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# ROOFTOP PHOTOVOLTAIC POTENTIAL IN ATLANTIC CANADA

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Natural Resources Canada - CanmetENERGY in Varennes

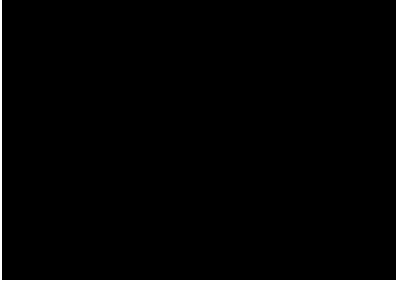
Atlantic Canadian Conference on Energy System Modelling  
June 19, 2024, Moncton, NB

# OUTLINE

- Context
- Photovoltaic technical potential in the Atlantic provinces
- Economic and market potential
- Next steps and open questions



# CONTEXT



# SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) APPLICATIONS



**Bhadla Solar Plant, India – 2 245 MW**  
*Source: T&D World*



**Net Zero House, Lincoln, Massachusetts, USA**  
*Source: Fine Homebuilding*



**Floating PV, 40 MW, Huainan, China**



**Agrivoltaic application**  
*Source: Enel Green Power*

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**PV-Storage Microgrid, 28 MW, Hawaii**  
*Source: AES Hawai'i*



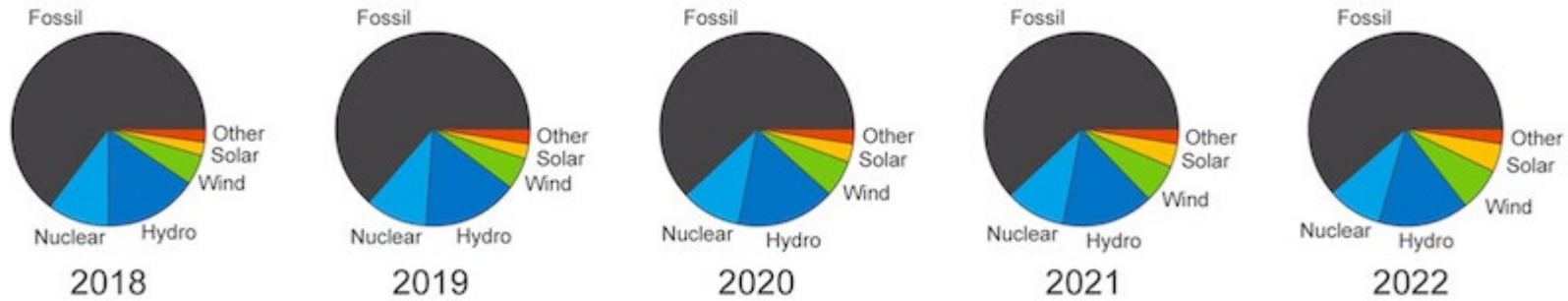
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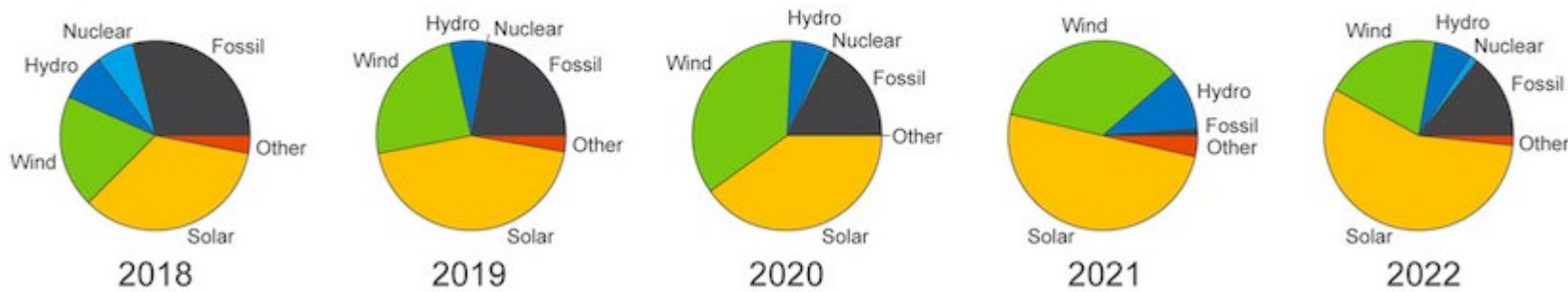
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# STATUS OF PV WORLDWIDE

## Global Electricity Generation



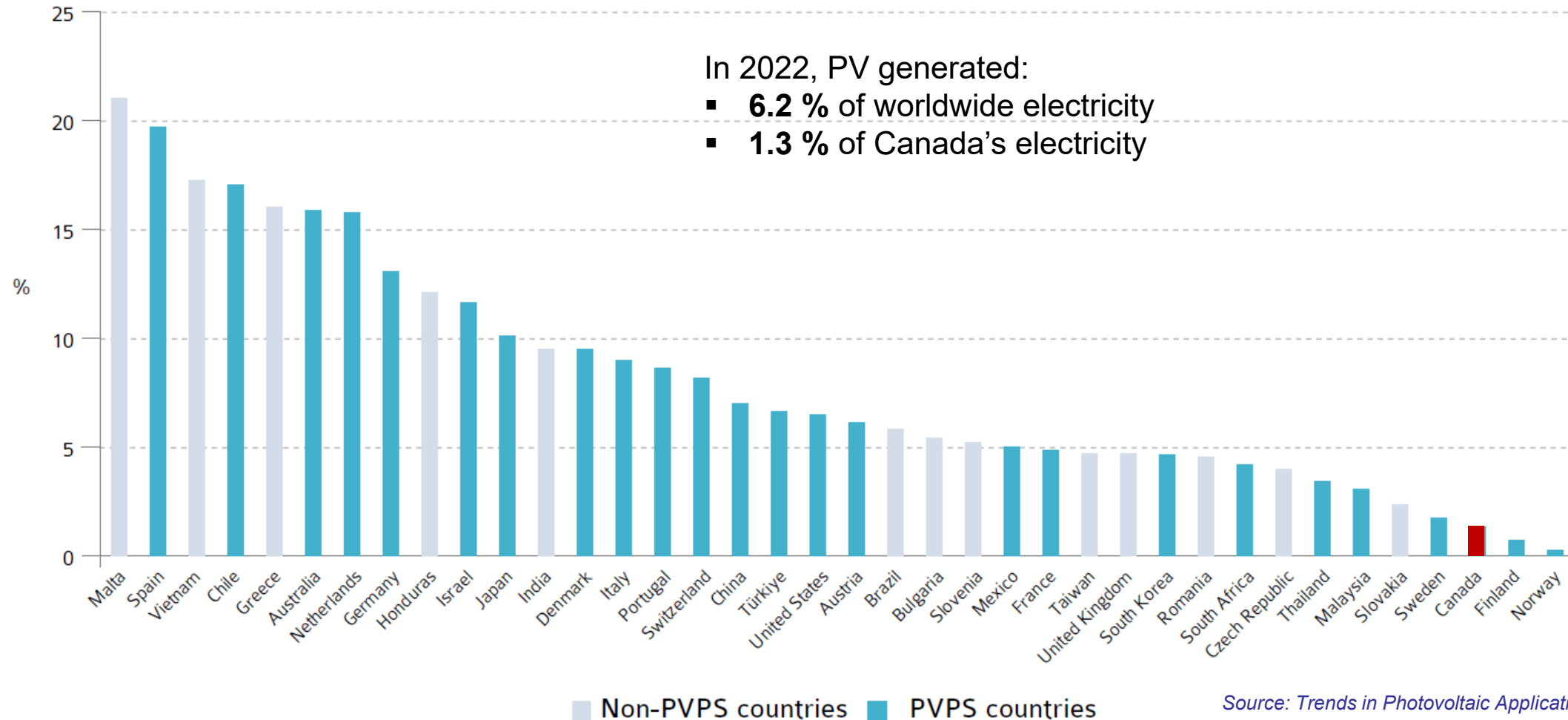
## Net Expansions of Global Electricity Capacity



Source: NREL, <https://www.nrel.gov/news/program/2023/how-renewable-energy-is-transforming-the-global-electricity-supply.html>



# GLOBAL SOLAR PV ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION

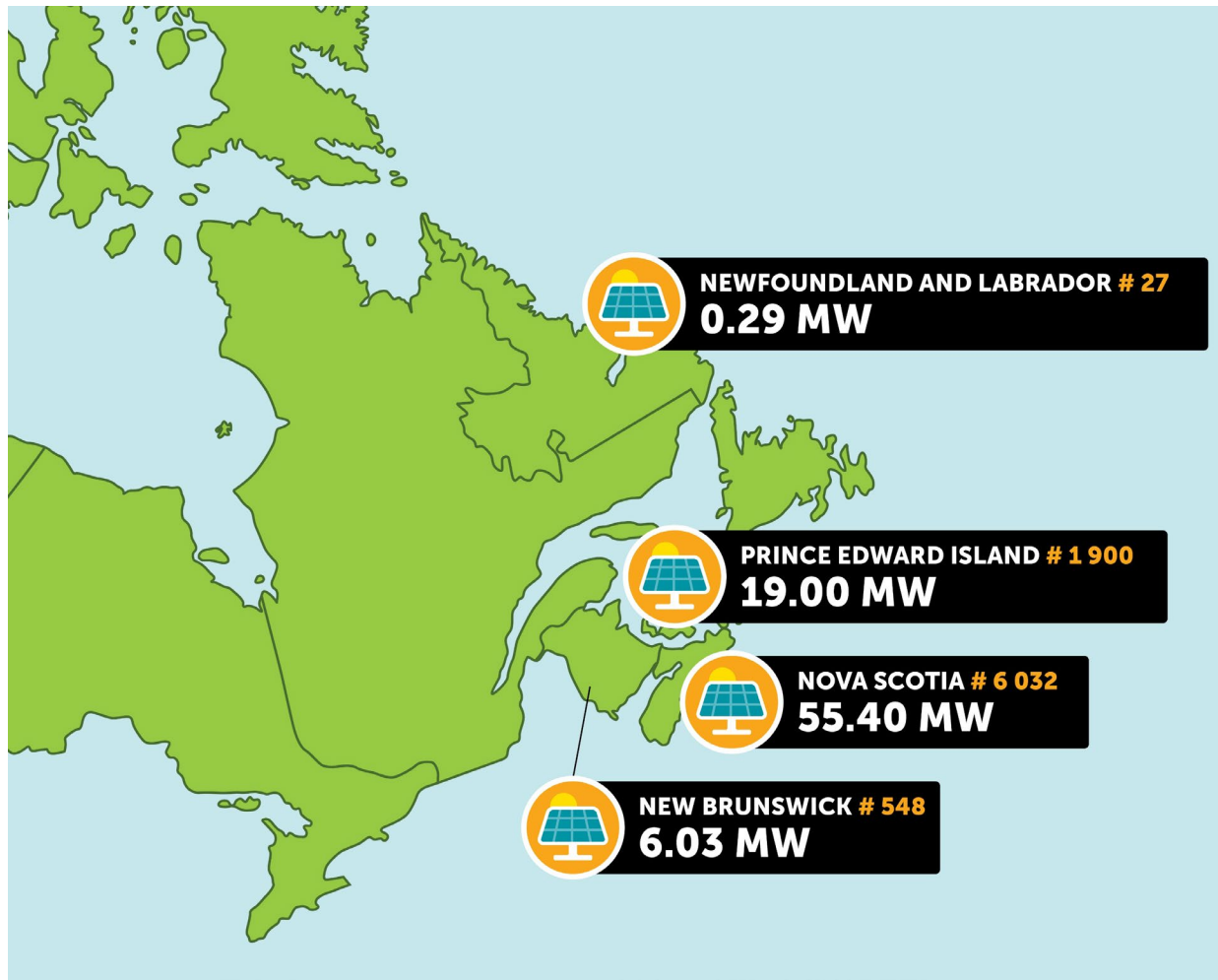


Source: Trends in Photovoltaic Applications 2022 (IEA PVPS)



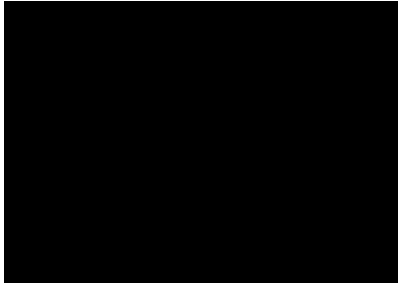
# PV IN THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

## Installed capacity and number of systems per province (December 2022)



Province	Solar incentives (\$/W)	System cost (\$/W) and financing options
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	3.53 – 4.31 None
Prince Edward Island	1	2.73 – 3.33 Energy loans
Nova Scotia	0.3	2.74 – 3.35 Property Assessed Clean Energy
New Brunswick	0.2	2.65 – 3.24 Energy loan

# PV TECHNICAL POTENTIAL IN THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

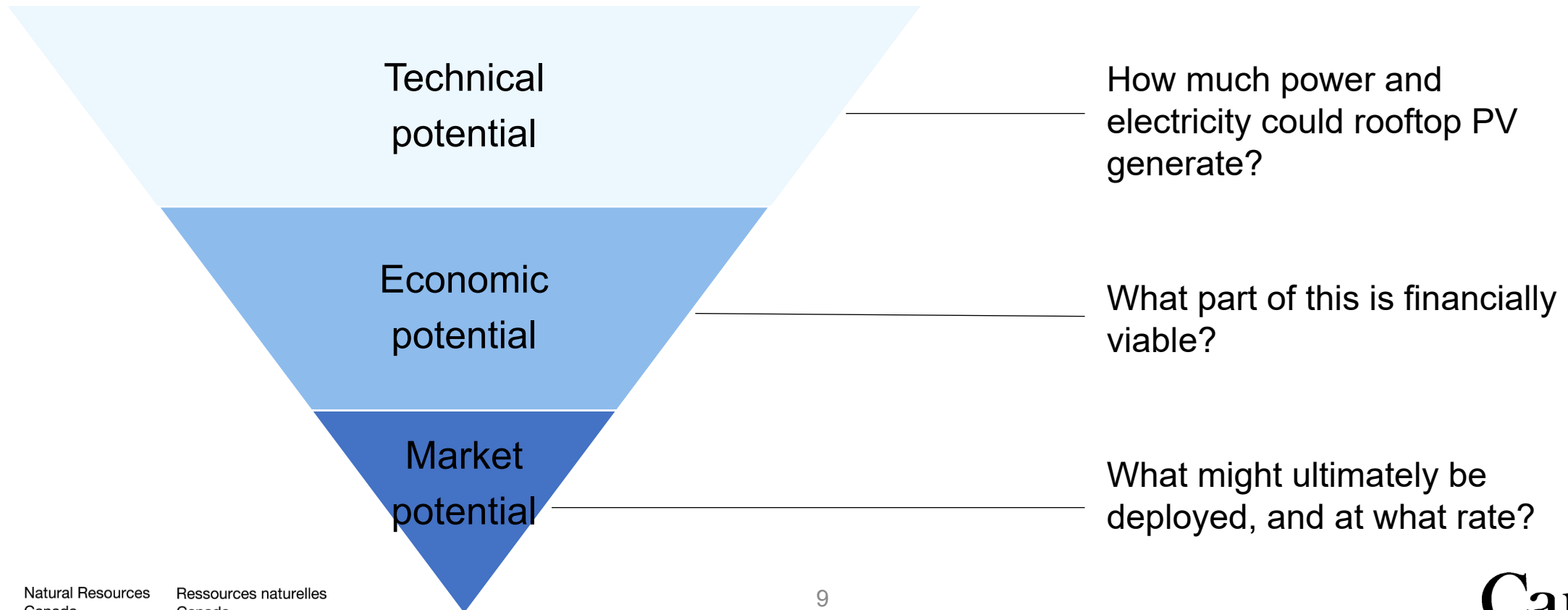




# ROOFTOP PV POTENTIAL IN THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

## KEY QUESTIONS

- Atlantic provinces building stock:
  - ~900,000 residential, commercial and institutional buildings
  - Combined footprint of ~140 km<sup>2</sup> (about the same area as the City of Moncton!)

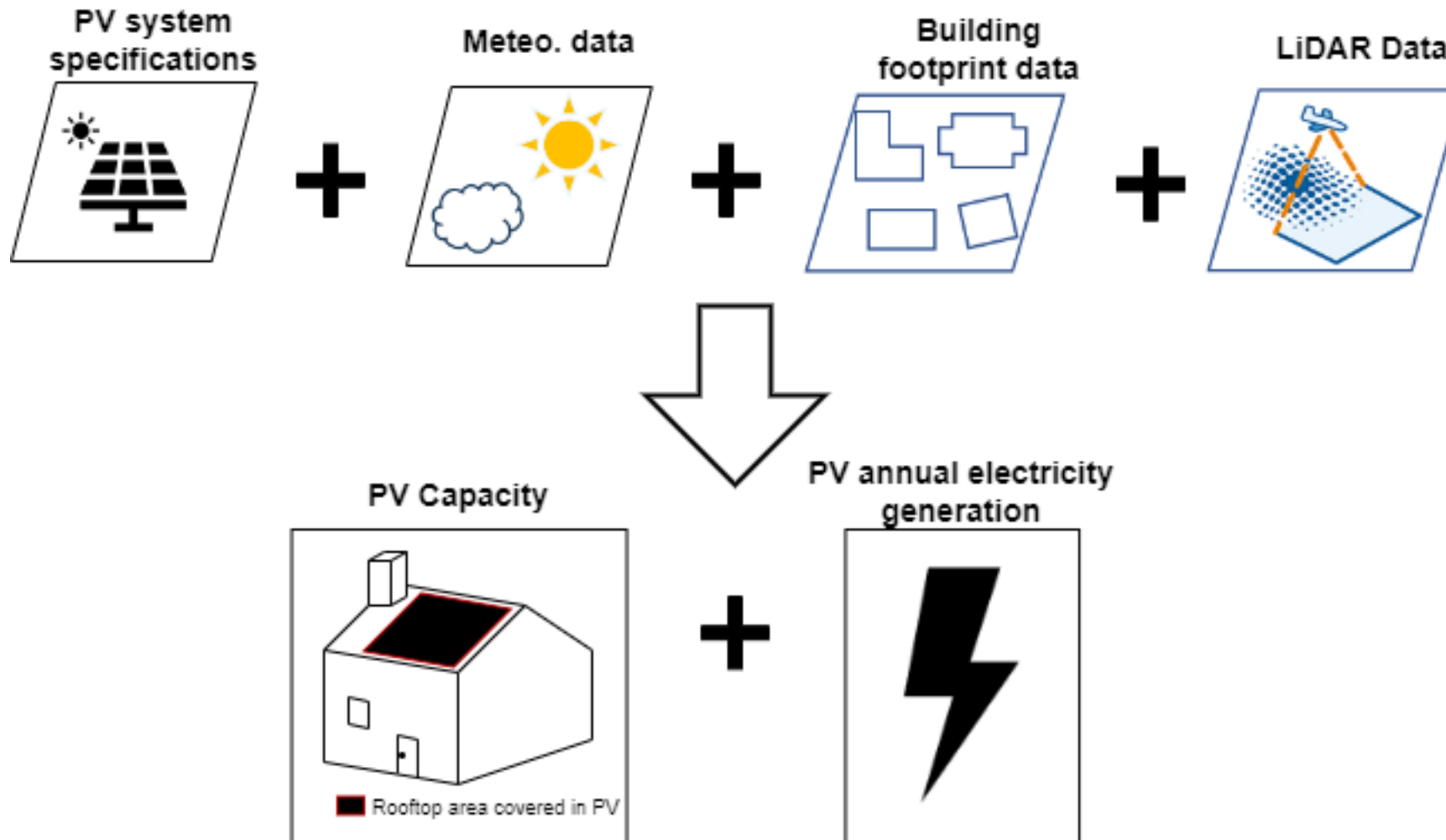


# ROOFTOP PV TECHNICAL POTENTIAL: METHODOLOGY

- Step 1: Developed a statistical method based on detailed analysis of 11 municipalities
- Step 2: Used the statistical method to calculate technical potential for each province and territory



# STEP 1: PROCESS OVERVIEW

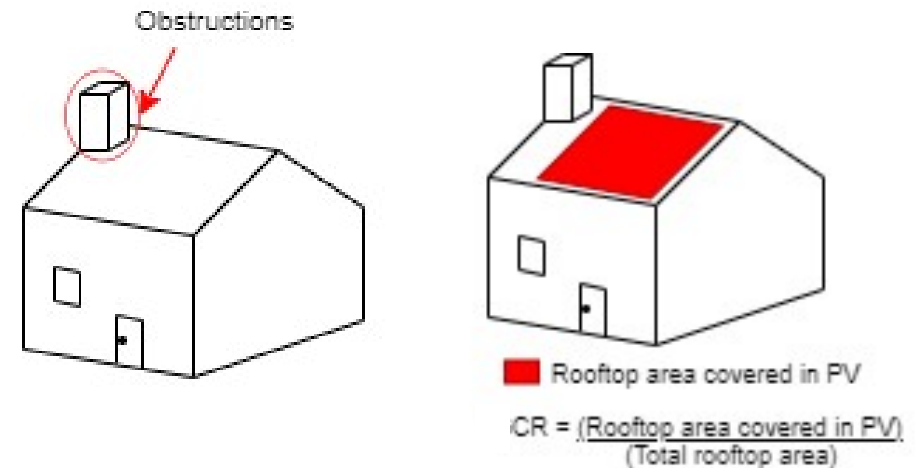


# STEP 1: STATISTICAL METHOD

$$P_{rooftops} = A_{ground\ floor} * U_{F2} * \eta_{PV}$$

$$E_{rooftops} = P_{rooftops} * H_{optimal} * PR * Y_r$$

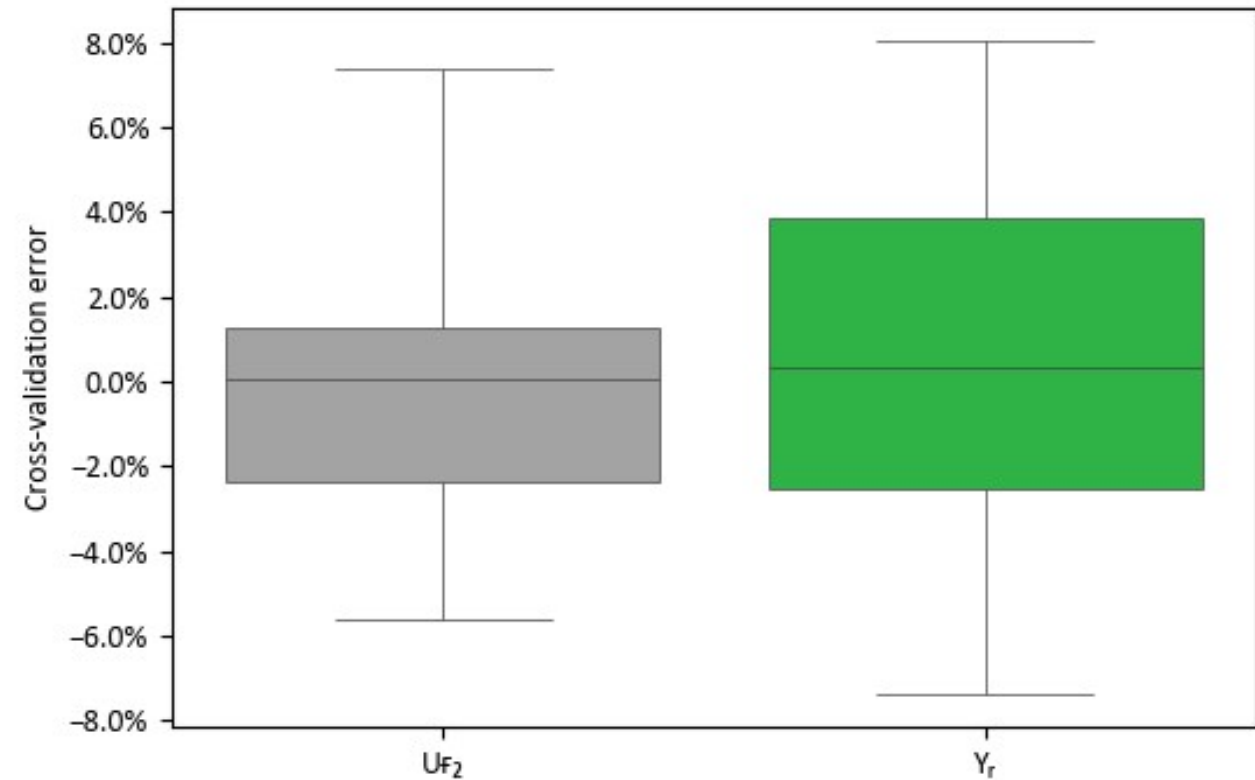
- Two fitted coefficients:  $U_{F2}$  and  $Y_r$
- $U_{F2}$  relates to available area:
  - Ground floor to rooftop area conversion
  - Obstructions
  - PV array rooftop coverage (CR)
- $Y_r$  relates to solar resource: impact of shading and rooftop orientation



# CROSS-VALIDATION

- Coefficients  $U_{F2}$  and  $Y_r$  calculated for each municipality and averaged
- Uncertainty of coefficients assessed with cross-validation
  - Averaged coefficients for 10 municipalities
  - Applied calculated coefficients to the remaining municipality
  - Calculated error for each municipality in turn

	Coefficient
$U_{F2}$	0.81
$Y_r$	0.70



## STEP 2: ESTIMATING ROOFTOP PV POTENTIAL FOR EACH PROVINCE AND TERRITORY

- Estimate the rooftop PV potential across Canada and its provinces and territories using the statistical method
  
- Input data
  - Building stock data:
    - Comprehensive Energy Use Database (2019)
    - Survey of Commercial and Institutional Energy Use (2019)
    - Survey of Household Energy Use (2019)
  
  - Solar resource from NRCan solar and PV potential municipal datasets
  
- Analysis includes residential, commercial, and institutional buildings
  
- Estimated standard uncertainty: 25%

# RESULTS: ROOFTOP PV TECHNICAL POTENTIAL FOR THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

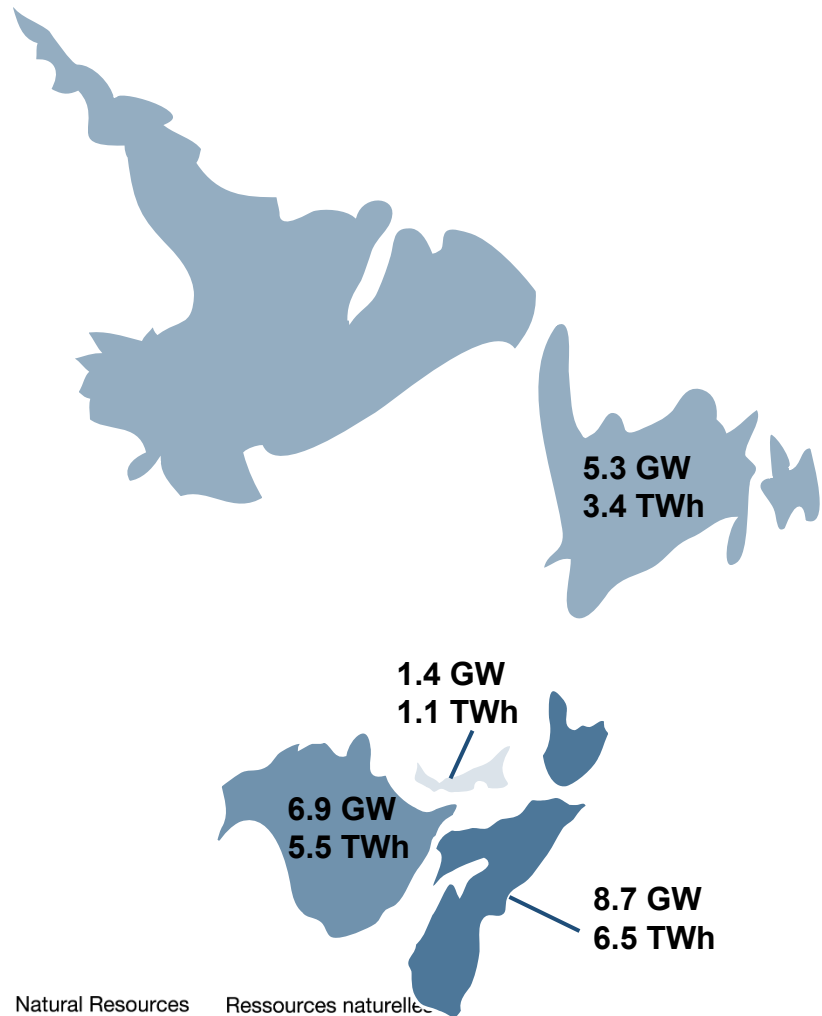
- Rooftop PV potential capacity is **22 GW**. Total generation fleet capacity for the region is 11 GW (CODERS).
- Rooftop PV electricity generation potential is **16.5 TWh per year**. This corresponds to 46 % of total electricity use (36 TWh, CEUD), or 66 % of electricity use in residential, commercial and institutional buildings.
- Electricity generation potential as percent of consumption is greater for residential buildings (110 %) than for commercial and institutional buildings (43 %).



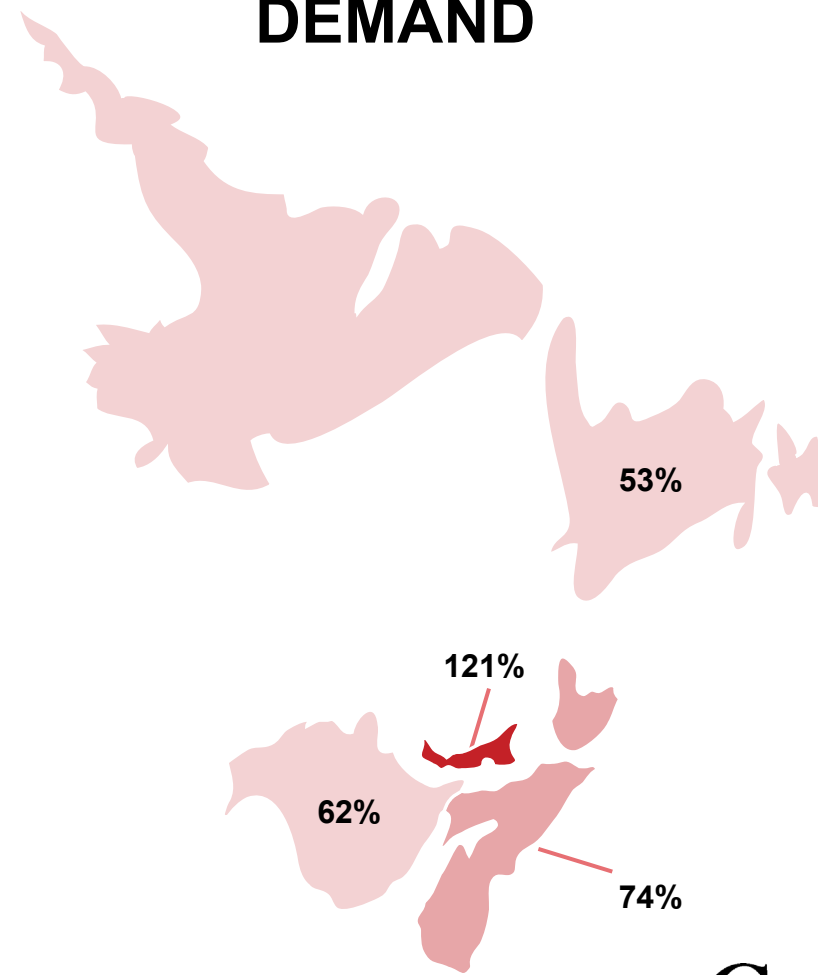
[Link to report](#)

# RESULTS: ROOFTOP PV TECHNICAL POTENTIAL BREAKDOWN BY PROVINCE

## CAPACITY AND ELECTRICITY



## PERCENTAGE OF ANNUAL BUILDING DEMAND



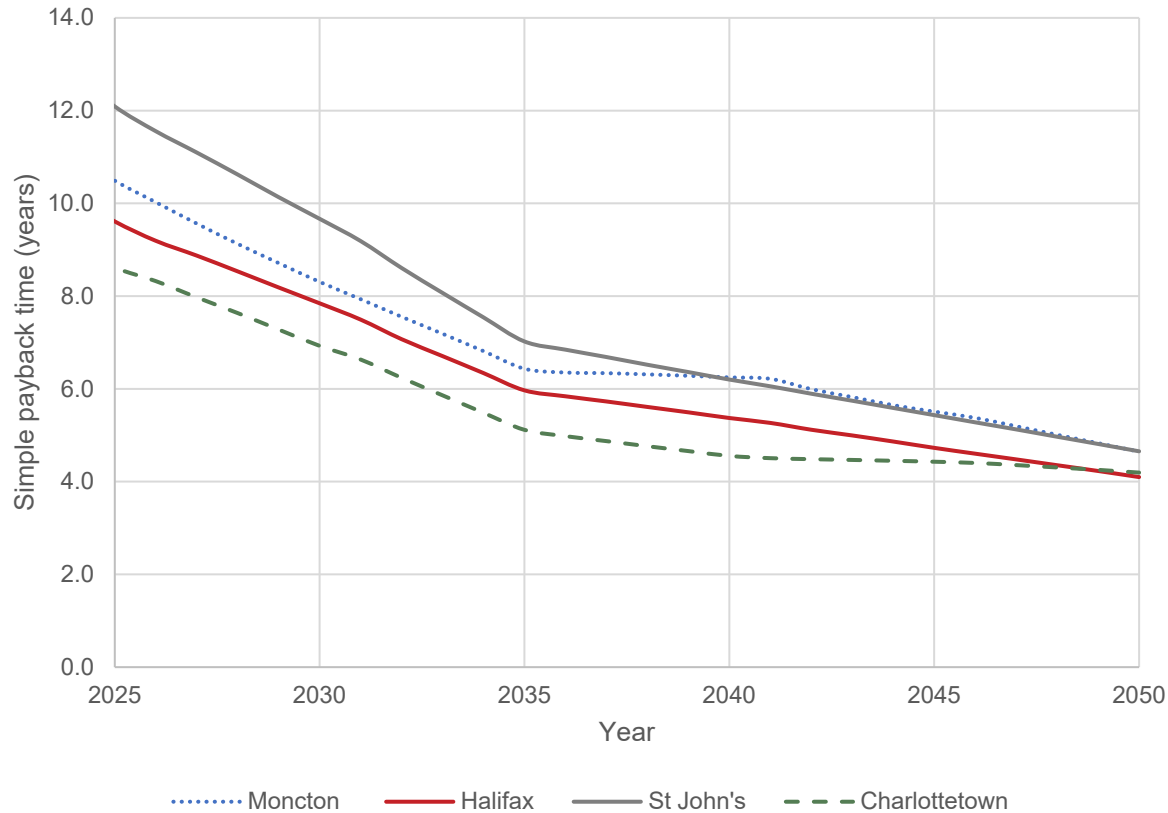


# ECONOMIC AND MARKET POTENTIAL

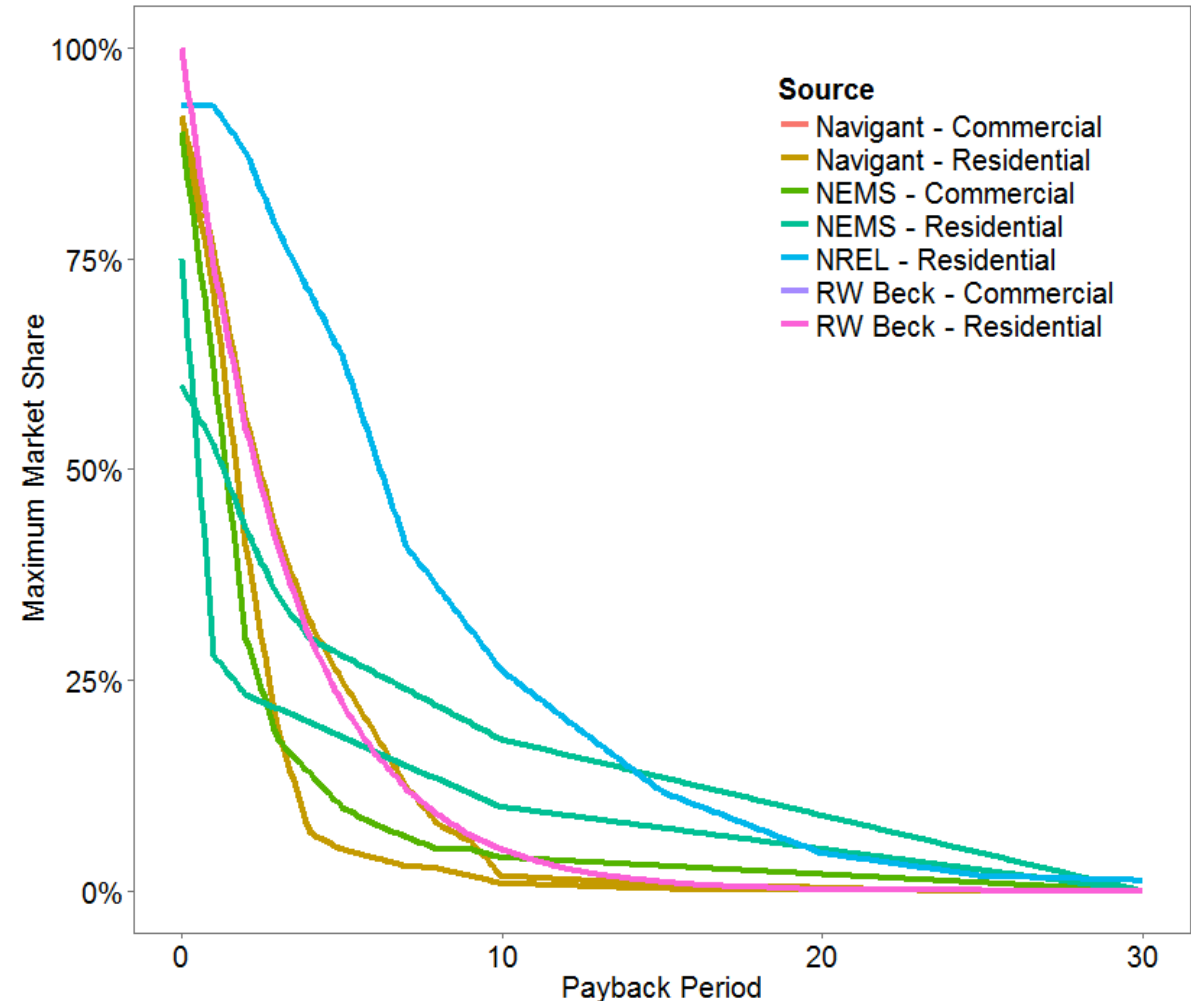


# ECONOMIC POTENTIAL: WHAT PART OF THIS IS FINANCIALLY VIABLE?

Simple payback time evolution - Illustration



\*Subsidies were ignored; NREL ATB moderate cost decline ratios; PV systems with good orientation and low shading; CER annual electricity prices GNZ scenario

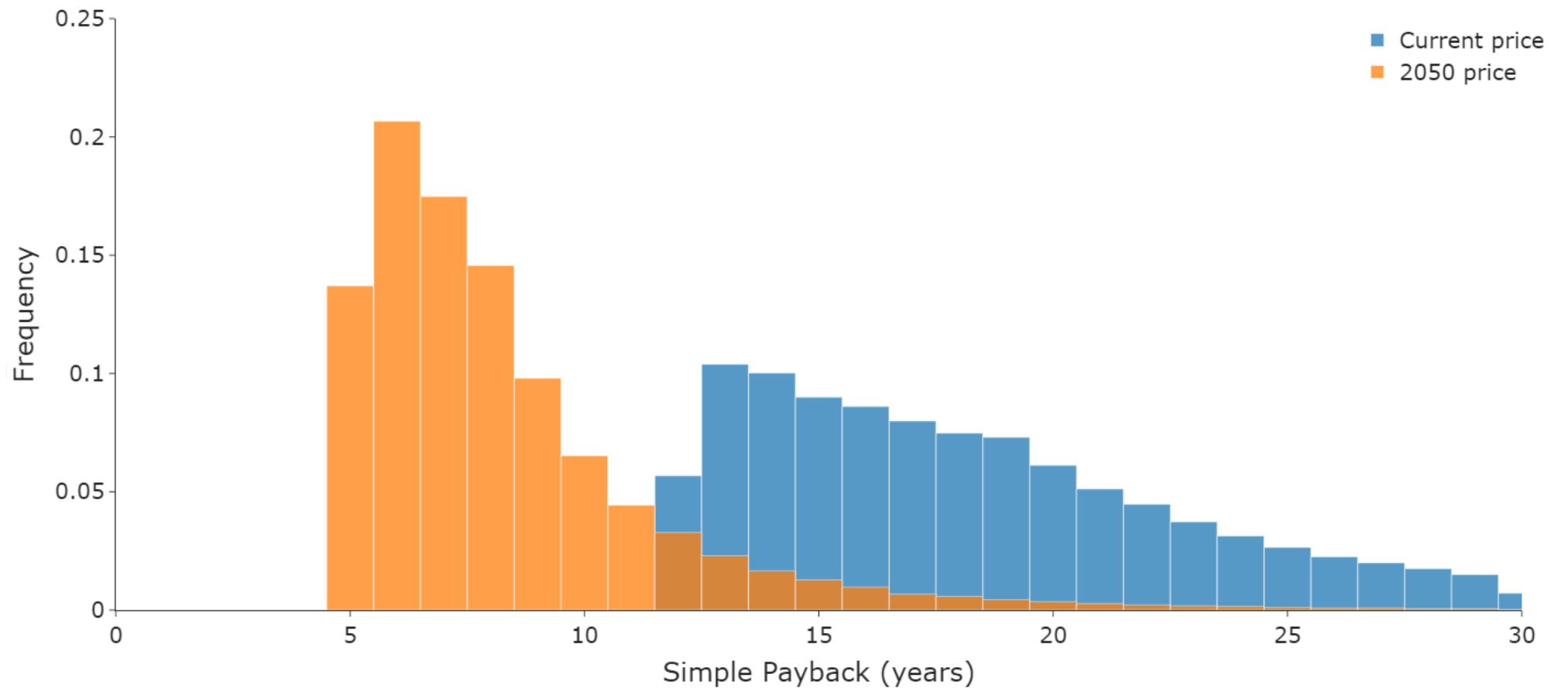


Source: B. Sigrin et al., 2016, The Distributed Generation Market Demand Model (dGen): Documentation



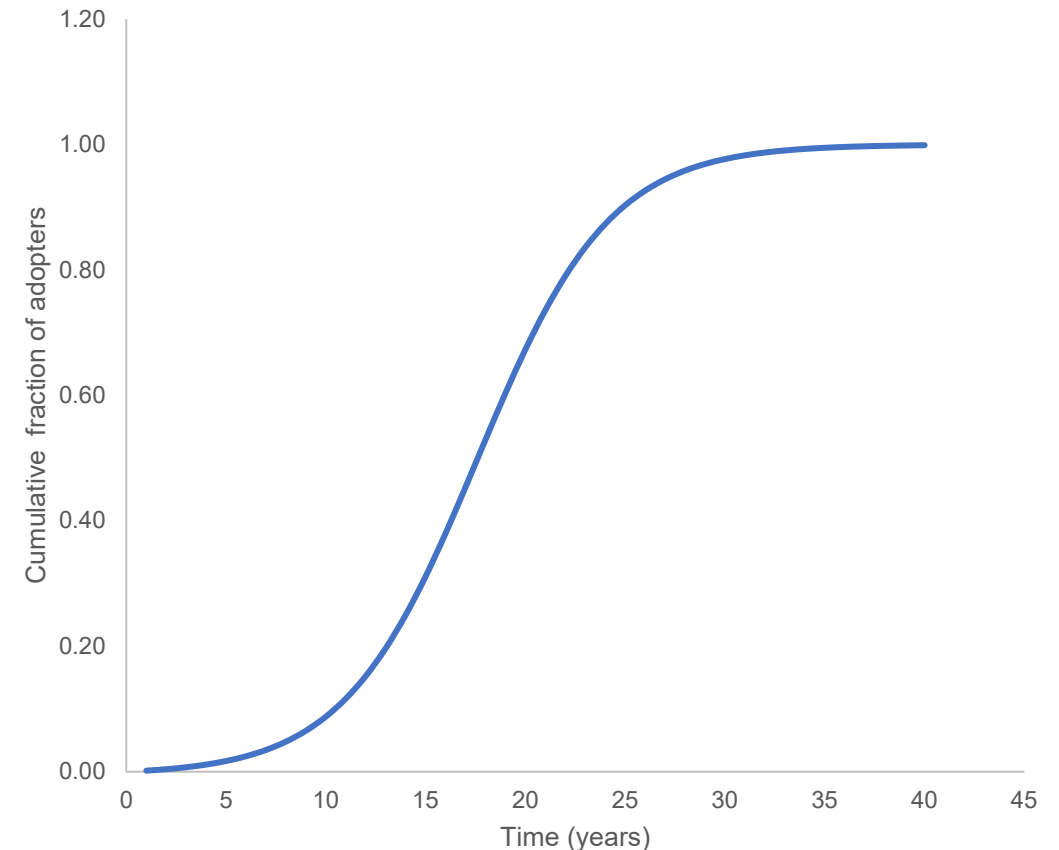
# ECONOMIC POTENTIAL: HOW DOES IT VARY ACROSS ROOFTOPS?

Distribution of simple payback for Moncton, now and in 2050



# MARKET POTENTIAL: WHAT ARE POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT SCENARIOS?

- Deployment will be affected by multiple, evolving factors:
  - PV costs
  - Electricity costs
  - Subsidies (if any)
  - Financing schemes
  - Regulatory requirements
  - Electricity grid hosting capacity
  - Growth in building stock
  - Building owner preference
- Currently studying deployment scenarios using the Bass diffusion model



# NEXT STEPS AND OPEN QUESTIONS



# NEXT STEPS AND OPEN QUESTIONS

## ■ Next steps:

- Find reasonable parameter ranges for the Bass diffusion model
- Select scenarios for building stock growth, PV and electricity cost evolution
- Generate deployment scenarios for each province/territory, based on 11 municipal test cases

## ■ Open questions:

- How will grid integration considerations and advances in power conversion equipment (e.g. inverters) influence rooftop PV deployment?
- How will the policy and regulatory environments evolve?
- How should electricity system planning/operation models account for distributed resources like rooftop PV, demand side management, and storage?

# ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



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