

ASHRAE Technical FAQ

ID 88

Question Which energy estimating software packages are recommended by ASHRAE?

It is not the role of ASHRAE to recommend one particular energy estimating software package over another. Instead, ASHRAE provides in Chapter [F19](#) (Energy Estimating and Modeling Methods) of the [2013 ASHRAE Handbook - Fundamentals](#) a section entitled "Selecting Energy Analysis Computer Programs". This section discusses the major considerations in making a selection. They principally include:

- * Complexity of input
- * Quality of the output
- * Availability of weather data
- * Auxiliary capabilities
- * Availability of good support to answer questions

Answer Chapter [F19](#) also covers the broader issue of "Choosing an Analysis Method".

In regard to a listing of the available energy estimating programs, the U.S. Department of Energy ([US DOE](#)) maintains an up-to-date listing of such programs. Available at no charge through their website (http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/tools_directory/), it currently includes over 200 building energy software tools including whole building as well as component and special application programs. This website includes a summary of each software program's characteristics, strengths and limitations, plus hotlinks to other sites for specific cost and availability information.

The handbook and the other ASHRAE publications may be purchased and/or individual chapters of the handbook may be purchased and downloaded on-line at our website, www.ashrae.org or by calling 1-800-527-4723 in the USA and Canada or 1-404-636-8400 worldwide.

ASHRAE Pubs [2013 ASHRAE Handbook - Fundamentals](#), Chapter [F19](#)

Topic References energy estimating software

	Cognizant ASHRAE Committees	Refer to Organization
1	TC 4.7	
2		
3		
4		
5		