foresight

Building a Strong Data Foundation

Data underpins all your sustainability efforts, allowing you to measure progress along your journey. It is critical to have a solid foundation, because the quality of your *data* will always limit the quality of your *analysis.*

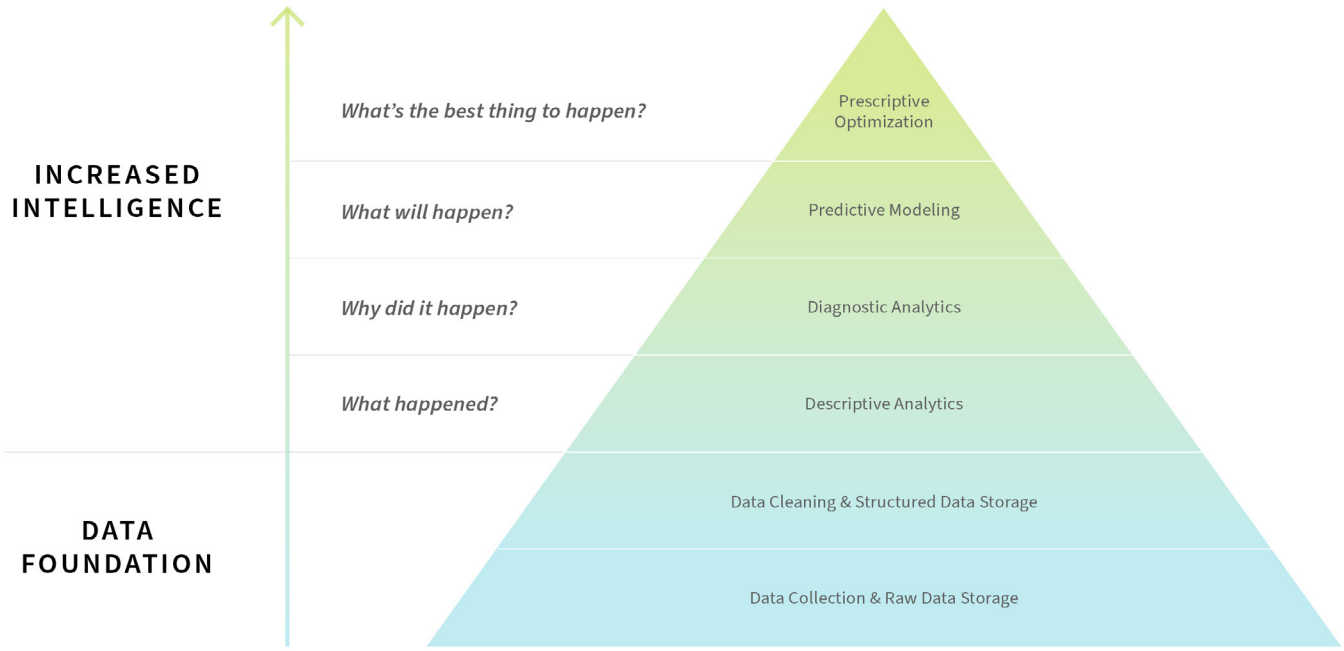
DATA HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

Data science is built on a hierarchy, with the efforts at the top reliant on the foundation. You can't diagnose, optimize, or prescribe on data you don't have. High quality, complete, accessible data supports efforts across organizations, buildings, and products. In fact, much of this data overlaps and is interconnected.

YOU NEED SOFTWARE, BUT ALSO HUMANS

The breadth and depth of data required for sustainability progress and reporting is beyond a spreadsheet — you need software. However, fully automated data collection is also not reliable. While software can collect data, it doesn't know what *good data* looks like.

Data Science Hierarchy of Needs



4 PILLARS OF A STRONG FOUNDATION

1. Streamlined Data Collection

Energy and sustainability data is disparate, complex, and inconsistent from utility to utility. Ensuring your data collection process is reliable will increase your ability to access raw data, identify errors, and create a bedrock of primary data.

2. Accessible Raw Data Storage

Primary sources need to be saved so your data is defensible and audit-worthy. Storing primary data, like a copy of a utility bill, underpins the entire effort with an accessible, verifiable source.

3. Regular Data Cleanup

Data hygiene is not a one-time exercise; it requires continuous vigilance to ensure the foundation is accurate. Nearly every company's basic inventory of emissions sources will change annually. When the data changes or is not aligned with our expectations, our experts must interpret what it means and seek clarity.

4. Structured Data Storage

Not all utility bills are created equal — some are billed biannually, some quarterly, and some monthly. Depending on the utility, region, or country, utility bills can be broken out into different line items or measured in different units. To compare one facility to another, you need an apples-to-apples comparison. Data structuring prepares your data to be *usable*.

Want to learn more?

Explore our resource library to dive deeper into data collection:

ARTICLES

> *What Data Collection Software is Best?*

> *These Mandates Expect More*

CASE STUDIES & SERVICES

> *Utility Data Collection & Reporting*

> *The Foresight Dashboard*

VIDEOS

> *How to Build a Comprehensive Data Collection Process*

> *The Unlocked Potential of Accessible ESG Data*

> *Data Foundation Webinar*

We're here to help!

Chat with Mike about how we can help build a strong data foundation for your company.