

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING CASE STUDY

Cost-Effective Greenhouse Gas Reductions via Whole-Building Retrofits:
Process, Outcomes, and What is Needed Next

For more information, please visit www.esbsustainability.com



I. MOTIVATION

1) Prove or disprove the economic viability of whole-building energy efficiency retrofits.

Prior to 2008, the Empire State Building's performance was average compared to most U.S. office buildings.



Annual utility costs:

- \$11 million (\$4/sq. ft.)

Annual CO₂ emissions:

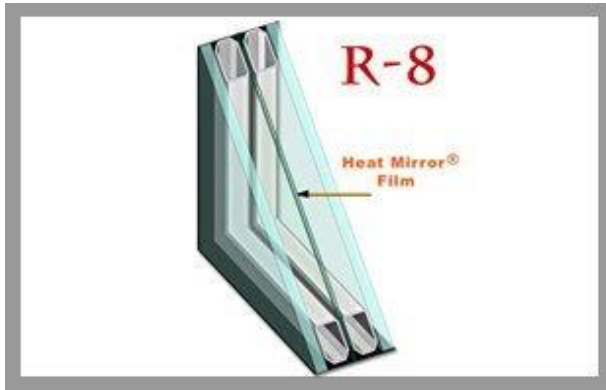
- 25,000 metric tons (22 lbs/sq. ft.)

Annual energy use:

- 88 kBtu/sq. ft.

Peak electric demand:

- 9.5 MW (3.8 W/sq. ft. inc. HVAC)



WINDOWS

Remanufacture 6,500 existing dual glazed windows
Add suspended film between panes, fill with argon gas
R-2 to R-8



RADIANT BARRIERS

Install more than 6,000 radiant barriers behind existing radiators at perimeter of building



CHILLER PLANT RETROFIT

Retrofit + controls, variable speed drives and primary loop bypass



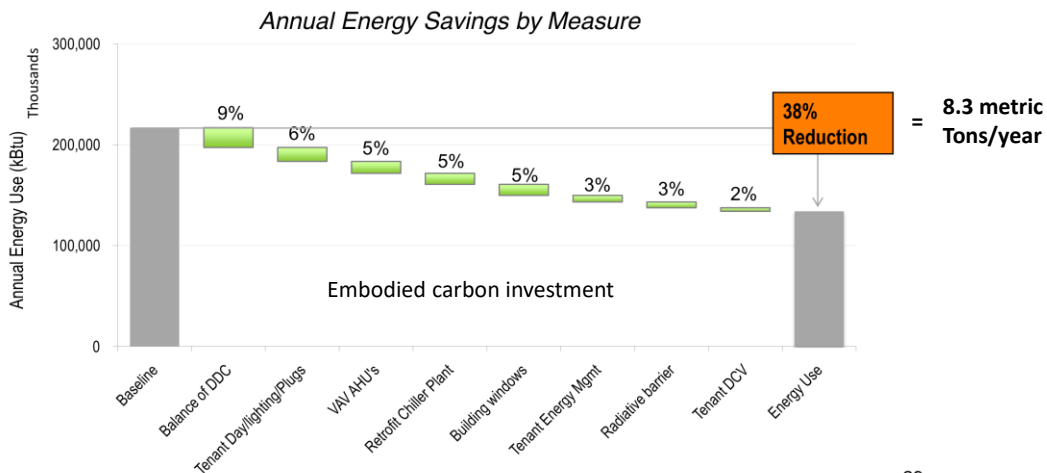
VAV AIR HANDLING UNITS

Replace existing constant volume units with Variable Air Volume units using 2 floor mounted instead of 4 ceiling mounted

III. KEY FINDINGS

1) Eight interactive levers ranging from base building measures to tenant engagement deliver these results.

Energy and CO2 savings in the optimal package result from 8 key projects.



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Though it is more informative to look at financials for the package of measures, capital costs and energy savings were determined for each individual measure.

Project Description	Projected Capital Cost	2008 Capital Budget	Incremental Cost	Estimated Annual Energy Savings*
Windows	\$4.5m	\$455k	\$4m	\$410k
Radiative Barrier	\$2.7m	\$0	\$2.7m	\$190k
DDC Controls	\$7.6m	\$2m	\$5.6m	\$741k
Demand Control Vent	Inc. above	\$0	Inc. above	\$117k
Chiller Plant Retrofit	\$5.1m	\$22.4m	-\$17.3m	\$675k
VAV AHUs	\$47.2m	\$44.8m	\$2.4m	\$702k
Tenant Day/Lighting/Plugs	\$24.5m	\$16.1m	\$8.4m	\$941k
Tenant Energy Mgmt.	\$365k	\$0	\$365k	\$396k
Power Generation (optional)	\$15m	\$7.8m	\$7m	\$320k
TOTAL (ex. Power Gen)	\$106.9m	\$93.7m	\$13.2m	\$4.4m

*Note that energy savings are also incremental to the original capital budget.

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Consider Carbon Payback

Embodied carbon “investment”

Reduced operational carbon “savings” or “return”

Energy efficiency measures can have
short or long “payback”
high or low ROI

Panelists



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