## **Small-scale CHP for Resilience**

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## **Challenges and Opportunities**

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#### Combined heat & power (CHP)

#### Advantages:

- Onsite generation of electricity, heating and cooling
- Significant sustained energy output, economical, relatively clean

#### Limitations:

- Constant fuel supply: gas pipeline, site storage capacity
- Challenge: economical use for heat in critical facilities
  - Office-type loads in 4 season climates are not a great fit
  - Power output can be constrained by thermal applications
- The smaller the CHP system, the longer the payback
- Business case less compelling with low electricity costs

#### CHP strategies

- Identify base load thermal applications
- Heating applications: multifamily housing, wastewater treatment, swimming pools, hospitals
- Cooling applications: data centers, refrigeration
- Size smaller systems to serve critical loads only during outages, shed non-essential loads
- Large systems with diverse loads: campuses, microgrids
- Considerations: siting, permitting, noise, vibration

#### Small CHP issues

- New construction vs. retrofits
- Are there electrical and thermal loads to serve?
- Use annual electrical, heating cooling load profile as sizing parameter
- Size for baseload 24/7 or enough of the year
- Size for critical loads during outages, set up load shedding
- Need to capture >50% of the heat to sell thermal RECs (if available)
- Do cost offsets and revenue (if any) provide acceptable payback?
- Sub-MW systems cost challenges, appurtenances costs extend SPB

#### Small CHP issues – resilience retrofits

- Typical municipal critical facilities in 4 season climate not a great fit
- Can you use the heat? Steam, high temp HW, low temp HW
- Is the building heated with steam or hot water?
- Large numbers of residential units (100+) help
  - Owner selling power & heat can be source of revenue in some jurisdictions
- Do you need to provide cooling?
- Where do you locate the equipment?
- Can your prime mover follow the required loads in island mode?
  - Some technologies serve dynamic loads better than others

#### C - CHP MODEL ONE - A



## Scarborough Town Hall, ME CHP

- CHP for resilience at Town Hall and planned Public Safety Building (PSB)
- Provide power and heat for both buildings
- \$830,000 project, \$220,000 Efficiency Maine grant, ~6.5 yr SPB
- Project cost more than it had to serve Town Hall alone (~5 yr SPB)
- \$300,000-\$400,000 in avoided cost at planned Public Safety Building
  - Avoided / downsized electrical & HVAC infrastructure

### Scarborough Town Hall, ME CHP

- 150kW natural gas fired engine/generator with exhaust heat recovery
- MAN E2876E302 312 natural gas engine
- Marathon 431RSL4007 electrical generator, exhaust and jacket heat recovery equipment
- Yasaki WFC-SC50 single stage 50 ton absorption chiller
- Associated mechanical, electrical, and control components and appurtenances, and package enclosures













#### Stamford's Government Center (SGC)

- 10 stories, 272,000 SF, built in 1985
- 1.2–1.4 MW summer peak, ~800 kW winter peak demand



#### SGC energy challenges



- Designed as corporate HQ, not critical facility
- Aging HVAC, cooling maxed out
- Power & cooling challenges interfere with 911 emergency communications
- No efficiency upgrades
- Diesel backup generators
- Resilience improvements

#### Sixth floor is a key focus for this project

- Hosts ECC, EOC, City servers, State emergency communications equipment
- Power & cooling challenges have interfered with operations
- Dedicated supplemental CHW system serves servers only
- Dedicated ECC 100 kW backup generator upgrades needed
- ESPC & CHP can help address these issues



Mayor Martin leads hurricane drill in EOC, June 24th, 2014. Photo: Stamford Advocate / Keelin Daly

- ESPC can reduce loads, upgrade cooling systems, support emergency generation upgrades
- CHP can provide constant power & space conditioning
- Cafeteria (4<sup>th</sup> fl) is arguably next most critical facility for continuity of operations
- These are primary loads to be served by on site CHP

#### Government Center microgrid concept





Graphic courtesy of ConEdison Solutions

#### Charter Oak Communities housing authority





#### SGC annual electric load profile: existing conditions





#### SGC annual electric load profile: Post-retrofit estimate



Avg Adjusted Consumption, kW
Avg Generation, kWh

Image: ConEdison Solutions



#### SGC daily electric load profile and CHP generation estimate





# SGC + Charter Oak buildings annual thermal load profile



Image: ConEdison Solutions

#### SGC combined heat and power plan



### One supermarket's experience

- "We believe in CHP for a number of reasons"
  - Economics: Avoided energy costs, use heat for refrigeration
  - Sustainability: CHP can beat the grid's thermal efficiency and carbon footprint
  - Resilience value during grid outages: Avoid spoilage, stay open, device charging
  - EV charging
- Mixed experience: some systems worked well, others had problems

#### **Recommendations**:

- Keep it simple
- Better, more predictable incentives
  - CHP provides many benefits, somewhat in a class of its own, many incentives
  - But would work better if we could combine incentives from different programs
- Better utility cooperation

## Thank you for your time...

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