



## Pathfinder Update: NYSERDA FlexTech and COVID-19

August 17, 2020

The impact of COVID-19 has been devastating for those directly impacted by it. Families, businesses, institutions have all felt its impact. In the built environment, owners are faced with a myriad of concerns for occupant safety.

In response, ASHRAE, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), NIOSH, NYSERDA and other technical professional organizations are our best guide for best practices and standard of care solutions. Using guidance from these professional organizations, your facilities would benefit from specific HVAC strategies that can be implemented to successfully mitigate COVID-19 and other viruses for more healthy indoor environments. This includes both new system designs and retrofits.

NYSERDA has provided an addendum to its FlexTech program to better serve the needs of building owners during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 control strategies will likely be counter-intuitive to energy minimization strategies, though these control strategies are anticipated to be temporary in nature.

For existing systems, retro-commissioning is a good place to begin to validate existing operating conditions and functionality prior to implementing any new COVID-19 control strategies. *See Pathfinder Update: Retro-Commissioning and COVID-19*

NYSERDA FlexTech (PON 4192) is a cost-share program that supports retro-commissioning and energy efficiency studies in existing buildings. This program offers cost-shared technical services to help customers make informed energy efficiency and clean heating and cooling decisions. To provide greater assistance during this challenging time, through December 31, 2020, FlexTech will offer up to 100% cost-sharing of retro-commissioning and energy study fees upon installation of measure(s) recommended through a NYSERDA-approved FlexTech study, as outlined in the new PON 4192 Program Addendum. All other program eligibility requirements, program parameters, and limitations as outlined in PON 4192 remain the same.

As higher education campuses and other building operators consider reprioritizing low-cost or no-cost projects and continue with facility updates in order to address health and safety concerns, retro-commissioning of existing equipment may help address indoor air quality improvements as well as sustainability and energy efficiency efforts.

A retro-commissioning (RCx) study provides an evaluation of energy-using systems and performance of these systems relative to design intent, the operational needs of the building and its occupants, and operation and maintenance procedures. The goal is to optimize system performance through energy efficiency and maintenance recommendations.

*NYSERDA published a recent survey asking State University of New York campuses how each is continuing sustainability and energy efficiency efforts during this time.*

How is your campus continuing sustainability and energy efficiency efforts during this time?



This NYSERDA program requires that RCx studies must:

- list each identified deficiency.
- include a current facilities requirement (CFR) and a RCx Plan as interim deliverables to establish a baseline for the RCx effort. At a minimum, the CFR must include: setpoints – heating and cooling, setpoints – occupied and unoccupied, ventilation, schedule, space pressurization, expected occupancy, and filtration requirements.
- at a minimum, include a general description of the building, operations, equipment to be tested, schedule for testing (accounting for testing of seasonal equipment), means and methods for testing, expected support from the site and/or additional contractors.

Energy Advisory Services for this NYSERDA program requires that single, large customers with a portfolio of buildings should engage a qualified FlexTech consultant for long-term energy and carbon-mitigation related services. This FlexTech consultant may provide long-term support for these by actively identifying opportunities with the client and NYSERDA's approval. These may include review of:

1. monthly utility data and developing strategies for reducing energy consumption.
2. existing Building Automation System (BAS) controls for partial occupancy settings.
3. operation of flow dampers for optimizing equipment operation.
4. demand control ventilation strategies.
5. operating/maintenance plans for partial occupancy settings including supply and room air temperature settings and other energy savings strategies during partial occupancy that does not hinder indoor air quality requirements.
6. weekly/biweekly/monthly interactions to identify energy reduction opportunities on your campus.

For reference documents associated with PON 4192 NYSERDA FlexTech program, please use the following web address:

[https://portal.nyserda.ny.gov/CORE\\_Solicitation\\_Detail\\_Page?SolicitationId=a0rt000000kXV1yAAG](https://portal.nyserda.ny.gov/CORE_Solicitation_Detail_Page?SolicitationId=a0rt000000kXV1yAAG)

If changes are made to this solicitation notification will be posted on NYSERDA's website at:

[www.nyserda.ny.gov/funding-opportunities](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/funding-opportunities)

## **NYSERDA PON 4192 Eligibility Requirements**

Flexible Technical Assistance study applicants must be electric SBC-paying customers utilizing third-party engineering firms, energy service providers, or other entities to perform technical assistance. Customers eligible for 100% cost-sharing based on the PON 4192 Addendum must submit a Reimbursement Request Form, found at [www.nyserda.ny.gov/FlexTech](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/FlexTech) along with sufficient proof of purchase documentation to [FlexTech@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:FlexTech@nyserda.ny.gov) within two years of the NYSERDA issued Purchase Order (PO) date. Applications are accepted until funds are exhausted.

Pathfinder is a NYSERDA FlexTech provider and has begun providing services through this PON 4192 Addendum.

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