



# The PSPC process for setting low-carbon design targets

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# Outline

1. Drivers
2. Key Concepts
3. Methodology
4. Sample GHG Reduction Measures
5. Study Results
6. Conclusion

# 1. Drivers

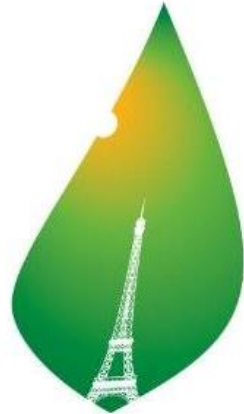
**Can we make a business case  
for Carbon Neutral Buildings?**

# Future Financial Impacts with Climate Change

Climate Change	Do Something Today	Do Nothing
Not Real	\$	
Real	\$	\$\$\$

# Drivers

## PARIS AGREEMENT



PARIS2015  
CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES  
SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES  
COP21•CMP11

*Limit temperature  
increase to **2.0 °C***

## PAN-CANADIAN FRAMEWORK



**on Clean Growth  
and Climate Change**

Canada's Plan to Address Climate  
Change and Grow the Economy

***30% reduction on emissions***



# Ontario's Climate Action Goals



\* below 1990 greenhouse gas emission levels

\*\* based on the 2016 National Inventory Report

## Federal Commitments

### Greening Government Strategy:

- By 2050: 80% reduction** in GHG emissions from facilities and fleet relative to 2005
- By 2022:** all new facilities will be **net-zero carbon ready**

### PSPC's Real Estate Portfolio:

- Goal to achieve **carbon neutral** footprint by 2030



## 2. Key Concepts

## Natural Gas vs. Electricity in Ontario

	Energy Cost	GHG Emissions
Electricity	\$ \$ \$ \$	
Natural Gas	\$	

Natural gas has **4-5x** more GHG emissions than electricity (right now)

Electricity costs **4-5x** more than natural gas (right now)

# Definition of Carbon Neutrality



## ZERO CARBON BALANCE

Emissions

Green  
Power

Direct

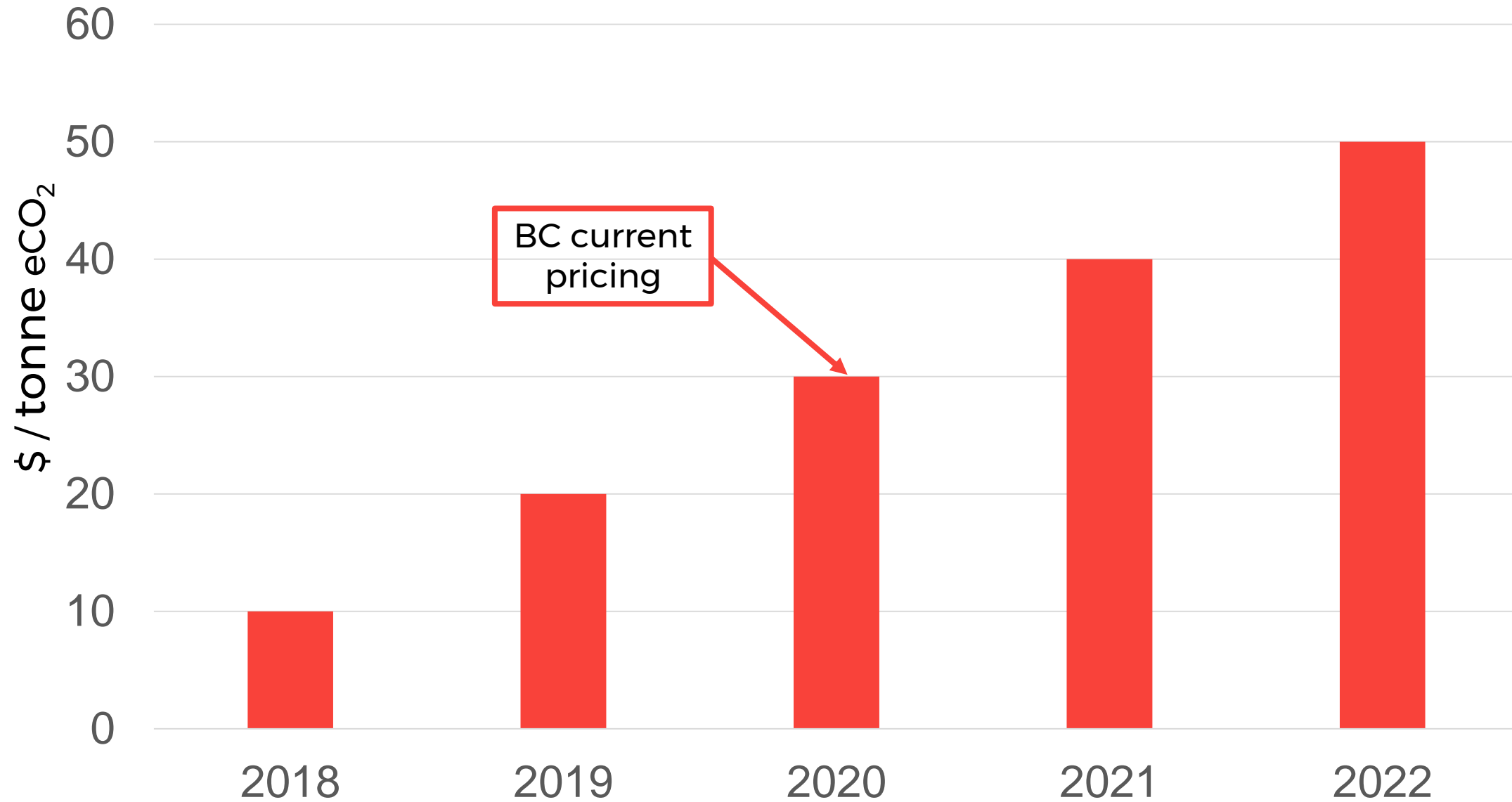
Indirect

Biomass

Offsite

Onsite

# Federal Government's Plan for Carbon Pricing



# Carbon Pricing Science



CLIMATE POLICY

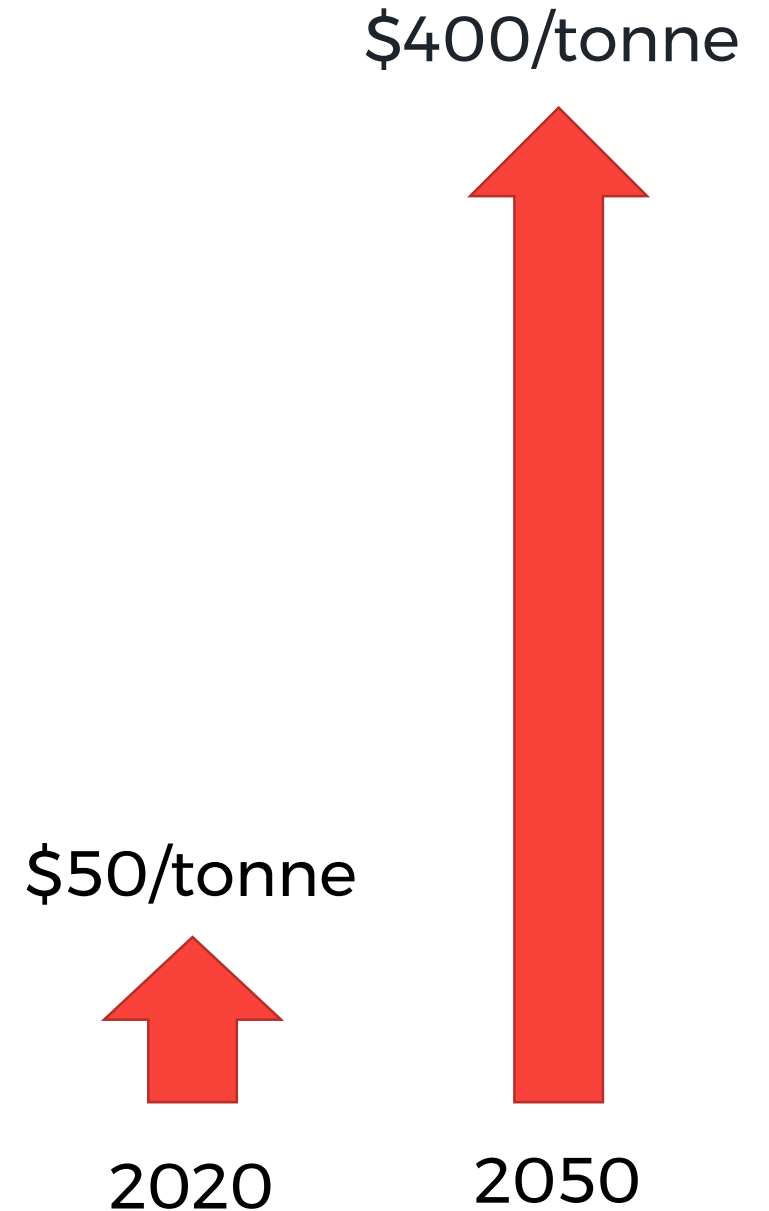
## *A roadmap for rapid decarbonization*

Emissions inevitably approach zero with a “carbon law”

By Johan Rockström,<sup>1</sup> Owen Gaffney,<sup>1,2</sup>  
Joeri Rogelj,<sup>3,4</sup> Malte Meinshausen,<sup>5,6</sup>  
Nebojsa Nakicenovic,<sup>3</sup> Hans Joachim  
Schellnhuber<sup>1,5</sup>

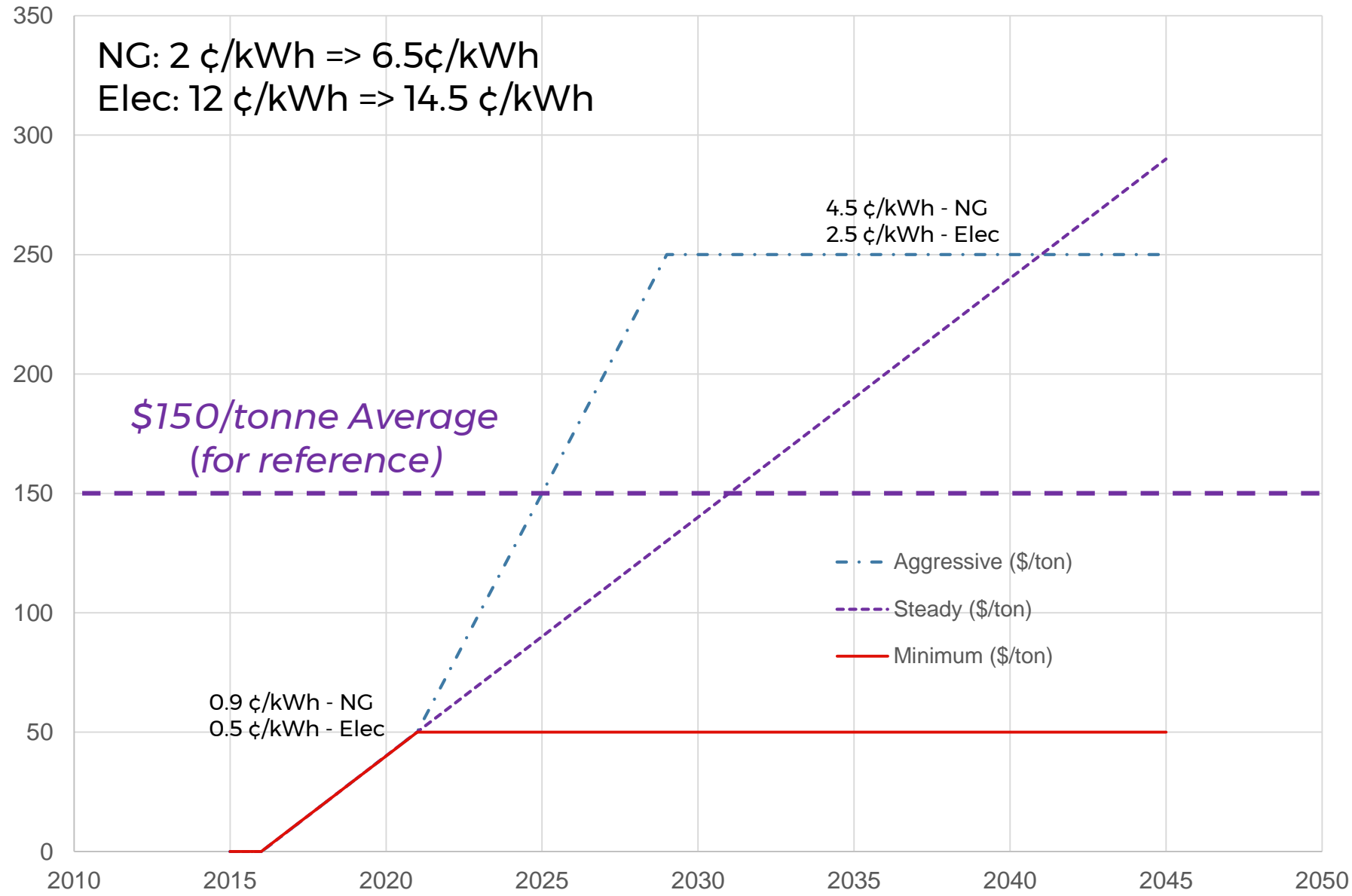
**A**lthough the Paris Agreement's goals (1) are aligned with science (2) and can, in principle, be technically and economi-

pose framing the decarbonization challenge in terms of a global decadal roadmap based on a simple heuristic—a “carbon law”—of halving gross anthropogenic carbon-dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions every decade. Complemented by immediately instigated, scalable carbon removal and efforts to ramp down land-use CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, this can lead to net-

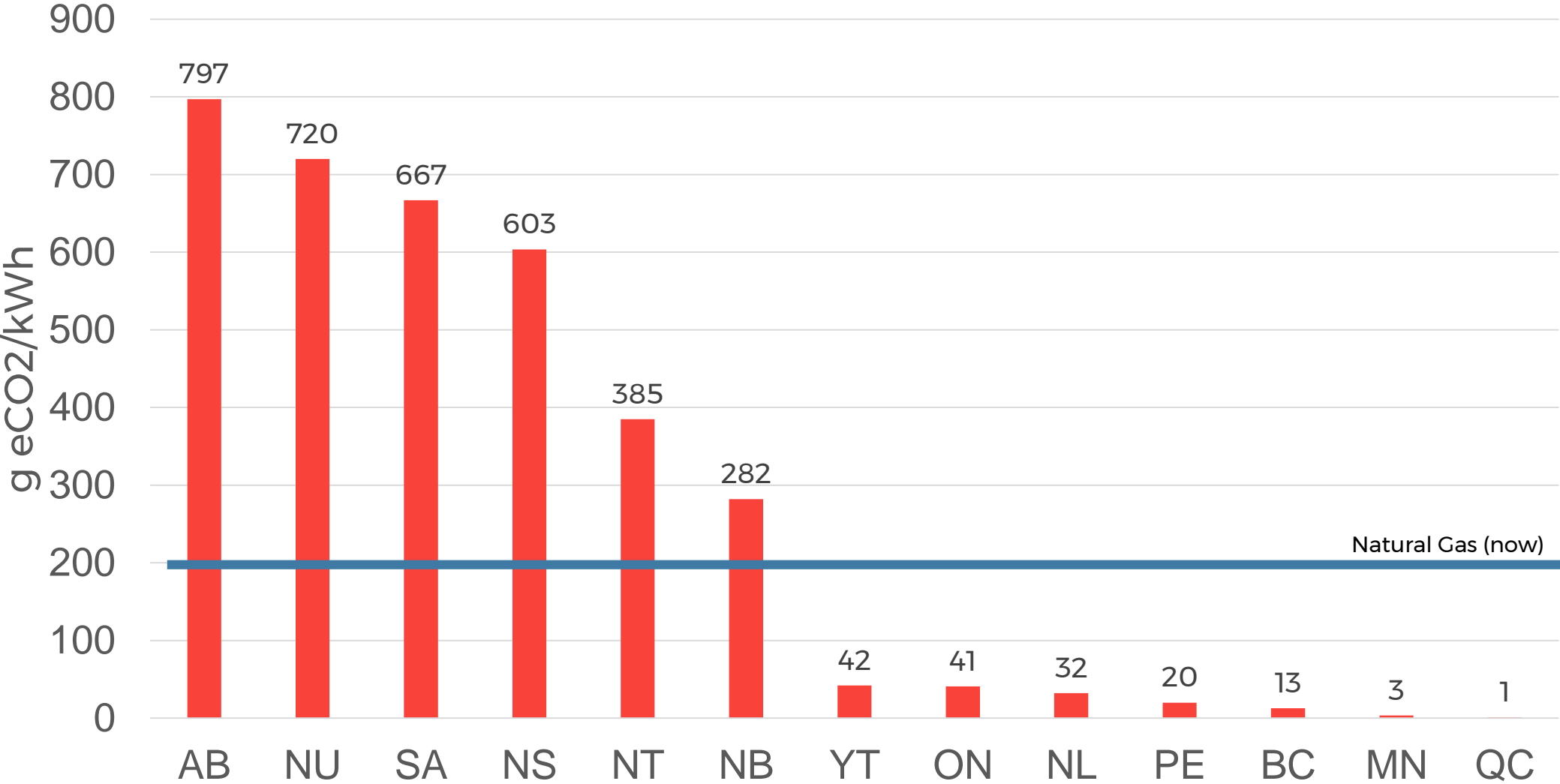


*Science*, 2017, 355:6331, pp 1269-71

# Carbon Pricing after 2022?



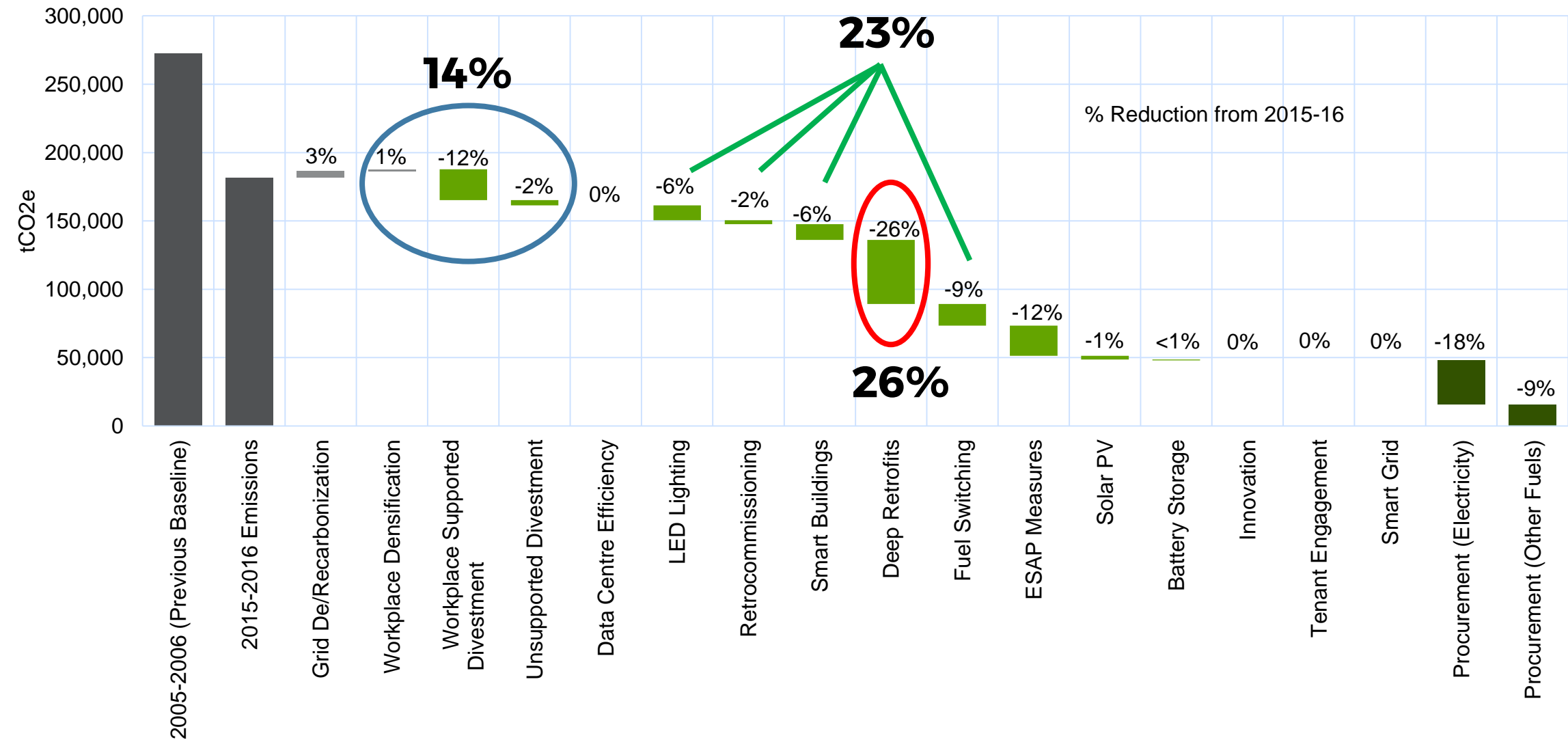
# Electricity Grid Carbon Intensity Province-by-Province (2015)





## 2. Methodology

# Portfolio Level: PSPC National Perspective



# PSPC's Priorities for Carbon Neutrality

Efficiency first



Strategic fuel switching  
Installation of renewables on-site



Procurement of off-site renewables (e.g.,  
RECs)



**ZERO CARBON  
BUILDING STANDARD**

Canada Green Building Council®

May 2017

# Process Followed

(Multi-Disciplinary Project)



# Process Followed

(Multi-Disciplinary Project)

1

- Define Code Reference
- Define Minimum

## Option 1: Minimum Departmental Commitments

- 24%-28% better than NECB 2015
- LEED v4 BD+C Silver/Gold Certification
- PSPC Technical Reference for Office Buildings

## Process Followed

(Multi-Disciplinary Project)

2a

### Generate Measures

#### 30-40 Measures

- Enclosure
- Space
- HVAC – Delivery
- HVAC – Plant
- Renewable Energy

*Including “**Moonshot**” Ideas.*

## Process Followed

(Multi-Disciplinary Project)

2b

### Analyze Measures

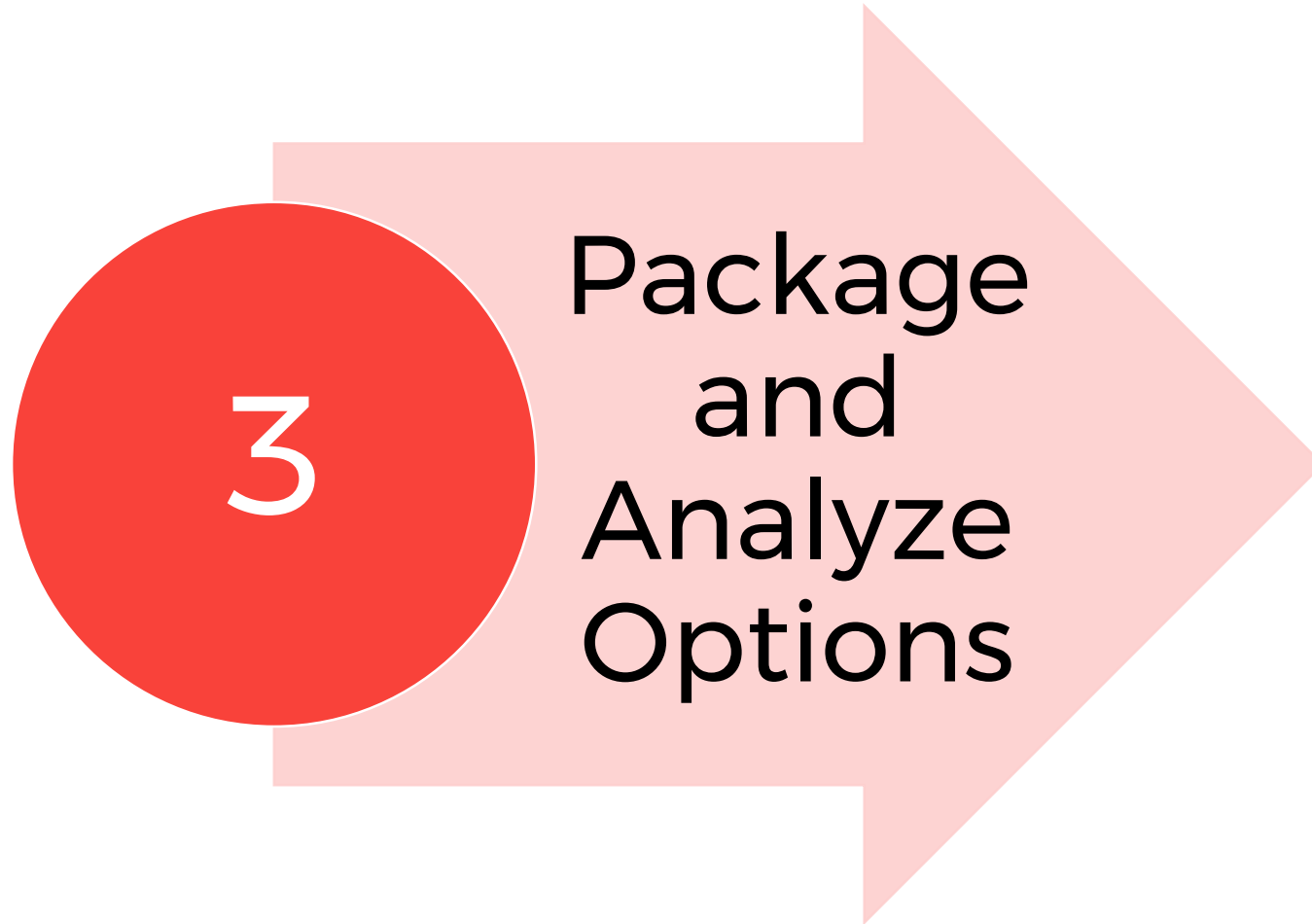
#### Detailed Analysis

- *GHG Reduction Potential*
- *Energy Savings*
- *Financial Metrics*
- Occupant Health & Comfort
- Cost & Operational Risk
- Schedule Impact



## Process Followed

(Multi-Disciplinary Project)



### **Option 2**

Design to achieve Cost-Neutral (25 years – NPV) GHG Reductions

### **Option 3**

Design to Achieve Maximum GHG Reductions

### **Option 4**

Hybrid GHG Emissions and Reductions Design

**Best value for YOUR money.**

# Performance Metrics

Thermal Energy Demand Intensity (TEDI)

*Unit: kWh/m<sup>2</sup>*

*Indicates enclosure & HVAC delivery perf.*

$$\frac{\text{Heating load}}{\text{Gross floor area}}$$

Total Energy Use Intensity (TEUI)

*Unit: kWh/m<sup>2</sup>*

GHG Intensity (GHGI)

*Unit: kg eCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>*

Incremental Capital Cost

Incremental Life Cycle Cost

# Incremental Life Cycle Costing (LCC)

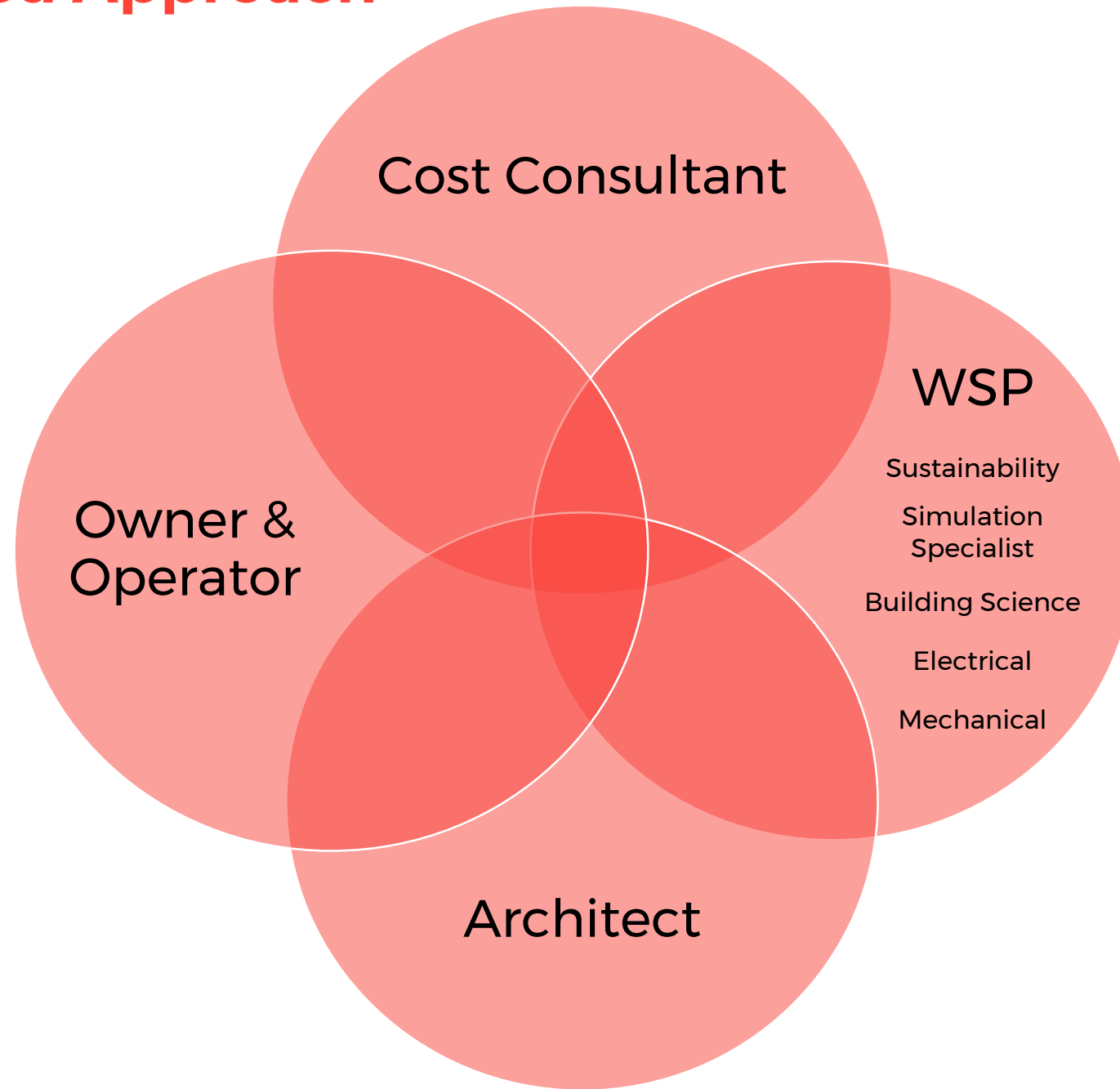
25 year study

Variables assessed:

- *Inflation*
- *Discount rate*
- *Capital cost (and replacement cost)*
- *Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs*
- *Energy cost and future increases*
- *Carbon price*



# Integrated Approach



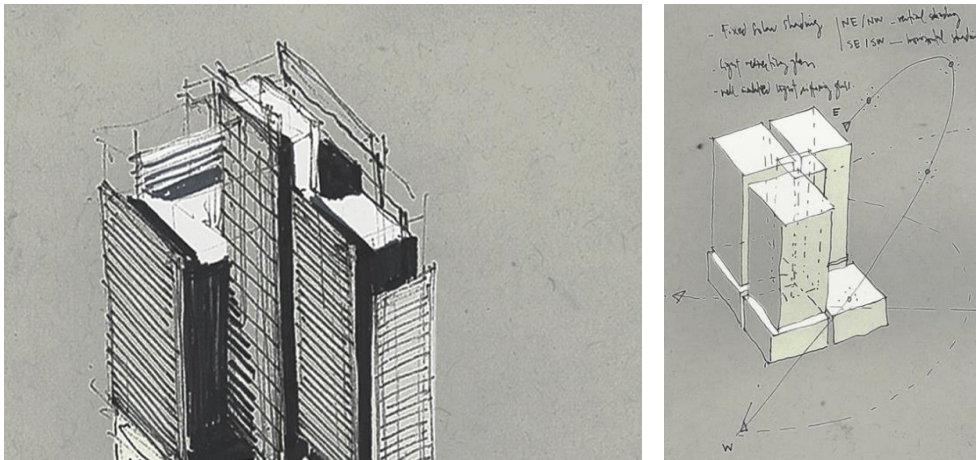
# Case Study 1: Major Retrofit Ottawa, ON



<b>Space Type</b>	Commercial office
<b>Size</b>	72,000 m <sup>2</sup> 10 Storeys
<b>Min. Targets</b>	➤ LEED v4 Silver ➤ 40% reduction in carbon



Case Study 2:  
New Construction / Expansion  
Vancouver



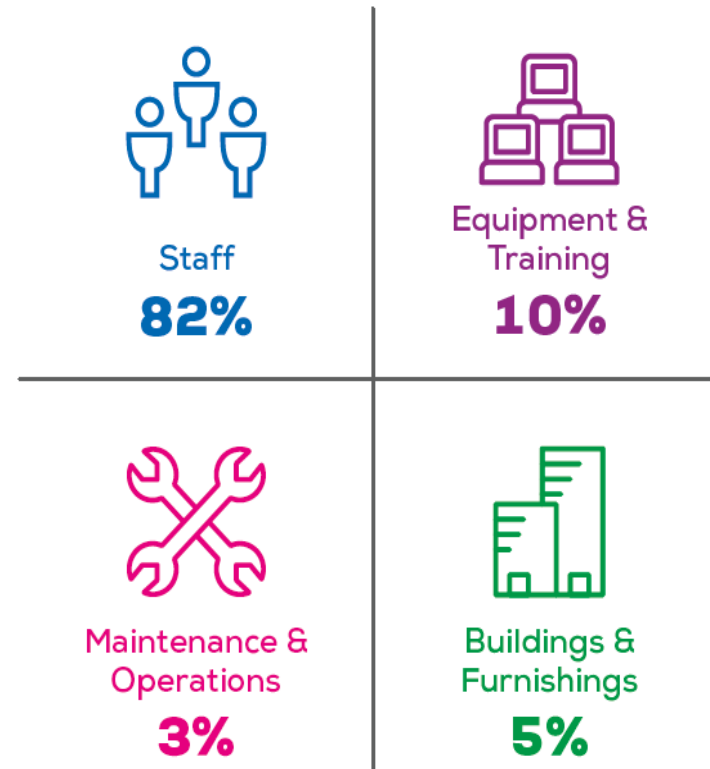
<b>Space Type</b>	Commercial office
<b>Size</b>	96,600 m <sup>2</sup> 36 Storeys
<b>Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Use of Wood</li><li>➤ Central Atrium</li><li>➤ Major Expansion</li></ul>
<b>Min. Targets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 2025: 100 ekWh/m<sup>2</sup></li><li>➤ LEED v4 Gold</li></ul>

## 2. Measures



## Space Measures – Future Workplace

Use the buildings part of the budget to enhance the salaries and benefits part of the budget.



*Brill, Weidemann, & BOSTI Associates, 2001*

Space

Empower  
the User

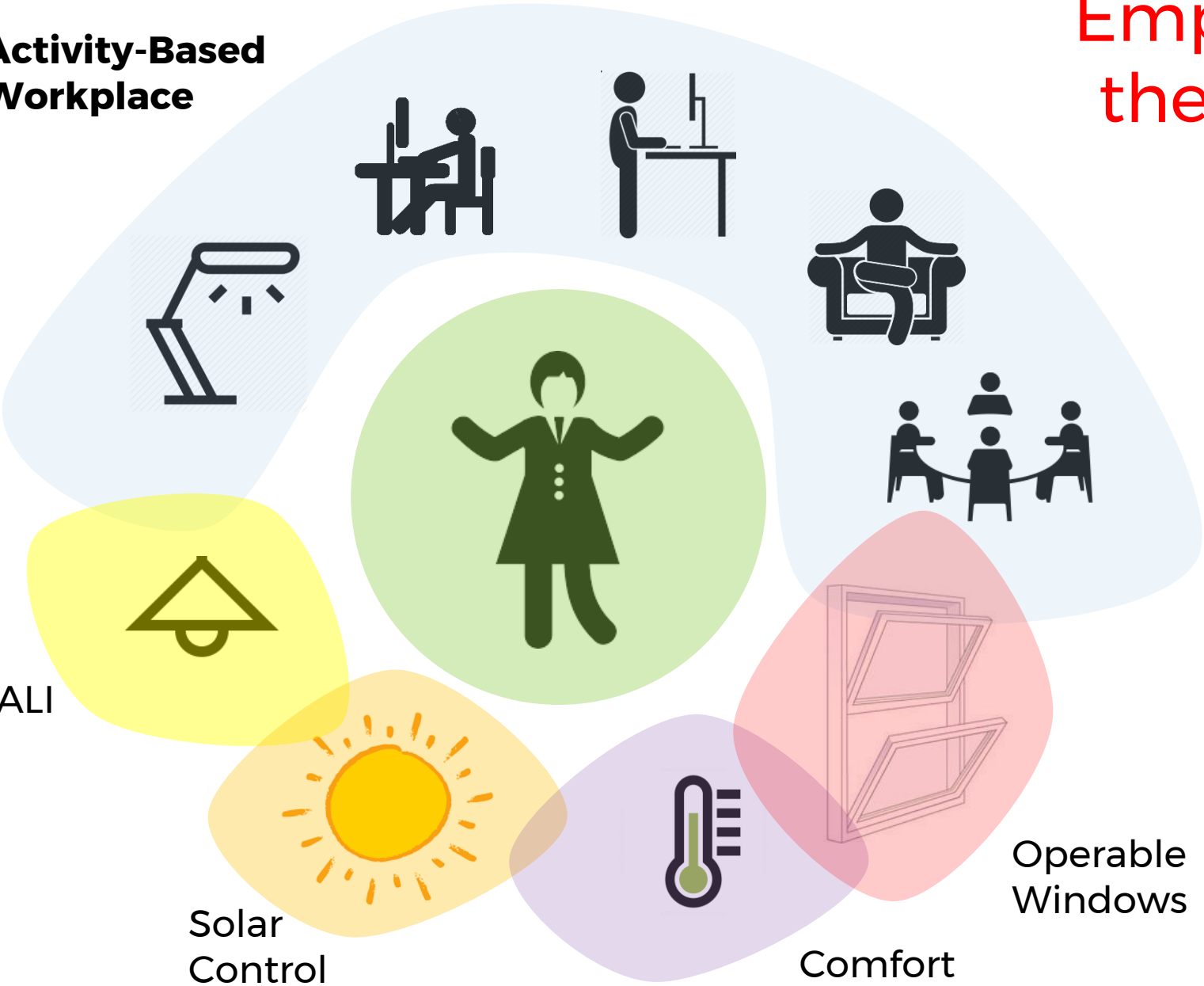
Activity-Based  
Workplace

DALI

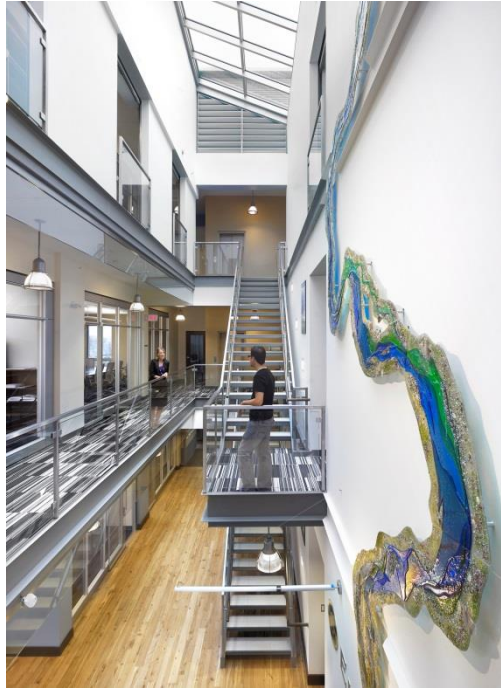
Solar  
Control

Comfort  
Feedback

Operable  
Windows

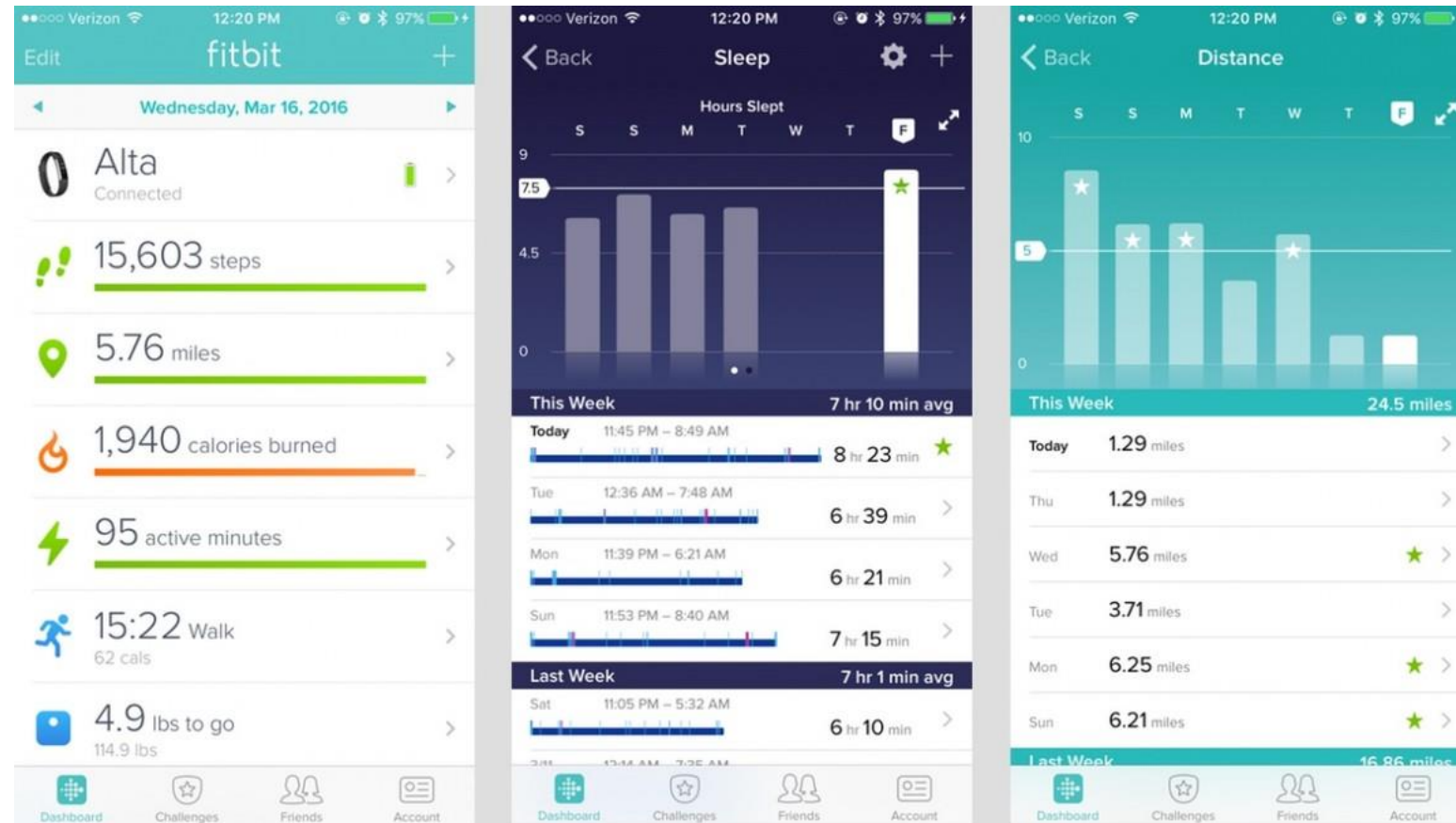


# Space



Space

Empower  
the User

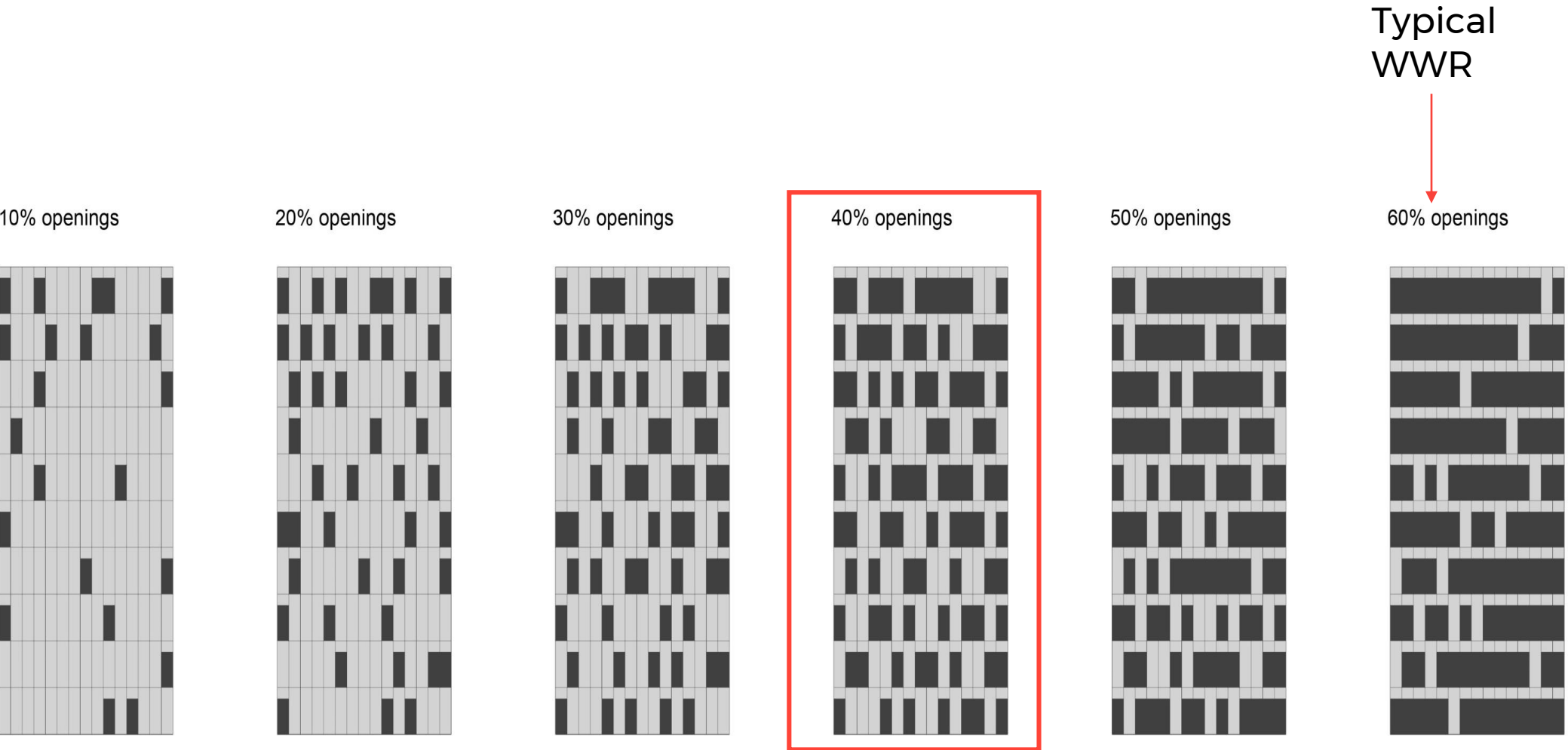


## Overall performance (R-Value) matter's most!

- *Window-to-wall ratio (WWR)*
- *Window performance*
- *Opaque wall performance*
- *Thermal bridging*

*Aim for overall min. average of R-6 to R-10*  
*Many office towers are around R-3*

Overall performance (R-Value) matter's most!



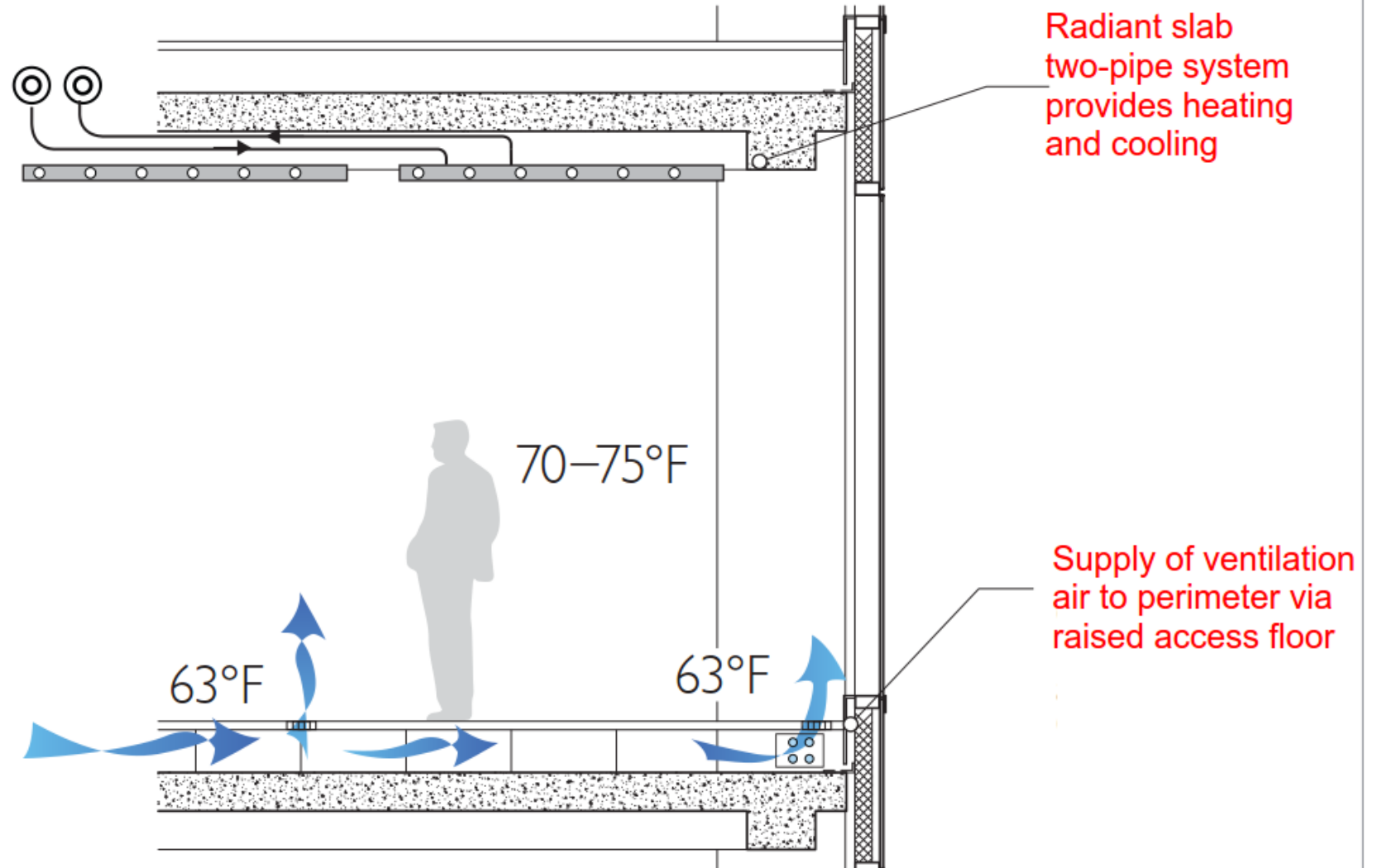
## General HVAC Trends

1. Separate systems for separate purposes/usage patterns (e.g. core and perimeter systems in office)
2. User-responsive
3. Very low power (i.e. fans and pumps)
4. Low-exergy or “Near-temp”: high-temp cooling, low-temp heating



# Under Floor Ventilation w/ Radiant slab/panels

UNDER FLOOR WITH RADIANT

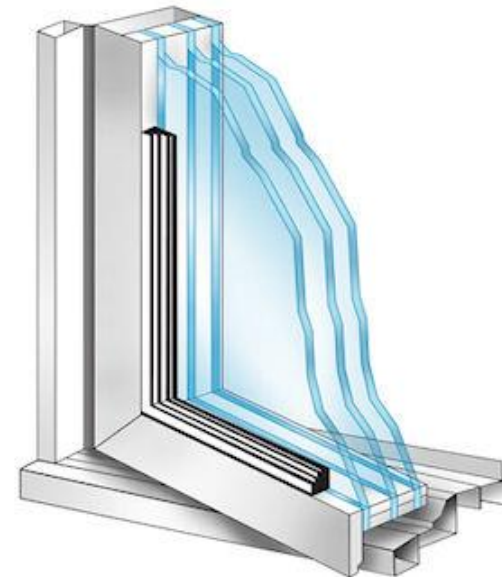
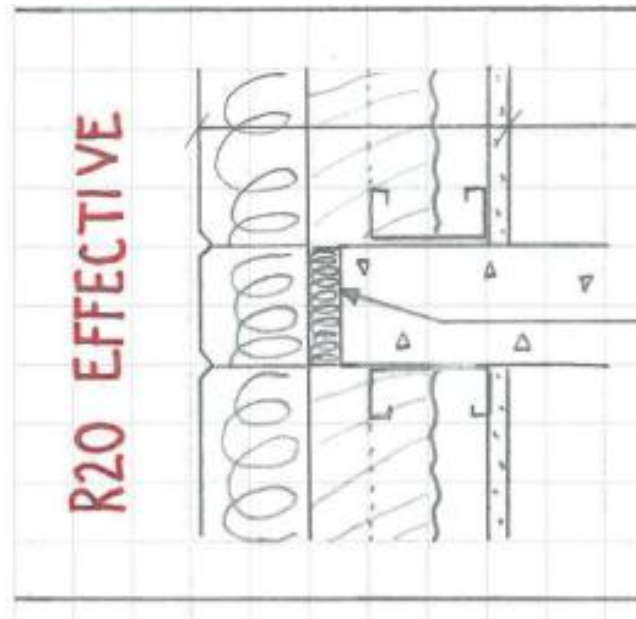


## Linking HVAC with Envelope

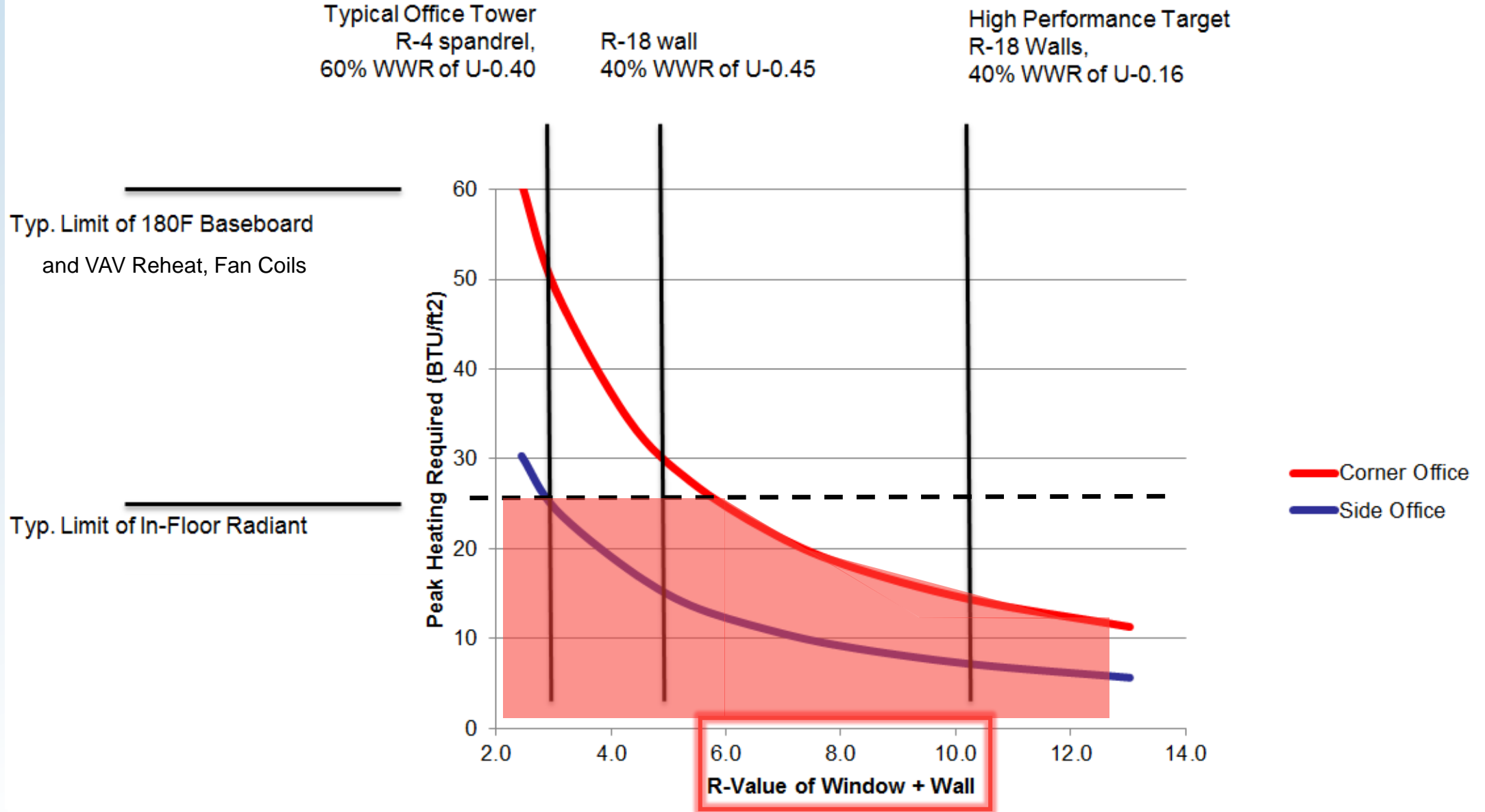
### Improved envelope reduces HVAC sizing

Results in HVAC capital cost savings

**Good enclosures required for high performance HVAC**



## Enclosure Performance and HVAC - Heating



## Plant Options Summary

### **Boiler:**

- *Natural Gas (94% efficient)*
- *Biomass (85% efficient)*
- *Electric (100% efficient but expensive!)*

### **Heat Recovery Chiller**

- *Data Centers*
- *Exhaust air*

### **Air-source Heat Pump:**

- *Average COP Heating: 2.5-3.0*
- *Average COP Cooling: 4.0-5.0*

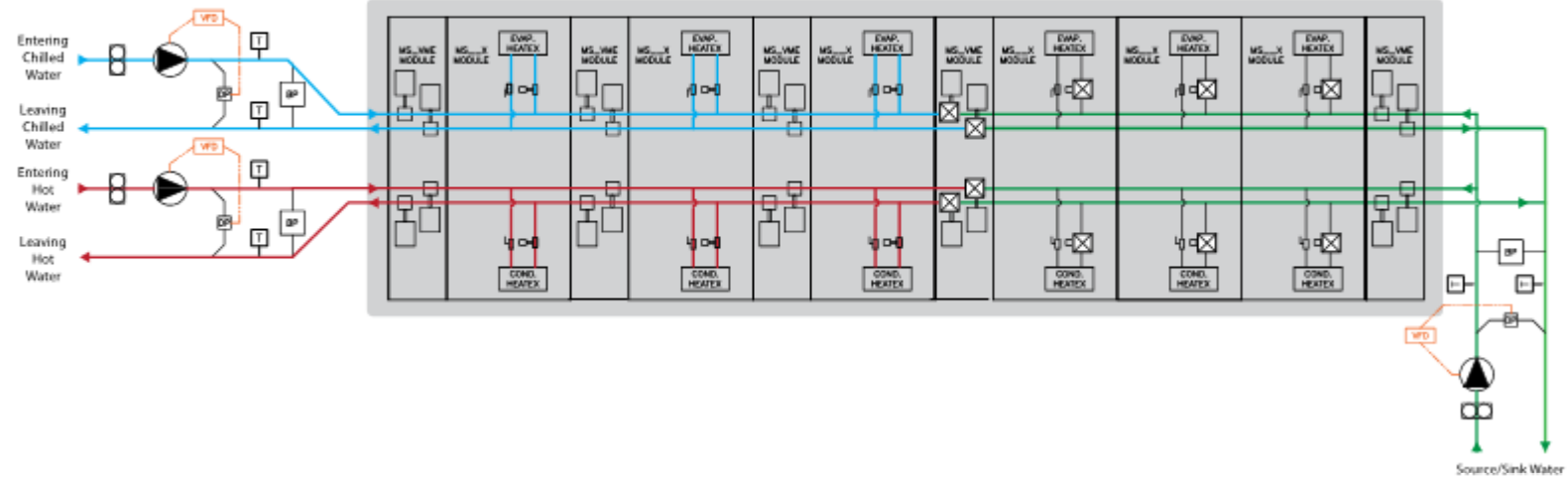
### **Geo-exchange system:**

- *Average COP Heating: 3.5-4.0*
- *Average COP Cooling: 5.0-6.0+*

## Plant Options Summary

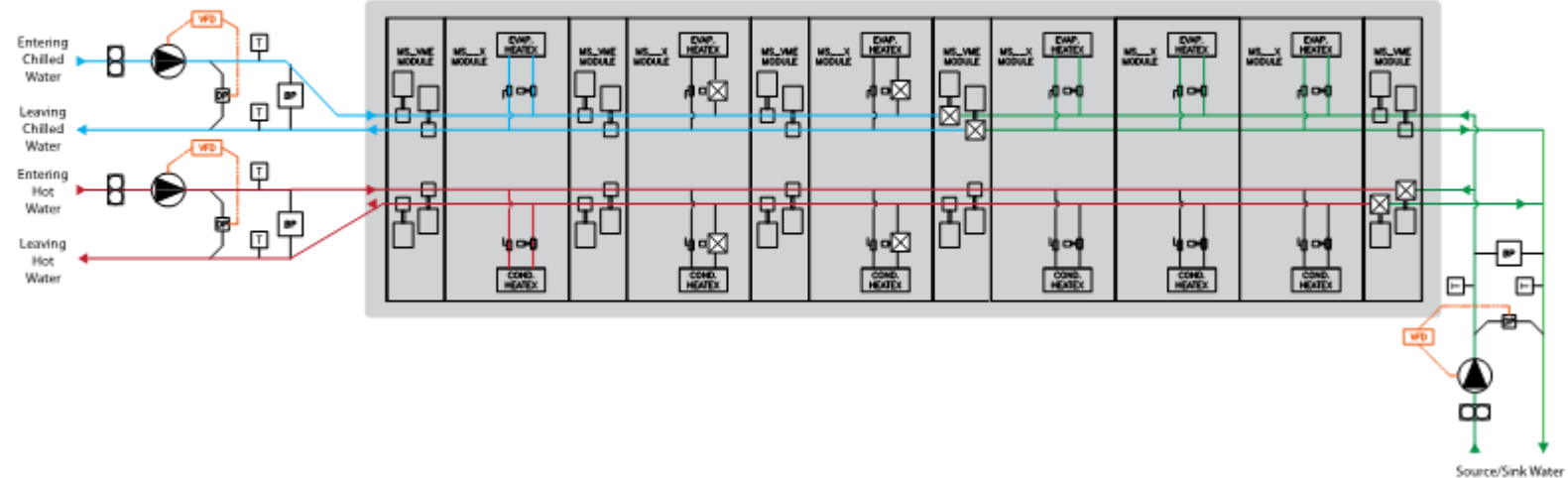
### Simultaneous Mode

3 Cooling, 3 Heating



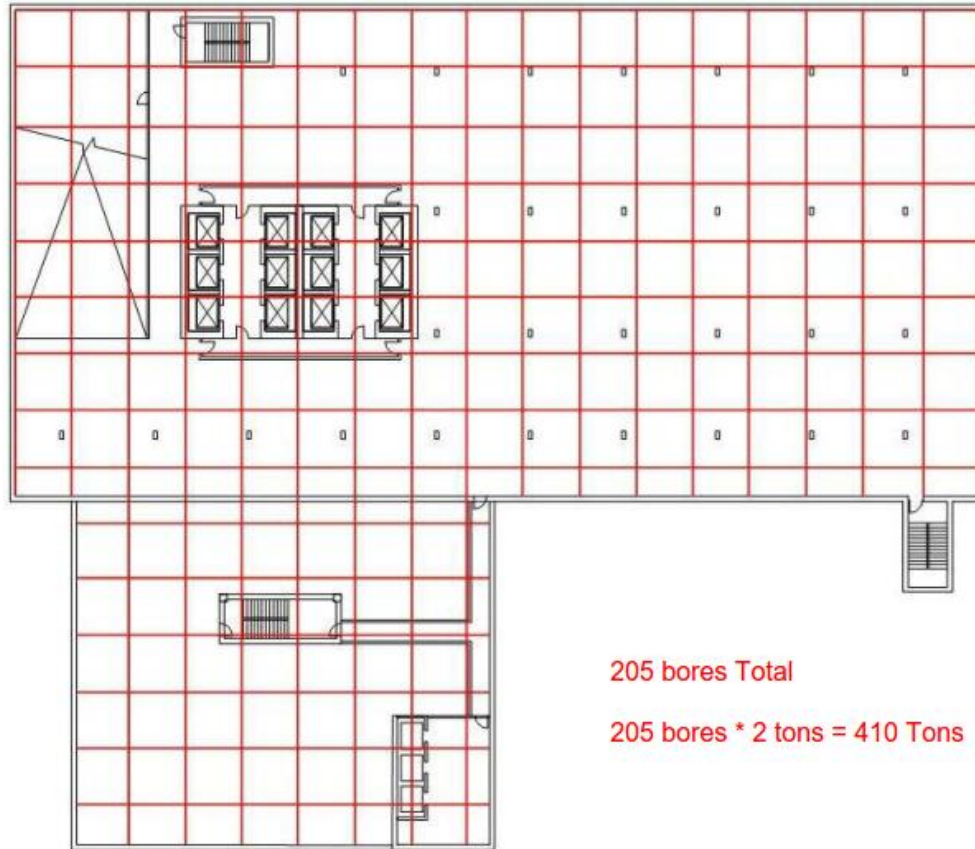
### Heating Dominant Mode

1 Cooling, 4 Heating



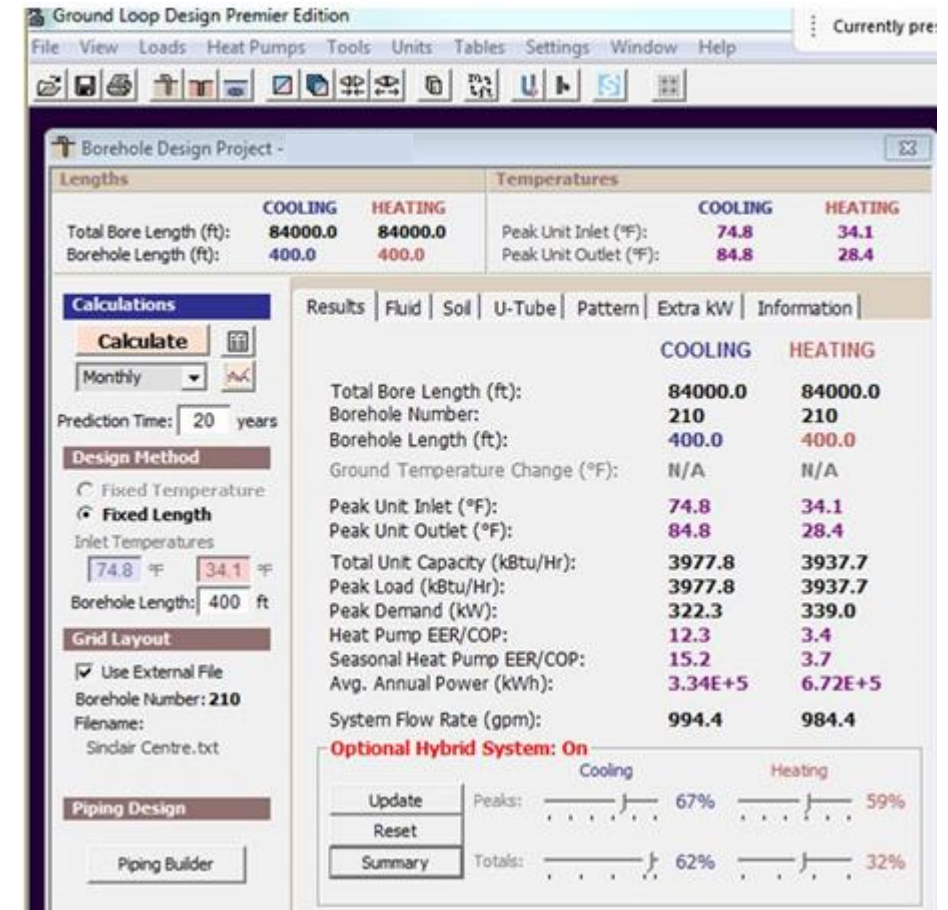
## Geothermal Ground Source

\*The assumption is the excavation site containing the ground source loop will include the Parking lot and new B2 mechanical only.



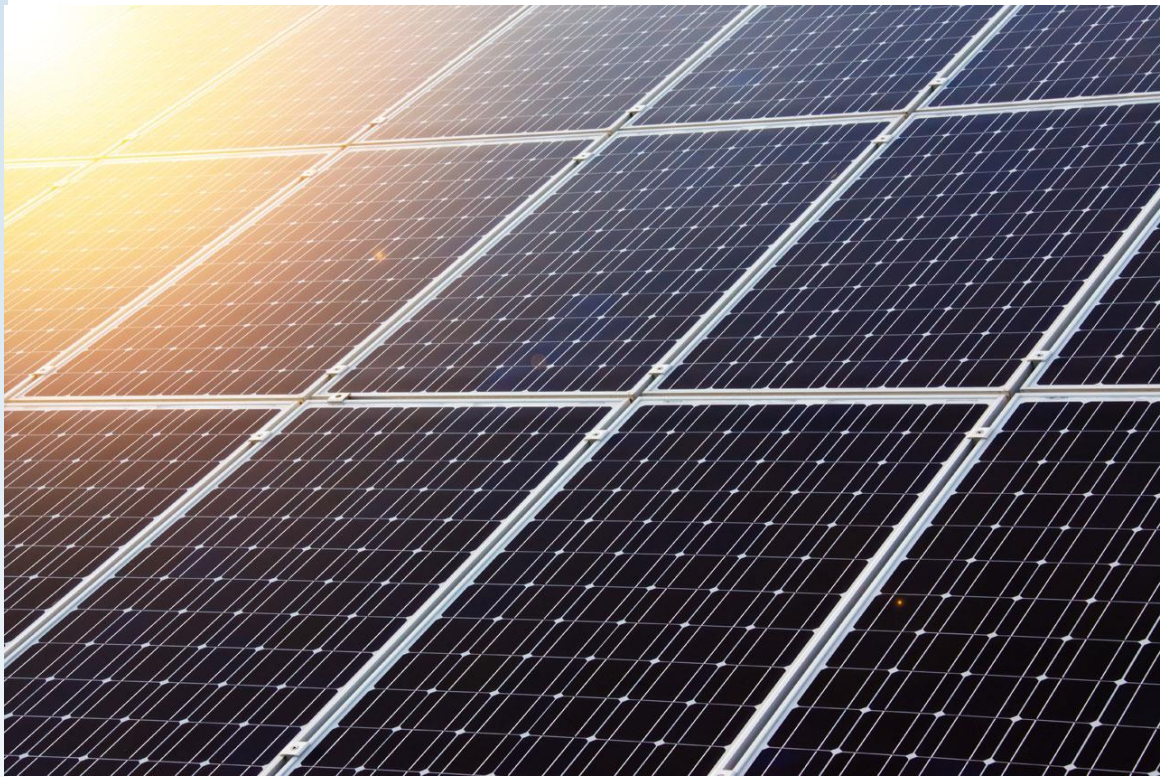
205 bores Total

205 bores \* 2 tons = 410 Tons

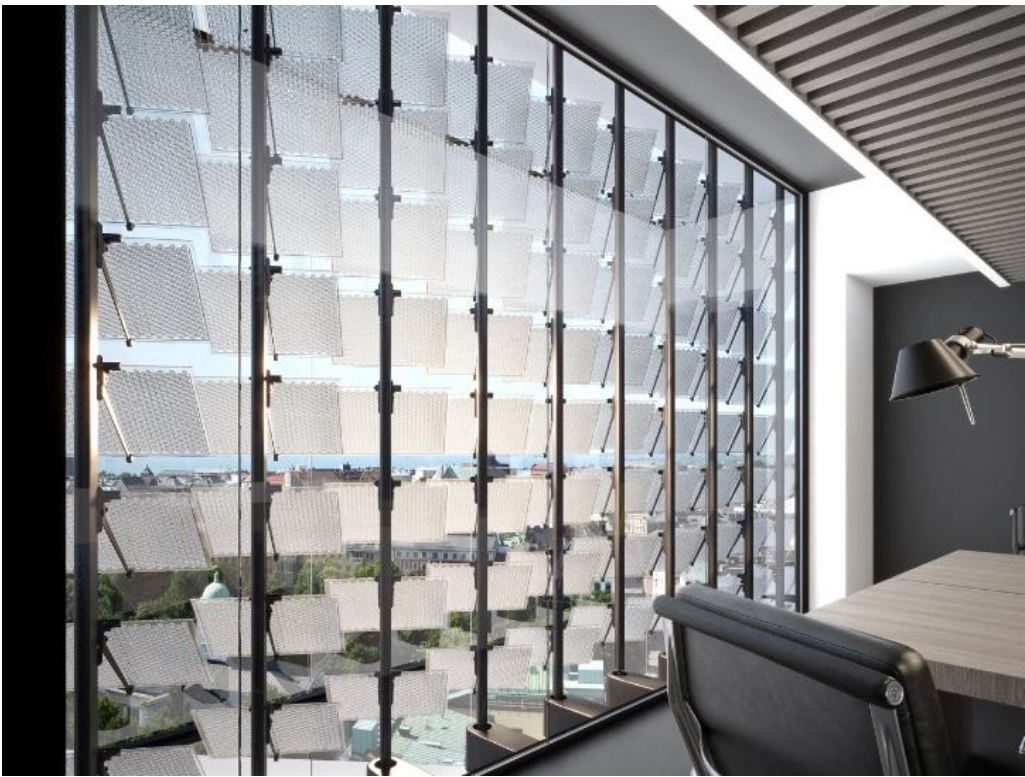




# Photovoltaics



Rooftop



Building Integrated

## “Moonshots”

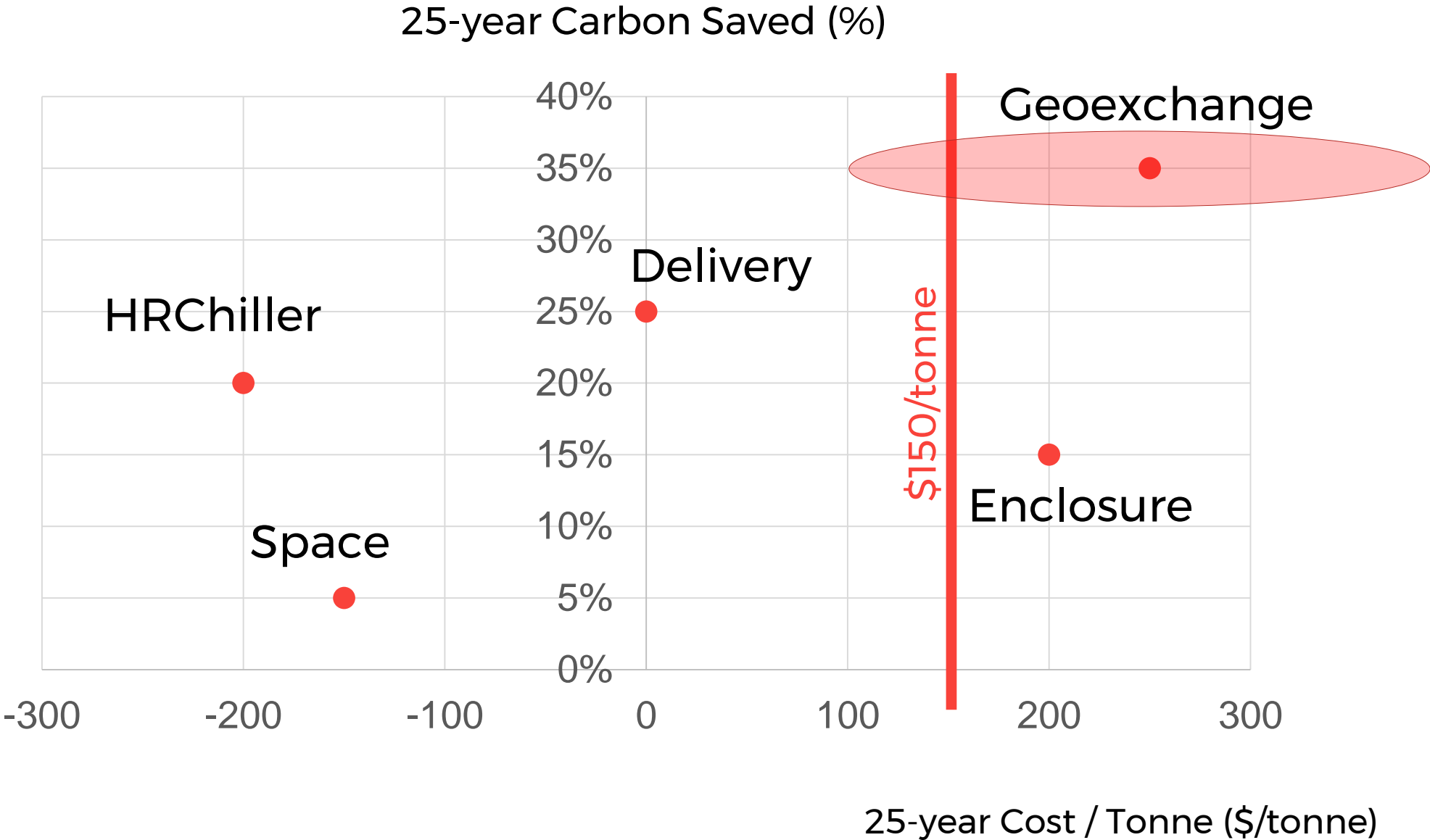
1. **New innovations in existing industries**, especially Canadian-made (e.g. Morgan Solar panels)
2. **Uncommon and/or newer products or systems** (e.g. phase change materials, electrochromic glass, hybrid VRF)
3. **Uncommon sources/sinks for heating and cooling** (e.g. lakes, rivers, waste-water)
4. **New sources of low-carbon energy** to the buildings industry (e.g. hydrogen fuel cell, wind generation, biogas generation)
5. **Load-shifting technologies** (e.g. batteries, flywheel, thermal storage)
6. **Carbon capture** (e.g. algae)

***What opportunities exist in the geo-exchange industry?***



# 3. Results

CAUTION! SOMEWHAT SPECULATIVE!!



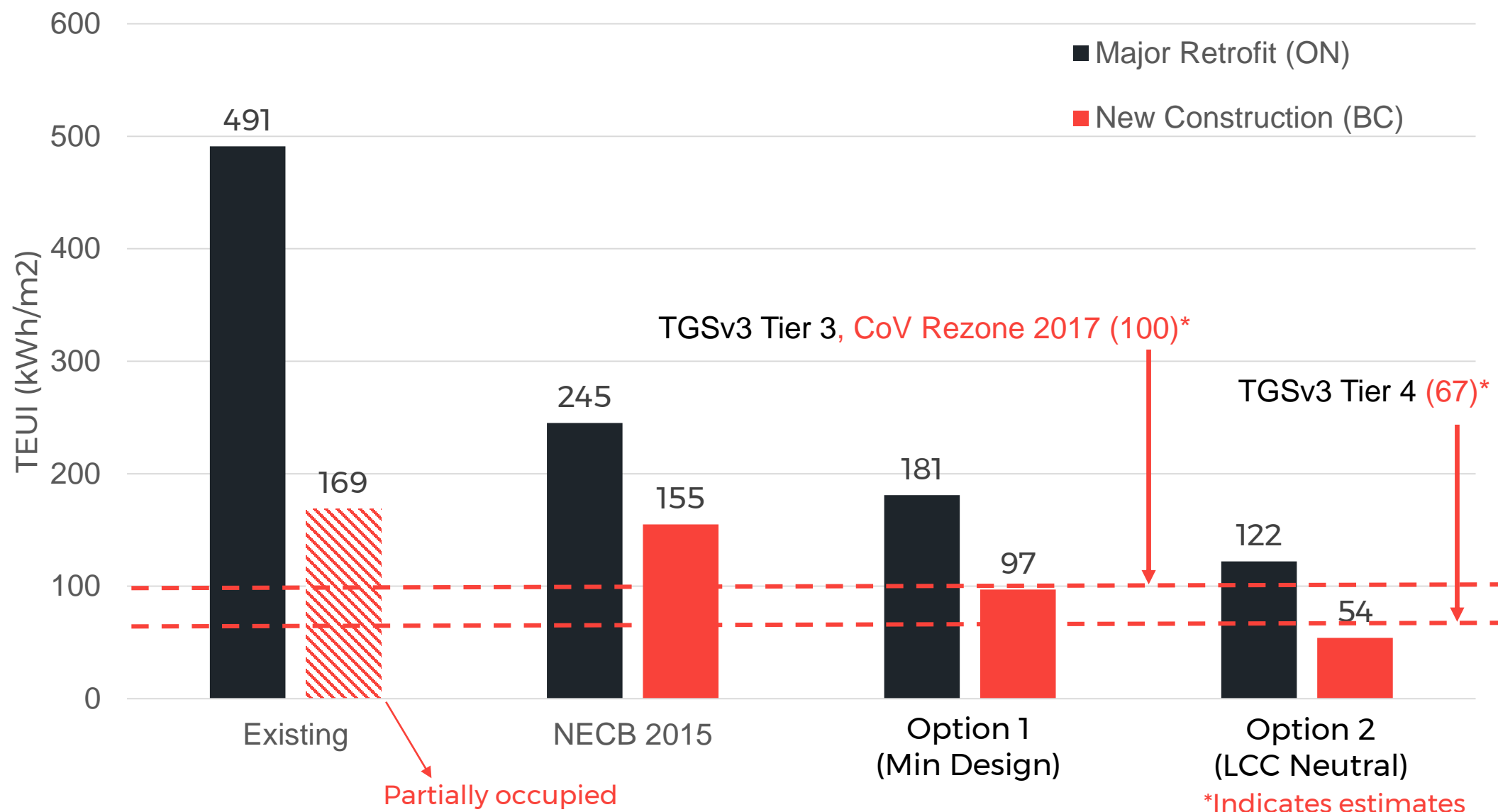
## Results – Package Summary

Item	NECB 2015	Option 1 Min Design	Option 2 LCC Neutral	Option 3 Max. GHG Reduction	Option 4 Hybrid
Enclosure	40% WWR R-5	60% WWR R-5	40% WWR R-11	40% WWR R-11 Electrochromic Daylight redirect	40% WWR R-11 Electrochromic SW Fixed shading
Space	Fluorescent	LED	LED	LED User Feedback DALI control Direct/Indirect Ltg Desk plug shut-off	LED User Feedback DALI control
HVAC – Delivery	VAV System	High performance VAV with DCV	Core VAV Perim. HRV (0.75) Radiant Slab	Core UFAD Perim. UFAD HRV Radiant Slab Atrium Lung Natural Ventilation	Core UFAD Perim. UFAD HRV Radiant Slab Atrium Lung Assist Nat. Vent.
HVAC - Plant	Gas Boiler (83%) Centrifugal Chiller	Cond. Gas Boiler (92%) Mag. Bearing Chiller	Cond. Gas Boiler (92%) Heat Recovery Chiller	Central heat pump Geo-Exchange Biomass Peak Boiler	Central heat pump Geo-Exchange Gas Peak Boiler
Renewables	No PV	No PV	No PV	Rooftop PV BIPV 11% Total energy use	Rooftop PV BIPV 5% Total energy use

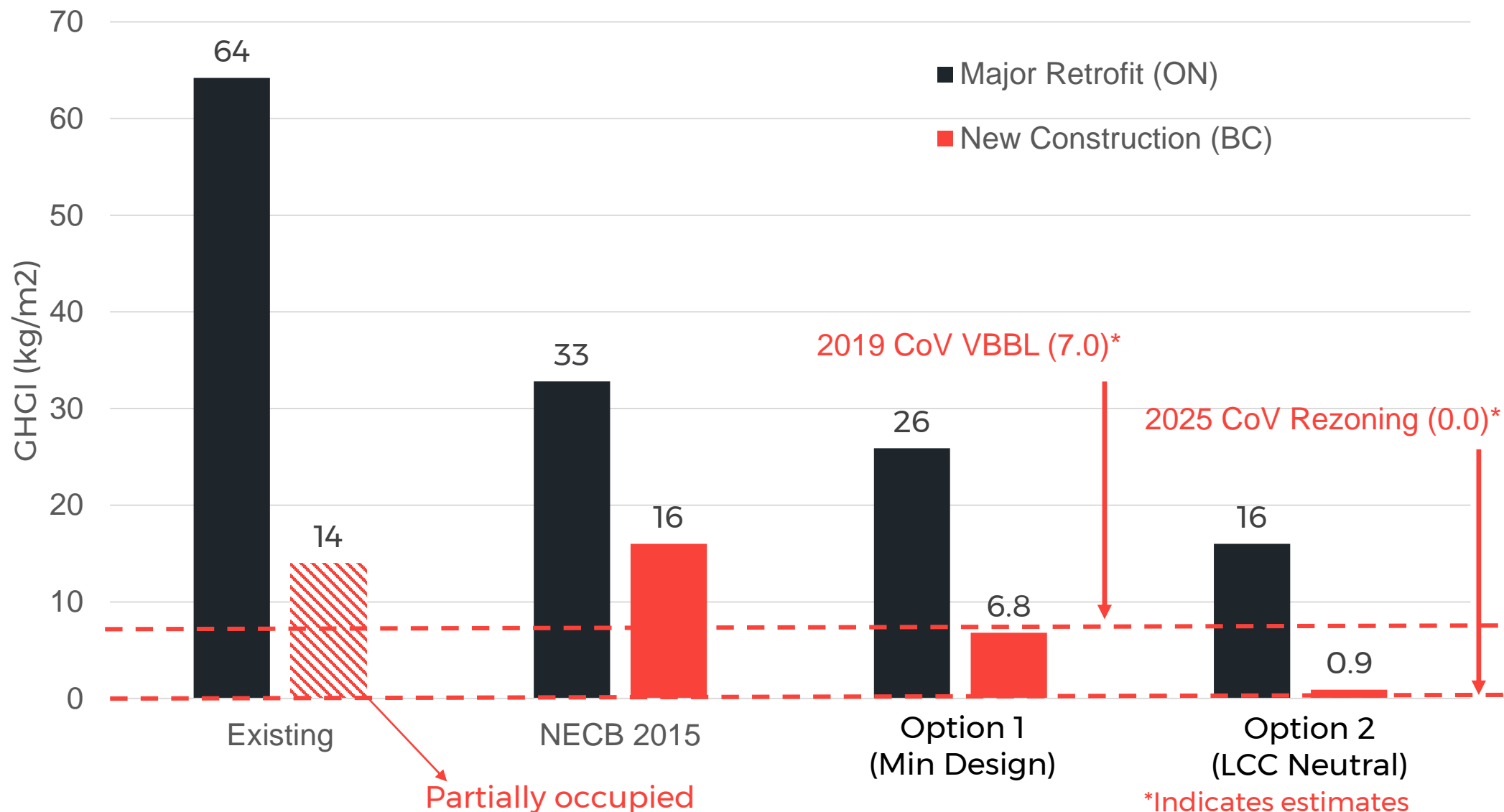
## Comparative Features – Option 2 (LCC Neutral)

Item	New Construction (BC)	Major Retrofit (ON)
Enclosure	40% WWR R-10.8 Advanced Solar Control (Electrochromic glass)	33% WWR Overall R-8
Space	LED Advanced lighting control	LED Advanced lighting control
HVAC – Delivery	Core UFAD Perim. UFAD HRV Radiant Slab	Core VAV Perim. DOAS HRV Perim. Active beams
HVAC - Plant	Heat Recovery Chillers Gas Condensing Boilers Magnetic Bearing Chiller	Exhaust Air Heat Recovery Chillers District Energy HW and CHW
Renewables	No PV	4% PV generation rooftop

# Results – Total Energy Use Intensity (TEUI)



# Comparative Results - GHGI



# Comparative Financial Results

Option 2 (LCC Neutral)

Low Carbon

	New Construction (BC)
Incremental Capital Cost (year-2026)	0.7%
Incremental LCC (year-2026)	-0.6%
Carbon Savings	87% vs. Opt 1 (82% vs. Existing)

# Comparative Financial Results

Option 2 (LCC Neutral)

Low Carbon

	New Construction (BC)	Major Retrofit (ON)
Incremental Capital Cost (year-2026)	0.7%	2.5%
Incremental LCC (year-2026)	-0.6%	0.3%
Carbon Savings	87% vs. Opt 1 (82% vs. Existing)	38% vs. Opt 1 (75% vs. Existing)



# Gap to Zero Carbon

## GHG Reduction

### New Building

### Major Retrofit

Efficiency first



Strategic Fuel Switching



Installation of renewables on-site



Procurement of off-site renewables  
(e.g., RECs)

87%  
Potential



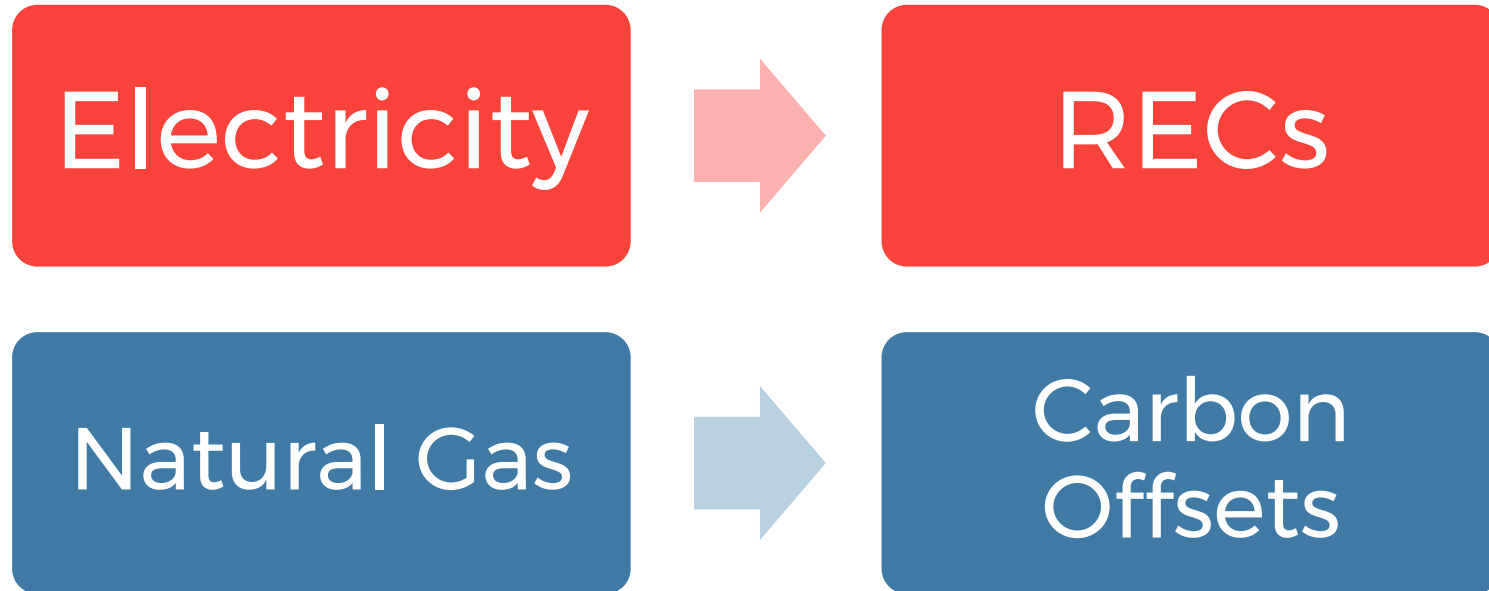
13%  
Remain

75%  
Potential



25%  
Remain

# Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and Offsets



Two options: buy from Canada or USA?

- *Canada is at least 2x more expensive*
- *Canadian RECs and offsets are used in the next example*

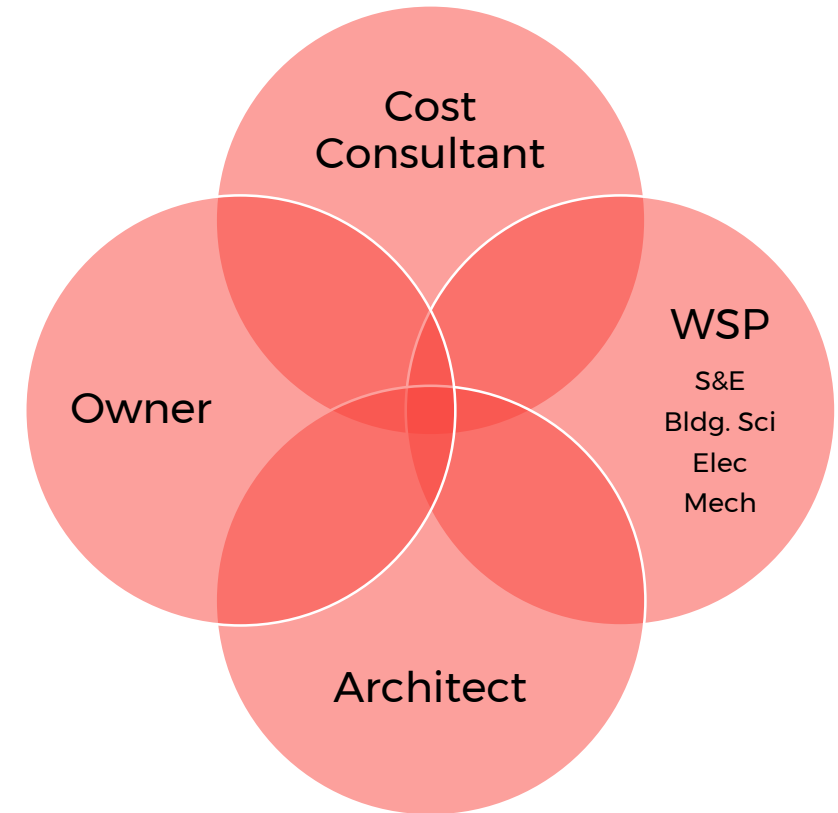
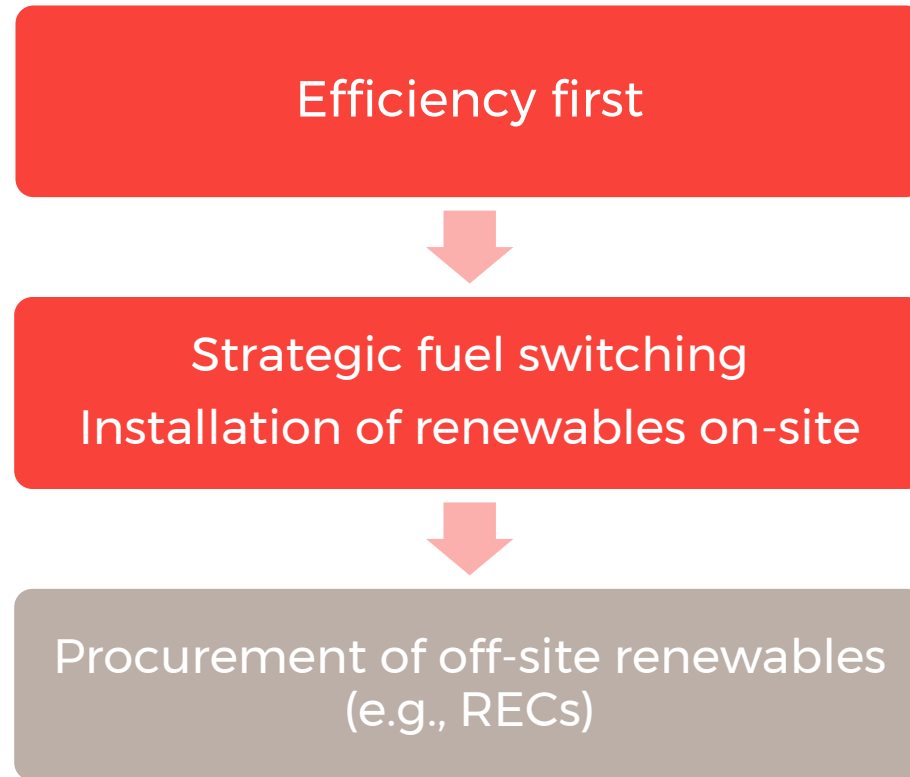
# Comparative Financial Results

Option 2 (LCC Neutral)  
Zero Carbon

	New Building		Major Retrofit	
	Low-carbon	Zero carbon	Low-carbon	Zero carbon
Incremental LCC (year 2026)	-0.6%	→ -0.4%	0.3%	→ 0.8%
Carbon Savings	87%	→ 100%	75%	→ 100%

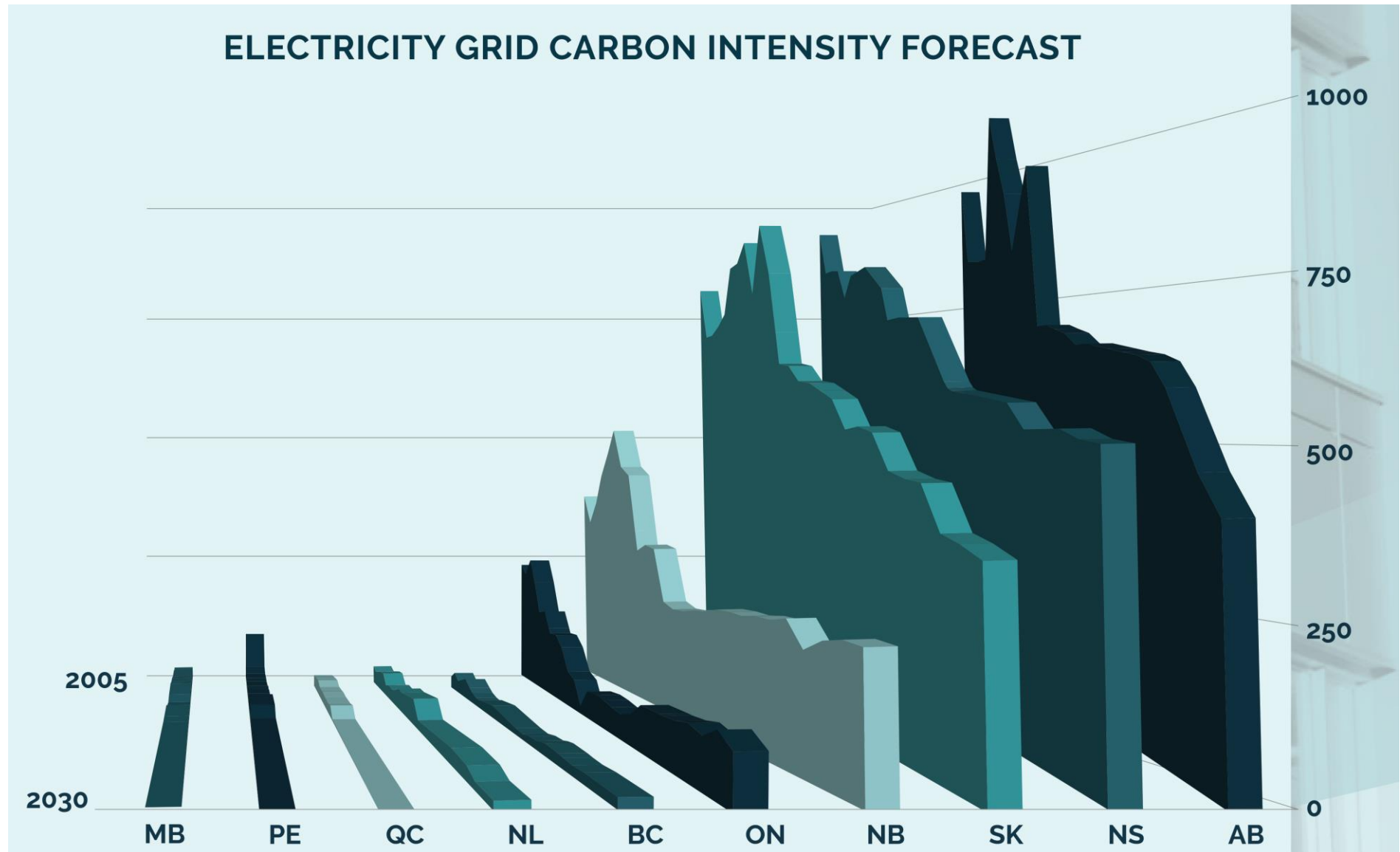
# 4. Conclusions

# 1. Technologies are Available Today



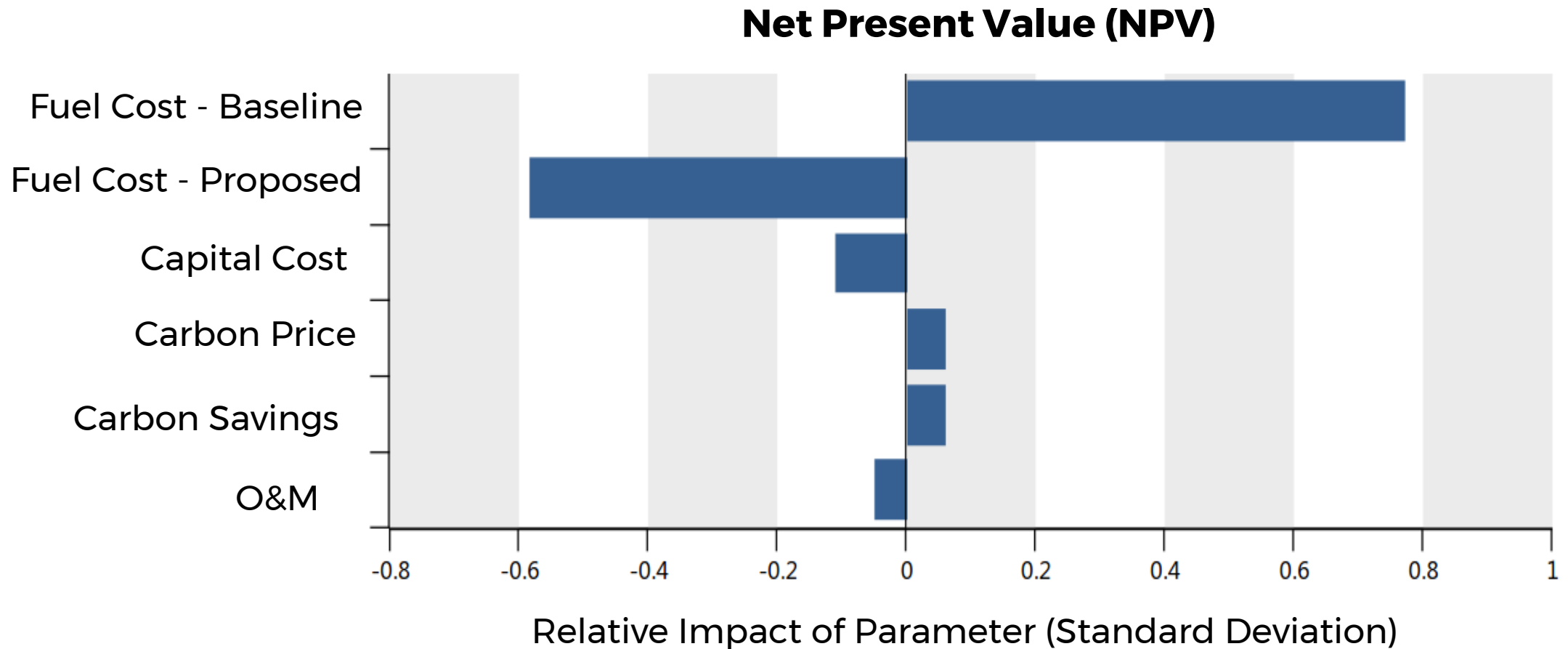
Envelope crucial to progress to passive HVAC systems

## 2. Location Matters





### 3. Energy Price Gap

Sensitivity Analysis for Option 2 (LCC Neutral)



### 3. Energy Price Gap

- Testing uncertain variables in long term forecasts is important
- Based on today's natural gas and electricity prices:
  - *The carbon price won't be the main driver in BC or ON*
  - *Carbon price needs to be well above avg. \$150/tonne to make impact*
- Business case improves when baseline's become more stringent

Ontario	Energy Cost	GHG Emissions
Electricity	\$ \$ \$ \$	
Natural Gas	\$	



**Can we make a business case  
for Carbon Neutral Buildings?**

## 4. New Construction - Business Case Exists



Life-cycle view is important for carbon neutral business case

Connection needed between developer & rate payer

## 4. Major Retrofit- More Motivation Needed



### **Motivations:**

- Commitment to Internal Policies / Goals
- Regulations (i.e. increasing baseline)
- Increase Carbon Pricing / Cap'n'Trade Schemes
- Public Perception (ex. Carbon Labelling)

# Carbon Neutrality Conclusions

1. Technologies are available to achieve 75%-90% reduction on **most** commercial sites.
2. Location matters
  - *Climate dependent*
  - *GHG emission intensity in electricity grid*
3. Energy cost gap
  - *Natural gas vs. Electricity*
4. Business Case
  - *New Construction - business case already exists*
  - *Major Retrofit - more motivation required*

# Thank you!

*wsp.com*

