



GRAND RAPIDS 2030 DISTRICT
CANNABIS
WEBINAR SERIES

MAKE IT OR BREAK IT WITH DEHUMIDIFICATION:

THE IMPORTANCE OF INDOOR AGRICULTURE
HVAC, ITS FUNDAMENTALS, AND THINKING
OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

Michael Ward | Harbor Farmz

Mitch Kelley | Trane

Rachel Fredrickson | Consumers Energy





INTRODUCTIONS

Moderator:

Gillian Giem, Program Manager,
Grand Rapids 2030 District

Speakers:

Michael Ward, CEO & Founder, Harbor Farmz

Mitch Kelley, New System Sales, Trane Commercial
HVAC North America

Rachel Fredrickson, Indoor Agriculture Specialist,
Consumers Energy

GRAND RAPIDS

2030

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HARBOR FARMZ



TRANE®

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TRANE®

Indoor Agriculture HVAC Design Fundamentals



Agenda

- What is Indoor Agriculture?
- Market Landscape
- Inside the grow room
- Understanding the Loads
- Pros and Cons of HVAC Systems
- Controls Considerations

Market Naming



Various names being used, including:

- Controlled environment agriculture (CEA)
- Indoor Agriculture
- Indoor Gardening (IG)
- Industrial Agriculture
- Plant Factories
- Vertical (Canopy) Farming - multiple shelves of plants, leafy greens. Maximize floor space.
- Urban Agriculture

What is Indoor Agriculture?

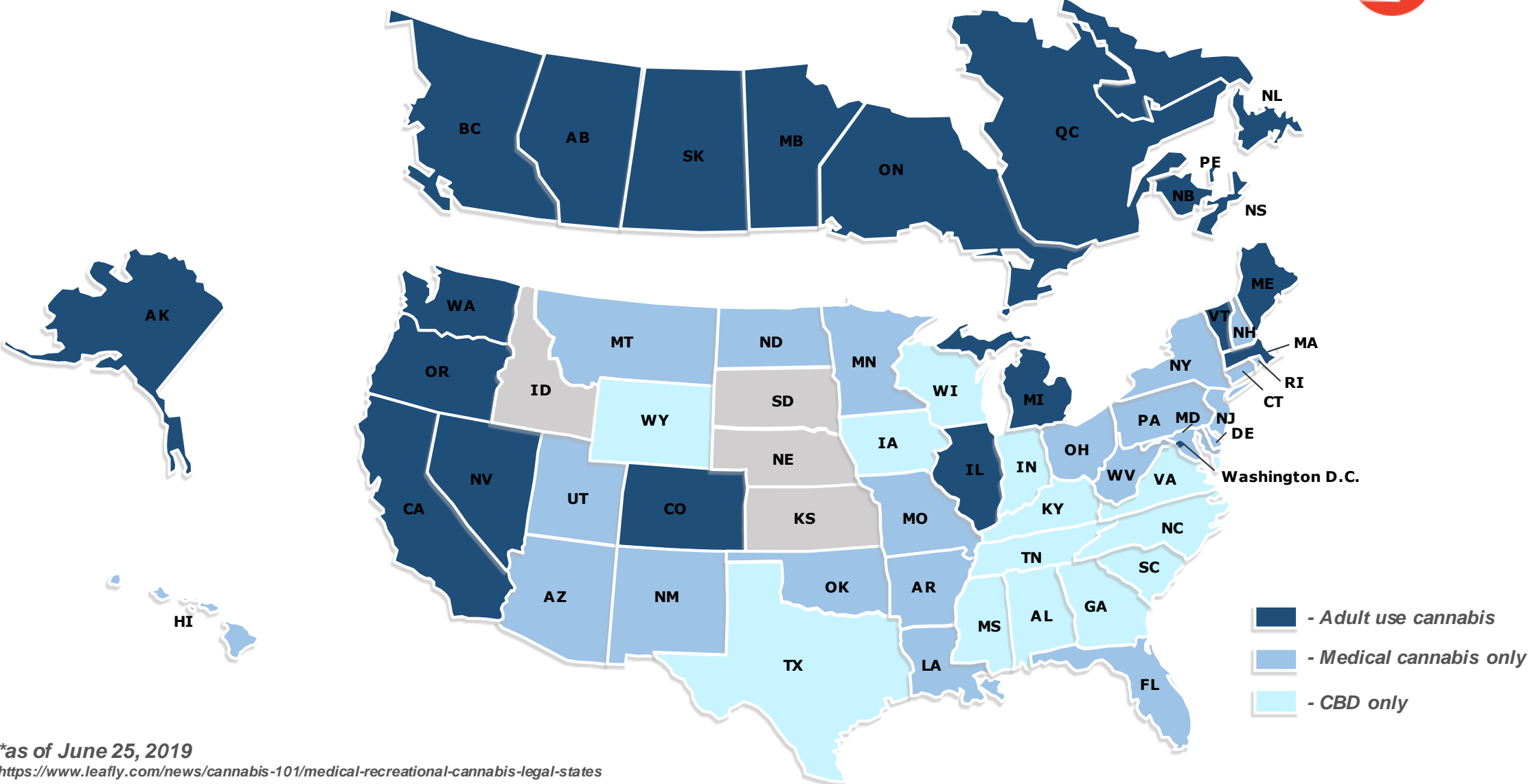


- **Indoor Agriculture...** a technology based approach to growing crops indoors allowing growers to set the ideal environment to achieve optimal harvest from each crop
 - Growers control temperature, humidity(or VPD), CO₂, lighting, irrigation, fertilization, etc.
- Indoor farming can use **~90 – 99% less water** than traditional farming
- Indoor farms can grow up to **100 - 350 times more crops** per ft² than traditional farms
- Crops include cucumbers, lettuce, leafy greens, herbs, tomatoes, or cannabis in legally licensed facilities



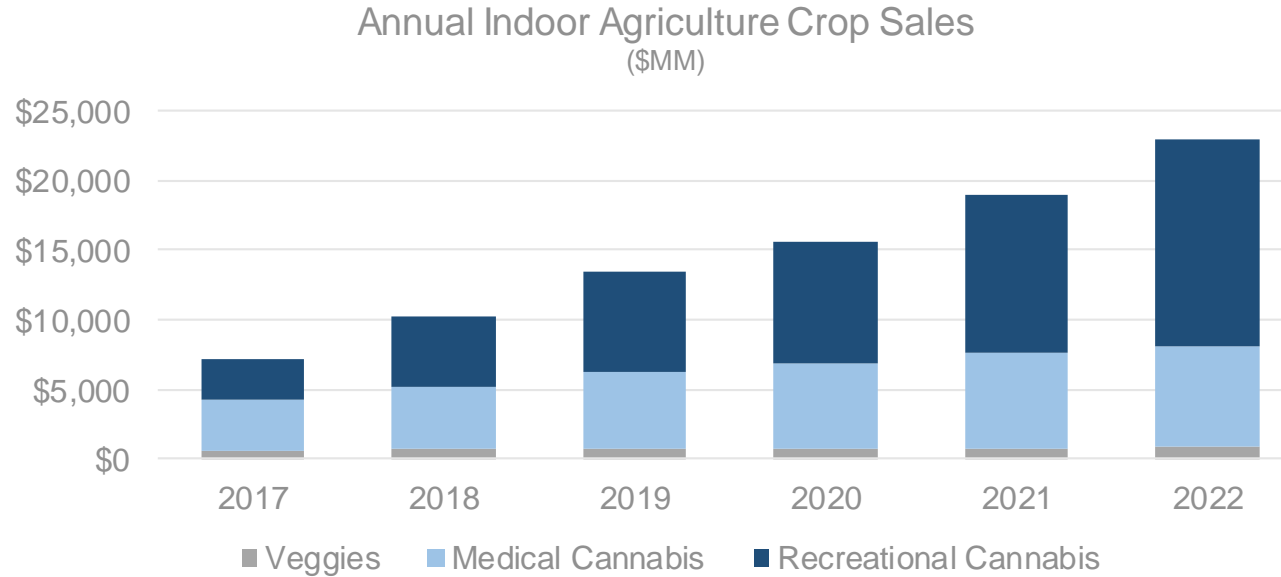
April 2018 - <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2017/11/8/16611710/vertical-farms>
January 2015 - <https://www.sciencealert.com/this-indoor-farm-is-100-times-more-productive-than-an-outdoor-one>

Cannabis Legalization Map



**as of June 25, 2019*
<https://www.leafly.com/news/cannabis-101/medical-recreational-cannabis-legal-states>

Market Trends and Size



- Indoor Agriculture Market growing at 26%+ per year
- Indoor Agriculture is HVAC intensive environment... ~1 ton per 50 ft²
- Customer paying a premium for IA HVAC equipment... upwards of \$3-\$4K/ton
- \$500M - \$1B HVAC market opportunity per year

Sources: [MJ Biz Daily](#) 05/18, [Grand View Research](#) 04/17, [MJ Biz Daily](#) 11/17, [CannaBusinessPlans](#) 2019

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IL Market Update

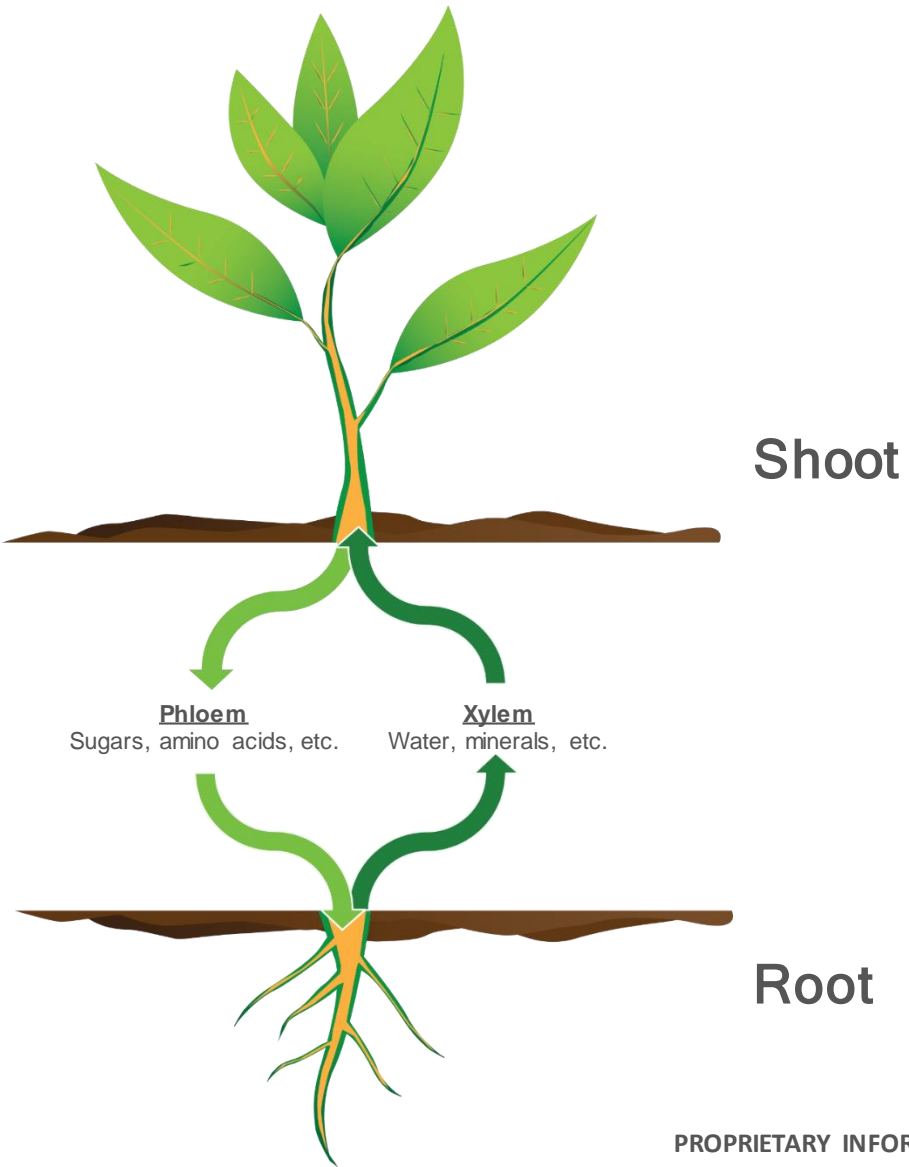


- 20 Existing Cultivation Centers
 - Capped at 210,000 sq. ft.
- Craft Growers
 - Capped at 5,000 sq. ft. for now
 - 40 Licenses issued by July 1st, 2020
 - Additional 60 Licenses by December 21st, 2021
- \$3.2M on January 1st , \$12.9M in the first week
 - CO sold \$1M on 1st day
 - MI sold \$3.1M in first 2 weeks

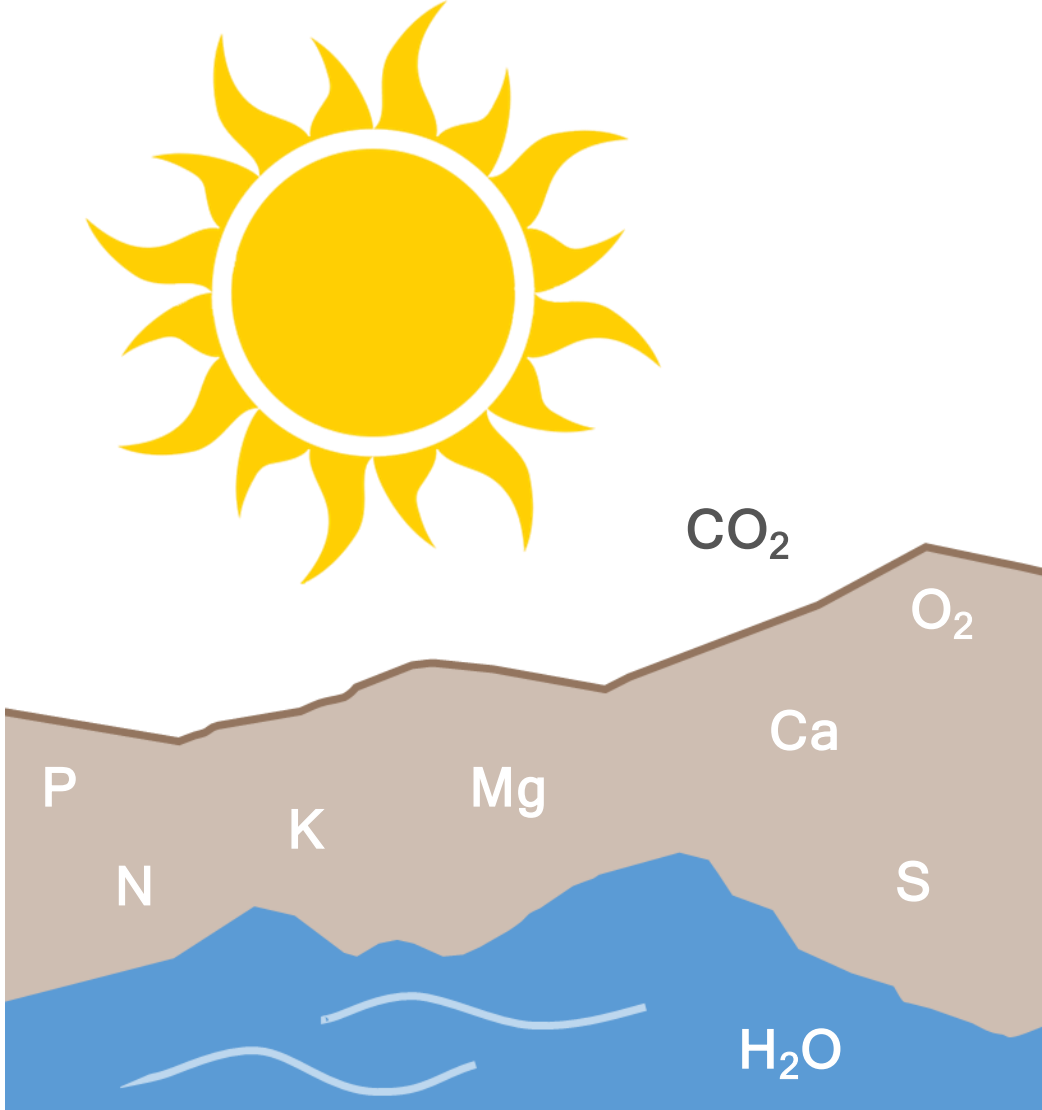
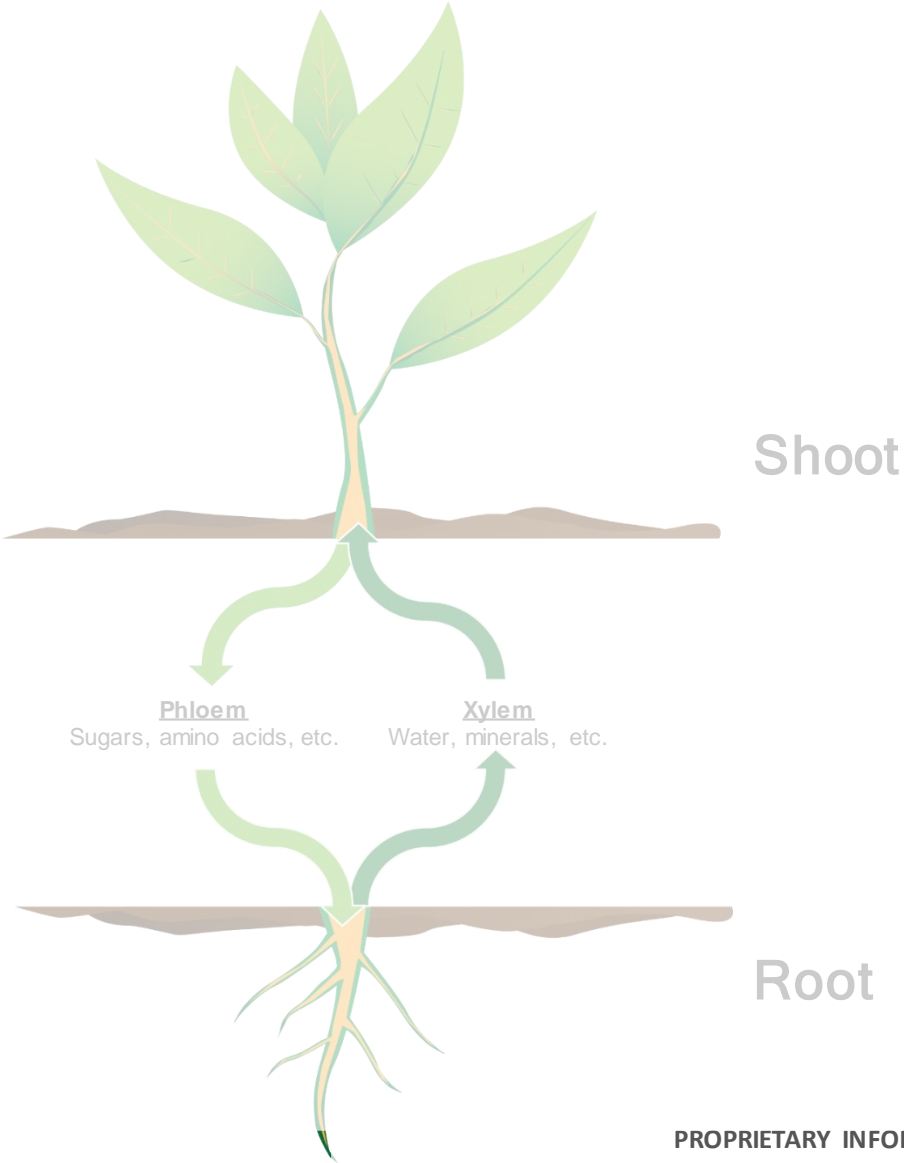


Inside The Grow Room

Plants need O₂, CO₂, minerals, vitamins, and H₂O



Plants need O₂, CO₂, minerals, vitamins, and H₂O

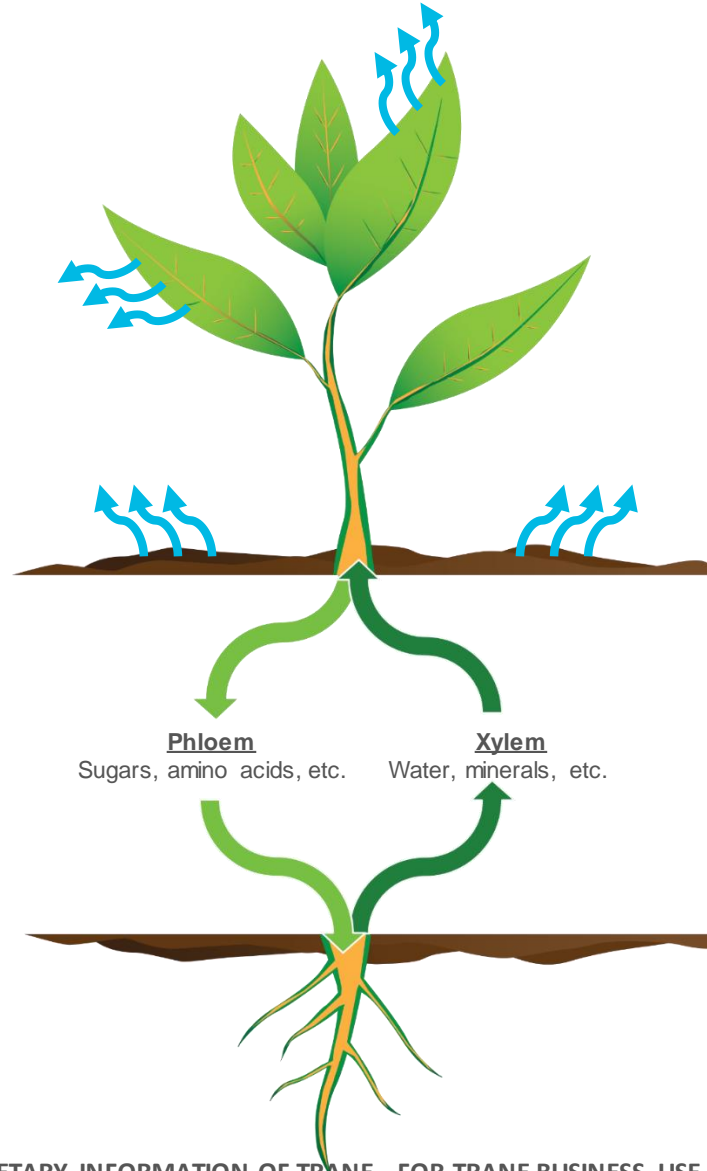


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Evapotranspiration = evaporation + transpiration

Evaporation

Water movement from the **soil** and **plant surfaces** to surrounding air.

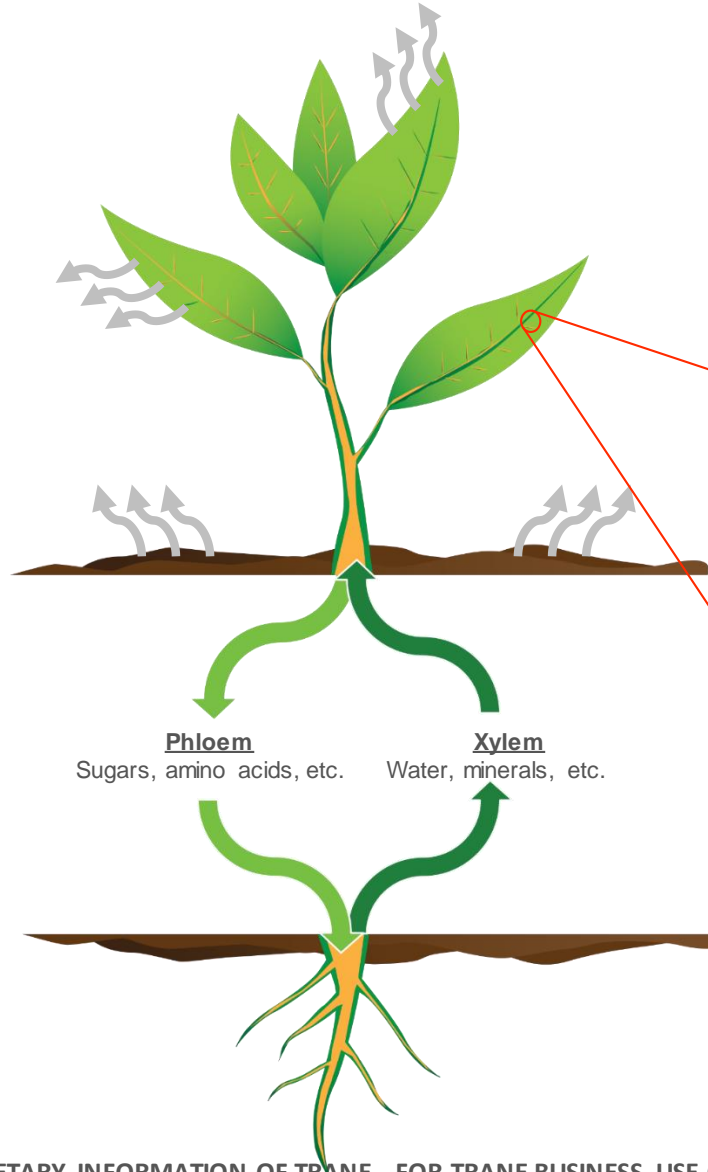


Evapotranspiration = evaporation + transpiration



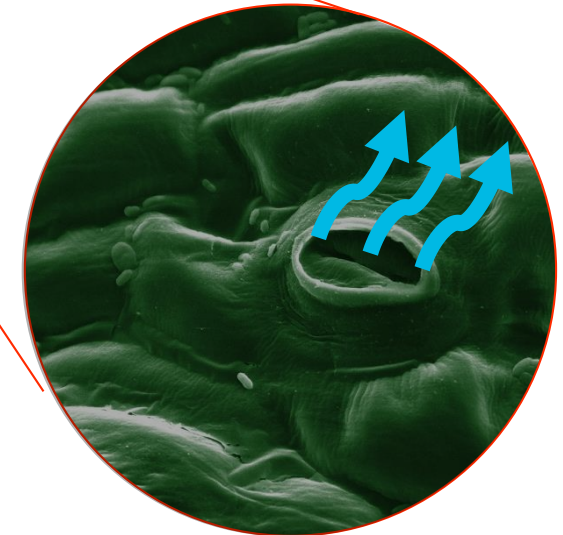
Evaporation

Water movement from the **soil** and **plant surfaces** to surrounding air.



Transpiration

Water movement within the **plant** and eventual release from **leaf stomata**.



Transpiration rates at night



- Plant transpiration rates do not stop during nighttime modes
- Transpiration rates decrease by $\sim 2/3$ when lights are off
- Transpiration rates slowly decrease when lights are turned off... can take 30 – 60 minutes for rates to stabilize
- Experiment was done using barley... relationship should hold true for all C3 plants (tomatoes, lettuce, hemp, etc.)

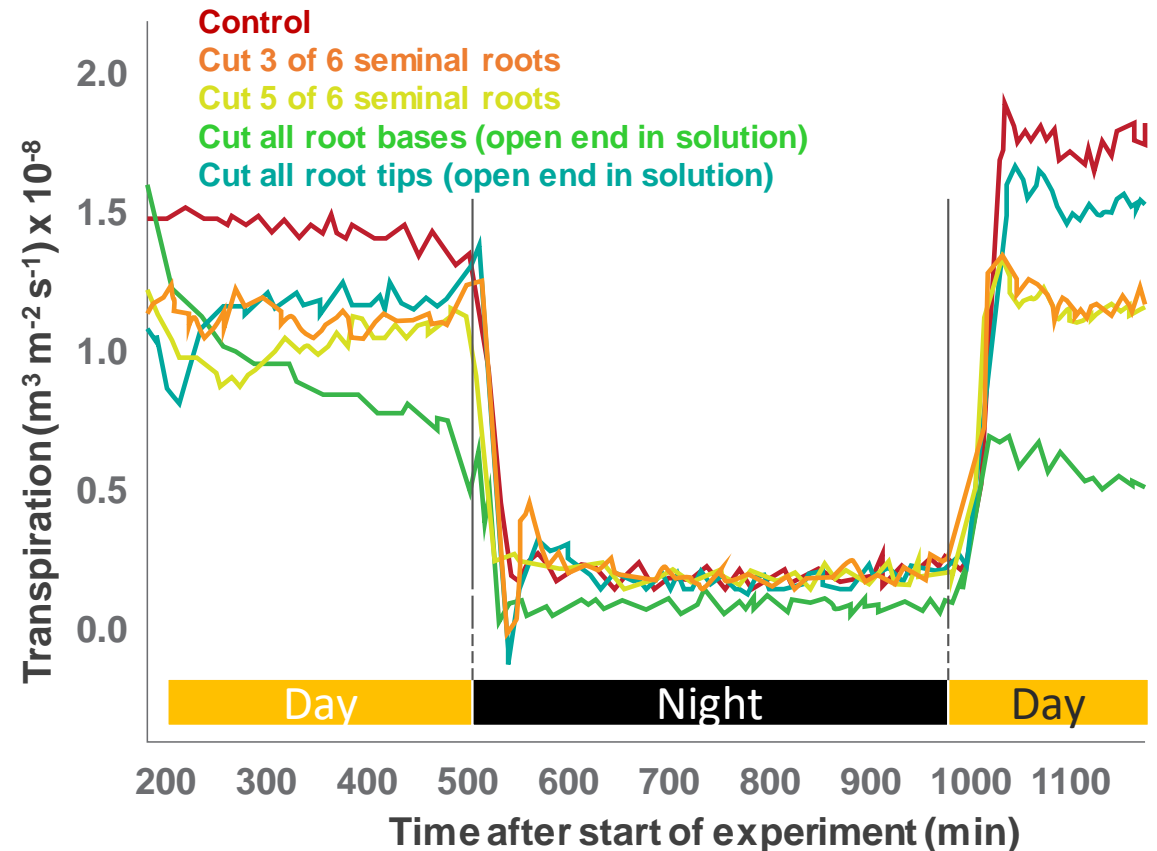


Chart source: <https://academic.oup.com/jxb/article/62/2/717/593518>

Vapor Pressure Deficit (VPD)

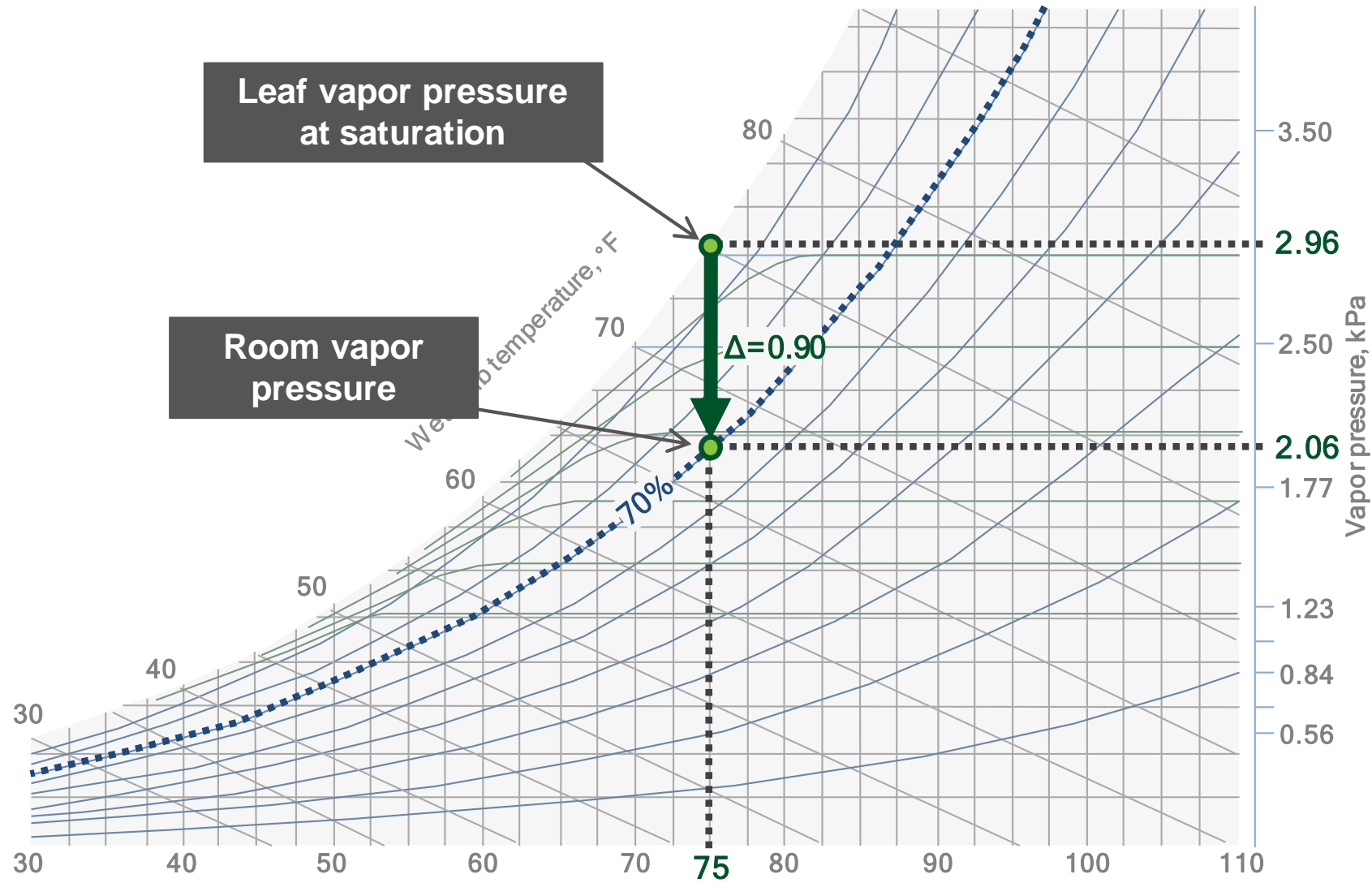
Vapor pressure deficit (VPD)



Vapor pressure difference, vapor pressure deficit (VPD): the difference between the saturation vapor pressure and the vapor pressure in the room at the dry bulb temperature of the leaf.

VPD is a measure on how easily water can transpire from the plant

Example: VPD = 0.90



VPD impact on plants

Low VPD (High RH)

- Low transpiration rates... limits the amount of nutrients and minerals that get transferred through the plant
- Excessive pressure within a plant, results in water being forced out through the leaf edges (guttation)
- Increased likelihood of rot, fungus or mold growth
- Limited carbon filtration capabilities (odor control)



VPD impact on plants

High VPD (Low RH)

- High transpiration rates: Plants will close their stomata to prevent excessive water loss... limits amount of CO₂ that can be absorbed for photosynthesis
- Leaves will curl inward to limit leaf surface exposure to the lights
- Very slow plant growth or stunting



Types of Grow Rooms

Types of Grow Rooms



- Propagation/Clone Room
- Vegetative Rooms
- Mother Rooms
- Flowering/Bloom Rooms
- Drying/Curing Rooms

Propagation/Clone Rooms



- Seeds, or cuttings from the mother plants, are used to grow new plants
- Very low transpiration rates... may need to add humidity to the space
- ~70 - 80°F
- 65 – 80%+ RH
- Lights on: 18-24 hrs/day



**Values are for illustrative purposes only. Growers will have specific target conditions for their grow rooms.*

Vegetative Room



- Grow the plant...
- Increasing transpiration rates
- ~70 - 75°F
- 40 – 60% RH
- Lights on: 18 hrs/day



**Values are for illustrative purposes only. Growers will have specific target conditions for their grow rooms.*

Mother Room



- Large mature plants (sometimes kept in the veg room)... continue to grow the plant to take cuttings for clones
- High transpiration rates
- ~70 - 75°F
- 40 – 60% RH
- Lights on: 18 hrs/day



**Values are for illustrative purposes only. Growers will have specific target conditions for their grow rooms.*

Flowering/Bloom Rooms



- Plants will not grow flowers until the light exposure is decreased simulating end of summer
- High transpiration rates
- ~70 °F
- 35 – 50% RH (prevent mold on bud)
- Lights on: 12 hrs/day



**Values are for illustrative purposes only. Growers will have specific target conditions for their grow rooms.*

Drying/Curing Rooms



- Slow/controlled drying process
- ~70 °F
- 30-60% RH (*decreasing with time*)
- Lights on: occupancy sensor



**Values are for illustrative purposes only. Growers will have specific target conditions for their grow rooms.*

Other Grow Room Considerations



- Varying environmental set points... grower defined
- Elevated CO₂
- Room design... warehouse retrofit, new build, room within a room, etc.
- Methods of irrigation
- Type of lighting... HPS, LED, etc.



Understanding the Loads

Why this isn't normal air conditioning



	Comfort Cooling	Indoor Agriculture
Operating modes	Occupied Unoccupied	Lights-on / "Daytime" Lights-off / "Nighttime"
Lighting	0.7 – 1.2 W/ft ²	30 – 80 W/ft ²
Space temperature	70 – 75°F	65 – 83°F
Space humidity	50 – 60% relative humidity	40 – 75% relative humidity
Space SHR	0.70 – 0.90	Daytime: 0.25 – 0.50 Nighttime: 0.00 – 0.40
Ventilation	Based upon Standard 62.1 Requirements	Often no ventilation
Carbon dioxide	Diluted with ventilation air (sometimes controlled with DCV)	Increased beyond ambient (e.g. 1500 ppm)

Process manufacturing



Lights-on (“daytime”)

High sensible load from lighting

High latent load from evapotranspiration

+ Sensible cooling from evaporation

= **Sensible cooling and dehumidification**



Process manufacturing



Lights-on (“daytime”)

High sensible load from lighting

High latent load from evapotranspiration

+ Sensible cooling from evaporation

= **Sensible cooling and dehumidification**

Lights-off (“nighttime”)

No sensible load from lighting

Medium latent load from evapotranspiration

+ Medium sensible cooling from evaporation

= **Primarily dehumidification**



Load design

Sensible

- Lighting
- Envelope
(e.g. walls, floors, roofs, glass conduction, glass solar)
- People
- Internal loads
(e.g. dehumidifiers, fans, pumps, CO₂ generators)
- Infiltration
- Ventilation
- Sensible cooling effect from evapotranspiration

Latent

- Plants
- People
- Infiltration
- Ventilation

Critical points for sizing the HVAC system



- **Largest sensible load**: when lights are on at the lowest transpiration rates (clone room, early veg room)
- **Largest latent load**: when lights are on and plant evapotranspiration is at the highest (flower rooms, mother rooms)
- **Maximum reheat required**: when lights are turned off, plants continue to transpire for ~45 – 60 minutes. The HVAC system has to continue to dehumidify the air, however the sensible load has been significantly decreased or eliminated completely... increased risk of overcooling the space. Post dehumidification heating is required to get supply air back up to acceptable temperatures

Potential Grow Room Risks



- Thermally stressed plants
- White mold/mildew
- Insects/Pests
- Cross contamination
- Loss of a crop



A properly sized HVAC system can help mitigate these risks



HVAC Systems for Indoor Agriculture

Typical Indoor Ag HVAC Systems



1. DX Packaged or Splits with In-Space Dehumidification
2. Purpose-built DX Units
3. Applied Systems, Chilled water + AHUs

DX Packaged or Splits with In-Space Dehumidification



Sensible Load



-or-



Latent Load



Looks simple... but most grow rooms will require multiple units to handle loads

DX Packaged or Splits with In-Space Dehumidification

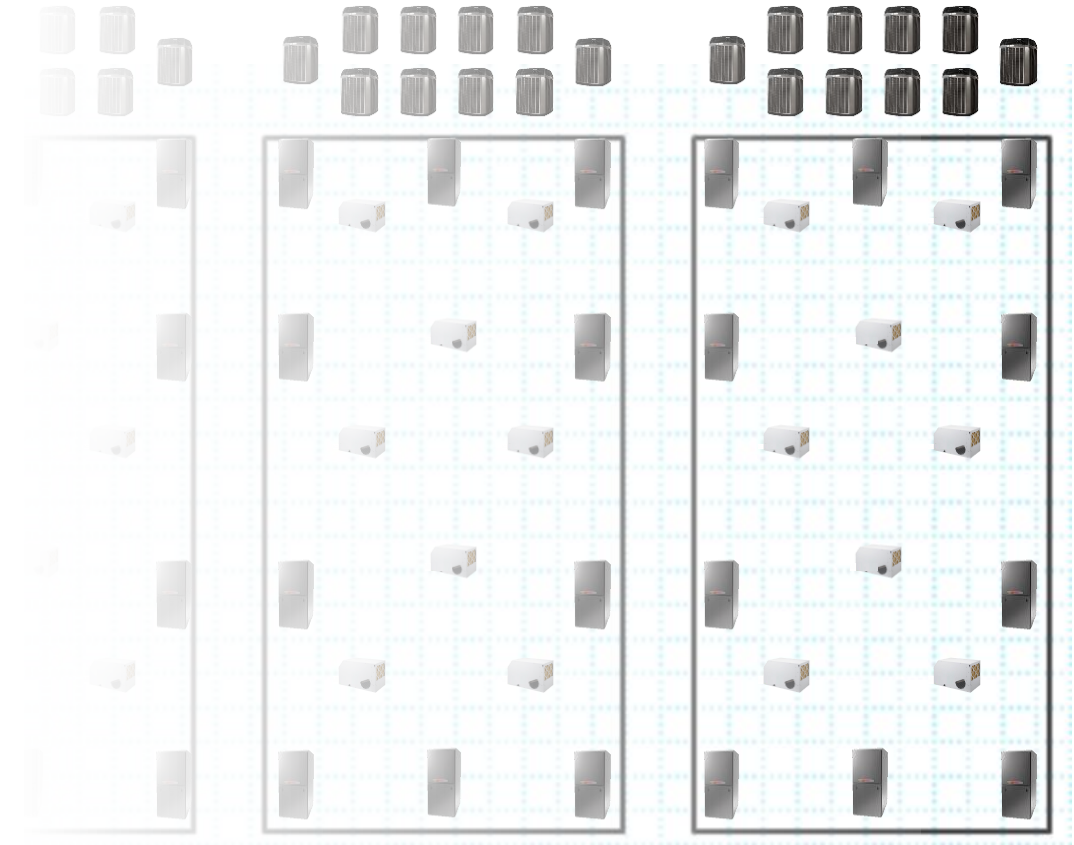


Advantages:

- Simple to install
- Simple to service
- Likely least expensive first cost
- Readily available

Drawbacks:

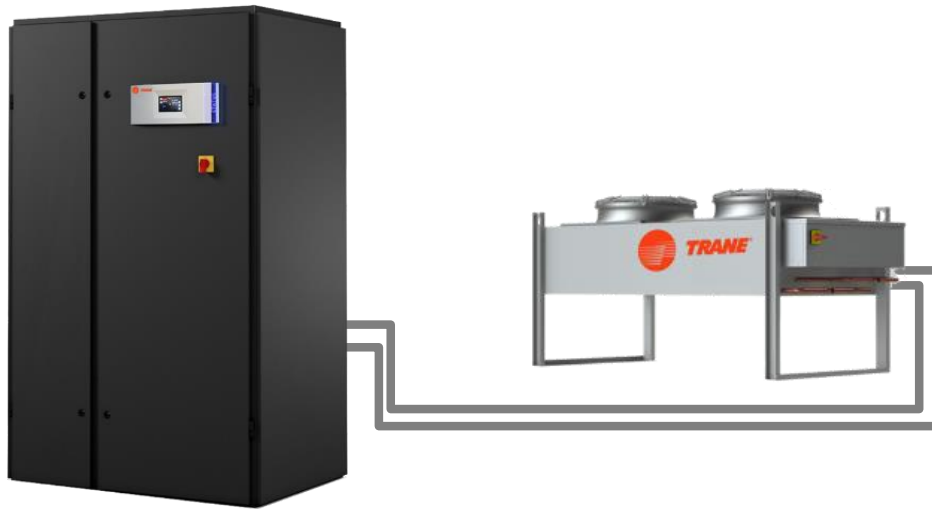
- Operating modes where units "fight each other"
- Frequent RTU/split cycling
- Increased unit quantity
- Likely most energy intensive



Purpose-Built DX Units



Split System



-or-

Packaged



Single system to handle both the sensible and latent loads

Purpose-Built DX Units

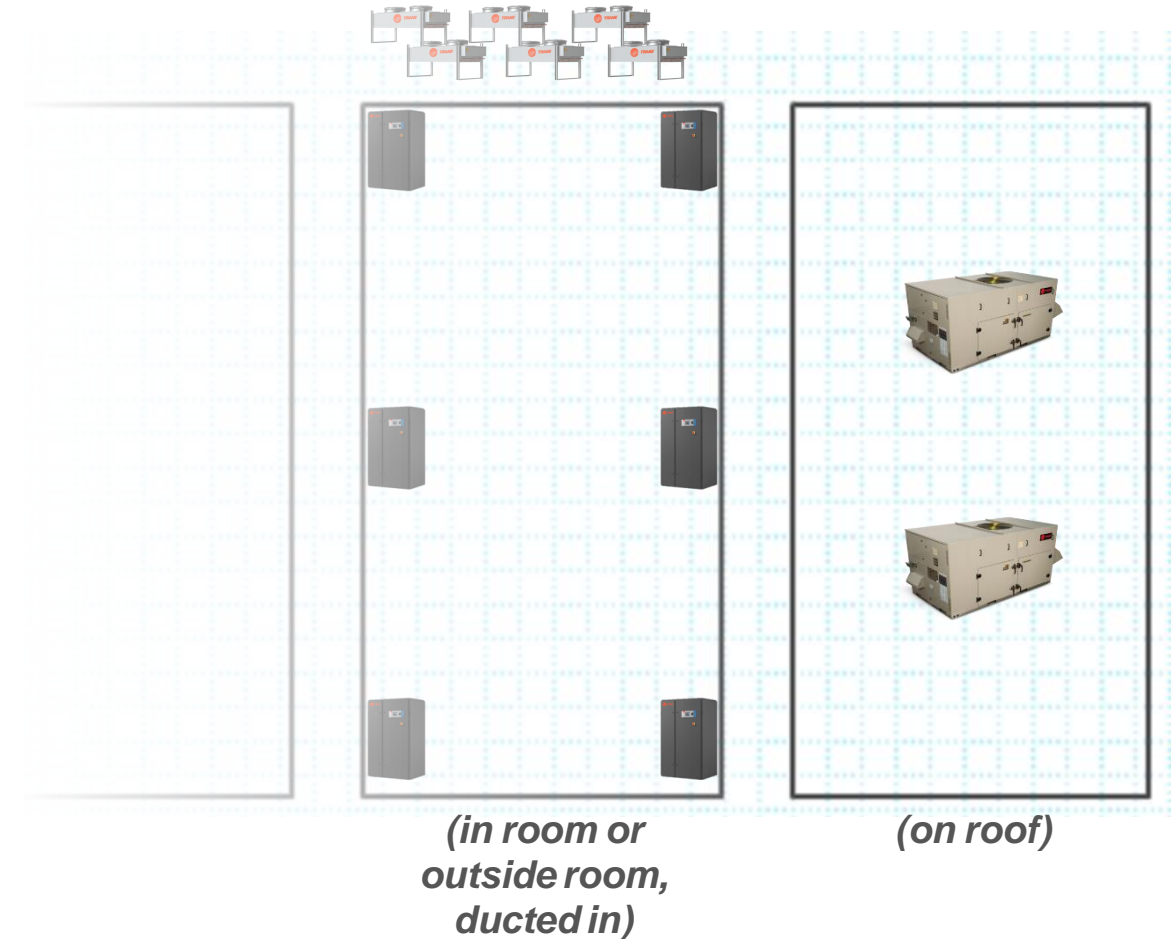


Advantages:

- Integrated operating modes
- Simple to install
- Fairly simple to control
- Improved energy efficiency

Drawbacks:

- Likely higher first cost
- Requires more skilled service personnel
- Likely longer lead time



Trane Indoor Ag Split System DX Units



Single Circuit DX Series

- Vertical Floor Mounted
- 5 – 10 Ton DX Systems
- Single Circuit DX
- Hot gas reheat
- Tandem Compressor Options*
- Utilizing EC Fan Technology



Dual Circuit DX Series

- Vertical Floor Mounted
- 15 – 30 Ton DX Systems
- Dual Circuit DX
- Hot gas reheat
- Tandem Compressor Options
- Utilizing EC Fan Technology

Heat Rejection Options

Remote Air Cooled Condensers



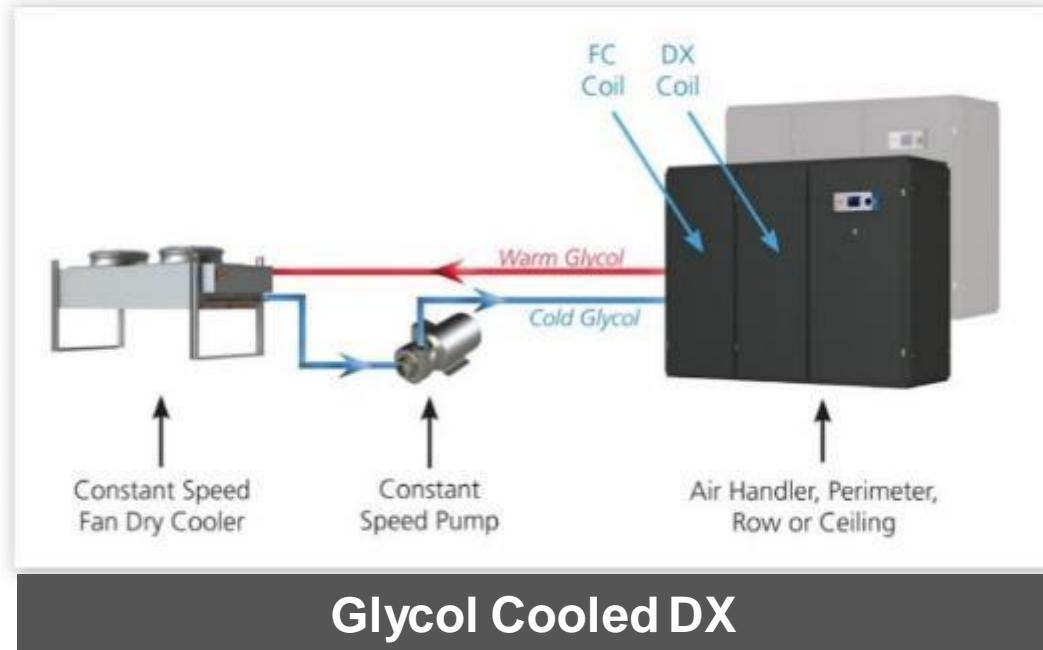
Microchannel Condensers



Glycol System Remote Dry coolers & Pump Packages



Energy Efficiency: Water-Side Economizer



Free Cooling

Comprised of a dry cooler, pumps, and a glycol cooled free cooling AHU consisting of both a DX and a glycol cooling coil.

80%+ of the power is consumed by the compressors

Outside Air

Warm Weather Months
In-between Months
Cold Weather Months

Operation

Unit acts as traditional DX; dry cooler supplies glycol to unit condenser
Combination of glycol free cooling coil and one DX compressor
Cooled glycol transferred to free cooling coil; compressor off

Packaged Units



Packaged DX systems are designed to remove significant amounts of water while maintaining precise temperature and humidity conditions for indoor agriculture applications.

- Tonnage Range: 3 to 80
- CFM Range: 500 – 25,000
- Modulating hot gas reheat
- Can control to VPD directly
- Dehumidification: up to 600 lbs of water/hour (~1,700 gallons/day)
- Low Ambient Cooling down to -30 F
- UV Lights and multiple air filtration options



Applied Systems, Chilled Water + AHUs



Chillers



AHUs



Single system to handle both the sensible and latent loads

Applied Systems, Chilled Water + AHUs

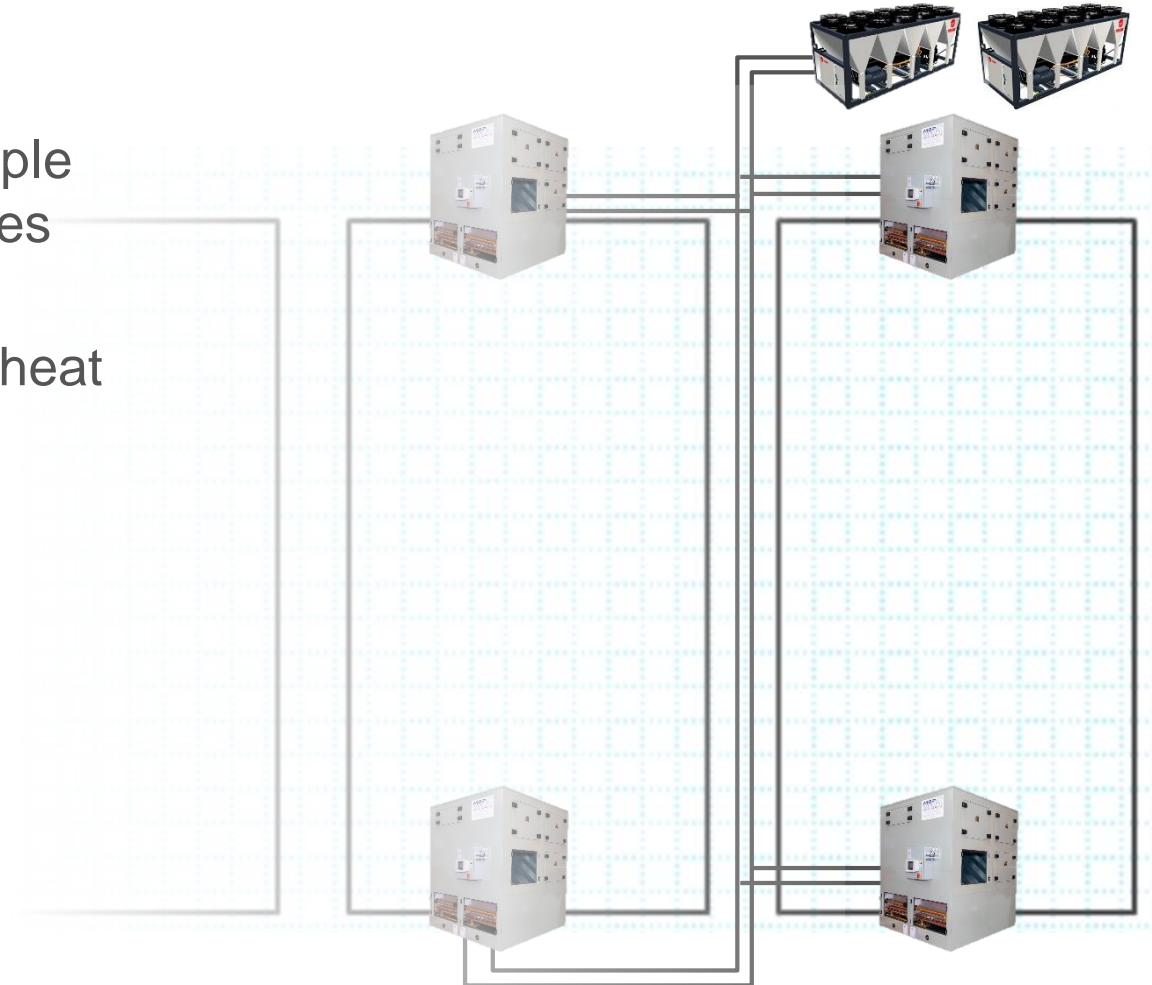


Advantages:

- Sophisticated control options to handle multiple zones, varied set points, and varied schedules
- AHUs and Chillers are very flexible
- Opportunities for waterside free cooling and heat recovery
- Opportunities for air-to-air energy recovery
- Lowest operating costs
- Highest efficiency

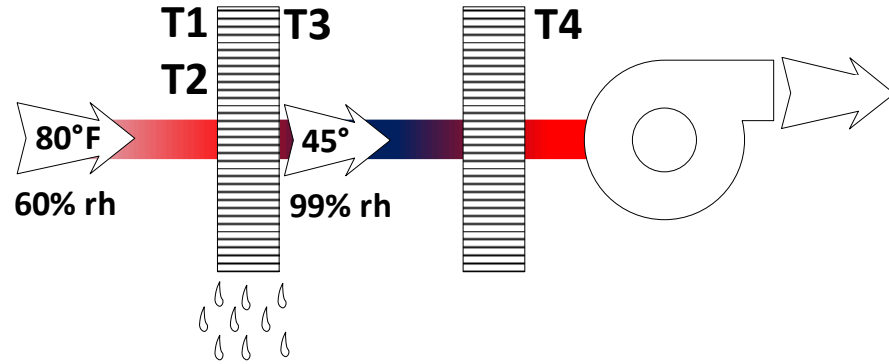
Drawbacks:

- Likely most expensive first cost
- Requires more skilled service personnel
- Likely longest lead time



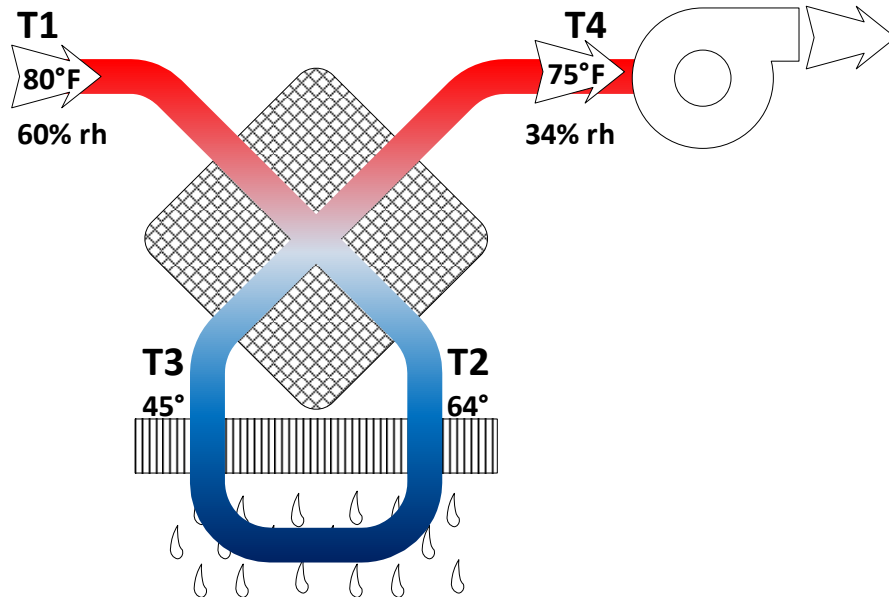
(on roof, in room or next to room)

Wraparound Coil Technology - AHU



Traditional Cool – Heat Dehumidification

- No Precooling
- Condenser heat used for reheat



Wrap-around Dehumidifiers

- Supply air pre-cools entering return air
- Supply air reheated by return air
- Energy balance!!!

MSP[®] Technology

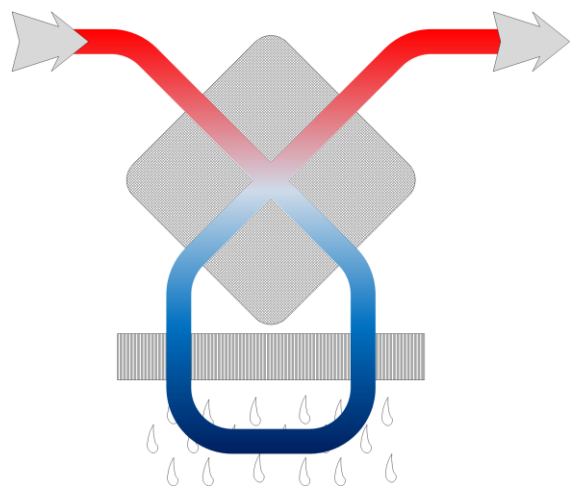
Decoupling Dehumidification and Temperature Control



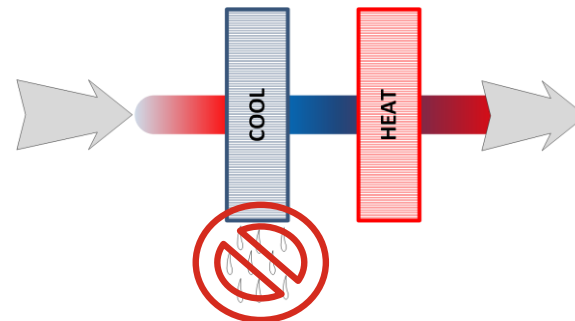
- Wrap-around Dehumidifiers provide 20% Cooling and 80% Dehumidification
- Traditional Air Conditioning provide 80% Cooling and 20% Dehumidification
- Post heating/cooling coils required if system is standalone

Dehumidifier responds to humidity, while cooling/heating coils responds to temperature.

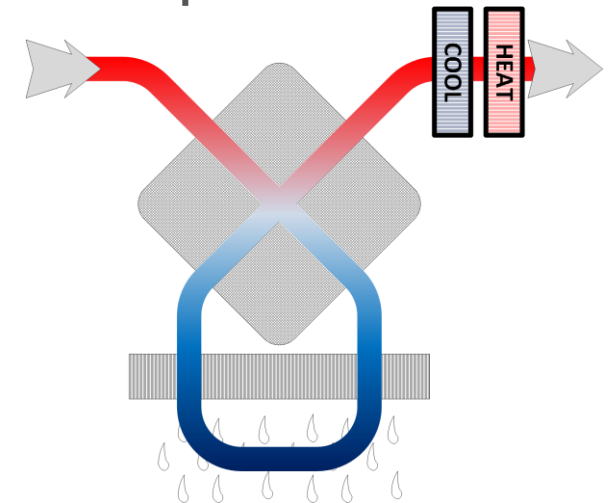
Wrap-around MSP dehumidifier



Temperature control



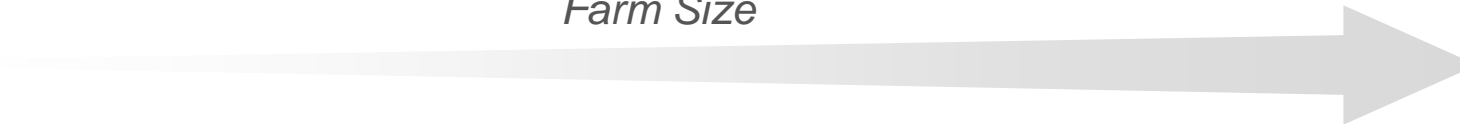
Combined dehumidification and temperature control



Trane solutions to meet Indoor Ag needs



Farm Size



Trane Split System DX



Trane Packaged DX



Trane Unitary



Trane chillers + MSP® Technology



Trane chillers + Trane AHU



Trane Controls and Lighting

Trane Intelligent Services

Trane Energy/Energy Supply Services

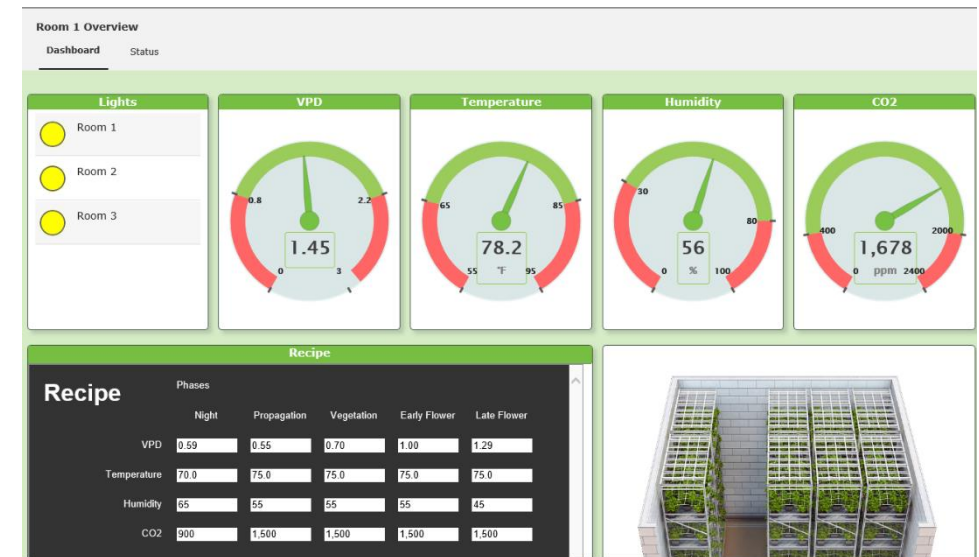


Grow House Controls

Managing the Grow Room Environment



- Temperature, Humidity (RH) and VPD
 - Day cycle: High temp limit, VPD → RH
 - Night cycle: Low temp limit, high RH limit
- Lighting
 - Day/Night
 - Variable intensity (PAR Sensors)
- CO2 Levels
 - CO2 injection during Day cycle
- Optional – Irrigation and Fertilization



Air-Fi® Wireless Sensors

Air-Fi Wireless communication for room control

- Flexibility
 - Temperature, humidity and CO2 options
 - Multiple sensors – average or select
- Mobility – change location
 - Find the best sensing locations
 - Move for cleaning or room changes
- Helps reduce complexity in the grow room





Thank You!

Questions?

Consumers Energy Business Energy Efficiency Program

Rachel Fredrickson

We are Here to Help



Comprehensive Business Incentives

Prescriptive Incentives

- Over 300 measures in total
- 45 measures specific to agriculture

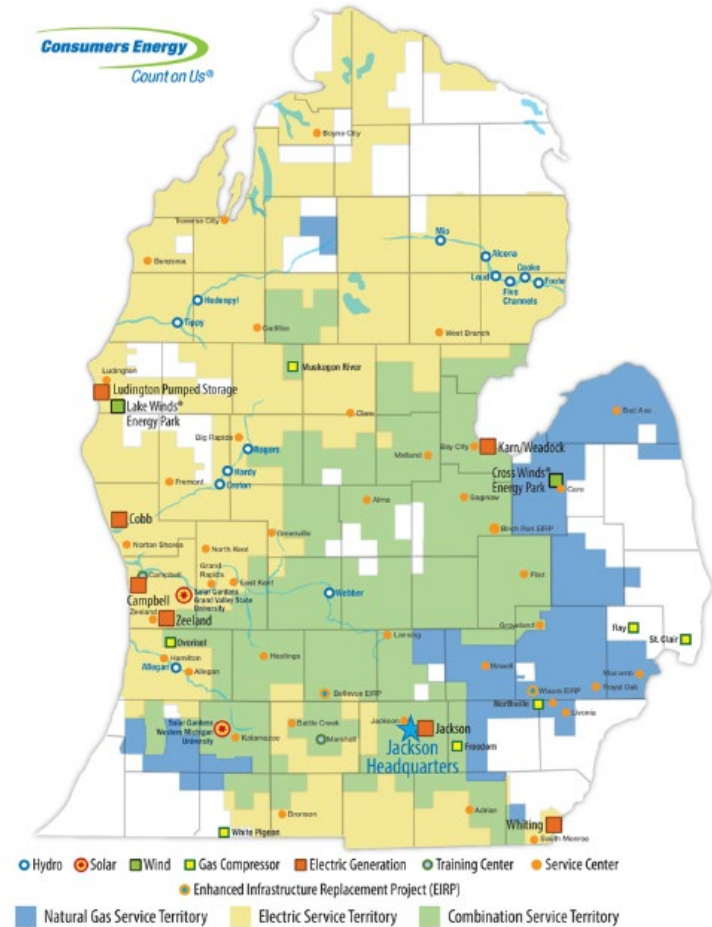
Custom Incentives

- Incentives are determined on a case-by-case basis
- Must be between a 1 and 8 year payback period

Note: Incentives are paid upon project completion and final engineering approval.

How Do I Qualify?

- Consumers Energy business account number (natural gas, electric or combination)
- Federal tax ID number
- New construction projects must be located within our territory and be using Consumers Energy as their energy provider



Incentive Application Process



Incentive Caps and Limits

Facility Incentives	Cap per Program Year
Prescriptive	75% of the total project cost
Custom	50% of the total project cost
Customer Limits	Cap per Program Year
Large Natural Gas	\$1M across all facilities per customer
Large Electric	\$2M across all facilities per customer

Program Effective Dates



Incentive Resources

ConsumersEnergy.com/startsaving



Business Energy Efficiency ▾

Save energy, earn rebates and create a more comfortable workplace with our variety of energy efficiency solutions built for your business.



Contact Us

Call us at 877-607-0737 or email us.

[Email Us](#)



Let's Save Energy Together

Saving energy saves your business money. Discover the many ways your business can save, or tell us a little about your business to find the solutions best suited to you.

Trade Ally Program

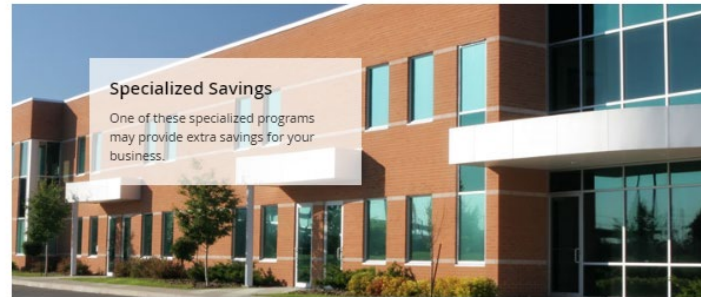
- Contractors that have been trained by Consumers Energy on how to use the efficiency program
- Third party payment release
- Find a contractor
- [Consumersenergy.com/business/energy-efficiency/select-a-contractor](https://consumersenergy.com/business/energy-efficiency/select-a-contractor)

Additional Specialty Programs

- New Construction
- Buy Michigan Bonus
- Steam Trap Express
- Network Lighting Controls
- Business Instant Discount
- Michigan Saves



Special Programs for Businesses ▾



Special Energy Efficiency Programs for Your Business

Learn about our wide variety of energy efficiency programs designed for particular industries or energy uses. Find the savings that fit your business below.



Contact Us

Call us at 877-607-0737 or email us.

[Email Us](#)

Rebates for Your Business

Discover the rebates available when you make energy efficient updates to your business.

[Learn More](#)

Energy Efficiency Success

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Energy Efficiency Success

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QUESTIONS?

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LEANER OPERATING BUDGET**

Please fill out our 2 minute survey at the end of this
webinar. Thank you!

Thank you to our Visionary Supporters!



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ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

