

# Deciphering the Data: Using Your Building's Story to Make Sustainability Gains

Moderator:

**Brendan Hall**

Public Sector Program Manager, EPA ENERGY  
STAR Commercial & Industrial Branch

Presenters:

**Jeffrey Salay**, PE, CEM, LEED AP  
Senior Principal, GHT Limited

**Zack Moore**

SVP Customer Solutions & Co-Founder,  
SOL VISTA

SOL VISTA



CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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# Session Objectives

1. Participants will understand how aggregated utility data for ENERGY STAR and benchmarking compliance can be transformed into actionable insights to make building improvements while increasing profitability.
2. Participants will be able to apply lessons learned from energy audits to create savings opportunities, increase asset values and bring buildings back on track from changes to their ENERGY STAR scores.
3. Participants will understand the value of portfolio-wide energy monitoring and how it can improve decision-making at the individual property level.
4. Participants will understand and be able to apply strategies to assure local compliance, maximize cost reduction and achieve an ENERGY STAR score of 75 or higher to target local government building leases.





# Our Panel



**Jeffrey Salay, GHT Limited  
Senior Principal & OES  
Studio Leader**

- Oversees Operations & Energy Services studio
- 26+ years' experience in mechanical design and energy management strategies
- BS in Mechanical Engineers; LEED AP and Certified Energy Manager



**Zack Moore, SOL VISTA  
SVP Customer Solutions &  
Co-Founder**

- Oversees SOL VISTA's technical and engineering efforts
- Heads SOL VISTA's business development and customer management activities
- BS in Chemical Engineering; MBA in Technology Management

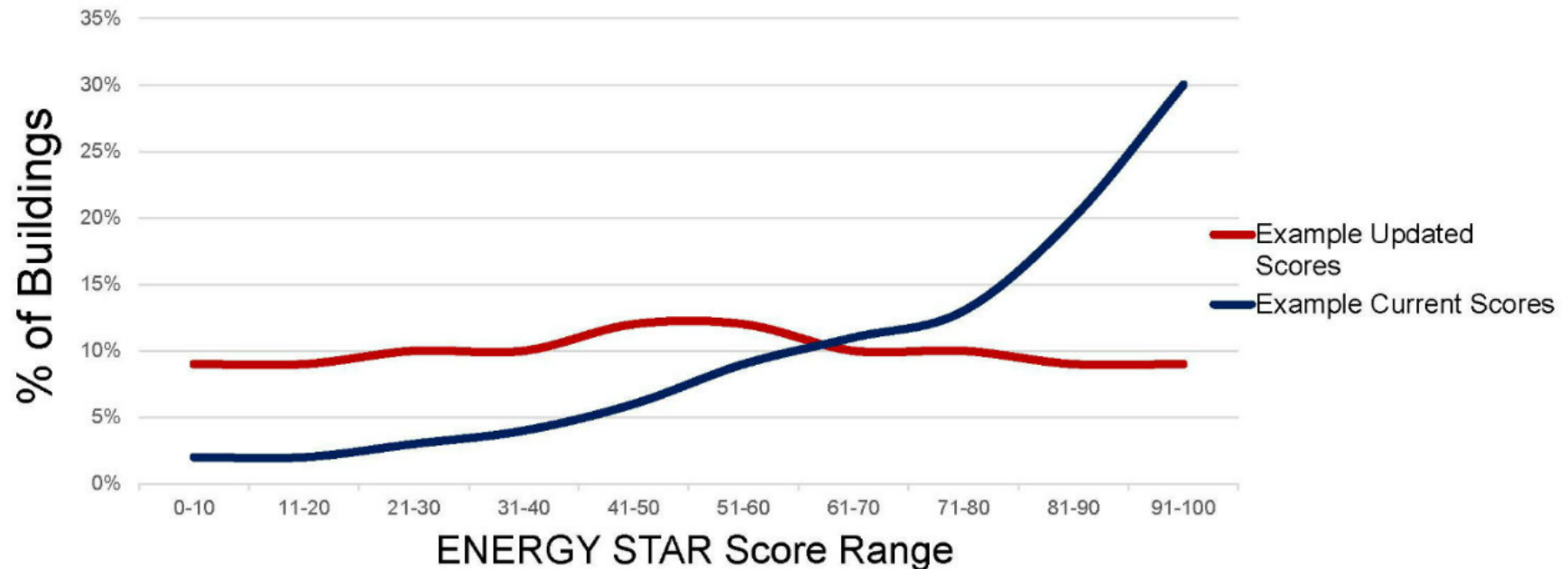
## **MODERATOR:**

**Brendan Hall, Environmental  
Protection Agency (EPA) Public  
Sector Program Manager,  
ENERGY STAR Commercial &  
Industrial Branch**

- Serves as national lead to colleges & universities and co-lead to local governments
- Offers tools, resources & support to help organizations and buildings eliminate energy waste

# ENERGY STAR Score Updates & Review Period

Why updates to 1-100 ENERGY STAR scores were needed: *rebalancing the distribution after market improvement*





# What We Looked At & Why

Provide information about building performance based on the most up-to-date market data available

- 2012 Commercial Energy Consumption Survey was released by EIA (prior scores were based on 2003 survey)
- 2012 survey shows lower aggregate energy intensity as compared with 2003

Re-assess key drivers of energy use

- Have the relationships between operating characteristics and energy intensity changed in the last 10 years?
- Are there new variables in CBECS that we should be adjusting for going forward?

Same purposes behind scores and certification

# Property Types

Property types updated in August 2018:

K-12 Schools, Offices, Retail,  
Supermarkets, Hotels, Warehouses,  
Houses of Worship

Property types not impacted

Multi-family, Data Centers, Hospitals,  
Senior Care



# Additional Details

## Other changes made August 2018:

Property types with August 2018 updates:

- Changes to property use details required for 1-100 ENERGY STAR scores and certification
- Offices, K-12 Schools, and Warehouses now eligible for scores and certification if 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> or larger – previous minimum was 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

All property types:

- New national source factor for electricity: from 3.1 to 2.8
- Additional factor updates
- New option to estimate out energy use of data centers located in other buildings

## Changes applied to all historical scores and source metrics in Portfolio Manager

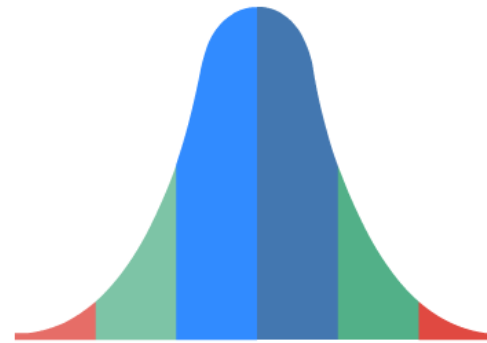
## Previous ENERGY STAR certifications are not affected

# *How Did We Get Here?*

ENERGY STAR  
Program



Prior versions of  
CBECS



New CBECS Data







# ***Then vs. Now***

## ***2017 - Your Building***

ENERGY STAR Score: 78

## ***2019 - Your Building***

ENERGY STAR Score: **66**



# So what can we do?

## ***A Sample Project***

*10-story commercial office building in Bethesda*

**ENERGY STAR Score: 67**



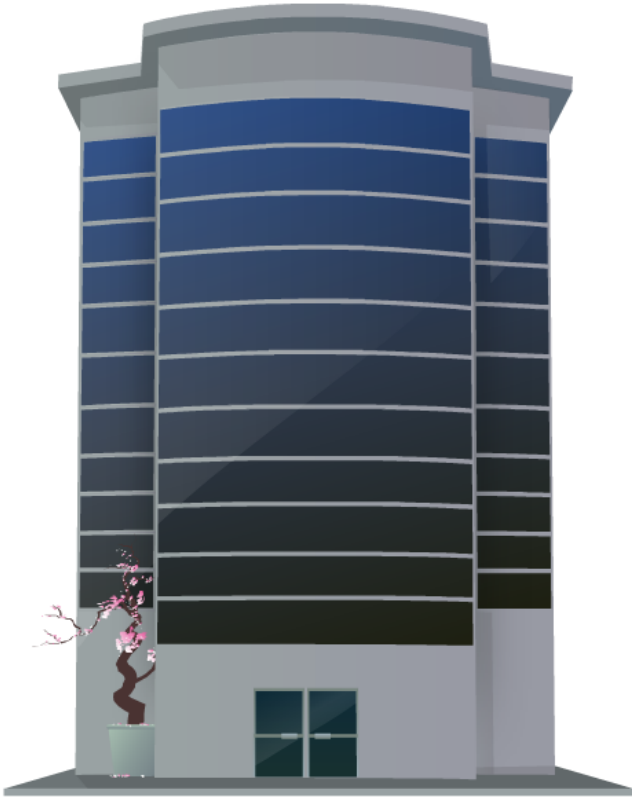
not eligible for GSA leases



difficulty attracting new tenants



loss of tax rebates & incentives

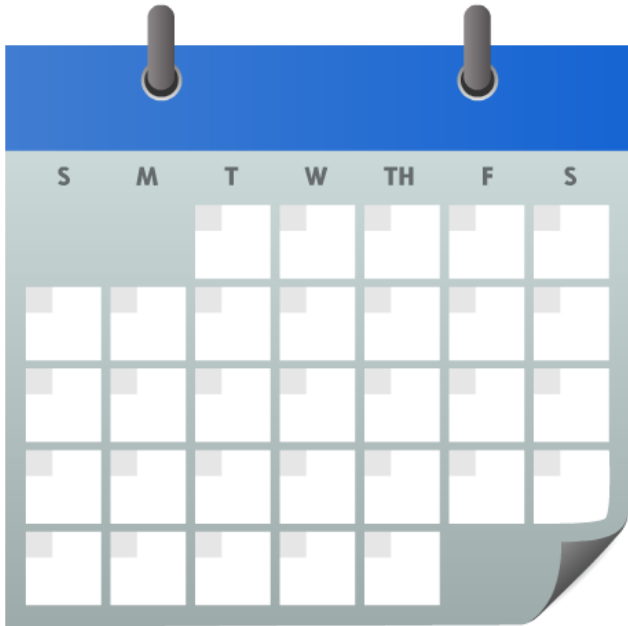






# ***Understand energy usage***

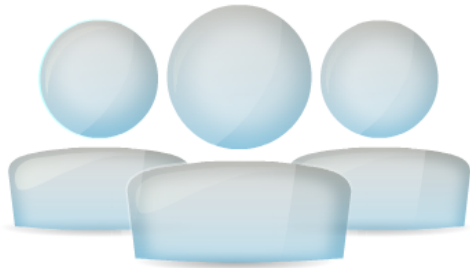
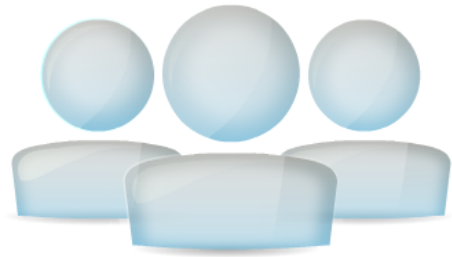
- utility bills
- average peak loads
- water & sewage history



# ***Analyze schedule trends***

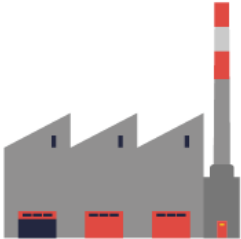
- building operations schedules
- average peak usage
- opportunities





# ***Configure for occupancy counts***

- confirm actuals
- occupancy surveys



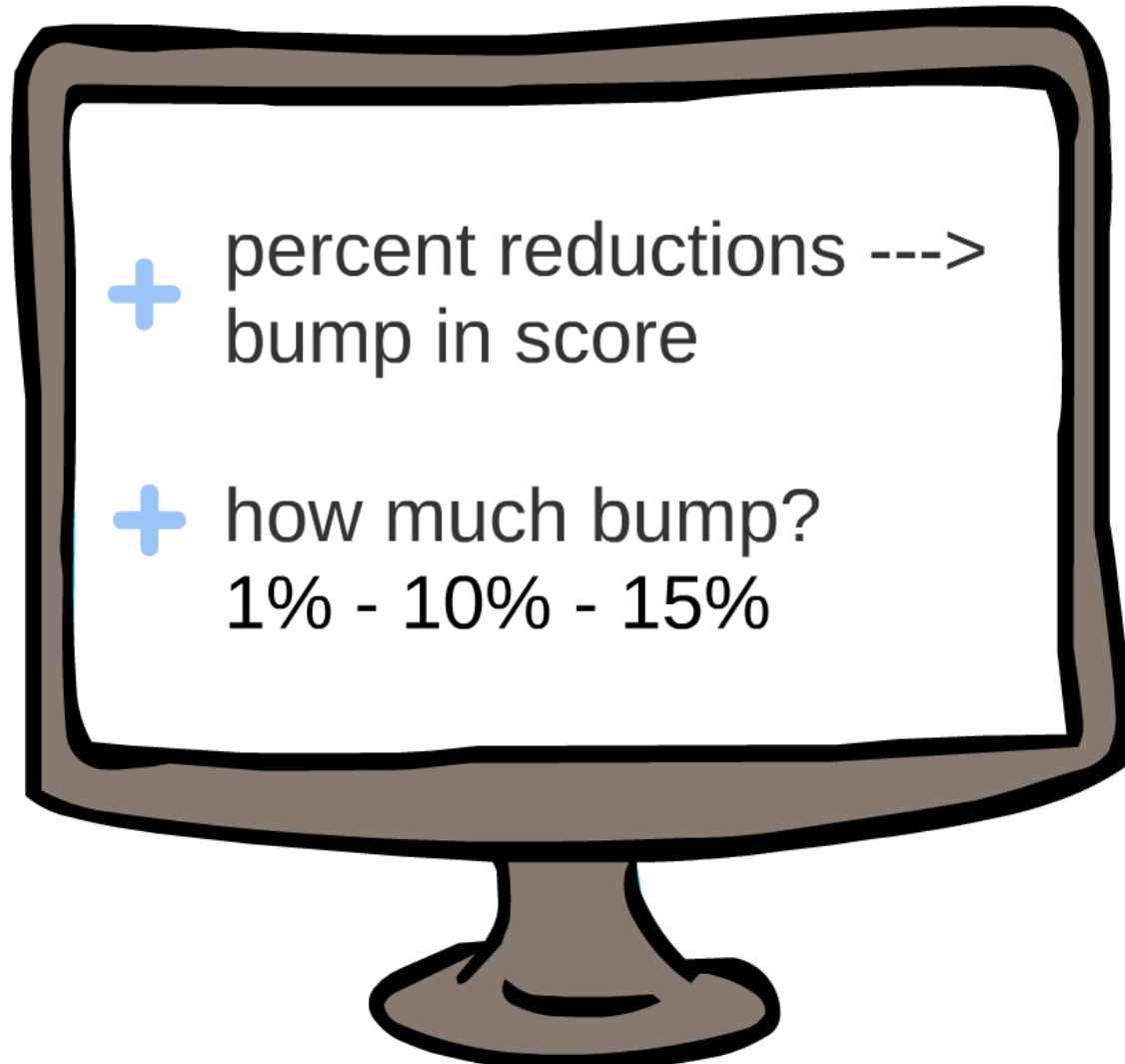
# ***Account for building amenities***



- garage, data center, fitness center

# ***LET'S TALK...***

## Optimization strategies



# SOL VISTA Intro:

- building energy & water experts
- in-house Skywalk analytics platform & on-site projects

goals: **reduce utility waste and cost**  
**improve building performance**

**ROCKBRIDGE**

**CLT**  
*Chesapeake Lodging Trust*

**XENIA**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

**B** THE BERNSTEIN COMPANIES

**Hilton**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

**INTERCONTINENTAL**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

**ASHFORD**  
HOSPITALITY TRUST

**pebblebrook**  
HOTEL TRUST

**HYATT**

**khp** CAPITAL PARTNERS

**HV**  
**M**

**CP** CLARION PARTNERS

# Roots in Montgomery County:

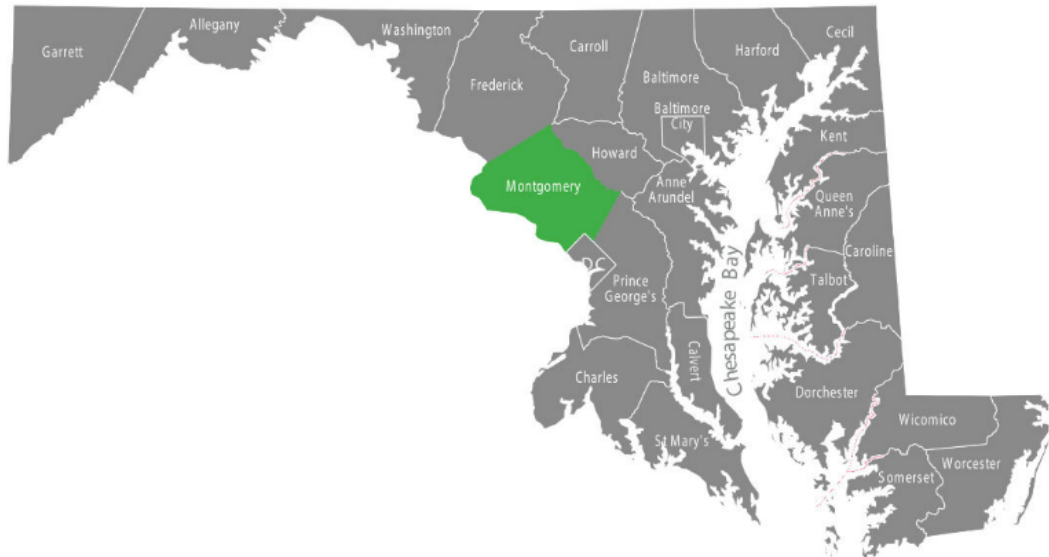
## - SOL VISTA:

year founded - 2010

MoCo/MD innovation & energy awards  
customers across US & Caribbean

**Doubletree Bethesda (hotel)**

**Parkview Spring Street (office bldg)**





# building performance

## - four key steps

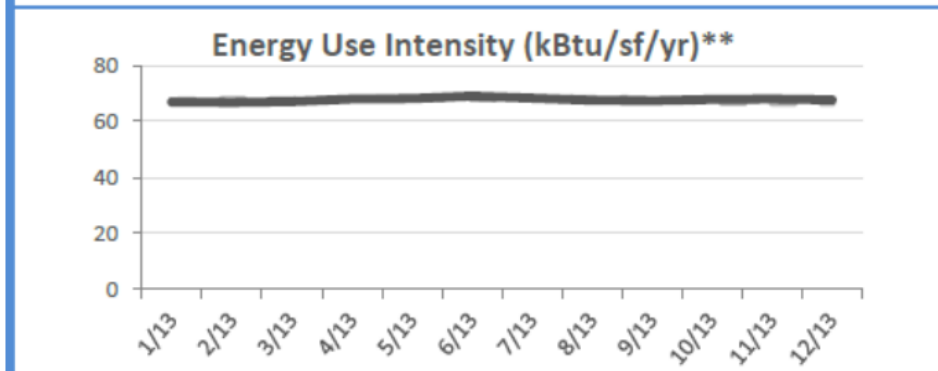
1. data analysis
2. demand-side efforts
3. supply-side efforts
4. ongoing monitoring



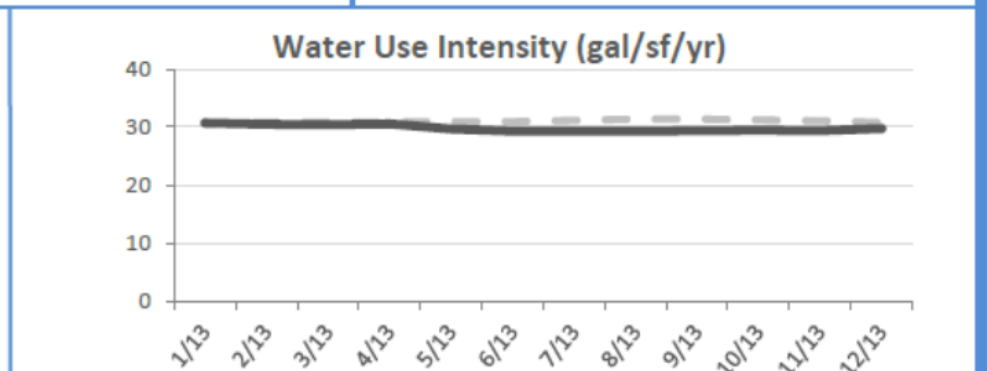
# 1. data analysis

- utility bill analysis
- peer benchmarking
- energy use anomalies
- operations and equipment data

Performance Summary		Previous Yr	Current Yr	Variance	Dec-2012	Dec-2013	Variance
ENERGY STAR Rating*		70	70	-1.3%	71	69	-2.8%
Energy Use	MBtu	22,679	23,055	1.7%	2,002	2,064	3.1%
Energy Use Intensity (EUI)**	kBtu/sf	66.6	67.8	1.8%	5.89	6.07	3.1%
Water Use Intensity (WUI)	gal/sf	30.7	29.7	-3.4%	2.3	2.6	13.3%
GHG Emissions	MtCO2e	1,655	1,676	1.3%	141	145	2.5%



\* ENERGY STAR rating for Previous and Current Years are the annual ave.



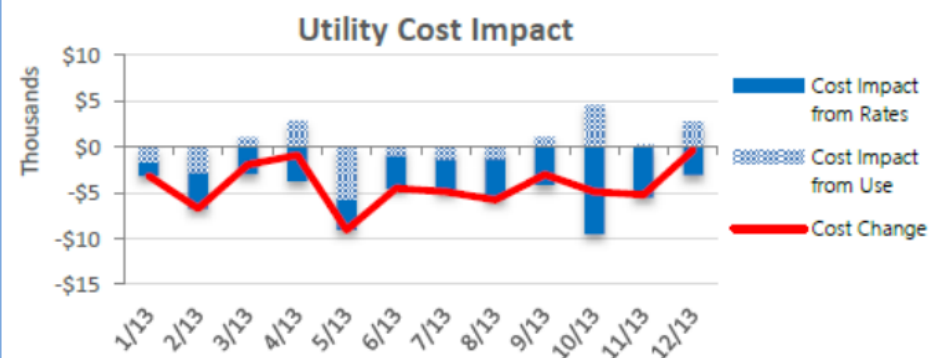
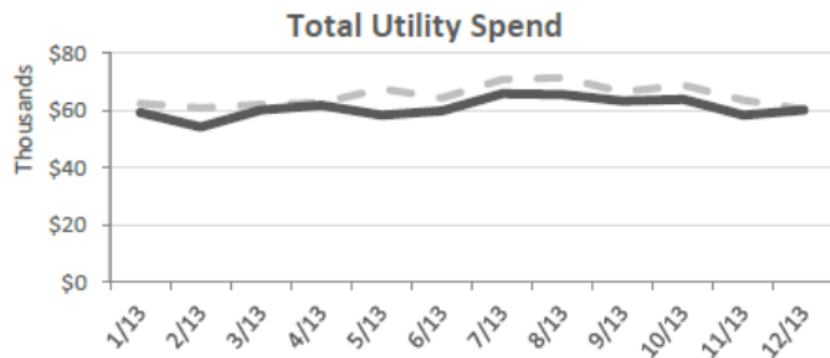
\*\* EUI weather normalized for Previous and Current Years.

# 1. data analysis

- identify largest and easiest recoverable dollars first
- maximize cost and time efficiencies

## Utility Cost Summary

	Previous Yr	Current Yr	Variance	Dec-2012	Dec-2013	Variance
Total Utility Spend	\$780,540	\$730,011	-6.5%	\$60,323	\$60,015	-0.5%
Cost per Occupied Room	\$6.43	\$5.98	-7.0%	\$6.40	\$6.05	-5.3%
Cost Impact from Use		-\$2,800			\$2,747	
Cost Impact from Rates		-\$47,729			-\$3,054	



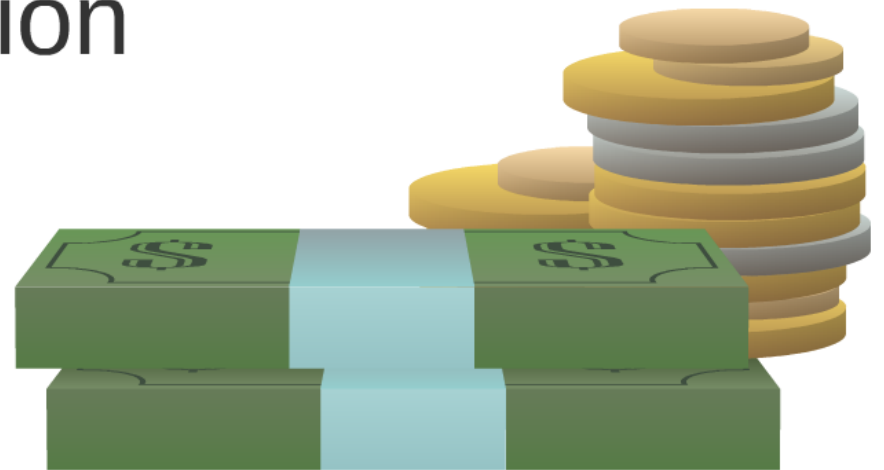
## **POLL QUESTION**

Are you using a data analytics platform that compares your property to peer buildings, and normalizes for weather, occupancy, and other factors?



## 2. demand-side efforts

- assessment
- retrocommissioning
- project implementation
- incentives





## 2. demand-side: assessment

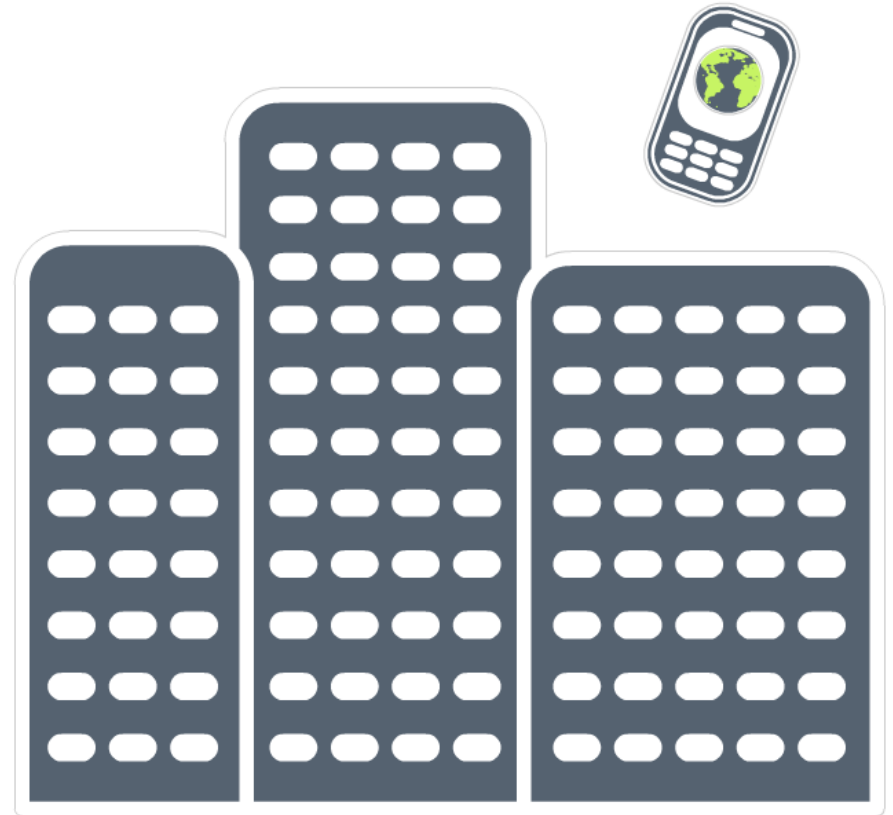
- ASHRAE level I or II
  - central plant/BAS
- financial considerations
  - assessment payback
  - no/low cost operational fixes
  - capital intensive opportunities
- additional focus
  - known issues and projects
  - renewable energy
  - incentives

EEO #	Description	Costs	Annual Savings	Simple Payback (yr)	IRR	NPV
1	Low-flow Aerators	\$5,359	\$6,780	0.8	138.5%	\$51,514
2	Rooftop Pipe Insulation	\$1,961	\$764	2.6	56.3%	\$4,623
Total		\$7,320	\$7,544	1.0	117.3%	\$51,514

EEO #	Description	Costs	Annual Savings	Simple Payback (yr)	IRR	NPV
3	Chiller Upgrade	\$317,717	\$60,527	5.2	30.8%	\$225,215
4	Laundry Water and Heat Recovery	\$273,195	\$58,612	4.7	34.4%	\$248,065
5	Retrocommissioning (RCx)	\$76,879	\$17,000	4.5	35.4%	\$74,001
6	Low-Flow Showerheads	\$24,300	\$26,161	0.9	121.5%	\$195,622
7	Guestroom Thermostats	\$177,977	\$24,605	7.2	21.9%	\$49,097
8	LED Lighting Retrofit	\$77,823	\$21,089	3.7	42.2%	\$107,060
9	Kitchen Range Hood Controls	\$41,925	\$12,883	3.3	46.8%	\$70,285
10	Booster Pump VFDs	\$15,984	\$2,697	5.9	27.3%	\$8,446
Total		\$1,005,800	\$223,573	4.5	35.6%	\$977,792

## 2. demand-side: retro-commissioning

- building-wide “tune-up” of equipment and controls
- many new buildings are not efficiently commissioned
- meters/sensors fall out of calibration
- new control technologies available
- low capex, good savings
- occupant discomfort



## **POLL QUESTION**

Have you completed an ASHRAE audit or retrocommissioning at your property?



## 2. demand-side: project implementation

- central plant upgrades
  - variable-capacity chillers
  - high-efficiency boilers
  - water pre-heating
  - condensate Hx
  - free cooling



## 2. demand-side: project implementation

- controls
  - building automation systems
  - variable frequency drives
  - co/co2 sensors
  - occupancy-based thermostats
  - demand-based hood controls





## **2. demand-side: project implementation**

- lighting
  - LED lamp replacement
  - LED parking fixture placement
  - T8 LED replacement kits
  - occupancy sensors
  - no piggy-backed savings

## **2. demand-side: project implementation**

- water
  - pool/spa, cooling tower, toilet leaks
  - faucets, showerheads, toilets
  - kitchen sinks and sprayers
  - laundry rinse water recovery
  - satellite based irrigation controls
  - sub-meters: cooling towers, irrigation credits

## 2. demand-side: project implementation

- onsite generation:
  - solar PV
  - solar hot water
  - gen sets
  - microturbines
  - reduce use first!
- onsite storage:
  - battery banks (*see white paper*)



## 2. demand-side: incentives

- incentive groups:
  - utility companies
  - regional programs
  - tax deductions/rebates (if applicable)
  - get creative, go custom
- incentive requirements:
  - project sequencing
  - baseline/M&V



An Exelon Company



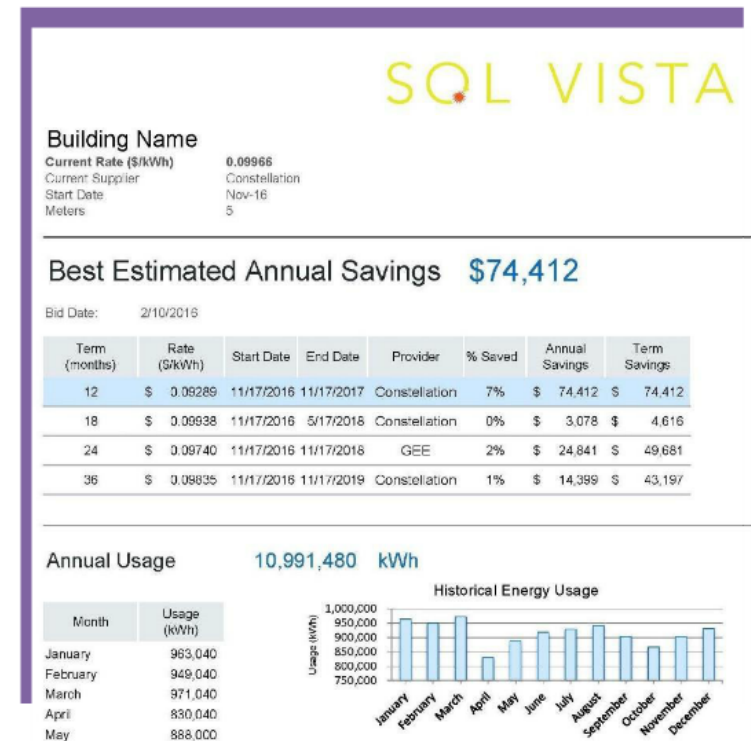
# **3. supply-side efforts**

energy procurement



# 3. supply-side - energy procurement

- electricity and gas:
  - start bidding 180-days out
  - fixed or variable contract
  - term length
  - compare to historic pricing
  - current market conditions
  - easy way to save money!



## **POLL QUESTION**

Are you taking advantage of deregulated markets to secure lower electricity and gas pricing?



# 4. ongoing monitoring

- project impact verification
- ongoing issue alerts
- reporting and budgeting
- regulatory compliance



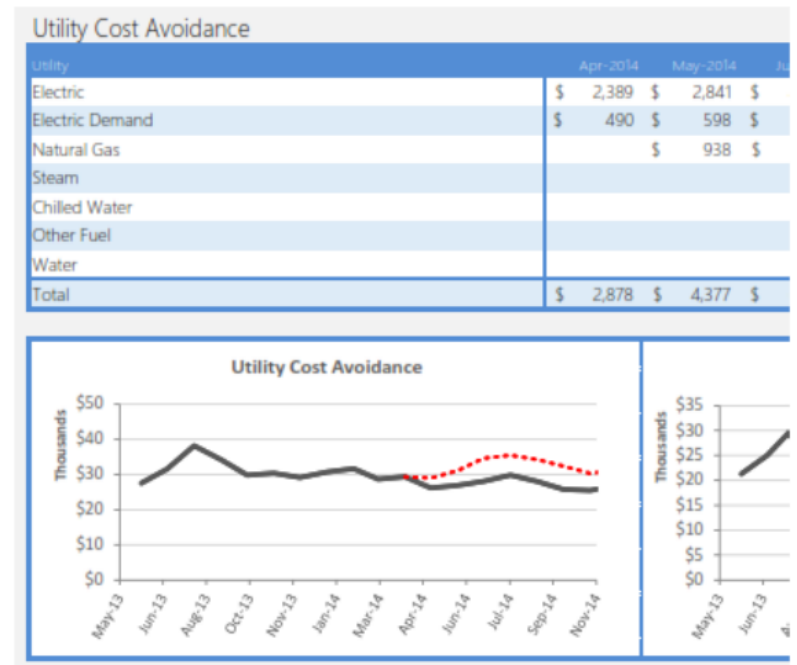
## 4. ongoing monitoring - project impact verification

- data:

- utility bill analysis
- submetering
- BAS and equipment logs

- variables:

- occupancy
- weather
- fluctuating utility rates
- operational impacts to savings



## 4. ongoing monitoring - issue alerts

- supply side:
  - utility bill errors
  - supplier bill errors
  - bad meters
- demand side:
  - equipment failures
  - operational changes
  - normalize for weather, occupancy, other variables

Utility	Use Alert Stats*
Electricity	OK
Demand	OK
Natural Gas	Review
Water	OK
District Steam	n/a
Chilled Water	n/a
Other Fuels	n/a

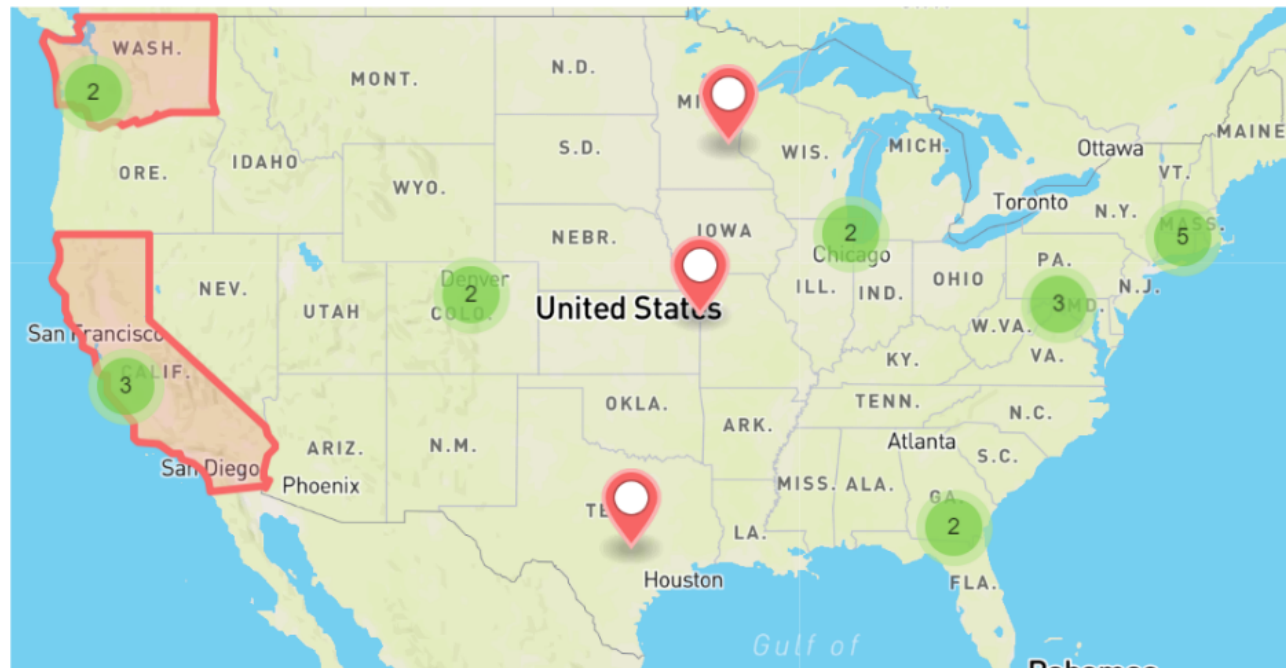
## 4. ongoing monitoring - reporting & budgeting

- monthly:
  - YOY/MOM performance
- groups:
  - location, building type
- annual:
  - budget season!
  - normalize for weather, occupancy, other variables
  - monthly impact from rate changes and efficiency projects

Building Name			
1234 10th Street, NW Washington, DC 20037			
Facility Type:	Hotel		
Gross Space (sf):	248,450		
Guest Rooms:	335		
Owner/Manager:	Ownership Group		
Utility Cost Impacts Summary			
Weather:	-\$104	↓	Food: \$575 ↑
Top Positive Impacts			
Gas	use	-\$3,699	-16.6%
Electricity	use	-\$1,425	-6.8%
Elec Demand	use	-\$524	-14.1%
Utility spend decreased 4.5% (or \$3.1k) compared to the same period last year, primarily due to decreased use, while water costs rose 2.6% from increased temperatures. Lowered utility costs by \$0.1k.			

## 4. ongoing monitoring - regulatory compliance




- annual benchmarking compliance:
  - cities, counties, districts, states across US
- penalties/fines:
  - \$500-\$2000/yr
  - \$300/day
- growing rapidly!



# Results - Parkview Spring Street

## Savings Realized

*Numbers verified by Skywalk:*

- Electricity Use:  **34%**
- Water Use:  **20%**
- Electricity Costs:  **\$146,000/yr**
- Water Costs:  **\$12,000/yr**

## Environmental Impact

*Annual greenhouse gas emissions & water use reductions equivalent to:*



**1,189,706** miles driven  
by the average  
passenger vehicle



**261,250** toilet flushes







**ENERGY STAR score:  
+38 points!**



# Results - DoubleTree Bethesda

## Savings Realized

*Numbers verified by Skywalk:*

- Electricity Use:  **8.1%**
- Natural Gas Use:  **2.2%**
- Water & Sewer Use:  **8.8%**
- Electricity Costs:  **\$33,000**
- Natural Gas Costs:  **\$11,000**
- Water & Sewer Costs:  **\$12,000**

## Environmental Impact

*DoubleTree Bethesda reduced greenhouse gas emissions & water use equivalent to:*



**434,887** miles/yr. driven by the average passenger vehicle



**194,129** lbs of coal burned



**352,483** toilet flushes

**ENERGY STAR score:  
+20 points!**

## **POLL QUESTION**

Have you already submitted your benchmarking compliance data?



# Takeaways

- use data to focus efforts
- remain ROI driven
- find an implementation partner you can trust
- retrocommission if it makes sense
- engage local utilities early-on in review process
- don't forget about energy procurement
- use data to verify success and find ongoing opportunities
- don't let local benchmarking compliance sneak up on you!

# Questions + Answers

**Thank you!**

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