

# Sustainable MEP Leaders

11 AUGUST 2020 / 2:00 PM EST

Join Zoom Meeting: [removed - *SPECIAL LINK FOR AUGUST CALL*]

**Attendees:** Adam McMillen, Sarah Gudeman, Josh Radoff, Amarpreet Sethi, Amy Pastor, Chris Colasanti, Don Posson, Kim Shin, Kristy Walson, Luke Leung, Kim Cowman, James Del Monaco,

*NEXT CALL: Tuesday, September 8, 2 pm -3 pm Eastern Time*

## Agenda

1. Reports and next steps from each of the 4 action teams from summit

## Action Items

1. NEXT MEETING: Focus on Electrification and where we want to go with that for Sept.'s monthly call!

## Current Notes

1. Reports and next steps from each of the 4 action teams from summit
  - a. SDL group working on electrification and decarbonization
    - i. Just getting started, compared to this group that's been at it for a year, few steps ahead
      1. Tackling more specific engineering issues
    - ii. High level initial take
    - iii. Good to combine efforts
    - iv. Nice range of people across the country
    - v. Decision to merge the two groups
  - b. SDL is a really large group, some participate in summits and some don't
    - i. There was an electrification group started last year, would be great to pull Stet into this conversation
    - ii. Even more resources within SDL
  - c. Would be great for this group to create map/diagram/list of who's doing what in this space and where can these networks really add the most value?
    - i. From Chris Colasanti | JB&B: Has anyone come across this ASHP/ptac? It was mentioned in the last call.<https://innova-usa.com/>

- ii. From Kim Shinn | TLC: Speaking of other folks in the space, does anyone have a connection to EPRI about what they might be doing in electrification?
- d. Time of Use - connected to that and sort of part of it but also separate
  - i. Have had a couple calls
  - ii. Kind of combined them
  - iii. From Adam McMillen, IMEG: Chris, I have not heard of that unit but it looks interesting. minimal façade impact and option for HRV outside air. it if goes low ambient, it could be a nice option for northern climates.
  - iv. Backward-looking data - is there a way to extrapolate it? What's the source?
  - v. Different NREL models. Quality of the data is dependent on what they're forecasting
  - vi. Would be great to understand the options and see what the group thinks is the proper way to handle it
  - vii. We don't have a lot of established protocols for subgroups, tend to not have established structures, if you're not sure where to go feel free to ask
- e. [Peer Networks Hub](#) has a link to the summit report, gives a good sense of what was covered at the summit
- f. Is there more follow-up around where to go with EUI beyond pitching it to SDL?
  - i. Intent is to reduce solar load
    - 1. Would say "reduce solar load by 50%"
  - ii. Passive House - wish it would broaden to three tiers of metrics. Nice to not have to take on the entire Passive House and still move in that direction
  - iii. Speaks generally to envelope performance. Coming up with a metric on thermal performance of envelope is good. Comes back to location-specific.
  - iv. Embodied energy is another dimension. UK engineers performing life-cycle carbon analysis
  - v. Maybe EUI is focused on operational carbon and peak load is focused on embodied carbon.
- g. Embodied carbon
  - i. Have meant a couple times and drafted a letter
  - ii. **For the next call - deep dive?**
    - 1. **More perspectives on electrification and where specifically we want to go with that**
  - iii. Are EPDs really the most applicable thing for us on this topic?
    - 1. Concerned with getting apples-to-apples information. Want to make sure to tailor the letter to get exactly the information you need.
    - 2. Best thing to align all the information we're getting
    - 3. Also have to align with the architects and structural guides
    - 4. EPD not just about carbon, includes other lifecycle indicators. Requires having an EPD or equivalent for each piece of equipment

or variation of piece of equipment. Following the 80/20 rule, may be a way to get carbon information that's less of a lift for manufacturers. Lot of steps and a lot of cost. Great if companies are willing to do it, but barriers might mean a longer road to getting the carbon numbers we want.

5. UK has ICE database - if transparent about how those numbers are generated, could get close.
  6. Found some EPDs on manufactured equipment--Trane has them
    - a. Excel spreadsheet of different equipment out there and their EPDs. Use it in UK to do their carbon calculations, pretty comprehensive.
    - b. Much of it is for European data. If you buy equipment only in the US, question of how relevant that data is to you.
  7. Advantage of EPD route is it forces you to generate the product category rules (PCR) first; helps ensure consistent assumptions
  8. Would think EPDs would differentiate manufacturers and put them in a whole different class - give them an advantage
  9. Two approaches - look at raw materials, make sure you have a robust database for that. Then equipment - much more complex. Decisions about what gets counted and what doesn't.
- h. What makes a Sustainable MEP practice?
- i. Leaders of that effort not on this month's call. Anything to send their way?
  - ii. Lessons from SDL work on this over the years?
    1. Amongst SDL - pendulum swing with sustainability in a large organization, from centralized to decentralized org.
    2. Also applies to MEP
    3. Would be good to look at size of firm and how that impacts approaches
  - iii. What about discussion of integrating energy modeling with MEP design?
    1. Yes! Very important, not just about energy though
    2. Any firm needs to have a dedicated seat on the table who does full-time analysis of building performance. Not something you can do on the side.
    3. Early energy modeling is becoming common on more and more projects; tending to go with >40% glass, so can't use prescriptive code.

## Pre-Call Notes

1. BG to follow up with MEP leaders assigned to the other action items from the summit (Time of Use and Load Reduction)
  - a. Also see if anyone wants to take the other unassigned potential initiatives (slide 6 in report)

- b. Definite interest in cross network action group
- 2. Next month's call - reports from each of the 4 action teams from summit

[MEP Peer Network Annual Membership](#)

[Peer Networks membership page](#)

[Online forum](#)

## Previous Meetings

[August 13, 2019](#) Notes

[September 10, 2019](#) Notes

[October 8, 2019](#) Notes

[November 12, 2019](#) Notes

[December 10, 2019](#) Notes

[January 14, 2020](#) Notes

[February 11, 2020](#) Notes

[March 10, 2020](#) Notes

[April 14, 2020](#) Notes

[May 12, 2020](#) Notes

[June 2, 2020](#) Notes

[July 7, 2020](#) Notes