



WHEN TRUST MATTERS

Making Renewable Energy Reliable

Why DERs are the power plant of the future

Wesley Whited – Principal Consultant IoT Technology



Intro & Agenda

Today's Presenter



Wesley Whited

Principal Consultant for IoT Technology

- Program Designer
- Emerging Technology Research
- Building System Integration

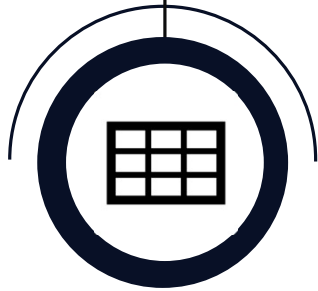


DNV

International Energy Management Consultancy

- Program Design & Implementation for Iowa C&I Midstream program
 - Lighting
 - HVAC
 - Food Service

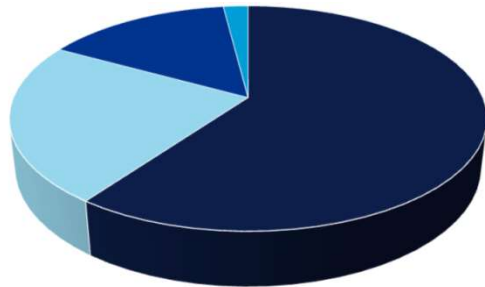
Agenda



- 1.0 What is the grid & how is it changing?
- 2.0 What is/isn't a VPP?
- 3.0 What powers a VPP?
- 4.0 What challenges lie ahead?
- 5.0 What future opportunities do VPPs enable from Trade Allies?

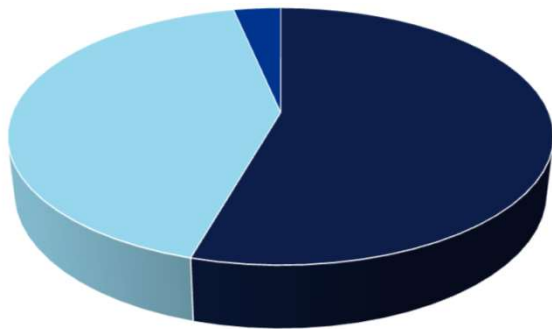
What is the grid & how is it changing

Iowa's grid capacity 21.8 GW / 71.3 TWh



■ Wind ■ Coal ■ Natural Gas ■ Hydro/Solar/Other

90 utilities



■ Municipal Owned ■ Electric Cooperatives ■ Investor Owned

What is the grid?

The world's largest machine

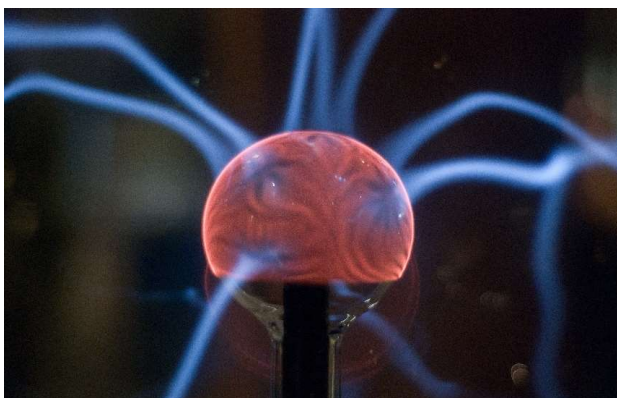
- 141 years old (& showing its age)
 - The average transformer is 35 years old
- Iowa is 2nd in installed wind capacity
- Wind accounts for \$22B in capital spending at employs ~4,000 Iowans

The grid constantly balances supply & demand

Challenges for tomorrow



Integrate a massive amount of renewable energy



Electrify (nearly) everything!



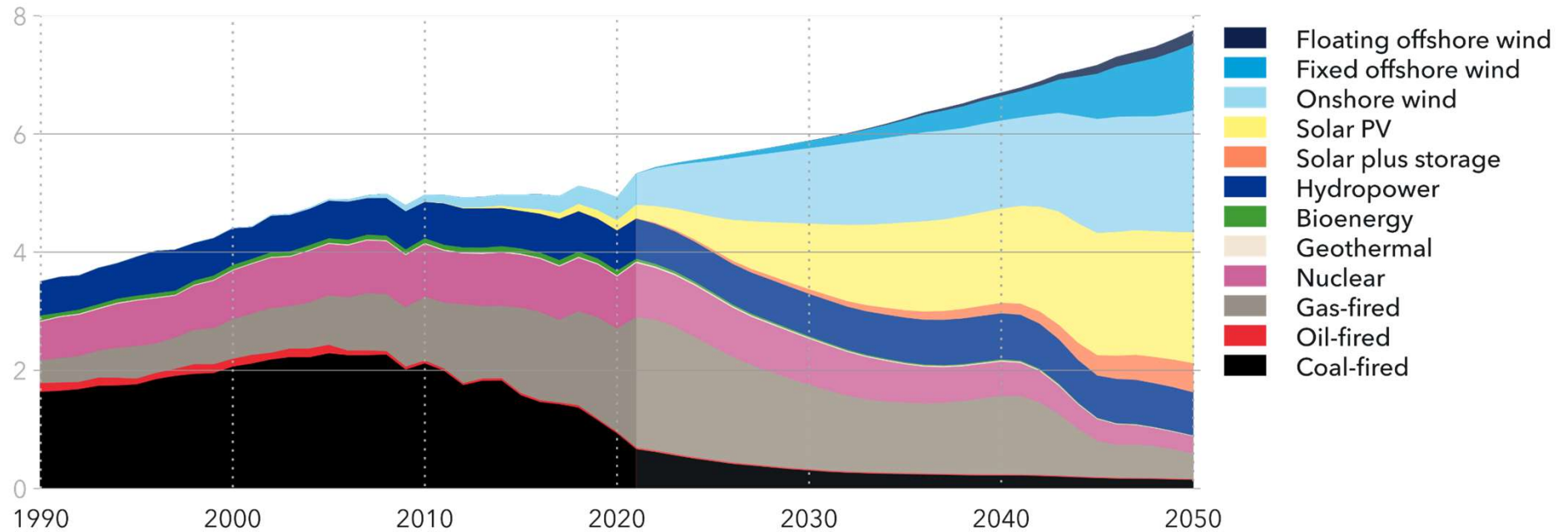
Find new ways to balance supply & demand

Renewables will be 90% of supply by 2050

North America

Grid-connected electricity generation by power station type

Units: PWh/yr



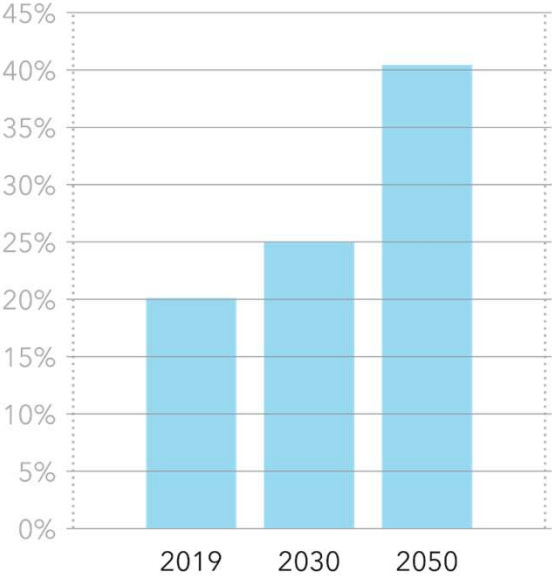
Historical data source: IEA WEB (2020), GlobalData (2021)

Building & Transportation Electrification will double electric use!

North America

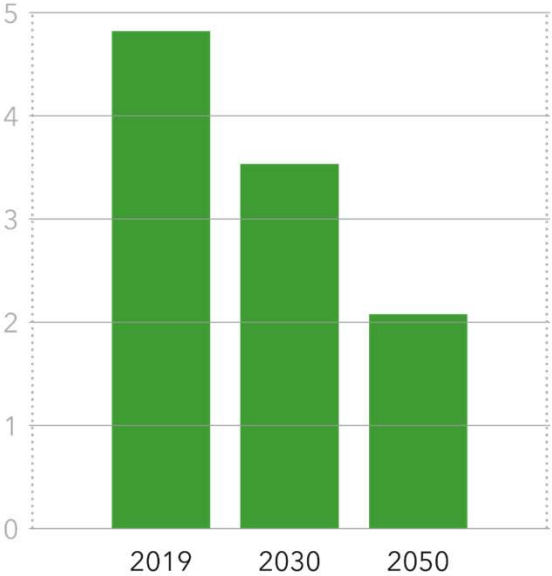
Electrification

Electricity share in final energy demand



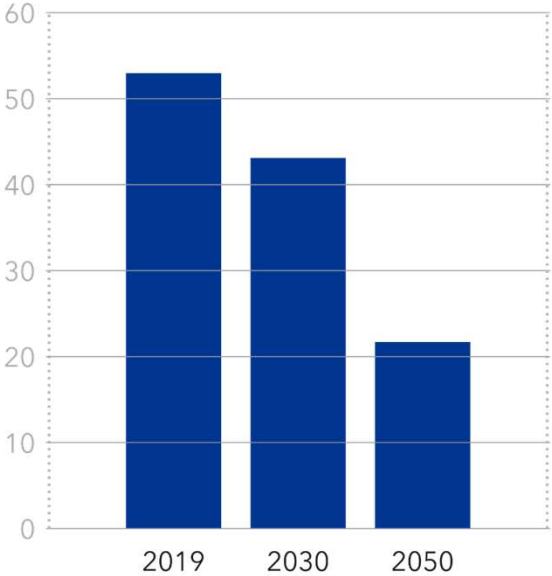
Energy intensity

Units: MJ/USD

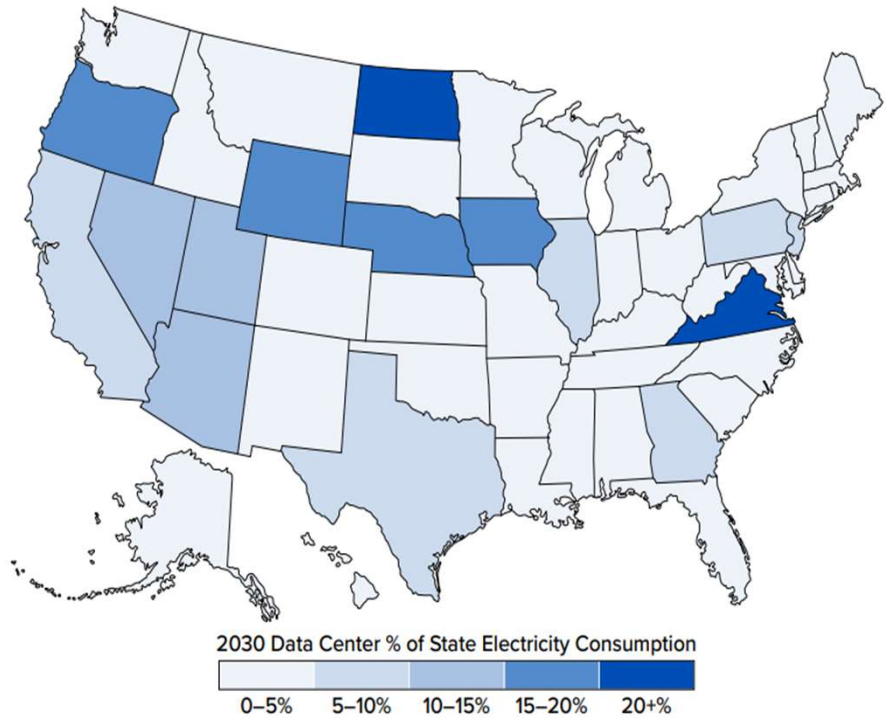
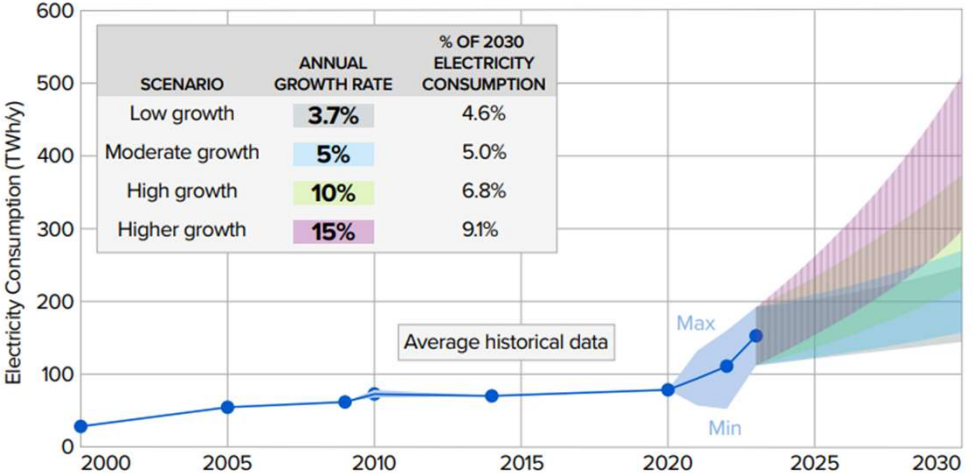


Carbon intensity

Units: gCO₂/MJ



Data center load will dramatically grow

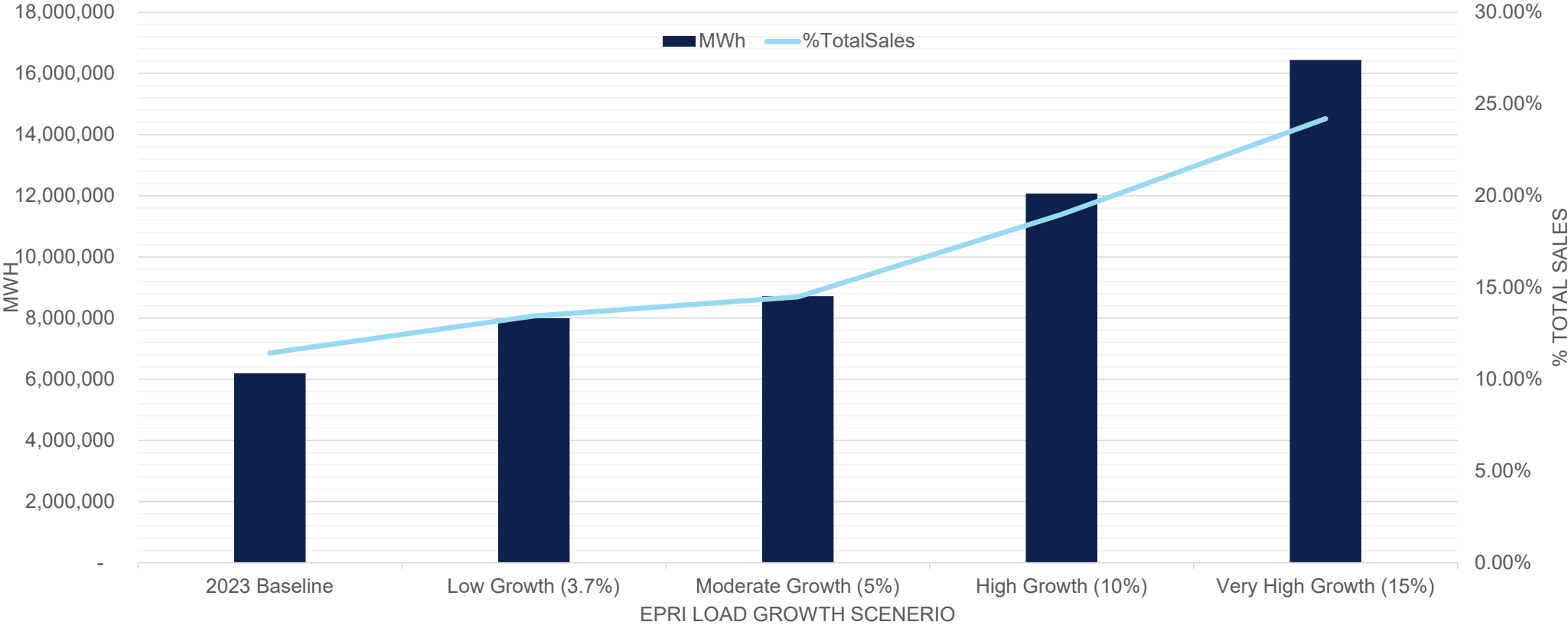


Source: EPRI AI & Data Center Energy Consumption 2024



Data centers will add 1.78 – 10.25 TWh of new load

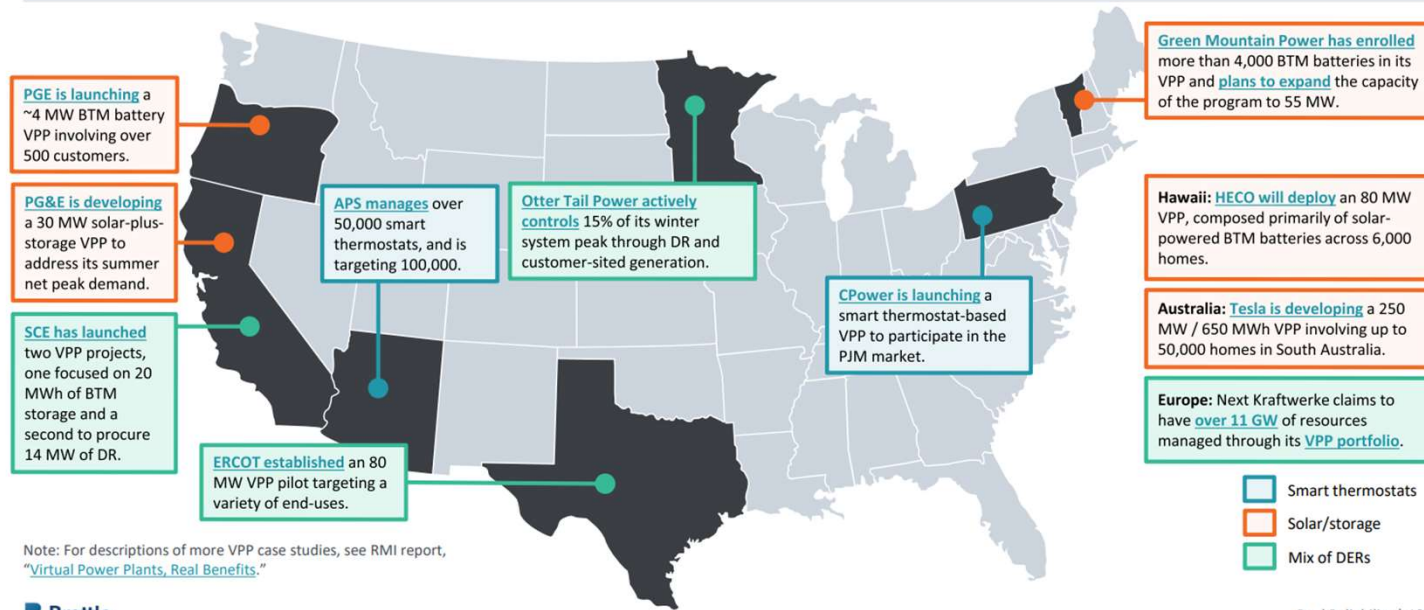
Forecasted Data Center Load Growth in Iowa in 2030



Policy Principals of a VPP

Early state's establishing VPP pilots

To a degree, VPPs have existed for decades as demand response programs. But VPPs are rapidly evolving to leverage the expanding mix of DER technologies.

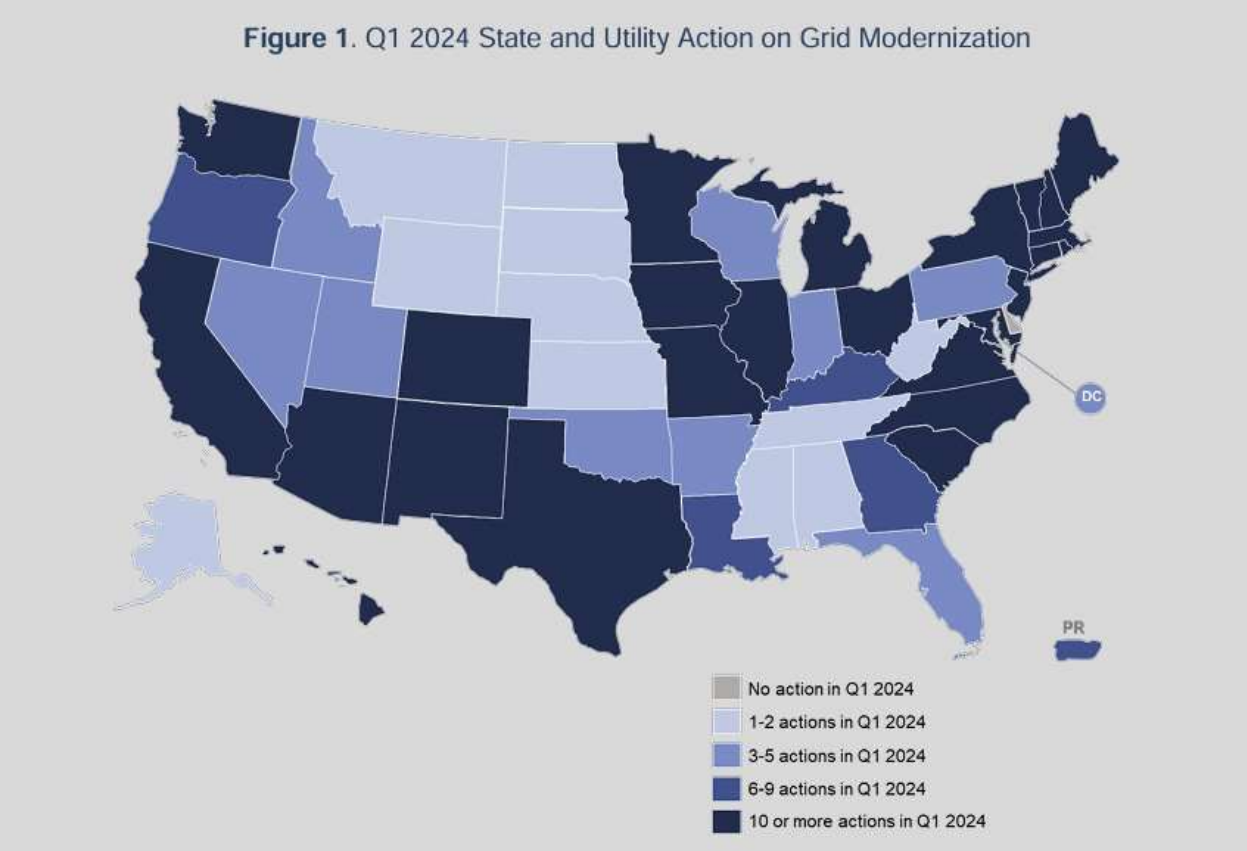


Slide 13

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Early state's establishing VPP pilots



VP3's policy principals that advance VPPs



DER Asset Base

- Advance policies that expand DER adoption by diverse end-users
- Technology-agnostic approach



VPP Design

- Require open protocols & standards
- Follow lessons of early programs
- Support utility planning & investment



Compensation

- Fair compensation for services delivered
- Enable value stacking
- Support policies that value VPP contribution to reliability



Customer Exp

- Maintain customer choice
- Customer data ownership
- Educate customers & make enrollment easy




Operators Role

- Enable wholesale & retail market participation
- Encourage 3rd party providers
- Open-source EM&V

AMI saturation by state

 73% Residential

 70% Commercial

 70% Industrial

 73% Across USA

State	Res. AMI sat. %	Comm. AMI sat. %	Ind. AMI sat. %	Total AMI sat. %
AK	76%	66%	67%	75%
AL	90%	85%	97%	89%
AR	81%	75%	91%	81%
AZ	90%	92%	77%	90%
CA	85%	88%	72%	86%
CO	63%	38%	92%	60%
CT	18%	17%	16%	18%
DC	100%	98%	0%	99%
DE	94%	94%	95%	94%
FL	93%	92%	79%	93%
GA	92%	89%	84%	92%
HI	49%	22%	13%	46%
IA	46%	49%	65%	47%
ID	81%	81%	93%	81%
IL	93%	93%	94%	93%
IN	74%	67%	72%	73%
KS	95%	93%	94%	95%
KY	50%	40%	25%	49%
LA	79%	65%	81%	77%
MA	8%	6%	23%	8%
MD	87%	86%	4%	86%
ME	94%	91%	82%	94%
MI	97%	94%	72%	97%
MN	48%	39%	31%	47%
MO	74%	66%	67%	73%
MS	81%	75%	81%	80%
MT	28%	20%	48%	27%
NC	90%	89%	64%	90%
ND	32%	22%	71%	31%
NE	31%	42%	92%	36%
NH	21%	21%	3%	21%
NJ	16%	18%	28%	16%
NM	15%	15%	72%	15%
NV	96%	96%	75%	96%
NY	18%	22%	10%	18%
OH	52%	49%	55%	52%
OK	91%	90%	98%	91%
OR	91%	93%	90%	91%
PA	98%	98%	96%	98%
RI	1%	1%	4%	1%
SC	80%	77%	65%	79%
SD	61%	63%	67%	61%
TN	95%	92%	76%	94%
TX	91%	86%	65%	90%
UT	26%	28%	22%	26%
VA	74%	72%	74%	74%
VT	85%	90%	87%	86%
WA	60%	57%	51%	60%
WI	82%	80%	71%	82%
WV	31%	31%	13%	31%
WY	40%	38%	64%	40%

What exactly is/isn't a VPP?

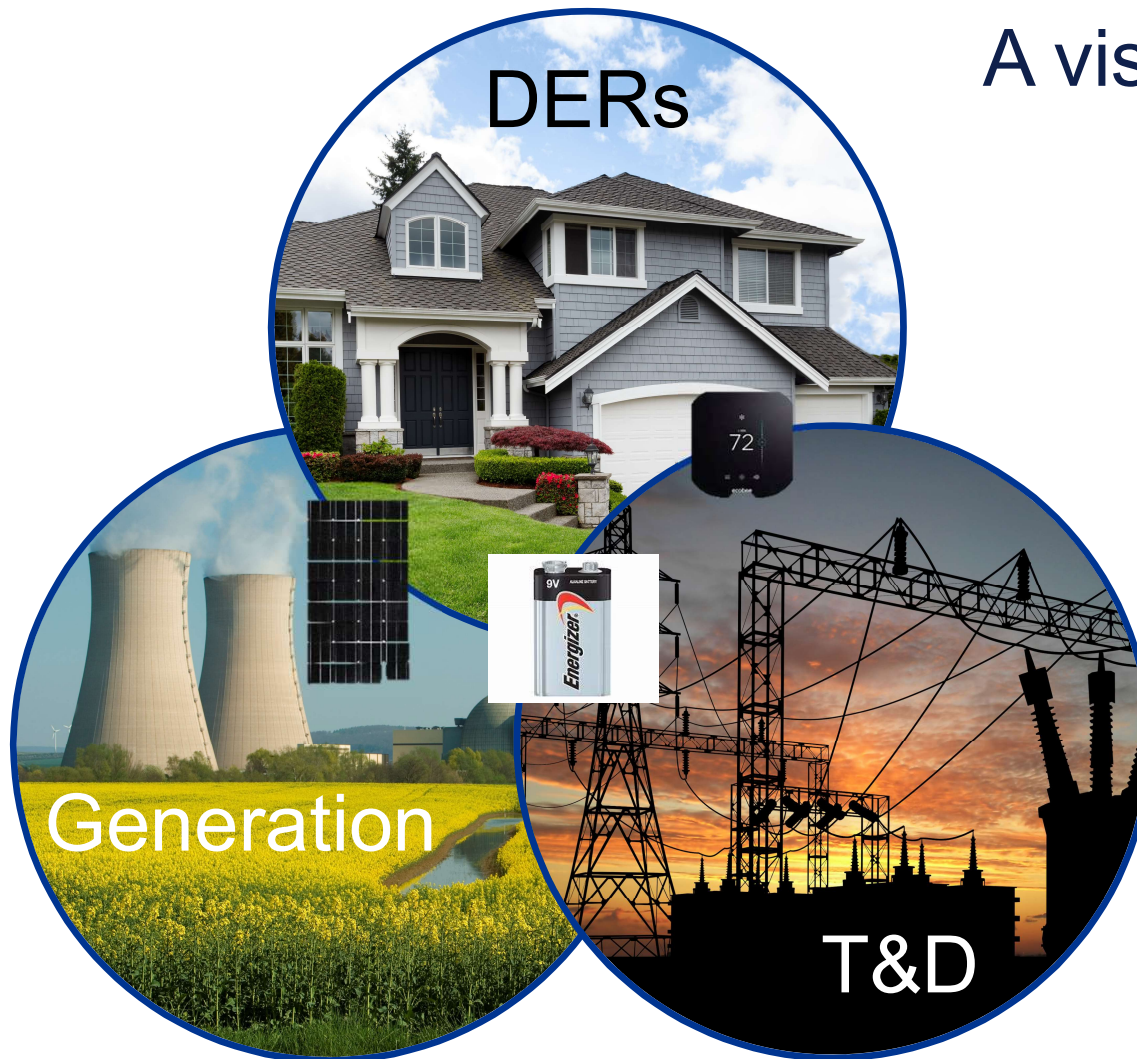
DOE definition

VPPs are aggregations of distributed energy resources (DERs) such as rooftop solar with behind-the-meter (BTM) batteries, electric vehicles (EVs) and chargers, electric water heaters, smart buildings and their controls, and flexible commercial and industrial (C&I) loads that can balance electricity demand and supply and provide utility-scale and utility-grade grid services like a traditional power plant. VPPs enroll DER owners – including residential, commercial, and industrial electricity consumers – in a variety of participation models that offer rewards for contributing to efficient grid operations.

Layman's definition

VPP's aggregate customer technology into a single resource to get more out of the grid we've already paid for

A visual definition of a VPP



A Distributed Energy Resource (DER) is

- Small-scale resource sited BTM
- Provides a grid-service by
 - Injecting power back to the grid
 - Reducing demand from a device
 - Active Control
 - Scheduling Load
- Providing an alternative resource for balancing

Four universal basics of all VPPs



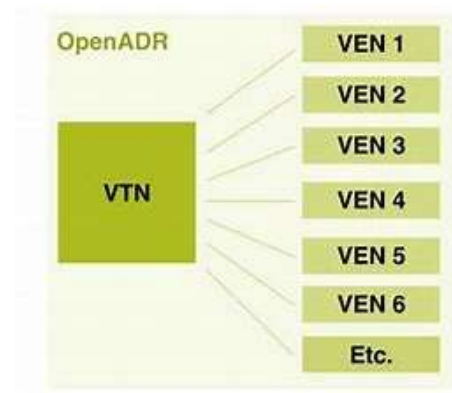
Capacity lives behind the meter

- Ownership and control models over the DER can vary, but the capacity comes from BTM



Monetized by Arbitrage

- VPPs create value by using/storing energy when its cheap and deferring/exporting capacity when its expensive



Require Aggregation

- The key to VPPs is to aggregate and orchestrate many DERs
VPPs are evolving from one-way (paging) systems

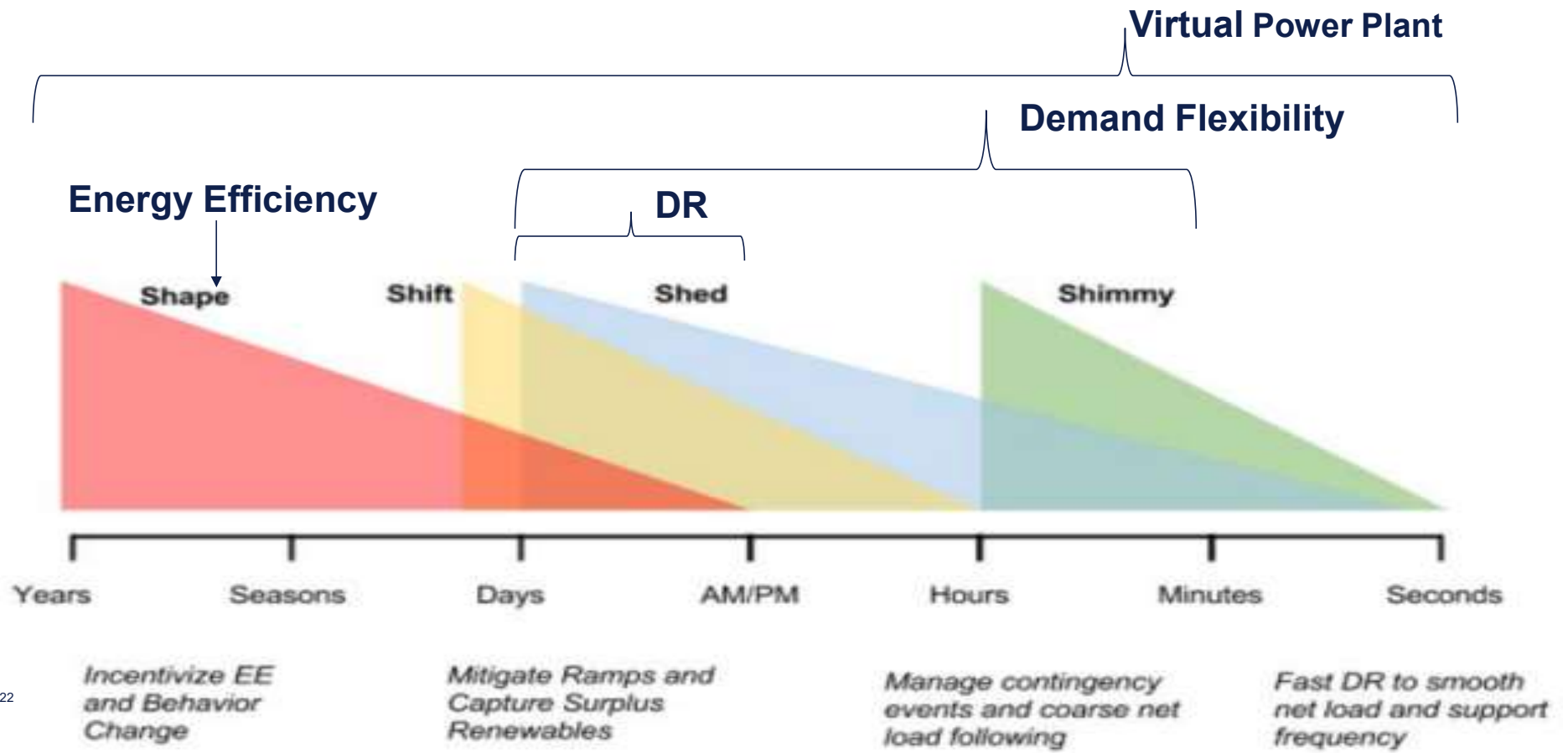


Avoid or Defer other Grid Costs

- VPPs avoid or defer utility investments into generation, T&D, and Ancillary Services

What powers a VPP?

Grid view of customer services



22

Where does VPP capacity come from?



Residential Customer

- Shape: Insulation
- Shift: Smart T-Stat
- Shed: Pool Pump
- Shimmy: GIWH
- Inject: Net-metering



Commercial Customer

- Shape: LED retrofit
- Shift: Adv Rooftop Controls
- Shed: Lighting Controls
- Shimmy: Stationary Battery
- Inject: Bi-directional EV Fleet EVSE



Industrial Customer

- Shape: Custom Project
- Shift: Industrial Operations
- Shed: Interruptible Load
- Shimmy: Lith-Ion Forklift
- Inject: CHP

What core technologies power VPPs



Smart T-Stat

- Residential & SMB
- Easy to schedule
- Requires a tight envelope to maintain occupant comfort



GIWH

- Residential & SMB
- Easy to schedule
- ~50% of water heaters will require a fuel switch



EV/EVSE

- Light Duty → Fleet
- Difficult to schedule
- Limited to no applications today



Rooftop Solar

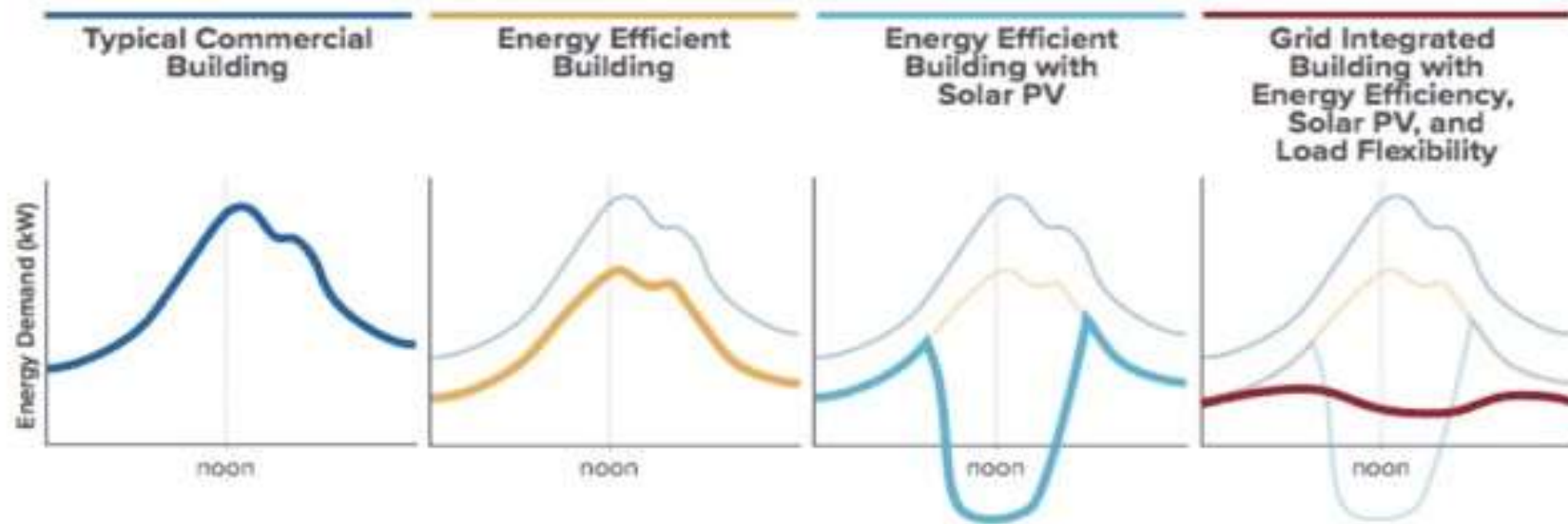
- Most customer types
- Depended on season
- Expensive & net metering is changing



Battery Storage

- Most customer types
- Easy to schedule
- Expensive, but can perform most grid-services and easy to pair with solar

How IoT makes buildings more flexible



When all building loads are integrated into a common platform, you get flexibility in:

- Ability to optimize for cost, carbon or reliability based on a price or emissions trigger
- Ability to forecast flexible load potential
- Ability to automate curtailment while balancing occupant comfort

Future Challenges?

Customer & societal challenges



Cost-Related Barriers: High initial investment and the need for additional upgrades.



Socioeconomic Barriers: Challenges in underserved communities, including lack of capital and affordable home ownership.



Market Access Challenges: Limited ability to participate in a wholesale market

Integration & interoperability challenges



Compatibility with Existing Grid Infrastructure: Ensuring that DERs and VPP systems can integrate smoothly with current grid systems.



Standardization of Communication Protocols: Lack of recognized communication standards to streamline VPP operations and response to grid conditions.

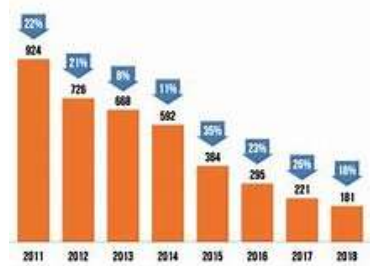


Operational Challenges: Need for improved control technologies, streamlined communications, and customer-engaging compensation models.

Future Opportunities

Five forces moving VPPs to an inflection point

Cost of a Li-Ion Battery Pack, Volume-Weighted
USD dollars per kilowatt hour



enr.com

Declining DER Costs

- Especially true for BESS
- Eventually for EVs



IoT Trends

- Traditional devices are going 'Smart' giving everything an IP address & sensor



Enhanced Dispatchability

- The algorithms used to orchestrate DERs are improving



Policy Goals

- FERC 222 will open wholesale markets to VPPs
- The IRA invests in electrification & EE

Midland Area Electricity Utility Price Rates (Past 3



Rates Continue to Rise

- Electric rates are outpacing inflation. PUCs will seek to avoid future costs

The business impacts of demand flexibility



**Service based
business
models**



**IoT expertise &
device Cx**



**Performance
based
incentives**

Uncommon partnership

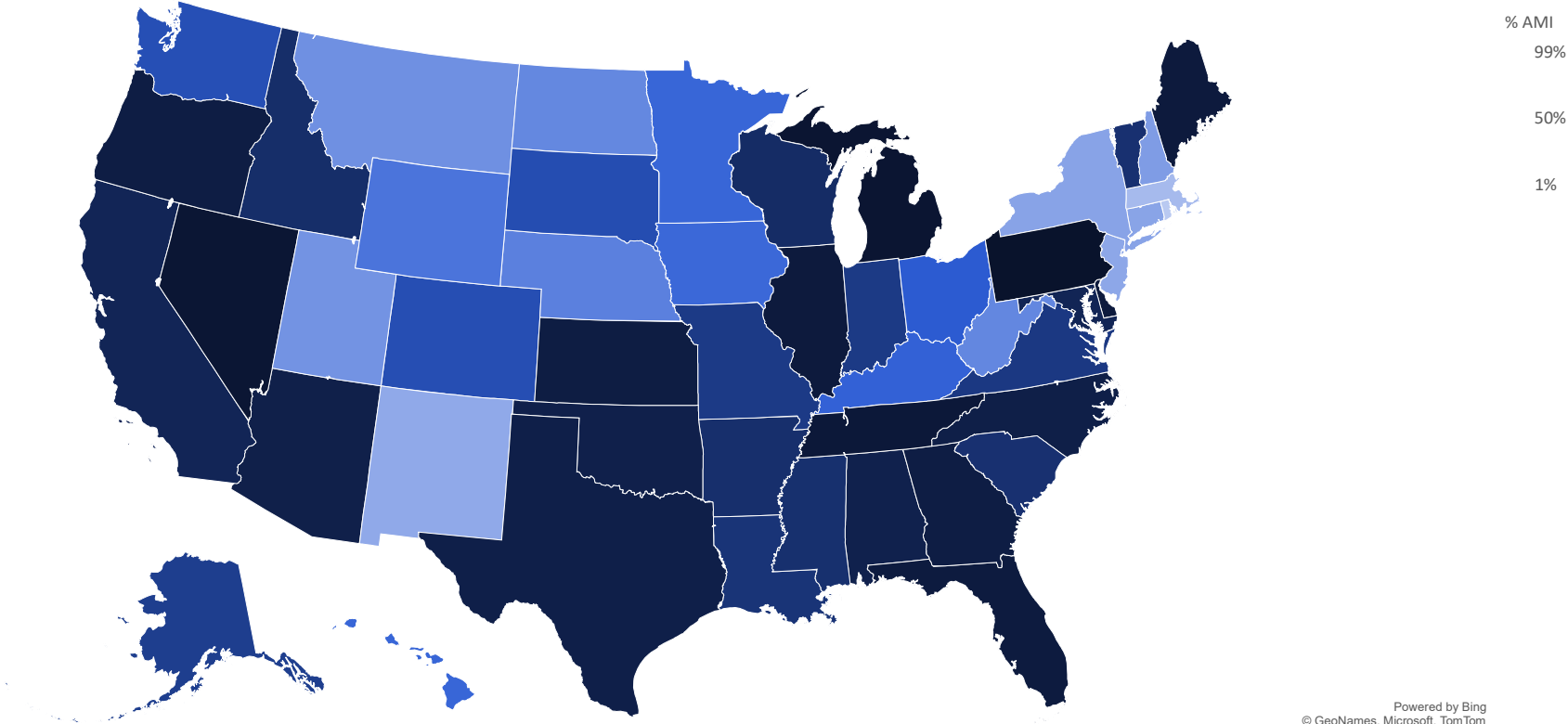
"In the evolving energy landscape, no single company or sector can thrive in isolation. It's the uncommon partnerships—between contractors, utilities, tech providers, and aggregators—that will unlock the full potential of demand flexibility and transform traditional business models into future-proof, value-driven services."



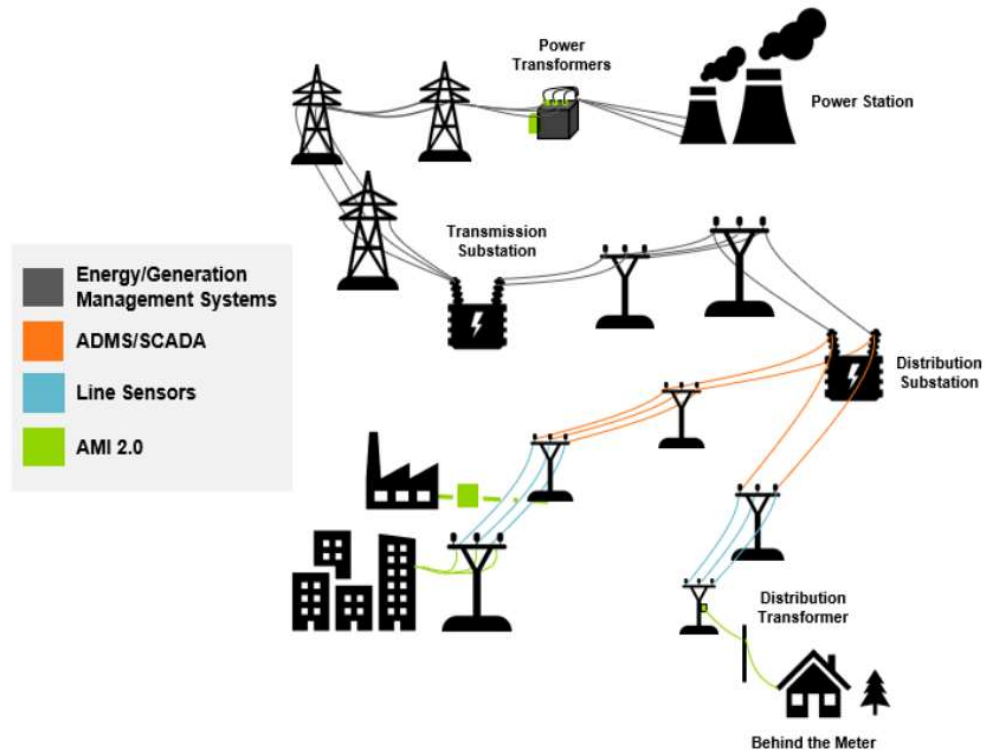
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State of Utility Advanced Metering – AMI Only

AMI Only Deployment by State - 2022 EIA 861 Adv. Meter Data
US Simple AVG = 65%



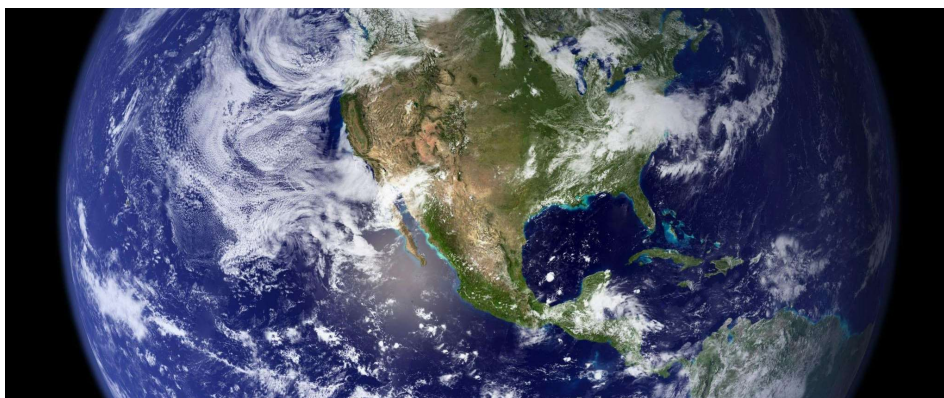
Technical Operability for the Grid



(Source: Guidehouse Insights)

- Real-time visibility into the distribution system
- Coordination between different utility-grid control systems (ADMS < - > DERMs)

Policy makers need to enable markets for DERs



Utility Markets

- Demand Response Programs
- Capacity Payment
- Non-Wires-Alternative



Wholesale Markets

- Frequency Regulation
- Voltage Support
- Energy Arbitrage

Abstract

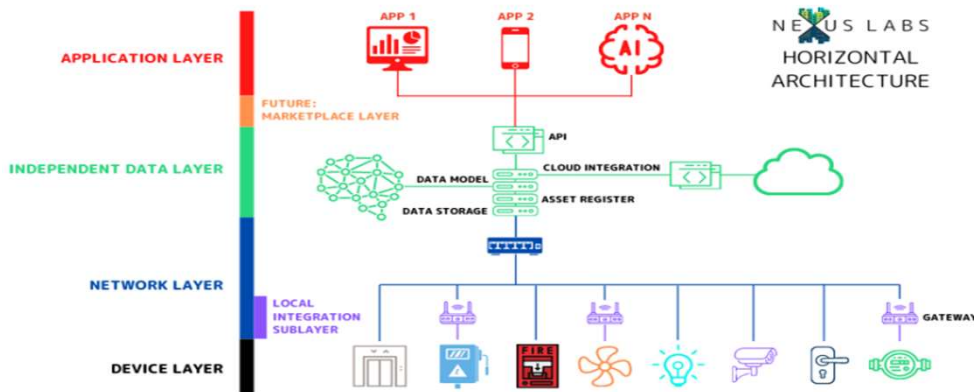
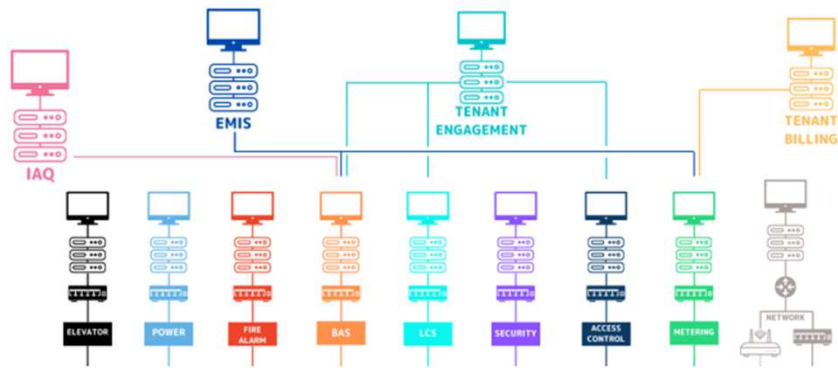
- Abstract Description: *
- Join Wes Whited, a nationally recognized IoT expert, for a deep dive into Virtual Power Plants (VPPs)! The session will explore how these innovative systems aggregate distributed energy resources (DERs) like rooftop solar and battery storage to create a powerful, flexible grid resource. We will delve into the DERs that contribute capacity to the VPP and how market structures like demand response programs unlock stackable revenue streams. We will estimate the exciting market potential for VPPs in Iowa by leveraging real-world data from energy sales and projecting organic growth through market-based electrification opportunities



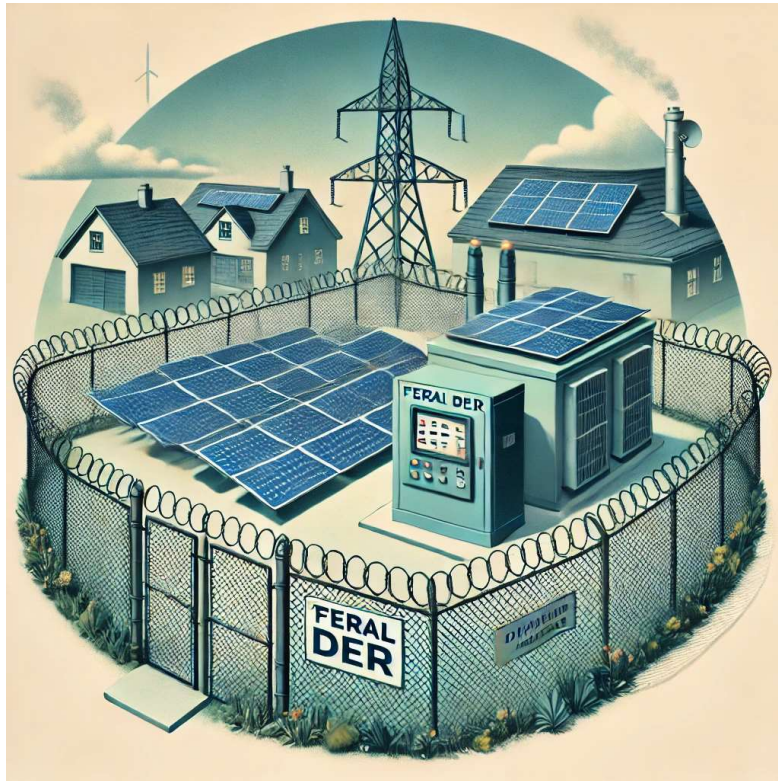
Learning Objectives

- The audience will understand the core concept of Virtual Power Plants and their role in creating flexibility for the modern grid.
- The audience will be able to identify the various distributed energy resources (DERs) contributing to a VPP and the critical customer segments likely to adopt these DERs.
- The audience will learn about market structures, such as demand response programs that monetize VPP capacity, and leave with real-world examples of successful early programs
 - *
- The audience will gain insights into the market potential for VPPs based on Iowa's electric sales data and electrification growth trends.

Interoperability at the building level



What's the best place to start?



- Customer education
- Smart Thermostats
- Water heater controllers