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**India Leads with Innovative Energy Modeling System; U.S. Implications**

JANUARY 12, 2012, MINNETONKA, MN—The ECONirman Whole Building Performance Tool is the first of its kind in the world—a web-based simulation tool for energy code compliance. The Weidt Group, with funding from USAID, developed the tool, which assists building designers and developers in demonstrating their performance-based compliance with India’s Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC). Users of the tool need not have building science or simulation expertise. With a minimal learning curve, a user with knowledge equivalent to that of a fifth-year architecture student, with access to an hour of an HVAC engineer’s time, can use the tool to demonstrate compliance with ECBC. A total of 1,294 city locations in India are supported.

The tool shows great promise for energy efficiency in India by allowing building developers and designers to make trade-offs between building systems and to use innovative building materials to comply with the energy code. “This is the first energy code compliance tool that uses web-based simulations. Tools like the ECONirman Whole Building Performance Tool, if correctly implemented and regularly upgraded, have the potential to catapult India onto the world stage as a leader in code compliance, ease and quality of implementation and enforcement” says David Goldstein, Co-director of Energy at the Natural Resources Defense Council. Goldstein, who Co-chairs the Standing Committee of the Commercial Energy Services Network (COMNET), continues, “With the ability to collect data on the building stock and provide accurate and easy policy analysis, future versions of this tool will help complete a virtuous circle between policy design, implementation and enforcement.” Implications of this technology for the U.S. market range from improved code compliance to informing building asset and performance rating tools and designing and implementing more cost-effective utility energy efficiency programs.

About USAID ECO program

The USAID ECO-III program funded the development of the ECONirman WBP Tool. The ECO program worked to enhance the commercial viability and performance of the Indian energy sector. The ECO program successes include development of India’s first energy conservation building code (ECBC); launch of the national building star-rating program; and support for three Regional Energy

Efficiency Centers to transform markets and create an enabling environment for ECBC implementation. The program helped establish the “Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy,” to promote energy efficiency among Indian industries and households. ECO-III’s work in Gujarat for energy efficiency in street lighting and urban water pumps is recognized as a model for municipal demand-side energy management in India.



About The Weidt Group

The Weidt Group developed the ECONirman WBP Tool. The Weidt Group is an international energy and software consulting firm, working with manufacturers, utilities, state and local governments, architects, engineers and building owners to achieve energy savings goals. The firm employs experts in energy modeling and measurement & verification, software development, and energy policy. twgi.com

About NRDC

A US-based environmental NGO with extensive engagement in India, China and elsewhere, NRDC is the nation's most effective environmental action organization. NRDC uses law, science and the support of 1.3 million members and online activists to protect the planet's wildlife and wild places and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things.

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