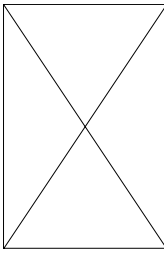


## Agenda

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Scientific Approach
  - Descriptions of Glazing Systems
  - Descriptions of Curtain Wall Systems
  - Descriptions of Spacers
- Results
  - Comparisons of U-value, SHGC and Temperatures
  - Comparisons of Energy Consumption
  - Comparisons of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions
- Conclusions





## Challenge in the Desert: Las Vegas

- Population increase, urbanization and spatial expansion



1984

Satellite images courtesy of NASA




## Continuing Climate Challenges

- Economic growth leads to increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Hot, dry climate creates challenges for building cooling
- Solution options with properly chosen façade systems

Nevada Carbon Dioxide Emissions

U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions Actual and Forecast



## Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction: Hot Topic!

**Global drivers:**

- Urbanization
- Energy and raw material prices
- Security of energy supply
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and climate changes


**Actions:**

→ Necessity to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions/energy consumption

22% **Transportation**  
 35% **Domestic** → >50% energy use in heating/cooling → 25% of global energy consumption

43% **Industrial** → High-energy vs. low-energy processes

- Western construction consumes 40% of total energy
- Built environment emits 25% of Western greenhouse gas (CO<sub>2</sub>)



## OBJECTIVES:

### Study the energy efficiency of commercial curtain wall systems in hot and cold climates

- Comparing dry glazed curtainwall systems to structural silicone glazed systems
- Comparing high-performance glass to standard clear glass
- Comparing silicone foam warm edge IG spacers to aluminum IG spacers
- Comparison of frame temperatures at exterior conditions at 0°F, 104°F and 122°F+ high solar load
- Comparison of U-values and SHGC
- Comparison of energy consumption for a whole building
- Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for a whole building

## Scientific Approach

- Calculate and compare  $U_{\text{facade}}$  value and SHGC of different generic curtain wall systems used in commercial construction
  - Glazing and frame system
  - THERM and WINDOW (LBNL) software
- Compare energy use of different curtain wall systems based on U, SHGC, air leakage
  - EFEN software (CARLI)

Solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC), visible light transmittance (VT)

U-factor

Air leakage

## Choice of Glazing Systems in Hot and Cold Climates

Solar Spectrum

- Essential in order to:
  - Control incoming heat without losing light
  - Increase savings on HVAC size and running costs
  - Increase comfort of inhabitants
- Sun energy = 50% visible range (light) + 50% IR range
  - Reduce light:
    - ↑ reflection (reflective glass)
    - ↑ absorption (tinted, dark coatings) combination
  - Reduce IR:
    - ↑ reflection (green glass, IR-reflect. coat.)
    - ↑ absorption (tinted, dark coatings) combination

→ Compare clear glass IG unit with high-performance IG with increased IR absorption and high visible light transmission

## Glazing Systems

Calculate and compare performance with WINDOW

- Low performance:
  - 6 mm clear
  - 14 mm air
  - 6 mm clear
- High performance:
  - 6 mm low-E3 coating on face 2
  - 14 mm air
  - 6 mm clear

→ Increase IR reflection and absorption + maximize visible transmission

14 mm air 6 mm clear

V.T. = 79%

SHGC = 0.70

$U_{\text{glass}} = 0.457 \text{ Btu/h-ft}^2\text{-F}$

14 mm air 6 mm clear

V.T. = 62%

SHGC = 0.27

$U_{\text{glass}} = 0.284 \text{ Btu/h-ft}^2\text{-F}$

## Dry Glaze Curtain Wall

Aluminum IG spacer

6 mm glass 14 mm air space

PIB primary seal

Desiccant

Si secondary seal

Aluminum spacer

EPDM gaskets

Steel bolt 9 in. on center

Nylon thermal isolator

Aluminum pressure bar

Insulating glass

Aluminum frame 2 in. x 4 in.

Interior temp 70°F

## Structural Silicone Glazing Curtain Wall

3/8 in. x 1/2 in. structural silicone joint

2 in. x 4 in. aluminum frame

3/8 in. x 1/4 in. silicone foam spacer

5/8 in. wide silicone weatherseal

Interior temp 70°F

Silicone foam warm edge

6 mm glass 14 mm wide

PIB primary seal

Desiccated silicone foam

Silicone secondary seal

Foam backer rod

## Temperature Evolution for SSG System at 122°F, 1120W/m<sup>2</sup>

High-performance glass, Si spacer

Clear glass, Si spacer

High-performance glass, Al spacer

Clear glass, Al spacer

Temperature measurement

169 - 172°F

85.4°F

+3.1°F

88.5°F

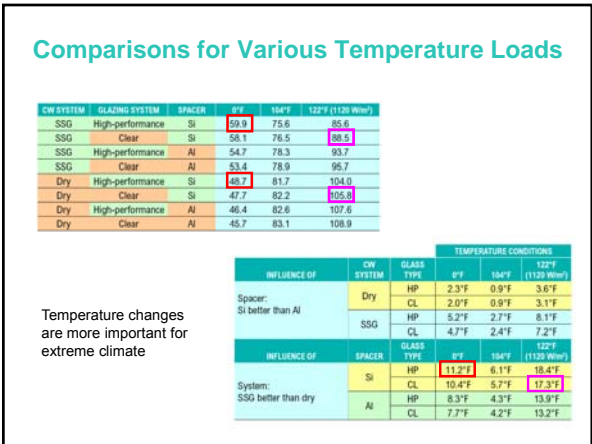
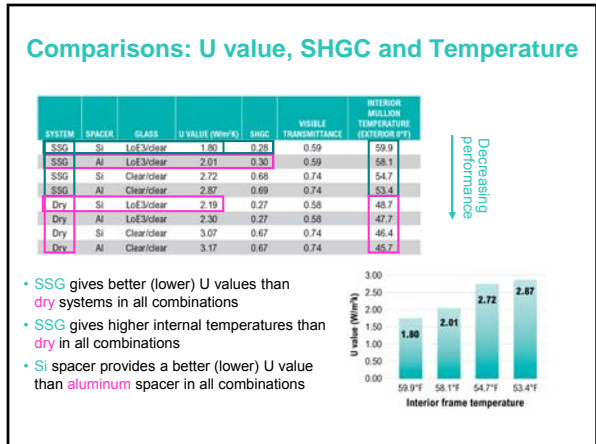
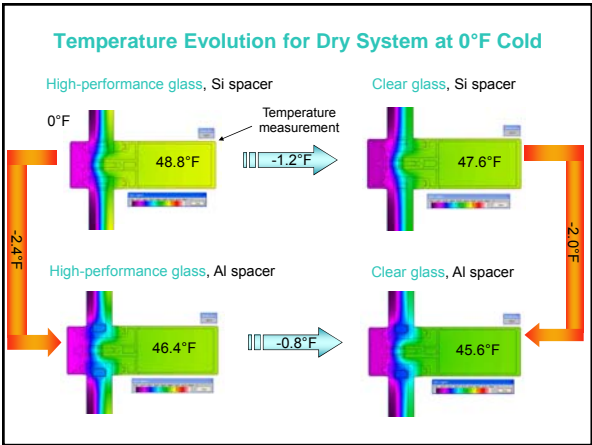
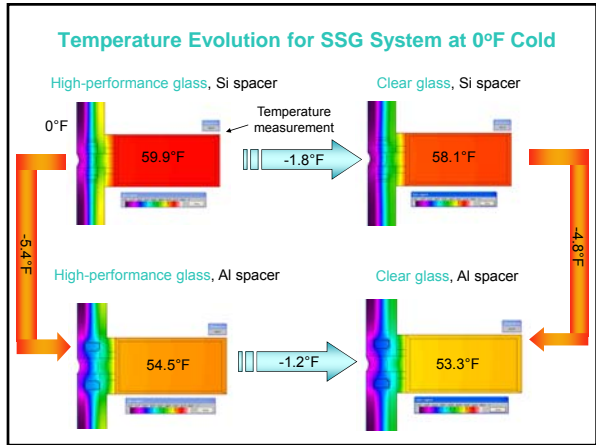
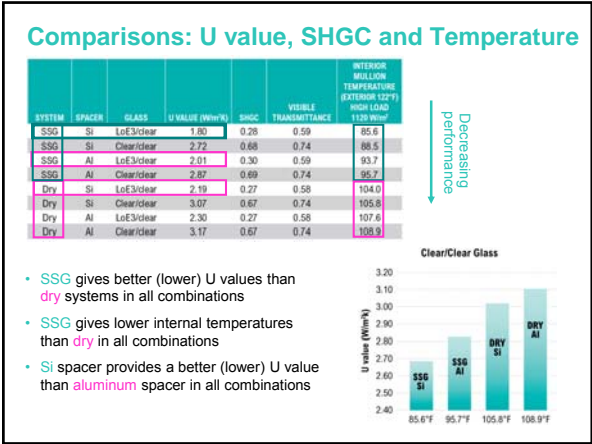
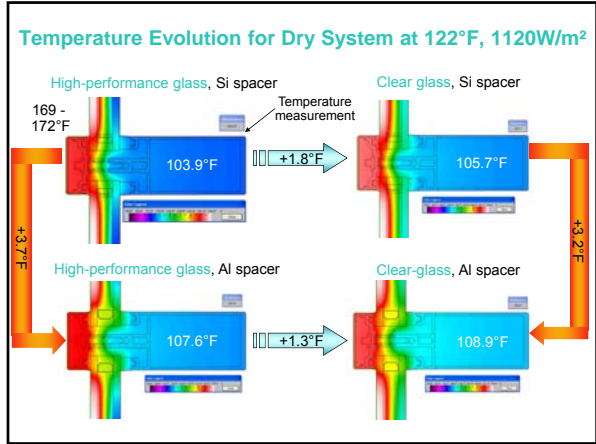
+8.3°F

93.7°F

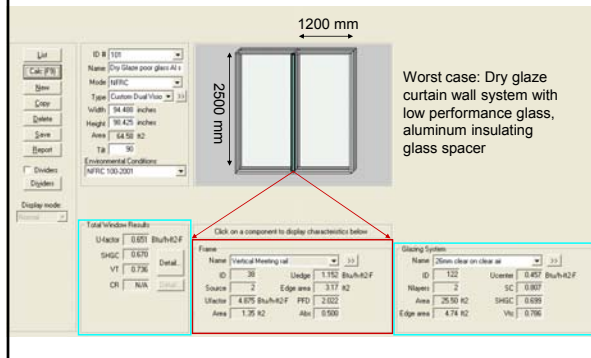
+2.0°F

95.7°F

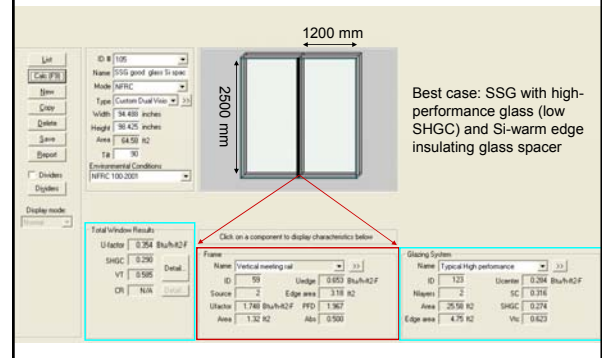
+7.2°F



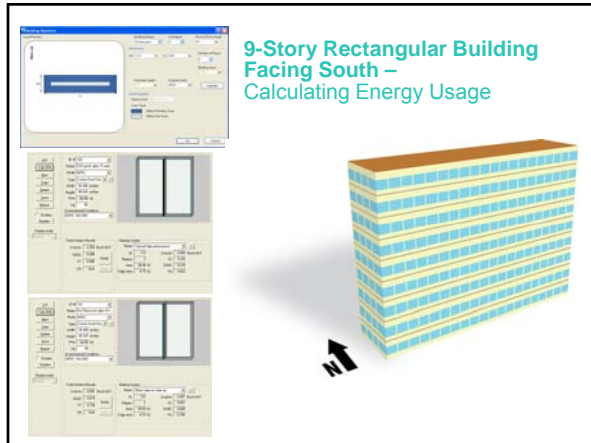
## Total Frame Results



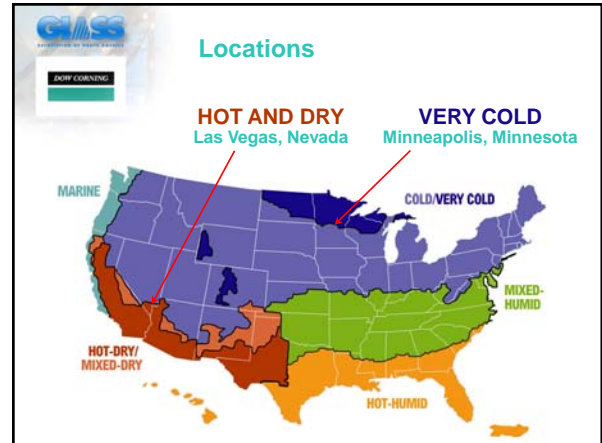
## Total Frame Results



## 9-Story Rectangular Building Facing South – Calculating Energy Usage



## Locations

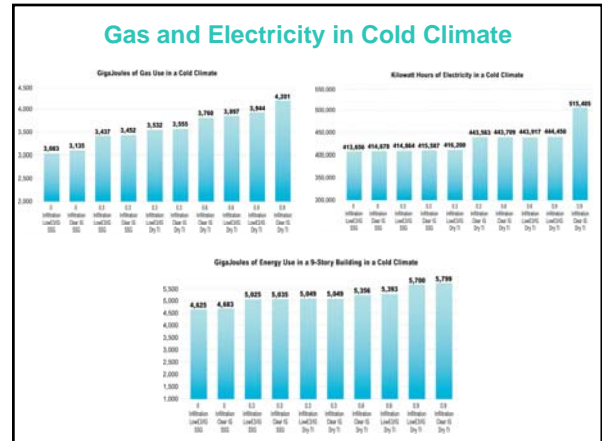


## Scientific Approach

- Compare energy use (electricity for cooling and lighting and gas for heating) of different curtain wall systems based on:
  - U<sub>value</sub>, SHGC: as calculated with THERM and WINDOW
  - EFEN software (CARLI)
    - Air leakage: from 0 (new gasket or SSG system) to 0.9 in order to simulate aging of old gasket
    - Daylighting calculations – More daylight, less lighting
- Calculate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions based on:
  - 1kWh electricity from a mixed generation = 0.480 kg CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - 1GJ gas = 53.8 kg CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



## Gas and Electricity in Cold Climate



## Energy Totals in Cold and Hot Climates

| System | Low E3 IG | Infiltration | SSG   | Electricity | TOTAL BTU |
|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|-------------|-----------|
| SSG    | Low E3 IG | 0            | 3,135 | 413,606     | 416,741   |
| SSG    | Clear IG  | 0            | 3,083 | 444,486     | 447,569   |
| SSG    | Low E3 IG | 0.3          | 3,532 | 414,678     | 418,210   |
| SSG    | Clear IG  | 0.3          | 3,497 | 443,915     | 447,412   |
| Dry TI | Low E3 IG | 0.3          | 3,555 | 414,864     | 418,419   |
| Dry TI | Clear IG  | 0.3          | 3,492 | 443,798     | 447,290   |
| Dry TI | Clear IG  | 0.6          | 3,760 | 443,563     | 447,323   |
| Dry TI | Low E3 IG | 0.6          | 3,987 | 413,567     | 417,554   |
| Dry TI | Low E3 IG | 0.9          | 4,501 | 416,290     | 420,791   |
| Dry TI | Clear IG  | 0.9          | 3,944 | 415,495     | 419,439   |

| System | Low E3 IG | Infiltration | SSG   | Electricity | TOTAL BTU |
|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|-------------|-----------|
| SSG    | Low E3 IG | 0            | 908   | 462,762     | 463,670   |
| SSG    | Clear IG  | 0            | 797   | 508,650     | 509,447   |
| SSG    | Low E3 IG | 0.3          | 1,103 | 464,218     | 465,321   |
| Dry TI | Low E3 IG | 0.3          | 1,111 | 464,486     | 465,597   |
| Dry TI | Clear IG  | 0.3          | 969   | 506,961     | 507,930   |
| Dry TI | Clear IG  | 0.6          | 975   | 506,876     | 507,851   |
| Dry TI | Low E3 IG | 0.6          | 1,280 | 463,006     | 464,286   |
| Dry TI | Clear IG  | 0.6          | 1,134 | 504,510     | 505,644   |
| Dry TI | Clear IG  | 0.9          | 1,277 | 497,378     | 500,655   |
| Dry TI | Low E3 IG | 0.9          | 1,430 | 461,968     | 463,398   |

GigaJoules of Energy Use in a 9-Story Building in a Cold Climate



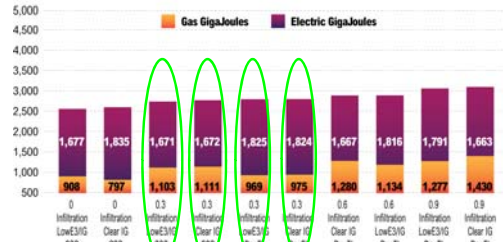
GigaJoules of Energy Use in a 9-Story Building in a Hot Climate



## Hot Climate Specifics

DRIF CORNING

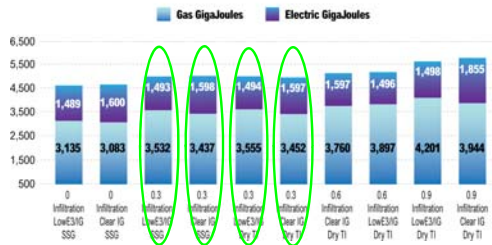
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## Cold Climate Specifics

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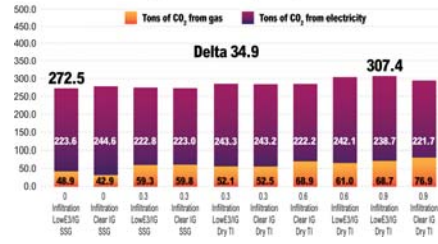
GigaJoules of Energy Use in a 9-Story Building in a Cold Climate



## CO<sub>2</sub> Impact Hot Climate

DRIF CORNING

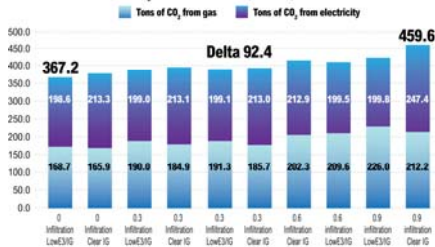
Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Produced in a 9-Story Building in a Hot Climate



## CO<sub>2</sub> Impact Cold Climate

DRIF CORNING

Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Produced in a 9-Story Building in a Cold Climate



## Conclusions

DRIF CORNING

- Proper choice of glass is critical to performance
- SSG systems outperform the dry glazed systems
  - Lower U values when compared to each other, all other items being equal
  - Frame temperatures are closer to interior ambient in both hot and cold climate
  - Lower energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Warm edge silicone spacers outperform aluminum spacers
  - Lower U values when compared to each other, all other items being equal
  - Frame temperatures are closer to interior ambient in both hot and cold climate
  - Lower energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- A combination of both SSG and silicone warm edge system provided the best results
- Air infiltration is critical to minimize energy consumption; durable systems should be preferred



## Leave Behind Presentation Materials

- White papers
- Report from EFEN on a specific building design and size comparing dry glaze and SSG, comparing aluminum IG and warm edge, and infiltration rates
- Graphs and charts converting energy to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

Any Questions?