A photograph of a white, curved utility pole structure in a field of yellow flowers under a blue sky with birds.

# The GridOptimal™ Initiative

## A New Metric For Building-Grid Interactions

Presentation to  
IEA Annex 67 Fall 2018 Meeting  
Montreal, QC, Canada | Oct. 9 2018

*New Buildings Institute*

# Key Themes

- The way buildings interact with the electric grid is evolving rapidly.
- Buildings will face increasing regulatory and economic pressure to be able to respond to changing utility price and delivery structures.
- Designers will need to understand and incorporate strategies that allow buildings to directly interact with the utility grid.
- Adapting to the *Interactive Grid* will be critical to maintaining building services and comfort, and to grid reliability.
- Clarity and Consistency is needed on strategies and impacts of building integration strategies

# The GridOptimal Initiative's Supporting Members

NBI and USGBC recognize these leading organizations for their generous support for and participation in the GridOptimal Initiative.



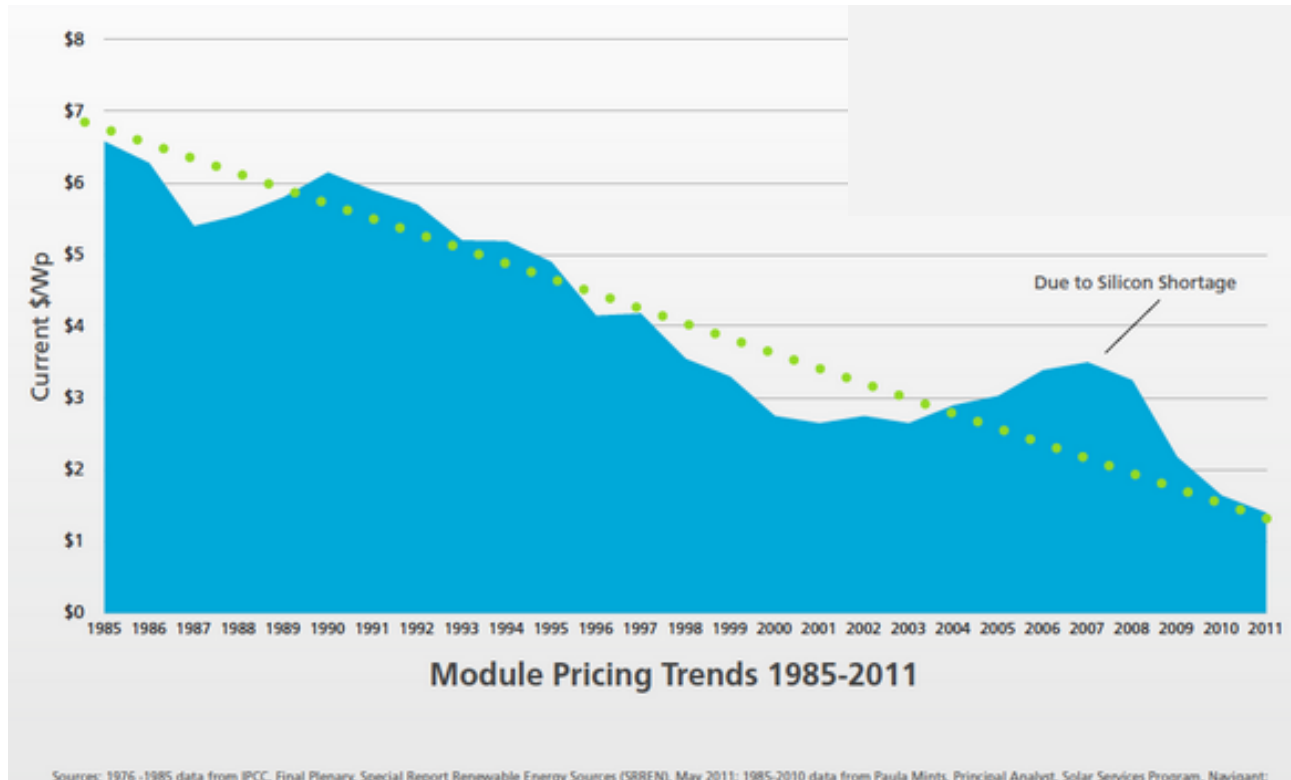
# Grid Evolution



**“Use As  
Much As  
You Want,  
Whenever  
You Want”**



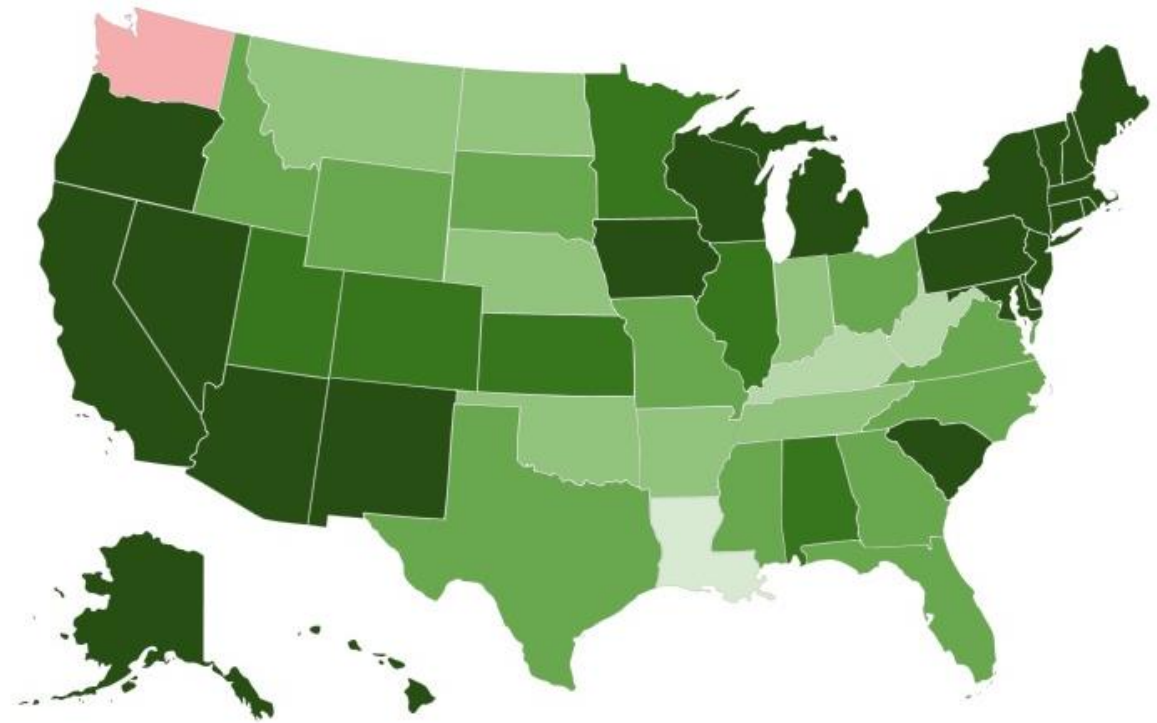
# PV Cost Trend Increases Solar Deployment



Source: P. Mints, Navigant Solar Services Program, 2011

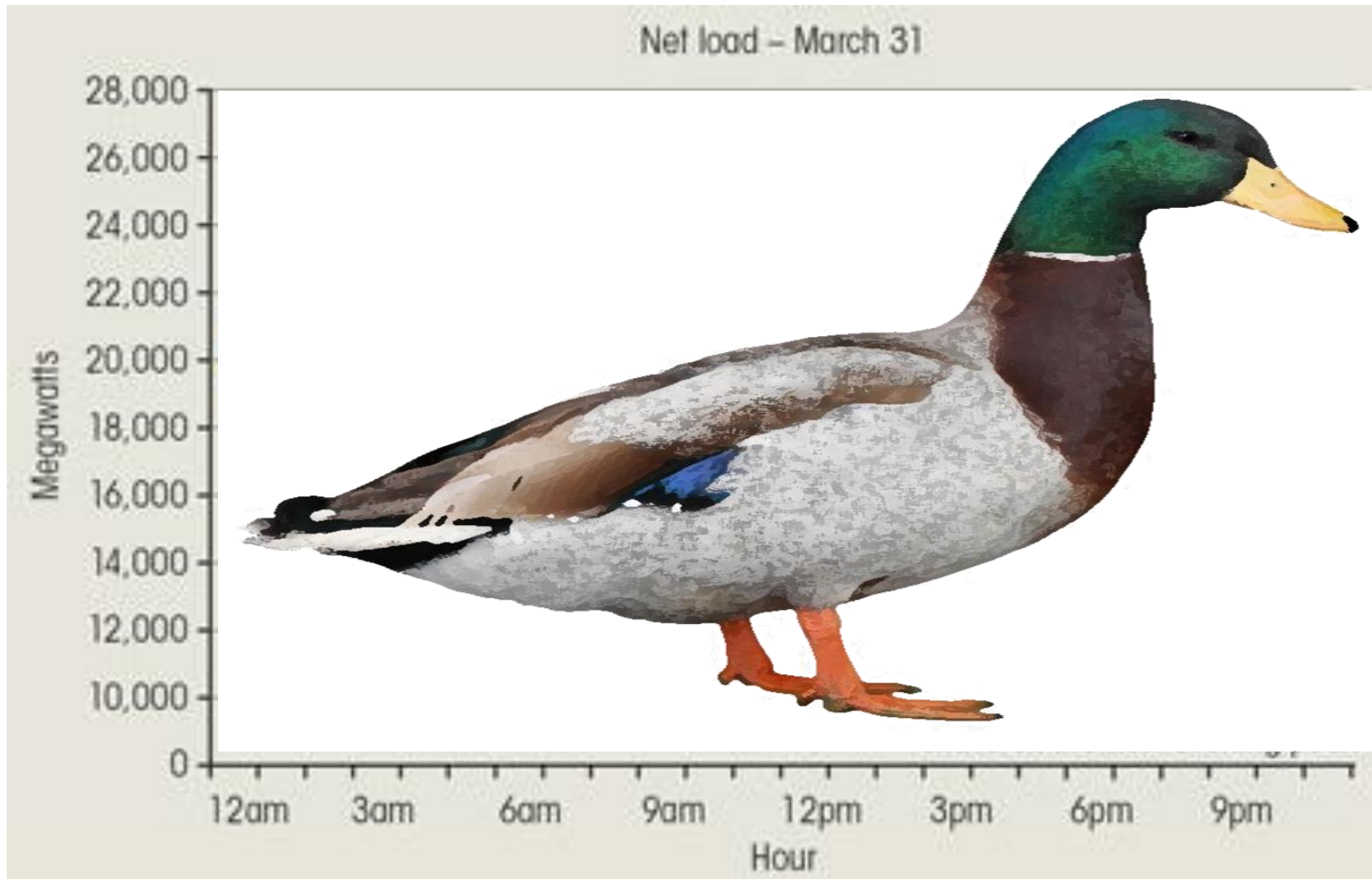
✘ 2016: 55¢

# Grid Parity



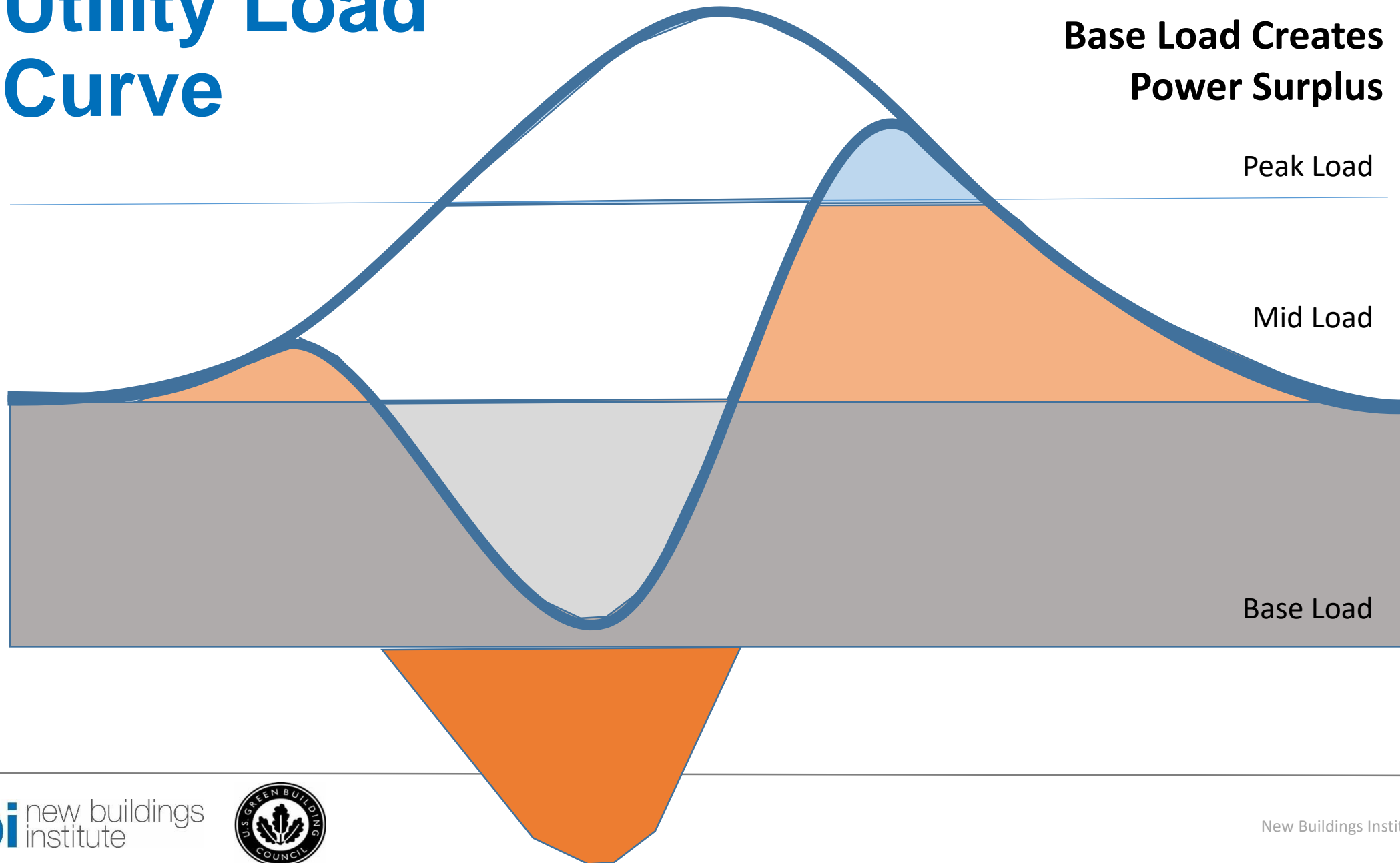
Solar savings per kWh >5¢ 4¢ 3¢ 2¢ 1¢ 0¢ -1¢ -2¢ -3¢ -4¢ <-5¢ Solar deficit per kWh

# The Ominous “Duck Curve”



# Utility Load Curve

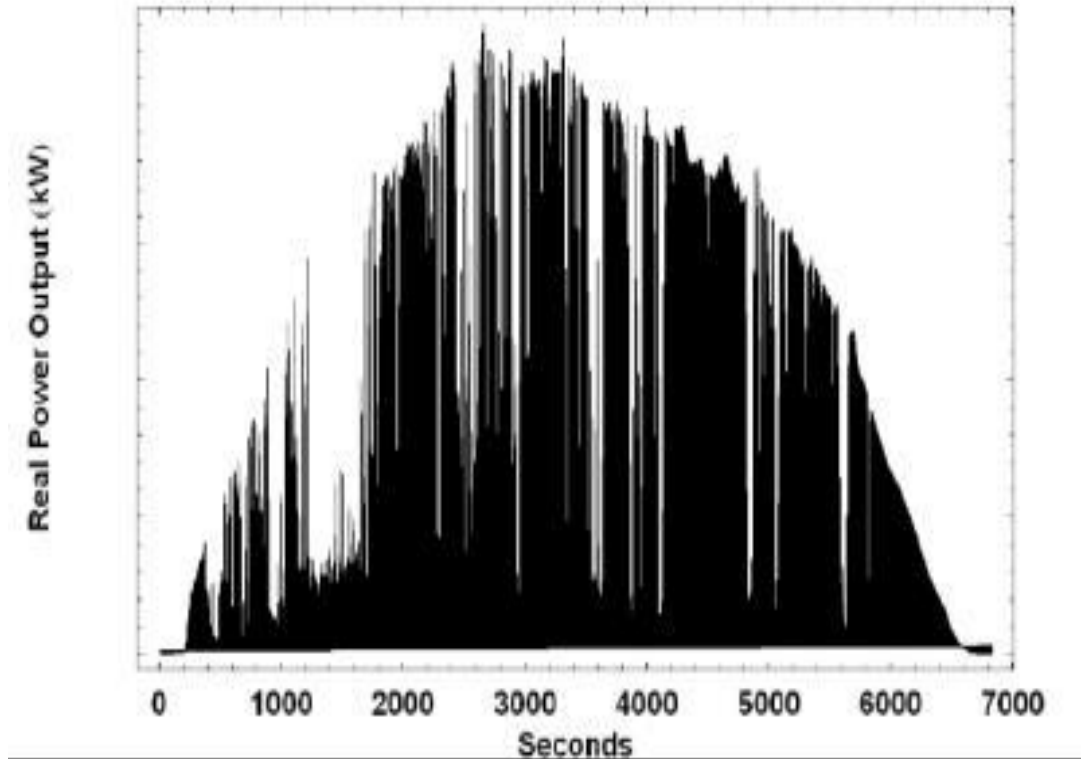
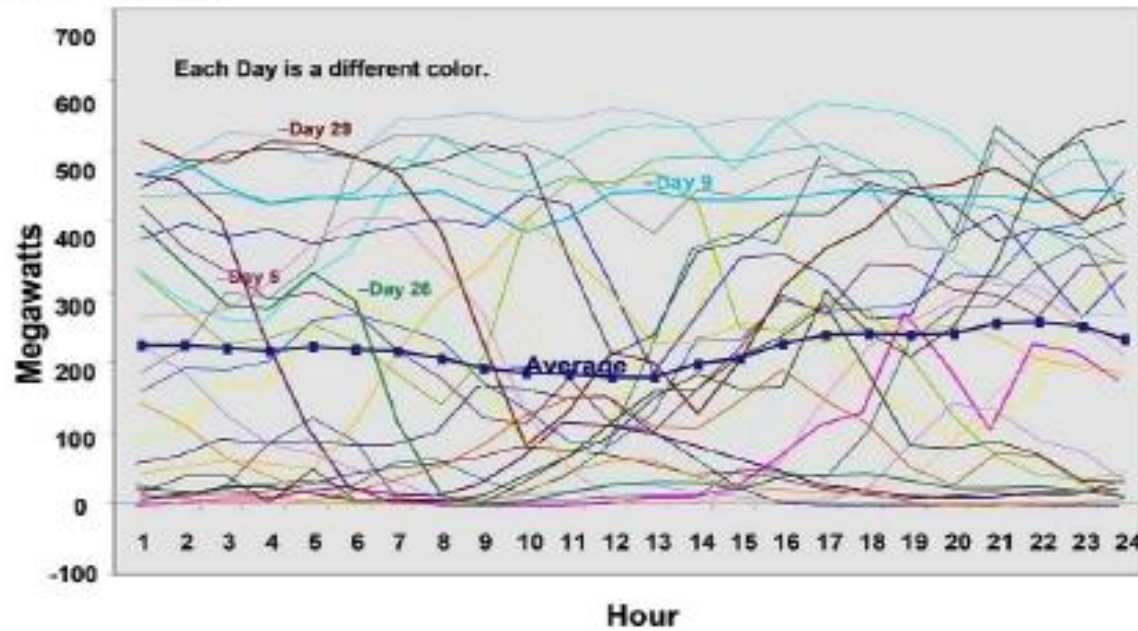
Renewable Offset of Base Load Creates Power Surplus





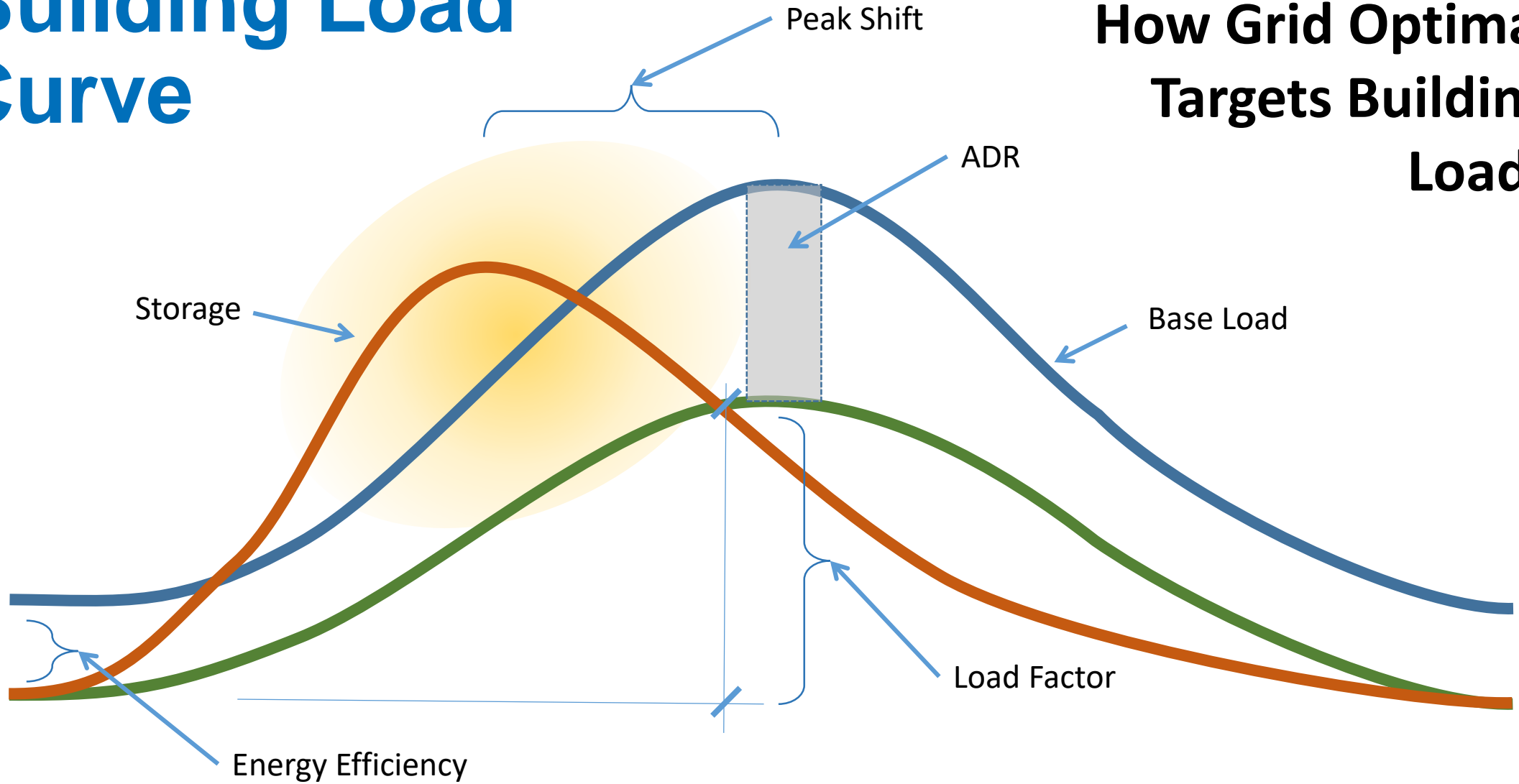
# Impacts of Clean Generation

Tehachapi – April 2005



# Building Load Curve

## How Grid Optimal Targets Building Loads



# Opportunities for Enhancing Energy Flexibility and Improving Static Features

## Permanent Efficiency

- Reduce building energy loads...

## Peak Shifting

- Design to modify time of peak building energy use to adapt to grid...

## Dynamic Response

- Actively reduce building energy use in response to short-term grid constraints...

## Dispatchable Energy Storage

- Actively manage energy use patterns based on grid signals...



# Conventional passive features, carefully deployed, support grid management and resiliency goals

Thermal Mass

Daylighting

Passive Solar Gain

Natural Ventilation

Solar Shading

Natural Ventilation

Super-Insulation



# Technologies and Design Strategies with specific load shape impacts will become more compelling

Operating patterns will increasingly drive system selection preferences



# New grid-integrated technologies and active systems becoming more common to support grid operation

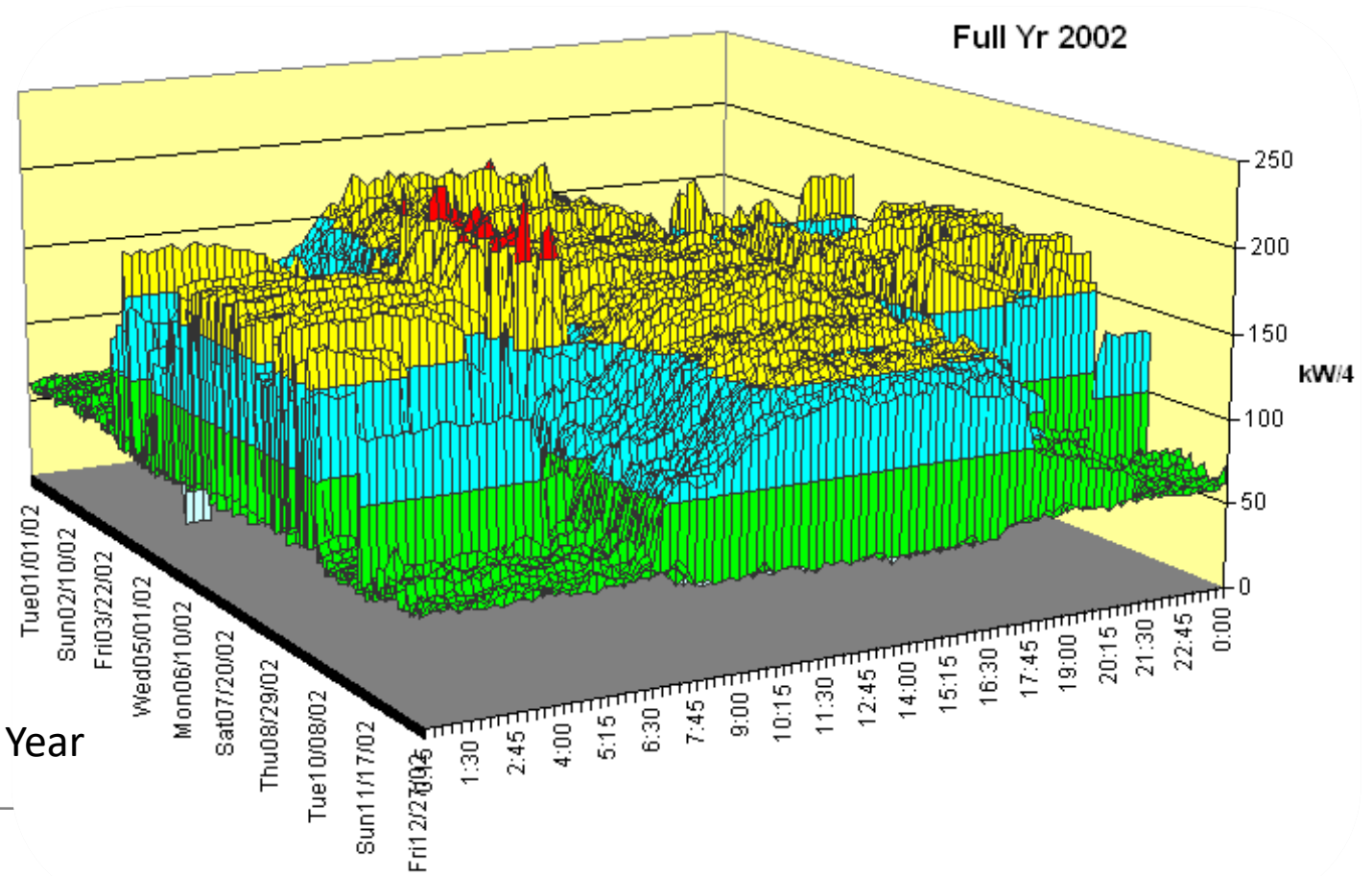
- Direct Load Shifting / DR Capabilities
- Thermal Storage
- Heat Pump Space & Water Heat
- Dynamic Glazing
- Grid-Integrated Appliances
- On-Site Storage
- Renewable Generation
- Integrated Vehicle Charging
- Staged Workstations



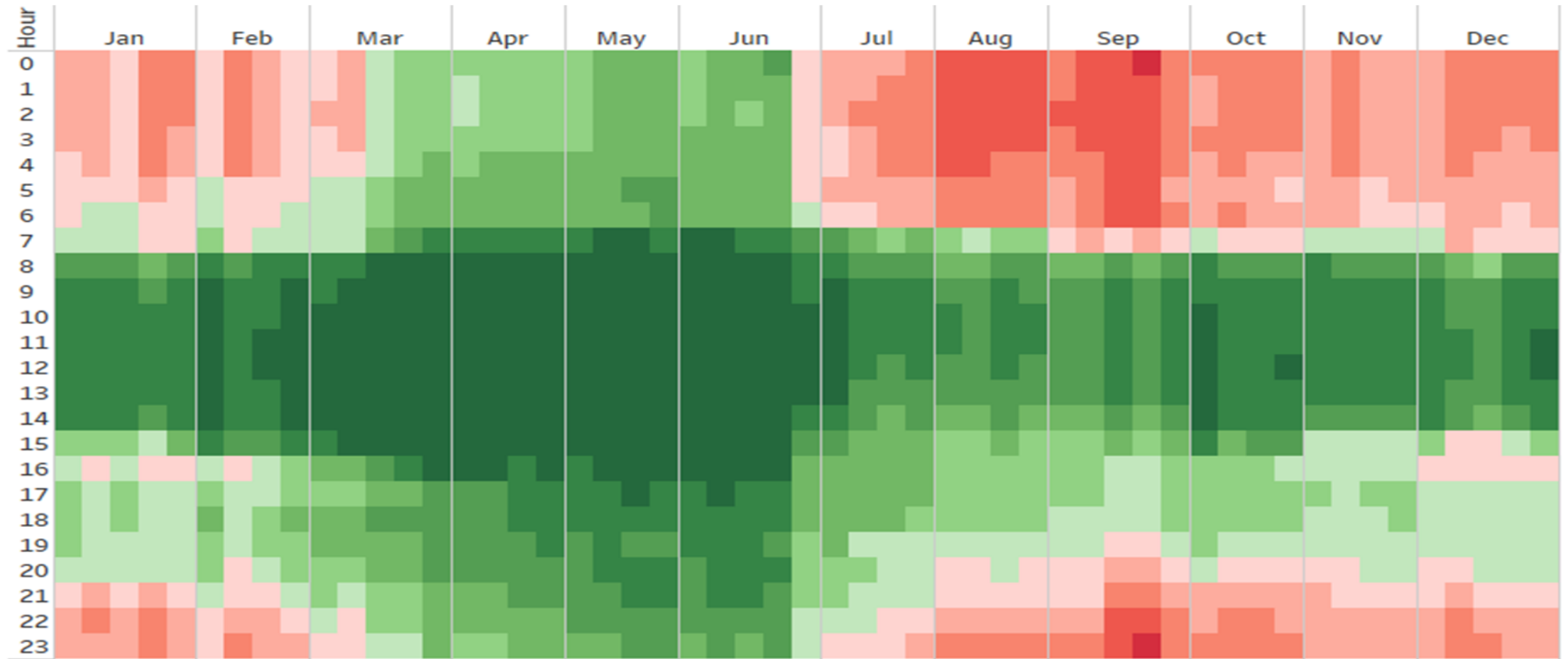
Building design evaluation should include load shape predictions so that fixed and adjustable building features can be incorporated to manage load shape.

## Energy Modeling with load prediction

3D Electric Profile, Full Year



# Alternate Grid Metrics (Carbon) can be Considered. California, USA: Annual CO<sub>2</sub> Heatmap

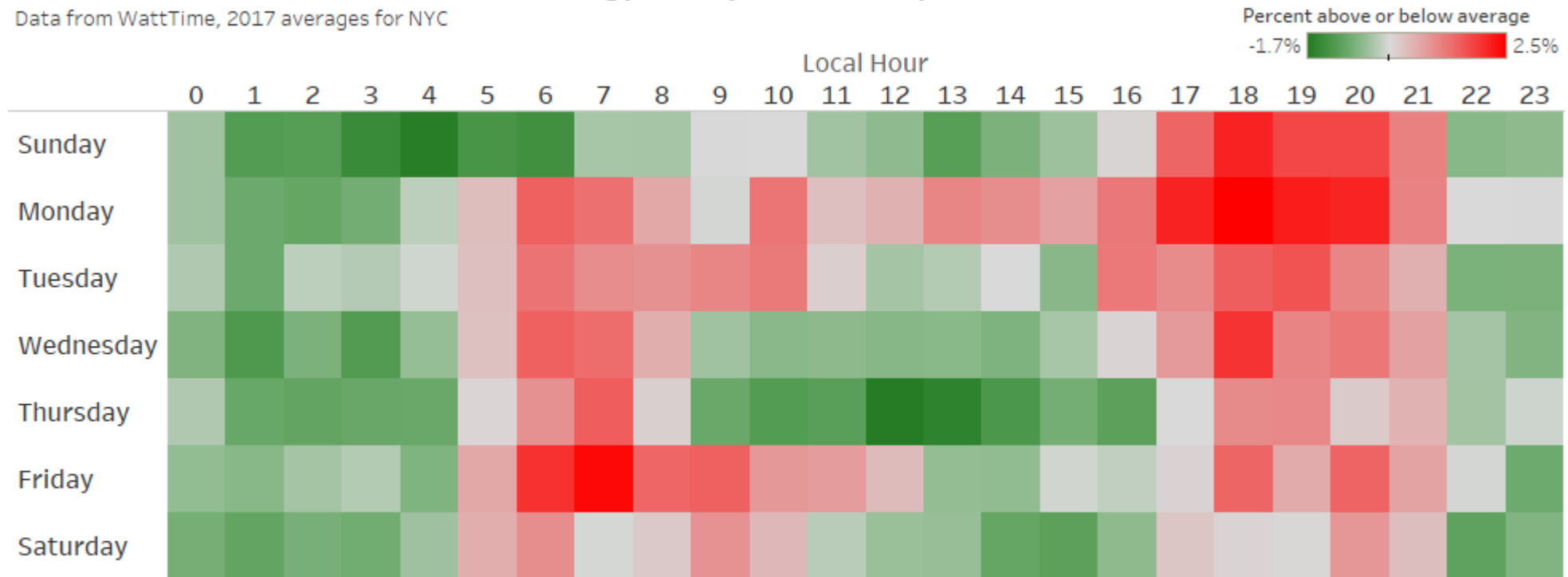




# New York City, USA: Weekly Hour Average CO<sub>2</sub> Heatmap

When is the cleanest time to use energy? Early and midday in NYC

Data from WattTime, 2017 averages for NYC





Puerto Rico, 9/22/17 (NBC)

## Grid Integration Features in Buildings Support Resiliency Goals

- Independent power sources (PV) may allow grid-independent operation (islanding)
- Passive features support building habitability during no-power operation
- Staged start up capabilities can support faster grid recovery after outages
- On-site energy storage can provide emergency support for communities (communication, refrigeration, etc.)

## Grid Resiliency

# New Industries are Becoming Engaged in the Building Sector

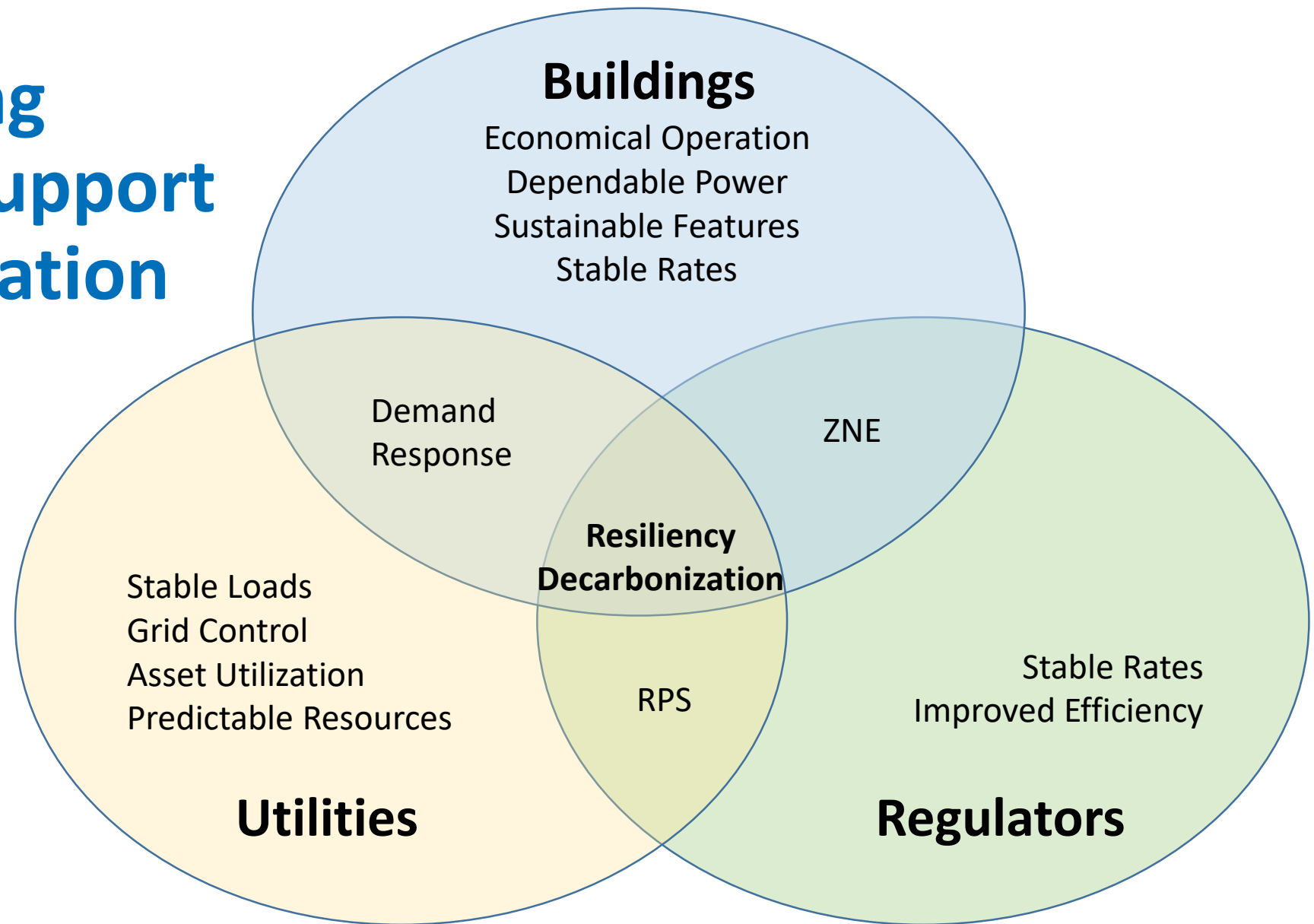
- Car Manufacturers
- Battery Manufacturers
- Smart Home Technology
- Renewable Systems
- Appliance Manufacturers
- Internet Service Providers
- Personal Technology
- Internet Enabled Building Controls
- Dynamic Glazing



Mercedes-Benz Smart Home Integration Advertisement

**As new industries move aggressively into the buildings space, they create expectations about design features and performance capabilities that will directly impact building design and operation.**

# Overlapping Interests Support Grid Integration



# GridOptimal Methodology Framework

## Building-Grid Interaction Elements:

### Static Attributes:

- EE, flat load, targeted load shape

### Flexible Attributes:

- Seasonal, daily, hourly, instantaneous

### Dispatchable Attributes:

- Grid connected/controlled (third party aggregator)

## Dimensions:

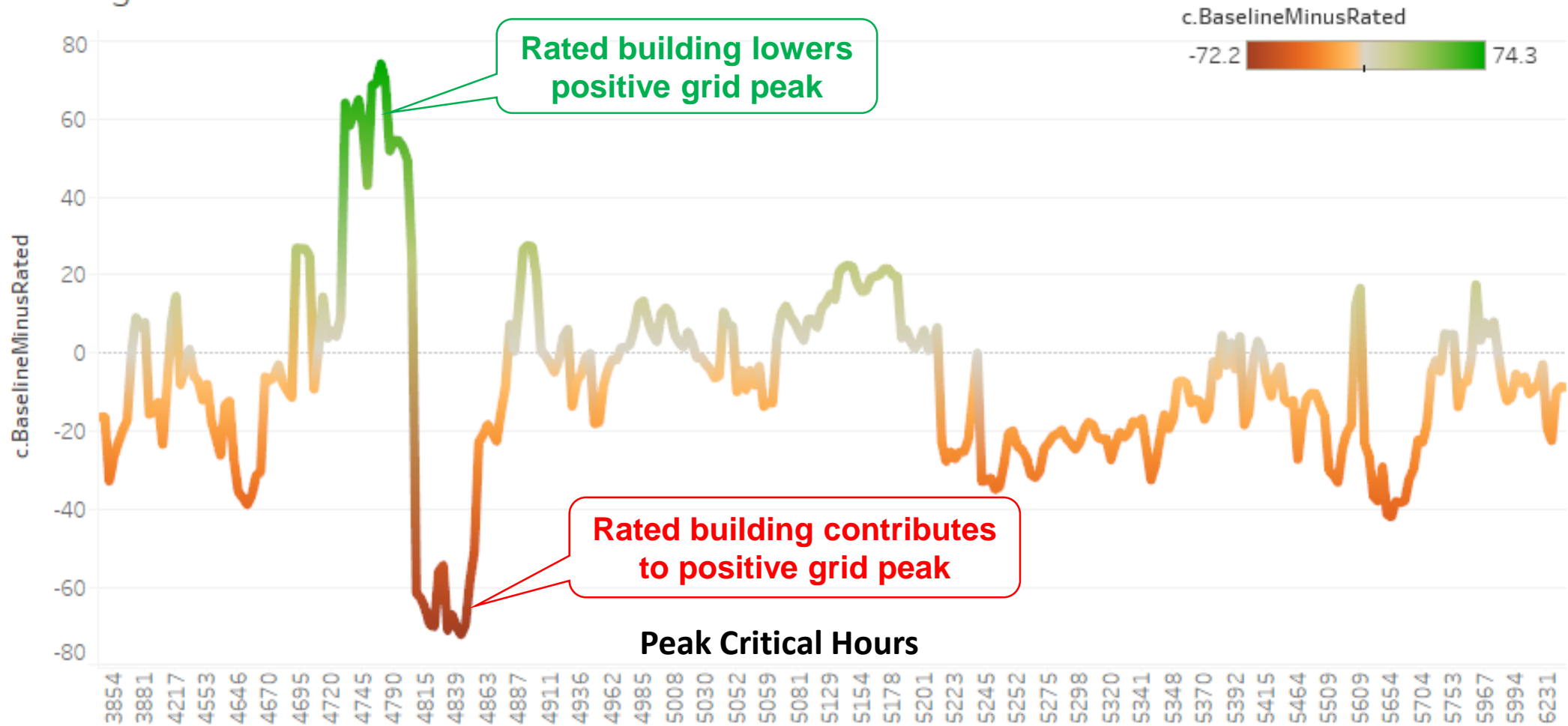
1. Capacity (kW)
2. Duration
3. Time of use
4. Direction (load +/-)
5. Ramp rate/Response time

## Features (examples):

1. Generation
2. Storage
3. Building Management System
4. Networked +/- (Open ADR Carbon)
5. Contract vs. behavior
6. Cx (prove out)
7. Power conditioning

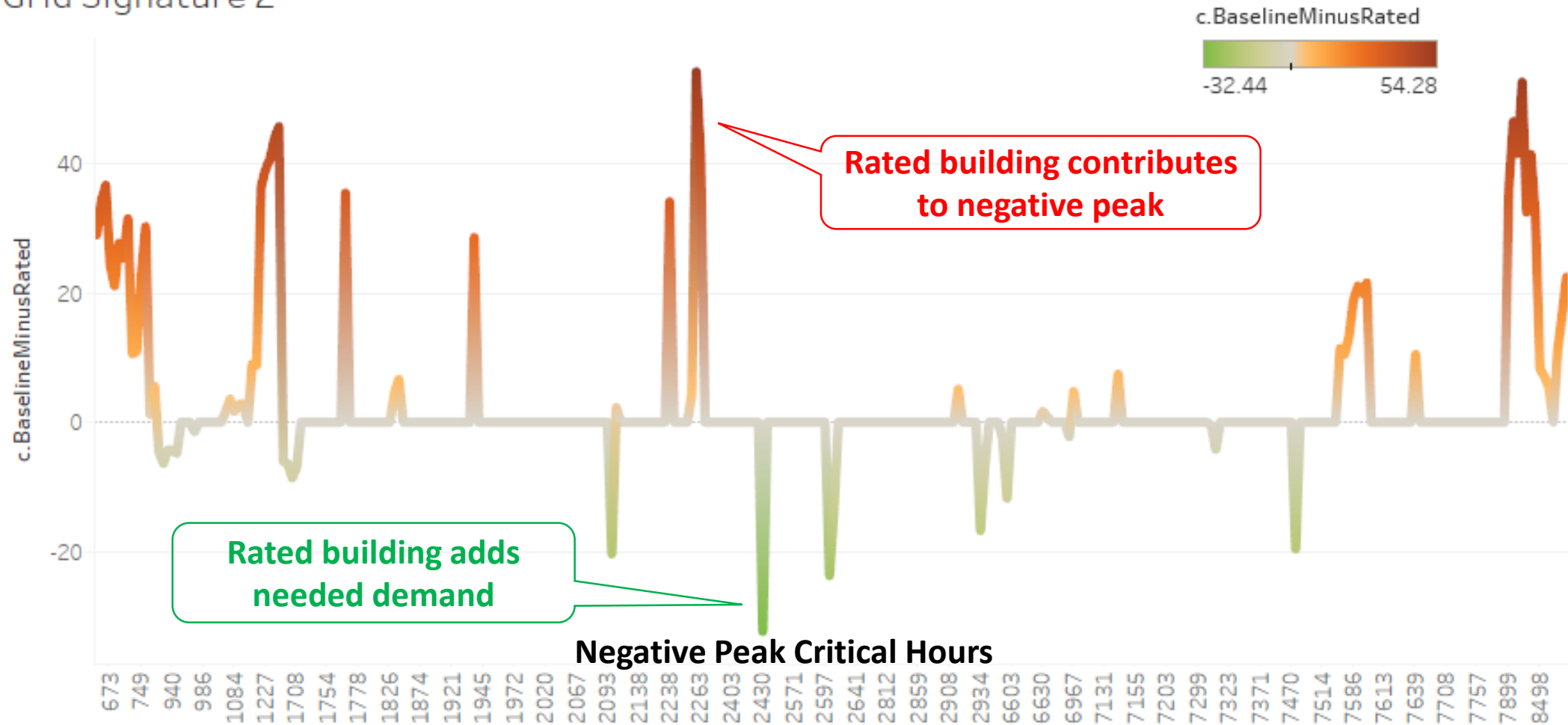
# One Piece of the Puzzle: The Grid Signature

Grid Signature



# One Piece of the Puzzle: The Grid Signature

Grid Signature 2



# Another **CRITICAL** piece of the Puzzle

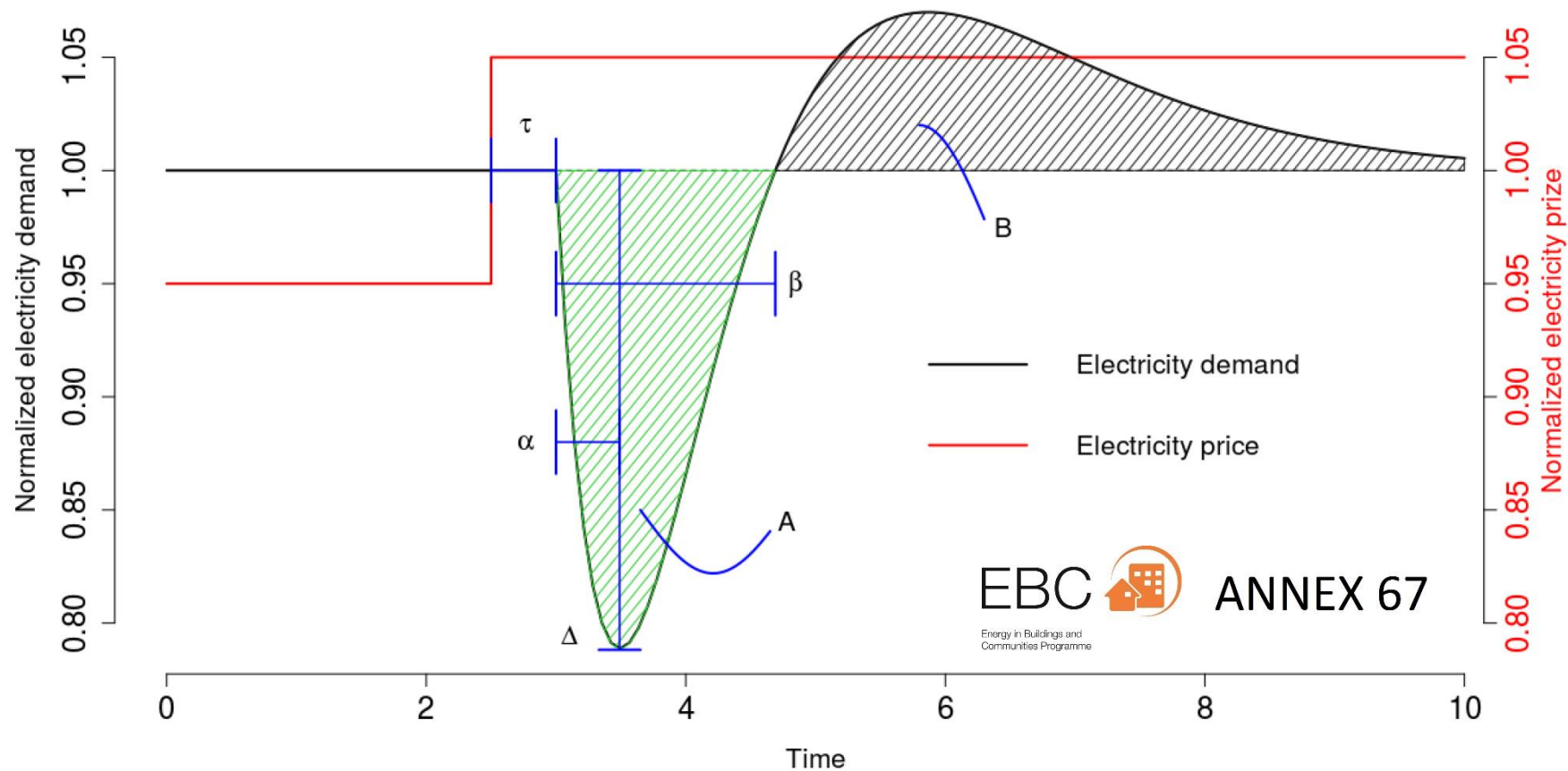


From the Annex 67 Position Paper:

1. **Capacity** (amount of energy that can be shifted per time unit, including the rebound effect)
2. **Time** aspects (like starting time & duration)
3. **Cost** (potential cost saving or energy use associated to activating the available flexibility)



# Establishing Flexibility Parameters



# Defining the Opportunity in Buildings

## GridOptimal Initiative's Current Preliminary Modeling:

- 3 Buildings, all medium office, modeled in OpenStudio:
  - 1 *Baseline* building
  - 2 *High-Performance* buildings with different HVAC system types
- 3 climate zones for energy analysis (all in USA)
- 6 to 10 building control sequences
  - Night flush integration, thermal energy storage, DR-Light, DR-HVAC, airspeed adjustments...
- Battery sizing evaluation added on top

# Stakeholders and Value Proposition

Key Groups	Stakeholders	Value provided to each stakeholder	Collective Value
<b>Designers, Owners, Operators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Architects</li> <li>Owners</li> <li>Engineers</li> <li>Operators</li> <li>Developers</li> </ul>	<b>Decarbonize better and cheaper, access new revenue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase building asset value</li> <li>Minimize cost/risk</li> <li>Resilient and decarbonized buildings</li> <li>Incentives and rate benefits</li> <li>New revenue stream</li> </ul>	<b>A common language</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource and distribution planners and operators</li> <li>Customer programs</li> <li>Rates department</li> </ul>	<b>Reveal DER's and engaged owners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predictable and adjustable loads</li> <li>Rewards DER's and owners</li> <li>Buildings as "new" zero-CO<sub>2</sub> balancing resources</li> <li>Reduce future distribution infrastructure and stranded assets</li> </ul>	
<b>Regulators and Policy Makers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governments</li> <li>Regulators</li> <li>Building rating system</li> <li>Codes and standards</li> </ul>	<b>A new path to least cost and least carbon grid</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall CO<sub>2</sub> and cost savings to operate grid</li> <li>Alignment of building standards to larger grid needs</li> <li>Increased reliability</li> </ul>	
<b>Services and Industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aggregators</li> <li>Energy service providers</li> <li>Vendors</li> </ul>	<b>Reveal new customers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New markets</li> <li>Lower acquisition costs</li> <li>Understand market size and potential</li> </ul>	

# What will be Expected of the Building Community?

- Familiarity with grid integration technologies
- Knowledge of features and systems that allow operational flexibility
- Integration of disparate systems
- Ability to continuously implement new technologies
- Awareness of local grid connection issues
- Ability to predict building operational patterns
- Familiarity with operating implications of grid integration
- Ability to support ZNE, de-carbonization, and resiliency goals

# GO Initiative Phases and Schedule

## Phase 1 – Technical Development – now

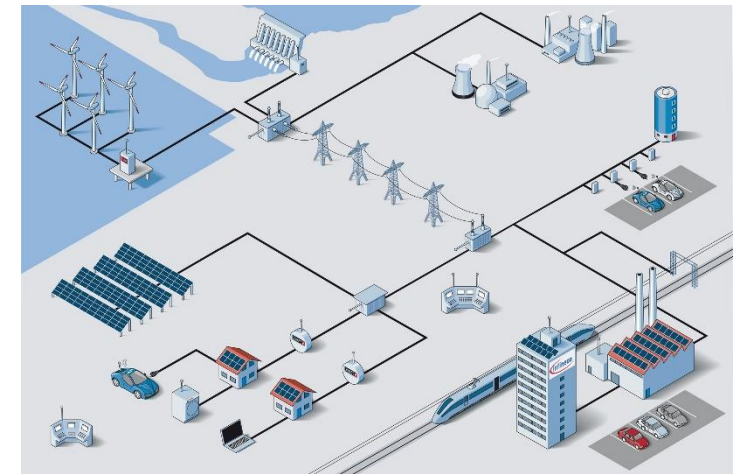
- Launch TAC and Market Scan
- Develop building modeling methodology/utility data framework
  - Scan available modeling software and systems
  - Standardization of utility data collection
- Initiate data collection and analysis/understanding

## Phase 2 – Metric Creation and Standardization –Q1-Q2 2019

- Defining Metrics – which characteristics make up metric
- GridOptimal Score and Rating System – which elements determine score

## Phase 3 – Market Deployment – 2019

- Utility Program Criteria and Business Planning
- LEED and PEER integration – Pilot Credits
- Develop code criteria/venues for proposals



# GRIDOPTIMAL INITIATIVE

SEARCH

## Our Work

- Zero Net Energy +
- Advanced Buildings +
- Outcome-Based Performance +
- Deep Energy Retrofits +

## Newsletter

Sign up to receive updates from NBI.

<https://newbuildings.org/gridoptimal-initiative/>





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For Building-Grid Interactions

*New Buildings Institute  
U.S. Green Building Council*