

the sun. SRI compares a surface's temperature to those of standard black and standard white surfaces. It typically ranges from 0 for standard black to 100 for standard white, but can be less than 0 or greater than 100.

**SOLAR THERMAL EQUIPMENT.** A device that uses solar radiation to heat water or air for use within the facility for service water heating, process heat, space heating or space cooling.

**STANDARD REFERENCE DESIGN.** A building design that meets the minimum requirements of the *Energy Conservation Code* and the additional requirements of Section 602.2.

**STANDBY MODE (ELEVATOR).** An operating mode during periods of inactivity in which electrical loads are reduced to conserve energy. For elevators, standby mode begins up to 5 minutes after an elevator is unoccupied and has parked and completed its last run and ends when the doors are re-opened. For escalators and moving walkways, standby mode begins after traffic has been absent for up to 5 minutes and ends when the next passenger arrives.

**STEAM COOKER.** Equipment in which potable steam is used for heating, cooking, and reconstituting food.

**STORAGE TANK (GRAYWATER OR RAINWATER).** A fixed container for holding water at atmospheric pressure for subsequent use as part of a plumbing or irrigation system.

**STORY.** That portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the upper surface of the floor or roof next above. It is measured as the vertical distance from top to top of two successive tiers of beams or finished floor surfaces and, for the topmost story, from the top of the floor finish to the top of the ceiling joists or, where there is not a ceiling, to the top of the roof rafters.

**STRUCTURE.** That which is built or constructed.

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT.** Any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or improvement of a building or structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the improvement or repair is started. If the structure has sustained substantial damage, any repairs are considered *substantial improvement* regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not include either of the following:

1. Any project for improvement of a building required to correct existing health, sanitary or safety code violations identified by the *code official* and that are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions.
2. Any alteration of a historic structure provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure.

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT (For Section 302).** Any repair, *alteration*, or addition of a building or structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the building or structure before the repair, *alteration*, or addition is started.

**THERMAL EMITTANCE.** The ratio of radiative power emitted by a sample to that emitted by a black body radiator at the same temperature.

**TOPSOIL.** The upper, outmost layer of soil having the highest concentration of organic matter and microorganisms and where the majority of biological soil activity occurs.

**TRACTION ELEVATOR.** An elevator system in which the cars are suspended by ropes wrapped around a sheave that is driven by an electric motor.

**TRANSIT SERVICE.** A service that a public transit agency serving the area has committed to provide including, but not limited to, bus, streetcar, light or heavy rail, passenger ferry or tram service.

**TUBULAR DAYLIGHTING DEVICE (TDD).** A non-operable fenestration unit primarily designed to transmit daylight from a roof surface to an interior space via a tubular conduit. The basic unit consists of an exterior glazed weathering surface, a light-transmitting tube with a reflective interior surface, and an interior-sealing device such as a translucent panel. The unit is either factory assembled, or field assembled from a manufacturing kit.

**U-FACTOR (THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE).** The coefficient of heat transmission (air to air) through a building component or assembly, equal to the time rate of heat flow per unit area and unit temperature difference between the warm side and cold side air films ( $\text{Btu/h} \times \text{ft}^2 \times ^\circ\text{F}$ ) [ $\text{W}/(\text{m}^2 \times \text{K})$ ].

**VEGETATIVE ROOF.** An assembly of interacting components designed to waterproof and normally insulate a building's top surface that includes, by design, vegetation and related landscaping elements.

**VENTILATION.** The natural or mechanical process of supplying conditioned or unconditioned air to, or removing such air from, any space.

**VISIBLE TRANSMITTANCE (VT).** The ratio of visible light entering the space through the fenestration product assembly to the incident visible light. VT includes the effects of glazing material and frame and is expressed as a number between 0 and 1.

**VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND (VOC).** A volatile chemical compound based on carbon chains or rings that typically contain hydrogen and sometimes contain oxygen, nitrogen and other elements, and that has a vapor pressure of greater than 0.1 mm of mercury at room temperature.

**VOLTAGE DROP.** A decrease in voltage caused by losses in the circuit conductors connecting the power source to the load.

**WATER FACTOR (WF).** The quantity of water, in gallons per cycle (Q), divided by a clothes washing machine clothes container capacity in cubic feet (C). The equation is:

$$\text{WF} = \text{Q}/\text{C}$$

**WATER FEATURE.** An outdoor open water installation or natural open water way within a built landscape to retain water supplied from source other than rainwater naturally flowing into the feature.

**WATERSENSE.** A program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designed to identify and promote water-efficient products and practices.

## DEFINITIONS

**WETLAND.** Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

**ZERO ENERGY PERFORMANCE INDEX (zEPI).** A scalar representing the ratio of energy performance of the proposed design compared to the average energy performance of buildings relative to a benchmark year.