

# Urban Ingenuity's New **Microgrid Extension Service** for Washington DC

Shalom Flank, Ph.D.  
Microgrid Architect, Urban Ingenuity  
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# Background: Agricultural Extension Service

## National Statistics:

13,000 employees

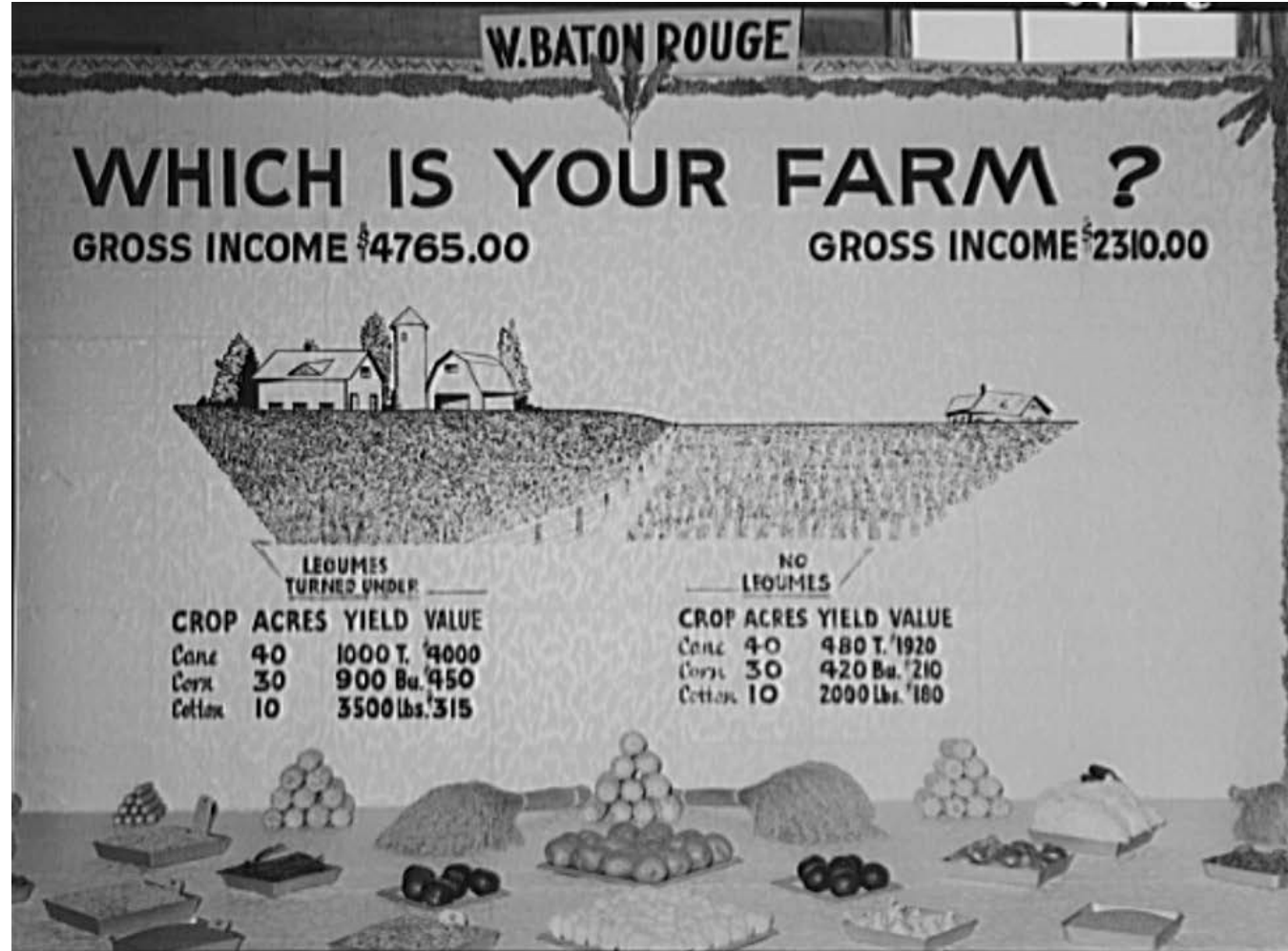
3 million volunteers

\$3 billion annual  
funding

(Federal, states &  
counties)

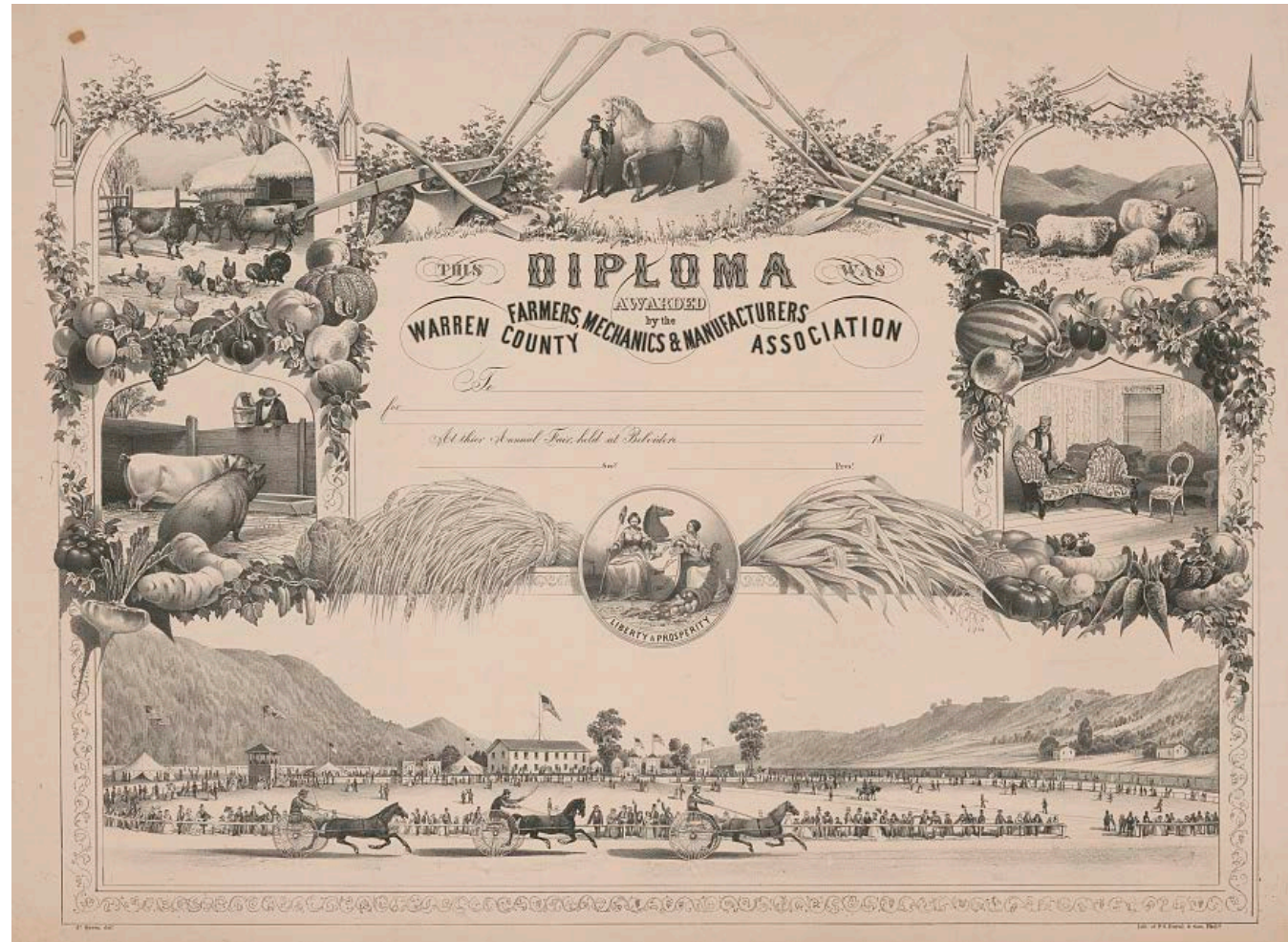
~50% IRR

~30:1 B/C ratio



# Origins: Agricultural Extension Service

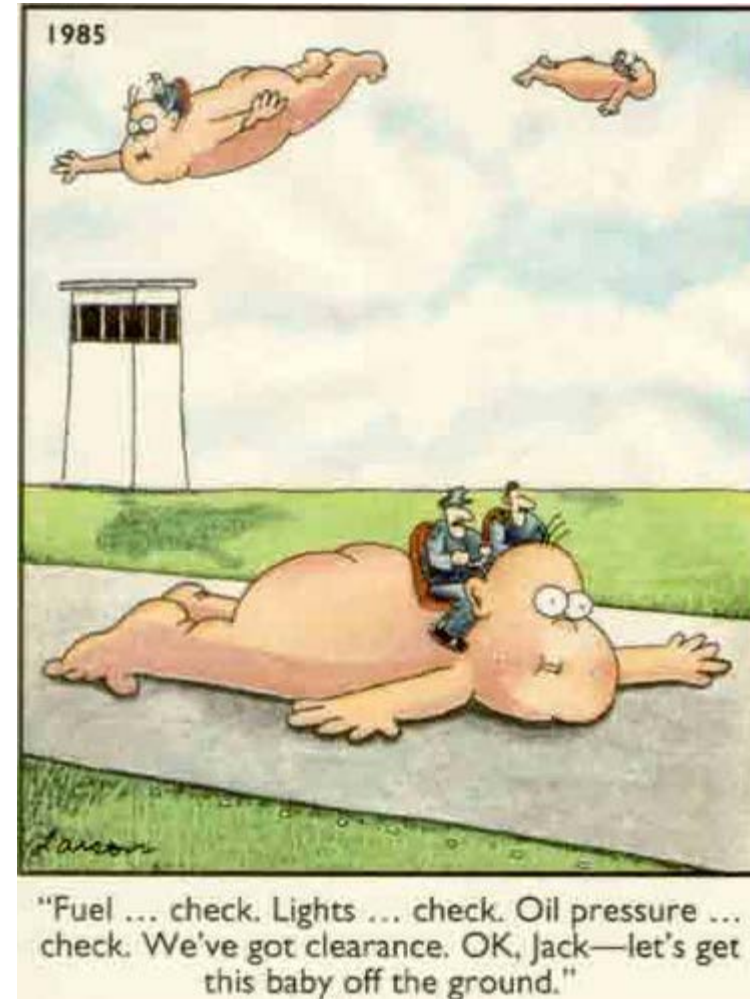
- 1809 – First agricultural fair, Columbia Agricultural Society
- 1862 and 1890 – Land grant colleges for disseminating agricultural research
- 1914 – Full Federal-state Cooperative Extension Service, every state and DC





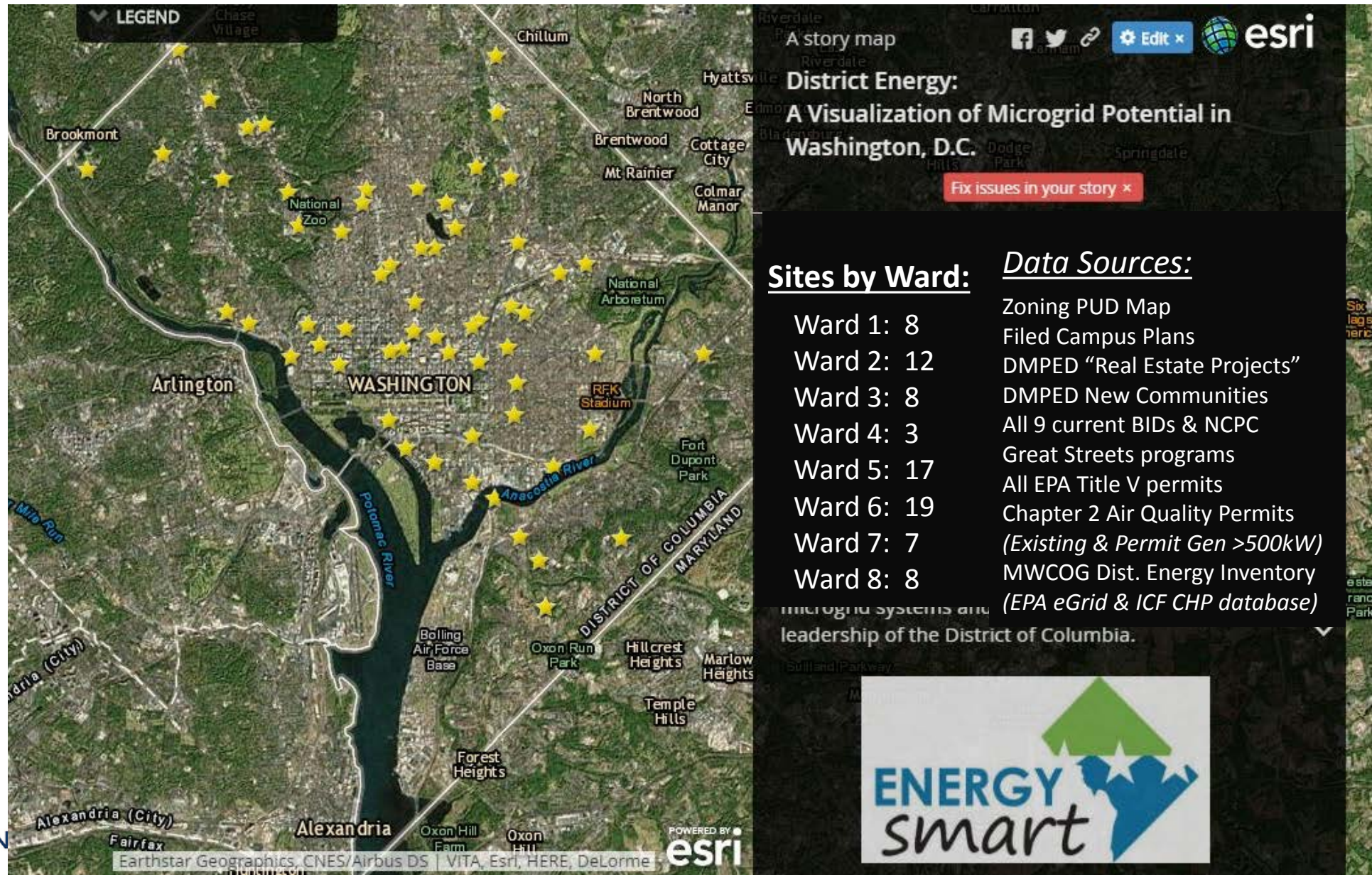
# Microgrid Extension Service: Pilot Year

- Supported by DC government
  - Dept of Energy & Environment
- FY2017 budget: < 1 FTE
- Empowered to assist any of ~100 microgrid candidates in DC
- Leveraging existing tools:
  - DC-wide site survey
  - Expert-system site assessment
  - Hourly load models
  - Cash-flow financial models
- Integrated with ongoing policy support





# Washington DC: Project Identification



# Market Uptake for Extension Service

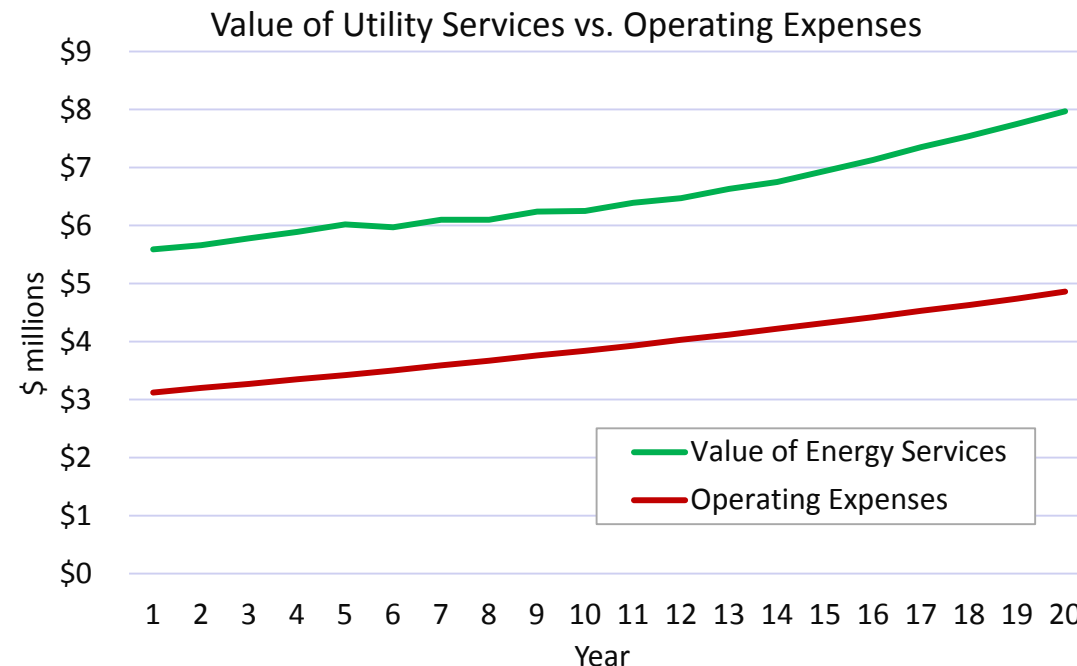
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## Differentiated Offerings to Match Project Maturity / Sophistication

- Outreach via public events and webinars
  - Attended or viewed by thousands of people, plus collateral / web
- Microgrid “Help Line”
  - No 800 number (yet)
  - Scores of calls and emails – majority from government agencies
- Screening Analysis
  - Residential, Universities, Public lands, Real Estate developers
  - Thousands of residents / students / acres
- In-Depth Analysis
  - Hospital complex – 1650 beds plus outpatient services
  - University campus with adjoining mixed-use development – 4M sf
  - Steam district conversion – potential to reach 56 M sf

# Sample Products: Core Design

- **Site Profile:** 100 acre campus-style development with single site-owner, existing distribution infrastructure
- **Project Conceptual Design:** 4 MW CHP recip engines, >1.5 MW solar PV, controls and automation
- **Project Cost:** \$18 M
- **Conclusion:** A viable microgrid is possible, with value of benefits consistently exceeds operating costs





# Sample Products: Economic Viability

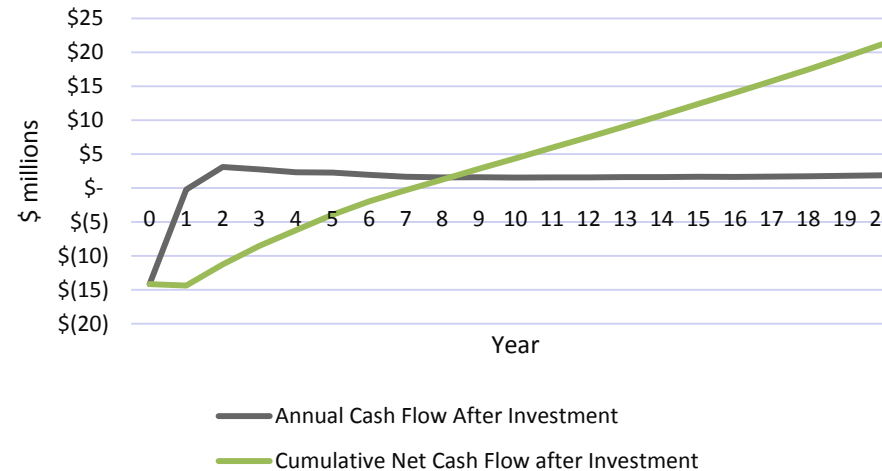
## Unlevered

- NPV: \$8 M
- IRR: 11% IRR
- 20-Year Net Cash Flow: \$21 M
- Greater NPV & overall returns

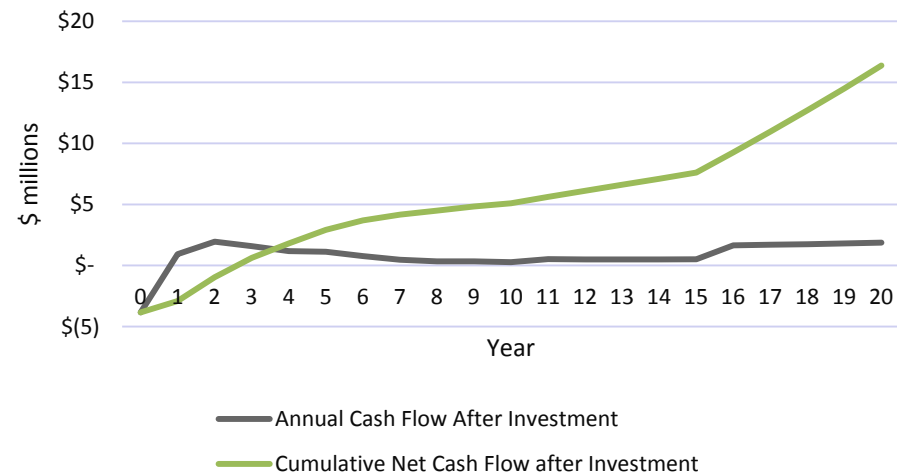
## Levered

- NPV: \$7 M
- IRR: 29%
- 20-Year Net Cash Flow: \$16 M
- Faster path to cash flow positive; higher IRR

Simple Payback: Unlevered



Cumulative Cash Flows: Levered





# Sample Products: Optimization Pathways

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## Optimizing Projects Yields More Significant Financial Returns






- Opportunities to optimize for lower cost, higher savings:
  - Chilled-water storage
  - Avoided costs of heating & cooling equipment
- Additional possible savings from:
  - Sales to wholesale markets
  - Ancillary services to Pepco grid
  - Serving surrounding loads
  - Accessing grants, incentives, creative financing

# Business Model Decision

## Who will own and manage the project?

Choose an ownership model to allocate risks and corresponding returns.

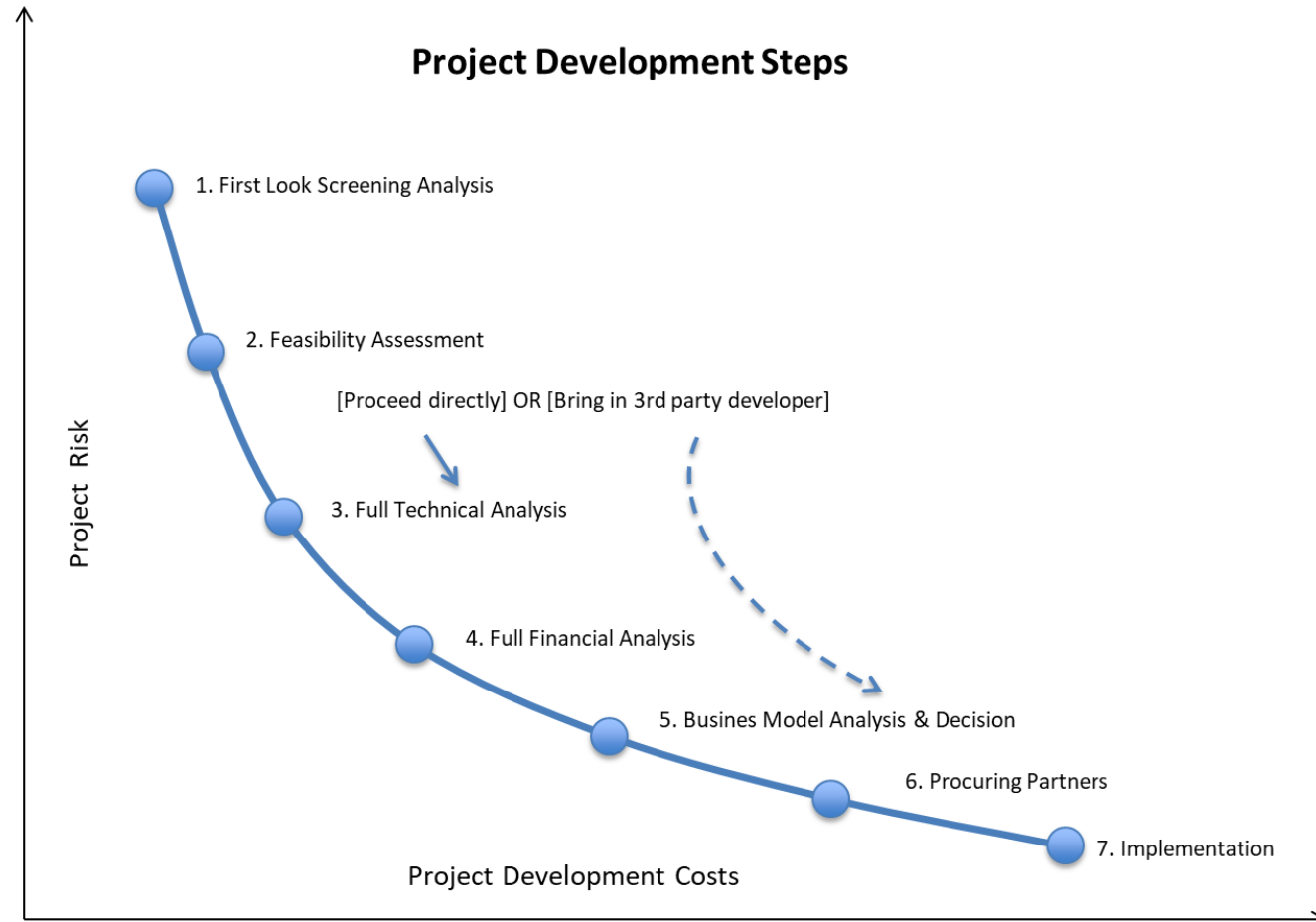
**Outcome: Structuring decision and key contractual agreements to memorialize.**

	Host Site Owned	Third-Party Owned	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retain more control (best if host has substantial in-house expertise, or with substantial external resources)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mitigates risk and capital expenses</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Host takes on implementation and operations risk</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gives away potential revenue streams</li></ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Should be managed with strong contracts to protect host</li></ul>	

**Other ownership models:** Multi-stakeholder (shared ownership), publicly-owned

# Risk vs. Development Cost Trade-Off

- Project risk declines with continued investment in analysis and development
- Earliest stages can often be accomplished with limited investment





# Potential Pitfalls

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## Ensuring an Extension Service that is Built to Last

- Underserved Communities:
  - Same as Agricultural Extension history – 1890 Morrill Act, 30 years to include black farmers, still separate-but-equal
  - Emphasize affordable housing and environmental justice – not just elite universities, luxury condos, trophy office buildings
- Independence & Ongoing Funding:
  - Time-limited grants only work for start-up
  - Need sustainable multi-year assistance for long lead-time projects
- Two-Way Ties to Academic Research
  - Pathways to translate innovation into action, while fostering the next generation of microgrid experts and entrepreneurs

# Plans for Continuation & Expansion

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- Ongoing Funding Sources:
  - Green Banks and revolving loan funds
  - FEMA – e.g. PDM (Pre-Disaster Mitigation) planning grants
  - Foundation support for resilience in vulnerable communities
- Industry Outreach:
  - Real Estate Developers and REITS
  - Affordable Housing
  - Need sustainable multi-year assistance for long lead-time projects
- Jurisdictions Beyond DC:
  - Match agricultural extension – but start with cities
  - Mayor's office vs. Econ Development vs. Energy & Environment
  - Urban Sustainability Directors Network? DOE CHP TAPs?

## **Contact Info:**

**Shalom Flank, Ph.D.**

Microgrid Architect, Urban Ingenuity  
SFlank@UrbanIngenuity.com

**Bracken Hendricks**

CEO, Urban Ingenuity  
info@UrbanIngenuity.com



**Extra Slides:**

# Old and New Paradigms

## Old World:

- Utility has full control
- Buy brown power or buy RECs
- Rate increases year after year
- At risk: cyber-attacks, heat waves, 100-year storms, terrorism



Matthew D. Wilson (LtPowers)

## New World:

- On-site resource = security & flexibility
- Smaller carbon footprint
- Lower energy costs, new revenues, and controllable costs
- Grid outages? What grid outages?

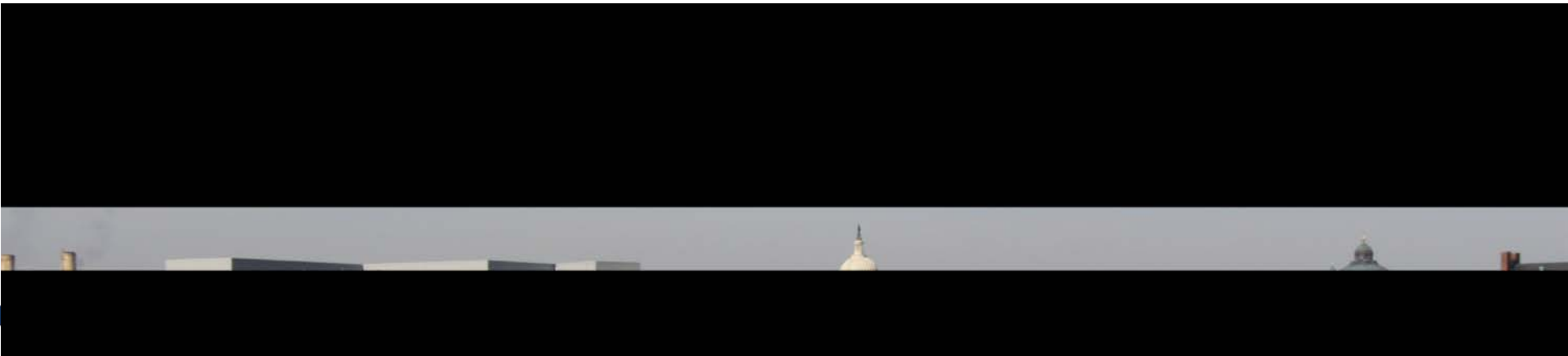


Spotlight Solar

# A Typical Washington DC Microgrid

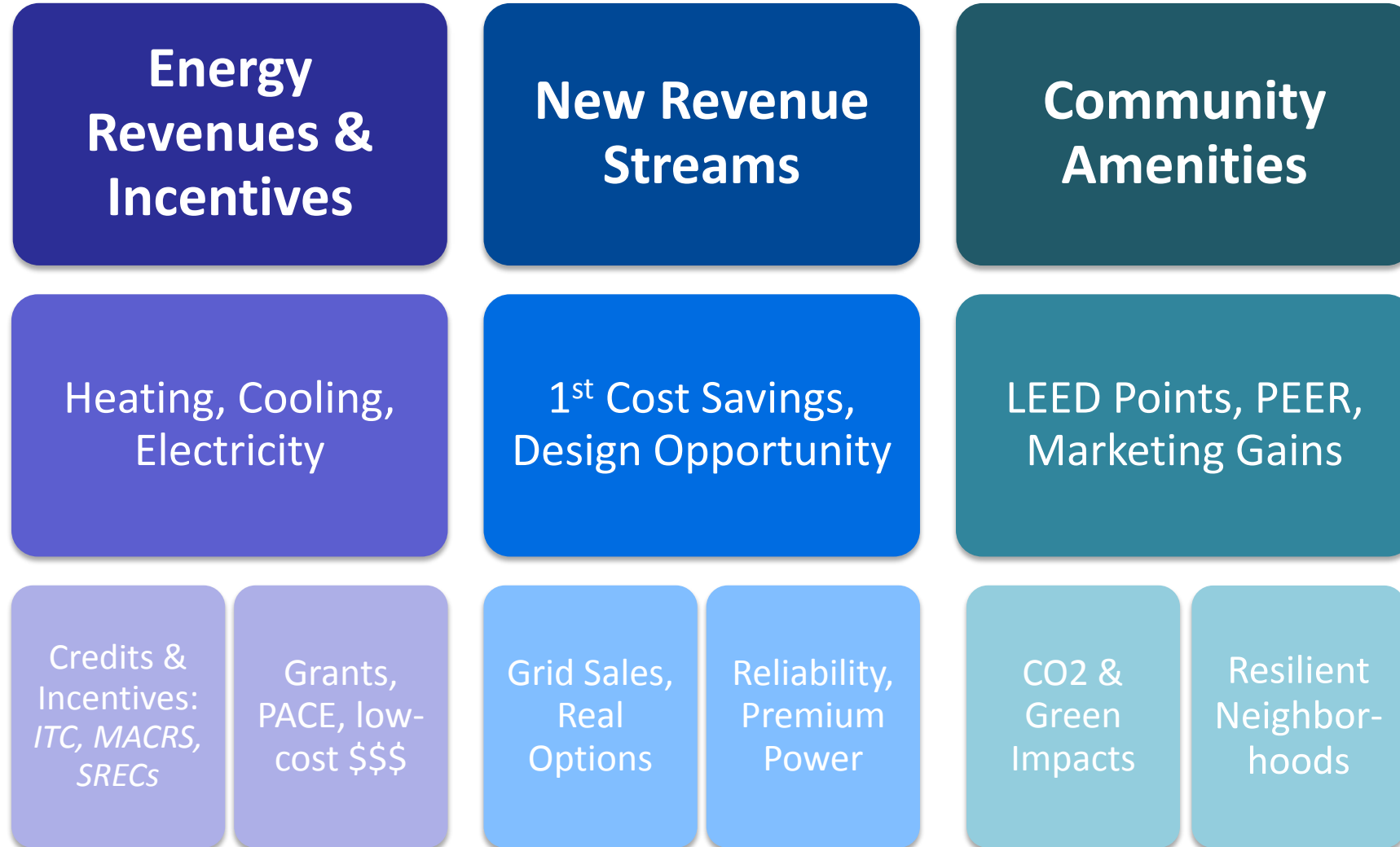
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- **Loads:** One or more property owners (new, renovated, or existing buildings), roughly contiguous
- **CHP:** Co-generation fueled with natural gas, methane, or biomass
- **Solar PV:** Predominantly rooftop
- **Back-up generation:** Existing or new diesel / gas generators
- **Thermal distribution:** May include hot water, chilled water, steam, and thermal storage
- **Electric distribution**





# Microgrid Value Stacks



# Microgrid Business Models

## Precedents & Innovations in Service Delivery Models

Commercial Structures	Precedents & Analogues
Municipally Owned Services	DC Water, Public Power
Energy Services Agreements (ESA)	Solar City PPA
Microgrid-as-a-Service with Price & Performance Guarantees	Energy performance contracting, Cloud Computing - Software-as-a-Service
Shared Infrastructure	Central parking structure
Microgrid operator hired by Home Owners Association (HOA)	Outsourced Contracts for Building Management, Landscaping, etc.

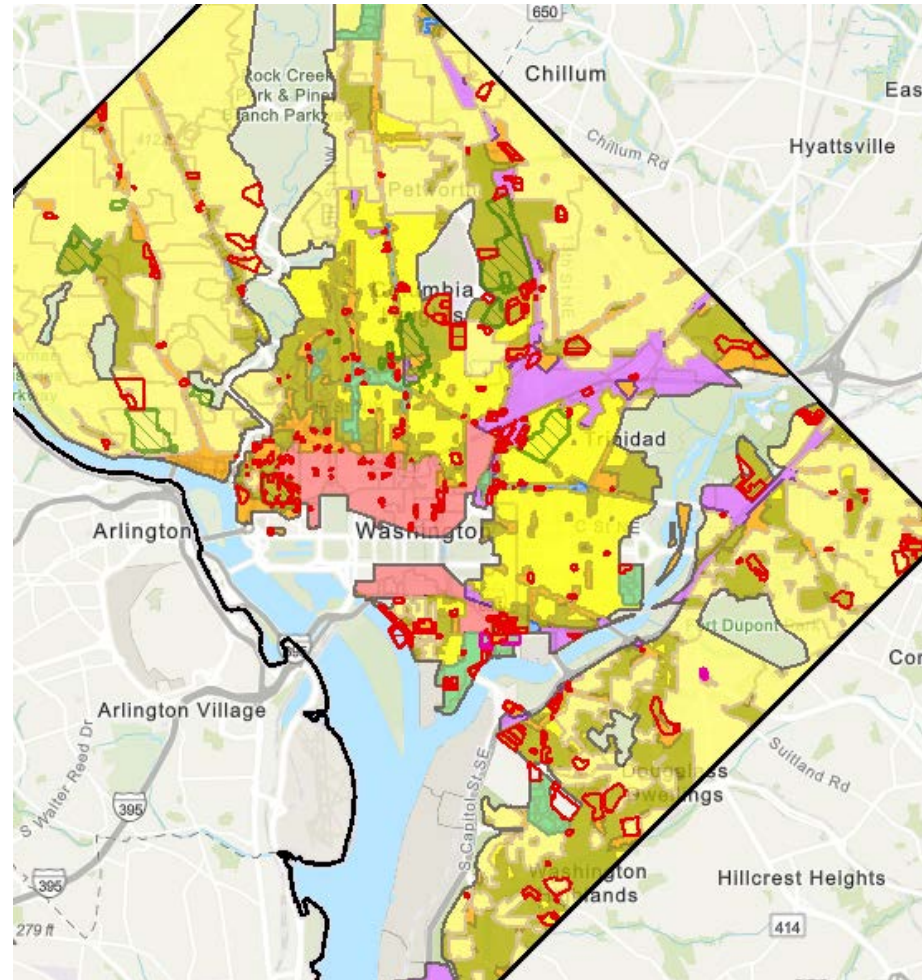
# Designing & Optimizing a Microgrid

This case study provides a framework for understanding the economics of a microgrid in the District of Columbia.

## Key lessons:

- Determine viability for a **core site**
- **Explore expansion** to serve neighboring loads on a marginal cost basis
- **Further optimization** to improve efficiency and economics

Note: Case study is based on actual analysis conducted for a District site-owner. Numbers have been simplified for illustrative purposes.



DC Office of Zoning

# Technical & Financial Analysis

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Steps should be conducted in parallel.

## Full Technical Analysis for Optimized Design

### Deeper Design Diligence and Customization

Detailed design with solid cost estimates, integration with site planning, project phasing, and optimization based on 8760 load data.

**Outcome: Optimized system design sufficient to resolve all technical concerns.**

## Full Financial Analysis for Optimized Design

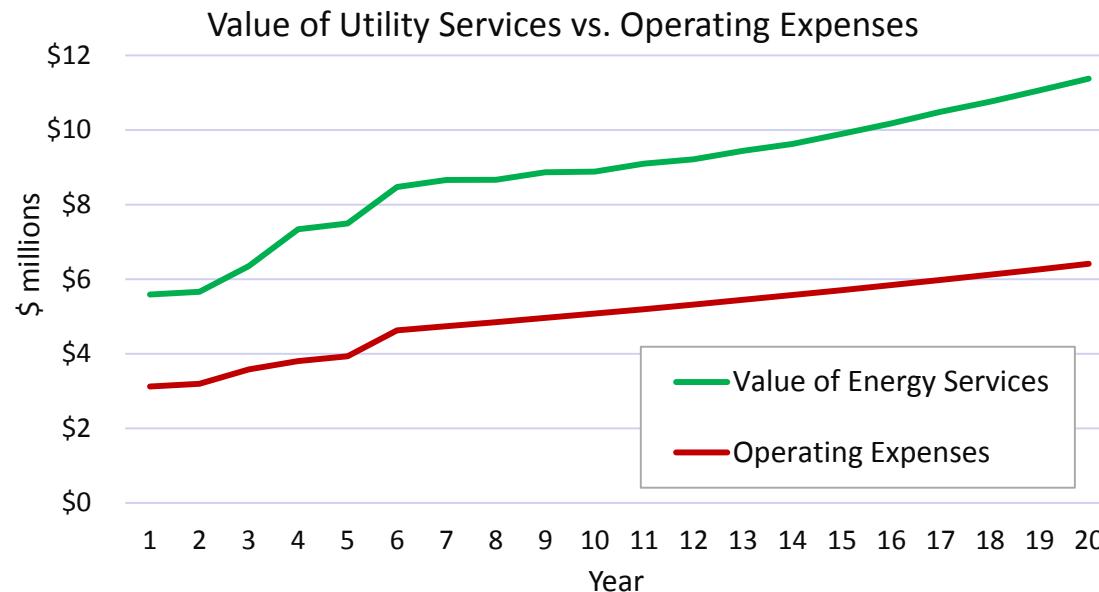
### Investment Grade Financial Modeling

Advanced revenue modeling integrated with an approach to organizing debt, equity, and financial structure, demonstrating sufficient returns to project partners.

**Outcome: Financial model providing sufficient detail to solicit formal participation of capital partners.**

# Phase II: Expansion Microgrid Design

- **Site Profile:** Parcels adjoining main site (independently owned) could opt in to the microgrid during a planned redevelopment.
- **Project Conceptual Design:** Additional 4 MW CHP, 600 kW solar PV, new distribution infrastructure.
- **Project Cost:** Additional \$10 M (\$28 M total)
- **Additional Concerns:** Determine if multi-user microgrid permissible from a legal / regulatory perspective.
- **Conclusion:** Later phases can be implemented on a marginal cost basis, improving the economics / energy efficiency of the larger system.



# Phase II: Is it Economically Viable?

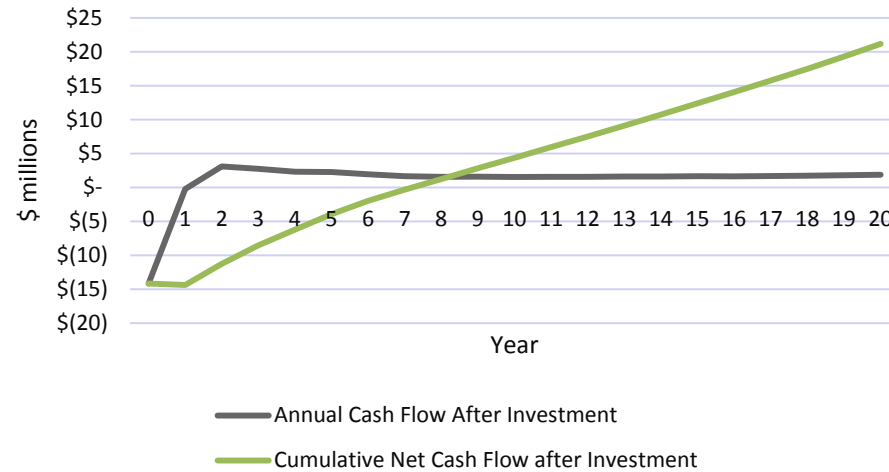
## Unlevered

- NPV: \$11 M
- IRR: 11% IRR
- 20-Year Net Cash Flow: \$31 M
- Greater NPV & overall returns

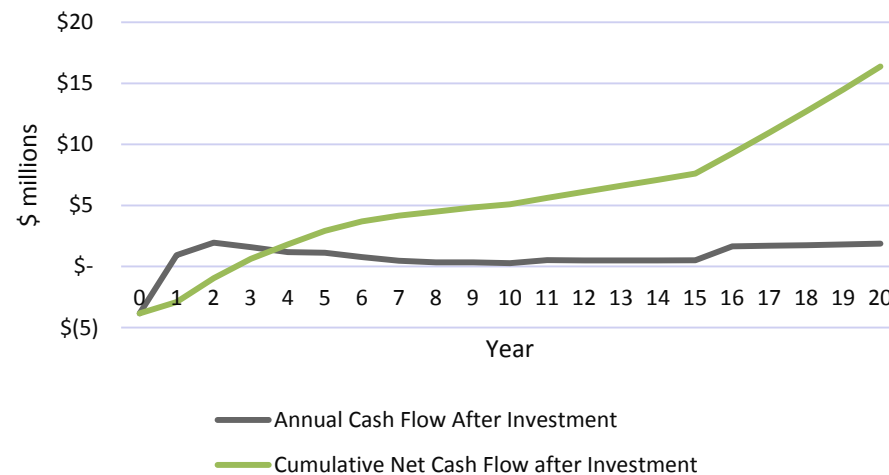
## Levered

- NPV: \$8.5 M
- IRR: 25%
- 20-Year Net Cash Flow: \$23 M
- Faster path to cash flow positive

Simple Payback: Unlevered



Cumulative Cash Flows: Levered





# Gallaudet: Campus Microgrid Planning

CAMPUS UTILITIES - CHILLED WATER & STEAM

