

Evaluation of Boulder, CO, SmartRegs Ordinance and Better Buildings Program

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Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB)

April 2012

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Prepared for:

Building America

Building Technologies Program

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

U.S. Department of Energy

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Prepared under Subcontract No. KNDJ-0-40342-02

April 2012

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Definitions

ARRA	American Reinvestment and Recovery Act
BA	Building America
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CARB	Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings
DOE	Department of Energy
EGUSA	EnergyGauge USA
GHG	Greenhouse gas
HERS	Home Energy Rating System
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
JCHS	Joint Center for Housing Studies
NMHC	National Multi Housing Council
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
RESNET	Residential Energy Services Network
SWA	Steven Winter Associates, Inc.

Executive Summary

In 2002, the City of Boulder, Colorado, adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. Since adoption of this plan, Boulder's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have increased. Although it is unlikely that the 2012 goal will be realized, their 2020 goal is still attainable if aggressive action is taken. Boulder's SmartRegs ordinance and involvement in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Better Buildings program are critical pieces of this equation.

The SmartRegs Ordinance was adopted by the City of Boulder on September 21, 2010, and went into effect on January 3, 2011. It is a mandate requiring all rental property owners to bring their rentals up to a minimum energy efficiency standard by 2019 (approximately equivalent to a HERS Index of 120). Considering that Boulder's housing stock includes approximately 20,000 rental units (almost 50% of Boulder's total housing stock), and audits conducted in 2011 showed current HERS indices between 100 and 192, the resulting energy savings are expected to be significant.

In combination with the SmartRegs Ordinance, the City of Boulder applied for and was granted an award from the DOE's Better Buildings initiative. Under this program, Boulder received a \$12 million grant that they used to create and incentivize their EnergySmart Program. The program's strategy centers around an energy advisor who works with the homeowner during the visit to close a retrofit sale on the spot if upgrades are recommended. This service is seen as a key strategy for actually meeting the City's goals. To assist homeowners with upgrades, rebates and loans are offered through the EnergySmart program.

Performance targets for the EnergySmart program include improving 10,000 homes and 3,000 businesses by May 2013, while stimulating economic growth and investment in energy efficiency in the state of Colorado. SmartRegs goals for 2013 include having 9,000 rental units participate in their program with 4,500 of those being brought into compliance. As of December 2011, 3,374 homes had enrolled in EnergySmart. More than 1,500 rental properties have signed up for SmartRegs, with over 900 already achieving compliance.

Evaluating, improving and promoting retrofit programs like Boulder's SmartRegs ordinance could lead to energy efficiency improvements for millions of residential rental units across the United States and result in lower gross rents for much of the country's rental population. Of the approximately 34 million rental units in the United States, more than 24 million were built before 1980 and consequently, to those efficiency levels. These statistics suggest an enormous opportunity for energy reduction in rental units in this country.

To evaluate the SmartRegs program, the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB), a DOE Building America research team, performed a number of tasks. Nine full audits were conducted (12 individual units) with the intention of comparing the paths for compliance: performance based vs. a prescriptive checklist. Improvement packages that resulted in compliance with the prescriptive checklist often resulted in a HERS Index less than 120, further supporting the prescriptive approach as a favored and equally high-performing route to compliance with the ordinance.

Inspections conducted by the original auditors were evaluated, which allowed CARB to identify opportunities for improving trainings and potential revisions to the checklists. Based on these evaluations, CARB worked with city planners and administrators to develop building science training for both insulators and inspectors (see Appendix). In addition, interviews were conducted with property owners to determine what they viewed as the barriers to successful implementation.

1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

Under the SmartRegs ordinance, all rental properties in Boulder, Colorado, must achieve an energy efficiency level comparable to a HERS Index of approximately 120 points or lower by the year 2019. By requiring a minimum level of energy performance, it is intended that compliance with SmartRegs will result in a much more efficient residential rental housing stock.

To ensure program goals are met, and to aid property owners in navigating the compliance process, the City of Boulder and the SmartRegs program administrators developed the EnergySmart Advisors service with the use of funds from the Better Buildings program, a program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The service provides a Home Energy Assessment and access to free Energy Advisors who help make decisions on the most cost-effective energy efficiency measures and assist with rebate paperwork and contractor selection.

The intention of the Better Buildings funding was to improve the energy performance of existing buildings and to start building a new generation of energy efficient buildings.¹ And, as stated later in this report, a key goal of the Building America program is to reduce energy use in existing homes by 30%-50% compared to pre-retrofit energy use. In order to meet these goals, accurate analysis and prediction of the energy use of existing buildings is essential, but multiple studies confirm that analysis methods tend to overpredict energy use in poorly insulated, leaky homes and thus, the savings associated with improving those homes (Polly et. al. 2011).

In NREL's report titled "Assessing and Improving the Accuracy of Energy Analysis of Residential Buildings", researchers propose a method for improving the accuracy of residential energy analysis methods. A key step in this process involves the comparisons of predicted versus metered energy use and savings. The SmartRegs ordinance in Boulder will result in available pre- and post-retrofit utility bills and building efficiency levels, thus providing valuable data to aid in improving the accuracy of residential energy analysis methods. Due to retrofit schedules and difficulty obtaining these bills from the local utility, this data was not available for this report.

Performance targets for 2013 for the SmartRegs ordinance include having had 9,000 rental units participate in the EnergySmart program with 4,500 of those being brought into compliance. With similar programs being developed across the country and the current administration's focus on large-scale retrofit activities, knowledge gained from Boulder's project could significantly impact the accuracy and decision process of others.

¹<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/02/03/president-obama-s-plan-win-future-making-american-businesses-more-energy>

1.2 Background

National Multi Housing Council (NMHC) tabulations of the 2010 Current Population Survey estimate that 33% of U.S. households are renters.² Roughly 53% of those households rent a single-family home or live in a structure with less than four units.

According to research conducted by the Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) of Harvard University, over the past decade, the number of renter households has held more or less steady at 34 million. During that time, gross rents (rents plus utility costs) have been increasing faster than inflation and now stand at an all-time high. With the recent jump in energy costs, gross rents are certain to head even higher.

The JCHS forecasts that, even as growing numbers of households move into homeownership, rental housing will remain an important resource for families and individuals of all types—from new immigrants to aging baby boomers. “And for the nation’s households of little or no means, decent and affordable rental housing will provide the security and stability necessary to improve upon their circumstances” (JCHS 2006).

Given the above statistics, evaluating, improving and promoting retrofit programs like Boulder’s SmartRegs ordinance could lead to energy efficiency improvements for millions of residential rental units across the United States and result in lower gross rents for much of the country’s rental population.

1.3 Relevance to Building America’s Goals

Overall, the goal of the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Building America program is to “reduce home energy use by 30%-50% (compared to 2009 energy codes for new homes and pre-retrofit energy use for existing homes).” To this end, the CARB team conducts research to “develop market-ready energy solutions that improve efficiency of new and existing homes in each U.S. climate zone, while increasing comfort, safety, and durability.”³ Given that 33% of U.S. households are renters, improving the efficiency of rental properties is a key step in achieving these goals.

In towns and cities like Boulder where the rental population is higher than the national average of 33%, the opportunity for energy reductions is even greater. According to the U.S. Census Bureau data displayed in Table 1, approximately 51% of Boulder’s housing stock is renter occupied, and of that, almost 70% was constructed before 1980. Therefore, by requiring property owners to upgrade rental properties, the SmartRegs program aids in advancing Boulder’s community sustainability objectives, and will hopefully result in increased comfort, better indoor air quality and lower energy bills for tenants.

² http://www.nmhc.org/Content/ServeContent.cfm?ContentItemID=1152#us_households_renters_and_owners

³ http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/building_america/program_goals.html

Table 1. Age of Housing Stock in Boulder, CO

Housing Stock	Estimated total occupied housing units	Estimated owner-occupied housing units	Estimated renter-occupied housing units
Occupied housing units	39,893	18,716	21,177
UNITS IN STRUCTURE			
1, detached	44.7%	71.4%	21.1%
1, attached	7.7%	10.2%	5.5%
2 apartments	2.5%	0.3%	4.4%
3 or 4 apartments	7.1%	3.1%	10.5%
5 to 9 apartments	6.6%	2.8%	9.9%
10 or more apartments	28.3%	5.9%	48.0%
Mobile home or other type of housing	3.3%	6.3%	0.6%
YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT			
2000 or later	9.5%	12.1%	7.3%
1990 to 1999	11.0%	12.7%	9.4%
1980 to 1989	13.8%	13.7%	13.8%
1960 to 1979	43.1%	40.9%	45.1%
1940 to 1959	13.5%	12.5%	14.4%
1939 or earlier	9.1%	8.1%	10.0%

Reproduced from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey:

http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?_ft=table

Table 2 displays the age distribution of the rental housing stock in the United States as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. According to that data, 70% of the nation's rental housing stock is more than 30 years old (HUD 2011), very much in line with Boulder's statistics. This means that, of the approximately 34 million rental units in the United States, more than 24 million were built before 1980 and consequently, to those efficiency levels.

Table 2. Age of Rental Housing Stock in U.S.

Year Built	Distribution of Units	# Constructed
	[%]	[thousands]
2005-2009	3.6	1,283
2000-2004	4.9	1,731
1990 to 1999	8.2	2,883
1980 to 1989	13.2	4,668
1960 to 1979	35.3	12,491
Before 1960	34.8	12,321

Source: American Housing Survey for the US, 2009.

1.4 Trade-off Options

Compliance with Boulder's SmartRegs ordinance can be met through either a performance or prescriptive path. The performance path requires a comprehensive energy audit: measurements of all building dimensions and individual components, air leakage and duct leakage testing, and energy modeling to produce a HERS Index. If the rental unit receives a HERS Index of 120 or

less, it is considered to be in compliance with the ordinance. A HERS rating can only be performed by a RESNET-accredited energy rater.

The prescriptive path involves a slightly less comprehensive audit: fewer measurements are required, duct leakage testing is not required and energy modeling is not necessary. Contractors performing SmartRegs inspections using the prescriptive path must be a licensed general contractor, architect or engineer, or a certified inspector and have gone through a city sponsored training program.

When creating the prescriptive checklist, the developers set out to create a threshold that would apply to all homes. After extensive analysis, it was determined that 100 points on the checklist should correspond to a HERS Index of 120, more or less. Since a lower HERS Index is more desirable than a higher one, and a higher SmartRegs score is better than a lower one, the two paths are inversely related. A section of the checklist is displayed in Figure 1. The full checklist is located in the Appendix.

SmartRegs Prescriptive Pathway

Need 100 Total Points + Mandatory Water Conservation Measures

WALLS

R-VALUE	Base:		Final:	
	25%	50%	75%	100%
No Insulation	0	0	0	0
R-3 Continuous (must be at least R-3)	3	6	9	12
R-5 Continuous	4	8	12	15
R-13 or Uninsulated Basement Wall	5	10	15	20
R-19 or Better	5	11	16	21
Shared Wall or Insulated Basement Wall	6	13	19	26

WINDOWS/FENESTRATION

TYPE	Base:		Final:	
	25%	50%	75%	100%
Single Metal (1.2 U-Value)	0	0	0	0
Single Non-Metal* (.95 U-Value)	0	1	1	2
Double Metal (.8 U-Value)	1	2	3	4
Double Non-Metal* (.55 U-Value)	2	3	5	6
0.35 U-Value*	3	7	10	13
0.30 U-Value	3	7	10	14
0.25 U-Value or Better	4	7	11	14

ATTIC

TYPE	Base:		Final:	
	25%	50%	75%	100%
No Insulation	0	0	0	0
R-19	6	12	18	24
R-30	6	13	19	26
R-38 or Better	7	13	20	26
Shared Ceilings	7	14	20	27

SLAB / FOUNDATION

Base: _____ Final: _____

SLAB ON GRADE

TYPE	25%	50%	75%	100%
Slab Edge: R-0	2	3	5	6
Slab Edge: R-5	2	4	5	7
Slab Edge: R-10 or Better	2	4	6	8
Slab Edge R-10 plus Under Slab R-10 or Better	3	6	8	11

BELOW GRADE SLAB (Basement Slab)

Basement Slab	2	4	6	8
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FOUNDATION WALLS (Crawlspace)

R-0	0	0	0	0
R-2	2	3	5	6
R-11	2	4	6	8
R-19 or Better	2	5	7	9

FLOOR

(Only Available if No Ducts or HVAC Equipment are Located in Uninsulated Crawlspace Below Floor)

Floor Over Crawl: R-0	0	0	0	0
Floor Over Crawl: R-13	3	5	8	11
Floor Over Crawl: R-25	3	6	9	12
Floor Over Crawl: R-38 or Better	4	7	11	14
Shared Floor	4	8	11	15

DUCT LEAKAGE

Base: _____ Final: _____

CFM per 100 SF	POINTS
80 cfm @ 25 Pa	0
60 cfm @ 25 Pa	4
40 cfm @ 25 Pa	9
20 cfm @ 25 Pa	14
10 cfm @ 25 Pa or Less or no ducts (radiant)	17

Figure 1. Section of Boulder, CO's prescriptive pathway checklist used for determining SmartRegs compliance (page 1 of 3).

The checklist includes sections for each major building component such as walls, roofs and foundations, as well as the mechanical systems, lighting and appliances, air leakage, duct leakage and renewables. Each section is subdivided into several ranges of efficiencies. For example, in the Walls section, the inspector can choose from six different efficiency categories, each one corresponding to a range of efficiencies. For instance, the efficiency level R-13 actually applies to any above-grade 2x4 wall containing cavity insulation including rock wool batts, fiberglass batts, dense packed cellulose or dense packed fiberglass. Technically, these values could range from R-7 to R-15, but they would all be assigned to the same category and receive the same number of points.

To use the checklist, the auditor identifies the percentage of each building component that falls in the corresponding efficiency range and notes the information on the checklist by circling the number of points associated with that component. For example, if 50% of a home's walls were uninsulated and the other 50% were insulated to R-13, the Walls section of the checklist would look like Figure 2. This home would gain 10 points from the Walls section.

SmartRegs Prescriptive Pathway

Need 100 Total Points + Mandatory Water Conservation Measures

WALLS

Base: _____ Final: _____

R-VALUE	25%	50%	75%	100%
No Insulation	0	0	0	0
R-3 Continuous (must be at least R-3)	3	6	9	12
R-5 Continuous	4	8	12	15
R-13 or Uninsulated Basement Wall	5	10	15	20
R-19 or Better	5	11	16	21
Shared Wall or Insulated Basement Wall	6	13	19	26

Figure 2. Example of walls section of SmartRegs checklist for a home where 50% of the walls are uninsulated and 50% are insulated to R-13. This home would gain 10 points from the walls section.

One of the goals in creating the SmartRegs checklist was to design a tool that would naturally lead property owners to the most cost-effective and highest impact improvements. For example, many more points are awarded for insulating an uninsulated attic to R-38 (26 points) than are given for insulating a slab foundation to R-10 (8 points). Assuming both assemblies are poorly insulated, attic insulation will save much more money, be more cost-effective and is generally easier to install than slab insulation. Points for each improvement were also weighted with respect to carbon emissions reductions: the more points that a home can earn for a measure, the more impact that measure has on the home's overall carbon emissions.

Based on spot audits and energy modeling, CARB evaluated how the prescriptive path and compliance path aligned and whether or not the prescriptive checklist is performing according to the City of Boulder's intent: were property owners being guided to the most cost-effective improvements and those with the biggest environmental benefits?

2 Methodology

2.1 Research Questions

It was the intention of this research effort that evaluation of the SmartRegs ordinance would result in valuable information that could be used by other states, counties and municipalities throughout the United States attempting to implement similar programs. This research attempted to answer the following questions:

How does the actual energy savings realized through compliance with this program compare to the predicted savings?

Is the prescriptive checklist methodology an effective alternative to a more comprehensive and costly audit?

What are the biggest barriers to successful energy upgrades and how has the program adapted to these?

2.2 Technical Approach

To evaluate the success of Boulder's SmartRegs ordinance and the EnergySmart Advisors service, CARB performed full audits on nine rental properties (12 individual rental units) that had, at a minimum, gone through the initial compliance inspection.

The analysis included on-site diagnostic testing, utility bill analysis (when available), and energy modeling using EnergyGauge and REM/Rate for evaluation of HERS Index, predicted utility bills and energy savings due to retrofits. The units were tested for air leakage and duct leakage (total and leakage to the outside) by CARB staff, using industry approved equipment. All building dimensions, window and door areas, and component efficiency levels were measured and recorded. Solar orientation and shading due to neighboring buildings and trees was noted and accounted for in the energy models. Pressure diagnostics and combustion safety testing using a combustion analyzer were conducted where deemed necessary. With two very experienced auditors—one an engineer from CARB and the other a SmartRegs program developer—full audits took from 2-4 hours to conduct depending on the size, age and complexity of the building. Auditor accuracy and quality of energy improvement work was assessed along with a comparison of the prescriptive and performance compliance paths.

2.3 Case Studies

Based on the audits, testing, modeling, and analysis of the prescriptive checklist, CARB compiled case studies for nine rental properties required to comply with the SmartRegs program. Where applicable, these studies, located in the Appendix, include:

- Evaluation of before and after efficiency levels provided by field auditors
- Evaluation of pre-/post- utility bills when provided
- Market barriers to implementation
- Life of measures
- Cost benefit analysis of improvements
- Identification of procedural problems and road blocks to successful program implementation.

2.4 Utility Bill Analysis

To answer the research questions outlined in section 2.1, and to analyze programs like SmartRegs in general, comparisons to actual utility bills are critical. CARB hoped to obtain installed costs and pre-/post- utility bills in order to evaluate cost-effectiveness and compare predicted vs. actual energy savings associated with the energy improvements. Unfortunately, as of December 2011, most units evaluated had not yet implemented the recommended upgrades and for those that had, access to the utility bills was not granted.

2.5 Evaluation of Training Needs

Besides the actual audits, CARB evaluated the training needs to ensure successful implementation of the program. Needs that required specific focus included insulating, air sealing and diagnostic testing in existing buildings. Training materials for inspectors and contractors were created for the City of Boulder and were vetted in February 2011. Additional training was recommended based on assessments of common mistakes discovered during CARB's inspections for the case studies.

3 Results

Although not an hourly simulation tool, all analysis was performed with REM/Rate for several reasons. First, since several of the properties audited were attached units, BEopt could not be used. Secondly, program creators used REM/Rate to weight and assign the points given to each component. Therefore, using another software to evaluate the program would make no sense. Models were created using EnergyGauge, but the HERS scores generated were so drastically different from those produced using REM/Rate, it was seen as a useless exercise. It made no sense to use REM/Rate to evaluate the points on the checklist and then EnergyGauge to evaluate the savings.

3.1 Evaluation of Prescriptive Checklist

The prescriptive audit checklist used by the city of Boulder was custom designed based on Boulder's climate, housing types, and climate action goals. A score of 100 on this checklist indicates a home is in compliance with the City's SmartRegs ordinance and is intended to approximately equate to a HERS Index of 120. With respect to the HERS Index, a lower score is better than a higher one.

The checklist was created to offer a quicker method of assessing the energy efficiency of the property as compared to a full HERS energy rating (performance path) while maintaining a high level of accuracy. It was also intended that it be used as a guide by auditors and property owners when selecting improvements for the property.

To evaluate the accuracy of the checklist, CARB conducted audits on nine rental properties (12 individual rental units) that had already been assessed for SmartRegs compliance. Of the nine properties audited, four were single-family detached properties and the other five were a combination of duplexes, triplexes and low-rise multi-family buildings. The age of the buildings ranged from early 1900's to the 1960's. Each unit in a property must be scored individually. Of the 12 units audited, only three were in compliance at the time of their initial SmartRegs inspection and, therefore, would not have to make any improvements. At the time of CARB's

audits, only one building—Case Study #8—had been improved since its initial SmartRegs inspection.

Table 3 summarizes the initial SmartRegs prescriptive checklist scores as determined by CARB. Some case studies represent multiple units and, therefore, a range of values is shown. Based on the comprehensive audits, CARB created energy models to determine the HERS Index for comparison to the prescriptive path. The threshold for compliance is 100 points prescriptively, or a HERS Index of 120 or less.

Table 3. Summary of Pre-Retrofit Performance

	Year Built	Type	SmartRegs Score(s)	HERS Index
Case Study #1	1960	Detached	100	100
Case Study #2	1960	Detached	76	192
Case Study #3	1965	Detached	62	180
Case Study #4	1911	Detached	87	155
Case Study #5	1966	Multi-Family	92-104	112-128
Case Study #6	1919	Two-family	59/110	181/128
Case Study #7	1950	Three-family	74	147
Case Study #8	1950	Multi-Family	48-79	142-173
Case Study #9	1900	Two-family	85/88	150/139

Figure 3 displays the correlation between the HERS Index and the prescriptive checklist score in a scatter plot. This plot shows the inverse relationship between the two scores for the pre-retrofit cases with the trend line running through the target: HERS Index of 120 and a SmartRegs score of 100.

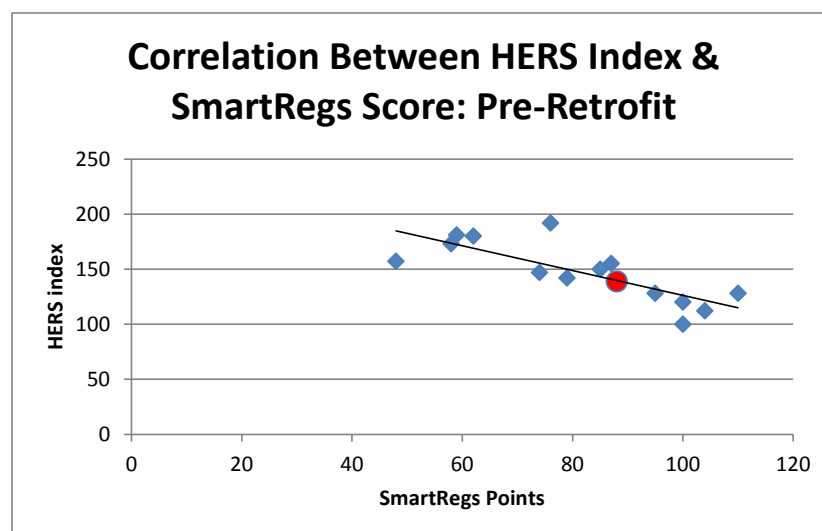


Figure 3. Scatter plot showing the correlation between the HERS Index and the SmartRegs prescriptive checklist score for the pre-retrofit cases.

As can be seen in Table 3, only a few units were able to comply with the SmartRegs ordinance at the time of their initial inspection without having to implement any energy efficient upgrades

(scores with bold font in Table 4). This is not surprising since most rental property owners have little to no incentive to improve the energy efficiency of their rental units since they won't reap the benefit of lower utility bills.

CARB then analyzed these same properties as if they had been brought into compliance. The prescriptive checklist was used to determine upgrades with the largest impact on the score, keeping in mind construction type, costs and barriers to some improvements such as knob and tube wiring. These improvements were then input into the energy models and the scores were re-evaluated. Table 4 shows the predicted prescriptive and performance path results of the same case studies if the recommended retrofits had been implemented. Detailed explanations of the recommended retrofits can be found in the individual case studies in the Appendix.

Table 4. Summary of Post-Retrofit or Recommended Post-Retrofit Performance

	Year Built	Type	SmartRegs Score(s)	HERS Index
Case Study #1	1960	Detached	Passed As-Is	Passed As-Is
Case Study #2	1960	Detached	103	142
Case Study #3	1965	Detached	100	114
Case Study #4	1911	Detached	100	144
Case Study #5	1966	Multi-Family	106-118	<106
Case Study #6	1919	Two-family	104/Passed As-Is	115/Passed As-Is
Case Study #7	1950	Three-family	102	105
Case Study #8	1950	Multi-Family	106-117	87-100
Case Study #9	1900	Two-family	103/106	116/109

These results were also plotted to show the post-improvement correlation between the HERS Index and the SmartRegs score (Figure 4). While not as tightly grouped around the trend line as the pre-retrofit scores, correlation is still good with the trend line running very near the target.

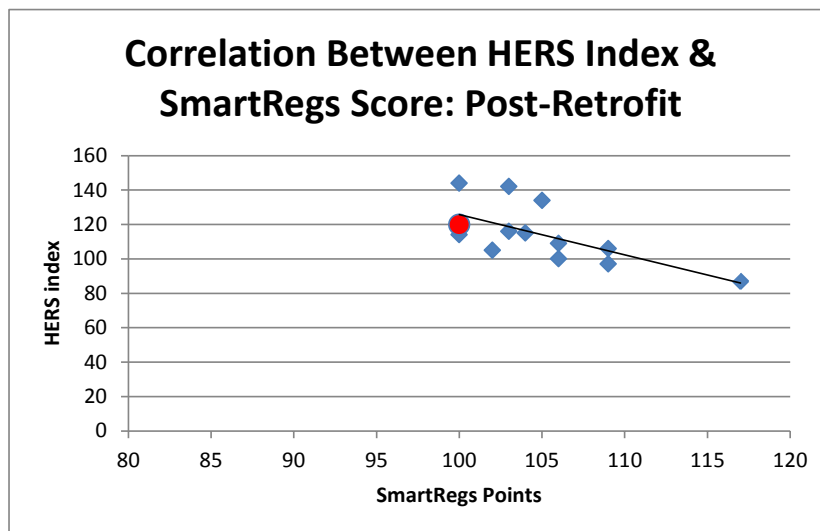


Figure 4. Scatter plot showing the correlation between the HERS Index and the SmartRegs prescriptive checklist score for the actual and recommended post-retrofit cases.

For most cases, achieving 100 points prescriptively resulted in a HERS Index of less than 120, as was intended by program administrators and designers. There are several possible explanations for why a home may comply with one method and not the other. These are explored in more detail in Section 4.

Predicted utility bill savings, reduction in energy use, and reduction in carbon dioxide generation for each property are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of Predicted Savings

	Year Built	Housing Type	Annual Utility Bill Savings	Annual Reduction in Energy Use	Annual Carbon Dioxide Reduction
Case Study #1	1960	Detached	n/a	n/a	n/a
Case Study #2	1960	Detached	\$464	24%	22%
Case Study #3	1965	Detached	\$464	36%	29%
Case Study #4	1911	Detached	\$138	7%	6%
Case Study #5	1966	Multi-Family	\$100	24%	17%
Case Study #6	1919	Two-family	\$589	38%	34%
Case Study #7	1950	Three-family	\$231	23%	22%
Case Study #8	1950	Multi-Family	\$230-\$450	32-52%	27-46%
Case Study #9	1900	Two-family	\$170	21%	20%

For the properties where no previous improvements had been made (CS #2, #3, #5, #6, #7, #8), predicted energy use reductions ranged from 23% to 52% per unit.

3.2 Utility Bill Analysis

Case Study #8 was the only property for which CARB was able to obtain utility bills, and these were only available for the pre-retrofit case. While this data set is far too small to be statistically significant, it is used here to help illustrate the issues associated with trying to predict energy use, especially in older, inefficient homes.

This multi-family property was constructed in the 1950's and consists of 37 rental units: 18 2-bedroom units, 18 1-bedroom units and 1 3-bedroom unit. The complex was constructed with minimal attic insulation, no wall insulation, and single pane windows. Heating is provided by ductless in-unit natural gas heaters, and hot water is provided by six centrally located gas storage water heaters. No cooling or mechanical ventilation is provided, although some tenants install window air conditioners on their own. Actual annual bills per unit range from \$200-\$600 for electricity and \$250-\$550 for natural gas, with almost \$210 annually in just monthly service charges.

Compliance with the SmartRegs prescriptive checklist was evaluated, and it was determined that the worst-case unit (first floor corner) would need at least 52 points to become compliant. The package of improvements selected to bring all units into compliance included: blowing 13" of cellulose into the attic (R-50); new double-pane, low-e windows with U-values of 0.3; adding blown cellulose to the walls (R-13); compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) replacements in 100% of lights; and new ENERGY STAR[®]-qualified refrigerators. With the extra insulation and new

windows, they were also able to collect points due to reduced air leakage, bringing the post-retrofit prescriptive score for the worst case unit to 106. Had the Performance Path been selected, modeling results also show compliance post-retrofit, with a HERS Index of 97.

As mentioned above, only pre-retrofit bills were available for this property. Figure 5 and Figure 6 show the actual monthly electric and gas use for 10 units in this complex. Data from these bills (Figure 5) for the 1-bedroom units show spikes in electricity usage in both winter and summer, with units on the second floor seeing the greatest spikes.

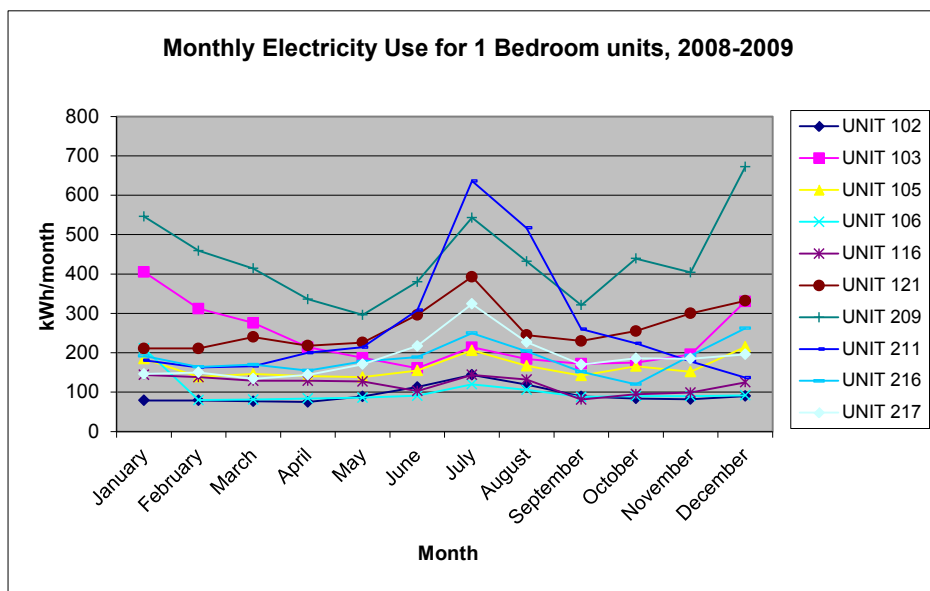


Figure 5. Monthly electric utility use (kWh) for a sample of 1-bedroom units for the property in case study #8.

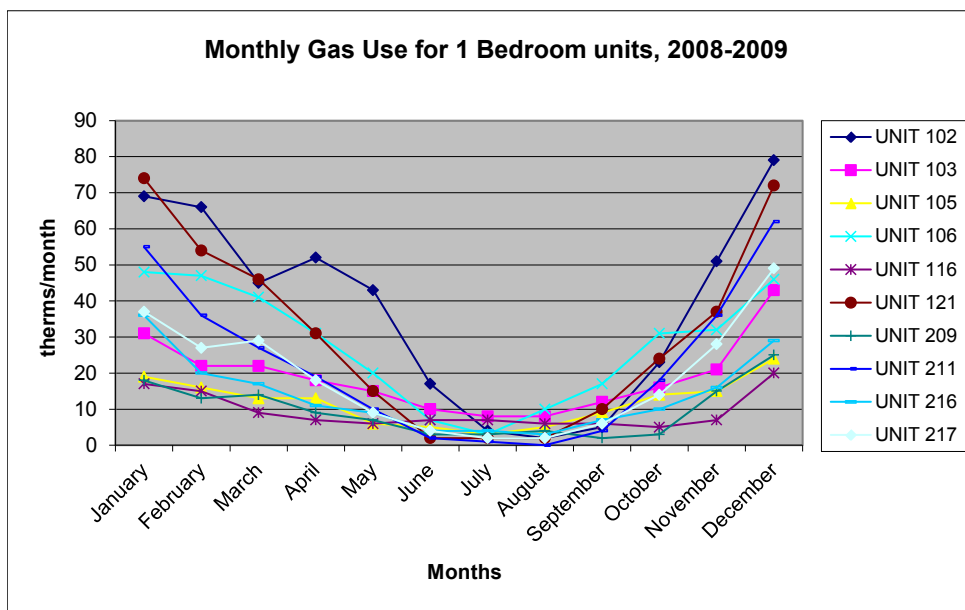


Figure 6. Monthly natural gas use (therms) for a sample of 1-bedroom units for the property in case study #8.

Since a full year of post-retrofit bills was not available for analysis, pre-retrofit bills were analyzed and compared to modeling predictions. Figure 7 and Figure 8 compare actual usage per square foot of conditioned space for three different units to predicted pre and post-retrofit usage. As shown in Figure 7, the model sometimes underpredicted and sometimes overpredicted electricity consumption. Underpredictions were mostly related to units with surges in electricity usage in the summer, most likely from using window air conditioners (usually units on the second floor); overpredictions could result from reductions in occupancy as is typical of student housing.

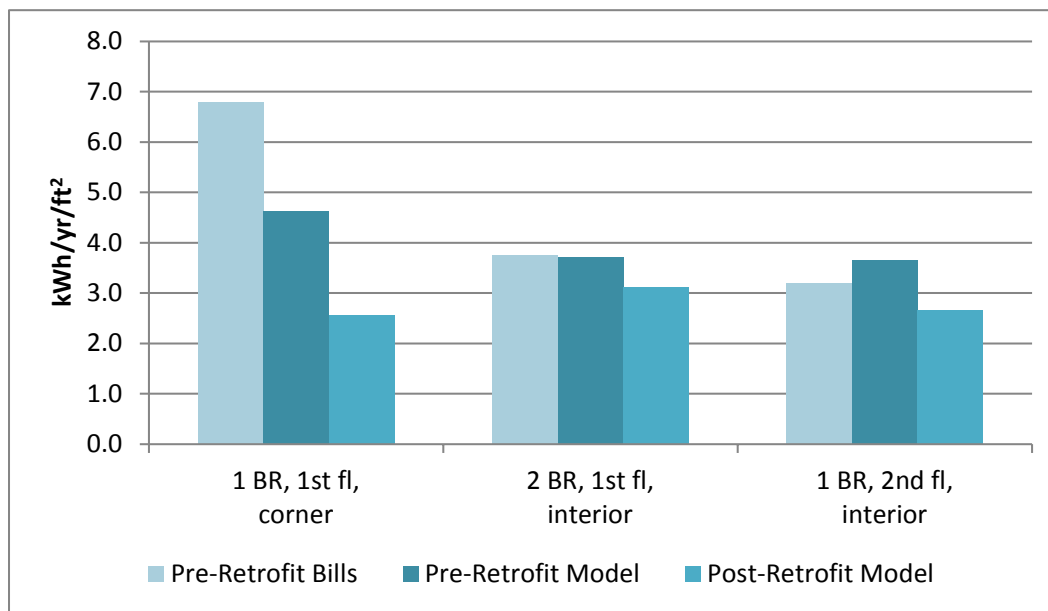


Figure 7. Predicted annual electricity use (kWh/ft²) for the models types with available pre-retrofit utility bills.

Unlike the predictions for electricity consumption, the models consistently and significantly overpredicted gas consumption (Figure 8). It is suspected that the units are not being directly billed for the natural gas for the central water heaters (~150 therms per unit per year), but this does not explain the entire discrepancy. As stated in a report from NREL by Polly et. al., multiple studies have shown that modeling software tends to overpredict heating energy use in older, inefficient homes (2011). This study definitely supports those observations.

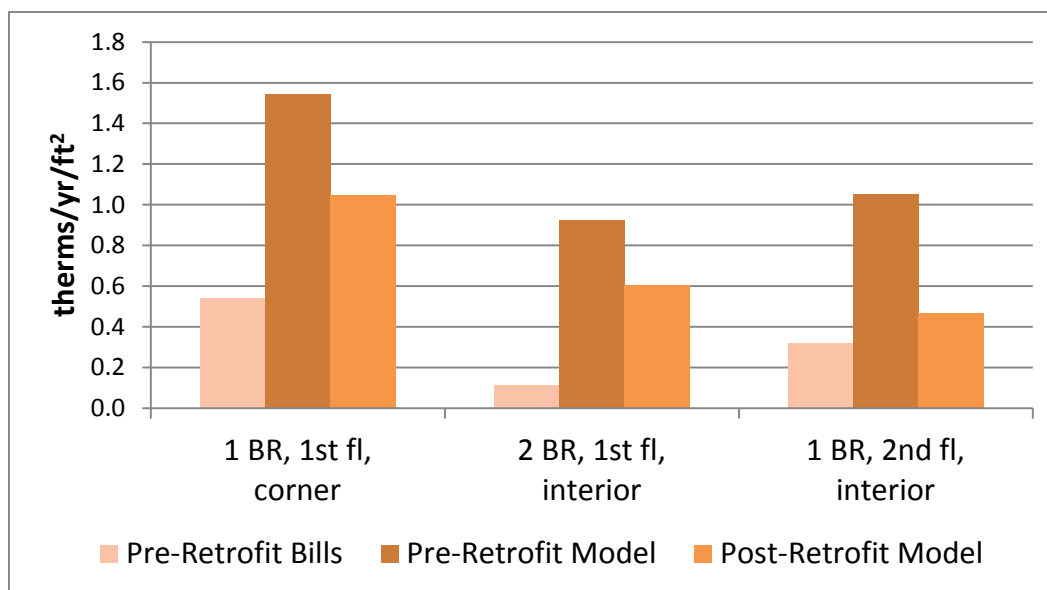


Figure 8. Predicted annual natural gas use (therms/ft²) for the models types with available pre-retrofit utility bills.

Beyond what was described above, energy models make assumptions on things like weather, number of occupants in a home, and components in the home affected by occupant behavior such as thermostat settings, lighting, and appliance use.. This can lead to a discrepancy between actual bills and savings estimated by the model. For example, if the weather was uncharacteristically warm for this location, predicted heating energy use would be expected to be higher than actual energy use. Also, energy-conscious occupants could be expected to use less energy than predicted in the model. This in turn affects savings. If actual pre-retrofit energy usage is less than predicted, as was the case for the units analyzed, actual savings may be lower than predicted.

With these issues in mind, further research needs to be conducted on the accuracy of modeling software when predicting energy use in existing homes. For community-scale retrofit projects like this one, it would be impossible to model each home based on actual occupant behavior. Assumptions will still have to be made with respect to thermostat settings, lighting and appliance use, and weather variations, but perhaps those assumptions currently being used need to be adjusted.

3.3 Training Needs

Part of CARB's involvement with Boulder's SmartRegs program was to evaluate the training needs of the auditors and contractors. Therefore, during these audits, CARB compared its audit results to that of the SmartRegs inspector. SmartRegs scores were recalculated based on CARB's findings and compared to the original inspection. Table 6 summarizes the scores calculated during the original SmartRegs inspections, the score from CARB's audit, and the reasons for the differences, if any.

In general, auditor knowledge ranged from very experienced and knowledgeable to a few who could use a little more training and experience, but this is not uncommon in the auditing and rating industry.

Table 6. SmartRegs Prescriptive Checklist Scores: SmartRegs Inspector vs. CARB Audit Results

	SmartRegs Inspector	CARB Audit	Reason for Difference
Case Study #1	100	same	n/a
Case Study #2	89	76	Furnace efficiency
Case Study #3	64	62	Slight volume miscalculation affecting ACH@50 results
Case Study #4	75	87	DHW efficiency too high, square footage of basement too low, refrigerator efficiency too high, no credit given for efficient A/C, duct testing performed by CARB not auditor
Case Study #5	92-104	same	n/a
Case Study #6	40/93	59/110	CARB performed duct testing, Auditor hadn't; otherwise no differences
Case Study #7	88	70	Boiler efficiency assumption too high, wall insulation missed, Occupant changes – window A/C, incandescent lights
Case Study #8	48-79	Same	n/a
Case Study #9	80/88	85/same	Small section of wall insulation missed

Several of the audits resulted in very similar if not identical scores. A few of the differences were the result of duct leakage testing. The SmartRegs program does not require duct leakage testing, but if it is performed, there are substantial points that can be gained if the ducts prove to be below certain leakiness levels. In CS #4 and #6, points were awarded for the results of duct leakage testing performed by CARB after the initial inspection.

Areas identified as needing further training included identification of mechanical system type and efficiency for heating, cooling and domestic hot water (DHW), and more thorough inspection of wall and ceiling insulation in existing homes.

4 Discussion

Although there is good agreement between the prescriptive and performance paths, there are circumstances when a home may pass one and not the other. There could be several reasons why the HERS Index is higher than 120, but according to the SmartRegs prescriptive checklist, the unit is in compliance. Discrepancies in the scoring could be attributed to several different factors. For example, modeling issues include:

- Smaller homes tend to get higher HERS indices because the surface-area-to-volume ratios are higher than for larger homes.
- The higher the window-to-wall area ratio the more heat loss from the home. SmartRegs doesn't measure areas, just efficiencies of the components.
- Orientation is not considered in SmartRegs, but will affect a HERS Index due to its impact on solar gain.

- SmartRegs uses steps in efficiency levels and associates points with each step vs. using the actual efficiency as is done in a HERS model.
- Definitions of conditioned vs. unconditioned basements are slightly different between the two methods.

There are also programmatic reasons that these two paths can result in different answers. When the program first began, ceilings with any level of insulation below R-19 were getting full credit for being insulated to R-19. When modeled, the actual insulation level would be entered, thus resulting in a worse HERS Index than a prescriptive checklist score. Program administrators have since corrected this, and homes with less than R-19 insulation receive no points in that category.

Also, storm windows on historic homes receive more than twice the points as windows with a similar efficiency on a non-historic home. This is to ease some of the burden on the owners, because improving historic properties is usually much more difficult and costly. Again, the actual U-value of the window would be input into an energy model, potentially resulting in a worse HERS Index than the prescriptive checklist score would indicate.

Another program decision was to not give any credit to crawlspace ceiling insulation on the SmartRegs prescriptive checklist if the mechanical equipment and/or any of the ductwork are located in that space. The City's reasoning behind this is that one of the goals of the SmartRegs program is to promote the most cost-effective, energy efficient improvements while improving living conditions—comfort, safety, indoor air quality etc.—for the renters. The city of Boulder feels that converting unconditioned crawlspaces to conditioned, air-sealed, warm, dry spaces is one of the measures that will help them achieve these goals. Unlike the previously mentioned exceptions, this would result in a worse prescriptive score than performance index because the R-11 would be included in the energy model.

Finally, since a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is one of Boulder's major goals, reductions in electricity consumption have been assigned greater weight in the checklist. This is particularly evident with respect to the number of points awarded for photovoltaics (PV): 1 kW gains 44 points on the prescriptive checklist. Qualifying installations include power purchase agreements, solar leases or verified subscriptions in the Community Solar Garden program. A property owner must first score a minimum of 70 points on the prescriptive checklist before this category can be applied, but currently, the program only looks at rated output of the system rather than installed performance.

CARB's building science-based recommendations generally aligned well with the upgrades assigned higher point values except for PV, (although understandably a good approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions), which is awarded a disproportionate number of points on the checklist. This is supported by the HERS Index comparison for one of the case studies in which the first package—insulating the ceiling to R-30, replacing the DHW with a tankless unit, installing storm windows, installing an ENERGY STAR refrigerator, insulating the basement and air sealing—results in a HERS Index of 115; but the second upgrade package—just insulating the ceiling to R-30 and installing 1 kW of PV—only achieves a HERS Index of 162 but passes using the prescriptive path.

5 Conclusions

Comprehensive case studies were used to evaluate Boulder, Colorado's SmartRegs program. Comparing prescriptive results to performance path results showed good agreement, which will enable more property owners to select the less expensive prescriptive route and know they will get similar results. The time required to conduct a prescriptive inspection is less than half of that required to perform a full audit and produce a HERS Index.

From the evaluation conducted to date, it appears that the prescriptive checklist is an effective alternative to a more comprehensive, costly audit. The checklist was developed to guide owners to make the decisions that will have the greatest impact on reductions in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and appears to be successful in doing that.

With similar programs being developed across the country and the current administration's focus on large-scale retrofit activities, knowledge gained from this project could significantly impact the decisions of others. Evaluating, improving, and promoting retrofit programs like Boulder's SmartRegs ordinance could lead to energy efficiency improvements for millions of residential rental units across the United States and result in lower gross rents for much of the country's rental population.

Of the approximately 35 million rental units in the United States, more than 24 million were built before 1980 and consequently, to those efficiency levels. These statistics suggest an enormous opportunity for energy reduction in rental units in this country. Unfortunately, without access to utility bill data for pre and post-retrofit cases, CARB cannot make an accurate estimate as to what those savings will be. As this is a common problem in studies like this, obtaining access to utility bills for community-scale retrofit programs should be made a priority by researchers and policy makers alike.

Based on the small number of utility bills that were obtained, this study supports what others have found: energy modeling software overpredicts energy use in older, inefficient homes. Further research into the assumptions assigned to occupant behavior and basic modeling parameters is needed.

Without real world data to analyze the models, predictions for actual MMBtu reductions are difficult. Even so, this study suggests that Boulder's housing stock dated from the 1960's and earlier should realize savings of about 23% to 52% annually when bringing the homes into compliance with the SmartRegs requirements, assuming no previous upgrades have been performed. This is in line with the 30%-50% reduction goals of the Building America program.

CARB also used these case studies to inform the City of Boulder of suggestions and owner feedback to improve their program offering. Interviews were conducted with either the property owner or the manager regarding their experiences with the SmartRegs ordinance. While there was some general resistance to the idea of a city-mandated program like this, participants repeatedly remarked that compliance was not as difficult as originally anticipated.

The majority of participants also expressed that the free energy advisor service (offered under the EnergySmart program) was instrumental to the successful implementation of Boulder's

ordinance. Services offered by the advisors include: assistance in determining where individual properties stand in relation to SmartRegs compliance; recommendations for the best method of compliance for each individual rental property; direct installation of energy efficiency measures; help in scheduling contractors for any efficiency improvements that needed to be made; and identifying rebates and incentives that are available for the work.

To properly assess the impacts of a retrofit program, long-term monitoring and evaluation is necessary. CARB initially proposed a 3-year evaluation of the SmartRegs program such that upgrade costs and post-retrofit utility bills could be analyzed to determine actual energy savings and cost-effectiveness of a community scale retrofit program like Boulder's. Although this was not accomplished in the first year of the evaluation, the evaluation of the program itself is positive and is an example that can be replicated in other cities.

A few basic recommendations include:

Follow RESNET's guidelines for assigning age-based efficiencies for older unlabeled equipment⁴.

Create mandatory requirements for the cost-effective low-hanging fruit such as CFLs.

Remove the point category for not installing cooling or only allow credit if the home has a combination of certain features such as adequate ceiling and wall insulation and good windows, which would reduce the cooling load and the likelihood that occupants will install window units.

Award points for PV based on anticipated generation, rather than installed capacity.

⁴ http://www.resnet.us/standards/RESNET_Mortgage_Industry_National_HERS_Standards.pdf

6 Acknowledgments

CARB partnered with both the City of Boulder’s Community Planning and Sustainability department and the County of Boulder’s County Commissioner’s Office, and with the central program administrator, Populus, LLC.

Appendix A SmartRegs Prescriptive Checklist

SmartRegs Prescriptive Pathway Checklist

Need 100 Total Points + Mandatory Water Conservation Measures

This form is to be used by City of Boulder Class G licensed inspectors.

Instructions:

1. Circle the applicable point selection in each category
2. Fill in the Base and Final Points in each category
3. Total the points in the table below
4. Provide a Class G inspector license number and signature
5. Submit the form with the preceding SmartRegs Energy Efficiency Application pages

Unit Address and Number: _____

Enter total points in the space below

Total Base Points	
Total Final Points	
Total Water Conservation Points	

--	--

Class G inspector - PRINT NAME

License #

--

Class G Inspector Signature

Mandatory Water Conservation

Must earn two points regardless of whether Performance or Prescriptive SmartRegs Pathway is chosen. Points earned in this category do not count towards Prescriptive 100 point requirement.

Water Conservation Measure	Points
Low flow showerhead*	1
Low flow lavatory faucets*	1
Self-closing faucet valves**	1
High-efficiency or dual-flush toilet*	2
ENERGY STAR washing machine	2
ENERGY STAR dishwasher	2

*Points awarded based on average of all fixtures in unit -

**Points awarded if all faucets are equipped with self-closing valves. -

Please refer to the SmartRegs Guidebook for further clarification. -

WALLS

Base: _____ Final: _____

R VALUE	25%	50%	75%	100%
No Insulation	0	0	0	0
≥R-3 Continuous	3	6	9	12
R-5 Continuous	4	8	12	15
R-13	5	10	15	20
Uninsulated Basement Wall	5	10	15	20
≥R-19	5	11	16	21
Insulated Basement Wall	6	13	19	26
Shared Wall	6	13	19	26

WINDOWS/FENESTRATION

Base: _____ Final: _____

U FACTOR	25%	50%	75%	100%
Single Metal (1.2 U-Factor)	0	0	0	0
Single Non-Metal* (.95 U-Factor)	0	1	1	2
Double Metal (.80 U-Factor)	1	2	3	4
Double Non-Metal * (.55 U-Factor)	2	3	5	6
0.35 U-Factor*	3	7	10	13
0.30 U-Factor	3	7	10	14
≤0.25 U-Factor	4	7	11	14

INFILTRATION

Base: _____ Final: _____

ACH _n	POINTS
≤1.20 ACH _n	2
0.75 ACH _n	4
0.50 ACH _n	6
≤0.35 ACH _n (ventilate per ASHRAE 62.2)	7

TEST STATS:

ACH _n : _____	Volume: _____
CFM50: _____	n-Factor: _____

CEILINGS

Base: _____ Final: _____

R VALUE	25%	50%	75%	100%
No Insulation	0	0	0	0
R-19	6	12	18	24
R-30	6	13	19	26
≥R-38	7	13	20	26
Shared Ceilings	7	14	20	27

FLOORS / FOUNDATIONS

Base: _____ Final: _____

SLAB ON GRADE				
TYPE	25%	50%	75%	100%
Slab Edge: R-0	2	3	5	6
Slab Edge: ≥R-5	2	4	5	7
Slab Edge: ≥R-10	2	4	6	8
Slab Edge: ≥R-10 AND Under Slab: ≥R-10	3	6	8	11
BELOW GRADE SLAB (Basement Slab)				
Basement Slab	2	4	6	8
FOUNDATION WALLS (Crawlspace)				
R-0	0	0	0	0
R-2	2	3	5	6
R-11	2	4	6	8
≥R-19	2	5	7	9
FRAMED FLOORS (Only Available if No Ducts or HVAC Equipment are Located in Unconditioned Space Below Floor)				
Framed Floor: R-0	0	0	0	0
Framed Floor: R-13	3	5	8	11
Framed Floor: R-25	3	6	9	12
Framed Floor: ≥R-38	4	7	11	14
Shared Floor	4	8	11	15

DUCT LEAKAGE

Base: _____ Final: _____

CFM per 100 SF	POINTS
80 cfm @ 25 Pa	0
60 cfm @ 25 Pa	4
40 cfm @ 25 Pa	9
20 cfm @ 25 Pa	14
≤10 cfm @ 25 Pa	17
No Ducts	17

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Base: _____ Final: _____

LOCATION / INSULATION	25%	50%	75%	100%
Uninsulated Pipes/Ducts (In Unconditioned Space)	0	0	0	0
Pipes/Ducts Insulated (R-4) (In Unconditioned Space)	1	3	4	6
Pipes / Ducts Within Conditioned Space	2	3	5	7

*Historically designated properties and properties older than 50 years with wooden window frames that rehabilitate and install storm panels will receive credit at the 0.35 U-Value level.

Total this page: _____

HEATING

Base: _____ Final: _____

SPECIFICATION	POINTS
Electric, Oil, or ASHP	0
Gas 65% AFUE	0
Gas 80% AFUE	13
Gas 90% AFUE	17
Gas 96% AFUE	19
GSHP (COP 3.3)	29
GSHP (COP 4.1)	38
GSHP (COP 4.8)	43

COOLING

Base: _____ Final: _____

SPECIFICATION	POINTS
10 SEER or worse	0
13 SEER	4
15 SEER	6
Direct Evaporative Cooler	6
No Cooling	6
17 SEER	7
19 SEER	8
Indirect Evaporative Cooler	8
GSHP (\geq EER 13.6)	4

LIGHTING

Base: _____ Final: _____

HIGH EFFICACY LIGHTING (solar tubes/light tunnels counted as light fixtures)	POINTS
0%	0
25%	2
50%	4
75%	6
100%	7

HOT WATER

Base: _____ Final: _____

SPECIFICATION	POINTS
Electric, Oil or Heat Pump	0
Gas 0.56 EF	0
Gas 0.60 EF	1
Gas 0.64 EF	2
Gas \geq 0.82 EF	6
Gas Boiler Side Arm (65% AFUE Boiler)	0
Gas Boiler Side Arm (80% AFUE Boiler)	3
Gas Boiler Side Arm (95% AFUE Boiler)	5

WHOLE HOUSE FANS

Base: _____ Final: _____

SPECIFICATION	POINTS
Whole House Fan	2

REFRIGERATION

Base: _____ Final: _____

SPECIFICATION	POINTS
750 kWh/year	0
650 kWh/year	2
450 kWh/year	3
\leq 350 kWh/year	4

SOLAR THERMAL

Base: _____ Final: _____

SPECIFICATION	POINTS
Points per 20 sq ft of collector surface area	8

PHOTOVOLTAICS*

Base: _____ Final: _____

ARRAY RATED OUTPUT	POINTS
Points per kW**	44

OCCUPANT

Base: _____ Final: _____

MEASURE	POINTS
Sub-Metering: Real Time Energy Monitoring Device	1
Programmable Thermostat	1
Provide Operation / Training Manual	1
Tenant Attends Energy Conservation Class	1

OTHER

Base: _____ Final: _____

MEASURE	POINTS
Heat Pump Desuperheater	1
Electronically Commutated Motor ("ECM")	3
Passive Solar Design	Discretionary – approved by City of Boulder
Innovative Practice	Discretionary – approved by City of Boulder
Technically Impractical: Carbon Offsets	Must be Approved by City of Boulder (8 points per metric ton of CO ₂ offset)

*Qualifying installations include power purchase agreements, solar leases, or verified subscription in Community Solar Garden.

**Units must earn 70 prescriptive pathway points in other categories to be eligible to earn PV points.

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Appendix B Case Studies

Cold Climate Region: Case Study #1

City of Boulder, SmartRegs Ordinance

Single Family Detached, 1960's Vintage

Boulder, CO

Program	SmartRegs Ordinance
Location:	Boulder, Colorado
Building Type:	Single Family Detached
Building Size:	955 ft ²
Foundation:	Unconditioned Crawlpace
Configuration:	3 bedrooms, 1 bath
SWA Contact:	Lois Arena

This single family detached rental property is located in Boulder, CO, in an area well known for its small, ranch style homes very often used as rental property. Typical of homes built in the 1950's and 1960's in Boulder, it is a 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom single-story house just under 1,000 ft² built over a crawlspace foundation.

The property owner was one of several people to sign up early for the SmartRegs audit to ensure that his rental property complies with the City of Boulder's new requirements that all rental properties meet a certain energy efficiency level by 2019.

As is evident from the owner's answers to several interview questions (see Property Owner's Story), he is very committed to energy conservation and wanted to know as early as possible if his properties complied with the new regulations. If not, this would give him time to plan for the needed upgrades.

Because of the owner's commitment to energy conservation, he had already made several energy improvements to the property before the new regulations were put in place. The attic had been air sealed and insulated to approximately R-38. The exterior walls (2x4) were dense-packed with cellulose insulation, and all windows were upgraded to double-pane, low-e, vinyl units with U-values of 0.30. The crawlspace ceiling had been insulated and air sealed from the house and the existing ductwork located in the crawl had been insulated.

Air leakage and pressure testing confirmed that both the attic and the crawlspace were well isolated from the main living area. Based on the blower door result of 986 cfm@50 pascals, the estimated infiltration rate of this home is approximately 0.44 air changes per hour under natural conditions (ACHn) or 8 ACH@50 pascals.



This rental property passed Boulder's SmartRegs requirements upon initial inspection.

Energy Efficient Features

Attic:	Blown-in cellulose insulation—R38
Walls:	Dense-packed cellulose—R-13
Windows:	Low-e, double-pane, vinyl—U-0.30
Foundation:	Fiberglass batts—R-11 in crawlspace ceiling
Heating:	Forced air, natural gas, conditioned space—80 AFUE
Cooling:	None
Ductwork:	Insulated w/ R-4 fiberglass batts, unconditioned space
Hot Water:	Atmospheric, natural gas, conditioned space—0.59 EF
Air Leakage:	8 ACH@50 pascals, 0.44 ACHn

Additional SmartRegs Features

Water-saver faucets and showerheads

SmartRegs Checklist Score*: 100 points

(The final score must be ≥ 100)

HERS Index: 100

*100 points on the SmartRegs checklist was intended to approximately equate to a HERS index of 120.

Boulder, CO

The owner of this property opted to use the prescriptive method of compliance and have the auditor fill out a checklist rather than perform energy modeling to determine if the property was in compliance. Based on the auditors assessment, this home scored 100 points on the SmartRegs checklist and is, therefore, in compliance with the program (confirmed by SWA during a follow up audit) The owner is not required to make any further energy related improvements at this time.

When creating the prescriptive checklist, the authors set out to create a threshold that would apply to all homes. After extensive analysis, it was determined that 100 points on the checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120 points, more or less. SWA checked this assumption by modeling the home using REM/Rate, a simulation program used for analyzing energy use in residential buildings. The HERS index for this property was determined to be 100, far lower than the required score.

There could be several reasons for this. First, the SmartRegs' prescriptive checklist does not give any credit for insulation in a crawlspace ceiling (R-11 in the ceiling of this crawlspace) if the mechanical equipment and/or any of the ductwork are located in that space.

The City's reasoning behind this is that one of the goals of the SmartRegs program is to promote the most cost-effective, energy efficient improvements while improving living conditions—comfort, safety, indoor air quality etc.—for the renters. The city of Boulder feels that converting unconditioned crawlspaces to conditioned, air sealed, warm, dry spaces is one of the measures that will help them achieve these goals. When modeling this home, the insulation in the crawlspace was included, and therefore, could result in a lower HERS index than would correspond to the achieved 100 points on the SmartRegs checklist.

Facts about SmartRegs

2 Compliance Paths: Prescriptive or Performance

- Prescriptive: 100 points on Checklist
- Performance: HERS Index \leq 120



This home receives no credit for the crawlspace ceiling insulation because the majority of the ductwork is located here.



Main supply plenum from down flow furnace with supply branch takeoffs. 99% of the supplies are located in this crawl.

Also, the affects of conditions like solar exposure, window to wall ratio and roof color are not evaluated on the checklist but can drastically affect a HERS Index, especially in a sunny climate like Colorado's.

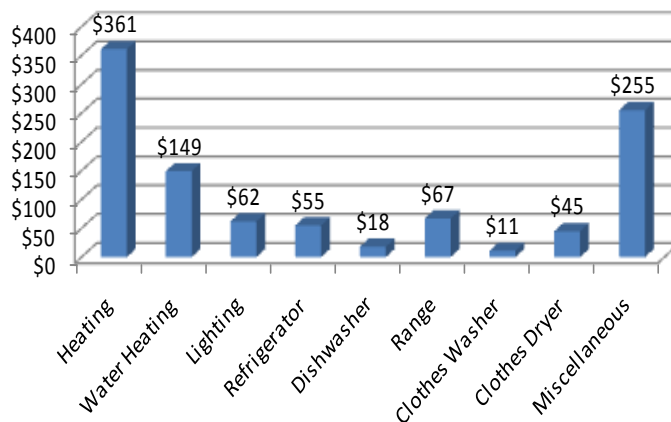
Boulder, CO

SmartRegs requirements were adopted to meet the city's sustainability objectives including environmental health, economic vitality and social equity. According to current statics, rental properties comprise approximately 50 percent of Boulder's housing stock¹. Therefore, by requiring property owners to upgrade rental properties, the SmartRegs program aids in advancing Boulder's community sustainability objectives, and will hopefully result in lower energy bills for tenants.

Predicted annual utility bills for this property are displayed in the graph to the right. REM/Rate predicts an overall annual utility bill of \$1022: about $\frac{1}{3}$ (\$361) is attributed to heating .

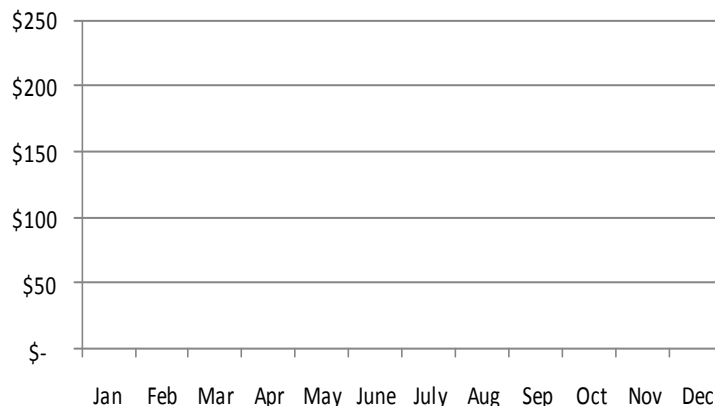
To better analyze programs like SmartRegs, comparisons to actual utility bills are critical. Unfortunately, obtaining utility bills from major providers has been and remains incredibly difficult, even with signed consent forms from homeowners or renters. While this is not necessarily a barrier to program implementation, it is a huge barrier to improving these programs and ensuring that the upgrades being recommended are effective from an energy reduction and a cost-effectiveness standpoint. Removing this barrier is essential in meeting long term program goals.

Predicted Annual Energy Costs



Predicted Monthly Utility Bills from REM/Rate.

Actual Utility Bills: 2010-2011



Actual Utility Bills Could Not Be Obtained.

¹2011 SmartRegs Handbook, City of Boulder



Cold Climate Region: Case Study #1

Rental Property Owner's Story

Page 4

Boulder, CO

The property owner was interviewed to determine his feelings and concerns about Boulder's new SmartRegs ordinance. A summary of his opinions and suggestions for improvements are below.

Q: Why did you decide to participate now and not wait till later in the process?

A: The owner has a long-term interest in energy conservation; "I'm way out in front of what's commonplace for rentals." He also felt that if upgrades were needed, he could determine the most economical course of action and allow for future planning for appliance replacement. This owner owns two rentals and both passed (SmartRegs), so there was no benefit for him in that way (no action required), though if this house had more sun, he would also have added PV.

Q: How long has the owner owned this property?

A: Thirty-six years, since 1975.

Q: Are you educating the occupants about what and why renovations are taking place and how it will benefit them?

A: It's easy with this tenant because he works for Boulder Housing Authority. The tenant posted a copy of the SmartRegs certificate on the refrigerator for all to see!

Q: What's the vacancy rate for your property?

A: Zero

Q: What are your thoughts or comments for others?

A: This owner felt that the focus of this program should be on reducing use of air conditioning because of peak summer demand pushing the city to more power plants. He suggested that solar arrays should be oriented to offset late afternoon summer to aid in reducing summer peak demands. He is also a big proponent of ground source heat pumps and feels they should be used more widely.

NOTE: SWA feels there are arguments for and against ground source heat pumps, and each application should be analyzed individually to determine if the technology is a good fit.

Q. What is your normal maintenance routine – i.e., every few months, once a year, on occupant turn over?

A: Maintenance and general improvements are done during tenant transition, and during crises! The owner relies on the tenant to advise when things are broken.

Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is the lead for the Department of Energy's Building America team called the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB).

CARB would like to thank Populus, LLC, a sustainable design consulting firm and the program administrator for the City of Boulder's SmartRegs program, for their expertise, time and assistance in creating these case studies.

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Cold Climate Region: Case Study #2

City of Boulder, SmartRegs Ordinance

Single Family Detached, 1960's Vintage

Boulder, CO

Program	SmartRegs Ordinance
Location:	Boulder, Colorado
Building Type:	Single Family Detached
Building Size:	1,512 ft ²
Foundation:	Unconditioned Crawlpace
Configuration:	3 bedrooms, 2 baths
SWA Contact:	Lois Arena

This single family detached home is located in Boulder, CO, in an area well known for its small, ranch style homes very often used as rental property. Typical of homes built in the 1950's and 1960's in Boulder, it is a 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom single-story house just over 1,500 ft² built over a crawlspace foundation.

The property manager for this rental became involved in the SmartRegs process early on because the owner of the property is on the board of a rental housing association in Boulder. The owner was interested in stepping through the process so that he could share the experience and lessons learned with members of the association. This home was actually used as a training site for several property owners.

After experiencing the process and understanding the requirements first hand, the property manager for this rental convinced several of her other property owners to sign up early for the SmartRegs audit. Basically, she wanted to determine if their rental properties complied with the City of Boulder's new requirements, and if they didn't, she wanted to ensure they had enough time to plan for needed upgrades.

Efficiency levels in this property were consistent with its year of construction (see table at right). Other than a couple of window replacements, no energy improvements appear to have been made to date. All ductwork and the heating system are located in the vented, unconditioned crawlspace. The addition at the back of the home has slightly higher wall and ceiling R-values than the original structure, but are not to the levels required by current codes.

Based on the blower door result of 2711 cfm@50 pascals, the estimated infiltration rate of this home is approximately 0.59 air changes per hour under natural conditions (ACHn) or 10.5 ACH@50 pascals.



With an initial score of only 89 points on the SmartRegs checklist, this property owner must make some energy efficiency improvements to comply with Boulder's new ordinance.

Energy Efficient Features

Attic:	75% R10 rigid polyisocyanurate 25% R-19 batts
Walls:	Combination of R-11 & R-13 fiberglass batts
Windows:	Combination of double metal, low-e double vinyl, single wood w/ storms
Foundation:	Crawlspace 75 %, Uninsulated, R-0 Slab 25%, Uninsulated, R-0
Heating:	Forced air, natural gas, atmospheric, standing pilot in unconditioned space—68 AFUE
Cooling:	None
Ductwork:	Uninsulated in unconditioned crawl, extremely leaky
Hot Water:	Atmospheric, natural gas, conditioned space—0.56 EF

Air Leakage: 10.5 ACH@50 pascals, 0.59 ACHn

Additional SmartRegs Features

None

SmartRegs Checklist Score*: 89 points**

(The final score must be ≥ 100)

HERS Index: 192

*100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120.

**Auditor assumed a furnace AFUE of 80, should have been 68 according to RESNET standards. This would result in a SmartRegs score of 76.

Boulder, CO

The owner of this property opted to use the prescriptive method of compliance and have the auditor fill out a checklist rather than perform energy modeling to determine if the property was in compliance. Based on the auditors assessment, this home scored 89 points on the SmartRegs checklist and is, therefore, not in compliance with the program. Because the minimum allowable score is 100 points, the owner will have to improve the property by 2019 in order to maintain the rental permit required by the City of Boulder.

When creating the prescriptive checklist, the authors set out to create a threshold that would apply to all homes. After extensive analysis, it was determined that 100 points on the checklist should correspond to a HERS index of 120 points, more or less. With a SmartRegs score of 89, the HERS index for this home should be considerably higher than 120.

SWA checked this assumption by modeling the home using REM/Rate, a simulation program used to analyze the energy use of residential buildings. As anticipated, the HERS index for this property was determined to be 192, significantly higher than 120.

Another goal in creating the SmartRegs checklist was to design a tool that would naturally lead property owners to the most cost-effective and highest impact improvements. For example, many more points are awarded for insulating an uninsulated attic than are given for insulating a slab foundation. Assuming both assemblies are poorly insulated, attic insulation will save much more money, be more cost-effective and is generally easier to accomplish than slab insulation.

Various improvement options for this property owner include:

- Crawlspace: insulating, air sealing and installing a vapor barrier; (14 points—includes points for putting ductwork in conditioned space)
- Reducing duct leakage to 20cfm/100 ft²; (5 points)

Facts about SmartRegs

2 Compliance Paths: Prescriptive or Performance

- Prescriptive: 100 points on Checklist
- Performance: HERS Index \leq 120



All ductwork and the heating system were located in the vented, uninsulated crawlspace.

- Installing compact fluorescent lighting (CFL's) throughout the home; (7 points)
- Installing a programmable thermostat; (1 point)
- Replacing the furnace with a high efficiency, 90+ AFUE model. (17 points)

The property owner is free to implement any combination of energy improvements as long as the final checklist score is at least 100. There are several combinations that would bring this home into compliance. For example, encapsulating and conditioning the crawlspace, reducing the duct leakage and installing a setback thermostat and CFL's would bring this home's true score (see footnote on previous page) to 103. The corresponding HERS index for the home would be 142. Although still higher than the intended HERS index of 120 points, this is a huge improvement. Replacing the furnace, sealing the ductwork and installing CFL's also brings the home into compliance with a SmartRegs score of 105, but again the HERS index is only reduced to 134, not 120.

There could be several reasons why the improved cases do not achieve a HERS Index of 120, but score 100 or more points on the SmartRegs checklist. For instance, the affects of window to wall ratios, solar exposure and roof color are not evaluated on the checklist but can drastically affect a HERS Index, especially in a climate like Colorado's. A score of 100 was meant to approximately equate to a HERS Index of 120. It is anticipated that some homes will exceed and some will be under this threshold.

Boulder, CO

SmartRegs requirements were adopted to meet the city's sustainability objectives including environmental health, economic vitality and social equity. According to current statistics, rental properties comprise approximately 50 percent of Boulder's housing stock¹. Therefore, by requiring property owners to upgrade rental properties, the SmartRegs program aids in advancing Boulder's community sustainability objectives, and will hopefully result in lower energy bills for tenants.

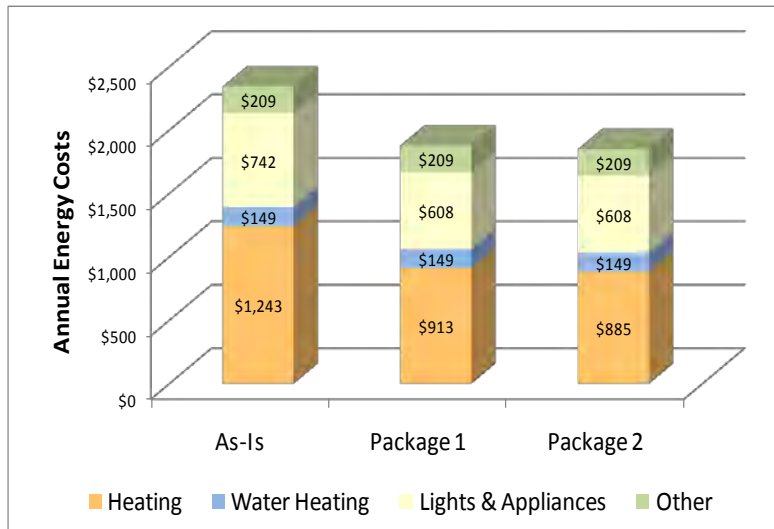
Predicted monthly utility bills for this property as it existed at the time of the initial inspection are displayed in the graph to the right. REM/Rate predicts an annual utility bill of \$2,343: about 53%, \$1,243, is attributed to heating.

Utility bill savings for the first option package discussed on the previous page—encapsulating and conditioning the crawlspace and installing a set-back thermostat and CFL's (HERS index of 142) - results in predicted utility bill savings for the occupants of over \$464 per year.

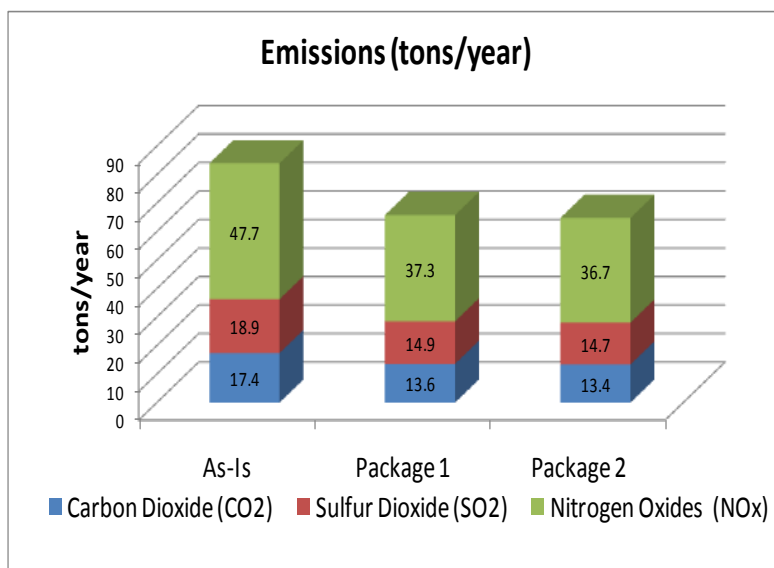
The second option—replacing the furnace, sealing the ductwork and installing CFL's (HERS index of 134) - results in predicted energy savings of \$492 per year.

Predicted emissions reductions are significant as well. Both upgrade packages are predicted to reduce NO_x, SO₂ and CO₂ by more than 20%.

To better analyze programs like SmartRegs, comparisons to actual utility bills are critical. Unfortunately, obtaining utility bills from major providers has been and remains incredibly difficult, even with signed consent forms from homeowners or renters. While this is not necessarily a barrier to program implementation, it is a huge barrier to improving these programs and ensuring that the upgrades being recommended are effective from an energy reduction and a cost-effectiveness standpoint. Removing this barrier is essential in meeting long term program goals.



Predicted utility bills from REM/Rate.



Predicted NO_x, SO₂, and CO₂ emissions from REM/Rate.

¹2011 SmartRegs Handbook, City of Boulder

Boulder, CO

The property manager was interviewed to determine her feelings and concerns about Boulder's new SmartRegs ordinance. A summary of her opinions and suggestions for improvements are below.

Q: Why did you decide to participate now and not wait till later in the process?

A: The owner of this property is on the Boulder Rental Association Board and went through the process for educational purposes for the members of the Association.

This property manager was involved in an outreach/education effort to help inform other property managers and property owners about the SmartRegs program. The owner is on board with the requirements. Both owner and manager express that the program is not as difficult to comply with as anticipated.

Q: How long has the owner owned this property?

A: The owner has owned the property more than 30 years.

Q: Are you educating the occupants about what and why renovations are taking place and how it will benefit them?

A: The manager tries to inform the tenants about what is happening and how it will benefit them. She is not actively marketing the features yet.

Q: What's the vacancy rate for your property?

A: Basically zero. There are no problems with vacancy in Boulder.

Q: What is your normal maintenance routine – i.e., every few months, once a year, on occupant turn over?

A: Maintenance is performed at occupant turnover usually. Occupants typically turn over every year. Upgrades are performed as needed – i.e., a window doesn't work. Then just that window is replaced.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge for you throughout this process?

A: The biggest challenge has been distilling all the information down so that it is easy for the owners to understand. The manager would like educational tools to make this task easier.

Q: What would you like other property owners to know?

A: The process wasn't as difficult as she and the property owners originally anticipated. The information which was circulating about how much money the property owners would have to spend was not accurate.

Q: Do you have any additional concerns about the program?

A: The major concern is that the Boulder city council will keep increasing the requirements of the program.

Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is the lead for the Department of Energy's Building America team called the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB).

CARB would like to thank Populus, LLC, a sustainable design consulting firm and the program administrator for the City of Boulder's SmartRegs program, for their expertise, time and assistance in creating these case studies.

Cold Climate Region: Case Study #3

City of Boulder, SmartRegs Ordinance

Single Family Detached, 1960's Vintage

Boulder, CO

Program	SmartRegs Ordinance
Location:	Boulder, Colorado
Building Type:	Single Family Detached
Building Size:	1,262 ft ²
Foundation:	Unconditioned Crawlspc
Configuration:	3 bedrooms, 2 baths
SWA Contact:	Lois Arena

The southeastern section of Boulder, CO is an area well known for its small, ranch style homes very often used as rental property. This single family detached home is typical of homes built in the 1950's and 1960's in that section of Boulder. It is a 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom single-story house approximately 1,262 ft² built over a crawlspace foundation.

The property owner for this rental became involved in the SmartRegs process early on for a few reasons. First, her rental license was due for renewal, and she reasoned this was a good time to go through the process. Second, she was hoping to bring the property into compliance sooner rather than later in case the city made the requirements even stricter over time. Lastly, she is the editor of a newspaper in a nearby town and was interested in sharing her experience with her readers.

Efficiency levels in this property were consistent with its year of construction (see table at right). Although the owner is diligent about keeping the property in good condition and performing upgrades as components wear out, other than a couple of window replacements, few energy improvements appear to have been made to date.

This is not uncommon when the renters are responsible for the utility bills. There is little incentive for property owners to make the homes more efficient if they are not responsible for the energy costs. Owner occupants are more likely to insulate and air seal their homes than are rental property owners as it directly affects their comfort and monthly finances.



This home's initial score was 62 points on the SmartRegs checklist. This property owner must make some energy efficiency improvements to comply with Boulder's new ordinance.

Energy Efficient Features

Attic:	R-11 batts
Walls:	Uninsulated
Windows:	Combination of double metal, low-e double wood
Foundation:	Crawlspace ceiling R-19, 20% void
Heating:	Forced air, natural gas, 80 AFUE in unconditioned crawlspace
Cooling:	None
Ductwork:	Uninsulated in unconditioned crawl
Hot Water:	Atmospheric, natural gas, conditioned space, 0.56 EF

Air Leakage: 16.4 ACH@50 pascals, 0.88 ACHn

Additional SmartRegs Features

Low-flow faucets and showerheads

SmartRegs Checklist Score*: 62 points**

(The final score must be ≥ 100)

HERS Index: 180

*100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120.

**Original score of 64 was adjusted for a volume correction, the result is a SmartRegs score of 62.

Boulder, CO

As has been quite common to date, the owner of this property opted to use the prescriptive method of compliance and have the auditor fill out a checklist rather than perform energy modeling to determine if the property was in compliance. The checklist is quicker than modeling, provides answers right on site and does not require the additional time and expense of duct leakage testing. If compliance can be gained without modeling, the checklist is a more economical option.

Because the minimum allowable score is 100 points, the owner will have to improve the property by 2019 in order to maintain the rental permit required by the City of Boulder.

Considering that 100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120 points, the HERS index for this home should be considerably higher than 120. For the purpose of this case study, this home was modeled using REM/Rate, a simulation program used to analyze the energy use of residential buildings. As anticipated, the HERS index for this property was determined to be 180, significantly higher than 120.

One goal in creating the SmartRegs checklist was to design a tool that would naturally lead property owners to the most cost-effective and highest impact improvements. For example, many more points are awarded for insulating an uninsulated attic than are given for insulating a slab foundation. Assuming both assemblies are poorly insulated, attic insulation will save much more money, be more cost-effective and is generally easier to implement than slab insulation.

During the first round of development, program developers had intended that no points would be gained if the attic insulation was less than R-19 (see SmartRegs checklist section at right).

Facts about SmartRegs

2 Compliance Paths: Prescriptive or Performance

- Prescriptive: ≥ 100 points on Checklist
- Performance: HERS Index ≤ 120



Attic is only insulated to R-11.

ATTIC	Base: _____ Final: _____			
TYPE	25%	50%	75%	100%
No Insulation	0	0	0	0
R-19	6	12	18	24
R-30	6	13	19	26
R-38 or Better	7	13	20	26
Shared Ceilings	7	14	20	27

Attic Section of SmartRegs Checklist

Unfortunately, because neither the checklist nor the manual mention how to handle insulation levels between 0 and 19, the same points are currently being awarded to homes with R-19 insulation and homes with only R-11. Awarding so many points removes the incentive to insulate these poorly insulated attics, an upgrade that would be cost-effective, benefit the occupants and help the City of Boulder achieve its energy reduction goals. Administrators are aware of this issue and intend to make revisions in the future.

Boulder, CO

Various improvement options for this property owner include:

- Crawlspace: insulating the walls to R-19, air sealing and installing a vapor barrier (16 points—includes points for bringing ductwork into conditioned space);
- Reducing duct leakage to 20cfm/100 ft² (5 points);
- Insulating the attic to R-38 (2 points);
- Replacing the furnace with a high efficiency, 90+ AFUE model (17 points);
- Installing an ENERGY STAR refrigerator <= 450 kWh/yr (3 points);
- Blowing insulation into the exterior walls, R12 (20 points);
- Reducing the air leakage to 0.59 ACHn (2 points);

The property owner is free to implement any combination of energy improvements as long as the final checklist score is at least 100. There are several combinations that would bring this home into compliance. For example the following two packages would bring the SmartRegs score to 100 points.

Package #1: (+38 points)

- Encapsulating and conditioning the crawl-space,
- increasing the attic insulation to R-38,
- Insulating the exterior walls to R-12

This package results in a HERS Index of 114 and a SmartRegs score of 100.

Package #2: (+38 points)

- Encapsulating and conditioning the crawl-space,
- Increasing the attic insulation to R-38,
- Install a high efficiency furnace
- Replace refrigerator w/ 450 kWh/yr unit

Package #2 results in a HERS Index of 121 and a SmartRegs score of 100.

Note that, while the HERS Indices are slightly different for both upgrade scenarios where the SmartRegs scores are 100, both HERS Indices are very near the intended threshold of 120.



All ductwork and the heating system were located in the vented crawlspace. Insulation was falling down in multiple locations.



Attic is only insulated to R-11.

	Package 1	Package 2
Upgrade Items	Insulate & Condition Crawl Insulate Attic to R-38 Insulate Exterior Walls	Insulate & Condition Crawl Insulate Attic to R-38 Install 90 AFUE Furnace Replace Refrigerator
SmartRegs	100	100
Hers Index	114	121

Boulder, CO

SmartRegs requirements were adopted to meet the city's sustainability objectives including environmental health, economic vitality and social equity. According to current statistics, rental properties comprise approximately 50 percent of Boulder's housing stock¹. Therefore, by requiring property owners to upgrade rental properties, the SmartRegs program aids in advancing Boulder's community sustainability objectives, and will hopefully result in lower energy bills for tenants.

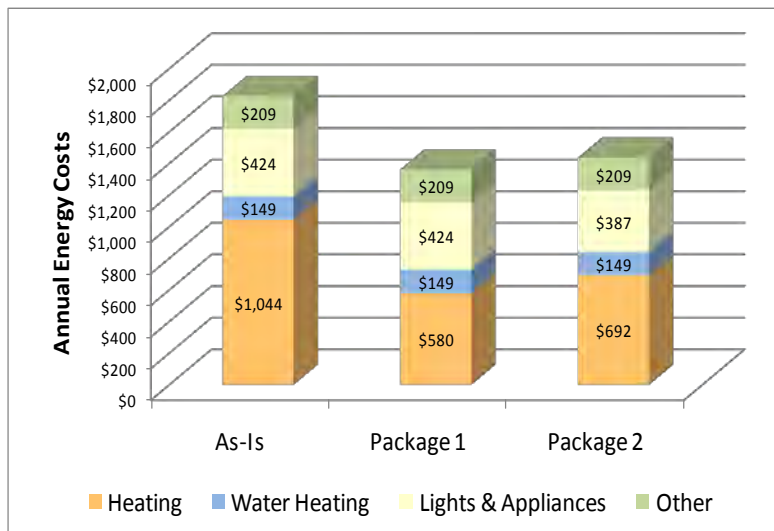
Predicted monthly utility bills for this property as it existed at the time of the initial inspection are displayed in the graph to the right. REM/Rate predicts an annual utility bill of \$1,826: about 57%, \$1,044, is attributed to heating.

Utility bill savings for the first option package discussed on the previous page—encapsulating and conditioning the crawlspace and insulating the attic and insulating the walls (HERS index of 114) - results in predicted energy savings of \$464 per year.

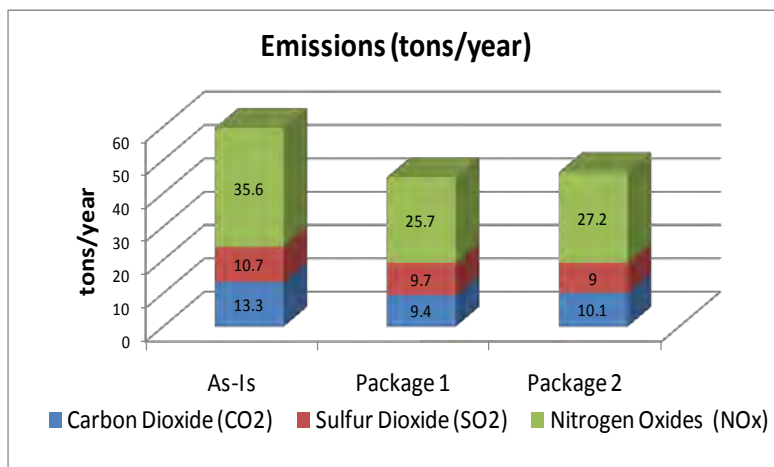
The second option—encapsulating and conditioning the crawlspace, insulating the attic and replacing the furnace and refrigerator (HERS Index of 121) - results in predicted energy savings of \$389 per year.

Predicted emissions reductions are significant as well. Both upgrade packages are predicted to reduce NO_x, SO₂ and CO₂ between 9% to 30%, with Package 1 resulting in the greatest savings.

To better analyze programs like SmartRegs, comparisons to actual utility bills are critical. Unfortunately, obtaining utility bills from major providers has been and remains incredibly difficult, even with signed consent forms from homeowners or renters. While this is not necessarily a barrier to program implementation, it is a huge barrier to improving these programs and ensuring that the upgrades being recommended are effective from an energy reduction and a cost-effectiveness standpoint. Removing this barrier is essential in meeting long term program goals.



Predicted utility bills from REM/Rate.



Predicted NO_x, SO₂, and CO₂ emissions from REM/Rate.

¹2011 SmartRegs Handbook, City of Boulder

Boulder, CO

The property owner was interviewed to determine her feelings and concerns about Boulder's new SmartRegs ordinance. A summary of her opinions and suggestions for improvements are below.

Q: Why did you decide to participate now and not wait till later in the process?

A: The owner's rental license renewal was coming up in July. She needed to know what the results of the audit would be because she does upgrades in increments – something each year. She also thought that if she complied early and the city decided to make the requirements tougher, she would be grandfathered in.

Q: How long has the owner owned this property?

A: Since 1989. This is the owner's only rental property.

Q: What's the vacancy rate for your property?

A: Although renters often stay for only one year, the owner has no problems renting this property.

Q: What is your normal maintenance routine – i.e., every few months, once a year, on occupant turn over?

A: The owner typically performs maintenance at changeover, and whenever the occupants inform her that something needs repair.

Q: What are your thoughts or comments for others?

A: There is some confusion over how the bidding process works. This owner thought she was given only 3 contractors to choose from to perform the necessary improvements, but that is not actually the case. Owners are provided a list of over 15 approved contractors (to date) and can choose any three to provide them with bids.

She was also under the impression that the inspector pool was closed making it unfair to others who would like to participate. Populus, the program administrators, state that this is not the case.

Finally, she feels that there is a conflict of interest by allowing contractors to be inspectors.

Overall, the owner didn't think it was quite as difficult as anticipated, but feels the city is not being fair because all homeowners, not just landlords, should have to comply with the same rules.

SWA's response to the last comment is that while it may seem unfair to require this program for landlords and not all property owners, owner occupants are much more likely to improve the efficiency of their homes because it directly improves their comfort and monthly finances. Owner occupants have a much higher incentive to perform upgrades and therefore, their housing stock on average will already be much more energy efficient than the rental property housing stock.

Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is the lead for the Department of Energy's Building America team called the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB).

CARB would like to thank Populus, LLC, a sustainable design consulting firm and the program administrator for the City of Boulder's SmartRegs program, for their expertise, time and assistance in creating these case studies.

Cold Climate Region: Case Study #4 City of Boulder, SmartRegs Ordinance Single Family Detached, Historic

Boulder, CO

Program	SmartRegs Ordinance
Location:	Boulder, Colorado
Building Type:	Single Family Detached
Building Size:	2252 ft ²
Foundation:	Conditioned Basement
Configuration:	3 bedrooms, 2 baths
SWA Contact:	Lois Arena

This single family detached rental home is located in Boulder's highly desirable Mapleton Hill neighborhood. It is a 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom two-story house approximately 2252 ft² built over a conditioned, unfinished basement/crawlspace foundation. The home was built in 1911 and holds a historic designation, which means little can be done to the outside of the building without written approval from the City.

The property owner for this rental became involved in the SmartRegs process early on for a few reasons. First, she is a real estate broker who believes that complying with the latest requirements is smart business decision, because buyers will factor this in to their purchasing decision. Also, she argues that since landlords must comply with these regulations anyway, she might as well make any necessary improvements sooner rather than later. Besides this, the owner sees herself as environmentally conscious and believes that improving the energy efficiency of her properties is the right thing to do.

Efficiency levels of the building shell—walls, attic and foundation—were consistent with its year of construction (see table at right), but the heating and cooling systems have been upgraded with high efficiency equipment and the ductwork, where accessible, has been sealed. At the time of the inspection for this case study, the owner was employing a carpenter, who specializes in historic properties, to perform extensive air sealing for her.

This property was between rentals when this case study was conducted because of the extent of the improvements being done, but like all the other landlords interviewed, this owner indicated that she has never had any problems renting her properties in Boulder.



This historic home scored 87 points on the SmartRegs checklist. The property owner must make some energy efficiency improvements to comply with Boulder's new ordinance.

Energy Efficient Features

Attic:	R-11 rock wool
Walls:	Uninsulated
Windows:	Single pane wood
Foundation:	Conditioned basement/crawlspace R-0
Heating:	Forced air, natural gas, 90+ AFUE in conditioned basement
Cooling:	SEER 15
Ductwork:	In conditioned basement
Hot Water:	Atmospheric, natural gas, conditioned space, 0.58 EF

Air Leakage: 16.6 ACH@50 pascals, 0.90 ACHn

Additional SmartRegs Features

None

SmartRegs Checklist Score*: 87 points**
(The final score must be ≥ 100)

HERS Index: 155

*100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120.

**Adjustments were made to auditor's original score of 75. See Compliance section on page 2 for explanation of adjustments.

Boulder, CO

This property owner, like many others, opted to use the prescriptive method of compliance and have the auditor fill out a checklist rather than perform energy modeling to determine if the property was in compliance. A SmartRegs score of 100 is meant to approximately equate to a HERS Index of 120. It is anticipated that some homes will exceed and some will be under this threshold.

Although the auditor originally calculated an as-is score of 75 on the SmartRegs checklist, a few corrections had to be made based on information gained during this case study. The corrections are as follows:

- -2 points, water heater was less efficient than originally assumed;
- -1 point, the refrigerator was less efficient than originally assumed;
- -5 points, the % of basement wall was too high;
- +6 points, cooling was not given credit originally
- +14 points, ducts were not test during initial audit but were tested during case study inspection

The total of these adjustments is +12 points resulting in a SmartRegs score of 87 (HERS Index of 155 points). Because the minimum allowable score is 100 points, the owner will have to improve the property by 2019 in order to maintain the rental permit required by the City of Boulder.

Insulation improvements to this home would be difficult in most areas, including the attic. There is no access to the knee wall areas on the 2nd floor, so insulating the sloped sections of the attic and the knee walls would not be possible without making several new access hatches. Another problem with insulating the attic is the presence of the knob and tube wiring, which should be replaced with new wiring before any additional insulation is installed.

Because this home is historic and has brick walls on the 1st floor, improvements to the exterior walls from the outside are not usually a viable option. In addition to this, the interior finish is lath and plaster which makes insulating walls

Facts about SmartRegs

2 Compliance Paths: Prescriptive or Performance

- Prescriptive: ≥ 100 points on Checklist
- Performance: HERS Index ≤ 120



Attic is only insulated to R-10 and contains knob and tube wiring.

from the inside extremely difficult, messy and destructive.

Insulating the basement/crawl is not even a very viable option due to the amount of personal property currently being stored there.

The easiest upgrade option to bring this home into compliance would be to add storm windows to all the windows in the home. Although expensive, these would have a significant impact on the energy use of the home and on the comfort of the occupants. On historic properties, adding storm windows gains the owner 13 points. This would bring the SmartRegs score up to 100 for this property and results in a HERS Index of 144 points.

There could be several reasons why the improved case does not achieve a HERS Index of 120, but scores 100 or more points on the SmartRegs checklist. For this home, it is anticipated that this discrepancy comes from the fact that the ceiling is getting full credit for being insulated to R-19, when it is really a combination of about R-10 on the flat sections and R-0 on the sloped (program administrators intend to correct this in the future). Also, storm windows on historic homes receive more than twice the points as window with a similar efficiency on a non-historic home. This is to ease some of the burden on the owners, because improving historic properties is usually so difficult and costly. If these two components are upgraded to the actual levels on the checklist for which they are being given points—R-19 attic and U-0.35 windows—the resulting HERS Index is 125, very close to the intended threshold.

Boulder, CO

SmartRegs requirements were adopted to meet the city's sustainability objectives including environmental health, economic vitality and social equity. According to current statistics, rental properties comprise approximately 50 percent of Boulder's housing stock¹. Therefore, by requiring property owners to upgrade rental properties, the SmartRegs program aids in advancing Boulder's community sustainability objectives, and will hopefully result in lower energy bills for tenants.

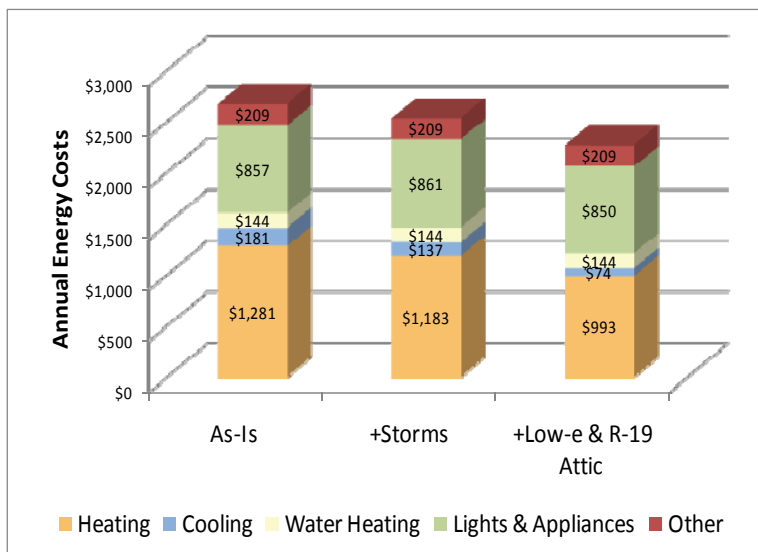
Predicted monthly utility bills for this property as it existed at the time of the initial inspection are displayed in the graph to the right. REM/Rate predicts an annual utility bill of \$2,672: about 50%, \$1,281, is attributed to heating.

Installing storm windows (HERS index of 144) - results in predicted annual utility bill savings for the occupants of about \$138 per year.

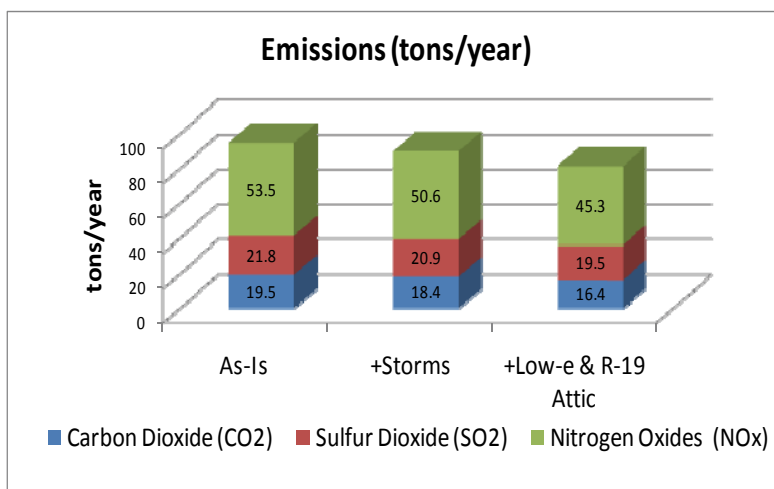
Predicted emissions reductions range from 4 to 7%. Total emissions are displayed in the graph to the right.

If efficiencies of the windows and attic were actually brought to the levels for which they are being (or would be, in the case of the windows) given credit on the SmartRegs checklist, annual savings increase to about \$400 per year, and emissions reductions range from 11 to 16% over the levels currently predicted for this property.

To better analyze programs like SmartRegs, comparisons to actual utility bills are critical. Unfortunately, obtaining utility bills from major providers has been and remains incredibly difficult, even with signed consent forms from homeowners or renters. While this is not necessarily a barrier to program implementation, it is a huge barrier to improving these programs and ensuring that the upgrades being recommended are effective from an energy reduction and a cost-effectiveness standpoint. Removing this barrier is essential in meeting long term program goals.



Predicted utility bills from REM/Rate.



Predicted NO_x, SO₂, and CO₂ emissions from REM/Rate.

¹2011 SmartRegs Handbook, City of Boulder

Boulder, CO

The property owner was interviewed to determine her feelings and concerns about Boulder's new SmartRegs ordinance. A summary of her opinions and suggestions for improvements are below.

Q: Why did you decide to participate now and not wait till later in the process?

A: The owner sees herself as a perfectionist and is information driven. She is also a real estate broker and feels compliance will affect property value because buyers will look for it. She argues that landlords must comply with these new regulations, so they might as well do it sooner rather than later. She also believes improving the efficiency of her properties is the right thing to do for the environment.

Q: How long has the owner owned this property?

A: 8 years. The owner bought this property as a rental, but is currently living in it while remodeling.

Q: Are you educating the occupants about what and why renovations are taking place and how it will benefit them?

A: Yes, the owner tries to raise the consciousness of the renters. She has 13 other rentals in all, some out of state.

Q: What's the vacancy rate for your property?

A: There are no problems with vacancy in Boulder.

Q: What is your normal maintenance routine – i.e., every few months, once a year, on occupant turn over?

A: This landlord provides occupants with enough furnace filters for a monthly change for the entire year. On occupant turnover she cleans, repairs things, reseals baths, and replaces all light bulbs.

Q: What would you like other property owners to know?

A: This owner believes that information is power; that if you don't know what is wrong or what is required, you can't fix it. She feels that other property owners have nothing to lose by having the inspection, since they have to comply anyway. The landlord feels it's the right thing to do, otherwise, you're wasting resources.

Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is the lead for the Department of Energy's Building America team called the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB).

CARB would like to thank Populus, LLC, a sustainable design consulting firm and the program administrator for the City of Boulder's SmartRegs program, for their expertise, time and assistance in creating these case studies.

Cold Climate Region: Case Study #5 City of Boulder, SmartRegs Ordinance Low-Rise Multi-Family, 1960's Vintage

Boulder, CO

Program	SmartRegs Ordinance
Location:	Boulder, Colorado
Building Type:	Low-Rise Multi-Family
Building Size:	35,000+ ft ² living space
Foundation:	Slab-on-grade
Configuration:	3 Stories, 69 Units,
SWA Contact:	Lois Arena

Built in 1966, this 35,000+ ft² apartment building was constructed on a slab-on-grade foundation with a flat, unvented roof. Due to height restrictions in the City of Boulder, most buildings, including multi-family buildings, are 3 stories or less in height. This 69 unit apartment complex fits that description.

The configuration of this building is somewhat unique in that it has a center courtyard for the residents' use. This configuration, sort of a square doughnut, results in at least 2 exterior walls for each apartment.

Efficiency levels in this property were consistent with its year and type of construction (see table at right). The apartments are heated with hot water base-board radiators that are fed from two gas-fired central boilers.

These boilers also provide the domestic hot water for the occupants. Each boiler heats 2-119 gallon indirect hot water storage tanks to meet the daily hot water needs of the residents.

Since no nameplate information could be obtained from these boilers, the efficiencies were assumed to be 65 AFUE. These values are based on age and RESNET's Home Energy Rating System (HERS) standards, Table 303.7.1(3) Default Values for Mechanical System Efficiencies. The water heating efficiency is based on this AFUE and then reduced slightly to account for standby losses from the tanks.

Of the 69 apartments, 5 offer 2 bedrooms while the rest are 1 bedroom units. Apartment sizes are 470, 600 and 800 ft², the majority (56) of which are the smaller 470 ft² apartments. Other than the outdoor courtyard, common spaces are limited to a small laundry room and a couple of entryways.



This 3-story, multi-family apartment building in Boulder, CO offers a central courtyard for tenant use.

Energy Efficient Features

Roof:	R-19 batts, unvented
Walls:	R-11
Windows:	Single metal
Foundation:	Slab-on-grade, R-0

Heating:	Central boilers (2), natural gas, 65 AFUE
Cooling:	Window Units, SEER 8
Hot Water:	Indirect tank off boiler, 0.60 EF

Air Leakage: 9.7 ACH@50 pascals, 0.52 ACHn

Additional SmartRegs Features

None

SmartRegs Checklist Score: from 92 to 104 points

(Score must be ≥ 100 points)

HERS Index: from 112 to 128

*100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120.

Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is the lead for the Department of Energy's Building America team called the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB).

CARB would like to thank Populus, LLC, a sustainable design consulting firm and the program administrator for the City of Boulder's SmartRegs program, for their expertise, time and assistance in creating these case studies.

Boulder, CO

The manager of this property opted to use the prescriptive method of compliance and have the auditor fill out a checklist rather than perform energy modeling to determine if the property was in compliance. The checklist is quicker than modeling, provides answers right on site and does not require the additional time and expense of duct leakage testing. If compliance can be gained without modeling, the checklist is a more economical option.

Each apartment will be scored individually in the SmartRegs program to account for floor plan configuration differences. Differences in layout can result in different exposed wall areas, which in turn, can affect the SmartRegs score. Also depending on which level the apartment is located on, the unit may or may not have exposed ceilings or floors (slab). For example, a corner unit on the 1st floor will generally have a lower SmartRegs score than a center unit on the 2nd floor, because that second floor unit will have less wall exposed to the outside and will have neither a floor nor a ceiling exposed to the outside. These are both examples where the 2nd floor unit will gain more points than the 1st floor unit.

The following table lists the scores for a center unit and a corner unit on each floor of the building.

	As-Is SmartRegs Scores		
	1st Floor	2nd Floor	3rd Floor
Center	95	104	101
Corner	92	101	98

Because the minimum allowable score is 100 points, the property owner will have to improve the property by 2019 in order to maintain the rental permit required by the City of Boulder.

Based on the worse case scenario of 92 points for a 1st floor corner unit, 8 additional points would be needed to meet the SmartRegs threshold. Considering that the building is already getting substantial points for its walls, roof and infiltration, the areas of greatest opportunity are the windows and the heating system.

Facts about SmartRegs

2 Compliance Paths: Prescriptive or Performance

- Prescriptive: 100 \geq points on Checklist
- Performance: HERS Index \leq 120



All the windows in this apartment complex are single pane metal windows.

This owner has chosen to replace all the single pane metal windows with low-e, vinyl windows with efficiencies of U-0.29. This upgrade gains 14 points on the SmartRegs checklist. When applied to all the as-is scores, all units come into compliance as can be seen in the following table.

	SmartRegs w/ New Windows (U-0.29)		
	1st Floor	2nd Floor	3rd Floor
Center	109	118	115
Corner	106	115	112

For purposes of this case study, the small, center apartments were modeled using REM/Rate, a simulation program used to analyze the energy use of residential buildings. Small, center units were chosen because this is the configuration of the majority of the apartments in this building. The HERS Indices for this property as-is ranged from 112 for the 2nd floor center unit to 128 for the 1st floor center unit, showing very good agreement with the goals of program creators and administrators:

100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120 points.

After the windows are upgraded, the HERS Indices for the center units on all three floors fall at or below 106.

Boulder, CO

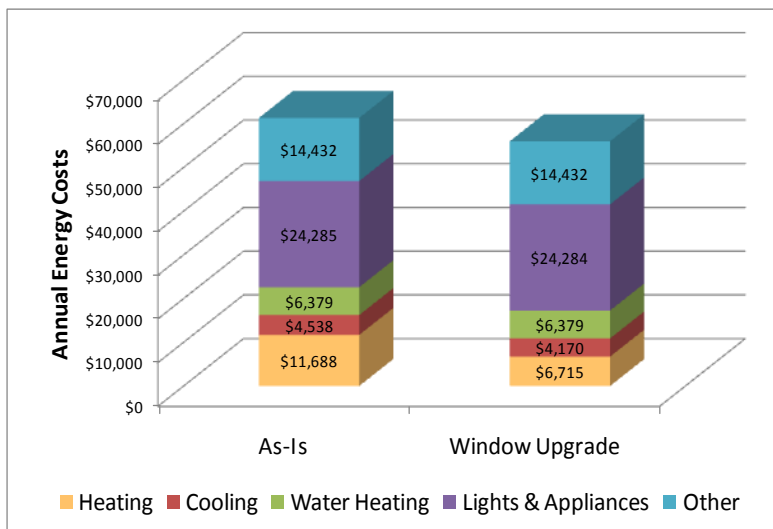
SmartRegs requirements were adopted to meet the city's sustainability objectives including environmental health, economic vitality and social equity. According to current statistics, rental properties comprise approximately 50 percent of Boulder's housing stock¹. Therefore, by requiring property owners to upgrade rental properties, the SmartRegs program aids in advancing Boulder's community sustainability objectives, and will hopefully result in lower energy bills for tenants.

Predicted monthly utility bills for this property as it existed at the time of the initial inspection are displayed in the graphs to the right. The top graph shows the predicted annual utility bills for all 69 apartments. The bottom graph shows the annual bills for one 1st floor, center unit. Modeling this building either way—as one entire building or individual units—predicts an energy savings of just under \$80 per apartment per year after the metal windows are replaced with the low-e vinyl windows (U-0.29).

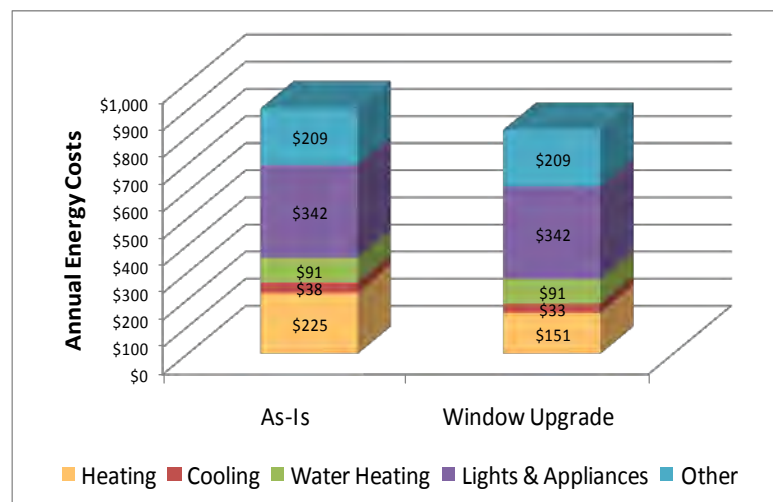
Compared to the single family case studies conducted, the majority of the predicted energy bills for this building are associated with the lights and appliances. This is understandable considering that many of the surfaces in each apartment border another apartment, therefore, little heat is lost. On a square foot basis, multi-family homes and apartments use much less energy for heating and cooling given the same efficiency values and conditioned square footage of detached homes.

This is not to say that upgrades that reduce heating and cooling loads should be overlooked in multi-family buildings. It should just be noted that the same improvements that may have been cost-effective on a detached home, won't necessarily be cost-effective on a multi-family unit of the same size.

To better analyze programs like SmartRegs, comparisons to actual utility bills are critical. Unfortunately, obtaining utility bills from major providers has been and remains incredibly difficult, even with signed consent forms from homeowners or renters. While this is not necessarily a barrier to



Predicted utility bills for all apartments from REM/Rate.



Predicted utility bills for one 1st floor, center unit.

program implementation, it is a huge barrier to improving these programs and ensuring that the upgrades being recommended are effective from an energy reduction and a cost-effectiveness standpoint. Removing this barrier is essential in meeting long term program goals.

¹2011 SmartRegs Handbook, City of Boulder



Cold Climate Region Case Study #6: 1036 12th Street City of Boulder, SmartRegs Ordinance Multi-Family, Early 1900's Vintage

Boulder, CO

Program:	SmartRegs Ordinance
Location:	Boulder, Colorado
Building Type:	Multi-Family
Number of units:	2
Building Size:	1033 ft ² Upper/285 ft ² Lower
Foundation:	Basement/Crawlspace: Unconditioned
Configuration:	3 bedrooms, 2 baths
SWA Contact:	Lois Arena

Due to their proximity to the University of Colorado, there are several older neighborhoods in Boulder that are dominated by rental properties. Many of these old, single family homes, such as this bungalow built in 1919, have been divided into more than one unit: this home has been divided into two rental units. The main level plus a loft area comprise one (upper unit), and a much smaller garden basement area (lower unit) comprises the other.

According to Boulder's SmartRegs requirements, each rental unit in a building must be tested and scored separately. Unusual layouts, common walls and floors, shared equipment, and occupant use of the space can make this quite challenging. Efficiency levels and testing results for each unit in this home are shown in the table at right. As can be seen in that table, the resulting SmartRegs scores and HERS Indices are quite different for each even though they are located in the same building.

It is common when rating multi-family buildings that some units will score better than others. Contributing factors include whether the unit is on the bottom, middle or top floor of the building, the amount of exposed surface to outside, and differences in lighting and appliances in each space. Differences in the HERS Index can also be the result of the affects of solar exposure and the amount of window area.

The lower unit in this building, being partially below grade and substantially bordered by conditioned space of the upper unit (entire ceiling and 50% of the walls) scores much higher on the SmartRegs checklist than the upper unit. Of the 51 point difference between the two units, 43 points come from the fact that the lower unit's ceiling and 50% of its walls border the upper unit.



This home has been divided into two rental units. While the lower unit complies with Boulder's SmartRegs ordinance, improvements must be made to the upper unit .

Energy Efficient Features

Attic:	R-11 blown & batts
Walls:	Uninsulated brick
Windows:	Predominantly single pane wood
Foundation:	Crawlspace ceiling R-19, Basement R-0
Heating:	Central system - forced air, natural gas, 80 AFUE, in unconditioned basement
Cooling:	None
Ductwork:	Uninsulated & in unconditioned space
Hot Water:	Atmospheric, natural gas, unconditioned space, 0.59 EF
Air Leakage:	Upper: 31.4 ACH@50 pascals, 2.12 ACHn Lower: 43.5 ACH@50 pascals, 1.96 ACHn

Additional SmartRegs Features

Low-flow faucets and showerheads, programmable thermostat

**SmartRegs Checklist Score*: 59 points Upper
110 points Lower**

(The final score must be ≥ 100)

HERS Index: 181 Upper/128 Lower

*100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120.

Boulder, CO

The minimum allowable score when using the prescriptive method for compliance with Boulder's SmartRegs ordinance is 100 points. The lower unit of this property scores 110 points, but the upper only scores 59, therefore, the owner will have to improve the upper unit of this property by 2019 in order to maintain their rental license.

When developing the SmartRegs checklist, program creators intended that 100 points should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120. Given this assumption, the lower unit should have a HERS Index less than 120, and the upper should have an index well above that.

To validate this assumption, SWA modeled both units in this home using REM/Rate, a simulation program used to analyze the energy use of residential buildings. As anticipated, the upper unit received a HERS Index of 181, much higher than 120 points, but the lower unit only received an index of 128 even though the SmartRegs score was 110.

There could be several reasons why the HERS Index is higher than 120, but according to the SmartRegs prescriptive checklist, the unit is in compliance. A few issues that affect the HERS index but not the SmartRegs score include:

- Smaller homes tend to get higher HERS Indices because the surface area to volume ratios are higher than for larger homes.
- The higher the window to wall area ratio the more heat loss from the home. SmartRegs doesn't measure areas, just efficiencies of the components.
- Orientation is not considered in SmartRegs, but will affect a HERS index due to its impact on solar gain.
- SmartRegs uses steps in efficiency levels and associates points with each step (table at right) vs. using the actual efficiency as is done in a HERS model.
- Definitions of conditioned vs. unconditioned basements are slightly different between the two methods.

Facts about SmartRegs

2 Compliance Paths: Prescriptive or Performance

- Prescriptive: ≥ 100 points on Checklist
- Performance: HERS Index ≤ 120



Garden Level Lower Apartment

ATTIC	Base:				Final:
	25%	50%	75%	100%	
No Insulation	0	0	0	0	
R-19	6	12	18	24	
R-30	6	13	19	26	
R-38 or Better	7	13	20	26	
Shared Ceilings	7	14	20	27	

Attic Section of SmartRegs Checklist

Therefore, although 100 on the checklist is intended to approximately equate to a HERS Index of 120, it can sometimes be higher or lower than that.

In the case of this lower unit, it is in fact only 285 ft²: a very small space. It also receives very little solar gain because most of the windows are highly shaded by neighboring property and vegetation. And finally, although the basement of the upper unit is considered conditioned according to SmartRegs standards, it is modeled as unconditioned according to HERS standards.

Boulder, CO

Various improvement options for this property owner include:

- Bsmt/Crawlspace (50% of unit's footprint): insulating the walls to R-19, air sealing and installing a vapor barrier on the crawlspace floor (6 points—includes points for bringing ductwork into conditioned space);
- Insulating 75% of the attic to R-30 (20 points—25% is vaulted and cannot be brought to R-30);
- Replacing the water heater with an instantaneous, 82 EF model (5 points);
- Installing an ENERGY STAR refrigerator ≤ 350 kWh/yr (4 points);
- Install storm windows on all single-pane, wood windows (6 points);
- Reducing the air leakage to 0.75 ACHn (4 points);

Package 1: The property owner is free to implement any combination of energy improvements as long as the final checklist score is at least 100. If all of the above improvements are implemented, the upper unit would score 104 points and results in a HERS Index of 115. The costs to implement all of the above improvements would probably exceed \$10,000.

Another option would be to install at least 1 kW of PV (photovoltaics) on the roof. This upgrade receives 44 points on the SmartRegs checklist, but can only be counted toward compliance if the home already scores 70 points or higher. Since the upper unit only scores a 59 in its current condition, efficiency improvements that increase the score by at least 11 points will have to be made first before the PV can be counted.

Package 2: The easiest improvement would be to insulate the flat ceilings to R-30 for 20 points, and then install 1 kW of PV for an additional 44 bringing the final SmartRegs score to 123. Costs for this option would be around \$4000.

While this combination of improvements results in compliance with the prescriptive path, the corresponding HERS Index is only 162. The impacts on utility bills, energy use and greenhouse gas production are addressed on the following page.



R-19 insulation is installed between the floor joists in the ceiling of this crawlspace but gets no credit on the SmartRegs checklist because heating ducts are present.



Attic is only insulated to R-11. Kneewall access hatches are extremely leaky.

SmartRegs Score and HERS Index for each Upgrade Package.

	Package 1	Package 2
Upgrade Item	Attic & Foundation Insulation, Storm Windows, 0.75 ACHn, New Refridg., Instant. Water Heater	Attic Insulation, PV
SmartRegs	104	123
Hers Index	115	162

Boulder, CO

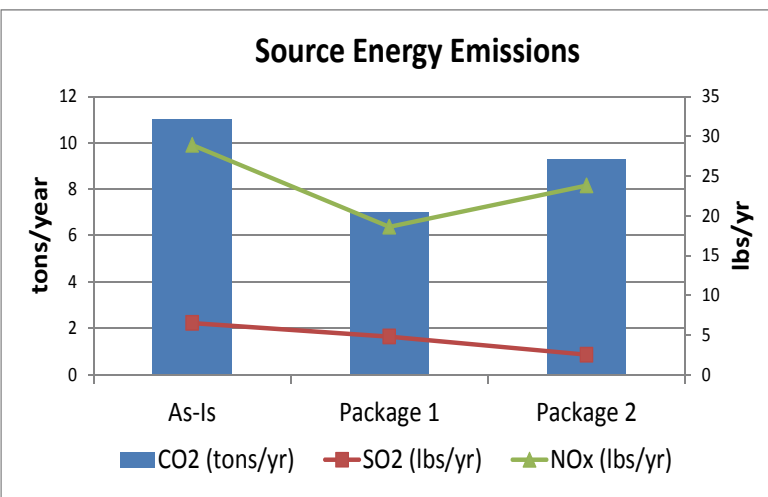
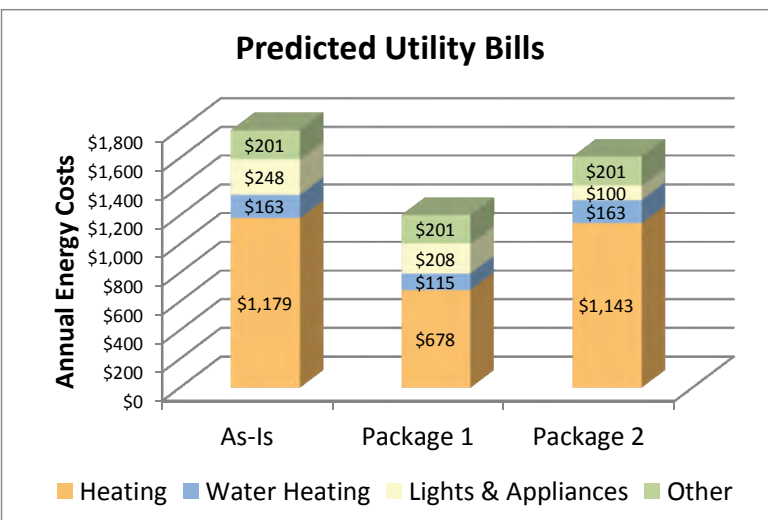
Predicted monthly utility bills for this property as it existed at the time of the initial inspection are displayed in the graph to the right. REM/Rate predicts an annual utility bill of \$1,791: about 66%, \$1,179, is attributed to heating. The first option package discussed on the previous page—insulating the foundation and attic, air sealing, storm windows, new water heater and refrigerator (HERS index of 115)—results in predicted utility bill savings of 33% or \$589 per year and a 38% reduction in energy consumption (see table bottom right). The second improvement package—insulating the attic and installing 1 kW of PV (HERS Index of 162)—results in predicted utility bill savings of 10% or \$184 per year and a 7% reduction in energy consumption.

The predicted green house gas emissions for each of the three scenarios evaluated in this report are displayed in the figure to the right. When creating the SmartRegs checklist, developers weighted the points using a number of different parameters. A measure's impact on greenhouse gas reduction was one of those parameters. The result was: improvements that reduce electric use are more heavily weighted than those that reduce gas use. Here's why.

The amount of CO₂ emitted per 1 MMBtu of energy produced from burning coal is almost twice that of natural gas¹. When production and transmission losses from the power plant are factored in, emissions due to electricity generation increase by a factor of 3.3². This is the difference between energy produced at the "source" (the power plant) and energy consumed at the "site" (the home). This means that emissions from electricity generation using coal are really a factor of six greater than those from burning natural gas to heat a home in Colorado's climate.

Therefore, even though Package #2 saves fewer MMBtu's at the site than Package #1 (7% reduction vs. 38%), it results in a bigger reduction in greenhouse gases per MMBtu saved (table at right) when energy use at the source is considered. This is why installing PV is weighted so heavily and gains 44 points on the SmartRegs checklist. Installing PV results in bigger reductions in greenhouse gases per MMBtu saved than measures that reduce natural gas use.

Reductions in Energy Use and Emissions



Reduction Compared to As-Is Case		
	Package 1	Package 2
Utility Bills	33%	10%
Emissions	34%	23%
Annual Energy Consumption	38%	7%
Tons of CO ₂ /MMBtu Saved	0.07	0.15

¹<http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=74&t=11>

²http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/evaluate_performance/site_source.pdf

Boulder, CO

This property is owned by the foundation of a local church. One of the board members assisting with the management of the rental was interviewed to determine the board's feelings and concerns about Boulder's new SmartRegs ordinance. A summary of his opinions and suggestions for improvements are below.

Q. Why did you decide to participate now and not wait till later in the process?

A: The board of this foundation chose to participate now to take advantage of free inspections and to start the planning process in the case that improvements would need to be made.

Q. How long has the owner owned this property?

A: This property has been owned for approximately 15 years by a foundation for a local church. They own a total of 2 rental properties.

Q. Are you educating the occupants about what and why renovations are taking place and how it will benefit them?

A: There is no tenant education at this time. The church board is evaluating its improvement options and has yet to make any decisions.

Q. What's the vacancy rate for your property?

A: Like most other rental property owners in Boulder, these owners indicated that they have no problems with vacancy.

Q. What is your normal maintenance routine – i.e., every few months, once a year, on occupant turn over?

A: The foundation performs maintenance as necessary every 4 years upon their rental license renewal.

Q. Concerns?

A: The owner's biggest concern is the cost to improve the property when the land the house sits on is worth so much more than the house. The board feels that SmartRegs is disconnected from the point that the people paying the bills are not the people improving the house.

SmartRegs representatives explained that this is the purpose for the ordinance. That without it, rental property owners would not improve the energy efficiency of these units given that they are not paying the bills, and therefore, have no incentive to make any improvements to reduce energy consumption.

Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is the lead for the Department of Energy's Building America team called the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB).

CARB would like to thank Populus, LLC, a sustainable design consulting firm and the program administrator for the City of Boulder's SmartRegs program, for their expertise, time and assistance in creating these case studies.



Cold Climate Region Case Study #7: 1172 Jay Street City of Boulder, SmartRegs Ordinance Multi-Family Low-Rise, 1950's Vintage

Boulder, CO

Program	SmartRegs Ordinance
Location:	Boulder, Colorado
Building Type:	Multi-family, low-rise, Triplex
Units Analyzed:	2
Area/unit:	763 ft ²
Foundation:	Slab on grade
Configuration:	2 bedrooms, 1 bath
SWA Contact:	Lois Arena

This 1950's rental property is located on "the hill" in Boulder, a popular destination for students moving into the area. From this neighborhood students are just a short bike ride from the University of Colorado and enjoy close proximity to restaurants, mass transit and hiking trails.

This building contains three rental units: 2 on the upper floor (which have identical floor plans) and one apartment on the lower level. At the time of this audit, only the upper left unit had been through a SmartRegs inspection. The owner felt that having one inspection was enough to: 1) get a sense of the worst-case SmartRegs score for this property, and 2) plan for improvements if necessary.

SWA was able to inspect both upper units. Efficiency levels and test results are listed in the table to the right. Based on those inspections it was determined that the upper right unit scored 82 points on the SmartRegs checklist while the left unit only scored 74 points.

During the initial SmartRegs inspection, the upper left apartment scored 85 points, but since that first inspection, a window air-conditioner (A/C) was installed by the occupant. Because the A/C was poorly installed, this measure also increased the air leakage of the unit. Finally, it appears that several compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's) were replaced with incandescent bulbs. All of these measures resulted in a loss of points on the SmartRegs checklist.

Due to the changes made after the initial SmartRegs inspection, the upper left unit is the focus of this case study. The impacts of occupant behavior on the goals of the SmartRegs program are discussed in the following pages.



This apartment (upper left) initially scored 85 points on the SmartRegs checklist. At the time of this audit, the score was reduced to 74 points due to the addition of a window air-conditioning unit by the occupants.

Energy Efficient Features

Attic:	R-8 Blown Fiberglass insulation
Walls:	R-11 Fiberglass batts
Windows:	Combination of single wood, single wood with storm window
Foundation:	Slab-on-grade
Heating:	60% AFUE natural gas boiler
Cooling:	10.8 EER window unit
Hot Water:	0.60 EF, natural gas, conditioned space, 50 gallons

Air Leakage: 13.82 ACH@50 pascals, 0.75 ACHn

Additional SmartRegs Features

None.

SmartRegs Checklist Score*: 74 points**
(The final score must be ≥ 100)

HERS Index: 147

*100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120.

**Original score of 85 was adjusted for post-occupancy changes, resulting in a SmartRegs score of 74.

Boulder, CO

As has been quite common to date, the owner of this property opted to use the prescriptive method of compliance and have the auditor fill out a checklist rather than perform energy modeling to determine if the property was in compliance.

As noted earlier, the initial SmartRegs score for this unit was 85 points. With the addition of the A/C and some incandescent light bulbs by the occupant, the score dropped to 74. Because the minimum allowable score is 100 points, the owner will have to improve the property to maintain the rental permit required by the City of Boulder.

The property owner is free to implement any combination of energy improvements as long as the final checklist score is at least 100. There are several combinations that would bring this home into compliance. Below are two options.

Package #1: (+28 points)

- Replacing the boiler with one that is 90% efficient,
- Replacing the bulbs in all light fixtures with CFLs,
- Replace the refrigerator with a model ≤ 350 kWh/yr.

This package results in a HERS Index of 105 and a SmartRegs score of 102.

Package #2: (+44 points)

- Install 1 kW of photovoltaic-generated power.
- Package #2 results in a HERS Index of 128 and a SmartRegs score of 118.

Note that, while the installation of PV increases the SmartRegs score to 118 (well above compliance), the HERS Index only drops to 128. The reason for this is that the SmartRegs program prioritizes improvements not only by energy savings but also by carbon reduction. Because the emissions from electricity generation are so much greater than those generated from heating a home with natural gas, any measure that reduces electrical consumption is weighted more heavily than one that reduces the heating demand. Thus, the credit a home receives for PV in the SmartRegs program is more than is applied through the HERS rating, which only looks at consumption, not emissions.

Facts about SmartRegs

2 Compliance Paths: Prescriptive or Performance

- Prescriptive: ≥ 100 points on Checklist
- Performance: HERS Index ≤ 120



A window air-conditioner was installed after the initial SmartRegs inspection. A large air-gap around the A/C resulted in a significant increase in the overall infiltration rate of the apartment.



Replacing this 60% efficient gas boiler with a 90% efficient unit gains 17 points on the SmartRegs checklist. Installing 1 kW of PV is awarded 44 points.

Boulder, CO

Predicted annual utility bills for the home As-Is (according to SWA's audit) and for each upgrade package outlined on the previous page are displayed in the graph to the right. For the As-Is case, REM/Rate predicts an annual utility bill of \$1,250: the bulk of the bill, about 38%, is attributed to heating.

Predicted utility bill savings for the first option package—90% efficient boiler, 100% CFL lighting and installing an Energy Star refrigerator (HERS index of 105) - average \$231 per year.

The second upgrade option—adding 1kW of solar-generated power (HERS Index of 128) - results in predicted annual energy savings of \$148 per year.

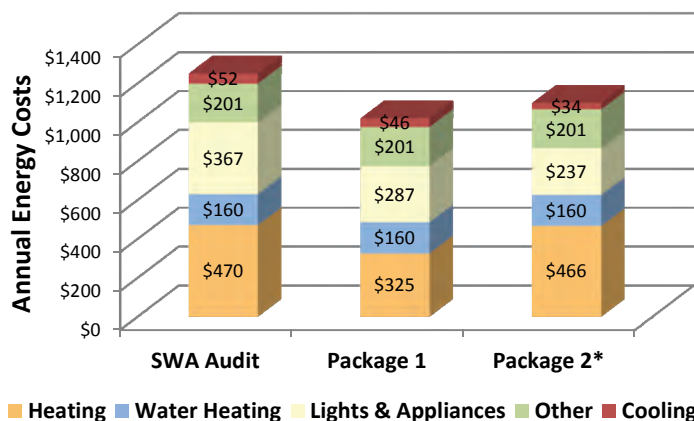
Predicted emissions for each scenario are shown at right. It should be noted that even though the addition of 1kW of PV results in only a 7% reduction in energy consumption at the site¹ (as compared to a 23 % reduction from package 1) it results in very similar reductions of emissions: 18% reduction in CO₂ for PV vs. a 22% reduction for package 1.

When production and transmission losses from the power plant (the source²) are factored in, emissions due to electricity generation increase by a factor of 3.3³. Therefore, even though Package #2 saves fewer MMBtu's at the site than Package #1 (7% reduction vs. 23%), it results in a bigger reduction in greenhouse gases per MMBtu saved (table at right) when energy use at the source is considered.

This demonstrates the point from the previous page that reductions in electric use result in bigger emissions savings than those that reduce heating provided by natural gas. Therefore, improvements that reduce electric use are more heavily weighted than those that reduce gas use.

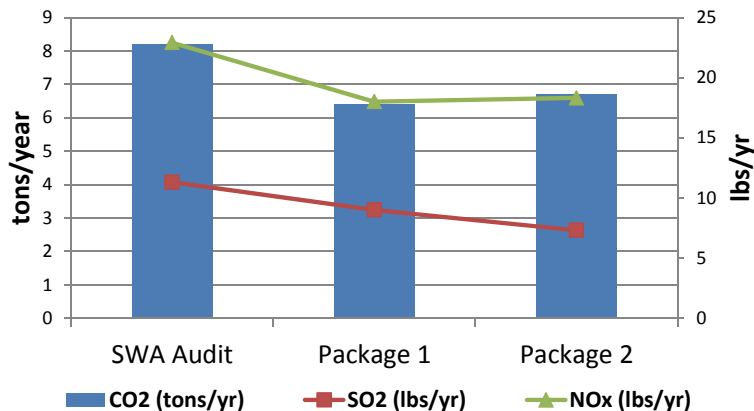
Figures & Statistics

Predicted Annual Utility Bills



* Savings from Photovoltaics incorporated into Cooling and Lights & Appliances categories

Predicted Emissions



¹Site Energy Use: The energy directly consumed at a site (in this case the home) typically measured with utility meters.

²http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/evaluate_performance/site_source.pdf

³Source Energy Use: The sum of the energy consumed at a site PLUS the energy required to extract, convert, and transmit that energy to the site.

Boulder, CO

Up to this point, the discussion about improvements, utility bills and emissions has all been based on the results of the audit conducted by SWA in August of 2011. But, as noted in the introduction, this apartment had received a SmartRegs inspection prior to this audit. What was discovered was that, in the time between the two inspections, the occupant had made a couple of changes that negatively impacted the energy efficiency of that unit, and hence the SmartRegs score and HERS Index.

The two significant changes made include:

1. A window A/C was installed. In addition to increasing electric use, this change resulted in increased air leakage, because it was installed with a significant gap around the edges. If left in place during the winter, this will have a significant impact on the energy used for heating.
2. Some of the CFL's were replaced with incandescent lights reducing the overall percent of CFL's from 100% to 38%.

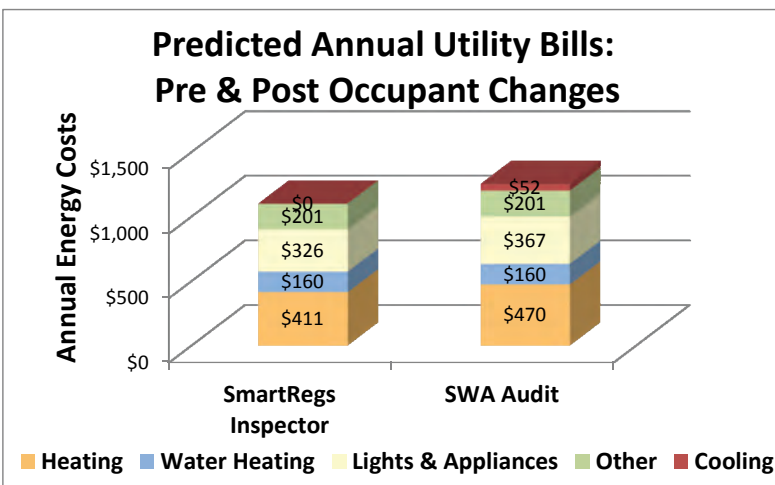
These changes result in a loss of 11 points on the SmartRegs checklist, taking the score from 85 down to 74. The HERS Index was likewise affected. That score changed from 130 to 147 (lower is better).

Overall, it is predicted that these occupant changes will increase the annual energy use by approximately 12%, increase CO₂ emissions by 16%, and will result in a \$152 increase in annual utility bills. The affects of these changes are summarized in the graph and table to the right.

Of the nine case studies conducted to date, this was the first one where occupants had made a physical change that negatively altered the energy consumption and, hence, the SmartRegs score.

While it is anticipated that differences in occupant behavior (different thermostat set points, use of hot water, operation of windows during cold weather) will result in different energy use profiles for the same apartment, it is still unknown how big an affect the occupants will have on the City of Boulder's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Figures & Statistics



Difference Between Initial SmartRegs Inspection & SWA Audit			
	Initial Inspection	SWA Audit	Difference (%)
SmartRegs Score	85	74	-14.9%
HERS Index	130	147	11.6%
Utility Bills (\$)	\$1,098	\$1,250	12.2%
Energy Use (MMBtu)	72.1	81.8	11.9%
CO ₂ Emissions (tons)	6.9	8.2	15.9%

Will changes be made that permanently and negatively affect air leakage? Will insulation be moved or compressed? Will CFL's be replaced with incandescent bulbs as was done here? What is the likelihood that these types of alterations will occur?

It can easily be concluded that, in Colorado's climate, addition of window A/C units is more likely to occur in poorly insulated homes and those with high solar gain during the summer. It also seems likely that occupants are more likely to change out CFL's from decorative fixtures without covers. Possible recommendations for changes to the program may include:

1. Unless a home has a minimum level of attic insulation and decent windows, points should not be awarded for the lack of a cooling system. Or, perhaps those points should not be awarded unless the home achieves a certain minimum score as is done with the points given for PV.
2. CFL's will not be given credit in decorative fixtures where the bulbs are entirely exposed, such as a chandelier.

Obviously, nine audits are not sufficient to make any definite conclusions. Follow up audits in the next couple of years may provide clearer answers to these types of questions.

Boulder, CO

The property manager was interviewed and asked to share her feelings and concerns about Boulder's new SmartRegs ordinance. A summary of her opinions and suggestions for improvements are below.

Q: Why did you decide to participate now and not wait till later in the process?

A: The owners wanted to get a baseline worst case scenario so they could plan on how to most cost-effectively bring their properties into compliance.

Q: How many rentals does the owner have in their portfolio?

A: The owner has about 50 rental units in the city, the oldest of which was built in 1936.

Q: Are you educating the occupants about what and why renovations are taking place and how it will benefit them?

A: Yes. At first the property manager was informing occupants of what was happening in writing, but now she verbally informs. She takes a couple of minutes to explain what's happening and that it won't cost the tenants any money.

Q: What is your normal maintenance routine – ie., every few months, once a year, on occupant turn over?

A: Boiler maintenance is conducted every fall. All other improvements are conducted on an as-needed basis.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge for you throughout this process?

A: Getting the releases signed was the hardest part at first, so they incentivized them - \$5 gift card. After the first few, they have experienced no problems getting the releases. The biggest occupant complaints are about the low-flow shower-heads.

Q: What would you like other property owners to know?

A: It's always better to have the information up front. Owners are not required to do anything right now. As many other managers/owners have noted in these interviews, this manager also stated that the energy advisor service has been very helpful to them.

Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is the lead for the Department of Energy's Building America team called the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB).

CARB would like to thank Populus, LLC, a sustainable design consulting firm and the program administrator for the City of Boulder's SmartRegs program, for their expertise, time and assistance in creating these case studies.



Cold Climate Region E. College Ave Apartments: Case Study #8 City of Boulder, SmartRegs Ordinance Low-Rise Multi-Family, 1950's Vintage

Boulder, CO

Program	SmartRegs Ordinance
Location:	Boulder, CO 80303
Building Type:	Low-Rise Multi-Family
Building Size:	17550+ ft ² living space
Foundation:	Slab-on-grade
HVAC/DHW:	In-unit gas heat, central HW
Configuration:	2 Stories
Unit count:	18 1-br, 18 2-br, 1 3-br
SWA Contact:	Lois Arena

SmartRegs requirements were adopted to meet the City of Boulder's sustainability objectives including environmental health, economic vitality and social equity. According to current statistics, rental properties comprise approximately 50 percent of Boulder's housing stock¹. Therefore, by requiring property owners to upgrade rental properties, the SmartRegs program aids in advancing Boulder's community sustainability objectives, and will hopefully result in lower energy bills for tenants.

The program offers two compliance paths; one that uses a prescriptive checklist to rate energy efficiency, and one that uses an energy model. As will be demonstrated in this case study, energy models are not meant to be exact, but indicative, and are not meant to predict exact energy costs or energy cost savings. They are meant to be used as a tool to better understand the impact of energy efficient upgrades. If utility bills are available and performance testing conducted, the energy models can be calibrated to yield more accurate results.

In order to demonstrate compliance with SmartRegs, the property owner of these 37 rental units opted to use the Prescriptive Checklist. Prior to upgrades, these units were well below the 100 point threshold. The complex was constructed in the 1950's, with minimal attic insulation, no wall insulation, and single pane windows. Heating is provided by ductless in-unit natural gas heaters and hot water is provided by 6 centrally located gas storage water heaters. No cooling or mechanical ventilation is provided, although some tenants install window air conditioners on their own. Actual annual bills per unit range from \$200-\$600 for electricity and \$250-\$550 for natural gas, with almost \$210 in just monthly service charges.



This 2-story, multi-family apartment building in Boulder, CO underwent extensive retrofits to all its 37 units.

Energy Efficient Improvements

	Before	After
Attic:	R-9 attic insulation	R-50 blown-in cellulose
Walls:	R-0	R-13 blown-in cellulose
Windows:	Single, metal	Double, low-e, vinyl
Slab floor:	R-0	same
Doors:	Metal doors	Foam-filled, fiberglass
Air Leakage:	11.4 ACH ₅₀	8.7 ACH ₅₀
Appliances:	750 kWh/yr	450 kWh/yr
Lighting:	Upgraded to 30-100% compact fluorescents	
Heating	60 AFUE, natural gas	same

Additional SmartRegs Features

None

SmartRegs Checklist Score*: 106 to 117 points

(Score must be ≥ 100 points)

HERS Index: from 87 to 100

*100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120.

¹2011 SmartRegs Handbook, City of Boulder

Boulder, CO

Each apartment is scored individually in the SmartRegs program to account for floor plan configuration differences. Differences in layout and location can result in different exposed envelope areas, which in turn, can affect the SmartRegs score. For example, a **corner unit** on the 1st floor will generally have a lower SmartRegs score than an **interior unit** on the 1st floor, because that interior unit will have a greater percentage of shared walls (see Wall section of checklist below).

WALLS	Base: Final:			
	R-VALUE	25%	50%	75% 100%
No Insulation		0	0	0 0
>R-3 Continuous		3	6	9 12
R-5 Continuous		4	8	12 15
R-13		5	10	15 20
Uninsulated Basement Wall		5	10	15 20
>R-19		5	11	16 21
Insulated Basement Wall		6	13	19 26
Shared Wall		6	13	19 26

Likewise, mid-level units with shared floors and ceilings will generally score higher than ground-level or top-floor units.

The following table lists the SmartRegs scores for an interior 1 bedroom unit and an interior 2 bedroom unit, which represent 26 of the 37 units. A

	Corner, 1 BR	Interior, 2 BR	Interior, 1 BR
Pre-Retrofit	1st floor	1st floor	2nd floor
SmartRegs	48	79	58
HERS	157	142	173

ground-level corner 1 bedroom unit with an attic above, is listed to demonstrate the worst case. The 1st floor interior unit scored more than the other units because a shared ceiling is worth 27 points and the existing attic insulation in the other two units did not earn any points in the checklist.

Because the minimum allowable SmartRegs score is 100 points, the property owner needed to improve the property by 2019 in order to maintain the rental permit required by the City of Boulder.

Using the worse case 1st floor corner unit as an example, at least 52 points were needed to meet the SmartRegs threshold.

Facts about SmartRegs

2 Compliance Paths: Prescriptive or Performance

- Prescriptive: $100 \geq$ points on Checklist
- Performance: HERS Index ≤ 120



The attics are now insulated with approximately 13" of R-50 cellulose loose-fill insulation

These were achieved with a package of improvements that included:

- 13" of blown cellulose attic insulation (26 points)
- New double-pane, low-e windows with U-values of 0.3 (13 points)
- R-13 blown cellulose wall insulation (10 points)
- CFL replacement in 100% of lights (7 points)
- New ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerator (3 points)
- Reduced air leakage to <0.5 air changes/hour (2 points)

	Corner, 1 BR	Interior, 2 BR	Interior, 1 BR
Post-Retrofit	1st floor	1st floor	2nd floor
SmartRegs	109	106	117
HERS	97	100	87

Although the same package of improvements were implemented, the post-retrofit SmartRegs scores vary per unit, depending on the number of shared walls and ceilings.

The HERS Indices for these units post-retrofit were determined using energy models and ranged from 87 for the 2nd floor unit to 100 for the 1st floor unit. Although a HERS index is not required when using the Prescriptive checklist, it supports the claim that earning at least 100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120 points, which is the maximum HERS score allowed when using the Performance path for compliance.

Boulder, CO

The energy model was not only used to calculate the HERS index, but to estimate the annual utility costs both pre- and post-retrofit for a sample of units.

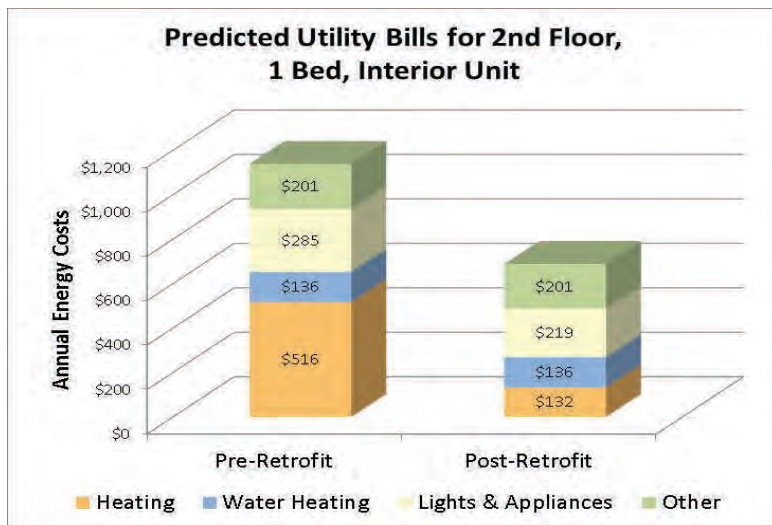
For a second floor interior 1 bedroom unit, the combination of the upgrades accounts for a 40% savings between modeled pre and post-retrofit utility bills, for an estimated energy cost savings of about \$450 per year.

In the pre-retrofit case, REM/Rate predicts that heating comprised more than one third of the annual energy costs. This was reduced by \$384 through the wall and attic insulation, window and door upgrades, and reduced air leakage.

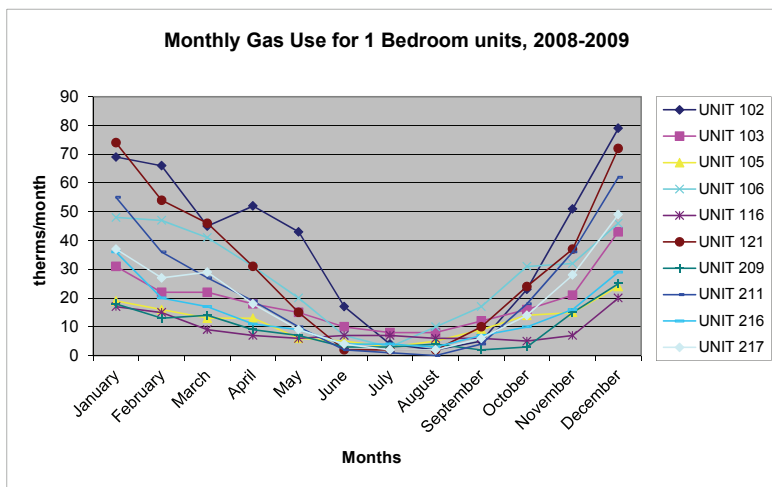
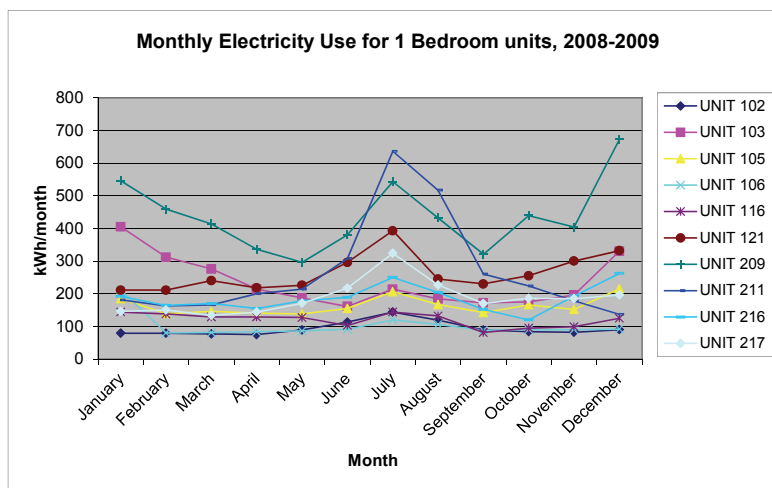
Lights and appliances are the next largest end-use, and \$66 in annual savings are predicted by lowering electricity consumption through energy-efficient lighting and a new refrigerator. The "Other" category includes monthly service charges that are unfortunately unaffected by energy efficient improvements and comprise almost 20% of the bill.

Pre-retrofit utility bills (shown in the lower two graphs at right) were available for a handful of 1 bedroom units which show spikes in electricity usage in both winter and summer. Although it is suspected that some units may have supplemented gas heating with electric resistance heating in the winter and may have installed window air-conditioning units in the summer, these were not accounted for in the energy model, as no confirmation of this was provided by property managers. Some pre-retrofit bills, therefore, show that the annual electricity consumption is higher than predicted from the energy model.

Beyond what was described above, the model makes assumptions on things like weather, thermostat settings, and how long lights are left on. This can also lead to a discrepancy between actual bills and savings estimated by the model. If actual pre-retrofit energy usage is greater than modeled, actual savings may be higher than predicted. But in this case, the models predicted higher gas usage than shown in the actual bills, therefore, actual gas savings will likely be less than predicted.



40% reduction in utility bills expected post-retrofit



Boulder, CO

The same analysis was conducted for a first floor interior 2 bedroom unit and the combination of the upgrades account for a 23% savings between modeled pre and post-retrofit utility bills, for estimated energy cost savings of about \$231 per year. Although a slightly larger unit than the previous analysis, the overall energy use is less than the second floor unit due to the shared ceiling and, therefore, the associated savings are also less.

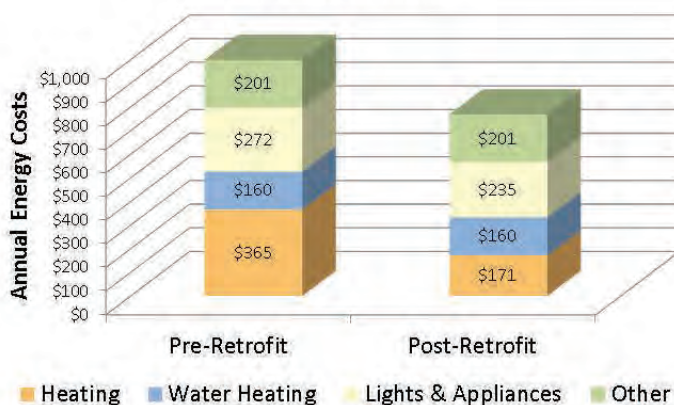
For these units, heating still comprises about one third of the annual energy costs. This was reduced by \$194 through the wall insulation, window and door upgrades, and reduced air leakage. Lights and appliances are again the next largest end-use, and \$37 in savings were achieved with compact fluorescent lighting and a new refrigerator.

As shown in the graphs to the right, the model sometimes under predicted and sometimes over predicted electricity consumption. Under predictions were mostly related to units with surges in electricity usage in the summer most likely from using window air conditioners (usually units on the 2nd floor); over predictions could result from reductions in occupancy as is typical of student housing. Based on the actual bills, \$40-\$120 per year is expected in electricity savings per unit.

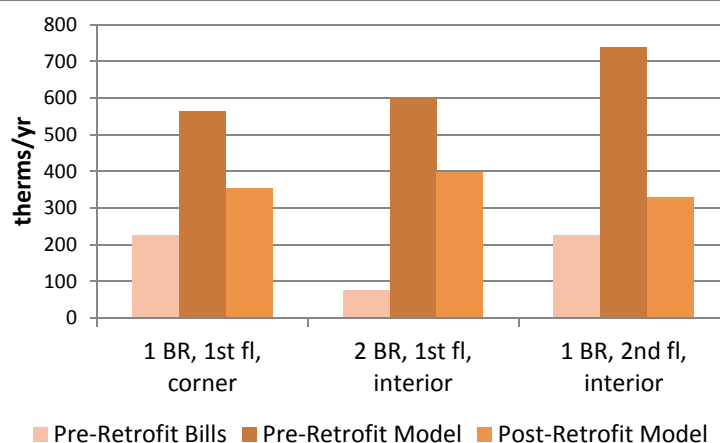
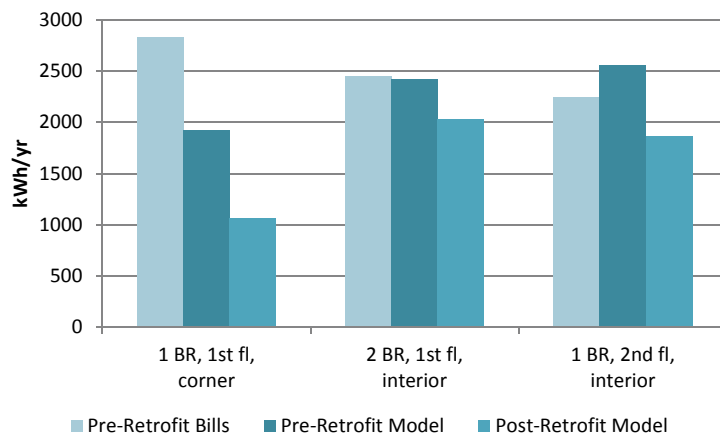
Unlike the predictions for electricity consumption, the models consistently and significantly over predicted gas consumption (see graph bottom right). It is suspected that the units are not being directly billed for the natural gas for the central water heaters (~150 therms per unit per year), but this does not explain the entire discrepancy. Multiple studies have shown that modeling software tends to over predict heating energy use in older, inefficient homes. This study definitely supports those observations.

With this in mind, it is expected that heating costs will still be reduced significantly due to the upgrades, but more along the lines of \$40-150 per year, depending on location and size of the unit. This estimate is based on the actual pre-retrofit bills and the percent reduction in heating energy use that can be expected from the upgrades performed.

**Predicted Utility Bills for 1st Floor,
2 Bed, Interior**



23% reduction in utility bills expected post-retrofit



Boulder, CO

The property managers were interviewed and asked to share their feelings and concerns about Boulder's new SmartRegs ordinance. A summary of their opinions and suggestions for improvements are below.

Q: Why did you decide to participate now and not wait till later in the process?

A: A few years ago, one of the tenants wrote a letter to the owner explaining how inefficient the units were. This inspired the owner to do an extensive green retrofit to this property. He knew that the SmartRegs program was being developed, and since all the units needed to be remodeled, thought this was a good opportunity to make it a green remodel.

Each unit went up in price by about 25 - 30% after the remodel was completed, but managers have had no problem renting them.

Q: Are you educating the occupants about what and why renovations are taking place and how it will benefit them?

A: Yes, agents promote the green items, low utility bills and new windows. Students are really interested in this.

Q: What is your normal maintenance routine – i.e., every few months, once a year, on occupant turn over?

A: Heat techs check the heating system in each unit annually.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge for you throughout this process?

A: The managers were skeptical at first, but the requirements turned out to be not as bad as anticipated. One of the challenges noted was that the rebates from Xcel were not always available.

Q: What would you like other property owners to know?

A: The managers and the owner repeatedly mentioned that Populus has been a great liaison and that the advisors service has been invaluable. They also noted that they use the SmartRegs checklist used as a guide for planning their improvements.

Q: Do you feel that the occupants could have a negative effect on the retrofits.

A: This management company feels that the upgrades are durable. To date, no changes have been made to the work performed.

SWA did find compressed insulation and missing insulation on the hatch of one attic access areas, but it is suspected that this was caused by a contractor and not the occupants.

Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is the lead for the Department of Energy's Building America team called the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB).

CARB would like to thank Populus, LLC, a sustainable design consulting firm and the program administrator for the City of Boulder's SmartRegs program, for their expertise, time and assistance in creating these case studies.

Cold Climate Region Case Study #9: 2427 7th Street City of Boulder, SmartRegs Ordinance Multi-Family, Early 1900's Vintage

Boulder, CO

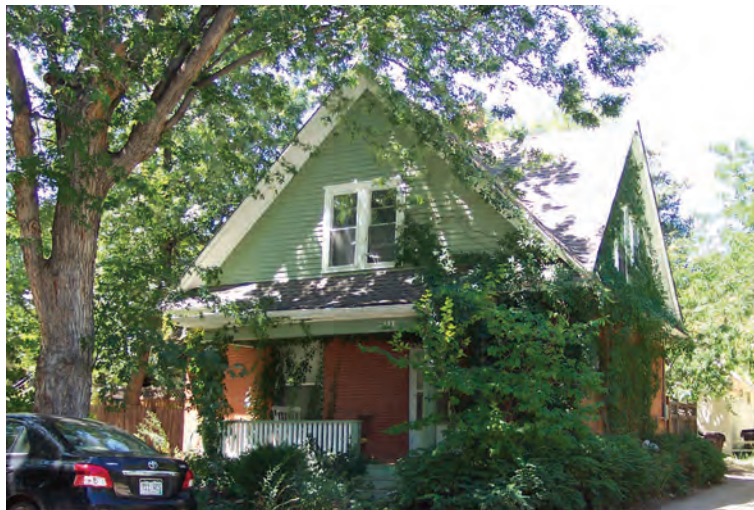
Program:	SmartRegs Ordinance
Location:	Boulder, Colorado
Building Type:	Multi-Family
Number of units:	2
Building Size:	493 ft ² 2 nd Floor/611 ft ² 1 st Floor
Foundation:	Basement/Crawlspace: Unconditioned
Configuration:	2 bedrooms, 2 baths
SWA Contact:	Lois Arena

Due to their proximity to the University of Colorado, there are several older neighborhoods in Boulder that are dominated by rental properties. Many of these old, single family homes, such as this bungalow built in 1900, have been divided into more than one unit. Each floor of this two story home has been converted into an individual apartment.

According to Boulder's SmartRegs requirements, each rental unit in a building must be tested and scored separately. Unusual layouts, common walls and floors, shared equipment, and occupant use of the space can make this quite challenging. Efficiency levels and testing results for each unit in this home are shown in the table at right.

It is common when rating a multi-family building that some units will score better than others. Contributing factors include whether the unit is on the bottom, middle or top floor of the building, the amount of exposed surface to outside, and differences in lighting and appliances in each space. Differences in the HERS Index can also be the result of the affects of solar exposure and the amount of window area. In the case of this home, where percentage of above grade walls and efficiency levels are fairly similar between the two apartments, the resulting SmartRegs scores and HERS Indices are also fairly similar.

The 1st floor unit in this building only scores 3 points lower on the SmartRegs checklist than the 2nd floor unit. While the 1st floor gained several more points for lights and appliances than the 2nd, it scored significantly worse in the foundation insulation category. The 2nd floor gained 15 points for being located over conditioned space, but the 1st gets zero for being over an uninsulated basement/crawlspace.



This home has been divided into two rental units. At this time, neither unit achieves 100 points on the SmartRegs checklist, therefore, efficiency improvements must be made.

Energy Efficient Features

Attic:	R-19 blown cellulose
Walls:	Uninsulated brick
Windows:	Predominantly single pane wood + storms
Foundation:	Crawlspace R-0, Basement R-0
Heating:	Central system - forced air, natural gas, 90 AFUE, in unconditioned basement
Cooling:	None
Ductwork:	Uninsulated & in unconditioned space
Hot Water:	Atmospheric, natural gas, unconditioned space, 0.59 EF
Air Leakage:	2 nd FI: 25.23 ACH@50 pascals, 1.14 ACHn 1 st FI: 32.29 ACH@50 pascals, 1.45 ACHn

Additional SmartRegs Features

Low-flow faucets and showerheads, programmable thermostat

**SmartRegs Checklist Score*: 88 points 2nd FI
85 points 1st FI**

(The final score must be ≥ 100)

HERS Index: 139 2nd FI/150 1st FI

*100 points on the SmartRegs checklist should approximately equate to a HERS index of 120.

Cold Climate Region: Case Study #9

SmartRegs Compliance

Page 2

Boulder, CO

The minimum allowable score when using the prescriptive method for compliance with Boulder's SmartRegs ordinance is 100 points. The lower unit of this property scored 85 points and the upper 88, therefore, the owner will have to improve both by 2019 in order to maintain their rental license.

When developing the SmartRegs checklist, program creators intended that 100 points should approximately equate to a HERS Index of 120. Given this assumption, both apartments should have a HERS Index above 120 (the higher the HERS index the less efficient the home).

To validate this assumption, SWA modeled both units in this home using REM/Rate, a simulation program used to analyze the energy use of residential buildings. As anticipated, both units scored above 120: the upper unit received a HERS Index of 139, and the lower an index of 150.

Upon initial review of the audit results, it would appear that the owner has several options for improving the efficiency of this home. But, as is often the case when retrofitting an existing home, before energy improvements can be made other upgrades must be implemented for health or safety reasons. Since this extra work does not contribute to energy savings, the overall cost-effectiveness of the improvement can be significantly reduced.

For example, adding insulation to this attic would generally be a cost-effective upgrade. But, given the age of this home, it could very well have knob and tube wiring. If it does, the wiring would have to be upgraded before any additional insulation could be added.

Likewise, insulating the foundation would be problematic. This space is currently being used for storage and is quite packed with belongings. A good majority of these items would have to be taken out to properly insulate the walls and install a vapor barrier over the exposed dirt of the crawlspace area. On top of this, the crawl space is under 2' tall toward the front of the home making improvements to that area very difficult.

Facts about SmartRegs

2 Compliance Paths: Prescriptive or Performance

- Prescriptive: ≥ 100 points on Checklist
- Performance: HERS Index ≤ 120



Uninsulated, partially sealed ductwork in the uninsulated basement/crawlspace



Basement and crawlspace are being used as storage making any retrofits in this area difficult and more costly.

Boulder, CO

One option for owners of these hard to improve older buildings is installing a minimum of 1 kW of PV (photovoltaics) on the roof. Because this upgrade gains 44 points on the SmartRegs checklist, no other improvements would have to be made to this home. The only stipulation is that the home score at least 70 points on the checklist before this option can be used. Both of these units pass that criteria.

But again, house configuration and existing circumstances make installing PV on this house challenging. The image at the right shows this home's complicated roof configuration; hardly ideal for a PV installation. Also, large trees to the east, south and west will shade a good portion of this roof for much of the year. Both of these issues make installing an efficient PV system difficult at best.

With the above considerations in mind, the following improvement options for this property were analyzed:

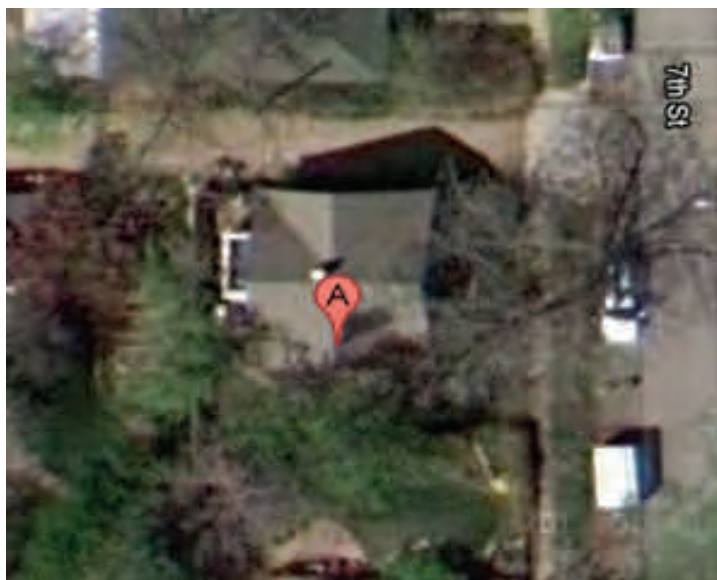
- Replace the water heater with an instantaneous, 0.82 EF model (5 points);
- Reduce the air leakage in both apartments to 0.75 ACHn (4 points);
- Reduce the duct leakage by 50% (9 points).

While some extra cost will be incurred to perform these improvements in this home as compared to a new or newer home, they should be more cost-effective than some of the other options discussed. The effects of these upgrades on the SmartRegs and HERS Indices for both apartments are shown in the following table.

As-Is vs. Upgraded Scores		
	SmartRegs	Hers Index
1st Floor		
As-Is	85	150
Upgraded	103	116
2nd Floor		
As-Is	88	139
Upgraded	106	109

The analysis on both of these units shows good agreement with the goal of SmartRegs developers that 100 points should approximately equate to a HERS Index of 120. The scores both behaved in a consistent manner as well: when the SmartRegs score was below 100, the HERS Index was above 120, and vice versa.

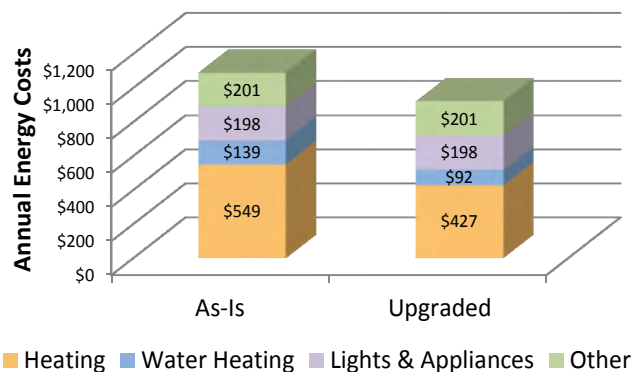
Improvement Analysis



Satellite image showing complicated roof configuration and large trees to the east, south and west blocking solar exposure.

Predicted monthly utility bills for the first floor apartment are displayed in the graph below. REM/Rate predicts an annual utility bill of approximately \$1000 for the units As-Is (slightly more for the 1st floor, and slightly less for the 2nd). For each apartment, the upgrades result in predicted utility bill savings of about 16% (approximately \$160/yr) and reductions in emissions of about 15%.

Predicted Utility Bills 1st Floor Apartment



Boulder, CO

This property owner was interviewed to determine her feelings and concerns about Boulder's new SmartRegs ordinance. A summary of her opinions and suggestions for improvements are below.

Q. Why did you decide to participate now and not wait till later in the process?

A: The owner of this property chose to participate now to take advantage of free inspections and to start the planning process in the case that improvements would need to be made. This owner is very concerned with energy efficiency in general and had performed many enhancements before SmartRegs was passed.

Q. How long has the owner owned this property?

A: This property has been owned for approximately 25 years. She owns 2 properties with a total of 7 units.

Q. Are you educating the occupants about what and why renovations are taking place and how it will benefit them?

A: This owner actively educates students on environmental issues and energy efficiency. She recommended that the city create a "Tips for Tenants" worksheet to aid in the education process.

Q. What is your normal maintenance routine – i.e., every few months, once a year, on occupant turn over?

A: She provides enough furnace filters to her tenants every year for a monthly replacement. When there are no other expenses that year, the owner uses that opportunity to upgrade something. There have been no comfort complaints from her tenants.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge for you throughout this process?

A: The biggest challenge for this landlord has been improving such an old property. Often there are not cost-effective upgrade opportunities – brick walls, knob and tube wiring, plaster interiors, etc.

Q: What would you like other property owners to know?

A: As with most rental property owners interviewed during this process, this owner expressed that the process wasn't as difficult, and reaching compliance wasn't as hard as originally anticipated. She also felt that the EnergySmart advisors were very helpful.

Q: Concerns?


A: The owners biggest concern with the SmartRegs ordinance was having the local government make decisions over what she feels is her personal business.

Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is the lead for the Department of Energy's Building America team called the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB).

CARB would like to thank Populus, LLC, a sustainable design consulting firm and the program administrator for the City of Boulder's SmartRegs program, for their expertise, time and assistance in creating these case studies.

Appendix C Auditor Training


BUILDING SCIENCE BASICS



Lois B. Arena, Steven Winter Associates, Inc.

Overview

- House as a System
- Heat Transfer
- Moisture Transfer
- Airflow
- Thermal & Pressure Boundaries
- Identification of Components
- Diagnostic Testing
- Ventilation Requirements & Solutions



Energy Definitions


Energy Consumption:

- The amount of energy that is used over a period of time.

Energy Load:

- The amount of energy needed to meet a specific goal.

Houses consume energy to meet the loads needed to maintain comfort conditions.





How We Measure Energy

□ **British Thermal Unit (Btu)**

- The amount of energy it takes to change the temperature of 1 pound of water by 1 degree Fahrenheit

Or, about the same as the energy generated when burning a match from end to end...





House as a System


Everyone talks about it, but what does it actually mean?

House as a System Concept

System Interaction Examples

- Adding insulation to an attic without air sealing could cause the roof to rot out.
- Installing a high efficiency furnace could cause the water heater to back draft.
- Air sealing the building could cause condensation on windows.

Do you know why???



2nd Law of Thermodynamics

... processes occur in a certain direction.

Why do we care about the 2nd Law?

It applies to:

- How air moves
 - How heat is transferred
 - How moisture migrates
 - How heating and cooling create comfort
-convinced yet?



What you need to know most about the 2nd Law...

- Heat moves to cold
- Air moves from high pressure to low pressure
- Moisture moves from higher concentrations to lower concentrations



Methods of Heat Transfer

Heat Transfer

- Heat is a form of energy
- When heat moves from place to place, it is referred to as "Heat Transfer"
- Heat Transfer occurs in three ways:
 - ▣ Conduction
 - ▣ Convection
 - ▣ Radiation



Heat Transfer

- Conduction
 - ▣ Occurs when heat energy moves through a solid or fluid material
 - ▣ Energy is transferred from one molecule to the next
 - ▣ What are some examples of conduction?



Heat Transfer

Convection

- Convection occurs when heat is carried from one place to another
- Convection requires a “fluid medium” (i.e. a gas or liquid)



Example: Convection

- Convection in homes usually occurs when air in the house moves around due to temperature gradients
- Warm air is lighter (i.e. less dense) than cold air
- Cold air falls, warm air rises



Convective Loops

- When convection occurs in an enclosed space, the air (or fluid) will circulate around the space as it is heated and cooled, this is referred to as a convective loop
- What are some examples of places where convective loops could be found?



Heat Transfer

Radiation

- Heat that passes spontaneously from a warm body to a cold body
- The bodies must be in sight of each other but not in contact
- Radiation does not require a “medium” to carry the heat
- Give some examples of radiant heat transfer



Insulation

R-value ($h \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F / Btu$)

- R-value is a measurement of a material's resistance to conductive heat transfer
- The higher the R-value, the better the insulator



R-values of Common Insulations

Type	R-value/Inch
Fiberglass	2.4 – 4
Cellulose	3.2 – 3.8
Low Density Foam	3.6 – 4.5
High Density Foam	5.6 – 7
Rockwool	3.5 – 4.5
Extruded Polystyrene	5
Poly-isocyanurate	6.5 – 7



Insulation

- Why is insulation light and fluffy?
 - ▣ Small pockets in insulation trap still air
 - ▣ The air is the insulator!



What Air Movement Does to Insulation...

- When air moves through insulation, there are no more still air pockets
- As a result, the effective R-value is reduced
- Remember:
 - ▣ R per inch of wood ≈ 1.2
 - ▣ R per pane of glass < 1.0



Other Factors Affecting Insulation Performance

- Compression (refer to manufacturer's compression charts)
- "Fluffing", especially blown fiberglass
- Voids and gaps, inconsistent coverage
- Moisture
- Not in contact with the surface it is insulating

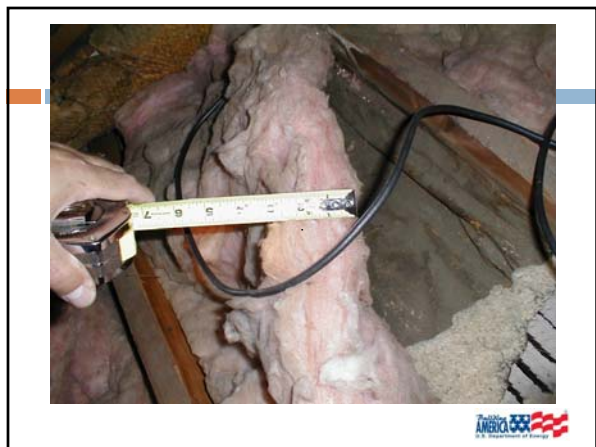
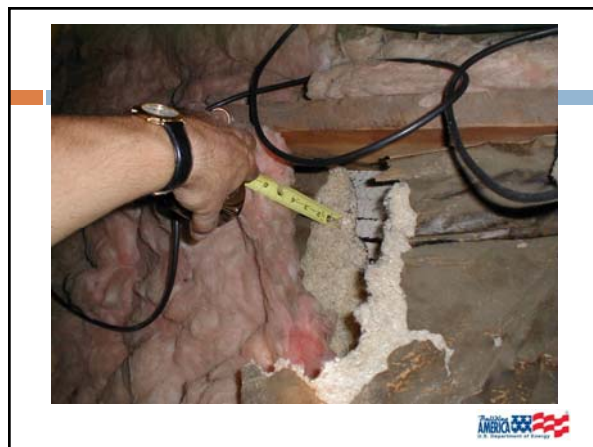


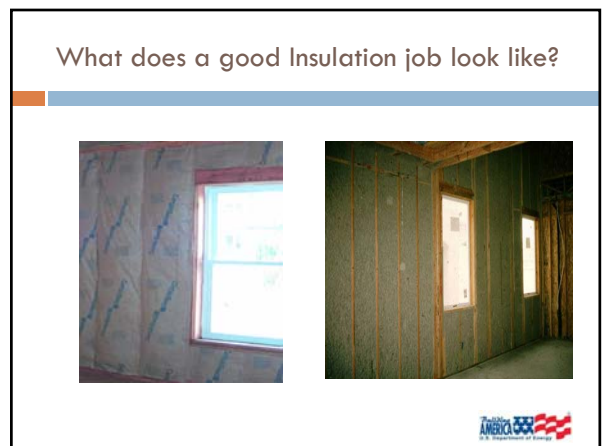
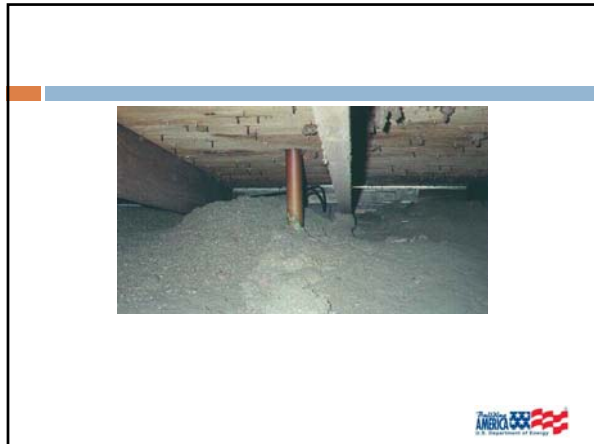
Insulation Types

Classroom Exercise

Name the insulation
What is the R-value per inch?







Attic



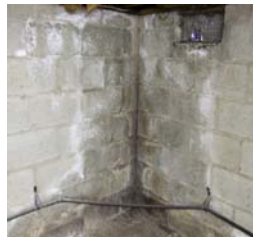
Attic Hatches

- One of the weakest points in the thermal envelope
- Gasket opening
- Insulate with Rigid Foam
- Add drywall or plywood for weight



Insulating Crawl Spaces

- To vent, or not to vent. That is the question.
- Code used to mandate venting crawl spaces, in order to remove moisture
- But....usually the opposite occurs
- Why?



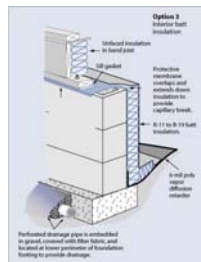
Insulating Crawl Spaces

- Crawl Spaces *generally* should be unvented, conditioned areas
- Vapor Barrier over dirt floors
 - ▣ Overlapped 6" at seams, taped or sealed
 - ▣ Ran at least 6" up the wall and sealed or taped
- Walls insulated to R-10 minimum
- Conditioned air supply sized to deliver at a rate of 1cfm/50ft² of under-floor area
- Remove all debris



Insulating Crawl Spaces

- Rigid foam board
- High density spray foam
- Rockwool



Insulating Crawl Spaces

- Sometimes it is better to exclude crawls from energy envelope
 - ▣ High water table/standing water
- Insulate c/s ceiling
- Air sealing is critical
- Seal and insulate ducts

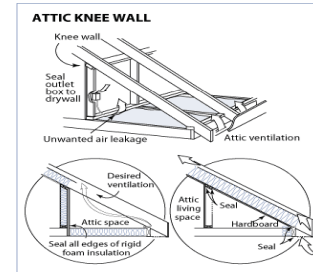


Knee Wall Areas

- Knee wall areas can either be brought into conditioned space or excluded from conditioned space
- Insulate roof rafters to bring into conditioned space
- Insulate walls and floor to exclude from conditioned space



Knee Walls



R-value vs. U-value (Btu/h · ft² · °F)

$$U\text{-value} = 1 \div R\text{-value}$$

Typically:

- U-values are used to rate window performance
- U-values are also used in heat loss calculations



NFRC Label



Thermal Boundary

... a plane where insulation exists to prevent thermal transmission through the building shell, BUT ...

Thermal Boundary

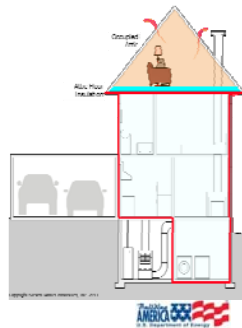
- Location of insulation in the building shell
- Type of insulation
- Amount of insulation (thickness and ft²)
- Quality of installation (good, fair, poor)
- Is insulation protected from wind-washing?
- Is insulation protected from moisture?

What is the conditioned boundary?!!!!



Thermal Boundary

- Identify how occupants use the space – what is conditioned or not?
- Make assessment based on the conditioned boundary.
- Make recommendations on how to align thermal boundary and conditioned boundary.



Thermal Boundary

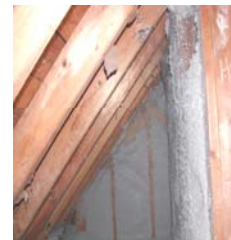


Pressure Boundary

... the plane where the largest pressure occurs during the blower door test.

Pressure Boundary

- In order to control infiltration and exfiltration, the pressure boundary must be continuous.
- For maximum effectiveness, the pressure boundary and thermal boundary should be in the same plane.



Thermal and Pressure Boundaries

- The two boundaries work together to manage energy, moisture, and comfort
 - Energy Control = \$\$\$ saved
 - Moisture Control = building durability
 - Comfort Control = happy customers

Thermal and Pressure Boundaries

- To function properly and protect the home, they must be:
 - Continuous (no gaps)
 - Aligned with each other

Airflow in Buildings

Airflow in Buildings

- Infiltration: air movement into the building
- Exfiltration: air movement out of the building
- Occurs in areas of negative pressure inside the building
- Occurs in areas of positive pressure inside the building

Name some locations where infiltration and exfiltration occur in buildings due to the following effects:

- Stack Effect
- Wind Driven Pressures
- Exhaust Driven Pressures

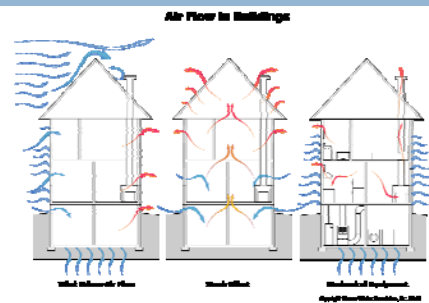


Airflow in Buildings

- 3 Main driving forces
 - Stack effect
 - Mechanical effect
 - Wind effect



Air Flow in Buildings



Stack Effect

- *Stack Effect* is the term used to describe air movement in heated buildings:
warm air rises and escapes from holes high in the building while cold air is drawn in through holes low in the building

$$1 \text{ CFM out} = 1 \text{ CFM in}$$



Stack Effect

- *Stack Effect* is the term used to describe air movement in heated buildings:
warm air rises and escapes from holes high in the building while cold air is drawn in through holes low in the building



Exhaust Appliances

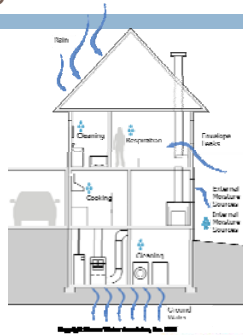
- Exhaust appliances cause depressurization of the living space
- Venting of combustion appliances can have the same effect
- When the house is depressurized, even at small pressures, infiltration will occur



Moisture Transfer

Moisture In Buildings

- Common Moisture Sources
 - Bulk Moisture (leaks)
 - Water Vapor
 - Cooking
 - Cleaning
 - Respiration
 - Ground Water (through basement floors and walls)



Moisture Transport

- Moisture moves around buildings in all of the following ways:
 - Bulk moisture transfer (including capillary action through porous materials)
 - Diffusion
 - Airborne moisture movement
- Which one do you think causes the most problems in homes?



Moisture Damage



Airborne Moisture

- #1 moisture-related problem for building science professionals
- Moisture gets into attics by stack effect (how else?)
- Moisture gets into walls by:
 - Pressurization in heating season
 - Depressurization in cooling season



Airborne Moisture - Control

- Reduce/eliminate sources – fix drainage around building, fix leaks into building
- Properly ventilate high moisture spaces – kitchens, baths, laundry
- Use whole-house mechanical ventilation - eliminate moisture from people, pets, etc.



Air Sealing

Why Air Seal?

- Comfort
- Efficiency
- Moisture
- Indoor air quality (IAQ)



Air Sealing Priorities

- Stop the Stack Effect!
- Go after biggest holes first, duh
- Top of the house is usually first priority
- Basements and Crawlspace next
- Main house last, if even necessary



Attic Air Sealing

- Plumbing and electrical penetrations
- Chimneys and Vents
- Top plates
- Recessed lights
- Dropped soffits and ceilings
- Attic access
- Knee-wall areas



P & E Penetrations

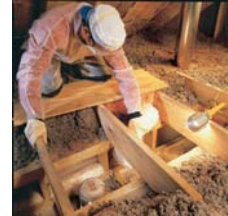


Chimneys and Flue Vents

- High Temperature surfaces require special considerations
- Can not have combustible materials (i.e. spray foam, most insulations) in contact with high temp surfaces
- Sheet metal, high temp caulk, and rockwool are good alternatives



Dropped soffits and ceilings



Knee-wall areas



Basement/Crawl Space Sealing

- Rim joists/sill plates
- Exterior penetrations
- Floor penetrations



Rim Joists/Exterior Penetrations

- Along the gap between the sill plate and foundation
- Top and Bottom of each rim joist bay
- All electrical, water, or gas penetrations and any venting ducts that pass to the outside



Floor Penetrations

- Electrical and plumbing penetrations
- Under tubs and showers
- HVAC duct penetrations



Main House Air Sealing

- Caulk Baseboards
- Weather-strip doors and windows
- Caulk around door and window trim
- Foam plumbing penetrations beneath sinks
- Gasket electrical outlets



Mechanical Ventilation

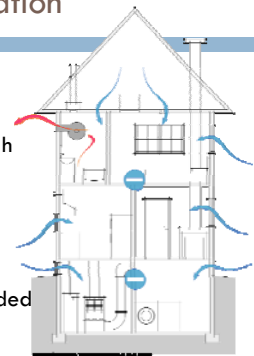
Mechanical Ventilation System Types

- Exhaust Only
- Supply Only
- Balanced - Heat or Energy Recovery



Exhaust Only Ventilation

- Continuous or on timer
- Depressurizes the space
- Outside air is drawn in through leaks or cracks
- Fans must be rated for continuous use
- Must be low-sone fans (very quiet): ≤ 1 sone recommended



Supply Only Ventilation

- Uses fresh air duct connected to return ductwork
- Supplies fresh air when air handler is running
- Pressurizes the space
- Forces pollutants out through leaks in the building shell

Supply Only Ventilation



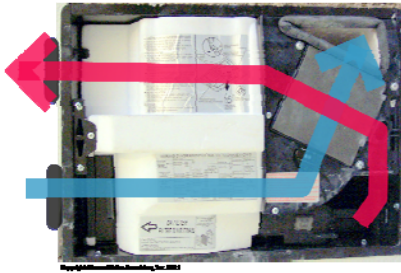
Balanced Ventilation

- Heat Recovery
 - ▢ transfer heat between indoor and outdoor air
 - ▢ will cool incoming air in summer
 - ▢ will heat incoming air in winter
 - ▢ use if humidity is always to be removed or humidity levels on both sides are favorable

Balanced Ventilation



Heat/Energy Recovery Core



Balanced Ventilation

Energy Recovery

- ▣ transfers heat and moisture between indoor and outdoor air,
- ▣ will cool incoming air in summer and heat it in winter
- ▣ moisture moves from air stream with higher levels to air stream with lower levels of moisture
- ▣ use if:
 - hot humid outside and you want to remove humidity from incoming air
 - cold dry outside and you want to return all or some of the humidity to the space



Types of Ventilation – Pro's & Con's

	Exhaust Only	Supply Only	HRV	ERV
Pro's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Inexpensive Install •Easy to Retrofit •Low Maintenance •Low Energy Fan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Inexpensive Install •Easy to Retrofit •Low Maintenance •Air is filtered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High Energy Savings •Low Maintenance •Air is filtered •Balanced pressures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High Energy Savings •Air is filtered •Humidity Control •Balanced pressures
Con's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No heat recovery •Can pull humid air into building cavities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Use furnace fan – high energy use •No heat recovery •Could push humid air into building cavities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Expensive Install •Hard to Retrofit •Higher Energy Use •Fan •Condensate Drain Needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Expensive Install •Hard to Retrofit •High Maintenance •Condensate Drain Needed
Best Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No outdoor pollutants •Outdoor humidity is not a problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High outdoor pollutants – incoming air should be filtered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Areas where indoor humidity is too high •Areas where humidity is not a concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Areas of high outdoor humidity •Areas with low indoor humidity



Air Leakage Testing

Using a Blower Door

Basic Components

- ▣ Sheet
- ▣ Fan
- ▣ Gauge – manometer
- ▣ Frame



Using a Blower Door

House Preparation

- ▣ Open doors to conditioned space
- ▣ Make sure all registers are open and uncovered
- ▣ Turn off ALL fans.
- ▣ Tape off any openings for mechanical ventilation that runs automatically and continuously.
- ▣ Turn heating and air conditioning systems off.
- ▣ Turn gas water heating equipment to pilot. Leave your car keys.
- ▣ Turn off the emergency switch for oil & gas equipment.



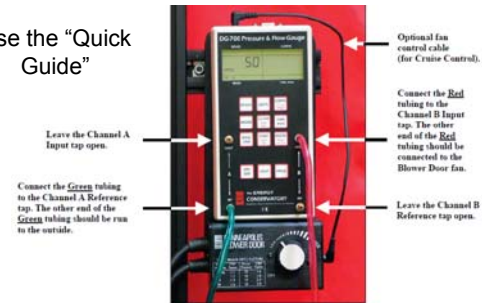
Using a Blower Door

- House Preparation (cont.)
 - ▣ Close fireplace dampers and remove or cover ashes.
 - ▣ Close and lock all windows including storms.
 - ▣ Close adjustable trickle &/or through the wall vents.
 - ▣ Seal evaporative cooler openings if a cap is used.
 - ▣ Fill plumbing traps with water if air is coming out.
 - ▣ Seal window air conditioners that are removed in winter.
 - ▣ If you suspect asbestos is present, do not do a blower door.
 - ▣ When finished, remove tape, put thermostats back to original settings and turn on heating and hot water.



Using a Blower Door

Use the "Quick Guide"



Using a Blower Door

- Check your readings against:
 - ▣ Typical flows in table on Quick Guide
 - ▣ Against pressure/flow tables in back of manual

Fan Configuration	Flow Range (cfm) for Model 3 Fan
Open (no Flow Ring)	6,300 - 2,430
Ring A	2,800 - 915
Ring B	1,100 - 300
Ring C	330 - 85



Using a Blower Door

- Blower door tells you:
 - ▣ Air changes per hour (ACHn) - How many times per hour the air in the house is exchanged with outside air
 - ▣ Where major leaks are
 - ▣ If unconditioned buffer zones are inside or outside of the house
 - ▣ Areas you should concentrate on when air sealing
 - High & low holes
 - Biggest holes
 - ▣ If mechanical ventilation should be added



Building Airtightness Standard

If $ACH_n < 0.35$ then mechanical ventilation is required according to ASHRAE 62.2.

How do you calculate ACH_n ?

$$ACH_n = \text{cfm}@50 \times 60 \text{ min/hr} \div (\text{Volume} \times n\text{-Factor})$$



N-factor and Height Correction

Table 4.1 - LBL n-Factor for Boulder, CO (Zone 2)

Wind Exposure	# of Stories			
	1	1.5	2	3
Well-shielded	22.2	20.0	17.8	15.5
Normal	18.5	16.7	14.8	13.0
Exposed	16.7	15.0	13.3	11.7



Example: Calculate ACHn

House Description: 1000 ft² house, 8' ceilings, 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, blower door reading is 500 cfm@50 pascals, normal exposure

- Step 1: Calculate Volume
 $1000 \text{ ft}^2 \times 8' = 8000 \text{ ft}^3$
- Step 2: Determine n-Factor = 14.8
- Step 3: Calculate ACHn
 $(500 \times 60) \div (8000 \times 14.8) = 0.25 \text{ ACHn}$
Needs mechanical ventilation



ASHRAE 62.2 Requirements

Equation:

cfm needed:
 $= 0.01 \times \text{floor area}$
 $+ (\# \text{beds} + 1) \times 7.5$

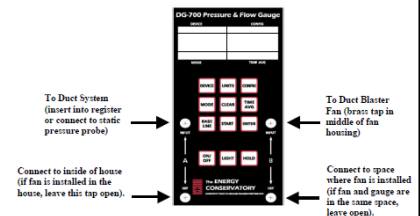
Table:

Area	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	>7
≤1,500	30	45	60	75	90
1501 - 3000	45	60	75	90	105
3001 - 4500	60	75	90	105	120
4501 - 6000	75	90	105	120	135
6001 - 7500	90	105	120	135	150
>7500	105	120	135	150	165



Duct Leakage Testing

Duct Leakage Testing



Duct Leakage Testing

- Configure the house for an air leakage test
- Determine if the air handler is inside or outside the conditioned space
- Remove the system air filter.
- Select an appropriate location – at air handler or return closest to air handler
- Set up the pressure hoses – if gauge is “outside” the conditioned area, run hose to the conditioned space
- Seal all supply and return registers



Duct Leakage Testing

- Open unconditioned zones to outside as much as possible.
- Using the blower door, pressurize the house to 25 Pascals.
- Pressurize the duct system until the pressure in the supply duct is 0.
- Record testing equipment fan pressure and ring used
- Record the duct blaster fan airflow. This is your duct leakage to outside.



Mechanical Systems

Combustion Science

- Elements needed for combustion
 - ▣ Fuel – gas, oil, wood, propane, etc.
 - ▣ Oxygen
 - ▣ Heat Source
- By-products
 - ▣ Water (H_2O)
 - ▣ Carbon Dioxide (CO_2)
- Incomplete combustion leads to Carbon Monoxide (CO)



Heating System Efficiency

- Steady-State Efficiency:
 - ▣ can be measured directly
 - ▣ Indicates how efficiently the burner is burning
- Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE):
 - ▣ Usually appears in manufacturer's literature
 - ▣ Includes jacket, cycling, and flue losses
- Seasonal Efficiency:
 - ▣ Includes distribution efficiency and AFUE

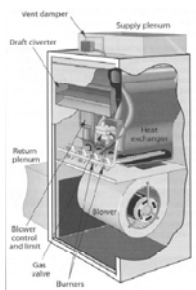


Heating and DHW System Identification

- Identify the fuel
- Identify the venting type
- Identify the distribution type
- Determine the efficiency



Gas Furnace, Atmospherically Vented



- Burners can be viewed directly by removing cabinet cover
- Relies on air from mechanical room for the burner (combustion air) and for draft (dilution air)



Sealed-Combustion Gas Furnace



- What is the difference between “direct-vent” and “sealed combustion”?



Atmospheric Gas Boiler



Sealed Combustion Boiler



Hydro-Air Furnace



Coal-Conversion Boiler



Wall Hung Boiler



Water Heaters



Combustion Safety Testing

Carbon Monoxide

- ❑ Carbon monoxide occurs when there is “incomplete combustion” in the appliance
- ❑ Typically, this happens when the air/fuel mixture is improper
- ❑ Oxygen deprivation can also occur when the burner flames impinge on a solid surface



Common Causes of CO

- ❑ Not enough combustion air
- ❑ Incorrect gas pressure
- ❑ Improper venting
- ❑ Flame Impingement
- ❑ Dirty/clogged burners





Why is CO Dangerous?

- Hemoglobin normally bonds with oxygen and distributes O_2 throughout your body.
- When CO is inhaled, it combines with hemoglobin with a bond that is 200 times stronger than its normal bond with O_2 .
- Carbon monoxide poisoning deprives your body's cells of oxygen.

Other Sources of CO

- Don't forget that CO can be produced in other parts of the home, including:
 - ▣ Woodstoves/fireplaces
 - ▣ Attached garages
 - ▣ Electric stoves on the cleaning cycle

CO Detectors

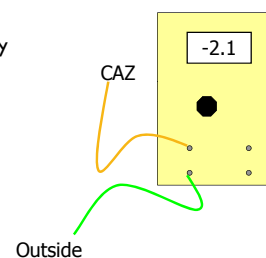
- A CO detector is recommended on every floor
- CO detectors shall be UL-2034 compliant and installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations

Worst Case CAZ Depressurization

- Set up the worst-case scenario combustion appliance zone (CAZ)
 1. Measure the base pressure between the CAZ and outside
 2. Turn on all exhaust fans (*don't forget dryers*)
 3. Determine if door closures make the CAZ pressure more negative, if so, keep them closed
 4. Determine if operation of the air handler fan makes the CAZ more negative, if so, conduct test with fan on
 5. Measure the worst-case negative pressure

Worst-case CAZ Depressurization

- Use the correct manometer setup
- Use care on windy days



Example of CAZ Depressurization



Spillage

- Check for spillage upon startup of combustion appliances
- Use stopwatch to record time elapsed before draft is established
- Use smoke around draft hood to verify spillage has ceased
- Use BPI standards to determine how to proceed



Check Draft Diverter for Signs of Spillage



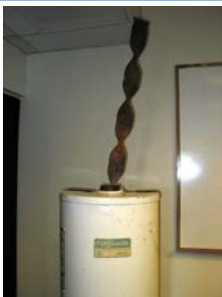
Spillage Test



- Why do you need to test all the way around the draft diverter?



Turbulator Divides Flue Into 2 Chambers



Draft

- Draft is measured approximately 12-18" downstream of the draft diverter
- Drill a 1/4" hole in the flue pipe and insert pressure probe or draft gauge
- 5 Pascals = 0.02 inches H₂O (to convert, divide Pascals by 250)



Testing Multiple Appliances

- Always test the smallest Btu appliance first
- Turn on larger appliance with smaller appliance already running and test them together
- Shut off both appliances and test the larger appliance alone



Carbon Monoxide Testing Procedures

- “Zero” the gauge by measuring outdoor levels as a baseline before testing inside the house.
- Ambient CO should be monitored throughout the entire combustion safety testing procedure
- If Ambient CO exceeds 35ppm at any time, the test should be stopped, appliances shut down, and the space ventilated before continuing
- The appliance should be adjusted/repared prior to repeating the test



Carbon Monoxide

- CO Measurements should always be taken in “undiluted” flue gases (i.e. before the draft diverter)
- Use the charts provided in the BPI standards to determine appropriate procedures based on measurements



“Natural” Conditions

- If an appliance fails the combustion safety tests under worst-case, the tests should be repeated under “natural” conditions
- Return all doors to their normal positions and turn off exhaust appliances, then repeat the tests
- Proceed as directed in the BPI standards



Testing Appliances that are not Atmospherically Vented

- All tests should be conducted on induced-draft or fan-assisted units
- Use galvanized lag screw (or similar) long enough to go through both walls, to seal holes made in double-walled flue pipe
- Do not drill holes in PVC flue pipe – if accessible, measure CO at the exhaust outlet



Special Concerns with Furnaces

- Check for flame interference by viewing the burner flames when the air-handler fan kicks on, if the flames change, this could be an indication of a problem (possibly a cracked heat exchanger)
- Wherever ductwork is present in the CAZ, take care to determine how duct sealing will effect the performance of the combustion appliances (creating negative or positive pressures in the zone)



CO Testing Gas Ovens

- Turn the oven on high (500 °F) and start a stopwatch
- Monitor ambient CO for first 5 minutes
- Insert probe into “throat” (exhaust outlet) of the oven
- Monitor CO readings until they become steady and record the steady-state reading
- Use BPL standards to determine actions based on results



Reducing Energy Use

Energy Saving Strategies

- Minimize Loads:
 - Air sealing, insulation, duct sealing
 - Also, things like shading in summer
- Reduce Consumption:
 - Use higher efficiency equipment and appliances
 - Reduce run times of lights and appliances, turn back thermostats

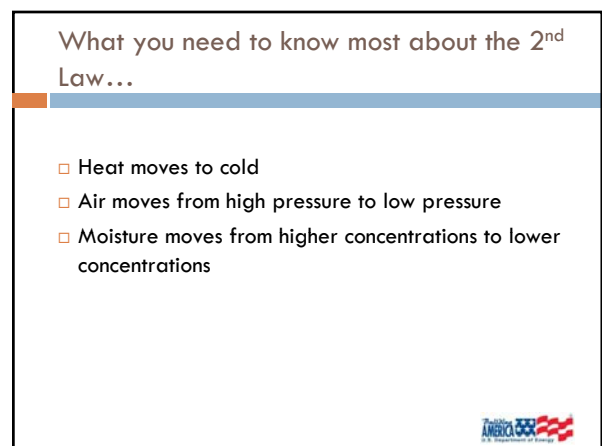
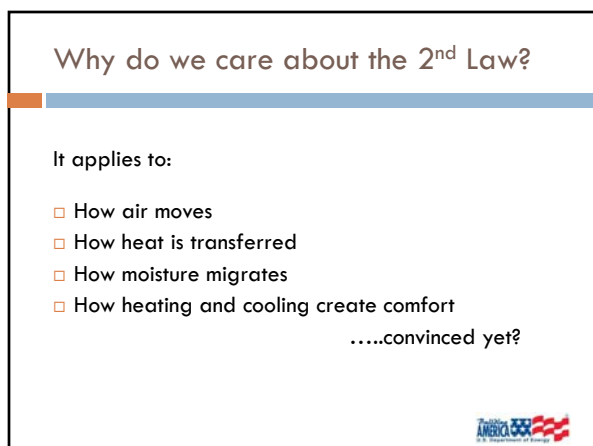
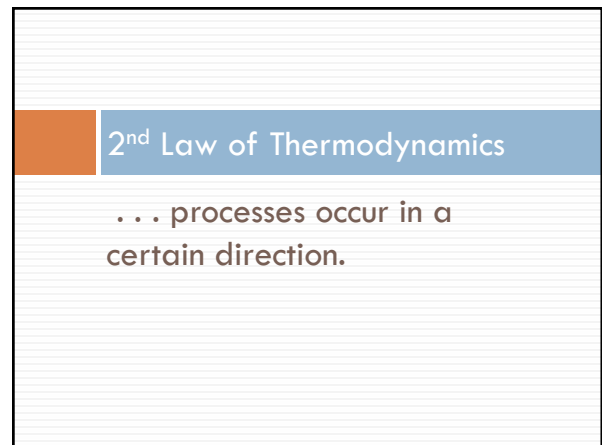
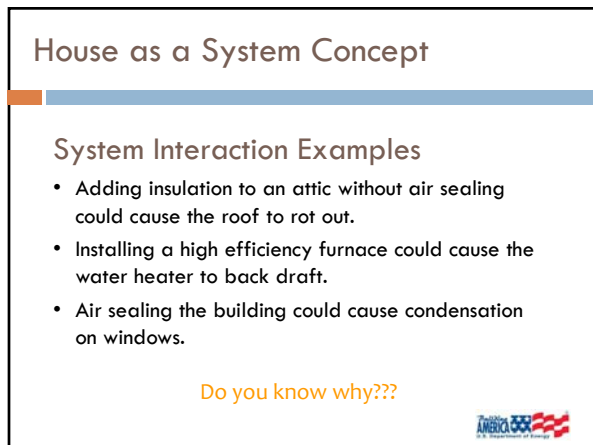
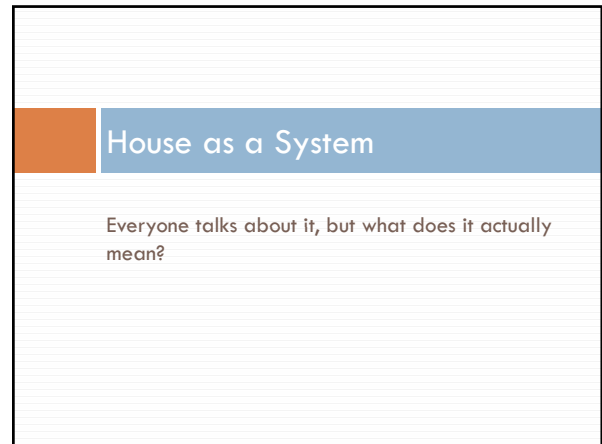
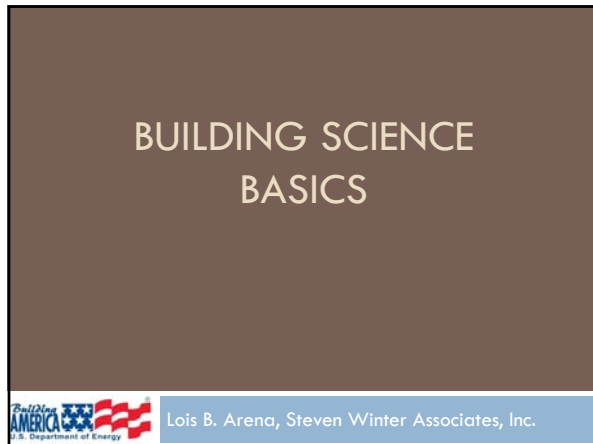


Energy Saving Strategies

- Reduce heating and cooling loads - insulation, air sealing
- Improve efficiency of appliances, lighting, mechanical systems
- Changing occupant behavior
 - reduce the amount of appliances, lighting, mechanical systems, and electronic devices – dealing with occupant behavior
 - Increase desirable internal gains - let the sun come in on cold winter days
 - Reduce unwanted internal gains - close the shades on hot summer days



Appendix D Contractor Training



Methods of Heat Transfer

Heat Transfer

- Heat is a form of energy
- When heat moves from place to place, it is referred to as "Heat Transfer"
- Heat Transfer occurs in three ways:
 - Conduction
 - Convection
 - Radiation



Heat Transfer

- Conduction
 - Occurs when heat energy moves through a solid or fluid material
 - Energy is transferred from one molecule to the next
 - What are some examples of conduction?



Heat Transfer

- Convection
 - Convection occurs when heat is carried from one place to another
 - Convection requires a "fluid medium" (i.e. a gas or liquid)



Example: Convection

- Convection in homes usually occurs when air in the house moves around due to temperature gradients
- Warm air is lighter (i.e. less dense) than cold air
- Cold air falls, warm air rises



Convective Loops

- When convection occurs in an enclosed space, the air (or fluid) will circulate around the space as it is heated and cooled, this is referred to as a convective loop
- What are some examples of places where convective loops could be found?



Heat Transfer

□ Radiation

- Heat that passes spontaneously from a warm body to a cold body
- The bodies must be in sight of each other but not in contact
- Radiation does not require a "medium" to carry the heat
- Give some examples of radiant heat transfer



Thermal Boundary

... a plane where insulation exists to prevent thermal transmission through the building shell, BUT ...

Thermal Boundary

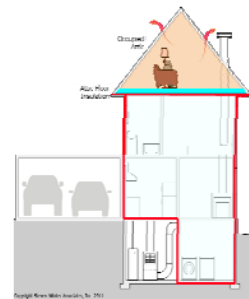
- Location of insulation in the building shell
- Type of insulation
- Amount of insulation (thickness and ft²)
- Quality of installation (good, fair, poor)
- Is insulation protected from wind-washing?
- Is insulation protected from moisture?

What is the conditioned boundary?!!!!

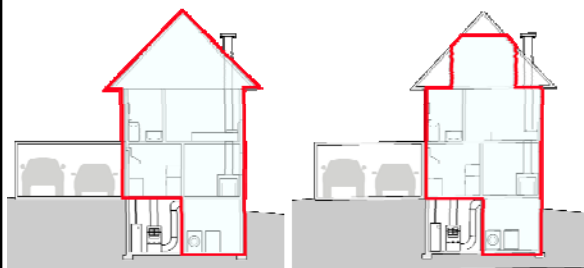


Thermal Boundary

- Identify how occupants use the space – what is conditioned or not?
- Make assessment based on the conditioned boundary.
- Make recommendations on how to align thermal boundary and conditioned boundary.



Thermal Boundary

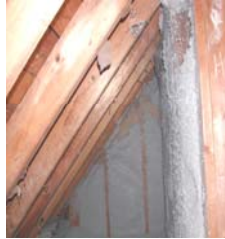


Pressure Boundary

... the plane where the largest pressure occurs during the blower door test.

Pressure Boundary

- In order to control infiltration and exfiltration, the pressure boundary must be continuous.
- For maximum effectiveness, the pressure boundary and thermal boundary should be in the same plane.



Thermal and Pressure Boundaries

- The two boundaries work together to manage energy, moisture, and comfort
 - ▣ Energy Control = \$\$\$ saved
 - ▣ Moisture Control = building durability
 - ▣ Comfort Control = happy customers



Thermal and Pressure Boundaries

- To function properly and protect the home, they must be:
 - ▣ Continuous (no gaps)
 - ▣ Aligned with each other



Airflow in Buildings

Airflow in Buildings

- Infiltration: air movement into the building
- Occurs in areas of negative pressure inside the building
- Pressure
 - ▣ Pascal
- Flow
 - ▣ Cubic Feet per Minute (CFM)
- Exfiltration: air movement out of the building
- Occurs in areas of positive pressure inside the building

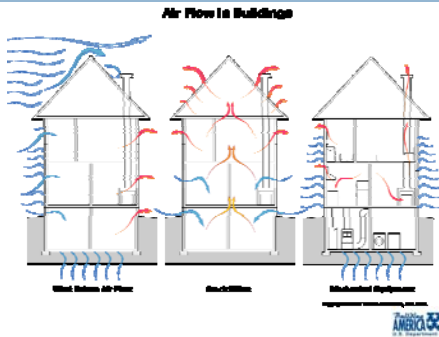


Airflow in Buildings

- 3 Main driving forces
 - ▣ Stack effect
 - ▣ Mechanical effect
 - ▣ Wind effect



Air Flow in Buildings



Stack Effect

- Stack Effect is the term used to describe air movement in heated buildings:
 - warm air rises and escapes from holes high in the building while cold air is drawn in through holes low in the building

$$1 \text{ CFM out} = 1 \text{ CFM in}$$

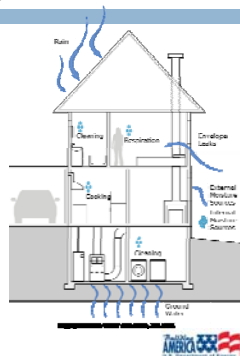
Exhaust Appliances

- Exhaust appliances cause depressurization of the living space
- Venting of combustion appliances can have the same effect
- When the house is depressurized, even at small pressures, infiltration will occur

Moisture Transfer

Moisture In Buildings

- Common Moisture Sources
 - Bulk Moisture (leaks)
 - Water Vapor
 - Cooking
 - Cleaning
 - Respiration
 - Ground Water (through basement floors and walls)



Moisture Transport

- Moisture moves around buildings in all of the following ways:
 - Bulk moisture transfer (including capillary action through porous materials)
 - Diffusion
 - Airborne moisture movement
- Which one do you think causes the most problems in homes?

Moisture Damage



Airborne Moisture

- #1 moisture-related problem for building science professionals
- Moisture gets into attics by stack effect (how else?)
- Moisture gets into walls by:
 - ▣ Pressurization in heating season
 - ▣ Depressurization in cooling season



Airborne Moisture - Control

- Reduce/eliminate sources – fix drainage around building, fix leaks into building
- Properly ventilate high moisture spaces – kitchens, baths, laundry
- Use whole-house mechanical ventilation - eliminate moisture from people, pets, etc.



Air Sealing

Why Air Seal?

- Comfort
- Efficiency
- Moisture
- Indoor air quality (IAQ)



Air Sealing Materials

- Spray foam
 - ▣ 1-Part
 - ▣ 2-Part
- Caulk
- Rigid Foam Board
- Drywall
- Thick Plastic
- Cardboard?
- Basically, anything that will stop air



Air Sealing Priorities

- Stop the Stack Effect!
- Go after biggest holes first, duh
- Top of the house is usually first priority
- Basements and Crawlspaces next
- Main house last, if even necessary



Attic Air Sealing

- Plumbing and electrical penetrations
- Chimneys and Vents
- Top plates
- Recessed lights
- Dropped soffits and ceilings
- Attic access
- Knee-wall areas



P & E Penetrations



Chimneys and Flue Vents

- High Temperature surfaces require special considerations
- Can not have combustible materials (i.e. spray foam, most insulations) in contact with high temp surfaces
- Sheet metal, high temp caulk, and rockwool are good alternatives



Dropped soffits and ceilings



Knee-wall areas



Basement/Crawl Space Sealing

- Rim joists/sill plates
- Exterior penetrations
- Floor penetrations



Rim Joists/Exterior Penetrations

- Along the gap between the sill plate and foundation
- Top and Bottom of each rim joist bay
- All electrical, water, or gas penetrations and any venting ducts that pass to the outside

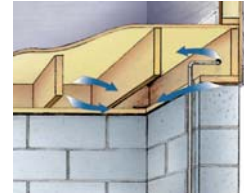


ILLUSTRATION BY DALE HOFFMEYER



Floor Penetrations

- Electrical and plumbing penetrations
- Under tubs and showers
- HVAC duct penetrations



Main House Air Sealing

- Caulk Baseboards
- Weather-strip doors and windows
- Caulk around door and window trim
- Foam plumbing penetrations beneath sinks
- Gasket electrical outlets



Air Leakage Testing

Using a Blower Door

- Basic Components
 - Sheet
 - Fan
 - Gauge – manometer
 - Frame



Using a Blower Door

- House Preparation
 - ▣ Open doors to conditioned space
 - ▣ Make sure all registers are open and uncovered
 - ▣ Turn off ALL fans.
 - ▣ Tape off any openings for mechanical ventilation that runs automatically and continuously.
 - ▣ Turn heating and air conditioning systems off.
 - ▣ Turn gas water heating equipment to pilot. Leave your car keys.
 - ▣ Turn off the emergency switch for oil & gas equipment.



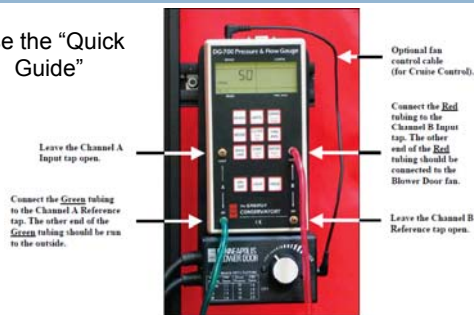
Using a Blower Door

- House Preparation (cont.)
 - ▣ Close fireplace dampers and remove or cover ashes.
 - ▣ Close and lock all windows including storms.
 - ▣ Close adjustable trickle &/or through the wall vents.
 - ▣ Seal evaporative cooler openings if a cap is used.
 - ▣ Fill plumbing traps with water if air is coming out.
 - ▣ Seal window air conditioners that are removed in winter.
 - ▣ If you suspect asbestos is present, do not do a blower door.
 - ▣ When finished, remove tape, put thermostats back to original settings and turn on heating and hot water.



Using a Blower Door

Use the "Quick Guide"



Using a Blower Door

- Check your readings against:
 - ▣ Typical flows in table on Quick Guide
 - ▣ Against pressure/flow tables in back of manual

Fan Configuration	Flow Range (cfm) for Model 3 Fan
Open (no Flow Ring)	6,300 - 2,430
Ring A	2,800 - 915
Ring B	1,100 - 300
Ring C	330 - 85



Using a Blower Door

- Blower door tells you:
 - ▣ Air changes per hour (ACHn) - How many times per hour the air in the house is exchanged with outside air
 - ▣ Where major leaks are
 - ▣ If unconditioned buffer zones are inside or outside of the house
 - ▣ Areas you should concentrate on when air sealing
 - High & low holes
 - Biggest holes
 - ▣ If mechanical ventilation should be added



Air Sealing and Ventilation

- Can we make a building too tight?
- Air sealing keeps energy in, but also keeps CO₂, moisture, and pollutants in
- Every house requires a certain air exchange rate to maintain healthy indoor air quality



Air Sealing and Ventilation

- Building tightness limits, based on volume and # of occupants
 - ▣ Converted into CFM50
- If blower door reading falls below the BTL, mechanical ventilation must be installed
- “Build tight, ventilate right”
 - ▣ Better to control where our fresh air is coming from than to let the house decide



Insulation

R-value ($h \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F / Btu$)

- R-value is a measurement of a material's resistance to conductive heat transfer
- The higher the R-value, the better the insulator



Insulation

- Why is insulation light and fluffy?
 - ▣ Small pockets in insulation trap still air
 - ▣ The air is the insulator!



R-values of Common Insulations

Type	R-value/Inch
Fiberglass	2.4 – 4
Cellulose	3.2 – 3.8
Low Density Foam	3.6 – 4.5
High Density Foam	5.6 – 7
Rockwool	3.5 – 4.5
Extruded Polystyrene	5
Poly-isocyanurate	6.5 – 7



What Air Movement Does to Insulation...

- When air moves through insulation, there are no more still air pockets
- As a result, the effective R-value is reduced
- Remember:
 - ▣ R per inch of wood ≈ 1.2
 - ▣ R per pane of glass < 1.0



Other Factors Affecting Insulation Performance

- Compression (refer to manufacturer's compression charts)
- "Fluffing", especially blown fiberglass
- Voids and gaps, inconsistent coverage
- Moisture
- Not in contact with the surface it is insulating

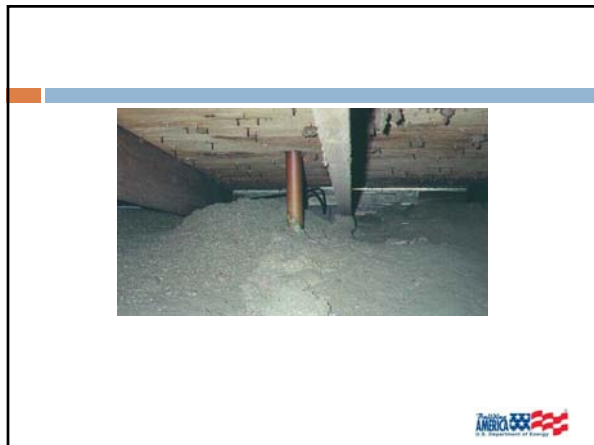
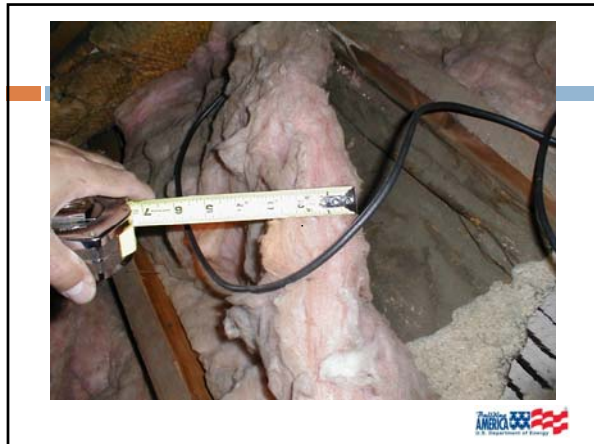


Insulation Types

Classroom Exercise

What's wrong with this picture?







What does a good Insulation job look like?



Attic



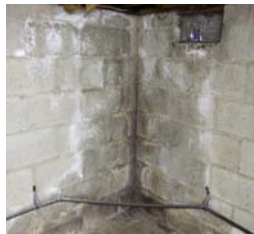
Attic Hatches

- One of the weakest points in the thermal envelope
- Gasket opening
- Insulate with Rigid Foam
- Add drywall or plywood for weight



Insulating Crawl Spaces

- To vent, or not to vent. That is the question.
- Code used to mandate venting crawl spaces, in order to remove moisture
- But....usually the opposite occurs
- Why?



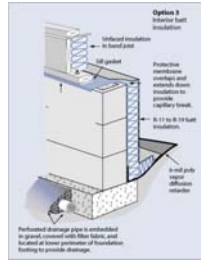
Insulating Crawl Spaces

- Crawl Spaces *generally* should be unvented, conditioned areas
- Vapor Barrier over dirt floors
 - Overlapped 6" at seams, taped or sealed
 - Ran at least 6" up the wall and sealed or taped
- Walls insulated to R-10 minimum
- Conditioned air supply sized to deliver at a rate of 1cfm/50ft² of under-floor area
- Remove all debris



Insulating Crawl Spaces

- Rigid foam board
- High density spray foam
- Rockwool



Insulating Crawl Spaces

- Sometimes it is better to exclude crawls from energy envelope
 - High water table/standing water
- Insulate c/s ceiling
- Air sealing is critical
- Seal and insulate ducts

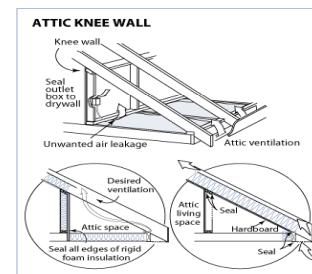


Knee Wall Areas

- Knee wall areas can either be brought into conditioned space or excluded from conditioned space
- Insulate roof rafters to bring into conditioned space
- Insulate walls and floor to exclude from conditioned space



Knee Walls



R-value vs. U-value (Btu/h · ft² · °F)

$$U\text{-value} = 1 \div R\text{-value}$$

Typically:

- U-values are used to rate window performance
- U-values are also used in heat loss calculations

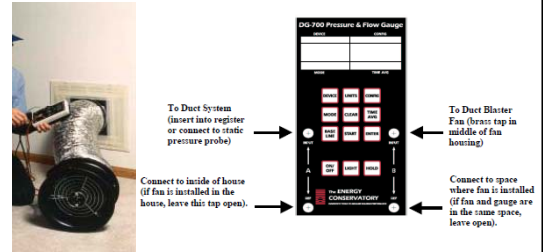


NFRC Label



Duct Leakage Testing

Duct Leakage Testing



Duct Leakage Testing

- Configure the house for an air leakage test
- Determine if the air handler is inside or outside the conditioned space
- Remove the system air filter.
- Select an appropriate location – at air handler or return closest to air handler
- Set up the pressure hoses – if gauge is “outside” the conditioned area, run hose to the conditioned space
- Seal all supply and return registers

Duct Leakage Testing

- Open unconditioned zones to outside as much as possible.
- Using the blower door, pressurize the house to 25 Pascals.
- Pressurize the duct system until the pressure in the supply duct is 0.
- Record testing equipment fan pressure and ring used
- Record the duct blaster fan airflow. This is your duct leakage to outside.

Duct Sealing

- Materials
 - ▣ Mastic
 - ▣ Foil tape
 - ▣ Sheet metal, screws
 - ▣ Paint brush
 - ▣ Caulk
 - ▣ PPE
 - Gloves
 - Respirator

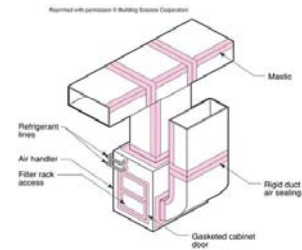
Duct Sealing

- Priorities
 - ▣ Biggest holes
 - ▣ Leaks closest to Air Handler
 - ▣ Duct Joints
 - ▣ Panned Returns
 - ▣ Boot connections
 - ▣ Filter Slot
 - ▣ Air Handler cabinet

Duct Sealing



Duct Sealing



Duct Sealing



Duct Sealing

- Panned Returns
 - ▣ Uses stud and joist bays as the return chaseway
 - ▣ Best Solution: Replace with a fully ducted return
 - ▣ Next Solution: Use screws to fasten sheet metal, then mastic and/or tape to fully seal seams
- Filter slots
 - ▣ Filter should be right sized
 - ▣ Best practice to build a removable slot cover out of sheet metal
 - ▣ Tape?



Mechanical Systems

Combustion Science

- Elements needed for combustion
 - ▣ Fuel – gas, oil, wood, propane, etc.
 - ▣ Oxygen
 - ▣ Heat Source
- By-products
 - ▣ Water (H_2O)
 - ▣ Carbon Dioxide (CO_2)
- Incomplete combustion leads to Carbon Monoxide (CO)

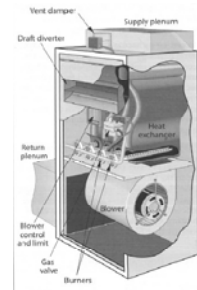


Heating and DHW System Identification

- Identify the fuel
- Identify the venting type
- Identify the distribution type



Gas Furnace, Atmospherically Vented



- Burners can be viewed directly by removing cabinet cover
- Relies on air from mechanical room for the burner (combustion air) and for draft (dilution air)



Atmospheric Gas Boiler



Sealed-Combustion Gas Furnace



- What is the difference between "direct-vent" and "sealed combustion"?



Sealed Combustion Boiler



Hydro-Air Furnace



Coal-Conversion Boiler



Wall Hung Boiler



Water Heaters



Combustion Safety Testing

Common Causes of CO

- Not enough combustion air
- Incorrect gas pressure
- Improper venting
- Flame Impingement
- Dirty/clogged burners



Overview of Combustion Safety Testing

- CAZ depressurization
- Spillage
- Draft
- CO Testing



Why is CO Dangerous?

- Hemoglobin normally bonds with oxygen and distributes O_2 throughout your body.
- When CO is inhaled, it combines with hemoglobin with a bond that is 200 times stronger than its normal bond with O_2 .
- Carbon monoxide poisoning deprives your body's cells of oxygen.



Other Sources of CO

- Don't forget that CO can be produced in other parts of the home, including:
 - Woodstoves/fireplaces
 - Attached garages
 - Electric stoves on the cleaning cycle



CO Detectors

- A CO detector is recommended on every floor
- CO detectors shall be UL-2034 compliant and installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations



Example of CAZ Depressurization





Spillage

- Check for spillage upon startup of combustion appliances
- Use stopwatch to record time elapsed before draft is established
- Use smoke around draft hood to verify spillage has ceased
- Draft should be established within 1 minute

Check Draft Diverter for Signs of Spillage



Spillage Test



- Why do you need to test all the way around the draft diverter?

Turbulator Divides Flue Into 2 Chambers



Draft

- Draft is flow of gases up the flue
- Atmospheric relies on gravity – very weak, easily reversed
- Depends on temperature of flue, outside temperature & chimney height



Testing Multiple Appliances

- Multiple appliance will affect draft
- Smaller appliances will piggy-back off larger
- Changing out an appliance w/out changing flue can affect draft



Carbon Monoxide Testing Procedures

- Ambient CO should be monitored throughout the entire combustion safety testing procedure
- If Ambient CO exceeds 35ppm at any time, the test should be stopped, appliances shut down, and the space ventilated before continuing
- The appliance should be adjusted/repared prior to repeating the test



Special Concerns with Furnaces

- Wherever ductwork is present in the CAZ, take care to determine how duct sealing will effect the performance of the combustion appliances (creating negative or positive pressures in the zone)



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DOE/GO-102012-3574 • April 2012

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