



HIGH PERFORMANCE
NEW CONSTRUCTION

DESIGN CHARRETTES

What is an Integrated Design Charette?

“Charrette” is the French word for push-cart and in this context is used to describe an intensive brain-storming effort focused on architectural design. Intrinsic in the process is the notion of integrated design. The integrated design process is a method used to challenge designers to consider new strategies and products – and for the purposes of the HPNC program, for more energy efficient and more sustainable buildings. The fundamental precept is:

- An integrated team formed early at the concept stage, can maximize the potential environmental benefits. This is when concepts can change easily as new ideas are considered.

Who participates?

An integrated team includes members with diverse expertise and experience to inform the process including property managers, energy simulators, costing experts, energy efficiency experts, envelope specialists, municipal engineers and planners and alternative energy specialists along with the design team members. These team members work together to achieve a higher performance, value added building. This multi-disciplinary relationship should continue throughout the design and construction phases.

How does it work?

By their nature, Charrettes are short and intensive exercises – typically 1 to 3 days. A design team (or teams) is challenged to identify alternatives that might result in a higher environmental performance for a building. The team works collaboratively, aided by a facilitator and energy modeller, exploring ways to improve the building. The process leverages both the diverse expertise of the team and the synergies that come through the collaborative approach: more efficient windows could lead to smaller heating and cooling loads, resulting in smaller boilers and chillers that in turn could lead to lower capital cost and a smaller building footprint.

As the team explores options, an energy modeller can quickly assess the energy impacts of the various options. This ultimately represents a key foundation for an application to the HPNC for funding. By the end of the Charrette, the project proponent will have a series of potential opportunities to consider as part of the next phase of planning.

If you are interested in holding a charrette for one of your projects, please contact Liz Disepolo at 416-495-6081 or Liz.Disepolo@enbridge.com.

Reap the rewards

Build it better

Design it right