

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

### Conference Call 16 July 2015

**Attendees:** Alison Farmer, Joe Pustai, Craig Wray, Dan Doyle, Allison Paradise, Phil Wirdzek, Vikram Sami, Tim Deak, Brad Cochran, Paul Mathew

Agenda appended to these minutes.

#### Agenda items:

##### 1: Housekeeping

- Group gives permission to record call for permission of generating minutes later (recording will be deleted after use)

##### 2: Overview of progress and survey results

- Alison provided a brief history of the group and the progress made over the past year (we've made a lot!)
- Alison also presented general conclusions based on reviewing the survey results
- Notes for both items above are appended to these minutes

##### 3: Survey results

- Vikram and Tim presented the survey results in greater depth, using the Tableau software package to filter and visualize data.
- Some points discussed by the group:
  - I<sup>2</sup>SL membership tracks with a greater willingness to further engage (though only a fraction of members responded to the survey despite multiple email requests)
  - Water usage is not significantly more important to those in the southwest of the US than to those elsewhere in the country
  - Why is benchmarking data less important to facilities personnel than to consultants or designers? General conclusion is that facilities staff have many other pressing priorities.
  - Plenty of people with access to data are not submitting data to the tool. How can we persuade them to do so?
  - Responses should also be filtered according to whether respondent has previously used the Labs21 tool.
- Vikram and Tim will continue to work with Alison to produce a summary of survey results to present at the upcoming conference.
- Paul requested the Tableau dashboard to do some data slicing of his own
- Vikram and Tim will help Alison to write up the survey findings after the conference.
- Dan Doyle suggested Lab Design Newsletter as a good place for publication (with existing ties to I2SL).

##### 4: Text response analysis

- Michelle missed the call but sent along an analysis afterwards of text reasons given for not using the Labs21 benchmarking tool (appended to these minutes).

##### 5: Targeted interviews

- As far as possible, we'll try to coordinate interviews to happen at the I<sup>2</sup>SL conference. These could be quite informal.
- Interviewees don't all have to be follow-up survey respondents, but interesting responses should be followed up on (at conference or elsewhere).
- Alison is looking for a volunteer to help put together questions for interviews.
- Alison will coordinate with Phil on any room requirements at the conference.
- We will not be reopening the survey at the conference; we will be presenting the results there and then moving on.

##### 6: Conference look-ahead

- Phil provided an overview of the upcoming I2SL Annual Conference and opportunities to volunteer with I<sup>2</sup>SL.
- The early registration deadline is July 24 (\$100 off registration fee before this date).
- At the conference, the working group meeting will take place on Wednesday afternoon (after the closing reception but finishing in time for attendees to make it to the Salk Institute tour).
- Make sure to plan your travel to allow you to attend the working group.

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

**Date and Time:** Thursday 16 July 2015, 3pm-4pm EDT

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

- <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/192163997>
- Dial +1 (408) 650-3131
- Access Code: 192-163-997

**Expected attendees:** benchmarking working group members

**Purpose of meeting:** Summarize progress; review survey results; plan targeted interviews

**Agenda:**

Item #	Description	Presenter	Time	Expected Product/Outcome
1	Roll call; meeting format; permission to record?	Alison	5 min	Attendee list
2	Group progress summary; survey results summary	Alison	10 min	
3	In-depth survey results: summary and visualization	Vikram and Tim	20 min	
4	Survey text response analysis results	Michelle	5 min	
5	Targeted interviews	Alison	2 min	Volunteer to assist with interview planning and execution
6	I <sup>2</sup> SL annual conference look-ahead	Alison/Phil	5 min	
7	Review of action items; date of next call	Alison	2 min	Action items!

## Brief Group History

- Sept 2014: Working group formed
- Group purpose identified – and we have a website
- Web hosting crisis averted
- Tool history (ancient and recent) understood
- Generated list of project ideas:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<b>Increase participation in existing tool</b>	<b>Enhance existing tool</b>	<b>Separate from existing tool</b>
Marketing effort / offer incentives	Update interface	Using live submetering data for benchmarking
Incorporate energy disclosure data	Additional input questions for more granularity	Using BMS data for benchmarking
Leverage utility incentive programs	Compare multiple output metrics	Actionable benchmarking
International expansion	Paywall tied to I <sup>2</sup> SL membership	Pursue lab energy star rating
	Longitudinal capabilities	
	Develop API/improved data exporting	

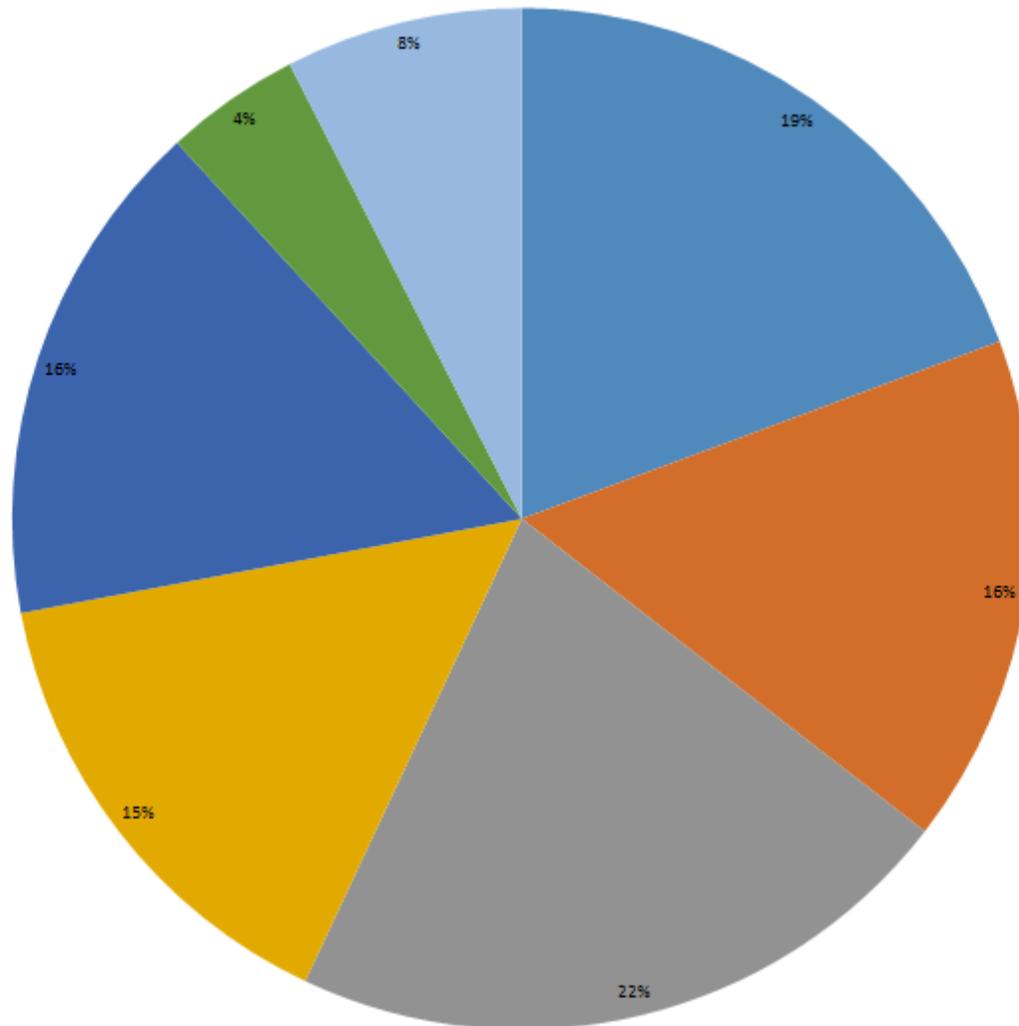
- Studied project ideas as group exercise
  - No decision on best approach
- Benchmarking survey developed, released, and publicized
  - 374 responses received
  - Awarded one prize membership of I<sup>2</sup>SL
  - Analyzed survey responses
  - Started planning follow-up interviews
- Talked about ownership and funding sources (this is complicated)
  - Decided not to go for ASHRAE funding until we have a specific project in mind
  - Initiated discussions about BPD integration
- Heard from Erica Cochran about benchmarking-related work at CMU and from Dan Doyle about G/BA hospital benchmarking work
- Developed a plan for sessions at the 2015 Annual Conference: 2 presentations plus a working group meeting
- Created working group email address
  - Bug reports received via email
  - Bugs fixed (tool is working again)
- Assigned group secretary (Michelle/Bryan from BR+A)

## Summary of Survey Responses (details to follow from Vikram, Tim, and Michelle)

- 374 responses March-May 2015
  - ¼ of them I<sup>2</sup>SL members (only 88 members; many more did not respond)
  - MA/CA bias
  - Facilities staff, design arch/eng, consultants
  - >½ hadn't heard of the Labs21 tool
- Nothing truly surprising?
  - Benchmarking data important to most (especially consultants; not occupants)
  - Everyone wants more metrics and a larger database
  - Lab ACH (this can be hard), end use breakdown, site EUI, and energy score are valued highly
  - Those who have usage data aren't prepared to enter more (except consultants)
  - New features would drive usage (true?)
- The usual misconceptions:
  - Data are old
  - Data are limited

## WHAT HAS PREVENTED YOU FROM USING THE LABS 21 BENCHMARKING TOOL?

- 1 NOT MY JOB / NOT MY DATA / NEED APPROVAL
- 2 DIDN'T KNOW IT EXISTED
- 3 DOESN'T APPLY
- 4 DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE / WHY TO USE / TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES
- 5 NOT ENOUGH TIME
- 6 PLAN TO USE IT IN THE FUTURE
- 7 BELIEVES DATA IS OLD / NOT ENOUGH FOR COMPARISON



**WHAT HAS PREVENTED YOU FROM USING THE LABS 21 BENCHMARKING TOOL?**

REASONS FOR NOT USING TOOL	WHO (MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS)
<p>NOT MY JOB / NOT MY DATA / NEED APPROVAL</p> <p>DIDN'T KNOW IT EXISTED</p> <p>DOESN'T APPLY</p> <p>DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE / WHY TO USE / TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES</p> <p>NOT ENOUGH TIME</p> <p>PLAN TO USE IT IN THE FUTURE</p> <p>BELIEVES DATA IS OLD / NOT ENOUGH FOR COMPARISON</p>	<p>FACILITY ENERGY MANAGER</p> <p>DESIGN ARCHITECT / ENGINEER / LAB PLANNER</p> <p>DESIGN ARCHITECT / ENGINEER / LAB PLANNER</p> <p>ENERGY EFFICIENCY / SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT</p> <p>FACILITY SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER</p> <p>X</p> <p>ENERGY EFFICIENCY / SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT &amp; UTILITY COMPANY PERSONEL</p>