



Methods for Total Water Conservation & Reporting

Seth Kraal, PE | Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.

JACOBS[®]

Where is **Water**?

PLANNING

Water conservation receives a small fraction of attention from our planning efforts

COSTS

Water prices are geographically specific but typically range from \$10 – \$30 per kGal for water and sewer combined service

FUTURE

Water rate inflation is between 4 - 9% nationally, with many areas facing water shortages in the near-term

Water Used for **Electric Generation**

**161 BILLION
GALLONS OF WATER
PER DAY**

withdrawn for electrical generation
in 2010 alone

2 GALLONS
OF WATER EVAPORATED FOR EVERY
KWH PRODUCED

Source **Water / Power Ratio**

Source Water Ratio

The water consumption of the energy mix between different forms of generation in a particular area



US Averages

Min: 0.0 gal/kWh (MA / RI)

Avg: 2 gal/kWh

Max: 72.6 gal/kWh (SD)

Where Are We **Using the Water**?

Typical district energy water consumption



```
graph TD; A[Typical district energy water consumption] --> B[Electrical consumption]; A --> C["HVAC and electrical generation  
Heat rejection"]; A --> D[Hydronic system make-up]
```

**Electrical
consumption**

**HVAC and
electrical generation
Heat rejection**

**Hydronic system
make-up**

Where Does **District Energy** Fit into a Solution?

Eliminates distribution losses

More water-efficient electrical generation

Thermal load shifting and air cooled equipment

Infrastructure investments in high efficiency heating and cooling systems

Future opportunities

Planning and reporting

Eliminating Distribution Losses + **Water Efficient Generation**

Distribution system losses typically range from **4% to 9%** with corresponding losses of source water

Distributed generation in CHP applications can **replace water intensive, grid electricity** with water efficient local generation

Thermal Load Shifting / Energy Efficient Systems

AIR COOLED EQUIPMENT

can reduce total
water consumption
in some areas
(source water ratio)

THERMAL LOAD SHIFTING

can utilize ambient
relief for site or
source water savings

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

in long-term or
“forever” facilities
incentivizes long-
term water planning

Water for **Make-up**

**Hydronic Heating
and Cooling Systems**



HIGH

Return / supply volume

**High-efficiency Steam
Heating Systems**



MEDIUM

Return / supply volume

**Aged Steam
Heating Systems**



LOW

Return / supply volume

Future Considerations

- ✓ Hybrid wet/dry heat rejection
- ✓ Air cooled cooling and generation systems
- ✓ Implementation of AHU condensate recovery
- ✓ Steam to hot water system conversions
- ✓ Sewer/wastewater heat rejection

Planning and Reporting

Most district energy systems save water



REPORT THESE SAVINGS!

Source **Water / Power Ratio**

Source Water Ratio

The water consumption of the energy mix between different forms of generation in a particular area



US Averages

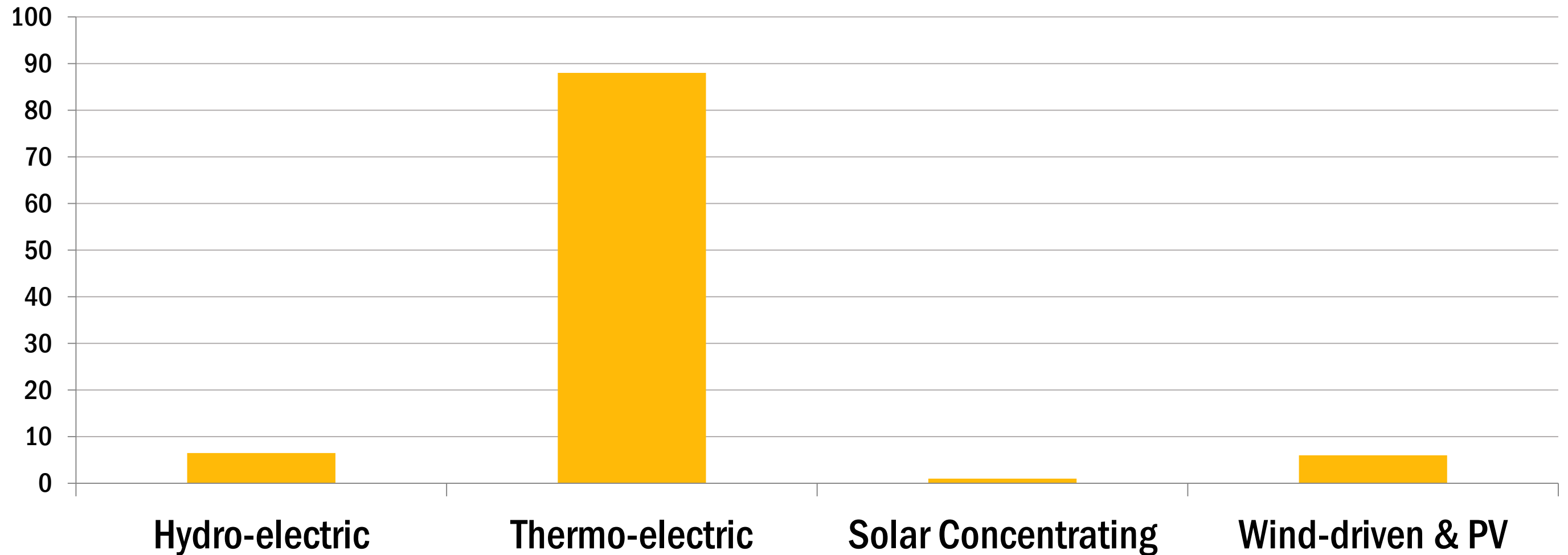
Min: 0.0 gal/kWh (MA / RI)

Avg: 2 gal/kWh

Max: 72.6 gal/kWh (SD)

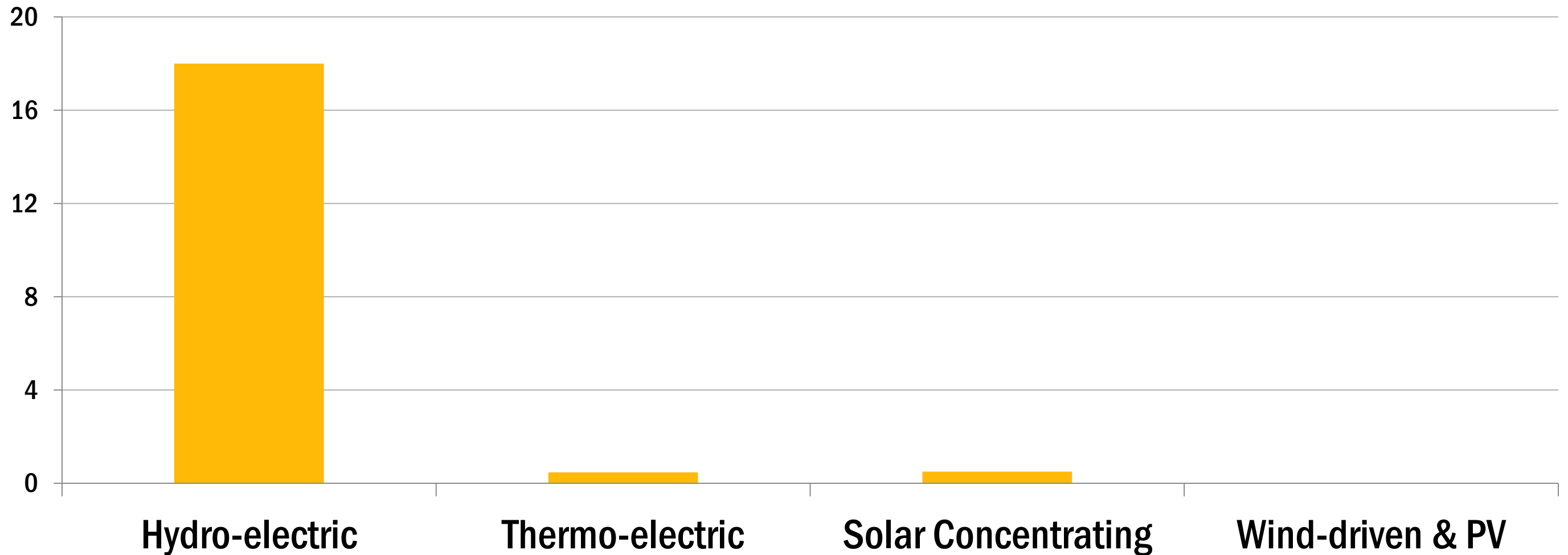
Water Use by Generation Type

Percentage of Generation



Water Use by Generation Type

Gallons per kWh (avg)



Water Use in PV and Wind Energy

Wind energy is generally accepted to use no water during the production of electricity

PV arrays typically require some water to wash the panels to maintain the array output; consumption rarely rises above 0.25 gallons per kWh

Water Use for Condenser Heat Rejection

Heat-driven electrical generation systems require some heat rejection:

Cooling Towers	2 - 10 gallons / kWh
Once-Through Cooling	1 - 4 gallons / kWh
Pond Cooling	1 - 8 gallons / kWh
Dry-Cooling Cycles	0.3 - 1 gallon / kWh

Water Use in Solar Concentrating

Concentrating solar power arrays (trough & tower) use water for heat rejection and cleaning reflectors

Cooling pond and once-through cooling are typically not an option for these fields due to

environmental and site location conditions

Water Use for Hydro-generation

Several methods exist for **estimating reservoir evaporation**

Regardless of the method of calculation, bodies of water with **proportionally large surface areas** are assumed to allow prodigious evaporation

Water Use for Hydro-generation

Several methods exist for

Hydro-electric power

consumes up to 150 gal/kWh

Regardless of the method of calculation, bodies of

water with **proportionally large surface areas** are

but

averages about 18-20 gal/kWh

Did We Really **Save Water**?

Typically, yes but not always. The water not released to generate electricity can be utilized (from the reservoir) for other purposes.

It's necessary to **understand the energy mix** in your area and totality of benefits provided by local dams and reservoirs to interpret the results



Data sources

Data Sources

U.S. Energy Information Administration

- <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=427&t=3>

Consumptive Water Use for US Power Production; 2003

- P. Torcellini, N. Long, and R. Judkoff
- <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy04osti/33905.pdf>

A Review of Operational Water Consumption and Withdrawal Factors for Electricity Generating Technologies; 2011

- Jordan Macknick, Robin Newmark, Garvin Heath and KC Hallett
- <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy11osti/50900.pdf>

JACOBS[®]

Seth Kraal, PE
Booth #61

