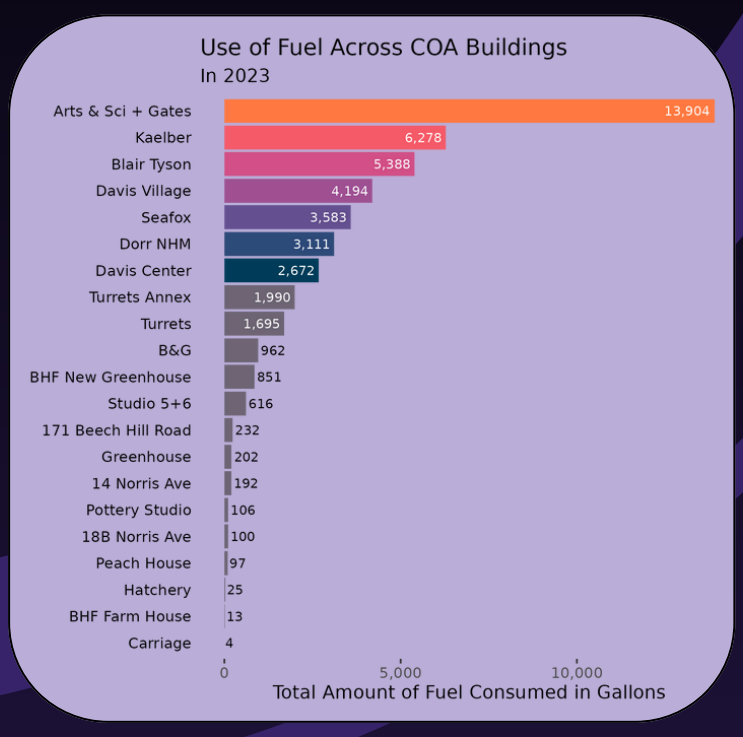
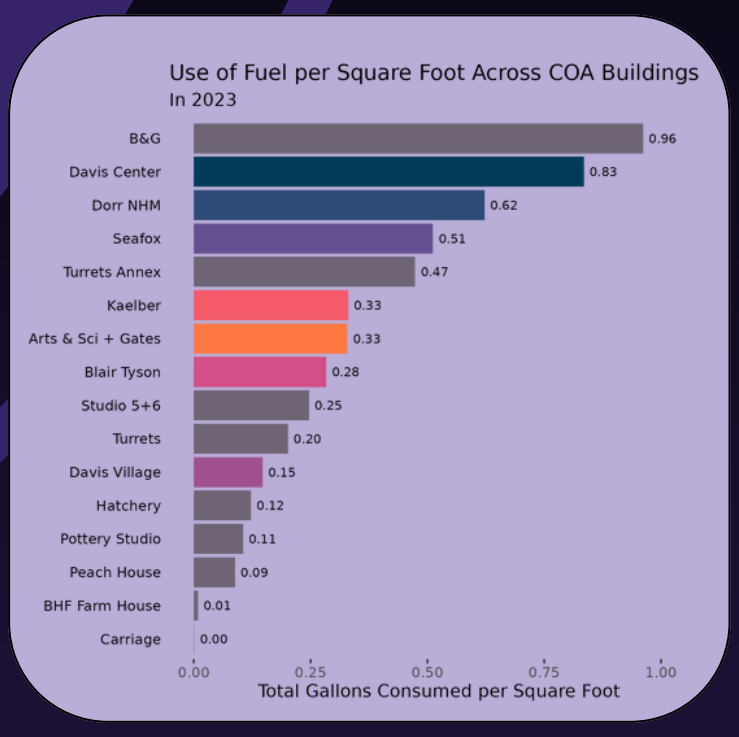
COA - ARE WE BEING FOSSIL FOOLS?

by Helen, Claire, and Jonah

What areas should be prioritised to transition the college off of fossil fuels?

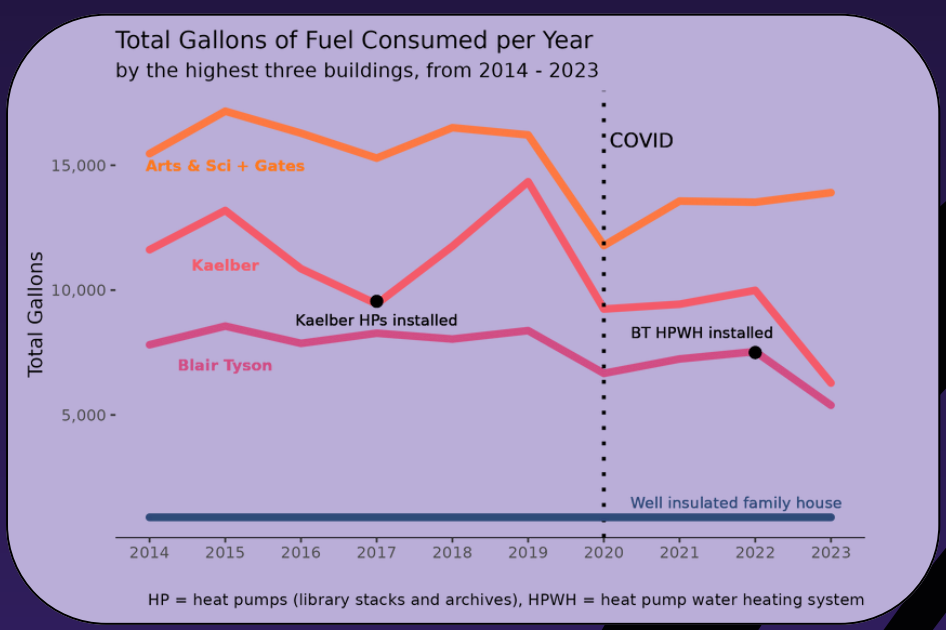




COA lists three steps for transitioning away from fossil fuel usage: air seal and insulate buildings to reduce consumption of heating fuels; electrify heating, hot water, cooking and transportation with the most efficient equipment available; generate electricity from local sources of renewable energy.

The two graphs above show that the buildings using the most amount of fossil fuels are not necessarily the most inefficient ones. The most inefficient buildings are those using the most amount of fuel per square foot. Old and badly insulated buildings like B&G, Davis Center and Seafox top this list.

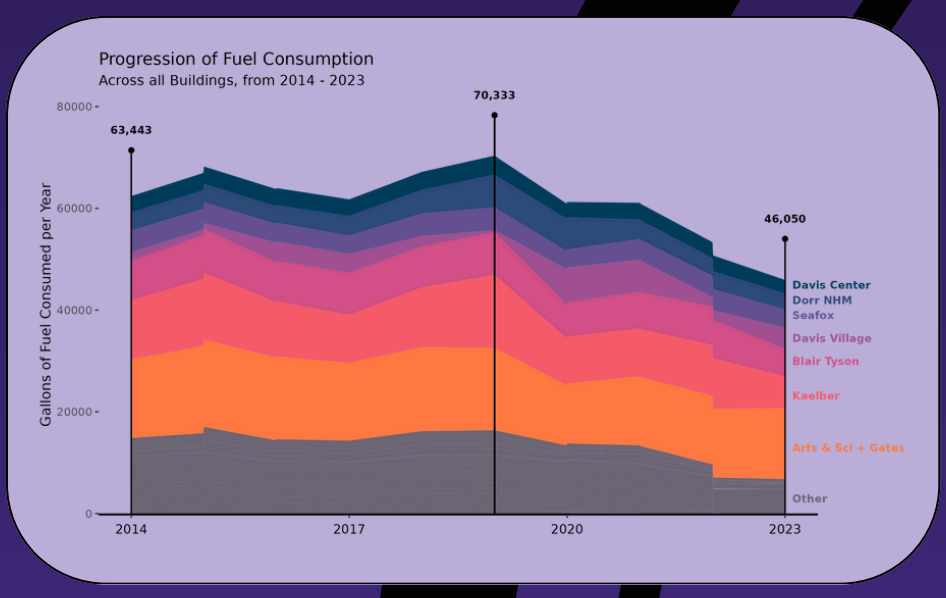
"College of the Atlantic commits to eliminating our fossil fuel use by 2030"



The heat pumps installed in the library in 2017 do not seem to have had a significant impact on the fuel usage in Kaelber. This could be explained by the fact that they are largely used for air conditioning in the summer and that they only heat and cool a few rooms rather than the whole building.

Propane is a combustible gas that is a byproduct of natural gas processing and crude oil refining. It is used in buildings to run **furnaces, boilers and water heaters, and for cooking. It emits 12.67 lb of CO2 per gallon when combusted.**

Heating Oil refers to fuel oils used in furnaces, boilers and water heaters. It is most commonly made from crude oil and emmits around 22.5 lb of CO2 per gallon when undergoing combustion.



This graph to the right highlights the month of December because the use of college buildings is significantly lower in December. As the graph shows, fossil fuel usage remains high. This suggests that we are potentially burning fuel unnecessarily to heat spaces that are unoccupied or being used a lot less.