



# *MES Grid Panel – DSM as real, reliable & dispatchable capacity in a tightening grid*

*January 28, 2026*





# Check Your Grid Before You Wreck Your Grid

*Why Demand-Side Resources Matter More Than Ever*

**Load is growing faster than infrastructure** - data centers, manufacturing, and electrification are stressing systems before steel can be in the ground

**Supply-side solutions are slower, riskier, and more expensive** - longer lead times, higher capital costs, and regulatory uncertainty

**Demand-side resources already work** - but are undervalued in planning—treated as compliance tools, not capacity solutions

**The real risk isn't doing DSM** - it's not counting it early enough, fully enough, or confidently enough

***DSM must shift from compliance portfolio to flexible grid asset***



# Let's Compare...

*DSM has more delivery complexity – but materially lower risk and greater benefits to customers*

	<b>Generation Investment</b>	<b>DSM Investment</b>
<b>Execution Risks</b>	Construction and equipment risk are primary	Multiple programs and customer engagement are key to performance
<b>Regulator Oversight</b>	Pre-approval of investment and following prudence <b>once</b> per asset	MEEIA approval process of portfolio <b>Annual</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> party audit with regulator review Bi-annual prudence reviews
<b>Customer benefits</b>	Asset for long term value	Participant lower bills immediately Non-participant costs lower than build Less environmental footprint than any other generation option Feeling of higher satisfaction with Utility Home/Building Comfort Increase
<b>Economy/In-direct benefits</b>	One time construction economic benefit	Local economic spend Direct investment in low-income customers Flexibility in scale/program offer/ savings targets



# How this Translates into IRP Assimilation

The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) identifies the least-cost, lowest-risk mix of supply-side and demand-side resources needed to reliably meet forecasted customer energy and capacity needs over the long term.

- DSM Impacts are embedded in Evergy's load forecasts

## Missouri Senate Bill 4 (SB4)

Signed into Law in 04/2025

- Support large load growth (e.g., data centers, manufacturing)
- Accelerate utility investment and cost recovery,
- Increase focus on dispatchable (“reliable”) generation, and
- Formalize and strengthen the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) framework

***With this new statute, IRPs are becoming binding decisions – not academic exercises***





# How it all comes together...

## *DSM Planning & IRP Interfaces*

STAGE	KEY ACTIONS	OUTPUTS
<b>Avoided Cost Origin</b>	Calculate marginal energy & capacity values	Inputs for cost-effectiveness tests
<b>DSM Potential Study</b>	Assess achievable EE & DR, costs, ramp rates	DSM assumptions for IRP
<b>IRP Load Forecasting</b>	Apply DSM impacts to gross load	Net energy & peak forecasts
<b>IRP Modeling</b>	Simulate DSM vs. Supply Resources	Preferred portfolio selection
<b>MEEIA/KEEIA Filings</b>	Design programs, budgets, recovery mechanisms	Approved DSM portfolio
<b>EM&amp;V &amp; Updates</b>	Verify savings, refresh IRP assumptions	Continuous improvement loop

***Strengthen the bond between these steps to deliver the most impactful, scalable DSM portfolios***



# Historic Grid and Customer Impacts

*We know it works, now we just need to do more!*

## MEEIA 10 Year Results

*Impact*



**400,000+**  
Residents



**9,500+**  
Businesses



**50** Jobs  
Created Locally

Energy services **600,000 residential customers in MO**; **67%** of these customers have been impacted by MEEIA programs

## MEEIA Customer Impact



**7,259** Residential  
Energy Walk-thrus



**222** Income Eligible  
Multi-Family Properties  
became more energy  
efficient



**\$48,200,000+**  
Business Rebates



**18,800+** Income  
Eligible Multi-Family Units  
received energy efficiency  
product installation

***Energy has invested over \$360+ million under MEEIA***

***In 2024, Energy accredited 251 MW of summer peak load reduction from its demand response programs in Southwest Power Pool. Energy efficiency programs reduced peak retail load by 330 MW in 2024.***

## Closing

- DSM already behaves like capacity*
- IRPs are no longer academic in MO*
- The biggest risk to DSM is not binding all the steps together*
- DSM flexibility has significant value*



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