



# Best Life Cycle Cost Filter Operation



Presented By:

David Sellers

Senior Engineer, Facility Dynamics Engineering



***Conventional Thinking = HVAC is Filtration***



# Filtration and HVAC Go Hand in Hand

Air conditioning is the control of the humidity of the air by either increasing or decreasing its moisture content. Added to the control of the humidity are the control of temperature either by heating or cooling the air, the purification of the air by washing or filtering the air, and the control of air motion and ventilation

Dr. Willis Carrier



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# LEED® Requirements Push Towards Higher Filtration Levels

## IE Q Credit 5: Indoor Chemical and Pollutant Source Control

- Particle filters or air cleaning devices shall be provided to clean the outdoor air at any location prior to its introduction to occupied spaces.
- These filters or devices shall be rated a minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) of 13 or higher in accordance with ASHRAE Standard 52.2.



# COVID Mitigation Pushes Towards Higher Filtration Levels

## ASHRAE EPIDEMIC TASK FORCE

### Core Recommendations for Reducing Airborne Infectious Aerosol Exposure

- Use combinations of filters and air cleaners that achieve MERV 13 or better levels of performance for air recirculated by HVAC systems



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1972

- Set out to be an airplane mechanic and aircraft maintenance engineer





# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1976

- Reality intervenes



*Image Courtesy [www.kpluwonders.org/](http://www.kpluwonders.org/)*

# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1976

- Bill Coad inspires me to think a different way...

... that is to practice our profession with an emphasis upon our responsibility to protect the long-range interests of the society we serve and, specifically, to incorporate the ethics of energy conservation and environmental preservation in everything we do.

ASHRAE Journal, vol. 42, no. 7, p. 16-21  
[www.ASHRAE.org](http://www.ASHRAE.org)

FORUM

## Energy Conservation Is an Ethic

*William J. Coad, PE,  
Fellow/Life Member ASHRAE*

Professionalism means different things to different people. For some, professionalism in engineering describes a method of charging for services; others believe it simply describes a credential achieved. But Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "professional" as: "...characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a calling requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation."

Thus, a "professional" is a person who can be so described.

Just what is it that the mechanical/electrical engineering professional does to earn that title?

In a way, the engineering professional hasn't had good "press" or public relations for the past 150 years. It started in the early to mid-19th century when Maxwell, Sadi Carnot, Diesel, Otto, and the other thermodynamicists and energy engineers unlocked the secrets to turning the resources of the world into the slaves of mankind. Since that time, the mechanical/electrical engineering community has held the goose that laid the golden egg. And somewhere within that community, they became so intent upon serving humanity in the short run that they lost sight of their long-range responsibility.

This is a good news/bad news story, and, as society stands here today, they cannot be too critical of their performance over the past 150 years. The mechanical/electrical engineering professionals have provided humanity with a massive population of "mechanical slaves." That analogy is borrowed from Oscar Wilde, who wrote in an essay in 1894:

*"The fact is that civilization requires slaves. The Greeks were quite right there. Unless there are slaves to do the ugly horrible uninteresting work, culture and contemplation become almost impossible. Human slavery is wrong, insecure and demoralizing. On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends."*

The result of our success in creating this mechanical slave is the world in which we live today. We have the mechanical slave at our bidding to wash our clothes, cook our food, wash our dishes, move us about over long and short distances, stoke our fires, keep us cool, clean our homes, operate our factories, perform complicated calculations at unbelievable speeds, keep our records, and on and on. Oscar Wilde could not have envisioned, in his wildest dreams, the prophetic significance of that statement.

It is not within the context of this article to expound on the influence of technology upon the state of mankind—the social structures, economy, and human relationships. In his book, *The Fifties*, David Halberstam, discussing the sociological revolution unfolding in the fifties, said:

*"The list of technological and scientific changes that transformed America in those years (the fifties) is an extraordinary one—the coming of network television to almost every single home in the country changed America's politics, its leisure habits, and its racial attitudes; the arrival of air conditioning opened up southern and southwestern regions; the early computers were transforming business and the military; the coming of jet planes revolutionized transportation."*

And that was but one decade! And in one country! So, looking back, the engineering community can bask in the knowledge that they did a pretty good job. They certainly changed the world.

But going back to Oscar Wilde's mechanical slave—the mechanical slave, like the human slave, needs food. The food for the mechanical slave is energy. The most available energy sources, those that are most readily available and which we have been using for these 150 years, are the *nonreplenishable energy resources of the earth*.

Now, returning to the topic of professionalism, and paraphrasing the definition for engineering professionalism:

Engineering professionalism is characterized by conformance to the technical and ethical standards related to the practice of engineering.

The technical standards are self-evident. So, focusing on the ethical standards, the definition of ethics is "...a set of moral principles or standards."

Now, consider our situation as we stand

*About the Author*  
William J. Coad, PE, is with McClure Engineering Associates in St. Louis. He serves on the ASHRAE executive committee as treasurer, and is vice chair of Regions Council. He has held various leadership positions within ASHRAE and is presently active on Technical Committees 1.10, 6.1, and 8.10.

*The list of technological and scientific*

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[www.ashraejournal.org](http://www.ashraejournal.org)

16 ASHRAE Journal July 2000



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1976

- I change career paths and am blessed with great mentors



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1976

- I encounter my first commercial HVAC system filter bank





# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1976

- I encounter my first commercial HVAC system filter bank
- It's different from the one in Mom and Dad's furnace



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1976

- I encounter my first commercial HVAC system filter bank
- It's different from the one in Mom and Dad's furnace
- Cleaner air = Cleaner equipment in addition to better IEQ





# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1979/1980

- I begin a long-term relationship with the team at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1979/1980

- Joe Cook, Bob Keller and I begin to “do battle” with the Surgery Air Handling System





# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1979/1980

- Joe Cook, Bob Keller and I begin to “do battle” with the Surgery Air Handling System
  - First exposure to multiple filter beds
  - First exposure to high filtration efficiencies
  - Realize that filters are only as good as their frames
  - Realize that filters = resource consumption on multiple fronts



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1990

- We need a few more year's from the aging surgery system
  - OR loads going up
  - OR replacement moving out the timeline
  - Looking for ways to mitigate filter pressure drop and preserve efficiency
  - Discover extended surface area filters



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1997

- Move to Oregon to become a facilities engineer at Komatsu Silicon's Hillsboro facility
  - HVAC system owner
  - Process exhaust system owner
  - Central chilled water plant system co-owner
  - DDC system co-owner
  - Fire protection system owner





# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1997

- Move to Oregon to become a facilities engineer at Komatsu Silicon's Hillsboro facility
  - HVAC system owner means I own many, many, many filters
    - Learn a lot about HEPA and ULPA filters
    - Begin to observe filter loading rates
    - Confronted with what a filter change represents in terms of resources



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1998

- Semiconductor industry downturn opens the door to alternative approaches to operations
  - Clean room envelope issues cause significant ripple effects with the make up AHU



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1998

- Semiconductor industry downturn opens the door to alternative approaches to operations
  - Clean room envelope issues cause significant ripple effects with the make up AHU

Leakage results in the need to run the back-up fan

- 14,000 more outdoor air cfm than design (30%)  
*Significant HVAC process and fan energy load*
- Square law means the duct system is running a or above the pressure class

*Significant risk*



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1998

- Semiconductor industry downturn opens the door to alternative approaches to operations
  - Clean room envelope issues cause significant ripple effects with the make up AHU

Applying extended surface area HEPA filters:

- Eliminates about 0.50 in.w.c. of static
- Provides a “flatter” loading curve
- Particle count test meets requirements

# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1999

- Semiconductor industry downturn continues
  - Plant idled
  - I move to PECO
  - Begin to pursue life cycle cost filter based operation as a retrocommissioning measure



# A Bit About Me and My Interest In this Topic

1999

- Semiconductor industry downturn continues
  - Plant idled
  - I move to PECL
    - Begin to pursue life cycle cost filter based operation as a retrocommissioning measure
    - I tag along on Mike Chimack's ACEEE paper on the topic

Live cycle cost filter operation = resource savings on multiple fronts

- Fan energy
- Filter first cost
  - Supply stream
  - Embedded energy
- Installation labor
- Disposal
  - Landfill volume
  - Disposal costs
  - More embedded energy





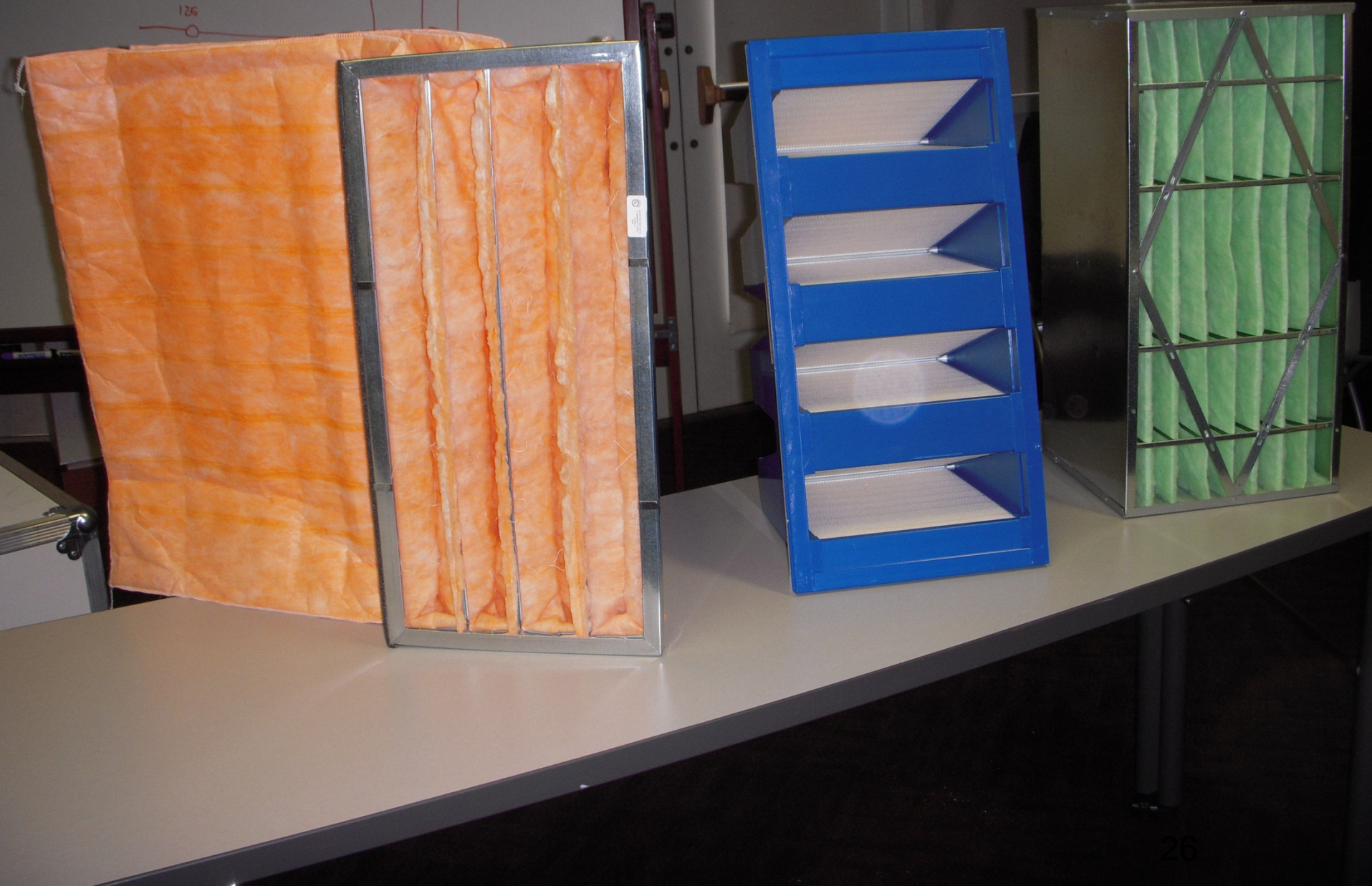
# Energy is Not the Only Resource Consumed by Air Handling Equipment

*There could easily be at least one 24" x 24" filter for every 2,000 – 4,000 square feet of building space*

*CBECS 2018 data says there is about 96,758,000,000 square feet of commercial building space*



# There is More to Filter Media than Being Fuzzy



# There is More to Filter Media than Being Fuzzy

## Camfil Farr HI-FLO

- MERV11 (60-65% ASHRAE Dust-spot Efficiency)
- 24" high, 12" wide, 22" deep
- 4 flexible pockets
- 29 sq.ft. of high lofted air laid micro fiber glass media
- $\Delta P_{\text{Clean}}$  at 493 fpm = 0.30 in.w.c.
- $\Delta P_{\text{MaxDirty}} = 1.50$  in.w.c.
- Dust holding capacity – 175 grams
- \$16.68

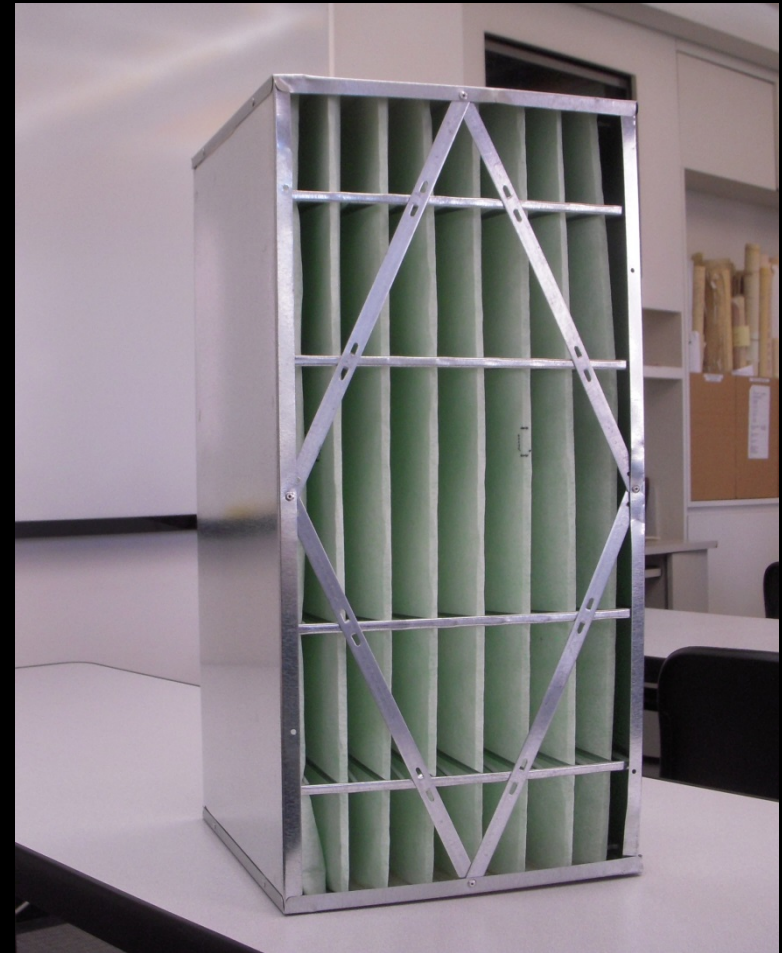




# There is More to Filter Media than Being Fuzzy

## Camfil Farr RIGA-FLO

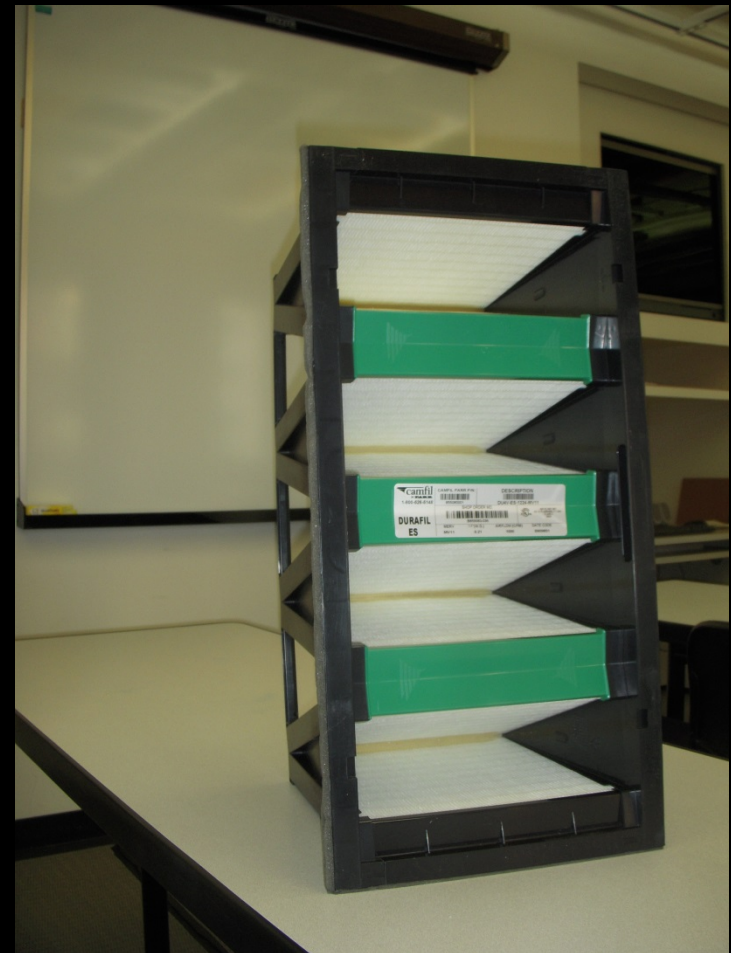
- MERV11 (60-65% ASHRAE Dust-spot Efficiency)
- 24" high, 12" wide, 11.5" deep
- 8 semi-rigid pockets
- 26.5 sq.ft. of high-lofted, depth-loading, microfine glass media
- $\Delta P_{\text{Clean}}$  at 493 fpm = 0.35 in.w.c.
- $\Delta P_{\text{MaxDirty}} = 1.50$  in.w.c.
- Dust holding capacity = 225 grams
- \$49.97



# There is More to Filter Media than Being Fuzzy

## Camfil Farr DuraFil ES

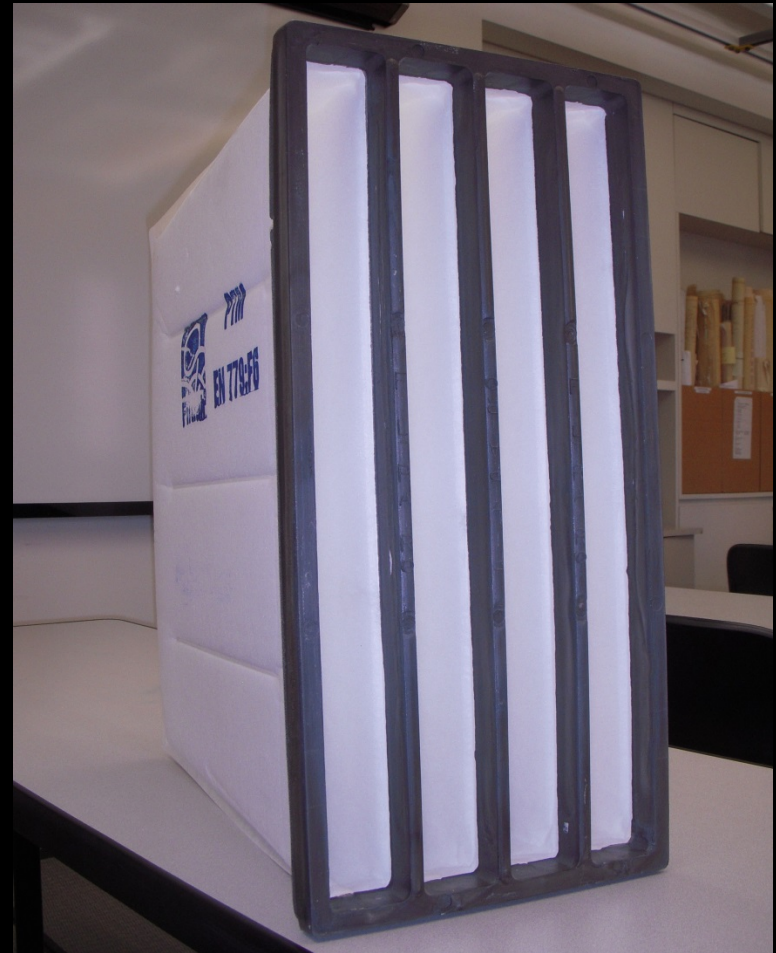
- MERV11 (60-65% ASHRAE Dust-spot Efficiency)
- 24" high, 12" wide, 11.5" deep
- 4 pockets
- 100 sq.ft. of wet laid fiberglass media
- $\Delta P_{\text{Clean}}$  at 493 fpm = 0.21 in.w.c.
- $\Delta P_{\text{MaxDirty}}$  = 1.50 in.w.c.
- Dust holding capacity = 200 grams
- \$66.10



# There is More to Filter Media than Being Fuzzy

## FILTRAIR PTL (F6)

- MERV11 (60-65% ASHRAE Dust-spot Efficiency)
- 24" high, 12" wide, 24" deep
- 4 rigid pockets
- 30.2 sq. ft. of synthetic, high performance depth loading fibers laid using a progressive density multi-layering technique
- $\Delta P_{\text{Clean}}$  at 492 fpm = 0.22 in.w.c.
- $\Delta P_{\text{MaxDirty}} = 1.80$  in.w.c.
- Dust holding capacity = 1,150 grams
- \$124



# Same MERV but Otherwise, Very Different

## Summary

Model	First Cost	MERV	$\Delta P$ , in.w.c. at 500 fpm	Media Area, sq.ft.	Dust Capacity, Grams
HI-FLO	\$16.68	11	0.30	29.0	175
RIGA-FLO	\$49.97	11	0.35	26.5	225
DuraFil ES	\$66.10	11	0.21	100	200
PTL (F6)	\$124.00	11	0.22	30.2	1,150



# A Clarifying Point

My focus in this session is on particle filters vs. molecular/gas phase filters

## Particle Filters

Target things like:

- Dust
- Pollen
- Mold
- Bacteria

## Gas Phase Filters

Target things like:

- Exhaust fumes
- Ammonia
- Nitrous oxide
- Sulphur dioxide
- Volatile organic compounds

# A Clarifying Point

My focus in this session is on particle filters vs. molecular/gas phase filters

## Particle Filters

Contaminants measured in particles per unit volume

## Gas Phase Filters

Contaminants measured in concentration levels like parts per million or parts per billion

## A Clarifying Point

My focus in this session is on particle filters vs. molecular/gas phase filters

Particles move via air currents

Gasses move via diffusion

# A Clarifying Point

My focus in this session is on particle filters vs. molecular/gas phase filters

Gasses are captured by chemical means

- Adsorption Condensation
- Chemisorption



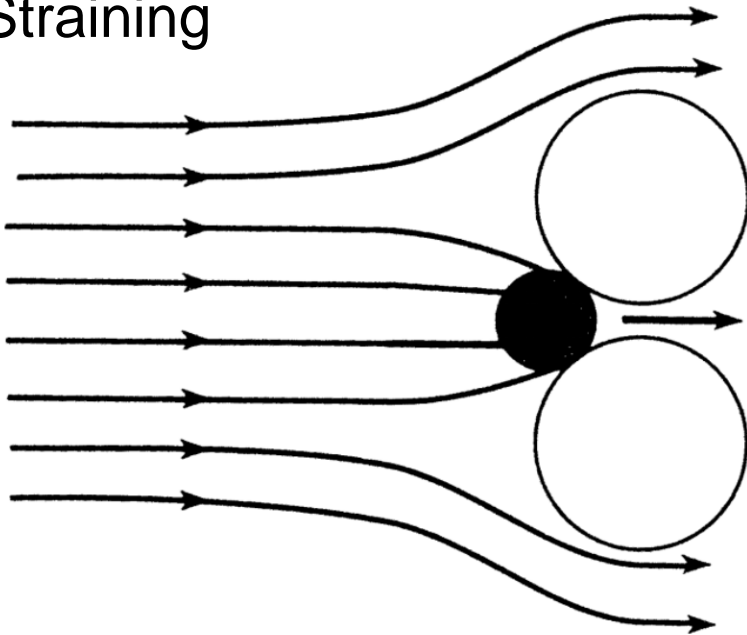
# A Clarifying Point

My focus in this session is on particle filters vs. molecular/gas phase filters

Particles are captured by:

Gasses are captured by chemical means

Straining



- Adsorption Condensation
- Chemisorption

*Images courtesy ASHRAE Journal, Filters and Filtration, April 1999, Timothy J Robinson and Alan E Quellet*

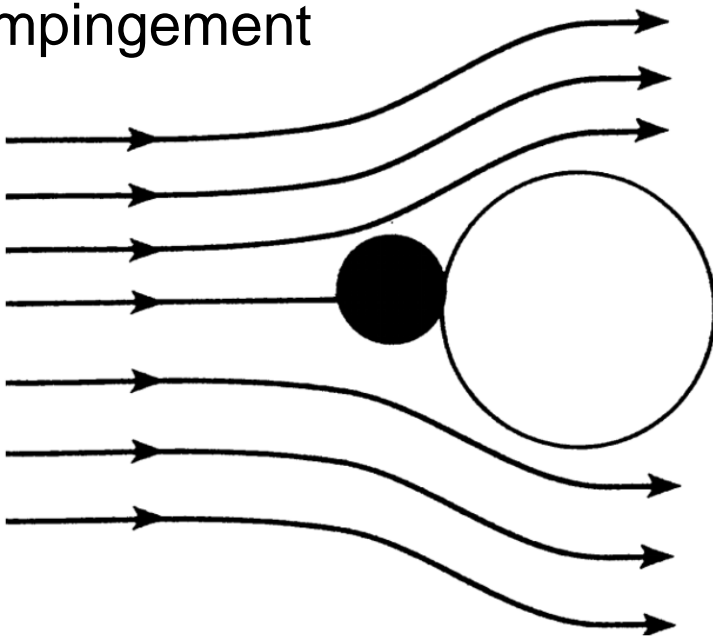
# A Clarifying Point

My focus in this session is on particle filters vs. molecular/gas phase filters

Particles are captured by:

Gasses are captured by chemical means

Impingement



- Adsorption Condensation
- Chemisorption

*Images courtesy ASHRAE Journal, Filters and Filtration, April 1999, Timothy J Robinson and Alan E Quellet*

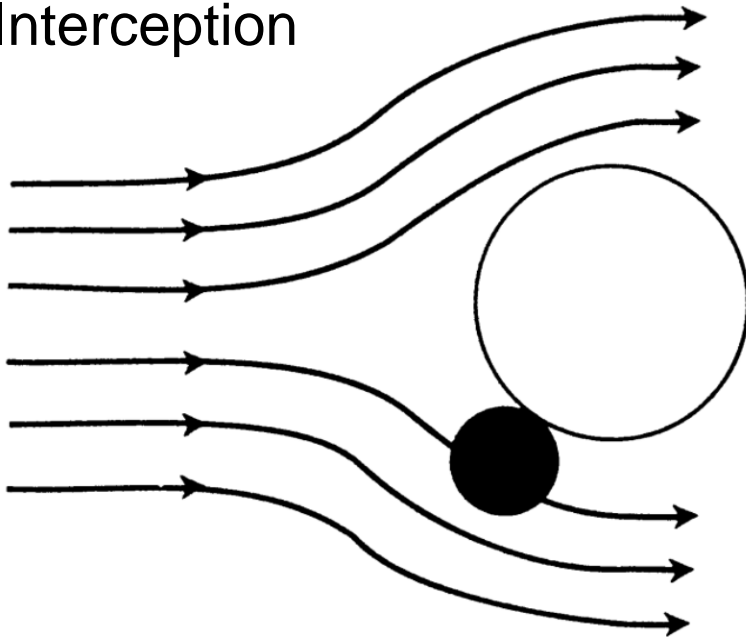
# A Clarifying Point

My focus in this session is on particle filters vs. molecular/gas phase filters

Particles are captured by:

Gasses are captured by chemical means

Interception



- Adsorption Condensation
- Chemisorption

*Images courtesy ASHRAE Journal, Filters and Filtration, April 1999, Timothy J Robinson and Alan E Quellet*

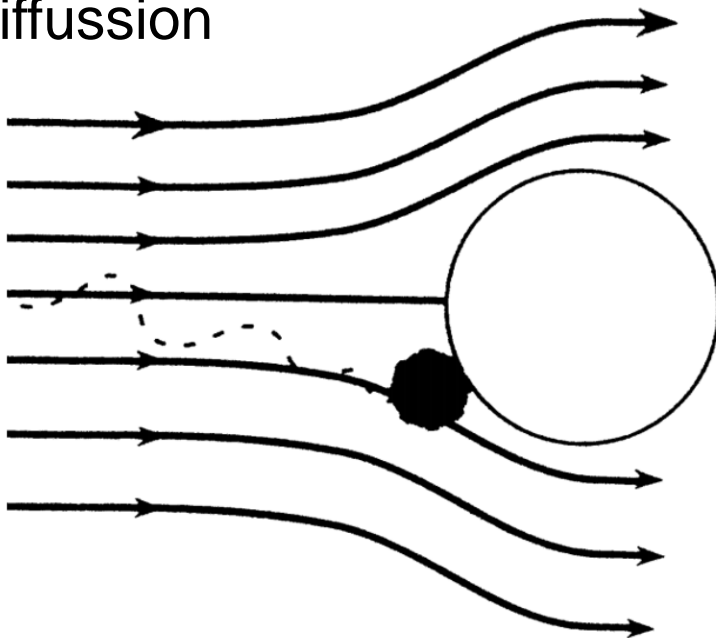
# A Clarifying Point

My focus in this session is on particle filters vs. molecular/gas phase filters

Particles are captured by:

Gasses are captured by chemical means

Diffusion



- Adsorption Condensation
- Chemisorption

*Images courtesy ASHRAE Journal, Filters and Filtration, April 1999, Timothy J Robinson and Alan E Quellet*



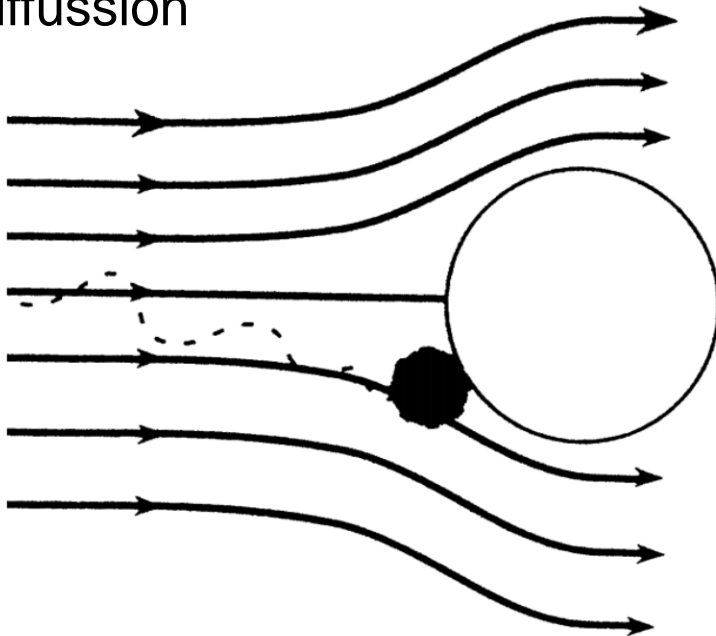
# A Clarifying Point

My focus in this session is on particle filters vs. molecular/gas phase filters

Particles are captured by:

Electrostatic Effects are Also Used

Diffusion



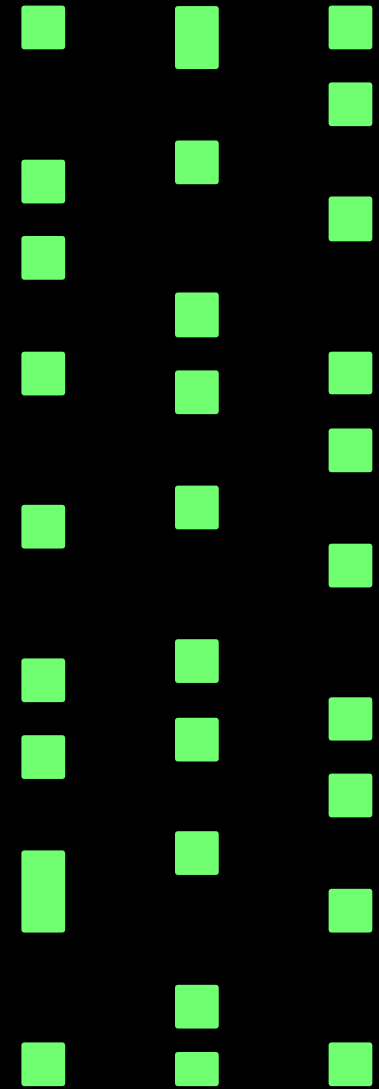
- Potential to drop off over time
- Appendix J of ASHRAE 52 attempts to address this

*Images courtesy ASHRAE Journal, Filters and Filtration, April 1999, Timothy J Robinson and Alan E Quellet*

# Face Loading Filters



# Depth Loading Filters





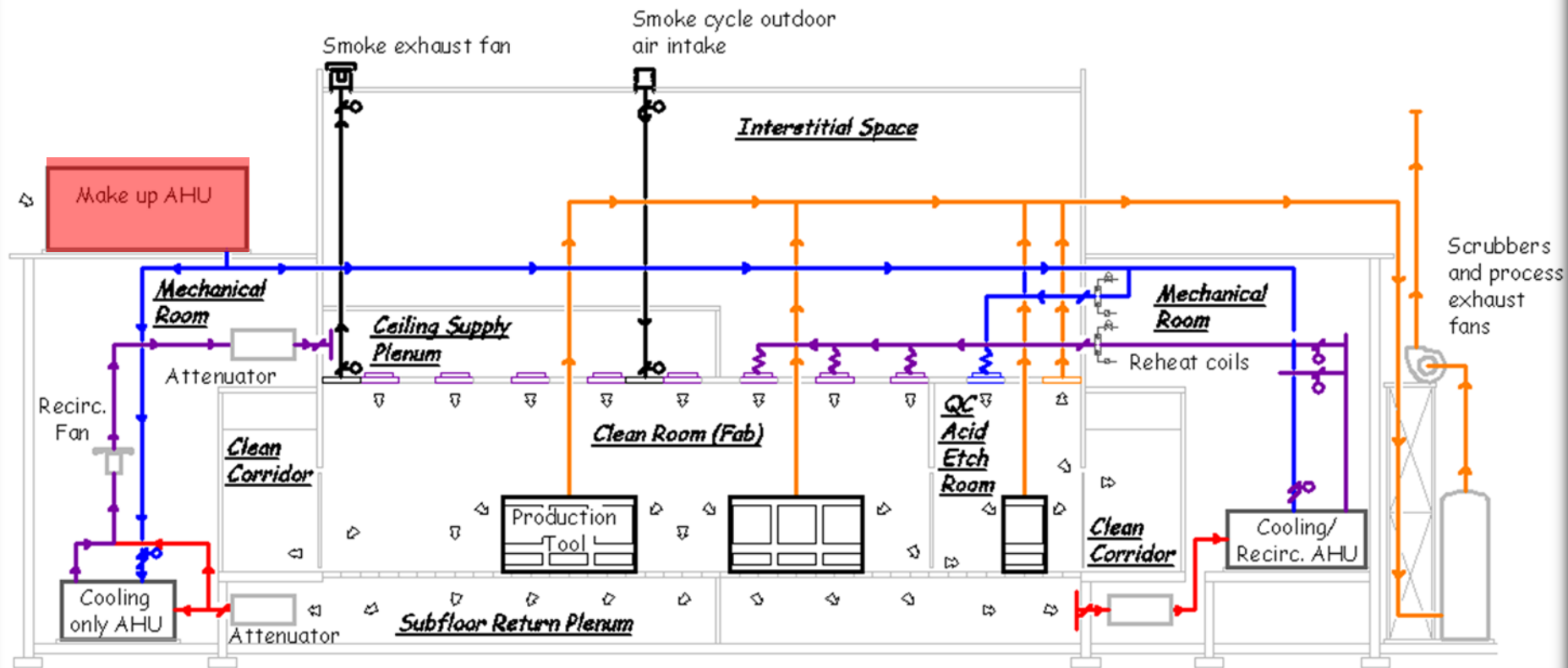


***Conventional Thinking = Change Based on  
Time in Service***



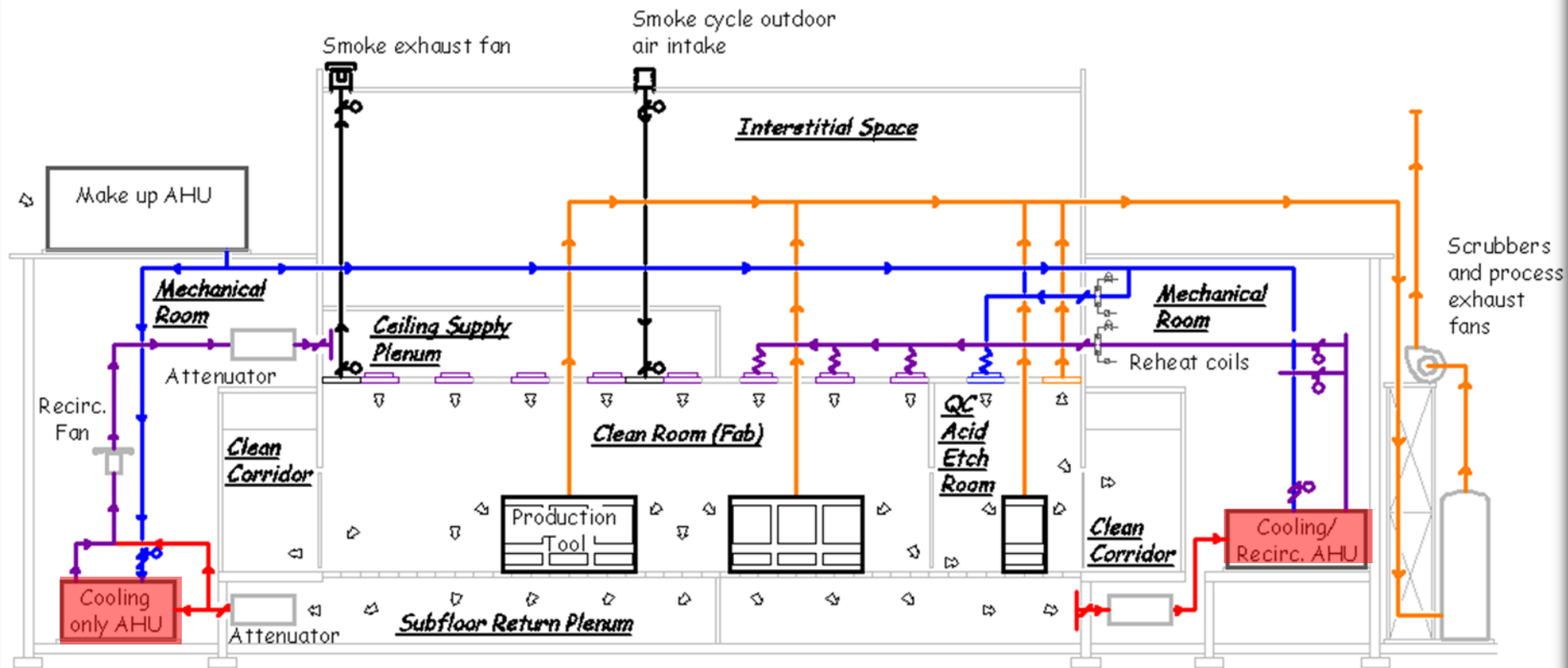
# Filter Banks Load at Different Rates

Clean room make up systems loaded more quickly than other systems and loading rate varied with season



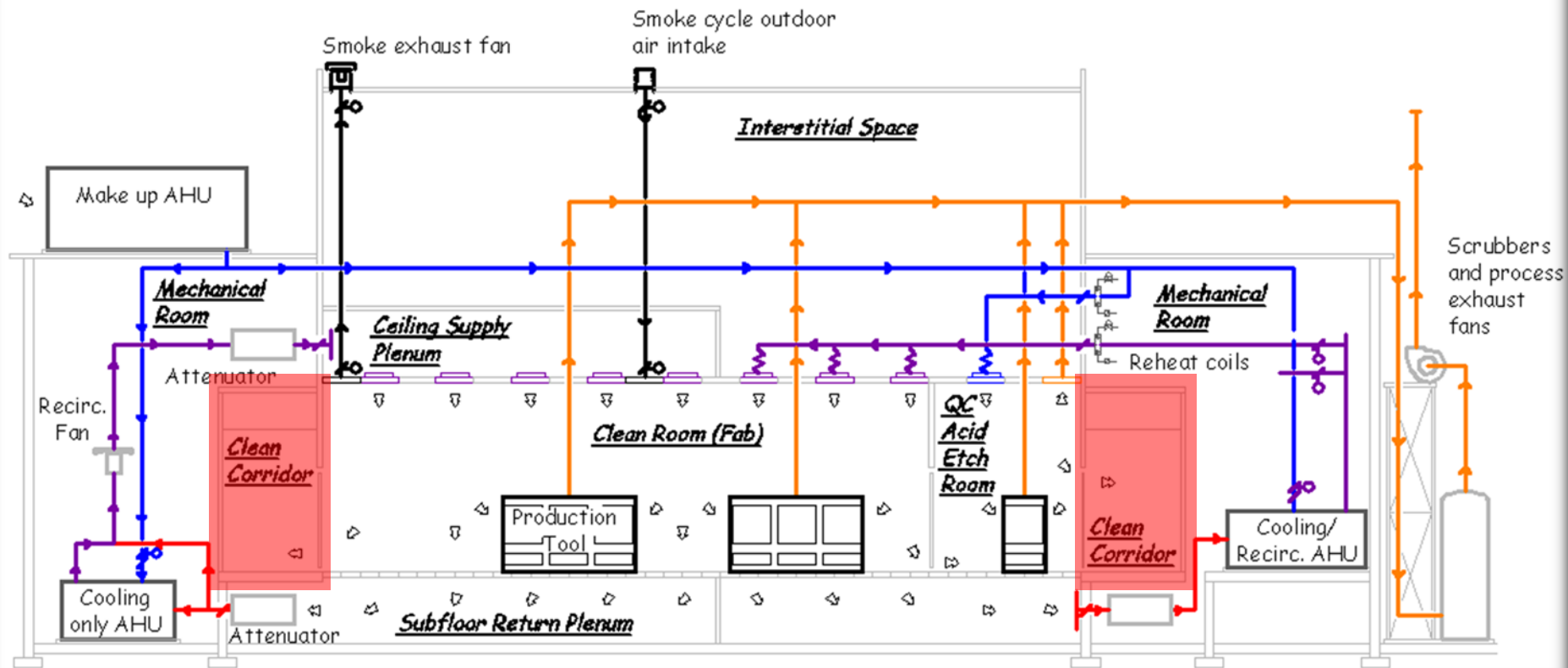
# Filter Banks Load at Different Rates

Clean room recirculation systems handled extremely clean air and loaded very, very slowly



# Filter Banks Load at Different Rates

Scheduled economizer equipped systems serving non-process areas were somewhere in-between in terms of loading rate



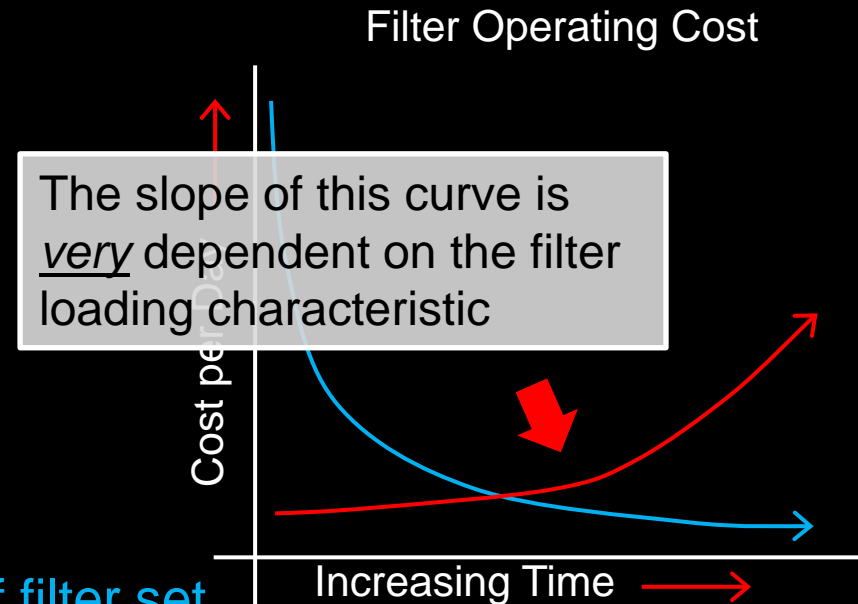
# Filter Life Cycle Costs

## First cost component

- Decreases over time
- Non-linear
  - Day 1 – Cost per day = Cost of filter set
  - Day X – Cost per day = (Cost of filter set)/X Days

## Energy cost component

- Increases over time
- Non-linear





# Calculating Power Into the Fan Motor as kW

$$kW = \left( \frac{Flow \times Static}{6,356 \times \eta_{Fan} \times \eta_{Motor} \times \eta_{Drive}} \right) \times \frac{.746 \text{ kw}}{\text{hp}}$$

Where :

*bhp* = Brake horse power into the fan drive shaft

*Flow* = Flow rate in cubic feet per minute

*Static* = Fan static in inches water column

6,356 = A units conversion constant

$\eta_{Fan}$  = Fan efficiency

$\eta_{Motor}$  = Motor efficiency

$\eta_{Drive}$  = Drive efficiency; Don't forget about the belts if the motor is not direct drive. Well adjusted belts are 97 - 98% efficient. Poorly adjusted ones can be as low as 90% or less

$\frac{.746 \text{ kw}}{\text{hp}}$  = kW to hp conversion constant

# Filter Life Cycle Costs

## First cost component

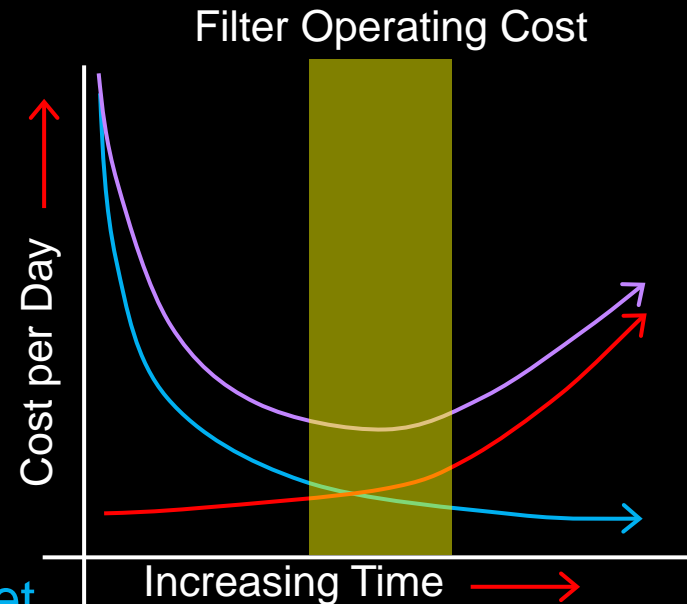
- Decreases over time
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## Energy cost component

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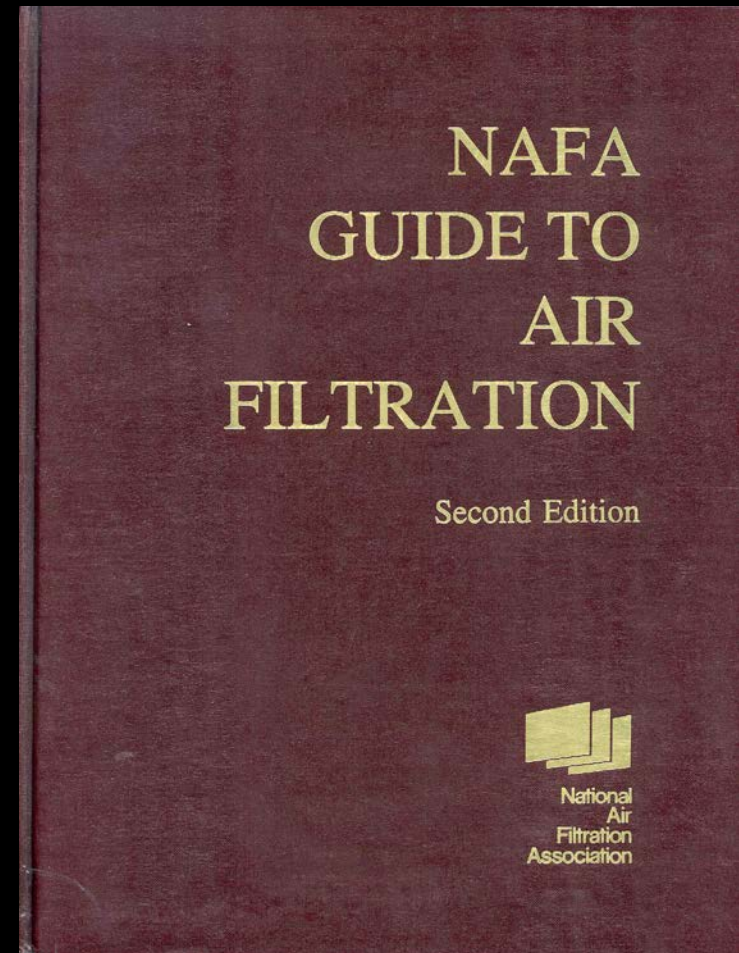
## Total cost component

- Decreases then increases over time
- Change filters at inflection point for best life cycle cost



# Key Points

1. Not a new concept
  - NAFA Guide to Air Filtration
  - 1993
  - Chapter 13 – Owning and Operating Cost



# Key Points

1. Not a new concept
  - NAFA Guide to Air Filtration
  - 1993
  - Chapter 13 – Owning and Operating Cost

## Life Estimating

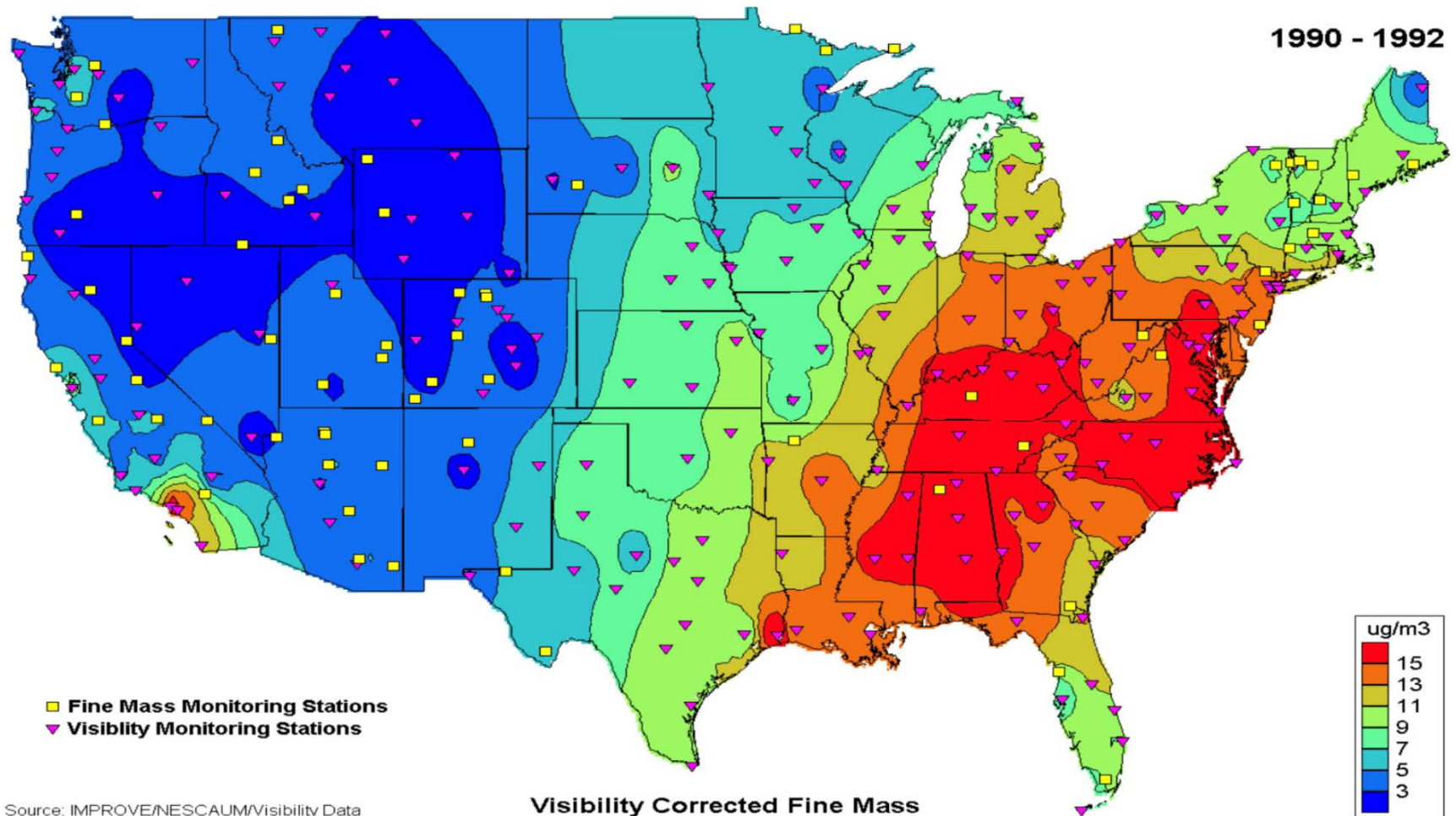
*A very important consideration is filter life ...*

*... Because of the many variables in the environment, the development of a method for precisely estimating filter life has eluded filter experts over the years.*

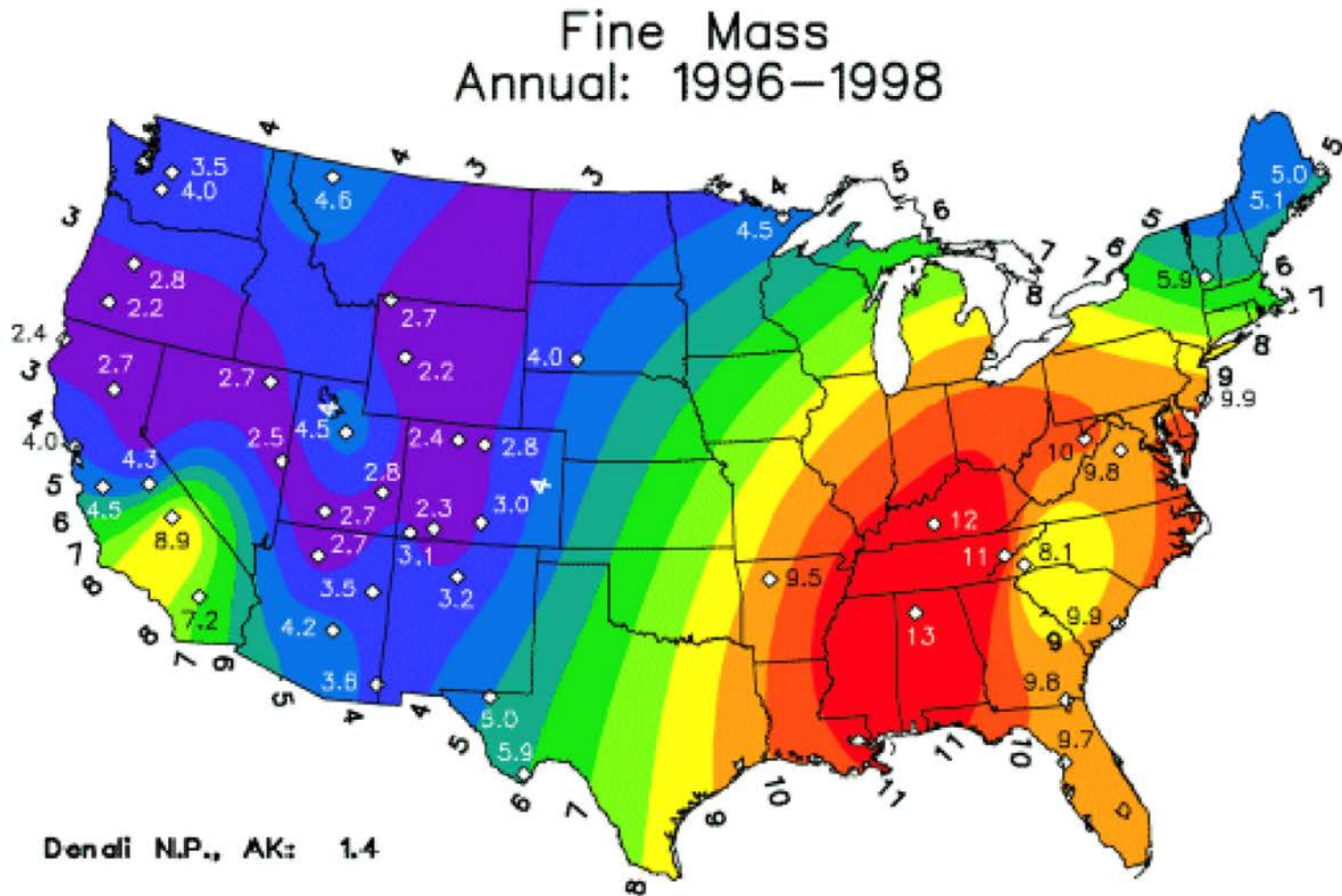
*Most data is based on user experience or manufacturer's life tests.*



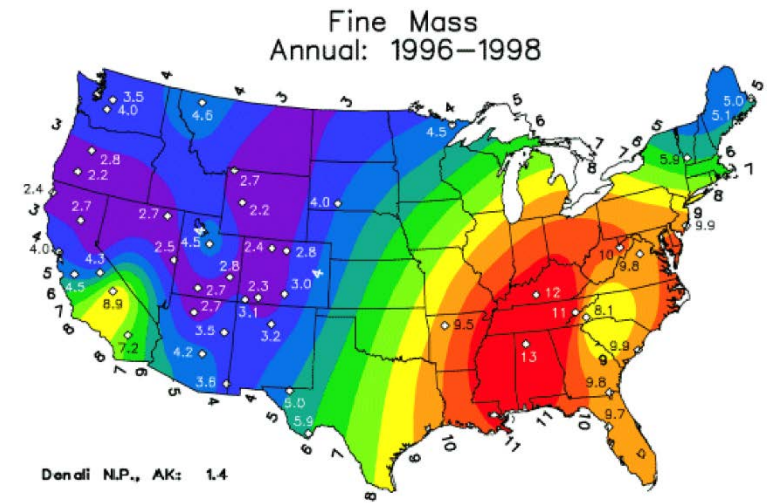
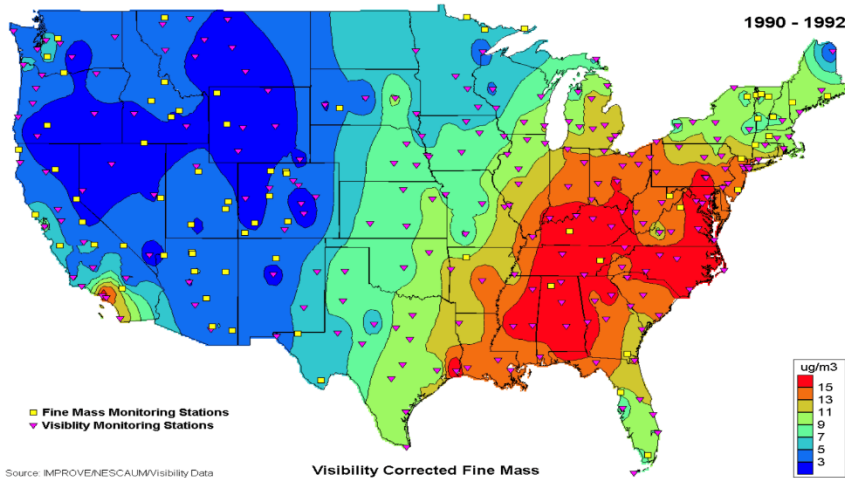
*... the many variables in the environment*



*... the many variables in the environment*



*... the many variables in the environment*



# The Life Cycle Cost Game

## Benefits of more expensive media

- More surface area
- Engineered loading characteristics
- Lower pressure drops (less fan energy)
- More dust holding capability

## Leveraging the benefits

- Lower fan energy
- Longer life
- Eliminate prefilters
  - Eliminates related fan energy
  - Eliminates related labor
  - Eliminates related disposal
  - Allows final filters to run to a higher  $\Delta P_{\text{Dirty}}$



# A Word about Eliminating Prefilters

- Prefilters do not make the air leaving the system any cleaner
- Prefilters do protect the final filter; maybe;
  - To protect the final filter, the prefilter has to be able to intercept a significant amount of the entering contaminate
  - If the entering contaminant particle size is smaller than what the prefilter can handle, then their benefit is minimized



# A Word about Eliminating Prefilters

- An Example
  - Crown Plaza, Portland, OR
  - Two identical AHUs
  - Operating team wanted to switch to life cycle based filter operation with high performance filters
  - Not sure what to do about eliminating prefilters
  - Decided to experiment by running one system with and one system with out prefilters



Image courtesy <http://www.ddgportland.com/>

# A Word about Eliminating Prefilters

- The Result
  - Prefilters did not load that much
  - Final filters in both systems tended to load at about the same rate



Image courtesy <http://www.ddgportland.com/>



# A Word about Eliminating Prefilters

- The Reason
  - Intakes at street level next to the Naito Parkway
  - Primary contaminant was rubber duct
  - There is a reason we have to buy new tires occasionally*
  - Prefilters were not very effective against the rubber dust particles



Image courtesy <http://www.ddgportland.com/>



# A Word about Eliminating Prefilters

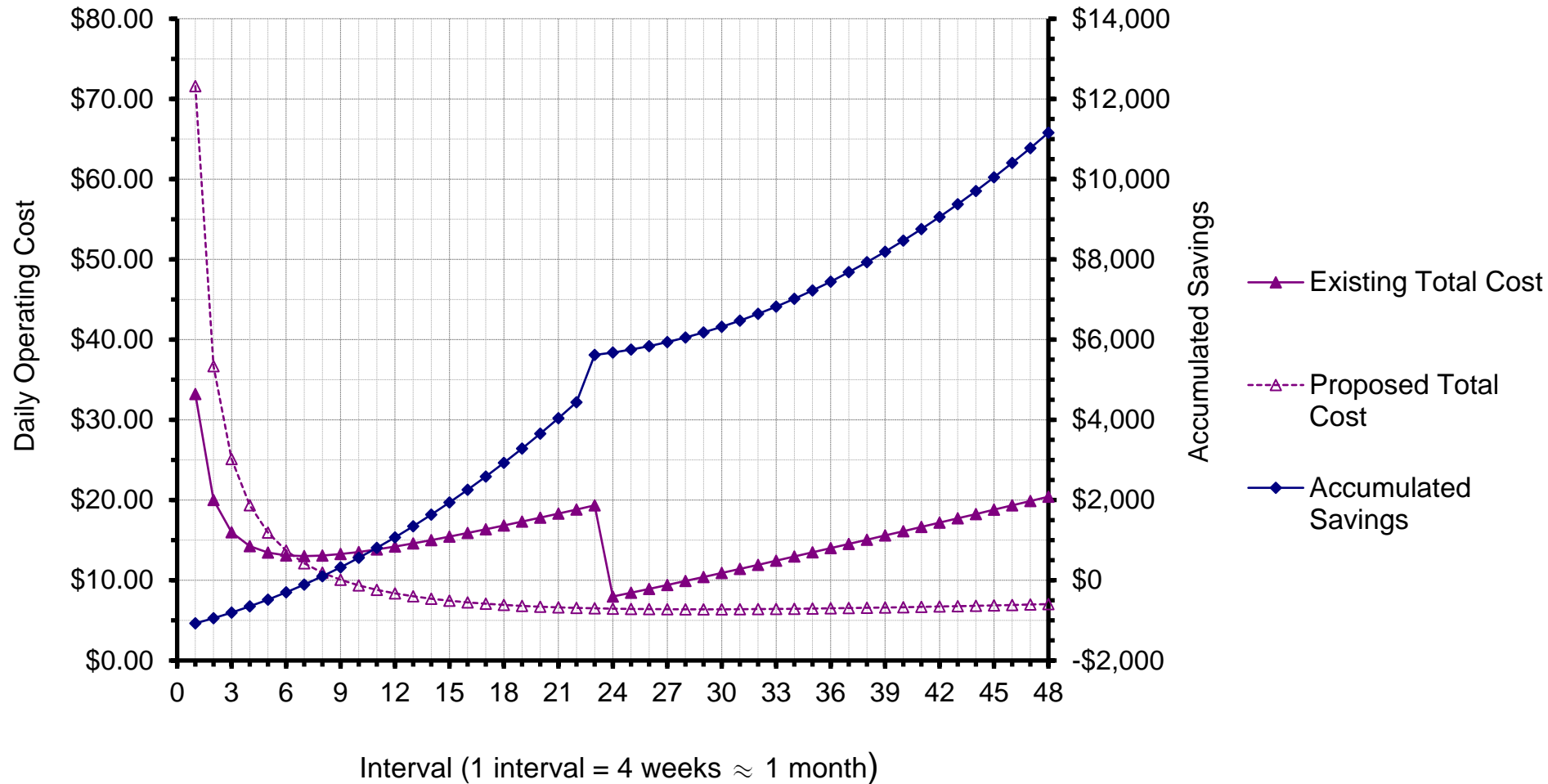
- The Caveat
  - Had the building been near a grove of cotton wood trees, prefilters may have been desirable for at least part of the year to protect the final filters from cotton wood seeds



Image courtesy <http://www.ddgportland.com/>

## Filter Cost per Average Day and Accumulated Savings

UCB LeConte Hall Current Practice (65% ASHRAE Efficiency Bag filters with Prefilters) vs.  
65% Efficiency Extended Surface Area Filters with No Prefilters



## Savings Summary - First Year Basis

	Electricity		Filters	Total	Waste
	kWh	\$	\$	\$	cu. yd.
Existing Approach	8,366	\$837	\$631	\$1,468	4.9
Proposed Approach	1,966	\$197	\$1,860	\$2,057	4.4
Savings	6,400	\$640	(\$1,229)	(\$589)	0.5
Simple Payback	1.92 years (energy only)				

## Savings Summary - 48 Months

Taking a life cycle perspective is important					
Existing Approach	48,151	\$1,315	\$1,262	\$5,909	9.9
Proposed Approach	13,646	\$1,365	\$1,860	\$3,225	4.4
Savings	32,816	\$3,282	(\$598)	\$2,684	5.4
Simple Payback	8.74 months (energy only)				

An important "ripple effect"

## Savings Summary - First Year Basis

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## Savings Summary - 48 Month Cycle Basis

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Savings	32,816	\$3,282	(\$598)	\$2,684	5.4
Simple Payback	8.74 months (energy only)				

Cost and benefit may not occur in the same purchasing group



In a highway service station  
Over the month of June  
Was a photograph of the earth  
Taken coming back from the moon  
And you couldn't see a city  
On that marbled bowling ball  
Or a forest or a highway  
Or me here least of all

*Joni Mitchell*  
*Refuge of the Roads*

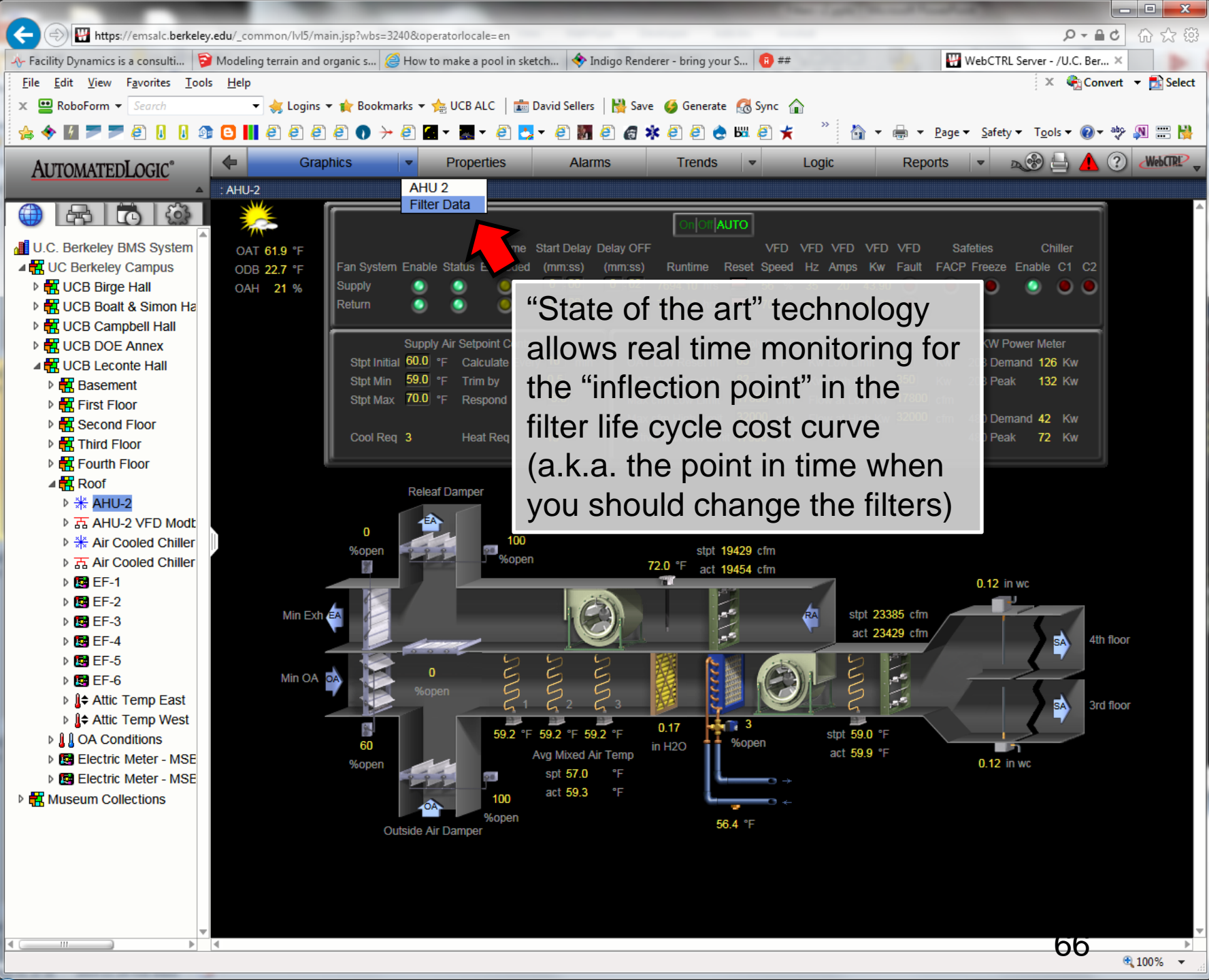


*Image Courtesy William Anders, Apollo 8, 1968 NASA*

## My Observations:

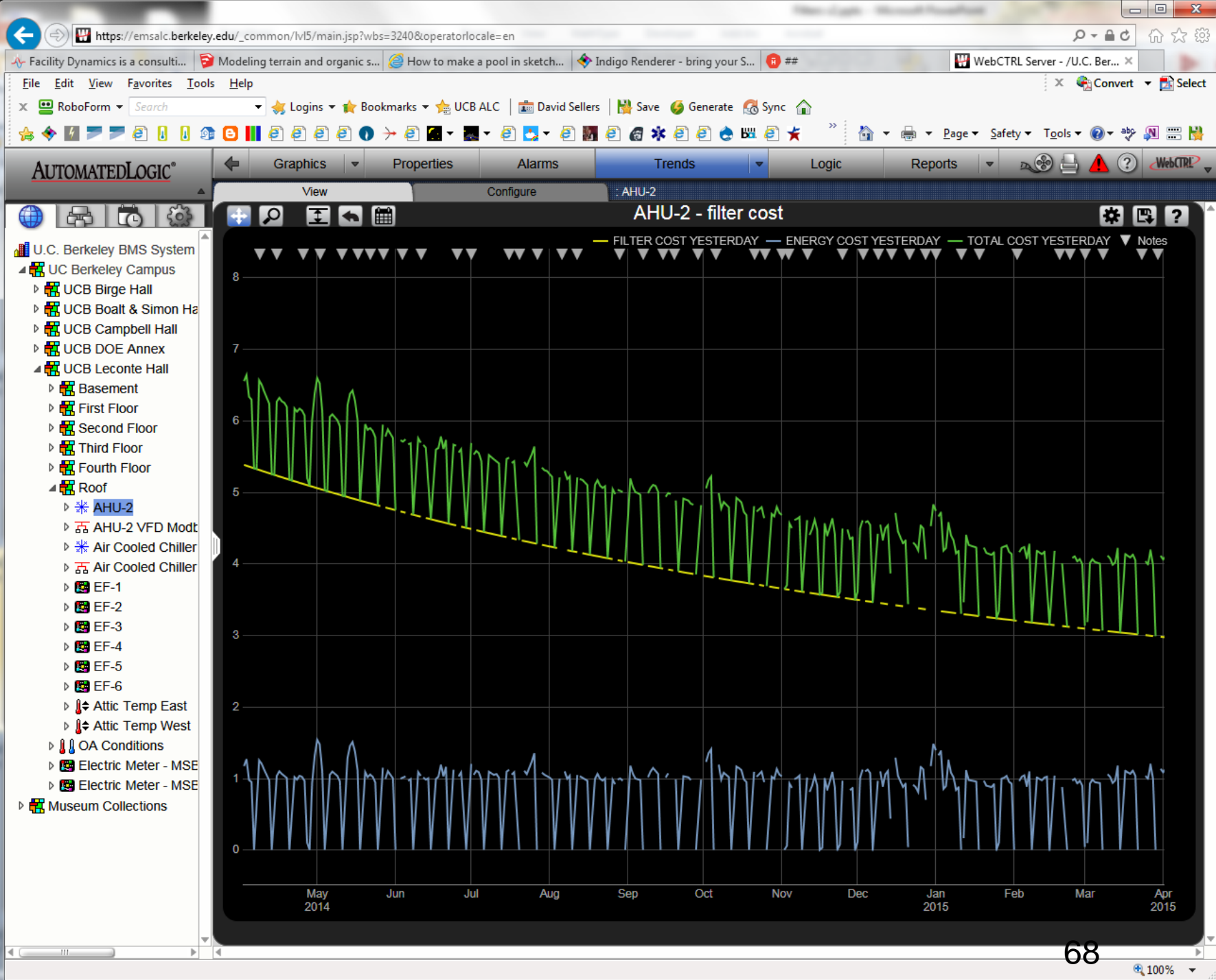
1. Only one “marbled bowling ball” in the near vicinity
2. Unable to see the Division of Design and Construction
3. Unable to see the Division of Physical Plant and Campus Services
4. I suspect they are all in this together, and us with them
5. We need to start acting and thinking as if that is the case





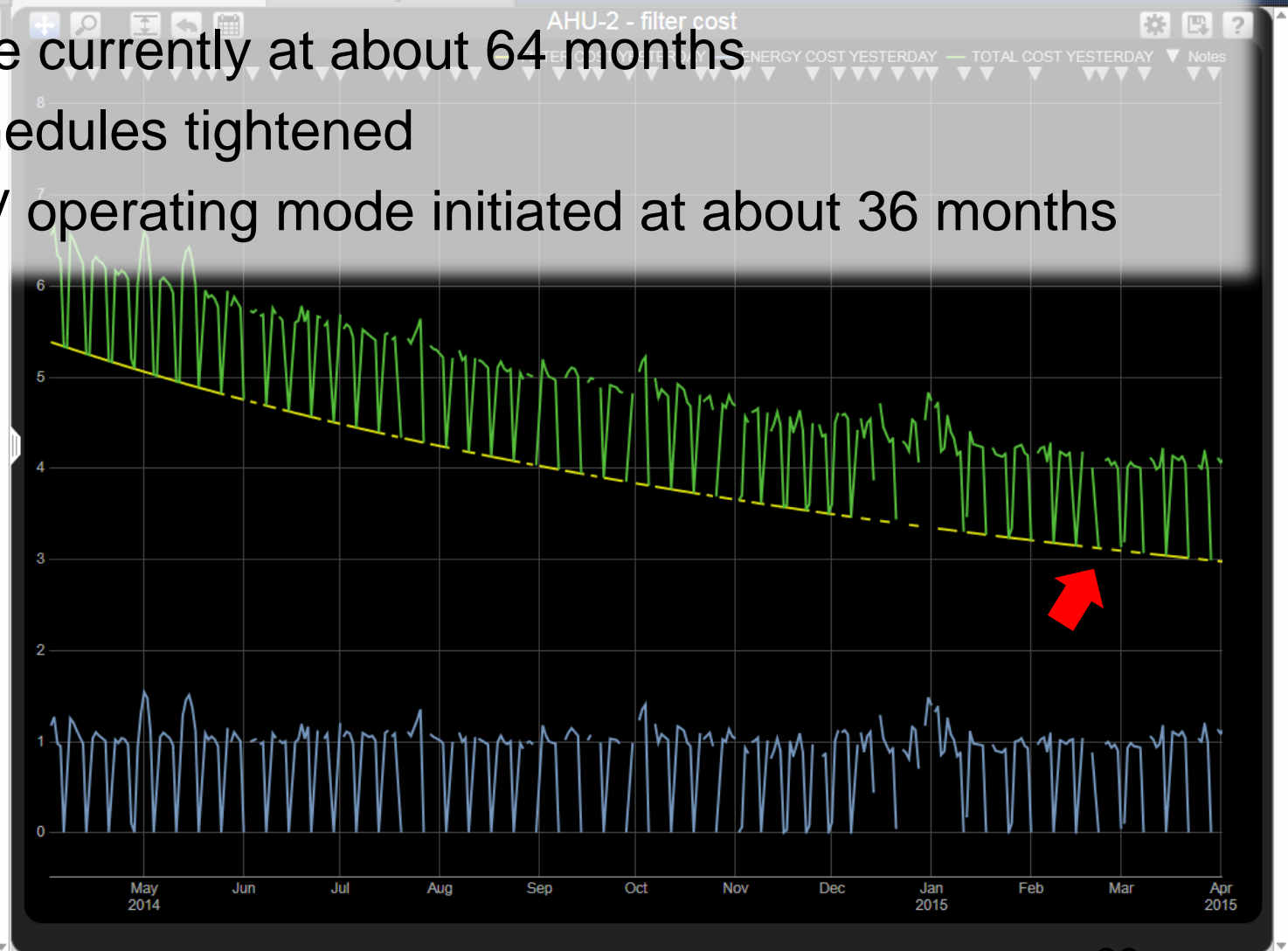






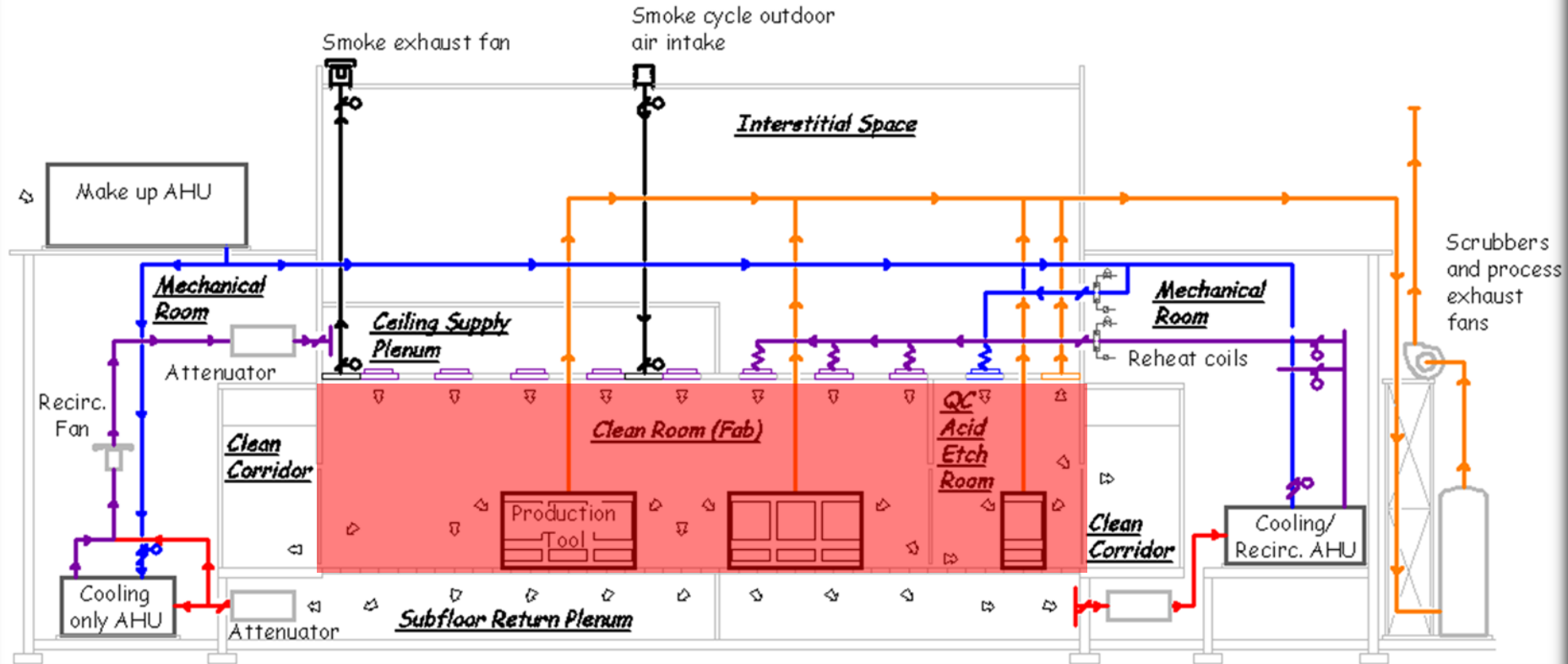
Note that the cost curve is still dropping

- The model projected an inflection point at about 48 month's
- We are currently at about 64 months
- Schedules tightened
- VAV operating mode initiated at about 36 months



# CAUTION

Changing filter types or replacement approaches for process areas may involve changing a quality control standard

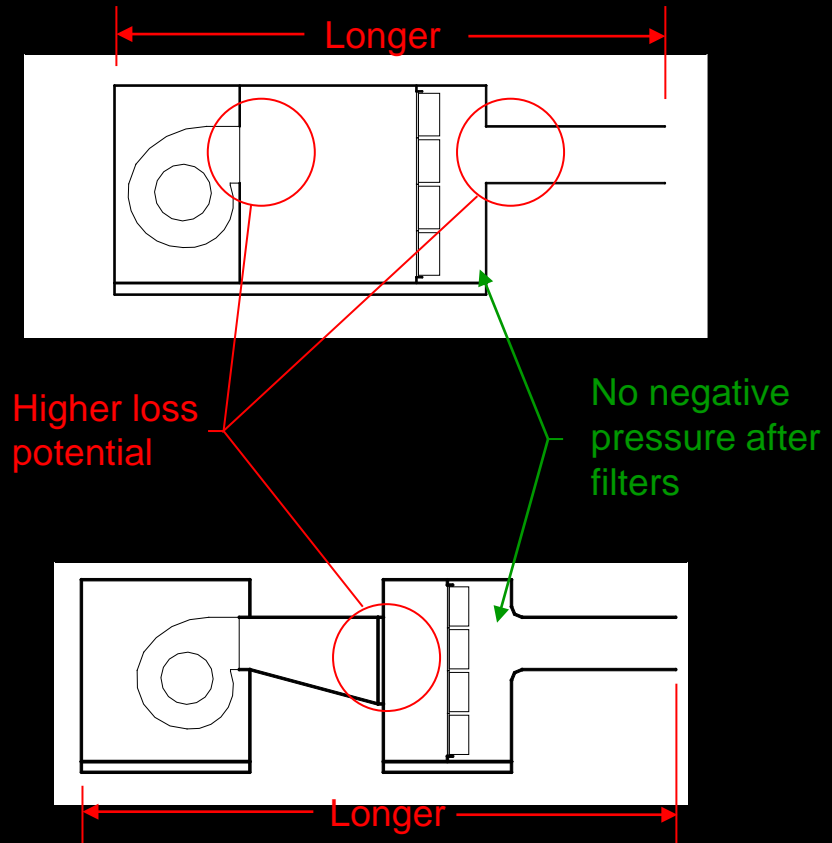
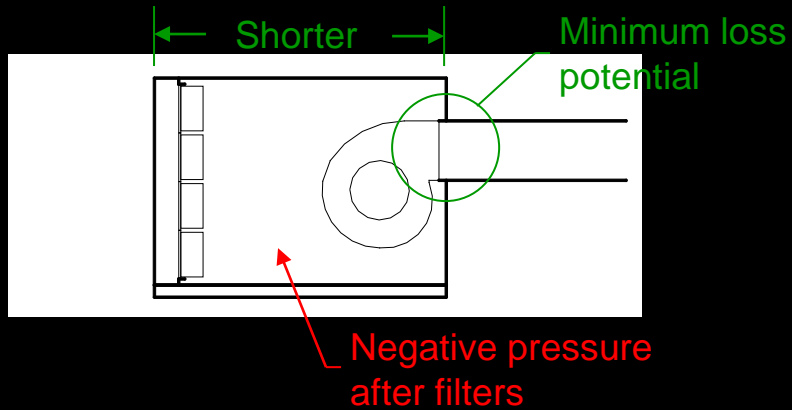


# CAUTION

- Non-VSD Equipped System Caution
  - Lower pressure = fan moving out its fan curve
  - Fan moving out its fan curve = more fan energy
  - Fan moving out its fan curve = more reheat energy in a constant volume reheat system
- Include a sheave change or VFD in the cost to upgrade to lower pressure drop filters
- Leveraging the VSD if you add it



# Filter Location Impacts Fan Energy



Different configurations  
Different dimensions  
Different fan static requirements

# Details Matter, Even with Filters



First cost increase = \$220

Pressure drop reduction improvement = 0.08 in.w.c.

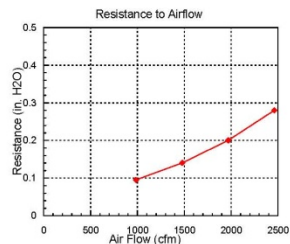
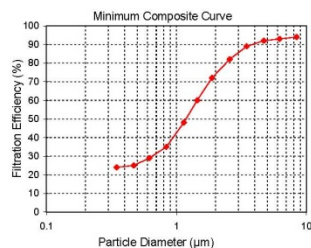
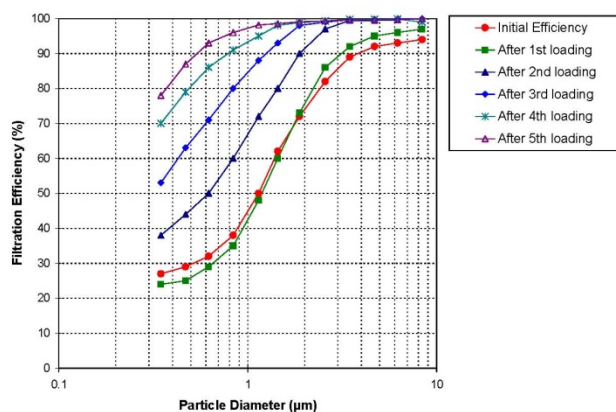
Annual energy savings improvement = \$841

- 24/7 operation
- Nominal 67,000 cfm constant volume system
- \$0.10 per kWh electricity

# Independent Laboratory Testing

## Verifying Manufacturer's Claims

Report No. BXmmdyy00  
Research Triangle Institute



### TABULATED DATA SUMMARY

Report No. BXmmdyy00  
Research Triangle Institute

#### Summary of Test Conditions:

Product Manufacturer	Filter Company
Product Name	Air Filter
Nominal Dimensions (in.)	24 x 24 x 2
Airflow (cfm)	1968
Final Resistance (in. H2O)	1.00

#### Efficiency (%) per Indicated Size Range

OPC Channel Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Min. Diam. (µm)	0.3	0.4	0.55	0.7	1	1.3	1.6	2.2	3	4	5.5	7
Max. Diam. (µm)	0.4	0.55	0.7	1	1.3	1.6	2.2	3	4	5.5	7	10
Geo. Mean Diam (µm)	0.35	0.47	0.62	0.84	1.14	1.44	1.86	2.57	3.46	4.69	6.20	8.37

	Run No.	27	29	32	38	50	62	72	82	89	92	93	94
Initial efficiency	BXmmdyy01	24	25	29	35	48	60	73	86	92	95	96	97
after first dust load	BXmmdyy02	38	44	50	60	72	80	90	97	99	99	100	100
after second dust load	BXmmdyy03	53	63	71	80	88	93	96	99	100	100	100	100
after third dust load	BXmmdyy04	70	79	86	91	95	98	99	99	100	100	100	99
after fourth dust load	BXmmdyy05	78	87	93	96	98	99	99	99	100	100	100	100
after fifth dust load	BXmmdyy06												

Minimum Composite Efficiency	24	25	29	35	48	60	72	82	89	92	93	94
------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

E1 = 28

E2 = 66

E3 = 92

MERV = 11

#### Resistance to Airflow:

Airflow (%)	Airflow (m3/s)	Airflow (cfm)	Air Velocity (fpm)	Air Velocity (m/s)	Resistance (in. H2O)	Resistance (Pa)
50	0.464	984	246	1.250	0.10	24
75	0.697	1476	369	1.875	0.14	35
100	0.929	1968	492	2.499	0.20	50
125	1.161	2460	615	3.124	0.28	70

#### Resistance to Airflow with Loading at 1968 cfm

	Resistance (in. H2O)	Resistance (Pa)
Initial	0.20	50
After first dust load	0.24	60
After second dust load	0.40	100
After third dust load	0.60	149
After fourth dust load	0.80	199
After fifth dust load	1.00	249

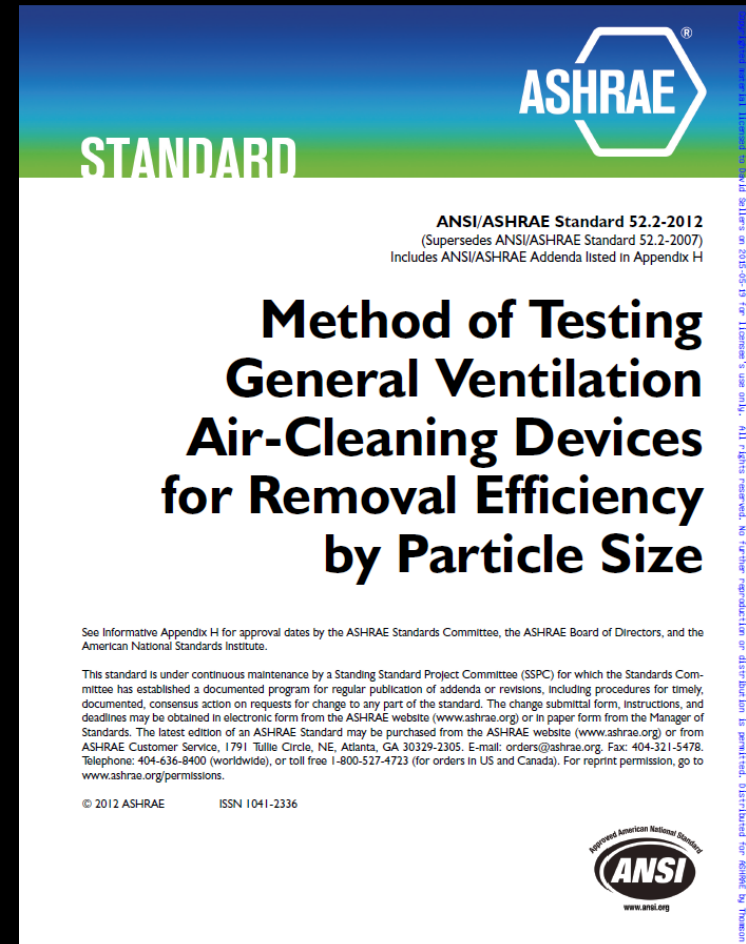
Weight Gain of filter after completion of dust loading steps

35.2 g

# ASHRAE Standard 52

## The Basis for the Manufacturer's claims

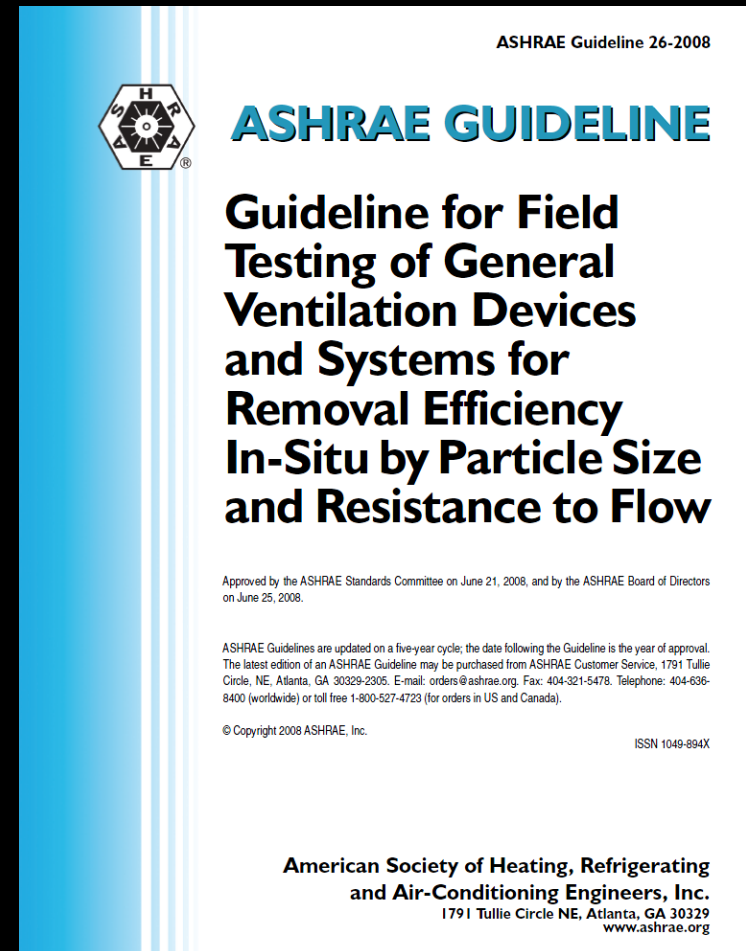
- Test dust  $\neq$  Real dust
- Tested efficiency  $\neq$  Installed efficiency
- Tested efficiency  $\neq$  Persistent installed efficiency
  - See Appendix J





# Assessing Reality

- Tests for installed efficiency and pressure drop
- Captures the impact of field realities
  - Real world dust
  - Frame impacts
  - System impacts
- Provides for correlation with lab test



# Good Filter + Mediocre Frame = Mediocre Filtration

- 95% (MERV14) filters
- Frame Construction
  - 16 gauge riveted
  - No stiffeners between sections
  - No caulk
  - Foam gaskets
  - No knife edge seals
  - Spring clip retainers
- Net filtration efficiency likely less than MERV 14
- Structural loads can become significant
  - At the design dirty pressure drop, each filter has 30 pounds of force acting on it





Intermittent turbulence associated with the position of the economizer dampers in this system cause the filter bank to vibrate under some air flow conditions, knocking particles loose on the downstream side



# A Filter is Only as Good as its Frame



## Camfil Farr Type 8

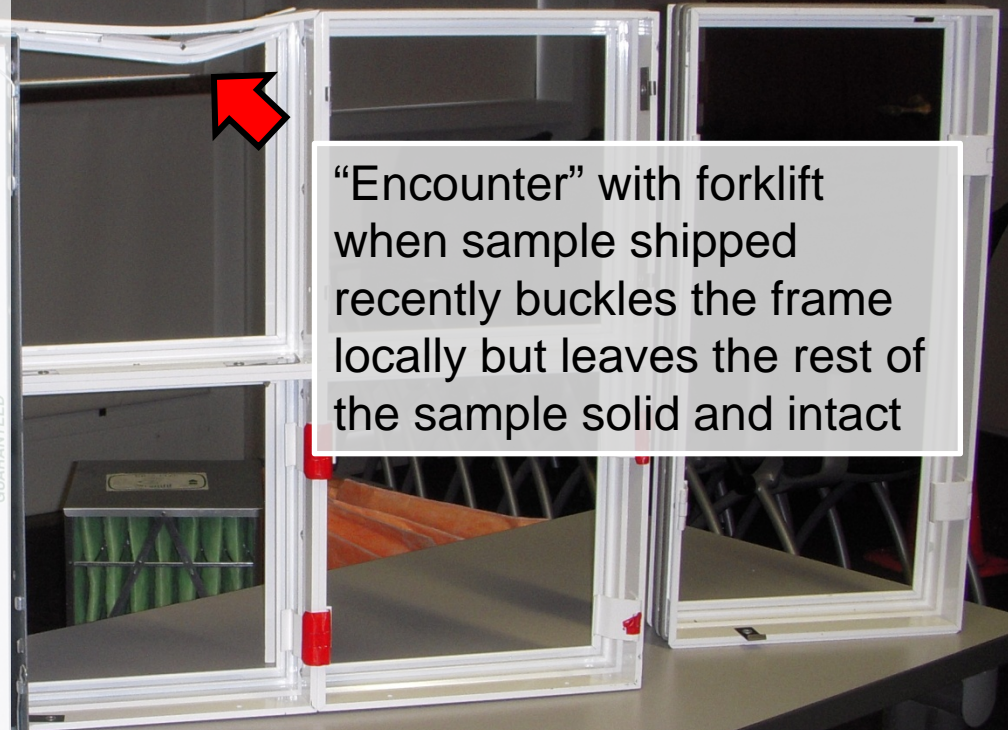
- 16 gauge galvanized steel
- Foam gaskets (optional)
- Spring clip retainers (not included)
- Riveted or bolted up assembly (not included)
- Structural steel supports required between every-other vertical row (not included and frequently omitted)
- \$66.97 per “hole” (materials only)



# A Filter is Only as Good as its Frame

## Total Filtration Manufacturing Optiframe/H

- Extruded, epoxy powder coated framing material
- Tongue and groove joints between modules
- Quadruple closed cell foam gaskets between modules
- Knife edge filter seals
- 1.5" I beam structural support between rows
- Over-center and swing bolt retainers
- \$125 per "hole" (installed)



“Encounter” with forklift when sample shipped recently buckles the frame locally but leaves the rest of the sample solid and intact



# Kaiser Permanente Building

## Portland, Oregon

- Lead facilities engineer interested in life cycle cost based operation
- Had concerns regarding flexible bag filters in VAV systems
- Challenges
  - Mandatory operating policy to change filters every 2 years
  - Relatively low electric rates (\$0.037/kWh vs \$0.08/kWh)
- Authorized to perform a side by side comparison
  - FDE contributes engineering support



# Proposed Comparison

Condition	Filter Bank	Number	Filter Cost	Labor Cost	Waste, cu. Yd	Disposal Cost	Make	Model
Current Practice	Prefilter	2	\$104.00	\$50.00	0.8	\$0.00	Koch	Koch Filter Corporation MD-10, MERV 3
	Final Filter	101	\$27.85	\$5.00	0.3	\$0.00	Aerostar	85% ASHRAE Dust Spot Aerostar Non-Supported Pocket
Proposed Practice	Prefilter	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0	\$0.00	None	None
	Final Filter	101	\$113.00	\$5.00	0.3	\$0.00	EFS	MERV11 Self supported pocket with spacers

Final Filter	Current	Proposed
Manufacturer	Filtration Group	Engineered Filtration Systems
Model	18324	EFS-F6
MERV Rating/ASHRAE Dust Spot Rating	13/85%	11/65%
Size, h x w x d, inches	24 x 24 x 22	24 x 24 x 26
Initial Pressure Drop at 500 fpm	0.30 inches w.c.	0.22 inches w.c.
Final Pressure Drop	1.50 inches w.c.	1.50 inches w.c.
Dust Holding Capacity	189.8 grams	3,400 grams

# Proposed Comparison – Prefilter

## Current Practice

## Proposed Practice



**Koch Filter Corporation**  
Filtration Products Crafted with Pride

Bulletin No. PB-001-B

### Synthetic Air Filter Media

*A complete line of pads, blankets and bulk rolls*



Koch offers nine styles of Synthetic Air Filter Media for use in air filtration systems of all types.

This broad spectrum of products is designed for use in Koch Pad Frames, and is also available in bulk rolls for customers preferring to cut their own pads. Koch Synthetic Air Filter Media is primarily used as a prefilter for more expensive final filters, often extending the life-cycle of these final filters by 50% or more. Other popular applications include gas turbine air intake systems, commercial/ industrial central air handlers, unit ventilators, fan coil units, or any system where fiberglass or other filtering materials are not preferred. Regardless of system design, Koch offers a Synthetic Air Filter Media to meet the requirement.

**Type SS5** is the standard 1/2" media for use as a prefilter in 1" applications. The media is solid white in color and is available in pads or 135' bulk rolls. SS5 is completely dry to the touch. With a nominal loft of 1/2" and a weight of 4 ounces per square yard, SS5 is an excellent media for use in 1" frames and blanket installations.

**Type SS10** is an all white, completely dry media consisting of polyester fibers. SS10 is the most versatile uses of any media in the SS series. The pad or blanket has a nominal loft of 1" and a weight of 6 ounces per square yard. This media can be used as a prefilter in a 2" frame or blanket installation where clean air and reliability are paramount. The media is available in pads or 90' bulk rolls.

**Type MD-10** is a nominal one inch, specially processed polyester media for 1" applications. This media is an excellent all-polyester replacement for fiberglass in service applications or any situation where a polyester media is desirable. MD-10 is dry, light blue in color and has a weight of 6 ounces per square yard. It is available in pads or 90' bulk rolls.

*(continued on reverse side)*


**Corporate Offices**  
715 Sun 3186 • 615 West Hill Street (40208) • Louisville, KY 40201 • 502.634.4796 • Fax: 502.637.2280 • E mail: info@kochfilter.com • www.kochfilter.com


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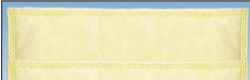
# Proposed Comparison – Final Filter

## Current Practice

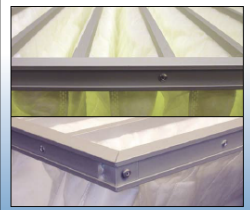
**ENGINEERED FILTRATION SYSTEMS**  
**SOFT POCKET FILTER**



*EFS Soft Pocket Filter*



*Ultrasonically Sealed Seams Prevent Leakage*



*Extruded Aluminum Frame for Added Durability*

**UNIQUE DESIGN**

- EFS Soft Pocket Filters have a uniquely designed extruded aluminum frame for increased stability, reduced corrosion and greater filter life.
- Pocket seams are ultrasonically sealed to prevent leakage and reduce the possibility of tearing.
- Internal pocket spacers channel the air entering the pocket resulting in lower pressure drop and reduced energy costs.
- 100% synthetic media resists all types of bacterial growth.

**The Industry's First and Only Bag Filter with Extruded Aluminum Frame!**

**FEATURES**

- EFS Soft Pocket Filters provide excellent value, performance and durability for applications that require medium to high efficiencies.
- Extruded aluminum pocket separators support pockets and enable effective airflow.
- Rugged construction of extruded aluminum frame and pocket supports eliminates bending or collapsing even in turbulent operating environments which promotes even loading.
- Non-shedding fibers are specially designed to resist moisture and chemicals.

## Proposed Practice

**ENGINEERED FILTRATION SYSTEMS**  
**F6 RIGID POCKET FILTER**



*The EFS F6 Rigid Pocket Filter*



*Spacers Stabilize Pocket Shape*



*Corrosion-Free Panels*

**RIGID CONSTRUCTION**

- The EFS F6 Rigid Pocket Filter is constructed to withstand extreme humidity, high velocities and turbulence and is excellent for all types of air handling systems.
- Self-supported filter pockets stay rigid in the air stream.
- The filter element is free of metal parts, eliminating the risk of corrosion and punctures.
- Corrosion-free polyurethane header ensures a leak-proof bonding of pockets to header.

**SYNTHETIC MEDIA**

- Synthetic media rated at ASHRAE 65%, MERV 11.
- Non-shedding fibers are specially designed to resist moisture and chemicals.
- Resists all types of bacterial growth.

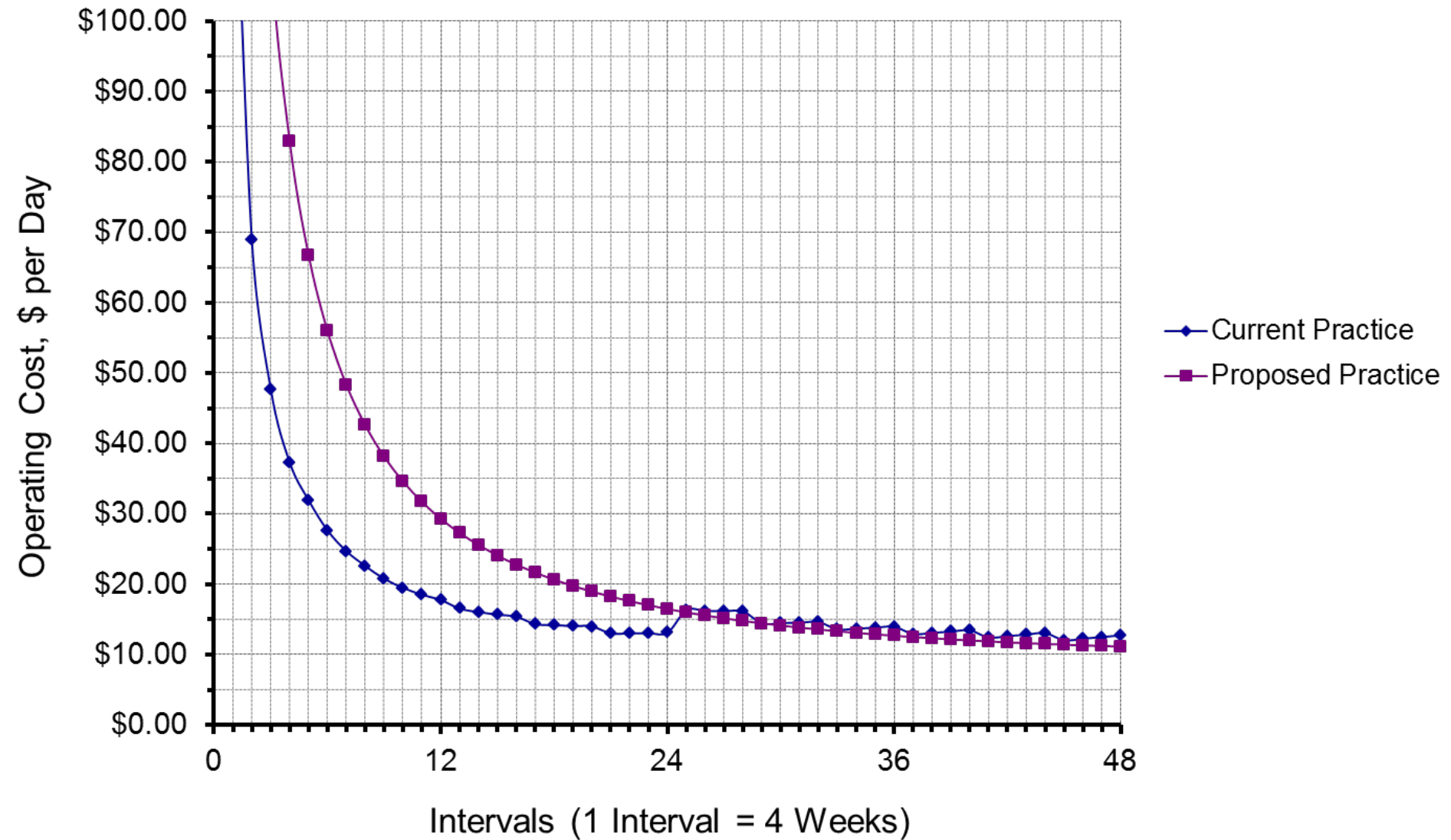
DISTRIBUTED BY . . .  
Phone: 503.968.3261 • [www.AirFiltersNW.com](http://www.AirFiltersNW.com)

**UNIQUE DESIGN**

- The EFS F6 Rigid Pocket Filter is light-weight and easy to handle which provides for low-cost transport and disposal.
- Progressively structured design provides exceptionally low pressure drop at high efficiency levels.
- Spacers channel the air entering the pocket resulting in lower pressure drop and reduced energy costs.

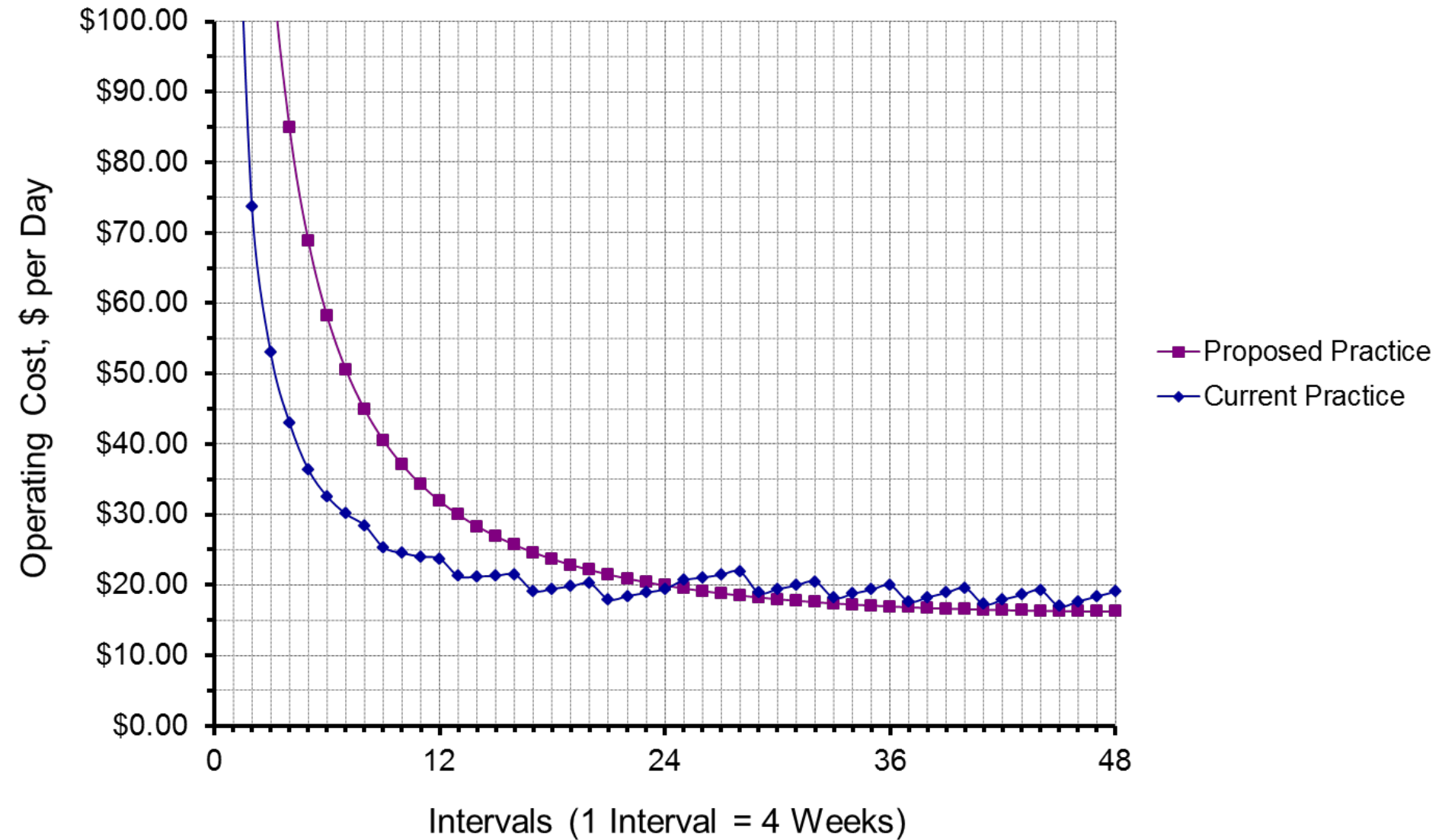


## Filter Operating Cost Comparison

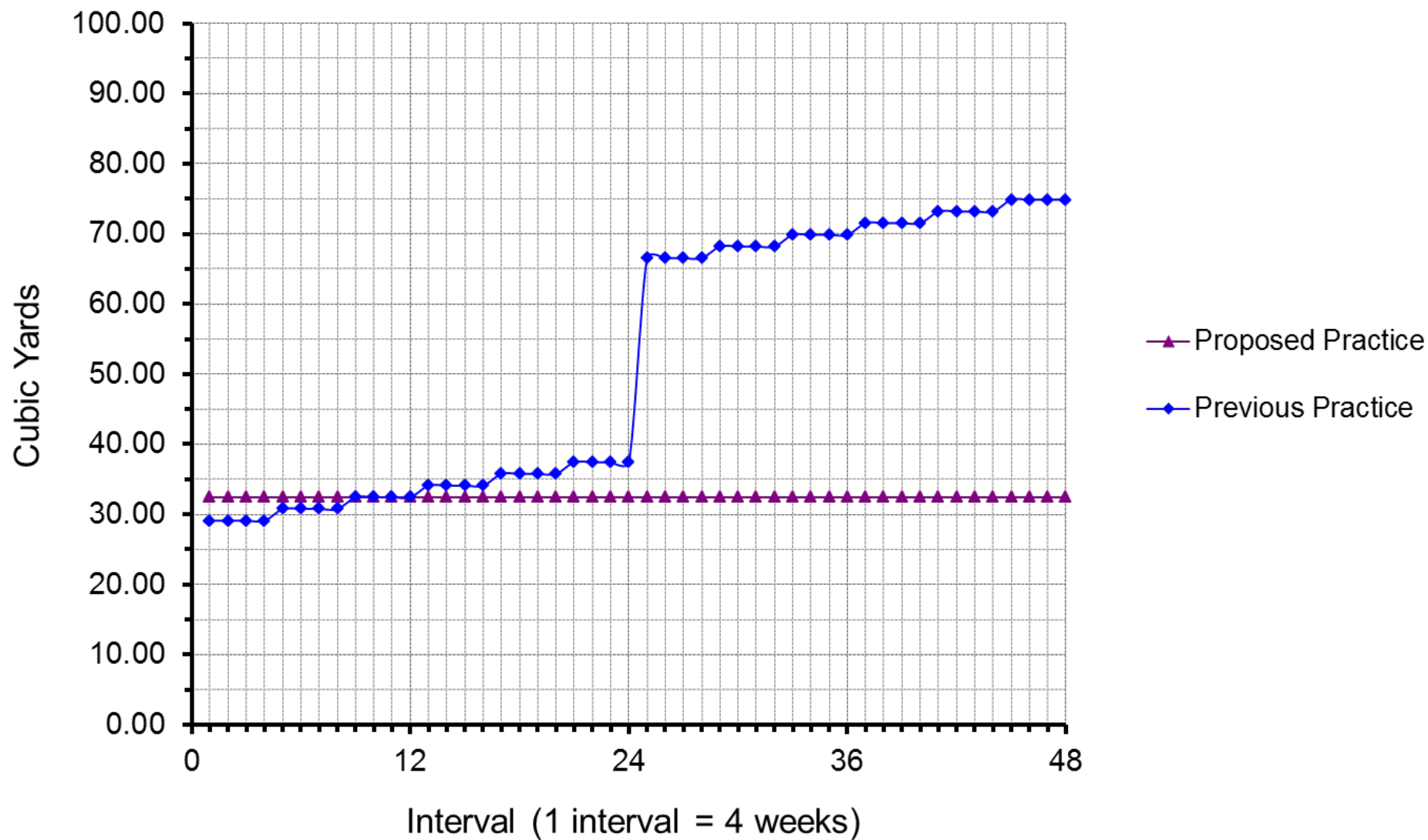


# Filter Operating Cost Comparison

\$0.08 per kWh Electricity



## Waste Stream - South AHU



# Kaiser Permanente Building

## Portland, Oregon

Field Test of Conventional vs.  
Extended Surface Area Filters

- Near Identical Systems
- Near Identical Load Profiles
- 5 Minute Logged Data



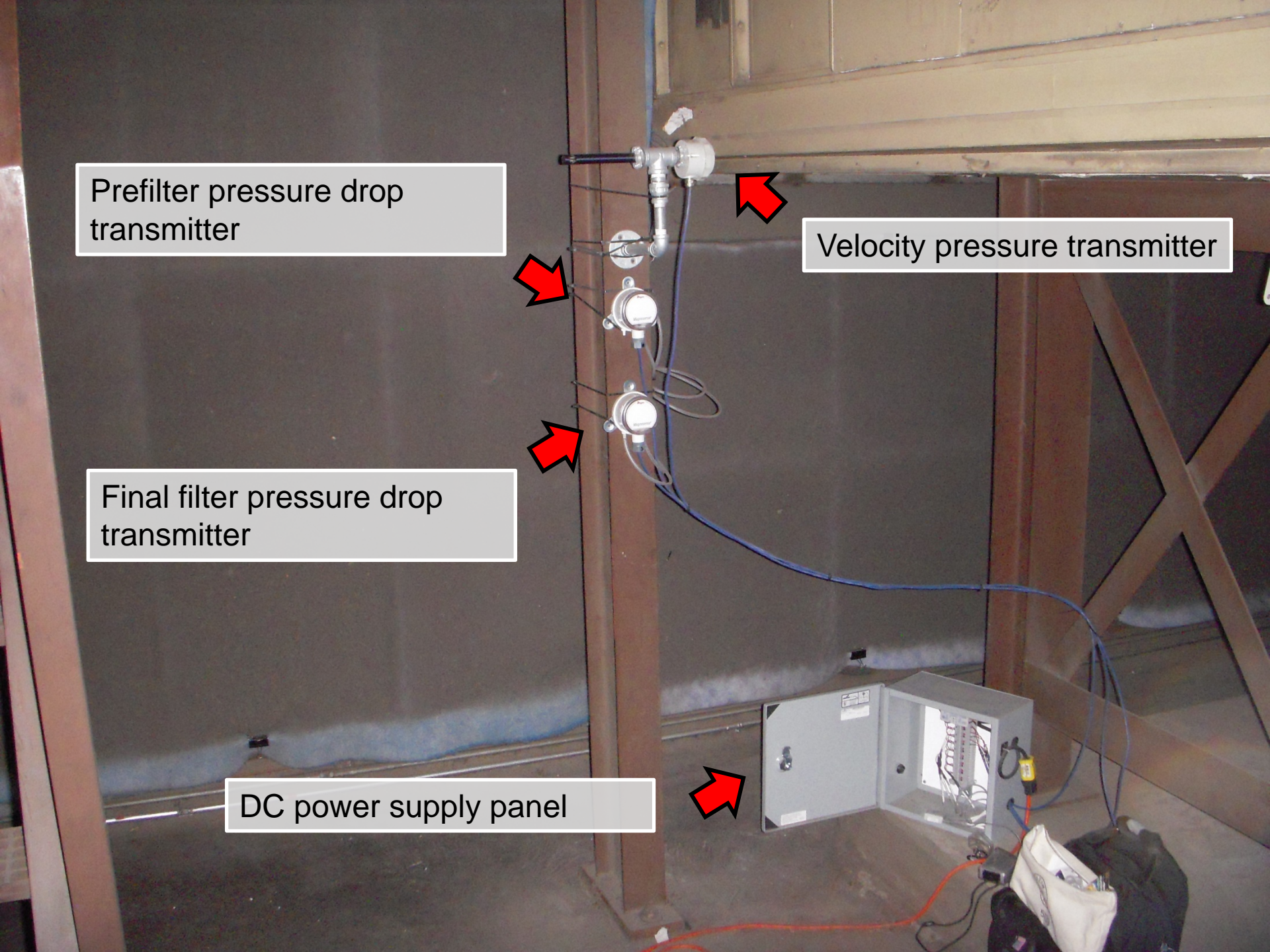


Prefilter pressure drop transmitter

Velocity pressure transmitter

Final filter pressure drop transmitter

DC power supply panel



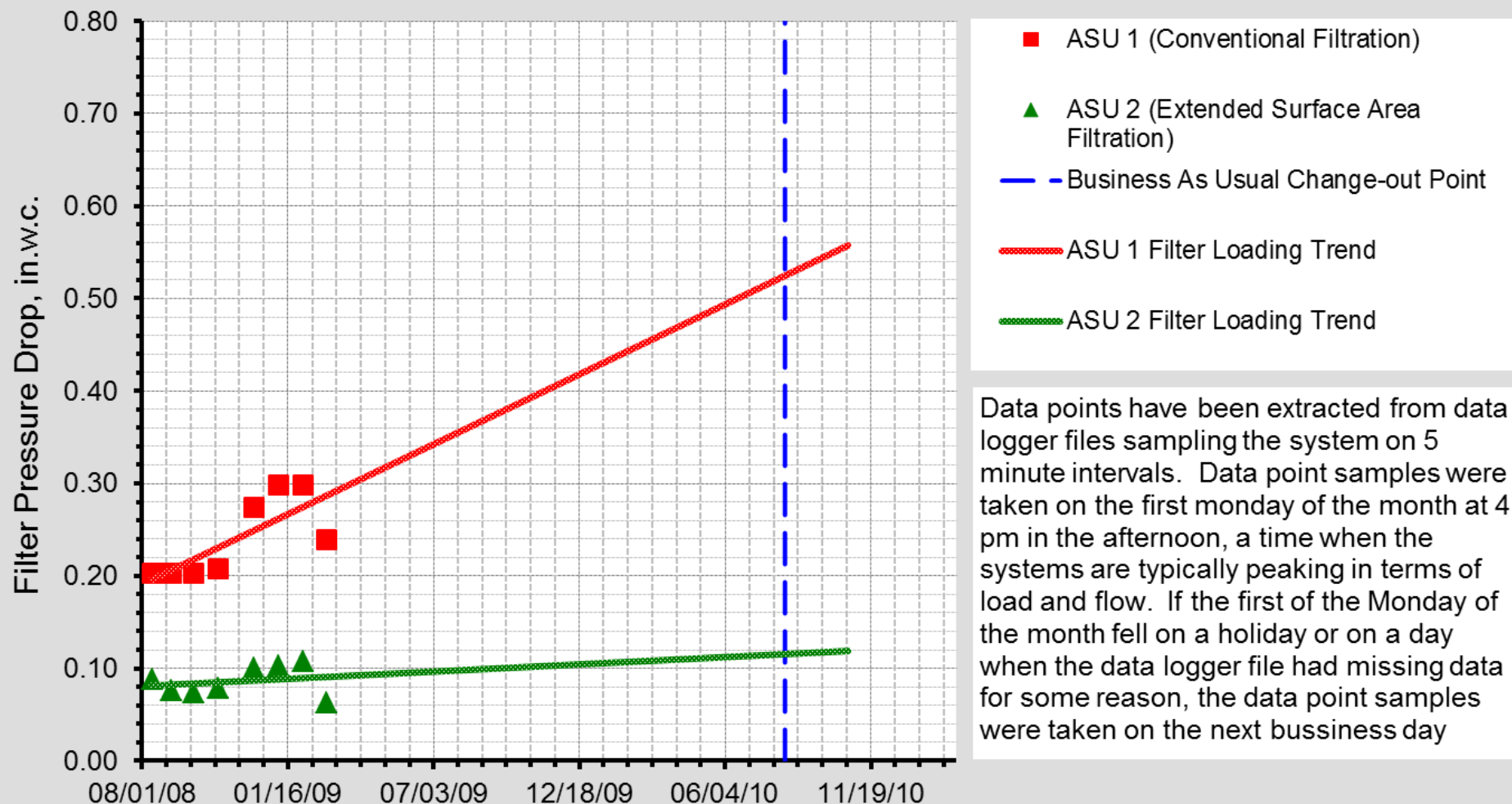


Visit My Blog for  
Details



# Real-time Data from Conventional vs. Extended Surface Area Filters

Near Identical 160,000 cfm VAV Systems and Occupancies, Same Building

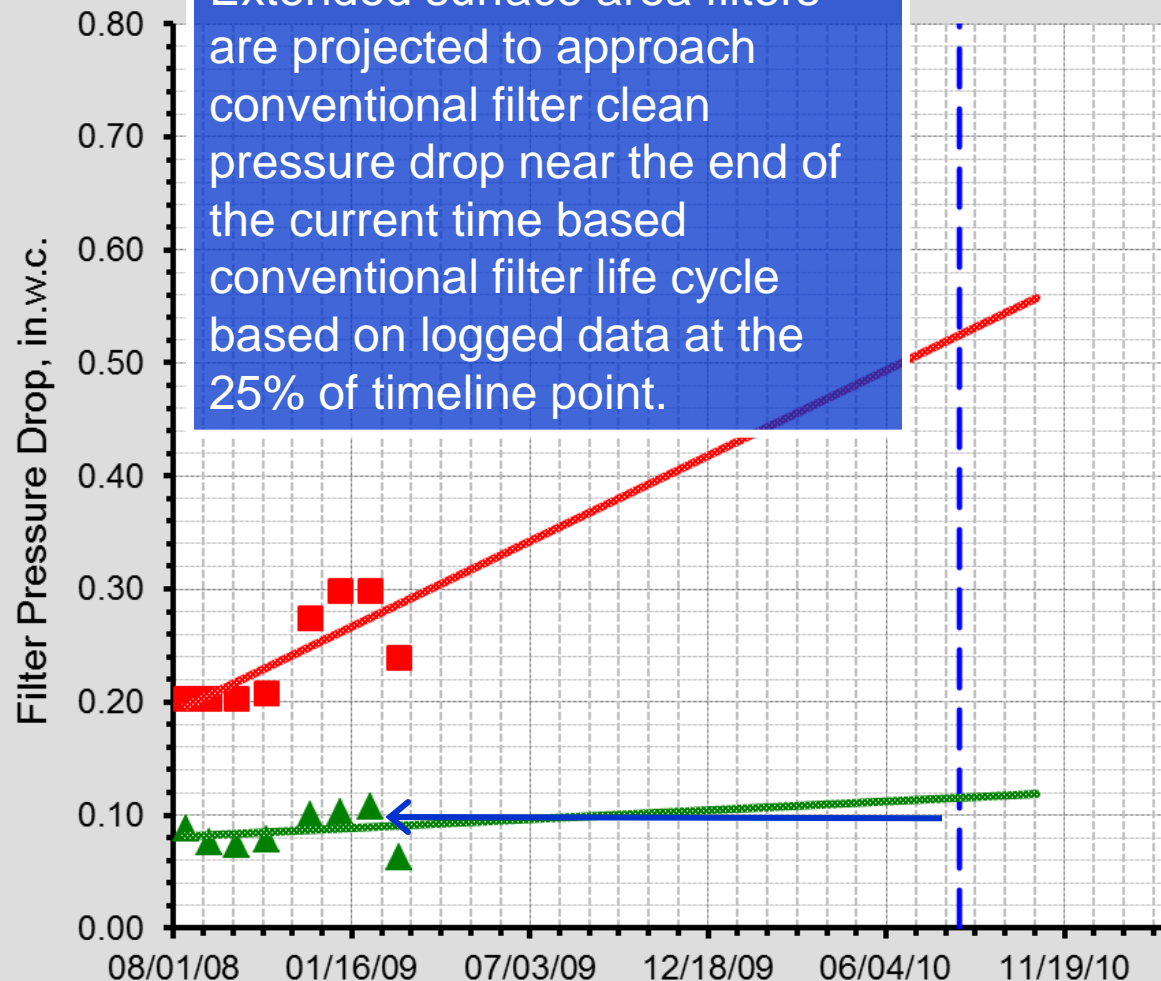




# Real-time Data from Conventional vs. Extended Surface Area Filters

Near Identical 160,000 cfm VAV Systems and Occupancies, Same Building

Extended surface area filters are projected to approach conventional filter clean pressure drop near the end of the current time based conventional filter life cycle based on logged data at the 25% of timeline point.



- ASU 1 (Conventional Filtration)
- ▲ ASU 2 (Extended Surface Area Filtration)
- Business As Usual Change-out Point
- ..... ASU 1 Filter Loading Trend
- ..... ASU 2 Filter Loading Trend

Data points have been extracted from data logger files sampling the system on 5 minute intervals. Data point samples were taken on the first monday of the month at 4 pm in the afternoon, a time when the systems are typically peaking in terms of load and flow. If the first of the Monday of the month fell on a holiday or on a day when the data logger file had missing data for some reason, the data point samples were taken on the next bussiness day



# Bottom Line



New Approach

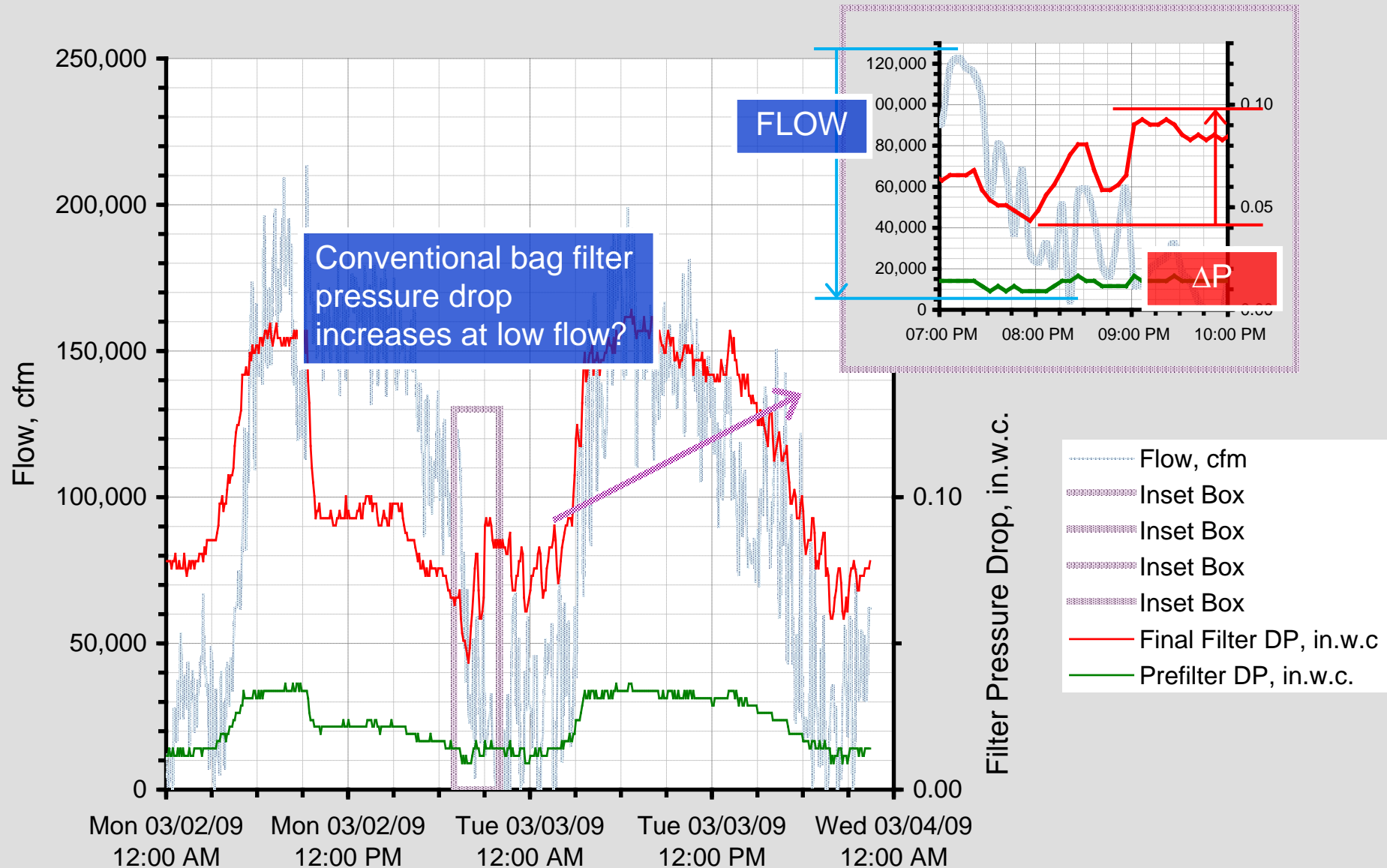
- New approach matching projections
- 277 grams of dust accumulated
- No signs of microbiological problems



Original Approach

- Conventional approach below projection but about twice the new approach
- Dust accumulated to be determined, but the dust accumulated by the new approach exceeds the rated capacity of this filter

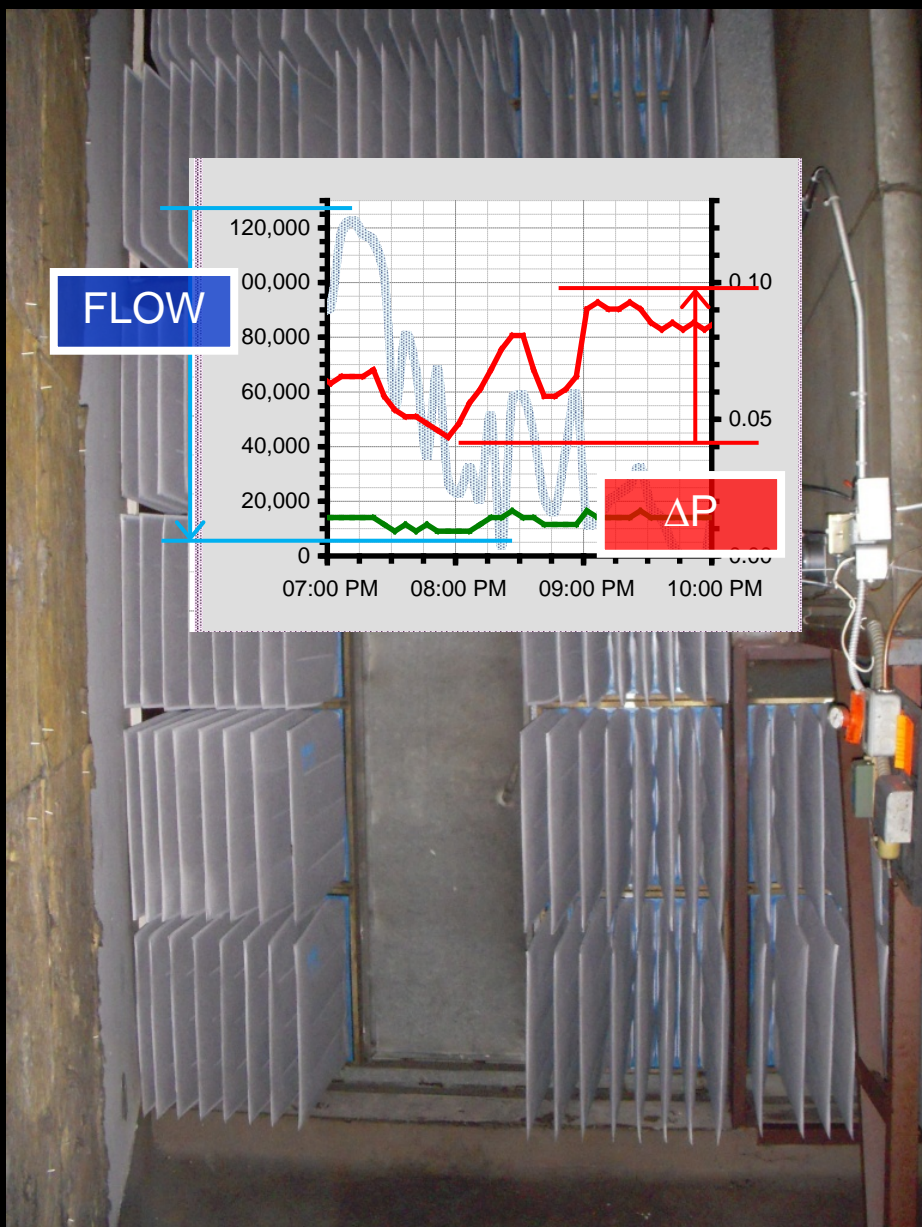
## Typical Daily Flow and Filter Pressure Drop Pattern







Conventional



Extended Surface Area

# Electrostatic Filters

## (Re)Emerging Technology

### Good News

- Approaches MERV 13 efficiency
- MERV 8 depth
- MERV 8 pressure drop
  - Allows LEED requirements to be achieved with out an excessive fan energy penalty
  - Allows LEED requirements to be achieved in less space

### Bad News

- Power supplies required to power up electrostatics
  - Small number per filter
  - Each filter requires the small number
  - Eat's away at the fan energy savings
  - Adds some complexity



# Practice Due Diligence

- ASHRAE Journal article based on research in Denmark found a correlation between perceived air quality and filter life for flexible bag filters
- Scheduled operation seemed to make things worse
- Active carbon seemed to mitigate the problem
- For our field trails to date this has not been an issue

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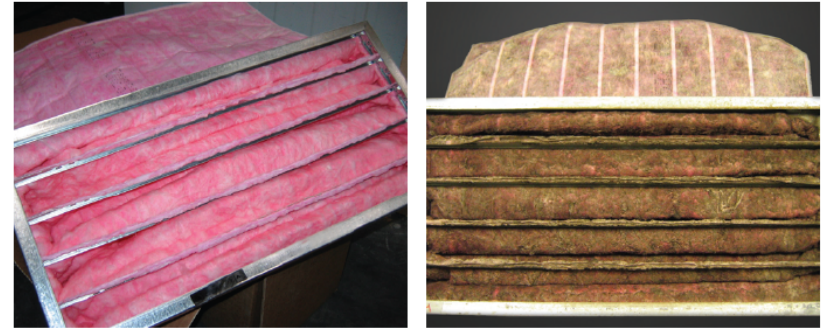


Figure 1a (left): New F7 (~MERV13) fiberglass bag filter. Figure 1b (right): The same filter after five months of continuous operation.

## Used Filters And Indoor Air Quality

By Gabriel Bekö, Ph.D.

The presence of used filters in a ventilation system can have an adverse impact on perceived air quality, Sick Building Syndrome symptoms, and performance of office work. This article briefly summarizes earlier works leading to this conclusion, as well as reviews our more recent studies performed to gain better understanding of this problem. Possible mechanisms responsible for the emission of noxious compounds from ventilation filters are described. Finally, the economic impact of polluting ventilation filters and possible engineering solutions are discussed.

Mechanical ventilation systems are commonly used to ensure that ventilation standards and guidelines are met. However, studies have documented that building occupants, especially in older and mechanically ventilated buildings,

consider the indoor air quality unacceptable and suffer from Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) symptoms, sometimes referred to as Building-Related Symptoms (BRS).<sup>1,2,3</sup> Consequently, poor air quality can negatively affect occupants'

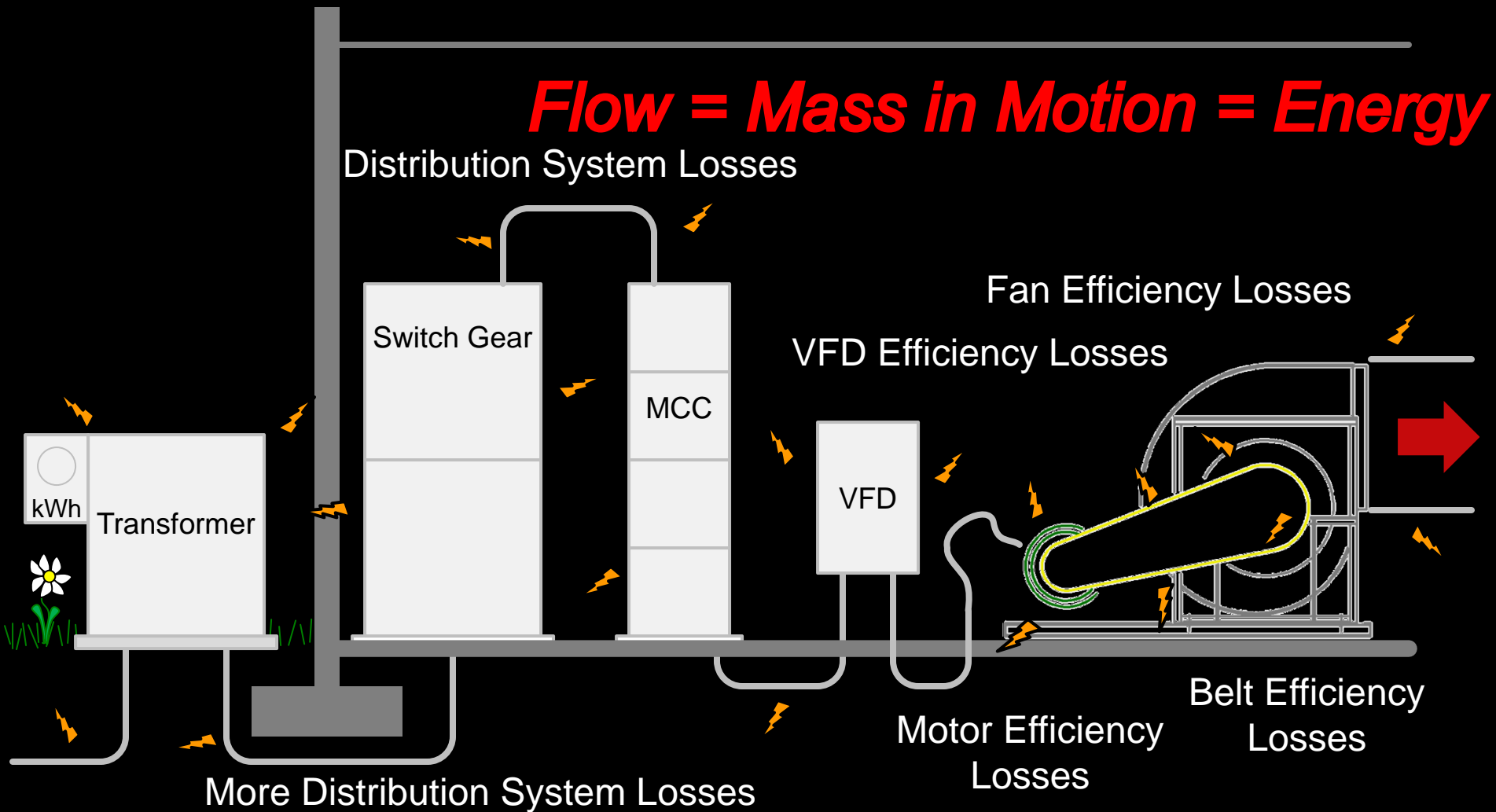
productivity.<sup>4,5</sup> The prevalence of asthma and allergic diseases has increased during the past decades, most likely due to changes in environmental exposure.<sup>6</sup> Many of the particles either generated indoors or entering the buildings from outdoors can trigger allergic reactions, asthma, and upper and lower respiratory symptoms.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, epidemiological studies report close association between outdoor airborne particles and mortality and morbidity.<sup>8</sup>

Particulate pollutants (smoke, dust fibers, bioaerosols such as viruses, bacteria, and microorganisms) and gaseous pollutants may enter the buildings

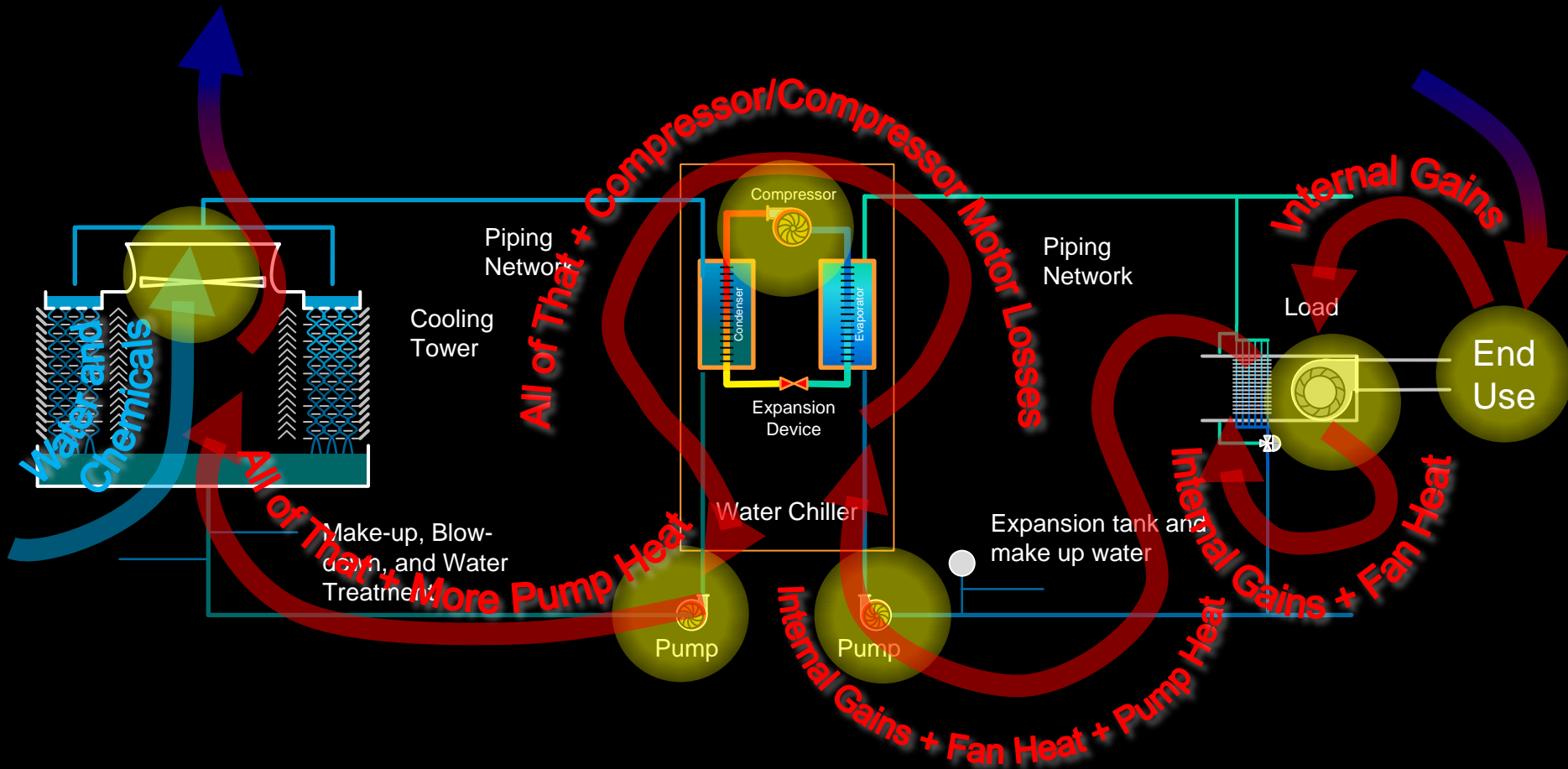
### About the Author

Gabriel Bekö, Ph.D., is a post-doctoral research fellow at the International Centre for Indoor Environment and Energy, Department of Civil Engineering, Technical University of Denmark in Lyngby, Denmark.

# The Savings Ripple Out Beyond the AHU



# The Savings Ripple Out Beyond the AHU





# Fossil Fuel Base Generation Has Ripple Effects

Conservation of mass and energy says that the mass of all of this coal will eventually show up as gasses going up the stack

- Most plants run on electricity
- A lot of electricity comes from fossil fuel
  - The current heat rate for fossil fuel plants is about 10,000 Btu/kWh
  - A kWh is 3,413 Btu



State	% of Total Electric Power Generation											Non-renewable Percent of Total	Renewable Percent of Total	Non-hydro Renewable Percent of Total	Combustion Process Generated Percent of Total	Non-combustion Process Generated Percent of Total
	Non-Renewable						Renewable				Nuclear					
	Combustion Processes						Non-Combustion Processes									
	Coal	Oil	Gas	Other Fossil Fuel	Purchased, Fuel Generated	Biomass	Hydro	Wind	Solar	Geothermal						
AK	9.2	13.9	55.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	21.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	78.7	21.3	0.3	78.7	21.3
AL	41.4	0.1	25.8	0.2	0.0	1.8	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.9	92.5	7.5	1.8	69.3	30.7
AR	46.2	0.1	20.4	0.0	0.0	2.7	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.6	91.3	8.7	2.7	69.4	30.6
AZ	39.1	0.1	26.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	6.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	27.9	93.6	6.4	0.3	65.8	34.2
CA	1.0	1.2	52.7	0.2	0.3	3.0	16.3	3.0	0.4	6.2	15.8	71.3	28.7	12.5	58.4	41.6
CO	68.1	0.0	21.9	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.9	6.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	90.1	9.9	7.0	90.2	9.8
CT	7.8	1.2	35.2	2.2	0.0	2.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.2	96.7	3.3	2.1	48.6	51.4
DC	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
DE	45.6	1.0	50.9	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	97.5	2.5	2.5	100.0	0.0
FL	26.1	4.0	56.2	0.6	0.7	1.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.4	98.0	2.0	1.9	89.4	10.6
GA	53.3	0.5	17.4	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.4	95.5	4.5	2.3	73.4	26.6
HI	14.3	74.8	0.0	3.5	0.0	2.5	0.6	2.4	0.0	1.9	0.0	92.6	7.4	6.8	95.1	4.9
IA	71.8	0.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.6	15.9	0.0	0.0	7.7	82.1	17.9	16.2	74.7	25.3
ID	0.7	0.0	14.0	0.0	0.7	4.2	76.1	3.7	0.0	0.6	0.0	15.4	84.6	8.4	19.6	80.4

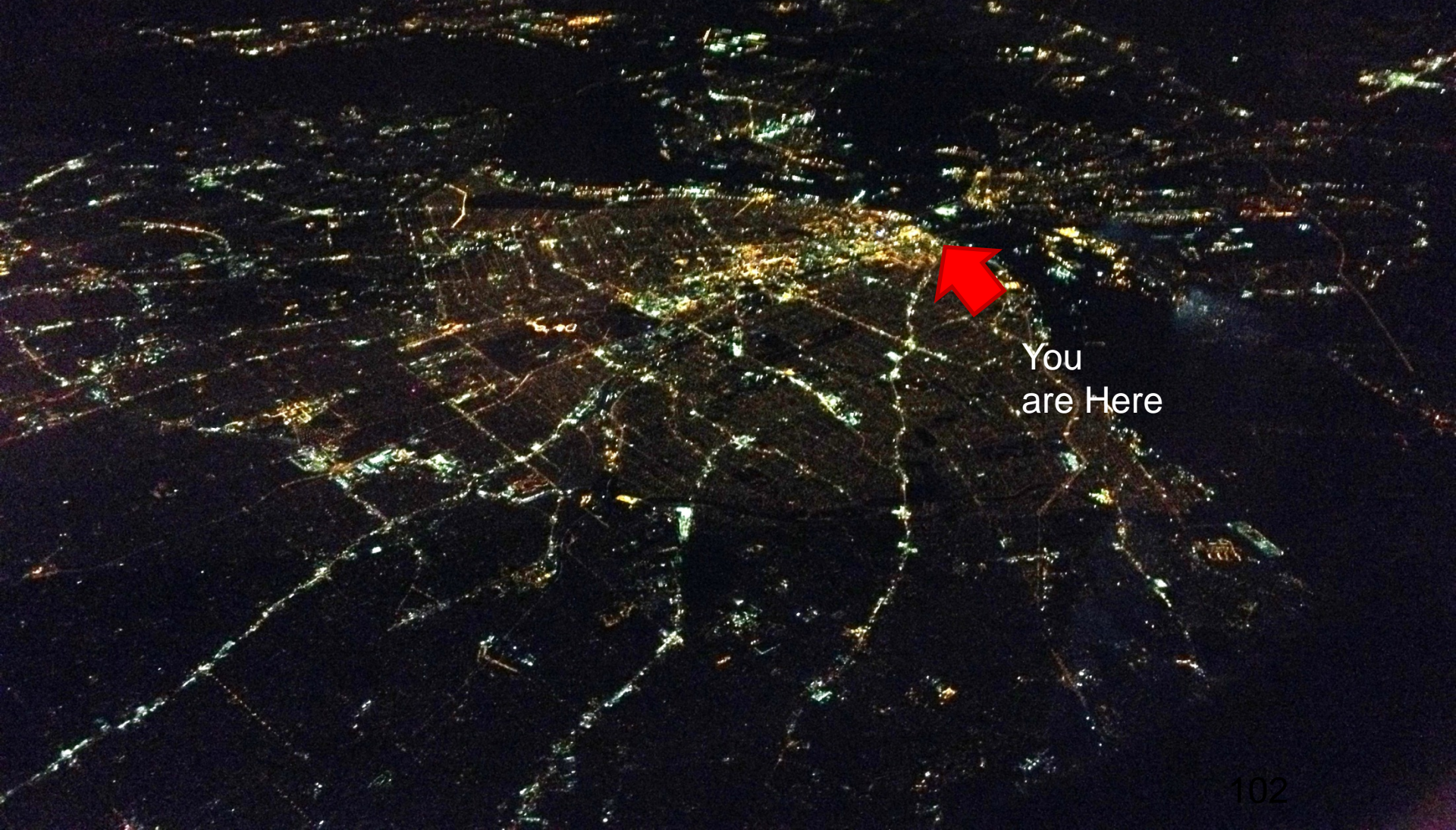
State	Non-renewable Percent of Total	Renewable Percent of Total	Non-hydro Renewable Percent of Total	Combustion Process Generated Percent of Total	Non- combustion Process Generated Percent of Total
Minimum	15.4	0.0	0.0	7.2	0.0
Maximum	100.0	84.6	24.3	100.0	92.8
Average	86.1	13.9	4.7	71.0	29.0

Based on egrid 2010 data, about 71% of the electricity generated in the USA is generated by burning something

Minimum	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	0.0	0.0	71.0	0.0
Maximum	96.7	100.0	98.0	3.5	0.9	21.4	76.1	15.9	0.6	6.2	72.2	100.0	84.6	24.3	100.0	92.8
Average	41.9	4.3	22.5	0.4	0.1	1.8	9.2	2.5	0.0	0.3	17.0	86.1	13.9	4.7	71.0	29.0



My Logic Based Conclusion;  
We Have to be Having Some Sort of Impact



You  
are Here





You Also  
are Here





We Don't Inherit the World from our Ancestors,  
We Borrow it From Our Children



# A Few Bottom Lines

- Operate Filters Based on Life Cycle Cost
- Purchase Clean Air, not Filters
- Accumulate Multiple Benefits
  - Save fan energy
    - Fan Power
    - Fan heat
    - Related ripple Effects
  - Reduce filter consumption
  - Reduce filter maintenance labor
  - Reduce waste stream

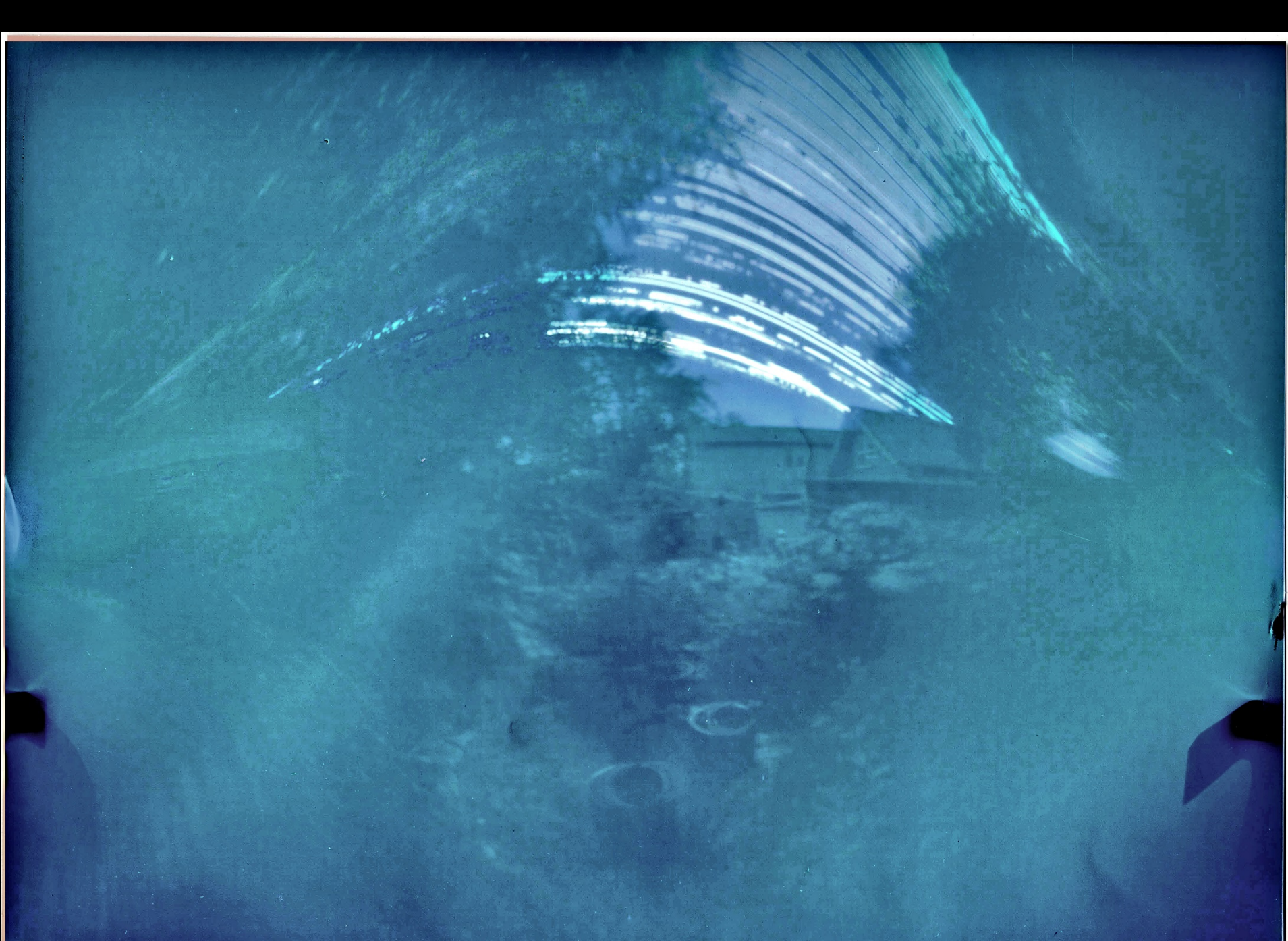
We Don't Inherit the World from our Ancestors,  
We Borrow it From Our Children

# Resources on Filtration

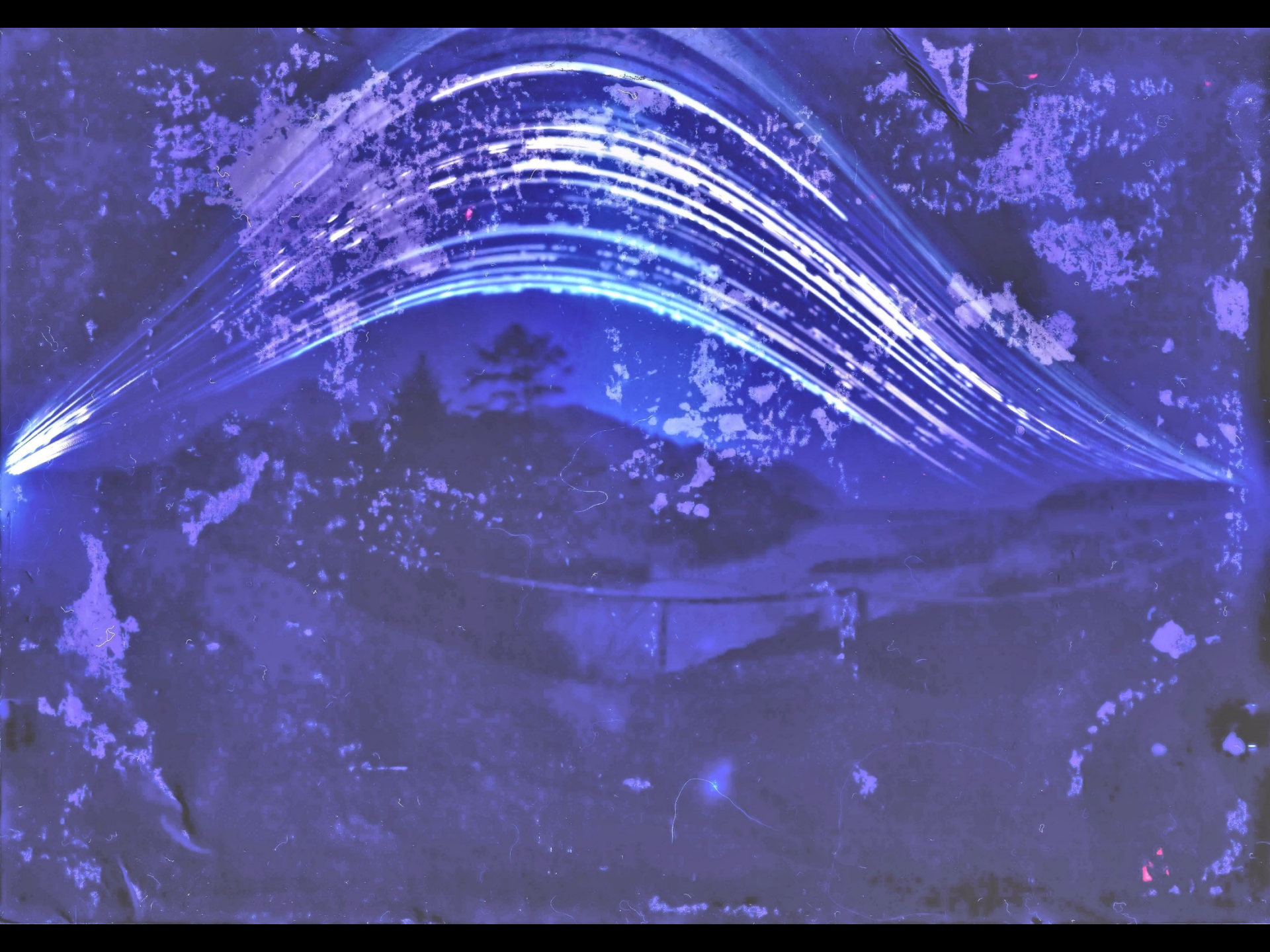
- Follow the field trial at [www.Av8rdas.Wordpress.com](http://www.Av8rdas.Wordpress.com) (starts in a September 2009 post)
- The Art and Science of Air Filtration in Health Care
  - HPAC - October 1998
- Filtration: An Investment in IAQ
  - HPAC - August 1997
- Specifying Filters
  - HPAC - November 2003
  - All by H.E. Barney Burroughs
- National Air Filtration Association (NAFA)
  - <http://www.nafahq.org/>
- *Using Extended Surface Air Filters in Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems: Reducing Utility and Maintenance Costs while Benefiting the Environment*, by Michael J. Chimack et.al., ACEEE 2000 Proceedings

# Resources on Filtration

- ASHRAE Research Project Report 1360-RP; *How do Pressure Drop, Efficiency, Weight Gain, and Loaded Dust Composition Change throughout Filter Lifetime*; March 2013
- *ASHRAE Journal, Filters and Filtration*, April 1999, Timothy J Robinson and Alan E Quellet
- ASHRAE Research Project Report RP-675; *Determination of Air Filter Performance Under Variable Air Volume (VAV) Conditions Final Report*; January 1999



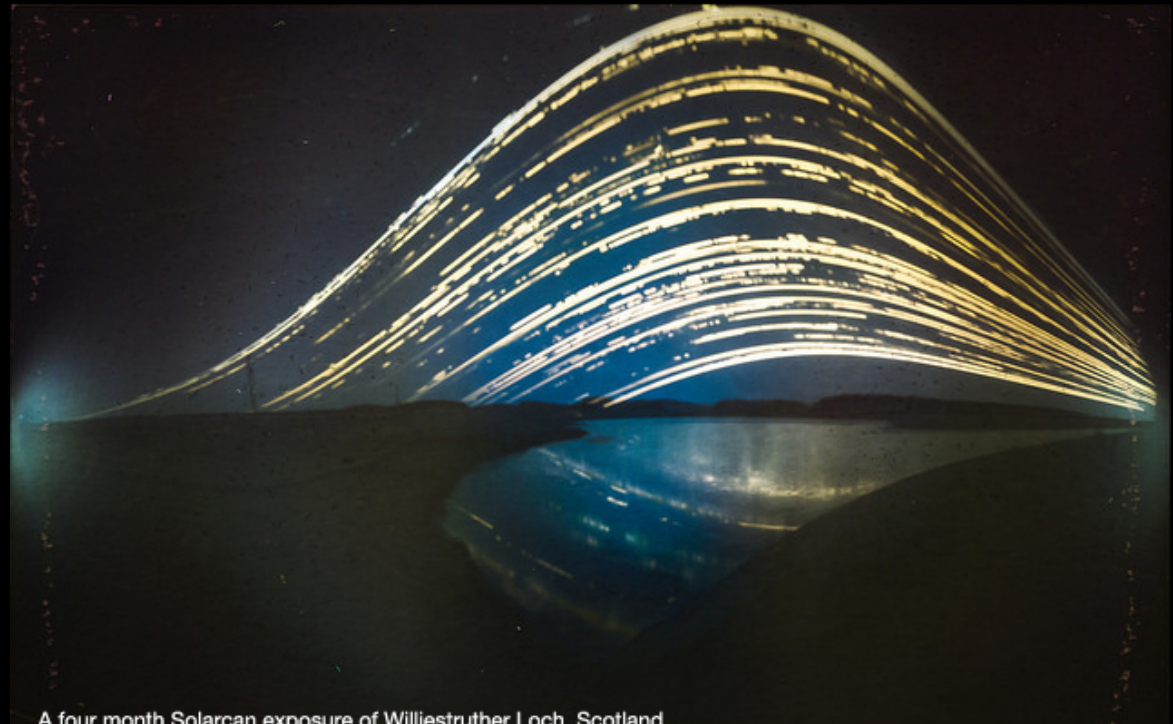








<https://solarcan.co.uk/>



A four month Solarcan exposure of Williestruther Loch, Scotland.



## Questions?

David Sellers, Senior Engineer

Facility Dynamics Engineering

[Dsellers@FacilityDynamics.com](mailto:Dsellers@FacilityDynamics.com)

[www.FacilityDynamics.com](http://www.FacilityDynamics.com)

<https://av8rdas.wordpress.com/> (blog)

<https://www.av8rdas.com/> (Cx Resources website)