

Participate in Research to Improve Building Energy Codes



DOE Now Seeking Large Complex Buildings for Commercial Energy Code Field Study

Slipstream, an independent nonprofit under contract with the U.S. Department of Energy via the Institute for Market Transformation, is seeking large complex buildings to participate in a Commercial Energy Code Field Study being conducted in the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast.

We are looking for commercial buildings larger than 75,000 sq. ft. with complex HVAC (heating and cooling controlled by a BAS) to participate in this study. Large office, high-rise mixed-use multifamily buildings, K-12 schools, medical clinics, and university classroom and dorms projects that were completed or will be completed between January 2020 and November 2023 are ideal candidates. Buildings with single zone, constant volume package, or split units like RTUs, PTACS, or other wall/window unites are not suitable for this study.

Why Participate?

Field study participants provide valuable real-world information that will be used to improve energy code recommendations and processes for large complex buildings. Through the research, which requires a minimal commitment from participants, the DOE and its partners seek to:

- Understand the approaches and outcomes created by designers and contractors in addressing the complex elements of the commercial energy code in completed buildings
- Construct a representative data set of larger commercial buildings in colder climates; use this data set to analyze code compliance and enforcement
- To improve methodologies for measuring compliance and address challenges in commercial buildings

DOE Commercial Energy Code Field Study: Targeting Large Complex Buildings



I'm interested in participating in the research. What is involved?

The study has two components:

1. A review of the permit set of drawings and specifications, and
2. a visit to the building site one or two times, ideally just prior to occupancy.

The main thing we need from potential participants is a permit drawing set and permission to visit the site to view control sequences that have been programed in the BAS. Ideally, this would be just before or just after substantial construction completion. We anticipate the time commitment from participants is minimal.

How will the research study use my information?

All plan review and site observation data will be aggregated to develop high-level conclusions. No individual site information will be identified. All data will be kept completely confidential within the research study team.

How would the results of this research impact the commercial real estate industry?

Understanding approaches to complying with the most complex elements of the energy code could lead to a variety of outcomes, including revised or even simplified code language, educational programs, or more efficient enforcement methods. Quantifying the energy savings will also create the foundation of a business case for private funders, especially utilities, to fund programs aimed at increasing compliance. Currently empirical data to support such an investment doesn't exist.

How does this differ from other initiatives to date?

This study is an expansion and continuation of DOE funded work that started in 2016 by the Institute for Market Transformation and Pacific Northwest Laboratory, looking at medium commercial office and retail buildings in Florida, Nebraska, Iowa and Nevada.

Want to learn more?

If you are interested in participating in the study or want more information please contact Slipstream:

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