

Efficiency Vermont finds potential for \$100 in energy savings for Vermont homeowners with Sense

In 2017, Efficiency Vermont tapped Sense to study How next generation home energy monitoring systems could uncover energy savings potential that can't be understood through AMI alone and how real-time data and insights could engage customers with their home energy use and inspire more significant behavioral savings.

Approach

Efficiency Vermont began recruiting pilot participants at the end of 2017, providing free Sense monitors and installation. Using the Sense app, homeowners were able to monitor their electricity use and solar production by day, week, month or billing cycle and receive alerts notifying them if they were on track to meet their goals.

During the pilot, Efficiency Vermont and Sense regularly contacted participants to familiarize them with the technology and connect its use to energy savings opportunities in the home. Contacts included survey prompts and customized savings recommendations based on devices detected by Sense.

The program team also sought deeper learnings around three specific cases—refrigerators, incandescent lighting, and “always on” loads—and the savings potential associated with each.

Impact

The team identified that “Always On” had the ripest potential for savings and should be a clear target for energy reductions. Moving just 10% of the worst performing houses to match the median performance would yield almost 8% reduction in total energy use from the participants.

ENGAGEMENT

50%

Active weekly participants,
6-mos. post install

FREQUENCY

10

Average sessions, per week

SAVINGS

\$100

Potential, per household

What's Next

Efficiency Vermont has continued a test-and-learn approach with Sense since the initial launch, expanding the pilot to 700 participants. In the summer of 2020, a demand response trial was launched to identify how in-app nudges could influence energy use behaviors and to identify and measure the source of demonstrated reductions during peak events.

About: Efficiency Vermont was established by the Vermont Legislature and is regulated by the Vermont Public Utility Commission to help all Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen the economy, and protect Vermont's environment.