

# **District Energy: Local Solution, Global Benefits**



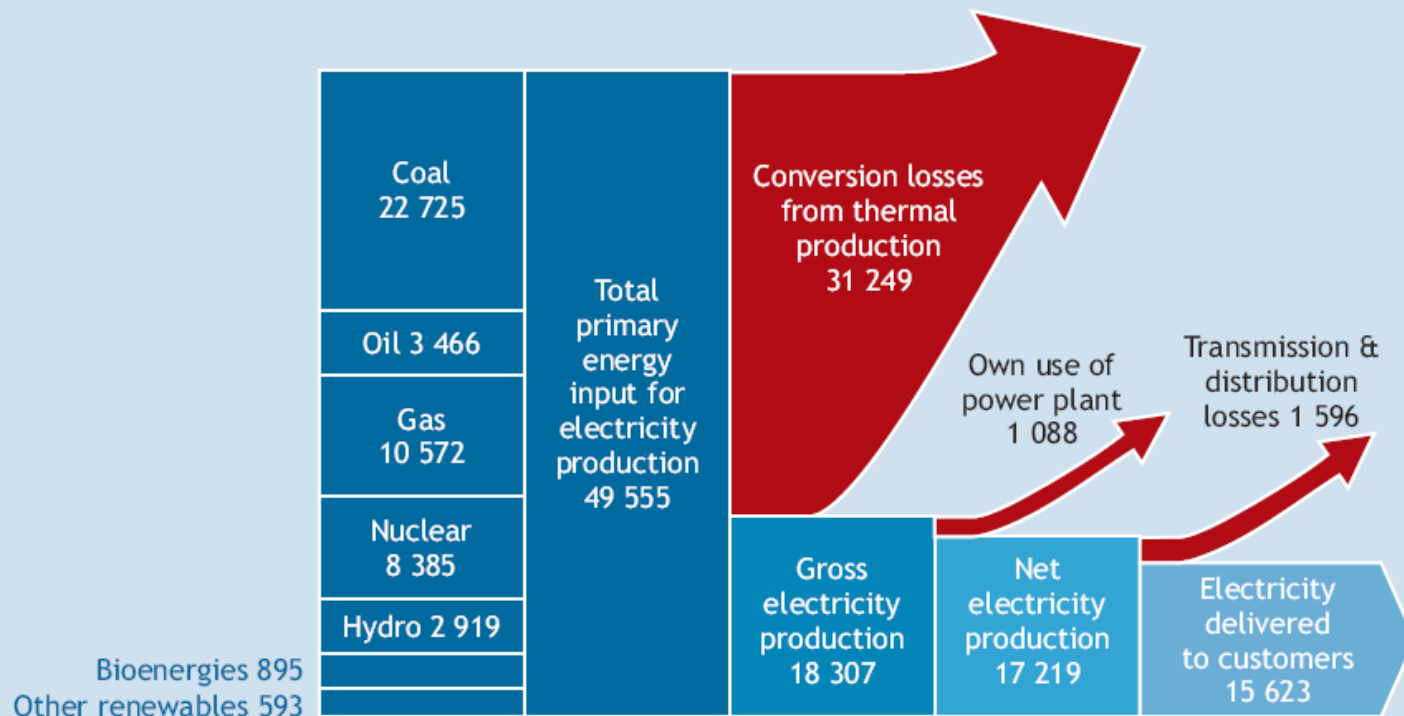
**Robert Thornton, President**

**Integrated Community Energy Solutions  
Metropolitan Council of Governments**

**January 26, 2011**

# Wasted Energy Is a Huge Challenge and Opportunity

## Energy Flows in the Global Electricity System



Source: IEA, *CHP: Evaluating the Benefits of Greater Global Investment* (2008).

*2/3 of the fuel we use to produce power is  
wasted --*

*CHP can more than double this efficiency*

# Efficiency of US Power Generation

## U.S. COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS RANKED BY EFFICIENCY

Decile	No of units	Net nameplate capacity (GW)	Capacity factor	2007 total generation (BkWh)	2007 generation-weighted efficiency (HHV)
1	181	30	67%	177	26.5%
2	108	30	70%	180	30.0%
3	90	30	73%	189	31.0%
4	73	30	73%	189	31.7%
5	84	30	75%	194	32.4%
6	75	30	69%	181	33.2%
7	79	29	71%	182	34.0%
8	70	30	70%	186	34.9%
9	57	29	72%	184	35.9%
10	46	30	74%	192	37.9%
Overall	863	297	71%	1,856	32.5%

# ***Opportunity: District Energy***

***“District heating and cooling is an integrative technology that can make significant contributions to reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and air pollution and to increasing energy security.”***



***International Energy Agency DHC/CHP Executive Committee  
District Heating and Cooling: Environmental Technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

# **IPCC Cites District Energy**

***“Measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings fall into one of three categories: reducing energy consumption and embodied energy in buildings, switching to low-carbon fuels including a higher share of renewable energy or controlling the emissions of non-CO2 GHG gases.”***

***“Community-scale energy systems also offer significant new opportunities for the use of renewable energy.”***

**ipcc**

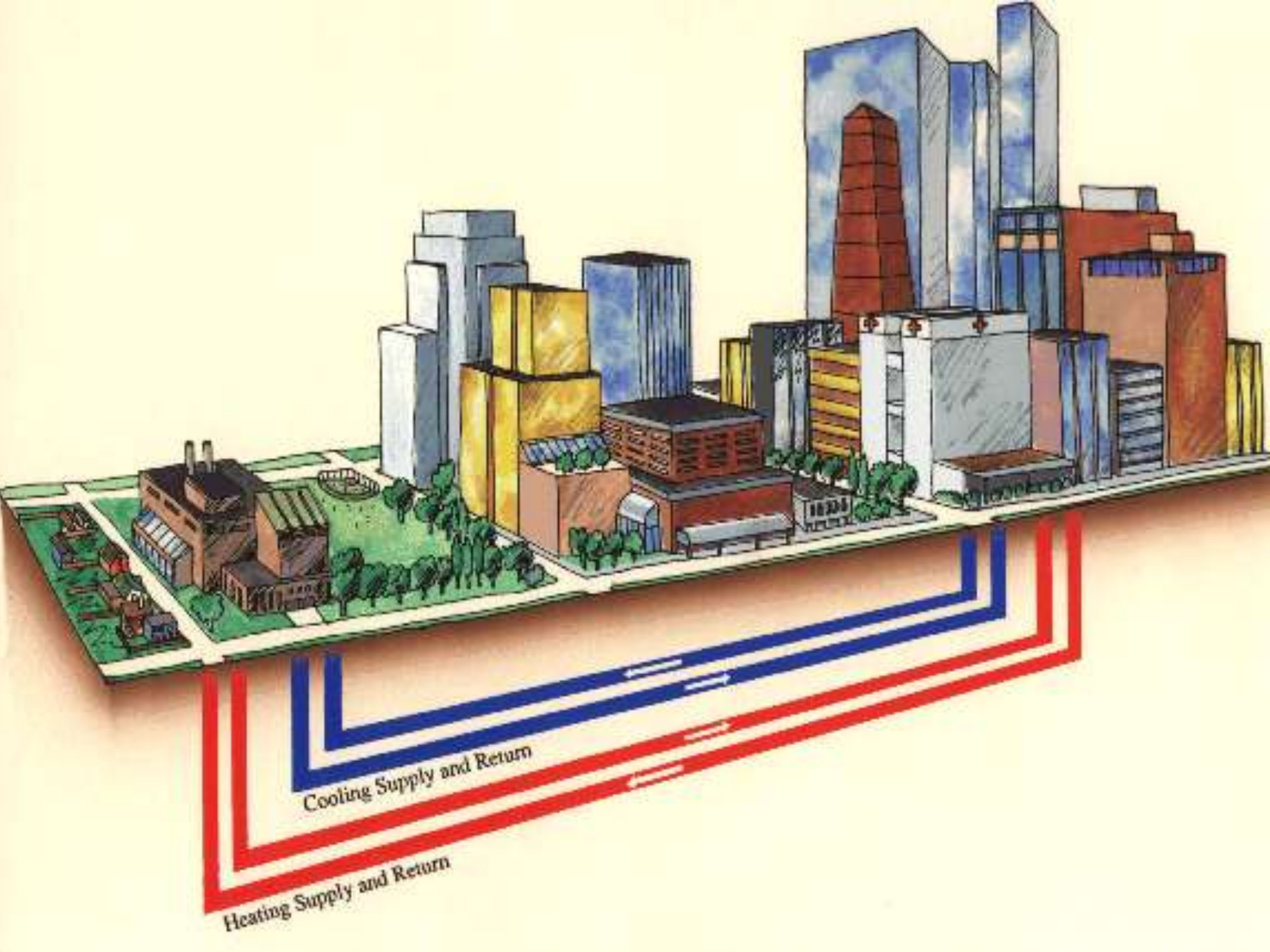
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
Chapter 6 - Residential and Commercial Buildings**



# ***Opportunity* – Use Surplus Heat**







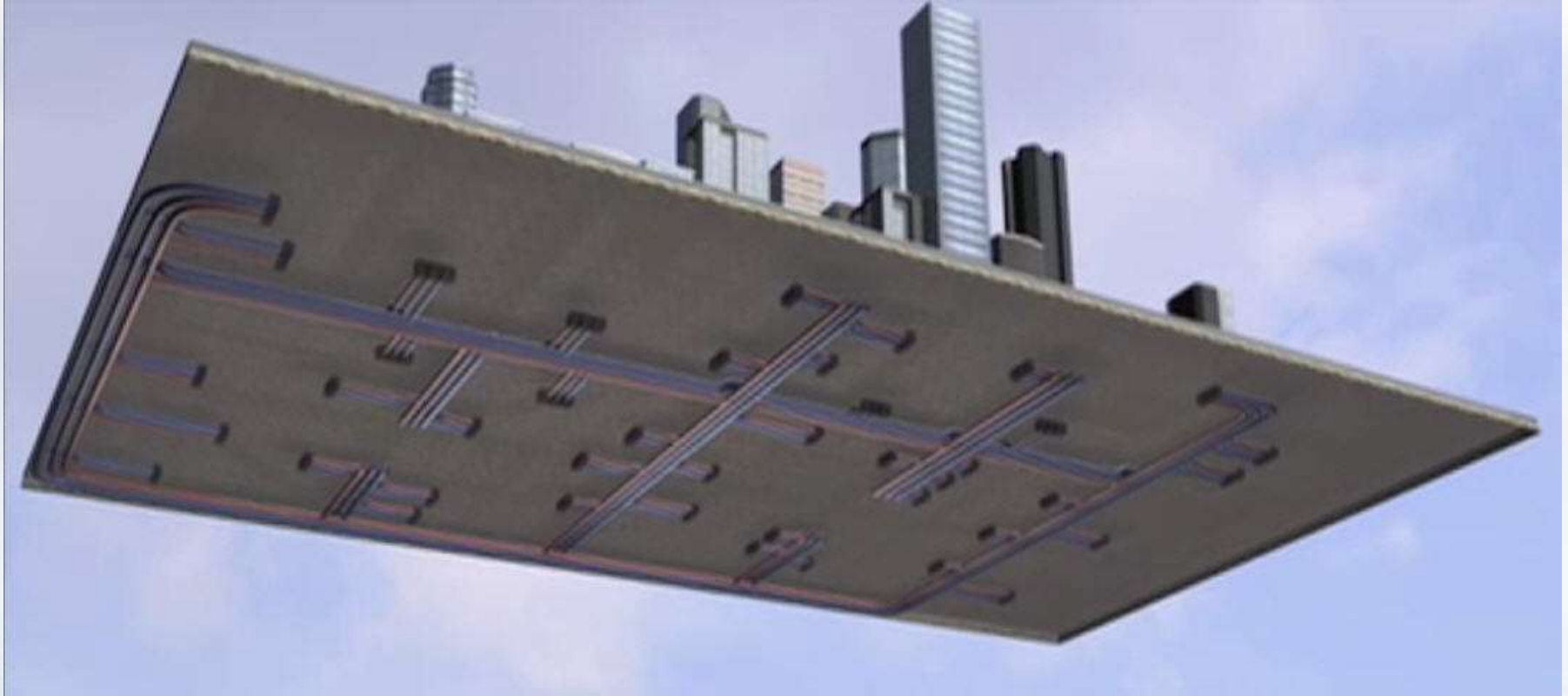
# District Energy – Community Scale Heating and Cooling

- Underground network of pipes “combines” heating and cooling requirements of multiple buildings
- Creates a “market” for valuable thermal energy
- Aggregated thermal loads creates scale to apply fuels, technologies not feasible on single-building basis
- Fuel flexibility improves energy security, local economy



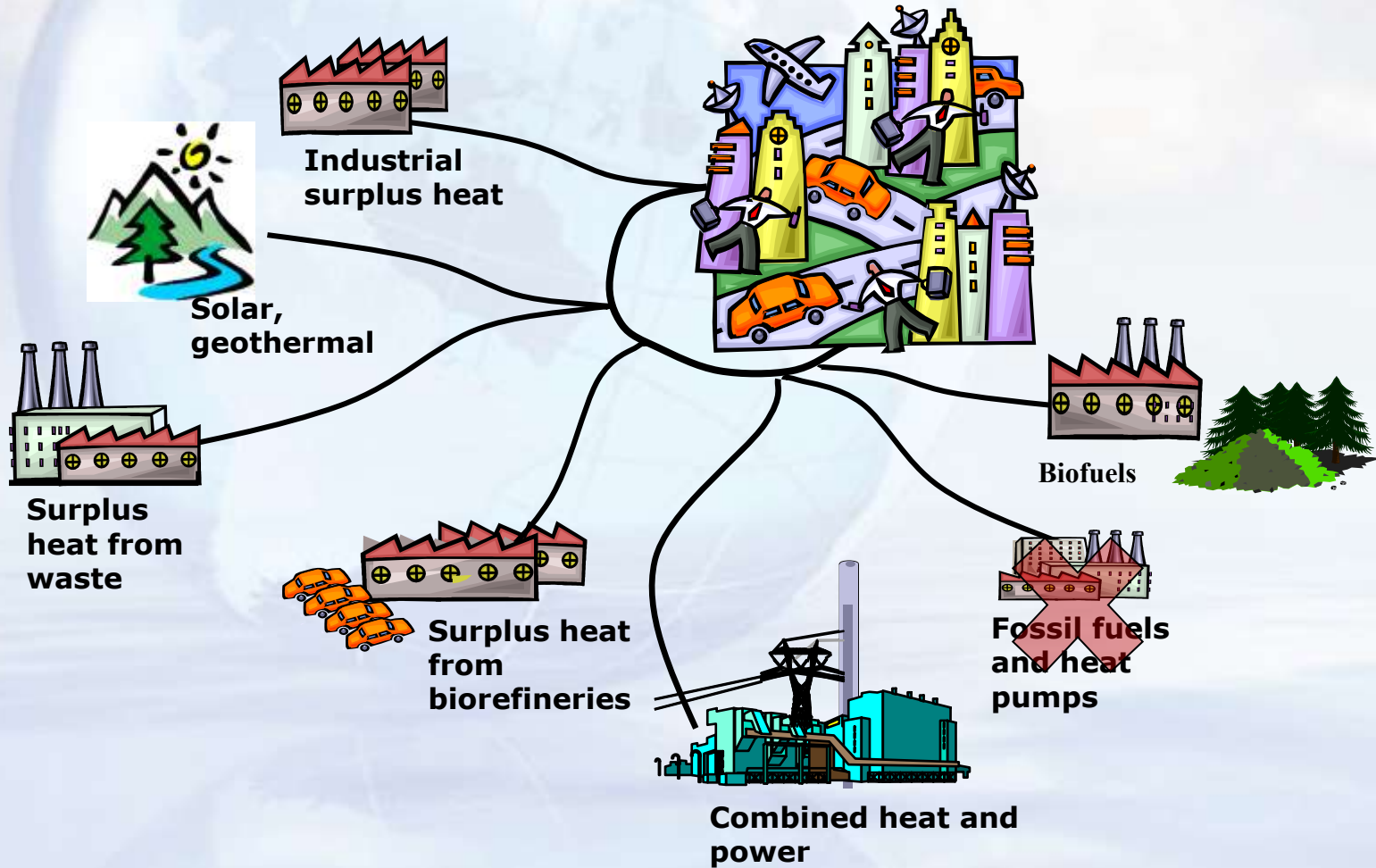


# Infrastructure for Local Clean Energy Economy



- **Connects thermal energy sources with users**
- **Urban infrastructure – hidden community asset**
- **Energy dollars re-circulate in local economy**
- **Locate generation near the power & thermal load**

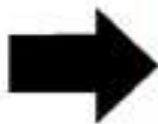
# District Energy Networks Make Efficient Use of Local Renewable Energy Sources and Surplus Heat



# Energy-Efficiency Comparisons

## Standard Power Plant

**100%**  
Fuel Input



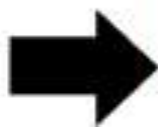
**60%**  
"Waste" heat rejected to environment



**40%**  
Useful energy produced for electricity

## District Energy/ Combined Heat and Power Plant

**100%**  
Fuel Input



**20%**  
"Waste" heat rejected to environment

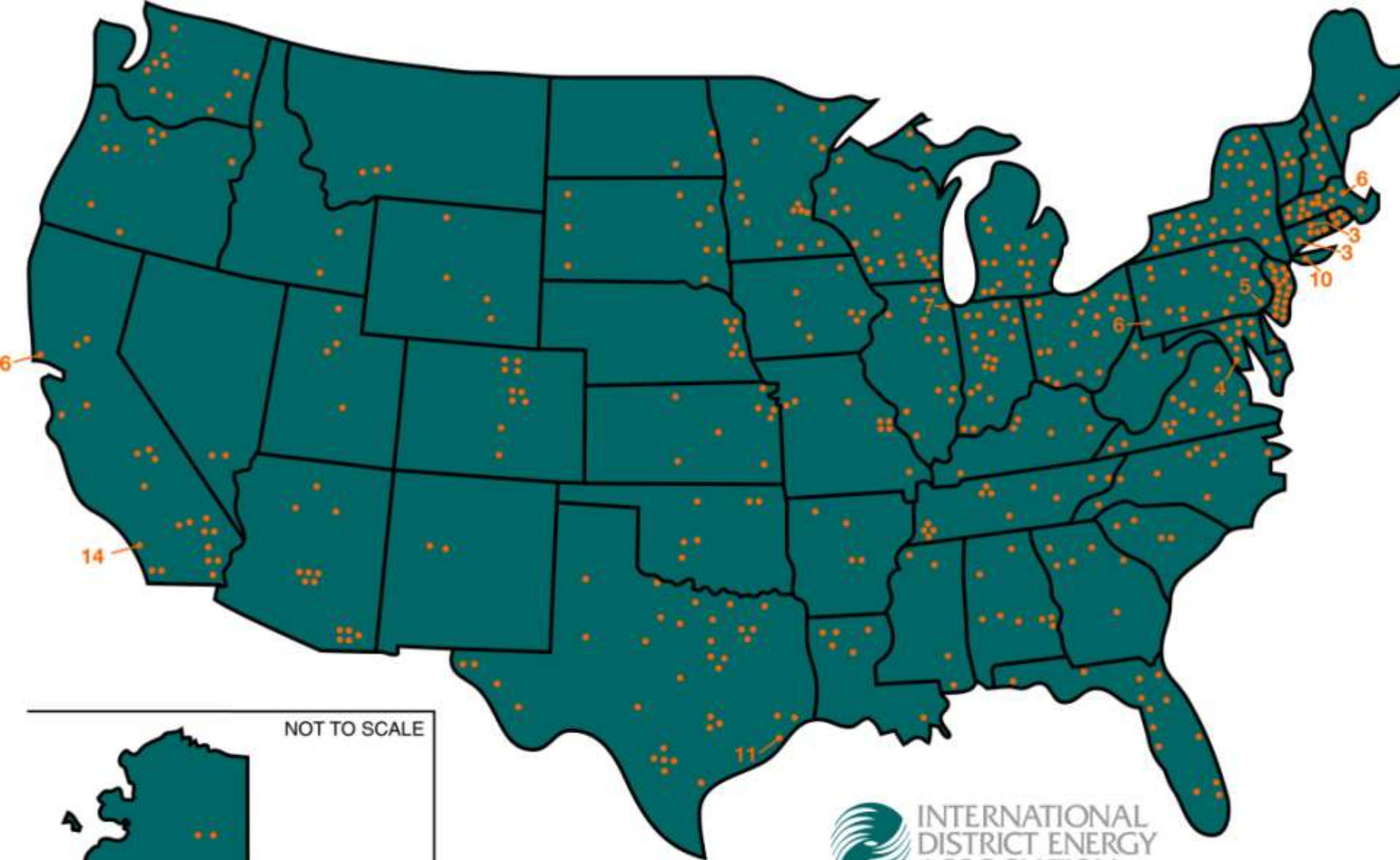


**40%**  
Useful energy produced for heating and/or cooling via district energy system



**40%**  
Useful energy produced for electricity





**U.S. District Energy Systems**  
Based on 2005 Energy Information Administration study.



# US District Energy Industry Capacity

	<b># Systems Reporting</b>	<b>Gross SF Customer Building Space Served</b>	<b>Heating Capacity (MMBtu/Hr)</b>	<b>Cooling Capacity (Tons)</b>	<b>Electricity Generation (CHP Mwe)</b>
<b>Downtown Utilities</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1,898,037,560</b>	<b>49,239,000</b>	<b>1,082,355</b>	<b>950</b>
<b>Campus Energy Systems</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>2,489,216,071</b>	<b>82,107,191</b>	<b>1,855,546</b>	<b>2,197</b>

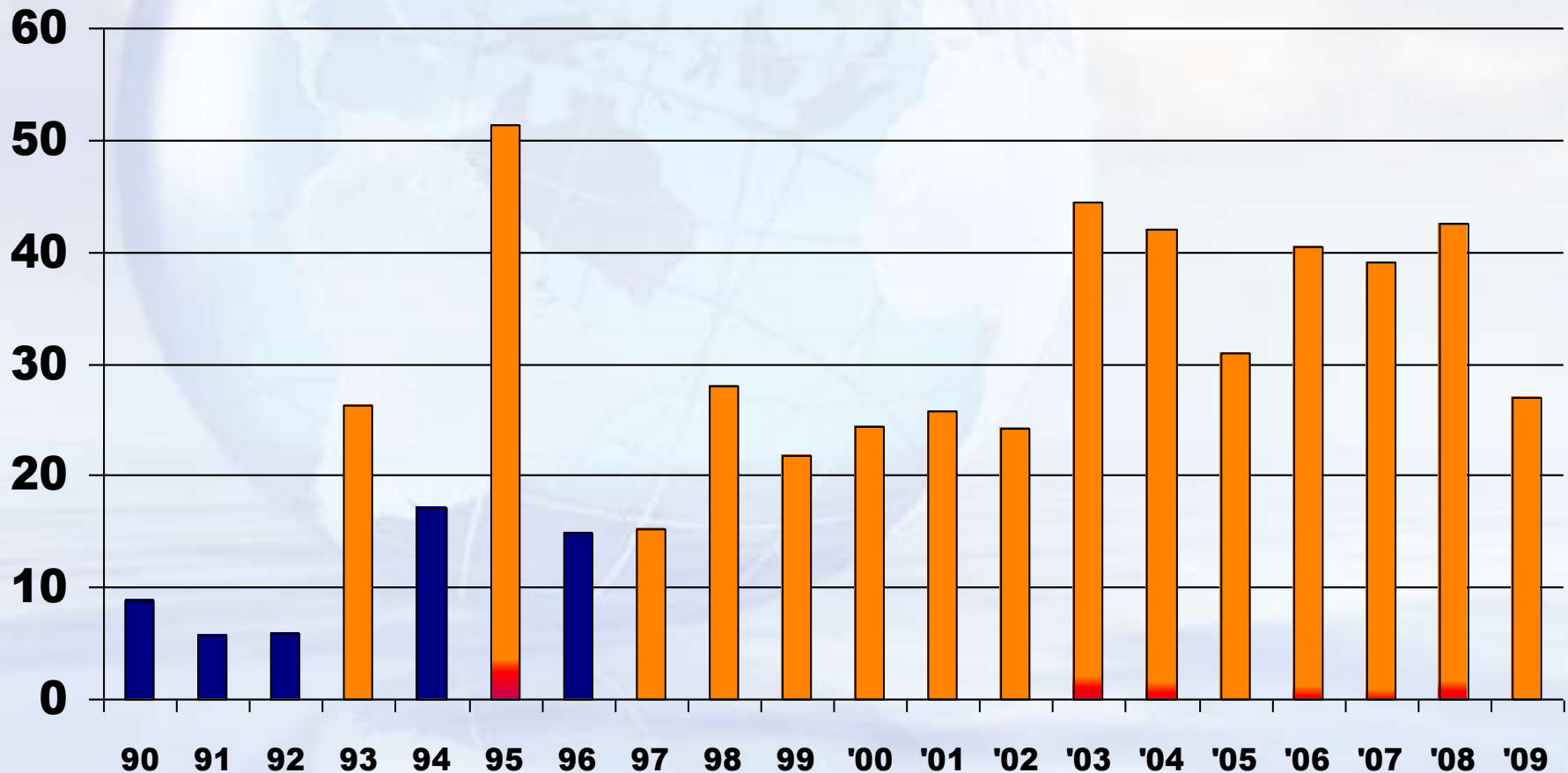
\* Based on systems reporting 2005 data to EIA Survey

# District Energy Industry Growth

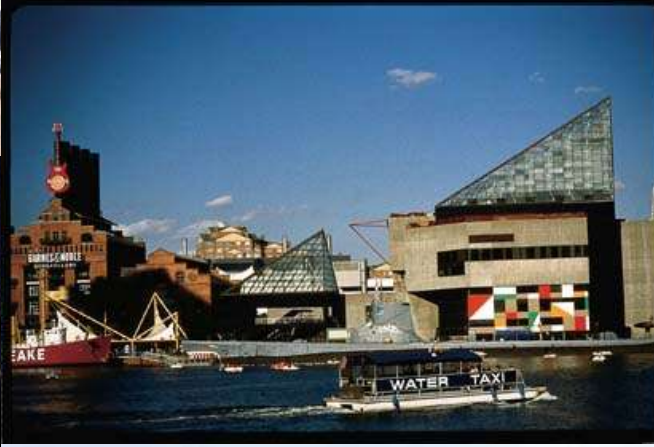
(Million sq ft customer bldg space connected/committed)

Aggregate SF reported since 1990 - 495,127,348 SF

(Annual average 24.7 Million SF/Yr – North America)



# Commercial, Government, Events





# Residential, Hospitality, Healthcare





# **District Energy: Creating Scale for Efficient and Cleaner Energy Solutions**

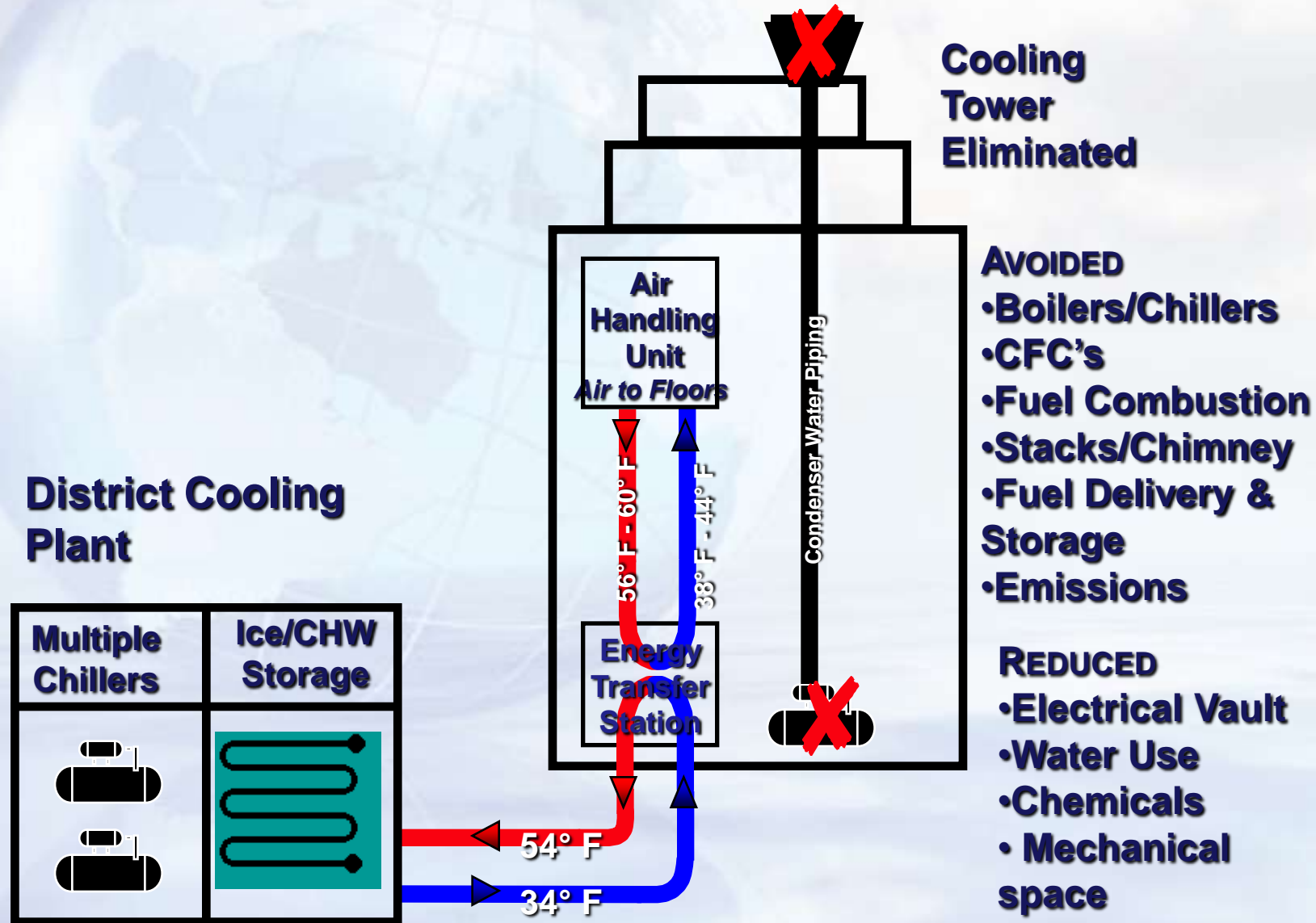
- **Promotes Energy Efficiency and Conservation**
- **Eases Transition to Alternative Energy Sources**
  - Local fuel supplies (biomass, surplus wood, waste, etc)
  - Renewable thermal (lake/ocean/river cooling; geothermal)
- **Enables Use of Surplus Thermal Energy**
  - Heat from power generation stations
  - Excess industrial heat sources
- **Increases Energy Security Through Fuel Flexibility**
- **Decreases Emissions of Carbon**
- **Energy Dollars Re-circulate in Local Economy**
- **Improves Air Quality**

# Impact on End User

- Customer capital costs reduced or amortized over long term service agreement
- Reduces size mechanical room; electrical vaults; condenser shafts and roof loads
- Colder CHW supply improves HVAC performance
- Lower owning, operating and maintenance costs
- More leasable space

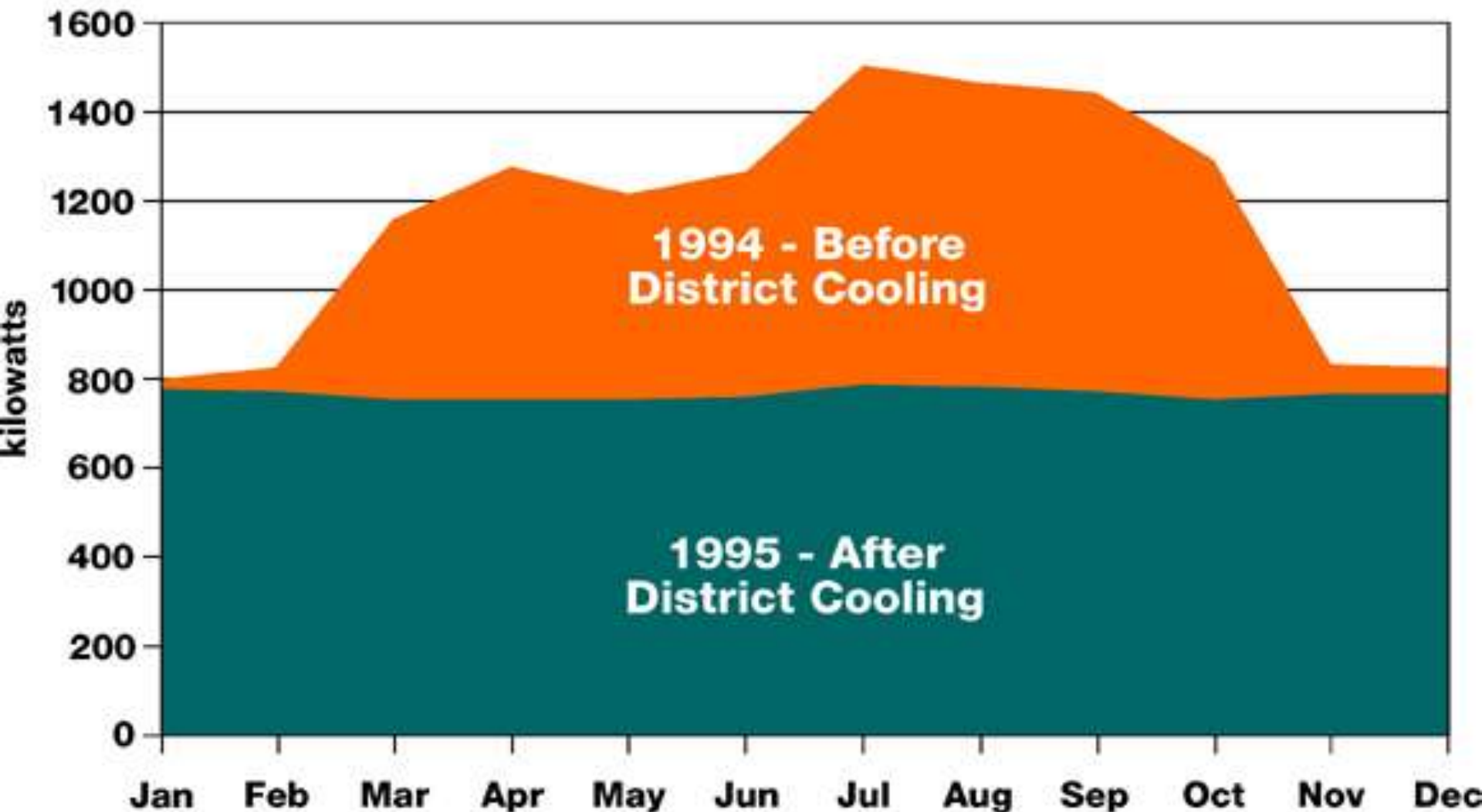


# Building Interconnection





# ***District Cooling Customer Electric Demand Profile***



350,000 sf commercial office building built in 1965. Located in Cleveland. Two electric chillers displaced. Actual peak meter readings varied just 2% Jan-July.



# Higher Value Buildings

Without District Energy



With District Energy

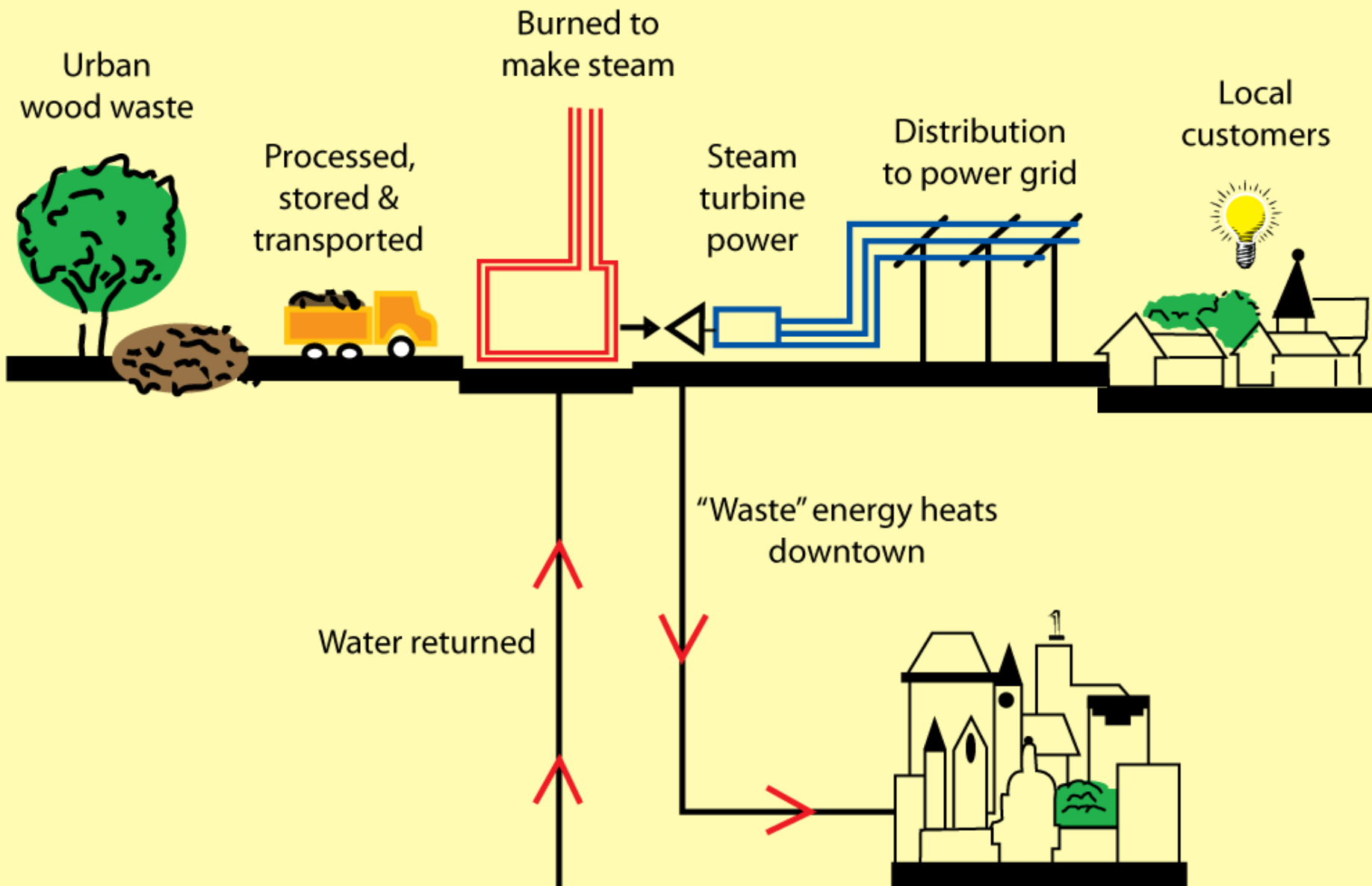


# District Energy St. Paul



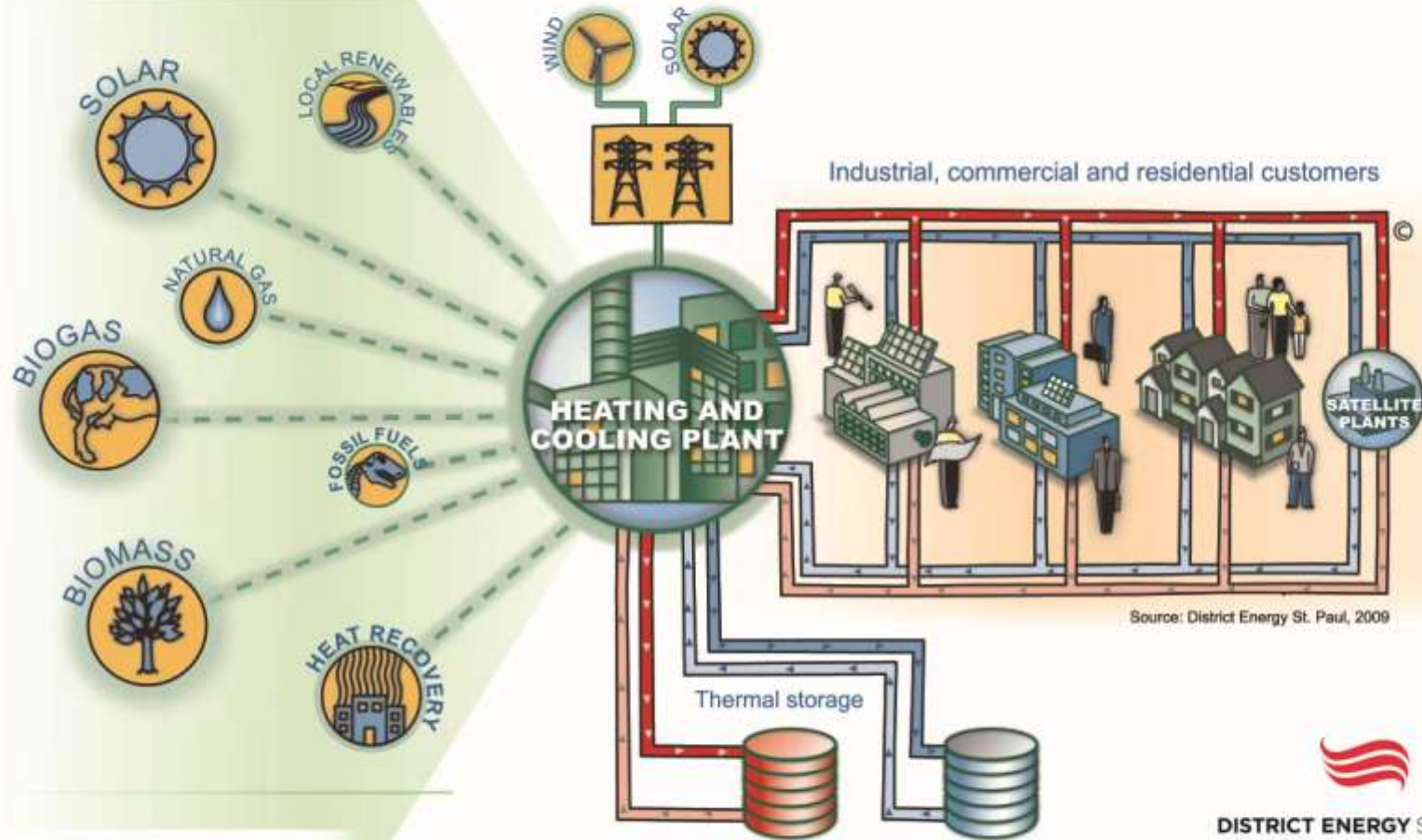
- District hot water service to 29,000,000 SF (90% market)
- District cooling service to 17,000,000 SF
- Combined heat & power: 25 Mwe; 65 MWt
- Waste wood, coal, oil, natural gas – fuel flexible
- Municipal wood waste displaces 275,000 tons coal/yr
- Double the efficiency of conventional electricity only power plants
- Greenhouse gas CO<sub>2</sub> cut by 280,000 tons per year

# Biomass-Fueled Combined Heat and Power





# Integrated Community Energy Systems



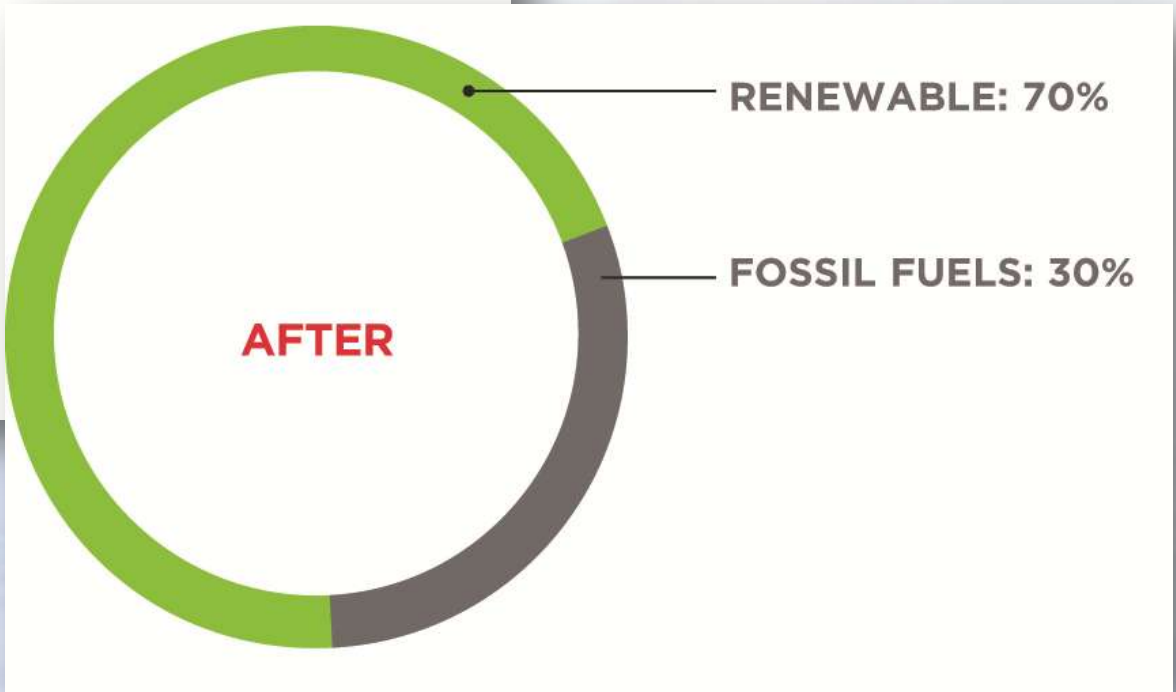
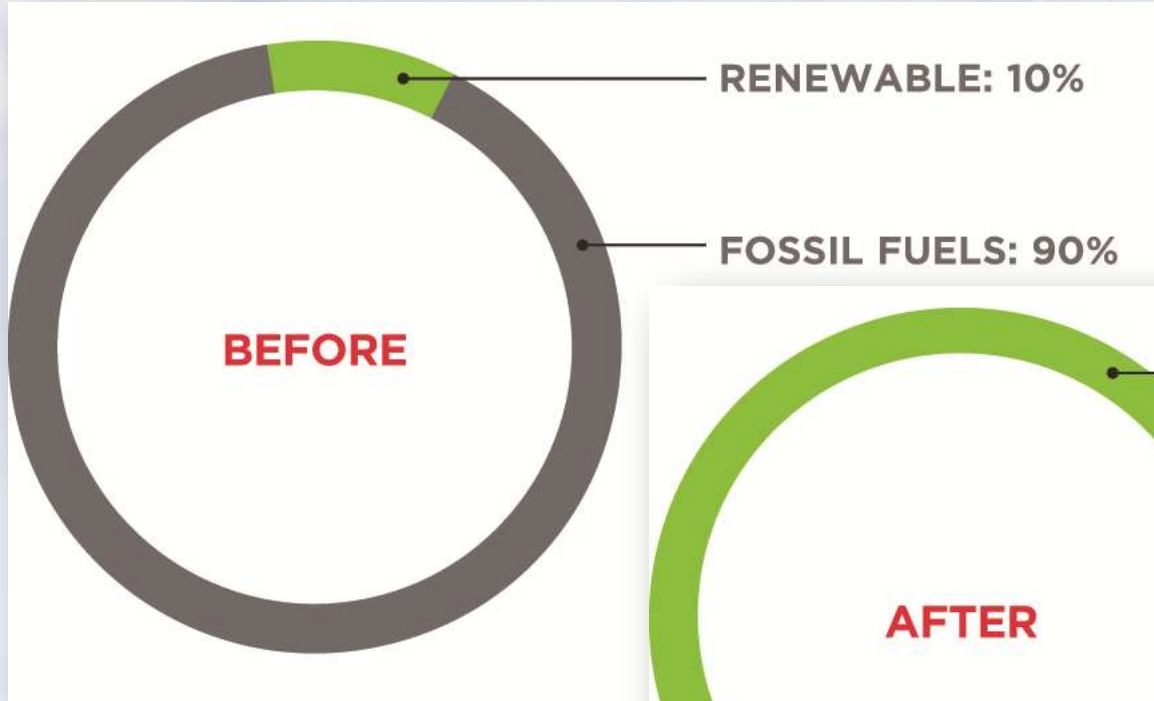


# Benefits of Biomass District Energy



- **Cut CO2 emissions by 280,000 tons per year**
- **Decreased urban waste disposal/landfill problem**
- **Using local fuel source improves energy security, creates jobs**
- **Keeps \$12 million re-circulating in local economy**
- **Stable, competitive energy prices to customers**

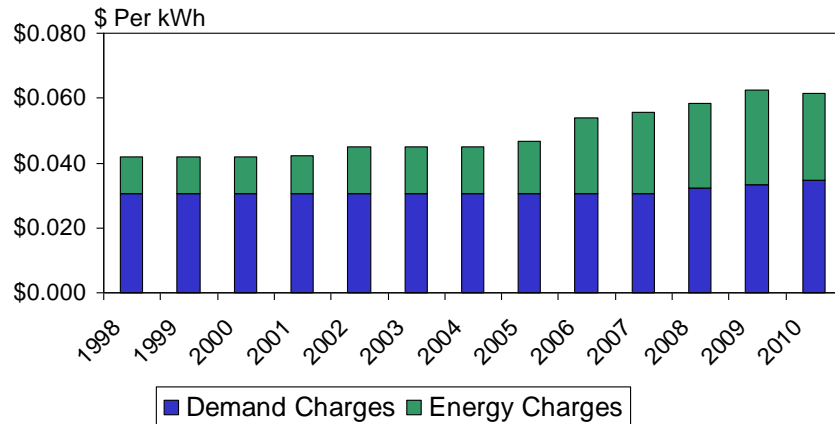
# Fuel Diversification: Before & After CHP



# System Benefits: Stable Rates

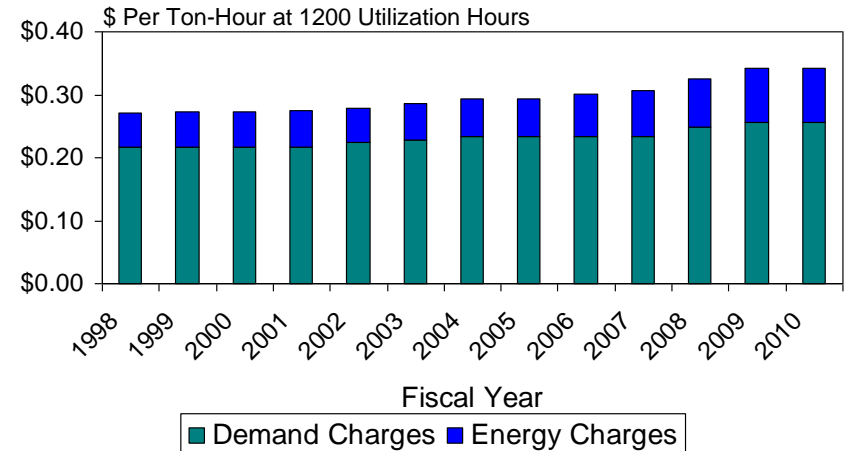
## District Energy St. Paul

**Combined Rate Summary, FY-1998 to 2010**



## District Cooling St. Paul

**Combined Rate Summary, FY-1998 to 2010**



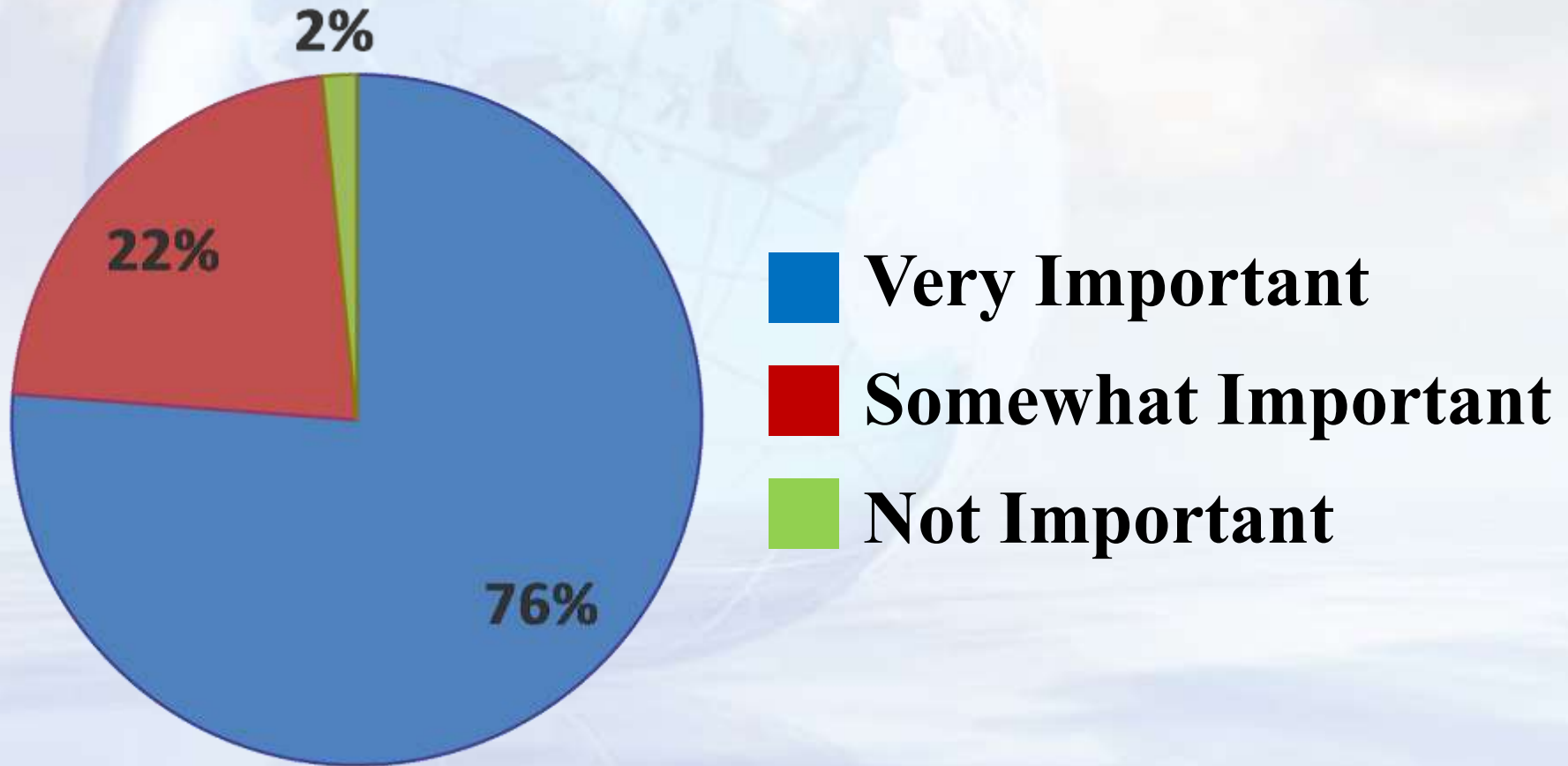
**Customers pay less today than they did in 1983\***

\*adjusted for inflation



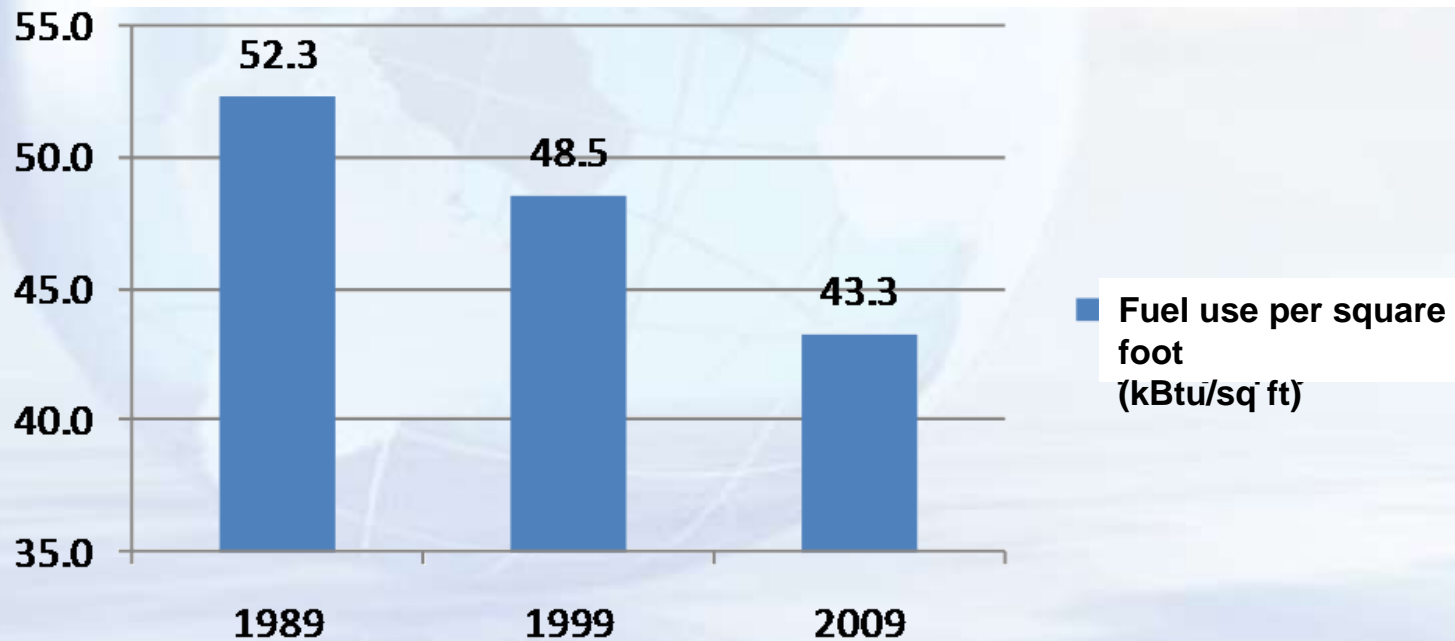
# Importance to Customers

How important is our usage of renewable fuels?

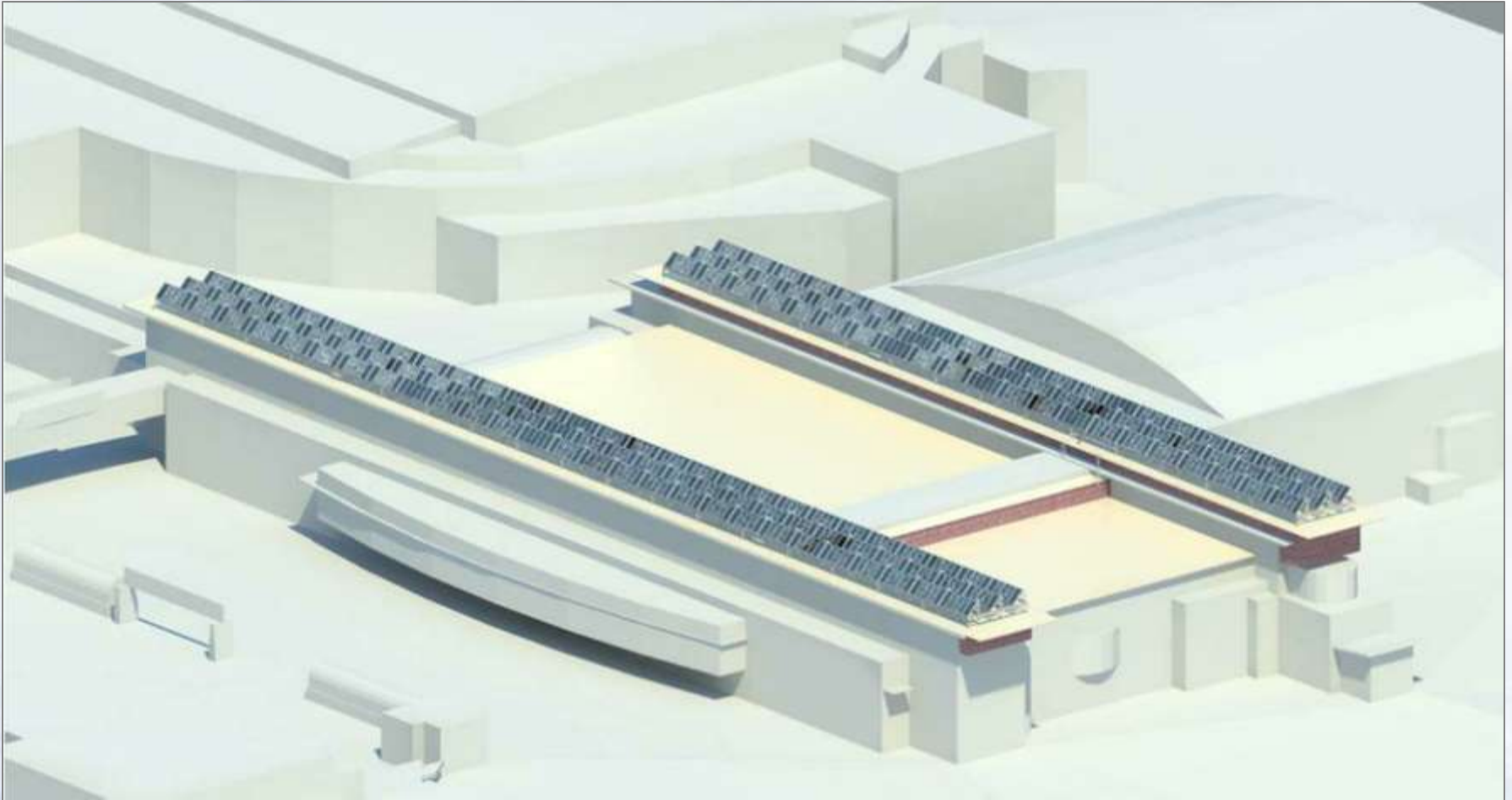


# Customer Benefits: Energy Efficiency

## Fuel Consumption per Square Foot (kBTU/ft<sup>2</sup>)



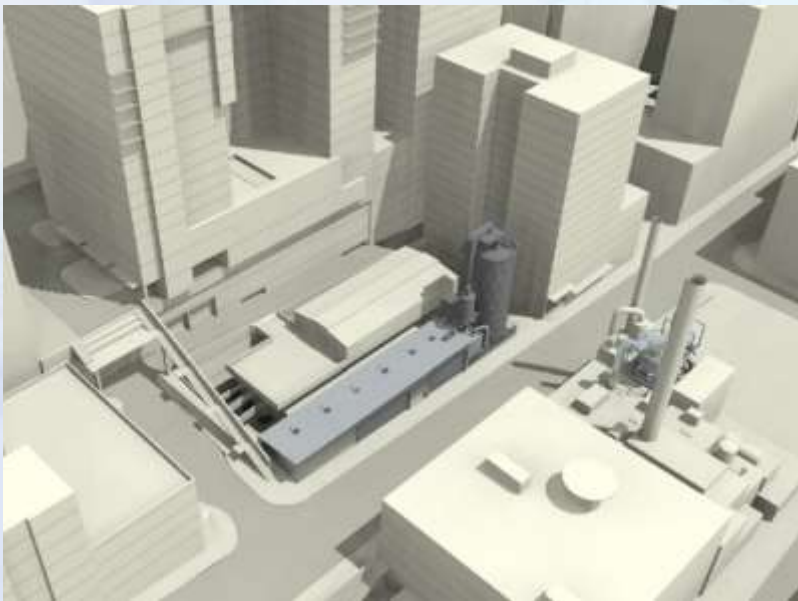
# **Solar Thermal Integration**



**2010: Design & Installation of Largest  
Solar Thermal Energy System in Midwest**



# Seattle Steam – Urban Biomass



# Seattle Steam – Urban Biomass

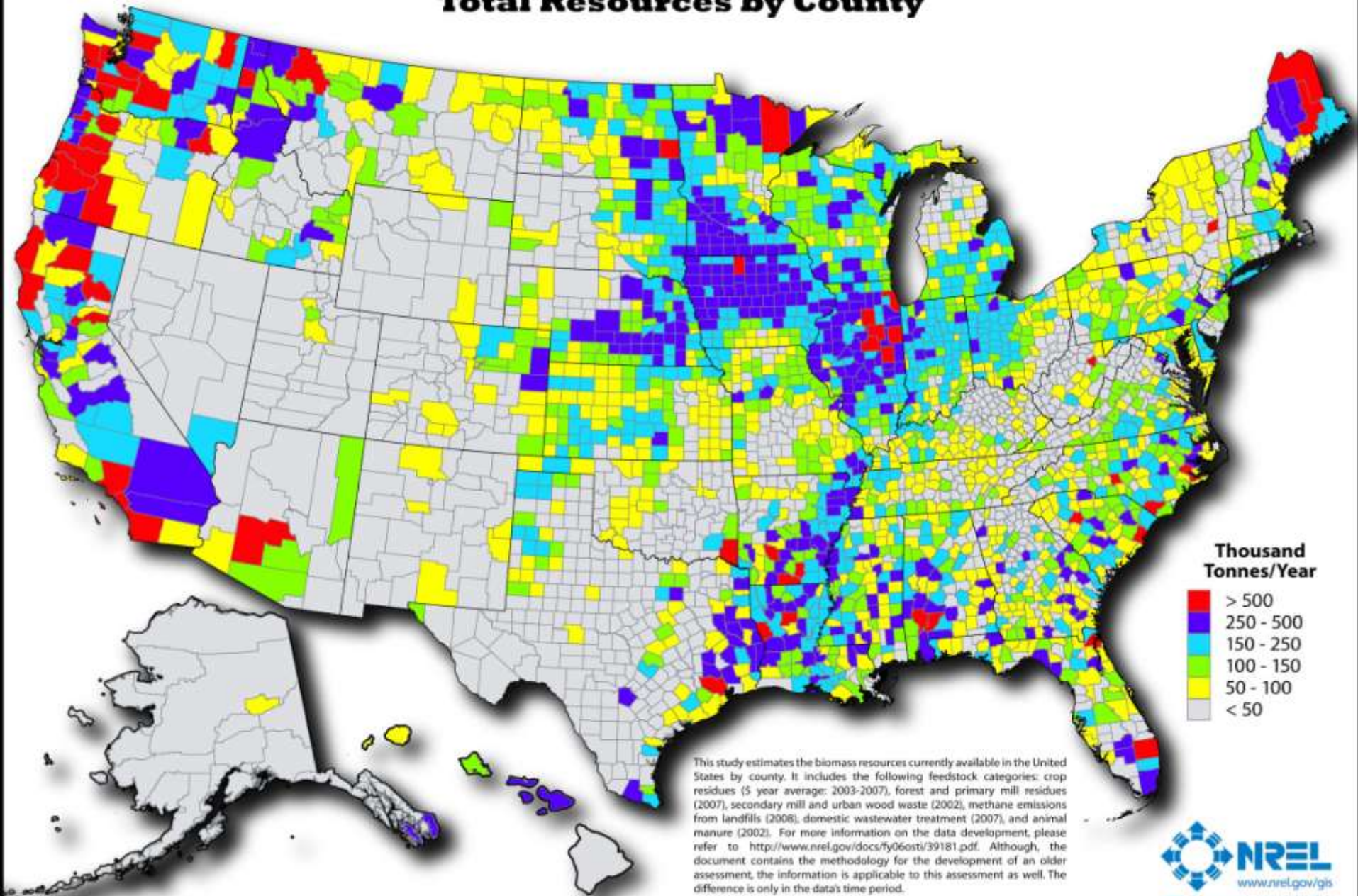


- Utilizes waste wood, avoiding landfill
- Serves approx 200 buildings downtown
- Reduces CO<sup>2</sup> output by 55,000 tons/year
- Cuts carbon footprint by 50-60%
- Supports LEED points for customers



# Biomass Resources of the United States

## Total Resources by County



This map was produced by the  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
for the U.S. Department of Energy.



# Institutions - Campus Energy Systems



- Load growth driven by building construction
- Critical care research facilities - reliability is paramount
- Common ownership between plant/buildings
- Able to retain 100% energy savings
- Longer investment horizon
- History of success with combined heat & power (CHP)

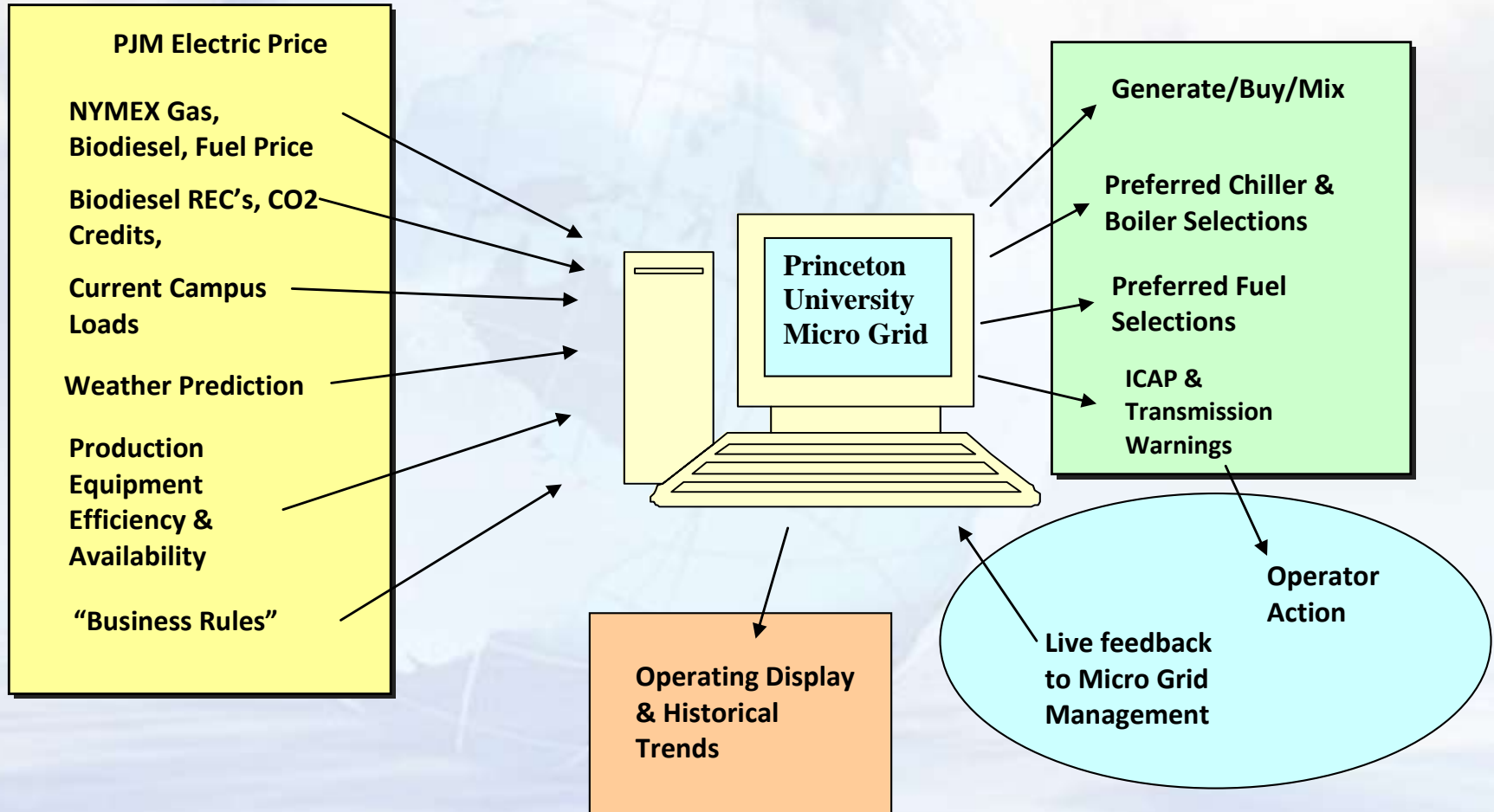
# Cogeneration & District Cooling – Princeton University



- > 150 Buildings
  - Academic
  - Research
  - Administrative
  - Residential
  - Athletic



# Princeton Micro - Grid Management





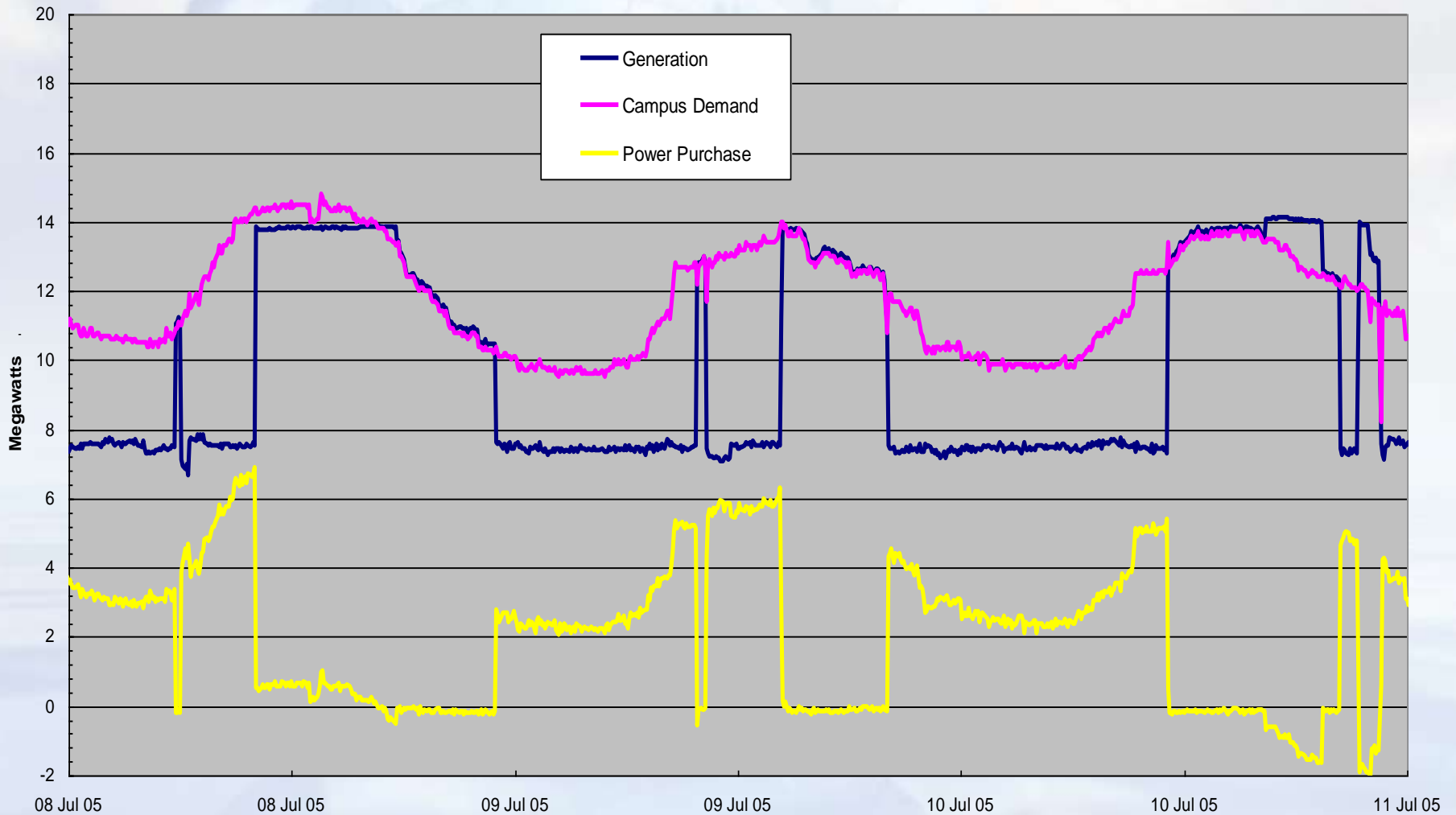


# Wholesale Market Price vs. Capacity (\$ per MWh)



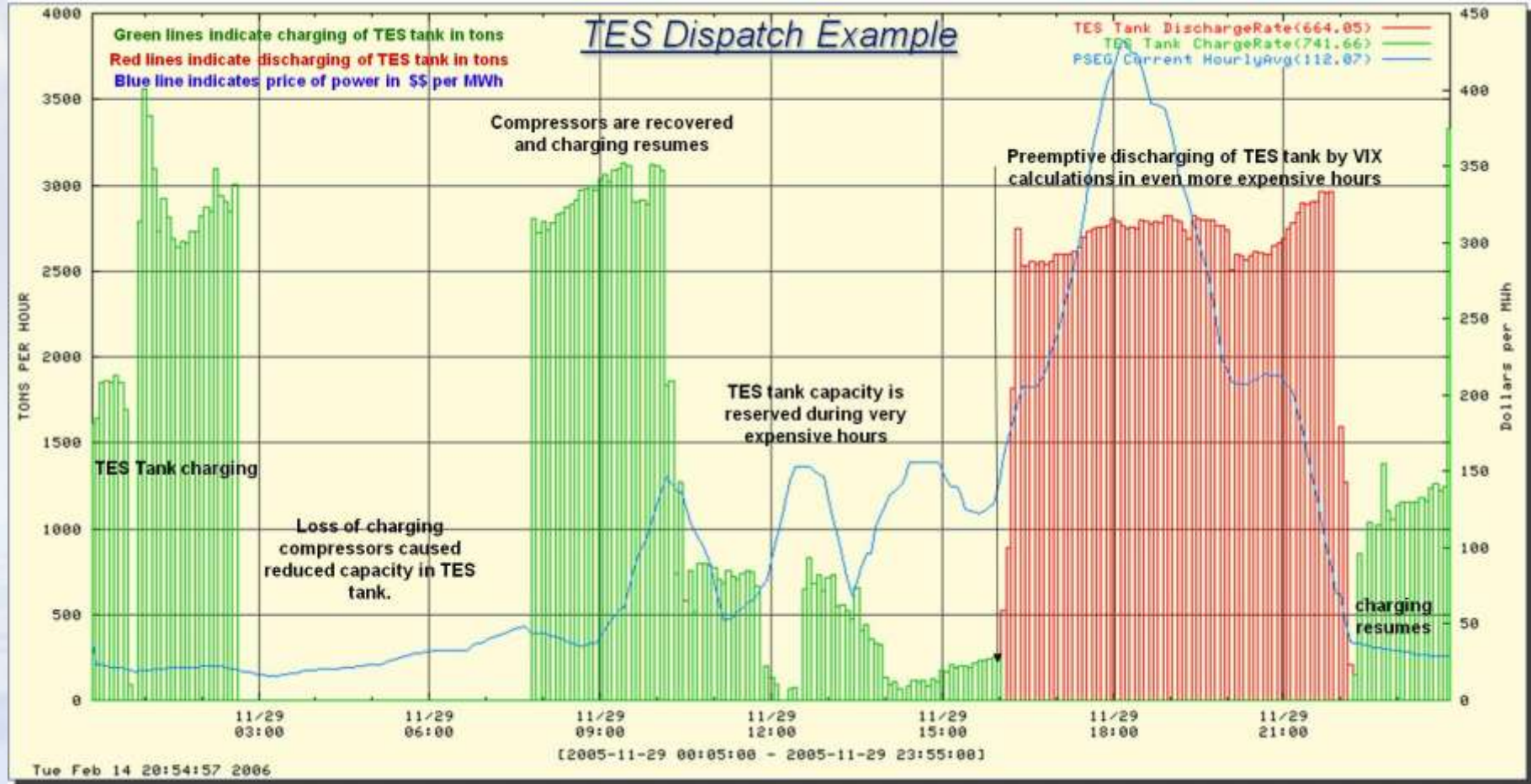
Regional Electric Grid ISO

# Campus Electric Generation Dispatch To Minimize Cost

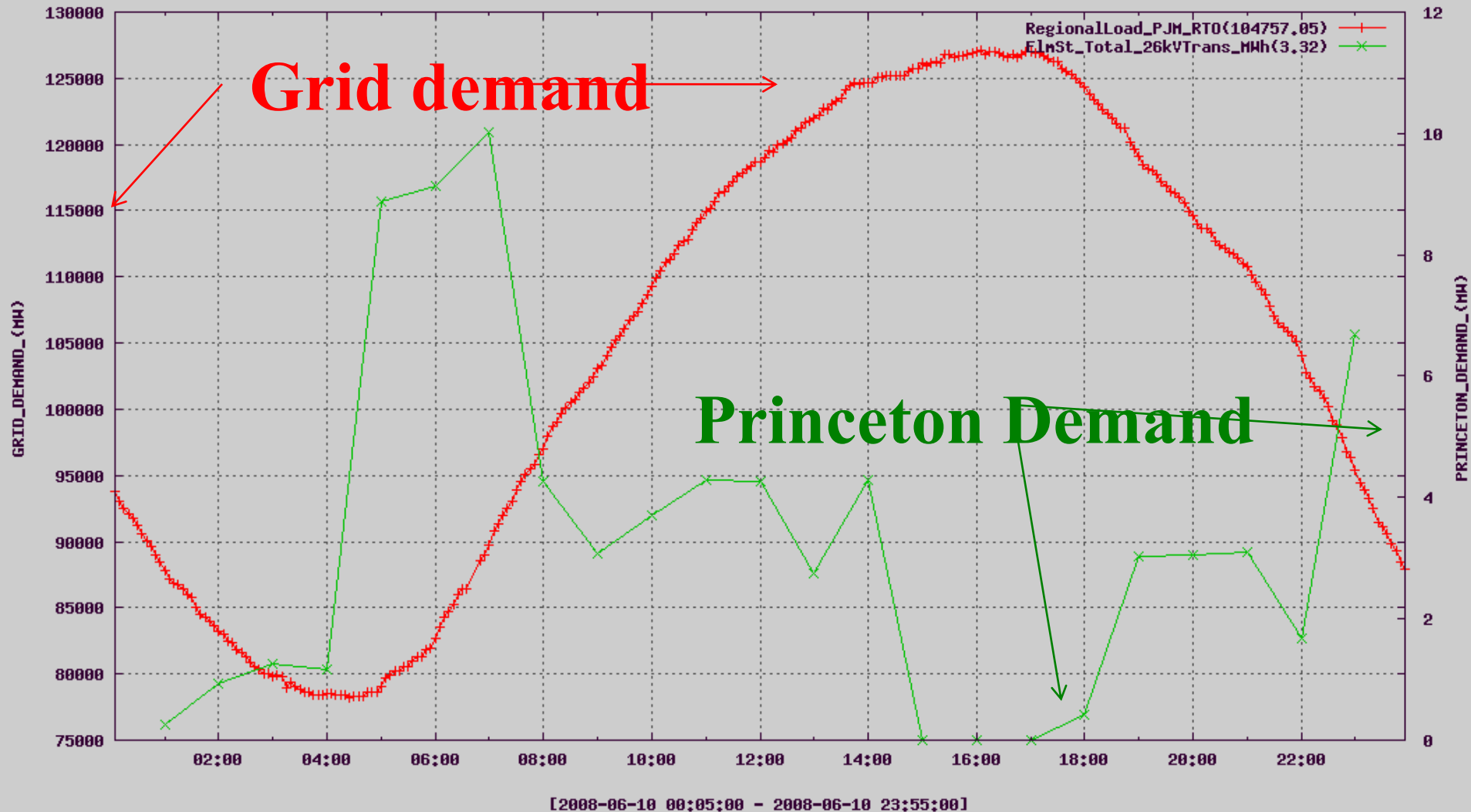




# Optimal TES Dispatch in Real Time Electric Market



# CHP/District Cooling Reduces Peak Demand on Local "Smart" Grid



# **Princeton Campus Energy System – Benefit to Local Grid**

- **2005 campus peak demand on grid 27 MW**
- **2006 campus peak demand on grid 2 MW**
- **Campus energy system “freed up” 25 MW to local grid**
- **CHP/District cooling reduces peak load on local wires, enhances reliability, avoids brownouts**
- **Benefit to local economy**

# Climate Neutrality at Cornell University

Utilities Annual Budget ~ \$60 million

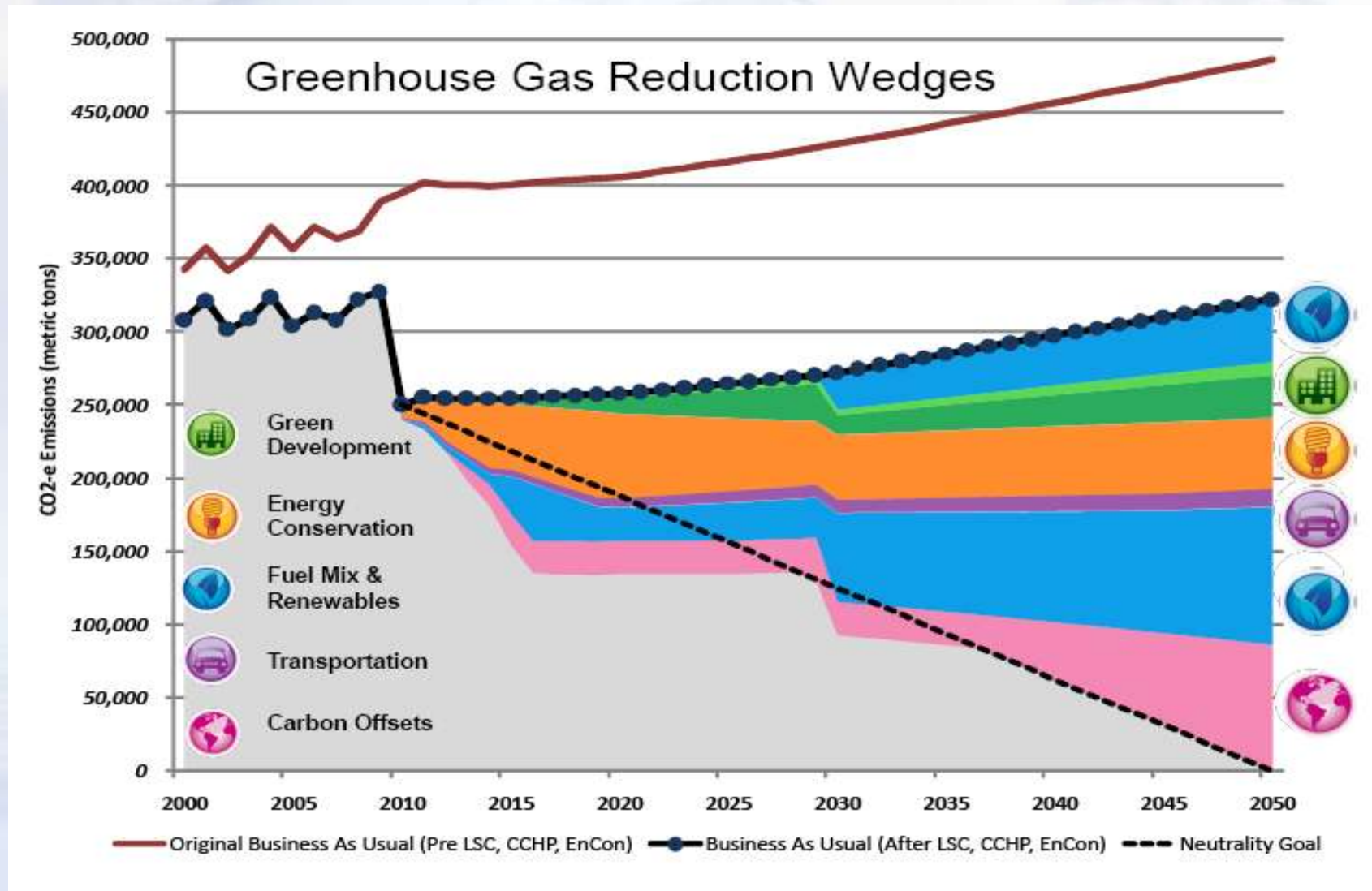
## Enterprise Units

- Electric
    - 35 MW peak
    - 240 GWh/yr
  - Steam
    - 380 klb/h peak
    - 1,200,000 klb/yr
  - Chilled Water
    - 20,000 tons peak
    - 40,000,000 ton-hrs/yr
  - Water and Sewer
- 2.5 trillion BTU's/yr since 1990
- ~275 thousand tons CO<sub>2</sub>/yr





# The Future: Climate Action Plan



# Cornell Lake Source Cooling

16,000 Tons Capacity - \$58,000,000

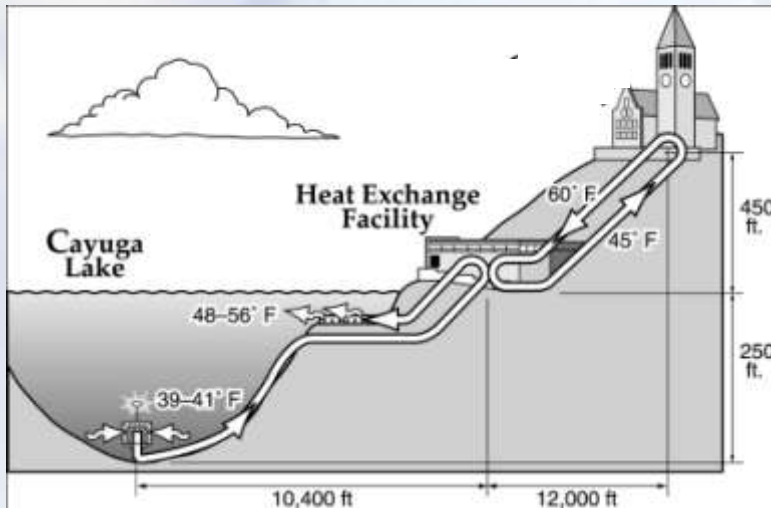
Lake source water: 39-41° F

Lake return water : 48-56° F

Campus loop supply/return : 45° - 60° F

Lake source intake pipe: 10,400 ft long,  
250 ft deep

Campus S/R loop pipe: 12,000 ft

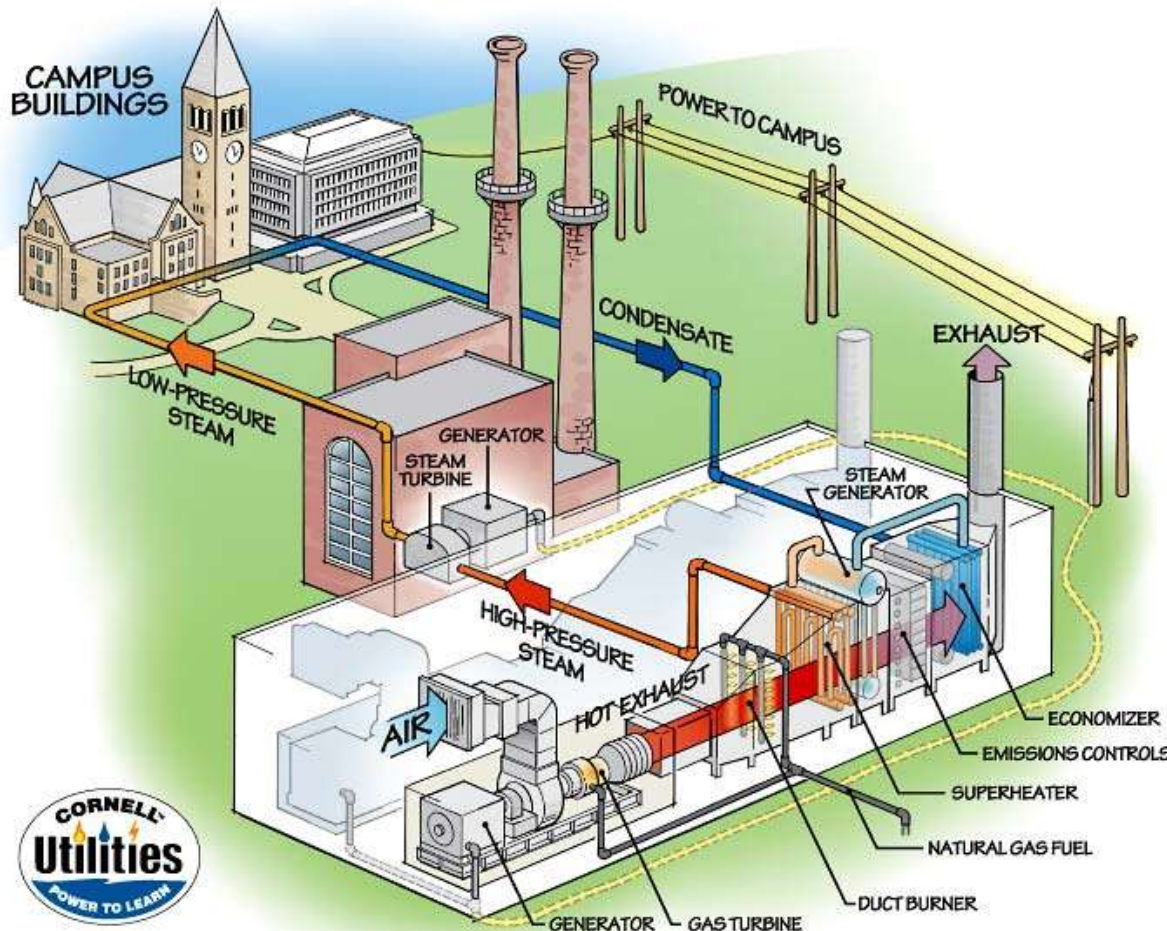


## Benefits:

- Efficiency - production at 0.1 kW/ton; fully automated (no operators)
- CO2 emissions cut 56 million #'s/yr
- Reduced cooling electricity by 87% - cutting 25 million kwh/yr
- Sulfur oxides cut 654,000 lbs/yr
- Nox reduced 55,000 lbs/yr
- 40,000 lbs CFC eliminated
- Traded op expense for amortization



# Cornell Combined Heat & Power

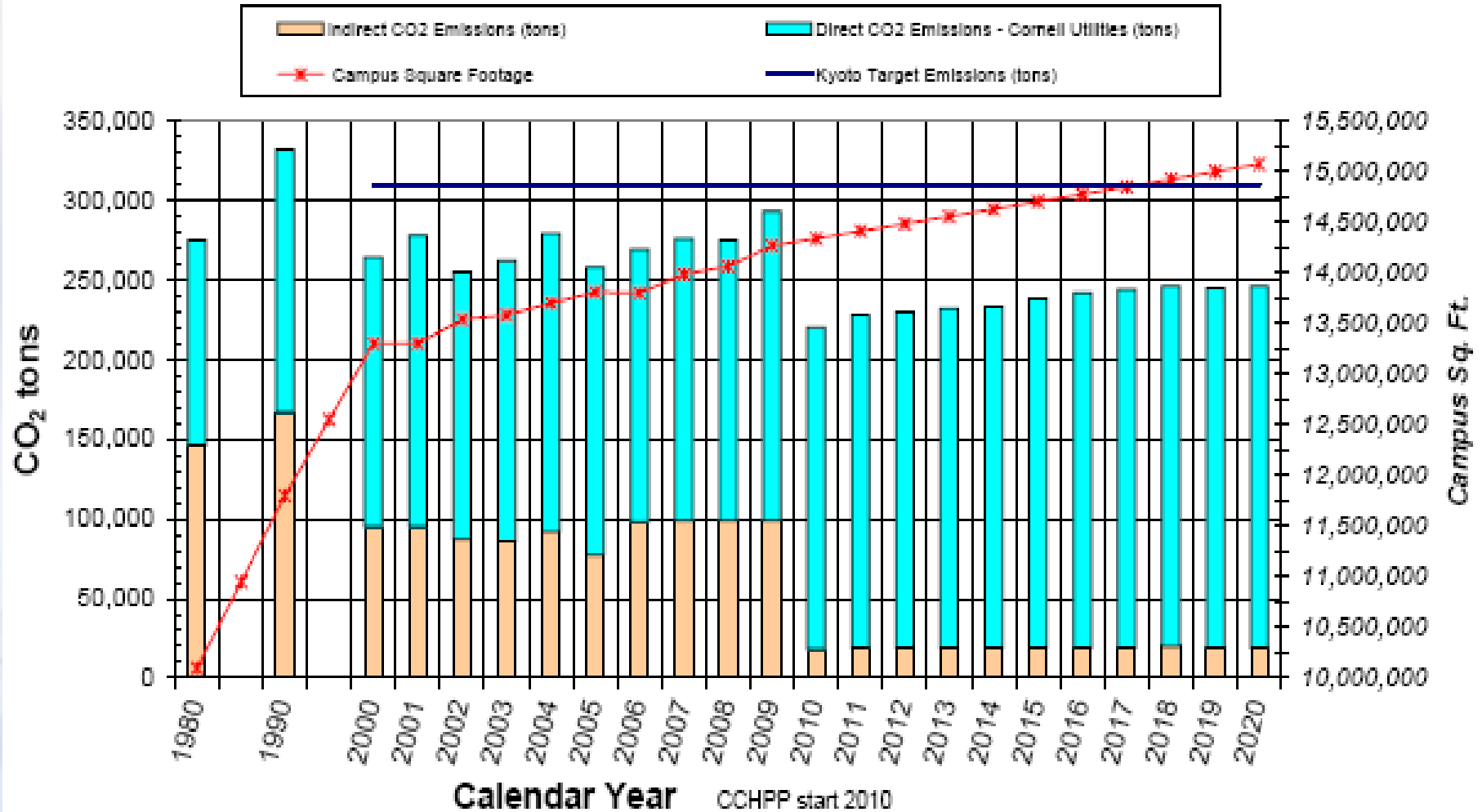


Combustion Turbine with Heat Recovery Steam Generator

- Commissioned December 2009
- 30 MW and 300 klb/h
- Produce 180 GWh/yr and 750,000 klbs/yr
- Offset indirect emissions
- Reduce coal usage by 50%
- Reduce campus CO<sub>2</sub> 20% (50,000 tons/yr)
- Provide efficient steaming capacity
- Electric reliability
- Fuel flexibility (HP gas line)
- Dual fuel capability
  - Future liquid biofuel option



# Cornell's Carbon Footprint



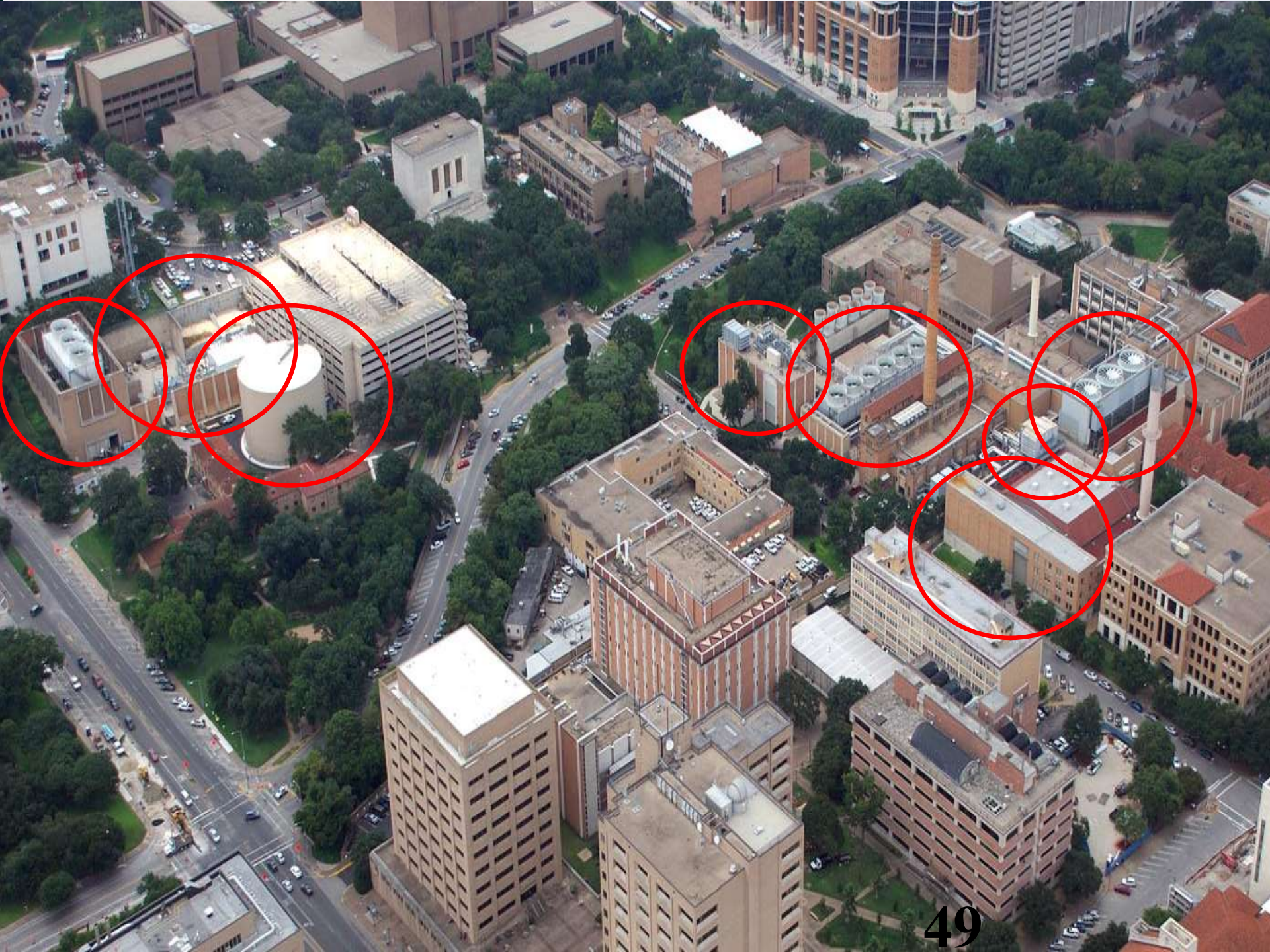
# University of Texas Austin

## District Energy /CHP

- **100% power, heating and cooling requirements for 16 million sf**
- **150+ buildings - \$70 million budget**
- **Power Plant – Dense urban location**
  - **137MW of on-site CHP (65 MW Peak)**
  - **1.2 million lb/hr of steam generation (200K Peak)**
- **Chilled Water**
  - **46,000 tons capacity in 4 plants (35K Peak)**
  - **4 Million Gallon/36,000 ton-hr TES Tank**
- **6 miles of distribution tunnels**
- **99.9998% reliability over last 35 Years**

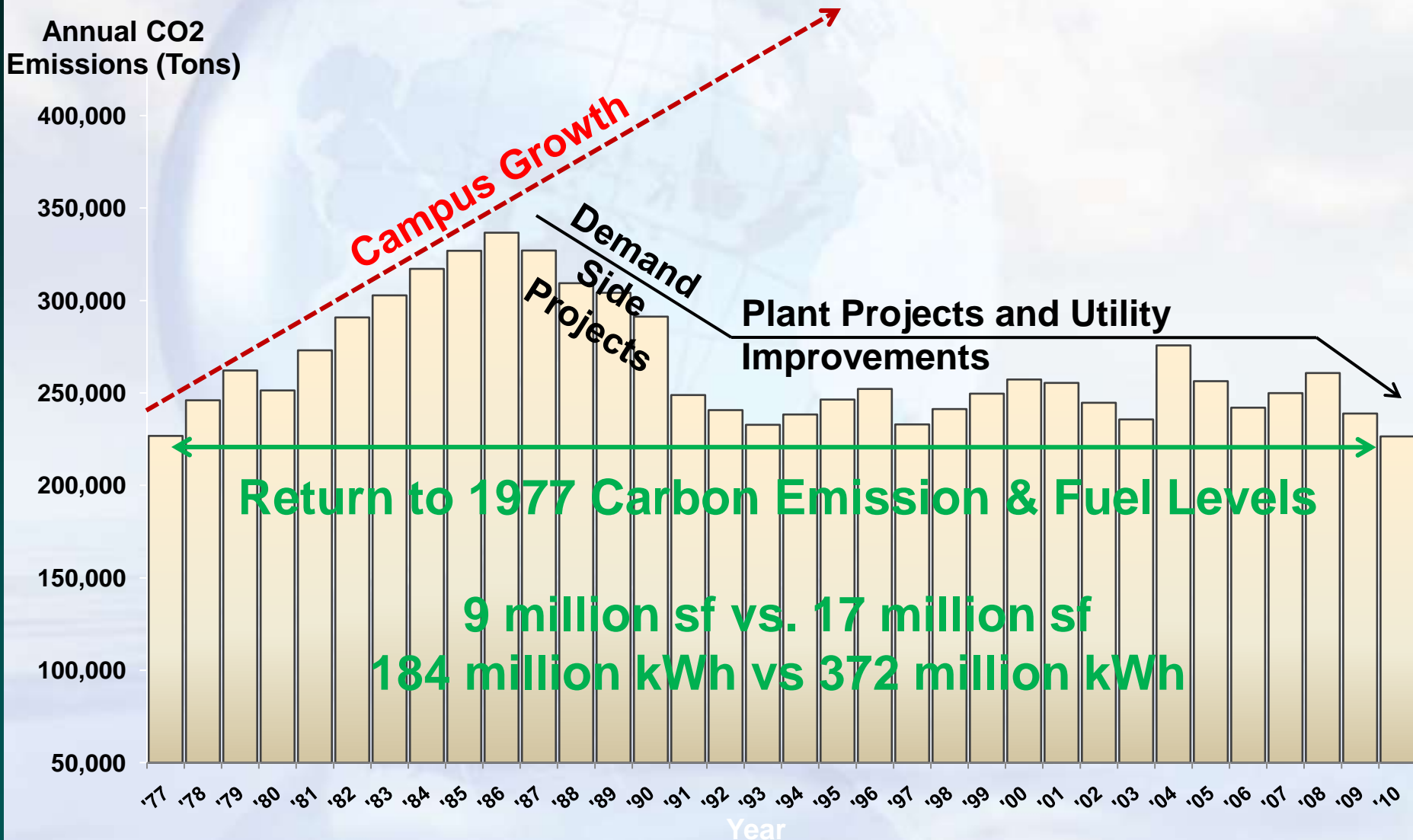








# Effects of Utility Improvements on Carbon Emissions



# Typical US Business Models

- **Private, utility subsidiary (IOU)**
  - Non-regulated, competitive market, long term user agreements, non-exclusive franchise
- **Private, non-profit or Cooperative**
  - St. Paul, MN; Rochester, NY, etc
- **Public, Municipal utility**
  - OUCooling (Orlando), Duluth Steam, etc
- **Private, special purpose entity (ESCO)**
- **Hybrid Public/Private Partnership**
  - Assets owned by agency, managed 3d party

# **Role of Local Government**

- **Catalyst for early stage feasibility study; market development effort up to RFQ/RFP**
- **Anchor Customer – essential for early project phase**
- **Owner/Developer through Municipal Utility**
- **Sponsor/Issuer of Economic Development Bonds or tax exempt financing**
- **Provide franchise agreement; right of way**
- **Establish Business Improvement District and encourage system interconnection**



# **Key Success Drivers/Best Practice**

- **Lead/lag on capital investment for system**
- **Realistic load growth planning; market intelligence (age of bldg systems, etc)**
- **Variance installed vs contract capacity**
- **Focused business development champion**
- **Nodal approach to network; hydraulics**
- **Transparent hurdle rate analysis**
- **Capitalize all connection costs**
- **Compete on life cycle “value”**

# Customer Connections

- **Provider must analyze HVAC system integration; optimize interconnection ( $\Delta T$ )**
- **Cooling system performance; controls; tenant configurations; space uses**
- **Reclaim valuable space; vault; capacity**
- **Exterior routing; interior equipment (heat exchanger; pumps; valves; metering, etc)**

**Thank you for your attention.  
Questions?**



**[www.districtenergy.org](http://www.districtenergy.org)**

**Rob Thornton**

**[rob.idea@districtenergy.org](mailto:rob.idea@districtenergy.org)**

**+1-508-366-9339**