

# EMpowering Consumers to Save with Feedback Devices:

Technologies to Motivate, Enable, and Engage Consumers to  
Reduce Energy Usage

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for

Workshop #1: Social Science Insights for Energy Efficiency:  
Accelerating and Deepening Energy Savings at the DOE

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## EMpower Devices:

EM = Energy Management

EMpower = consumer ownership and control

Devices (Noun) = Technology

Devices (Verb) = Methods

# Presentation Outline

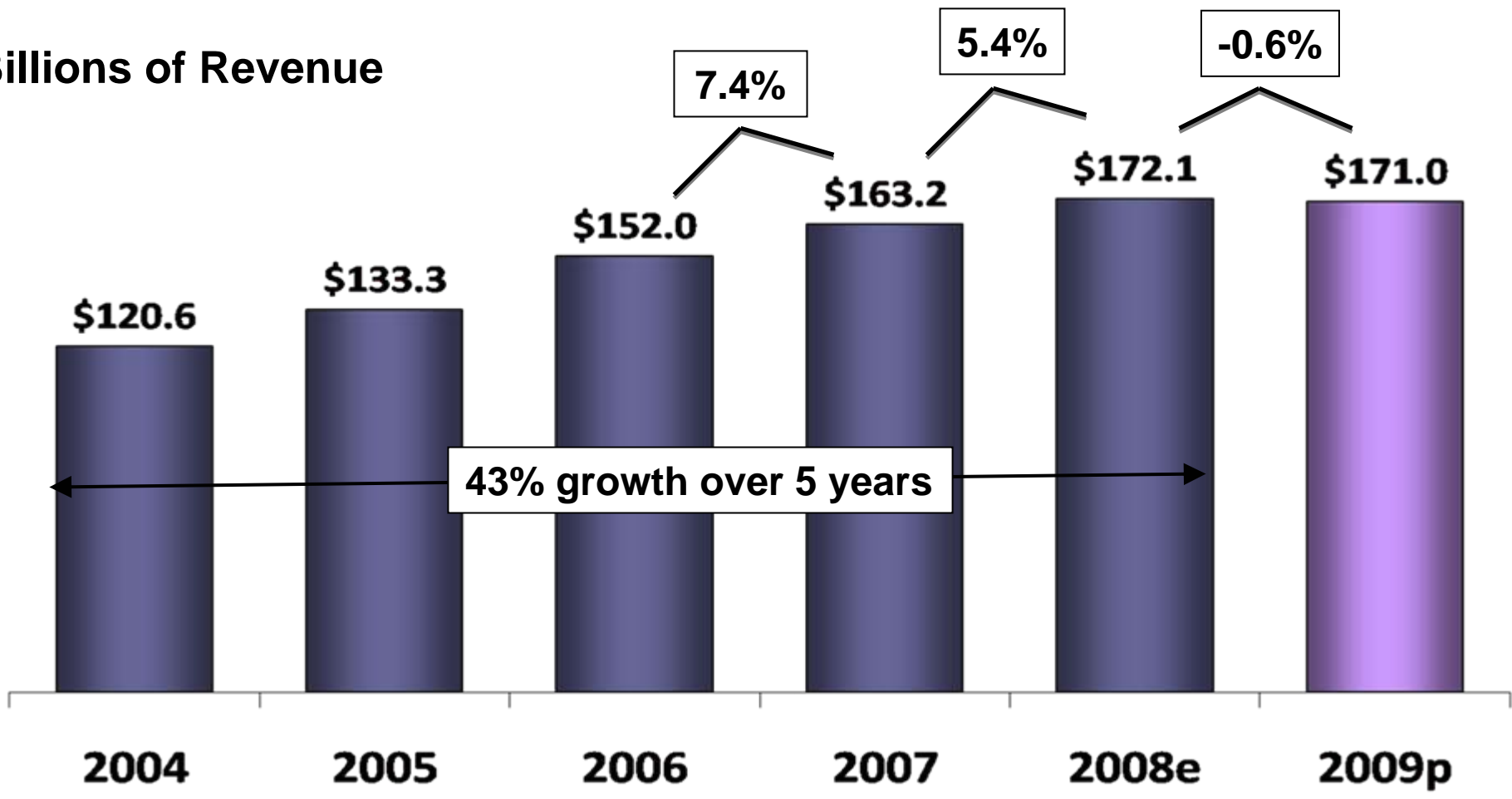
- **Feedback Technologies**
- Consumer Behavior Primer
- Behavioral Approaches to Feedback and Technology



Control4 home Energy Management System (EMS) EC-100

# Consumer Electronics Industry Growth

Billions of Revenue

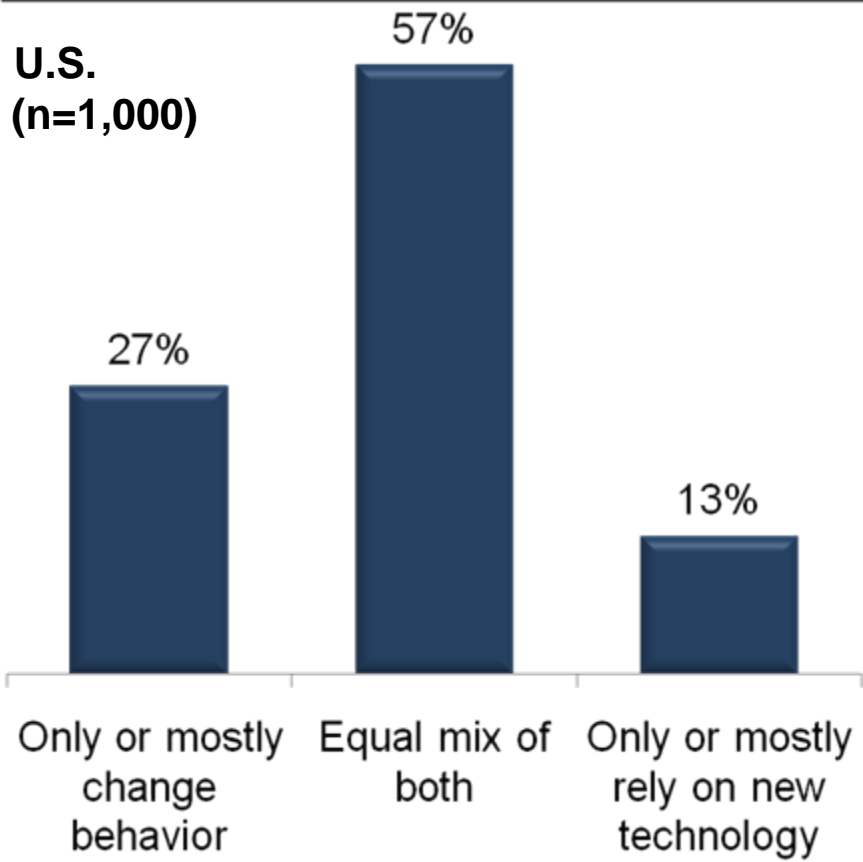


Source: CEA 2009.  
CEA Sales and Forecasts, Jan 2009

# Consumers Prefer Multifaceted Approach

**Consumers see a role for both technology and behavioral changes to conserve household energy**

Base: U.S. adults (n=1,000)



- Men are more likely to rely only/mostly on a technology solution (16% vs. 10% for women)
- Those living in older homes (pre 1970) are more likely to only/mostly rely on behavioral changes (33% vs. 27% overall)

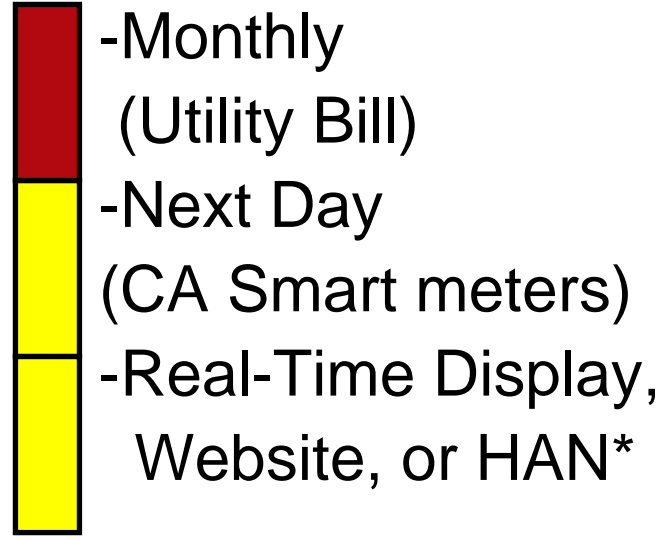
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# Today's Feedback Technologies: Feedback Levels and Effectiveness

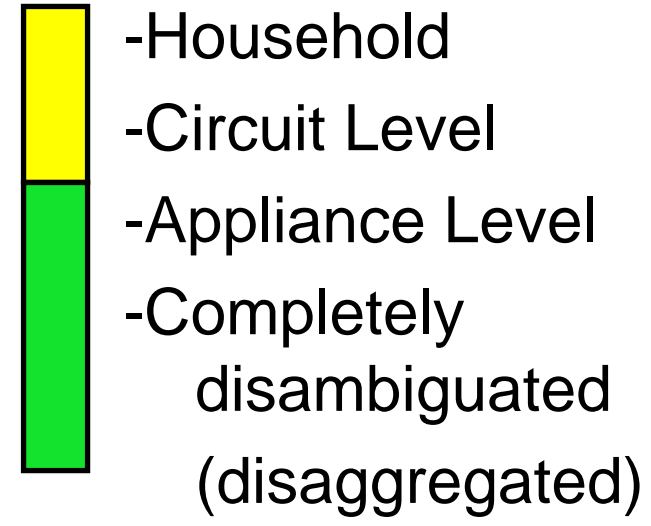
## Consumer Effectiveness



## Frequency



## Level of Detail



**\*HAN-Home Area (Automation) Network**

# Feedback Technologies

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Utility Bill</b>	<b>Smart Meters</b>	<b>Simple Stand Alones/Web Feedback</b>	<b>Home Area Networks</b>	<b>Disambiguation Algorithms</b>
<b>Frequency</b>	Monthly				
<b>Level of Detail: Whole House or Appliance-Specific</b>	Whole home				
<b>Additional Capabilities</b>	Some tips, rebates				
<b>Cost to Consumer</b>	N/A				

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<b>Frequency</b>	Monthly	10 s, 15 min, 1x/day			
<b>Level of Detail: Whole House or Appliance-Specific</b>	Whole home	Whole home (some large appliance recognition is possible with analysis)			
<b>Additional Capabilities</b>	Some tips, rebates	Control or automation w/ additional technology			
<b>Cost to Consumer</b>	N/A	Recovered in rates			

# Feedback Technologies

Feature	Utility Bill	Smart Meters	Simple Stand Alones/Web Feedback	Home Area Networks	Disambiguation Algorithms
Frequency	Monthly	10 s, 15 min, 1x/day	Real-time (~2s)		
Level of Detail: Whole House or Appliance-Specific	Whole home	Whole home (some large appliance recognition is possible with analysis)	Whole home, OR appliance-specific, or a little of both (using statistics)		
Additional Capabilities	Some tips, rebates	Control or automation w/ additional technology	Stand-alones provide mainly usage, some have cumulative data & future projections. Web displays vary.		
Cost to Consumer	N/A	Recovered in rates	\$20 - 250 per unit		



# Feedback Technologies

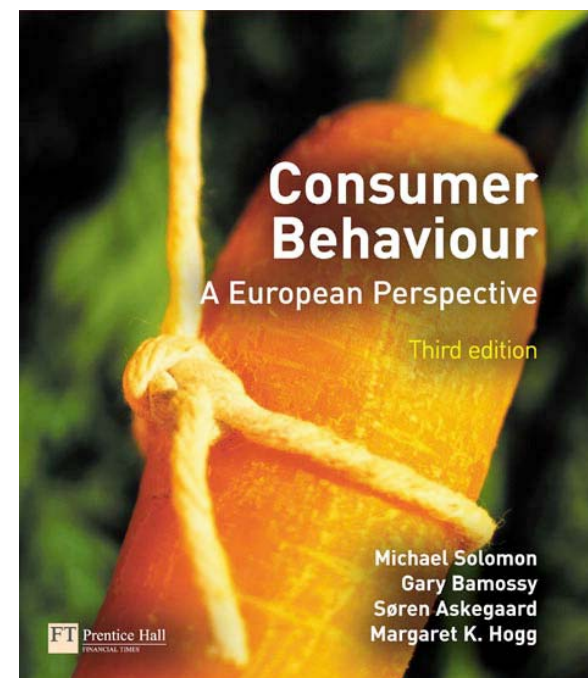
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Frequency	Monthly	10 s, 15 min, 1x/day	Real-time (~2s)	Real-time (~2s)	
Level of Detail: Whole House or Appliance-Specific	Whole home	Whole home (some large appliance recognition is possible with analysis)	Whole home, OR appliance-specific, or a little of both (using statistics)	Appliance-specific and/or whole-home shown at a common display	
Additional Capabilities	Some tips, rebates	Control or automation w/ additional technology	Stand-alones provide mainly usage, some have cumulative data & future projections. Web displays vary.	Control and automation is possible, including on entertainment & security systems	
Cost to Consumer	N/A	Recovered in rates	\$20 - 250 per unit	\$20-300 per sensor/transmitter → \$1,500-10,000 for whole house	

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Level of Detail: Whole House or Appliance-Specific	Whole home	Whole home (some large appliance recognition is possible with analysis)	Whole home, OR appliance-specific, or a little of both (using statistics)	Appliance-specific and/or whole-home shown at a common display	Appliance-specific & overall home shown at a common display
Additional Capabilities	Some tips, rebates	Control or automation w/ additional technology	Stand-alones provide mainly usage, some have cumulative data & future projections. Web displays vary.	Control and automation is possible, including on entertainment & security systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limitation is 75-85% accuracy</li> <li>- Control and automation is probably not possible</li> </ul>
Cost to Consumer	N/A	Recovered in rates	\$20 - 250 per unit	\$20-300 per sensor/transmitter → \$1,500-10,000 for whole house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little cost to add to existing technology</li> <li>• \$100-\$200 as stand-alone device</li> </ul>

# Presentation Outline

- Feedback Technologies
- **Consumer Behavior Primer**
- Behavioral Approaches to Feedback and Technology



# The Behavioral Approach

- Research findings suggest that technology adoption and price are not sufficient to drive efficiency<sup>1</sup>
  - Behavior and technology are closely interwoven throughout life, yet the role of psychology receives surprisingly modest attention in technology design and in policymaking
  - Energy-related technologies and policies need to bridge the gap between economical, technological, and psychological approaches

- Residential sector behavior-related energy savings about 25% of current residential

(1) Midden et al. 2007, Ehrhardt-Martinez and Laitner 2009

(2) Gardner and Stern 2008, Laitner et al. 2009

# Behavioral Aspects of Successful Feedback:

- **Motivate:**
  - Set challenging, but achievable goals
  - Social context (e.g. comparisons among like groups)
- **Enable** (example: feedback technologies):
  - Computerized, interactive, custom presentation
  - Clear and Appealing interface (Keep it SIMPLE!)
  - Supplemental Automation
  - Data
    - Both whole house and appliance specific
    - Real-time (<2 s)
    - Given over a long period of time (historical)
- **Engage:**
  - Wide variety of approaches: "Not one size fits all"
  - Social Communities and Competitions
  - Personalized feedback loop with actionable steps

# Technology and Behavior

## Feedback Issues

### Mostly Behavioral:

- **Resolution:** Frequency and Level of Detail about usage
- **Presentation/Visualization:** Incorporate consumer behavior
- **Mode of display:** Targeted display, internet, mobile, others?
- **Target population:** Segment customers
- **Target behaviors:** Purchase, one-time, and habits

### Mostly Technological:

- **Data Management:** Large-scale, complex systems
- **Networking and Automation:** Partnerships, collaborations.
- **Security and Privacy:** Standards, data ownership

# Proposed Framework for Energy Efficiency Behavioral Approaches

<b>Influence Dimension</b>	<b>Motivation</b>	<b>Ability</b>
Co-Benefit	Apply Behavior and Policy Solutions	Apply Technology Solutions
<b>Personal:</b>  Simplicity, Convenience, Comfort, Health, Core Values, Personalized	<b>Make the Undesirable Desirable:</b>  Goal-setting, Feedback: immediate historical, and projected feedback loops, Understand core values and needs.	<b>Much of Willpower is Skill:</b>  Provide simple technology solutions, Provide education, installation, and training

(Adapted from the Six Dimensions of Personal, Social, and Structural Motivation (Patterson, 2008))

# Proposed Framework for Energy Efficiency Behavioral Approaches

Influence Dimension	Motivation	Ability
Co-Benefit	Apply Behavior and Policy Solutions	Apply Technology Solutions
<b>Social:</b>  Norms, Prevalent Perceptions, Attitudes, Social Approval	<b>Harness Peer Pressure:</b>  Modeling, Comparisons, Networks, Communities	<b>Find Strength in Numbers:</b>  Involve the consumer in technology solutions (where users co-develop and co-create solutions), Use Networks, Communities

(Adapted from the Six Dimensions of Personal, Social, and Structural Motivation (Patterson, 2008))



# Proposed Framework for Energy Efficiency Behavioral Approaches


Influence Dimension	Motivation	Ability
Co-Benefit	Apply Behavior and Policy Solutions	Apply Technology Solutions
<b>Structural:</b>  Ownership, Enablement, Automation	<b>Design Rewards and Demand Accountability:</b>  Goal Setting, Feedback, Actionable Steps, Incentives/Disincentives, Financing, Pricing Policies	<b>Change the Environment:</b>  Physical location, Feedback technology, Automation levels targeted to consumer needs and desires (including automation levels)

(Adapted from the Six Dimensions of Personal, Social, and Structural Motivation (Patterson, 2008))


# Presentation Outline

- Feedback Technologies
- Consumer Behavior Primer
- **Behavioral Approaches to Feedback and Technology**

This July's bill: **\$106.89**  
Last July's bill: **\$118.89**

 In July, you need to save 8 more dollars to reach your savings goal of \$20 a month!

How am I doing?

 Last month you saved \$12 compared to your normal bill.

# EFFICIENCY2.0 Meets Behavior Best Practices

- Savings goals based on energy end-use, psychographic, and demographic profiles
- Over 400 actionable behavior and purchase recommendations
- Personalized feedback and goal tracking

The screenshot shows the 'My Savings Plan' section of the Connecticut Energy Smart website. It features a header with the user's name 'Emma Ashberry' and navigation links for 'Messages', 'Dashboard', 'Settings', and 'Logout'. Below the header is a navigation bar with 'Dashboard', 'Profile', 'People', 'Groups', 'Events', 'My Energy Use', 'My Savings Plan', and 'My Neighborhood'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'My Savings Plan', includes a form to set savings goals: 'I want to save \$ 0 each Month at Low Cost of bill type Any'. It also has buttons for 'Create new plan' and 'Show plan'. Below this, it displays 'This July's bill: \$106.89' and 'Last July's bill: \$118.89', along with a warning message: 'In July, you need to save 8 more dollars to reach your savings goal of \$20 a month!'. The right column, titled 'Ways to Save » home', shows icons for home, building, recycling, and car. It includes filters for 'Show: All Actions' and 'Sort by: Recommended'. A list of recommendations follows, such as 'Turn down your thermostat' (\$292), 'Turn down thermostat at night' (\$114), 'Shut off water when dishwashing' (\$107), 'Lower washing machine temperature' (\$103), 'Raise your AC thermostat' (\$87), and 'Lower thermostat on vacation' (\$75). A search bar is at the bottom. On the far right, there are summary boxes for 'Annual Dollar Savings \$281' and 'Annual Energy Savings 46145 hours powering this lightbulb', along with a 'How am I doing?' section showing a smiley face and a message about saving \$12 last month.

- Historical,

- Behavior principles
  - Norms
  - Goals
  - Competitions, networks, comparisons
  - Pricing
  - Actionable steps
  - Preference settings
  - Planned: sophisticated social networking and actionable steps
- Feedback
  - Whole house (7 to 10 secs)
  - Device specific hardware
  - Historical comparisons and estimated budgets
  - In-home display, touch panel, Web, iPhone applications

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

# More than Energy Mgt: Control4

- Similar Behavior principles as Tendril (minus competitions, networks, comparisons)
- Also incorporates entertainment and security
- Similar Feedback plus
  - TV, DVD, and other Web partners



QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Control4 home Energy Management System (EMS) EC-100

# Conclusions

- Behavior potential will depend on more informed decision-making and a greater awareness of impacts that follow from the choices.
- Behavior and technology approaches are fundamentally different and should complement each other.
- People are complex and make decisions on much more than economic rationality.
- There are many different way to influence behavior (using software technology, community strategies, feedback devices, etc.)
- The Internet is an important communication medium to influence consumer energy behavior

**The bottom line: to achieve the highest residential energy reductions in a cost-effective manner, behavior strategies must play an important role**

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# Five First Principles for Embracing Customers as Co-Creators of Value

1. Embrace customer-centered design
2. Blend rational and emotional experiences
3. Engage customers in small, observable steps of adoption
4. Segment by observable customer actions
5. Use action research to drive emergence and evolution of solutions

Honebein, PH, Cammarano, RF, and Donnelly, K (2009). *Will Smart Meters Ripen or Rot? Five First Principles for Embracing Customers as Co-creators of Value*. Customer Performance Group LLC White Paper.

# Behavior Change Best Practices

Findings from public health suggest that effective behavior change occurs when program administrators:

1. Describe **specific behaviors** to change
2. **Set goals** that people should try to achieve
3. **Identify barriers** to changing behaviors and ways of **overcoming** these barriers
4. Communicate **co-benefits** to the new behaviors

# Example Household Behaviors that Impact Energy Use

Target different behaviors and personalities:

purchase behaviors, one time behaviors, and habits.

<b>Consumer Cost</b>	<b>Frequency of Action</b>	
	<b>Infrequent</b>	<b>Frequent</b>
<b>Low cost / no cost</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install Compact fluorescents</li> <li>• Pull fridge away from wall</li> <li>• Set up thermostat</li> <li>• Install weather stripping or plasticize windows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air dry laundry</li> <li>• Turn off lights, computers, other devices</li> <li>• Change thermostat</li> <li>• Wash clothes in cold water</li> </ul>
<b>Higher cost / investment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New energy-efficient windows, appliances, heating/cooling</li> <li>• Additional insulation</li> </ul>	N/A

Table source: Laitner et al. 2009