

# PBR: Applications and Future

Michigan PSC  
PBR Collaborative

William Zarakas  
Principal, The Brattle Group

Lansing, Michigan  
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# Agenda

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- Basic Definitions
- PBR Alignment with Policy/Regulatory Goals
- PBR and Incentives
- Benchmarking Findings
- Michigan: Scope of PBR Going Forward

# PBR Defined

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## Semantics and labeling sometimes create obstacles in dialogues concerning PBR

- Frequently used synonymously with Incentive Regulation
- No single official definition, but general agreement that PBR refers to rate-setting frameworks that create a stronger connection between a utility's achieved returns and its:
  - Performance overall; and/or
  - Performance in specific areas
- For purposes here: we are adopting a broadly encompassing definition of PBR under which a regulatory mechanism(s) provides incentive for utilities to achieve policy goals – cost/price related or otherwise

# PBR-Goal Framework

**PBR framework should be designed to address specific issues, problems and/or policy goals, and reflect jurisdictionally unique circumstances**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Incentive Area</b>	<b>PBR Mechanism</b>
<b>Cost / Price Control</b>	Overall financial performance	<b>Broad-based Incentive Frameworks</b> MRP/ARM Price Cap Revenue Cap
<b>Targeted Areas of / Changes In Performance</b>	“Traditional” operational areas (e.g., SAIDI) “Emerging” performance targets (e.g., EAMs)	<b>Narrower Incentive Mechanisms</b> PIMs
<b>(Expedited) Investment</b> (e.g., Grid Modernization, Reliability, Resilience)	Risk Reduction	<b>Supplemental Incentives</b> (e.g., Capex Trackers/Riders, Formula Based Rates)

# PBR – A Starting Point

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## Most surveys / benchmarking studies cover two primary areas of PBR:

- Multi-year Rate Plans (MRPs)
  - Broad-based incentive frameworks tend to strengthen cost-control incentives
  - So-called (price or revenue) “cap” plans, using
    - Rate freezes
    - I – X, or
    - Preset “stair step” adjustments
  
- Performance Incentive Mechanisms (PIMs)
  - Also referred to as Targeted Performance Incentives (TPIs)
  - Narrower incentive mechanisms focused on specific outputs (e.g., reliability)
  - Incentives are aligned with specified areas of performance

# Incentives in MRPs and PIMs

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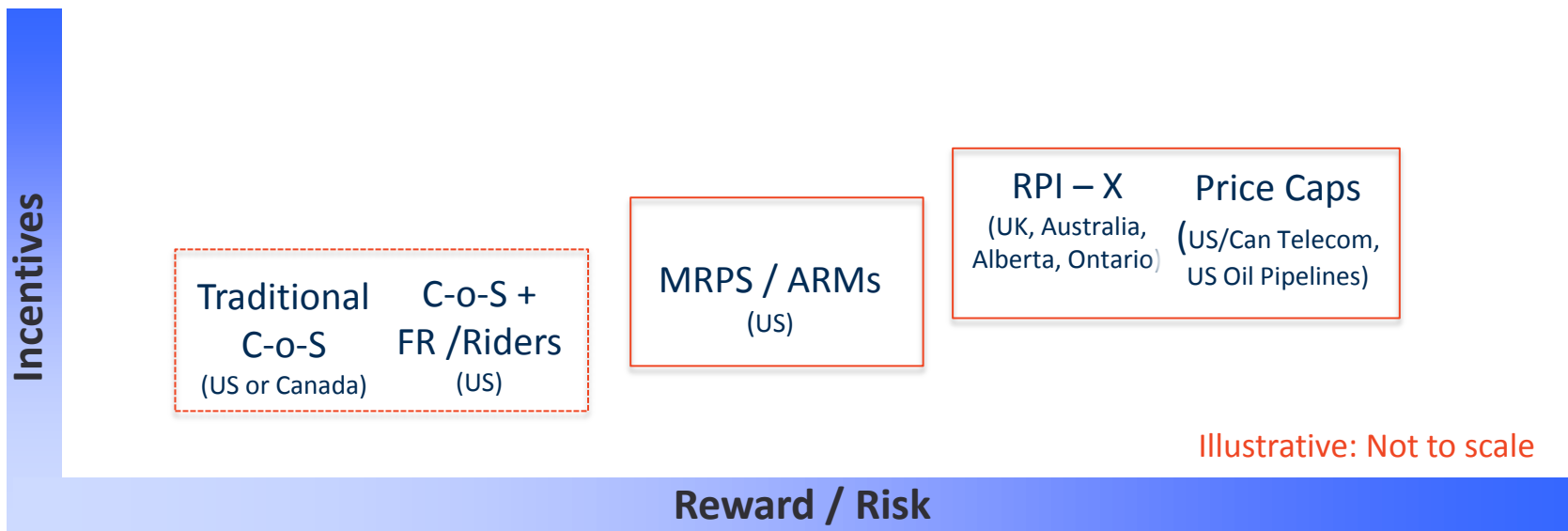
**Incentives are typically considered in terms of the opportunity for utilities to earn additional profit**

- MRPs: Incentives are tied to a utility's opportunity to "beat" reasonably set cost projections through
  - Managerial efficiency and/or
  - Innovation
- PIMs: (Dis)incentive are tied to meeting operational targets (e.g., SAIDI) – they tend to be centered on penalty avoidance

# Borders of PBR

Regulators and policymakers have a range of views as to where traditional regulatory frameworks end and where PBR begins

- “All regulation is incentive regulation”, (attributed to) Kahn
- “The contrast [...] is mostly one of emphasis”, Laffont and Tirole
- Riders and formula rates are typically viewed as supplements to traditional regulation; price/revenue caps are typically considered to be further removed



# Incentives in Context

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## Earnings opportunities are not always fully aligned in theory and in practice

- While there is opportunity for utilities to earn additional profit, it may not be as significant in practice as it is in concept
  - Electric utilities have experienced low Total Factor Productivity (TFP) since the 1980s – which is a primary determinant of the X factor
  - May be moderated by earnings sharing or collars
  - PIMs are asymmetrical downward
- Some regulators view MRPs more of a (rate case) resource necessity, more than PBR, per se



# Benchmarking Findings

## Composition of PBR

- Surveyors and analysts necessarily decompose regulatory frameworks into component parts as part of the benchmarking process
- Most of the regulatory frameworks are widely considered to be PBR are not “pure plays,” but are combinations of traditional regulatory and incentive elements

Summary of PBR Elements For Selected Case Studies

Utility	State	Traditional CoS	MRPs		TPIs		Formula Rates	Broad Capex Mechanisms
			Stair-step Trajectory	"I-X" Revenue cap	"I-X" Price cap	Traditional		
ATCO Electric	Alberta, Canada				✓			✓
ATCO Gas	Alberta, Canada			✓				✓
Ausgrid	NSW, Australia			✓		✓		✓
ComEd	IL, US						✓	
Con Edison	NY, US		✓			✓	✓	
FPL	FL, US		✓					
NGN (RIIO)	England, UK			✓		✓	✓	✓
NPg (RIIO)	England, UK			✓		✓	✓	✓
PG&E	CA, US		✓					
PSE&G	NJ, US	✓						✓
Xcel Energy, NSP	MN, US		✓					

## Benchmarking Findings

# “Leading” PBR Applications

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- The more “ambitious” PBR frameworks have been applied outside of the U.S.
  - Tend to have longer period between rate cases than U.S. plans
  - Tend to be structured comprehensively by combining:
    - Revenue or price caps
    - Outcome oriented PIMs
    - Supplementary incentive mechanisms; e.g., to promote investment
  - Most widely cited: RIIO in Great Britain; also frameworks in Australia and Canada
- Even here, PIM designs tend to reflect legacy focus on cost and traditional aspects of utility operations ...
- ... Although they are expanding to include newer policy related outcomes; e.g., environmental and interconnection issues

## Benchmarking Findings

# U.S. Survey

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### **MRPs and PIMs are the most common forms of PBR in the U.S.**

- MRPs usually include annual adjustments, with preset stair steps more prevalent than I-X frameworks
  - Can be likened to multi-test year rate cases
  - Moderates frequency of rate cases and provides predictability / rate stability
  - May include earnings sharing mechanisms (ESMs)
- PIMs are also applied in some form or measure
  - “Traditional” PIMs cover routine and recognized areas of utility operations (e.g., reliability and customer service)
  - Most are asymmetrical downward fashion (i.e., penalty-only), based on premise that targeted service levels reflect point where marginal costs and benefits align (MB = MC)
  - Argument can be made for symmetrical treatment if  $MB > MC$ , due to changes in consumer preferences and applications

# Back To Goals

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- MRPs and PIMs fill important jobs...but not all jobs
  - Main job: Cost/price moderation + service quality
  - A bedrock measure of regulatory effectiveness
  - Remains important, but particularly relevant in a fully regulated utility environment
- The scope of policy goals is expanding, in step with industry evolution towards a Utility of the Future (UoF) ecosystem
  - Increasing attention given to Emerging PIMs
  - Incentives may need to be revised to promote utilities taking actions in areas that may not be in their near-term financial best interests
  - Also, need for mechanisms to promote investments in grid modernization and resilience

## Benchmarking Findings

# U.S. – “Newer” Applications

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- Newer (emerging) PIMs include incentives for utilities to, e.g., reduce emissions / carbon footprint, and improve asset utilization / system efficiency
  - Incentives to meet policy goals (outside of general service quality measures) is not entirely new – e.g., energy efficiency incentives
  - Example: New York’s Earnings Adjustment Mechanisms (EAMs)
  - Cited in RAP’s Next Gen PBR report
- Motivation: Regulators are asking utilities to take action that may be contrary to their (short-term) financial best interests
- Change in structure: Emerging PIMs tend to asymmetrical upward (i.e., rewards only) – which was also the case for many EE incentives

# Practical Implications

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**Effective PBR frameworks are combinations of regulatory mechanisms that address specific goals and are, also, aligned and consistent**

- E.g., The RIIO framework combines revenue caps, PIMs and incentives into a single integrated framework
- Some specific goals are more effectively met through traditional incentive mechanisms, more so than through widely cited PBR
  - MRPs and PIMs generally do not provide incentives to expedite investments in reliability and/or resilience; cost containment may be at odds with expedited investment
  - Risk reduction may be more effectively accomplished via trackers/riders and/or formula rates

# Moving Along UoF Path

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## **The changing industry landscape also points to a need to revisit the scope of PBR incentives**

- Upside scenarios indicate strong economic future for utilities via electrification applications and value added services, in contrast to death spiral cases
- Transitioning into a platform-based future will likely require a bridging mechanism
- And a shift from stick to carrot – asymmetrical upward incentives

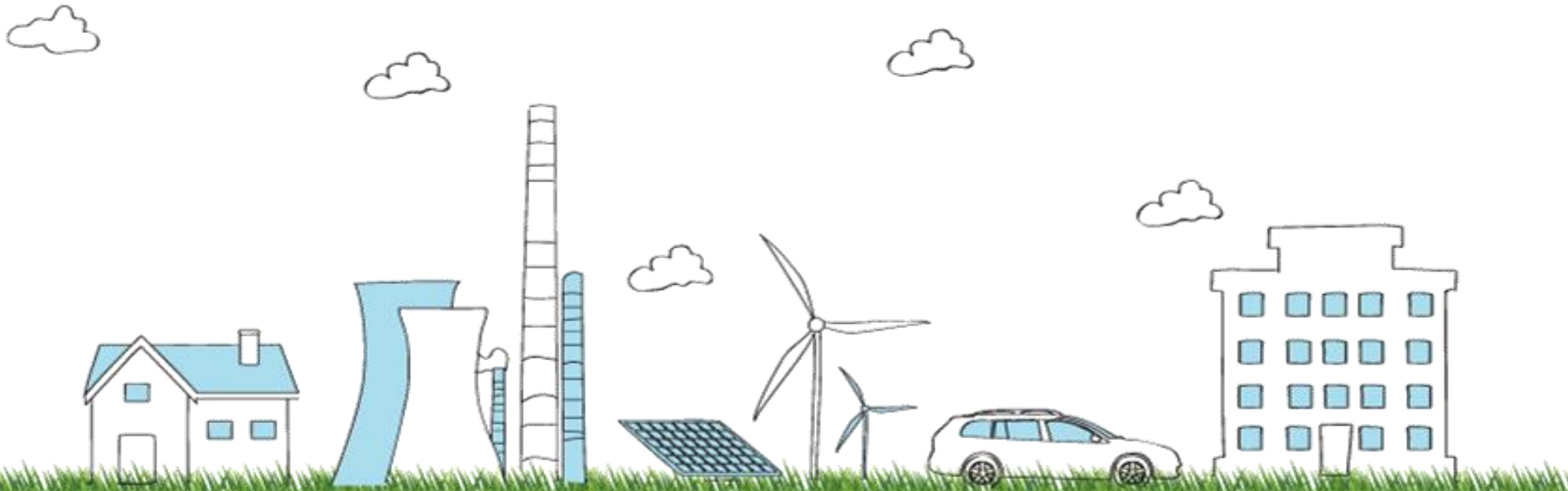
# PBR In Michigan

- Meeting all PA 341 considerations would require applying a portfolio of PBR elements; i.e., a multi-component plan
- Likely course of action requires prioritization of regulatory goals, e.g.:
  - Rate case reduction / smoothing out rate adjustments / regulatory stability
  - Investment in grid and system reliability
  - Also, should consider Emerging PIMs

Michigan Legislation	Related PBR Mechanisms
Multi-year periods; increase the length of time between rate cases	MRPs (price caps, revenue cap) Stair step adjustments, I – X
Encourage utilities to make investments that have extended payback periods	Trackers/Riders, Formula rates
Totex	Totex or variations thereon
Targeted performance areas (e.g., customer satisfaction, reliability)	PIMs
Profit sharing	ESMs, regulatory assets



# UTILITY PBR & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK SUMMARY



# BEYOND MARKET SHIFTS, FIVE WAVES OF TECHNOLOGY ARE RESHAPING THE ENERGY SYSTEM

The adoption of disruptive technologies ...



Transformation of transportation



Distributed grid resources



Revolution in energy Efficiency



Digital customer lifestyle



The digital enterprise

... is accelerating the need to reshape the industry business model



70 percent decrease in battery costs over two years



40-fold increase in EV charging stations over the past eight years



Onshore wind costs will fall 41 percent by 2040



31 percent CAGR in number of connected home devices shipped

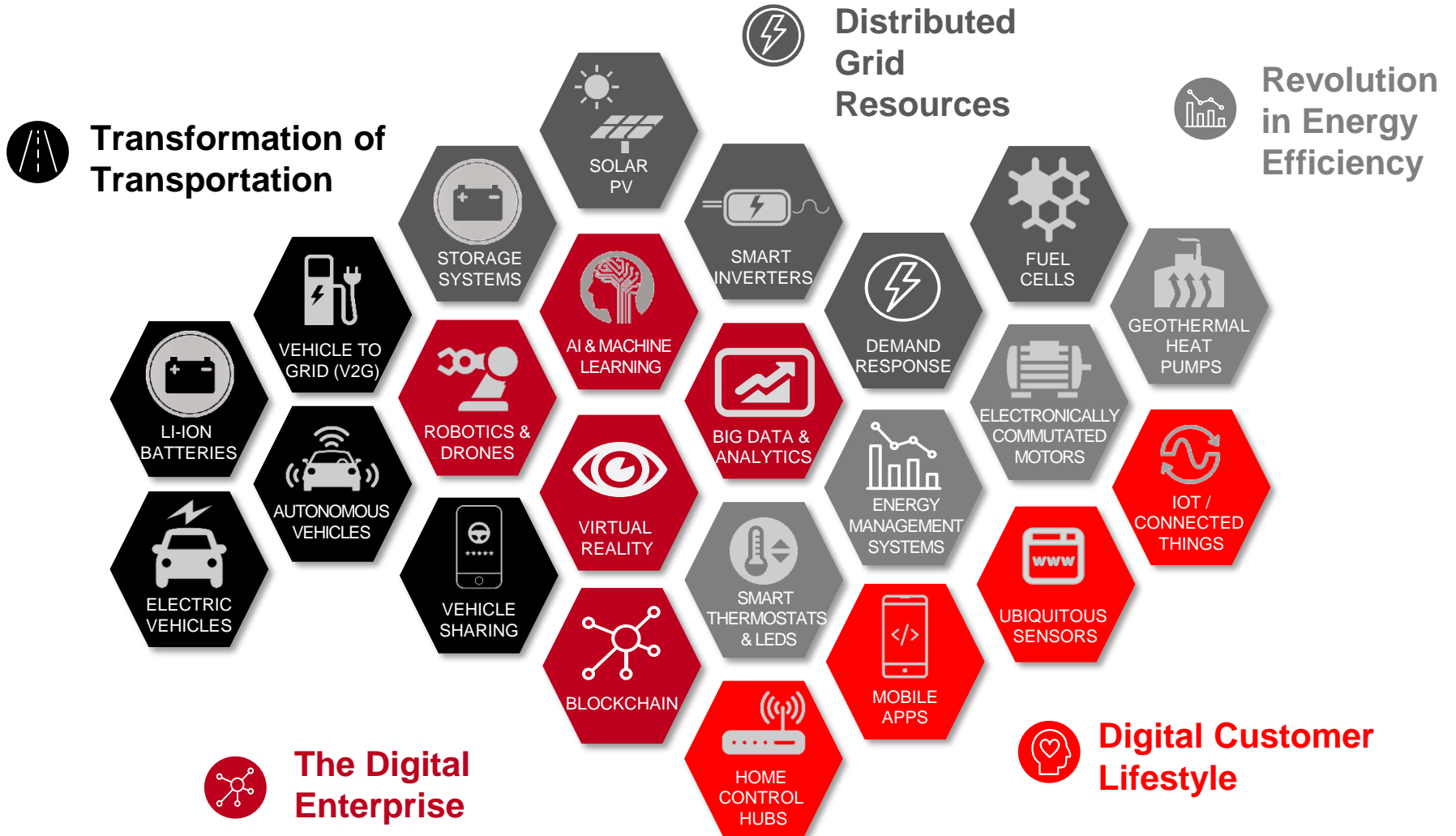


58 percent of customers expecting utilities to give them tailored advice to reduce bills



\$20 billion on cumulative smart grid analytics spending between 2012-2020

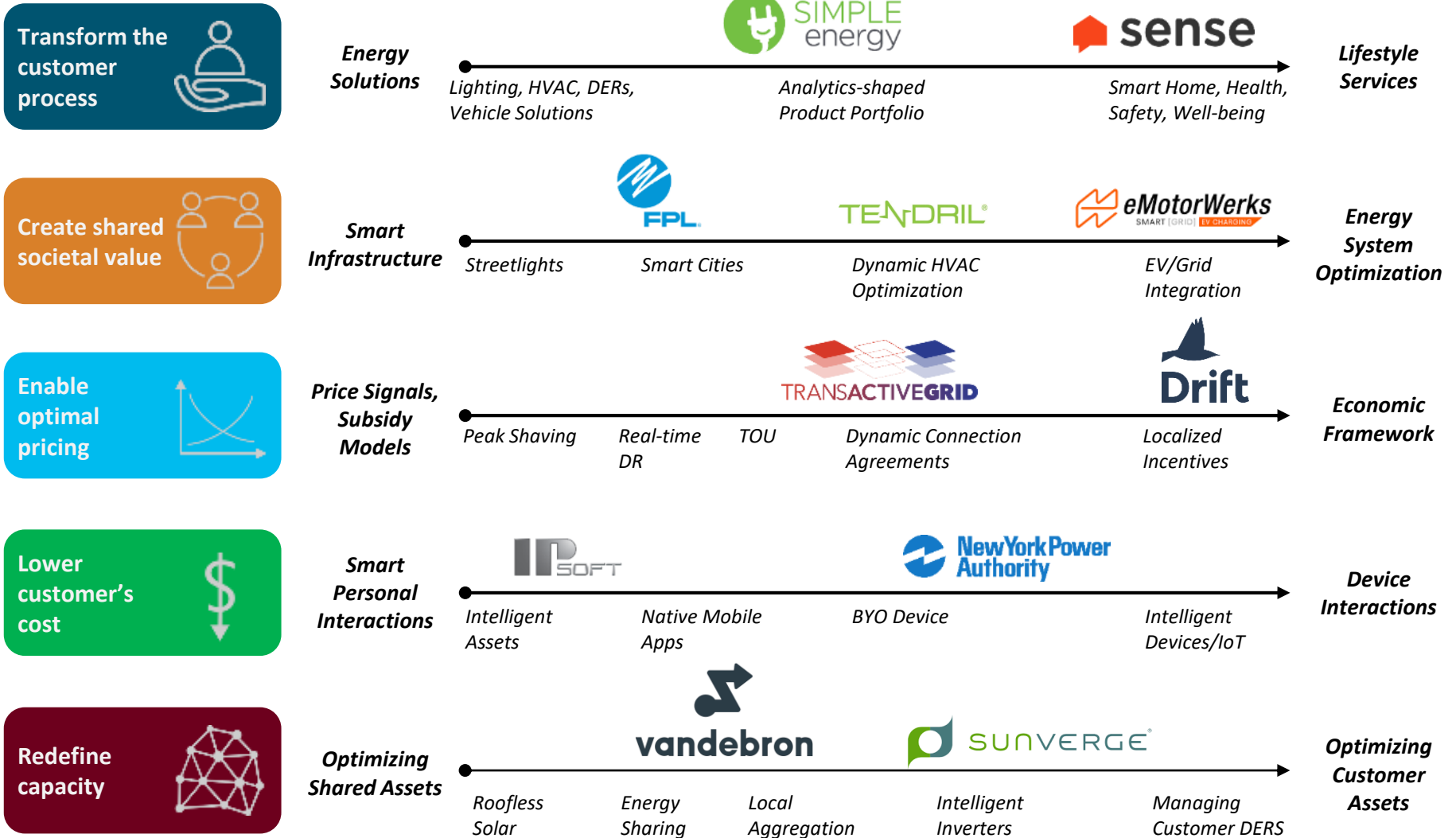
# EACH OF THESE WAVES ARE DRIVEN BY VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



# CROSS-INDUSTRY PRACTICES ILLUSTRATE THE PATH TO GREATER INNOVATION FOR UTILITIES

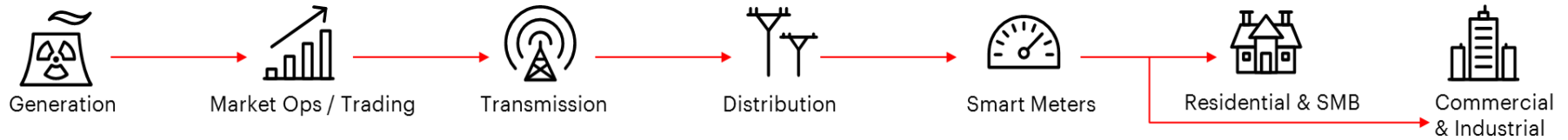
## Disruptor Practices

## How Utilities Can Emulate



# WEF ESTIMATES THAT DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES CAN CREATE \$1.3 TRILLION IN VALUE GLOBALLY

## Electricity Value Chain



## Themes for unlocking value:

### Grid Optimization & Aggregation

Real-time, remote-control or predictive maintenance that extends efficiency and life of generation and T&D assets.

### Asset Lifecycle Management

Real-time load balancing, network controls and integrated markets, enabled by connected assets, machines, devices and advanced monitoring capabilities.

### Integrated Customer Services

Innovative digitally enabled offerings relating to energy generation and energy management.

**10 Year Value  
(USD):**

**\$470 B**

**\$420 B**

**\$410 B**

# REGULATORY OUTCOMES IMPACT THREE MAIN STAKEHOLDER GROUPS WITH DIFFERING PRIORITIES

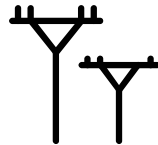
## CUSTOMER

Better Total Economics & Choices



CUSTOMER

VALUE



UTILITY



POLICY

## UTILITY

Reliable, Efficient Service & Shareholder Value

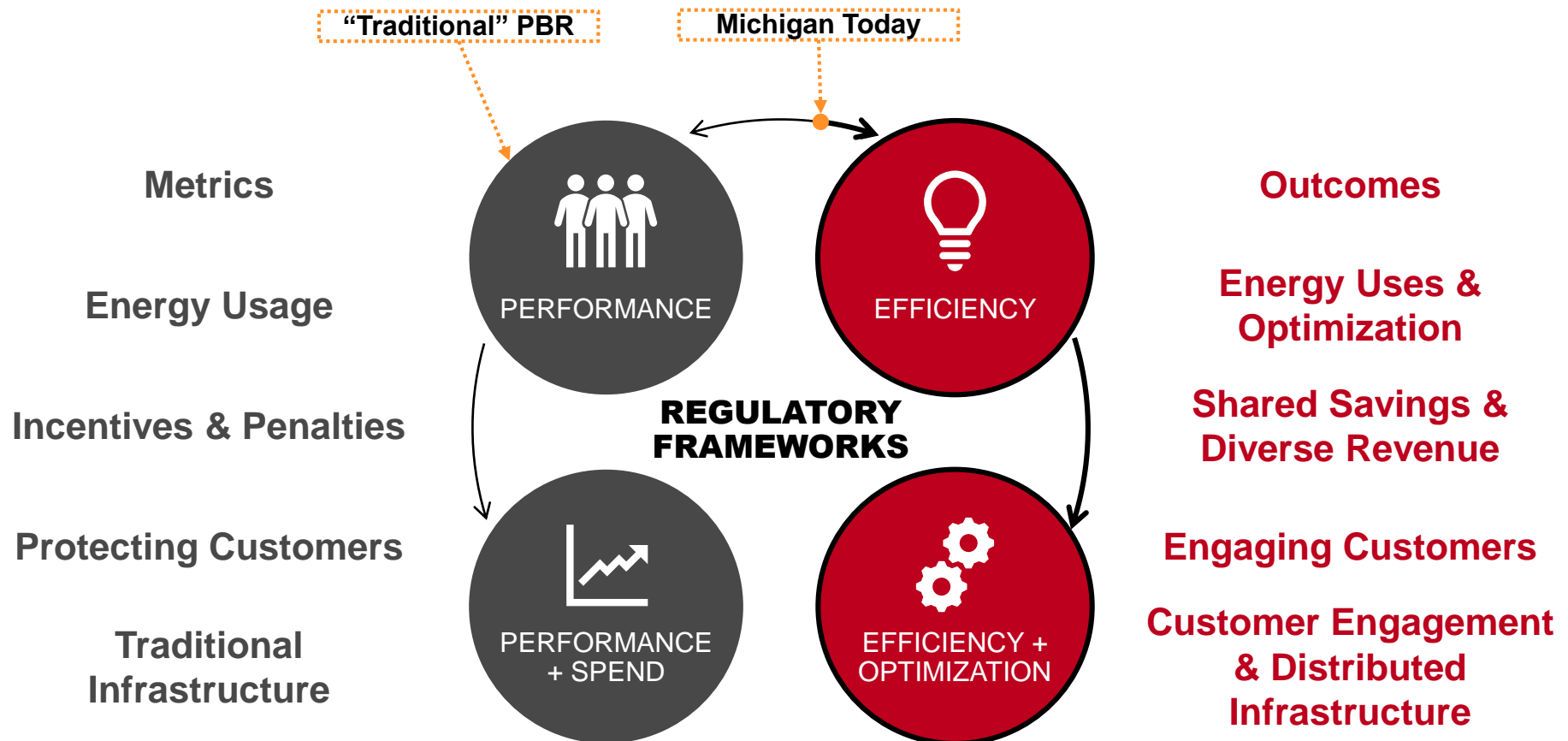
## POLICY

Customer Protection, Energy Security & Energy System Optimization

# REGULATION CAN FOCUS ON OUTCOMES THAT UNLOCK VALUE FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Shifting the focus can dramatically improve stakeholder alignment and provide incentives for the right actions

MAINTAIN ENERGY SYSTEM | OPTIMIZE ENERGY SYSTEM



# FOUR REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS REPRESENT OPTIONS FOR REGULATORY MODERNIZATION

MAINTAIN ENERGY SYSTEM

OPTIMIZE ENERGY SYSTEM

NARROW

## PERFORMANCE

Allowed returns + traditional PBR metric incentives

- **Quality Metrics**
  - Reliability & Resiliency
  - Customer Issue Resolution
  - New Service Installation
- **Asymmetrical Benefits**, bias towards penalties limiting upside



## EFFICIENCY

Energy savings gainshare + asset return with EE decoupling

- **Energy Efficiency Metrics** (e.g. Customer Behavior, EE Adoption, etc.)
  - Energy Efficiency Gainshare
  - Generation Performance Incentive factor
  - Line Loss Reduction Incentive
- **Provides gainshare incentives** for energy savings beyond traditional returns, which provides relief for load decline due to energy efficiency



HOLISTIC

## PERFORMANCE + SPEND

Cost saving mechanism + outcome performance targets

- **Spend Efficiency & Quality Metrics**
  - Spend Efficiency Gainshare
  - Reliability & Resiliency
  - Customer Issue Resolution
  - New Service Installation
- **Benefits to customers limited to utility spend savings** (not system efficiencies)



## EFFICIENCY + OPTIMIZATION

Energy savings gainshare + asset return + EE decoupling + non-wire alternatives + market-based revenues

- **System Optimization Metrics**
  - Energy Efficiency Gainshare
  - Generation/T&D Gainshare
  - Locational Incentives & Pricing Optimization
- **Builds on Efficiency** expands efficiency beyond customer savings to entire value chain, and allows non-traditional revenue streams





# CUSTOMERS WILL BE IMPACTED DIFFERENTLY DEPENDENT ON THE REGULATORY PATH

MAINTAIN ENERGY SYSTEM | OPTIMIZE ENERGY SYSTEM

## PERFORMANCE

**+4% / year**

Annual residential bill increases if a traditional performance-based incentive regulatory framework was enacted.



## EFFICIENCY

**\$105M / year**

Annual fuel and capacity savings projections, shared with customers

## PERFORMANCE + SPEND

**+5% / year**

Annual residential bill increases if a RIIO-like regulatory framework is enacted and utilities underperform.



## EFFICIENCY + OPTIMIZATION

**\$140M+ / year**

additional cost savings that can be shared with customers every year when engaging in grid optimizing programs

**REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS**

# IMPERATIVES FOR UTILITIES TODAY



**CAPITAL** – unpack and reframe the capital investment plan



**COST STRUCTURE** – aggressively drive cost and performance



**CUSTOMER** – transform the customer strategy & engagement model



**REGULATORY** – change game in policy and regulatory agenda



**INNOVATION** – use corporate venturing and partnerships