



Uniform Methods Project

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Overview

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 - What are we are trying to accomplish?
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Why Is This Project Needed?

- There are multiple methods for calculating energy savings from energy efficiency measures.
 - More than 20 technical reference manuals in existence.
 - Calculation methods developed independently.
- Lack of consistency leads to difficulty comparing results.
 - The same efficiency measure can yield differing savings results depending on the protocol used to calculate savings.
- There is a general lack of transparency about the assumptions and details of savings calculations.
- Result is reduced credibility for reported savings.

Bring Uniformity and Transparency to Energy Savings Calculations for Energy Efficiency Programs

- Strengthen credibility of savings calculations through greater consistency and transparency.
- Simplify comparison of savings across similar efficiency programs and measures in different jurisdictions.
- Reduce the development costs of evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V).
- Increase the acceptance of reported energy savings by the financial and regulatory communities.

Develop and Publish 15–20 Protocols of Savings Calculations of Energy Efficiency Measures

- Addresses most common residential and commercial efficiency measures in utility-run programs.
- Presents step-by-step calculations for determining gross savings.
- Will publish as a reference
- Adoption is voluntary

Protocols Developed In Collaboration With EM&V Industry and Major Energy Efficiency Stakeholders

- Protocols developed in collaboration with energy efficiency program administrators, EM&V consultants, and stakeholders.
 - Including the major U.S. firms that do most—70%—of energy efficiency evaluations

Greater Consistency of Savings Calculations

- Increases credibility of savings estimates
- Makes it easier and less costly for to quickly establish good EM&V practices because they no longer have to start from scratch
- Simplifies comparison of savings resulting from similar programs in different jurisdictions and climates

Greater Transparency in Calculations Methods Reduces Various Types of Risks Associated with Energy Efficiency Programs

- Helps public service commissions and utility-run programs manage regulatory risk.
- Enables resource planners to more clearly understand risks of energy efficiency.
- Increases investor confidence in energy savings calculations, which reduces financial risk to program underwriters.

Strengthen a Developing EM&V Industry

- Protocols provide a good technical foundation for organizations and staffs that are either new to or expanding into EM&V.
- Further establish that energy efficiency is a reliable and predictable energy resource through improved EM&V.

Supports Development of Best Practices for Energy Efficiency

- Clearly identifying the parameters used in measuring and calculating the results of energy efficiency programs allows administrators to set data requirements early on, which will improve alignment between implementation and evaluations.
- Energy efficiency programs that adopt the protocols will have greater confidence in setting and meeting savings targets as part of larger energy efficiency initiatives.
 - Provide the basis for complying with energy efficiency resource standards

Steering Committee Leads Development Process

- Protocols development led by the Uniform Methods Project Steering Committee, which is composed of energy efficiency stakeholders, including:
 - Energy efficiency program administrators
 - Regulators from public service commissions
 - Investor-owned, public, and cooperative electric and gas utilities
 - Electric utility associations
 - EM&V consultants
 - Federal and state agencies involved in energy efficiency programs
 - Energy efficiency advocates
 - Regional energy efficiency organizations

Timeline

- Technical reviews of the first set of 7 protocols in spring and summer 2012
 - Major stakeholders in U.S. energy efficiency programs are invited to participate
- First set of 7 protocols publish late 2012
 - Some recommendations for cross-cutting issues such as sample and survey design are addressed
- Second set of 10 protocols publish in 2013