

# MEMO



Energy Trust used an impact analysis tool built by Recurve Analytics to evaluate gas and electricity savings from smart thermostats installed in single-family homes with forced air heating systems in Oregon from 2015 to 2017. The tool used monthly utility billing data to conduct pre/post analyses of whole home energy usage. Energy usage data are weather-normalized using typical meteorological year data. Normalized annual energy usage in the year immediately preceding the installation is compared with that of the year immediately following installation. The change in normalized annual energy usage is then evaluated against changes in energy usage during the same time period in two comparison groups—a site-level matched non-participant comparison group and a group of homes that installed smart thermostats in later years (future participants). These calculations provide two estimates of the average annual energy savings resulting from the measure given typical weather conditions.

We restricted the analysis to smart thermostat purchases where no other efficiency measures were installed in the home during the analysis period. This was to isolate the energy impact of smart thermostats, although these homes may not be totally representative of the larger population of homes installing smart thermostats. Several standard data screens were also applied to remove atypical homes. As shown in the Recurve snapshot reports that follow this memo, energy savings were small but statistically significant in most scenarios with gas-heated homes. Savings in electrically-heated homes appeared to be negligible, although the sample size was small and the precision was poor, making this finding uncertain. We focused our analysis on homes located across the state to maximize sample sizes.

Heating zones are geographic areas defined by the Regional Technical Forum, based on the number of heating degree-days during a typical winter. Heating zone 1 represents areas of the state with relatively mild winters, such as Western Oregon. Heating zones 2 and 3 represent areas of the state with cold winters, like the mountains and Central and Eastern Oregon. Most of our analyses spanned across heating zones to preserve sample size and because Energy Trust's smart thermostat measures are not stratified by heating zone.

From 2015 to 2017, overall average gas savings in gas-heated homes ranged from 24 to 32 therms per year (+/- 7 therms) or 3-4% of baseline gas usage. There were 924 treatment homes analyzed, which had an average annual baseline gas usage of 713 therms. They were distributed across Western and Central Oregon but concentrated in the Portland metro area. For heating zone 1, during the same time period, average gas savings in gas-heated homes ranged 26 to 32 therms per year (+/- 7) or 4-5% of baseline gas usage. There were 878 treatment homes analyzed in heating zone 1, which had an average annual baseline gas usage of 704 therms. These homes were concentrated in the Portland metro area with some distribution across heating zone 1 in Western Oregon. Heating zone 1 results were nearly identical to the overall results because 95% of homes in the treatment group were located in heating zone 1. We were unable to quantify savings in heating zone 2 due to the small number of homes available for analysis. For both the overall and heating zone 1 analyses, the matched and future comparison groups provided good representations of the baseline gas usage in the treatment group and a reasonable point of comparison as similar homes that did not install smart thermostats. The large sample sizes, relatively good precision and close matches between groups give us high confidence in these gas savings results.

We analyzed gas savings for each year individually (2015, 2016, and 2017) to see if there were any changes in savings occurring over time. We did not see a coherent time trend, but savings appeared to be much lower than average in 2015 and somewhat higher than average in 2016. However, these differences could easily be explained by variability in gas usage, lower sample sizes and lower precision. Results for 2016 and 2017 had larger sample sizes and were more robust than the 2015 results. They also more closely aligned with the overall gas savings estimate.

We were interested to see if there might be differences in gas savings between the two primary thermostat manufacturers supported through Energy Trust's programs: Nest and ecobee. However, the power of this analysis was limited by the uneven split between Nest and ecobee purchases. From 2015 to 2017, Nest thermostats accounted for 84% of installations in treatment homes and ecobee thermostats made up the remaining 16%. For Nest thermostats across heating zones and installation years, average gas savings in gas-heated homes ranged from 21 to 29 therms per year (+/- 8) or 3-4% of baseline gas usage. There were 775 Nest treatment homes analyzed, which had an average annual baseline gas usage of 713 therms. These results were very similar to the overall gas savings. For ecobee thermostats, average gas savings in gasheated homes ranged from 36 to 45 therms (+/- 16) or 5-6% of baseline gas usage. There were 146 ecobee treatment homes analyzed, which had an average annual baseline gas usage of 723 therms. Although the ecobee savings results are notably higher than results for Nest, they are based on a much smaller sample size with lower precision. It is unclear whether these results will persist with a larger sample of homes.

We also analyzed electric savings for gas-heated homes, which result from reduced furnace fan runtime and summer cooling savings. Across all heating zones from 2015 to 2017, average electric savings ranged from 178 to 225 kWh per year (+/- 90 kWh) or 2-3% of baseline electricity usage. There were 450 homes available for this analysis with average annual baseline electricity usage of 8,675 kWh. The magnitude of these savings is relatively small, but statistically significant and moderately precise. The comparison groups provided fair matches to the treatment homes based on energy consumption and a decent point of comparison as similar homes that did not install smart thermostats. Thus, we have moderate confidence in the direction and magnitude of the electric savings even though the precision is somewhat lower than for the gas results.

Overall electric usage in electrically-heated homes across heating zones from 2015 to 2017 increased slightly after the installation of a smart thermostat, with average savings ranging from -72 to -317 kWh per year (+/- 428) or 1-3% of baseline electricity usage. There were only 77 treatment homes available for this analysis with average annual baseline electricity usage of 12,563 kWh. While these results indicate smart thermostats had an insignificant but slightly negative impact on energy use in electrically-heated homes, the sample size was very small given the expected level of savings. There was also higher variability in electricity usage in electricallyheated homes compared to gas-heated homes, resulting in very poor precision. The matched

comparison group provided a good match on electricity consumption and geographic distribution; however, the future participant group provided a relatively poor match. This may indicate the future participant group provided a somewhat skewed point of comparison. In addition, the baseline energy usage of the treatment group was surprisingly low for homes with electric heat, indicating that these homes may be more energy efficient than average or do not exclusively heat with electricity. In either case, the savings estimate presented for this group may not be representative of the savings we would expect in a typical electrically-heated home. While these results are not encouraging for smart thermostats in electrically-heated homes, they are far from definitive.

In the table below, we summarize the results of the various smart thermostat analysis scenarios we looked at. Results are provided for kWh and therm savings for gas- and electrically-heated homes that installed thermostats from 2015 to 2017. For most analyses, we combined the two heating zones to preserve sample sizes. We present the midpoint savings estimate of the two comparison group methodologies (matched non-participants and future participants).



Table 1: Smart thermostat energy savings analysis summary of results

 $*$  N is the final treatment group sample size in the analysis.

† The average savings, absolute precision and percent savings values represent the midpoint estimates between the two comparison group methodologies used.

These results confirm that smart thermostats continue to save a small percentage of energy in gas-heated Oregon homes beyond the pilot period. They also provide an early warning that electricity savings in electrically-heated homes may be lower than expected, although it is too soon to say for sure. Energy Trust will use the results from this and other Recurve analyses to update savings assumptions used in our standard residential measures when updates are made.

# **Impact Evaluation Report**

Gas Impact of Thermostats in Program Year 2015, 2016, 2017



# 1. Introduction

**Treatment Group** 

This report contains the results of applying the two-stage approach (informed by the DOE's uniform methods chapter on whole building analysis) for calculating claimable savings to the selected portfolio of energy efficiency projects (see Figure). This approach begins with identification of two comparison groups for the treatment sample: (a) a site-level matched comparison group and (b) a future participant group. These groups are described below along with summary statistics (site locations, sample size, baseline consumption and baseline load disaggregation).

The CalTRACK methods are then applied to arrive at site-level savings, normalized for weather, and reflective of energy consumption changes for customers at the meter. Using a difference of differences for the treatment group with each comparison group accounts for population-level consumption changes (e.g. economic changes, rate changes, natural energy efficiency adoption etc.). The methods contained within this report are the outcome of a recent peer-reviewed study completed by Energy Trust of Oregon and Open Energy Efficiency (see "Methodology" section for more details)

- The report includes the following sections:
- Result Summary Includes the overall portfolio results
- Section 1. Introduction Overview of report and the different groups included in the analysis
- Section 2. Data Preparation Data cleaning and sample attrition
- Section 3. Modeling Results CalTRACK model outputs and Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results
- Section 4. Methodology Description of methods used in this report

The treatment group consists of sites that participated in the

specified energy efficiency projects in the specified program

the treatment group. And this group includes the subset of

sites that had sufficient data quality for modeling.

year. Only sites that installed single measures are included in

### **Site-level Matched Comparison Group**

This group includes comparison group sites that were matched at the site-level to treatment group sites. Each treatment group site is matched to five comparison group sites from the same zipcode, but only the sites with sufficient data quality were included in the group. Matching was performed using monthly consumption in the baseline period as detailed in the Methodology section.



### Two-Stage Approach



# **Future Participant Group**

The pool of sites that was used to create this group was composed of sites that installed the same measure in the year following the specified program year. The final sites were selected by stratified sampling using deciles of annual energy consumption.



# 2. Data Preparation

Consumption data preparation and cleaning followed best practices defined in the CalTRACK 2.0 billing methods. Some key aspects of the data cleaning process are highlighted here; please see the resources section for links to more detailed documentation. The initial and final sample sizes are shown below along with the percent of the treatment population that is represented by the sample. The rise of the initial a sample attrition table shows the impact of each filtering criterion on sample size.



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# 3. Modeling Results

This section includes summaries of the Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results for the treatment and comparison groups. The time series of monthly energy consumption illustrates the similarities and/or differences in energy consumption for the different groups in the baseline and reporting periods.

Below, you will find a breakdown of the DNAC results by group, showing the histograms of DNAC as well as the mean value expressed in raw units and as a percent of baseline annual consumption. Finally, the distribution of model types in the baseline and reporting periods are also provided as an additional layer of analysis.



![](_page_6_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Figure_6.jpeg)

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**Site-level Matched Comparison Group** 

![](_page_6_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Figure_8.jpeg)

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0.172

**Annual Consumption p-value** 

![](_page_7_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Figure_5.jpeg)

**© DNAC Distribution** 

1,500

500

Number of Sites 1,000

![](_page_7_Figure_6.jpeg)

**Site-level Matched Comparison Group** 

![](_page_7_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Picture_113.jpeg)

### 4. Methodology

### **CalTRACK and Comparison Group Methods**

Documentation: docs.caltrack.org Code: https://github.com/energy-market-methods/caltrack

**Data Preparation** 

Baseline period: Since the predicted baseline may be unstable with different baseline period lengths, which may, in turn, affect calculated savings, the consensus of the CalTRACK 2.0 working group was to set the maximum baseline period at 12 months, since the year leading to the energy efficiency intervention is the most indicative of recent energy use trends and prolonging the baseline period increases the chance of other unmeasured factors affecting the baseline. In addition, CalTRACK uses a minimum 12-month baseline by default.

Blackout period: The blackout period refers to the time period between the end of the baseline period and the beginning of the reporting period. In this analysis, it is specified to coincide with the project installation time period, meaning that the billing period that contains the project installation date is dropped from the analysis.

Analysis periods: Different portions of the analysis used different time periods of consumption data, therefore, it is useful to clearly define these time periods and where they were used. Consider a project with an installation date on a particular day d in a particular month m in a particular program year y. The year before the program year is labelled as y-1, the year prior to that as y-2 and so on, while the years following the program year are labelled y+1, y+2 etc. In all cases, the billing period that contains the project installation was dropped from the analysis. Other sections of the analysis use the following time periods:

- Treatment and site-level matched groups: Baseline period includes the 12 months preceding the installation billing period. Reporting period includes the 12 months following the installation billing period.

Future participant group: Baseline period is the calendar year preceding the program year (Year y-1). Reporting period is the program year itself (Year y).

- Site-level consumption matching was performed using the 12 months of data immediately prior to the project installation date

- Equivalence tests were performed using data from the previous calendar year (y-1).

### **Modeling**

Weather Normalization: Weather normalization of billing data in CalTRACK follows certain model foundations in literature (PRISM, ASHRAE Guideline 14, IPMVP Option C and the Uniform Methods Project for Whole Home Building Analysis). Building energy use is modeled as a combination of base load, heating load, and cooling load. Heating load and cooling load are assumed to have a linear relationship with heating and cooling demand, as approximated by heating and cooling degree days, beyond particular heating and cooling balance points. A number of candidate OLS models are fit to the consumption data using different combinations of heating and cooling balance points (ranging from 30 to 90 F) and different sets of independent variables. The model with the highest adjusted R-squared that contains strictly positive coefficients is selected as the final model and used to calculate normalized energy usage.

Model Types: CalTRACK specifies a linear relationship between energy use and temperature as reflected in the building consumption profile. In the most generic case, a model would include an intercept term, a heating balance point and heating slope coefficient, and a cooling balance point and a cooling slope coefficient. Depending on the fuel a building uses for heating or cooling or its consumption patterns, models with a single temperature coefficient and balance point (i.e., heating or cooling) may be more appropriate.

Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC): The DNAC is calculated by using two CalTRACK regression models in conjunction with Typical Meteorological Year (TMY3) weather data, as follows: - Two models are fit to the consumption data - one model for the baseline (pre-intervention) period and one for the reporting (post-intervention) period.

- Long-term heating and cooling degree days based on TMY3 data are substituted in both regression equations to calculate the Normalized Annual Consumption (NAC) for each period. TMY3 data is maintained by NREL and includes weather averages for 1020 locations in the US between 1991-2005.
- DNAC is determined by subtracting the two NACs (DNAC = Baseline NAC Reporting NAC).

Disaggregation: Disaggregated loads are calculated from the different components of the statistical model fit. The weather sensitive components (heating and cooling load) are calculated by multiplying the relevant model coefficients (beta hdd or beta cdd) by the total degree days in a normal weather year (total HDD or CDD). For each site, the total HDD or CDD can be calculated using that site's estimated degree day balance points (also an output of the model) and the temperature for its closest weather station. The base load is estimated by multiplying the intercept of the statistical model by the number of days (365 for a full year).

Savings calculation: Savings are calculated by subtracting the DNAC for either comparison group from the DNAC for the treatment group.

Savings Uncertainty: Uncertainty presented in this analysis is calculated using the ASHRAE Guideline 14 formulation for aggregating the prediction uncertainty of point estimates in a time series. It is calculated at a 90% confidence level. The total uncertainty at the site-level is calculated using the sum of squares of the baseline and reporting models. Other aggregate uncertainty values (e.g. for a portfolio or for a difference-in-differences estimate) are also aggregated using the square root of the sum of squares.

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### **Comparison Group Generation**

Site-level Matching: In monthly consumption matching, a comparison group is constructed by selecting n matches (n=5 in this analysis) from the comparison group pool with the shortest distance d to the treatment group customer under consideration. The pool is limited to non-participants within the same zipcode as the treatment group customer. The distance d is, in essence, a way to reduce 12 monthly consumption differences between any two customers to one metric (see Figure). In the present analysis, we selected (without replacement) five nearest neighbors for each treatment site based on the Euclidean distance of monthly consumption.

Future Participant Groups: Comparison groups comprising future participants are considered to be representative of participants in most aspects (observable and non-observable). For example, future participants are known to be eligible to receive the measure, and for some measures, they may have the same baseline equipment as the participants. Future participants have the same propensity to participate in the program as participants, thus reducing or eliminating self-selection bias, something that is otherwise difficult to control for in a quasi-experimental study. More comprehensive data is typically collected for future participants, allowing for potentially better matching and more insightful analysis. From a practical perspective, future participant groups may be difficult to construct for all measures, unless a program has been running for multiple years and is considered stable with sufficient data collection over the analysis period. Sample sizes for the comparison group may also be constrained if using future participants.

Stratified sampling is applied to future participant groups to attempt to replicate the distributions of the underlying variable (annual consumption) in the comparison group. Annual consumption of all treatment sites is first split into deciles, then a random sample is selected from within each corresponding bin in the comparison group pool of future participants.

Geographical screen: For the site-level matched group, only sites within the same zipcode as the treatment site were considered as potential comparison group matches.

Sampling method: In all cases where sampling was required from the comparison group, sampling was performed without replacement.

![](_page_9_Figure_6.jpeg)

# **Impact Evaluation Report**

Gas Impact of Thermostats in Program Year 2015, 2016, 2017

![](_page_10_Picture_15.jpeg)

# 1. Introduction

This report contains the results of applying the two-stage approach (informed by the DOE's uniform methods chapter on whole building analysis) for calculating claimable savings to the selected portfolio of energy efficiency projects (see Figure). This approach begins with identification of two comparison groups for the treatment sample: (a) a site-level matched comparison group and (b) a future participant group. These groups are described below along with summary statistics (site locations, sample size, baseline consumption and baseline load disaggregation).

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![](_page_11_Figure_8.jpeg)

Load Disaggregation

![](_page_11_Figure_10.jpeg)

(Gas)

![](_page_11_Figure_11.jpeg)

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![](_page_11_Figure_12.jpeg)

# Two-Stage Approach

![](_page_11_Figure_14.jpeg)

Report Date: December 6, 2019

# 2. Data Preparation

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![](_page_12_Picture_20.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_81.jpeg)

# 3. Modeling Results

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![](_page_13_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_14_Figure_7.jpeg)

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![](_page_14_Figure_9.jpeg)

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![](_page_15_Figure_0.jpeg)

## 4. Methodology

### **CalTRACK and Comparison Group Methods**

Documentation: docs.caltrack.org Code: https://github.com/energy-market-methods/caltrack

#### **Data Preparation**

Baseline period: Since the predicted baseline may be unstable with different baseline period lengths, which may, in turn, affect calculated sayings, the consensus of the CalTRACK 2.0 working group was to set the maximum baseline period at 12 months, since the year leading to the energy efficiency intervention is the most indicative of recent energy use trends and prolonging the baseline period increases the chance of other unmeasured factors affecting the baseline. In addition, CalTRACK uses a minimum 12-month baseline by default.

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Geographical screen: For the site-level matched group, only sites within the same zipcode as the treatment site were considered as potential comparison group matches.

Sampling method: In all cases where sampling was required from the comparison group, sampling was performed without replacement.

![](_page_16_Figure_6.jpeg)

# **Impact Evaluation Report**

.<br>Gas Impact of Thermostats in Program Year 2015

![](_page_17_Picture_15.jpeg)

# 1. Introduction

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![](_page_18_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_10.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_11.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_12.jpeg)

Heating Load

0.1 miles

Walla Wall

La Gran

Leaflet

### Two-Stage Approach

![](_page_18_Figure_14.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_15.jpeg)

# 1.7 miles

Distance between treatment and future participant group centroids

![](_page_18_Figure_18.jpeg)

Heating Load

# 2. Data Preparation

Consumption data preparation and cleaning followed best practices defined in the CalTRACK 2.0 billing methods. Some key aspects of the data cleaning process are highlighted here; please see the<br>resources section for links

![](_page_19_Picture_17.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_87.jpeg)

# **3. Modeling Results**

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![](_page_20_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_5.jpeg)

### **Site-level Matched Comparison Group**

![](_page_20_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_8.jpeg)

**Future Participant Group** 

![](_page_21_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_21_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_10.jpeg)

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![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

## 4. Methodology

### **CalTRACK and Comparison Group Methods**

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#### **Data Preparation**

Baseline period: Since the predicted baseline may be unstable with different baseline period lengths, which may, in turn, affect calculated sayings, the consensus of the CalTRACK 2.0 working group was to set the maximum baseline period at 12 months, since the year leading to the energy efficiency intervention is the most indicative of recent energy use trends and prolonging the baseline period increases the chance of other unmeasured factors affecting the baseline. In addition, CalTRACK uses a minimum 12-month baseline by default.

Blackout period: The blackout period refers to the time period between the end of the baseline period and the beginning of the reporting period. In this analysis, it is specified to coincide with the project installation time period, meaning that the billing period that contains the project installation date is dropped from the analysis.

Analysis periods: Different portions of the analysis used different time periods of consumption data, therefore, it is useful to clearly define these time periods and where they were used. Consider a project with an installation date on a particular day d in a particular month m in a particular program year y. The year before the program year is labelled as y-1, the year prior to that as y-2 and so on, while the years following the program year are labelled y+1, y+2 etc. In all cases, the billing period that contains the project installation was dropped from the analysis. Other sections of the analysis use the following time periods:

- Treatment and site-level matched groups: Baseline period includes the 12 months preceding the installation billing period. Reporting period includes the 12 months following the installation billing period.

- Future participant group: Baseline period is the calendar year preceding the program year (Year y-1). Reporting period is the program year itself (Year y).

- Site-level consumption matching was performed using the 12 months of data immediately prior to the project installation date

- Equivalence tests were performed using data from the previous calendar year (y-1).

### **Modeling**

Weather Normalization: Weather normalization of billing data in CalTRACK follows certain model foundations in literature (PRISM, ASHRAE Guideline 14, IPMVP Option C and the Uniform Methods Project for Whole Home Building Analysis). Building energy use is modeled as a combination of base load, heating load, and cooling load. Heating load and cooling load are assumed to have a linear relationship with heating and cooling demand, as approximated by heating and cooling degree days, beyond particular heating and cooling balance points. A number of candidate OLS models are fit to the consumption data using different combinations of heating and cooling balance points (ranging from 30 to 90 F) and different sets of independent variables. The model with the highest adjusted R-squared that contains strictly positive coefficients is selected as the final model and used to calculate normalized energy usage.

Model Types: CalTRACK specifies a linear relationship between energy use and temperature as reflected in the building consumption profile. In the most generic case, a model would include an intercept term, a heating balance point and heating slope coefficient, and a cooling balance point and a cooling slope coefficient. Depending on the fuel a building uses for heating or cooling or its consumption patterns, models with a single temperature coefficient and balance point (i.e., heating or cooling) may be more appropriate.

Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC): The DNAC is calculated by using two CalTRACK regression models in conjunction with Typical Meteorological Year (TMY3) weather data, as follows: - Two models are fit to the consumption data - one model for the baseline (pre-intervention) period and one for the reporting (post-intervention) period.

- Long-term heating and cooling degree days based on TMY3 data are substituted in both regression equations to calculate the Normalized Annual Consumption (NAC) for each period. TMY3 data is maintained by NREL and includes weather averages for 1020 locations in the US between 1991-2005.
- DNAC is determined by subtracting the two NACs (DNAC = Baseline NAC Reporting NAC).

Disaggregation: Disaggregated loads are calculated from the different components of the statistical model fit. The weather sensitive components (heating and cooling load) are calculated by multiplying the relevant model coefficients (beta\_hdd or beta\_cdd) by the total degree days in a normal weather year (total HDD or CDD). For each site, the total HDD or CDD can be calculated using that site's estimated degree day balance points (also an output of the model) and the temperature for its closest weather station. The base load is estimated by multiplying the intercept of the statistical model by the number of days (365 for a full year).

Savings calculation: Savings are calculated by subtracting the DNAC for either comparison group from the DNAC for the treatment group.

Savings Uncertainty: Uncertainty presented in this analysis is calculated using the ASHRAE Guideline 14 formulation for aggregating the prediction uncertainty of point estimates in a time series. It is calculated at a 90% confidence level. The total uncertainty at the site-level is calculated using the sum of squares of the baseline and reporting models. Other aggregate uncertainty values (e.g. for a portfolio or for a difference-in-differences estimate) are also aggregated using the square root of the sum of squares.

RECURVE

### **Comparison Group Generation**

Site-level Matching: In monthly consumption matching, a comparison group is constructed by selecting n matches (n=5 in this analysis) from the comparison group pool with the shortest distance d to the treatment group customer under consideration. The pool is limited to non-participants within the same zipcode as the treatment group customer. The distance d is, in essence, a way to reduce 12 monthly consumption differences between any two customers to one metric (see Figure). In the present analysis, we selected (without replacement) five nearest neighbors for each treatment site based on the Euclidean distance of monthly consumption.

Future Participant Groups: Comparison groups comprising future participants are considered to be representative of participants in most aspects (observable and non-observable). For example, future participants are known to be eligible to receive the measure, and for some measures, they may have the same baseline equipment as the participants. Future participants have the same propensity to participate in the program as participants, thus reducing or eliminating self-selection bias, something that is otherwise difficult to control for in a quasi-experimental study. More comprehensive data is typically collected for future participants, allowing for potentially better matching and more insightful analysis. From a practical perspective, future participant groups may be difficult to construct for all measures, unless a program has been running for multiple years and is considered stable with sufficient data collection over the analysis period. Sample sizes for the comparison group may also be constrained if using future participants.

Stratified sampling is applied to future participant groups to attempt to replicate the distributions of the underlying variable (annual consumption) in the comparison group. Annual consumption of all treatment sites is first split into deciles, then a random sample is selected from within each corresponding bin in the comparison group pool of future participants.

Geographical screen: For the site-level matched group, only sites within the same zipcode as the treatment site were considered as potential comparison group matches.

Sampling method: In all cases where sampling was required from the comparison group, sampling was performed without replacement.

![](_page_23_Figure_6.jpeg)

# **Impact Evaluation Report**

.<br>Gas Impact of Thermostats in Program Year 2016

![](_page_24_Picture_15.jpeg)

# 1. Introduction

This report contains the results of applying the two-stage approach (informed by the DOE's uniform methods chapter on whole building analysis) for calculating claimable savings to the selected portfolio of energy efficiency projects (see Figure). This approach begins with identification of two comparison groups for the treatment sample: (a) a site-level matched comparison group and (b) a future participant group. These groups are described below along with summary statistics (site locations, sample size, baseline consumption and baseline load disaggregation).

The CalTRACK methods are then applied to arrive at site-level savings, normalized for weather, and reflective of energy consumption changes for customers at the meter. Using a difference of differences for the treatment group with each comparison group accounts for population-level consumption changes (e.g. economic changes, rate changes, natural energy efficiency adoption etc.). The methods contained within this report are the outcome of a recent peer-reviewed study completed by Energy Trust of Oregon and Open Energy Efficiency (see "Methodology" section for more details)

- The report includes the following sections:
- Result Summary Includes the overall portfolio results
- Section 1. Introduction Overview of report and the different groups included in the analysis

Mean Baseline Consumption

(Gas)

- Section 2. Data Preparation Data cleaning and sample attrition
- Section 3. Modeling Results CalTRACK model outputs and Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results
- Section 4. Methodology Description of methods used in this report

### **Site-level Matched Comparison Group**

This group includes comparison group sites that were matched at the site-level to treatment group sites. Each treatment group site is matched to five comparison group sites from the same zipcode, but only the sites with sufficient data quality were included in the group. Matching was performed using monthly consumption in the baseline period as detailed in the Methodology section

![](_page_25_Figure_11.jpeg)

Meters

### Two-Stage Approach

**Future Participant Group** 

consumption

The pool of sites that was used to create this group was

following the specified program year. The final sites were

composed of sites that installed the same measure in the year

selected by stratified sampling using deciles of annual energy

![](_page_25_Figure_13.jpeg)

### **Treatment Group**

The treatment group consists of sites that participated in the specified energy efficiency projects in the specified program year. Only sites that installed single measures are included in the treatment group. And this group includes the subset of sites that had sufficient data quality for modeling.

Meters

Mean Baseline Consumption

(Gas)

**Mean Baseline Consumption (Gas)** 

Meters

![](_page_26_Figure_0.jpeg)

# 2. Data Preparation

Consumption data preparation and cleaning followed best practices defined in the CalTRACK 2.0 billing methods. Some key aspects of the data cleaning process are highlighted here; please see the resources section for links to more detailed documentation. The initial and final sample sizes are shown below along with the percent of the treatment population that is represented by the sample. The sample attrition table shows the impact of each filtering criterion on sample size.

![](_page_26_Picture_33.jpeg)

3 Report Date: December 6, 2019<br>
R  $\equiv C \cup R \vee E$ 

![](_page_27_Picture_81.jpeg)

# 3. Modeling Results

This section includes summaries of the Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results for the treatment and comparison groups. The time series of monthly energy consumption illustrates the similarities and/or differences in energy consumption for the different groups in the baseline and reporting periods.

Below, you will find a breakdown of the DNAC results by group, showing the histograms of DNAC as well as the mean value expressed in raw units and as a percent of baseline annual consumption. Finally, the distribution of model types in the baseline and reporting periods are also provided as an additional layer of analysis.

![](_page_27_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_5.jpeg)

**4** Report Date: December 6, 2019<br> **RECURVE** 

![](_page_28_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_6.jpeg)

 $\mathbf{0}$ 

![](_page_28_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

## 4. Methodology

### **CalTRACK and Comparison Group Methods**

Documentation: docs.caltrack.org Code: https://github.com/energy-market-methods/caltrack

#### **Data Preparation**

Baseline period: Since the predicted baseline may be unstable with different baseline period lengths, which may, in turn, affect calculated sayings, the consensus of the CalTRACK 2.0 working group was to set the maximum baseline period at 12 months, since the year leading to the energy efficiency intervention is the most indicative of recent energy use trends and prolonging the baseline period increases the chance of other unmeasured factors affecting the baseline. In addition, CalTRACK uses a minimum 12-month baseline by default.

Blackout period: The blackout period refers to the time period between the end of the baseline period and the beginning of the reporting period. In this analysis, it is specified to coincide with the project installation time period, meaning that the billing period that contains the project installation date is dropped from the analysis.

Analysis periods: Different portions of the analysis used different time periods of consumption data, therefore, it is useful to clearly define these time periods and where they were used. Consider a project with an installation date on a particular day d in a particular month m in a particular program year y. The year before the program year is labelled as y-1, the year prior to that as y-2 and so on, while the years following the program year are labelled y+1, y+2 etc. In all cases, the billing period that contains the project installation was dropped from the analysis. Other sections of the analysis use the following time periods:

- Treatment and site-level matched groups: Baseline period includes the 12 months preceding the installation billing period. Reporting period includes the 12 months following the installation billing period.

- Future participant group: Baseline period is the calendar year preceding the program year (Year y-1). Reporting period is the program year itself (Year y).

- Site-level consumption matching was performed using the 12 months of data immediately prior to the project installation date

- Equivalence tests were performed using data from the previous calendar year (y-1).

### **Modeling**

Weather Normalization: Weather normalization of billing data in CalTRACK follows certain model foundations in literature (PRISM, ASHRAE Guideline 14, IPMVP Option C and the Uniform Methods Project for Whole Home Building Analysis). Building energy use is modeled as a combination of base load, heating load, and cooling load. Heating load and cooling load are assumed to have a linear relationship with heating and cooling demand, as approximated by heating and cooling degree days, beyond particular heating and cooling balance points. A number of candidate OLS models are fit to the consumption data using different combinations of heating and cooling balance points (ranging from 30 to 90 F) and different sets of independent variables. The model with the highest adjusted R-squared that contains strictly positive coefficients is selected as the final model and used to calculate normalized energy usage.

Model Types: CalTRACK specifies a linear relationship between energy use and temperature as reflected in the building consumption profile. In the most generic case, a model would include an intercept term, a heating balance point and heating slope coefficient, and a cooling balance point and a cooling slope coefficient. Depending on the fuel a building uses for heating or cooling or its consumption patterns, models with a single temperature coefficient and balance point (i.e., heating or cooling) may be more appropriate.

Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC): The DNAC is calculated by using two CalTRACK regression models in conjunction with Typical Meteorological Year (TMY3) weather data, as follows: - Two models are fit to the consumption data - one model for the baseline (pre-intervention) period and one for the reporting (post-intervention) period.

- Long-term heating and cooling degree days based on TMY3 data are substituted in both regression equations to calculate the Normalized Annual Consumption (NAC) for each period. TMY3 data is maintained by NREL and includes weather averages for 1020 locations in the US between 1991-2005.
- DNAC is determined by subtracting the two NACs (DNAC = Baseline NAC Reporting NAC).

Disaggregation: Disaggregated loads are calculated from the different components of the statistical model fit. The weather sensitive components (heating and cooling load) are calculated by multiplying the relevant model coefficients (beta\_hdd or beta\_cdd) by the total degree days in a normal weather year (total HDD or CDD). For each site, the total HDD or CDD can be calculated using that site's estimated degree day balance points (also an output of the model) and the temperature for its closest weather station. The base load is estimated by multiplying the intercept of the statistical model by the number of days (365 for a full year).

Savings calculation: Savings are calculated by subtracting the DNAC for either comparison group from the DNAC for the treatment group.

Savings Uncertainty: Uncertainty presented in this analysis is calculated using the ASHRAE Guideline 14 formulation for aggregating the prediction uncertainty of point estimates in a time series. It is calculated at a 90% confidence level. The total uncertainty at the site-level is calculated using the sum of squares of the baseline and reporting models. Other aggregate uncertainty values (e.g. for a portfolio or for a difference-in-differences estimate) are also aggregated using the square root of the sum of squares.

RECURVE

### **Comparison Group Generation**

Site-level Matching: In monthly consumption matching, a comparison group is constructed by selecting n matches (n=5 in this analysis) from the comparison group pool with the shortest distance d to the treatment group customer under consideration. The pool is limited to non-participants within the same zipcode as the treatment group customer. The distance d is, in essence, a way to reduce 12 monthly consumption differences between any two customers to one metric (see Figure). In the present analysis, we selected (without replacement) five nearest neighbors for each treatment site based on the Euclidean distance of monthly consumption.

Future Participant Groups: Comparison groups comprising future participants are considered to be representative of participants in most aspects (observable and non-observable). For example, future participants are known to be eligible to receive the measure, and for some measures, they may have the same baseline equipment as the participants. Future participants have the same propensity to participate in the program as participants, thus reducing or eliminating self-selection bias, something that is otherwise difficult to control for in a quasi-experimental study. More comprehensive data is typically collected for future participants, allowing for potentially better matching and more insightful analysis. From a practical perspective, future participant groups may be difficult to construct for all measures, unless a program has been running for multiple years and is considered stable with sufficient data collection over the analysis period. Sample sizes for the comparison group may also be constrained if using future participants.

Stratified sampling is applied to future participant groups to attempt to replicate the distributions of the underlying variable (annual consumption) in the comparison group. Annual consumption of all treatment sites is first split into deciles, then a random sample is selected from within each corresponding bin in the comparison group pool of future participants.

Geographical screen: For the site-level matched group, only sites within the same zipcode as the treatment site were considered as potential comparison group matches.

Sampling method: In all cases where sampling was required from the comparison group, sampling was performed without replacement.

![](_page_30_Figure_6.jpeg)

# **Impact Evaluation Report**

.<br>Gas Impact of Thermostats in Program Year 2017

![](_page_31_Picture_15.jpeg)

# 1. Introduction

**Treatment Group** 

This report contains the results of applying the two-stage approach (informed by the DOE's uniform methods chapter on whole building analysis) for calculating claimable savings to the selected portfolio of energy efficiency projects (see Figure). This approach begins with identification of two comparison groups for the treatment sample: (a) a site-level matched comparison group and (b) a future participant group. These groups are described below along with summary statistics (site locations, sample size, baseline consumption and baseline load disaggregation).

The CalTRACK methods are then applied to arrive at site-level savings, normalized for weather, and reflective of energy consumption changes for customers at the meter. Using a difference of differences for the treatment group with each comparison group accounts for population-level consumption changes (e.g. economic changes, rate changes, natural energy efficiency adoption etc.). The methods contained within this report are the outcome of a recent peer-reviewed study completed by Energy Trust of Oregon and Open Energy Efficiency (see "Methodology" section for more details).

- The report includes the following sections:
- Result Summary Includes the overall portfolio results
- Section 1. Introduction Overview of report and the different groups included in the analysis
- Section 2. Data Preparation Data cleaning and sample attrition
- Section 3. Modeling Results CalTRACK model outputs and Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results
- Section 4. Methodology Description of methods used in this report

The treatment group consists of sites that participated in the

specified energy efficiency projects in the specified program

the treatment group. And this group includes the subset of

sites that had sufficient data quality for modeling.

year. Only sites that installed single measures are included in

### **Site-level Matched Comparison Group**

This group includes comparison group sites that were matched at the site-level to treatment group sites. Each treatment group site is matched to five comparison group sites from the same zipcode, but only the sites with sufficient data quality were included in the group. Matching was performed using monthly consumption in the baseline period as detailed in the Methodology section.

![](_page_32_Figure_11.jpeg)

**Future Participant Site Locations** 

Treatment Group Centroid

Portlan

Salem<sup>®</sup>

Eugene<sup>®</sup>

Coos Bay •

Ŧ

Ξ

Comparison Group Centroid [82] Projects

composed of sites that installed the same measure in the year following the specified program year. The final sites were selected by stratified sampling using deciles of annual energy consumption.

Dregon

2.3 miles

Two-Stage Approach

introl for weather<br>(and occupancy<br>with AMI data)

Eliminate ous effects

The Two-Stage Approach<br>to Claimable Savings

AF

CalTRACK NMEC

懵

Comparison group

Payable Savings / DNAC\*

Claimable

Savings

 $\overline{H}$ 

Idaho

Idah

Poca

Leaflet

Boise<sup>®</sup>

![](_page_32_Figure_13.jpeg)

Comparison Group Centroid **8 B** Projects

![](_page_32_Figure_16.jpeg)

# 0.7 miles

![](_page_32_Picture_231.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

# 2. Data Preparation

Consumption data preparation and cleaning followed best practices defined in the CalTRACK 2.0 billing methods. Some key aspects of the data cleaning process are highlighted here; please see the resources section for links to more detailed documentation. The initial and final sample sizes are shown below along with the percent of the treatment population that is represented by the sample. The sample attrition table shows the impact of each filtering criterion on sample size.

![](_page_33_Picture_34.jpeg)

3 Report Date: December 6, 2019<br>
R  $\equiv C \cup R \vee E$ 

![](_page_34_Picture_76.jpeg)

# 3. Modeling Results

This section includes summaries of the Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results for the treatment and comparison groups. The time series of monthly energy consumption illustrates the similarities and/or differences in energy consumption for the different groups in the baseline and reporting periods.

Below, you will find a breakdown of the DNAC results by group, showing the histograms of DNAC as well as the mean value expressed in raw units and as a percent of baseline annual consumption. Finally, the distribution of model types in the baseline and reporting periods are also provided as an additional layer of analysis.

![](_page_34_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

## 4. Methodology

### **CalTRACK and Comparison Group Methods**

Documentation: docs.caltrack.org Code: https://github.com/energy-market-methods/caltrack

#### **Data Preparation**

Baseline period: Since the predicted baseline may be unstable with different baseline period lengths, which may, in turn, affect calculated sayings, the consensus of the CalTRACK 2.0 working group was to set the maximum baseline period at 12 months, since the year leading to the energy efficiency intervention is the most indicative of recent energy use trends and prolonging the baseline period increases the chance of other unmeasured factors affecting the baseline. In addition, CalTRACK uses a minimum 12-month baseline by default.

Blackout period: The blackout period refers to the time period between the end of the baseline period and the beginning of the reporting period. In this analysis, it is specified to coincide with the project installation time period, meaning that the billing period that contains the project installation date is dropped from the analysis.

Analysis periods: Different portions of the analysis used different time periods of consumption data, therefore, it is useful to clearly define these time periods and where they were used. Consider a project with an installation date on a particular day d in a particular month m in a particular program year y. The year before the program year is labelled as y-1, the year prior to that as y-2 and so on, while the years following the program year are labelled y+1, y+2 etc. In all cases, the billing period that contains the project installation was dropped from the analysis. Other sections of the analysis use the following time periods:

- Treatment and site-level matched groups: Baseline period includes the 12 months preceding the installation billing period. Reporting period includes the 12 months following the installation billing period.

- Future participant group: Baseline period is the calendar year preceding the program year (Year y-1). Reporting period is the program year itself (Year y).

- Site-level consumption matching was performed using the 12 months of data immediately prior to the project installation date

- Equivalence tests were performed using data from the previous calendar year (y-1).

### **Modeling**

Weather Normalization: Weather normalization of billing data in CalTRACK follows certain model foundations in literature (PRISM, ASHRAE Guideline 14, IPMVP Option C and the Uniform Methods Project for Whole Home Building Analysis). Building energy use is modeled as a combination of base load, heating load, and cooling load. Heating load and cooling load are assumed to have a linear relationship with heating and cooling demand, as approximated by heating and cooling degree days, beyond particular heating and cooling balance points. A number of candidate OLS models are fit to the consumption data using different combinations of heating and cooling balance points (ranging from 30 to 90 F) and different sets of independent variables. The model with the highest adjusted R-squared that contains strictly positive coefficients is selected as the final model and used to calculate normalized energy usage.

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- Long-term heating and cooling degree days based on TMY3 data are substituted in both regression equations to calculate the Normalized Annual Consumption (NAC) for each period. TMY3 data is maintained by NREL and includes weather averages for 1020 locations in the US between 1991-2005.
- DNAC is determined by subtracting the two NACs (DNAC = Baseline NAC Reporting NAC).

Disaggregation: Disaggregated loads are calculated from the different components of the statistical model fit. The weather sensitive components (heating and cooling load) are calculated by multiplying the relevant model coefficients (beta\_hdd or beta\_cdd) by the total degree days in a normal weather year (total HDD or CDD). For each site, the total HDD or CDD can be calculated using that site's estimated degree day balance points (also an output of the model) and the temperature for its closest weather station. The base load is estimated by multiplying the intercept of the statistical model by the number of days (365 for a full year).

Savings calculation: Savings are calculated by subtracting the DNAC for either comparison group from the DNAC for the treatment group.

Savings Uncertainty: Uncertainty presented in this analysis is calculated using the ASHRAE Guideline 14 formulation for aggregating the prediction uncertainty of point estimates in a time series. It is calculated at a 90% confidence level. The total uncertainty at the site-level is calculated using the sum of squares of the baseline and reporting models. Other aggregate uncertainty values (e.g. for a portfolio or for a difference-in-differences estimate) are also aggregated using the square root of the sum of squares.

RECURVE

### **Comparison Group Generation**

Site-level Matching: In monthly consumption matching, a comparison group is constructed by selecting n matches (n=5 in this analysis) from the comparison group pool with the shortest distance d to the treatment group customer under consideration. The pool is limited to non-participants within the same zipcode as the treatment group customer. The distance d is, in essence, a way to reduce 12 monthly consumption differences between any two customers to one metric (see Figure). In the present analysis, we selected (without replacement) five nearest neighbors for each treatment site based on the Euclidean distance of monthly consumption.

Future Participant Groups: Comparison groups comprising future participants are considered to be representative of participants in most aspects (observable and non-observable). For example, future participants are known to be eligible to receive the measure, and for some measures, they may have the same baseline equipment as the participants. Future participants have the same propensity to participate in the program as participants, thus reducing or eliminating self-selection bias, something that is otherwise difficult to control for in a quasi-experimental study. More comprehensive data is typically collected for future participants, allowing for potentially better matching and more insightful analysis. From a practical perspective, future participant groups may be difficult to construct for all measures, unless a program has been running for multiple years and is considered stable with sufficient data collection over the analysis period. Sample sizes for the comparison group may also be constrained if using future participants.

Stratified sampling is applied to future participant groups to attempt to replicate the distributions of the underlying variable (annual consumption) in the comparison group. Annual consumption of all treatment sites is first split into deciles, then a random sample is selected from within each corresponding bin in the comparison group pool of future participants.

Geographical screen: For the site-level matched group, only sites within the same zipcode as the treatment site were considered as potential comparison group matches.

Sampling method: In all cases where sampling was required from the comparison group, sampling was performed without replacement.

![](_page_37_Figure_6.jpeg)

# **Impact Evaluation Report**

Gas Impact of Thermostats in Program Year 2015, 2016, 2017

![](_page_38_Picture_15.jpeg)

# 1. Introduction

**Treatment Group** 

 $\ddot{}$ 

ä,

Portlar

Salem

Eugene

**Coos Bay** 

774

Meters

This report contains the results of applying the two-stage approach (informed by the DOE's uniform methods chapter on whole building analysis) for calculating claimable savings to the selected portfolio of energy efficiency projects (see Figure). This approach begins with identification of two comparison groups for the treatment sample: (a) a site-level matched comparison group and (b) a future participant group. These groups are described below along with summary statistics (site locations, sample size, baseline consumption and baseline load disaggregation).

The CalTRACK methods are then applied to arrive at site-level savings, normalized for weather, and reflective of energy consumption changes for customers at the meter. Using a difference of differences for the treatment group with each comparison group accounts for population-level consumption changes (e.g. economic changes, rate changes, natural energy efficiency adoption etc.). The methods contained within this report are the outcome of a recent peer-reviewed study completed by Energy Trust of Oregon and Open Energy Efficiency (see "Methodology" section for more details)

- The report includes the following sections:
- Result Summary Includes the overall portfolio results
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Mean Baseline Consumption

(Gas)

- Section 2. Data Preparation Data cleaning and sample attrition
- Section 3. Modeling Results CalTRACK model outputs and Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results
- Section 4. Methodology Description of methods used in this report

The treatment group consists of sites that participated in the

specified energy efficiency projects in the specified program

.<br>the treatment group. And this group includes the subset of

year. Only sites that installed single measures are included in

### **Site-level Matched Comparison Group**

This group includes comparison group sites that were matched at the site-level to treatment group sites. Each treatment group site is matched to five comparison group sites from the same zipcode, but only the sites with sufficient data quality were included in the group. Matching was performed using monthly consumption in the baseline period as detailed in the Methodology section.

![](_page_39_Figure_11.jpeg)

Mean Baseline Consumption (Gas)

# Two-Stage Approach

![](_page_39_Figure_13.jpeg)

# **Future Participant Group**

The pool of sites that was used to create this group was composed of sites that installed the same measure in the year following the specified program year. The final sites were selected by stratified sampling using deciles of annual energy

 $H$ 

Mean Baseline Consumption

(Gas)

![](_page_39_Figure_16.jpeg)

Meters

Meters

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

# 2. Data Preparation

Consumption data preparation and cleaning followed best practices defined in the CalTRACK 2.0 billing methods. Some key aspects of the data cleaning process are highlighted here; please see the<br>resources section for links

![](_page_40_Picture_29.jpeg)

3 Report Date: December 6, 2019<br>
R  $\equiv C \cup R \vee E$ 

![](_page_41_Picture_83.jpeg)

# 3. Modeling Results

This section includes summaries of the Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results for the treatment and comparison groups. The time series of monthly energy consumption illustrates the similarities and/or differences in energy consumption for the different groups in the baseline and reporting periods.

Below, you will find a breakdown of the DNAC results by group, showing the histograms of DNAC as well as the mean value expressed in raw units and as a percent of baseline annual consumption. Finally, the distribution of model types in the baseline and reporting periods are also provided as an additional layer of analysis.

![](_page_41_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_6.jpeg)

**Future Participant Group** 

![](_page_42_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_8.jpeg)

**© DNAC Distribution** 

![](_page_42_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_0.jpeg)

## 4. Methodology

### **CalTRACK and Comparison Group Methods**

Documentation: docs.caltrack.org Code: https://github.com/energy-market-methods/caltrack

#### **Data Preparation**

Baseline period: Since the predicted baseline may be unstable with different baseline period lengths, which may, in turn, affect calculated sayings, the consensus of the CalTRACK 2.0 working group was to set the maximum baseline period at 12 months, since the year leading to the energy efficiency intervention is the most indicative of recent energy use trends and prolonging the baseline period increases the chance of other unmeasured factors affecting the baseline. In addition, CalTRACK uses a minimum 12-month baseline by default.

Blackout period: The blackout period refers to the time period between the end of the baseline period and the beginning of the reporting period. In this analysis, it is specified to coincide with the project installation time period, meaning that the billing period that contains the project installation date is dropped from the analysis.

Analysis periods: Different portions of the analysis used different time periods of consumption data, therefore, it is useful to clearly define these time periods and where they were used. Consider a project with an installation date on a particular day d in a particular month m in a particular program year y. The year before the program year is labelled as y-1, the year prior to that as y-2 and so on, while the years following the program year are labelled y+1, y+2 etc. In all cases, the billing period that contains the project installation was dropped from the analysis. Other sections of the analysis use the following time periods:

- Treatment and site-level matched groups: Baseline period includes the 12 months preceding the installation billing period. Reporting period includes the 12 months following the installation billing period.

- Future participant group: Baseline period is the calendar year preceding the program year (Year y-1). Reporting period is the program year itself (Year y).

- Site-level consumption matching was performed using the 12 months of data immediately prior to the project installation date

- Equivalence tests were performed using data from the previous calendar year (y-1).

### **Modeling**

Weather Normalization: Weather normalization of billing data in CalTRACK follows certain model foundations in literature (PRISM, ASHRAE Guideline 14, IPMVP Option C and the Uniform Methods Project for Whole Home Building Analysis). Building energy use is modeled as a combination of base load, heating load, and cooling load. Heating load and cooling load are assumed to have a linear relationship with heating and cooling demand, as approximated by heating and cooling degree days, beyond particular heating and cooling balance points. A number of candidate OLS models are fit to the consumption data using different combinations of heating and cooling balance points (ranging from 30 to 90 F) and different sets of independent variables. The model with the highest adjusted R-squared that contains strictly positive coefficients is selected as the final model and used to calculate normalized energy usage.

Model Types: CalTRACK specifies a linear relationship between energy use and temperature as reflected in the building consumption profile. In the most generic case, a model would include an intercept term, a heating balance point and heating slope coefficient, and a cooling balance point and a cooling slope coefficient. Depending on the fuel a building uses for heating or cooling or its consumption patterns, models with a single temperature coefficient and balance point (i.e., heating or cooling) may be more appropriate.

Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC): The DNAC is calculated by using two CalTRACK regression models in conjunction with Typical Meteorological Year (TMY3) weather data, as follows: - Two models are fit to the consumption data - one model for the baseline (pre-intervention) period and one for the reporting (post-intervention) period.

- Long-term heating and cooling degree days based on TMY3 data are substituted in both regression equations to calculate the Normalized Annual Consumption (NAC) for each period. TMY3 data is maintained by NREL and includes weather averages for 1020 locations in the US between 1991-2005.
- DNAC is determined by subtracting the two NACs (DNAC = Baseline NAC Reporting NAC).

Disaggregation: Disaggregated loads are calculated from the different components of the statistical model fit. The weather sensitive components (heating and cooling load) are calculated by multiplying the relevant model coefficients (beta\_hdd or beta\_cdd) by the total degree days in a normal weather year (total HDD or CDD). For each site, the total HDD or CDD can be calculated using that site's estimated degree day balance points (also an output of the model) and the temperature for its closest weather station. The base load is estimated by multiplying the intercept of the statistical model by the number of days (365 for a full year).

Savings calculation: Savings are calculated by subtracting the DNAC for either comparison group from the DNAC for the treatment group.

Savings Uncertainty: Uncertainty presented in this analysis is calculated using the ASHRAE Guideline 14 formulation for aggregating the prediction uncertainty of point estimates in a time series. It is calculated at a 90% confidence level. The total uncertainty at the site-level is calculated using the sum of squares of the baseline and reporting models. Other aggregate uncertainty values (e.g. for a portfolio or for a difference-in-differences estimate) are also aggregated using the square root of the sum of squares.

RECURVE

### **Comparison Group Generation**

Site-level Matching: In monthly consumption matching, a comparison group is constructed by selecting n matches (n=5 in this analysis) from the comparison group pool with the shortest distance d to the treatment group customer under consideration. The pool is limited to non-participants within the same zipcode as the treatment group customer. The distance d is, in essence, a way to reduce 12 monthly consumption differences between any two customers to one metric (see Figure). In the present analysis, we selected (without replacement) five nearest neighbors for each treatment site based on the Euclidean distance of monthly consumption.

Future Participant Groups: Comparison groups comprising future participants are considered to be representative of participants in most aspects (observable and non-observable). For example, future participants are known to be eligible to receive the measure, and for some measures, they may have the same baseline equipment as the participants. Future participants have the same propensity to participate in the program as participants, thus reducing or eliminating self-selection bias, something that is otherwise difficult to control for in a quasi-experimental study. More comprehensive data is typically collected for future participants, allowing for potentially better matching and more insightful analysis. From a practical perspective, future participant groups may be difficult to construct for all measures, unless a program has been running for multiple years and is considered stable with sufficient data collection over the analysis period. Sample sizes for the comparison group may also be constrained if using future participants.

Stratified sampling is applied to future participant groups to attempt to replicate the distributions of the underlying variable (annual consumption) in the comparison group. Annual consumption of all treatment sites is first split into deciles, then a random sample is selected from within each corresponding bin in the comparison group pool of future participants.

Geographical screen: For the site-level matched group, only sites within the same zipcode as the treatment site were considered as potential comparison group matches.

Sampling method: In all cases where sampling was required from the comparison group, sampling was performed without replacement.

![](_page_44_Figure_6.jpeg)

# **Impact Evaluation Report**

Gas Impact of Thermostats in Program Year 2015, 2016, 2017

![](_page_45_Picture_44.jpeg)

45 +/- 15 Therms

Average Savings Relative to Future Participant<br>Group

 $10.5k$ **Future Participant Meters** 

707

Mean Baseline Consumption<br>(Gas)

141%

**Realization Rate** 

 $6 + 2%$ 

Savings Relative to Future Participant<br>Group

# 1. Introduction

This report contains the results of applying the two-stage approach (informed by the DOE's uniform methods chapter on whole building analysis) for calculating claimable savings to the selected portfolio of energy efficiency projects (see Figure). This approach begins with identification of two comparison groups for the treatment sample: (a) a site-level matched comparison group and (b) a future participant group. These groups are described below along with summary statistics (site locations, sample size, baseline consumption and baseline load disaggregation).

The CalTRACK methods are then applied to arrive at site-level savings, normalized for weather, and reflective of energy consumption changes for customers at the meter. Using a difference of differences for the treatment group with each comparison group accounts for population-level consumption changes (e.g. economic changes, rate changes, natural energy efficiency adoption etc.). The methods contained within this report are the outcome of a recent peer-reviewed study completed by Energy Trust of Oregon and Open Energy Efficiency (see "Methodology" section for more details)

- The report includes the following sections:
- Result Summary Includes the overall portfolio results
- Section 1. Introduction Overview of report and the different groups included in the analysis
- Section 2. Data Preparation Data cleaning and sample attrition
- Section 3. Modeling Results CalTRACK model outputs and Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results

![](_page_46_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_9.jpeg)

### Two-Stage Approach

![](_page_46_Figure_11.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_12.jpeg)

# 39.6 miles

80% of projects lie within this distance from treatment group centroid

![](_page_46_Figure_14.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_15.jpeg)

Distance between treatment and comparison group centroids

# 1.9 miles Distance between treatment and future participant group centroids

![](_page_46_Figure_17.jpeg)

Report Date: December 6, 2019

# 2. Data Preparation

5,347

Consumption data preparation and cleaning followed best practices defined in the CalTRACK 2.0 billing methods. Some key aspects of the data cleaning process are highlighted here; please see the<br>resources section for links sample attrition table shows the impact of each filtering criterion on sample size.

146

![](_page_47_Picture_26.jpeg)

2.7%

![](_page_48_Picture_82.jpeg)

# **3. Modeling Results**

This section includes summaries of the Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results for the treatment and comparison groups. The time series of monthly energy consumption illustrates the similarities and/or differences in energy consumption for the different groups in the baseline and reporting periods.

Below, you will find a breakdown of the DNAC results by group, showing the histograms of DNAC as well as the mean value expressed in raw units and as a percent of baseline annual consumption. Finally, the distribution of model types in the baseline and reporting periods are also provided as an additional layer of analysis.

![](_page_48_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_5.jpeg)

### **Site-level Matched Comparison Group**

![](_page_48_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_8.jpeg)

**4** Report Date: December 6, 2019<br> **RECURVE** 

![](_page_49_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

## 4. Methodology

### **CalTRACK and Comparison Group Methods**

Documentation: docs.caltrack.org Code: https://github.com/energy-market-methods/caltrack

#### **Data Preparation**

Baseline period: Since the predicted baseline may be unstable with different baseline period lengths, which may, in turn, affect calculated sayings, the consensus of the CalTRACK 2.0 working group was to set the maximum baseline period at 12 months, since the year leading to the energy efficiency intervention is the most indicative of recent energy use trends and prolonging the baseline period increases the chance of other unmeasured factors affecting the baseline. In addition, CalTRACK uses a minimum 12-month baseline by default.

Blackout period: The blackout period refers to the time period between the end of the baseline period and the beginning of the reporting period. In this analysis, it is specified to coincide with the project installation time period, meaning that the billing period that contains the project installation date is dropped from the analysis.

Analysis periods: Different portions of the analysis used different time periods of consumption data, therefore, it is useful to clearly define these time periods and where they were used. Consider a project with an installation date on a particular day d in a particular month m in a particular program year y. The year before the program year is labelled as y-1, the year prior to that as y-2 and so on, while the years following the program year are labelled y+1, y+2 etc. In all cases, the billing period that contains the project installation was dropped from the analysis. Other sections of the analysis use the following time periods:

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### **Modeling**

Weather Normalization: Weather normalization of billing data in CalTRACK follows certain model foundations in literature (PRISM, ASHRAE Guideline 14, IPMVP Option C and the Uniform Methods Project for Whole Home Building Analysis). Building energy use is modeled as a combination of base load, heating load, and cooling load. Heating load and cooling load are assumed to have a linear relationship with heating and cooling demand, as approximated by heating and cooling degree days, beyond particular heating and cooling balance points. A number of candidate OLS models are fit to the consumption data using different combinations of heating and cooling balance points (ranging from 30 to 90 F) and different sets of independent variables. The model with the highest adjusted R-squared that contains strictly positive coefficients is selected as the final model and used to calculate normalized energy usage.

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- DNAC is determined by subtracting the two NACs (DNAC = Baseline NAC Reporting NAC).

Disaggregation: Disaggregated loads are calculated from the different components of the statistical model fit. The weather sensitive components (heating and cooling load) are calculated by multiplying the relevant model coefficients (beta\_hdd or beta\_cdd) by the total degree days in a normal weather year (total HDD or CDD). For each site, the total HDD or CDD can be calculated using that site's estimated degree day balance points (also an output of the model) and the temperature for its closest weather station. The base load is estimated by multiplying the intercept of the statistical model by the number of days (365 for a full year).

Savings calculation: Savings are calculated by subtracting the DNAC for either comparison group from the DNAC for the treatment group.

Savings Uncertainty: Uncertainty presented in this analysis is calculated using the ASHRAE Guideline 14 formulation for aggregating the prediction uncertainty of point estimates in a time series. It is calculated at a 90% confidence level. The total uncertainty at the site-level is calculated using the sum of squares of the baseline and reporting models. Other aggregate uncertainty values (e.g. for a portfolio or for a difference-in-differences estimate) are also aggregated using the square root of the sum of squares.

RECURVE

### **Comparison Group Generation**

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Future Participant Groups: Comparison groups comprising future participants are considered to be representative of participants in most aspects (observable and non-observable). For example, future participants are known to be eligible to receive the measure, and for some measures, they may have the same baseline equipment as the participants. Future participants have the same propensity to participate in the program as participants, thus reducing or eliminating self-selection bias, something that is otherwise difficult to control for in a quasi-experimental study. More comprehensive data is typically collected for future participants, allowing for potentially better matching and more insightful analysis. From a practical perspective, future participant groups may be difficult to construct for all measures, unless a program has been running for multiple years and is considered stable with sufficient data collection over the analysis period. Sample sizes for the comparison group may also be constrained if using future participants.

Stratified sampling is applied to future participant groups to attempt to replicate the distributions of the underlying variable (annual consumption) in the comparison group. Annual consumption of all treatment sites is first split into deciles, then a random sample is selected from within each corresponding bin in the comparison group pool of future participants.

Geographical screen: For the site-level matched group, only sites within the same zipcode as the treatment site were considered as potential comparison group matches.

Sampling method: In all cases where sampling was required from the comparison group, sampling was performed without replacement.

![](_page_51_Figure_6.jpeg)

# **Impact Evaluation Report**

Electricity Impact of Thermostats in Program Year 2015, 2016, 2017

![](_page_52_Picture_15.jpeg)

# 1. Introduction

**Treatment Group** 

This report contains the results of applying the two-stage approach (informed by the DOE's uniform methods chapter on whole building analysis) for calculating claimable savings to the selected portfolio of energy efficiency projects (see Figure). This approach begins with identification of two comparison groups for the treatment sample: (a) a site-level matched comparison group and (b) a future participant group. These groups are described below along with summary statistics (site locations, sample size, baseline consumption and baseline load disaggregation).

The CalTRACK methods are then applied to arrive at site-level savings, normalized for weather, and reflective of energy consumption changes for customers at the meter. Using a difference of differences for the treatment group with each comparison group accounts for population-level consumption changes (e.g. economic changes, rate changes, natural energy efficiency adoption etc.). The methods contained within this report are the outcome of a recent peer-reviewed study completed by Energy Trust of Oregon and Open Energy Efficiency (see "Methodology" section for more details)

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- Section 4. Methodology Description of methods used in this report

The treatment group consists of sites that participated in the

specified energy efficiency projects in the specified program

the treatment group. And this group includes the subset of

sites that had sufficient data quality for modeling.

year. Only sites that installed single measures are included in

### **Site-level Matched Comparison Group**

This group includes comparison group sites that were matched at the site-level to treatment group sites. Each treatment group site is matched to five comparison group sites from the same zipcode, but only the sites with sufficient data quality were included in the group. Matching was performed using monthly consumption in the baseline period as detailed in the Methodology section.

![](_page_53_Figure_11.jpeg)

Two-Stage Approach

introl for weathe<br>(and occupancy<br>with AMI data)

Eliminate ous effects

The Two-Stage Approach<br>to Claimable Savings

AF

CalTRACK NMEC

懵

Comparison group

Payable Savings / DNAC\*

Claimable

Savings

The pool of sites that was used to create this group was composed of sites that installed the same measure in the year following the specified program year. The final sites were selected by stratified sampling using deciles of annual energy consumption.

![](_page_53_Figure_13.jpeg)

# RECURVE

![](_page_54_Figure_0.jpeg)

# 2. Data Preparation

Consumption data preparation and cleaning followed best practices defined in the CalTRACK 2.0 billing methods. Some key aspects of the data cleaning process are highlighted here; please see the<br>resources section for links

![](_page_54_Picture_29.jpeg)

3 Report Date: December 6, 2019<br>
R  $\equiv C \cup R \vee E$ 

![](_page_55_Picture_93.jpeg)

# **3. Modeling Results**

This section includes summaries of the Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results for the treatment and comparison groups. The time series of monthly energy consumption illustrates the similarities and/or differences in energy consumption for the different groups in the baseline and reporting periods.

Below, you will find a breakdown of the DNAC results by group, showing the histograms of DNAC as well as the mean value expressed in raw units and as a percent of baseline annual consumption. Finally, the distribution of model types in the baseline and reporting periods are also provided as an additional layer of analysis.

![](_page_55_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_0.jpeg)

© DNAC Distribution

 $400$ 

300

 $200$ 

100

 $\boldsymbol{0}$ 

 $-3,000 -2,000$ 

104 +/- 35 kWh

ince in Norma<br>Ition per Part alized Ar

**<sup>©</sup> Monthly DNAC** 

 $15$ 

 $10$ 

 $\bar{5}$ 

 $\mathbf 0$ 

Cdd Hdd

Cdd Only

Hdd Only

 $100$ 

 $80\,$ 

 $60$  $40$ 

 $20\,$ 

 $\frac{1}{30}$ 

Number of Sites

 $\mathbf{0}$  $200 - 400$ 

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

**Model Type Distribution** 

Baseline **Reporting** 

i,

 $rac{6}{\text{Date}}$  $\bar{8}$ 

Monthly DNAC

 $-1.000$ 000 0<br>DNAC 1,000 2,000

 $1 + (-0)$ 

 $10$ 

600 800 1,000 1,200 1,400 1,600,800<br>Number of Sites

مساساتيه  $\frac{1}{90}$ 

 $80$ 

**Site-level Matched Comparison Group** 

**Heating Balance Point Distribution** 

Baseline Reporting

40

50

60

Heating Balance Point

70

 $12$ 

Number of Sites

![](_page_56_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Figure_0.jpeg)

## 4. Methodology

### **CalTRACK and Comparison Group Methods**

Documentation: docs.caltrack.org Code: https://github.com/energy-market-methods/caltrack

### **Data Preparation**

Baseline period: Since the predicted baseline may be unstable with different baseline period lengths, which may, in turn, affect calculated sayings, the consensus of the CalTRACK 2.0 working group was to set the maximum baseline period at 12 months, since the vear leading to the energy efficiency intervention is the most indicative of recent energy use trends and prolonging the baseline period increases the chance of other unmeasured factors affecting the baseline. In addition, CalTRACK uses a minimum 12-month baseline by default.

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RECURVE

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Stratified sampling is applied to future participant groups to attempt to replicate the distributions of the underlying variable (annual consumption) in the comparison group. Annual consumption of all treatment sites is first split into deciles, then a random sample is selected from within each corresponding bin in the comparison group pool of future participants.

Geographical screen: For the site-level matched group, only sites within the same zipcode as the treatment site were considered as potential comparison group matches.

Sampling method: In all cases where sampling was required from the comparison group, sampling was performed without replacement.

![](_page_58_Figure_6.jpeg)

# **Impact Evaluation Report**

Electricity Impact of Thermostats in Program Year 2015, 2016, 2017

![](_page_59_Picture_15.jpeg)

# 1. Introduction

**Treatment Group** 

This report contains the results of applying the two-stage approach (informed by the DOE's uniform methods chapter on whole building analysis) for calculating claimable savings to the selected portfolio of energy efficiency projects (see Figure). This approach begins with identification of two comparison groups for the treatment sample: (a) a site-level matched comparison group and (b) a future participant group. These groups are described below along with summary statistics (site locations, sample size, baseline consumption and baseline load disaggregation).

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![](_page_60_Figure_11.jpeg)

### Two-Stage Approach

**Future Participant Group** 

consumption

The pool of sites that was used to create this group was

following the specified program year. The final sites were

composed of sites that installed the same measure in the year

selected by stratified sampling using deciles of annual energy

![](_page_60_Figure_13.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Figure_0.jpeg)

# 2. Data Preparation

Consumption data preparation and cleaning followed best practices defined in the CalTRACK 2.0 billing methods. Some key aspects of the data cleaning process are highlighted here; please see the<br>resources section for links sample attrition table shows the impact of each filtering criterion on sample size.

![](_page_61_Picture_31.jpeg)

3 Report Date: December 6, 2019<br>
R  $\equiv C \cup R \vee E$ 

![](_page_62_Picture_86.jpeg)

# 3. Modeling Results

This section includes summaries of the Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC) results for the treatment and comparison groups. The time series of monthly energy consumption illustrates the similarities and/or differences in energy consumption for the different groups in the baseline and reporting periods.

Below, you will find a breakdown of the DNAC results by group, showing the histograms of DNAC as well as the mean value expressed in raw units and as a percent of baseline annual consumption. Finally, the distribution of model types in the baseline and reporting periods are also provided as an additional layer of analysis.

![](_page_62_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_7.jpeg)

Number of Sites

![](_page_63_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Figure_2.jpeg)

 $60$ 

 $70$ 

 $\overline{0}$ 1,000

 $1 +/- 1 %$ 

 $10$ 

**DNAC** 

 $\ddot{\rm{o}}$ 

Date

8

200

![](_page_64_Figure_0.jpeg)

### 4. Methodology

### **CalTRACK and Comparison Group Methods**

Documentation: docs.caltrack.org Code: https://github.com/energy-market-methods/caltrack

### **Data Preparation**

Baseline period: Since the predicted baseline may be unstable with different baseline period lengths, which may, in turn, affect calculated sayings, the consensus of the CalTRACK 2.0 working group was to set the maximum baseline period at 12 months, since the vear leading to the energy efficiency intervention is the most indicative of recent energy use trends and prolonging the baseline period increases the chance of other unmeasured factors affecting the baseline. In addition, CalTRACK uses a minimum 12-month baseline by default.

Blackout period: The blackout period refers to the time period between the end of the baseline period and the beginning of the reporting period. In this analysis, it is specified to coincide with the project installation time period, meaning that the billing period that contains the project installation date is dropped from the analysis.

Analysis periods: Different portions of the analysis used different time periods of consumption data, therefore, it is useful to clearly define these time periods and where they were used. Consider a project with an installation date on a particular day d in a particular month m in a particular program year y. The year before the program year is labelled as y-1, the year prior to that as y-2 and so on, while the years following the program year are labelled y+1, y+2 etc. In all cases, the billing period that contains the project installation was dropped from the analysis. Other sections of the analysis use the following time periods:

- Treatment and site-level matched groups: Baseline period includes the 12 months preceding the installation billing period. Reporting period includes the 12 months following the installation billing period.

- Future participant group: Baseline period is the calendar year preceding the program year (Year y-1). Reporting period is the program year itself (Year y).
- Site-level consumption matching was performed using the 12 months of data immediately prior to the project installation date
- Equivalence tests were performed using data from the previous calendar year (y-1).

### **Modeling**

Weather Normalization: Weather normalization of billing data in CalTRACK follows certain model foundations in literature (PRISM, ASHRAE Guideline 14, IPMVP Option C and the Uniform Methods Project for Whole Home Building Analysis). Building energy use is modeled as a combination of base load, heating load, and cooling load. Heating load and cooling load are assumed to have a linear relationship with heating and cooling demand, as approximated by heating and cooling degree days, beyond particular heating and cooling balance points. A number of candidate OLS models are fit to the consumption data using different combinations of heating and cooling balance points (ranging from 30 to 90 F) and different sets of independent variables. The model with the highest adjusted R-squared that contains strictly positive coefficients is selected as the final model and used to calculate normalized energy usage.

Model Types: CalTRACK specifies a linear relationship between energy use and temperature as reflected in the building consumption profile. In the most generic case, a model would include an intercept term, a heating balance point and heating slope coefficient, and a cooling balance point and a cooling slope coefficient. Depending on the fuel a building uses for heating or cooling or its consumption patterns, models with a single temperature coefficient and balance point (i.e., heating or cooling) may be more appropriate.

Difference in Normalized Annual Consumption (DNAC): The DNAC is calculated by using two CalTRACK regression models in conjunction with Typical Meteorological Year (TMY3) weather data, as follows: - Two models are fit to the consumption data - one model for the baseline (pre-intervention) period and one for the reporting (post-intervention) period.

- Long-term heating and cooling degree days based on TMY3 data are substituted in both regression equations to calculate the Normalized Annual Consumption (NAC) for each period. TMY3 data is maintained by NREL and includes weather averages for 1020 locations in the US between 1991-2005.
- DNAC is determined by subtracting the two NACs (DNAC = Baseline NAC Reporting NAC).

Disaggregation: Disaggregated loads are calculated from the different components of the statistical model fit. The weather sensitive components (heating and cooling load) are calculated by multiplying the relevant model coefficients (beta\_hdd or beta\_cdd) by the total degree days in a normal weather year (total HDD or CDD). For each site, the total HDD or CDD can be calculated using that site's estimated degree day balance points (also an output of the model) and the temperature for its closest weather station. The base load is estimated by multiplying the intercept of the statistical model by the number of days (365 for a full year).

Savings calculation: Savings are calculated by subtracting the DNAC for either comparison group from the DNAC for the treatment group.

Savings Uncertainty: Uncertainty presented in this analysis is calculated using the ASHRAE Guideline 14 formulation for aggregating the prediction uncertainty of point estimates in a time series. It is calculated at a 90% confidence level. The total uncertainty at the site-level is calculated using the sum of squares of the baseline and reporting models. Other aggregate uncertainty values (e.g. for a portfolio or for a difference-in-differences estimate) are also aggregated using the square root of the sum of squares.

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### **Comparison Group Generation**

Site-level Matching: In monthly consumption matching, a comparison group is constructed by selecting n matches (n=5 in this analysis) from the comparison group pool with the shortest distance d to the treatment group customer under consideration. The pool is limited to non-participants within the same zipcode as the treatment group customer. The distance d is, in essence, a way to reduce 12 monthly consumption differences between any two customers to one metric (see Figure). In the present analysis, we selected (without replacement) five nearest neighbors for each treatment site based on the Euclidean distance of monthly consumption.

Future Participant Groups: Comparison groups comprising future participants are considered to be representative of participants in most aspects (observable and non-observable). For example, future participants are known to be eligible to receive the measure, and for some measures, they may have the same baseline equipment as the participants. Future participants have the same propensity to participate in the program as participants, thus reducing or eliminating self-selection bias, something that is otherwise difficult to control for in a quasi-experimental study. More comprehensive data is typically collected for future participants, allowing for potentially better matching and more insightful analysis. From a practical perspective, future participant groups may be difficult to construct for all measures, unless a program has been running for multiple years and is considered stable with sufficient data collection over the analysis period. Sample sizes for the comparison group may also be constrained if using future participants.

Stratified sampling is applied to future participant groups to attempt to replicate the distributions of the underlying variable (annual consumption) in the comparison group. Annual consumption of all treatment sites is first split into deciles, then a random sample is selected from within each corresponding bin in the comparison group pool of future participants.

Geographical screen: For the site-level matched group, only sites within the same zipcode as the treatment site were considered as potential comparison group matches.

Sampling method: In all cases where sampling was required from the comparison group, sampling was performed without replacement.

![](_page_65_Figure_6.jpeg)