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Whole-House Ventilation Systems: Providing Healthy, Comfortable, & Energy Efficient Indoor Solutions

Zehnder America

Larry Ponziano



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Learning Objectives

At the end of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the advantages and weaknesses of supply-only, exhaust-only, and balanced ventilation systems
2. Learn how heat recovery ventilation enables a comfortable and healthy environment
3. Understand HRV/ERV's role in building an energy efficient home
4. Learn how to evaluate and choose the most effective HRV/ERV system

Why has Mechanical Ventilation Become Increasingly Important?

- Houses have become increasingly tight in the last 20 years due to energy cost concerns
- Previous air infiltration and exfiltration rates have been significantly reduced
- Thousand of chemicals enter the home through building materials, cleaners, furniture, carpets, and other products.
- Need for better ventilation in conjunction with increasingly energy efficient construction

2012 Building Codes & Standards

- 2012 ICC Residential Building Code
- N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2) Testing - The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding 5 air changes per hour in zones 1 & 2, and 3 air changes per hour in zones 3 to 8. Testing shall be conducted with a blower door at a pressure of 0.2 inches w.g. (50 Pascals)
- Energy Star Qualified Homes – Version 3 (2012)
 - 6 ACH50 in CZs 1,2
 - 5 ACH50 in CZs 3,4
 - **4 ACH50 in CZs 5,6,7**
 - 3 ACH50 in CZ 8

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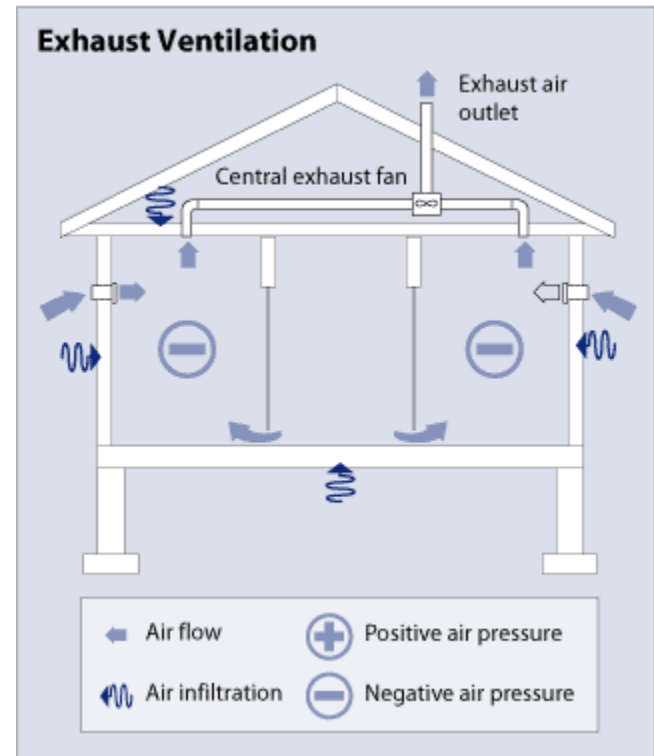
1. Understand the advantages and weaknesses of supply, exhaust, and balanced systems
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Ventilation Options

- Exhaust Ventilation
 - Supply Ventilation
 - Balanced Ventilation
 - Heat Recovery Ventilation
-
- ASHRAE 62.2-2010 establishes 1 cfm of mechanical ventilation for every 100 square feet of occupiable space and an additional 7.5 cfm per person.
 - Passive House establishes 0.3 air changes an hour of the occupiable volume.

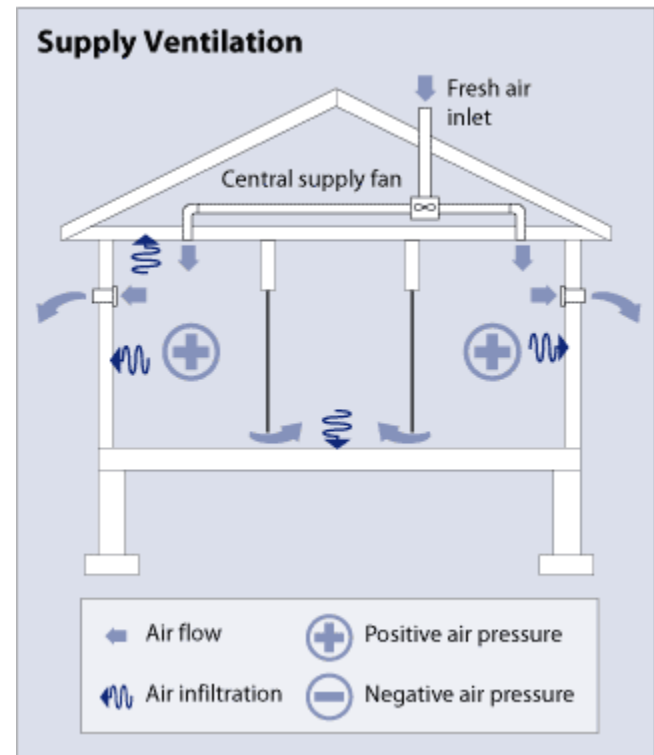
Exhaust Ventilation

- Stale air exhausted from kitchen and bathroom
- Outdoor air enters through random leaks in the building envelope



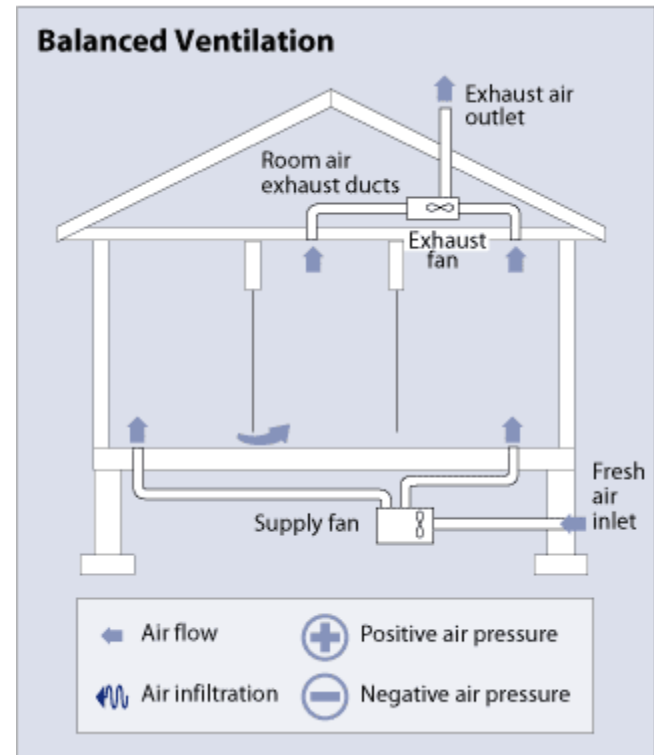
Supply Ventilation

- Outside air pulled into the home
- Stale air exits the home through random leaks in the building envelope



Balanced Ventilation

- Stale air exhausted from the kitchen and bathroom
- Fresh air is supplied to bedrooms and living spaces



Window Ventilation?

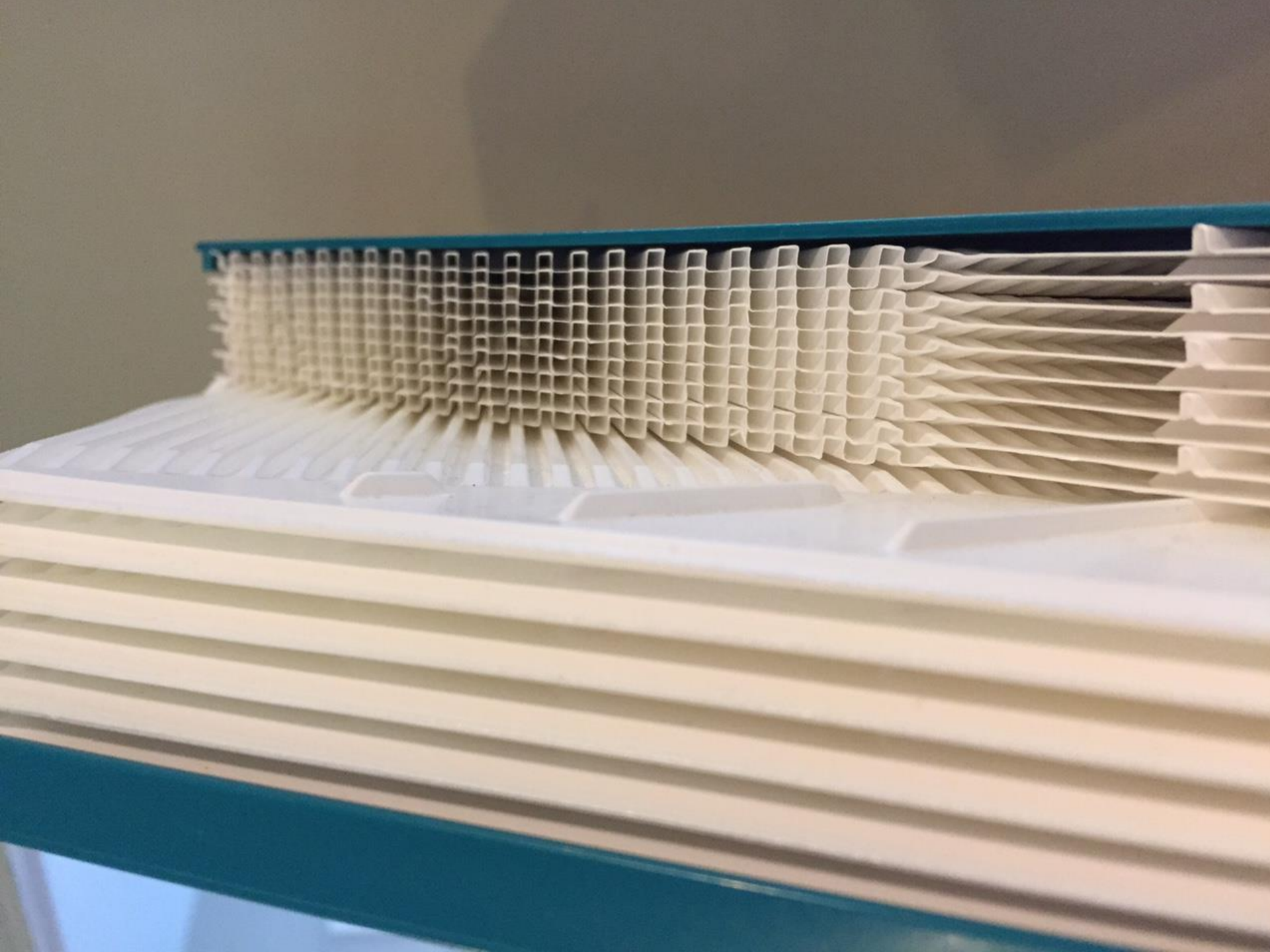
Exhaled 3742 times, boiled 1 litre tea water, watered the plants, sneezed lightly 3 times, washed 2 pairs of socks and cried from one eye 1.6 minutes while cutting up onions...
hmm...according to my calculations I could now open the window for 4.3 minutes approx. 2.5 cm wide...



Heat Recovery Ventilation

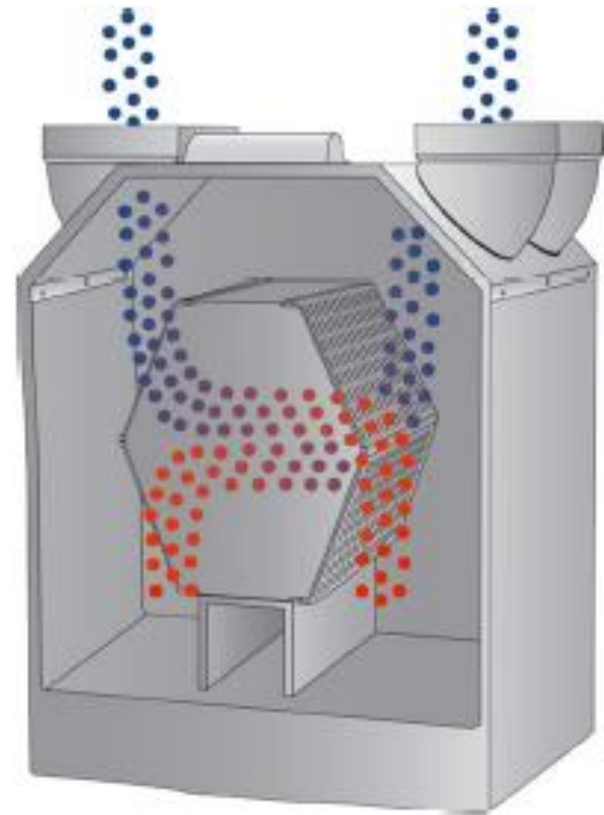
- A Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) is an energy recovery system that employs an air-to-air heat exchanger between the supply of fresh air and the extracted stale air.
- This method of ventilation provides fresh air and an improved indoor climate while saving energy by reducing the heating (or cooling) requirements.





Enthalpy Recovery Ventilation

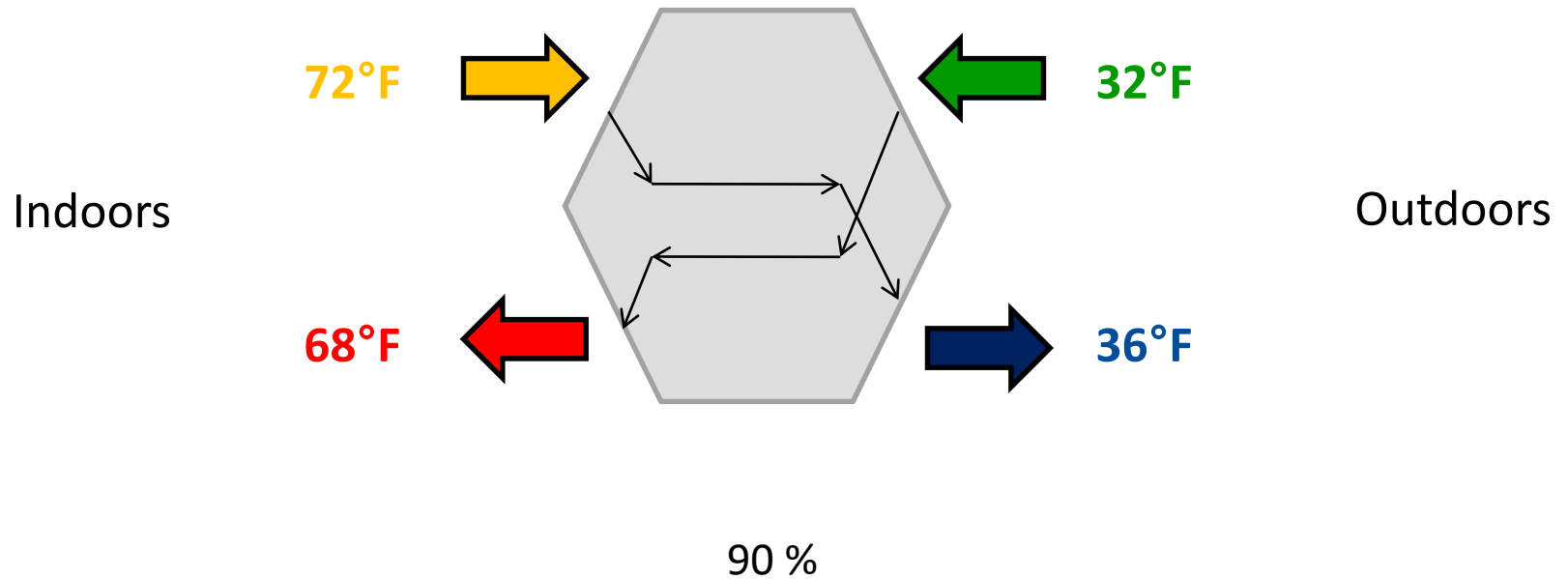
- Enthalpy recovery ventilation (ERV) is a heat recovery ventilation system that **also** passes moisture (water vapor) between the two air streams
- This method of ventilation can help to control humidity levels and reduce latent cooling loads





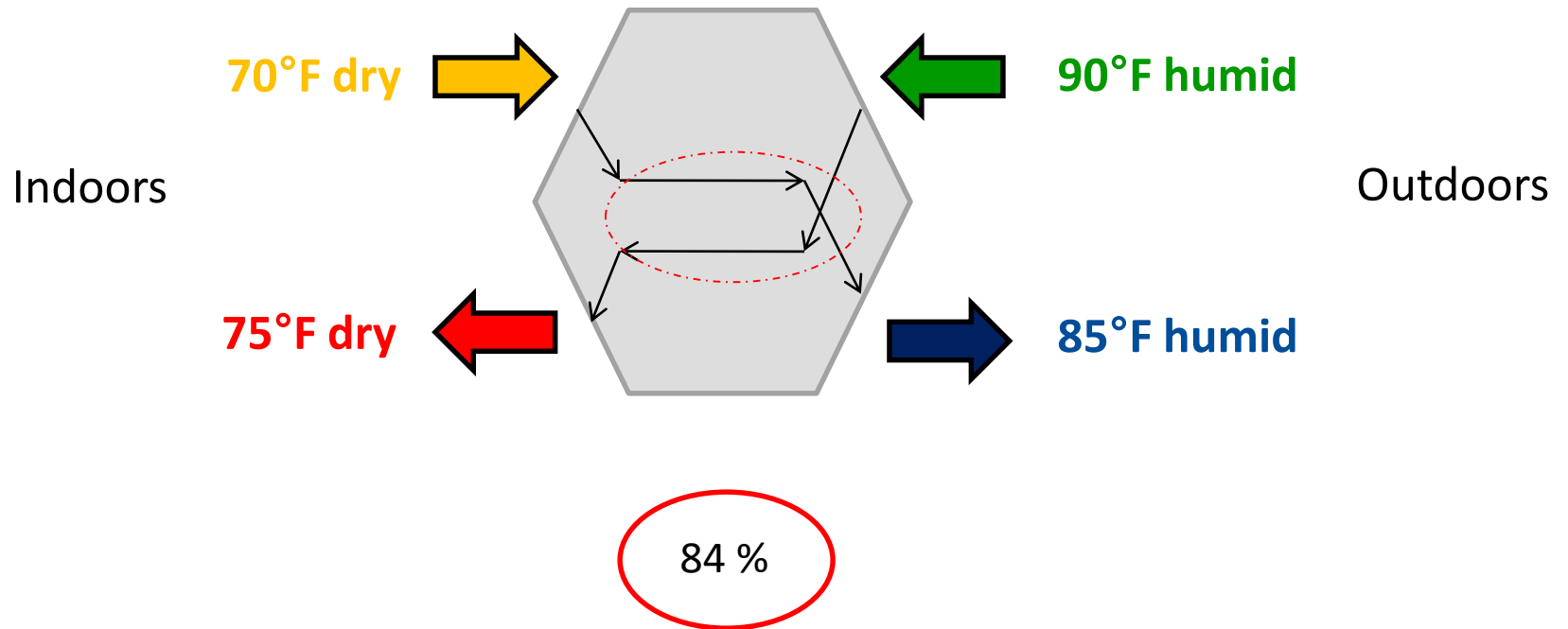
HRV

Counterflow heat exchanger
(winter)



ERV

Counterflow heat exchanger
(summer)



Summary

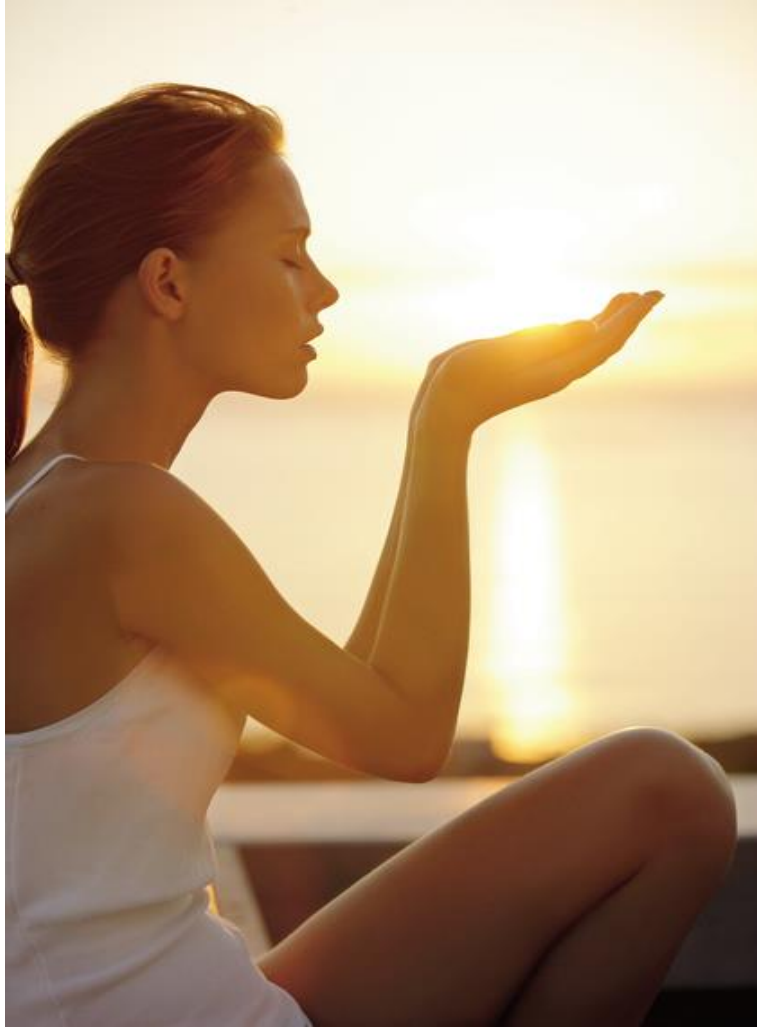
- Exhaust Ventilation
- Supply Ventilation
- Balanced Ventilation
- Heat Recovery Ventilation

Learning Objectives

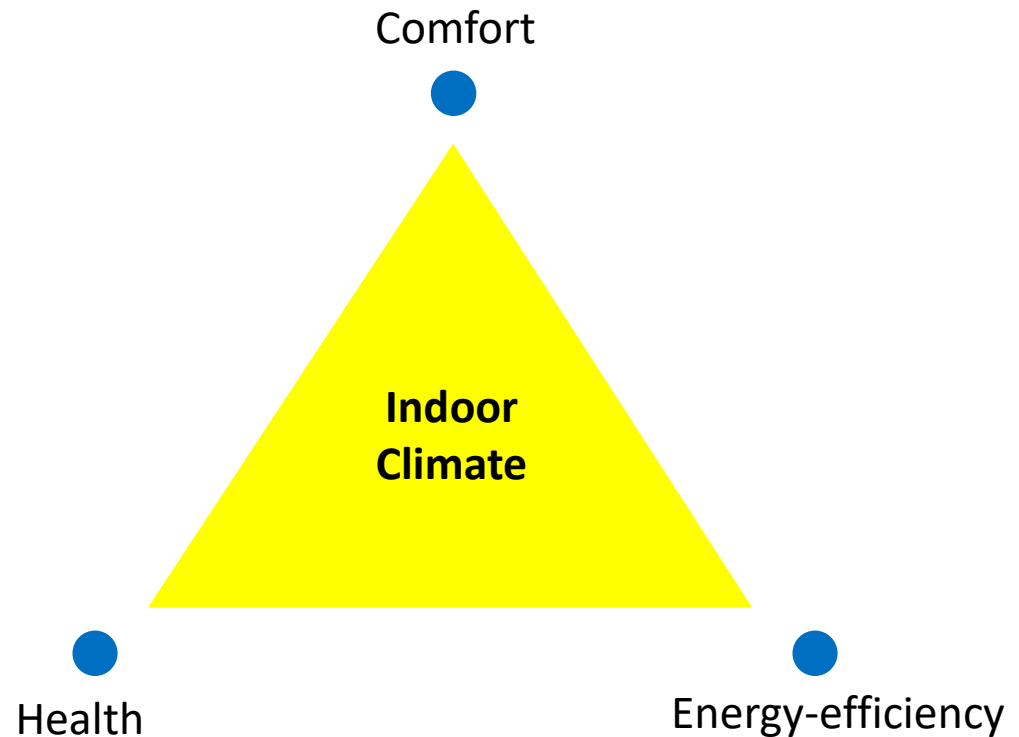
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Balanced Heat Recovery Systems

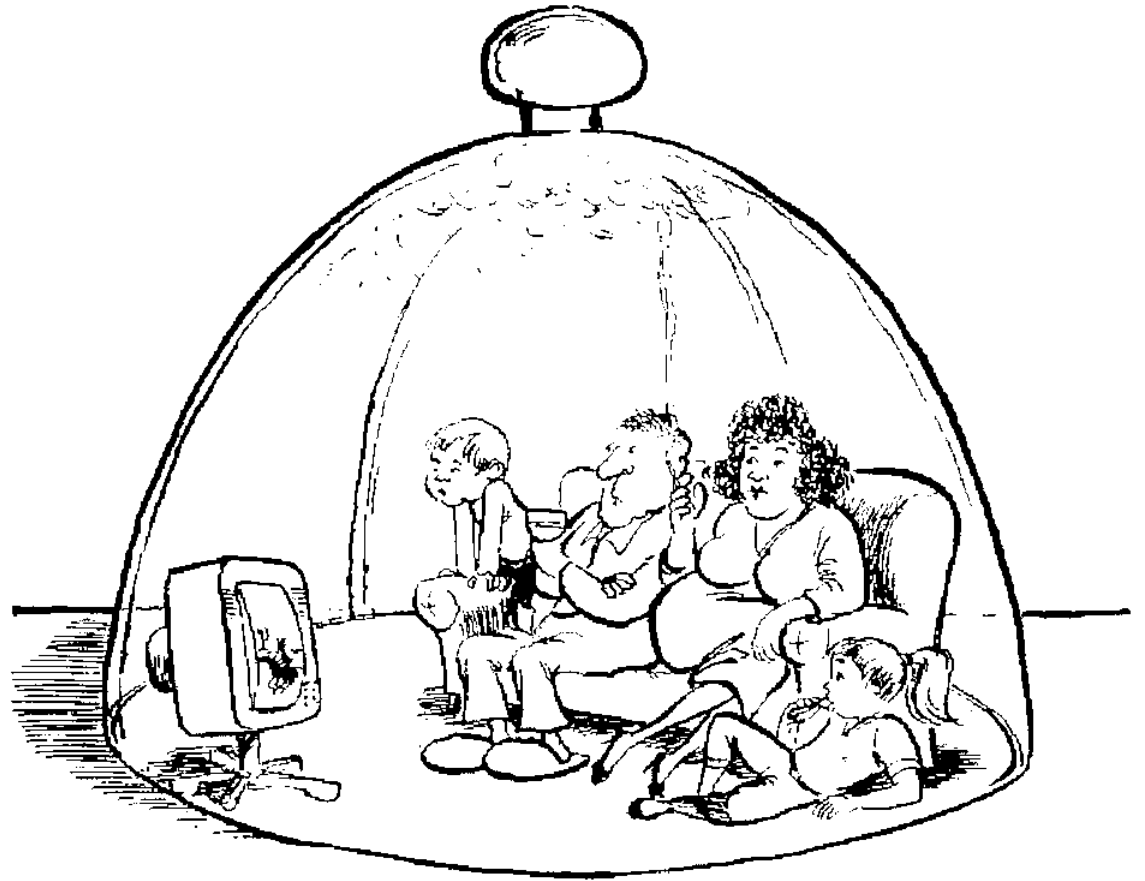


Provide energy-efficient, healthy and comfortable indoor climate solutions.

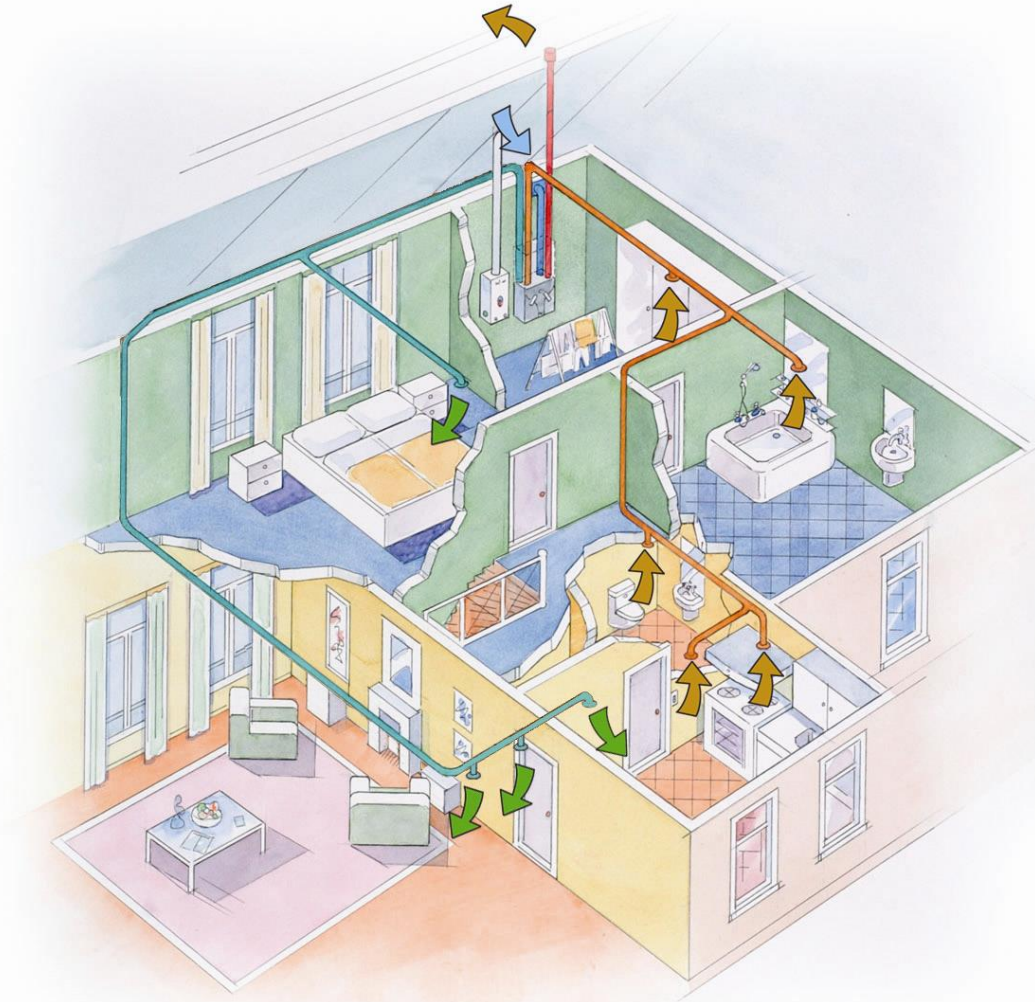


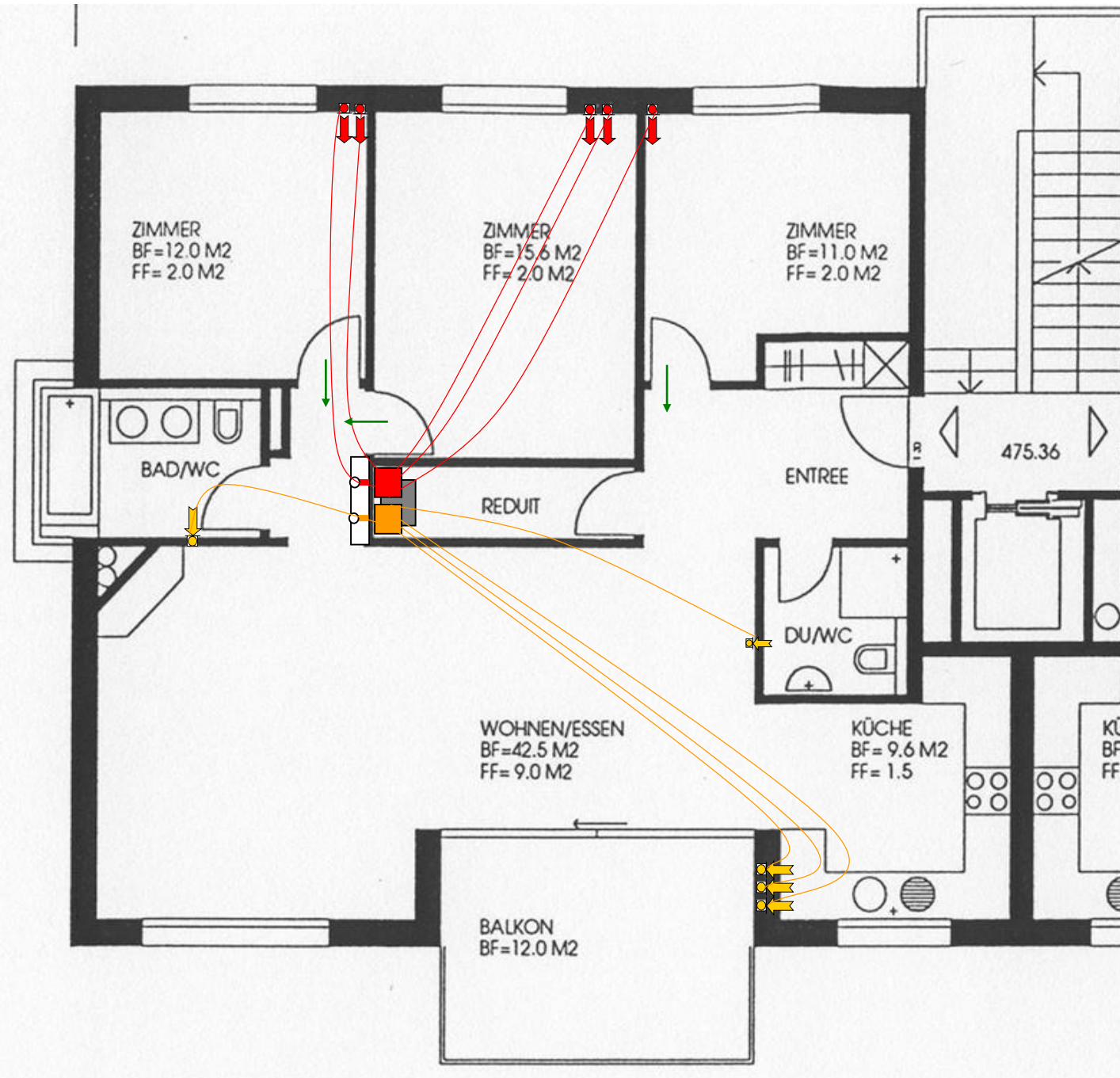
Health and Comfort Concerns

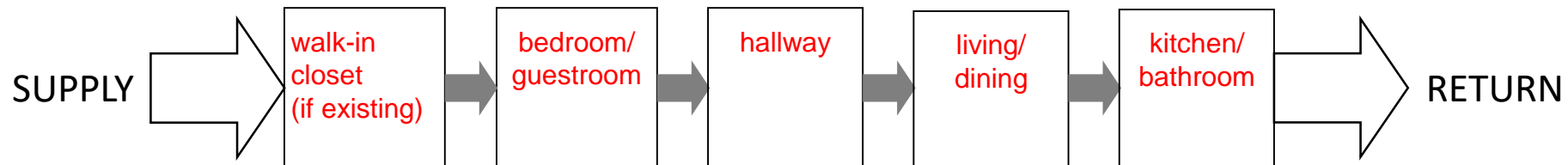
- Humidity
- Excess CO₂
- VOC's
- Odors
- Allergens
- Temperature



Solution With HRV/ERV Ventilation







Increased Comfort with a Ventilation System with Heat Recovery



Efficient mold protection: Fresh air is provided and excess humidity is removed automatically

Efficient noise barrier and protection against dust: Preheated and filtered air is provided draft-free at closed windows

Summary: Health and Comfort

- Heat Recovery Ventilators
 - Removal of pollutants such as odors, smoke, VOCs etc.
 - Avoidance of humidity problems and protection of the building structure
 - Protection of the inhabitants with regard to mold
 - Filtration of the outside air as protection against pollen (allergies)
 - Generally provide more uniform distribution of fresh air

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Early «Zero Energy» Homes Example

Experience with cutting edge energy efficiency with
Zero-Heating-Energy-dwellings Wädenswil, 1990

Comprehensive measures to reduce consumption and to use solar heat

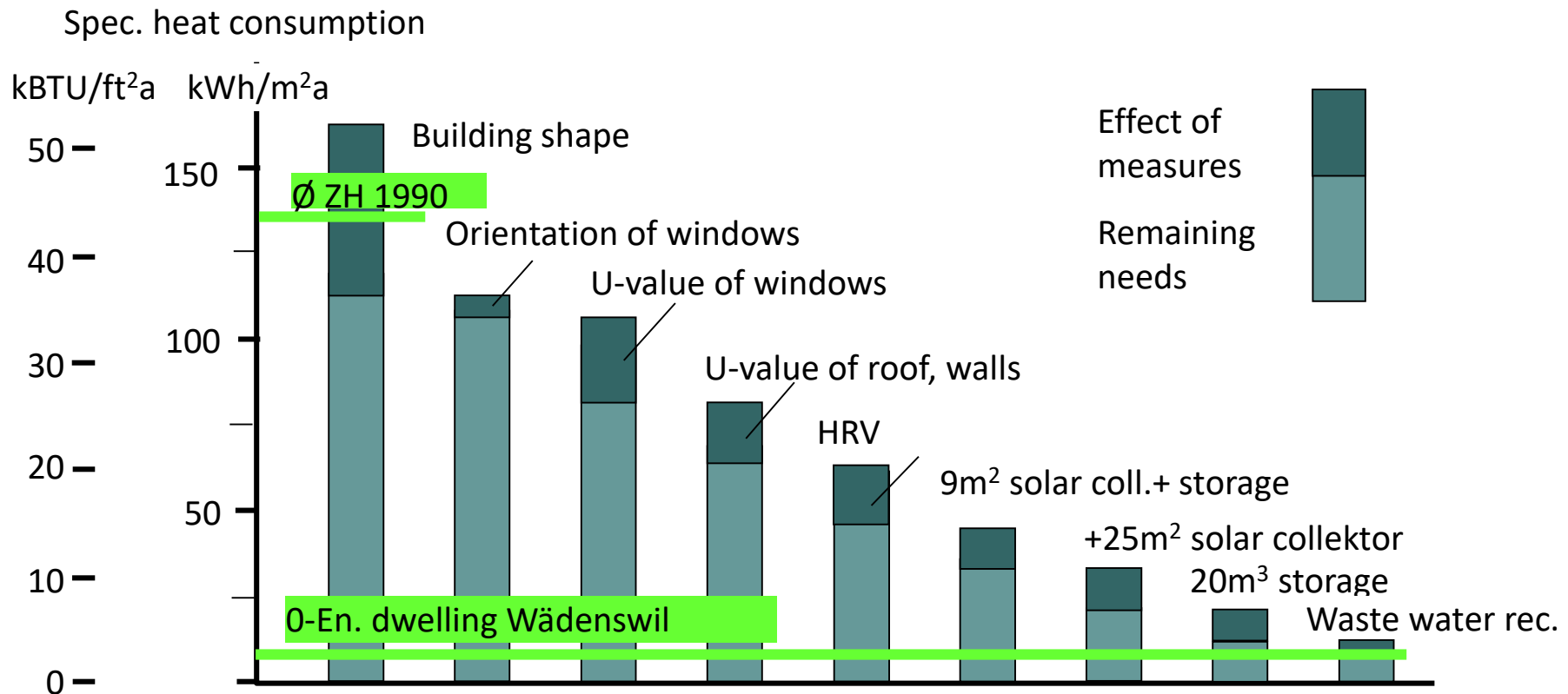


600 pounds of
wood/year for space
heating & DHW

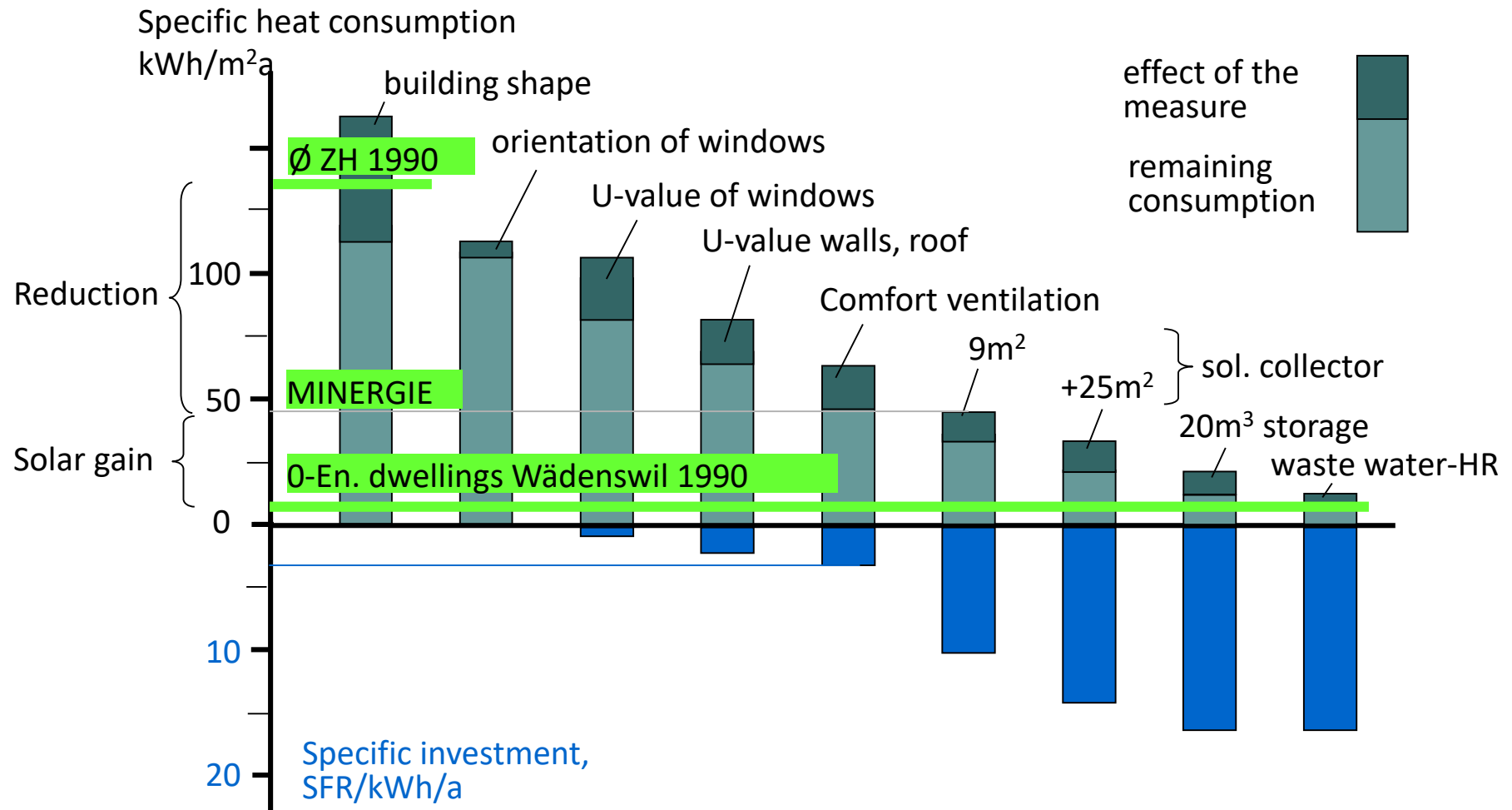


Determining Factors for Energy Use in Zero Energy Homes

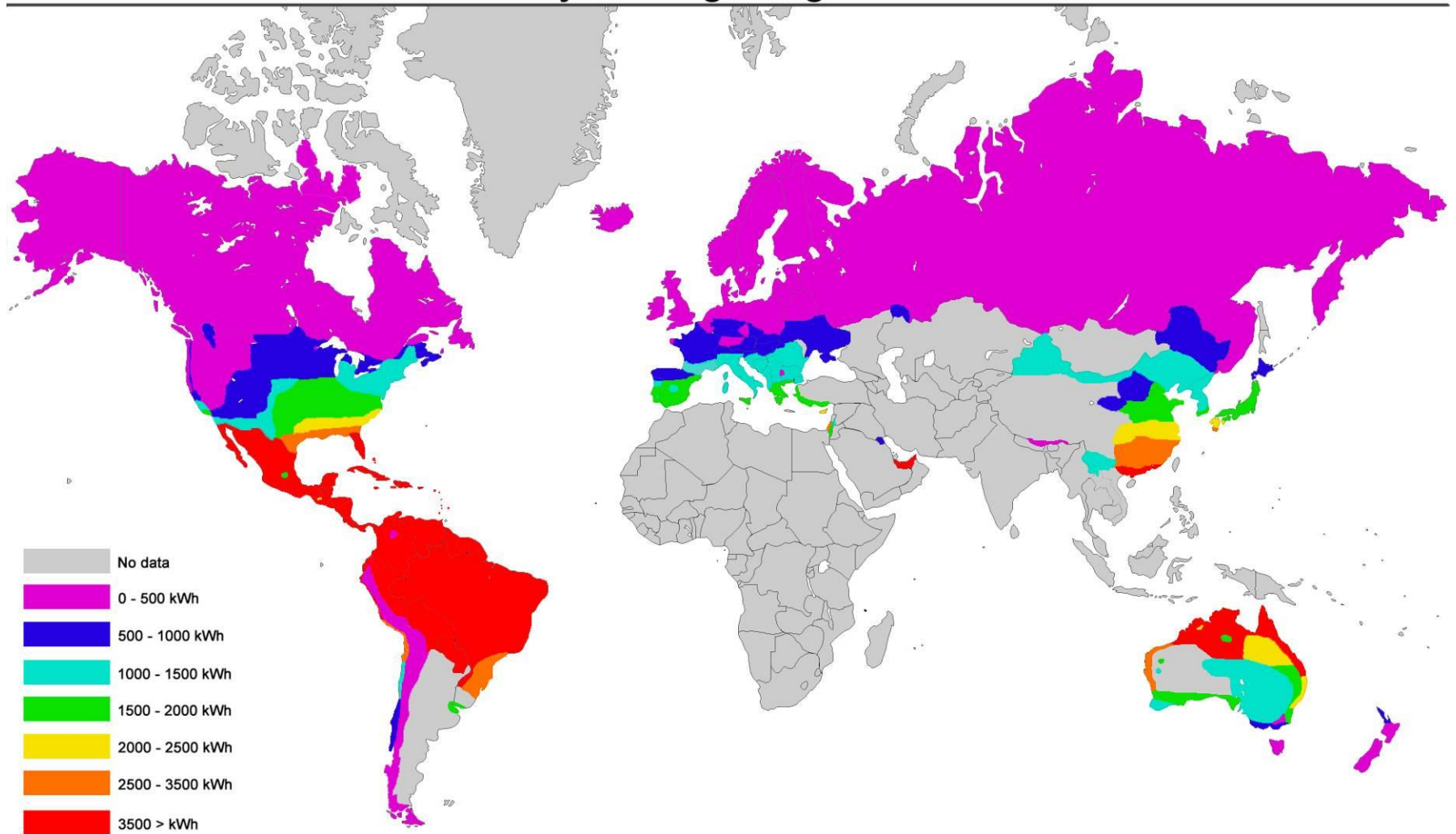
- Important reduction compared to average by shape, insulation, HRV
- First 9m² of solar collectors with equal gain as next 25m²
- Solar heat storage 20m³ with little effect



Specific Investment: Low for Reduction, High for Solar System



Yearly savings regenerator



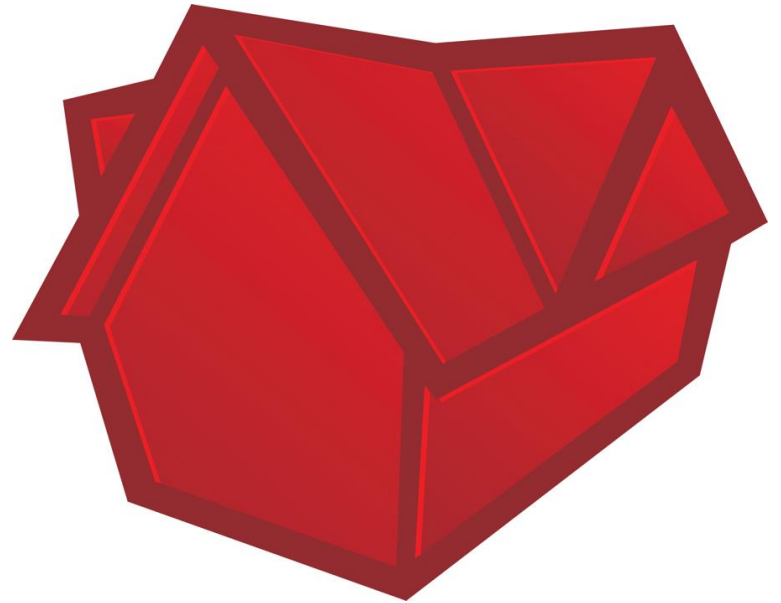
Local variations in altitude may affect yearly savings.

J.E. StorkAir, J.H. Halfwerk, Sept. 2008

Bath Fan vs. HRV Energy Usage

Assumptions:

- 3 Bedroom/1 bath home
- 1,500 s.f.
- 8 FT ceilings
- Passive House Ventilation
0.3 ACH = 60 CFM
- Outside Air: 30°F
- Inside Air: 70°F



Bath Fan vs. HRV Energy Usage

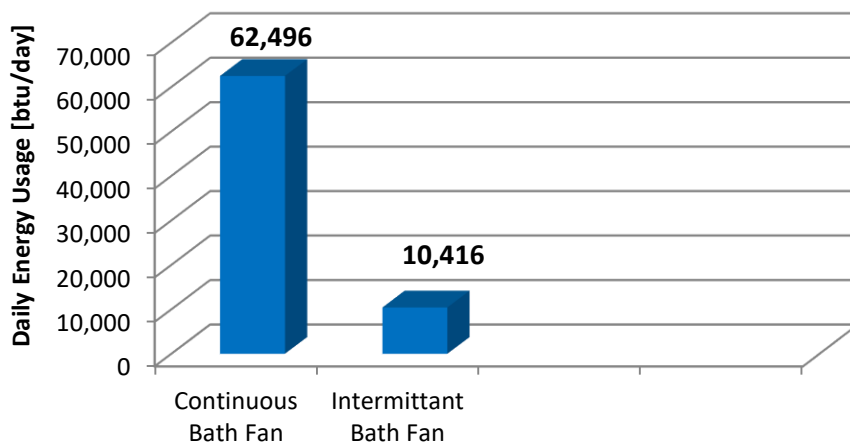
Bath Fan case, 60 CFM **continuous operation:**

Energy Usage = $(1.085)(60 \text{ CFM})(70^{\circ}\text{F} - 30^{\circ}\text{F})(24 \text{ hours}) = 62,496 \text{ Btu/Day}$

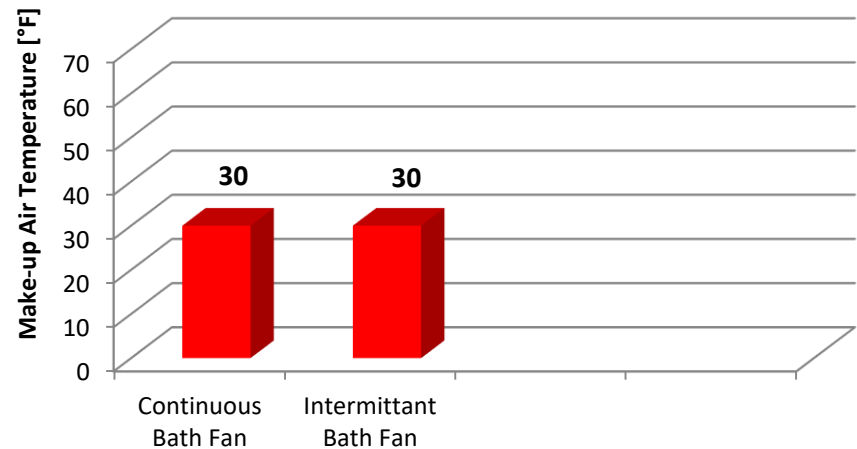
Bath Fan Case, 120 CFM **intermittent (2 hours per day):**

Energy Usage = $(1.085)(120 \text{ CFM})(70^{\circ}\text{F} - 30^{\circ}\text{F})(2 \text{ hours}) = 10,416 \text{ Btu/Day}$

Ventilation Thermal Energy Usage



Make-up Air Temperature



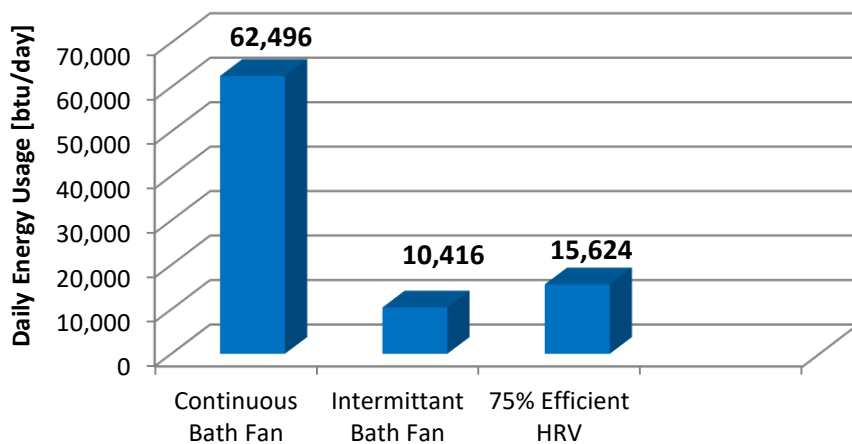
Bath Fan vs. HRV Energy Usage

75% Efficient HRV case, 60 CFM continuous:

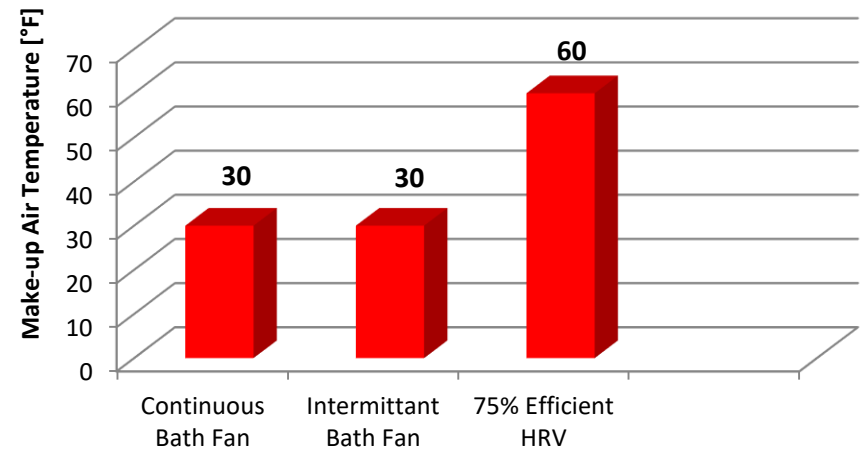
Energy Usage = $(1.085)(60 \text{ CFM})(70^\circ\text{F} - 30^\circ\text{F})(24 \text{ hours})(1 - 0.75) = 15,624 \text{ Btu/Day}$

Make-up air temperature = $30^\circ\text{F} + (70^\circ\text{F} - 30^\circ\text{F})(0.75) = 60^\circ\text{F}$

Ventilation Thermal Energy Usage



Make-up Air Temperature



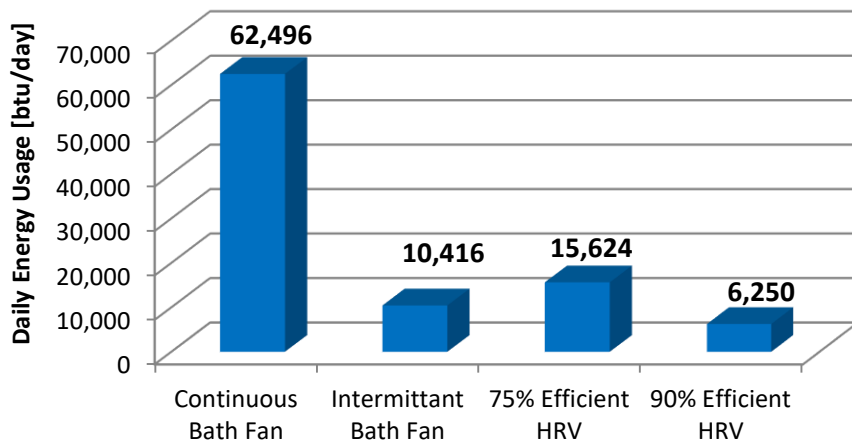
Bath Fan vs. HRV Energy Usage

90% Efficient HRV case, 60 CFM continuous:

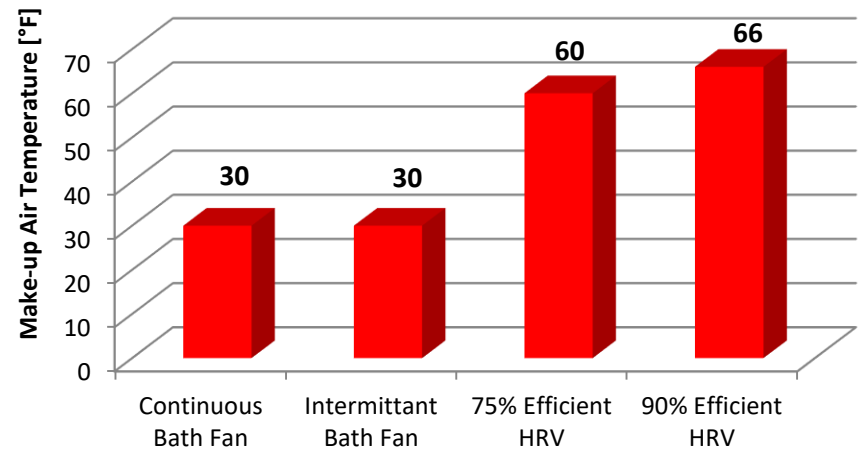
Energy Usage = $(1.085)(60 \text{ CFM})(70^\circ\text{F} - 30^\circ\text{F})(24 \text{ hours})(1 - 0.90) = 6,250 \text{ Btu/Day}$

Make-up air temperature = $30^\circ\text{F} + (70^\circ\text{F} - 30^\circ\text{F})(0.90) = 66^\circ\text{F}$

Ventilation Thermal Energy Usage



Make-up Air Temperature



Summary: Energy Efficiency

Heat Recovery Ventilators

- Reduce energy penalty associated with mechanical ventilation

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Components of an HRV Device

ECM motors

Lowest energy consumption

Heat recovery unit

Counter flow heat exchanger

High heat recovery > 90%

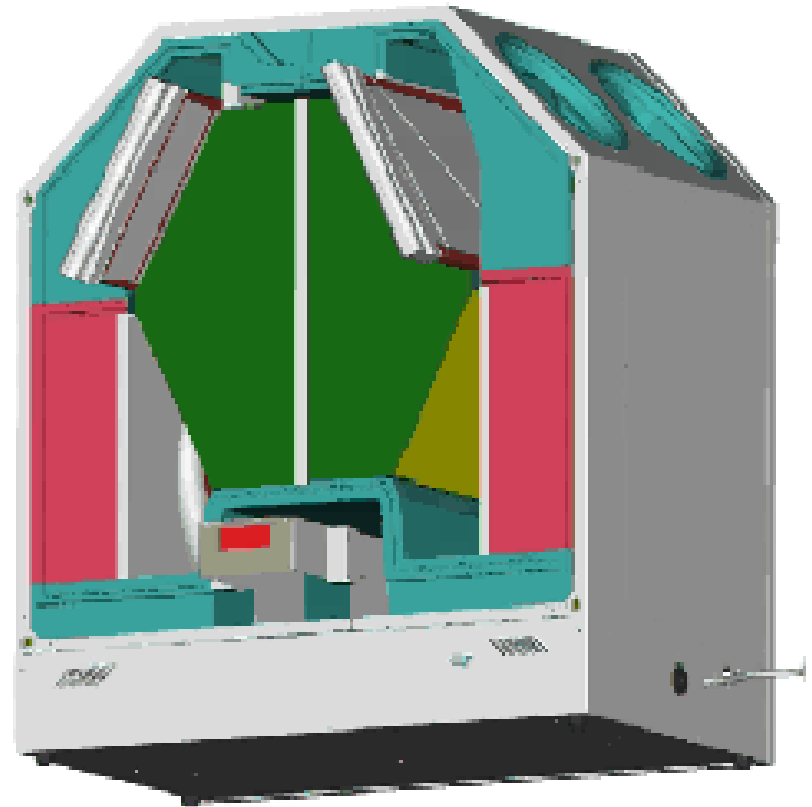
Filters

High MERV rating filters available

Ease of filter change

Control unit /display

Highest functionality



Components of Heat Recovery

Heat Exchangers

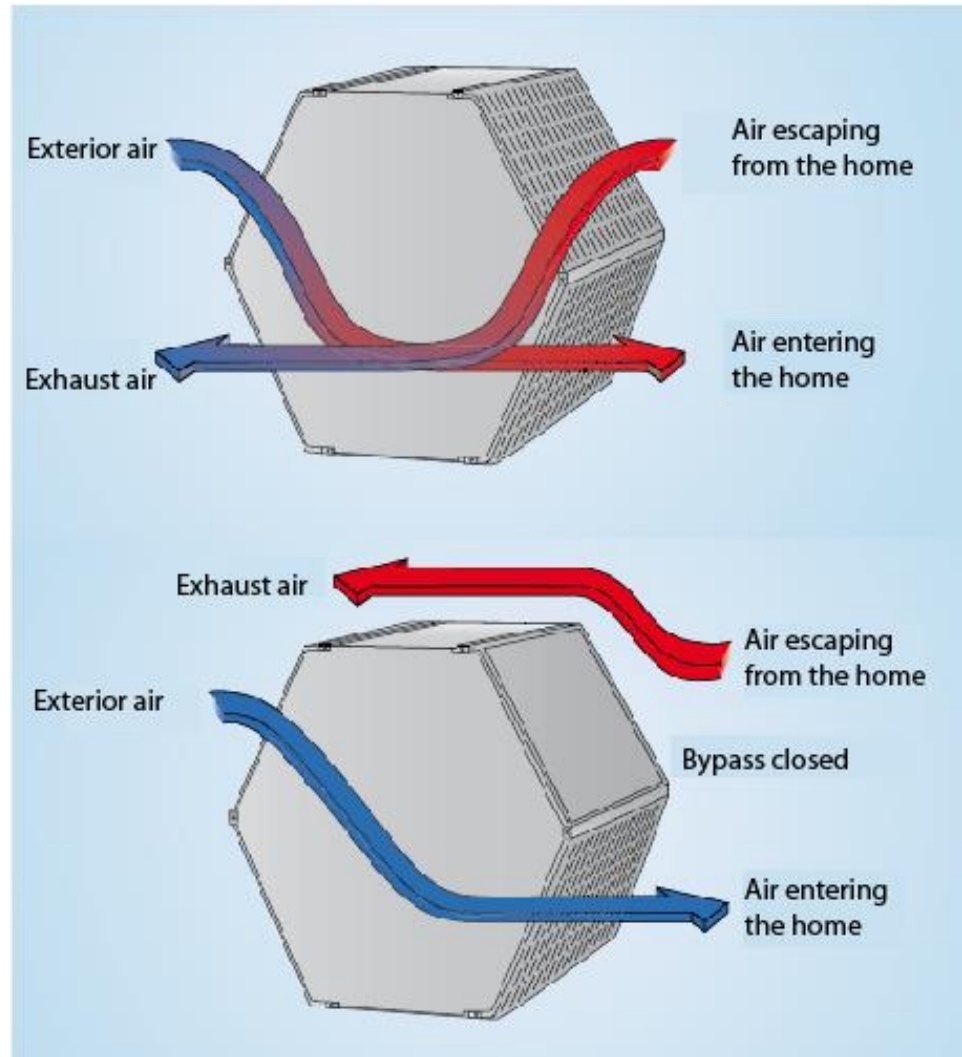
- Cross counter flow
- Heat recovered > 90%

Summer bypass

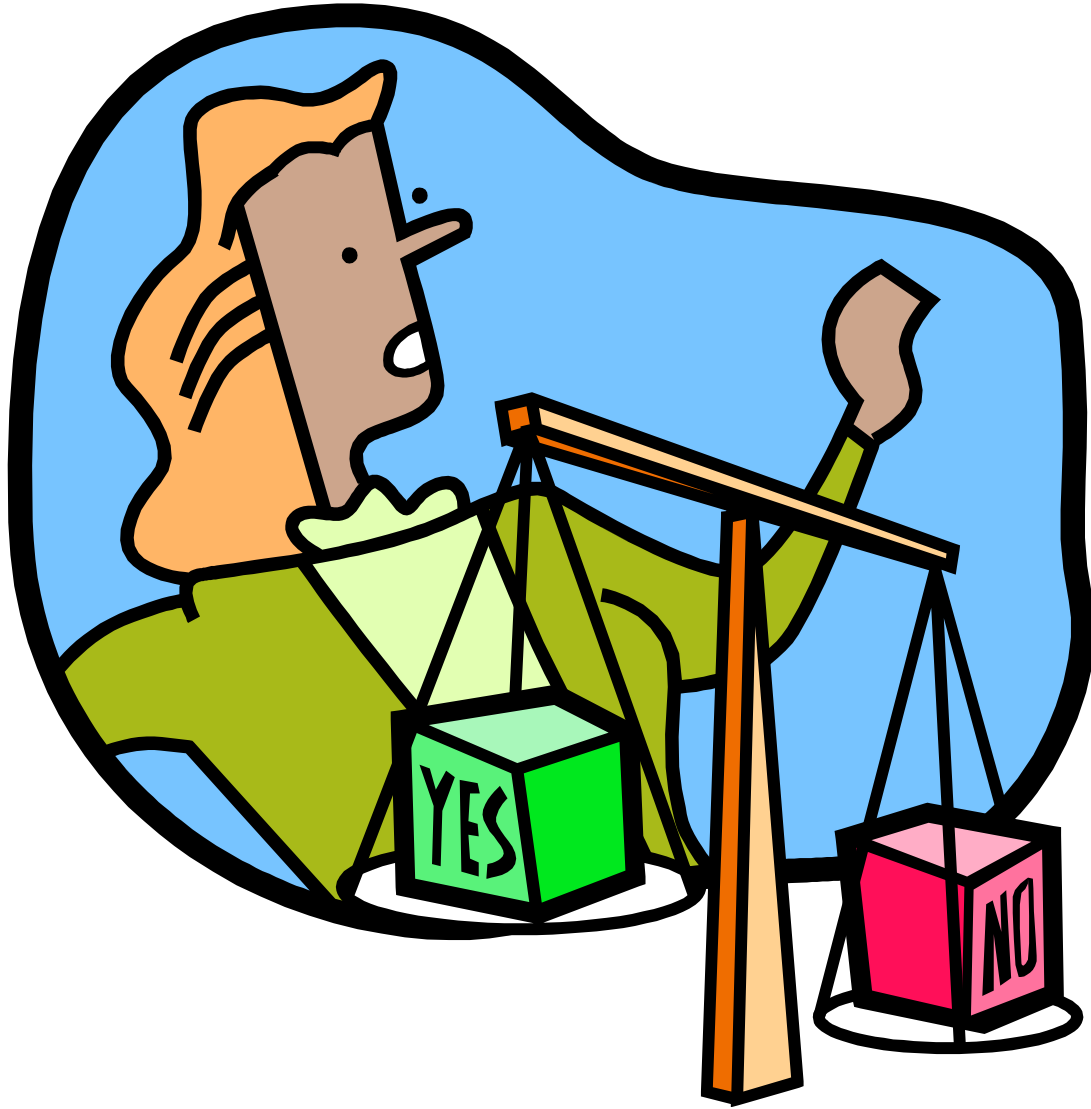
- automatic
- temperature adjustable
- heat exchange

Ventilators

- efficient ECM motor
- continuously variable
- quiet operation



HRV or ERV



Driven by:

- Occupancy
- Climate
- Efficiency
- Dehumidification

Summary

How to Choose the Right System

- Efficiency
- Sizing
- Controllability
- Support
- Systems Approach

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This concludes

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Thank you for your time.

Any questions?

Lawrence V Ponzano

Technical Sales Engineer

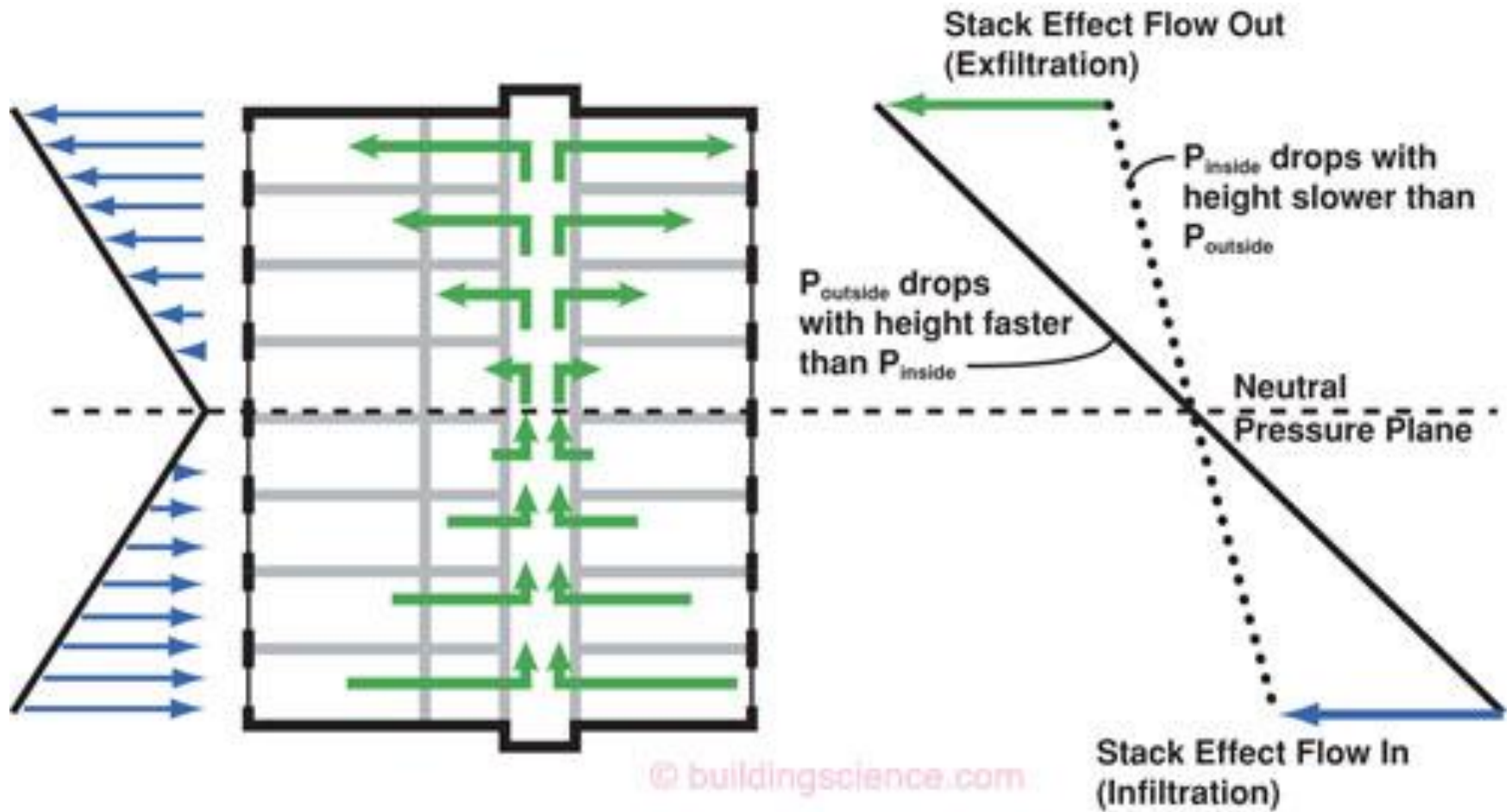
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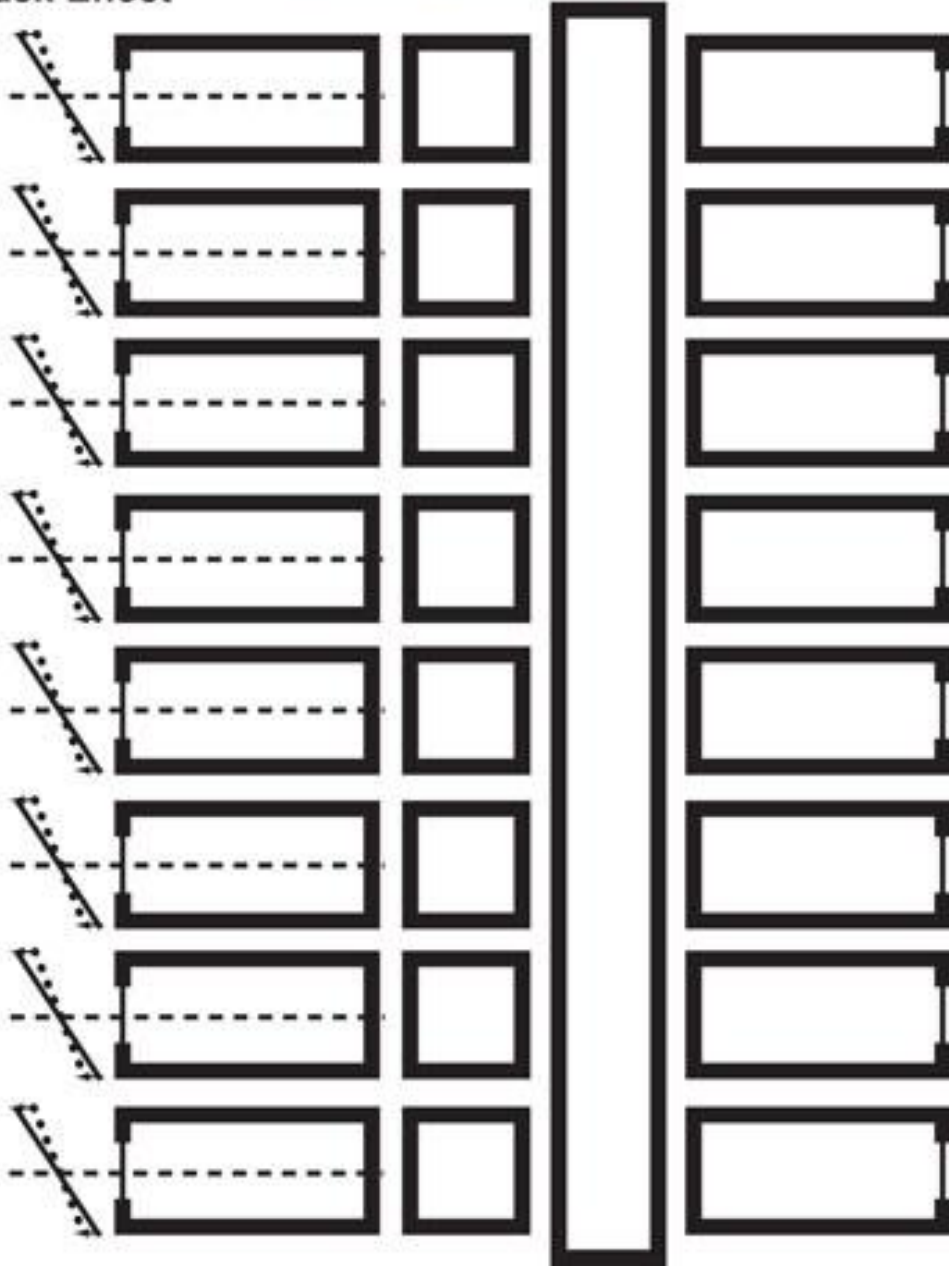


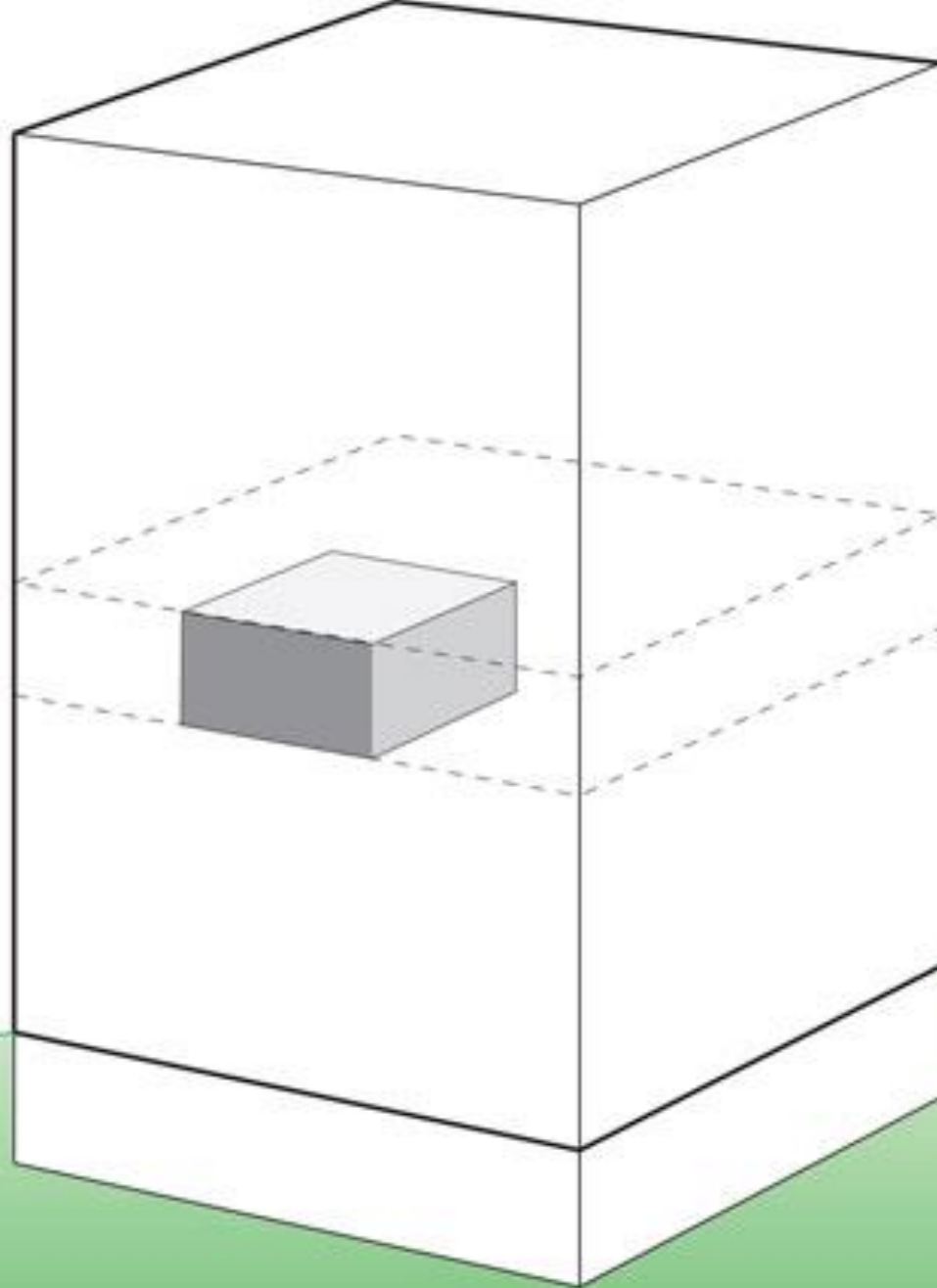
SICBC Bank

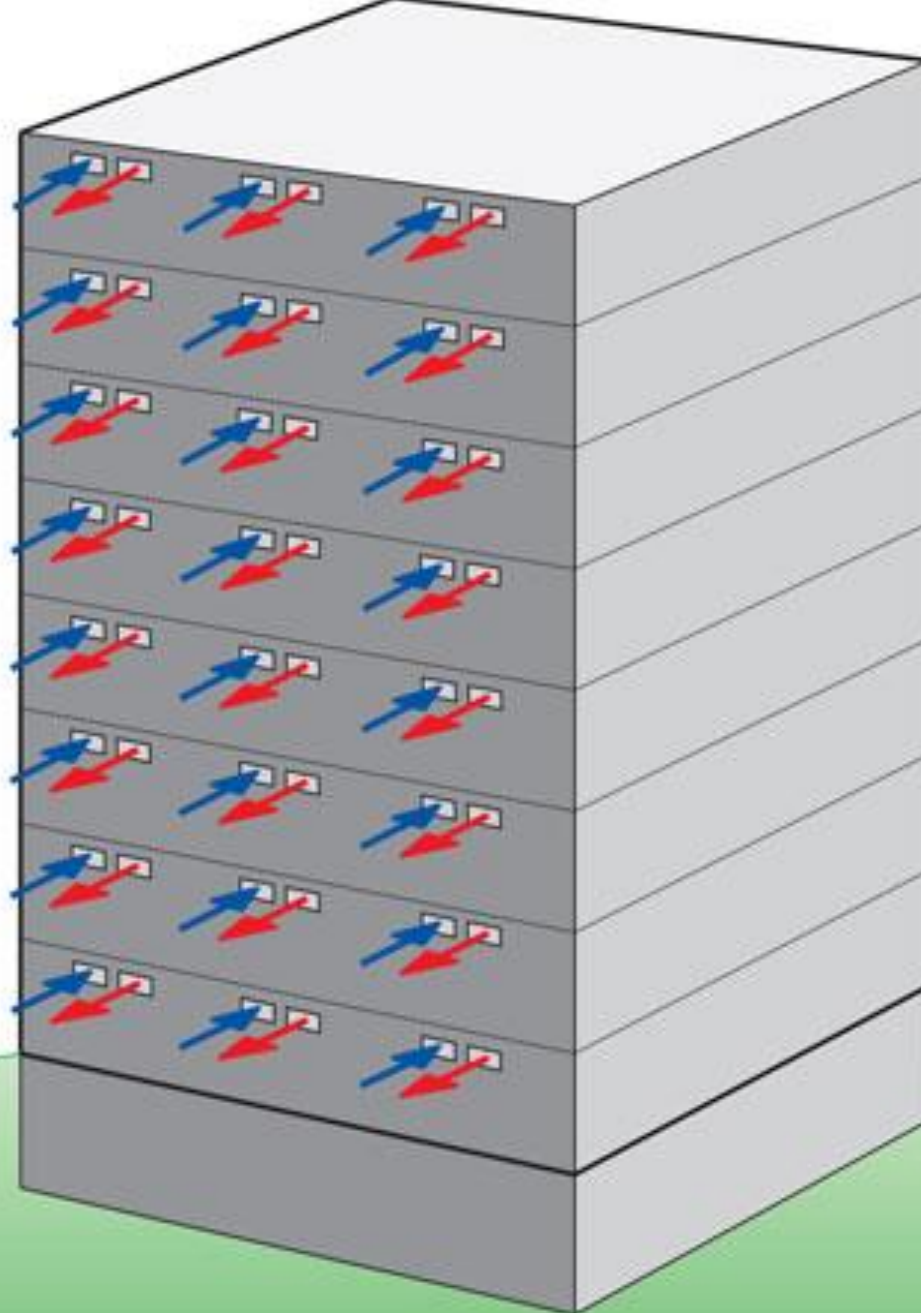


Reduced Individual
Unit Stack Effect

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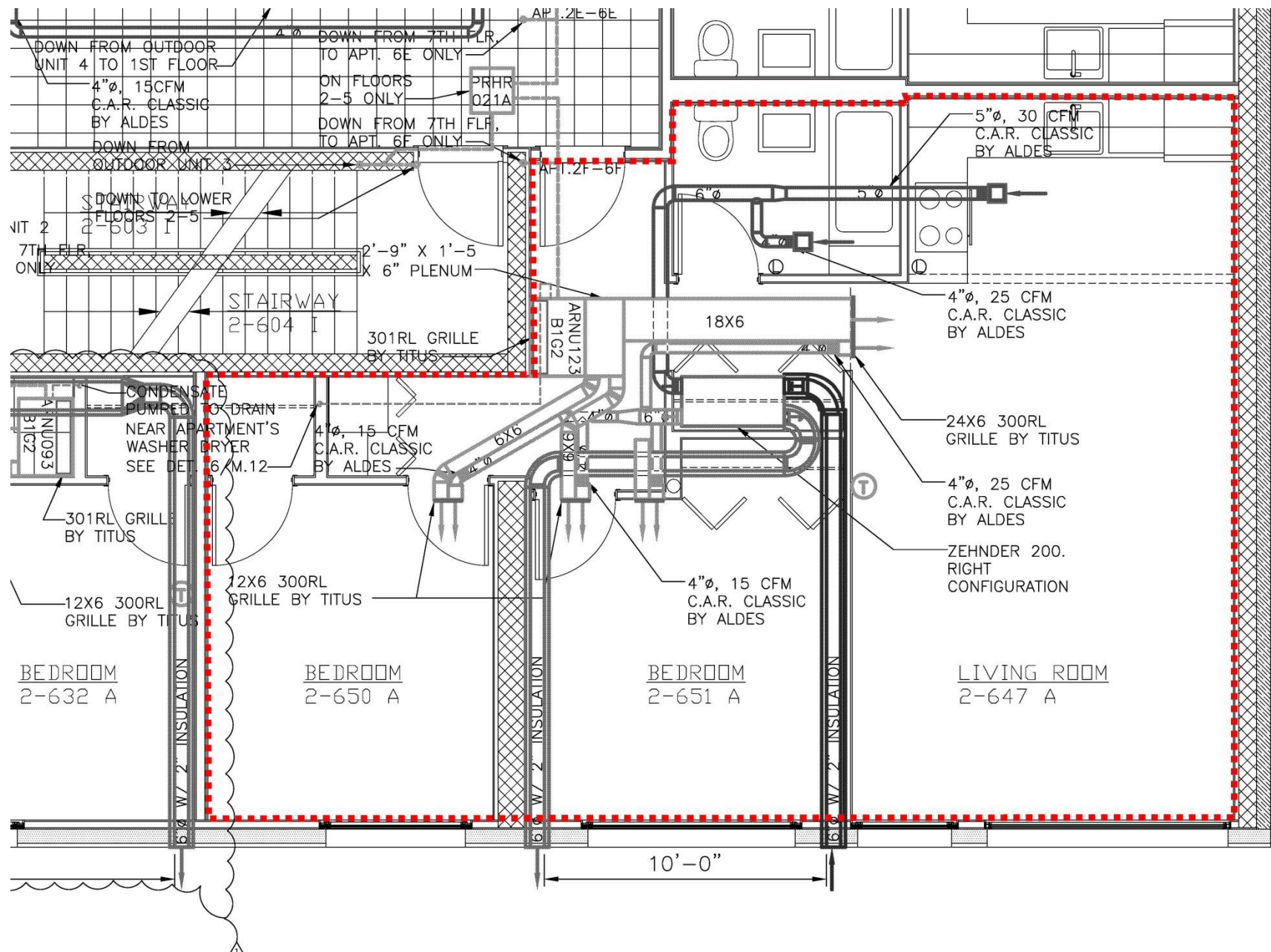


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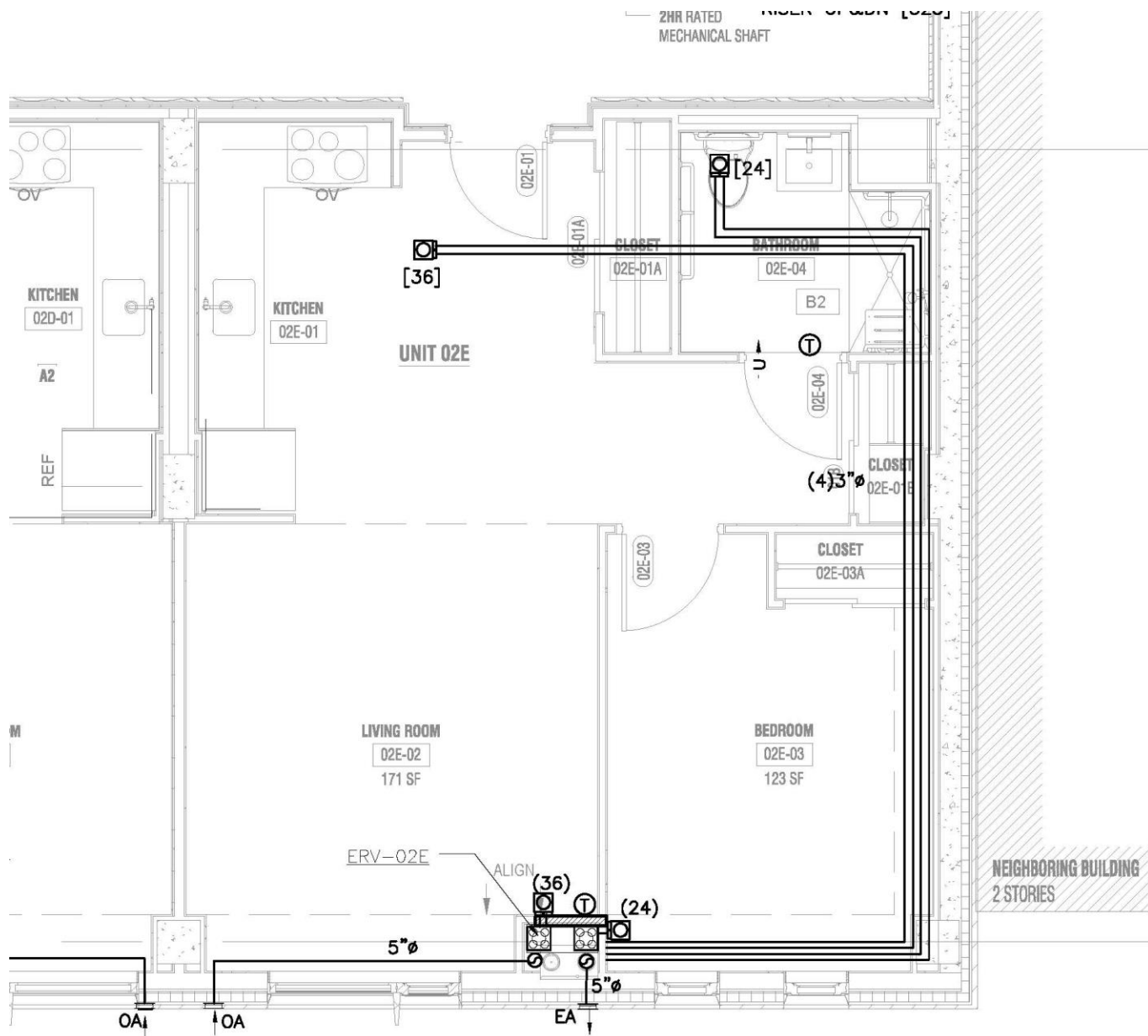
What's Going On Here?
Work in Progress Residential

Work in Progress Residential















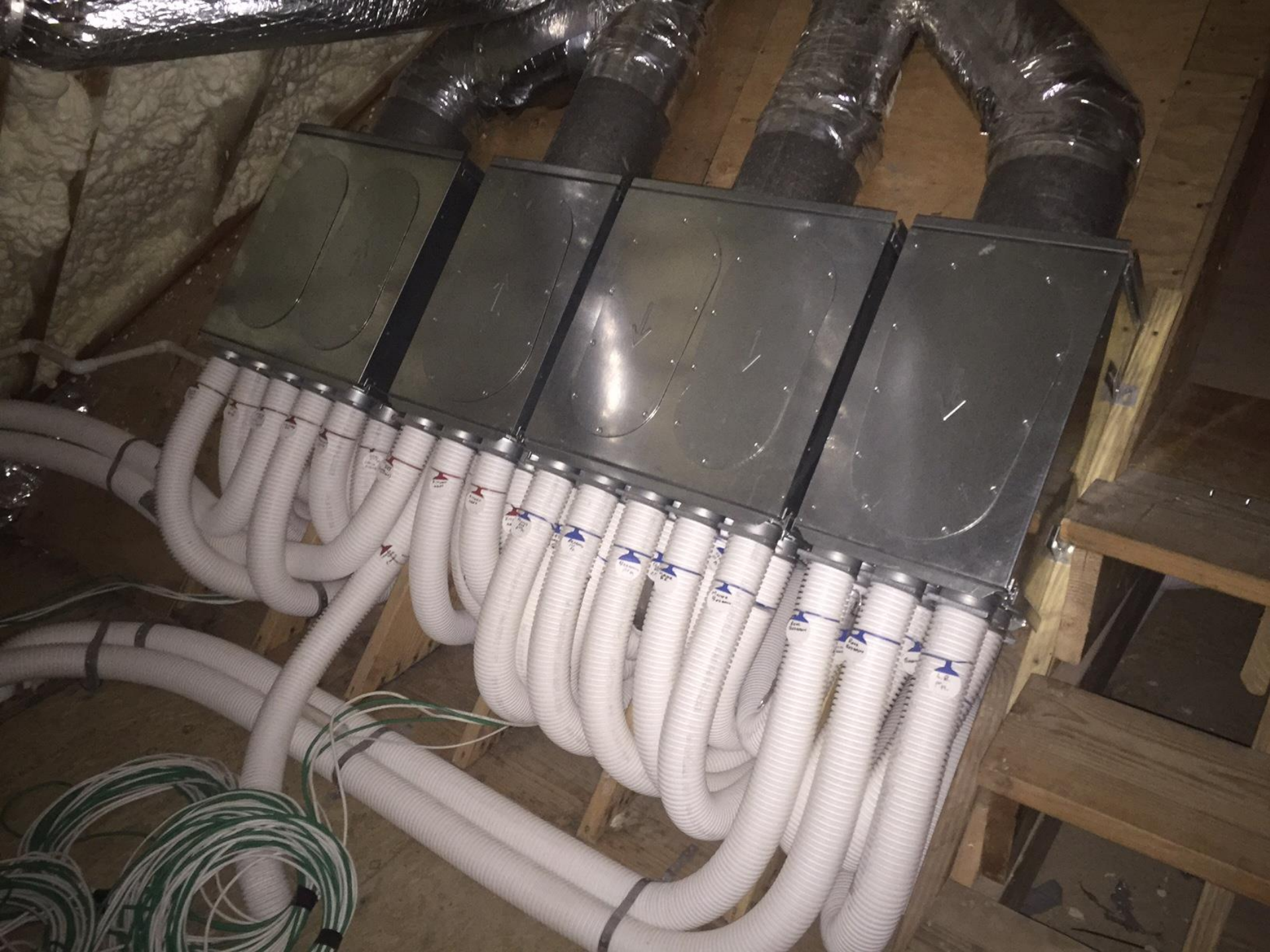
















“Net Zero” home project; Cedar lake, IN