



Analysis of Installed Measures and Energy Savings for Single- Family Residential Better Buildings Projects

M. Heaney and B. Polly
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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April 2015

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List of Acronyms

BBNIS	Better Buildings Neighborhood Information System
BBNP	Better Buildings Neighborhood Program
CV-RMSE	Coefficient of variation of the root mean squared error
EEM	Energy-Efficiency Measure
IMT	Inverse Modeling Toolkit
HVAC	Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning
MLR	Multiple Linear Regression
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
PV	Photovoltaic
RECS	Residential Energy Consumption Survey
SD	Standard Deviation
TMY	Typical Meteorological Year

Executive Summary

This report presents an analysis of data for residential single-family projects reported by 37 organizations that were awarded federal financial assistance (cooperative agreements or grants) by the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Neighborhood Program.¹ The report characterizes the energy-efficiency measures installed for single-family residential projects and analyzes energy savings and savings prediction accuracy for measures installed in a subset of those projects.

The analysis documented in this report yielded the following conclusions:

- Air sealing and attic insulation were the most common installed measures²; both were present in five of the top ten most frequent combinations of measures.
- The percentage of projects having certain installed measures varied by:
 - Region of the country (e.g., houses in the South had the highest percentage of air conditioner replacement measures)
 - Vintage of the home (e.g., houses built in the 1990s had the highest percentage of air conditioner replacement measures)
- Simulations were used more often than deemed savings methods to estimate overall energy savings on projects. However, the multiple linear regression (MLR) analysis of total energy savings estimated by grantees indicated no significant differences in estimated savings between the deemed method and simulations.
- The five measures³ with the highest estimated energy savings, based on the MLR analysis, are solar photovoltaics, heat pumps, solar thermal, boilers, and wall insulation.
- The five measures with the lowest estimated energy savings, based on the MLR analysis, are low-flow aerators, thermostatic expansion valves, air conditioner tune-ups, dishwashers, and fireplace inserts.
- For the top ten energy-efficiency measure combinations (excluding medium-frequency measures), those with air sealing and attic insulation appear to have the greatest variation in estimated energy savings across all projects. Combinations with lighting and water heater installations have the least variation in estimated energy savings.
- There were significant differences in estimated energy savings per project by geographic region. The South had the lowest estimated average savings compared to three other standard census regions. There was not a significant correlation between estimated savings per project and regional energy consumption determined from Residential Energy

¹ There were actually 41 organizations that were awarded assistance, but four completed only multifamily projects or commercial projects or both.

² DOE has made available project data for 75,110 single-family projects. More information about the individual measures that were installed for those projects can be found in [DOE \(2015a\)](#) and the associated data files, which are available in [DOE \(2015b\)](#).

³ For this analysis, measures included traditional energy-efficiency measures (e.g., insulation, equipment upgrades) as well as measures involving renewable energy (e.g., solar photovoltaics). Grantees estimated the reduction in net energy use that would result from solar installations. This was treated as the associated energy savings.

Consumption Survey 2009 data, meaning that regions with higher average household energy consumption—according to RECS—did not necessarily have higher estimated savings values.

- MLR models of estimated energy savings using grantees as categories gave better fits than models using census region. The grantee categories captured location-dependent differences (e.g., climate, typical fuel types) as well as programmatic differences between grantees not captured by other regression variables.
- Based on the MLR analysis, the vintage⁴ of homes showed significant differences in estimated energy savings. Homes built before 1950 had the highest estimated savings compared to homes built in other years.
- Based on the MLR analysis, projects with loans had approximately 5 to 8 MMBtu greater estimated annual source energy savings than projects without loans. The mean retrofit invoiced cost on projects with loans was more than double the mean retrofit invoiced cost on projects without loans.
- Estimated energy savings were generally greater than the savings derived from utility data for the small subset of projects that had sufficient utility data:
 - For natural gas, 68% of projects in the subset (data from 9 grantees, representing only 2% of single-family projects) had estimates greater than 1.5 times the normalized utility savings.
 - For electricity, 53% of projects in the subset (data from 17 grantees, representing only 3% of single-family projects) had estimates greater than 1.5 times the normalized utility savings.
 - Although savings were generally overestimated for homes in the small subset, the average savings derived from utility data were positive. According to these utility data, the average annual source electricity savings was 17.1 MMBtu and the average annual source natural gas savings was 13.2 MMBtu.

Some ideas for future work follow:

- Conduct focused studies within subsets of data (e.g., data for a particular grantee) that present unique opportunities for insights.
- Investigate the potential benefit of calibrating savings prediction models to pre-retrofit billing data to improve the accuracy of savings predictions.

⁴ The vintage of the home could be a proxy for many things, including the construction practices and energy codes at the time the house was built.

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1 Introduction

This report presents an analysis of data for residential single-family projects reported by 37 organizations that were awarded federal financial assistance (cooperative agreements or grants) by the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Neighborhood Program (BBNP). Background information about BBNP and the reported data, including discussions of data sources and data quality, can be found in [*Better Buildings Neighborhood Program—Summary of Reported Data from July 1, 2010 – September 30, 2013 \(DOE 2014\)*](#).

This report characterizes the energy-efficiency measures (EEMs) installed for single-family residential projects and analyzes energy savings and savings prediction accuracy for measures installed in a subset of those projects. This report is not an evaluation of the BBNP program or a final report of the recipients' activities. Additional resources related to program evaluations and final reports are described in DOE (2014):

Two additional sources of information may be useful to researchers interested in the accomplishments of BBNP award recipients. First, is an independent evaluation of BBNP conducted by Research Into Action, NMR Group, Nexant, and Evergreen Economics. A Preliminary Process and Market Evaluation report was released in December 2012 and a Preliminary Energy Savings Impact Evaluation report was released in November 2013. Final reports will be released in 2015. Second, as the recipient's final technical report is completed it will be available on the BBNP website. The final technical report was written by the recipient and contains more detailed information about the recipients' accomplishments and lessons learned. Some recipients conducted independent evaluations of their programs; the final technical report is a source for locating those evaluations.

The following specific research questions were initially identified to guide the analysis presented in this report:

1. Across all projects, how many of each measure type were installed?
 - Which combinations of measure were most common?
 - Were certain measures more common in different areas of the country?
 - Were certain measures more common in different vintages of homes?
2. What methods of prediction were used and how frequently?
3. What is the distribution of estimated annual energy savings for homes with particular individual improvements and combinations of improvements?
 - Which measures were associated with the highest estimated savings? Lowest?
 - Which measures were associated with the most variability in estimated savings? Least?
 - Do estimated savings vary by geographic region, climate, and vintage of home?
 - Is there a difference in the distribution of energy savings between projects with a loan versus projects without a loan?

4. For homes with sufficient pre- and post-retrofit utility data, how do estimated energy savings compare to utility-bill-calculated savings?
 - Which energy savings estimation methods have most accurately predicted energy savings?
 - Are estimation methods more accurate for certain measures or combinations of measures? Certain vintages of homes? Certain areas of the country?

The remainder of this report is divided into the following sections (the analysis questions covered by each section are noted in the parentheses):

Section 2: Characterization of Installed Measures (Question 1)

Section 3: Analysis of Grantee-Estimated Savings (Questions 2 and 3)

Section 4: Comparing Utility-Bill-Calculated Savings to Grantee-Estimated Savings (Question 4)

Section 5: Conclusions and Future Work.

2 Characterization of Installed Measures

Grantees participating in the BBNP completed approximately 76,000 single-family residential projects⁵ between the fourth quarter of 2010 and the end of the fourth quarter of 2013 (some grantees continued to complete projects after September 30, 2013). Of these, approximately 66,000 had one or more installed measures recorded. The following are general observations about installed measures reported for the single-family home projects:

- About 87% of the projects listed one or more installed measures.
- Twenty-eight of the 37 grantees completing single-family projects had identifiable installed measures on 90% or more of their projects.
- The “Core Energy” category, used by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Town of Bedford, does not clearly define specific installed measures. Seventy-seven percent of NYSERDA projects and 91% of Town of Bedford projects had “Core Energy” listed.
- There were 50,102 projects with one or more installed measures after NYSERDA and Town of Bedford were excluded.
- Forty-one installed measures categories resulted in 4,581 unique combinations.

Figure 1 shows the number of different measure types installed in single-family homes, excluding measures from NYSERDA and Town of Bedford. The two most frequent EEMs were air sealing and attic insulation. These were followed by lighting, water heater, hot water insulation, low-flow aerator, furnace, floor/foundation insulation, wall insulation, duct sealing, and then EEMs with fewer than 7,000 counts.

In lieu of project level installed measure detail, NYSERDA and Town of Bedford provided a summarized list of installed measures for approximately 16,000 of their single-family home projects. Figure 2 shows the number of different measures using this summarized list. Different categories were used; thus, they are not directly comparable to Figure 1, but there are some similarities. Insulation (which likely includes attic, wall, and floor) and air sealing were the top two categories. The “other” category was third, which most likely implies that many measures were not uniquely identified. Different types of water heaters were separated on Figure 2, whereas all water heater types are summed in one field on Figure 1. Furnace and lighting (compact fluorescent lamps for NYSERDA and Town of Bedford) were in the top 10 categories for both Figure 1 and Figure 2.

⁵ DOE has made available project data for 75,110 single-family projects. More information about the individual measures that were installed for those projects can be found in [Better Buildings Neighborhood Program Data Documentation \(DOE 2015a\)](#) and the associated data files, which are available in [DOE \(2015b\)](#).

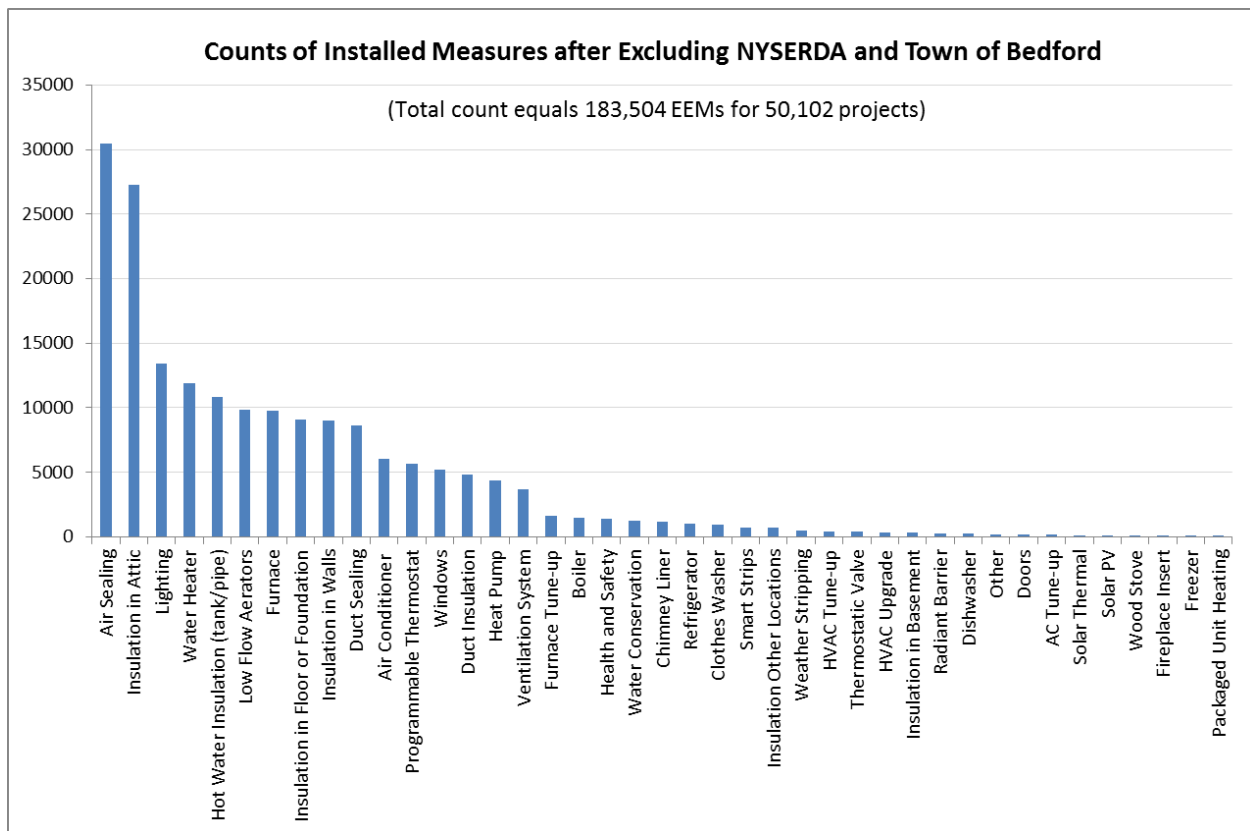


Figure 1. Number of each measure type installed for single-family homes, excluding projects from NYSERDA and Town of Bedford

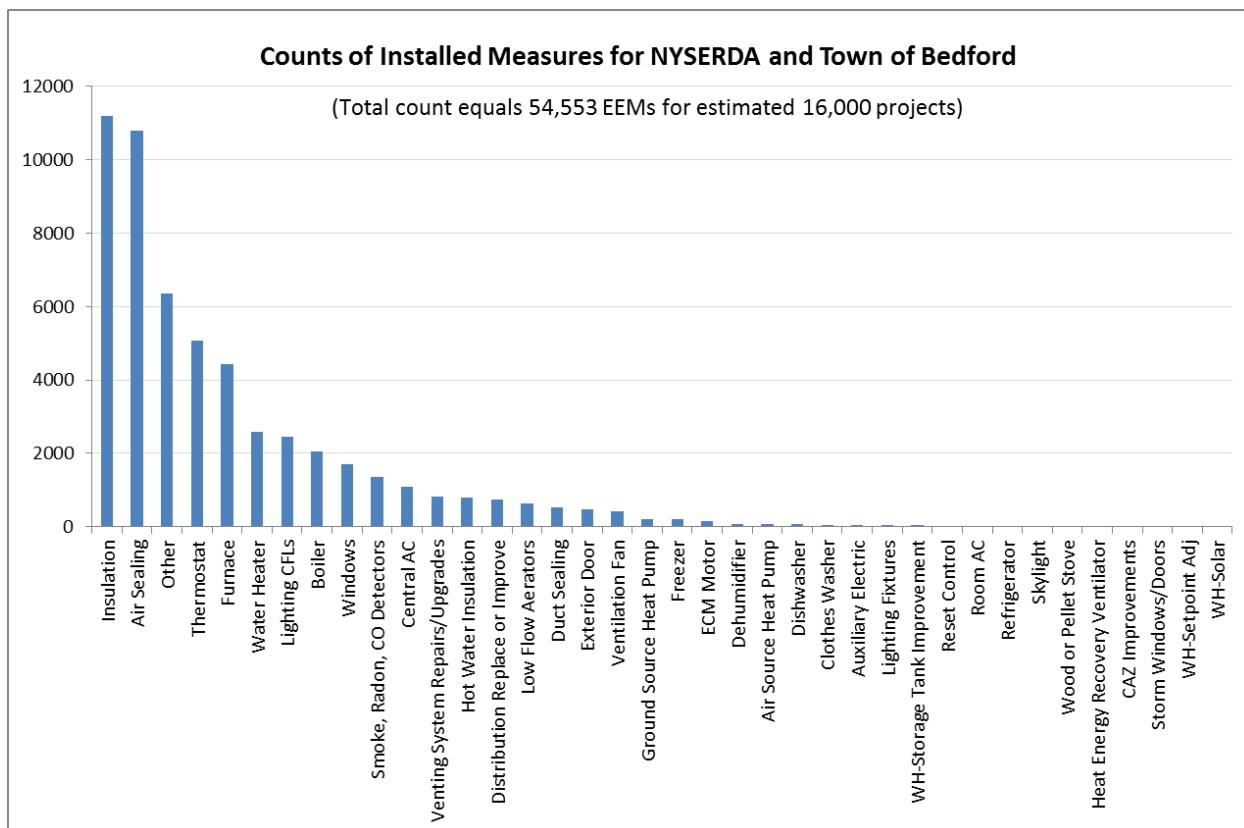


Figure 2. Number of each measure type installed for single-family homes for NYSERDA and Town of Bedford

The percentage of projects having particular measures is shown in Figure 3 for the 16 most frequent measures (excludes NYSERDA and Town of Bedford projects). The percentage of projects having particular measures for NYSERDA and Town of Bedford is shown in Figure 4 for the 16 most frequent measures. Four types of water heaters were pooled for this graph to be more consistent with the water heater category reported at the project level by other grantees. Again, there are similarities between NYSERDA projects and other grantee projects. For example, if attic insulation, wall insulation, and floor/foundation insulation projects are combined, this would be the highest percent measure on both Figure 3 and Figure 4. Air sealing would then be the second-highest percent measure. Water heaters, furnaces, and lighting upgrades are in the top seven EEMs.

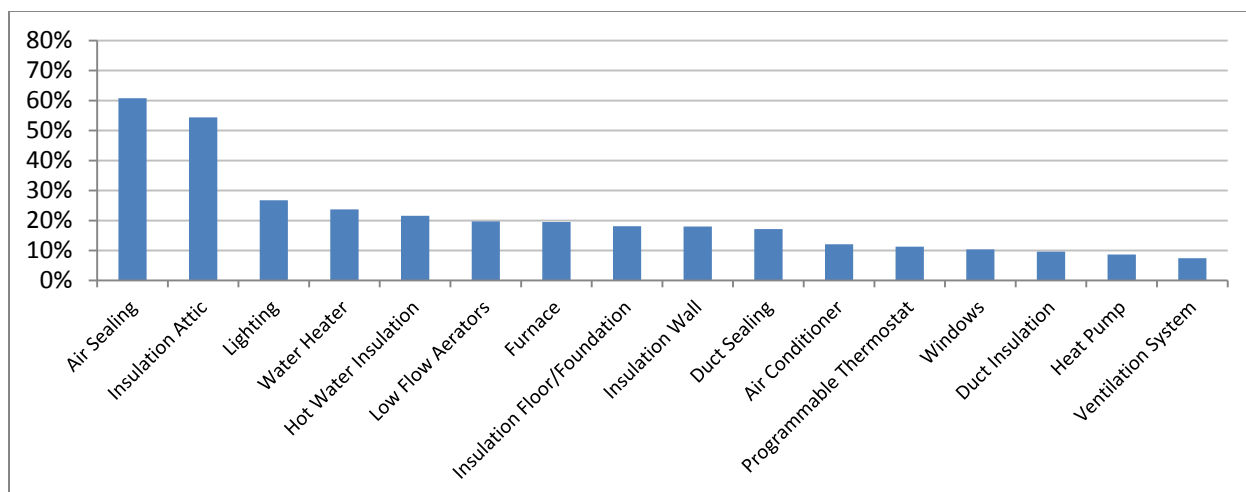


Figure 3. Percent of single-family projects that include specific measure types, excluding projects from NYSERDA and Town of Bedford

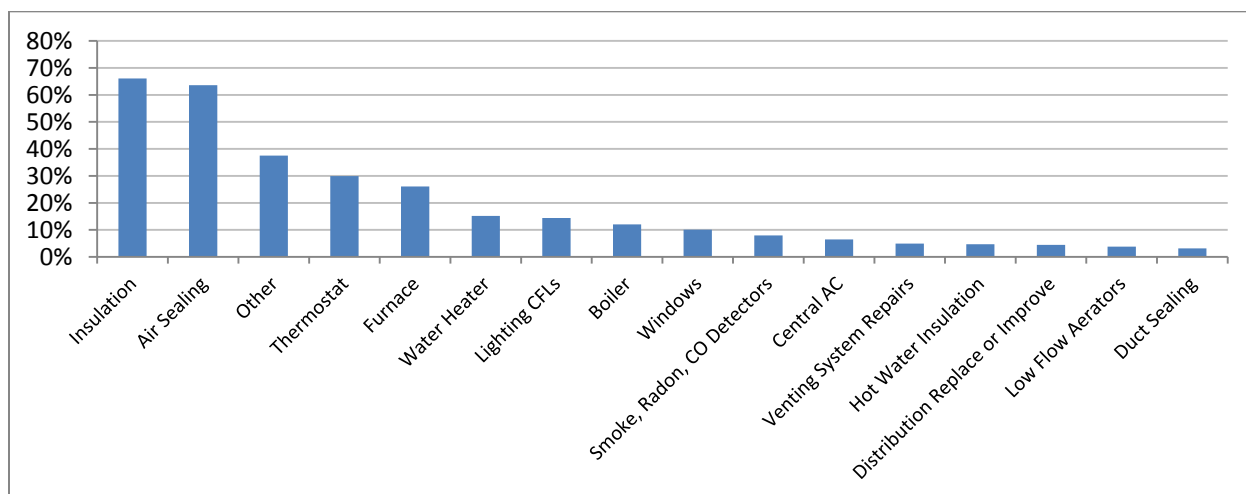


Figure 4. Percent of single-family projects that include specific measure types for NYSERDA and Town of Bedford

For Figure 5, the percentages are broken out by region of the country. NYSERDA and Town of Bedford measures were excluded from this analysis, because these measures were not reported at the individual project level. Of the remaining grantees, there were eight grantees in the Midwest completing approximately 18,000 projects; eight grantees in the Northeast completing approximately 8,000 projects; nine grantees in the South completing approximately 8,000 projects; and ten grantees in the West completing approximately 13,000 projects. Notable observations from Figure 5 include:

- Air sealing was performed in the highest percentage of projects in the Northeast and lowest in the South.

- Measures related to domestic hot water occurred in a higher percentage of projects for the Midwest than for any other region of the country.
- Air conditioner and duct sealing measures occurred in a higher percentage of projects for the South than for any other region of the country.

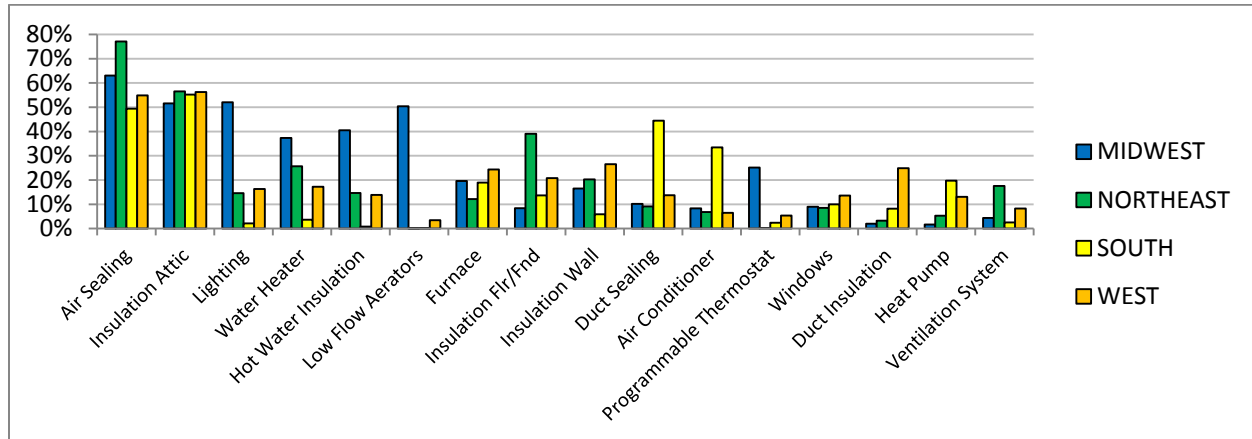


Figure 5. Percent of single-family projects that include specific measure types broken out by region of the country, excluding projects from NYSERDA and Town of Bedford

The year of construction was recorded for approximately 35,000 single-family homes. Figure 6 shows the percentage that includes specific measure types broken out by year of construction. Residential energy efficiency codes first came into effect in 1975 (U.S. Department of Energy 2010); however, actual code adoption can take anywhere from 1 to 10 years (Livingston et al. 2014). Homes were divided into categories that essentially reflect pre-code built homes (approximately 1979 and older) and homes built for each decade from 1980 on. Homes built from 2010 through 2013 were included with homes built from 2000 through 2009 just because there were very few projects on these homes. The count of projects on homes built prior to 1980 was approximately 27,000. This group was divided into homes built prior to 1960 and homes built from 1960 to 1979. Notable observations from Figure 6 include:

- Air sealing and attic insulation were generally implemented in a higher percentage of projects for older than for newer vintages of homes.
- Furnace, duct sealing, and air conditioner measures were implemented in a higher percentage of projects for homes built in the 1990s than for any other vintage; it is possible that the original heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment in these homes was often near its end of life (e.g., approximately 20 years old) and was therefore frequently a good candidate for replacement.

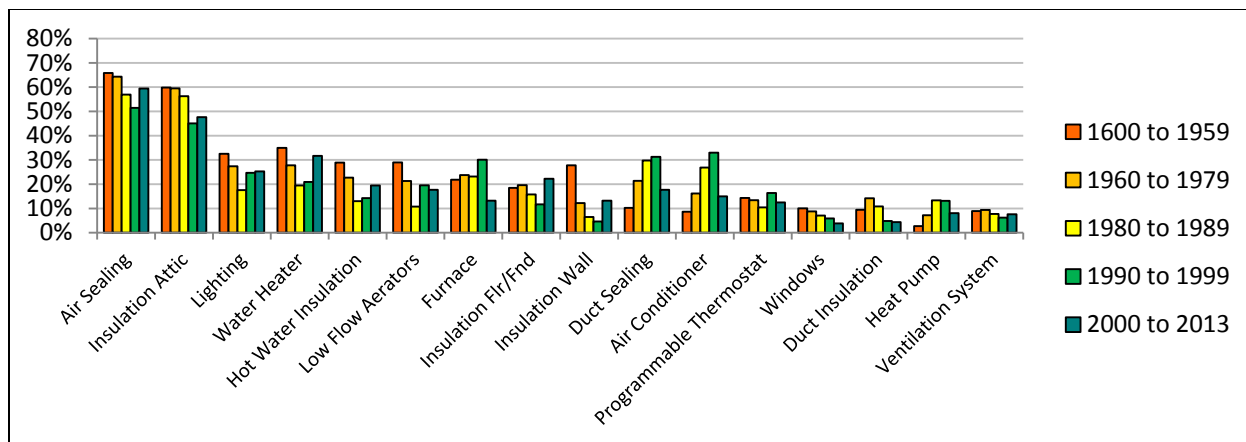


Figure 6. Percent of single-family projects that include specific measure types broken out by year of construction, excluding projects from NYSERDA and Town of Bedford

In many cases, multiple measures were installed in a single home. Analysis was performed to determine the most common measures and combinations of measures. First, measures were categorized as high-frequency, medium-frequency, or low-frequency based on their number of installs (refer to Appendix B). Medium- and low-frequency measures were grouped together and treated as individual measures. Table 1 shows the 10 most frequent combinations of measures, which represent 33% of the 50,102 single-family projects (this count excludes NYSERDA and Town of Bedford projects). A value of 1 in this table indicates that a particular measure was included in the combination.

Table 1. Ten Most Frequent Combinations of Measures

Combination Number	Air Sealing	Insulation in Attic	Lighting	Water Heater	Hot Water Insulation (tank/pipe)	Low flow aerators	Furnace	Insulation in Floor or Foundation	Insulation in Walls	Duct Sealing	Medium Frequency Measures	Low Frequency Measures	Project Count	Cumulative	Cumulative %
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3689	3689	7%
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3598	7287	15%
3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1964	9251	18%
4	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1208	10459	21%
5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1109	11568	23%
6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1007	12575	25%
7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	978	13553	27%
8	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	954	14507	29%
9	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	935	15442	31%
10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	931	16373	33%

The fact that “Medium-Frequency Measures” occur most frequently showcases the diversity of measures installed across the BBNP. Air sealing and attic insulation alone was the second most frequent combination of measures, representing approximately 8% of the projects. Air sealing

and insulation in attic both occurred in 5 of the 10 most frequent combinations of measures. In many cases, either water heater replacement or insulation in attic was the only measure installed in the home, according to the grantee reporting. Distribution plots of energy saved for the combinations in Table 1 are shown in Appendix E.

3 Analysis of Grantee-Estimated Savings

Grantees reported estimations of savings for approximately 47,500 of the single-family projects. Section 3.1 describes the types of methods that were used to estimate savings and how frequently they were used. Section 3.2 includes tabular and graphical summaries of the estimated savings values. Finally, the approach and results of a multiple linear regression (MLR) analysis of estimated savings values are described in Sections 3.3–3.5.

3.1 Savings Estimation Methods

Two fields in Better Buildings Neighborhood Information System (BBNIS) database indicated methods of energy saving prediction:

- AUDITSOFTWARENAME
- PREDICTIONMETHODTYPEDESC.

A pick list was used in the spreadsheet template that most grantees used to submit data; however, some grantees pasted in data, meaning they entered names that were not in the pick list. A few grantees supplied data using XML files and then these fields were “free-form” entry. This resulted in many software names and prediction methods that were not in the original pick list. Grantee responses were categorized as one of the following:

1. Simulation—simulation software listed or indicated
2. Missing or None—indication that software or prediction method was not reported such as blank field, zero, “NA,” or the word “missing”
3. Unknown—possible simulation software but not a well-known simulation software tool
4. Deemed—deemed savings listed
5. Other—a method listed but likely not a simulation software tool.

Although the AUDITSOFTWARENAME field was supposed to list simulation software only, entries such as “deemed savings” were occasionally entered in this field. The agreement between the two fields is poor, as indicated in Figure 7. In particular, the prediction method had a very high percentage of entries of missing or none. Further examination of the data indicated that in some cases a grantee might have entered the software tool used in the AUDITSOFTWARENAME but not in the PREDICTIONMETHODTYPEDESC.

To adjust for this, the audit software category was inserted into the prediction method when the prediction method was “Missing or None.” Figure 8 shows the change in prediction method categories after making this adjustment. The agreement is improved, but the Prediction Method Category still indicates a higher percentage of projects using “Deemed” than reported for the Audit Software Category.

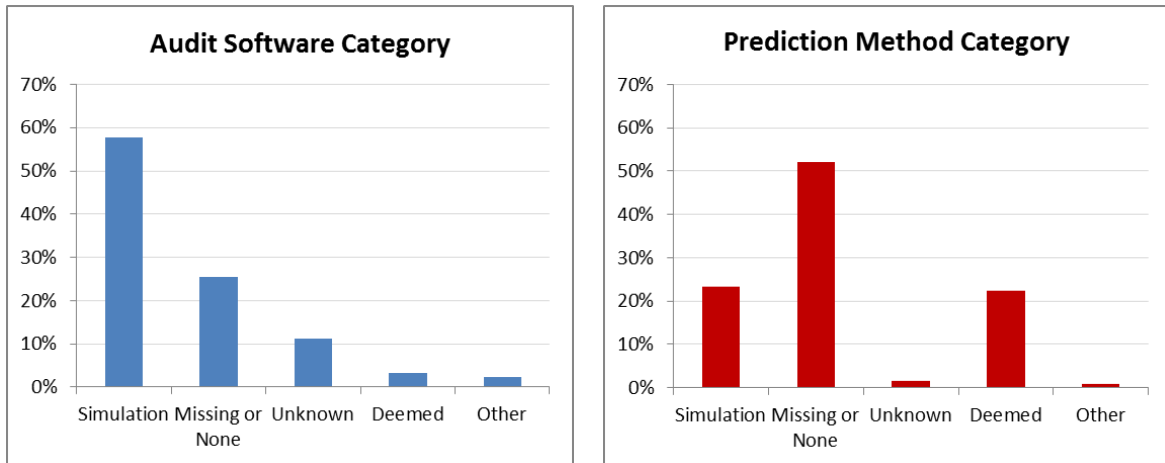


Figure 7. Percentage of single-family projects using particular estimation methods

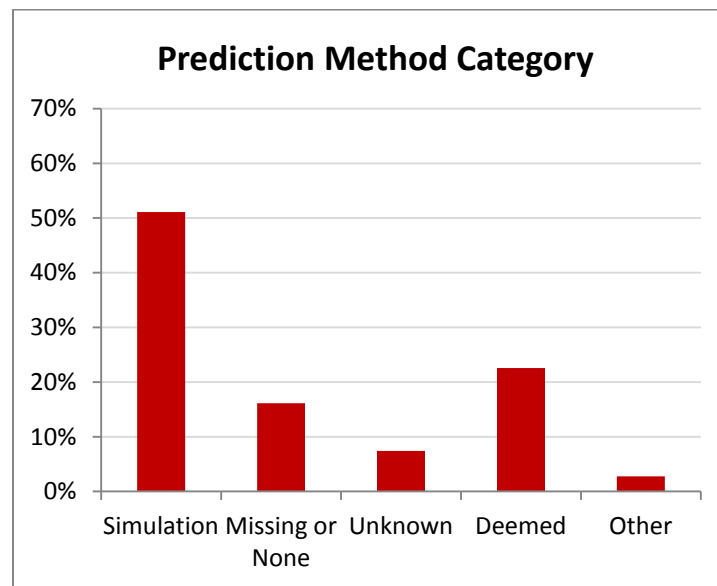


Figure 8. Percentage of single-family projects using particular prediction methods after adjustments

3.2 Statistical Summary of Estimated Savings

For many projects, estimated savings were reported for more than one fuel type. The total estimated source energy savings was calculated by first converting the savings for each fuel type to source energy and then summing these estimated savings. Site-to-source multipliers used for this project are listed in Appendix C. The projects were filtered to include only projects with one or more EEMs and then projects with missing values for estimated total source energy savings were excluded. Extremely low and extremely high estimated savings were suspected to be outliers; therefore, additional filtering was done to include projects between the 0.5 and 99.5 percentiles of estimated source energy savings.

A simple analysis was done as a first check to see if particular measures might correlate with estimated savings. Quartiles were determined based on estimated savings and then the data were summarized by these quartiles, including statistics on EEM counts and the proportions of the most common installed measures, as seen in Table 2 (Quartile 1 includes projects with the lowest estimated savings and Quartile 4 includes projects with the highest estimated savings).

Table 2. Statistics on EEM Counts and Proportion of Projects That Include Specific Measures Broken Out by Quartiles of Estimated Source Energy Savings (MMBtu/year)

Quartiles	1	2	3	4
Project Count	12337	11815	11635	11721
2.5th Percentile EEM Count	1	1	1	1
Median EEM Count	3	3	3	4
97.5th Percentile EEM Count	7	8	8	9
Mean EEM Count	3.3	3.7	3.8	4.1
Standard Deviation (SD) EEM Count	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1
Proportion Air Sealing	0.38	0.60	0.71	0.76
Proportion Insulation Attic	0.29	0.51	0.69	0.71
Proportion Lighting	0.43	0.32	0.18	0.16
Proportion Water Heater	0.35	0.24	0.18	0.19
Proportion Hot Water Insulation	0.36	0.28	0.14	0.11
Proportion Low-Flow Aerators	0.38	0.23	0.11	0.08
Proportion Furnace	0.16	0.17	0.23	0.23
Proportion Insulation Floor Foundation	0.08	0.15	0.19	0.29
Proportion Insulation Wall	0.07	0.14	0.21	0.31
Proportion Duct Sealing	0.07	0.17	0.22	0.24
Proportion Medium-Frequency Measures	0.42	0.45	0.53	0.53
Proportion Low-Frequency Measures	0.19	0.27	0.20	0.23
Mean Energy Saved	10.8	26.4	43.1	94.3
SD Energy Saved	5.2	4.0	6.3	41.5
Relative SD	0.48	0.15	0.15	0.44

As seen in Table 2, the Median EEM Count increases from 3 (Quartile 1) to 4 (Quartile 4). This indicates some potential correlation between the average number of EEMs and the estimated energy saved, but it is likely only one of many factors that contribute to the large differences in average estimated savings across the Quartiles. This simple analysis shows a correlation of greater estimated energy savings with higher proportions of air sealing combined with attic insulation. Other EEMs (furnace installations, floor and foundation insulation, etc.) had proportions less than 0.5 but still increased with increasing energy savings. The proportions for lighting, water heater, hot water insulation, and low-flow aerators were all greater for the lowest energy savings quartile. A variance test indicated that the SD of estimated energy saved is significantly greater for Quartile 4 than the SD for the other quartiles. This is possibly due to a greater number of combinations within this Quartile and the fact that Quartile 4 contains the

upper “tail” of estimated energy savings values. The results in Table 2 show that estimated energy savings is likely a function of the different EEMs used on a project.

Because there were so many combinations of EEMs, trying to determine which individual measures had the highest or lowest estimated energy savings variability was virtually impossible. Table 3 lists the ten most frequent combinations (also listed in Table 1). The 2.5th percentile, median, 97.5th percentile of estimated energy savings are shown in Table 3 for each combination along with the 95th percentile range (97.5th percentile minus 2.5th percentile). The 95th percentile range is a measure of variability. From this table, Combination 1 has the largest 95th percentile range (highlighted in yellow) and includes only medium-frequency EEMs. Combinations 2, 3, 7, and 10 show large variability (highlighted in light orange) and include both air sealing and attic insulation, except Combination 10, which includes air sealing but not attic insulation. Combinations 4 and 6 show medium variability (highlighted in light green); Combination 4 includes air sealing and attic insulation; Combination 6 includes only attic insulation. Combinations 5, 8, and 9 do not include air sealing or attic insulation and show the lowest variability (not highlighted). Distribution plots of these ten most frequent combinations listed in Table 1 are shown in Appendix E. In general the distributions are nonnormal; however, the differences in variability between combinations can be seen.

Table 3. Variability of Estimated Source Energy Savings (MMBtu/year) by Ten Most Frequent Combinations

Combination	Air Sealing	Insulation Attic	Lighting	Water Heater	Med.-Freq. Measures	2.5th Pctl. Energy Saved	Median Energy Saved	97.5th Pctl. Energy Saved	95th Pctl. Range
1	0	0	0	0	1	3	33	149	146
2	1	1	0	0	0	8	38	130	122
3	1	1	0	0	0	11	43	140	129
4	1	1	0	0	1	13	41	109	96
5	0	0	0	1	0	1	9	38	37
6	0	1	0	0	0	3	21	100	97
7	1	1	0	0	0	12	51	149	137
8	0	0	1	0	0	2	11	32	30
9	0	0	1	1	1	2	11	43	41
10	1	0	0	0	0	1	21	134	133

3.3 Multiple Linear Regression Approach

MLR was used to develop empirical models to test the significance and the amount of energy savings that could be attributed to the various project measures. This section covers the approach taken, the resulting models, and the conclusions that can be drawn from these models.

The general model equation for MLR follows:

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_n x_n + \varepsilon$$

where,

y is the dependent variable

β_0 is the intercept

β_1 through β_n are the coefficients

x_1 through x_n are the independent variables (inputs)

ε is the remaining error.

In MLR, a least-squares-fit algorithm is applied to a data set that contains multiple records; each record contains one y -value and its associated x -values. Most statistical software programs calculate the coefficients and probability values that allow one to determine which independent variables are significant. Although one starts out initially with a model containing practically all possible independent variables, common practice is to eliminate insignificant variables until a “reduced” model containing only significant variables is achieved.

The output from most MLR programs is a table that contains the following statistics for each variable used in the model:

- Coefficient
- Standard error
- t value
- Probability value.

The coefficient is determined from the least-squares fit, the standard error is essentially the SD calculated for each coefficient, the t value is the coefficient divided by the standard error and the probability value is determined from the *Student's t distribution* (Interpreting Regression Output 2007). The probability value ($\Pr(>|t|)$) is used to determine whether a variable is significant. In general, a probability value of 0.05 or less is considered significant. The R language was used for statistical analysis of this study's data (R Core Team 2014). The output from the R program uses the term *Estimate* for coefficients (Rodríguez 2013). The absolute t value gives a reasonable indication of the importance of a variable. In addition to the table, the regression output includes the estimates for R-squared and adjusted R-squared. R-squared is also referred to as the *coefficient of determination* and indicates how well data points fit a line or curve regardless of whether the terms in the model are significant. Adjusted R-squared takes into consideration whether the model improves significantly as terms are added (Montgomery 1997).

3.4 Multiple Linear Regression Independent Variables

The independent variables collected in the BBNP database were screened for completeness and variable validity. The variables considered for MLR analysis are listed in Appendix D. The variables fall into three types: (1) categorical, (2) numeric, and (3) binary. Often categorical variables are converted to binaries by creating a binary variable for each category. There were only three categorical variables of interest. Because it was desirable to see the estimated regression coefficient regardless of whether the particular category was significant, these

variables were left as is (not converted to binary variables). For categorical variables, the R language automatically assigned one category as a control and the other categories were then compared against the assigned control. For these reasons, if a categorical variable was found significant in the model, coefficients and P values for all the categories were reported, regardless of whether individual P values were 0.05 or less.

The three categorical variables are the GRANTEE (randomly assigned letter codes for each grantee), CENSUS_REGION and PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 (adjusted as described in Section 3.1). Because specific grantees are unique to each census region, a separate model was generated using CENSUS_REGION (excluding GRANTEE) and then using GRANTEE (excluding CENSUS_REGION). The reason for including GRANTEE or CENSUS_REGION in the model is that other factors such as climate and fuel type can impact the estimate of energy savings. Rather than attempt to join climate variables to the data or determine proportions of fuel types for each location, GRANTEE or CENSUS_REGION can be used to account for some of these additional factors. With the exception of RETROFIT_YR, the numeric variables had substantial missing observations. Numeric variables with many missing observations cannot be used in the MLR analysis as is. In some cases a numeric variable can be treated as a binary variable where the binary only indicates whether the information has been reported.

RENEWABLEINVOICEDCOST_LISTED is set to 1 when TOTALRENEWABLEINVOICEDCOST is reported. The reason for using this variable is that 256 projects were found that had renewable invoiced cost reported but no other indication of renewable measures; thus, RENEWABLEINVOICEDCOST_LISTED becomes an additional indicator that a renewable measure was installed. Most other numeric variables with many missing observations were excluded from the MLR analysis of this data. On the other hand, when the number of missing observations is smaller, a subset can be analyzed. FLOORAREA, RETROFITJOBHOURS, and RETROFITINVOICEDCOST were tested on a subset of data after filtering from 0.5th percentile to 99.5th percentile of these variables.

The EEMs were coded as binary variables where 1 means the particular measure was installed on a project and 0 means it was not. Appendix D includes a table of 41 EEM categories with the counts of projects where the measures were installed. Packaged unit heating only occurred on two projects and thus was not included in the regression analysis.

The binary variables LOANAMOUNT_LISTED and LOAN_OBTAINED were essentially the same. LOAN_OBTAINED includes an additional 25 projects where a loan approval date—but no loan amount—was reported. The loan amount was reported on 8,053 projects. LOANAMOUNT_LISTED generally gave slightly higher adjusted R-squared values and became the default for testing the impact of having a loan for the project.

Four binary variables were created to examine the possible correlation between estimated energy savings and service provider certifications:

1. AUDIT_BPI_CERT—auditor was BPI certified
2. AUDIT_OTHER_CERT—auditor was certified but not BPI certified
3. CONTRACT_BPI_CERT—contractor was BPI certified
4. CONTRACT_OTHER_CERT—contractor was certified but not BPI certified.

Appendix D includes a complete listing of binary variables considered for the MLR analysis.

3.5 Regression Analysis of Estimated Savings

The total estimated source energy savings (MMBtu/year) was the dependent variable modeled as a function of the various independent variables described in Section 3.4. To evaluate the resulting model, 70% of the available data was randomly selected as the training data set. These were the data used to create a model. The model was then applied to the remaining 30% of the data to determine how well the model can predict. R-squared and adjusted R-squared were used for comparison. If a binary variable did not have at least 10 counts in the training data set, it was excluded from further consideration.

An initial model had an adjusted R-squared of 0.371 with many variables being significant. Figure 9 shows the estimates of energy saved versus the regression model predictions and the residuals versus the regression model predictions. If the model were perfect, all observations would fall on the black line indicating perfect agreement between the regression model and observations. The residuals plot (lower graph in Figure 9) is a diagnostic tool used to see if the residuals are random across the prediction range or if some pattern emerges. As seen in Figure 9, the variability (as indicated by the residuals) increases with increasing predicted values. When this occurs, the probability of incorrectly determining the significance of variables increases.

The residuals were analyzed in more detail to determine a variance stabilizing transformation (Box et. al. 1978). This analysis indicated that the log of energy saved should help stabilize the variance. The problem with transforming the dependent variable was that interpreting the effect of the independent variables on the untransformed dependent variable became more difficult. The approach taken was to determine potentially significant variables using the model with log of energy saved, and then create a model of energy saved as a function of just the variables found significant using the log transformation. For model reduction using log of energy saved, the stepAIC function was used with the Bayesian Information Criterion option (Henze et al. 2014). The probability values from the model of energy saved were used as a final determination of the significance of a variable without further removal of variables.

Figure 10 shows the model results using log of estimated energy saved. Although the residuals from the model using the log of estimated energy saved still are not entirely uniform over the prediction range, the adjusted R-squared is 0.435 (a substantial improvement over 0.371 for the initial model). The model was then applied to the test data. This gave an adjusted R-squared value of 0.433, indicating that the model can predict with approximately the same level of accuracy as observed from the training data set. Figure 11 shows plots of energy saved from the test data set versus regression predicted values.

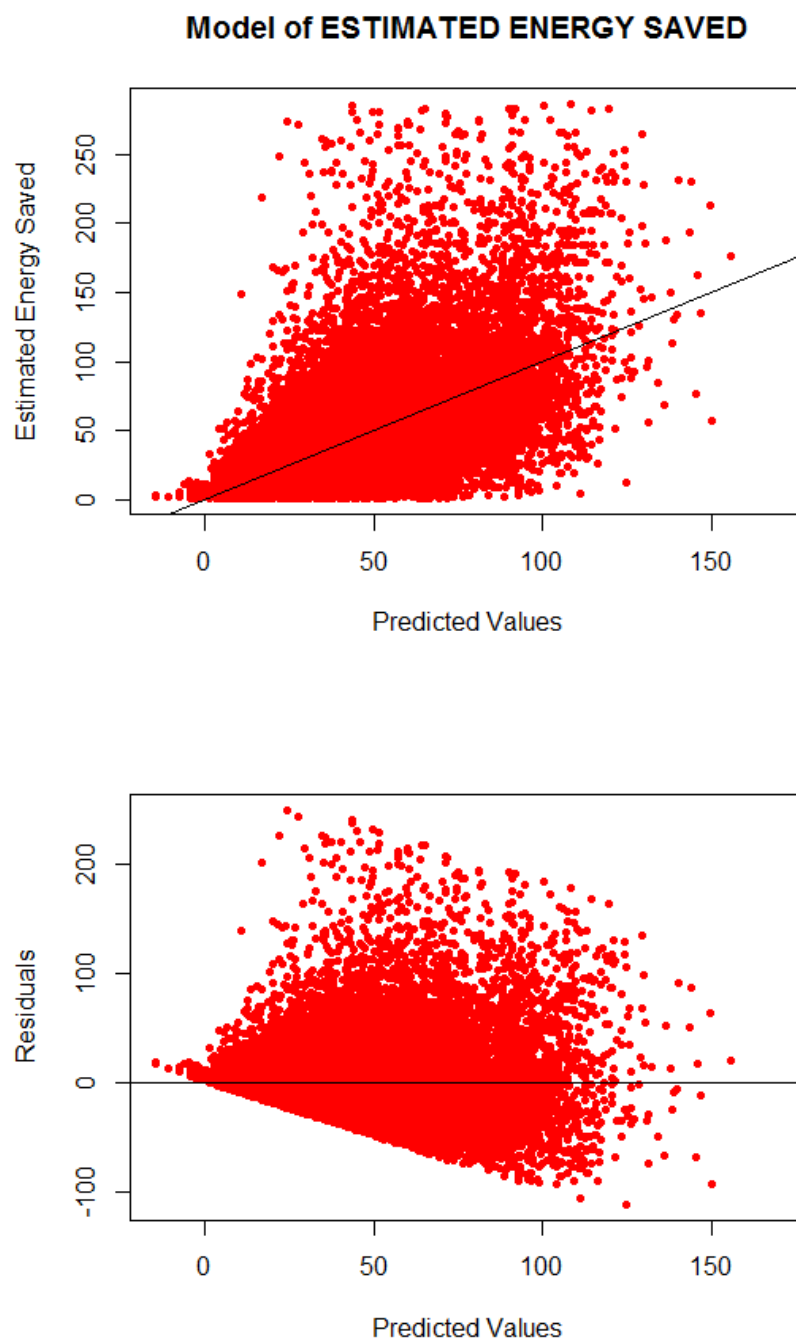


Figure 9. Estimated energy saved versus MLR model predictions for initial MLR model and residuals versus MLR model predictions. Energy saved has units of source MMBtu/year.

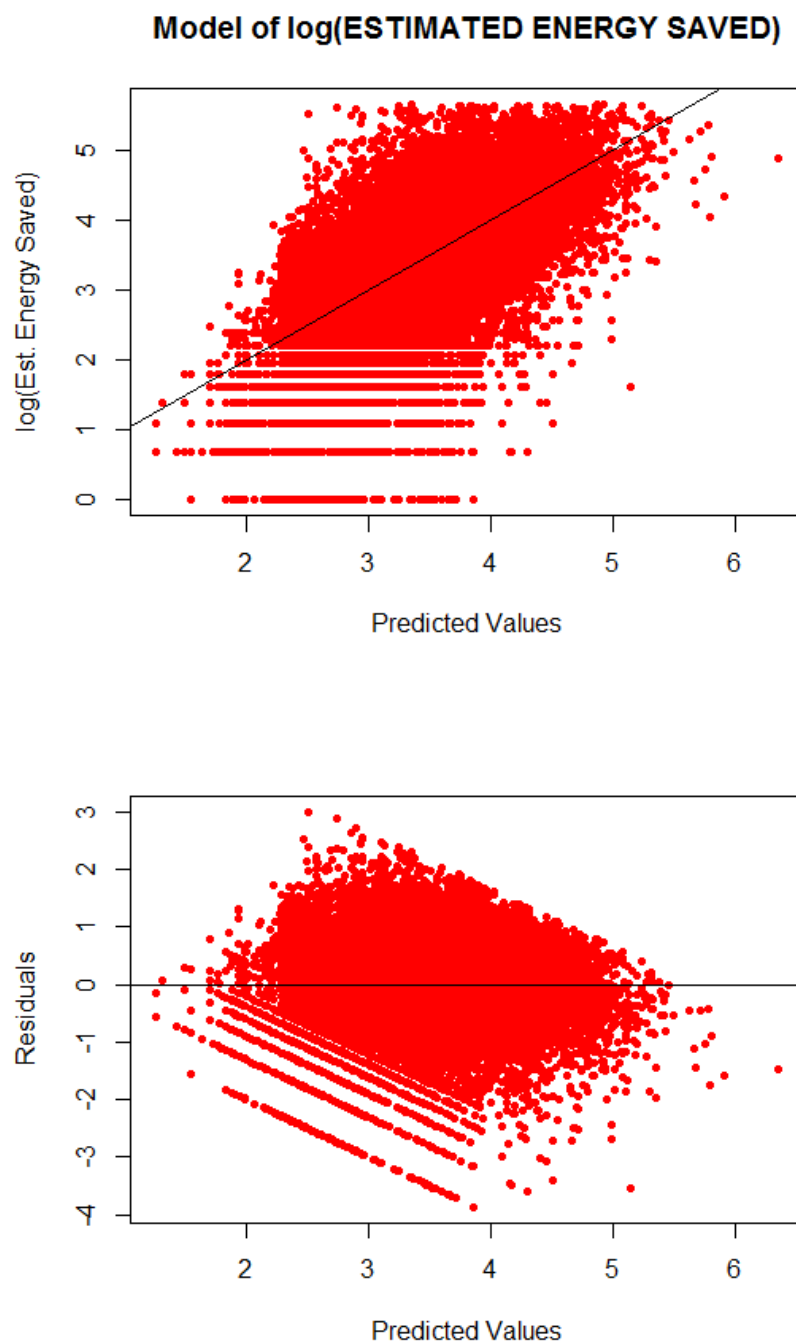


Figure 10. Log of estimated energy saved versus MLR model predictions and residuals versus regression model predictions. Energy saved has units of source MMBtu/year.

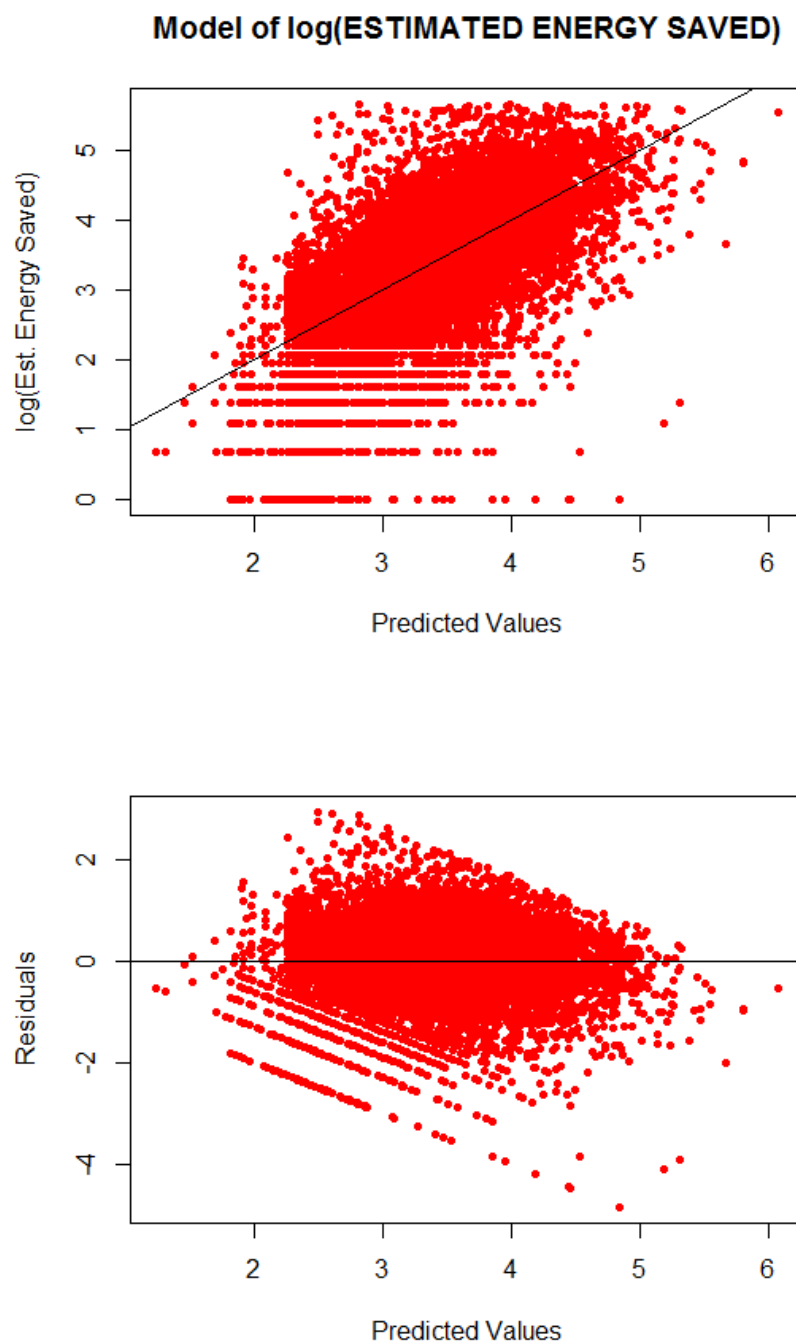


Figure 11. Log of estimated energy saved versus MLR model predictions and residuals versus MLR model predictions using the test data set. Energy saved has units of source MMBtu/year.

Table 4 lists all the significant⁶ variables using log of estimated source energy saved as the dependent variable. The adjusted R-squared value of 0.435 indicates that about 44% of the

⁶ If a categorical variable (e.g., Grantee, Prediction Method) was found to be significant, all categories for the variable are reported in the table regardless of whether the P value for an individual category is 0.05 or less.

variability in the log of estimated source energy saved is explained by the model (and about 56% is not explained). Table 5 lists the same variables as Table 4 (variables found significant in the log of estimated source energy saved) when the dependent variable is estimated energy saved in source MMBtu/year. The adjusted R-squared value of 0.369 indicates that about 37% of the variability in the estimated source energy saved is explained by the model. At least 22 of the EEMs are significant in the model and 18 have positive estimates (when estimated energy saved is used as the dependent variable). These estimates are approximations of the savings that can be attributed to each installed measure because of the binary coding. Some of the measures with the highest estimates include solar PV (B_INST_SOLAR_PV), heat pumps (B_INST_HEAT_PUMP) and solar thermal (B_INST_SOLAR_THERMAL). Some of the measures with the lowest estimates include low flow aerators (B_INST_LOWFLOW) and thermostatic expansion valves (B_INST_THERMO_VLV). Although possible, the savings is unlikely to actually be negative. Applying MLR to this type of data presents a number of difficulties. There is variability in the estimated energy saved for all EEMs. If the estimated savings is relatively low, as is likely for low flow aerators and thermostatic expansion valves, there is likely a low signal to noise ratio. When low flow aerators and thermostatic expansion valves were installed, they were most often installed along with other EEMs. Both the variability in an individual EEM and the additional variability in estimated energy saved from combinations of EEMs make it difficult to extract the exact estimated savings from each EEM. Furthermore, substantial uncertainty in the dependent variable contributes to uncertainty in the estimates. This becomes even more complicated because many combinations occur in a very unbalanced way (as opposed to a carefully designed experiment where combinations are controlled). As shown in Table 1, air sealing most often was done with attic insulation, so the energy saved on these projects is from both measures. If the energy saved from both is generally less than if each measure had been observed individually, regression estimates for each measure will likely be underestimated. The main point is that the estimates from MLR are only approximations.

Many of the variables and the signs of their estimates have plausible explanations. For example, LOANAMOUNT_LISTED has a positive estimate of 8.3 MMBtu; obtaining a loan will likely allow the occupant to invest in more EEMs. Installing attic insulation should result in positive estimated energy savings; the MLR model confirms this. Installing a more efficient air conditioner or furnace should also result in positive estimated energy savings; the MLR model confirms this as well. As previously mentioned, climate and the types of fuels used can vary from one location to another. The difference between GRANTEES appears to capture these differences. Estimates for grantees range from -22.7 to 52.4.

RETROFIT_YR (the year the project was completed) was found to be significant with a negative estimate. The negative estimate implies that projects occurring in later years of the BBNP were generally associated with lower estimated energy savings than projects occurring in the earlier years of the program. It is not understood exactly why this occurred. Possibly projects with high potential for energy savings were generally completed first or perhaps estimates were moderated over time. Another possibility is that the grantees most active in the later years of the program targeted lower energy savings levels.

Table 4. MLR Regression Model for Log (Estimated Energy Saved): R-Squared = 0.437, Adjusted R-Squared = 0.435, Degrees of Freedom = 33389

Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	132.7486	11.3581	11.6900	< 2e-16
B_INST_AC	0.2509	0.0162	15.5100	< 2e-16
B_INST_AC_TUNE	-0.2564	0.0627	-4.0900	0.0000
B_INST_AIR_SEALING	0.2301	0.0113	20.4400	< 2e-16
B_INST_BOILER	0.4152	0.0243	17.0700	< 2e-16
B_INST_DISHWASHER	-0.2379	0.0604	-3.9400	0.0001
B_INST_DUCT_INSUL	0.1463	0.0150	9.7400	< 2e-16
B_INST_DUCT_SEALING	0.1134	0.0137	8.2700	< 2e-16
B_INST_DHW_INSUL	0.1651	0.0176	9.3900	< 2e-16
B_INST_FIREPLACE_INSERT	-0.6221	0.1736	-3.5800	0.0003
B_INST_FURNACE	0.3016	0.0118	25.5800	< 2e-16
B_INST_HEAT_PUMP	0.7151	0.0166	43.1600	< 2e-16
B_INST_INSUL_ATTIC	0.3787	0.0098	38.7000	< 2e-16
B_INST_INSUL_FLR_FND	0.1111	0.0127	8.7200	< 2e-16
B_INST_INSUL_WALL	0.3764	0.0113	33.4300	< 2e-16
B_INST_LOWFLOW	-0.3057	0.0198	-15.4300	< 2e-16
B_INST_SOLAR_PV	1.3489	0.0971	13.8900	< 2e-16
B_INST_SOLAR_THERMAL	0.4374	0.0928	4.7100	0.0000
B_INST_WATER_CONSERV	0.3840	0.0326	11.7600	< 2e-16
B_INST_WTHR_STRPNG	0.2041	0.0436	4.6900	0.0000
B_INST_THERMO_VLV	-0.5756	0.0456	-12.6100	< 2e-16
B_INST_CHIMNEY_LINER	0.4076	0.0473	8.6200	< 2e-16
B_INST_SMART_STRIPS	0.1946	0.0574	3.3900	0.0007
GRANTEE AA	0.1686	0.0404	4.1700	0.0000
GRANTEE B	0.6097	0.0638	9.5600	< 2e-16
GRANTEE BB	0.0295	0.0405	0.7300	0.4669
GRANTEE C	0.4857	0.0507	9.5700	< 2e-16
GRANTEE CC	0.7418	0.0391	18.9800	< 2e-16
GRANTEE D	0.1490	0.0560	2.6600	0.0078
GRANTEE DD	0.4940	0.0318	15.5500	< 2e-16
GRANTEE E	0.0584	0.1488	0.3900	0.6947
GRANTEE EE	0.3513	0.0418	8.4100	< 2e-16
GRANTEE F	-0.0726	0.0468	-1.5500	0.1211
GRANTEE FF	-0.3088	0.0376	-8.2000	0.0000
GRANTEE G	0.8695	0.0437	19.8800	< 2e-16
GRANTEE GG	0.3978	0.0524	7.5900	0.0000
GRANTEE H	0.0167	0.0385	0.4300	0.6648
GRANTEE HH	-0.0673	0.0407	-1.6500	0.0981

Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
GRANTEE I	0.1299	0.0494	2.6300	0.0086
GRANTEE II	0.8885	0.0551	16.1100	< 2e-16
GRANTEE J	0.2490	0.0399	6.2300	0.0000
GRANTEE K	0.5273	0.0865	6.1000	0.0000
GRANTEE L	0.3460	0.0330	10.4700	< 2e-16
GRANTEE M	0.6172	0.1540	4.0100	0.0001
GRANTEE N	0.3655	0.0554	6.6000	0.0000
GRANTEE O	0.3627	0.0503	7.2100	0.0000
GRANTEE P	1.0422	0.0384	27.1100	< 2e-16
GRANTEE Q	0.9971	0.0409	24.3600	< 2e-16
GRANTEE R	0.0171	0.0619	0.2800	0.7826
GRANTEE S	0.2110	0.0333	6.3300	0.0000
GRANTEE T	0.3571	0.0561	6.3600	0.0000
GRANTEE U	-0.0123	0.0366	-0.3400	0.7361
GRANTEE V	0.2831	0.0447	6.3400	0.0000
GRANTEE W	1.1233	0.0440	25.5400	< 2e-16
GRANTEE X	-0.3302	0.0691	-4.7800	0.0000
GRANTEE Y	0.0187	0.0796	0.2400	0.8141
GRANTEE Z	0.3911	0.0433	9.0200	< 2e-16
RETROFIT_YR	-0.0650	0.0057	-11.5100	< 2e-16
YEARBUILT_PRE_1950	0.0720	0.0100	7.2000	0.0000
YEARBUILT_1970_1979	0.0529	0.0146	3.6400	0.0003
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Missing or None	-0.1255	0.0314	-4.0000	0.0001
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Other	-0.0519	0.0304	-1.7000	0.0883
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Simulation	-0.0809	0.0159	-5.1000	0.0000
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Unknown	-0.1958	0.0296	-6.6200	0.0000
LOANAMOUNT_LISTED	0.2089	0.0150	13.9400	< 2e-16
AUDIT_BPI_CERT	0.1298	0.0157	8.2500	< 2e-16
AUDIT_OTHER_CERT	0.1722	0.0216	7.9900	0.0000
INST_ELECT_SAVINGS_LISTED	0.4496	0.0145	30.9300	< 2e-16
INST_NG_SAVINGS_LISTED	0.1353	0.0135	10.0500	< 2e-16
RENEWABLEINVOICEDCOST_LISTED	1.0426	0.0525	19.8600	< 2e-16
CUSTOMERCONTRIBUTION_LISTED	0.1041	0.0228	4.5700	0.0000
SUBSIDY_LISTED	-0.1176	0.0228	-5.1700	0.0000
OTHERFUNDS_LISTED	-0.2961	0.0223	-13.2900	< 2e-16
RETROFITCUSTCONTRIB_LISTED	0.0915	0.0153	5.9600	0.0000
REASON_COMFORT	-0.4614	0.0677	-6.8200	0.0000
REASON_SAVINGS	0.6483	0.0495	13.1000	< 2e-16

Table 5. MLR Regression Model for Estimated Energy Saved: R-Squared = 0.370, Adjusted R-Squared = 0.369, Degrees of Freedom = 33389

Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept) ⁷	5157.28	491.02	10.50	< 2e-16
B_INST_AC	11.04	0.70	15.80	< 2e-16
B_INST_AC_TUNE	-1.78	2.71	-0.65	0.5128
B_INST_AIR_SEALING	7.40	0.49	15.20	< 2e-16
B_INST_BOILER	15.85	1.05	15.07	< 2e-16
B_INST_DISHWASHER	0.05	2.61	0.02	0.9843
B_INST_DUCT_INSUL	4.95	0.65	7.63	0.0000
B_INST_DUCT_SEALING	4.90	0.59	8.27	< 2e-16
B_INST_DHW_INSUL	3.76	0.76	4.95	0.0000
B_INST_FIREPLACE_INSERT	-1.77	7.51	-0.24	0.8133
B_INST_FURNACE	10.33	0.51	20.26	< 2e-16
B_INST_HEAT_PUMP	30.85	0.72	43.08	< 2e-16
B_INST_INSUL_ATTIC	10.57	0.42	24.98	< 2e-16
B_INST_INSUL_FLR_FND	4.95	0.55	9.00	< 2e-16
B_INST_INSUL_WALL	14.46	0.49	29.71	< 2e-16
B_INST_LOWFLOW	-6.68	0.86	-7.79	0.0000
B_INST_SOLAR_PV	79.81	4.20	19.01	< 2e-16
B_INST_SOLAR_THERMAL	26.68	4.01	6.65	0.0000
B_INST_WATER_CONSERV	8.19	1.41	5.80	0.0000
B_INST_WTHR_STRPNG	6.03	1.88	3.20	0.0014
B_INST_THERMO_VLV	-8.60	1.97	-4.36	0.0000
B_INST_CHIMNEY_LINER	12.34	2.04	6.04	0.0000
B_INST_SMART_STRIPS	6.08	2.48	2.45	0.0142
GRANTEE AA	4.50	1.75	2.58	0.0100
GRANTEE B	7.89	2.76	2.86	0.0042
GRANTEE BB	-8.94	1.75	-5.10	0.0000
GRANTEE C	6.26	2.19	2.85	0.0043
GRANTEE CC	25.04	1.69	14.82	< 2e-16
GRANTEE D	-1.53	2.42	-0.63	0.5290
GRANTEE DD	5.14	1.37	3.74	0.0002
GRANTEE E	-5.69	6.43	-0.88	0.3765
GRANTEE EE	1.81	1.81	1.00	0.3155
GRANTEE F	-10.34	2.02	-5.11	0.0000
GRANTEE FF	-22.73	1.63	-13.97	< 2e-16
GRANTEE G	31.21	1.89	16.50	< 2e-16
GRANTEE GG	12.17	2.26	5.37	0.0000

⁷ The large value for the intercept is the result of including RETROFIT_YR in the model (2010 through 2013).

Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
GRANTEE H	-10.50	1.66	-6.31	0.0000
GRANTEE HH	-4.09	1.76	-2.32	0.0202
GRANTEE I	-0.05	2.14	-0.02	0.9806
GRANTEE II	34.12	2.38	14.31	< 2e-16
GRANTEE J	-1.87	1.73	-1.08	0.2788
GRANTEE K	-1.45	3.74	-0.39	0.6990
GRANTEE L	3.28	1.43	2.30	0.0216
GRANTEE M	27.45	6.66	4.12	0.0000
GRANTEE N	-0.70	2.39	-0.29	0.7705
GRANTEE O	-1.03	2.17	-0.47	0.6360
GRANTEE P	36.63	1.66	22.05	< 2e-16
GRANTEE Q	52.40	1.77	29.61	< 2e-16
GRANTEE R	-5.30	2.67	-1.98	0.0474
GRANTEE S	2.57	1.44	1.78	0.0747
GRANTEE T	4.32	2.43	1.78	0.0747
GRANTEE U	2.54	1.58	1.61	0.1077
GRANTEE V	-2.65	1.93	-1.37	0.1704
GRANTEE W	46.16	1.90	24.28	< 2e-16
GRANTEE X	-19.51	2.99	-6.53	0.0000
GRANTEE Y	-16.88	3.44	-4.90	0.0000
GRANTEE Z	5.47	1.87	2.92	0.0035
RETROFIT_YR	-2.56	0.24	-10.49	< 2e-16
YEARBUILT_PRE_1950	6.08	0.43	14.06	< 2e-16
YEARBUILT_1970_1979	1.25	0.63	1.98	0.0474
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Missing or None	-2.51	1.36	-1.85	0.0642
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Other	-0.76	1.32	-0.58	0.5623
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Simulation	-0.24	0.69	-0.34	0.7317
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Unknown	-8.82	1.28	-6.90	0.0000
LOANAMOUNT_LISTED	8.30	0.65	12.81	< 2e-16
AUDIT_BPI_CERT	4.79	0.68	7.04	0.0000
AUDIT_OTHER_CERT	7.85	0.93	8.43	< 2e-16
INST_ELECT_SAVINGS_LISTED	11.17	0.63	17.78	< 2e-16
INST_NG_SAVINGS_LISTED	0.24	0.58	0.41	0.6833
RENEWABLEINVOICEDCOST_LISTED	53.96	2.27	23.78	< 2e-16
CUSTOMERCONTRIBUTION_LISTED	4.14	0.98	4.20	0.0000
SUBSIDY_LISTED	-4.22	0.98	-4.29	0.0000
OTHERFUNDS_LISTED	-13.64	0.96	-14.17	< 2e-16
RETROFITCUSTCONTRIB_LISTED	7.60	0.66	11.46	< 2e-16
REASON_COMFORT	-14.22	2.93	-4.86	0.0000
REASON_SAVINGS	23.01	2.14	10.76	< 2e-16

When CENSUS_REGION was substituted for GRANTEE the adjusted R-squared decreased to 0.292, but most of the variable estimates remained approximately the same. The estimates for just the CENSUS_REGION categories are listed in Table 6. These estimates are referenced to the MIDWEST. Hence the NORTHEAST shows 2.73 MMBtu greater than the MIDWEST, the SOUTH shows 10.23 MMBtu less than the MIDWEST and the WEST shows 2.33 MMBtu less.

Table 6. CENSUS_REGION Estimates From MLR Regression Model for Estimated Energy Saved: R-Squared = 0.293, Adjusted R-Squared = 0.292, Degrees of Freedom = 33,420

Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
CENSUS_REGION NORTHEAST	2.73	0.83	3.31	0.0009
CENSUS_REGION SOUTH	-10.23	0.75	-13.73	< 2e-16
CENSUS_REGION WEST	-2.33	0.72	-3.25	0.0011

The adjusted R-squared increased when GRANTEE was used in the regression rather than CENSUS_REGION. This indicates that the GRANTEE variable better accounted for location-dependent differences (e.g., climate and fuel type) and accounted for fundamental differences between the grantee programs. For example, one grantee might have targeted a deeper level of air sealing energy savings than other grantees. While the binary variable for the air sealing retrofit measure approximated the average air sealing savings, the grantee variables helped capture variations in savings between grantees.

The next step was to include FLOORAREA, RETROFITJOBHOURS, and RETROFITINVOICEDCOST. First, the training data set was filtered to include only values greater than zero for these variables. Second, the 0.5th percentile and the 99.5th percentile values were determined and finally the training data set was filtered by each of these numeric variables to include values within these percentile ranges. Table 7 lists some basic statistics for these variables after removing missing and zero values. This reduced the available observations from more than 30,000 to less than 20,000, which is still a substantial amount of data.

Table 7. Basic Statistical Summary of FLOORAREA, RETROFITJOBHOURS and RETROFITINVOICEDCOST After Removing Missing and Zero Values

Variable	0.5th Pctl.	25th Pctl.	Median	75th Pctl.	99.5th Pctl.
FLOORAREA	672	1412	1920	2594	6300
RETROFITJOBHOURS	2	8	24	47	294
RETROFITINVOICEDCOST	138	2047	4910	9500	31259

The same method was used to determine significant variables by first creating a model using log of estimated energy saved followed by a model using estimated energy saved to obtain estimates in source MMBtu. Table 8 is the model using estimated energy saved as the dependent variable. Even on this reduced data set, 13 of 18 measures have positive estimates and most have estimates that are comparable to estimates found using the larger data set. The primary purpose of this test was to see if any of the three numeric variables are significant. As it turns out, all three were found significant with positive estimates.

**Table 8. MLR Regression Model for Estimated Energy Saved: R-Squared = 0.405,
Adjusted R-Squared = 0.403, Degrees of Freedom = 19597**

Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	3820.00	727.00	5.26	0.0000
B_INST_AC	4.21	0.84	5.01	0.0000
B_INST_AIR_SEALING	5.07	0.62	8.16	0.0000
B_INST_BOILER	6.27	1.53	4.10	0.0000
B_INST_CLTH_WASH	5.08	2.18	2.33	0.0198
B_INST_DUCT_INSUL	3.48	0.83	4.20	0.0000
B_INST_DUCT_SEALING	3.74	0.75	4.98	0.0000
B_INST_DHW_INSUL	7.55	1.43	5.29	0.0000
B_INST_FURNACE	8.50	0.59	14.53	< 2e-16
B_INST_FURNACE_TUNE	-33.80	21.20	-1.59	0.1117
B_INST_HEAT_PUMP	22.50	1.03	21.80	< 2e-16
B_INST_INSUL_ATTIC	7.39	0.54	13.75	< 2e-16
B_INST_INSUL_FLR_FND	1.89	0.67	2.83	0.0047
B_INST_INSUL_WALL	8.93	0.58	15.36	< 2e-16
B_INST_LOWFLOW	-9.35	1.42	-6.57	0.0000
B_INST_WATER_HEATER	-0.85	0.63	-1.35	0.1762
B_INST_WINDOWS	-3.59	0.80	-4.50	0.0000
B_INST_INSUL_BSMT	-8.45	4.17	-2.03	0.0425
B_INST_CHIMNEY_LINER	7.94	2.03	3.92	0.0001
GRANTEE AA	-14.10	3.94	-3.57	0.0004
GRANTEE BB	-33.30	3.82	-8.72	< 2e-16
GRANTEE CC	14.10	3.91	3.62	0.0003
GRANTEE D	-32.00	4.83	-6.63	0.0000
GRANTEE DD	-1.65	4.00	-0.41	0.6806
GRANTEE E	-17.70	8.23	-2.15	0.0318
GRANTEE EE	-26.80	3.93	-6.81	0.0000
GRANTEE F	-28.20	3.93	-7.18	0.0000
GRANTEE FF	-28.10	3.73	-7.52	0.0000
GRANTEE G	6.47	4.31	1.50	0.1334
GRANTEE H	-21.60	17.80	-1.21	0.2253
GRANTEE HH	-24.70	3.87	-6.40	0.0000
GRANTEE I	-10.80	3.98	-2.72	0.0066
GRANTEE II	23.10	4.09	5.65	0.0000
GRANTEE J	-21.30	3.96	-5.39	0.0000
GRANTEE K	-36.50	11.10	-3.29	0.0010
GRANTEE L	-8.85	3.74	-2.37	0.0178
GRANTEE M	-14.60	9.21	-1.58	0.1131
GRANTEE N	-8.60	4.38	-1.96	0.0498

Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
GRANTEE P	1.21	4.50	0.27	0.7883
GRANTEE Q	30.10	4.25	7.07	0.0000
GRANTEE R	-20.50	4.27	-4.81	0.0000
GRANTEE S	-17.70	3.72	-4.76	0.0000
GRANTEE T	-17.10	4.37	-3.91	0.0001
GRANTEE U	-10.80	3.90	-2.77	0.0057
GRANTEE V	-12.70	3.99	-3.18	0.0015
GRANTEE X	-30.10	4.48	-6.71	0.0000
GRANTEE Y	-33.70	4.71	-7.16	0.0000
GRANTEE Z	26.10	21.90	1.19	0.2330
RETROFIT_YR	-1.89	0.36	-5.24	0.0000
YEARBUILT_UNKNOWN	7.66	1.65	4.64	0.0000
YEARBUILT_PRE_1950	8.85	0.74	11.97	< 2e-16
YEARBUILT_1950_1959	5.63	0.80	7.01	0.0000
YEARBUILT_1960_1969	5.62	0.87	6.49	0.0000
YEARBUILT_1970_1979	5.40	0.86	6.32	0.0000
YEARBUILT_1980_1989	2.72	0.90	3.01	0.0026
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Missing or None	2.06	1.47	1.40	0.1604
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Other	-0.02	1.47	-0.01	0.9902
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Simulation	1.03	0.84	1.22	0.2237
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2 Unknown	-8.71	1.54	-5.67	0.0000
LOANAMOUNT_LISTED	4.89	0.76	6.47	0.0000
AUDIT_BPI_CERT	7.00	0.82	8.54	< 2e-16
AUDIT_OTHER_CERT	6.76	0.98	6.88	0.0000
INST_ELECT_SAVINGS_LISTED	11.40	0.82	13.97	< 2e-16
INST_NG_SAVINGS_LISTED	-9.05	0.84	-10.81	< 2e-16
INST_OTHER_SAVINGS_LISTED	-6.12	1.23	-5.00	0.0000
RENEWABLEINVOICEDCOST_LISTED	31.80	3.56	8.94	< 2e-16
CUSTOMERCONTRIBUTION_LISTED	3.30	1.10	3.00	0.0027
SUBSIDY_LISTED	-3.83	1.05	-3.66	0.0003
OTHERFUNDS_LISTED	-15.10	1.02	-14.76	< 2e-16
TAXCREDIT_LISTED	-5.03	1.75	-2.88	0.0040
REASON_COMFORT	-16.40	3.66	-4.49	0.0000
REASON_SAVINGS	27.20	2.36	11.54	< 2e-16
RETROFITJOBHOURS	0.0553	0.0071	7.79	0.0000
RETROFITINVOICEDCOST	0.0013	0.0001	24.13	< 2e-16
FLOORAREA	0.0056	0.0002	22.84	< 2e-16

One factor that was found significant in all the MLR models is LOANAMOUNT_LISTED. The loan amount listed coefficient for the model in Table 5 was approximately 8 MMBtu (source energy) and approximately 5 MMBtu (source energy) for the model in Table 8. The model in Table 8 includes the continuous variable RETROFITINVOICEDCOST, which also has a positive coefficient, indicating greater estimated energy savings as the project cost increases. This is likely because more measures can be installed with increased availability of funds. A few statistics can be examined to confirm this with the data used for creating the model in Table 8. The mean retrofit invoiced cost for projects not listing loans was approximately \$5,000 and the mean estimated source energy savings was 39 MMBtu. The mean retrofit invoiced cost for projects listing loans was approximately \$11,000 and the mean estimated source energy savings was 50 MMBtu. The mean loan amount was approximately \$10,000, which covers most of the project cost.

3.6 Regional and Vintage Comparisons to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey

The MLR analysis attributed some differences in the estimated source energy savings (MMBtu/year) to census regions (refer to Table 6). When FLOORAREA, RETROFITJOBHOURS, and RETROFITINVOICEDCOST were included in the MLR model, several year-built time period variables were also found to be significant (refer to Table 8). To determine whether these differences in estimated savings correlated to energy consumption by region and vintage of homes, comparisons were made to baseline energy use calculated using the 2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS) (U.S. Energy Information Administration 2012).

Only single-family detached homes from RECS were included. Homes from the state of New York (REPORTABLE_DOMAIN = 3) were excluded because they were excluded from the MLR analysis in Section 3.5. The MLR analysis demonstrated that many factors contribute to estimated energy savings. As shown in Figures 5 and 6, there are significant regional and vintage differences for installed measures. One cannot simply calculate the mean estimated energy saved by region or vintage, because all the other factors contribute to the mean estimated energy saved. To make a comparison, the overall mean estimated energy savings was determined from the filtered data (approximately 43 MMBtu/year). This mean value was then adjusted by the MLR coefficients for census region differences (Table 6) and then by vintage home differences (YEARBUILT variables from Table 8) because these represent the observed difference from the mean.

Figure 12 shows a comparison by census region. There is negligible difference between the Midwest and Northeast for RECS baseline energy used. This is also true of estimated energy saved. There does appear to be a slight decrease in both baseline energy used and estimated energy saved for the South compared to the Midwest. The West shows a substantial decline in baseline energy used, but the estimated energy saved is comparable to the Midwest and slightly higher than the South. Thus, the estimated energy saved does not appear to correlate just with baseline energy used by region. A word of caution is needed here, particularly for the comparison of Better Buildings project data to RECS data in the West. RECS is based on a statistically representative sampling of homes in different regions of the country. Based on RECS, 44% of the single-family homes in the West Census Region are in California and approximately 8% of the single-family homes in the West Census Region are in Colorado. The

Better Building projects were not a statistically representative sampling of homes. For Better Buildings, approximately 27% of the West Census Region single-family home projects were in California and approximately 24% of the West Census Region single-family home projects were in Colorado. Differences such as these may obscure correlations between Better Buildings and RECS data.

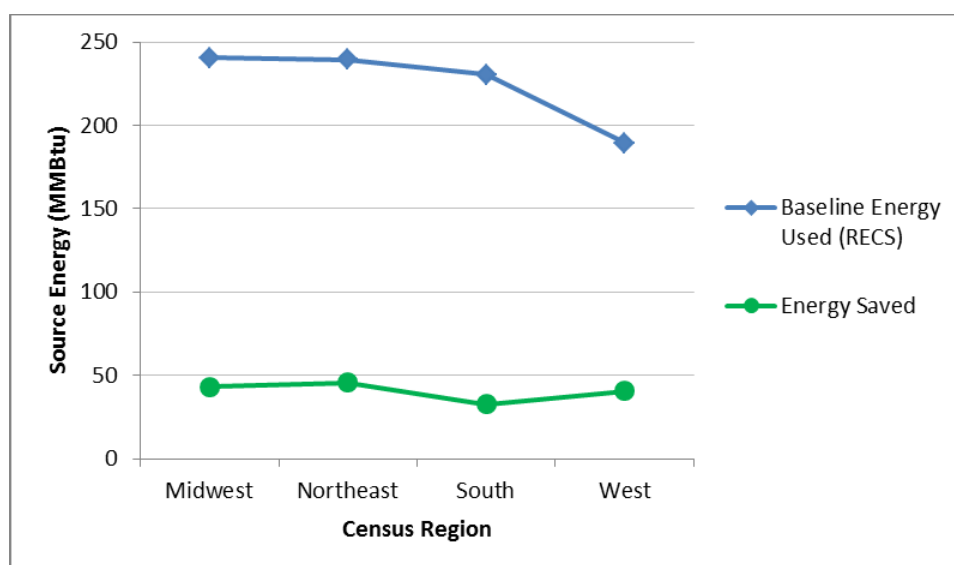


Figure 12. Comparison of baseline energy used (from RECS) to estimated energy saved attributable to census regions

Figure 13 shows a comparison by vintage of homes (year built). There is a significant increase in baseline energy used going from older homes to newer homes, whereas the estimated energy saved shows a slight decreasing trend. The primary reason for the observed increase in baseline energy used is that newer homes are larger than older homes (U.S. Energy Information Administration 2012). In fact, when the baseline energy used is divided by the enclosed square feet, homes built from 1960 to 1979 average 98 kBtu/ft², whereas homes built from 2000 to current average 81 kBtu/ft².

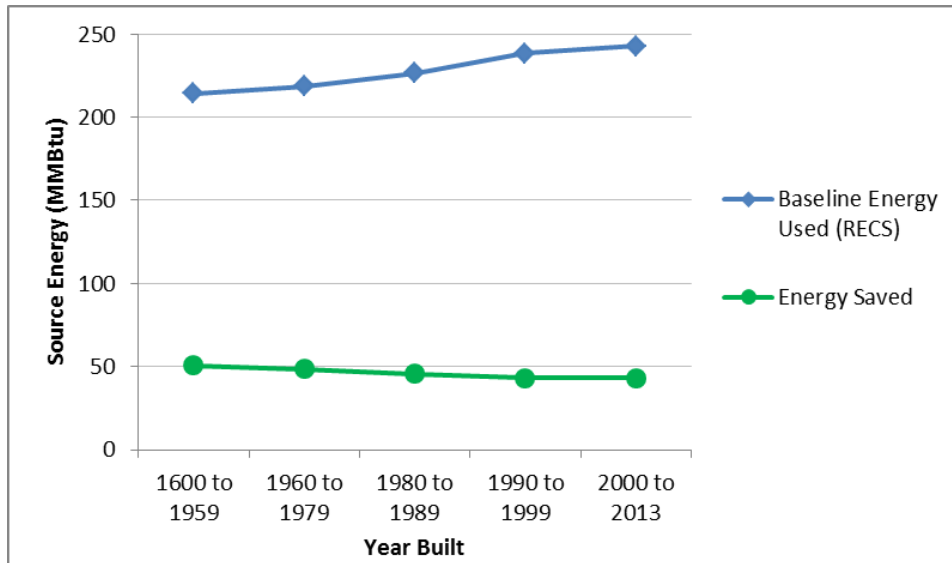


Figure 13. Comparison of baseline energy used (from RECS) to estimated energy saved attributable to vintage of homes

4 Comparing Utility-Bill-Calculated Savings to Grantee-Estimated Savings

Utility-bill energy consumption data provided by the grantees were weather normalized to Typical Meteorological Year 3 (TMY3) weather data for a subset of the residential single-family projects with sufficient data. Appendix A provides details about the utility data processing, development of regression models, and calculation of TMY3-normalized energy uses. Normalized site energy uses were converted to source energy uses using the same site-source multipliers that were applied in Section 3.2 (refer to Appendix C). Utility-bill-calculated TMY3 normalized energy uses are referred to as *normalized energy uses* or *normalized energy savings* (PRE – POST) throughout the remainder of this report.

Pre-retrofit normalized energy uses were compared to the estimated pre-retrofit energy uses. These estimated uses were based on grantee-reported estimated energy savings and estimated savings expressed as a proportion of baseline energy use. Because the normalized natural gas source energy uses never exceeded 500 MMBtu, the database estimates greater than 500 were filtered out (23 records of 5,372). Whereas the utility data were normalized to TMY3, the type of weather data used to predict savings by the grantees (if any) is unknown. Different grantees likely did use different weather data, which adds to the uncertainty in comparisons between normalized and estimated energy uses and savings.

A plot of the filtered data is shown in Figure 14 (N = 5,349) comparing pre-retrofit natural gas energy use. The adjusted R-squared value after filtering was 0.447. For reference, a line of perfect agreement is shown (slope = 1 and intercept = 0). For natural gas, 14 of a possible 35 grantees had projects with pre-retrofit normalized energy use matched to estimated pre-retrofit energy use. Overall this represents 9% of single-family projects, but samples ranged from fewer than 1% to as high as 63% of the single-family projects for individual grantees. Only five grantees have sample sizes of 10% or more of their single-family projects.

An adjusted R-squared value of 0.481 was observed for the pre-retrofit normalized electricity energy uses versus the estimated pre-retrofit energy uses based on grantee-reported data. No additional filtering was done for these data. Figure 15 shows the normalized versus estimated trend for electricity (N = 6,732). Again for reference, a line of perfect agreement is shown (slope = 1 and intercept = 0). For electricity, 22 of a possible 35 grantees had projects with pre-retrofit normalized energy use matched to estimated pre-retrofit energy use. This represents 11% of single-family projects, but samples ranged from fewer than 1% to as many as 58% of the single-family projects for individual grantees. Ten grantees had sample sizes of 10% or more of their single-family projects.

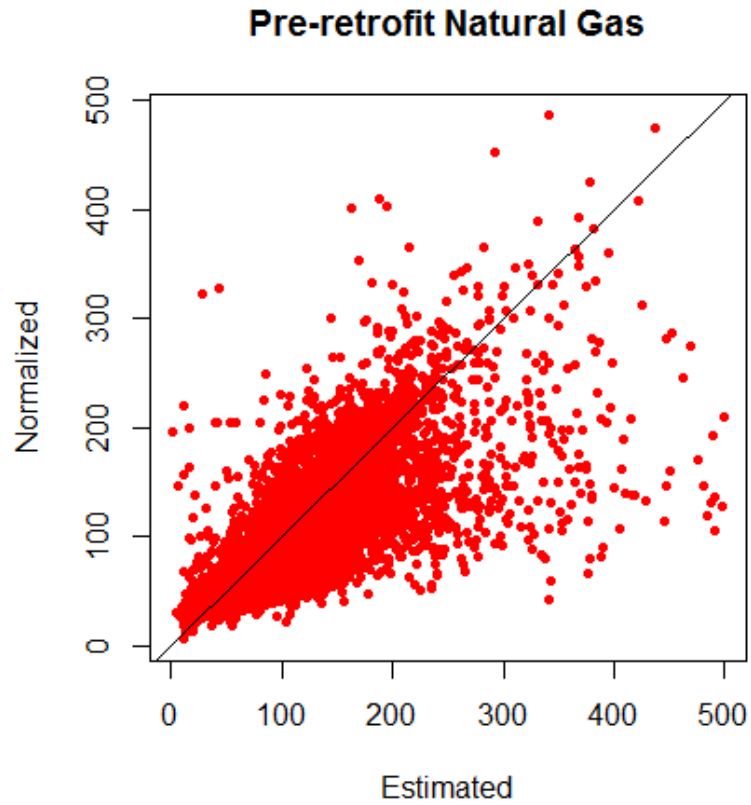


Figure 14. Normalized pre-retrofit natural gas energy uses (“Normalized”) versus estimated pre-retrofit natural gas use (“Estimated”). All estimates are in source MMBtu. N = 5,349.

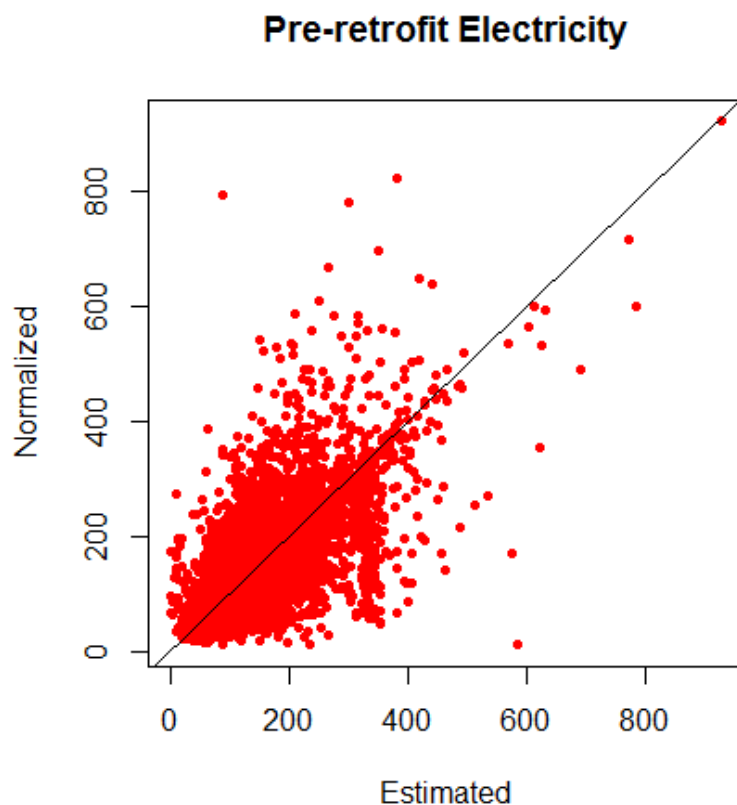


Figure 15. Normalized pre-retrofit electricity energy use (“Normalized”) versus estimated electricity use (“Estimated”). All estimates are in source MMBtu. N = 6,732.

The results are noisier when comparing the normalized natural gas savings to the grantee-estimated natural gas savings. Also, because calculating normalized natural gas energy savings requires both PRE and POST normalized energy uses, far fewer homes can be considered for the comparison (1,418 homes before removing outliers). An observation was considered an outlier if the grantee-estimated natural gas savings exceeded 150, if the grantee-estimated natural gas savings was less than -50, or if the normalized natural gas savings was less than -50. Figure 16 shows this comparison after outlier removal (N = 1,408). The adjusted R-squared for this correlation was 0.244. Regardless of the noise, the correlation is found to be significant based on the regression of normalized natural gas savings versus the grantee-estimated natural gas savings. Most observations fall below and to the right of the line for perfect agreement. This indicates that estimates generally exceeded normalized natural gas savings based on utility consumption data. Only nine grantees had data for this comparison and the overall sample size was only 2% of single-family projects. Two grantees had sample sizes of 10% or more of their total single-family projects. Because the overall sample size was small and did not adequately represent all the grantees, any conclusions apply only to the available data.

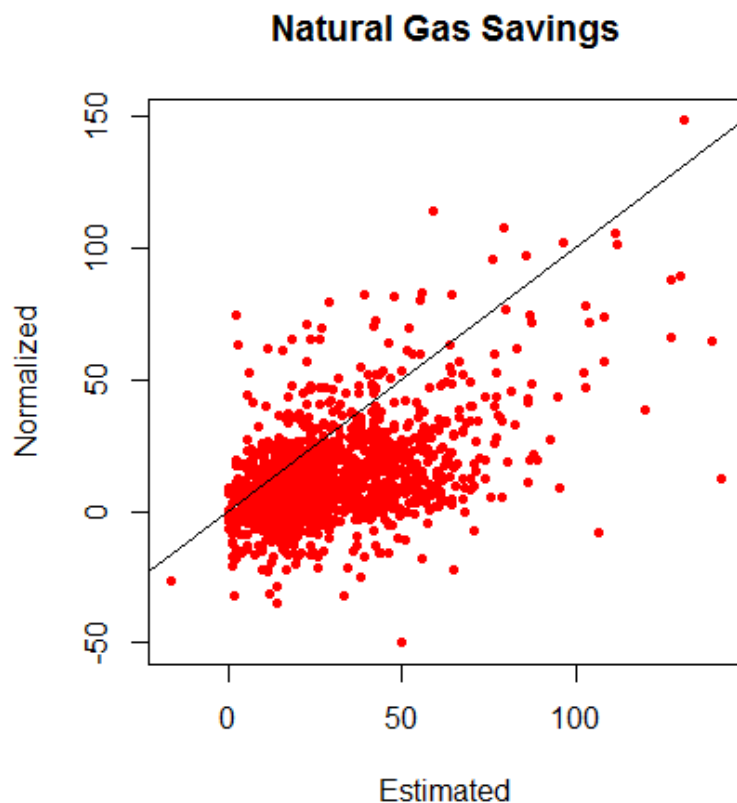


Figure 16. Normalized natural gas savings (“normalized”) versus grantee estimated natural gas savings (“estimated”). All estimates are in source MMBtu. N = 1,408.

Figure 17 shows the comparison of normalized electricity savings versus the grantee-estimated electricity savings again after some outlier removal (N = 1,614). There were 1,656 observations prior to removing outliers. An observation was considered an outlier if the grantee-estimated electricity savings exceeded 150, if the grantee-estimated electricity savings was less than 0, or if the normalized electricity savings was less than -80. The adjusted R-squared for this correlation was only 0.122, but the correlation did test as significant. Again, most observations fall below and to the right of the line of perfect agreement. For both natural gas and electricity, the results indicate some overprediction of savings. Seventeen grantees had data for this comparison and the overall sample size was only 3% of single-family projects. Three grantees had sample sizes of 10% or more of their single-family projects. Again, because the overall sample size was small and did not adequately represent all the grantees, any conclusions apply only to the available data.

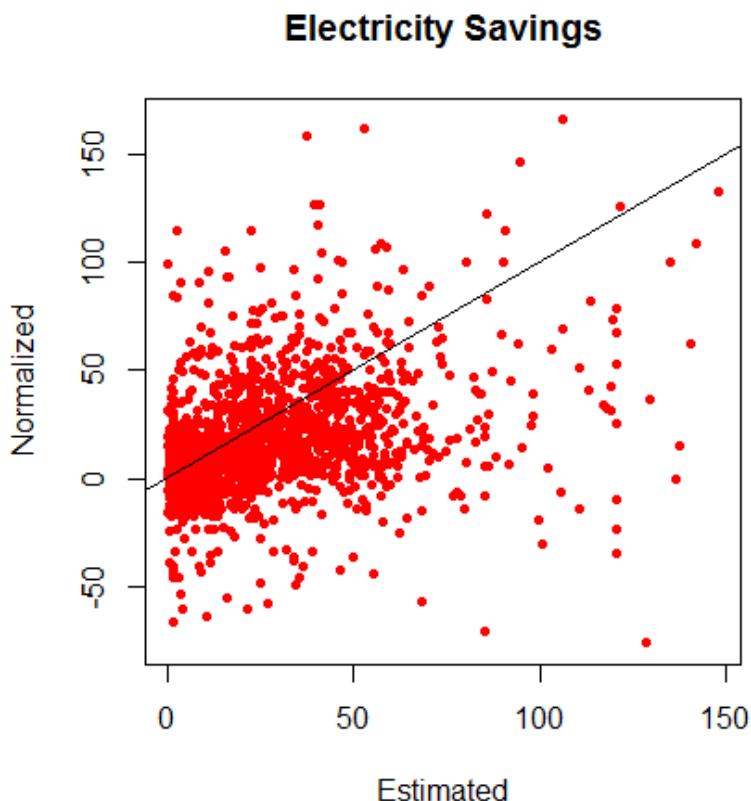


Figure 17. Normalized electricity savings (“normalized”) versus grantee estimated electricity savings (“estimated”). All estimates are in source MMBtu. N = 1,614.

The next step was to see how the natural gas realization rate (normalized/estimated) varied by GRANTEE and the adjusted prediction method (covered in Section 3.1). A realization rate equal to 1.0 indicated that the normalized energy savings from utility data were the same as estimated energy savings. Realization rates greater than 1.0 indicated underprediction of savings (the normalized energy savings exceeded the estimate). Realization rates less than 1.0 indicated overprediction (the normalized energy savings was less than the estimate).

To calculate the natural gas realization rate, both the normalized natural gas savings and the estimated natural gas savings were needed for the project. Low estimated natural gas savings can result in extremely distorted realization rates. A few filtering approaches were investigated. The researchers eventually chose to filter out projects lower than the 25th percentile of estimated savings, which still kept 75% of the realization rate data but substantially reduced the realization rate variability. The percentile filtering approach was chosen and the 25th percentile selected based on investigations of tradeoffs between reducing variability in realization rates and maintaining a substantial sample size. Projects with estimated savings less than the 25th percentile (13.68 MMBtu for natural gas) were filtered out of the analysis. Before filtering, the 0.5th percentile of natural gas realization rates was -10.49, the mean was 0.48, and the 99.5th percentile was 8.04. After filtering, the 0.5th percentile of natural gas realization rates was -1.24, the mean was 0.44, and the 99.5th percentile was 2.60. After removing projects with the low estimated savings, a final filtering was applied to keep only observations between the recalculated 0.5th percentile (-1.24) and 99.5th percentile (2.60) for further analysis.

Table 9 shows the MLR results when just GRANTEE as a category is included in the model. The resulting model has a very low adjusted R-squared of 0.111, indicating that only 11% of the natural gas realization rate variability can be explained by differences in grantees, but a few of the grantees (bold and yellow highlight in table) were found to be significantly different from the reference grantee (Grantee A). Based on the estimates, Grantee DD and Grantee S had average natural gas realization rates substantially greater than Grantee A, whereas Grantee FF was only somewhat greater on average. When MLR was applied considering both GRANTEE and the adjusted prediction method as categories, adjusted prediction methods were not found to be significant. The same grantees were found to be significant with comparable estimates and the adjusted R-squared remained essentially the same, indicating no model improvement by including the adjusted prediction methods.

The natural gas realization rate data have a number of issues. After filtering, the data contained only eight grantees. This represented only 2% of single-family projects and only two of these grantees had sample sizes larger than 10% of their projects. Project counts, mean natural gas realization rates and the SD of natural gas realization rates are listed for the GRANTEE and adjusted prediction method combinations in Table 10. The table is sorted first by the adjusted prediction method then by the GRANTEE category. The grantees using “deemed” and having more than 40 projects are highlighted in gray. The grantees using “simulation” and having more than 20 projects are highlighted in yellow. Based on the project counts, the data are very unbalanced. For example, Grantee A had the most projects in the data set, but all the prediction methods were “deemed.” All but three of Grantee F’s 277 projects used “simulation” for the prediction method. Only Grantee L had a somewhat reasonable split between projects using “deemed” and projects using “simulation,” but the total project count is far lower than Grantee A or Grantee F. These highly correlated combinations make it impossible to determine statistically if the differences in realization rates were truly due to the grantee or the prediction method used. EEMs were also investigated and similar issues were observed. In the filtered data, Grantee FF had the highest proportion of duct sealing projects, whereas as Grantee DD had the highest proportion of floor/foundation insulation projects. If a reasonably balanced mix of prediction methods and EEMs had occurred across all grantees and if the realization rate data were more representative of all single-family projects, the MLR analysis would have a better chance of determining whether prediction methods and EEMs significantly affected natural gas realization rates.

**Table 9. MLR Regression to Test NG Realization Rate as Function of Grantees:
R-Squared = 0.116, Adjusted R-Squared = 0.111 Degrees of Freedom = 1,035**

Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	0.280	0.022	12.790	< 2e-16
GRANTEE DD	0.442	0.054	8.240	0.000
GRANTEE F	0.293	0.036	8.030	0.000
GRANTEE FF	0.161	0.059	2.730	0.006
GRANTEE HH	−0.037	0.155	−0.240	0.810
GRANTEE L	0.276	0.061	4.540	0.000
GRANTEE S	0.794	0.136	5.830	0.000

Table 10. Project Counts, Mean Natural Gas Realization Rates, SD Natural Gas Realization Rates for Grantees and Adjusted Prediction Method Combinations

GRANTEE	Adjusted Prediction Method	Project Count	Mean Natural Gas Realization Rates	SD Natural Gas Realization Rates
A	Deemed	492	0.28	0.45
F	Deemed	3	0.39	0.27
FF	Deemed	79	0.44	0.48
L	Deemed	46	0.58	0.46
S	Deemed	7	1.07	0.31
DD	Missing or None	1	0.40	NA
HH	Missing or None	9	0.17	0.82
DD	Other	10	0.65	0.40
HH	Other	1	0.85	NA
S	Other	6	1.07	0.78
DD	Simulation	87	0.73	0.63
F	Simulation	274	0.57	0.48
H	Simulation	2	0.01	0.02
L	Simulation	27	0.52	0.47

The same analysis that was applied to the natural gas realization rates was applied to electricity realization rates. As with natural gas, low estimated electricity savings can result in extremely distorted realization rates, so estimated savings less than the 25th percentile (6.39 MMBtu for electricity) were filtered out. The electricity realization rates had greater variability than natural gas realization rates. Before filtering, the 0.5th percentile of electricity realization rates was -40.28, the mean was 2.64, and the 99.5th percentile was 41.41. After filtering, the 0.5th percentile of natural gas realization rates was -4.71, the mean was 0.64, and the 99.5th percentile was 6.96. After projects with low estimated savings were removed, a final filtering was applied to keep only observations between the 0.5th percentile (-4.71) and 99.5th percentile (6.96) for further analysis.

Table 11 shows the MLR results when just GRANTEE as a category is included in the model. The resulting model has a very low adjusted R-squared of 0.098, indicating that only 10% of the electricity realization rate variability can be explained by differences in grantees. The significant grantees are highlighted in yellow. Grantee J and Grantee L (highlighted and in bold) were found to be significant at confidence levels greater than 99% (1 - Pr), whereas Grantee F and Grantee FF were found to be significant at confidence levels greater than 95% (but not 99%). When MLR was applied considering both GRANTEE and the adjusted prediction method as categories, the prediction method of “other” was found to be significant but only just slightly greater than 95% confidence level. The same grantees were found to be significant with comparable estimates and the adjusted R-squared increased slightly indicating a slight model improvement by including the adjusted prediction methods.

**Table 11. MLR Regression to Test Electricity Realization Rate as a Function of Grantees:
R-Squared = 0.106, Adjusted R-Squared = 0.098 Degrees of Freedom = 1,198**

Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	0.333	0.082	4.070	0.000
GRANTEE B	0.346	0.320	1.080	0.280
GRANTEE DD	0.122	0.122	1.000	0.318
GRANTEE F	0.554	0.239	2.320	0.020
GRANTEE FF	0.192	0.097	1.980	0.048
GRANTEE G	-0.176	0.197	-0.890	0.372
GRANTEE H	0.539	0.335	1.610	0.107
GRANTEE I	-0.288	0.296	-0.970	0.332
GRANTEE J	0.823	0.099	8.330	< 2e-16
GRANTEE L	0.613	0.194	3.150	0.002
GRANTEE O	0.333	0.277	1.200	0.230
GRANTEE S	-0.356	0.188	-1.900	0.058

Issues comparable to those with the natural gas realization rates were also apparent with the electricity realization rates. After filtering, the data for electricity realization rate analysis contained 17 grantees. This represented only 2% of single-family projects and only two of these grantees had sample sizes larger than 10% of their projects. Project counts, mean electricity realization rates, and the SD of electricity realization rates are listed for the GRANTEE and adjusted prediction method combinations in Table 12. The table is sorted first by the adjusted prediction method then by the GRANTEE category. Grantees using “deemed” and having more than 100 projects are highlighted in gray and grantees using “simulation” and having more than 100 projects are highlighted in yellow. The data are very unbalanced. For example, Grantee FF had 402 projects in these data but all with a prediction method of “deemed.” All but 19 of Grantee DD’s 129 projects used “simulation” for the prediction method. Only 33 projects used the prediction method of “other” and these were split between Grantee O and Grantee S. As with natural gas realization rate data, these highly correlated combinations make it impossible to determine statistically if the differences in realization rates were truly due to the grantee or the prediction method used. EEMs were also investigated and similar issues were observed. In the filtered data, Grantee FF had the highest proportion of installed air conditioning systems, whereas as Grantee DD had the highest proportion of floor/foundation insulation projects.

Table 12. Project Counts, Mean Electricity Realization Rates, SD Electricity Realization Rates for Grantee, and Adjusted Prediction Method Combinations

GRANTEE	Adjusted Prediction Method	Project Count	Mean Natural Gas Realization Rates	SD Natural Gas Realization Rates
A	Deemed	157	0.33	1.22
DD	Deemed	19	0.69	0.70
F	Deemed	2	0.89	1.32
FF	Deemed	402	0.52	0.62
G	Deemed	32	0.16	0.89
J	Deemed	348	1.16	1.19
L	Deemed	13	1.04	2.06
S	Deemed	14	−0.35	1.76
O	Other	10	1.06	1.82
S	Other	23	0.18	0.88
B	Simulation	11	0.68	0.47
DD	Simulation	110	0.41	0.94
F	Simulation	19	0.89	0.72
G	Simulation	1	−0.06	NA
H	Simulation	10	0.87	0.75
I	Simulation	13	0.05	1.25
L	Simulation	21	0.89	1.95
O	Simulation	5	−0.12	0.36

In summary, both natural gas and electricity realization rates have high variability and determining which factors contributed to the variability was difficult. There were significant differences between grantees, but these might have been due to differences in prediction methods used by grantees, the particular EEMs installed by grantees, house vintage, region of the country, or a variety of other reasons. A larger, more balanced, and more representative data set would be needed to differentiate between additional potential driving factors for realization rates. Collecting additional detailed information about the characteristics of the homes (e.g., system types) and changes in occupancy during the periods that utility bills are collected would also help improve future regression modeling and realization rate analyses.

5 Conclusions and Future Work

The analysis in this report yielded the following conclusions:

- Air sealing and attic insulation were the most common installed measures; both were present in five of the top ten most frequent combinations of measures.
- The percentage of projects having certain installed measures varied by:
 - Region of the country (e.g., houses in the South had the highest percentage of air conditioner replacement measures)
 - Vintage of the home (e.g., houses built in the 1990s had the highest percentage of air conditioner replacement measures)
- Simulations were used more often than “deemed savings” methods in estimating overall energy savings on projects. However, the MLR analysis of total energy savings estimated by grantees indicated no significant differences in estimated savings between the deemed method and simulations.
- The five measures⁸ with the highest estimated energy savings, based on the MLR analysis, are solar PV, heat pumps, solar thermal, boilers and wall insulation.
- The five measures with the lowest estimated energy savings, based on the MLR analysis, are low-flow aerators, thermostatic expansion valves, air conditioner tune-ups, dishwashers, and fireplace inserts.
- For the top ten EEM combinations (excluding medium frequency measures), those with air sealing and attic insulation appear to have the greatest variation in estimated energy savings across all projects. Combinations with lighting and water heater installation have the least variation in estimated energy savings.
- There were significant differences in estimated energy savings per project by geographic region. The South had the lowest estimated average savings compared to three other standard census regions. There was not a significant correlation between estimated savings per project and regional energy consumption determined from RECS 2009 data, meaning that regions with higher average household energy consumption—according to RECS—did not necessarily have higher estimated savings values.
- MLR models of estimated energy savings using grantees as categories gave better fits than models using census region. The grantee categories captured location-dependent differences (e.g., climate, typical fuel types) as well as programmatic differences between grantees not captured by other regression variables.
- Based on the MLR analysis, the vintage⁹ of homes showed significant differences in estimated energy savings. Homes built before 1950 had the highest estimated savings compared to homes built in other years.

⁸ For this analysis, measures included traditional EEMs (e.g., insulation, equipment upgrades) as well as measures involving renewable energy (e.g., solar PV). Grantees estimated the reduction in net energy use that would result from solar installations and this was treated as the associated energy savings.

⁹ The vintage of the home could be a proxy for many things, including the construction practices and energy codes at the time the house was built.

- Based on the MLR analysis, projects with loans had approximately 5 to 8 MMBtu greater estimated annual source energy savings than projects without loans. The mean retrofit invoiced cost on projects with loans was more than double the mean retrofit invoiced cost on projects without loans.
- Estimated energy savings were generally greater than the savings derived from utility data for the small subset of projects that had sufficient utility data:
 - For natural gas, 68% of projects in the subset (data from 9 grantees, representing only 2% of single-family projects) had estimates greater than 1.5 times the normalized utility savings.
 - For electricity, 53% of projects in the subset (data from 17 grantees, representing only 3% of single-family projects) had estimates greater than 1.5 times the normalized utility savings.
 - Although savings were generally over-estimated for homes in the small subset, the average savings derived from utility data were positive. According to these utility data, the average annual source electricity savings was 17.1 MMBtu and the average annual source natural gas savings was 13.2 MMBtu.

Some ideas for future work follow:

- Conduct focused studies within subsets of data (e.g., data for a particular grantee) that present unique opportunities for insights.
- Investigate the potential benefit of calibrating savings prediction models to pre-retrofit billing data to improve the accuracy of savings predictions.

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Appendix A: Utility Data Normalization Approach

This appendix describes the procedures used to calculate pre-retrofit and post-retrofit annual normalized energy uses based on the utility energy consumption data reported by the grantees.

Extracting and Merging BBNIS Project Data and Utility Data

The first step was to extract and merge data records from two sources: (1) project data from the BBNIS and (2) utility data from the processed utility data csv file. Table A1 shows the data that were extracted from each source and used in the overall process. Each record in the BBNIS project data corresponds to a unique retrofit project. Each record in the utility data csv file corresponds to a unique meter reading¹⁰ for a particular fuel type for a particular project (typically these were monthly readings). Thus, a single record in the BBNIS project data was typically linked to many records in the utility data csv file.

Table A-1. Data Extracted for Weather-Normalization Process

BBNIS Project Data	Variable Description	Exclude record when...
Variable Name		
AWARDEENUMBER	Awardee Number	NULL
RETROFITREFNUM	Retrofit Reference Number	NULL
RETROFITCOMPLETIONDATE	Retrofit Completion Date	Year or month is NULL
BUILDINGUNITTYPE	Building Unit Type 1 or 5: Residential (single-family) 6: Residential (multifamily unit) 7: Residential (multifamily building) 2: Commercial	NULL or NOT equal to 1 or 5
ZIP5DIGIT	ZIP code (five digit)	NULL or not a valid 5 digit zip code in area of awardee (investigated visually by plotting zip codes on a map).
Utility Data csv File	Variable Description	Exclude record when...
Variable Name		
AWARDEENUMBER	Awardee Number	NULL
RETROFITREFNUM	Retrofit Reference Number	NULL
READYEAR	Read Year	NULL
READMONTH	Read Month	NULL
READDAY	Read Day	Assumed to be day 15 of the month if NULL, only if the read day is missing for all records in a set, otherwise the scenario is excluded.
FUELTYPE	Fuel Type (ELECTRICITY, FUEL OIL, KEROSENE, LPG, NATURAL GAS, or WOOD)	NULL, FUEL OIL, KEROSENE, LPG, or WOOD.
FUELQUANTITY	Fuel Quantity	NULL
FUELUNIT	Fuel Units (CCF, CORDS, GALLONS, KWH, or THERMS)	Natural gas must be in CCF or THERMS. When natural gas values are in CCF, they are converted to therms before processing. Electricity must be in kWh. All other units or NULL units cause the scenario to be excluded.

¹⁰ Grantees were not required to distinguish between actual and estimated meter readings, so all meter readings were treated as actual readings.

The records were joined by matching both AWARDEENUMBER and RETROFITREFNUM¹¹ and a table was created with records that represented all unique combinations of AWARDEENUMBER, RETROFITREFNUM, FUELTYPE, FUEL UNITS, PRE/POST retrofit. PRE/POST values were determined by querying the utility data and determining if any meter readings had been done before the retrofit completion date (PRE) and/or after the retrofit completion date (POST). For example, a single project with pre- and post-retrofit utility data for natural gas and electricity would have produced four records, such as the example data in Table A2.

Table A-2. Example Normalization Scenarios for One Project

AWARDEENUMBER	RETROFITREFNUM	FUELTYPE	FUEL UNITS	PRE/POST
1234	25	ELECTRICITY	KWH	PRE
1234	25	ELECTRICITY	KWH	POST
1234	25	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	PRE
1234	25	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	POST

Each record in the table that was created required its own normalization analysis (fuel types had to be analyzed separately and pre/post retrofit data had to be analyzed separately because retrofits to the building could have changed the baseload and temperature-dependent behavior of the building).

Preparing Utility Data for Normalization

The next step was to prepare the utility data for normalization. For each normalization scenario (e.g., the bold row in Table 2 is one scenario), the appropriate utility data were queried, resulting in a list such as:

AWARDEENUM	RETROFITREFNUM	READDATE	FUELTYPE	FUELUNIT	FUELQUANTITY	DAYS IN PERIOD
1234	25	1/5/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	238	N/A
1234	25	2/6/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	227	32
1234	25	3/7/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	215	29
1234	25	4/5/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	167	29
1234	25	5/4/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	101	29
1234	25	6/5/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	78	32
1234	25	7/5/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	44	30
1234	25	8/5/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	58	31
1234	25	9/4/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	52	30
1234	25	10/3/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	59	29
1234	25	11/1/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	78	29
1234	25	12/3/2011	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	185	32
1234	25	1/7/2012	NATURAL GAS	THERMS	250	35

The number of days in each billing period (DAYS IN PERIOD) was calculated based on the differences in read dates. The DAYS IN PERIOD could not be calculated for the first meter

¹¹ RETROFITREFNUM alone cannot be used as a key because in some cases multiple grantees used the same numbering scheme for RETROFITREFNUM (e.g., “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ..., etc.”). Also, spaces in RETROFITREFNUM are ignored when matching and matching is case sensitive.

reading; therefore, it was always excluded from the analysis. Also, the billing period that contained the retrofit completion date was always excluded from the analysis. The total time span of the utility data was then calculated by summing the DAYS IN PERIOD of those records where FUEL QUANTITY was not NULL. The normalization was not attempted unless the total time span was at least 330 days¹² and had at least 10 billing periods.

If a project had more than one utility bill record with the same fuel type and date, the mean of the nonzero fuel quantities on that date was calculated and used as the fuel quantity for that date. If the mean value was more than 1% different from any of the other nonzero values, the scenario was excluded from the analysis. This procedure allowed for combining duplicate rows in the utility billing data, specifically where one was in CCF and the other therms (because the CCF value was converted to therms before this step).

If any of the fuel quantities were less than zero (indicating power generation or some sort of error in reporting), the scenario was excluded from the analysis. Also, if there was no fuel use at all the scenario was excluded.

The average daily temperature for each billing period was required for the normalization. These data were obtained by querying the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration National Climatic Data Center's Integrated Surface Database. The closest on-land weather station was located based on the latitude and longitude associated with the five-digit ZIP code for the project and then the daily average temperature for the billing period was calculated based on historical hourly temperature data for that period. National Climatic Data Center hourly temperature data may be missing for some time periods during the billing period. When this occurred, missing data were filled forward based on adjacent data and then the average daily temperature was calculated. The average daily temperature was filled a maximum of 3 days in the case of missing data. If more weather data were missing, the next closest weather station was used.

Creating the Regression Models

The ASHRAE Inverse Modeling Toolkit (IMT) software was used to create the regression models (Kissock et al. 2002). The following data were provided to the IMT software for each normalization scenario:

- Average daily energy use for each billing period
- Average daily temperature for each billing period
- Date of the last day in each billing period.

When the normalization scenario was for natural gas utility data, the IMT software was used to create a three-parameter heating model (see Figure A1 for an example). When the normalization scenario was for electricity utility data, the IMT software was used to create three separate regression models:

¹²A similar 330-day minimum threshold is used in Building Performance Institute Standard 2400 (BPI 2012).

1. Three-parameter heating model,

$$Y_h = \begin{cases} Y_{cp} + LS(X - X_{cp}), & X < X_{cp} \\ Y_{cp}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

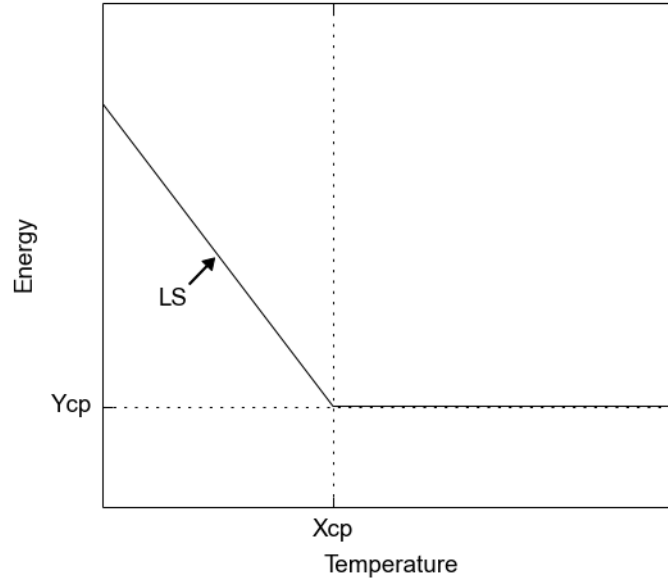


Figure A-1. Three-parameter heating model

2. Three-parameter cooling model,

$$Y_h = \begin{cases} Y_{cp} + RS(X - X_{cp}), & X > X_{cp} \\ Y_{cp}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

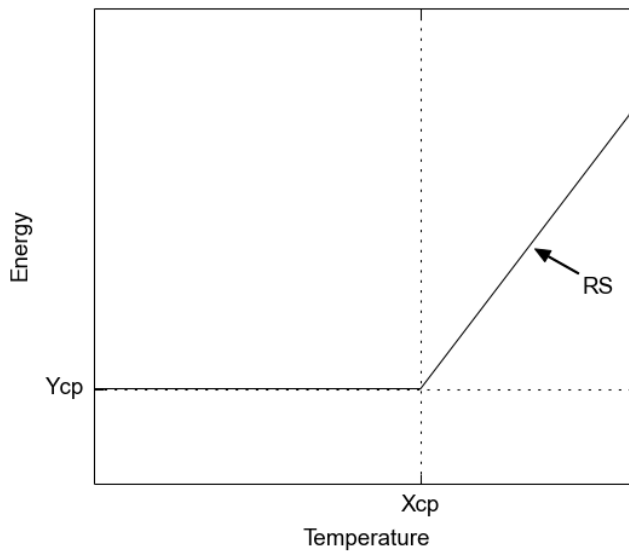


Figure A-2. Three-parameter cooling model

3. Five-parameter model

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} Y_{cp} + LS(X - X_{cp1}), & X < X_{cp1} \\ Y_{cp} + RS(X - X_{cp2}), & X > X_{cp2} \\ Y_{cp}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

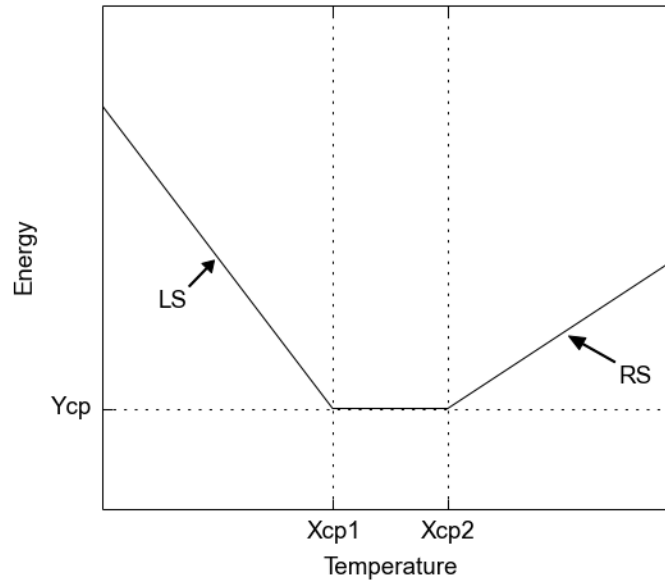


Figure A-3. Five-parameter model

For each model mentioned above, residuals were calculated by subtracting the modeled energy use from the actual energy use. The mean and SD were calculated for the residuals. Billing periods with residuals more than three SDs from the mean were considered for removal; up to two of them were removed. If more than two were identified, the two that deviated the most from the mean were removed. Finally, a new regression model was calculated using the remaining data and that model was considered moving forward.

Some regression models were excluded based on fit parameter values and statistical metrics that characterized the goodness-of-fit, including the R squared value and the coefficient of variation of the root mean squared error (CV-RMSE). The goal of the filtering was to eliminate models where there was lower confidence that the regression equations accurately predicted the energy consumption of the home. For example, the utility data did not contain information about occupancy changes. If major occupancy changes occurred within the time period of the billing data, it should have been less likely that the models fitted to those data would yield a high R squared and low CV-RMSE values.

Natural gas scenarios were excluded if no three-parameter heating regression model had:

- CV-RMSE < 20%¹³

¹³A similar CV-RMSE threshold is used in BPI Standard 2400 (BPI, 2012).

- $R^2 \geq 0.7$
- Change-point temperature of 40°–80° F
- Left slope (heating slope) ≥ -1 and ≤ 0
- At least 100 days of utility data with average billing period temperatures below the change-point temperature.

For the electricity scenario, each of the three separate regression models (three-parameter heating, three-parameter cooling, and five-parameter) was created if the following applicable criteria were satisfied:

- Three-parameter heating:
 - CV-RMSE < 20%
 - $R^2 \geq 0.7$
 - C-change-point temperature of 40°–80° F
 - Left slope (heating slope) ≥ -10 and ≤ 0
 - At least 100 days of utility data with average billing period temperatures below the change-point temperature.
- Three-parameter cooling:
 - CV-RMSE < 20%
 - $R^2 \geq 0.7$
 - Change-point temperature of 50°–100°F
 - Right slope (cooling slope) ≥ 0 and ≤ 10
 - At least 100 days of utility data with average billing period temperatures above the change-point temperature.
- Five-parameter:
 - CV-RMSE < 20%
 - $R^2 \geq 0.7$
 - Heating change-point temperature of 40°–80°F
 - Cooling change-point temperature of 50°–100°F
 - Left slope (heating slope) ≥ -10 and ≤ 0
 - Right slope (cooling slope) ≥ 0 and ≤ 10
 - At least 100 days of utility data with average billing period temperatures below the change-point temperature (Xcp1)
 - At least 100 days of utility data with average billing period temperatures above the change-point temperature (Xcp2).

Additionally for the electricity scenario, the IMT software was used to create a “mean” model (assumed no temperature-dependent energy consumption) if the CV-RMSE was < 20% and the mean energy use was nonnegative. From the four possible models created for each electricity scenario, the model with the lowest CV-RMSE value was selected.

Calculating the TMY3 Normalized Energy Use

The final step was to calculate the TMY3 normalized annual energy use for each normalization scenario where the IMT software successfully created a model (mean, three-parameter, or five-parameter). First, the closest TMY3 weather station was selected based on the latitude and longitude associated with the five-digit ZIP code for the project. Then, the TMY3 year was split into periods of time having approximately the same median length as the billing periods used to develop the regression model (e.g., 30-day periods). The daily-average temperature was calculated for each period of the TMY3 year based on the hourly temperature data in the TMY3 file. Finally, the regression model for that scenario was used to estimate the energy consumption for each period in the TMY3 file and those estimated energy consumptions were summed to calculate the annual normalized energy consumption.

Appendix B: Energy-Efficiency Measure Tables

This appendix includes a number of tables on the EEMs installed for residential single-family projects. NYSERDA and Town of Bedford were excluded from the counts in the tables.

Table B-1. High-Frequency Installed Measures

Measure	Count
Air Sealing	30465
Insulation in Attic	27248
Lighting	13397
Water Heater	11890
Hot Water Insulation (tank/pipe)	10804
Low-flow aerators	9876
Furnace	9762
Insulation in Floor or Foundation	9066
Insulation in Walls	9019
Duct Sealing	8592

Table B-2. Medium-Frequency Installed Measures

Measure	Count
Air Conditioner	6048
Programmable Thermostat	5660
Windows	5193
Duct Insulation	4810
Heat Pump	4344
Ventilation System	3717

Table B-3. Low-Frequency Installed Measures

Measure	Count
Furnace Tune-up	1611
Boiler	1449
Health and Safety	1430
Water Conservation	1253
Chimney Liner	1154
Refrigerator	1056
Clothes Washer	965
Smart Strips	738
Insulation Other Locations	723
Weather Stripping	483
HVAC Tune-up	411
Thermostatic Valve	388
HVAC Upgrade	341
Insulation in Basement	306
Radiant Barrier	236
Dishwasher	228
Other	208
Doors	192
AC Tune-up	187
Solar Thermal	103
Solar PV	72
Wood Stove	33
Fireplace Insert	23
Freezer	21
Packaged Unit Heating	2

Appendix C: Source Energy Multipliers

This appendix includes a table of source energy multipliers used for the most common fuel types that grantees included in estimated energy saved.

Table C-1. Source Energy Multipliers

Fuel Type	Site-to-Source Multiplier
Electricity	3.365
Natural Gas	1.092
Fuel Oil	1.158
Propane/Liquefied Petroleum Gas	1.151
Kerosene	1.205
Wood and Pellets	1.000

Appendix D: Variables Used in MLR Analysis

This appendix includes tables summarizing the variables considered in the MLR analysis in Sections 3.4–3.5. NYSERDA and Town of Bedford were excluded from this analysis. Full data for the binary variables were data after filtering for reasonable energy saved range. The training data were randomly selected at 70% from the full data.

Table D-1. Categorical Variables

Variable	Description	Number of Categories
GRANTEE	Letter Code for Each Grantee	35
CENSUS_REGION	Standard Census Regions	4
PRED_METHOD_CAT_2	Prediction Method Categories	5

Table D-2. Numeric Variables

Variable	Description	Test in Model	Missing	0.5th Pctl.	25th Pctl.	Median	75th Pctl.	99.5th Pctl.
RETROFIT_YR	Year Project Completed	Yes	0	2010	2012	2012	2013	2013
FLOORAREA	Floor Area in Square Feet	Yes	9361	0	1300	1824	2500	6222
OCCUPANCY	Occupancy	No	20853	0	2	2	3	7
RETROFIT-JOBHOURS	Project Job Hours	Yes	4753	0	8	20	40	280
RETROFIT-INVOICEDCOST	Project Invoiced Cost	Yes	2356	0	1913	4735	9192	33942
RETROFIT-CUSTCONTRIB	Customer Contribution	No	26785	0	0	581	4148	29861
BBSUBSIDY	Better Buildings Subsidy	No	25838	0	0	500	1600	14196
TOTALRENEWABLE-JOBHOURS	Renewable Project Job Hours	No	39726	0	0	0	0	104
TOTALRENEWABLE-INVOICEDCOST	Renewable Project Invoiced Cost	No	39672	0	0	0	0	30991

Table D-3. Binary Variables for EEMs (Count Installed)

Variable	Description	Full Data	Training Data
B_INST_AC	Air Conditioner	5702	4027
B_INST_AC_TUNE	AC Tune-up	187	131

Variable	Description	Full Data	Training Data
B_INST_AIR_SEALING	Air Sealing	28930	20302
B_INST_BOILER	Boiler	1350	1003
B_INST_CLTH_WASH	Clothes Washer	945	665
B_INST_DISHWASHER	Dishwasher	205	140
B_INST_DOORS	Doors	186	128
B_INST_DUCT_INSUL	Duct Insulation	4654	3277
B_INST_DUCT_SEALING	Duct Sealing	8200	5765
B_INST_DHW_INSUL	Hot Water Insulation (tank/pipe)	10616	7509
B_INST_FIREPLACE_INSERT	Fireplace Insert	22	16
B_INST_FREEZER	Freezer	19	15
B_INST_FURNACE	Furnace	9435	6602
B_INST_FURNACE_TUNE	Furnace Tune-up	1606	1154
B_INST_HEAT_PUMP	Heat Pump	4125	2938
B_INST_HVAC_TUNE	HVAC Tune-up	384	270
B_INST_HVAC_UPGRADE	HVAC Upgrade	341	236
B_INST_INSUL_ATTIC	Insulation in Attic	25963	18263
B_INST_INSUL_FLR_FND	Insulation in Floor or Foundation	8487	5954
B_INST_INSUL_WALL	Insulation in Walls	8661	6108
B_INST_LIGHTING	Lighting	13065	9232
B_INST_LOWFLOW	Low-Flow Aerators	9615	6795
B_INST_OTHER	Other	186	137
B_INST_PCKG_UNIT_HT	Packaged Unit Heating	2	1
B_INST_PRGM_TSTAT	Programmable Thermostat	5454	3844
B_INST_REFRIG	Refrigerator	1012	718
B_INST_SOLAR_PV	Solar PV	72	52
B_INST_SOLAR_THERMAL	Solar Thermal	95	64
B_INST_VENT_SYS	Ventilation System	3557	2526
B_INST_WATER_CONSERV	Water Conservation	1252	856
B_INST_WATER_HEATER	Water Heater	11495	8102
B_INST_WINDOWS	Windows	4876	3432
B_INST_WOOD_STOVE	Wood Stove	29	17
B_INST_WTHR_STRPNG	Weather Stripping	457	318
B_INST_THERMO_VLV	Thermostatic Valve	378	270
B_INST_INSUL_BSMT	Insulation in Basement	284	207
B_INST_RAD_BARRIER	Radiant Barrier	230	165
B_INST_HEALTH_SAFETY	Health and Safety	1374	959
B_INST_INSUL_OTHER	Insulation Other Locations	707	503
B_INST_CHIMNEY_LINER	Chimney Liner	1154	813
B_INST_SMART_STRIPS	Smart Strips	738	511

Table D-4. Additional Binary Variables (Counts)

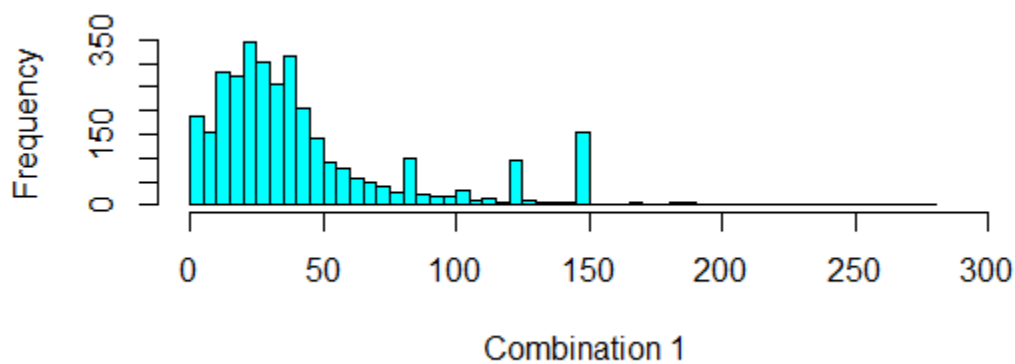
Variable	Description	Full Data	Training Data
LOANAMOUNT_LISTED	Loan amount listed	8053	5670
LOAN_OBTAINED	Loan amount listed or approval date listed	8078	5683
LOANAPPLICATIONREJECTED	Loan application rejected	33	24
AUDIT_BPI_CERT	Auditor was BPI certified	18052	12724
AUDIT_OTHER_CERT	Auditor was certified but not BPI certified	2204	1533
CONTRACT_BPI_CERT	Contractor was BPI certified	26153	18332
CONTRACT_OTHER_CERT	Contractor was certified but not BPI certified	3289	2353
INST_ELECT_SAVINGS_LISTED	Electricity savings listed	41421	29203
INST_NG_SAVINGS_LISTED	Natural gas savings listed	33012	23210
INST_OTHER_SAVINGS_LISTED	Other fuel type savings listed	6535	4626
YEARBUILT_UNKNOWN	Year built is unknown	13368	9421
YEARBUILT_PRE_1950	Year built is before 1950	12271	8666
YEARBUILT_1950_1959	Year built is 1950 to 1959	6258	4420
YEARBUILT_1960_1969	Year built is 1960 to 1969	3877	2712
YEARBUILT_1970_1979	Year built is 1970 to 1979	3893	2732
YEARBUILT_1980_1989	Year built is 1980 to 1989	3213	2247
YEARBUILT_1990_1999	Year built is 1990 to 1999	2878	2063
YEARBUILT_POST_2000	Year built is 2000 or after	1750	1204
RENEWABLEINVOICEDCOST_LISTED	Renewable invoiced cost is reported	268	203
CUSTOMERCONTRIBUTION_LISTED	Customer contribution for audit is reported	8408	6025
SUBSIDY_LISTED	Subsidy for audit is reported	8175	5818
OTHERFUNDS_LISTED	Other funds for audit is reported	5879	4208
RETROFITCUSTCONTRIB_LISTED	Customer contribution for project is reported	11270	7988
BBSUBSIDY_LISTED	Better Buildings subsidy for project is reported	14171	9996
TAXCREDIT_LISTED	Tax credit for project is reported	1260	873
REASON_COMFORT	Reason for upgrade is comfort	217	162
REASON_SAVINGS	Reason for upgrade is savings	428	310
REASON_ENVIRONMENT	Reason for upgrade is environment	22	14
REASON_COMMUNITY	Reason for upgrade is community	23	15
REASON_HEALTH	Reason for upgrade is health	3	2
LOWINCOME_TRUE	Project for low income occupant reported	3205	2229

Appendix E: Energy Saved Distributions

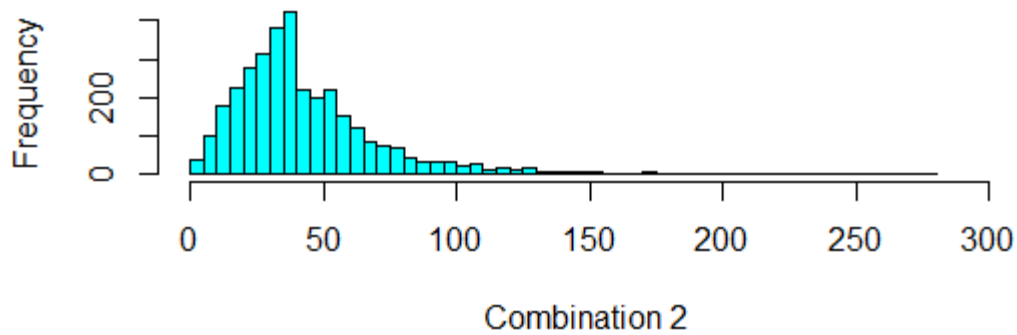
This appendix includes distribution graphs of estimated energy saved for the combinations listed in Table 1 of Section 2. Table E-1 is the same as Table 1 (duplicated here for convenience). Savings units plotted in the distribution graphs are in source MMBtu/year.

Table E-1. Ten Most Frequent Combinations of Measures

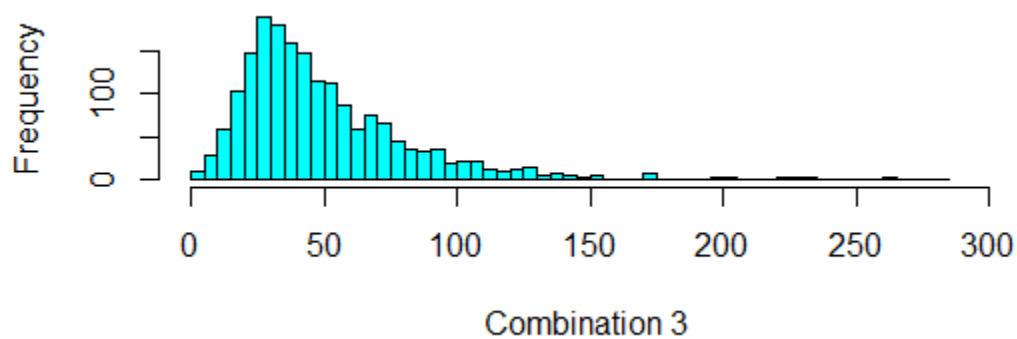
Combination Number	Air Sealing	Insulation in Attic	Lighting	Water Heater	Hot Water Insulation (tank/pipe)	Low flow aerators	Furnace	Insulation in Floor or Foundation	Insulation in Walls	Duct Sealing	Medium Frequency Measures	Low Frequency Measures	Project Count	Cumulative	Cumulative %
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3689	3689	7%
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3598	7287	15%
3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1964	9251	18%
4	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1208	10459	21%
5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1109	11568	23%
6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1007	12575	25%
7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	978	13553	27%
8	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	954	14507	29%
9	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	935	15442	31%
10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	931	16373	33%



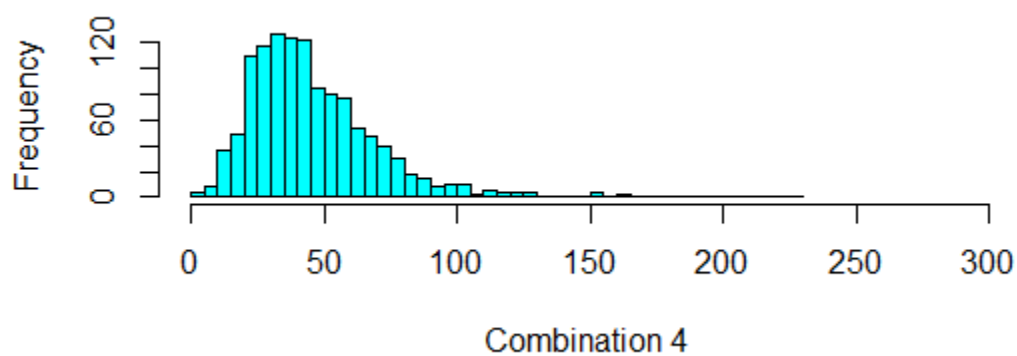
(a)



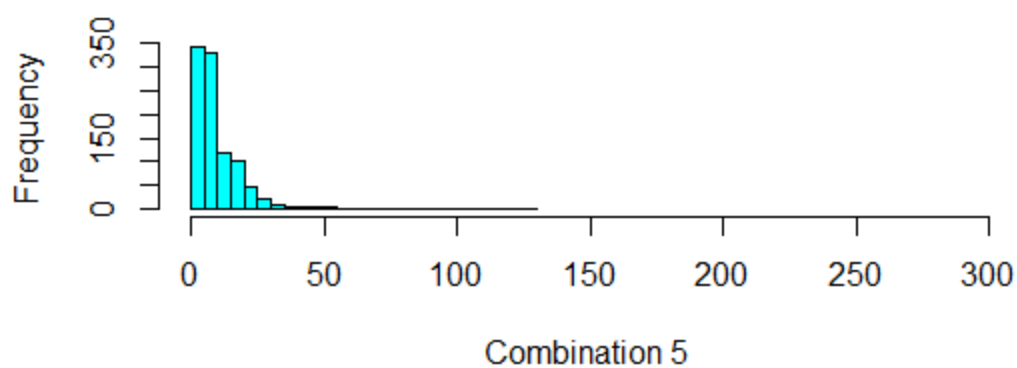
(b)



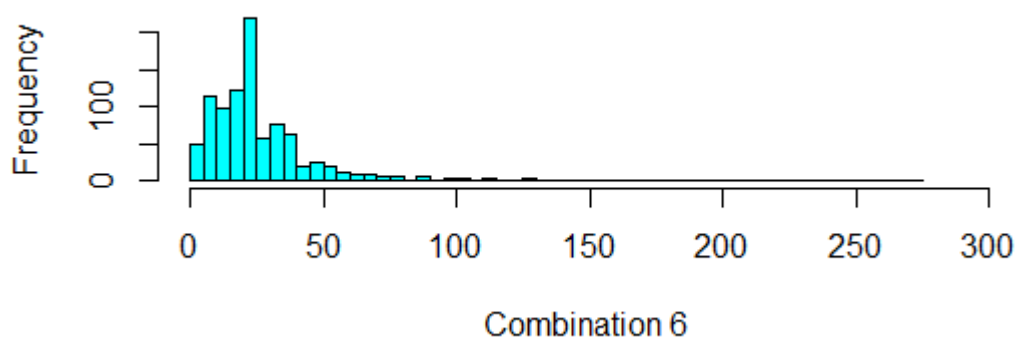
(c)



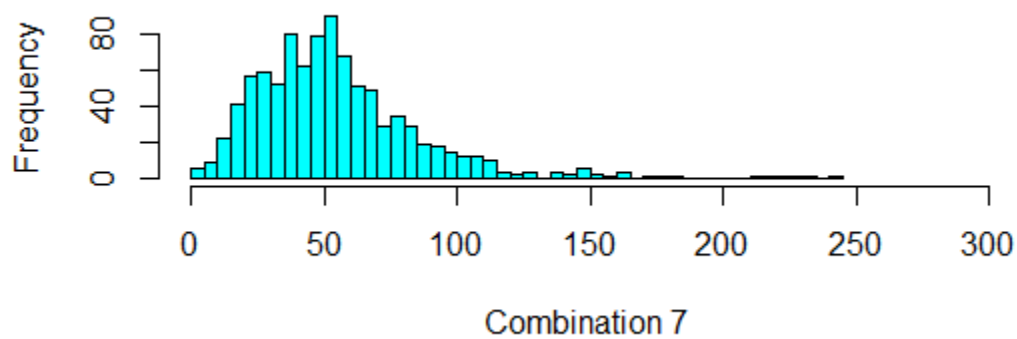
(d)



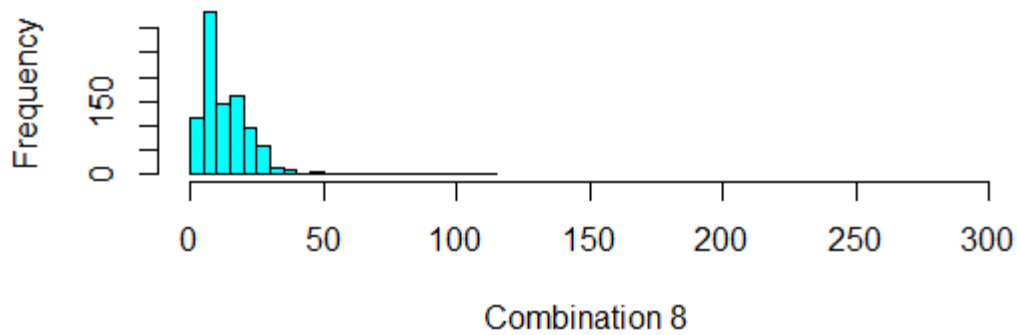
(e)



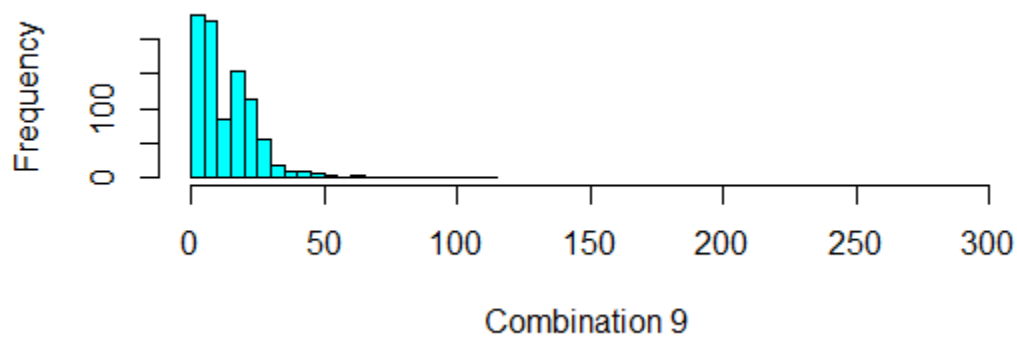
(f)



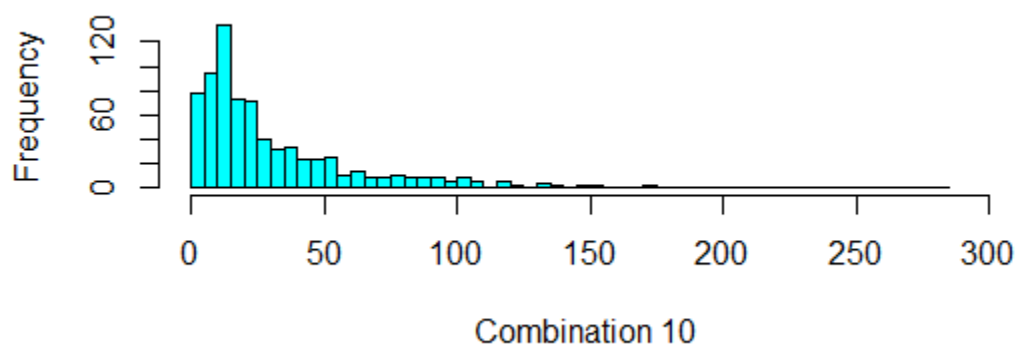
(g)



(h)



(i)



(j)

Figure E-1. Distributions of estimated energy saved for EEM combinations. Savings units are in source MMBtu.