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Panel 4: TES Roles in Building Envelopes: Opportunities and Challenges

Moderator:

Dr. Som Shrestha, Senior R&D Staff, ORNL

Panelists:



Dr. Jan Kosny Research Professor, University of Massachusetts, Lowell



Mr. Michael (Mick) Dunn Technical Sales Manager, Armstrong Ceilings



Dr. Shantonio Birch Founder, ThermoVerse



Ms. Lisa Morey Founder and Owner, Colorado Earth



Unlocking the Potential of TES Technologies in Building Envelopes Why Don't We Use What Really Works?

Dr. Jan Kośny

Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, MA, USA Dipartimento di Ingegneria, Università di Palermo, Palermo, Italy

Director – UML Building Energy Efficiency and Temperature Control Materials Laboratory Co-Director – UML Photovoltaic Prototyping and Testing Laboratory

Associate Editor - Frontiers, Solar Energy in Urban Development Editorial Board Member – Buildings Journal, Energy Storage and Applications

Stor4Build 2024 Annual Meeting, ORNL, Oak Ridge TN, Aug. 26-27, 2024



Great Strategic Needs & Opportunities for PCM Technologies in U.S. Buildings



Demand Peaks with Possible Power Overgeneration

• Duck curve depicts the time imbalance between peak demand and renewable energy production.

• For larger-scale PV operations, it highlights a risk of power overgeneration and uncertainty of renewable power availability.

• Utilizing EE and transient characteristics of building structures – existing thermal mass, PCMs, dynamic action of fenestration, etc. can help right now and at a low cost.

DTD – Dynamic Thermal Disconnect in <u>Slope Roof with Attic</u> A Combination of Radiant Barriers with **Thermal Insulation**, Air **Cavities**, and **Two PCMs** Yields over **80% of Peak Load Reduction** with Significant **Peak Load Time Shifting** of 4.5-5.5 hours



DTD – Dynamic Thermal Disconnect in <u>Cathedralized Roof</u> A Combination of Radiant Barriers with Thermal Insulation, Vented Air Cavities, and PCMs Yields over 80% of Peak Load Reduction with Significant Peak Load Time Shifting of ~4.0 hours Work funded by DoD, collaboration with CertainTeed and Microtek Labs - recorded 2012-14



Kosny et al. (2021) Applied Sciences, MDPI - Application of Phase Change Materials and Conventional Thermal Mass for Control of Roof Generated Cooling Loads

DTD – Dynamic Thermal Disconnect in <u>Roof with integrated PV</u> A Combination of Radiant Barriers with **Thermal Insulation, Air Cavities,** and **Thermal Mass** Yields over **90% of Peak Load Reduction** with Large **Peak Load Time Shifting** of 4.0-4.5 hours

- recorded 2008-10

Technology Commercialized by Phase Change Energy Solutions



Data recorded in ORNL test attic - Kosny et al. 2012 Solar Energy





Work funded by DOE BTO, collaboration with MCA, and Phase Change Energy Solutions

DTD System used in Masonry Wall Retrofit for U.S. Southern Locations - Comparison with conventional foam wall retrofit



Conventional Wall CMU ext. PCM Wall CMU ext.

- recorded 2007-08

Thick Layers of Insulation-PCM Blends Work Very Well in the Case of Reduction of Peak Thermal Loads and Peak Load Time Shifting

Simulated diurnal heat flux values for 30-cm. thick assemblies containing insulation with 30wt% PCM.



Kosny et al. (2021) Applied Sciences, MDPI - Application of Phase Change Materials and Conventional Thermal Mass for Control of Roof Generated Cooling Loads



Hot-Box and Field Testis of Roofs and Walls Cellulose and Fiberglass based PCM Blends

2.5 to 6.5-hour Peak Load Time Shifting and Peak Load Value Reduction for up to 80%

Parametric analysis of building envelopes containing PCM-enhanced insulation

Assembly thickness [m]	Internal temp. [°C]	Sol-air ext. temp. schedule T _{es}	Night ext. temp. min. [°C]	Total cooling load reduction [%]	Peak load reduction [%]	Peak load time delay [h]
0.14	20	T_{es} c)	15	2.5	4.0	1.0
0.14	20	T_{es} b)	15	2.8	8.0	2.0
0.14	20	<i>T_{es}</i> a)	15	10.8	18.0	2.5
0.14	25	T_{es} c)	15	7.7	3.0	0.5
0.14	25	T_{es} b)	15	10.8	6.0	1.0
0.14	25	T_{es} a)	15	22.0	25.0	2.5
0.30	20	T_{es} c)	15	0,5	45.0	3.5
0.30	20	T_{es} b)	15	7.5	51.0	4.5
0.30	20	<i>T_{es}</i> a)	15	13.6	48.0	6.5
0.30	25	T_{es} c)	15	17.3	40.0	3.0
0.30	25	<i>T_{es}</i> b)	15	35.0	65.0	5.5
0.30	25	T_{es} a)	15	72.0	82.0	6.5

Kosny et al. (2021) Applied Sciences - Application of Phase Change Materials and Conventional Thermal Mass for Control of Roof Generated Cooling Loads

Work funded by DOE BTO, collaboration with AFT, John's Manville, and Microtek Labs. Lab and field test performed during 2005-2008, Technology Commercialized by AFT

Both, Opaque and Transparent Trombe Walls Containing PCM Work Excellent as Building Integrated Solar Heating Systems

Transparent Solar Heating system with integrated Thermal Storage.

2013-14 field testing in MA climate conditions. Work sponsored by Hunter Douglass





Vented Trombe Wall and Solar Air Collector with Bee's Wax based Heat Sink – tested in 1989. Bio-PCM was placed in 2-in. thick metal container, behind the glazing – Univ. of Techn, Rzeszow, Poland.



Transparent Trombe wall using Transparent Aerogel and PCM TES can generate during winter in MA 140°F to 180°F. Technology developed by UML - 2021, based on the results of the ARPA-E funded work in collaboration with VCU.



PCMs are Several Orders of Magnitude Less Expensive when comparing to other types of energy storage materials

Quick Cost Comparisons:

\$15 per kWh - commonly used by U.S. DOE EERE price ceiling for PCMs

 Lithium based inorganic compounds are several orders of magnitude more expensive than both inorganic and organic PCMs





\$273 per kWh - Lithium-ion batteries

According to Blumberg a cost of source Lithium used in 2017 in Li-ion batteries was about \$273 per kWh

https://data.bloomberglp.com/bnef/sites/14/2017/07/BNE F-Lithium-ion-battery-costs-and-market.pdf

THANK YOU!

Stor4Build 2024 Annual Meeting, ORNL, Oak Ridge TN Aug. 26-27, 2024



Dr. Jan Kośny University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Ph #: 978. 934. 1903. Email: JAN_KOSNY at UML.EDU





Templok®

PCM Integrated Ceilings

What is Templok®

Drop-In Thermal Storage/Mass

- Drop-In Solution Easy Retrofit
- Ceilings = Large surface area.
- Predominant envelope issues have limited options/expense (eg. High rise).
- Accessible & Low Risk
- Re-Usable & Relocatable if needed
- +4 CAC (sound blocking)
- Typical 50-70% Coverage





Why PCM in Ceilings and Not Exterior Envelope?

•VERSATILE: There is no one-size fits all solution, important to start with versatility.

•RISK/COST: Envelope may be higher performance, but not without higher risk, cost & technical hurdles.

•LABOR: Leveraging existing labor of ceiling subcontractor or maintenance. Does not require separate trades.

•1 BOX AT A TIME: Can be incrementally added to spaces over time (patch and match upgrades).

CONTROL & DEMAND BENEFIT:

•Return plenum makes the storage part of HVAC loop with minimal invasiveness.

•PCM has ability to absorb excess or waste heat inside buildings from solar gain, internal gains, etc.

•Possibility of year round performance in many climates.

•Can be charged with economizer or high COP cooling overnight, with more predictable demand benefits during day using setpoint control.

Validation work Lab & Field Validation

LAB / CONTROLLED VALIDATION & TESTING

Benchtop -> Room Scale Validation



See full report: 2024 ASHRAE conference paper CH-24-C109

• 3 points of agreement:

Reduced Cooling Load on AC* By air enthalpy difference across AC	4,080 btu's
Increased Heat Absorbed in Ceiling By heat flux measurements on ceiling surface	3,815 btu's
PCM Storage via Temp & Enthalpy Theoretical estimate by known temperature range and enthalpy curve of PCM	3,935 btu's

*During daytime hours after morning pre-cool in 13'x13' chamber with 800W internal load



¥ 400

200

8.00 AM

10.00 AM

12:00 PM

Time of Day

MF+PCM • MF

2:00 PM

4:00 PM

FIELD VALIDATION & TESTING

4:00 PM

• Energy Modeling

12:00 PM

Time of Dav

MF+PCM

Starting temperature

65

55 8:00 AM

Field M&V within AWI network

2:00 PM

- GSA Green Proving Grounds (GPG) / DOE
- NYSERDA Heat Recovery Program
- Studies on support of electrification, peak demand reduction, HVAC sizing reduction

Applications:

Field Studies To Date

- Monitored power usage of x14 Classrooms with ASHP's ۲
- Found strong correlation between adjacent rooms in baseline.

Classroom Wing

119

114

120

113

121

112

- Treated x2 Rooms with PCM 1 Upstairs, 1 Downstairs
- Multi-variate analysis demonstrated 6% to 9% reductions in heating use overnight in Winter & Spring.
- NO changes to thermostatic setpoint were used.
- Potential to support electrification in cool climates

Table 2: Estimated reduction in heating power due to the PCM variable (Second floor, Winter and Spring)

Condition	Estimate	P-value	Adjusted R ²	% Reduction
Winter (3/13-4/4) - Day Hours (8 a.m 8 p.m.)	-0.001 (P < C)	> 0.05	0.72	
Winter (3/13-4/4) - Night Hours (9 p.m 7 a.m.)	-0.032 (P < C)	< 0.05	0.71	7%
Spring (4/5-5/5) - Day Hours (8 a.m 8 p.m.)	-0.001 (P <c)< td=""><td>> 0.05</td><td>0.59</td><td></td></c)<>	> 0.05	0.59	
Spring (4/5-5/5) - Night Hours (9 p.m 7 a.m.)	-0.018 (P <c)< td=""><td>< 0.05</td><td>0.78</td><td>9%</td></c)<>	< 0.05	0.78	9%

117

116

(Fig A)

118

115



Applications:

Field Studies Under Way

New York Public Library Branch

- 5,000 SF building
- Heating + cooling from two RTUs
- No BMS local thermostat control
- High energy use intensity
- Poor thermal comfort in winter
- Existing 2x4 tiles in poor condition



Manhatten Office Building – Temperature Management

- Commercial office building
- Pilot to be perimeter 15th floor offices
- Poor temperature control throughout building due to solar gains.
- Focus of pilot is thermal comfort improvements





Colorado Earth – EnergyPlus simulations results (Preliminary)

Lisa Morey, PEng Sajith Wijesuriya, PhD Yi Zeng Ravi Kishore Paul Meyer, PhD







ENERGY I-CORPS







Our Goals



1. Reduce overall energy consumption 2. Shift peak demand 3. Reduce Delta T 4. Improve Thermal Comfort for occupants 5. Reduce the need for new energy generation

The EcoBlox

ECOBLOX CONSTRUCTION

DOUBLE WALL SYSTEM

Double wall construction with a 3" gap for loose-fill insulation. Electrical fixtures are placed in the wall during construction, and the two layers of block are tied together with Durawall.







NEXT GENERATION BUILDING STRATEGIES







Phase Change Materials



Reflectivity

PASSIVE DESIGN



Colorado Residence Thermal Study on EcoBlox









CASTLE ROCK

MONITORING

July 30, 2021 prepared by Emu Systems for Colorado Earth COE001





Image 20: Enlarged graph showing the temperature variation over a 24-hour period. The delay and attenuation of the heat wave are highlighted in the graph.

NREL Study using Energy+

Building model

- IECC 2021 standard prototype building for Denver climate is used
- Only the exterior wall envelopes are changed to reflect the Colorado Earth EcoBlocks integration
- All other conditions are kept the same as the baseline model



Building exterior wall R-values for different iterations using effective material properties



1. Baseline: 2"x6" FRAME Standard prototype building IECC 2021

Effective property values of Density, Specific Heat, Thermal Conductivity for each layer



2. EcoBlock + Perlite layer in the middle



3. EcoBlock + Insulation towards exterior

Annual cooling and heating electricity consumption

- Baseline building is the reference IECC envelope
- Building uses a heat pump: electricity for both heating and cooling
- Climate zone 5B, Denver weather is used for simulations



Monthly energy consumption



Energy Compliance

SLAB^d WOOD MASS CRAWL GLAZED CEILING FLOOR BASEMENT^{C,g} R-SKYLIGHT FRAME WALL SPACE^{C,g} CLIMATE FENESTRATION FENESTRATION R-R-WALL R-VALUE U-FACTOR^{b, I} **U-FACTOR** ZONE WALL R-R-WALL R-SHGC^{b, e} VALUE VALUE VALUE & VALUE VALUE VALUE DEPTH 13 or 0& 30 3/4 13 0 0 NR 0.75 0.25 0 0 10ci 13 or 0& 3/4 13 0 1 NR 0.75 0.25 30 0 0 10ci 13 or 0& 2 0.40 0.65 0.25 49 4/6 13 0 0 0 10ci 20 or 13& 5ci 10ci, 2 3 .30 0.55 0.25 49 8/13 19 5ci or 13^f 5ci or 13^f or 0& 15ci^h 30 or 20&5cih 10ci, 4 4 except .30 0.55 0.40 19 10ci or 13 10ci or 13 60 or 13& 8/13 Marine 10ci^h or 0&20ci^h 30 or 20&5cith 5 and 15ci or 19 or 10ci. 4 15ci or 19 0.30ⁱ 0.55 0.40 60 or 13& 13/17 30 Marine 4 13& 5ci or 13& 5ci 10ci^h or 0&20ci^h 30 or 20&5cith 15ci or 19 or 10ci, 4 15ci or 19 30 6 0.30ⁱ 0.55 NR 60 or 13& 15/20 13& 5ci or 13& 5ci 10ci^h or 0&20ci^h 30 or 20&5ciⁱ 15ci or 19 or 10ci. 4 15ci or 19 or 0.30ⁱ 0.55 38 7 and 8 NR 60 19/21 13&10ci 13& 5ci ft or 13& 5ci or 0&20ci^h

TABLE R402.1.3 INSULATION MINIMUM R-VALUES AND FENESTRATION REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT³

In our current IECC there is an allowance for reduced Rvalues for Mass Walls

The IECC defines mass walls concrete block, concrete, ICF, masonry cavity, brick, adobe, **compressed earth block**, rammed earth, solid timber, mass timber, or solid logs.

The Performance Path



The Ekotrope software - a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rating software - has a Graphical User Interface (GUI) that allows users to construct the assembly to create the library entry virtually.

Information provided to Energy Rater:

- Insulation materials and the R-Value per assembly
- Window U-Value and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)

• Methods and systems used to heat, cool, and ventilate the home

Steamboat Springs Residence in Climate Zone 7 at 6900 feet elevation

Design exceeded requirements for IECC 2018 Performance compliance by 19.2%

Opportunities

Allow for product concept of EcoBlox to be qualified by climate zone and investigate hygrothermal properties

Understand effectiveness of PCMs

Evaluate of effective heat transfer properties of air and reflectivity



Thank you

www.nrel.gov

Preliminary Data for ORNL Stor4Build Conference

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Additional Slides

Observations

- Adding EcoBlox in place of insulation reduces the thermal resistance of the exterior wall and can lead to energy penalties due to that.
- High density and the high specific heat capacity increases the thermal mass and reduces thermal diffusivity and therefore yields cooling energy savings for the EcoBlox.
- Adding insulation layer on the exterior side in addition to EcoBlox leads to both cooling and heating savings.
- EcoBlox thickness increase as well as added insulation supports further savings

Insulation towards exterior case parametric study

- Above case 5. Colorado Earth: Insulation towards exterior is used to conduct a parametric assessment •
- EcoBlock brick thickness is varied here to evaluate cooling and heating electricity savings •



Heating electricity

Insulation towards exterior case parametric study

- Above case 5. Colorado Earth: Insulation towards exterior is used to conduct a parametric assessment
- Insulation R-value (ft².°F.h/BTU) is varied here to evaluate cooling and heating electricity savings



Brick solutions: Zone and wall surface temperature



- Wall surface temperature fluctuation reduces due to thermal mass of the EcoBlock
- Brick+Insulation reduces the temperature fluctuation as well as reduces the temperature difference between the wall and the zone

1. Baseline 2x6 Frame

				Thermal		R
	Density	Specific heat		conductivity	R-SI	(Ft2·°F·h/BT
Baseline	(kg/m3)	(J/kg.K)	thickness (m)	(W/m.K)	(m2·K/W)	U)
Syn stucco	400.00	878.64	0.00	0.09	0.04	0.20
Wall sheathing insulation	20.10	1465.42	0.03	0.04	0.88	5.00
OSB	544.62	1213.36	0.01	0.12	0.10	0.54
Wall consol insulation	<mark>120.80</mark>	<mark>1036.30</mark>	0.14	<mark>0.06</mark>	2.44	13.88
Drywall	800.92	1087.80	0.01	0.16	0.08	0.45
SUM			0.20		3.53	20.07



Effective property values for the layer

2. EcoBlox + Perlite cavity

	Density	Specific heat		Thermal conductivity	R-SI	R /E+2.°E.h/BT
Colorado Earth - perlite	(kg/m3)	(J/kg.K)	thickness (m)	(W/m.K)	(m2·K/W)	U)
Lime plaster	1700.00	900.00	0.02	0.25	0.09	0.50
EcoBlock	<mark>2103.66</mark>	<mark>966.66</mark>	0.15	<mark>0.14</mark>	1.09	6.18
Perlite	300.00	387.00	0.08	0.04	1.91	10.82
EcoBlock	<mark>2103.66</mark>	<mark>966.66</mark>	0.15	<mark>0.14</mark>	1.09	6.18
Lime plaster	1700.00	900.00	0.02	0.25	0.09	0.50
SUM			0.42		4.26	24.17





Effective property values for the layer

3. EcoBlox + Exterior Insulation

				Thermal		R
Colorado Earth - with	Density	Specific heat		conductivity	R-SI	(Ft2·°F·h/BT
insulation	(kg/m3)	(J/kg.K)	thickness (m)	(W/m.K)	(m2·K/W)	U)
Lime plaster	1700.00	900.00	0.02	0.25	0.09	0.50
Rockwool insulation	120.00	1036.30	0.05	0.04	1.41	8.01
EcoBlock	<mark>2103.66</mark>	<mark>966.66</mark>	0.15	<mark>0.14</mark>	1.09	6.18
EcoBlock	<mark>2103.66</mark>	<mark>966.66</mark>	0.15	<mark>0.14</mark>	1.09	6.18
Lime plaster	1700.00	900.00	0.02	0.25	0.09	0.50
SUM			0.40		3.76	21.37







Dynamic Air Layer

				Thermal		R
	Density	Specific heat		conductivity	R-SI	(Ft2·°F·h/BT
Colorado Earth - air moving	(kg/m3)	(J/kg.K)	thickness (m)	(W/m.K)	(m2·K/W)	U)
Lime plaster	1700.00	900.00	0.02	0.25	0.09	0.50
EcoBlox	<mark>2103.66</mark>	<mark>966.66</mark>	0.15	0.14	1.09	6.18
Air layer with movement	1.28	1006.00	0.03	<mark>41.00</mark>	0.00	0.00
EcoBlox	<mark>2103.66</mark>	<mark>966.66</mark>	0.15	0.14	1.09	6.18
Lime plaster	1700.00	900.00	0.02	0.25	0.09	0.50
SUM			0.37		2.35	13.36

2. Colorado Earth: Air layer with movement



Static Air Layer

				Thermal		R
	Density	Specific heat		conductivity	R-SI	(Ft2·°F·h/BT
Colorado Earth- static air	(kg/m3)	(J/kg.K)	thickness (m)	(W/m.K)	(m2·K/W)	U)
Lime plaster	1700.00	900.00	0.02	0.25	0.09	0.50
EcoBlox	<mark>2103.66</mark>	<mark>966.66</mark>	0.15	<mark>0.14</mark>	1.09	6.18
Air layer static	1.28	1006.00	0.08	0.02	3.13	17.77
EcoBlox	<mark>2103.66</mark>	<mark>966.66</mark>	0.15	<mark>0.14</mark>	1.09	6.18
Lime plaster	1700.00	900.00	0.02	0.25	0.09	0.50
SUM			0.42		5.48	31.12



Effective property values for the layer

Energy Compliance

Home Energy Rating Certificate Final Report

HERS[®] Index Score:

Your home's HERS score is a relative performance score. The lower the number, the more energy efficient the home. To learn more, visit www.hersindex.com

Your Home's Estimated Energy Use:

	Use [MBtu]	Annual Cost	
Heating	20.5	\$548	
Cooling	1.2	\$39	
Hot Water	2.8	\$79	
Lights/Appliances	25.3	\$732	
Service Charges		\$50	
Generation (e.g. Solar)	-54.0	-\$1,398	
Total:	-4.3	\$50	

Index	Home Feature Summa	ary:
More Energy	Home Type:	Single family detached
150	Model:	N/A
140	Community:	N/A
130	Conditioned Floor Area:	3,295 ft ²
120	Number of Bedrooms:	6
110	Primary Heating System:	Air Source Heat Pump • Electric • 10 HSPF
100	Primary Cooling System:	Air Source Heat Pump • Electric • 18.5 SEER
80	Primary Water Heating:	Residential Water Heater • Electric • 4 Energy Factor
70	House Tightness:	507 CFM50 (0.80 ACH50)
60	Ventilation:	87 CFM • 62 Watts • ERV
50	Duct Leakage to Outside:	Forced Air Ductless
40	Above Grade Walls:	R-17
20	Ceiling:	Vaulted Roof, R-60
10	Window Type:	U-Value: 0.15, SHGC: 0.24
 ⁰1 -4 ĭ	Foundation Walls:	R-20
LehisHeme	Framed Floor:	R-49

Rating Date: 2024-06-20 Registry ID: 148730816 Ekotrope ID: vob3QKXd

Annual Savings

*Relative to an average U.S. hom

Superior, CO 80027 **Builder:** Matteo Rebeschini

Home: 181 Mohawk Cir

This home meets or exceeds the criteria of the following:

ENERGY STAR v3.2 ENERGY STAR v3.1 ENERGY STAR v3 2021 International Energy Conservation Code

Rating Completed by:

Energy Rater: Max Nuttelman RESNET ID: 3685830

Rating Company: Energy Innovations

Rating Provider: Building Efficiency Resources PO Box 1769 Brevard, NC 28712 800-399-9620

Nuttelman, Certified Energy Rater Date: 6/25/24 at 2:05 PM

Ekotrope RATER - Version:4.0.2.3425 The Energy Rating Disclosure for this home is available from the Approved Rating Provider. This report does not constitute any warranty or guarantee.



Blower Door Test 0.7 ACH 50

ekotrope

HERS

Existing Homes

Reference

Zero Energy Home

Basic Terminology

Thermal Mass = Thermal Capacity = ability of a material to absorb, store and release heat while experiencing a temperature change. Direct relationship to density and specific heat. The IECC defines mass walls \rightarrow heat capacity of at least 6 Btu/ft2 x oF (123 kJ/m2 x K)

The higher the **specific heat**, the more energy a material can store with the same temperature change.

Density is related to the volume of a material – the more density, the thinner the material can be. The greater the density of a material, the more energy is required to change the temperature.

Thermal lag = time lag = the rate at which a material absorbs and releases heat, and the temperature change over time. Response of temperature from the surface of the exterior wall to the interior surface of the wall.

Performance vs Prescriptive method of the Energy code

Latent Heat = the amount of energy needed to cause a phase change in a material

The IECC defines mass walls concrete block, concrete, ICF, masonry cavity, brick, adobe, compressed earth block, rammed earth, solid timber, mass timber, or solid logs.