### **The Future of Building Materials:** Passive Design Utilizing the Energy Storage Capability of Phase Change Materials

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Charleston | Building Enclosure Council Monthly Meeting Charleston, SC September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012



- Introduction / Phase Change Materials (PCM)
- Integration of PCM in buildings
- Cost of PCM
- Development of design guidelines
- Materials research on solid-solid PCM

## **Energy Consumption**

Energy is fundamental for today's society: Nuclear, Fossil Fuel, Wind, Solar, Hydropower, etc



• United States Primary energy consumption per sector. (2010 Buildings Energy Databook, US. DOE, March 2011)

1 Quadrillion British Thermal Unit (BTU) = 8 Billion Gallons of Gasoline = 50 million tons of coal.

50 Million tons of coal = a pile 10 feet thick, one mile wide and 3.3 miles long.

# **Energy Consumption**

1.1.4 2008 U.S.	Buildings Energy End-Use Splits, by Fuel Type (C	Quadrillion Btu)
	Natural Fuel Other Renw. Site	Site
	Gas Oil (1) LPG Fuel(2) En.(3) Electric	Total Percent
Space Heating (5)	4.96 0.78 0.26 0.11 0.56 0.71	7.37 36.9%
Lighting	2.01	2.01 10.0%
Space Cooling		1.78 8.9%
Water Heating		2.58 12.9%
Refrigeration (6)	Onnortunities for	0.86 4.3%
Electronics (7)	opportunities for	0.78 3.9%
Ventilation (8)	solar energy	0.53 2.7%
Computers		0.39 2.0%
Cooking		0.67 3.3%
Wet Cleaning (9)	But it's not easy!	0.37 1.8%
Other (10)		1.43 7.1%
Adjust to SEDS (11)		1.24 6.2%
Total	8.22 1.11 0.67 0.15 0.59 9.27	20.00 100%

2008 "site-to-source" electricity conversion = 3.16 (2010 Buildings Energy Databook, US. DOE, March 2011)

# Energy Storage

- Use "heavy" materials to <u>absorb</u> extra heat when available, <u>store</u> it, and <u>release</u> it when needed.
- Heavy materials (stones, concrete, bricks)
- The process is reversible and also works for passive cooling.
- Terminology:
  - Energy storage, heat storage
  - Thermal mass
  - Thermal inertia
  - Activation of thermal mass
  - Latent heat vs. sensible heat
  - Phase change materials (PCM)
  - Evaporation
  - Heat capacity, specific heat of materials



### Two ways to store energy

- Sensible heat: energy is stored in the form of heat by raising the temperature of the storing material.
  - stones, concrete, and bricks
- Latent heat: energy is stored in the form of a change of phase of the storing material. Examples:
  - water absorbs a lot of energy when evaporating (i.e., changing phase from liquid to vapor) and releases a lot of energy when condensing (i.e., change phase from vapor to liquid)
  - phase change materials absorb heat when changing phase (usually from solid to liquid)
- Both ways are used in buildings for passive heating and cooling. Sensible heat is used all the time. Use of latent heat is not as popular because it is not as straight forward and usually requires more expensive materials.

### Typical Thermal Mass Storage Materials

		Temperature i	ncrease: 1°F	
Material	Typical thickness (in)	Volume to store 100 Btu (ft <sup>3</sup> )	Weight to store 100 Btu (lbs)	Comments
Water	N/A	0.50	31	Inexpensive, container required
Concrete	2-18	1.00	147	Also structural
Brick	4-18	1.28	156	Also structural
Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU)	12-18	1.44	136	Also structural
Stone (loose fill)	4-12	1.78	156	Inexpensive, container required





#### **Benefits**

High heat storage capacity to weight ratio High heat storage capacity to thickness ratio Greater architectural freedom



<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"-thick gypsum board (drywall) with 25% PCM (right) can store as much energy as a 4"-thick brick wall of same surface area



#### **Three Types**

Macro-encapsulation





**Micro-encapsulation** 



#### **Form-stable PCMs**





updoid

**Three Types** 

Macro-encapsulation





BioPCM<sup>™</sup> layered on top of insulation in a standard wood frame structure.

BioPCM<sup>™</sup> is affordable, earth-friendly and easy-to-install. It's the next generation of high-performance energy savings material.



### Three Types Micro-encapsulation





Mixed in plaster





Mixed in cellulose insulation





#### **PCM** materials

- ~2000 materials reported in literature
- ~200 materials appropriate in building
- Perlite embedded with hydrated calcium chloride
- Paraffin compoun ٠
- Polyalcohols (do n
- Fattic acid with po
- Polyethylene glyco

<ul> <li>Paraffin compounds (linear crystalline alkyl hydrocark</li> </ul>	oons)		Paraffin
<ul> <li>Polyalcohols (do not leak but volatile during phase ch</li> <li>Fattic acid with polymeric encapsulation (PMMA)</li> <li>Polyethylene glycol (PEG)</li> </ul>	organic Compound		Fatty Acids
Phase C	hanga Matariala Inargania Compoun		alt Hydrates
Phase C	Material	Melting point (°C)	Latent heat (kJ/kg)
	K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	14.0	109
	FeBr <sub>3</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	21.0	105
Latent heat capacity	Mn(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	25.5	148
	FeBr <sub>3</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	27.0	105
50kJ/kg - 200kJ/kg.	CaCl <sub>2</sub> ·12H <sub>2</sub> O	29.8	174
	LiNO <sub>3</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O	30.0	296
25kJ/kg and 50kJ/kg when mixed in	construction m LiNO <sub>3</sub> ·3H <sub>2</sub> O	30	189
	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> ·10H <sub>2</sub> O	32.0	267
	Na SO 10H-O	32.4	241
200 kJ/kg = 100 BTU/lb = 25,000 cal/lb	KFe(SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·10H <sub>2</sub> O CaBr <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	32.4 33 34	173 138
	LiBr <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O	34	124
	Zn(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	36.1	134
	FeCl <sub>3</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	37.0	223

## How do they work?





Melting temperature  $T_m$  is between 15°C and 30°C depending on the application. There exist different PCM materials for any desired melting temperature.

Energy stored

The process is 100% reversible. The temperature decreases as the energy is released.

# Use of PCM

Purpose: Temperature regulation

- Buildings
- Transportation
- Electronics
- Clothing









# Examples of Buildings with PCM



Dover House, MA, 1947

<u>Setup</u>

(source: Sherburne, 2009)

- PCM Glauber's Salt (Na<sub>2</sub>So<sub>4</sub>. 10H<sub>2</sub>0)
- Melt temperature: 89°F
- 18 solar collectors, 21 Tons of PCM.
- \$20,000
- "Complete Comfort" for two winters without a fuel bill
- PCM stratified during the third winter.



City of Melbourne's Council House

# Examples of Buildings with PCM



Steve Glenn's Santa Monica house, first house platinum LEED



First Place 2007 Solar Decathlon: Technische Universität Darmstadt



2009 Solar Decathlon Penn State

### **New Products**



http://glassx.ch/index.php?id=578

## Increased Insulation vs. PCM

### **Increasing Insulation is known to be beneficial**

The higher the R-value, the low the heat gain/loss HOWEVER, not proportional!

 $Q = A(T_{out}-T_{in})/R$ 

where Q = heat gain or loss

A = surface area

T<sub>out</sub>, T<sub>in</sub> = Temperatures

R = R-value

The benefit of additional insulation decreases with the amount of insulation.

## Increased Insulation vs. PCM

### **Benefits of PCM**

Most studies found that PCM improve building energy performance

- by reducing peak-hour cooling loads
- by shifting peak-demand time.

Can reduce heat and cooling load between 10 and 30%

Financial payback period is 5 to 10 years

Energy payback period is 5 to 10 years

Save \$ since save heat and cooling energy

Save \$\$ if on-peak/off-peak billing cycle is adopted but does not help the planet

### **Cons of PCM**

New technology No guidelines exist / limit knowledge Reliable durability is still uncertain

# Example of Cost of PCM

#### Standard 2,434 sq ft house with 730 sq ft Basement, Gas Furnace, Central Air-conditioning

Heating and cooling cost per yr. Location: Louisville KY <sup>n</sup>	
1643 therms Natural Gas @ average retail price of \$1.30 per therm <sup>iii</sup>	\$2136.00
10623 kWh @ average retail price <sup>iv</sup> 9.45	\$1004.87
Yearly Total	\$3140.87
Monthly expenditure	\$ 262.67

#### PCM 2,434 sq ft house with 730 sq ft Basement, Gas Furnace, Central Air-conditioning

Heating and cooling cost per yr. Location: Louisville KY	
1150 therms Natural Gas @ average retail price of \$1.30 per therm <sup>v</sup>	\$1495.00
7436 kWh @ average retail price <sup>vi</sup> 9.45	\$702.70
Yearly Total	\$2197.70
Monthly expenditure	\$ 183.14

Yearly Energy Savings for home with PCES BioPCM = \$943.17

http://www.phasechange.com/whitepages-page.php

#### Some Additional Benefits from the use of BioPCM sheet:

- $\cdot$  Tax benefits
- $\cdot$  Lower cost for HVAC equipment
- $\cdot$  Lower construction costs
- · Energy Efficient Mortgage
- · Reduced energy costs

Most beneficial with different billing cycle:

\$0.12 /kWh during day \$0.07 /kWh during night



• Increase knowledge by developing design guidelines for integrating PCM in buildings.

### **Research Questions**

- For any given climate, what are the optimum:
  - PCM melting temperature
  - $\circ$  amount of PCM
  - $\circ$  location of PCM
- What other parameters affect the integration of PCM.



National Science Foundation

### Experimental Design

- 1)Control
  - Annual Energy Consumption without PCM
- 2) Treatment
  - Annual Energy Consumption with different combinations of PCM
  - a) melt temperature
  - b) energy storage capacity
  - c) location within the walls
  - d) location within the room

<u>Data collection</u> Finite Element Analysis (FEA) Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Whole building energy modeling software - EnergyPlus



### **Numerical modeling**

Modeling the thermal behavior of PCM in building is validated by comparing results obtained by different techniques: Abaqus (FEA) vs. EnergyPlus (FD)



### Example numerical simulation Latent heat of PCM: 20 kJ/kg





Benefits of PCM:

- Smaller temperature fluctuations
- Smaller duration at extreme temperatures
- Reduced cooling/heating load

<u>Base Building Model</u> - ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1/90.2 – 2004 - ASHRAE – Advanced Energy Design Guides

a) Floor Area: 576 Sq ft. Lightweight construction



b) 30% window/wall ratio East/west orientation





d) Minimum Air Change Rate 0.35 AC/H



#### **Dependent Variable**

Annual Energy Consumption (Y)

**Regression Model** 

Independent Variables:

a) PCM Melting Temperature  $(X_1) - 18-29$  degrees b) PCM Enthalpy  $(X_2) - 50$ , 100, 150 KJ/Kg

![](_page_28_Figure_6.jpeg)

#### **Dependent Variable**

Annual Energy Consumption (Y)

#### **Regression Model**

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3$$

#### Independent Variables:

a) PCM Melting Temperature  $(X_1) - 18-29$  degrees b) PCM Enthalpy  $(X_2) - 50$ , 100, 150 KJ/Kg c) Layers  $(X_3)$  – Interior, Interstitial, Exterior

![](_page_29_Figure_6.jpeg)

Dependent Variable

Annual Energy Consumption (Y)

**Regression Model** 

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4$$

#### Independent Variables:

a) PCM Melting Temperature (X<sub>1</sub>) – 18-29 degrees
b) PCM Enthalpy (X<sub>2</sub>) – 50, 100, 150 KJ/Kg
c) Layers (X<sub>3</sub>) – Interior, Interstitial, Exterior
d) Surfaces(X<sub>4</sub>) – High Radiation, Low Radiation, All Surfaces

![](_page_30_Figure_6.jpeg)

**Dependent Variable** 

Annual Energy Consumption (Y)

**Regression Model** 

 $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5$ 

#### Independent Variables:

a) PCM Melting Temperature  $(X_1) - 18-29$  degrees b) PCM Enthalpy  $(X_2) - 50$ , 100, 150 KJ/Kg c) Layers  $(X_3) -$  Interior, Interstitial, Exterior d) Surfaces $(X_4) -$  High Radiation, Low Radiation, All Surfaces e) Length to Width Ratio  $(X_5) - >>1$ , 1, <<1

![](_page_31_Figure_6.jpeg)

#### Factorial Design

Factors (Independent variables)	Levels
PCM Melt temperature	3 (18, 19, 20) (21, 22, 23) (24, 25, 26) (27,28,29)
Location in the room	3 (High Radiation, Low Radiation, All walls)
PCM enthalpy	3 (20 KJ/Kg, 30 KJ/Kg, 40 KJ/Kg)
Location within the wall	3 (Interior, Interstitial, Exterior)
Length to Width Ratio	3(>>1, 1, <<1)

- **Control**: Building without PCM
- **Treatment**: Building with different combinations of PCM
- **Dependent Variable**: Annual Energy Consumption (Heating & Cooling)

• Independent Variables: 5 Factors - 3 levels each = 3<sup>5</sup> experiments = 243 experiments \* 4= 972 Experiments ( One Climate).

Goal: The development of response curves and design guidelines for the use of PCM in buildings.

U.S. Department of Energy: Climate Zones

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### U.S. Department of Energy: Representative Cities

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

972 experiments \* 15 representative cities = 14580 experiments

## Life Cycle Analysis of PCM

Life Cycle Analysis consists of analyzing all aspects of a product from craddle to grave in terms of cost, energy and environmental impact.

"Going green" is sometimes misleading when embedded energy is not considered.

Always beneficial for the owner but not always for the planet.

Macro-encapsulation  $\rightarrow$  low embedded energy Micro-encapsulated  $\rightarrow$  large embedded energy

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			Heat Loss	0.0416667	assume	looo ipin	Sum	2.86978E-05	MJ		Manufacturing energy	384901	MJ		
	2.1113	MJ	Added energy	0.0879715											
			Total Input En	a 4.3105437	MJ		Time	0.25	h		Savings % due to PCM	0.1	%		
							Heat Loss	0.020833333	assume	1/12 of heat is lost per hour		86.4	MJ per	day	
							Added energy	5.97871E-07				4454.87	days		
							Total Input Energy	2.92957E-05	MJ		PAY BACK	37.12	years	\$	
nd hydr	ophillic		which become	es ionize	ed in		Total Emulsion	7.468619698	мј						
$\frac{1}{100}$	100 CO		Density TDI	1005			Linergy								
ւր(Բն)	476.20	JULIE	Density TDI	1.223	a cm <sup>3</sup>						OF 35 G	KA I	2020	DTU	
	4.184	JIGIN	density PPG	1.004	a cm <sup>-3</sup>						JC 2.374761164	MJ	2820	810	
Insitu-P	olymeriz	zation of	UF / EE /	Payback	XCh	iemical 🖉 XEle	ctricity X X	Complex Coace	ervation			16.4 I	10024		•
													III 🗆	<b>Ⅲ</b> 68% ─	

### Synthesis and Characterization of Solid-Solid PCM

### Background

- Solid-liquid PCM require encapsulation, are costly and have high embodied energy.
- Solid-solid PCM (SSPCM) are expected to be better alternatives.
- PEG-PU is a PCM polymer made of Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) and a polyurethane polymer (PU) or cellulose diacetate (CDA).
- Energy storage and release are due to change of phase from the semicrystalline phase to the amorphous phase of PEG.
- When grafted to a backbone polymer, the amorphous PEG remains solid at high temperature.

![](_page_38_Picture_7.jpeg)

### **Solid-Solid Phase Transformation by cross-linking**

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

Increase temperature

### Synthesis and Characterization of Solid-Solid PCM

### **Research goals**

- Understand the synthesis process of PEG-PU and PEG-CDA.
- Characterize thermo-mechanical properties.
- Understand the phase change process in order to control the phase change temperature, maximize enthalpy, optimize mechanical properties, and minimize environmental impact.

### Why focus on Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) as a PCM polymer?

- Non-toxic, biocompatible and biodegradable
- Hydrophilic
- -OH end groups allow easy chemical modification
- Crystallizes easily thanks to simple linear polymer chain
- Ample production at various molecular weights from 0.3 to 10,000 kg/mol

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### **Synthesis**

![](_page_41_Figure_2.jpeg)

### **PEG-PU Synthesis**

- PU includes isocyanate groups (NCO) and hydroxyl groups (OH)
- Dissolve PEG by 1/3 wt%
- Heat to 50-60°C and purge with Nitrogen
- Add stoichiometric amounts of TDI and BDO
- Reflux for 30 minutes
- Before the gelation occurs pour into mold and either place in oven or hot press
- Let cool until sample gel hardens

![](_page_42_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_9.jpeg)

### **PEG-CDA**

- PEG grafted onto the Backbone of Cellulose Diacetate (CDA)
- Cellulose Diacetate is a thermally stable polymer that remains intact above PEG melting temperature

![](_page_43_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_4.jpeg)

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### Length of chain and crystallization

- Smaller molecular weight of PEG leads to shorted chains
- Shorter chains result in lower phase change temperature (which is desirable)
- However, steric hinderance reduces length useful chain where crystallization occurs, which reduces the enthalpy / latent heat (which is not desirable)
- One goal is to reduce effect of steric hinderance

![](_page_44_Figure_5.jpeg)

### **Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)**

• Measure melting and crystallization temperatures and enthalpy values

![](_page_45_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Polarized Optical Microscopy (POM)

- POM is used to visualize and identify the crystal structure
- At room temperature, both pure PEG and PEG-PU show spherulites
- Spherulites in PEG-PU are smaller because hard segments interfere with PEG crystalline behavior
- At 70°C, the spherulites disappear since crystals have melted

![](_page_46_Figure_5.jpeg)

### **Dynamic Mechanical Analysis (DMA)**

• DMA is used to characterize the viscoelastic behavior of PEG-PU over temperature range

![](_page_47_Figure_2.jpeg)

## Summary

- Research project involving students and faculty from architecture and engineering collaborate to identify best materials and practice
- This on-going project has the potential to promote use of PCM by providing a unified set of design guidelines (reduced need of engineering studies)
- PCM can reduce the energy footprint of buildings. However:
  - PCM have high initial cost
  - Some PCM have large embodied energy
- PCM should be a common construction material in the future

## Acknowledgement

This research is partially supported by the National Science Foundation (Grants # CMMI-0927962). The views presented here do not necessarily reflect those of our sponsors whose support is gratefully acknowledged.

![](_page_49_Picture_2.jpeg)

**National Science Foundation** 

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