



# Integration of distributed energy resources and demand response in energy systems

**Niamh O'Connell**  
DTU Compute

**Ben Kroposki**  
National Renewable  
Energy Laboratory



Golden, CO

# NREL PSEC

**NREL** - Develops renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and practices, advances related science and engineering, and transfers knowledge and innovations

**Power Systems Engineering Center (PSEC)** - Leads research in integrating high levels of clean energy technologies into electric power systems

**Energy Systems Integration (ESI)**  
- Optimizes energy systems across multiple domains (electricity, thermal, fuels, water, communication) and physical scales (local to regional)

# What is Energy System Integration?

**Energy system integration (ESI)** = the process of optimizing energy systems across multiple pathways and scales



# ESI at all Scales



Energy Systems  
Integration

Scale

Reliable, affordable and clean  
energy systems adopted at a  
pace and scale to meet global  
energy and environmental  
objectives

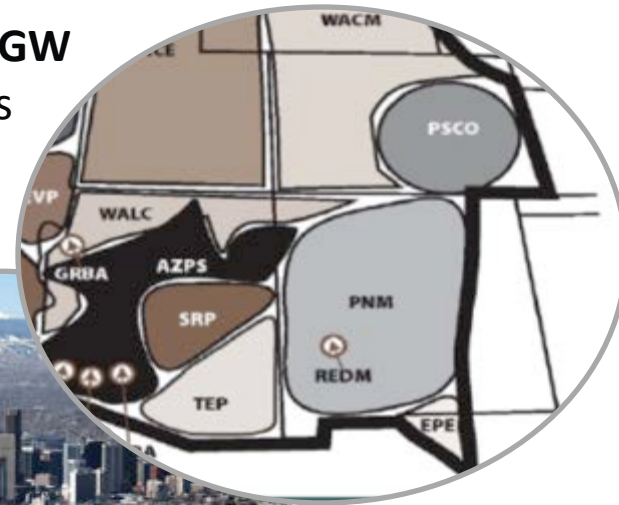
10-100GW  
Regions

1-10 GW  
Cities

100MWs  
Communities

10MWs  
Campus, Circuits

1MW  
Buildings



Electricity

Fuel

Thermal

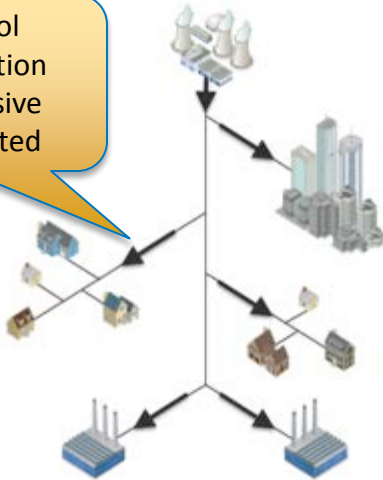
Data



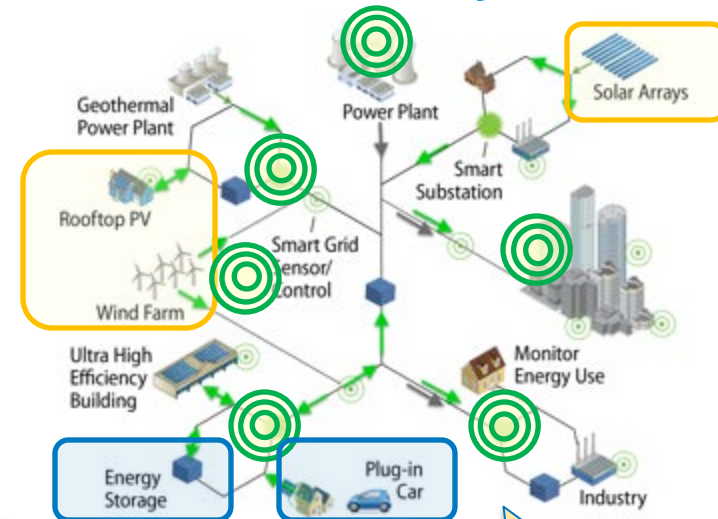


## Current Power System

- Central Control
- Large Generation
- Carbon Intensive
- Highly Regulated



## Future Power Systems



## New Challenges in a Modern Grid

- Increasing penetration of variable renewables in grid
- Increasing energy efficient buildings and controllable loads
- New communications and controls (including DR)
- Electrification of transportation
- Integrating distributed energy storage
- A modern grid needs increased system flexibility
- Capitalize on interactions between electricity/thermal/fuel systems

### DRIVERS

- Increased variable gen
- More bi-directional flow at distribution level
- Increased number of smart/active devices
- Evolving institutional environment



Physical and Cyber Security



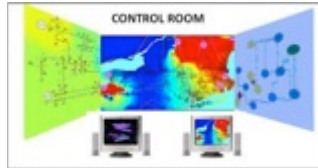
Economic  
Markets



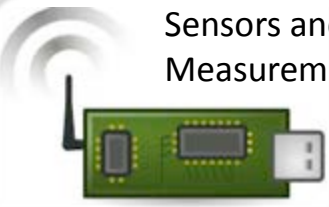
Design and  
Planning

Forecasting

Controls and Power  
Flow



Sensors and  
Measurements



Interoperability



Interconnection



Power  
Electronics



Characterization



Energy  
Storage



## Economic Markets

- Understanding the impacts of Market Design
- Analysis of markets for flexibility and other ancillary services

## Planning, Operations, and Forecasting

- Bulk-System Planning and Operations
- Distribution System Planning and Operations
- Solar, Wind, and Load Forecasting

## Sensing and Measurements

- Grid sensing – PMUs, DMUs
- Solar and meteorological sensing and measurements
- Interoperability Standards

## Grid device development and integrated system testing

- PV inverters, Wind inverters, EV inverters development and testing
- Energy storage systems (battery + inverter)
- Interconnection Standards
- Ancillary Service Characterization

<http://www.nrel.gov/esif>



**Shortening the time  
between innovation  
and practice**

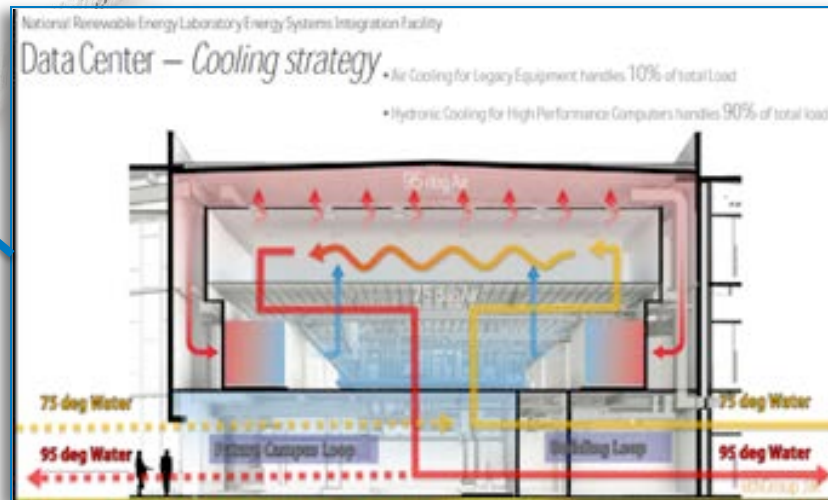
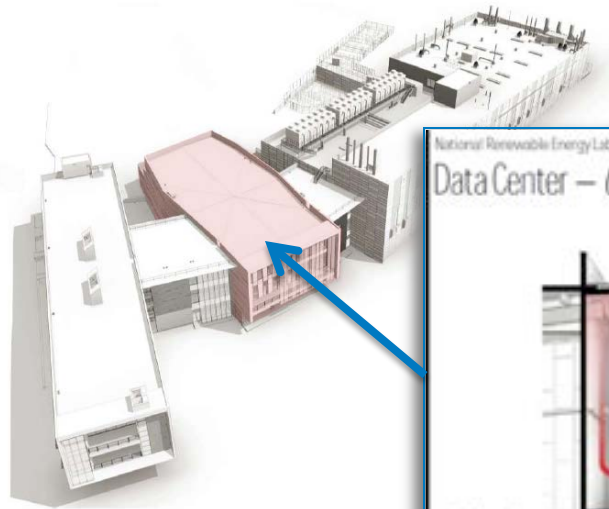


 **NREL** | ENERGY SYSTEMS  
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY | INTEGRATION FACILITY  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

## Unique Capabilities

- Multiple parallel AC and DC experimental busses (MW power level) with grid simulation and loads
- Flexible interconnection points for electricity, thermal, and fuels
- Medium voltage (15kV) microgrid test bed
- Virtual utility operations center and visualization rooms
- Smart grid testing lab for advanced communications and control
- Interconnectivity to external field sites for data feeds and model validation
- Petascale HPC and data mgmt system in showcase energy efficient data center
- MW-scale Power hardware-in-the-loop (PHIL) simulation capability to test grid scenarios with high penetrations of clean energy technologies





## HPC – DC Showcase Facility

- Use evaporative rather than mechanical cooling.
- Waste heat captured and used to heat labs & offices.
- World's most energy efficient HPC - data center, PUE 1.06!



PUE = Power Usage Effectiveness



# ESIF Laboratories

**Rooftop PV & Wind**

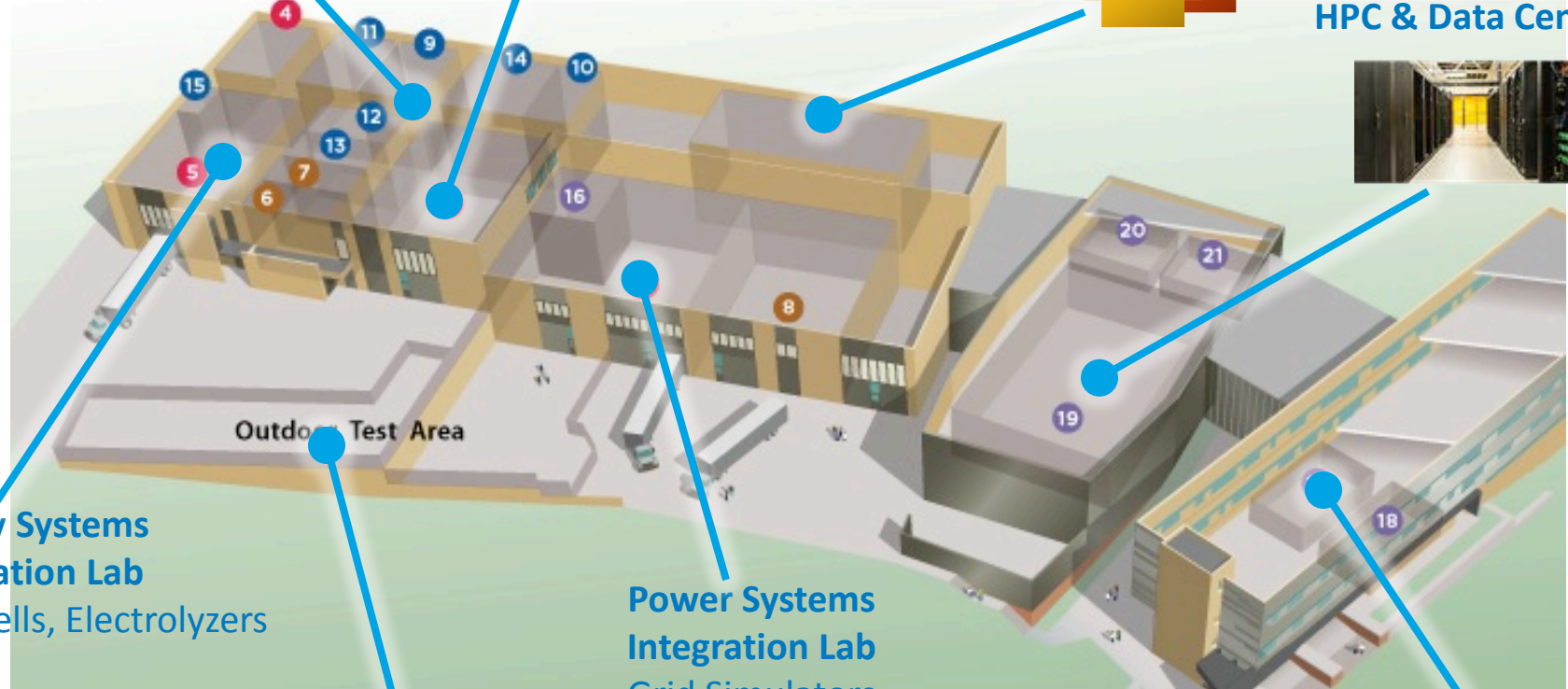


**Energy Storage Lab**  
Residential, Community  
& Grid Battery Storage,  
Flywheels & Thermal

**Smart Power Lab**  
Buildings & Loads



**HPC & Data Center**



Outdoor Test Area

**Power Systems  
Integration Lab**  
Grid Simulators  
Microgrids



**Outdoor Test Areas**  
EVs, Power Transformers



**Auxiliary Control  
Room**  
ADMS Testbed



# ESI Opportunity Areas

## **Streamline** – Improvements within Today's Energy System

- Transmission and Distribution upgrades
- Bulk-system storage
- Updated integration standards
- Direct Load Control – Utility Controlled Demand Response

## **Synergize** – Connecting energy domains

- Combined Heat and Power
- Use of waste heat
- Power-to-Gas

## **Mode-Shift** - Switching Sources

- Daylighting
- Reducing vehicle trips through commute timing, telework, ridesharing, car sharing
- City design to increase walking and use of public transportation

## **Empower** – Allowing consumers to participate

- **Customer controlled demand response**
- Behind-the-meter energy storage
- Congestion avoidance and pricing

# Inclusion of Energy-Shifting Demand Response in Production Cost Models

## Super Market Refrigeration



Niamh O'Connell  
*Technical University of Denmark*

Elaine Hale, Ian Doebber, and Jennie Jorgenson  
*National Renewable Energy Laboratory*



# Understanding Load Shifting Appliances – Supermarket Refrigeration

Thermal mass in refrigeration display cases facilitates the adjustment of power consumption while maintaining acceptable temperatures for food.

Supermarkets operate at a low profit margin, incentivizing them to pursue opportunities for cost savings. Energy costs account for 1% of the operating costs of a supermarket, but if demand response can offer easily accessible cost savings, it can be expected that this profit-driven enterprise would adopt an operating paradigm that facilitates load shifting demand response.

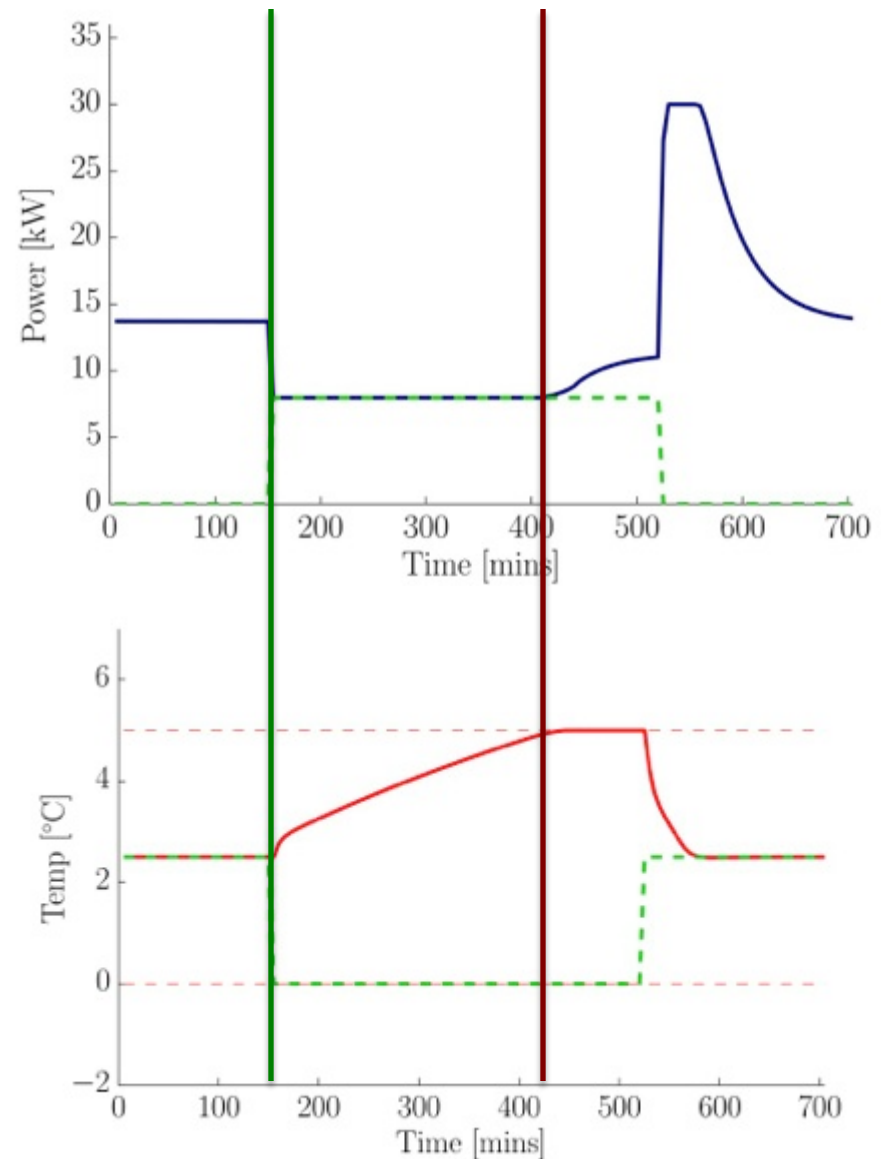
The structure of a supermarket chain lends itself to the formation of an aggregator. While individual supermarkets are considered large commercial loads, the flexibility they offer is likely below the threshold for participation on many electricity markets. By aggregating a number of supermarkets and offering their combined flexibility as a single product, this threshold can be overcome.



- **Characterizing Demand Response through the Saturation Curve**
- **Resource Efficiency**
- **Seasonality in the Demand Response Resource**

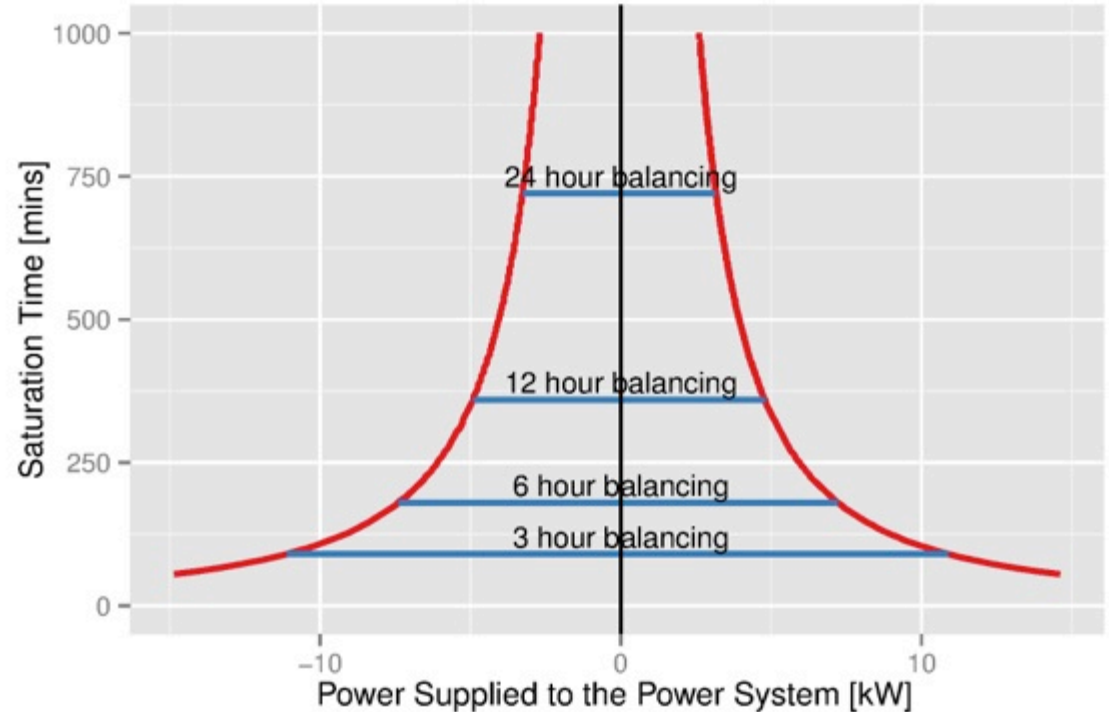
# Response Saturation in Refrigerator

- Top figure shows that the power consumption is steady until it is reduced from 14kW to 8kW.
- The reduction of 6kW can be maintained until the temperature in the refrigeration system reaches its upper bound (as seen in Bottom Figure).
- Once the upper temperature limit is reached the prescribed reduction can no longer be maintained, at this point it is said that the response has saturated.
- When the power reference is no longer active, the system will recover the energy lost during the response event by increasing consumption to the maximum allowable level.



# Maximum flexibility of a load shifting device

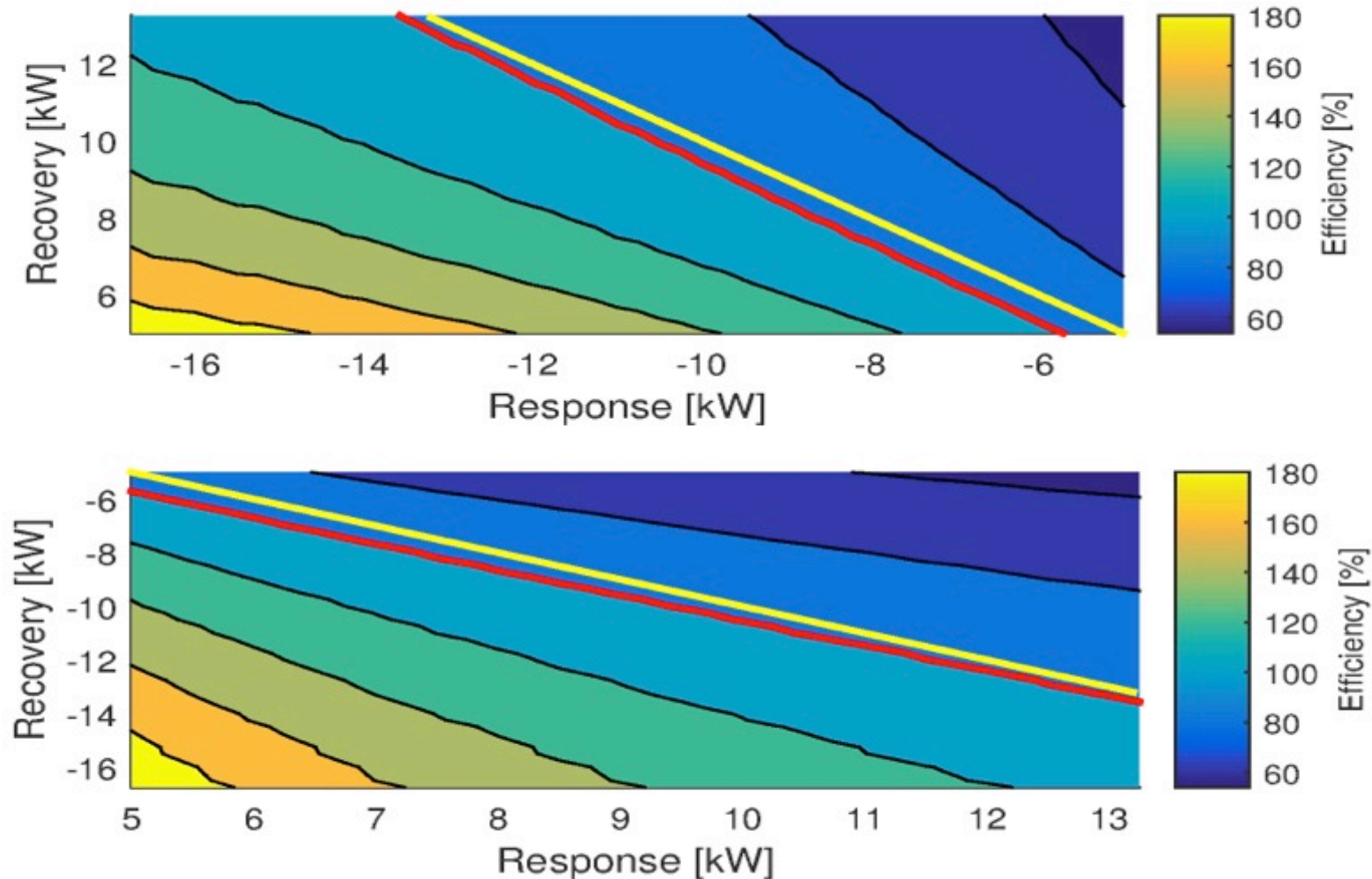
- **Saturation Curve** - The relationship between a power adjustment in a flexible load and the duration for which the adjustment can be maintained
- It is not suitable for direct inclusion in a power system model or market clearing algorithm because it is non-linear



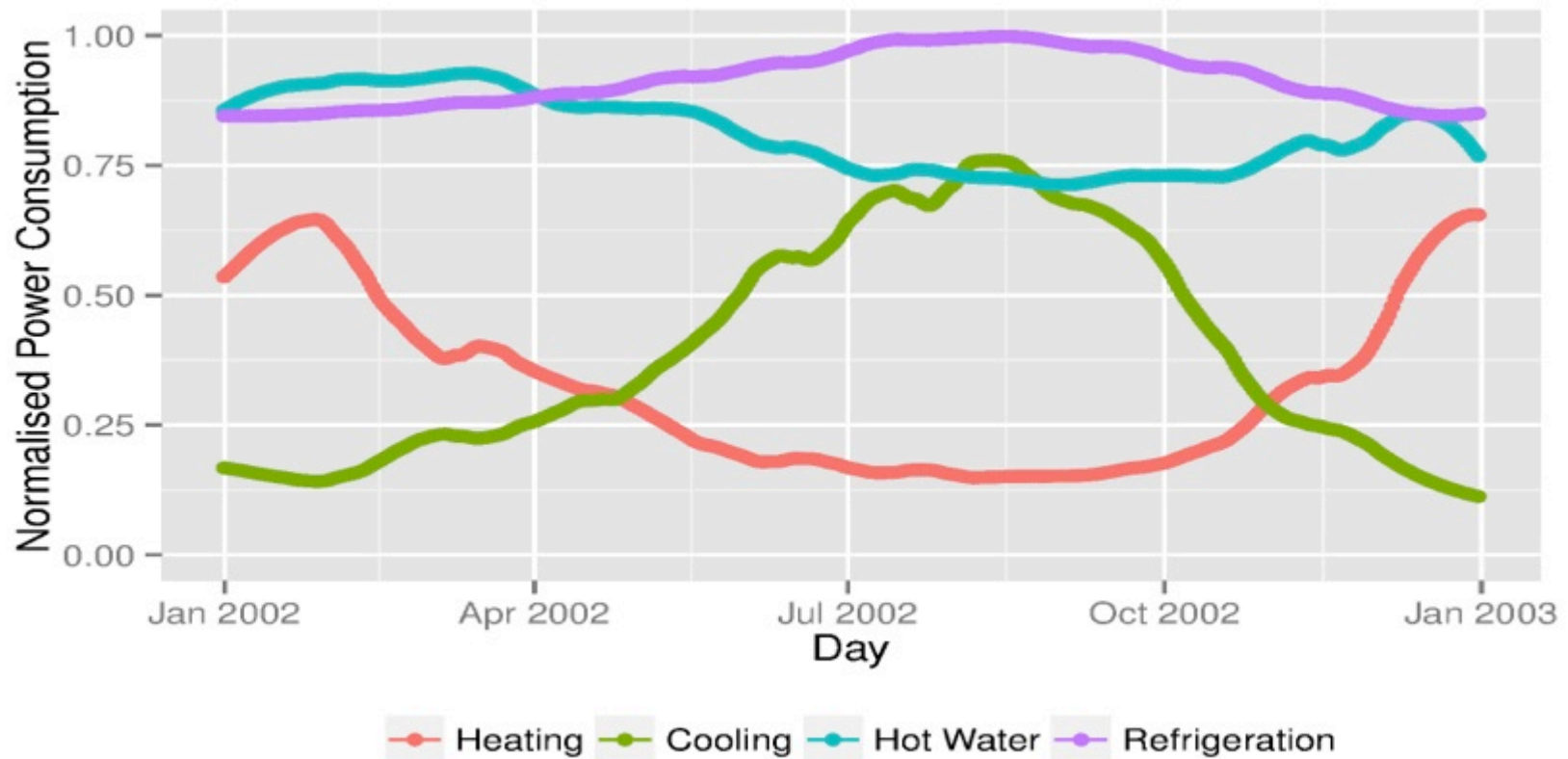


# Round-Trip Efficiency of DR

Round trip efficiency of a demand response event. The red lines show the 100% efficiency contours, and the yellow lines show the efficiency of symmetric events, i.e. a response and recovery of the same power magnitude.



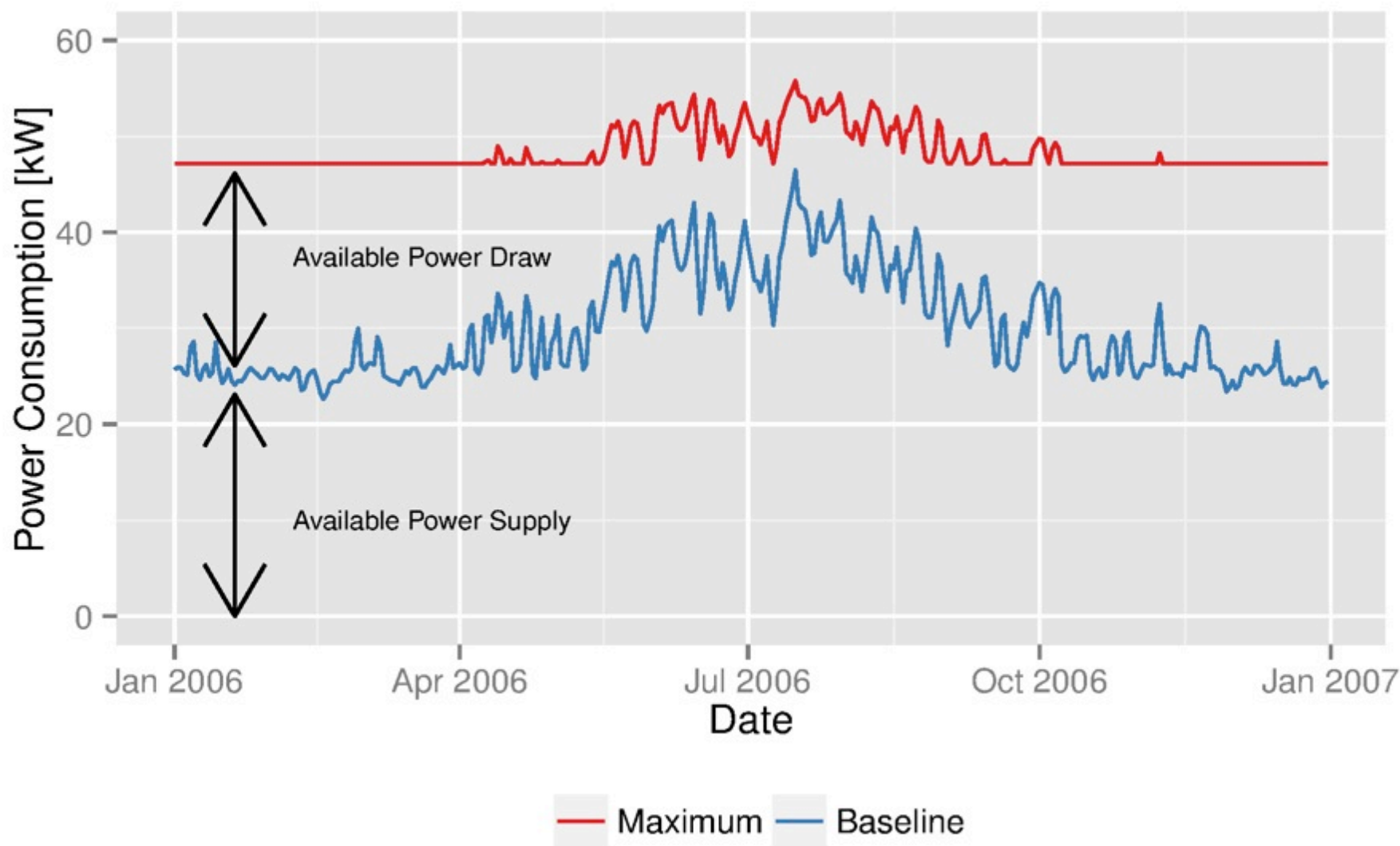
# Seasonality of Loads



When considering thermal end-end uses for the provision of load shifting demand response, there are three key characteristics to consider:

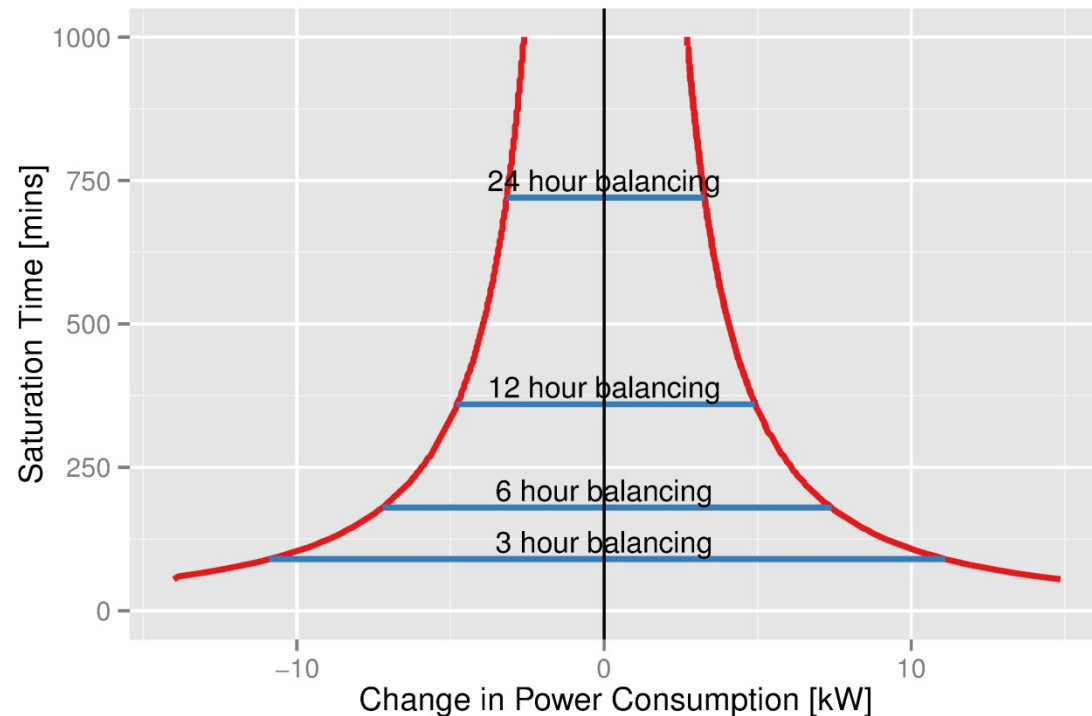
- baseline power consumption
- maximum possible power consumption
- energy required to achieve a given temperature change

# Variations in available flexibility at the device level





# Representation of DR for use in Power System Models

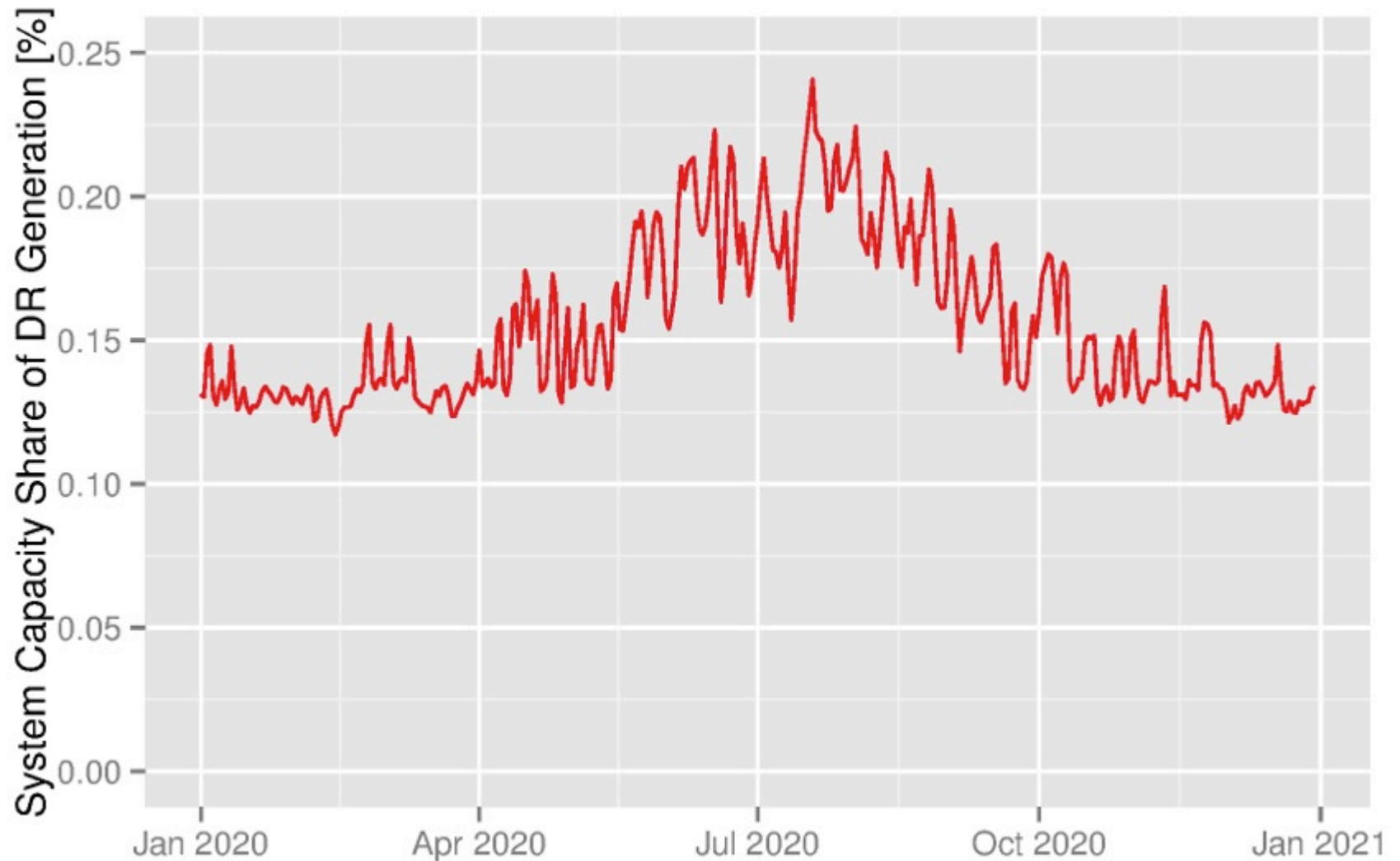


- Each population of flexible devices can offer a number of demand response products
- Each product resembles a battery sufficiently to use this description in a power system model, subject to some additions
- Each product has a defined maximum power supply to and draw from the grid, and a period within which the response and recovery must balance.
- Products are mutually exclusive
- Possible extensions include the limitation on the number of DR calls per day/week etc.

# Case Study – Rocky Mt. Power Pool

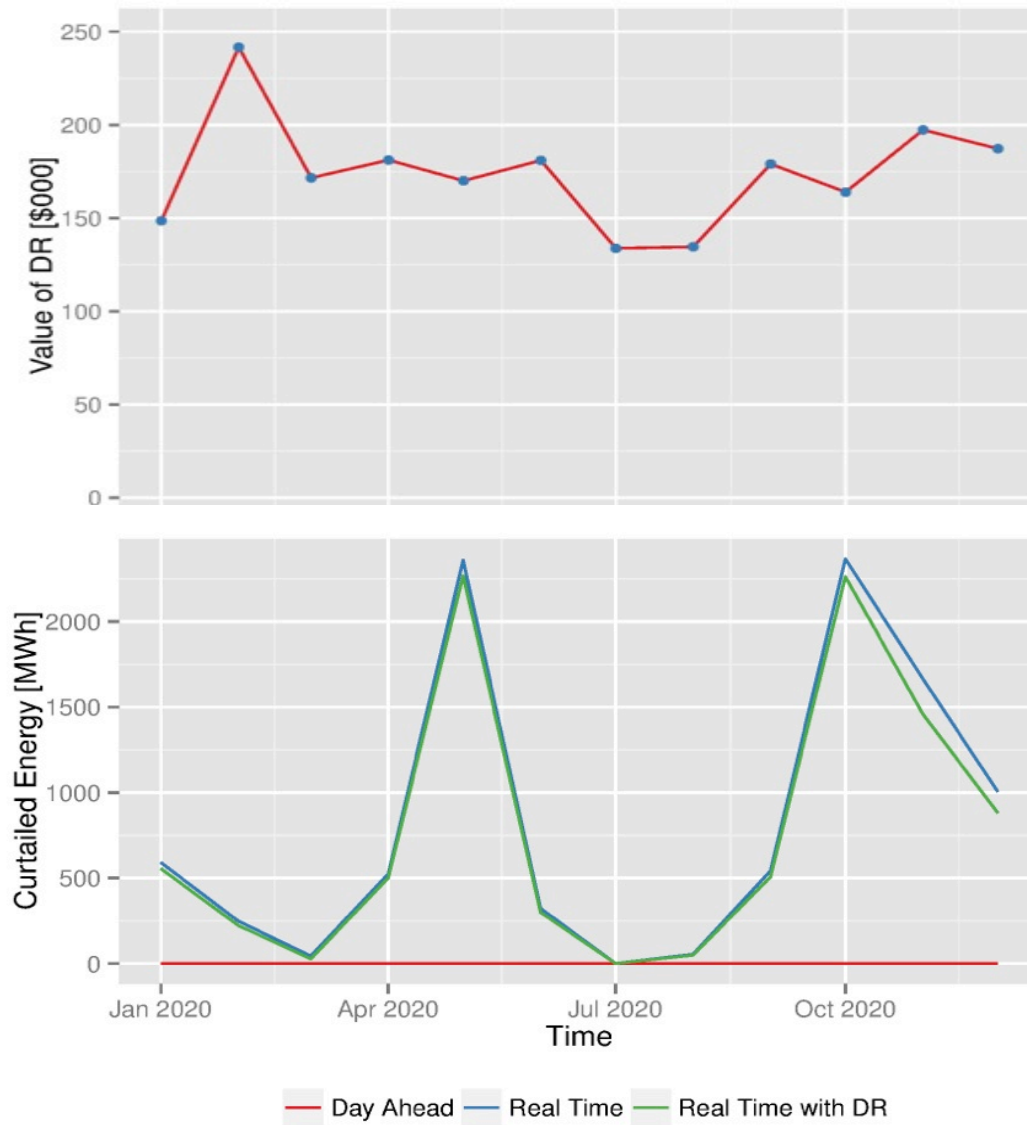
- DR Model framework is suitable for large scale power system studies spanning substantial geographic and temporal scales
- RMPP test system (Colorado and Wyoming) is employed for a demonstration of the DR model capabilities
- The value of DR is assessed through the reductions it brings about in power system operational costs.
- DR is considered a flexible resource and dispatched at real-time to aid the balance of forecast errors in load and renewables
- The DR resource represents the population of all supermarkets located in Colorado, and are clustered according to supermarket size: small (482, 30kW), medium (178, 50kW) and large (140, 80kW).
- For the purposes of evaluating the DR resource, it is considered free. This is a benchmarking exercise to determine the maximum feasible investment in DR.

# DR Capacity





# The Value of DR

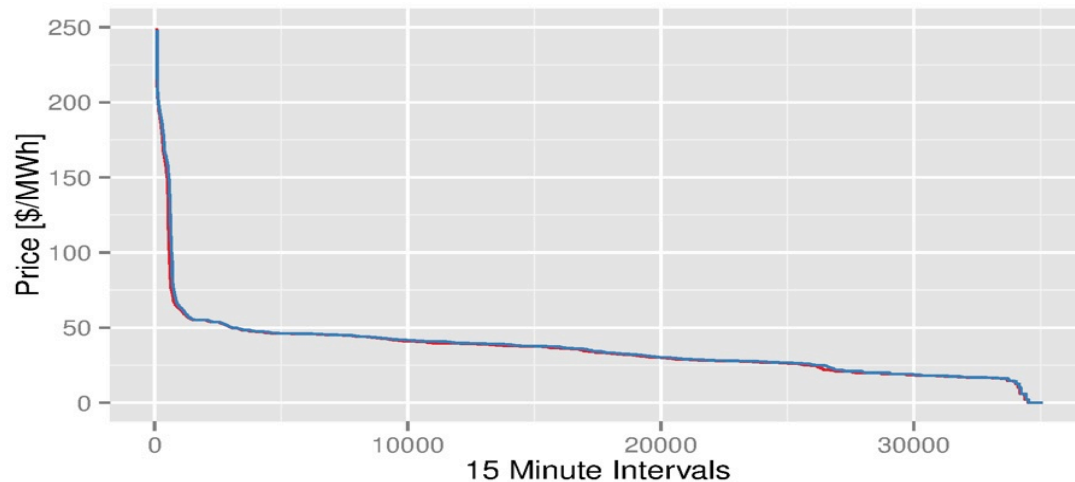


- DR Value:
  - \$2.089M/year
  - \$32.85/kW-year
  - \$4980 per large supermarket
  - Reduces total system cost by 0.0144%.
- There is a seasonal trend in the value of DR, with lowest value during the warmer months, though it is not as extreme as could be expected.
- Much of the value that DR offers is due to its ability to avoid the curtailment of renewables. Despite being a tiny resource on the system, its impact on curtailment is not insignificant – 693 MWh avoided in test year, 2020.

# Revenue of DR



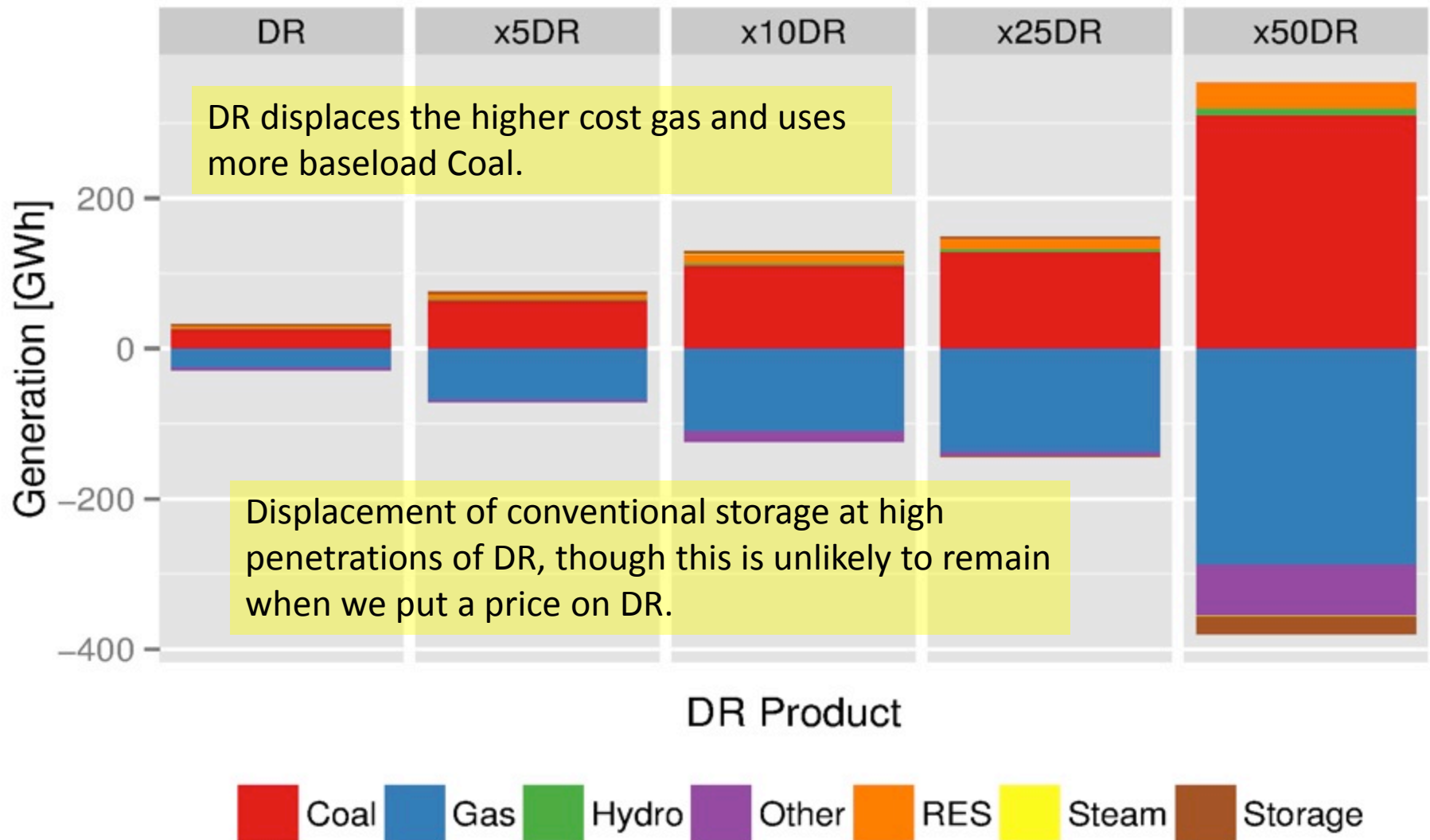
Energy Recovery Cost Energy Supply Revenue



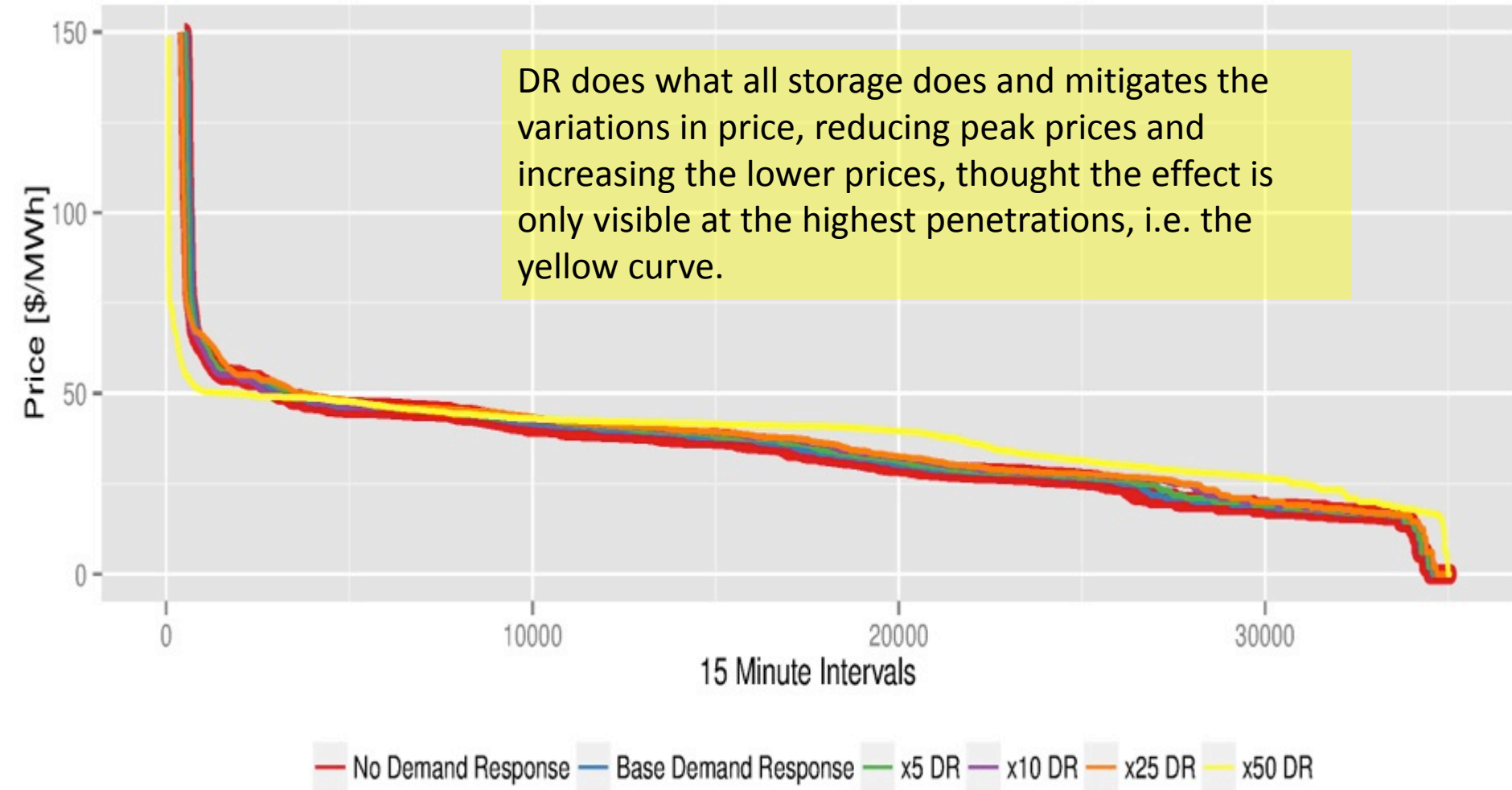
No Demand Response With Demand Response

- DR net revenue composed of
  - revenue generated from the sale of energy
  - the cost of recovering energy
- 24 hour product has the most flexibility to arbitrage, using range of price over a day, resulting in greater net revenue
- Impact on the price duration curve is negligible at small penetrations of DR, except slight increase in lower prices due to the energy recover , which increases load a low priced hours.

# Impact of More DR



# New Load Curves





# Conclusions

- A bottom-up model was developed for use in power system analysis
- Facilitates an assessment of the power system operational cost reductions offered by DR over a year time period
- A case study was conducted on supermarket refrigerators in the Rocky Mountain Power Pool and was found to have a value of \$32.85/kW-year.
- The capacity of the population of supermarkets modelled was very small, representing a maximum of 0.02% of the generation capacity on the system. Consequently the absolute value it offers per year is very low, at \$2.089M, or \$4890 for each large supermarket providing demand response.
- Sensitivity studies revealed that the per unit value of demand response reduces as the capacity of the resource increases.

# Thank You

For more information on Supermarket DR  
contact Niamh O'Connell – [noco@dtu.dk](mailto:noco@dtu.dk)

Ben Kroposki, PhD, PE, FIEEE  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
[benjamin.kroposki@nrel.gov](mailto:benjamin.kroposki@nrel.gov)