Net Savings Scoping Paper

Completed Regional EM&V Forum Project
Driven by the lack of consistency in net savings definitions and measurement, the expanded use of energy savings estimates by diverse audiences, and the increasing challenges of program attribution.

Intended to improve understanding of how net energy savings is defined and how stakeholders use net savings.

Identifies opportunities and barriers to increasing the consistency and quality of net savings definitions and measurement in the region.

Informed by a literature review of over 100 sources, interviews with experts on energy efficiency and air regulation, and feedback from Forum members.
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- Scoping paper conclusions include:
  - Net savings measurement is challenging but still important because it meets current regulatory and program needs.
  - No measurement approach is perfect, but there are opportunities to improve measurement, fill data gaps, and increase flexibility.
  - The energy efficiency community has inconsistent definitions, measurement practices, and opinions about what is needed.
  - Air regulators’ positions are not clearly defined.
  - No policy now exists that would enable the region to move away from the status quo.

- A follow up 2011 Forum project will develop common definitions, recommend best practices for methodology, and address broader policy issues related to net savings.

- Access the Net Savings Scoping Paper