Energy Efficiency in Buildings

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National Renewable Energy Laboratory is operated for the U.S. Department of Energy by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.
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

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

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

• Tech Transfer
  - 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

• Applying Technology
  - 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.

- **Industry**: 33%
- **Buildings**: 39%
- **Transportation**: 28%

**Residential**
- **Heating**: 32%
- **Lights**: 12%
- **Water Heat**: 13%
- **Heating**: 16%
- **Lights**: 28%
- **Cooling**: 10%
- **Other**: 10%

**Commercial**
- **Other**: 8%
- **Computers**: 1%
- **Wash**: 5%
- **Electronics**: 5%
- **Refrigeration**: 9%
- **Cooling**: 10%
- **Water Heat**: 13%
- **Heating**: 16%
- **Lights**: 12%

Source: 2004 Buildings Energy Database 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
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

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<tr>
<th>Utility</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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|         | • Reduced demand, incl. peak demand  
          | • Reduced strain on grid |
| Ratepayer | • Lower electricity bills  
               | • Reduced need to fund capacity additions |
Energy Efficiency Resource Standards

20 states have an EERS (6 states have goals)

Energy efficiency resource standard
Energy efficiency resource goal

www.dsireusa.org
Efficiency through Behavior Change

• Outreach
  o Public awareness campaigns
  o Community events

• Building Controls
  o Programmable thermostats for homes
  o Automated control systems for commercial bldgs

• Training
  o Operation & maintenance
  o Community workshops
Solar Decathlon
(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
**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
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

- 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.

U.S. Household Plug-Load Consumption

From CEC 2008, based on 50 home study in CA
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)

(Sometimes called “Smart Power Strips”)

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
- NYSERDA
- 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

- TV (master)
- APS
- DVD player
- Stereo Amplifier
- Watt node box
- Game Console
Laboratory Testing: Home Office

- Monitor
- Printer
- Desk lamp
- APS
- Computer (master)
- Watt node box
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:  
Advanced Energy Design Guides / Standard 189.1

Standard 189.1 developed by ASHRAE, USGBC, and IES
- Code-intended green building standard

AEDGs developed by ASHRAE, AIA, USGBC, IESNA, and DOE
- Easy to use guidance to achieve 30% energy savings
- Recommendations by climate zone
- 4 LEED energy points
- Pre-engineered solutions
- Available at: www.ashrae.org/aedg
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)
  - 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