

# 2024 PROJECT PEER REVIEW

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE

## **BTO Peer Review: Next Generation Wall Retrofit Panels w/ Integrated VIPs**

### **Phase 2 & 3:**

Overview of Baseline Data, Manufacturing,  
and Construction



# Next Generation Wall Retrofit Panels w/ Integrated VIPs

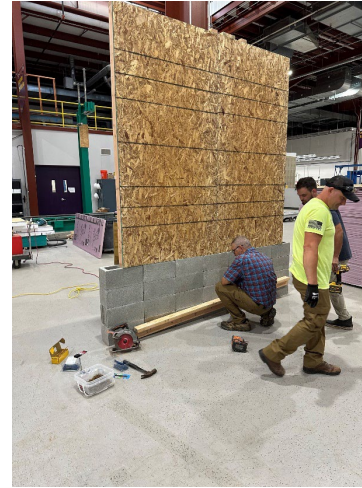
Baseline Data



Manufacturing



Contractor Training



Construction



**Performing Organization:** Home Innovation Research Labs, ORNL, Albany Housing Authority, SIPA, and Va-Q-Tec

**Principal Investigator:** John B. Peavey, Director of Building Science

**Contact Information:** (301) 430-6238 and [jpeavey@homeinnovation.com](mailto:jpeavey@homeinnovation.com)

**DOE Project:** DE-EE0009063

# Project Summary

## OBJECTIVE, OUTCOME, & IMPACT

Focus on improving the energy efficiency of multifamily buildings built between 1920-1980:

- [1] VIP Enhanced – Retrofit Insulated Panel
- [2] Target Existing Affordable Housing
- [3] Target EUI improvement of 70%
- [4] Whole-Building Approach

## TEAM & PARTNERS

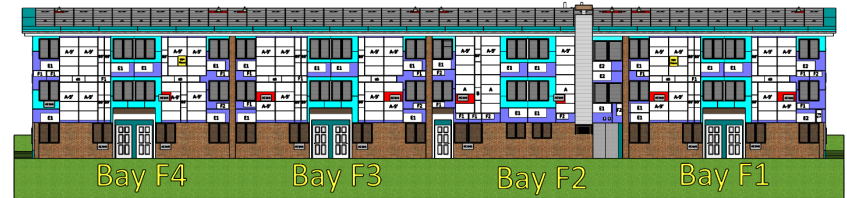
**Technical:** Home Innovation Research Labs, ORNL

**Location:** Albany Housing Authority

**Association:** SIPA

**Manufacturers:** Va-Q-Tec & Panel Wrights LLC

**Field Representative:** LaRocque Services



## STATS

Performance Period: 07/01/2020 – 11/30/2026

DOE Budget: \$4,229k, Cost Share: \$1,613k

Milestone 1: Product Testing

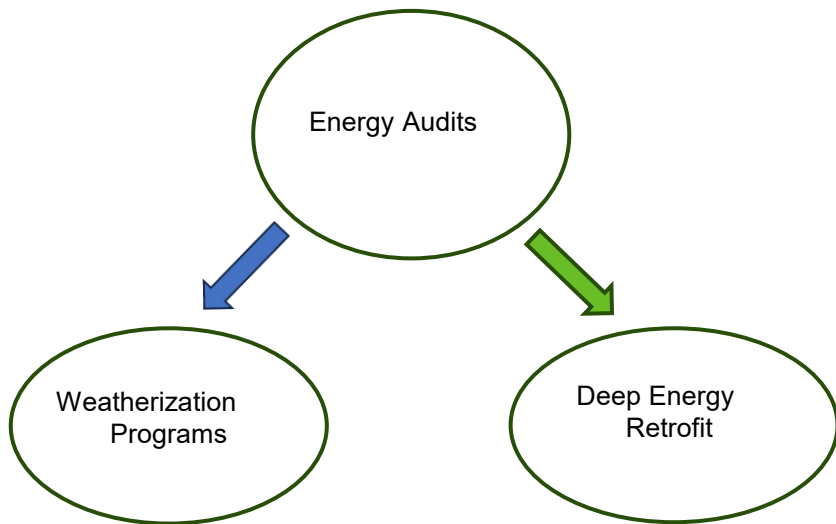
Milestone 2: Effective R-Value (R26-R33)

Milestone 3: Construction and M&V



# Problem: Reducing Energy Usage in Existing Buildings

Is there value in improving the energy usage in existing buildings? **Yes**



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## Half of Our Nation's Buildings > 40 Years Old



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2012 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey

### Residential Buildings

Characteristics	Estimate (millions)
Single Family	80
2 to 4	10
5 or more	20
Mobile/Trailer	7
Total Occupied Units	118
Year Structure Built	
2010 to 2015	4
2005 to 2009	8
2000 to 2004	9
1990s	15
1980s	16
1970s	18
1960s	13
1950s	13
1940s	6
1930s	4
1920s	5
pre-1920	8
Median Year Built	1976

- ✓ Updating our existing buildings generally beats building new efficient ones (from lifecycle energy perspective)
- ✓ Depending on assumptions...takes between 10 to 80 years to make up the energy used during construction

**Source:**

Excerpt from DOE Presentation  
Joan Glickman (February 5, 2020)





# Problem: Reducing Energy Usage in Existing Buildings

The current challenges with Deep Energy Retrofits is well known...

- Too Slow
- Too Disruptive
- Too Costly
- Too Short on energy savings
- How can we encourage or incentivize existing building owners to do deep energy retrofits?
- Can innovative solutions be implemented and realized within 3-5 years?

**Source:**

Excerpt from DOE Presentation  
Joan Glickman (February 5, 2020)

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## Current Approach Won't Cut It

Energy retrofits today are...



- ✓ Too slow
- ✓ Too disruptive
- ✓ Too costly
- ✓ Too short on energy savings
- ✓ Not commoditized...  
*"I can't buy it on Amazon"*

For these reasons, **retrofits** are few and far between, **unappealing to majority of home owners** and **building owners**

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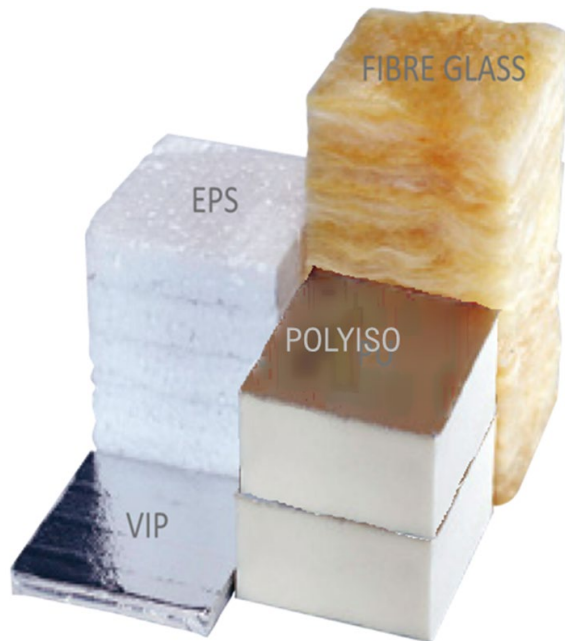


# Alignment and Impact: The Innovation

## New Building Product: Thinner Insulation Products w/ Higher R-Value

### Next Generation Retrofit Insulated Panel

- Modify existing product to make it perform better.
- A Thinner Panel is easier to use for retrofit projects
- Leverage the existing supply chain.
- Demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the solution and if existing incentive programs are enough to support the renovations.

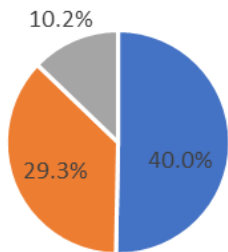




# Alignment and Impact: The Case Study

## Creighton Storey Homes Apartments

Energy Savings  
Based on Preliminary Survey Information



- R-40 VIP Walls
- R-60 Ceiling, U-0.25 Windows, & 3 ACH50
- HVAC and Water Heater (95 AFUE, 15 CEER, 0.95 UEF WH)

## Benefits to Communities

- **Equity:** Focus on older multifamily housing to reduce energy bills for low- and middle income households.
- **Affordability:** For housing authorities, reduce operating costs (50-70% EUI).
- **Resilience:** Improve the structure (roof and wall connections when possible).



# Approach: Deep Energy Retrofits (Exterior Insulation)



Using Retrofit Nail Base Panels to improve insulation in the building envelope

Source: Capitol Woods Development (2015)  
(Multifamily Apartment Units owned by Albany Housing Authority)

## Existing Product: Retrofit Insulated Panel

### EPS Foam or Neopor

R-Value: 3.5 per inch to 4.5 per inch

### Limitations:

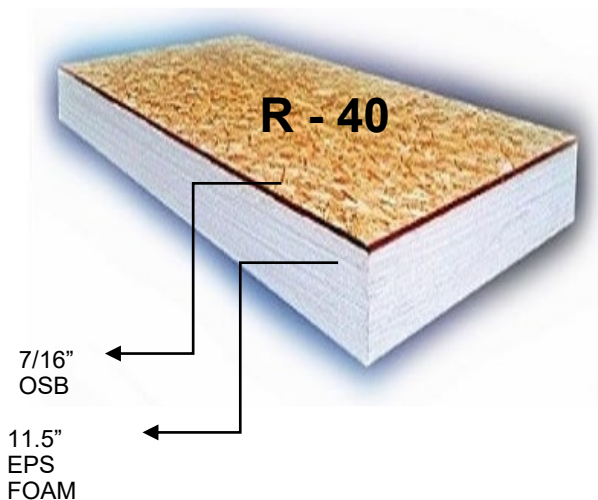
- \*Panel Thickness
- \*Wall Façade
- \*Windows
- \*Cost



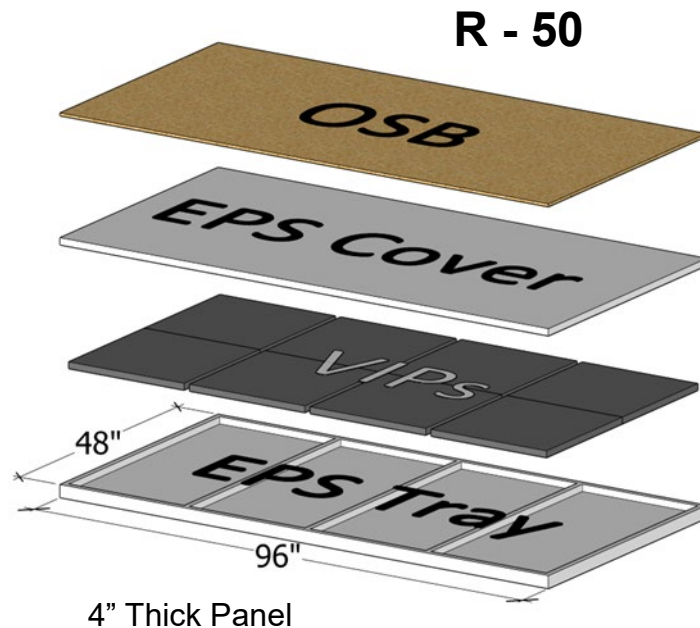


# Approach: Next Generation of Retrofit Insulated Panel

## Existing Product

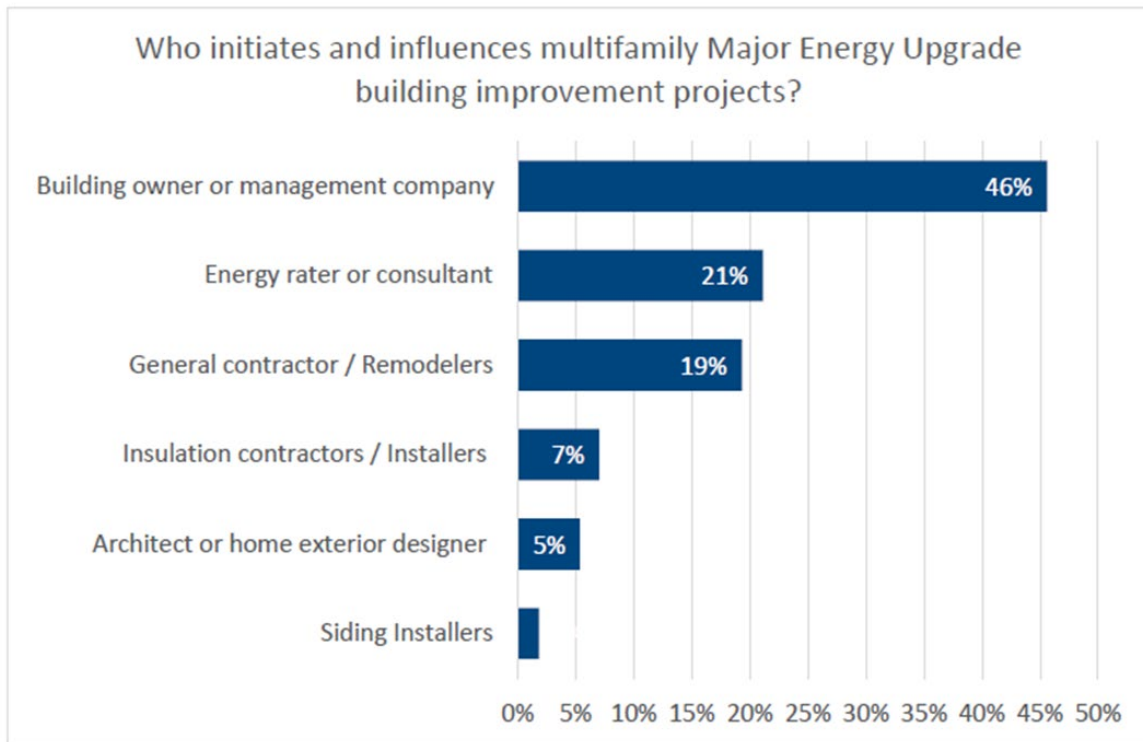


## Next Generation Product



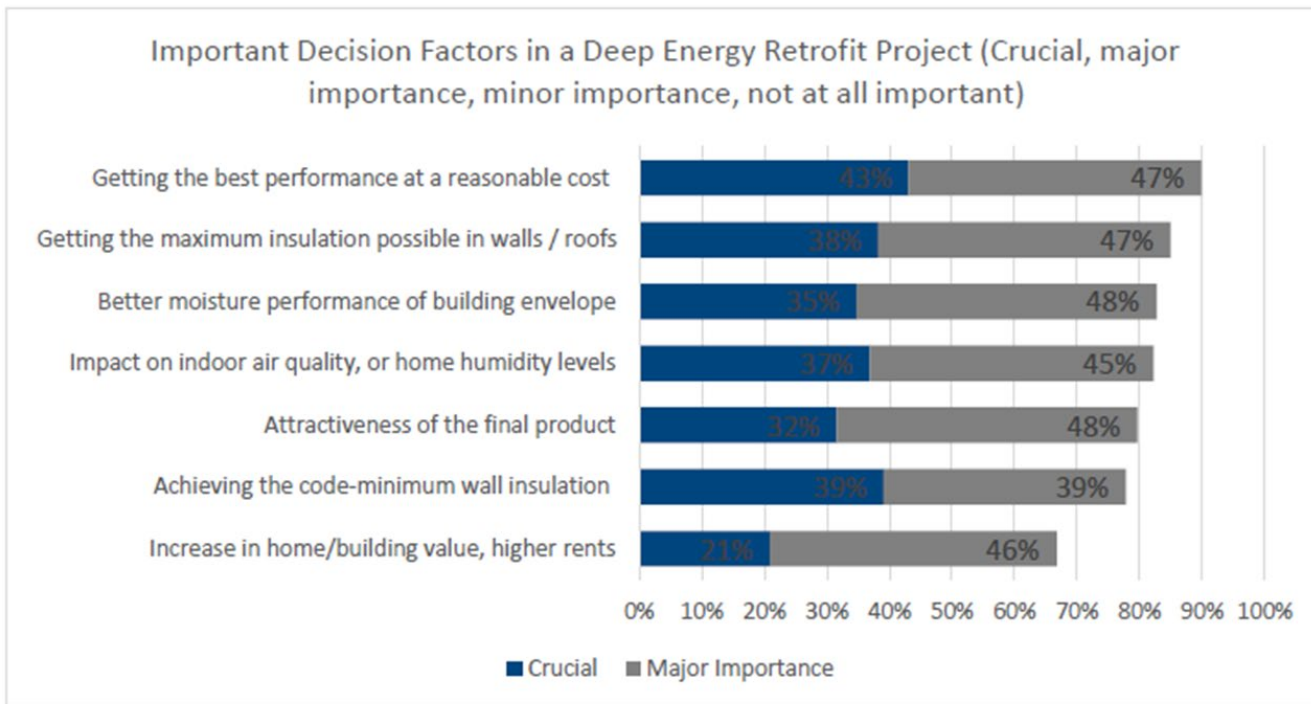


## Approach: Market Research – Who are the Decision Makers



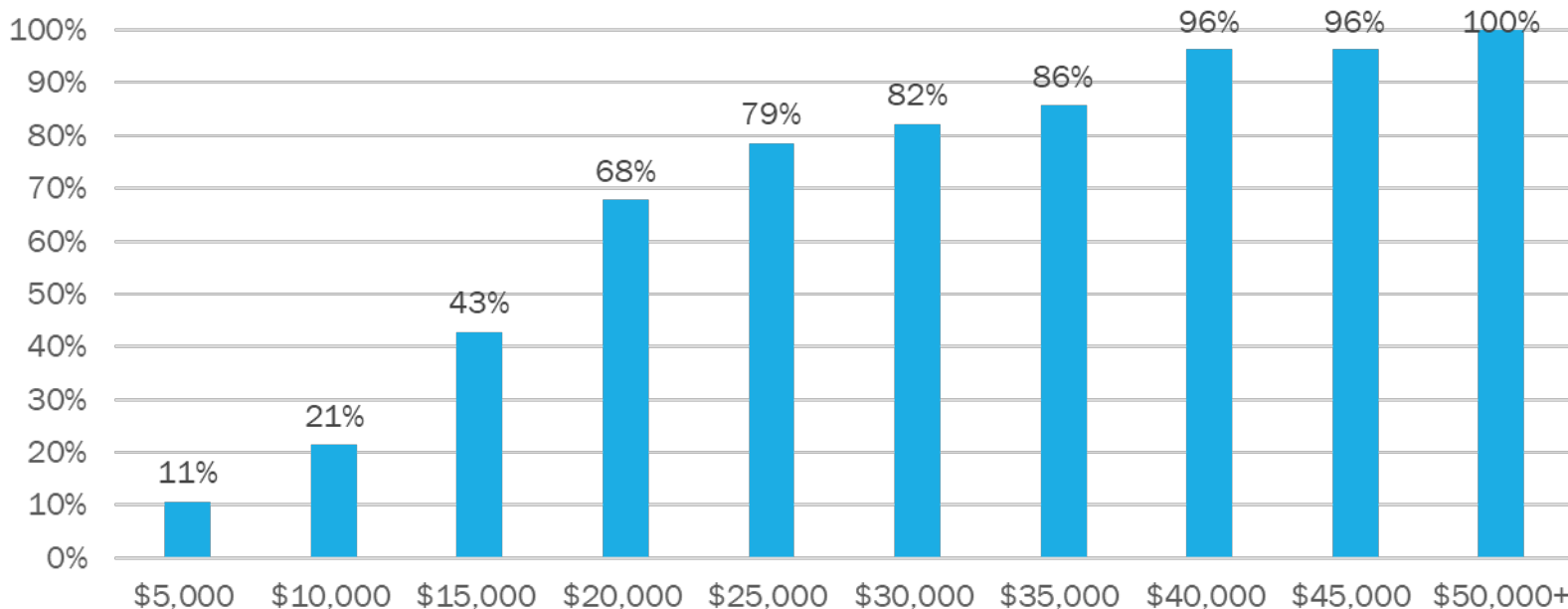


# Approach: Market Research – Value Proposition





## Approach: Market Research – Do Incentives Drive Retrofits?



*Q21. What is the minimum subsidy PER APARTMENT OR LIVING UNIT that would be sufficient for you to INITIATE A DEEP ENERGY RETROFIT for buildings your company owns to take advantage of the subsidy?*



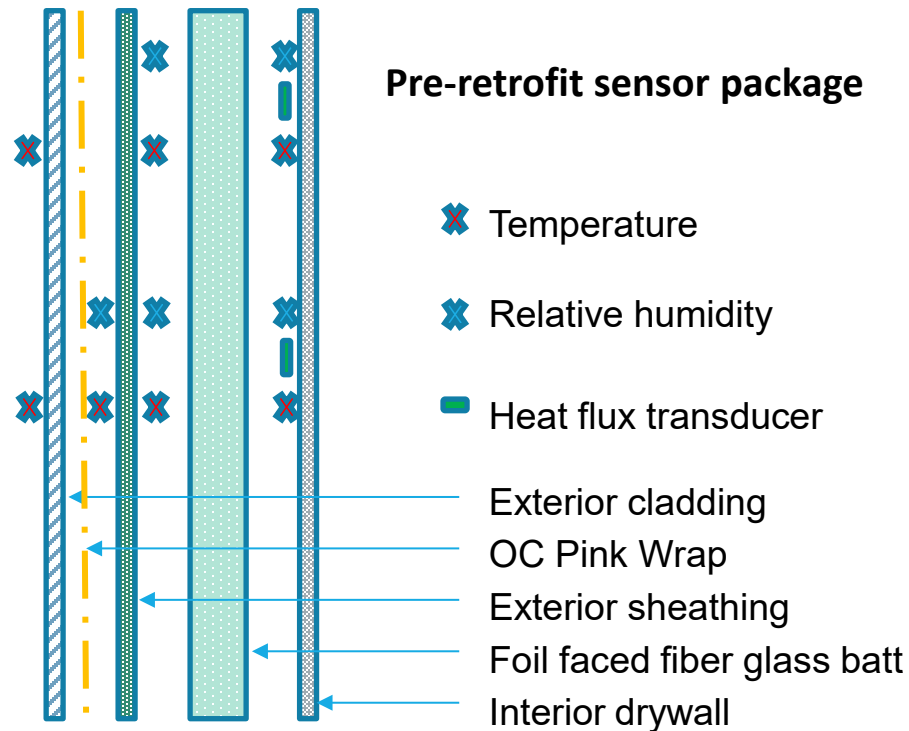
# Approach: Creighton Storey Homes – Exterior Sensors



1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Apartment [Front]



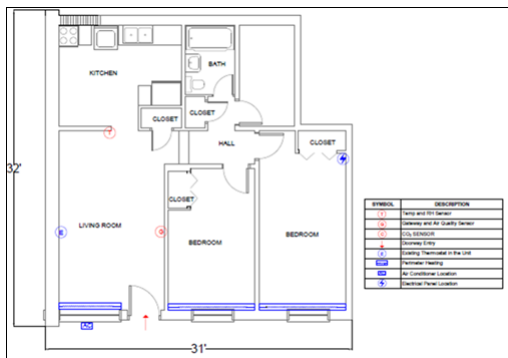
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Apartment [Back]







# Approach: Creighton Storey Homes – Interior Sensors



(17) of 30 Apartments

(21) Months of Baseline Performance Data

Voluntary Participants  
(Using IRB Survey)

## Sensor Package: Energy and Indoor Air Quality Monitoring

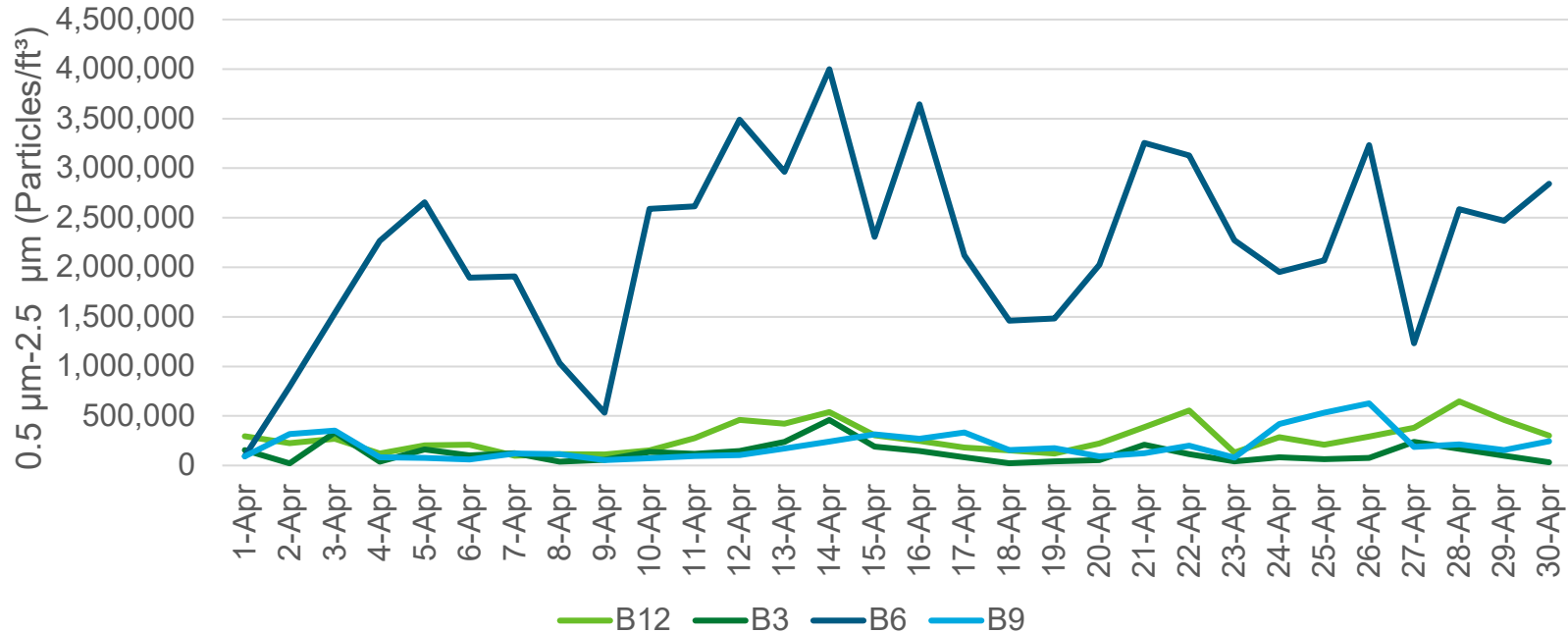
Model	Description
Omnisense G-7	Gateway, CO Sensor, Particle Counter
Omnisense S-19	CO2 Sensor
Omnisense S-2-2	T&RH Sensor
Omnisense S-60	Wireless Energy Meter (AC)
Monnit MNS2-9-IN-3P-500	500 AMP 3 Phase Energy Meter (Whole Building)





# Progress and Future Work: Baseline Data

Particle Sizes ranges between 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  – 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  (Particles per  $\text{ft}^3$ )



IAQ - Four Units from One Multifamily Building (Albany, NY) – April 2023: Baseline Particulate Data



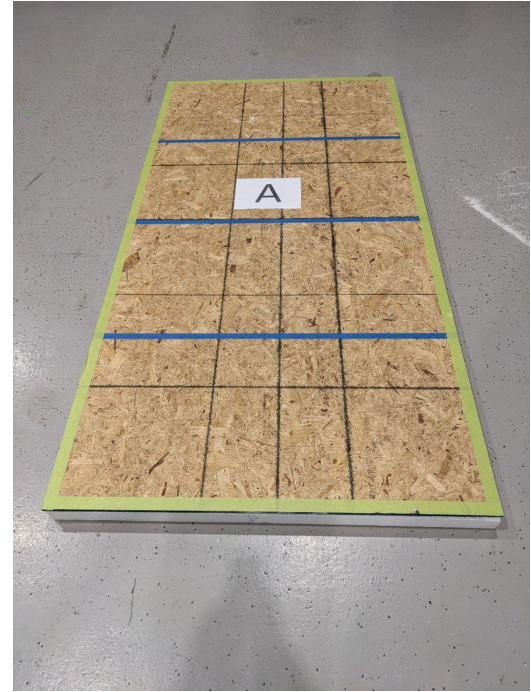
# Progress and Future Work: Manufacturing



CNC Machining



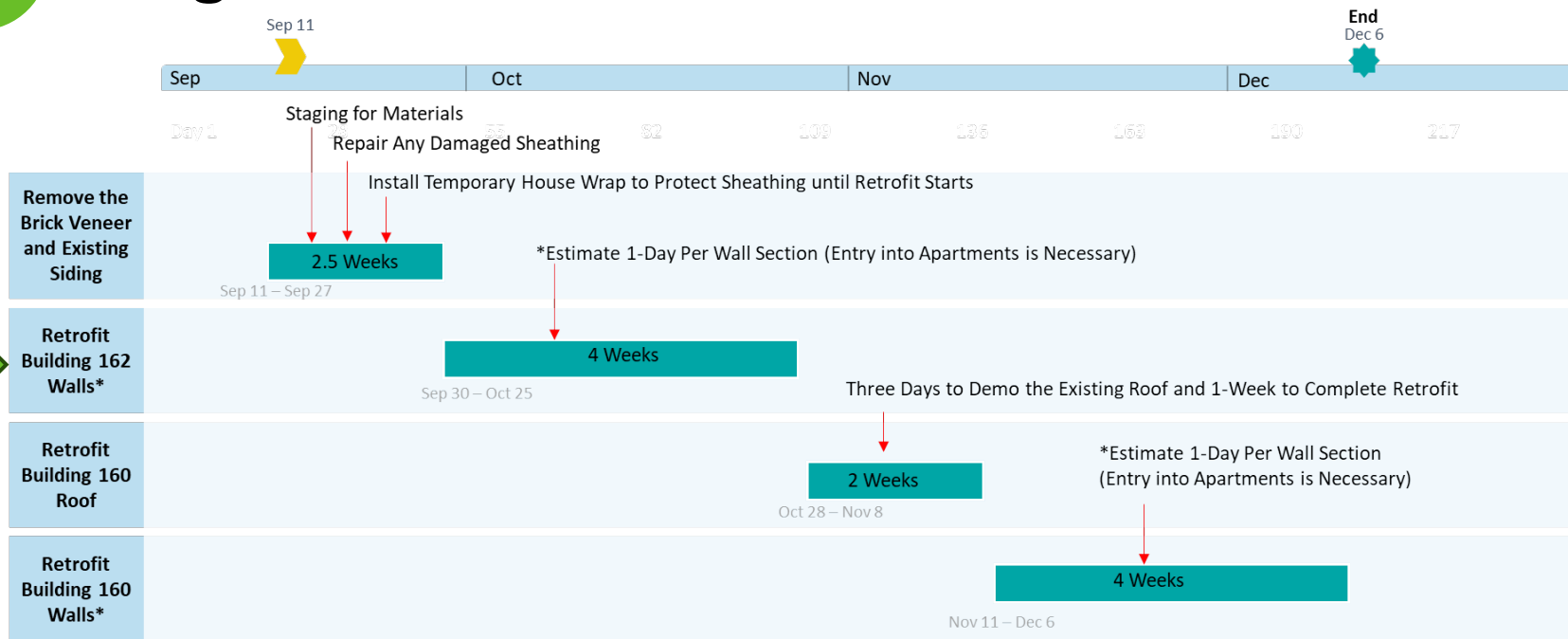
Glue & Press Panels



Next-Gen Panels



# Progress and Future Work: Construction Schedule



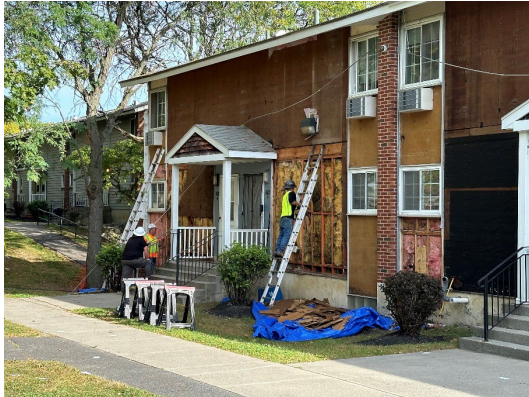
\*Notify Tenants a minimum 48-Hours before Work Starts in their Apartment

- Provide \$100 Gift Cards during the Week of September 16<sup>th</sup>
- Provide \$50 Gift Cards when Cable is Interrupted





# Progress and Future Work: Construction



Demolition & Repair Complete

## Next Steps:

- \*Complete Retrofit
- \*Monitor Bldgs. for 12 Months
- \*Data Analysis (Before & After)
- \*Issue Commercialization Kit
- \*Final Technical Report
- \*Conduct Outreach Decision Makers





# Thank you

- **Performing Organization:**  
Home Innovation Research Labs  
and Oak Ridge National Labs
- **Principal Investigator:**  
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Director of Building Science
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- **DOE Project:** DE-EE0009063



*Home Innovation Research Labs*

# Reference Slides





# Project Execution

	FY2023				FY2024				FY2025			
Planned Budget	\$1.5 Million				\$2 Million				\$750 K			
Spent Budget	\$1.5 Million				\$1.5 Million							
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>PAST WORK - COMPLETE</b>												
Milestone: Product Testing												
Milestone: Product Manufacturing												
Milestone: Baseline Energy [Exterior & Interior] and IAQ Data												
<b>Current/Future Work</b>												
Milestone: Construction												
Milestone: Commercialization Kit												
Milestone: 1-Year Monitoring and Data Analysis												
Milestone: Outreach - Key Decision Makers and Incentive Programs												
Milestone: Final Technical Report												

Until FY 2026

FUTURE ->>>



# Team



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