

Future Housing: A New Approach to Evaluating Building Performance



Join Building Energy Exchange and Bright Power for a presentation and moderated panel discussion of the Future Housing Initiative: Equity, Health, & Carbon Database for Multifamily Housing, an endeavor to increase access to equity and health-focused data and incorporate the resident experience into how we assess building performance.

welcome:

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presenters:

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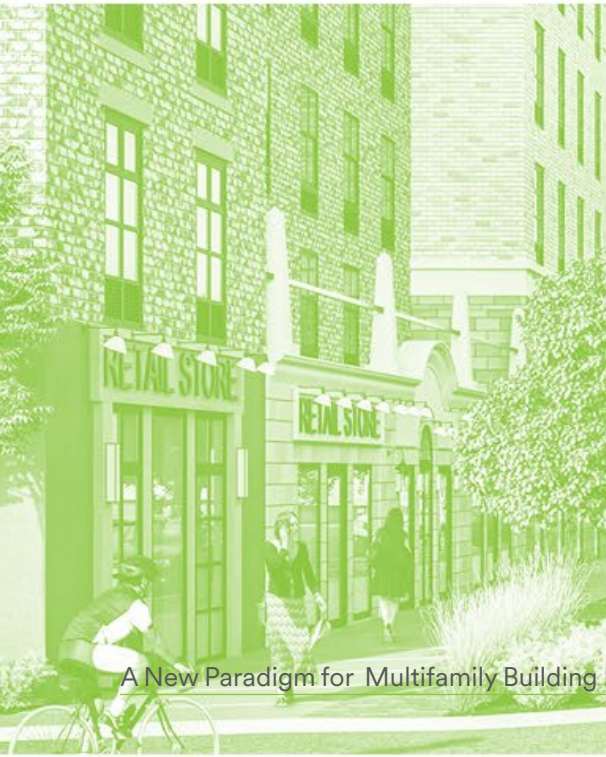
September 4, 2025
9:30 to 11:00 am

Future Housing: A New Paradigm for Multifamily Building Performance



Agenda

- Future Housing and the Work to Date
- Introducing the New Paradigm
- Panel Discussion
- Q&A



A New Paradigm for Multifamily Building Performance



Future Housing Initiative

Future Housing: A New Paradigm for Multifamily Building Performance



Driving the transition
to low-carbon,
multifamily housing with
real world data.



The Challenge

- Lack of real, assessable performance data
- Buildings are for people, so performance needs to center the experience of people in buildings

playbook

Multifamily Passive House: Connecting Performance to Financing

How energy efficiency and operational savings can provide additional, ongoing cash flow.

ed building that has exceeded its annual emissions limit /ton carbon, every year that they are non-compliant. could negatively affect a building's operational expenses

ties relative to the 2030 and 2050 targets, illustrating the buildings as a result of carbon regulation. While the base as, all of the Passive House study group buildings would in 2050.

building owners may be able to capitalize on their carbon iding owner who has emissions above the cap. These for building owners. For instance, in 2030, the Passive \$5,000 to \$132,000.¹¹

be ex building energy exchange

NYC ACCELERATOR

NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development

MARCH 2021

with Passive House construction increase NOI, which supports additional private debt and can also reduce reliance on public subsidies for certain types of buildings.

income - utilities other costs = NOI

income - utilities other costs = NOI

supportable loan

supportable loan

public subsidy

additional private debt

public subsidy

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Passive House: Connecting Performance to Financing

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Underwriting to Incremental Costs and Passive House Savings

Incremental first construction costs of Passive House projects are likely to decrease as components become more widely available and cost-efficient, increasing demand for high-performance buildings.

Objectives 5 & 6: Demonstrate a methodology for underwriting incremental first costs and operational savings.

Offsetting Incremental First Costs
Information reviewed as part of this study—including experience from other Northeast states employing Passive House to address climate goals—indicates that it is possible to construct Passive House multifamily buildings at minimal additional cost, ranging from 0-5% for experienced project teams. Incremental costs are strongly correlated with the baseline of comparison, and are expected to approach zero as code requirements and market demand increase, and as products become more widely available and cost-competitive.¹²

Incremental costs for Passive House construction often include the following:

- Soft cost increases for Passive House include certification, consulting, verification, and performance testing, typically ranging from \$100K to \$200K for multifamily projects. This varies with building size and team experience.
- Hard cost increases for Passive House are primarily related to higher performing HVAC equipment, particularly variable refrigerant flow (VRF) and energy recovery ventilation (ERV). Building envelopes also contribute to costs—primarily triple-glazed windows—which are required for many projects.
- Maintenance & operating (M&O) costs can run up to \$200/apartment per year for ERV and VRF filter changes. This would be less for centralized systems and does not take into account the M&O costs of base case systems, like boilers and A/C units.
- The learning curve and “fear of the unknown” among contractors and subcontractors can increase costs for teams new to Passive House.

Translating Savings into Additional Private Debt
One way to cover incremental costs of Passive House construction is to factor energy performance cost savings into the first mortgage. Net operating income (NOI) is calculated based on the difference between rental and other income and M&O expenses. If lenders can prove some measure of cost reduction for certified Passive House and Passive House-like buildings, they can increase the supportable loan by reducing expenses and increasing NOI. This could also decrease the amount of subsidy often required from city and state agencies.

Underwriting to Improved Performance
Underwriting Passive House performance and cost reduction into a first mortgage takes into account the financial stability of the project. Below are key recommendations for lenders to consider:

1. Compare projected energy costs to conventional M&O standards to assess potential energy cost savings.
 - a. Confirm what portion of the energy cost savings will accrue to the owner. Those savings can be underwritten by the lender.
 - b. Ensure that renewables, if included, are factored into energy cost savings.
 - c. If applicable, factor in avoided costs (e.g. future carbon penalties, reduced vacancies) over the project's life cycle.
2. Collect relevant project information and relevant comparables (“comps”) to assess risk.
 - a. How does the projected performance compare to available Passive House comps?
 - b. Has the team (e.g. architect, contractor, etc.) built to a Passive House standard before?
 - c. Does the team plan to certify to a Passive House standard?
3. Determine the NOI.
4. Determine a reasonable percentage of energy cost savings that can be underwritten, and use that to assess the additional debt that the project can leverage.

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Passive House: Connecting Performance to Financing

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The Vision

- Create a public, open-source, national, equity-centered database of real-world performance data on low-carbon multifamily buildings.
- Engage with stakeholders to use the data to accelerate equitable multifamily building sector decarbonization.



Project Team

Project Leads



Project Partners & Supporting Consultants

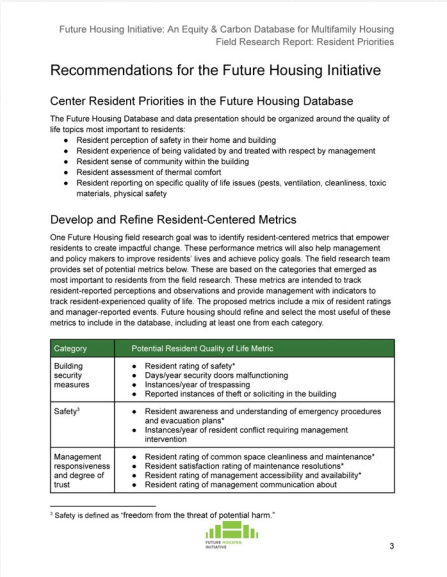


Future Housing Projects

Project

1

Equity, Health, and Carbon Database for Multifamily Housing



Project

2

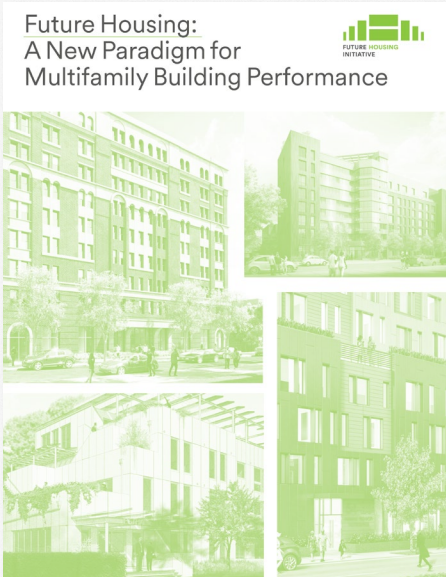
Underwriting Standards for Low-Carbon Housing



Project

3

Resident and Health Data Toolkit and Pilot



Resident Findings

- The most important thing to residents is feeling safe in their home and building.
- Building management is key to people's experience in buildings.
- Residents place a high value on the sense of community within their buildings.



Future Housing Building Performance Metrics

Resident
Experience + Health
Risk + Carbon/
Energy

Future Housing Building Performance Metrics

Resident Experience Score	Health Risk Score	Carbon Performance
Composite score (out of 50 deductions)	Composite score (out of 50 deductions)	lbs CO2e/person/year
32	18	2,375
(Close to average)	(Close to average)	(Better than Average)

Resident Experience Metrics

Resident Experience Score Composite score (out of 50 deductions)	Health Risk Score Composite score (out of 50 deductions)	Carbon Performance lbs CO2e/person/year
32 (Close to average)	18 (Close to average)	2,375 (Better than Average)

Resident Experience Score	Metric	Value
	Overall Quality of Life	6 / 8
	Management Responsiveness	5 / 10
	Cleanliness and Maintenance	7 / 10
	Safety and Security	8 / 10
	Sense of Community	2 / 8
	Thermal Comfort	4 / 4

Resident Experience Metrics

Nice and quiet.

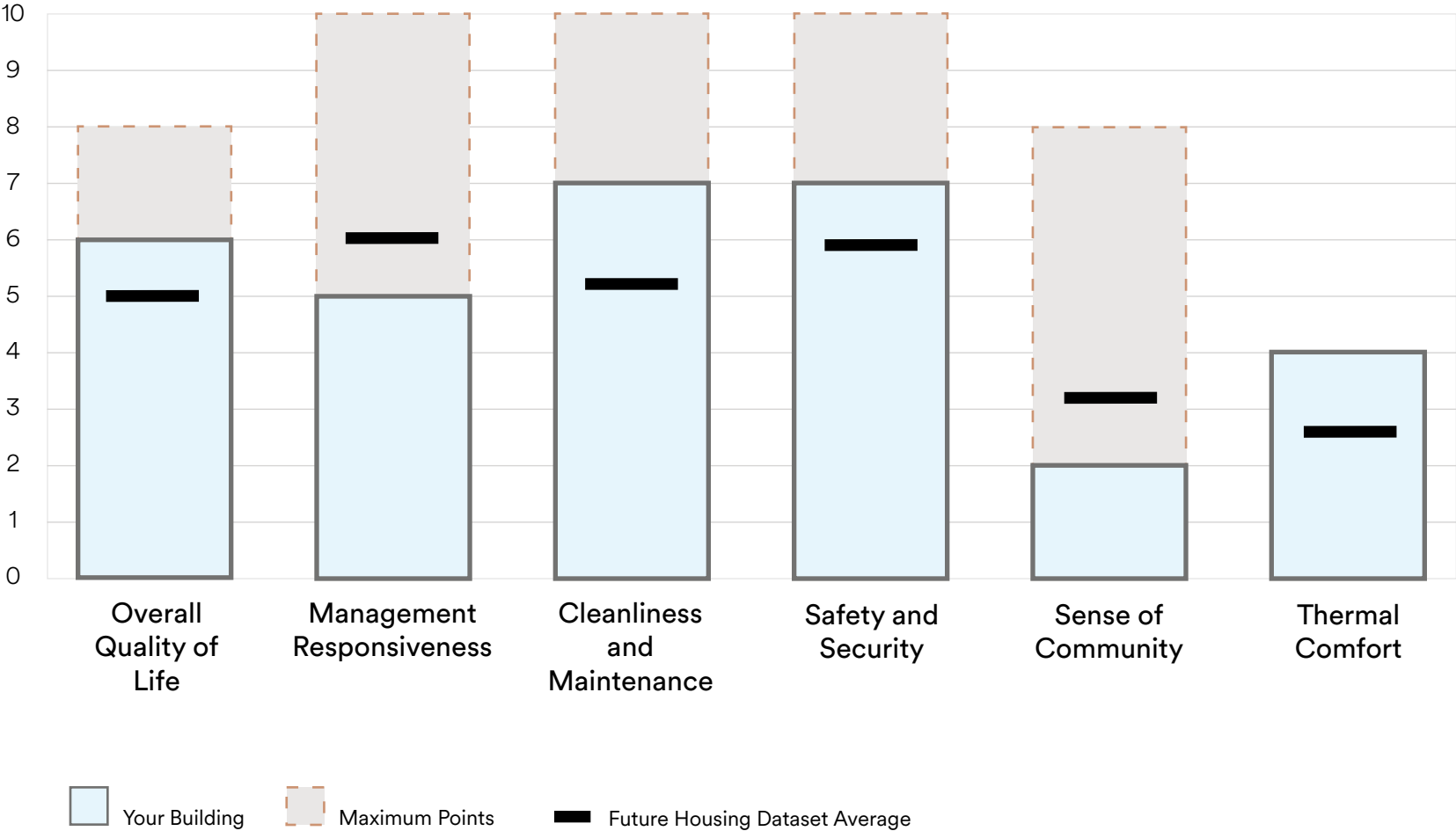
*I like everything
about the beach.*

The water it's nice.

*Building is clean, rarely
ever have any issues.
When something needs
to be fixed or looked at,
it is typically done in a
reasonable time.*

*Building is not an easy
access and no one can
just walk in.*

*The 1st door entering
the building is always
broken.*



Health Risk Metrics

Resident Experience Score Composite score (out of 50 deductions)	Health Risk Score Composite score (out of 50 deductions)	Carbon Performance lbs CO2e/person/year
32 (Close to average)	18 (Close to average)	2,375 (Better than Average)

Health Risk Score	Metric	Value
	Presence of Mold or Mildew	0 / 10
	Presence of Pests	8 / 10
	Building Related Illness	1 / 6
	Evidence of Water Damage, Moisture, or Leaks	2 / 8
	Unaffordability of Maintaining Safe Temperatures	1 / 6
	Risk of Accident or Injury	4 / 6
	Lack of Adequate Ventilation	2 / 4

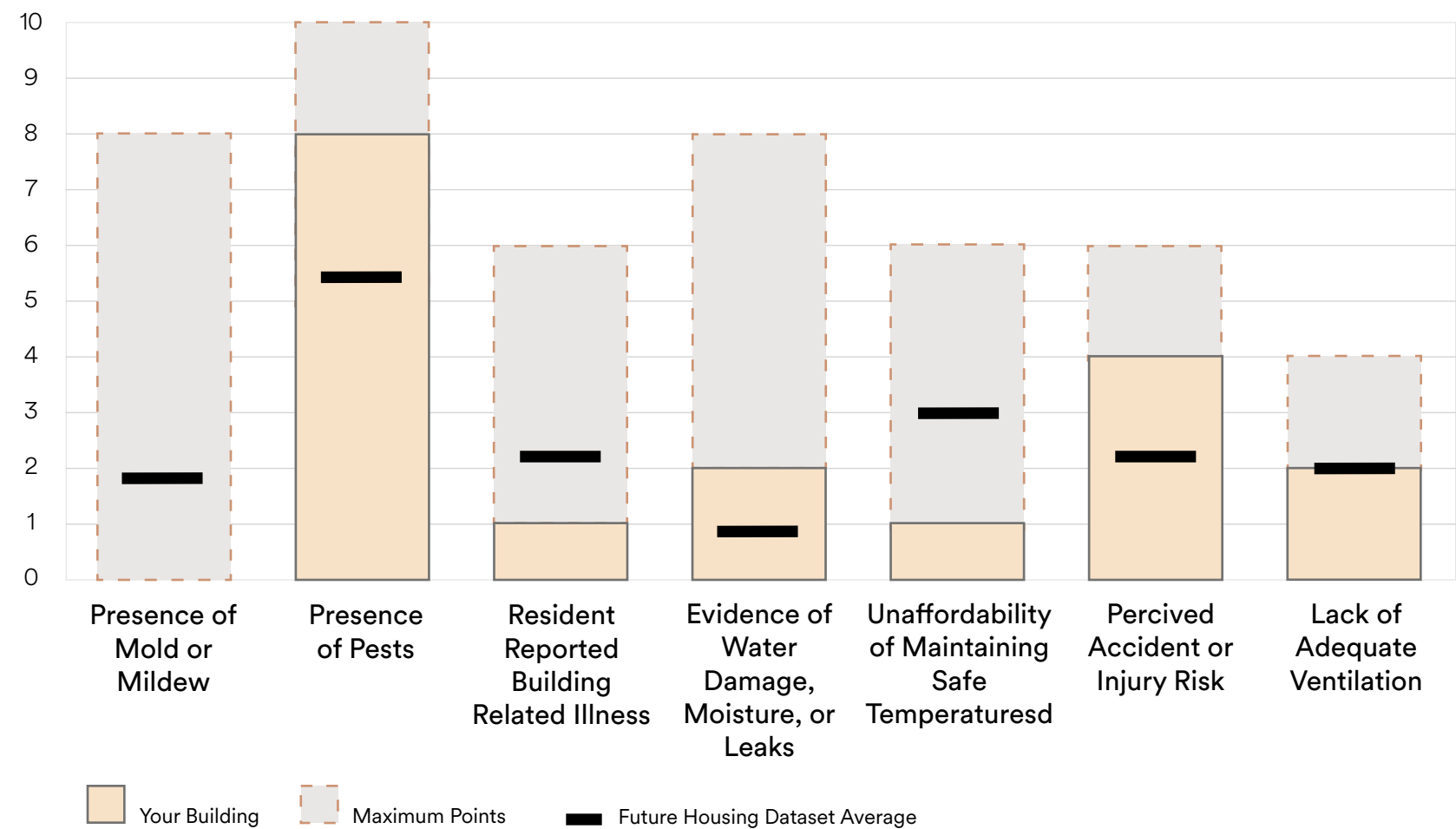
Health Risk Metrics

I had mold, mildew in my unit.

Exterminators come every two weeks.

Roaches come from the door and vents.

Building is clean, rarely ever any issues.

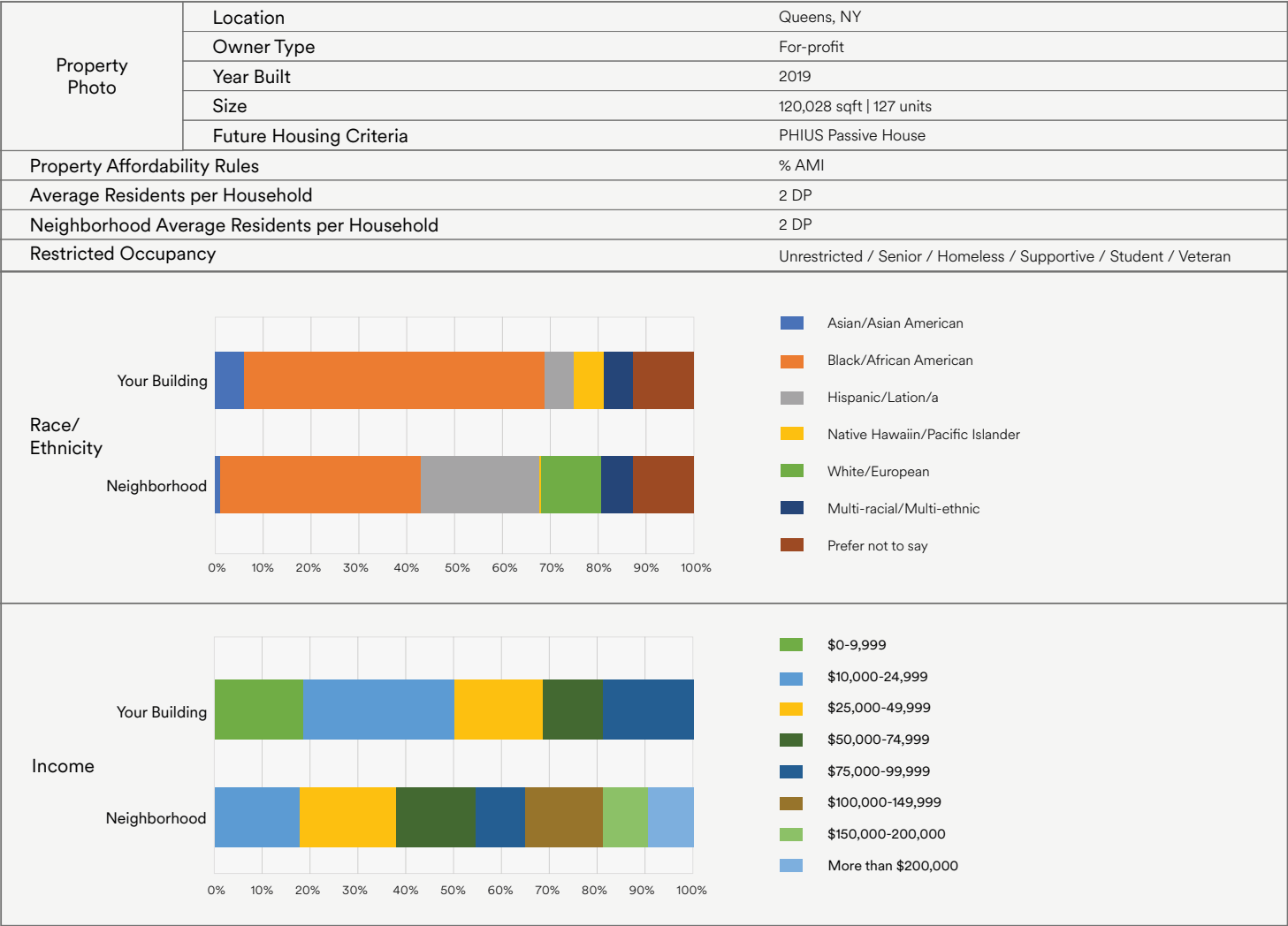


Carbon Performance Metrics

Resident Experience Score Composite score (out of 50 deductions)	Health Risk Score Composite score (out of 50 deductions)	Carbon Performance lbs CO2e/person/year
32 (Close to average)	18 (Close to average)	2,375 (Better than Average)

Metric	Units	Value	Peer Percentile
Emissions per square foot	lbs CO2e/SF/yr	5.5	26%
Emissions per person	lbs CO2e/person/yr	2375	16%
Resident energy cost per square foot	\$/SF/yr	\$0.34	28%
Resident energy cost per unit	\$/unit/yr	\$323	29%
Emissions per square foot	\$/SF/yr	\$0.92	23%
Owner energy cost per square foot	\$/unit/yr	\$867	23%
Energy per person	mmBTY/person/yr	16	31%
Energy Use Intensity (EUI)	kBTU/SF/yr	36	31%

Property Overview



Sharing the Findings



Future Housing Report:
Multifamily Building X

The Future Housing Initiative (FHI) prepares a property-specific performance summary for each site taking part in FHI. Future Housing redefines "building performance" to focus on building's residents. FHI does this by adding resident-centered metrics and interpreting standards through a resident-centered lens. There are three independent performance areas: resident experience, health risk, and carbon. Only low-carbon properties are eligible to be part of Future Housing.

Score Summary

Resident Experience Score	Health Risk Score	Carbon Performance
Composite score (out of 50 points)	Composite score (out of 50 deductions)	lbs CO2e/person/year
31 (Close to Average)	15 (Better than Average)	6,601 (Worse than Average)

About Future Housing Initiative Metrics

The Future Housing data set includes six low-carbon, new construction properties. Resident experience and health risk data is collected during on-site resident engagement events including resident surveys, a focus group, in unit tours, a visual survey, and supplemented with a property manager survey. Energy data is collected directly from utility bills.

Property Overview

Location	Pennsylvania
Owner Type	Non-Profit Owner
Year Built	YYYY
Size	GSF, # of units
Future Housing Criteria*	PHUS Certified
Restricted Occupancy	Senior
Property Affordability Rules	60%-AMH
Average Residents per Household	1.27
Neighborhood Average Residents per Household	1.36

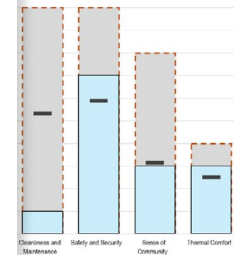
ent Experience Score

f 50 points (Better than Average)

um of six individual metrics. Each component is calculated using site engagement events. A high score indicates the best

Overall Quality of Life	7 out of 8
Housing Responsiveness	9 out of 10
Cleanliness and Maintenance	1 out of 10
Safety and Security	7 out of 10
Sense of Community	3 out of 8
Thermal Comfort	3 out of 4

Your Building – Future Housing Dataset Average



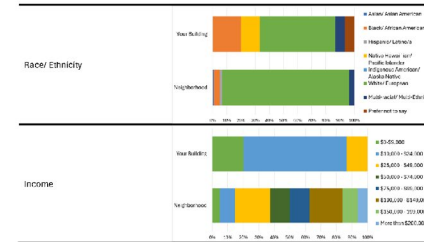
"Everyone has a laundry room on same floor – good building manager"

"Don't know when or if maintenance is coming after you put in a work order. Don't know when thermostats are going to work"

"No sense in
community



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Data Collection Details

Data Collection Contact	Property Management
Utility Data Date	November 2022 – May 2025
Resident Event Date	Q1 2025
Number of Participating Residents	15

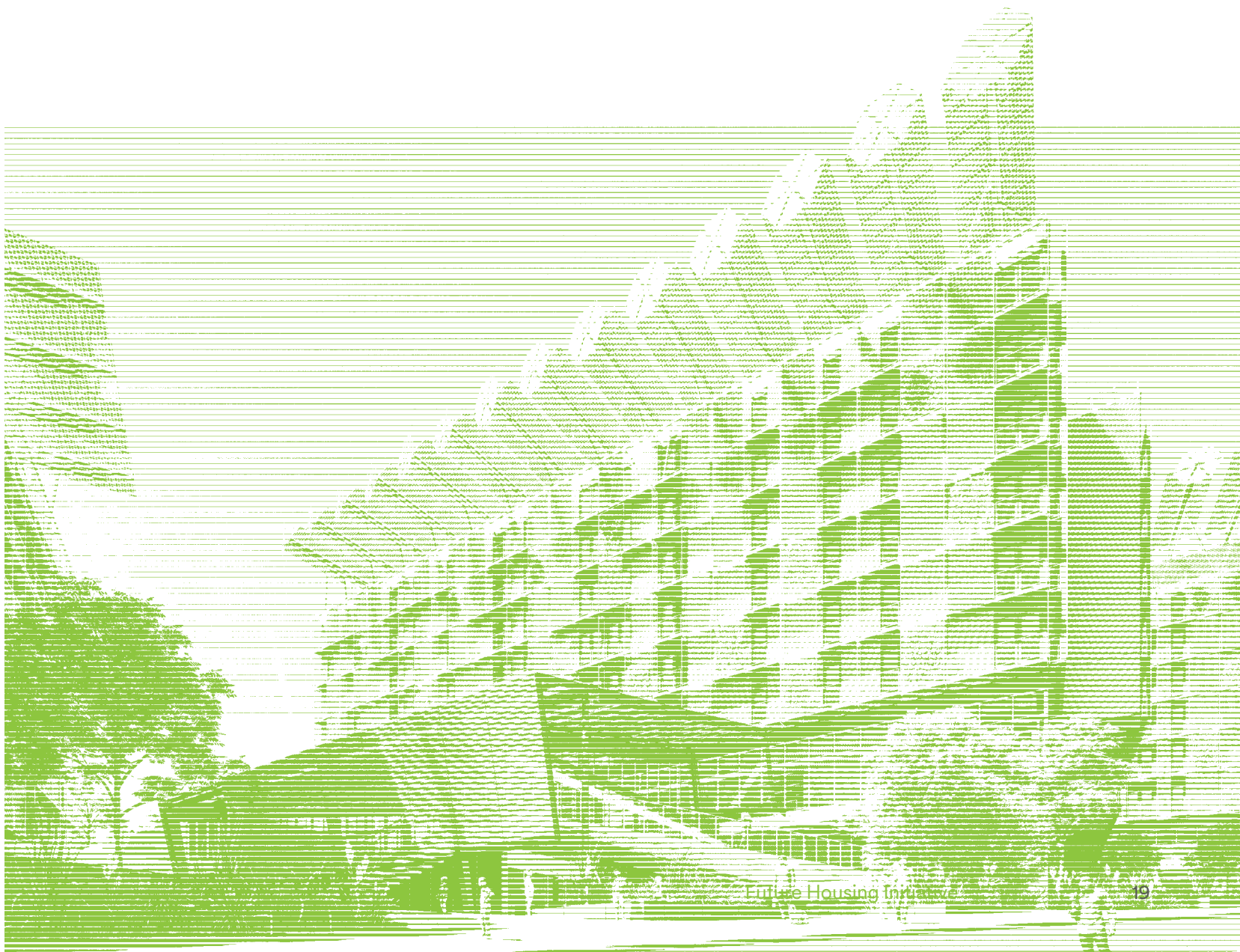
Additional Notes



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Future Housing Next Steps

- Conduct peer review of the Metrics
- Expand data set geographically and to retrofits
- Develop the Future Housing Data Hub



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