

Report from the High Performance Buildings Conference

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I spent time this week at the High Performing Buildings Conference in the Washington DC area, put on by Engineered Systems and Building Intelligence (www.buildingintelligencegroup.com). The conference agenda was focused heavily on the use of data and analytics in the development and maintenance of high performing buildings.

In the keynote session with Craig Walker, Director of the Energy Systems Program Office for United Technologies Research Center, the message was clear that energy efficiency efforts need to be reasonably priced and accessible for all buildings. At UTRC, they are finding ways to use what they call “sparse data” to evaluate large portfolios and make faster decisions regarding energy-related projects. Though it would be ideal to have extremely accurate real time data for all buildings, they realize that real time data from controls, BAS and monitoring is not relevant to the building managers and owners who are making financial decisions – they want information that helps them evaluate the investments they are making and how improvements will pay off.

The clear message throughout the conference was that companies offering energy efficiency solutions must become more closely tied to the mission of the organization they are trying to help. The market wants more than project improvements promising savings – it’s time to take a greater role, a consultative role in driving projects that improve business results.

During the conference, I had the opportunity to present a session on Macro Level Energy Management – sharing information on how data that everyone already has access to (utility data) can be used effectively to make solid business decisions. We presented our HOM Furniture case study (shared on our recent Re-Seller webinar), and discussed the challenges of similar companies who need a simple solution to start their energy management efforts.

The event had strong attendance from the Mid-Atlantic engineering and efficiency solution companies and a variety of great speakers. It’s held each September in the Washington DC area, and provides a nice networking opportunity while learning about the latest technologies and solutions being used in successful implementations.

EnergyPrint is always looking for events where we can participate in energy efficiency and data integration education. If you’d like EnergyPrint to speak at a local or regional event in your area, please contact bill.shadid@energyprint.com. And, if you’d like to receive a copy of my presentation, Macro Level Energy Management, please email me (priscilla.koeckeritz@energyprint.com).