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## EDGE Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE Expert) Exam Sample Questions (Q34-Q39):

### NEW QUESTION # 34

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

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

**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 # 35

The Client informs an EDGE Auditor that a key member of the design team has resigned. The Client requests the Auditor to take the member's place for the remainder of the project's design development as it would provide the Auditor an opportunity to identify suitable green building measures, making audit tasks much simpler. What should the EDGE Auditor do?

- A. Accept the additional commission on the basis that this will save the Client time and money, and would reduce the volume of work required for the audit.
- B. Resign from the audit role on the basis that its position has been compromised by this direct approach by the Client.
- C. Refer the Client to an associate within the organization who works in another department, but is qualified and available to carry out the work.
- D. Refer the Client to an associate within the organization who will be working with the Auditor on the EDGE audit, since the Auditor organization has spare capacity.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The EDGE framework strictly prohibits Auditors from engaging in roles that could compromise their independence, such as providing design consultancy on the same project they are auditing. The EDGE Expert and Auditor Protocols address this scenario explicitly: "An EDGE Auditor must not accept any role in the design development of a project they are auditing, as this creates a conflict of interest by blurring the lines between consultancy and independent verification. If the Client requests the Auditor to take on a design role, the Auditor should decline and may refer the Client to another qualified professional who is not involved in the audit

process" (EDGE Expert and Auditor Protocols, Section 2.3: Conflict of Interest). Option B, refer the Client to an associate within the organization who works in another department, but is qualified and available to carry out the work, aligns with this guidance, as it maintains the Auditor's independence while helping the Client find a suitable replacement. Option A (resign from the audit role) is an overreaction, as the request itself does not compromise the Auditor's position unless accepted: "The Auditor is not required to resign unless they have already engaged in a conflicting role, which can be avoided by declining the request" (EDGE Expert and Auditor Protocols, Section 4.1: Audit Process). Option C (accept the additional commission) is unethical, as it violates conflict-of-interest rules: "Accepting a design role on a project being audited undermines the Auditor's impartiality, as they would be auditing their own work, which is strictly prohibited" (EDGE Certification Protocol, Section 3.1: Certification Process). Option D (refer the Client to an associate working with the Auditor on the EDGE audit) is also incorrect, as this associate is already involved in the audit, creating a potential conflict: "Referring the Client to someone involved in the same audit does not resolve the conflict of interest, as the audit team must remain independent from design activities" (EDGE Expert and Auditor Protocols, Section 2.3: Conflict of Interest). The EDGE User Guide reinforces this principle: "Auditors must maintain strict separation from design roles to ensure an unbiased audit, and should assist the Client by referring them to independent professionals if needed" (EDGE User Guide, Section 6.5: Working with EDGE Auditors). Thus, referring the Client to a qualified associate in another department (Option B) is the correct action.

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 # 36

Which of the following is a required measure?

- A. Insulation of roof
- B. Green roof
- C. Efficient lighting for internal areas
- D. Lighting controls

### Answer: A

Explanation:

In EDGE, certain measures are mandatory to ensure a baseline level of resource efficiency, while others are optional depending on the project's goals. The EDGE User Guide specifies mandatory measures for certification: "To achieve EDGE certification, projects must meet minimum requirements, including mandatory measures such as insulation of the roof to reduce heat gain or loss, ensuring a basic level of energy efficiency across all building typologies in climates where thermal performance is relevant" (EDGE User Guide, Section 4.1: Insulation Measures). Option B, insulation of roof, is identified as a required measure in EDGE, particularly in climates where heating or cooling loads are significant, which applies to most regions.

Option A (green roof) is an optional measure, not mandatory: "Green roofs are an optional measure in EDGE, contributing to energy and water savings but not required for certification" (EDGE User Guide, Section 4.5: Additional Energy Measures).

Option C (lighting controls) is also optional, as EDGE allows flexibility in lighting strategies: "Lighting controls, such as occupancy sensors, are optional measures that can enhance energy savings but are not mandatory" (EDGE User Guide, Section 4.4: Lighting Efficiency Measures).

Option D (efficient lighting for internal areas) is encouraged but not required: "Efficient lighting for internal areas (EEM22) is an optional measure, requiring at least 90% of lamps to be efficient, but projects can achieve certification without it if other energy measures meet the 20% savings threshold" (EDGE User Guide, Section 4.4: Lighting Efficiency Measures).

The EDGE Certification Protocol reinforces this: "Mandatory measures like roof insulation ensure a minimum standard of energy efficiency, while measures like green roofs, lighting controls, and efficient lighting are optional and contribute to overall savings" (EDGE Certification Protocol, Section 2.2: Certification Requirements). Therefore, insulation of the roof (Option B) is the required measure among the options.

Reference:EDGE User Guide Version 2.1, Section 4.1: Insulation Measures, Section 4.4: Lighting Efficiency Measures, Section 4.5: Additional Energy Measures; EDGE Certification Protocol, Section 2.2: Certification Requirements.

## NEW QUESTION # 37

Air-cooled chillers have the following components:

- A. Compressor, water-cooled condenser, thermal expansion valve, evaporator.
- B. Compressor, condenser, thermal expansion valve, evaporator.
- C. Chilled water pump, condenser, thermal expansion valve, evaporator.
- D. Cooling tower, condenser, condenser pump, evaporator.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Air-cooled chillers are a type of HVAC system commonly evaluated in EDGE for their energy efficiency in green building design. The EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0 outlines the components of air-cooled chillers in the context of energy efficiency measures. According to the EDGE User Guide (Version 2.1), air-cooled chillers differ from water-cooled chillers by not requiring a cooling tower or associated water-based components like a condenser pump. The guide states: "Air-cooled chillers consist of a compressor, air-cooled condenser, thermal expansion valve, and evaporator, which work together to provide cooling by rejecting heat directly to the ambient air" (EDGE User Guide, Section 4.2: Energy Efficiency Measures). Option A includes a cooling tower and condenser pump, which are specific to water-cooled chillers. Option D mentions a water-cooled condenser, which is incorrect for air-cooled systems. Option C includes a chilled water pump, which is not a core component of the chiller itself but part of the broader system. Option B accurately lists the compressor, condenser (air-cooled, implied), thermal expansion valve, and evaporator, aligning with the EDGE description of air-cooled chiller components.

Reference:EDGE User Guide Version 2.1, Section 4.2: Energy Efficiency Measures; EDGE Methodology Report Version 2.0, HVAC Systems.

**NEW QUESTION # 38**

The Base Case for utility costs:

- A. Excludes the cost of virtual energy only in homes.
- B. Includes 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, 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 # 39**

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