

# Stationary Fuel Cell **Evaluation**



**2014 DOE Annual Merit Review** 

Genevieve Saur (PI), Jennifer Kurtz, Chris Ainscough, Michael Peters

**National Renewable Energy Laboratory** 

June 19, 2014

Project ID # TV016

This presentation does not contain any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise restricted information.

### **Overview**

#### **Timeline**

Project start date: Oct. 2011

Project end date: Sep. 2014\*

Percent complete: On-going

#### **Barriers**

B. Lack of Data on Stationary Fuel Cells in Real-World Applications E. Codes & Standards

### **Budget**

FY13 DOE Funding:\$200k Planned FY14 DOE Funding:\$100k Total DOE Project value:\$365k

#### **Partners**

- California Stationary Fuel Cell Collaborative, (review results)
- National Fuel Cell Research
   Center (UCI), (subcontractor)
- Five OEM data providers, developing others.

<sup>\*</sup>Project continuation and direction determined annually by DOE

### **Relevance - Objectives**

Independently assess, validate, and report



operation targets and stationary fuel cell system performance under real operating conditions.



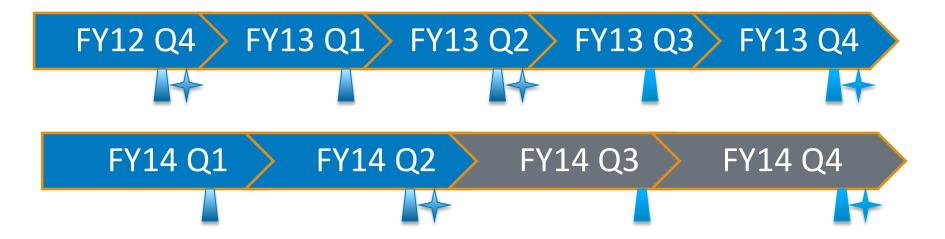
## **B. Lack of Data on Stationary Fuel Cells in Real-World Applications**

Addressing the gap in knowledge as stationary fuel cell installations have increased dramatically

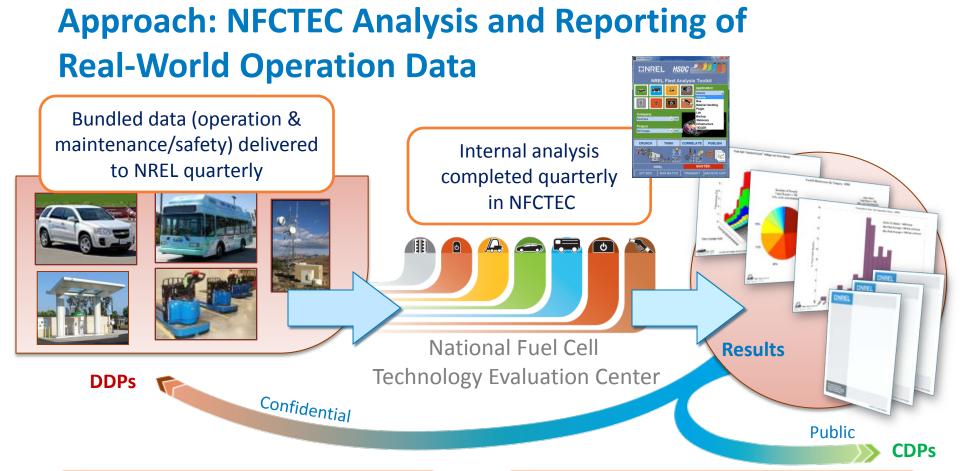
#### **E. Codes & Standards**

Providing data and context to C&S activities.

### **Approach - Milestones**



- Quarterly data analysis (based on available data)
- →Publication of technical stationary fuel cell composite data products
- Scheduled
- Completed



#### **Detailed Data Products (DDPs)**

- Individual data analyses
- Identify individual contribution to CDPs
- Shared every six months only with the partner who supplied the data

#### **Composite Data Products (CDPs)**

- Aggregated data across multiple systems, sites, and teams
- Publish analysis results every six months without revealing proprietary data

www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj\_tech\_validation.html

### **Approach - Stationary Fuel Cell Systems**

### Deployment and cost data

- Publically available data from California SGIP (2001-present)
- Includes systems providing prime, continuous, or regular power to a site (not backup power)
- Includes multiple fuel cell types proton exchange membrane (high and low temperature), solid oxide, phosphoric acid, and molten carbonate
- Includes fuel types for fuel cells (natural gas, biomass, digester gas, landfill gas)
- Small, kilowatt-scale to large, megawatt-scale
- Cost data for projects including incentives

### Operations data

- All data voluntary
- 28 total cdps

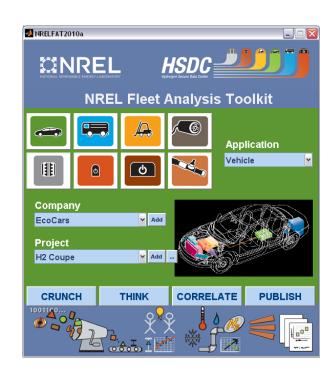
# **Approach - Data Processing, Analysis, and Reporting Tools**

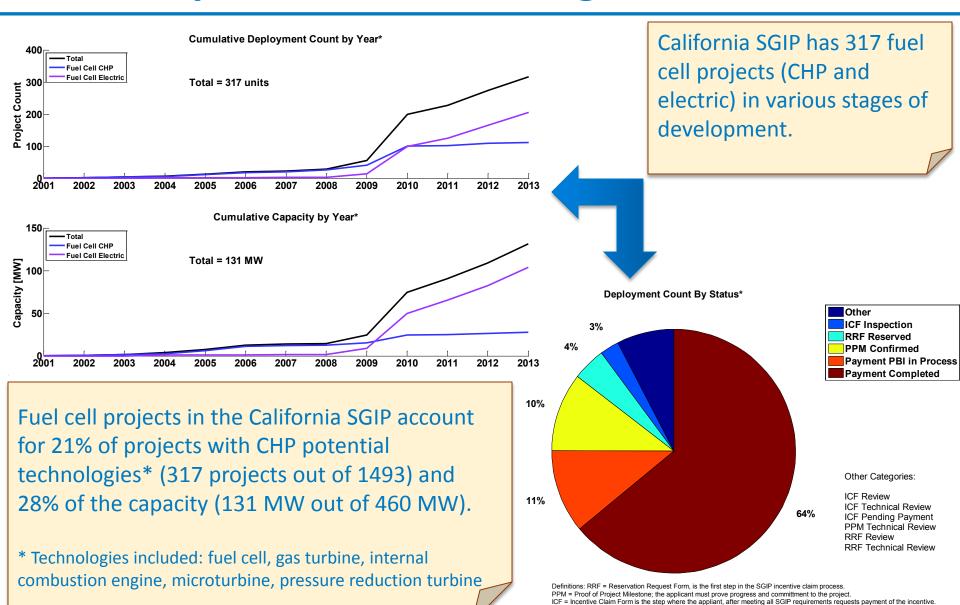
### NREL Fleet Analysis Toolkit (NRELFAT)

- Developed first under fuel cell vehicle Learning Demonstration
- Restructured architecture and interface to effectively handle new applications and projects and for flexible analysis
- Leverage analyses already created

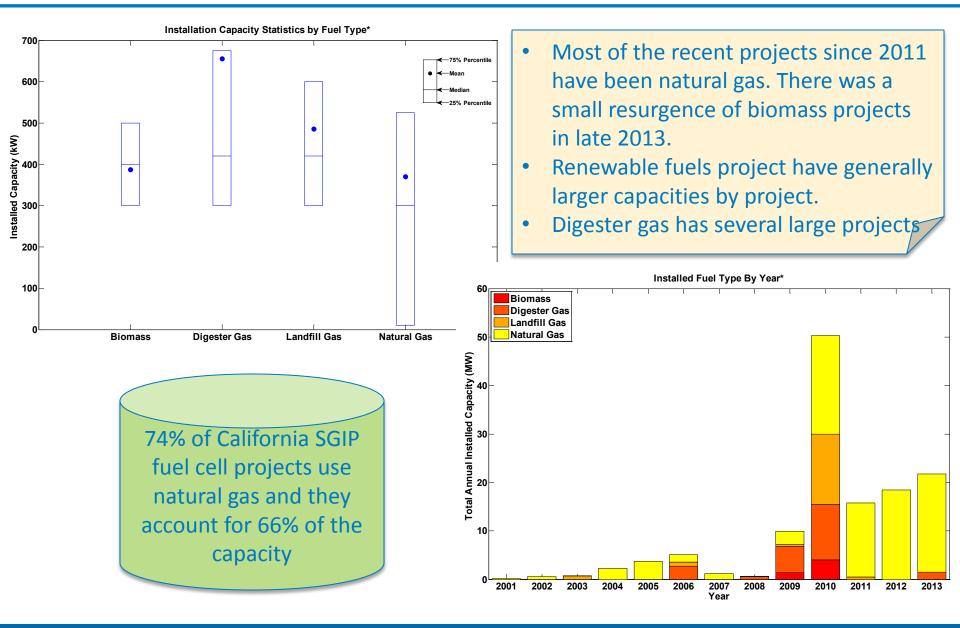
### Report results

- Detailed and composite results
- Target key stakeholders such as fuel cell and hydrogen developers, and end users

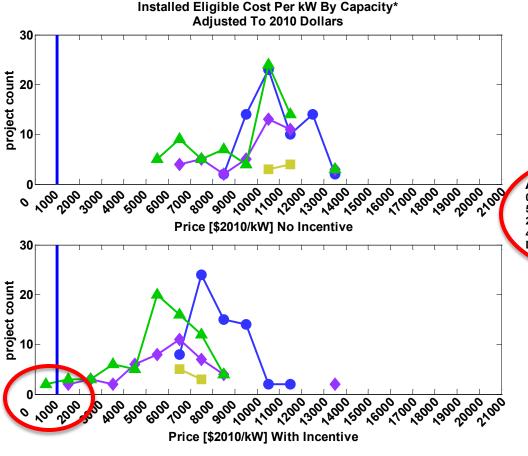




PBI = Performance Based Incentive is the way in which the incentive is paid out over time based on performance of the system.



- Larger projects generally have lower unit prices(\$/kW)
- Larger projects generally receive more incentives thereby lowering the average unit prices(\$/kW) more than smaller projects
- Few projects with incentives meet the DOE target of \$1,500/kW

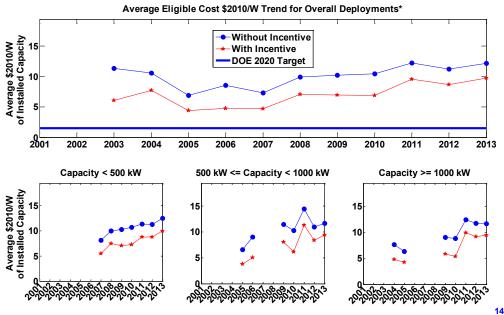


Average Prices No Incentive, Incentive 0-50 kW = \$10,808/kW, \$8,299/kW 51-200 kW = \$10,932/kW, \$6,725/kW 201-400 kW = \$9,950/kW, \$6,046/kW 401+ kW = \$9,524/kW, \$5,587/kW Data points with less than 2 projects filter

Eligible Costs May Include: Planning & Feasibility Study, Engineering & Design, Permitting, Self-Generation Equipment, Waste Heat Recovery Costs, Construction & Installation Costs, Gas & Electric Interconnection, Warranty, Maintenance Contract, Metering, Monitoring & Data Acquisition System, Emission Control Equipment Capital, Gasline Installation, Fuel Gas Clean-up Equipment, Electricity Storage Devices, Bond to Certify Renewable Fuel, Sales Tax, Fuel Supply (digesters, gas gathering, etc.), Thermal Load, & Other Eligible Costs Average All Projects

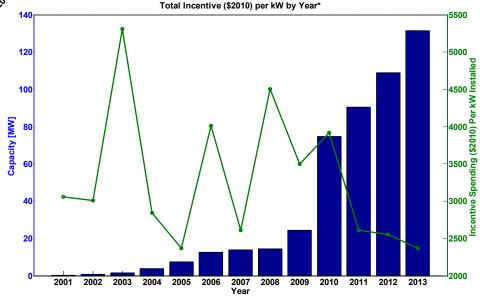
\$10,189/kW no incentive

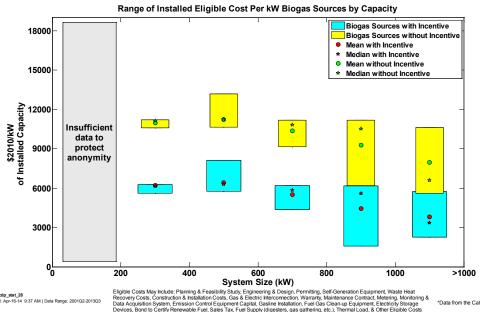
\$6,722/kW with incentive



- The average unit prices for fuel cell projects has fluctuated very little, but more variation is seen when separated by size
- Total incentive spending in fuel cell projects have decreased since 2010 while project counts continues to increase steadily

23 new fuel cell projects have been accepted into the California SGIP with a total capacity of 10 MW between Q2 2013 and Q4 2013

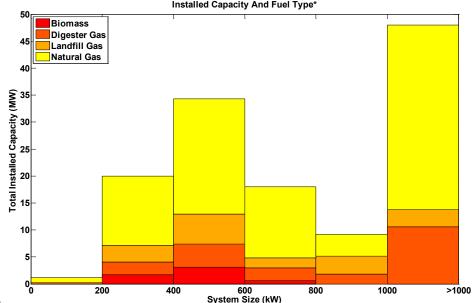


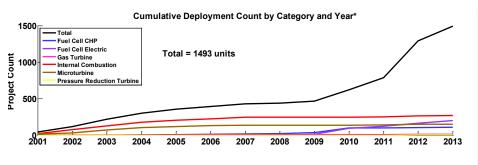


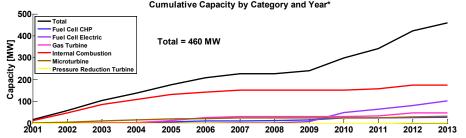
- 25% of fuel cell sites have biogas fuel sources and account for 33% of the capacity
- The average and range of the cost (\$/kW) of biogas sourced fuel cell projects generally decreases with project size.

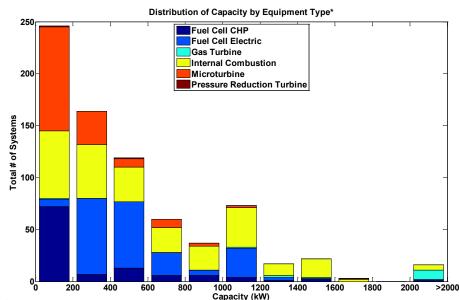
#### **Biogas fuel cells**

- ♦ 25% of 317 fuel cell sites have biogas fuel sources and account for 33% of 131 MW of the total fuel cell capacity
- ♦ 12% of 112 fuel cell CHP sites have biogas fuel sources for 45% of the 28 MW of total capacity

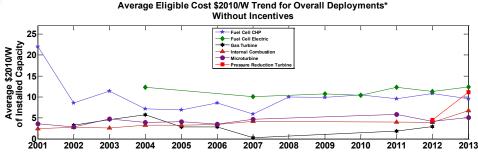


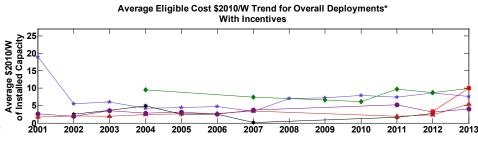


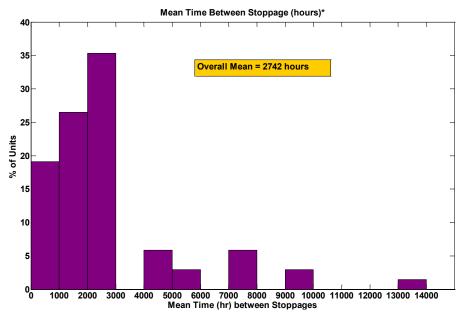




- Fuel cells mainly compete with internal combustion engines and microturbines in terms of capacity ranges
- Since 2010 fuel cells are making significant progress compared to other technologies by numbers of installations and capacity
- Fuel cells are generally more expensive than the competing technologies even with incentives







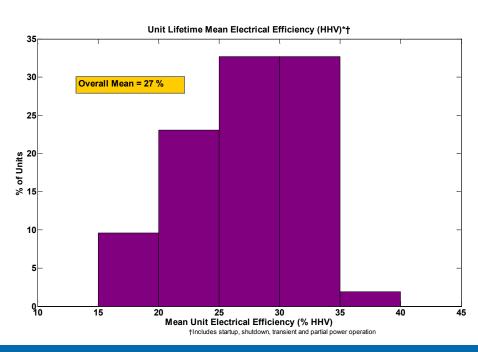
Unit Mean Availability\*

65 70 75 Mean Unit Availability (%)



NREL has begun to collect operations data, additional data is expected in the Q4 results

\* Unit refers to a single fuel cell system



Overall Mean = 93 %

# **Accomplishments and Progress: Responses to Previous Year Reviewers' Comments**

- "The pre-commercial days are over, so stationary fuel cells will need to compete with heat engines and the grid on cost and value."
  - Several new cdp's have been developed to compare fuel cells to other competing technologies from a size and cost standpoint.
- However, few data are given about the operations of the systems themselves.
  - 3 new cdp's have been developed to begin to address operational usage and key areas as efficiency and availability.
  - More data is expected and we are continuing to investigate additional data partners.
- The data span a large set of power levels, combined heat and power (CHP)/non-CHP and other various technologies, so it is a bit hard to see trends, draw conclusions, etc.
  - We have begun to create cdp's which separate sizes and CHP systems.

### **Collaborations**

- Partners for data delivered at the end of 2012
  - National Fuel Cell Research Center
  - Five fuel cell OEMs
  - California Stationary Fuel Cell Collaborative
- Communicating with several organizations to establish agreements for sharing data with NREL
  - State and regional fuel cell organizations
  - Fuel cell developers

### **Remaining Challenges and Barriers**

- Develop additional state project partners for deployment numbers, cost trends, and operations data.
- Work with fuel cell companies to obtain data for assessing key DOE targets
- Analyze key deployment barriers and identify elements of successful deployment.

### **Proposed Future Work**

- Q4 2014 milestone: Update all cdp's with current data
- Remainder of 2014:
  - Continue to analyze current California SGIP deployment data
  - Collect additional operations data for updates to operations cdps
  - Expand analysis to include new cdps which address further segmentation of the data (CHP/non-CHP, competing technologies, fuel sources) and trends over time
  - Look into other data partners (state and federal programs)
  - Work with fuel cell OEMs for possibility of additional data sets

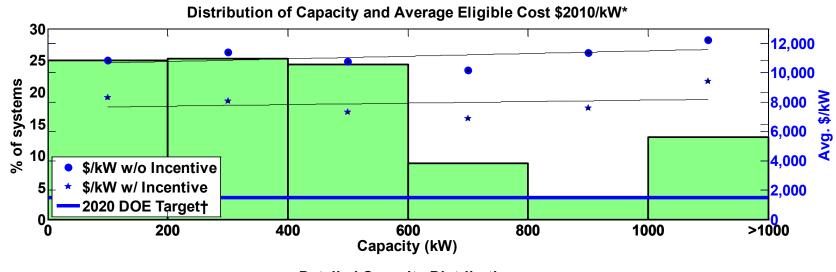
### **Summary**

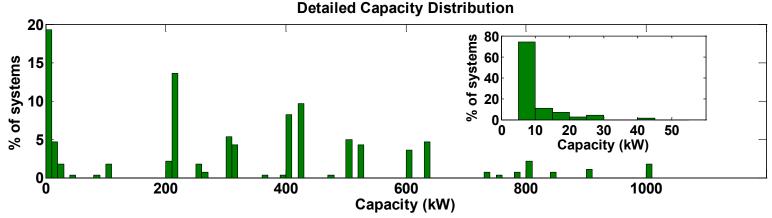
- NREL is leveraging a large pool of technology validation analyses and knowledge
- Stationary fuel cell deployment is increasing steadily, incentive expenditure (in California SGIP) is decreasing, but project prices are still generally higher for fuel cells.
- Natural gas is the leading fuel source, but a significant number of larger installations are using biogas fuel sources (23 biogas FC projects are ≥ 600 kW)
- Fuel cells continue to be installed in the California SGIP (23 new FC projects between Q2 2013 and Q4 2013)
- Larger projects tend to have lower unit cost (\$/kW) and often take advantage of more incentives.
- The mean availability of fuel cells systems is 93% with ~35% of systems over 95%.
- The mean electrical efficiency of fuel cells is 27% with <3% of the systems analysed over 35% electrical efficiency (based on HHV).



### **Technical Back-Up Slides**

### **Fuel Cell Stationary Capacity and Average Prices**

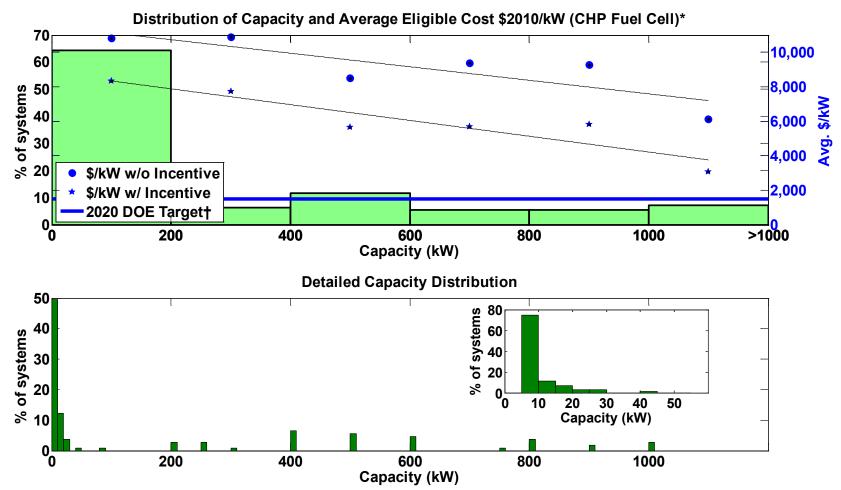




NREL cdp\_stat\_06 Created: Apr-16-14 9:36 AM | Data Range: 2001Q2-2013Q3 Eligible Costs May Include: Planning & Feasibility Study, Engineering & Design, Permitting, Self-Generation Equipment, Waste Heat Recovery Costs, Construction & Installation Costs, Gas & Electric Interconnection, Warranty, Maintenance Contract, Metering, Monitoring & Data Acquisition System, Emission Control Equipment Capital, Gasline Installation, Fuel Gas Clean-up Equipment, Electricity Storage Devices, Bond to Certify Renewable Fuel, Sales Tax, Fuel Supply (digesters, gas gathering, etc.), Thermal Load, & Other Eliqible Costs

†for the year 2020, operating on natural gas.
\*Data from the California SGIP.

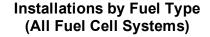
### Distribution of Capacity and Eligible Cost (CHP Fuel Cells)

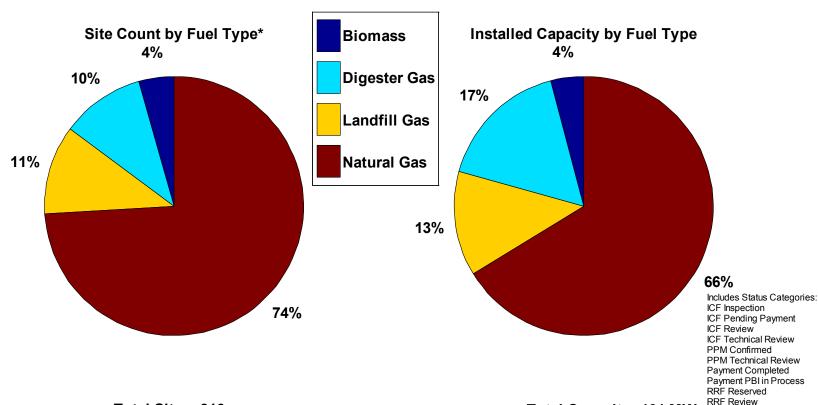


NREL cdp\_stat\_22 Created: Apr-16-14 9:36 AM | Data Range: 2001Q2-2013Q3 Eligible Costs May Include: Planning & Feasibility Study, Engineering & Design, Permitting, Self-Generation Equipment, Waste Heat Recovery Costs, Construction & Installation Costs, Gas & Electric Interconnection, Warranty, Maintenance Contract, Metering, Monitoring & Data Acquisition System, Emission Control Equipment Capital, Gasline Installation, Fuel Gas Clean-up Equipment, Electricity Storage Devices, Bond to Certify Renewable Fuel, Sales Tax, Fuel Supply (digesters, gas gathering, etc.), Thermal Load, & Other Eligible Costs

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### Stationary Fuel Cell System Count and Capacity by Fuel Type





**Total Sites: 316** 

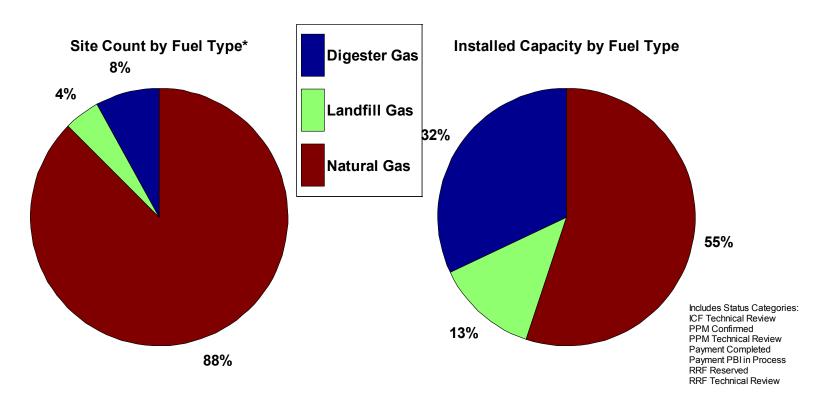
Total Capacity: 131 MW RRF Technical Review

NREL cdp\_stat\_04 Created: Apr-16-14 9:37 AM | Data Range: 2001Q2-2013Q3 Definitions: RRF = Reservation Request Form, is the first step in the SGIP incentive claim process. PPM = Proof of Project Milestone; the applicant must prove progress and commitment to the project. ICF = Incentive Claim Form is the step where the appliant, after meeting all SGIP requirements requests payment of the incentive. PBI = Performance Based Incentive is the way in which the incentive is paid out over time based on performance of the system.

\*Data from the California SGIP.

### **Installations By Fuel Type (CHP Fuel Cells)**

### Installations by Fuel Type (CHP Fuel Cell Systems)



Total Sites: 112 Total Capacity: 28 MW

NREL cdp\_stat\_20 Created: Apr-16-14 9:36 AM | Data Range: 2001Q2-2013Q3 Definitions: RRF = Reservation Request Form, is the first step in the SGIP incentive claim process.

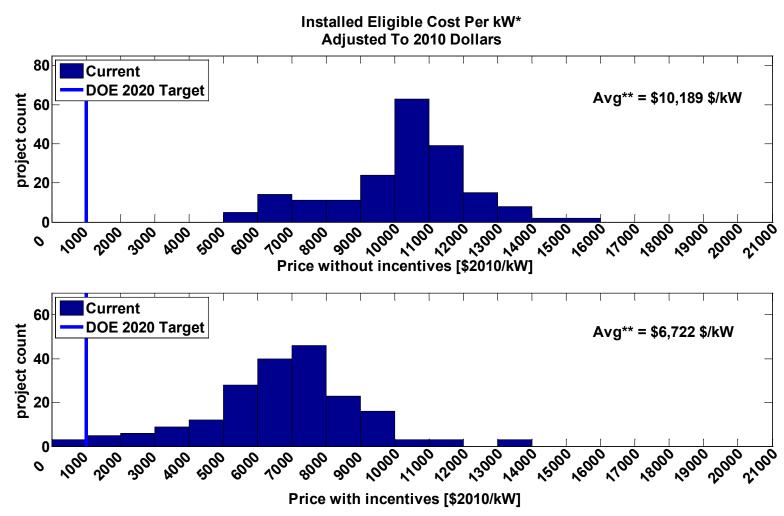
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\*Data from the California SGIP.

#### Distribution of Stationary Fuel Cell Install Price with and without Incentives

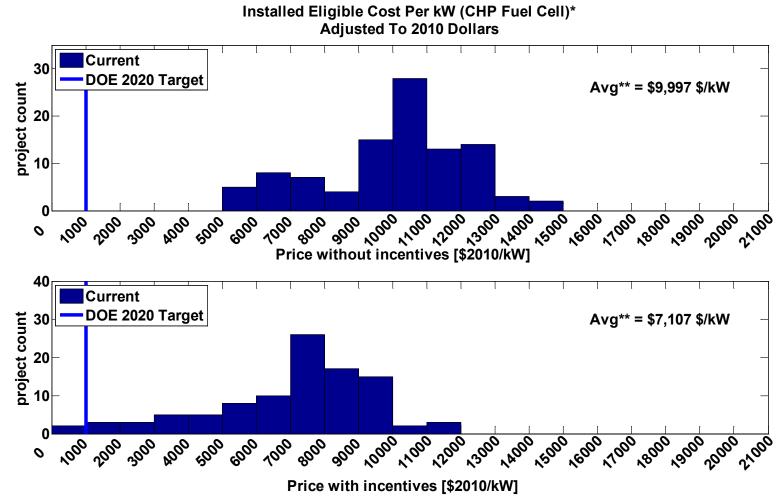


NREL cdp\_stat\_07 Created: Apr-16-14 9:37 AM | Data Range: 2001Q2-2013Q3 Eligible Costs May Include: Planning & Feasibility Study, Engineering & Design, Permitting, Self-Generation Equipment, Waste Heat Recovery Costs, Construction & Installation Costs, Gas & Electric Interconnection, Warranty, Maintenance Contract, Metering, Monitoring & Data Acquisition System, Emission Control Equipment Capital, Gasline Installation, Fuel Gas Clean-up Equipment, Electricity Storage Devices, Bond to Certify Renewable Fuel, Sales Tax, Fuel Supply (digesters, gas gathering, etc.). Thermal Load, & Other Eligible Costs

<sup>\*\*</sup>Data points with less than 2 projects filtered.

<sup>\*</sup>Data from the California SGIP.

### Distribution of Eligible Cost with and w/o Incentives (CHP Fuel Cells)

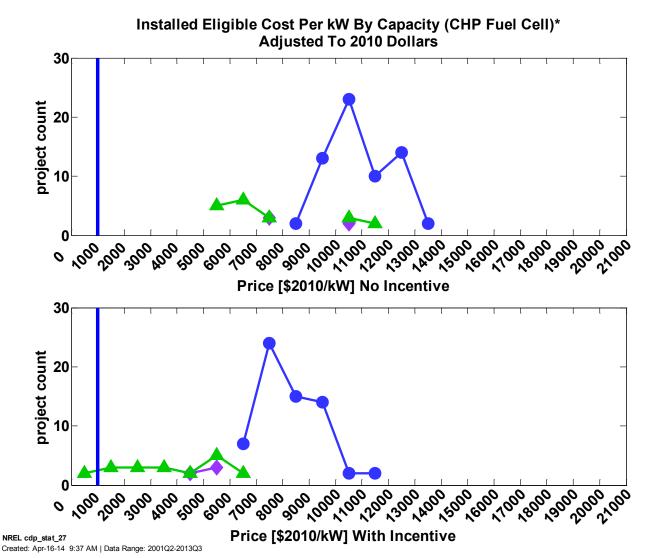


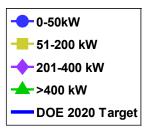
NREL cdp\_stat\_23 Created: Apr-16-14 9:37 AM | Data Range: 2001Q2-2013Q3 Eligible Costs May Include: Planning & Feasibility Study, Engineering & Design, Permitting, Self-Generation Equipment, Waste Heat Recovery Costs, Construction & Installation Costs, Gas & Electric Interconnection, Warranty, Maintenance Contract, Metering, Monitoring & Data Acquisition System, Emission Control Equipment Capital, Gasline Installation, Fuel Gas Clean-up Equipment, Electricity Storage Devices, Bond to Certify Renewable Fuel, Sales Tax, Fuel Supply (digesters, gas gathering, etc.), Thermal Load, & Other Eligible Costs

<sup>\*\*</sup>Data points with less than 2 projects filtered.

<sup>\*</sup>Data from the California SGIP.

### Installed Eligible Cost per kW By Capacity (CHP Fuel Cell)





Average Prices No Incentive, Incentive 0-50 kW = \$10,830/kW, \$8,320/kW 51-200 kW = \$NaN/kW, \$NaN/kW 201-400 kW = \$8,817/kW, \$5,330/kW 401+ kW = \$7,582/kW, \$3,647/kW Data points with less than 2 projects filtered.

Eligible Costs May Include: Planning & Feasibility Study, Engineering & Design, Permitting, Self-Generation Equipment, Waste Heat Recovery Costs, Construction & Installation Costs, Gas & Electric Interconnection, Warranty, Maintenance Contract, Metering, Monitoring & Data Acquisition System, Emission Control Equipment Capital, Gasline Installation, Fuel Gas Clean-up Equipment, Electricity Storage Devices, Bond to Certify Renewable Fuel, Sales Tax, Fuel Supply (digesters, gas gathering, etc.), Thermal Load, & Other Eligible Costs

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