

2020 Virtual Conference Open Session

Attendees are encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions on the operations and work of the Society with the ASHRAE Board of Directors.

The following comments were received via the online Share Your Thoughts with the Board form.

- **Thomas Randall Jones - Life Member ASHRAE**

I wish to comment on the motion from the BEQ committee requesting \$14K for the SY 20-21. I speak in favor of the motion. This is a very small sum to sustain a program that ASHRAE has already invested in. Our Society has many program, standards, courses and initiatives to improve energy efficiency in new buildings, however the most effective way to address climate change and sustainability, is to improve the efficiency of the existing building stock. The BEQ program is a very powerful tool for measuring energy use in existing buildings and providing suggestions for improved performance.

- **Stephen Roth, PE - Carmel Software Corporation**

I would like to voice my support for continuing funding of the ASHRAE Building EQ web portal. My company developed the web portal that launched around 3 years ago, so I have unique insight into usage of the portal, which has substantially increased over the past couple of years. The Building EQ portal is used by around 1,000 building owners, energy modelers, university students, and engineers who have invested a fair amount of time and resources into creating 600+ projects. The portal has provided the entire built environment a high-tech interface into just one of the ways that ASHRAE is helping building owners reduce energy usage. Granted, the portal is not bringing in much money, but that was never really the goal. Instead, the goal was to provide building owners a simple alternative to other building benchmark rating systems. While times are difficult now and budgets are tight, keeping the Building EQ portal active would require a minimum investment until funds free up at a later date for additional features and functionality. Thank you for your consideration.

- **Tim Wentz - University of Nebraska**

I am writing in support of funding for the Building EQ program. I am hopeful that Board will recognize the great potential of Building EQ and will fully fund the program. At the very least, I encourage the Board to fund the continuation of the server. It is very tempting to cut every dollar possible to address the current financial situation. At the same time, all of us in industry know you can't cut your way to financial security. You grow your way to financial security. Building EQ is a viable path to financial growth, as demonstrated in the PED Ad Hoc report on Strategic Business Development. As chair of the ASHRAE-APPA Coordinating Committee I know firsthand how important Building EQ is to our relationship with APPA and APPA's vision for the great potential in growth for Building EQ. For example, I am co-author in the University of Nebraska's new master plan for sustainability, which requires Building EQ (In Operation) for all buildings on campus and also requires both "In Operation" and "As Designed" for all new buildings. Our campus has 153 buildings on it alone. APPA, which strongly supports the Building EQ program, represents over 1,300 campuses worldwide, again demonstrating the great

potential of the product. Building EQ's recent restructuring and adoption of an online portal will unlock that potential and provide an important tool to make buildings more energy efficient. Building EQ is also an important tool in identifying and eliminating the "energy gap," an industry-wide problem. Addressing and solving the energy gap problem would significantly raise ASHRAE's stature in the industry.

○ **Ross Montgomery - QST Inc.**

Dear Board Members, I am a supporter and regular user of the Building EQ program. I am speaking in favor of the Building EQ program to continue and maintain it. I know that it is used by many of our members relative to their jobs and ASHRAE activities, especially the Portal and is University Course. So much evidence supporting this activity has been disseminated to the BOD from the Building EQ committee and its long history of success as a member "niche" service. Many of our members utilize Building EQ through associated activities like GAC, CTTC, SAC, Certification, and Research Administration to name a few. Like so many other niche ASHRAE programs, such as students, certification, residential, or refrigeration programs to name a few, it has a limit to its use because of the percentage of our members that this can be used by, not to mention the committee's limited marketing budget. Building EQ is an important reflection of energy efficiency in our entire built environment, supports our Strategic Plan, is the global alternative to Energy Star, performs both 'As Designed' and 'In Operation' segments, and gives our members a peer-reviewed digital technology tool to be proud of. I completely understand we are living through unprecedented times, but it is not a reason or excuse to discriminate with such a drastic change. "This too will pass" so I suggest we strategically consider spending or minimizing some of our "matching contributions" rules to a smaller degree and use a microscopic part of our reserves to cure this situation for one year.

○ **John Constantinide, P.E. - ASHRAE Building EQ Vice Chair and Space Coast Chapter**

Mr. President and Members of the Board, I want to thank you for your continued past support of the award-winning Building EQ platform, giving it the opportunity to directly empower building owners and engineers to improve our built environment, and I want to encourage you to continue to support the tool in the future. This tool has been central to the Brevard Public Schools Building EQ Pilot Program, garnering the USGBC Green Schools Award in the Transformative Category and Florida Department of Education Green Schools Bronze Award. Student Branches are using this tool to work with licensed and ASHRAE-certified professionals to gain hands-on experience and provide building owners with actionable energy conservation measures. I strongly encourage you to create a Building EQ account, log in to the Building EQ portal, and see how the Portal is such a unique asset that positions ASHRAE Standards and certifications to be more relied upon. With today's pandemic and building tenants changing how they want to use their building spaces with the rise of teleworking, social distancing, and other health-conscious trends, Building EQ is the right tool at the right time to give building owners and engineers a cloud-based and remote solution on how to make buildings better without bankrupting themselves.

- **Dr. Ken Lindeman, Ph.D. - Professor & Chair of the Program in Sustainability, Florida Institute of Technology**

What a resource! The importance of the Building EQ program and Portal to engineering students doing energy efficiency research for their undergraduate Sustainability minor at Florida Tech cannot be over emphasized. The introduction of the Portal and the patient mentorship of students by local ASHRAE chapter members has been invaluable. The senior research projects completed using Building EQ have resulted in two different ASHRAE Level 1 Energy Audit reports for major buildings on campus. The tool has trained our students to become better engineers for today's workforce and moves Florida Tech and our partners towards a better understanding of our carbon and energy footprints. This has been a win-win exercise for the university and the students. Whether facilities managers or engineering students, the Building EQ program and its portal are win-win tools. A local city government using university interns who were made aware of the tool now wants to use Building EQ for their municipal facilities. Additional cities with possible student internships are expected to also want to examine this tool, further introducing key decision makers to ASHRAE and this resource.
- **Quinn Duffy - Former Chief Sustainability Officer and Alumnus, Florida Institute of Technology**

I would highly recommend Building EQ, an ASHRAE platform, for the use in conducting energy audits and the benchmarking of structure's performance. It was very easy to learn, extremely helpful in gathering and calculating data, and greatly enhanced the overall experience of this process.
- **Bruce Lindsay, PE, MBA, MS - Manager, Energy & Resource Conservation, Brevard Public Schools**

As the Brevard Public Schools Manager, Energy & Resource Conservation, we had reservations about transitioning from the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program to ASHRAE Building EQ. Having graduate engineering students analyze utility data, benchmark our schools, and most importantly, generate ASHRAE level 1 audit reports, proved to my staff and leadership team that Building EQ was a preferred tool.
- **Dr. Hamidreza Najafi, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering & ASHRAE Student Branch Advisor, Florida Institute of Technology**

ASHRAE Building EQ is an excellent portal for building energy professionals. Not only does it provide a user-friendly platform for the end-users to catalogue and maintain building energy performance data, but it also can be used as an effective teaching tool for engineering students interested in building energy and energy audit. ASHRAE's continued support of Building EQ is certainly a strong representation of its commitment in promoting sustainability in the building sector.
- **Victor Goldschmidt - Retired**

To my colleagues and members of the Board of Directors, June 2020: I appreciate the practice the Board has formalized in scheduling an "open mike time" during their Annual and Winter meetings. But now, the nature of such is changing, hopefully just for this one year and I want to see the concept of "public comments" to be maintained. So, my comments and questions to

follow. First of all, my thanks to all of you for your willingness to serve ASHRAE. Secondly, I share my regrets with Darryl that his presidential activities through travel and visits have been severely curtailed. But my third comment is that we should welcome aspects of this world-wide temporary "lock-down" to see what the future could bring. Allow me to expand on that. There is evidence that virtual activities such as committee meetings, worship services, training webinars, will many times bring a larger number of participants that they would otherwise. So my questions are a) Could it be timely to address developing ASHRAE Committees, Councils, etc. which are fully virtual and hence there would be no geographical boundaries for its members? b) Could it also be timely to revisit the boundaries, purpose, and empowerment of the Regions? They seem to have survived and some even grown without presidential visits. I am well aware of the limitations of virtual gatherings, they certainly are more efficient, but not as effective as personal one to one group dynamics. However the options must be considered, and I stand ready to serve.

○ **David Delaquila - National Propane Gas Association**

My comments support the rejection of Addendum A, for the following brief reasons.

1) This Addendum A to ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2019 that is being presented to the Board is no different than the addendum rejected by the Board one year ago. It will result in the effective banning of a viable heating product that will occur if Addendum A is approved. There are no technical or process changes in this motion for the Board to reconsider.

2) The unresolved commenters on the original Addendum A that was rejected by the Board last year still remain unresolved.

3) A compromise addendum that is supported by industry was recently approved by the 62.2 Committee for PPR by an overwhelming majority vote 20-4-1. This compromise proposal is welcomed by the industry and is a very positive step forward to resolving virtually all of the issues between all parties.

4) Approving Addendum A at this stage will only again result in more appeals and potentially more delays for everyone involved.