

## I<sup>2</sup>SL Benchmarking Working Group Meeting Minutes

Prepared by Michelle Ruda (with edits by Alison F).

### Conference Call 11 September 2015

#### Item #1 - Attendees

- Alison Farmer, Phil Wirdzek, David Cohen, Tim Deak, Allison Paradise, Michelle Ruda, Craig Wray, David Rausch

#### Item #2 - Update: Energy Star for Pharma Facilities

- EPA has started an effort to set up an energy rating for labs - specifically pharma labs
- EPA developing an Energy Star rating and currently looking for data.
- Form for EPA based on Labs 21 input spreadsheet. Deleted optional items, added specific Pharma R&D items (including freezers). Deadline to submit data is Nov 1st.
- The EPA effort is complementary to our Labs 21 efforts and is only targeting exploratory drug research facilities.
- Group became aware via e-mail to Alison F. from Walt Tunnessen at EPA a few weeks ago. No one else in the group had heard of this effort.
- ISPE was previously involved in Labs21, but has faded away over time.
- Allison P. noted major companies in California had not mentioned the Energy Star effort, and were potentially not aware.
- Michelle to check in with Jim Grunwald on ISPE group.
- *Subsequent to the call, Alison F. sent out Pharma Benchmarking Data Worksheet to the working group. Group to distribute to pharma facilities staff in their network.*

#### Item #3 - Conference Preview

- Craig and Alison F. to present on benchmarking. Working group meeting to take place at conference.
- Alison F., Phil, Allison P., Craig and David R. (and others not on call) to attend conference from working group.
- Phil to investigate setting up a call-in line for those not able to attend working group session in person (Alison will try to run from cell phone if call cannot be set up).
- Craig preview of presentation (to be 20 minutes at conference)
  - Where are we today in terms of benchmarking?
  - Why is it needed?
  - Revamping and updating an earlier presentation on benchmarking:
    - Usage and statistics
    - Metrics, how to normalize
    - Filtering data / regression
    - Limitations
    - Simulation-based benchmarking
    - Action-oriented benchmarking
  - Presentation will not include a hands on demonstration of the tool
  - Good set-up for Alison's presentation (results of survey and next steps)
- Alison's presentation
  - History, mission, genesis of the group
  - Results of survey - what that tells us
  - Proposal for what it is we should be doing with the tool and elsewhere

- Our community does value benchmarking data and uses the tool
- Many people who have data don't input it. Lack of time for data input.
- Looking to have an impact on energy efficiency in labs
- Desires: more granular data, more parameters
- Misconceptions of current data. Confusion on interface and how to use the tool
- Future questions: funding issues, managing issues
- Alison to strongly encourage people to join the benchmarking working group meeting at conference.
- Craig to retire from LBNL in 2 weeks.
- Discussion of licensing Labs21 tool to I<sup>2</sup>SL and other ways in which tool could be updated and remain on LBNL servers. LBNL set up to move responsibility of tool to I<sup>2</sup>SL.

**Item #4** – Questions for (informal) attendee interviews

- Since a small portion of those on the call will be attending the I<sup>2</sup>SL Conference, this item was skipped.

**Item #5** – Summary of proposed path forward

Alison F. proposed two parallel paths moving forward:

- The existing tool
  - The priority is to keep the tool live and collect data from additional buildings.
  - There is an opportunity to update the interface with this approach, making the user interface simpler.
  - Due to the constraints in data entry, more granular data will deter people from entering. Simplifying the request to EUI may achieve more submissions.
  - Without funding, there is an option to have a group of volunteers to review data and update info. 20-40 hours of work in a year could be split within a group of volunteers without too much effort for any individual person.
  - Marketing effort to promote use of tool and freshness of data.
- Additional Resources
  - There is a desire for data on end-use breakdown, air changes per hour, and other specifics. Due to the difficulties in obtaining this information, creating a location for studies, demographic data, and other useful resources would be a benefit that would supplement the tool.
  - Collating data and studies from specific places (many universities publish information), plug load studies and similar would be a good tool for many different groups. Examples: What is minimum ACH standard at different companies and institutions; what is total area of lab space in the US or globally?
- Above paths are currently open for discussion (now, at I<sup>2</sup>SL presentation, at working group session).

**Additional Discussion:**

- Phil asked about direct linkage to buildings (automated data). This approach would provide likely too much data. Group requests would look for yearly bills, which should be easily found and easy to input. Not all data easily found. Not always apples to apples based on different lab types. Benchmarking can't replace an audit as it's not always applicable on a facility to facility basis.
- Alison F. has talked to contact from Enernoc about data. The data they collect is owned by Enernoc and they profit from it; not likely to be shared.
- Utilities have a wealth of data on the different building types. Is an auto link from utility possible? PG&E (example) can provide residential data as a dashboard. Alison F. mentioned that kW's Tracker tool links

directly to Portfolio Manager (with permission from owner). Once rights are provided, data can be shared and automatically seen by the recipient.

- Phil would like info to be applicable to lab managers to see how to manage their lab and save info. May not be benchmarking, but more a building to building basis.
- With information on how much lab space exists and how many labs, in both the US and globally, there is an opportunity to show how much energy could be saved if every lab implemented a specific item. Could use as a push and a way to tie the articles and select information into benchmarking without onerous data collection efforts for every participating facility.

**Group Follow-up:**

- Have a conversation about benchmarking with someone at the conference. What are people's thoughts? What would they like to see? Encourage attendees to attend the benchmarking session.
- Phil offered to get a list of lab owners attending and send a short e-mail inviting them to the session and the working group meeting.

Next meeting at to be held at the I<sup>2</sup>SL conference. Following meeting will return to conference calls.

## I<sup>2</sup>SL Benchmarking Working Group Conference Call

**Date and Time:** Friday 11 September 2015, 11am-12pm EDT

**Call-in/sign-in info:**

- <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/461968221>
- Dial +1 (408) 650-3123
- Access Code: 461-968-221

**Expected attendees:** benchmarking working group members

**Purpose of meeting:** Preview of conference benchmarking activities, updates, proposal for action.

**Agenda:**

Item #	Description	Presenter	Time	Expected Product/Outcome
1	Roll call	Alison	2 min	Attendee list
2	Update: Energy Star for pharma facilities	Alison	10 min	
3	Conference preview (and can we arrange a call-in number for the WG meeting in San Diego?)	Alison / Phil / Craig	10 min	
4	Questions for (informal) attendee interviews	Alison / group	10 min	List of questions; action item for all group members at conference
5	Summary of proposed path forward	Alison / group discussion	15 min	
6	Review of action items; recap of conference preview	Alison	2 min	Action items!