Blended Building Operator Training Program
Positions New York City Municipal Buildings
for Energy Conservation

*International Conference on E-Learning in the Workplace*
*Columbia University, New York, NY*
*June 14, 2013*
...or “How to maximize performance outcomes by bringing your learning strategy into the 21st Century.”

Presenters:
Michael Dipple, DCAS Energy Management
Michael Bobker, CUNY Building Performance Lab
Patrick Dail, CUNY School of Professional Studies
Agenda

• The City’s Energy Strategy context

• Objectives of the Building Operator program – Pedagogy & Content
  – Deciding what goes Online and what stays in the Classroom

• Demo selected program modules
PlaNYC is the City’s sustainability roadmap.

10 Sustainability Goals

Hallmark of the Plan: 30% GHG emission reduction by 2017.
Going from PlaNYC To 30% x 2017 ...

- Benchmarking
- Energy Audits & Retrofits
- Operations & Maintenance
- Training & Outreach
- Clean Distributed Generation
First step, investigate the City’s emissions sources.

Source of City of New York Government GHG Emissions

Total = 3.76 MMT

- Buildings, 62%
- Wastewater treatment, 16%
- Vehicle fleet, 9%
- Streetlights and traffic signals, 3%
- Solid waste, 9%
- Other, 0.3%
- Water supply, 1%
Next step, identify emissions reduction target areas.

Source of Potential GHG Emissions Reductions

Total = 1.68 MMT

- Wastewater treatment plants: 17%
- Existing buildings: 57%
- Retrofits & replacements: 45%
- Operations & maintenance: 12%
- Clean distributed generation: 4%
- Street lighting: 3%
- Solid waste management: 11%
- Vehicles: 5%
- Emerging technology: 2%
- New construction: 1%
- Vehicles: 5%

Clean distributed generation, 4%
DCAS Energy Management O&M Overview

Goals

1. Repair, maintain and operate existing equipment as efficiently as possible

2. Increase training and outreach to improve skills and raise energy awareness

3. Provide management oversight, accountability and transparency
What is hoped for from Operator training?

1. 10% - 15% energy savings from improved O&M
2. Training as one element in O&M program
3. Findings from evaluations of BOC training nationally - 2.5% ??

**Goals**

Table 3-5: Summary of BOC Program Level Savings Reported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Net kWh Savings</th>
<th>Net MBtu Savings</th>
<th>Metric</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEEP_RLW_2005 – Non-schools</td>
<td>0.404</td>
<td>0.294</td>
<td>Per graduate per SqFt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEEP_RLW_2005 – Schools</td>
<td>0.263</td>
<td>0.407</td>
<td>Per graduate per SqFt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCPI_ODC_2009</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.0107</td>
<td>Per graduate per SqFt</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEEA_Navigant_2011</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td></td>
<td>Per graduate per SqFt</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEEA_MN_Navigant_2011</td>
<td>0.058</td>
<td>0.518</td>
<td>Per graduate per SqFt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Program savings of 2.5% of facility energy consumption, assuming an energy intensity of 16.7 kWh/ft², yielding an estimate of 0.42 kWh of savings per graduate per square foot. Study cites NEEA’s analogous 2008 long-term market transformation study (conducted by Summit Blue, which was subsequently bought by Navigant) as supporting an estimate of 2.5% energy savings realized as a result of BOC certification.*
Targeted Training Audience: Facility Operators

Greening the grizzly skeptic
Facility Operators

Targeted Training Audience:

- Get more of engineering staff into classes
- Difficulty with taking shift stationary engineers off site
- Motivation for developing on-line lessons
Building Operator Certification-Level I

60 hour Training Program involving classroom lessons, practical projects and exams.

Primary Topics:
• HVAC Systems, Equipment and Controls
• HVAC Calculation and Retro-commissioning
• Electrical Systems and Equipment
• Energy Data and its use in Operations
• Energy Audits – participation, reading, and use
• Integrated Energy-related Maintenance Practice and development of operational projects
Pedagogy & Objectives

- Combine theory & practice
- Engage audience in professionalization & new mission
- Lead to measurable changes in facility operations
On-line vs In-class

• Separating pure content from skill/practice

• Apply content to real-world, work situations

• exercises

• Lead to PROJECTS in home facilities
Understand systems’ operations

- Trace out equipment and **draw simple schematics**

- Sketching facilitates observation of equipment operations

- Instructor helps students
  - know what to look for
  - get started in drawing
  - Record relevant notes
Collecting and using data, reading graphs

What data to collect for specific purposes?
• Thermal comfort
• Ventilation
• Lighting levels
• Electrical maintenance
• Energy use – absolute and relative

Use of hand-held tools & data-loggers

Use of computer (web) – based tools
USE ENGINEERING TABLES AND CHARTS

Basic engineering concepts, such as flow and pressure relationship on pump/fan curves

Get operators over fear of basic calculations, unfamiliar methods for adjusting equipment
Resources to help your work:

PlaNYC – New York City’s Sustainability Roadmap:  

CUNY Building Performance Lab:  
[http://www.cunybpl.org/](http://www.cunybpl.org/)

Deputy Commissioner Ariella Maron, podcast interview  
[www.greentechmedia.com](http://www.greentechmedia.com)

PlaNYC Case Study, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group:  
[http://www.c40cities.org/](http://www.c40cities.org/)

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