



RESOURCE
INNOVATION
INSTITUTE



Efficient
Yields

Best practices on energy,
water efficiency, and productivity

Optimizing Automation & Controls In Cannabis Cultivation Environments

In partnership with



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK

SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA BARBARA • VENTURA

October 14, 2021

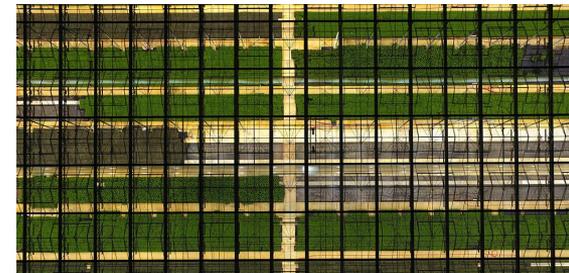
Agenda

Welcome & About RII	1:30 pm PT
Introductions & Purpose	1:35 pm
Compete & Comply	1:40 pm
Title 24, Part 6 Energy Code for CEH	
Maximize Profit & Productivity	
Retrofitting Buildings and Systems	1:50 pm
Resilient Facility Design: Energy Choice	2:00 pm
Energy Planning	



Agenda

Water Management	2:20 pm
Demand Management	2:30 pm
Resource Benchmarking	2:50 pm
Key Performance Indicators for Cannabis	
Net Zero Carbon Cannabis	
Efficiency Program Examples	3:00 pm
Breakout Sessions, Q&A	3:15 pm
Sungrown	
Greenhouse	
Indoor	





SECTION 01

WELCOME & PURPOSE

ABOUT US

About RII

Objective, data-driven non-profit

Founded 2016 in Portland, Oregon

Expertise in climate policy, utility programs, green building certification, sustainable business, construction & indoor cultivation

In 2020, received 3-year grant from USDA to develop KPIs, standards & building rating system for CEA



What We Do / Our Mission

We measure, verify & celebrate the world's most efficient agricultural ideas.



Measure

Efficiency & Productivity

- Key Performance Indicators
- Benchmarks
- Baselines



Verify

Best Practices & Standards

- Training
- Policies
- Utility Programs



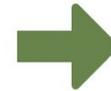
Celebrate

Leadership Recognition

- Verification
- Case Studies
- Certification

ABOUT RII

Our Network



ABOUT RII

Technical Advisory Council

Multi-disciplinary body who aggregates knowledge to support producers and other stakeholders with objective and peer-reviewed data and curriculum on benchmarking resource efficiency

- Guides development of standards
- Shapes tools and resources to support best practices
- Advocates for informed policies, incentives and regulations

HVAC - Lighting - Utility - Water
Policy - Data - Controls - Emissions

Kicking off in October: Facility Design & Construction



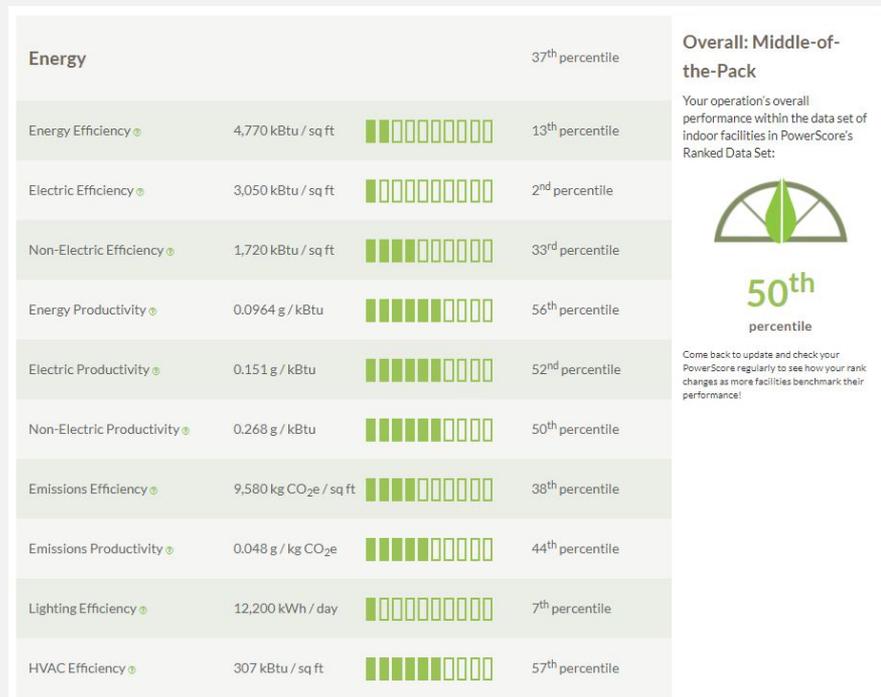
PowerScore Benchmarking

Specialized Key Performance Indicators

- Performance Snapshots
 - Year-over-year energy, water, and emissions rankings
 - Third-party data verification
- PowerScore Comply in select jurisdictions
- Access PowerScore Pro as an RII member
 - Enhanced portfolio management
 - Dashboard reports
 - Filters
 - Access Ranked Data Set

Competitive business insights

- Get ahead of compliance
- Assess portfolios of facilities to continuously improve
- Prioritize capital projects
- Forecast KPIs for new facilities and retrofits

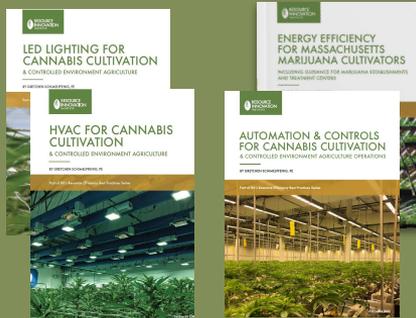


ABOUT RII

Informing Audiences with Peer-Reviewed Publications



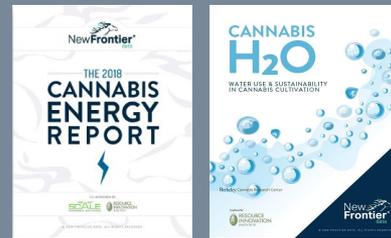
Best Practices Guides
for Producers



Primers
for Governments & Utilities



Collaborative Reports
on Resource Usage



Intelligence Insights
for Members



A large indoor cannabis cultivation facility. The image shows a vast space filled with rows of cannabis plants growing in a controlled environment. The plants are densely packed and appear to be in various stages of growth. The facility is equipped with numerous fans and lights, indicating a highly controlled and automated growing process. The overall atmosphere is industrial and modern.

SECTION 02

INTRODUCTIONS & CONTEXT

Today's Speakers



Gretchen Schimelpfenig



Jon Crozier



Ian Logan



Autumn Shelton



AUTUMN BRANDS.



Jan Westra



Kyle Booth



Thomas Lor



3C-REN: Tri-County Regional Energy Network



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK
SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA BARBARA • VENTURA

Three counties working together to improve energy efficiency in the region with free programs:

- Energy Code Connect
 - Building professionals
 - Makes the Energy Code easy to follow
- Building Performance Training
 - Current and prospective building professionals
 - Helps workers thrive in an evolving industry
- Home Energy Savings
 - Homeowners and renters
 - Improves home comfort and safety
- [Upcoming Courses](#)



Purpose of Today's Workshop

- Help cannabis producers improve the efficiency of their operations with environmental control systems
- Convey scientific insights directly to producers and finding the best ways to translate them in the context of a local ecosystem
- Help government agencies and energy efficiency programs achieve their climate goals through knowledge sharing
- Encourage cultivators to take advantage of 3C-REN resources to support compliance with County energy conservation plans



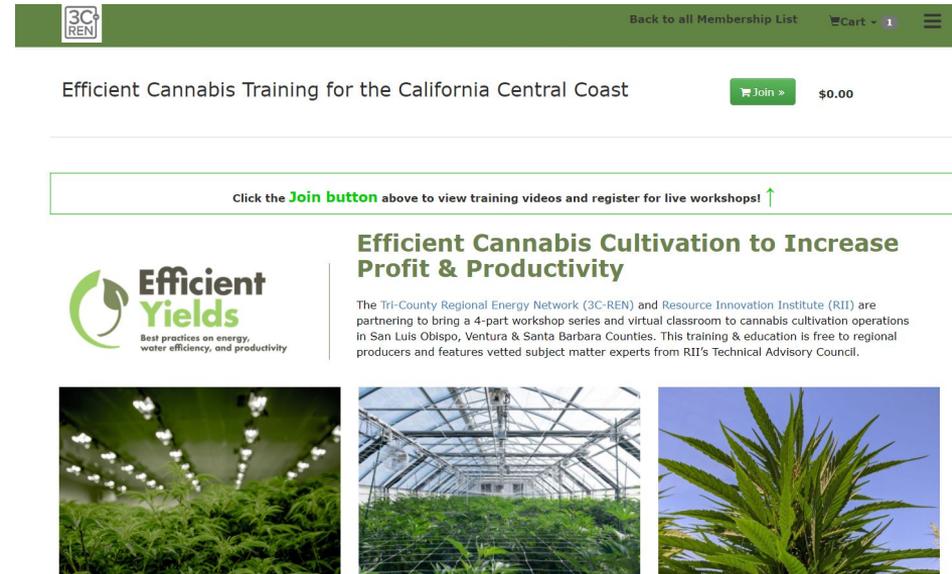
Access Your Virtual Classroom

Access the virtual classroom to continue learning

Free guidance on efficient cannabis cultivation

All live workshops are available for on-demand viewing!

- Recordings of live workshops
- Tip Clips
- Downloadable resources
- 3C-REN tools



The screenshot shows a website interface with a green header. On the left is the 3C-REN logo. On the right, there are links for 'Back to all Membership List', a shopping cart icon with '1' item, and a menu icon. Below the header, the main title is 'Efficient Cannabis Training for the California Central Coast' with a 'Join >' button and a price of '\$0.00'. A call-to-action box contains the text: 'Click the **Join button** above to view training videos and register for live workshops! ↑'. The main content area features the 'Efficient Yields' logo with the tagline 'Best practices on energy, water efficiency, and productivity'. To the right of the logo is the title 'Efficient Cannabis Cultivation to Increase Profit & Productivity' and a paragraph: 'The Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) and Resource Innovation Institute (RII) are partnering to bring a 4-part workshop series and virtual classroom to cannabis cultivation operations in San Luis Obispo, Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties. This training & education is free to regional producers and features vetted subject matter experts from RII's Technical Advisory Council.' At the bottom, there are three images: a cannabis grow room with lights, a large greenhouse structure, and a close-up of a cannabis plant against a blue sky.

Register for the Workshop Series

Access the virtual classroom to continue learning

Free guidance on efficient cannabis cultivation

All live workshops are available for on-demand viewing!

- Dec 2, 2021
 - Greenhouse Optimization - Aligning Your Systems with Your Surroundings
- Feb 3, 2022
 - Indoor Optimization - HVAC & Lighting Best Practices
- Apr 7, 2022
 - Sungrown Efficiency - Optimizing the Energy-Water Nexus



Product Type
WEBINAR

Efficient Yields Tri-County: Automation & Controls Best Practices for All Cultivation Environments
Faculty: Gretchen Schimelpfenig | Derek Smith
Duration: 2 hours
Price: \$0.00 - 3C-REN

🕒 Thu, Oct 14, 2021 - 01:30pm to 03:30pm PDT

[More info »](#) [Save for Later](#) [Register](#)



Product Type
WEBINAR

Efficient Yields Tri-County: Greenhouse Optimization - Aligning Your Systems with Your Surroundings
Faculty: Gretchen Schimelpfenig | Derek Smith
Duration: 2 hours
Price: \$0.00 - 3C-REN

🕒 Thu, Dec 02, 2021 - 01:30pm to 03:30pm PST

[More info »](#) [Save for Later](#) [Register](#)



Product Type
WEBINAR

Efficient Yields Tri-County: Indoor Optimization - HVAC & Lighting Best Practices
Faculty: Gretchen Schimelpfenig | Derek Smith
Duration: 2 hours
Price: \$0.00 - 3C-REN

🕒 Thu, Feb 03, 2022 - 01:30pm to 03:30pm PST

[More info »](#) [Save for Later](#) [Register](#)



REGISTER!



**Efficient
Yields**
Best practices on energy,
water efficiency, and productivity

GREENHOUSE OPTIMIZATION

**ALIGNING YOUR SYSTEM
WITH YOUR
SURROUNDINGS**



**RESOURCE
INNOVATION
INSTITUTE**



Dec. 2, 2021



REGISTER!



**Efficient
Yields**
Best practices on energy,
water efficiency, and productivity

INDOOR OPTIMIZATION

**HVAC AND LIGHTING
BEST PRACTICES**



**RESOURCE
INNOVATION
INSTITUTE**

Feb. 3, 2022





REGISTER!

Efficient
Yields

Best practices on energy,
water efficiency, and productivity

SUNGROWN EFFICIENCY

OPTIMIZING
ENERGY-WATER NEXUS



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Apr. 7, 2022

RII Controls Working Group

Objective: To share insights on effective integration and automation of resource-consuming building systems in CEA facilities, improve data and best practices resources for the market, and help utility & efficiency programs support controls infrastructure and smart controls strategies.

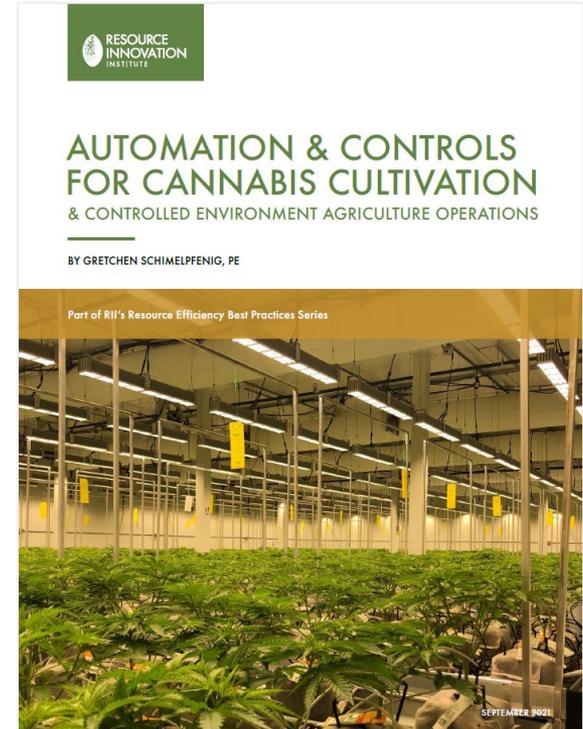


Download the Controls Best Practices Guide

Brand-agnostic information for producers

Free guidance on lighting, HVAC, and water controls

- Speak the language relevant to controlling and automating environmental control systems in horticultural applications
- Understand types of control systems optimizing horticultural environments
- Plan for integrated controls approaches in greenhouses and indoor operations
- Install and operating successful controls solutions in alignment with business models
- Use data from control systems to improve productivity and efficiency
- Demonstrate energy savings for utility energy efficiency incentive programs



DOWNLOAD NOW

A close-up photograph of a person's hand gently holding a stem of a cannabis plant. The plant has several serrated, green leaves. The background is a soft-focus field of similar plants. The overall image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

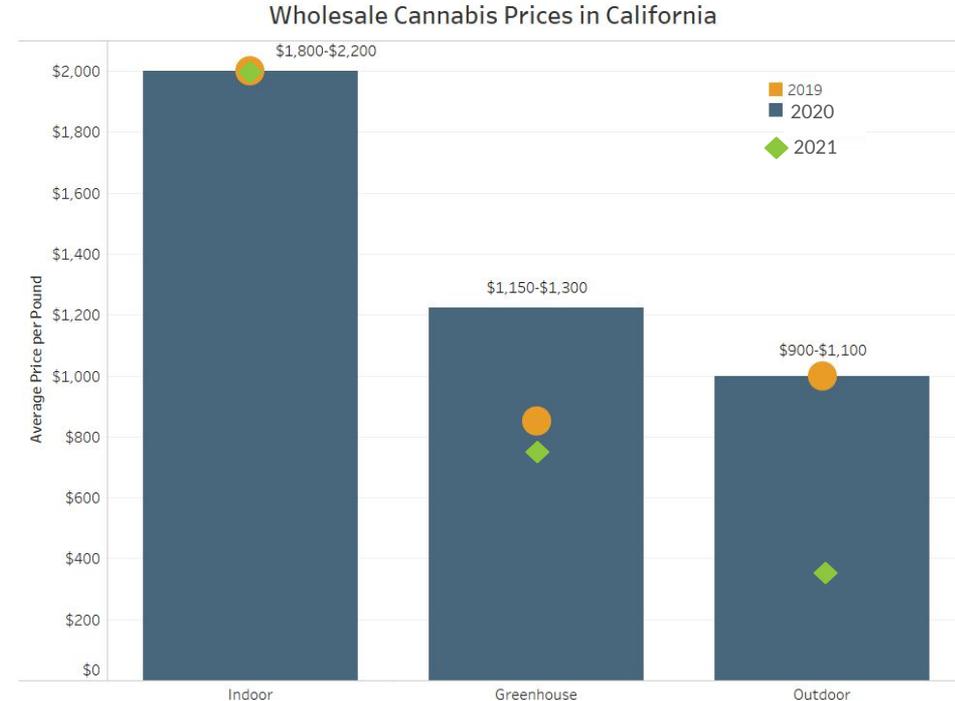
SECTION 03

COMPETE & COMPLY

Maximize Productivity & Efficiency

Cannabis market dynamics

- Two basic models in commercial controlled environment agriculture:
 - Maximize output
 - Maximize efficiency
- California is experiencing unstable pricing and excess product
- Affected by issues from retail licensing and illicit market oversupply



Source: *Marijuana Business Daily*
© 2020 *Marijuana Business Daily*, a division of Anne Holland Ventures Inc. All rights reserved.

Optimizing Innovation and Automation:

Integrated Systems for Optimal Growing Conditions

Goals:

- Recirculate and reuse water
- Manage peak electric demand
- Plan electrical service upgrades

Control strategies:

- Weather monitoring + environmental controls
- Irrigate using pumps with variable frequency drives
- Pest management using beneficials





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TIP CLIP:

Title 24 Part 6 Energy
Code Updates

With Kyle Booth
Energy Solutions



WATCH



SECTION 04

RETROFITTING BUILDINGS & SYSTEMS

Read the [Final
CASE Report](#)

Upcoming Greenhouse Code Changes

Greenhouse Growing, Horticultural Lighting

In a building with CEH spaces and with more than 40 kW of aggregate horticultural lighting load, the electric lighting systems used for plant growth and plant maintenance shall meet the following requirements:

1. Luminaires shall have a photosynthetic photon efficacy of at least **1.7 micromoles per joule** rated in accordance with ANSI / ASABE S640 for wavelengths from 400 to 700 nanometers.
2. Time-switch lighting controls shall be installed and comply with [Section 110.9\(b\)1](#), [Section 130.4\(a\)4](#), and applicable sections of [NA7.6.2](#).
3. Multilevel lighting controls shall be installed and comply with [Section 130.1\(b\)](#).



Upcoming Greenhouse Code Changes



Read the [Final CASE Report](#)

Greenhouse Envelope Standards

- *Opaque* walls and *opaque* roof assemblies must meet the existing mandatory insulation requirements in Section 120.7.
- *Non-opaque* wall assemblies must have a combined **U-factor of 0.7** or less
- *Non-opaque* roof assemblies must have a combined **U-factor of 0.7** or less
- Exempts greenhouses from existing prescriptive building envelope requirements for window wall ratio, skylight roof ratio, and daylighting requirements for large enclosed spaces
- Applies to:
 - Newly constructed greenhouses and to greenhouses being converted from unconditioned to conditioned
 - Additions to conditioned greenhouses

Greenhouse Envelope Performance



Read the [Final
CASE Report](#)

Insulation

- Greenhouse buildings are constructed in many different ways, and to describe them, it is useful to understand some building system terms.
- Thermal envelopes are sometimes referred to as a building's skin, or shell; you can think of them like your greenhouse's coat in the winter and sunscreen in the summer. Weatherization describes activities you can do to improve thermal envelopes.
- Weatherization activities include insulating , which minimize unwanted heat losses and gains, and air sealing, which reduces the infiltration of outside air.
- Insulation is rated using R-value (a higher value is better) or the U-value (the inverse of R-value, where a lower value is better).

Greenhouse Envelope Performance



Read the [Final
CASE Report](#)

Greenhouse Coverings

- Popular covering types include rigid plastic, film plastic, and glass
- Each can vary in cost, durability, light transmission, and insulation
- Insulative qualities depend on the type and the thickness
- Rigid plastic products like polycarbonate, acrylic, and fiberglass are popular as they can feature multiple layers of walls which trap air for lower U-value
 - Single wall polycarbonate will not comply
- Film plastic is attractive due to its low cost, but provides no insulation
 - Will not comply without double layers of film and an air gap
- Glass has varying insulation ratings
 - Single pane will not comply

Greenhouse Envelope Performance

Read the [Final
CASE Report](#)

Insulative Qualities of Coverings

TABLE 120.6-D DEFAULT U-FACTORS FOR GREENHOUSE COVERINGS

Greenhouse Covering	U-Factor
Glass, Single Pane, 3mm	1.05
Glass, Double Pane	0.7
Polycarbonate, Corrugated Single Wall	1.2
Polycarbonate, Double Wall, 4mm	0.7
Polycarbonate, Double Wall, 6mm	0.65
Polycarbonate, Double Wall, 8mm	0.63
Polycarbonate, Double Wall, 10mm	0.53
Polycarbonate, Triple Wall, 8mm	0.5
Polyethylene Film, Single	1.2
Polyethylene Film, Double	0.7



Upcoming Indoor Code Changes



Read the [Final
CASE Report](#)

Dehumidification Equipment Standards

Dehumidification equipment shall be one of the following:

1. Stand-alone dehumidifiers that meet minimum integrated energy factors:
 - Minimum integrated energy factor of 1.77 L/kWh for product case volumes of 8.0 ft³ or less
 - Minimum integrated energy factor of 2.41 L/kWh for product case volumes greater than 8.0 ft³
2. Integrated HVAC system with on-site heat recovery designed to fulfill at least 75% of the annual energy for dehumidification reheat
3. Chilled water system with on-site heat recovery designed to fulfill at least 75 percent of the annual energy for dehumidification reheat
4. Solid or liquid desiccant dehumidification system for system designs that require dewpoint of 50°F or less

Upcoming Indoor Code Changes

Read the [Final
CASE Report](#)

Indoor Growing, Horticultural Lighting

In a building with CEH spaces and with more than 40 kW of aggregate horticultural lighting load, the electric lighting systems used for plant growth and plant maintenance shall meet the following requirements:

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3. Multilevel lighting controls shall be installed and comply with [Section 130.1\(b\)](#).



Upcoming Indoor Code Changes



Indoor Growing, Electrical Power Distribution Systems

Electrical power distribution system serving CEH spaces shall be designed so that a measurement device is capable of monitoring the electrical energy usage of aggregate horticultural lighting load.

Read the [Final CASE Report](#)

SECTION 05

RESILIENT FACILITIES: ENERGY CHOICE

Energy Choice - Considerations

Major Considerations

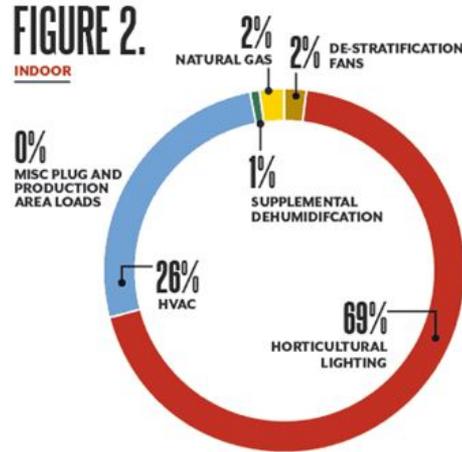
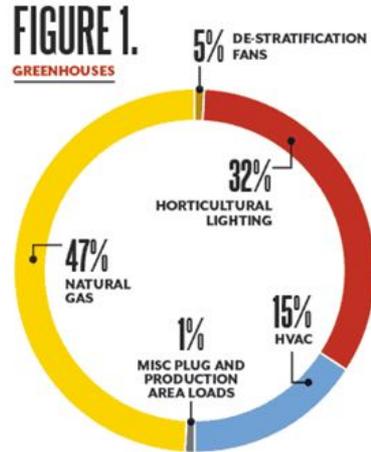
- Availability of service
- OpEx
 - Estimate your rates
 - Forecast rate stability
- CapEx
 - Understand if upgrades are needed
 - Cost and lead time
- Reliability
- Environmental benefit
 - Emissions, air quality, renewable sources



Indoor Agriculture Energy Management

Energy Use from Building Systems

Type of horticultural lighting and environmental control solutions influence the amount of electricity and fuel used.



Energy Efficiency

Facility 🌱	2,510 kBtu / sq ft	██████████
Electric Facility 🌱	1,550 kBtu / sq ft	██████████
Non-Electric Facility 🌱	957 kBtu / sq ft	██████████

Energy Management

Sources of Energy Use

Cultivation operations may use:

Electricity

- Electricity for horticultural lighting
- Electricity for HVAC processes
- Electricity for motors:
 - Pumping water
 - Actuating greenhouse vents
 - Running fans

Fuel (natural gas, propane)

- Fuel for heating processes
- Fuel for combined heat and power (CHP)

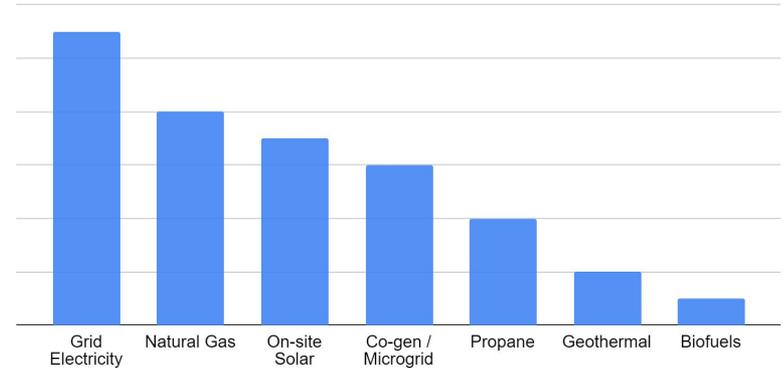


Energy Choice - Suppliers

Choosing Energy Suppliers

1. Electricity
2. Fuels
 - a. Natural gas
 - b. Delivered fuels (ex propane)
3. Back-up generation
 - a. Delivered fuels (ex gasoline or diesel)
4. On-site energy generation
 - a. Solar
 - b. Other renewables
5. Energy storage
 - a. Battery backup

What sources of energy, including for backup power, are used by Indoor Vertical Facilities?





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TIP CLIP:

Retrofitting Buildings
for Cultivation:
Electrical Service

With Jon Crozier
Hansen-Rice

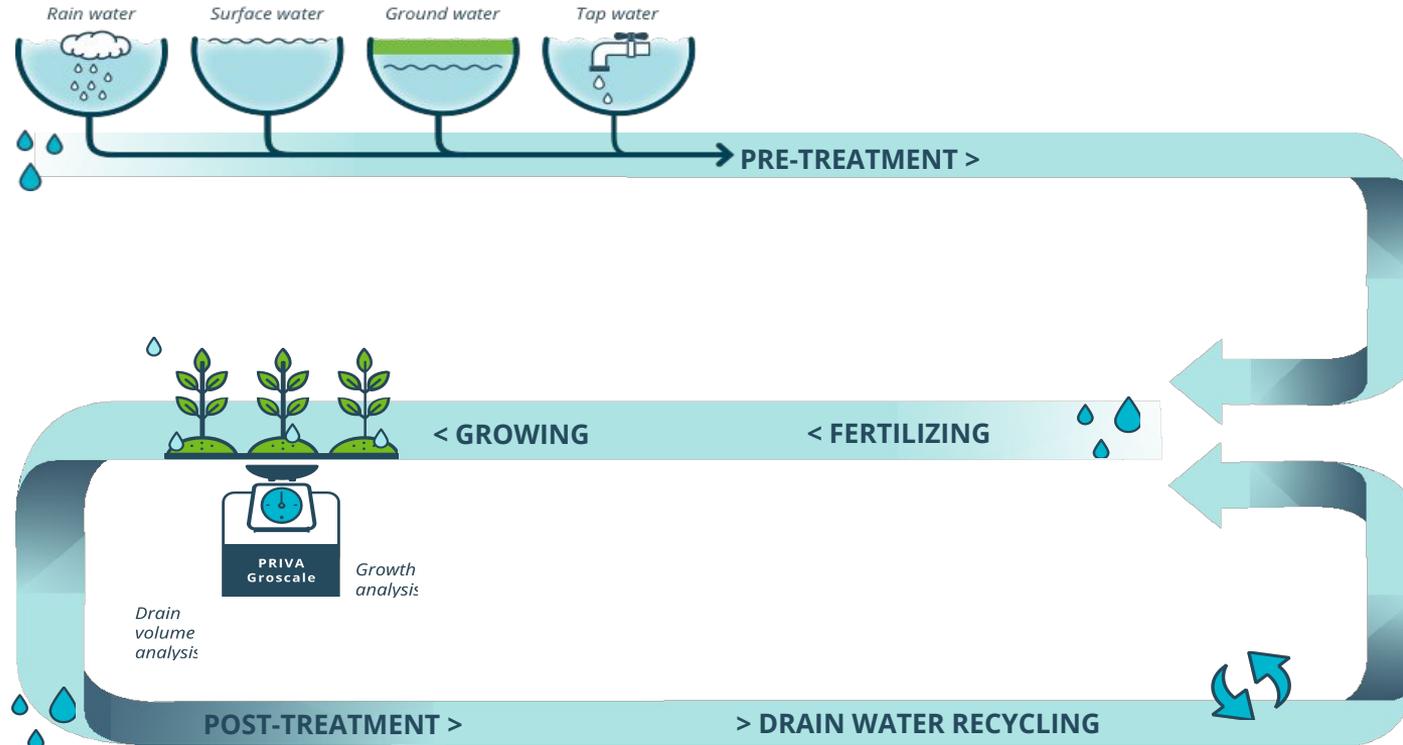
WATCH

A multi-tiered hydroponic grow room with cannabis plants and irrigation systems. The plants are arranged on several levels, with a complex network of white PVC pipes and black hoses for water delivery. The plants are in various stages of growth, with some showing characteristic cannabis leaf shapes. The grow room has a metal frame and a translucent roof. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the plants providing the primary source of green color.

SECTION 06

WATER MANAGEMENT

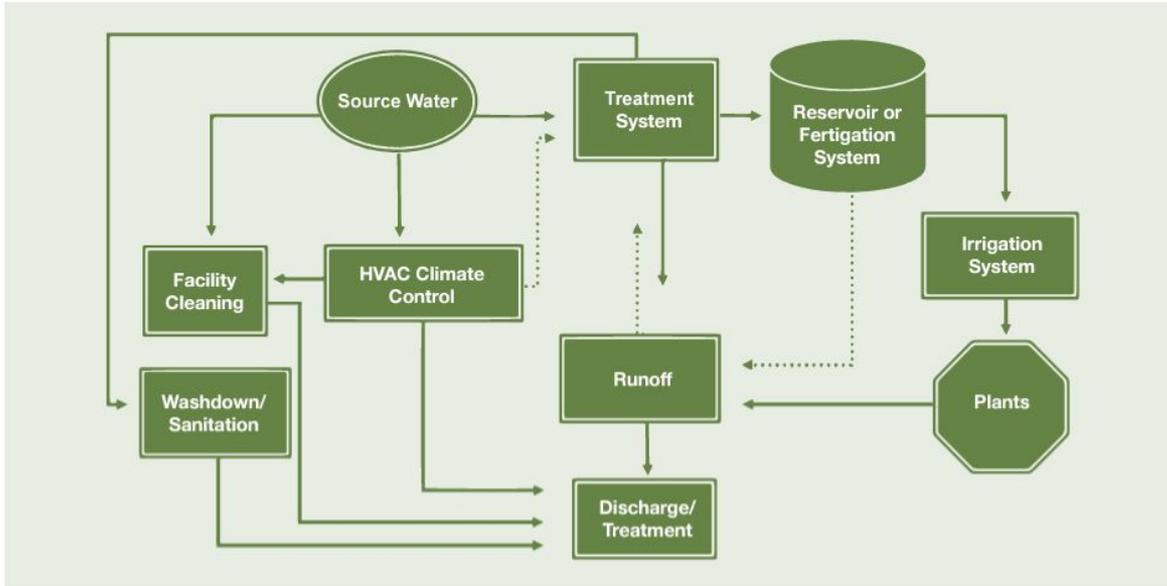
Water Controls: Water Recycling



Water Controls: Value Proposition

Design and operate for recapture and reuse

- Treat irrigation runoff and HVAC condensate



Water Controls: Irrigation Measures

Reduce pumping energy while managing water quality

- Choose substrates with lower leach percentage to manage less runoff
 - Lower leach may be achieved with water culture approaches that recirculate irrigated water
- Understand watering and drainage rates
 - Watering events can range from 1 - 20 per day depending on your choice of substrate
- Employ drip irrigation controls

Precise targeting of drip irrigation can reduce water consumption by 30% to 70%, and improve water productivity by 20% to 90%

Table 8: Water Controls Parameters Measured by Cannabis Cultivators

Water Data Collected	Percentage of Growers Collecting, 2020
Nutrient solution pH	76%
Substrate pH	54%
Nutrient solution electrical conductivity (EC)	51%
Media EC	38%
Root zone temperature	21%



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TIP CLIP:

Efficient Resource
Management Through
Automation & Controls

With Jan Westra
Priva

WATCH

Dive Deeper into Irrigation Controls

Rooting for Recapture
and Reuse

cannabis

science and technology

advancing research, quality & education



[READ MORE](#)

Articles co-authored by RII with members of our Technical Advisory Council Working Groups

A photograph of a modern greenhouse interior. The scene is filled with rows of green plants growing in a structured environment. Overhead, there are long, narrow light fixtures mounted on a metal framework, with various cables and wires visible. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the lush greenery. The overall atmosphere is clean and organized, typical of a high-tech agricultural facility.

SECTION 08

DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Start with the Plant

Environmental control for optimal growth

- Automate systems to provide light, climate, airflow, and water to support:
 - High yields
 - Quality biomass

Systems need to be designed and deployed with full system view of how facilities will be operated to keep plants happy

Light:

~40W / canopy square feet (for LED)
12 hours ON

Water:

~500-1000 ml per day



Climate:

78-82 F
55-65% RH
1.2-1.4 kPa VPD

CO₂:

~1200-1500 PPM

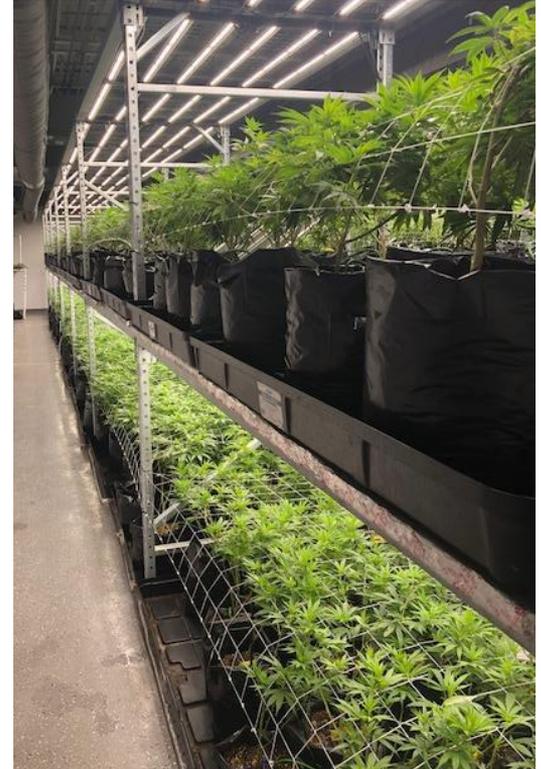
~ 20 Air Changes Per Hour, MERV 13 Filtration

Demand Management: Indoor Peak

PowerScore indoor facilities
with flowering canopy areas

- Less than 2,000 square feet
 - 10 - 120 kW
- 4,000 - 10,000 square feet
 - 165 - 500 kW
- More than 10,000 square feet
 - 1,100 - 1,400 kW

Peak demand charges can range from
\$2,000 - \$10,000/month



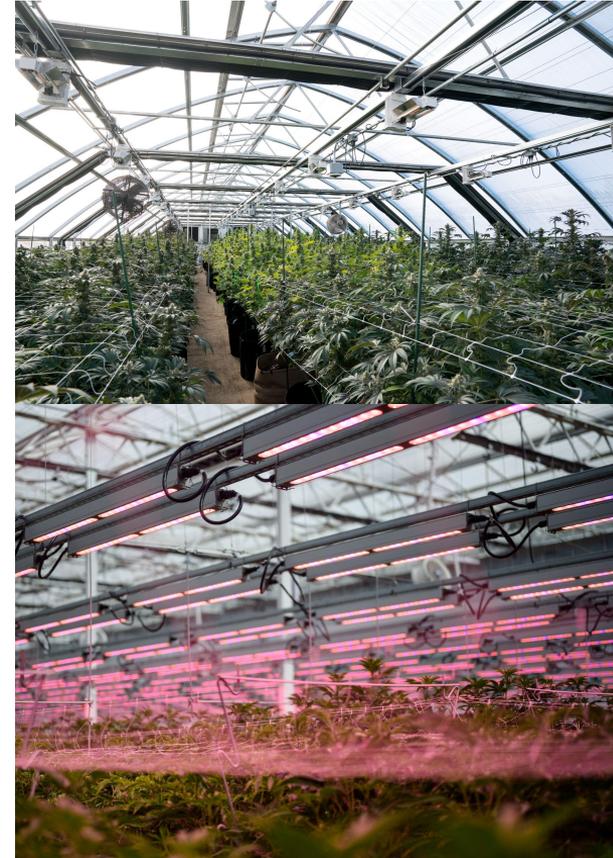
Lighting Controls: Value Proposition

Dial in the number one nutrient for plants

Provide with granularity:

- Proper light levels
- Optimal spectra for cultivars
- Preferred photoperiod by stage of development
- Desired DLI to empower plant growth

Provide plants with the exact intensity and quantity of light while minimizing energy consumption and lowering bills



Lighting Controls: Greenhouse

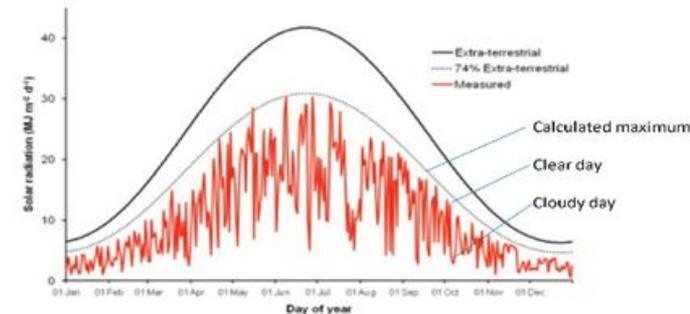
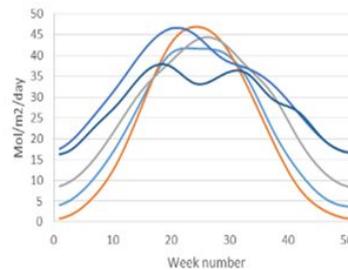
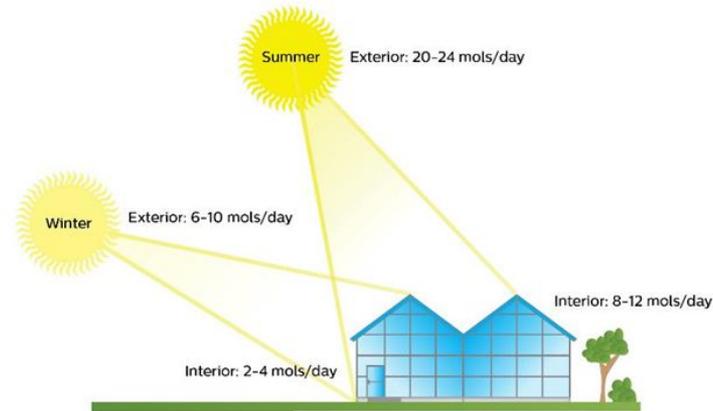
Seasonal Light Variation

- Changes in solar radiation
- Losses through various types of greenhouse coverings

Regional Light Variation

- Seasonal patterns vary between different regions
- Location and facility specifications determine expected solar radiation

Anticipate your light sums, use interior light sensors, and program appropriate control responses



Dive Deeper into Greenhouse Controls

Optimizing Systems for
Cannabis Greenhouses

GREENHOUSE
GROWER 

[READ MORE](#)

Articles co-authored by RII with members of our Technical Advisory Council Working Groups

Lighting Controls Strategies

Scheduling

- Adjust photoperiod

Dimming

- Modulate light intensity by zone of control
 - Daily
 - By stage of plant growth

Spectral Tuning

- Modulate photon output from wavelength ranges

Understand energy savings potential of strategies and data needed to validate performance

Table 3: Lighting Controls Parameters Measured by Cannabis Cultivators

Lighting Data Collected ⁵	Percentage of Growers Collecting, 2020
Light intensity (PPFD)	55%
Spectral quality	33%

Balanced Flowering Rooms



Dive Deeper into Lighting Controls

The Right Light

CANNABIS
BUSINESS TIMES

[READ MORE](#)

How Manipulating Light
Treatments Affects Plant
Expression

CANNABIS
BUSINESS TIMES

[READ MORE](#)

How LED Light Recipes
and Controls Can
Improve Quality and
Yield for Cannabis

Producers

cannabis
science and technology
advancing research, quality & education



[READ MORE](#)

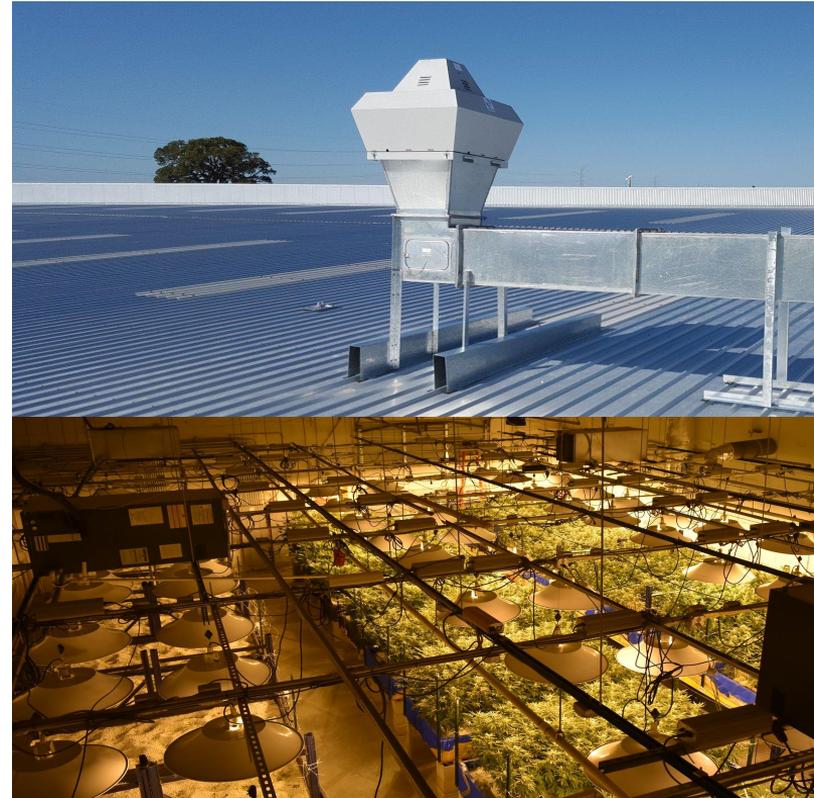
Articles co-authored by RII with members of our Technical Advisory Council Working Groups

HVAC Controls: Value Proposition

Optimize environmental conditions for plants

- Proper temperature (space, relative & leaf), humidity, airflow, CO2 levels
- Optimal plant growth, control mold, mildew and other pests
- ROI plus visibility of data to create a more stable operation

Reduce operating costs while maximizing efficiency and productivity



HVAC Controls: Greenhouse

Solar Radiation

- Seasonal patterns vary between different regions
- Location and facility specifications determine expected solar radiation

Building Envelope

- Energy screens and shade curtains

Growth by plant empowerment keeps a uniform ratio of average temperature to DLI and can reduce energy consumption



HVAC Controls Strategies

Monitoring, Calibrating, Commissioning

- Monitor (Inputs) → Controls (Outputs)
- Automated System - User Interface
- Sequence of Operations
- Calibrating
- Commissioning

VPD Controls

- Modulate temperature and relative humidity setpoints to operate within target VPD ranges
 - By stage of plant growth

Airflow Controls

- Modulate supply airflow

Understand energy savings potential of strategies and data needed to validate performance

Table 5: Climate and Airflow Controls Parameters Measured by Cannabis Cultivators

Climate and Airflow Data Collected ⁷	Percentage of Growers Collecting, 2020
Space Temperature	85%
Relative humidity	72%
CO2 concentration	66%
Leaf temperature	31%
Air speed	19%

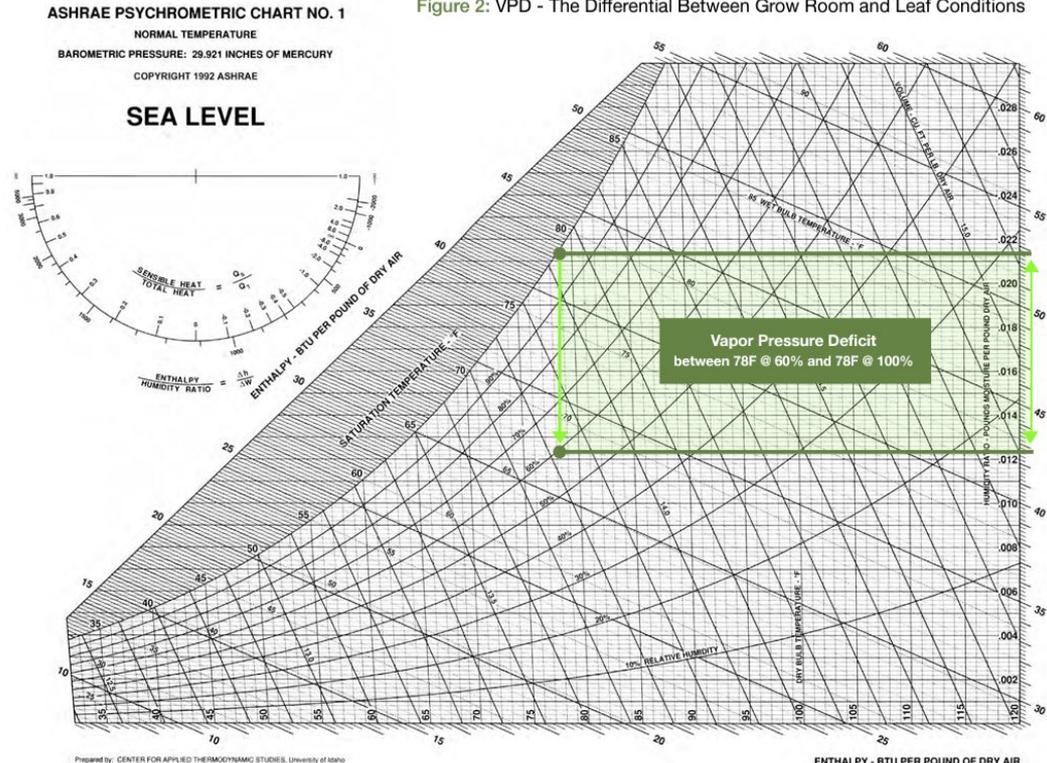
Figure data source: Cannabis Business Times

HVAC Controls: VPD Controls

Maintain efficient VPD targets

- There is not a target VPD that is appropriate for all cultivars, environments, or cultivation methods
- Consider acceptable VPD ranges by stage of plant growth

Dial in HVAC system automation to tailor VPD to specific cultivars, systems, and facility configurations



HVAC Controls Baselines: Indoor & Greenhouse

VPD Controls

- Target ranges vary by stage of plant growth
- Dial in energy-efficient VPD setpoint ranges

Airflow Controls

- Sizing for cultivation can range from 10 to 20 ACH, with some cases as high as 30 - 40 ACH
- Reduce supply air volume setpoint during dark periods

Understand energy savings potential of strategies and data needed to validate performance

Table 6: VPD Targets for Cannabis Cultivation

Cannabis Growth Stage	Target VPD Range (kPa)
Flower/Bloom/Mother	1.0 - 1.5
Vegetative	0.8 - 1.1
Clone/Seedling	0 - 0.2

HVAC Controls: Monitoring, Calibration, Commissioning

Monitoring

- You can't manage what you don't measure...but you can't measure what you don't monitor
- Make data to support savings claims

Calibration

- Ensure sensor accuracy so HVAC systems respond to actual environmental conditions
- Configure response times to reduce short-cycling

Commissioning

- Functionally test HVAC sequences of operation to ensure persistent energy savings



Figure credit: Gro iQ / InfiSense

Dive Deeper into Environmental Controls

Empowering Plants with
Environmental Controls
Systems

**GREENHOUSE
GROWER** 

[READ MORE](#)

Avoiding Cannabis Crop
Loss in Cultivation

**GREENHOUSE
GROWER** 

[READ MORE](#)

Integrated Pest
Management for
Cannabis Cultivation
Monitoring, Identifying,
Preventing, and
Controlling Pests with
HVAC Solutions

cannabis 
science and technology
advancing research, quality & education

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Articles co-authored by RII with members of our Technical Advisory Council Working Groups



SECTION 09

RESOURCE BENCHMARKING

Benchmarking Regulations

Ventura County Energy Conservation Plan

- Affects mixed light and indoor operations
- [Know the requirements](#)
 - See section 2706(b)
- [Download the spreadsheet](#)



Understand Your Options

- The energy conservation plan must demonstrate at least a **25 percent reduction of the anticipated conventional energy use**
- On-site renewable or energy conservation infrastructure can offset energy use
 - Examples of energy conservation infrastructure include LED lighting
 - Solar and cogeneration (combined heat and power) can comply
- Applicants can enroll in a green power program with SCE or CPA to comply

Benchmarking Regulations

Santa Barbara County Energy Conservation Plan

- Affects indoor cultivation, mixed-light cultivation, nursery, manufacturing (volatile or non-volatile), and/or distribution operations
- [Know the requirements](#)
 - See section 50-10



Understand Your Options

- The energy conservation plan must establish operational energy demand and demonstrate at least a **15 percent reduction in average energy usage**
- On-site renewable or energy conservation infrastructure can offset energy use
- Applicants can enroll in a green power program with SCE or CPA to comply
- Implement plan prior to the issuance of final building inspection

Benchmarking Regulations

Santa Barbara County Energy Conservation Measures

- Participating in an annual energy audit
- Measuring and recording net energy use
- Upgrading and maintaining efficient heating/ cooling/dehumidification systems
- Implementing energy efficient lighting, specifically light-emitting diode (LED) over high-intensity discharge (HID) or high pressure sodium (HPS) lighting where feasible
- Implementing automated lighting systems
- Utilizing natural light when possible



Benchmarking Regulations

Santa Barbara County Energy Conservation Measures

- Ensuring that energy use is below or in-line with industry benchmarks.
- Implementing phase-out plans for the replacement of inefficient equipment
- Adopting all or some elements of CalGreen Tier 1 and 2 voluntary elective measures to increase energy efficiency in new buildings, remodels, and additions
- Participating in the Smart Build Santa Barbara (SB2) Program, including plan review by the County Green Building Committee
- Appendix F of the Santa Barbara County Energy and Climate Action Plan



Benchmarking Regulations

San Luis Obispo County Energy Requirements

- Energy requirements apply when CEQA is triggered
- [County of Santa Barbara Cannabis Energy Conservation Plan Electricity Use Calculation Form](#) estimates electricity demand



Understand Your Options

- The energy conservation plan must detail the energy demand and program for *offset of all energy demand that is 20% or more than a generic commercial building of the same size*
- Energy conservation measures are the same as Santa Barbara
- Renewably-sourced energy and on-site renewables are paths to compliance

Table 7 -- Project's Projected Operational Energy Use Compared With a Generic Building of Comparable Floor Area

Project Component	Size (sf)	Rate (kWh/year-sf)	Projected Energy Demand (kWh/year)
Generic Commercial Building of Comparable Size	72,780	21.25	1,546,575
Indoor Cultivation and Nursery		200	14,556,000
Percent In Excess of Generic Commercial Building			841%

Mixed Light 110
Outdoor 20

Measuring Resource Efficiency

Key Performance Indicators

Facilities in PowerScore can be compared in resource efficiency and productivity by **canopy area** and **grams of biomass** produced.

For example:

grams of biomass per flowering canopy square foot

Resource Efficiency

Resource Efficiency is **resource use per unit of canopy area**.

Resource Productivity

Resource Productivity is **units of biomass produced per unit of resource**.



Energy Efficiency

Facility	2,510 kBtu / sq ft	████████████████
Electric Facility	1,550 kBtu / sq ft	████████████████
Non-Electric Facility	957 kBtu / sq ft	████████████████
Production	0.135 g / kBtu	████████████████
Electric Production	0.219 g / kBtu	████████████████
Non-Electric Production	0.355 g / kBtu	████████████████
Lighting Efficiency	4,440 kWh / day	████████████████
HVAC Efficiency	307 kBtu / sq ft	████████████████

Lighting Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators

Lighting system installation & operation for facilities in PowerScore can be compared in Lighting Efficiency.

For example:

Kilowatt-hours per day (kWh/day)

Lighting Efficiency

Facility energy efficiency is heavily influenced by lighting

Lighting Power Density

High-PPFD growing approaches with high-PPE fixtures allow cultivators to maximize production



Energy Efficiency

Facility	2,510 kBtu / sq ft	■■■■■■■■■■
Electric Facility	1,550 kBtu / sq ft	■■■■■■■■■■
Non-Electric Facility	957 kBtu / sq ft	■■■■■■■■■■
Production	0.135 g / kBtu	■■■■■■■■■■
Electric Production	0.219 g / kBtu	■■■■■■■■■■
Non-Electric Production	0.355 g / kBtu	■■■■■■■■■■
Lighting Efficiency	4,440 kWh / day	■■■■■■■■■■
HVAC Efficiency	307 kBtu / sq ft	■■■■■■■■■■

Water Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators

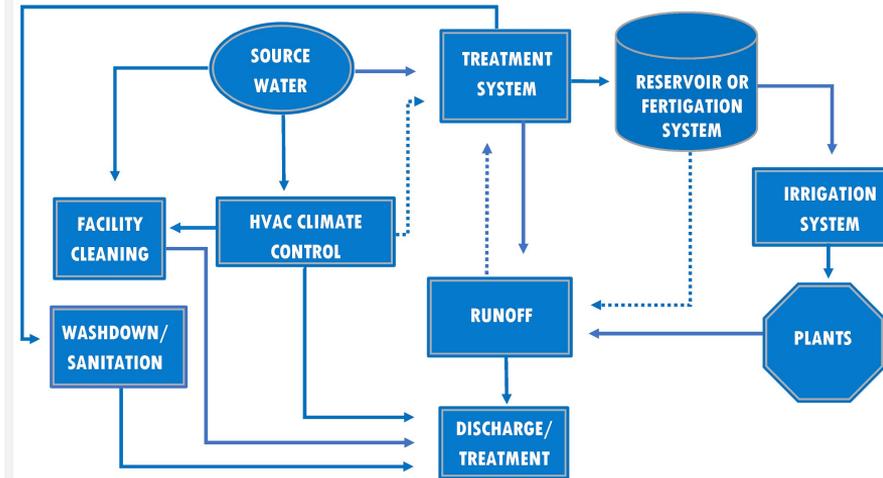
Water Efficiency *gallons / flowering canopy sq ft*

Water Productivity *grams / gallon*

Water Demand *gallons / year or month*

Interactive Effects

- Irrigation water impacts HVAC loads
- HVAC system type impacts water use
 - Evaporative cooling systems use more water
- Recapture, treat and reuse runoff & HVAC condensate



Recapture and reuse to
improve water efficiency

Setting Goals for Efficiency

Key Performance Indicators

Determine which KPIs are important
 Prioritize KPIs
 Track KPIs over time

Example:

Production of biomass per canopy square foot
 Energy consumed per unit of biomass produced

Continuous Benchmarking

1. Create a pre-project benchmark to baseline.
2. Monitor and gather data
3. Track progress of KPIs
4. Verify operational efficiency and productivity
5. Continuously improve

Compare yourself to your
 historical baseline



Compare yourself to peers
 growing like you

Net Zero Carbon Cannabis

Net zero carbon begins with efficiency, and a key strategy of efficiency in the new millennium is net zero energy

Energy efficiency can reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2050

- 10,000-square-foot building provides a better quality product with greater yields, using 90 percent less water and 35 percent less energy than other cannabis facilities (\$300/sq ft)



Energy Is Money Is Wholesale Price



\$250 / facility sq ft

\$4.40 / gram



\$75 / facility sq ft

\$1.50/gram



\$ / acre varies

\$0.75/gram

Energy Choice and Location Affect Environmental Impact

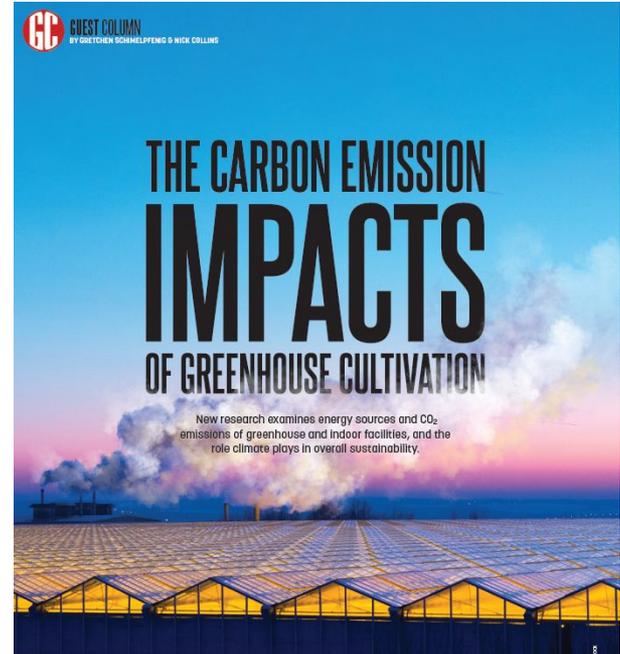
Electric grid

- Regional fuel sources for electricity
- % renewable energy

Fuel choice

- Natural gas
- Delivered fuels

Consider CO₂e and environmental impacts like air quality



[READ MORE](#)

SECTION 10

EFFICIENCY PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Efficiency Utilities Serving Tri-County

Two Regional Utilities with Efficiency Programs

- Utility service territories determine eligibility
- Growers in Tri-County region can benefit from technical assistance and financial incentives
- Incentives reduce the first cost of high-performance technology



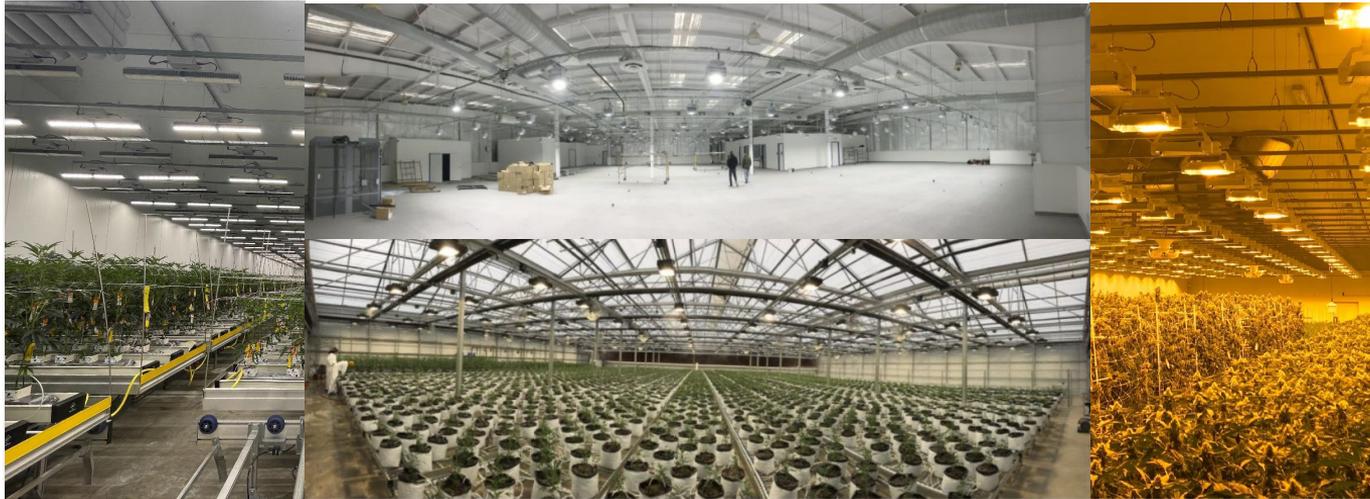
SCE Programs for Producers

Why Is Energy Efficiency Important?

- Reduces energy costs
- Reduces strain on the electricity grid
- Improves resilience for communities
- Contributes to a clean energy future



Cannabis Efficiency Project Landscape



SCE Programs for Producers



Energy Efficiency Programs

- California Energy Design Assistance (CEDA) EE program: <http://www.californiaeda.com/>
 - Custom for New Construction
 - Consult Willdan for current incentive rates & details
- SCE's Custom Retrofit EE program
 - Custom Retrofit Incentive Rates: **\$0.12/kWh, \$150/kW, \$1/therm**
 - Will be transitioning to a new program next year
 - Contact SCE directly: Thomas.Lor@sce.com; 626-633-7176
- Deemed EE Rebate Offering?

Lighting Savings: Greenhouse & Warehouse Cannabis

SCE Project 1:

70,000 s.f. greenhouse, 31,000 s.f. cultivation warehouse; Custom NC

- Greenhouse (Flowering): (878) 1000W DE HPS => (878) 610W LEDs
- Warehouse (Vegetation): (1028) 600W CMH => (1028) 310W LEDs
- Payback: 1.4 years / 0.7 years (w/ incentive)

Energy Saving Results

\$518k/year
4,500,000 kWh, 820 kW
IMC: \$730k; Incentive: \$375k

SCE Project 2:

68,000 s.f. greenhouse; Custom Retrofit

- Vegetation: (265) 1000W SE HPS => (294) 543W LEDs
- Payback: 3 years / 1.5 years (w/ incentive)

Energy Saving Results

\$76k/year
675,000 kWh, 100 kW
IMC: \$210k; Incentive: \$96k

Lighting Controls Savings: Greenhouse Cannabis

Project 1:

200,000 s.f. Greenhouse Conversion – produce (unlit) to cannabis

- Baseline cannabis growing is indoor sole-source operation
- Incentives for reduced hours of lighting with DLI/threshold controls
- M&V requires 3 months data to correlate

Energy Saving Results

14,100,000 kWh, 1580 kW
Incentives \$850,000 (2 projects)

Project 2:

6700-s.f. Cannabis Greenhouse

- Baseline is indoor sole-source operation
- Incentives for reduced hours of lighting with PAR meter for manual threshold control
- Collected 2 months data in late summer using manual logs M&V requires 3 months data to correlate

Energy Saving Results

560,700 kWh, 32kW
Incentive \$123,350

HVAC Controls Savings: Indoor Cannabis

Project 1:

Indoor cannabis “grow pods” with advanced dehumidification system

- Baseline dehumidification system established using California Title 24
- Measured performance and modeled baseline

Energy Saving Results

1,465,000 kWh/yr

210.6 kW

\$322,000 incentive @ \$0.22/kWh

Project 2:

40,000 s.f. indoor cannabis growing operation

- Chiller with hot gas waste heat recovery
- Baseline boiler reheat
- Gas program / lighting also captured

Energy Savings Results

400,000 therms

\$140,000 incentive @ \$0.80/therm

Incentive capped at ½ incremental cost

SCE Programs for Producers

Agricultural Rates for Indoor Horticulture Customers

- Demand < 200 kW: TOU-PA-2
- Demand > 200 kW: TOU-PA-3

Note: Indoor horticulture customers will remain on a Commercial General Service Rate and will qualify for a PA rate **when they begin the grow process.**

Demand Response

Taking advantage of one or more of our DR programs will help lower energy costs when you actively reduce energy use.

The benefits to your business include:

- Receiving discounted rates, incentives, or bill credits for participation
- Advance notification of DR events to mitigate the impact on your operations
- Technology to make participation easier

<https://www.sce.com/business/demand-response>





SUNGROWN



**BREAK OUT
SESSIONS**

**LIVE Q&A AND
DISCUSSION**

GREENHOUSE



INDOOR