

Report shows efficiency programs reduce consumption

Jan. 16 -- An Electric Power Research Institute report shows energy efficiency programs realistically can reduce U.S. electricity consumption by 22% by 2030, as policymakers and utilities look to reduce carbon emissions and manage energy resources.

The potential energy savings would be 236 billion kilowatt-hours, enough for 14 New York Cities, according to the EPRI analysis, titled "Assessment of Achievable Savings Potential From Energy Efficiency and Demand Response in the U.S." The U.S. Energy Information projects a 1.07% annual growth rate for electricity demand. Energy efficiency programs could slow that rate to 0.83% per year, a 22% reduction.

Sharper cuts could be made, reducing the annual demand increase to 0.68%, but that would require costly programs and political, regulatory intervention and perfect consumer awareness. The report is available at www.epri.com.

"This study is well-suited to inform utilities, policymakers, regulators and other stakeholder groups," said Arshad Mansoor, vice president of power deliver and utilization for EPRI.

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