



Pairing EE with DSM Resources: VPPs & Plug-in Solar

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2026 Midwest Energy Solutions Conference



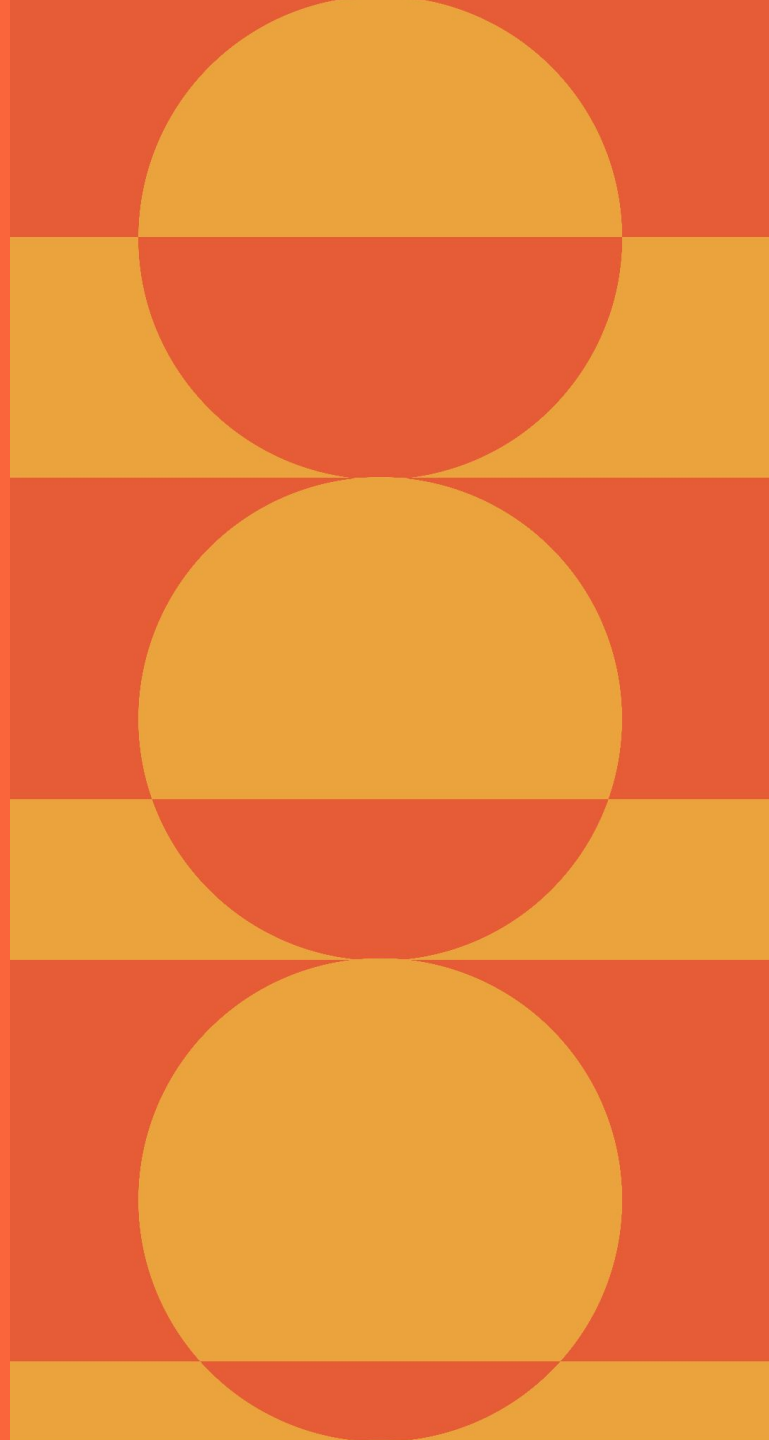


**Vote Solar fights for a
100% clean energy
transition that puts the
interests, health and
well-being of people at
its center.**

Virtual Power Plants

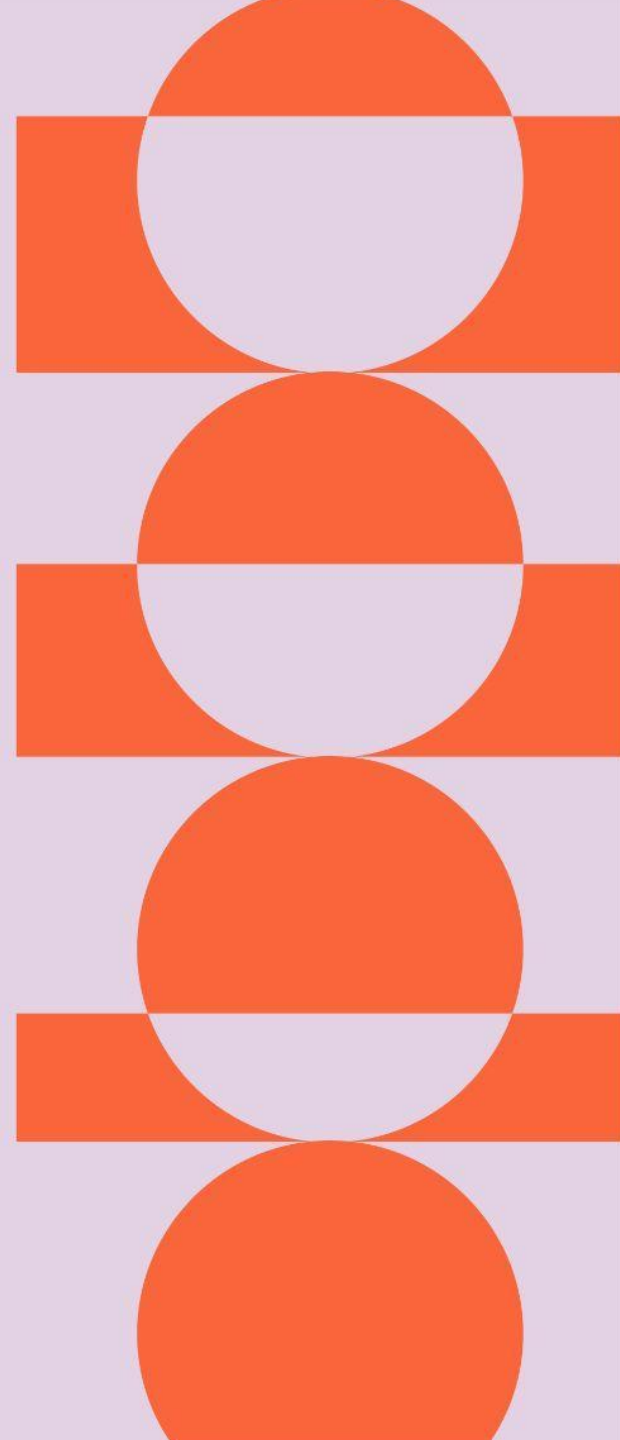
VPPs can do different things depending on what the **grid needs** at any given:

- day/hour/season
- location



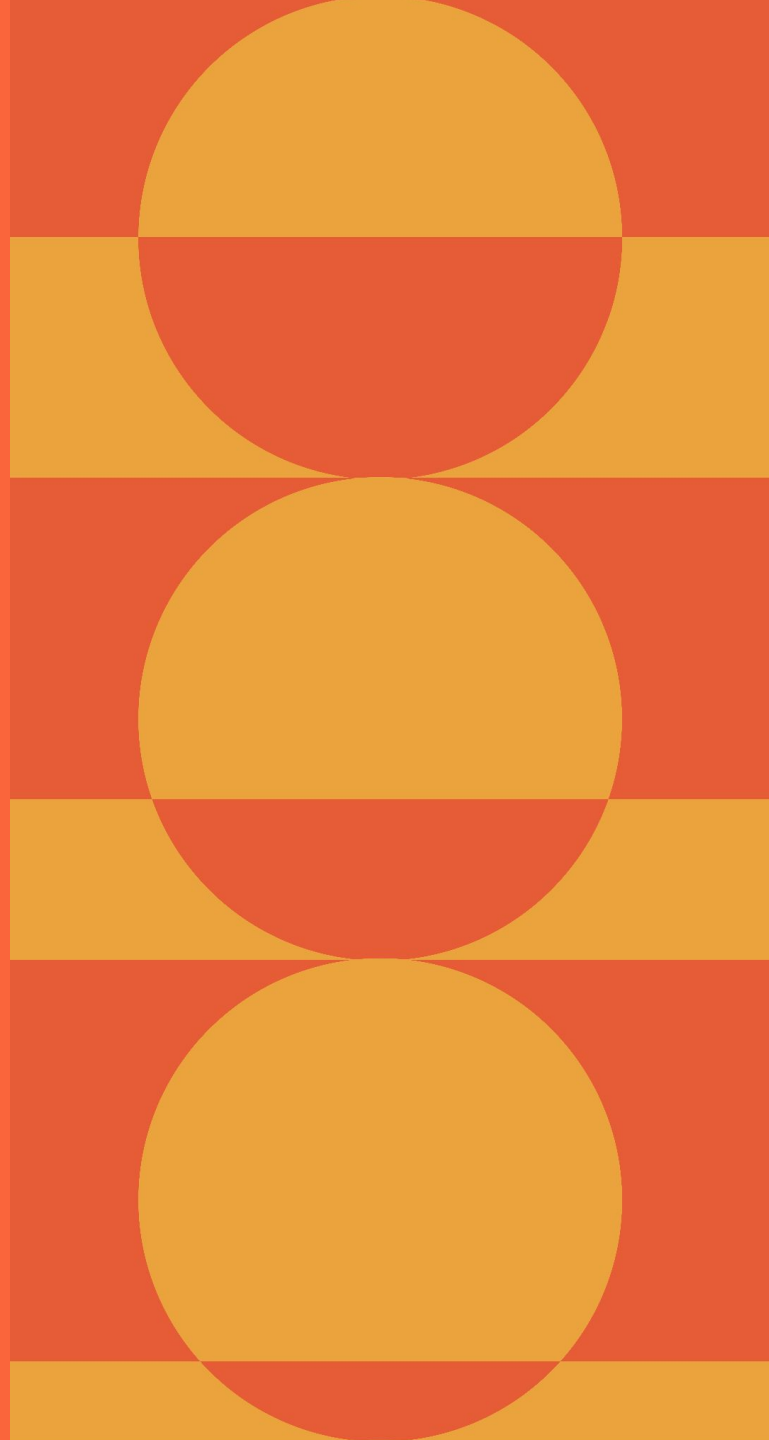
Typical DER Compensation Frameworks (NEM or NEM Successors) are Designed to Incentivize Customer **Self Consumption** of DG.

But that's **not what is most valuable** to the grid!



Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) consolidate smart technologies across customers to supply energy, reduce demand, and provide services to the grid.

VPPs are geographically dispersed but centrally managed.



How Do VPPs Work?



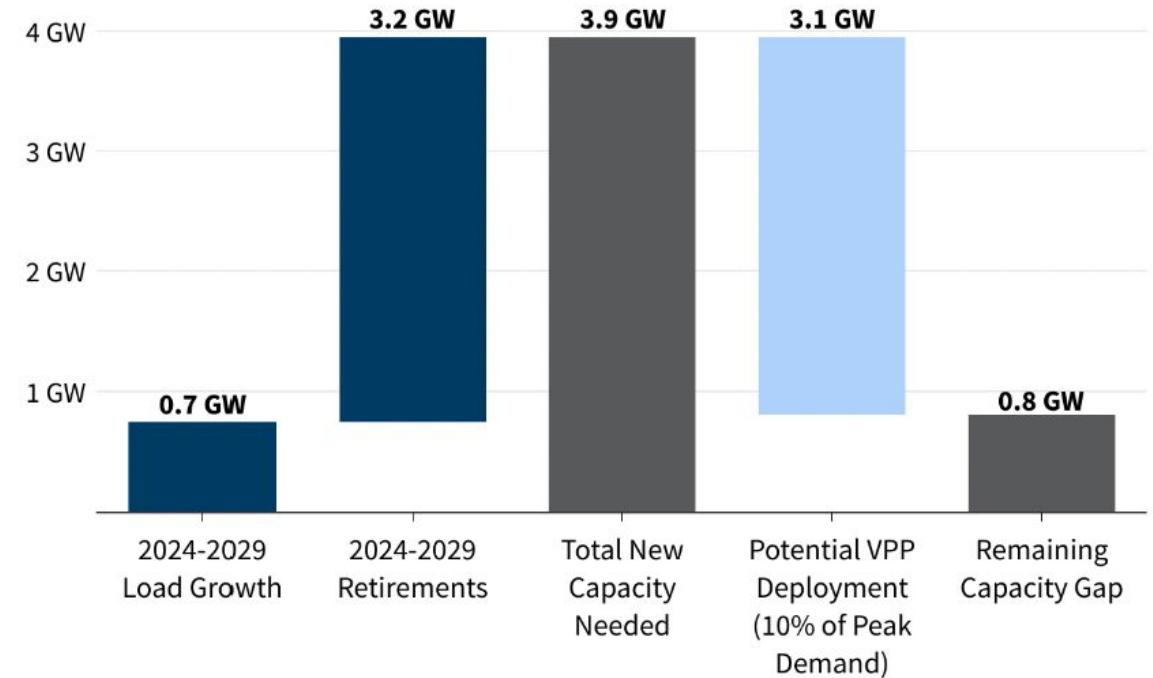
VPP Potential in Illinois

“In Illinois, around 3.9 GW of new resources will be needed by 2029, as **peak demand is expected to grow** by about 700 MW while planned resource retirements total over 3.2 GW between 2024-2029.”

“[A] 3.1 GW VPP deployment in Illinois (10% of peak demand) could result in **\$186 million in annual utility system cost savings**”

Source: RMI - Illinois VPP Analysis

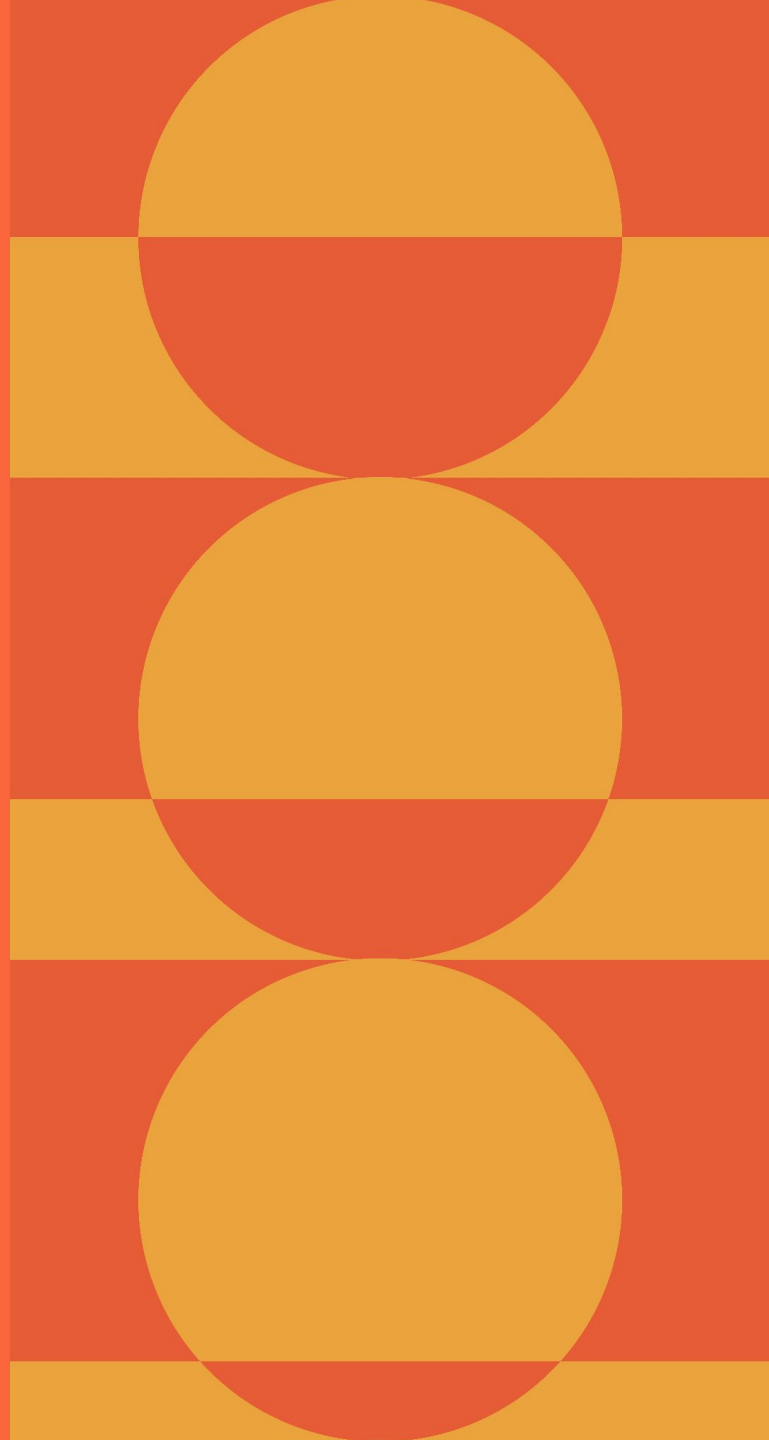
VPPs can help bridge the gap between resource retirements and peak demand growth



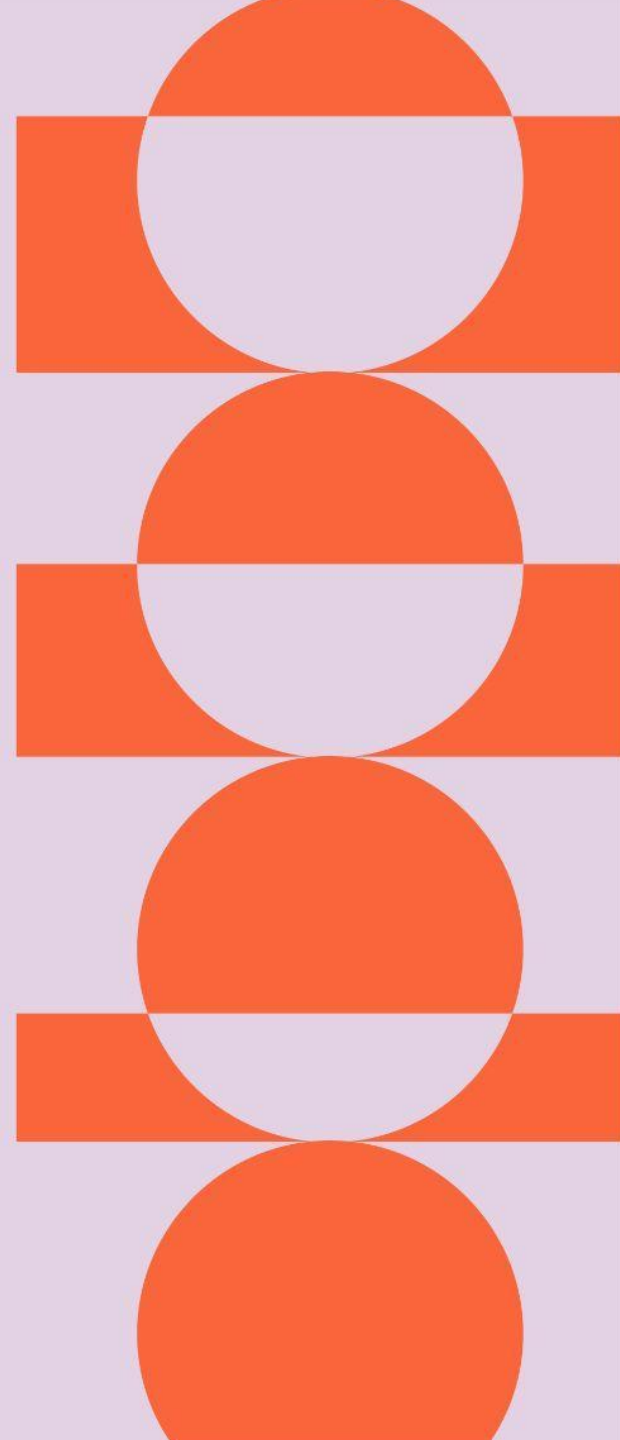
Source: RMI

Plug-in Solar

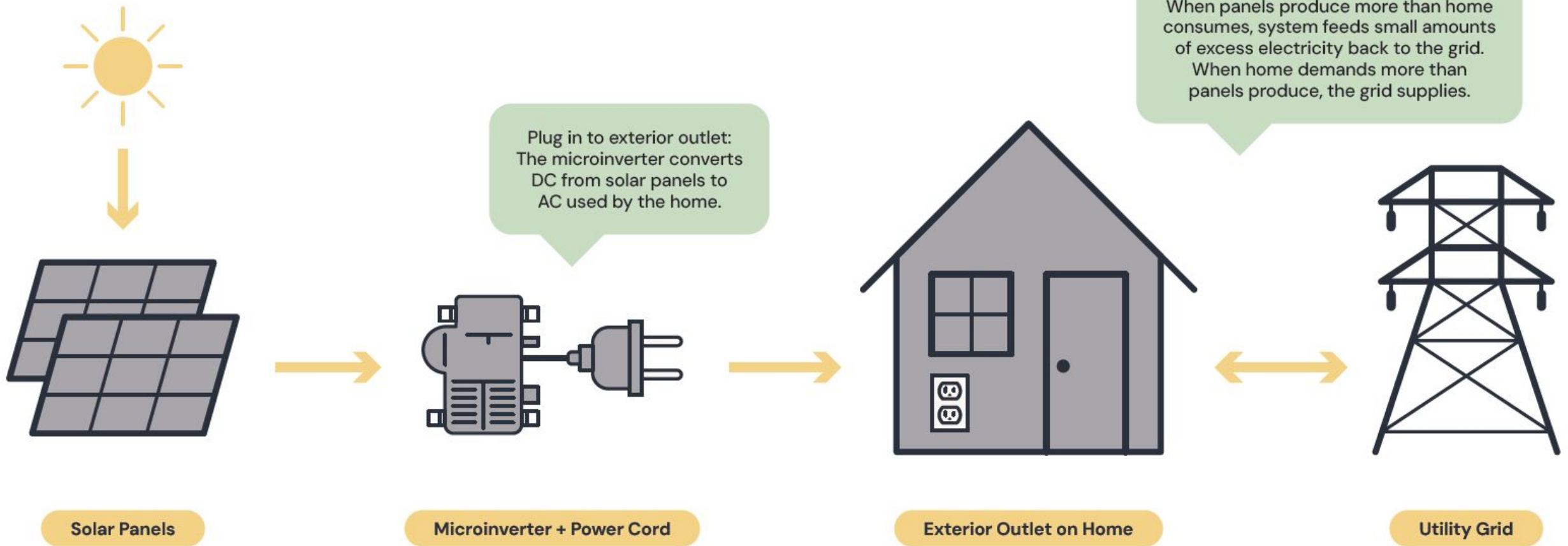
42% of households nationally are not eligible for rooftop solar; not including renters and condo residents



Plug-in solar offers an affordable, renter-friendly way to lower energy bills using clean power without major installation or long-term commitments.



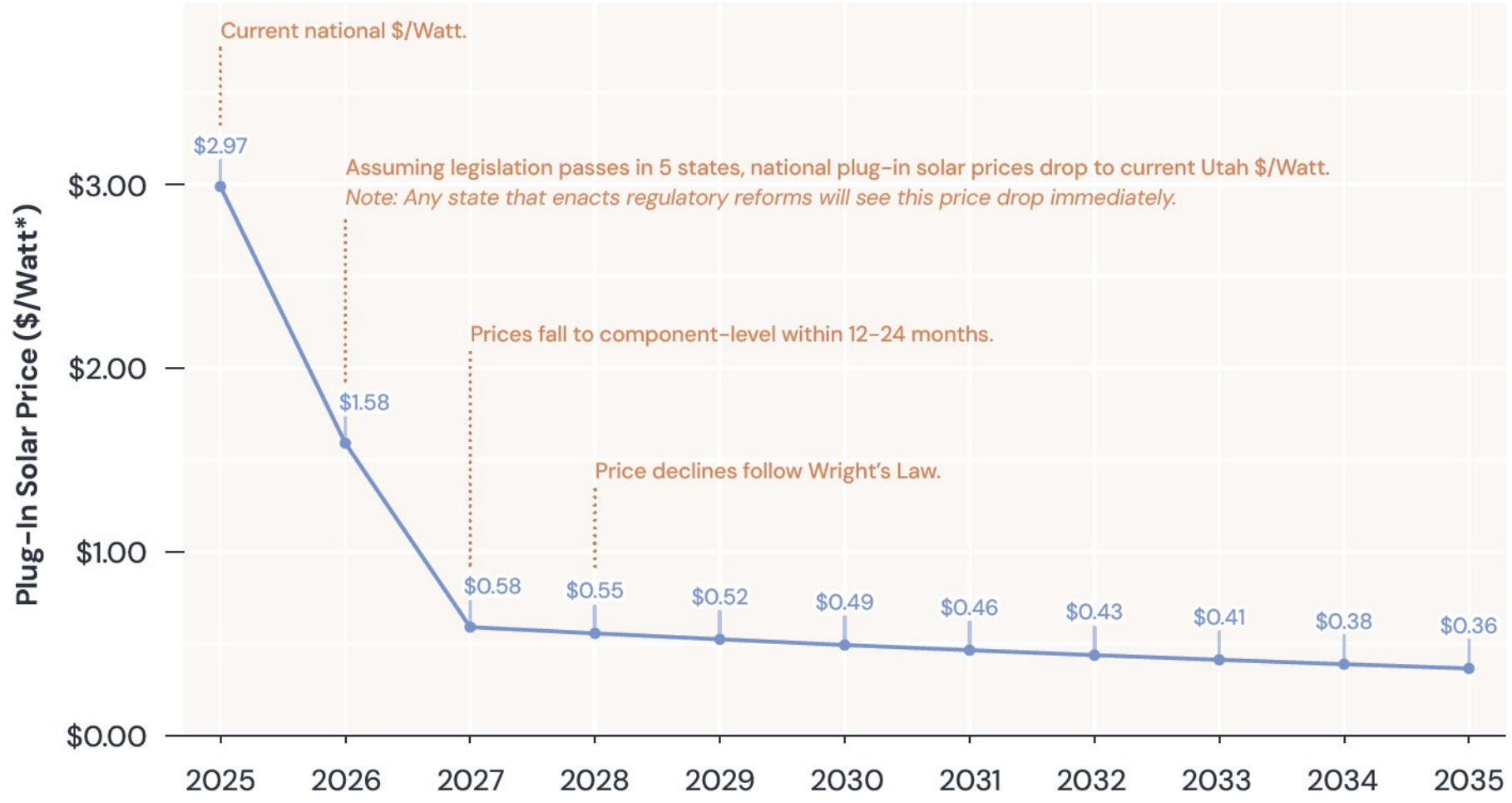
PLUG-IN SOLAR SYSTEM CONFIGURATION²²



Benefits of plug-in solar

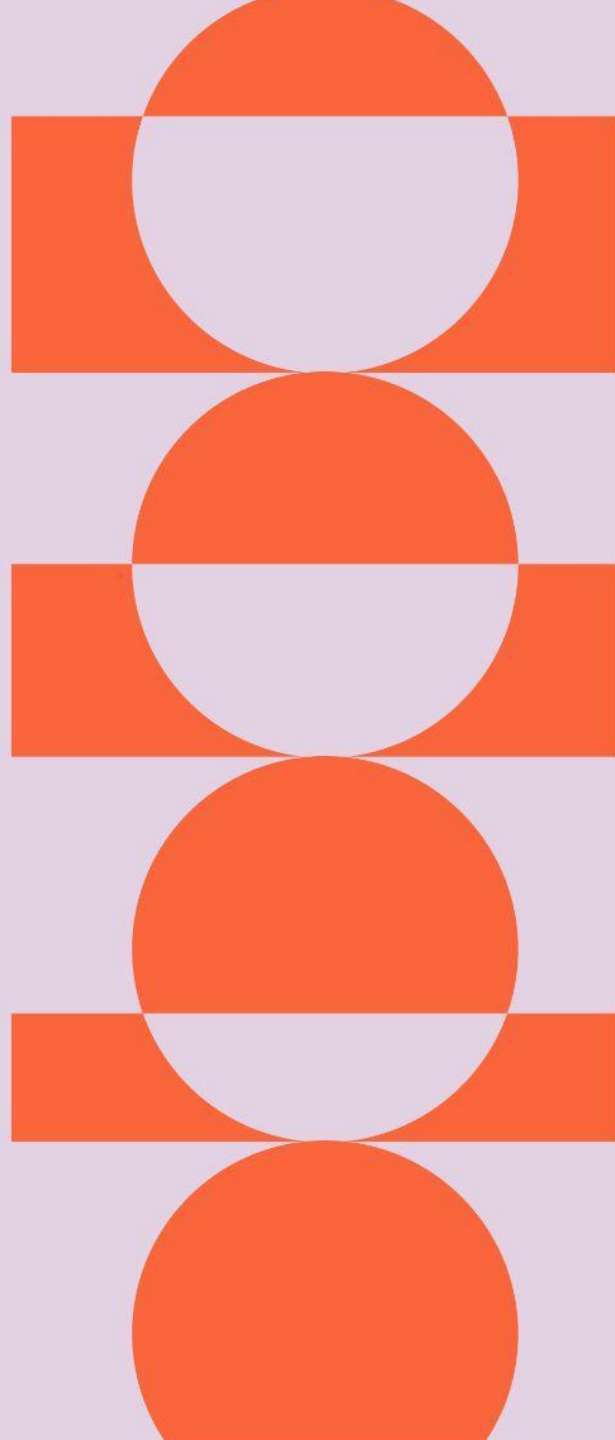
- Can reduce monthly energy bills by \$25-\$30
- Opens up accessibility of clean energy technologies to renters, condo dwellers
- Powers appliances directly, lowering utility purchases
- Relatively lower upfront investment
- Simple installation – no need for major installation fees
- Can be installed on a balcony or yard and is moveable
- Power is used local, where it's generated
- Helps avoid or delay costly grid upgrades
- Cuts energy lost in long-distance transmission

FIGURE 11.
PROJECTED PLUG-IN SOLAR PRICES IN THE U.S., 2025-2035



SOURCE: BRIGHT SAVER

*IN 2024 U.S. DOLLARS



Plug-in solar considerations

- Exempt from utility interconnection requirements
- Exempt from net metering
- Carveout adoption of small panels without need for additional installation costs
- Outline safety requirements for systems
- Protect against undue restrictions from HOAs, landlords, condo associations

Aside from enabling legislation:

- Rebates for income-eligible households



Thank you!

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