

I²SL Benchmarking Working Group

In-Person Meeting at the I²SL Annual Conference in Kansas City 09/28/2016

Attendees: Alison Farmer, Dan Doyle, Paul Leitch, Luci Keazer, David Landman, Steven Driver, Rick Samson, Todd Mowinski, Hadley Stolte, Michelle Ruda, Rick Martorano, Shane Stennes, Thian Guan Peck, Andy Parker, N. Balamurugan.

1. Intros:

- a. Introductions
- b. Alison described the typical group meeting schedule (1 call every ~6 weeks)
- c. Goals of this meeting:
 - i. Discuss initial impressions of the new upgrades
 - ii. Help to update the FAQ list (the last remaining piece of the current upgrades)
 - iii. Discuss possible enhancements to the tool. Funding may be available in conjunction with the BBA Smart Labs Accelerator program and we need to establish a rough budget within the next month or so.

2. Updating FAQs:

- a. Michelle and David L have been working on adding FAQs and answers to the current list. This will be wrapped up soon.
- b. Additional FAQs to be added based on questions asked during meeting:
 - i. Instructions on how to split data entry between different individuals
 - ii. How to save progress and come back later
 - iii. Clear definition of a lab for the purposes of the tool
 - iv. Where to go for technical support

3. Suggested new additions for tool:

- a. Water usage (Dan Doyle): very little info currently available on lab building water usage (EPA has published a 12-building study). Discussion of need to distinguish between buildings with cooling towers and those without. For reference, approx. half of the buildings in the G/BA hospital benchmarking study provide water usage data. Dan shared his lab water efficiency presentation from his pre-conference workshop. Email Dan or Alison if you would like a copy.
- b. Finer gradations within lab types (Peck). Discussed pros and cons (better comparison but less data in each category; also many different types of space per building so more difficult to classify buildings). Also discussed prevalence of “integrated science centers” among new buildings – these combine many types of labs in each building. Need to design improvements to handle these too.
- c. Engineering labs not handled in current tool. Biotech incubators too. Need ways to incorporate these.
- d. Special starred buildings with more information – case studies. These could be accelerator partners. Opt-in non-anonymity.
- e. Offer a beta energy score program – users can opt in to receive a score for their buildings.
- f. Make sure site works well on mobile devices, so info can be obtained during meetings if needed.

4. Other items:

- a. N. Balamurugan has 20 facilities from Singapore to add to the tool. We should figure out the best way to do this and to accommodate non-US buildings generally. Paul Leitch would also like to add U. Toronto buildings. In the meantime, both should contact Alison with data submissions.

- b. Andy Parker described a UK effort to assemble information on lab buildings, including but not limited to energy usage. May be overlap with some of the optional fields collected via the Labs21 tool. Alison will investigate how much the optional data fields are typically filled out and will report back to the group.
- c. There's a lack of labs in zone 3A. Todd M suggested reaching out to Atlanta chapter for more data.
- d. Discussion of site/source energy comparisons. Depends on purpose of benchmarking exercise, but there's always a compromise of some sort.
- e. Steve D mentioned EPA efforts (Walt T) to create an Energy Star rating for pharma R&D labs. Alison reached out to Walt a few months ago but received no update.
- f. Discussed political nature of energy disclosures and scores. No riots so far over office building scores! Andy: in UK all buildings are rated publicly; ratings for labs are not very meaningful.
- g. Model-based benchmarks are probably better than regression analyses, but these most likely require more effort per building.

5. Next steps:

- a. All group:
 - i. Try accessing the site and submit bug reports to Alison – by end of October
 - ii. Send Alison wishlist items for upgrades – by end of October
- b. Alison: work on approx. budget for further upgrades – due to I²SL in November.
- c. Michelle and David L: finalize FAQs – must be done by end of October (including review and html conversion by Alison).
- d. Next group call will be in early November.

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