HEMS For Low Income Households

2016 Home Energy Management Systems Workshop
Wednesday, September 21st, 2016
11:20am-12:20pm
Background

• What did you say about HEMS?
• Luxury vs. necessity
• Equity in program spending
• Accessibility

• Low income owned homes are more likely to avoid unnecessary major improvements, such as HVAC
  – Benefits from smart thermostat optimizing use of that HVAC could be huge

• While connected (via smart phone)...
  – Less likely to have wifi in house
What’s been and can be done?

• Manufacturers have (verbally) express concern and priorities
• A few pilots focused on income eligible populations
  – CLP in Texas
• EVT

Opportunities to do more:
• Make the payoffs from DR to make a real difference in a household
• Bigger opportunity for impact!
  – Penetration of smart home devices in general is very low—for low-income houses, is presumed to be much lower.
• Opportunity: target smart phone, not wifi hub:
Smart Low-Income Homes

Lara Bonn and Jasmine Rivest
Smart Low-Income Homes: Considerations

• Connectivity
• Price
• Operability
• Persistence
• True Benefit vs. Novelty
• Utility support and guidance
• Non-critical
• What else? What can we do now for the future?
Thank you!

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Find our Smart Hub/Smart Bulb Report Here:
www.efficiencyvermont.com/news-blog/whitepapers
Discussion

• What is the appropriate roll and perspective to take on the smart home for low-income families
• Is it okay that these products are getting ratepayer funds to incentivize but not going into homes equally?
• Partnerships with specific retailers or organizations for new smart home channels?