

Glossary

Baseline. Within Energy Smart Services, savings and costs for energy conservation are assessed as the difference between what will be done with funding (the “proposed”), and what would be done without funding (the “baseline”). For new construction, for example, the baseline is the minimum efficiency required by the Energy Code.

Climate Wise. A Seattle City Light program that helps commercial, industrial and institutional customers manage and improve their environmental performance, particularly regarding reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Customers work with program staff to identify emissions reducing actions appropriate to their business, agree to implement the identified actions, and report on progress over time.

Cost Caps. Seattle City Light funding for installation of Energy Conservation Measures is equal to a Value of Savings, or a Cost Cap, whichever is less for a particular measure. The Cost Cap is equal to the incremental cost, up to 70% of the total cost.

Customer. The owner, mortgager, or contract vendor of a commercial facility or its authorized agent, or a lessee or other occupant of a commercial facility authorized by the owner to implement Energy Conservation Measures.

Energy Analysis Report. The report resulting from Energy Analysis Assistance, providing in-depth analyses of proposed electrical Energy Conservation Measures not covered by Standard Incentives. Produced by a consultant, engineering expertise is applied to a full range of commercial and industrial energy conservation strategies to produce cost and savings information and to assess the eligibility for Seattle City Light incentive funding.

Energy Code. The Seattle Energy Code and, outside the city limits, the Washington State Energy Code, are often referenced in the Energy Smart Services program for development of baselines in energy savings and funding calculations. Within the city limits, the Seattle Energy Code is administered by the Department of Design, Construction and Land Use (DCLU).

ECM. See *Energy Conservation Measure*.

Energy Conservation Measure (ECM). A capital improvement that increases the electrical energy efficiency of the customer’s facility. The substitution of another fuel source, such as oil or gas, to displace electric energy use is not considered an Energy Conservation Measure.

Energy Management Analyst. A member of the Seattle City Light staff assigned to a specific customer to provide technical assistance and manage contracts for energy conservation installation. Analyzes proposed energy conservation efficiency projects, determines City Light funding levels, acts as a resource during the course of projects, and provides progress and final inspections for incentive payments.

Energy Smart Services. Technical assistance and financial incentives offered by Seattle City Light to medium and large commercial and industrial customers.

Energy Star™. An EPA program that labels products meeting specific energy-efficiency standards to guide consumers in making energy-efficient purchases. Products for both home and business are labeled, from appliances to computers to transformers.

Existing Conditions. The existing condition of a building or building system (lighting, HVAC, envelope, etc.) and/or the operation of such a building or system as it was initially designed to operate. The existing conditions may be used as the baseline if the equipment being replaced is fully functional and is not being upsized. See *Baseline*.

Fuel switching. Reduction in consumption for one type of energy, achieved by an increase in consumption for another type of energy (e.g., a reduction in electricity consumption achieved by an increase in use of natural gas).

Funding Calculation Worksheets. A series of electronic spreadsheet with pre-determined formulas designed to easily calculate energy savings of proposed efficiency upgrades. Used for Standard Incentives for lighting, HVAC, and motors.

HVAC. Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment.

Incremental Cost. The difference in cost between what the customer would have done in the absence of City Light funding and the proposed Energy Conservation Measure. The difference between the total installed cost of the baseline and the proposed. See also *Baseline*. For chillers, for example, the incremental cost is the cost difference between a chiller that meets the Energy Code, and the proposed chiller. If two bids are not obtained, one for the baseline and one for the proposed, the incremental cost may be assigned the value of 50% of the material cost of the proposed chiller, or 25% of the total cost of the proposed chiller.

Incremental Energy Savings. The energy saved through City Light funding above and beyond what the customer would have done in the absence of that funding.

LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). A menu-based benchmarking tool developed by the United States Green Building Council to measure and rank the sustainable performance of building projects.

Major Remodel. When an existing facility is gutted and all substantial energy systems are removed, or there is a new addition to the facility that more than doubles the floor area. Energy Smart Services treats Major Remodels and some other remodels in the same way it handles New Construction, since in both cases the Energy Code is used as baseline for savings and cost estimates.

NEMA Premium Efficiency Motor. A motor that meets the minimum efficiencies and efficiency rating method requirements established by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association for motors marketed as “NEMA Premium Efficiency.”

New Construction. A commercial facility that has not yet been constructed. Major Remodels and some other remodels are handled in the same way as New Construction, since in both cases the Energy Code is used as baseline for savings and cost estimates.

Operations and Maintenance Measures (O&Ms). Specific operations or maintenance actions to improve energy efficiency. Typically these measures have rapid payback and low cost. Examples include changing control settings, replacing broken thermostats and time clocks, or repairing outside air dampers that no longer can achieve the minimum outside air setpoint.

Payback. The estimated period of time during which a project would pay for itself on the basis of reduced energy bills. Payback, in years, is equal to the cost of the higher efficiency options divided by the annual reduction in energy costs.

Performance Contract. A performance contract offers payment based on actual performance of the installed Energy Conservation Measure. Performance is usually assessed by measuring energy consumption and other critical parameters before (if a retrofit project) and after installation.

Plug Load. Equipment that receives electrical power through a cord plugged into an outlet.

Professional Engineer (P.E.). An engineer holding a current Professional Engineering license issued by the State. Each P.E. has a stamp that may be applied to design documents and signed by the P.E.

Project Team. The architect, engineer, facility owner, tenant, Seattle City Light Energy Management Analyst, and any other individuals who are members of the team assembled to implement Energy Conservation Measures.

Standard Practice. That which is generally regarded as good engineering and economic practice. In new construction or replacement of equipment that is broken, standard practice may be considered the baseline for equipment that isn't covered directly by the Energy Code.

Sustainable Building. A “cradle to cradle” approach to building development which considers a building’s total economic, environmental and social impact and performance, from material extraction and product manufacture, through product transportation, design and construction, operations and maintenance, to eventual building reuse or disposal.

Total Cost. The total cost of installing equipment effected by an Energy Conservation Measure. The total cost includes materials, labor, design, taxes, and the design cost (up to 10% of the total cost).

Trade Ally. A contractor, manufacturer’s representative or designer who participates on projects funded by Seattle City Light, often on behalf of a customer.

Value of Savings to SCL. Energy Smart Services funding for installation of Energy Conservation Measures is equal to a Value of Savings to SCL, or a Cost Cap, whichever is less for a particular measure. The Value of Savings is equal to the estimated kWh annual savings times a funding factor that depends on the anticipated life of the measure.

Variable Air Volume (VAV). A type of HVAC air distribution system that reduces the air flow to a room when the amount of cooling required decreases. It improves efficiency by reducing the amount of heating and cooling required to satisfy a system that serves multiple thermostats.

Variable speed drive (VSD). A device that varies the speed of a motor. VSDs, variable speed drives, do so by varying the frequency of the power to the motor.

VendingMiser™. A plug load control device that powers down cold drink vending machine lights and compressors during periods of inactivity, utilizing a motion sensor to power back up when people are nearby. During long periods of inactivity, the compressors cycle on enough to maintain proper drink temperatures.

Verification. Confirmation that Energy Conservation Measures have been installed per contract, and (where required by contract) the revision of energy savings calculations to reflect actual performance.