### **BUILDINGENERGY BOSTON**

### Retro-Cx: Achieving Carbon Reduction Goals through Training and Collaboration

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BUILDINGENERGY BOSTON

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1 • WESTIN BOSTON SEAPORT DISTRICT • NESEA.ORG/BE22 Conference + Trade Show of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA)

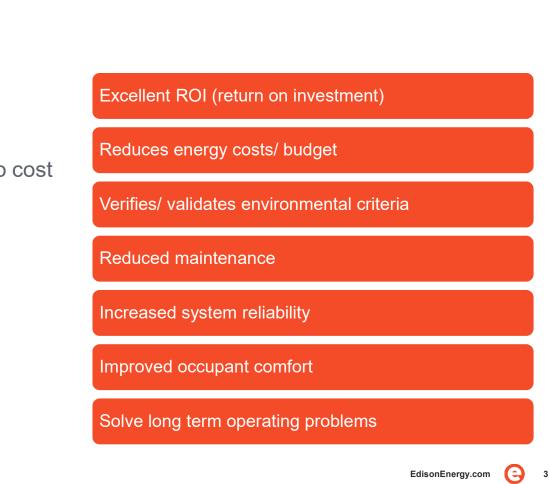
achieving energy/carbon reduction goals through training and a culture of collaboration



February 24, 2022

### Retro-Commissioning (RCx)

- Systematic process
- Investigating, analyzing & optimizing
- Identification & implementation of low/no cost measures
- Ensuring continued performance



### Adapting RCx

#### **Mission Critical Facilities**

- Healthcare
- Data Centers
- Trading Floors
- Television Studios
- Museums
- Labs / Validated Systems
- Emergency Power

#### Similar Process, Different Concerns

- Stringent patient requirements
  - Patients' needs, comfort and safety take priority
- Complex energy and HVAC systems
  - Delicate system balance between space types
- Critical nature of the services provided; patients served
  - ECMs need to be easy to implement & sustain
  - Focus on energy without impacting patients' quality of stay and comfort
- Risk / Protection of Valuables (Life)

### **KEY: Collaboration & Understanding**

- Upfront understanding...
  - Facility operational requirements
  - Existing controls capabilities
  - Project goals, expected outcome
  - Personnel involved
  - Coordination & access
- Constraints & Challenges
- Communication protocol
- Issue Remediation Process



#### Buildings that Learn – The Role of Operators

Building operators negotiate between users, technologies and the building, and thus, their understanding of and knowledge about the building is vital for reaching goals of energy efficiency.

# The solutions may already exist!

## It just needs to be shared...

• Margrethe Aune & Robert Bye

### Hesitancy & Hurdles





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7

### "

Teamwork begins by building trust. And the only way to do that is to overcome our need for invulnerability."

## "NEVER MISS A GOOD CHANCE TO SHUT UP."

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#### Results of Good Communication

- Identify Current State of Performance
- Occupants & Usage
- Environment to be Achieved
- Planned / Unplanned Capital Expenses
- Utility Budget / Management
- Operating Schedules / Strategies
- Setpoints & Resets
- Seasonal Constraints
- Past Experiences (Successes & Failures)
  - Information vs. Knowledge

### Northwell Health

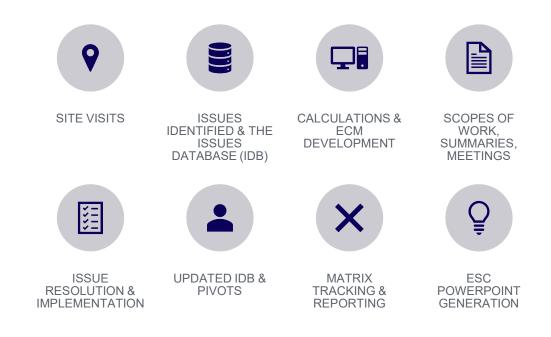
Launching of an Energy Program



### Northwell Retro-Cx Pilot & OsEM Program

#### **Overall Project Goals**

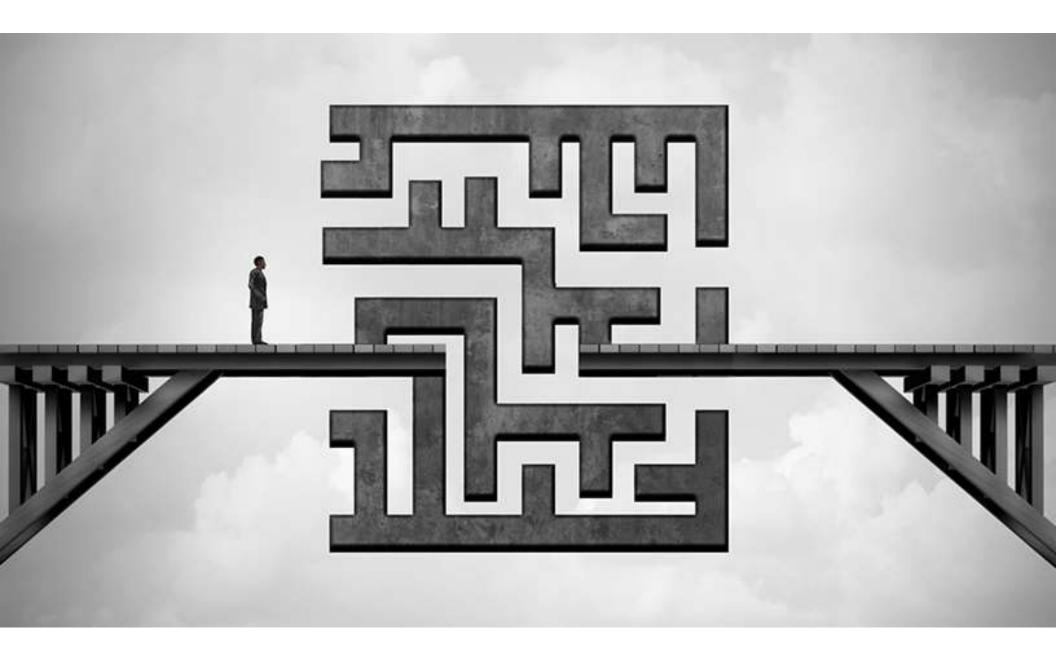
- Retro-Cx across 9 Sites
  - NYC, Queens, SI, Long Island
- Develop training program
- Connect to a larger portfolio initiative
- Develop tools for utility tracking, site analysis



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11



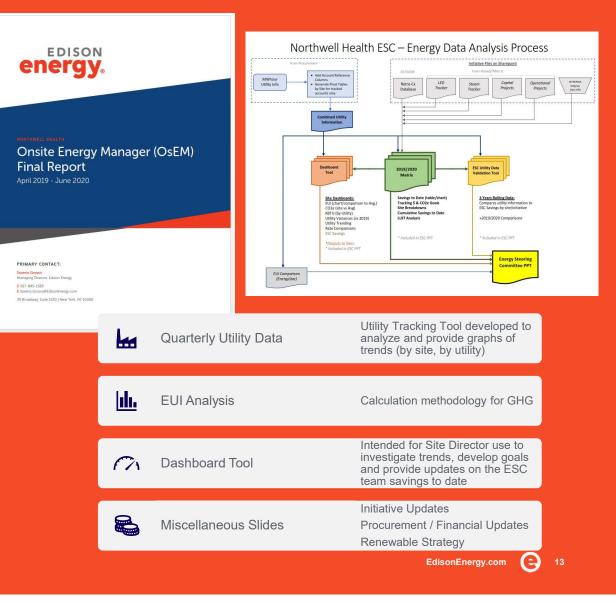


\$1.3M goal achieved at 20% of expected cost!

\$157k incentive for OsEM Program – *largest & most expansive to date* 

Further solidified RCx as part of a larger Energy Program

Established a phased approach for 13+ sites



#### Key Takeaways

Clearly defined goals & understanding of the process	Heavy Input from Operations Team	Written plan, roles, responsibility & scope	Agreed upon functional testing programs & requirements
RCxA provides input to resolve deficiencies	Implementation Team( <i>work</i> )	Incorporate a Persistence Strategy at first meeting	Training Tools

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## "Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than the one where they sprang up."

**Oliver Wendell Holmes** 

# The best teachers show you where to look, not what you should see"

Our overall impression from the data is that endusers in buildings seldom hamper the process of making buildings energy efficient.

More common challenges are the small sociotechnological adjustments that are necessary in order to make the building work and <u>make the</u> <u>end-users satisfied</u>.

Building operators are in many ways what we can call 'super-users' in the sense that they mediate between the buildings and the users."

## YOU ARE NOT A TRUE SUCCESS UNLESS YOU'RE HELPING OTHERS BE SUCCESSFUL

A Successful Retro-Cx Program...

- Impacts the culture
- Goes beyond just the financials
- Opens the pathway to greater communication
- Empowers others to do more after you're gone

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