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EDGE Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE Expert) Exam Sample Questions (Q19-Q24):

NEW QUESTION # 19

The Base Case for utility costs:

- A. Includes the cost of virtual energy only in homes.
- B. Excludes the cost of virtual energy only in homes.
- C. Excludes the cost of virtual energy.
- D. Includes the cost of virtual energy.

Answer: D

Explanation:

In EDGE, the Base Case is a standardized benchmark used to calculate utility cost savings, reflecting typical resource consumption

for a building in its location and typology. The term "virtual energy" in EDGE refers to the energy required for heating, cooling, lighting, and other systems, modeled as if the building operates under typical conditions without efficiency measures. The EDGE User Guide explains how utility costs are calculated: "The Base Case for utility costs includes the cost of virtual energy, which represents the modeled energy consumption for the building type in the absence of efficiency measures, alongside water consumption, using local tariffs to estimate financial impacts" (EDGE User Guide, Section 2.3: Using the EDGE App). Option B, which includes the cost of virtual energy, aligns with this approach, as the Base Case accounts for all modeled energy use to establish a baseline for savings. Option A (excludes the cost of virtual energy) is incorrect, as virtual energy is a core component of the Base Case: "Virtual energy in EDGE is the theoretical energy use calculated for the Base Case, including heating, cooling, and lighting, and its cost is always included in utility cost calculations" (EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 4.4: Cost Savings Calculations). Option C (excludes the cost of virtual energy only in homes) and Option D (includes the cost of virtual energy only in homes) are also incorrect, as the treatment of virtual energy is consistent across all typologies: "The Base Case methodology, including the inclusion of virtual energy costs, applies uniformly to all building types in EDGE, whether homes, hotels, or offices, to ensure a fair comparison of savings" (EDGE User Guide, Section 2.3: Using the EDGE App). The EDGE Methodology Report further clarifies: "Utility costs in the Base Case are derived from virtual energy and water consumption, reflecting typical usage patterns for the building type and location, ensuring that savings calculations are comprehensive and include all relevant energy demands" (EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 4.4: Cost Savings Calculations). This consistent inclusion of virtual energy costs across all typologies makes Option B the correct answer.

Reference:EDGE User Guide Version 2.1, Section 2.3: Using the EDGE App; EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 4.4: Cost Savings Calculations.

NEW QUESTION # 20

Which of the following can deliver the highest efficiency in fans and pumps?

- A. Single speed drive
- **B. Variable speed drive**
- C. Constant speed drive
- D. Two speed drive

Answer: B

Explanation:

Efficiency in fans and pumps is a critical aspect of green building design in EDGE, particularly for reducing energy consumption in HVAC systems. The EDGE User Guide provides detailed guidance on efficiency measures for mechanical systems: "Variable speed drives (VSDs) deliver the highest efficiency in fans and pumps by adjusting the motor speed to match the actual demand, significantly reducing energy consumption compared to fixed-speed systems. VSDs can achieve energy savings of up to 30-50% in HVAC applications by avoiding the constant operation at full speed typical of single or constant speed drives" (EDGE User Guide, Section 4.2: Energy Efficiency Measures). Option D, variable speed drive, aligns with this description as the most efficient option. Option A (two speed drive) offers some efficiency by allowing two operating speeds, but it is less flexible than VSDs: "Two speed drives provide limited efficiency gains, as they cannot continuously adjust to varying loads, unlike variable speed drives" (EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 5.1: Energy Efficiency Metrics). Option B (single speed drive) and Option C (constant speed drive) are essentially the same in this context, operating at a fixed speed regardless of demand, leading to energy waste: "Single speed or constant speed drives run at a fixed rate, resulting in higher energy consumption compared to variable speed drives, which modulate speed based on need" (EDGE User Guide, Section 4.2:

Energy Efficiency Measures). The EDGE Methodology Report further elaborates: "Variable speed drives are the most efficient option for fans and pumps in EDGE, as they minimize energy use by matching output to demand, unlike two speed or constant speed drives, which operate inefficiently under partial loads" (EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 5.1: Energy Efficiency Metrics). This makes variable speed drives (Option D) the clear choice for delivering the highest efficiency in fans and pumps. Reference:EDGE User Guide Version 2.1, Section 4.2: Energy Efficiency Measures; EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 5.1: Energy Efficiency Metrics.

NEW QUESTION # 21

Which of the following elements is considered in EDGE to estimate water use in homes?

- A. Exterior fountains
- B. Solar water heaters
- **C. Water heating**
- D. HVAC

Answer: C

Explanation:

The EDGE software estimates water use in homes by considering elements that contribute to potable water demand, focusing on indoor and occupant-related usage. The EDGE User Guide details the elements included in water use calculations: "In EDGE, water use in homes is estimated based on occupant activities, including water for showers, faucets, toilets, laundry, and water heating, which accounts for hot water demand in these applications. These elements are modeled using standard usage assumptions for residential buildings" (EDGE User Guide, Section 5.2: Water Efficiency Measures). Option B, water heating, is explicitly included, as it represents the hot water demand for showers, faucets, and laundry, which is a significant component of residential water use. Option A (HVAC) is incorrect, as HVAC systems primarily consume energy, not water, except in specific cases like cooling towers, which are not typical in homes: "HVAC systems in homes, such as air conditioners, do not directly contribute to water use in EDGE calculations, unlike in commercial buildings with cooling towers" (EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 4.2: Water Savings Calculations). Option C (exterior fountains) is also excluded, as EDGE focuses on indoor water use: "Exterior water use, such as for fountains or irrigation, is not typically included in EDGE's water use estimates for homes, unless specifically modeled as an optional measure, which fountains are not" (EDGE User Guide, Section 5.3: Additional Water Efficiency Measures). Option D (solar water heaters) is a measure to reduce energy use for water heating, not an element of water use itself: "Solar water heaters reduce the energy demand for water heating but do not change the volume of water used, which is what EDGE estimates for water use in homes" (EDGE User Guide, Section 4.2: Energy Efficiency Measures). The EDGE Methodology Report further specifies: "Water use in homes is calculated based on per-capita assumptions for activities like showering, flushing, and water heating, ensuring a standardized baseline for savings calculations" (EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 4.2: Water Savings Calculations). Thus, water heating (Option B) is the element considered in EDGE to estimate water use in homes. Reference: EDGE User Guide Version 2.1, Section 5.2: Water Efficiency Measures, Section 5.3: Additional Water Efficiency Measures, Section 4.2: Energy Efficiency Measures; EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 4.2: Water Savings Calculations.

NEW QUESTION # 22

An EDGE Auditor has been requested to provide auditing services to a development client. This particular client is well known as a hard negotiator and has offered the appointment on the basis of 50% payment for assessment and 50% upon successful EDGE certification of the building. What should the EDGE Auditor do?

- **A. Confirm a fixed fee independent of the final assessment result.**
- B. Accept these terms, knowing that the project will most likely achieve certification.
- C. Lodge a complaint against the developer with the local authorities.
- D. Refer the developer to another Auditor in the area who needs the work.

Answer: A

Explanation:

EDGE Auditors must adhere to strict ethical guidelines to maintain independence and avoid conflicts of interest, particularly regarding payment structures that could influence their impartiality. The EDGE Expert and Auditor Protocols address payment terms explicitly: "An EDGE Auditor must confirm a fixed fee for their services that is independent of the final assessment result. Payment structures that tie fees to the success of certification, such as contingent payments, are prohibited to ensure the Auditor's objectivity and to prevent any perception of bias in the audit process" (EDGE Expert and Auditor Protocols, Section 2.3: Conflict of Interest). The client's offer of 50% payment for assessment and 50% upon successful certification violates this principle, as it makes part of the fee contingent on the outcome. Option A, confirm a fixed fee independent of the final assessment result, aligns with this ethical requirement, ensuring the Auditor's impartiality. Option B (lodge a complaint with local authorities) is incorrect, as this is an overreaction and outside the Auditor's role: "Issues related to payment terms should be resolved directly with the Client, not escalated to local authorities, which are unrelated to EDGE certification" (EDGE Expert and Auditor Protocols, Section 4.1: Audit Process). Option C (refer the developer to another Auditor) avoids the issue but does not address the ethical concern: "Referring the Client to another Auditor does not resolve the ethical violation of contingent fees, which applies to all Auditors" (EDGE Expert and Auditor Protocols, Section 2.3: Conflict of Interest). Option D (accept the terms) is unethical, as it compromises the Auditor's independence: "Accepting payment terms tied to certification success, even if the project is likely to succeed, violates EDGE protocols and undermines the integrity of the certification process" (EDGE Certification Protocol, Section 3.1: Certification Process). The EDGE User Guide further emphasizes: "Auditors must maintain strict independence, ensuring their compensation is not influenced by the certification outcome, to uphold the credibility of EDGE certification" (EDGE User Guide, Section 6.5: Working with EDGE Auditors). Thus, the Auditor should confirm a fixed fee (Option A). Reference: EDGE Expert and Auditor Protocols, Section 2.3: Conflict of Interest, Section 4.1: Audit Process; EDGE Certification Protocol, Section 3.1: Certification Process; EDGE User Guide Version 2.1, Section 6.5: Working with EDGE Auditors.

NEW QUESTION # 23

For a project in a hot and dry climate with no air-conditioning system, which of the following will NOT have an impact on the occupants' thermal comfort?

- A. Ceiling fans
- B. Solar photovoltaics
- C. Solar shading
- D. Wall and roof insulation

Answer: B

Explanation:

In a hot and dry climate without air-conditioning, thermal comfort relies on passive design strategies that reduce heat gain or improve air movement. The EDGE User Guide discusses passive measures for thermal comfort: "In hot climates without air-conditioning, thermal comfort can be improved through ceiling fans, which enhance air movement, solar shading, which reduces solar heat gain, and wall and roof insulation, which minimizes heat transfer into the building" (EDGE User Guide, Section 3.5: Passive Design Strategies).

Option A (ceiling fans) improves air movement, directly impacting thermal comfort: "Ceiling fans increase air speed, enhancing evaporative cooling on occupants' skin" (EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 5.5: Thermal Comfort Measures). Option B (solar shading) reduces heat gain, improving comfort: "External shading reduces solar radiation entering the building, lowering indoor temperatures" (EDGE User Guide, Section 3.5: Passive Design Strategies). Option C (wall and roof insulation) also enhances comfort by reducing heat transfer: "Insulation lowers the U-value of the building envelope, maintaining cooler indoor temperatures" (EDGE User Guide, Section 4.1: Insulation Measures). Option D (solar photovoltaics) generates electricity but does not directly affect thermal comfort in a building without air-conditioning: "Solar photovoltaics contribute to energy supply but do not directly influence indoor thermal comfort unless used to power cooling systems, which are absent in this scenario" (EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 5.3: Energy Measures). Thus, solar photovoltaics (Option D) will not impact thermal comfort in this context.

Reference:EDGE User Guide Version 2.1, Section 3.5: Passive Design Strategies, Section 4.1: Insulation Measures; EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, Section 5.5: Thermal Comfort Measures, Section 5.3: Energy Measures.

NEW QUESTION # 24

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