Previous research (for example resulting from EBC Annex 53) has identified the strong influence of occupants on building performance. Recently, EBC Annex 66 has provided a sound framework for experimentally studying and modelling different behavioural actions, including the implementation of these models into simulation platforms. But, real operation of buildings shows that many such models do not represent the manifold human interactions with a building appropriately enough, and that there is no guidance for designers and building managers on how to apply occupant behaviour models in everyday practice.

The purpose of this project is to provide new insights into comfort-related occupant behaviour in buildings and its impact on building energy performance. An open collaboration platform for data and software is being created to support the use of ‘big data’ methods and advanced occupant behaviour models. It is further promoting the application of this knowledge in building design and operation processes by assisting decision making and by supporting practitioners. The planned outcomes from the project are:

- Enhanced scientific knowledge about comfort-driven occupant interactions with building technologies. This includes methodological approaches to examine multi-stressor effects by environmental influences on human subjects.
- Informed insight into the potential of various data sources and sensing technologies, as well as applications of data-based methods for knowledge discovery and modelling of occupant behaviour.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

1. develop new scientific knowledge about adaptive occupant actions driven by multiple interdependent indoor environmental parameters
2. understand interactions between occupants and building systems
3. deploy ‘big data’ (e.g. data mining and machine learning) for the building sector based on various sources of building and occupant data as well as sensing technologies
4. develop methods and guidelines and preparing standards for integrating occupant models in building design and operation
5. create focused case studies to test the new methods and models in different design and operation phases
The International Energy Agency (IEA) was established as an autonomous body within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974, with the purpose of strengthening co-operation in the vital area of energy policy. As one element of this programme, member countries take part in various energy research, development and demonstration activities. The Energy in Buildings and Communities Programme has co-ordinated various research projects associated with energy prediction, monitoring and energy efficiency measures in both new and existing buildings. The results have provided much valuable information about the state of the art of building analysis and have led to further IEA co-ordinated research.

**EBC VISION**

By 2030, near-zero primary energy use and carbon dioxide emissions solutions have been adopted in new buildings and communities, and a wide range of reliable technical solutions have been made available for the existing building stock.

**EBC MISSION**

To accelerate the transformation of the built environment towards more energy efficient and sustainable buildings and communities, by the development and dissemination of knowledge and technologies through international collaborative research and innovation.

- An open collaboration platform for data and software for supporting the use of data-mining methods and tools for applications within the area of occupant behaviour.
- A repository of advanced occupant behaviour models for digital planning environments.
- Proposals for standards and policy support for implementing occupant behaviour simulation in building design and operation practice. This also includes the integration of the models in modern digital planning (BIM) environments.
- Guidelines on how to apply occupant models and occupant behaviour issues within building technologies, including user interfaces, as part of everyday design and planning processes.

**Project duration**

Ongoing (2018 - 2023)

**Operating Agent**

Prof Andreas Wagner  
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  
Englerstr. 7  
76131 Karlsruhe  
GERMANY  
+49 721 608 46511  
wagner@kit.edu

Dr Liam O’Brien  
Carleton University  
3432 Mackenzie Building1125 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 5B6  
CANADA  
+1 613 520 2600 ext. 8037  
liam.obrien@carleton.ca

**Participating countries**

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, P.R. China, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, UK, USA  
Observers: Brazil, Hungary, UAE, India

**Further information**

[www.iea-ebc.org](http://www.iea-ebc.org)