

PassivHaus Principles Applied to Non-residential Buildings

Design Implications for Ultra-low Energy Thresholds:

Lighting, Fans & Pumps, Miscellaneous Loads, and Service Water Heating

Non-residential Buildings

What are they?

Offices

K-12 schools

Higher education

Theaters

Churches

Hospitals

Restaurants

Recreation facilities

Warehouses

Supermarkets

Fueling stations

To name a few



Non-residential Buildings

How to characterize?

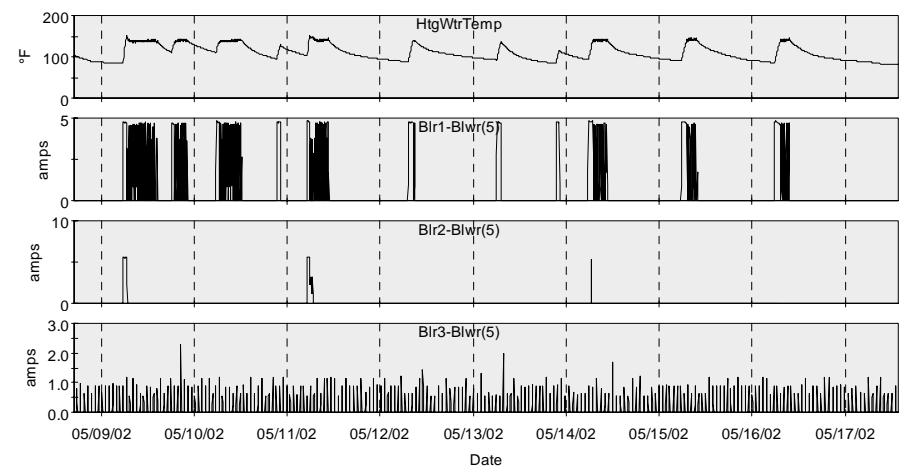
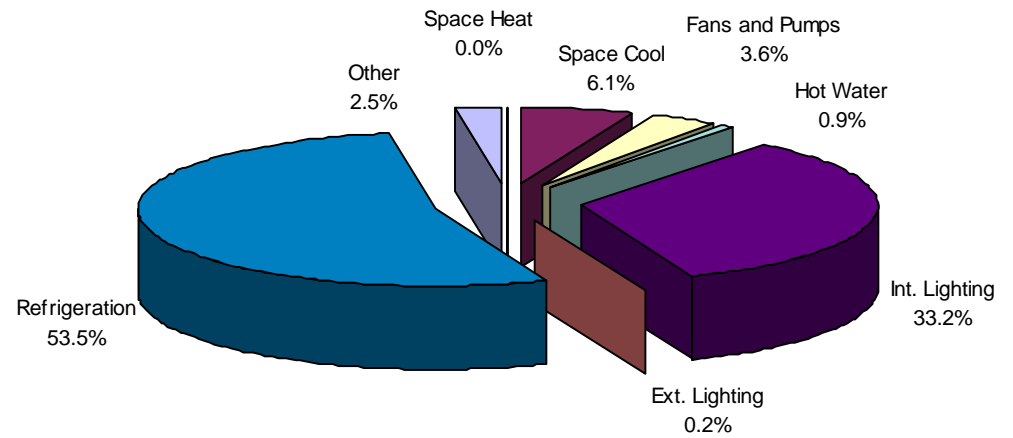
Energy Use Intensity (EUI)

Energy End Use Splits

Use and Load Patterns

HVAC System Types & Controls

Energy Codes in Play



Energy Use Intensity & Energy End Uses

PassivHaus Limit: 14 kBtu/SF

Heating: 4.75 kBtu/SF allocation

Cooling: ????

Lighting: ????

Fans & pumps: ????

Miscellaneous: ????

Service hot water: ????



How are the designs for the systems in these end use categories different in PassivHaus projects?

To Get Started: Make End Energy Budget Allocations

PassivHaus Limit: 14 kBtu/SF

Heating: 4.75 kBtu/SF allocation

Cooling: 0 (no mechanical cooling)

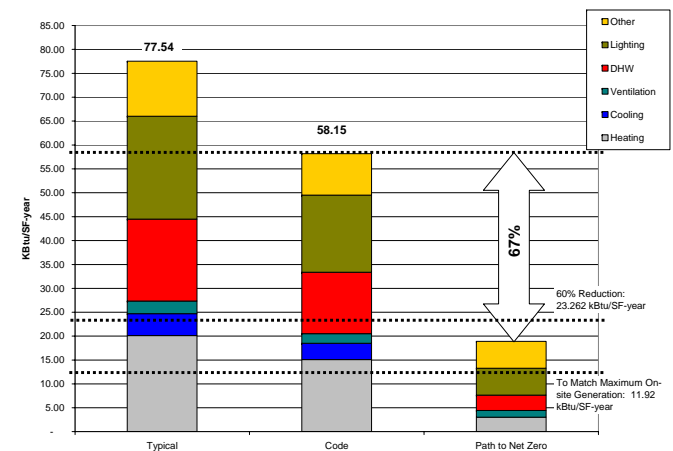
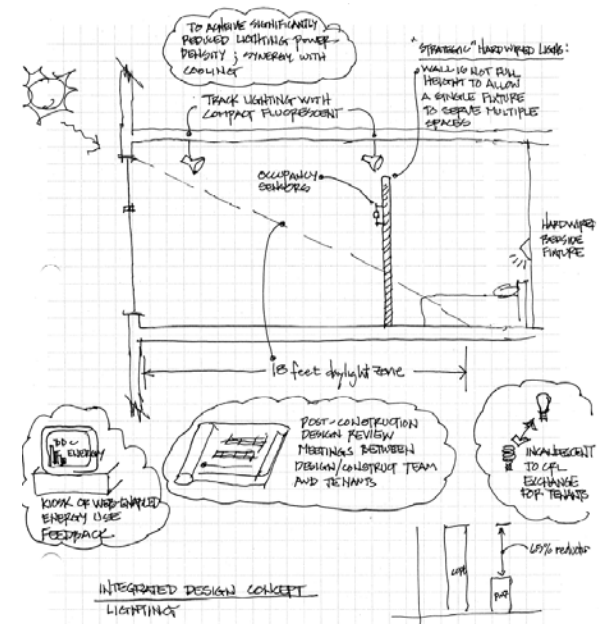
Lighting: 2.8 kBtu/SF 30% of remaining budget

Fans & pumps: 2.8 kBtu/SF 30% of remaining budget

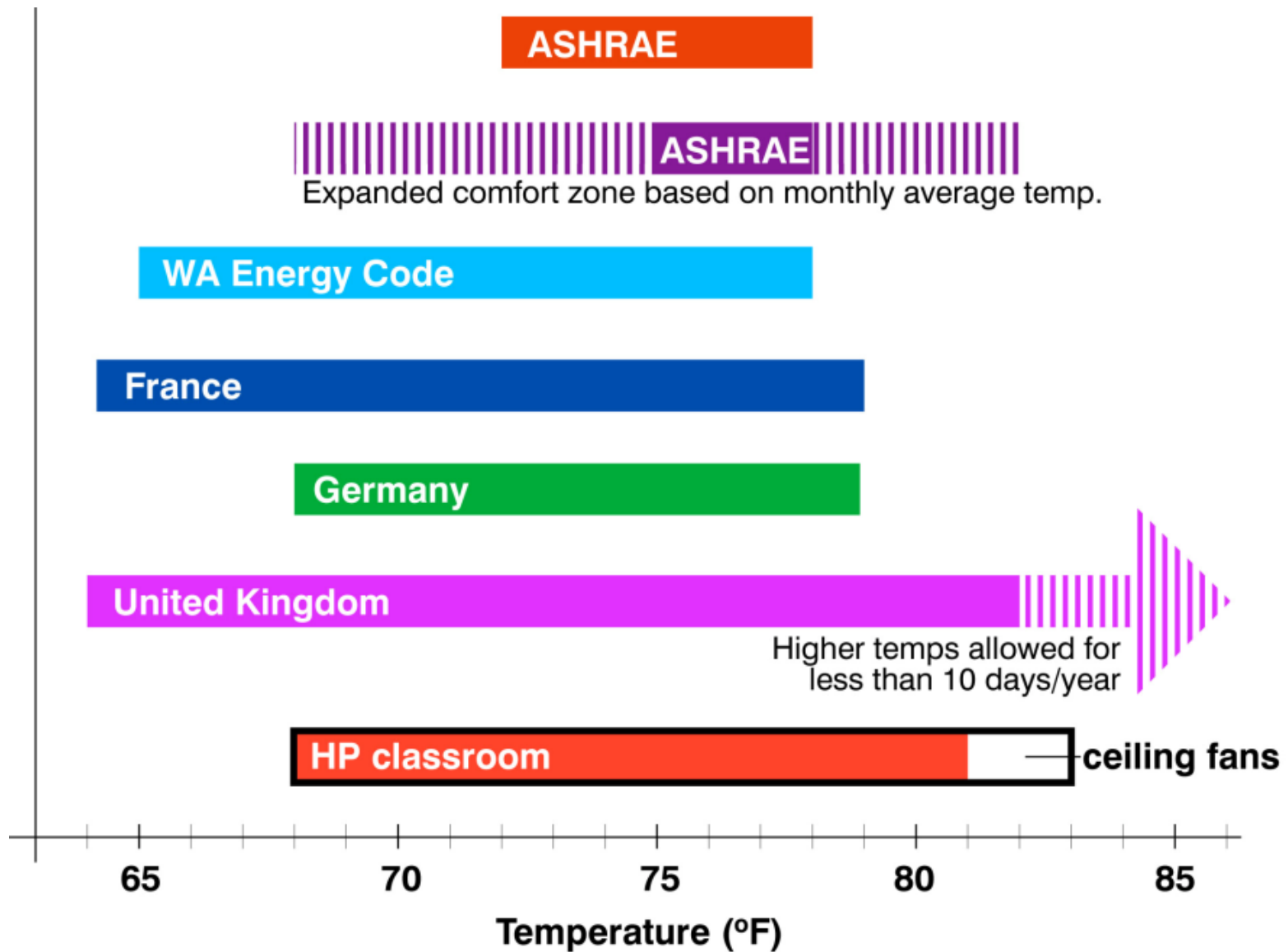
Miscellaneous: 2.8 kBtu/SF 30% of remaining budget

Service hot water: 0.9 kBtu/SF 10% of remaining budget

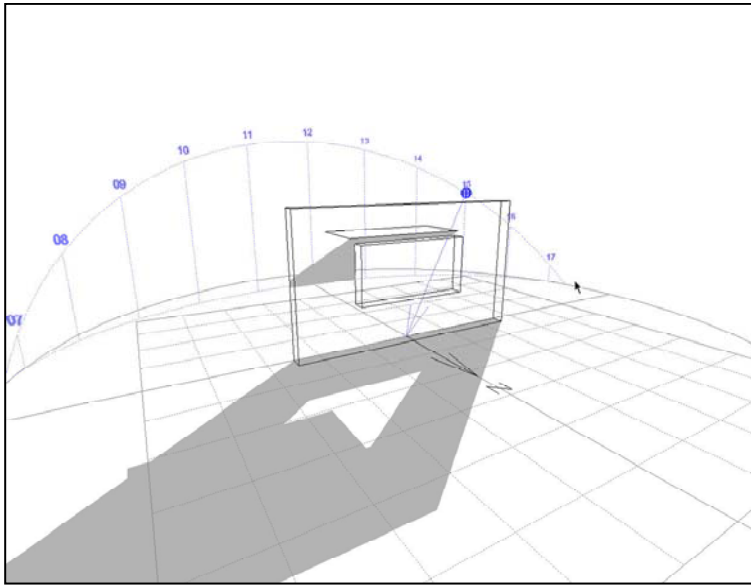
Then test the allocations to understand design implications (we'll use office buildings as our context)



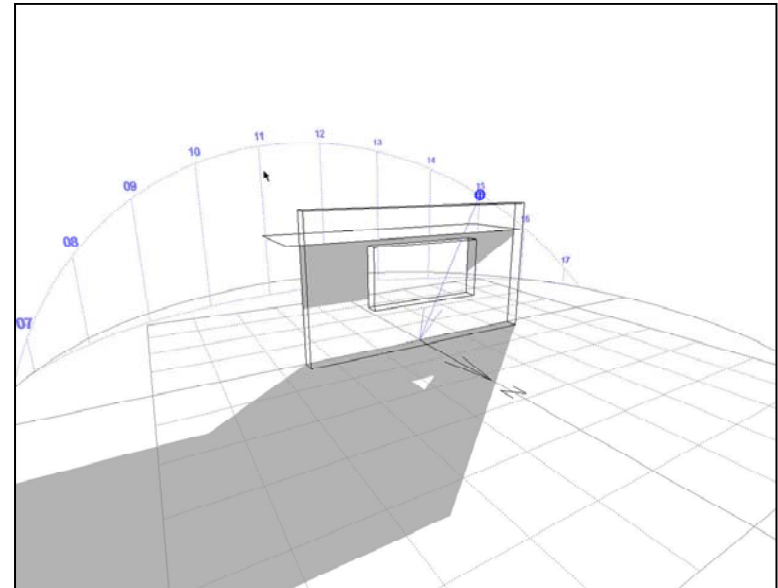
A Few Comments on Cooling: Understanding Thermal Comfort



Cooling: Controlling Solar Gain

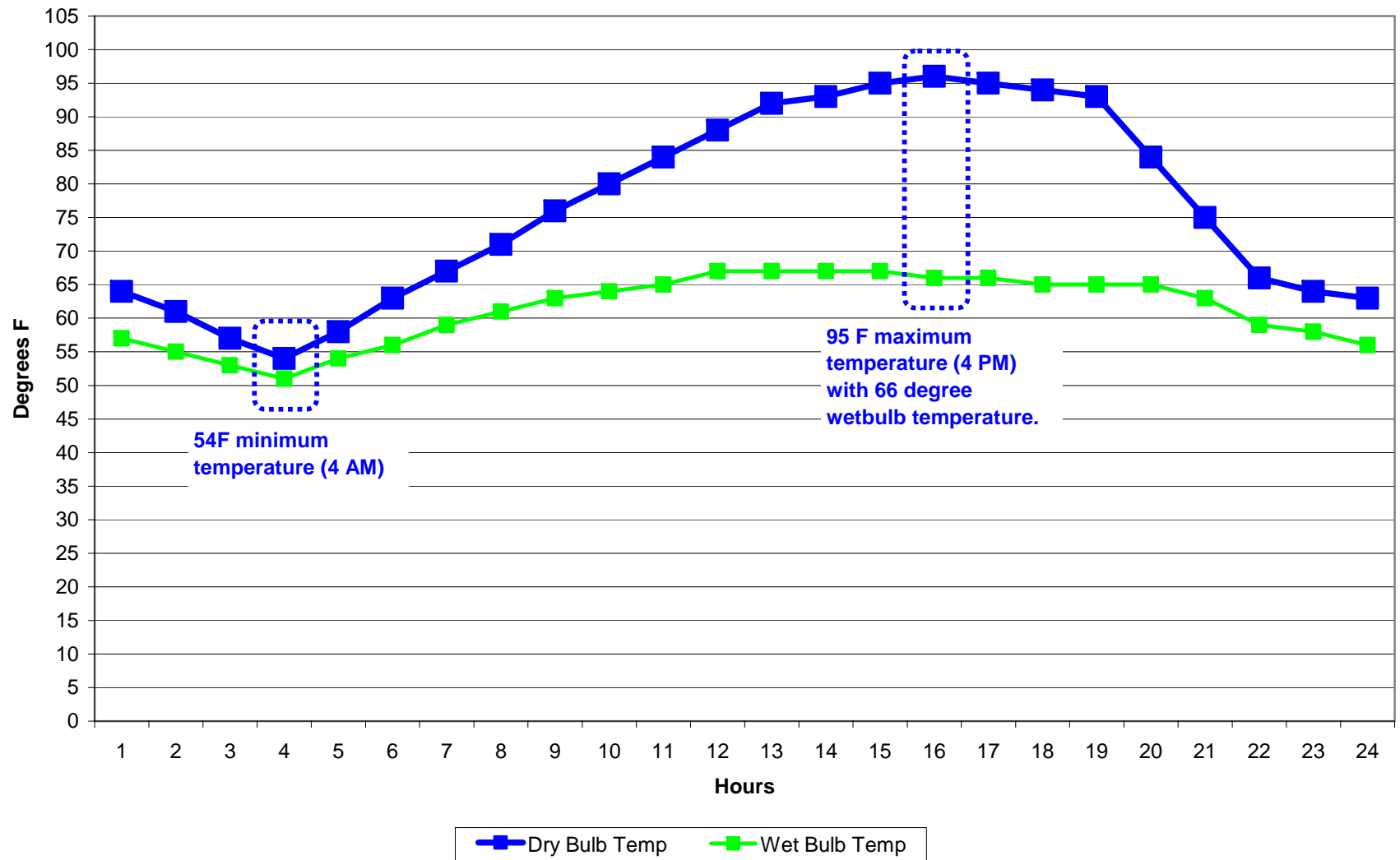


3'11" overhang, window width



5'6" overhang, extends 5'0" to either side of window

Cooling: Climate-Responsive Passive Cooling Concepts



Lighting: Ultra-efficient Office Example

Select Effective Design Criteria

Low horizontal illuminance (10 to 20 fc)
Principles of non-uniform illumination
Comprehensive daylighting (DF=2)
Ambient-task thinking

Lighting Power Density
(LPD): = 0.33 w/sf

Most Efficient Light Sources

20 fc and 60 lumens/watt (delivered to
visual task plane)
Premium T8 linear fluorescent in nice
fixture

End Use EUI: 2.3
kBtu/SF

Use Only When Needed

At 2043 hours/year (equivalent full load
hours per year)
Occupancy sensors and daylighting
controls
Full occupancy weekdays ; Half
occupancy weekends

(UNDER ALLOCATION
BY 0.5 kBtu/SF)

Lighting: Typical Modern Office Example

Design Criteria

Horizontal illuminance (35 to 50 fc)
Principles of non-uniform illumination
Daylighting (DF=2)
Task lighting supplemental but not contributory

Lighting Power Density
(LPD): = 0.8 w/sf

Most Efficient Light Sources

Design 20% lower than code budget

Use Only When Needed

At 2043 hours/year (equivalent full load hours per year)
Occupancy sensors and daylighting controls
Full occupancy weekdays ; Half occupancy weekends

End Use EUI: 5.6
kBtu/SF

(OVER ALLOCATION
BY 2.8 kBtu/SF)

Lighting: Effective Design Criteria

Horizontal Illuminance

Footcandles: Lumens / SF on horizontal visual task plane (i.e. desktop)

Only one of many design criteria but often elevated to prime importance

Daylight and electric light criteria should be similar

Principles of Non-uniform Illumination

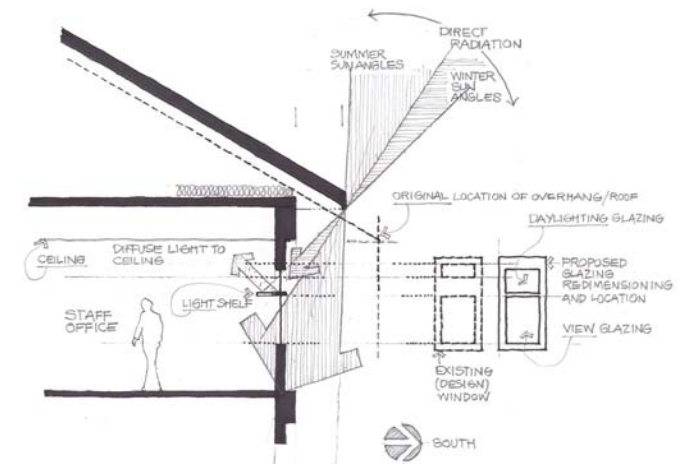
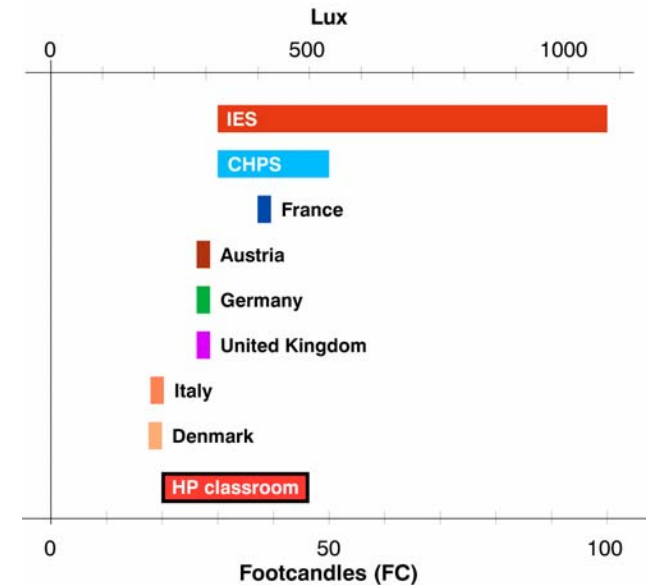
Notion that we only need design illuminance in locations where visual tasks are performed and it is okay to have variability

Daylighting

Controlled introduction of sunlight to accomplish visual tasks without using electric lighting

Ambient-Task Concepts

Design of “layered” light systems where local visual task zones are illuminated with dedicated “task” lighting systems



Lighting: High Efficacy Sources

Linear Fluorescent

T8 and T5 lamps
Electronic ballasts / dimming capability
80 to 100 lumens per watt

Compact Fluorescent

Hardwired and screw-in
Electronic ballasts / dimming capability
50 to 65 lumens per watt

White LED

Downlights, linear, etc.
50 to 70 lumens per watt

Metal Halide

Pulse start, ceramic metal halide
60 to 80 lumens per watt



Ideal for applications where energy savings and longer relamp cycles would be beneficial



Lighting: Effective Controls

Manual

- Multiple switch legs to allow occupant tuning of light levels
- Strategic switch placement to encourage daylighting awareness
- Convenient and logical locations that create intuitive control feedback
- Dimming switches

Occupancy Sensors

- Line voltage wall switches, primarily passive infrared sensing
- Low voltage systems, using multiple sensing technologies
- Understand effect of time delay

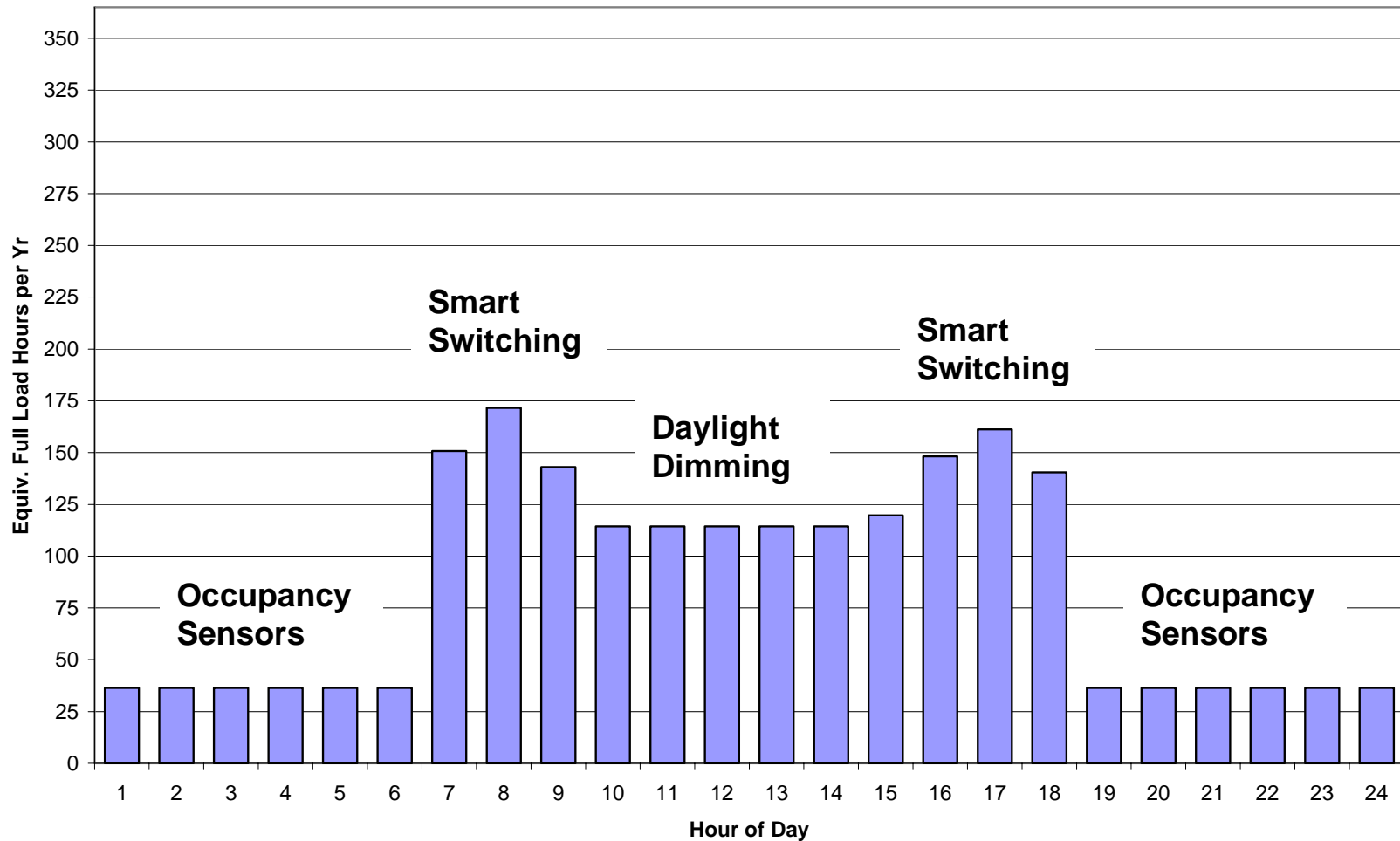
Light Level Sensing

- Simple on-off photocells
- Dimming controls – open loop (senses “exterior” light levels)
- Dimming controls – closed loop (senses “interior” light levels)



Lighting: Effective Controls

2043 Equivalent Full Load Hours per Year



Lighting: Performance Summary

Circuited Load: 0.3 to 0.5 w/SF

Effective design criteria
Best in class light sources

Hours of Operation: Less than 2100 equivalent full load hours/year

Daylighting
Automatic controls with tight time delay
Excellent occupant awareness



Fans and Pumps

Design for Minimum Work

Ventilation air only

If hydronic heating, specify high temperature differentials to minimum flow rate

Minimize pressure requirements

Office: 0.15 cfm/SF at no greater than 2" wc total static pressure (supply & exhaust)

Use most efficient fans and pumps

Maximize mechanical efficiencies (fan wheels, centrifugal pump impellers)

Maximize electrical motor efficiencies

35% combined mech/elec efficiency = 0.1 watt/SF of ventilated office space

Design for variable flow / variable speed

Variable flow operation (modulating 2-way valves or dampers)

Variable speed drives

Electronically commutated motors

(fan power limit of 0.00077 kW/cfm = 0.116 watt/SF of ventilated office space)

At 75% speed, power draw ~50% of full load

Fans and Pumps Example

Ventilation

$$\text{BHP} = \frac{\text{Air flow, cfm} \times \text{static pressure, in. wc}}{6356 \times \text{Efficiency}_{\text{mech}}}$$

0.15 cfm/SF x 2" wc / 6356 / 35% combined efficiency (0.00066 kW/cfm): 0.1 w/sf

Run continuously at 75% average speed: 1.50 kBtu/SF-year

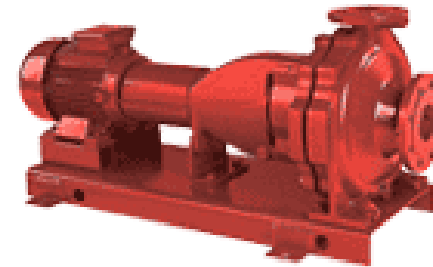
Run continuously at full speed: 3.0 kBtu/SF-year



Pumps

$$\text{BHP} = \frac{\text{Water flow, gpm} \times \text{head, ft. wc}}{3960 \times \text{Efficiency}_{\text{mech}}}$$

0.00025 gpm/SF x 25 feet / 3960 / 35% combined efficiency: 0.0034 w/sf

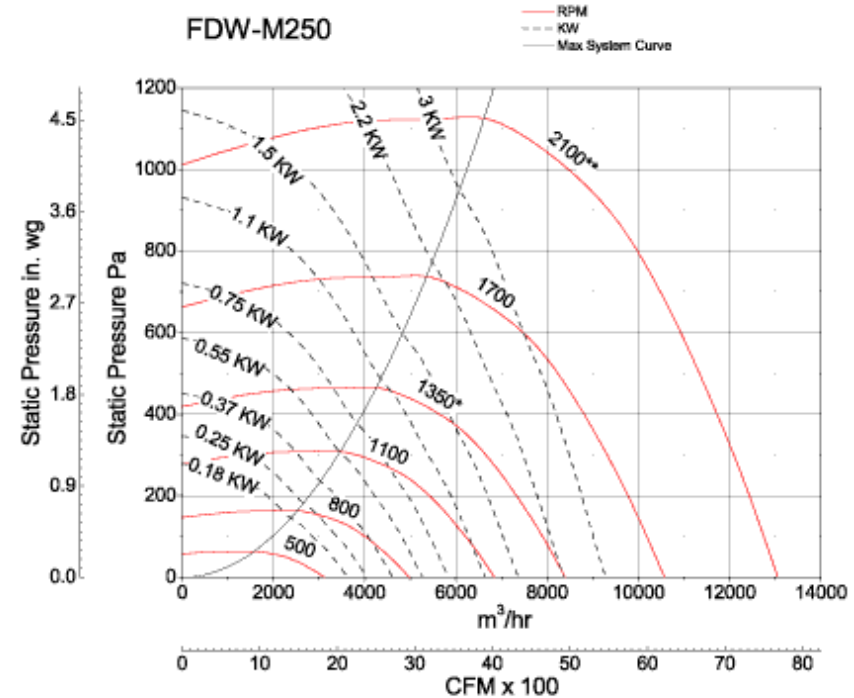


Fans Example (Conventional Office)

Ventilation: Air flow established by peak cooling load

0.75 cfm/SF x 5" wc / 6356 / 58% combined efficiency: 0.76 w/sf

Run 3,500 hours/yr at 75% average speed:
4.54 kBtu/SF-year



Fans and Pumps: Variable Flow / Variable Speed

Relationships (Affinity Laws)

$$\text{BHP}_2 = \text{BHP}_1 \times (\text{N}_2 / \text{N}_1)^3$$

$$\text{kW}_2 = \text{kW}_1 \times (\text{N}_2 / \text{N}_1)^3$$

$$\text{CFM}_2 / \text{CFM}_1 = \text{N}_2 / \text{N}_1$$

$$\text{Flow}_2 / \text{Flow}_1 = \text{N}_2 / \text{N}_1$$

$$\text{H}_2 / \text{H}_1 = (\text{N}_2 / \text{N}_1)^2$$

BHP = Brake Horse Power

N = Speed, RPM

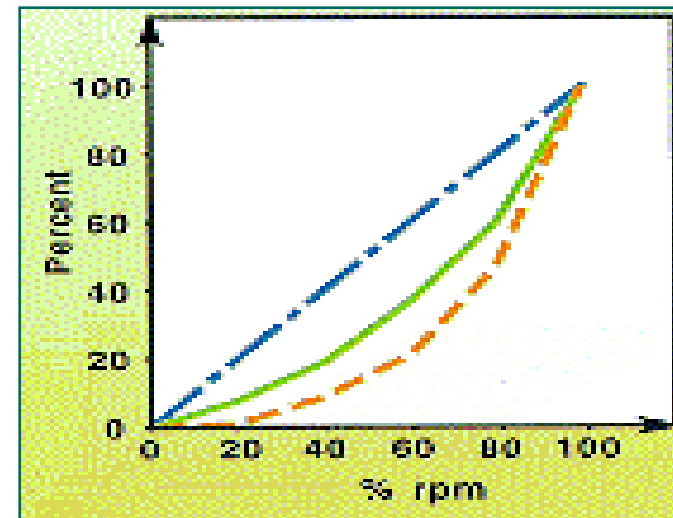
H = Pressure

Applications

Fan control

Pump control

Process motor control



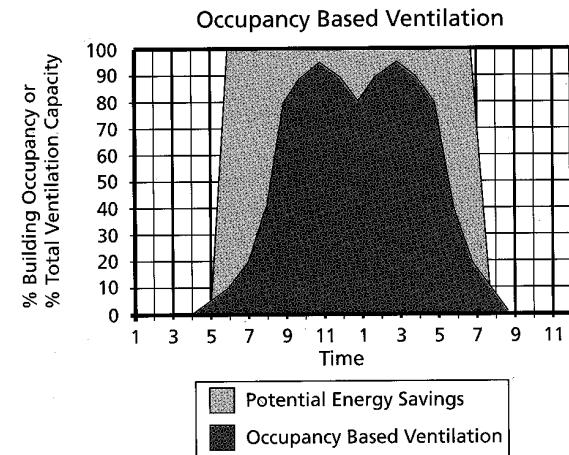
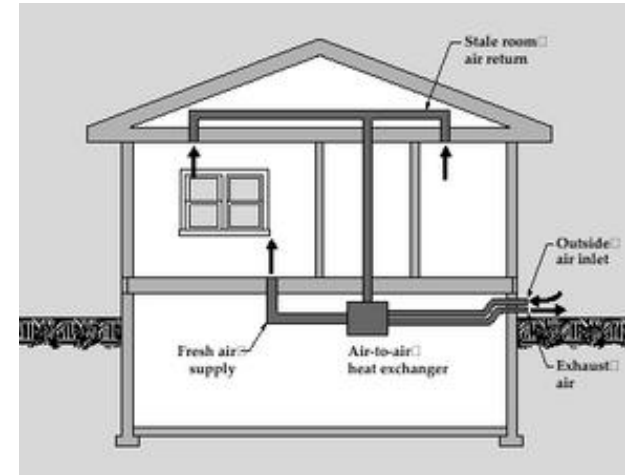
Fans and Pumps: Performance Summary

Connected Load: 0.1 to 0.2 w/SF

Air flow for ventilation only
Maximize combined efficiency
Minimize pressure drops

Hours of Operation: Less than 3500 hours/year (equivalent full load)

Variable flow / variable speed
Demand controlled ventilation for spaces with high occupancy density



Plug Loads

Minimize connected load

Less than or equal to lighting (0.3 to 0.5 w/sf)

Use only when needed

At 2000 hours/year (2.3 kBtu/SF-year)

Conventional office

Connected load: 1.0 w/sf

Operating hours: 3250 EqFLHrs/Yr

EUI: 11.1 kBtu/SF



Plug Loads: Minimize Connected Load

Information Technology

- Laptops
- Thin client systems
- LCD monitors (avoid multiple screens)
- Shared printers



Elevators and Lifts

- Traction elevators
- Useable stairs



Appliances

- Energy Star +

Other

- Avoid vending machines
- Pay attention to phantom loads
- Consider energy information systems



Plug Loads: Use Only When Needed

Manual

- Switched outlets
- Accessible plug strips

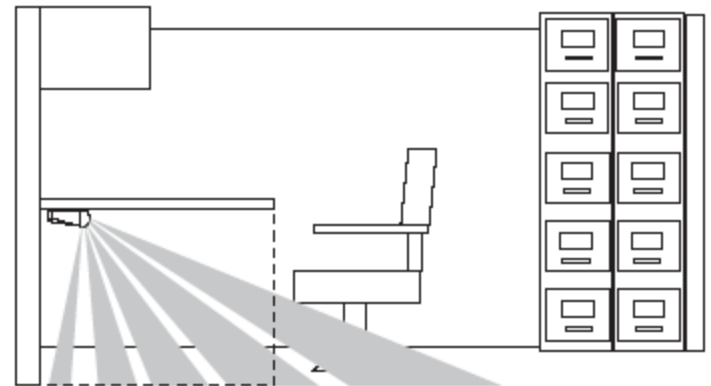


Automatic Control

- Occupancy sensor controlled plug strips
- Equipment with effective “sleep” modes

Phantom Load Control

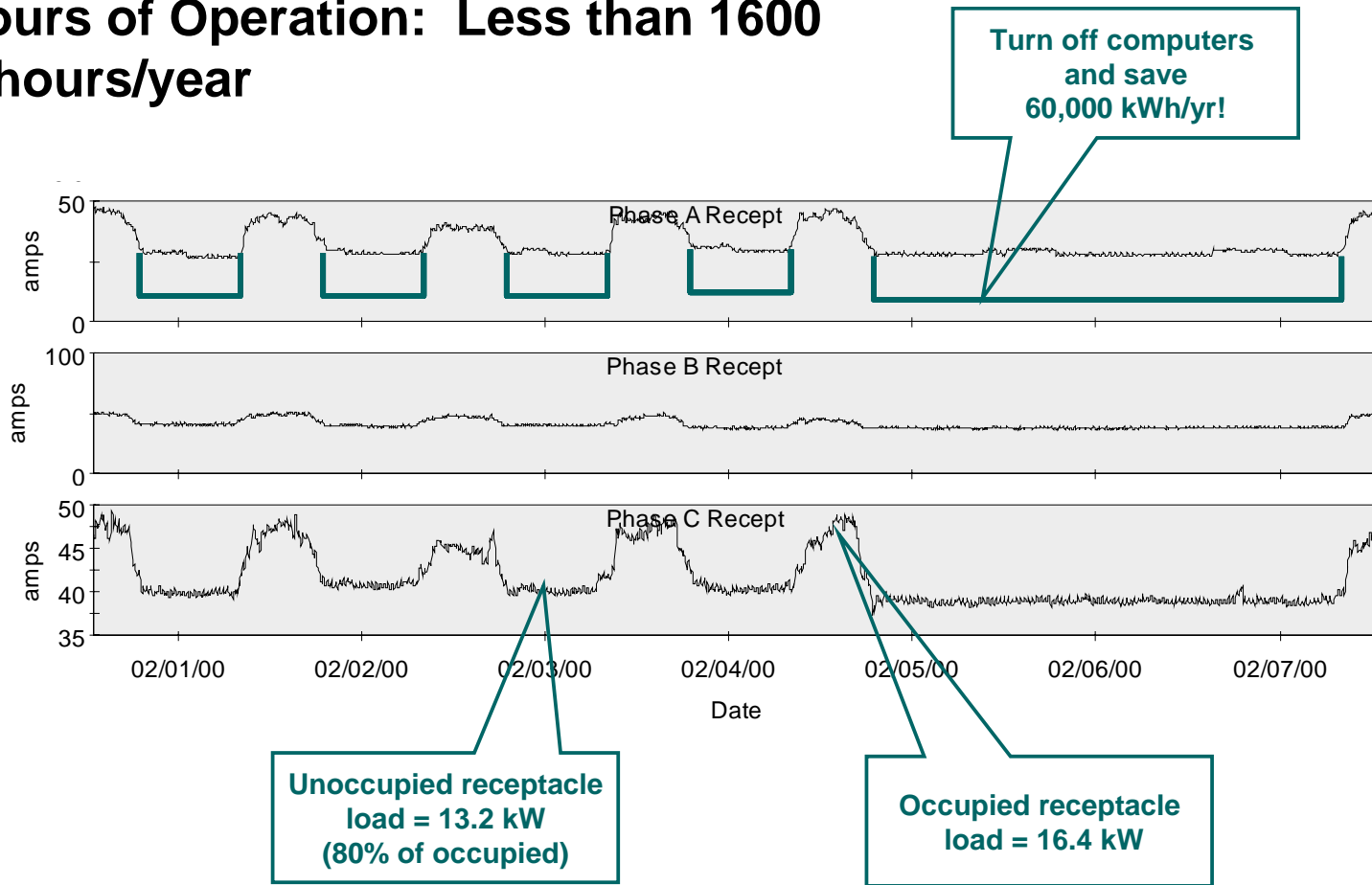
- Occupancy awareness



Plug Loads: Performance Summary

Connected Load: 0.3 to 0.5 w/SF

Hours of Operation: Less than 1600 hours/year



This is 7400 equivalent full load hours per year

Service Water Heating

Minimize Water Heating Load

Peak loads minimized with low flow plumbing
Eliminate “parasitic” loads / losses
Minimize setpoint

Office: 2 gal/person per day of 110 deg F water; no unoccupied period losses

Use maximum efficiency sources

Solar thermal
Biomass
Heat pumping
Condensing natural gas
Tankless electric resistance

Tankless electric resistance: 0.31 kWh/SF (1 kBtu/SF)

Solar thermal integration: Solar fraction of 0.50 >> 0.5 kBtu/SF

Service Water Heating: Minimize Loads

Low flow plumbing

Low flow faucets and appliances
1.5 gpm shower heads



Eliminate losses

Minimize or eliminate storage
Super-insulation tank and piping
Avoid re-circulation (or at least aggressively control)
Avoid natural draft gas-fired heaters



Minimize setpoints

Cold water only fixtures
Setpoints between 110F and 120F
Storage tank turnover to address legionella



Service Water Heating: Use Maximum Efficiency Sources

Solar

Size for solar fraction of 1.0 during peak solar resource period
Annual fraction of at least 0.50

Biomass / Fossil Fuel

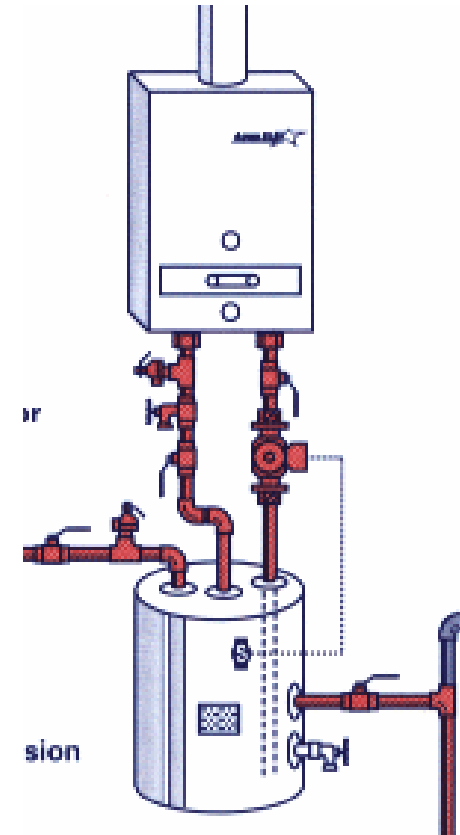
Use controlled combustion
Avoid natural draft

Heat Pumping

Heat pump water heater can recover heat
Ground-coupled heat pumping

Tankless Electric

Small point of use
Demand initiated tankless



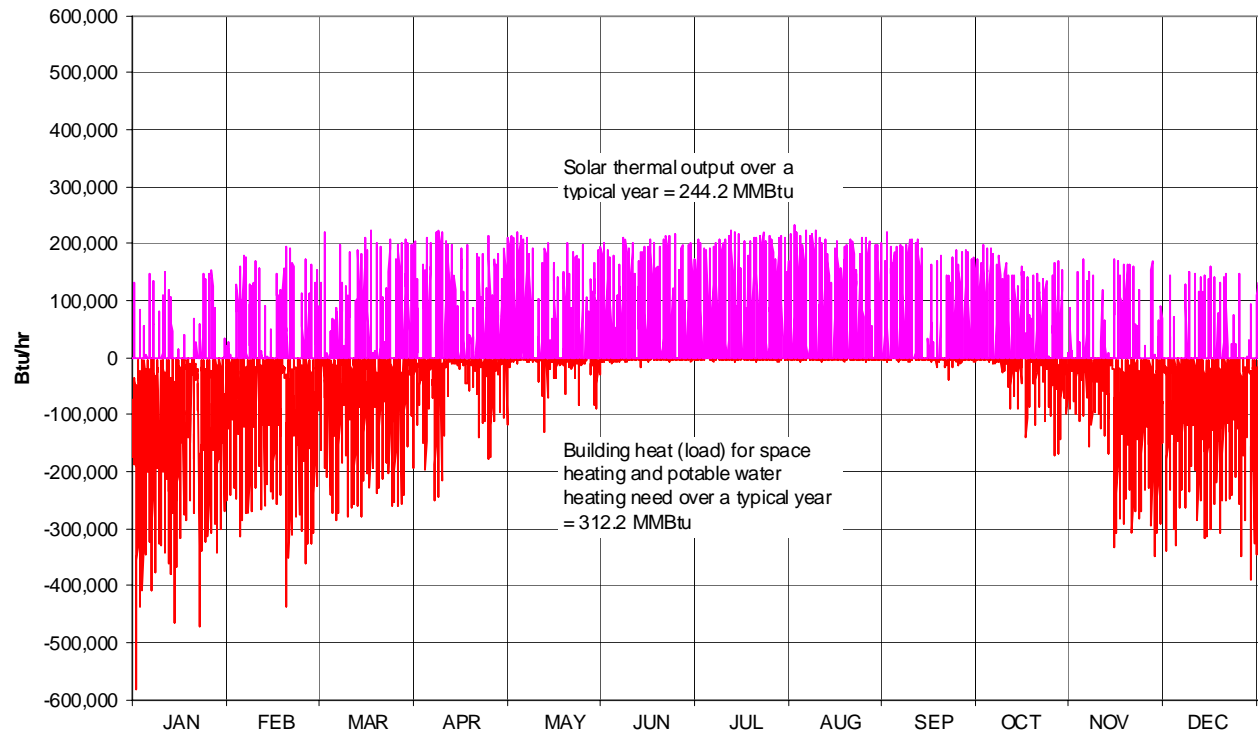
Service Water Heating: Performance Summary

Effective Use: 0.007 gal/SF (offices)

Supply Water Setpoint: 115 deg F

Solar: Seriously consider

Solar Thermal Output vs. Building (and DHW) Heat Need
(32) 40 SF flat plate collectors (30 deg tilt, 180 deg azimuth)



Overall Performance of Our Example

End Use	Target kBtu/SF	Example kBtu/SF
Heating	4.25	4.25
Cooling	0	0
Lighting	2.8	2.3
Fans/Pumps	2.8	3
Plugs	2.8	2.3
DHW	0.9	1
Total	9.3	8.6

PassivHaus Thinking: Navigating the Culture of Design

Cooling

Will have to overcome serious obstacles associated with accepting “effective” thermal comfort criteria

Lighting

Will have to overcome serious obstacles associated with accepting “effective” design criteria

Fans and Pumps

Can no longer build conventional U.S. HVAC systems

No simultaneous heating/cooling

Will have to overcome huge market inertia of the HVAC industry

Plug Loads

Occupant outreach and engagement is required

This will be the most challenging end use

Solution is not necessarily technical

Service Water Heating

Will need to redefine how and why commercial buildings need potable hot water

For high use occupancies, will need to integrate solar thermal systems