A Closer Look at LEED Automation: COMNET Energy Modeling Portal Saves Time and Ensures Quality of LEED Energy Data

Written by Dimitri Contoyannis , **Dimitri Contoyannis**

Posted in **LEED**

Credit: COMNET

While energy modeling analyses have become increasingly important to driving energy performance within the green building industry, the efficiency of transferring the resulting data is still fairly poor. In particular, filling out LEED Online template forms represents significant time for design teams and present opportunities for errors as data is manually sorted and transcribed, sometimes several times throughout a project's lifespan.

That's why we built the COMNET Energy Modeling Portal, one of the first LEED automation tools to hit the market.

By uploading modeling results directly from simulation software to the COMNET portal, users can have their results automatically filtered, checked for errors, and sent directly to LEED Online. Compare this to sifting through pages of output reports, locating the appropriate data, converting units, and manually entering data. The COMNET portal populates LEED Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite 2 and Credit 1, and currently works with LEED for New Construction, Core & Shell, and Schools. The portal is currently free to use.

Going forward, the COMNET team, in concert with the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), is planning to add more quality assurance capabilities to the portal. The approach is to identify the most common energy modeling errors and collaboratively design tests to catch them before design teams submit their applications. As more capabilities are developed, we'll see even more time savings for both design teams and GBCI reviewers.

COMNET is also working with utilities and code jurisdictions throughout the country to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of their modeling-based programs. One of our goals is to curate a data ecosystem where energy-modeling data from any software tool can be shared with any organization requiring this information with the push of a button.

Try out the LEED portal at comnet.org/portal and read more about COMNET at comnet.org.

Related Articles

LEED AP Playbook: Ways to maintain your credential
By Heather Benjamin

IN **LEED**   06.19.18

Turkey drives change in Europe with LEED
By Selina Holmes

IN **LEED**   06.11.18

LEED Link: LEED resources on Education @USGBC
By Heather Benjamin

IN **LEED**   06.7.18