

No	Question(s)	Answer(s)
1	Is there a specific site we are supposed to assume for where the building will be?	Anywhere in New York City which includes Manhattan, Queens, Bronx, Brooklyn and Staten Island
2	Are there restrictions / rules for us to select a project site or assume site characteristics?	There are no restrictions but the building should come up from the ground.
3	What is the definition of "Net Zero" according to this competition? (e.g. all energy is renewable? all energy consumed is produced on site? or equivalent energy is produced on site as is consumed? does time of use matter? any GHG implications?)	All energy consumed is produced on site (unless you can tell us why a different case works and provides better carbon savings).
4	Are building materials considered as part of any evaluation criteria? (e.g. does the energy consumption required to produce / transport materials need to be accounted for?)	No this isn't part of the criteria, but it is a very interesting topic and will become more relevant so it would be very interesting for you to touch on it but it isn't required for this competition.
5	Do all teams present at the ASHRAE conference in August, or only specific teams? If specific teams, how is this determined and by when will we know which teams are presenting?	All teams whose entries are acceptable to the conference committee will present in some form at the conference.
6	Which specific items require a cost estimation? E.g. would insulation / windows require cost estimations? Since these items would already be included in any generic "baseline" building, would the use of more advantageous materials require us to estimate a baseline budget to indicate the incremental cost of the measure? If our cost estimations must be incremental, are there standard costs of "baseline" components that each team must use?	The cost measures are to look at realism in the design so incremental cost as you have described it is what we would like. Basically how would you justify those costs to a client, we won't give you baseline costs, it is more just to make sure the measure is something that could be considered and looking at ways we might be able to sell more efficient solutions to our clients.
7	Is there a target or maximum budget? Or is it purely competitive?	It is competitive, the competition this year is really focusing on creativity and carbon neutrality so innovation and interesting solutions are welcome. Teams get two "free" passes to pursue differentiated approaches that might cost more. Over that costs and approach should be practical and realistic.
8	We notice that hourly equipment schedules are provided in as diversity factors in %. Is there a power density factors (e.g. in W/ft ²) each team must assume for equipment loads?	Yes, that will be sent to teams soon if they haven't received them already.

9	We notice that the hourly schedules for equipment and lighting indicate 0% loads during unoccupied hours. This would not reflect reality as there would be emergency lighting, auxiliary equipment, etc operating even during unoccupied hours. Can you please confirm that it is acceptable to omit any such energy consumption during unoccupied hours from our models?	You are right, and in this case we will keep the lights schedules as they are, even though as you say this isn't quite a real world situation. It is permitted to omit this energy consumption from your models.
10	The 2013 ASHRAE 55 is referenced in the project requirements. Should the other 2013 ASHRAE standards (i.e. 90.1 and 62.1) be used as the minimum baseline for other parts of this project?	Yes
11	Is the architectural design completely up to the team besides what is outlined in the project requirements?	Completely up to the teams.
12	Do we need to have a lit parking lot?	No parking lot for this project.
13	Would we receive additional points for pursuing additional LEED or WELL credits?	WELL credits yes, it would depend on the LEED credits, but the judges will like to see a well rounded design and this shows thought in those areas.
14	Can you send us the scoring/evaluation sheet for projects?	We have detailed the weighting of each category on the website, the judges will have a slightly more detailed sheet but essentially those will hold.
15	Can we do more or less floors if it still adds up to the total square footage?	No, your model should include 15 floors.
16	Can site area around building be used for landscaping such as trees for shading?	Yes
17	Will a specific weather file be distributed or teams have an option to go for any TMY2, TMY3 as per our choice?	Yes weather files will be provided. For preliminary analysis use TMY3.
18	What equipment loads should be anticipated for the spaces?	Equipment Loads will be provided.
19	Is there a specific code we should follow in regard to occupancy lighting, water usage, & ventilation?	Local code requirements for the location of the Project are fine.
20	What budget requirements are in place for each allotted sector(envelope, HVAC, lighting, water, PV)?	This is up to you, we are assuming a normal budget, ie code requirement construction, if you are moving beyond this and you think there would be an extra cost this should be noted and (hopefully justified).
21	Will equipment specs(HVAC, PV, SWH) be distributed to teams or should we use code minimums or determine the specs from manufacturers?	Code minimums are fine.

22	Are elevators required to be modeled?	Yes, given the number of floors, elevators should be modeled as per code at minimum.
23	Should we be accounting for cooking and domestic hot water energy separately?	It would be nice to see, but isn't a necessity.
24	Are the demand charges based on per month use or based on a ratchet meter structure?	Per month.
25	Is there a minimum/any requirement for window to wall ratio (including and excluding skylights)? - Or is this based on Code?	It is based on code.
26	Do we need to consult architecture codes for building massing and FAR requirements?	If possible yes, but if you can't find requirements then simply justify what you have done.
27	Are the external lighting requirements only based on the parking area?	Yes
28	Is there going to be a baseline assumptions template similar to past years leveling the field for things like hourly schedules, plug loads, etc?	No baseline, however there is a schedule sheet. Lighting levels need to comply with needs for each space type. ASHRAE levels can be applied but it is up to the teams to reduce lighting levels if they can justify lux levels are appropriate. Plug loads and occupancy will be provided for each space type.
29	Is LDSO committee planning on providing details on OA amounts for each space type in the program or leaving it to teams to come up with the CFMs based on ASHRAE 62.1 calculations? - Maximum occupancy for Exhibit spaces is also missing?	Teams should utilize ASHRAE 62.1 for OA calculations.
30	Is there a specific site that the design teams are constrained to in New York?	No you can pick your own site in any of the five boroughs of NY City. Remember this is a public place so it should have access
31	Is the total square footage for the building the net or gross sf? I.e. are circulation areas included in the total sf given or should we account for additional circulation area?	These should be taken as net values, no additional area should be added for circulation or other uses.
32	Are there any floor to floor height limits for different spaces depending on the use type or type of artifacts, etc.?	No, however you want to do it.
33	Is there a preferred method for performing cost analysis?	No, however you want to do it, just make sure you can justify what you have done and what the numbers represent.
34	Can we edit the Powerpoint template or are we limited to the slides given?	You are limited to the slides. If you want to add one or two additional slides you may but you will not be given more presentation time.

35	Who are the judges?	The judges will be announced on the competition website soon.
36	Are we allowed to submit more questions before the cutoff date?	Yes
37	What is our cost/sf budget?	That is up to you, we are looking for realism and an understanding of selling the ideas to a real client with real budgetary constraints.
38	Are we allowed to use renewables other than PV to generate electricity? For example: wind, water (like a water wheel).	Yes, it needs to be justified fully and it needs to be innovative. The idea is to get the energy use down and the renewables are the last chance. If you are covering all your electricity with renewables and no energy reduction that will be counted against the design. Equally if you come up with an innovative solution that is interesting creative and new, after you have exhausted your efficiency options then that will count as a positive to the design.
39	What about circulation/lobby?	This is included in the areas given.
40	Will costing data for the baseline systems be provided so that all teams are working from a common baseline for ECM payback calculations?	No again the costs are for realism. They are a way to sell the idea to the clients. They are meant as a way to try to make a practical design we want to know that the teams understand the impact of their designs not just on carbon reduction tactics and the energy use for the building but on the clients budgets, are they realistic?
41	Does DHW usage need to be captured in simulation? If yes, what is the consumption rate?	Yes, justify why you've used the rates you have.
42	The program areas do not include any common or transition spaces (corridors, stairwells, washrooms, etc). Should we assume that these are included in the provided areas and take a "building area method" approach where common elements are assumed to be lumped into the bulk program areas?	Yes, assume that.
43	Are there any site area restrictions?	there are no location restrictions other than being in a New York City borough with public access.
44	Is the project team required to indicate an actual open area in New York?	No, just an idea is fine
45	Can we use the latest version of ASHRAE 62.1?	Yes

46	Is there a total budget constraint to the project? Is it expected for the team to provide construction cost estimates?	Teams should be able to address any incremental costs they think their solutions might have over the base cost for such a project.
47	Are there any expectations of certain payback periods for ECMs?	No expectations, the idea is to try to sell the plan to the client so shorter paybacks are always preferable.
48	Is there an expectation of Type I grease hoods in the full service restaurant? If so, how much makeup air is required?	Up to you on this, there is no expectation though.
49	WELL v2 has been published. Should the team go off the recent version or Standard v1?	The teams should use WELL v2 as that is the current standard.
50	Is purchasing of carbon offsets (from utilities or third party providers) permitted within reason?	Yes within reason.
51	Any credits for LCA considerations throughout the design process? (cradle to cradle?)	Yes, let us know what strategies are in place, cradle to cradle is an interesting concept and so we would like the teams to look at current thinking and issues in the industry this would be a great addition to the teams overall plan.
52	ASHRAE 62.1 allows for an alternative compliance path for minimum ventilation requirements for mechanically ventilated spaces using the IAQ Procedure method in lieu of the VRP method. Is this an acceptable procedure to be used for the competition?	Yes
53	For naturally ventilated spaces, our team will utilize CFD analysis to evaluate airflow/air changes that would be required to maintain CO2 thresholds. Please confirm this is an acceptable method.	Yes, it is acceptable.