Industrial Assessment Centers — US DOE's University-Run Energy Audits for Small Manufacturers, With Savings but No Measured Sales Gain

City Innovation Library · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Since 1976 DOE has funded university teams of faculty and students to audit small and medium manufacturers for free: 20,290 assessments (1981–2022), 47% of recommendations implemented, ~21m MMBtu net savings, but no detectable sales or jobs effect.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	3/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-22

U.S. Department of Energy (Industrial Assessment Centers programme) — accessed 2026-11-22

Miera et al. (2025), ORNL publication record — accessed 2026-11-22

SRI International impact evaluation of the IAC program (energy.gov) — accessed 2026-11-22

Miera et al. (2025), Analysis of US IAC implementation, Energy 315 (RePEc) — accessed 2026-11-22

DOE Industrial Training and Assessment Centers — accessed 2026-11-22

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