

Letter to the National Institute of Building Sciences

Re: Commercial Building Data Needs

Dear Holly,

I'm writing you regarding the recent news that the "Energy Information Administration (EIA) will not release the results of its 2007 Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) or complete its 2011 Survey."

As an organization focused on developing and delivering energy efficiency products and solutions for commercial building applications we are largely dependent on industry data resources to provide a credible baseline for comparison of targeted building performance. The CBECS database provides the baseline of data in a single source of information segmented in a fashion that makes it relevant and consistent across market segments and regions. As an established reliable source of information, the EIA delivers the credibility our customers demand.

As an organization we rely heavily on publicly available data obtained through the EIA to provide these energy comparisons. As a common business practice, our project teams often conduct "voice of the customer" exercises to complete a customer needs assessment. This process however, does not produce a generally sufficient database of information that would be considered usable as an energy information standard for any category of commercial buildings.

Even the information available through local utilities, when access is granted, only provides a subset of the information necessary to develop a comprehensive building energy profile that would be considered sufficient to convince building owner/operators to invest in significant energy efficiency solutions.

As a part of the Honeywell Environmental and Combustion Controls business, as much as 80 percent of the product and solutions portfolio within our Commercial Control Systems business contributes to energy efficiency solutions that can save up to 25 percent of a typical commercial building's energy consumption. Combined with our competitor's efforts, the potential impact on national energy reduction goals for commercial buildings is significant.

Today one of the largest hurdles to implementation of the energy efficiency solutions we provide is convincing building owners and operators the potential financial payback for investing in these solutions is real and substantial. Access to a reliable database of information provides our customers with a comparison they can rely on so when they make investments in those energy efficiency solutions they have some added assurance they will actually achieve those savings.

Typical energy-related data we rely on includes, but is not limited to, segment and regional assessments of building size, building use, building type and category, date of construction, energy utilization, KWh/ft², peak KWh load, building region and climate zone, primary heating plant, primary cooling plant. Building characteristics such as conditioned floor area, ceiling heights, number of floors, exterior glass area and type, exterior door area and type, total exterior

wall area and type, total roof area, insulation type and thickness, all contribute to the process of assessing energy savings opportunities in commercial buildings.

Please consider these comments in your assessment of the Commercial Building Data information needs.

Best Regards,
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