

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND ACCELERATED COMMERCIALIZATION PROGRAM (ETAC)

Project Brief: FirstFuel Introduces Analytics-Enabled Retro-commissioning Approach for Operational Savings

Background

FirstFuel Software, Inc. has developed a software-based analytics platform that can remotely analyze building energy use based on whole building utility meter data and location, and provide a breakdown by system of the building's electric and gas end uses (lighting, HVAC, etc.). The platform can identify retrofit and operational efficiency improvements and savings potential in each building, as well as track these savings through a sophisticated energy baseline. This process allows quick and cost-effective energy recommendations and performance monitoring. The remote analytics platform is lower cost than traditional energy audit and M&V approaches, which normally require trained staff to complete an on-site review of the facility details.

Project Description

FirstFuel's project focuses on remotely identifying low/no-cost operational savings opportunities and suitability for retro-commissioning (RCx) programs. FirstFuel will complete remote audits at 10 NYC buildings, and work directly with building property owners and operators to further prioritize and select efficiency projects for implementation. In addition, buildings that undertake projects will be provided with ongoing energy use monitoring to track savings impacts and help ensure savings persistence. This analytics-enabled RCx approach will be compared to traditional processes to determine the potential for this solution to provide speed, cost, and scale benefits for operational savings across New York State commercial portfolios.

Benefits

In addition to cost and speed benefits, FirstFuel remote audits often uncover operational savings opportunities that could be missed by an auditor who is on-site for only a few days. These operational improvements can represent a significant portion of total potential savings. Furthermore, this project and solution can support local efficiency initiatives, such as New York City's LL87, PlaNYC, and Built to Last, and similar efforts across New York State.

Investment

NYSERDA	\$250,000
Participant Team	\$170,000
Total	\$420,000

Lead Participant

FirstFuel Software, Inc.
Lexington, MA

Other Team Members

Equity Office
New York City Department of Citywide
Administrative Services
Tishman Speyer

Technical Consultant

CDH Energy Corp.

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Contract Details

Start Date: November 2014
Project Status: Underway

Last Update

February 2015

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The ETAC program supports multi-site demonstrations, provides indepth performance validation, and shares results through dedicated outreach.

