



WHEN TRUST MATTERS

# Through the Funnel: Evaluating Innovation

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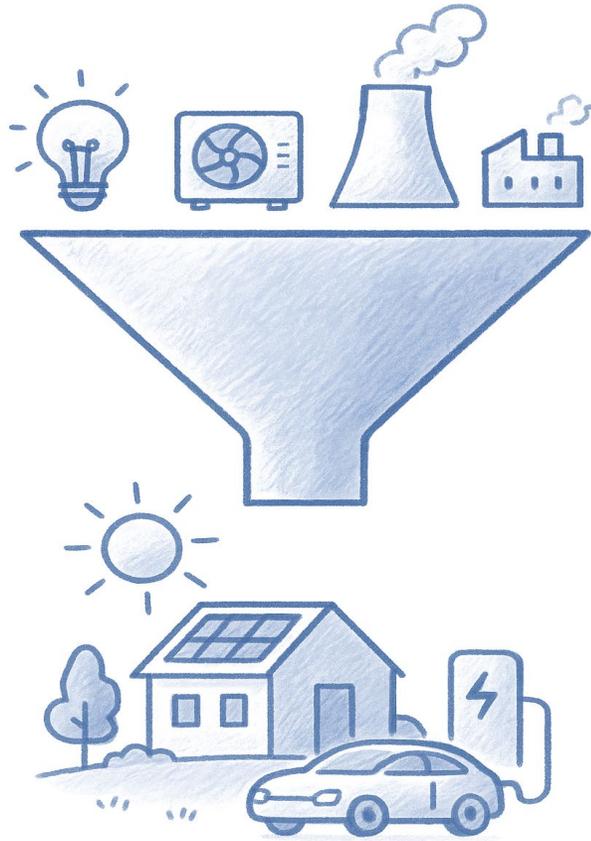
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Development Authority (NYSERDA)

Denver, CO

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# Agenda



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Evaluating through the innovation funnel

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Background

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Research objectives

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Our approach

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Findings

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Recommendations

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# Evaluating through the innovation funnel

**Advancing technology innovation is critical to the energy transition.**

What is the role of evaluation?

## Challenges in Early-Stage Product Funding

- Requires substantial investments (~\$100–\$400M per year)
- Low success rate
- Pivot of product development to adapt to new market needs
- Diversity and complexity of products

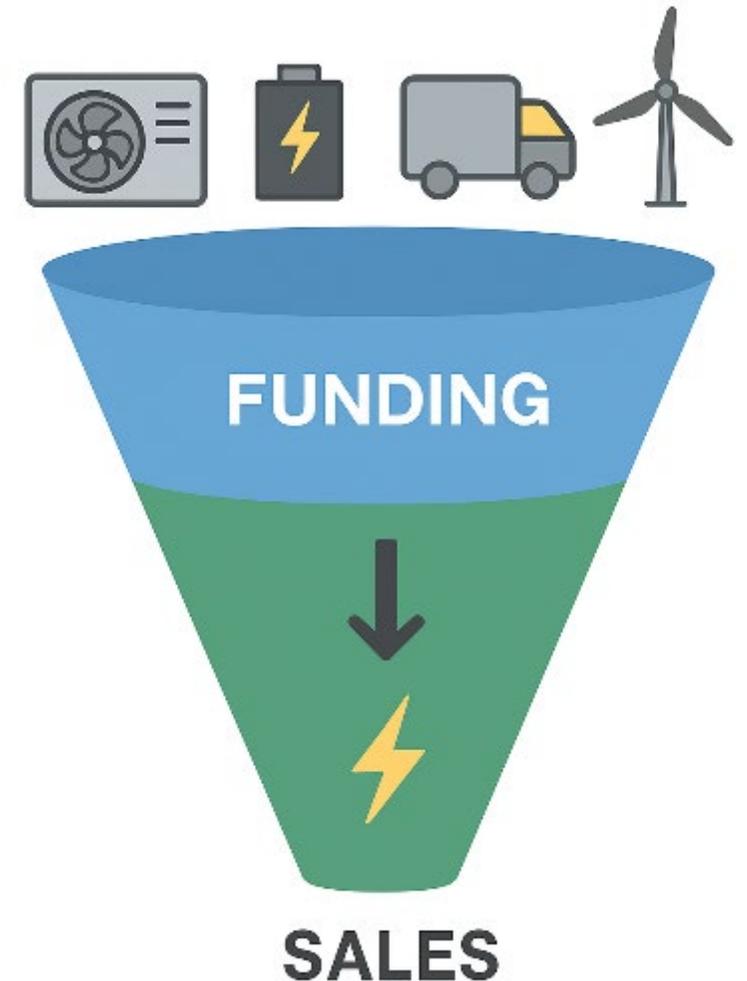
## How Evaluation Adds Value

- Demonstrates tangible impact of early-stage product investments
- Tracks long-term outcomes of investments
- Supports smarter, faster investment decisions

This first-of-its-kind evaluation provides a framework for Innovation and Research (I&R) program evaluation, showing the long-term value of program investments.

# Background

- NYSERDA's Innovation & Research team aims to:
  - advance development of innovative, reliable, efficient, and disruptive clean energy technologies
  - increase market acceptance and adoption
- From 2016–2020, NYSERDA invested \$109M in 161 products across four technical areas:
  - Building Innovation
  - Clean Transportation
  - Grid Modernization
  - Renewables Optimization
- DNV Evaluated NYSERDA's I&R investments and track product progress through the innovation funnel.



# Research Objectives

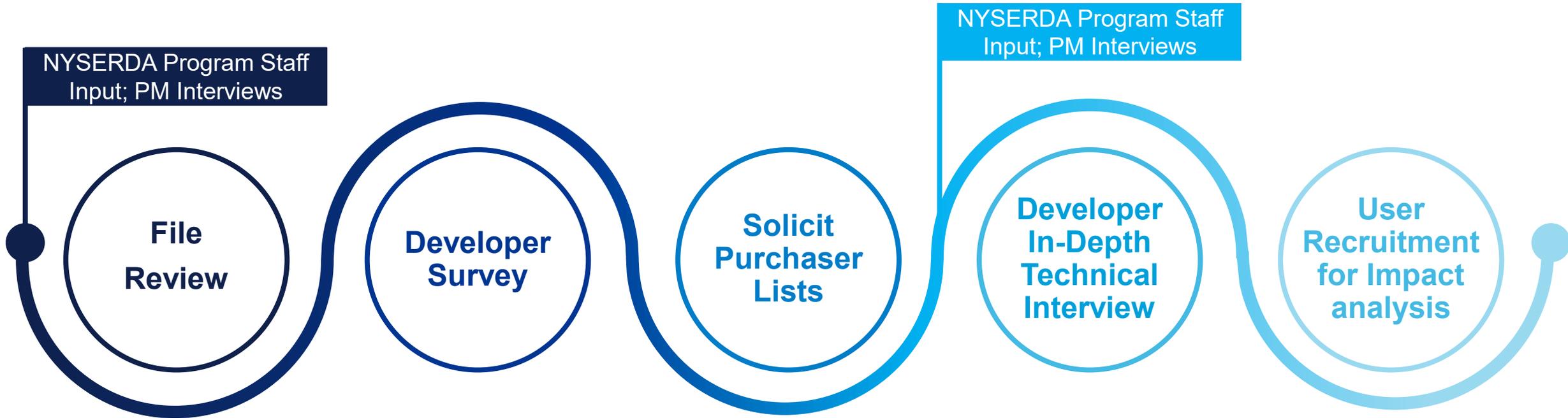
Objectives	Categories
Characterize projects and products	Types of developer companies funded, technology types and end-use customer sectors
Identify disruptive products	Create, scale, or disrupt a market
Estimate direct and indirect benefits*, energy or non-energy to contractor companies, customers of products, supply chain actors, and communities	<p><u>Energy</u>: Annualized first-year electric (kWh), natural gas (MMBtu), and other energy savings</p> <p><u>Economic</u>: Total energy bill cost savings (\$), ROI, sales, and revenue generated (\$), jobs</p> <p><u>Other</u>: GHG, increased safety, air quality, time saved, improved usability, etc.</p>
Identify barriers and catalysts to product development, scalability of developed products	Attribution, successful PONs, barriers and catalysts to replication, factors leading to or hindering commercialization and/or sales
Identify opportunities for program improvement	Program process improvements and recommendations

\*all impacts of R&D are defined as “indirect” because development was incentivized by NYSERDA, rather than directly purchased/installed by a program.

# Our Approach

Activity	Product set	Count	Scope of Study	Data sources
 <b>Products population summary</b>	All	161	Characterize projects and products, funding, timing	Project data Metrics survey PM interviews
 <b>Process Improvement</b>	Developer survey respondents	109	Assess rates of commercialization, barriers, catalysts, opportunities	Developer survey
 <b>Market characterization</b>	Subset with disruptive or high impact potential	57	Characterize markets and disruptive potential of products	Developer survey I&R staff interviews
 <b>Benefits evaluation</b>	Subset with sales	18	Estimate impacts: energy, economic, and non-energy benefits	Developer In-Depth Interviews
 <b>Case Studies</b>	Subset with customer interviews or verification data	3	Detailed success stories	Customer interviews/ Verification data

# Data Collection Activities



NYSERDA Program Staff  
Input; PM Interviews

**File  
Review**

**Developer  
Survey**

**Solicit  
Purchaser  
Lists**

NYSERDA Program Staff  
Input; PM Interviews

**Developer  
In-Depth  
Technical  
Interview**

**User  
Recruitment  
for Impact  
analysis**



*All products (161)*

- Project data
- Metrics survey
- Project SOW/ reports
- Website



*Attempt all products (109 responses)*

- Impact estimates
- Barriers/ catalysts
- Purchase chain



*Attempt all survey respondents with sales and high/medium disruptive potential (20)*



*Subset of survey respondents (18)*

- Technical clarifications
- Verification data
- Attribution
- Barrier/catalyst



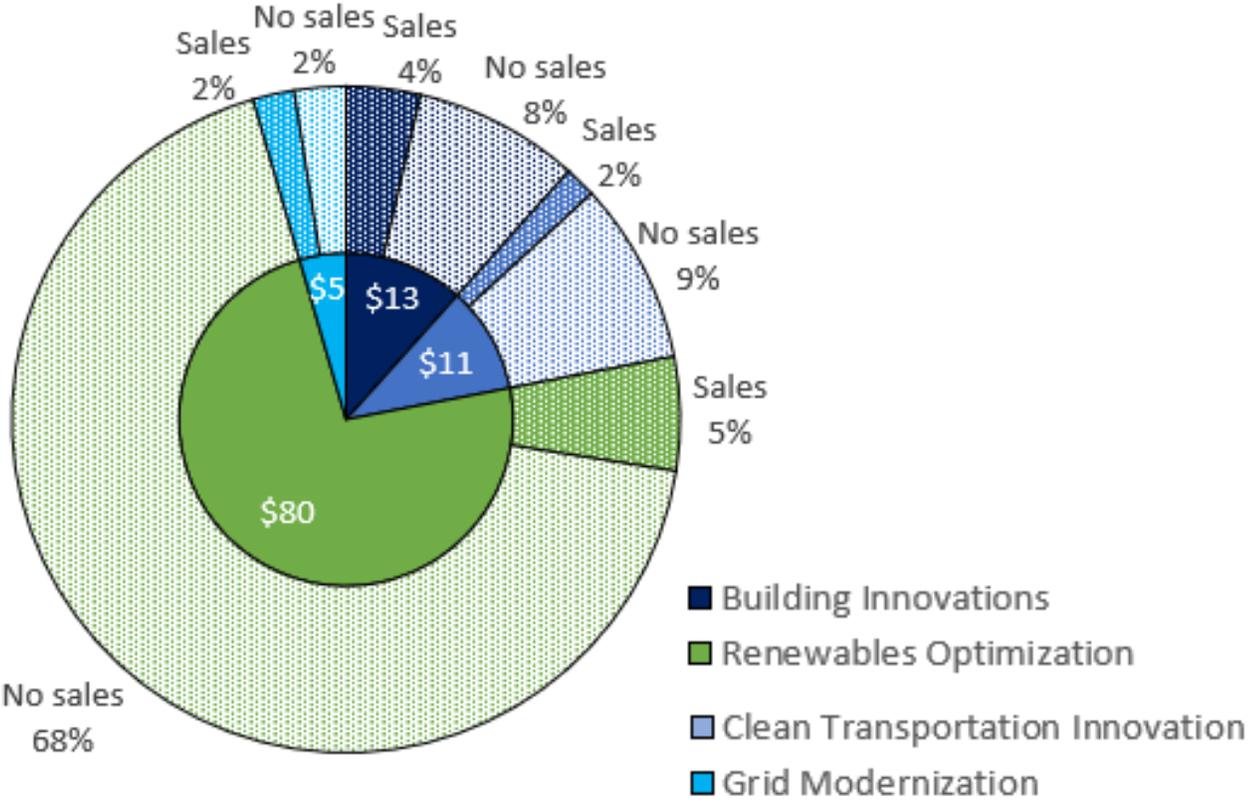
*Sample from user lists (3)*

- User project details
- Verification data



n = 161

# Findings: Products population summary



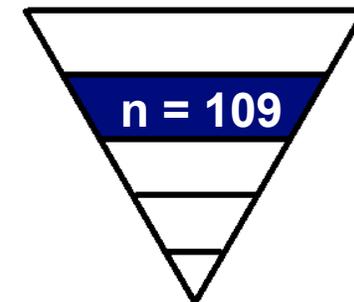
- Product sales indicates commercialization: 23% of projects and 13% of investments resulted in sales
- Other benefits not evaluated: increased product/market awareness, fostered replication, future engagements

Total NYSERDA funding by program area (million \$)

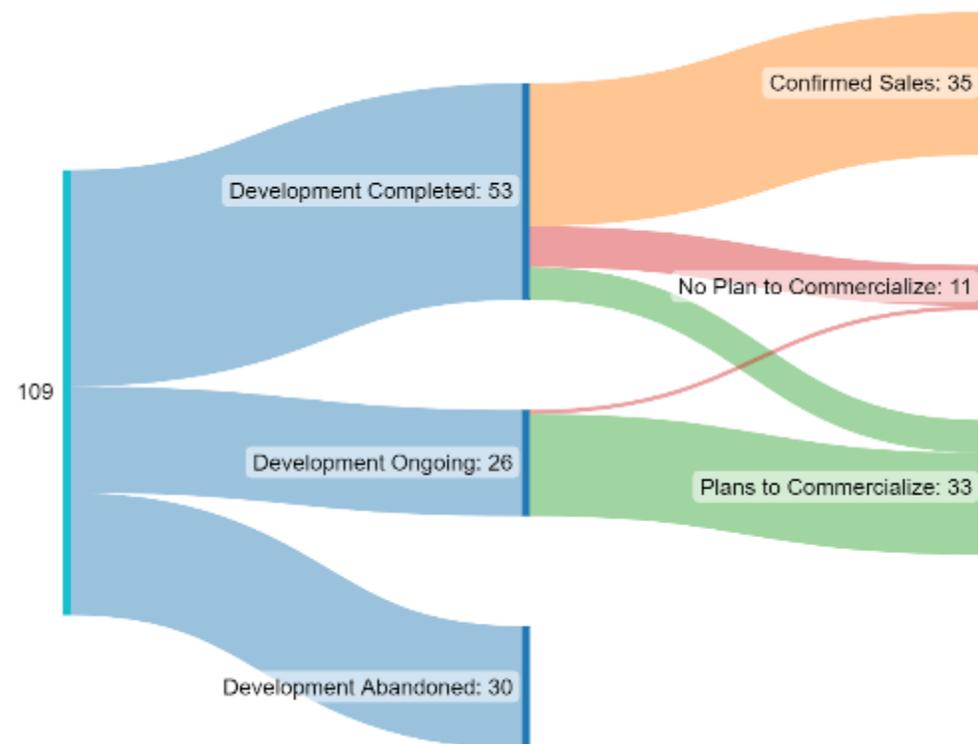




# Findings: Developer self-reports of product status

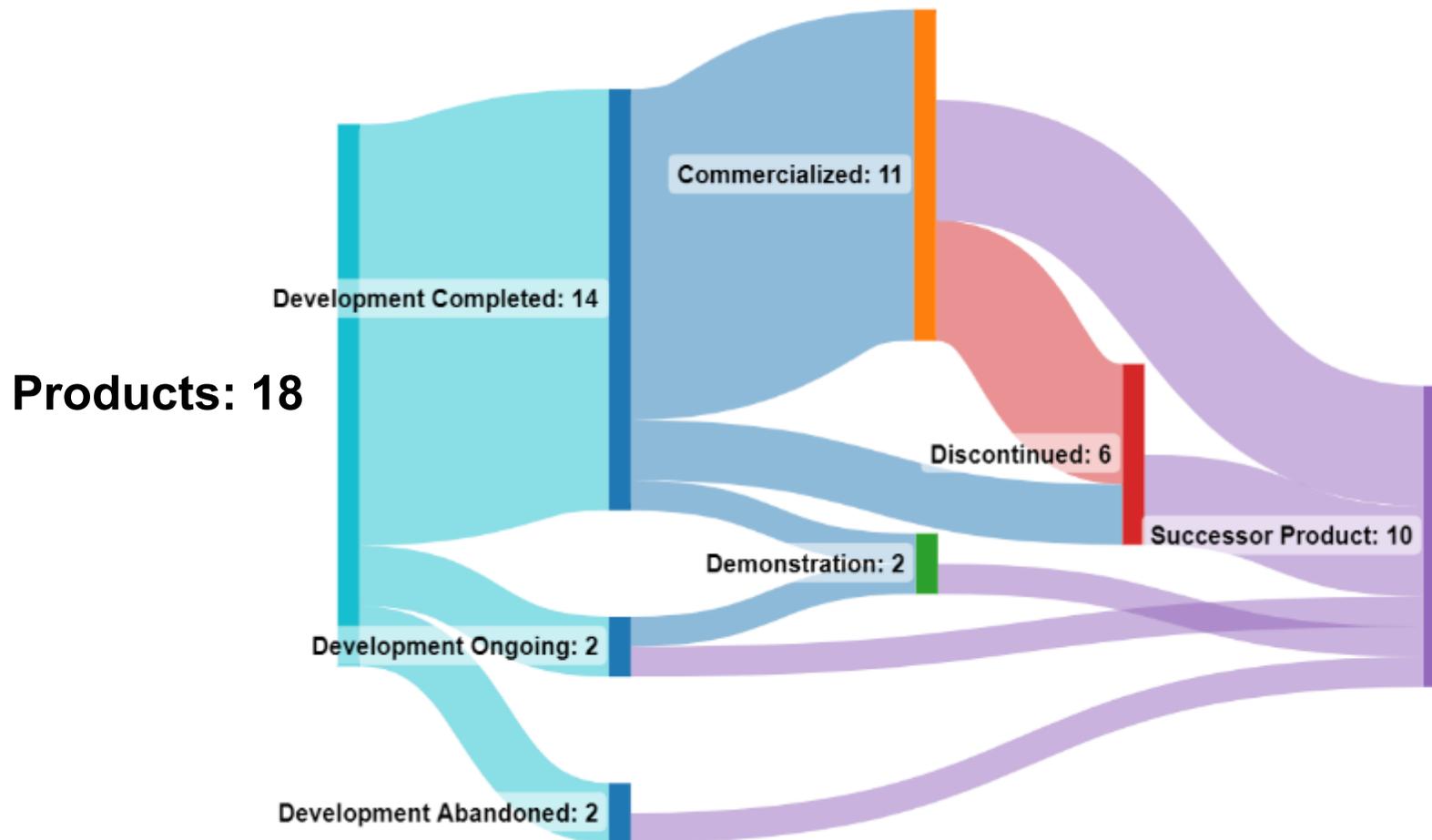
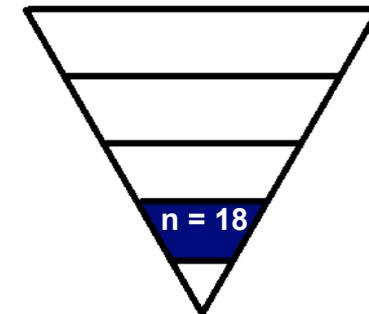


Program Area	Complete	Ongoing	Abandoned	Total
Advanced Buildings	20	8	10	38
Clean Transportation	15	6	6	27
Smart Grid Systems and Distributed Energy Integration	4	0	2	6
Renewable Optimization and Energy Storage	14	12	12	38
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>109</b>





# Findings: Development Status for high impact and disruptive potential products

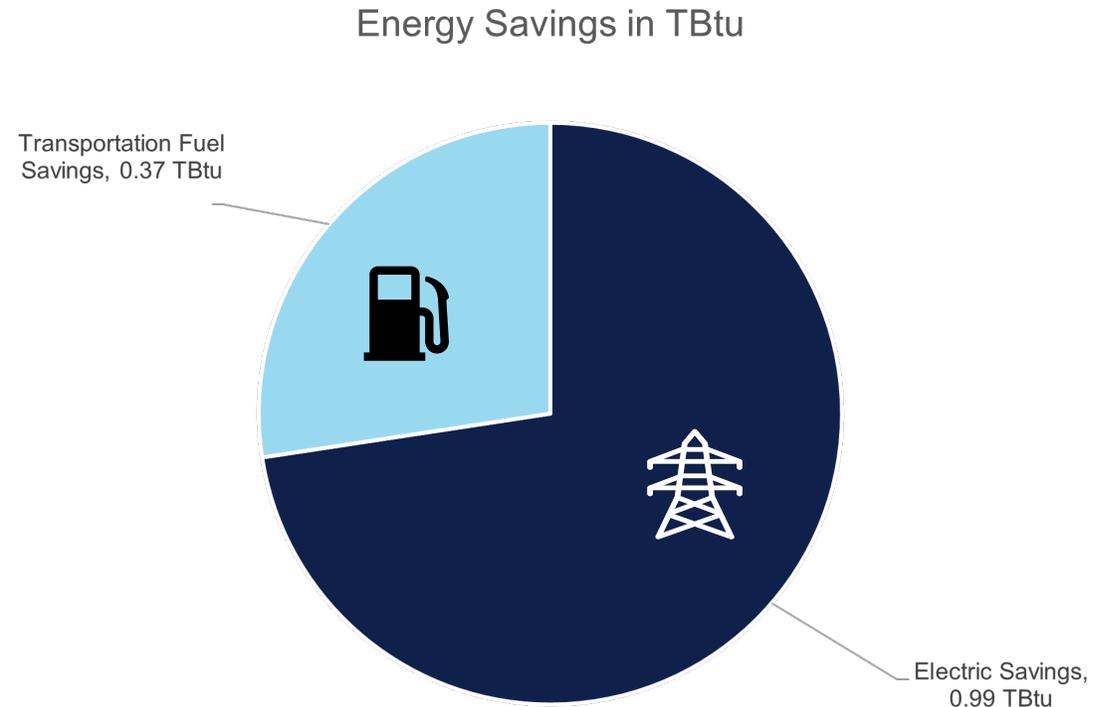


# Energy Impacts (to date) for 11 Commercialized Products

TOTAL energy savings (electric + fuel): 1.36 TBtu

Electric savings of 289,700 MWh across 7 products

Transportation fuel savings for 2 products



# Economic Impacts for Commercialized Products

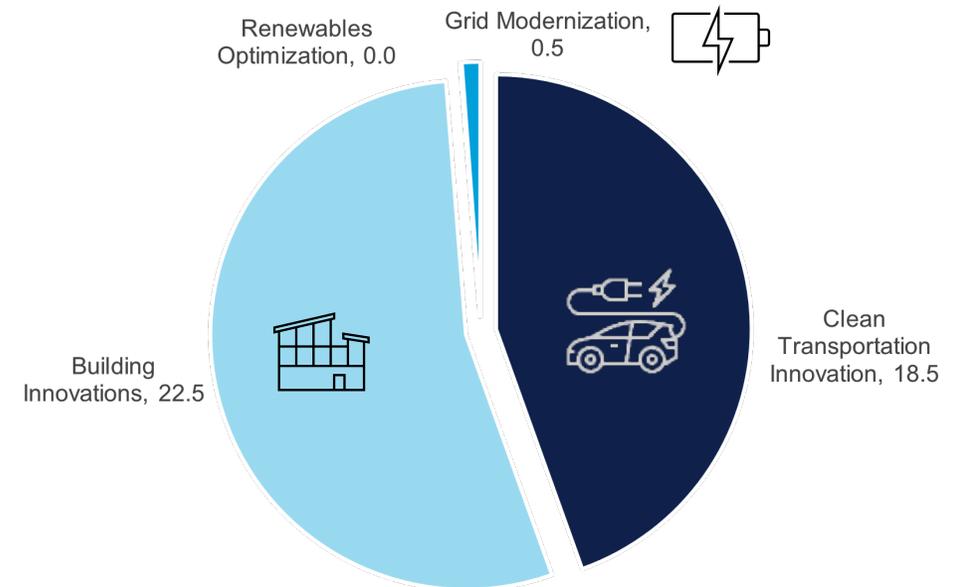
11 products returned a total of \$66.5 million in economic impacts from a \$7.23 million NYSERDA Investment

The population of products received \$109.2 million NYSERDA Investment

Gross Consumer Benefit (n=18)\* is 9.19 times the NYSERDA Investment

Lower Bound Overall Gross Consumer Benefit (n=161) = 61%

ROI: Economic Impact divided by Investment



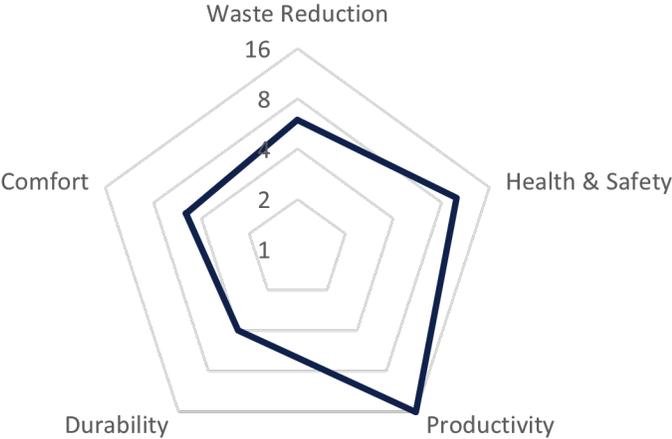
\*Gross Consumer Benefit = Economic impact/NYSERDA investment for selected products

Economic cost-benefit analysis was limited to fuel/electric bill savings, O&M costs, avoided replacements, manufacturing cost, construction and accident avoidance.

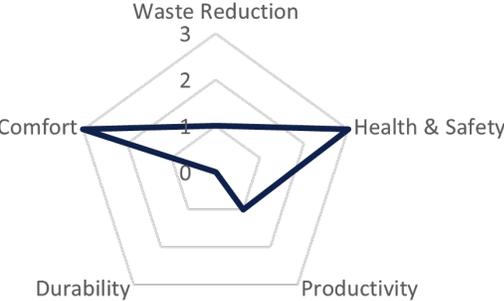
# Impacts by Program Area



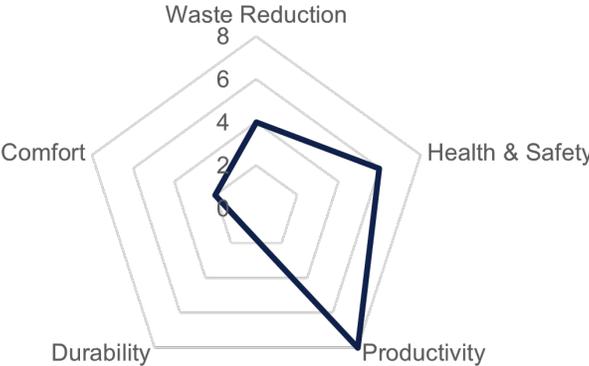
Other Impacts | Total for all Program Areas



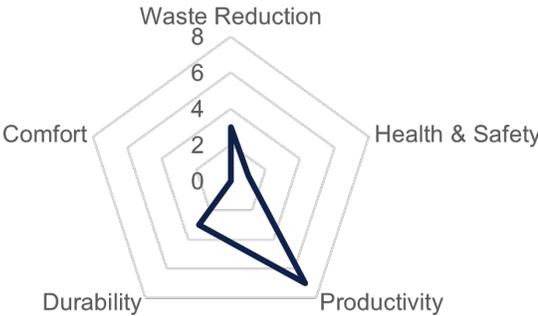
Clean Transportation



Advanced Buildings



Renewable Optimization and Energy Storage Innovation



# Challenges

Low success rate of early-stage products

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Challenges of tracking market diffusion and long-term impacts of early-stage products

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Pivot of product development to adapt to new market needs

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Diversity and complexity of products

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# Recommendations

Predict probability of development to market and disruptive potential

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Early impacts and market potential estimates from developers,  
Longitudinal sales data collection

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Include impacts from successor products

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Create a library of calculation templates and processes

Adaptable and automated key metrics data collection

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Thank you

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