



14<sup>th</sup> & P St NW , Washington DC

# A DISTRICT ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS

FEBRUARY 4, 2011

NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PATRICE FREY, DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY, NTHP

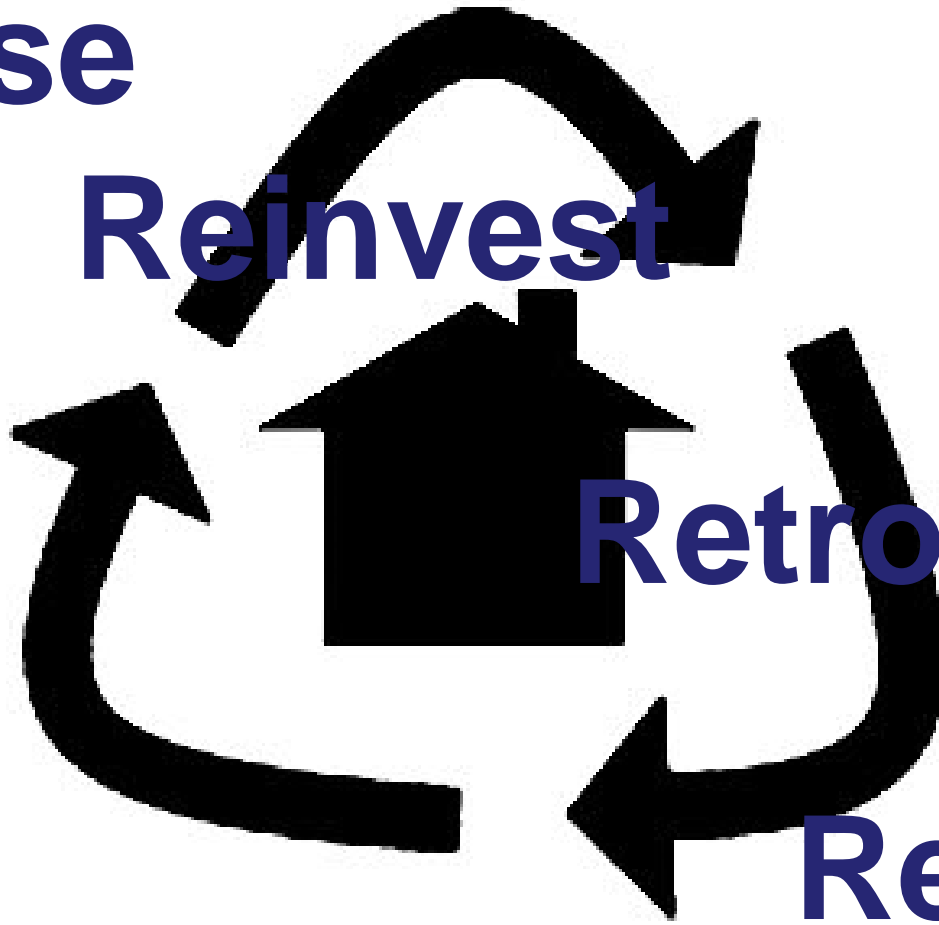
# THE FOUR "R"s

**Reuse**

**Reinvest**

**Retrofit**

**Respect**



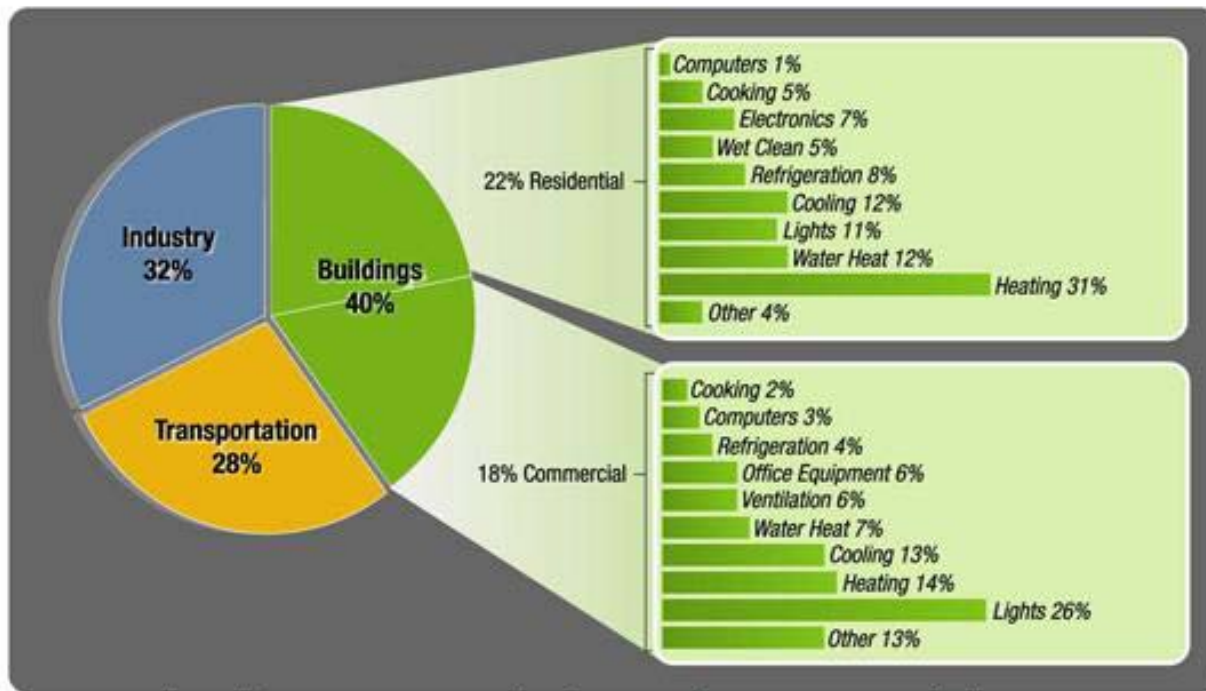


# PRESERVATION GREEN LAB

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# WHY REUSE?

## BUILDINGS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



The Buildings Sector accounts for about 40% of U.S. Energy, 72% of Electricity, and 34% of Natural Gas use. Building energy costs totaled \$390 billion in 2006.

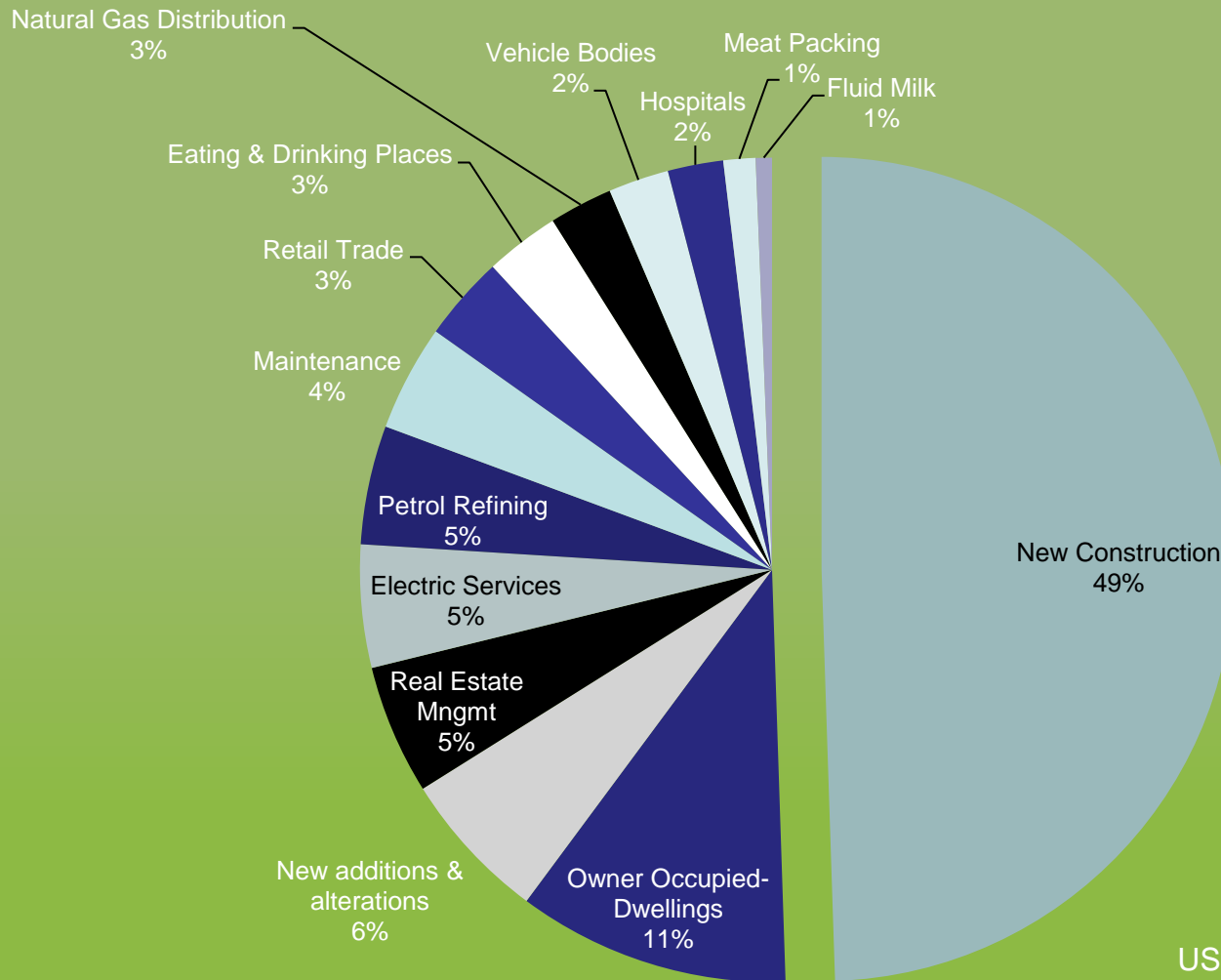
Source: Buildings Energy Data Book, Sept. 2008, Tables 1.1.3, 1.1.6, 3.1.1, 3.3.1, 4.1.5, 5.1.2, 5.3.1

Source: The National Energy Technology Laboratory – [netl.doe.gov](http://netl.doe.gov)

# THE IMPACT OF BUILDINGS: MACRO VIEW

Roughly 42% of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory Emissions are associated with materials extraction and harvesting, the production, transportation and disposal of goods in the U.S. – in part due to the energy needed for these processes.

# RESOURCE USE - UNITED STATES



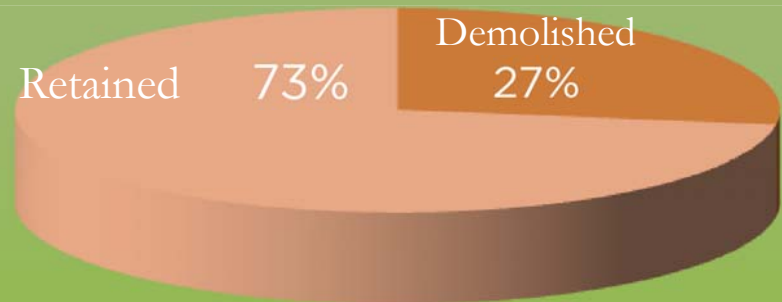
US EPA – Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead (June 2009)

Materials, Products and Services by Resource Use

# THE DISPOSABILITY OF BUILDINGS

- *300 Billion* square feet of existing building space
  - *82 Billion* will be demolished or replaced by 2030

## Demolition Projections: 2005-2030



Source: Brookings Institution

# EMBODIED ENERGY/ CARBON



## New Tricks with Old Bricks

How reusing old buildings can cut carbon emissions



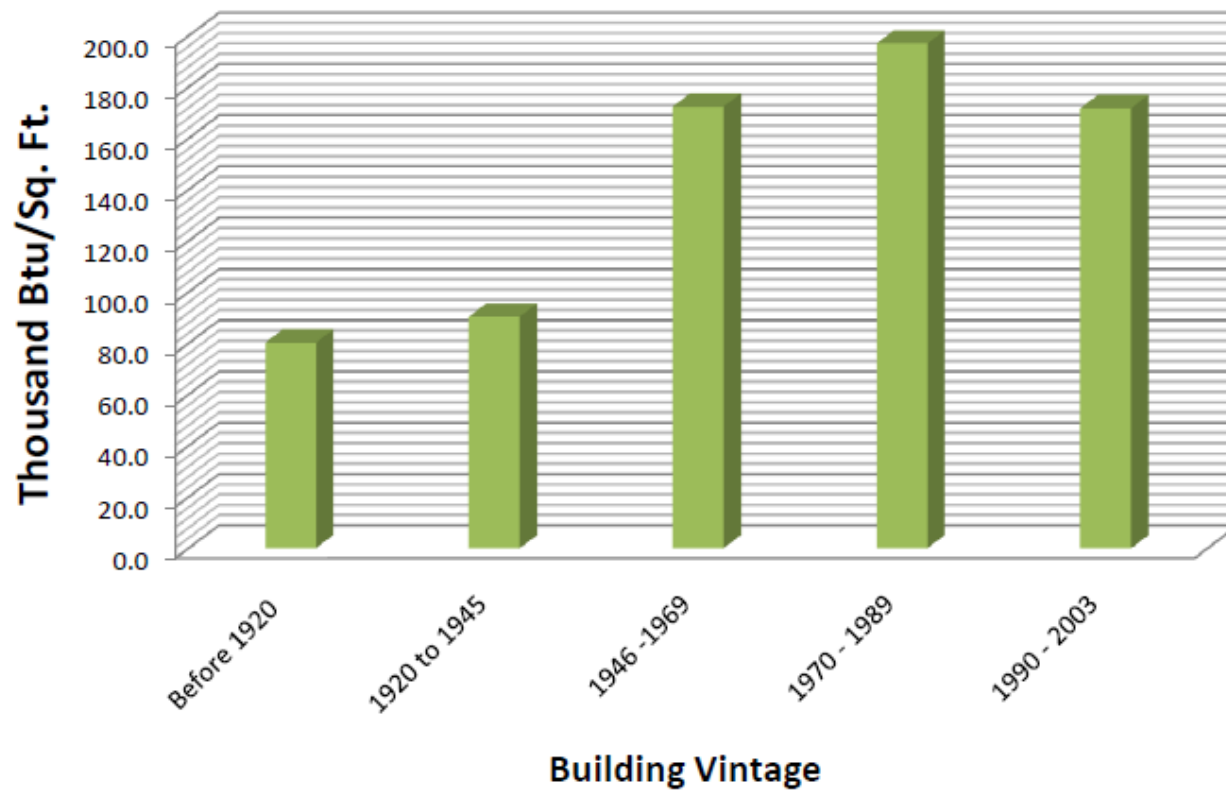
It takes between 35-50 years for a new, green Home to recover the carbon expended during the Construction process

-- Empty Homes Agency



# RETROFIT GREEN

**Major Fuel Consumption Intensities (Btu/sq. ft.) By Building  
Vintage [2003 CBECS Data, Malls Included]**



# NEW SOLUTIONS NEEDED FOR SMALLER, OLDER BUILDINGS

73% of our existing commercial buildings are less than 10,000 square feet

US Energy Information Agency, 2003

Small older buildings are uniquely challenged – both physically and financially – to meet aggressive carbon reduction goals



Buildings in Denver's Historic District. Image Credit: Wally Gobetz

# NEW SOLUTIONS NEEDED FOR SMALLER, OLDER BUILDINGS

Architectural character = economic value



Image Credit: needed

# ECO-DISTRICT INITIATIVES IN EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS



14<sup>th</sup> and U Street, NW – Washington DC

# DISTRICT ENERGY

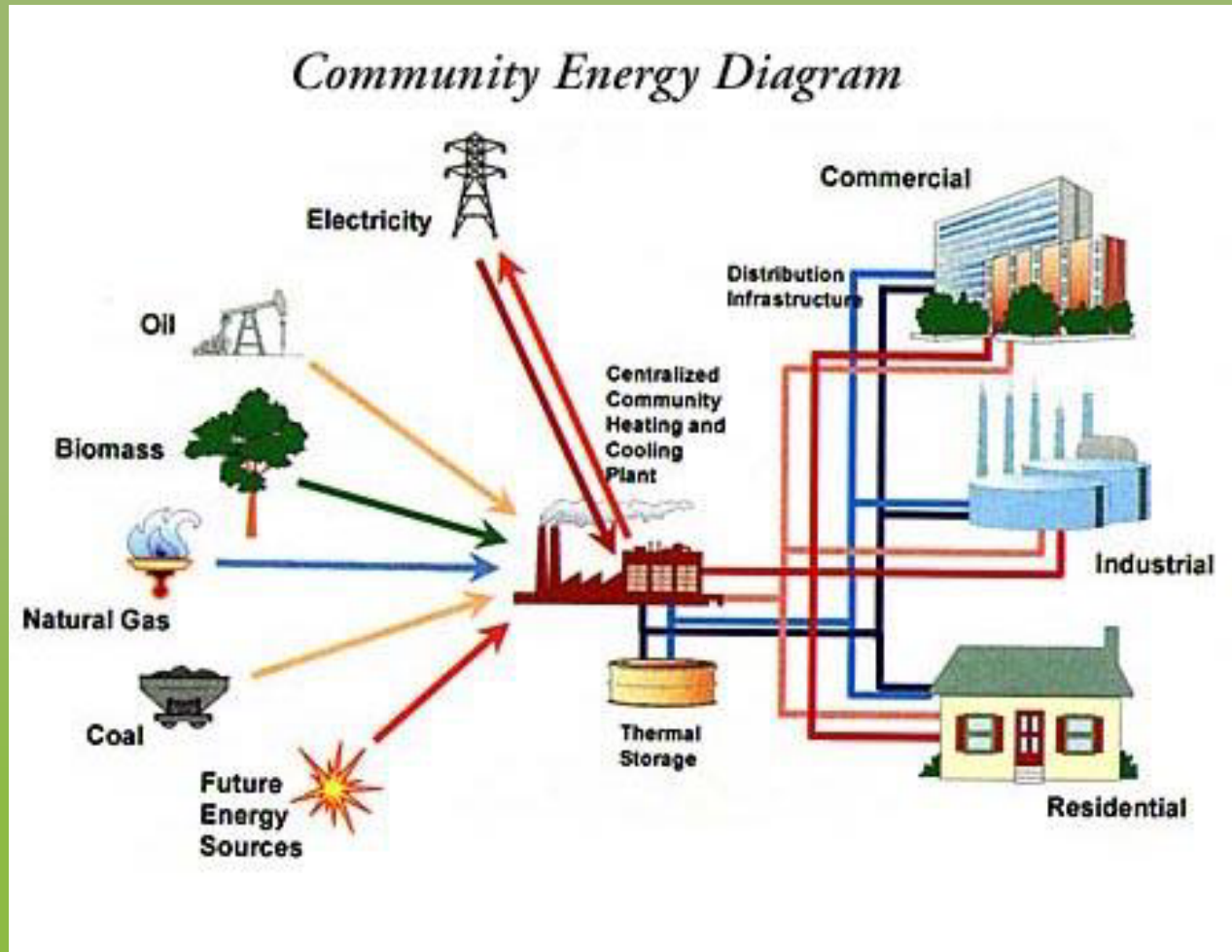


Image: District Energy St. Paul

# STATE OF IOWA



Dubuque Millwork District. Image Credit: City of Dubuque

# WEST UNION, IOWA

## The Role of District Energy in Greening Existing Neighborhoods

A PRIMER FOR POLICY MAKERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Preservation Green Lab, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Center for Sustainable Business Practices, University of Oregon

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | SEPTEMBER 2010

AS CITIES LOOK FOR INNOVATIVE MEANS of reducing carbon emissions from the operation of their existing buildings, it is increasingly clear that the most effective way to achieve high level energy performance rests with district-level approaches to the environment. This paper explores the vital role that low-carbon district energy systems (i.e., neighborhood-scale utilities that provide thermal energy for heating, cooling, and hot water) can play in enabling existing buildings and established urban neighborhoods to meet aggressive emission reduction targets in a cost-effective way. It also highlights the essential role local governments play in supporting the development of district energy systems, intended as a primer for communities that are beginning to explore district energy as a possible strategy for reducing their emissions and dependence on non-renewable energy sources. Many cities face common barriers, capacity constraints, and learning curves, and this publication identifies the policies and programs needed to foster district energy system development.

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Image Credit: West Union, Iowa Chamber of Commerce

# MONTPELIER, VERMONT



Images: Vermont Perspectives – Linda Baird-White



# ECO-DISTRICT INITIATIVES IN EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS



LCB Denver. Image Credit: Living City Block



Oberlin Arts District. Photo Credit: BNIM

# SEATTLE, WA

Retooling existing downtown steam system; exploring expansion into adjacent existing and historic neighborhoods



Smith Tower, Seattle

# AUSTIN, TEXAS

## Austin Energy (district cooling)



Image Credits: Andy, ATMTX

# For more information...

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[www.preservationnation.org/green](http://www.preservationnation.org/green)

<http://blogs.nationaltrust.org/preservationnation/>

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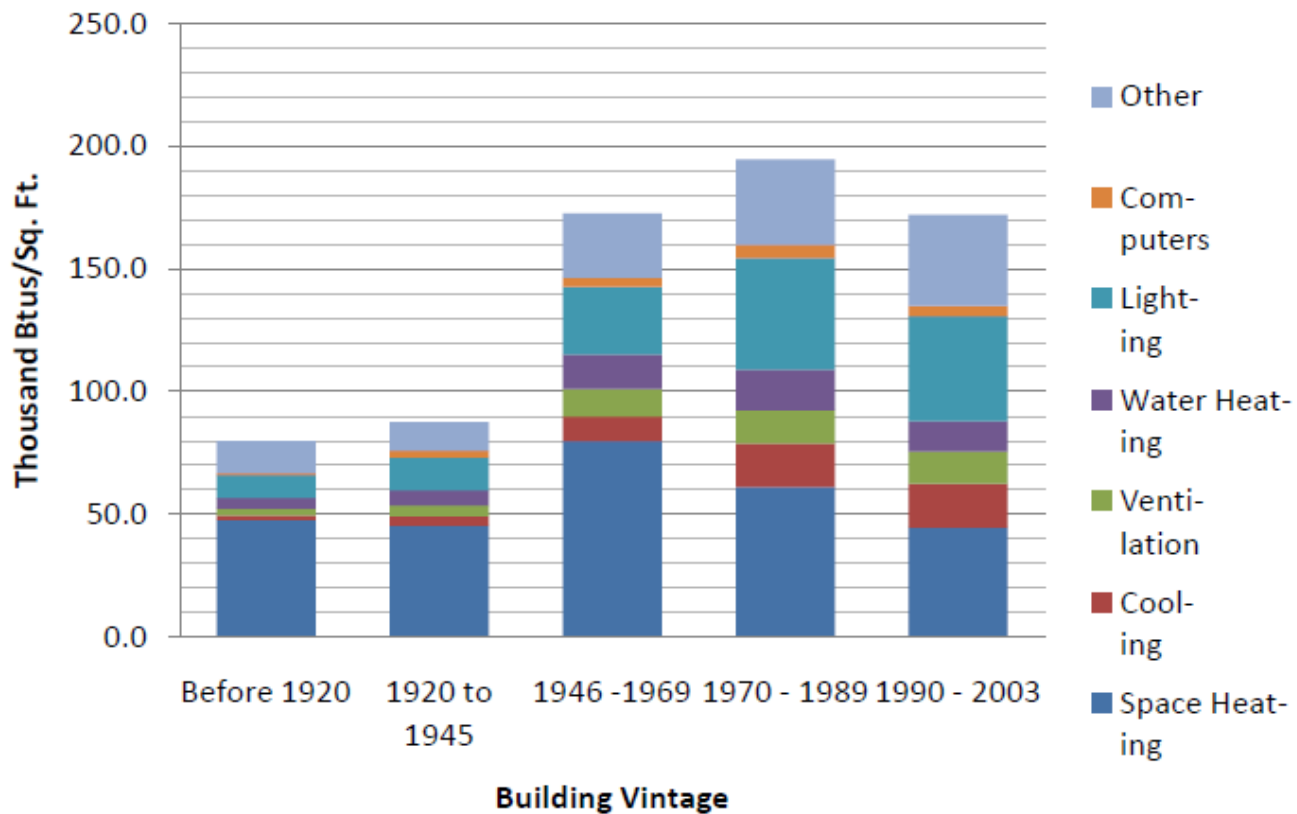
# The Four “R”s

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# RETROFIT GREEN

**End Use (Major Fuels, thousand Btu/sq. ft.) and Building Vintage [2003 CBECS, malls included]**

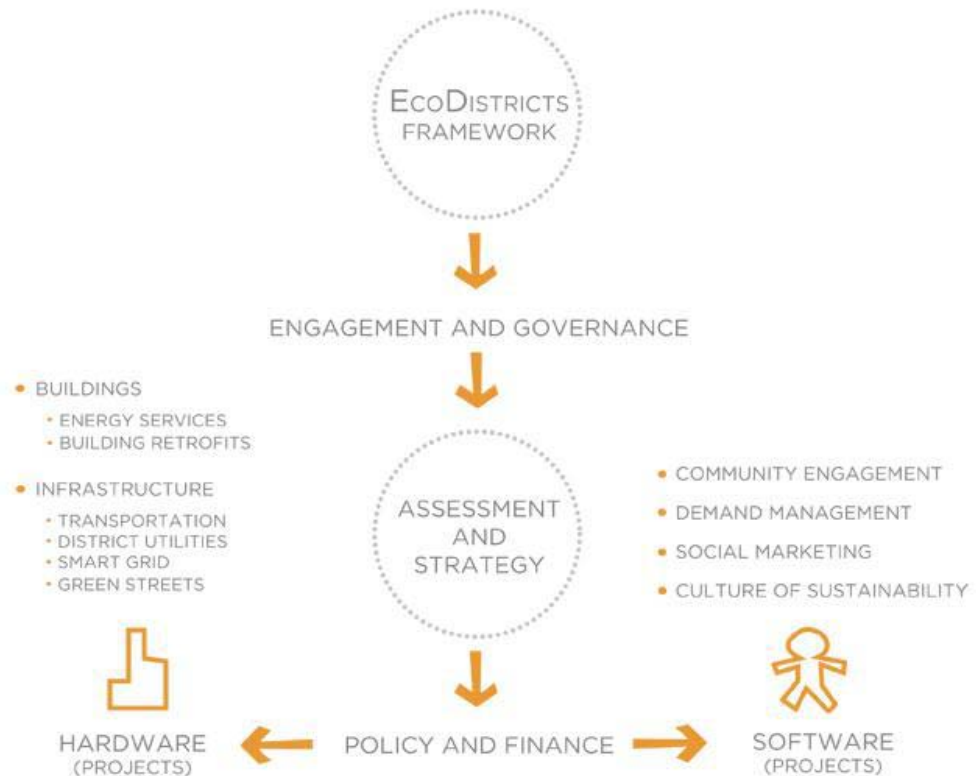


# ECO-DISTRICT INITIATIVES IN EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS



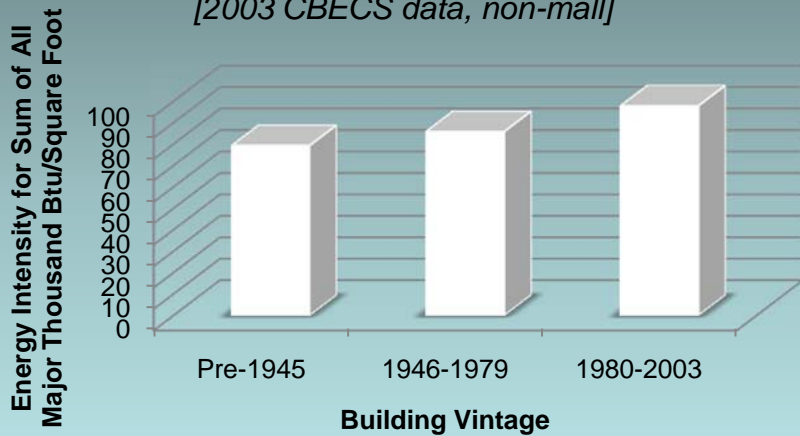
Image Credit: PoSI

## EcoDISTRICTS ROAD MAP (WHAT DOES IMPLEMENTATION LOOK LIKE?)



# RETROFIT GREEN

**Intensity of Energy Use of All Major Fuels for Commercial Buildings Less Than 10,000 sq. ft.**  
*[2003 CBECS data, non-mall]*



**Intensity of Energy Use of All Major Fuels for Commercial Buildings Less Than 25,000 sq. ft.**  
*[2003 CBECS data, non-mall]*

