



RESOURCE
INNOVATION
INSTITUTE



**Efficient
Yields**
Best practices on energy,
water efficiency, and productivity

Indoor Optimization - HVAC & Lighting Best Practices

In partnership with



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK

SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA BARBARA • VENTURA

February 3, 2022

Agenda

About RII	1:30 pm
Introductions & Purpose	1:35 pm
Best Practices for Advanced Controls & Automation in Cultivation: Indoor	1:45 pm
Understanding California Title 24, Part 6: Energy Codes for CEH	2:00 pm
Indoor Lighting Controls & Automation Best Practices	2:20 pm
Indoor Environmental Controls Best Practices: Avoiding Microclimates for Plant Health	2:40 pm
Efficiency Program Examples	3:00 pm
Q&A	3:15 pm





SECTION 01

WELCOME & ABOUT RII

ABOUT US

About RII

Objective, data-driven non-profit

Founded 2016 in Portland, Oregon

Expertise in climate policy, utility programs,
green building certification, sustainable
business, construction & indoor cultivation

In 2020, received 3-year grant from USDA to
develop KPIs, standards & building rating
system for CEA



What We Do / Our Mission

We measure, verify & celebrate the world's most efficient agricultural ideas.



Measure

Efficiency & Productivity

- Key Performance Indicators
- Benchmarks
- Baselines



Verify

Best Practices & Standards

- Training
- Policies
- Utility Programs



Celebrate

Leadership Recognition

- Verification
- Case Studies
- Certification

ABOUT RII

Our Network



ABOUT RII

Technical Advisory Council

Multi-disciplinary body who aggregates knowledge to support producers and other stakeholders with objective and peer-reviewed data and curriculum on benchmarking resource efficiency

- Guides development of standards
- Shapes tools and resources to support best practices
- Advocates for informed policies, incentives and regulations

HVAC - Lighting - Utility - Water
Policy - Data - Controls - Emissions
Facility Design & Construction



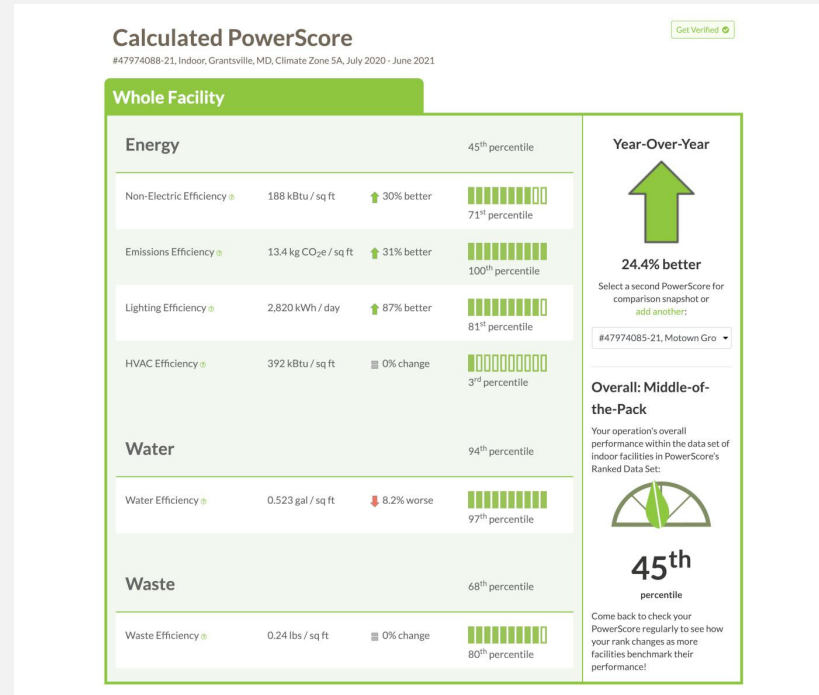
PowerScore Benchmarking

Specialized Key Performance Indicators

- Performance Snapshots
 - Year-over-year energy, water, and emissions rankings
 - Third-party data verification
- PowerScore Comply in select jurisdictions
- Access PowerScore Pro as an RII member
 - Enhanced portfolio management
 - Dashboard reports
 - Filters
 - Access Ranked Data Set

Competitive business insights

- Get ahead of compliance
- Assess portfolios of facilities to continuously improve
- Prioritize capital projects
- Forecast KPIs for new facilities and retrofits



ABOUT RII

Informing Audiences with Peer-Reviewed Publications



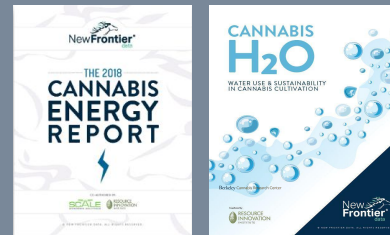
Best Practices Guides
for Producers



Primers
for Governments & Utilities



Collaborative Reports
on Resource Usage



Intelligence Insights
for Members



A worker wearing a black cap and sunglasses is operating a black scissor lift in a vertical farm aisle. The aisle is formed by tall metal racks filled with green plants. The background shows the complex structure of the farm with various pipes and lights.

SECTION 02

INTRODUCTIONS & PURPOSE

Today's Speakers



Gretchen Schimelpfenig



Neda Vaseghi



Dario Boyce



Corinne Wilder



BY OSRAM



Anders Peterson



INSPIRE



Eric Noller



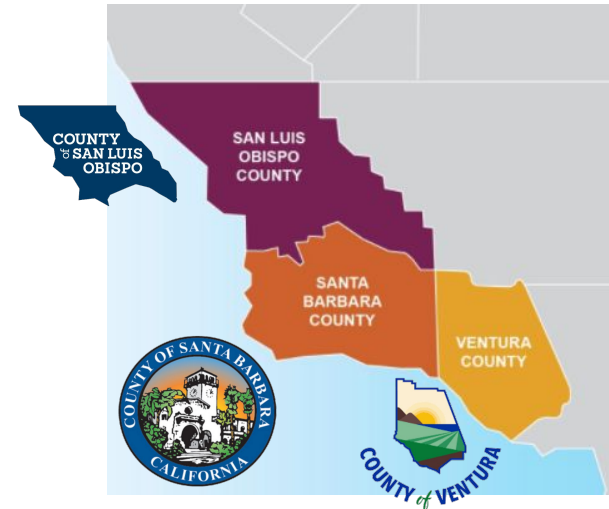
3C-REN: Tri-County Regional Energy Network



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK
SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA BARBARA • VENTURA

Three counties working together to improve energy efficiency in the region with free programs:

- Energy Code Connect
 - Industry Trainings and Forums
 - [Energy Code Coach](#): Title 24 Compliance Support Hotline (805) 220-9991
- Building Performance Training
 - Training & certification for current and prospective building professionals
 - Helps workers thrive in an evolving industry
- Home Energy Savings
 - Improves home comfort and safety
 - Owners & Renters; Multifamily & Single Family
- [Upcoming Courses](#)



Purpose of Today's Workshop



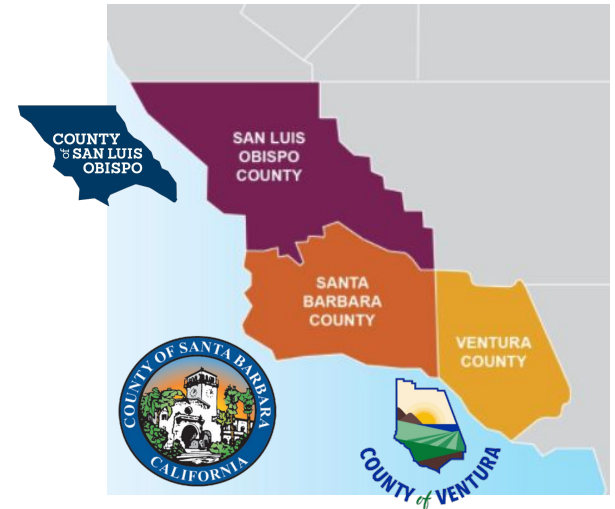
TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK
SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA BARBARA • VENTURA

Help cannabis producers improve the efficiency of their operations with environmental control systems

Convey scientific insights directly to producers and finding the best ways to translate them in the context of a local ecosystem

Help government agencies and energy efficiency programs achieve their climate goals through knowledge sharing

Encourage cultivators to take advantage of 3C-REN resources to support compliance with County energy conservation plans



Access Your Tri-County Virtual Classroom


Access the virtual classroom to continue learning

Free guidance on efficient cannabis cultivation

All live workshops are available for on-demand viewing!

- Recordings of live workshops
- Tip Clips
- Downloadable resources
- 3C-REN tools

Create an account at
ResourceInnovation.org/Tri-County



The screenshot shows a website interface with a green header. On the left is the 3C-REN logo. On the right, there are links for 'Back to all Membership List', a shopping cart icon with '1' item, and a menu icon. Below the header, the main content area features a workshop listing: 'Efficient Cannabis Training for the California Central Coast' with a 'Join >' button and a price of '\$0.00'. A call-to-action box below the listing says 'Click the **Join button** above to view training videos and register for live workshops! ↑'. To the left of the main text is the 'Efficient Yields' logo with the tagline 'Best practices on energy, water efficiency, and productivity'. To the right is the title 'Efficient Cannabis Cultivation to Increase Profit & Productivity' followed by a paragraph: 'The Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) and Resource Innovation Institute (RII) are partnering to bring a 4-part workshop series and virtual classroom to cannabis cultivation operations in San Luis Obispo, Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties. This training & education is free to regional producers and features vetted subject matter experts from RII's Technical Advisory Council.' At the bottom, there are three images: a cannabis grow room with lights, a large greenhouse structure, and a close-up of a cannabis plant.

Register for the Last Workshop

Access the virtual classroom to continue learning

Free guidance on efficient cannabis cultivation

All live workshops are available for on-demand viewing!

- Apr 7, 2022
 - Sungrown Efficiency - Optimizing the Energy-Water Nexus



Product Type
WEBINAR

Efficient Yields Tri-County: Sungrown Efficiency - Optimizing the Energy-Water Nexus

Faculty: Gretchen Schimelpfenig
Duration: 2 hours
Price: \$0.00 - 3C-REN

🕒 Thu, Apr 07, 2022 - 01:30pm to 03:30pm PDT

[More info »](#)
[Save for Later](#)
[Register](#)



REGISTER!

Efficient
Yields

Best practices on energy,
water efficiency, and productivity

SUNGROWN EFFICIENCY

OPTIMIZING
ENERGY-WATER NEXUS



RESOURCE
INNOVATION
INSTITUTE



Apr. 7, 2022

A photograph of an indoor grow room. The room is filled with rows of plants in white containers on the left and rows of plants in clear plastic covers on the right. The ceiling has several fans and lights. In the background, there is a white door with an 'EXIT' sign above it. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the plants providing a green contrast to the grey and white surroundings.

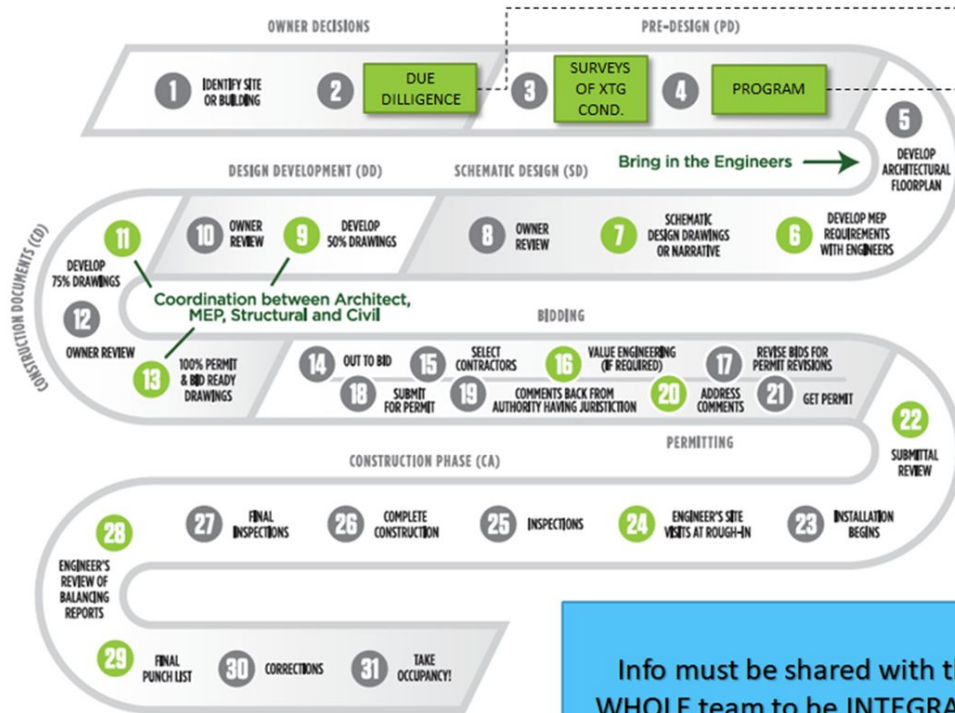
SECTION 03

**ADVANCED CONTROLS &
AUTOMATION: INDOOR**

First Understand Your Building

- What utilities are available?
 - Do you need to upgrade any of them?
- What is the structural capacity of the building?
 - Get a Chapter 34 done is possible to understand:
 - Roof capacity
 - Seismic and shear loads
- How tight is your envelope?
 - Get an envelopment analysis done to understand:
 - Base building improvements needed





InfoGraphic credit: Root Engineering

STRUCTURAL CAPACITY?
UTILITIES – ELECT, WATER, GAS?
ENVIRONMENTAL – HazMat?

- TO ESTABLISH A PROPER FACILITY PROGRAM, OWNERSHIP MUST RECORD, AND SHARE THE FOLLOWING INFO:

KPIs / KPTs KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS / TARGETS

grams/sf or /kWh or /gal of water
biomass of production / total cost
Manuf. Units of production / total cost

HORTICULTURE/GROW NARRATIVE

LIGHTING CHOICE by growth phase
BENCH / RACK
PLANT PER SQ FT
WATER CONSUMPTION RATE
CO₂ ENRICHMENT
SOIL/MEDIA CHOICE
CROP CYCLE – in days. CYCLES /YR

MANUFACTURING NARRATIVE

MENU – OF PRODUCTS
VOLUME – UNITS/SHIFT/DAY/YR
INGREDIENTS – STORAGE CAPACITY

FACILITY GOALS

MIXED LIGHT GREENHOUSE or CEH
OPERATIONS – PERSONNEL TARGETS
BUILDING TYPE – RENO OR NEW BUILD

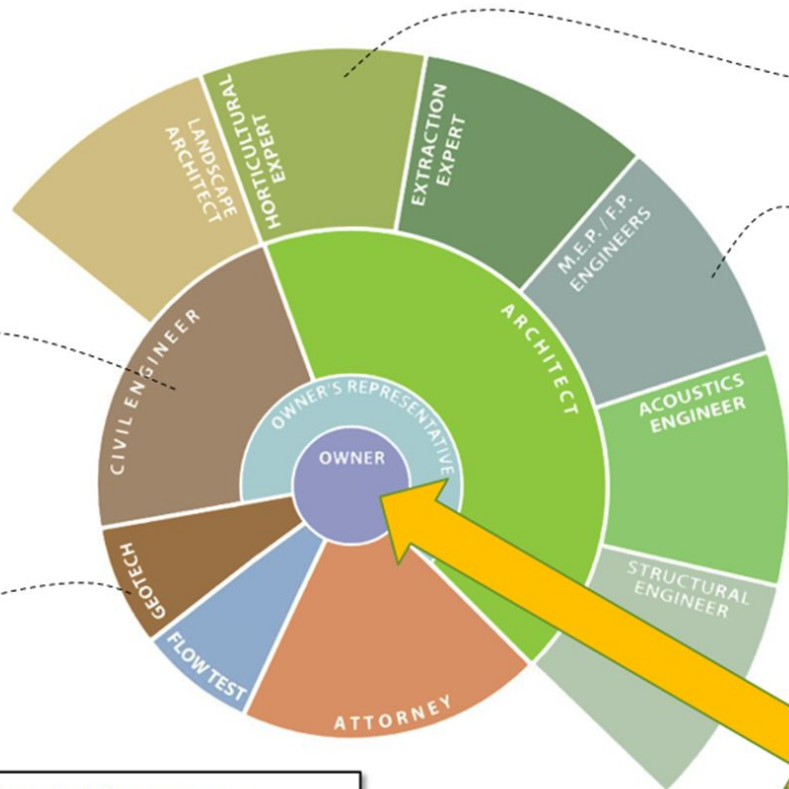
Info must be shared with the
WHOLE team to be INTEGRATED
and avoid 'silos'

**INTEGRATED PROJECT
DELIVERY = TEAM
COORDINATION**

Parking
Truck access
Site Design

Soils Quality
and Bearing
Capacity

**The Construction Manager / General Contractor
should be part of the team early**

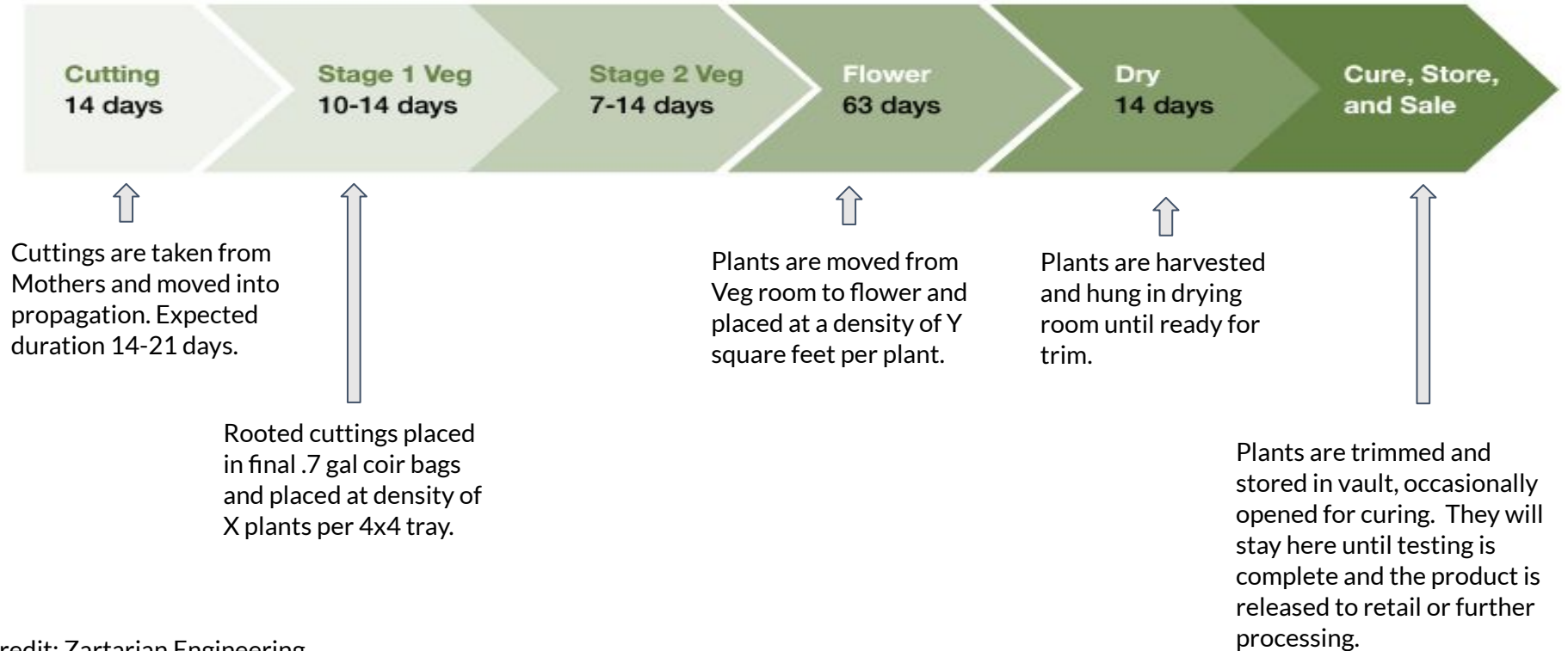


Horticulture
Specifications and
Vendor Coordination

Primary Building
Systems and Controls

Owner sets the
**Conditions of
Satisfaction**

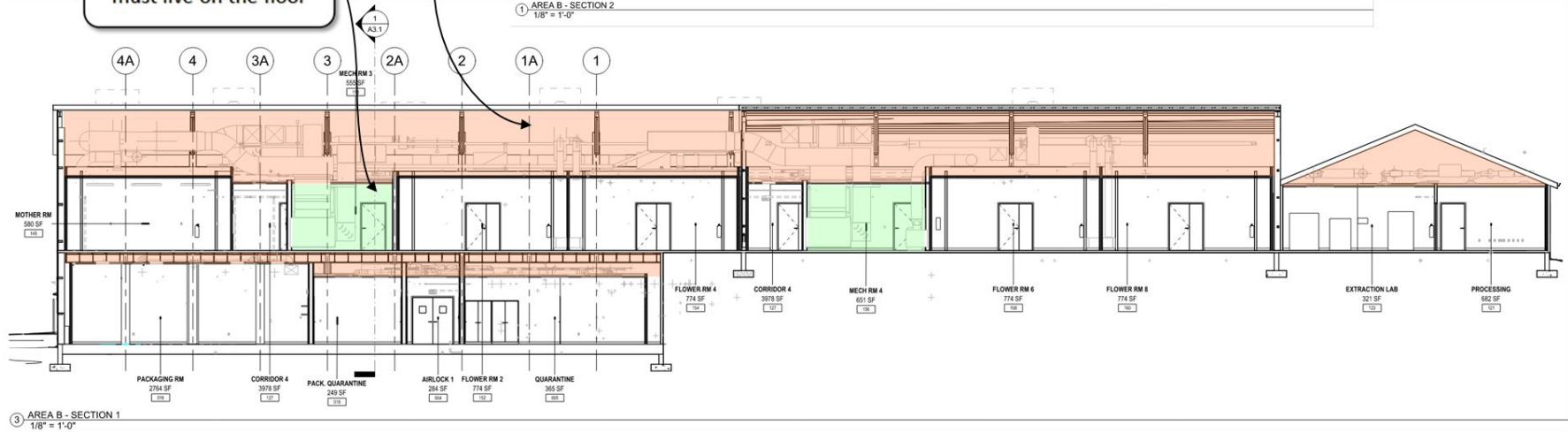
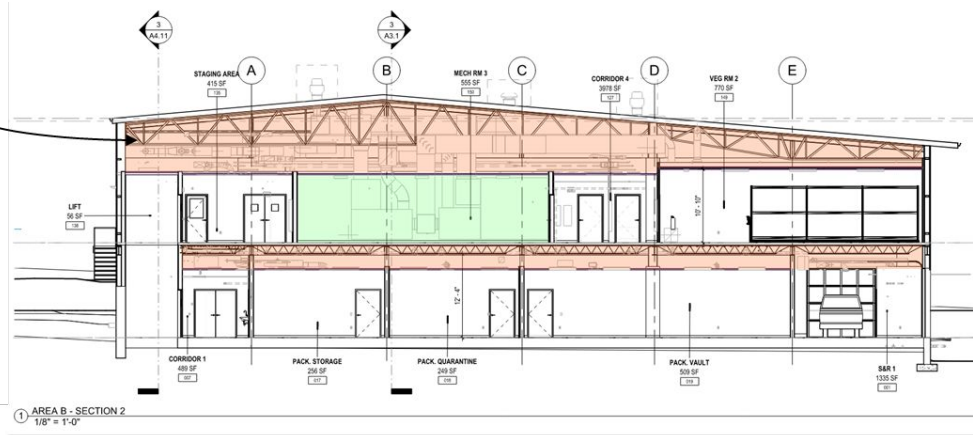
Example Cannabis Production Lifecycle

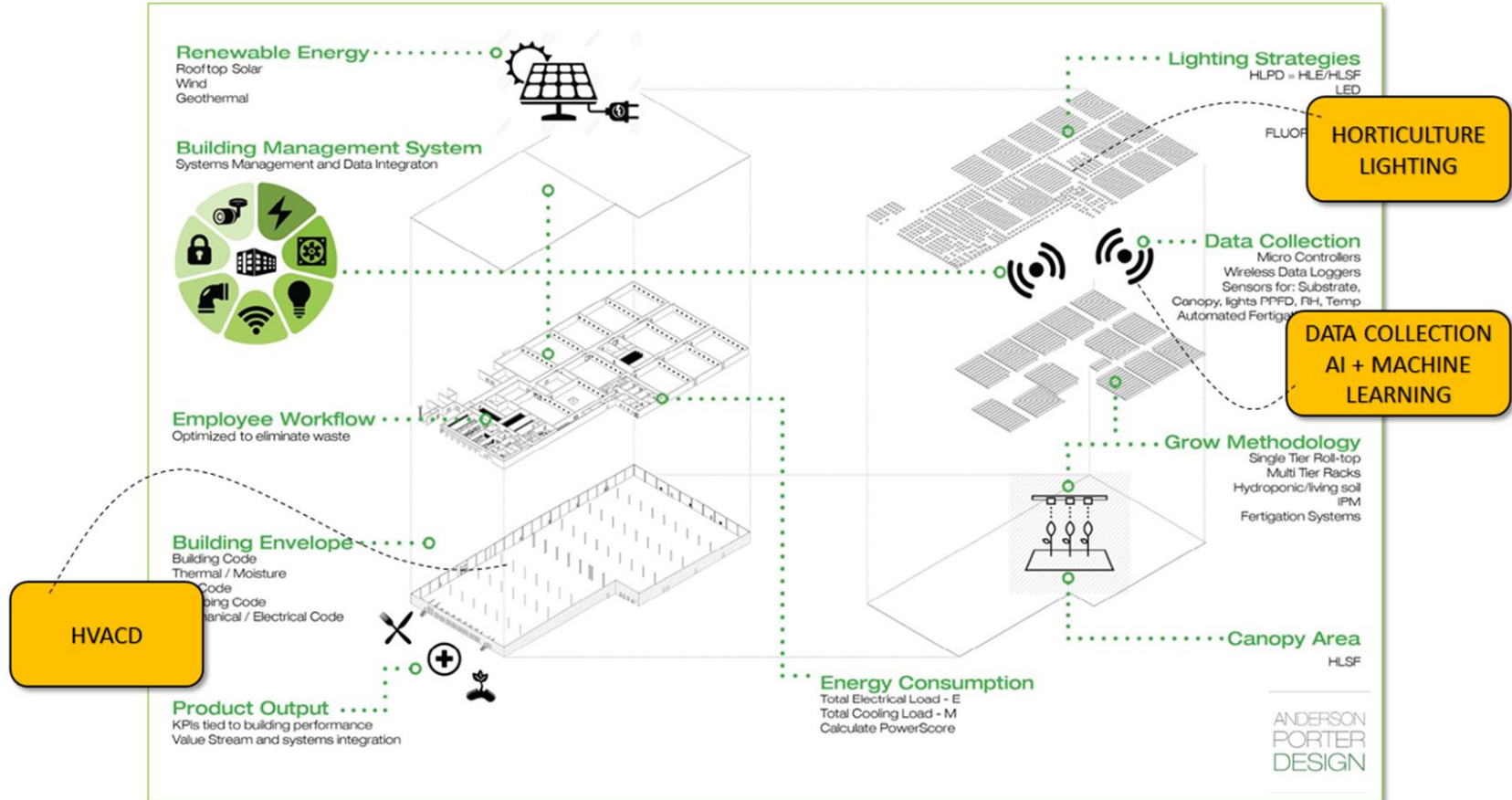


Structural capacity is importance

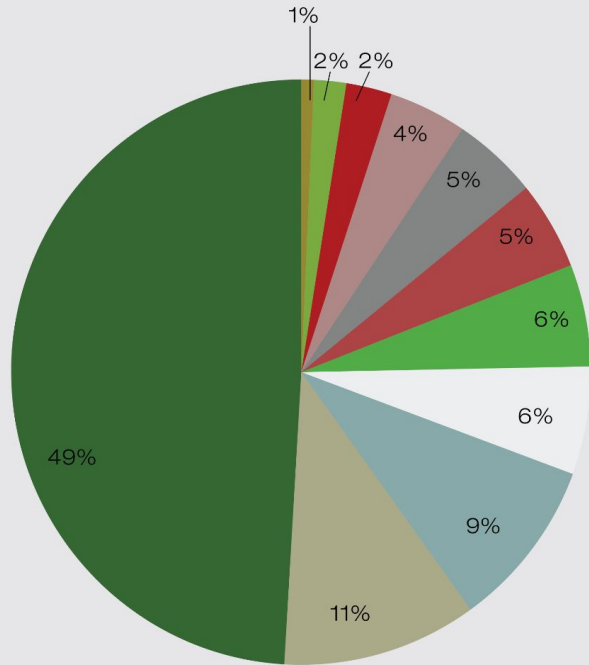
The space above the ceiling is critical

What can't fit above must live on the floor





Cultivation Program Analysis



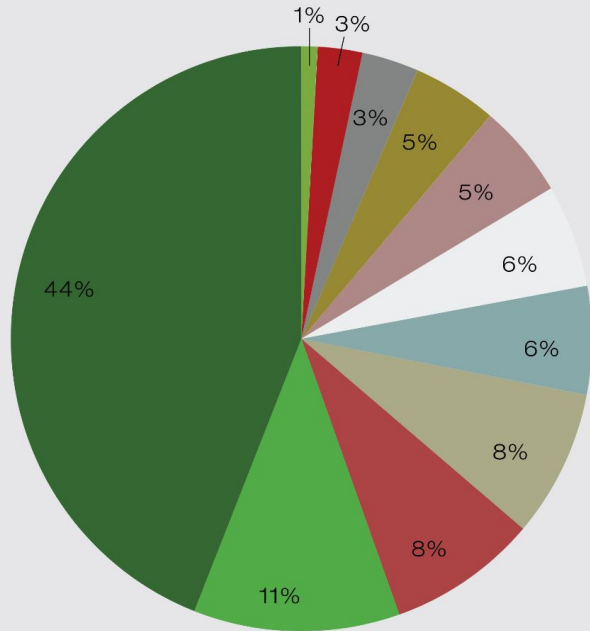
Hybrid Light Fixtures

Indoor Grow Facility
110,000 GSF

Air Rotation System



Cultivation Program Analysis

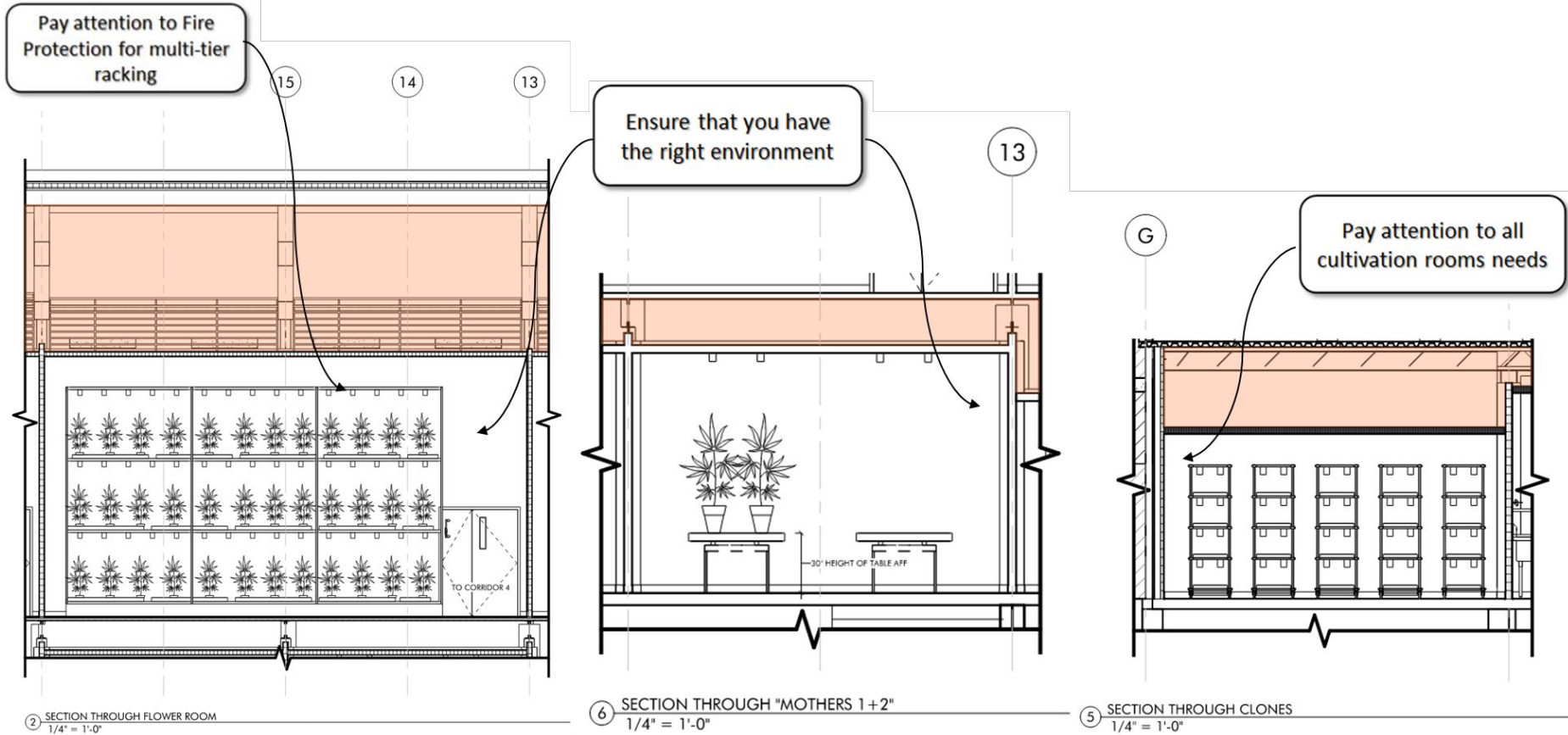


Hybrid Light Fixtures

Indoor Grow Facility
36,000 GSF

Chilled Water System





Managing Energy with Controls

Sources of Energy Use

Cultivation operations may use:

Electricity

- Electricity for horticultural lighting
- Electricity for HVAC processes
- Electricity for motors:
 - Pumping water
 - Actuating greenhouse vents
 - Running fans

Fuel (natural gas, propane)

- Fuel for heating processes
- Fuel for combined heat and power (CHP)

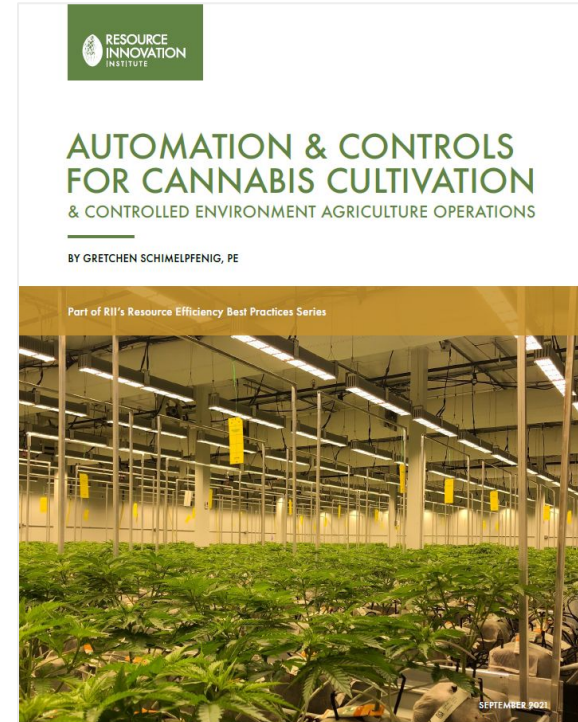


Download the Controls Best Practices Guide

Brand-agnostic information for producers

Free guidance on lighting, HVAC, and water controls

- Speak the language relevant to controlling and automating environmental control systems in horticultural applications
- Understand types of control systems optimizing horticultural environments
- Plan for integrated controls approaches in greenhouses and indoor operations
- Install and operating successful controls solutions in alignment with business models
- Use data from control systems to improve productivity and efficiency
- Demonstrate energy savings for utility energy efficiency incentive programs



DOWNLOAD NOW

Start Your Journey to Automation

Increase Productivity & Efficiency

- Continual Improvement to stay competitive
 - Consistent yields
 - Verifiable results

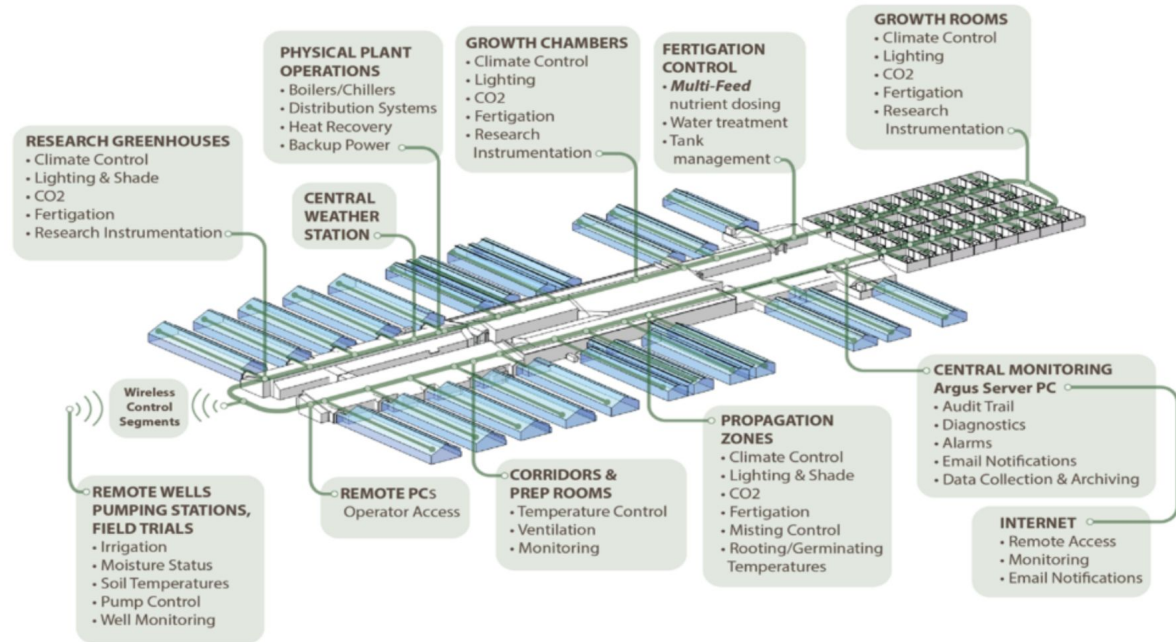
Controls Considerations

- Wired vs wireless control systems
- Sensor placement
- Point of control
- Resolution & accuracy
- Integration
- Maintenance



Fully Integrated Controls

- Remove Human Error & Inefficiencies
 - Understand your process before you integrate it
- Integration benefits
 - Reduce wear and tear
 - Improve control
 - Save energy
 - Save water
 - Real time data for troubleshooting



Benefits of Commissioning

Ensure Mission-Critical Systems Perform Optimally

- Improve maintenance procedures
- Save staff time
- Reduce operations & maintenance expenses
- Save energy: 3% and 12% for industrial facilities
- Verify systems respond as expected
- Validate resource efficiency
- Resolve problems before product at risk
- Avoid expensive fixes requiring shutdowns in operation

CANNABIS
BUSINESS TIMES

**Reduce Expenses by
Commissioning Your Cannabis
Facility**

READ MORE

Design-Phase Commissioning

Third-Party Review of Project Design Docs

- Review Owner's Project Requirements (OPR) including target setpoints, standard operating procedures, failure conditions
- Assist design team with creating Basis of Design (BOD)
- Develop a commissioning plan
- Perform design review of drawings
- Review equipment submittals
- Identify issues & suggest adjustments



STEP 1:

Design Phase Commissioning
 Timeframe: months
 - can seamlessly connect to construction phase commissioning



Design-Phase Commissioning

Early Engagement to Plan Controls

- Design for annual production
 - All seasons and consistent production
- Understand interactive effects on systems:
 - Power
 - HVAC and humidity management
 - Water
- Plan your controls system responses to conditions outside of target ranges



Construction-Phase Commissioning

Performance Testing to Validate Controls

- Multistage process involving several project team members:
 - Construction manager
 - Controls contractor
 - Commissioning agent
- Create prefunctional checklists and functional performance tests and work with controls contractors to witness and record all functional tests
- Identify issues in the field and issue reports recommending resolutions
- Create staff training agendas
- Produce a final commissioning report
- Ensure that Contractors have provided operations and maintenance (O&M) manuals





SECTION 04

CALIFORNIA TITLE 24 PART 6

Upcoming Code Changes: HVAC



Read the [Final
CASE Report](#)

Dehumidification Equipment Standards

Dehumidification equipment shall be one of the following:

1. Stand-alone dehumidifiers that meet minimum integrated energy factors:
 - Minimum integrated energy factor of 1.77 L/kWh for product case volumes of 8.0 ft³ or less
 - Minimum integrated energy factor of 2.41 L/kWh for product case volumes greater than 8.0 ft³
2. Integrated HVAC system with on-site heat recovery designed to fulfill at least 75% of the annual energy for dehumidification reheat
3. Chilled water system with on-site heat recovery designed to fulfill at least 75 percent of the annual energy for dehumidification reheat
4. Solid or liquid desiccant dehumidification system for system designs that require dewpoint of 50°F or less

Upcoming Code Changes: Lighting



Read the [Final CASE Report](#)

Indoor Growing, Horticultural Lighting

In a building with CEH spaces and with more than 40 kW of aggregate horticultural lighting load, the electric lighting systems used for plant growth and plant maintenance shall meet the following requirements:

1. Luminaires shall have a photosynthetic photon efficacy of at least **1.9 micromoles per joule** rated in accordance with ANSI / ASABE S640 for wavelengths from 400 to 700 nanometers.
2. Time-switch lighting controls shall be installed and comply with [Section 110.9\(b\)1](#), [Section 130.4\(a\)4](#), and applicable sections of [NA7.6.2](#).
3. Multilevel lighting controls shall be installed and comply with [Section 130.1\(b\)](#).



Horticultural Lighting Options – Fixture Choices

	FLUORESCENTS		HIGH-INTENSITY DISCHARGE (HID)			LEDs
	T8 <i>Linear, Tube</i>	T5 <i>Linear, Tub</i>	DE HPS <i>High Pressure Sodium</i>	MH <i>Metal Halide</i>	CMH <i>Ceramic Metal Halide</i>	LED <i>Light-Emitting Diode</i>
Spectrum	Balanced	Well Balanced	Warm (Yellow-Red)	Cool (Blue-Green)	Well Balanced	Custom (Balanced)
Initial Cost	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium-High	Low - High
Power Draw	Low / 32W	Medium / 54W	Med / 400-1000W	Med / 400-1000W	Med / 400-1000W	Low-High / 100-800W
Efficiency	Low	Low-Good	Better	Better	Best	Good - Best
$\mu\text{mol}/\text{j}$	0.8 - 1.0	0.9 - 1.2	1.9 - 2.1	1.7 - 1.8	1.6-1.9	1.8 - 3.7
Lifetime (hrs)	12,000	12,000	5,000 - 10,000	6,000-12,000	5,000	236,000



Upcoming Indoor Code Changes



Indoor Growing, Electrical Power Distribution Systems

Electrical power distribution system serving CEH spaces shall be designed so that a measurement device is capable of monitoring the electrical energy usage of aggregate horticultural lighting load.

Read the [Final CASE Report](#)

A photograph of a large indoor cannabis cultivation facility. The room is filled with rows of green cannabis plants growing in a metal structure. The plants are densely packed and appear to be in the flowering stage. The metal structure consists of vertical posts and horizontal beams, creating a grid-like pattern. The lighting is bright and even, illuminating the plants. The background shows a white wall and more of the structure.

SECTION 05

LIGHTING CONTROLS & AUTOMATION

Lighting Controls: Value Proposition

Dial in the number one nutrient for plants

Provide with granularity:

- Proper light levels
- Optimal spectra for cultivars
- Preferred photoperiod by stage of development
- Desired DLI to empower plant growth

Provide plants with the exact intensity and quantity of light while minimizing energy consumption and lowering bills



Key Lighting Terms



PAR

**Photosynthetic
Active Radiation**

PAR light is the wavelengths of light within the visible range of 400 to 700 nanometers, which drive photosynthesis.



PPF

**Photosynthetic
Photon Flux**

PPF measures the total amount of PAR that is produced by a lighting system each second.



PPFD

**Photosynthetic
Photon Flux Density**

PPFD measures the number of photosynthetically active photons that fall on a given surface each second.

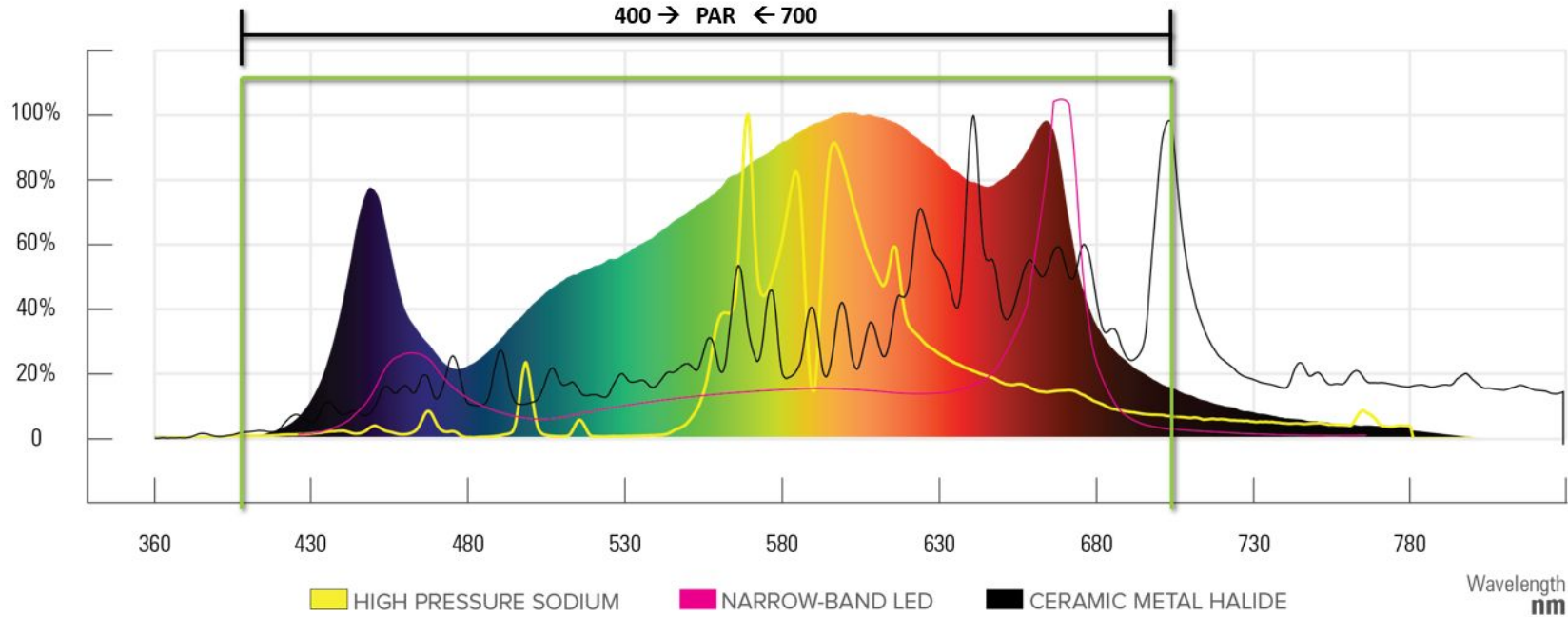


DLI

**Daily Light
Integral**

DLI is the total number of photons of PAR accumulated over one given area, over one 24-hour period.

Spectra Choices



Designing Lighting Controls Systems

Planning Lighting Controls

- Facility location
- Crop being grown
- Growing seasons
- Cost vs. performance
- Perpetual harvest
- Maximizing production
- Balancing efficiency

Provide plants with the exact intensity and quantity of light while minimizing energy consumption and lowering bills



Indoor VS Greenhouse Strategy



Indoor cultivation facilities rely on **sole-source lighting** designs to provide the required PPFD intensity for the plants growth stage.

The spacing of lighting fixtures can vary, but typical footprints range from 8-25 ft².



Greenhouse operations take advantage of existing sunlight – allowing for **supplemental lighting** designs.

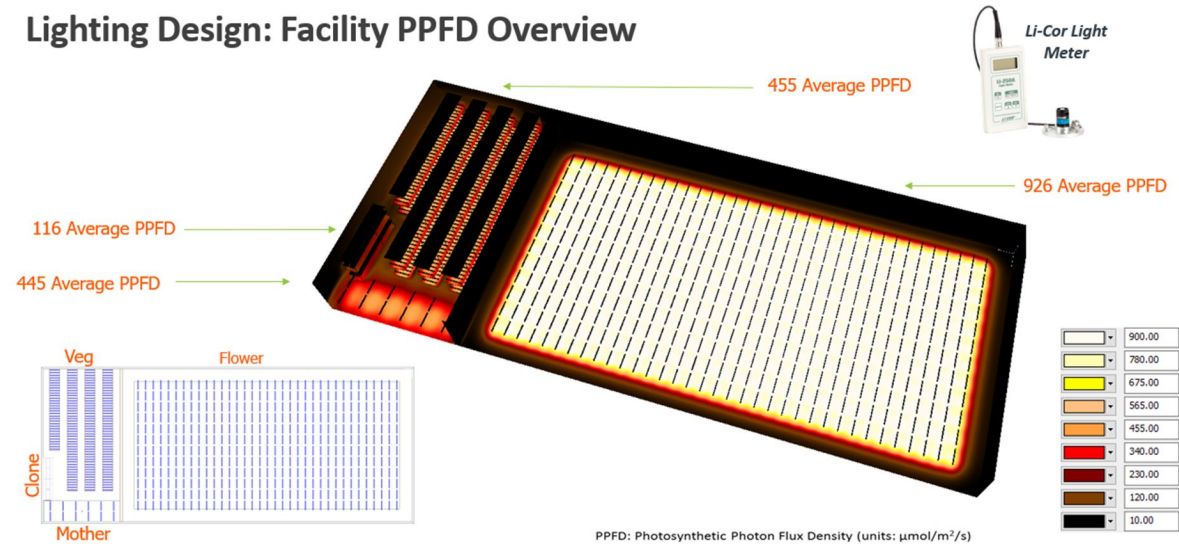
These allow wider spacing of lighting fixtures with an average of 40-80 ft² footprint.

Designing Lighting Controls

Power and Light Planning

- Pre-install design, mapping, PPF
- Configuration vs commissioning
- Post-install verification
- Ties to Rebates for SCE! (M&V)

Lighting Design: Facility PPF Overview



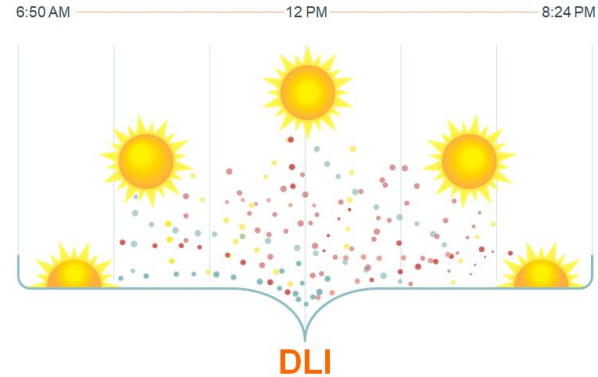
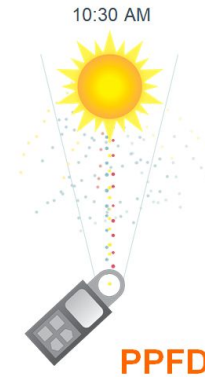
Specify Control Parameters

Target Ranges for Best Outcomes for Plants

- PPFD
- DLI

Determine the information sensors will use to modulate equipment output to meet thresholds

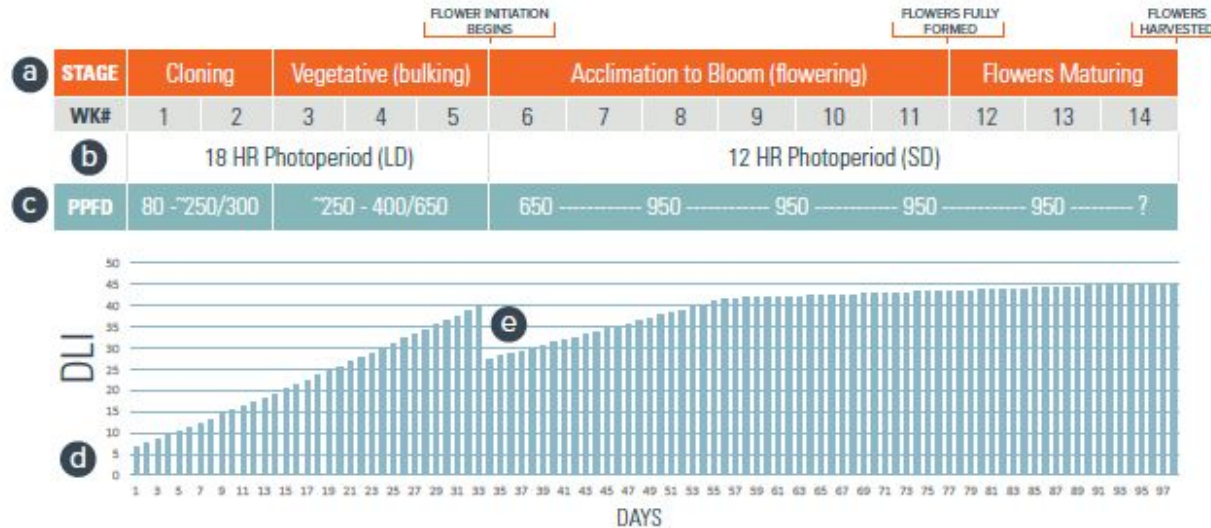
PPFD vs. DLI



Recommended PPFD and Photoperiod by Stage of Development

PPFD ($\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$) & DLI

FIGURE 2



This chart provides a schedule, which illustrates: (a) the development stages for cannabis in a cultivation setting, (b) optimal guidelines for photoperiod length by week, (c) optimal PPFD levels grouped by development stage, (d) cumulative DLI graphed against a day-to-day schedule (e) dip in DLI due to shortened photoperiod.

Lighting Controls Strategies

Scheduling

- Adjust photoperiod
- Strategic time-of-use scheduling →

Dimming

- Modulate light intensity by zone of control
 - Daily
 - By stage of plant growth
 - Gradually vs “On/Off” (aka Sunrise/Sunset)

Spectral Tuning

- Modulate photon output from wavelength ranges

Understand energy savings potential of strategies and data needed to validate performance



Feed-Forward Controls for Lighting

Lighting Benefits from Predictive Controls

- Predictive controls and cost-effectiveness
 - Weather
 - Peak demand
 - Shade control integration
 - Photoperiods
 - DLI

Map Your Controls and Responses

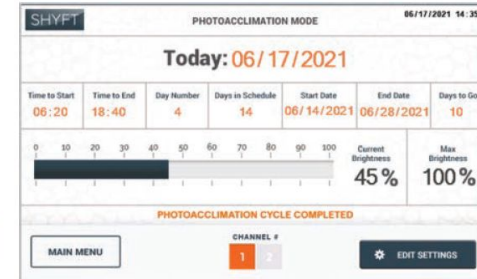
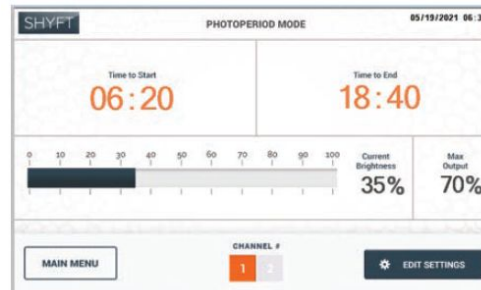
- Zones
- Dimming
- Response rates
- Ambient conditions and interactive effects



Commissioning Lighting Controls

Target Setpoints

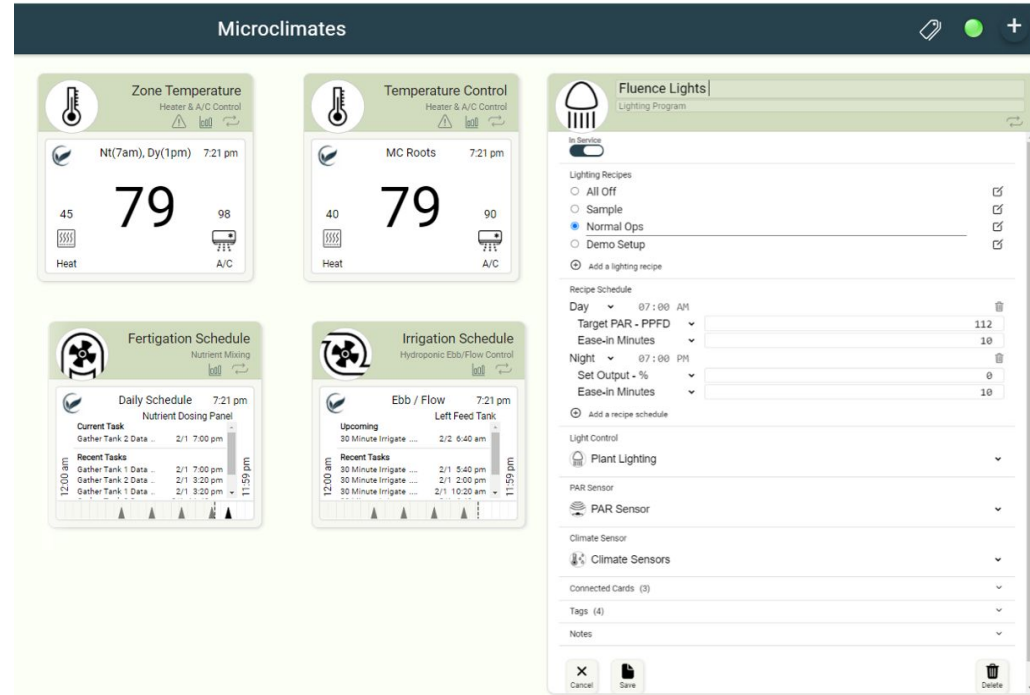
- Set Zones
- Control Ranges
- Identify Targets:
 - Photoperiod / DLI
 - Photoacclimation
- Manage plant needs + energy needs



Commissioning Lighting Controls

Advanced Lighting Systems

- Verification of installation
- Remote monitoring
- Integrated startup and commissioning
- Networked interface
- Interactive GUI
- Reporting and metrics and verification



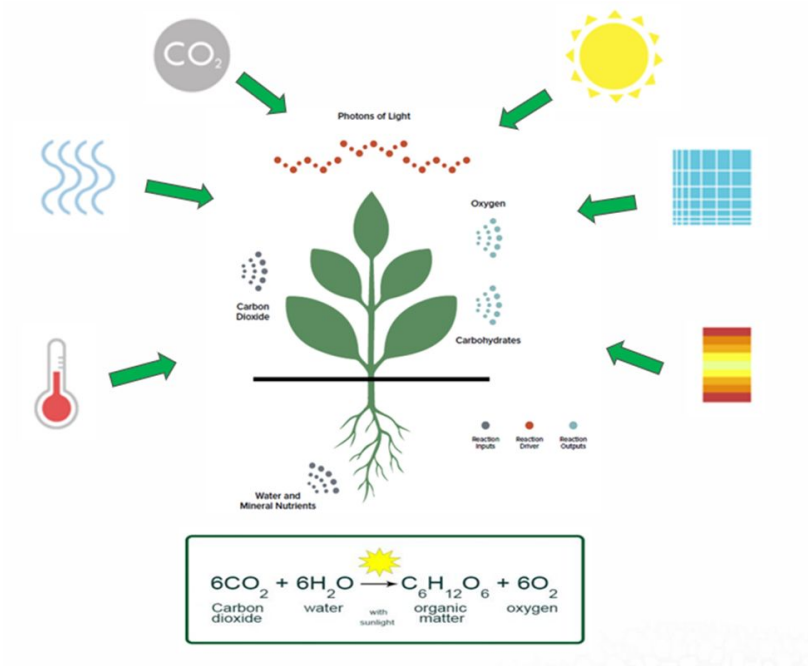
Lighting and Environmental Controls

Lighting Interactive Effects

- Ambient conditions can affect demand for lighting (schedule and intensity)
 - Greenhouses have dynamic temperature, humidity, CO₂

Systems Affected by Lighting

- HVAC and humidity management
- Fertigation
- Curtain controls



Dive Deeper into Lighting Controls

The Right Light

CANNABIS
BUSINESS TIMES

[READ MORE](#)

How Manipulating Light
Treatments Affects Plant
Expression

CANNABIS
BUSINESS TIMES

[READ MORE](#)

How LED Light Recipes
and Controls Can
Improve Quality and
Yield for Cannabis

Producers
cannabis
science and technology
advancing research, quality & education



[READ MORE](#)

Articles co-authored by RII with members of our Technical Advisory Council Working Groups

A large indoor cannabis cultivation facility. The room is filled with rows of cannabis plants growing on a trellis system. The ceiling is equipped with numerous grow lights and ventilation fans. The walls are covered in reflective material. The overall atmosphere is industrial and controlled.

SECTION 06

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS:
AVOIDING MICROCLIMATES**

HVAC Controls: Value Proposition

Optimize environmental conditions for plants

- Proper temperature (space, relative & leaf), humidity, airflow, CO2 levels
- Optimal plant growth, control mold, mildew and other pests
- ROI plus visibility of data to create a more stable operation

Reduce operating costs while maximizing efficiency and productivity



HVACD for Controlled Environment Agriculture

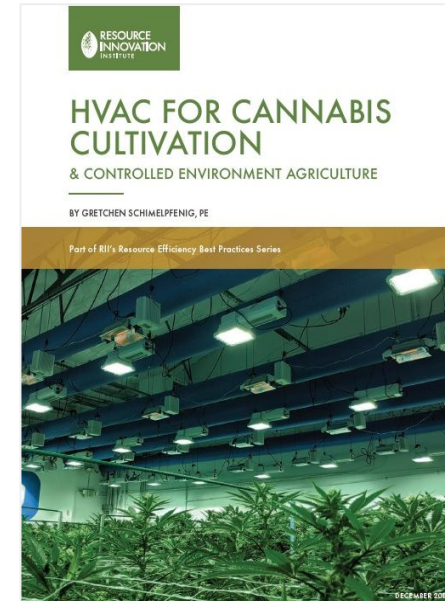
Demystifying Key Terms

- Cultivation
- Energy & Power
- Environmental Conditions
- General HVAC
- Energy Efficiency
- Construction
- Cultivation Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Key Concepts

Understand HVAC options

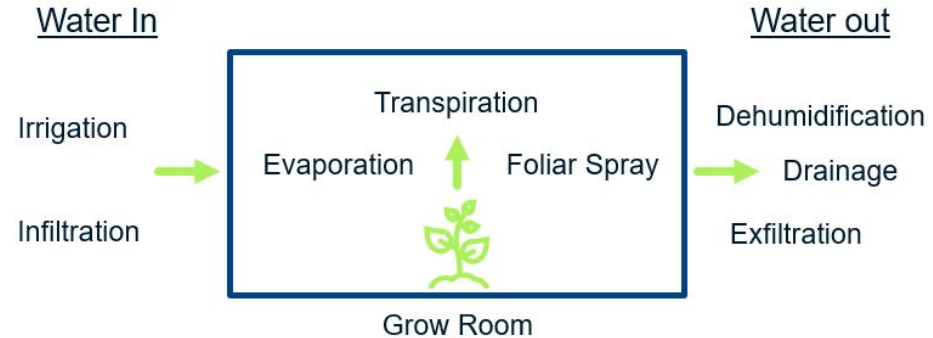
Learn tips for optimizing design, installing equipment, and operating HVAC systems effectively



[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

HVAC Design: Dynamic Spaces

- Sealed cultivation spaces, particularly cannabis flower/bloom areas, generate substantial and dynamic loads.
 - Loads shift dramatically during the lights on to off transition periods.
 - Loads change throughout the course of a flowering cycle as plants mature and transpiration rates increase



To design and operate efficient HVACD systems, we need to understand what is happening in these spaces throughout the harvest cycle.

Traditional Indoor HVAC Systems

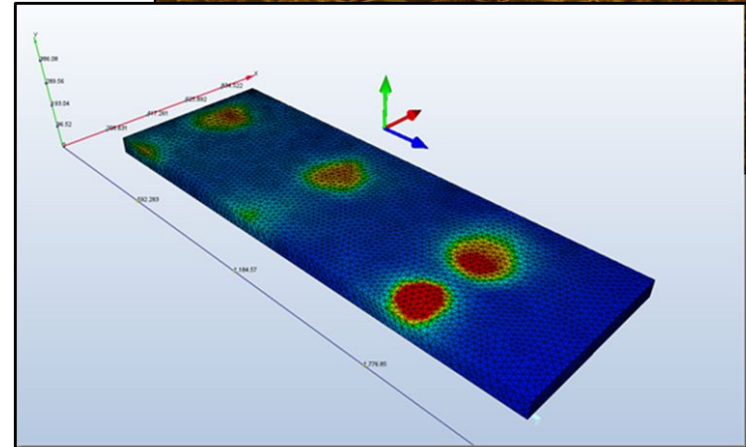
Non-Integrated Systems

- Standalone Dehumidifiers
- Air Conditioning Units
 - RTU's, Splits, VRF, or CW FCU's
- Oscillating Wall Fans



Considerations

- A/C units must overcome heat rejected by dehumidifiers
- Standard commercial HVAC cannot handle unique load profiles
- Difficult to control/integrate; lack of homogeneity



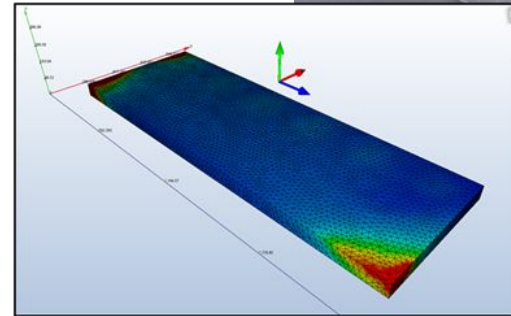
High-Performance Indoor HVAC Systems

Integrated Systems

- One system to handle cooling, heating, and dehumidification.
- System types include: DX w/ reheat, desiccants, and CW/HW

Considerations

- Purpose built for indoor horticulture
- Modulating components to match load profiles
- Proper room airflow design for good mixing & homogeneity
- Opportunities for energy efficiency



HVAC Controls Parameters

VPD Controls

- Target ranges vary by stage of plant growth
- Dial in energy-efficient VPD setpoint ranges

Airflow Controls

- Sizing for cultivation can range from 10 to 20 ACH, with some cases as high as 30 - 40 ACH
- Reduce supply air volume setpoint during dark periods

Understand energy savings potential of strategies and data needed to validate performance

Table 5: Climate and Airflow Controls Parameters Measured by Cannabis Cultivators

Climate and Airflow Data Collected ⁷	Percentage of Growers Collecting, 2020
Space Temperature	85%
Relative humidity	72%
CO2 concentration	66%
Leaf temperature	31%
Air speed	19%

Table 6: VPD Targets for Cannabis Cultivation

Cannabis Growth Stage	Target VPD Range (kPa)
Flower/Bloom/Mother	1.0 - 1.5
Vegetative	0.8 - 1.1
Clone/Seedling	0 - 0.2

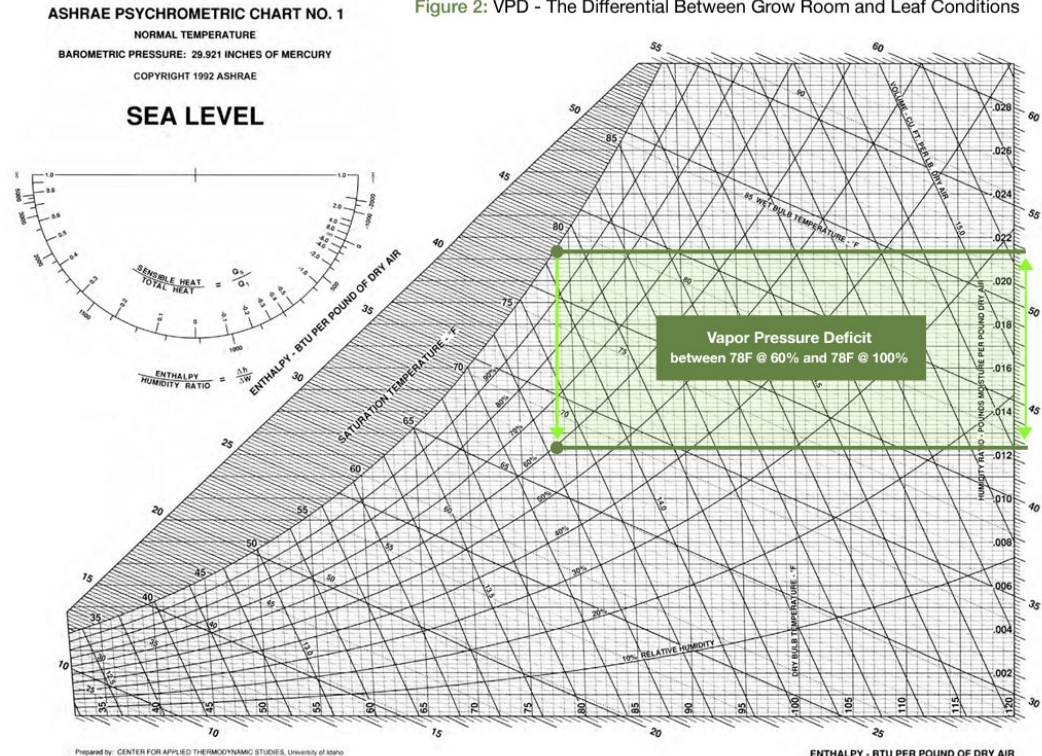
Figure data source: Cannabis Business Times

HVAC Controls: VPD Controls

Maintain efficient VPD targets

- There is not a target VPD that is appropriate for all cultivars, environments, or cultivation methods
- Consider acceptable VPD ranges by stage of plant growth

Dial in HVAC system automation to tailor VPD to specific cultivars, systems, and facility configurations



HVAC Controls: VPD Controls

Moisture Removal Rate Depends on Room Conditions

- Moisture removal capacity decreases as room conditions become more aggressive
- Pounds/Hour Moisture Removal (lb/hr)
- 1 Gal of H₂O = 8.33 lb
- From 33.8 lb/hr to 2.9 lb/hr is a 91.4% decrease in moisture removal capacity

		Relative Humidity			
		70%	60%	55%	50%
Temperature	82F	33.8	26.8	23.7	20.9
	75F	26.1	21.8	18.8	15.5
	70F	22.8	17.6	14.2	10.2
	65F	19.4	12.3	6.5	2.9

Use VPD controls to select efficient room conditions while maintaining plant performance

HVAC Controls: Recipes for Cannabis Steering

Table 7: Climate & Airflow Controls for Cannabis Steering by Stage of Plant Growth⁸

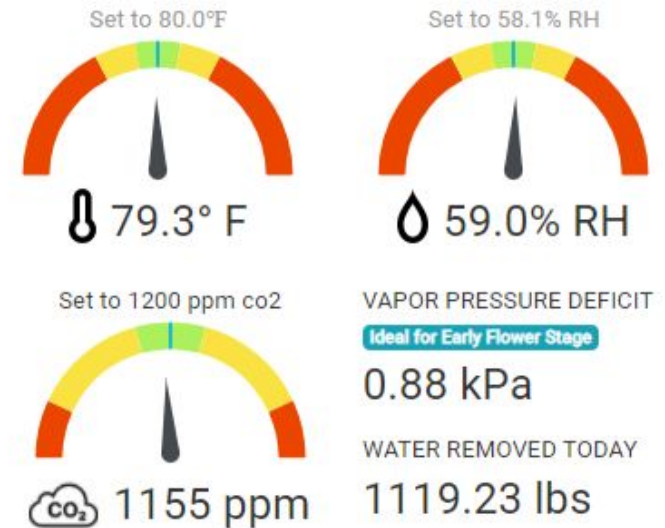
Climate Controls	Vegetative	Flowering	Ranges of Controls Values
Day-Night Temperature Difference	Smaller	Larger	0 - 9 degrees F
Afternoon Temperature Increase	None or small	Larger	0 - 5.5 degrees F
Start Time for Heating System	Earlier	Later	4 hours before sunrise to sunrise
Night-Day Temperature Increase	Higher	Lower	1 - 4.5 degrees F
Start Time for Day-Night Temperature Decrease	Earlier	Later	2 hours before to 2 hours after sunset
Speed of Day - Night Temperature Decrease	Slower	Faster	0 - 7 degrees F per hour
Average Daily Setpoint Temperature	Lower	Higher	68 - 82 degrees F
Vapor Pressure Deficit Target	Lower	Higher	0.8 - 1.5 kPa
Ventilation for Temperature Control	More	Less	Used for temperature control
CO ₂ Enrichment	More	Less	350 - 1500 ppm
Energy Screen	Close	Open	Used to manage plant stress

HVAC Controls: Interactive Effects

Respond to light and water

- Orchestrate your envelope HVAC controls to call and respond to daily and seasonal solar variation and your supplemental lighting controls
- When the sun sets, humidity spikes, and control strategies give envelope and HVAC equipment more time to ramp up and respond
- Likewise, plant stage of growth and timing of watering events can demand more of your HVAC system

HVAC equipment should monitor both lighting and irrigation controls activities for faster response times and happier plants



Precise Microclimates Control

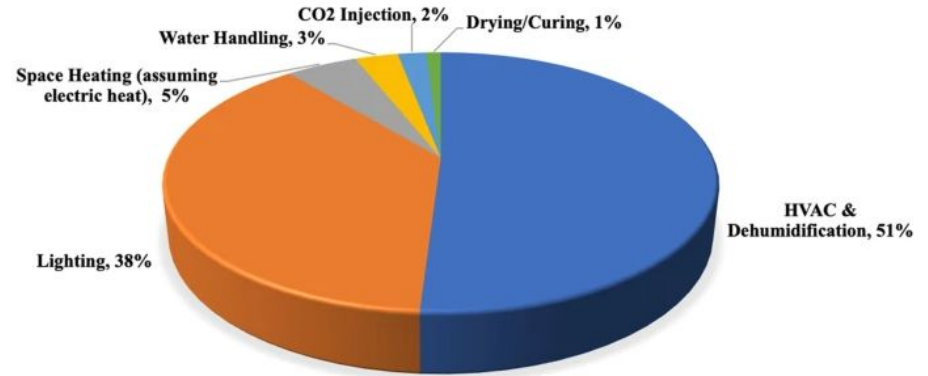
Energy Use - Range of Equipment

- 2 Major categories
 - Lighting
 - Precise microclimate control

Electricity Consumption

- Lighting, HVAC and dehumidification
 - 89% of total end-use electricity consumption

Fig. 1



End-use electricity consumption

Integrated Controls: Value Proposition

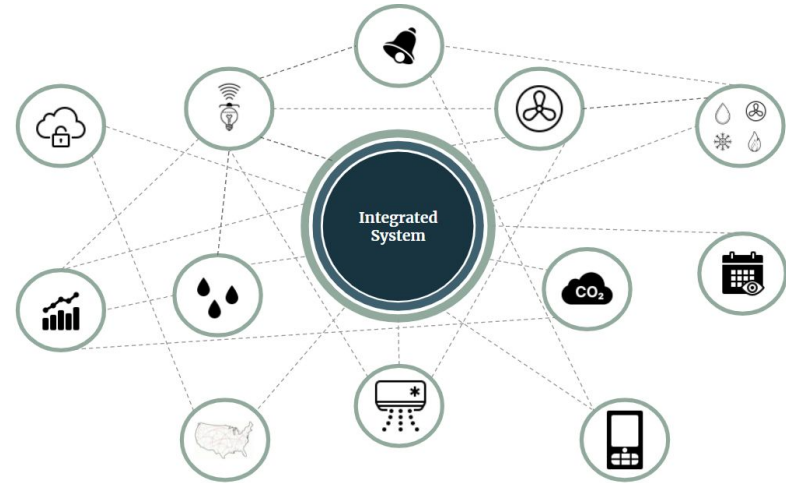
Integration creates consistency across facility systems

Consistent Data

- Cross-system health at a glance - faster resolution
- Consistent dashboards, overlays - spot interactions
- Common data repository - record all data
- Controlled API access - external integrations

Consistent User Experience

- Ease of use - personnel
- Consistent access controls - security
- Common alerting, configuration, annotations - risk



Minimize risk while maximizing security and speed

Integrated Controls: Hardware & Software

Integration ties together silos

Macro

Between functionality silos

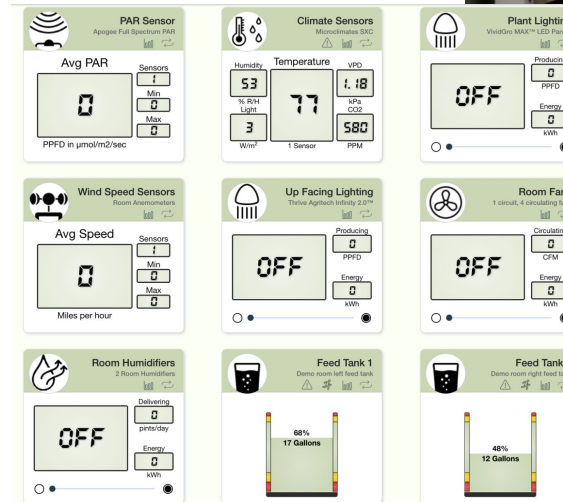
Example: lighting + hvac + curtains

Micro

Between hardware silos

Example: RTU A/C + portable dehumidifiers

Increase savings with multiple integrations



Integrated Controls: Roof Top Unit

Roof Top Unit (RTU)- Staging

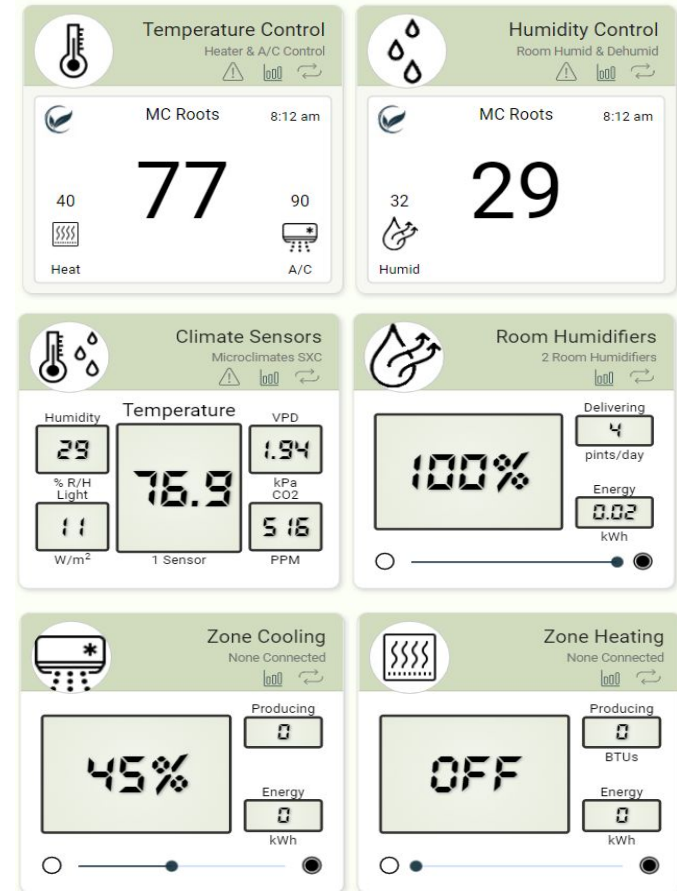
WA Cannabis Producer

- 3 RTUs - Functioning independently
 - 2 Stage system (low / high)
- Integrate unit - work in harmony
- Software to support staging

Ex: RTU 1-3 - Turn on low, but only RTU1 turn on high. Wait. Measure room before RTU2 high is turned on

- Ability to set specified waiting period before turning on

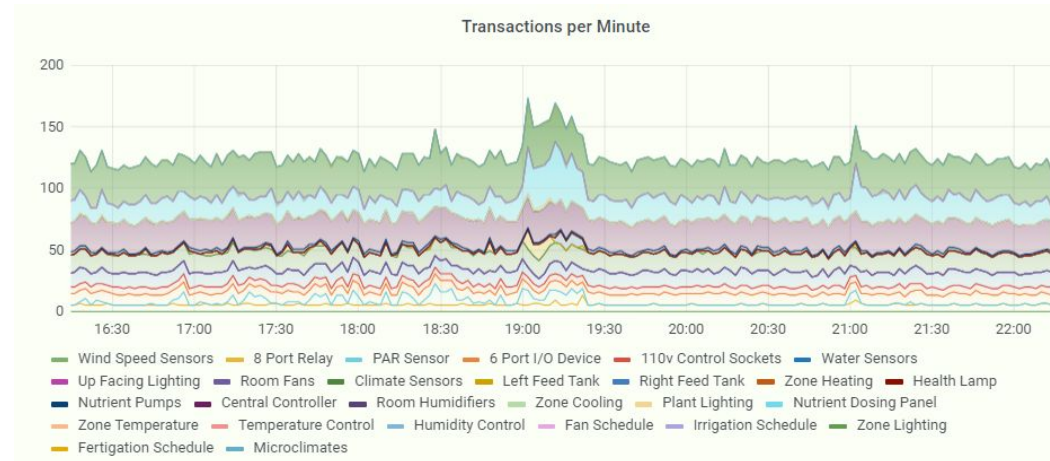
Integrated Controls support energy management & unit longevity



Data: Collecting Data

Consistent & granular data

- Collect as much data as possible
- Ability to set data collection interval within seconds
- From as many sources as possible
- Into one platform
- Transform data into actionable insights



Consistent & granular data will support the future of AI for your facility

Data: Trending Data

Back up stored data regularly

- Hundreds of sensors measuring various conditions and collecting data at regular intervals(seconds) to track historical trends
- A typical control system can generate tens of thousands of data points from a cultivation facility every single day
- Determine how long you want to store your historical logs of trends

Save multiple years of data for year-over-year comparisons

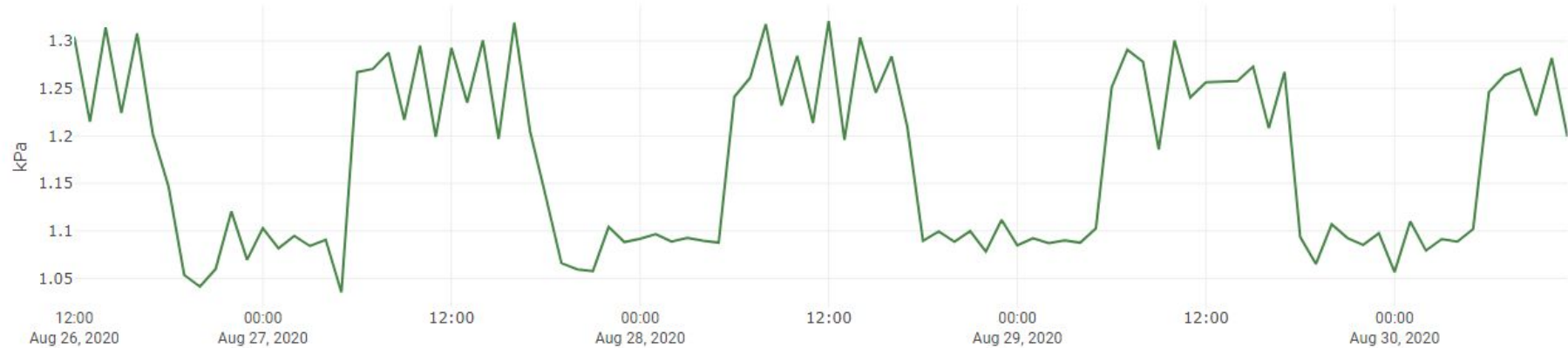
Figure 5: Dashboard of Trended Facility Data



HVAC Controls Trends: VPD Controls

Validate actual conditions are within target ranges

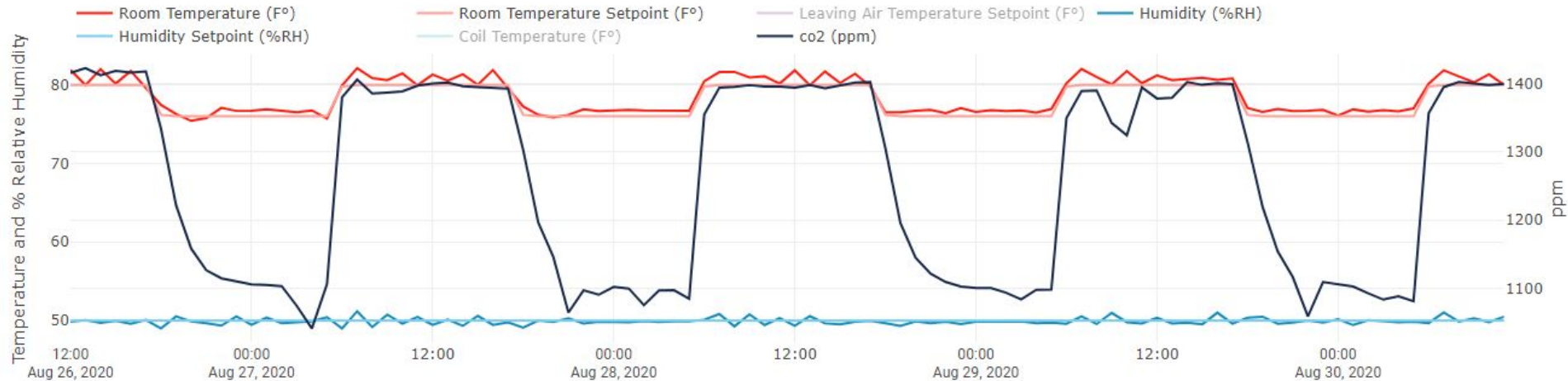
VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT



HVAC Controls Trends: Temperature, RH, CO2

Understand how parameters affect environment

- Observe the interaction between control points



Commissioning Environmental Controls

1. Monitoring

- You can't manage what you don't measure...but you can't measure what you don't monitor
- Make data to support savings claims

2. Calibration

- Gain confidence in sensory accuracy & your HVAC controls/ responses
- Assure data consistency across facilities and over time

3. Control

- Begin when you have confidence in monitoring
- Functionally test HVAC sequences of operation to ensure persistent energy savings



Figure credit: Gro iQ / InfiSense

Dive Deeper into Integrated Controls

Fine-Tune Environmental
Controls to Drive Your
Competitive Edge

CANNABIS
BUSINESS TIMES

[READ MORE](#)

Integrate Environmental
Controls For Better
Cannabis Production

CANNABIS
BUSINESS TIMES

[READ MORE](#)

Articles co-authored by RII with members of our Technical Advisory Council Working Groups

Dive Deeper into Environmental Controls

Empowering Plants with
Environmental Controls
Systems

**GREENHOUSE
GROWER** 

[READ MORE](#)

Avoiding Cannabis Crop
Loss in Cultivation

**GREENHOUSE
GROWER** 

[READ MORE](#)

Integrated Pest
Management for
Cannabis Cultivation
Monitoring, Identifying,
Preventing, and
Controlling Pests with
HVAC Solutions

cannabis 
science and technology
advancing research, quality & education

[READ MORE](#)

Articles co-authored by RII with members of our Technical Advisory Council Working Groups

A man in a white lab coat is standing on a yellow metal platform, tending to plants in a vertical farm. The farm consists of multiple levels of white metal shelving units. Each level has a yellow pipe running along it, and green plants are growing in the spaces between the pipes. The ceiling is made of white metal beams with many small, dark, circular lights attached. The overall scene is a well-lit, organized indoor growing facility.

SECTION 07

EFFICIENCY PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Statewide CEDA Program for Producers

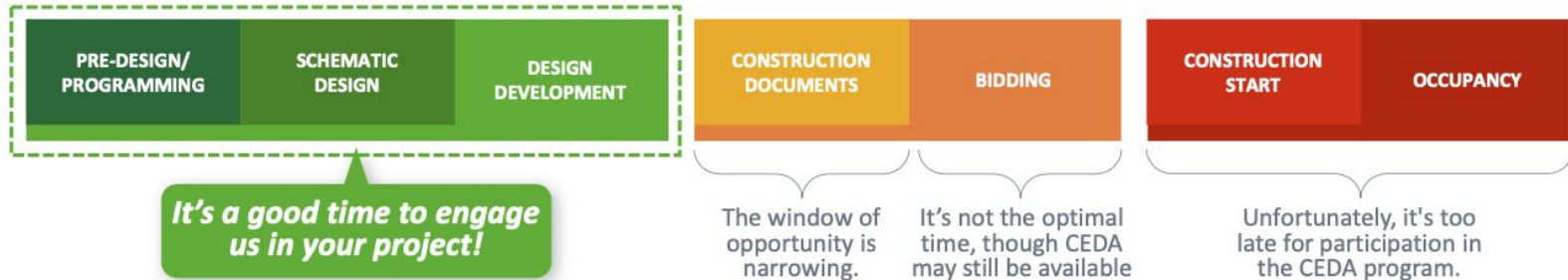
California Energy Design Assistance (CEDA) New Construction Program

Visit CaliforniaEDA.com

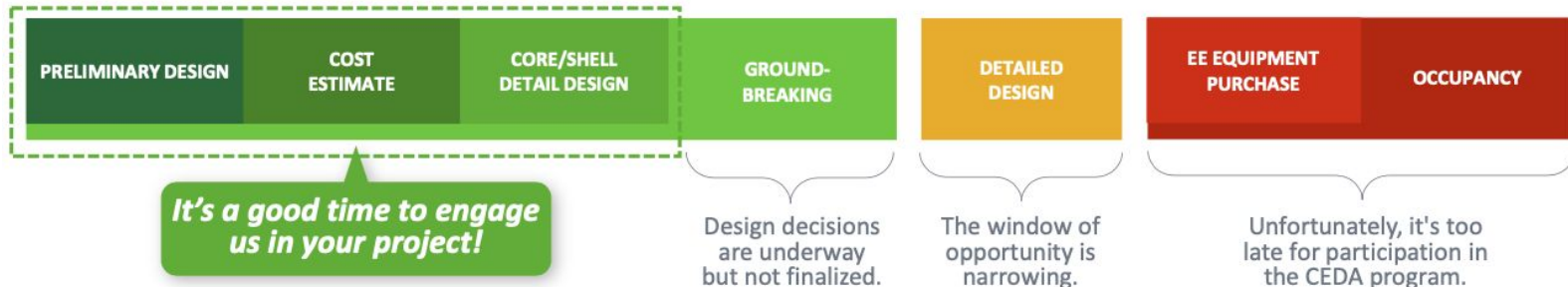
- Statewide Program serving PG&E, SCE, SoCal Gas, SDGE
 - Program participants receive the following complimentary services:
 - Comprehensive Whole Building Energy Analysis
 - Assistance identifying and evaluating energy-saving measures
 - Analysis of energy costs and paybacks
 - Incentives for New Construction and Major Renovations projects
 - CEDA Pathways: Mixed Fuels or All-Electric
 - Mixed Fuels for customers who want the option of both gas and electricity
 - All-Electric program option offers higher incentives if customers do not install gas service

Statewide CEDA Program for Producers

TRADITIONAL DESIGN/BID/BUILD PROCESS



FAST-TRACK OR DESIGN/BUILD PROCESS



Efficiency Utilities Serving Tri-County

Three Regional Utilities with Efficiency Programs

- Utility service territories determine eligibility
- Growers in Tri-County region can benefit from technical assistance and financial incentives
- Incentives reduce the first cost of high-performance technology



PG&E Program for Producers

Agriculture Energy Savings Action Plan (AESAP) Retrofit Program

Visit [AgEnergySavings.com](https://www.AgEnergySavings.com)

- Cash incentives for energy-saving retrofit projects
 - Installation of new, high-efficiency equipment or systems.
 - Incentives structured to achieve customer's simple payback requirements
- Financing options available
 - On-bill financing
 - Go Green financing

SoCal Program for Producers

Agriculture Energy Efficiency (AgEE) Retrofit Program

Visit caenergyprograms.com/AgEE

- SoCalGas program currently active
- SCE program projected to launch mid-2022
- Rebates and custom incentives available for retrofit projects



Q & A

CONTACT US



RESOURCE
INNOVATION
INSTITUTE

Visit us at

www.ResourceInnovation.org

P.O. Box 5981

Portland, Oregon 97228

derek@resourceinnovation.org

gretchen@resourceinnovation.org

carmen@resourceinnovation.org

