

FirstView for Multifamily

Unlike expensive energy audits or traditional computer modeling, NBI's FirstView® enables building owners, energy efficiency professionals and designers to extract more targeted and useful energy performance information from basic data inputs. While modeling and audits can easily exceed \$10,000 for a project the scale and size of a multifamily building, a FirstView analysis can be done for under \$500 per building. The FirstView tool automatically creates a simplified energy model that can quickly diagnose opportunities for improvement and automatically compare a building's performance against peers. Using only monthly utility bills, local weather data and a few building characteristics, NBI's FirstView software and services move beyond a static benchmarking score, allowing owners to invest audit resources where they will be most effective.

FirstView allows you to invest audit resources where they will be most effective.



Like a prism breaks light into component parts, the FirstView tool separates data from monthly utility bills into end-use information in key areas.

FirstView Automated Observations	
Occupant Load	Typical
Heating & Ventilation	Typical
Cooling Efficiency	Good
Controls	Large inefficiencies
Reheat	None
Gas Baseload	High
Data Consistency	Orderly

Affordable Multifamily and Energy Efficiency Analysis

Affordable housing projects typically have very tight budgets that can rarely accommodate the expense of energy audits or energy modeling. Yet continued lack of energy efficiency in multifamily buildings is a significant barrier to true affordability. Therefore, there is a critical need for the kind of powerful yet affordable energy analysis FirstView provides. In response to this need, NBI has made significant improvements to the functionality of the FirstView tool to more fully address affordable multifamily buildings and make them more accessible and cost-effective for project teams. The updated tool includes:

- Improved analytics for multifamily buildings including a more robust set of peer buildings
- Diagnostic flags identifying likely problem areas
- Savings estimates for addressing various aspects of the building's performance



The Ramona I Portland, OR

Photo courtesy of Sally Painter Photography

- New data entry functionality that allows automated import of Portfolio Manager data, including the ability to import an entire portfolio of buildings at once
- A new purchasing interface allowing for automated and more economical access to the tool

Actual building performance data from affordable multifamily buildings around the nation is used to establish comparison indices, spectrums, and benchmarks. Multifamily building owners, operators, third parties, utilities, and other stakeholders can use FirstView to look at a building's estimated energy use by end use. Automated diagnostics and prospective savings estimates help prioritize retrofit opportunities.

Beyond Benchmarking

Comparing simple numbers is all well and good, but FirstView can show you how your building compares to its peers through the seasons. A comparison spectrum is created by analyzing dozens or hundreds of comparable buildings. Comparison spectra are available for various building types including affordable and market-rate multifamily buildings. As a special service, NBI can also create a custom comparison spectrum for your building portfolio or geographical area.

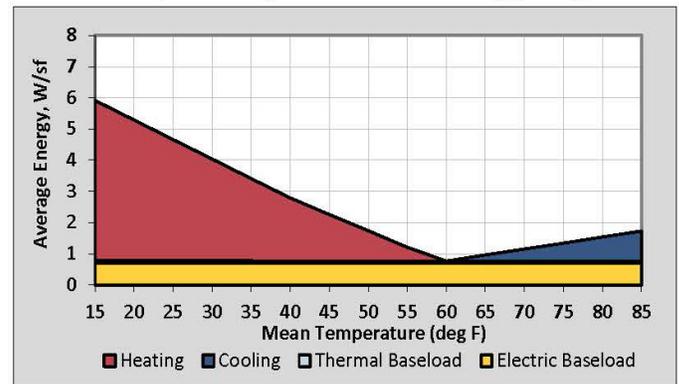
Who Should Use FirstView

While designed to be easily interpreted and understood, the tool relies on sophisticated multivariable regression analysis. That means that FirstView can have different applications for different stakeholders. Owners and operators of portfolios of multifamily buildings can use the tool to help determine where to focus their limited retrofit capital. Third parties such as engineering firms can use the tool to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of an energy audit or to help refine project bids. Utilities can use FirstView as a lead generator, helping them achieve energy efficiency savings goals.

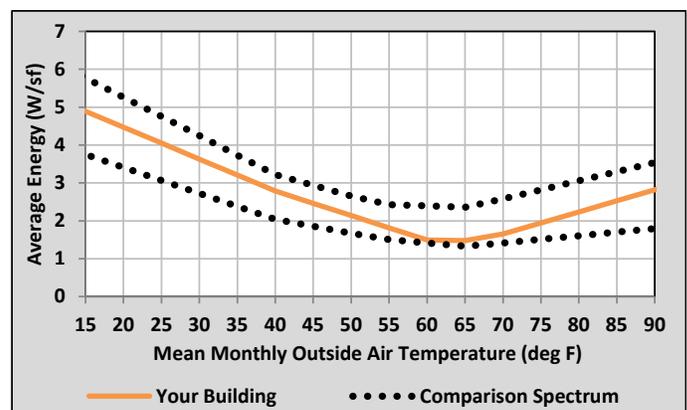


FirstView® is a trademark of New Buildings Institute. The tool and related products are operated under a joint agreement between NBI and Energy RM™.

Consumption by End Use Energy Signature



Energy Signature Comparison



New Buildings Institute

NBI developed FirstView with support from a variety of sources and sponsors including: US Environmental Protection Agency, US Green Building Council, California Energy Commission, Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Kresge Foundation.

Contact:

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