

Take a FirstView® of Your Building's Energy Performance

A majority of commercial building owners have little or no readily available feedback on energy performance. While utility bills may provide some general insight about energy consumption in most buildings, their ability to help target potential savings is limited. Other current tools either provide only general performance benchmarking or require extensive and detailed data input.

NBI's FirstView software tool and services quickly generates information about whether a building's energy performance is right on track or needs improvement. Tested on thousands of buildings, the FirstView tool's calculation engine generates meaningful feedback about performance characteristics beyond just annual energy use, diagnosing opportunities for improvement.



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

How it Works

Using only information commonly collected to calculate an EUI, the FirstView tool acts like a prism, revealing underlying patterns in building end use consumption. It automatically separates energy use into component parts of heating, cooling, gas and electric baseload - all without expensive sub-metering.

This unique yet simple way of looking at the same data allows for variety of comparisons well beyond current energy benchmarking practices. In addition to a static score, the FirstView tool graphically illustrates how a particular building compares to its peers. Diagnostic thresholds in six key performance indicator categories suggest particular areas to audit or investigate further. NBI's FirstView software and services can compare predicted results from design phase models to actual utility bills or track the performance of building renovations from year to year.

How can NBI's FirstView software and services be used?

Currently available benchmarking systems provide comparisons but don't suggest areas of improvement. The FirstView tool directs attention to specific areas that may have potential for energy savings.

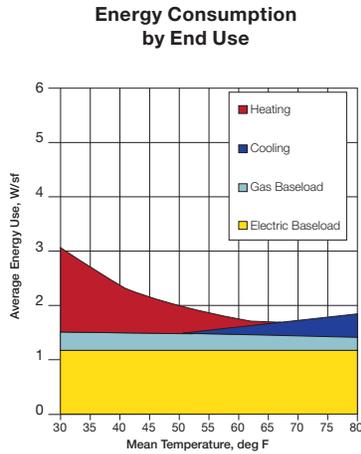
Building owners, operators and designers can use the FirstView tool to assess performance in the following ways:

- 1. Diagnostics**—Uncover patterns in building energy end-use characteristics and generate diagnostic reports about areas to investigate
- 2. Peer Building Benchmarks**—Compare building performance to other subsets of buildings or across portfolios
- 3. Design Model Predictions**—compare expected results from an energy model to actual measured results
- 4. Trending**— Compare performance from year to year.

Diagnostics

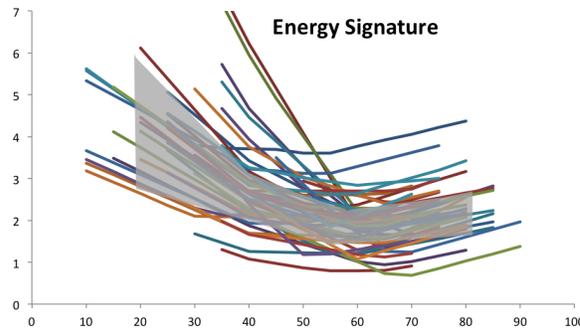
Using our experience in building science research, NBI establishes thresholds in six key performance areas. The FirstView tool's Diagnostics are automated comparisons of the Energy Signature plot for the building to these thresholds. Flags can direct attention to particular areas that may be a concern without even visiting the building. This allows initial audits to be focused and more cost effective.

This can also be especially helpful to those interested in evaluating a broad portfolio of buildings, quickly identifying high priority target projects with significant upgrade potential from among a larger building stock.



Beyond Benchmarking

With NBI's FirstView software and services, you can go beyond a static benchmarking score to illustrate how a building compares to peers. A 'spectrum' is created by graphically overlaying hundreds or thousands of buildings until trends are recognized.



As a service, NBI can help organizations create a custom spectrum, or they can use any of the four that NBI already has available. These include a high performance office spectrum, an average office spectrum, a spectrum for K-12 schools and a spectrum for multifamily apartment or condo buildings.

Who is Using the FirstView Software and Services?

The FirstView tool has been used on thousands of buildings. The USGBC used the tool to provide feedback on every commercial building in their Building Performance Partnership program. The Seattle 2030 District is using the tool as a way to benchmark and track performance toward energy reduction goals in the district. The Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment is using the tool to improve program delivery and streamline field auditing for their small commercial building retrofit program. And schools and municipalities have used the tool to prioritize opportunities for energy efficiency efforts within their portfolios.

For more information about FirstView, contact Alexi Miller, Project Manager at alexim@newbuildings.org.

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

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

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

New Buildings Institute

New Buildings Institute (NBI) is a nonprofit organization working collaboratively with commercial building professionals and the energy industry to improve the energy performance of commercial buildings.

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