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Behind the Meter Solar PV in CA Load Forecasting and Planning

2017 California Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) Demand Forecasting Workshop

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Distributed Generation Policy & Strategy
Customer Energy Solutions
Customer Care









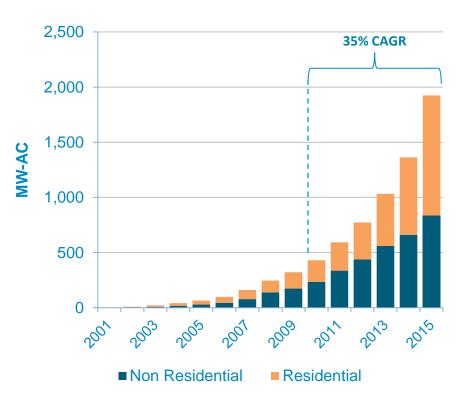
- BTM PV adoption is growing rapidly and already having material impacts on system load
- 2. PG&E has invested in tools to improve our incorporation of BTM PV into load forecasting and system planning
- Gaps in understanding in PV technology adoption patterns and load impacts may hinder efficient system planning
- CEC/CPUC/CAISO should invest in improved tools and information for incorporating BTM solar into load forecasting and system planning

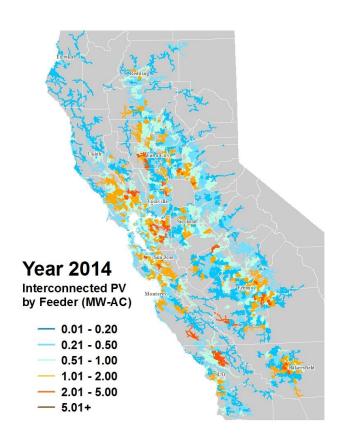


Retail Solar Growth- PG&E Service Area

- PV adoption has grown in PG&E's service area at a CAGR of 35% over the last five years
- Growth has been clustered, with certain neighborhoods and regions seeing more adoption than others

Cumulative Customer Solar Capacity







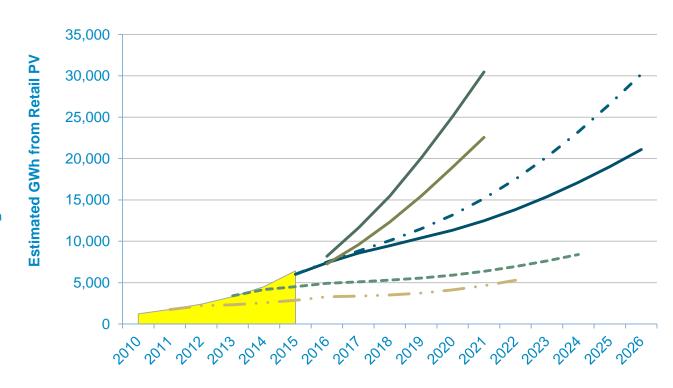
Growth in Retail Solar has Exceeded Expectations and Projections Vary

Est. Generation of Actual Interconnected Capacity

• CEC Mid BTM PV Case (Aug 2011)

- --- CEC Mid BTM PV Case (Dec 2013)
- CEC Mid BTM PV case (Jan 2016)
- CEC High BTM PV Case (Jan 2016)
- BNEF (Nov 2015)
- GTM Research (Mar 2016)

Statewide Retail- Behind the Meter (BTM) PV Forecasts - California



Sources:

CEC Forecasts:

2011 CED for IEPR http://www.energy.ca.gov/2011 energypolicy/documents/2011-08-30 workshop/mid-case/

2013 CED for IEPR http://www.energy.ca.gov/2013 energypolicy/documents/#adoptedforecast

2015 CED for IEPR http://www.energy.ca.gov/2015_energypolicy/documents/index.html#adoptedforecast

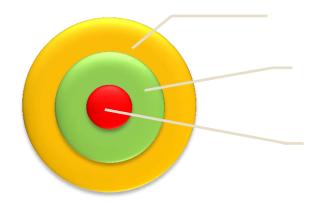
BNEF: H2 2015 US PV Market Outlook Nov 9, 2015

GTM: 2015 Year-in-Review March 9, 2016



PG&E's PV Adoption Modeling Approach

1) Estimate "Market Potential" for Retail PV by Customer Class



A. Technical Potential

Assess viable surface area for retail PV

B. Economic Potential

Determine customers who will be "in the money"

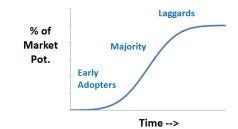


C. Market Potential

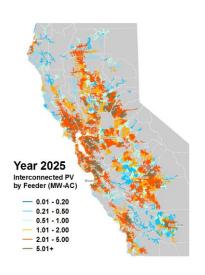
Account for other constraints on adoption, such as home ownership



- Estimate rate of adoption using a Bass Diffusion Modeling framework
- Account for policy and market uncertainty, develop distribution of possible outcomes



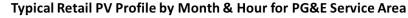
4) Allocate system-level forecast to a feeder level for distribution planning using "propensity to adopt" scores estimated through logistic regression

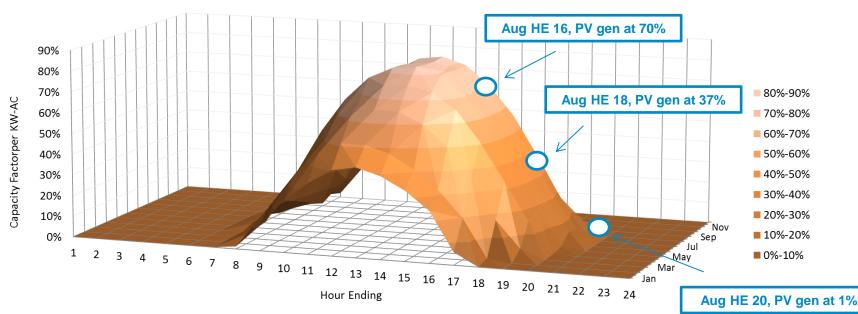




Estimating BTM PV's Impact on Load

- PG&E developed BTM solar generation profiles using interconnection data and NREL's PV Watts generation estimates for long-term forecasting
- These profiles have helped PG&E model long-term changes to hourly system load
- PG&E's Meteorology team is developing more geographically granular estimates and examining variability in generation
- Better understanding of customers' gross consumption patterns after installing solar needed
- Better estimates for the relationship between temperature and BTM solar production would improve generation estimates





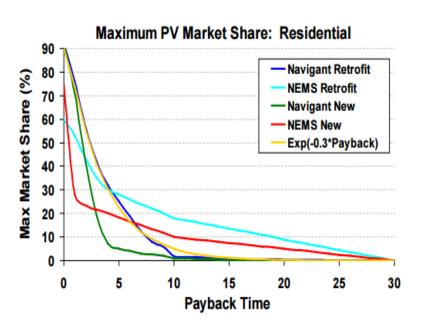


Gaps in Tools and Information & Challenges in BTM PV Forecasting

Customer responsiveness to solar cost-effectiveness

"Market Share Curves" commonly used in PV adoption modeling appear to underestimate economic potential

(a) NREL's Solar DS Model (Sep 2009)



(b) NREL's new DGen Model (Feb 2016)

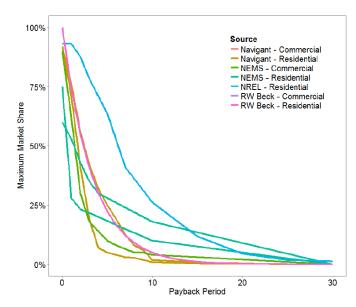


Figure 6. Maximum market share as a function of payback period based on different sources

Sources: R.W. Beck 2009; EIA 2004; Paidipati et al. 2008; Sigrin and Drury 2014 (NEMS = National Energy Modeling System)

- a) NREL's SolarDS Model Documentation at page 19 http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy10osti/45832.pdf
- b) NREL's DGen Model page 23 at: http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/65231.pdf



Gaps in Tools and Information & Challenges in BTM PV Forecasting (Cont'd)

- Customer responsiveness to solar cost-effectiveness
- Consumption patterns after solar adoption
- Complex Current, and **Uncertain Future Rate** Design

- CEC/CPUC/CAISO/Utilities should pursue opportunities to improve retail PV forecasting tools & information
- CSI M&E funds are a potential source of funding



Key Takeaways

- BTM PV adoption is growing rapidly and already having material impacts on system load
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- 3. Gaps in understanding in PV technology adoption patterns and load impacts may hinder efficient system planning
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