

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Question & Answer Session

Emma Zinsmeister: Now, we're going to open up for questions and Lauren will read off some of the questions that you've submitted thus far. If we run out of time, we have about 10 minutes, we will take the questions and provide written responses that we'll post online as well with the other Webcast materials.

So Lauren, I'll turn it over to you for our first question.

Lauren Pederson: Great. Thank you. The first question is for Kudret. What is the forecast for updating the CBECS database in Portfolio Manager and will there be a 2011 update? There are a few participants that have a question about how CBECS funding will effect the updates to Portfolio Manager. Would you be able to address that?

Kudret Utebay: Yes, that's a great question and from the question I understand that our audience keeping track of what's going on in the market.

As they make the month, people might be aware of the funding for CBECS database has been cut. So I am not sure at this point if there will be a 2011 version of the CBECS database.

But does not really stop Environmental Protection Agency. They are working with private and public organizations to collect information for newer state such as data centers. EPA created that space type working within the IT sector or water and wastewater treatment plant benchmarking.

We worked with about 70 experts on the market including a lot of water and wastewater treatment plants who were very willing to have EPA create that space type.

So we may – we may or may not have CBECS database, but EPA is constantly in search of finding good and reliable data to provide you with updates on the current tools or to come up with new tools within Portfolio Manager.

So I'm sorry I can't believe – tell much about CBECS database feature at this point.

Lauren Pederson: OK. Thank you for that response, Kudret. And then Tony, we have a few questions for you regarding sharing the spreadsheet and I believe at the end of your presentation- you said that that was OK. Would you prefer people email you at your email address in order to request the spreadsheet?

Tony O'Donnell: Yes, that's fine. We also will be posting for anybody that's a Climate Showcase Community has access to the Website for the grant participants. We'll be posting it there. But anybody that doesn't have that ability, please feel free to email us and we can share a copy of the spreadsheet.

Lauren Pederson: OK. And then also within that spreadsheet and model, what was first the fuel price prediction data that you used?

Tony O'Donnell: Could you repeat that? What was...

Lauren Pederson: Yes, within the spreadsheet, the participant asked what the source of the fuel price prediction data. So did you have projected fuel prices?

Tony O'Donnell: Yes. Let's see. I have it in front of me here. Energy Information Administration? On – in the spreadsheet as we share, it's fairly well documented the sources.

There are prices for natural – the Henry Hub Wholesale Metro Gas Price Forecast, New Jersey Wholesale Electricity Price Forecast and it's all – a lot of it's from the Energy Information Administration, their Website.

Lauren Pederson: OK.

Tony O'Donnell: OK?

Lauren Pederson: Great. And have you verified the model or is it – is it based on assumptions or maybe a combination of the two?

Tony O'Donnell: Yes, it's a combination of the two. The model, actually, we adopted it an existing study and that – but this matched closely with what we wanted to do. So we actually updated these – the emission forecasts and all these price forecasts from the models created a couple of years ago. So it's updated into the most recent price forecast that we could find.

Lauren Pederson: OK. And then one more question for you. Have your utility partners shared any concern about the cost of conservation on the utility in light of reduced revenue, reduced funds and increased regulations?

Tony O'Donnell: No, they're very much a cooperating partner. This morning, I was at a meeting. We meet monthly with them. It's an energy efficiency committee and New Jersey has been fairly progressive in trying to do energy conservation.

So there's – we have their full support for these programs. So yes, I don't think that that's an issue at all.

Lauren Pederson: OK. And then Emily, we have a couple of questions for you. How many citizens do your police and fire departments serve? How many stations do you have and how would a large city be normalized against a smaller town in Energy Star or any other quantifying measure?

Emily Barrett: We have 143,000 citizens that are served approximately. We really have only one primary police station. We do have some substations, but they are not staffed in a 24-hour manner.

So the substations are really a small portion of the overall energy. And you ask about how to normalize the energy reduction between our size town and a larger town; is that what I was hearing?

Lauren Pederson: Yes, that was the last part of the question. Kudret might be able to answer it if you're not sure.

Emily Barrett: I would love to let him – let him venture a guess. I found just from talking with my neighboring larger municipality that their structure is quite different.

So the way things happen is different in a larger municipality. So Kudret?

Kudret Utebay: Well, if I understand the question correctly, it is very hard actually to normalize fire stations and that's one of the reasons actually why EPA does not have a 1 to 100 score for that space type.

We basically we do not have enough data to come up with what effects energy use most in fire stations. Is it number of fires? How many times the doors open and close? Number of trucks? Number of people working in there? We don't have that insight.

So right now, the only normalization fire stations will get is the latter normalization and square footage, of course.

Emily Barrett: You know – and we'd love to work with you if you'd like to use some of our data regarding what we've found drives the energy use. We've found some interesting discrepancies in some of our buildings.

So they might be a source of learning for EPA as well.

Kudret Utebay: Actually, that would be very interesting. I'll try to set up a meeting between the two of us to discuss further.

Emily Barrett: Thank you.

Kudret Utebay: Thank you.

Lauren Pederson: And then also, Emily, a question for you. Who or what type of firm will perform your assessments or will it be done in-house? And what method will be used for assessing the building envelope?

Emily Barrett: We are in the process of selecting the firm. We issued an RFP and we did get back three bids just yesterday.

So we are relying on the interns to collect basic information like HVAC age model, energy use profile, things of that nature that can be quickly garnered and we will be relying on an energy company.

Not necessarily an engineering energy company, but a company with engineering expertise to evaluate and retrofit the buildings. Was there a second part to that question?

Lauren Pederson: And then what methods will be used for assessing the building envelope?

Emily Barrett: Oh, the building envelope? Well, when I spoke the building envelope, I was speaking more to the new build. So I'm assuming they'll use sort of the conventional.

We are doing an enhanced commissioning over the new building and so I'm assuming that what that will look like is some pressure testing to assure that the building envelope is as we requested in the design.

But for building envelope for the other fire stations, I think that's to be determined based on what the proposals say.

Lauren Pederson: OK. And then for Tony, we have a question about how participants can find your pledge on Facebook or Twitter.

Tony O'Donnell: Each of the three municipalities has a Website and I believe it's www.inourpower and then the name of the municipality and dot com. I could provide that, I guess, information in some of the follow-up – I can get that – the exact Website for the three to Emma and maybe you could include it in the materials that will be available for everyone.

Emma Zinsmeister: Sure. Yes, Tony, actually, we have links to all of those pages on your Climate Showcase Communities profile page.

Tony O'Donnell: Oh. OK. Yes, I just – I'm not exactly sure to tell you what – I think it's www.inourpower, like, Montclair. So it would be www.inourpowermountclaire.org, I believe. And then it comes up and you see the different pledge actions that each of the municipalities have agreed to do.

Lauren Pederson: OK. Great. Thanks. And then another question for Kudret. How does energy cost and use information get into Portfolio Manager?

Kudret Utebay: Sorry. I couldn't catch the beginning of the question.

Lauren Pederson: How does energy cost and use information get into the Portfolio Manager?

Kudret Utebay: Again, another good question. There are three different ways to benchmark your buildings. The first one is the manual entry methods. You create your account and you enter information in the tool manually.

The second one if you are dealing with a portfolio of 10 or more buildings of the same type, EPA created Excel spreadsheets. We call them upload templates.

You put your information in the – in those spreadsheets depending on the space type you are benchmarking and you send it to building set – EnergyStar.gov. EPA will upload that spreadsheet for you along with your data.

This is only for new benchmarks. Excuse me. Once you benchmark your buildings and want to update your energy and water use, for example, we also have a process called, Multi to Meter Update and that works to a spreadsheet as well.

The third method is called, Automated Benchmarking. There are some utilities and third-party software providers that can help you with automated benchmarking.

Excuse me. The third-party software, there are several examples of them. I don't want to pick one against the other, but if you go to Energy Star Website and search for automated benchmarking, the first two links should give you enough information about automated benchmarking as well as list of companies and utilities that are providing this service.

I hope I answered the question, but if you want training on any of these methods, we have actually separate training sessions under EnergyStar.gov/businesstraining.

Emma Zinsmeister: All right. Thank you, Kudret, for your answer. Unfortunately, we are out of time for today. So we will have to address the rest of the remaining questions in writing and we'll post those online with the remaining presentation, files and ideal file and that link is in the link to the site where you can get all of the files is in the intro slides that I shared earlier. So you can refer to that to find the link for the Webcast page.

So thank you to all of our speakers. Thank you to Kudret, Tony and Emily for sharing their work on resources.

If you refer to those files from the presentations when they're – when they're posted are the – are the copies that you received prior to the Webcast, all of those links are included. You can get to all the different Energy Star tools.

The information in pages for the Climate Showcase Communities Projects that were discussed today and please feel free to contact myself or any other presenters if you have additional questions or want to follow-up on their projects and resources.

So thank you for everyone for tuning in today. We'll be sending out notices on our list serve of upcoming Webcast topics as they're developed in the future and I hope that you will take a few seconds to fill in our optional survey about what you thought about today's Webcast and any topical interest you have for future calls.

So with that, thank you and we hope to have you join us again soon.

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