James Yienger, Climate Action Associates LLC

Poster Title: The Utility Energy Registry - A National Census-Based Geospatial Energy Data Registry To Support State And Local Sustainability Planning

Abstract: The Utility Energy Registry (UER) is a national on-line registry to help utility companies publish community-wide energy consumption and renewables generation metrics aligned to US Census geography. The UER provides policymakers and researchers an unprecedented ability to evaluate energy patterns and trends against demographic drivers. It will help state and local governments set sustainability goals, track GHG emissions and evaluate energy programs and policy. The UER is driven by states. The State of New York (NYSERDA) started the UER project, and it is now partnering with the Maryland, Minnesota, and District of Columbia under a United States Department of Energy (USDOE) grant to turn the UER into a national model. UER partners invite other states to collaborate on the UER rather than pursuing individual and possibly inconsistent standards, as this harms the value of the data and will make reporting harder on utilities. The National UER Protocol allows participating states to create customized state chapters that permit adding unique data and geospatial resolutions not included in the national protocol data field library. For example, New York include metrics specifically to help communities evaluate Community Choice Aggregation. Maryland, Minnesota, and DC facilitated working groups of utilities, policy makers, and community representatives to choose what data to include in their protocol chapters. While UER protocol is an open source product of states, it is also a data registry for utility companies or state data repositories acting on their behalf. Utilities develop data to the UER protocol for their service territories and publish it at routine intervals to the UER after they screen it for privacy. The UER holds no private customer data and all data published is free and public. The New York Public Service Commission adopted the UER on Earth Day 2018, and since then seven utilities have been publishing millions of data points for over 1400 cities, towns, and villages in the state with data starting in January 2016. All data is freely available and currently hosted at: https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Community-Energy-Use-Data