

# Net Zero Efficiency & Resilience: Process, Assessments & Tracking

March 2023

BUILDING **PERFORMANCE** 

UNLOCKING **VALUE** 

## Goals for today



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- 1. Definition of carbon neutrality vs. net zero
- 2. Important aspects of a Decarbonization/Net-Zero Program
- 3. Components of a Resilience Program
- 4. Shift from ESG to Climate Change Risk

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## Definitions



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**Carbon Neutrality:** Achieved when a portfolio either reduces its operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or balances them with an equal quantity of renewable energy certificates (RECs) and carbon offsets. Can be achieved immediately through the purchase of environmental instruments with no operational emissions reductions, resulting in sunk costs and greenwashing.

**Net Zero Carbon:** Achieved when a portfolio has substantially reduced operational GHG emissions, only resorting to purchase of RECs and offsets once operational improvements are exhausted. No universally agreed-upon definition of "substantially."

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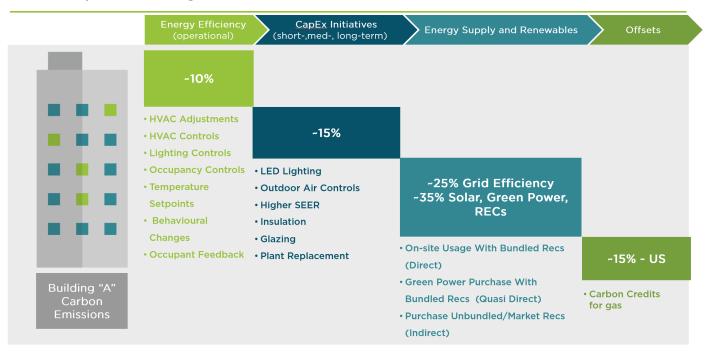
## Pillars of a Successful Decarbonization/Net-Zero Program



## **Basic Requirements**

- ✓ Data Quality
- ✓ Prioritizing Operational Emission Reduction
- ✓ Capital Improvements
- ✓ Install on-site renewable energy generation where feasible with On-site RECs
- ✓ Green Power Procurement with Bundled RECs.
- ✓ Electrification
- ✓ Tenant Engagement
- ✓ High Quality REC and Carbon Offsets
- ✓ Further Recommendations
  - ✓ Embodied Carbon

#### Conceptualizing Net Zero for Real Estate



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## Establishing a Comprehensive Decarbonization/Net-Zero Program



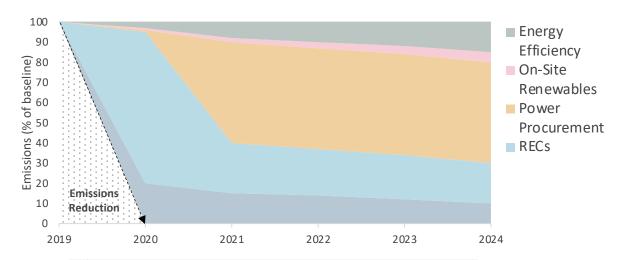
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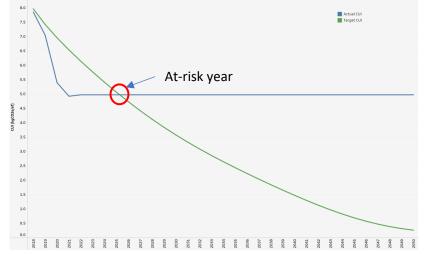
## **Portfolio Level Strategy**

- 1. Greenhouse Gas Inventory understand where the portfolio is today
- 2. Assess High Level Potential to Reduce Emissions
  - 1. Surveying Portfolio Level Opportunity
  - 2. Renewable Energy Assessment
  - 3. Green Power Procurement
- 3. Set Feasible Carbon Target
- 4. Evaluate alignment with Frameworks/Commitments

### **Asset Level Strategy**

- 1. Identify "at-risk" or "stranded" assets
- 2. Evaluate reasons why
- 3. Assess potential mitigation measures
- 4. Create Decarbonization/Net-Zero Action Plan
- 5. Implement





## Case Study: Low-rise Multifamily



#### **Asset**

Location: Texas

Property Type: Low-Rise Multi-Family (3 stories)

Year Built: 2008

Size: 340,000+ SF, 350 Units

HVAC & Water Fuel Source: Flectric





2024

#### **Short-Term Plan:**

Interior and exterior lighting fixtures have been upgraded to LED lighting

As units get renovated overtime:

- Install Smart Thermostats
- Install Bathroom Aerators
- Install Kitchen Aerators
- Install high efficient Showerheads

Deregulated Energy Market:

Evaluate green power options

#### **Long-Term Plan:**

As equipment approaches end of life:

- Upgrade to high efficient water heaters
- Upgrade Common Area HVAC systems
- Upgrade Residential Unit HVAC systems
- Upgrade to high efficient Refrigerators, Dishwashers and Clothes Washers

Identified asset with high energy usage

Obtained Level II ASHRAE Energy Audit

Reviewed energy conservation measures (ECMs)

Selected ECMs to pursue in the short and long-term

**Implementation** 

**Annual Tracking &** Monitoring

Completed



Ongoing

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## Case Study: 11-story Boston Office



#### **Asset**

Location: Boston, MA

Property Type: Office (11 stories)

Year Built: 2003

Size: 417,000 SF, including 5 levels of garage

**HVAC & Water Fuel Source: Electric** 







Obtained Level II

Reviewed energy conservation measures (ECMs)

Selected ECMs to pursue in the short and long-term

**Implementation** 

**Annual Tracking &** Monitoring

#### **Short-Term Plan:**

11 Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) were suggested to reduce energy use at the property. We plan to move forward with the following ECMs in 2023:

- Wireless DDC Controls for Flectric Unit. Heaters
- Makeup Air Unit Heat Recovery System
- Retro-commissioning Controls Optimization
- Evaluating on-site solar PV opportunities
- \* One tenant on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor still has fluorescent lights. Will ask tenant to convert to LFD.

### **Long-Term Plan:**

Future recommendations to reduce use to avoid exceeding emissions regulations:

- Upgrade ECM VAVs
- Optimize Speed Pump Control
- Mechanical Systems Review Study
- DX Unit Replacement at end of useful life

Identified asset in emissions regulated city

ASHRAE Energy Audit & 3 decarb reports

Completed Ongoing

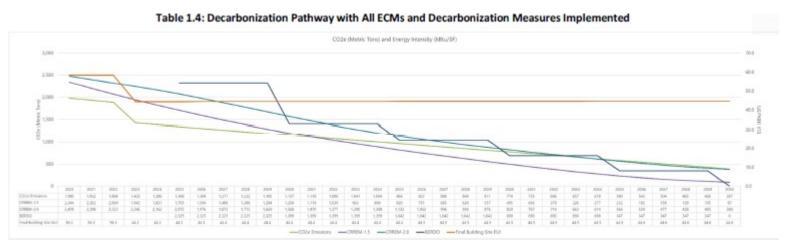
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## **Boston Decarbonization Reports**



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## **Decarbonization Reports**

Over the course of the last 12 months, TA Realty commissioned a consultant to perform a gap analysis for BERDO 2.0, then proceeded to have an ASHRAE Level II audit with a Decarbonization report created. Lastly, we ran the asset through our corporate decarbonization program to create the last report. All three are shown here.



## Components of a Resilience Program



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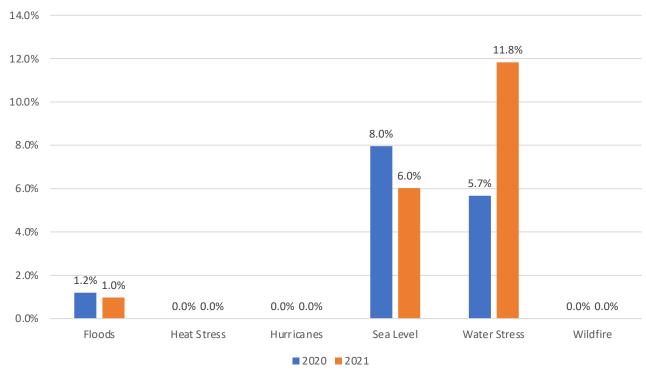
### **Resilience Program**

- Evaluate Portfolio Level Risks
- 2. Identify assets with high risks
- 3. Evaluate reason for high risks
- 4. Understand asset characteristics
- 5. Mitigate to lower risk
- 6. Re-evaluate Portfolio Level Risk after Mitigation

## TCFD(Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure) Alignment

- Framework on how to report Climate Related Risks
  - Governance
  - Strategy
  - Risk Management
  - Metrics and Targets





## Shift in Thinking



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Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG)



Climate Change Risk (Physical and Transition Risk)

## **Physical Risk (Resilience)**

- Increased physical perils due to climate change
  - Floods, heat stress, wildfire, water stress, hurricanes, sea level rise

## Transition Risk (Environmental, Social and Governance)

- Transition to a low-carbon economy
  - Increasing Regulations
  - Meeting goals and commitments
  - Volatile carbon and energy prices
  - Changes in customer preference