



# Frequently asked questions

## Energy modelling

Live energy modelling is a cornerstone of the free **Savings by Design** program. Participants provide preliminary project drawings and multi-disciplinary industry experts help your project team optimize design choices during a full-day Integrated Design Process workshop. Here, **Pratus Group's Oleksandra Onisko** answers top questions about energy modelling for those new to the process.



**Oleksandra Onisko**  
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### **Q: Energy modelling typically costs thousands of dollars. Do we really need it?**

**A:** Yes! With the Savings by Design program, the cost of preliminary energy modelling services is covered by Enbridge Gas.

There's tremendous financial benefit, in terms of cost avoidance, in evaluating design options early. We've seen projects that have foregone energy modelling only to realize at the building permit stage or later that mandatory targets are not being met. Using energy modelling at the conceptual and schematic phases helps avoid these costly redesign scenarios.

### **Q: Energy modelling is complex and detailed. How can I get what I need from it?**

**A:** The key is to engage the right experts and set your targets early on in the project. One of the most rewarding parts of my job is helping people solve problems and meet their performance targets. During the workshop, we break down in simple terms the energy, greenhouse gas emissions and utility cost impact of different energy conservation measures (ECM). Examples of ECMs include improved windows, increased insulation and thermally broken balconies. By analyzing and testing ECM options with real-time energy modelling, we provide data that project teams can actually use to make informed decisions. Following the workshop, participants also get a summary report to take home.

### **Q: Do only big firms and high-rise projects need energy modelling?**

**A:** Any new construction project can benefit from simulations and collaborative design from the early stages. For many projects, it's rare to have everyone who influences energy consumption in the same room. The workshop provides a really unique level of collaboration.

### **Q: Ontario's Building Code is already high performance. Isn't building to code enough?**

**A:** Our code is certainly more efficient than it was 10 years ago but it's not enough to get us to our carbon reduction targets, provincially and federally. Reaching those targets requires increasing stringency of our codes and standards coupled with incentive programs that encourage and motivate higher levels of energy efficiency in our buildings.

# Start designing sustainable buildings with expert help

**Savings by Design** gives your project team free access to industry experts, technical tools and financial incentives to help you build high-performance, resilient and sustainable buildings.

**Free expertise and incentives**

value up to

**\$60,000\***

## Key steps to efficient, resilient design

### Step 1

1 – 2 hours | No cost

#### Visioning session

We'll meet with your project lead, sustainability manager and a design team member to:

- Help define and prioritize project requirements and sustainability priorities.
- Determine which team members and external experts should attend the workshop.

### Step 2

1 day | No cost

#### Integrated design process workshop

Your team will strategize with energy modellers and sustainable design experts to maximize your building's energy and environmental performance.

- An energy model will be developed as well as a final report summarizing the options discussed and recommendations.
- Facilitated by Sustainable Buildings Canada.
- A \$30,000 value.\*\*

## Rewards for building above code

After completing the workshop, you're eligible for additional incentives based on the performance of your building.

### Energy simulation modelling incentive

**\$15,000**

Earn incentives when you complete a pre-construction certified energy model that shows your building will be 15 percent above current code.

### Commissioning incentive

**\$15,000**

Earn additional incentives by confirming your building is 15 percent above code with a post-construction certified energy model, performed by a professional modeller.

To get the most out of your next project, contact **Mary Sye, Energy Solutions Advisor.**

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\*Projected savings based on energy modelling simulations from the Savings by Design Integrated Design Process workshop. \*\*This has no cash value. HST is not applicable and will not be added to incentive payments. Visit [savingsbydesign.ca](http://savingsbydesign.ca) for details. To qualify for the program, your project must be located in the Enbridge Gas Inc. service area. If a participant doesn't complete construction of a new commercial property in the Enbridge Gas service area that exceeds 15 percent of the OBC's energy performance requirement within five years of completing the integrated design process workshop, they're ineligible for performance incentives. During that time, builders are expected to design and construct at least one new construction building based on resulting recommendations. In order to receive incentive payments, you must agree to all program terms and conditions, fully participate in all stages of the program and meet all program requirements. © 2020 Enbridge Gas Inc. All rights reserved.