Workshop Summary

Using Data To Cut Building Energy Use & Increase Building Energy Efficiency

April 18, 2016
San Francisco, CA

Background

California's plan to transform the energy efficiency of building relies extensively on making energy use data accessible and available to all market actors. New legislation, AB 802, requires utilities to provide large commercial buildings full access to energy data and annual public benchmarking. An additional new law, SB 350, calls for doubling the energy efficiency of existing buildings by 2030.

Purpose

This workshop brought together thirty stakeholders and experts, including commercial property managers, building operators, brokers, energy service providers, building efficiency experts, and policy makers, to explore key issues around data, building energy use, and building energy efficiency. Discussion focused on three key questions:

- What drives building owners/tenants to increase investments in energy efficiency and value energy performance?
- How can data be used to facilitate the market transformation California intends?
- What associated strategies might be needed to spur efficiency improvement action?

Key Takeaways

√ **Privacy of energy data is not a concern** expressed by commercial portfolio owners, managers, or tenants.

√ **The cumbersome, time consuming process for accessing data/benchmarking is more objectionable than actual disclosure.** Obstacles to obtaining data need to be reduced and process streamlined.

√ With 50% to 80% of energy use controlled by building tenants, action directed at owners is not enough; **requirements on tenants are also needed.**

√ **Building Standards documents that are attached to leases and govern tenant build out/use of space may be an opportunity to impact tenant energy use.** Research is needed on how these documents might be used to reduce plug load, office occupant energy use, etc.

√ **Few building engineers/facility operators have the capacity to operate buildings to maximize energy efficiency.** Improved, and more, training is needed.

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