



Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships

HEMS For Low Income Households

2016 Home Energy Management
Systems Workshop

Wednesday, September 21st, 2016

11:20am-12:20pm

Background

- What did you say about HEMS?
 - Luxury vs. necessity
 - Equity in program spending
 - Accessibility
- VS
- Low income owned homes are more likely to avoid unnecessary major improvements, such as HVAC
 - Benefits from smart thermostat optimizing use of that HVAC could be huge
 - While connected (via smart phone)...
 - Less likely to have wifi in house



What's been and can be done?

- Manufacturers have (verbally) express concern and priorities
- A few pilots focused on income eligible populations
 - CLP in Texas
- EVT

Opportunities to do more:

- Make the payoffs from DR to make a real difference in a household
- Bigger opportunity for impact!
 - Penetration of smart home devices in general is very low—for low-income houses, is presumed to be much lower.
- Opportunity: target smart phone, not wifi hub:
 - <http://hechingerreport.org/many-low-income-families-get-on-the-internet-with-smartphones-or-tablets-that-matters-heres-why/>

Smart Low-Income Homes

Lara Bonn and Jasmine Rivest



Smart Low-Income Homes: Considerations

- Connectivity
- Price
- Operability
- Persistence
- True Benefit vs. Novelty
- Utility support and guidance
- Non-critical
- What else? What can we do now for the future?



Thank you!

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Discussion

- What is the appropriate roll and perspective to take on the smart home for low-income families
- Is it okay that these products are getting ratepayer funds to incentivize but not going into homes equally?
- Partnerships with specific retailers or organizations for new smart home channels?

