

BENCHMARK ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Do No Wrong in Energy and Environmental Issues¹

10860 Beech Creek Drive

Columbia, MD 21044

410-992-4232

January 19, 2016

Dr. Calvin Ball, Chairperson, District 2

Mr. Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson, District 1

Ms Jen Terrasa, Councilmember, District 3

Ms Mary Kay Sigaty, Councilmember, District 4

Mr. Greg Fox, Councilmember, District 5

Howard County Council

George Howard Building

3430 Court House Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043-2015

Re: CR182-2015

The Rationale for Opposing extending the life of the tax credit for high performance buildings until June 30, 2018, and the relationship between the County, State, and Federal Government in its application, in general.

Dear Members of the County Council:

Thought experiments present an opportunity to explore different perspectives before reaching a conclusion. You are invited to consider the following.

Let D=Democrat; R=Republican; C=Citizen

D says to C: "Wages are not keeping pace with inflation! Meanwhile the rich get richer and the poor get poorer."

R says to C: "The correct balance for unemployment is 5%. Under Democratic administrations it averages 7%-10%."

C asks R: "By what percent would a Republican Administration REDUCE WAGES to realize FULL employment?"

Not only should the subject tax credit NOT BE EXTENDED, it should be eliminated for the reasons given in our testimony. The proponents of the USGBC/LEED movement would like the public to believe it is "...a new audacity of imagination"; whereas it is a "for profit" makeover of a much older concept viz VALUE ENGINEERING. USGBC/LEED substitutes creativity with numerology (Sprezzatura with paint by numbers). Compare Energy Use Intensity [kBTU/sq ft/yr] for species of buildings from 2012 to 2015, little advance has been made in the "for-profit" sector, but modest improvement has been made in the Institutional sector. However, so called "Junk-Food" restaurants not only are ENERGY HOGS but have improved little in the reported time intervals.

Any reasonable person viewing the cost-benefit of USGBC/LEED has to conclude that it is a faith based institution.

Ilvator Cosentino

¹ Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination.
John Dewey (b) Oct 1859 (d) June 1952

Benchmarc Energy and Environment

Testimony Re: CB5-2016 January 19,2016

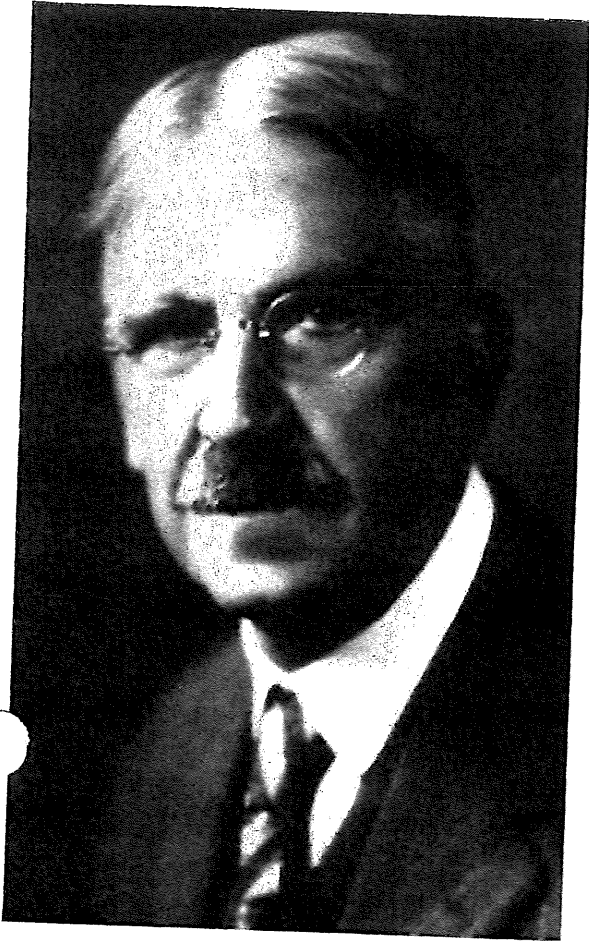
We herewith request that ACT CB5-2016 not be extended since it allows building developers to avoid taxes to the detriment of the private citizen, and since the cost-benefit of so-called "high performance buildings" is more a matter of faith than of fact.

King James 2000 Bible: Hebrews 11:1

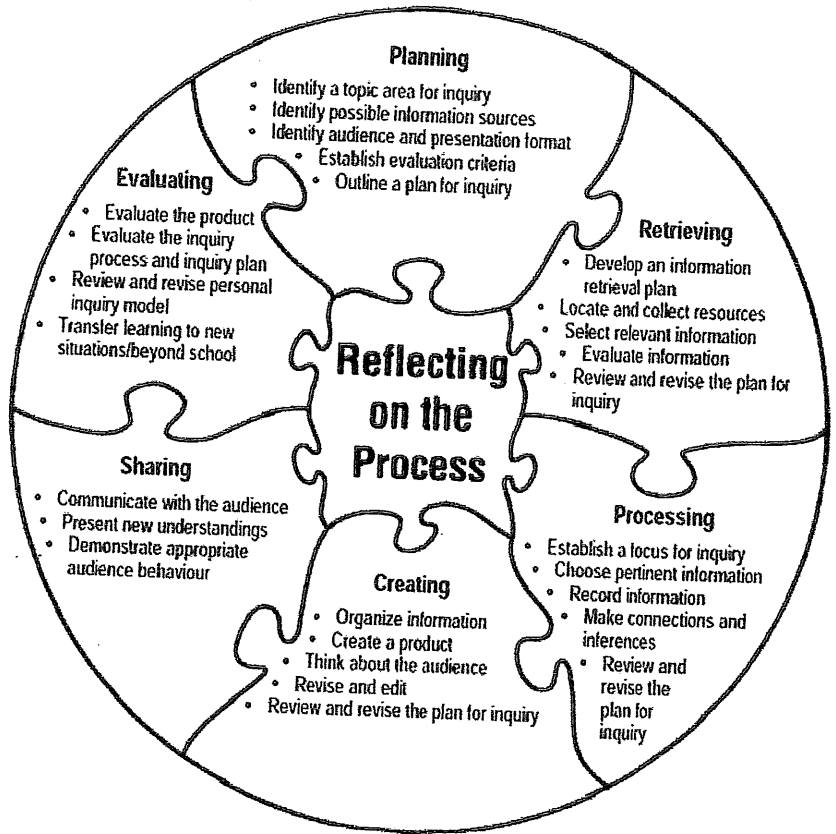
Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

In the instance of benefit of the developer, vis-a- vis the citizen, it is just as reasonable to say to the developer "*...build to the GOLD standard or else you will be TAXED if you don't*", than to say "*...we trust on faith that the GOLD standard will save energy, so we will give you a tax break if you build to it.*"

Since the last instance requires time to detail, BENCHMARC ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT will be available to discuss them with the County Council, the County Executive, and interested Howard County Citizens at their respective request.



Inquiry Model

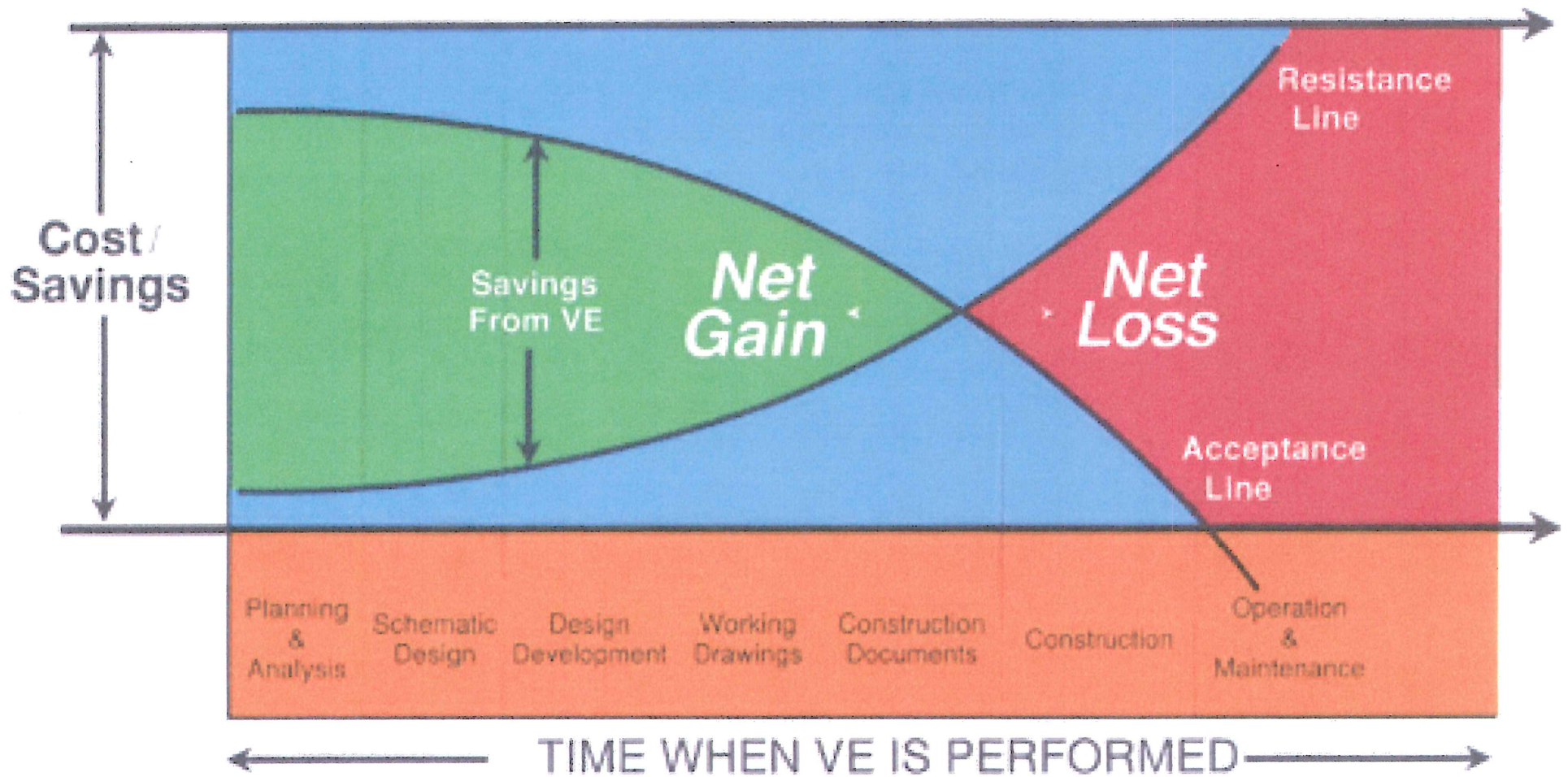


John Dewey, Inquiry-Based Learning, and Democratic Education

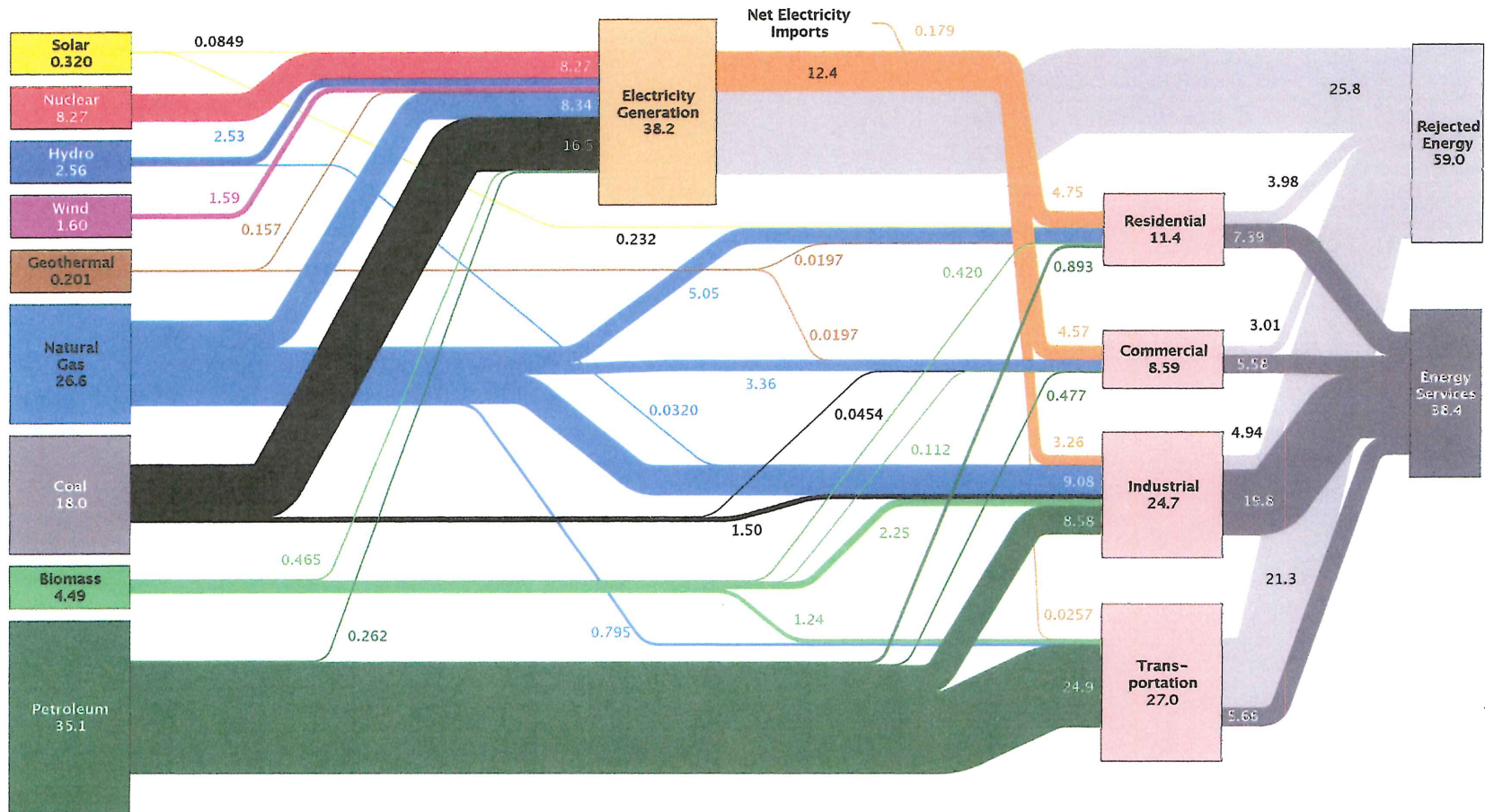
USGBC/LEED as species of VALUE ENGINEERING/VE

<file:///C:/Users/scosentino/Desktop/TECHNICAL/VALUE%20ENGINEERING%20&%20CONSTRUCTION%20REVIEW/Value%20Engineering%20%20%20Whole%20Buildin%20g%20Design%20Guide.html>

Potential Savings from VE Applications

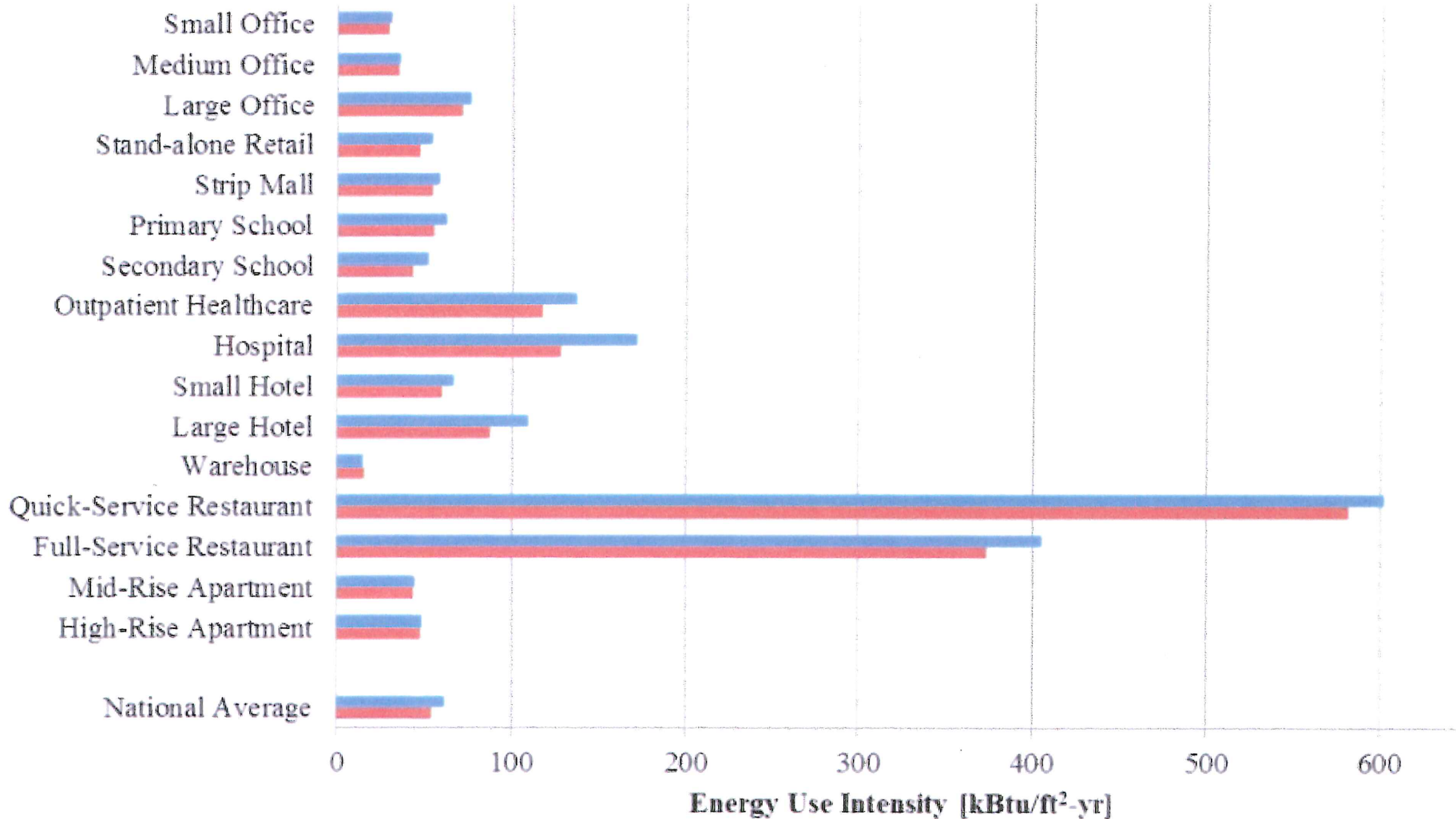


Estimated U.S. Energy Use in 2013: ~97.4 Quads

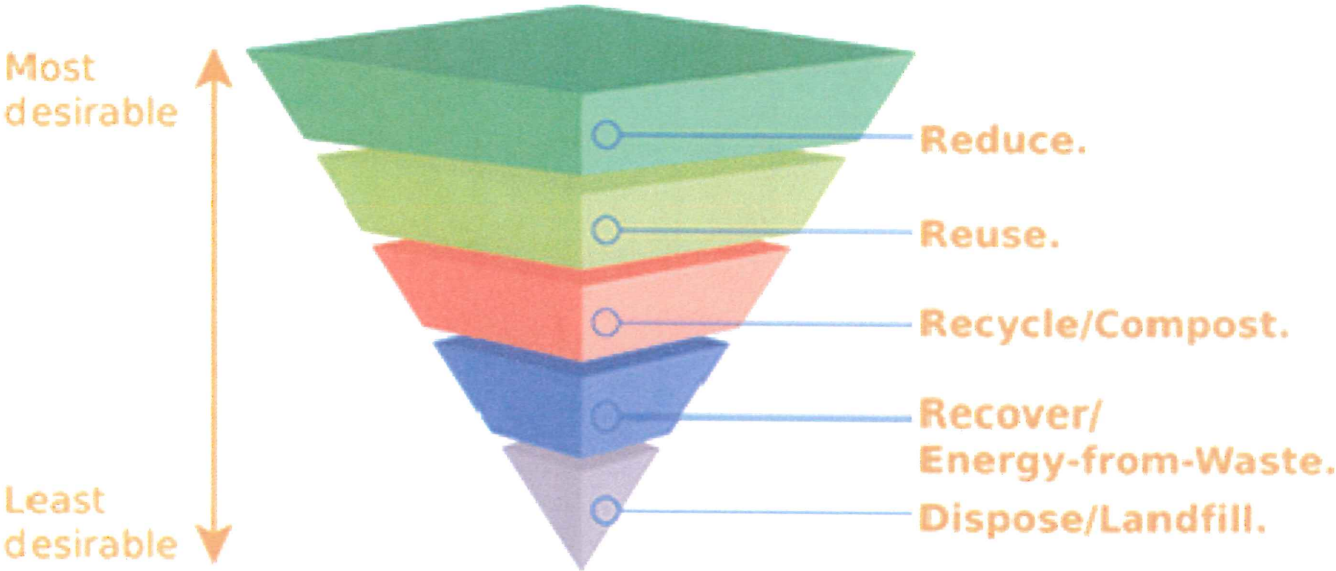


Source: LLNL 2014. Data is based on DOE/EIA-0035(2014-03), March, 2014. If this information or a reproduction of it is used, credit must be given to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Department of Energy, under whose auspices the work was performed. Distributed electricity represents only retail electricity sales and does not include self-generation. EIA reports consumption of renewable resources (i.e., hydro, wind, geothermal and solar) for electricity in BTU-equivalent values by assuming a typical fossil fuel plant "heat rate." The efficiency of electricity production is calculated as the total retail electricity delivered divided by the primary energy input into electricity generation. End use efficiency is estimated as 65% for the residential and commercial sectors 80% for the industrial sector, and 21% for the transportation sector. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding. LLNL-MI-410527

■ 2012 IECC ■ 2015 IECC



SOCIAL VALUE ENGINEERING



SPREZZATURA

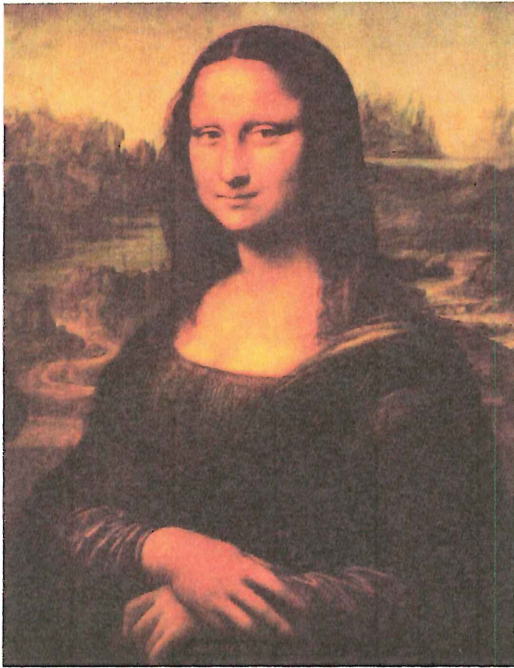
sprez·za·tu·ra

ˌspretʃəˈt(y)oʊrə/

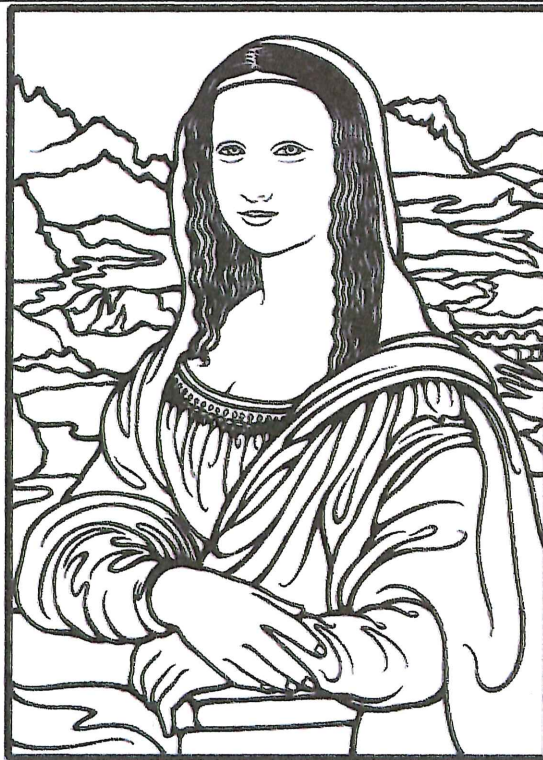
noun

1. studied carelessness, especially as a characteristic quality or style of art or literature.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sprezzatura>



LEONARDO da VINCI'S MONA LISA



Paint-by-number Mona Lisa



RICK FEDRIZZI



DAVID GOTTFRIED



ROB WATSON

THE HOLY TRINITY OF USGBC?

IS USGBC RELIGION OR SCIENCE?

**WOULD ANTHROPOGENIC GLOBAL WARMING CHANGE IF EVERY EXISTING
BUILDING (WORLD WIDE) IS CONVERTED TO LEED COMPLIANCE, AND EVERY NEW
BUILDING IS DESIGNED TO USGBC LEED?**

<http://www.buildinggreen.com/auth/article.cfm/2010/10/14/USGBC-LEED-Targeted-by-Class-Action-Suit/>



MICHAEL ITALIANO

<http://www.testing.iosre.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/05-Volume-1.pdf>

The fact that incremental costs of ENERGY STAR investments are about half of LEED investments makes ENERGY STAR an attractive option for developers who desire a more cautious approach to sustainable project development.

Endnotes

1 LEED and ENERGY STAR differ in several other aspects. *ENERGY STAR certification requires monitoring a year of energy use for certification whereas LEED certification is based only on design and construction.*

LEED requirements are provided for both new construction and existing building, though only 162 existing buildings certifications have been completed through 2008 (U.S. Green Building Council, 2008).

2 In other words, market processes determine whether or not developers recover increased costs of sustainable development. This situation provides considerably greater risk for developers compared to building owner-occupiers.

A building owner who occupies the building will capture all energy saving and other benefits associated with green investments. While these investment decisions are still subject to uncertainty associated with technology performance, weather, energy prices, and other factors, risk management approaches have been developed to assess risks and returns of these investments for building owner-occupiers (Jackson, 2008).

3 Most studies are not specific about what soft costs are included.

These costs include additional design, engineering, commissioning, and costs associated with permitting and other possible delays.

4 Component lifetimes also impact this calculation. While anecdotal evidence suggests that well-designed buildings are less costly to maintain, **no reliable empirical information exists on the net cost of replacement/maintenance requirements of sustainable buildings.**

The IRR specification applied here assumes that the net impact of these factors is negligible.