

# Developing Forecasts - General Overview

Allison Campbell (PNNL), JP Carvallo (LBNL), and Brittany Tarufelli (PNNL)

*October 23, 2025*



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The authors are solely responsible for any omissions or errors contained herein.

# Webinar Series Overview

## 1) Overview of Webinar Series and Connections to State Planning Efforts

- October 14, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Eastern
- Juliet Homer & Eran Schweitzer (PNNL)

## 2) Developing Forecasts - General Overview

- October 23, 4-5 p.m. Eastern
- Brittany Tarufelli & Allison Campbell (PNNL) and J.P. Carvallo (LBNL)

## 3) Developing Forecasts – Load Expansion

- October 29, 4-5 p.m. Eastern
- Sean Murphy & J.P. Carvallo (LBNL) and Christine Holland (PNNL)

## 4) Developing Forecasts – Distributed Energy Resources

- November 6, 2-3 p.m. Eastern
- Sean Murphy & Margaret Pigman (LBNL) and Shibani Ghosh (NREL)

# Webinar Series Overview

## 5) Resource Adequacy Analysis – Basics

- November 10, 3-4 p.m. Eastern
- Jose Lara, Sebastian Machado, & Rafael Monge (NREL) and Allison Campbell & Eran Schweitzer (PNNL)

## 6) Transmission and Distribution System Planning – Basics

- November 13, 3-4 p.m. Eastern
- Jose Lara & Vincent Westfallen (NREL)

## 7) The Evolution of Resource Accreditation

- December 2, 3-4 p.m. Eastern
- Travis Douville (PNNL)

# Developing Forecasts – General Overview

- Our objective is to demystify basic forecasting methods, their application at both the bulk-power system and distribution system levels, and how they feed into utility decision making.
- Overview:
  - Introduction to electricity forecasting (Allison Campbell)
  - Distribution system vs. bulk power system forecasts (JP Carvallo)
  - Best practices and how forecasts feed into utility decisions (Brittany Tarufelli)

# Introduction to Electricity Forecasting

Allison Campbell (PNNL)

# What are the components to an electricity forecast?



## Inputs

- Spatial Aggregation
- Time Frame
- Variables
- Forecast Purpose
- Algorithm/Method



## Methods

- Time Series (Econometric)
- Multiple linear regression
- Bottom-up engineering/physics based
- Adjustments to forecast for specific end uses
- Probabilistic/Scenario-based



## Outputs

- Annual Energy (kWh)
- Peak Demand (MW)
- Hourly Load Profiles

# Electricity Forecast Inputs

|   |   |
|---|---|
| What is the <b>spatial aggregation</b> ?                    | Balancing Authority, Customer Class (Residential & Commercial, Industrial), Feeder, Building  |
| What <b>time frame</b> is the forecast for?                 | Operational – tomorrow<br>Planning – 1 to 10 years from now   |
| What <b>variables</b> should go into the forecast?          | Temperature<br>Time cycles<br>Demography<br>Economics   |
| How complex do we need to make the forecast <b>method</b> ? | What capacity does the utility have to build a more complex forecast?<br>Does the forecast require an advanced approach, or is a traditional approach sufficient?           |
| What is the <b>purpose</b> of the forecast?                 | Does the utility need to upgrade a feeder? (need to forecast peak loads below the feeder)<br>Does the utility need more baseload power?<br>Are customers adopting more EVs? |



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# Electricity Forecast Inputs

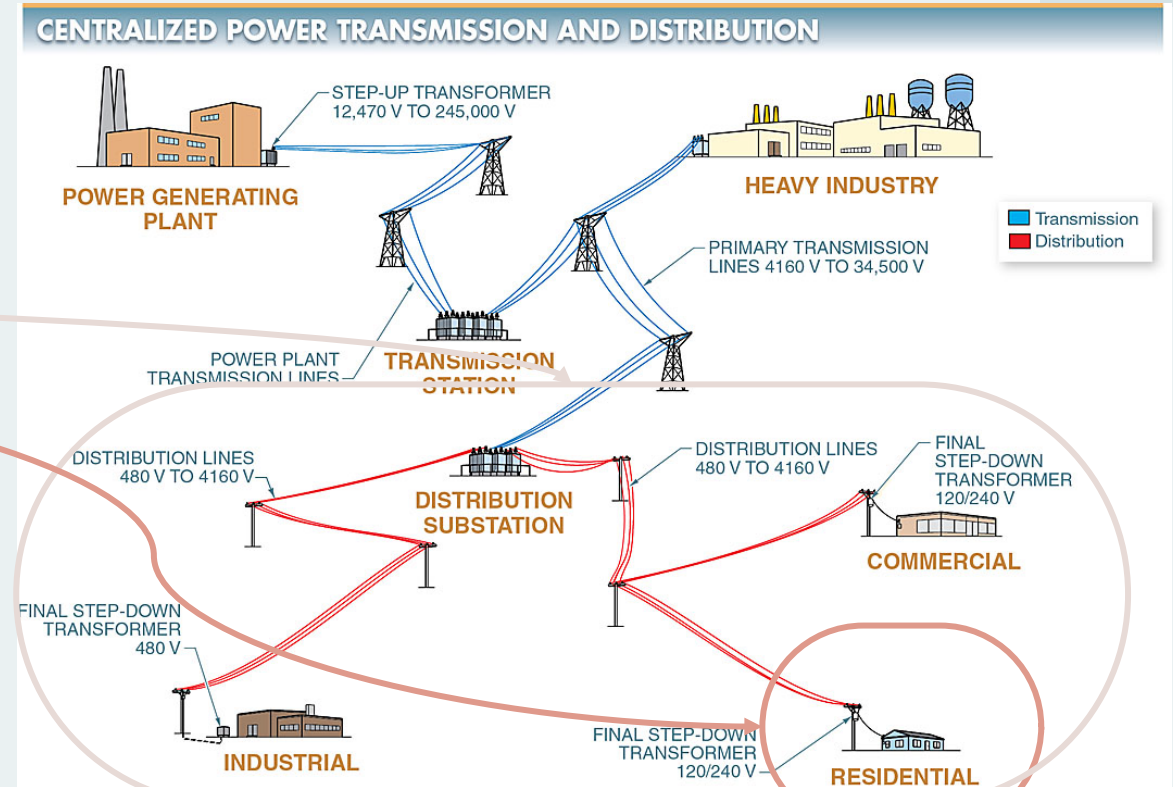
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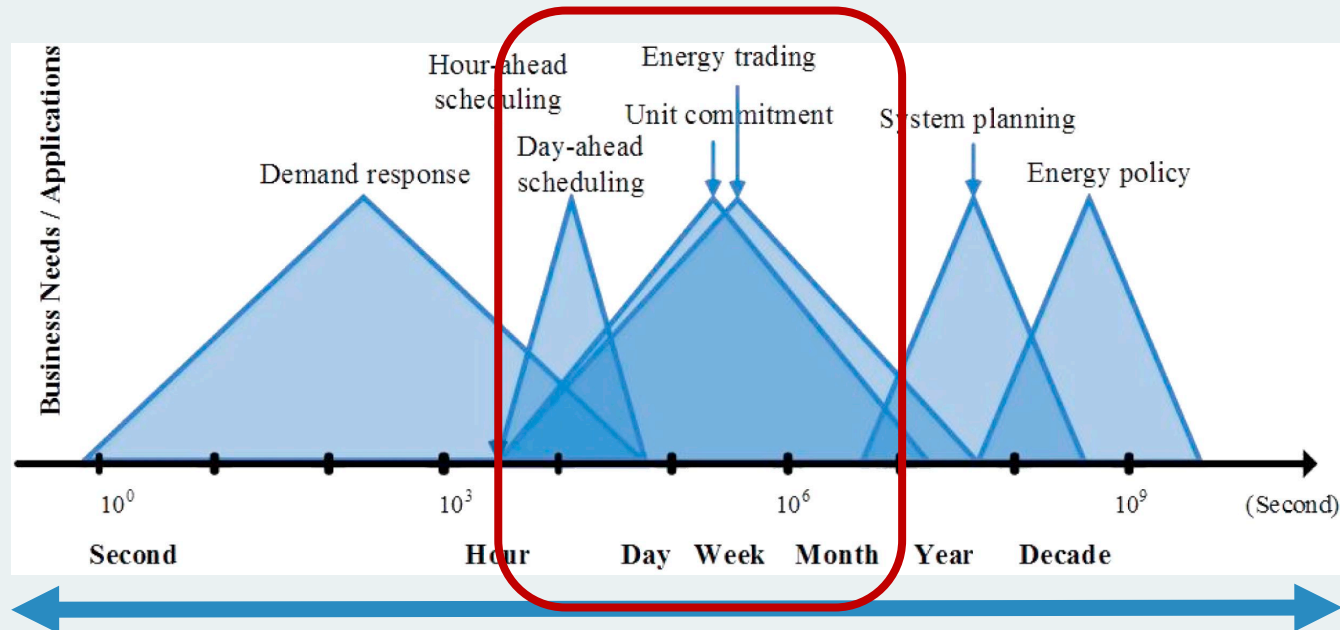
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# Spatial Aggregation

- Types of aggregation:
  - Balancing Authority
  - Distribution Feeder
  - Customer Class
    - Residential & Commercial
    - Industrial
    - All of the above
  - Building
- Residential & Commercial:** components are forecasted separately
  - Number of customers in each class
  - Usage per customer
- Industrial:** specific to each customer
  - Need to consult each customer – usage typically follows set schedules defined by the type of industrial user
  - Schedules change infrequently
  - Important to forecast entry/exit of large customers (follow market trends)
- Disaggregated forecasts** can be done separately and then aggregated to necessary level:
  - Monthly customer class forecasts aggregated to annual by customer class
  - Monthly customer class forecasts aggregated to monthly at Balancing Authority level



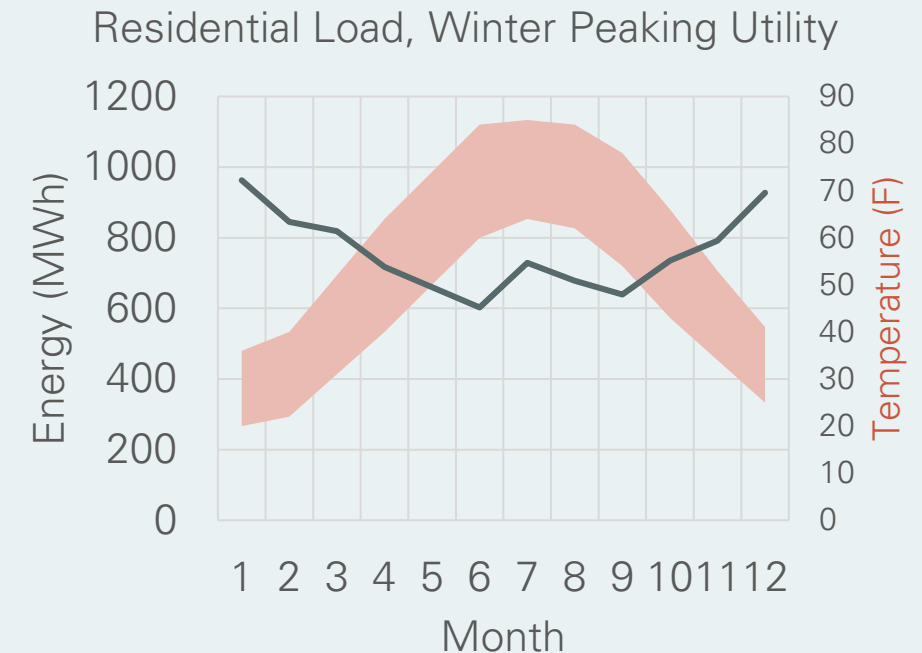
# Time Frame: Short Term



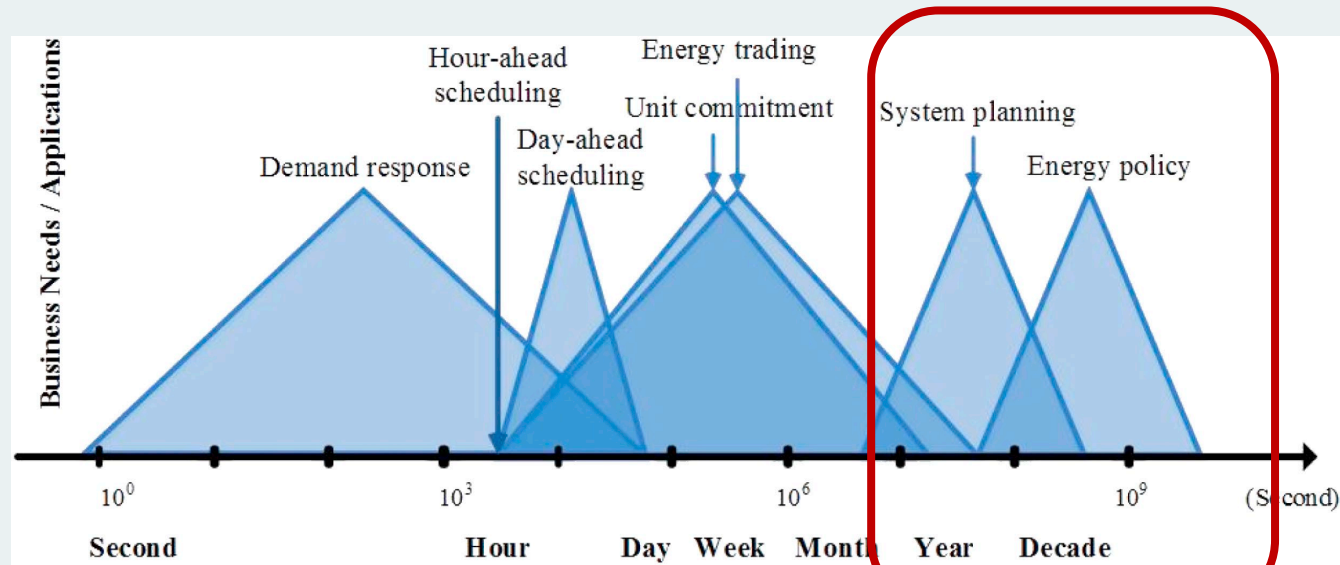
- bottom-up
- stochastic
- physics-based

- top-down
- overall trend
- economics-based

On the energy trading time scale, forecasts can incorporate greater detail about month of year and **impact of temperature** on demand for specific customer classes.



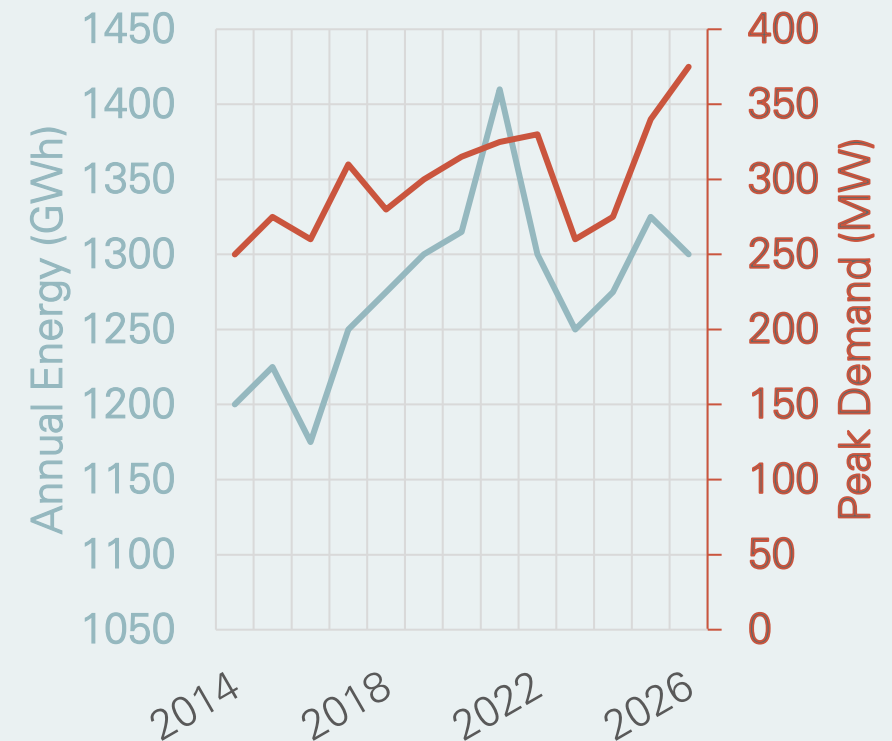
# Time Frame: Long Term



- bottom-up
- stochastic
- physics-based

- top-down
- overall trend
- economics-based

On the system planning and policy time scale, forecasts are largely built from **load growth** and **overall trend of system peak**.

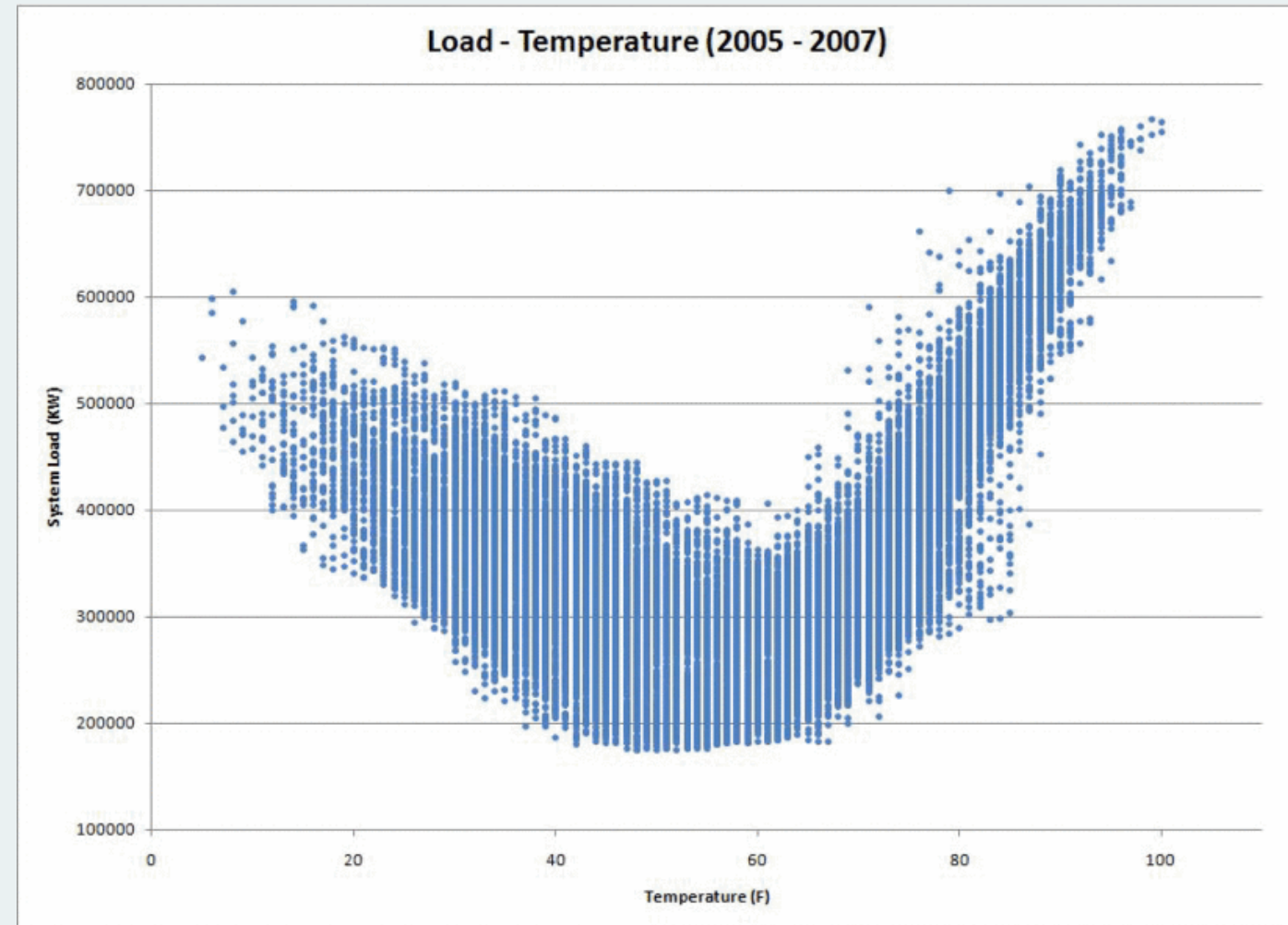




# Variables

- Temperature
  - Heating Degree Days
  - Cooling Degree Days
- Cyclic Factors
  - Weekday/Weekend, Holidays
  - Hour of Day
  - Month of Year
- Demographic Factors
  - Population Growth
  - Household Size
- Economic Factors
  - Employment
  - Energy Efficiency Trends
  - GDP
  - Adoption of Appliances
  - Price Elasticity

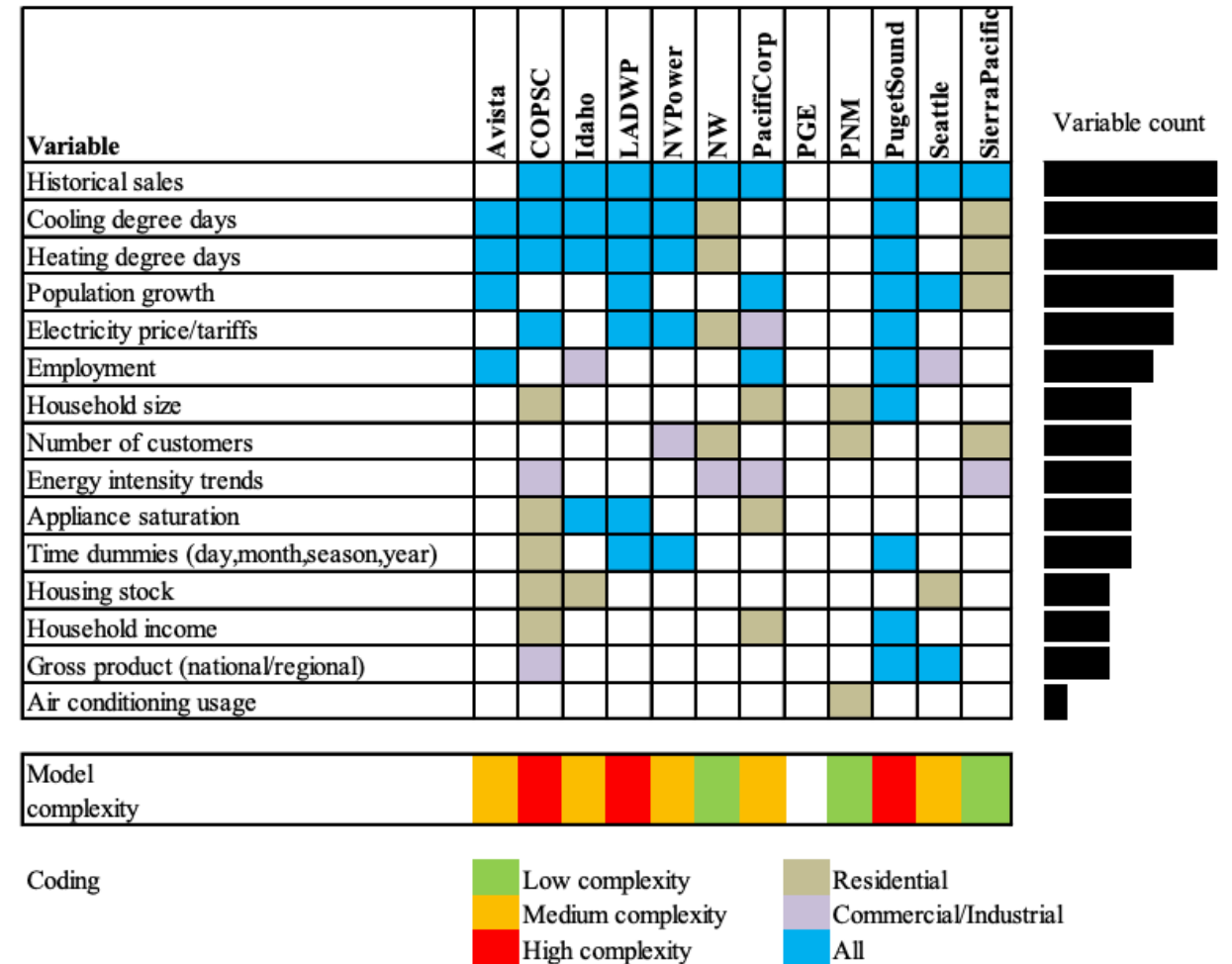
- Typical values range between 0 and -0.2, meaning customers will switch to using other types of energy if prices increase



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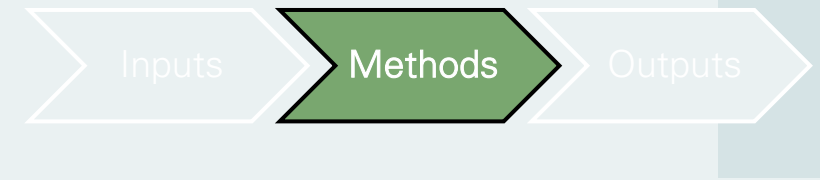
# Algorithms / Methods

- Time series regression (Econometric)
  - Primarily relies on past observations – “auto regressive”, “moving average”
  - Can incorporate “exogenous” non-linear variables influenced by the economy, such as GDP, household income, S-curve for energy efficiency or appliance adoption
- Multiple linear regression
  - Primarily relies on cross sectional variables – number of customers, GDP, day of week
- Bottom-up engineering/physics based
- Adjustments to forecast for specific end uses
- Ensemble / Combined Forecasts

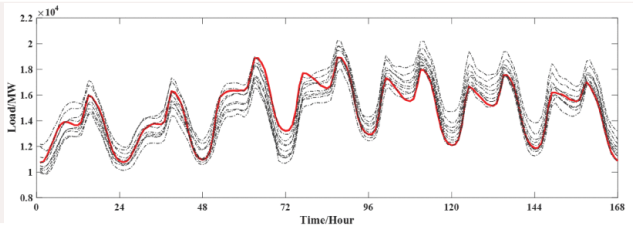
|               | Time series regression (AR*, MA**) | Multiple linear regression | Engineering model | End-Use Adjustment |
|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Avista        |                                    | RC                         |                   |                    |
| COPSC         |                                    |                            |                   | RC                 |
| Idaho         |                                    |                            |                   | RC                 |
| LADWP         |                                    | RC                         |                   |                    |
| NVPower       | RC                                 | RC                         |                   |                    |
| NW            | C                                  | R                          |                   |                    |
| PacifiCorp    |                                    |                            |                   |                    |
| PGE           |                                    |                            |                   |                    |
| PNM           |                                    |                            | RC                |                    |
| PugetSound    |                                    | RC                         |                   |                    |
| Seattle       |                                    | RC                         |                   |                    |
| SierraPacific |                                    |                            |                   |                    |

\*AR: Auto-regressive; \*\*MA: Moving Average  
R: Residential; C: Commercial

Carvallo, Juan Pablo, Larsen, Peter H., Sanstad, Alan H, and Goldman, Charles A.. *Load Forecasting in Electric Utility Integrated Resource Planning*. United States: N. p., 2017. Web. doi:10.2172/1371722.



# Who uses the methods?

|                               | Who uses it, when?   | Approach   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Time Series/<br>Econometric   | All types of utilities,<br>often by customer class   | Fit an auto-regressive or moving average model to annual peak.<br>Economic variables incorporated with S-curve:<br><br>(1) $(\text{class } kWh)_{year} = a \cdot (\text{income per capita})_{year}^b \cdot (\text{population})_{year}^c \cdot (\text{price})_{year}^d$   |
| Multiple Linear<br>Regression | All types of utilities   | Trend<br>Day, Month<br>Temperature<br><br>(2) $E(\text{Load}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times \text{Trend} + \beta_2 \times \text{Day} \times \text{Hour} + \beta_3 \times \text{Month} + \beta_4 \times \text{Month} \times \text{TMP} + \beta_5 \times \text{Month} \times \text{TMP}^2 + \beta_6 \times \text{Month} \times \text{TMP}^3 + \beta_7 \times \text{Hour} \times \text{TMP} + \beta_8 \times \text{Hour} \times \text{TMP}^2 + \beta_9 \times \text{Hour} \times \text{TMP}^3$ |
| End-Use                       | Mid to large utilities, to<br>model building-level<br>equipment (solar, EV,<br>other DER)  | Regression for each type of customer and equipment:<br><br>(1) $(kWh)_i = (\text{customers}) \cdot \left( \frac{\text{units of equipment}}{\text{customer}} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{kWh}{\text{units of equipment}} \right)$  |
| Ensemble<br>(Combined)        | Large utilities, improves<br>the resulting forecast by<br>combining multiple<br>approaches | Simple average of multiple<br>different forecasts<br><br>(3)    |

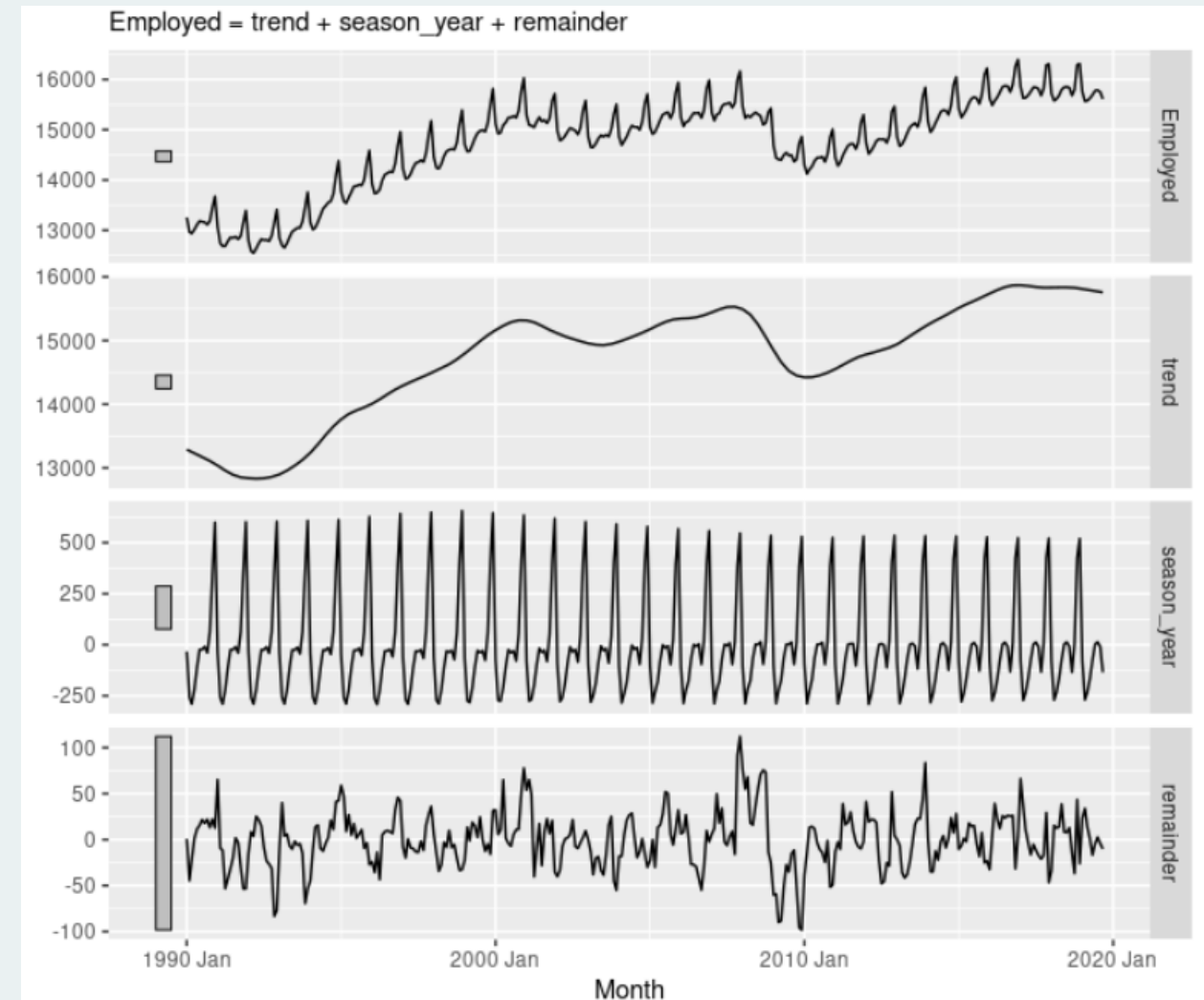
(1) <https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/reports/2006/R3315.pdf>

(2) T. Hong, P. Wang and H. L. Willis, "A Naïve multiple linear regression benchmark for short term load forecasting," 2011 IEEE PESGM, doi: 10.1109/PES.2011.6038881.

(3) Y. Wang, N. Zhang, Y. Tan, T. Hong, D. S. Kirschen and C. Kang, "Combining Probabilistic Load Forecasts," in IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid, doi: 10.1109/TSG.2018.2833869.

# Time Series / Econometric

- Time series can be decomposed into **cyclic** trends and **overall** trends
- Cycles can account for weekly, monthly, yearly repetition
- “ARIMA” typically used to model overall trend – **Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average**
- Exogenous econometric variables can be incorporated into ARIMA model as additional variables (ARIMAX):
  - Customer growth with econometric growth model using per capita incomes
  - Employment levels
  - Electricity prices

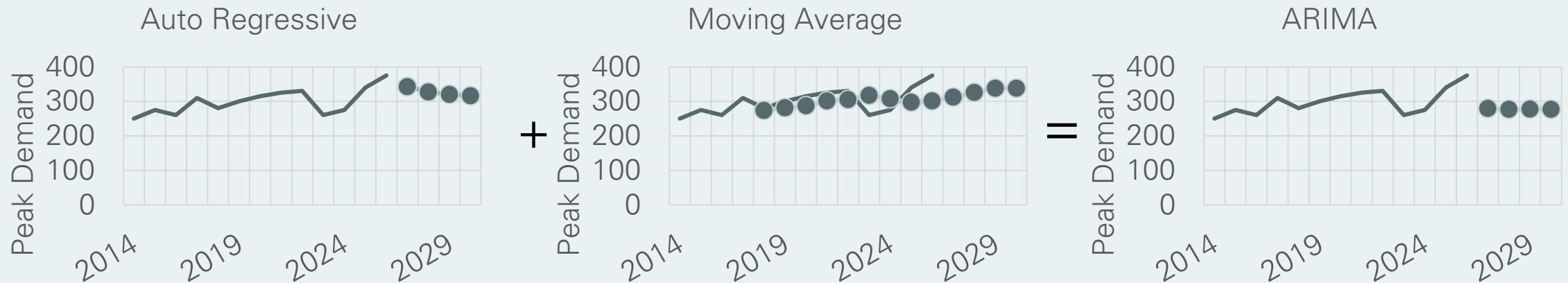


# Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average

“Auto-Regressive”: Use information from past observations to predict the future  
*Build a regression model only using past observations*

“Moving Average”: The next value will be an average of the previous several values

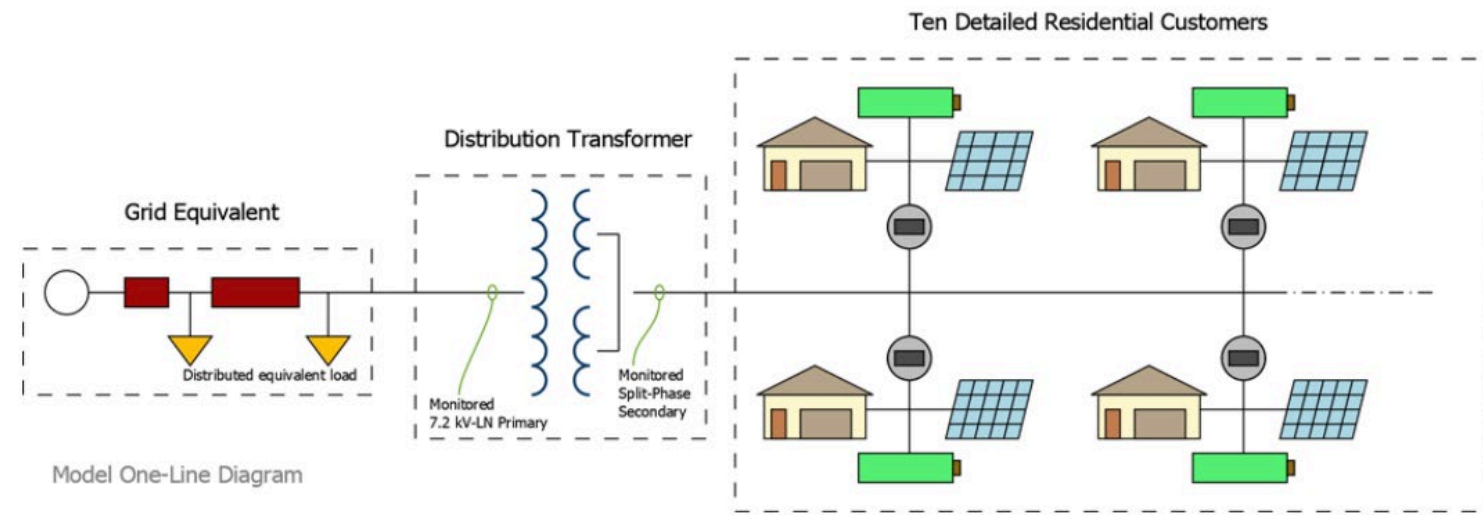
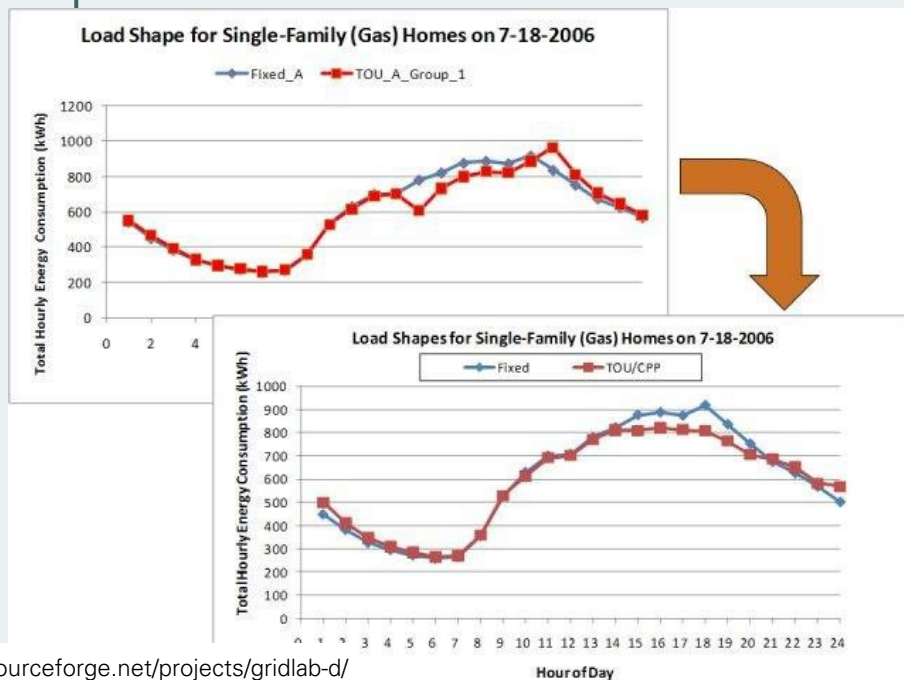
ARIMAX: All of the above, plus additional variables





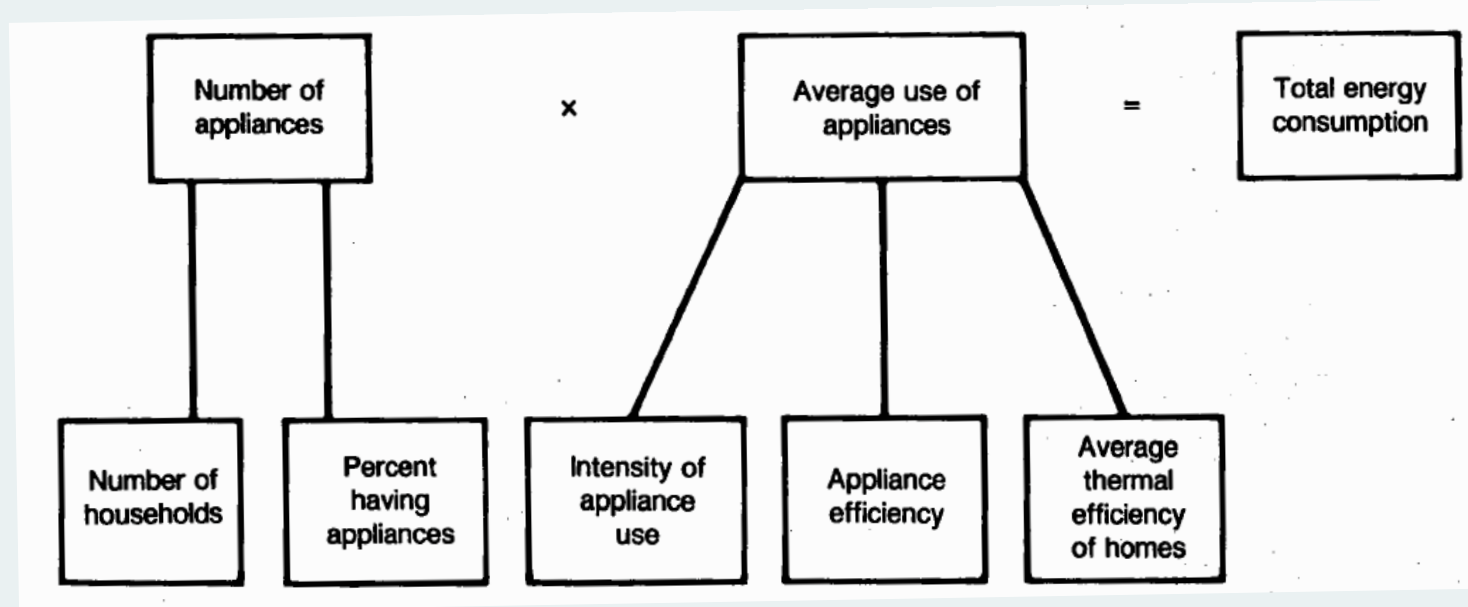
# Bottom-Up Engineering/Physics Based

- GridLAB-D (PNNL), OpenDSS (EPRI):
  - Model physics of feeder, household(s), to produce load shape as a function of usage patterns based on specific appliances
  - Can incorporate impacts of price-sensitive appliances on hourly energy usage
  - Model **system losses** and electrical engineering to **simulate power flow**
  - Can model PVs and batteries at the household level



# End-Use Models

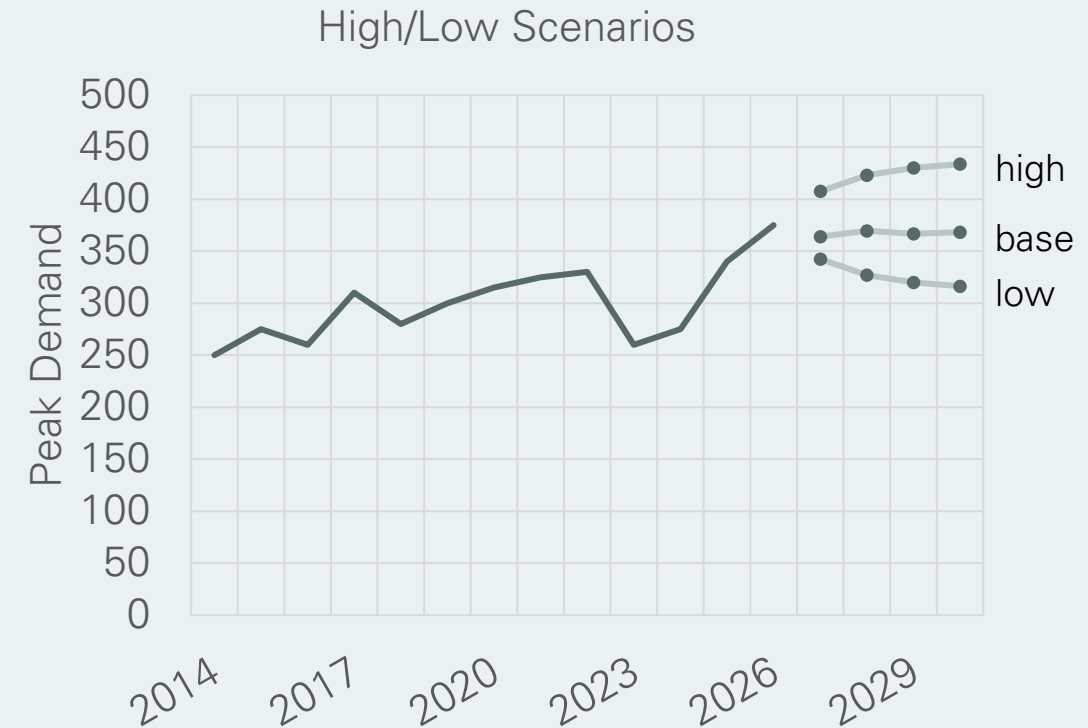
- Directly estimate energy consumption by using extensive information about **end use** and **end users**
- Information used: weather, appliances, size of houses, age of equipment, technology changes, customer behavior, and population dynamics
- Require less historical data but **more information about customers and their equipment**
- Cons: sensitive to the amount and quality of end-use data



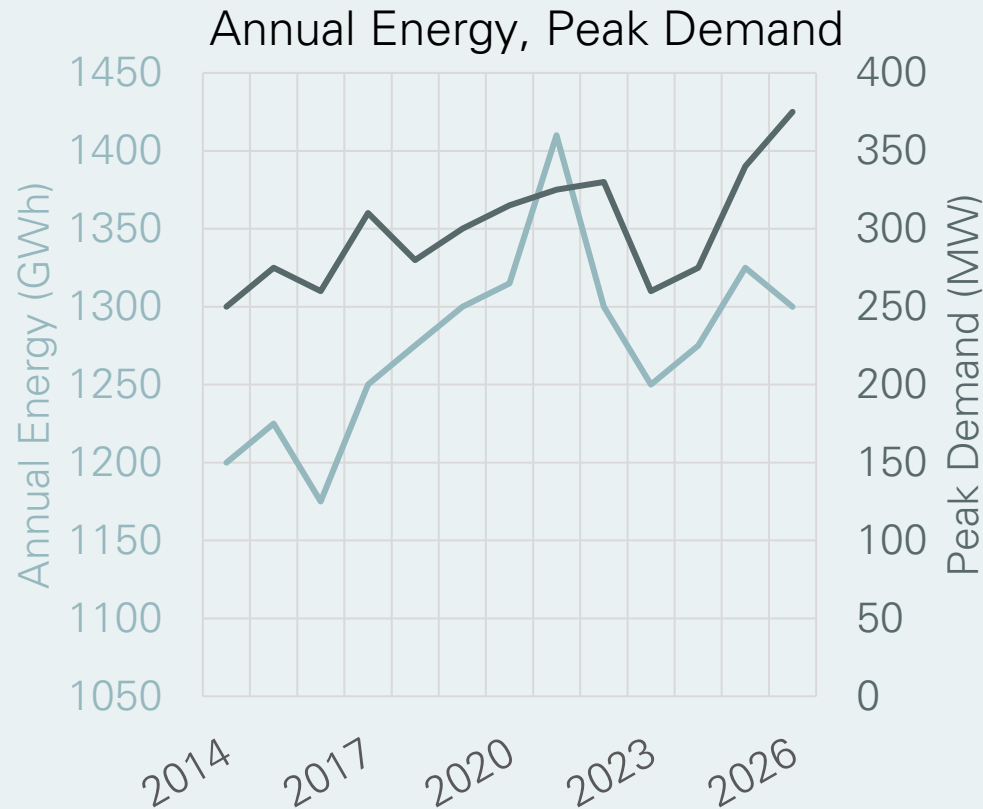


# Probabilistic/Scenario Based

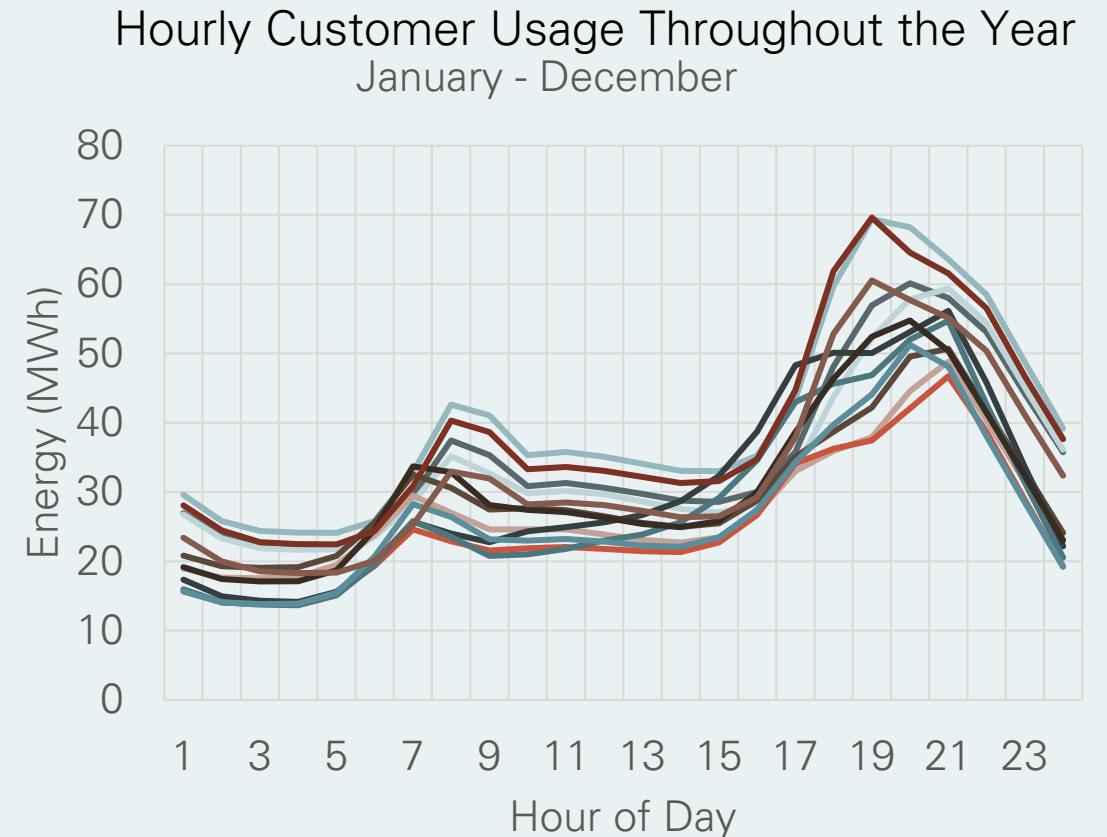
- Probabilistic Forecasts are created by **changing the input variable(s)**.
- Example:  
*Utility needs to project peak demand by customer class, starting with Residential, which is highly sensitive to temperature*
  1. Use TMY (typical meteorological year) temperatures to project load – “base case”
  2. Use a representative “cold” weather year to project load – “low” scenario
  3. Use a representative “hot” weather year to project load – “high” scenario
- The scenario outcomes provide a range of possible futures



# Forecasts Outputs

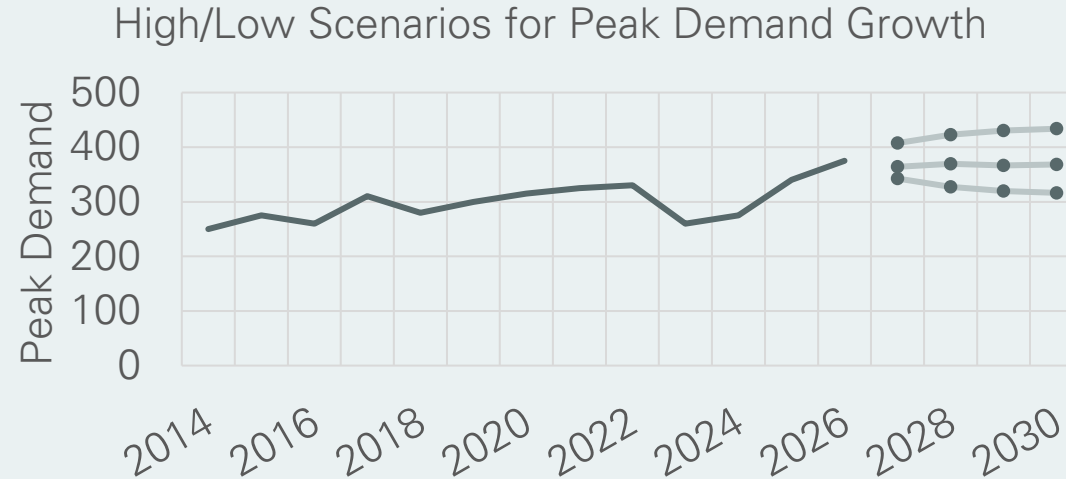


Annual Energy and Peak Demand are often used by utilities to inform Planning Reserve Margins.



Hourly profiles by customer class can show utilities impacts of resource adoption.

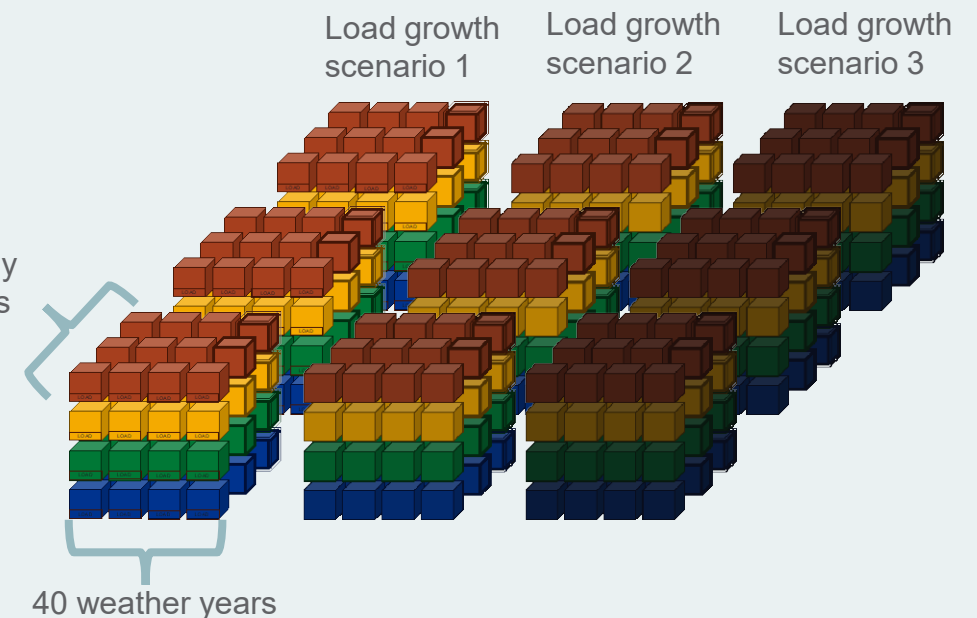
# Forecasts Outputs



Probabilistic forecasts, such as high and low scenarios for peak demand growth, provide a range of outcomes with probability of occurrence.

Probabilistic results are driven by **uncertainty in inputs**. Resource Adequacy leverages **scenario-based hourly projections** of load and generation to ensure that demand is met for all hours, allowing for 1 day in 10 years with any shortfall.

Hydrology scenarios



# Forecast Components by Application

| Application   | Type of Forecast                 | Spatial Aggregation               | Time Resolution    | Time Frame/<br>Horizon | Variables   | Method<br>(most common)                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| Transmission,<br>distribution upgrades,<br>Planning Reserve<br>Margin | Peak Load                        | Balancing<br>Authority,<br>Feeder | Annual,<br>monthly | 1-10 years             | Population Growth,<br>GDP                                       | Time Series<br>Regression, Physics-<br>based             |
| Resource Adequacy   | Hourly 8760<br>with<br>scenarios | Balancing<br>Authority            | Hourly             | 1-10 years             | Population Growth,<br>GDP, Temperature                          | Multiple Linear<br>Regression                            |
| Area reliability, Multi-<br>Year Rate Plan                            | Energy<br>Demand                 | Customer Class                    | Hourly             | 1-3 years              | <i>Each customer class<br/>may need different<br/>variables</i> | Multiple Linear<br>Regression                            |
| Identify customer<br>adoption of distributed<br>resources & impacts   | Hourly<br>Profiles               | Customer Class,<br>Building       | Hourly             | 1-3 years              | Temperature,<br>Population,<br>saturation of new<br>appliances  | Engineering- &<br>Physics-based, end-<br>use adjustments |
| Sensitivity of analysis<br>to input variables                         | Low/High<br>Scenarios            | all                               | all                | all                    | <i>all of the above:<br/>identify possible<br/>deviations</i>   | all  |

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| Transmission, distribution upgrades, Planning Reserve Margin | Peak Load                  | Balancing Authority, Feeder | Annual, monthly | 1-10 years             | Population Growth, GDP              | Time Series Regression, Physics-based             |
| Resource Adequacy  | Hourly 8760 with scenarios | Balancing Authority         | Hourly          | 1-10 years             | Population Growth, GDP, Temperature | Multiple Linear Regression                        |
| Area reliability, Multi-Year Rate Plan                       | Energy                     | Customer Class              | Hourly          | 1-3 years              | <i>Each customer class</i>          | Multiple Linear Regression                        |
| Identify customer adoption of distributed resources & impact |                            |                             |                 |                        |                                     | Engineering- & Physics-based, end-use adjustments |
| Sensitivity of analysis to input variables                   |                            |                             |                 |                        |                                     |   |

Longer time frames/forecast horizons must manage less information – this results in aggregating to larger areas and using methods that depend on fewer external variables.

Applications like Resource Adequacy, which require detailed information, must rely on **scenarios** of input variables (e.g., temperature).

# Forecast Components by Application

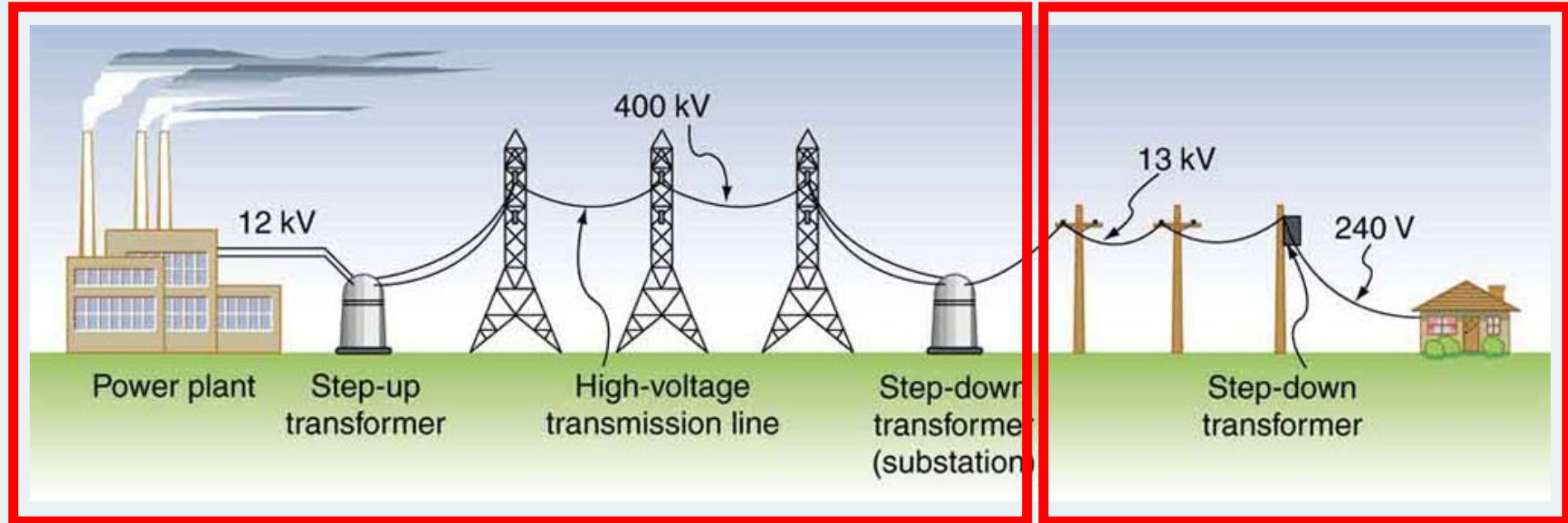
| Application   | Type of Forecast   | Spatial Aggregation      | Time Resolution | Time Frame/Horizon | Variables   | Method (most common)                              |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Transmission, distribution upgrade Planning Reserve Margin    | Demand             | Demand                   | Hourly          | 1-10 years         | Demand, Weather                                       | Time Series Regression, Physics-based             |
| Resource Adequacy   | Demand             | Demand                   | Hourly          | 1-10 years         | Demand, Weather                                       | Multiple Linear Regression                        |
| Area reliability, Multi-Year Rate Plan                        | Demand             |                          |                 |                    | <i>may need different variables</i>                   | Multiple Linear Regression                        |
| Identify customer adoption of distributed resources & impacts | Hourly Profiles    | Customer Class, Building | Hourly          | 1-3 years          | Temperature, Population, saturation of new appliances | Engineering- & Physics-based, end-use adjustments |
| Sensitivity of analysis to input variables                    | Low/High Scenarios | all                      | all             | all                | <i>all of the above: identify possible deviations</i> | all   |

Shorter time frames/horizons can take advantage of richer datasets – this allows utilities to build models for each customer class and even buildings at a very detailed level

# Distribution System vs. Bulk Power System Forecasts

JP Carvalho (LBNL)

# The power system



*The bulk power system*

*The distribution system*

Two historically separated  
planning processes and paradigms

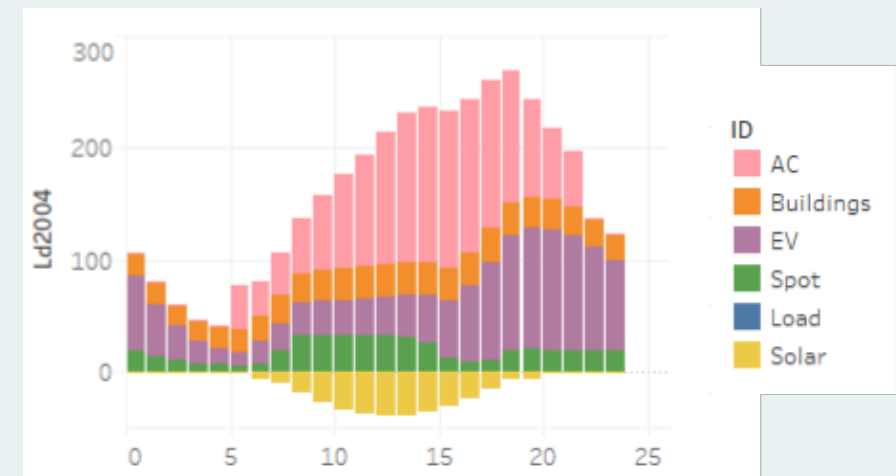
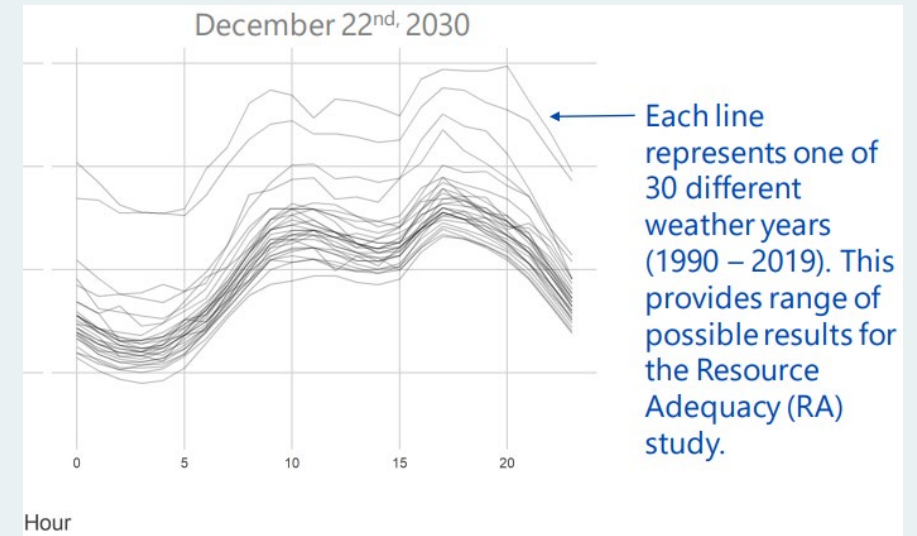


# Fundamental differences inform forecasts

| Bulk power system   | Distribution system   |
|---|---|
| Typically relies in aggregated load forecasts at a node or even system level        | Highly localized load forecast, requires detailed information of customers and end uses     |
| Aggregation allows to reflect diversity benefits, averaging out outliers and errors | Forecast reflects idiosyncrasies, should not reflect diversity, and more sensitive to error |
| Loads are larger; traditional customer segments are sufficient                      | Loads are smaller; traditional customer segments may not reflect growth patterns            |
| Larger, consequential loads are “visible”, they require interconnection             | Most loads are “invisible”, developing behind the meter in scattered patterns               |
| Load aggregations require careful treatment of randomness → stochastic              | Smaller loads can be treated deterministically  |

# Common load forecasting practices

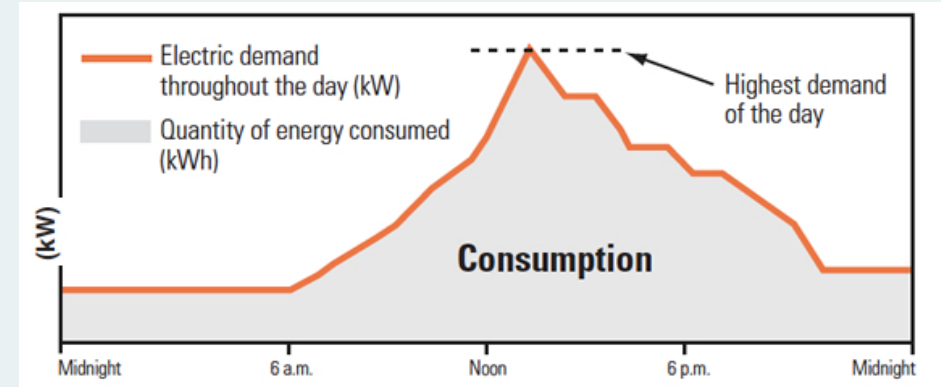
- Leading practice is to develop **hourly load forecast** that reflects:
  - Diurnal/nocturnal profiles
  - Seasonal patterns
  - Daily and weekly cumulative energy needs
- Ideally, load forecasts match the **spatial unit of analysis** of the power flow, dispatch, and expansion models
  - Recognize spatial diversity in load growth and characteristics
  - Better represent load in reliability assessment model by capturing probabilistic/statistical properties



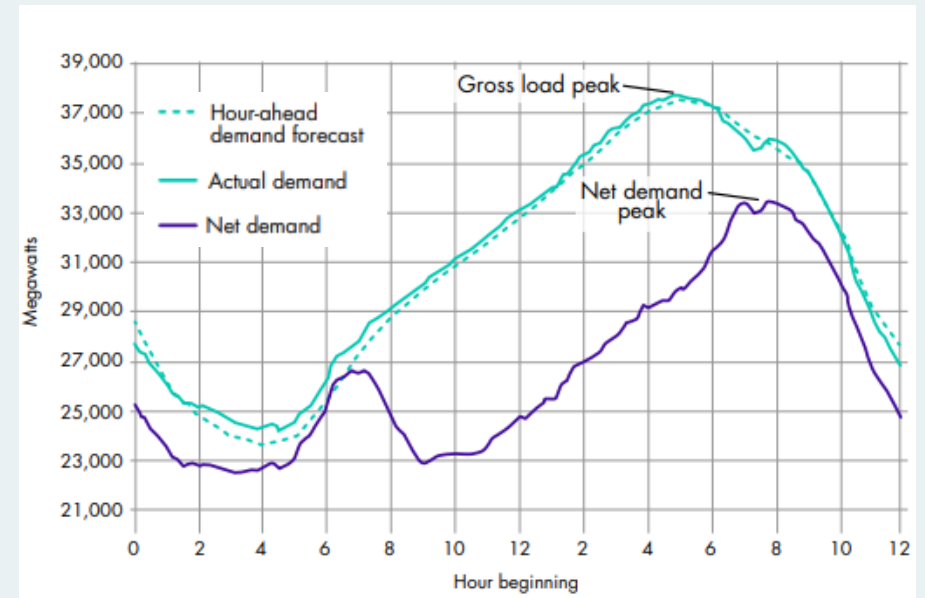
Source: [Seattle City Light's 2022 IRP](#)

# Forecasting at the distribution system level

- Emphasis is on peak demand
  - Can rely on a p50 (1 in 2) or a p90 (1 in 10) forecast
- Forecast horizon typically three to five years
- Forecasts developed at the feeder-level, and some times sub-feeder level
  - Bottom-up, customer focused
- More recently
  - Consider DER adoption AND operation
  - Consider retail rates impacts
  - Internalize flexibility



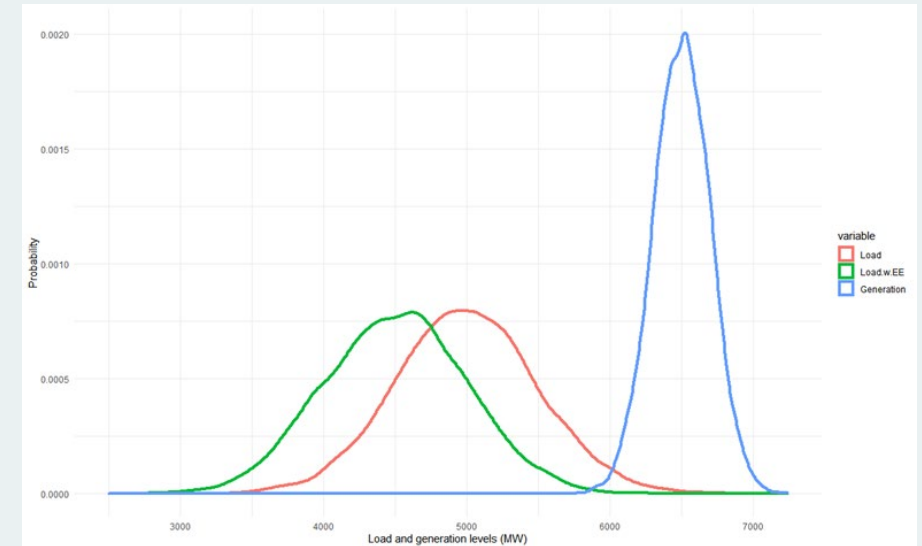
Source: [We Energies \(2025\)](#)



Source: [CAISO \(2023\)](#)

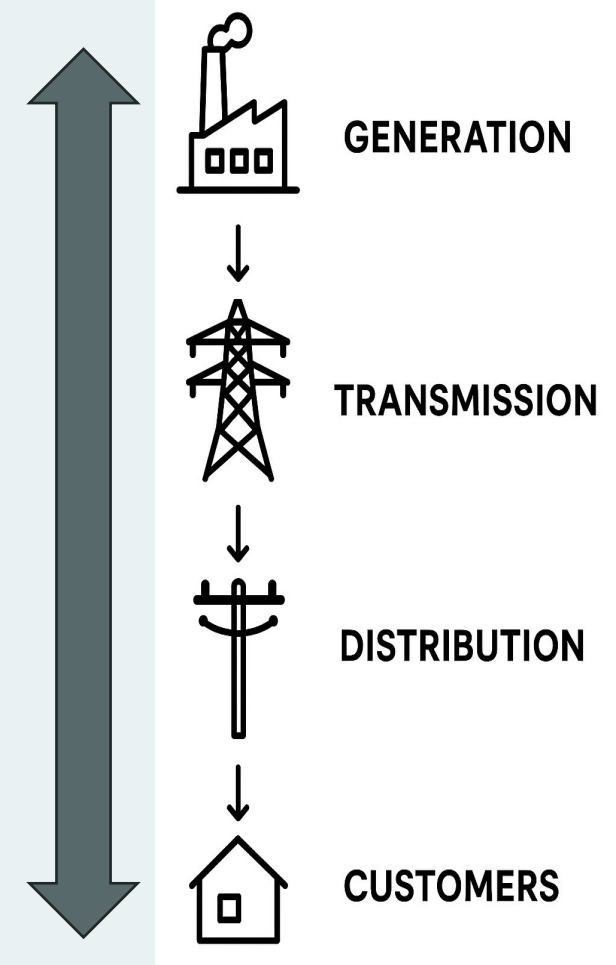
# Forecasting at the bulk power system level

- Emphasis is on both energy and demand
- Energy forecast
  - Drives resource deployment
  - Deterministic, but typically develops several scenarios
- Demand forecast
  - Drives capacity needs and reliability targets
  - Stochastic, used for resource adequacy analysis with weather-sensitive models
- Load forecast scenarios
  - Developed following plausible “futures”, including economic growth, end use adoption, potential policies, etc.
- Emerging focus on individual large loads
  - Interconnection requests, speculation management
  - Probabilistic approaches for energy needs (e.g. Georgia Power)



# Blurring the divide

- Several jurisdictions are testing or applying integrated system planning approaches that connect multiple planning processes (e.g., PGE, Xcel MN, Duke, FERC Order 2222)
  - Increasing number of BPS forecasts are resulting from aggregation of substation- or feeder-level load forecasts
- BPS load forecasts
  - Modeling DER adoption and operation
  - Becoming more granular
- Distribution system forecasts
  - Moving to longer planning horizons, similar to BPS
  - Starting to focus on scenarios
  - Considering the development of stochastic approaches



# Two examples of BPS/Dx forecast convergence

- [Single forecast approach in California](#)
  - “forecasts used in procurement and planning processes across both the transmission and distribution domains[...] The Commission uses the single forecast set in its integrated resource plan (IRP) process, resource adequacy program, and distribution planning” (CPUC Rulemaking 21-06-017)
  - Useful for states with multiple IRP-filing entities, but also for process coordination within a load serving entity
- [Duke Energy’s Integrated System and Operations Planning](#)
  - ISOP is a “planning framework that optimizes capacity and energy resource investments across generation, transmission, customer delivery (distribution) and customer solutions”
  - The utility develops a bottom-up, hourly forecast at the circuit level using the internal Morecast tool for distribution system planning (DSP)
  - Assumptions and potentially outcomes are shared from Morecast (DSP) for IRP and transmission planning



Source: [Duke Energy](#)

# Best Practices & How Load Forecasting Feeds into Utility Decisions

Brittany Tarufelli (PNNL)

# Overview

- Current forecasting best practices
  - Load
  - Distributed energy resources (DERs)
  - Examples
  - Limitations
- How load forecasts feed into utility decisions
- Resources for more information

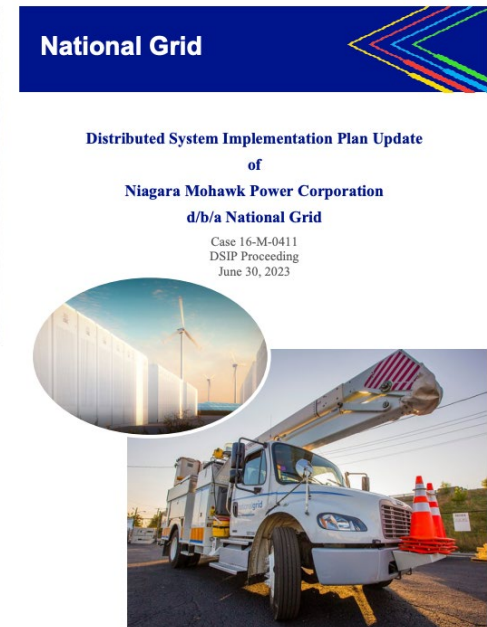
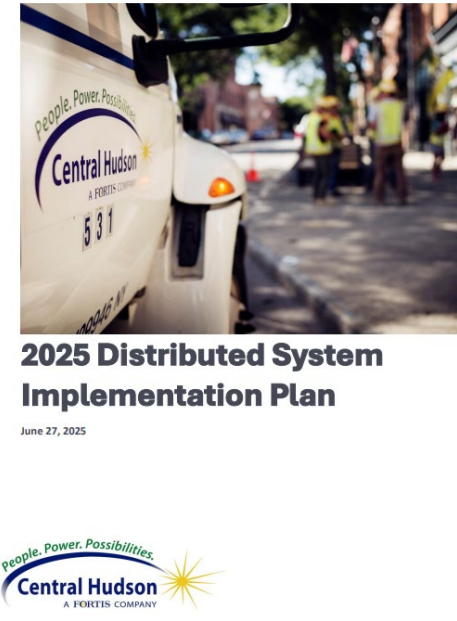
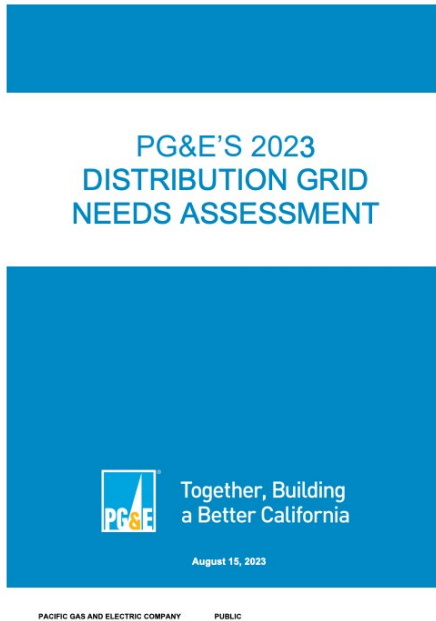
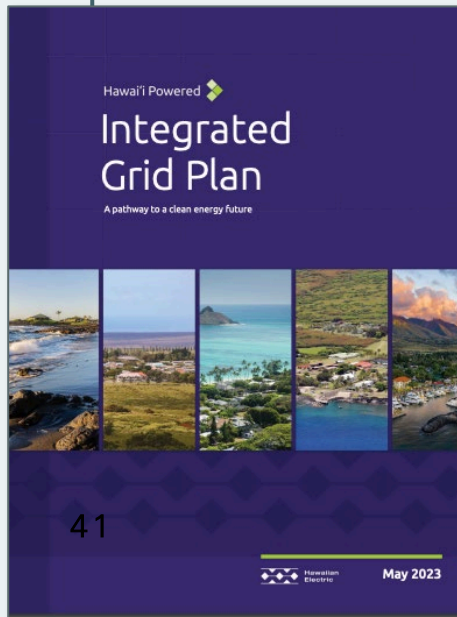
These slides reference materials from:

- Homer and Yang, 2021, [Load forecasting with climate variability for transmission and distribution system planning](#), Innovations in Electricity Modeling Training for National Council on Electricity Policy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (Golden, CO) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Richland, WA).
- GMLC 4.2.2 – [TA to State PUCs Forecasting Cohort Workshop #2 – Developing Forecasts: Basics and Best Practices](#), National Renewable Energy Laboratory (Golden, CO), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Richland, WA), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley, CA)



# Current forecasting best practices

- We reviewed filings from nine leading utilities and looked at
  - Methods and tools used for conducting granular load forecasting
  - Methods and tools for conducting DER forecasting
  - Gaps/challenges identified
  - Stakeholder comments and commission actions related to load and DER forecasts





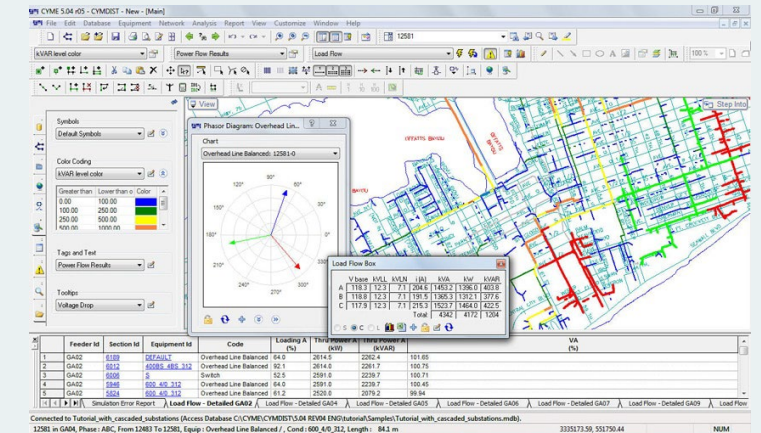
# Current forecasting best practices

- Load Forecast

- Utilities with advanced practices are creating granular load forecasts
  - Granular in time – Forecasts for all 365 days x 24 hours = 8,760 hours per year
  - Granular in space – Forecasts at the circuit and transformer level

- A diverse set of tools are used to create these forecasts

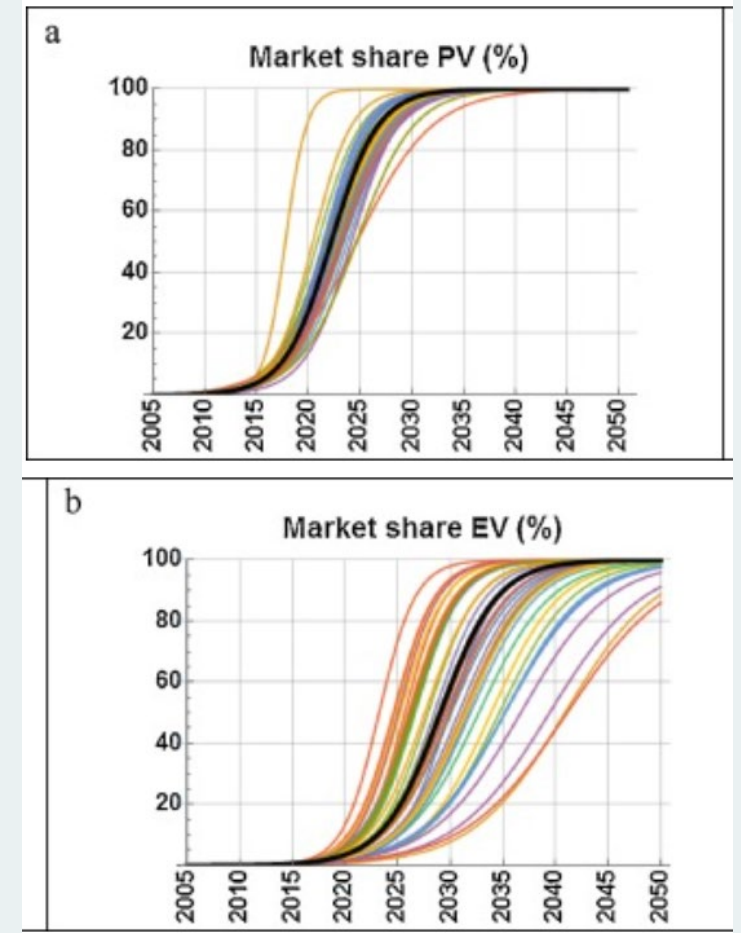
- LoadSEER for granular load forecasting
- CYMEDIST for power flow modeling
- SYNERGI for power flow modeling
- GridLab-D open-source distribution power system modeling
- Econometric models
- Probabilistic forecasting techniques
- Planner's judgement and company projections can form basis of forecasts
- In California, electric investor-owned utilities (IOU) start with electricity consumption and peak electricity demand forecasts for individual utility planning areas from the CA Energy Commission's biennial [Integrated Energy Policy Report \(IEPR\)](#)
- IEPR also includes PV and storage projections and potential impacts of different EV charging behaviors during hours of peak electricity demand



# Current forecasting best practices

- DER forecasts

- Some utilities use **econometric methods** to analyze the historical relationship between DER adoption and other economics variables to forecast future adoption
- Some utilities forecast DER adoption by fitting innovation diffusion curves to historical data, typically using the **Bass diffusion model**
  - Requires a sufficient history of adoption
  - Not always feasible for DERs in nascent stage or those experiencing truly disruptive innovation
  - Bass diffusion optimizes three parameters (P - innovators, Q - imitators, and M – potential adopters) to explain monthly adoption patterns
- Use tools such as **Gridlab-D**, **WattPlan Grid**, **dGen**, and **LoadSEER**



Source: [van der Kam et al. 2018](#)

# Current forecasting best practices

- DER forecasts, cont.
  - Some utilities start with top-down, system-wide DER forecasts that they disaggregate between substations
  - Disaggregation techniques include:
    - **Proportional allocation** - disaggregates the DER forecast to circuits based on utility data for the circuit (load, energy, or number of customers)
      - SDG&E uses LoadSEER to disaggregate load forecasts to the circuit level<sup>1</sup>
    - **Propensity models** - base the disaggregation on customer characteristics that are used to compute a propensity score. Propensity models could be estimated using ZIP code data, where models relate historical adoptions to customer characteristics in each ZIP code
      - SDG&E uses SPIDER to disaggregate some of the DER forecast components to the zipcode level (which are then mapped to circuits using propensity to adopt)<sup>1</sup>
    - **Adoption models** - use a bottom-up adoption forecast based on observed adoption patterns and estimated adoption model parameters; includes S-Curve/Bass Diffusion Models
      - SCE uses Bass diffusion models the adoption of residential solar PV<sup>2</sup>
      - Other utilities with more granular data can predict where customers have a higher propensity for DER adoption based on characteristics such as energy use, weather, number of customers, and geographic location

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sdge.com/sites/default/files/regulatory/R21-06-017%20SDGE%202023%20IPE%20DPAG%20Report.pdf>

[https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=264264&DocumentContentId=100986#:~:text=1\)%20Introduction,used%20in%20the%20econometric%20estimation.](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=264264&DocumentContentId=100986#:~:text=1)%20Introduction,used%20in%20the%20econometric%20estimation.)





# Advanced forecasting example – National Grid

[https://jointutilitiesofny.org/sites/default/files/NG\\_2020\\_DSIP.pdf](https://jointutilitiesofny.org/sites/default/files/NG_2020_DSIP.pdf)  
<https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/other/cases-14-m-0101-and-16-m-0411-national-grid-2023-dsip-update.pdf>

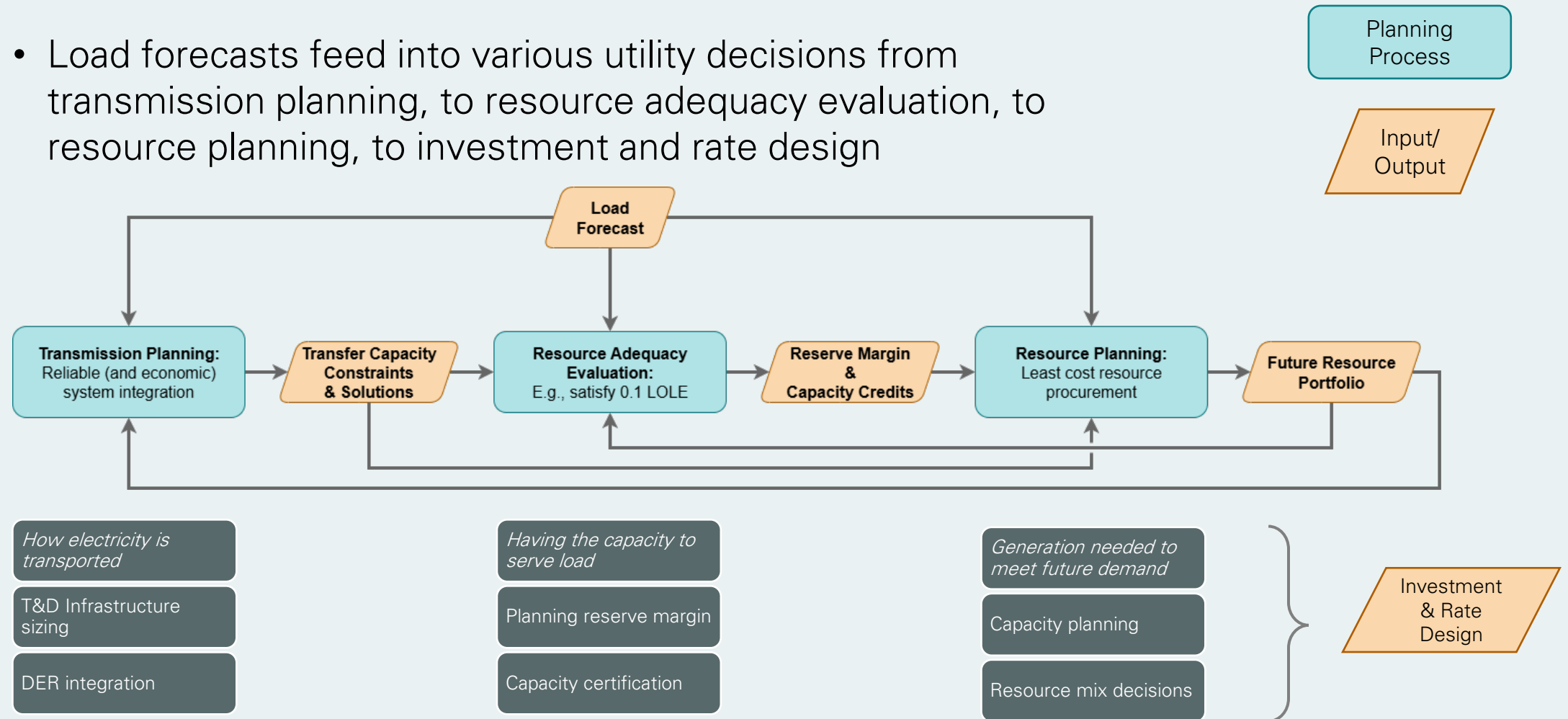
- Considers inputs from a top-down system-level perspective as well as a bottom-up perspective
  - Top-down: Annual peak load forecasts incorporate projected economic impacts, weather, program level and policy goals
  - Bottom-up: Forecasts consider location-specific impacts and customer demographics
- Since 2018, National Grid has generated and published 8,760-hour feeder level forecasts
  - In-house modeling combined with **GridLAB-D™**, an open-source, simulation-based modeling environment that enables detailed power flow solutions, is used to generate 8,760 load profiles for every feeder
  - Forecasts are used for local area planning assessments and non-wires alternative evaluations
  - A Marginal Avoided Distribution Capacity study is used to quantify the value of DER in targeted locations
  - High-performance cloud computing, such as Amazon Web Services, is used to improve the overall computational process
- Future enhancements will refine probabilistic forecasting techniques

# Limitations

- **Data availability:**
  - A main limitation to forecasting granular DER adoption is the need for granular data
  - Some utilities that have not yet implemented these forecasts cite the need for enhanced capabilities to collect and monitor granular data (such as from Advanced Metering Infrastructure, which will provide greater temporal and geospatial granularity)
  - Other utilities note that data quality for substations and circuit locations has been a barrier to more granular load forecasting
    - Example: “Historically, data quality for substations and circuit locations has been a barrier to their use for more granular load forecasting due to lack of metering, meter data gaps, and abnormal system operations or configurations. This step required extensive use of data analytics to identify and remove load transfers, outages, data gaps, and data recording errors. Load transfers were of particular importance since they can be confused with load decreases or growth.” Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation’s [2020 DSIP report](#)
- **Need for enhanced probabilistic forecasting techniques**
  - Another often mentioned limitation to advancing forecasting practices is the need for enhanced probabilistic forecasting techniques for variabilities in weather, economic growth, proliferation of DER, etc.—which can all impact load

# How Load Forecasting Feeds into Utility Decisions

- Load forecasts feed into various utility decisions from transmission planning, to resource adequacy evaluation, to resource planning, to investment and rate design



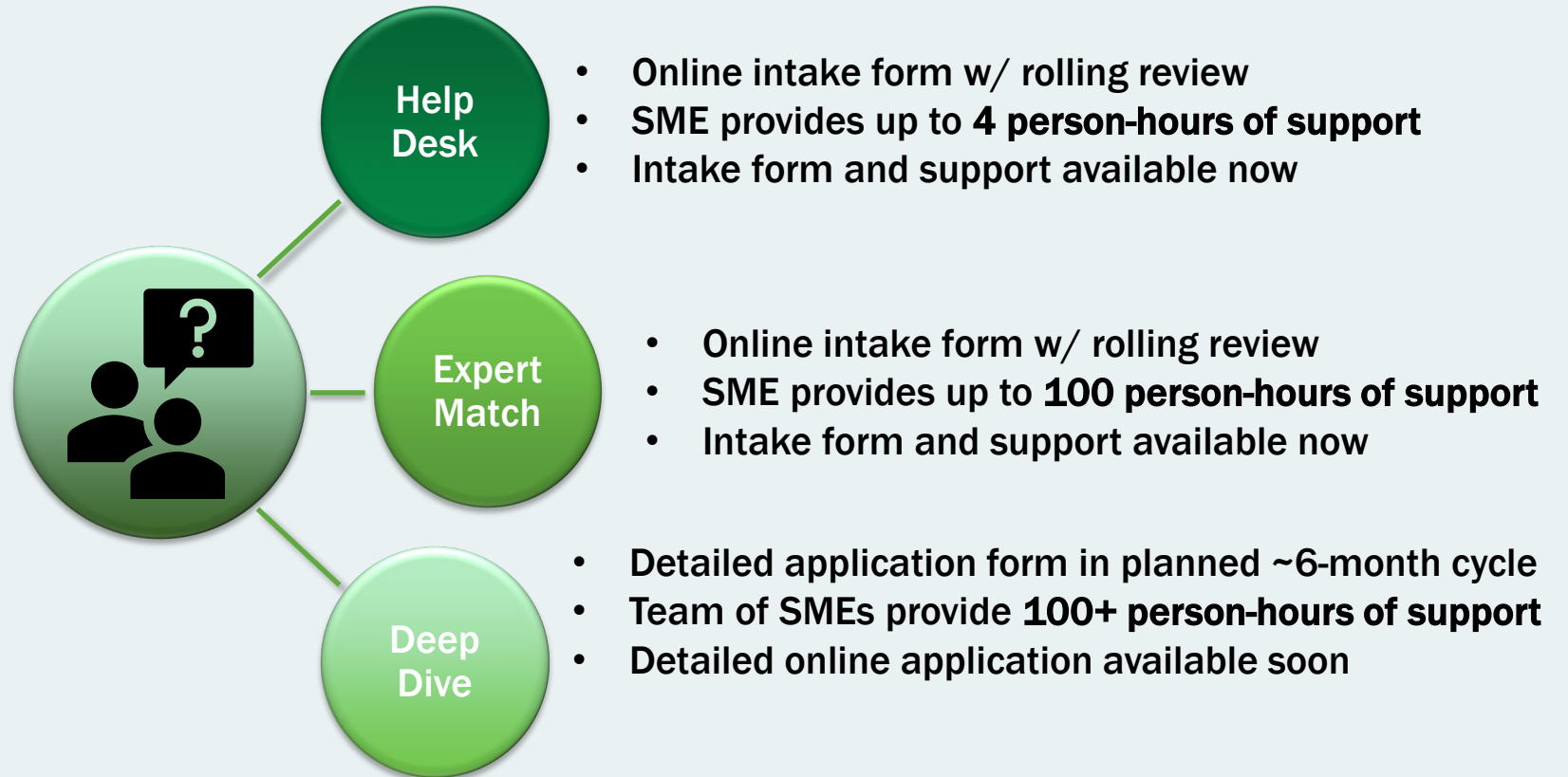
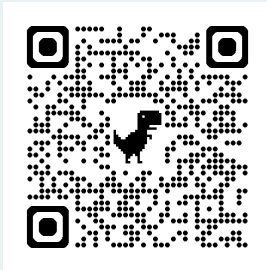
# Resources for more information

- Hawaiian Electric Company
  - [2023 Integrated Grid Plan](#)
  - [2018 Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap](#)
- [National Grid 2020 Distributed System Implementation Plan](#)
- [National Grid 2023 Distributed System Implementation Plan Update](#)
- Orange Rockland Utilities, Inc.'s [2020 DSIP report](#) & [2023 DSIP Report](#)
- Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation's [2020 DSIP report](#) & [2023 DSIP Report](#) & [2025 DSIP report](#)
- [Homer and Yang, 2021](#). Load forecasting with climate variability for transmission and distribution system planning
- Berkeley Lab's [research on time- and locational-sensitive value of DERs](#)
- NREL's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Projection Tool: [EVI-Pro](#)
- [dsgrid: Demand-Side Grid Model](#)



# DOE-funded Resources and Assistance for State Energy Offices and Regulators Program

<https://StateTAProgram.lbl.gov>





**BERKELEY LAB**



JP Carvalho  
[JPCarvalho@lbl.gov](mailto:JPCarvalho@lbl.gov)



Allison Campbell  
[Allison.M.Campbell@pnnl.gov](mailto:Allison.M.Campbell@pnnl.gov)



**Pacific  
Northwest**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY



Brittany Tarufelli  
[Brittany.Tarufelli@pnnl.gov](mailto:Brittany.Tarufelli@pnnl.gov)