

Smart Neighborhoods

Reynolds Landing, Birmingham, AL
Altus, Atlanta, GA

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ORNL is managed by UT-Battelle, LLC for the US Department of Energy

Motivation - Opportunity space

Facilities or large critical loads require microgrids to cost-effectively meet continuity of operations and resilience requirements

Existing electric grid lack methods for managing on-site generation low voltage (building), medium voltage (distribution), and high voltage (transmission) systems

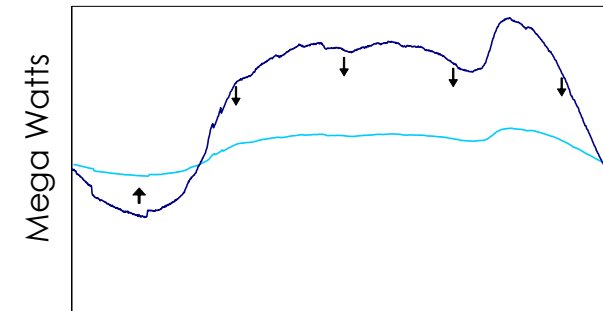
Buildings have the potential to reduce their consumption by 20%-30% through advanced sensors and controls

Significant advantages in co-optimizing microgrid generation & neighborhood-scale consumption/residential loads

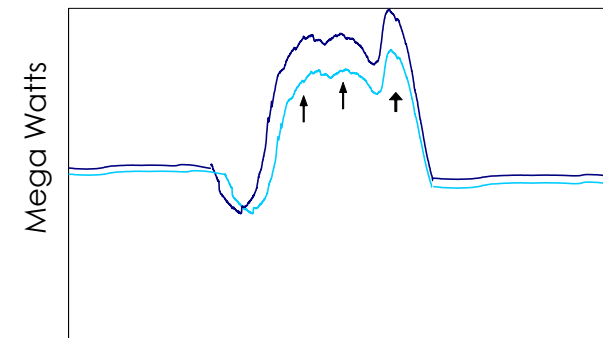
Significant need in scalable control and automation techniques for improving resilience and situational awareness



Source: Southern Company



Reduce Energy Intensity and Increase Energy Efficiency



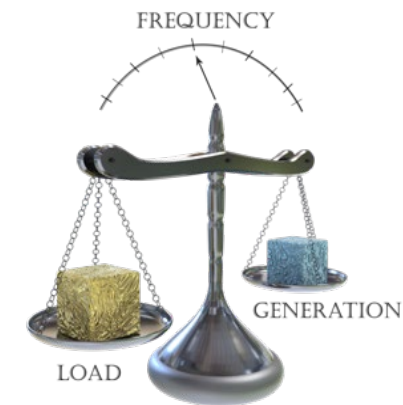
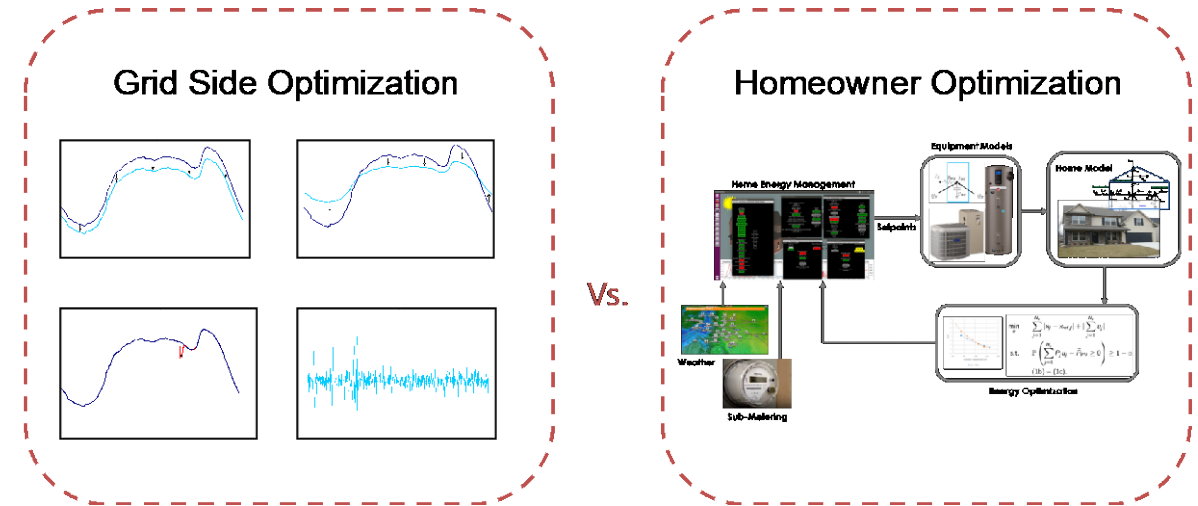
Increase Load Flexibility and Improve Grid Resiliency

5.5 million commercial, 118 million residential, projected to be 80% of load growth through 2040

Understanding homes and enabling them as grid assets

It is a balancing act to effectively manage resource efficiency and homeowner comfort

- **Changing philosophy on what supplies our generation**
 - Generation is moving from centralized plants to distributed
 - Integrating resources and coordinating resources is becoming more important (interoperability is a challenge)
 - Increased renewable generation
- **Increasing need for resilience of electrical system**
 - Establishing and utilizing residential building flexibility to support the grid.
 - Ensuring that customer privacy is maintained while supporting grid needs.
 - Improving system resiliency under threats of systems outages.



Southern Company Smart Neighborhood Initiatives

Understanding tomorrow's home today

Two first-of-a-kind smart home communities at the intersection of energy efficiency, distributed energy resources & buildings-to-grid integration and the traditional utility model



- 46 townhomes
- Atlanta, Georgia
- Homeowner owned solar + storage
- Grid integration of solar, storage, HVAC, water heating & EV charging



- 62 single-family homes
- Birmingham, Alabama
- Utility owned, grid-connected microgrid
 - 330 kW solar
 - 680 kWh storage
 - 400 kW NG generator
- Grid integration of microgrid, water heating & HVAC

Major Research Partners

Electric Power Research Institute and
U.S. Department of Energy's
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

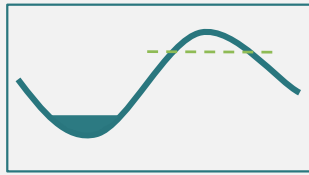
Key Vendor Partners

LG Chem, Delta, Carrier, ecobee,
Rheem, SkyCentrics, Flair, Vivint, Pulte
Homes, Signature Homes

Key Results

Homes are 30-40% more efficient
EV makes up 15-20% of total usage
Successful microgrid islanding
New business opportunities deployed

Driving New Internal Efficiencies – Utility Benefits



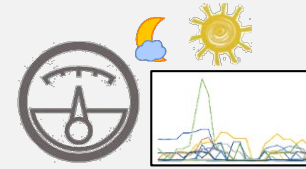
High Performance Homes

Changing Load Shapes
Tighter envelope
Advanced Building Energy Systems



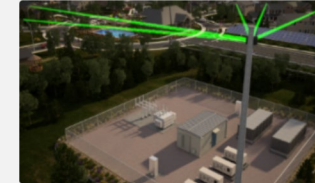
Managing Behind-the-Meter Assets

Energy Use Optimization
Buildings as a resource
Create load shapes



Identifying Revenue & Rate Design Impacts

Informed Load Forecasting
New building codes & standards
How to price energy in IoT future

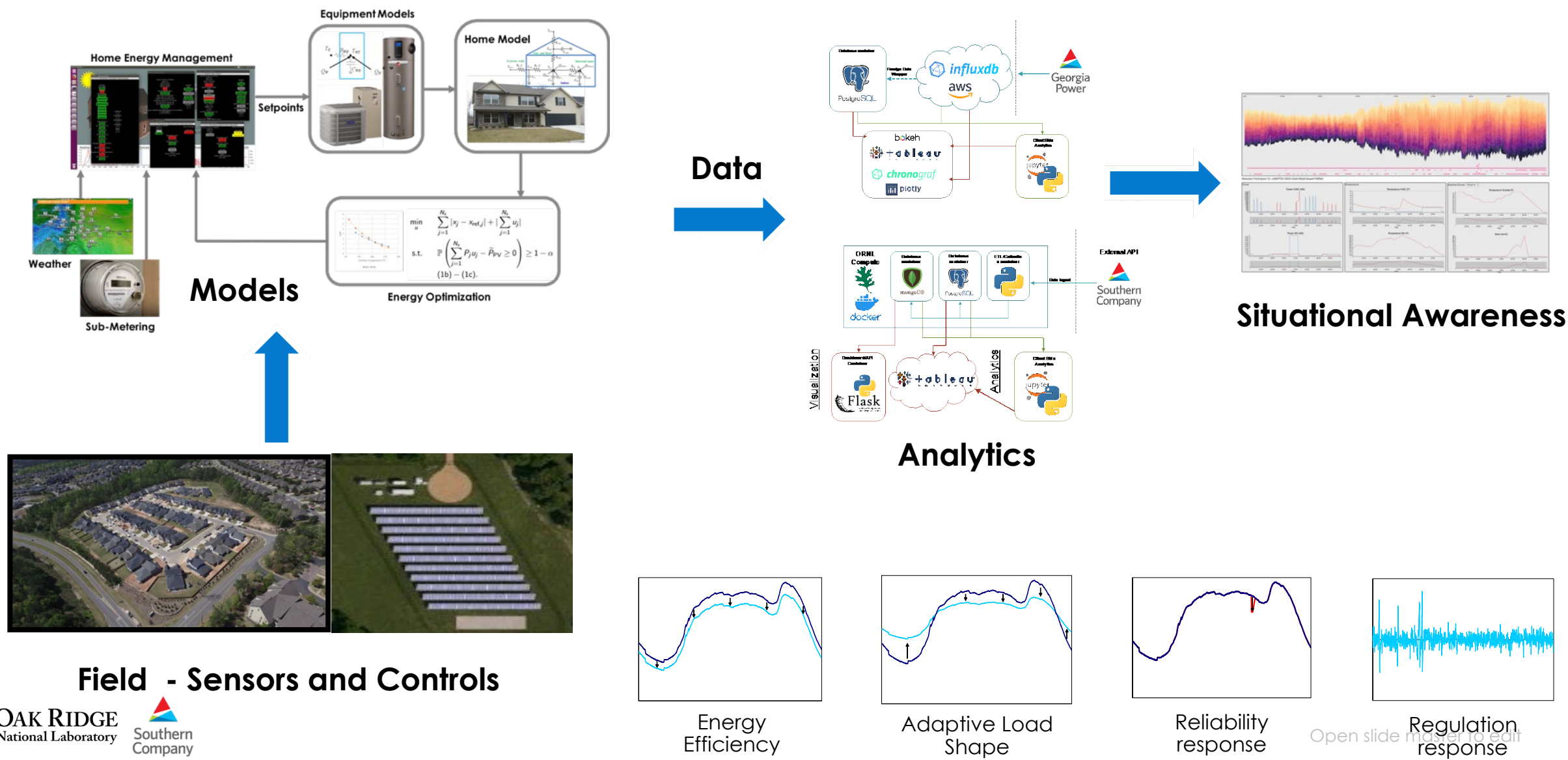


Understanding Renewable Energy Grid Integration

Help meet 2050 Low-to-No Carbon Goal
New infrastructure needs
Balance grid & customer benefits

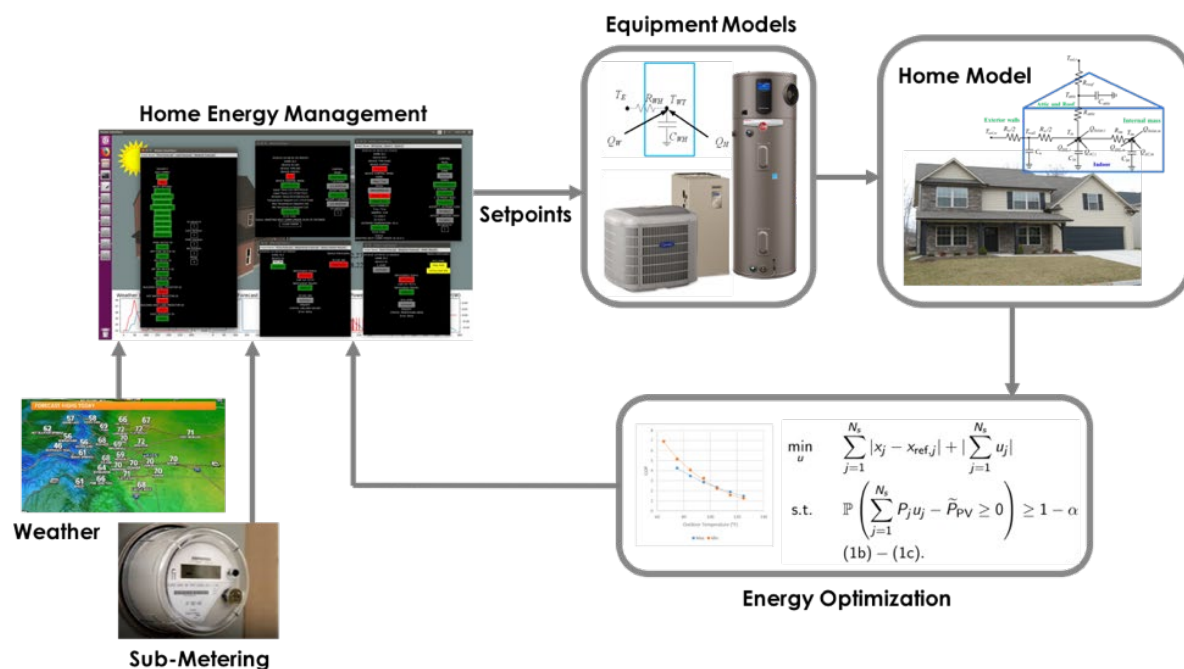
Grid Interactive Energy Efficient Buildings

It is a balancing act to effectively manage resource efficiency and Grid Reliability

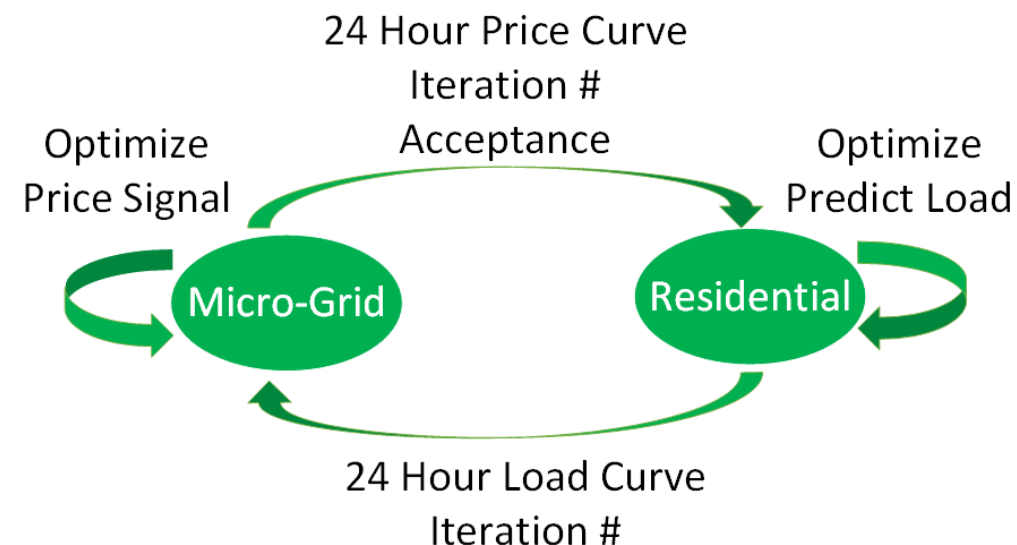


Neighborhood performing two-levels of optimization

Residential-Level Optimization



Neighborhood-Microgrid Optimization



Control and Optimization at-scale



Quantify Grid Service Capability



Determine the additional value of continuous optimization vs. event driven DR



Ability to predict Homeowner Comfort/Convenience/Productivity



Forecasting Day-Ahead Cost is like predicting the weather

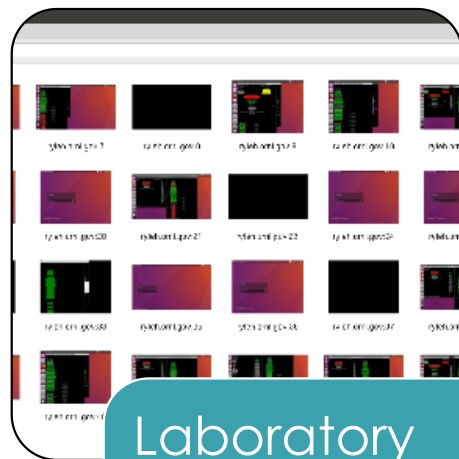


Planning tools use average data, which removes value



Device Capabilities enabled in APIs

Phased Testing Approach



Laboratory

- Simulation-based Testing
- Software as Deployed



ORNL Yarnell Station

- Unoccupied Research Home in West Knoxville
- Development Testing



Southern Company Idea Home

- Southern Company Development Environment
- Unoccupied Research Home at Reynold's Landing
- User Acceptance Testing (UAT) Phase

Results from DOE's First Connected Communities

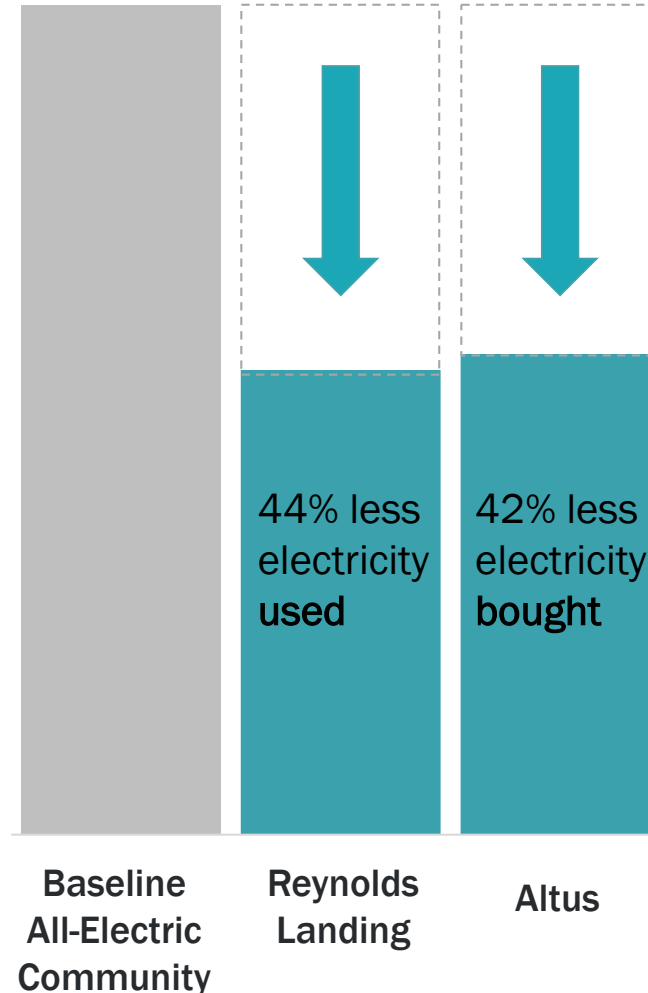
Reynolds Landing (Hoover, AL)



Alabama Power Smart Neighborhood® Idea Home. Image courtesy: [Alabama Power](#).

- ✓ **7,167 kWh annual savings** per home on an equivalent sq. ft. basis
- ✓ **\$931 annual savings** per home on an equivalent square foot basis
- ✓ **5.6 tons of CO₂ avoided** per home

Average Home Energy Use



Altus at the Quarter (Atlanta, GA)



- ✓ **Homes sold an average 873 kWh** back to Georgia Power annually
- ✓ **In winter, 30% lower max hourly kW demand** than baseline
- ✓ **In summer, 62% lower max hourly kW demand** than baseline
- ✓ **9.3 tons of CO₂ avoided** per home

Key Advances to Address Scalability

- **System Integration** – Overlay Architectures

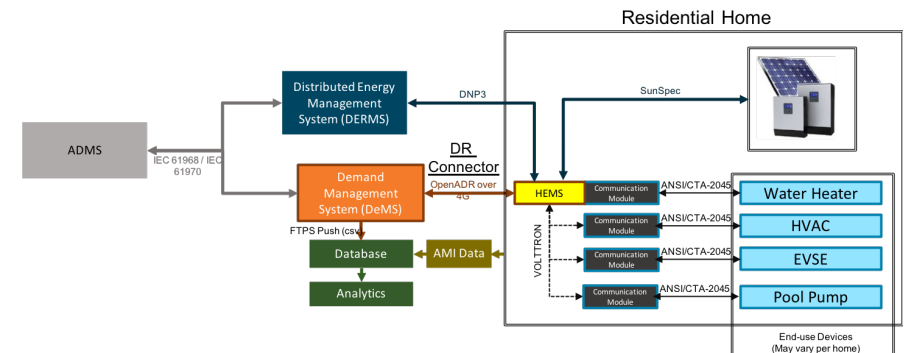
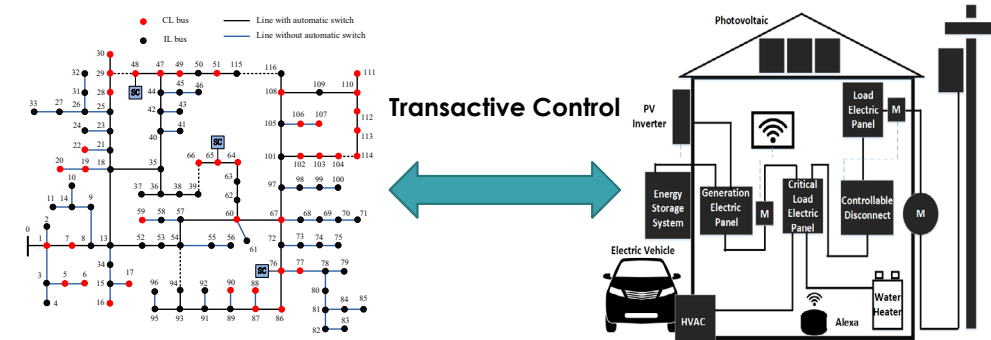
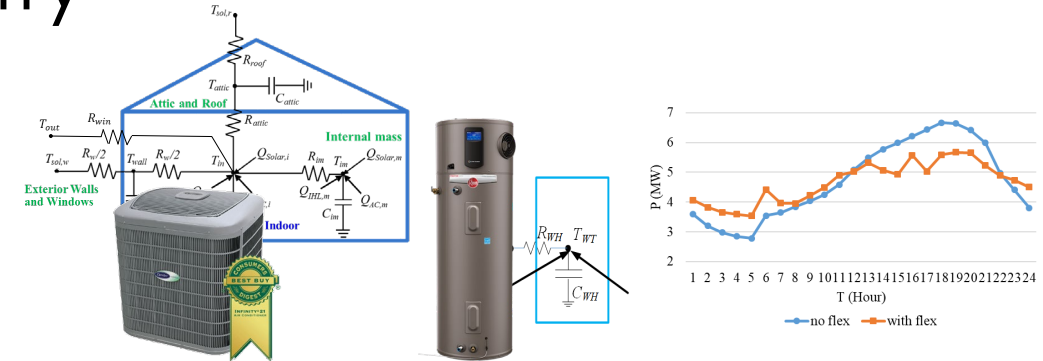
- Diverse set of requirements in these two domains
- Integration – System of systems

- **Models** - Online learning-driven models

- Characterize devices based on available sensor data
- Forecast energy-use based on disturbances and constraints

- **Controls** - Grid-interactive Building Controls

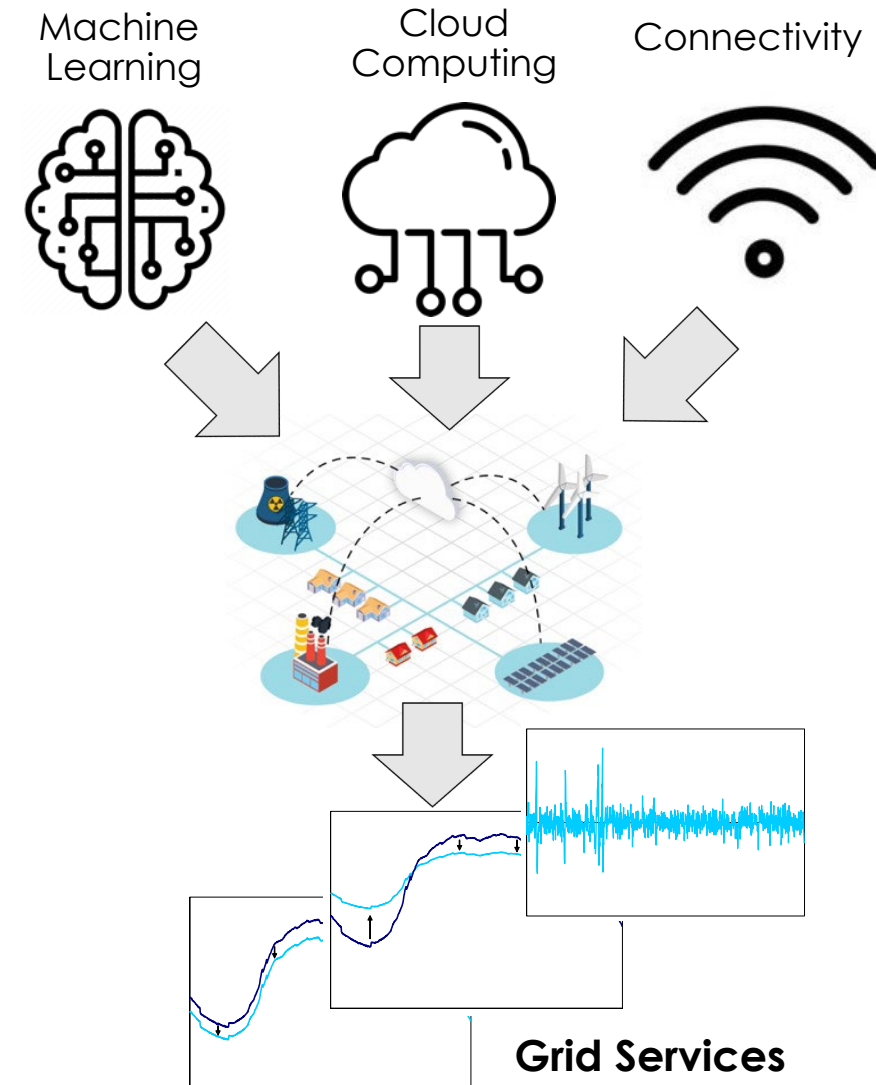
- Utilize open communication standards
- Optimize resources for demand reduction and grid support



Lessons learned

Demonstrated utility integration of large-scale smart neighborhood with distributed energy resources and GEB control

- **Cost Reduction:** Significant potential for homeowners and reduced peak load to the utility
- **Scalable automation:** Systems-of-systems architecture; Reducing computational footprint is key
- **Control Design:** Cloud-in-the-loop feedback control; authentication; data security
- **Design Requirements:** A rich understanding of requirements - design, automation architecture, transactive controls, deployment
- **Training Requirements:** Continuous engagement and education on how to interact with the the system
- **Understanding customer adoption:** Data analytics and visualization to continuously understand impact of optimization.



How Connected Communities Might Evolve



- Customer journey and education (must) remain at the center.
- Utilities and partners will offer seamless (for customer and grid) technology packages that enable building retrofit at scale.
- Industry will have a shared methodology for determining value.
- Increased resiliency will continue to be a focus. Pilots will test geothermal, low-carbon fuels, including dual-fuel system designs.

Discussion



OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY
MANAGED BY UT-BATTELLE
FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

A large, curved, light-colored stone or concrete sign stands in a landscaped area. The sign is illuminated from below by several small, circular lights. In the background, a modern building with a large glass facade is visible against a clear sky. The foreground consists of dark mulch and green grass.

Scaling Edge-to-Utility Architecture

- **Technology convergence** - drives opportunity
 - A coordinated control framework and customer education
 - Reducing computational footprint for seamless deployment
 - Fault-tolerance built-in for improving resilience
- **Data management** and communications
 - Architectures for federating large numbers of IoT-driven devices
 - Data-centric architectures - design, automation, deployment
 - Simultaneous Development, Deployment, and Data Analysis
- **Robust control & learning**
 - Robust and distributed feedback control systems
 - Cloud-in-the-loop control – Tolerance to latency and jitter
 - Automatic commissioning and learning

