

# Reducing Peak Demand Impacts

How to Increase and  
Accelerate Load Flexibility



NATIONAL BUILDING  
**DECARBONIZATION**  
FORUM | APRIL 2024

April 18, 2024

# Agenda

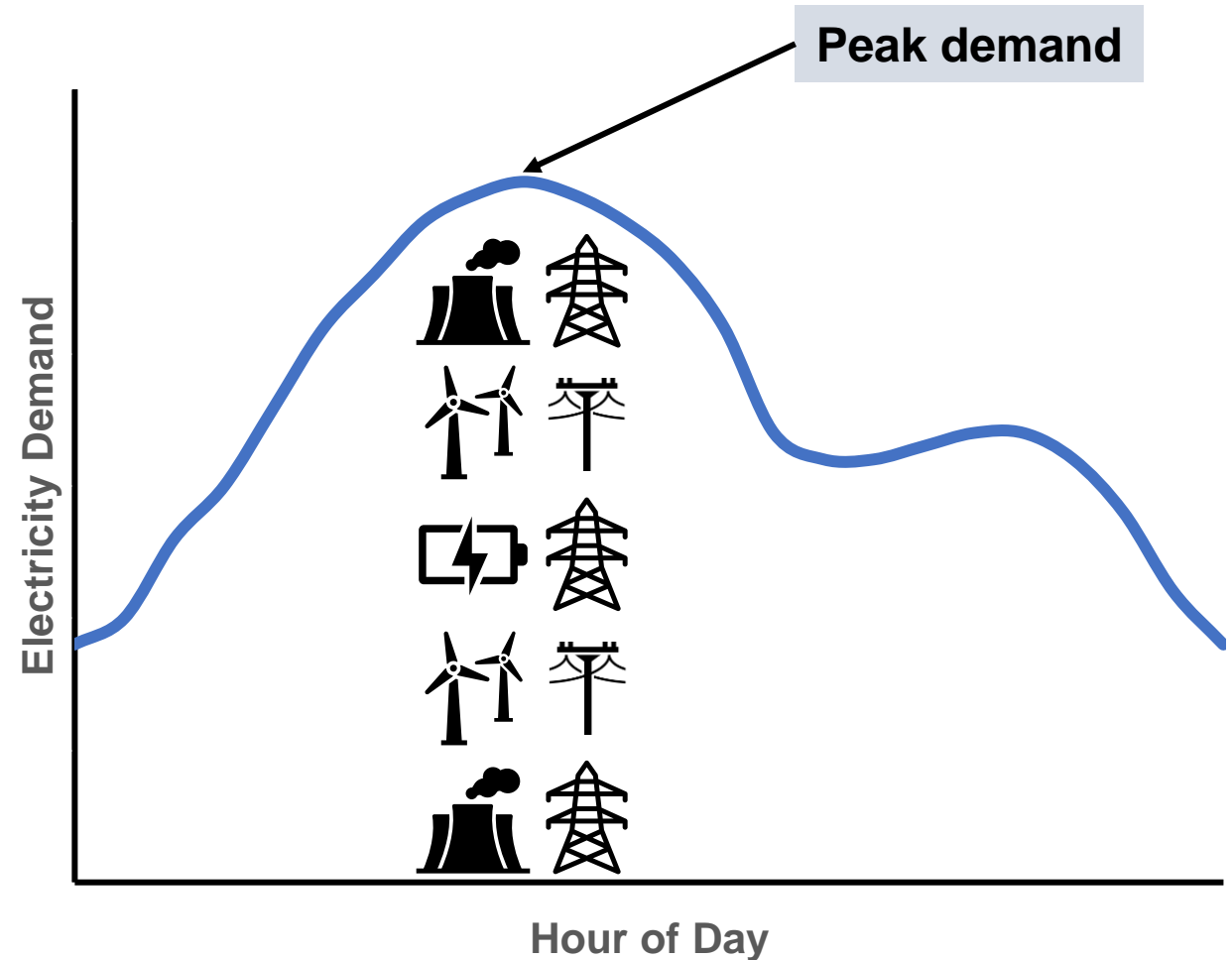
1. Panelist Presentations
2. Moderated Q&A
3. Participant Discussion
4. Final Thoughts



# What is peak demand?

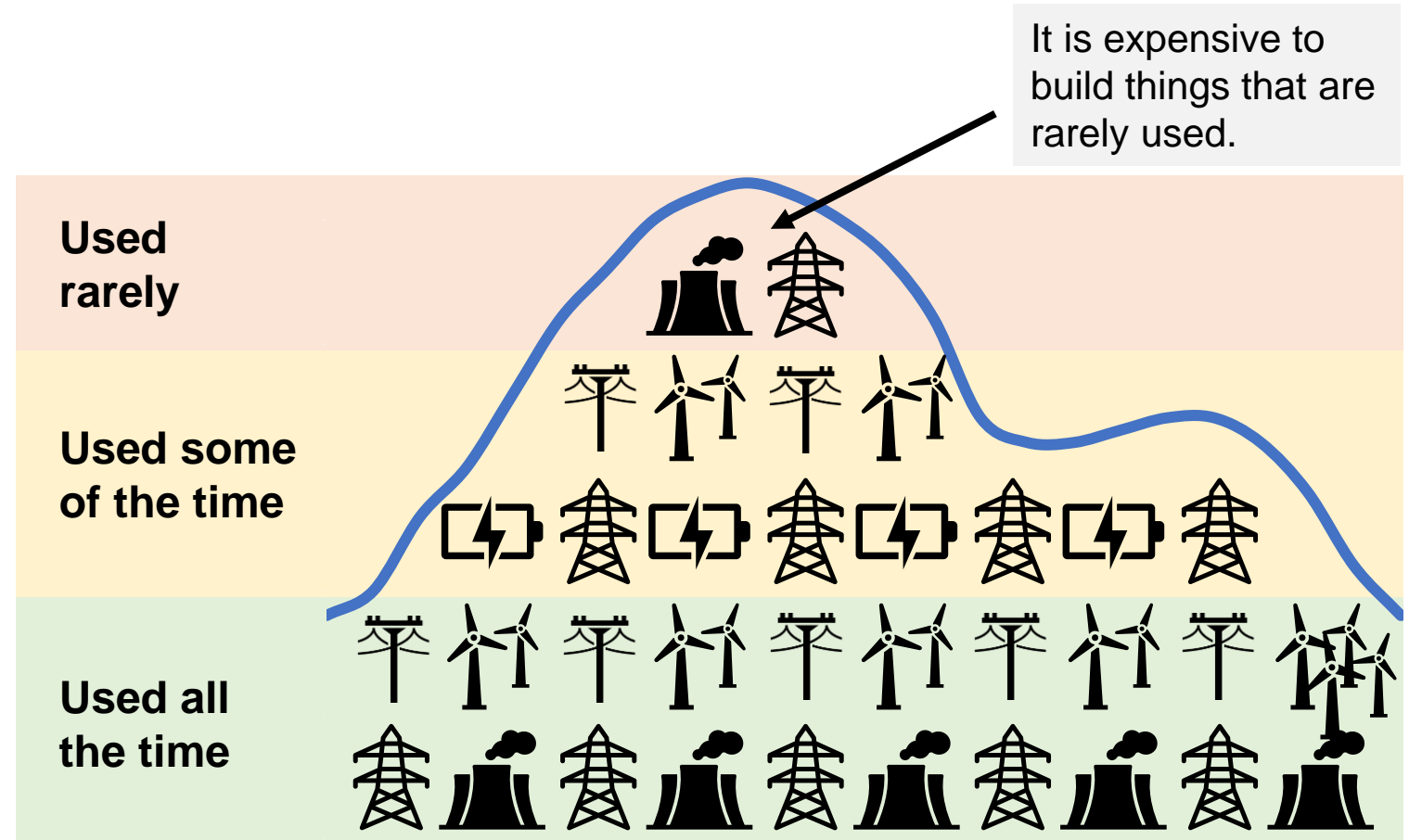
**Peak demand** is when electricity use on the grid is at its highest.

Electric grids must be built to meet peak demand.



# Why do we care about peak demand?

**It's all about...**  
the money...  
the materials...  
and the people..





Breakout 3B

# REDUCING PEAK DEMAND IMPACTS

How to Increase and  
Accelerate Load Flexibility

April 18, 2024 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM



**Robyn Wark**  
BC Hydro



**Mathieu Lévesque**  
Dunsky Energy + Climate



**Scott Huffmaster**  
Trane Technologies



**Julia McNally**  
Toronto Hydro

# How to Increase and Accelerate Load Flexibility



**Mathieu Lévesque**, Senior Consultant



April 18, 2024





ACCELERATING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION



ANALYSIS + STRATEGY



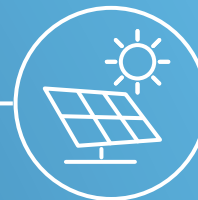
BUILDINGS



MOBILITY

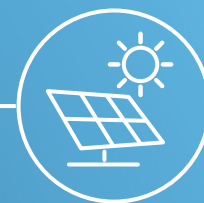


INDUSTRY



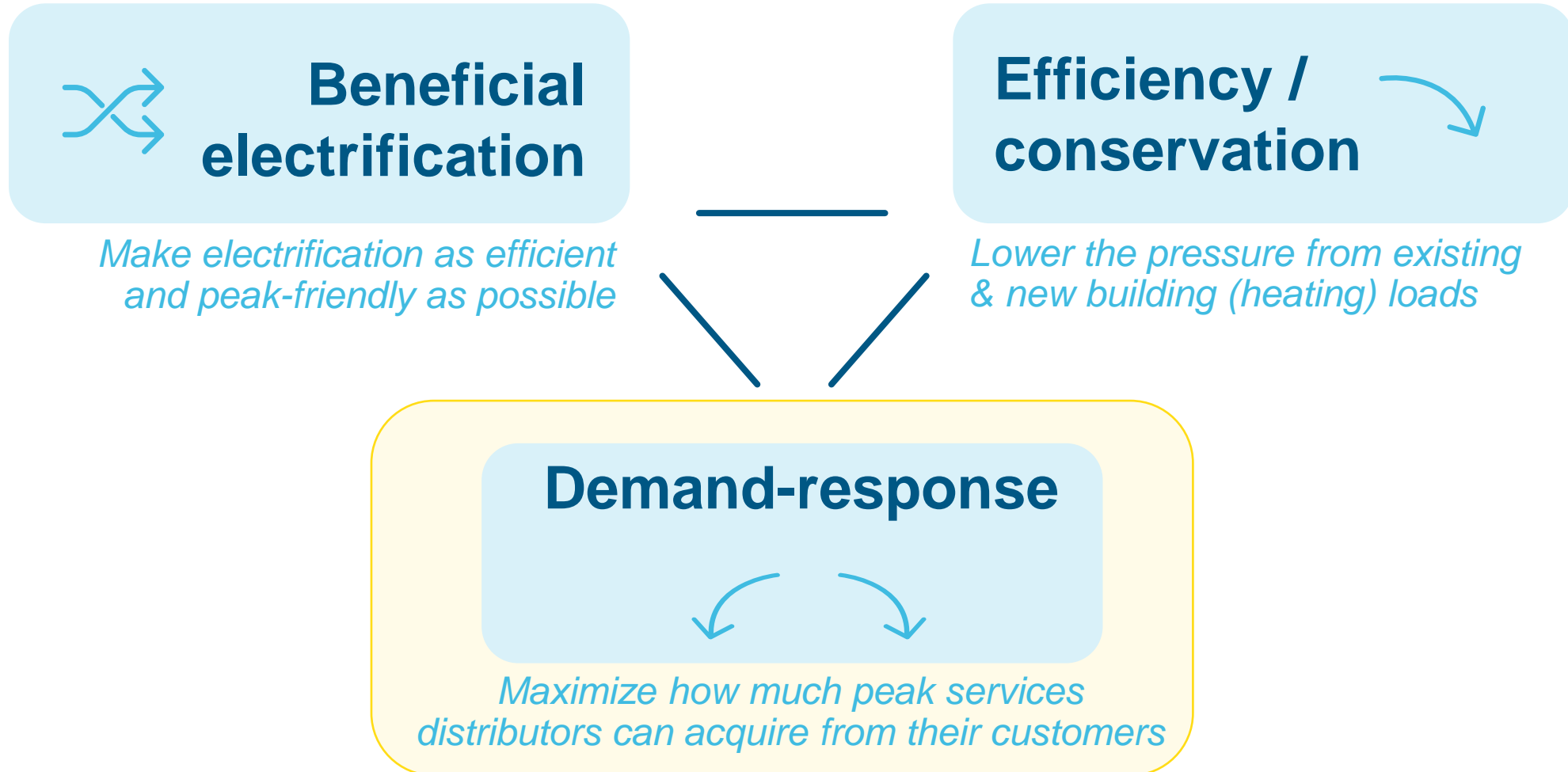
ENERGY







# The Three Pillars of Peak Management



# Demand-Response: breaking the barriers

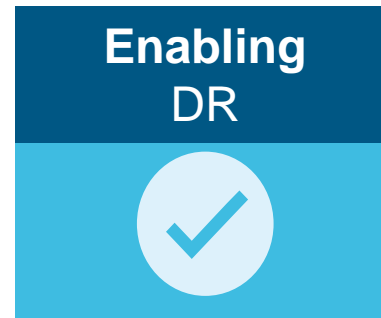
## DR is typically...

**Not considered** in planning processes, and when DERs are, they are viewed as a "load modifier" not a resource

**Not valued / not eligible** for participation or compensation for *all* the benefits they contribute to across the complete system

**Not coordinated** across the system; with the operations, dispatch and interoperability between T&D systems restricting ability to extract the full value out of DERs.

## Solutions



# Demand-Response: breaking the barriers

## Planning for DERs



- **Potential Assessment:** comprehensive (*all DERs*) and granular (*temporally and geographically*)
- **Evaluation Frameworks:** value *all* benefits when assessing DR cost-effectiveness relative to traditional infrastructure investments

## Enabling DR



- **Pricing signals / compensation:** time-of-use rates, critical peak pricing, DR participation rewards
- **Programs:** equipment subsidies (controls, storage, smart charging...)
- **Procurements:** manual DR, BYOD, automated DR, DR aggregators, capacity auctions
- **Regulations:** DR-ready *equipment*, DR-ready *buildings*

## Integrating DR



- **Pilots and demonstration** projects to build confidence
- **Constant engagement** required for continued participation
- **Grid modernization investments** to orchestrate DR



The background features a low-angle photograph of a multi-story brick building with many windows and a balcony. This image is partially obscured by large, semi-transparent geometric shapes: a yellow triangle in the top-left, a dark blue trapezoid on the left, and a light blue triangle in the bottom-right.

**Thank you!**

# How Toronto Hydro is Addressing Electrification Peak

Preparing for Grid  
Modernization and Expansion



Julia McNally, Director of Climate Action



April 18, 2024



# Agenda

1. Who is Toronto Hydro?
2. Electrification Preparation
3. We Are Ready
4. Demand Management
5. Looking Forward



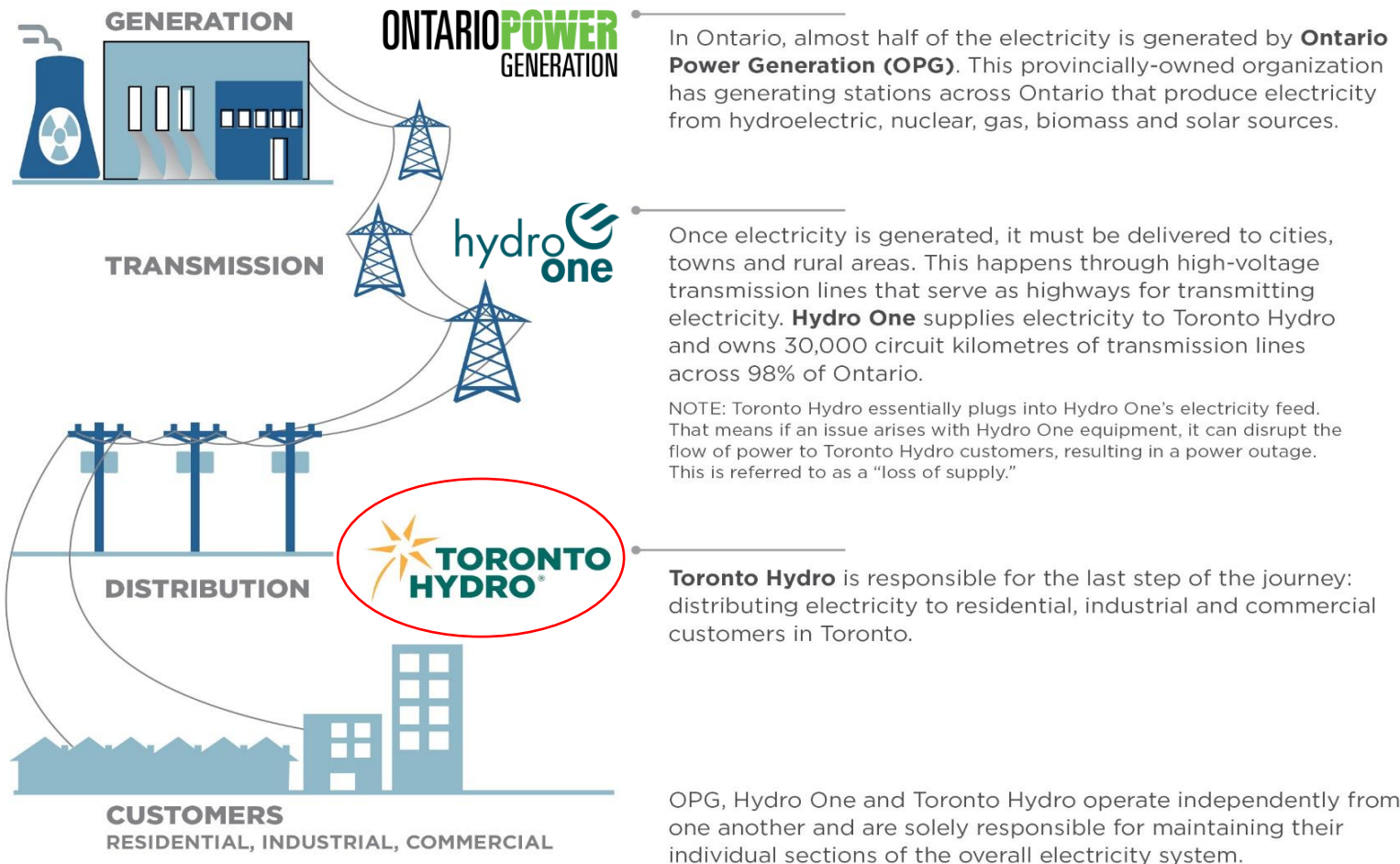
Photo credits: School of Cities



# Who is Toronto Hydro?

## Ontario's electricity system

There are three main components to all electricity systems: generation, transmission and distribution.



- Toronto Hydro is a distribution company
- We distribute electricity to approximately 793,000 customers in Toronto
- **Role of Toronto Hydro:** help reduce building emissions and prepare the grid
- **Role of OEB and IESO:** focus on upstream to accommodate load

# Electrification Preparation

- After years of investment, we have a robust system with available capacity
- A fundamental shift—the energy transition—is underway
- Continued investment is needed to meet customer demands while addressing challenges (e.g., deteriorating infrastructure, extreme weather events)
- Toronto Hydro's [2025–2029 Investment Plan](#) outlines investments required to expand, modernize and sustain the foundations of a safe and reliable grid to serve current and future electricity needs
  - Keeping our grid in good condition
  - Preparing the grid for growth
  - Modernizing our grid and operations



## Executive Summary and Investment Plan Overview

2025-2029 CUSTOM RATE APPLICATION

# We Are Ready

- Our job is to provide electricity when and where customers need it
- We build our grid to meet peak needs
- Through an integrated planning process to determine required investments, Toronto Hydro modelled grid impacts of future peak demand scenarios
  - Completed with a new tool—Future Energy Scenarios model
- Toronto Hydro's Investment Plan would accommodate a range of possible energy transition scenarios in the next decade, among other measures
- Our transformation is anchored by six strategic priorities:

Intelligent grid

Energy  
storage

Transportation  
electrification

Customer  
experience

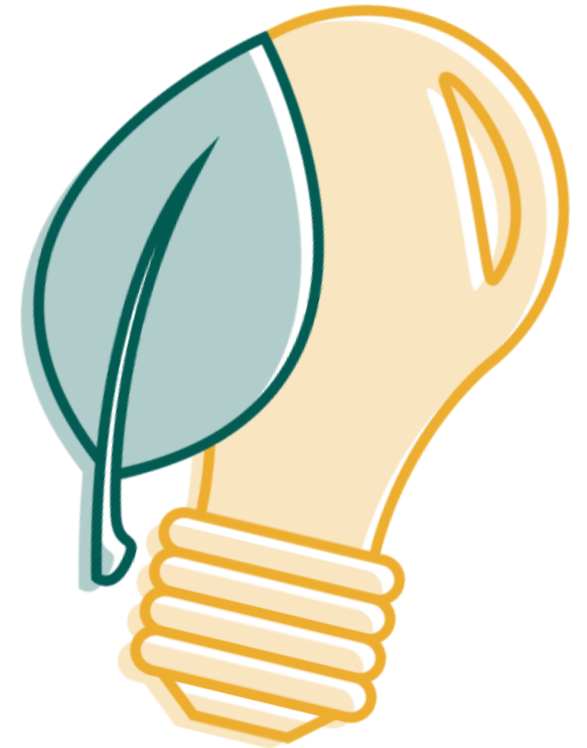
Process  
automation

Business  
growth



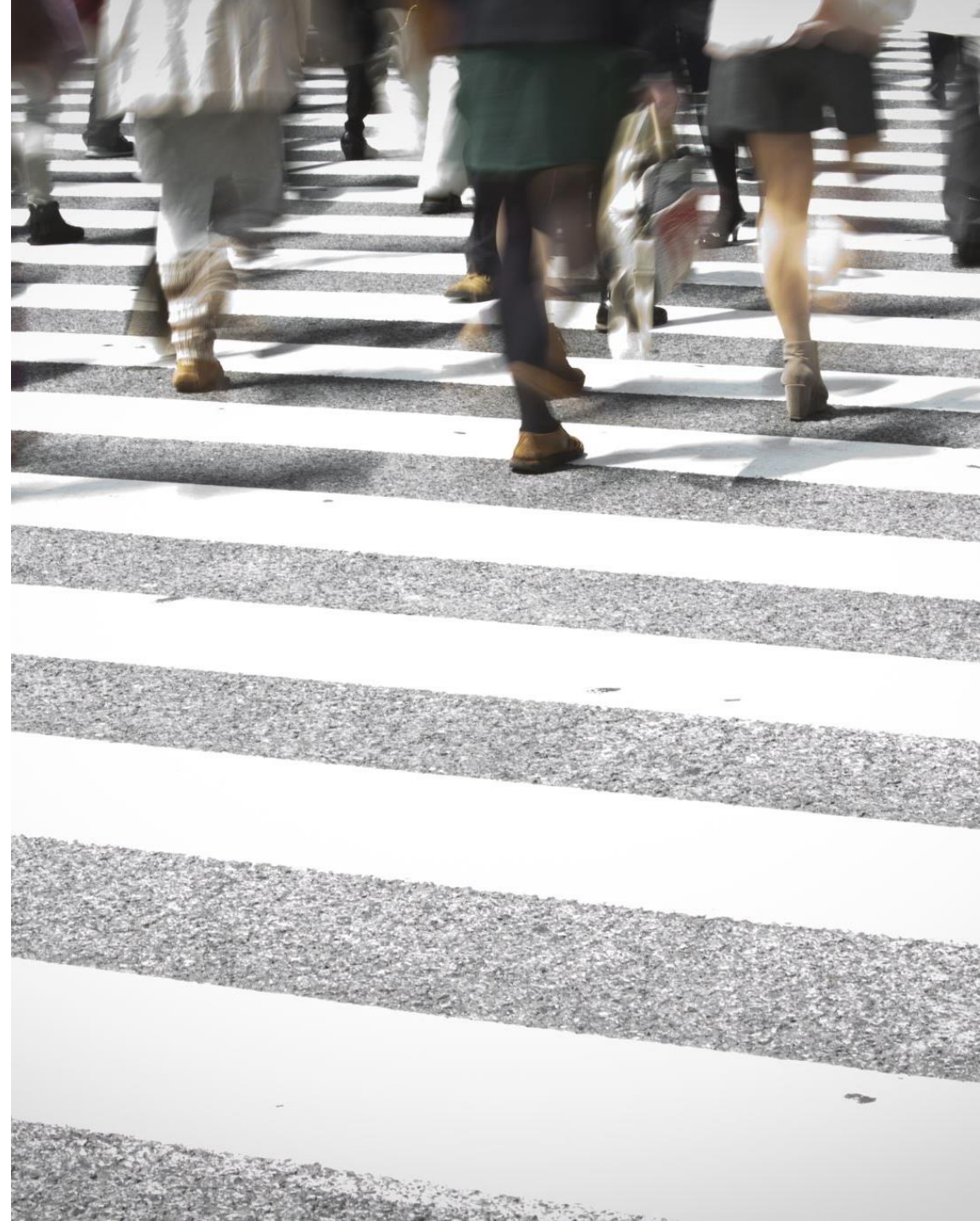
# Demand Management

- Toronto Hydro is familiar with using demand side management and non-wires solutions to manage peak demand
  - **Peaksaver Plus:** Residential program ran until 2017—provided homeowners with thermostat to temporarily reduce electricity use when city demand was high
  - **Etobicoke Demand Response:** This project targets two at-capacity transformer stations in Etobicoke to examine how Toronto Hydro can meet peak demand without building more infrastructure
  - **Climate Action Team:** Promotes efficient electrification and existing programs
  - **Smart Electric Vehicle Charging:** Partnering with Elocity and Plug'n Drive to increase understanding of smart EV charging



# Looking Forward

- Moving forward, there is work to do
- The growth of EVs and heat pumps are expected to flip Ontario back to a winter peaking jurisdiction
- Toronto Hydro is excited to prepare for big changes in the electricity sector





# Thank you!



Photo credits: blogTO



# Reducing Peak Demand Impacts:

Increasing Load Flexibility  
in British Columbia



**Robyn Wark**, Manager, Market Transformation








April, 2024



# BC Hydro

Power smart

-  69% Large hydro
-  19% IPP hydro
-  5% Biomass
-  3% Wind
-  <1% Solar

2023/24 - 2025/26 Service Plan (Feb 2023).  
Gas is approximately 1.4%



# Growing electrical demand








**Call for Power 2024**





**\$36 Billion 10 year Capital Plan**



A photograph showing two technicians in black hoodies and caps working on a large outdoor HVAC unit. They are using a yellow level to ensure the unit is properly aligned. The unit is mounted on a wall next to a wooden fence. A green house is visible in the background.

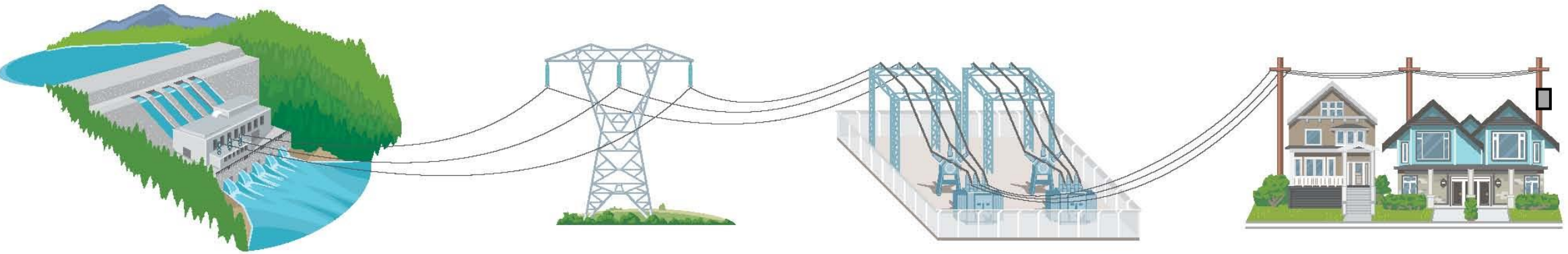
**Build off 40+ years of Energy  
Efficiency programming**





**Include CAPACITY in the  
conversation**

# Capacity issues can be at any scale



## **Generation:**

Electricity is generated by BC Hydro and independent power producers.

## **Transmission:**

Electricity is moved from where it is produced to where it is used.

## **Substations:**

Voltage is reduced at substations to provide power suitable for use in homes and businesses.

## **Distribution:**

Low-voltage electricity is provided safely to neighbourhoods and businesses.





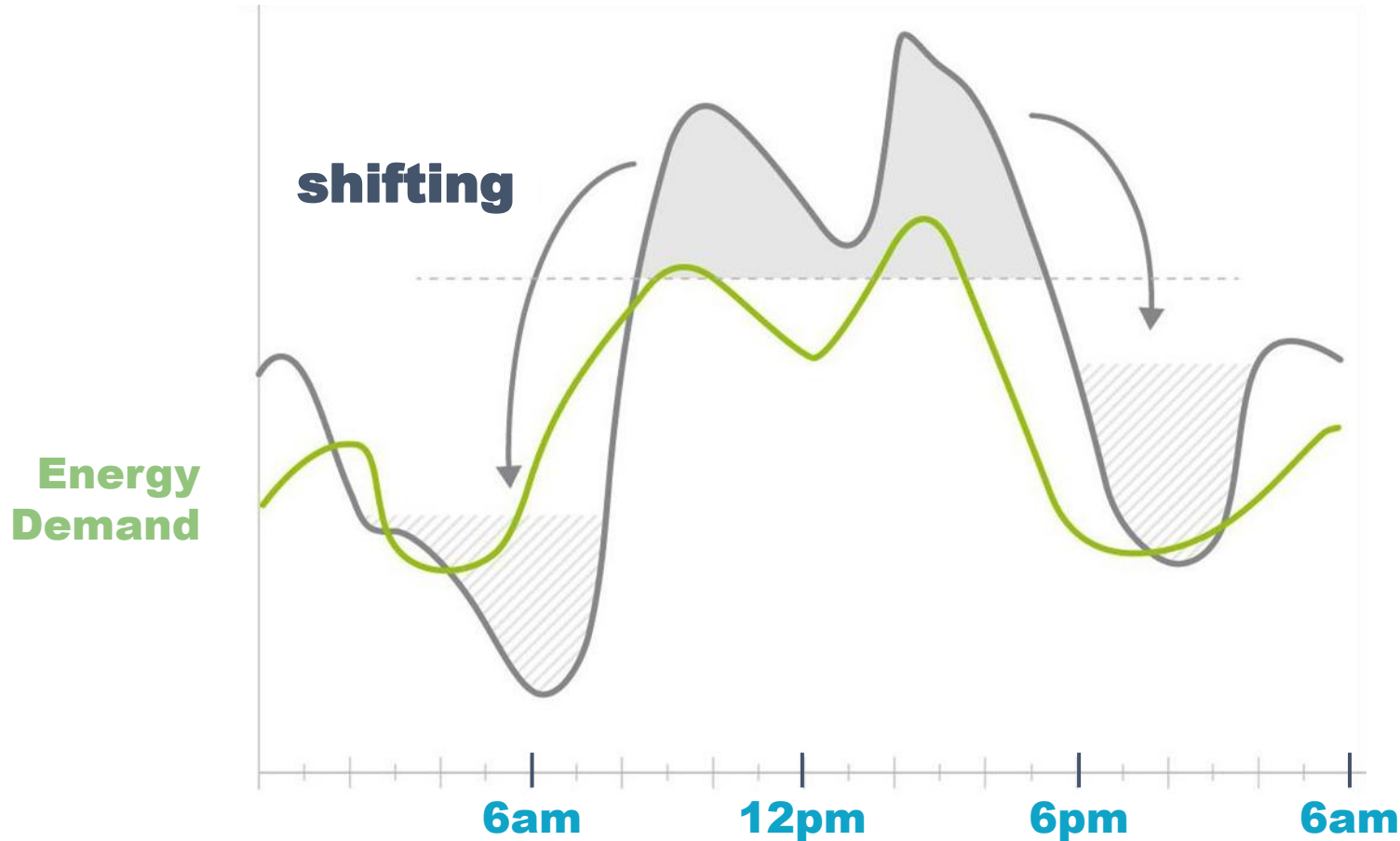
Pilots and trials in  
grid-constrained areas



# Trials and pilots for FLEXIBLE LOAD



# Residential Peak Saver (Launched 2022) Behavioural program - Load shifting



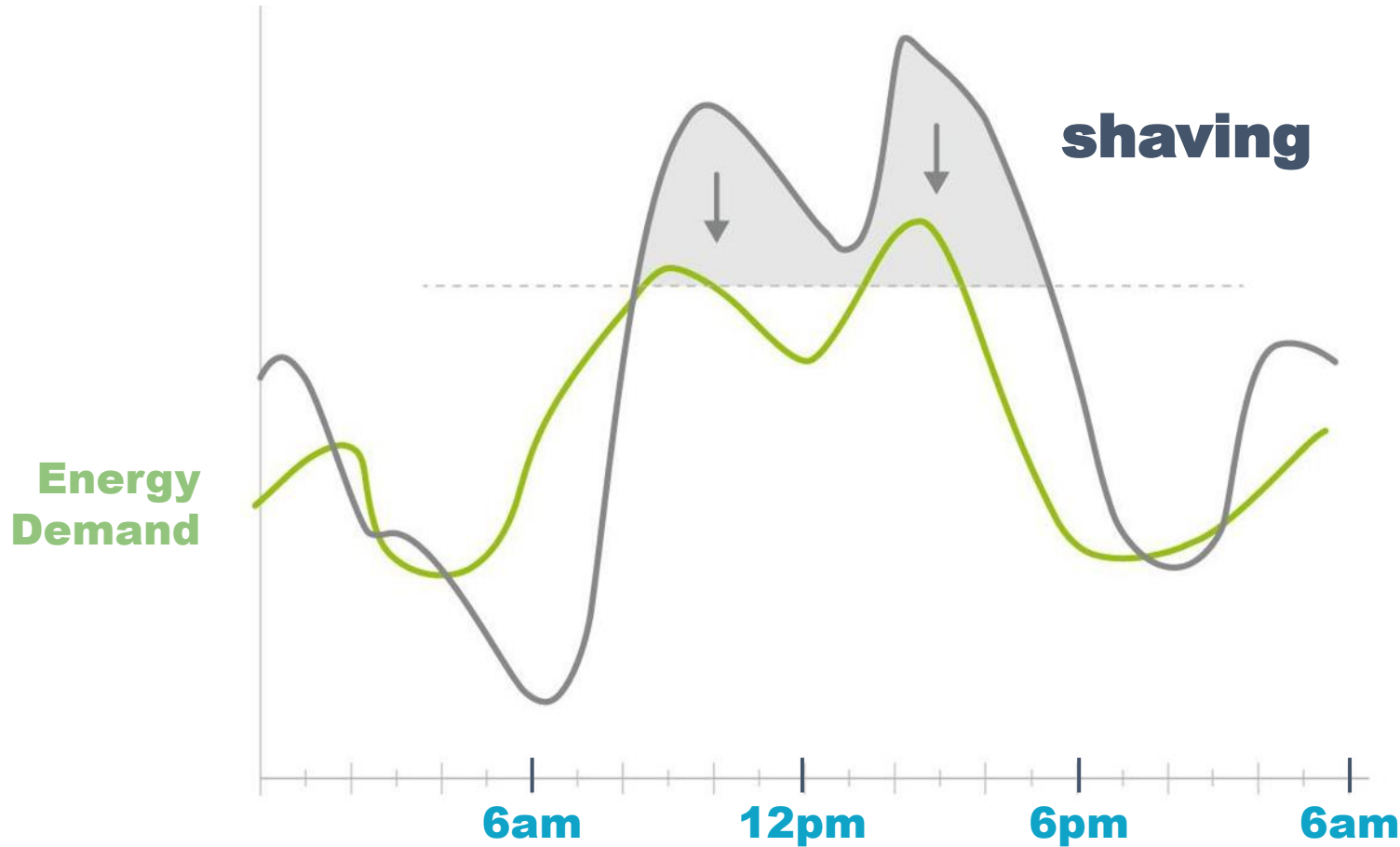
- Request customers turn down usage during a 3 hour event. Notice 24hrs in advance.
- Reward - \$3 if successful in reducing energy use by 20% using previous 5 days as baseline.
- 33,000 customers signed up to date. 2024 target - 75,000 customers





# Residential Peak Rewards (Launched 2022)

## Demand Response - Peak Shaving



- Agreement to allow BC Hydro to turn down devices by preset amount when needed
- Reward - \$50 for season (Nov-March)
- 8,000 customers signed up to date – EV chargers, smart thermostats, water heaters, batteries.

### Peak Rewards



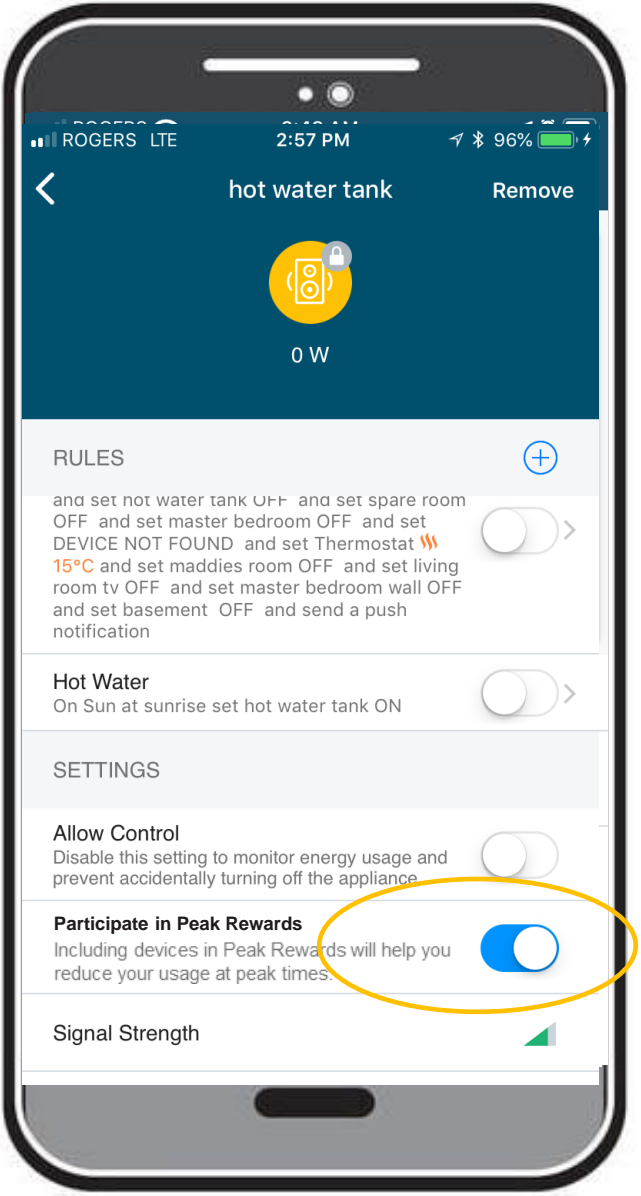
### Earn rewards for participating with your smart devices

Get more from your home's smart devices by allowing us to remotely adjust their operation for brief periods to manage the demand on our electrical system.

[Enroll your products](#)

# Time of Use Rate - voluntary

Coming this June

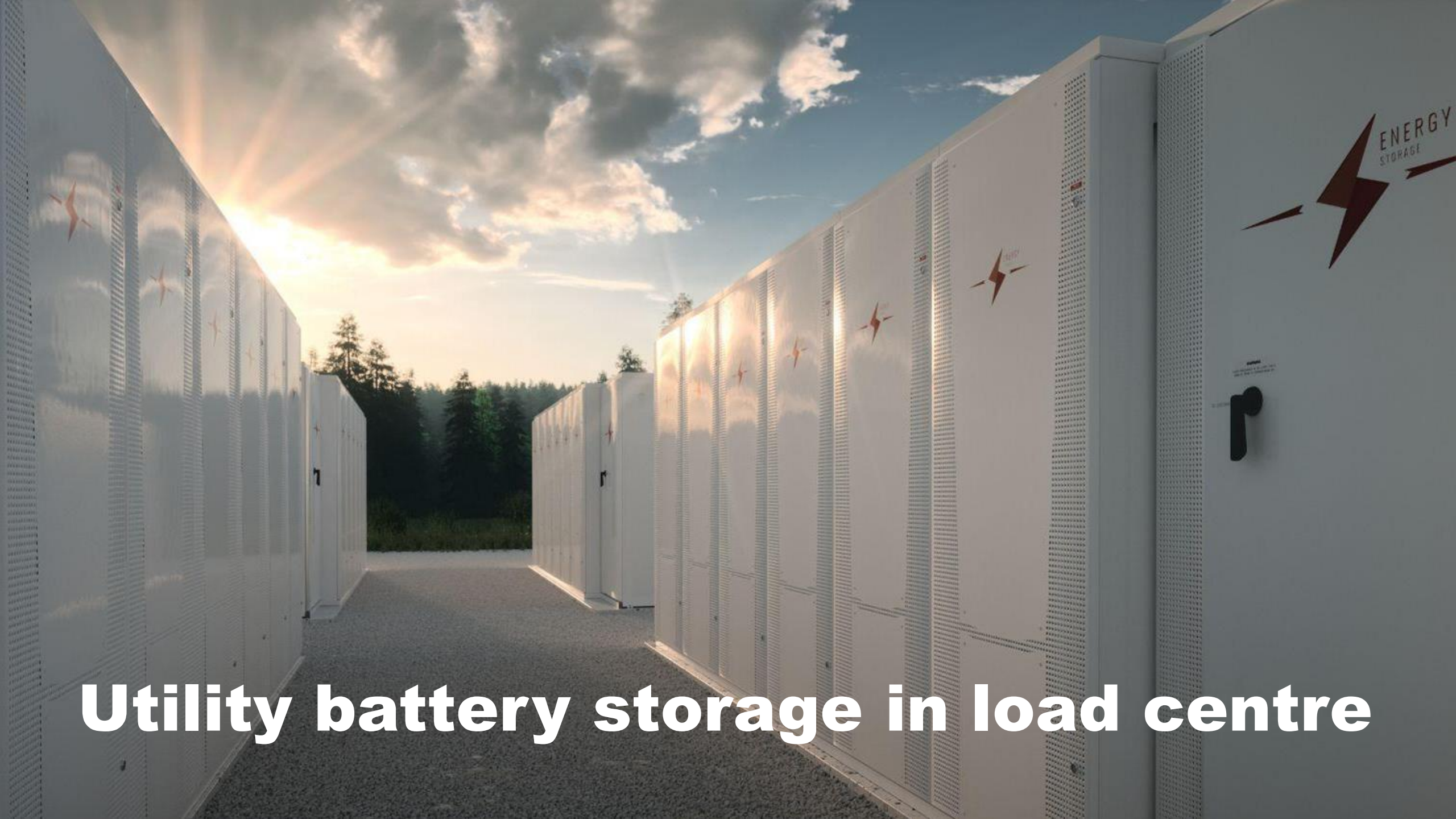


# Commercial and Industrial Offers

- Businesses
  - Behavioural Demand Response Program (launched 2023)
  - Direct load control (coming soon)
- Industrial Load Curtailment (coming soon)
- Integrated Energy Studies







# Utility battery storage in load centre

# Thank you!

[Robyn.Wark@BCHydro.com](mailto:Robyn.Wark@BCHydro.com)





# How Thermal Storage can help Canada Achieve Clean Energy Goals!

Thermal Energy Storage  
Provides Grid Flexibility



**Scott Huffmaster**  
Director of Sales, NA



**TRANE**

TRANE  
TECHNOLOGIES

April 18, 2024

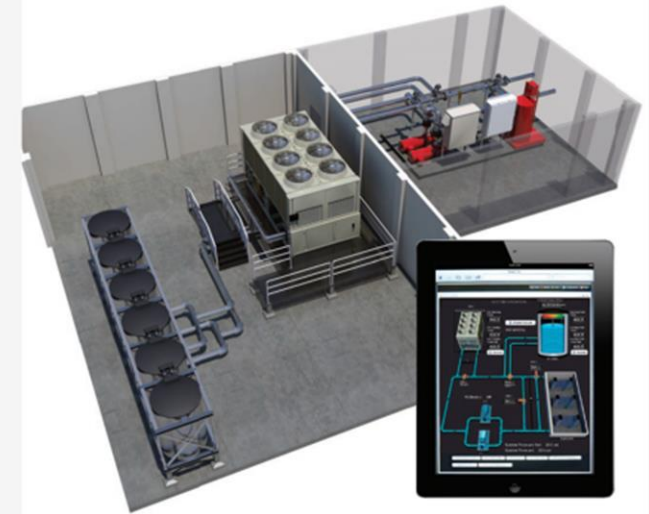


# Agenda

1. The need for energy storage
2. Using off peak electricity to heat and cool commercial buildings
3. Tools to assess costs, energy savings, and emission reduction
4. Tax credits and utility rebates to encourage storage
5. Goal: Resiliency, flexibility, and affordability

## System Catalog

Thermal Battery™ Air-Cooled Chiller Plant

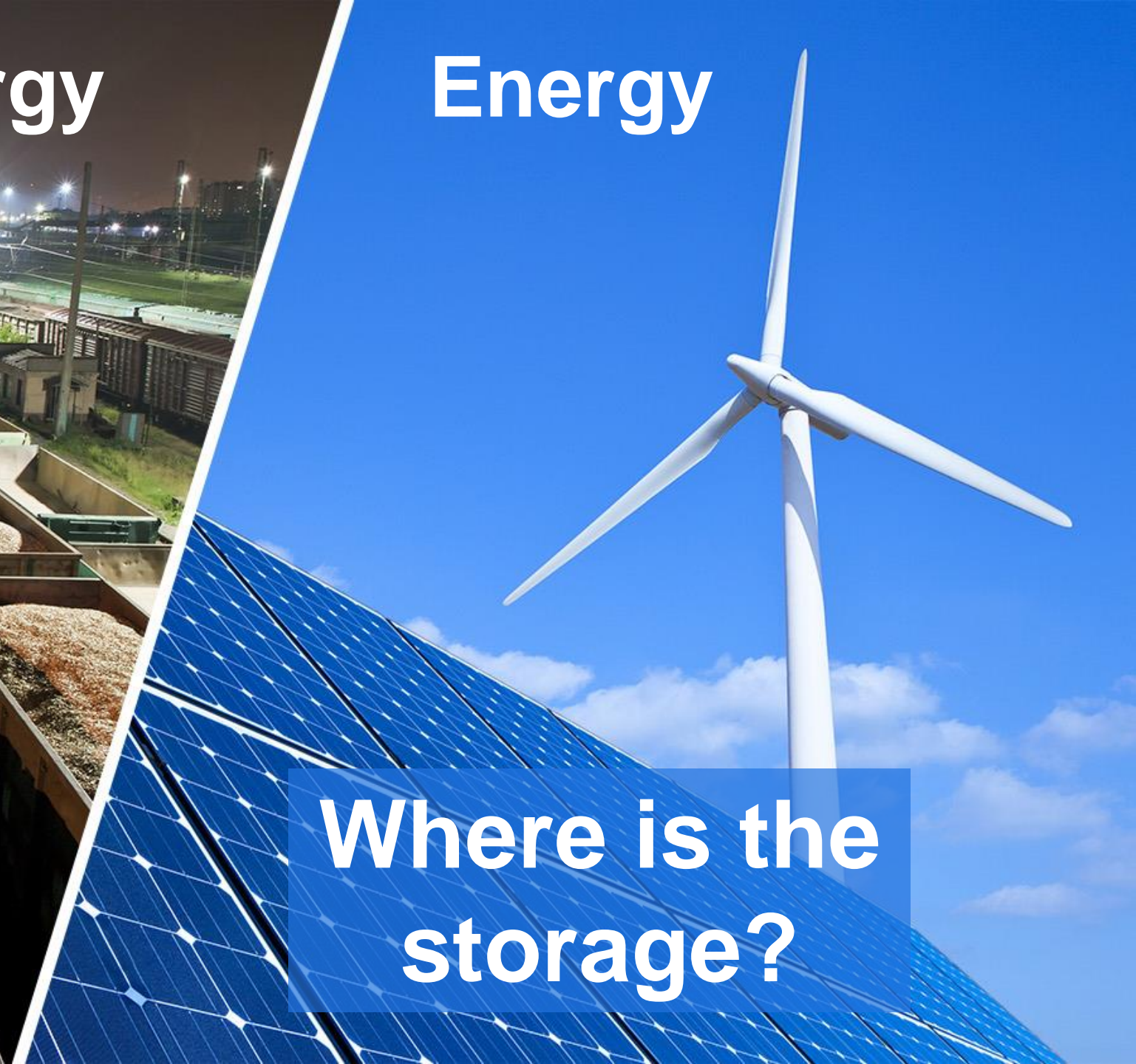




# Stored Energy



# Energy



Where is the  
storage?



# Pathway to Clean Energy

- Energy storage is essential if we are to achieve 100% renewable energy on the grid.
- Thermal storage often lowest cost energy storage
- US and Canada propose investment tax credits for energy storage
- Game changer!

NEWS

## Canada introduces 30% refundable investment tax credits for energy storage

By [Andy Colthorpe](#)

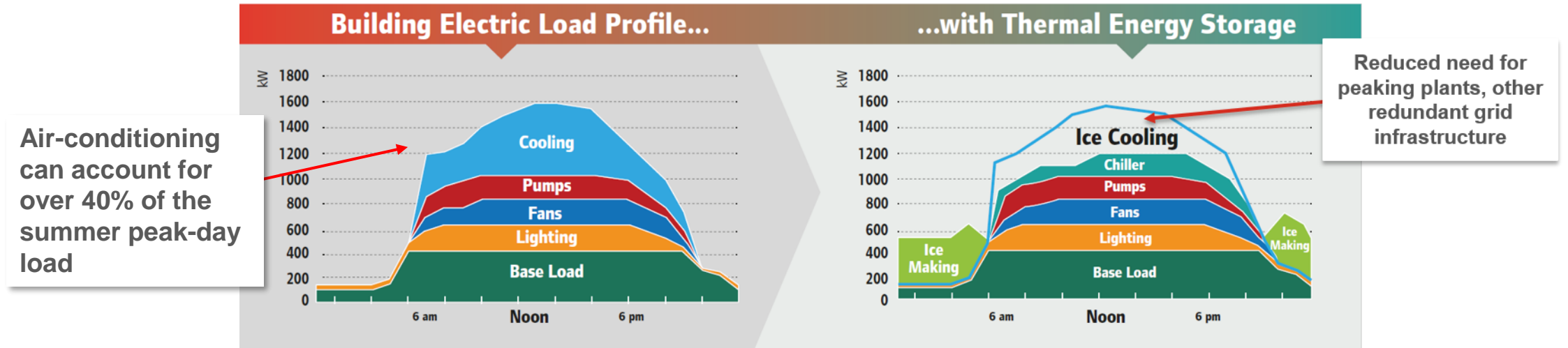
November 4, 2022

[US & Canada, Americas](#) [Grid Scale, Connected Technologies](#) [Policy](#)



[Energy Storage News](#)

# Shift Cooling Demand with Thermal Batteries



## Thermal Batteries meet grid challenges

- Addressing **critical** utility/grid peaks
- Avoid **expensive** and **high-emission** peaker plants
- Supporting **advanced grid services** and **demand response**

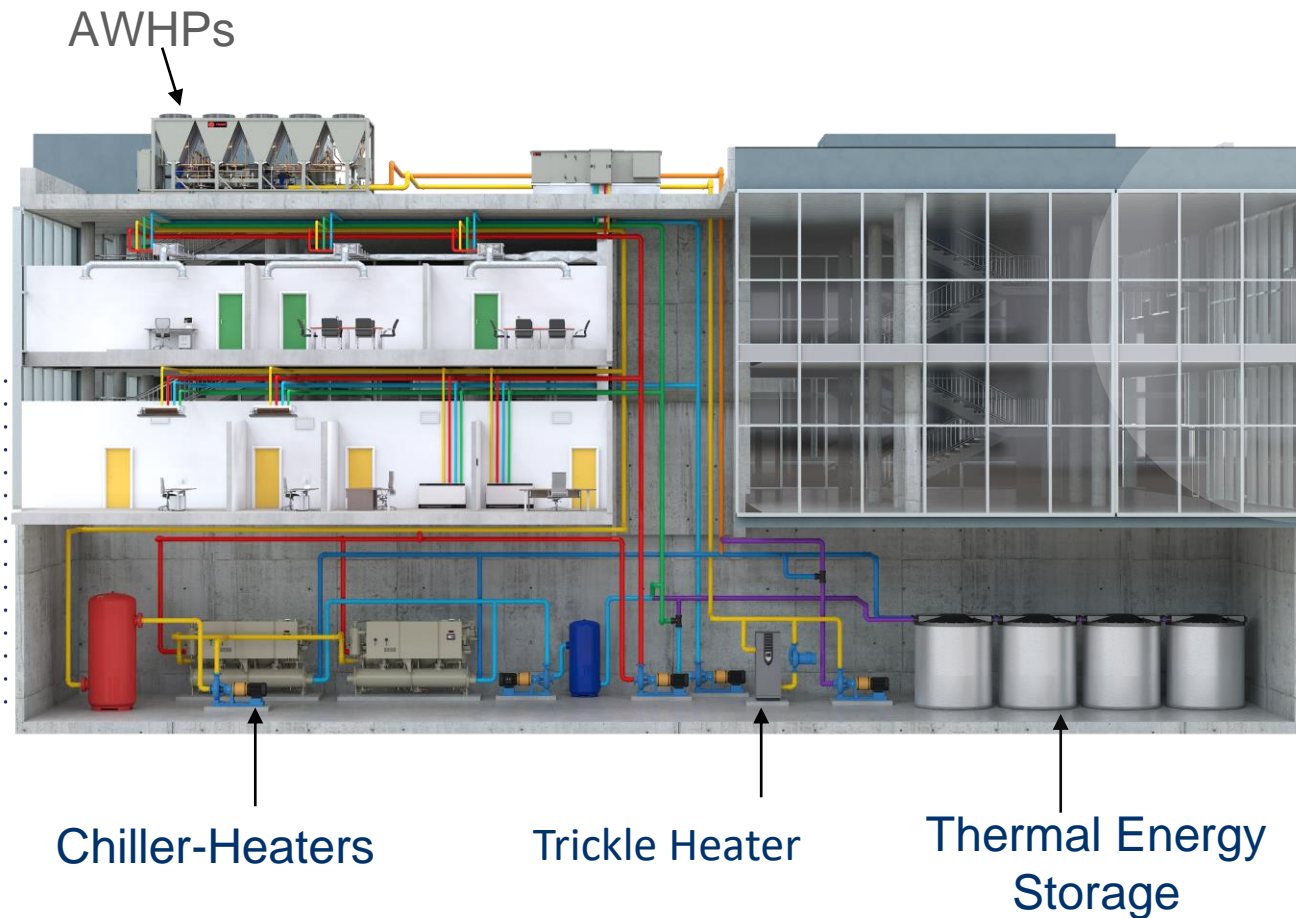




# Shift Heating Demand with Thermal Batteries

## Storage-Source Heat Pump (SSHP) System

An innovative way to make all-electric heat pump heating possible even in cold climates and dense urban environments where there is limited roof space.



### FEATURES

- **Energy efficient:** Reclaims excess heat from the building using it to heat when needed.
- **Reliable operation:** Collects and stores heat from air-to-water heat pump operation during favorable conditions enabling heating at **all** outdoor conditions including extreme cold.
- **Save roof space:** Collecting and storing heat over 24-hour period for later use, can reduce required air-to-water heat pump capacity and cost.
- **Higher supply water temperatures:** Sourcing energy from a stable thermal energy storage source enables up to 130F.
- **Lowens costs:** Storing thermal energy for later use provides flexibility to use lower-cost electricity.



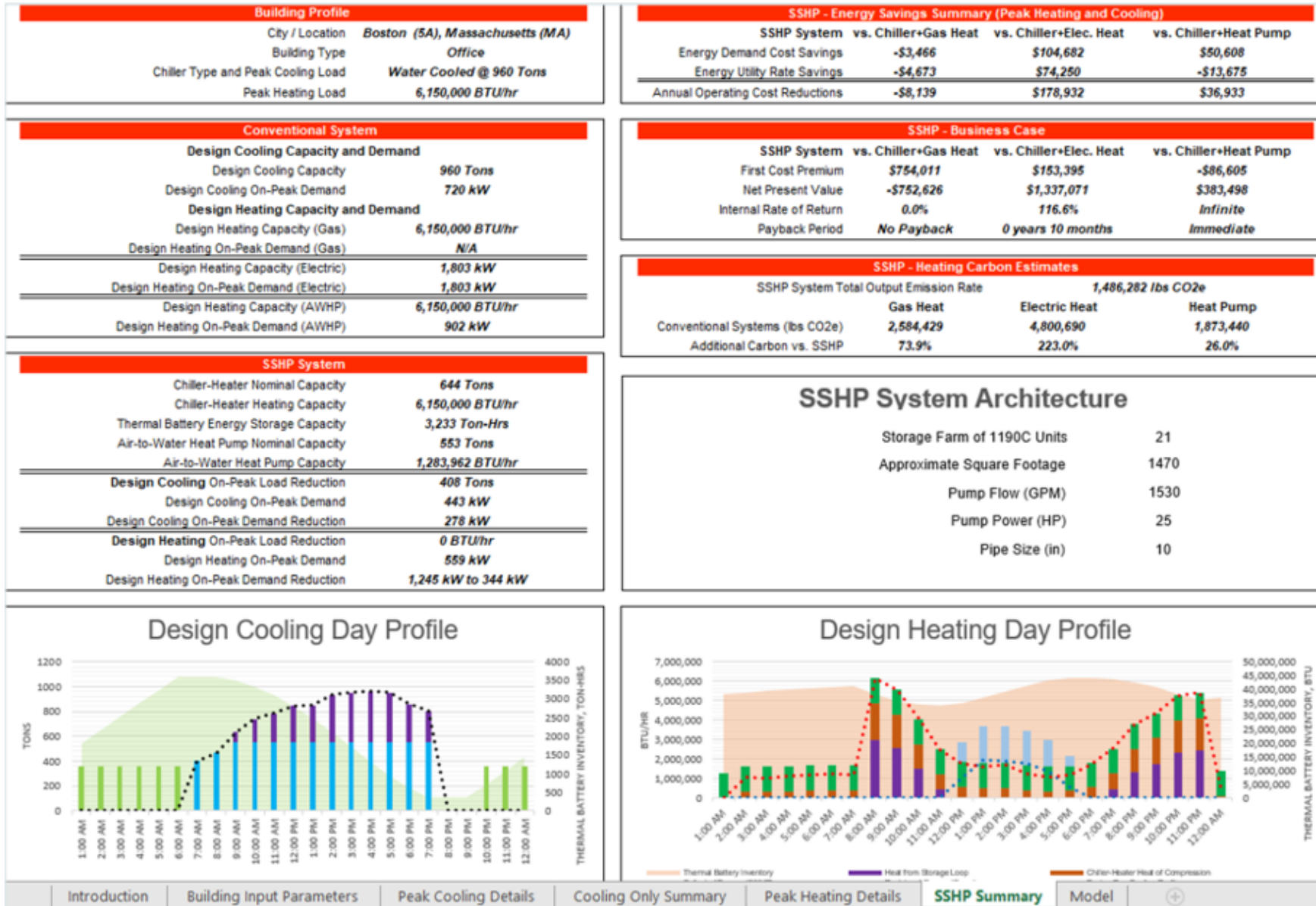
# Thermal Balancing of Winter Afternoons

## Winter Peak Heating and Cooling Load Profile over 48 hours





# Sample Load Profiles for Storage Source Heat Pump



# Status of 30% Investment Tax Credit for Ice Storage?

- Holding our breath!



Still in process



Initially only affects taxable entities, now 15% for tax-exempt

Utilities will cover 50% of the investment after the 30% tax credit is taken

- $30\% + 35\% = 65\%$

K12, Local Government, Provincial Government added in March 2023 for 15% tax credit

- Utilities will cover 50% of the investment based on \$1,200/kW



Customers will likely wait for clarification and paperwork, but start educating them NOW!

Ice storage for summer peak load reduction

Storage source heat pump for winter energy savings

Ground source heat pump for winter/summer savings

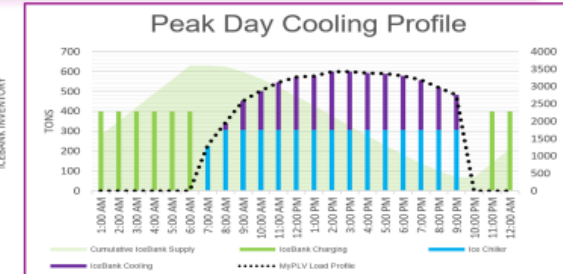
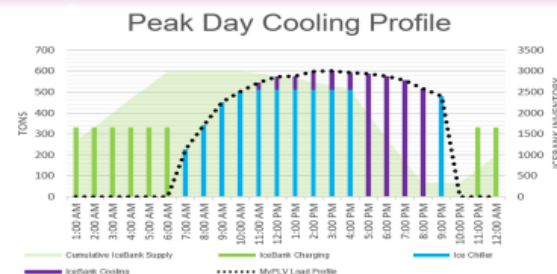




# New Construction Project: 250,000 sq. ft. office building, Toronto



|                           | Conventional   | Full Storage 4-8 PM   | Partial Storage       |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chillers                  | (2) 300-ton AC | (2) 300-ton AC        | (1) 400-ton AC        |
| Ice Storage               | N/A            | (2,659 ton-hr) \$757k | (2,047 ton-hr) \$628k |
| Utility Cost*             | \$121k         | \$24k                 | \$85k                 |
| First Cost                | \$900k         | \$1,657k              | \$1,228k              |
| Tax Credit (30%)          | \$0            | \$(497k)              | \$(368k)              |
| SaveOnEnergy Incentive    | \$0            | \$(578k)              | \$(430k)              |
| <b>Revised First Cost</b> | <b>\$900k</b>  | <b>\$597k</b>         | <b>\$430k</b>         |



\* Annual electric utility costs for the chillers.

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# Thermal Energy Storage



Provides demand flexibility and can reduce reliance on grid (thus reducing costs)



Enables renewable energy and decarbonization



Offers reliable power redundancy and assurance



Incentivized by utility programs, federal tax incentives, and local funding programs





# Thank you!

