PUBLIC BENEFITS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting #2 – October 7, 2025

Welcome & Introductions

1. Recap of Meeting #1
   - Themes discussed
   - Questions/comments arising from Meeting #1
2. Themes for today
   - Low-income programs
   - Demonstration project proposal
   - Survey

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES
ALL DAY EVERY DAY

OBJECTIVE OF THE GROUP

Answer the question of what programs and activities do the community recommend we do with Public Benefit Funds and how RPU should spend down the accumulated $34 million in Public Benefit Funds

Summer-Fall 2025

Working Group

Establishing overall program goals

Providing input to help guide detail analysis and future program development

Fall 2025-Summer 2026

Consulting Services

Detail program analysis

Community Survey

Summer 2026

A Way Forward

Conclude the Analysis

Community & Stakeholder Meetings

Final Plan & Strategy

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP = ADVISORY

The Community Working Group is intended to provide ideas, comments, express questions, and provide community frameworks around how RPU's Public Benefits Funds should be spent.

Final decisions on the expenditures, programs, structures, and budgets will be established by the RPU Board and City Council.

PUBLIC BENEFIT FUND SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

Public Benefits funds were established in 1996 by Assembly Bill 1890 (AB 1890)

Goals

1. Provide cost-beneficial energy efficiency services to customers
2. Offer customers meaningful information on the costs and benefits of energy efficiency measures
3. Reduce market barriers to investments in energy efficient products and services
4. Create a sustainable and competitive energy efficiency services market

Created a Non-bypassable Customer Charge to provide for customer programs

1. Minimum charge of 2.85%
2. Residential and commercial customers
3. Average residential customer pays ~ $3.00 per month
4. Average commercial customer pays ~ $10.00 per month
5. RPU collects approximately $10 million annually

PUBLIC BENEFIT FUND ALLOWED SPENDING CATEGORIES

Limited Use of the Funding

1. Cost effective demand side management to promote energy efficiency and energy conservation
2. New investment in renewable energy resources and technologies
3. Research, development, and demonstration programs for the public interest to advance science or technology which is not adequately provided by competitive and regulated markets
4. Services provided for low-income electricity customers, including, but not limited to, energy efficiency services, education, weatherization, and rate discounts

MAIN THEMES FROM FIRST MEETING OF WG

Questions and responses, topics raised during the first meeting by the Working Group members

1

Non-Energy Impacts (NEIs)

Benefits of Energy Efficiency in comfort and safety

2

How do customers use electricity

Largest energy usage and behavioral changes

NON-ENERGY IMPACTS (NEIs)

Theme of comfort, balancing bill impact, how to lower barriers for audience for these improvements

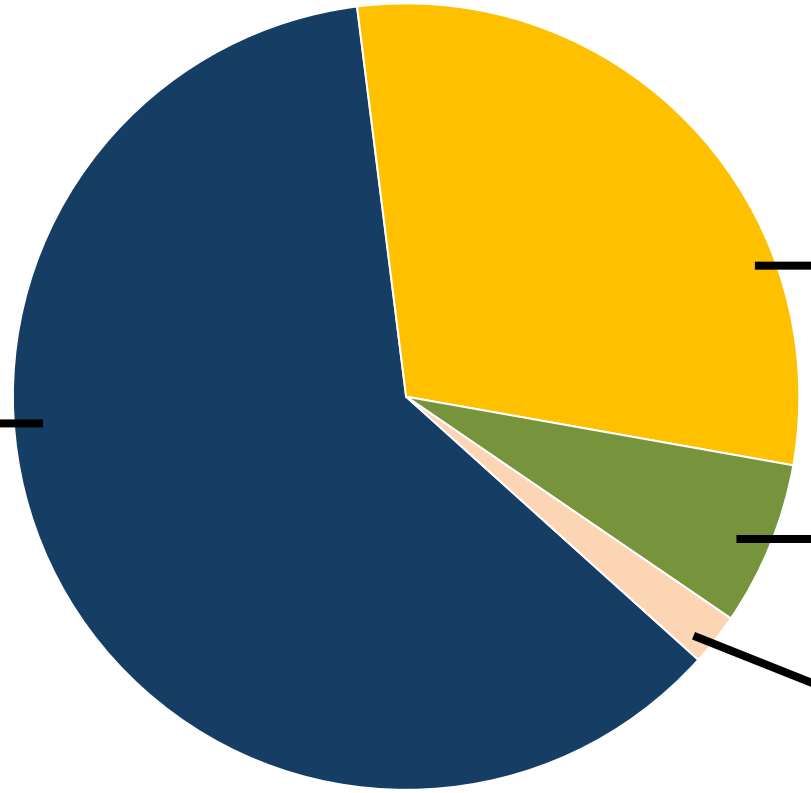
Affording comfort and improving health for the public

Standard valuation methods often don't "pencil" out

Cost/benefit ratios or Return on Investment is often not favorable for supporting the measure

Leaves a gap in "true" value of the upgrade

FUND EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM TYPE (LAST 10 YEARS)



Demand-Side Management, Energy Efficiency & Conservation Programs
$34,599,677
61%

Low-Income Assistance Programs (SHARE, ESAP, Reliability Refund, COVID)
$16,801,975
30%

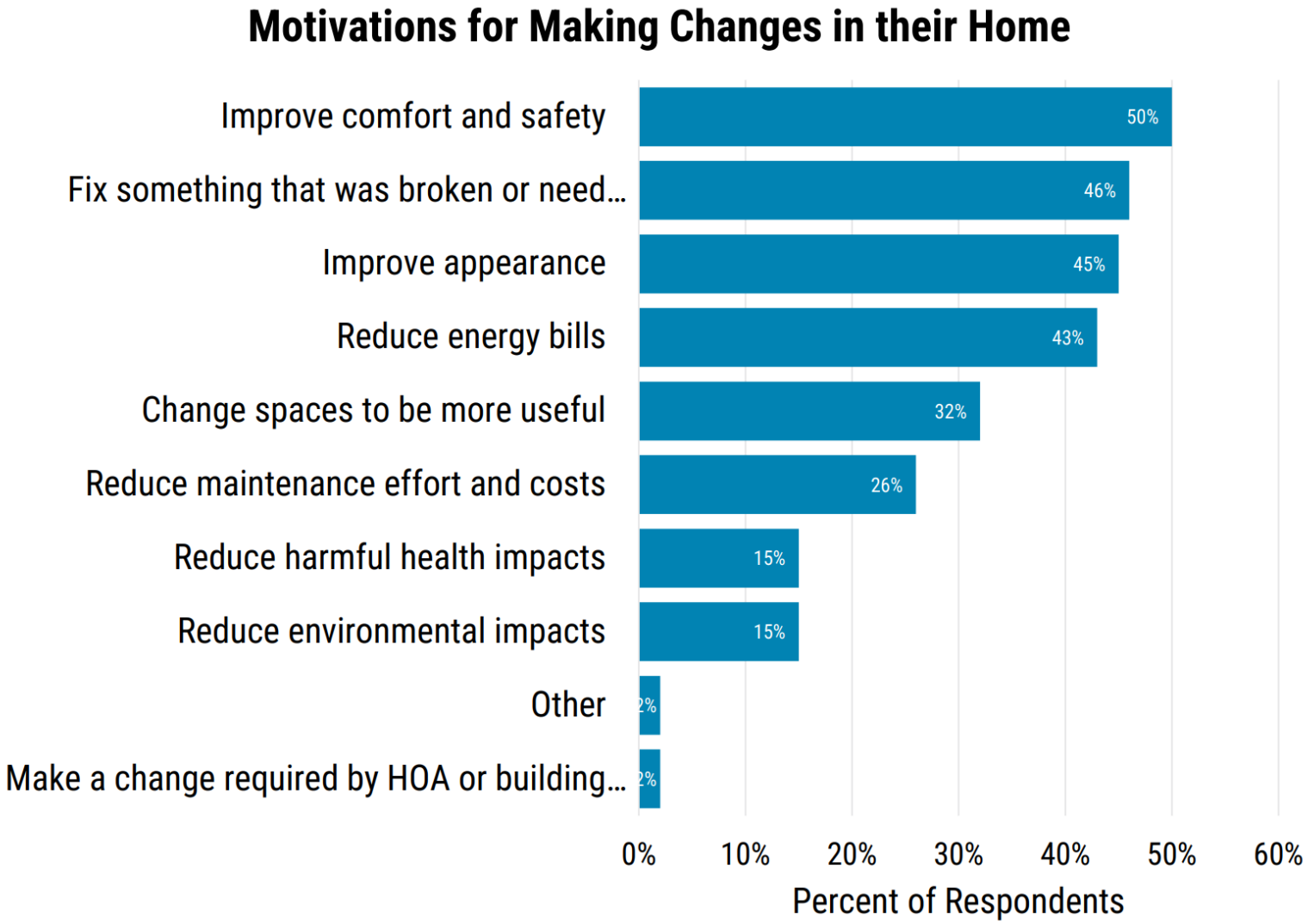
New Renewable Energy (Solar)
$3,802,885
7%

Research, Demonstration and Development
$1,200,889
2%

NEIs - MOTIVATIONS

Broad term for a wide range of costs and benefits that are not clearly associated with energy generation, transmission, and distribution

Impacts not easily quantified as cost or energy savings



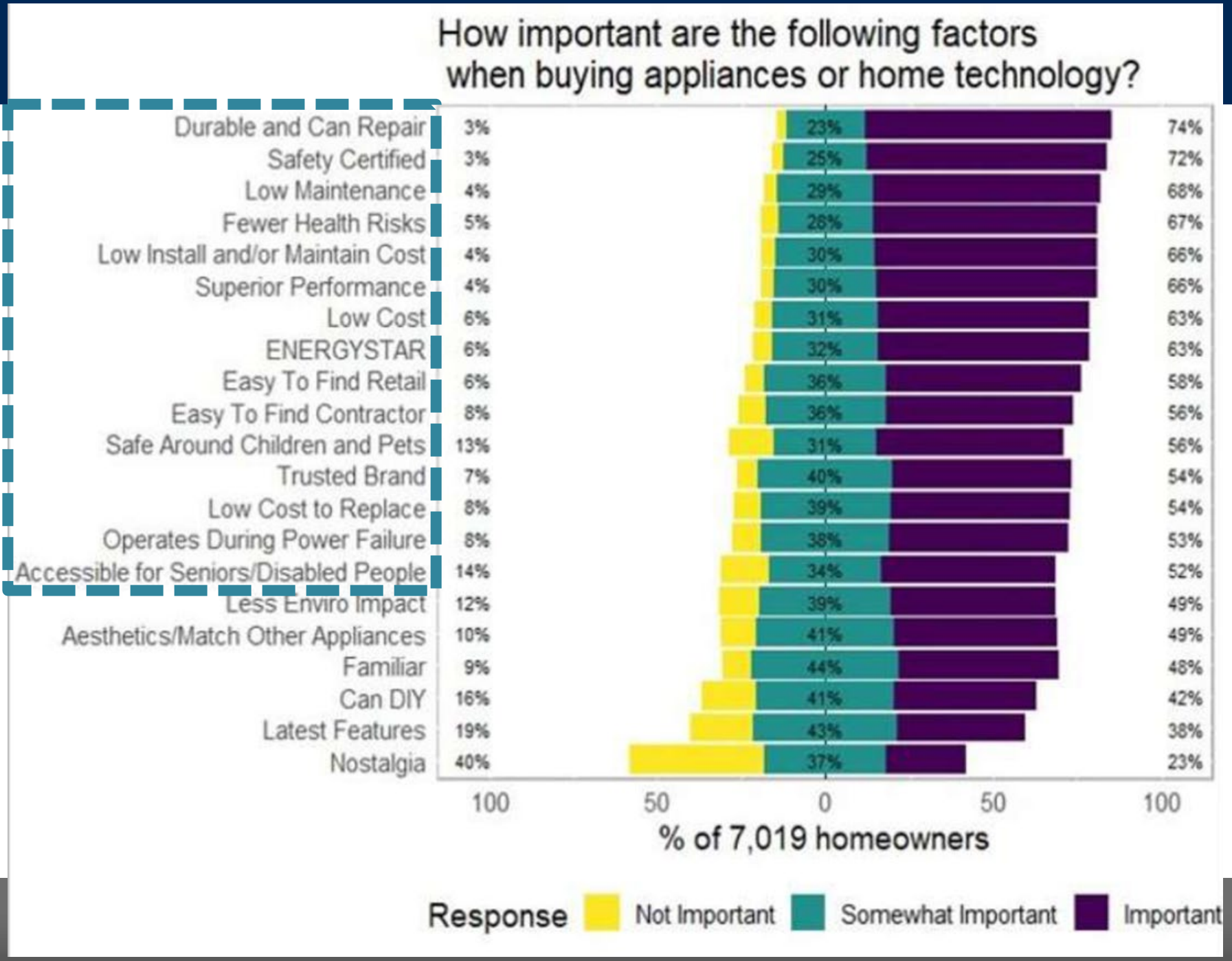
FACTORS

People want appliances that are:

Safe

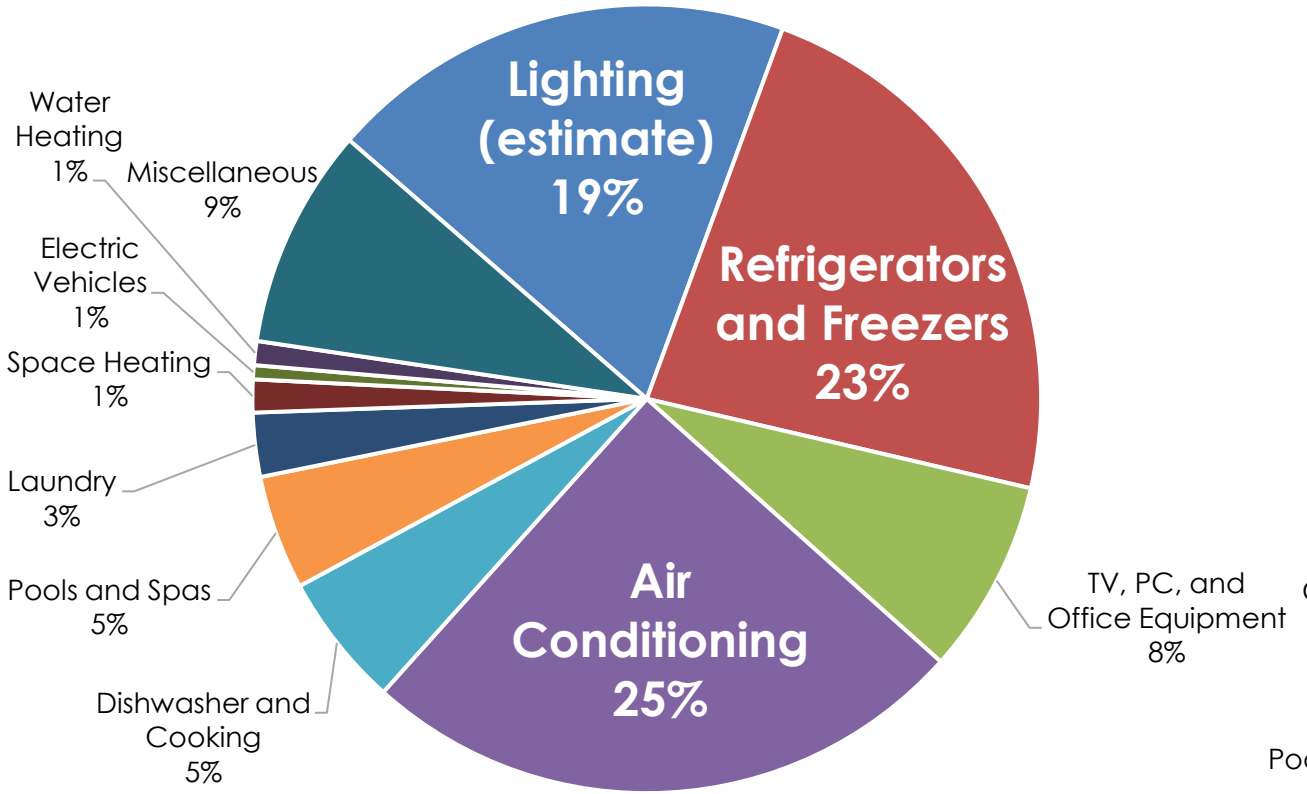
Cost effective
Durable, low cost, low maintenance

Do a good job

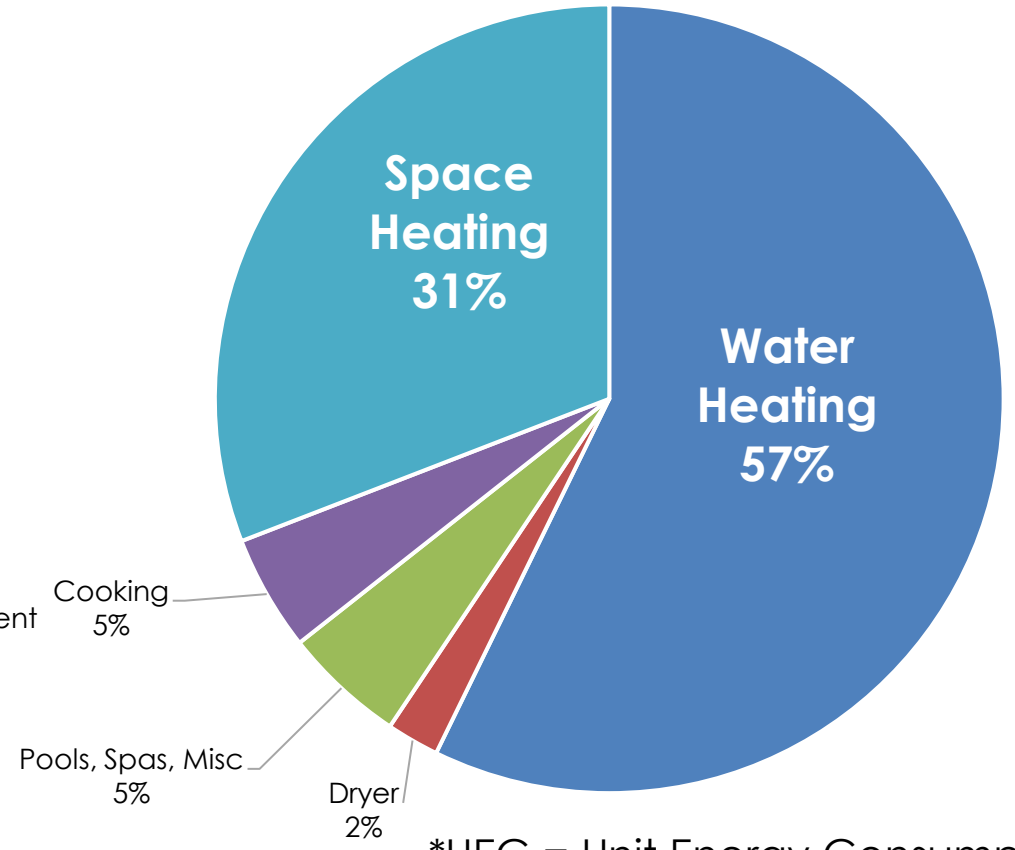


ENERGY USE BY APPLIANCE TYPE

2019 Electric UECs*
7,177 kWh per Household



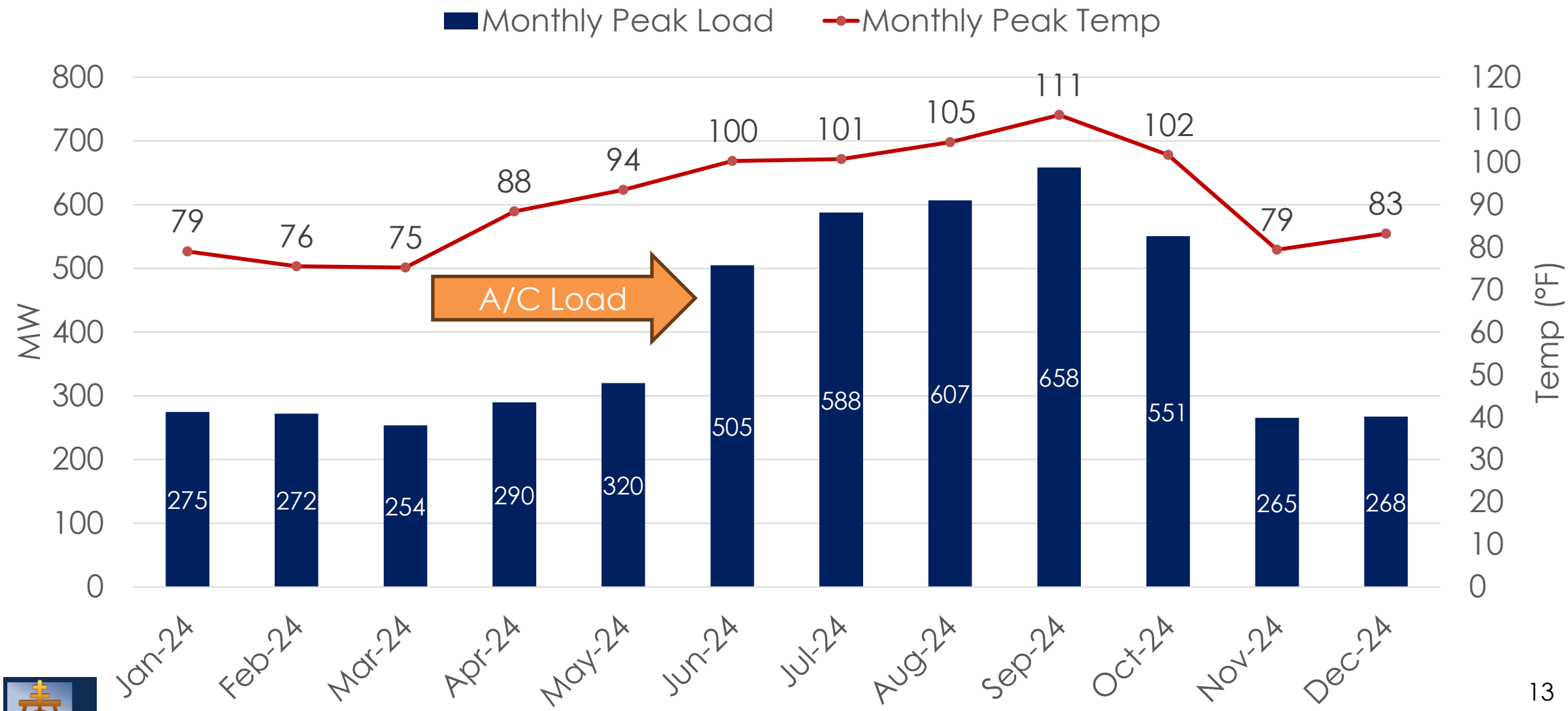
2019 Gas UECs*
360 Therms per Household



*UEC = Unit Energy Consumption

Note: SCE/SoCalGas Climate Zone 10 Space Conditioning, other amounts SCE data, annual amounts

RPU PEAK DEMAND & TEMPERATURE TRENDS



ADDING AND AFFORDING NEIs

1. How do we lower barriers for the audience for these improvements?
   - Can we include NEIs as ROI calculation to improve cost-benefit ratios?
   - Can we provide additional incentives using NEIs?
2. Customer survey(s) can provide insight of NEI value to our community
   - Customer feedback on what they need to be comfortable for program formulation and education

LOW-INCOME PROGRAM LEGISLATION

AB 1890 (1996)

- Established Public Benefits Charge and Program Requirements
- Low Income Assistance one of four allowable uses

SB 2 (2001)

- Needs Assessment if the utility had not already implemented low-income assistance
- Consider increased assistance to reflect customer need
- Streamline enrollment in low-income assistance programs
- Establish participation goals

SBx 2-2 (2001)

- Streamline by collaborating and aligning eligibility levels with other electric and gas providers in the same service territory
- Streamline enrollment by collaborating with existing providers of the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD DATA / RIVERSIDE

Riverside Data	Total	Number Below 250% FPL	Percentage Below 250% FPL
Population for which poverty is determined	299,549	118,001	39%
Households	91,110	31,710	35%
Family Households	66,568	22,036	33%
Non-Family Households	24,542	9,674	39%

Of the 31,710 households that could potentially qualify for RPU's SHARE program, on average, only 5,900 per year are in receipt of the assistance, or 16% of potentially qualified customers.

* Data taken from RPU IRP 2023/US Census Bureau Data 2021

RPU'S LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS

What is Low-Income Assistance?

- Bill payment assistance
- No cost energy efficiency upgrades
- RPU has established low-income threshold at 250% or below federal poverty guidelines

What does RPU offer?

- Sharing Households Assists Riverside's Energy – SHARE
- Energy Savings Assistance Program – ESAP
- Mobile Home/Multi-Family program (not income but residence-type based)

ALTERNATIVE ASSISTANCE/REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

Other assistance programs RPU customers could qualify for:

1. **Utilicare** – adjusted rates for customers reliant on essential medical devices
2. **Utility User Tax (UUT)** – refund for low-income (gross household income for tax year 2024 increased to $23,475 for 55+ or disabled customers)
3. **Reliability Charge Waiver** – linked to UUT, customers receiving UUT also qualify for the RCW
4. **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program** (LIHEAP)Managed via CAP/Riverside County
5. **Payment arrangements**:
   - SB998 Water Shut-off Protection Act
   - Alternative payment plans available - flexible and individualized according to circumstances

IOU LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS

1. **Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs – such as Southern California Edison & SoCal Gas) offer two primary assistance programs**
   - California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE): 250%+ FPL: 32.5% discount on monthly electric bill (20% gas bill)
   - Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) 200%-250% FPL offering 18% discount on monthly bill
2. **Other assistance IOU customers (and some for *RPU) could qualify for?**
   - Arrearage Management Plan – debt forgiveness payment option ($500+)
   - Energy Savings Assistance* – EE upgrades, appliances (includes renters)
   - Medical Baseline Allowance* – medical equipment help
   - Energy Assistance Fund* – bill assistance (unexpected hardship)
   - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)*
   - Budget Billing Plan – levelized bill across 11 months
   - Percent of Income Payment Plan

LOW-INCOME THRESHOLD

250% Federal Poverty Guidelines

Income thresholds by number of household members

Number in Household	Total Annual Income Does Not Exceed	Total Monthly Income Does Not Exceed
1	$39,125	$3,260
2	$52,875	$4,406
3	$66,625	$5,552
4	**$80,375**	**$6,697**
5	$94,125	$7,843
6	$107,875	$8,989
7	$121,625	$10,135
8	$135,375	$11,281

For each additional person add:
- Total annual Income: $13,750
- Total monthly Income: $1,145

SHARE PROGRAM

1. Established in 1989 to provide emergency assistance to customers at risk of a shutoff with funding supported by customer contributions and donations
   - 1999, Expanded to utilize Public Benefits funds to assist more customers, allowed any qualified low-income customer to apply for support
2. May 22, 2018, Changes to the SHARE program in alignment with rate plan
   - Increased income qualifications from 150% to 200% federal poverty guidelines
   - Modified assistance to provide a monthly assistance ($10) and a one time per year emergency or deposit assistance ($150)
3. March 23, 2021, Increased emergency/deposit credit from $150 to $250
4. May 17, 2022, Expanded eligibility to 250% federal poverty guidelines

City Council Approval Date	Monthly Electric Credit	Monthly Water Credit
July 2, 2019	$14.50	$2.50
July 21, 2020	$15.00	$2.75
August 3, 2021	$15.50	$3.00
May 17, 2022	$16.00	$3.25

SHARE PROGRAM

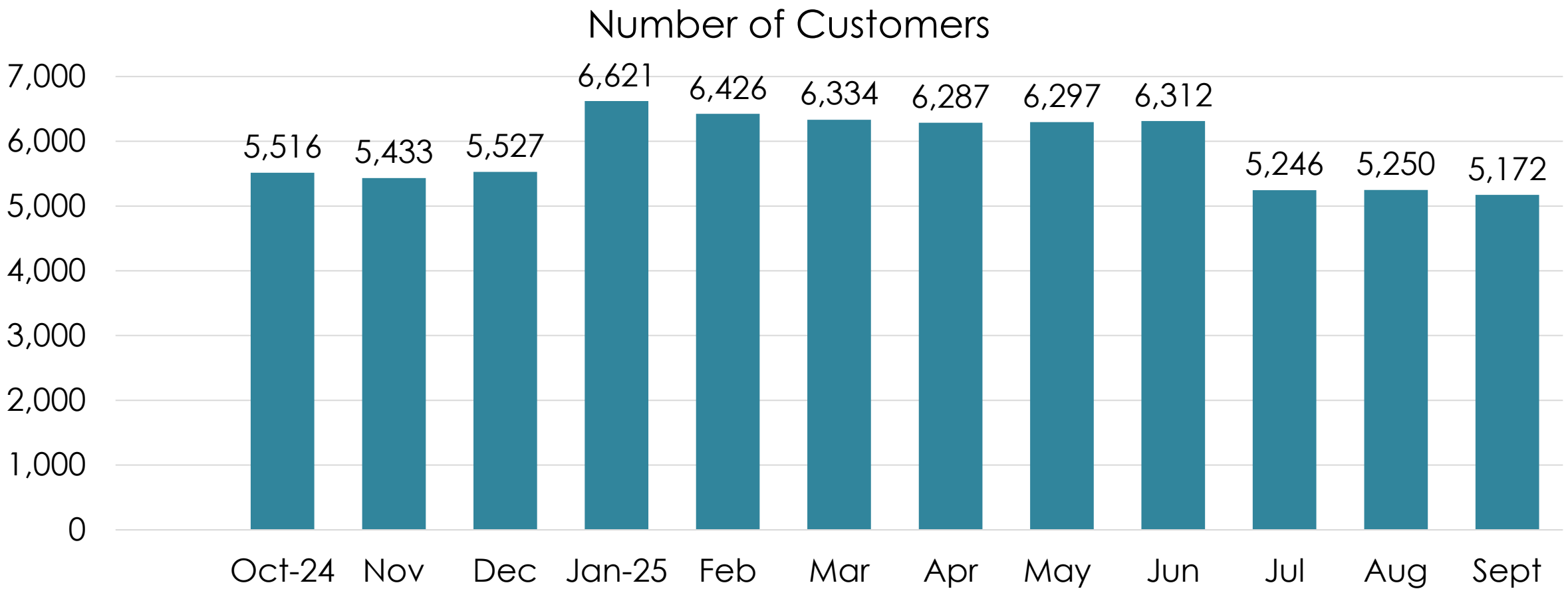
September 19, 2023, the City Council, as part of utility rate plan discussions, approved the increase to the monthly SHARE electric and water credits, with 4-year additional increases in alignment with electric rate changes through 2028.

Year	Monthly Electric Credit
As of January 1, 2023	$16
January 1, 2024	$20
January 1, 2025	$24
January 1, 2026	$28
January 1, 2027	$29
January 1, 2028	$30

Year	Monthly Water Credit
July 1, 2022	$3.25
October 1, 2023	$4.25
July 1, 2024	$4.75
July 1, 2025	$5.25
July 1, 2026	$5.75
July 1, 2027	$6.25

SHARE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Monthly assistance program participant amount October 2024 – September 2025



SHARE PROGRAM

SHARE Program Participation – Electric Monthly Bill Credits And Deposits/Urgent Assistance

Fiscal Year	$150/$250*	Monthly Amount	Total - Monthly & Deposits
FY20/21	$488,350*	$465,389	$953,739
FY 21/22	$616,750	$530,000	$1,144,750
FY 22/23	$1,349,250	$877,405	$2,226,655
FY 23/24	$1,168,000	$1,169,384	$2,337,384
FY 24/25	$1,134,500	$1,420,656	$2,555,156

*March 23, 2021, CC approved increasing emergency/deposit credit from $150 to $250.

SHARE PROGRAM

Is there more that RPU can do?

1. Increase awareness
2. Decrease stigma
3. Increase funding – beyond $250 for deposits/urgent assistance
   - Average arrears for customers facing disconnection is $297.98
4. Increase monthly assistance or change it to a percent of bill

ENERGY SAVINGS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - ESAP

1. **Low-income, direct installation program that offers a range of efficiency upgrades**
   - **No cost to the customer**
   - Began in 2013 – Partnership with Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas) to take a comprehensive utility approach to upgrades within qualified customers' homes
2. Since 2015, served 3,884 low-income customers
   - The income qualification at 250% or below FPL
3. Program paused during COVID pandemic – May 2020 until February 2022 along with all installation programs

ENERGY SAVINGS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – ESAP

- Whole house fan 2500 CFM (cubic feet) / 3300 CFM
- Refrigerators (and refrigerator recycling)
- LED lighting (including floodlamps, porch lights, etc.)
- Duct sealing and testing
- ECM motors
- Ceiling insulation
- Occupancy sensors
- Smart thermostats
- Computer smart power strips
- Nightlights
- Lifecycle refrigerant management (for Gas Furnace & Heat Pumps)
- Smart fan control switch (for Gas Furnace & Heat Pumps)

ESAP PROGRAM PARTICIPATION – 2021-2025

Program Details	FY 21/22*	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25
Homes Served	456	709	398	385
kWh Saved	642,570	884,862	437,972	317,172
Program Cost (RPU)	$313,941.52	$443,591.48	$455,740.57	$648,598.21

*FY 21/22 program was only available for 4 months due to COVID-19 restrictions and contract expiration.

- Participation numbers have been lowering since 2023/24, and this reflects the more complex measures that are now included this program, which take longer to install
- Average spend per customer is approximately $1,299 (not including partial year 2021/22)

MOBILE HOME / MULTI-FAMILY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. MHMF mirrors the ESAP direct install program
   - Program is managed in partnership with SoCal Gas, agreement needs to renew in 2025
   - No income qualification, criteria is property-type
2. Addresses market 'gap' providing specialist measures particular to housing-type not addressed by ESAP program
3. Additional funds were approved early 2025
   - Program budget increased from $500,000 to $1,000,000/year

MOBILE HOME / MULTI-FAMILY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. Approximately 2,040 mobile homes in RPU service territory
2. To date, program has served 233 mobile homes and 1,039 multi-family residences
   - Saving over 947,000 kWh enough to power approximately 132 single family homes for a year
3. Measures include:
   - LED lighting (including floodlamps, porch lights)
   - Nightlights
   - Refrigerators
   - Lifecycle refrigerant management
   - Duct sealing and testing
   - Occupancy sensors
   - Smart thermostats
   - Computer smart power strips
   - Return duct retrofit (manufactured homes only)
   - Crossover duct replacement (manufactured homes only)

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PROPOSAL

- RPU offers a broad education program
- Tap into 30-years of teaching success and create a tailored education/demo center with teaching and 'hands-on' space
- Incorporate/Partner for Workforce Dev.

30TH Anniversary

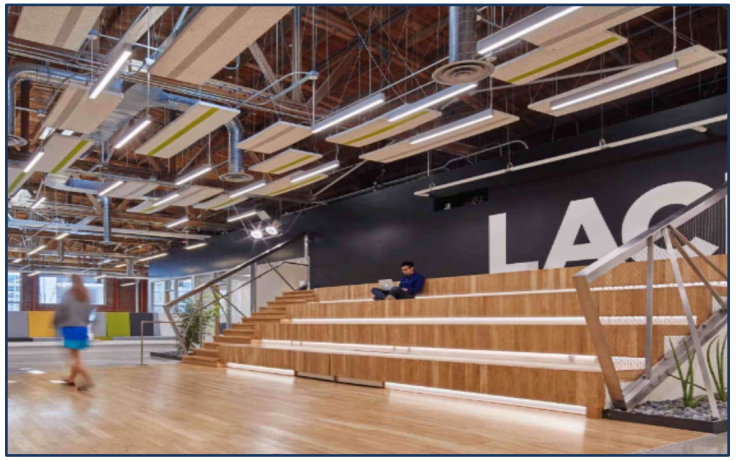
RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Supporting Education

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT EXAMPLES: LADWP

Los Angeles Clean Incubator - LACI

- Founded as an economic development initiative by the City of Los Angeles and its Department of Water & Power (LADWP) in 2011
- Multiple funding sources – not just public benefits
- LADWP: La Kretz Innovation Campus
  - Blend of science, entrepreneurship, environmentalism, and policymaking merge to advance the development of a sustainable future that includes clean and abundant water supplies, a commitment to 100% renewable energy, and an inclusive green economy
  - Showcases for labs, working exhibits, and educational opportunities for customers, students, and visitors alike, offering ways to save money, conserve water and electricity, and learn valuable information on rebates available to all LADWP customers



DEMONSTRATION PROJECT EXAMPLES: ANAHEIM

Sustainability Education Center opens Fall 2025

- Sustainability Education Center (SEC) is envisioned to be Anaheim Public Utilities' educational demonstration center that incorporates technology, sustainability, and workforce development programs
- APU has an active role in supporting student engagement efforts, including mentoring, internships, and career symposiums.
- The SEC is envisioned to take another step to support our community by providing pathways for even more students to learn about sustainable utility careers

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT EXAMPLES: ROSEVILLE

City of Roseville Utility Exploration Center

The Utility Exploration Center is a one-of-a-kind learning center that offers an inside look at the utility systems that keep Roseville safe, healthy and strong.

- Provides interactive learning experience for all ages.
- Organizes special events, school programs and workshops to help our community learn how to save energy and water, reduce waste, protect the watershed and live sewer.

Community Events

Inspiration Garden

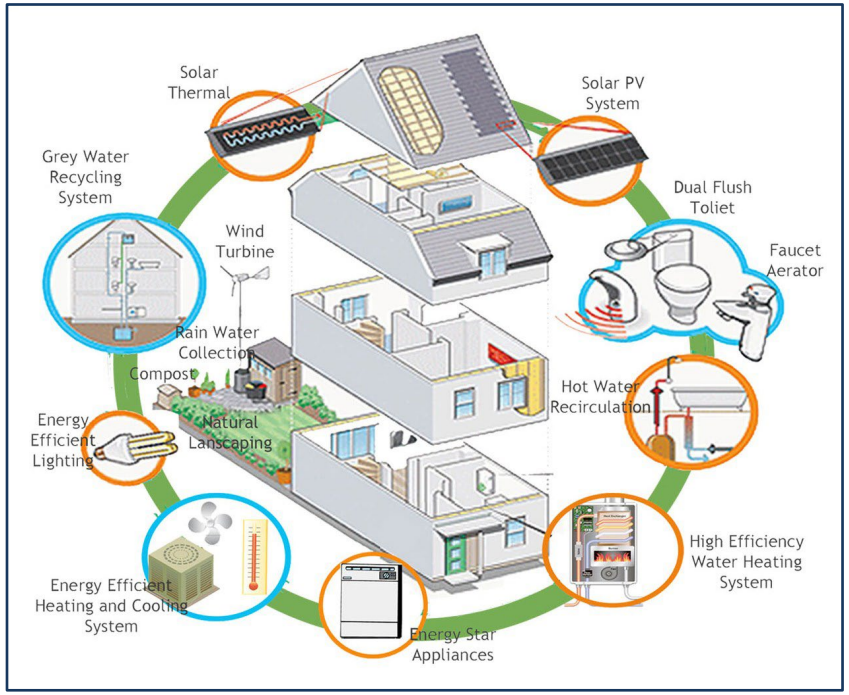
School Programs

Tours and Workshops

DEMONSTRATION CENTER CONCEPT

What could it contain?

- Hands on demo
- Teaching center/what we already do for education and what could we do in this proposed new space?
- Younger and Adult ed/utility career pathway center/linkages with Riverside higher ed institutions
- Residents/Customers can access state of the art new and emerging EE tech



DEMONSTRATION CENTER CONCEPT

- Should RPU consider developing a demonstration center?
  - Must be linked to public benefit fund allowable uses
  - Other uses require different funding
- How much should we spend on this?
- Where could it be?
  - Could it be mobile/exist in community centers already in place, etc?
  - Geo-equity considerations – available in each ward or in DACs?
- Did any of the concepts sound as a right start for Riverside

OTHER CONCEPTS

- Upcoming battery storage rebate program

SURVEY DISCUSSION

Draft version of survey hand out