

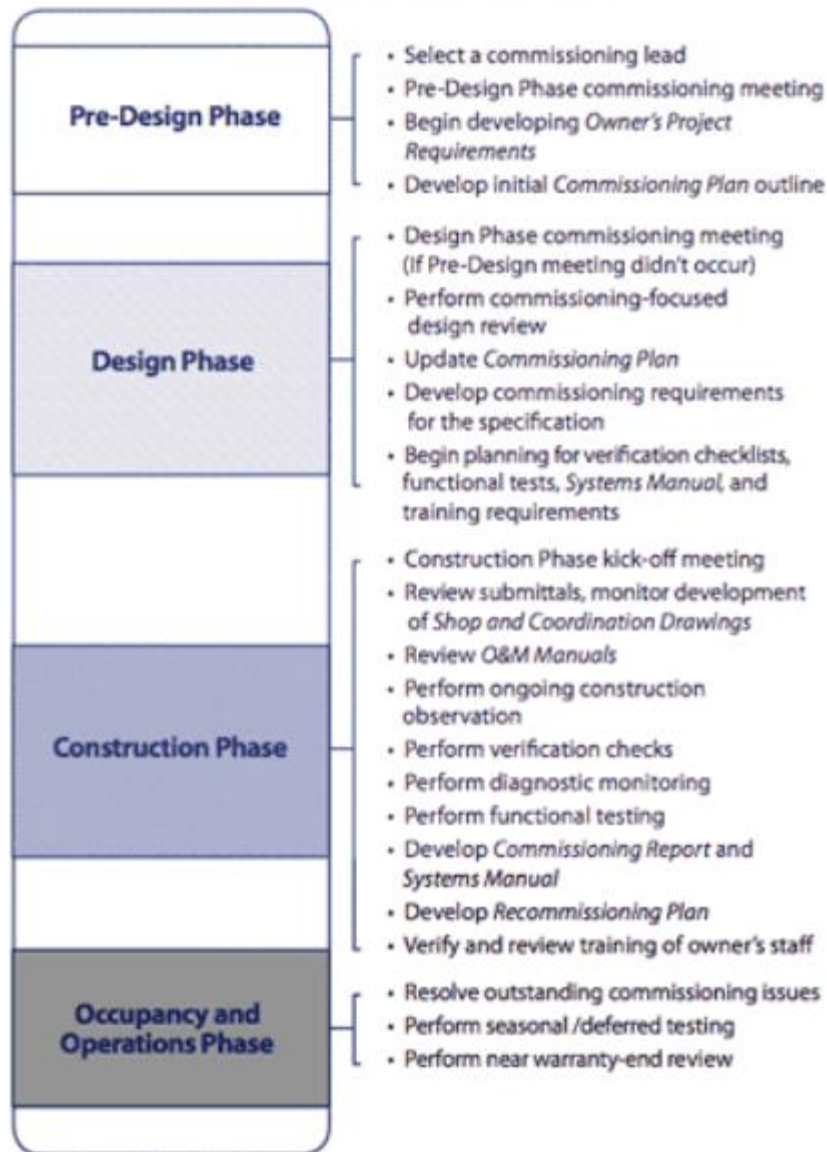


An Introduction to The Retro-Commissioning Process For Existing Buildings

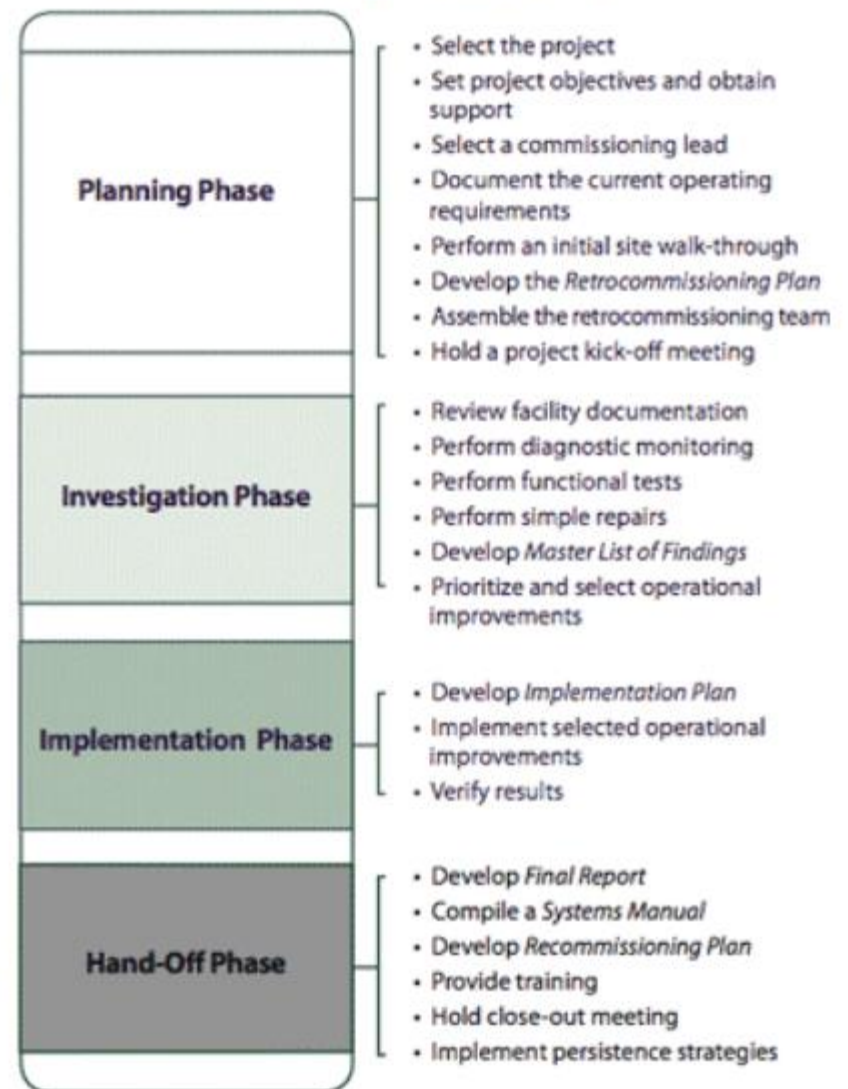
By: Robert L. (Bob) Towell, P.E., LEED AP, QCxP
and Robert Haskell, EIT

- Retrocommissioning (RCx) is the application of the commissioning process to existing buildings, and seeks to improve how building equipment and systems function together.
- Depending on the age of the building, RCx can often resolve problems that occurred during design or construction, or address problems that have developed throughout the building's life.
- In all, RCx improves a building's operations and maintenance (O&M) procedures to enhance overall building performance.

Commissioning Process Overview



Retrocommissioning Process Overview



RCx Program Phases (from BCxA)

- Planning Phase: Development of the RCx goals, facility requirements, and a commissioning plan.
- Investigation Phase: Field inspections, data gathering, testing and analysis to accurately assess system performance and identify improvement opportunities.
- Implementation Phase: The desired facility improvements are completed and the results and performance are verified.
- Turnover Phase: The systematic transition from a commissioning activity and the Commissioning Team to standard operating practice and the O&M team.
- Persistence Phase: Implementation of systems and tools to support both the persistence of benefits and continuous performance improvement over time.

The purpose of RCx is as follows: (from BCxA)

- Verify that a facility & its systems meet the Current Facility Requirements (CFR)
- Improve building performance by saving energy & reducing operational costs
- Identify & resolve building system operation, control & maintenance problems
- Reduce or eliminate occupant complaints & increase tenant satisfaction
- Improve indoor environmental comfort & quality & reduce associated liability
- Document system operation

The purpose of RCx is as follows: (cont.)

- Identify O&M personnel training needs & provide such training
- Minimize operational risk & increase asset value
- Extend equipment life-cycle
- Ensure persistence of improvements over the building's life
- Assist in achieving LEED for Existing Buildings
<http://www.usgbc.org/LEED>
- Improve the building's ENERGY STAR rating
<http://www.energystar.gov/>

RCx Program Phases (Ameren, SEDAC similar)

- Screening Phase: Preliminary evaluation to identify expected energy savings options to include in the application.
- Application Phase: Prepare the formal application for the RCx Program, including preliminary savings calculations, utility data summary, equipment list, identify unusual conditions and potential risks, Energy Utilization Index and Energy Star benchmark score.
- Survey or Investigation Phase: Field inspections, data gathering, testing and analysis to accurately assess system performance and finalize savings and implementation cost estimates. The Implementation Plan is developed and presented to the client.
- Implementation: The desired RCx facility improvements are completed.
- Verification: The results and performance are verified, first by the RSP and secondly by the program representative.

Southern Illinois Large Facilities RCx Programs

RCx Program Item	Ameren Act On Energy	Illinois Energy Now
RCx Focus	0 to 1 year payback	0 to 1.5 year payback
RCx Study/Survey Incentive	70% of survey cost reimb.	100% of survey cost
Commitment by Facility	Varies, defined in application	\$10,000 minimum
0-1 year measure incentives	\$0.02/KWH, \$0.40/therm	None, report is incentive
Other special incentives	Early completion, etc.	Early completion
Longer Payback Options	Ameren Act On Energy	Illinois Energy Now
Study Cost	Included in the RCx Survey	Separate Assessment Report
Payback Period	1 to 10 years	1 to 7 years
Measure Incentives	\$0.06/KWH, \$0.90/therm	\$0.12/KWH, \$2.50/therm

Southern Illinois Large Facilities RCx Programs

RCx Program Item	Ameren Act On Energy	Illinois Energy Now
Building Type	Private facilities	Public facilities
Conditioned Area	100,000 sq.ft.	150,000 sq.ft.
Building Age	At least 5 years old	At least 5 years old
Building Controls	Must have an EMCS	Must have an EMCS
Project Term	June 1st to May 31st	June 1st to May 31 st per phase

Primary RCx Measures

Common Opportunities Encountered During RCx Efforts

- **Equipment Scheduling:** Minimize unnecessary run-time, Exception schedules, Optimal start/stop control routines
- **Control System Fine Tuning:** Consistency (Setpoints, Control sequences, reduction in the need for operator override), Improved control sequences
- **Control System Upgrades:** Access to more improved control sequences, Increased system monitoring capability, Improved system flexibility
- **Simultaneous Heating & Cooling:** Often find this issue in large spaces.
- **Variable Speed Drives:** Effective control is necessary for success.
- **Exhaust Reduction and Rebalancing:** Changes in code requirements, Changes in space usage, Improved IEQ
- **Ventilation Air Adjustments:** Improve OA control including economizing operation, Minimum levels may typically be reduced, Improve IEQ
- **Lighting Upgrades (Limited), Delamping:** Like for like replacement resulting in over illumination, Changes in code required minimum light levels, Changes in space usage, Occupancy sensor installation, Lens replacement

Sample Capital Projects

Common Capital Opportunities Encountered During RCx Efforts

- **Lighting Control and Fixture Upgrades:** Newer technology retrofits (LED, High efficiency fluorescent), Enhanced controls (Occupancy sensor, Daylighting)
- **Major Control System Upgrades:** Advanced control sequences, Continuous monitoring and analysis, System flexibility, Enhanced energy savings
- **Incremental Cost of Enhanced Equipment Upgrades:** Beyond code required minimum capabilities, Variable speed compressors, Enhanced control options
- **Damper Replacements:** Often damper costs make this a capital project.
- **Envelope Improvements:** New windows and additional insulation are hard to pay for from energy savings alone, but incremental cost of an upgrade may apply.

Equipment Used

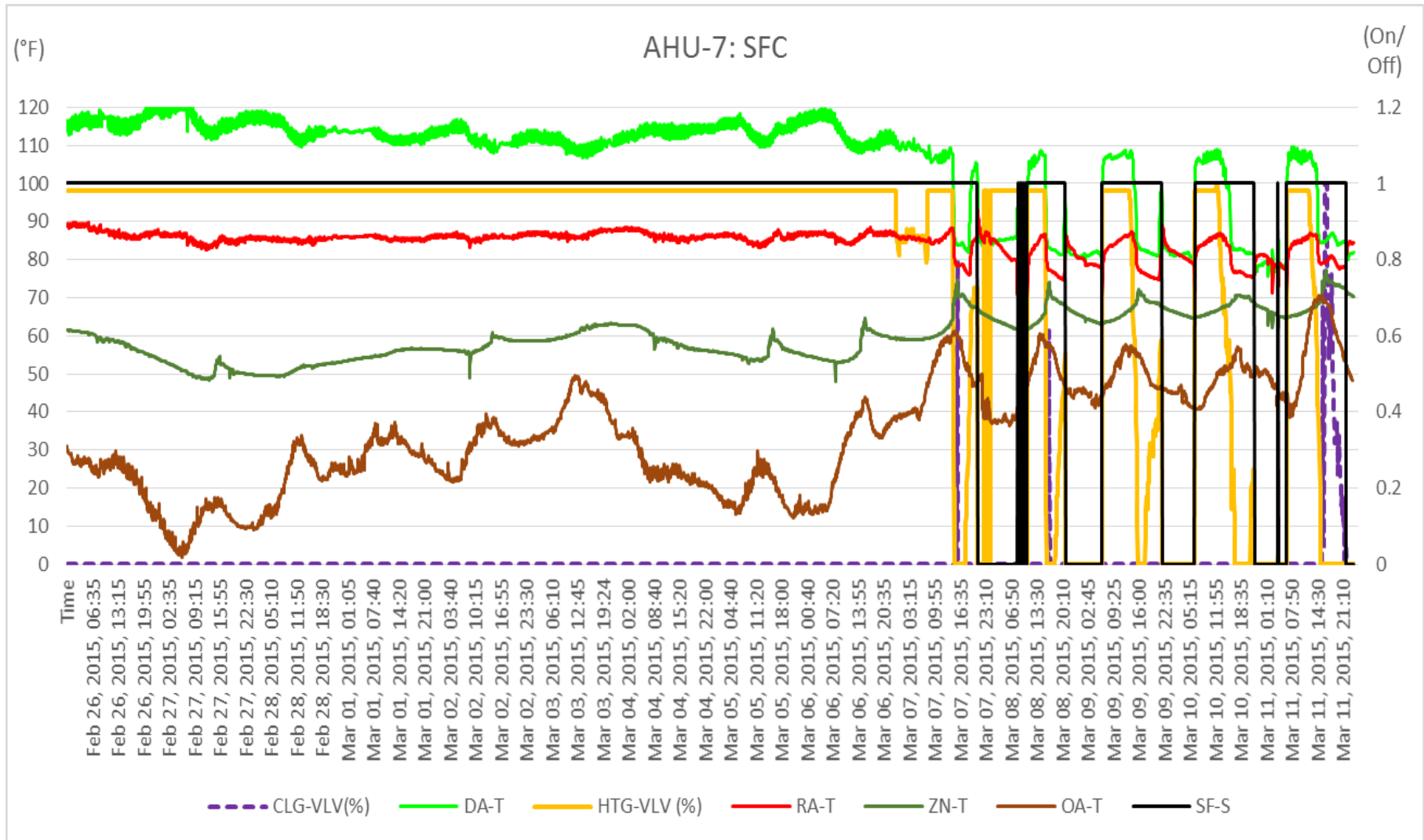


Building Automation System

Common Uses of the BAS during the Survey:

- **Screen Shots:** Taking screen shots of “point in time” control system data can provides documentation of how the facility was operating on a particular day.
- **Trend Data:** In addition to data loggers, the BAS can be very effectively used to monitor system performance over a period of time, but you have to be careful to avoid overloading control system memory in some cases. Also very useful during verification, plus it works 24 hours per day.
- **Data Queries:** Special reports can be set up to quickly look at data for similar devices, like VAV boxes.
- **Remote Access:** While some facilities avoid this option due to security concerns, there are usually relatively simple ways to obtain remote access, which helps improve the quality of the RSP’s effort, and can help reduce the cost to control system upgrades.
- **Scheduling Options:** Sometimes operators have to receive additional training to implement special schedules, such as during the summer for a school.

Trend Log Reports



Data Query Reports

VAV Box	Unit AHU-1 Area Served - Cooling	ZN-T Setpoint Deg.F.	Zone Temp Deg.F.	VAV Damper % Open	Actual Supply Flow CFM	Supply Setpoint CFM	Sched'd SA CFM	Heating Valve % Open	VAV Box DAT Deg.F.	Actual SA vs. Setpt	Space Temp. Offset	Heating Valve Status	VAV Damper Status
VAV1-1	LL Fitness E	70.4	80.0	40.0	218	0	3,200	0	64.6	n/a	9.6	Verify	Verify
VAV1-2	LL Fitness S	68.0	80.0	52.6	2,909	3,000	3,325	0	59.7	97%	12.0		
VAV2-1	Office	76.0	80.0	46.6	297	297	350	0	61.2	100%	4.0		
VAV2-2	Office	68.4	80.0	54.5	725	750	750	0	59.4	97%	11.6		
VAV2-3	Office	77.0	80.0	17.1	61	68	675	0	65.2	90%	3.0	Verify	
VAV2-4	Office	70.6	80.0	100.0	426	525	525	0	59.8	81%	9.4		Short
VAV2-5	Office	71.2	80.0	100.0	549	675	675	0	59.3	81%	8.8		Short
VAV2-6	Office	72.8	80.0	100.0	368	525	525	0	59.5	70%	7.2		Short
VAV2-7	Office	72.8	80.0	100.0	574	675	675	0	59.3	85%	7.2		Short
VAV2-8	Office	72.4	80.0	100.0	638	675	675	0	59.4	94%	7.6		
VAV2-9	Office	74.0	80.0	100.0	456	500	500	0	60.7	91%	6.0		
VAV2-10	Office	70.0	80.0	44.0	211	0	950	0	60.9	n/a	10.0		Verify
VAV2-11	Lobby	73.6	80.0	53.4	1,202	1,200	1,050	0	58.8	100%	6.4		
VAV2-12	SW Vestibule	73.4	80.0	100.0	260	400	300	0	59.1	65%	6.6		Short
VAV2-13	Conference	69.8	80.0	100.0	570	600	600	0	58.6	95%	10.2		
VAV2-14	Office	73.0	80.0	82.6	1,654	1,675	1,675	0	59.3	99%	7.0		
VAV2-15	Office	73.8	80.0	95.6	1,785	1,800	1,800	0	59.1	99%	6.2		
VAV2-16	Office	74.6	80.0	100.0	1,008	1,100	1,100	0	59.5	92%	5.4		
VAV2-17	Corridor	72.0	80.0	99.9	581	600	600	0	59.5	97%	8.0		
VAV-3.1	Office	74.0	80.0	55.1	447	450	450	0	59.2	99%	6.0		
VAV-3.2	Office	71.0	80.0	38.6	545	550	550	0	59.5	99%	9.0		
VAV-3.3	Office	73.1	80.0	56.8	594	600	600	0	59.2	99%	6.9		
VAV-3.4	Office	71.8	80.0	52.1	589	600	600	0	68.2	98%	8.2	Verify	
VAV-3.5	Office/Corr.	71.8	80.0	100.0	645	750	750	0	59.5	86%	8.2		Short
VAV-3.6	Office	72.0	80.0	40.6	536	550	550	0	59.7	97%	8.0		
VAV-3.7	Office	72.0	80.0	47.7	447	450	450	0	59.1	99%	8.0		
VAV-3.8	Office	70.0	80.0	51.8	489	500	500	0	61.2	98%	10.0		
VAV-3.9	Grad Assnt.	71.4	80.0	42.2	532	550	550	0	58.5	97%	8.6		
VAV-3.10	Grad Assnt.	73.2	80.0	51.6	740	750	750	0	59.1	99%	6.8		
VAV-3.11	Office	70.0	80.0	46.7	300	300	300	0	58.9	100%	10.0		
VAV-3.12	Grad Assnt.	71.4	80.0	51.7	550	550	550	0	58.7	100%	8.6		
VAV-3.13	Office	73.8	80.0	45.5	728	750	750	0	60.9	97%	6.2		
VAV-3.14	Corridor	72.4	80.0	57.4	964	1,000	1,000	0	60.5	96%	7.6		

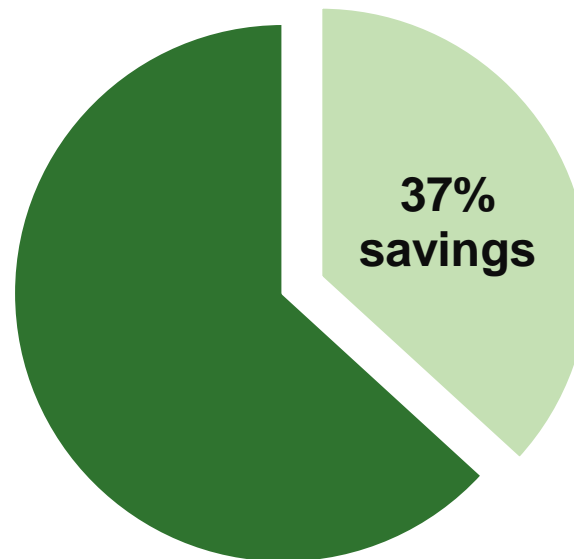
Additional Resources

Additional Sources of Information Used in Evaluating a Facility:

- **Facility Staff:** Operational and Maintenance staff are an invaluable source of information regarding the day to day functionality of a building.
- **Drawings:** Design and control drawings from initial construction are common examples. These provide insight into the intended operation of the facility as well as a starting list of available resources and equipment present.
- **Equipment Manuals, Upgrade Documentation:** Operational as well as installation manuals for existing equipment supplement any documentation regarding equipment upgrades performed over the life of a building. This aids in defining the current operating state of a facility.
- **Design Intent Documentation:** The Owner's Project Requirements and Basis of Design documents are less frequently available for older facilities but are important sources of information when they can be located.
- **Test and Balance Report:** Typically from initial construction, subsequent reports are occasionally available. These help identify the intended operation of the facility.

Public University – Student Fitness Center (SEDAC)

Electricity Savings (kWh):	1,148,764	26%
Natural Gas Savings (Therms):	128,747	65%
Overall Energy Savings (Mbtu):	16,794	48%
Utility Cost Savings (\$):	\$161,237	37%
Estimated Project Cost (\$):	\$277,682	1.72 Payback (yrs.)
IEN Incentives Available (\$):	\$187,441	68% of Proj. Cost
Net Cost w/Incentives (\$):	\$90,241	0.56 Payback (yrs.)

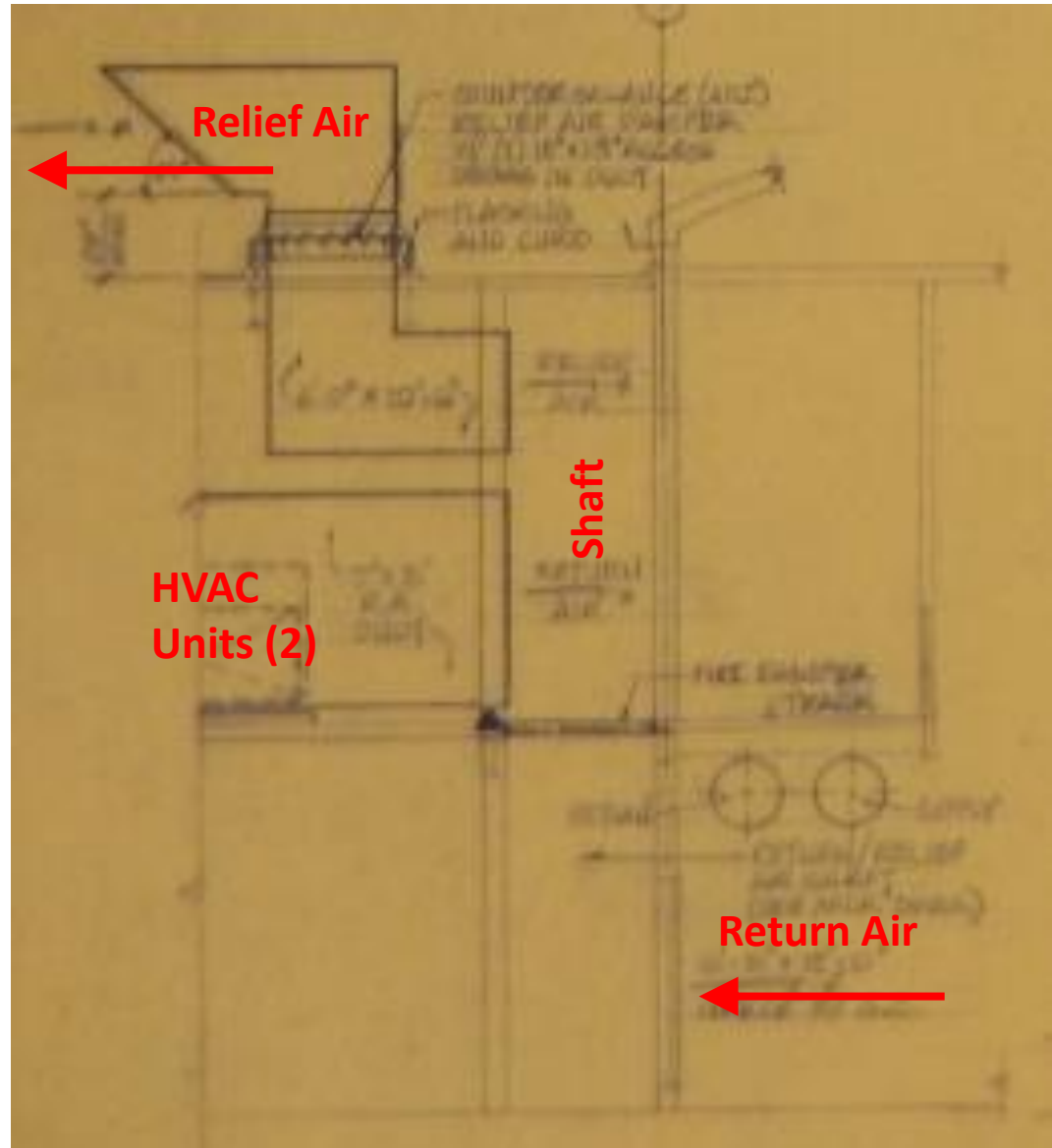


Main Gym Stratification Issues



Secondary Gym Issues

- Constant speed operation, 2 units
- Simultaneous heating and cooling
- Damper issues
- Pump cavitation

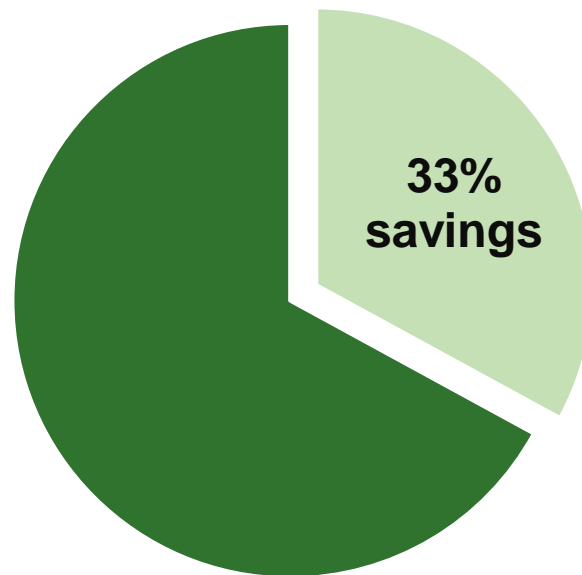


Sample Ventilation Analysis

HVAC System	Area Served	Supply Air CFM	Minimum Outside Air Intake (CFM)			
			Design	Actual	Required	% SA
AHU-1	Dining Area	15,630	9,500	0	4,500	29%
AHU-4	Dining & Office	8,030	8,030	3,812	8,030	100%
AHU-5*	Bookstore	10,500	2,000	500	1500	14%
AHU-S2	Mtg. Rms., Gallery	9,200	1,840	0	1,840	20%
AHU-S3	Offices & Common	8,700	1,780	445	1,780	20%
AHU-S4	East Mtg. Rooms	8,500	1,700	0	1,700	20%
AHU-S5	Restaurant	14,300	2,860	0	3,340	23%
AHU-S12	Offices	3,210	470	0	200	6%

Local High School (SEDAC)

Electricity Savings (kWh):	891,095	34%
Natural Gas Savings (Therms):	18,006	28%
Overall Energy Savings (Mbtu):	4,841	32%
Utility Cost Savings (\$):	\$79,383	33%
Estimated Project Cost (\$):	\$239,640	3.02 Payback (yrs.)
IEN Incentives Available (\$):	\$91,385	38% of Proj. Cost
Net Cost w/Incentives (\$):	\$148,255	1.87 Payback (yrs.)



Energy Recovery Unit

- Responsible for ventilation air
- Flow imbalance revealed by functional testing & data logging

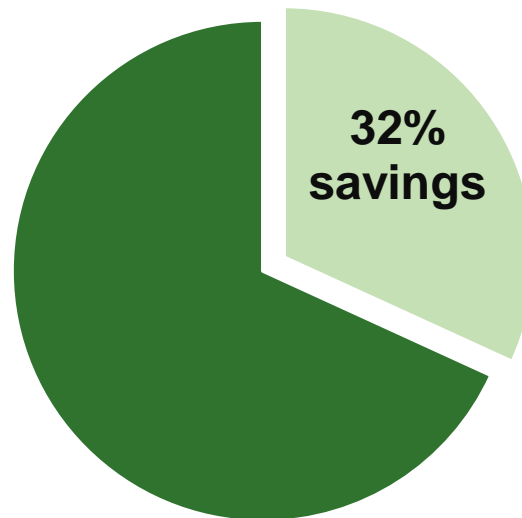


Indoor Air Quality

- Improperly/ineffectively operating ERUs resulted in space comfort issues
- ERUs were disabled during extreme temperatures
- **ISSUE:** Disabling ERUs eliminated ventilation air for portions of facility!
- Corrective Action:
- Evaluation and correction of ERU operation to meet facility needs
- Control upgrade to the units tasked with conditioning the spaces with comfort issues

Private University – Classroom Building (Ameren)

Electricity Savings (kWh):	317,390	29%
Natural Gas Savings (Therms):	13,962	45%
Overall Energy Savings (Mbtu):	2,479	36%
Utility Cost Savings (\$):	\$32,382	32%
Estimated Project Cost (\$):	\$60,275	1.86 Payback (yrs.)
IEN Incentives Available (\$):	\$9,273	15% of Proj. Cost
Net Cost w/Incentives (\$):	\$51,002	1.58 Payback (yrs.)



Dirty Air Flow Station

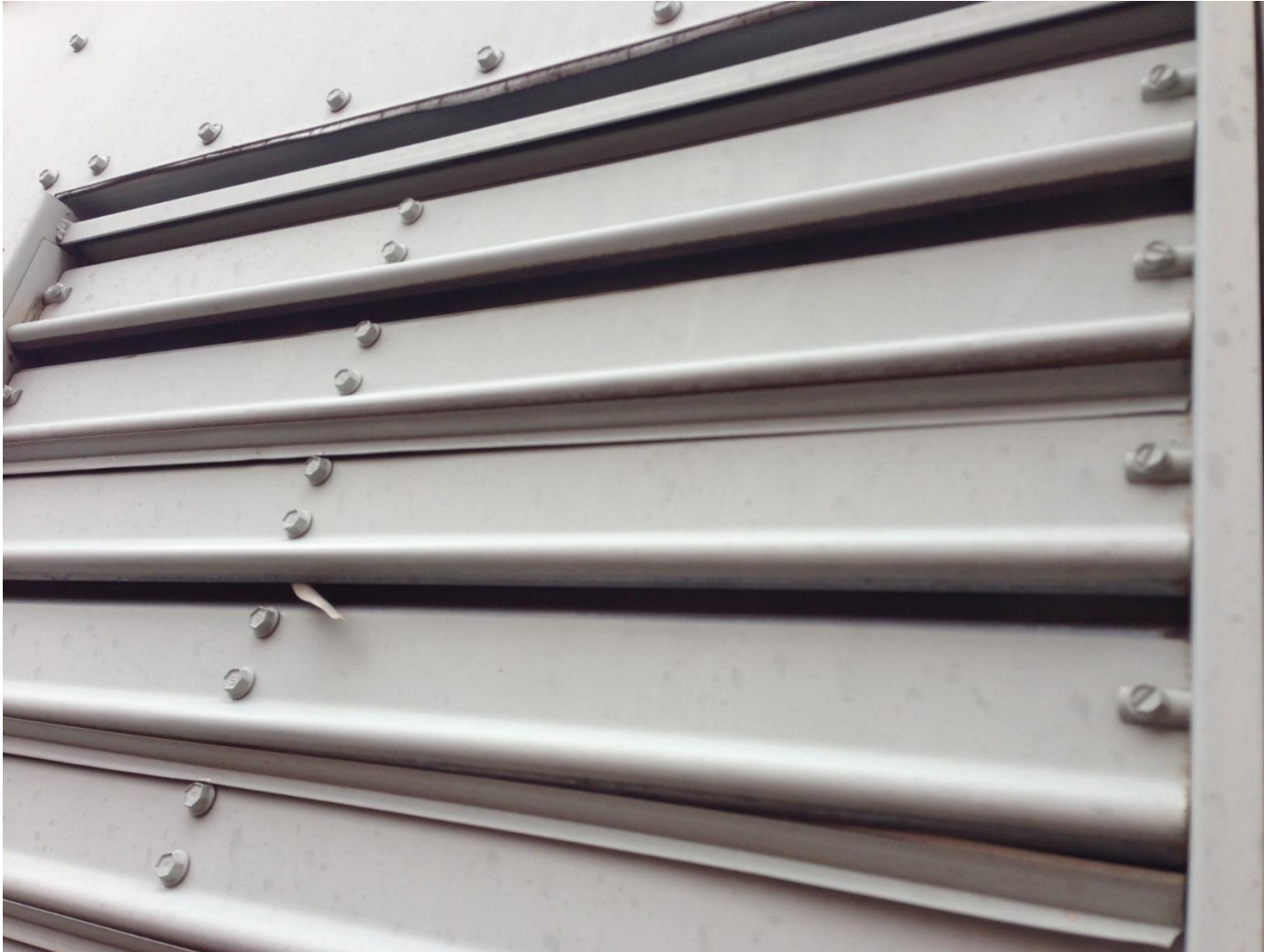
- Inaccurate readings
- Improved unit operation & efficiency after corrected



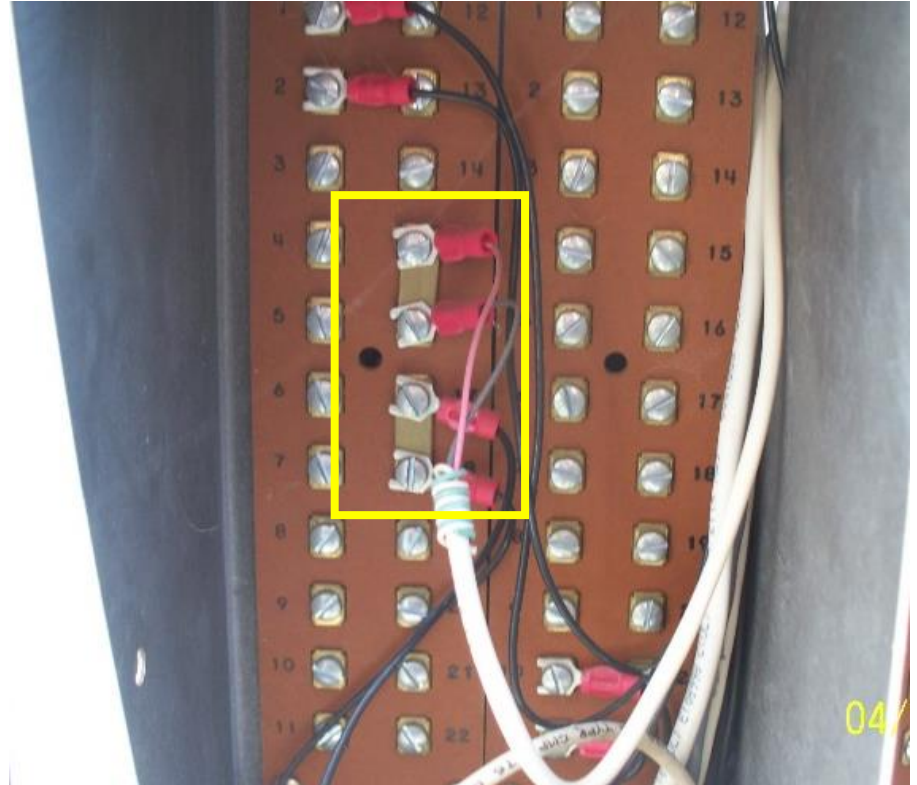


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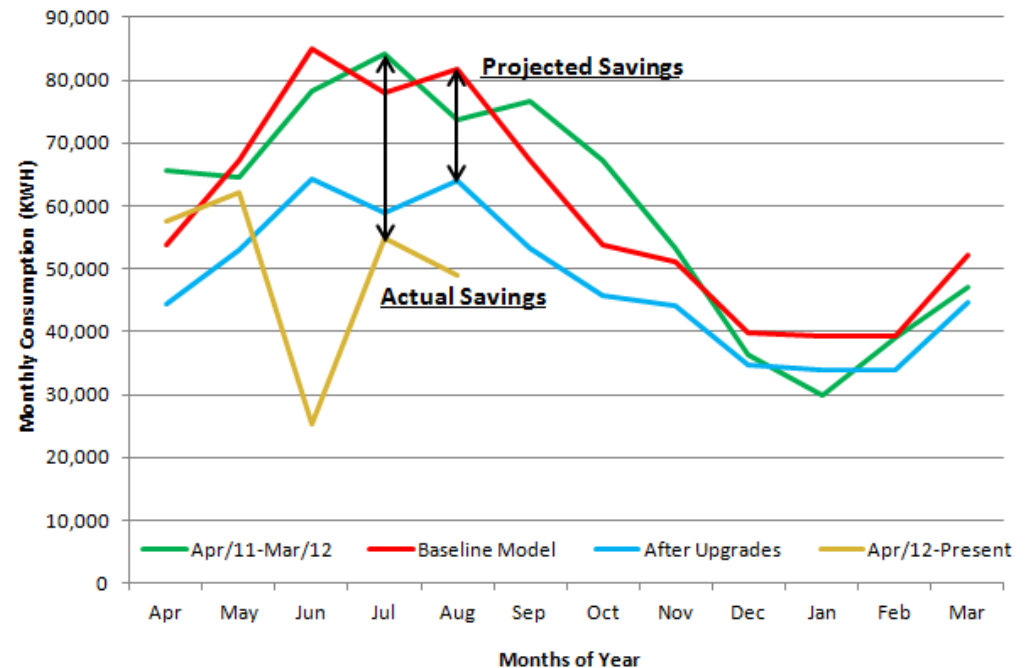
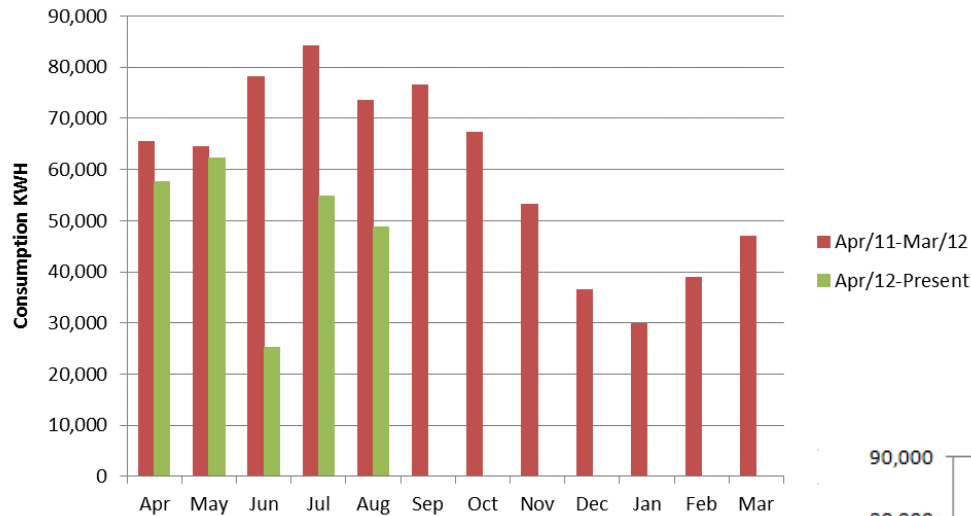
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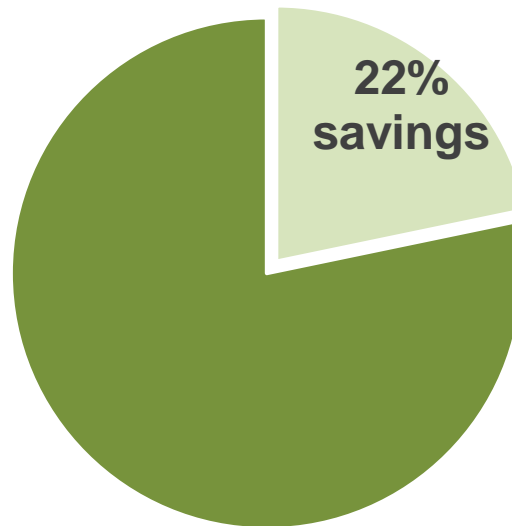


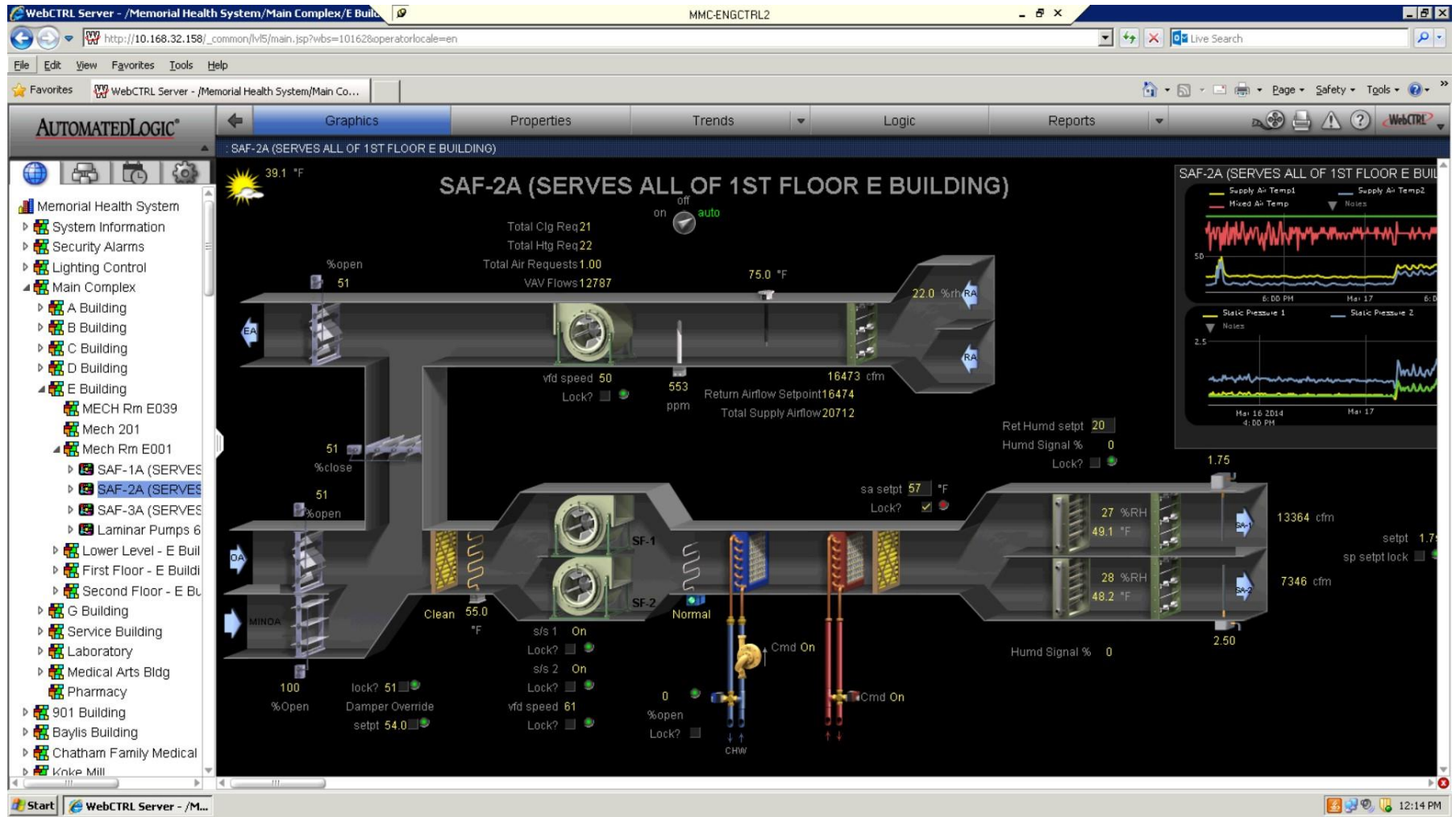
Electrical Usage per Month



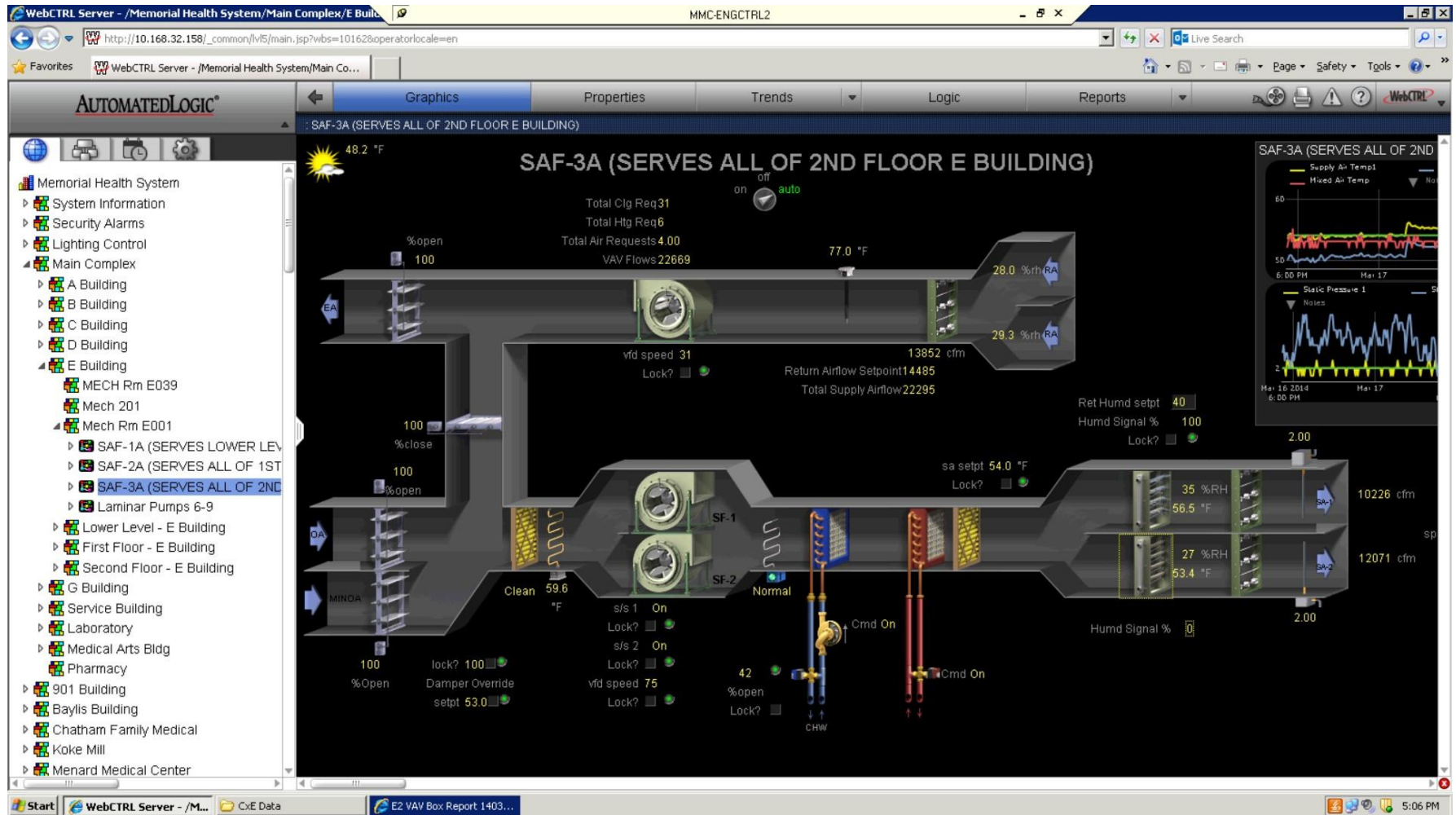
Springfield Hospital (Ameren)

Electricity Savings (kWh):	4,909,924	13%
Natural Gas Savings (Therms):	874,026	47%
Overall Energy Savings (Mbtu):	104,155	33%
Utility Cost Savings (\$):	\$1,114,121	22%
Estimated Project Cost (\$):	\$1,190,531	1.07 Payback (yrs.)





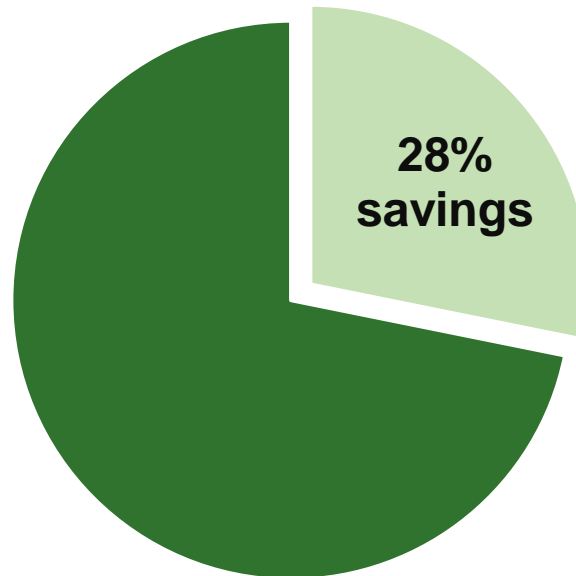


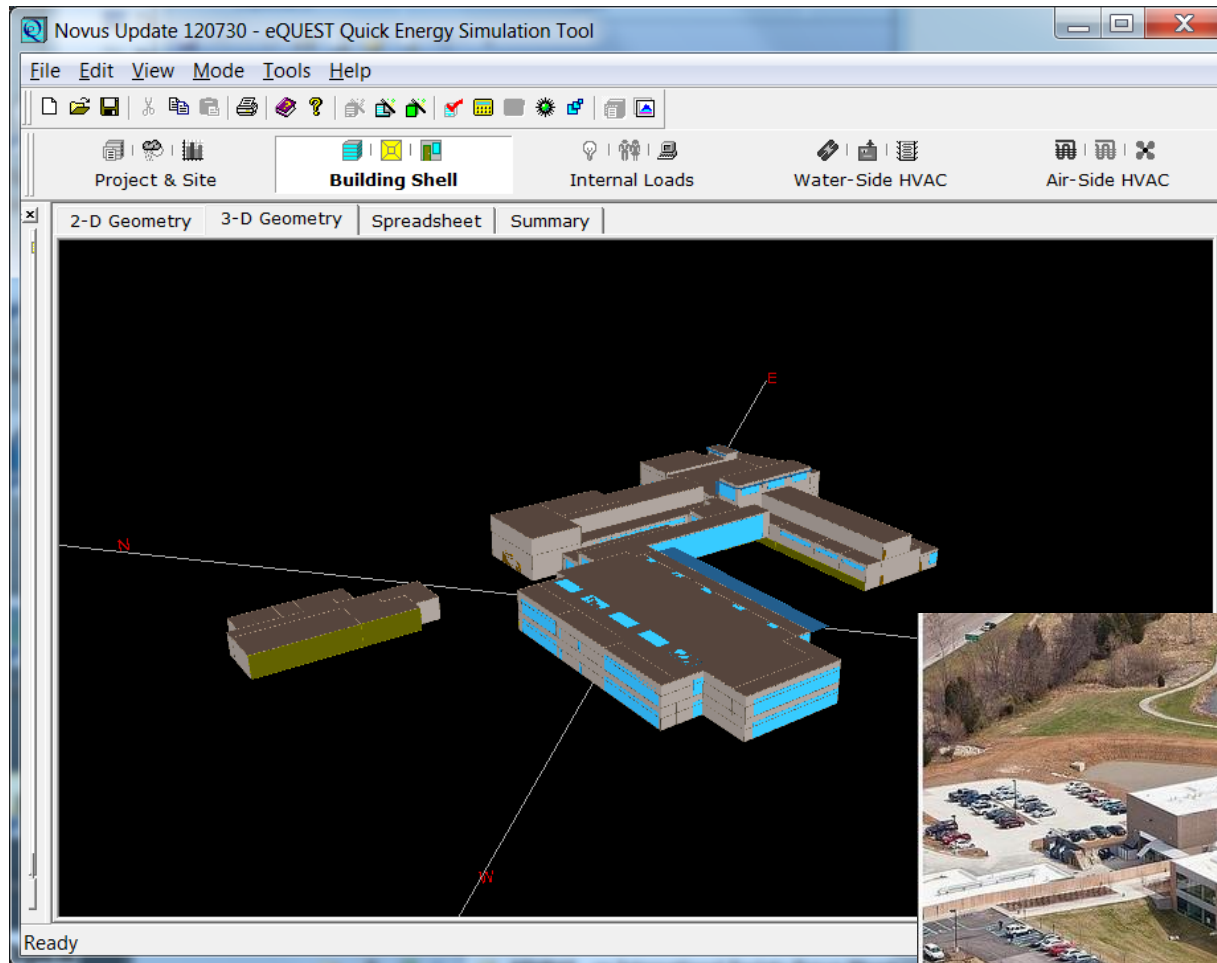




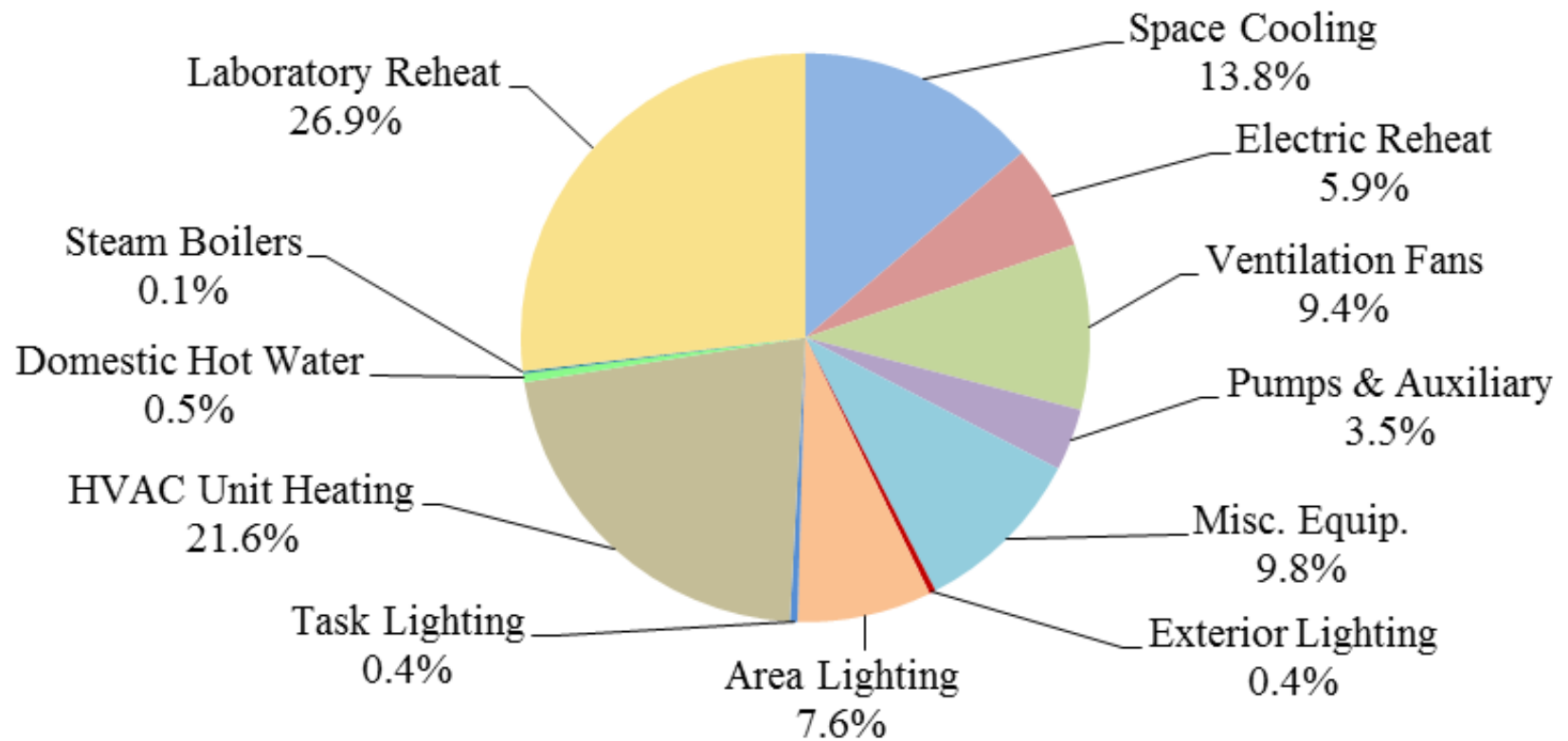
Private Laboratory & Research Facility (Ameren Missouri)

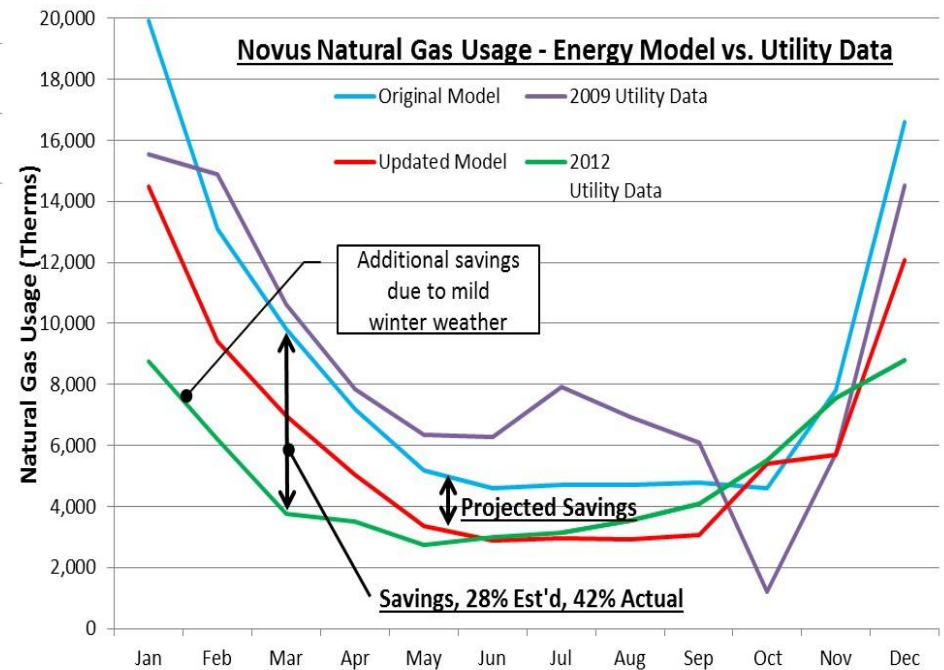
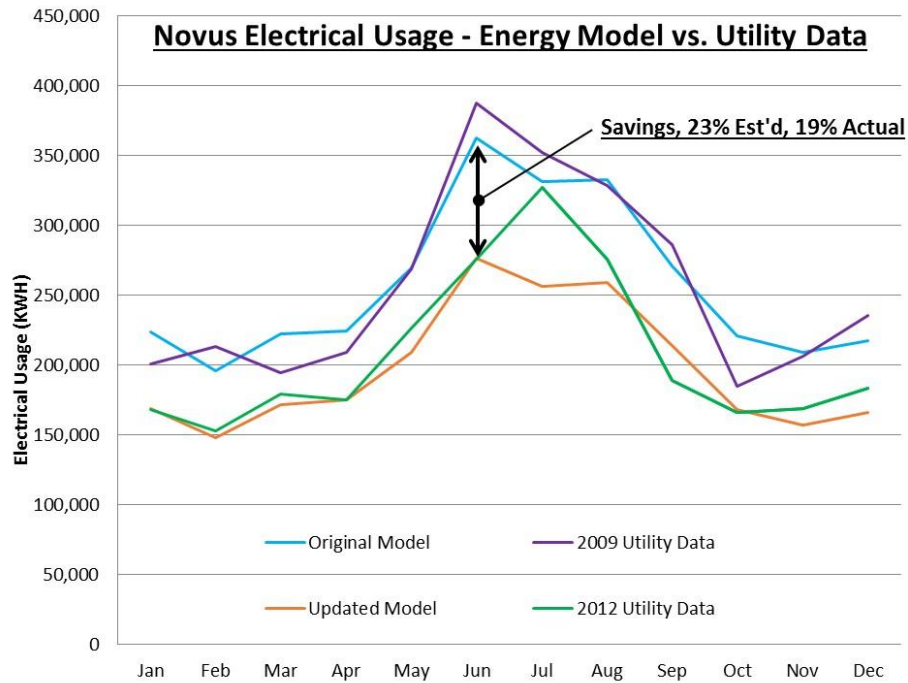
Electricity Savings (kWh):	806,755	26%
Natural Gas Savings (Therms):	32,467	31%
Overall Energy Savings (Mbtu):	5,999	29%
Utility Cost Savings (\$):	\$87,595	28%
Estimated Project Cost (\$):	\$182,735	2.09 Payback (yrs.)
IEN Incentives Available (\$):	\$35,252	19% of Proj. Cost
Net Cost w/Incentives (\$):	\$147,483	1.68 Payback (yrs.)



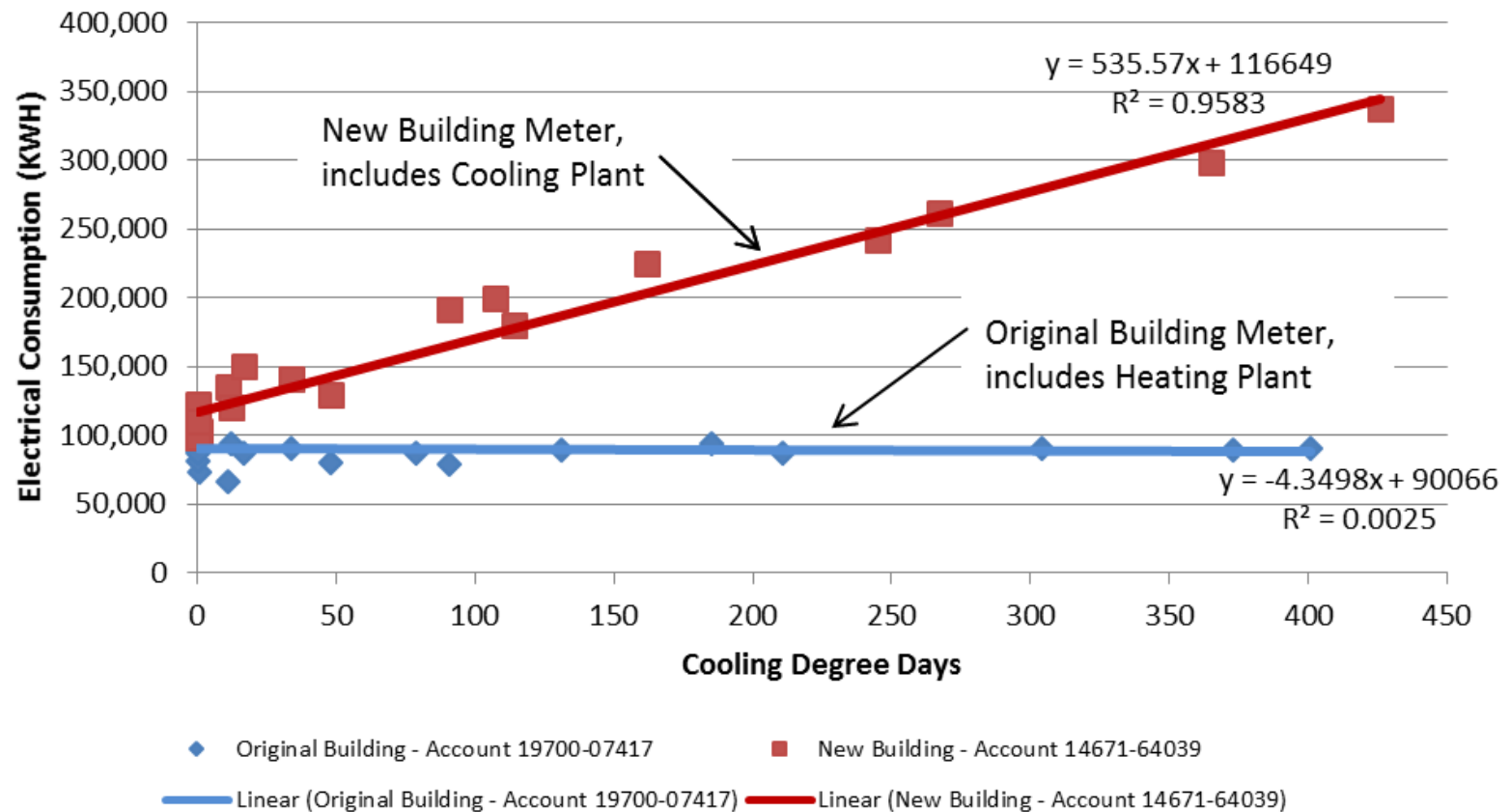


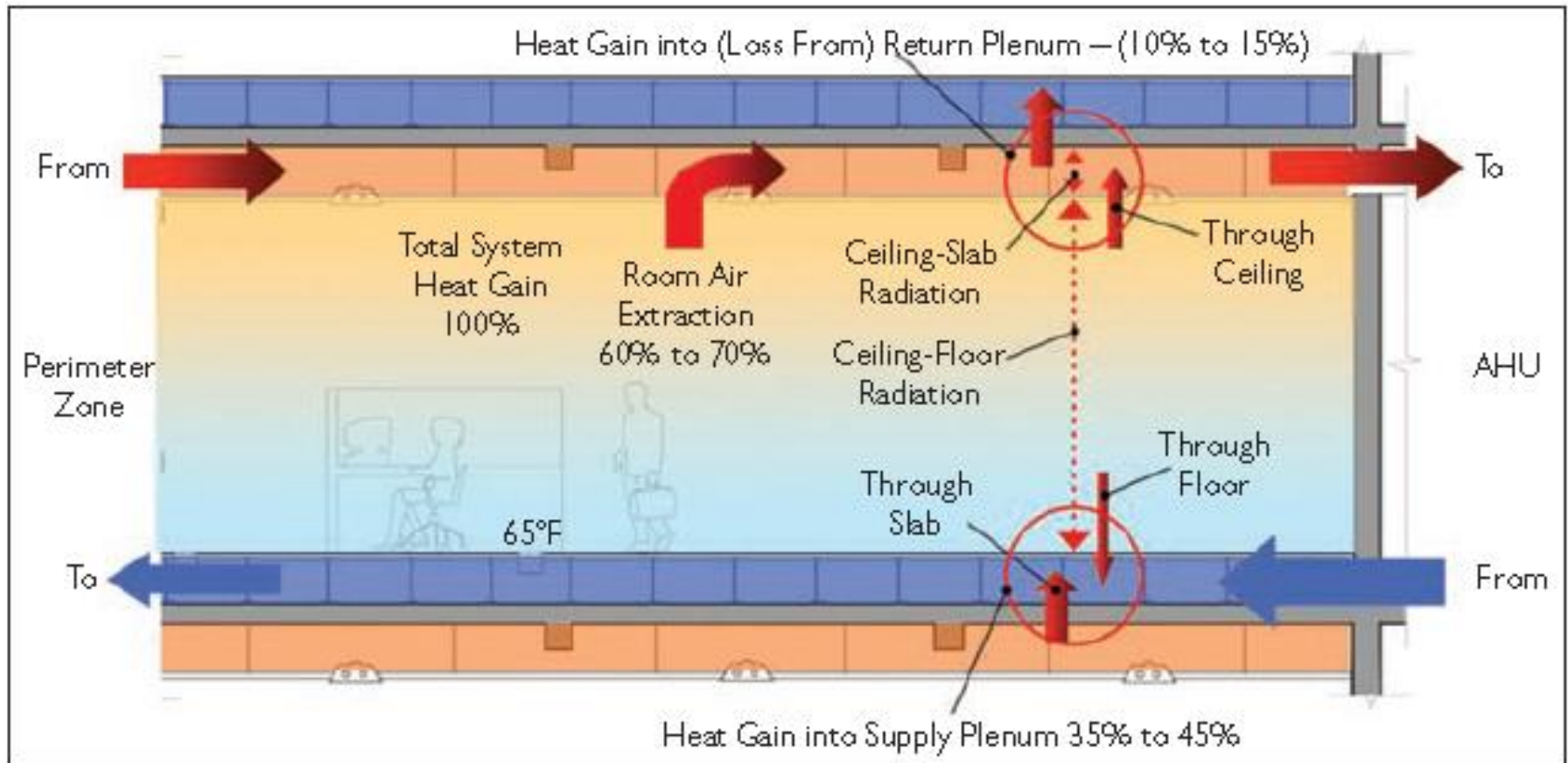
Total Energy Consumption by Category

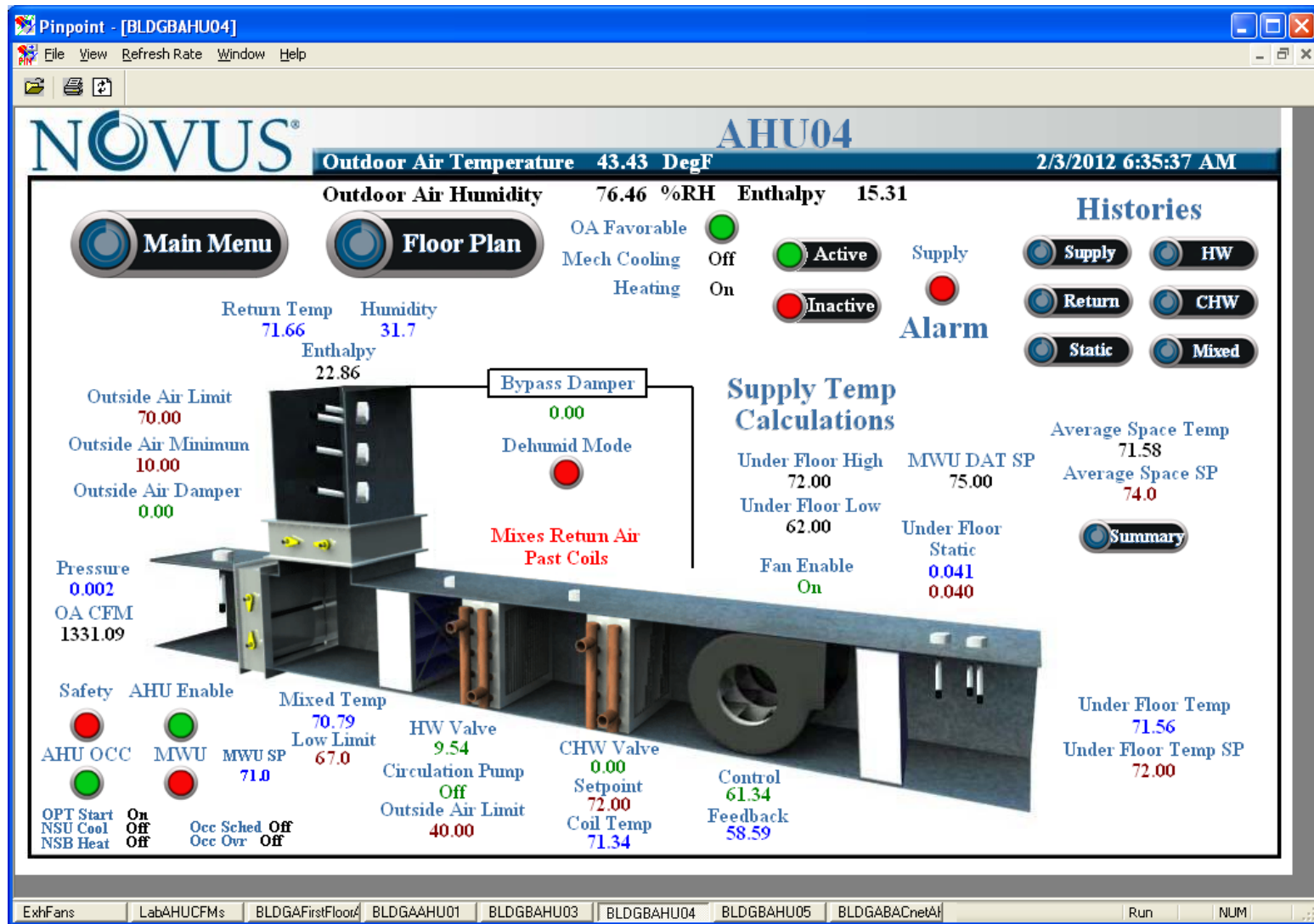




Electric Consumption Vs Cooling Degree Days







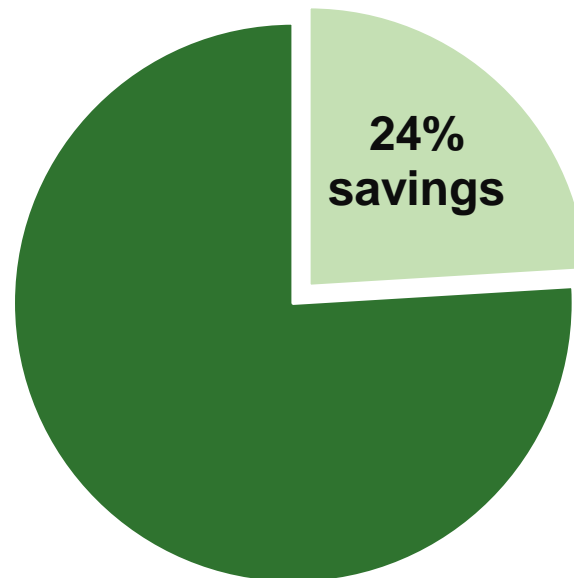
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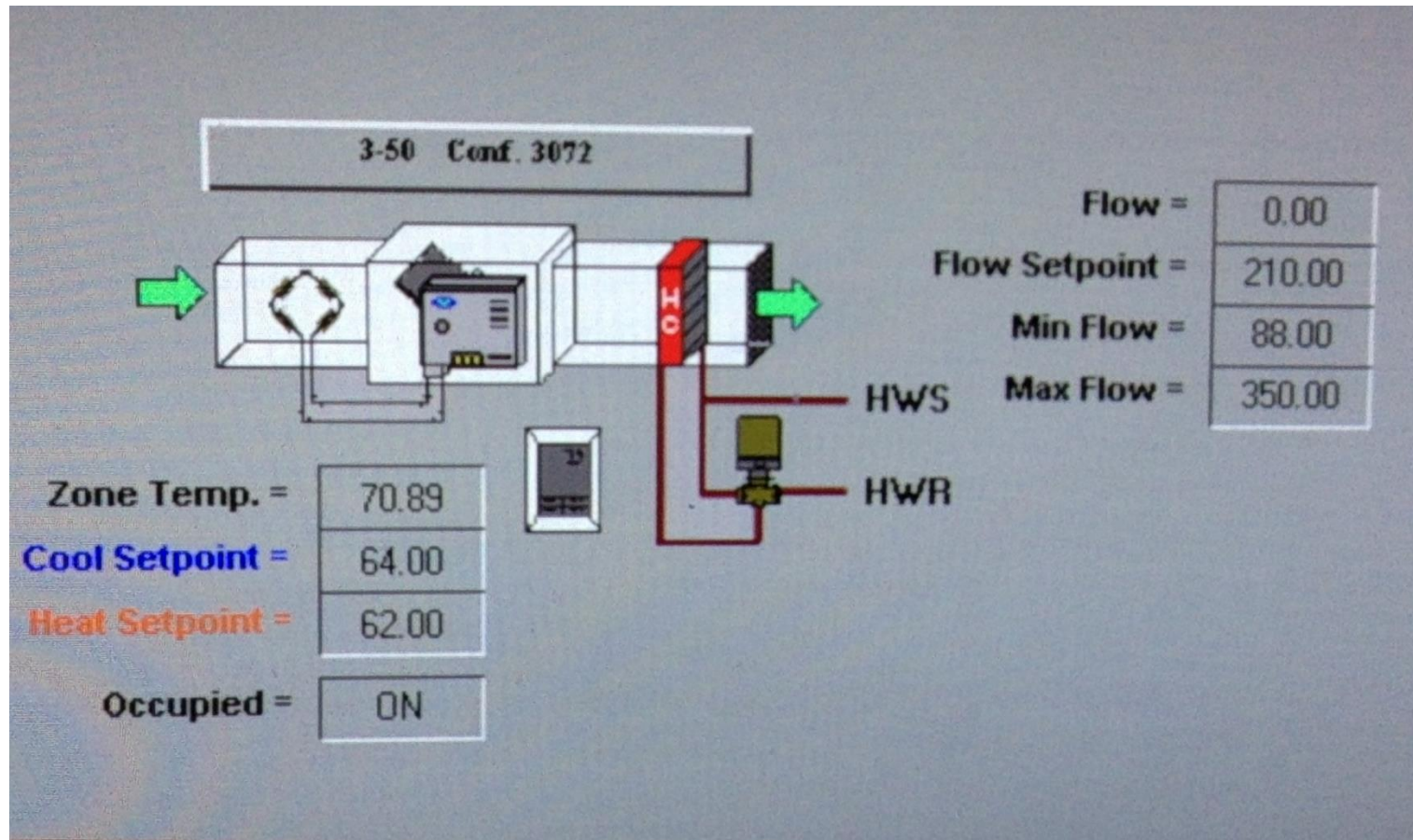
Public University – Classroom & Laboratory Building (SEDAC)

Electricity Savings (kWh):	555,112	24%
Natural Gas Savings (Therms):	15,257	25%
Overall Energy Savings (Mbtu):	3,420	24%
Utility Cost Savings (\$):	\$71,940	24%
Estimated Project Cost (\$):	\$170,277	2.37 Payback (yrs.)
IEN Incentives Available (\$):	\$100,152	59% of Proj. Cost
Net Cost w/Incentives (\$):	\$70,125	0.97 Payback (yrs.)

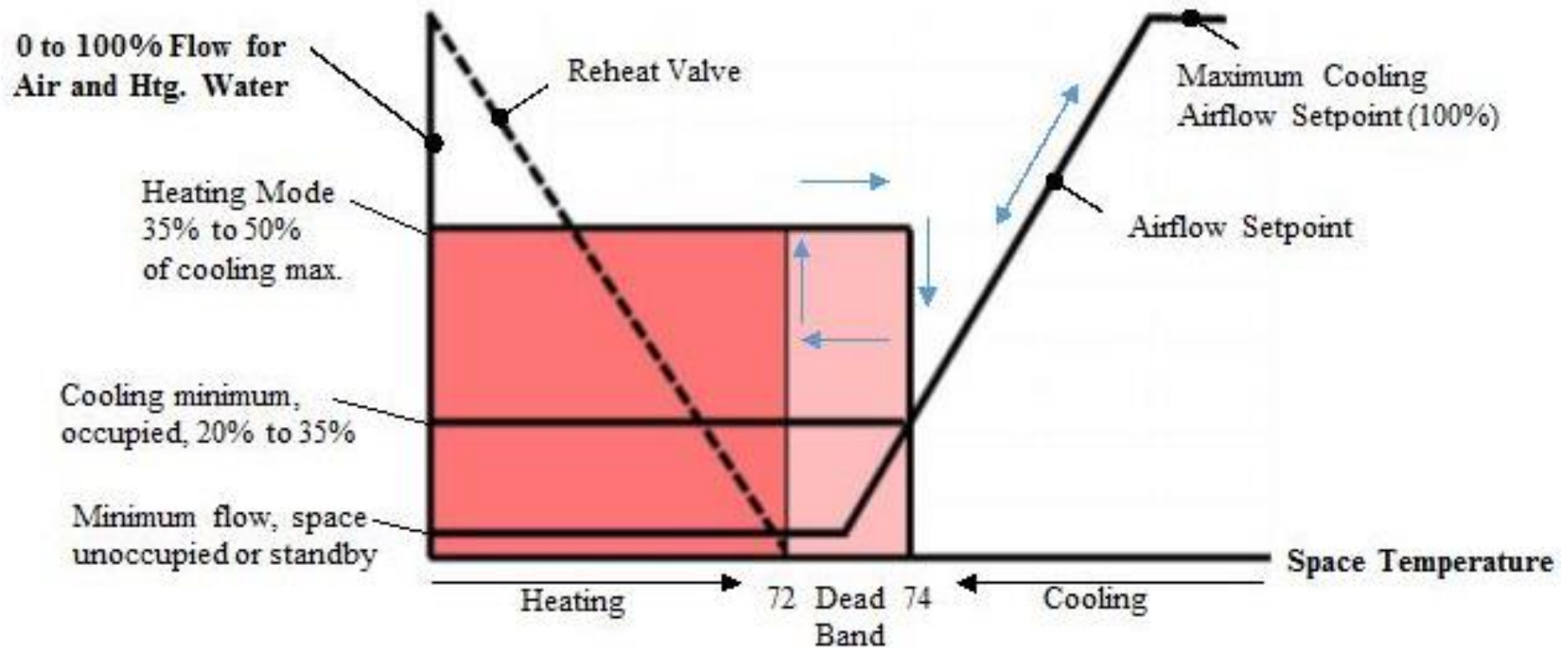




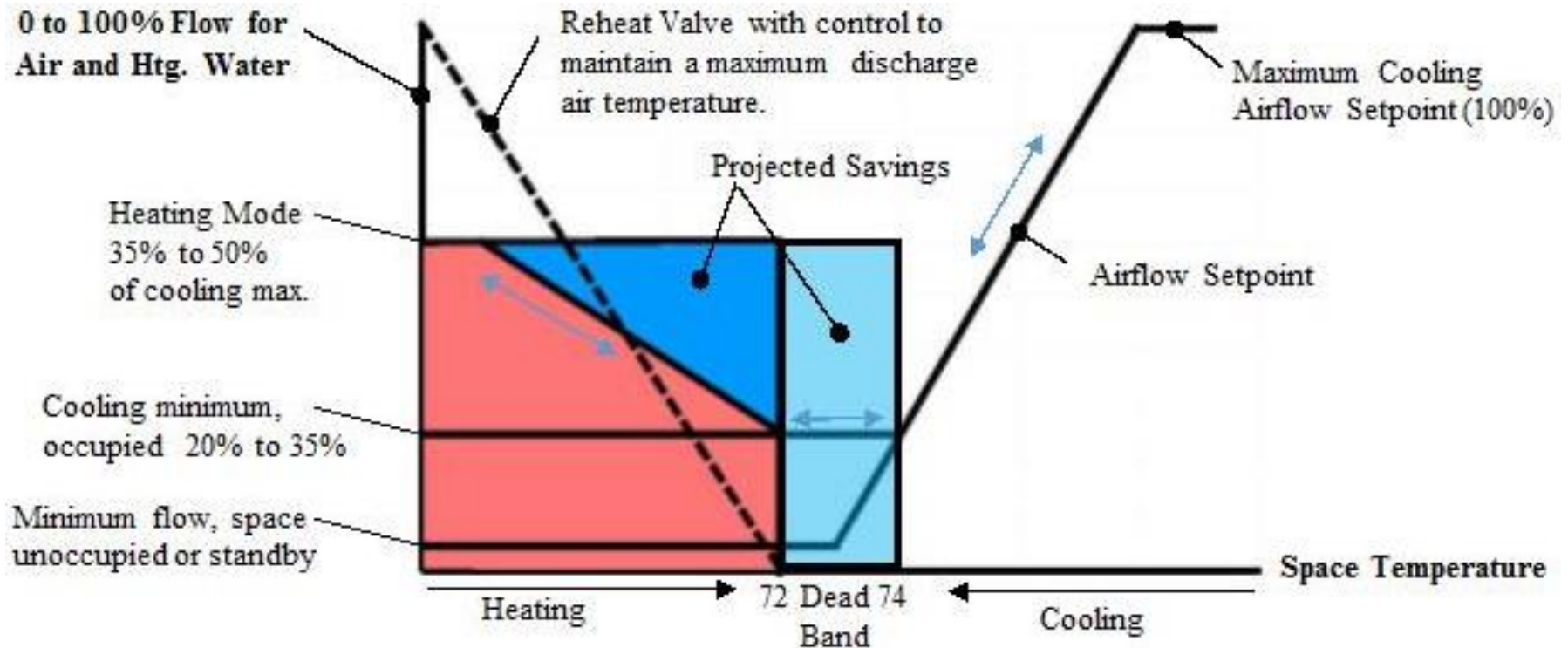




Existing VAV Flow Diagram

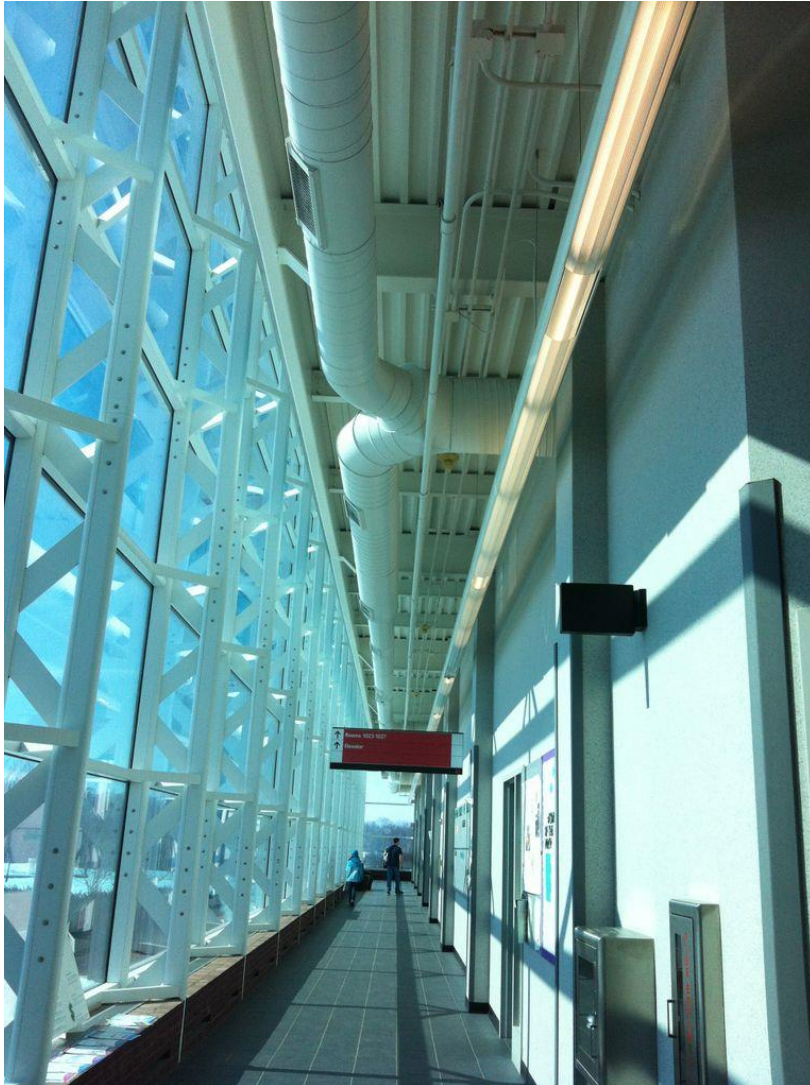


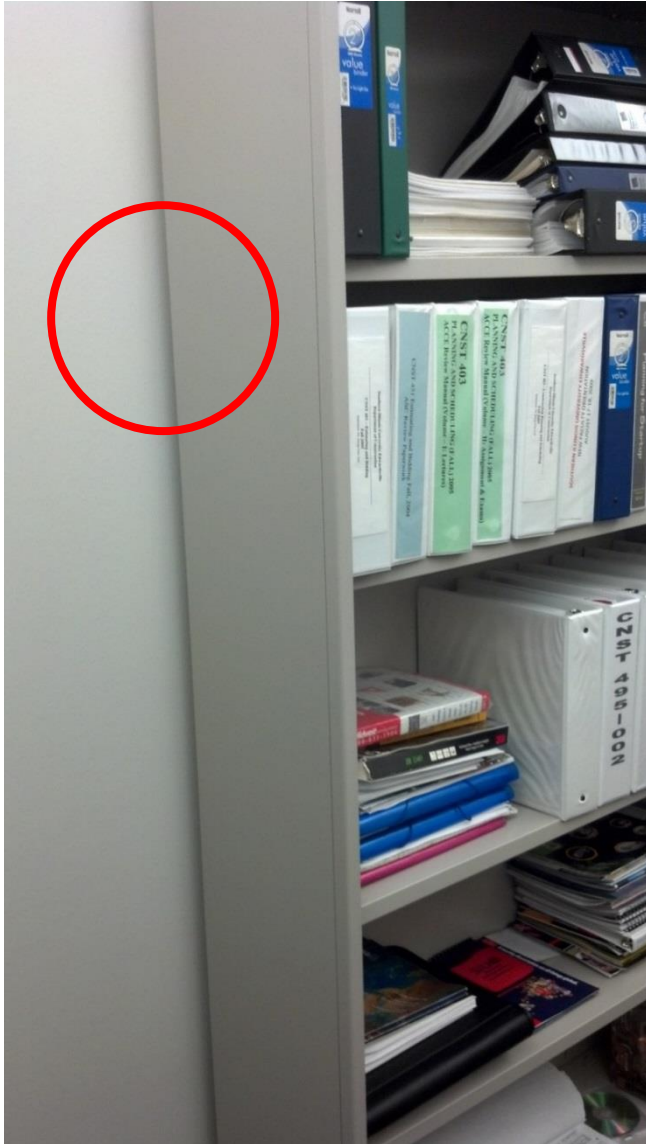
Proposed VAV Flow Diagram – Dual Maximum Flow

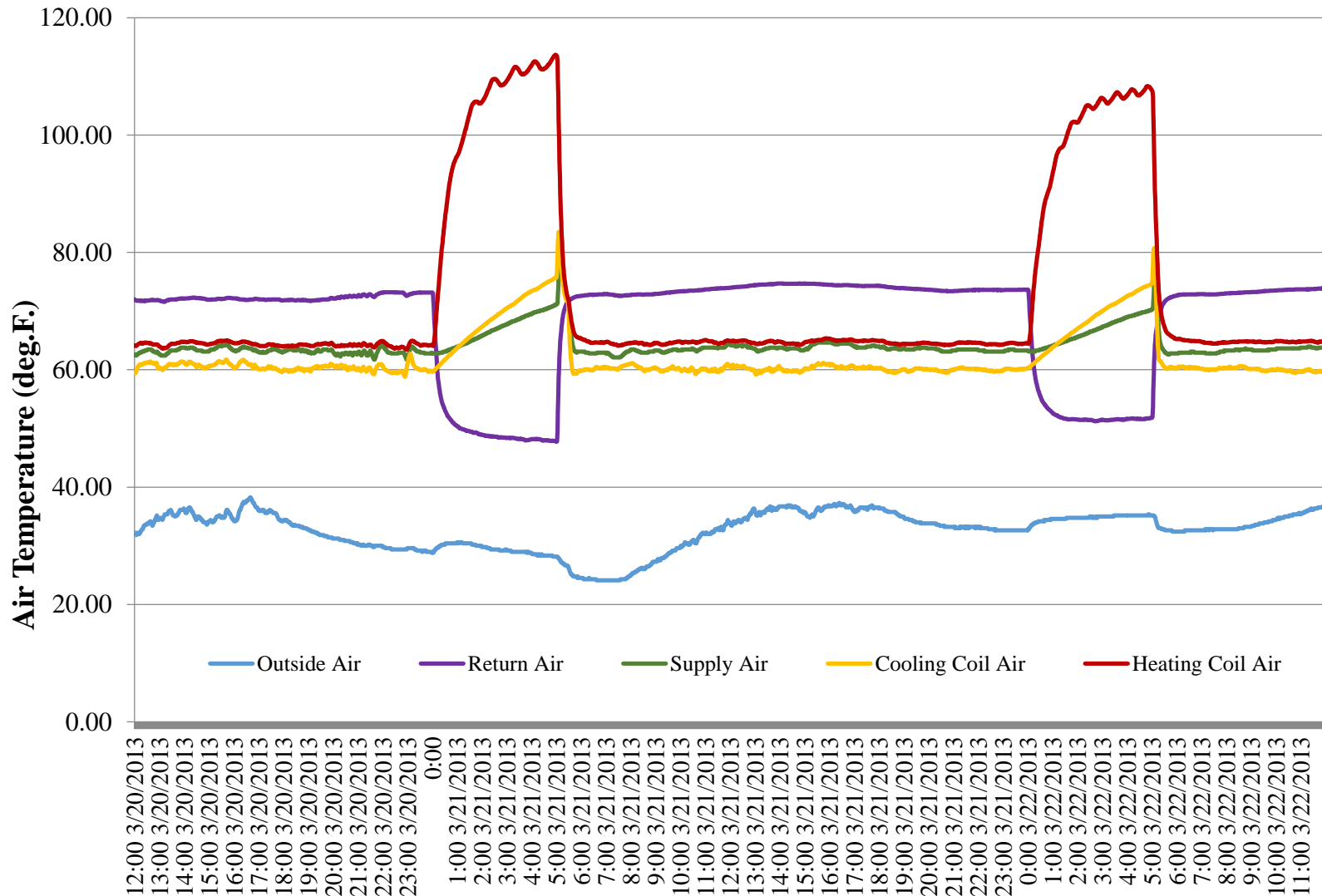


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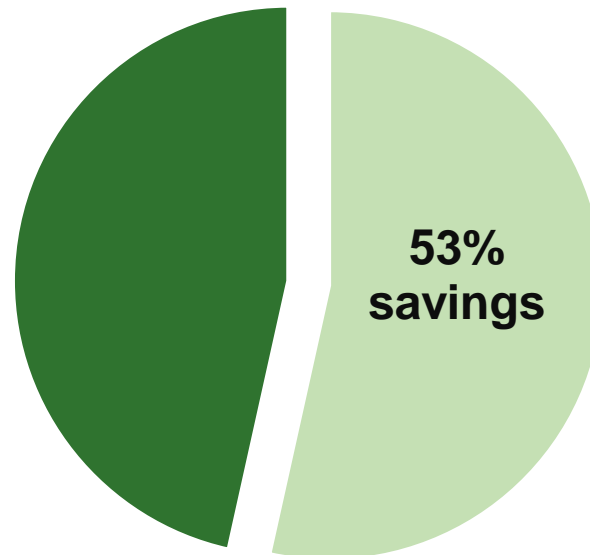






Public University – Dormitory Building (SEDAC)

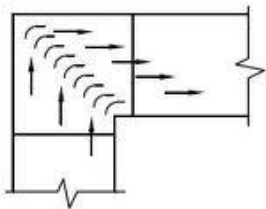
Electricity Savings (kWh):	474,999	36%
Natural Gas Savings (Therms):	123,857	61%
Overall Energy Savings (Mbtu):	14,006	57%
Utility Cost Savings (\$):	\$237,927	53%
Estimated Project Cost (\$):	\$948,573	3.99 Payback (yrs.)
IEN Incentives Available (\$):	\$434,910	46% of Proj. Cost
Net Cost w/Incentives (\$):	\$513,663	2.16 Payback (yrs.)



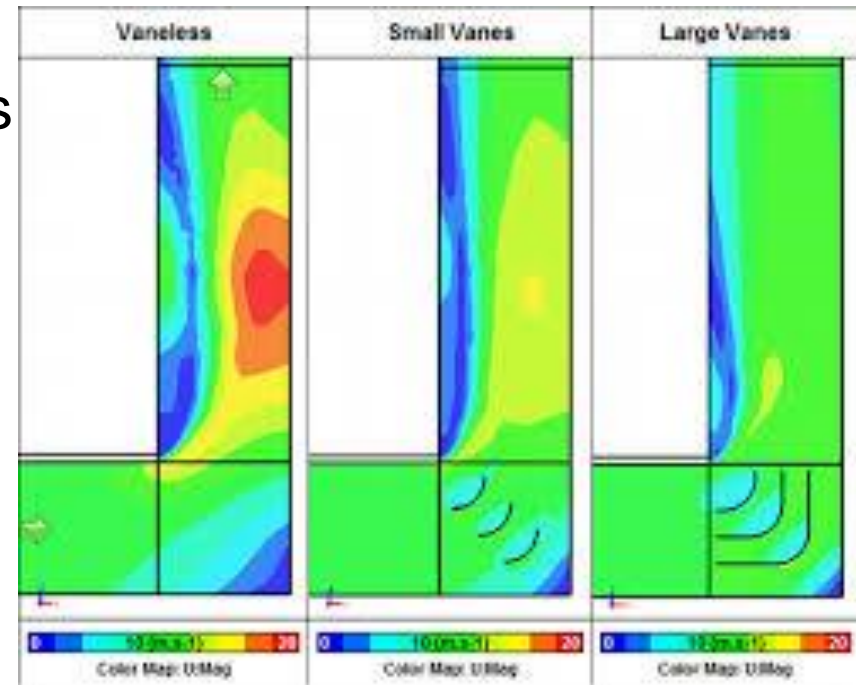
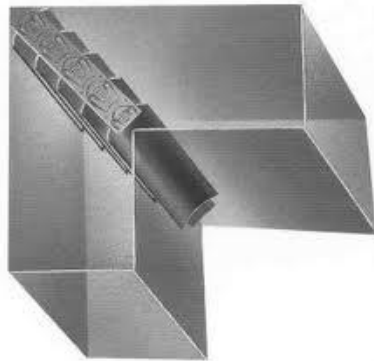
Missing Turning Vanes

- Observed inconsistent installation during site walkthrough
- Vanes being installed 'per the plans'
- Plans found to not call out every instance where vanes were applicable
- 5x higher pressure drop w/o vanes
- Turning vanes were installed in all 90° elbows

CORRECT



CORRECT VANE ALIGNMENT CREATES
UNIFORMITY OF AIRFLOW; RESULTS IN
REDUCED PRESSURE DROP



Undersized Circulation Pump

- 2 GPM pump installed to circulate water between storage tank and water heater
- Heater recovery capacity was 460 GPH
- Pump capacity insufficient to permit heater to operate at full capacity as installed



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Questions?

www.cxegroup.com