# Airflow Measurement: Old School Meets Latest Tech

David Richardson National Comfort Institute davidr@ncihvac.com

Chris Hughes
The Energy Conservatory
chughes@energyconservatory.com

Content and illustrations © NCI, Inc. and TEC, Inc. 2024









# **Learning Objectives**



Airflow – who, what, how, why



Impacting different roles with airflow measurement



Airflow measurements of the future







# **Learning Objectives**



Airflow – who, what, how, why



Impacting different roles with airflow measurement



Airflow measurements of the future







## **Air Balancing Foundations**



H. Taylor Kahoe – an engineer who observed how poorly the mechanical systems he designed performed once they were built in the field. 1962 - he moved into air balancing exclusively and in 1964 established the Associated Air Balance Council (AABC).



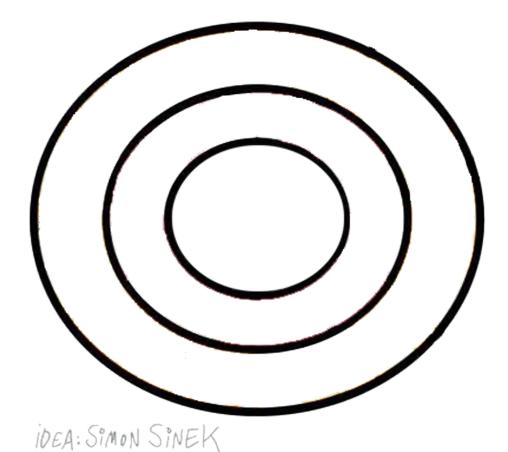
In the 1970s, **Ernie Shortridge** created the first air balancing hood, revolutionizing testing and balancing. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Shortridge every time a hood measures airflow within just a few seconds.

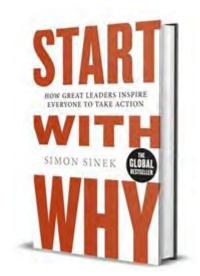










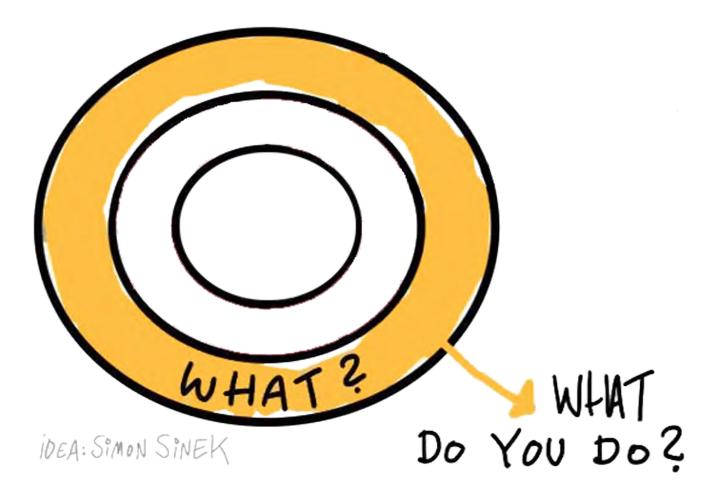


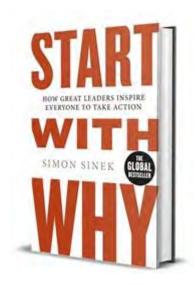








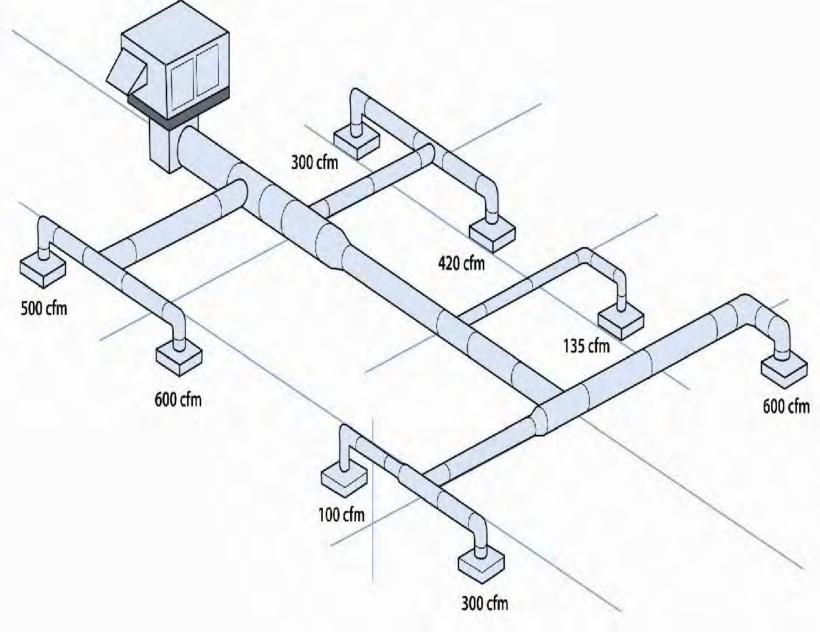












## **The What**

A way to prove the field performance of a design.

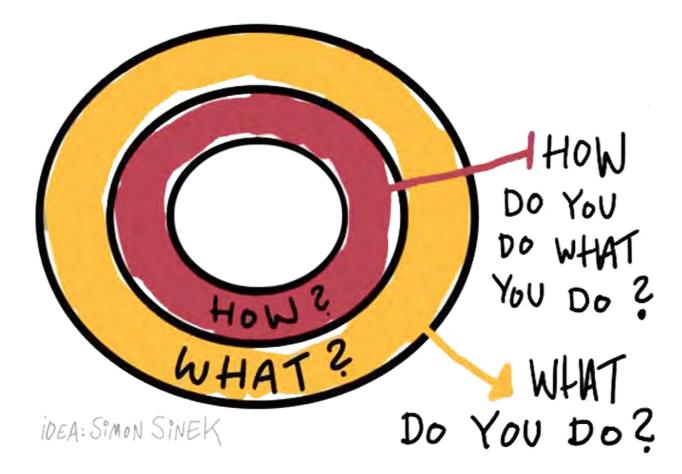
Both equipment and system.

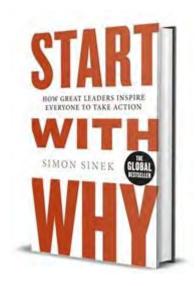








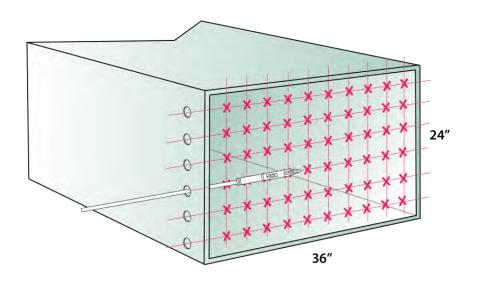




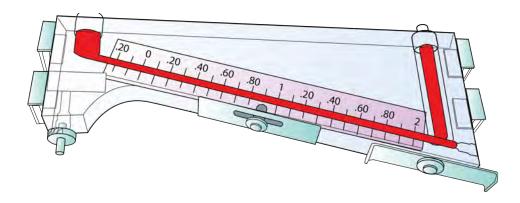














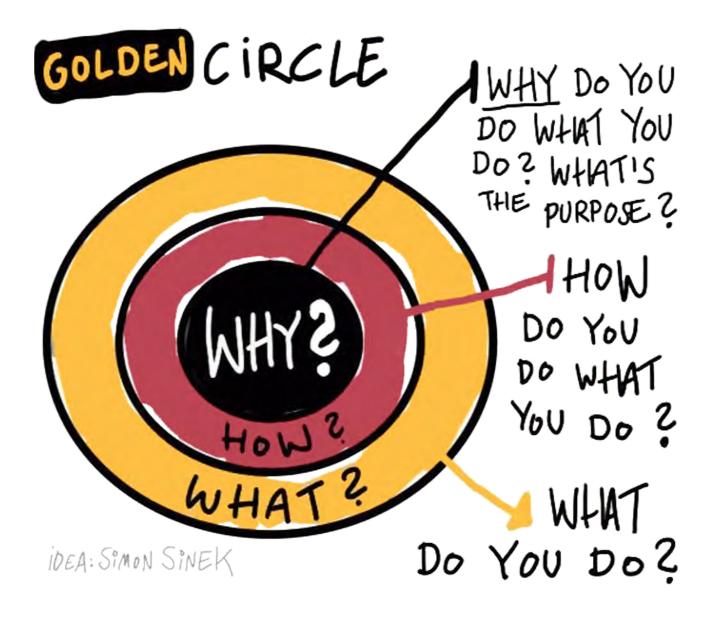
## The How

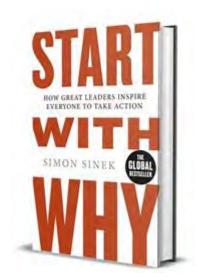
Conducted various measurements and calculations to establish existing airside conditions.





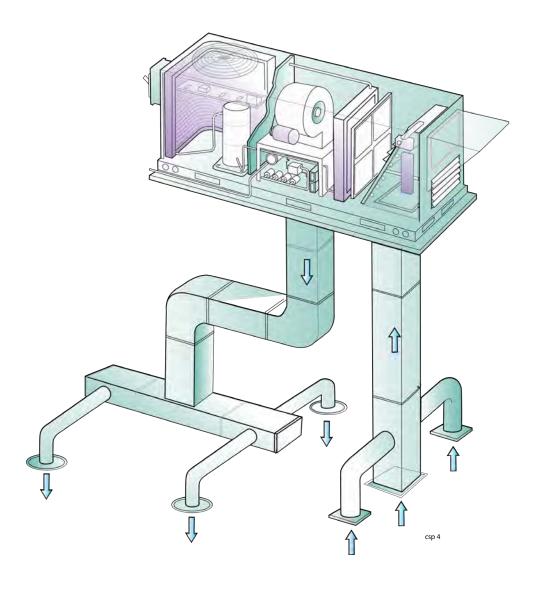


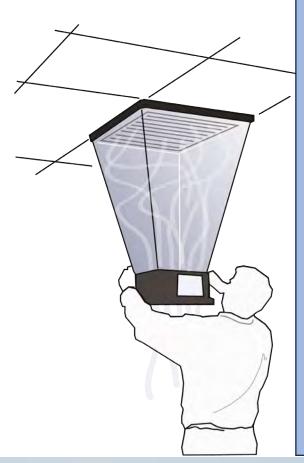












## The Why

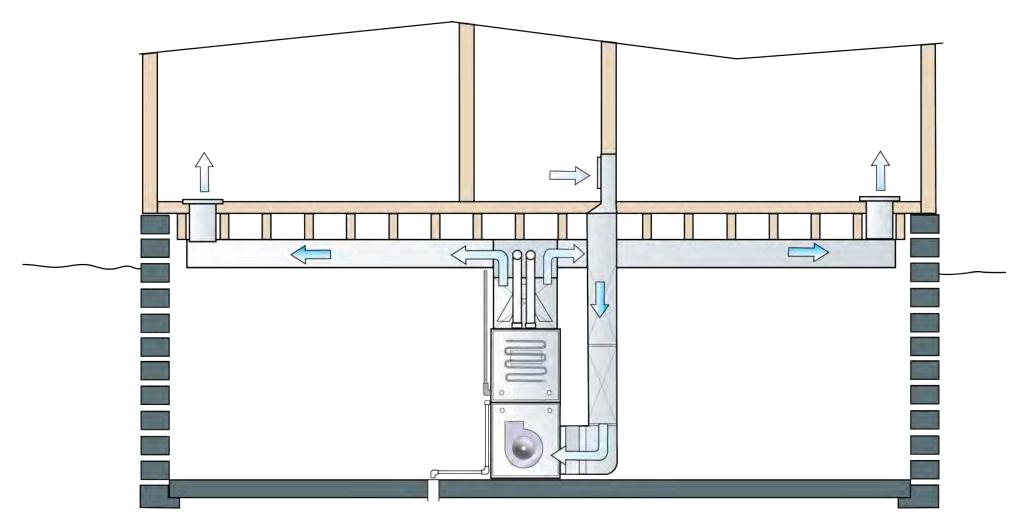
Airflow measurement helped prove whether an installation met design criteria or not.







## Transitioning From Commercial to Residential









# **Learning Objectives**



Airflow – who, what, how, why



Impacting different roles with airflow measurement



Airflow measurements of the future

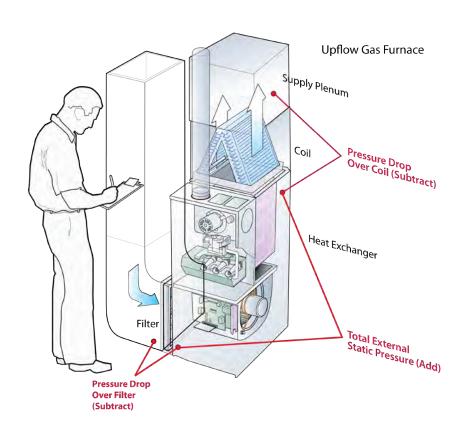






## **Present Day - New Faces/Same Roles**

Airflow Measurement Skills Are Necessary For Today's Work Force.





#### **Residential Roles**

- Sales
- Design
- Install
- Quality Control
- Maintenance
- Service













## **Present Day Options – The Game Has Changed A Bit**











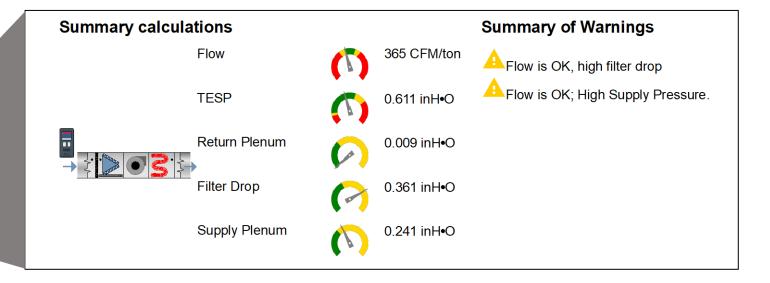






## **Customer Friendly Reporting**











# **Learning Objectives**



Airflow – who, what, where, when, why



Impacting different roles with airflow measurement



Airflow measurements of the future







## What if you could see into the future?







## You Would Need A Time Machine







## And One Of These!









## Flux Capacitor!







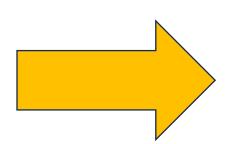


## Our Industry's Challenge

40,000 BTU/h Furnace















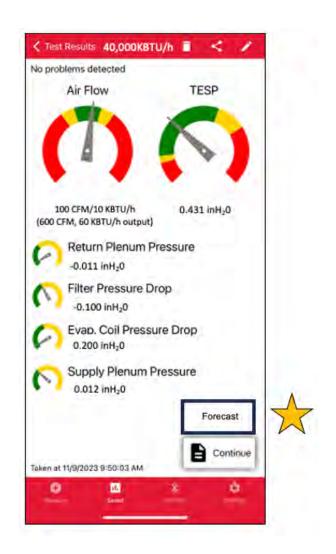








## **Step 1: Furnace to Heat Pump Retrofit**



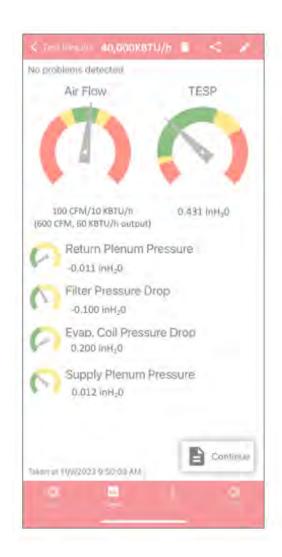


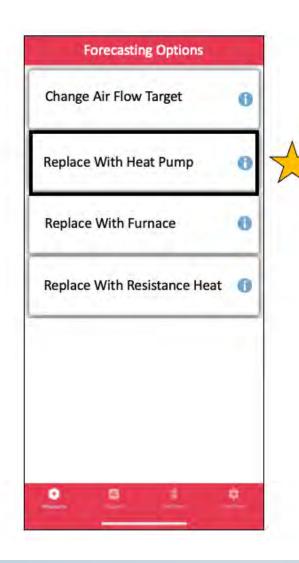






# **Step 2: Furnace to Heat Pump Retrofit**





#### **Select Option:**

Replace With Heat Pump

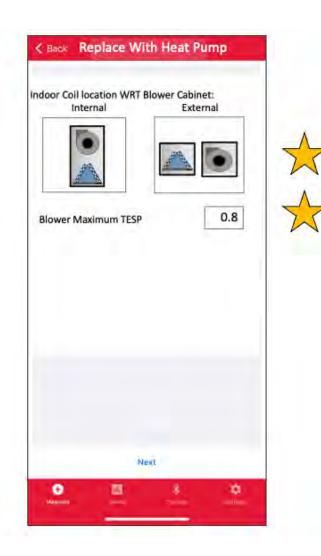






# **Step 3: Furnace to Heat Pump Retrofit**





#### **Select Option:**

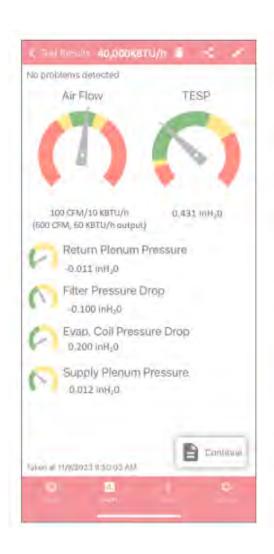
- Select Coil location
- Select OEM TESP

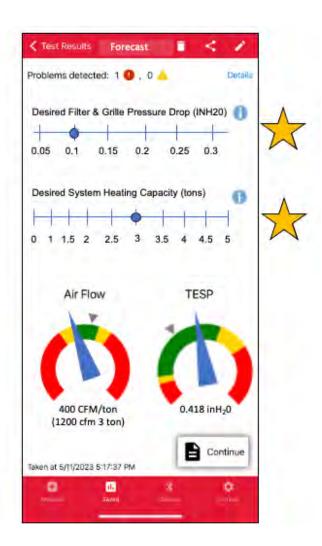






# **Step 4: Furnace to Heat Pump Retrofit**





#### **Use Forecast Tool:**

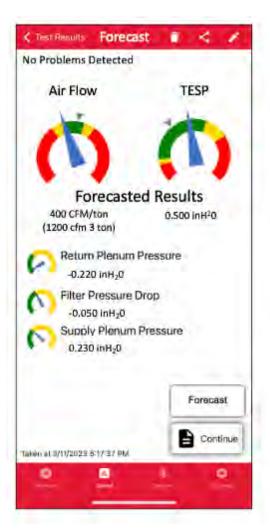
 Use Active Sliders To Design Your New Heat Pump Installation







## **Heat Pump Retrofit Report In Seconds!**





#### **Forecast Report:**

Know the result before you start

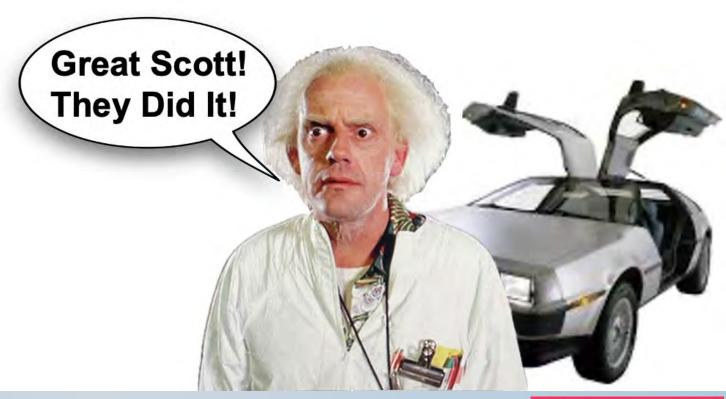






#### Heat Pump Retrofit Installed Free From High Static Pressure!











## So, How Did They Do It?

# **Duct Renovation...**







## **Two Duct Renovation Approaches**



Air Upgrades



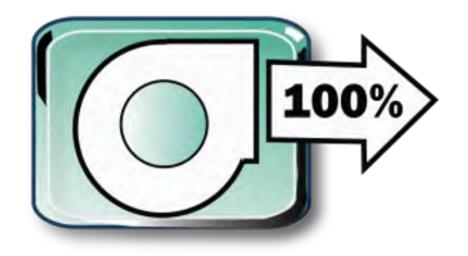
**Duct Optimization** 







## Air Upgrade Approach



Air Upgrades focus on improving static pressure and airflow.

They are pre-packaged duct repairs priced with flat rate.







## **Duct Optimization Approach**



Duct Optimization brings an existing duct system to the point where individual room Btu requirements are successfully achieved and verified.

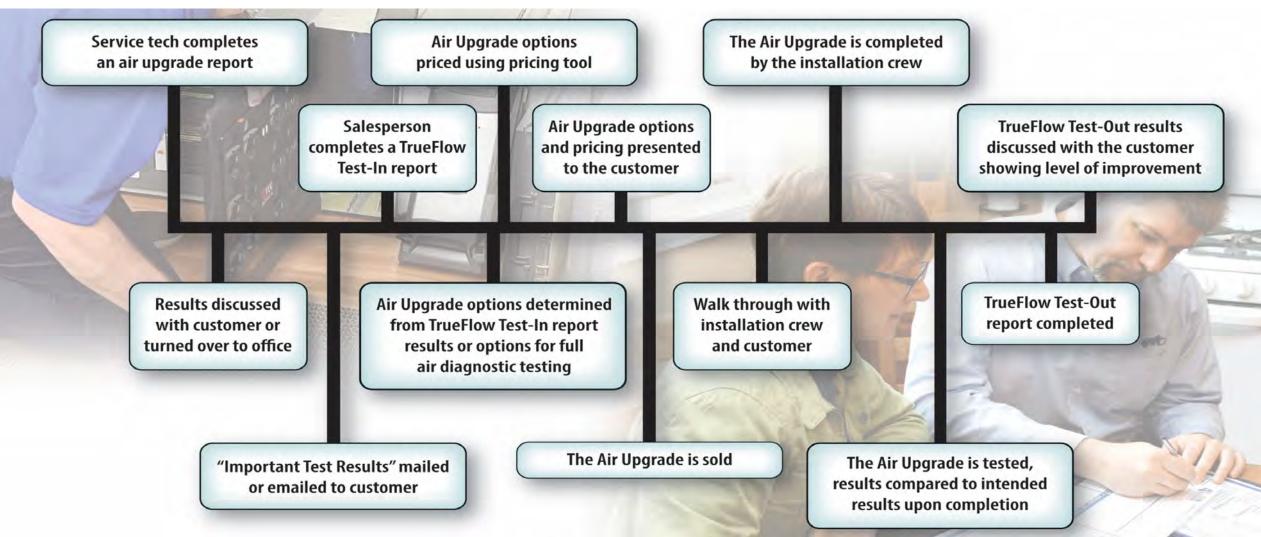
It is a customized product with paid design work and airflow testing.







# They Followed a Process









## **Next Steps**



- 1. Figure out why you should measure airflow and write it down.
- 2. Purchase any needed test instruments you may not currently own.
- 3. Practice by testing and diagnosing systems in your home or office.
- 4. Teach others in your company as you learn.
- 5. Slowly add airside testing to your service calls and installs.
- 6. Increase your testing skills beyond static pressure and fan airflow.
- 7. Become known as the "airheads" in your community.







## **About NCI**

Currently we train over 3,000 industry professionals each year and have certified over 50,000 people since our beginning in 1993.

In addition to innovative business and technical training, we offer memberships with distinctive member benefits.

With a dedicated staff nearly 30 strong, NCI wants to continue to be a resource supporting your ongoing learning and business success.

www.nationalcomfortinstitute.com











#### **Developing Air Measurement Tools for Better Built Environments**

#### Healthy / Comfortable / Energy Efficient / Durable







































Making it Easier to Do it Right™







