



PARK DISTRICT  
of OAK PARK

# NET ZERO FACILITIES

Case study on the Carroll Center Addition & Renovation  
Net Zero Tips & Learned Experiences



PARK DISTRICT  
of OAK PARK

## CARROLL CENTER ADDITION & RENOVATION

- Saved 100 year old facility and added on new programming space
- Well thought out design (Layout, daylighting, solar exposure)
- PHUIS + Source Zero Design
- Received Grant funding for additional costs



# PRE- DESIGN PHASE

- Project Inception
  - Do Your Homework
  - Board Discussions
  - Define Net Zero for Your Organization
  - Start with Zero – Choose Certification Path
  - Design & Engineering Team Selection
  - Contractor Selection/Approach



# DESIGN PHASE

- Building Design & Net Zero Integration
- Energy Modeling
- EUI Targets
- On-Site Solar Design
- Electrification & Battery Storage





# Lessons Learned from Commercial Phius Verifiers



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ENERGY STAR v3 / ESMFNC  
LEED for Homes Green Rater  
EGC Consultant, NGBS Verifier  
Certified Passive House Consultant  
PHIUS+ MF Verifier and Rater*

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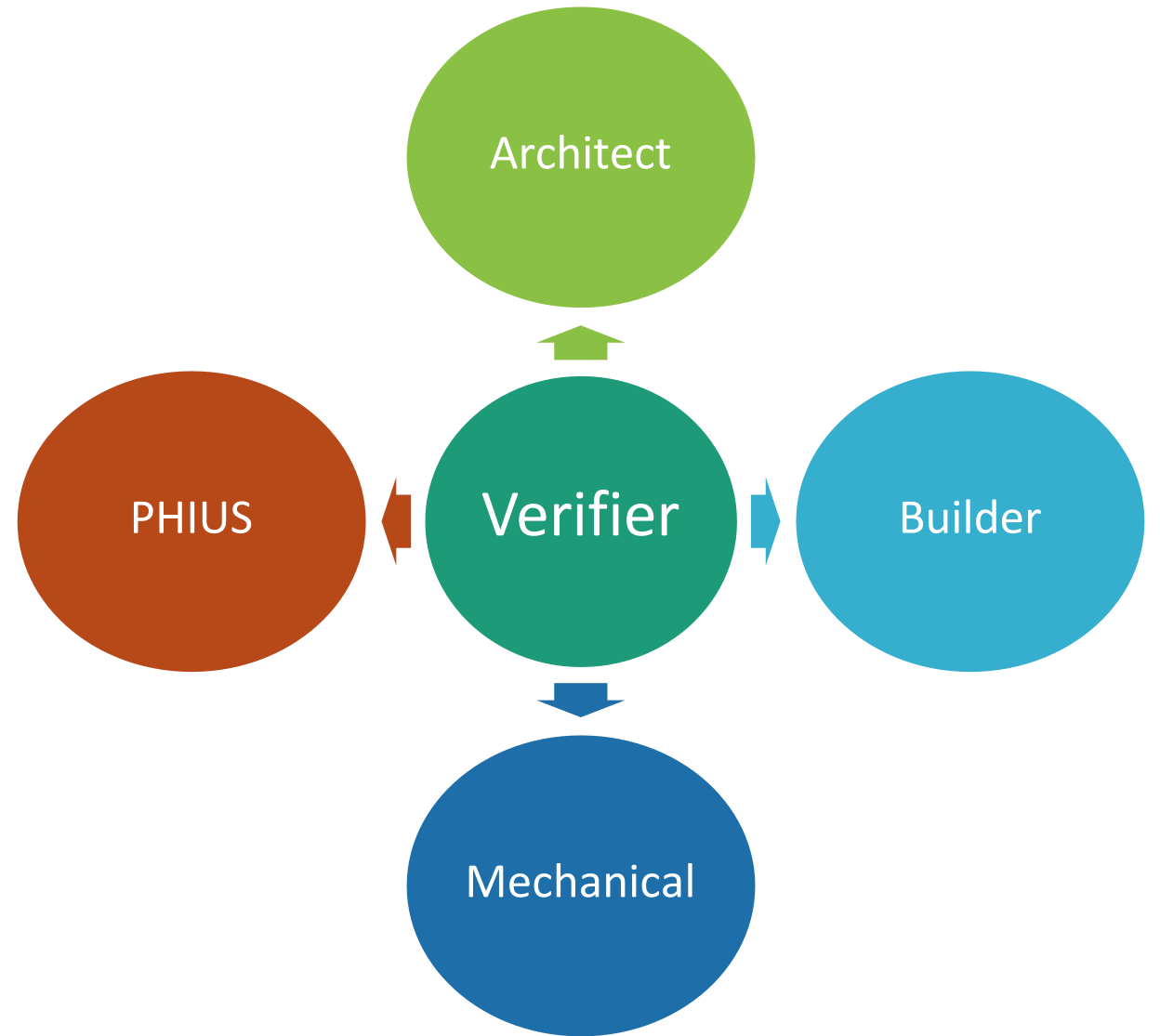
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# What to Expect...



... When you're  
expecting a Phius  
Commercial Certification.

# Third Party Verification





# Phius 2021, Commercial Path



- Compliance with:
  - ENERGY STAR MF New Construction
  - Modified Indoor airPLUS
  - Modified Zero Energy Ready Homes
- Completion of Phius Commercial QA Workbook
- Blower Door Threshold
  - .06 cfm/sf enclosure

**National Rater Field Checklist 1**

ENERGY STAR | EPA | Indoor airPLUS | ZERO ENERGY READY HOME

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Climate Zone (1-6): \_\_\_\_\_

**Thermal Enclosure System**

1. High-Performance Fenestration

1.1 Fenestration meets or exceeds requirements

1.2 Insulation meets or exceeds requirements

1.3 All insulation achieves Grade 1

1.4 Prescriptive Path: Window-to-Wall Ratio

1.5 Heated plenums in unconditioned spaces

1.5.1 Sides of heated plenum in CZ 7; ≥ R-9.5

1.5.2 Insulation at top of heated plenum in CZ 7; ≥ R-9.5

1.5.3 Bottom of heated plenum in CZ 7; ≥ R-9.5

1.6 Garages with space heating

1.6.1 Insulation on above grade in CZ 7; ≥ R-9.5 in CZ 8

1.6.2 Ceiling insulation meets requirements

1.6.3 Ceiling insulation meets requirements

2. Fully-Aligned Air Barriers

2.1 Ceilings: At interior or exterior horizontal surface in Climate Zones 4-8. Also, at exterior of the insulation in every bay or zone

2.2 Dropped ceilings / soffits below ceiling

2.3 Walls: At exterior vertical surface

2.4 Walls behind showers, tubs, and showers

2.5 Architectural bump-outs, decks, and porches

2.6 Floors: At exterior vertical surface including supports to ensure alignment

2.7 Floors above garages, floors above garages

2.8 All other floors adjoining unconditioned spaces

3. Reduced Thermal Bridging

3.1 For insulated ceilings with air conditioning at inside face of the exterior wall

3.2 For insulated ceilings with air conditioning at outside face of the exterior wall

3.3 Insulation beneath attic plating

3.4 For slabs on grade in CZ 4-8

3.5 For elevated concrete slabs (floor edges) 100% of the slab area is insulated to a minimum of 8ft below the bottom of the slab at a depth of 4ft. Alternative: Insulation at least 8ft below the bottom of the slab at a depth of 4ft.

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3.7 At above-grade walls and rim joists

3.7.1 Continuous rigid insulation in CZ 1-4; ≥ R-5 in CZ 5-8

3.7.2 Structural Insulated Panels

3.7.3 Option only for wood-frame construction

3.7.3a Corners insulated

3.7.3b Headers above windows and doors

3.7.3c Interior / exterior wall

**Moisture Control**

1.1 Drain or sump pump installed in basement or crawlspace

1.2 Layer of aggregate or sand (4 in.) techniques used in EPA Radon Zone 1 or 2

1.4 Basements/crawlspace insulated

1.7 Protection from water splash damage

1.11 Supply piping in exterior walls insulated

1.14 Hard-surface flooring in kitchens

**Radon**

2.1 Radon-resistant features installed

**Pests**

3.2 Corrosion-proof rodent/bird screen (Not required for clothes dryer vent)

**HVAC Systems**

4.1 Equipment selected to keep relative humidity below 60%

4.2 Duct systems protected from condensation or returns

4.3 No air-handling equipment or ductwork in unconditioned spaces

4.6 Clothes dryers vented to the outdoors

4.7 Central forced-air HVAC system(s) in home. Temporary filter installed

**Combustion Pollutants**

5.1 Emissions standards met for fuel-burning appliances

5.2 CO alarms installed in each sleeping quarters

5.3 Multifamily buildings: Smoking rooms minimized

5.4 Attached garages: Door closer installed

5.5 Attached garages: In homes with attached garages, exhaust fan installed in garage

5.6 Pressure test conducted to verify the effectiveness of the garage enclosure

**DOE Zero Energy Ready Home**

**PHIUS Building Envelope PHIUS+ On-site Quality Control**

The Verifier is responsible for verifying all items on this worksheet. For projects with multiple buildings that differ in their envelope configurations, please create a duplicate worksheet for each building in the project.

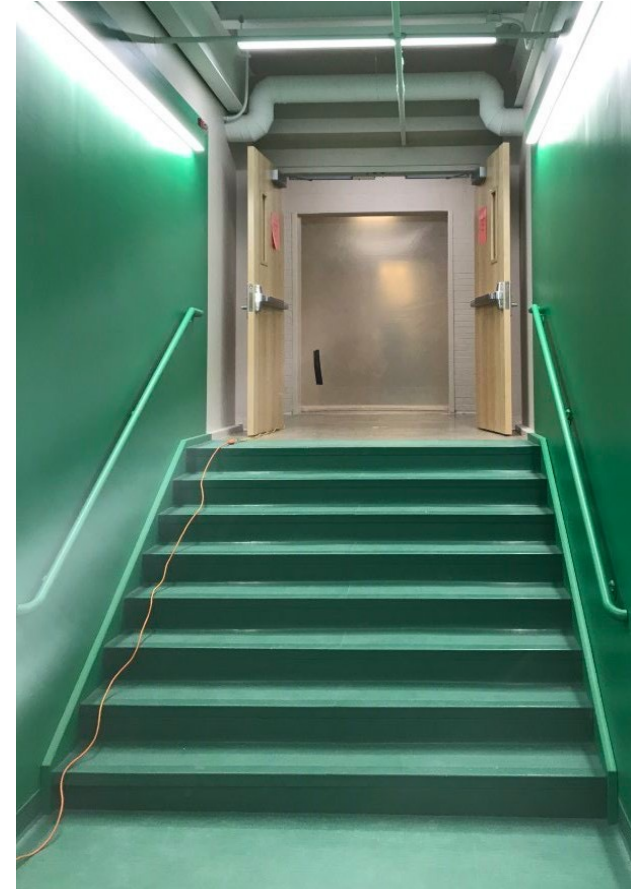
#	Item	Pass/Fail	Verify	NA
1	Take as many exterior photos as needed to appropriately depict all building elevations and significant architectural features of building for documentation folder			
2	Take pictures of surrounding site on all sides of building			
3	Take representative pictures of all unique insulated assemblies and window/door installations			
4	Perform thorough IR scan of entire building from interior and exterior, including all common spaces, and document representative photos			
5	If installed, describe operable shading. Include photos in documentation folder			
Verifier Notes:				
6.1	Drawings check - describe any significant variations in construction from the construction drawings and specifications (insulation, window sizes, window performance, fixed shading etc.)			
Verifier Notes:				
6.2	Insulation R-value: All insulation R-values match those listed on architectural plans. If not, please describe in notes section below.			
Verifier Notes:				
7	All insulated assemblies have achieved a RESNET Grade I cavity insulation level, or alternatively GII with continuous insulation.			
8	Framing inspection: Framing matches architectural plans. If not, please describe in notes section below.			
Verifier Notes:				
10	Final whole building blower door test Multi-point test in accordance with ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380-2019 or ASTM E-2555-19			
Building is 5+ stories in height, of non-combustible construction (YES/NO)				NO
Square Footage of the Building Envelope				
Target Value (CFM50/Shell Area)				
Building Net Volume				
CFM50 test result - depressurization (multi-point test)				0.060
CFM50/Shell area				
ACH50 - depressurization				
CFM50 test result - pressurization (multi-point test)				
CFM50/Shell area				
ACH50 - pressurization				
Average CFM50				
Average CFM50/Shell area				
Average ACH50				

**Area of Improvement**

- ENERGY STAR Homes Baseline
- Envelope
- Duct System
- Water Efficiency
- Lighting & Appliances
- Indoor Air Quality
- Renewable Resources

Indoor airPLUS Version 1 (Rev. 10/2019)

# Air Leakage: Isolating Structures



# Air Leakage: Isolating Existing Assemblies



We're testing the addition. But how do you control...

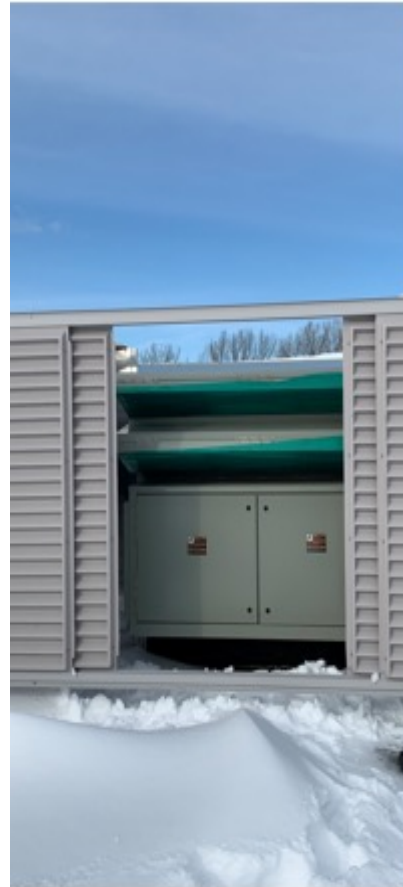
# Air Leakage: Done Right



# Air Leakage: Mechanicals

## Ventilation System Programming

- Identify continuously running systems – truly continuous (24 hours) vs occupied/ non-occupied modes (i.e. system that shuts down after hours)
- Impact on WUFI + need to have motorized dampers



# Air Leakage: Mechanicals



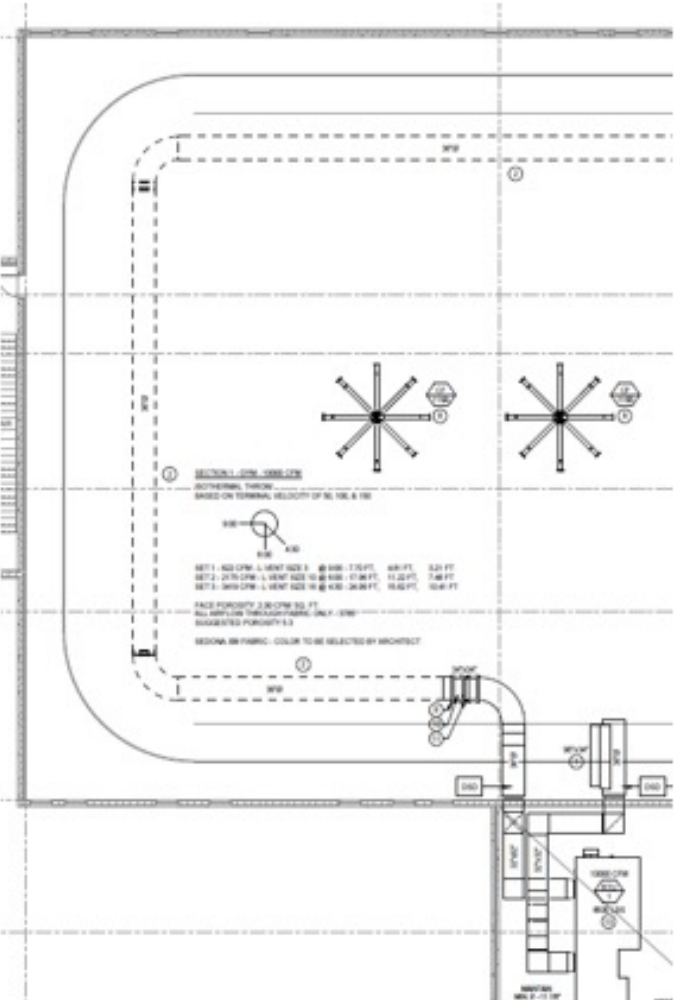
Multiple DOAS Units =  
Multiple locations for  
air leakage at the unit.



# And then that happened...




# Mechanicals: Duct Sox





# TAB COMPLIANCE: PRETTY STRAIGHT FORWARD, RIGHT?

A large, five-pointed orange star with a white outline, positioned on the right side of the slide. It contains a tip about bringing a TAB contractor into the conversation early.

**TIP:** Bring your TAB contractor into the conversation early. Discuss specific requirements, equipment calibration, and timing.

# Top 5ish Take Homes



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Air barriers: pay attention to assembly transitions. That's often where things fall apart.

---

Build in extra wiggle room for durability vs WUFI blower door testing in your model. This may save you.

---

Sequencing matters. Talk through schedules to ensure Verifier can see key air barrier/air sealing components.

---

Get an A.S.S. – an air sealing specialist, that is. Identify someone on the project (likely from the GC team) to be in charge of everything air sealing and air barrier related, on a daily basis.

---

Be cautious about combined space conditioning + ventilation. Phius likes controlled systems and the TAB verification protocol follows suit.

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Discuss TAB verification up, with the contractor, so they know the full process – thresholds, equipment, locations, etc. – ahead of time.

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East Building Addition

Lincolnshire, IL

Net Zero Certified – ILFI 2021

LEED Platinum NC 2009 Certified

First Verified NZE Building in Illinois

Occupied August 2019

56,800 SF

Classroom Addition including Science Labs

Exceptions:

- Use of existing natural gas emergency power system
- Scale Jumping for PVs on adjacent building due to Rooftop Urban Agriculture



Window to Wall Ratio – 43%



Transparency as a Design Driver; + Daylighting - Energy



Transparency through and through



Rooftop Greenhouse and Urban Ag Installation; Not Your Typical Roof



2 Living Walls, Energy Impacts?





**VRF:** 6 Condensing units, 97 tons total, IEER range from 22 to 22.9. (The mechanical room is heated to 45F in winter with electric unit heater to prevent freezing and make sure the condensing units work efficiently in winter.)

**DOAS :** 75 Ton DX Cooling with 11.8 EER, 302 kW Electric heat coil

**VAV:** (VAV is used to distribute OA from DOAS, no heating or cooling coils.)

**ERV:** With a total effectiveness of 74% sensible and 62% latent.

Dedicated **dehumidifier** on living wall : 8 ton DX Cooling

**Water Heater** for DHW 119 Gal, 30 kW

Misc – 1.8 kW **Hot Plates** in lieu of Bunson burners for Science Classrooms. Wired for 60 hot plates....

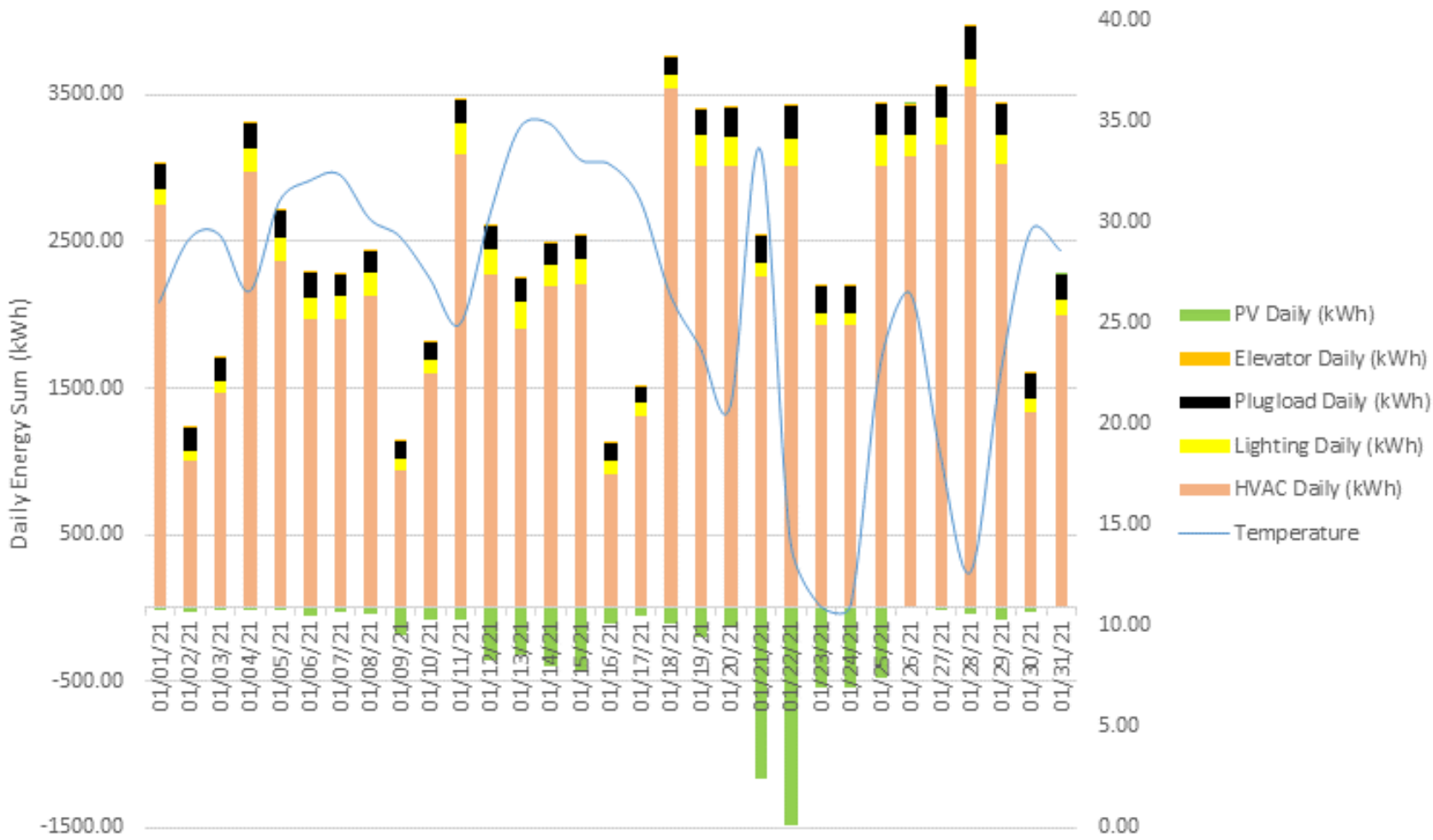
All Electric Mechanical System



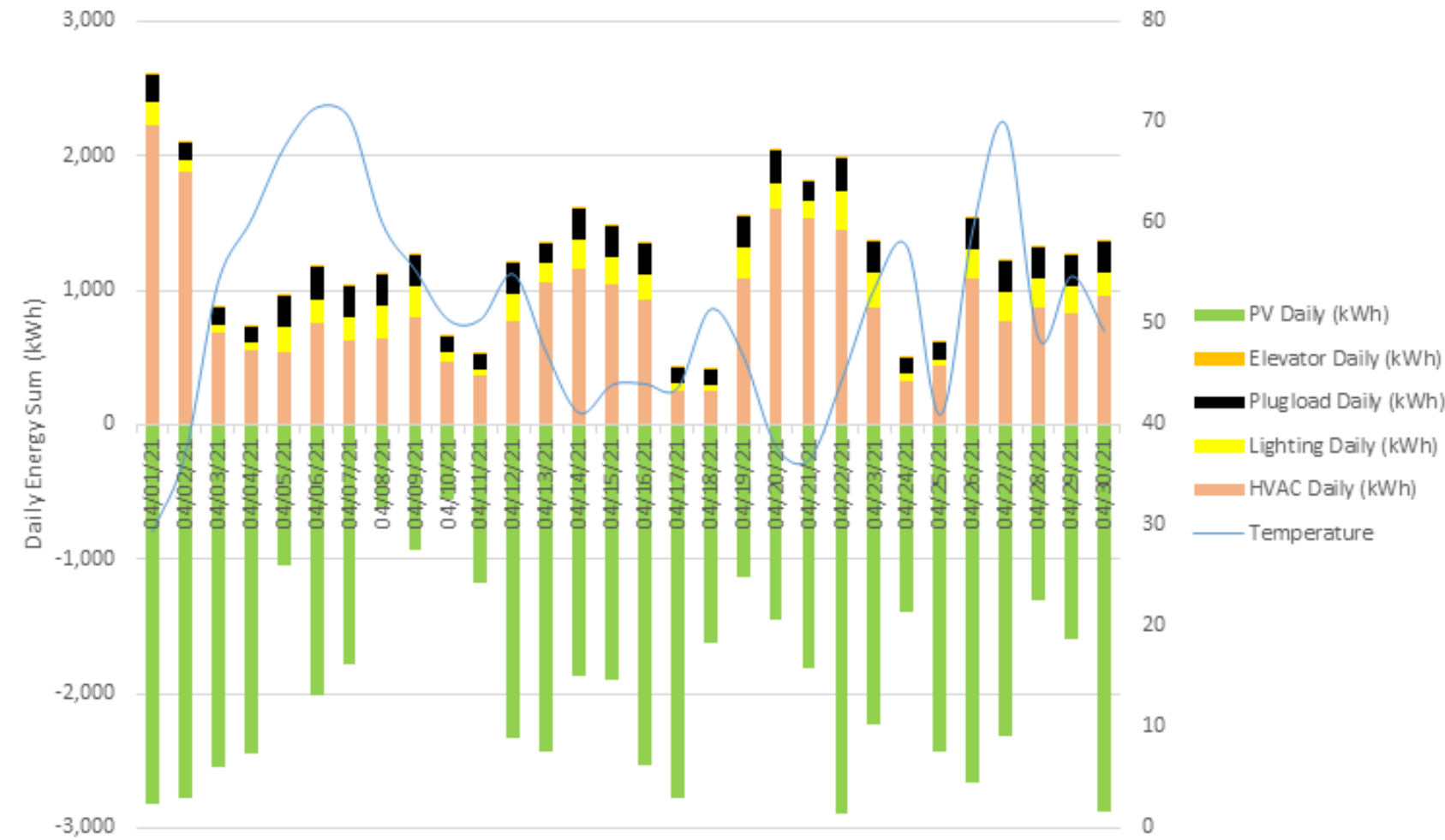
- Conventional Building Commissioning is a point in time. Chasing Net Zero Energy requires continuous monitoring.
- These issues took time to investigate, understand and fix. All while the clock was ticking on the performance period.

Net Zero is a Journey AND a Destination

2021-January Actual Daily Chart



2021-April Actual Daily Chart



One Month's Daily Performance Data

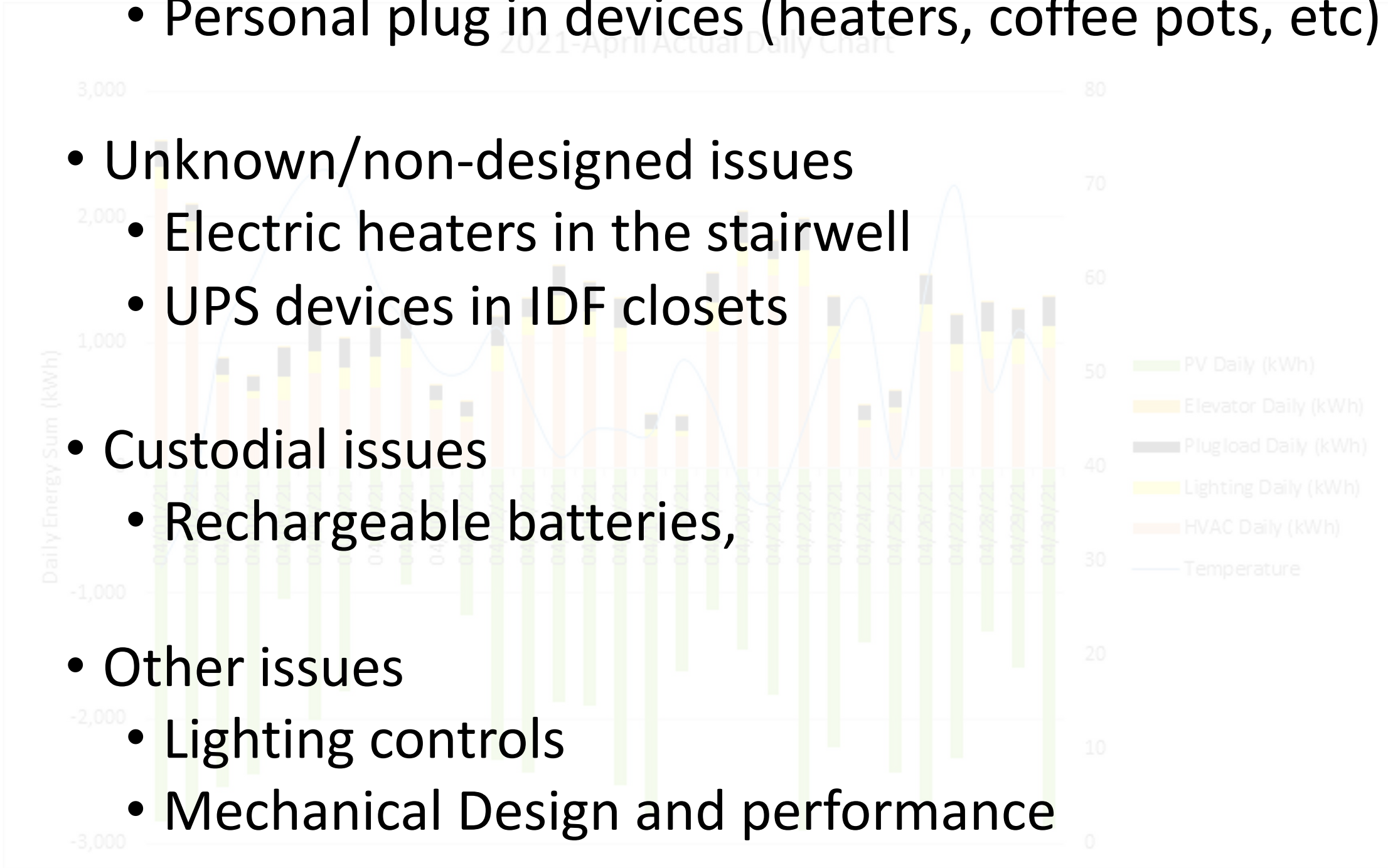
# The constant struggle of monitoring

- Changing of behavior
  - Personal plug in devices (heaters, coffee pots, etc)

- Unknown/non-designed issues
  - Electric heaters in the stairwell
  - UPS devices in IDF closets

- Custodial issues
  - Rechargeable batteries,

- Other issues
  - Lighting controls
  - Mechanical Design and performance



# Other Items to note

- Electricity provider
  - Ensure they know early on in the process
- BAS System
  - Are all meters and data loggers visible by your BAS
  - Add alarms from your energy source to BAS
- Monthly monitor meetings
  - What are the expectations of performance? (Before)
  - How is it operating? (During)
  - Is it still performing as designed? (After)



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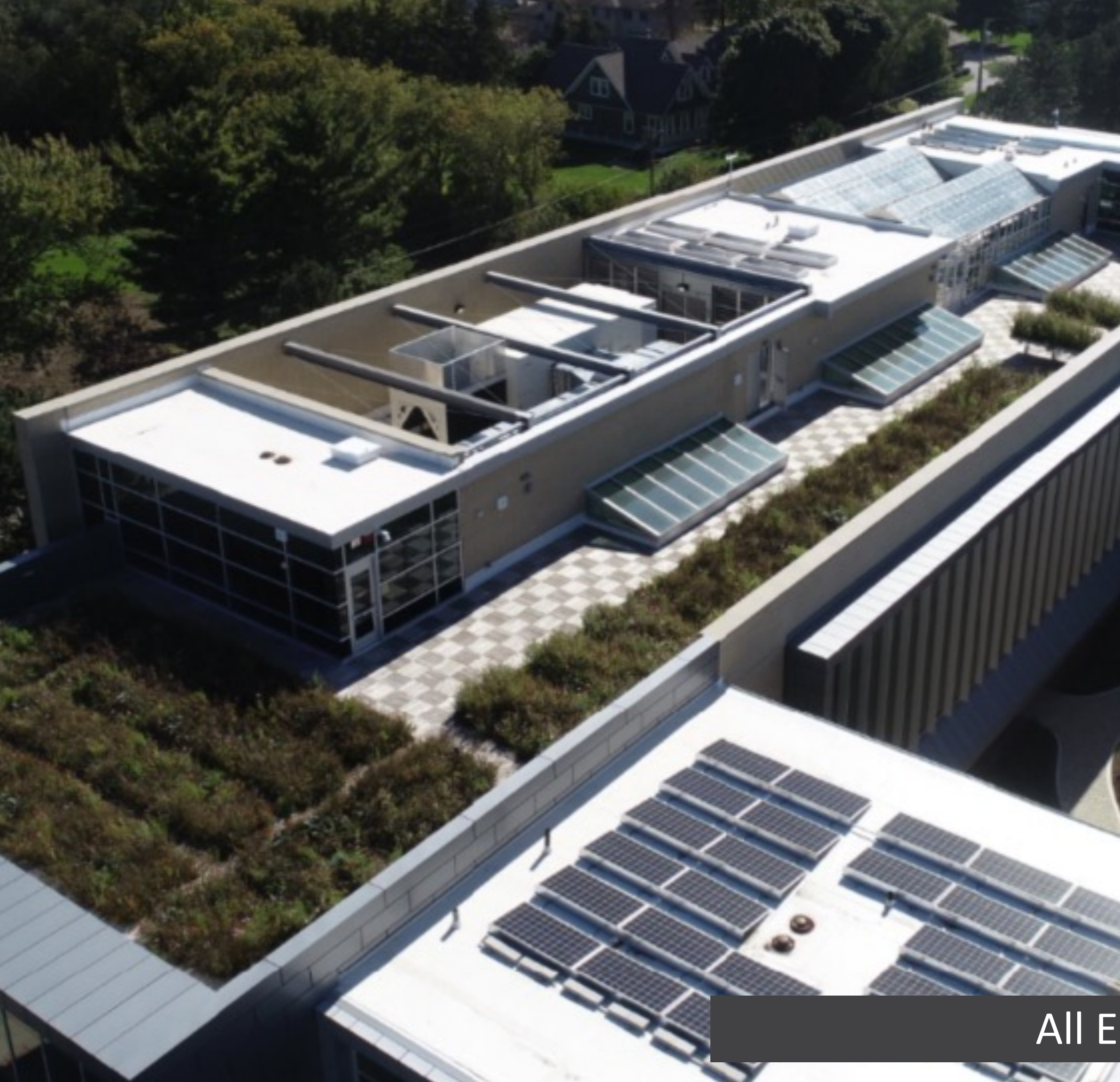
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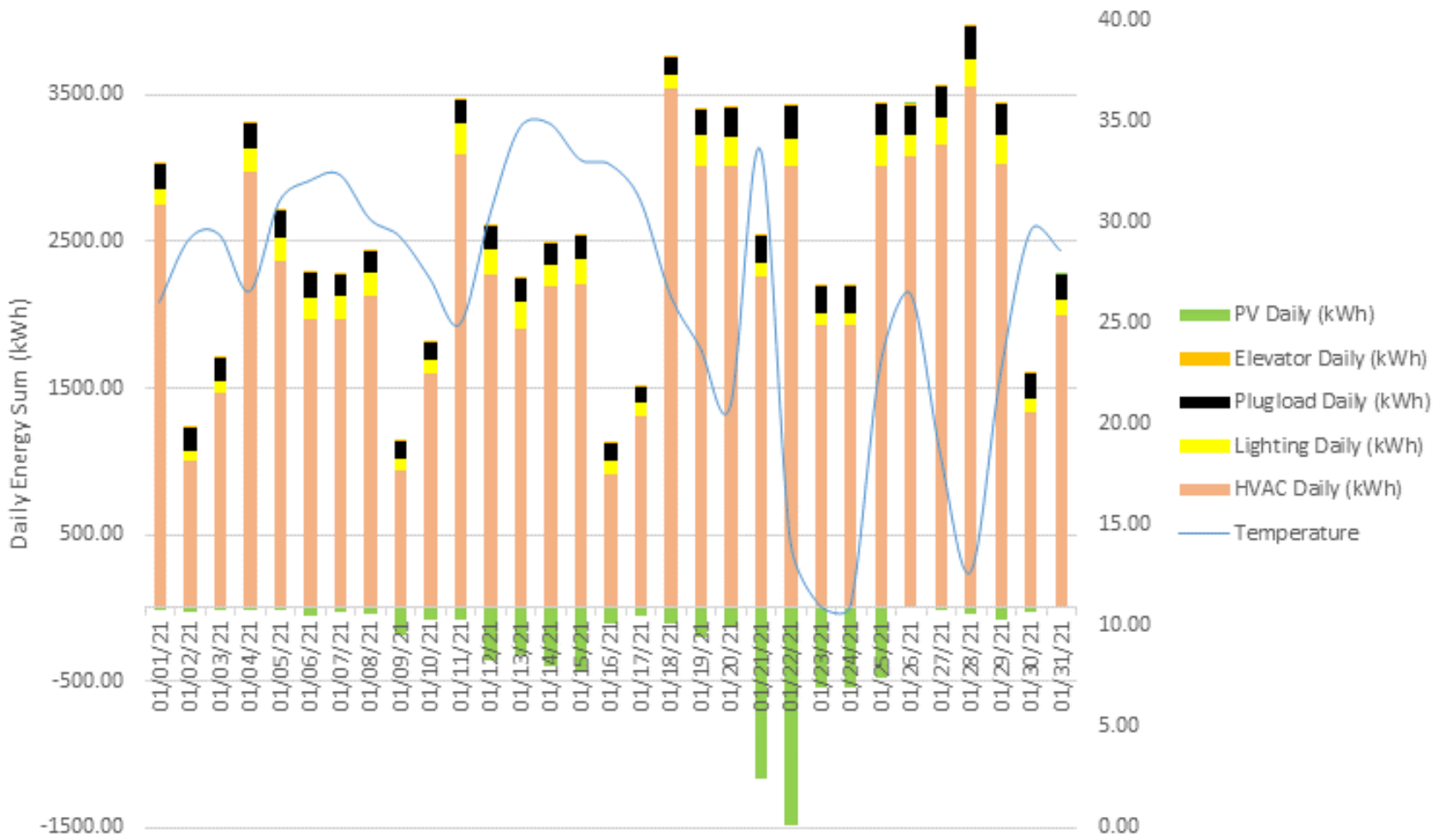
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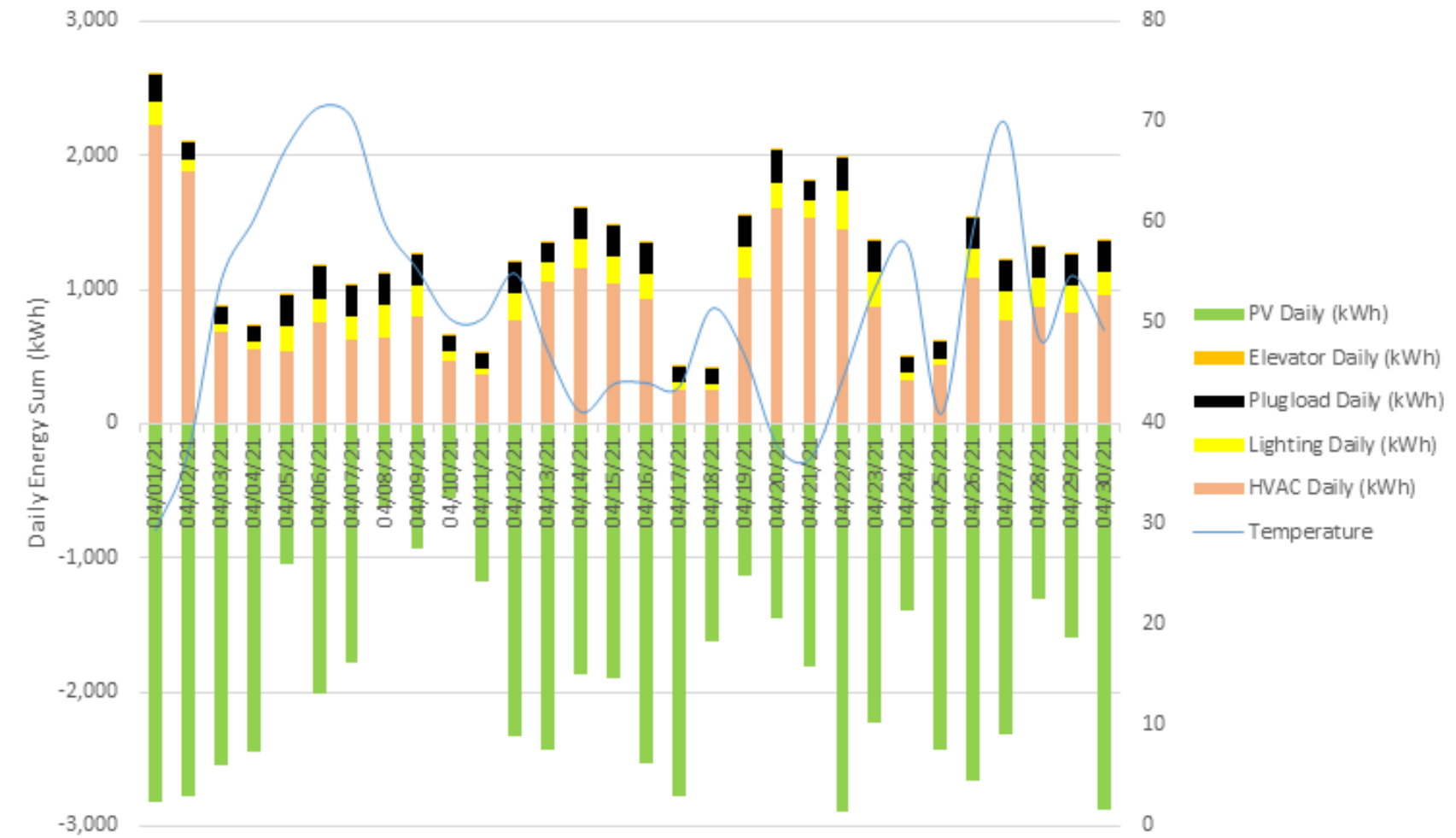
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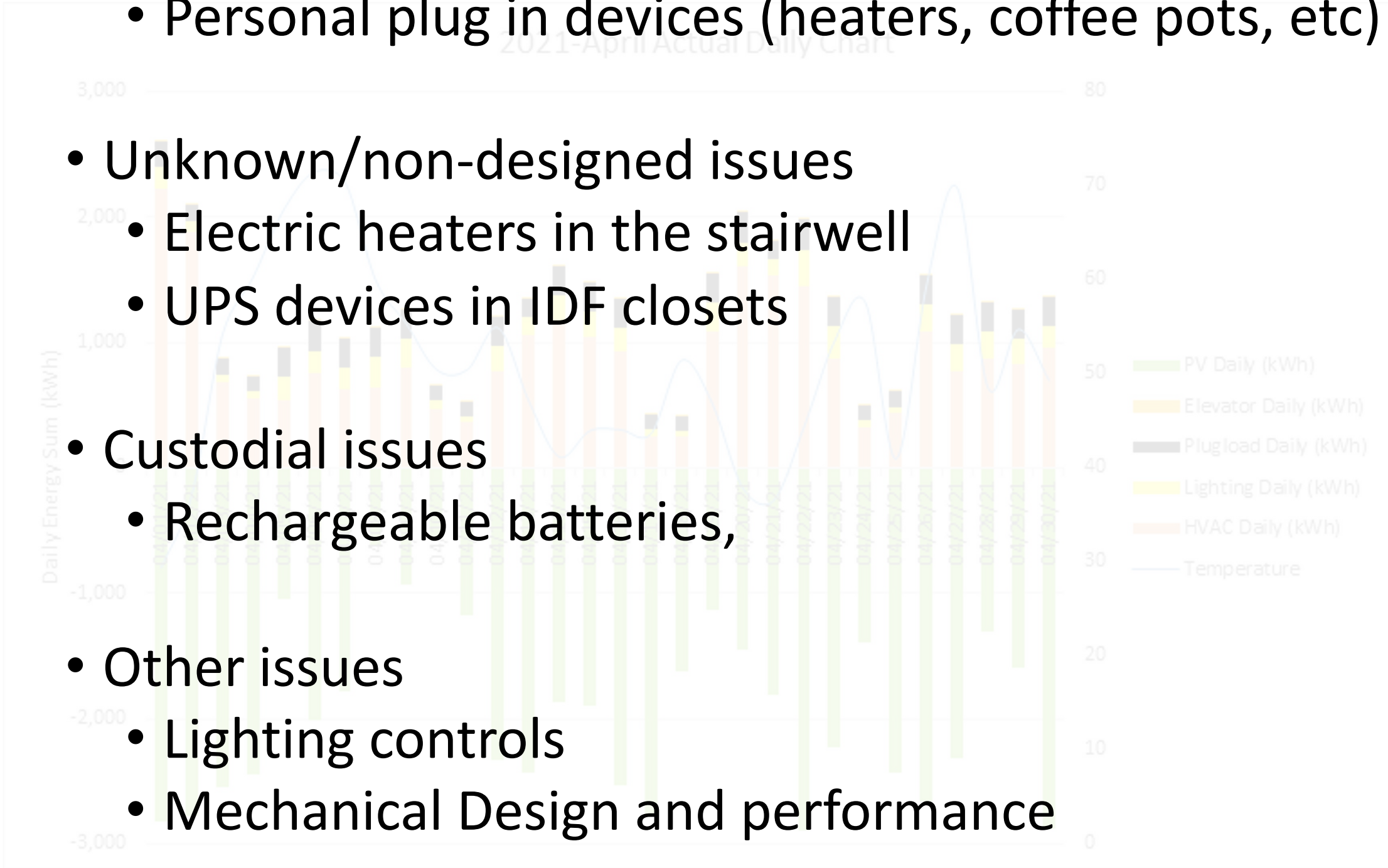
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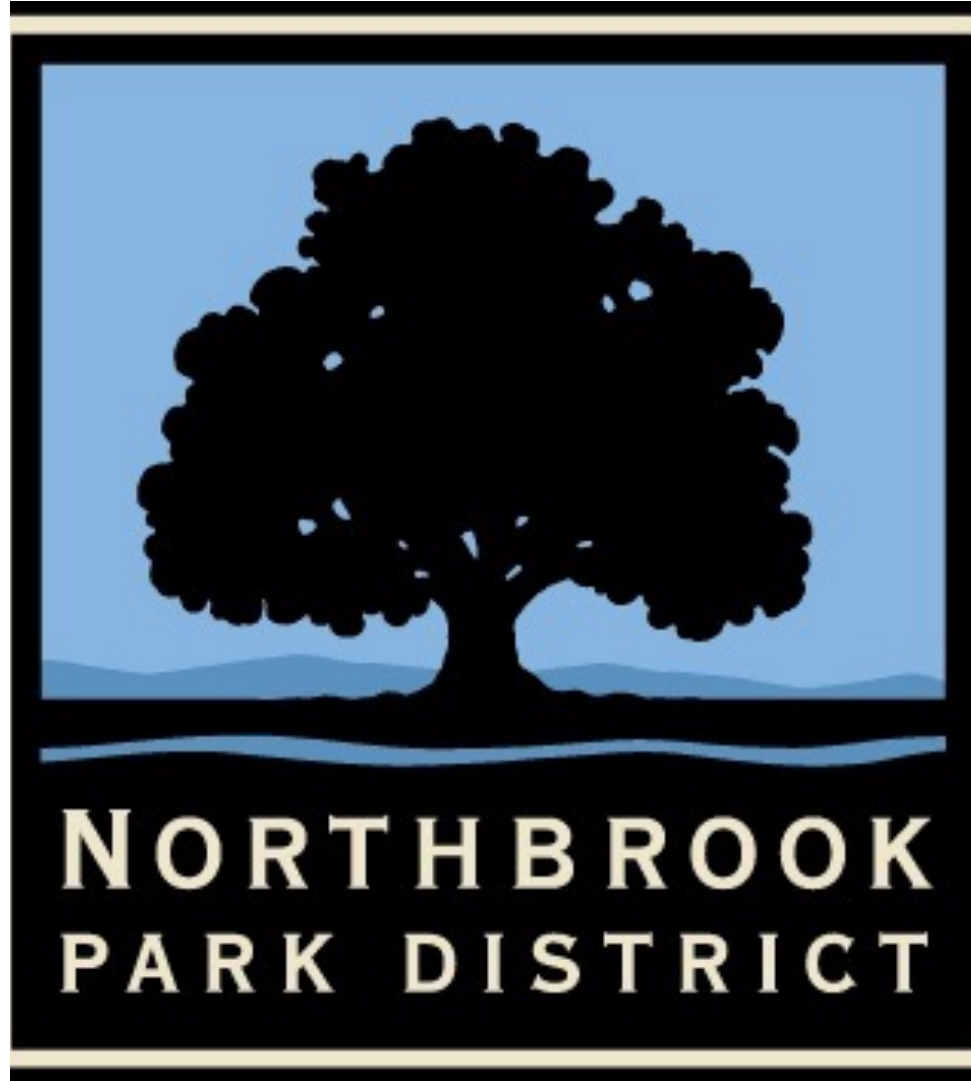
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# Techny Prairie Activity Center

Net Zero  
Verified

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October 27, 2022

# Techny Prairie Activity Center

- **44,200 sq ft**
- **High Efficiency MEP systems**
- **312 KW PV Array**
- **\$1.78 M grant from ICECF**



# Flying Past Our Net Zero Goal

- **Commissioning**
- **Performance To Date**
- **Verification**
- **Net Energy Projections**



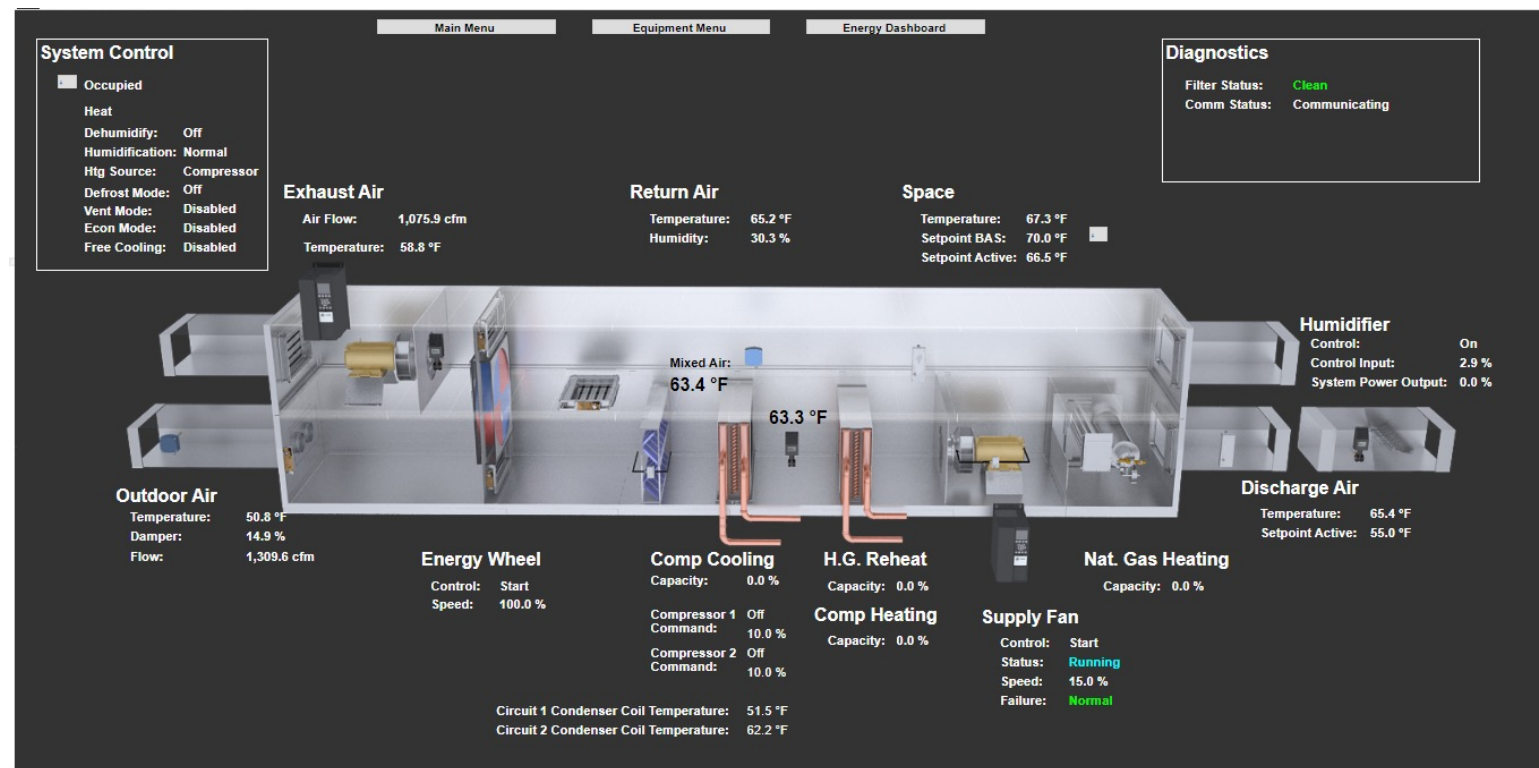
# Commissioning

- **Started in December 2020**
- **Iterative process**
- **Data driven analysis**
- **System changes implemented**



# HVAC System

- Performance
- Programming
- Scheduling
- Optimization



# Photovoltaic System

- **Start-up March 4, 2021**
- **Monitoring**
- **Troubleshooting**
- **Data Analysis**  
**371,054 kWh Produced**



# Lighting System

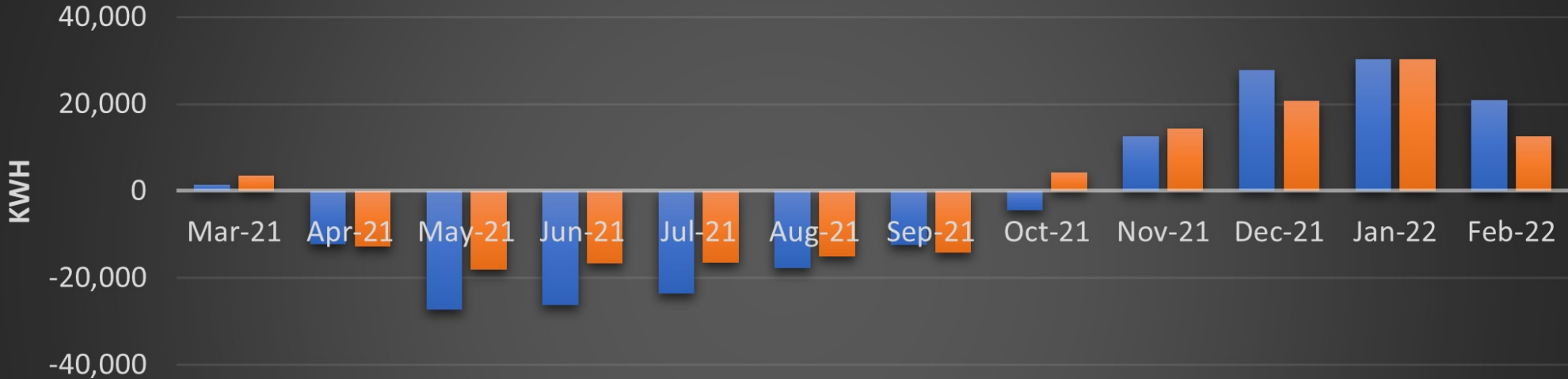
- Scheduling
- Daylighting
- Monitoring
- Settings Changes

The screenshot displays a web-based scheduling interface for a lighting system. The interface is titled "Schedules" and is set for the "Activity Center" building. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Alarms, Operate, Dashboard, Event Logs, Buildings, Schedules (selected), and Devices. The main content area shows a weekly calendar view for the week of April 18-24, 2021. The calendar is organized into columns for each day (Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat) and rows for different lighting zones. The zones include Outdoor OFF/ON, Mechanical OFF/ON, and Parking Lot M-F Day/Night. Each cell in the calendar contains a schedule entry with a plus sign icon for editing. The interface also includes a search bar, view toggles (Day, Week, Month), and a commit button.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Outdoor OFF	:A... Outdoor OFF	:A... Outdoor OFF	:A... Outdoor OFF	:A... Outdoor OFF	:A... Outdoor OFF	:A... Outdoor OFF	:A... Outdoor OFF
Outdoor ON	:A... Outdoor ON	:A... Outdoor ON	:A... Outdoor ON	:A... Outdoor ON	:A... Outdoor ON	:A... Outdoor ON	:A... Outdoor ON
Mechanical OFF	01:00 - Mechanical OFF sve...	01:00 - Mechanical OFF sve...	01:00 - Mechanical OFF sve...	01:00 - Mechanical OFF sve...	01:00 - Mechanical OFF sve...	01:00 - Mechanical OFF sve...	01:00 - Mechanical OFF sve...
Parking Lot M-F Day	06:30 - Parking Lot Sat Sun ...	05:00 - Parking Lot M-F Day...	05:00 - Parking Lot M-F Day...	05:00 - Parking Lot M-F Day...	05:00 - Parking Lot M-F Day...	05:00 - Parking Lot M-F Day...	06:30 - Parking Lot Sat Sun ...
Parking Lot M-F Night	20:30 - Parking Lot Sat Sun ...	22:00 - Parking Lot M-F Nig...	22:00 - Parking Lot M-F Nig...	22:00 - Parking Lot M-F Nig...	22:00 - Parking Lot M-F Nig...	22:00 - Parking Lot M-F Nig...	20:30 - Parking Lot Sat Sun ...

# Building Performance

## Net Energy Consumption



	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
■ Predicted	1,386	-12,232	-27,304	-26,253	-23,557	-17,670	-12,458	-4,492	12,560	27,774	30,326	20,891
■ Actual	3,566	-12,858	-18,118	-16,700	-16,539	-15,000	-14,235	4,278	14,261	20,744	30,207	12,499

■ Predicted ■ Actual



# Steps to Achieving Net Zero

- **Monitoring**
- **Troubleshooting**
- **Forward Thinking**
- **Culture/Attitude**



# Verification

- ICECF Grant
  - Final Pay App
- NBI Verification
  - Verified on 3/14
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Verified Net Zero Building in IL

**NBI Getting to Zero Buildings Database**

Use the filters on the left to filter projects in the map, and/or select a bubble on the map to filter the table below. Reset Filters Analysis Graphics

Use the tabs above or buttons in the top right to navigate to the analysis and graphics page

**ZE Status** **Count**

Emerging 7

Verified 3

**State or Province**

Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Idaho

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

**Building Type**

(All)

Education

Food Sales

Food Service

Health Care (Inpatient)

Health Care (Outpatient)

Lodging

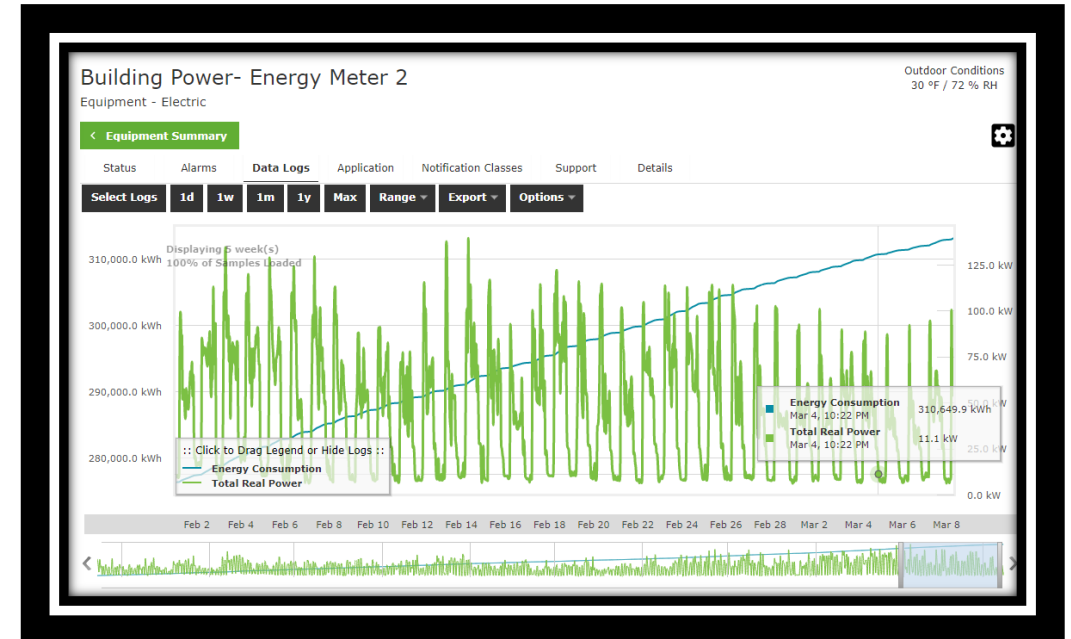
Mercantile (Enclosed a...)

Mercantile (Retail Other...)

ZE Status	State or Province	Name	Certifications	City	Building Type	Size (sf)	Total S
Verified	IL	Adlai E. Stevenson High School Addition	LEED, ILFI	Lincolnshire	Education	54,000	
Verified	IL	Carroll Center - Park District of Oak Park	PHIUS+ Sourc..	Oak Park	Public Assembly	7,700	
Verified	IL	Techny Prairie Activity Center - Northbrook Park District	PHIUS+ Sourc..	Northbrook	Public Assembly	44,200	
Emerging	IL	Countryside Municipal Complex		Countryside	Public Assembly	34,700	
Emerging	IL	Electrical and Computer Engineering Building and Univ..		Champaign	Education	250,000	
Emerging	IL	Parkview Early Learning Center		Mount Prospect	Education	10,000	
Emerging	IL	Prairie Activity & Recreation Center - Plainfield Park Dis..	PHIUS	Plainfield	Public Assembly	39,776	
Emerging	IL	Saint Joseph's School Addition	PHIUS	Downers Grove	Education	7,000	
Emerging	IL	Sunset Ridge	LEED	Chicago	Education	73,890	
Emerging	IL	Walgreens Evanston Store	LEED	Evanston	Mercantile (Enclos..)	14,000	

# Net Energy Projections

- **March through June 2022 decreased energy consumption year over year by 15%**
- **March 2021 more gas consumption than December 2021 or February 2022**



# Sustainably Net Zero!



# Grants, Awards & Certifications

Illinois Clean Energy  
Community Foundation  
Grant  
\$1,776,770

Commonwealth Edison  
Energy Efficiency Program  
Grants  
\$31,650

Verified Net Zero facility  
New Buildings Institute  
(awarded March 2022)

Passive House and Source  
Zero Certified  
Passive House Institute US  
(PHIUS)

PHIUS  
Commercial/Institutional  
Honorable Mention  
2021 PHIUS Passive House  
Design Competition

2021 Illinois Net Zero  
Honor Roll Watch List  
Illinois Green Alliance



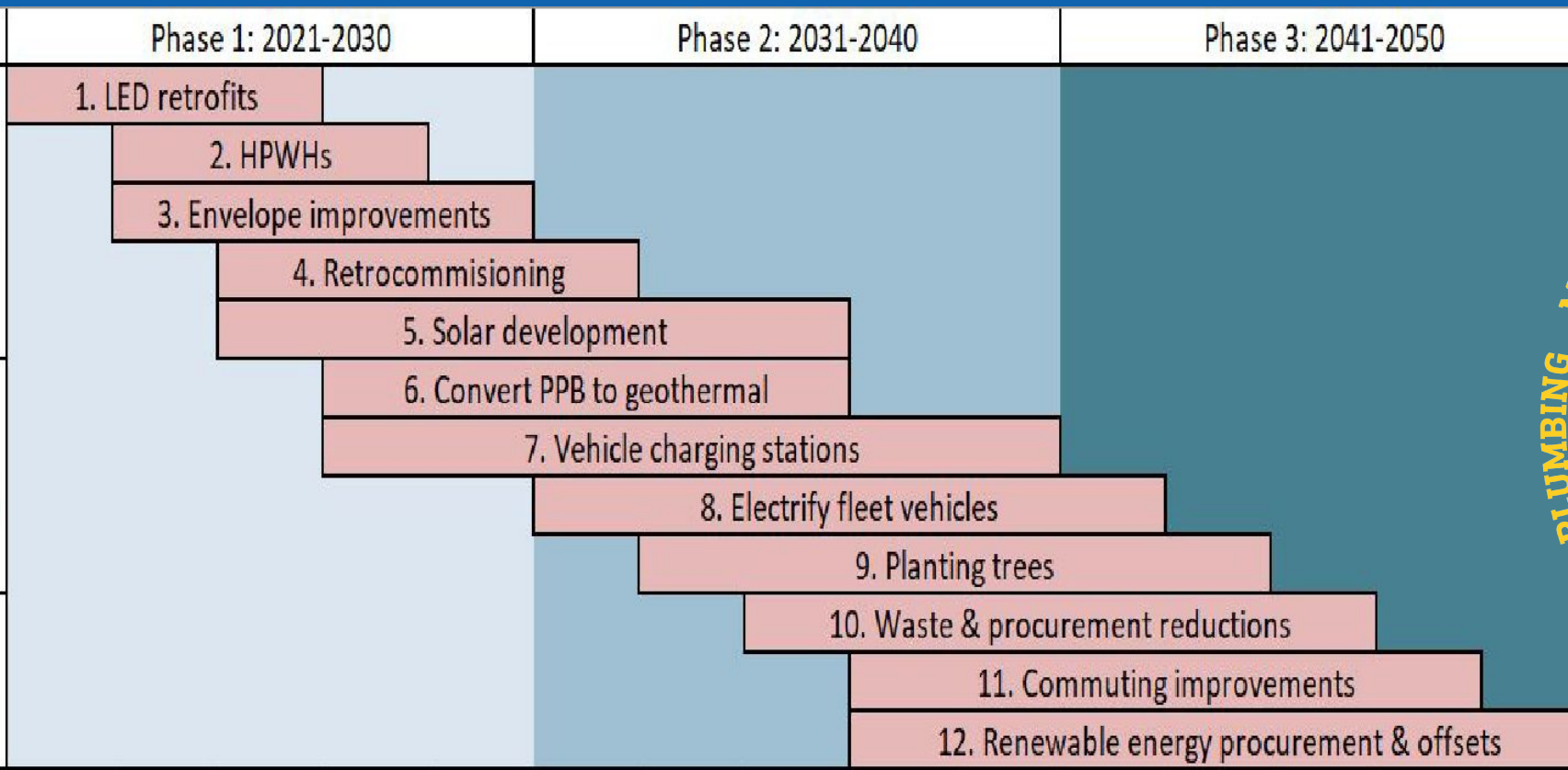
2021 Outstanding Park &  
Facility Award  
Illinois Park and  
Recreation Association  
(IPRA)

Best of the Best Awards  
2021 Best Green Practices  
Award  
Illinois Association of Park  
Districts (IAPD)

2021 Green Business of  
the Year Award  
Village of Northbrook

# Net Zero & Renewable Energy

Heartland Community College Facilities department worked with SEDAC to create a Pathway to Net Zero in 2021 with a goal of a Net Zero campus by 2050





# **Net Zero & Renewable Energy**

**The Wind Turbine provides more than 40% of campus electrical needs**

- We are selling back to the grid in the winter**
  - Gas boilers are the campus heat source eight of our buildings**
- We need additional electricity in the summer**
  - Our campus has a big demand to offset our heat load**
  - Chillers are used to supply cooling to the buildings**
- We continue to convert lighting to LED & search for other ways to reduce our demand**



# **Net Zero & Renewable Energy**

## **The Wind Turbine has needs too...**

### **Performance and maintenance contract**

- **Guaranteed energy performance of the turbine**
  - **Regular oil changes, lubrication, monitoring**
- **Reconcile usage data from supplier with our tracked data**
- **Regular monitoring of the system**
  - **Facilities staff checks the system weekly & whenever we see it still while others in the area are spinning**


# Net Zero & Renewable Energy

## Aspects of acquiring a wind turbine:

- **Contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources early in this process to start your EcoCAT report**
- **Bat mitigation**
  - **We had a migratory study done to ensure minimal interference with migratory species**
  - **We had an ongoing body count**
- **During migration season the turbine will shut down if wind and lighting conditions are right**

# **Net Zero & Renewable Energy**

## **Aspects of owning a wind turbine:**

- Data loss—we have dealt with different occurrences that resulted in loss of turbine data**
  - Down-time—if it is mechanical, it will inevitably break (and many people will call you about it)**
  - Lack of specialized staff—we rely on a third party contractor for repairs and maintenance**
- 

# **Net Zero & Renewable Energy**

## **Geothermal Advantages:**

- **HCC workforce has experience with geo systems**
- **Two geothermal buildings went online in 2007: the Child Development Lab (CDL) and the Workforce Development Center (WDC)**
  - **We know how to troubleshoot geo-heat pumps**
  - **We take regular readings to ensure no leaks in the closed loops**

# Net Zero & Renewable Energy

## Geothermal Advantages:

- **Test all closed loops on a monthly basis (3<sup>rd</sup> party):**
  - **Look for chemical imbalance (leaks, bacteria, corrosion, scale)**
- **Our geothermal buildings do not add to the existing HVAC load on the physical plant**
  - **If we have to shut down campus wide HVAC for service, repair, or in an emergency, we are able to continue heating/cooling the CDL and WDC.**

# Net Zero & Renewable Energy

## Geothermal Disadvantages:

- **HCC has struggled at times to have a reliable 3<sup>rd</sup> party chemical contractor**
- **Buildings can struggle in extreme temps**
  - **A poor building envelope is a big issue that directly affects the design intent of the HVAC system**
- **If the geo-loop stops flowing, your entire building HVAC is down (but at least it isn't campus wide)**
  - **Leaks, pump failures, stuck valves or actuators, plugged filters**

# Net Zero & Renewable Energy

## Solar is coming!

- **HCC is building an Agriculture Complex**
  - **Net Zero plan includes solar on the roof (and geothermal wells for the HVAC)**
- **Looking into Solar PPA**
  - **Minimal upfront costs**
  - **Fixed rates**
  - **Not responsible for maintenance**



# **Net Zero & Renewable Energy**

## **Solar is the unknown...**

- **HCC Facilities has no experience with solar**
  - **Commissioning agents will monitor the Agriculture Complex for 18 months to streamline performance and ensure the building meets Net Zero (get performance guarantees!)**
  - **We are planning to learn the system during commissioning & through additional training, if needed**
  - **Close monitoring of the system may require the hiring of additional staff**



# **Net Zero & Renewable Energy**

## **Solar is concerning?**

- **Long lead times could complicate things**
  - **We have to hit performance goals**
  - **If something breaks—performance slips**
  - **If we cannot get a part for an extended period, the impact on our Net Zero goal could be substantial**
- **Long delays with some power suppliers to interconnect PV systems of any size**
- **Plan for spare equipment on hand to avoid repair delays**