

Solar Radiation

Solar Radiation

Solar radiation is radiant energy emitted by the sun from a nuclear fusion reaction that creates electromagnetic energy. The spectrum of solar radiation is close to that of a black body with a temperature of about 5800 K. About half of the radiation is in the visible short-wave part of the electromagnetic spectrum. The other half is mostly in the near-infrared part, with some in the ultraviolet part of the spectrum. The solar radiation we receive on the Earth is attenuated both in spectral distribution and in total irradiance because of dispersion and absorption phenomena.

Diffuse and direct beam solar radiation

The solar radiation reaching the Earth's surface can be divided into two types of solar radiation: Direct beam solar radiation and diffuse solar radiation.

As sunlight passes through the atmosphere, some of it enters the surface of the Earth direct and undisturbed - the so-called beam solar radiation. Beam solar radiation throws sharp shadows and can be focused. Another component of sunlight is the diffuse solar radiation, on its way through the atmosphere it is absorbed, scattered, or reflected by dust, water vapor, clouds, pollutants, etc. Diffuse solar radiation does not throw sharp shadows and cannot be focused.

The sum of the diffuse and direct beam solar radiation is called global solar radiation.

Absorption of solar radiation

Solar radiation absorption is due to some atmospheric components, especially ozone, water and carbon dioxide. Stratospheric ozone absorbs almost all the ultraviolet component of the solar radiation for wavelength less than 0.29 μm , water vapor has important absorption bands in the infrared field, centered at 1.0, 1.4, and 1.8 μm . Over 2.5 μm the atmosphere becomes practically opaque to solar radiation for the strong absorption due to water and carbon dioxide.

Air Mass

The sun to the zenith crosses the minimum thickness of the atmosphere, the sun with an elevated zenith angle crosses a large thickness of the atmosphere.

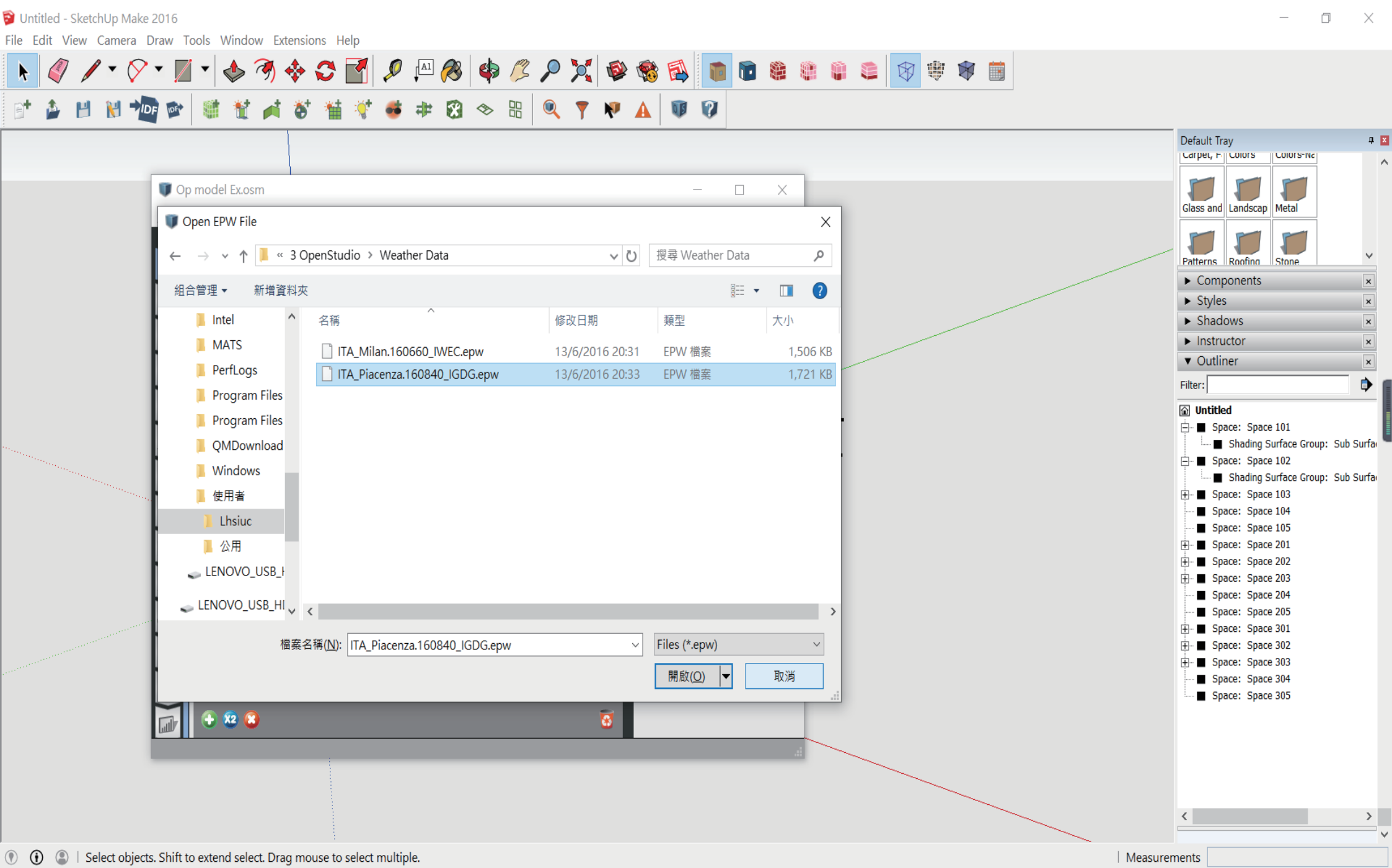
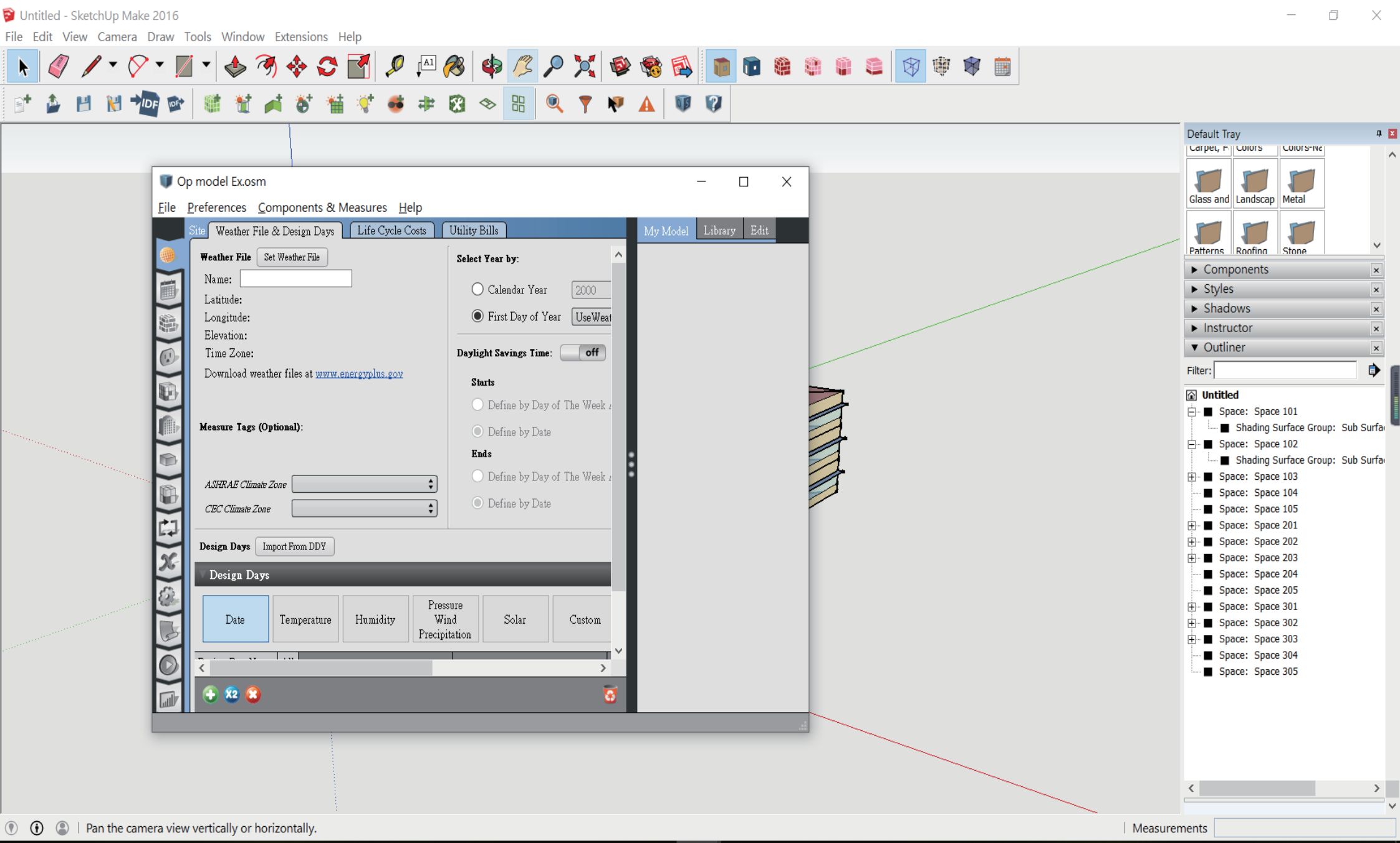
The solar radiation density

The maximum yearly average solar radiation density is the solar constant, which is the solar irradiance, its value is 1367 W/m^2 .

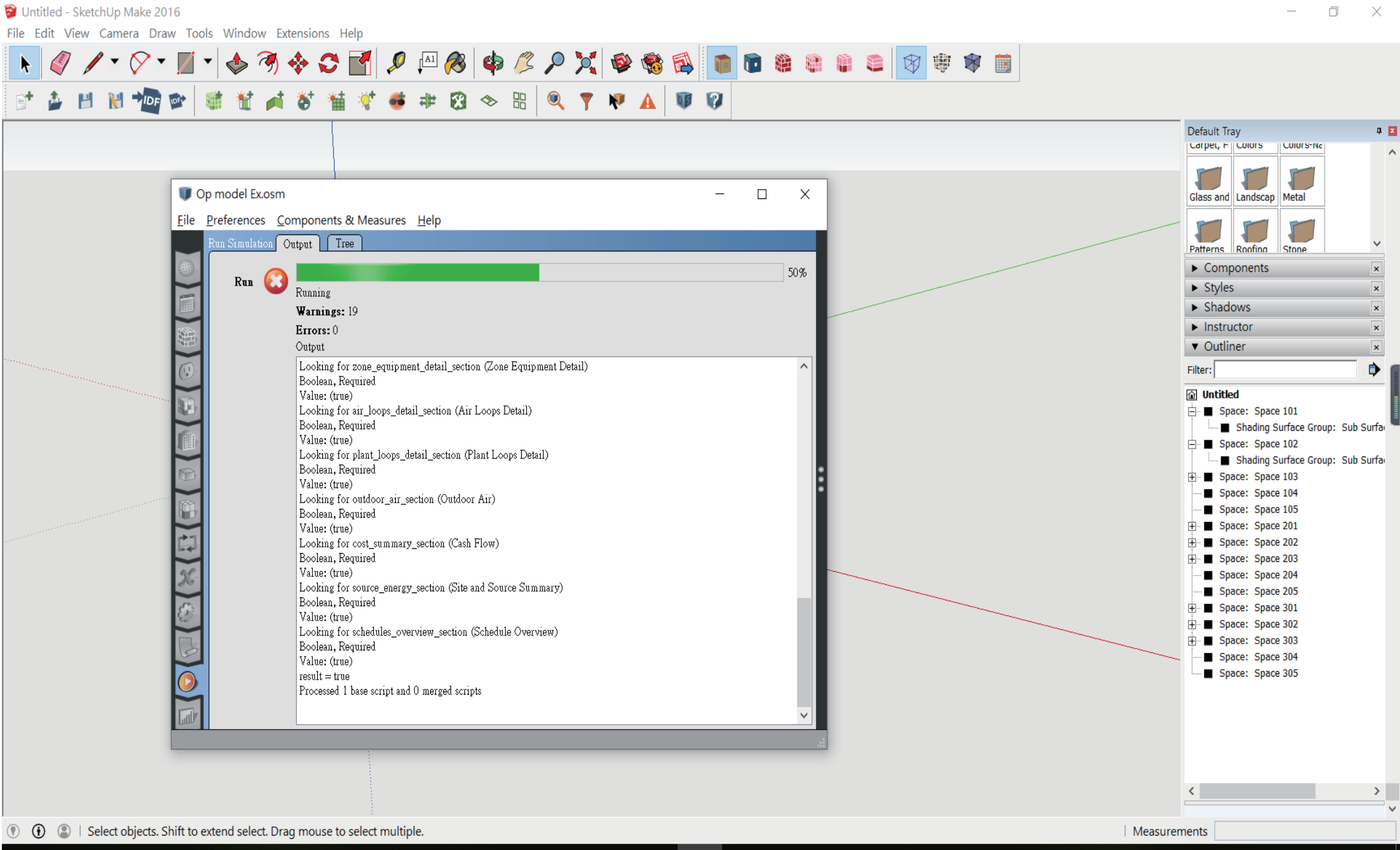
Solar energy: availability

The solar radiation, available on the Earth's surface for conversion in other energy forms, depends on the sun position, the weather condition, the site altitude over the sea level, and the daylight hours.

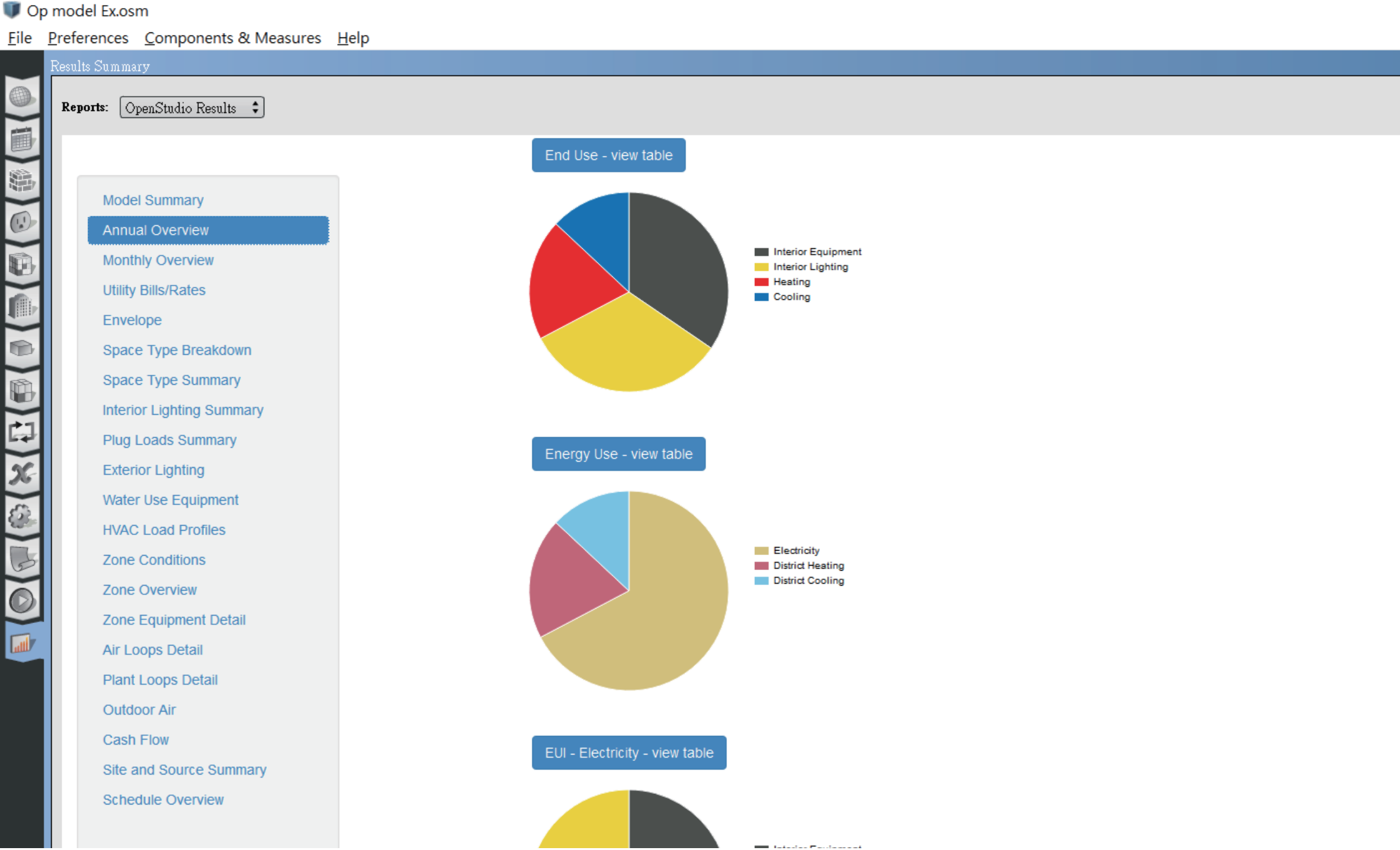
Adding weather data.



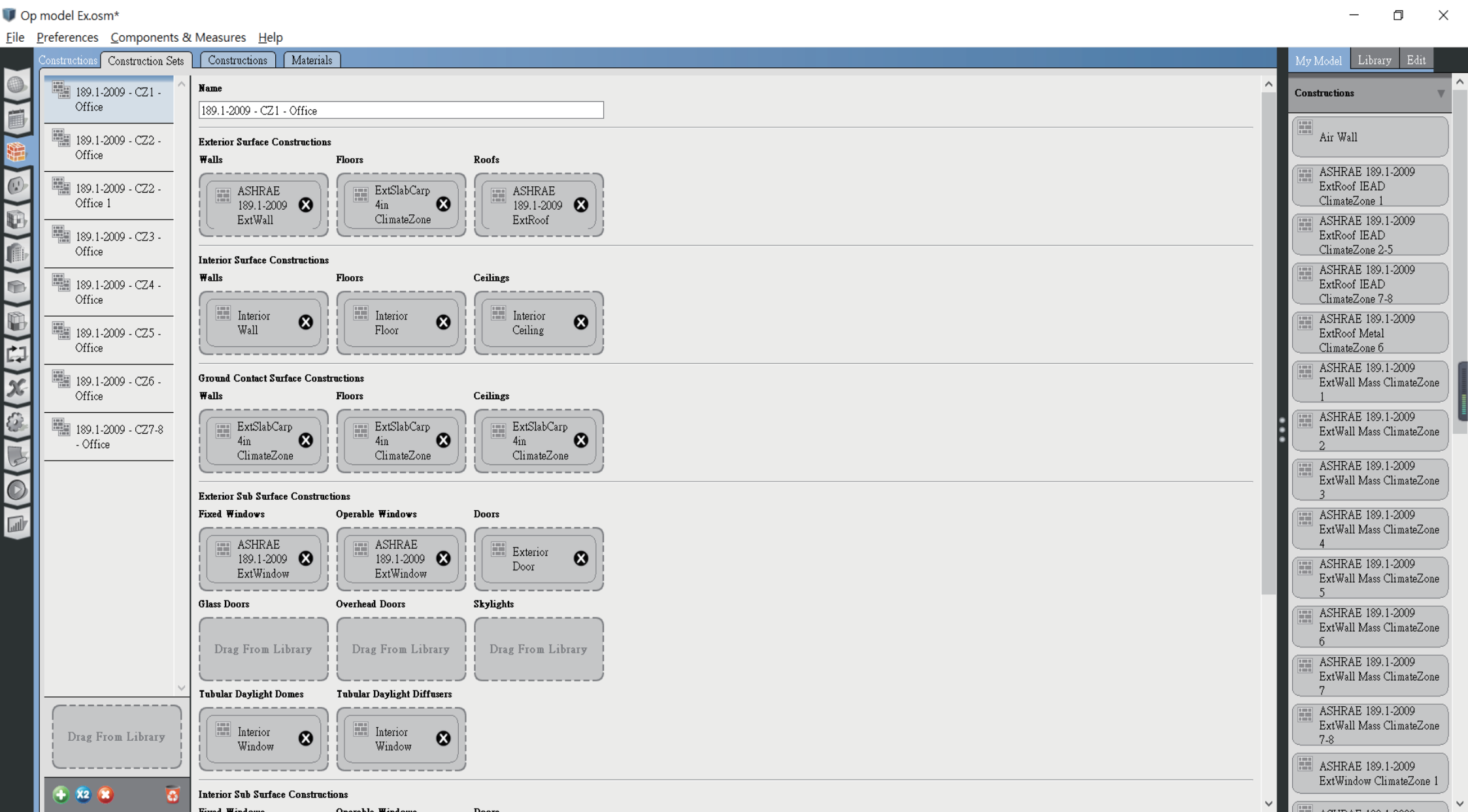
Run the analysis



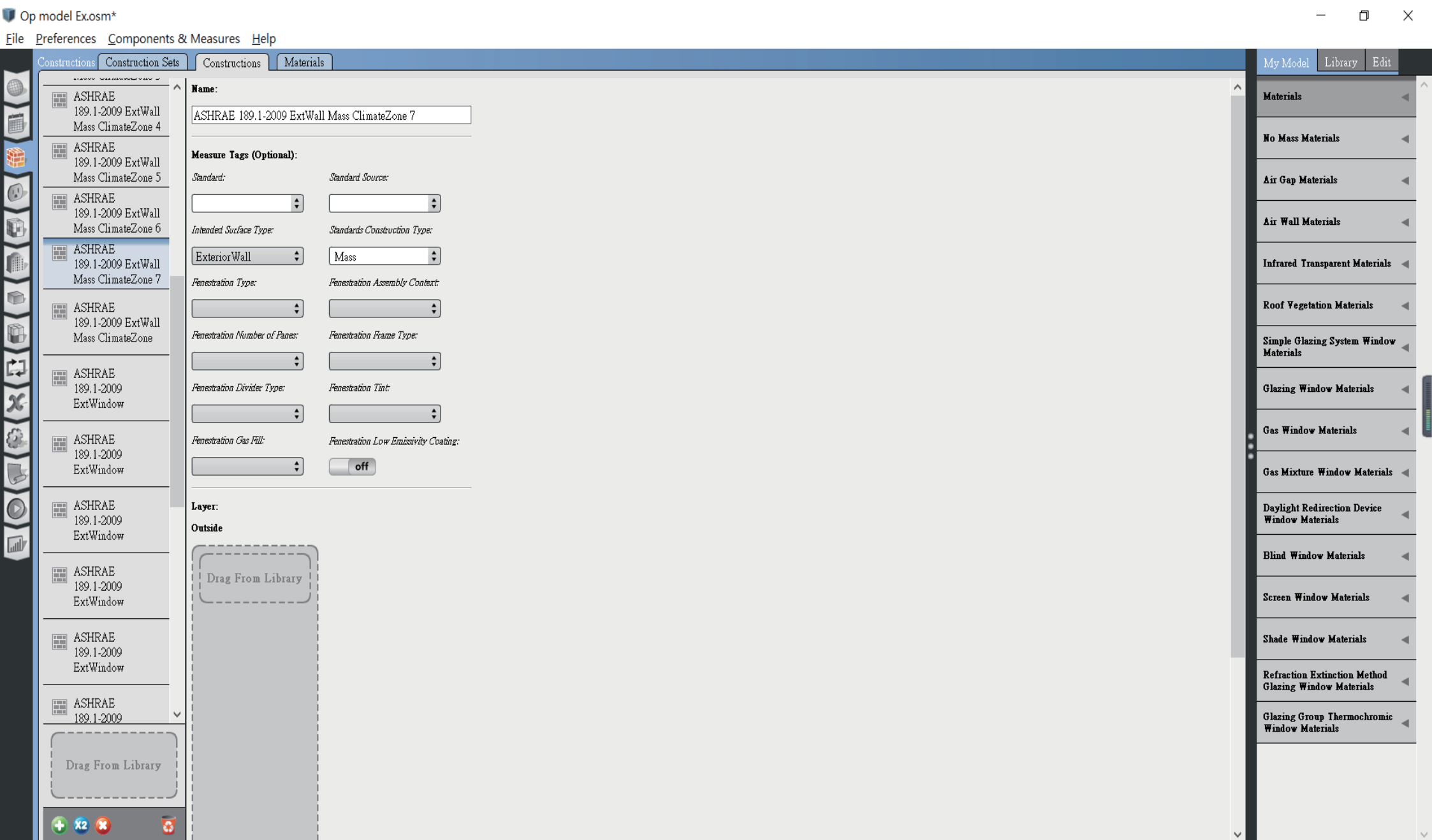
Shown analysis

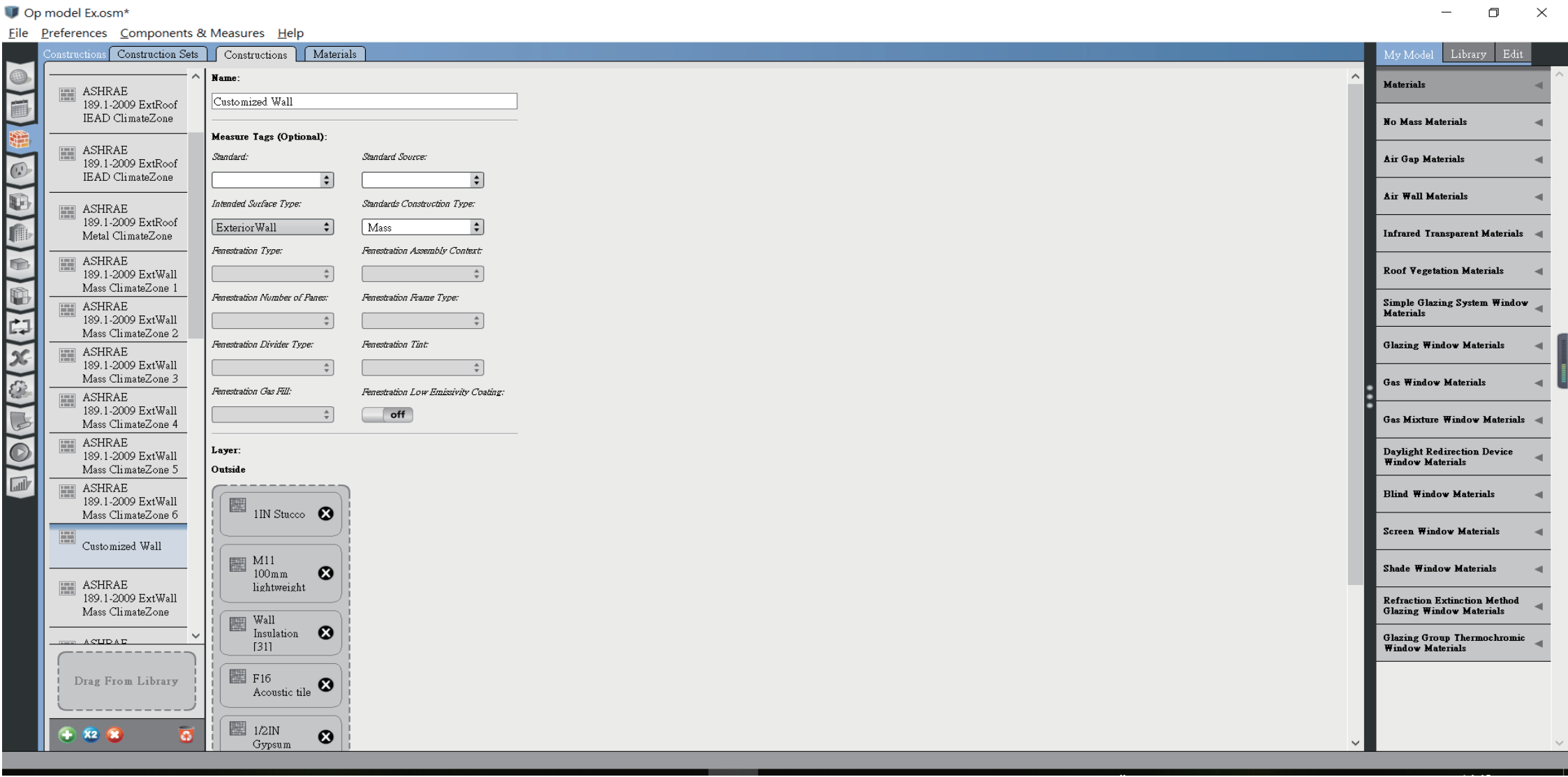


The construction sets

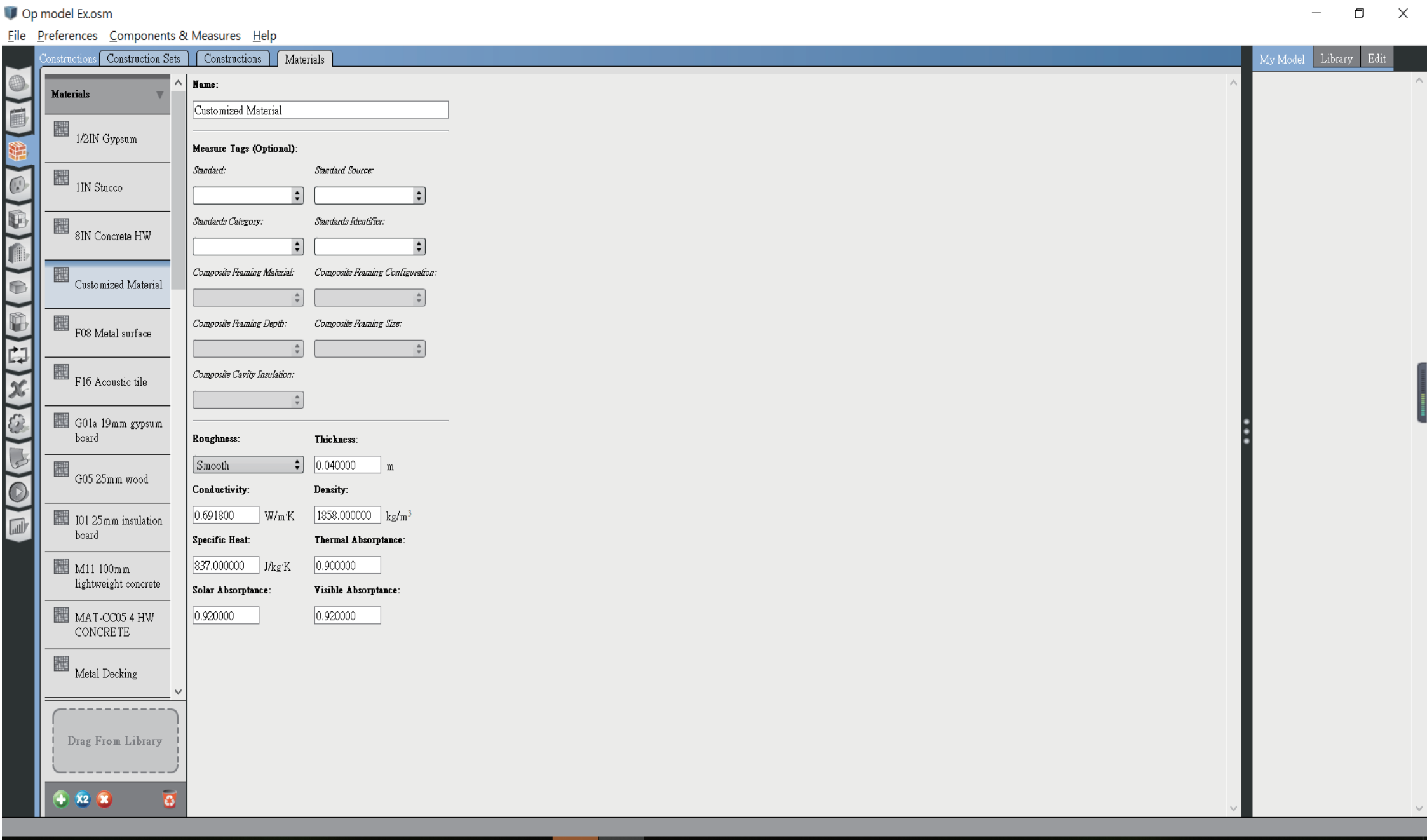


Customizing the walls





Customizing materials



Applying the customized walls to construction

