

# ***Regional Emerging Technology Advisory Committee (RETAC)***

**Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance**

Q4 2025 Meeting

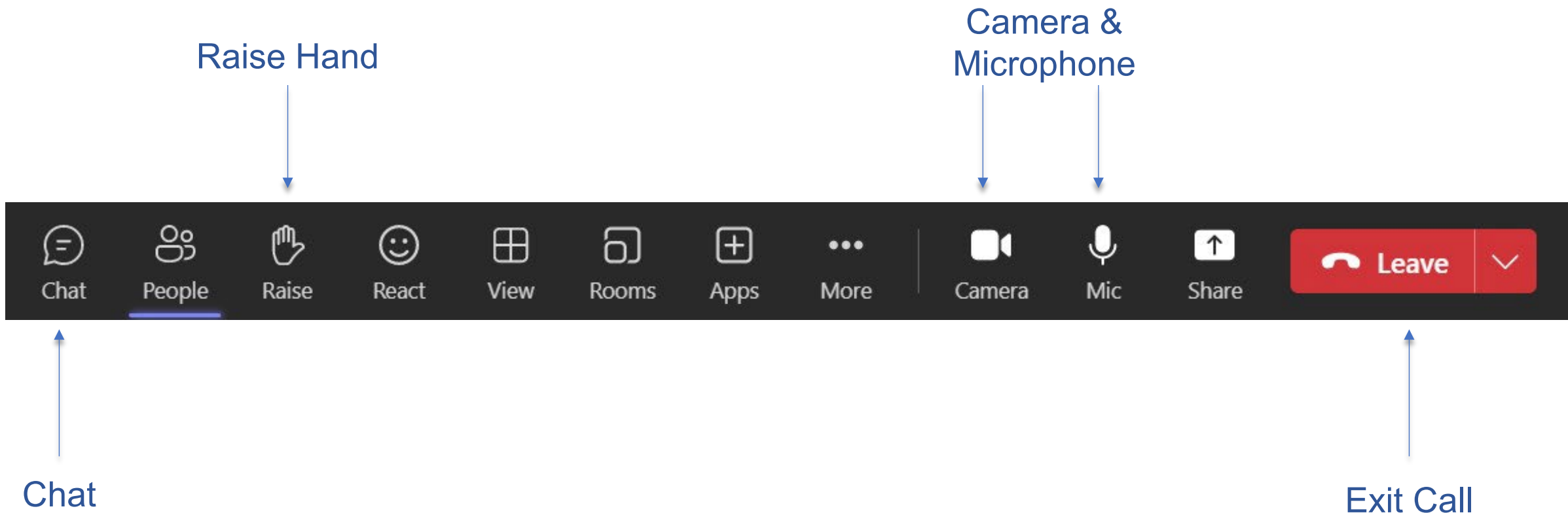
December 4, 2025

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.





# *Navigating MS Teams Layout*

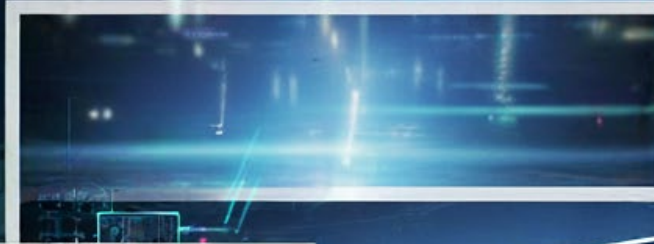


**Note:** These options may vary, depending on which version you're using.



*Name, Title,  
Organization  
and...*

*Share one technology you  
or your company have  
been working on this last  
quarter, or a technology  
that you're excited about.*



# Agenda

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8:30 am         | Welcome and Announcements                   |
| 8:45 am         | Central Commercial Heat Pump Water Heaters  |
| 9:30 am         | Emerging Technology Update – Energy Trust   |
| <i>10:30 am</i> | <i>Break</i>                                |
| 10:45 am        | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) |
| 12:00 pm        | Wrap-Up                                     |







# ***Central Commercial Heat Pump Water Heaters***

# NEEA's Cycle 7 Central HPWH

“Earlier stage opportunities – those in **Concept** or Program Development – will be considered for the portfolio if a viable Market Transformation opportunity is determined and in consultation with the region through NEEA's stakeholder advisory process.”

Product Group	Initiative Lifecycle Phase			
	Concept Development	Program Development	Market Development	Long-term Monitoring & Tracking
Building Envelope		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-Performance Windows (dual fuel)</li> </ul>		
Consumer Products			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retail Products Portfolio</li> </ul>	
HVAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next Generation Residential Heat Pumps</li> <li>Rooftop Units with Heat Pumps</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-Performance HVAC</li> <li>Advanced Heat Pumps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ductless Heat Pumps</li> <li>Manufactured Homes</li> </ul>
Lighting			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luminaire Level Lighting Controls</li> </ul>	
Motor-Driven Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion to New Pump and Fan Applications</li> <li>Efficient Motor-Drive Systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efficient Fans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended Motor Products (pumps)</li> </ul>	
Water Heating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial/ Multifamily Central Heat Pump Water Heater</li> <li>Residential Heat Pump Water Heaters for All Applications</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heat Pump Water Heaters</li> </ul>	

# Types of Electric Heat Pump Water Heaters

## “Consumer” Water Heaters

Consumer Unitary



Consumer Split



Commercial Unitary or Packaged



## “Commercial” Water Heaters

Central Commercial





# Central CHPWH Resources

- [Advanced Water Heating Specification \(AWHS\)](#)
- [Qualified Products List \(QPL\)](#)
  - Detailed P&IDs, sequence of operation, and load shift
- Building momentum for alignment between CEE, AHRI, ENERGY STAR...

Identifier	Configuration	Market Delivery Method	Hot Climate Zone		Mild Climate Zone		Cold Climate Zone		Very Cold Climate Zone		EcoPort <sup>®</sup>	ANSI 1181.1 Performance Map	Performance Monitoring
			Tier	SysCOP	Tier	SysCOP	Tier	SysCOP	Tier	SysCOP			
<a href="#">AHPA060</a>	<a href="#">Multi Pass Return to Primary</a>	Custom Engineered System	2	2.6	2	2.1	2	1.8	2	1.6	No	No	No
<a href="#">AHPA060</a>	<a href="#">Single Pass Return to Primary</a>	Custom Engineered System	3	3.3	3	2.7	2	2.2	2	1.8	No	No	No
<a href="#">AHPA060</a>	<a href="#">Swing Tank</a>	Custom Engineered System	3	2.8	2	2.5	2	2.1	2	1.8	No	No	No
<a href="#">AHPA140</a>	<a href="#">Multi Pass Return to Primary</a>	Custom Engineered System	2	2.5	2	2.1	2	1.8	2	1.6	No	No	No
<a href="#">AHPA140</a>	<a href="#">Single Pass Return to Primary</a>	Custom Engineered System	3	3.1	3	2.6	2	2.2	2	1.8	No	No	No
<a href="#">AHPA140</a>	<a href="#">Swing Tank</a>	Custom Engineered System	2	2.7	2	2.4	2	2.0	2	1.7	No	No	No
<a href="#">AHPA200</a>	<a href="#">Multi Pass Return to Primary</a>	Custom Engineered System	2	2.5	2	2.1	2	1.8	2	1.6	No	No	No
<a href="#">AHPA200</a>	<a href="#">Single Pass Return to Primary</a>	Custom Engineered System	3	3.2	3	2.7	2	2.2	2	1.8	No	No	No
<a href="#">AHPA200</a>	<a href="#">Swing Tank</a>	Custom Engineered System	2	2.7	2	2.4	2	2.1	2	1.7	No	No	No

# Questions for *RETAC Orgs*

1. What is your organization currently doing to encourage efficient electric commercial water heating?
2. What is your organization planning (or would like) to do to support efficient electric commercial water heating?
3. What is stopping your organization from involvement in efficient electric commercial water heating?







# New and Interesting at Energy Trust of Oregon

RETAC, December 4, 2025



# Agenda

- Who we are
- What is changing
- Evaluations
- Program expansion and exploration

## About us

Independent  
nonprofit

Serving 2.4 million customers of  
Portland General Electric,  
Pacific Power, NW Natural,  
Cascade Natural Gas and Avista

Providing  
access to  
affordable  
energy

Generating  
homegrown,  
renewable  
power

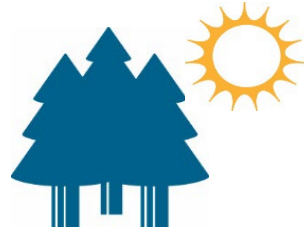
Building a  
stronger Oregon  
and SW  
Washington

# Clean and affordable energy since 2002

From Energy Trust's investment of \$3.1 billion in utility customer funds:



**842,000 sites** transformed into energy efficient, healthy, comfortable and productive homes and businesses



**34,000 clean energy systems** generating renewable power from the sun, wind, water, geothermal heat and biopower



**\$15.8 billion** in savings over time on participant utility bills from their energy-efficiency and solar investments



**46.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent** emissions kept out of our air, equal to removing 12.5 million cars from our road for a year



# Our values, vision and purpose

## WE CARE ABOUT PEOPLE

We deliver results because it makes a difference to those we serve. As teammates, we support each other's success and well-being as we work together toward common goals.

## WE LEARN AND CHANGE

We continuously learn from listening, experimentation and evaluation. We recognize that emerging needs and complex challenges often require adaptation and new solutions.

## WE ARE TRANSPARENT

We work with integrity. We share our work, are honest about what we have done and will do and we hold ourselves and each other accountable.

## WE VALUE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

We acknowledge the deep importance of DEIB in our work. Everyone brings value; we seek different perspectives because we know our solutions are stronger when we collaborate with each other.

## Our vision:

Clean, affordable energy for everyone

## Our purpose:

Working together with customers, communities and utilities, we save energy and maximize adoption of clean energy solutions, reducing costs and accelerating community-centered benefits.

## Energy Trust Role

# MAXIMIZING CLEAN, AFFORDABLE ENERGY ACQUISITION

Supporting customers and communities to reduce energy costs and realize additional benefits

## 2025-2030 Areas of Focus

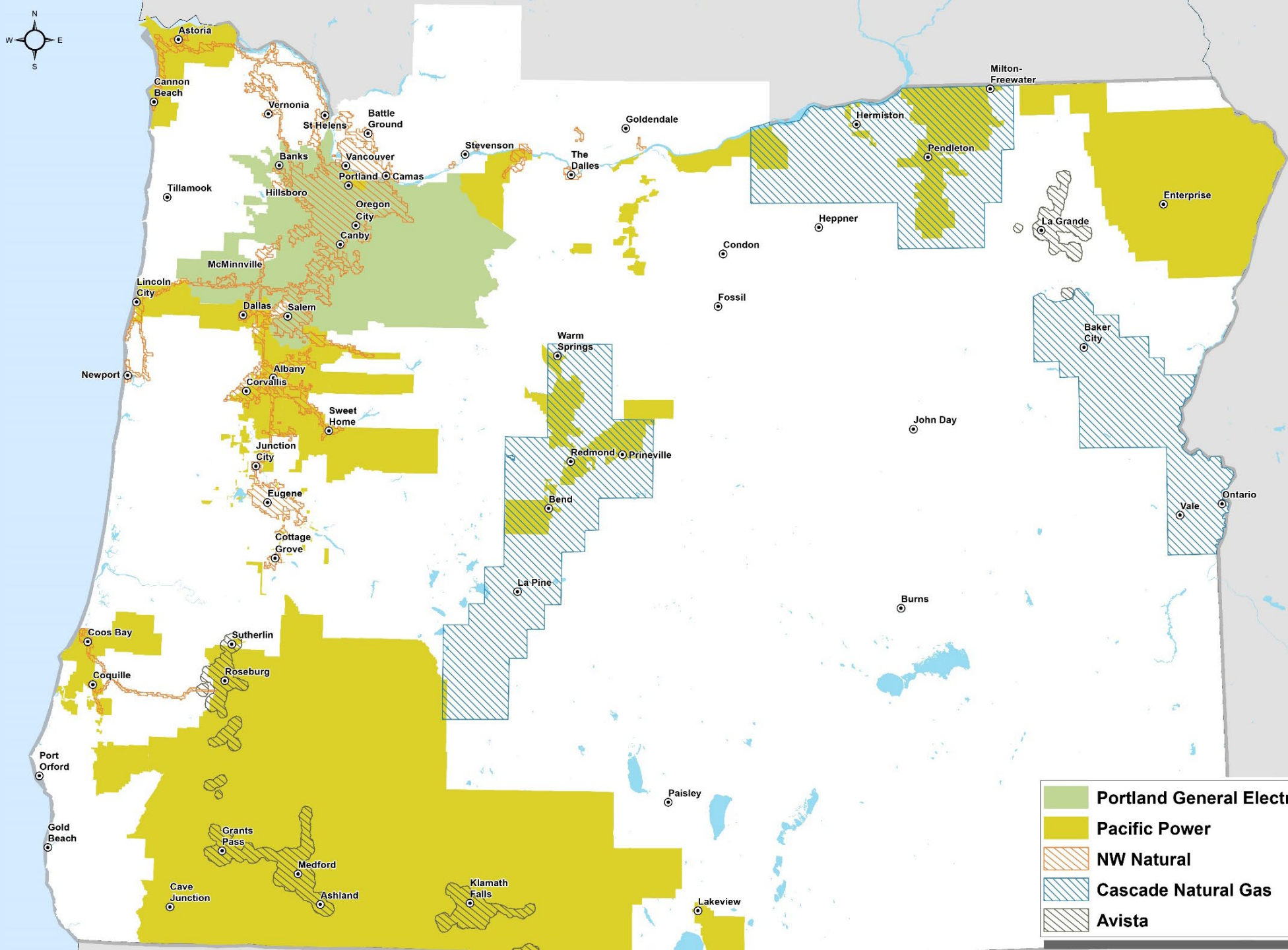
Reducing the  
cost of  
decarbonization

Creating greater  
impact for priority  
customers

Motivating the next  
level of customer  
participation

Supporting  
community  
resilience

Empowering  
customers to navigate  
more choices





A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a person's hand operating a manual coffee machine lever. The hand is wearing a red and yellow beaded bracelet. The background is a white subway tile wall.

# 2024 Budget and results

## Financial highlights

- ✓ Revenues totaled **\$241 million** for the year
- ✓ Expenditures totaled **\$283 million** for the year
- ✓ Incentives delivered totaled **\$160 million** for the year, 57% of expenditures

## Energy results

- ✓ Saved **59.6 average megawatts**
- ✓ Saved **6.95 million annual therms**
- ✓ Generated **5.45 average megawatts**
- ✓ Avoided **267,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide**



## Multi-year strategic planning

- More ambitious goals
- Increased programmatic flexibility
- Support for equity and priority customers



## Increased focus on equity

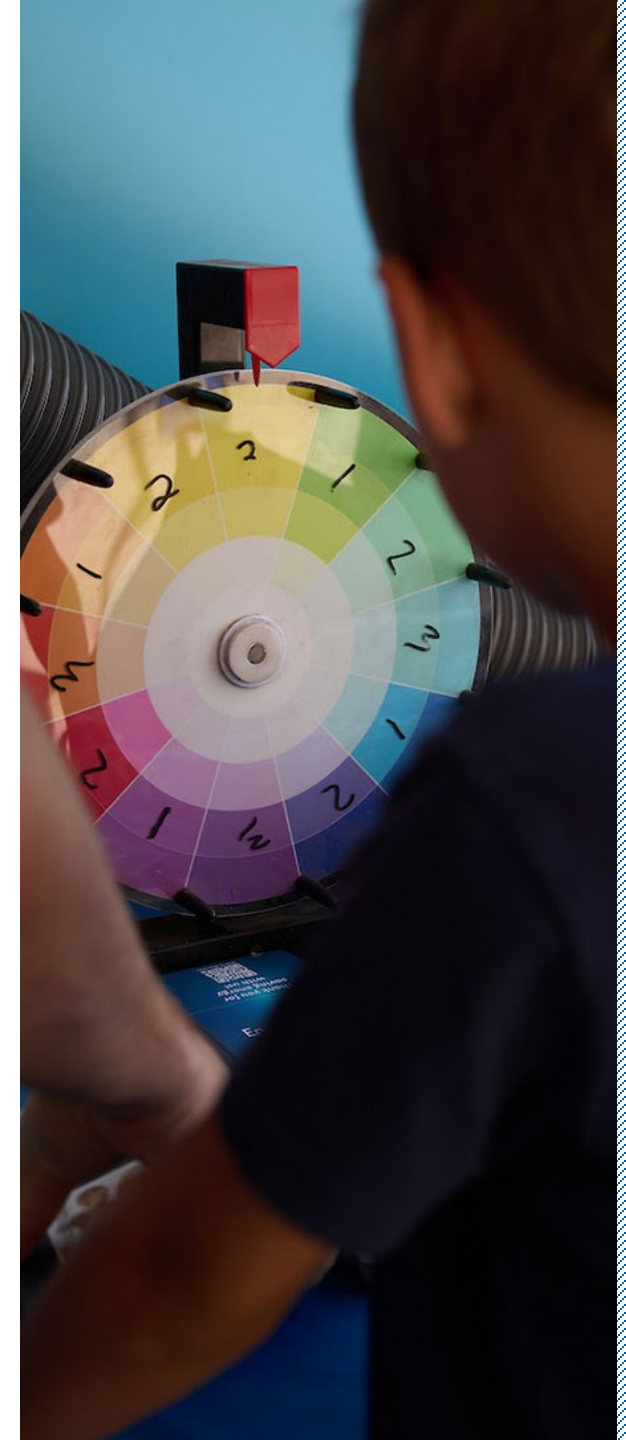
Who have we historically excluded?  
Where are we on the adoption curve?



# Recently published evaluations

On our [website](#):

- Adjustable Wattage Fixtures
- Residential Thermostats
- Greenhouse Measures Market Research
- Independent Restaurant Study
- Cannabis Dehumidifiers







## Upcoming research

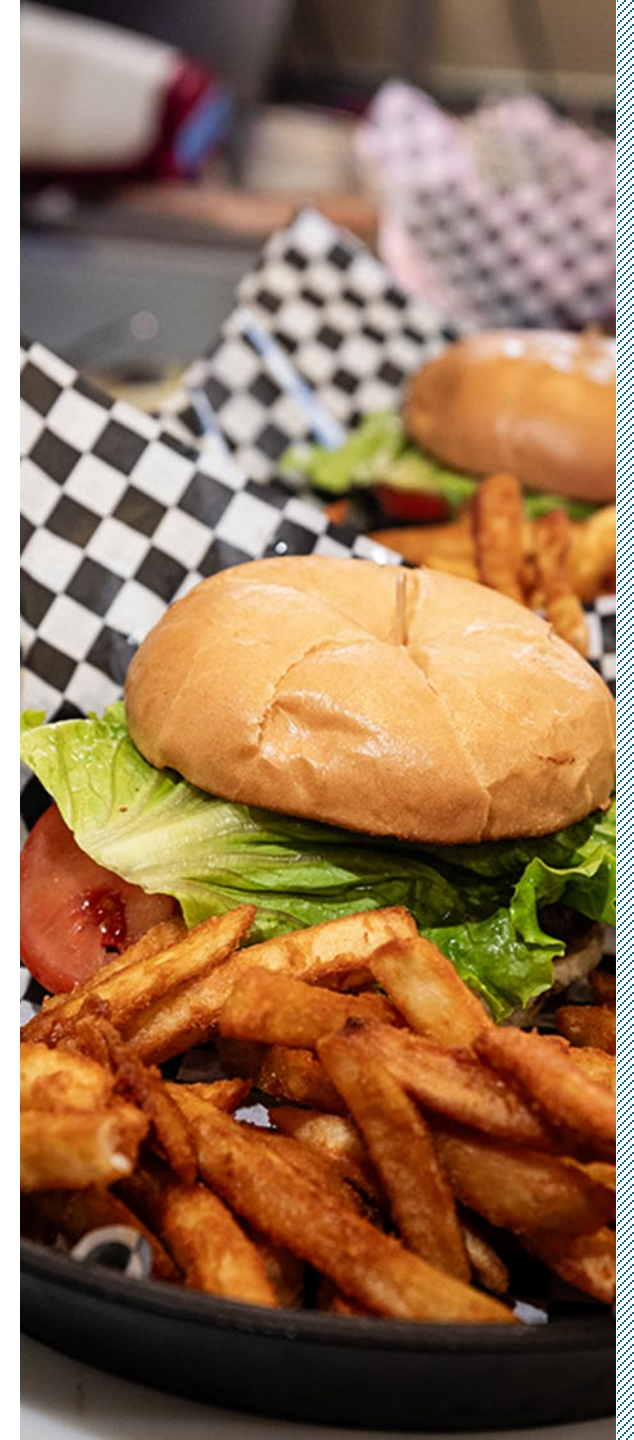
### HB 2531

- Ban on linear fluorescent distribution in Oregon
- Impact on customers TBD

### Indoor Agriculture Lighting

# Programmatic expansion and exploration

- [Supporting Oregon's Building Performance Standards](#)
- Residential HP work
- Residential prescriptive duct sealing
- Working with community partners
- Expanding our commercial midstream offering and consolidating program delivery







## Questions?

Kenji Spielman, Engineer – Planning and Evaluation  
[kenji.spielman@energytrust.org](mailto:kenji.spielman@energytrust.org)  
+1 503-445-2947



# BREAK





# Overview of NREL and Key Highlights from Ongoing IDSM Projects

Ramin Faramarzi, P.E.

Jason Woods, PhD

*NEEA ET Advisory Committee Meeting*

Dec. 4, 2025

*Photo by Joshua Bauer, NREL 61725*





## Coast to Coast

The **17** national laboratories have served as the leading institutions for scientific innovation in the United States for more than 90 years.



# NREL Campuses



**South Table  
Mountain Campus**



**Flatirons Campus**



**Alaska Campus  
in Fairbanks**



**Washington, D.C.,  
Office**



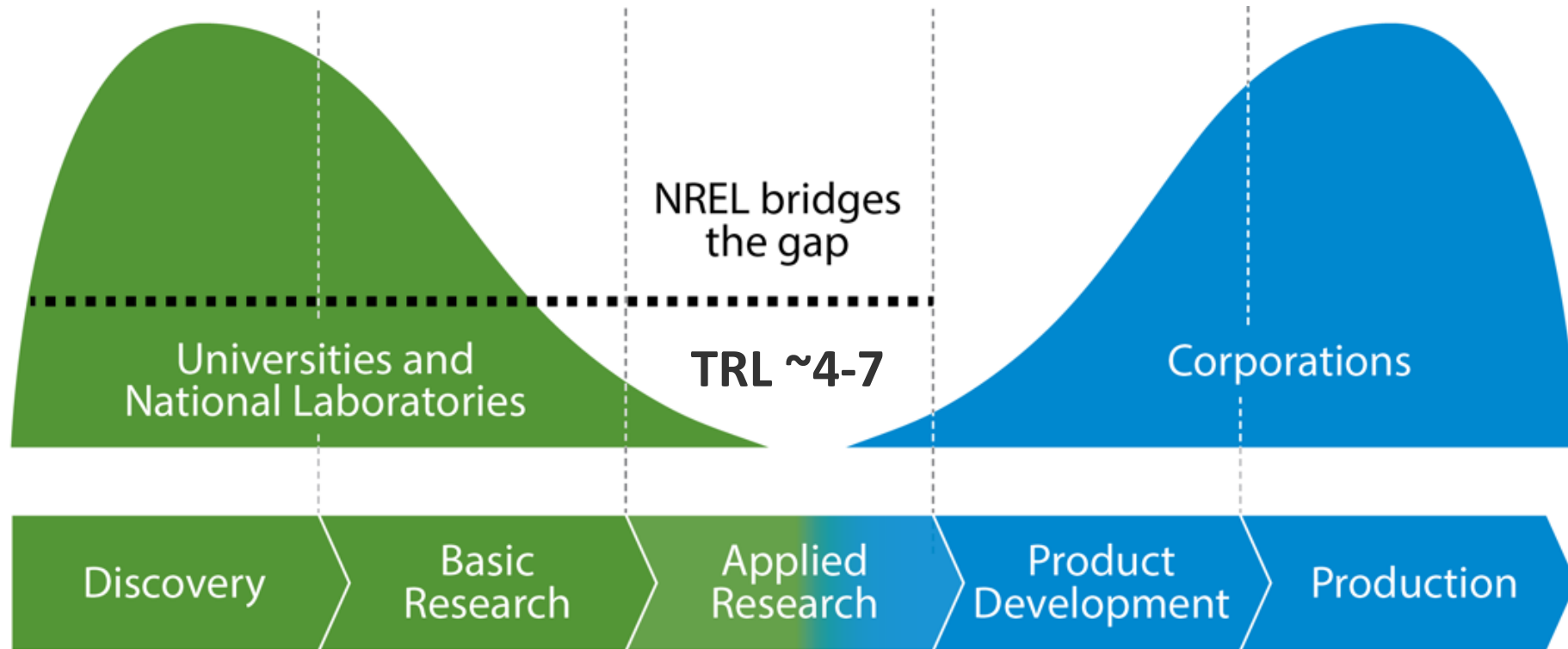


# About the Laboratory's Capabilities

Photo by Joshua Bauer and Bryan Bechtold, NREL 80544



# We Reduce Risk in Bringing Innovations to Market



**NREL helps bridge the gap from basic science to commercial application**

**Forward-thinking innovation yields disruptive and impactful results to benefit the entire U.S. economy**

**Accelerated time to market delivers advantages to American businesses and consumers**



# NREL Science Drives Innovation



## Energy Systems Integration

- Energy Security and Resilience
- Grid Modernization
- Cyber Security
- Integrated Energy Solutions



## Transportation and Fuels

- Bioenergy
- Hydrogen and Fuel Cells
- Transportation and Mobility



## Buildings and Industry

- Buildings
- Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
- Industrial Energy
- State, Local, and Tribal Governments



## Energy Sources

- Geothermal
- Water
- Solar
- Wind

# Partnering with Business for Competitive Advantage

In 2024, NREL had:

more than **1,100** active  
partnerships with **utilities,**  
**industry, academia, and**  
**government**



**365**

new partnership  
agreements



**\$170M**

value of new  
partnership agreements



**301**

unique new  
partners

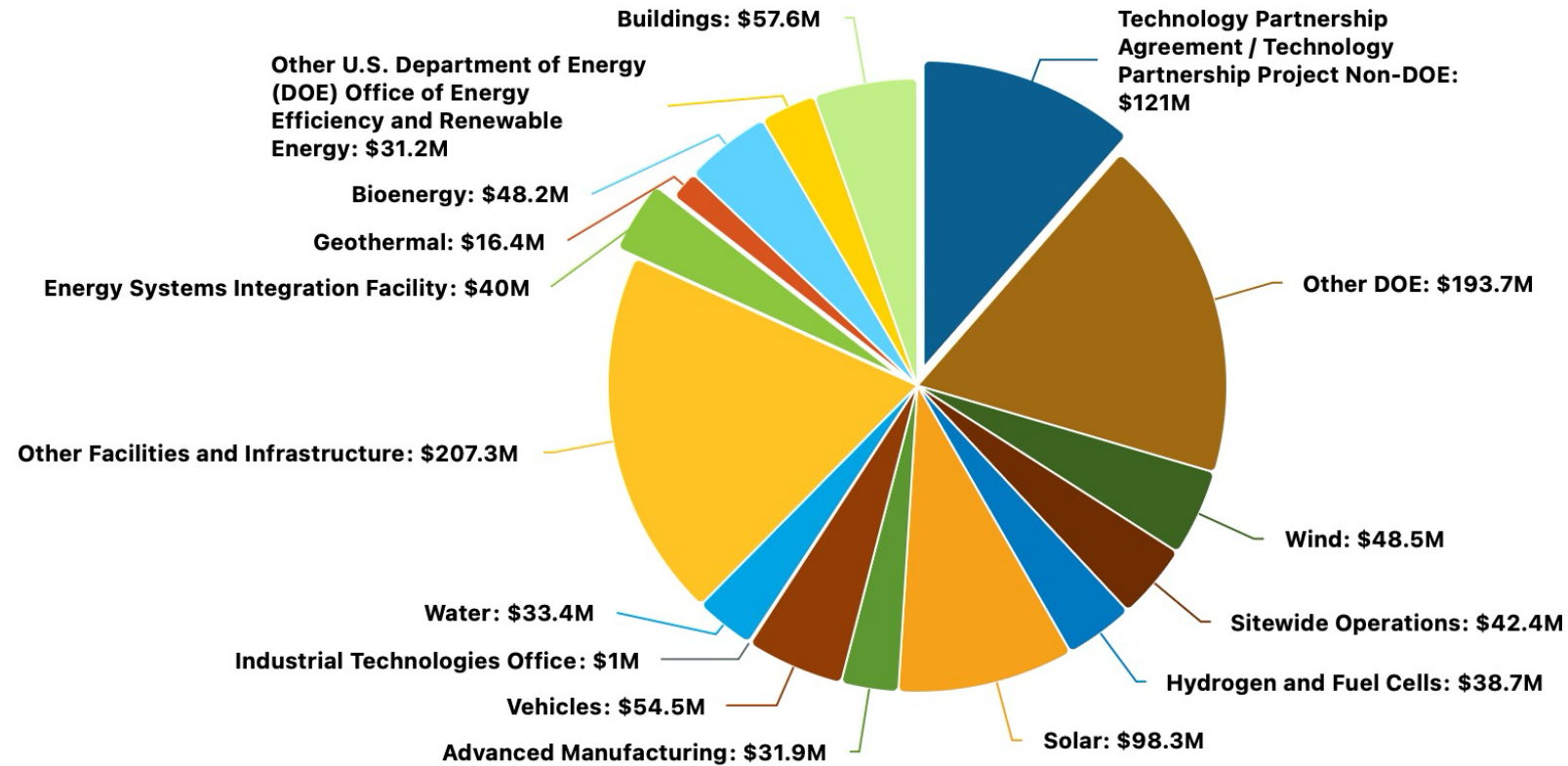


**812**

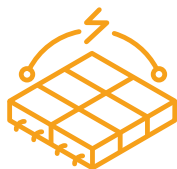
unique active  
partners

# NREL Funding Portfolio - FY25

**Total \$1.1 Billion**



# Key Capabilities for Utility Solutions



Topic Area	Partners
<b>DER planning, integration, and management</b>	Utilities
<b>Load forecasting and performance for EE/DR and electrification; Buildings</b>	Utilities, Energy Agencies
<b>Data centers planning and integration</b>	Utilities, Data Centers
<b>Electric vehicles and planning</b>	Utilities, Cities and Local Jurisdictions



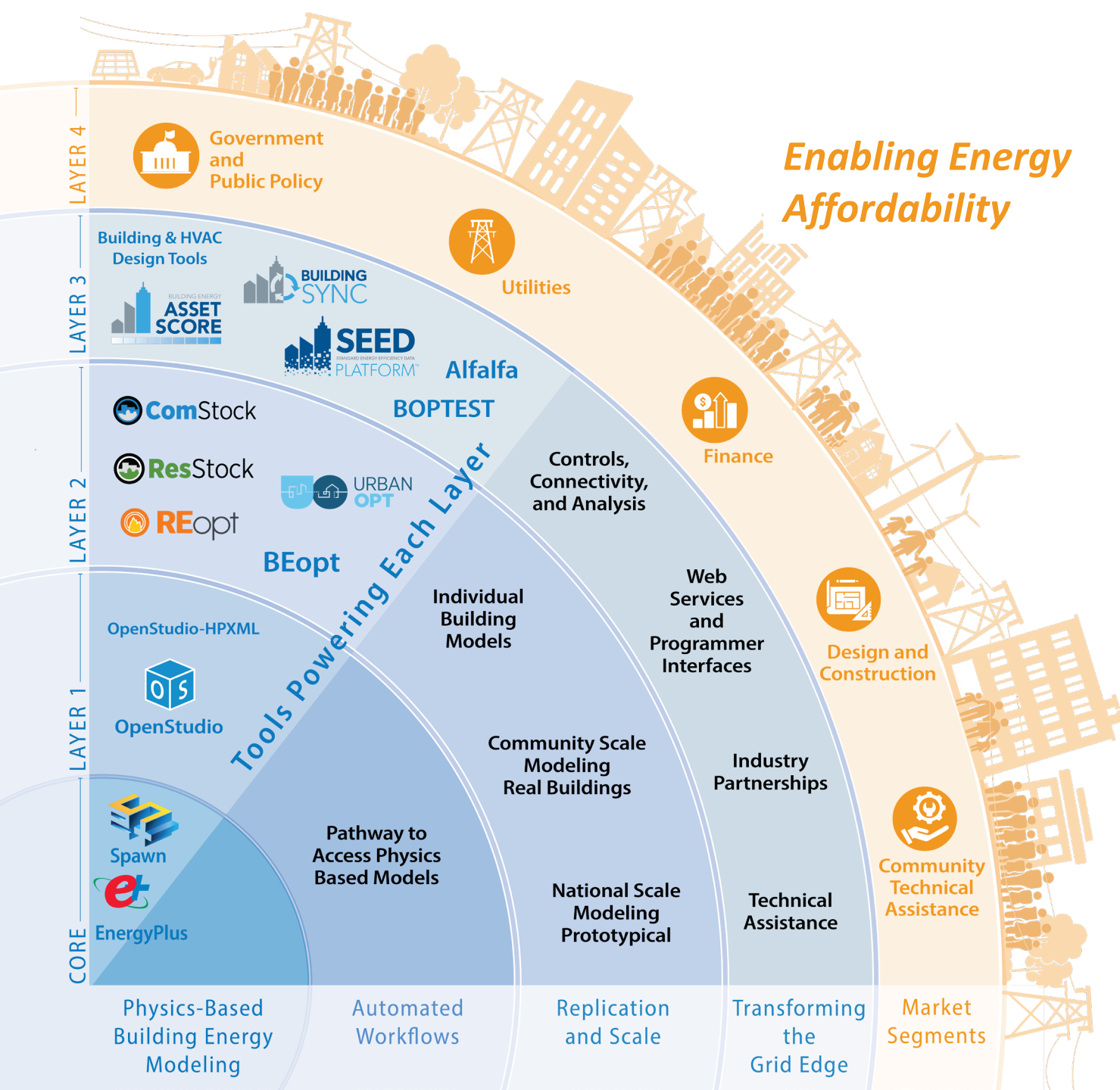
Topic Area	Partners
<b>Grid modernization</b>	Utilities
<b>Wildfires and resilience mapping/planning</b>	Utilities, Cities, State Government
<b>Cyber and AI</b>	Utilities



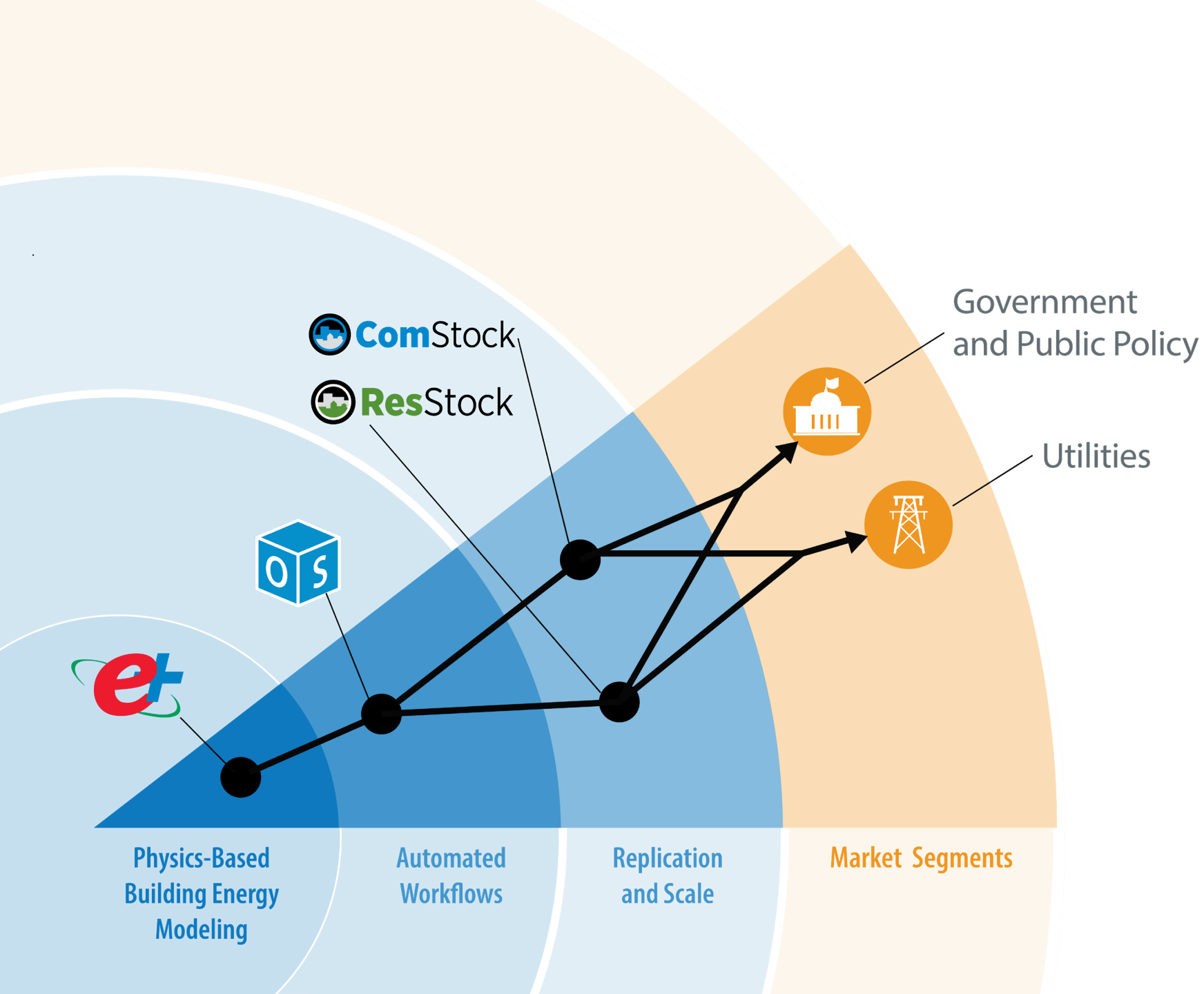
# NREL HVAC&R Systems Research Capabilities

- Modeling and analysis
- Laboratory performance experimentation
- Field evaluation
- Hardware-in-the-Loop & Digital-Twin
- Novel technology development
- Multi-scale integration: connecting components to systems to buildings through interconnected modeling and experiments

# NREL's Advanced Modeling Platforms: *Empowering Utility Programs*



NREL and DOE's suite of building energy analysis tools enable utility-scale modeling efforts in multiple market segments.



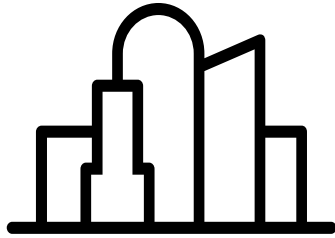
## IMPACT

Utilities, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Edison, and Southern Cal Gas Co., utilize **stock modeling outcomes** for comprehensive service territory-wide impact analysis:

- **Measure development (IDSM/DR/DER)**
- **Load profiles and forecasting**
- **Economic Factors**

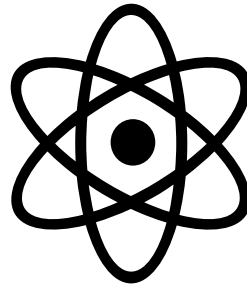


# Building Stock Modeling - Technical Approach



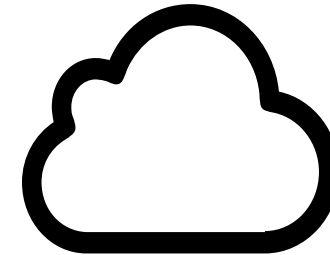
## Building stock characteristics database

- Variation in building type; size; location; vintage; HVAC system, etc.
- **Over 100** probability distributions of various attributes



## Physics-based computer modeling

- Representative set of **900,000+ OpenStudio energy models**

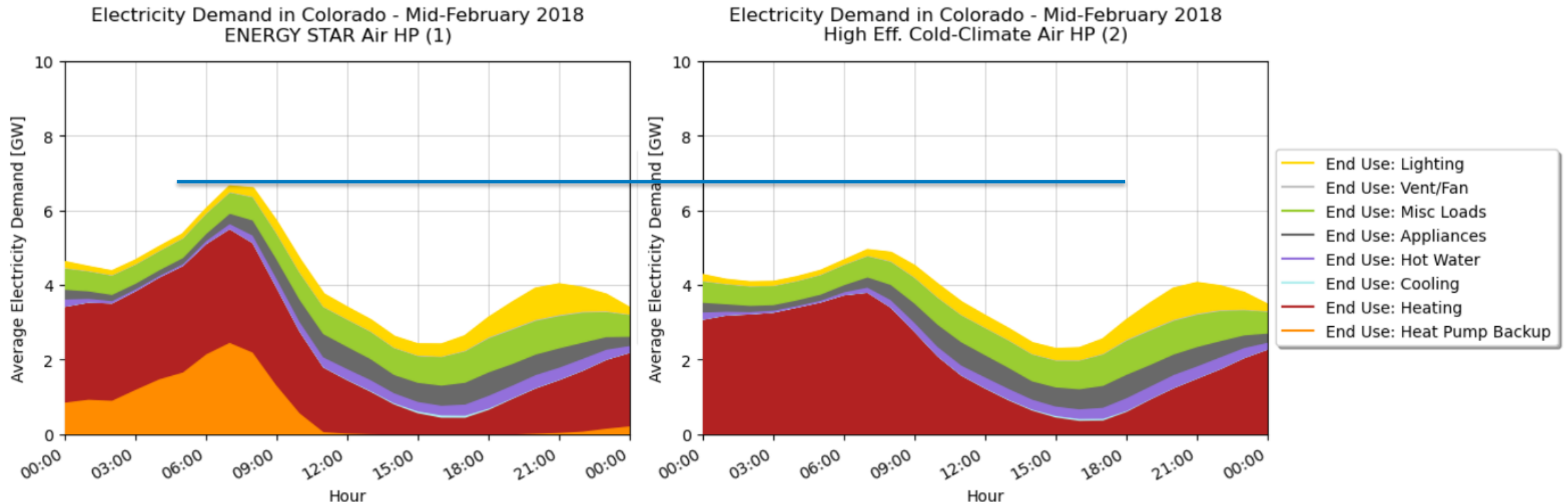


## High-performance computing

- Simulate models
- Process raw data
- Apply scaling factors
- Publish data

# Harnessing Service Territory Wide End-Use Data for Smarter Utility Program Design

Available Data to evaluate design consideration such as:  
**Seasonal impacts from varying technologies and performance levels (SEER 13 vs 21)**

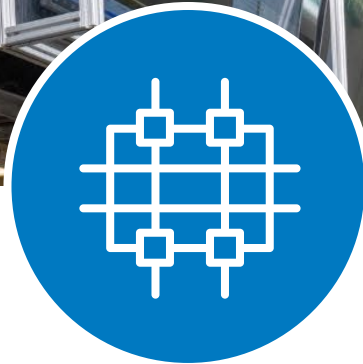


# NREL Building Technologies Research Facilities



## World-Class Facilities

- **Thermal Testing Facility**
- **Energy Systems Integration Facility**
- Industrialized Construction



## Grid Edge Integration

- ARIES
- Hardware-in-the-Loop
- Modeling and Analysis



## Unique Partnerships

- Technology Development
- Market Transformation
- Community Engagement



## Industry-Leading Expertise

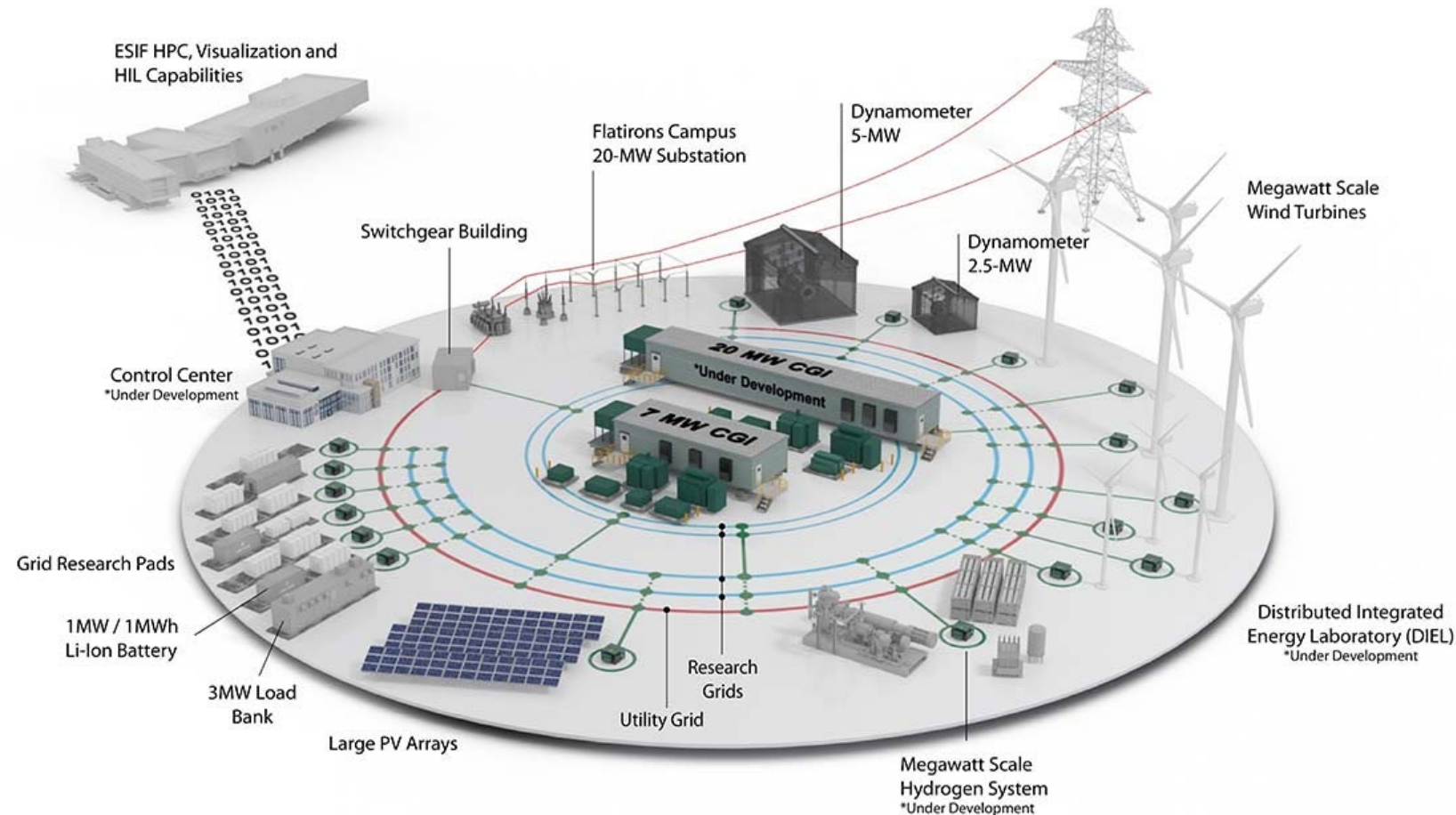
- 100+ Dedicated Researchers
- 11 Patents Issued in FY23
- \$630M+ in follow-on funding for start-up partners



# Unique Laboratory Facilities (partial list)

## Advanced Research on Integrated Energy Systems -ARIES

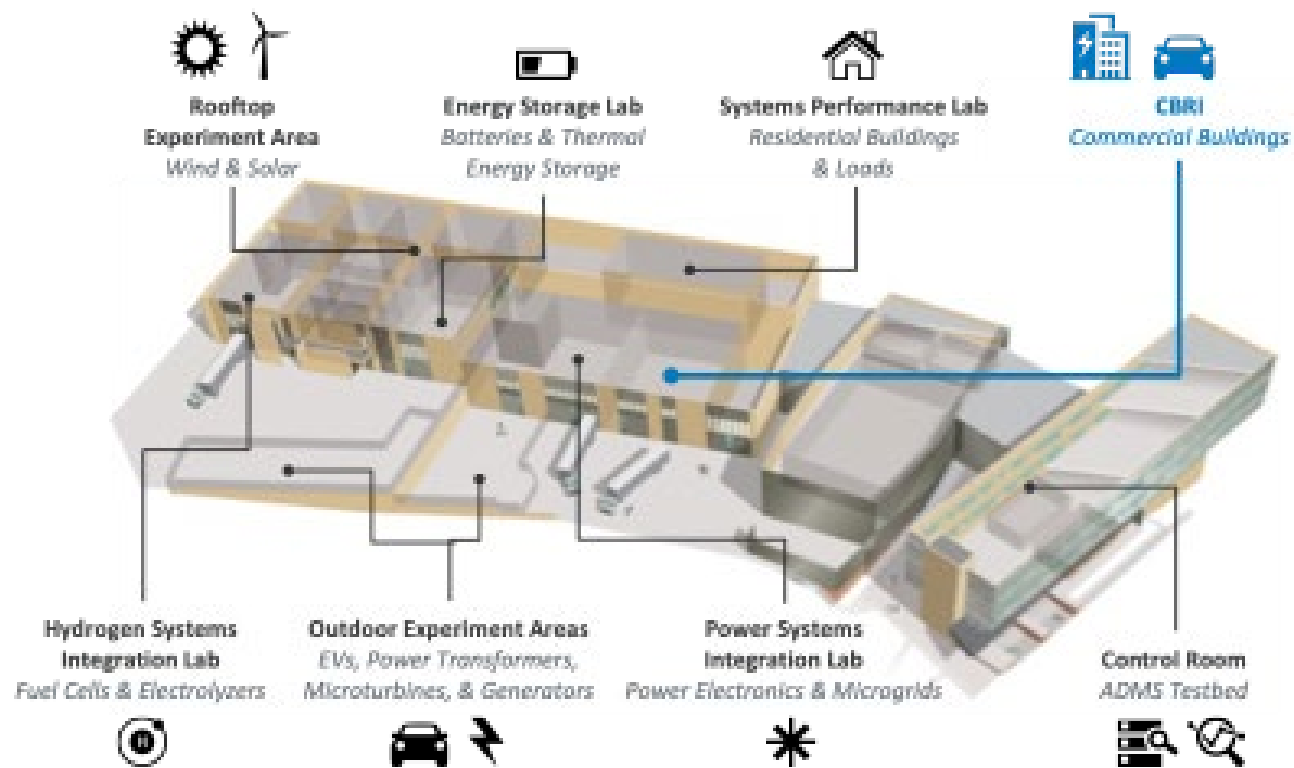
ARIES platform is designed to derisk, optimize, and secure current energy systems and provide insight into future energy systems





# Unique Laboratory Facilities (partial list)

## Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF)



Grid-Interactive Buildings Lab



HVAC Systems Lab

Advanced  
Mobility  
Lab



Residential Research  
Infrastructure Lab



The image shows a laboratory environment. In the background, a person wearing safety glasses and a plaid shirt stands near some equipment. In the foreground, there is a control panel with several analog gauges and knobs. The entire scene is overlaid with a red color scheme and a grid of red lines on the left side.

# HVAC/R Research Projects

## *Energy Efficiency and Load Flexibility*



# NREL HVAC&R Systems Research

## NREL's HVAC&R research objectives:

### 1. Assess Performance Uncertainty and De-Risking of Emerging Technologies:

- *Energy Efficiency and Demand Reduction*
- *Load Flexibility*
- *Affordability*
- *Environmental Impacts*
- *Human Comfort*
- *Resilience*

### 2. Program Support:

- Connect R&D and innovation with electric and gas utilities' measure pipelines
- Inform program design and development
- Load Forecasting
- Regulatory Compliance Challenges (workpapers critical constituents, Realization rates)



# Overview of NREL's HVAC/R Projects

# HVAC/R: Selected Research Projects

## Refrigeration:

1. Supermarket thermal networks coupling refrigeration and space conditioning loads using natural refrigerants, thermal energy storage (TES) and heat recovery
- 2. *Next Gen Refrigerated Display Case (EE + load flexibility)***
3. Design and techno-economic analysis of adding cold TES to refrigeration systems in a specific supermarket
4. Low-cost TES for load shifting and resiliency for supermarket refrigerated display cases

***Bold*** projects will be highlighted later in the presentation

# HVAC/R: Selected Research Projects

## Residential space heating and cooling with thermal storage:

1. *Modular multifunctional residential R290 heat pumps*
2. Stash Energy's residential split systems with embedded (2+-hour) TES

## Commercial space heating and thermal storage:

1. Mitigating peak power from heat pump defrosting
2. *HVAC Technology Challenge – efficient heating in cold climates*
3. *Cascade air to water HP for 160-180 F hydronic heating*
4. *DC nano HP rooftop unit (RTU), a novel DC HVAC nanogrid HP rated up to 12.5 tons with a DC backbone, an on-site photovoltaics and TES*
5. *NREL's HP DOAS that provides a new approach to first-stage heating that can cut heating energy use by 50% with embedded (3- to 5-hour) TES.*
6. Scale-up of thermochemical energy storage for space heating



# HVAC/R: Selected Research Projects (Cont'd)

## Dehumidification:

1. Blue Frontier's efficient-humidity and sensible-control single-storage system providing 6-12 hours of energy storage in summer and 3-6 hours of thermal heating storage in winter
2. Mojave's efficient humidity control and HP
3. Copeland's efficient humidity control using liquid desiccant and membrane technology that protects from air streams
4. Transeara's new metal-organic-framework technology that improves the dehumidification cycle of solid desiccant systems

# Other Advanced Technology Research Projects (HVAC/R Relevant)

## Other advanced technologies:

- High-efficiency HP clothes dryer.
- Modular construction
- Plug-and-play retrofittable economizer thermal switches with thermal storage to reduce HVAC energy and enhance occupant comfort.
- Development of the open-source TES Sizing, Benefits and Decision Tool (TESSBeD) to address key market barriers to TES adoption

# **1. Next Gen Refrigerated Display Case (TRL ~ 5)**

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PI: Ramin Faramarzi



# High Efficiency and Load Flexibility in Refrigerated Display Case

For the objective, outcome, and impact, the team aims to develop a next-generation self-contained, refrigerated open vertical display case (OVDC) that leverages radiation and TES to:

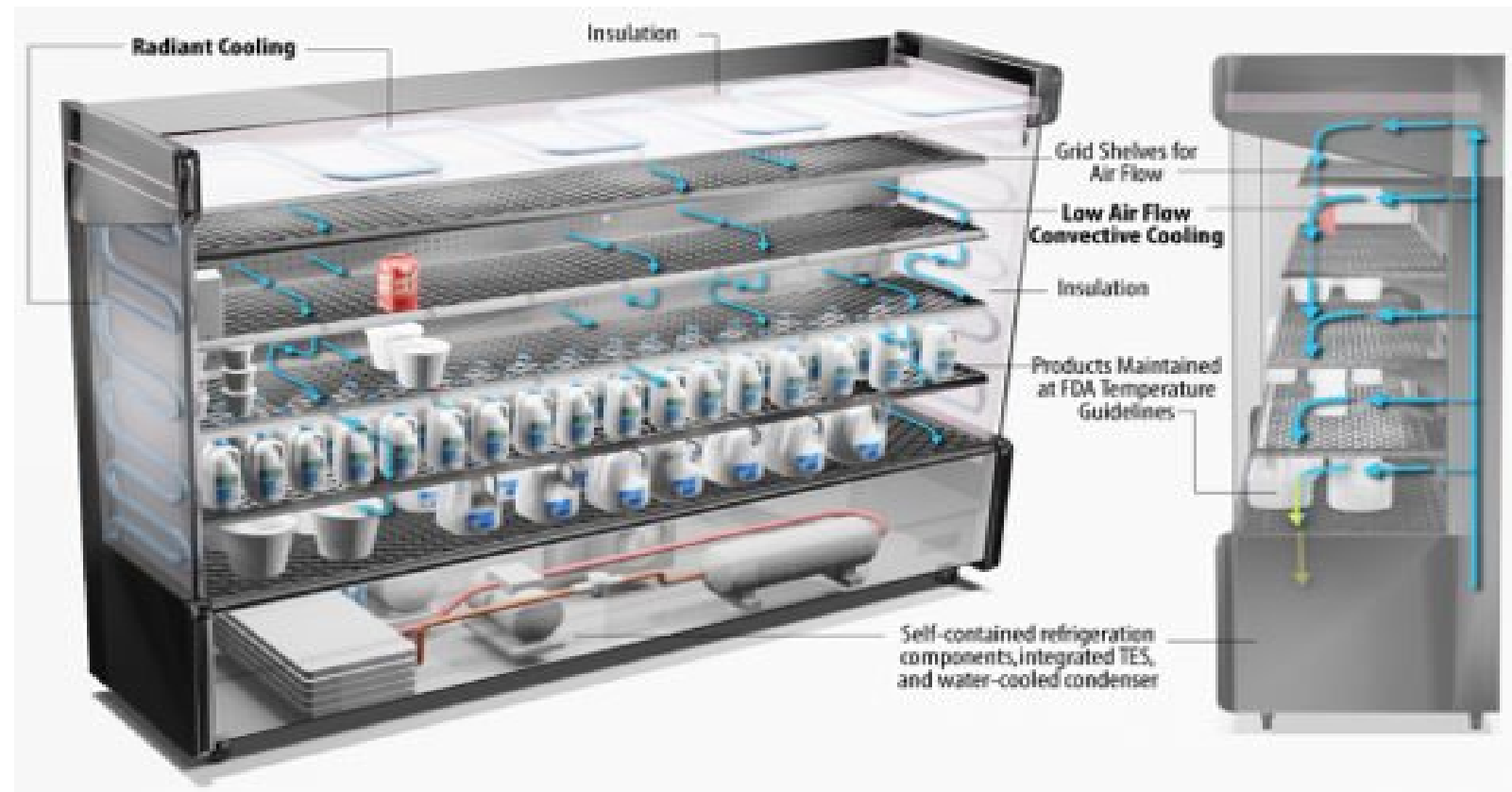
- Improve **energy efficiency**
- Provide **demand flexibility**
- Improve **human comfort**
- Reduce **impacts of refrigeration.**

**The team includes members from:**

- NREL
- Copeland Corporation
- NetEnergy.

**Deployment and commercialization partners include:**

- Arneg USA
- Albertsons
- Commonwealth Edison Co.

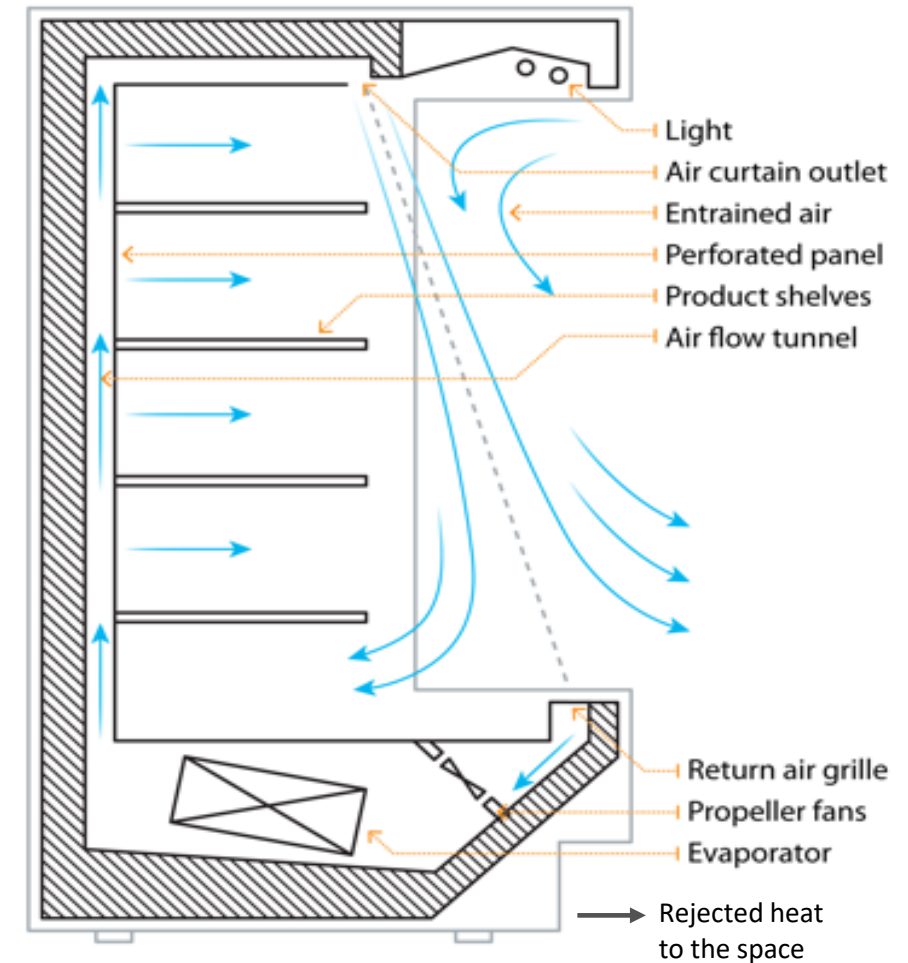


*Graphics by MS, NREL*

# Problem Statement

The problem addresses that:

- **Forced convection** used to cool refrigerated products results in large mass exchange with the surrounded space, where:
  - Air infiltration accounts for **80% of the cooling load**
  - The **spilled cold air** adversely **impacts human comfort**
  - **Frost formation** on the evaporator restricts air flow and **hampers heat transfer**, which degrades energy efficiency
  - Highly variable and **nonuniform product temperature** occurs between shelves (up to 10 °F)
- **Refrigeration heat** rejected into the sales floor **cannot be reclaimed** by heating systems
- Existing designs **cannot reliably participate in demand response** events and load shaving/shifting strategies.

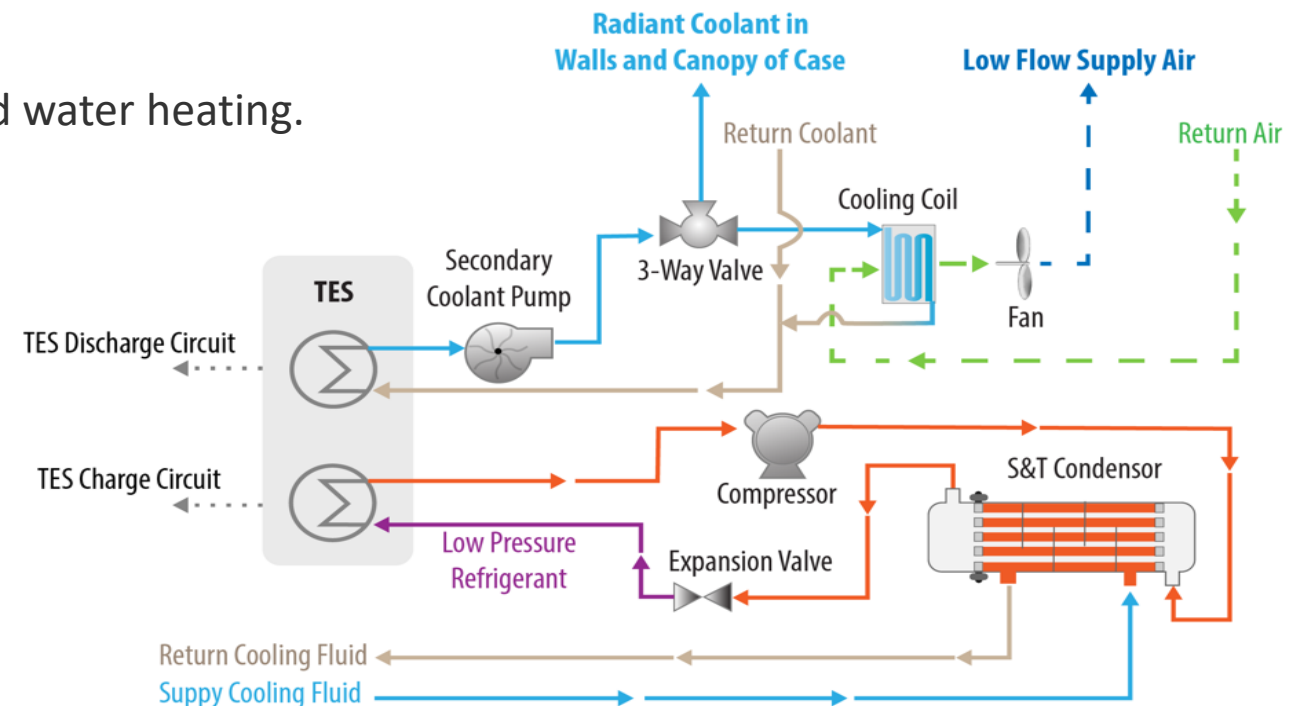
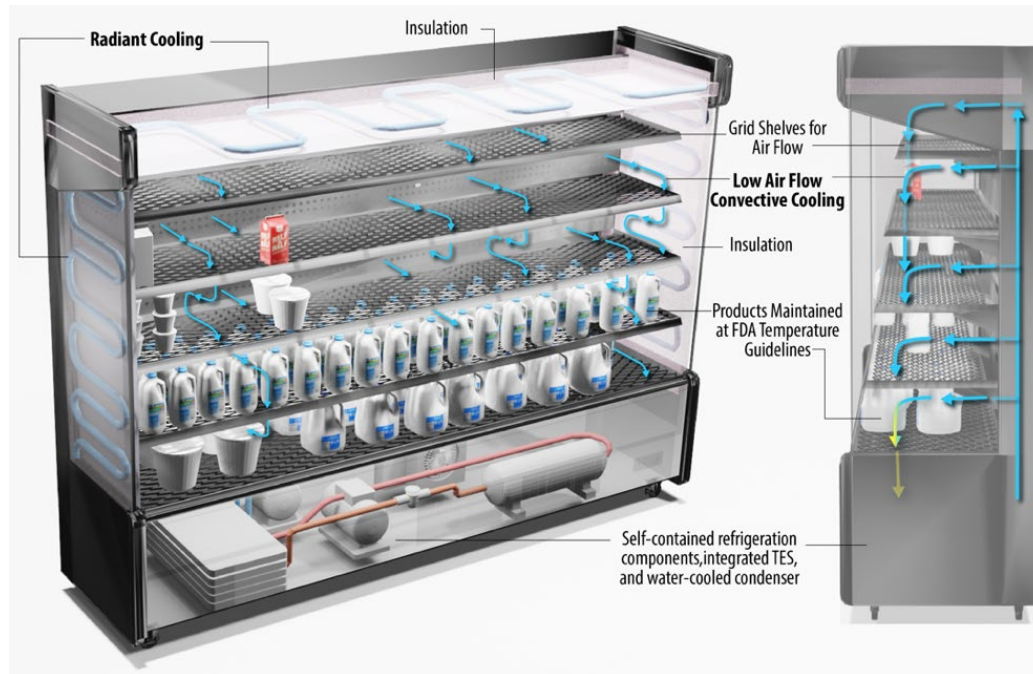


*Current State of Technology*

# Proposed Innovation

## The novel solution features:

- Complete removal of air curtain system replaced with hybrid radiant and convective cooling using R290
- TES
- Water cooling integrated with building space and water heating.



- Hybrid cooled OVDC with an Integrated TES (left) involves several processes (below). Graphics by NREL



# Project Next Steps

- 2026: Complete performance evaluation of hybrid cooling mechanism with partner Arneg (funded)
- 2026-2027: Testing load flexibility of next gen display case with integrated thermal energy storage (not yet funded; looking for partners)

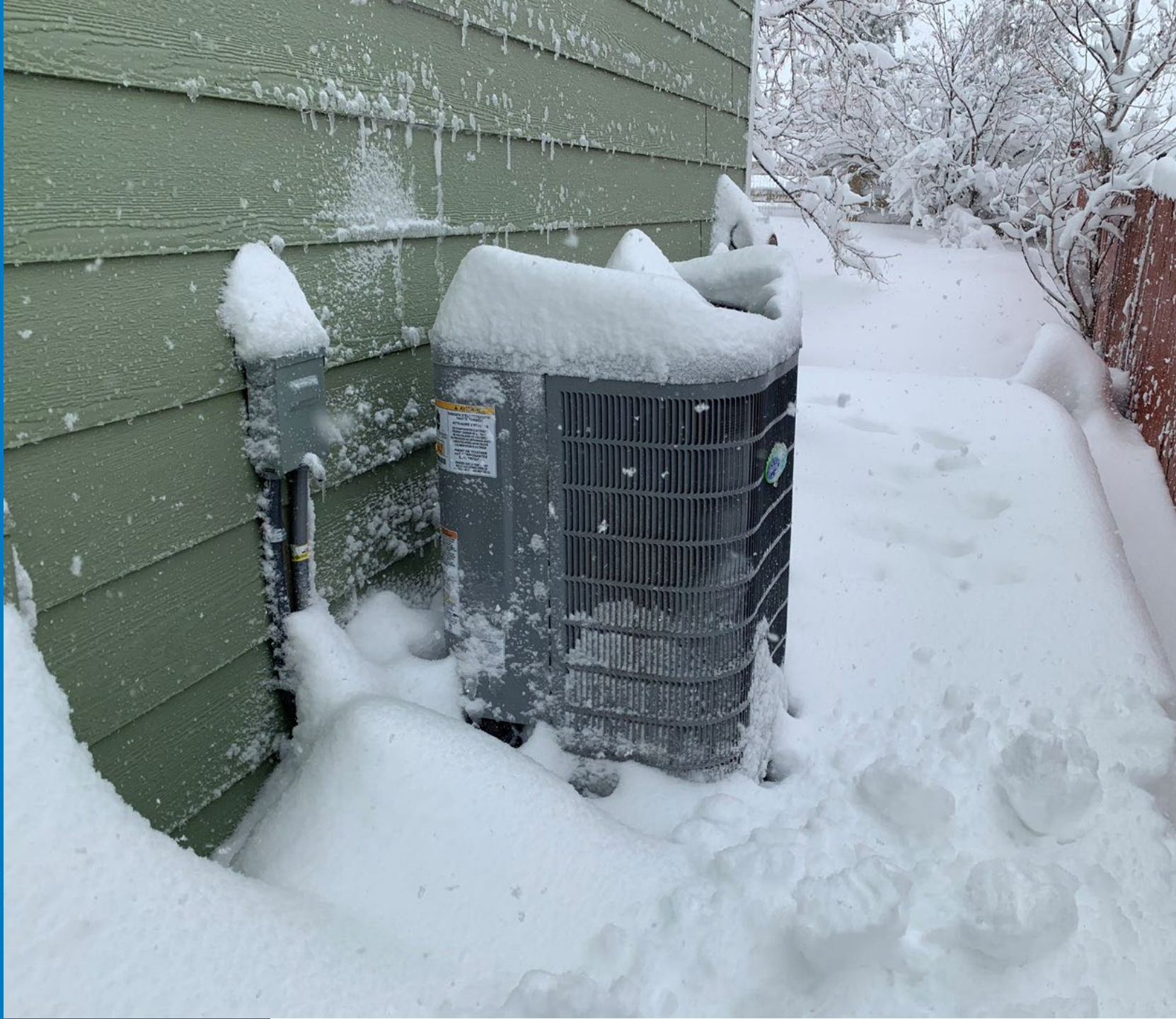
## 2. Modular residential cold climate heat pump (TRL ~ 3)

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PI: Juan Catano

# What are the biggest challenges facing HP today?

- High installation cost
- Perception of low comfort
- High peak power consumption

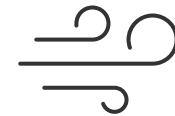
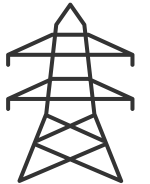




# What are we doing to address these challenges?

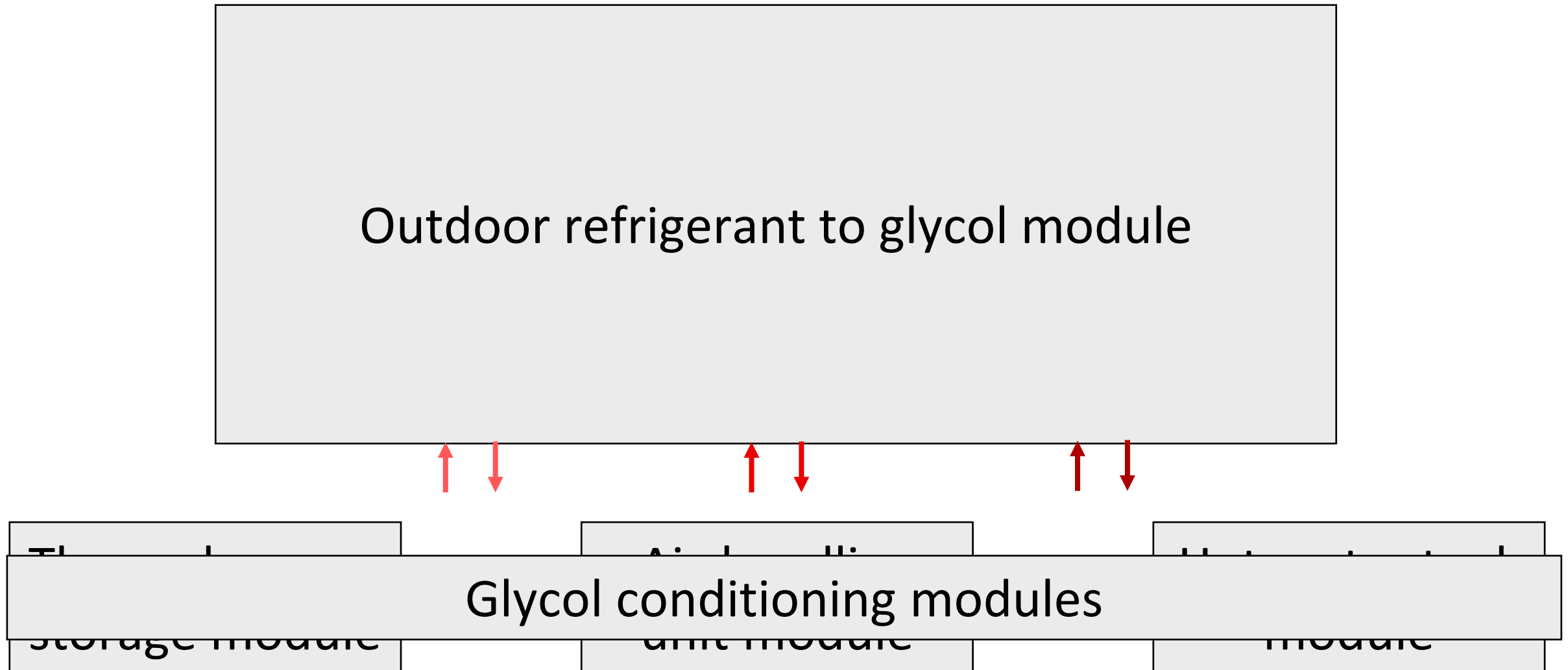
Develop a modular CCHP for space conditioning and water heating that compared to a typical residential heat pump:

- Reduces **installation cost by 40%** (50% lower install time)
- Reduces **4-hour peak-load by 50%** in summer and by **40%** in winter
- Can provide **space heating during a defrost** cycle



**Payback period: 2-3 years** with TOU pricing (TES module < \$40/kWh<sub>th</sub>)

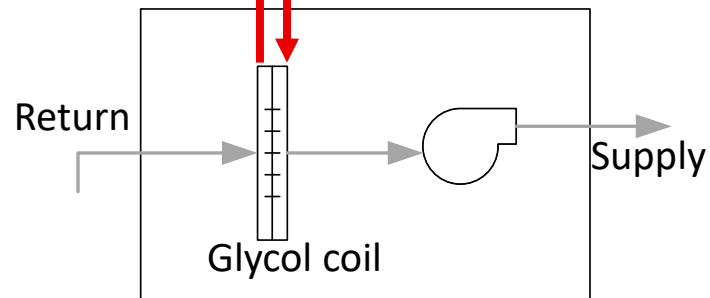
# Modular CCHP for Space Conditioning and Water Heating



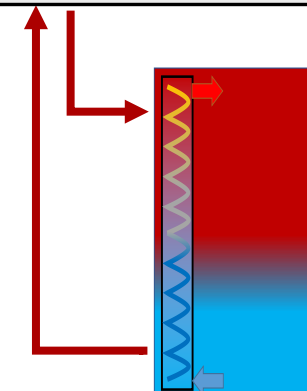
# Conditioning Modules

Outdoor refrigerant/glycol module  
(factory charged)

**Thermal  
energy  
storage  
module**



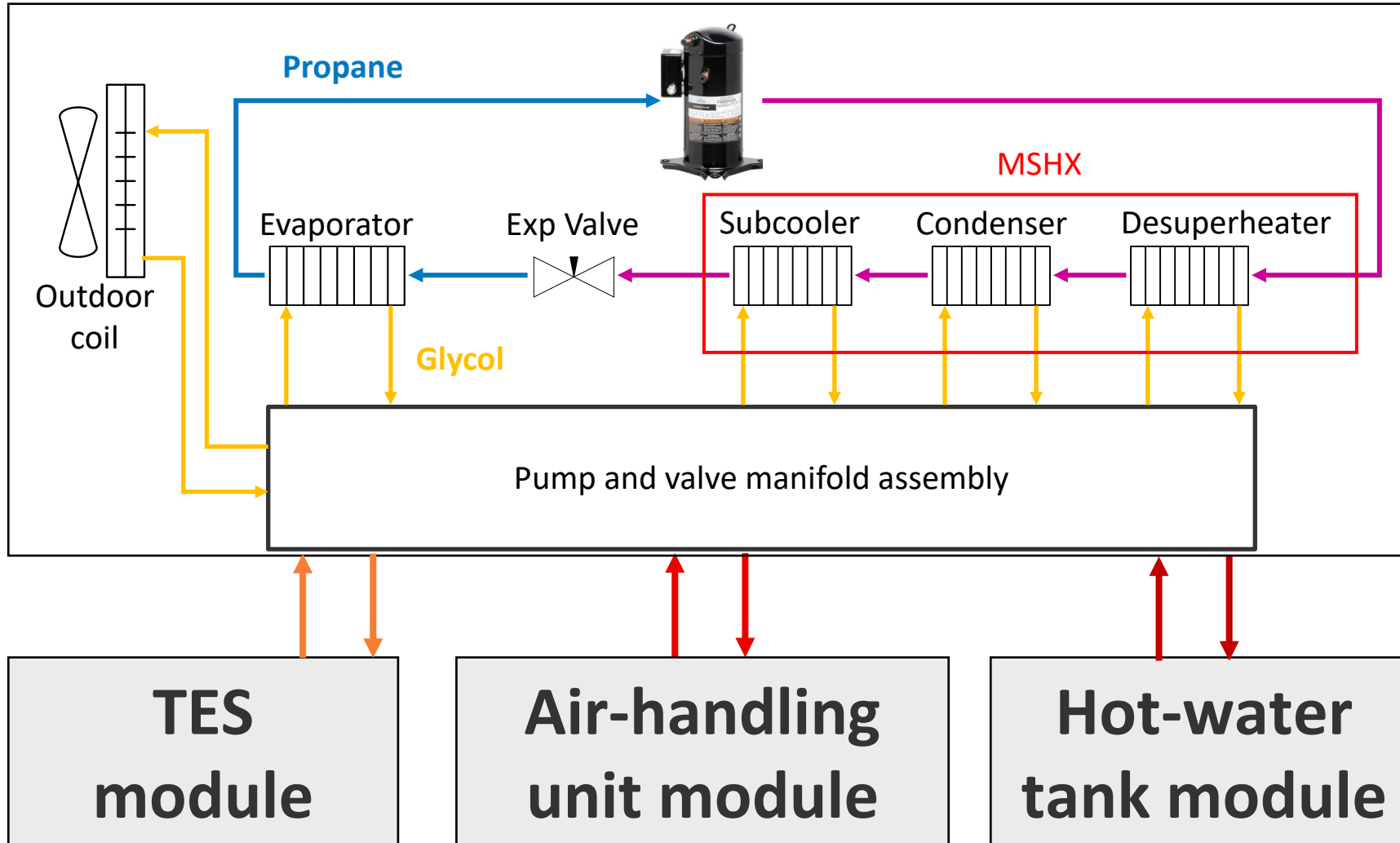
**Air-handling unit module**



**Hot-water  
tank module**

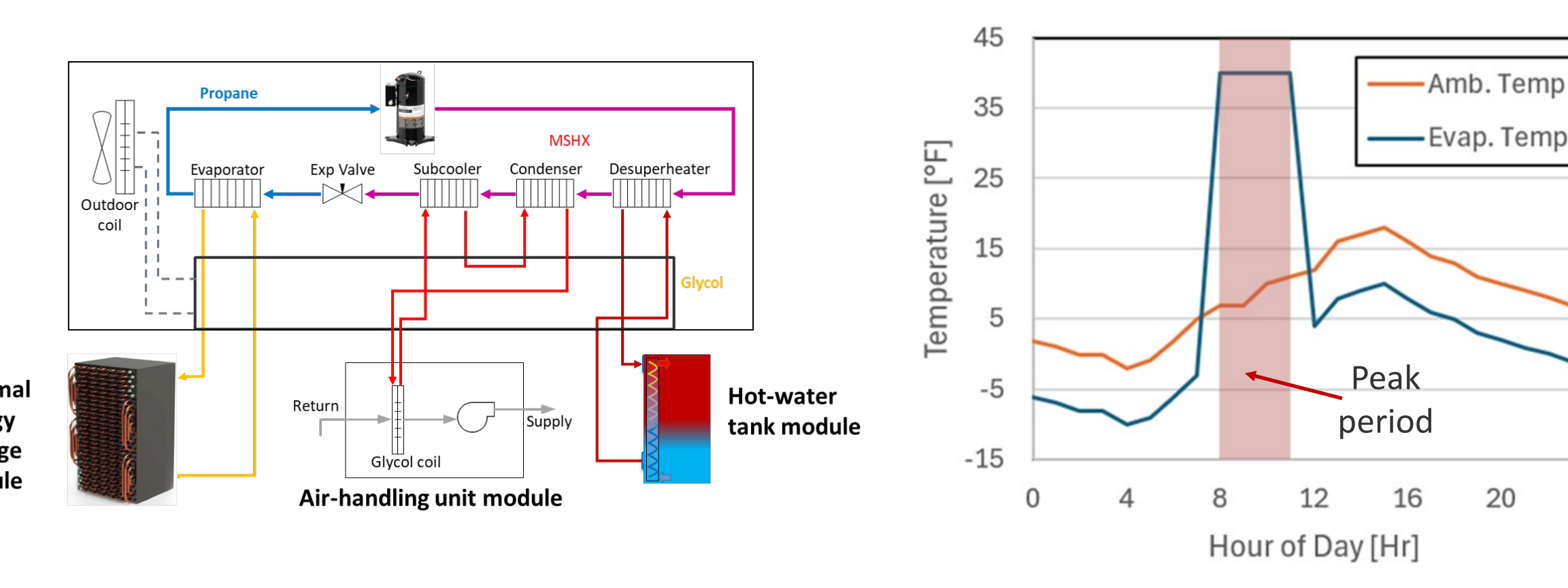


# Outdoor Refrigerant/Glycol Module: Config 1 (Basic)



# Space Heating w. TES Discharge

During peak TOU rates the HP can switch its heat source from ambient to TES and reduce compressor power



# Progress and next steps

- 2025/2026: Design proof of concept prototype (funded by DOE)
- 2026: Build and test proof of concept prototype with partner Copeland using off-the-shelf components (funded by DOE)
- 2027: Build and test Gen-2 prototype with new thermal storage and advanced controls (funded by DOE)
- 2028: Field demonstrations (not yet funded; looking for partners)



### **3. HVAC Technology Challenge: Cold-climate heat pumps for commercial buildings (TRL ~ 7)**

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PI: Michael Deru

# Commercial HVAC Technology Challenge

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Public Distribution

The Challenge works with HVAC manufacturers and building portfolio owners to bring about the next generation of RTU technologies.

## Key challenge activities:

- Develop a performance specification
- Evaluate prototype RTUs in the lab
- Verify prototype RTUs with building owner partners

## HVAC Manufacturer Partners



Represent 80% of the RTU market

## Building Owner Partners



Collectively own ~400,000 RTUs

# Challenge Objectives

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## Maintain capacity and efficiency at low ambient temperatures

HP RTU	Cooling Capacity @ 95°F (ton)	Heating Capacity (ton)		
		47°F	5°F	-10°F
Standard	10	9.5	4.5	NA
Challenge	10	10	10	7
Improved Cold Climate (optional)	10	10	10	10

## Additional considerations

- Minimize electrical capacity upgrade requirements
- Minimize peak demand impacts
- Enable dual fuel operations
- Implement load flexible controls



Photo by Sam Petty, US DOE

Full Specification: <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/resources/commercial-building-hvac-technology-challenge-specification>

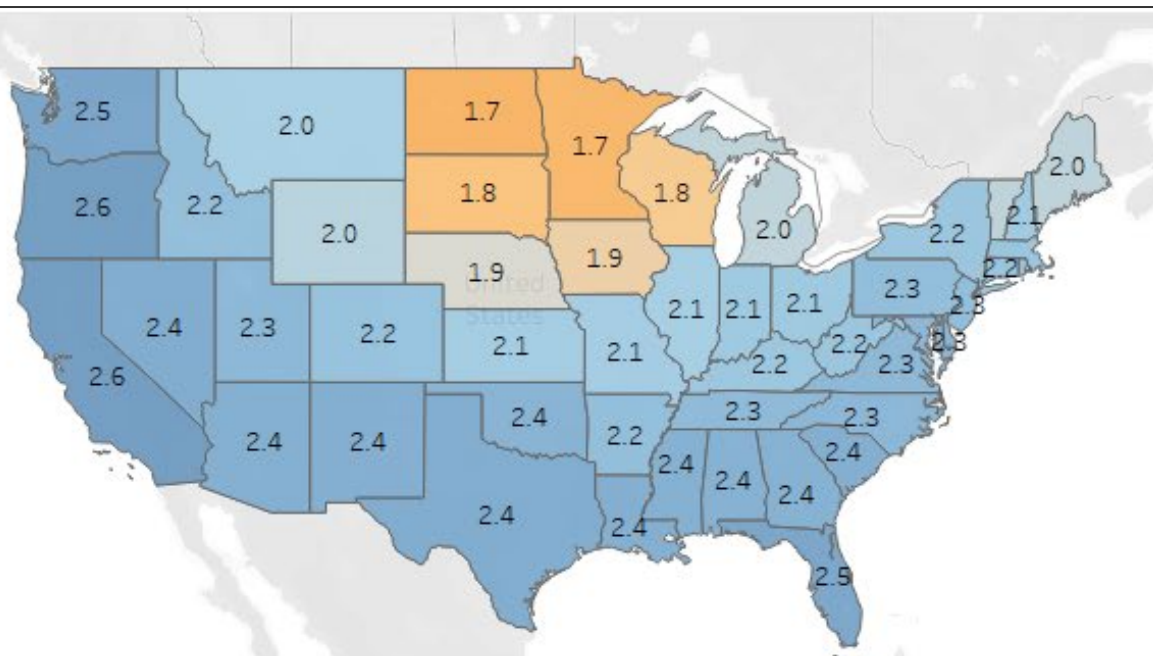


# Efficiency Improvements

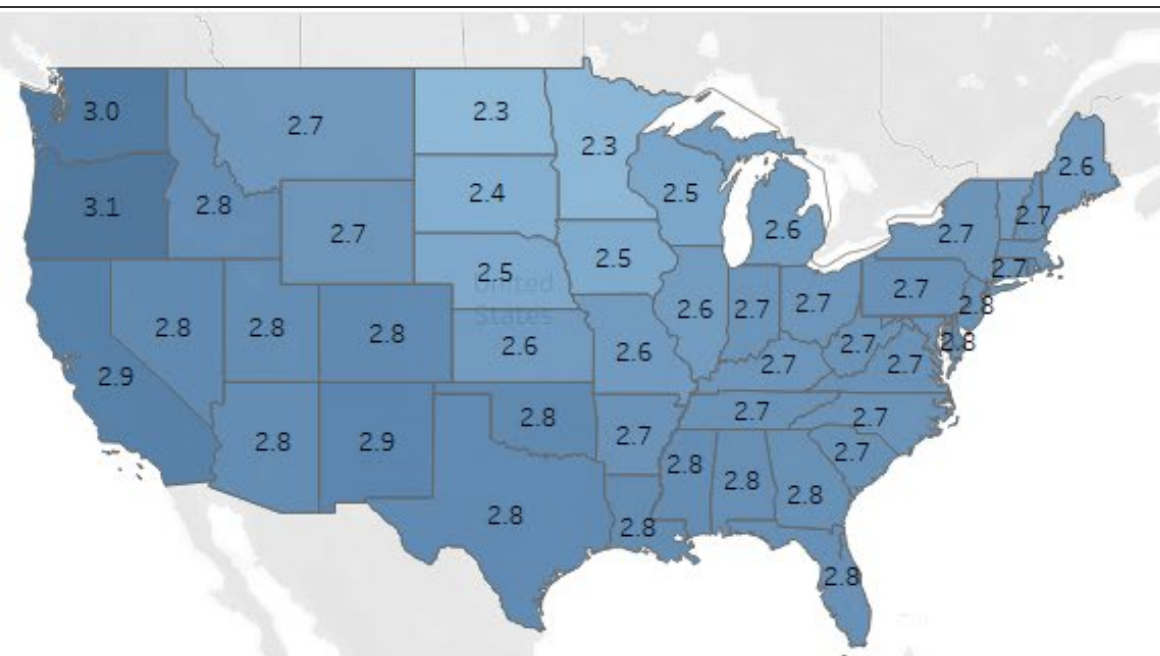
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## Median of annual average total heating COPs by state

Standard Performance



HVAC Challenge Spec Performance

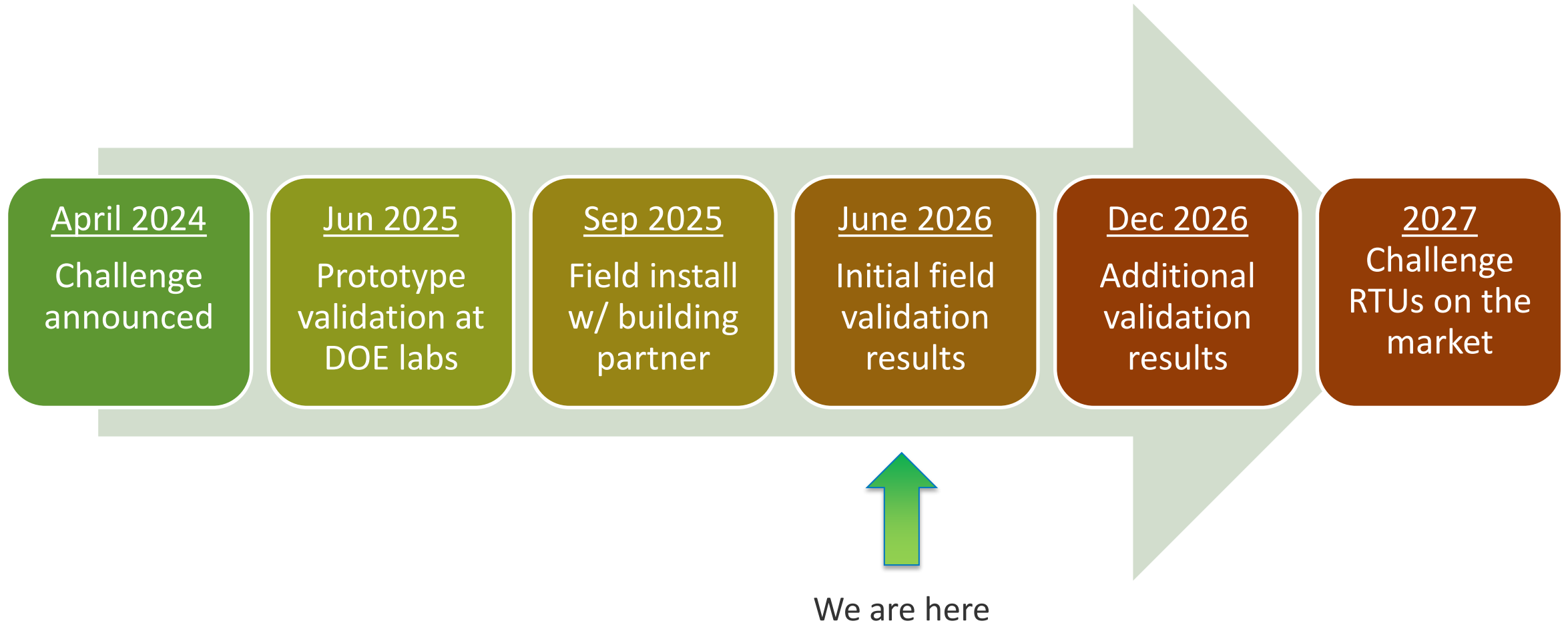


COPs presented include impacts of supplement heat, crankcase heat, and reverse-cycle defrost, but not supply fan.

Efficiency improvement of the overall performance of the heat pump through reduced runtime of the backup heat and better COP of the vapor compression cycle

# Challenge Timeline

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## **4. Cascade air-to-water HP for 160-180 F hydronic space heating (TRL ~ 5)**

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PI: Jason Woods



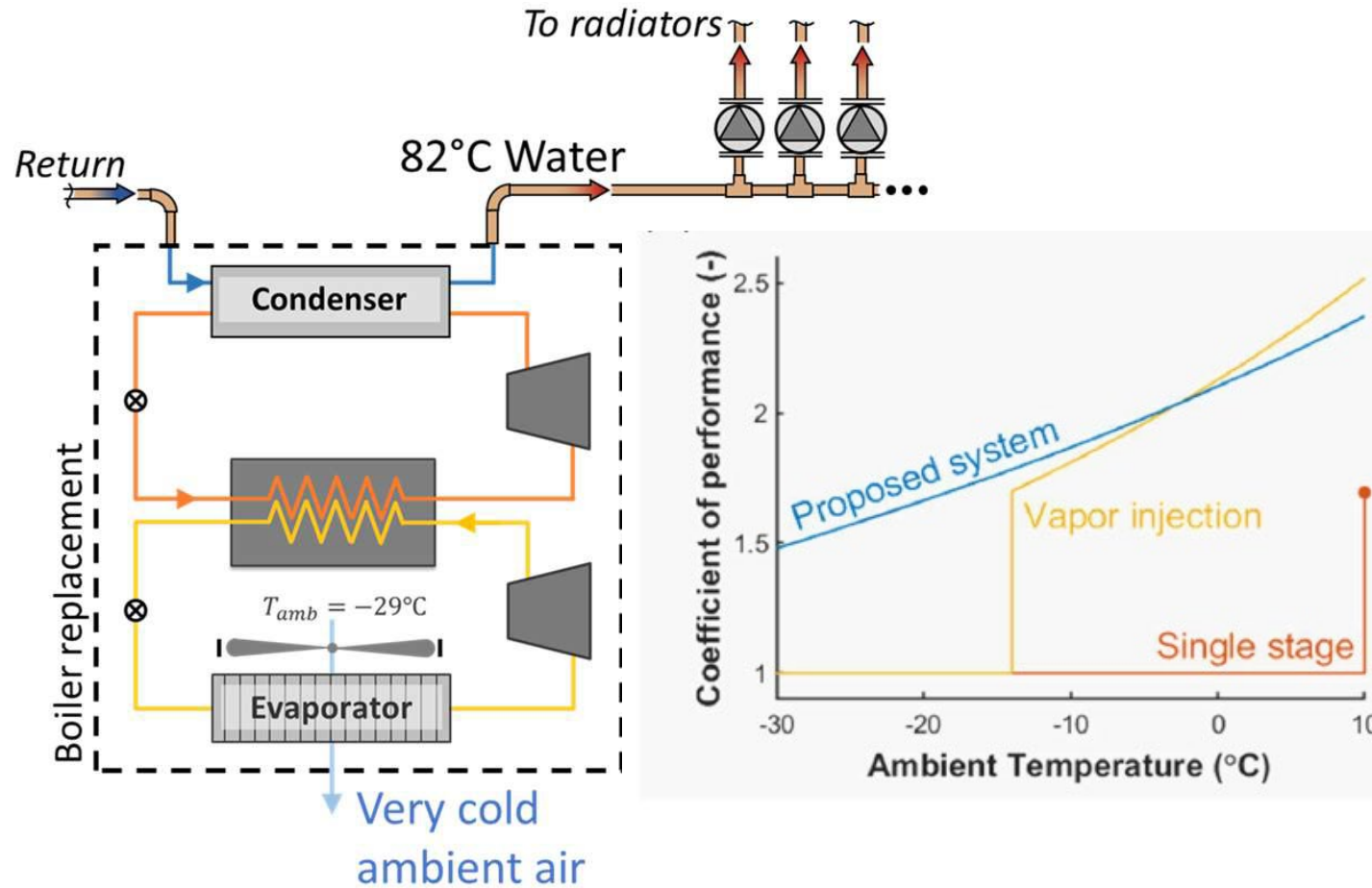
# Hydronic heat pump: Achieving 180 F water in cold climates



- “Cold climate heat pumps” typically refer to air-to-air systems to replace forced-air furnaces (heat delivery ~120 °F)
- Available heat pumps are not suitable for hydronic systems requiring 180 °F water.

10-ton cascade heat pump for 180 F water at -20 F ambient

# Hydronic heat pump: Achieving 180 F water in cold climates



- “Cold climate heat pumps” typically refer to air-to-air systems to replace forced-air furnaces (heat delivery  $\sim 120^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
- Available heat pumps are not suitable for hydronic systems requiring  $180^{\circ}\text{F}$  water.

10-ton cascade heat pump for 180 F water at -20 F ambient

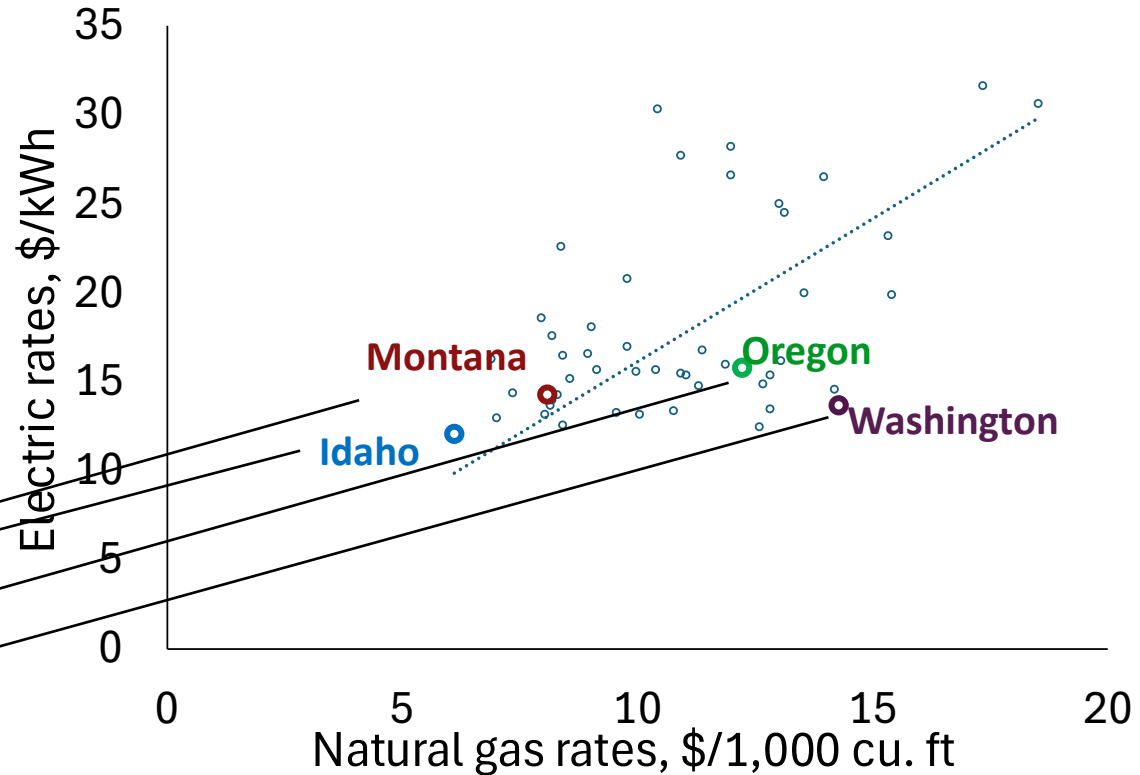
# Does electric heating make sense for 180 F heat?

Buildings that adopt this heat pump for hydronic system replacement could lower utility bills, especially in Washington and Oregon

Cascade system annual savings vs. boiler

		Electric rate		
		Low	Med	High
Gas rate	Low	1%	-98%	-197%
	Med	50%	1%	-49%
	High	67%	34%	1%

Natural gas vs. electric rates for commercial buildings by state





# Progress and next steps

- 2025/2026: Initial prototype lab testing; modeling shows potential performance and guides gen 2 design (DOE and partner funded)
- 2026: Gen 2 prototype testing (partner funded)
- 2026/2027: Potential field demonstrations (not yet funded; looking for partners)

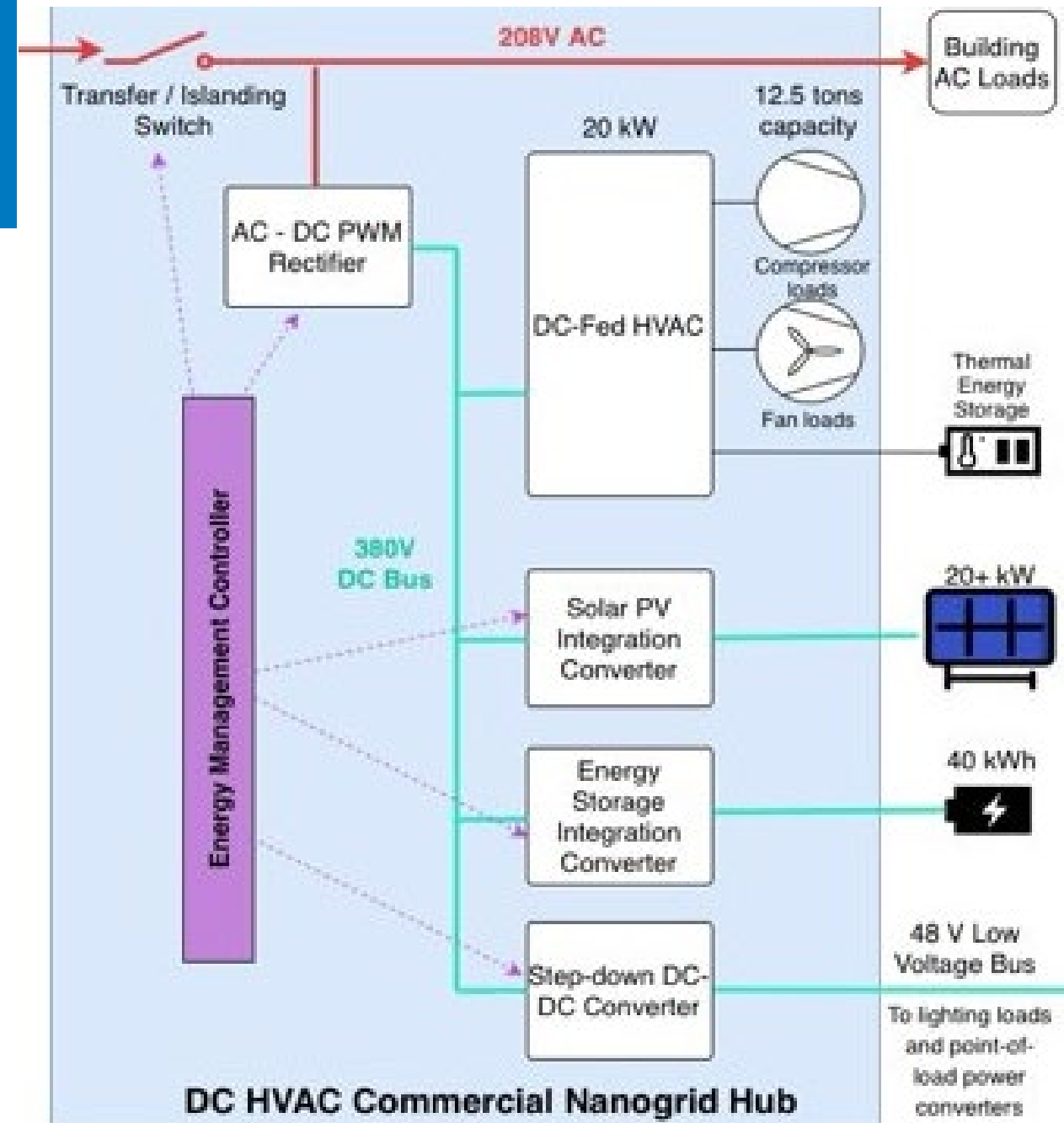
## 5. DC Nanogrid Heat Pump (TRL ~ 4)

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PIs: Ramin Faramarzi, Omkar Ghatpande

# DC-Backbone HVAC Nanogrid Hub

- **Develop a DC-backbone powered RTU HVAC system** to integrate with solar photovoltaics and energy storage that:
  - **Increases energy efficiency by 18%** by reducing system conversion losses (AC to DC and then DC to AC)
  - **Enhances load flexibility, affordability, and resilience** by shifting HVAC loads to off-peak hours using **electrochemical** and **thermal batteries**
- **Work with a RTU manufacturer to produce a factory-ready nanogrid hub**
- **Incorporate the lab's facilities** for capability testing and field evaluation of the proposed solution.



## **6. Heat pump dedicated outdoor air system (TRL ~ 4)**

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PI: Eric Kozubal

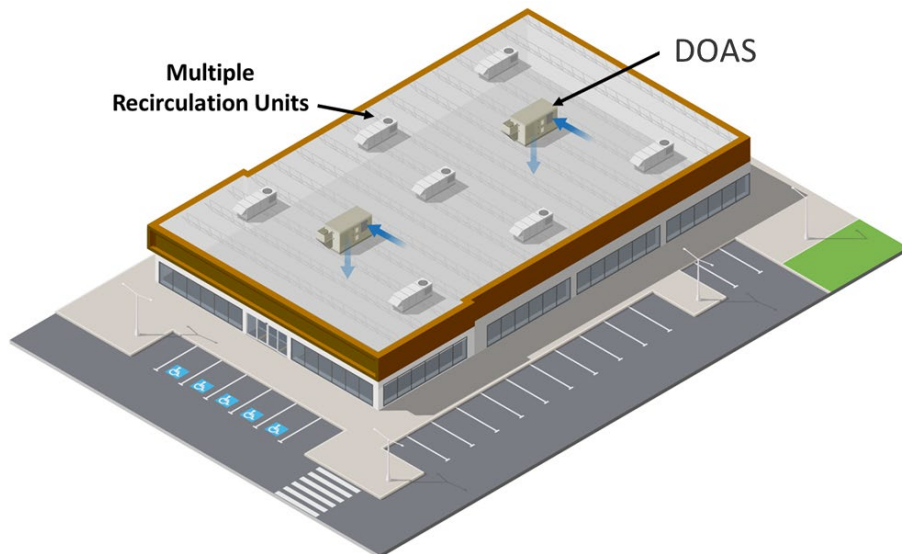


# Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems

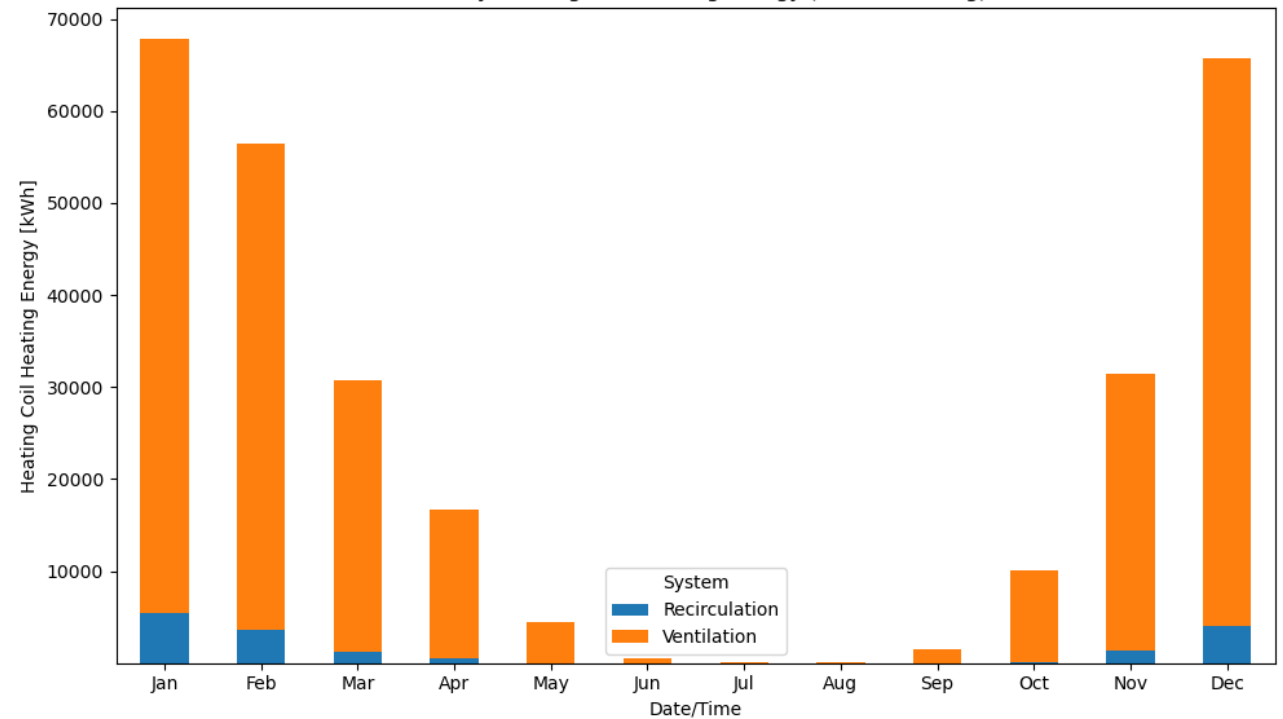
Ventilation air accounts for between >90% of commercial building heating loads

## Current DOAS Technology

- Mainly gas heating
- Heat pump options have low efficiency
- No options for grid interactivity (on-demand)
- HFO refrigerants only



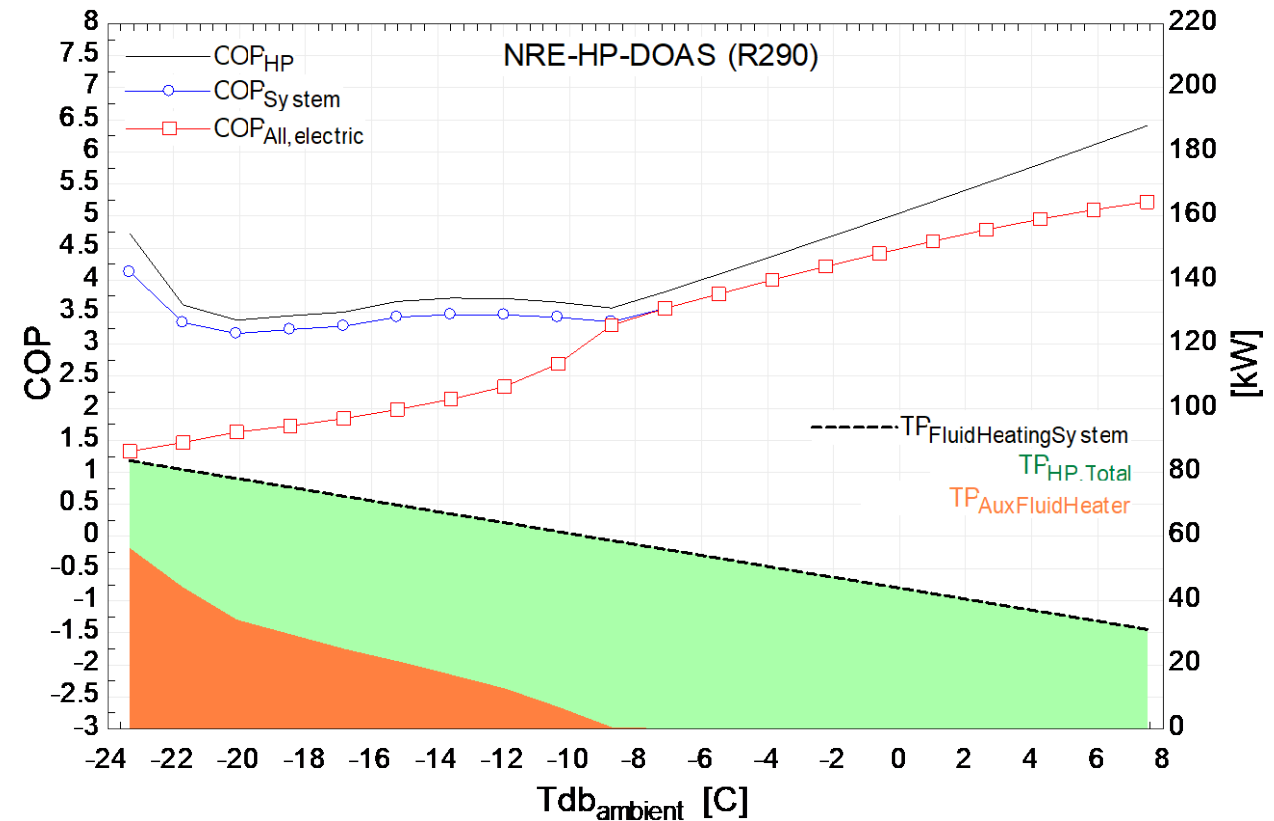
Ventilation vs recirculation heating load by month  
Chicago, IL (Supply Air = 18 °C / 64 °F)



# Cold-Climate Heat Pump DOAS: Efficient, Affordable, Grid-Ready

## NREL's cold-climate HP DOAS design:

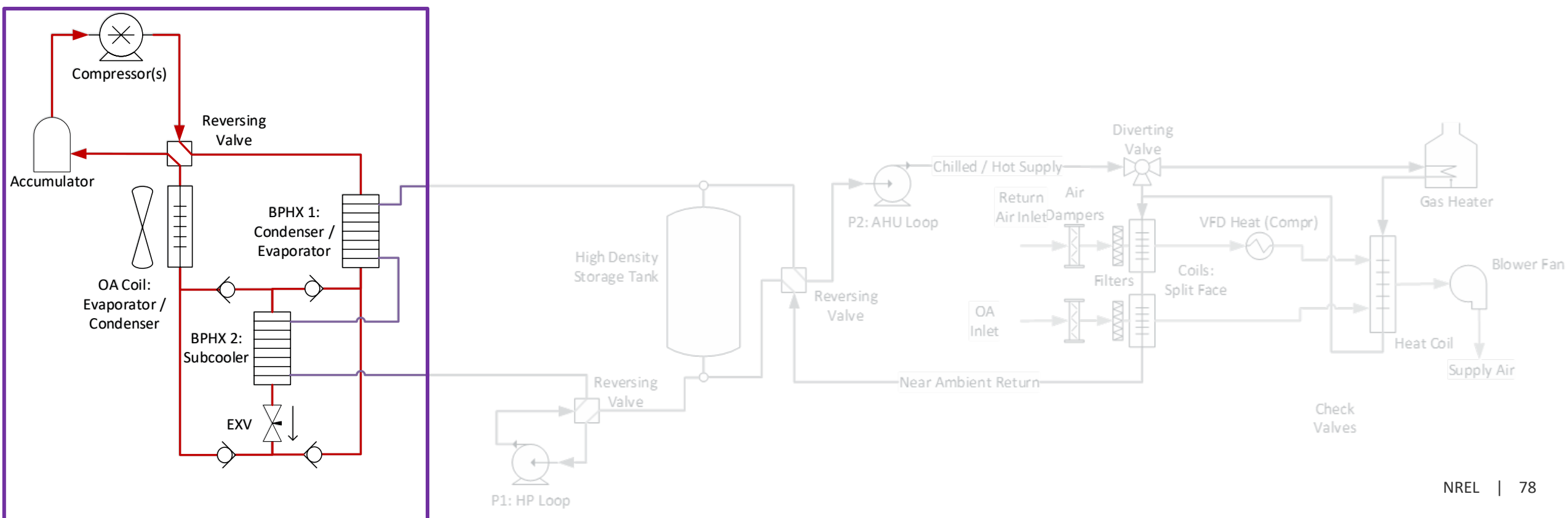
- Estimated 50% lower energy cost vs today's DOAS
- 2–6 hour load shifting via integrated thermal storage
- Cold-climate operation to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-33^{\circ}\text{F}$ )



# Mono-Block Heat Pump with Secondary Loop

Efficient and affordable operation at low ambient temperatures:

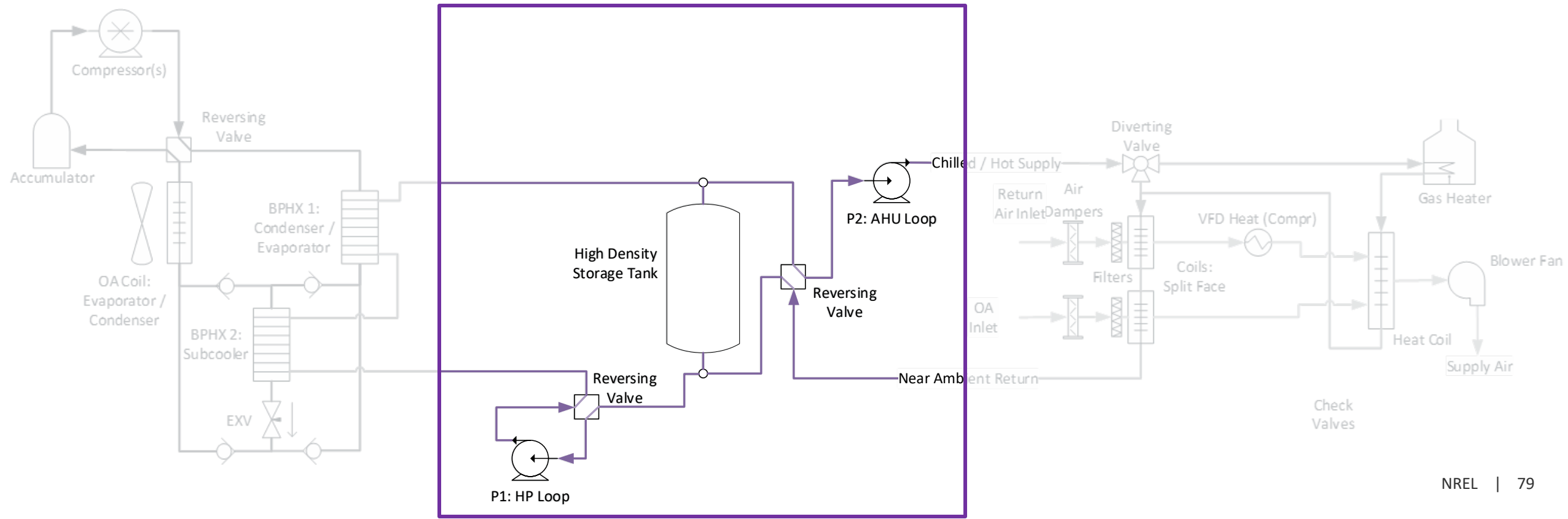
- -20 °C (-4 °F) with R454B
- -30 °C (-22 °F) with next generation refrigerants (e.g., propane, R454C)



# Integrated High Density Energy Storage

## Low-cost sensible energy storage

- 95% electric demand reduction up to 6 hours (200 gallons per hour of storage)

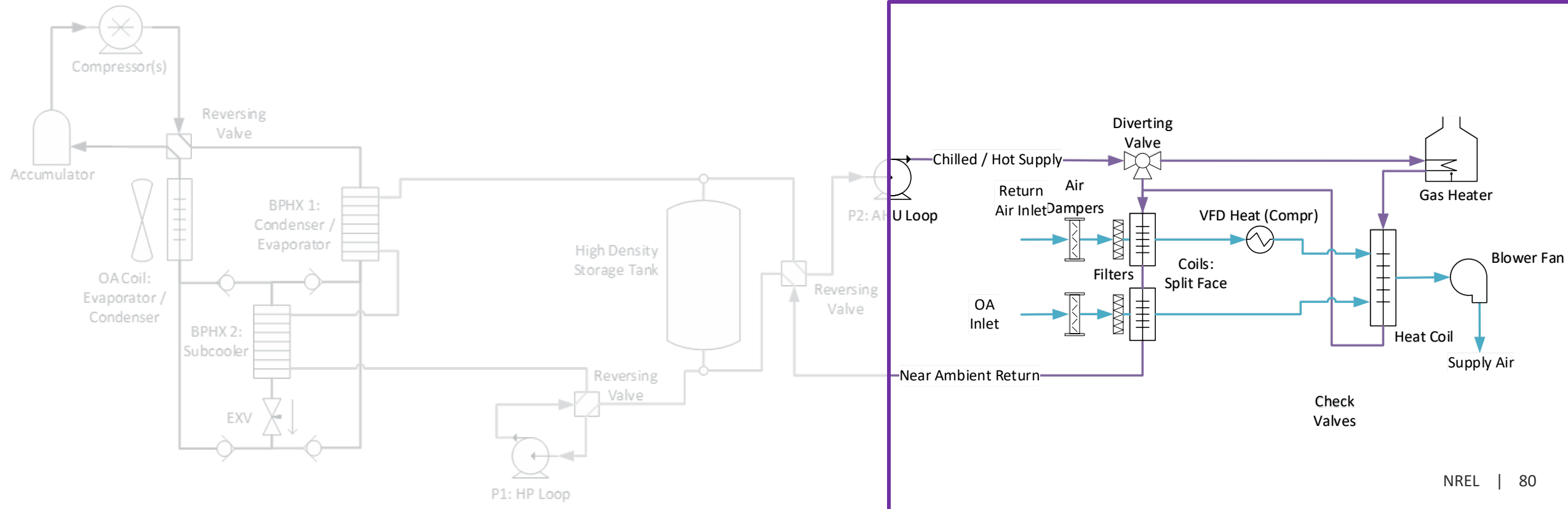




# Air Handling Unit w/ Multi-HX Fluid Paths

## Heat provided with stored thermal energy:

- Always meets heating load, but can operate electric heat pump based on rate structure



# Progress and next steps

- 2025/2026: Design of a heat pump DOAS, targeting  $\geq 50\%$  energy cost reduction. Partnering with DOAS manufacturers (funded)
- 2026: Proof-of-concept lab unit: Partner Blue Frontier fabricates and tests laboratory proof-of-concept prototype (partner funding likely)
- 2027/2028: Field Demo Units by DOAS OEMs: Commercial DOAS OEM partners build field demonstration units (not yet funded; looking for partners)





# Thank You

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# *Closing*

*Open Discussion  
& Comments*





# *Thank You!*

