Energy Provider Involvement in Mobilizing Deep Building Renovations: Benefits, Complexities, and Consumer Protection Concerns

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#### Our members are:

More than 3 times more likely to live in manufactured housing

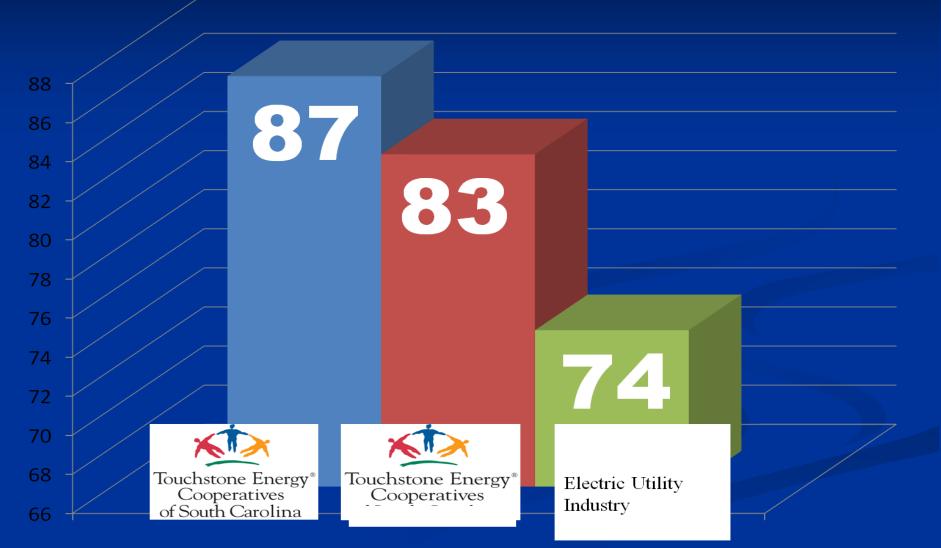
Impacted by housing stock

24% of electric cooperative-served homes in S.C. are manufactured housing

\*three times higher than the national average

S.C. cooperative members ■ 50% more likely to live below the poverty line ■15% statewide In some months, many may spend 60-80% of income on energy ■ 26% of SC counties (12 out of 46) qualify as Persistent Poverty Counties\* \*(Defined as any county with a poverty rate of 20% or higher in every census 1970-2010)

#### Customer Satisfaction: Co-ops vs. IOUs



Source: American Customer Satisfaction Index, Q1 2011. For S.C., most recent.

# New Generation Presents Challenges

#### Cost to Build

Current Generation:

New Natural Gas:

New Nuclear:

\$753 / kW \$2,599 / kW \$5,000 / kW A Better Alternative: Energy Efficiency

# Top SC Energy-Saving Steps

Weatherize homes
Replace resistance heating
Replace old heat pumps



#### Three targets for lending

	Homes	Megawatt- hours saved per year
Weatherization	160,000	290,000
Replace resistance heating	60,000	550,000
Replace old heat pumps	32,000	183,000
		1,023,000

10% Reduction in Residential Use

A huge payoff: Energy efficiency retrofits & other residential programs			
Energy and Consumer Forecast for 2020	Residential total		
Energy (megawatt-hours)	13,344,000		
Goal save 20%	<u>X 0.20</u>		
Energy efficiency savings (megawatt-hours)	2,668,800		
20% Reduction in Residential Use			

# S.C. Projections

Energy savings ■ 2,700,000 megawatt-hours per year. Consumer savings ■ \$270 million per year. Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ■ up to 2.4 million metric tons per year. Thousands of jobs - Avoid paying for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a nuclear unit (\$4 billion)

# **One Member's Story**



Linda Butler

#### One Month Savings Year-to-Year

\$518 Dec. 2008 <u>\$95 Dec. 2009</u>

# \$423 Saved

E POWER COST ADJUSTER IS .00500 2010 DISCONNECT/RECONNECT TRIP CHAF O \$35 BEFORE 4 PM AND \$70 AFTER 4 PM.

**TOTAL DUE NOW** 

**AFTER DUE DATE PAY** 

\$

\$

95.00

40.46

1.5% will be added to any balance remaining ate. Service may be discontinued if payment.





10 Month Savings
20,309 kWh
\$1,882 total savings
\$188 monthly average



# Rural Electric Savings Plan (RESP)

Low-interest loans from RUS for upgrades

Money saved repays loans

Low-risk lending, repaid through power bill

## After 40 years of energy audits...



...Co-ops don't need a second kick of the mule!



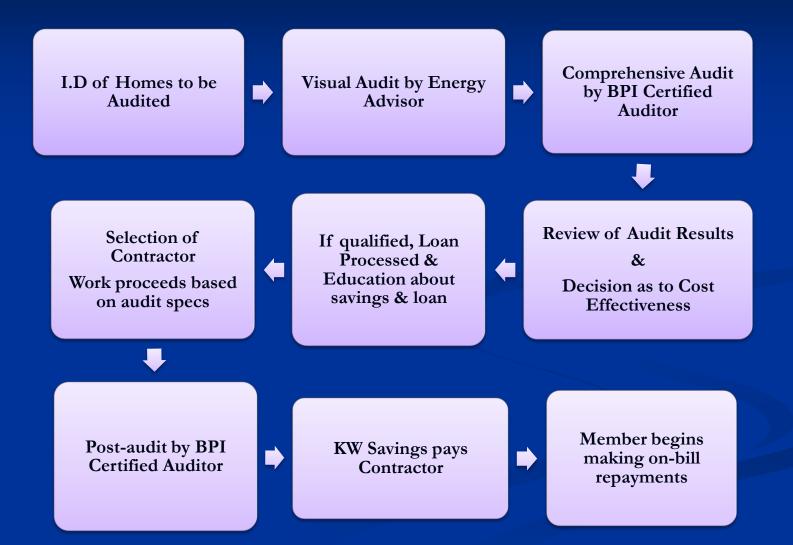
# Loan Program Pilot How the Process Works

## The Pilot(s)

 Doris Duke Foundation (DDF) /Environmental & Energy Study
 Institute (EESI) Residential Retrofit

DDF/University of California at Davis Commercial Retrofit

#### **Core Transaction Process**



#### The Visual Audit



A walk-through inspection by a co-op "Energy Advisor" (EA) Helps determine if home qualifies for pilot ■ If home is eligible, EA asks member to complete a loan app, orders initial (BPI) audit.

## **Processing the Loan Application**



Application sent to 1<sup>st</sup> Cooperative Federal Credit Union Comprehensive audit (BPI) scheduled in the home

## The Initial Audit ("Test In")

 Confirms (or not) that home qualifies for pilot and loan
 Defines measurable efficiency targets for the home and contractor



 Prescribes the work needed

## Member gets estimate(s)

- Homeowner calls qualified contractor(s) for bids
- Member notifies the EA when a bid has been accepted
- EA collects bid info, forwards to credit union so final loan documents can be created and sent back to the co-op



## Finalizing the Loan



Member signs loan documents

 After three-day waiting period, work can begin on the home

#### The Home is Weatherized!



## The Exit Audit ("Test Out")



- EA orders second BPI audit to check home's performance after work is completed
- If targets are met, co-op notifies KW Savings and contractor gets paid
- If targets are not met, contractor must return, correct problems, await follow up audit
- Important quality assurance for members!

#### Loan Payments Begin



Member begins paying back the loan on monthly electric bill Co-ops monitor and record impact of efficiency upgrades on energy use and bills vs. historical use in each home

#### Now that the site work is done



# Early Results and Projections

Avg. act. project costs per home \$7,262

#### Avg. est. annual savings per home \$1,240

Average est. payback (in years)

5.86

# Member Survey Results





# <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Participant

# <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Non-participant

Satisfaction (vs. one year ago) (Participants and Non-Participants)

87% same or higher

92% same or higher as a result of being contacted about the pilot

#### Pilot structure

More than 90% liked how the pilot was put together

(i.e. 2.5% loan from the co-ops, on-bill financing, contractors pre-qualified, improved comfort and energy savings, etc.)

#### **Understood Loans**

96% of participants were satisfied with how the loan was explained to them

78% of non-participants were satisfied

Both groups chose the following words to describe staff: "courteous," "patient," "complete" and "easy to understand"

## Quality of Work

### 96% satisfied

# 83% very satisfied

#### **Improved Comfort**

96% more comfortable

 More than three-quarters (77%) feel they are <u>a lot</u> more comfortable

#### Member Comments

"(They) seem to care more about the people they service."

"My house is warmer than it was."

"They are helping me save money. I like that."

'I can save electricity for the co-op."

