

# Microgrid Overview

## SMUD Board Presentation

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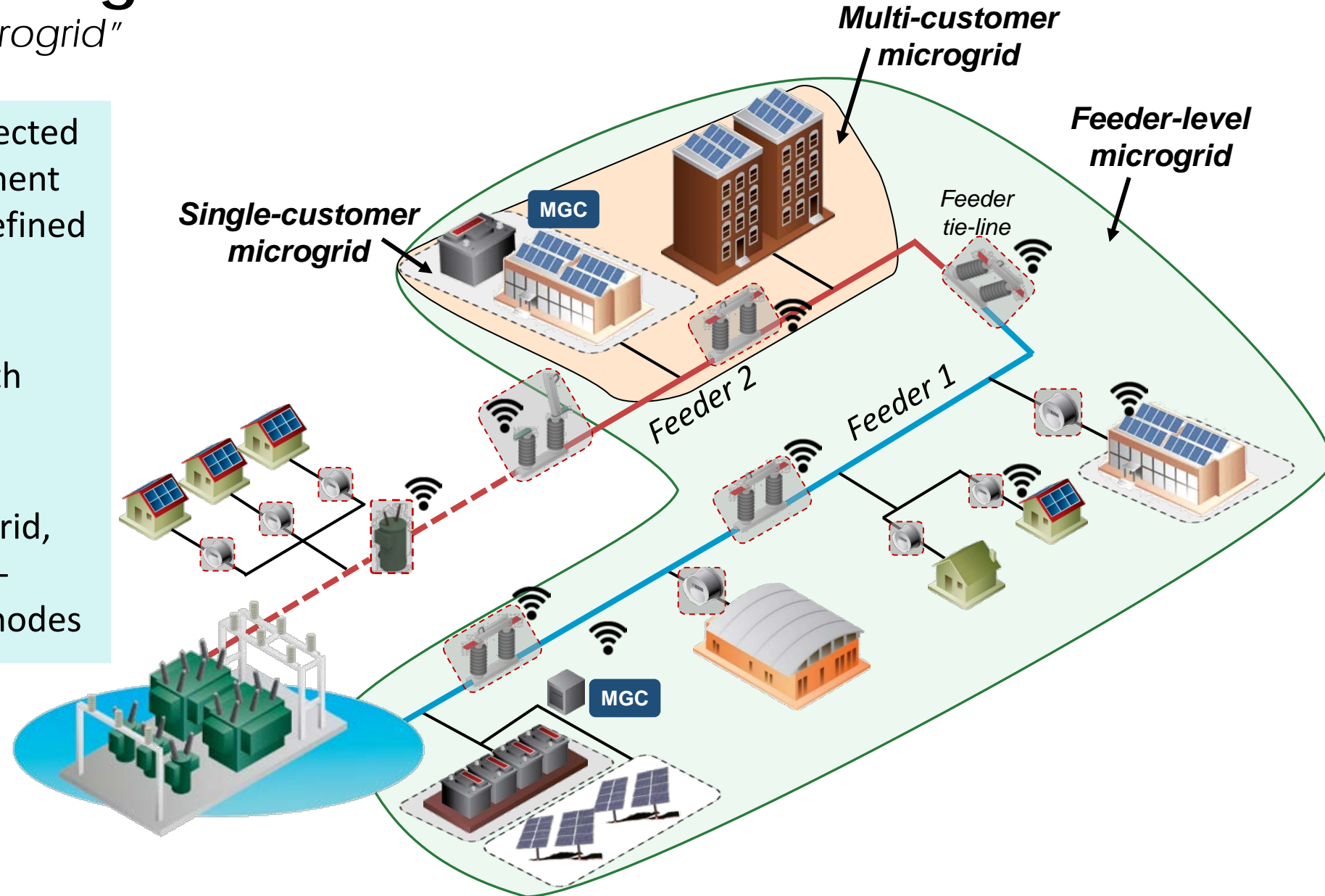
August 3, 2021



# Definition of Microgrid

## EPRI's Definition of "Microgrid"

1. A group of inter-connected loads and DER equipment and devices, within defined electrical boundaries.
2. Acting as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid.
3. Able to connect and disconnect from the grid, operating in both grid-connected or island-modes



# Types of Microgrids/Range of Objective

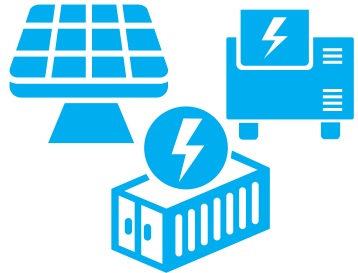
- **Commercial/Industrial Microgrids:** generally built with the goal of reducing demand and costs during normal operation, although the operation of critical functions during outages is also important, especially for data centers
- **Community/Utility Microgrids:** designed to improve reliability and to promote community participation
- **Campus/Institutional Microgrids:** many campuses already have DG resources, with microgrid technology linking them together. They are usually large and may be involved with selling excess power to the grid
- **Military Microgrids:** critical loads, cyber and physical security, both for fixed bases and forward operating bases.

Most microgrids will be grid-connected >99% of the time

# Microgrid Technology, Components and Costs

## Components

- DER (Generation and Storage)
  - Diesel, natural gas, combined heat and power (CHP), biofuel, solar photovoltaic (PV), wind, and fuel cell and energy storage
- Microgrid Controller
  - Primary, Secondary, Tertiary
- Additional Infrastructure
  - Distribution system infrastructure (switchgear, protection equipment), information technology communications upgrades, metering
- Soft costs
  - Engineering, construction, commissioning, regulatory



## Costs

- Leverage existing DER
- Lowest average cost in Community and Utility microgrid markets

Type	Typical Cost Range (\$M/MW)
Campus/Institutional	\$2.5 – \$4.9
Commercial/Industrial	\$3.4 – \$5.4
Community	\$1.4 – \$3.3
Utility	\$2.3 – \$3.2

Source: NREL “Phase I Microgrid Cost Study” 2018

# Why Build a Microgrid?

## *Understanding Microgrid Objectives*

### Objective

### Solutions...

Integrating more renewables  
(hosting capacity)



Infrastructure upgrade, smart  
inverters, energy storage

Reducing local emissions



Grid-tied renewables, CHP, building and  
transportation electrification

Defer / Avoid Utility Upgrade  
(non-wires alternative)



Smart inverters, energy storage, flexible load –  
coordinated by DERMS/ADMS/etc.

Enable building and transportation  
electrification



Aggregation of local controllers, flexible load  
management

Improve Local Resilience / Reliability



Infrastructure upgrade, backup  
generators, energy storage, **microgrid**

# Microgrids as part of Resilience Strategies – Key Drivers

- Expanding T&D expensive and difficult
- Hardening of grid can be expensive
- Local resilience sources can be strategic



## Hardening Measures

Higher Design & construction standards

## Recovery Measures

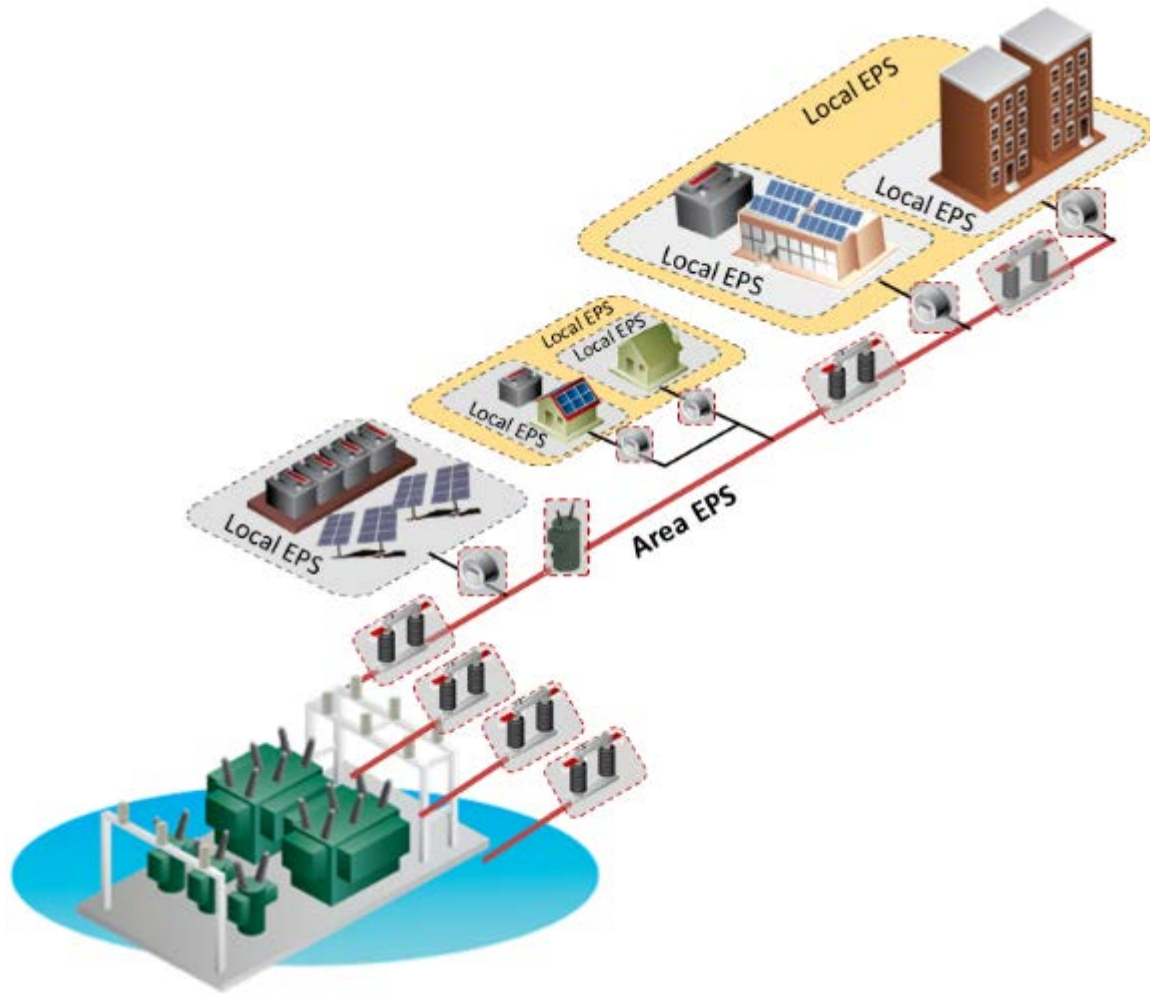
Faster restoration management and damage assessment

## Survivability Measures

Resilient technologies namely microgrids utilizing DER technologies for outage mitigation



# Rising Expectations



- The vision of grid interactive community resilient solutions is to leverage existing DER and create “community microgrids” to begin a more decentralized restoration from outages, and then connect these to the full electric grid
  - Reduces the likelihood and impact of power outages from major events;
  - Improves the restoration of grid power along with the capability of customers to receive that power; and
  - Strengthens the customer’s and community’s ability to address prolonged outages.

## Grid, Customer, and Community Resilience

# The Utility Challenge: Integration of Microgrids

## Regulatory Challenges:

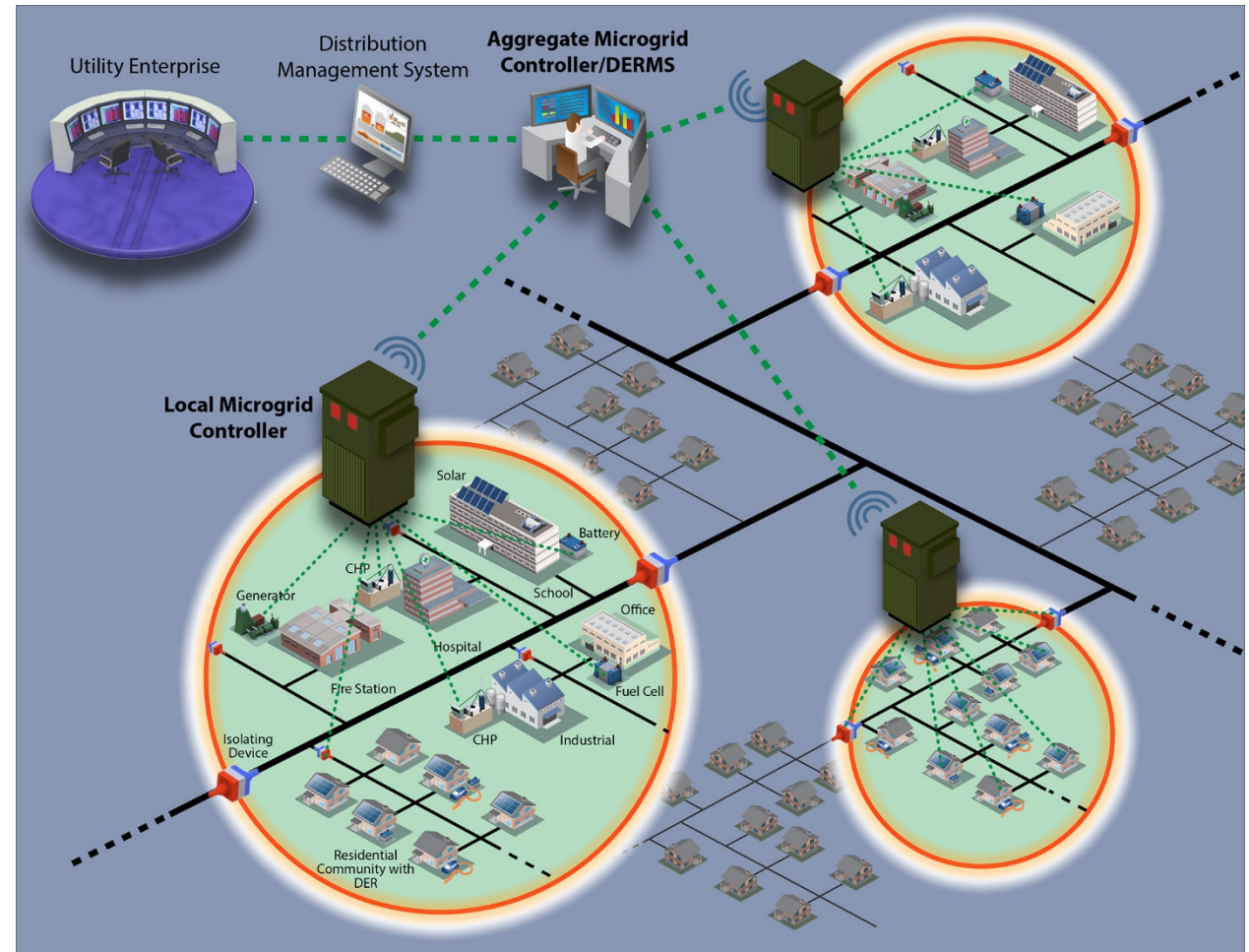
- **Ownership of generation**
- **Administrative burden of regulation**

## Technical Challenges:

- **Bi-directional power flows**
- **Fault current contribution**
- **Unit Level Volt/VAR support**
- **Islanded Operation**

## Economic Challenges:

- **DER technologies still costly and with uncertain lifetimes**
- **Business model still undeveloped**
- **Utility rate structures in early implementation**





# Microgrids & Resilience Technology & Demonstration Landscape

Customer-Owned Community



Utility Managed Community



Solar+ES+EV Charging Microgrid



EV as Dispatchable Assets



Utility-Operated  
in Front of the Meter DERs



Utility Operated DERs during PSPS



A blue-tinted photograph of four people standing in a row. From left to right: a man with curly hair and glasses wearing a white lab coat; a man with glasses and a tie wearing a white lab coat; a woman wearing a white hard hat and a dark polo shirt with 'EPRI' on it; and a man with glasses and a beard wearing a light blue button-down shirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.

# Together...Shaping the Future of Energy



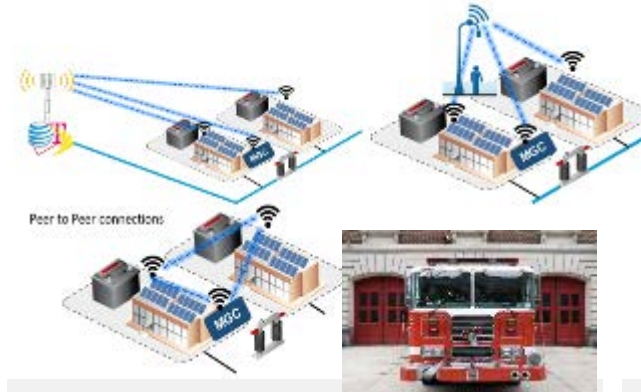
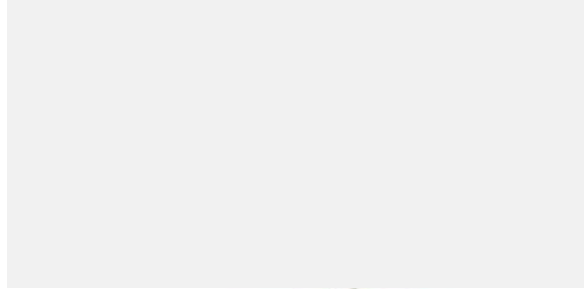
# Additional Material



# Enable Resiliency through Community Design



Microgrid as Part of a Traditional Utility System  
Source: EPRI, 2016



Integrate with and repurpose existing Infrastructure and DERs

Enable independent communication systems for critical infrastructure

Improve restoration through community control, grid-forming inverters, & interconnection practices



Demonstrations validate decarbonization and resilience co-benefits!

Balancing decarbonization goals, energy affordability, equity considerations, and sustainability commitments

# Achieving Resilience and Carbon Reduction Goals

## Community Energy Resilience

Reliability  
and  
Resilience

Achieve 100%  
Renewable and  
Decarbonization  
Goals




Can Community Microgrids Enable Both These Goals?



# EPRI Integrated Grid Demonstrations

## Blue Lake Rancheria & Humboldt County Airport Microgrids



Map Satellite

Project Lead  
Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC)

Technology Demonstrated  
Community Solar PV  
Community Battery Storage  
Electric Vehicle  
Microgrid  
Distributed Resource Management System  
Distribution Management System

Demonstration Objectives  
Resiliency  
Reliability Improvement  
Generation Capacity  
Distribution Planning  
DER Operations and Maintenance

Related EPRI Programs  
P94 Energy Storage and Distributed Generation  
P174 Integration of Distributed Energy Resources  
P193C Solar Generation  
P200 Distribution Operations and Planning


Project Type  
Field Deployment

Connected Projects  
N/A

Last Modified

Multiple  
Customer

## Duke Energy Mount Holly Microgrid Test Facility



Map Satellite

Project Lead  
Duke Energy

Technology Demonstrated  
Residential Solar PV  
Utility-scale Solar PV  
Community Solar PV  
Commercial Battery Storage  
Utility-scale Battery Storage  
Community Battery Storage  
Sensor Technology  
Electric Vehicle  
Microgrid

Demonstration Objectives  
Voltage Regulation  
Power Quality  
DER Operations and Maintenance

Related EPRI Programs  
P161 Information and Communication Technology  
P174 Integration of Distributed Energy Resources

Project Type  
Laboratory Testing  
Cost-Benefit Assessment

Connected Projects  
N/A

Last Modified

Single  
Customer

## Bronzeville Community Microgrid (SHINES)



Map Satellite

Project Lead  
Commonwealth Edison (ComEd)

Technology Demonstrated  
Utility-scale Solar PV  
Utility-scale Battery Storage  
Microgrid  
Operational Forecasting  
Distributed Resource Management System  
Smart Inverter

Demonstration Objectives  
Resiliency  
Reliability Improvement  
Power Quality

Related EPRI Programs  
P94 Energy Storage and Distributed Generation  
P174 Integration of Distributed Energy Resources  
P193C Solar Generation

Project Type  
Laboratory Testing  
Field Deployment

Connected Projects  
N/A

Last Modified

Utility  
Operated

37 demo projects  
<https://techportal.epri.com/demonstrations/ig>

# Example Utility Reliability/Resilience Applications

## Xcel Energy

### Community Resiliency Initiative

**Solar plus Storage based microgrids to support community resiliency**

- Community partner defines “critical” infrastructure
- Xcel Energy brings battery storage and islanding capability
- Solar and other generation provided by the site

**Benefits:**

- Improves resiliency
- Supports Xcel Energy’s clean energy transition
- Provides grid benefits

**Enabling Legislation:**

- HB18-1270 (<http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb18-1270> )



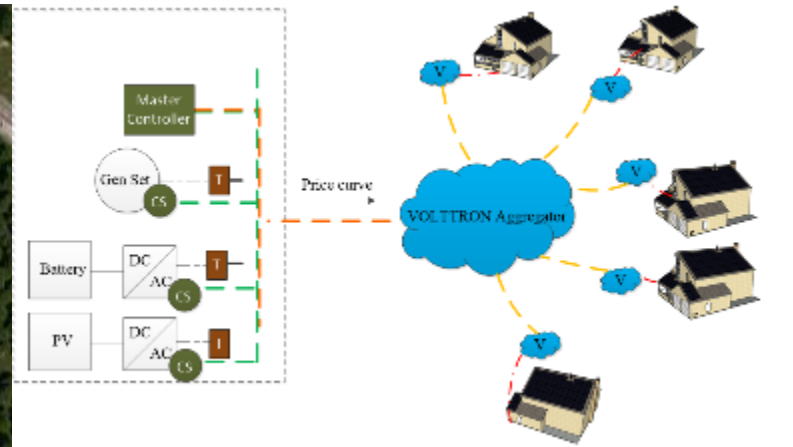
## PG&E Arcata Microgrid

Categories of Microgrid		
(1) Single-customer facility	(2) Remote	(3) Multi-customer on-grid
<p><i>Description</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Customer-side of the meter</li><li>Military bases, prisons, commercial facilities, campuses, hospitals</li></ul> <p><i>Key Drivers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Customer reliability &amp; resilience</li><li>Avoided customer outage costs</li></ul> <p><i>Example</i></p>	<p><i>Description</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Utility-sponsored projects, typically hybrid ownership (e.g., utility-owned distribution assets, customer-owned DG)</li></ul> <p><i>Key Driver</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Potential T&amp;D alternative in remote locations</li></ul> <p><i>Example</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Angel Island (planning)</li></ul>	<p><i>Description</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Typically cities seeking to enable critical facilities to island in the event of broader grid outage and enhance local resilience</li></ul> <p><i>Key Driver</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community resilience</li></ul>





# SMART NEIGHBORHOOD™



Distributed  
Generation

Reynolds  
Landing

## Objective:

Design and build a first of a kind high performance community and residential microgrid to learn how to better serve changing customer needs.