The Boston Community Energy Study

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World Urban Population and Electricity





US Billion Dollar Disaster Events





Introduction to Microgrids

Microgrid: A set of interconnected loads and energy resources that acts as a single integrated entity with respect to the grid and can operate in both grid-tied and island mode.



- Microgrids can improve energy...
 - Security, grid stability and resilience in the face of outages and demand variability
 - Cost-effectiveness and efficiency through demand response and distributed generation
 - Sustainability through enabling the incorporation of intermittent renewables

System integration challenges are significant



Microgrids and Resiliency

- During Superstorm Sandy, all microgrids in NYC and the surrounding area performed without incident
 - Eleven facilities, 145 MW of power
 - Hospitals, places of refuge, municipal entities
- During the 2003 blackout, $\frac{1}{2}$ of NYC's hospital backup gensets failed



Superstorm Sandy



2003 Blackout



Boston Key Statistics



- Home to 655,000 people
- Covers 48 square miles
- Contains 84,345 parcels of land
 - 92,000 buildings
- Globally, the equivalent of 3 Bostons/week are moving into cities



Citywide Energy Study Objectives

- Analyze regions in Boston where microgrids and distributed energy resources:
 - Make economic sense
 - Support critical loads
 - Serve vulnerable populations
 - Reduce GHG emissions
- Develop an approach that can be implemented in many other cities and regions
- Foster relationships between Boston's government, utility stakeholders, and the public
- Assess necessary information for large-scale energy transitions



Outline

- Study approach
- Overview of building modelling
 - MIT Sustainable Design Lab data set
 - Boston's simulated energy use
- Distributed Energy Resources Customer Adoption Model (DER-CAM) primer
- CHP search algorithm using GIS and building data
- Results & way ahead



Study Approach





Boston's Building Types



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Boston Building Vintages



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Study Approach





Modelling Energy Use in Buildings





Resulting MIT SDL Dataset





Kuwait Case Study



Average MES = 175 kWh/m² Average SIM = 290 kWh/m² Average MES = 175 kWh/m² Average SIM = 190 kWh/m²



Back Bay Electricity









Study Approach





Boston's Building Stock & Energy Statistics









CWES 20 ERM 12/21/2015

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- DER-CAM (Distributed Energy Resources Customer Adoption Model)
- Mixed integer linear program (MILP)
- Optimal DER asset selection while minimizing:
 - total energy costs
 - carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions
 - weighted objective that simultaneously considers both criteria
- Input building data for optimization
 - Heating loads
 - Electric loads
 - Hot water
 - Cooling





DER-CAM Technology Lists



Technology	Upfront	Capital Cost	$\mathbf{Lifetime}$	O&M
	Cost (\$)	($kw \text{ or } kw$)	(years)	(%/year)
Heat Storage	10,000	50	17	0
Cold Storage	10,000	50	17	0
Battery	295	193	5	0
Absorption Chiller	$93,\!900$	685	20	1.88
Refrigeration	$93,\!900$	753	20	2.07
Photovoltaic	$3,\!850$	3,240	30	0.25
Solar Thermal	0	500	15	0.5
Air Source Heat Pump	0	70	10	0.52
Ground Source Heat Pump	0	80	10	0.32



DER-CAM Flow Chart





Three Microgrid Types





Microgrid Analysis Methodology





Combined Heat and Power





Study Approach



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Top 0.2% By Energy Use

High Energy Use Parcels in Boston





Multi-User Microgrid Screening Algorithm

- Search around the anchor for other buildings in concentric rings
 - Size CHP plant for 60% of peak electric
 - Assume 40% electric generation efficiency
 - "Spark spread" ≈ \$70/MWh
- For each ring continuous thermal sinks are identified
- Assume that electricity can always be bought from the utility grid
 - Not sold to the utility grid



Microgrid Zone 118 in Boston



Thermal Sink Analysis



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Critical Facilities & Affordable Housing in Boston





Other Constraints





Study Approach





Asset Selection Example





Example Microgrid Operation

Radar Plot for Zone 118





Study Approach





Microgrid Placement



Energy load suitability (Multi-User Microgrids)

Affordable housing (Energy Justice Microgrids)

Clustering of critical facilities (Emergency Microgrids)



Multi-User Microgrid Outputs



Energy Justice Microgrids – Savings and Emissions Reductions





- Integrate additional GIS information
 - Substation locations and loads
 - Electric line data
 - Natural gas pipeline networks
 - District steam lines
- Criticality and vulnerability analysis using GIS data
- Run similar analysis on calibrated building data



- Pioneered a city-scale energy assessment
 - Identified 22 sites with \$1.7b in potential savings over 25 years
 - Established a framework that is applicable to other regions
 - Identified data needs and stakeholder impacts for faster execution
- Fostered relationships between the public, the utilities, and Boston
- Demonstrated that microgrids are economically and environmentally viable in Boston









Science and Technology







I'III SUSTAINABLE DESIGN LAB



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