

Plug Loads in the Zero Net Energy Context

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Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) of 2006

- Air Resources Board develop a scoping plan and update every 5 years (2008, 2013)
- 1990 GHG levels by 2020, 80% of 1990 levels by 2050
- Cap and trade program launched
 2012
- Energy efficiency expected to deliver more than 20% of reductions needed



Bending the Curve of US CO₂ Emissions Downward: Need 22 Straight Years of 7% Annual Reductions to Achieve an Absolute Drop of 80%



Source: http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/environment/emissions/carbon/

Plug loads are an important part of residential energy use nationwide, but even more so in California



Source: http://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/reports/2009/state_briefs/pdf/ca.pdf

How do California offices use Electricity?



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California ZNE goals

100% zero net energy (ZNE) new residential construction by 2020 and commercial buildings by 2030 50% existing buildings ZNE by 2030



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Homes Use Energy in Three Key Ways

- Structure itself
 - Insulating qualities of walls, windows, doors, roof, and foundation determined by home's architect and builder – these attributes drive how much energy is needed to keep the home comfortable
- Items hard-wired to the structure
 - Furnace, air conditioner, vent fans, water heater, garage door opener, smoke detectors, alarm systems, and most light fixtures are directly attached to the structure; home builder makes most of the key energy efficiency decisions for these devices as well
- Plug loads (appliances, electronics, portable lighting)
 - Everything the home occupant purchases separately, brings to the home and plugs in: white goods, consumer electronics, telecommunications and home office equipment, kitchen gadgets, power tools, portable light fixtures, etc.

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ZNE Homes Are Achieved Primarily by Reducing Energy Use and Secondarily by Self-Generation



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Building America Program

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What Will It Take for ZNE Homes to Succeed on a Large Scale?

- 1. Architects, builders and their subcontractors make highly energy efficient choices regarding the building shell and its hard-wired energy-using devices
- 2. Homeowners and renters make highly energy efficient choices regarding the portable devices they bring to the home
- 3. (Mandatory efficiency standards, labeling programs and utility incentive programs are helping with 1 and 2)
- 4. Occupants also learn to *operate* all of the above as efficiently as possible through manual and automatic control, power management, settings, demand response, etc., minimizing their need to purchase electricity and natural gas
- 5. On-site renewables offset energy purchases, and are small enough and inexpensive enough that they pay for themselves in a reasonable amount of time

The Influence of Occupants: Variation in Energy Use in 11 Otherwise Identical SMUD Solar Homes



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ource: Danny Parker et al. 2010

Lighting, Appliances & Plug Loads Are Increasingly Dominant Electricity Users, Especially in Efficient Homes

Figure 1. Annual Electricity Use by Low-Energy Houses (and % of Electricity Use by "Other" End-Uses)



Note: Electricity consumption is actual end-use consumption, before crediting any PV generation.

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Source: Brown, Rittleman, Parker & Homan, "Appliances, Lighting, Electronics, and Miscellaneous Equipment Electricity Use in New Homes," 2006

Plug Loads Have Been the Hardest Load for ZNE Design Teams to Reduce



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Source: Norton et al. 2008)

Focus on the "big four" and alternatives





The Difference You Can Make By Choosing the Right Plug Loads and Using Them Wisely

End Use	Efficient House	ZNE House	What Changed?
Lighting	1500	600	50% CFL \rightarrow Optimal mix of LED, CFL & HIR + ctrls & daylighting
Refrigerator	750	416	33 ft ³ Energy Star side by side \rightarrow 25 ft ³ french door TopTen
Dishwasher	295	190	Energy Star \rightarrow TopTen with no prewashing, full loads
Clothes Washer	200	90	Energy Star top load \rightarrow TopTen front load
Clothes Dryer	850	450	Avg electric \rightarrow Best natural gas or heat pump
Television	719	97	3 2010 Energy Star TVs (55/40/32") \rightarrow 1 55" TopTen + tablets
Set Top Box	1183	190	3 2010 HD DVRs \rightarrow 1 best 2013 multi-room DVR
Computers	456	100	2 Energy Star desktops \rightarrow 1 TopTen desktop + iPad
Game Console	200	50	1 older Xbox 360 or PS3 \rightarrow laptop or iPad
Other	200	100	\rightarrow smart plug strips, timers, efficient EPS & BCS
TOTAL	6353 kWh/yr	2283 kWh/yr	64% reduction!

Thank You

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