To: Qualified Energy Auditors
From: MEEHA Program Administrators
Effective Date: 2/23/2021

MEEHA Program Guidance Memorandum

This memorandum serves as an update to program guidance. This guidance supersedes any previous guidance written or otherwise. In the case of a conflict with previous guidance, this guidance prevails and will stay in place until further notice.

Master Metered Projects

The MEEHA program is authorized to fund master metered projects with EmPOWER funds. The program is reviewing master metered projects and currently has funding in all 5 electric utility territories. However, there is no funding for “commercial gas” measures (i.e. central gas boilers, or DHW’s). Please refer any interested project owners to the program website for application information or have them contact Turia Cook (turiam.cook@maryland.gov).

Fuel Switching Projects

When modeling a project that is fuel switching from gas to all electric and seeking MEEHA funds, the Auditor shall model the project as if it were an existing all electric project. This will allow for the modeling software to calculate the interactive electric savings. Those measures that use the gas fuel source directly (furnaces, DHW’s) cannot be funded by the program. Measures that would result in gas savings but do not use gas fuel directly (shell measures, aerators, showerheads) may have funding potential.

When modeling the project as all electric, the equipment that uses gas fuel directly will need to be entered as the electric equivalent of the existing equipment. Any assumptions made in determining the electric equipment and efficiency rating must be stated in the audit report.

Calibrating the energy model to actual usage is not required for these projects, however care and practical professional judgement must be applied when entering data for existing conditions.

Energy Audit Guidance

Energy audits and on-site inspections may take place when both the owner of the property and the auditing company deem it safe and proper to do so. Information that can be gathered remotely should be done so to reduce the time spent on site by the auditor.

Blower door and duct diagnostic testing is no longer required. The risks associated with the spread of the Covid-19 virus during blower door operation prevent the activity from being done safely at this time. All audit reports must clearly state the locations that contribute to envelope or duct leakage. Pictures of those locations must also be provided in the audit report.

It is recommended that all personnel strictly adhere to the guidelines set forth by the CDC and Maryland Department of Health.

- https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Modeling Input Parameters

Modeling parameters are being implemented for modeling inputs in building energy simulation modeling. All energy modeling inputs for specific equipment must fall within the ranges stated below. Modeling inputs must be based on existing conditions found by the energy auditor during the energy audit and these conditions must be stated in the energy audit report. Modeling input parameters are based on historical MEEHA data and program evaluation results from DHCD's evaluation contractor.

There may be situations where the existing condition input falls outside the modeling parameter range stated. In this situation, the Auditor may model the project using an input outside of the stated range but must also state the condition causing the situation and include the input used in the audit report with a detailed description of why this input is outside the parameter range. DHCD will review the description of the situation and will approve or deny the modeling input request. If denied, the auditor will need to change the inputs to within the stated ranges to better define energy savings and re-run the model.

The following table is a list of measures and their acceptable high and low modeling input ranges. The table also states the typical or average modeling input based on historical program results.

Modeling Input Parameters:

Measure Category	Measure	Input	Parameter High	Typical Modeling Input or Average Value	Parameter Low
Heating System	Gas Furnace	AFUE	Nameplate Efficiency	2.0 AFUE reduction	5.0 AFUE reduction
	Heat Pump (Heat)	HSPF	Nameplate Efficiency	1.4 HSPF reduction	1.7 HSPF reduction
	Electric Resistance Heat (PTAC, Baseboard, Furnace)	COP	1	0 reduction	0 reduction
	PTHP (heating)	COP	Nameplate Efficiency	0.4 COP reduction	0.5 COP reduction
Cooling System	Split System Condensing Unit	SEER, EER	Nameplate Efficiency	2 EER or 2.3 SEER reduction	2.5 EER or 2.8 SEER reduction
	PTAC (cooling)	SEER, EER	Nameplate Efficiency	2 EER or 2.3 SEER reduction	2.5 EER or 2.8 SEER reduction
Thermostat	Thermostat Settings (heating)	Degrees	75 degrees F	70 degrees F	65 degrees F
	Thermostat Settings (cooling)	Degrees	80 degrees F	75 degrees F	68 degrees F
DHW	Electric DHW	EF, UEF	Nameplate Efficiency	0.01 EF/UEF reduction	0.03 EF/UEF reduction
	Gas DHW	EF, UEF	Nameplate Efficiency	0.02 EF/UEF reduction	0.05 EF/UEF reduction
	Instantaneous Gas DHW	EF, UEF	Nameplate Efficiency	0.02 EF/UEF reduction	0.05 EF/UEF reduction
Air Infiltration	Unit Air Infiltration (.8 ACHn existing)	ACHn	0.752	0.704	0.624
Lighting Run Times by Location	Exterior (commercial)	hrs	24	10	2
	Exterior (residential)	hrs	12	1	0.5

	Kitchen (residential)	hrs	10	3	1
	Bathroom (residential)	hrs	5	2.5	1
	Living / Dining Room (residential)	hrs	8	3	1
	Hallway / Foyer (residential)	hrs	8	3	1
	Range (in kitchen) (residential)	hrs	4	1	0.5
	Closet (used by tenant) (residential)	hrs	3	1	0.5
	Closet (not used by tenant) (residential)	hrs	1	0.5	0.25
Total Project Savings	Total Modeled Electric Savings % (electric heat)	%	33%	21%	N/A
	Total Modeled Electric Savings % (gas heat)	%	33%	23%	N/A
	Total Modeled Savings % (gas)	%	33%	17%	N/A