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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ASHRAE

American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers

Organization that sets HVAC standards including for energy modeling, predicting temperature comfort & providing fresh air.

BMP

Best Management Practice

Standards around approaches to addressing sources of storm water runoff and pollution.

CBES

Commercial Building Energy Standard

The energy code for all commercial buildings and larger residential buildings in Vermont.

Charrette

An intensive collaborative design session usually lasting half a day or longer.

COMCHECK

Software used to demonstrate compliance with CBES.

EPD

Environmental Product Declaration

Third party verified declaration of product ingredients with LCA report . May be for a broad product category or for specific products.

ESG

Published Environmental, Societal and Governance disclosure for a real estate property portfolio.

GBCI

Green Building Certification Institute

Organization that performs reviews for LEED, EDGE, PEER, WELL, SITES, Parksmart and GRESB.

LCA

Life Cycle Assessment

Modeled inputs and outputs of a particular type measured from extraction of materials through a given time span after construction, generally 20 years or longer. Evaluation is based on industry data and is similar to an energy model for considerations such as global warming potential, ozone depletion, acidification, eutrophication or depletion of nonrenewable resources.

LCC or LCCA

Life Cycle Cost Assessment

Modeled anticipated costs from capital investment through a given time frame, generally 10 years or longer. Note difference from LCA.

NPV

Net Present Value

The value calculated by subtracting cash outflows, including initial investment, from the present value of cash inflows over a specific period of time.

NZEB

Net Zero Energy Building

A grid connected building where the total amount of energy used by the building on an annual basis equals the amount of renewable energy created on the site.

ROI

Return on Investment

The gain or loss generated on an investment relative to the amount of money invested, measured over a specific period of time.

SEER

Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio

A measure of equipment efficiency, with higher values being more efficient.

SHGC

Solar Heat Gain Co-efficient

The radiant transmittance of a window resulting in heating a space in sunshine. Higher values allow more heat to enter.

THERM

A 2D energy modeling tool for assessing heat transfer and condensation risk at building details (all caps), or a measurement of energy content equal to burning 100 cubic feet of natural gas.

U-Factor

A measure of conductivity of a product or assembly. Lower U-factors have greater resistance to heat flow and are better insulating.

USGBC

United States Green Building Council

Organization which establishes and updated the rating systems GBCI reviews. Established in 1993, the largest green building standards organization.

VOC

Volatile Organic Compounds

Carbon containing molecules that easily become vapors or gases. Added to products for benefits they provide to material's physical performance characteristics. Many known as are harmful to health, and many have unknown health impacts.

WUFI

A 2D energy modeling tool for assessing heat flow and moisture movement in wall assemblies throughout a year based on seasonal weather data.