

# Audits and Energy Efficiency in Support of Resilience

Alicen Kandt, Tony Karwoski, Emma Elgqvist, Alex Young

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# Speakers and Agenda



**Alicen Kandt**, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)  
Senior Engineer  
Moderator  
Speaker - Overview of Energy Efficiency (EE)+Resilience Nexus



**Emma Elgqvist**, NREL  
Engineer  
Speaker - REopt Lite



**Tony Karwoski**, Redhorse Corporation  
REM  
Speaker - Case Study



**Alex Young**, NREL  
Energy Resilience Analyst  
Speaker - Technical Resilience Navigator

# Introduction

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Alicen Kandt, NREL

# Drivers for Conducting Audits

An audit is an evaluation of a facility to identify and assess energy and water efficiency opportunities and improvements.

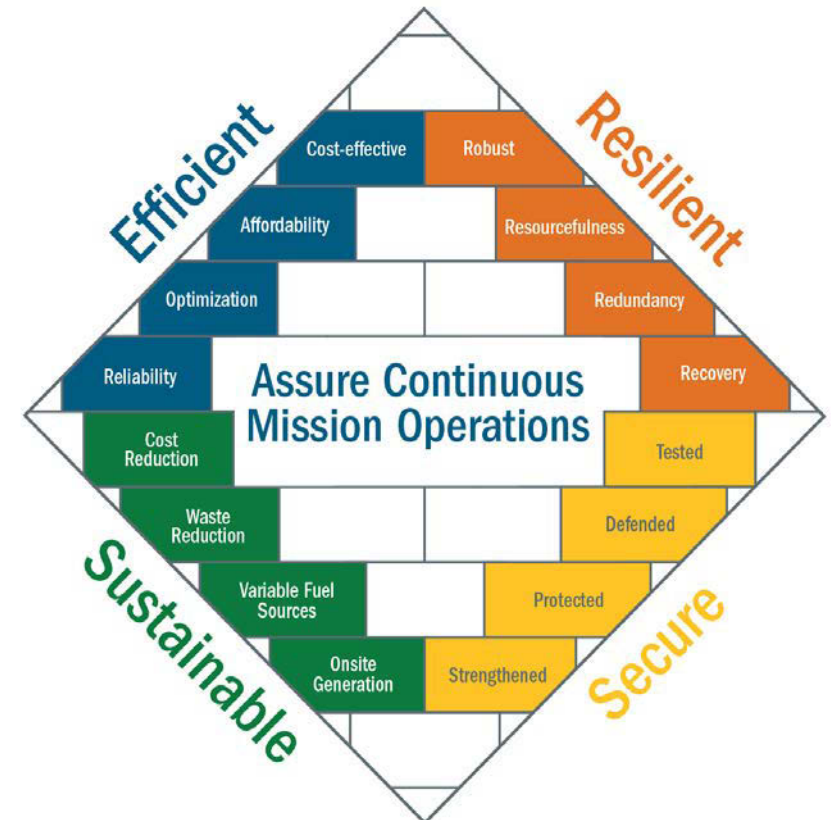
Federal agencies conduct audits for a multitude of reasons, including:

- To satisfy the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) Section 432 evaluation requirement;
- To develop energy conservation projects such as Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) or Utility Energy Services Contracts (UESCs);
- To lower the amount of expenditures for utility bills;
- To improve a facility's energy intensity; and
- To improve the resilience of a facility.

# Efficiency Supports Resilience

## Audit-related resilience benefits:

- Reducing on-site energy and water use directly results in a reduction in backup generation needs and associated costs for the backup generation assets.
- If the backup generation assets are non-renewable, such as a diesel generator, a reduction in energy load and generation capacity yields reductions in fuel use and vulnerabilities associated with fuel resupply.
- Audits can identify operations and maintenance (O&M) and security issues which can improve system reliability leading into enhanced resilience.



# Related Resources

Several existing resources document the synergies between audit and resilience planning activities:

- Better Buildings Solution Center Efficiency-Resilience Nexus Resources  
<https://betterbuildingsolutioncenter.energy.gov/resilience>
- Rocky Mountain Institute’s article, “A Resilience Strategy Based on Energy Efficiency Delivers Five Core Values”  
<https://rmi.org/a-resilience-strategy-based-on-energy-efficiency-delivers-five-core-values/>
- REopt Lite Study Models Resilience Scenarios Before and After Energy Efficiency Measures, Illustrates Potential Cost Savings  
<https://reopt.nrel.gov/projects/case-study-wip.html>

# Case Study

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**Tony Karwoski, Redhorse Corporation**

# Demand Response

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## **Aggregators with DLA contracts:**

Viridity Energy

Converge

EnelX formerly EnerNoc

Voltus

(Many others)

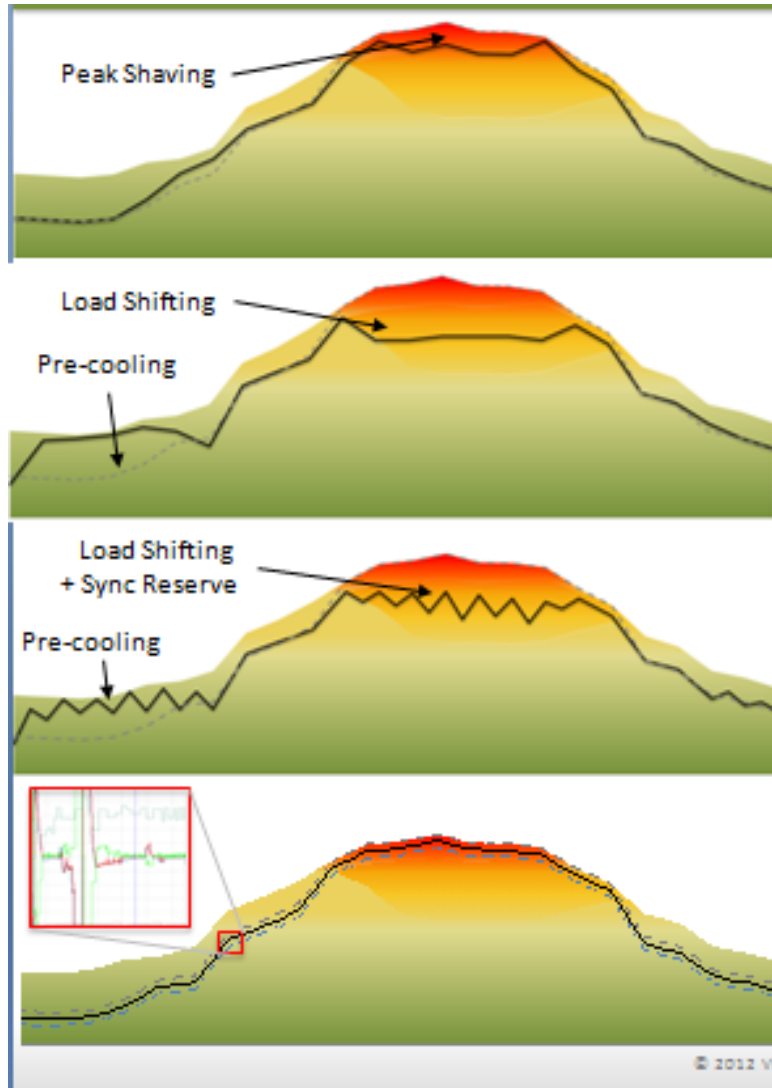
What does an aggregator do?

How do they improve your resilience posture?

Why does it matter?



# Synchronized Reserve Comparison to Other Programs



## Capacity Programs

- Low frequency, mandatory response
- A reactive way to earn additional revenue

## Economic Programs

- High frequency, voluntary response
- A proactive way to earn additional revenue

## Synchronized Reserve

- Higher frequency, voluntary participation, mandatory response
- Requires automated response due to short notice times and duration
- Paid to be “on-call”

## Regulation

- Highest frequency & payments, voluntary participation
- Inject into or pull power from the grid in small increments, following a 2-second signal
- Requires automated response, often performed by batteries or VFDs

# Resilience Benefits

- Advance notice of extreme weather
- Advance notice of electric grid disruption
- Monthly payment sent directly to electric bill
- Advance funding for system upgrades
- National Operations Center (NOC) reviews your energy profile, provides data and services

Example: 1,500-kWh reduction = \$54,000 for ELRP and  
\$73,500 for Synchronous Reserve

# REopt Lite

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Emma Elgqvist, NREL



<https://reopt.nrel.gov/tool>

# Will Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) Work for Your Site?



**RE  
Resource**



**Technology  
Costs &  
Incentives**



**Resilience  
Goals**



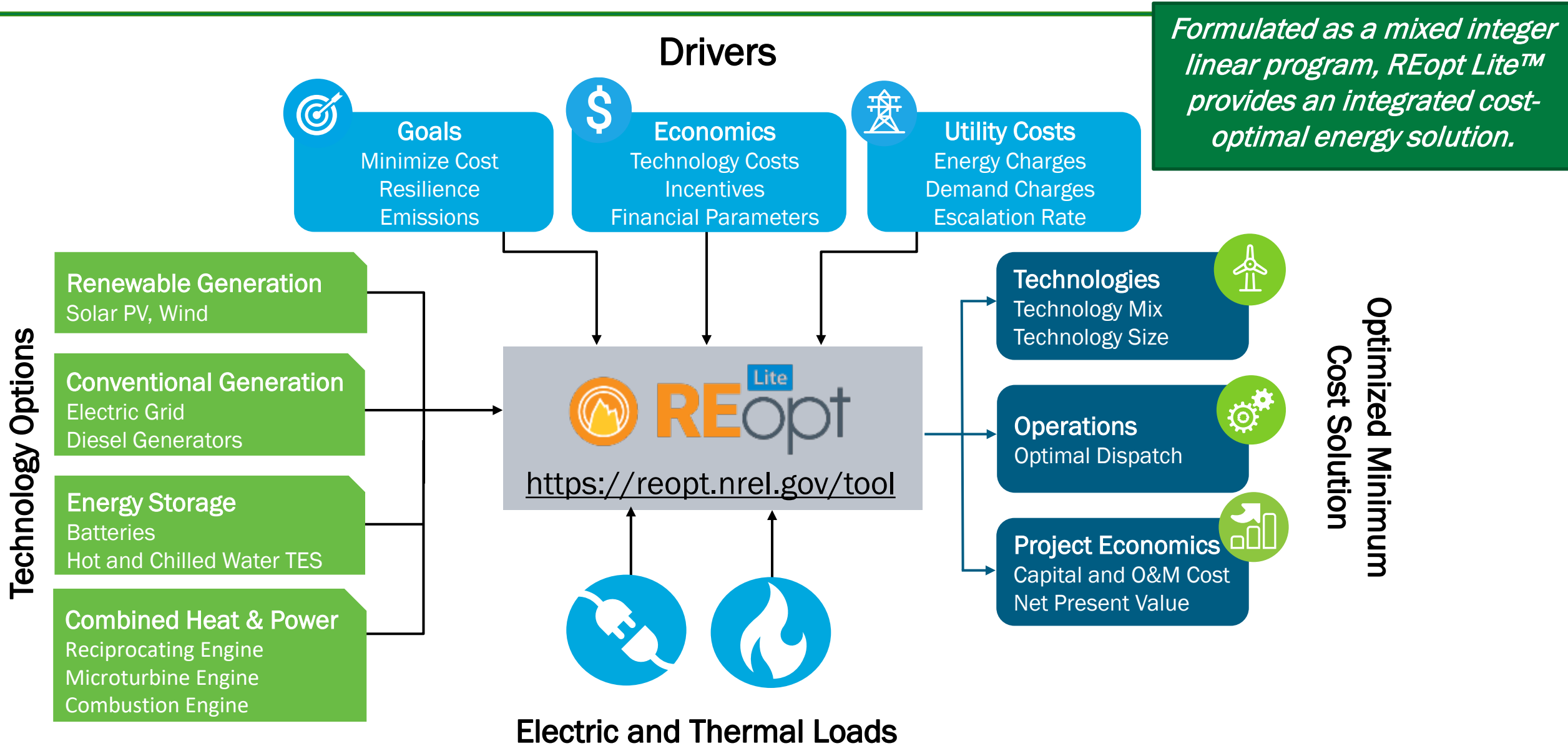
**Utility Cost &  
Consumption**



**Financial  
Parameters**

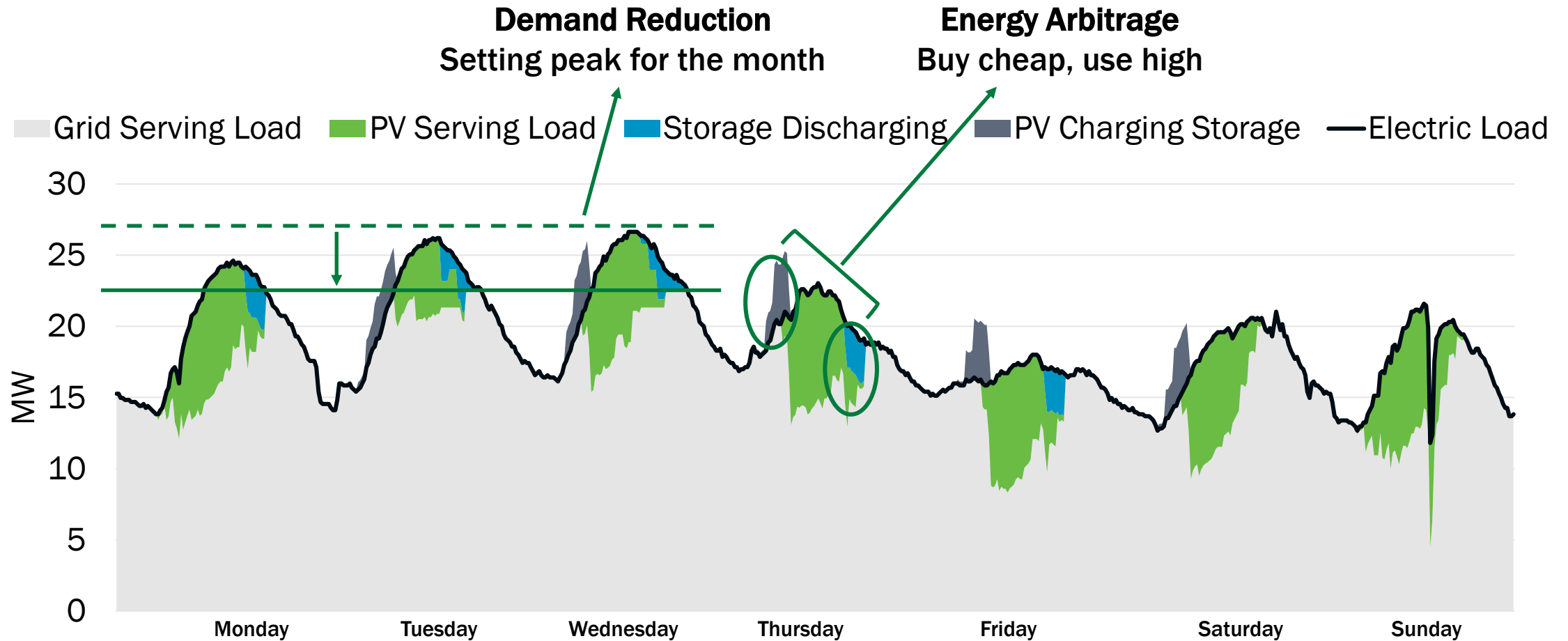
***Many factors affect whether distributed energy technologies can provide cost savings and resilience to your site, and they must be evaluated concurrently.***

# REopt Lite: Free Web Tool to Optimize Economic and Resilience Benefits of DERs



# How Does REopt Lite Work?

*REopt Lite considers the trade-off between ownership costs and savings across multiple value streams to recommend optimal size and dispatch.*

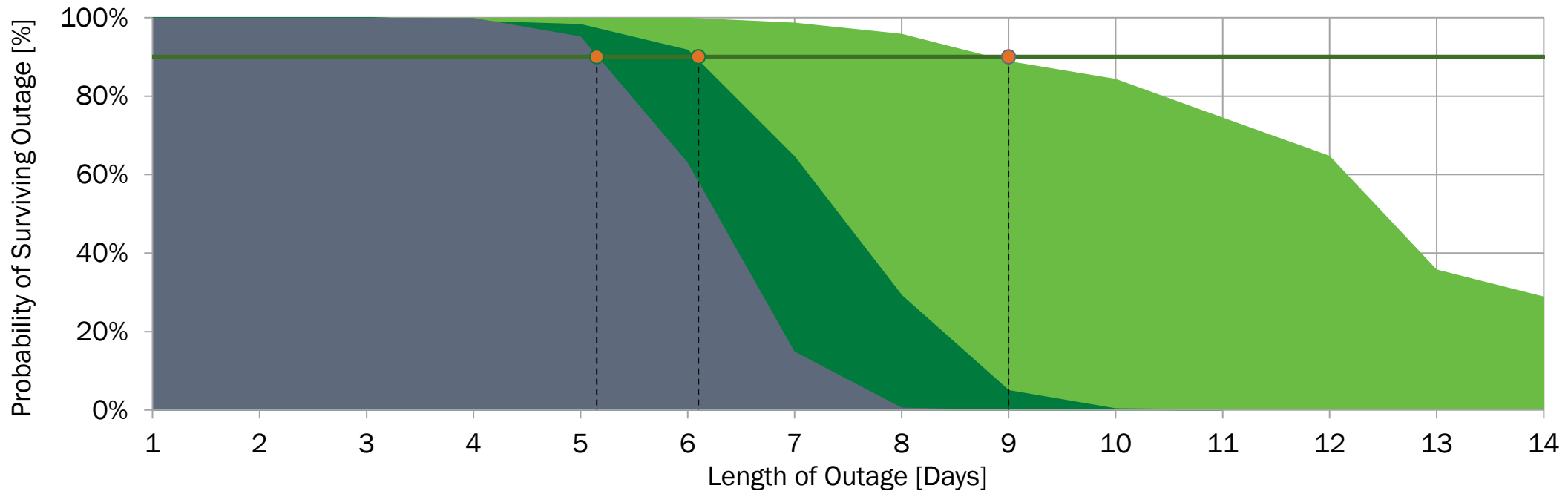


*Example of optimal dispatch of solar photovoltaics (PV) and battery energy storage systems (BESS)*

# How Does REopt Lite Work for Resilience?

*REopt Lite evaluates thousands of random grid outages to estimate hours survived and impact on life cycle cost. It quantifies the economic and resilience benefit of DERs by comparing the number of hours the site could survive with different technology combinations.*

	<u>Generator</u>	<u>Solar PV</u>	<u>Storage</u>	<u>Life Cycle Cost</u>	<u>Outage</u>
1. Base case	2.5 MW	-	-	\$20 million	5 days
2. Lowest cost solution	2.5 MW	625 kW	175 kWh	\$18.5 million	6 days
3. Proposed system	2.5 MW	2 MW	500 kWh	\$19.9 million	9 days



# REopt Lite User Interface

**REopt Lite** is a web tool that offers a no-cost subset of NREL's more comprehensive REopt™ model.

- **Financial mode** optimizes PV, wind, and battery system sizes and battery dispatch strategy to minimize life cycle cost of energy.
- **Resilience mode** optimizes PV, wind, and storage systems, along with backup generators, to sustain critical load during grid outages.

Access REopt Lite at [reopt.nrel.gov/tool](https://reopt.nrel.gov/tool)

## Step 1: Choose Your Focus

Do you want to optimize for financial savings or energy resilience?

Financial

Resilience



## Step 2: Enter Your Site Data

Enter information about your site and adjust the default values as needed to see your results.

Site and Utility (required)

Load Profile (required)

Financial

## Step 3: Select Your Technologies

Which technologies do you wish to evaluate?

PV 

Battery 

Wind 

PV

Battery



# REopt Lite Key Outputs

## Results for Your Site New Evaluation

These results from REopt Lite summarize the economic viability of PV, wind, and battery storage at your site. You can edit your inputs to see how changes to your energy strategies affect the results.

Back

Your recommended solar installation size

### 3,885 kW

PV size

Measured in kilowatts (kW) of direct current, this recommended size minimizes the life cycle cost of energy at your site.

Your recommended battery power and capacity

### 276 kW

battery power

### 598 kWh

battery capacity

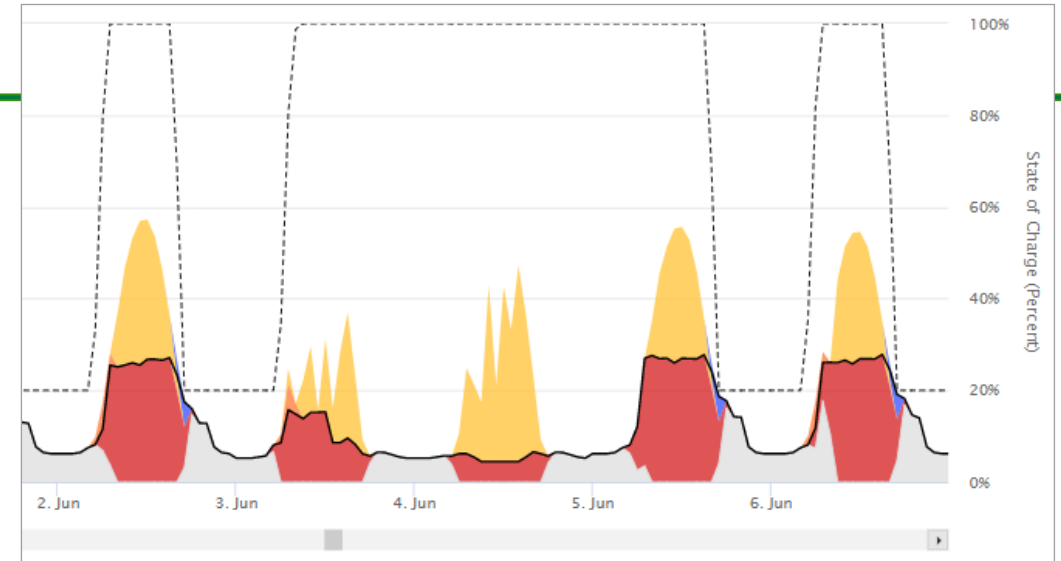
This system size minimizes the life cycle cost of energy at your site. The battery power and capacity are optimized for economic performance.

Your potential life cycle savings (20 years)

This is the net present value of the savings (or costs if negative) realized by the project based on the difference between the total life cycle costs of doing business as usual compared to the optimal case.

\$1,972,493

## System Size and Net Present Value



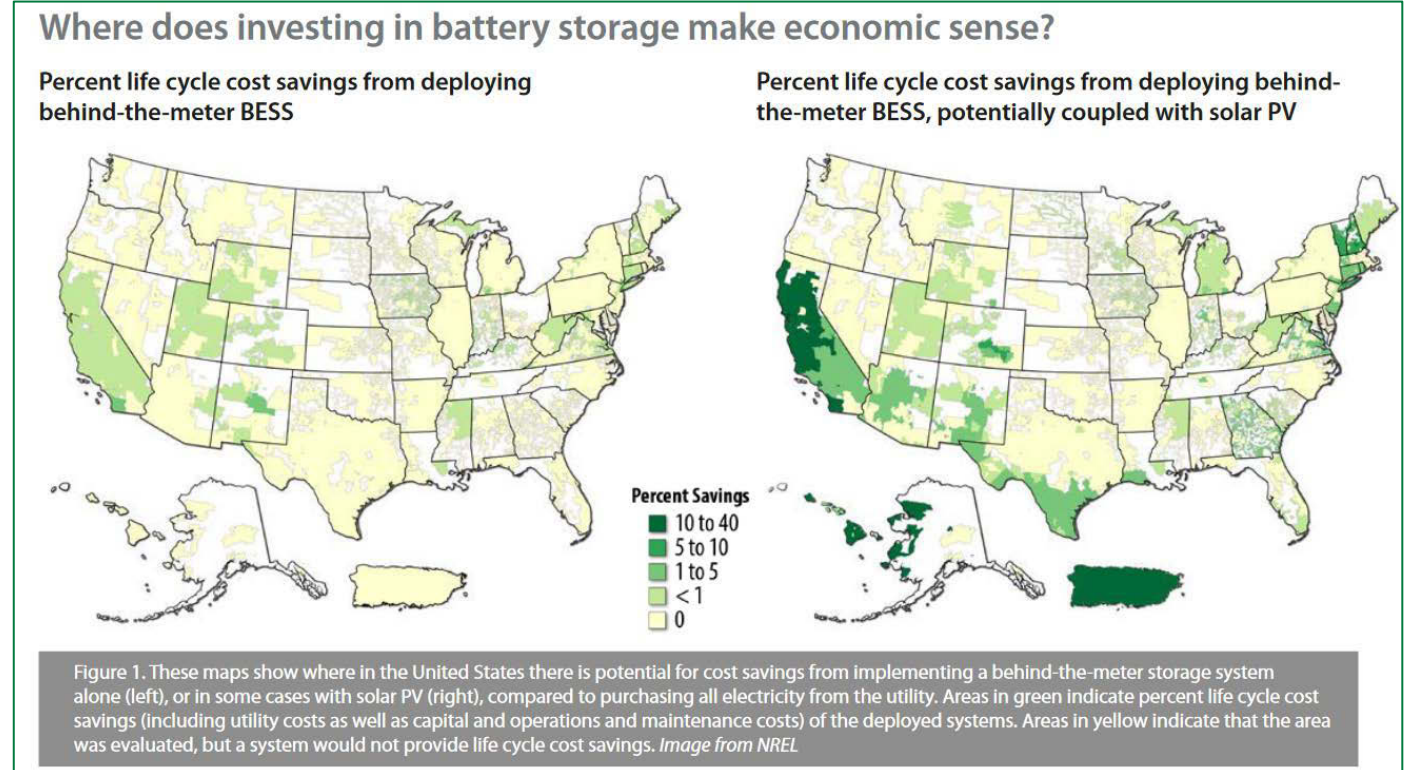
## Hourly Dispatch

	Business As Usual	Financial	Difference
System Size, Energy Production, and System Cost			
PV Size	0 kW	113 kW	113 kW
Annualized PV Energy Production	0 kWh	132,000 kWh	132,000 kWh
Battery Power	0 kW	0 kW	0 kW
Battery Capacity	0 kWh	0 kWh	0 kWh
Net CAPEX + Replacement + O&M	\$0	\$133,318	\$133,318
Energy Supplied From Grid in Year 1	132,000 kWh	65,384 kWh	66,616 kWh
Year 1 Utility Cost – Before Tax			
Utility Energy Cost	\$18,112	-\$404	\$18,515
Utility Demand Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0
Utility Fixed Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0
Utility Minimum Cost Adder	\$0	\$0	\$0

## Detailed Financial Outputs

# Analysis Enabled by API

- The REopt Lite API enables national-scale analysis of storage economics and impacts on adoption/deployment.
- Analysis questions include:
  - Where in the country is storage (and PV) currently cost-effective?
  - At what capital cost is storage adopted across the United States?
  - How do varying utility rates, escalation rates, and incentive structures impact storage profitability?
  - How (and where) can stationary storage support DC-fast-charging electric vehicle economics and deployment?



WHERE AND WHEN DOES SOLAR PLUS STORAGE MAKE SENSE FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS? NREL Researchers Make Their “BESSt” Guess Using REopt Lite Modeling Tool

<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/77112.pdf>

# REopt Lite Web Tool

# Select Focus and Technologies

## Step 0: Login and Gather Data

Registering and logging in is optional, but you must be logged in to:

- ▶ save your evaluations
- ▶ create a custom electricity rate
- ▶ build a critical load profile
- ▶ manage your typical and critical load profiles

➤

Data needed for a **Financial** run:

- site location
- site electricity rate
- building type plus annual or monthly energy consumption *OR* a custom load profile
- fuel cost for existing boiler and CHP (if CHP is modeled)

➤

Additional data needed for a **Resilience** run:

- critical load factor *OR* custom critical load profile *OR* critical load components to build a profile
- outage duration
- outage start date and time (can be taken from your critical load profile)

\* For all non-required inputs, the gray default values will be used unless you enter custom inputs

↑  
“Log In/Register” to create custom loads and utility rates, and to access custom inputs and results in the future.

## Step 1: Choose Your Focus

Do you want to optimize for financial savings or energy resilience?

Financial  Resilience

## Step 2: Select Your Technologies

Which technologies do you wish to evaluate?

PV ☀️  Battery 🔋  Wind 🌀  Generator ⚡  CHP 🏭

Chilled Water Storage ❄️

➡️ “Generator” only runs during outage

# Site Information

## Step 3: Enter Your Site Data

**Site and Utility** (required)

\* Required field

\* Site location [?](#)  [Use sample site](#)

\* Electricity rate [?](#)   Use custom electricity rate [?](#)

[Advanced inputs](#) [Reset to default values](#)

**Load Profile** (required)

\* Required field

\* Typical electrical load [?](#)

How would you like to enter the typical energy load profile?

[Simulate Building](#) [Simulate Campus](#) [Upload](#)

\* Type of building [?](#)  [Building Details](#)

Annual  Monthly

\* Annual energy consumption (kWh) [?](#)

[Download electric load profile](#) [Chart electric load data](#)

} Location and utility rate

} Typical load profile – simulated, campus, or actual

# Critical Load and Outage Start Date and Duration

**Resilience** (required) ☰

**\* Critical load** ?

How would you like to enter the critical energy load profile?

Percent  Upload  Build

**Critical load factor (%)** ?

[Download critical load profile](#) [Chart critical load data](#)

**\* Outage information**

**\* Outage duration (hours)** ?

**\* Outage start date** ?  📅 [Autoselect using critical load profile](#) ?

**\* Outage start time** ?

**Type of outage event** ?

[Reset to default values](#)

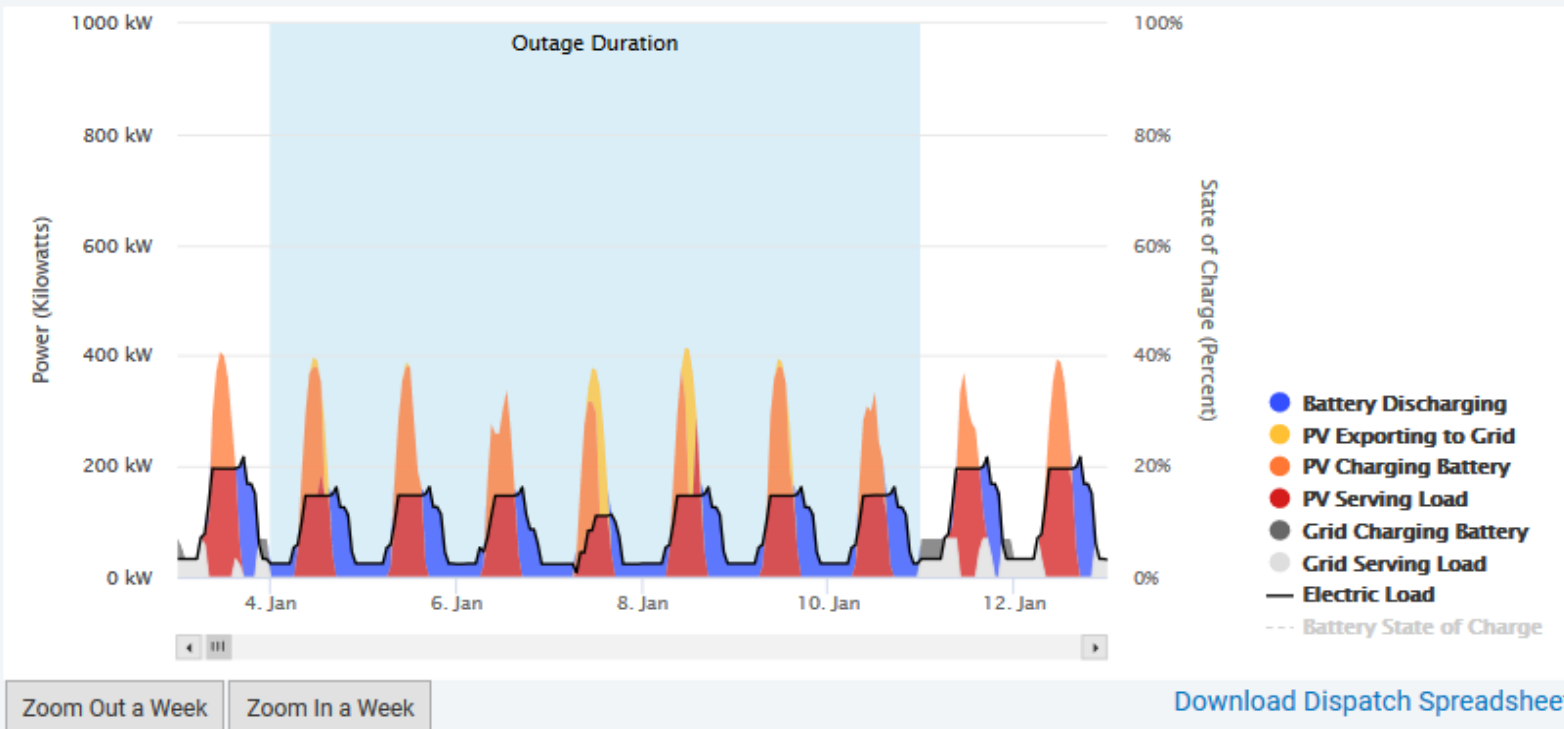
What load needs to be met during the outage?

When is the outage expected to occur, and how long will it last?

# Resilience Output: Dispatch During Outage

## System Performance Year One ?

This interactive graph shows the dispatch strategy optimized by REopt Lite for the specified outage period as well as the rest of the year. To zoom in on a date range, click and drag right in the chart area or use the "Zoom In a Week" button. To zoom out, click and drag left or use the "Zoom Out a Week" button.



The specified outage event is highlighted in blue (lower load).

The load is met exclusively by the PV and storage that REopt Lite selected.

As soon as the outage ends, the site goes back to purchasing grid electricity.

# Resilience Output: System Sized to Meet Outage



## Your Potential Resilience

This system sustains the 75% critical load during the specified outage period, from January 4 at 12am to January 11 at 12am.

This system sustains the critical load for 72% of all potential 168 hour outages throughout the year.



[System survives specified 168-hour outage](#)

72%

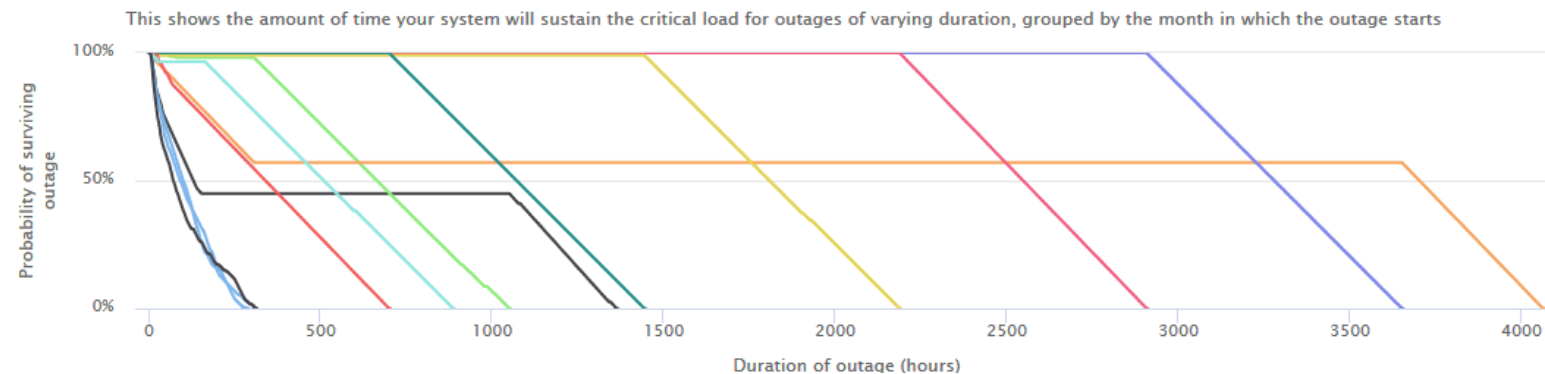
[System survives 72% of 168-hour outages](#)

REopt Lite optimizes system size and dispatch to survive a specified outage.

## Outage Simulation

Evaluate the amount of time that your system can survive grid outages.

Yearly Monthly Hourly



REopt Lite simulates outages of varying lengths throughout the year.





REopt Lite (tool and help manual): [reopt.nrel.gov/tool](https://reopt.nrel.gov/tool)

REopt Website (analysis services and case studies): [reopt.nrel.gov/](https://reopt.nrel.gov/)

Send tool feedback and ask a question: [reopt@nrel.gov](mailto:reopt@nrel.gov)

# Technical Resilience Navigator (TRN)

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Alex Young, NREL



<https://trn.pnnl.gov/>

# Technical Resilience Navigator

The Federal Energy Management Program's Technical Resilience Navigator (TRN) helps users assess risk to a site's critical functions from energy and water utility disruptions and prioritize solutions that reduce risk.



- **Manage the risk to critical missions** from disruptions in energy and water services.
- **Identify energy and water resiliency gaps and develop and prioritize solutions** that reduce risk and address other site priorities.
- Proactively **discover and address vulnerabilities** to critical energy and water systems to reduce outage impacts and support continuous mission operations.

# Technical Resilience Navigator

- ✓ Federally focused but not federally exclusive
- ✓ Speaks to all levels of resilience planning expertise
- ✓ Modular approach to resilience planning
- ✓ Specific energy and water lens
- ✓ Flexible method for relevant assessments
- ✓ Web-based application with multiple utilization levels





Want to learn more about the TRN? Visit our [Online Training Page](#)

About

The Federal Energy Management Program's **Technical Resilience Navigator (TRN)** helps organizations manage the risk to critical missions from disruptions in energy and water services. It provides a systematic approach to identifying energy and water resiliency gaps and developing and prioritizing solutions that reduce risk.

Glossary

FAQ

Modules

The TRN enables organizations to be proactive in identifying and addressing vulnerabilities to their critical energy and water systems to reduce outage impacts, and support continuous mission operations.

Register a New Account

E-Mail Address

Password

Remember Me

Login

[Forgot Your Password?](#)

## Web-Based Application Features

- Create (or join) a resilience framework.
- Build and manage a resilience team.
- Track progress as actions are completed.
- Choose the level of data sensitivity that's right for your site.



Technical Resilience Navigator is a resource of the U.S. Department of Energy Federal Energy Management Program.

[Contact Us](#) | [Federal Energy Management Program](#) | [Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy](#) | [Security & Privacy](#)

<https://trn.pnnl.gov/>

# TRN Site-Level Planning and Baseline Development



## Site-Level Planning Actions

- Establish Resilience Team and Engage Stakeholders
- Collect and Review Relevant Information
- Define Site-Level Resilience Priorities and Scope and Boundaries
- Identify Critical Functions
- Recognize Resilience Gaps



## Baseline Development Actions

- Collect and Review Baseline Documentation
- Establish Energy and Water Requirements
- Establish Baseline Conditions of Energy and Water Systems



## Site-Level Planning Outcomes

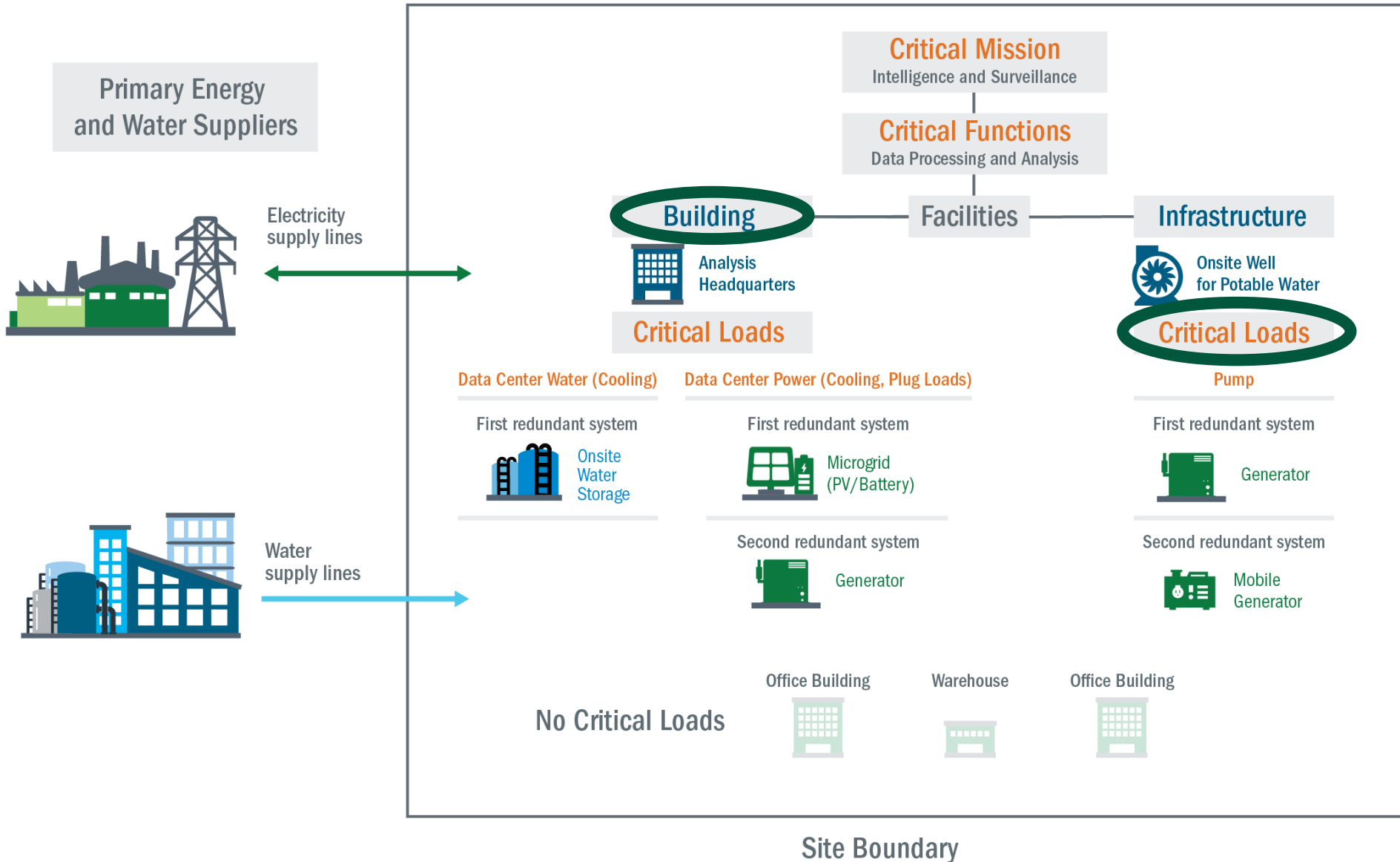
- Resilience Planning Team      Criticality of Functions
- Site Resilience Priorities      Resilience Gap Identification
- List of Critical Functions



## Baseline Development Outcomes

- Critical Energy and Water Loads
- Baseline Condition of Energy and Water Systems
- Outage Time Tolerance for Critical Loads

# Establishing Energy and Water Requirements



# TRN Risk Assessment



## Risk Assessment Actions

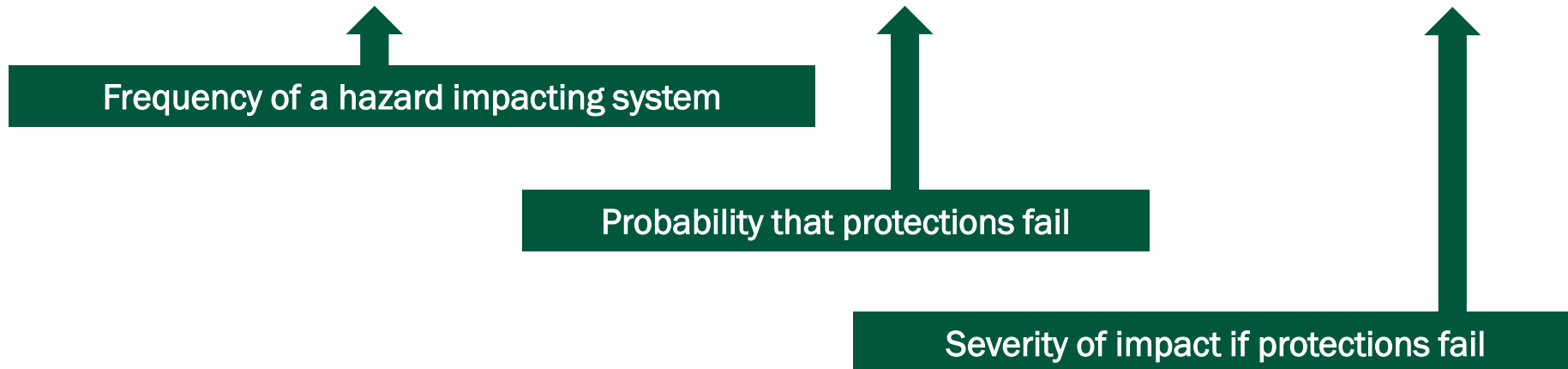
- Characterize Critical Loads for Risk Assessment
- Identify Hazards and Threats
- Assess Vulnerabilities
- Summarize Risk



## Risk Assessment Outcomes

- Identified Hazards
- Risk Scenarios
- Expanded List of Resilience Gaps
- Risk Screening Summary

**Risk = Hazards and Threats x Vulnerability x Consequences**





# Risk Assessment Actions



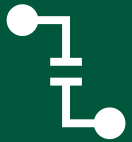
## Characterize Critical Loads for Risk Assessment

This action collects the previously established relative importance of critical functions served by critical loads, the critical function or load restoration capabilities, and the tolerable outage duration of critical loads.



## Identify Hazards and Threats

To identify hazards and threats, users record site-specific energy/water resource loss frequencies and durations and hazards that could affect both primary service and site-specific systems.



## Assess Vulnerabilities

Vulnerabilities are assessed by establishing the capabilities of the redundant systems and identifying the design, operational, and maintenance factors that could affect system reliabilities.

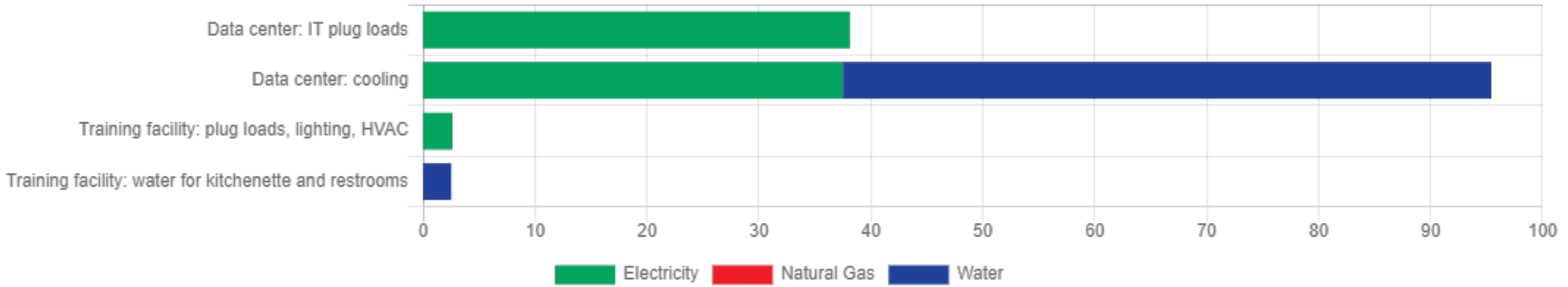


## Summarize Risk

The previous actions generate a risk summary that displays the distribution of unweighted and weighted risk across critical loads, hazards, and scenarios. The risk summary gives users insight into their risk distribution and greatest risk drivers.

# Example TRN Risk Assessment Output

## Weighted Risk by Critical Load and Resource



# TRN Solution Development



## **Solution Development Actions**

Analyze Resilience Gaps

Identify Resilience Solutions



## **Solution Development Outcomes**

Resilience Gap Analysis

List of Solutions to Identified Gaps

- What gaps contribute to the greatest risk drivers?
- Are gaps technological, operational, or institutional?
- What solutions can enhance the resourcefulness, robustness, redundancy, and recovery of energy and water systems?

# TRN Solution Prioritization



## Solution Prioritization Actions

Screen Solutions

Model Solution Risk Reduction Potential

Review Priorities and Costs

Prioritize Solutions

- Which solutions decrease risk the most?
- What priorities should guide decision making?



## Solution Prioritization Outcomes

Post-Solution Risk Reduction

Key Non-Risk Criteria for Solution Evaluation

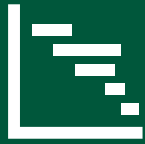
Priority Solution List

# Solution Prioritization Actions



## Screen Solutions

This action includes the initial narrowing down of solutions, via Go/No-Go criteria such as extreme cost, technical difficulty, and those not of interest to the site currently. Remaining solutions and solution sets are for further analysis.



## Determine Solution Risk Reduction Potential

In this action, users identify which hazard scenarios and resources are affected by the solution. The weighted risk calculated in the Risk Assessment module serves as a baseline. Users adjust the vulnerability or consequence to reflect how these solutions could impact risk.



## Review Priorities and Costs

Users can specify additional prioritization criteria, which can include decision-making factors important to the site and weight them to reflect importance. The high-level cost of the solution, both for implementation and accounting for any ongoing costs, is also calculated.



## Prioritize Solutions

In this action, users qualitatively rate solutions against the additional criteria and then use the TRN to calculate the Resilience Solution Benefit Potential as a weighted average score. This includes the categorized risk reduction efficacy and categorized ratings against criteria and criteria weights.

# Example TRN Solution Prioritization Output

User selects sorting mechanism:

1. Potential benefit (descending), cost (ascending)
2. Cost (ascending), potential benefit (descending)

Priority Order	Solution	Potential Benefit	Cost Category	Priority	10-Year Total Cost
1	Solution set: MOU/mutual aid agreement to obtain fuel resupply + seismic upgrades for elec redundant system + improvement of process to move data center operations offsite.	High	High	8	\$920,000
2	Solution set: MOU/mutual aid agreement to obtain fuel resupply + seismic upgrades for elec and water redundant systems + water efficiency + improvement of process to move data center operations offsite.	High	High	8	\$1,430,000
3	Reduce required time to move operations to offsite data center, and train on that process.	Moderate	Low	10	\$200,000
4	Implement COOP plan.	Moderate	Moderate	11	\$650,000
5	Solution set: seismic upgrades for elec and water redundant systems + water efficiency + improvement of process to move data center operations offsite.	Moderate	High	12	\$1,310,000
6	Implement ability to move training offsite.	Low	Minimal	13	\$70,000
7	Improve water efficiency to extend water redundant system capability.	Low	Low	14	\$110,000
8	Arrange MOU/mutual aid agreement to obtain fuel resupply, extending electrical redundant system capability.	Low	Low	14	\$120,000
9	Upgrade electrical redundant system with seismic design.	Low	Moderate	15	\$600,000
10	Upgrade electrical and water redundant systems with seismic design.	Low	High	16	\$1,000,000

*Example sorted by option 1*

# Technical Resilience Navigator



**Roadmap To Action**  
Under Construction



**Create a TRN account**  
<https://trn.pnnl.gov/>

# Wrap Up and Questions

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# Thank you

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