



POWERED BY  
**dsgrid**



**dsgrid**

Demand-Side Grid Toolkit

Elaine Hale

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

July 9, 2024

*Daniel Thom, Lixi Liu, Ashreeta Prasanna, and  
Meghan Mooney*

# Agenda

**1** Problem statement

---

**2** Tool overview

---

**3** dsgrid is a load modeling approach

---

**4** dsgrid is published datasets

---

**5** dsgrid is open-source software

---

**6** How to access

---

**7** Q&A

---

# Problem statement

---

*Load forecasts have always been **the key input** for  
power system planning*

# NREL deeply understands energy efficiency and renewable energy

## Electricity sector trends

Efficiency

### ASHRAE Design Guides for Commercial Buildings



#### 50% Energy Guide

Five 50% Guides are available for download or purchase. [Learn More](#)



#### 30% Energy Guide

Six 30% Guides are available for download or purchase.

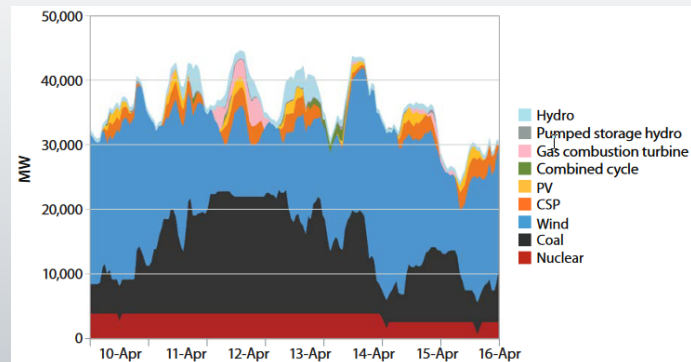
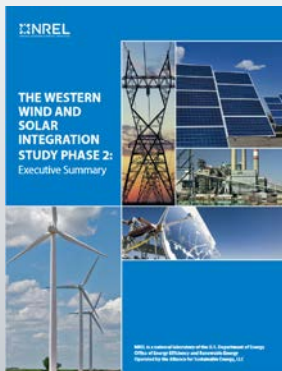
[LEARN MORE](#)

*Supported by NREL tools and analyses 2007–2015 and beyond (ASHRAE 2024; U.S. DOE EERE 2024)*

### Building America Solutions for Residential Buildings



Variable renewable energy integration



(Lew et al. 2013)

# Energy efficiency impacts load magnitude; renewable energy makes load shape more salient

## Electricity sector trends

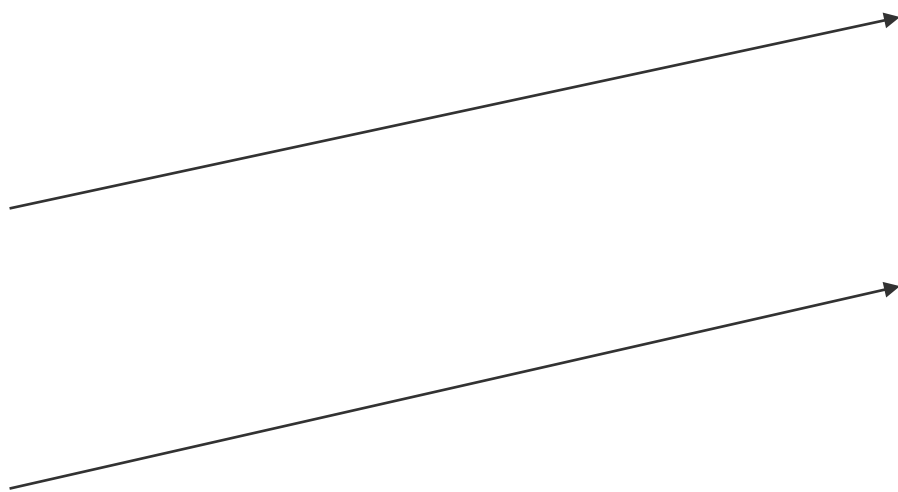
## Load characteristics

Efficiency

Magnitude

Variable renewable energy  
integration

Shape

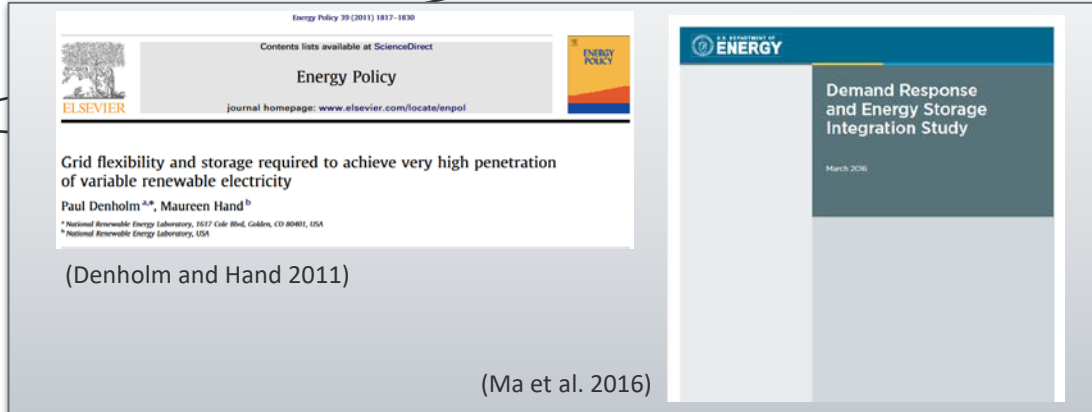
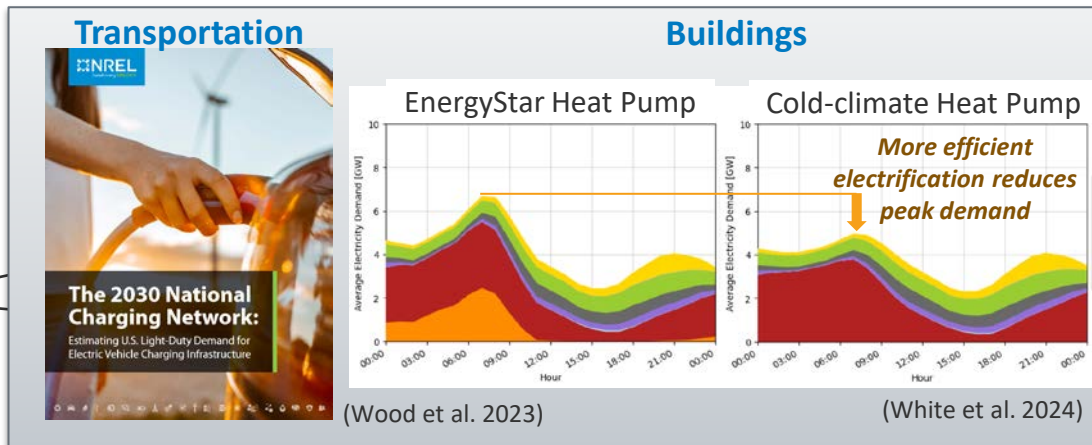


# Electrification has followed efficiency; flexibility, including demand-side, complements renewables

## Electricity sector trends

Efficiency, electrification, and efficient electrification

Variable renewable energy integration



# NREL anticipated the long-term load forecasting challenges so many face today

## Electricity sector trends

## Load characteristics

Efficiency, electrification,  
and efficient electrification

Variable renewable energy  
integration

Magnitude

Shape

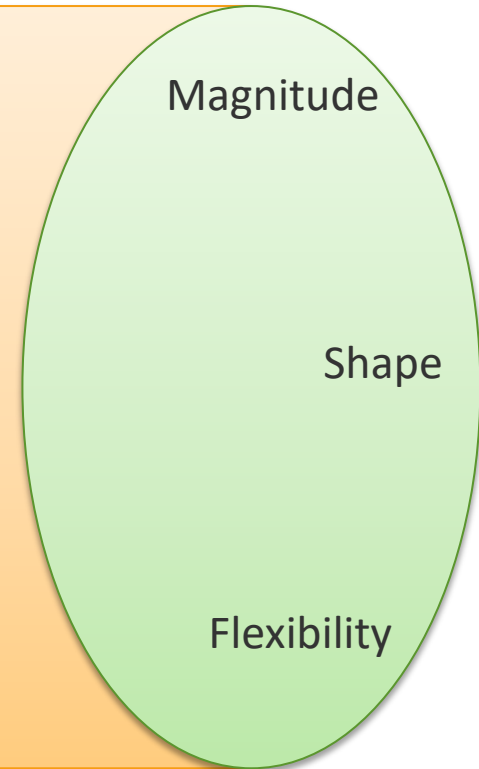
Flexibility

*Looking forward, indirect electrification for industrial or energy storage end uses further complicates this picture by placing even more emphasis on flexibility and introducing close coupling with other fuels, feedstocks, and energy carriers.*



# NREL anticipated the long-term load forecasting challenges so many face today

- Time-synchronized load, wind, and solar data
- Cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary
  - Buildings, transportation, and industry
  - Power sector
  - Physical resource and economics of load flexibility
- Deep uncertainty
  - Policy and technology adoption
  - Climate and weather
  - Population and macroeconomics



# Tool overview

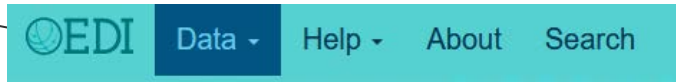
---

# The demand-side grid (dsgrid) toolkit leverages bottom-up modeling of demand sectors to produce data for power system planning

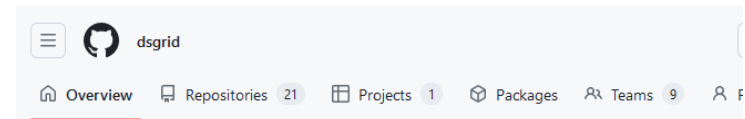
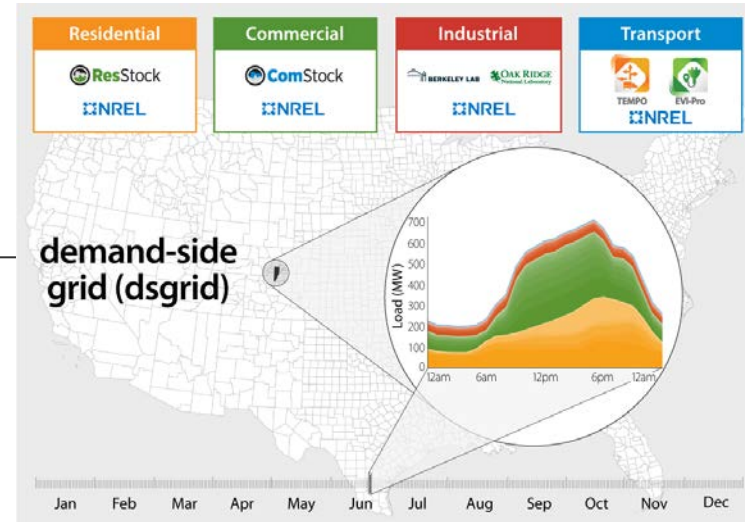
dsgrid is ...

- ① **A load modeling approach** that leverages bottom-up modeling of buildings, transportation, and industry to enable:
  - Future projections and what-if scenarios **for electricity load shapes** in addition to magnitude of annual energy use
  - Understanding of **interactions** between demand-side and supply-side resources.

- ② **Published datasets** accessible through the Open Energy Data Initiative (OEDI)



- ③ **Open-source software** that flexibly and extensibly supports long-term load projection workflows, which require alignment across different geographic, temporal, and sectoral resolutions; timeseries manipulation; data query; and QA/QC



## NREL-dsgrid

NREL's demand-side grid (dsgrid) toolkit enables the compilation of high-resolution forward-looking power system and other analyses.

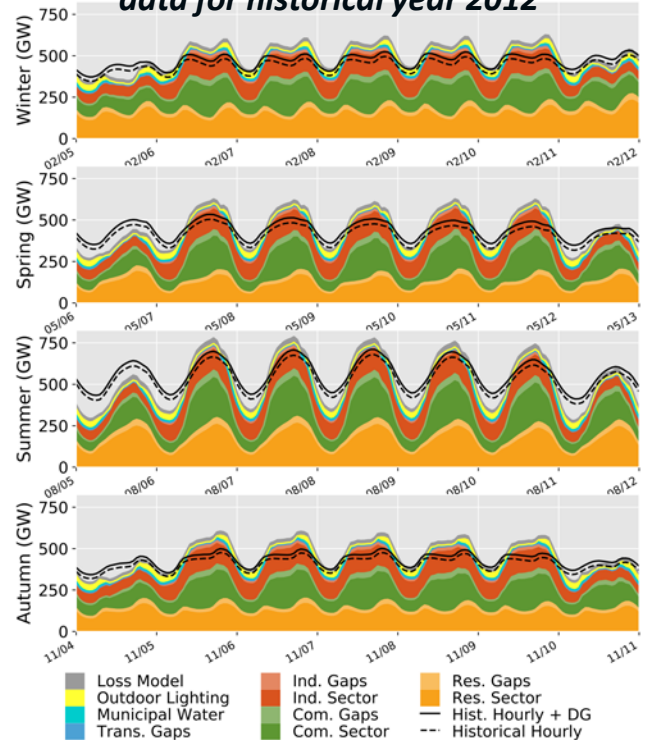
4 followers United States of America <https://www.nrel.gov/analysis/dsgrid...>

1. dsgrid is a load modeling approach

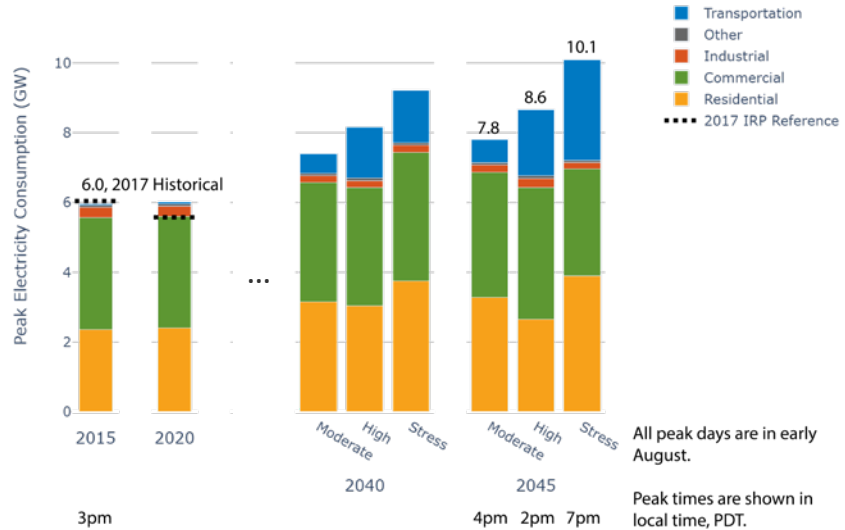
---

# The dsgrid team assembles bottom-up, highly resolved load datasets

## Proof-of-concept bottom-up load modeling data for historical year 2012



## Three load projections for the Los Angeles 100% Renewable Energy Study (LA100)



All peak days are in early August.  
Peak times are shown in local time, PDT.

Hale et al. 2021: <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/79444-3.pdf>

# LA100 Example

---



What **electricity demands** will LADWP need to meet starting now and continuing through 2045?

# Demand Modeling Team



## Buildings Models

- Residential
- Commercial

## Industrial and Other Models

- Industrial
- Other commercial
- Water system
- Miscellaneous loads



## Transportation Models

- Light-duty electric vehicles (EVs)
- Buses



# Three Possible Futures for Customer Electricity Demand

## Moderate

- Moderate electricity growth and efficiency
- 30% of passenger cars will be electric by 2045

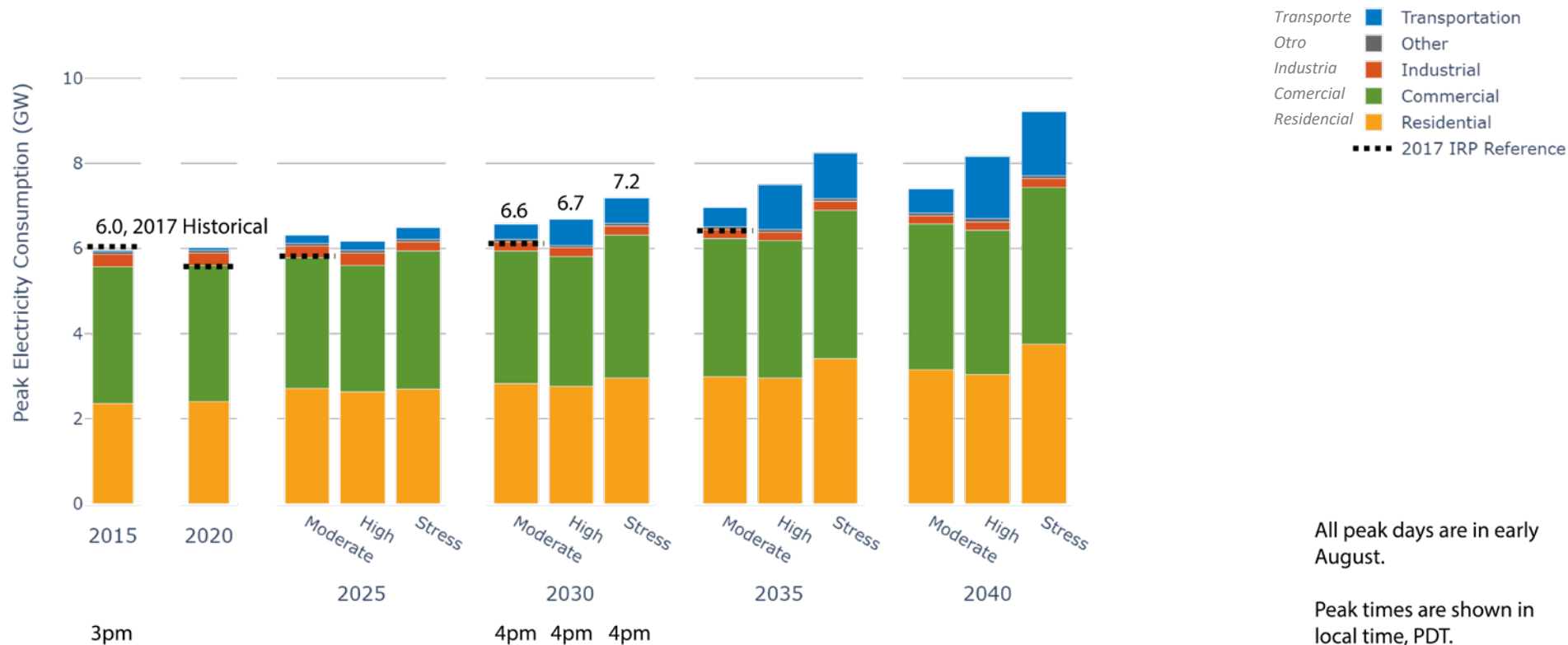
## High

- Appliances and space and water heating switch from natural gas to electricity
- Buildings are weatherized; most efficient appliances are adopted
- 80% of passenger cars are electric
- Demand is more flexible in its timing

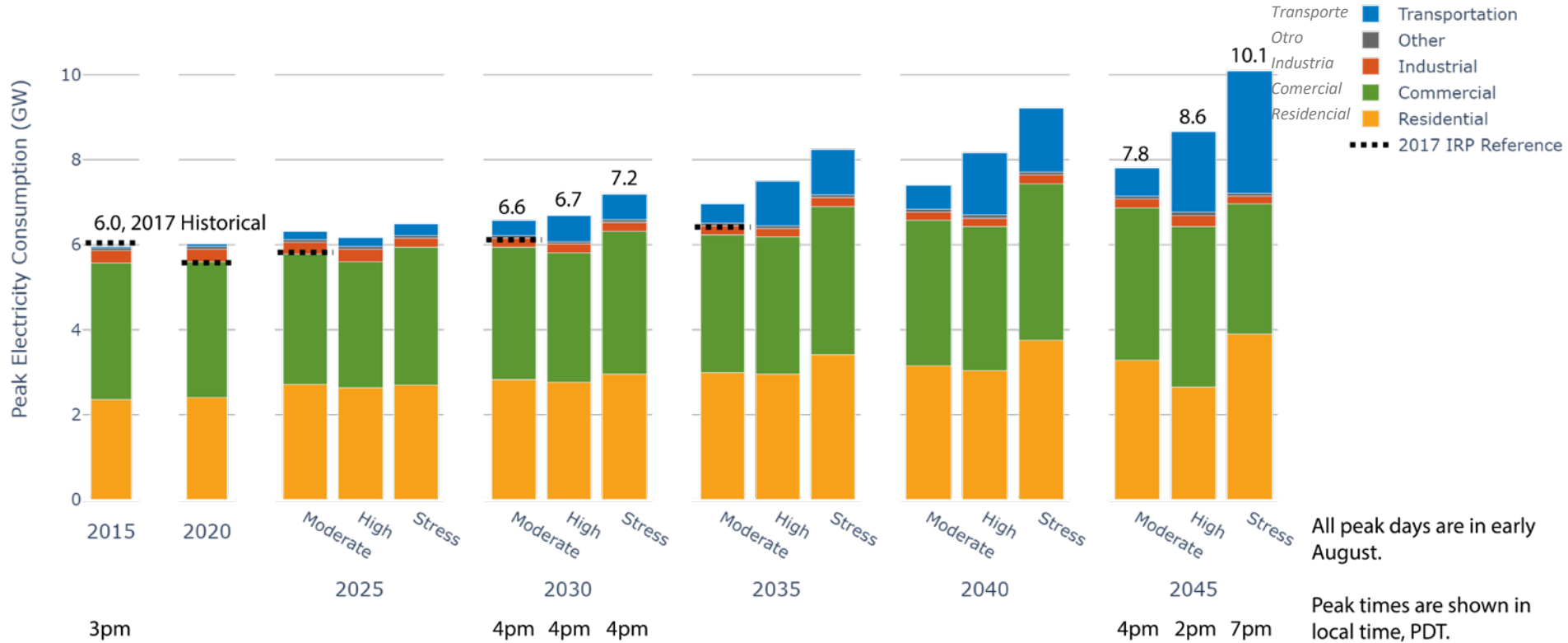
## Stress

- All the electrification of **High**
- Significantly less energy efficiency
- Timing of demand is less aligned with renewable generation

# Energy efficiency drives the difference between the High and Stress projections 2025–2040

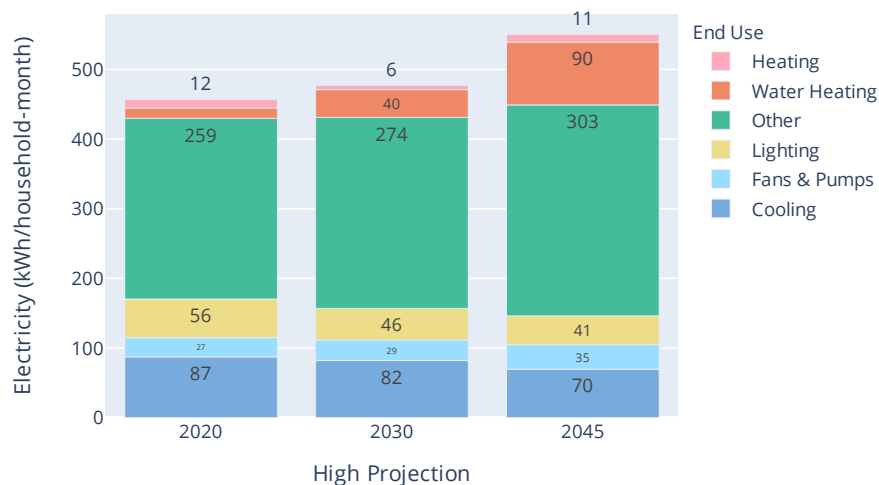


# In 2045 with high electrification, where and when EVs are charged could help determine the time of system peak

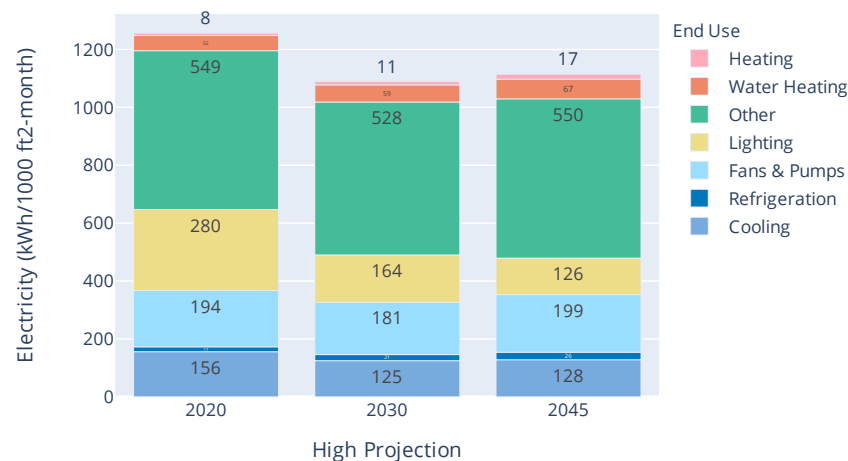


# Different customer types see different impacts under the High projection

**Residential Sector: Monthly electricity use increases because of electrification**

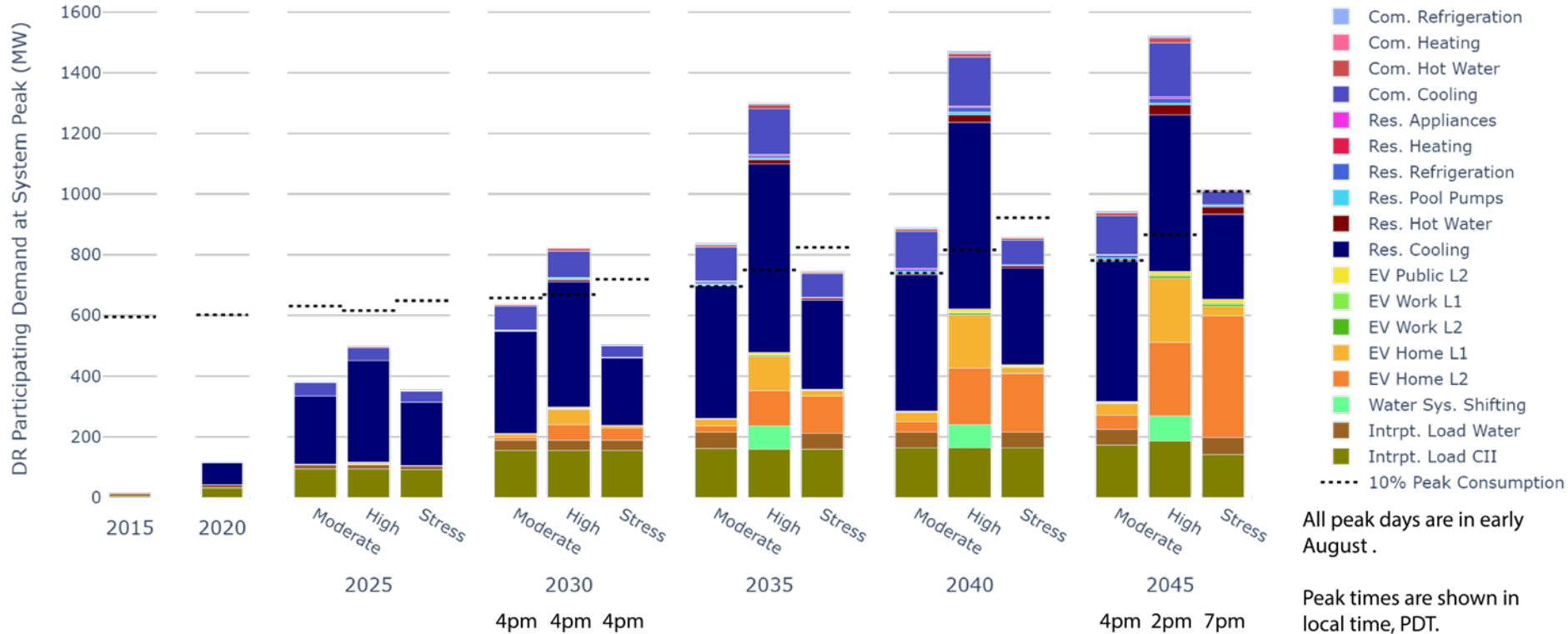


**Commercial Sector: Efficiency is more impactful than electrification**

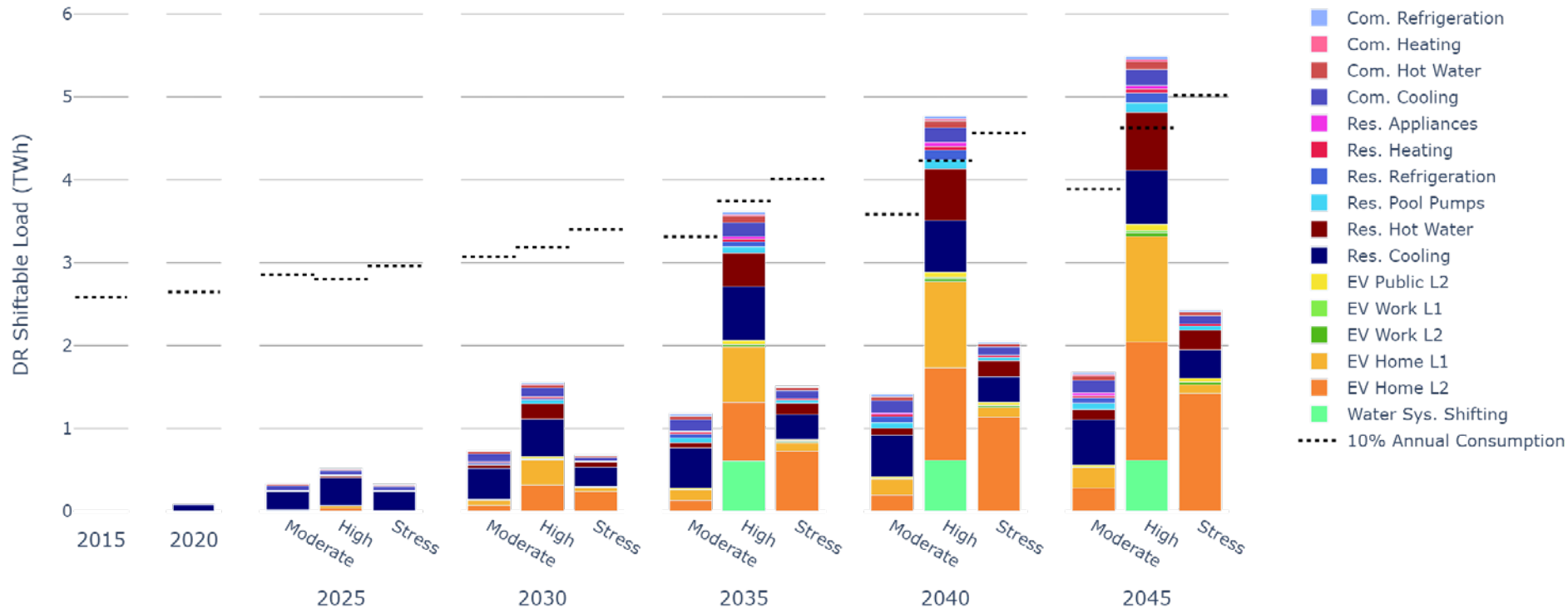


***Municipal water sector electricity use increases **more than fourfold** to reduce dependence on imported water.***

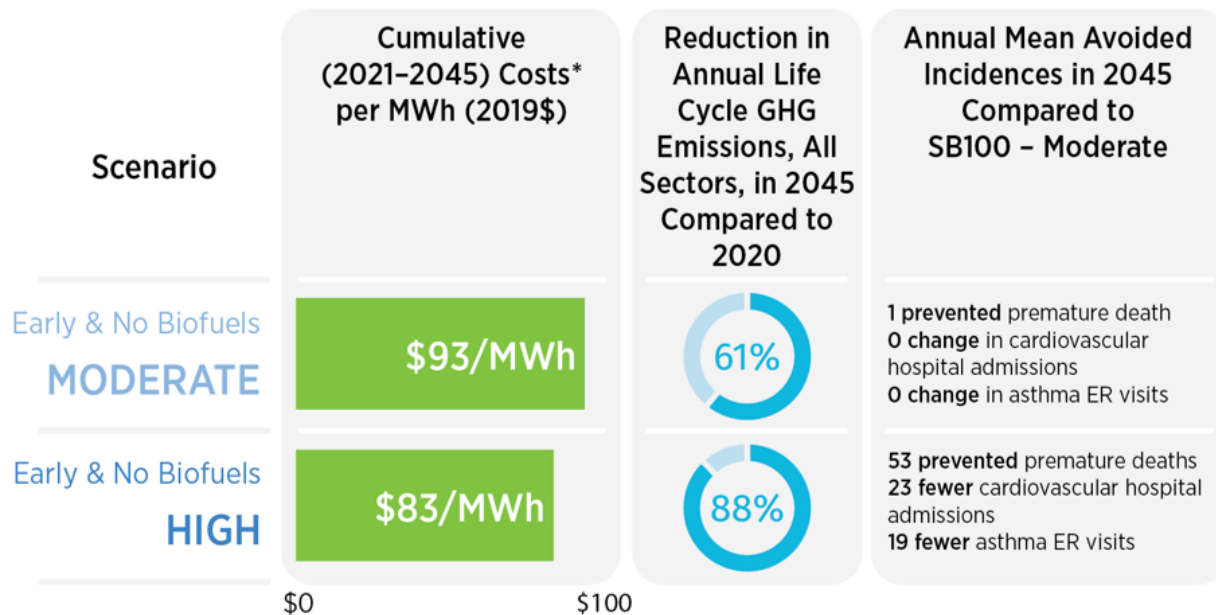
# Total Demand Response Capacity: End-use demand at time of system peak



# Total Demand Response Capacity: Shiftable end-use demand



High vs. Moderate:  
Lower per-unit costs, more greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, and greater health benefits



\*Revenue requirements per unit of generation to cover the annualized costs associated with expenditures measured in LA100--Not equivalent to rates.

## 2. dsgrid is published datasets

---



# Original proof-of-concept data from the Electrification Futures Study (EFS)



## Demand-Side Grid Model (dsgrid) Data from the Electrification Futures Project (EFS)

DOI 10.25984/1823248

Publicly accessible License

This data set contains the full-resolution and state-level data described in the linked technical report (<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/71492.pdf>). It can be accessed with the NREL-dsgrid-legacy-efs-api, available on GitHub at <https://github.com/dsgrid/dsgrid-legacy-efs-api> and through PyPI (pip install NREL-dsgrid-legacy-efs-api). The data format is HDF5. The API is written in Python.

This initial dsgrid data set, whose description was originally published in 2016, covers electricity demand in the contiguous United States (CONUS) for the historical year of 2012. It is a proof-of-concept demonstrating the feasibility of reconciling bottom-up demand modeling results with top-down information about electricity demand to create a more detailed description than is possible with either type of data source on its own. The result is demand data that is more highly resolved along geographic, temporal, sectoral, and end-use dimensions as may be helpful for conducting electricity sector-wide "what-if" analysis of, e.g., energy efficiency, electrification, and/or demand flexibility.

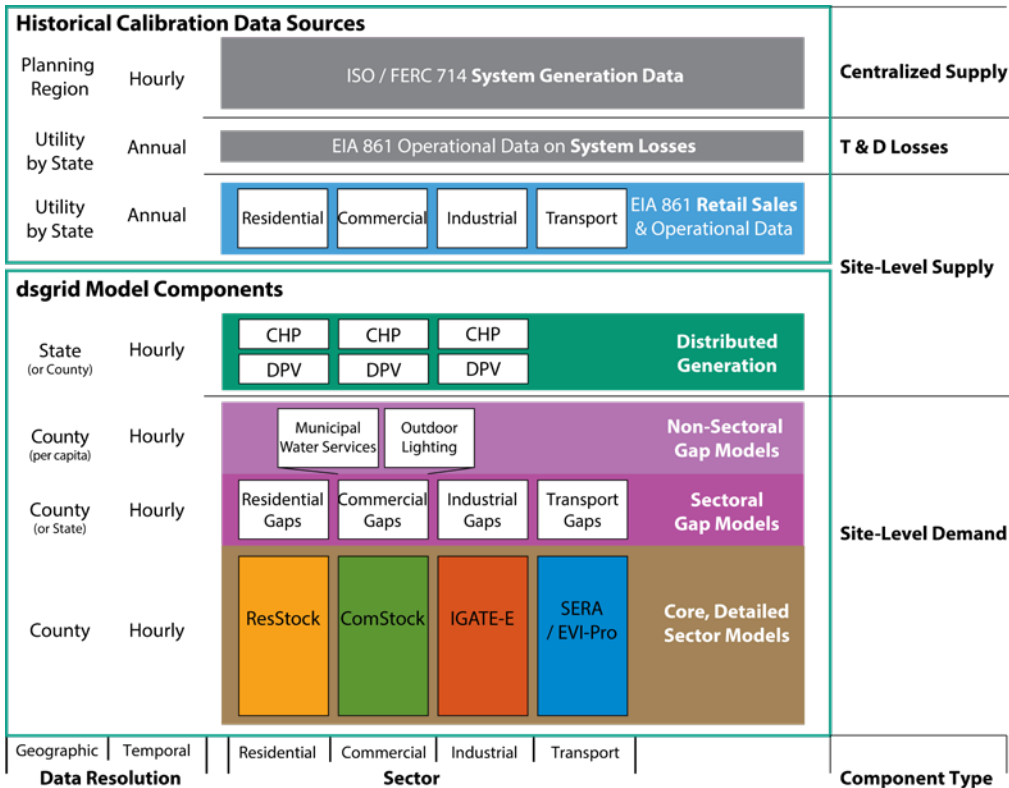
Although we conducted bottom-up versus top-down validation, the final residuals were significant, especially at higher geographic and temporal resolution. Please see the Executive Summary and/or Section 3 of the report to obtain an understanding of the data set limitations before deciding whether these data are suitable for any particular use case.

New dsgrid datasets are under development. Please visit <https://www.nrel.gov/analysis/dsgrid.html> for the latest information which is also linked in the data resources.

**Data:** <https://data.openei.org/submissions/4130>

**API:** <https://github.com/dsgrid/dsgrid-legacy-efs-api>

**Report:** <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/71492.pdf>



# LA100: Select data available from the LA100 Data Viewer

Home About LA100 Study LA100 Equity Strategies

Apply

### Data Controls

Select Theme: Electricity Demand

Select Layer: Electricity Consumption

Select Electricity Demand Projection: Moderate

Select Scenario: SB100

Select Spatial Resolution: Load Centers

Choose a duration to view: Annual

Layer Specific Settings

Include Delivery Losses

2025

2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045

Select Year

## Annual Electricity Consumption

Click the legends on the charts to filter data and see the results in both charts and the map.

### Annual Electricity Consumption (GWh)

Moderate Load - 2045

Current Resolution: Load Centers

0 - 108.921 108.921 - 167.146  
167.146 - 252.366 252.366 - 361.142  
361.142+

### Annual Electricity Consumption by Sector Moderate Load

Year	Other	Commercial	Industrial	Residential	Transportation
2020	~1,000	~15,000	~2,000	~8,000	~1,000
2025	~1,000	~15,000	~2,000	~10,000	~1,000
2030	~1,000	~15,000	~2,000	~12,000	~1,000
2035	~1,000	~15,000	~2,000	~14,000	~1,000
2040	~1,000	~15,000	~2,000	~16,000	~1,000
2045	~1,000	~15,000	~2,000	~18,000	~1,000

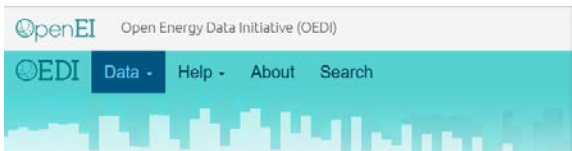
### Annual Electricity Consumption by End Use Moderate Load

Year	Bus	EV: DC Fast Charge	EV: Level 1 & 2 Charging	Pool Loads	Major Appliances	Refrigeration	Plug & Process Loads	Hot Water	Lighting	Fans & Pumps	Heating
2020	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~10,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000
2025	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~10,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000
2030	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~10,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000
2035	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~10,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000
2040	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~10,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000
2045	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~10,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000

Data viewer: <https://maps.nrel.gov/la100/la100-study/data-viewer>

Report: <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/79444-3.pdf>

# Just released: High-resolution, simulated EV charging profiles for passenger light-duty vehicles



## Demand-Side Grid (dsgrid) TEMPO Light-Duty Vehicle Charging Profiles v2022

DOI 10.25984/2373091

Publicly accessible License Subscribe ☆ Star

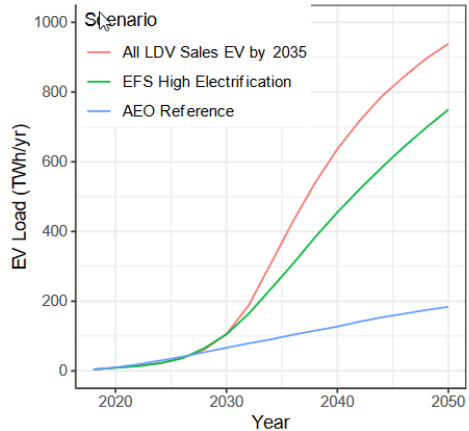
Simulated hourly electric vehicle charging profiles for light-duty household passenger vehicles in the contiguous United States, 2018-2050. Profiles are differentiated by scenario, county, household and vehicle types, and charging type. Data was produced in 2022 using the Transportation Energy & Mobility Pathway Options (TEMPO) model and published in demand-side grid (dsgrid) toolkit format.

Data are available for three adoption scenarios: "AEO Reference Case", which is aligned with the U.S. EIA Annual Energy Outlook 2018 (linked below), "EFS High Electrification", which is aligned with the High Electrification scenario of the Electrification Futures Study (linked below), and "All EV Sales by 2035", which assumes that average passenger light-duty EV sales reach 50% in 2030 and 100% in 2035.

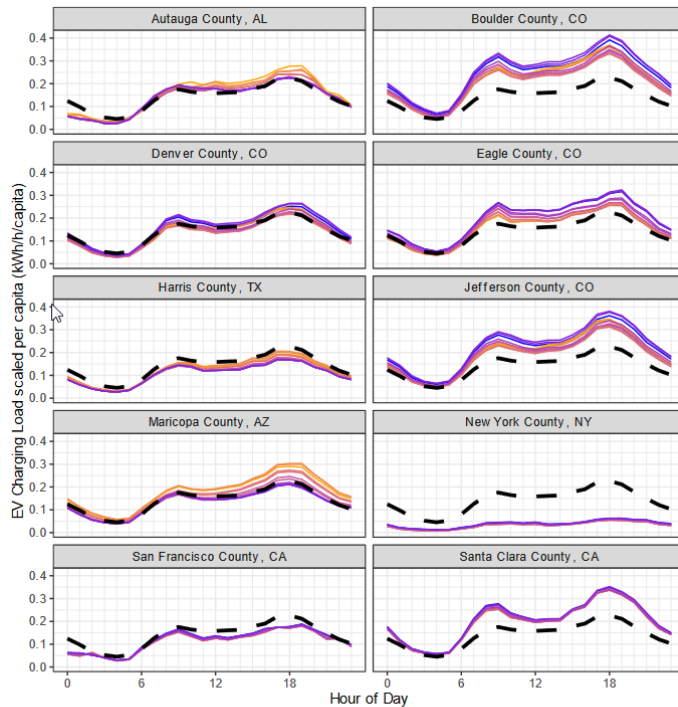
The charging shapes are derived from two key assumptions of which data users should be aware: "ubiquitous charger access", meaning that drivers of vehicles are assumed to have access to a charger whenever a trip is not in progress, and "immediate charging", meaning that immediately after trip completion, vehicles are plugged in and charge until they are either fully recharged or taken on another trip.

These assumptions result in a bounding case in which vehicles' state of charge is maximized at all times. This bounding case would minimize range anxiety, but is unrealistic from the point of view of both electric vehicle service equipment (EVSE) (i.e., charger) access, and plug-in behavior as it can result in dozens of charging sessions per week for battery electric vehicles (BEVs) that in reality are often only plugged in a few times per week.

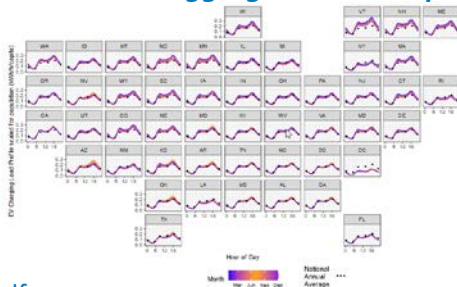
## Projections of annual electricity use



## Example county-level load shapes



## State-level aggregate load shapes



★ **Data:** <https://data.openei.org/submissions/5958>

★ **Report:** <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy23osti/83916.pdf>

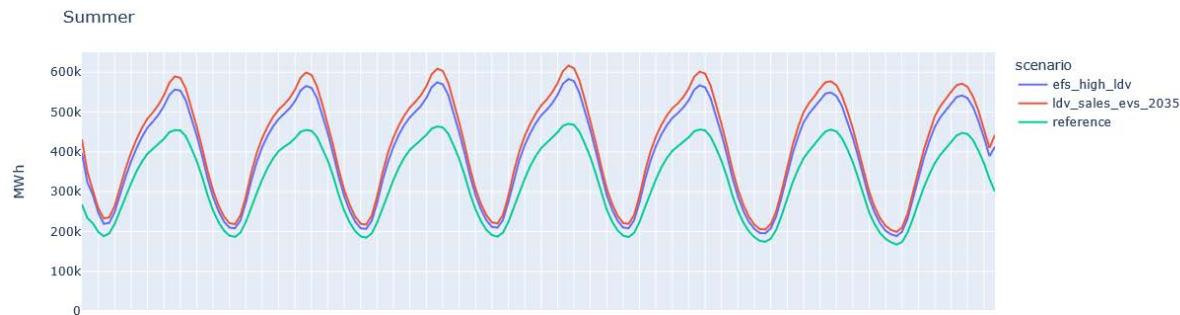
### 3. dsgrid is open-source software

---

# Highlights

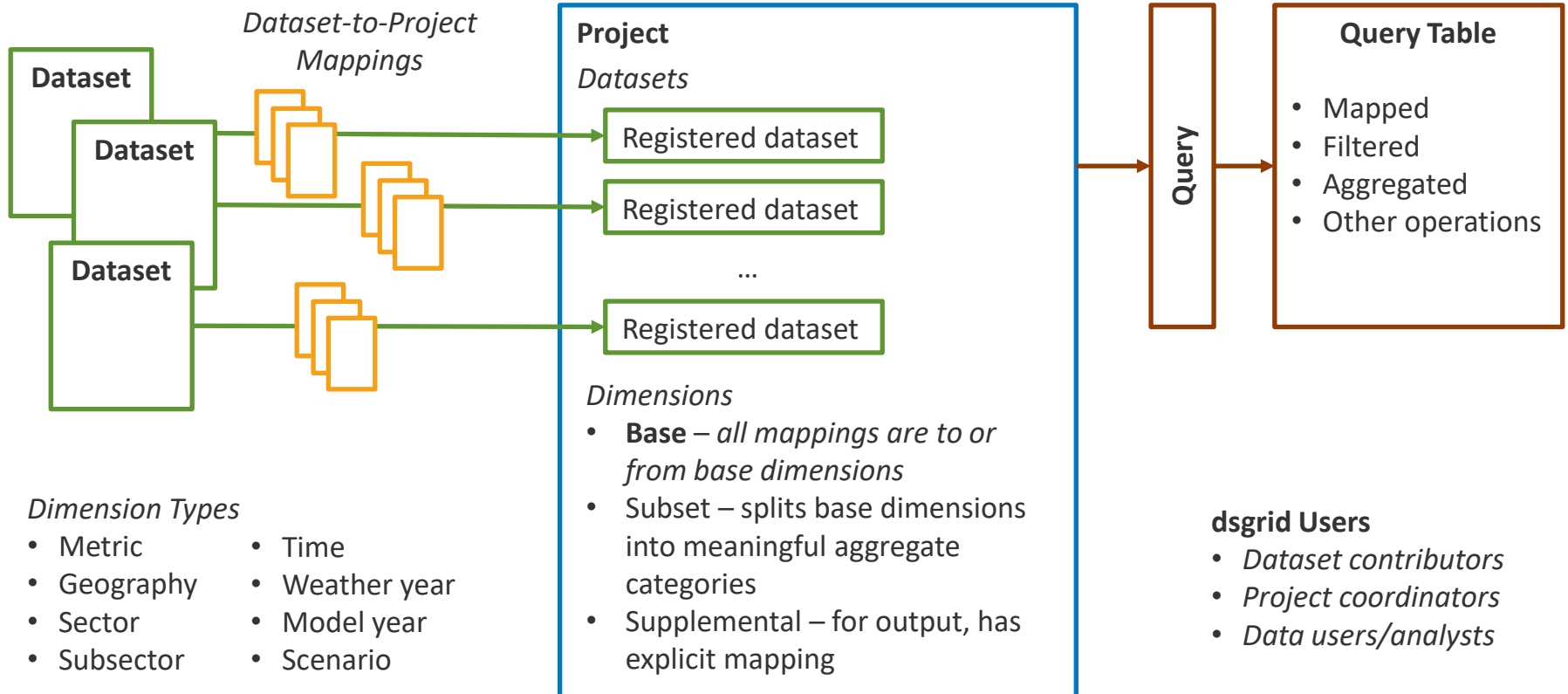
*We designed the new dsgrid software based on lessons learned from EFS and LA100*

- **Software can be used for any geographic scope**, including international (no hard-coded assumptions about geography, time, units, data sources)
- **Generic query interface** supports use by others, development of web application interfaces
- **Aligns dimensions, including timeseries data**, across disparate data sources and performs basic checking to ensure expected data are present and interpretable



- **Data alignment explodes data to TB scale**, e.g., 59 GB on disk, 164 GB in memory, to 3.7 TB in memory with 28 subsectors, 61 end uses, 3,000 counties, and aligned 8760 timestamps
- dsgrid software handles this explosion with Apache Spark, and the team is continually looking for ways to work with the data more efficiently.

# dsgrid terminology



# How are the loads mapped to the grid?

	Dataset Geography	Project Base Geography		Supplemental Geography
DECARB Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EMM regions</li><li>• County</li><li>• State</li><li>• Census tract</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County</li></ul>	<i>Aggregation</i> → <i>Map</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Energy Deployment System (ReEDS) balancing authority</li></ul>
LA100 Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sample buildings</li><li>• Sample EVs</li><li>• Agents (e.g., parcels)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agents (e.g., parcels)</li></ul>	<i>Electrical</i> → <i>Geography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secondary transformers</li><li>• Substations</li></ul>
Other Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Census tract</li><li>• Feeder</li><li>• Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) meter</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Substation/bus</li><li>• Feeder</li><li>• Transformer</li></ul>		

# dsgrid applications complete, in-progress, and under consideration

Application	Complete	In-Progress	Under Consideration
National-scale, high-resolution for bulk power system modeling	✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	
City-scale, high-resolution for bulk power system modeling	✓		
City-scale, high-resolution for distribution system modeling	✓		
Distribution system operational & capacity expansion modeling			✓ ✓
International, country-level for bulk power system modeling			✓ ✓

**What is your use case?** Reach out to [dsgrid.info@nrel.gov](mailto:dsgrid.info@nrel.gov) if you might be interested in collaborating.



How to access

---

# How To Access

## 1 Reports

- dsgrid model documentation (EFS proof-of-concept):  
<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/71492.pdf>
- LA100:  
<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/79444-3.pdf>

## 2 Data

- LA100: <https://maps.nrel.gov/la100/la100-study/data-viewer>
- Electric vehicle charging profiles from TEMPO:  
<https://data.openei.org/submissions/5958>

## 3 Code

- dsgrid: <https://github.com/dsgrid/dsgrid>
- *Under-development*: national-scale dataset configurations:  
<https://github.com/dsgrid/dsgrid-project-DECARB>



Sign up for our newsletter by scrolling to the bottom of the

**dsgrid website:** <https://www.nrel.gov/analysis/dsgrid.html>

The newsletter is the best way to receive timely information about:

- New publications
- New datasets
- Any major software announcements.

Follow us on GitHub: <https://github.com/dsgrid>

If you have specific inquiries, please email [dsgrid.info@nrel.gov](mailto:dsgrid.info@nrel.gov).

Q&A

---

# References

- ASHRAE. Accessed June 28, 2024. “AEDG - Advanced Energy Design Guides.” <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/aedgs>.
- Denholm, Paul, and Maureen Hand. 2011. “Grid Flexibility and Storage Required to Achieve Very High Penetration of Variable Renewable Electricity.” *Energy Policy* 39 (3): 1817–30. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2011.01.019>.
- Hale, Elaine, Anthony Fontanini, Eric Wilson, Henry Horsey, Andrew Parker, Matteo Muratori, Colin McMillan, et al. 2021. “Chapter 3: Electricity Demand Projections.” Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. *The Los Angeles 100% Renewable Energy Study*, Edited by Jaquelin Cochran and Paul Denholm. NREL/TP-6A20-79444-3. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/79444-3.pdf>.
- Hale, Elaine, Henry Horsey, Brandon Johnson, Matteo Muratori, Eric Wilson, Brennan Borlaug, Craig Christensen, et al. 2018. *The Demand-Side Grid (dsgrid) Model Documentation*. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-6A20-71492. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/71492.pdf>.
- Lew, D., G. Brinkman, E. Ibanez, A. Florita, M. Heaney, B. M. Hodge, M. Hummon, et al. 2013. *Western Wind and Solar Integration Study Phase 2*. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-5500-55588.
- Ma, Ookie, Kerry Cheung, Daniel J. Olsen, Nance Matson, Michael D. Sohn, Cody M. Rose, Junqiao Han Dudley, et al. 2016. *Demand Response and Energy Storage Integration Study*. DOE-EE-1282. U.S. Department of Energy. <http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/03/f30/DOE-EE-1282.pdf>.
- U.S. DOE EERE. Accessed June 28, 2024. “Building America Successes 1995–2015.” <https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/building-america-successes-1995-2015>.
- White, Philip R., Elaina Present, Chioke Harris, Jes Brossman, Anthony Fontanini, Noel Merket, and Rajendra Adhikari. 2024. “ResStock 2024.2 Dataset.” Public Webinar, April 18. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy24osti/89600.pdf>.
- Wood, Eric, Brennan Borlaug, Matthew Moniot, Dong-Yeon Lee, Yanbo Ge, Fan Yang, and Zhaocai Liu. 2023. *The 2030 National Charging Network: Estimating U.S. Light-Duty Demand for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure*. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-5400-85654, 1988020, MainId:86427. <https://doi.org/10.2172/1988020>.
- Yip, Arthur, Christopher Hoehne, Paige Jadun, Catherine Ledna, Elaine Hale, and Matteo Muratori. 2023. *Highly Resolved Projections of Passenger Electric Vehicle Charging Loads for the Contiguous United States*. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-5400-83916. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy23osti/83916.pdf>.



Elaine Hale  
Senior Research Engineer  
Grid Planning and Analysis Center  
[elaine.hale@nrel.gov](mailto:elaine.hale@nrel.gov)

# Thank you

[www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)

NREL/PR-6A40-90646

This work was authored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, operated by Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Strategic Analysis Team, Solar Energy Technologies Office, Building Technologies Office, and Vehicle Technologies Office. The views expressed in the article do not necessarily represent the views of the DOE or the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the article for publication, acknowledges that the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, worldwide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this work, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.

*Photo from iStock-627281636*

