

# A New Construction Energy Efficient Lab Building: Funding the Project & Performance After Occupancy

---

**University of Denver**

**Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering & Computer Science**

**Presented By:**

**Chad King, PhD – Sustainability Director - University of Denver**

**Mark Labac, P.E., LEED AP – President – Edge Mechanical Systems, Inc.**



UNIVERSITY *of*  
DENVER



# Overview

---

- Energy Efficiency Goals
- Carbon Footprint Implications
- How are we DU'ing?
- High Performance Energy Recovery System
- Performance Monitoring
- Performance After Occupancy
- Questions



# Learning Objectives

---

- What elements can be incorporated into a building to enhance sustainability
- How to finance a project with energy efficient equipment that increases first cost
- How to effectively measure actual performance after occupancy
- How to secure continuous pay-back on energy efficient equipment



## Energy Conservation - Goals

---

- **Save Utility Dollars**
- **Leverage Xcel's Utility Rebates**
- **Lower our Carbon Footprint**

## Climate Action Plan for University of Denver

“The University of Denver is committed to seeking carbon neutrality by the year 2050 through conservation, reduced consumption, and pursuing appropriate and responsible alternative energy sources. To achieve this goal, the University is working toward a **24%** carbon reduction by the year **2020.**”

## 25X25 Sustainability Goals

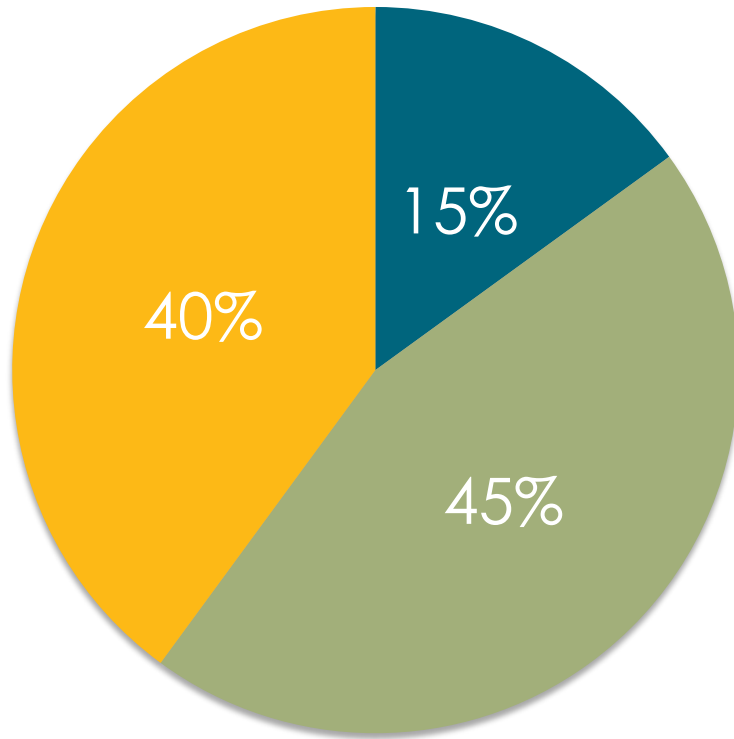
1. Reduce carbon emissions by 24% by 2020 and 45% by 2025 from 2006 levels.
2. Produce 5% of DU's energy needs on-site through renewable sources.
3. Continue reduction of on-campus electrical consumption by 500,000 kWh/yr.
4. Investigate a 20-year PPA for 20% of DU's total energy needs.
5. Achieve an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) better than the national average by building type.



# Emissions Source Overview

**FY17 Carbon Footprint by Scope**

■ Scope 1 ■ Scope 2 ■ Scope 3



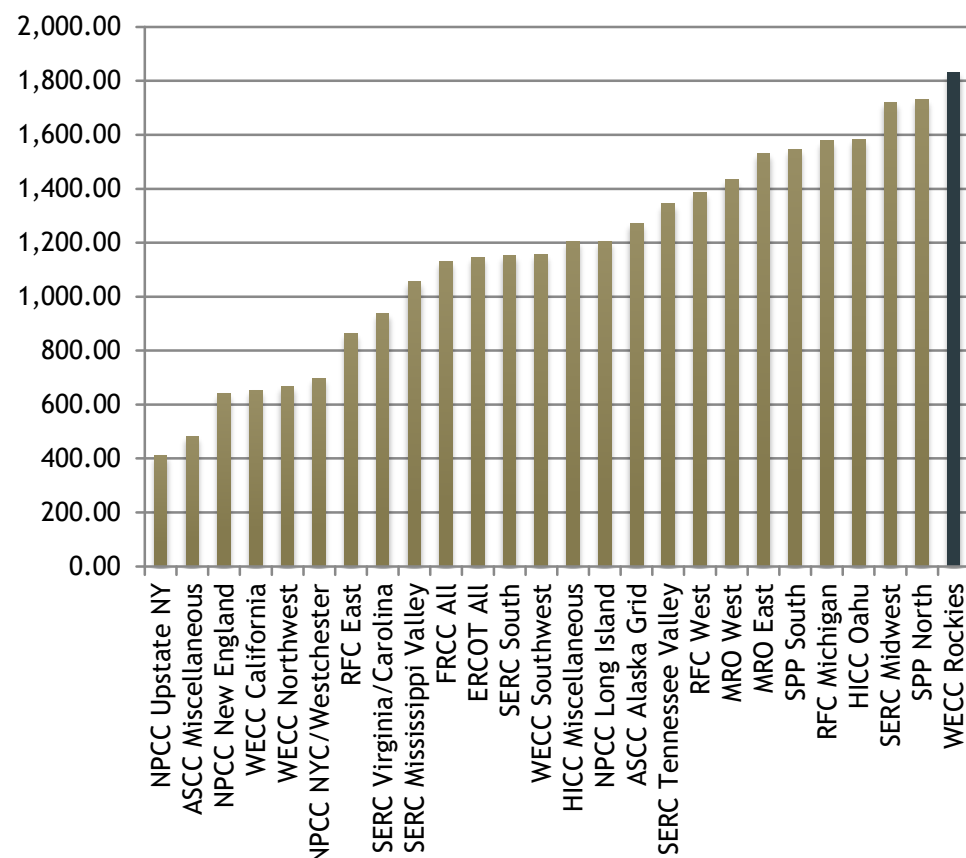
Source	MTCDE	Percentage of total
On Campus Stationary	8,504	14%
Direct financed travel	7,971	13%
Study abroad	3,900	7%
Employee commuting	4,969	8%
Student commuting	4,048	7%
Purchased electricity	34,102	45%



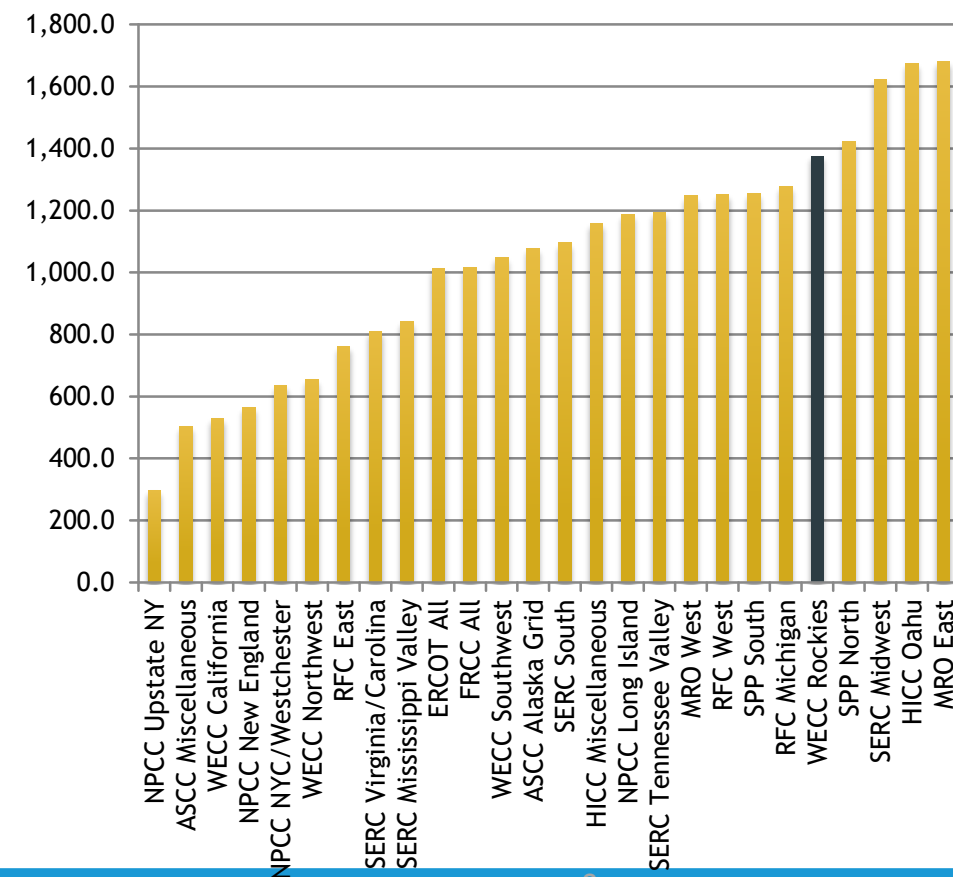
## Scope 2 eGrid emissions

*DU within one of the most carbon intense regions (but improving)*

2012



2016



# How are we DU'ing?

## **Energy Conservation - Goals**

---

- **Save Utility Dollars**
- **Leverage Xcel's Utility Rebates**
- **Lower our Carbon Footprint**

# Energy Reserve/Green Fund Funded Projects

## Energy Saving Projects - Cumulative Q2 FY18

### FY17 and Prior - Completed

Type	#	Construction		Less		Net		Annual Savings (@Prior Rates)			Average	
		Cost		Rebates		Investment		Therms	Kwh	Amount	Payback (yrs)	
Controls	15	\$	406,687	\$	(126,882)	\$	279,805	30,650	2,020,433	\$	204,615	1.37
Lighting	30	\$	784,474	\$	(275,480)	\$	508,994		3,118,252	\$	278,559	1.83
Mechanical	24	\$	1,168,857	\$	(365,246)	\$	803,611	88,318	2,337,517	\$	252,086	3.19
Survey	12	\$	280,556	\$	(158,013)	\$	122,543					
Totals	81	\$	2,640,574	\$	(925,622)	\$	1,714,952	118,968	7,476,202	\$	735,260	2.33

### FY18 - Completed or In Progress

Type	#	Construction		Less		Net Investment	Annual Savings (FY17 Rates)			Average Payback (yrs)	
		Cost		Rebates			Therms	Kwh	Amount		
Controls	0										
Lighting	2	\$	491,415	\$	(69,880)	\$	421,535	2,034,730	\$	220,952	1.91
Mechanical	0										
Survey	0										
Totals	2	\$	491,415	\$	(69,880)	\$	421,535	2,034,730	\$	220,952	1.91

<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,131,989</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(995,502)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,136,487</b>	<b>118,968</b>	<b>9,510,932</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>956,212</b>	<b>2.23</b>
-------------------	-----------	-----------	------------------	-----------	------------------	-----------	------------------	----------------	------------------	-----------	----------------	-------------



## Energy Reserve Funded Projects

- Facilities identifies potential projects having relatively short pay back periods.
- Investments are often off-set by Xcel rebates.
- The projects are funded from an Institutional Utility Savings Reserve which has been built up from year end savings in the Utility budgets.

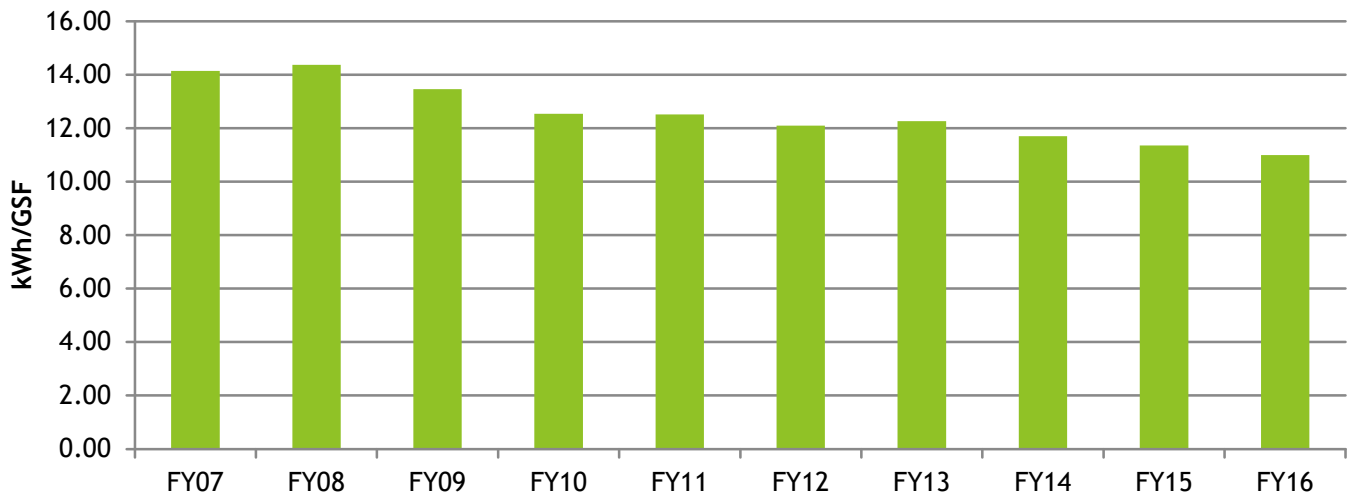
Type	#	Construction Cost	Less Rebates	Net Investment	Annual Savings (FY15 Rates)			Average Payback (yrs)
					Therms	Kwh	Amount	
Controls	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-	\$ -	-
Lighting	6	\$ 131,366	\$ (25,250)	\$ 106,116	-	269,100	\$ 26,868	3.95
Mechanical	1	\$ 385,179	\$ (220,000)	\$ 165,179	63,343	599,866	\$ 81,159	2.04

SECS



## Electric Utility Savings - FY09 thru FY16

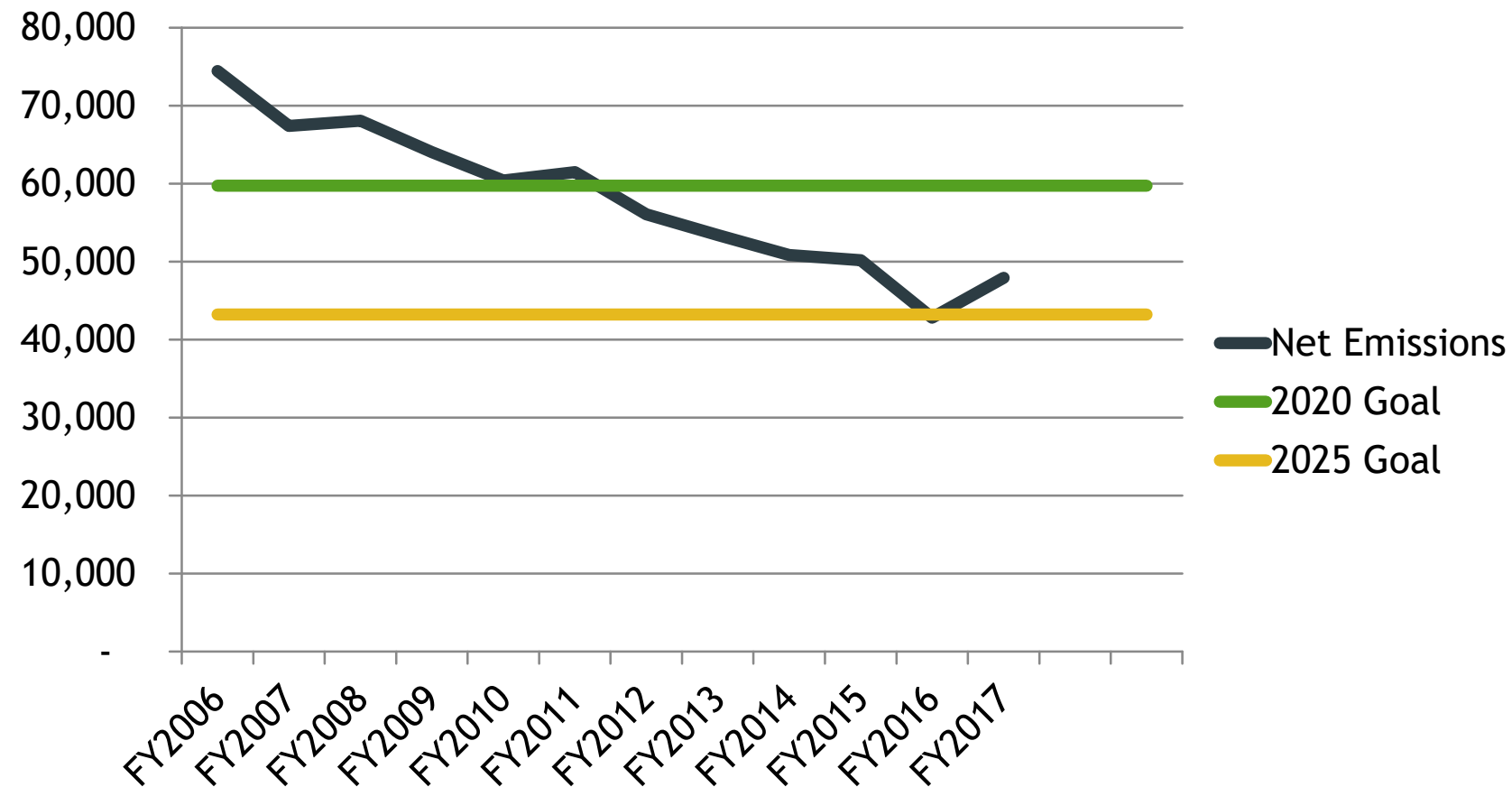
\$5,376,306



	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
kWh/GSF	14.37	13.46	12.54	12.52	12.10	12.27	11.70	11.36	11.00
KWH	44,927,569	45,433,486	43,964,329	41,374,022	42,144,346	39,534,746	40,436,453	40,232,957	39,454,235



## Progress towards our CARBON goal



Gross emissions, does not include emissions reductions associated with the purchase of offsets

## School of Engineering – EDA Efficiency Enhancements & Results

---

- High Efficiency Heat Recovery Systems
- Magnetic Bearing Chillers
- High Efficiency Condensing Boilers
- Occupancy Sensors – to automatically setback Labs from 6 to 4 air changes per hour
- **Leveraged a \$220,000 rebate from Xcel Energy**
- **Modeled building energy efficiency is 21.6% greater than required by building codes**
- **\$140,000 of annual utility savings vs. base model**

# **High Efficiency Run Around Energy Recovery System**



## Most Critical Elements of High Performance Run Around Energy Recovery System

High-performance Heat Exchangers (Coils)

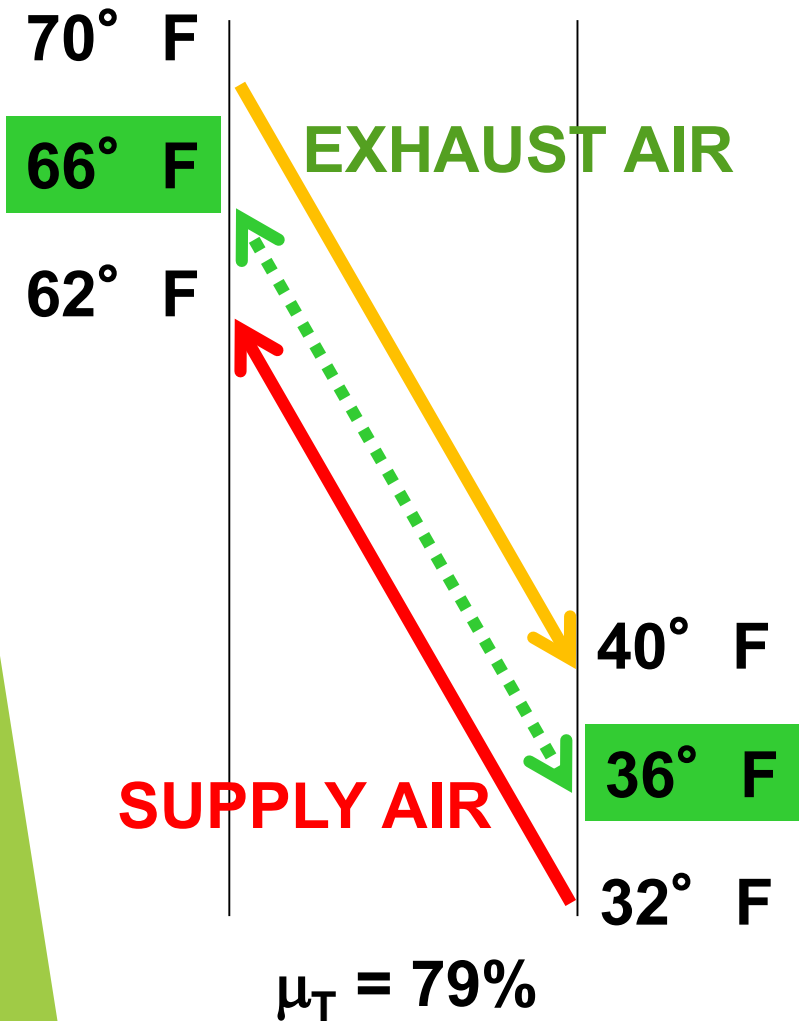
Demand-dependent Automatic Controls

- mechanical ability to adjust the operating parameters
- optimum performance at all operating conditions

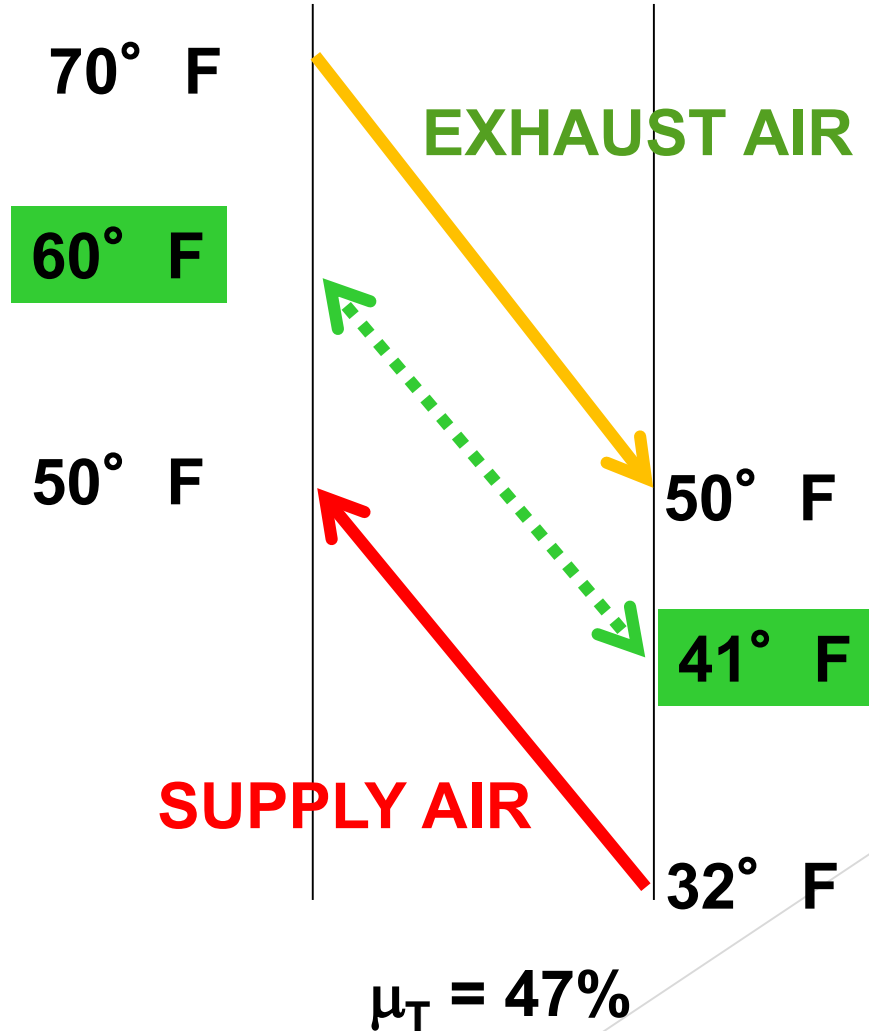
Failure-free Operation (Monitoring)

# High Performance Coils

High-Efficiency System  
4 degree approach temps

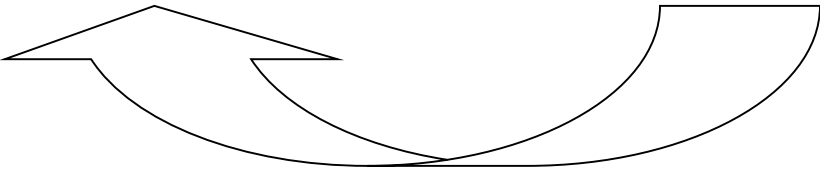


Traditional System  
9 – 10 degree approach temps



## Optimal Recovery of the Energy in the Exhaust Air

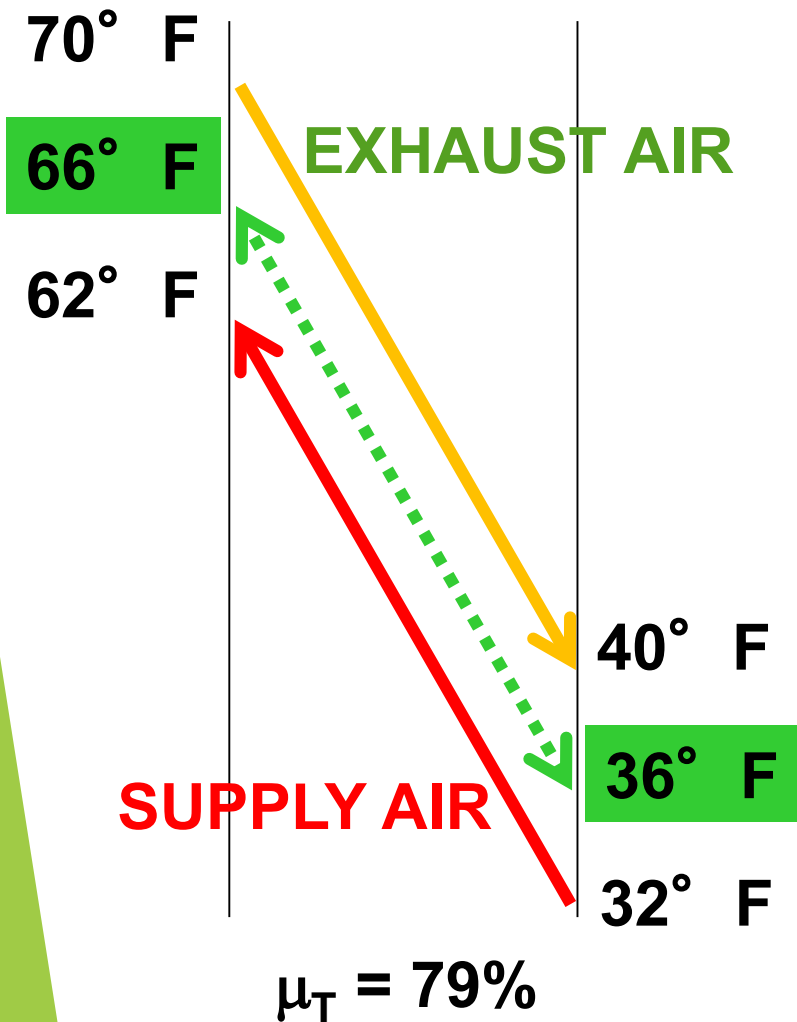
Optimum Quantity Circulated at all Operating Conditions

$$\textcircled{Q} = A * k * \textcircled{\Theta}_m$$


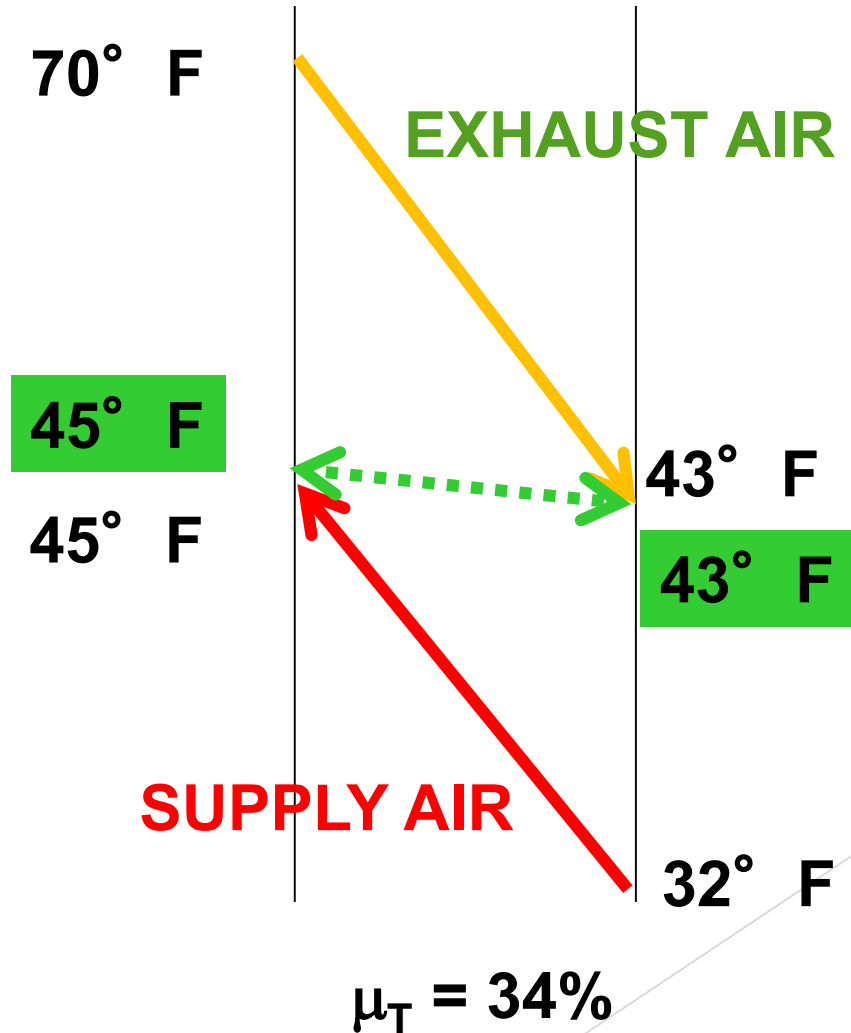
$Q = \text{optimal}$    $\Theta_m = \text{maximum}$

# High Performance Coils

Variable Flow



Constant Flow



**Prerequisite to Control  
High Performance ER-Systems:**

**Continuously Vary Fluid Flow  
Rate According to Air Volumes  
& Air Temperatures To  
Maximize Energy Recovery**

**Numerical Simulation  
Performance-Mapping**

### **Heat Demand**

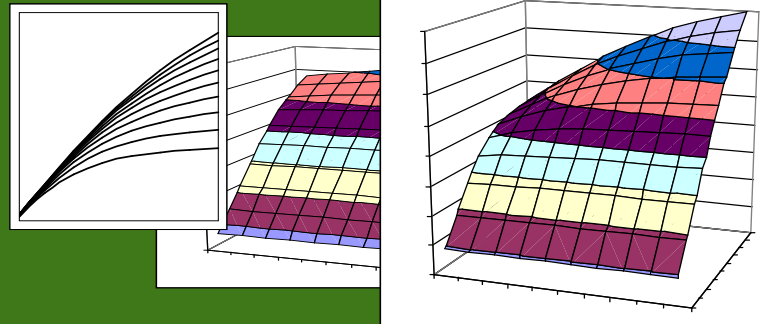
- Outside Temperature
- Supply Air Volumes
- Set Point Temperatures

### **Available Heat**

- Exhaust Temp / Humidity
- Exhaust Air Volumes
- Heat Inputs from Plate & Frames

### **Performance Maps**

- Heat Exchangers, Pumps, Valves



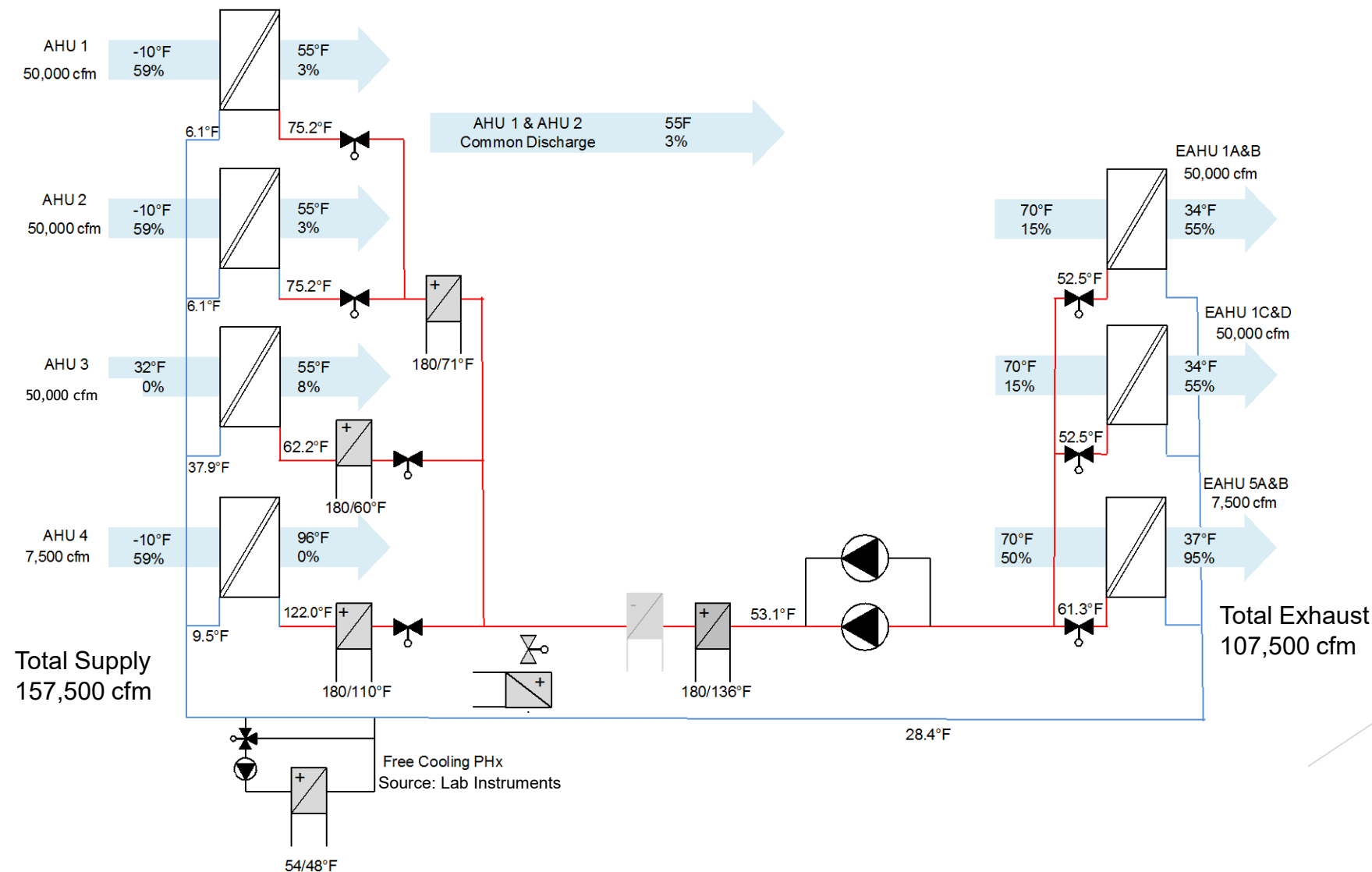
## Hydronic Module Containing Controller Hardware & Software



Winter Design Point With Free Cooling:

PHx Heating Eliminates Heating Coil

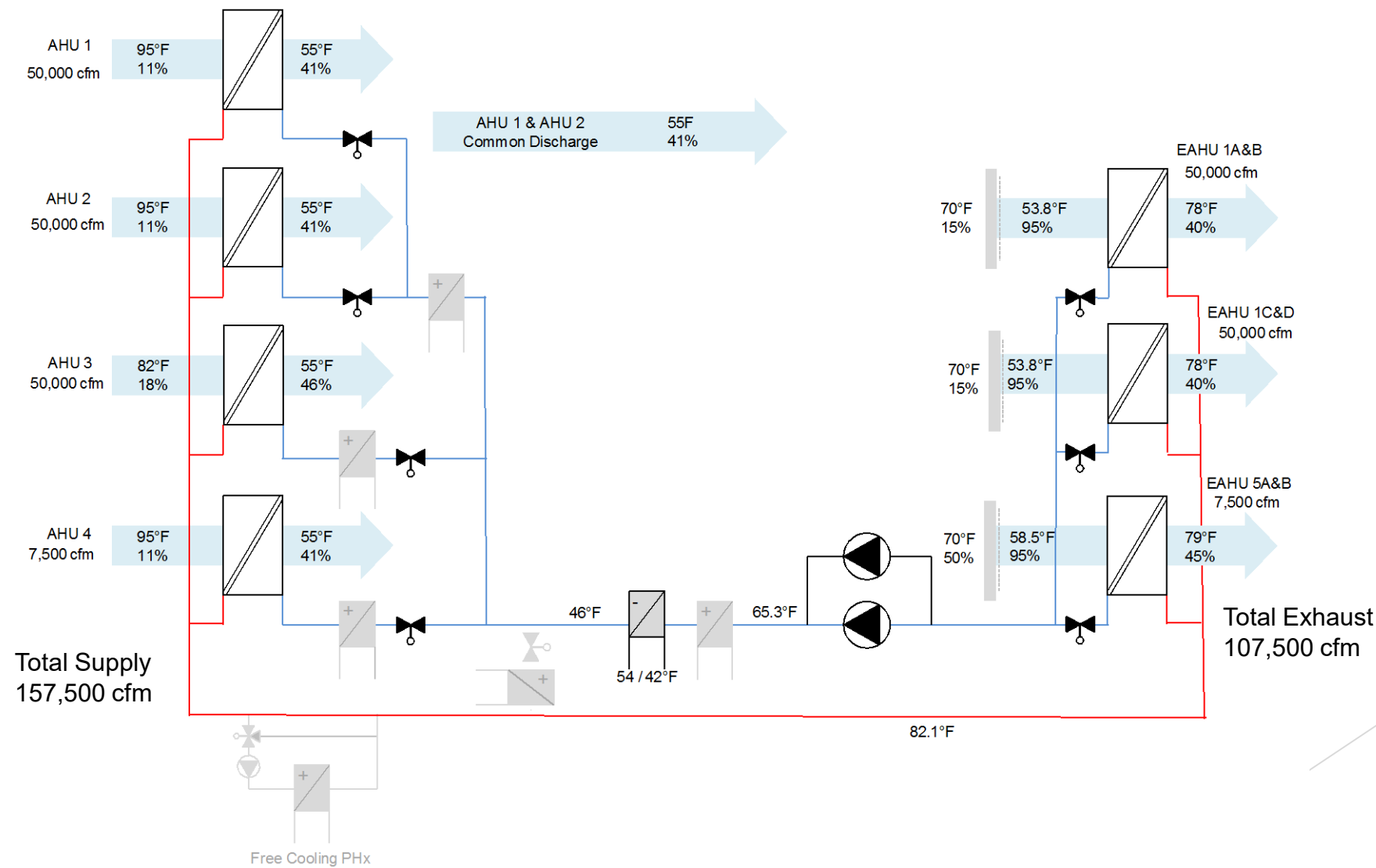
(Heating to 55F)



Summer Design Point With Adiabatic Cooling:

PHx Cooling Eliminates Cooling Coil

(Cooling to 55F)



MeeFog™ Technology

# Think Small

Maximize Evaporative Efficiency

Increasing Summer Energy Recovery With Adiabatic Exhaust Cooling

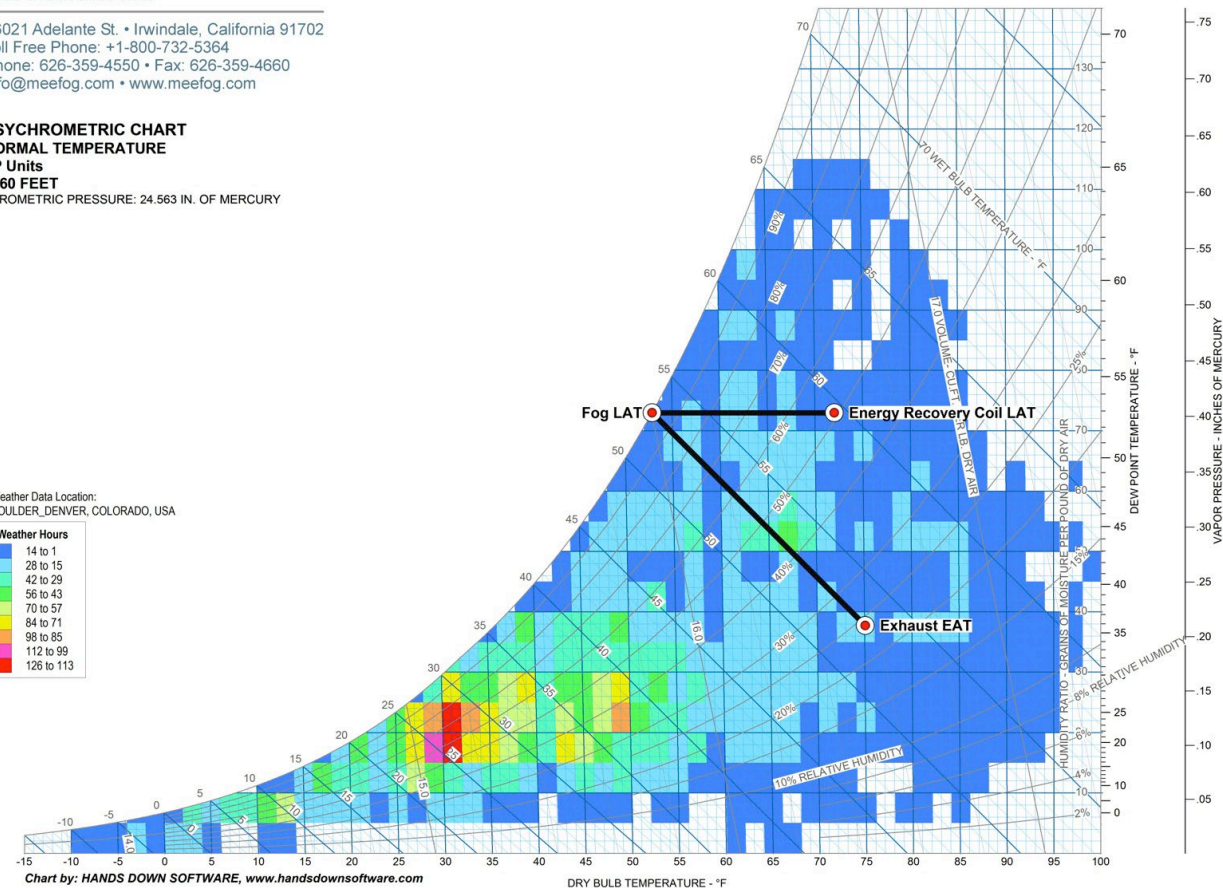
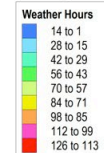
- Exhaust EAT:  
75 db / 53 wb
- Fog LAT:  
53 db / 53 wb
- Evaporative  
cooling effect  
= 22 degrees



16021 Adelante St. • Irwindale, California 91702  
Toll Free Phone: +1-800-732-5364  
Phone: 626-359-4550 • Fax: 626-359-4660  
info@meefog.com • www.meefog.com

**PSYCHROMETRIC CHART**  
**NORMAL TEMPERATURE**  
I-P Units  
**5360 FEET**  
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE: 24.563 IN. OF MERCURY

Weather Data Location:  
BOULDER, DENVER, COLORADO, USA



Energy Model

Denver, CO		Without Energy Recovery	Konvekta REARS	Konvekta REARS with Free Cooling
Winter				
Heating Energy Requirement	kWh/a	3,426,3450	337,416	214,554
Effectiveness Heating (heating to 55F)			90%	94%
		Without Energy Recovery	Konvekta REARS	Konvekta REARS with Free Cooling
Summer (with adiabatic exhaust cooling)				
Cooling Energy Requirement	kWh/a	2,119,433	852,303	852,303
Effectiveness Cooling (cooling to 55F)			60%	60%

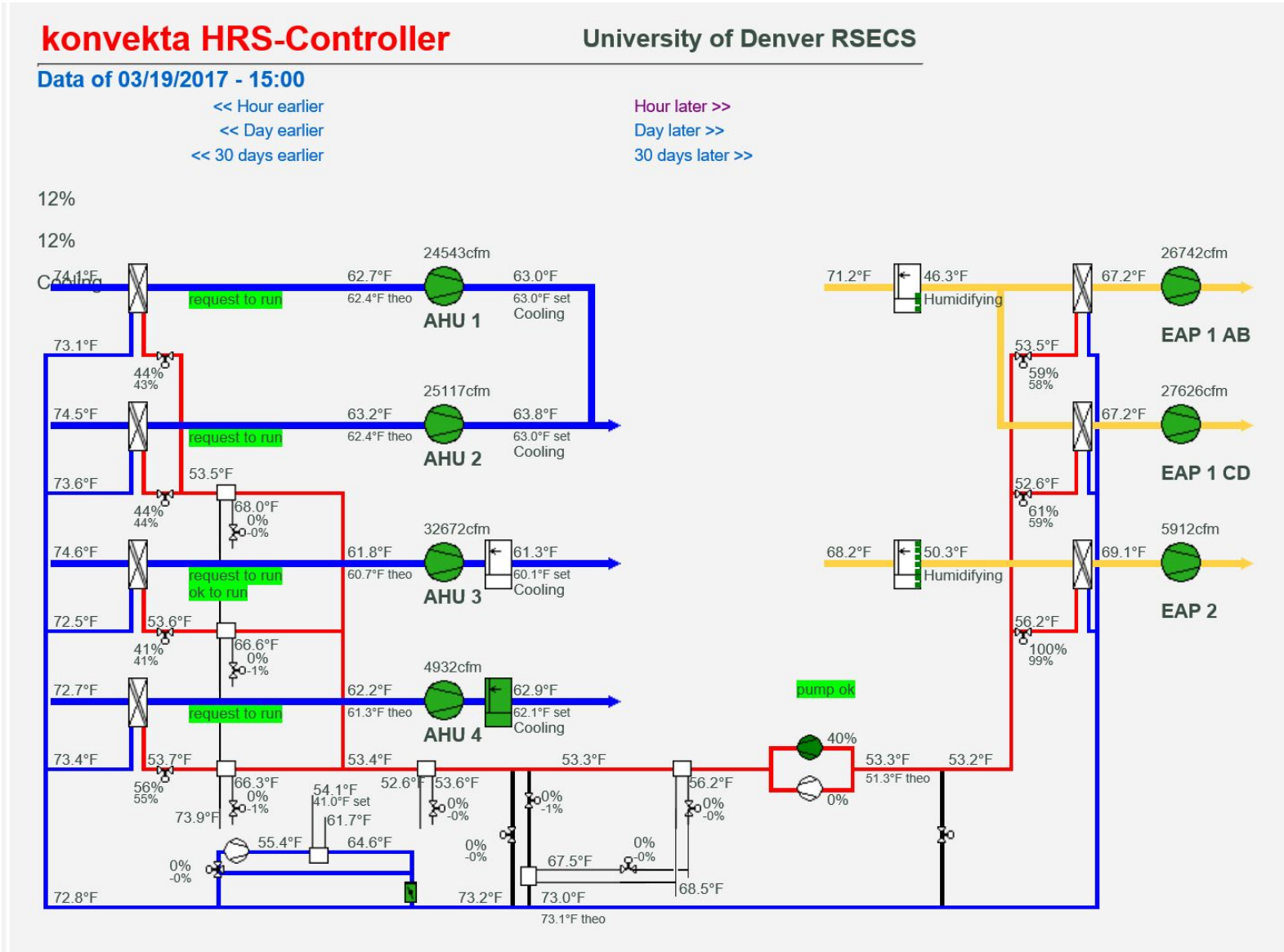
Energy Model

Denver, CO		Without Energy Recovery	Konvekta REARS	Konvekta REARS with Free Cooling
Year				
Heating Energy	kWh/a	3,426,345	337,416	214,554
Cooling Energy	kWh/a	2,119,433	852,303	852,303
Electricity (Fans/Pumps)	kWh/a	259,068	321,513	321,513
Total Energy Consumption	kWh/a	5,804,846	1,511,232	1,388,370
Effectiveness			74%	76%
		Without Energy Recovery	Konvekta REARS	Konvekta REARS with Free Cooling
Peak Demand				
Cooling	tons	492	271	271
Heating	MBTUH	8,000	2,200	1,700

Energy Model

Denver, CO	Without Energy Recovery	Konvekta REARS	Konvekta REARS with Free Cooling
Annual Energy Cost			
Heating Energy	\$82,918	\$8,165	\$5,192
Cooling Energy	\$80,115	\$32,217	\$32,217
Electricity (Fans/Pumps)	\$9,793	\$12,153	\$12,153
Total Energy Cost	\$172,825	\$52,536	\$49,562
Energy Cost Savings		\$120,289	\$123,262

Continuously Monitor All Operating Parameters



Continuous Monitoring To Ensure Maximum Recovery Efficiency

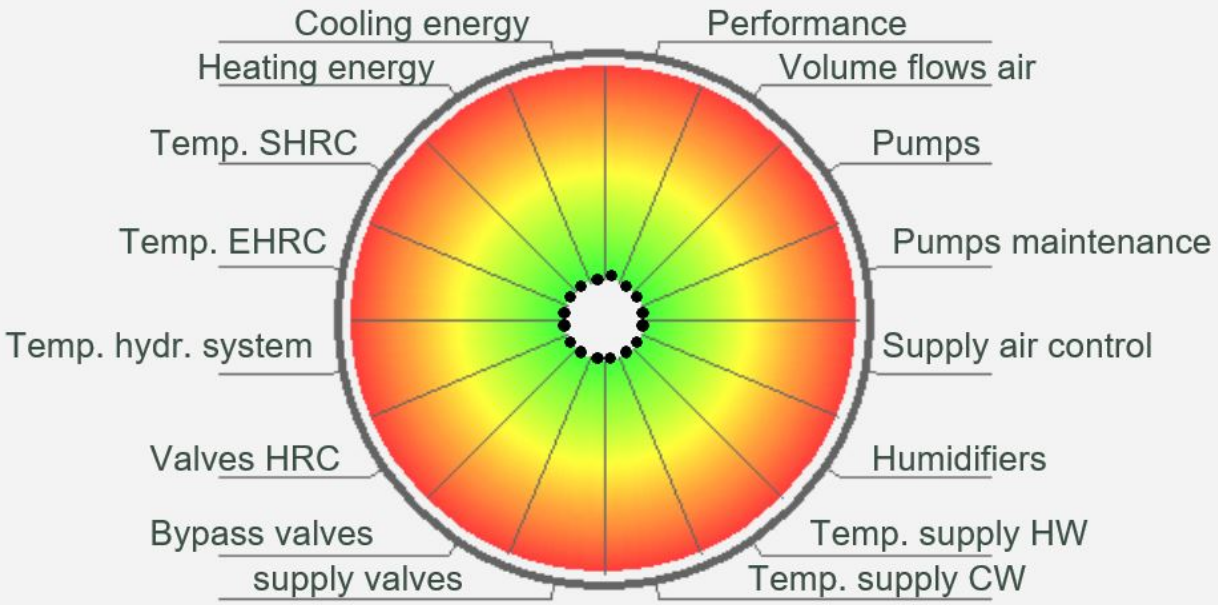
**konvekta HRS-Controller**

University of Denver RSECS

Data of 03/15/2017 - 15:00

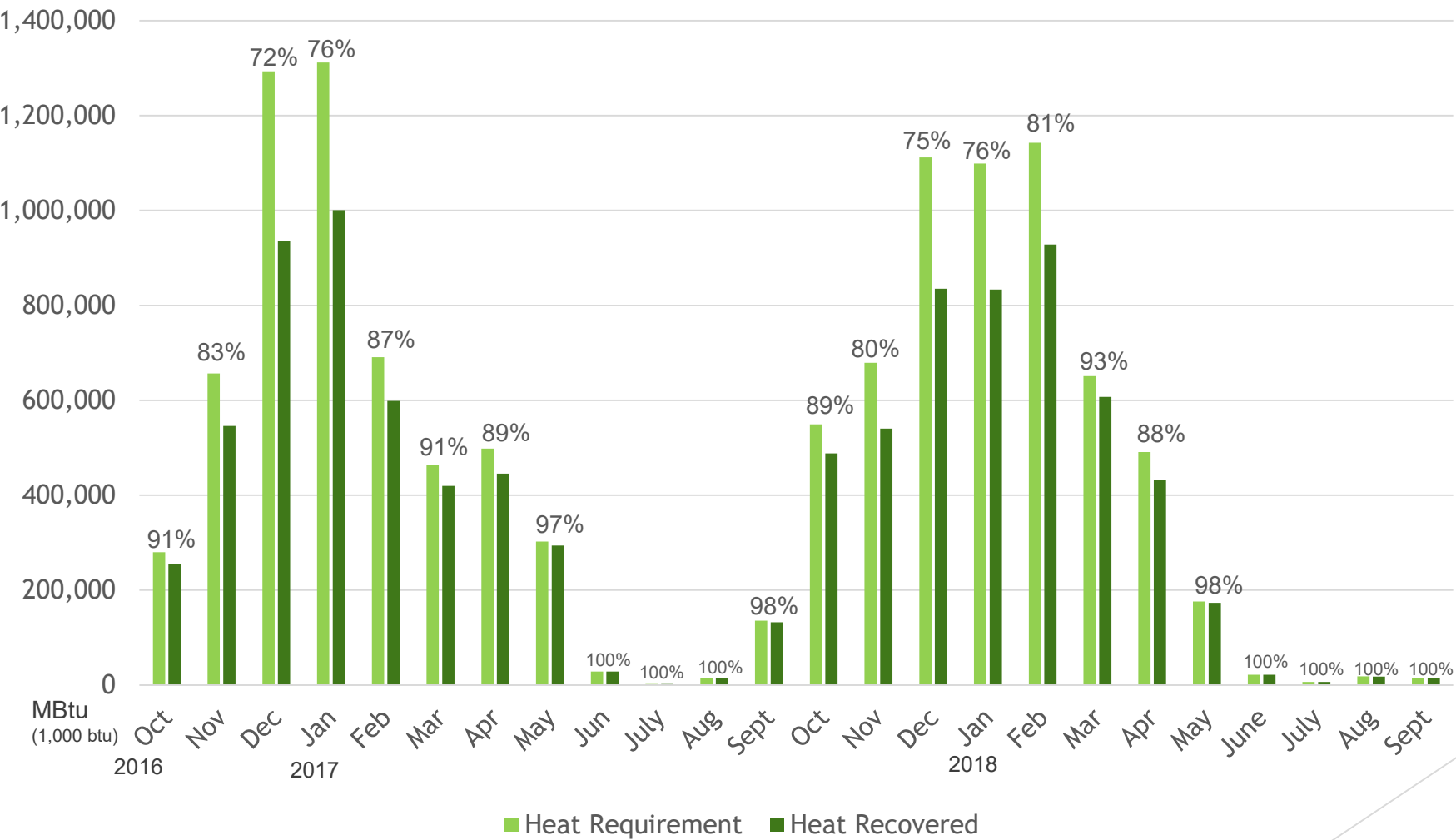
<< Hour earlier  
<< Day earlier  
<< 30 days earlier

Hour later >>  
Day later >>  
30 days later >>

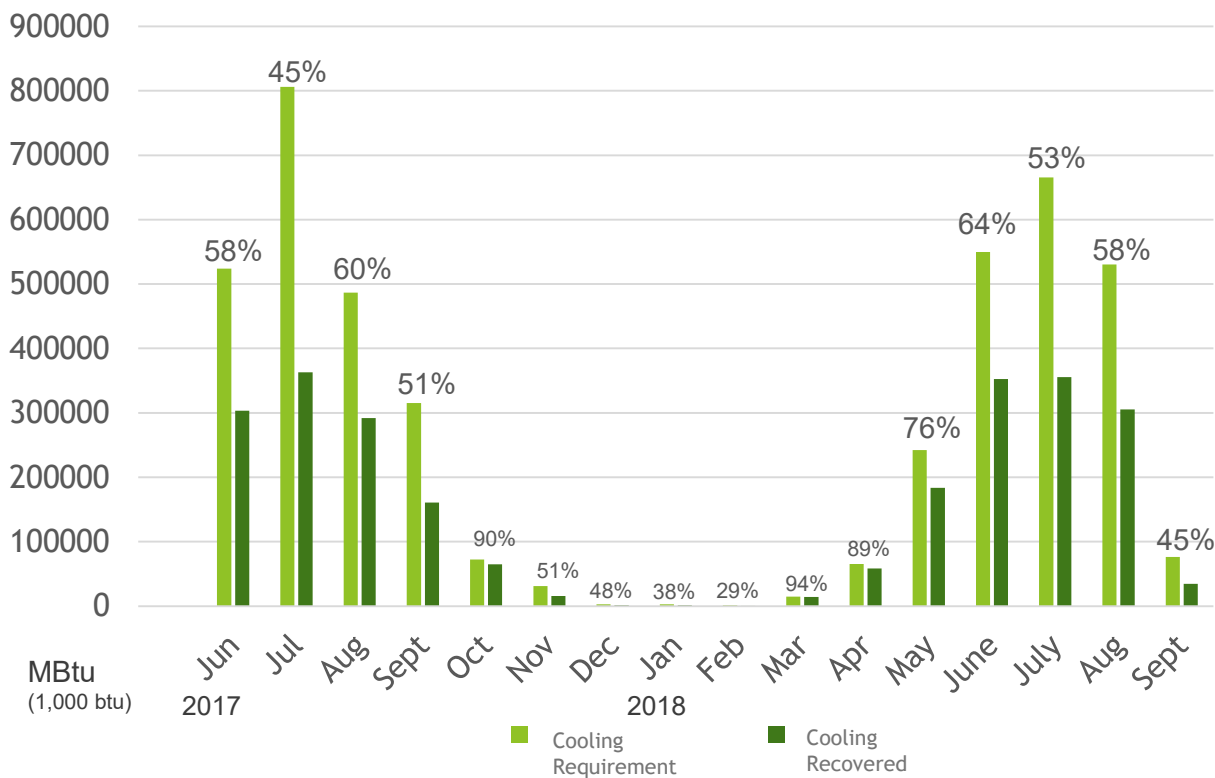


# University of Denver Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering & Computer Science

Heating Performance DU RSECS: TOTAL Recovery 82% Heating to 62F



Cooling Performance DU RSECS: TOTAL Recovery 57% Cooling to 62F



# Questions



**Chad King, PhD – Sustainability Director - University of Denver**  
[chad.king@du.edu](mailto:chad.king@du.edu)

**Mark Labac, P.E., LEED AP – President – Edge Mechanical Systems, Inc.**  
[markl@edgemech.com](mailto:markl@edgemech.com)