



## Maximizing Energy Savings in Laboratories

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Chuck McKinney, Aircuity  
Tom Smith, Exposure Control Technologies



# Is the Key to Exemplary Lab Efficiency Technical, Organizational, or Both?

Wendell C. Brase

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Co-Chair, University of California President's Global Climate Leadership Council

# Smart Building

*Just enough energy at just the right time*

How:

- Challenge all accepted design practices
- Use software and sensors to make building systems dynamic and “smart”

# Smart Lab Key Elements

1. Retrofit constant volume to variable-air volume
2. Optimize safe air-change rates
3. Improve lighting efficiency
4. Optimize exhaust fan discharge airspeed
5. Reduce pressure drops throughout system
6. Optimize fume hood standby ventilation
7. Continuously commission



# Smart Labs Resources

- Boston Green Labs Symposium Videos  
<http://green.harvard.edu/campaign/green-labs-symposium>
- UC Irvine Smart Labs Initiative  
<http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/energy/>

# Critical-Path Steps to Exemplary Performance

1. Get the organizational culture ready
2. Adopt a challenging goal
3. Understand true scale of the challenge
4. Develop scalable strategy
5. Adopt interim milestones
6. Governing board/leadership alignment and support
7. “Mainstream” delegated responsibilities
8. Staff with appropriate talent
9. Build a team
10. Foster breakthrough thinking
11. Prepare to weather setbacks
12. Dedicated source of program financing
13. Simple project approval process
14. Pilot new concepts initially
15. Use “information layer” to verify and sustain performance

# Organizational Development

- Get the organizational culture ready!
- Build a team
- Foster breakthrough thinking
  - Challenge status quo
  - Question accepted limits
  - Think comprehensively: re-engineer whole systems
- Prepare to weather setbacks

# Performance Improvement Resources

- Sustainable Performance Improvement

<http://www.abs.uci.edu/resources/sustainable.html>

- Survey of Management and Organizational Patterns

<http://www.abs.uci.edu/resources/deptsurvey.html>



# RESULTS

# Where did we start ?

Laboratory Building		BEFORE Smart Lab Retrofit		
Name	Type	Estimated Average ACH	VAV or CV	More efficient than code?
Croul Hall	P	6.6	VAV	~ 20%
McGaugh Hall	B	9.4	CV	No
Reines Hall	P	11.3	CV	No
Natural Sciences 2	P,B	9.1	VAV	~20%
Biological Sciences 3	B	9.0	VAV	~30%
Calit2	E	6.0	VAV	~20%
Gillespie Neurosciences	M	6.8	CV	~20%
Sprague Hall	M	7.2	VAV	~20%
Hewitt Hall	M	8.7	VAV	~20%
Engineering Hall	E	8.0	VAV	~30%
<b>Averages</b>		<b>8.2</b>	<b>VAV</b>	<b>~20%</b>

- All of these are existing buildings
- Multiple types of science represented
- Starting air change rates often higher than we expected
- Mix of mechanical system designs
- Most buildings were already very efficient.

Type: P = Physical Sciences, B = Biological Sciences, E = Engineering, M = Medical Sciences

# UC Irvine's Smart Labs Initiative



Laboratory Building		BEFORE Smart Lab Retrofit		
Name	Type <sub>1</sub>	Estimated Average ACH	VAV or CV	More efficient than code?
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<b>Averages</b>		<b>8.2</b>	<b>VAV</b>	<b>~20%</b>

AFTER Smart Lab Retrofit		
kWh Savings	Therm Savings	Total Savings
48%	40%	40%
57%	66%	59%
67%	77%	69%
48%	62%	50%
45%	81%	53%
46%	78%	58%
58%	81%	70%
71%	83%	75%
58%	77%	62%
59%	78%	69%
<b>57%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>61%</b>

Type: P = Physical Sciences, B = Biological Sciences, E = Engineering, M = Medical Sciences

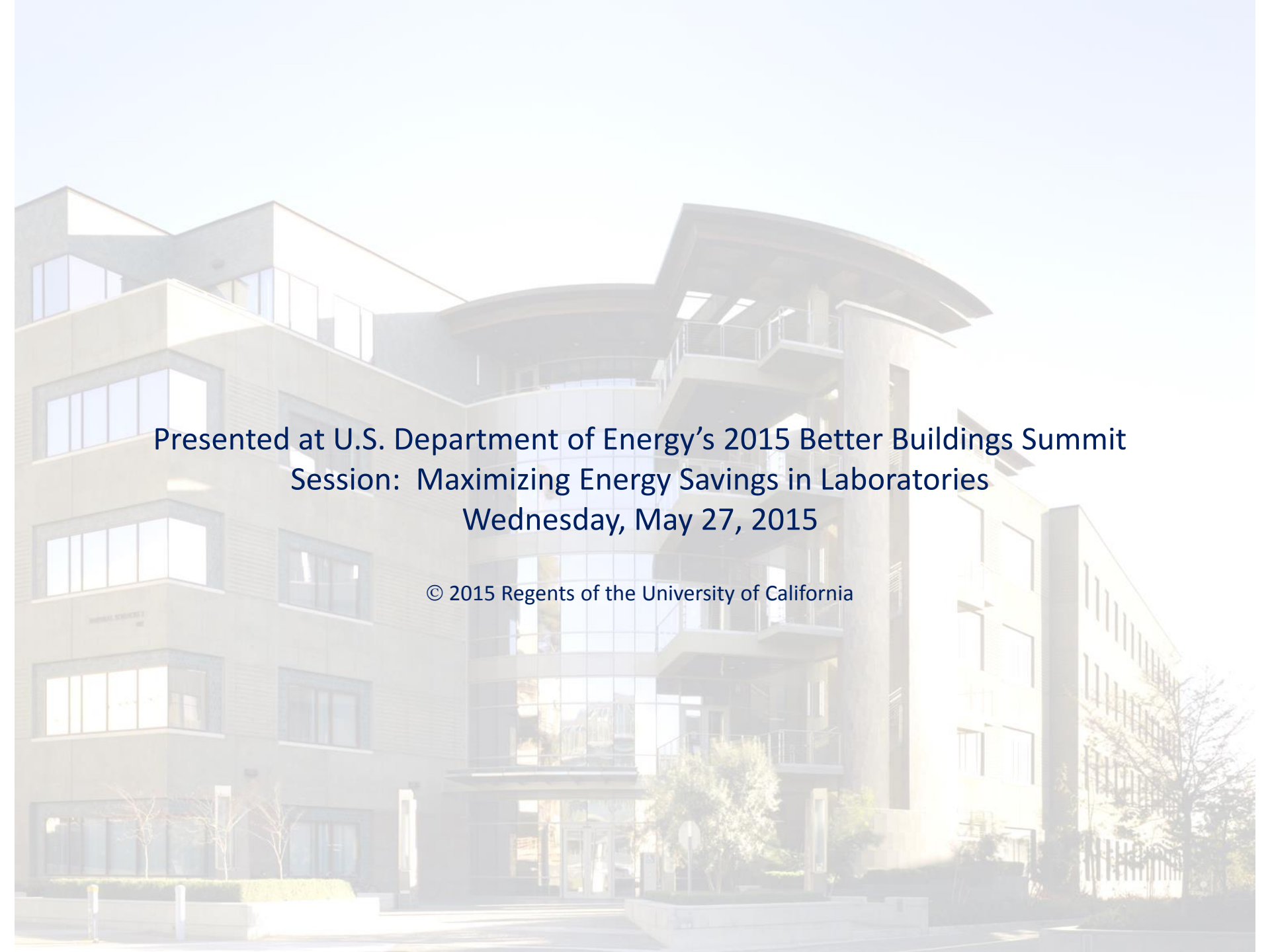
# Unforeseen Benefits of Smart Labs Retrofits

- Deferred maintenance
- Safety/air quality longitudinal data
- No need for periodic commissioning
- Data to understand and target more opportunities
- Reduced wear and failure rates for fan motors and bearings
- Cleaner air in laboratories

# CFO Concerns

- Low-risk investment
- Consistency of costs and benefits
- Sustainable performance
- Debt-coverage ratio





Presented at U.S. Department of Energy's 2015 Better Buildings Summit  
Session: Maximizing Energy Savings in Laboratories  
Wednesday, May 27, 2015

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# AIRCUIITY<sup>®</sup>

Safe, Smart & Efficient Airside Solutions



## Laboratory Energy Saving Solutions

Reducing energy, improving  
operation and enhancing  
safety goals

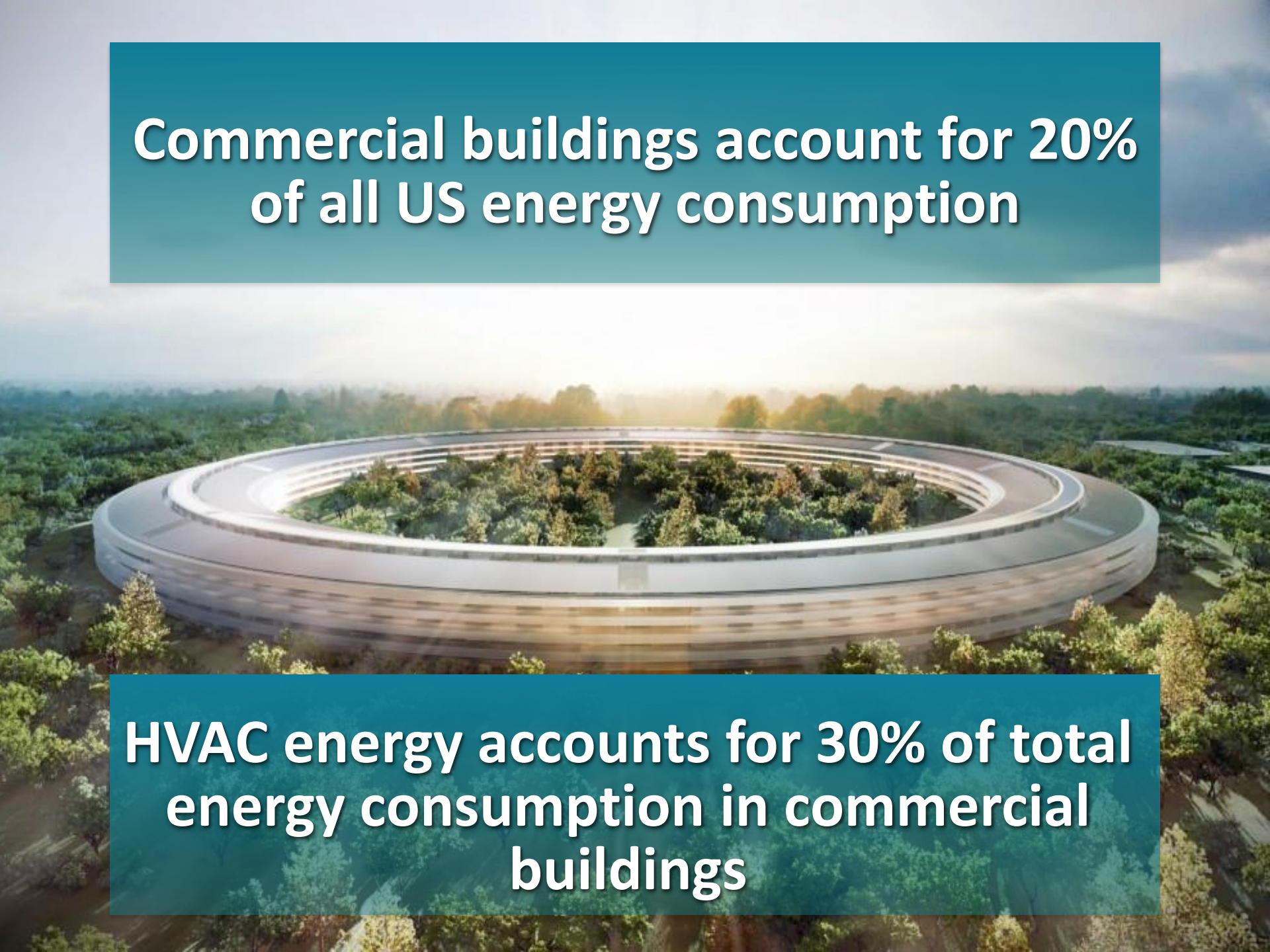
Chuck McKinney, VP Sales & Marketing  
May 27, 2015

# Learning Objectives

Use ROI analysis to  
Understand  
Identify candidates for  
Airside Efficiency

SUE AND BILL GROSS HALL  
A CIRM INSTITUTE

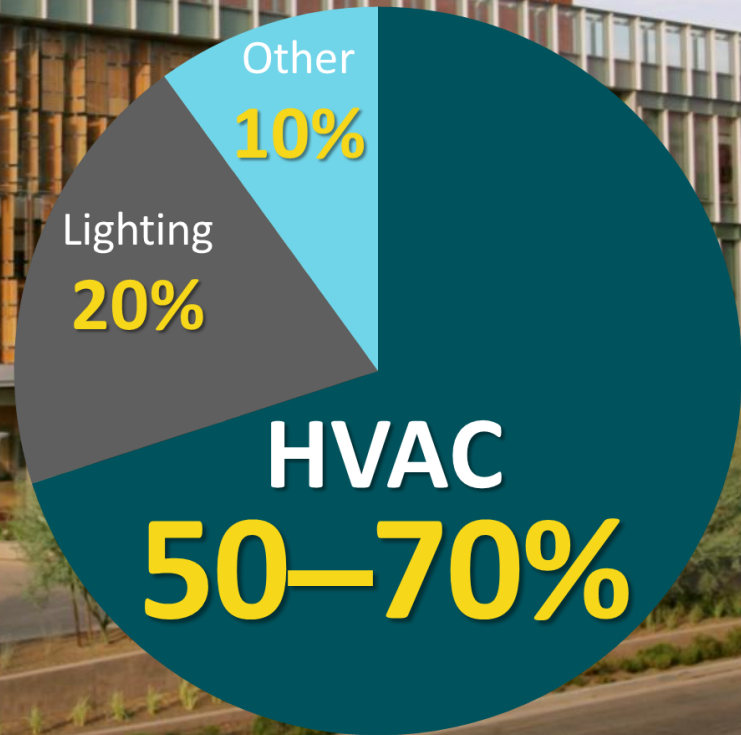


An aerial photograph of a large, circular building with a white facade and a green roof. The building is surrounded by lush green trees and a clear sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow. The building has a modern, architectural design with multiple levels visible on the roof.

**Commercial buildings account for 20%  
of all US energy consumption**

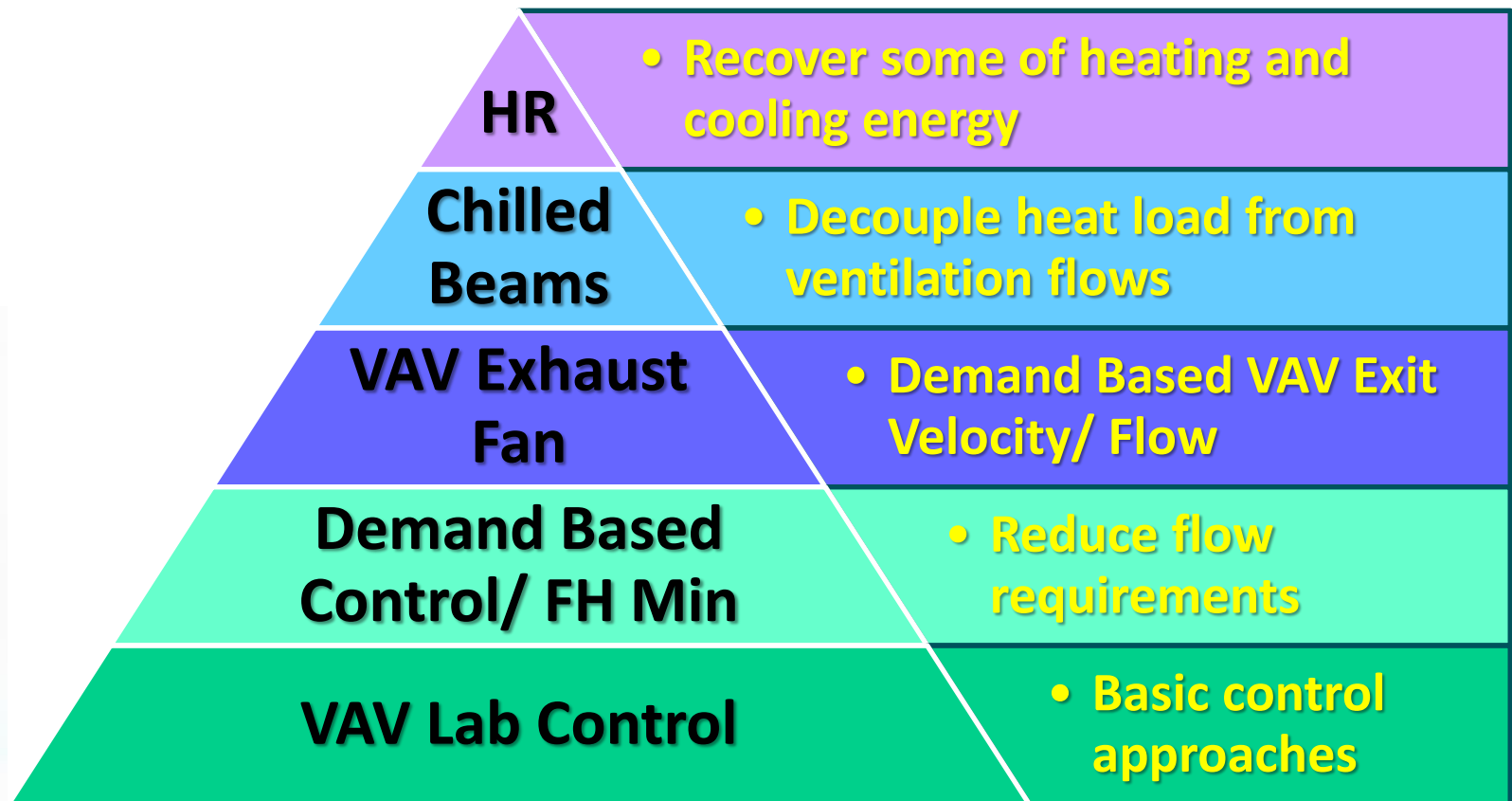
**HVAC energy accounts for 30% of total  
energy consumption in commercial  
buildings**

Labs use **6-10 times** as much energy as a commercial office building



# Holistic Strategies for Increased Savings

- **To optimize lab safety, first cost & energy:**
  - Combining systems appropriately is best
  - Use a layered or pyramid approach:



# Demand Based Control: adjust air change rates based on IEQ information

Hood Flows

Thermal  
Load

ACH/Dilution  
Requirement

Measure air  
sample for  
each lab area

## What is Demand Based Control?

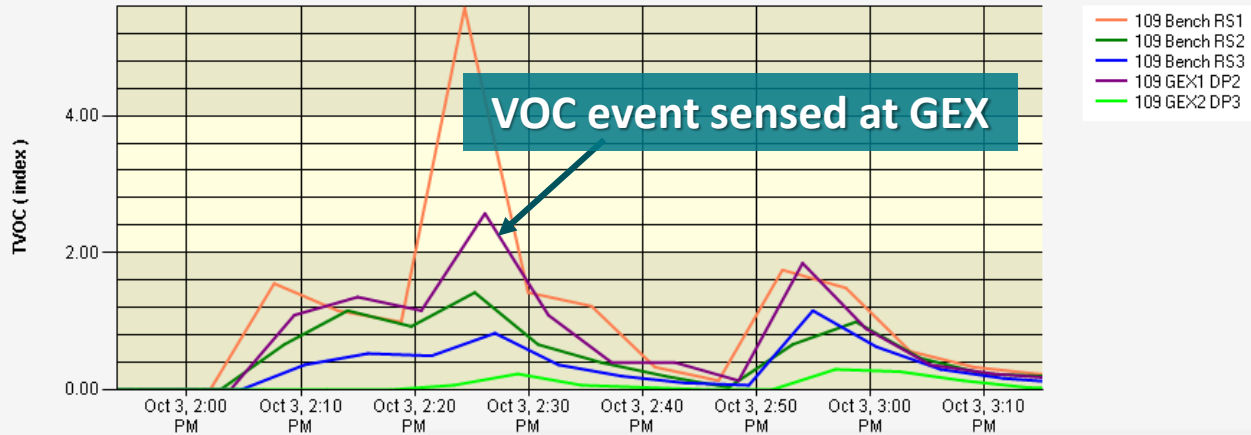
Is lab activity  
generating  
contaminants?

Monitor  
response

Inform  
building  
controls

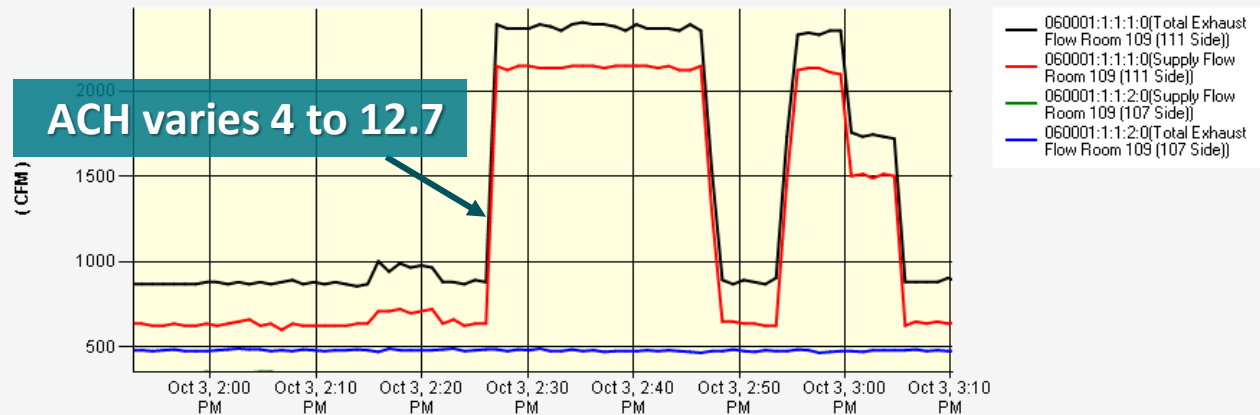
# Normal lab operation with dynamic control

TVOC Graph for client "HSPH" and building "FXB"



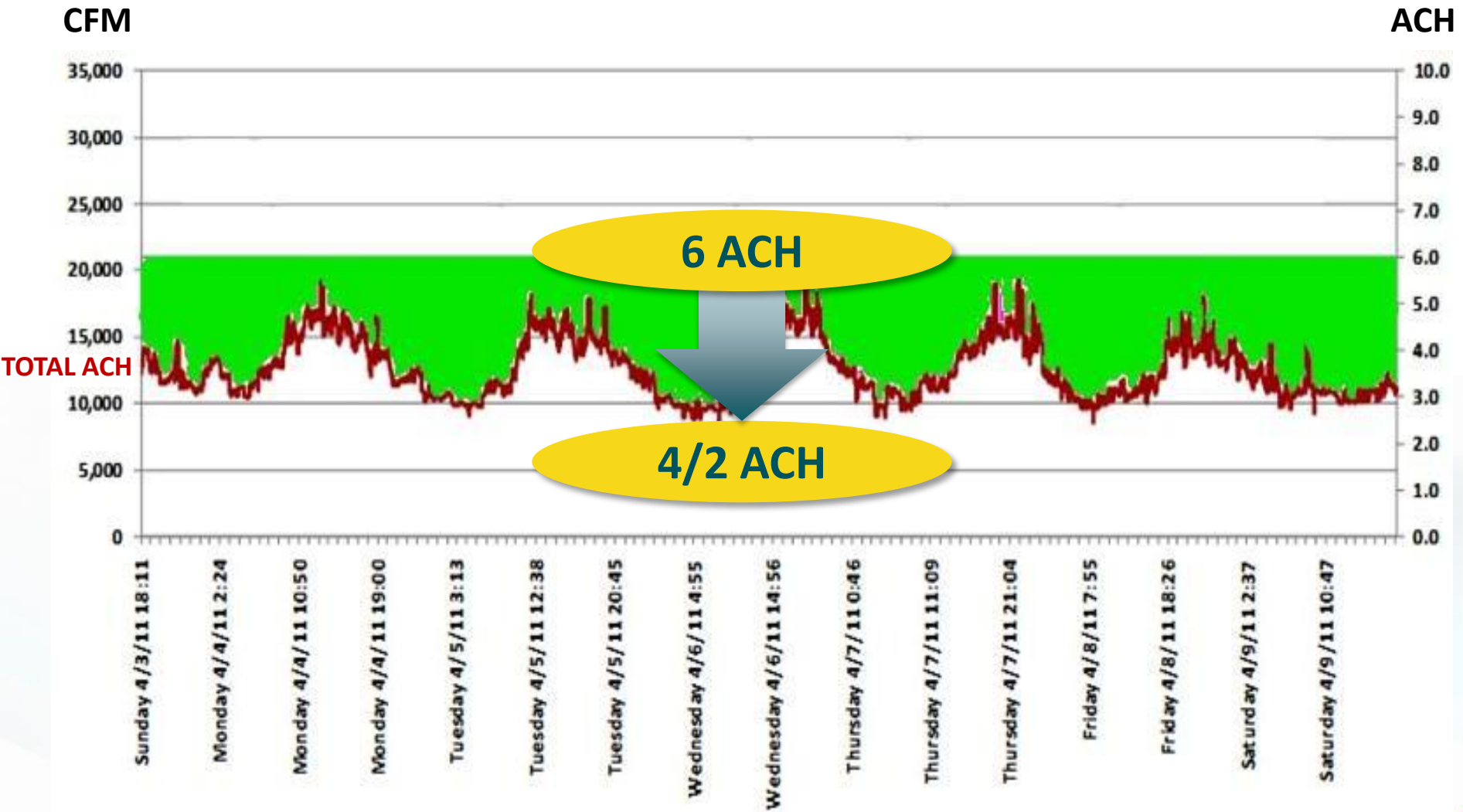
Time

[Total Exhaust Flow Room 109 (111 Side),Supply Flow Room 109 (111 Side),Supply Flow Room 109 (107 Side),Total Exhaust Flow Room 109 (107 Side)] user defin point graph for HSPH / FXB



Time ( Current Period : Oct 3, 2006 - Oct 3, 2006 )

# A week of energy savings



# The impact of DBC in labs

## General Lab



**8-10 ACH**



**4/2 ACH**

## Vivarium



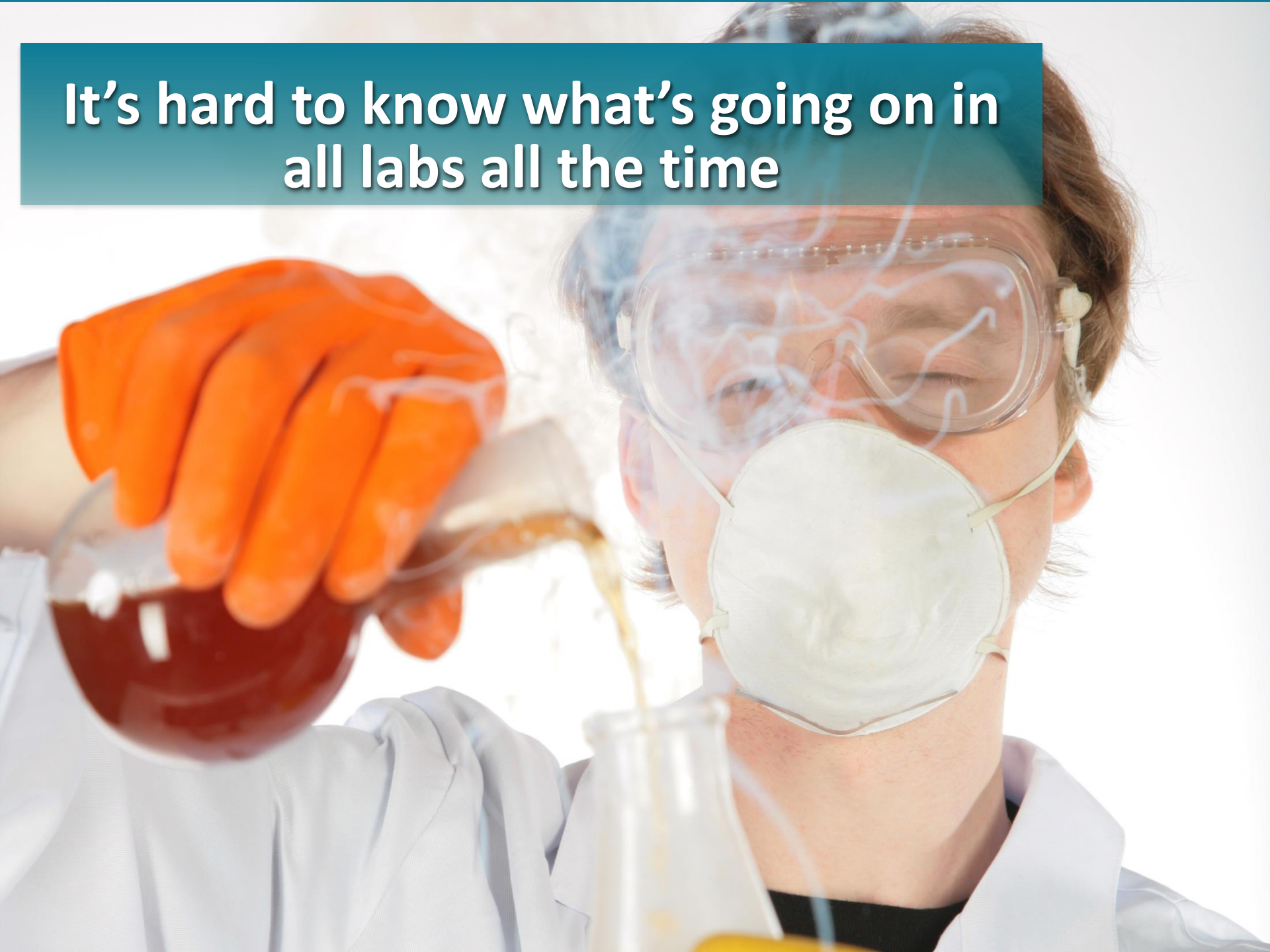
**15-25 ACH**



**6-8 ACH**



**It's hard to know what's going on in  
all labs all the time**



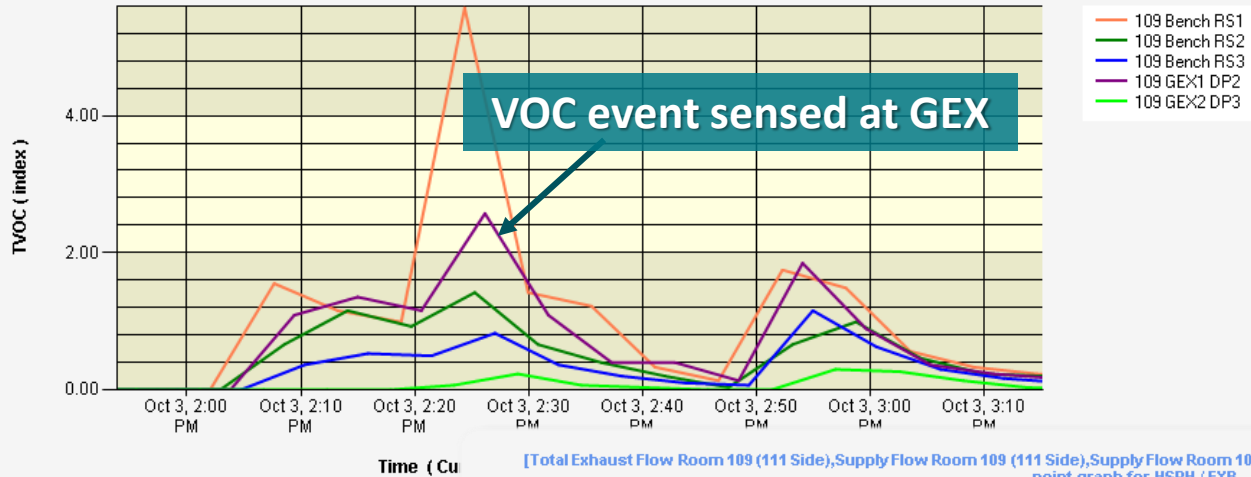


“Our goal is to find the sweet spot where we maximize energy savings without compromising safety.”

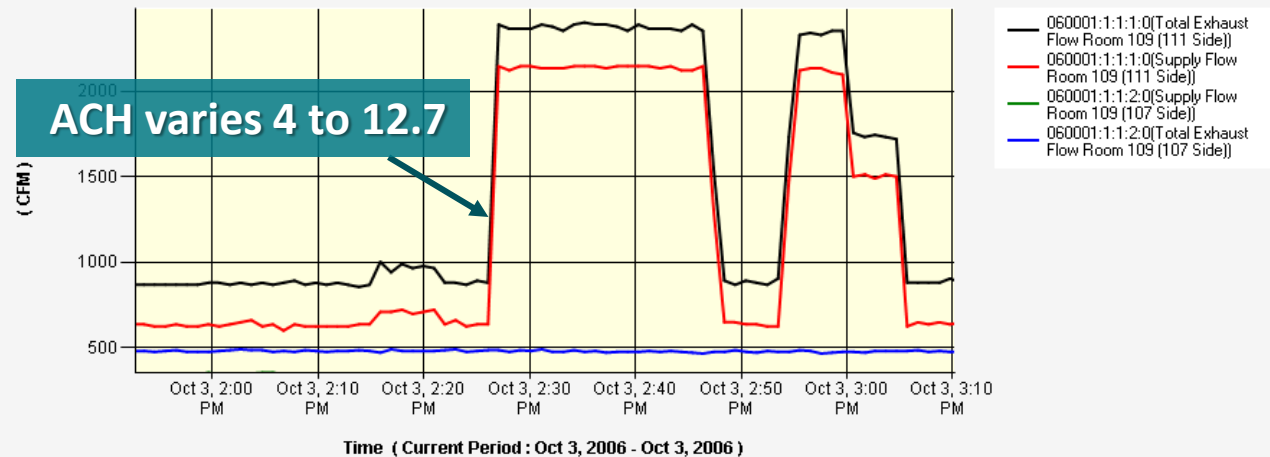
**Marc Gomez**  
Assistant Vice Chancellor  
Facilities Management/  
Environmental Health & Safety  
University of California, Irvine

# DBC: because one ACH is never correct

TVOC Graph for client "HSPH" and building "FXB"

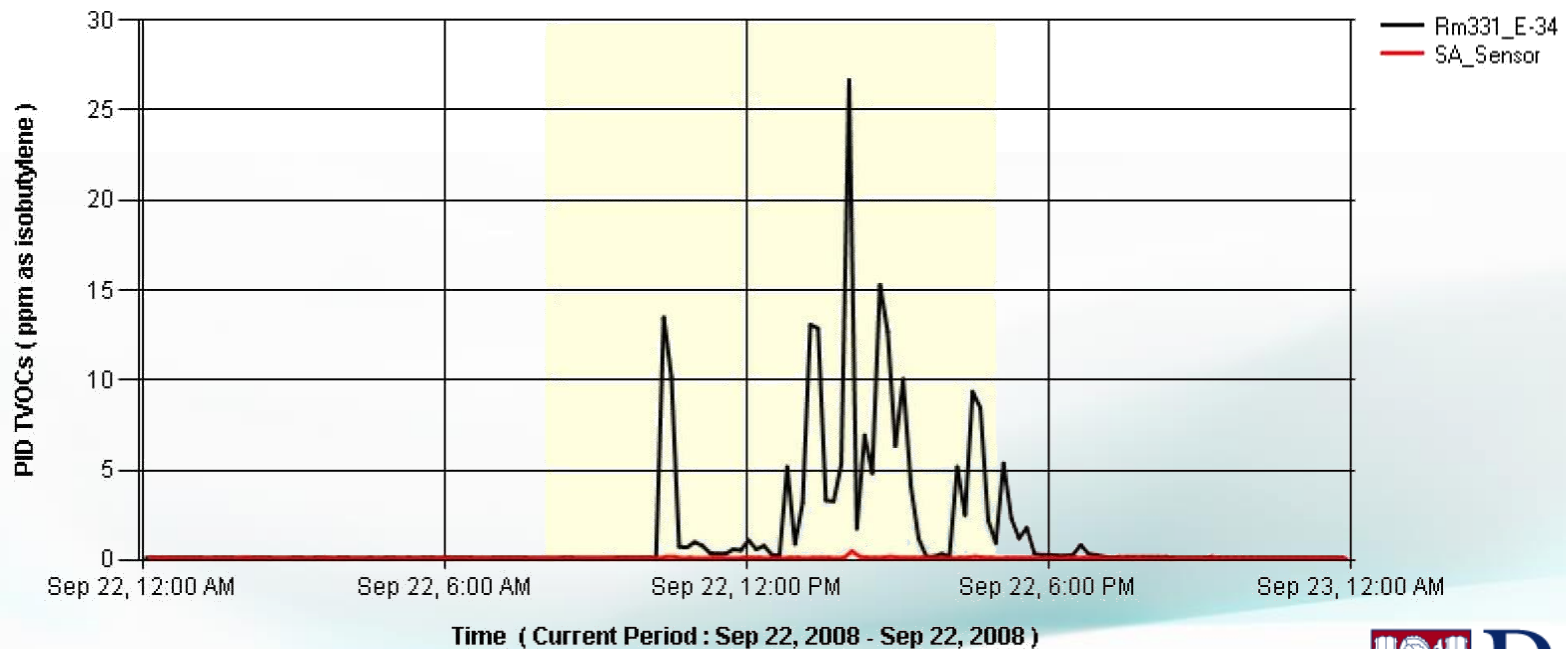


[Total Exhaust Flow Room 109 (111 Side),Supply Flow Room 109 (111 Side),Supply Flow Room 109 (107 Side),Total Exhaust Flow Room 109 (107 Side)] user definid point graph for HSPH / FXB



# Detection of improper lab practices

A lab researcher sticks the exhaust of his mass-spec into the local snorkel exhaust then pinches it off with the blast gate, creating elevated TVOC levels in the lab.



# Information can drive alignment...

I can see what is driving energy use in the lab

I can use this data to continuously commission my building

I can use data to help determine proper air flow and ensure safe labs

I can stop the “safety vs. energy” arguments between departments



**SUSTAINABILITY  
ENERGY MGR**



**FACILITIES**



**HEALTH & SAFETY**



**Vice Chancellor**

Laboratory Ventilation Savings Analysis  
for  
Onion University of America  
Plant Research Laboratory and Odor Studies Center  
Vidaliaville (Using weather data from Boston, Massachusetts)

Submitted by  
Gordon P. Sharp, Aircuity, Inc.

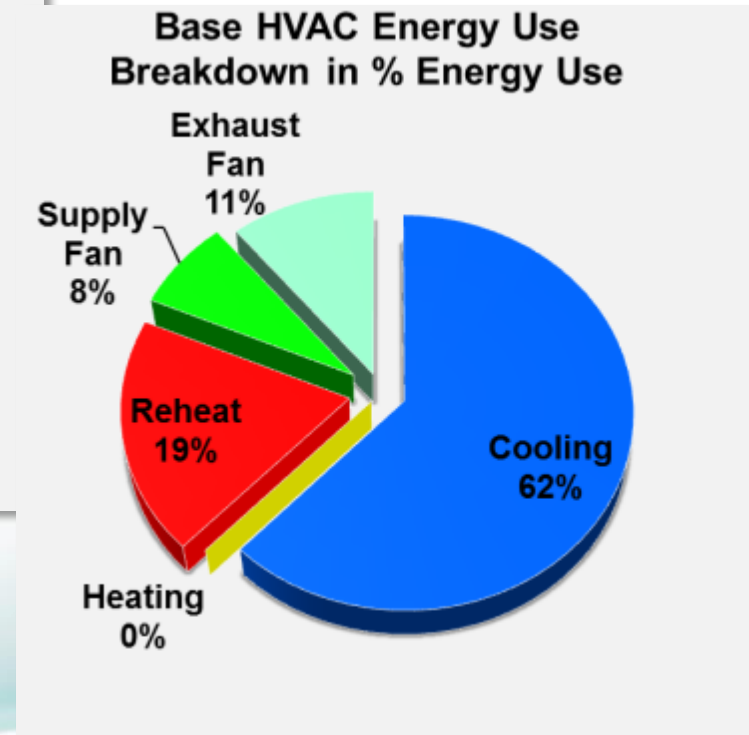
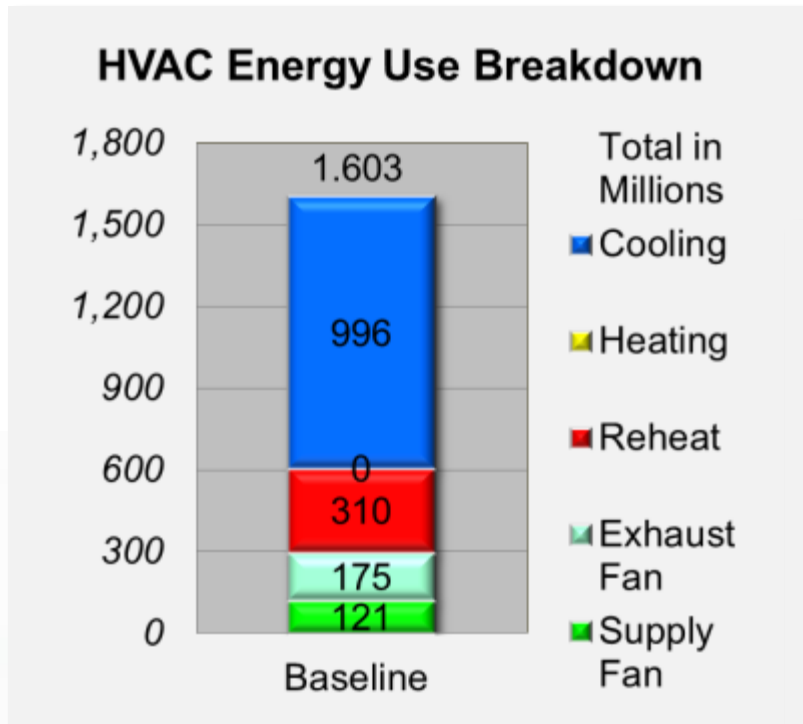
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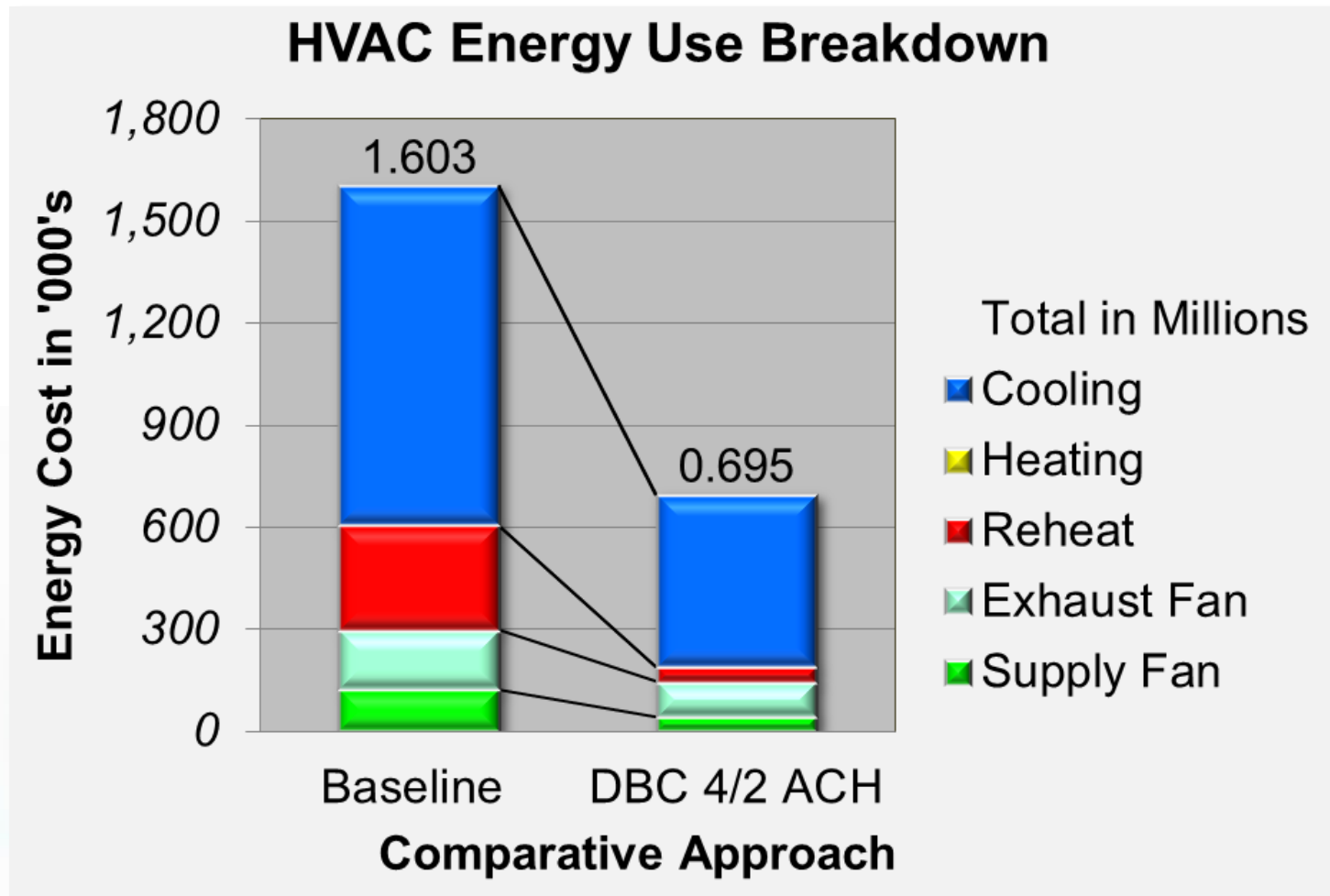
# Energy Analysis & ROI Tool

A report customized  
for each building's  
unique conditions

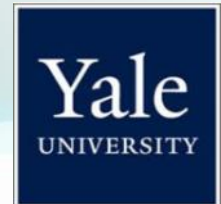
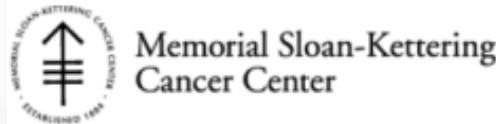
# Graphically displays your current energy usage



# Compares the results of the status quo versus taking action







# Thank You!



# Lab Energy & Safety Optimization Process



**Deliver Return on Investment with a  
Lab Ventilation Management Program**

**Thomas C. Smith**



**Exposure Control Technologies, Inc.**

**919-319-4290**

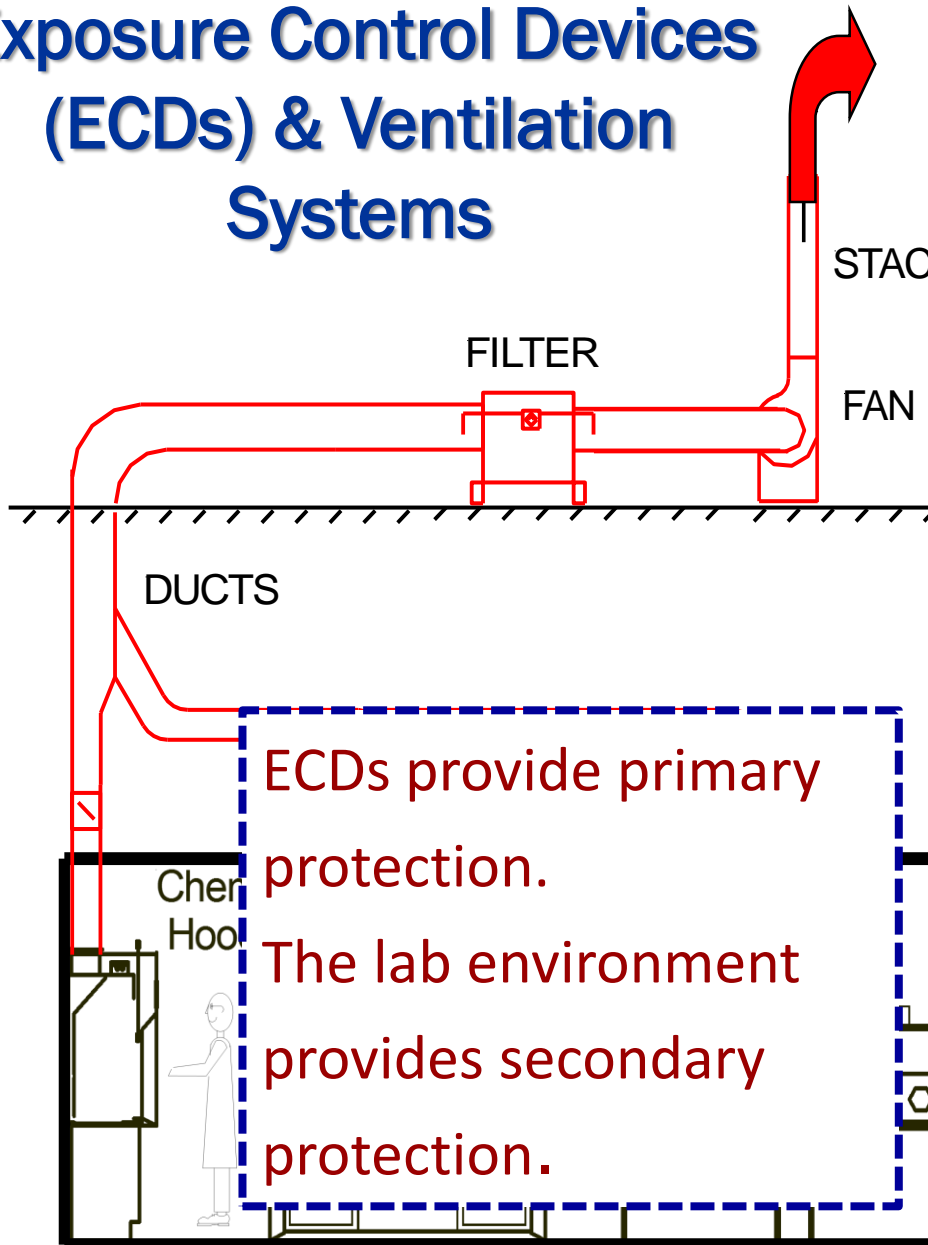
**tcsmith@labhoodpro.com**

# Critical Control Environments

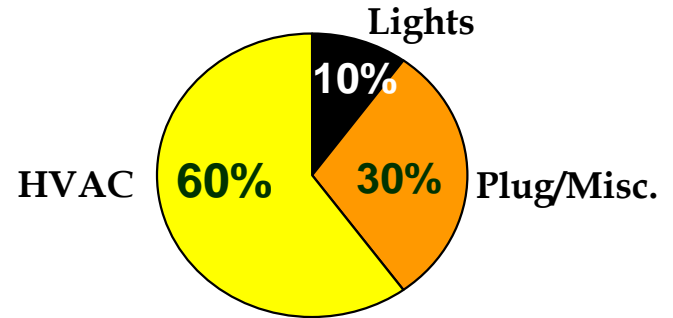
- Chemical and Rad Labs
- Biology Labs (BSL 2-4)
- Nanotechnology Labs
- Animal Vivariums
- Clean Rooms
- Isolation Suites



# Exposure Control Devices (ECDs) & Ventilation Systems



- Laboratory Utilities ≈ \$5 to \$20 per sq. ft.



- Lab HVAC ≈ \$3 to \$9 per cfm-yr
- As much as 50% of energy can be wasted by inefficient and ineffective HVAC
- Excess flow can be due to poor design and operation of fume hoods and high air change rates
- 15% - 30% of fume hoods may not meet ANSI standards for performance and many labs do not maintain proper air balance



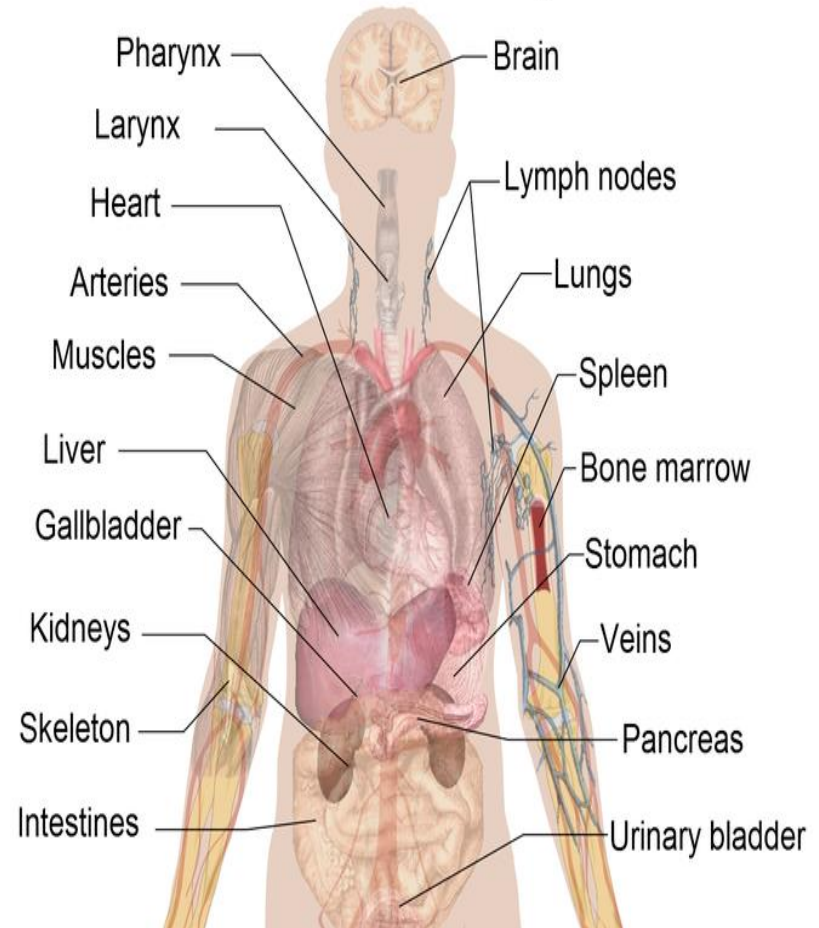
# Potential for Adverse Health Effects from Airborne Hazards in Labs

## Inhalation Hazards

- Types of Materials
- Toxicity
- Generation Rate
- Concentration
- Duration of Exposure

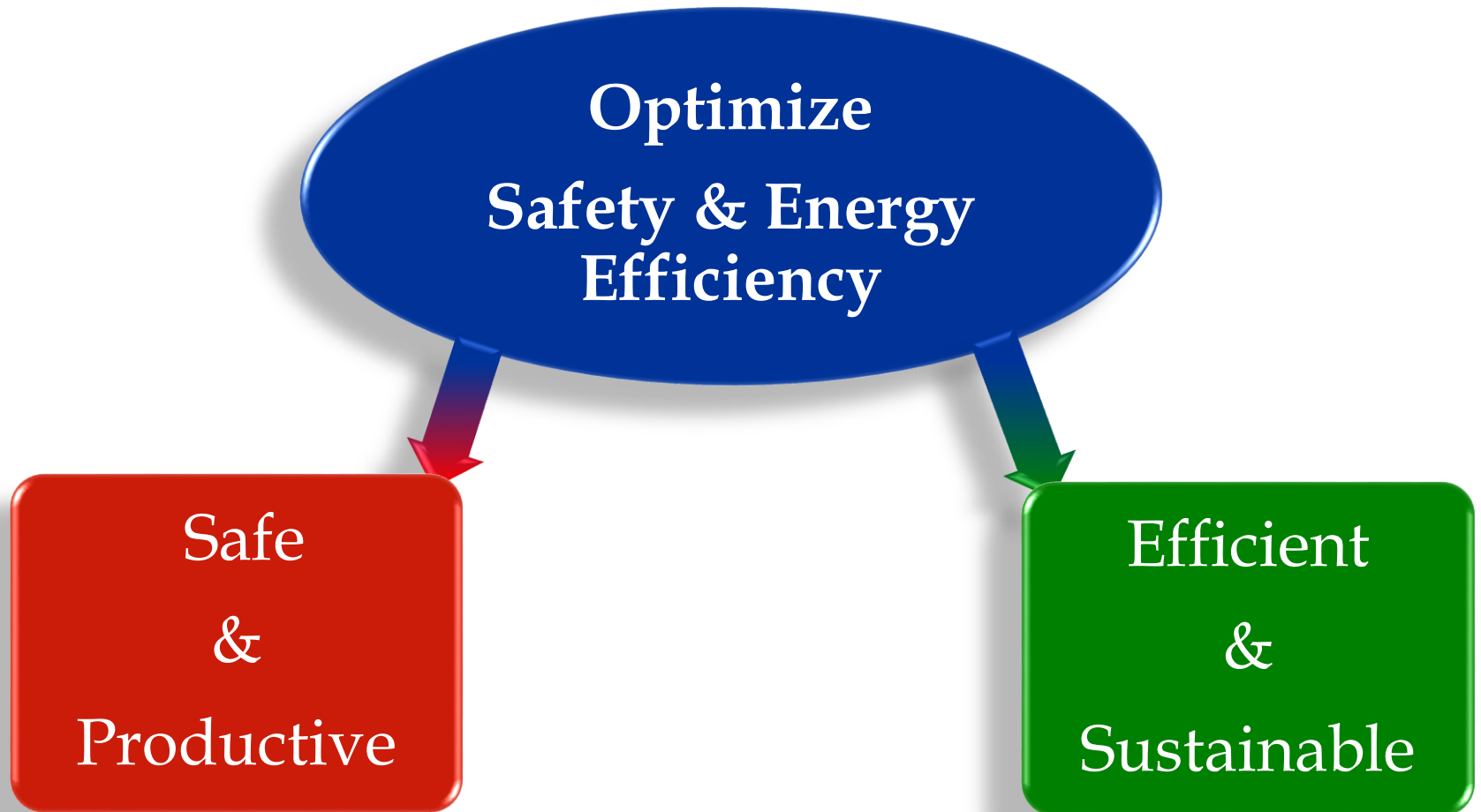
## Physical Hazards

- Dermal Exposure
- Fire & Explosion



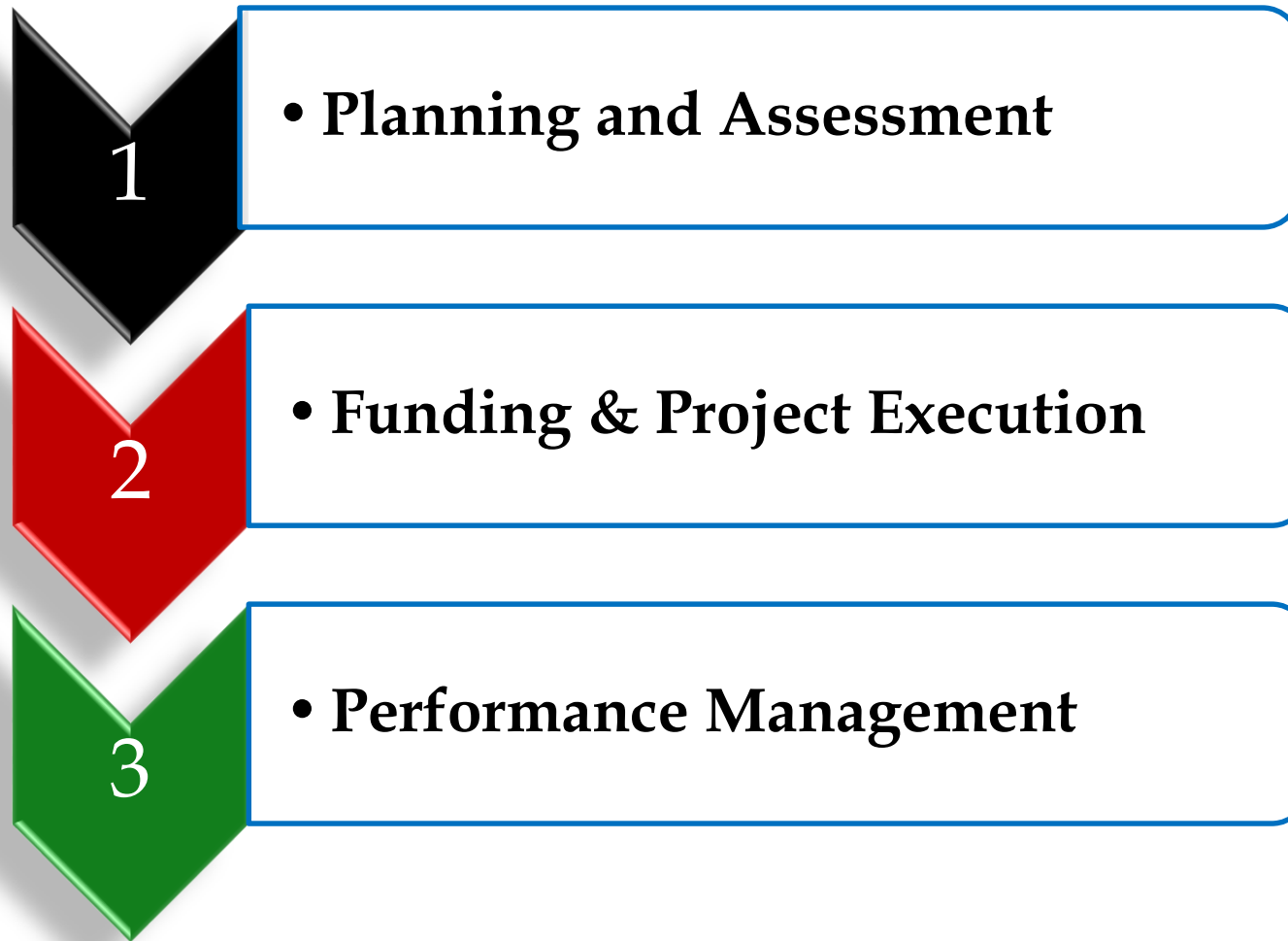
$$\text{Dose} = \text{Concentration} \times \text{Duration of Exposure}$$

# High Performance Laboratories



- **Common Objectives**
- **Realistic Goals**
- **Teamwork**

# Lab Energy & Safety Optimization Process





# Lab Energy & Safety Optimization Process

## Phase 1 - Planning & Assessment

- **Interdisciplinary Team**
- **Lab Energy and Safety Assessment**
  - Survey Labs, Hoods and Systems
  - Evaluate the Demand For Ventilation
  - Determine Required Operating Specifications
  - Determine Performance Improvement Measures
  - Predict Energy Savings
  - Determine Scope of Work and Costs
- **Prioritize Opportunities by Benefits & ROI**



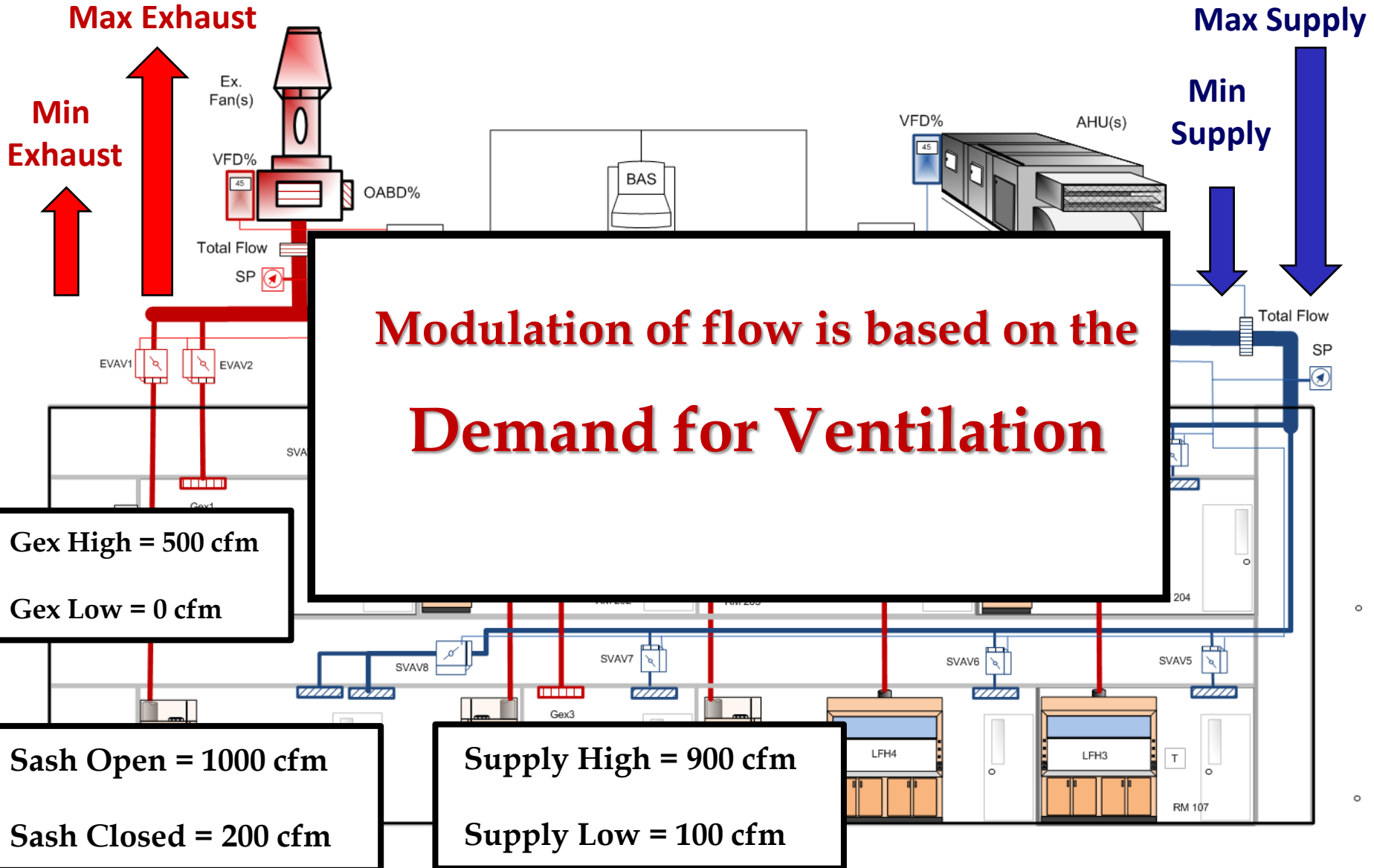
# Demand for Ventilation

- **Safety**
  - Hood Exhaust Flow
  - Laboratory Pressurization
  - Dilution (ACH)
- **Comfort & Productivity**
  - Temperature
  - Humidity
- **Occupancy & Utilization**



**Minimum flow and range of modulation required to meet the functional requirements of the lab**

# Laboratory Ventilation System



# Determine the Demand For Ventilation and Required Operating Specifications

## Laboratory Ventilation Risk Assessment

- Survey Laboratory Environment
- Survey and Inventory Ventilated Devices
- Evaluate Hazards & Processes
- Categorize Risk Using Control Bands
- Establish Appropriate Operating Specifications
  - Minimum Laboratory ACH
  - Minimum Fume Hood Flow
  - Exhaust Stack Discharge Requirements



# Laboratory Ventilation Control Bands

## Control Band Parameters

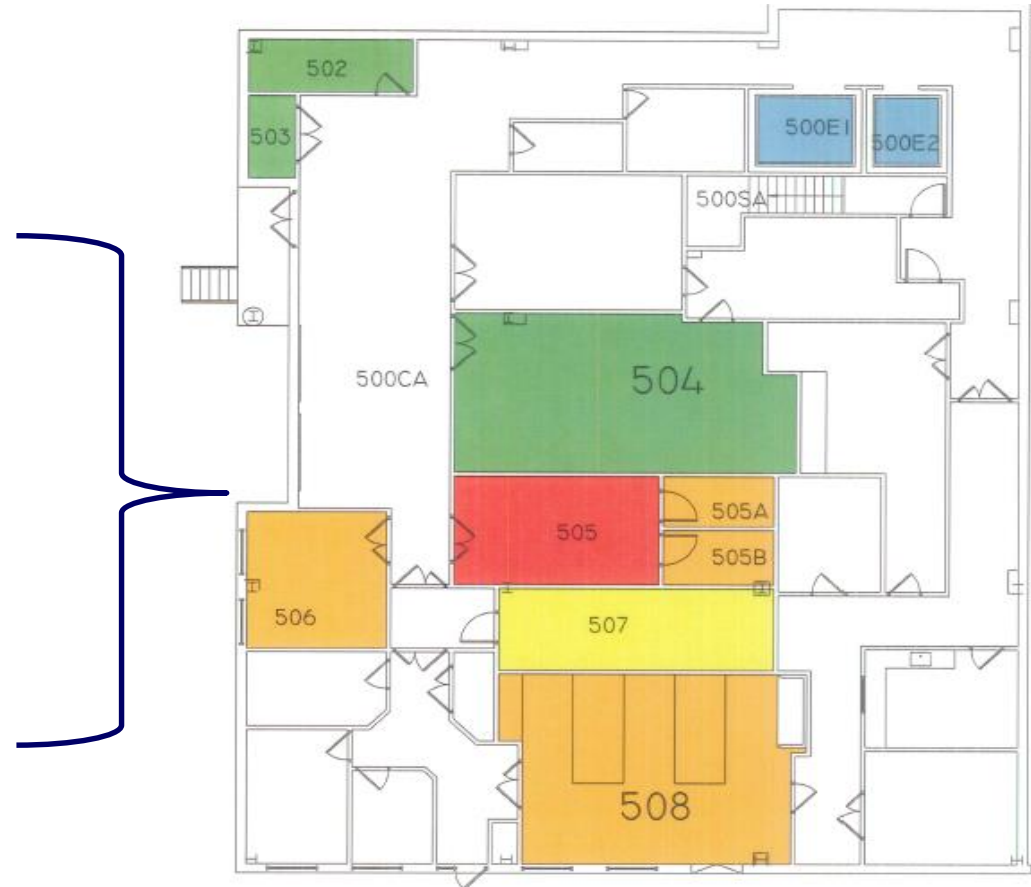
- Chemical Hazard Rating
- Quantity of Hazardous Material
- Chemical Generation Potential
- Method and Duration of Generation
- Generation Source Location(s)
- ECD Availability and Appropriateness
- Potential for Change
- Housekeeping - Lab Practices
- Ventilation Effectiveness (Sweep)

Risk Control Band	Description
0	Negligible
1	Low
2	Moderate
3	High
4	Very High
5	Extreme

# Laboratory Ventilation Control Bands

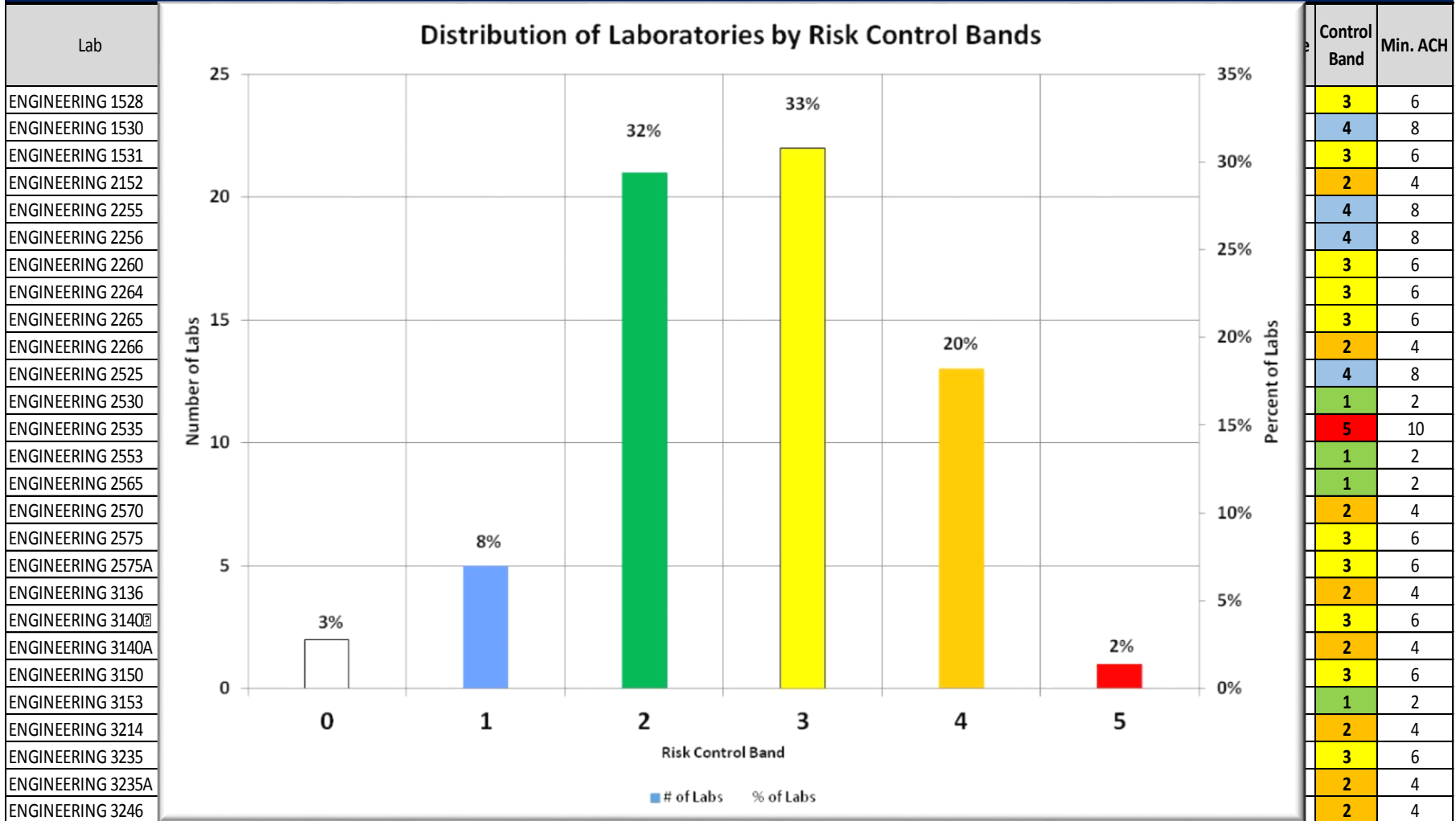
- Parameters and Weighting Adapted to Unique Labs
- Recommend ACH & Risk of Recirculating Lab Air
- Evaluate Lab Construction, Pressurization, Need for Monitoring, etc.

Total Score	Control Band	ACH
< 8	0	< 2
9 - 17	1	< 4
18 - 34	2	> 4
35 - 51	3	> 6
52 - 67	4	> 8
≥ 68	5	> 10

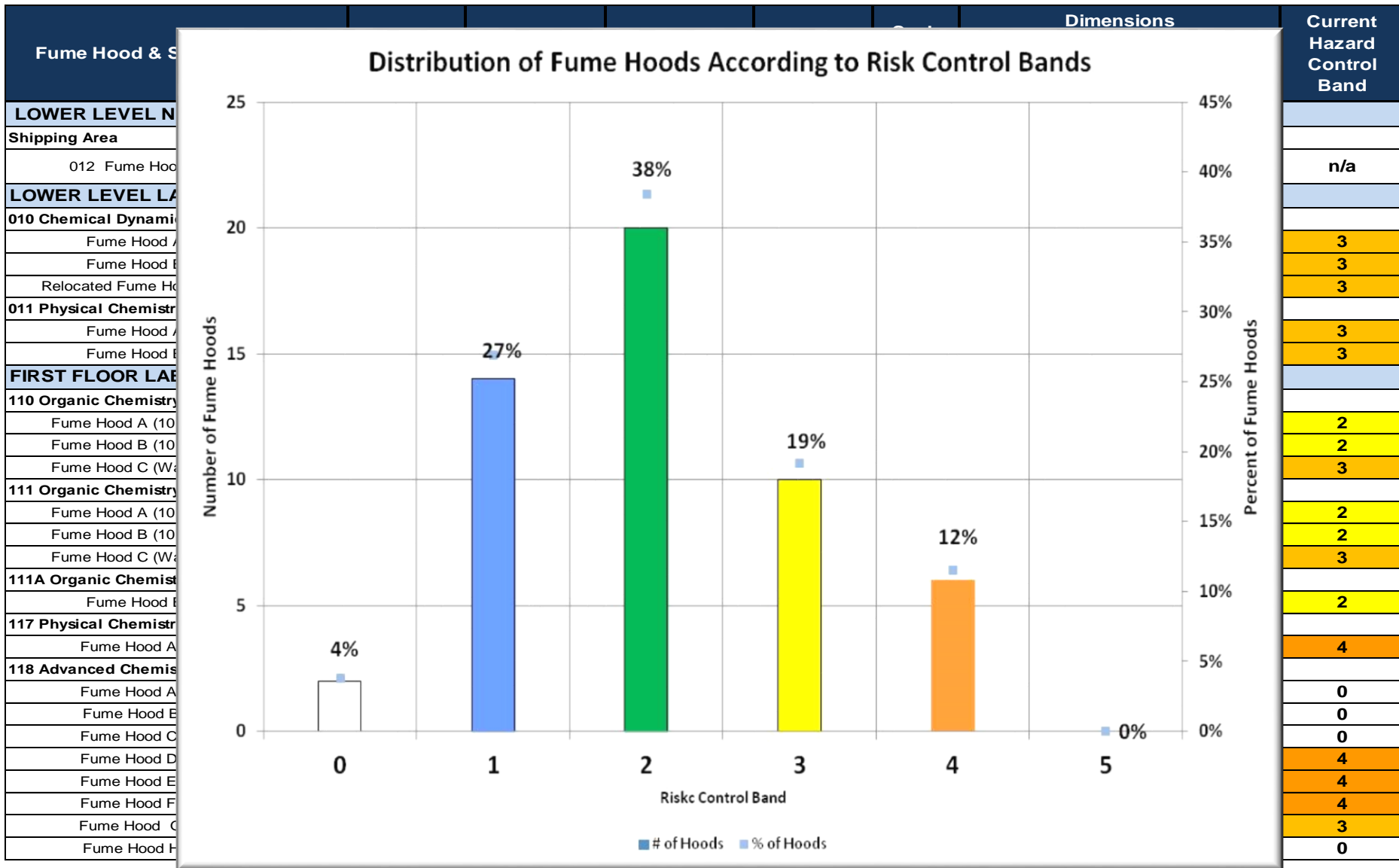


# Distribution of Labs by Control Bands

## Lab Control Band Parameters



# Distribution of Fume Hoods by Control Bands



Fume Hood & S
LOWER LEVEL N
Shipping Area
012 Fume Hood
LOWER LEVEL LA
010 Chemical Dynam
Fume Hood /
Fume Hood f
Relocated Fume Hood
011 Physical Chemistr
Fume Hood /
Fume Hood f
FIRST FLOOR LAE
110 Organic Chemistry
Fume Hood A (10
Fume Hood B (10
Fume Hood C (W
111 Organic Chemistry
Fume Hood A (10
Fume Hood B (10
Fume Hood C (W
111A Organic Chemist
Fume Hood f
117 Physical Chemistr
Fume Hood A
118 Advanced Chemis
Fume Hood A
Fume Hood B
Fume Hood C
Fume Hood D
Fume Hood E
Fume Hood F
Fume Hood G
Fume Hood H

Current Hazard Control Band
n/a
3
3
3
3
3
2
2
3
2
2
3
2
4
0
0
0
4
4
4
3
0



# Lab Environment Airflow Spreadsheet

- Air Supply Flow
- Transfer Air

- Exhaust Flow
- Calculated Room ACH

Airflow Set Points					Supply		Transfer	Exhaust				Calculated Metrics			
					Room Supply Flows			Transfer Flow	System Info		Qex for Exhaust Devices		Room Exhaust Flows		Resultant ACH
					Max/Min of Qs Conditioning, Qs dP, Qs ACH	Greater of door or 10%	Tags, ID, type, etc.		Sash Open/In Use	Sash Closed/Not In Use	Max/Min based on Exh Devices, dP, Cond., or ACH		Max ACH	Min ACH	
Room #	Room Description	Area (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Height (ft)	Volume (ft <sup>3</sup> )	Room Flow @ Max (cfm)	Room Flow @ Min (cfm)	Greater of Door and 10% Max Exh (cfm)	Exhaust Type	Max Flow (FH @ 18 in.) (cfm)	Min Flow (FH min. of 25 cfm/ft <sup>2</sup> of work surface) (cfm)	Room Max Flow (cfm)	Room Min Flow (cfm)	Max ACH	Min ACH	
118	Chemistry	802	9.5	7619	3025	735	275	FH-VAV	838	229	3350	1060	76	8	
								FH-VAV	838	229					
								FH-VAV	838	229					
204	General Purpose														
222	Biology	854	9.5	8113	794	549	150	Snorkel	0	0	944	699	7	5	
								GX							

**Supply Terminal Min and Max Flow**

**Hood and Gex Terminal Min and Max Flow**

**Lab Min and Max ACH**

# Lab Safety & Energy Optimization Process

## Modify Systems to Meet Demand

- Remove or Hibernate Unnecessary Hoods
- Modify Inefficient Hoods
- Replace & Retrofit Traditional Fume Hoods
- Upgrade CAV & VAV Controls
- Optimize Temperature & Humidity Controls
- Install Demand Control Ventilation
- Reduce / Reset System Static Pressure
- Optimize Exhaust Fan and AHU Operation
- Implement Energy Recovery



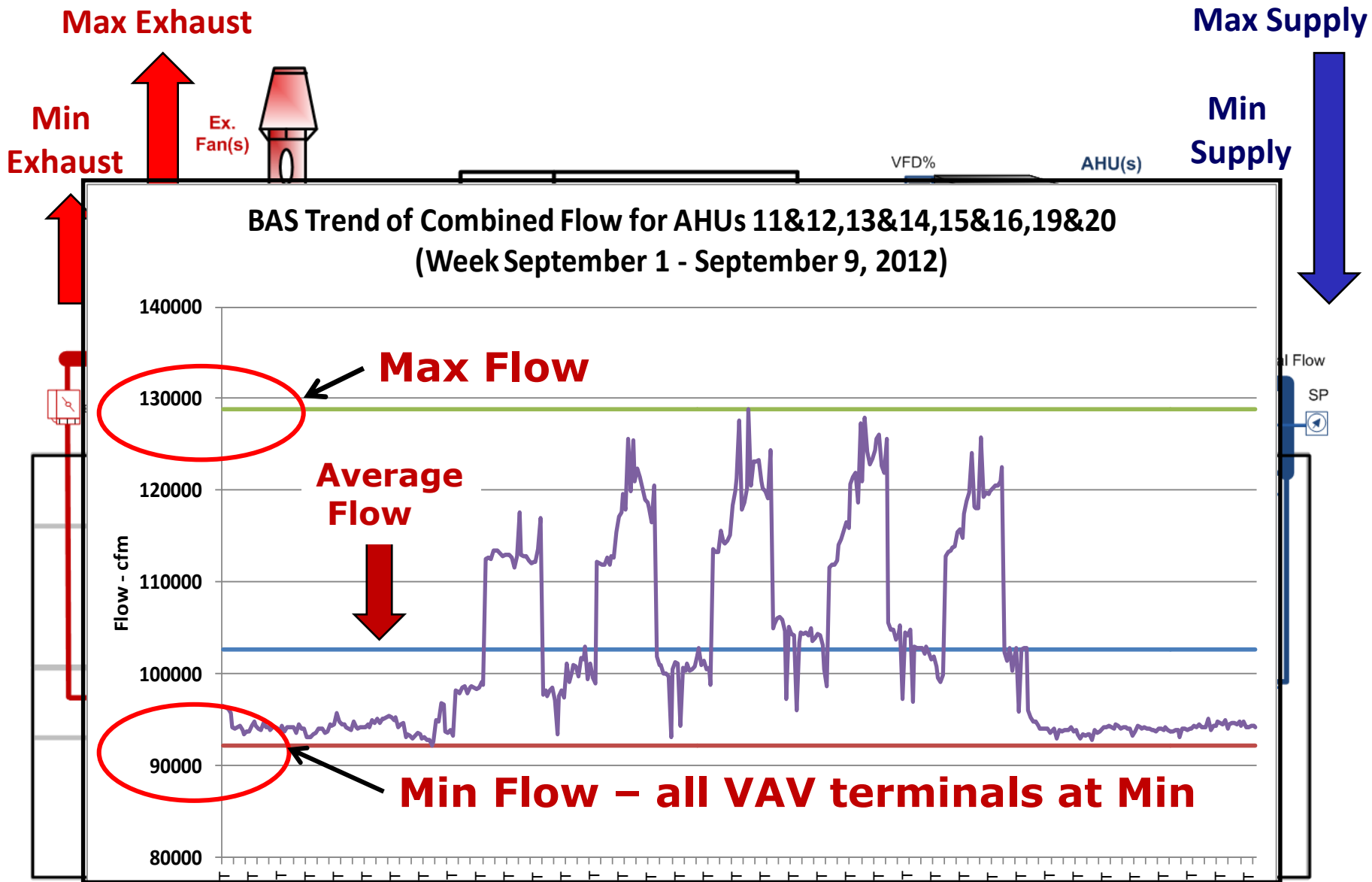
# Lab Energy & Safety Optimization Process

## Phase 2 - Funding & Project Execution

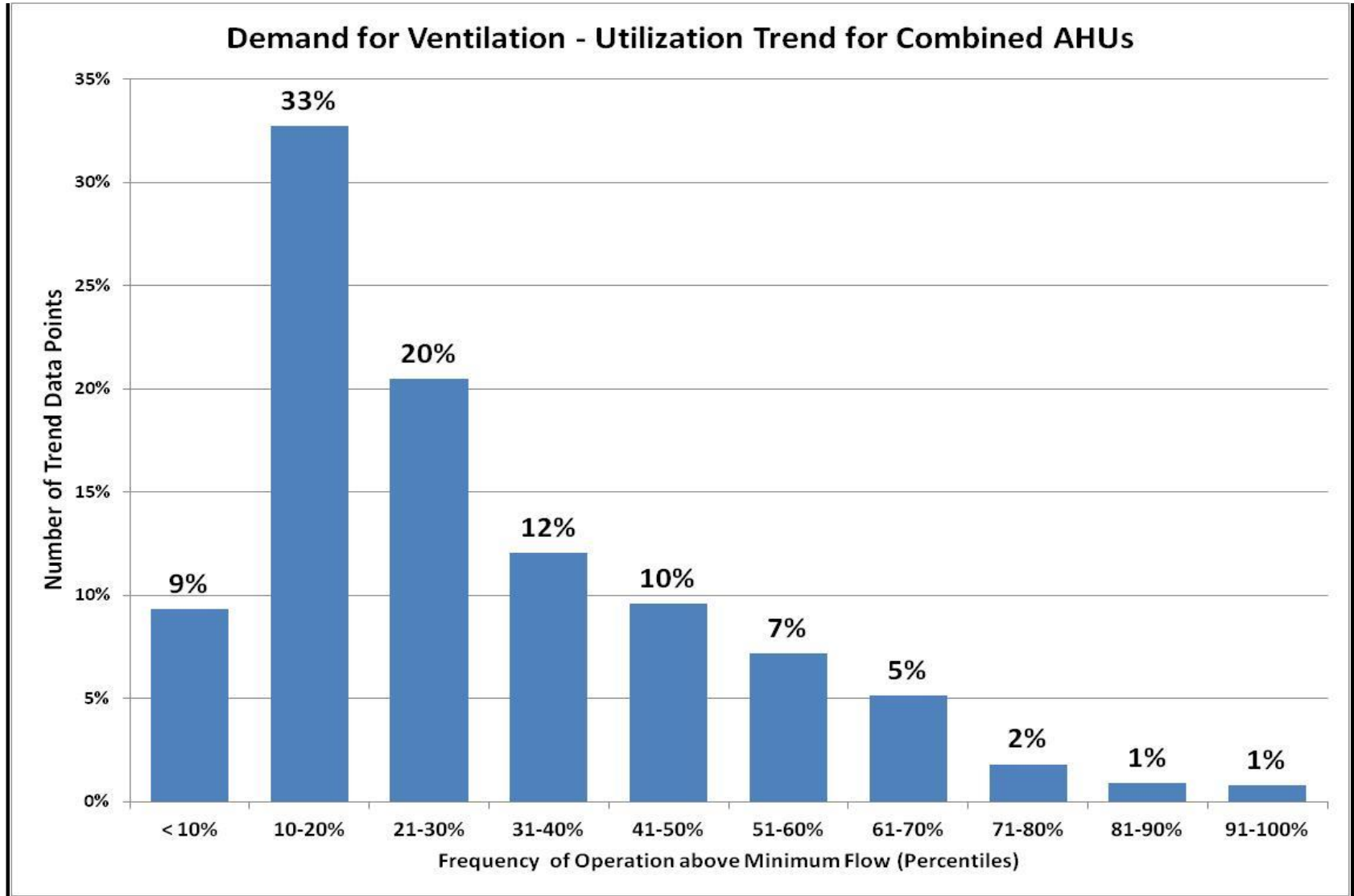
- **Phase 2a - Funding Sources**
  - Internal Facility Budget
  - Utility Rebates & Incentives
  - Performance Contracts
- **Contractor Qualification & Selection**
- **Phase 2b - Project Engineering**
  - Design Upgrades & System Modifications
  - Develop TAB & Cx Plans
- **Phase 2c -Renovation / Construction Project**
  - Implement Selected PIMs & ECMs
  - Retrofit Lab Hood Systems
  - Verify Performance and Energy Savings



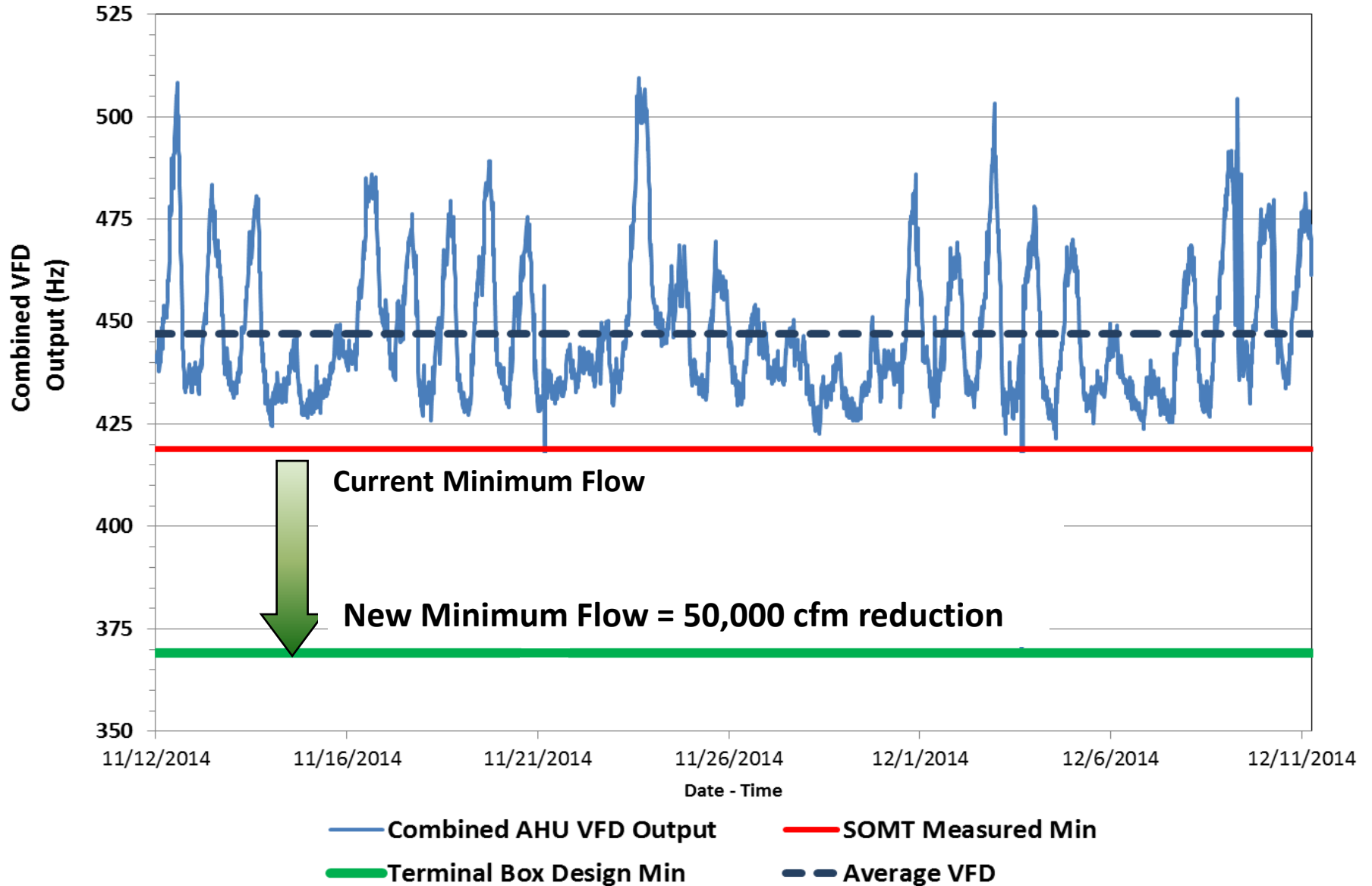
# Lab Ventilation System - VAV Flow Specifications



# Demand for Ventilation and System Utilization



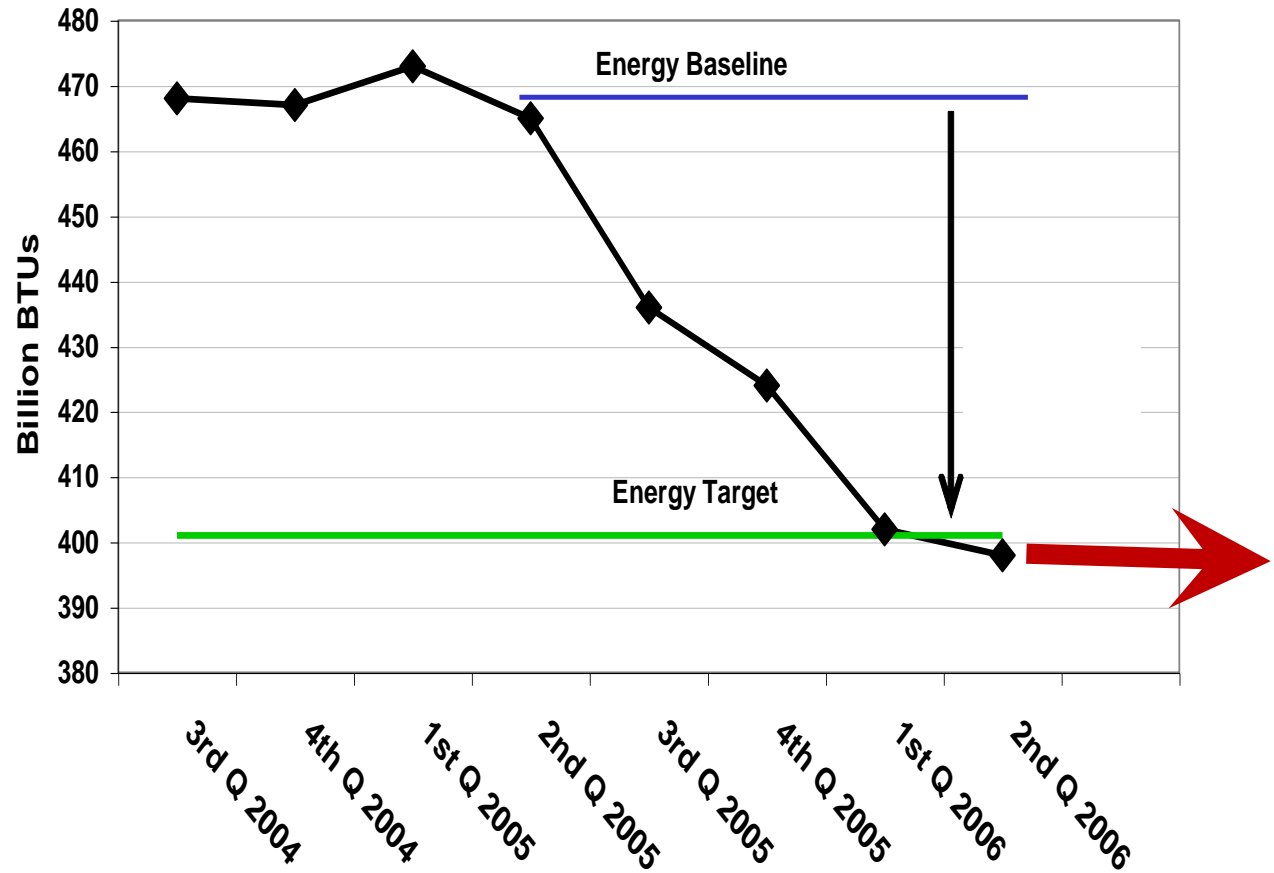
# Airflow Trend Based on Demand For Ventilation



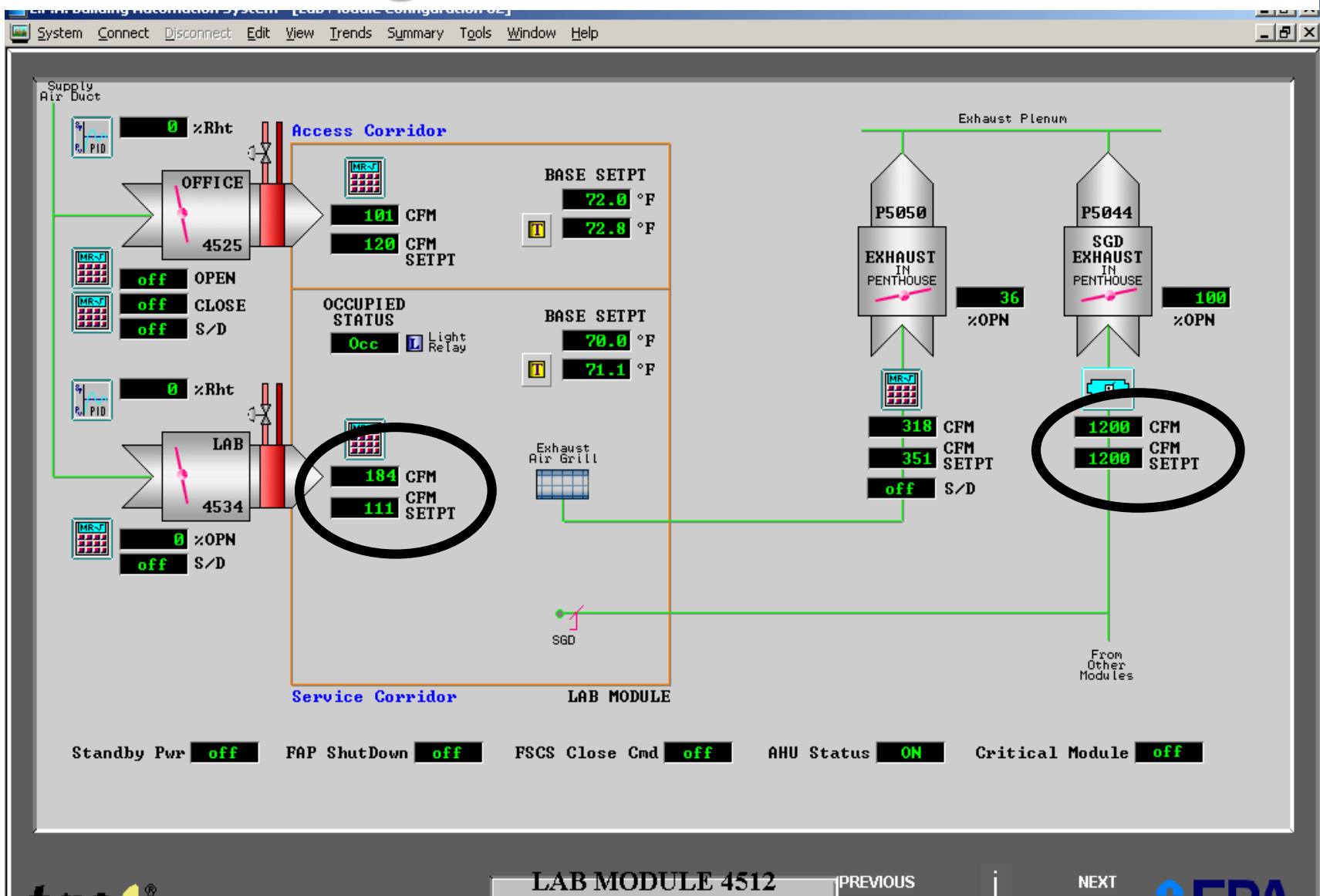
# Safe & Energy Efficient, but Sustainable?



## Campus Wide Aggregate Energy Reduction

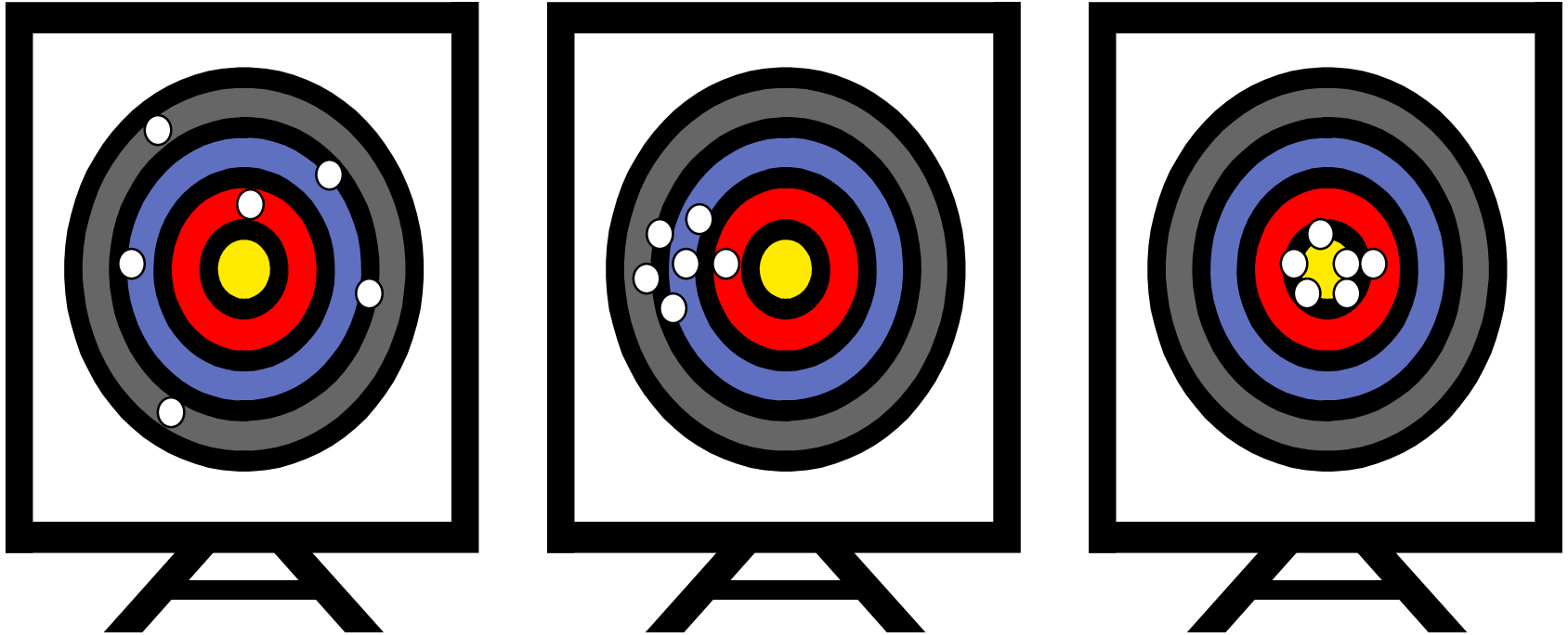


# Maintaining Performance of VAV Controls





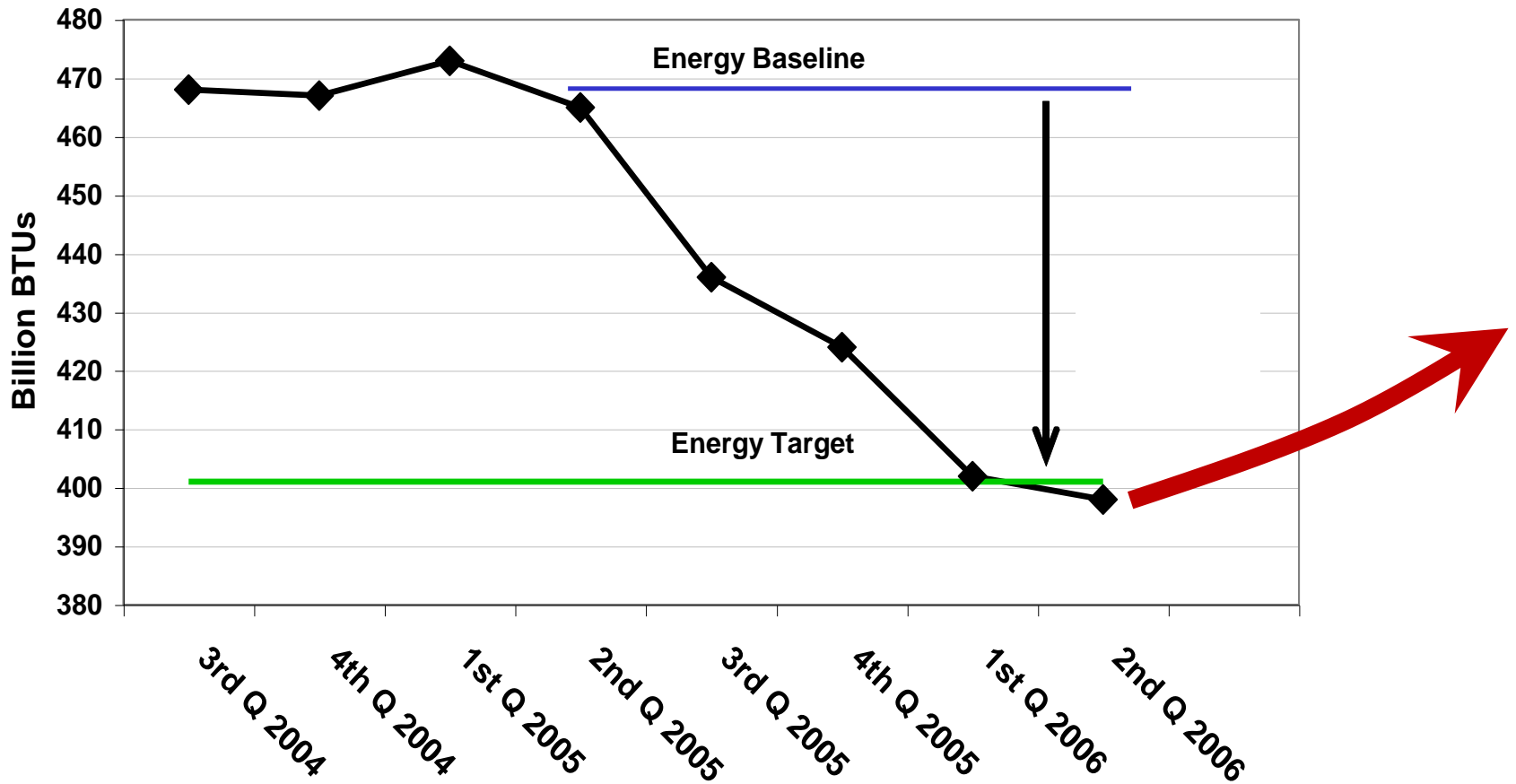
# Quality Data - Accuracy and Precision



**VAV Controls Can degrade  
30-50% within 5 years**

# Safe, Energy Efficient and Sustainable ??

## Campus Wide Aggregate Energy Reduction





# Laboratory Ventilation Management Plan

# Lab Energy & Safety Optimization Process

- **Phase 3 – Lab Ventilation Management (LVMP)**

- Organization and Responsibilities
- Collaboration & Communication
- SOP's for Testing and Maintenance
- Metrics, Monitoring & BAS Utilization

- **Management of Change**

- **Personnel Training**

- **Design & Commissioning Standards**

- **Required By ANSI Z9.5-2012**



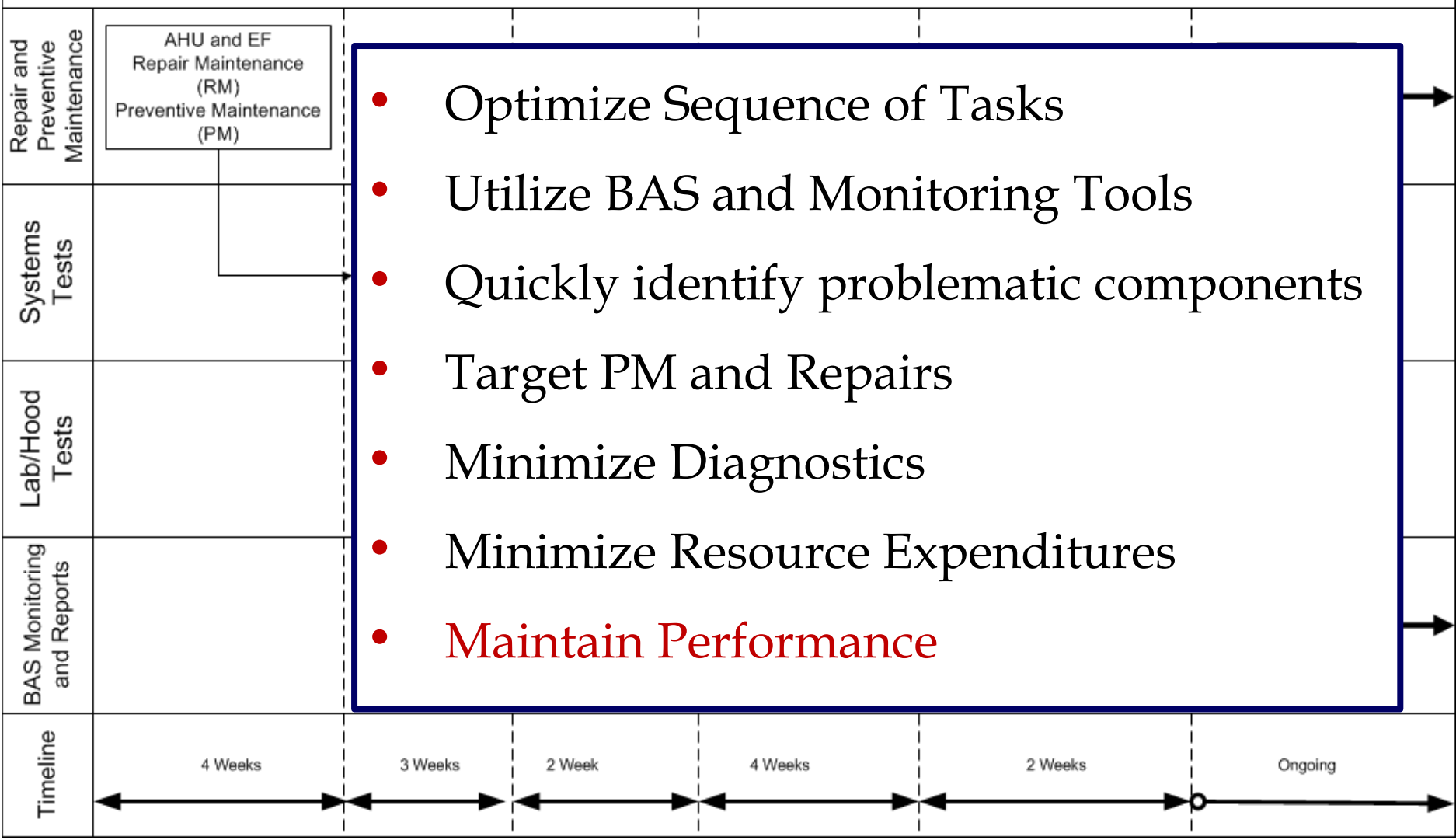
# Components of a LVMP

- **Component 1 - Program to Coordinate Stakeholder Efforts**
- **Component 2 - Specific Operating Plans for Buildings**

<b>Component 1</b>	<b>LVMP</b>	<b>Coordinate Efforts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management</li><li>• Facilities Engineering</li><li>• Environmental Health &amp; Safety</li><li>• Facilities Maintenance</li><li>• Lab Staff</li><li>• Contractors</li></ul>	<b>Standardize Operations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lines of Communication</li><li>• Management of Change</li><li>• Guidelines and Specifications</li><li>• Generic Procedures</li><li>• Training</li><li>• Document Control</li></ul>
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>LVMP - Building Operational Plans</b>	<b>Building Documentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equipment Inventory</li><li>• As Built Drawings</li><li>• Flow and Operating Specs</li></ul>	<b>Building Operation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tasks</li><li>• Schedules</li><li>• Specific SOPs</li><li>• Reporting</li></ul>

# Maximize Effectiveness of Maintenance

Ventilation Maintenance and Test Schedule



# Lab Energy & Safety Optimization Train Personnel



- Lab Personnel
- Facility Maintenance
- Building Operators

# Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Laboratories can be safe, energy efficient and sustainable**
- **The Demand for Ventilation determines the required operating specifications**
- **A Lab Ventilation Risk Assessment determines the Demand for Ventilation**
- **VAV systems modulate flow based on the demand for ventilation**
- **Special tests and methods are required to manage complex VAV systems**
- **Maintaining safe and energy efficient operation requires maintaining performance and managing change over time**
- **The Return on Investment depends on maintaining performance**
- **A Lab Ventilation Management Program provides the tools to maintain the systems, manage change and protect the return on investment**

**LVMP = ROI**

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# Lab Energy & Safety Optimization Process



## High Performance Laboratories

- Safe
- Energy Efficient
- Sustainable

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# Importance of the LVMP

***Management of Change***



**My lab is really hot!**



**I'll take care of it.**

**O**ur technician decides the lab needs more air, so he increases the supply air by 200 cfm. This should be plenty.



The differential pressure monitor is now indicating positive pressure.





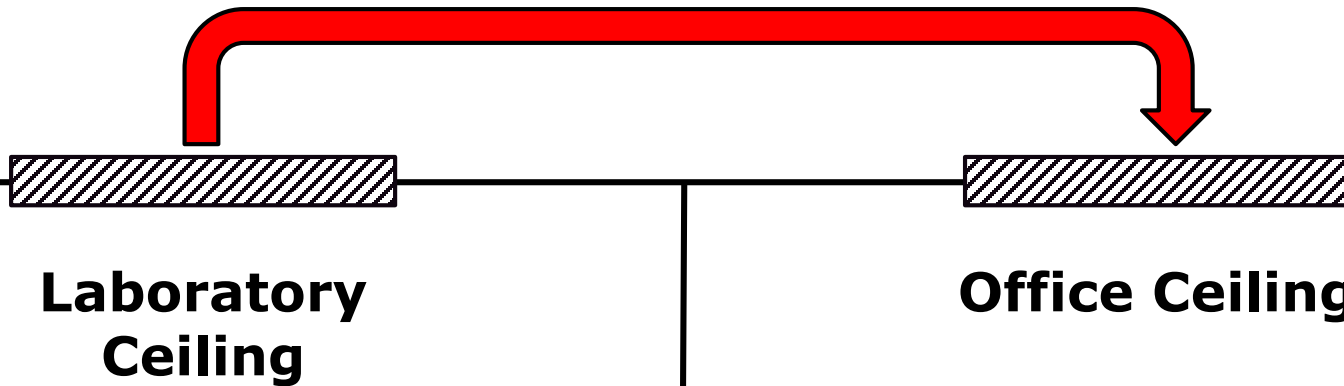
**Oh No!! A  
spill...**



**It's  
much  
cooler  
now...**

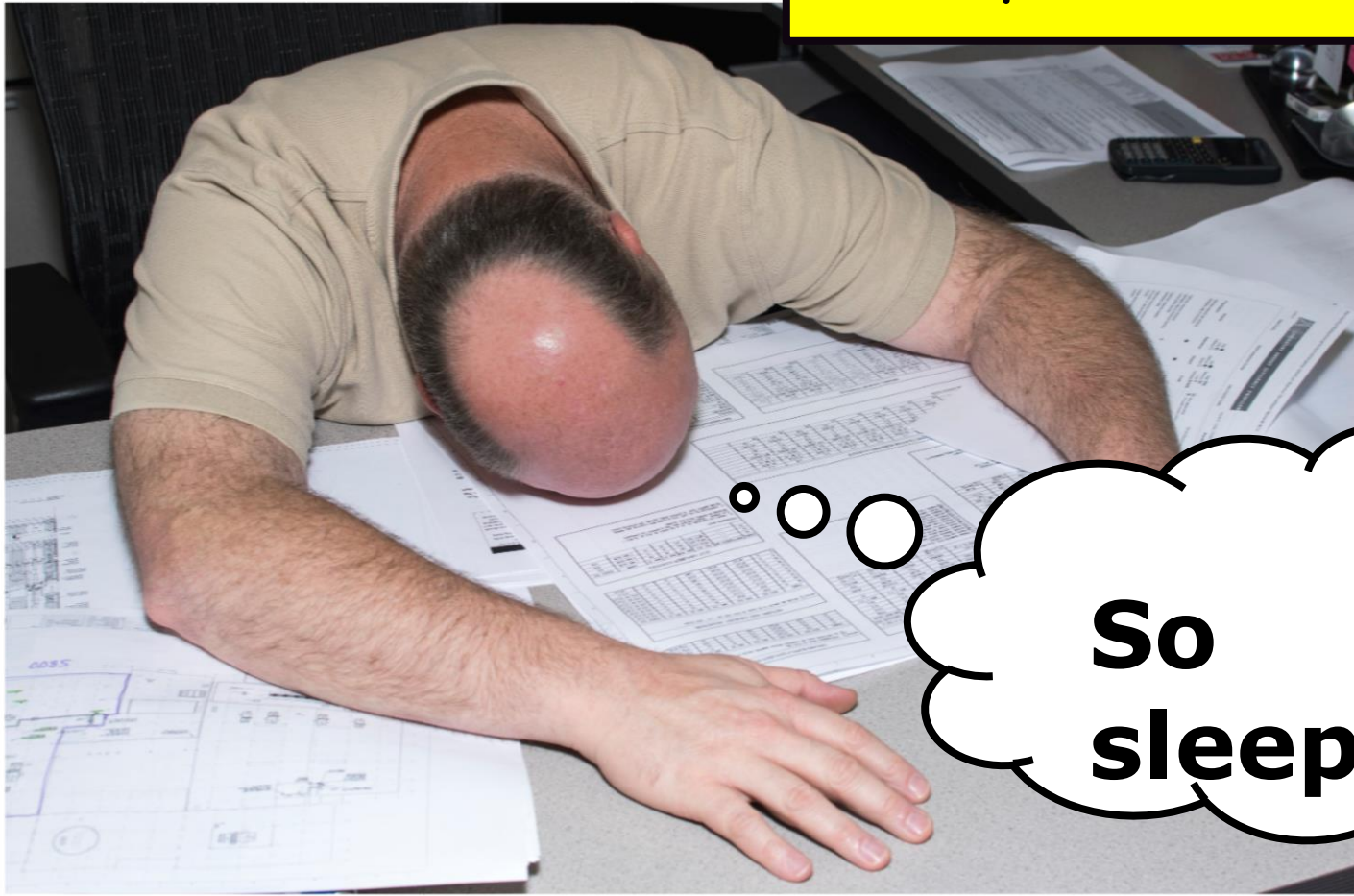


**A**ir now moves from the positively pressurized lab, through the transfer grill, into the adjacent office.





**O**ur office worker has now been exposed.



**So  
sleepy...**

**T**his never would have happened if our technician had a Laboratory Ventilation Management Program.

