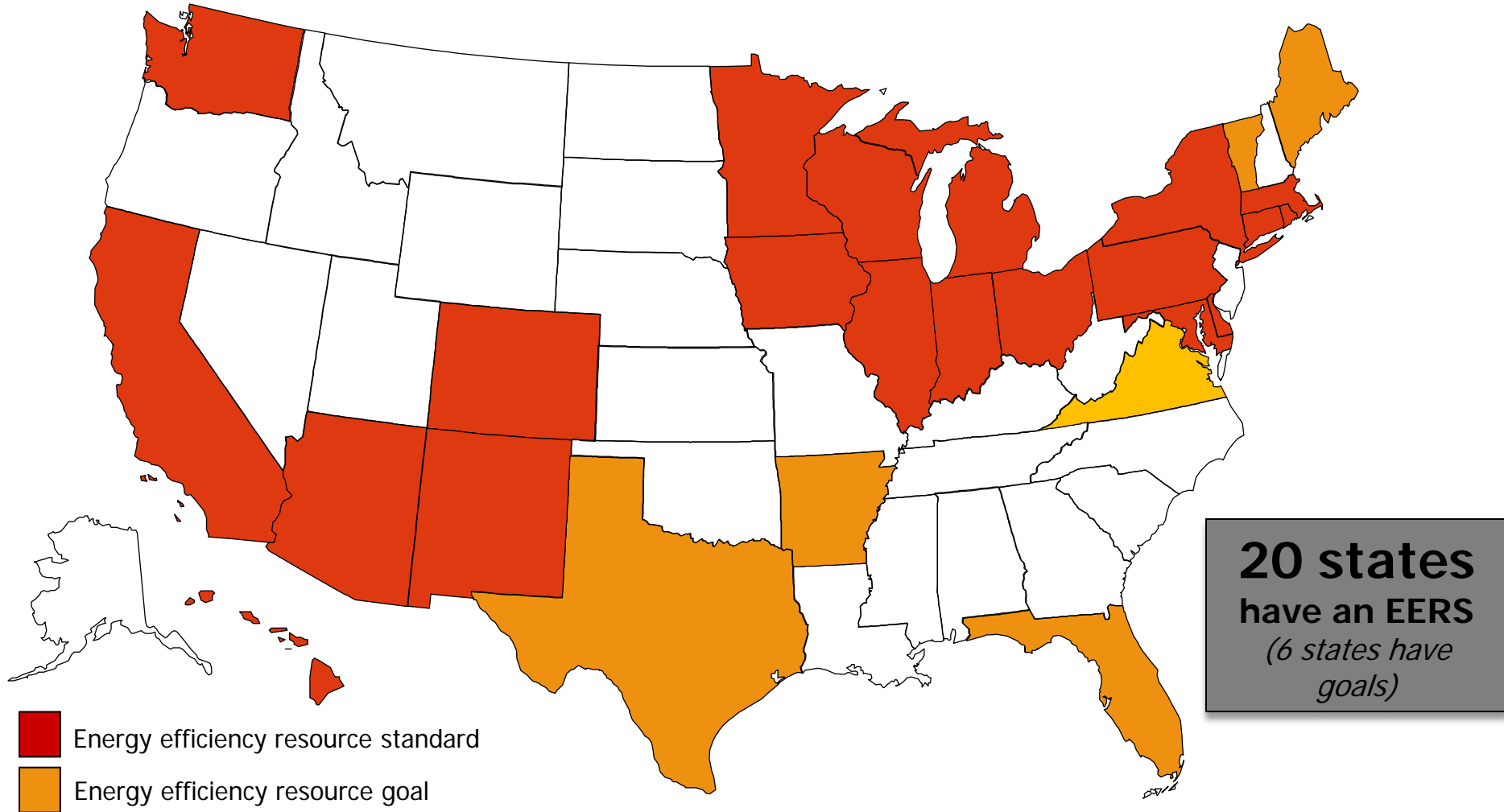
# Energy Efficiency Resource Standards

- Mandates utilities to reduce a portion of their energy demand through energy efficiency (EE) measures
- Designed to facilitate investment in untapped technically and economically viable EE
- Short term and long term goals, usually defined in terms of a percentage of total sales
- Leading states are achieving 0.75-1.25% savings **annually**

	Benefits
Utility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced demand, incl. peak demand</li><li>• Reduced strain on grid</li></ul>
Ratepayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lower electricity bills</li><li>• Reduced need to fund capacity additions</li></ul>



# Energy Efficiency Resource Standards



# Efficiency through Behavior Change

- **Outreach**

- Public awareness campaigns
- Community events

- **Building Controls**

- Programmable thermostats for homes
- Automated control systems for commercial bldgs

- **Training**

- Operation & maintenance
- Community workshops

# Solar Decathlon

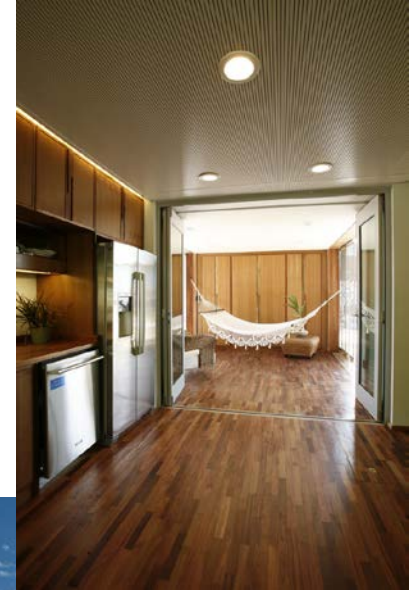
## [www.solardecathlon.org](http://www.solardecathlon.org): Case Studies

### Universidad de Puerto Rico

#### CASH - Caribbean Affordable Solar House

##### Key Features:

- Steel structure with Closed-cell polyurethane spray foam & rigid extruded polystyrene (XPS) foam
- Plumbing – Water supply flows through PEX tubing, copper pipe
- Solar Thermal Water Heating – evacuated tube solar collectors
- Radiant Ceiling – heating and cooling spaces in the house
- Sustainability – rainwater collection for irrigation of plants (not installed for solar decathlon)
- KoolShade screens
- 10 kW Solar PV



# Hawaii Example: Kaupuni Net-Zero Energy Village



**Objective:** Design a net zero energy community of affordable housing

## Approach:

- Model individual houses using BEOpt software
- Evaluate renewable options to attain net zero across the entire community
- Design to qualify for LEED Platinum

## Results:

- First Net-zero energy affordable housing community
- Designed and built 19 affordable homes + community center for native Hawaiian families
- Integration of local cultural sustainability concepts
- Solar hot water heating and PV electricity
- Dual pane windows, composite roofing, fully insulated walls and ceilings, energy star appliances and lighting package
- Electric vehicle-ready dedicated circuits
- Achieved LEED Platinum certification
- Monitoring indicates net zero energy to date



[www.kaupuni.net](http://www.kaupuni.net)



# Hawaii Example: Kalaeloa Net Zero Mixed Use Community

**Objective:** Design a Net Zero Energy Mixed Use Community across 20 acres including 300 housing units on Oahu

## Approach:

- Net zero energy, water, and waste living community
- Unique prototype for large-scale net zero multi-family housing and commercial development

## Features:

- Solar PV
- Solar hot water
- Passive cooling
- Permeable surfaces
- On-site waste treatment

## Results:

- Groundbreaking expected in 2014



Illustrations/Van Meter Williams Pollack

# USVI Example: St Croix Affordable Housing

## Model Description

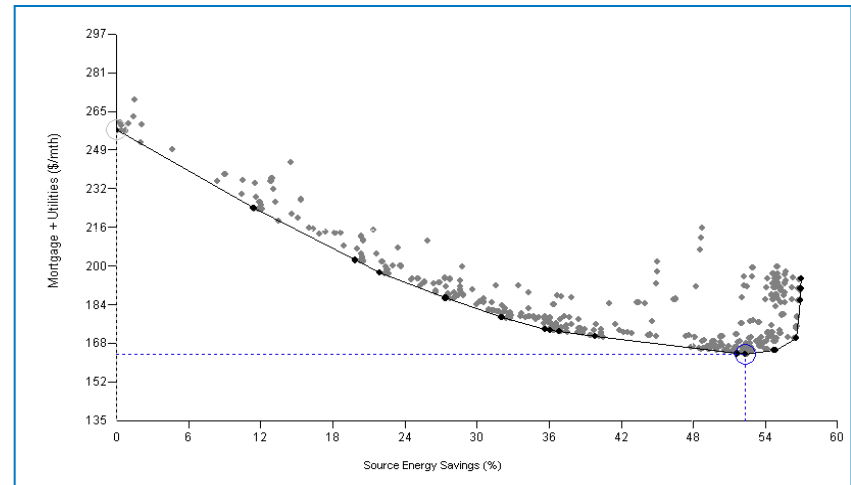
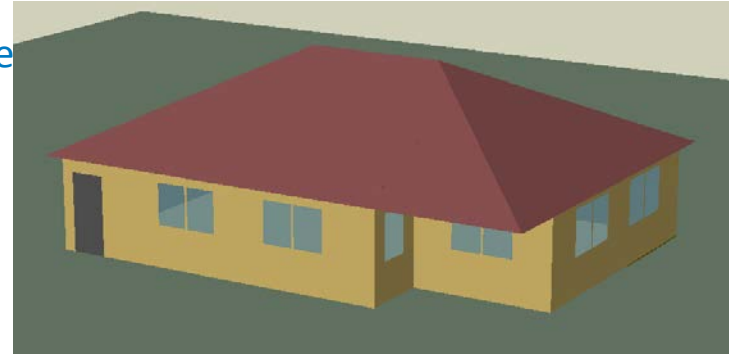
- 1,188 sqft , 3bed/2bath, single family house
- All electric
- \$0.27/kWh, 30-year

## Baseline:

- USVI current practice

## Explored Design Options:

- 2009 IECC building envelope (roof/wall insulation, fenestration)
- Cool roof
- 3-ft eaves
- Energy Star appliances
- CFL lighting
- Solar hot water system
- With and Without A/C
  - SEER13-18



# USVI Example: St Croix Affordable Housing

## Preliminary analysis results – With A/C

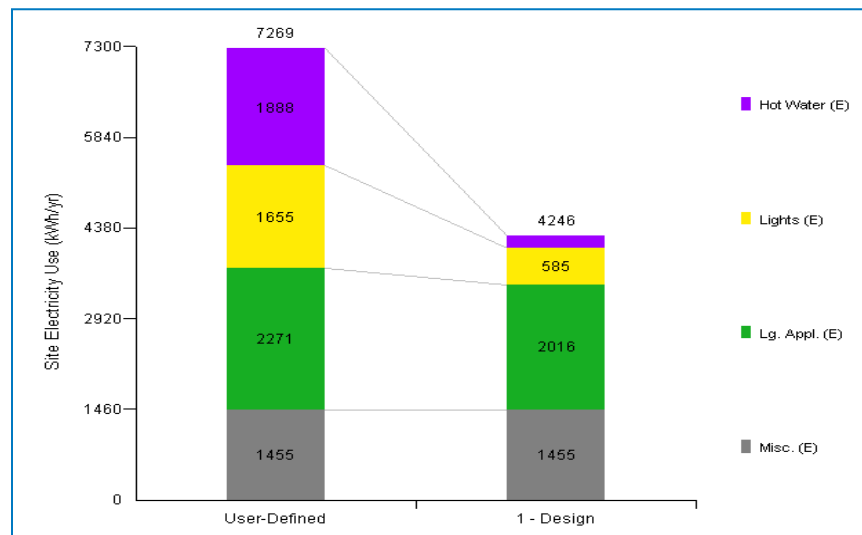
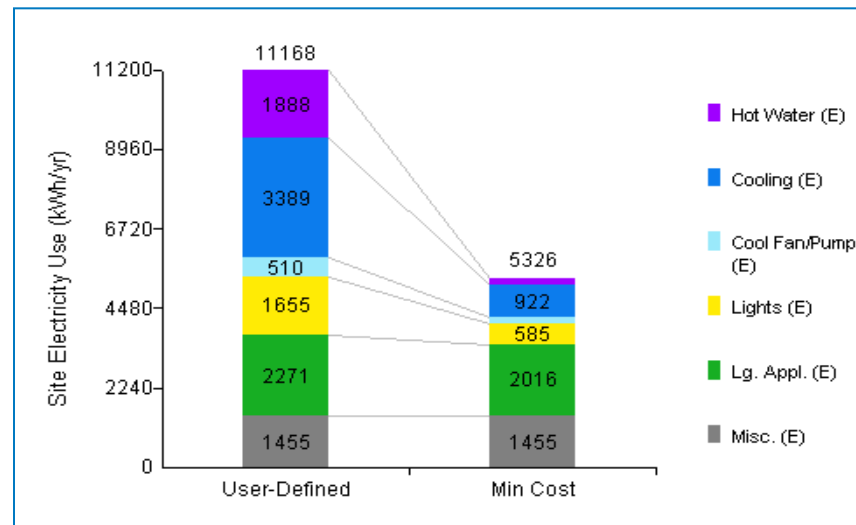
- 52% energy savings relative to USVI current practice
- Reduce utility cost by \$94/month

## Preliminary analysis results – Without A/C

- 41% energy savings relative to USVI current practice
- Improve comfort – avg. high temperature dropped by 5F

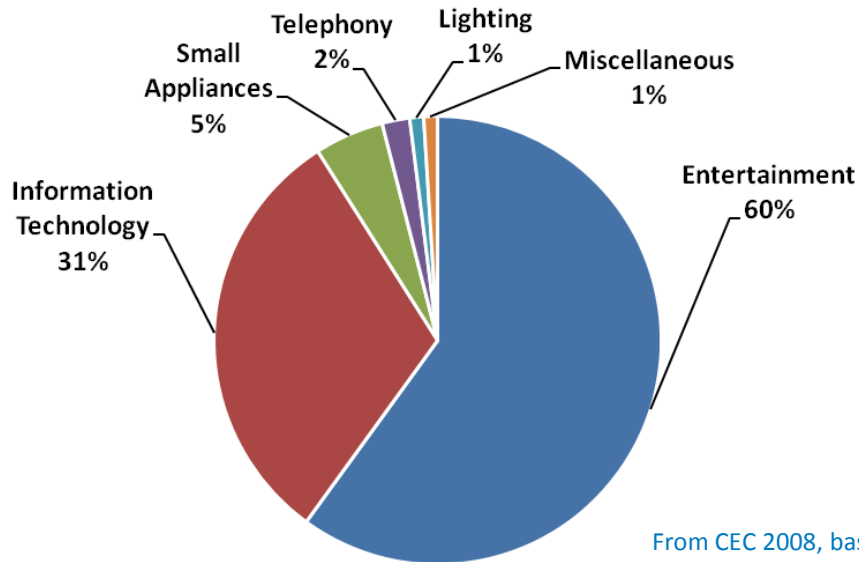
## Optimal Design Package:

- 2009 IECC building envelope
- Cool roof
- 3-ft eaves shading
- Energy Star appliances
- CFL lighting
- Solar hot water system
- Natural ventilation
- With A/C
  - SEER15 or better

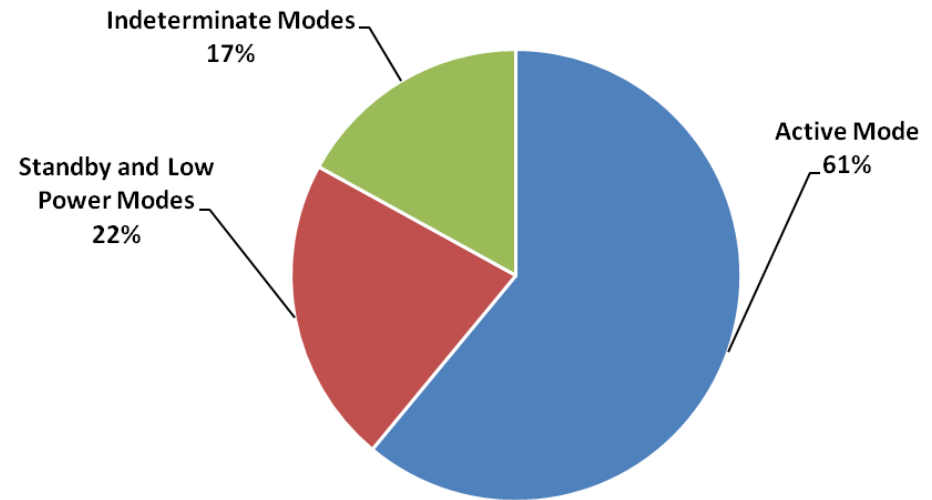


# Plug Loads: End Uses to Target

## U.S. Household Plug-Load Consumption



## Breakdown of Plug Load Energy Consumption



From CEC 2008, based on 50 home study in CA

- The two largest categories for plug load consumption are the home entertainment center and the home office.
- Advanced power strips are target these end uses.
- Standby loads are primary target for most advanced power strips.
- Some active loads can be mitigated too.



# Advanced Power Strips (APS)

*(Sometimes called “Smart Power Strips”)*

**Advanced Power Strips (APS) are power strips with additional functionality and controls, intended to curb wasted plug load energy consumption.**



- look like ordinary power strips
- direct replacement for power strips used with home office and home entertainment center electronics.
- should include surge protection
- variation across products (number of outlets, control strategies, cost, aesthetics)



May be good stop gap solution until electronics EE standards are improved

# NEEP APS Working Group



June 2010, Albany

## Consumer Electronics / Plug Loads Summit

60+ stakeholders:

- efficiency program managers and evaluators
- APS manufacturers
- state and federal policy and regulatory interests

➔ Working Group tasked to formulate a robust assessment methodology for APS devices

Embertec  
EPRI  
Ecos  
Tricklestar  
NEEP

Belkin  
Sustainable Life Solutions  
NYSEERDA  
Best Buy  
Efficiency Vermont

Intertek  
Tenrehte  
PG&E  
Lockheed Martin  
Ecotek

Laboratory tests presented in this work are guided by the February 2012 draft of the testing specifications authored by the NEEP working group.

# Advanced Power Strips (APS) Research Questions

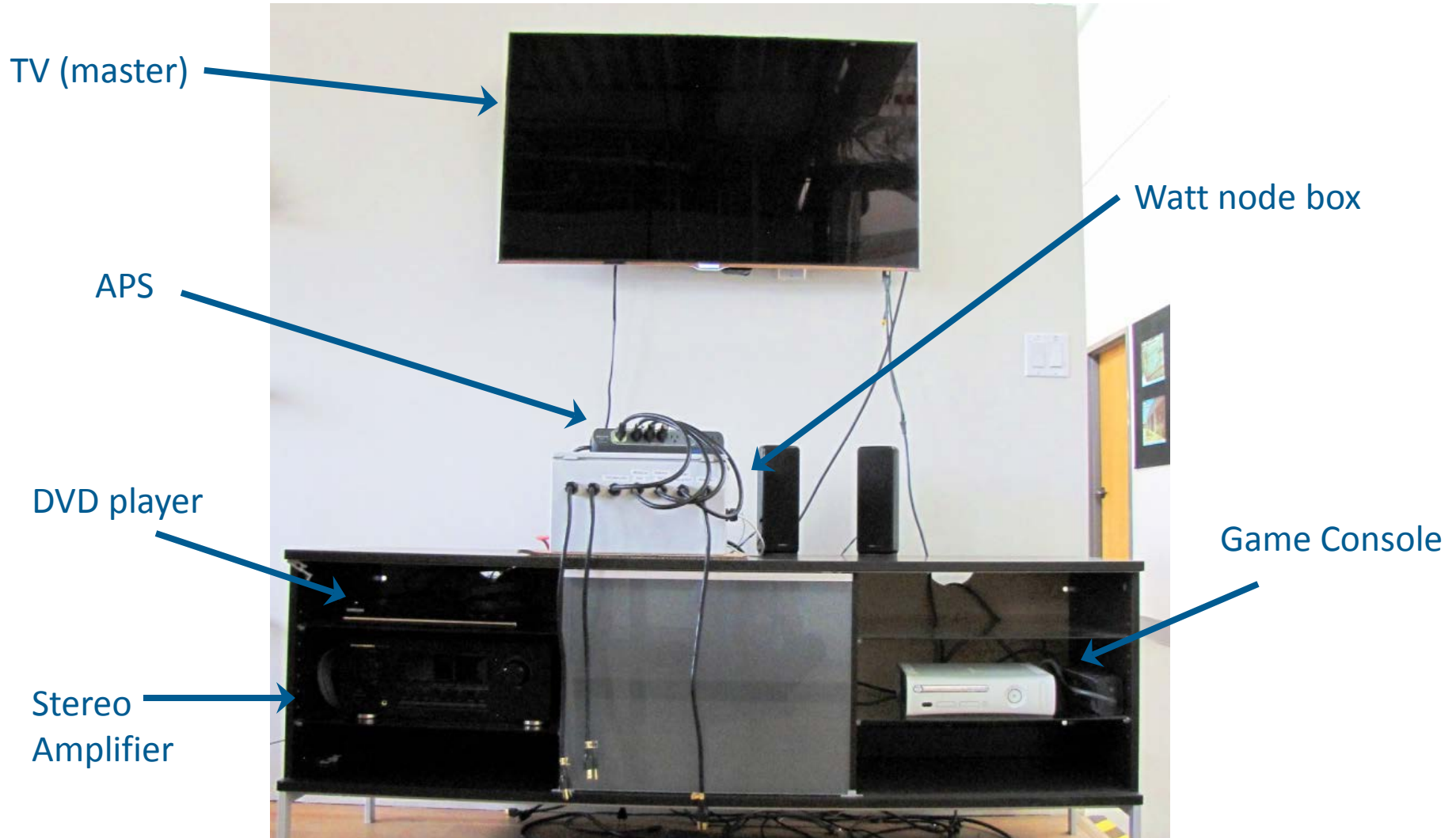
## Scope of this study:

- Do they actually work as designed?
- Do they require behavioral changes?
- Do they interfere with normal operation of appliances?
- How much consumer education is required to maximize benefit?
- What are the most effective control strategies?

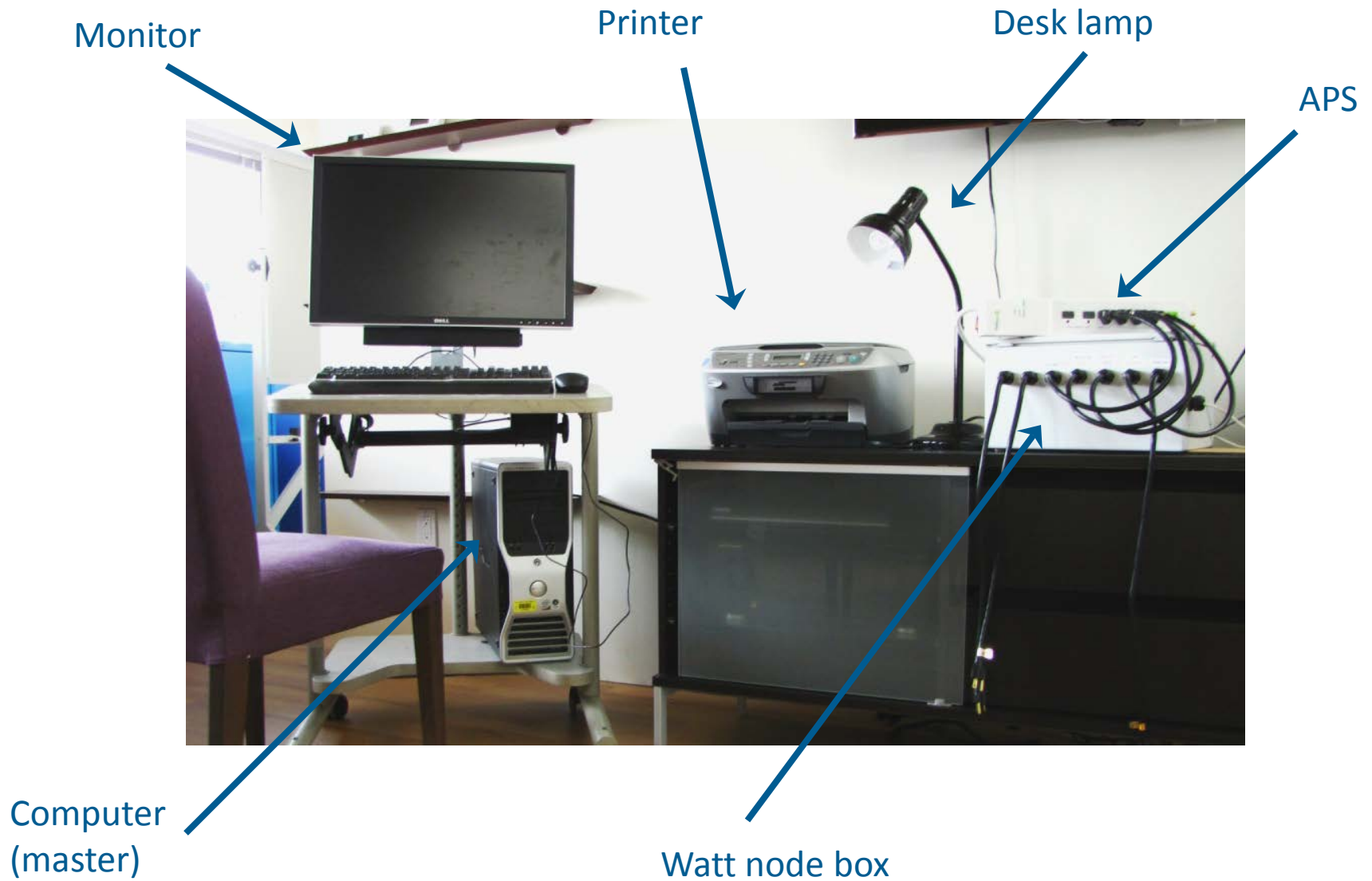
## Follow-up analysis:

- How much energy can be expected to be saved?
- Are they cost effective?

# Laboratory Testing: Home Entertainment Center



# Laboratory Testing: Home Office





# Conclusions

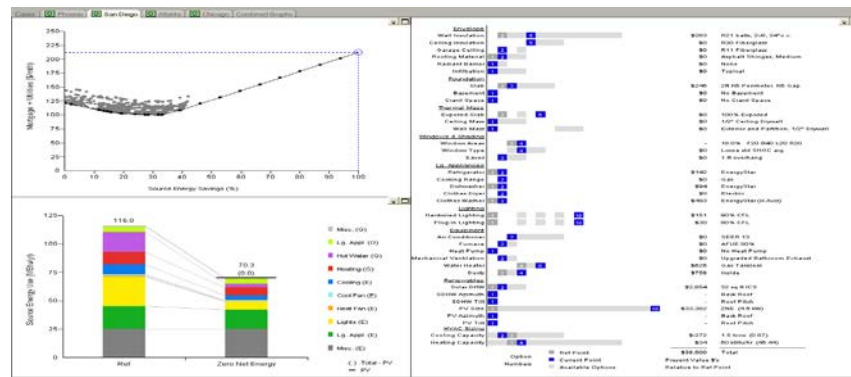
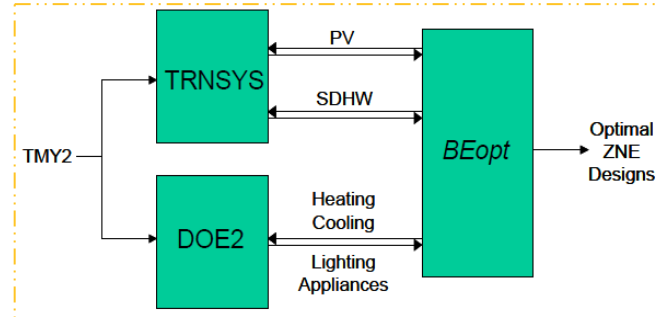
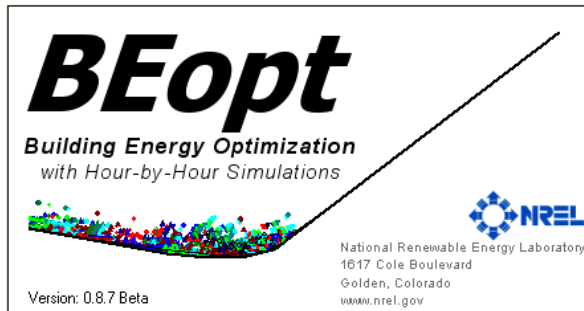
- Most products “work” as designed
  - USB power sensing: does not appear to be robust solution
  - Current-sensing: primarily designed for standby reduction
  - Master-slave: potential to cut active power waste, but does nothing for reducing master energy use
  - IR-sensing: always has extra required user step
- Appropriate choice of APS depends on use case scenario and goal, as well as other factors (price, aesthetics, number of outlets)
- Vintage of computers, TVs matter
  - Energy-savings features of newer appliances can cause problems

**→ How much consumer education is required to ensure appropriate and consistent use to maximize energy savings?**



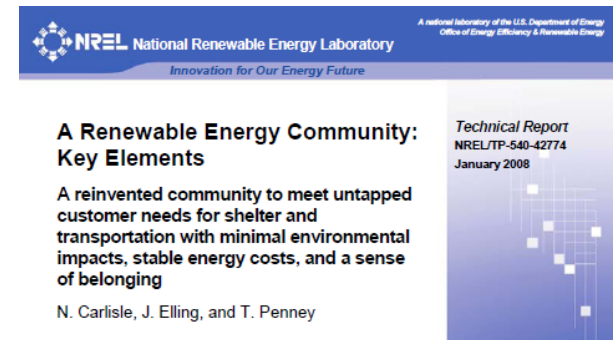
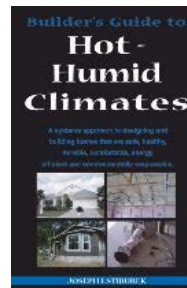
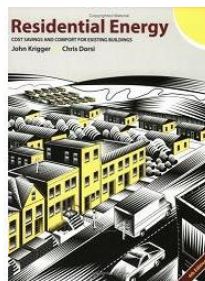
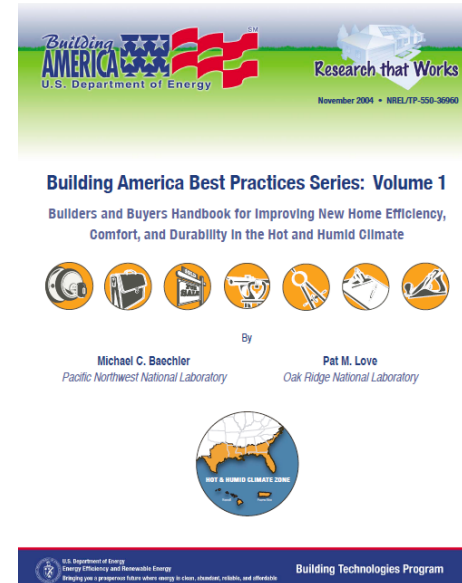
# Tools & Resources: Modeling Tools

- BEOpt™ Software for Building Energy Optimization
  - designed to identify optimal building designs at various energy-savings levels on the path to zero net energy



# Tools & Resources: Publications

- Building America ([www.buildingamerica.gov](http://www.buildingamerica.gov))
  - Best Practices Handbook - Hot & Humid Climate
  - Hot & Humid Climate Case Studies
  - Affordable Housing Publications
- Solar Ready Buildings Planning Guide
- Renewable Communities
- Builder's Guide to Hot-Humid Climates
- Residential Energy Cost Savings and Comfort





[misty.conrad@nrel.gov](mailto:misty.conrad@nrel.gov)  
Thank You!

