

# Consumer Behaviour Lessons from the USA An Overview of Customers, Choice and EPRI Research Programs

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### **Electric Power Research Institute**

- Founded in 1972 by the electricity industry and regulatory community to provide collaborative R&D to serve the public.
- 450+ members from more than 30 countries.
- International members from Europe, Asia and the Americas contribute to the research and development knowledge base.
- EPRI members generate approximately 90% of the electricity in the United States.

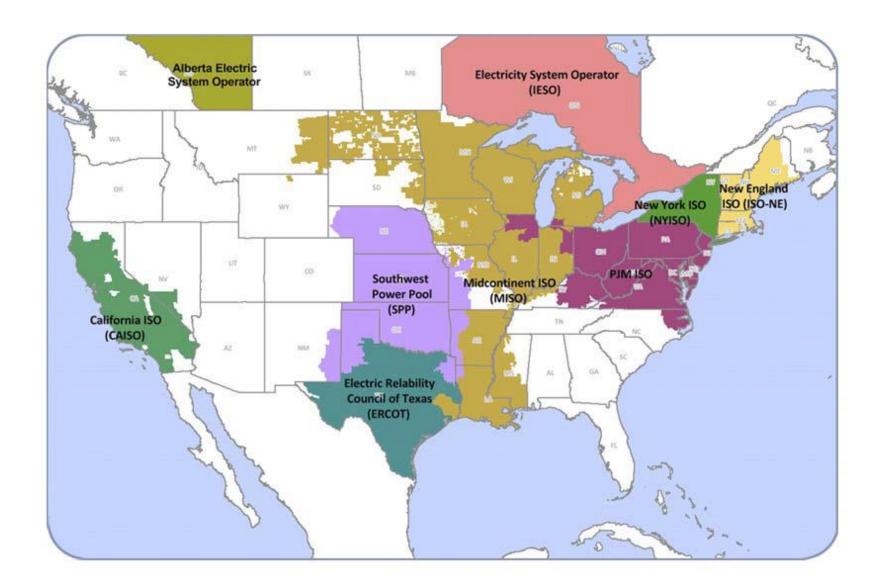








### **Wholesale Electricity Markets in North America**



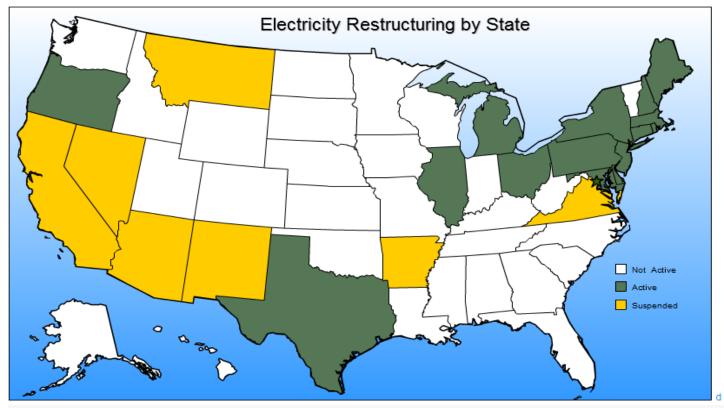


### U.S. Retail Markets - Customer Choice States (15 of 50 States)

#### Status of Electricity Restructuring by State

Data as of: September 2010 Next Release Date: None

- · The map below shows information on the electric industry restructuring. Click on a State for details.
- Restructuring means that a monopoly system of electric utilities has been replaced with competing sellers.



Source: Energy Information Administration

#### Texas Retail Market...

More and More Competitors. Even More Choices.



### **New York – Reforming the Energy Vision** *Technology Track "Top 10"*



- Will use Distributed System Platform Model (DSP)
- 2. The DSP function should be served by existing utilities
- 3. Customers and energy service providers will have access to system information.
- 4. PSC Staff will propose platform to share individual customer usage data
- Utilities should only be allowed to own DER under clearly defined conditions and in their own franchise territory
- 6. Utilities file annual energy efficiency plans.
- 7. Support development of large-scale renewables
- 8. Open to micro-grids
- 9. Utility responsible for security
- 10. Benefit-cost framework necessary and need framework



#### **EPRI's Customer Choice and Control Initiative**

### **Basic Market Services Price Structures** Feedback **Technology** & Controls **Mechanisms High-Value and High-Performance Services**

### Design

 Identify the foundations for service diversification

#### Performance

 Establish mechanism for constructing and forecasting the impacts of alternatives

### Acceptance

- Measure customer preferences
- Forecast market shares

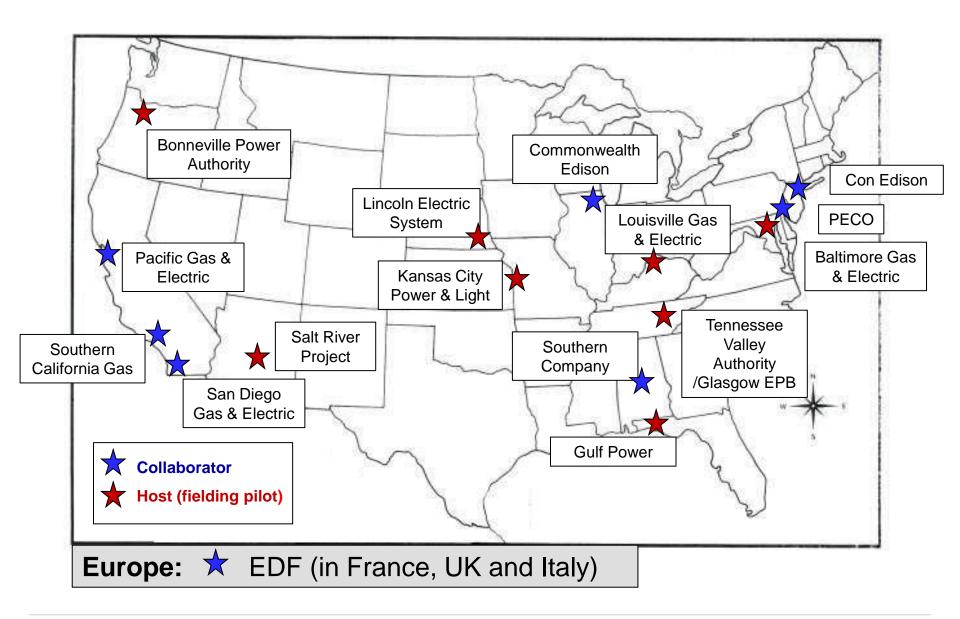


### **Technology Driver: Connected Devices** *A New World of Consumer Options*





### **EPRI Smart Thermostat Collaborative**



### **Pilot Research Questions**

- Impacts on:
  - Overall energy consumption
  - Peak demand
  - Customer satisfaction
- Effects of:
  - Pre-cooling
  - Customer differences

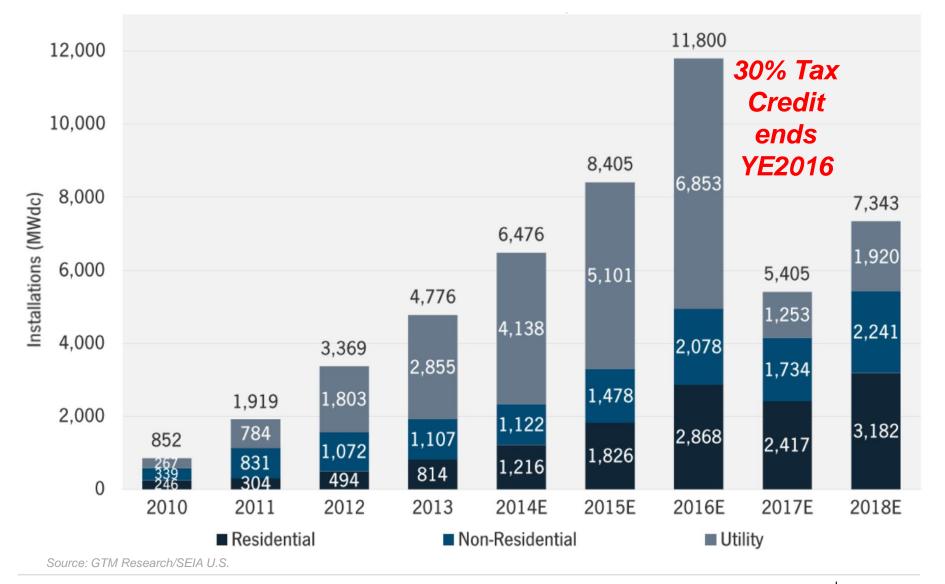
- Customer adoption levels
- Uses of thermostat-level data
  - Understand user behavior
  - System functional verification
  - Support EM&V

### Pilots at a Glance

- 8 pilots, several thousand customers & devices
- Product providers: ecobee, EcoFactor, Emerson, Energy Hub, Honeywell, nest, Opower, Radio Thermostat



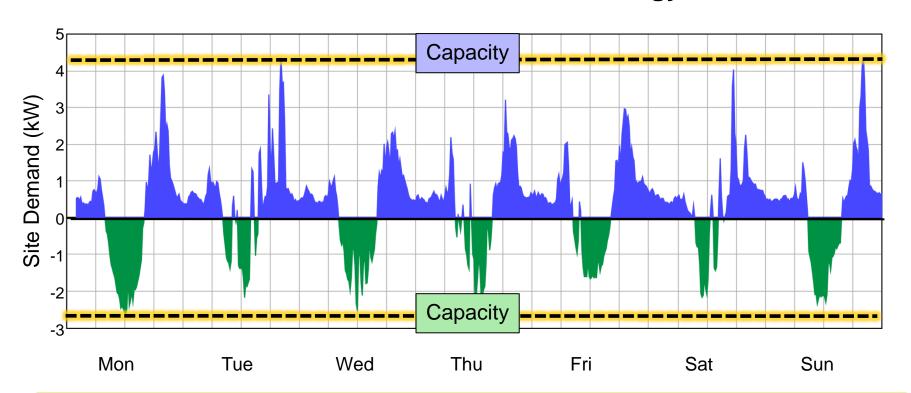
### Technology: Solar PV Continues to Grow U.S. Solar PV Installations, 2010-18E (MW)



## Price Structures: The Energy vs Capacity Challenge



#### **Zero Energy Home in California**



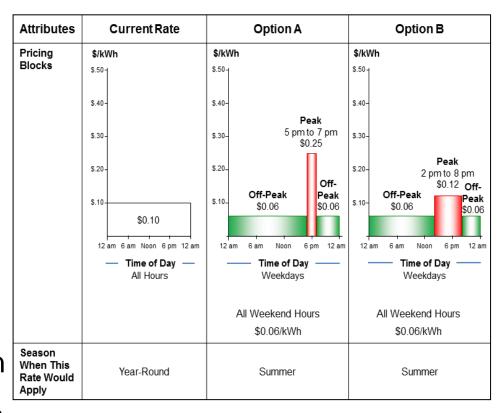
**Zero Energy...** is not Zero Capacity

January 2014 data

### Pricing Structures: Preferences Research Shows 20 to 30% Prefer Time-of-Use Rate Over Flat Rate

- EPRI developed a methodology

   Discrete Choice
   Experimentation to measure
   preferences for unfamiliar
   offerings time-of-use rates
   compared to status quo fixed
   rate
- Customer preferences for timeof-use rates don't vary significantly regardless of region
- Discrete choice experimentation is a meaningful tool for measuring preferences



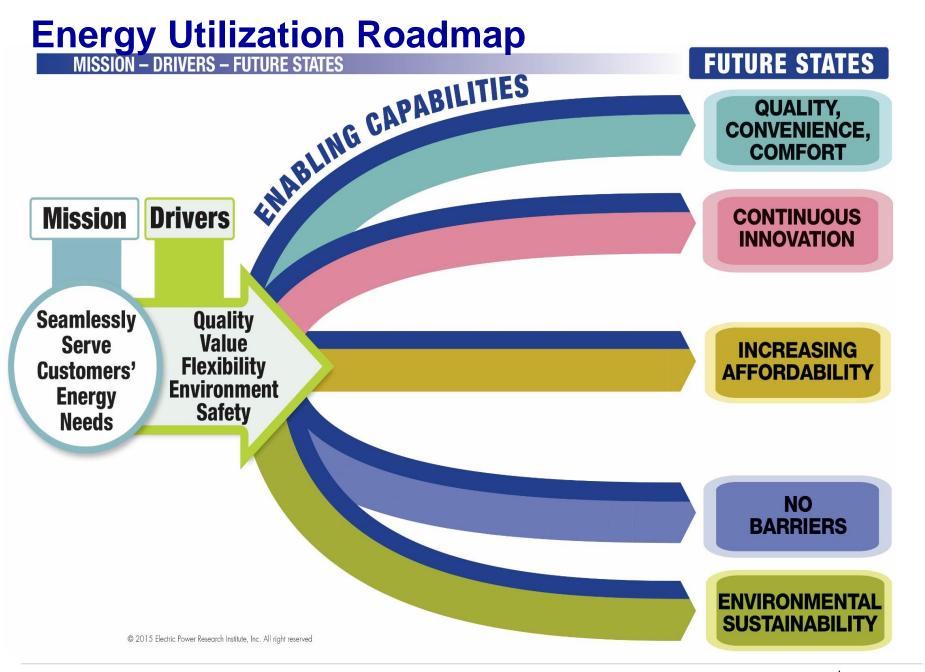


### Feedback Mechanisms & Advanced Metering

### **Building Customers' Understanding**

Use of New Tools

Daily/Weekly Appliance-Level Enhanced Standard Estimated Real-Time Feedback **Real-Time** Billing Billing Feedback Feedback Feedback Monthly, bi-Real-time info Household-Web-based Household Real-time monthly, or specific info, energy audits specific info, premise-level down to quarterly bill advice, and/or with info advice, and/or info appliance level provided on comparisons; comparisons; detail monthly or daily or ongoing basis weekly quarterly "Direct" Feedback "Indirect" Feedback (Provided Real Time) (Provided After Consumption Occurs)





### **Together...Shaping the Future of Electricity**