This panel will cover a range of building science and engineering topics focusing on high-performance innovations that make energy efficiency easy and enticing in residential buildings in the United States and internationally, including: integrated design; envelope load reduction; energy-efficient and demand-responsive equipment; connected devices; smart controls; net zero energy; comfort; indoor air quality; performance analysis/modeling; performance monitoring; benchmarking/rating/labeling; fault detection and diagnostics; commissioning; construction trends and techniques.

This panel will cover a range of topics for the US and internationally, including: fresh ideas or applications in the design, implementation, and measurement of energy efficiency programs. Program Design: ideas that emphasize cost-effective solutions; move to systems approaches; short- & long-term savings; integration of EE and other demand-side technologies; mix proven technologies with new ideas for success; the role of financing; balancing codes with program design; innovations in program design for new and emerging measures; residential programs in the age of smart meter data. Implementation: using innovative delivery channels; delivering cost-effective comprehensive retrofit programs; next-generation residential lighting strategies; new ideas in low- and middle-income programs; trends in residential building modeling software; incorporating advances in automation and building science; incorporating behavior strategies targeting individuals and community-scale. Evaluation: impacts of online programs/tools; cost-effectiveness of programs; innovative cost-effectiveness evaluation; using data mining for better predictive value; innovative approaches to evaluating program impacts; early-feedback evaluation approaches; understanding customer response to program outreach. All of these topics are intended to focus on how to make energy efficiency easy and enticing.

This panel will cover a range of topics aimed at innovative approaches for integrating efficiency and demand response, program opportunities and challenges with advanced building controls and connected lighting; harnessing the power of data for program implementation and evaluation; innovative approaches for serving hard-to-reach markets; influencing decision-makers and making the business case for efficiency; capturing operational efficiency and behavioral changes; beyond widgets -- whole building approaches and deep energy retrofits; moving towards net-zero energy buildings; transitioning government policy into program design.

This panel will cover all aspects of building energy codes and appliance and equipment standards. Focus areas for topic papers include making codes and standards easy and enticing, such as incentivizing early compliance, getting consumers to buy-in to codes, and simplifying standards; codes and standards development, opportunities to improve compliance and enforcement, above-code or beyond-code programs and concepts, data collection to support codes and standards, test procedure challenges and opportunities, and the interaction of codes and standards with renewable policies and flexible grid operation. All topics related to codes and standards will be considered. Papers may be retrospective, current, or forward looking.

This panel will feature a range of topics for the US and internationally, including: integrated design; envelope load reduction; energy-efficient and demand-responsive equipment; connected devices; smart controls; net zero energy; comfort; indoor air quality; performance analysis/modeling; performance monitoring; benchmarking/rating/labeling; fault detection and diagnostics; commissioning; on-site renewable generation and management; community level energy management; miscellaneous and process load optimization and management; and industry and market trends.

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Capturing Savings through Behavior: Science and Practice

PANEL LEADERS: Beth Karlin, University of Southern California and Christopher Payne, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

SESSION TOPICS: Human behavior plays a key role in making energy efficiency easy and enticing. This panel invites papers that discuss the role of behavior and behavioral science in targeting energy consumption. Submissions should address a specific behavior or behavioral science strategy, discuss past literature and/or theory, introduce a real-world example or empirical study, and include implications for future work. We are especially interested in papers that address the social context of behavior, innovative approaches, organizations and institutions, the use of data in design and evaluation of behavioral programs, and energy efficiency outside of the residential context.

Energy Efficiency Policy: US & Beyond


SESSION TOPICS: This panel will cover a range of topics on policies that make EE implementation easy, economical, and enticing for consumers in the US and internationally, including: state & local policy leadership; how states and municipalities can integrate and use EE to meet sustainability goals; EE’s role in meeting climate goals and environmental regulations; balancing EE & demand response policies to meet the needs of a changing grid; compatibility of electrification and efficiency; EE policy design and cost-effectiveness under lower energy price scenarios; emerging business models and innovative financing mechanisms for EE; international experience with EE policies; future trends in energy use; policy packages to maximize EE impacts; best practice comparisons of EE policies; “If I knew then what I know now” – lessons learned from policies that didn’t work despite good intentions; impact of climate adaptation on energy use and efficiency policy; benchmarking EE at state, regional, national, or international level.

Net Zero: Moving Beyond 1%

PANEL LEADERS: Smita Gupta, ltron and Cathy Higgins, New Buildings Institute

SESSION TOPICS: The methods and outcomes of getting to net zero are proven but they remain a very minor portion of the building stock. Panel 10 will share solutions to move beyond the 1% by making them ‘easy and enticing.’ The panel addresses four areas with examples of topics as follows: 1. Building Solutions: Integrated design approaches; Tools for increasing Net Zero design and adoption; Data and case studies; Performance modeling, prediction and evaluation; Innovative and leading edge technologies and strategies; Markets and motivations for zero energy buildings; Cost and finances; Controls and load shaping for net zero; Operations and occupancy; On-site renewable generation; 2. Aggregated Solutions: Community, Campus, and Portfolio Scale; Microgrids and nanogrids for net zero campuses and buildings; Corporate portfolios; 3. Policies and Regulations: City, State, and Federal policies, codes and standards; Definitions and policies regarding net zero, renewables, on-site and RECs; GHG and carbon reduction challenges for net zero; 4. Utility and Programs: Utility programs for adoption of net zero; Rate design options; Grid integration and impact of net zero; Energy storage and EV charging in the net zero equation; Education and work force training for increasing adoption of net zero.

Resilient, Sustainable Communities

PANEL LEADERS: Katherine Johnson, City of DC and Stephanie Ohshita, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

SESSION TOPICS: This panel will cover a spectrum of topics on resilient communities: Integrated planning and assessment of energy efficiency, climate change mitigation, and resilience at the community scale; utilizing building energy data and community-wide energy analysis to inform policy and contribute to better urban infrastructure; examining how a community focus can make energy saving and climate readiness easier and more enticing; quantification of energy benefits from sustainable and resilient building strategies, including tree canopy, architectural shade, solar-reflective materials, and blue and green infrastructure; analysis of the resilience benefits (i.e. thermal safety and passive survivability) of high performance buildings; incorporating equity considerations into planning for resilient, sustainable communities; assessment of the benefits of urban sustainability initiatives, such as energy savings or value added to real estate by integrated transport and land-use planning and other measures for livable and walkable communities; the contribution of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures to urban climate resilience, such as how district energy, micro-grids, and demand management can address an increased demand for cooling and a need for power stability during more severe weather.

Smart Buildings, Smart Grid, and the Internet of Things

PANEL LEADERS: Larry Brackney, National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Jessica Granderson, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

SESSION TOPICS: Information Technology and the Internet of Things hold the promise of easier, more compelling energy efficiency opportunities. This panel focuses on novel applications of data science, modeling, management, and visualization; technologies that support behavior change and inform decision making throughout the building lifecycle; advancements in hardware, software, and communications interoperability for a secure and agile smart grid; application of advanced hardware and software technologies that increase adoption of energy efficiency, load flexibility, and demand response in commercial and residential buildings.

Energy Efficiency and Equity: Addressing the Underserved

PANEL LEADERS: Lauren Ross, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy and Jennifer Somers, The Energy Foundation

SESSION TOPICS: This panel focuses on efforts to reach historically underserved households with energy efficiency investments. Low-income communities and communities of color stand to benefit from energy efficiency upgrades, healthier housing, and local job creation; yet, often cannot take advantage of energy efficiency opportunities given a variety of policy, regulatory, and other structural barriers. This panel seeks content related to energy efficiency programs serving low-income communities, community-based strategies for energy efficiency, renewables, healthy homes, local workforce development, equitable transportation initiatives, and more generally, effective approaches for delivering energy efficiency in low-income communities and communities undergoing transition. The panel encourages submissions that seek to tell the stories of residents in communities that have benefited from energy efficiency and the programs that served them through a variety of media beyond the traditional paper submission. Best practices in this space are still emerging and we welcome research and storytelling that speaks to the experience of delivering energy efficiency in a way that benefits all households.

Poster Displays

PANEL LEADERS: Kristen Parrish, Arizona State University

SESSION TOPICS: This panel leverages various media, including videos, posters, software programs, and other graphical displays, to tell the story of how your work makes energy efficiency easy and enticing. The panel seeks content related to the broad topic of building energy efficiency, in the commercial, industrial, or residential sectors. Panel submissions can address any aspect of the building lifecycle at any scale. The panel encourages submissions with rich visuals and graphics and offers presenters an opportunity to engage with conference attendees in one-on-one or small group discussions, rather than a traditional lecture format.