

Minutes of the I²SL Benchmarking Working Group conference call held on 16 Dec 2014

Attendees: Vikram Sami, Phil Wirdzek, Craig Wray, Paul Mathew, Dan Doyle, Michelle Ruda, Bryan Donovan, Erica Cochran, David Landman, Dave Rausch, Alison Farmer

- 1) Alison gave an overview of the meeting agenda (appended to these minutes). Thanks to Michelle and Bryan for taking notes and for providing the screen share!
- 2) Phil reported that he has had no response to emails investigating potential funding for a graduate student to research benchmarking enhancements. Phil will check in with contacts and report back.
- 3) Dave R. raised the possibility of research funding from ASHRAE. Some concerns were raised about the applicability of process to our needs. Scope would need to be clearly defined. Dave will discuss further with contacts at ASHRAE and report back.
- 4) Alison reported that local utilities in MA (NSTAR and National Grid) are interested in incorporating the benchmarking tool in the incentive process for labs.
- 5) Craig and Phil revealed that the I²SL funding proposal to DOE to refine the safety and energy efficiency optimization process in labs was unsuccessful.
- 6) Erica shared a brief presentation on the benchmarking-related work of her group at Carnegie Mellon University. She indicated that making the Labs21 benchmarking database accessible via 3rd party software tools would be a useful extension of its current functionality. She also expressed the need for a “score” (similar to Energy Star ratings) for labs, to help cities to assess performance of their lab facilities.
- 7) Paul described previous regression analysis work on the Labs21 database and referred Erica to his 2010 ACEEE summer study paper (see e.g. <http://kircher.mae.cornell.edu/benchmarking.pdf>). Paul and Erica will discuss the possibility of updating the analysis and report back to the group. Data sharing permissions represent a potential challenge.
- 8) Alison reviewed the draft benchmarking survey with the group. Phil provided assurance that I²SL has a paid SurveyMonkey account that this group can use. The survey will be issued to the I²SL community (8,000-10,000 people) in late January or early February. All group members are encouraged to review and comment or edit on the survey:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M7fkv_kpiqsFwfdYGxwu_vmASwrVVUxU1InmaqXHexk/edit?usp=sharing
Please email Alison with any suggestions as to how to turn on revision tracking in a Google Drive document, or instead download the file and edit in Word (with rev tracking turned on), then email to Alison.
- 9) Vikram mentioned that the Emerald City chapter president had expressed interest in the tool and in increasing tool usage, and requested a brief write-up or value proposition statement for distribution to potential users. Alison indicated that a statement of this type will be produced along with the survey. A draft statement, once produced, will be shared with the group.
- 10) Next steps and action items:
 - a. **Dave R and Phil** to continue investigations into funding possibilities and report back
 - b. **Paul and Erica** to investigate updating regression analysis and report back
 - c. **Alison** to draft a value proposition or other brief description of the existing tool
 - d. **All group members** to review and comment on the survey questions (see item #8 above)
- 11) Next call: the group decided that a useful date for our next call would be after the start of the academic term but before the ASHRAE conference, i.e. the call will probably occur on Jan 20 or 21. Alison will send a Doodle poll at the start of January to attempt to schedule the call.

Submitted by Alison Farmer
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17 Dec 2014

I²SL Benchmarking Working Group Conference Call

Date and time: Tuesday 16 December 2014, 4pm-5pm EST

Call-in info: Call-in number: (605) 562-0020 Meeting ID: 636-071-648	Webmeeting info: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/804341925
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Expected attendees: Benchmarking working group members

Purpose of meeting: To review progress since our last call and to discuss and refine the benchmarking survey to be issued to the I²SL community in the new year.

Preparation for the call: Please review the draft benchmarking survey at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M7fkv_kpiqsFwfdYGxwu_vmASwrVVUxU1InmaqXHexk/edit?usp=sharing

Agenda:

Item #	Description	Presenter	Time	Expected product/outcome
1	Roll call	Alison	2 min	Attendee list
2	Overview of purpose, agenda, and format of meeting	Alison	5 min	-
3	Progress reports on potential research funding	Phil / Dave R.	5 min / 5 min	-
4	Other progress reports and updates	Group	10 min	-
5	Fitting labs into baselining city energy usage	Erica	10 min	-
6	Review of draft survey questions; discussion of online survey methods and tools	Group	10 min	Revised survey
7	Review of action items; next steps; date of next call	Alison	5 min	Action items