# Energy Efficiency: Policy, Incentives, and Regulatory Issues

Global Energy Efficiency Workshop March 6-13, 2010

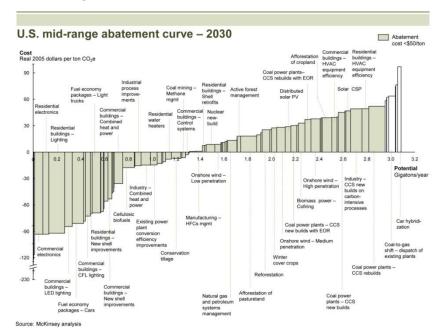
## Outline

- Energy Efficiency Value Proposition
- Market Barriers
- Efficiency Impacts on Distribution Utilities
- Regulatory Policies to Remove Disincentives
- Shareholder Incentive Mechanisms
- Program Implementation Options
- Cost Recovery Options
- Other Issues

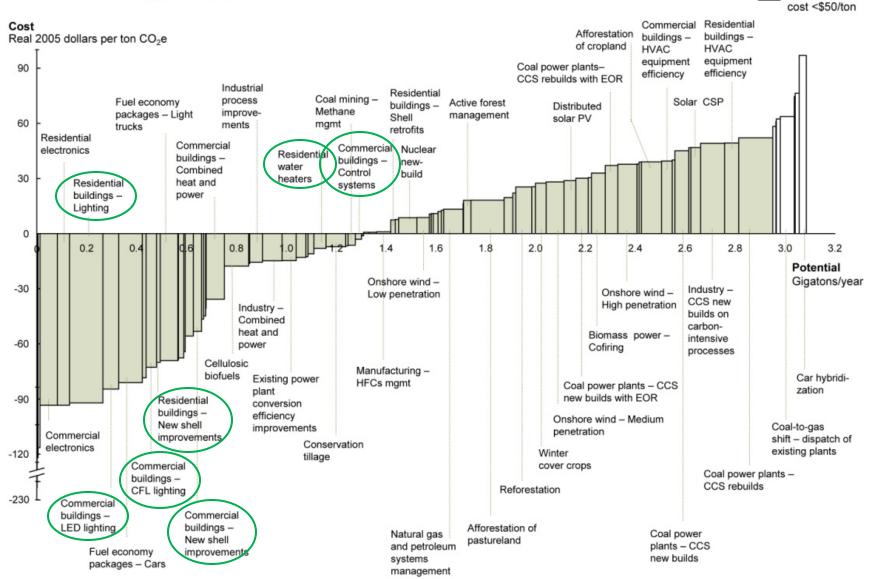
# The Energy Efficiency Value Proposition

- Energy Efficiency creates value by:
  - Avoiding energy costs
  - Reducing peak demand and capacity costs
  - Reducing environmental emissions
  - Increasing customer satisfaction
- Energy Efficiency has a significant cost advantage
  - 4 cents per kWh versus 12 cents per kWh for generation
- Energy Efficiency can be implemented quickly, with fewer regulatory approvals than a new generating station

 A key tool for addressing climate change



#### U.S. mid-range abatement curve – 2030



Abatement

Source: McKinsey analysis

## **Barriers**

- Customers don't understand opportunities and benefits
  - Not promoted in market
- Lack of financing /Payback too long
  - Short term focus or high discount rates reduce interest
- Disconnects between building owners and occupants
  - Building owners don't always pay utility bills
- Utilities have no incentive to promote efficiency if it reduces earnings
  - Customer, environmental, and investor interests need to be aligned

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- Provide Technical Assistance

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- Design rates on post-efficiency deliveries
- Compensate utilities for lost base revenue
- Decouple earnings from revenues
- Shareholder incentives

## Efficiency Impacts on Distribution Utilities

Typically, utilities collect their Revenue Requirement based on deliveries (or sales)

Revenue Requirement: \$400 million

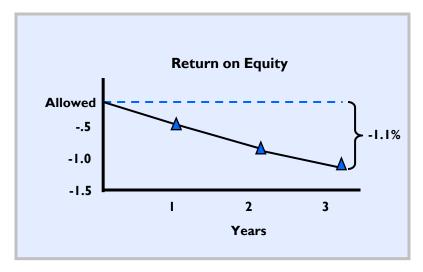
Sales: 10 billion kWh

Price per kWh: \$.04 per kWh

- If Energy Efficiency reduces deliveries by five percent, the utility will under recover its revenue requirement by \$20 million
  - 9.5 billion kWh \* \$.04 per kWh = \$380 million
- Utilities will not promote large-scale efficiency programs if it hurts their "bottom-line"

# Regulatory Policies to Remove Disincentives

 A tripling of energy efficiency would have a significant impact on Massachusetts Electric Company



- Revenue Decoupling breaks the link between profit and delivery volumes
- Annual rate cases and rates based on projected deliveries (reflecting the efficiency programs) or "lost base revenue recovery" would also resolve the issue

- Shareholder Incentives are needed to make energy a profitable part of the business
  - \$130 Million invested in regulated assets could be expected to provide a profit of \$6 million (after tax)
  - National Grid's target incentives relating to a comparable energy efficiency program are \$3 million (after tax)
- A reasonable sharing of the value created will promote innovation and results – Incentives work!

## Incentive Mechanisms

## Wide variety of options possible

Share of Savings	Bounty	ROE adder	Judgmental
Utilities keep an agreed share of value created	Per kW and kWh bounty paid for efficiency gains	Explicit adder to allowed ROE or earnings cap for achieving specified program targets	Regulator has discretion after the fact to award incentives for "exemplary" performance

## Ultimately, the incentive needs to be:

- Large enough to be meaningfulBut
- Small enough to endure

# Implementation Options

## Non-Utility/Government

- One entity for entire region
- Common programs and marketing efforts
- Centralized administrative and evaluation efforts

## **Utility Implementation**

- Close working relationship with customers
- Knowledge about customer expansion and new construction
- Decentralized efforts can be overcome by utility coordination
- Can rely on market for much of the effort

# Cost Recovery Options

## **Current Charge**

#### Pros

- Efficient -- Pay as you go
- No unusual recovery risk

#### Cons

Looks like a tax

## **Amortization**

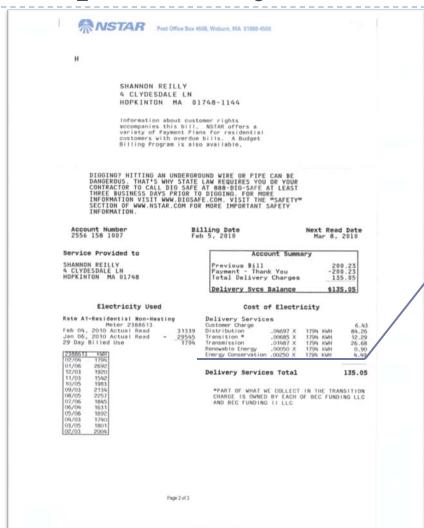
#### Pros

- Lower Rate Impact
- Similar to power plants

#### Cons

- Return adds to total cost
- Rate advantage declines over time
- Ultimately reduces program flexibility
- May present accounting issues

# Sample Utility Bill



Energy Conservation .00250 x 1794 KWH 4.49

## Other Issues

- Free riders
  - Address in cost/benefit analysis
- Rate Impacts versus Bill Impacts
  - Rates applied to fewer units after participation
- Rate design
  - ▶ Uniform or class specific
- Cross subsidies from non-participants to participants
  - Provide opportunities for all customers
- Verification of savings
  - ▶ How much?
  - ▶ How long?

Questions?

## **Contact Information**

## For follow-up questions:

- ljreilly@att.net
- > 508-380-7780 cell
- > 508-435-8329 fax



Larry Reilly