## VAEEC 2021 ENERGY EFFICIENCY FORUM

# **Getting Smarter with Energy Efficiency Technology**

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:05-2:20 pm





## **AGENDA**

Getting Smarter with EE Technology

- Google Energy Solutions
- Smart Communities in AL and GA
- Urban Planning and Energy Technology
- Q&A











**Keven Brough**Google

Phil Markham Southern Company **Damian Pitt**Virginia Commonwealth
University

KC Bleile Viridiant Moderator

Sponsored by







## A Google Perspective

- Philosophy (from my perch)
- Products
  - o EIE
  - Renew
- Policy

At Google, we build technology that helps people do more for the planet.



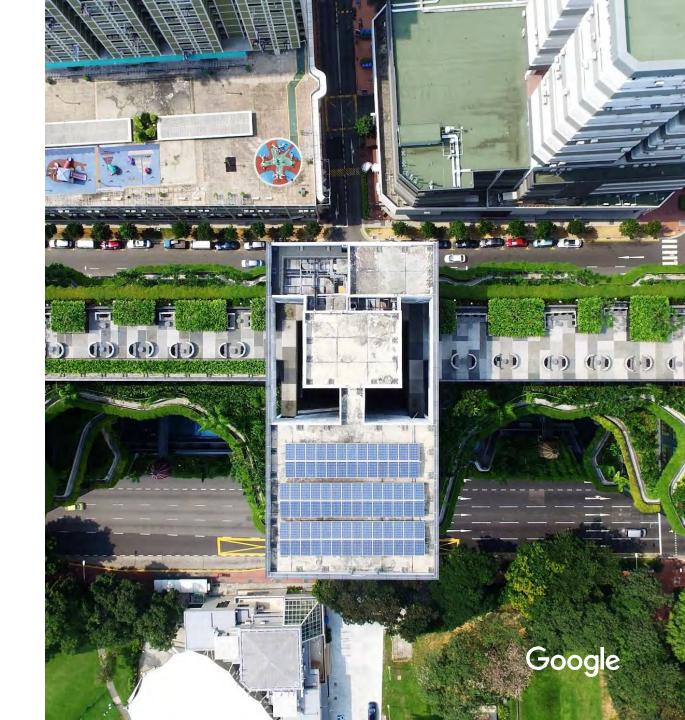
The global state of climate change requires action - and the time to act is now

2030

CO, emissions need to be cut in half

2050

achieve carbon neutrality



Our third decade of climate action: realizing a carbon free future.

Help over 500 cities or local governments reduce

## 1 gigaton

of carbon emissions annually by 2030 and beyond.



Cities are central to climate change action, contributing 70% of the world's CO2 emissions. However, lack of data and insights have made it challenging to take action.



Data access is limited and costly

## The Solution:

# The Environmental Insights Explorer

Providing trustworthy, timely insights to accelerate climate action through data-driven decisions.



#### Access to Google's mapping data and ML capabilities

The Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) uses exclusive data sources and modeling capabilities in a freely available platform to help cities measure emission sources, run analyses, and identify strategies to reduce emissions — creating a foundation for effective action.

Learn more in Methodology.



Today, EIE is accessible to thousands of cities worldwide.

To browse current set of cities, go to....



9,000+

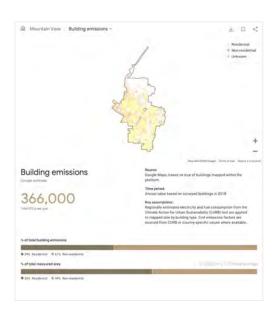
City datasets currently available

## EIE helps cities address and measure climate impact in 4 ways



#### Measure

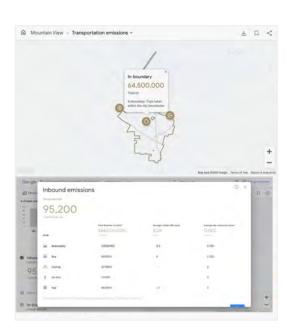
Estimate your city's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions





#### Plan

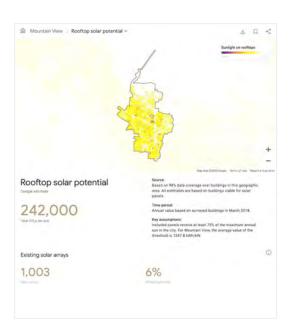
Run scenarios based on granular levels of data and adjustable inputs





#### Act

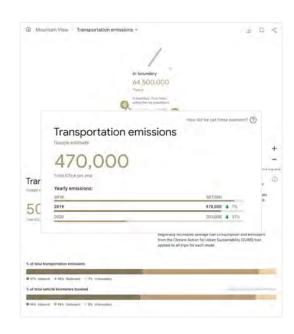
Inform mitigation goals and identify reduction opportunities

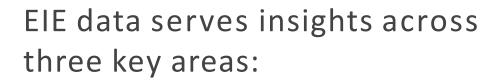




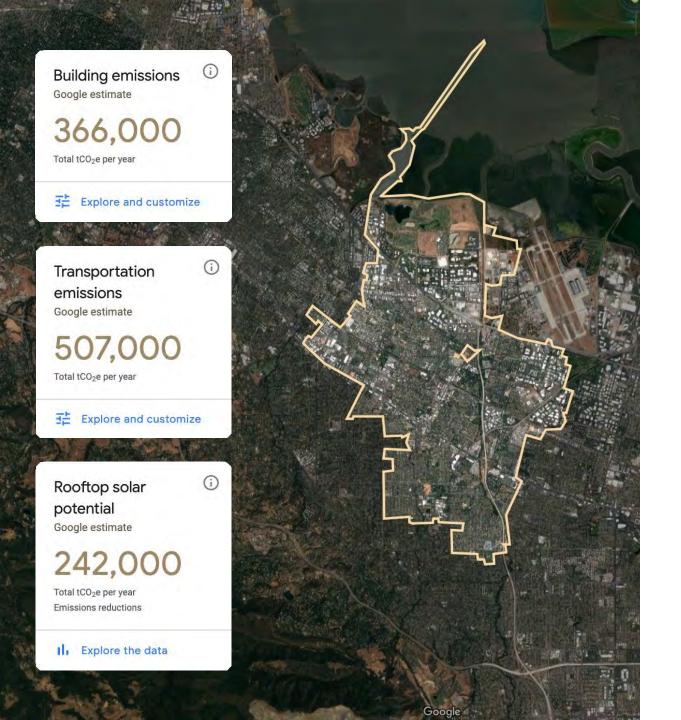
#### Track

Monitor progress in meeting goals and the effects on human health





- Building emissions
- Transportation emissions
- Rooftop solar potential
- New data pilots (Tree Canopy, AQ)



#### Cities are the primary actors

Supporting staff in the offices/ departments of Environment & Sustainability



Lara Cottingham
Chief Sustainability Officer
City of Houston, TX USA

#### **Consultants and Conveners are helpers**

Collaborate with key organizations & NGOS that governments rely on to complete climate action plans.



Consultants
Greenlink Analytics
Providing clean energy
expertise and
consulting.



Global Covenant of Mayors Represent networks of governments prioritizing climate.

Conveners

# EIE partners with external organizations and providers of climate tools in the industry:









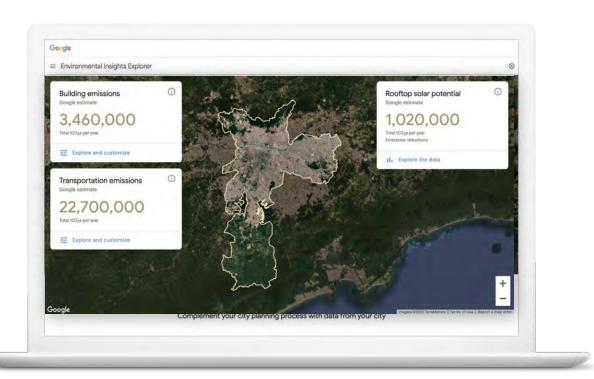










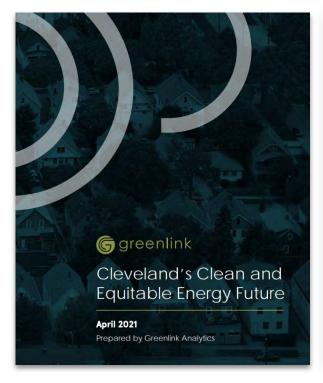


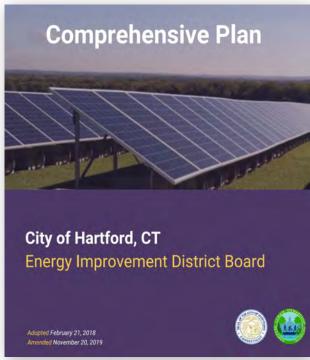
**View EIE Tutorials** 

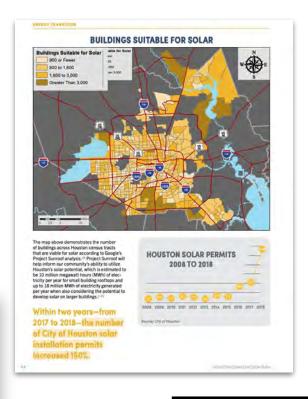
**Explore the EIE Site** 

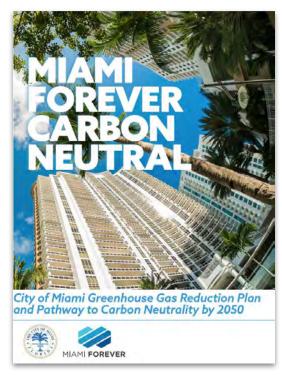


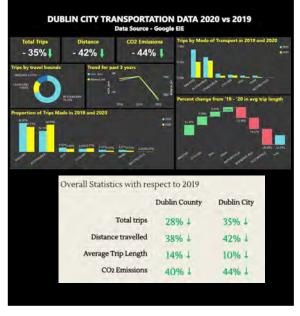
# Supporting Governments to reduce emissions and protect vulnerable populations





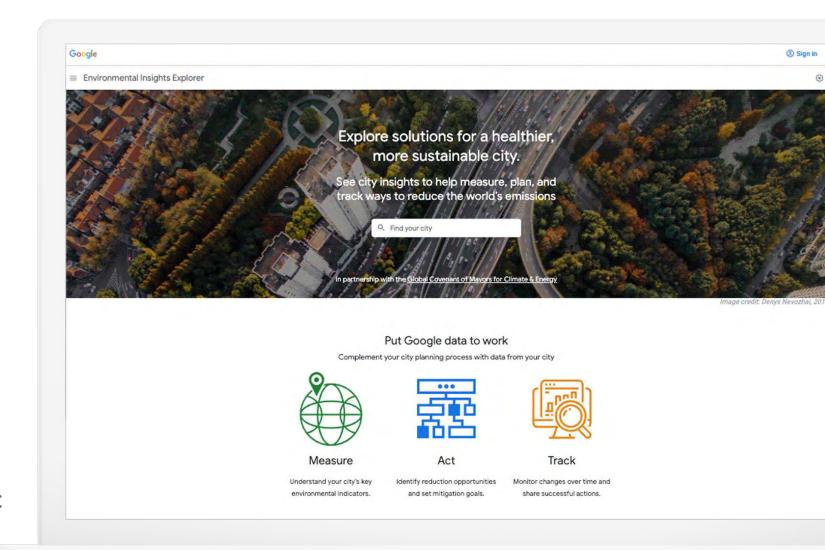






# At the Insights Workspace you can:

- 1 Test drive EIE data
- 2 Incorporate data into planning efforts
- 3 Share data across departments and the public





A service for your Nest thermostat that makes it easy to support a clean energy future, right from your home.



Getting more clean energy on the grid is key to addressing climate change.

- And a smart, dynamic grid
- needs smarter homes.



Nest thermostats have helped customers save over 80B kWh — enough to power 23M electric cars for a year.



## There are two questions we want to answer with Nest Renew



### **Present**

How can we help make better use of the clean energy on the grid today?



**Future** 

How can we help support the growth of clean energy?

#### See Your Power

Gives customers the ability to see when the electricity serving their home is cleaner - and when it's not so clean - so they can take additional actions around the house to increase impact.

Even a few actions when the grid is not so clean, like turning off extra lights or running the laundry a little later, can start to really add up.

#### Current Power Mix



Your power mix is very clean clean and is projected to get less clean in an hour.

Learn more

#### Current Power Mix



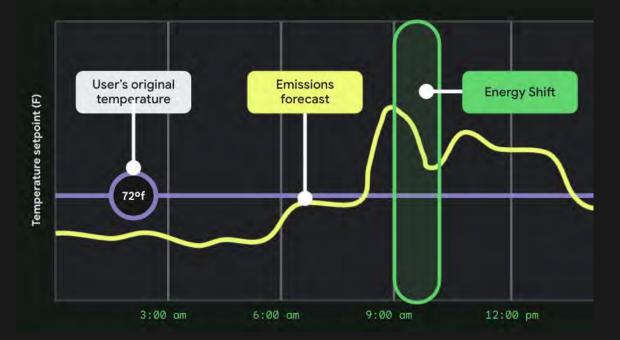
Your power mix is not very clean and is projected to get cleaner in an hour.

Learn more.

## **Energy Shift**

Energy shift will help customers with a compatible Nest thermostat shift their HVAC electricity usage to when energy is cleaner.

## Emissions-based Energy management



## **Energy Shift**

For customers on certain time-of-use plans, Energy Shift will also help them automatically respond to price signals embedded in their utility rate.

# Use energy when it's cheaper

+25 Leafs

Some utilities charge different rates depending on the time of day. Energy Shift can work with your compatible Nest thermostat to help you automatically prioritize usage of less expensive energy. Add your rate code to get started.

Add Rate Code

Dismiss

#### **Utility Program Enrollment**

Rush Hour Rewards is an existing residential demand response program that Nest provides through DERMS providers that collectively serve more than 30% of U.S. households.

Rush Hour Rewards programs will be surfaced to all Renew users in eligible areas making enrollment more accessible, decreasing friction, and enabling demand response programs to have an even greater impact on grid stability.

# Earn rewards from [utility]



Get [X] from [utility] for enrolling in their Rush Hour Rewards program. When energy demand is high, Rush Hour Rewards can automatically adjust your thermostat to use less during these peak periods. Earning leafs & badges will help customers easily track their impact.

Energy Impact Program gives customers the ability to put their leafs to work, extending their impact. When they reach milestones, they can help steer our donations to nonprofits focused on clean energy.

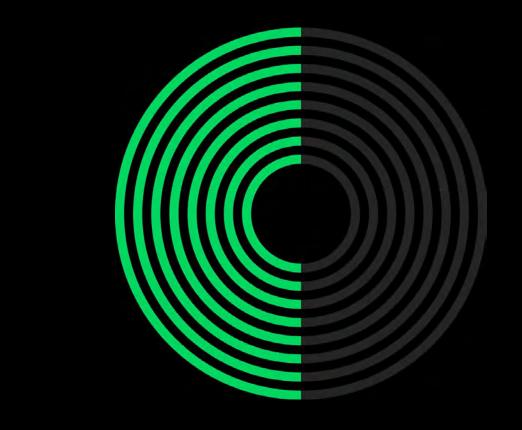






#### EARLY PREVIEW PREMIUM ONLY

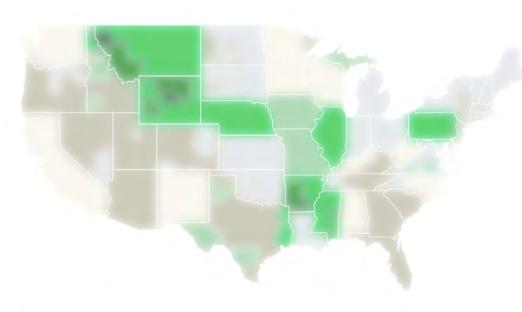
Clean Energy Match helps our customers support clean energy by matching their estimated fossil fuel electricity use with renewable energy credits from U.S. wind and solar plants.



Clean energy match

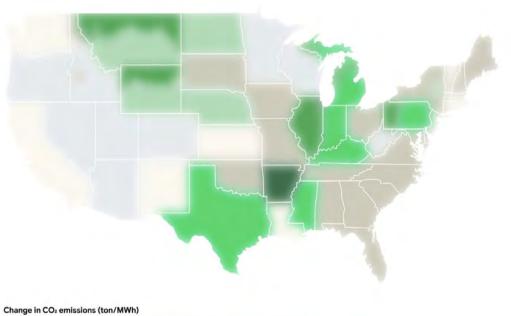
## Carbon-targeted procurement





Change in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (ton/MWh)







A new service from Google that works with your Nest thermostat to make it easy to support a clean energy future, right from home.

Announcement: October 6

Launches: Q4 2021 (limited early preview)



#### Basic

Join for free to start making an impact.

#### See your Power

See when the electricity serving your home is clean, or not so clean, so you can take additional actions to increase your impact.

#### **Energy Shift**

A new feature for Nest Thermostats that makes small adjustments to help you save energy and make better use of clean energy sources in your region.

#### Earn Renew Leafs

You earn Leafs when you use Renew features to support clean energy. When you reach a Leaf milestone, extend your positive impact by directing Nest funds to nonprofit partners.

#### Premium

Maximize your impact and support for a clean energy future.

#### Clean Energy Match

Match your home's fossil fuel electricity use with renewable energy credits from wind and solar plants. Together, we can help support a cleaner future.

#### More Leafs, more impact

Unlock more Leafs each day as a member of Premium to help you reach more milestones. The more you reach, the more you'll be able to help steer our support to our non-profit partners

#### Bill Pay

Conveniently pay your utility bill through Google

















## Southern Company Smart Neighborhoods

**VAEEC 2021 Energy Efficiency Forum** 

November 15th, 2021

Phil Markham

Research & Development

**Southern Company** 



## Southern Company Smart Neighborhood Initiatives Understanding tomorrow's home today

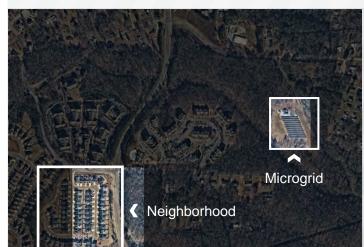
Two first-of-a-kind smart home communities at the intersection of energy efficiency, distributed energy resources & buildings-to-grid integration and the traditional utility model





- 46 townhomes
- Atlanta, Georgia
- Homeowner owned solar + storage
- Grid integration of solar, storage, HVAC, water heating & EV charging





- 62 single-family homes
- Birmingham, Alabama
- Utility owned, grid-connected microgrid
  - → 330 kW solar
  - → 680 kWh storage
  - → 400 kW NG generator
- Grid integration of microgrid, water heating & HVAC

#### **Major Research Partners**

Electric Power Research Institute and U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory

### **Key Vendor Partners**

LG Chem, Delta, Carrier, ecobee, Rheem, SkyCentrics, Flair, Vivint, Pulte Homes, Signature Homes

#### **Key Results**

Homes are 30-40% more efficient EV makes up 15-20% of total usage Successful microgrid islanding New business opportunities deployed





# **SMART NEIGHBORHOOD®**

## **Objective**

Design and build a **first-of-a-kind smart home community** to understand and prepare for evolving customer expectations and future grid needs

## Scope

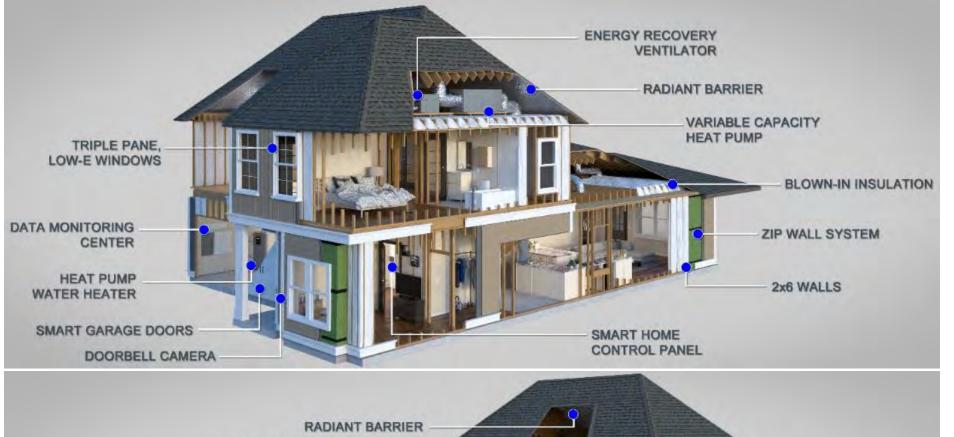
Demonstrate **distributed energy resource (DER)** use cases optimizing cost, reliability, and environmental impact with a **community-scale microgrid** 

Demonstrate **62 high-performance homes with connected home technologies** providing an improved customer experience

Demonstrate **buildings-to-grid integration** with real-time utility-to-customer interaction



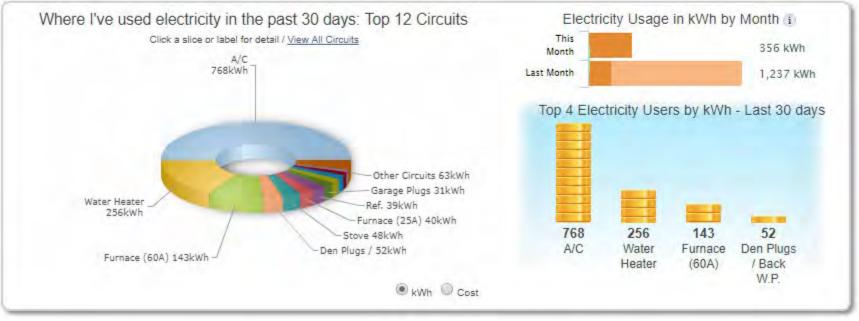


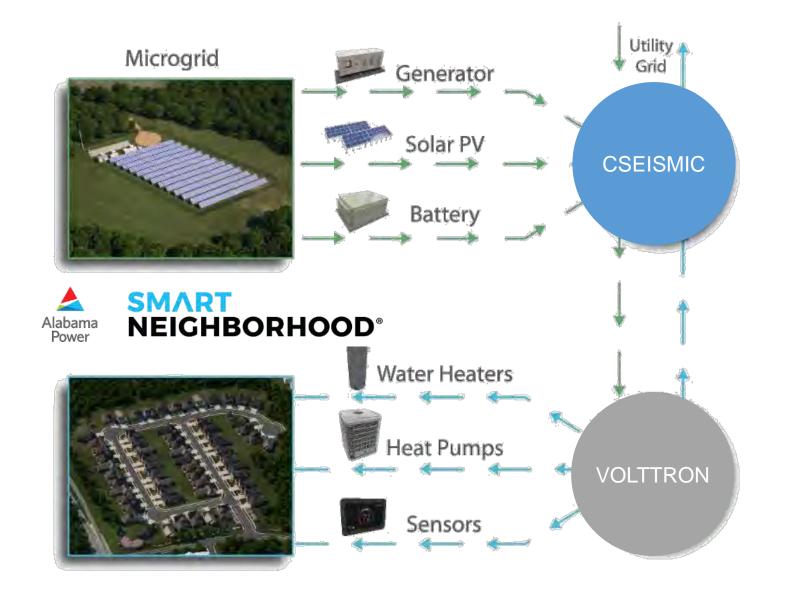








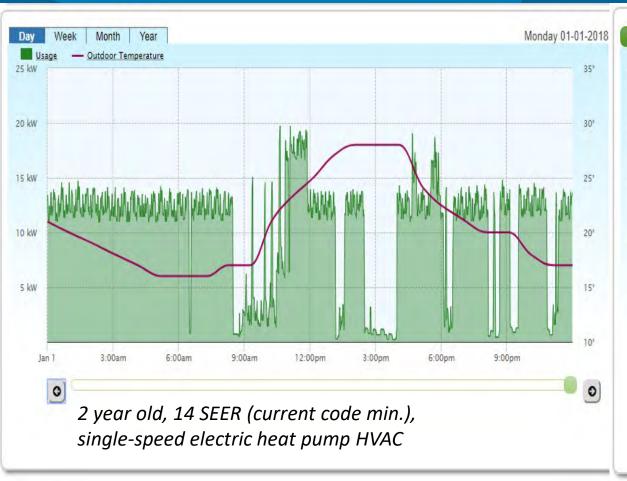




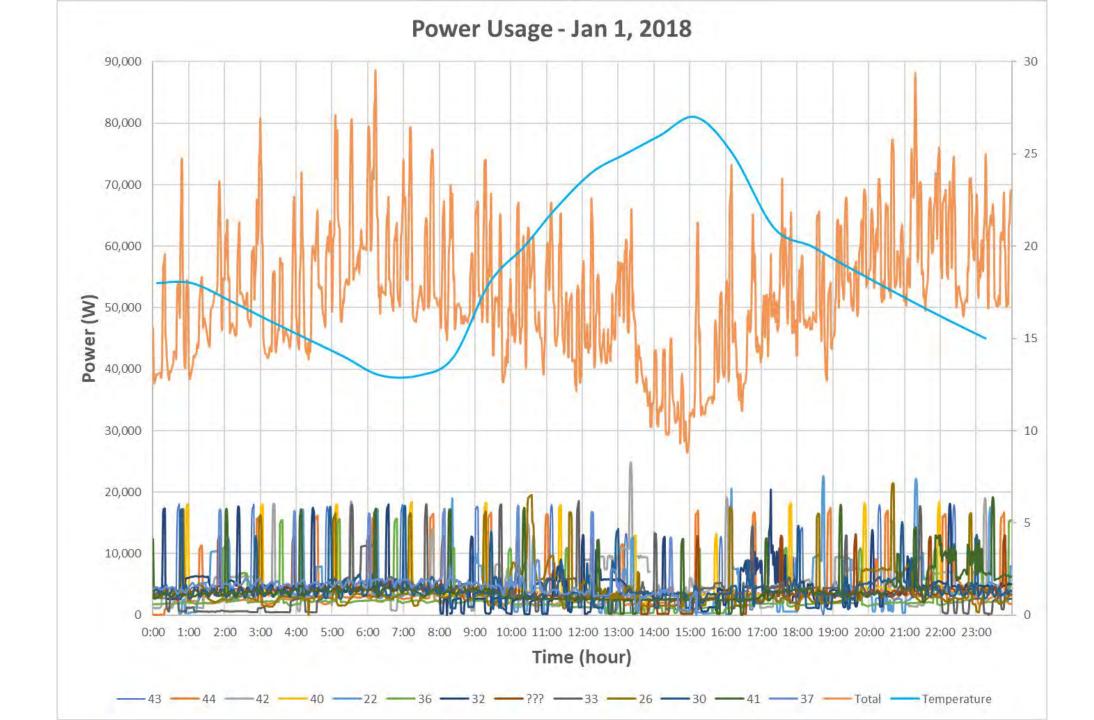
#### Two Homes on a Cold Day (1/1/2018):

Home 1: Standard

#### Home 2: Smart Neighborhood











Smart Georgia Power Neighborhood™



- 3.6 kW per home
  - 166 kW total for neighborhood
- Producing 12.5 kWh/day (6/2019 – 9/2020)
  - ~90% of modeled results
  - May has the highest solar generation by month in Atlanta
- Approx. 30 40% annual energy use of homes



- 2 x LG Chem RESU10h
- DC-Coupled Delta Electronics Inverter
- Critical Load Panel
  - Refrigerator
  - Safety Lighting
  - Internet
  - Rooftop Retreat

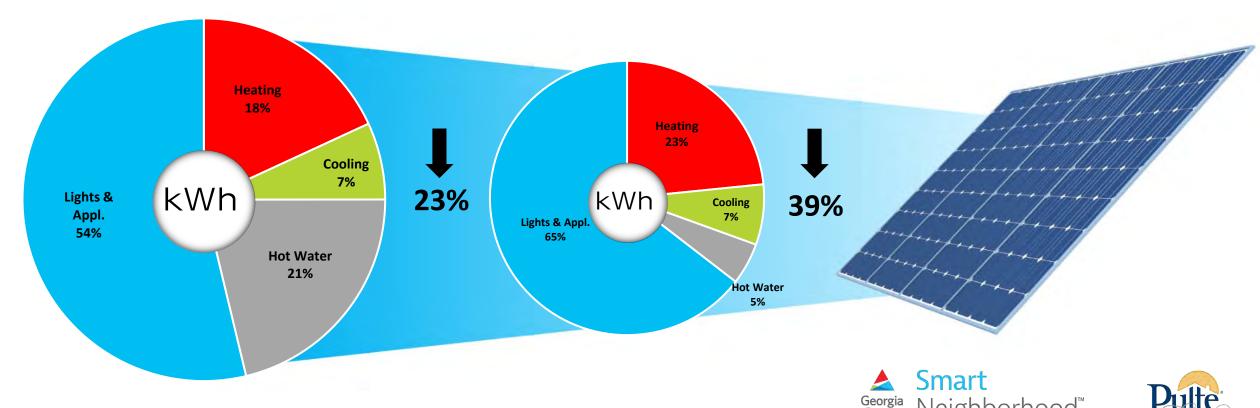
**Altus Home built** to code

**Smart Neighborhood Efficiency Update** 

**Add in Solar Generation** 

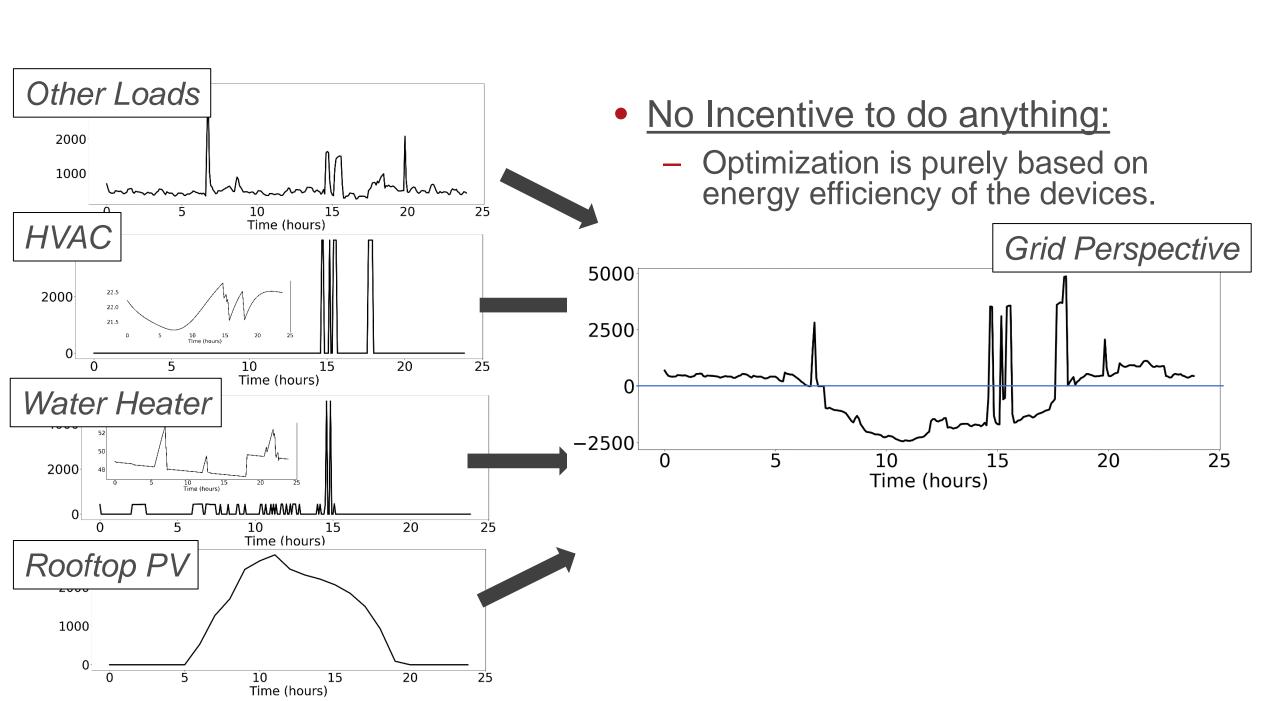
7,480

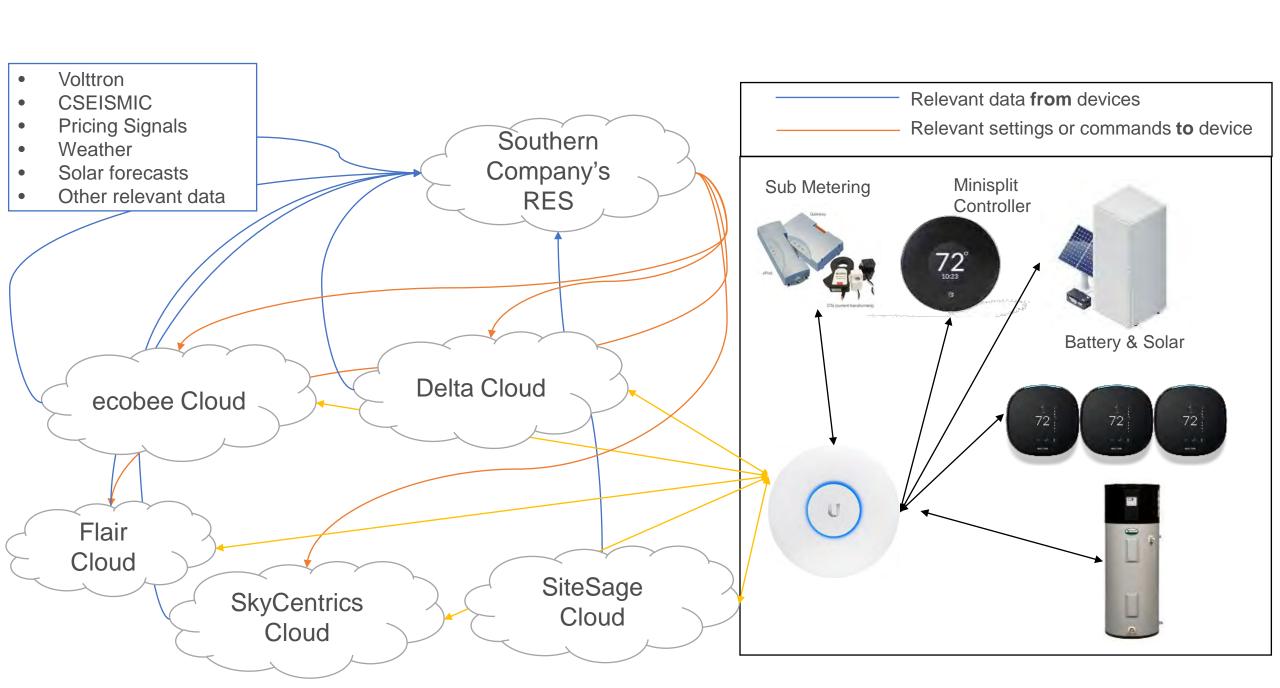
12,295 15,911 Total (kWh):



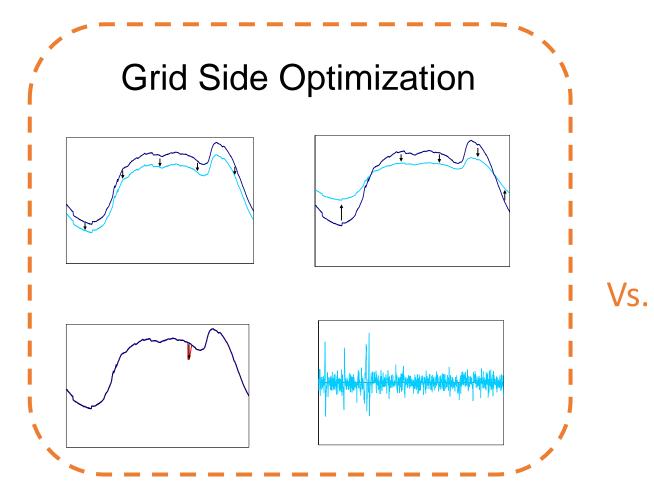


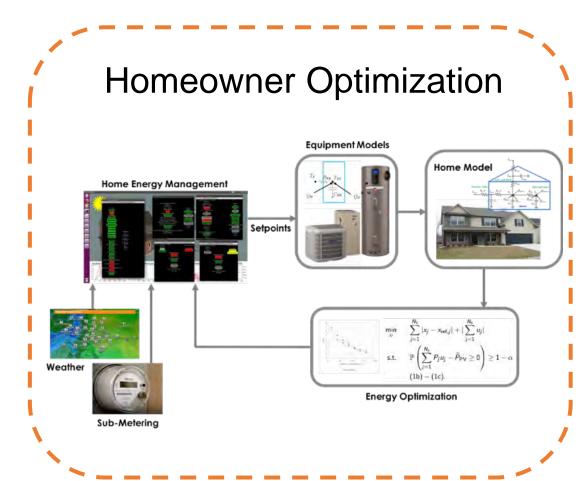


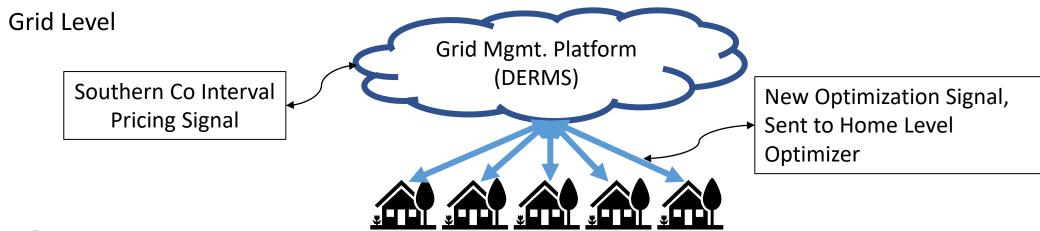




It is a balancing act to effectively manage resource efficiency and homeowner comfort











#### Individual Home Level

#### **External Data Inputs**

- Weather
- Pricing Signal

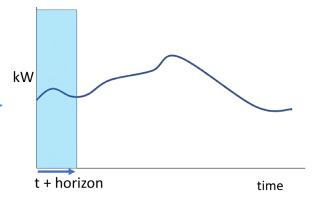
#### **Learned/Built Inputs**

- Simple Thermal model
- Comfort Constraints
- Equipment Performance

#### **Implement Control Strategy**

- Create Schedules & Setpoints







# Local Community Planning for Smart Technology and Energy Efficiency

Getting Smarter with Energy Efficiency Technology

Virginia Energy Efficiency Council, Energy Efficiency Forum

November 15, 2021

Dr. Damian Pitt, Associate Professor, Urban & Regional Studies & Planning, School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University

### Overview

- Smart energy efficiency technologies support three movements in urban planning and energy policy
  - Climate Action Planning, Smart Cities, Smart Grid
- What can local governments do to support energy efficiency and advance smart efficiency technologies?
- What are some examples of leading cities that have integrated smart technologies for energy efficiency into their climate action agendas?

# Climate Action Planning

- Recent (last 15-20 years) movement to address climate change through local municipal action
  - Primarily climate mitigation, reducing local carbon footprint, in response to lack of U.S. federal action on Kyoto Protocol
- Re-frames local land use and transportation functions, adds new initiatives for efficiency and renewables
  - Streamline permitting, remove zoning barriers, upgrade building codes where possible
  - Provide technical assistance to residents, businesses, developers

### **Smart Cities Movement**

- Recent (last 10-15 years) movement to integrate information and communication technology (ICT) with urban infrastructure (Batty et. al, 2012) and services
- Framed around citizen engagement and intelligent governance, sometimes energy / resource efficiency
  - Smart, connected, energy efficient infrastructure (e.g., streetlights) Internet of Things (IoT)
  - "Big data" to optimize transit and transportation services

## Smart Cities and Energy Efficiency

- Generally focused on public services... what is the role of cities to foster smart technology in private bldgs.?
  - Sharing of energy data among large institutional and office buildings
  - High tech version of energy disclosure and benchmarking
- Can cities help expand smart energy efficiency technology into private buildings, at scale?

# Cities and Energy Efficiency

- Comprehensive Planning
  - Sets forth broad policy goals and recommendations
  - City policy and public / private initiatives and programs
  - Sustainability / Climate Action Plans
    - » How do we reduce GHG emissions and/or adapt to climate change impacts
    - » Most progressive and sustainable cities increasingly focused on equity implications of climate action and resilience



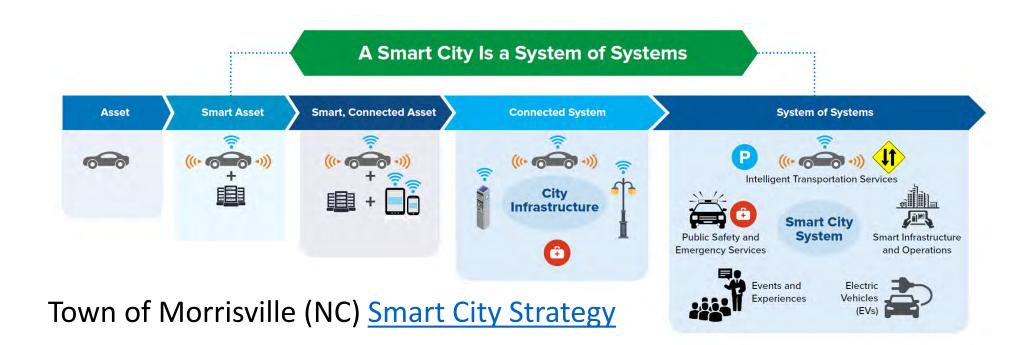
# Cities and Energy Efficiency

- Building code authority
  - Rare to implement requirements exceeding state building code
- Zoning authority
  - Identifies types of uses allowed, regulates size, height, etc.
  - Typically no requirements around internal appliances, tech., etc.
- Permitting incentives
  - "Fast-track" approval, density bonuses, can incentivize "green building"
- Technical assistance
  - Support property owners & developers with info and guidance
  - Connect to resources for energy efficiency audits, upgrades

To what extent are U.S. cities incorporating smart energy efficiency technology now?

## Types of Smart City Plans

- Transportation: transit, autonomous vehicles, etc.
- Infrastructure: fiber optics, streetlights, public safety
- Sustainability: little focus on building energy efficiency



## Climate Action Plans

- Review of CAPs in four leading U.S. cities for discussion of smart energy efficient technology
  - Chicago: nothing at all about smart tech for efficiency
  - Portland: energy performance tracking in office / residential bldgs, technical assistance and partnerships, ecodistricts, net-zero bldgs
  - Seattle: Smart Meters and benchmarking
  - Austin: "Smart Grid/Intelligent Energy Management Systems," demand response, benchmarking "measurement and verification,"
- Nothing directly about smart appliances or buildings

## Comp Plans: Richmond 300

#### **Objective 15.3**

Reduce air pollution related to private buildings.

- Engage local professional expertise to develop incentives and/or other components of a robust Green Building program that may include:
  - i. Transitioning from natural gas to electric.
  - ii. Changing the Zoning Ordinance to encourage developers to renovate buildings with deep energy retrofits and/or build new construction following green building guidelines by creating incentives such as reducing parking requirements or density bonus.
  - v. Evaluating the potential of green development zones as permitted by state code.

- e. Advocate in the General Assembly for enabling legislation allowing jurisdictions to:
  - i. Adopt residential PACE programs.
  - ii. Require energy benchmarking and public disclosure, and adopt local ordinance requiring benchmarking by large privately owned buildings.
  - iii. Adopt stricter energy efficiency requirements in their building codes.
- Develop guide for high-performance / net zero energy new construction and historic retrofits to encourage green construction practices.
- j. Evaluate creating legislation to require stronger energy-efficiency and green-building standards of developers requesting zoning variance and/or site plan approvals.

## Eco Districts and Smart Neighborhoods

- Eco-Districts: anything green at neighborhood level
  - Can include smart buildings, efficiency (<u>Spokane</u>, <u>Alexandria</u>)
- 2030 Districts Network: "to establish a global network of thriving high performance blgb districts and cities... to catalyze transformation in the built environment"
  - Helps property owners and managers maximize bldg performance: HVAC, interior equipment, lighting and/or whole building measures
  - Sometimes integrated into Smart Cities initiatives (San Diego)

### Technical Assistance

- Boulder (CO) <u>EnergySmart Services</u> program
  - Connects homes & businesses with expert Energy Advisor to answer questions, identify contractors, apply for financing
  - Funded by DOE BetterBuildings and Boulder Climate Action Plan tax
  - Administered by <u>CLEAResult</u>: energy optimization and demand management services
  - Aligned with Boulder County <u>BuildSmart</u>, high energy efficiency building code (net-zero required for new homes above 5,000 sq. ft.)

## Next Steps

- Research into the role of cities in supporting the clean energy transition: solar PV and other distributed energy resources (DERs)
  - Energy storage, electric vehicles, micro-grids
  - Demand management and smart homes
- To what extent are cities doing this now?
  - Content analysis of comprehensive plans, sustainability / climate plans, and zoning codes

# Questions?

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