

March 11-13, 2019

# Beneficial Electrification of Water Heating

*Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies in the Water Heater Market*  
ACEEE Hot Water Forum  
Nashville, TN

---

David Farnsworth

Senior Associate

The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)®

---

50 State Street, Suite 3

Montpelier, Vermont

United States

---

+802 498 0708

[dfarnsworth@raponline.org](mailto:dfarnsworth@raponline.org)

[raponline.org](http://raponline.org)

# Introduction



---

# Today's Presentation

- Analyzing Fuel Choice
- Technology Considerations
- Beneficial Electrification of Water Heating: Three Conditions
- Strategies for Beneficial Electrification of Water Heating
- Concluding Thoughts

---

# ***Beneficial* Electrification (BE) - Three Conditions**



**1. Saves Customers  
Money Over Long-Term**



**2. Reduces Environmental  
Impacts**



**3. Enables Better Grid  
Management**



WASHINGTON STATE  
ENERGY OFFICE

**Analysis of Consumer and  
Marginal Costs for  
Electric and Natural Gas  
Space and Water Heat in  
Single Family Residences  
in Puget Sound Power and  
Light Company Service  
Territory**

Prepared Pursuant to inter-agency agreement between  
Public Counsel Section of the Office of the Attorney  
General of Washington State and Washington State  
Energy Office

Prepared by:  
Richard Byers  
Washington State Energy Office  
809 Legion Way SE  
Olympia, WA 98504

September, 1989

**DIRECT USE OF NATURAL GAS FOR RESIDENTIAL SPACE AND WATER HEAT  
COMPARED TO  
GAS-FIRED ELECTRIC GENERATION FOR HYDRO-FIRMING**

**THERMODYNAMIC, ECONOMIC, AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

PREPARED FOR  
ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST GAS UTILITIES  
Portland, Oregon

Jim Lazar  
Consulting Economist  
Olympia, Washington

---

# Fuel Choice – 1989

- Wind and solar were not viable economic resources
- Best heat pumps had a coefficient of performance of about 2
- Heat pump water heaters were not commonly available
- Best natural gas generating plants had about 42% conversion efficiency



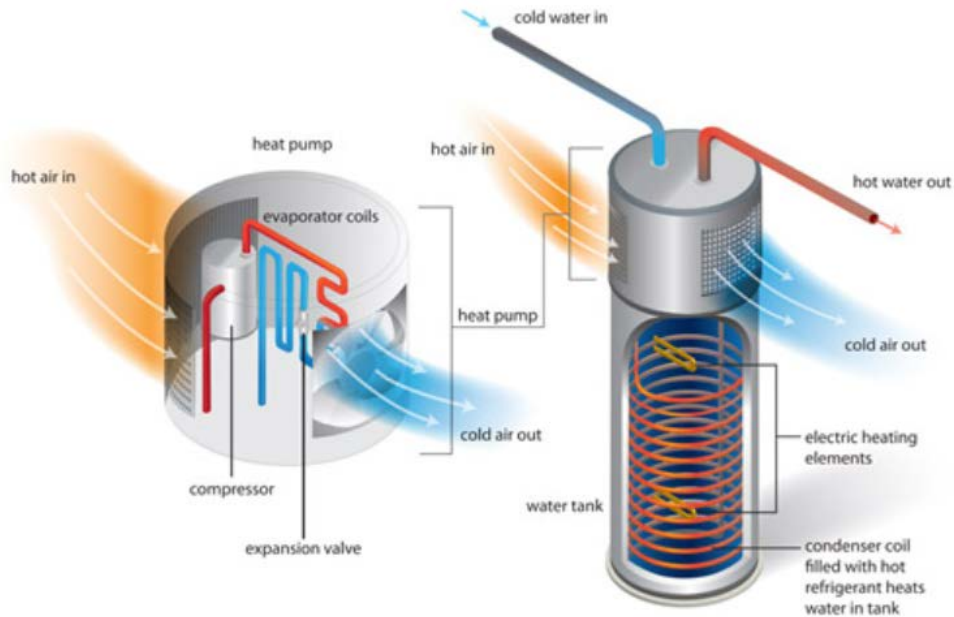
---

# Fuel Choice Today

- Wind and solar 2 - 3 ¢/kWh
- Heat pump COPs are better
- New gas generation is as much as 62% efficient
- Modern technology enables load control

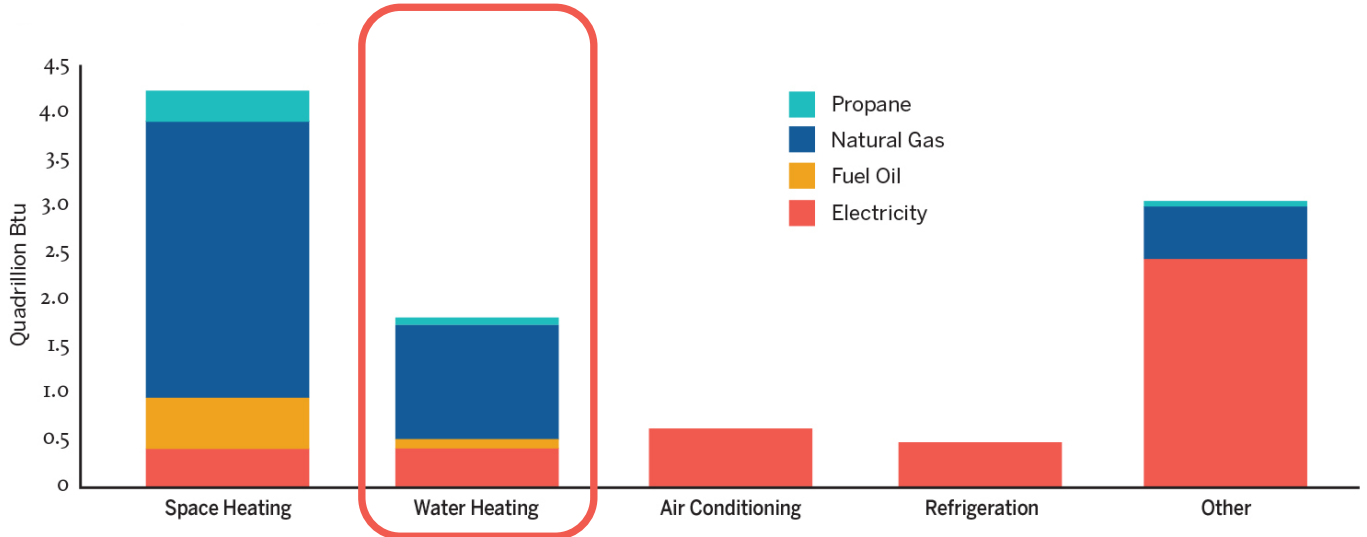


# Innovative & Efficient End Uses – Electrification is Underway – Heat Pump Water Heating



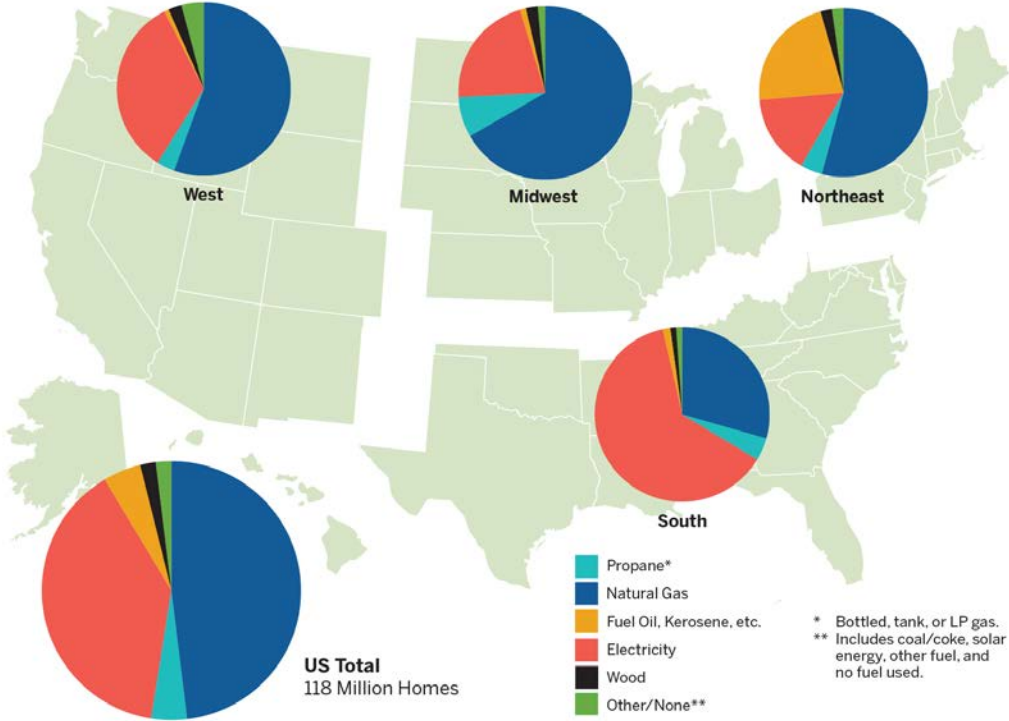


# What's the Opportunity?



Source: Steinberg, D., Bielen, D., Eichman, J., Eurek, K., Logan, J., Mai, T., et al. (2017). *Electrification & Decarbonization: Exploring U.S. Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Scenarios with Widespread Electrification and Power Sector Decarbonization*, using data from Energy Information Administration 2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey.

# What's the Opportunity?



Source: US Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey.

# Technology Considerations

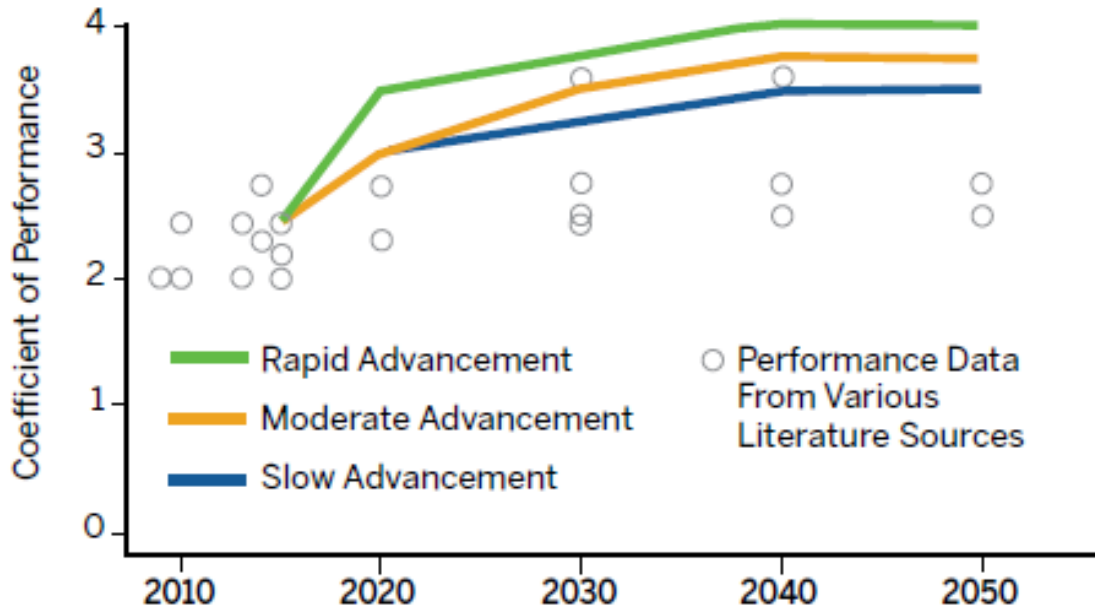


---

# Electric Water Heating Technologies Air Source Heat Pump Water Heaters



# Electric Water Heating Technologies Air Source Heat Pump Water Heaters



---

# Controlled Electric Resistance Water Heaters

The CTA 2045 socket enables any control network to connect to any new water heater.



**What's “Beneficial  
Electrification”?**

**Isn't ALL Electrification  
“Beneficial”?**





---

# ***Beneficial* Electrification (BE) - Three Conditions**



**1. Saves Customers  
Money Over Long-Term**



**2. Reduces Environmental  
Impacts**



**3. Enables Better Grid  
Management**





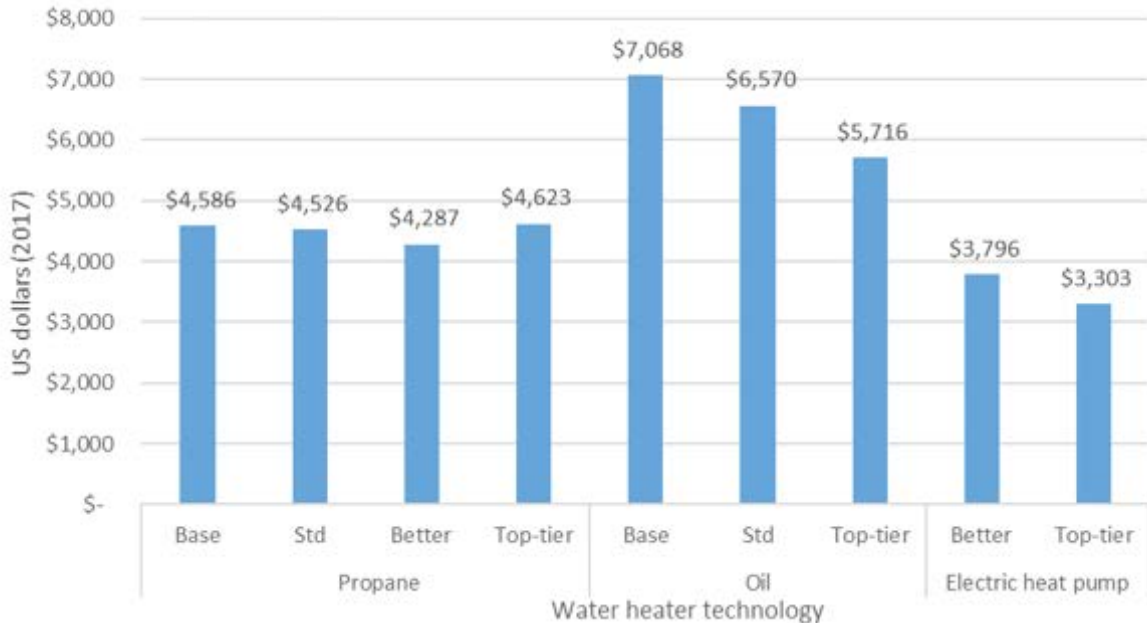
**1. Saves  
Customers Money  
Long-Term**

---

# Consumer Economics: Key Factors

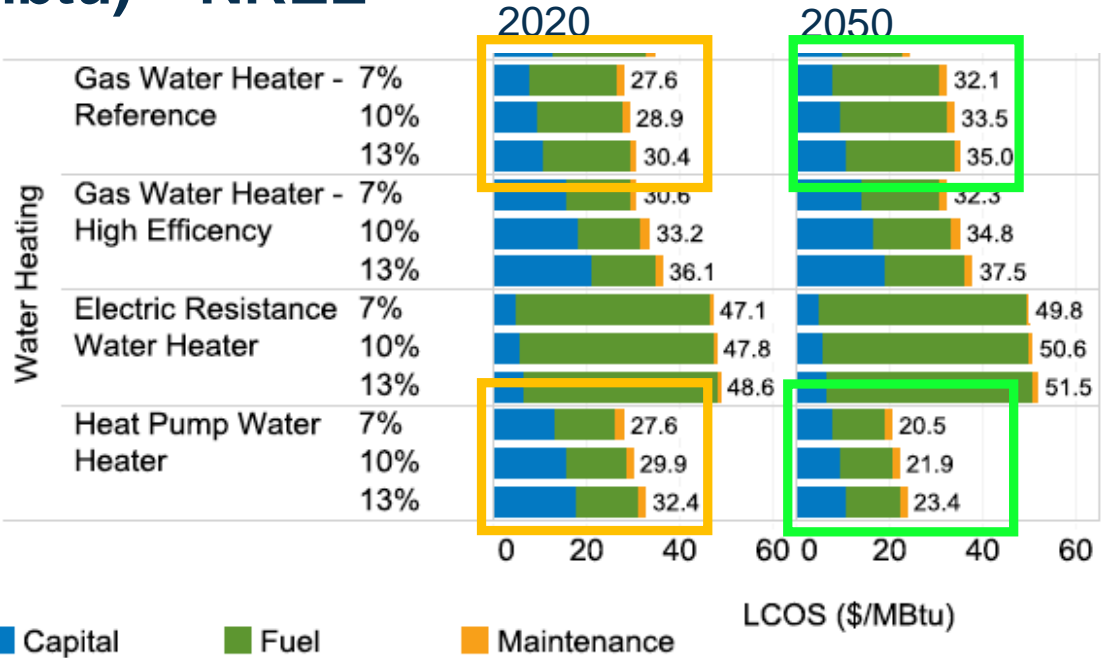
- Efficiency of water heating options
- Amount of water heating desired
- Incremental cost of installation
- Cost of fuel

# Water Heat Life Cycle Costs – ACEEE



Nadel, S. (2018). *Energy Savings, Consumer Economics, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions from Replacing Oil and Propane Furnaces, Boilers, and Water Heaters with Air-Source Heat Pumps*. American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. Retrieved from <http://aceee.org/research-report/a1803>

# Water Heat Levelized Cost of Service (\$/MMbtu) – NREL



Jadun, Paige, et al. 2017. Electrification Futures Study: End-Use Electric Technology Cost and Performance Projections through 2050 . Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-6A20-70485. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/70485.pdf>.

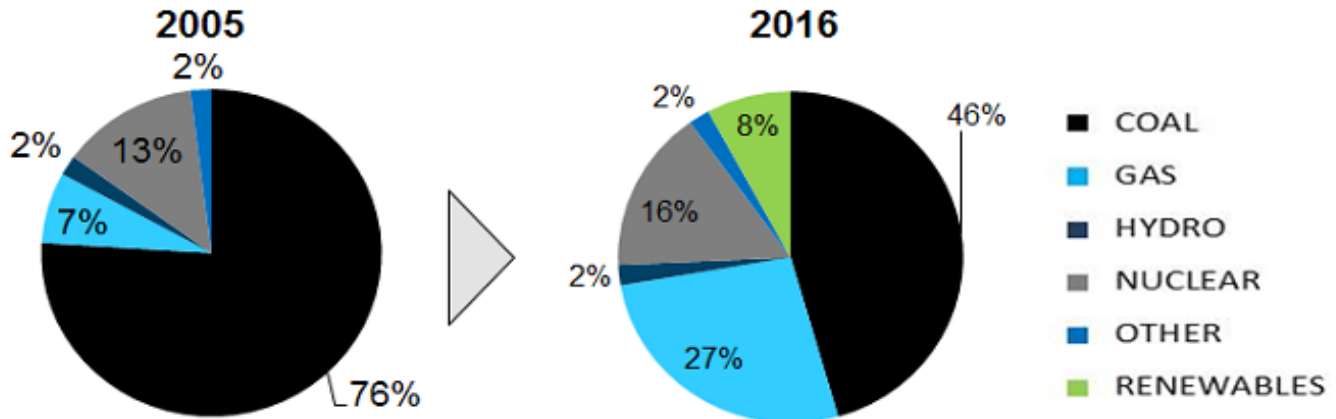




## 2. Reduces Environmental Impacts

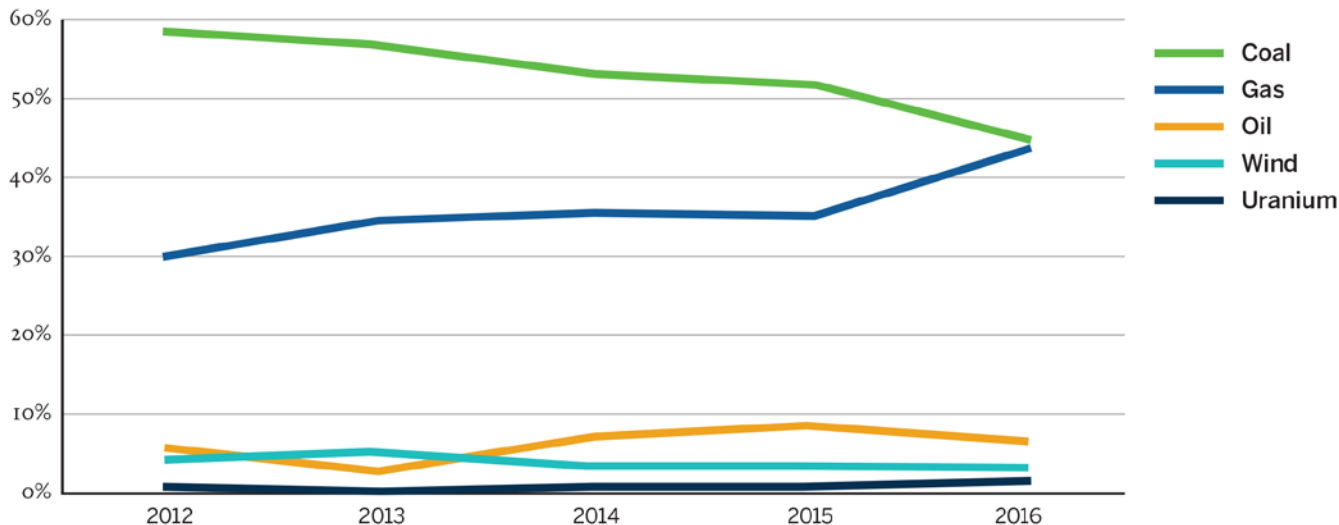
# Power Sector Fuel Mix is Changing: MISO Example

## MISO Generation Portfolio Evolution



<http://www.misomatters.org/2017/03/3-electricity-industry-issues-we-are-watching-in-2017/>

# What Are the Marginal Emissions?



Municipal waste, demand response, interface, and other fuels are marginal units less than 1% of the time and excluded from the chart above.

Adapted from: PJM Interconnection. (2017). *2012-2016 CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Rates*.

---

# Emissions

## Oil Water Heater

150 gallons oil/year

22 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/gallon

3,300 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/year

## Heat Pump WH

1,500 kWh/year

50% Gas 50% Coal

1,400 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh

2,100 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/year

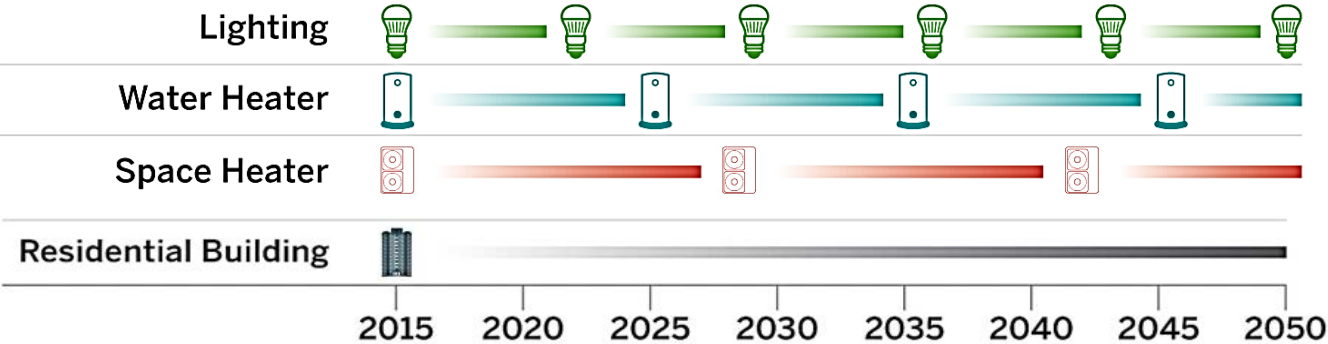


# Emissions Efficiency Depends on Electricity System Fuel Mix

**Emissions Efficiency (pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>/MMBTU of useful water heating) for various electric options located on different power grids**

	Energy factor / COP	Electric Units				
		100% coal	50% gas/50% coal	100% gas	50% gas / 50% non-carbon	100% non-carbon
Resistance Water Heater	0.95	715	494	274	137	0
Heat Pump Water Heater	3.0	226	157	87	43	0

# Residential Energy Investments Are Long - Lived

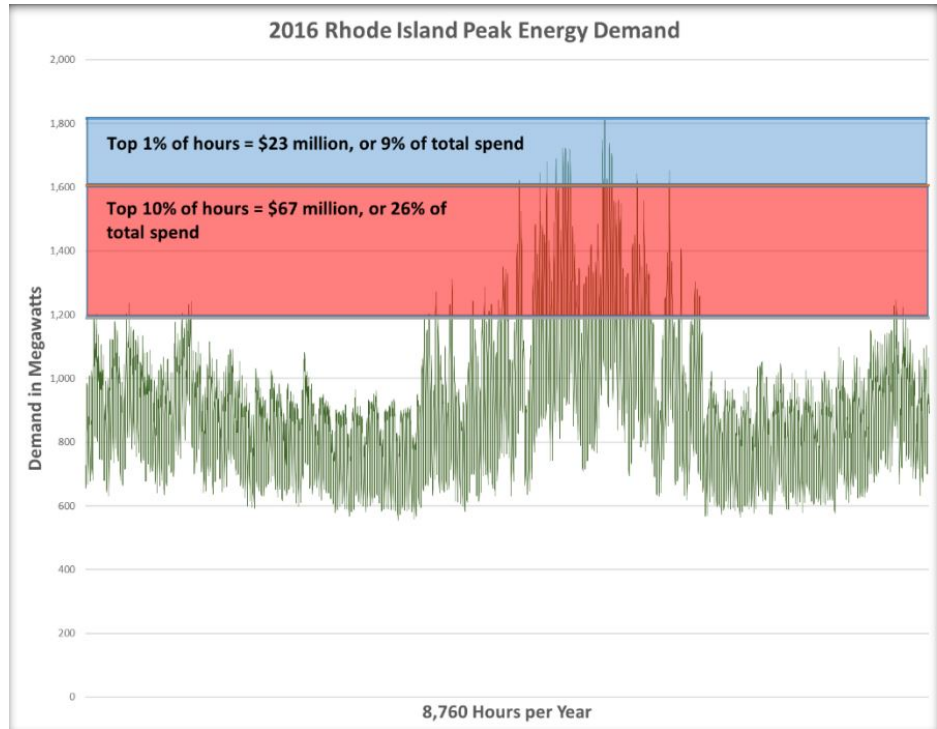


# 3. Enables Better Grid Management



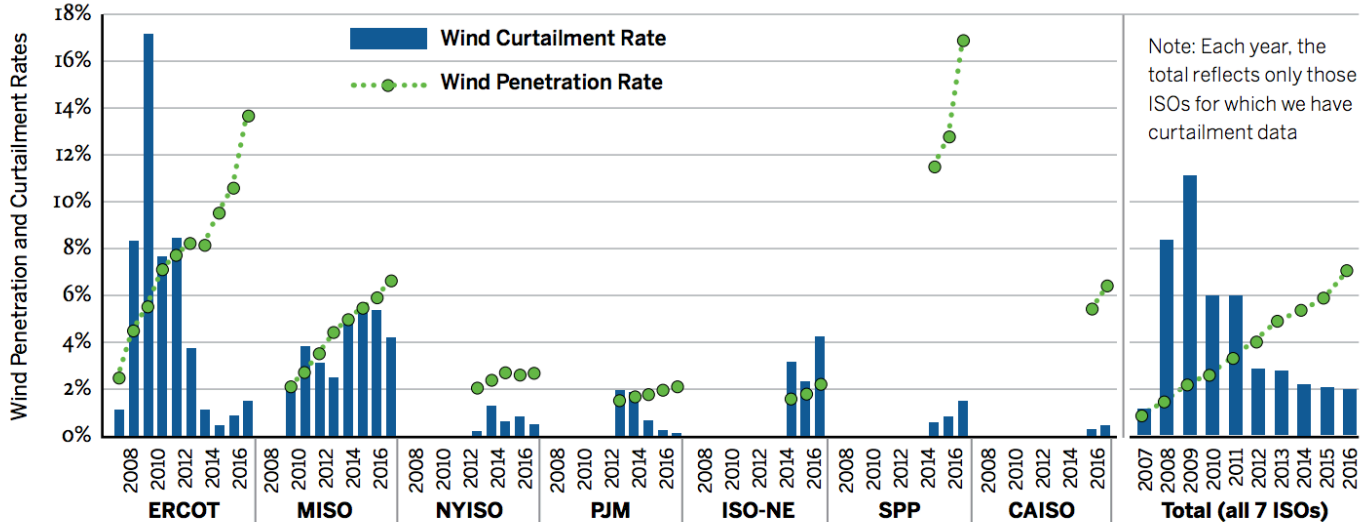
# Avoid High-Cost Hours

- Top 1% of hours = 9% of total spending
- Top 10% of hours = 26% of total spending



Source: Rhode Island Power Sector Transformation, Phase One Report to Governor Gina M. Raimondo (November 2017)

# Reducing Renewables Curtailment



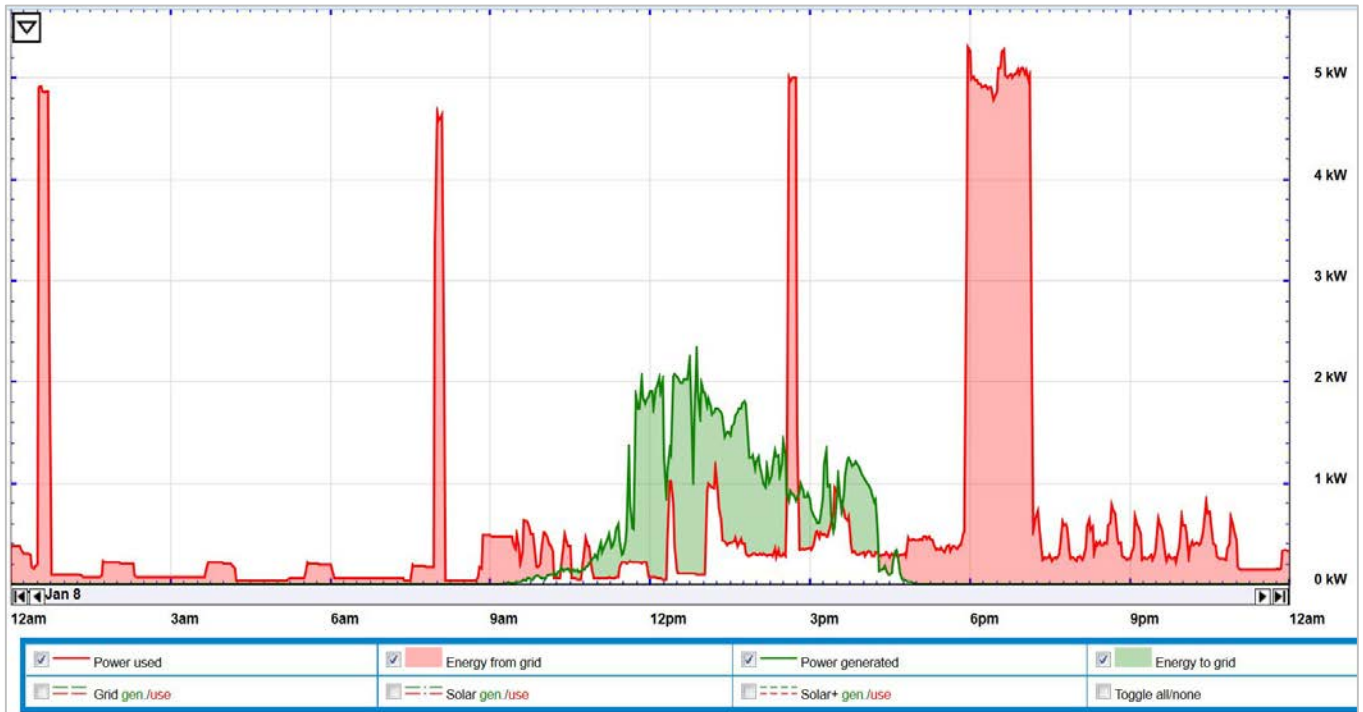
Note: All curtailment percentages shown represent both forced and economic curtailment.

PJM's 2012 curtailment estimate is for June through December only.

Source: Wiser, R., & Bolinger, M. (2017). *2016 Wind Technologies Market Report*.

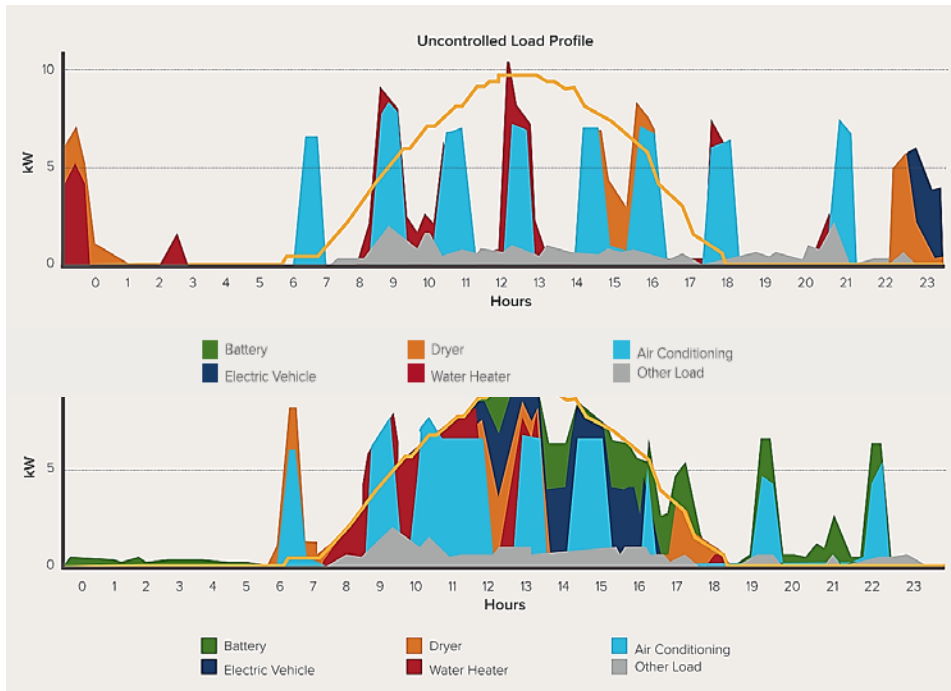
# Water Heater Load ...

## Let's Talk About Managing It





# Controllability is Key



Billimoria, S., et al (2018). *The Economics of Electrifying Buildings*. Boulder, CO: Rocky Mountain Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.rmi.org/insights/reports/economics-electrifying-buildings>. Thermostat image: Nest.com.

# Strategies for BE Space Heating

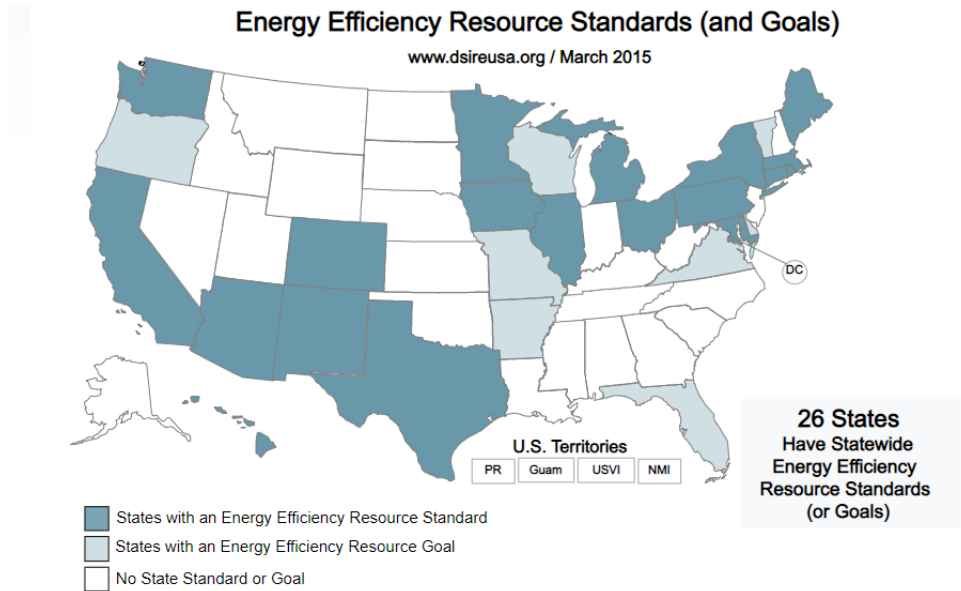
1. State Energy Policies
2. Rate Design
3. Incentive Programs





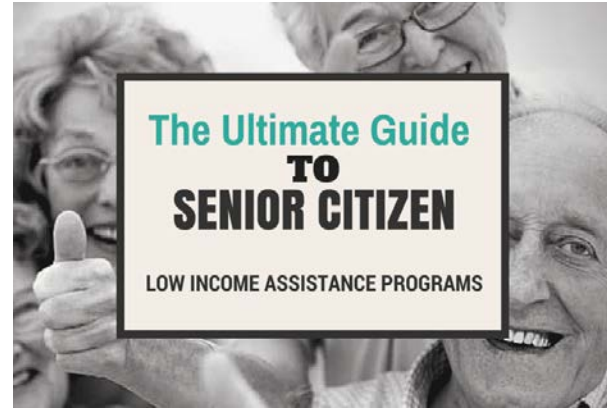
# Energy Efficiency Resource Standards

- Adopt a *carve-out* for electrification
- Adapt metrics to reflect reductions in primary energy use or GHG emissions



---

# Affordability

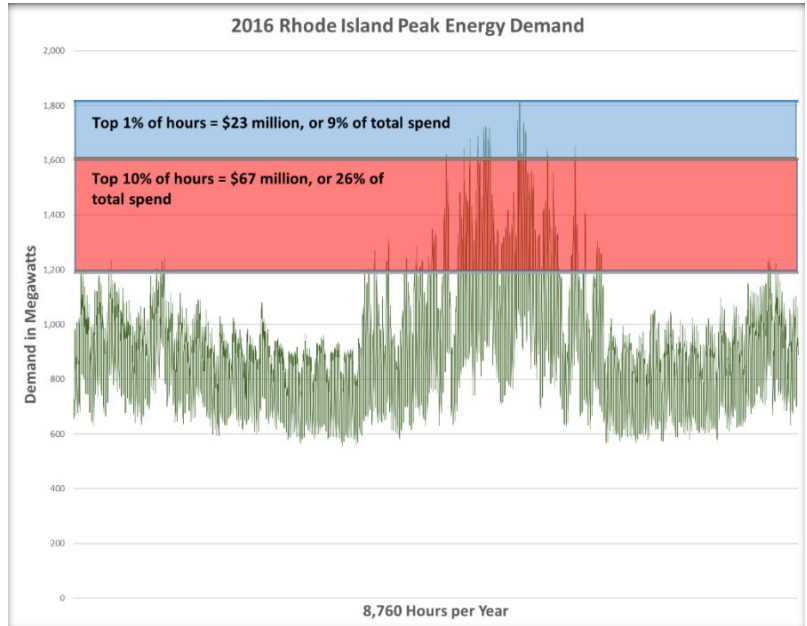


---

# Rate Design

Make the choices the customer makes to minimize their **own bill** consistent with the choices they would make to minimize **system costs**.

Shift usage to lower-cost and lower-emission hours.



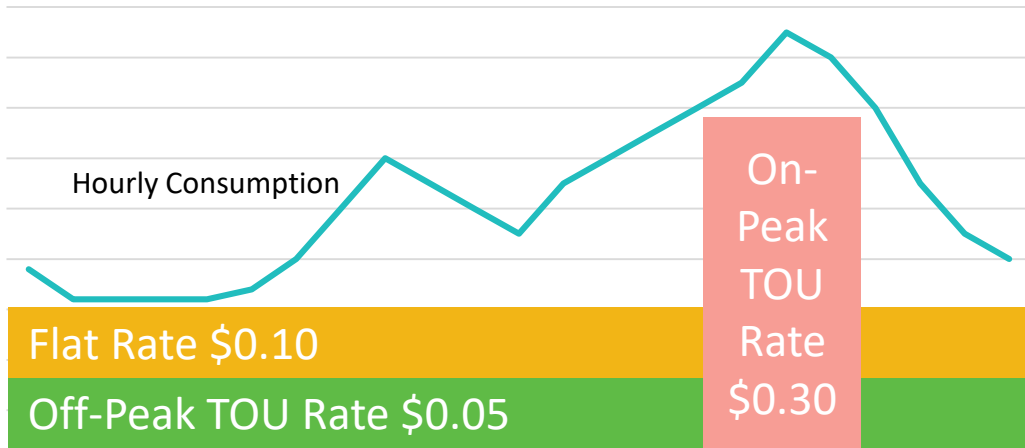
# A TOU Rate Does Not Mean a Higher Bill for Typical Residential Consumers

## Flat Rate

1,000 kWh @ \$0.10 = \$100

## TOU Rate

800 kWh @ \$.05 off-peak  
+ 200 kWh @ \$.30 on-peak  
= \$100



---

# Incentive Programs

- Run by utilities, states, and third parties
- May enable or obstruct beneficial electrification
- Tend to reward switching to a more efficient appliance that uses the *same fuel*
- Many explicitly disallow **fuel switching**
- Programs may be working at cross-purposes to BE

---

# Final Thoughts

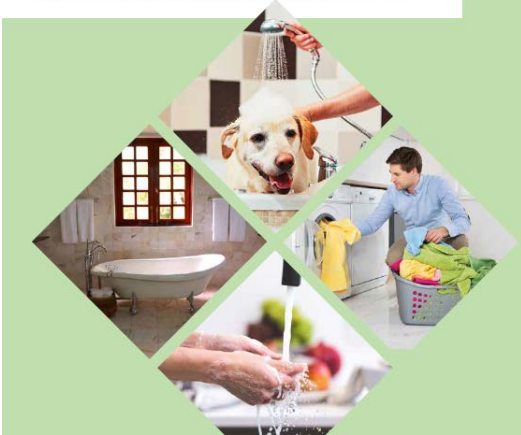
- Electrification can mean innovation and opportunities
- **Beneficial** Electrification is a framework to help you sort through those opportunities
- Circumstances will vary
  - Analyze for local conditions and trends
  - ID opportunities
  - Remove barriers
  - Consider pilots
  - Educate consumers



## Beneficial Electrification of Water Heating

By David Farnsworth, Jim Lazar, and Jessica Shipley

Part of the *Electrification in the Public Interest Series*



## Our BE Series

*Beneficial Electrification of Water Heating* is the third of four papers

---

# Additional Resources

- *Ensuring Electrification in the Public Interest*
- *Beneficial Electrification of Space Heating*
- *Beneficial Electrification of Water Heating*
- *Beneficial Electrification of Transportation*
- *Affordable Heat: Whole-Building Efficiency Services for Vermont Families and Businesses*
- *The carbon floor price – a hammer in need of a toolbox*
- *Carbon caps and efficiency resources Vt Law Rev 2008*



# About RAP

The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)<sup>®</sup> is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to accelerating the transition to a clean, reliable, and efficient energy future.

Learn more about our work at [raponline.org](https://raponline.org)



David Farnsworth, Esq.  
Senior Associate  
The Regulatory Assistance Project<sup>®</sup>

50 State Street, Suite 3  
Montpelier, VT  
United States

+1 802 498-0708  
[dfarnsworth@raponline.org](mailto:dfarnsworth@raponline.org)  
[raponline.org](https://raponline.org)