

Out of the 15 projects that included washing machines, 13 of these projects utilize natural gas and 2 utilize electricity for their water heating needs. Peak demand savings for clothes washers differs depending on the water heating fuel type. A review of the Mid-Atlantic Technical Reference Manual and Energy STAR® clothes washer calculator shows a peak demand savings of 0.003 kW for natural gas and 0.017 kW for electricity per dwelling unit.

The Energy STAR® clothes washer measure was introduced in PY2. In the PY2 evaluation, peak demand savings for clothes washers was unknown. In the PY3 evaluation, peak demand savings as well as energy savings for clothes washers that use electrical water heating were researched. PY3 impact results include an adjustment factor for the small amount of savings not credited in PY2.

- **Recommendations**

Based on this finding, we recommend an impact of 23.8 kWh/0.003 peak kW per dwelling unit serviced by washers with natural gas water heating and 141 kWh/0.017 peak kW per dwelling unit serviced by washers with electric water heating.

3.1.13 Energy STAR® Ceiling Fan with Lighting

- **Impact Assumptions**

Savings should be calculated based on existing national comparisons between standard and Energy STAR® certified appliances.

- **Engineering Review**

The Energy STAR® ceiling fans measure was introduced in PY2. Energy savings from this measure arises from the efficient fan motor and efficient lighting technology.

The Energy STAR® calculator for efficient ceiling fans provides estimates of the hours per day the fan is run at high, medium and low speed (40%, 40% and 20%, respectively). The operating hours estimates are provided regionally; an estimate of 2.8 hours per day is provided for the East North Central area which includes Illinois. The Energy STAR® calculator also provides expected wattage for standard efficiency and Energy STAR® certified fans at each speed. Using this information, annual kWh savings associated with an upgrade from a standard efficiency fan to an Energy STAR® fan is estimated at 3.03 kWh per year.

The ceiling fans come with efficient lighting. The Energy STAR® calculator assumes the efficient lighting will be a 20 watt CFL replacing a 60 watt standard incandescent, and running 3.5 hours per day for 365 days per year. The assumption of a single bulb per fixture is used for the calculation.

Since the impact is largely driven by the lighting, the demand impact for the ceiling fan measure is estimated by applying the demand to energy ratio for the efficient lighting measure discussed above, which yields 0.006 peak kW per ceiling fan fixture.

- **Recommendations**

Based on this finding, we recommend an energy impact of 30.3 kWh per ceiling fan per year, and a demand impact of 0.006 peak kW per fixture per year.

3.1.14 CAC, Heat Pump, and Shell Measures

The recommended ex-ante values for HVAC measures (CAC and HP) and the reduced required capacity resulting from building envelope measures is summarized in Table 3-7 below. The recommended ex-ante values are a function of the installed equipment, the type of building constructed and the applicable building codes. Ex-post values are based on project-specific data relating to the building type, location, applicable codes and equipment installed.

Table 3-7. Recommended Ex-Ante Per-Unit Impact Values for HVAC and Building Envelope Measures

Building	Cooling Type	Cooling Efficiency	Heating Type	Ex-Ante*		Recommended Ex-Ante**	
				kWh/Unit	kW/Unit	kWh/Unit	kW/Unit
New SF	Central AC	14 SEER	Electric Heat	702	1.17	538	0.00
New SF	Heat Pump (HP)	15 SEER	Heat Pump	702	1.17	115	0.00
New SF	Central AC	14 SEER	Natural Gas	702	1.17	-1	0.00
Rehab SF	Central AC	14 SEER	Natural Gas	702	1.17	1,568	0.00
New MF	DX	14 SEER	Natural Gas	434	0.73	181	0.00
New MF	Packaged Terminal HP	15 SEER	Heat Pump	434	0.73	504	0.00
New MF	Packaged Terminal AC	14 SEER	Electric Heat	434	0.73	519	0.00
Rehab MF	Packaged Terminal AC	14 SEER	Natural Gas Boiler	434	0.73	256	0.76
Rehab MF	Packaged Terminal HP	15 SEER	Heat Pump	434	0.73	2,239	1.00
Rehab MF	Packaged Terminal AC	14 SEER	Electric Heat	434	0.73	2,569	0.93
New MF>80	DX	14 SEER	Natural Gas Furnace	434	0.73	70	0.15
New MF>80	DX	14 SEER	Natural Gas Boiler	434	0.73	250	0.10
New MF>80	Ground Source HP	14 EER	Heat Pump	434	0.73	344	0.13
New MF>80	Water Source HP	14.7 EER	Natural Gas Boiler + Fluid Cooler	434	0.73	366	0.23
New MF>80	Central Chiller		Natural Gas Boiler	434	0.73	15	0.02
New MF>80	Packaged Terminal AC	9.35 EER	Hydronic Heating	434	0.73	281	0.09

*Building Shell for the ex-ante is relative to IECC 2006 and includes current program infiltration standards

**Building Shell for the recommended ex-ante is relative to IECC 2009 and has a program infiltration standard conforming to ASHRAE 62.2

*** Engineering Review: Single Family Buildings**

Infiltration is an important issue to cover for upcoming projects using the latest energy code, IECC 2009. The code requires (with a second optional route) air sealing to 7 air changes per hour (ACH), which translates to a natural ventilation rate of approximately 0.31 ACH (0.38 for a two story home). The program has a tighter infiltration requirement at 5.0 ACH50. Program standards are tighter than the requirements for ventilation under ASHRAE standard 62.2, which requires 0.35 ACH. So, to meet the Program tightness requirements, additional ventilation is required.

Adding an energy recovery ventilator (ERV) to provide the additional ventilation air solves this issue, and provides significant energy savings across all building types. However, for buildings

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heated with natural gas, the electrical penalty of running the additional ventilation fans continuously throughout the year actually yields negative electrical savings. This penalty should wash with the cooling penalty associated with directly ducting additional outside air into the air handling system without tempering that air.

Additionally, projects initiated in PY3 and beyond will be subject to the IECC 2009 building energy code. In subsequent Program Years, there will be no impact, or substantially reduced impacts for the following measures:

- Higher efficiency furnaces, air conditioners, or heat pumps
- Reduced equipment capacity (R-49 roof insulation, R-20 wall insulation, R-10 slab insulation are all baseline)
- Higher efficiency domestic hot water heaters
- **Recommendations: Single Family Buildings**
 - It is recommended that future project years include more strict building tightness requirements. A building tightness of less than 7 ACH when pressurized to 50 Pa is required by IECC 2009 code, and implies a need for a ventilation system such as an ERV. Results for a natural ventilation rate of 0.2ACH (4 ACH @ 50 Pa) indicate good electrical savings for buildings conditioned by electric furnaces and heat pumps, when supplemented with controlled ventilation.
 - It is also recommended to specify on the application the minimum required heat pump efficiency as this is a commonly installed central air unit.
 - Engineering Review: Multifamily Low-Rise Buildings
 - Additional building description data would help characterize the potential impact of energy conservation measures. For example: number of floors and, for rehabs, building vintage are key indicators of building shell energy impact.
 - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) report "Benchmarking Utility Usage in Public Housing" describes a model of multi-family building energy use based on a survey of thousands of HUD properties. The outcome of the report is a tool that quickly estimates existing building energy use. This tool might be useful in vetting rehab projects.
 - Energy modeling simulations suggest that controlling infiltration is quite important to reducing winter heating costs.

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- Shell impacts in buildings heated by electric resistance coils (some PTAC's, for example) are significantly greater than for fossil fuel heat sources.
- Shell impacts for rehab projects are significantly greater than for new buildings.
- Applications sometimes identified the heating or cooling type but not the efficiency and vice versa.
- **Recommendations: Multifamily Low-Rise Buildings**
 - It is recommended that the DCEO recognize electric heating and incent projects incrementally based on the electric heating unit's coefficient of performance (COP) such as air-source, water-source, and ground-source heat pumps.
 - It is recommended that the DCEO properly distinguish a building as either low-rise or non low-rise buildings for applicable savings. More specifically, one and two story buildings have different energy usage than four story buildings with the same square footage. Additionally, the energy impact for building envelope measures varies depending on building geometries. e.g. Roof insulation is a less significant factor in high-rise buildings than one story buildings.
 - It is recommended that the DCEO establish building sealing requirements that reduce infiltration rates. If possible, require tests for tightness as required for single family dwellings.
 - It is recommended that the DCEO add additional information to the application form: Perhaps give system options that applicants can circle or check followed by a space for the equipment efficiency.
- **Engineering Review: Multifamily New Construction Mid-Rise Buildings**
 - A six story building is the optimal building geometry for energy usage.
 - Foundation insulation is not required by code. However, the program requires that an R-10 insulation level be installed on below grade walls and slab-on-grade foundations. In several cases this foundation insulation caused a net energy loss (which was essentially zero) in the mid-rise building models. This may arise from the insulation trapping heat inside the building, which results in increased cooling load. This may be why the latest building codes still do not require foundation insulation for this building type and climate.
 - One of the two previous year project buildings was actually two 50-unit low-rise buildings which may not be properly applied to this building type.

- One of the two previous year project buildings utilized a water loop heat pump system with a central boiler plant and fluid cooler with terminal water-source heat pumps for each residential unit. This is a system type that is not currently recognized by the program.
- Air-source heat pumps are not recognized as part of the current program.
- Program requirement for window U-value is equal to IECC 2006 which yields no savings.
- **Recommendations: Multifamily New Construction Mid-Rise Buildings**
- It is recommended that the DCEO recognize electric heating and incent projects based on the electric heating units' coefficient of performance (COP) such as air-source, water-source, and ground-source heat pumps.
- It is recommended that the DCEO properly distinguish buildings as either low-rise or non low-rise buildings for applicable savings. More specifically, one and two story buildings have different energy usage than four story buildings with the same square footage. Additionally, the energy impact for building envelope measures varies depending on building geometries. For example, roof insulation is a less significant factor in high-rise buildings than one story buildings.
- It is recommended that the DCEO consider incenting air-to-air energy recovery systems on buildings that meet infiltration requirements.
- It is recommended that the DCEO provide more detailed information for completed projects regarding system type and basic operation.
- It is recommended that the DCEO specify what areas systems are serving. For example PTACs serve residential units only, boilers serve common areas, entire building, etc.
- It is recommended that the DCEO consider adapting a specific, established energy code for proposed building envelope measures such as ASHRAE standard 189.1-2009. For example, stating that walls require "R-21 full cavity blown insulation" is ambiguous considering the construction and thermal behavior of various common wall types such as mass wall, metal studs, wood studs, etc. are not accounted for in the Minimum Energy Standards for the current program requirements.

3.1.15 Ex-Post Impact Assessment

3.1.16 ComEd Service Territory

Table 3-8 below presents the number of installed units in each project. The clothes washer column notes the number of clothes washers as well as the number of dwelling units served by the washers. Since clothes washer impact is dependent upon usage, the number of dwelling units served by the washers is used to derive the clothes washer savings. The lighting columns note the actual number of fixtures installed. All of the completed units received impact credit for reduced required capacity associated with the building envelope improvements.

Table 3-8. Installed Measures (Counts) by Project, ComEd Service Territory

Project	Refrigerator	Dish Washer	Clothes Washer	Air Handler	Bathroom Fan	Efficient AC/HP	In Unit Lighting Fixtures	Common Space / Outdoor Lighting Fixtures	Reduced AC/HP Capacity	Ceiling fan
Alexian Brothers	24	0	4/24	0	24	24	144	64/10	24	0
Brinshore 2800	25	25	0/0	0	25	25	248	156/22	25	0
Chicago Housing Auth	104	104	8/104	0	0	104	1,008	310/0	104	0
Community Partners	2	2	2/2	2	4	2	31	0/0	2	1
Cook County	52	0	6/52	0	52	52	450	250/52	52	0
Green HFH (Waukegan)	0	0	0/0	4	6	4	28	0/4	4	0
Green HFH (Kildare)	0	0	0/0	6	6	6	56	0/8	6	0
Holiness Homes	54	0	3/54	0	0	54	270	188/0	54	0
Interfaith	100	0	12/100	0	0	100	1,000	38/0	100	0
Lake County	20	20	20/20	20	28	20	220	46/0	20	20
Lawndale Christian	42	42	0/0	42	42	42	474	0/46	42	82
NHS Roseland	60	0	16/60	0	60	60	360	208/0	60	120
NHS Wrightwood	76	0	2/76	0	0	0	340	110/6	76	0
NHS Victory	72	0	8/72	0	0	72	360	76/0	72	72
Senior Suites	32	32	9/32	0	38	32	255	15/32	32	0
St. Edmunds	41	41	41/41	41	82	41	875	0/41	41	82
PY2 clothes washers			129/197*							
Total	704	266	131/637	115	367	638	6,119	1,461/221	714	377

*These units were installed in PY2 and are not included in the total count.

Table 3-9 below shows the energy (kWh) savings per project by measure category. The largest energy savings arise from efficient lighting and reduced required AC/ heat pump capacity. Together these two measure categories make up about 76% of the total kWh savings.

The savings for some of the projects in the table below, such as Brinshore 2800 Corp, is much higher than expected based on the original savings estimates. This site is an all-electric building that has the heating needs met by heat pumps. Therefore, in addition to cooling savings, the heating efficiency savings are shown in the electric savings as well.

The savings for NHS Wrightwood are much lower than the original savings estimates. This site has PTAC units with hydronic heat. However the installed units are lower than the required efficiency for these units.

Table 3-9. Ex-Post kWh Energy Impact by Measure and Project, ComEd Service Territory

Project	Refrigerator	Dish Washer	Clothes washer	Air Handler	Bathroom Fan	Efficient AC/HP	Efficient Lighting	Reduced AC/HP Capacity	Ceiling Fan
Alexian Brothers	2,280	0	571	0	2,136	3,583	22,370	58,080	0
Brinshore 2800	2,375	825	0	0	2,225	6,750	45,250	49,225	0
Chicago Housing Authority	9,880	3,432	2,475	0	0	33,863	128,926	9,214	0
Community Partners	190	66	48	800	356	966	2,697	1,904	54
Cook County	4,940	0	1,238	0	4,628	7,894	79,316	5,439	0
Green HFH (Waukegan)	0	0	0	1,600	534	1,932	2,968	3,808	0
Green HFH (1305 Kildare)	0	0	0	2,400	534	2,898	5,936	5,712	0
Holiness Homes	5,130	0	1,285	0	0	10,222	48,494	232	0
Interfaith	9,500	0	2,380	0	0	5,995	92,054	12,646	0
Lake County	1,900	660	476	8,000	2,492	3,714	25,258	7,214	1,080
Lawndale Christian	3,990	1,386	0	16,800	3,738	7,951	47,368	181	4,428
NHS Roseland	5,700	0	1,428	0	5,340	0	58,984	1,138	6,480
NHS Wrightwood	7,220	0	1,809	0	0	-10,214	45,008	5,892	0
NHS Victory	6,840	0	1,714	0	0	18,317	41,428	6,221	3,888
Senior Suites	3,040	1,056	762	0	3,382	6,058	28,436	138	0
St. Edmunds	3,895	1,353	976	16,400	7,298	7,761	81,578	176	4,428
Total	66,880	8,778	15,161	46,000	32,663	107,689	756,071	167,220	20,358

Table 3-10 below shows the total demand (kW) impact associated with each project by measure. The largest contributor to demand savings is from lighting and efficient AC/HP. These two

measures make up 86% of total PY3 demand reduction associated with projects in ComEd service territory.

Table 3-10. Ex-Post kW Demand Impact by Measure and Project, ComEd Service Territory

Project	Refrigerator	Dish Washer	Clothes washer	Air Handler	Bathroom Fan	AC/HP	Lighting	Reduced AC/HP Capacity	Ceiling Fan
Alexian Brothers	0.24	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.24	19.92	2.92	2.51	0.00
Brinshore 2800	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.25	22.50	6.04	2.62	0.00
Chicago Housing Authority	1.04	1.04	0.29	0.00	0.00	17.68	16.28	1.04	0.00
Community Partners	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.09	0.04	0.84	0.31	1.02	0.01
Cook County	0.52	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.52	34.32	10.54	5.44	0.00
Green HFH (Waukegan)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.06	1.68	0.36	2.04	0.00
Green HFH (1305 Kildare)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.06	2.52	0.72	3.06	0.00
Holiness Homes	0.54	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	25.92	6.46	0.00	0.00
Interfaith	1.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.00	6.00	10.76	7.00	0.00
Lake County	0.20	0.20	0.06	0.93	0.28	10.00	3.12	0.00	0.20
Lawndale Christian	0.42	0.42	0.00	1.93	0.42	20.16	5.66	0.00	0.82
NHS Roseland	0.60	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.60	0.00	7.76	0.60	1.20
NHS Wrightwood	0.76	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	-10.64	5.72	1.52	0.00
NHS Victory	0.72	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	38.16	5.12	0.00	0.72
Senior Suites	0.32	0.32	0.09	0.00	0.38	15.36	3.49	0.00	0.00
St. Edmunds	0.41	0.41	0.11	2.05	0.82	19.68	9.57	0.00	0.82
PY2 clothes washers			0.55						
Total	7.04	2.66	2.32	5.29	3.67	224.10	94.83	26.84	3.77

3.1.17 Ameren Illinois Utilities Service Territory

Table 3-11 below presents the number of installed units in each project. The clothes washer column notes the number of clothes washers as well as the number of dwelling units served by the washers. Since clothes washer impact is dependent upon usage, the number of dwelling units served by the washers is used to derive the clothes washer savings. The lighting columns note the actual number of fixtures installed.

Table 3-11. Installed Measures (Counts) by Project, Ameren Illinois Utilities Service Territory

Project	Refrigerator	Dish Washer	Clothes washer	Air Handler	Bath-room Fan	AC/HP	Indoor Lighting Fixtures	Outdoor Lighting Fixtures	Reduced AC Capacity	Ceiling Fan
Blackhawk Apts	32	36	32/32	0	64	32	488	96	32	64
East Central Illinois	25	25	25/25	25	32	25	577	125	25	50
HA of Shelby	30	30	0/0	30	43	30	595	120	30	30
Madison County	5	5	5/5	0	10	5	50	10	5	30
Mt. Sinai	23	23	0/0	0	63	23	199	77	23	46
PY2 clothes washers			3/3*							
Total	115	119	62/62	55	212	115	1,909	428	115	220

*These units were installed in PY2 and are not included in the total count.

Table 3-12 below shows the energy (kWh) savings per project by measure category. The largest contributor to energy savings is from lighting. This measure makes up nearly 50% of the total kWh savings.

Table 3-12. Ex-Post kWh Energy Impact by Measure and Project, Ameren Illinois Utilities Service Territory

Project	Refrigerator	Dish Washer	Clothes washer	Air Handler	Bath-room Fan	AC/HP	Lighting	Reduced AC Capacity	Ceiling Fan
Blackhawk Apts	3,040	2,664	4,512	0	5,696	11,008	55,224	37,088	3,456
East Central Illinois	2,375	1,850	3,525	10,000	2,848	23,850	66,824	10,825	2,700
HA of Shelby	2,850	2,220	0	12,000	3,827	28,620	67,725	12,990	1,620
Madison County	475	165	119	0	890	1,605	5,680	160	1,620
Mt. Sinai	2,185	1,702	0	0	5,607	21,942	27,554	9,959	2,484
Total	10,925	8,601	8,156	22,000	18,868	87,025	223,007	71,022	11,880

Table 3-13 below shows the total demand (kW) impact associated with each project by measure. The largest contributor to demand savings is from lighting and efficient AC/HP. These two measures make up 88% of total PY3 demand reduction associated with projects in Ameren Illinois Utilities service territory.

Table 3-13. Ex-Post kW Demand Impact by Measure and Project, Ameren Illinois Utilities Service Territory

Project	Refrigerator	Dish Washer	Clothes washer	Air Handler	Bath-room Fan	AC/HP	Lighting	Reduced AC Capacity	Ceiling Fan
Blackhawk Apts	0.32	0.36	0.53	0.00	0.64	13.44	6.80	0.00	0.64
East Central Illinois	0.25	0.25	0.41	1.15	0.32	10.50	8.27	0.00	0.50
HA of Shelby	0.30	0.30	0.00	1.38	0.43	12.60	8.35	0.00	0.30
Madison County	0.05	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.10	2.10	0.70	0.00	0.30
Mt. Sinai	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.63	9.66	3.53	0.00	0.46
PY2 clothes washers			0.01						
Total	1.15	1.19	0.96	2.53	2.12	48.30	27.65	0.00	2.20

3.1.18 Application Specification Sheet Review

Specification sheets are a required component of the grant application. The sheets are used to verify that the building plans will conform to program standards. Specification sheets were provided for 11 sites in PY1, 6 sites in PY2, and an additional 21 are analyzed for the PY3 evaluation. These are summarized in the appendix in Table 5-1.

There have been some notable and positive changes to the content of the program specification sheets in PY3. PY3 measures provide more detailed specifications compared to PY1 and PY2 resulting in new specifications. Some notable new specifications include: three separate slab-on-grade specifications that appear in eight projects; drywall specification that appears in 18 projects; "All exterior doors shall be insulated and have door sweeps and weatherstripping" appears in 15 projects; "Heating systems shall be sized to maintain 70 °F indoors when the temperature outdoors is -10 °F", "Water heaters shall be sealed combustion direct vent with a minimum Energy Factor of 0.88", "Ceiling fans shall be Energy STAR® rated" and "All stoves to be provided with range hoods that vent directly to the outside with a minimum 150 CFM exhaust capacity. Recirculating range hoods are not permitted" all appear in ten projects; and "Washing machines shall be Energy STAR® rated" appears in 11 projects.

Another improvement in PY3 is that the sampled specification sheets specify the capacity or efficiency of the units installed, with the exception of lighting. The largest kWh impact is from the lighting measure. The specification sheets often specify fluorescent fixtures but not Energy STAR® certified fluorescent fixtures. The differences between Energy STAR® and non- Energy

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STAR ® fluorescent fixtures were assessed. The main difference that was found was that there are performance and packaging criteria for CFLs to qualify for the Energy STAR ® certification. However, the energy consumption between Energy STAR ® CFLs and non- Energy STAR ® CFLs is comparable.

3.1.19 Tracking System Review

Tracking of this program is kept in site-specific electronic Excel files. Data structured in a relational database format that provide records for all participants in a single file is a valuable asset to any energy efficiency program, and is particularly useful for M&E activities. The data submitted in summary electronic format in support of this evaluation consisted of a list constructed in Excel files that contained the following:

- For projects completed during PY3:
 - Grantee
 - Project name
 - Project location, city, zip
 - Grant amount
 - Estimated start and completion dates
 - Total square footage
 - The number of dwelling units included
 - The building type (single-family, multi-family or rehab)
 - Per-unit kWh savings values for lighting and refrigerator measures
 - Grant amount paid for by Trust Fund/ComEd/Ameren Illinois utilities and in PY10/PY11
- For projects funded during PY3:
 - Non-Profit Grantee (Participant Business Name)
 - The name of project
 - The amount of funding received

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- The estimated start date
- The number of dwelling units included

The contents of the tracking data submitted in support of the PY3 evaluation is substantially more comprehensive than what was provided in support of the PY2 evaluation. Unlike PY2, when all of the tracking documents provided to the Evaluation Team related to information collected prior to construction, in PY3 the measure counts and specifications were provided by the program manager for each project. It is recommended that the program maintain ongoing records of these data and use them to estimate an ex-ante impact estimate customized to each particular project. Ideally, these details would be used to construct a customized ex-ante estimate prior to determining grant amounts, to better optimize allocation of available electric energy savings funding.

3.2 Process Evaluation Results

3.2.1 Process Themes

3.2.2 Program Participation and Demand

The DCEO EEAHC has been running for over 20 years. Over that time, a large network of builders, developers, and government and nonprofit agencies have learned of the program and have told other agencies about it. While the DCEO has marketed the program at a handful of workshops and conferences, almost all grantees in PY3 are or have been referred by past participants. The program administrators feel that their limited marketing efforts drive more than enough demand for this program and thus are sufficient for the program to meet its savings goals.

Over its lifetime, the EEAHC has distributed more than \$14 million in funds for over six million square feet of housing. The program's participation has grown substantially over the years, though interestingly, staffing levels for the program have remained constant. Therefore, the program finds itself often constrained by its ability to keep up with the program's demand. According to program staff, in fiscal year 2008, the EEAHC funded 297 units. The next fiscal year, the program funded 622 units, and in fiscal year 2010, this figure almost doubled to 1,164 units. Since the program's inception in 1988, it has funded a combination of rehabilitation, new multi-family, and new single-family sites totaling 6,849 units, most of which were treated in the last few years. Despite its growing size year to year, the program continues to operate with only one full-time dedicated DCEO manager and one technical consultant.

3.2.3 Application Process

There have been few changes to the program in PY3. The application forms have changed slightly, and the codes and standards associated with eligible measures have been updated. Other than these minor changes in PY3, the program is much like PY2.

In the past, the EEAHC application form has been a brief one-page form. The DCEO has moved to standardize application forms across programs, so the EEAHC application form has increased to 10 pages and requires much more information. Despite this change, the program staff has heard that most participants think the application process is still simple and relatively easy.

One change in the PY3 application process has been the addition of a third set of measure guidelines. Previously, there were only two: rehabilitation and new construction. The required measures listed in these guidelines focused on the requirements for single-family sites. DCEO architects and technical consultants then had to interpret these measures to determine eligible multi-family measures. This year, another set of pre-determined multi-family requirements was added. According to program staff, this reduced workload and processing time for multi-family projects.

In PY3, the EEAHC funded over 800 units within 20 completed projects, with an increasing number of large multi-family rehabilitation project sites. The program is increasingly seeing builders apply more for rehabilitation grants than new construction. This could be due to the economic climate.

3.2.4 Program Tracking Databases

The DCEO has a variety of program participant information within multiple databases. One database contains the contact information for each participant, while another summarizes every project completed within 2010. Under the current system, it may be difficult to match contact information with specific projects. There is an ongoing plan to create a comprehensive DCEO database that will include data about the EEAHC. This would consolidate the EEAHC data and allow for more careful comparison, tracking, and analysis. Due to constrained resources to operate this program, this database update is progressing slowly.

3.2.5 Participation Timing

The DCEO program schedule aligns with the approval schedule for IHDA and programs administered by the city of Chicago. Since builders receive funds from those programs along with the DCEO, application approvals generally occur in late spring/early summer.

Most new-construction projects that are awarded EEAHC funds take more than 12 months to complete. To accommodate this, the EEAHC has encouraged participants to request grant money across multiple years. This change, partially made in response to a suggestion brought forth in the PY1 evaluation, gives partner organizations the ability to plan ahead and to simplify the application process required for multiple small projects.

3.2.6 Program Challenges

In PY4, the EEAHC program will begin to fund natural gas measures as well as electric, meaning the program will now have to track and document program activity across six different utilities. While this will add greater flexibility for participants and open up the program to a number of newly eligible projects, it will also increase the workload and administrative complexity for the DCEO.

The DCEO EEAHC program has grown significantly in recent years, though the resources allocated to manage the program have not. Further, in PY3, the DCEO experienced a loss in their key staff managing the program prompting them to hire and train new staff. According to program staff, these obstacles have led to some participants raising concerns about the responsiveness of the DCEO, as well as the long time period needed to approve requested funds. In some cases, this has affected the building schedules of builder grantees.

The EEAHC implementation plan includes an annual field analysis for the first three years following unit occupancy. These field analyses are to be conducted by the technical contractor, but have not been performed in the last few years. This is due to a larger than expected workload for the technical consultant. The consultant only has the bandwidth to focus on processing, monitoring, and tracking new projects -- not for the additional task of monitoring the energy savings of completed projects. This situation is not likely to change going forward without additional staff.

3.2.7 Participating Builder Experience

As part of the process evaluation for the PY3 Energy Efficient Affordable Housing Construction (EEAHC) program, the evaluation team conducted in-depth interviews with builder participants to explore their program experience and identify any issues or areas of improvement from the participant perspective.

*** Methodology**

DCEO interacted with 20 different participants throughout PY3 to help fund new construction and gut rehabilitation projects for low-income residents. In October 2011, we conducted a census of these participants asking them to engage in a 20-minute in-depth interview regarding their experience with the program. We completed 12 total in-depth interviews with participants:

8 builders, 3 nonprofit developers, and one financial consulting firm (referred to henceforth as “builders”). Most of the people we interviewed were Project or Senior Project Managers within their organizations, though some were at an executive level. The findings below summarize the outcome of these interviews.

• Participant Characteristics

Participants are predominantly general contractors who conduct business within Illinois; however, some contractors are part of larger organizations that build throughout the United States. Other participants include nonprofit developers and financial consulting firms. The participants range vastly in company size and the geographic area in which they work. Most builders were knowledgeable about the EEAHC program and the participation process while others relied upon nonprofit organizations or financial consulting companies to apply to the program.

These builders construct an average of 6 projects per year, though this varies widely (between 1 and 15). Roughly 60% to 70% of these projects are either low-income or affordable housing, though some partners specialized in exclusively low-income projects. All builders reported that their workload has included a mixture of single-family, multi-family, new construction, and gut-retrofit. Most reported an overall increase in gut-rehabilitation over new construction projects in recent years.

We asked builders to provide an average length of a project from start to finish. The typical reported time period for project completion ranged widely. Some builders can complete a single-family home in as little as four to five months while multi-family projects average as much as 16 months.

Builders had a wide range of experience, both in the building industry and in the EEAHC program. Some participants had just finished their first project with DCEO in the last year, while others had been working with DCEO to fund low-income building projects for over a decade.

The program requires that projects have a mix of end-uses (building shell, HVAC and appliances) to qualify for project funding. Most of the low-income projects that the builders are involved with are eligible for the EEAHC program funds. However, there are two primary situations in which a builder may choose to forego installing some energy efficient measures (and thus forego the EEAHC grant) in favor of a lower upfront cost.

The first situation is atypical structural circumstances such as modular housing, structural thermal envelope limitations, or gut-retrofit projects in which a significant portion of the existing appliances are still operational. In these cases, builders may forego participating in the

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program because they do not plan to upgrade the appliances even though they plan to address the building shell and HVAC system. The second situation involves rate-of-return. A property owner considers the additional upfront cost of energy-efficient measures as an investment, which lowers the long-term operating costs of the site. Nonprofits that are developing sites for immediate sale to low-income families will never have the opportunity to recuperate this investment. They also find it difficult to pass these costs on to low-income consumers.

- **Overall Program Impression**

One primary goal of the builder interviews was to explore the builders' experience and satisfaction with the program. Builders have a very favorable view of the program overall. They are very appreciative of the funding and technical support. They find the application process and requirements for eligibility very clear. Builders were also happy that the DCEO program focuses on high rate-of-return measures. Further, all builders agree that the program is having a very positive impact in the construction of low-income dwellings. The program is helping to create more energy efficient residences for low-income customers and to lower the financial burden of energy costs for these customers.

Though they generally characterized the program as effective, clear, and a positive experience, several builders mentioned some issues with being unaware of funding approval and dispersal status and delayed program response to inquiries. Further, multifamily, gut-retrofit projects have become increasingly common in the program and this trend will likely continue in the next program cycle.

- **Application Process**

Most general contractors felt that the application compared favorably to applications from other funding sources and that the application process was clear and simple. Some builders noted that while the application requirements and processes were simple, there were times when DCEO lost applications and the builders had to resubmit forms. Notably, the builders who cited these delays as a problem also said that the process has since improved.

While some partners found the list of required measures limiting for some projects, builders who suggested alternative measures found the process to be smooth. They considered this a strength over programs that cover a larger geographic area and have less flexibility.

"DCEO looks at each building individually and will adjust accordingly. I've always admired that about the program."

- **Program's Technical Resource**

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The program is implemented with the support of a technical consultant who reviews applications, conducts quality control, and shepherds participants through the participation process. Builders repeatedly cited this consultant as a responsive, highly knowledgeable, and useful resource.

• Marketing Effectiveness

The program's reliance on word of mouth, recurring participants, and other low-income agencies to promote the program appears to be effective. Some builders have been working with DCEO to fund projects for over a decade. Less experienced builder partners had heard of the program through word of mouth – either through informal discussion with others in the industry or through other nonprofit or government agencies. Participants believe that contractors and developers who work in the Chicago area generally know about the program.

• Program Impact

All builders agree that the program is having a very positive impact in the construction of low-income dwellings. The program is helping to create more energy efficient residences for low-income customers and to lower the financial burden of energy costs for these customers.

“Jobs completed with DCEO funding are tighter environmentally, are less expensive to operate in the long term, and are more likely to succeed as an affordable housing project.”

Builder partners are aware that the goals of energy efficiency and low-income housing are complementary: lower energy bills help to reduce the cost of living for low-income residents. While builders try to maximize energy efficiency in each of their low-income projects, they also must work within financial and market constraints that often lead to them favoring whatever will provide the lowest up-front costs. As such, most builders (10 of 12) said that without the program they would likely only build to basic efficiency codes and standard with some efficiency but not nearly as much as they would with program assistance, especially for higher-cost measures such as insulation. Two builders stated that they would likely still build energy efficient homes for low-income residents without the DCEO funds by seeking the funding from other sources.

“[Without the program] we would have obviously built to practical standards, with some efficiency, but [the DCEO funds] have definitely reduced [energy] consumption.”

“Would it affect the quality of the projects? Absolutely. Jobs completed with DCEO funding are tighter environmentally, are less expensive to operate in the long term, and are more likely to succeed as an affordable housing project.”

The DCEO funds often increase the rate-of-return for energy efficiency such that long-term investment in energy efficiency is sufficiently attractive for developers to take action. This is especially true for thermal-envelope measures like insulation, which can be prohibitively expensive, especially in gut-retrofit projects.

Some participants feel that the effect of the DCEO grants had a larger benefit than the modest funding levels would suggest because it helps them to acquire other funding sources. Many funding sources consider a diverse base of funding as a positive sign and so are more likely to award funds to projects that have already been able to secure funds elsewhere. The EEAHC program fills this role for many builders.

• **Program Challenges/Areas of Improvement**

Though they generally characterized the program as effective, clear, and a positive experience, the builders did identify three areas of improvement: (1) Increased communication regarding timing for when their project might be approved for funding and when they can expect to receive the funding; (2) Faster response time to requests for information; and (3) Re-examination of program requirements for applicability to multi-family gut-retrofit projects.

• **Communication with Participants**

Most builders, especially those that have been working with DCEO for several years, were satisfied with the amount of communication they received from DCEO. However, some builders expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of communication throughout the two critical periods in the participation process. The first critical period of the grant award process is between proposal submission and award notification. The second is between award notification and fund disbursement. Some builders have cited both of these periods as problematic. They have had to expend extra effort and resources to prevent these delays from impacting project timelines. More than one partner has had to close a project before the funds were transferred, and to trust that the funds would eventually be received. This is especially problematic for nonprofit builders or developers that do not have large cash reserves.

"It might be a matter of setting expectations. If we knew that the grant money was coming in May, we could plan for that."

One participant noted that DCEO has often not been responsive regarding projects that have closed in February or March. This has led them to believe that the DCEO funds are dependent upon the yearly fiscal schedule of the state of Illinois, and so are disbursed in May more easily. Builders noted that the delay would not be a problem if DCEO communicated as early as possible when builders can expect funds.

Further, some builders were dissatisfied with the slow response time when requesting documentation from DCEO for other purposes. Many grant or loan programs look favorably upon proof that a given project has been able to secure a variety of other funding sources. The DCEO grant funds often serve this important function, especially for nonprofit organizations that frequently fund projects through grants or loans. In these cases, the builders request documentation of awarded funds from DCEO well before DCEO has disbursed the funds. Some partners found that DCEO has been slow to respond to these requests.

Many builders commented on the long period of time between award announcement and disbursement. Those that did not comment on this issue said they had expected and planned for this delay because they understand that the EEAH program is a government program that must deal with a high workload and a particular funding schedule. Some partners suggested that the problem was not necessarily the long delay, but the lack of effective communication concerning this period. If DCEO can set realistic expectations at the start of an application, builders may find it easier to plan around the timeline.

• **Measure Eligibility Requirements**

Builders do not seek DCEO funding for energy efficiency measures for some low-income projects due to the participation requirements. A frequent comment concerning the list of measures was that it seemed more appropriate for single-family rather than multi-family projects. The PY3 program recently addressed this issue by adding an approved list of multi-family appropriate measures; therefore, the concerns below may reflect builders' experiences with the program prior to these changes.

One concern is that the program has a per-unit spending cap for multi-family projects. However, builders noted that units can vary in size such that thermal envelope improvements increase in price for larger spaces.

Another concern expressed was that the program requires a set of measures (appliances, building shell and HVAC) for each project it funds. Builders consider the set of measures required by the EEAH program to be reasonable, though not every measure is always appropriate for every project. This is especially true for gut-retrofit projects when the builder believes replacement of slightly less efficient existing appliances is often not worth the money or time. They believe this can also be true for insulation requirements, due to the high cost of replacing these measures in some structures. This requirement leads to builders forgoing program participation more than any other aspect of the program.

Builders suggested some solutions to this problem including attaching funding to an efficiency test (i.e., a blower door test), or breaking the package into three or four sets of measures that could be considered independently.

3.3 Cost Effectiveness Review

This section addresses the cost effectiveness of the Energy Efficiency Affordable Housing Construction Program. Cost effectiveness is assessed through the use of the Illinois Total Resource Cost (TRC) test. The Illinois TRC test is defined in the Illinois Power Agency Act SB1592 as follows:

'Total resource cost test' or 'TRC test' means a standard that is met if, for an investment in energy efficiency or demand-response measures, the benefit-cost ratio is greater than one. The benefit-cost ratio is the ratio of the net present value of the total benefits of the program to the net present value of the total costs as calculated over the lifetime of the measures. A total resource cost test compares the sum of avoided electric utility costs, representing the benefits that accrue to the system and the participant in the delivery of those efficiency measures, to the sum of all incremental costs of end-use measures that are implemented due to the program (including both utility and participant contributions), plus costs to administer, deliver, and evaluate each demand-side program, to quantify the net savings obtained by substituting the demand-side program for supply resources. In calculating avoided costs of power and energy that an electric utility would otherwise have had to acquire, reasonable estimates shall be included of financial costs likely to be imposed by future regulations and legislation on emissions of greenhouse gases.¹⁰

Navigant developed an Excel based TRC model that incorporates all relevant program level data including avoided costs, line losses, gross savings, free ridership, program costs and CO₂ reductions. It then calculates a TRC that meets the requirements of the Illinois Power Agency Act SB1592. The two electric distribution companies (EDCs) that pass funds to DCEO's programs, ComEd and Ameren, utilize different avoided costs in calculating the benefits that accrue from energy efficiency programs; therefore Navigant employed each utility's specific avoided costs to their corresponding energy and demand savings from each program.

Results

Table 3-14 summarizes the unique inputs used to calculate the TRC ratio for the Energy Efficiency Affordable Housing Construction Program in PY3. Most of the unique inputs come directly from the evaluation results presented previously in this report. Measure life estimates were based on similar ComEd programs, third party sources including the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) developed Database of Energy Efficiency Resources (DEER) and previous Navigant evaluation experience with similar programs. Program costs data came

¹⁰ Illinois Power Agency Act SB1592, pages 7-8.

directly from DCEO. Incremental costs were estimated from program, survey data and similar ComEd programs. Avoided cost data came from both ComEd and Ameren and are the same for all programs.

Table 3-14. Inputs to TRC Model for Energy Efficiency Affordable Housing Construction Program

Item	Value Used
Measure Life	12 years
Annual Gross Energy Savings	1,682 MWh
Gross Coincident Peak Savings	0.46 MW
Net-to-Gross Ratio	100%
DCEO Administration and Implementation Costs	\$134,103
DCEO Incentive Costs	\$641,200
Net Participant Costs	\$3,320,860

Based on these inputs, the Illinois societal TRC for this program is 0.25 and the program fails the Illinois TRC test. However the low income programs are not required to meet the TRC test.¹¹

¹¹ ILCS 220 5/8-103(a) and 5/8-104(a), which states "The low income measures described in section (f)(4) of this Section shall not be required to meet the total resource cost test."

Section 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Key Impact Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1.1 Impact Conclusions

The EEAHHC program completed electrically efficient construction of 714 low income dwellings in ComEd's service territory during PY3, generating 1,221 MWh of energy savings, and 371 kW of demand reduction. These accomplishments represent 93% and 58% of the ex-ante energy and demand impact, respectively. The program as a whole—including ComEd and Ameren Illinois Utilities service territories—completed construction of 829 program funded dwelling units during PY3, and 1,528 units over the combined PY1 through PY3 periods. The associated ex-post energy savings totals 4,101 MWh and 1.2 MW.

4.1.2 Impact Recommendations

4.1.3 Single Family Impact recommendations

Single Family HVAC Equipment. The IECC 2009 methodology does not allow credit for high efficiency HVAC equipment.

- **Recommendation.** DCEO may consider using, at a minimum, CEE Tier 1 equipment efficiency standards for future evaluation years.

4.1.4 Multi Family Impact recommendations

- **Building Types.** In at least one case a building was classified as mid-rise based on the number of dwelling units when it was actually made up of multiple low-rise buildings. Recommendation. Consider distinguishing building as either low-rise or non low-rise buildings for applicable savings. For example, one and two story buildings have different energy usage than four story buildings with the same square footage. Additionally, the energy impact for building envelope measures varies depending on building geometries. For example, roof insulation is a less significant factor in high-rise buildings than one story buildings.

Scope of HVAC system types. Previous year project buildings utilized various HVAC system types such as water loop heat pump systems with a central boiler plant and fluid cooler, ground-source heat pumps, and central boiler and chiller systems. These system types are not currently recognized by the program.

- **Recommendation.** Consider adapting program qualifications to encompass a broad range of HVAC systems. HVAC system types and requirements should continue to be based on ASHRAE 189.1 (2009) or IECC 2009 to ensure quantifiable impact..

Scope of Building Wall and Roof Constructions. Current recommendations for wall and roof constructions are reasonable, however, the description in the program guidelines may be confusing to some users.

- **Recommendation.** Consider revising and expanding the current description to properly describe exactly what the program expects regarding insulation relative to continuous and non-continuous insulation.

Program Window Requirements. The current Minimum Energy Standards for window U-value is equal to IECC 2006 which yields no savings.

- **Recommendation.** PY3 uses a more realistic U-value relative to the new code, so no recommendation to modify that. However, specify a suitable solar heat gain coefficient for windows.

Infiltration Requirements. Infiltration requirements are difficult to quantify in high-rise buildings and have less of an energy impact due to the control of building pressurization from the central mechanical system which brings in outside air as well as exhaust air.

- **Recommendation.** Consider adding program requirements for heat recovery or energy recovery systems on buildings' ventilation and exhaust systems.

HVAC Data Collection. Much of the data collected regarding HVAC system types is overly simplified and vague.

- **Recommendation.** Consider specifying all HVAC system types and which areas of the building they serve as part of the application and/or verification process.

4.1.5 Verification recommendations

- We recommend that verification activities and results be documented in the new tracking database.
- We recommend that the program guideline for bathroom exhaust fans be revised to include a specific size and wattage range for efficient fans. As it is currently stated, the specification in the guidelines that bathroom exhaust fans "shall be rated no less than 75 CFM" does not provide sufficient specificity for the wattage of efficient fans.

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4.1.6 Tracking system recommendations

- We recommend that the new tracking system database be constructed with standardized variables that can be manipulated with database tools, such as SAS or MS ACCESS.
- We recommend the new tracking system hold records of participation and verification activities, and the specific measures associated with each project.

4.1.7 Recommendations for Evaluation, Measurement and Verification

- **We recommend that the PY4 evaluation apply engineering principals and detailed information regarding building projects to produce customized impacts associated with the efficient HVAC and building envelope measures.**
- **We recommend that further research be conducted regarding new IECC 2009 commercial code lighting requirements, as well as national lighting efficiency requirements. The potential implications of these regulations on program standards and associated energy and demand impact are critical to adopting appropriate and timely program design adjustments.**

4.2 Key Process Conclusions and Recommendations

Key process findings thus far indicate that the program is doing well in terms of marketing and participation. The program staff has made continuous and substantive changes to streamline and improve their application process especially for multifamily rehabilitation projects which are increasingly common for the program. The program staff has done a good job of continuing to meet funding demand with a small administrative and technical staff.

One of the greatest program challenges comes down to the need for additional staffing resources, both administrative and technical. Despite its growing demand year to year, units receiving funding grew as much as 187% between the last two fiscal years; the program continues to operate with only one full-time dedicated DCEO manager and one technical consultant. In PY4, the EEAHHC program will begin to fund natural gas measures as well as electric measures, meaning the program will have to track and document program activity across six different utilities. This will increase the workload and administrative complexity for the DCEO.

Further, the program plans to create a comprehensive DCEO database that will consolidate the EEAHHC data and allow for more careful comparison, tracking, and analysis. Due to constrained resources to operate this program, this database update is progressing slowly. Finally, the EEAHHC implementation plan includes an annual field analysis for the first three years

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following unit occupancy. These field analyses are to be conducted by the technical contractor, but have not been performed in the last few years, again due to constrained resources.

- **Given these operating conditions, we recommend that the DCEO evaluate its staffing resources relative to anticipated program demand for the next program year and determine whether additional staffing is needed and can be funded or whether program goals should be revised to align with the staffing resources available.**
- **We recommend that the DCEO execute its visions for a comprehensive DCEO database with the understanding that this likely will not happen unless the DCEO is able to gain additional staffing resources, or hires a consultant for this task.**
- **We recommend developing protocols for communication with participants on what to expect as far as timing of project approval and funding. The communication could build in participant requirements, such as submission of schematics or construction documents – and provide expectations for project approval and payment that is contingent on applicants submissions. This could be in the form of an email that is generated within 14 days of receiving an application that gives the participant an overview of the process requirements and project milestones for approvals and payments. This kind of information could also be provided in the program guidelines.**
- **We recommend developing protocols for responding to participant requests. For example, DCEO could institute a policy for acknowledging a request for information by email or phone within a certain time period (e.g., 5 business days) and a commitment to fulfill the request for information by email or phone within another certain time period (e.g., 30 days).**
- **Builders expressed concern the program has a required set of measures however not every measure is always appropriate for every project and can lead to builders forgoing program participation. The Program recently addressed this issue by adding an approved list of multi-family appropriate measures; we recommend that the program continue to monitor this issue proactively, as they have been, and consider additional changes if needed.**

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Section 5. Appendices

Data Collection Instruments

5.1.1 New Construction Staff Interview Guide

DCEO Energy Efficient Affordable Housing Construction Program

PY3 Evaluation Staff Depth Interviews

May 6, 2011

Task Introduction:

The Evaluation Team plans to interview 2 key program staff and implementation personnel (Maureen Davlin and Paul Knight) to inform the PY3 program evaluation. The interview will explore program administration and program delivery to help document effectiveness, challenges and potential areas of improvement.

Program Overview

1. Could you briefly describe how the program has changed since 2008, if at all?
 - Have there been any changes in the roles of the implementer or the DCEO since 2008? If so, how?
2. What are the program's current goals and objectives? Have there been any changes since 2008? If so, what? Did the program meet its targets for 2010?

Program Management

3. Could you briefly summarize your current role in program? Have there been any changes in your role or responsibilities since 2008?
4. What other organizations, if any, currently play a role in the program? Have there been any changes since 2008? If so, when and why did they change?
 - Does this program collaborate with similar ComEd and/or Ameren residential new construction and rehab programs?
5. What kind of formal and informal communication is set up between program stakeholders? (regular meetings, calls, email, informal communication between set meetings, etc.) Have there been any changes since 2008?
6. How do developers/builders find out about the program?

Program Databases & Documents

7. Is there currently a formal tracking database for the program?
If yes:

- When was this database created? How far back does it go?
- Is it electronic or hard copy?
- How can we obtain tracking data and project records such as applications?

If no:

- How is data currently tracked through the program?
- What have been the barriers to creating a program tracking database?

8. Does your program have any ongoing reporting that you can share with us?

QA/QC and Verification Procedures

9. Can you walk me through the ways in which you check-in on the program for quality assurance? How has it changed since 2008, if at all?
- Who implements this process?
 - How are the samples selected?
 - How often is it done?
 - Are there differences between the QA/QC processes for non-profit and for-profit builders?

The implementation plan states that the program includes an annual fuel bill analysis for the first three years following occupancy of units.

10. Is that happening or still planned?
11. Have you, or do you plan to, report on this analysis?
12. Do you already have something that outlines the approach and results of any verification efforts underway? We will likely ask for detailed information regarding any verification efforts for the evaluation including the actual algorithms used.

Program Participants

Let's focus for a minute on the developers that participate in the program.

13. Do you have any formal protocols in place for participating developers?

If yes:

- What are they?
- When were they instituted?
- Do they vary between non-profit and for-profit developers?

If no:

- Why not?
- Is there a typical process, formal or informal, that developers or CBOs go through when they participate in the program?

14. Have there been any changes in the timeline for building homes through the program since 2008? If so, how has it affected the program? (Probe for: participation numbers, participation process, satisfaction) If not, why not?

15. What do you currently perceive as the level of satisfaction among the developers that participate in the program?
16. What changes do you think the program has caused in standard practices for building low income homes?
17. What is the developers' motivation to participate in the program? Is there a difference between for-profit and non-profit developers?
18. Do you think developers would likely implement these energy efficient measures without the program?
19. Are there any other differences between non-profit and for-profit developers with regard to their participation in the program that we haven't already discussed?

Program Strengths & Weaknesses

20. What do you see as the greatest strengths of the program? Have these changed since 2008?
21. What are some challenges to program success so far? [Probe for internal barriers such as application processes, management, implementation program design and external barriers in the marketplace]
 - How are the challenges being addressed?
22. Are there any program issues that you would like to see explored through this evaluation? We plan to interview some participating builders/developers to explore their experience with the program. Do you have any questions that you would like to pose to builders in these upcoming interviews?
 - Data Needs: Do you have a database of participating builders/developers in PY3 that you can share with us? We're looking for a contact name and contact telephone number for each builder that applied for/received a grant in PY3 and any information you can share about the projects they conducted with program assistance, (e.g. number of projects, project size, EE measures installed)

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5.1.2 New Construction Builder Interview Guide

DCEO Energy Efficient Affordable Housing Construction Program

PY3 Evaluation Builder/Developer Depth Interviews

May 6, 2011

Task Introduction:

Opinion Dynamics plans to interview participating builders/developers in the PY3 DCEO Energy Efficient Affordable Housing Construction (EEAHC) Program. The purpose of these interviews is to explore the participant's program experience and identify the processes/interactions that are going well and any potential areas of improvement from both a program design and implementation perspective.

Introduction

Hi, may I please speak with [name from list]?

My name is ___ and I'm calling from Opinion Dynamics, a market research company, on behalf of the DCEO. We're talking to builders who have participated in the DCEO's Energy Efficient Affordable Housing Construction program to gain a better understanding for how the program is working.

I would like to ask you some questions. The questions will only take about 20 minutes, and your responses will be kept strictly confidential. Is this a good time to talk? [IF NO, SCHEDULE A CALL BACK.]

I. Background

1. Can you briefly describe your organization? What does it do? Who does it target? What geographic areas do you cover? How large is your organization (probe for: people, projects, budget)?
2. How many total housing projects is your organization involved with in a typical year? What percentage of your building projects per year are for low-income housing? What share of these are single family homes or duplexes and what share are of multi-family buildings?
3. What is your role in your organization? How long have been in this role? How long have you been with your organization?

II. Participation

4. When did you first hear about the EEAHC (if needed: Energy Efficient Affordable Housing Construction) program and how?
5. Was this an effective way of informing you about the program? Are there other ways that you would find more effective?
6. Why did you decide to participate in the program? (What were the selling points?)
7. When you applied for the program, what kind of information were you required to give? Have you had any difficulties with the application process? Are the grant requirements clear and easy to understand?
8. How long does it typically take to receive a grant? Have you had any difficulties with the grant process? How do you feel about the grant amounts that are provided?
9. What kind of communication do you have with program administrators? (Probe for: Formal or informal communication, how often) Do you think you can reach them when needed? Do they provide you with the information you need?
10. Does the program cover the types of energy efficient measures you would like to see? Are there other energy efficient measures that would like to see covered by the program?

III. Program Effects

11. How long does it typically take to build a low-income building like those that participate in the EEAHC program? How has the EEAHC program affected your building timelines, if at all?
12. If you had not received a rebate through the program, would the energy efficiency measures still have been installed? If not, what would have been installed instead?
13. Do you anticipate adding energy efficient appliances or products to future building projects outside of the program? If yes, which appliances or products?
14. Has the program affected your organization's building practices in any other ways that we haven't already talked about?

IV. Satisfaction

15. What is your level of satisfaction with... Why do you say that?
 - a. The measures covered by the program
 - b. The grant process and wait time
 - c. The EEAHC program overall
16. Is there anything about the program that has made it particularly easy to participate? Anything that has made it particularly difficult?
17. What would you say are the strengths of the EEAHC program?
18. What are the program's weaknesses?
19. Are there changes that can be made to the program to make it more valuable to you? If yes, what are those changes and why do you feel they are needed?
20. Is there anything else about the program you would like to discuss that we haven't covered?

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the EEAHC program with us!

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5.1.3 Specification Sheet Content

Measure and Specification	PY1 Sample	PY2 Sample	PY3 Sample
Energy STAR ® Refrigerator			
If supplied, refrigerators shall be Energy STAR ® rated.	11	6	18
Lighting: 6 Interior and 2 Exterior Fluorescent Fixtures			
All hard-wired lights in each unit shall be fluorescent fixtures. All common area lighting shall be fluorescent.	5	2	7
A minimum of six fluorescent lighting fixtures shall be installed in high use areas of the home. All common area lighting shall be fluorescent.	4	3	4
A minimum of six fluorescent lighting fixtures shall be installed in high use areas of the home.	2	1	6
Air Conditioning: SEER 14 Central Air Conditioner			
Heating and cooling shall be provided by a geothermal system	4	2	0
Air conditioners shall have a minimum SEER value of 14	3	2	5
Air conditioners shall have a minimum SEER value of 14.5	0	0	1
Air conditioners shall have a minimum SEER rating of 15.	1	0	0
If air conditioning is provided, it shall have a minimum SEER value of 14 and be Energy STAR ® rated.	1	1	3
VRF heat pump system shall have a minimum SEER rating of 14.	1	1	0
All air conditioners shall be Energy STAR ® rated.	0	0	1
Primary heating and cooling is being done with packaged terminal air conditioning units (PTAC). Units shall have a minimum EER value of 10.5	1	0	0
Through-the-wall air conditioning units shall be Energy STAR ® rated with a minimum 10.0 EER	0	0	0
Reduced AC Tonnage: as a result of thermal envelope improvements			
Slab-on-Grade			
First 6 feet of slab perimeter shall be insulated with a minimum r10 extruded polystyrene insulation	0	0	8
A thermal break (minimum R5) shall be provided between slab edge and foundation wall	0	0	8
A capillary break shall be provided beneath the entire slab. Alternately, a polyethylene vapor diffusion retarder (minimum 6 mil) shall be installed beneath entire slab	0	0	8

Measure and Specification	PY1 Sample	PY2 Sample	PY3 Sample
<u>Exterior wall insulation</u>			
R15	1	0	1
R19	0	0	1
R21	9	6	12
R24	1	0	1
R26	0	0	1
<u>Attic/Roof insulation</u>			
R44	8	5	3
R49	3	1	16
Attic Access Panel(s) shall be weatherstripped and insulated. Insulation R-value shall be equivalent to the R-value of the insulation on the surrounding surfaces.	0	0	3
Insulation shall be placed under attic walkways or storage area. Attic scuttle panel should be weatherstripped and insulated with a maximum R21.	0	0	2
<u>Crawl Space—Interior Foundation Wall Insulation</u>			
A minimum R10 insulation shall be installed along entire face of interior crawl space walls. A minimum R21 insulation shall be installed in crawl space rim. Unfaced batt insulation is not permitted for rim joist insulation.	0	0	3
A minimum R21 insulation shall be installed between floor joists. If crawl space access is through floor, hatch shall be insulated to a minimum R10 and weatherstripped.	0	0	1
<u>Conditioned wall insulation</u>			
R13	8	6	8
R15	1	0	0
R21	2	0	3
<u>Masonry Fin Wall Insulation</u>			
Spray foam insulation or 3/4" polyisocyanurate rigid insulation shall be installed between new or existing furring strips. Insulation shall extend 4'-0" in from exterior walls	0	0	3
<u>Drywall</u>			
Drywall shall be installed tightly to all framing members to assure adhesion between drywall and framing members. A continuous bead of sealant shall be applied to corner studs, top and bottom plates, rough opening members and corners of interior partition studs on exterior and perimeter walls to seal drywall to framing. "Spot" gluing is not acceptable.	0	0	18
Drywall on exterior, conditioned and perimeter walls to be installed to subfloor of unit above on first floor.	0	0	1

Measure and Specification	PY1 Sample	PY2 Sample	PY3 Sample
Basement Wall Insulation			
Foundation wall to be insulated to minimum R5. Rim joist cavity on exterior walls to be insulated to R10.	0	0	1
Basement wall insulation shall be minimum R10. A minimum R21 insulation shall be installed in basement rim.	0	0	3
Floor			
A minimum R5 thermal break shall be installed at floor perimeters	0	0	4
Windows			
maximum U-value of 0.34, low-E double glazed	8	1	1
maximum U-value of 0.35	0	0	1
maximum U-value of 0.35, low-E double glazed	0	5	8
maximum U-value of 0.35, low-E double glazed, SHGC shall not exceed 0.55	1	0	3
maximum U-value of 0.40, low-E double glazed	1	0	1
maximum U-value of 0.47, low-E double glazed	0	0	2
maximum U-value of 0.48, low-E double glazed	1	0	0
Low-E, double-glazed, storm windows with a maximum U-value of 0.65.	0	0	1
Maximum U-value of 0.30.	0	0	2
Low-E, double glazed and Energy STAR ® rated. Maximum U-value of 0.32, Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) shall not exceed 0.55	0	0	1
Doors			
All exterior doors shall be insulated and have door sweeps and weatherstripping.	0	0	15
Air Infiltration			
All completed homes must have not more than 5.0 air changes per hour at 50 pascals as measured with a blower door.	11	6	17
All completed units must have not more than 3.0 air changes per hour at 50 pascals as measured with a blower door.	0	0	1
A continuous air barrier shall be installed on all exterior and conditioned walls in accordance with manufacturer's installation guidelines. Air barrier shall not restrict the passage of moisture.	0	0	6
Energy STAR ® Dishwasher			
If supplied, dishwashers shall be Energy STAR ® rated.	11	6	9

Measure and Specification	PY1 Sample	PY2 Sample	PY3 Sample
Energy STAR ® Bathroom Exhaust Fan			
All bathroom(s) to be equipped with exhaust fans that are Energy STAR ® rated. Fans shall be rated no less than 75 CFM at 0.25" of static pressure. Bathroom fans shall have a sone rating no higher than 1.5 and shall be vented directly outdoors.	7	4	12
A continuous central exhaust system shall be utilized to vent all bathrooms and kitchens. Alternately, all bathrooms to be equipped with ENERGY STAR® rated exhaust fans vented directly outdoors. Bathroom fans shall have a sone rating no higher than 1.5	0	0	0
A continuous central exhaust system shall be utilized to vent all bathrooms. Ventilation shall provide a minimum 75 CFM.	3	1	2
Ventilation shall be provided to patient rooms using outside air conditioned with a heat recovery system utilizing general exhaust from the building	1	1	0
A mechanical timer shall be used for the fan if the fan is controlled separately from the light. A fan-delay timer shall be used if the fan and ceiling light are controlled together.	8	4	9
All bathrooms to be vented with roof-top exhaust fans. Bathrooms shall be exhausted at a continuous flow rate no less than 10 CFM. A wall mounted switch shall be provided for occupant control that will boost the exhaust to a minimum 75 CFM.	0	0	1
A continuous central exhaust system shall be utilized to vent all bathrooms. Ventilation shall provide a minimum of 20 CFM. An occupant override switch shall be provided to increase ventilation during periods of showering	0	0	1
Bathrooms shall be continuously ventilated per the Chicago Building Code with central toilet exhaust through an HRV system	0	0	1
Bathroom exhaust fans shall be controlled with 60 minute mechanical timers.	0	0	1
90% AFUE Furnace with Efficient Air Handler			
Patient rooms shall be conditioned with a Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) heat pump system with a minimum SEER rating of 14.0.	1	1	0
All furnaces are electric. If gas or propane-fired furnaces are substituted, they shall have a minimum AFUE rating of 90% and shall be direct vent sealed combustion units.	2	0	5
Furnace shall have a minimum AFUE rating of 90% and shall be direct vent sealed combustion, unless an electric furnace is used.	1	1	2
Furnaces shall have a minimum AFUE rating of 90% and shall be direct vent sealed combustion units.	2	2	0
A geothermal system may be utilized for primary heating and cooling. Alternately, boilers used for heating (either primary or back-up for the geothermal system) shall be direct vent sealed combustion with a minimum efficiency of 88%.	1	0	0
Heating and cooling shall be provided by a geothermal system.	1	1	2
Boilers shall be direct vent sealed combustion with a minimum efficiency of 88%.	0	0	7

Measure and Specification	PY1 Sample	PY2 Sample	PY3 Sample
Primary heating and cooling is being done with a geothermal system. Boilers shall be direct vent sealed combustion with a minimum efficiency of 88%.	2	1	0
Primary heating and cooling is being done with packaged terminal air conditioning units (PTAC). Units shall have a minimum EER value of 10.5.	1	0	0
Mechanical			
PTAC units shall have a minimum EER rating of 10.5	0	0	2
PTAC units shall have a minimum EER rating of 9.3.	0	0	1
Heating systems shall be sized to maintain 70 °F indoors when the temperature outdoors is -10 °F.	0	0	10
Heating systems shall be sized to maintain 72 °F indoors when the temperature outdoors is -10 °F.	0	0	1
All heating systems shall be sized to maintain 70°F indoors when the temperature outdoors is -3°F	0	0	1
Water heaters shall be sealed combustion direct vent with a minimum Energy Factor of 0.88.	0	0	10
Water heaters are electric and shall have a minimum Energy Factor of 0.93.	0	0	3
Gas-fired water heaters shall be Energy STAR ® rated and be sealed combustion direct vent with an Energy Factor (EF) equal to or greater than 0.62. If electric water heaters are use, they shall have a minimum EF of 0.93.	0	0	2
Water heaters shall have a minimum thermal efficiency of 88%	0	0	1
Water heaters shall be sealed combustion direct vent with a minimum GAMA energy factor of .62 and be Energy STAR ® rated.	0	0	1
Water heaters shall be sealed combustion direct vent and shall be Energy STAR ® rated	0	0	1
Proposed water heaters are electric. Should gas or propane-fired water heaters be substituted, water heaters shall be sealed combustion direct vent with GAMA energy factor greater than or equal to 0.60.	0	0	1
Heat pumps shall be Energy STAR ® rated and shall have HSPF=8.2, SEER=14.5, EER=9.5	0	0	1
Heat pumps shall have a minimum SEER value of 15.0 with ECM motors.	0	0	1
RTU units shall have a minimum ER of 9.6	0	0	1
Room air conditioners shall be Energy STAR ® rated with a minimum EER value of 10.7	0	0	1
Washing machines shall be Energy STAR ® rated.	0	0	11
Water source heat pumps shall have a minimum EER of 14.7 and a minimum COP of 3.0.	0	0	1
Ceiling fans shall be Energy STAR ® rated.	0	0	10
All stoves to be provided with range hoods that vent directly to the outside with a minimum 150 CFM exhaust capacity. Recirculating range hoods are not permitted.	0	0	10