






# To Ask a Question




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Webinar ID: 200-167-467

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**CDC**

**Guidance for Reopening Buildings After  
Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation**

**Guidelines for Maintaining a Healthy Work  
Environment**

**ASHRAE EPIDEMIC TASK FORCE**

**Commercial COVID-19 Guidance**

# Agenda

- What ASHRAE and the CDC are recommending
- How ventilation systems work in commercial buildings
- The science behind the COVID-19 ventilation guidance
- How long will we have to follow new recommendations?
- How to follow guidelines
- Field example: HOM Furniture
- What ventilation data looks like in a BAS
- Implications for utility costs
- Q&A

## CDC: Maintaining a Healthy Work Environment

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As states start to reopen businesses, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently recommends increasing ventilation rates and the percentage of outdoor air (OA) indoors.

- Keep systems running longer hours, 24/7 if possible, to enhance air exchange.
- Increase outdoor air ventilation, using caution in highly polluted areas.
- Disable demand-controlled ventilation (DCV)– a CO<sub>2</sub>-based outside air sequence
- Open outdoor air dampers as high as 100 percent to reduce or eliminate recirculation.
- Improve central air filtration to the MERV-13 or highest compatible with the filter rack. Seal edges of the filter to limit bypass.

## CDC: Reopening After Prolonged Shutdown

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In addition to guidance for increasing ventilation while occupied, the CDC has issued guidance for re-opening buildings after a prolonged shutdown. The portion of this guidance pertaining to HVAC addresses mold awareness, monitoring, and remediation. There is additional guidance for plumbing systems not covered in this Webcast.

- During the shutdown, keep humidity levels as low as possible, not exceeding 50%.
- Before re-opening, conduct a mold assessment by trained professionals and remediate as needed.
- If HVAC system has not been active for a prolonged period (can be as short as a few days), flush the air for 2-3 days before occupancy with outside air at the highest level that can maintain desired temperatures.

## ASHRAE: Reopening Guidance and Building Readiness

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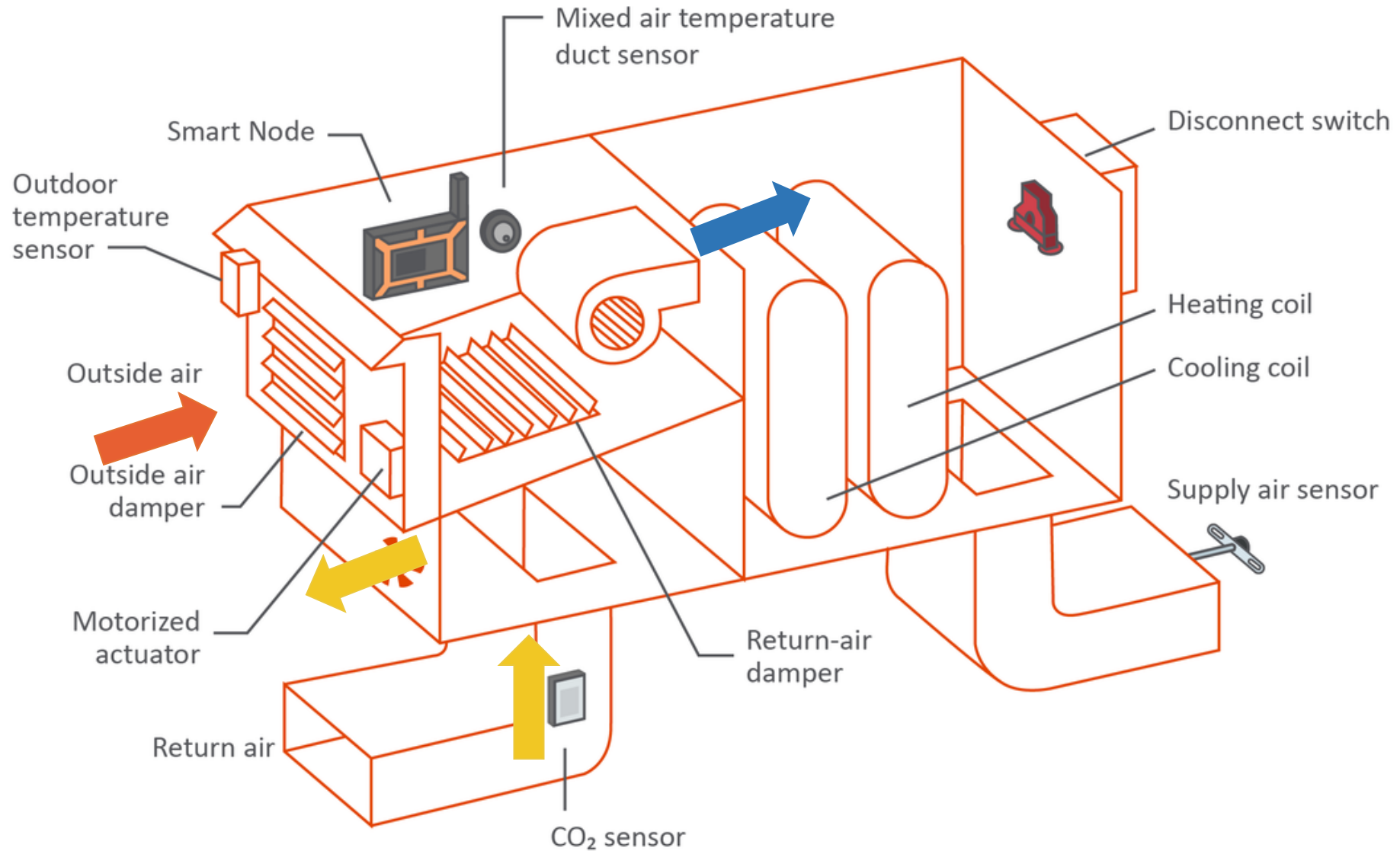
ASHRAE warns that “transmission of SARS-CoV-2 through the air is sufficiently likely that airborne exposure to the virus should be controlled. Changes to building operations, including the operation of heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems, can reduce airborne exposures..” ASHRAE Commercial Building COVID-19 Guidance is given at their Web site:

ASHRAE > COVID-19 > Buildings > Commercial

- Flush the air in a building for two full hours before and after occupancy.
- Open Outside Air (OA) to the maximum possible while maintaining acceptable indoor conditions
- Disable Demand Control Ventilation
- VAV systems: Increase discharge air temperature to max to encourage open VAV terminal unit dampers

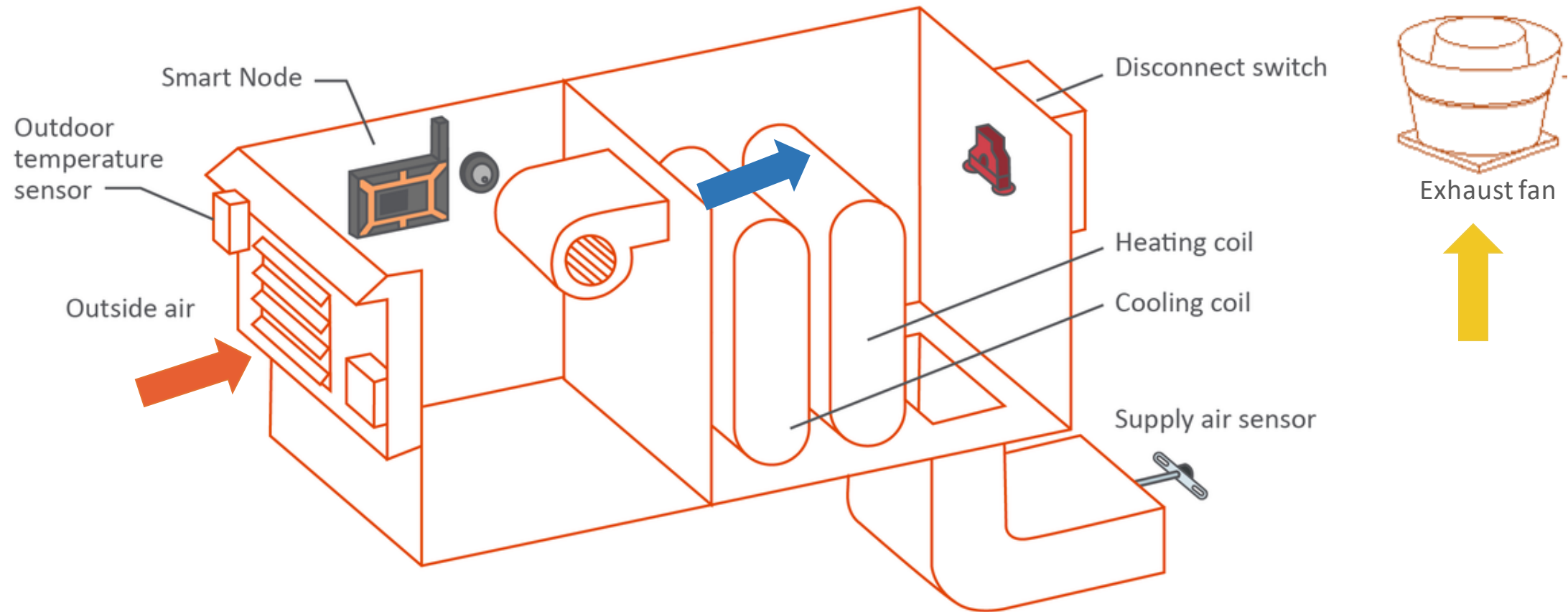
# **HOW VENTILATION SYSTEMS WORK IN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS**

# Packaged Rooftop Units and Air Handlers





## Dedicated Outside Air Systems (DOAS)



**Q&A**

# **SCIENCE: VENTILATION AND COVID-19**



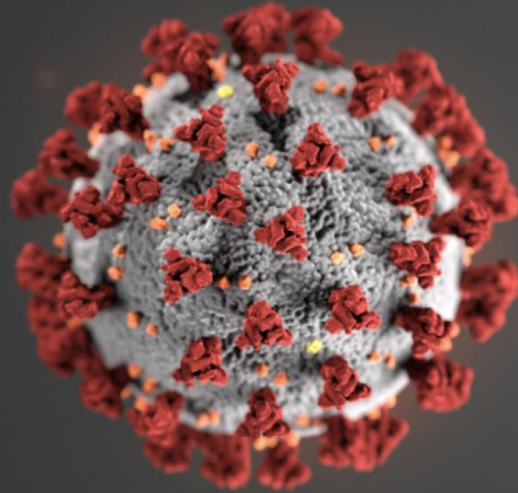
[Diseases & Conditions](#) ▾

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## Coronavirus Disease 2019

CDC is responding to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

[Learn More About COVID-19](#)



### Contact Tracing

Resources for conducting contact tracing to stop the spread of COVID-19.



### Protect Yourself While Shopping

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when you have to go out in public.



### Limit Visits to the Pharmacy

Plan to order and pick up all your prescriptions at the same time.

# CDC Examination of Outbreak in South Korean Call Center

This example illustrates why the built environment can pose a considerable risk.

- One infected employee managed to infect 94 other people on a single floor of this call center.
- "Despite considerable interaction between workers on different floors of building X in the elevators and lobby, spread of COVID-19 was limited almost exclusively to the 11th floor, which indicates that the duration of interaction (or contact) was likely the main facilitator for further spreading of COVID-19."

Figure 2



Figure 2. Floor plan of the 11th floor of building X, site of a coronavirus disease outbreak, Seoul, South Korea, 2020. Blue coloring indicates the seating places of persons with confirmed cases.

Graphic source: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)



## Viral Load

Since duration of interaction was likely the main facilitator of spreading, there is a measure of “viral load” or the concentration of virus particles per cubic foot of air.

- Reducing the viral load reduces the number of particles a person is exposed to in a given time period.
- Increasing OA reduces the viral load by dilution ventilation.



An illustration of coronavirus particles  
[Maurizio De Angelis/Science Photo Library](#)



AMERICAN  
SOCIETY FOR  
MICROBIOLOGY

ASM NEWS

# COVID-19 Research Registry

This registry includes top-ranked, COVID-19 research articles curated by experts and serves as a resource for scientists working to accelerate scientific research on SARS-CoV-2.

[VISIT THE REGISTRY →](#)

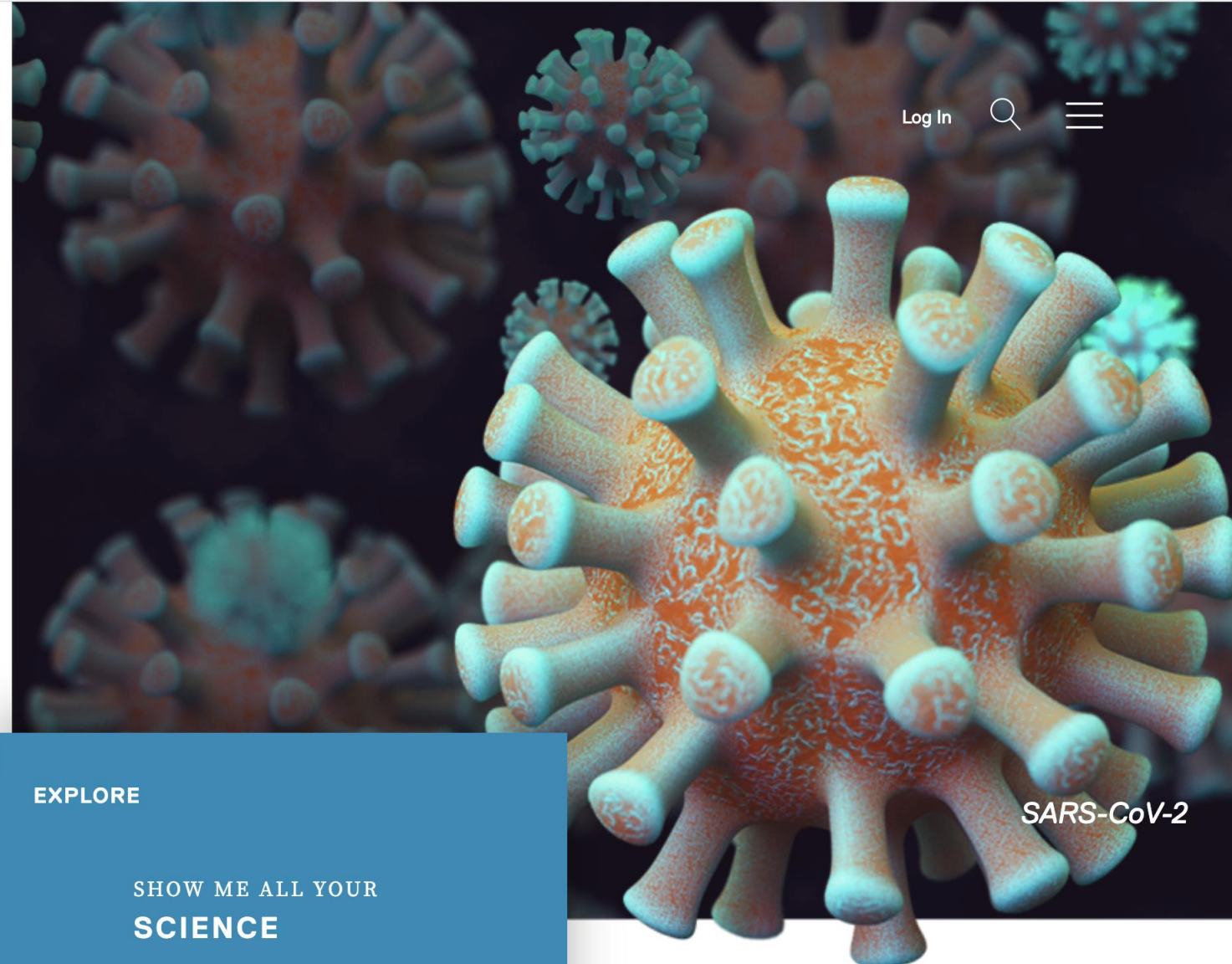
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SARS-CoV-2

CAREERS

**Help Me  
Get Ahead →**



## ASM: Ventilation and COVID-19

How does COVID-19 spread from person to person, and why do ventilation and humidity matter?

- Respiratory viral droplets are shed through exhaling, coughing, or sneezing. These particles deposit onto surfaces or travel in the air due to airflow patterns (mechanical or natural).
- A non-infected person is at risk of contracting the virus when they touch a surface with a high viral load and then touch mucous membranes in their eyes, nose, or mouth before washing their hands.
- Infection may also occur simply from breathing in an infectious dose of the virus. Experts have differing numbers on this threshold.



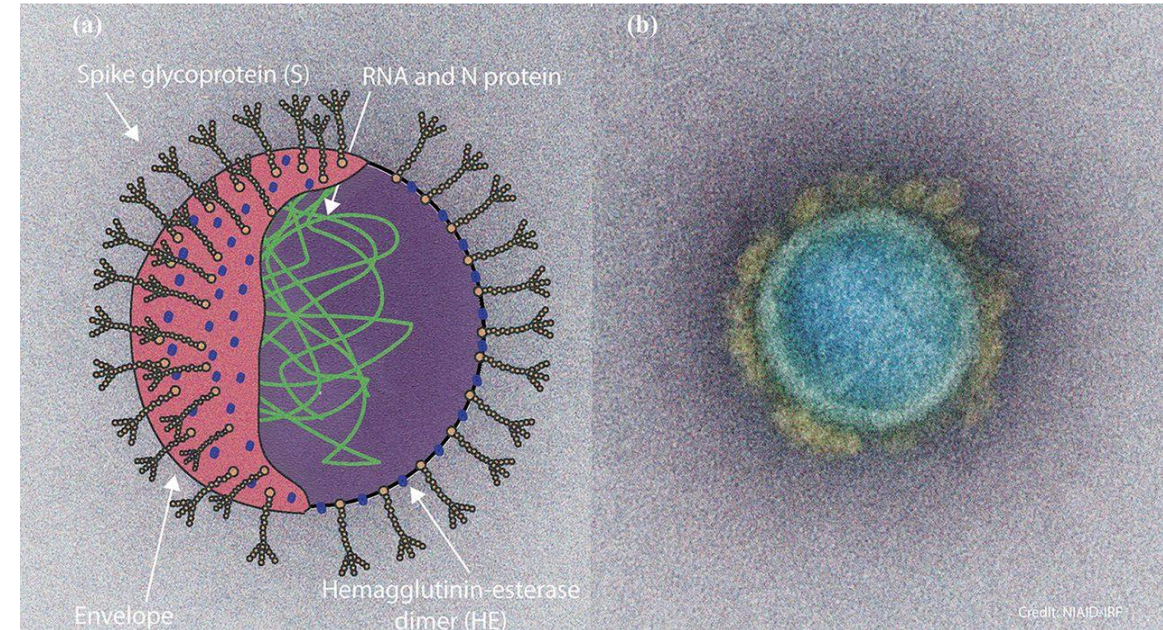
Droplets and aerosolized viral particles are expelled from the body through coughing, sneezing, and talking, then spread to commonly touched items such as computers, glasses, faucets, and countertops.

Graphic source: [American Society for Microbiology](#)



## ASM: Ventilation and COVID-19

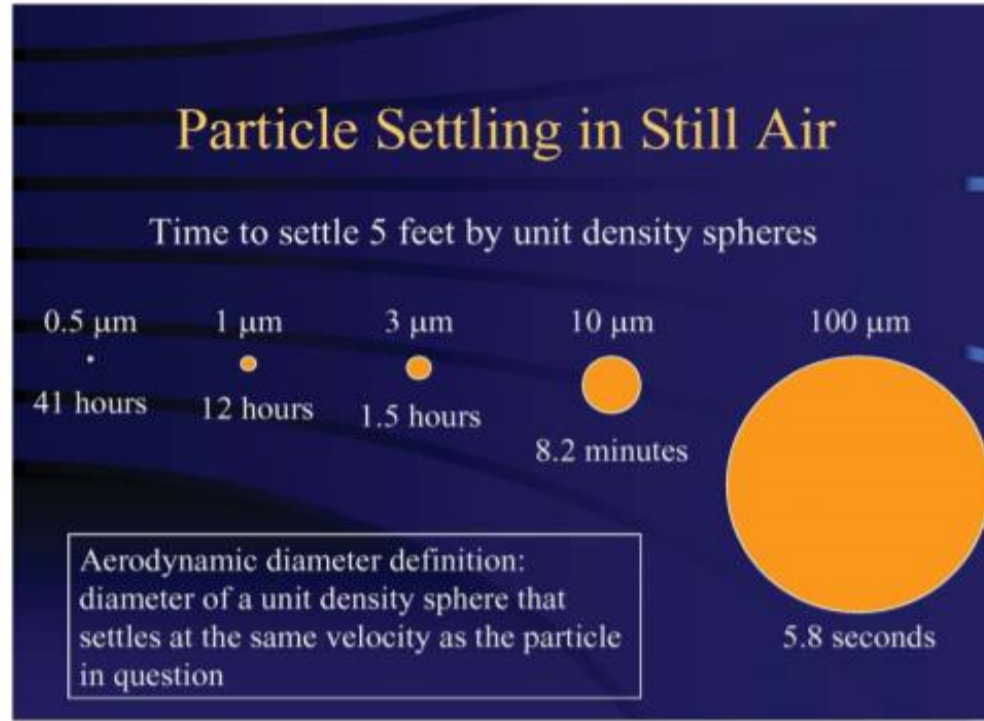
- Higher outside air fractions and increased exchange rates can help dilute the viral load indoors.
- "Increasing airflow rates that simply increase the delivery of recirculated indoor air, without increased outside air fraction, could potentially increase the transmission potential."
- This paper indicates relative humidity above 40 percent is detrimental coronaviruses and can slow down airborne dispersal of a virus by encouraging larger droplet formation.



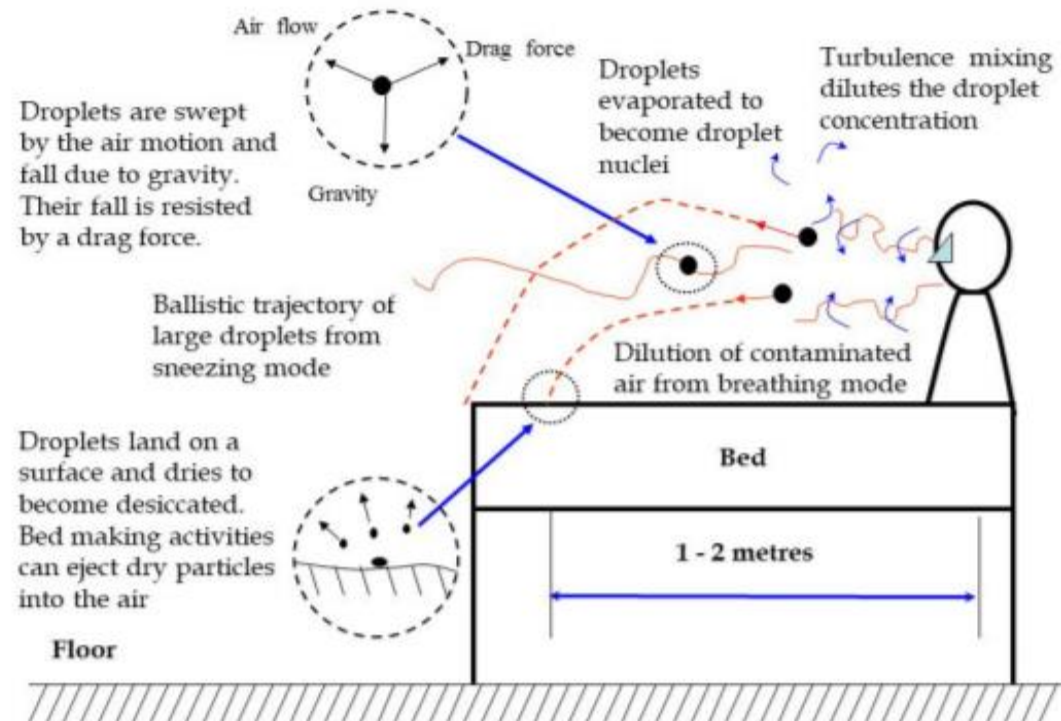
It is essential to understand the potential transmission dynamics of COVID-19 within the built environment, and the ways that human behavior, spatial dynamics, and building operation can mitigate the spread and transmission of COVID-19.

Graphic source: [American Society for Microbiology](#)

# ASHRAE: Settling Rates



(a)

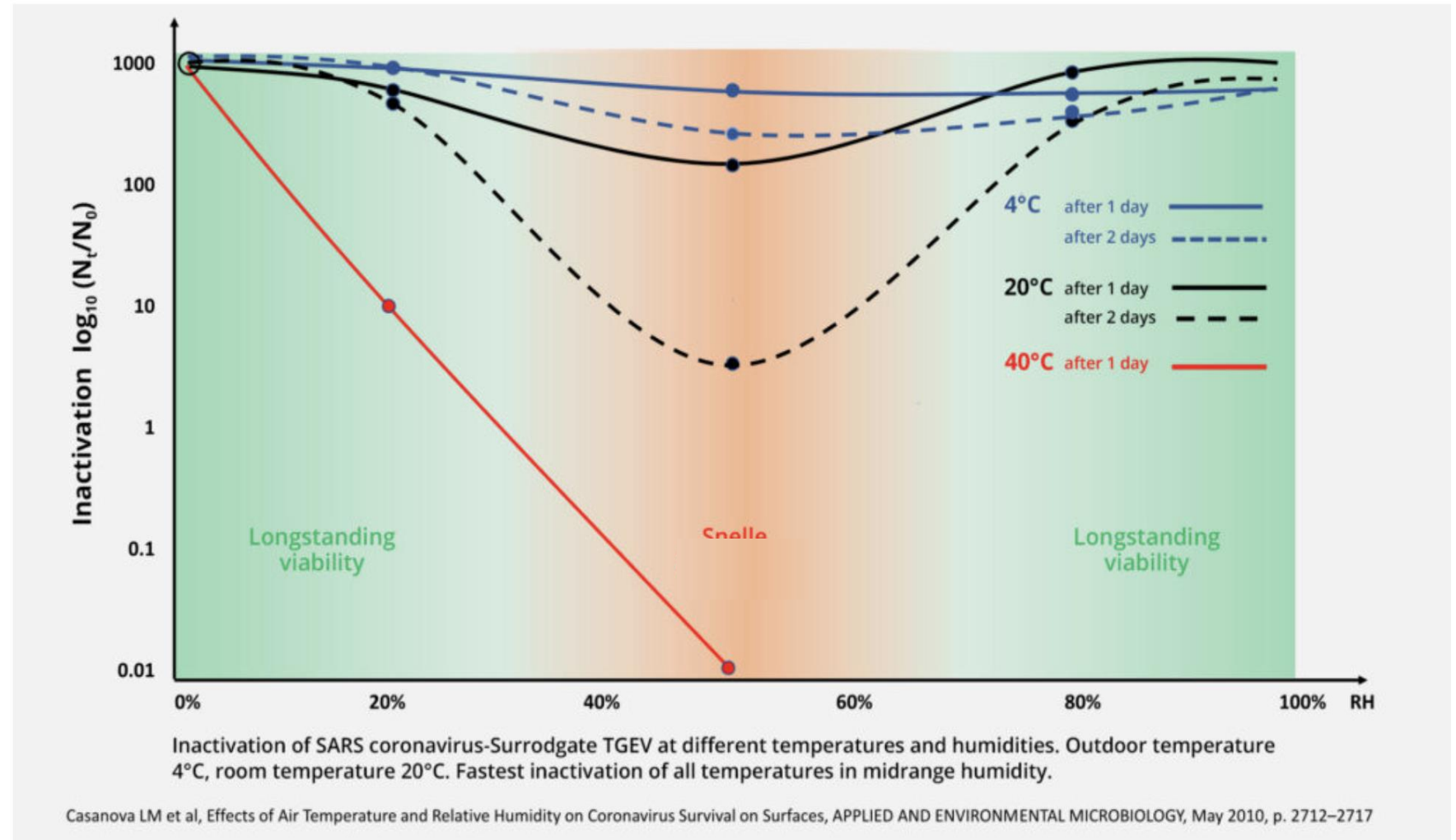


(b)

**Figure 1** (a) Comparative settling times by particle diameter for particles settling in still air (Baron n.d.) and (b) theoretical aerobiology of transmission of droplets and small airborne particles produced by an infected patient with an acute infection (courtesy Yuguo Li).

## Humidity and COVID-19

- Indoor humidity levels above 60% can lead to the presence of other pathogens such as mold.
- Coronavirus naturally inactivates fastest at 50%
- The ideal range for indoor humidity levels is 40% - 60%



Graphic source: Applied and Environmental Microbiology



**Q&A**

**HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THE NEW  
GUIDANCE?**

## How Long Will This Last?

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While we don't know how long the COVID -19 crises will last, it is clear building operators will need to act on this guidance to open their buildings and keep them open for a prolonged period. We do know that this will end and it will happen again.

- Vaccines are being developed and some testing has begun, but the latest guidance from the White House and medical experts is not to expect a vaccine until 2021 at the earliest.
- COVID crises length "will likely be 18 to 24 months, as herd immunity gradually develops in the human population." – Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, U of M.

**FOLLOWING CDC & ASHRAE GUIDELINES**

## Sequences of Operation

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The following sequences are required to follow the guidance after re-opening a building:

- During occupied hours, open Outside Air (OA) dampers as high as 100% if possible
- Purge the building with fresh outside air for 2 hours before and after occupied hours.
- Disable Demand Control Ventilation – a sequence that uses CO2 sensors to automatically adjust the amount of OA.
- For VAV systems, increase discharge air temperature to max to encourage open VAV terminal dampers.



## Sequences of Operation – Outside Air Damper Maximum Opening

RTUs and AHUs are not designed for 100% OA loads. Extreme weather conditions can create very uncomfortable conditions and even worsen risk of infectious aerosols.

### – Thermostats:

- Get on the roof and open up your OA damper
- If you can open up your OA damper, turn the fan to “on” all the time. “Auto” will cycle on and off
- If you have an economizer, call an HVAC tech to set the minimum position to 100% if possible



*Fresh Air Damper*

### – Typical Building Automation System:

- Edit setting for the OA damper minimum position to 100% if possible & Turn off DCV

### – 75F Building Intelligence System – engage the 75F Epidemic Mode™ sequence that automatically detects the maximum amount of OA any unit can provide for the current weather conditions. As ASHRAE or CDC changes their guidance, updates to the sequence are automatic and over-the-air.

## Sequences of Operation – Pre and Post Purge

The guidance to purge the building for 2 hours before and after occupancy can be accomplished these ways:

- **Thermostat:** If you have a programmable thermostat, change your program to start 2 hours before occupancy and end 2 hours after occupancy.
- **Typical BAS:** Edit the fan setting to cover 2 hours before and after occupancy. If not possible, adjust the occupied schedule.
- **75F Building Intelligence System:** Select the **75F Epidemic Mode™** application and **Smart Purge™** setting which will automatically start the fan for a 2-hour pre and post purge while keeping the OA damper open.
  - Machine Learning will automatically determine what time to start conditioning for Optimum Start based on predicted weather and previous conditioning rate patterns.
  - As ASHRAE or CDC changes this guidance, updates to the sequence are automatic and over the air.

## Sequences of Operation: Maximize Discharge Air Temperature

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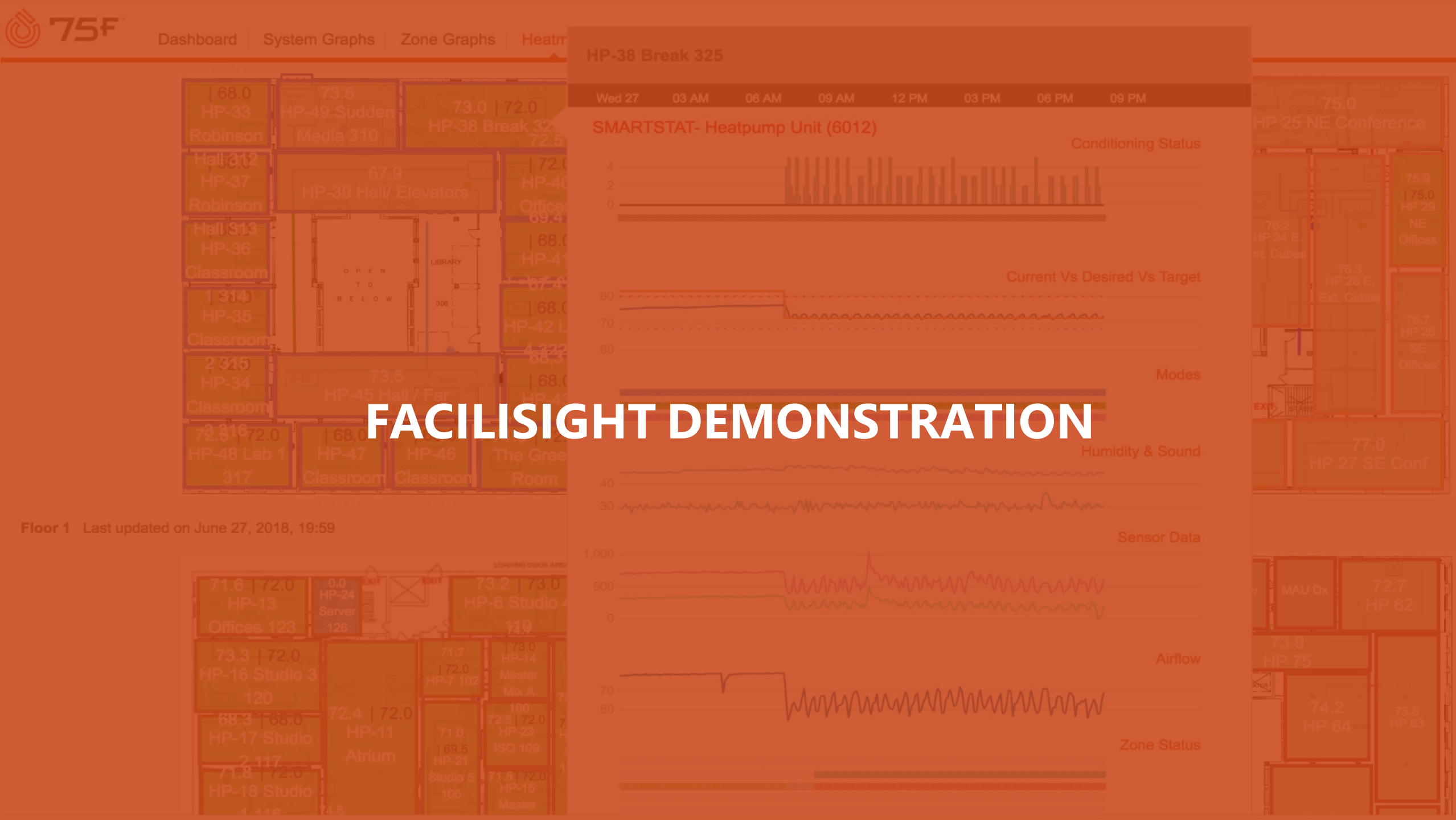
The guidance to increase discharge air temps – usually 60 degrees – so that VAV terminal units will open more:

- Typical BAS: For systems with modulating cooling capacity, edit the Leaving Air Temperature reset to the highest possible option.
- 75F Building Intelligence System: Select the 75F Epidemic Mode™ setting which will automatically adjust Leaving Air Temperature to the highest option.
  - If ASHRAE or CDC changes the guidance, updates to the sequence are automatic and over-the-air.

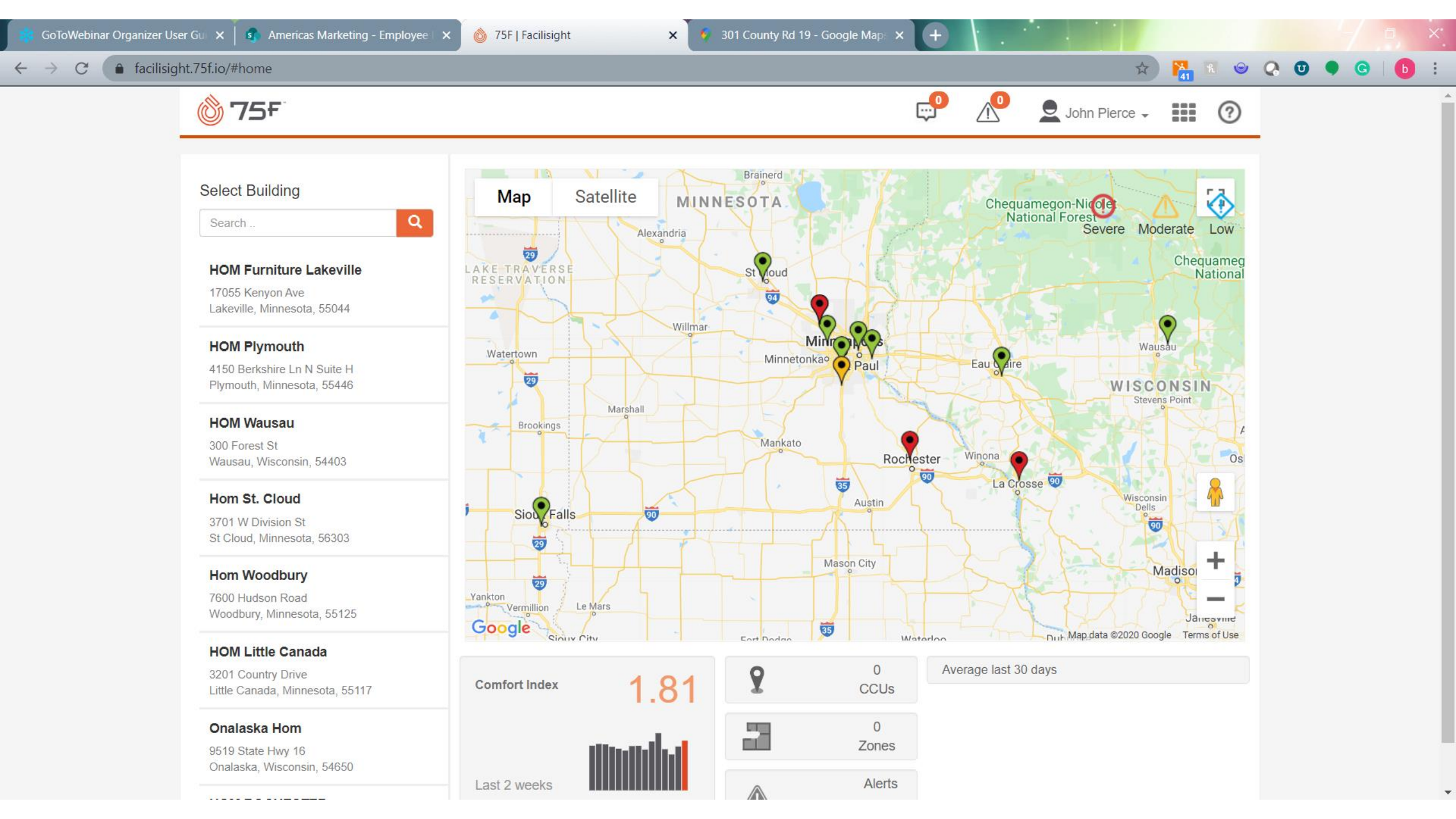
**Q&A**



## FIELD EXAMPLE: HOM Furniture







John Pierce



### Select Building

Search ..



#### HOM Furniture Lakeville

17055 Kenyon Ave  
Lakeville, Minnesota, 55044

#### HOM Plymouth

4150 Berkshire Ln N Suite H  
Plymouth, Minnesota, 55446

#### HOM Wausau

300 Forest St  
Wausau, Wisconsin, 54403

#### Hom St. Cloud

3701 W Division St  
St Cloud, Minnesota, 56303

#### Hom Woodbury

7600 Hudson Road  
Woodbury, Minnesota, 55125

#### HOM Little Canada

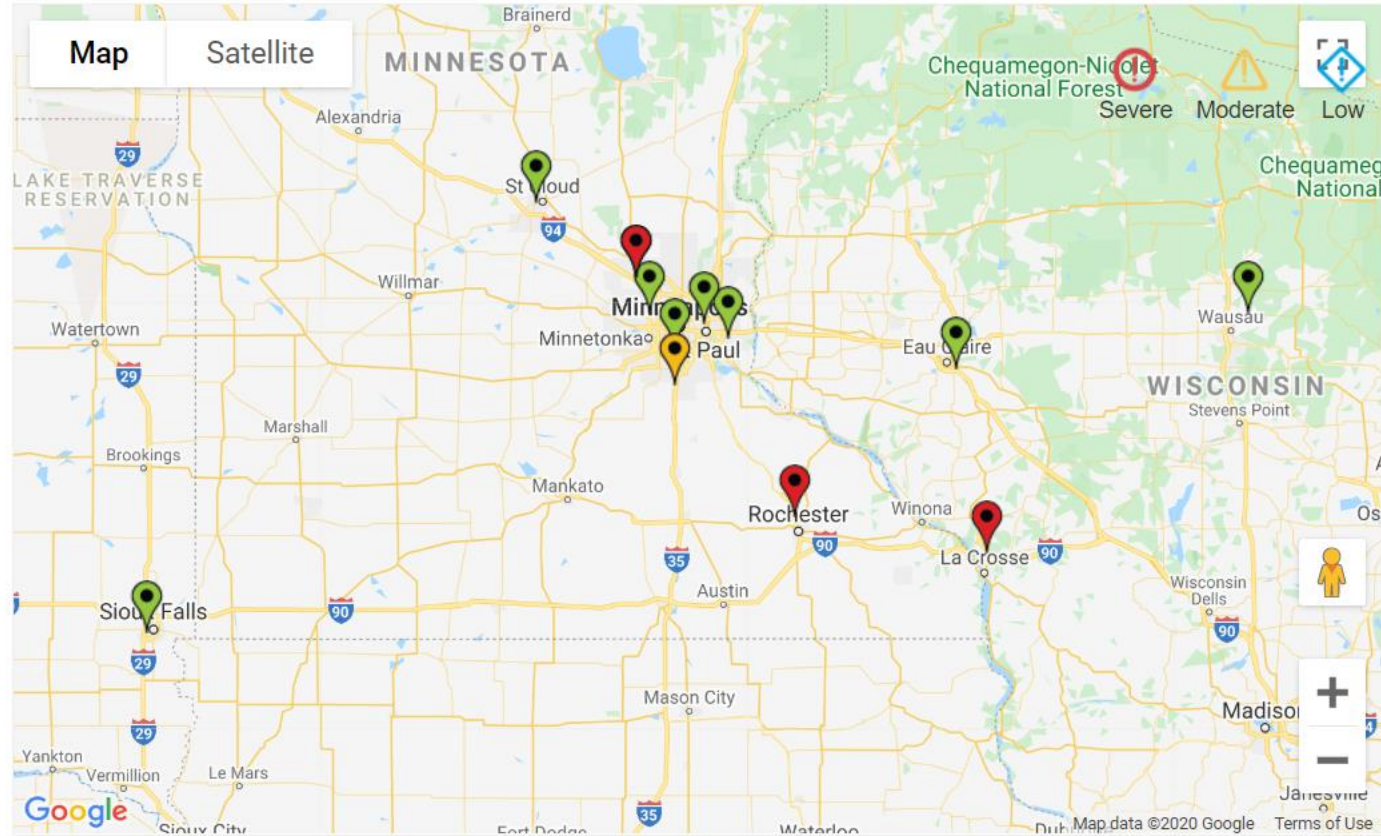
3201 Country Drive  
Little Canada, Minnesota, 55117

#### Onalaska Hom

9519 State Hwy 16  
Onalaska, Wisconsin, 54650

Map

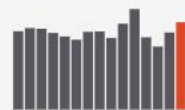
Satellite



Comfort Index

1.81

Last 2 weeks



0  
CCUs

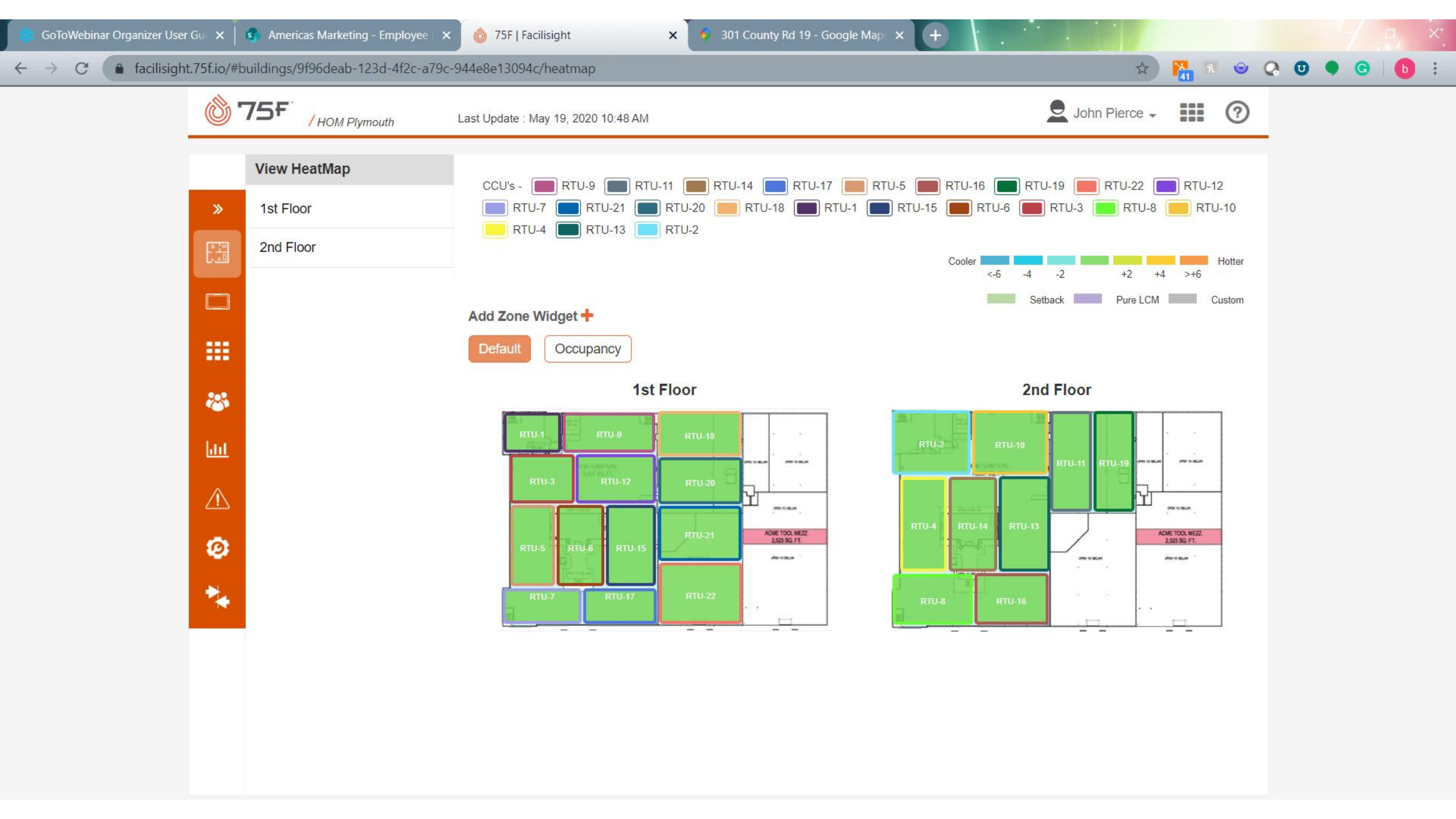


0  
Zones

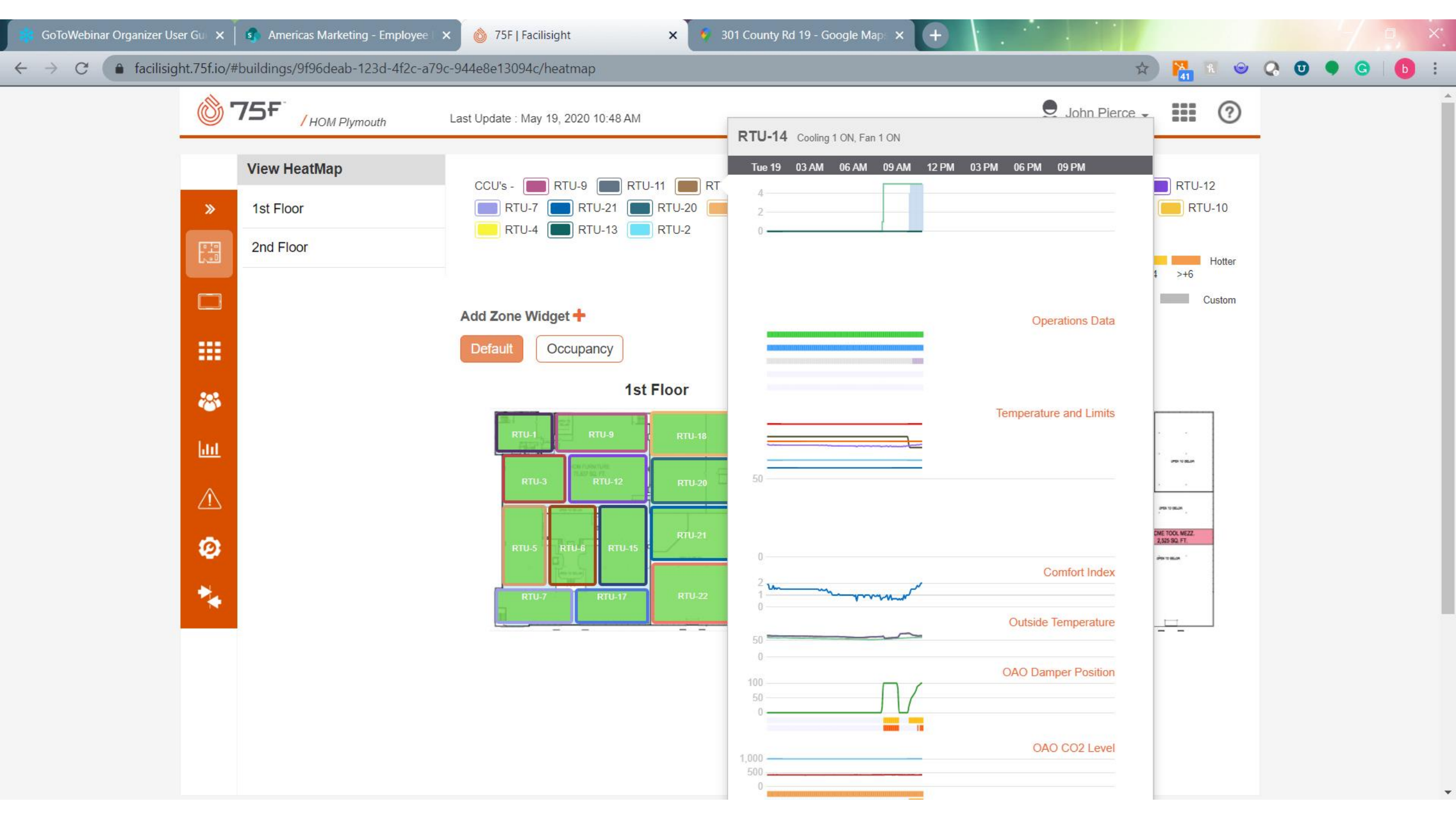


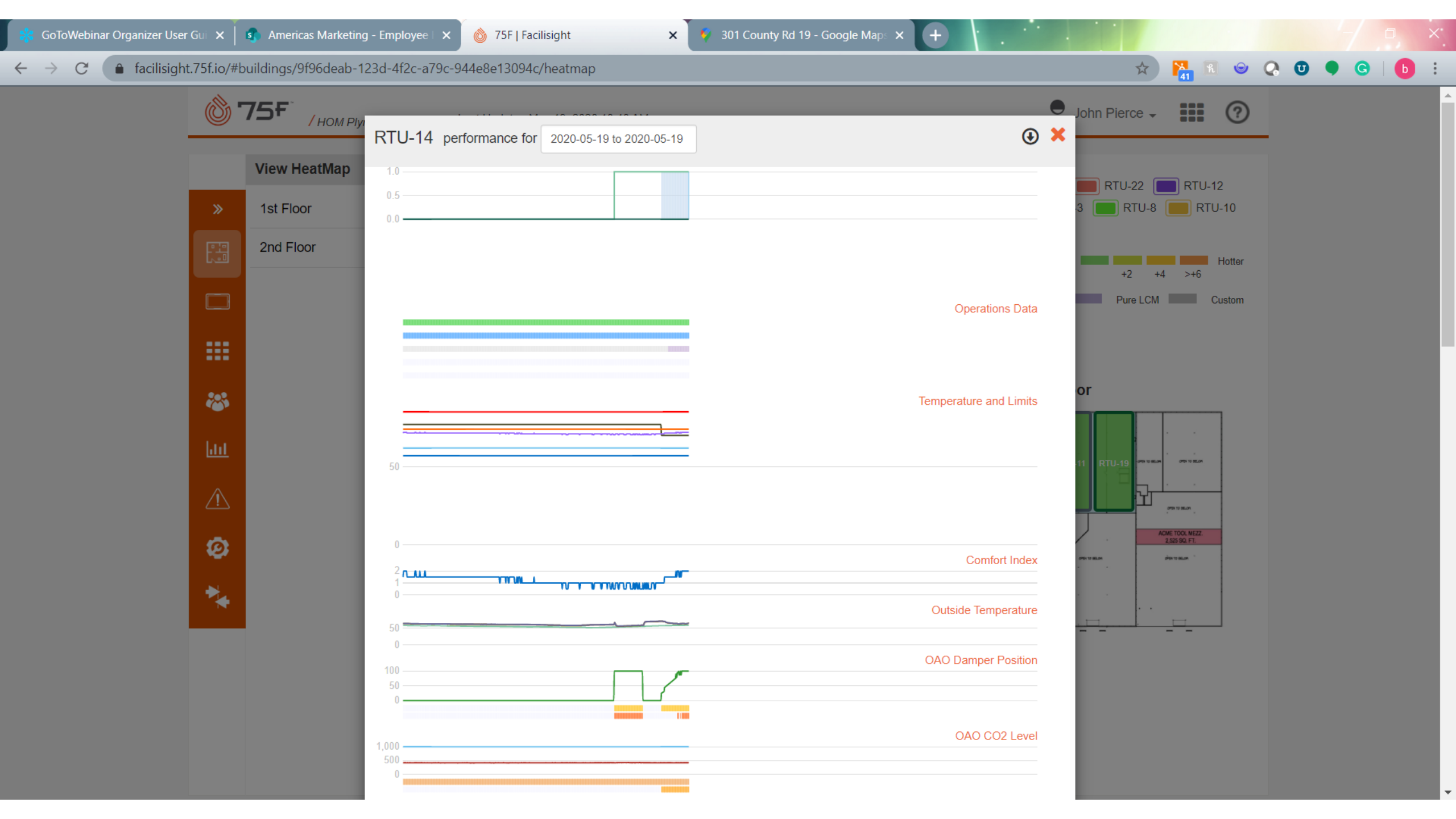
Alerts

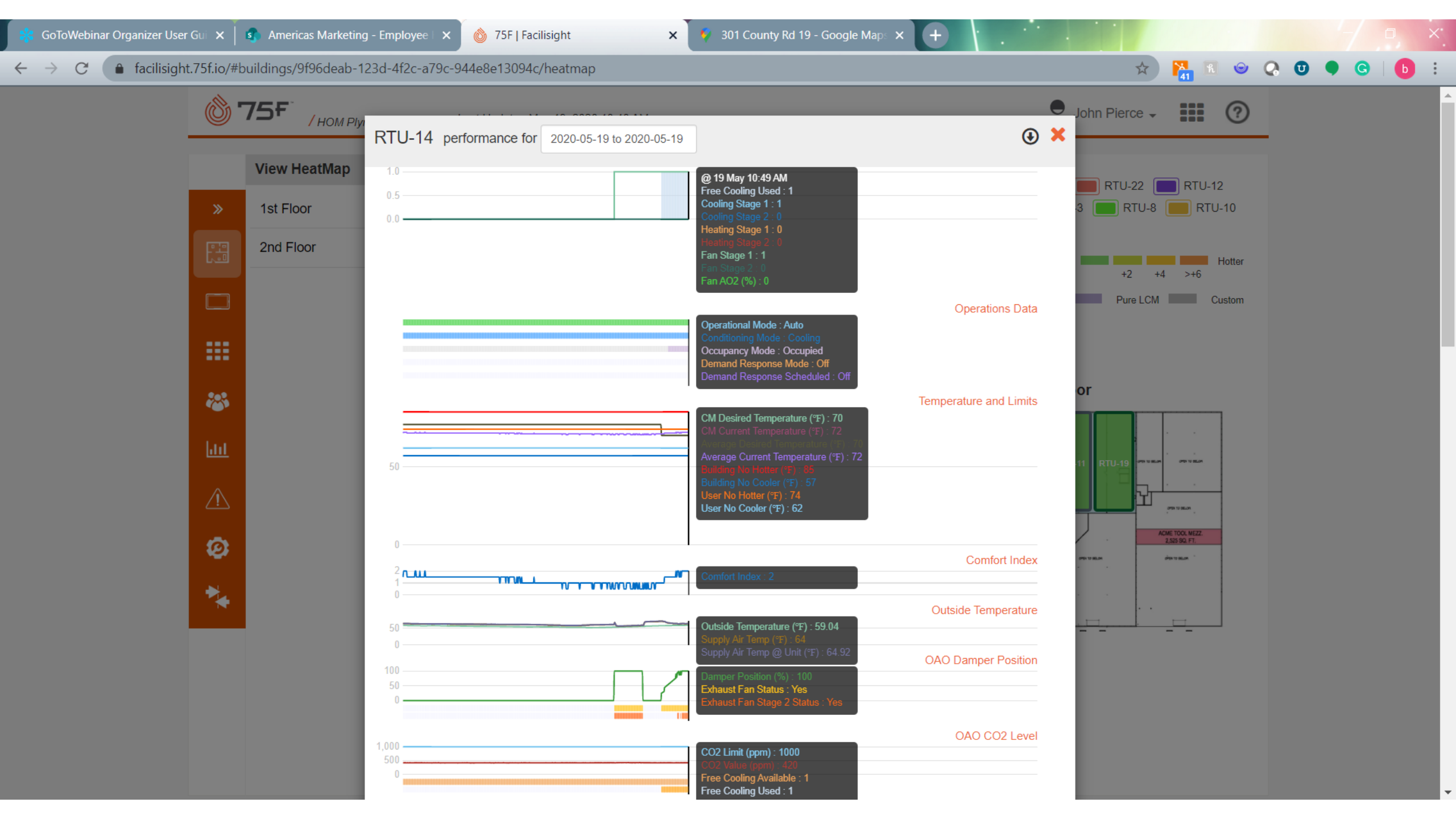
Average last 30 days











A photograph of a mechanical system, possibly a water filtration or treatment unit, with a digital display and various pipes. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The digital display shows "Jeff's Office", "NA 73.0°F", "Sensor Room Temp", and "100-12301710-1100".

# IMPLICATIONS FOR UTILITY COSTS

## Emissions

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr)

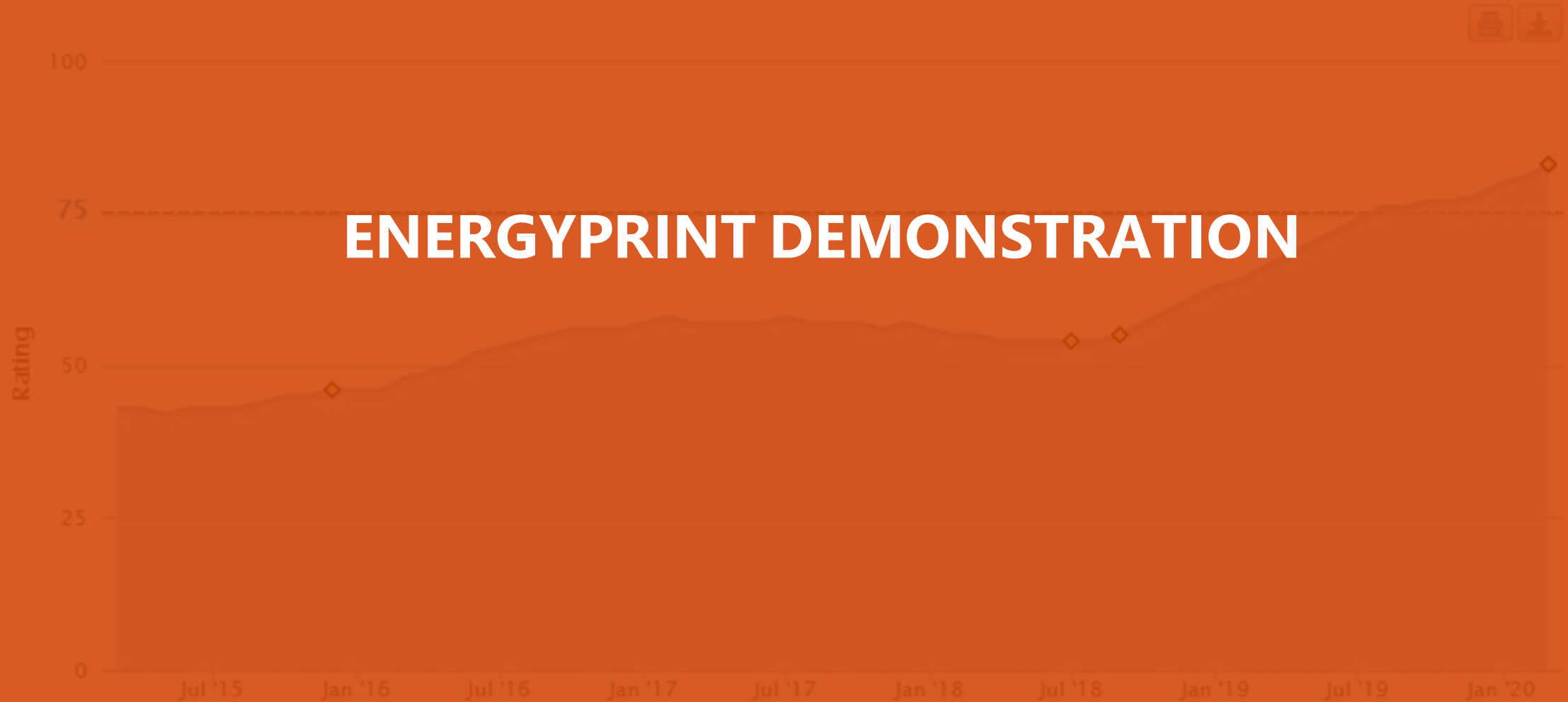
903.40

## External Resources



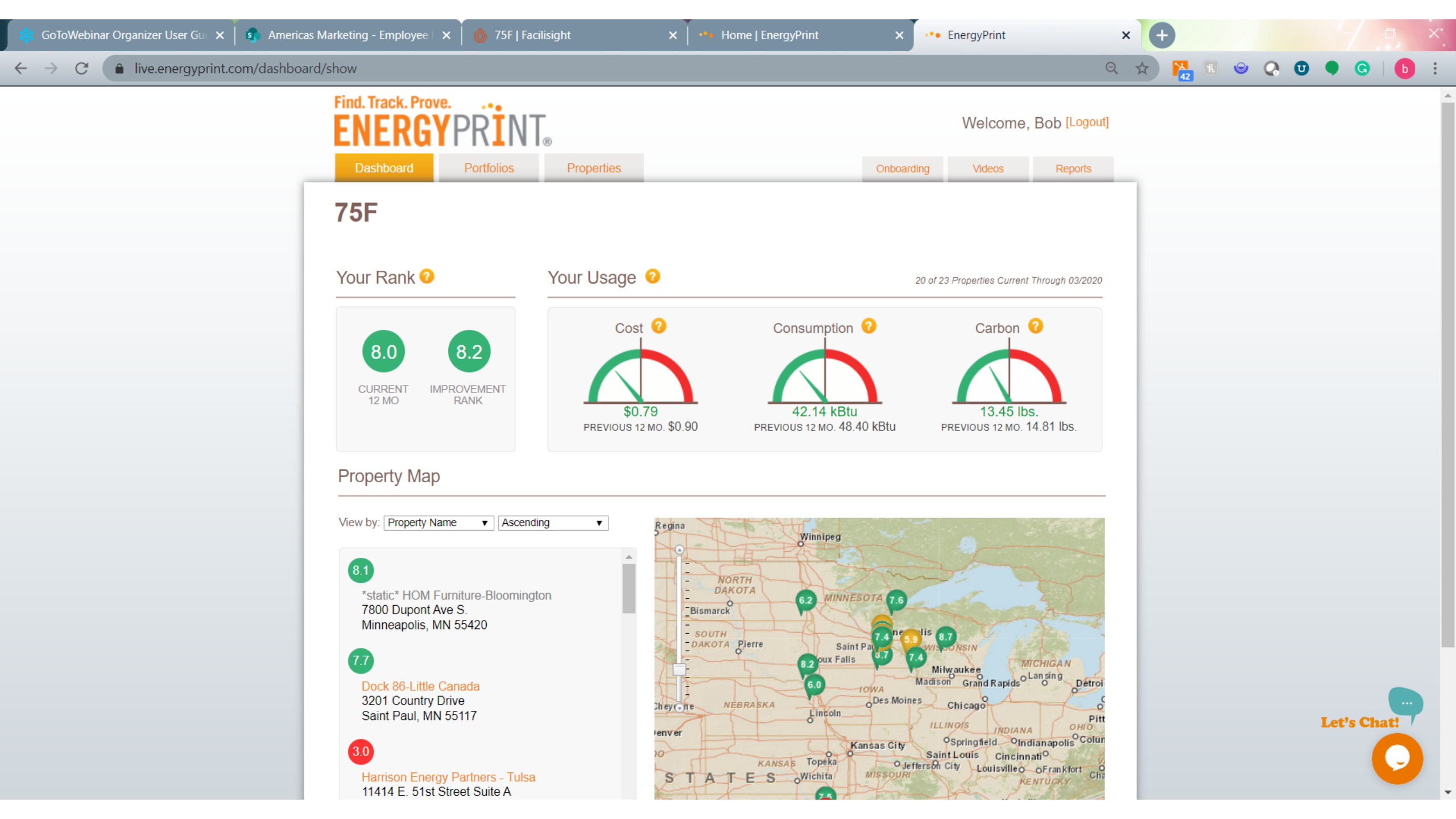
[ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager Login](#)

## ENERGY STAR Rating Trend



**ENERGYPRINT DEMONSTRATION**







GoToWebinar Organizer User Gui

Americas Marketing - Employee

75F | Facilisight

Home | EnergyPrint

EnergyPrint

live.energyprint.com/properties/858/cost\_avoidance\_projects/124

1000k

750k

500k

250k

0k

09/2018

11/2018

01/2019

03/2019

05/2019

07/2019

09/2019

11/2019

01/2020

03/2020

Actual

Baseline

Degree Days

Month

Actual kBTus

Baseyear Month

Baseyear Adjustments kBTus

Baseline kBTus

Cons. Avoidance kBTus

Cost Avoidance

09/2018

488,543.39

09/2017

10,000.00

634,206.58

145,663.19

\$4,370.50

10/2018

498,081.94

10/2017

0.00

759,131.38

261,049.44

\$5,101.76

11/2018

686,996.56

11/2017

0.00

934,235.66

247,239.10

\$4,351.27

12/2018

834,802.86

12/2017

0.00

975,991.44

141,188.58

\$3,685.96

01/2019

1,054,670.37

01/2018

0.00

1,111,533.20

56,862.83

\$2,955.65

02/2019

966,403.69

02/2018

0.00

1,061,367.76

94,964.06

\$3,595.39

03/2019

697,775.08

03/2018

0.00

945,168.22

247,393.14

\$3,988.15

04/2019

472,009.36

04/2018

0.00

747,283.79

275,274.42

\$4,371.10

05/2019

516,842.76

05/2018

0.00

666,436.25

149,593.49

\$4,148.43

06/2019

449,731.86

06/2018

0.00

611,221.17

161,489.31

\$4,701.08

07/2019

500,745.12

07/2018

0.00

655,880.28

155,135.16

\$4,356.21

08/2019

467,597.15

08/2018

0.00

611,769.36

144,172.22

\$4,088.05

09/2019

406,828.56

09/2017

10,000.00

603,241.40

196,412.83

\$6,352.49

10/2019

450,403.59

10/2017

0.00

753,354.19

302,950.60

\$7,042.29

11/2019

521,823.92

11/2017

0.00

903,778.07

381,954.16

\$6,053.39

12/2019

615,877.66

12/2017

0.00

1,004,840.23

388,962.57

\$4,567.37

Let's Chat!



ENERGY STAR Rating Trend



Date	Rating
Jul '15	45
Jan '16	48
Jul '16	52
Jan '17	55
Jul '17	55
Jan '18	55
Jul '18	55
Jan '19	75
Jul '19	78
Jan '20	83

Notes:

Let's Chat!

**Q&A**



Bob French

bob@75F.io

651-261-3942