

# ET Summit 2024

Presented by



# 120V Heat Pump Water Heaters

A silver bullet for fuel switching in single-family homes

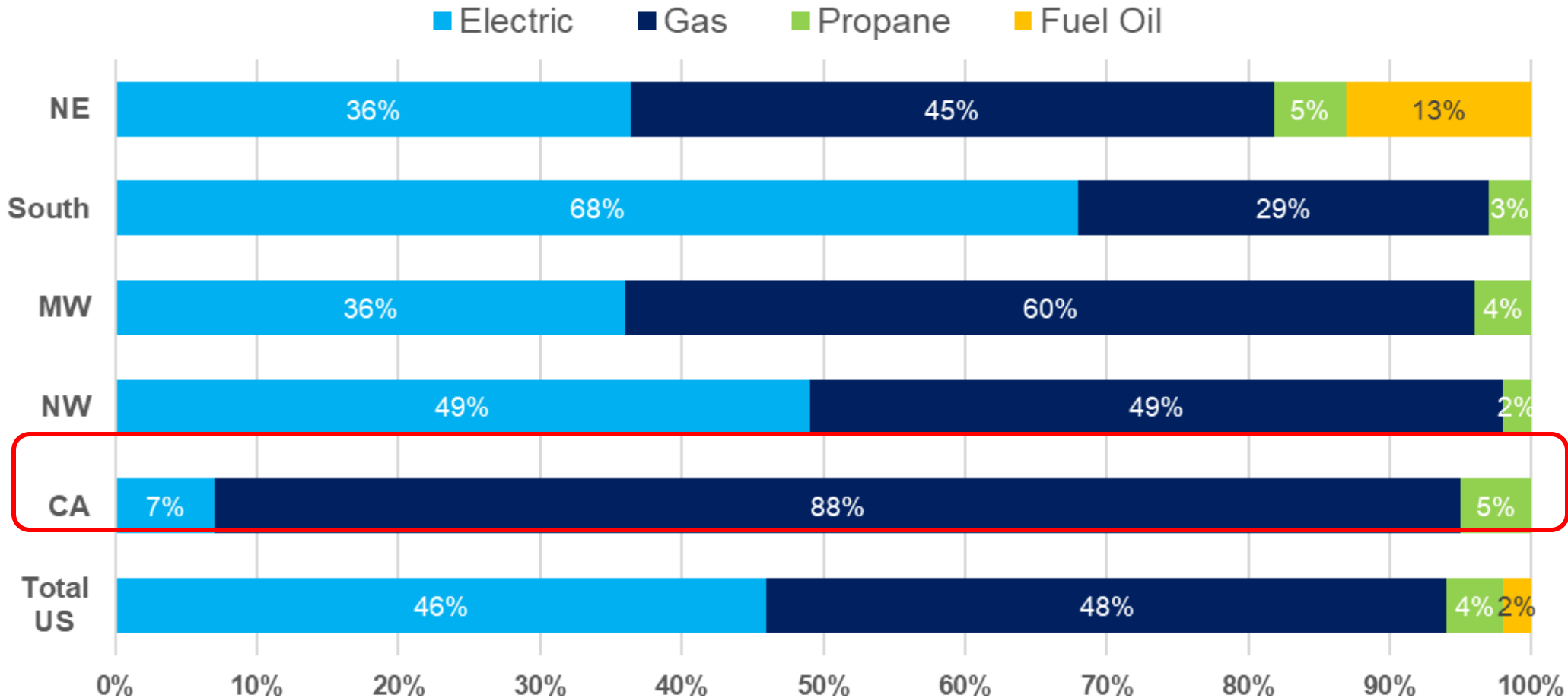
Noah Gabriel

Project Manager

New Buildings Institute

# Water Heating Fuel Mix

## National Residential Water Heating Stock



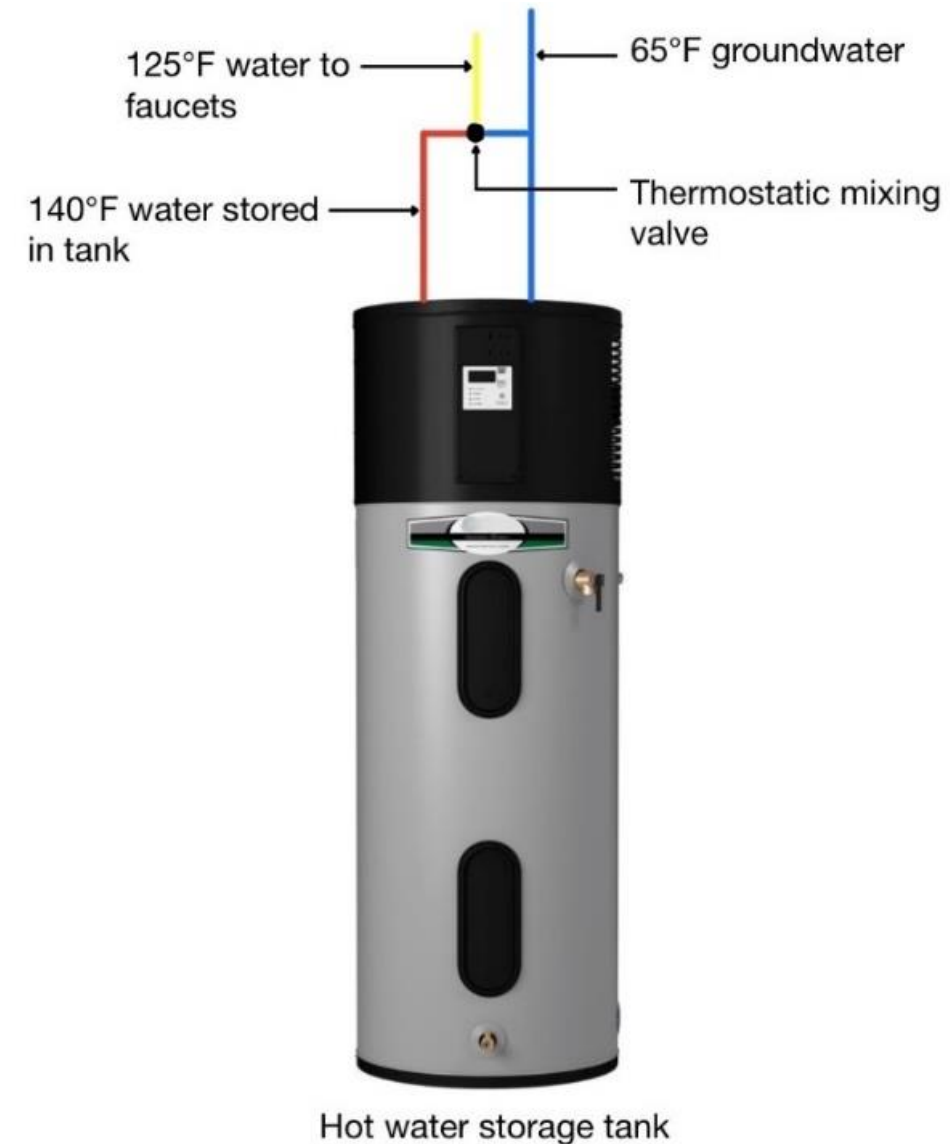
Source: NBI 2020 – based on data from RASS 2019 and 2015 RECS

# What is a 120-volt HPWH?

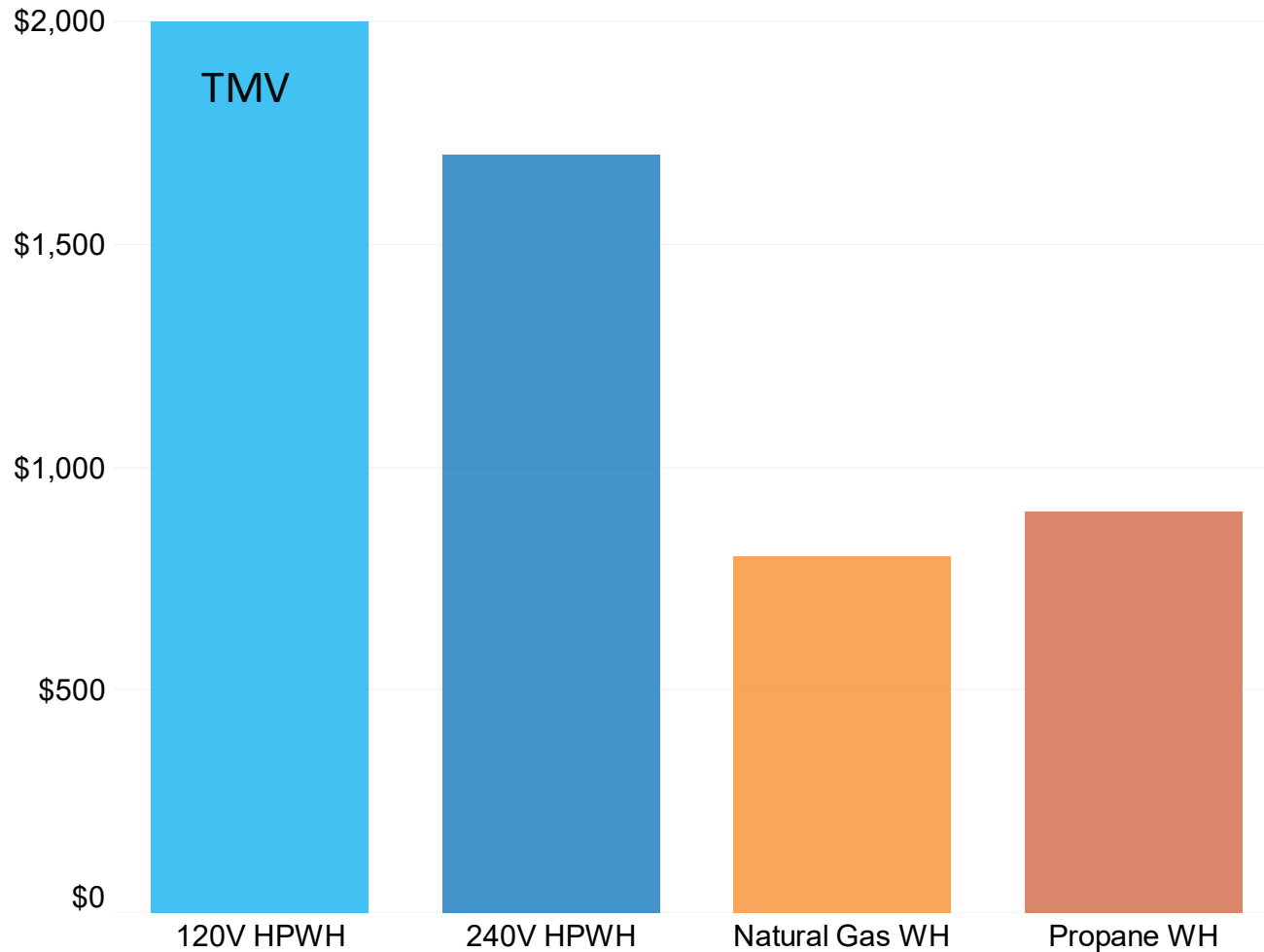
Operates on a 120-volt, 15-amp circuit

Usually has a **thermostatic mixing valve (TMV)**

Trades power for **increased thermal storage**



## How much do 120-volt HPWHs cost?



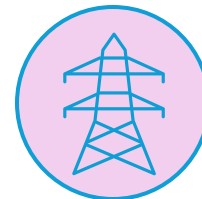
Price varies by OEM!

# Research questions

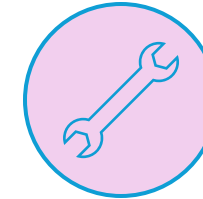
How much homeowners **save** on installation costs, and what is a typical operating cost?



How **energy efficient** were the HPWHs?



How did **installers** rate the installation and **how long** did they take?



Were users satisfied with **HPWH performance**?



# Research Methods

To answer the research questions, we completed:

- ✓ Equipment monitoring
- ✓ Baseline modeling
- ✓ Cost analysis
  - Equipment and installation costs
  - Operational costs
- ✓ Customer and installer surveys



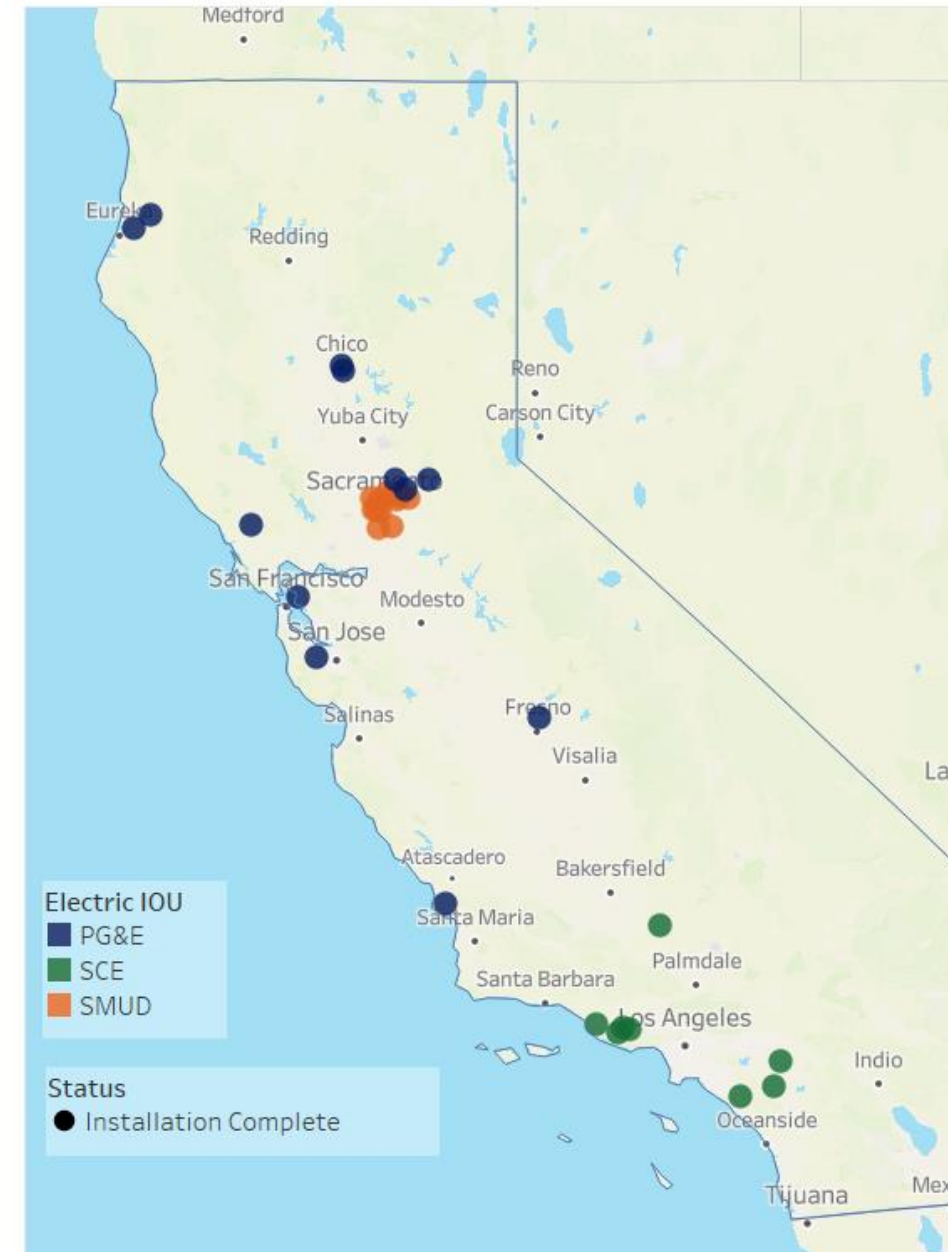
photo by Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA)

## Site selection (2021-2022)

200+ applicants

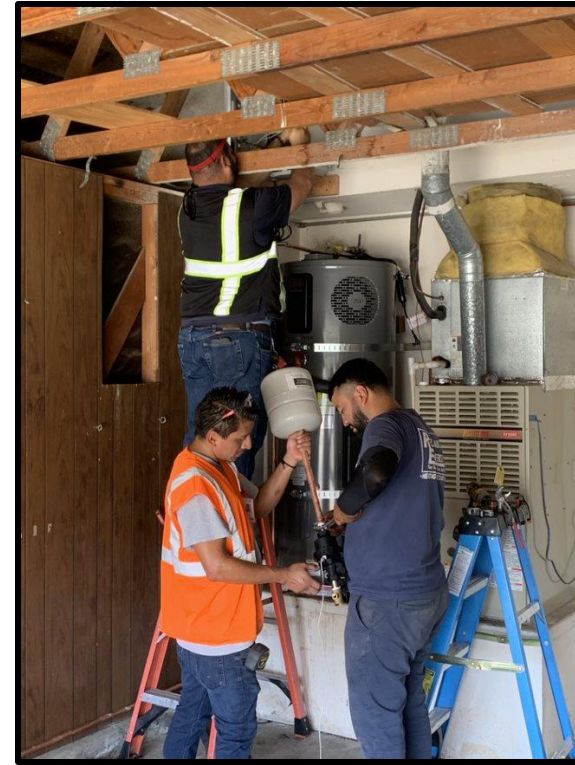
32 sites ultimately selected, 8 in SCE territory

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Climate Zones     | 1-6, 8-13, 16  |
| Vintages          | Pre-1950 to post-2000  |
| Occupants/demand  | 1, 2, 3, and 4   |
| Home Type         | Single-family  |
| Install Locations | Garage,<br>External closet,<br>Conditioned space inside the home (e.g., Laundry room),<br>Basement |





## Installation (May 2022- Feb 2023)



Were users satisfied with **HPWH performance**?

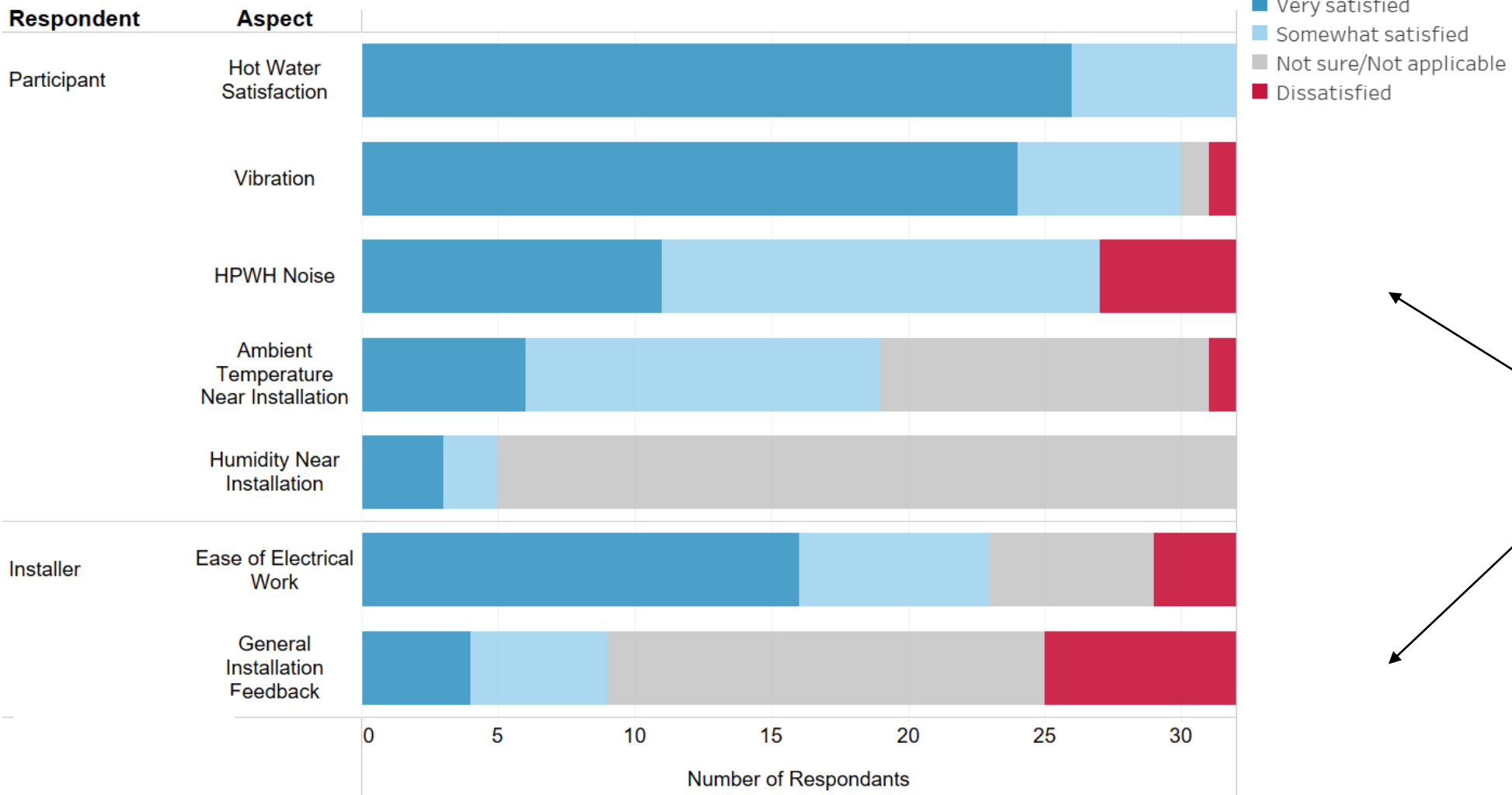


How did **installers** rate the installation and **how long** did they take?



# Overall, participants were satisfied

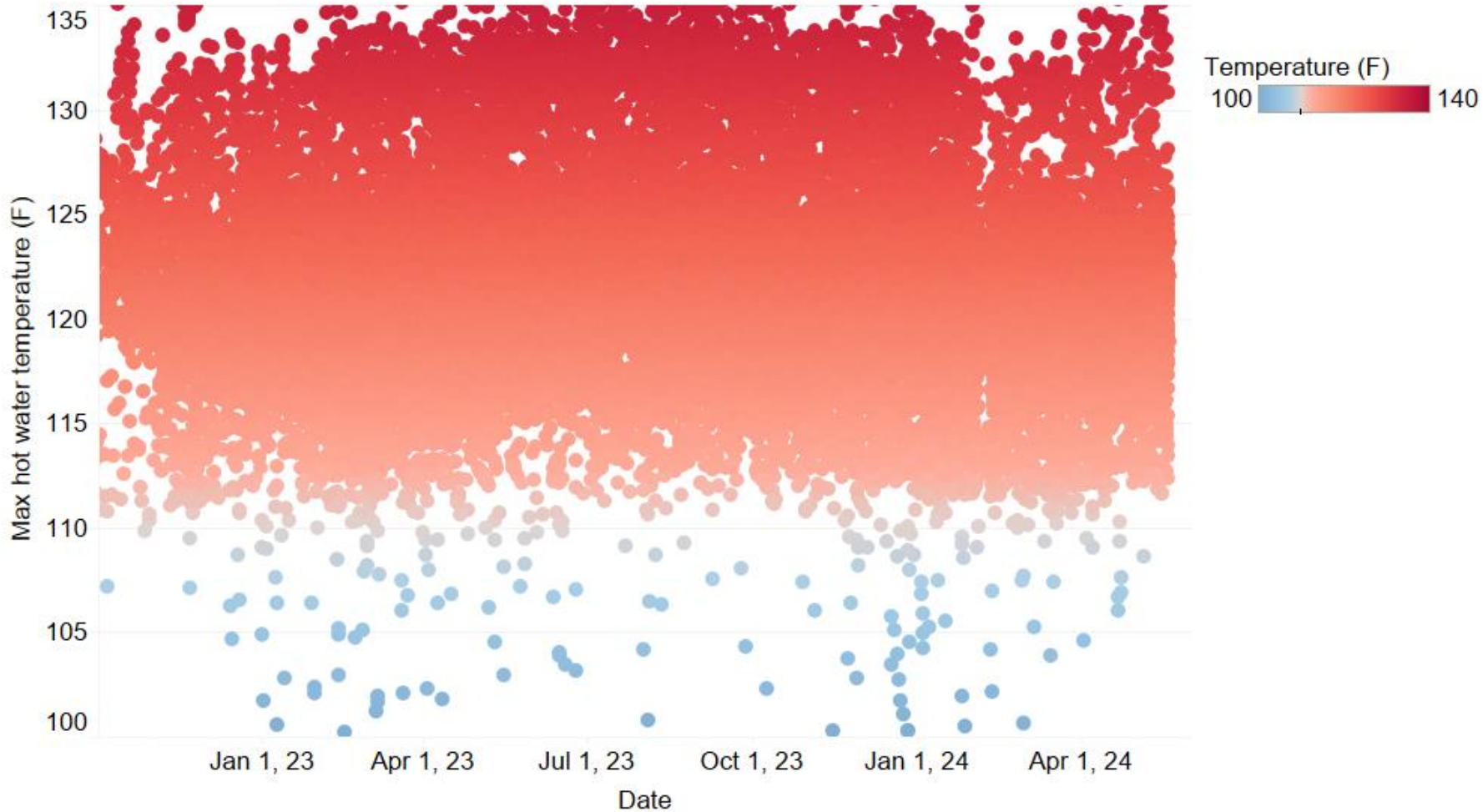
Participant and Installer Satisfaction with 120-volt HPWHs



Key barriers to address

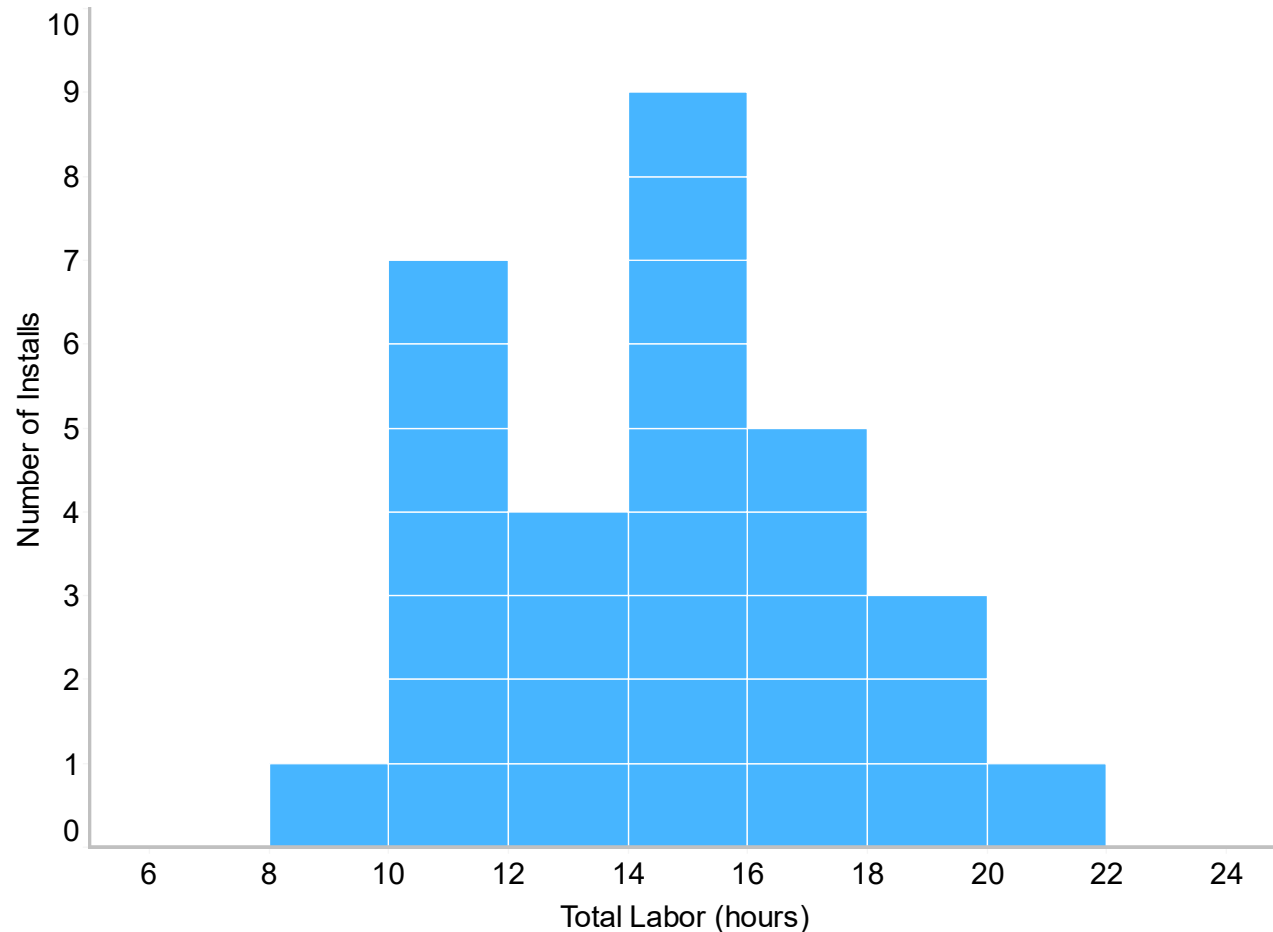
## Evaluating comfort... with statistics!

Maximum hot water temperature for hours with at least 5 gallons of hot water draw



# Installation time varied

How long did 120V HPWH installations take?



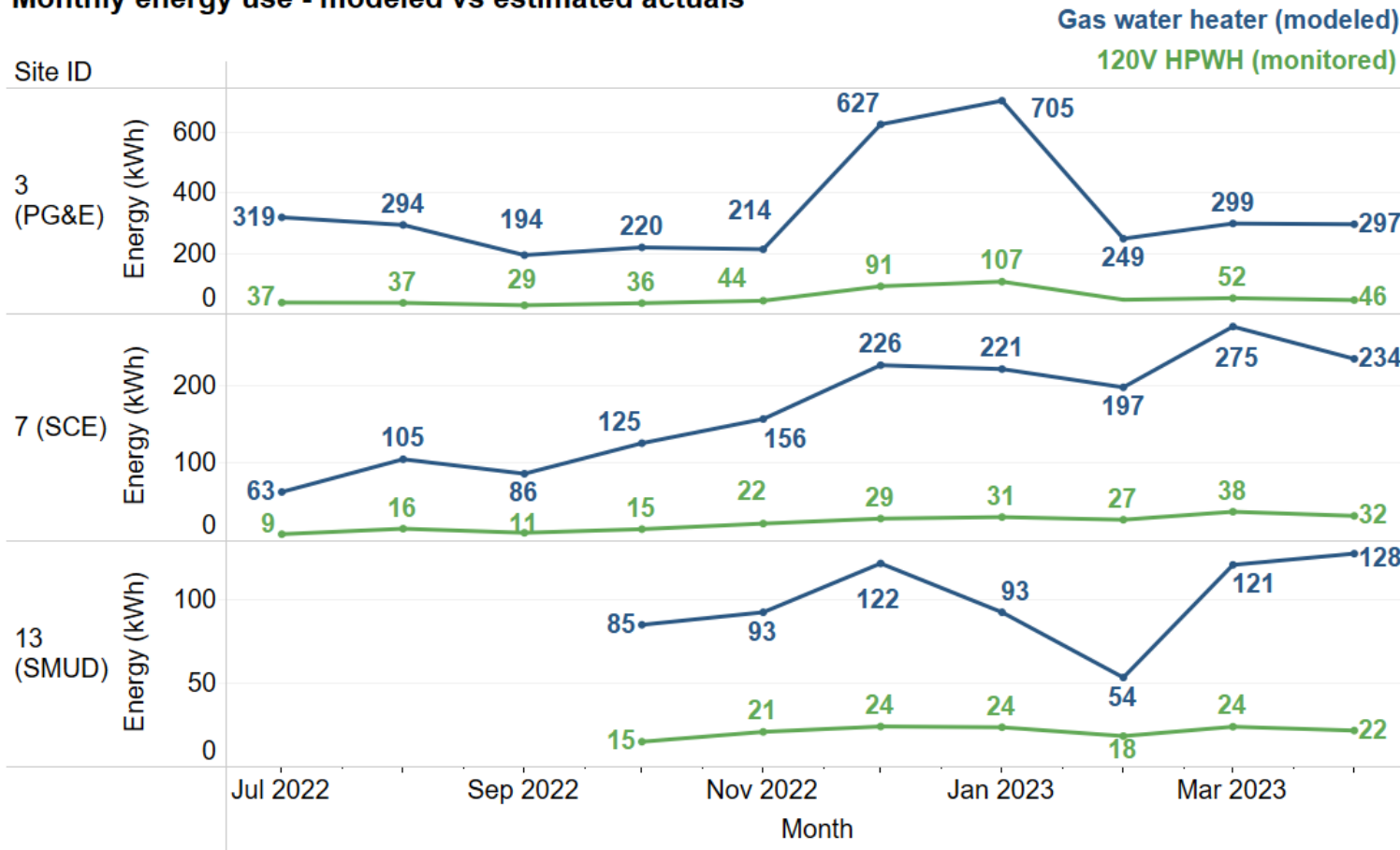
Note: All installs in this study had at least 2 installers onsite. Total hours are shown, not per-person hours.

How **energy efficient** were the HPWHs?

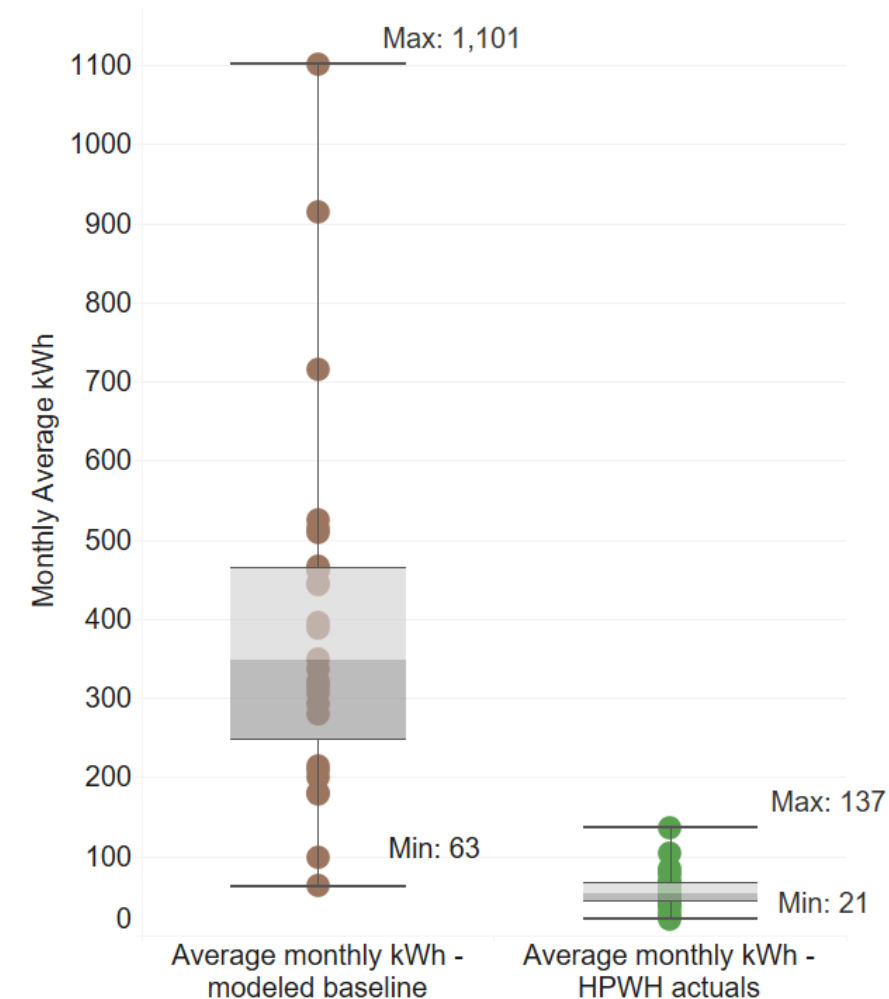


# Switching to a HPWH slashed energy use by 85%\*

Monthly energy use - modeled vs estimated actuals

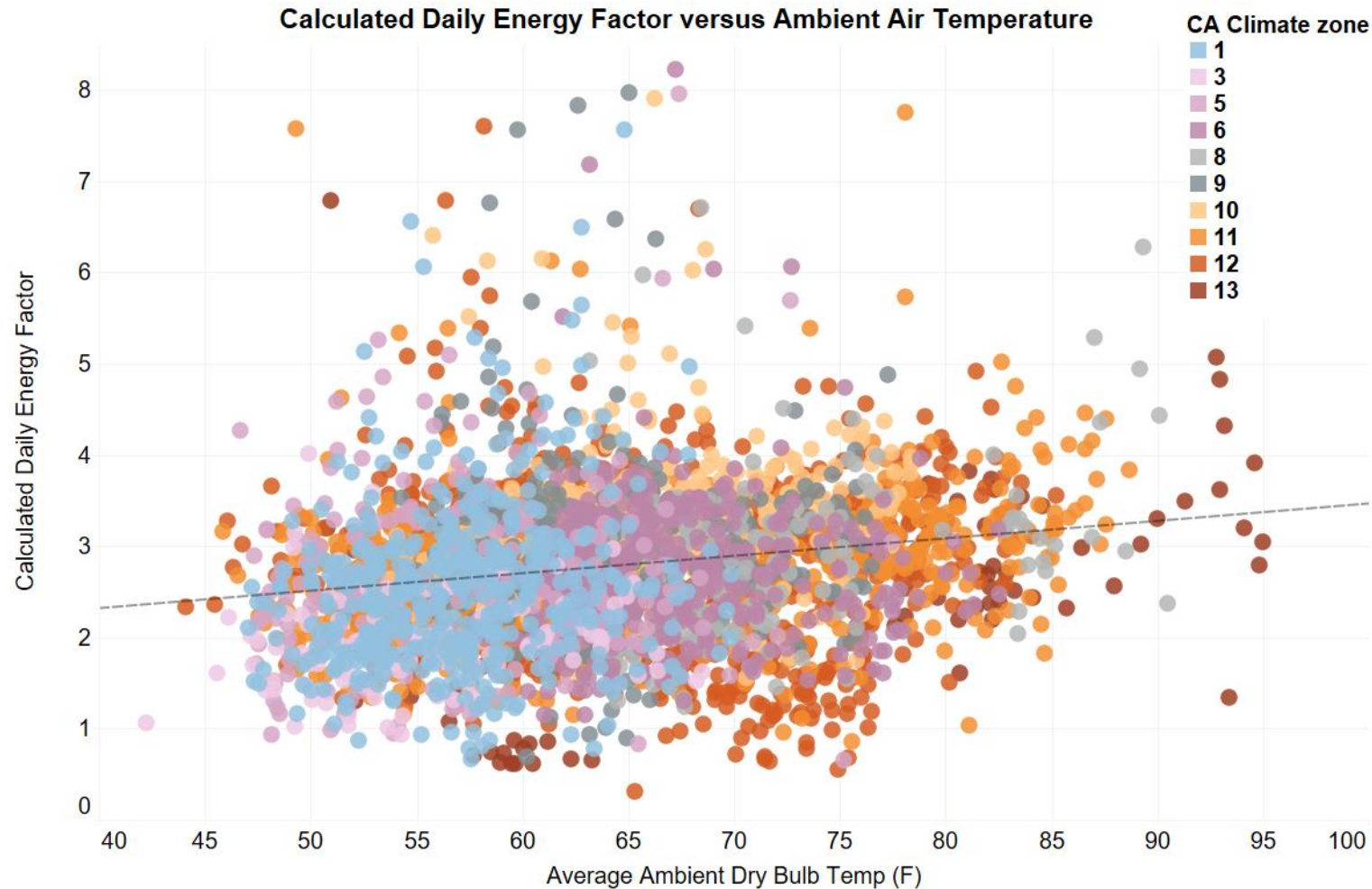


Average monthly modeled (baseline) and measured (HPWH) kWh



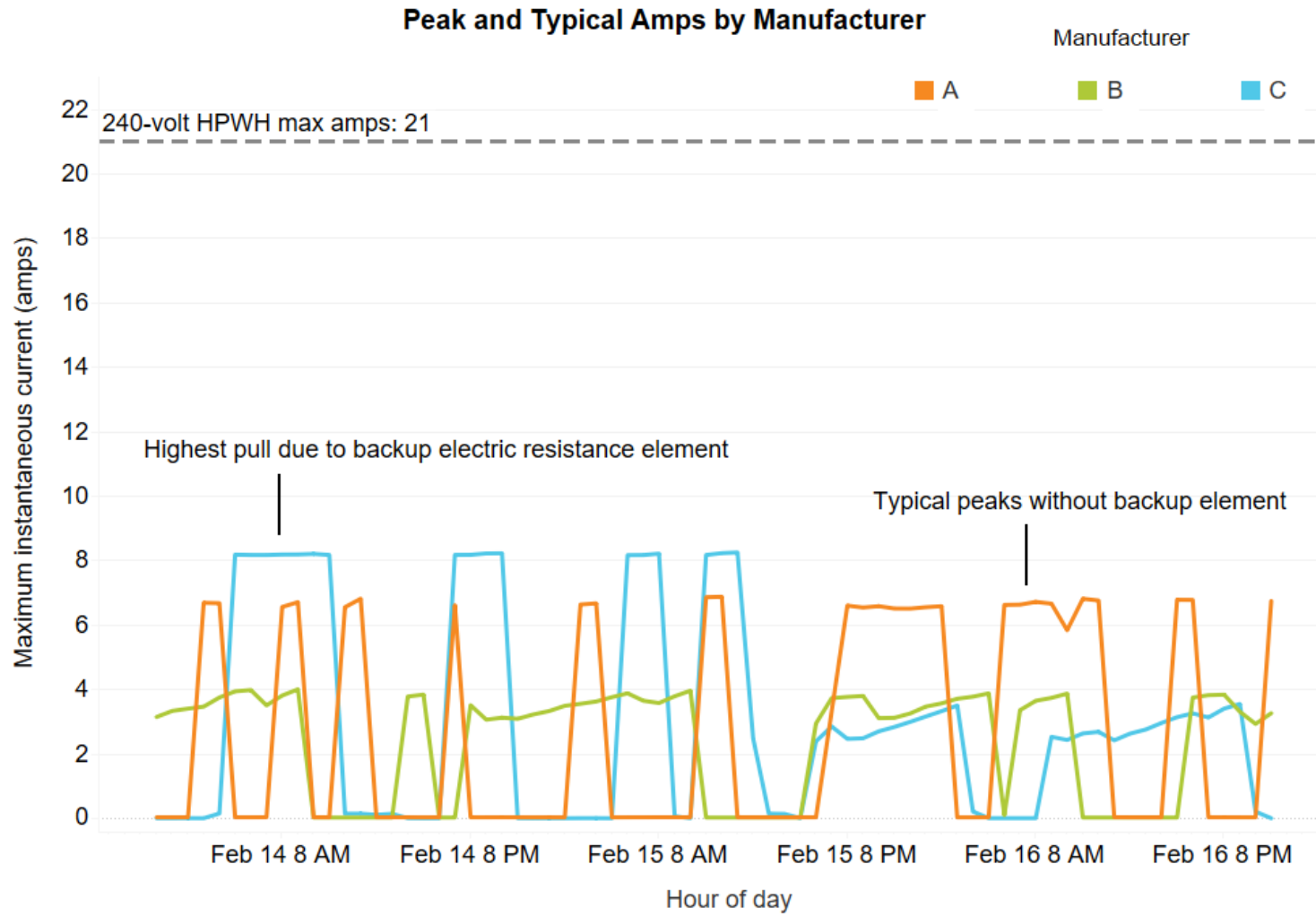
\*Straight average of all months and sites.

# 120V HPWHs perform better in warm weather

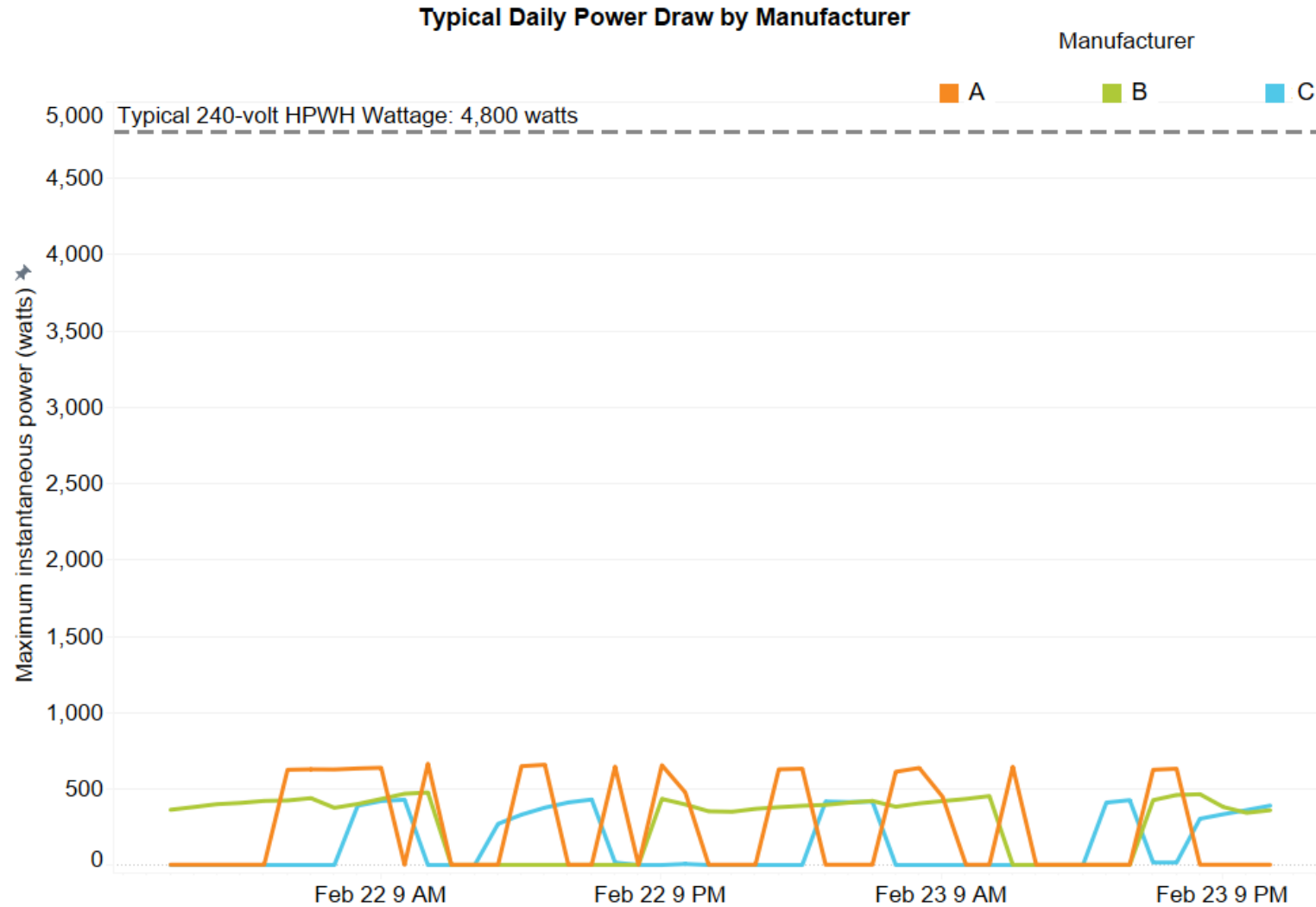




# 120-volt HPWHs are truly low amperage units!



## Low power draw = happy grid



How much homeowners **save** on installation costs, and what is a typical operating cost?



# There's more to cost than just purchase price...

### Total Project Costs: 120-volt versus 240-volt HPWHs (\$)

Technology

120-volt

Median: \$5,800

240-volt

Median: \$6,500

0K

10K

20K

30K

40K

Total Project Cost (\$)

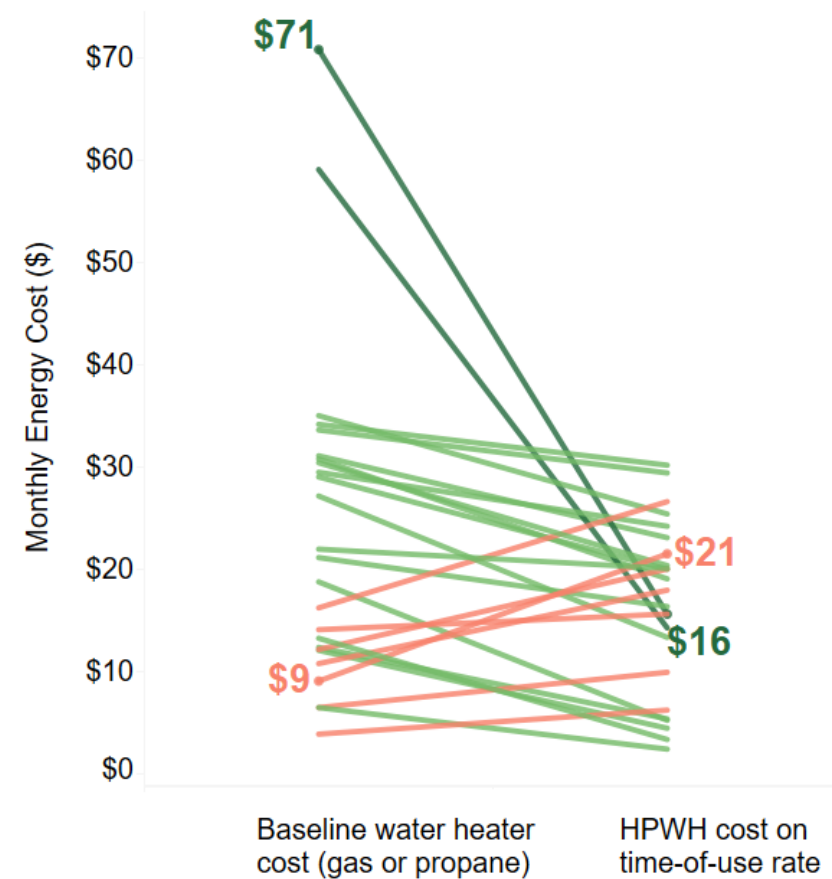
240-volt costs from  
TECH Working Data

# Do plug-in HPWHs save money?

- Overall, participants saved money vs gas
- SCE customers saw least savings overall due to electric vs gas prices, however gas prices were volatile

At the time of report publication, 72% of participants saved money with a HPWH

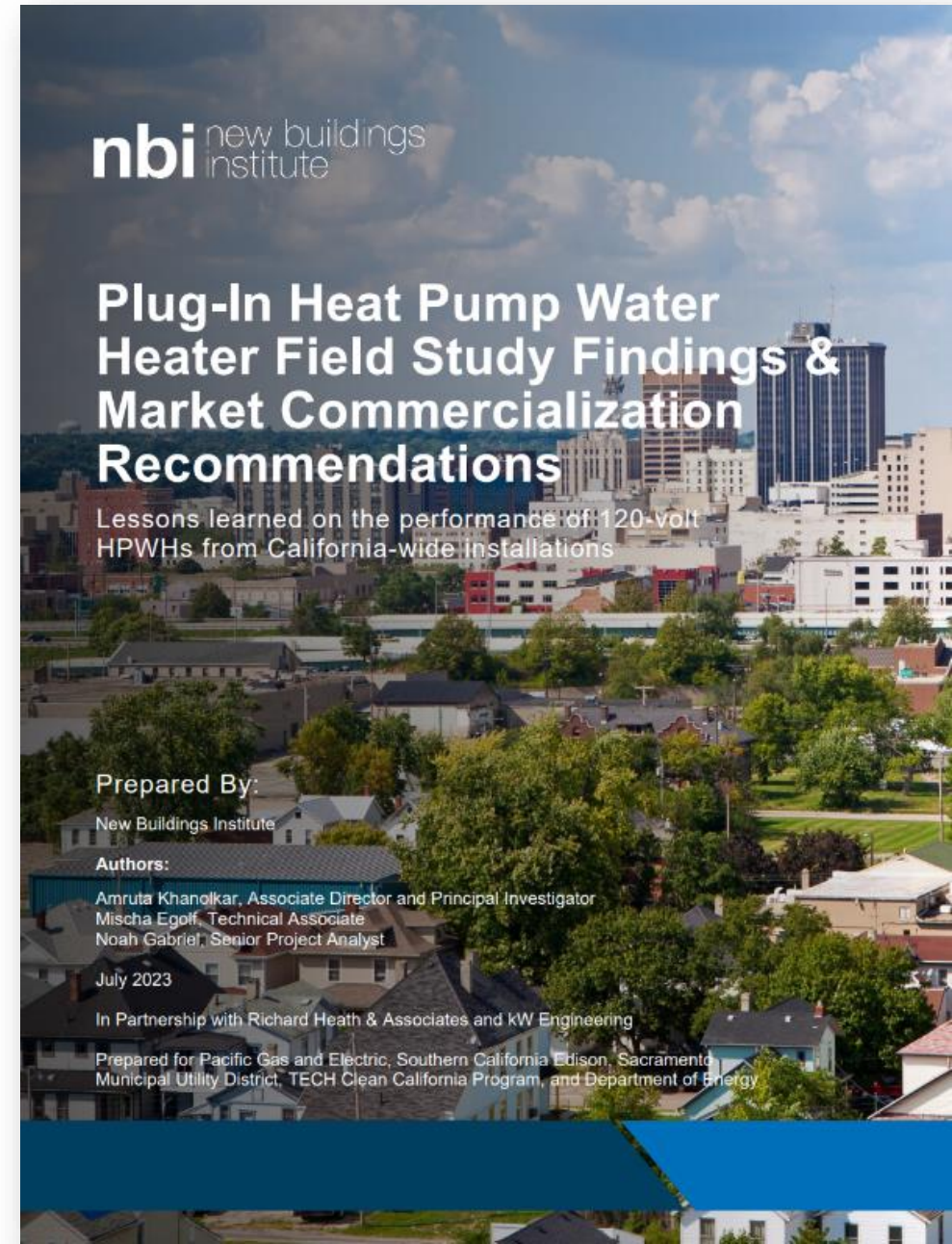
Monthly cost savings with HPWH (\$)



## The report

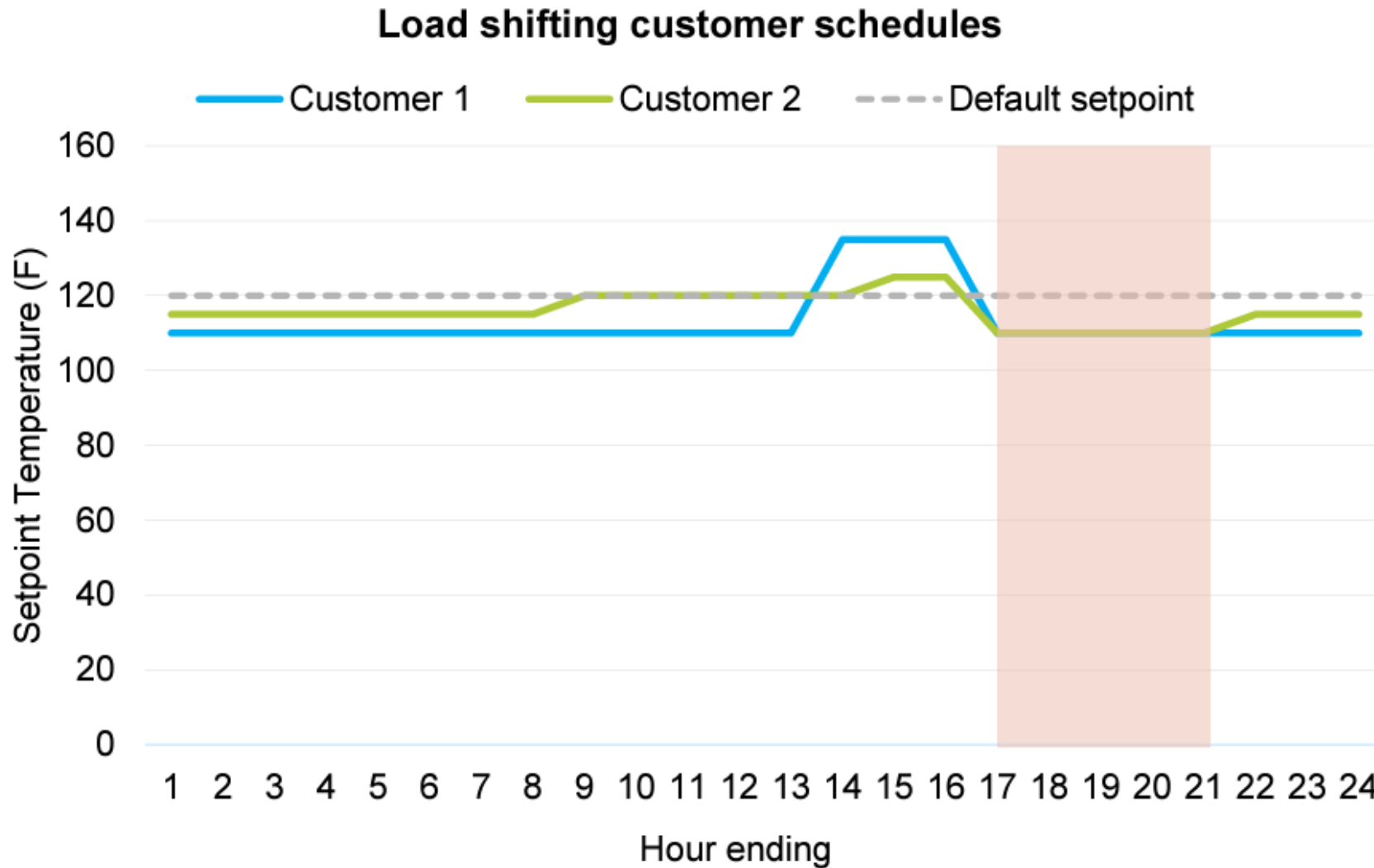


<https://newbuildings.org/resource/plug-in-heat-pump-water-heater-field-study-findings-market-commercialization-recommendations/>



# Two customers implemented load shifting...

FIGURE 11. SUMMARY OF LOAD SHIFTING CUSTOMER TEMPERATURE SCHEDULES



Curtailing energy use from 4-9PM

## Installing the EcoPort

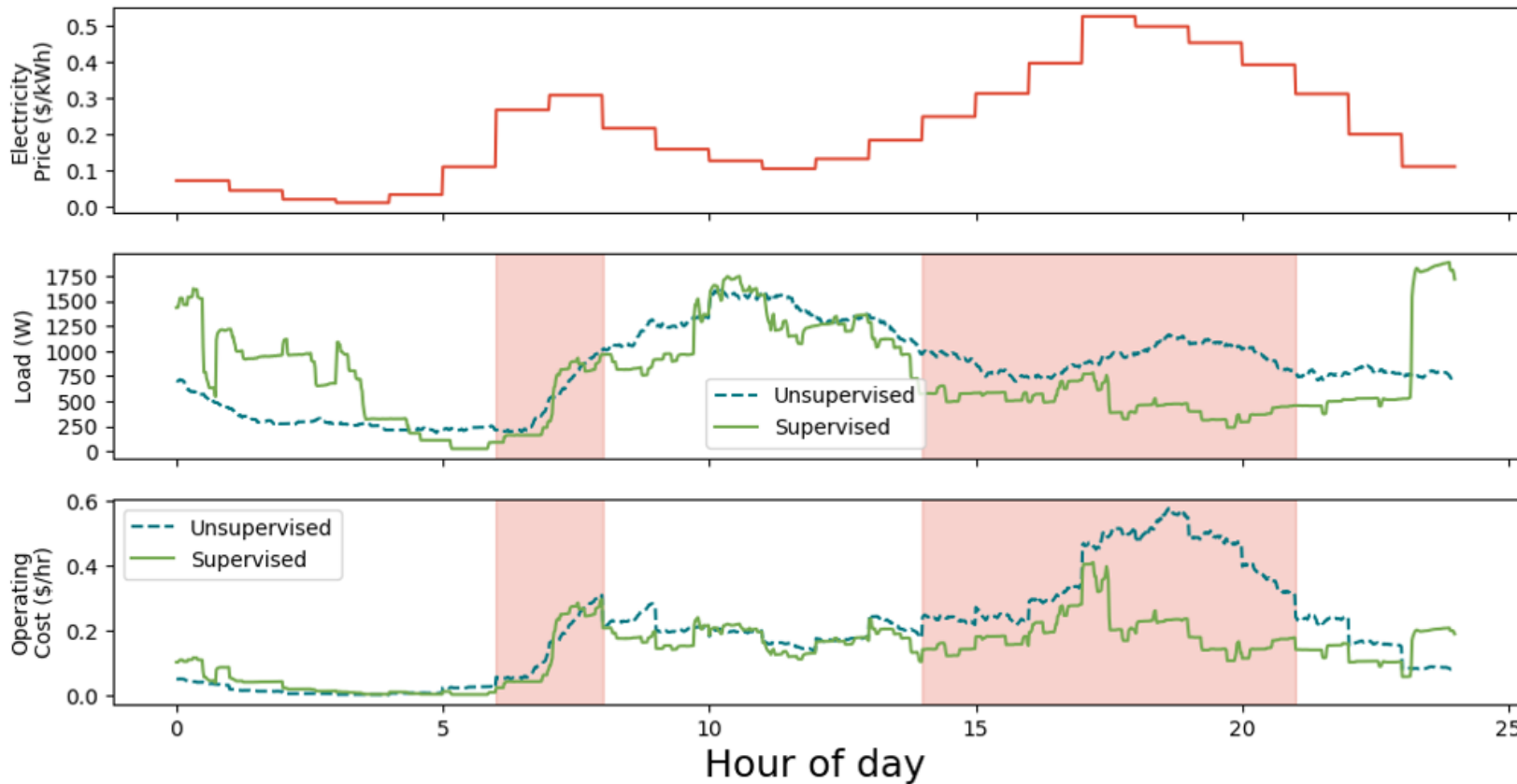
NBI created installation guide  
for participants

10/12 installed successfully





# CalFlexHub: Winter Price Schedule

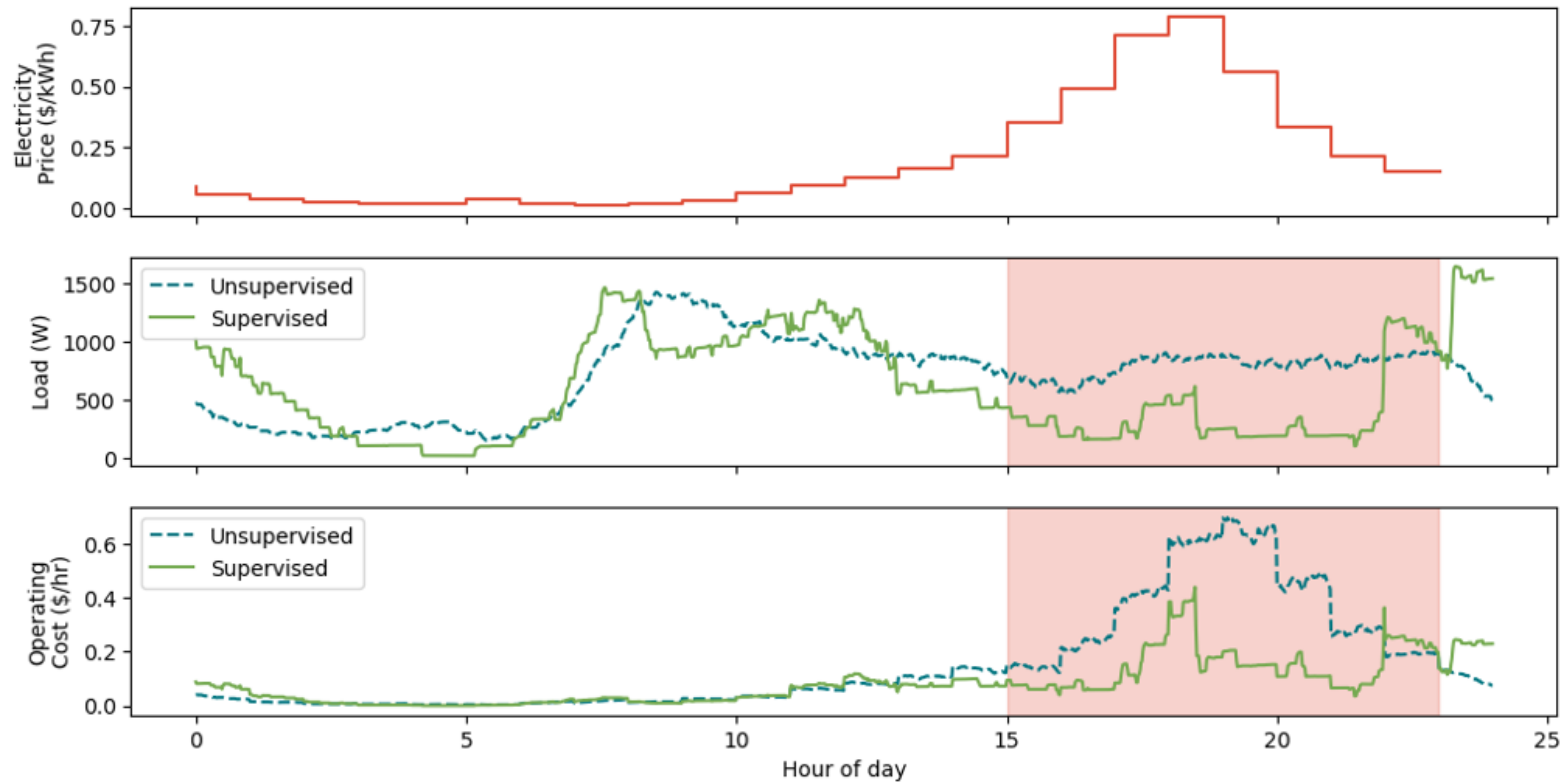


Peak kWh Reduction: 42%

Operating Cost Decrease: 30%

Fleet: 10 HPWHs

## CalFlexHub: Summer Price Schedule



Peak kWh Reduction: 52%

Operating Cost Decrease: 46%

Fleet: 10 HPWHs

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