



# Evidence-based Design

*Drivers and Data for Design Teams*

BECC Conference  
Sacramento, CA  
November 16, 2010

*Cathy Higgins*  
*Program Director*

**nbi** new buildings  
institute

# new buildings institute

- Non-profit, think tank on commercial building energy efficiency
- Formed in December 1997
- Funding
  - Sponsors: includes SCE, PG&E, NGrid, NYSERDA, CEC, SMUD, NEEA
  - Major Grants: EPA, EF, Doris Duke, Kresge
  - Contracts: USGBC, CEC PIER, DOE, EPA
  - Staff in Vancouver, Seattle, and White Salmon, Washington



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Evidence-based Design and Operations  
is a California Energy Commission  
Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) project



# Common Interests

*Do design firms want to create buildings of beauty that meet the clients program AND are energy and environmentally responsible?*



Yes



No





California Advisors on Measured Performance (CAMP)  
*A & E firm advisors to PIER and related measured performance projects*

# Design team as Advocates for Energy Efficiency

Design Tools

Design Team

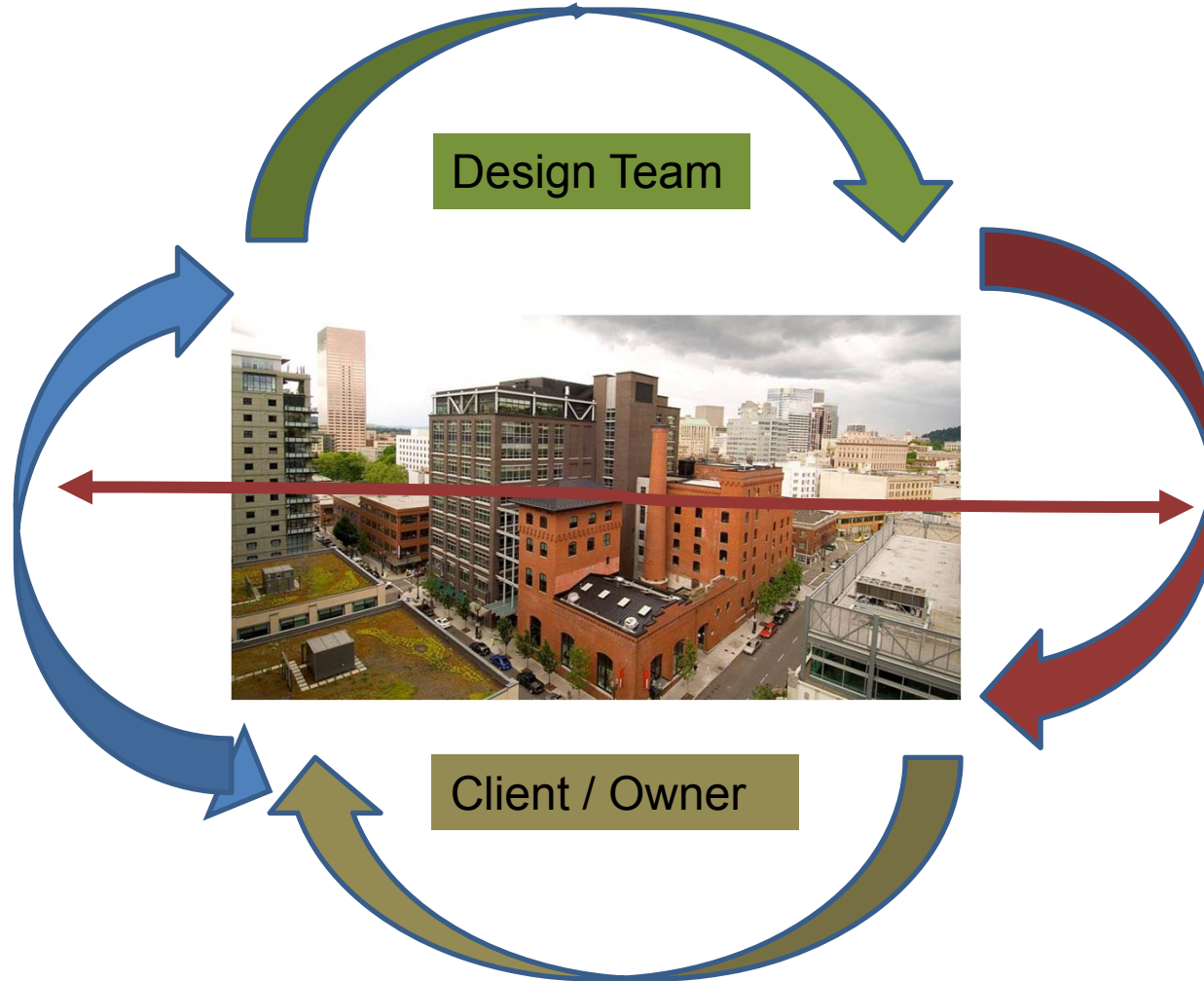


Performance  
Feedback

Policies &  
regulations

Client / Owner

Recognition, Image, Incentives







## Policies & Regulations

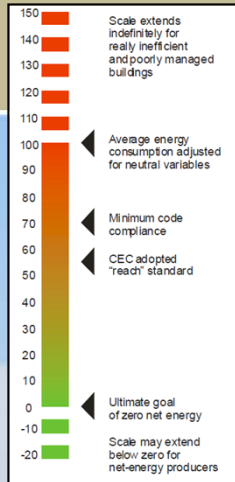
# Rating & Disclosure Mandates

	Enacted	Building types	Disclosure	Also required
<b>California</b>	<b>2007</b>	Nonresidential	Point of Transaction: Buyers, lessees and lenders	Utility assistance
<b>Austin, TX</b>	<b>2008</b>	Nonresidential + multifamily	Point of Transaction: Buyers + public display for multifamily	Energy audits + some retrofits for multifamily
<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>2008</b>	Nonresidential	Annual to public web site	Disclosure of energy use estimations for new buildings
<b>Washington State</b>	<b>2009</b>	Nonresidential	Point of Transaction: Buyers, lessees and lenders	Utility assistance; minimum ratings for state leases
<b>New York City</b>	<b>2009</b>	Nonresidential + multifamily	Annual to public web site	Energy audits & retro commissioning
<b>Seattle</b>	<b>2010</b>	Nonresidential + multifamily	Annual to city + Point of Transaction: Buyers, lessees , lenders + current tenants	Utility assistance
<b>Others</b>	<b>Pending</b>			

Source: Institute for Market Transformation



# Ratings & Labels

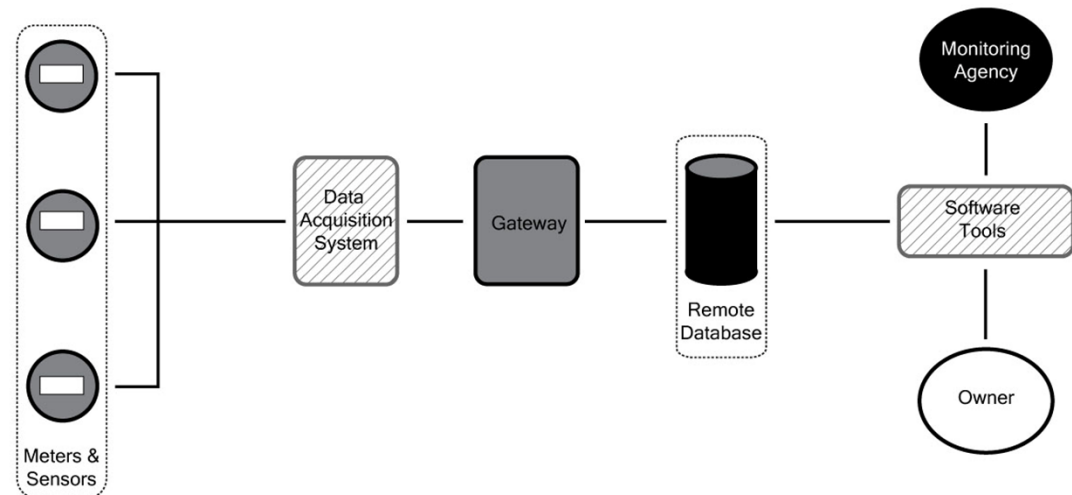


Benchmark first then: Label @ design and @ operations



# Levels of Metering

- Whole building metering
- Tenant space sub-metering
- Load-type isolation (Design for Meterability)
  - HVAC
  - Lighting
  - Building Operations (elevators, automatic doors, etc.)
  - Miscellaneous (plug and process loads)
- Metering of on-site renewables
- All connected to a data acquisition system



Process diagram for data collection from meters to software tools

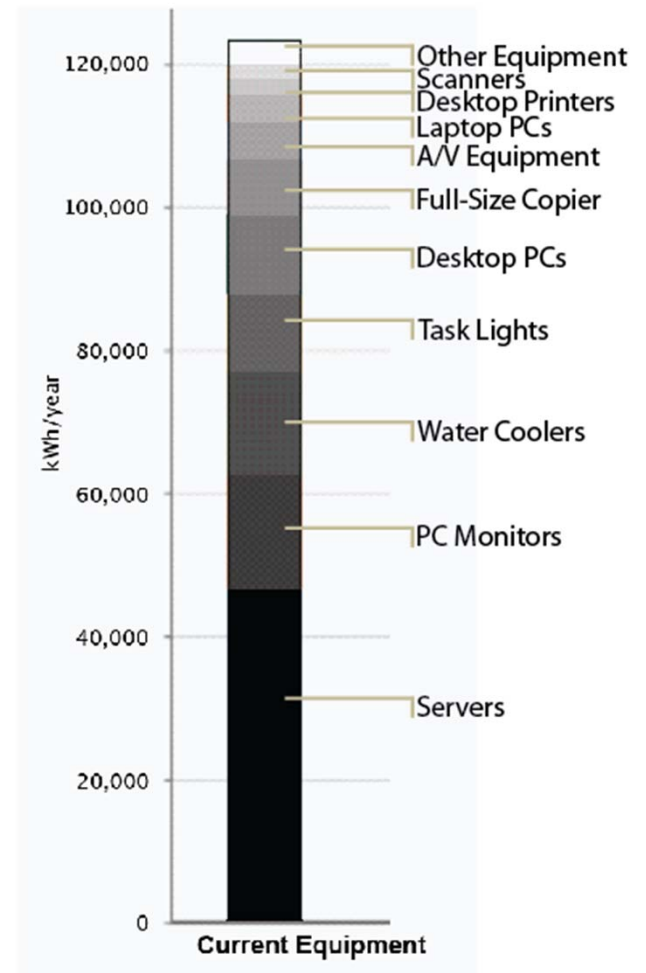
# An outcome-based energy code

- Would be based on achieving actual post-retrofit ***performance outcomes*** rather than applying prescriptive codes
- Would leverage current efforts toward annual ***disclosure and benchmarking*** of performance of all buildings

Probable Pilots: Seattle, Vancouver B.C.

# an outcome-based code is worth exploring

- Can include typical “unregulated” loads
- Puts appropriate pressure on operations and Cx to assure that equipment works and is properly controlled
- Credits good daylighting design and natural ventilation – difficult now
- Breaks policy silos by becoming a reference point for multiple entities
- Narrows the gap between design and actual performance – puts pressure on design teams (or design build) to optimize the solution set.





A photograph of a snowy mountain slope. The foreground is a smooth, white snowfield. In the middle ground, there are several evergreen trees. The background shows a bright sun shining through the trees, creating a lens flare effect. The overall scene is bright and clear.

# Feedback on Key Performance Indicators



*Glazing performance – building orientation – cooling efficiency – infiltration – operating hours – climate – weather – occupant density – heating efficiency – duct design – fan size – window area – HVAC control sophistication – building mass – interior shading – occupant habits – data centers – kitchen equipment – lighting power density – filter condition – wall color – lighting controls - furniture configuration – exterior vegetation - operable window use – insolation- glazing orientation – wall insulation – ventilation rate - exposed interior surface characteristics - domestic hot water use – number of computers – copiers and printers – elevators – exterior lighting - occupant gender ratio – elevation – photovoltaics - development density – register location – cooling distribution system – roof insulation – building manager training – cool roof – building surface to volume ratio – building use type – janitorial services – metering strategies – commissioning – structural system – acoustic treatment – slab edge detailing – night setback temperature – ground water temperature – humidity – occupant dress code – lamp replacement strategy – roof slope – daylight controls – sensor calibration – corporate culture – lease terms – utility meter characteristics – parking garage ventilation – HVAC system capacity – number of separate tenants – retail space – age of equipment – ceiling height – heating fuel – transformer capacity – window mullion pattern – terms of maintenance contract – wall thickness – building height – lighting fixture layout – overhangs – thermostat location – exit lighting – private offices – refrigerators – solar hot water – utility meter – load diversity*

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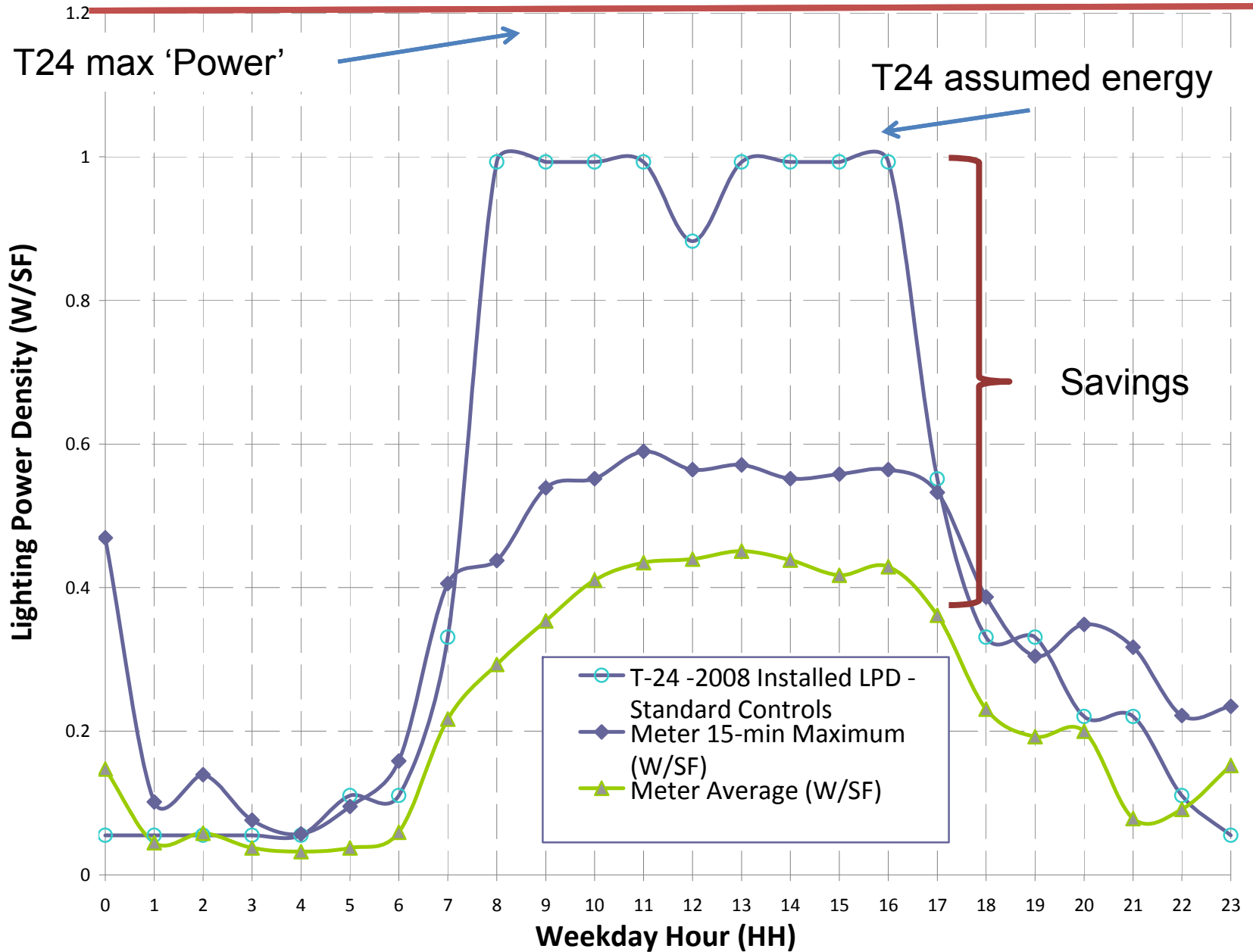
# What do we measure?

	CONNECTED LOAD	LIGHTING POWER DENSITY
Old System	1,564 W	1.04 W/SF
New System	2,076 W	1.32 W/SF

CA T24 code (2005) with controls allowance = 1.37

Office of the Future  
Pilot Project

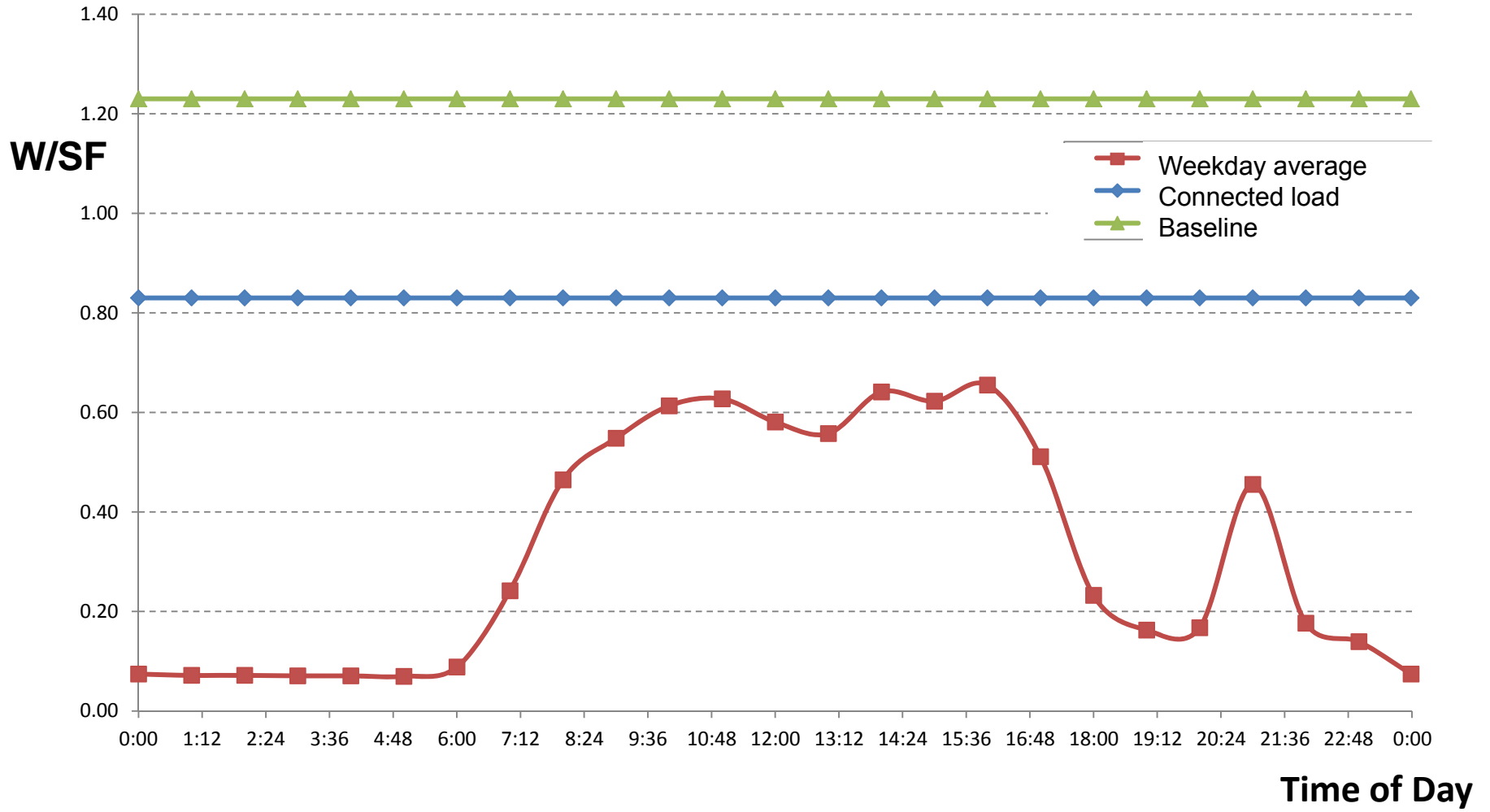
# Landmark System Performance





# San Francisco Office

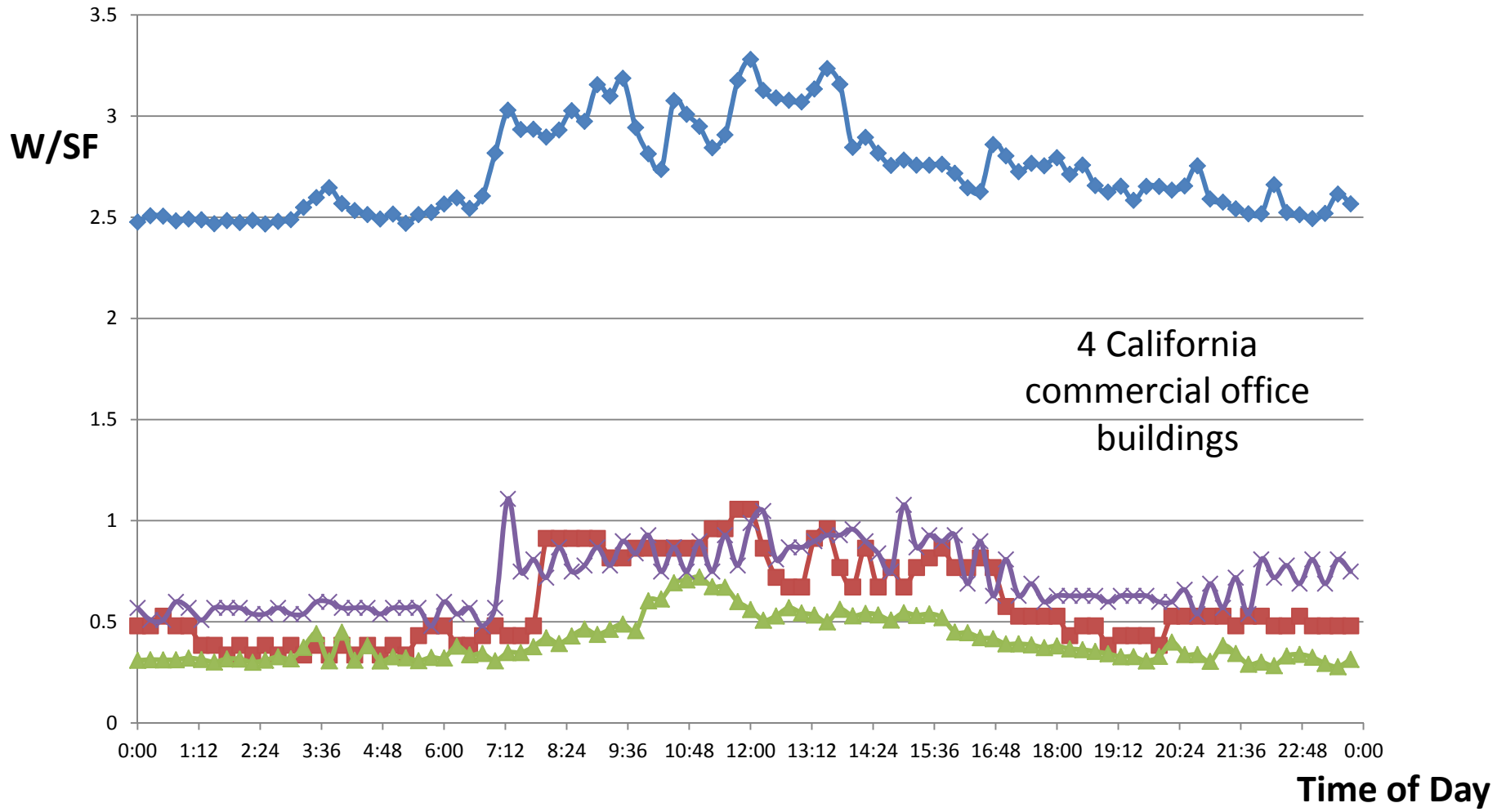
## Lumenergi - Workstation Specific Lighting



# Plug Loads

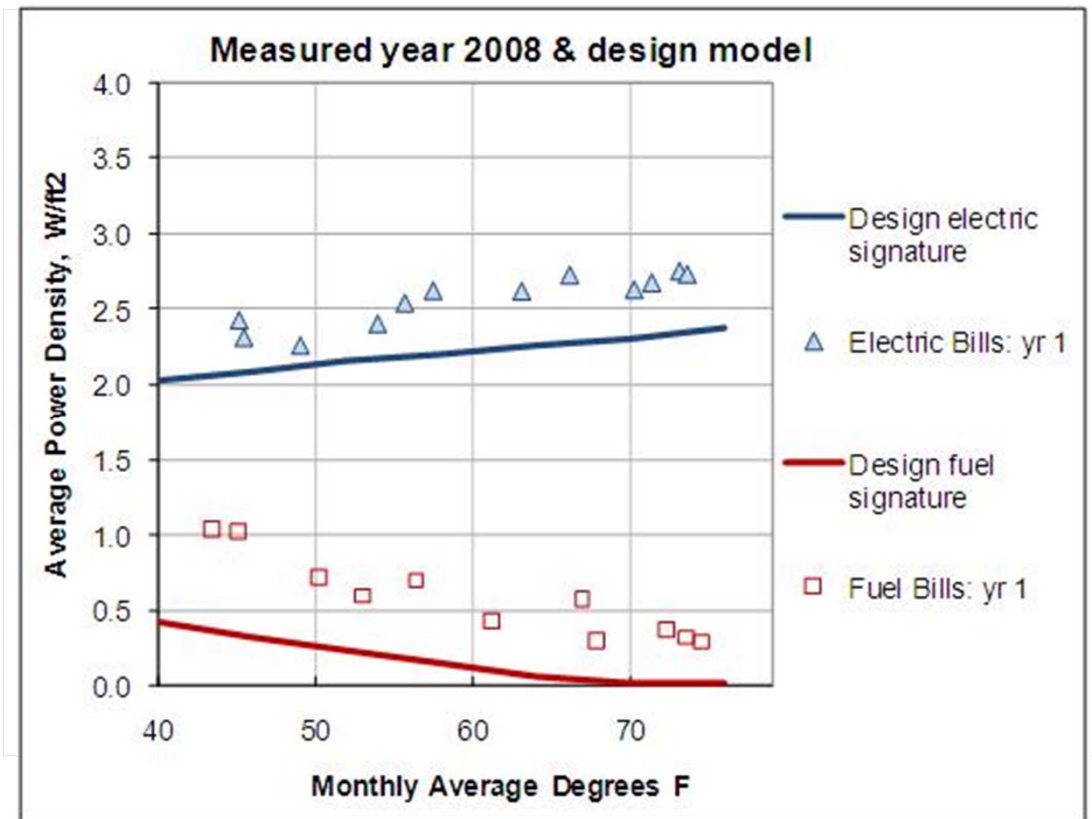
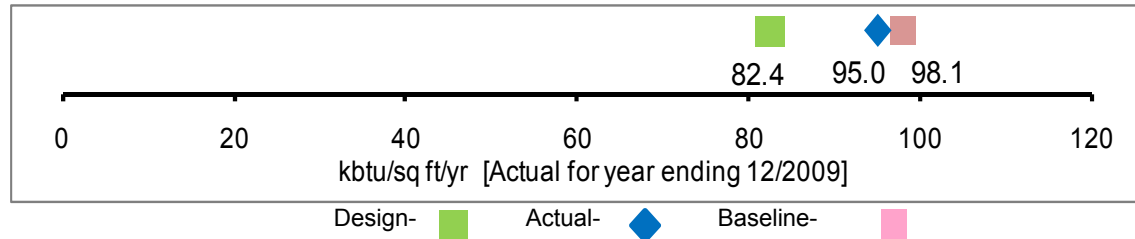


# Plug Load Existing Condition



# Comparing Models to Actual Easier with Energy Signature

- Compare EUIs
- Compare Signatures





# Primary Performance Areas as seen by *First View* tool

## Design & construction:

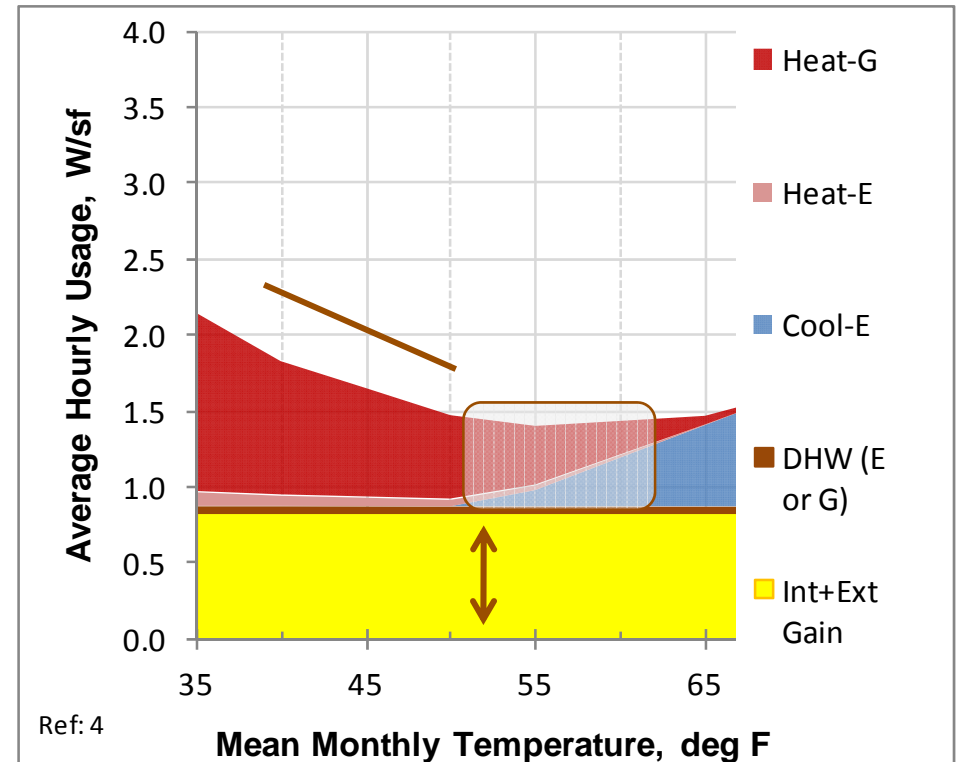
- Signature slopes
- ↔ Shell, HVAC

## Tenants / Occupants:

- Schedule & plug loads
- ↔ Internal gains

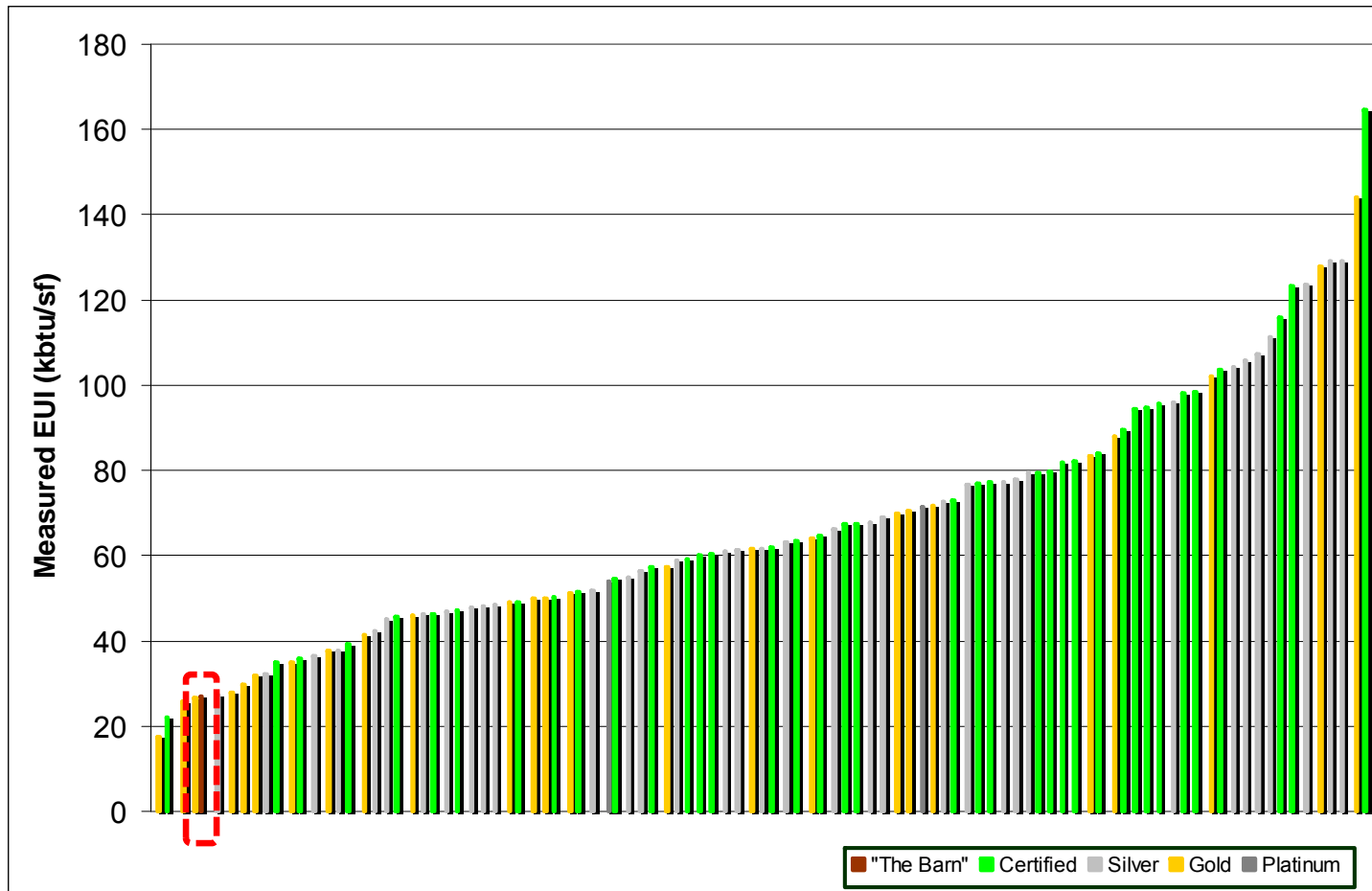
## Operations:

- Controls-related issues
- ↔ Model interactions and relationships



First View

# Relative vs. Absolute energy



*NBI Study of the measured performance of 100 LEED buildings.*

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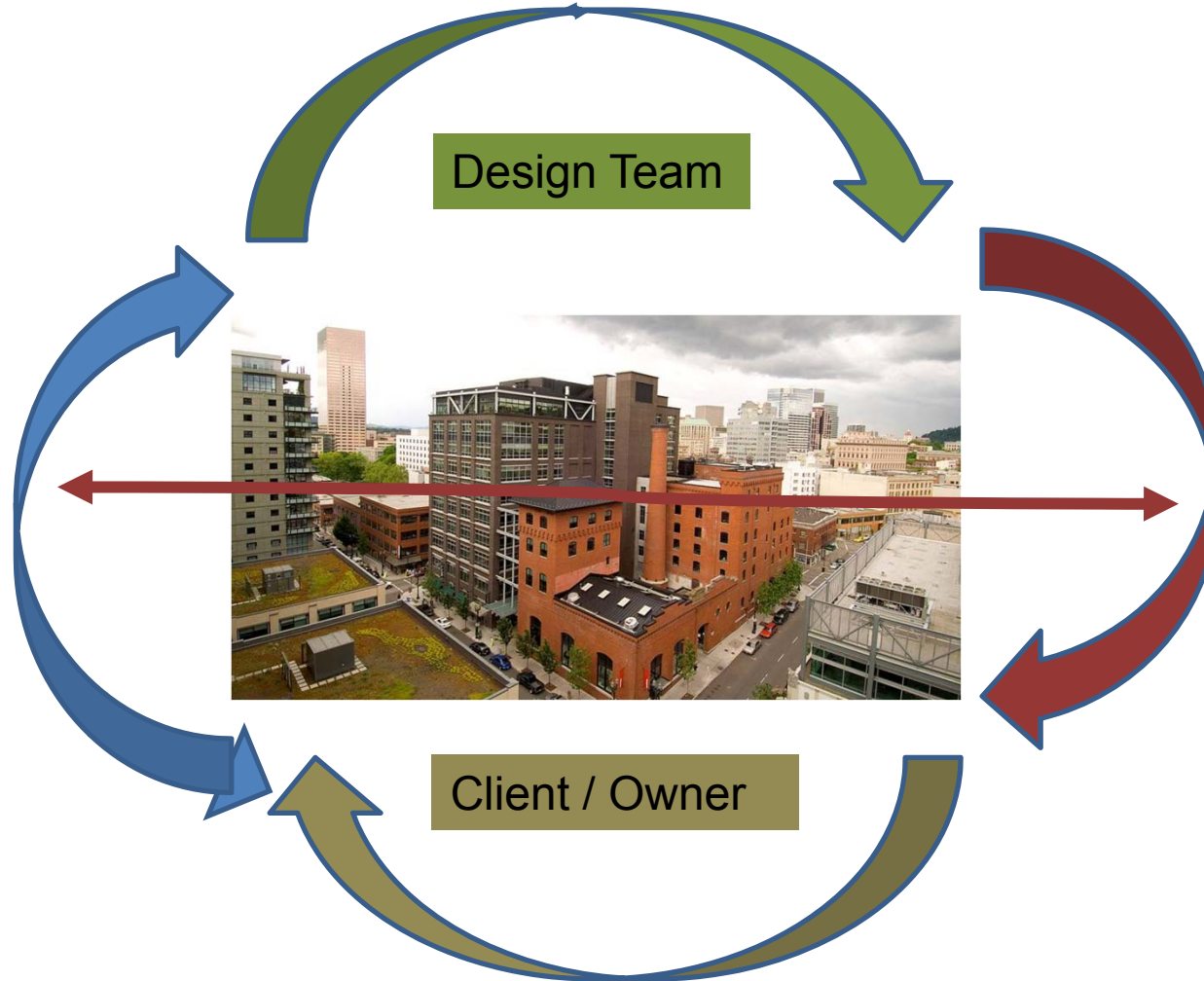


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# Snapshot Summary: Designers need

- Receptive owners / clients
  - Policies
    - Disclosure, Labeling, Codes, Metering
  - Incentives & Promotion
- Evidence on performance
  - Feedback on their buildings
  - Comparative data





Thank you

Questions?

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