

1606 Eversource Behavior Program Persistence Evaluation

REVISED DRAFT

April 9, 2017

SUBMITTED TO: Energy Efficiency Board Evaluation Consultants

SUBMITTED BY: NMR Group, Inc.



Table of Contents

EXECUTIV	/E SUMMARY	I
SECTION	1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	PROGRAM AND EVALUATION HISTORY	1
1.2	STUDY OUTCOME AND OBJECTIVES	4
1.3	Key Definitions	7
1.4	METHODOLOGY	9
SECTION	2 STUDY RESULTS	12
2.1	ELECTRICITY SAVINGS	12
2.2	BENCHMARKING DEGRADATION RATES TO OTHER EXISTING STUDIES	20
2.3	COST-EFFECTIVENESS: EXPENDITURES-TO-SAVINGS RATIO	21
2.4	OPTIMAL PROGRAM DELIVERY SCENARIOS	24
SECTION	3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	45
	X A EXPANDED METHODS	1
Appendiz U	K B ADDITIONAL COMPARISONS OF SAVINGS BY TREATMENT GROUP NDER VARIOUS SCENARIOS	1

Figures

FIGURE 1: DAILY KWH SAVINGS PER HOUSEHOLD BY TREATMENT GROUP	15
FIGURE 2: ANNUALIZED SAVINGS IN KWH PER HOUSEHOLD, BY TREATMENT GROUP ¹ .	17
FIGURE 3: PERCENTAGE OF ANNUAL SAVINGS RETAINED RELATIVE TO	
TREATMENT/FIRST YEAR BY TREATMENT GROUP ¹	18
FIGURE 4: WEATHER STATION ASSIGNMENT	2

Tables

TABLE 1: POST-TREATMENT SAVINGS FOR DISCONTINUED GROUPSII	I
TABLE 2: HERS PROGRAM TREATMENT TIMELINE	3
TABLE 3: EVALUATION STUDIES COMPLETED TO DATE ¹	5
TABLE 4: STUDY GROUPS AND PERIODS OF SAVINGS IN CURRENT ANALYSIS ¹ 11	J
TABLE 5: ENERGY SAVINGS IN KWH BY TREATMENT GROUP ACROSS STUDIES	ļ
TABLE 6: SAVINGS DEGRADATION AMONG HIGH-USE DISCONTINUED GROUPS)
TABLE 7: SAVINGS DECAY AMONG DISCONTINUED SUB-GROUPS ACROSS MULTIPLE	
STUDIES (RATE OF ACTIVE TREATMENT SAVINGS TO POST-TREATMENT	
SAVINGS)21	I
TABLE 8: ANNUALIZED EXPENDITURES-TO-SAVINGS RATIO BY TREATMENT GROUP ¹ 23	3
TABLE 9: COMPARISON OF SAVINGS BY TREATMENT GROUP UNDER DIFFERENT	
PROGRAM DELIVERY SCENARIOS	3
TABLE 10: CYCLING HIGH-USE HOUSEHOLDS, SINGLE YEAR WITH REPORTS, ONE YEAR	ł
NO REPORTS ¹ 29)



1
3
5
7
9
1
3
1
3
4
1
3
2
2





Executive Summary

NMR Group, Inc. (NMR) was contracted by Eversource to update findings from three prior evaluations of Eversource's Home Energy Reports (HERs) Pilot Program. This study is referred to as R1606.

The HERs pilot program, implemented by OPower, began in January 2011. The pilot program randomly selects residential customers to whom

it sends reports rating their energy use, comparing it to that of their neighbors, and suggesting ways for the households to save energy.

Since its inception, the pilot program has had various cohorts. At its start, it selected customers with high electricity consumption ("high use"), and in its second year added customers with average levels of electricity consumption ("average use"). Each year, the program adds new cohorts of households and removes some households from previous years; within these cohorts, the frequency with which households receive the reports varies, creating numerous "treatment groups."

Leveraging that program structure, the R1606 study involved four tasks:

- Using a billing analysis, the study **estimated electricity savings** for participants in five treatment groups, all of whom joined the program in either 2011 or 2012. Three of the treatment groups, referred to as discontinued groups, stopped receiving reports eight to fourteen months after receiving the first letter, and the two other groups continued to receive reports to the time of study.
- The billing analysis facilitated **estimating a degradation rate** which the study then benchmarked against existing literature.
- The billing analysis findings allowed the study to **assess the program's cost-effectiveness**, again by treatment group, by estimating a ratio of the dollars spent for every kWh saved.
- Reflecting on the findings from the three previous tasks, the study considered the differences across the treatment groups—in terms of total savings and effectiveness—to recommend optimal program delivery scenarios.

The findings indicate that on average, households continue to save energy years after the program stops sending them reports. This substantiates the claim that the measure lifetime is longer than the treatment period. The study provided defensible estimates of retained savings from behavioral programs that will allow for more accurate attribution of program savings, inform refinement of the program design, and consider the program's cost-effectiveness with lifetime numbers. The results indicated that program cycling (stopping and starting the program or delivering the program to different subgroups in turn) may offer a way to maximize savings, increase cost-effectiveness, and touch more customers all at the same time. The key takeaways can be summarized as follows:

• High-use discontinued groups exhibit statistically significant savings at least two but no more than three years post-treatment, with the variation in persistence largely an artifact of the sample size (i.e., statistical power) and length of treatment (eight months



versus one year). The average annual degradation was 16% spread across three years for all high-use discontinued groups (see Table 1).

- Ramp-up rates are the increase in savings associated with multiple years of treatment. High-use continued groups exhibited an average ramp-up rate of 2% (including the second year of treatment in which they had a three-month report hiatus; the average ramp-up was 8% without the hiatus). Annual ramp-up rates for the high-use continued groups declined over time with continual treatment.
- Average-use continued groups also exhibited ramp-up, with an average of 40% (compared to the high-use ramp-up rate of 2%), but with substantial variation from year to year. Despite this high ramp-up rate, because they achieve smaller percentage savings and kWh savings compared to high-use groups, it took the average-use group four full years of treatment to accumulate the same energy savings as one year of treatment among high-use groups.
- Taking persistence savings into account, the cost per kWh saved over five years was
 less than one cent for high-use discontinued groups. In contrast, taking ramp-up into
 account, the cost per kWh was about three cents for high-use continued groups over
 five years of treatment, and approximately 12 cents for average-use continued groups
 over four years of treatment.
- Cycling approaches provide an avenue to maximize savings at the lowest cost per kWh saved and touch a greater number of customers in the process. The cycles that perform the best involve treating successive groups for one year each and banking the persistence savings. Two-year treatment cycles are less cost-effective, and, for average-use households, do not maximize savings.
- Cycling is not the only alternative approach available to Eversource for program delivery, but it is the only approach examined in this study. Eversource could also work with the implementer to alter messaging and the types of customers targeted, among other options. Yet, this analysis makes clear that cycling serves as one viable alternative to the current design of continual monthly treatment to all enrolled customers.



Group and sample size	Report frequency	Treat- ment Months	Year post retained savings			ed	Average yearly degradation	Implied lifetime multiplier ¹
			1	2	3	4		
Monthly (1,507)	Monthly 1/11-4/12	16 reports, 16 months	82%	77%	0%	0%	12%	2.08
Quarterly (9,374)	Quarterly 1/11-4/12	~5 reports, 16 months	68%	56%	28%	0%	28%	2.79
Persistence (3,796)	Monthly 1/11-8/11	8 reports, 8 months	64%	56%	0%	0%	25%	2.12
Overall Discontinued (14,733)	varies	varies	79%	67%	36%	0%	16%	2.79

Table 1: Post-treatment Savings for Discontinued Groups

¹ Preliminary estimates.

Based on these findings, the study makes the following two recommendations.

- Recommendation 1: This study assessed cost-effectiveness using a very simple approach—the cost per kWh saved. Deciding whether a cycling approach meets the more detailed utility cost test (or other benefit-cost ratio tests) would require a more thorough analysis to determine the full benefits and costs of cycling versus continued treatment.
- Recommendation 2: If the HERs program stops sending reports to high-use and average-use continued groups, examine the degradation rates of their savings to inform long-term program design.

Eversource and OPower expanded the program in 2014, adding 300,000 households and enrolling HES and HES-IE customers into the program. These program changes inform the third and fourth recommendations.

Recommendation 3: Because savings vary by pre-program energy use, Eversource should examine the pre-program energy use of the 300,000 households in the current iteration of the Eversource HERs program for the distribution of pre-program energy use and analyze the most effective and fair way to target the program. For example, the program may want to consider cycling high-use households (who achieve higher percentage and kWh savings) but treating average-use households continuously (due to lower percentage and kWh savings). The use of cycling may allow such a design to achieve high cost effectiveness and touch more customers, while maximizing savings overall.



- Recommendation 4: Households that opt in to a program like HES or HES-IE may differ from the randomly selected population of high users and average users that were in the HERs pilot. Moreover, by already taking part in HES and HES-IE and then receiving HERs, the program runs the risk of double counting savings between HERs and HES/HES-IE. Therefore, Eversource should study the impact of enrolling HES and HES-IE households into HERs on program attribution and double counting of savings.
- Recommendation 5: When the current implanter contract ends, Eversource should consider adopting a revised program design that includes a cycling approach, particularly for the high-use customers in the sample, who achieve similar or higher savings from treatment and retention savings compared to continual treatment, even with ramp-up taking into account.





Section 1 Introduction

This report updates findings from three prior evaluations of the Home Energy Reports (HERs) Pilot Program implemented for Eversource by OPower, a subsidiary of Oracle.^{1,2} The study addressed only the households that first received reports in the pilot programs that started in January 2011 and July 2012. Some of these households continued

to receive reports through 2016, as explained more fully below. NMR Group, Inc. (NMR) conducted the analyses described in the current report. Because the program and evaluation histories are essential to understanding the current study outcome and objectives, the report briefly summarizes these histories and then reports results of the current study, referred to as R1606.

1.1 PROGRAM AND EVALUATION HISTORY

The HERs Pilot Program ("the program") relies on an experimental design known as the randomized control trial (RCT). Working with Eversource billing data, the implementer OPower identified residential customers that met a predetermined set of criteria (focused on adequate billing history and the amount of electricity used) to form a sample frame. Then they sampled households from among these customers and randomly assigned them to either a treatment or control group. The treatment group received reports that rated their energy use, compared it to a comparable group of households (called "neighbors" in the report), and suggested ways for households to save energy. The control group did not receive reports of any kind.

The program issued its first reports to Eversource customers in January 2011. The first effort, the Year 1 Pilot, included high-use households only. In the Year 2 Pilot, starting in July 2012, Eversource added average-use households to the pilot study even as it dropped some of the original high-use households. Eversource expanded the program further in 2014, sending reports to an additional 200,000 households, placing another 100,000 on an email version of the program, and enrolling an additional 30,000 Home Energy Solutions (HES) and Home Energy Solutions-Income Eligible (HES-IE) households in the program (for a total of 330,000 households).³ Table 2 summarizes the known starts and stops for various treatment groups. This study addresses only the Year 1 and Year 2 Pilot households listed in the first three

³ Connecticut Electric and Gas Utilities. 2014. 2014 Annual Update of the 2013-2015 Electric and Natural Gas Conservation and Load Management Plan.



¹ NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2013. *Evaluation of the Year 1 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program*. <u>http://www.energizect.com/government-municipalities/final-clp-behavioral-year-1-program-report-030613</u> NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2014. *Evaluation of the Year 2 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program (R2)*. Available at <u>http://www.energizect.com/government-municipalities/evaluation-year-2-clp-pilot-customer-</u>

behavior-pgm-r2-final-report-8-8-14

NMR Group, Inc. 2016. R32 Evaluation of Persistence in the Eversource Customer Behavior Program (R32). Available at http://www.energizect.com/sites/default/files/R32%20-

^{%20}Persistence%20of%20Eversource%20HER%20Pgm Final%20Report%2C%203.30.16.pdf

² Oracle purchased OPower in May 2016 (<u>https://opower.com/oracle/</u>). This report will continue to refer to the implementer as OPower.

rows of the table, as it seeks to measure all program-induced savings, including the retained, persistent savings that occur after households stop receiving reports.



Treatment Group	Jan. 2011 (Year 1)	March 2012	Jul. 2012 (Year 2)	PY 2014	Current Status	Included in Current Study
High-use Discontinued Households	Treatment Begins	Treatment Ends				Yes
High-use Extension Households	Treatment Begins	Treatment Ends	Treatment Resumes	Still Active	Still Active	Yes
Average-use New Households			Treatment Begins		Still Active	Yes
Additional randomly selected households				Treatment Begins	Still Active	No
HES and HES-IE participants				Treatment Begins	Still Active	No

Table 2: HERs Program Treatment Timeline



The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) has conducted three prior studies of the Eversource HERs Pilot Program. Table 3 summarizes the studies completed to date, including the findings most relevant to the current investigation (R1606). These prior evaluations of the pilot program showed that the program clearly induces electricity savings during the treatment period. However, those savings vary a great deal based on how much electricity a household used prior to receiving reports; for example, average-use households reduced electricity usage by 1.1%, while high-use households reduced it by 2.2% during the first year of treatment. Evaluations also documented strong savings retention (24% annual retention relative to treatment period savings) and persistence (saving an average of 1% for up to three years) for the high-use households that stopped receiving reports late in September 2011 or in March 2012. When taken together, the treatment period savings and persistence savings cost Eversource less than one cent for each kWh saved in high-use households that stopped receiving reports by March 2012. This is compared to a cost of approximately three cents per kWh saved for all high-use households during the treatment period.

1.2 STUDY OUTCOME AND OBJECTIVES⁴

The key outcome of this study was an *estimate of the annual amount of participant savings that persist for all households that have stopped receiving reports since the start of the program.* The study pursued the following objectives to deliver this outcome:

- 1. Estimate the program-induced full treatment period and persistent savings for all high-use discontinued households from Year 1 treatment groups.
- 2. Estimate the program-induced full treatment period for all high-use households from Year 1 that continued to receive reports in Year 2.
- 3. Estimate the program-induced full treatment period for all average-use households from Year 2.
- 4. Compare the treatment savings and, if applicable, annual retention rates, savings persistence, and total program-induced savings (treatment period plus any persistence savings) for the three groups (Year 1 high-use discontinued, Year 1 high-use continued, Year 2 average-use new) to determine the effectiveness of length of treatment and pre-program use on retention.
- 5. Estimate the annualized savings per expenditure for each group and compare across groups.
- 6. Explore four program delivery scenarios to identify the most optimal timing and duration of report delivery

⁴ The initial project scope for this study called for assessing the retention and persistence of savings for continued high-use and average-use households that received reports in the Year 2 Pilot Program. However, Eversource confirmed in October 2016 that these households still receive reports, precluding the fulfilment of this objective. It also means that the study is unable to assess alternative program delivery scenarios for average users, as all average uses in the Year 2 pilot still receive reports.



Final Evaluation Report Delivered	Study 1: Completed March 2013	Study 2: Completed July 2014	Study 3: Completed March 2016
Period Covered	January 2011 to April 2012	January 2011 to July 2013	January 2011 to November 2014
Treatment Group	High-use Households (monthly,	High-use Extension Households	High-use Extension Households
	quarterly recipients; some monthly received for only 8 months)	Average-use households	Average-use households
Discontinued	None	High-use Households	High-use households
Group			
Control Group	Implementer selected, high use	Implementer selected, high use &	Implementer selected, high use &
		average use	average use
Topics Addressed	Program treatment savings by	Program treatment savings by	Post-treatment savings for high-use
	frequency & duration of treatment	frequency pre-program electricity use;	discontinued households
	Program impact on participation in	post-treatment savings for high-use	Cost-effectiveness (expenditures to
	other programs	discontinued households	savings) for all high-use groups
	Customer engagement and	Cost-effectiveness (expenditures to	Alternative program delivery models
	satisfaction	savings) for all groups	Program impact on participation in
	Self-reported energy-efficient behavior	Customer engagement and	other programs and deeper measure
		satisfaction	uptake
		Self-reported energy-efficient behavior	

Table 3: Evaluation Studies Completed to Date¹



Final Evaluation Report Delivered	Study 1: Completed March 2013	Study 2: Completed July 2014	Study 3: Completed March 2016
Findings Most	Treatment households saved about	High-use Extension households saw	Savings persisted for high-use
Relevant for	2% over control group	slight increase in savings with	discontinued households to just under
Current Study		repeated delivery (2.2% to 2.3%)	three years post treatment
		Average use households saw energy	Cost-effectiveness for high-use
		savings of 1.2%	households remained about 3 cents /
		Savings persisted for high-use	kWh during treatment period; less
		discontinued households	than one cent / kWh if taking all post-
		Cost-effectiveness for high-use	treatment savings into account
		households was about 3 cents / kWh	
		during treatment period; 2 cents / kWh	
		if taking post-treatment savings into	
		account	
		Cost-effectiveness for average-use	
		households was about 13 cents / kWh	
		during treatment period	

¹NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2013. Evaluation of the Year 1 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program. <u>http://www.energizect.com/government-</u> municipalities/final-clp-behavioral-year-1-program-report-030613

NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2014. Evaluation of the Year 2 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program (R2). Available at

http://www.energizect.com/government-municipalities/evaluation-year-2-clp-pilot-customer-behavior-pgm-r2-final-report-8-8-14

NMR Group, Inc. 2016. R32 Evaluation of Persistence in the Eversource Customer Behavior Program (R32). Available at

http://www.energizect.com/sites/default/files/R32%20-%20Persistence%20of%20Eversource%20HER%20Pgm Final%20Report%2C%203.30.16.pdf



1.3 Key Definitions

There are many definitions around the concept of measure lifetimes associated with energy savings. To add to the confusion, *persistence, lifetime*, and *measure life* are all used casually to mean similar concepts even if they technically have distinct meanings. Most of the definitions assume adoption of an efficiency measure rather than a behavior. Two critical concepts include the following:⁵

- Effective Useful Life (EUL): Typically refers to the *median* lifetime for savings from measures, and is typically multiplied by first-year savings to yield lifetime savings resulting from the investment in the measure.
- **Technical degradation factor (TDF):** Represents how much the savings from a measure decrease over time due to mechanical (e.g., furnace does not operate as efficiently over time; duct insulation comes loose) or behavior degradation (e.g., being less diligent about washing full loads of laundry). There are very few data on TDF in the literature, so usually the concept is folded into measure lifetime, assuming full savings for each year of that EUL.

For behavioral measures, the TDF is an important component. One does not expect 100% savings each year due to behavioral variation for any number of reasons. Realistically, when examining behavior persistence, studies measure the TDF until savings no longer differ statistically from a control group.

Considering this, for the purposes of this study, the following definitions apply:

- **Measure life**: Number of years the treatment households exhibit statistically significant savings compared to the control group.
- **Technical degradation factor (TDF):** The pattern of the percentage of savings achieved in (successive) years.
- Effective Useful Life (EUL): Combination of measure life and TDF—in years—to be applied to the savings in the benefit/cost equations, measured as the *mean* as opposed to the *median* due to the lack of information on the latter.

Other key concepts include the following:

- **Savings ramp-up**: For behavior programs, any increase in the percentage of savings associated with multiple years of treatment.
- **Behavior savings persistence**: For behavior programs, this refers to the savings treatment households achieve after they stop receiving reports. The study also refers to this concept as "persistence of savings." This measure provides the numbers that factor into the TDF.

⁵ Skumatz, Khawaja, and Colby, "Lessons Learned and Next Steps in Energy Efficiency Measurement and Attribution: Energy Savings, Net to Gross, Non-Energy Benefits, and Persistence of Energy Efficiency Behavior", CIEE, 11/2009; and Skumatz, "Behavioral Measure Lifetimes, Persistence, Retention, and EULs", 2/5/16.



- **Retention rate**: Ratio of annual post-treatment savings achieved relative to treatment savings; **technical retention rate** is the average of this ratio for years with statistically significant savings.
- **Savings degradation rate**: The percentage by which savings decline annually. This differs from the TDF in that the savings degradation rate is the *change* in the TDF.
- **Persistence factor**: Retention rate multiplied by the measure life; serves as a critical input to estimating total lifetime savings. This can be used as another term for the Behavior EUL.

The literature on behavioral programs sometimes uses these terms interchangeably or may introduce new terms to capture the same concepts, as the nomenclature has not been codified. Likewise, the current study sometimes used *savings persistence* as an umbrella term encompassing all of these concepts.

Another potential point of confusion in this study stems from the many different treatment and sub-treatment groups included in the HERs Pilot Program between January 2011 and July 2013. The critical groups included in this study are as follows:⁶

- **High-use Discontinued group (n=16,000)**: Started receiving reports in January 2011 and stopped receiving reports no later than March 2012; all had higher than average pre-program energy use
 - Discontinued Monthly group (n=2,000): Received monthly reports through March 2012, for an average of 16 reports
 - **Discontinued Quarterly group (n=10,000)**: Received reports every three months through March 2012, for an average of five reports
 - Discontinued Persistence group (n=4,000): Received an average of eight monthly reports through August 2011 and then discontinued treatment
 - The Persistence Group was so named by OPower and Eversource. The study design sought to determine Year 1 program savings for this sub-treatment group that received reports for eight months versus those that received reports for a full year.
- **High-use Continued Monthly (Extension) group (n=8,000)**: Received reports starting in January 2011 and continued to receive them through at least July 2016, with a hiatus from April to June 2012. As of July 2016, they had received an average of 64 reports.
- Average-use Continued Monthly (Expansion) group (n=10,000): Received reports starting in July 2012 and continued to receive them through at least July 2016. As of July 2016, they had received an average of 48 reports.

Finally, the three previous studies and the current study of households included in the Year 1 and Year 2 HERs Pilot Program coincide with calendar or program years. This reflects a mixture of program design and when they received their first and (if applicable) last reports as well as the timing of the evaluations. **To provide consistency with prior reporting, the**

⁶ The sample sizes presented here represent those at the start of the pilot program. The sample has experienced attribution due some of the accounts having service disconnected since they first received reports.



current analysis presents results over time by study, noting which study yielded the results. However, annualized results (i.e., those that coincide with a 12-month period) are needed to assess program cost-effectiveness (because budgets are annual) and to assess optimal delivery modes (for ease of comparison across groups). Therefore, this report also summarizes annualized savings and uses those annualized savings to assess cost effectiveness and optimal program delivery.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

As in prior investigations of the HERs Pilot Program, the study used billing analysis to examine treatment period savings for all high-use and average-use study groups and the persistence of savings for all high-use discontinued groups (that is, Year 1 households that stopped receiving reports sometime between September 2011 and March 2012). The study used data obtained from three different sources: 1) Eversource, 2) OPower, and 3) the National Climate Data Center (NCDC) website, as outlined in <u>Appendix A</u>.⁷ The data span from January 1, 2010, through July 2016.⁸

The billing analysis relied on a statistical technique known as ordinary least squares (OLS) robust regression. This technique ensures that the method does not over-estimate or underestimate treatment effects reflecting any imbalances in pre-program use between treatment and control groups or caused by the influence of outliers. Inputs to the model included billing data, whether a household was in the treatment or control group, and weather data. The estimating equation is as follows:

Estimated Average Electricity Savings= β_0 (Avg. Post-Treatment Electricity Use)+ β_1 (Dichotomous Treatment)+ β_2 (Avg. Pre-Treatment Electricity Use)+ β_3 (Dichotomous Electric Heat)+ β_4 (Heating Degree Days)+ β_5 (Cooling Degree Days)⁹

The study calculated annual retention and degradation rates; this analysis was based on the persistence of savings post-treatment for all high-use discontinued households and the multiyear treatment savings for high-use continued and average-use continued households. Table 4 shows the various study groups, type of savings, and periods of analysis.

Using program budgets and estimated savings, the study also calculated the ratio of program expenditures to savings for the treatment period for all groups as well as the post-treatment period and combined treatment and post-treatment period for the high-use discontinued groups. Given that Eversource expanded the program in 2013 and was unable to provide the portion of the budget devoted solely to the continued treatment of continued high-use extension and average-use expansion households in 2013 through 2016, the study assumes that the budget remained the same from 2012 through 2016 for these two groups.

⁸ January 2010 allows for the inclusion of at least one full year of pre-program data for all households.
⁹ All results have also been multiplied by negative one (-1.0) for ease of interpretation; this step converts a measure of decreased use—a negative number—to a measure of savings—a positive number.



⁷ Accessed at

http://www7.ncdc.noaa.gov/CDO/cdoselect.cmd?datasetabbv=GSOD&countryabbv=&georegionabbv=

R1606 EVERSOURCE BEHAVIOR PROGRAM PERSISTENCE EVALUATION

Drawing on the study results on treatment and persistence savings, degradation rates, and cost-effectiveness, the analysis then explored alternative program designs for each of the study groups. The explorations included examining continual treatment over four years as well as *crop rotation* approaches in which households cycle between treatment and post-treatment. As explained more in <u>Optimal Program Delivery Scenarios</u>, this analysis examined varying cycle lengths and degradation rates, including drawing on the broader literature as well as the results of the HERs pilot study.



	Treatment Groups							Control Groups	
	Discontinued			Continued		Control Groups			
	Monthly	Quarterly	Persistence	All	High-use	Average-Use ²	High-use ³	Average-Use ²	
Sample Size ⁴	1,507	9,374	3,796	14,733	7,211	8,985	22,584	9,963	
Pre-program Use (kWh) ⁴	1,611	1,601	1,595	1,576	1,606 ⁵	713	1,577⁵	707	
Study 1: Jan. 2011 to Mar. 2012	Treatment	Treatment	Partial Treatment ⁷	Treatment	Treatment	N/A ⁸	Control	N/A ⁸	
Study 2: Apr. 2012 to Jul. 2013	Persistence	Persistence	Persistence	Persistence	Treatment ⁹	Treatment	Control	Control	
Study 3: Aug. 2013 to Nov. 2014	Persistence	Persistence	Persistence	Persistence	Treatment	Treatment	Control	Control	
Current Study: Dec. 2014 to Jul. 2016	Persistence	Persistence	Persistence	Persistence	Treatment	Treatment	Control	Control	
Annualized Savings ¹⁰	Treatment & Persistence	Treatment & Persistence	Treatment & Persistence	Treatment & Persistence	Treatment	Treatment	Control	Control	

Table 4: Study Groups and Periods of Savings in Current Analysis¹

¹ Prior studies include: NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2013. *Evaluation of the* Year 1 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program. http://www.energizect.com/government-municipalities/final-clp-behavioral-year-1-program-report-030613

NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2014. Evaluation of the Year 2 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program (R2). Available at <u>http://www.energizect.com/government-</u>municipalities/evaluation-year-2-clp-pilot-customer-behavior-pgm-r2-final-report-8-8-14

NMR Group, Inc. 2016. R32 Evaluation of Persistence in the Eversource Customer Behavior Program (R32). Available at http://www.energizect.com/sites/default/files/R32%20-%20Persistence%20of%20Eversource%20HER%20Pgm Final%20Report%2C%203.30.16.pdf

² Average use for Eversource customers was about 700 kWh per month in 2012; it has more recently been closer to 800 kWh per month.

³ Encompasses all control group households from the Year 1 Pilot. The analysis keeps the same control group for comparison to high-use continued (extension) households as they were statistically similar in their pre-program use.

⁴ Sample size of households included in the current analysis, which is smaller than at the program start due to attribution related largely to disconnected accounts.

⁵ These data reflect the period from January 2010 through December 2010 for the high-use Extension and Discontinued groups and August 2011 through July 2012 for the average-use expansion groups.

⁶ The high-use continued group and the high-use control group used less energy prior to the program than the discontinued group; the difference was not statistically significant but could be sufficient to limit generalizing results from the discontinued group to the continued group.

⁷ Received reports through September 2011.

⁸ Average-use households were not added until July 2012.

⁹ This group had a report hiatus between April and July of 2012; otherwise they have received constant treatment since January 2011.

¹⁰ In addition to showing savings as they align with evaluation study periods, the report annualizes the results to show savings one year post-treatment, two years post-treatment, etc.



Section 2 Study Results

The study presents four sets of interrelated results:

- Electricity savings for all five treatment groups, including three highuse discontinued groups, the high-use discontinued group as a whole, one high-use continued group (extension), and one average-use continued group (expansion)
- Benchmarking of the current results against other studies of similar programs
- Cost-effectiveness, measured simply as the ratio of cost per kWh saved
- Exploration of optimal program delivery scenarios for high-use and average-use groups according to various schedules of cycling households on and off reports and into and out of the program

2.1 ELECTRICITY SAVINGS

Table 5 summarizes energy savings for all treatment groups across the four EEB HERs pilot program studies, including the current one.¹⁰ The table includes the average daily savings in kWh, the average percentage of savings, with shading denoting that the group was under treatment during the specified period. The most important findings on energy savings include the following:

- The program induces statistically significant savings during the treatment period and for two to three years post-treatment, depending on the savings rate and the sample size of households included in the group.¹¹
- Compared to their respective starting years, households that used more energy (highuse households) saved a greater percentage of energy than households with average pre-program energy use.
- Average daily savings in kWh remained somewhat stable over time for high-use and average-use households that continued to receive reports for multiple years; percentage savings tended to increase over time for continued households.
- Among high-use discontinued households, those that received reports for a full year (high-use discontinued monthly and quarterly groups) saved more than those households that received them for only eight months (high-use discontinued persistence).
- Among high-use discontinued households, those that received reports monthly saved more energy than households that received them on a quarterly basis.
- High-use discontinued monthly households saved 45% more kWh per day than highuse continued monthly households and more than the other two high-use discontinued groups. They also had the highest pre-program use.

¹¹ That is, high-use discontinued persistence households exhibited fewer savings and stopped exhibiting statistically significant savings after two years; high-use discontinued monthly households exhibited high levels of savings, but a small sample size (1,507) limited the statistical power needed to achieve statistical significance.



¹⁰ The sample sizes presented in Table 5 also apply to Figure 1 through Figure 3.

R1606 EVERSOURCE BEHAVIOR PROGRAM PERSISTENCE EVALUATION

Figure 1 graphs the daily kWh savings and statistically significant percentage savings by study period for each group. The solidly filled bars represent treatment periods for each continued and discontinued group, while the hashed bars represent post-treatment periods for each discontinued group.



			_			
	Sample Size ²	Pre-program Energy Use	Study 1: January 2011- March 2012	Study 2: April 2012- July2013	Study 3: August 2013- November 2014	Current: December 2014- July2016
High-use Discontinued Monthly	1,507	1,611	1.75* (3.62%)	1.49* (3.70%)	0.71 (1.66%)	0.96 (1.96%)
High-use Discontinued Quarterly	9,374	1,601	0.86* (1.79%)	0.83* (2.06%)	0.61* (1.27%)	0.35 (0.70%)
High-use Discontinued Persistence	3,796	1,595	0.76* (1.57%)	0.75* (1.86%)	0.09 (0.23%)	0.08 (0.16%)
High-use Discontinued Group Overall	14,733	1,576	0.91* (1.88%)	0.88* (1.82%)	0.48* (0.99%)	0.57 (1.20%)
High-use Continued Monthly (Extension)	7,211	1,606	1.20* (2.46%)	1.19* (2.31%) ³	1.22* (2.51%)	1.21* (2.54%)
Average-use Continued Monthly (Expansion)	8,985	713	N/A	0.26* (1.17%)	0.28* (1.26%)	0.36* (1.64%)

Table 5: Energy Savings in kWh by Treatment Group Across Studies

* Statistical significant at the 0.1 level.

¹ Prior studies include: NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2013. *Evaluation of the Year 1 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program.* http://www.energizect.com/government-municipalities/final-clp-behavioral-year-1-program-report-030613

NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2014. Evaluation of the Year 2 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program (R2). Available at http://www.energizect.com/government-municipalities/evaluation-year-2-clp-pilot-customer-behavior-pgm-r2-final-report-8-8-14

NMR Group, Inc. 2016. R32 Evaluation of Persistence in the Eversource Customer Behavior Program (R32). Available at http://www.energizect.com/sites/default/files/R32%20-%20Persistence%20of%20Eversource%20HER%20Pgm Final%20Report%2C%203.30.16.pdf

² Sample size of households included in the current analysis, which is smaller than at the program start due to attribution related largely to disconnected accounts. Table 20 in <u>Appendix A</u> includes the actual sample sizes included in each study's analysis.

³ Includes a hiatus in receiving reports from April 2012 to July 2012, likely explaining the slightly lower savings compared to other years.



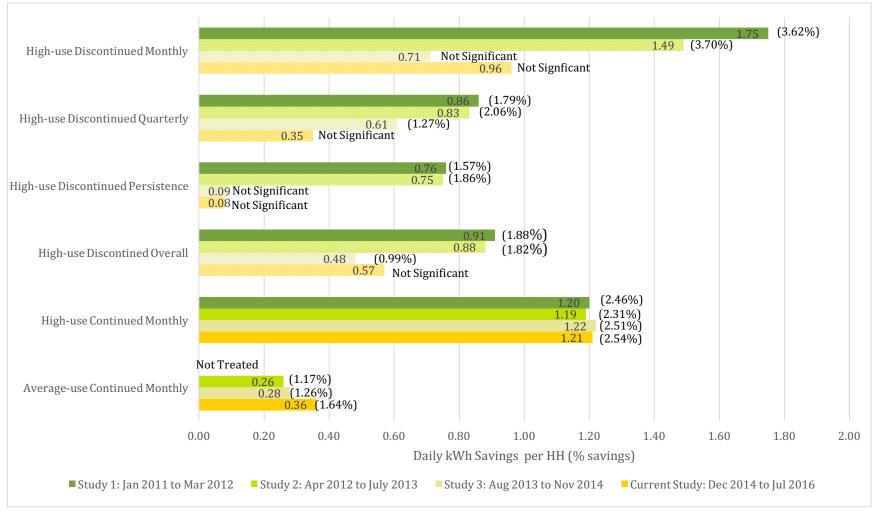


Figure 1: Daily kWh Savings per Household by Treatment Group

(Based on Billing Analysis, sample sizes reported in Table 5)

Note: All percentages shown represent statistically significant savings at the 0.1 level.



Figure 2 presents the annual savings per household for all treatment groups. As with Figure 1, the solid bars for each year represent treatment periods, while the hash bars for each year represent post-treatment periods. Graphing the annual savings emphasized three key results:

- Savings degraded once households stopped receiving reports.
- In contrast, households that kept receiving reports experienced a small ramping up on savings with repeated treatment until about the third year, then savings seemed to stabilize or decline slightly. The dip in savings for the high-use continued monthly group in the second year of treatment likely reflects a hiatus in the delivery of reports between April 2012 and July 2012.
- The savings for the high-use discontinued monthly group and the average-use continued monthly group differed from the other three groups. In fact, the total program-induced savings for the high-use discontinued monthly group for one year of treatment and two years post-treatment (2,195 kWh) was nearly the same as the program-induced savings achieved by the high-use continued monthly group over five years of treatment (2,214 kWh).

Figure 3 shows the retention of savings relative to the first year of treatment for each of the treatment groups, again with the solid bars and hash bars for each year representing treatment and post-treatment periods. Several trends emerged:

- The two continued treatment groups generally achieved greater savings than the first year of treatment over time, again suggesting a ramp-up in savings with continued treatment that may level over time.
- The high-use quarterly and persistence discontinued groups retained about two-thirds of savings the year following treatment (68% and 64%, respectively) and about one-half of the savings two years post-treatment (56% and 50%, respectively).
- In the third year post-treatment, the high-use discontinued persistence group ceased achieving statistically significant savings, while the high-use discontinued quarterly group saw savings retention of about one-fourth (28%).
- The high-use discontinued monthly group again diverged, retaining greater posttreatment savings than the other high-use discontinued groups, 82% one year posttreatment and 77% two years post-treatment. They stopped achieving statistically significant savings three years post-treatment, although the small sample size (n=1,507) may partly explain this result.¹²

¹² In a typical degradation analysis, a median or mean savings value would be estimated to determine effective useful life of the measure. These measures of central tendency are problematic for the current behavioral billing analysis because all savings values are predicted based on model inputs. The models fit the energy use of individual households, but these households do not always display consistent savings (e.g., they may be seasonal in nature, a household may save one month and not another, etc.). Due to the lack of individual recorded savings and the seasonal and inconsistent nature of savings for individual households month to month, there is no clear measurable midpoint where behavioral savings fail. Instead, they simply degrade over time, with some seasonal variation in that degradation.



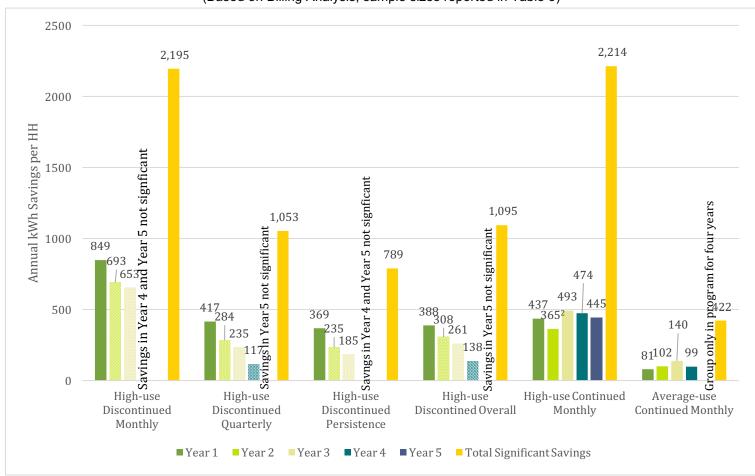


Figure 2: Annualized Savings in kWh per Household, by Treatment Group¹

(Based on Billing Analysis, sample sizes reported in Table 5)

¹ Year 1 represents the respective group's first year in the program; Year 2 to Year 5 represent post-treatment periods for all discontinued households and treatment periods for all high-use continued monthly households. Average-use continued monthly households started receiving reports a year later than all other households, so the study only shows four years of savings for this group. ² A report hiatus from April 2012 to July 2012 likely explains the decrease in savings in the second year of treatment for this group.



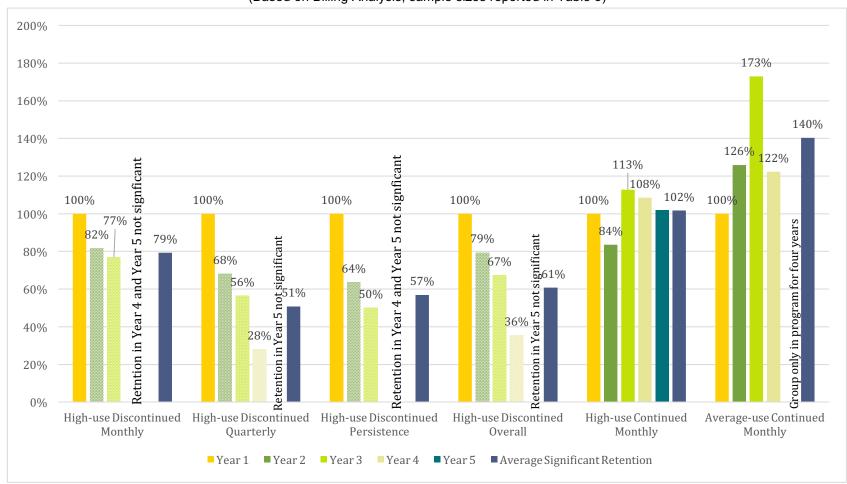


Figure 3: Percentage of Annual Savings Retained Relative to Treatment/First Year by Treatment Group¹

(Based on Billing Analysis, sample sizes reported in Table 5)

¹ Year 1 represents the respective group's first year in the program; Year 2 to Year 5 represent post-treatment periods for all discontinued households and treatment periods for all high-use continued monthly households. Average-use continued monthly households started receiving reports a year later than all other households, so the study only shows four years of savings for this group.



Table 6 presents the annual and average savings degradation rates and length of statistically significant persistence savings for each of the high-use discontinued treatment groups. The average annual degradation for all discontinued households was 16% over three years, but this varied from 12% over two years for the high-use discontinued monthly group to 28% over three years for the high-use discontinued quarterly group.

Group	One Year Post- Treatment	Two Years Post- Treatment	Three Years Post- Treatment	Average Degradation	Years Post- Treatment Savings
High-use Discontinued Monthly	18%	5%	Not Significant	12%	2
High-use Discontinued Quarterly	32%	12%	28%	28%	3
High-use Discontinued Persistence	36%	14%	Not Significant	25%	2
High-use Discontinued Overall	21%	12%	34%	16%	3

Table 6: Savings Degradation Among High-use Discontinued Groups



2.2 BENCHMARKING DEGRADATION RATES TO OTHER EXISTING STUDIES

In the R32 study, NMR found a degradation rate of 24% for Eversource's HERs program in Connecticut, and the updated results in the current study (R1606) find an average decay rate of 16% for high-use discontinued households. These rates fall within the range observed in other studies of OPower HERs programs. Alcott and Rogers studied OPower's three longest running program sites at the time of their study—two on the West Coast and one in the upper Midwest—in order to estimate savings persistence. They found that after two years of active treatment, the program effects decayed at about 10% to 20% every year post-treatment which is in keeping with earlier work by Harrigan and Gregory who find that 85-90% of savings were retained for up to three years.¹³¹⁴ Khawaja and Stewart came to similar conclusions; their study compared the estimated annual savings degradation rates from multiple studies of OPower HERs programs, with decay rates ranging from 11% to 32%, with an average of 20% per post-treatment year, and a measure life of 3.9 years (Table 7).¹⁵ Skumatz reviewed the literature on behavioral persistence and concluded that short term retention of savings is usually high even after two years post-treatment further lending further credence to this study's findings.¹⁶

One of the studies Khawaja and Stewart included in their review was the 2014 Puget Sound Energy (PSE) evaluation of a 24-month HERs program. This program updated their evaluation in 2015. The 2015 PSE study found that households continued to save a significant amount of energy five years after treatment cessation. Using data from the 2015 PSE study, NMR calculated an average degradation rate of 8%.^{17,18} Eversource persistence groups, which received reports for an average of eight to 14 months, stopped saving significant amounts of energy 32 months post-treatment, indicating that longer exposure to treatment encourages more persistent savings.

¹⁸ The PSE 2015 report did not list or update the previous report's decay rate.



¹³ Allcott, H. and T. Rogers (2014). *"The Short-Run and Long-Run Effects of Behavioral Interventions? Experimental Evidence from Energy Conservation."* American Economic Review, 204(10): 3003–3037. https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.104.10.3003.

¹⁴ Harrigan and Gregory (1994). "Do Savings from Energy Education Persist" ACEEE paper ¹⁵See the full report at http://www.cadmusgroup.com/wp-

content/uploads/2014/11/Cadmus_Home_Energy_Reports_Winter2014.pdf

¹⁶ Skumatz, L. *"Persistence of Behavioral Programs: New Information and Implications for Program Optimization"* The Electricity Journal, vol. 29, 2016.

¹⁷ PSE. *Home Energy Reports Program:* 2015 *Impact Evaluation- Final Report*. Prepared for Puget Sound Energy, October 10, 2016. Prepared by DNV GL.

Source	Program Administrator or Geographic Area	Number of Treatment months	Number of Post- Treatment Months	Annual Savings Decay
DNV GL (2014)	Puget Sound Energy	24	36	11%
DNV GL* (2015)	Puget Sound Energy	24	60	8%
Allcott and Rogers (2014)	West Coast	25 to 28	34	15%
Allcott and Rogers (2014)	West Coast	24	29	18%
Allcott and Rogers (2014)	Upper Midwest	24 to 25	26	21%
NMR Group (2016)	Eversource	8 to 14	32	24%
Integral Analytics (2012)	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	27	12	32%

Table 7: Savings Decay among Discontinued Sub-Groups Across Multiple Studies (Rate of Active Treatment Savings to Post-Treatment Savings)

*These values were calculated by NMR using data from multiple PSE evaluations.¹⁹

2.3 COST-EFFECTIVENESS: EXPENDITURES-TO-SAVINGS RATIO

Coming back to the current study (R1606) results, Table 8 presents annualized estimates of the HERs program costs, savings, and expenditures-to-savings ratio cumulatively from January 2011 to July 2016 for all high-use households and August 2012 to July 2016 for average-use households. The shaded cells denote the treatment period for each group. The results make clear that the most cost-effective approach among the HERs pilot treatment groups involves sending reports to a household for about a year, leveraging the expectation that after cessation, recipients will continue to reap savings for two or three more years. This result holds true not only for the outlying high-use discontinued monthly households but also for the high-use discontinued persistence households that received reports for only eight months.

- On average, the high-use discontinued households saved an average of 1,095 kWh at a cost of about one cent per kWh saved by the fourth year after treatment began. It is also the case that the high-use continued households who received reports for four years saved an average of 1,769 kWh, about 38% higher than the average high-use discontinued household over the same period. Yet, it cost nearly three cents per household to achieve these savings compared to one cent per household for the high-use discontinued households.
- Average-use continued households show very little savings over time. Over four years
 of treatment, they saved an average of 422 kWh, cumulatively—about what high-use
 households save annually during the treatment period. The cost per kWh saved for

¹⁹ <u>http://aceee.org/files/proceedings/2012/data/papers/0193-000051.pdf</u> and file:///C:/Users/Chris/Downloads/2015%20Home%20Energy%20Reports%20with%20ERR.pdf



average-use households is about 12 cents, indicating a lower level of cost-effectiveness.

These results suggest that a hybrid approach in terms of length and frequency of treatment may strike the strongest balance between maximizing savings and maximizing cost-effectiveness. The next section explores some of the possible hybrid approaches (additional approaches are broached in Appendix B).



		Discor	Continued			
	High Use				High Use	Average Use
	Monthly	Quarterly	Persistence	All	Monthly	Monthly
Cost per HH Year 1	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$12.50
Savings per HH Year 1 (kWh)	849	417	369	388	437	81
Expenditures to Savings Ratio Year 1	\$.009	\$0.018	\$0.020	\$0.019	\$0.017	\$0.154
Cumulative Cost per HH Year 2	\$7.68	\$7.68	\$7.13	\$7.54	\$20.05	\$25.01
Cumulative Savings per HH Year 2 (kWh)	1542	701	604	696	802	183
Expenditures to Savings Ratio Year 2	\$0.005	\$0.011	\$0.012	\$0.011	\$0.025	\$0.137
Cumulative Cost per HH Year 3	\$7.68	\$7.68	\$7.13	\$7.54	\$32.55	\$38.31
Cumulative Savings per HH Year 3 (kWh)	2,195	936	789	957	1,295	323
Expenditures to Savings Ratio Year 3	\$0.003	\$0.008	\$0.009	\$0.008	\$0.025	\$0.119
Cumulative Cost per HH Year 4	Not significant	\$8.07	Not significant	\$7.86	\$45.72	\$52.53
Cumulative Savings per HH Year 4 (kWh)		1,053		1,095	1,769	422
Expenditures to Savings Ratio Year 4		\$0.008		\$0.007	\$0.026	\$0.124
Cumulative Cost per HH Year 5					\$59.67	
Cumulative Savings per HH Year 5 (kWh)	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant	2,214	Not treated ²
Expenditures to Savings Ratio Year 5					\$0.027	

Table 8: Annualized Expenditures-to-Savings Ratio by Treatment Group¹

¹ Cost per household varies based on number of households in the billing analysis models. This changes largely due to program attrition resulting from disconnected accounts but also annual variations in the ability to match customer accounts across Eversource billing data and OPower treatment records. ² Average-use monthly group has been treated only four years (August 2012 to July 2016); all other groups first received reports in January and February 2011.



2.4 OPTIMAL PROGRAM DELIVERY SCENARIOS

The study considered various schedules to delivering the program, both for high-use and average-use homes. As shown in Table 9, this involved exploring energy savings and cost-effectiveness for various lengths of treatment and post-treatment relative to the savings and cost of continual treatment.²⁰ To the extent possible, the analysis relies on the actual achieved statistically significant savings and degradation rates, with Table 9 noting any deviations. In all cases, assumptions about multi-year or continual treatment relied on the average ramp-up rate (i.e., additional savings achieved from multiple years of treatment) achieved by high-use continued or average-use continued groups. This decision reflected the fact that the second year of treatment showed smaller (and for high-use customers, negative) ramp-up, but later years showed higher ramp-up rates. Note that <u>Appendix B</u> includes the same delivery options but uses the average degradation rate and the low and high rates as identified in the benchmarking effort.

The first section of Table 9 compiles the actual program delivery and the achieved savings and costs for each treatment group from the start of the pilot program in January 2011 through June 2016, with the information also presented separately in Figure 2, Figure 3, and Table 8 above. As with other tables in this report, shaded cells denote the treatment period for each group. The second section of Table 9 presents program delivery for a single year without considering persistence. It lists the first year's savings and cost per kWh saved. The remainder of the sections consider various alternative program delivery models that allow the length of treatment and post-treatment to vary, assessing them on the following program indicators:

- Estimated savings
- Cost per kWh saved
- Percent of cost per kWh saved relative to similar years of continual treatment
- Percent of kWh saved relative to similar years of continual treatment

Reviewing the total savings per delivery approach reveals that two or even three years of treatment can achieve a high percentage of savings at a substantially lower cost. The total savings for households that receive reports for one or two years plus post-treatment savings for one to three years fall between 50% to 90% of what such households would have achieved if they had received reports for the entire treatment and post-treatment periods. The cost per kWh saved ranges from 14% to 70%, bookmarked by the highest (high-use discontinued monthly group) and lowest (average-use continued monthly group) users in the pilot. More typical costs per kWh saved hover below 50% for a single year of treatment and in the 50% to 70% range for two years of treatment, again with variation by study group.

²⁰ The scenarios explored here explore only one type of variation: the frequency and duration of report delivery, including cycling which households receive reports. There are numerous other ways that the program could be implemented such as alternative messaging or no longer sending reports to households that consistently fail to demonstrate statistically significant savings, among other options. However, the study did not have the capability to explore these other options, as they would require developing experiments directly with the implementer. Such experiments could be considered in future evaluations.



R1606 EVERSOURCE BEHAVIOR PROGRAM PERSISTENCE EVALUATION

Across all scenarios, the high-use discontinued persistence group (who received reports for only eight months) and the average-use continued group routinely exhibit the lowest benefit from cycling, a reflection of their lower savings and, for the discontinued group, their more rapid degradation rate.



		High-use [Continued			
	Monthly ¹	Quarterly	Persistence ¹	Overall	High Use	Average Use
Actual Conditions through Five Years		•				
Year 1 savings kWh per household (HH)	849	417	369	388	437	81
Year 2 savings (% of Yr1)	82%	68%	64%	79%	84%	126%
Year 3 savings (% of Yr1)	77%	56%	50%	67%	113%	173%
Year 4 savings (% of Yr1)	NS ²	56%	NS ²	50%	108%	122%
Year 5 savings (% of Yr1)	NS ²	NS ²	NS ²	NS ²	102%	NA
Total Cumulative Savings	2,195	1,053	789	1,095	2,214	422
Cost/household for treatment	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$59.67	\$52.53
Single Year of Reports, No Persistence Con	sidered					
Achieved Savings	849	417	369	388	437	81
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.009	\$0.018	\$0.020	\$0.019	\$0.017	\$0.154
Single Year of Reports / One Year No Repor	t					
Achieved Savings	1,542	701	604	696	784	145
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.005	\$0.011	\$0.012	\$0.011	\$0.010	\$0.086
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	20%	44%	47%	43%	39%	63%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	90%	83%	81%	89%	89%	75%
Single Year of Reports / Three Years No Rep	oort	-				
Achieved Savings	2,195	1,053	789	1,095	1,233	229
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.003	\$0.008	\$0.009	\$0.007	\$0.006	\$0.055
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	14%	30%	35%	28%	24%	44%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	64%	62%	53%	70%	70%	54%

Table 9: Comparison of Savings by Treatment Group under Different Program Delivery Scenarios

(Actual Annual Degradation Rate by Treatment Group)



	High-use Discontinued				Continued	
	Monthly ¹	Quarterly	Persistence ¹	Overall	High Use	Average Use
Two Years of Reports / Two Years No Repor	t	•				
Achieved Savings	3,058	1,360	1,164	1,351	1,522	282
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.007	\$0.015	\$0.017	\$0.015	\$0.013	\$0.089
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	25%	57%	67%	57%	51%	71%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	89%	81%	78%	86%	86%	67%
Two Years of Reports / Three Years No Repo	ort					
Achieved Savings	3,058	1,477	1,164	1,489	1,677	311
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.007	\$0.014	\$0.017	\$0.013	\$0.012	\$0.080
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	24%	50%	64%	50%	44%	65%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	59%	58%	52%	63%	63%	50%

¹ Results reflect that this group exhibited statistically significant savings for only two-years post-treatment. ² Savings not statistically different from the control group.



The alternative delivery scenarios suggest that an approach that cycles households through the program—sometimes called a crop rotation—could have clear advantages over a model that sends reports to the same households year after year. Table 10 to Table 17 explore cycling for three groups of high-use (Table 10 to Table 13) and average-use (Table 14 to Table 17) households assuming the same schedules explored in Table 9 above, comparing the savings achieved and cost-effectiveness of cycling to what would be achieved by continual treatment of high-use or average-use households. The examples for a single year of treatment rely on actual degradation rates and ramp-up rates based on empirical evidence, while the examples for two years of treatment rely on average degradation and average ramp-up rates since the pilot never directly explored a two-year treatment scenario. While some of the scenarios include re-treating groups after their designated persistence period has passed to simplify the exercise, similar savings would be achieved by adding study groups rather than returning to one that was previously treated. Some of the highlights of the exploration include the following:

- The cycling approaches touch more households than continually treating the same households year after year.
- High-use households always achieve greater savings at lower costs per kWh saved from cycling, but average-use households exhibit mixed results from cycling.
- Cycles that rely on sending households a report for a single year yield greater savings at lower costs per kWh than those that rely on sending households a report for two years.
- Average-use households in particular do not benefit from two years of treatment, exhibiting lower savings than continuous treatment in such scenarios. This reflects the small annual savings achieved by average-use households coupled with the high ramp-up rate exhibited by these households.
- In the approaches when two high-use cycled groups receive reports in the same year (e.g., Table 10 and Table 14), the cost per household is greater than continual treatment but the cost per kWh saved remains lower. This is only sometimes true for the average-use cycled groups.

The preference for cycling at Eversource may depend on the costs relative to other programs, and the relative mix of high-use and average-use consumers in the treatment group. It is also the case that Connecticut law may require Eversource to pursue all cost-effective savings. However, the current analysis demonstrates that cycling may both be more cost-effective and maximize savings compared to continual treatment.



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Assumed Treatment Group Size	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
Year 1	Treatment Savings (kWh)	437	0	0	437	437
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Savings (kWh)	437	0	0	437	437
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.029	N/A	N/A	\$0.029	\$0.029
Year 2	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	437	0	437	365
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	347	0	0	347	0
	Accumulated Two-Year Savings (kWh)	784	437	0	1,221	802
	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Two-Year Cost	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.016	\$0.029	N/A	\$0.020	\$0.031
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	437	0	437	874	493
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	347	0	347	0
Year 3	Accumulated Three-Year Savings (kWh)	1,221	784	437	2,442	1,295
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$25.00	\$12.50
	Accumulated Three-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$50.00	\$37.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.020	\$0.016	\$0.029	\$0.020	\$0.029
Year 4	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	437	0	437	474
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	347	0	347	694	0
	Accumulated Four-Year Savings (kWh)	1,568	1,221	784	3,573	1,769
	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Four-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$62.50	\$50.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.016	\$0.020	\$0.016	\$0.017	\$0.028

Table 10: Cycling High-Use Households, Single Year with Reports, One Year No Reports¹



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	437	0	437	874	445
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	347	0	347	0
Year 5	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)	2,005	1,568	1,221	4,793	2,214
Tear 5	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$25.00	\$12.50
	Accumulated Five-Year Costs	\$37.50	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$87.50	\$62.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.019	\$0.016	\$0.020	\$0.018	\$0.028
Program	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)				4,793	2,214
Total for	Accumulated Five-Year Costs					\$62.50
Five	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.018	\$0.028			
Years	Percent Greater Savings from Cycling		117%			



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Assumed Treatment Group Size	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	437	0	0	437	437
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
Year 1	Total Savings (kWh)	437	0	0	437	437
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.029	N/A	N/A	\$0.029	\$0.029
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	437	0	437	365
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	347	0	0	347	0
Year 2	Accumulated Two-Year Savings (kWh)	784	437	0	1,221	802
rear z	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Two-Year Cost	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.016	\$0.029	N/A	\$0.020	\$0.031
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	0	437	437	493
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	294	347	0	641	0
Veer 2	Accumulated Three-Year Savings (kWh)	1,078	784	437	2,299	1,295
Year 3	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Three-Year Costs	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$37.50	\$37.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.012	\$0.016	\$0.029	\$0.016	\$0.029
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	474
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	155	294	347	796	0
Year 4 ⁴	Accumulated Four-Year Savings (kWh)	1,233	1,078	784	3,095	1,769
rear4	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50
	Accumulated Four-Year Costs	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$37.50	\$50.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.010	\$0.012	\$0.016	\$0.012	\$0.028

Table 11: Cycling High-Use Households, Single Year with Reports, Three Years No Reports¹



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	437	0	0	437	445
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	155	294	449	0
Year 5	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)	1,670	1,233	1,078	3,981	2,214
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Five-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$50.00	\$62.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.015	\$0.010	\$0.012	\$0.013	\$0.028
Program	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)				3,981	2,214
Total for	Accumulated Five-Year Costs		\$50.00	\$62.50		
Five	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.013	\$0.028			
Years	Percent Greater Savings from Cycling		80%			

¹Used actual achieved savings, degradation rates, and ramp-up rates. ² Price per household held constant for ease of comparison; uncertainly about actual OPower charges per household over time. ³ Accumulated is the effect costs and savings. ⁴ Note absence of treatment in Year 4 for all cycled groups. Expansion to a fourth group or shortening the cycle to two years off both provide viable options to not treating any households for a year.



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Assumed Treatment Group Size	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	437	0	0	437	437
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
Year 1	Total Savings (kWh)	437	0	0	437	437
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.029	N/A	N/A	\$0.029	\$0.029
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	446	0	0	446	446
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
	Accumulated Two-Year Savings (kWh)	883	0	0	883	883
Year 2	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Two-Year Cost	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.028	N/A	N/A	\$0.028	\$0.028
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	437	0	437	455
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	373	0	0	373	0
X 0	Accumulated Three-Year Savings (kWh)	1,256	437	0	1,693	1,337
Year 3	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Three-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$37.50	\$37.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.020	\$0.029	N/A	\$0.022	\$0.028
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	446	0	446	464
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	312	0	0	312	0
	Accumulated Four-Year Savings (kWh)	1,567	883	0	2,450	1,801
Year 4	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Four-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.016	\$0.028	N/A	\$0.020	\$0.028

Table 12: Cycling High-Use Households, Two Year with Reports, Two Years No Reports¹



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	437	0	437	874	473
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	373	0	373	0
Year 5	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)	2,004	1,256	437	3,697	2,274
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$25.00	\$12.50
	Accumulated Five-Year Costs	\$37.50	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$75.00	\$62.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.019	\$0.020	\$0.029	\$0.020	\$0.027
Program	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)				3,697	2,274
Total for	Accumulated Five-Year Costs		\$75.00	\$62.50		
Five	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.020	\$0.027			
Years	Percent Greater Savings from Cycling	63%				



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Assumed Treatment Group Size	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	437	0	0	437	437
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
Year 1	Total Savings (kWh)	437	0	0	437	437
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.029	N/A	N/A	\$0.029	\$0.029
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	446	0	0	446	446
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
M = = = 0	Accumulated Two-Year Savings (kWh)	883	0	0	883	883
Year 2	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Two-Year Cost	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.028	N/A	N/A	\$0.028	\$0.028
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	437	0	437	455
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	373	0	0	373	0
M = = = 0	Accumulated Three-Year Savings (kWh)	1,256	437	0	1,693	1,337
Year 3	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Three-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$37.50	\$37.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.020	\$0.029	N/A	\$0.022	\$0.028
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	446	0	446	464
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	312	0	0	312	0
	Accumulated Four-Year Savings (kWh)	1,567	883	0	2,450	1,801
Year 4	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Four-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.016	\$0.028	N/A	\$0.020	\$0.028

Table 13: Cycling High-Use Households, Two Years with Reports, Three Years No Reports¹



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	0	437	437	473
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	261	373	0	634	0
Year 5	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)	1,828	1,256	437	3,521	2,274
Teal 5	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Five-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$62.50	\$62.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.014	\$0.020	\$0.029	\$0.018	\$0.027
Program	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)		3,521	2,274		
Total for	Accumulated Five-Year Costs		\$62.50	\$62.50		
Five Years	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.018	\$0.027			
	Percent Greater Savings from Cycling		55%			



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Assumed Treatment Group Size	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	81	0	0	81	81
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
Year 1	Total Savings (kWh)	81	0	0	81	81
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.154	N/A	N/A	\$0.154	\$0.154
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	81	0	81	102
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	64	0	0	64	0
Year 2	Accumulated Two-Year Savings (kWh)	145	81	0	226	183
Teal 2	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Two-Year Cost	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.086	\$0.154	N/A	\$0.110	\$0.137
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	81	0	81	162	140
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	64	0	64	0
Year 3	Accumulated Three-Year Savings (kWh)	226	145	81	453	323
real 5	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$25.00	\$12.50
	Accumulated Three-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$50.00	\$37.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.110	\$0.086	\$0.154	\$0.110	\$0.116
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	81	0	81	99
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	64	0	64	129	0
Year 4	Accumulated Four-Year Savings (kWh)	291	226	145	662	422
10014	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Four-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$62.50	\$50.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.086	\$0.110	\$0.086	\$0.094	\$0.118

Table 14: Cycling Average-Use Households, Single Year with Reports, One Year No Reports¹



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	81	0	81	162	113
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	64	0	64	0
Year 5	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)	372	291	226	888	535
r car o	Annual Cost ² Accumulated Five-Year Costs	\$12.50 \$37.50	\$0.00 \$25.00	\$12.50 \$25.00	\$25.00 \$87.50	\$12.50 \$62.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.101	\$0.086	\$0.110	\$0.098	\$0.117
Program	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)					535
Total for	Accumulated Five-Year Costs					\$62.50
Five Years	Cost Effectiveness					\$0.117
	Percent Greater Savings from Cycling		66%			



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Assumed Treatment Group Size	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	81	0	0	81	81
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
Year 1	Total Savings (kWh)	81	0	0	81	81
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.154	N/A	N/A	\$0.154	\$0.154
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	81	0	81	102
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	64	0	0	64	0
Year 2	Accumulated Two-Year Savings (kWh)	145	81	0	226	183
real z	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Two-Year Cost	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.086	\$0.154	N/A	\$0.110	\$0.137
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	0	81	81	140
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	54	64	0	119	0
Year 3	Accumulated Three-Year Savings (kWh)	200	145	81	426	323
real 5	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Three-Year Costs	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$37.50	\$37.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.063	\$0.086	\$0.154	\$0.088	\$0.116
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	99
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	29	54	64	148	0
Year 4 ⁴	Accumulated Four-Year Savings (kWh)	229	200	145	574	422
rear 4	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50
	Accumulated Four-Year Costs	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$37.50	\$50.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.055	\$0.063	\$0.086	\$0.065	\$0.118

Table 15: Cycling Average-Use Households, Single Year with Reports, Three Years No Reports¹



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	81	0	0	81	113
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	29	54	83	0
Year 5	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)	310	229	200	738	535
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Five-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$50.00	\$62.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.081	\$0.055	\$0.063	\$0.068	\$0.117
Program	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)		738	535		
Total for	Accumulated Five-Year Costs		\$50.00	\$62.50		
Five	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.068	\$0.117			
Years	Percent Greater Savings from Cycling				38%	

¹ Used actual achieved savings, degradation rates, and ramp-up rates. ² Price per household held constant for ease of comparison; uncertainly about actual OPower charges per household over time. ³ Accumulated is the effect costs and savings. ⁴ Note absence of treatment in Year 4 for all cycled groups. Expansion to a fourth group or shortening the cycle to two years off both provide viable options to not treating any households for a year.



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Assumed Treatment Group Size	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	81	0	0	81	437
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
Year 1	Total Savings (kWh)	81	0	0	81	437
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.154	N/A	N/A	\$0.154	\$0.029
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	113	0	0	113	446
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
Year 2	Accumulated Two-Year Savings (kWh)	194	0	0	194	883
real z	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Two-Year Cost	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.129	N/A	N/A	\$0.129	\$0.028
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	81	0	81	455
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	95	0	0	95	0
Year 3	Accumulated Three-Year Savings (kWh)	289	81	0	370	1,337
real 5	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Three-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$37.50	\$37.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.086	\$0.154	N/A	\$0.101	\$0.028
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	113	0	113	464
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	79	0	0	79	0
Year 4	Accumulated Four-Year Savings (kWh)	369	194	0	563	1,801
rear4	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Four-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.068	\$0.129	N/A	\$0.089	\$0.028

Table 16: Cycling Average-Use Households, Two Year with Reports, Two Years No Reports¹



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	81	0	81	162	473
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	95	0	95	0
Vear 5	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)	450	289	81	820	2,274
Annua	Annual Cost ² Accumulated Five-Year Costs	\$12.50 \$37.50	\$0.00 \$25.00	\$12.50 \$12.50	\$25.00 \$75.00	\$12.50 \$62.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.083	\$0.086	\$0.154	\$0.091	\$0.027
Program	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)				820	887
Total for	Accumulated Five-Year Costs				\$75.00	\$62.50
Five	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.091	\$0.070			
Years	Percent Greater Savings from Cycling				-8%	



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Assumed Treatment Group Size	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	81	0	0	81	81
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
Year 1	Total Savings (kWh)	81	0	0	81	81
	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.154	N/A	N/A	\$0.154	\$0.154
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	113	0	0	113	113
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	0
Voor 2	Accumulated Two-Year Savings (kWh)	194	0	0	194	194.4
Year 2	Annual Cost ²	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Two-Year Cost	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.129	N/A	N/A	\$0.129	\$0.129
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	81	0	81	159
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	95	0	0	95	0
Year 3	Accumulated Three-Year Savings (kWh)	289	81	0	370	353
real 5	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Three-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$37.50	\$37.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.086	\$0.154	N/A	\$0.101	\$0.106
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	113	0	113	222
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	79	0	0	79	0
Year 4	Accumulated Four-Year Savings (kWh)	369	194	0	563	575
	Annual Cost ²	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$12.50
	Accumulated Four-Year Costs	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.068	\$0.129	N/A	\$0.089	\$0.087

Table 17: Cycling Average-Use Households, Two Years with Reports, Three Years No Reports¹



		Group A	Group B	Group C	Program Total ³	Five Years Continual
	Treatment Savings (kWh)	0	0	81	81	311
	Persistence Savings (kWh)	66	95	0	161	0
Vear 5	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)	435	289	81	805	887
Year 5	Annual Cost ² Accumulated Five-Year Costs	\$0.00 \$25.00	\$0.00 \$25.00	\$12.50 \$12.50	\$12.50 \$62.50	\$12.50 \$62.50
	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.057	\$0.086	\$0.154	\$0.078	\$0.070
Program	Accumulated Five-Year Savings (kWh)				805	887
Total for	Accumulated Five-Year Costs				\$62.50	\$62.50
Five	Cost Effectiveness	\$0.078	\$0.070			
Years	Percent Greater Savings from Cycling				-9%	



3

Section 3 Conclusions and Recommendations

The analysis presented in this study of households in the Eversource HERs Pilot program indicates that the full measure lifetimes of receiving reports may be substantiated as multiple years due to substantial retention even after the program interventions are interrupted. The study

provided defensible estimates of retained savings from behavioral programs that will allow for more accurate attribution of program savings, inform refinement of the program design, and consider the program's cost-effectiveness with lifetime numbers. The study also presented calculations based on empirical evidence gained through the billing analysis that indicate that program cycling (stopping and starting the program or delivering the program to different subgroups in turn) may offer a way to maximize savings and increase costeffectiveness at the same time. It should be noted that cycling is not the only alternative approach available to Eversource for program delivery. They could work with the implementer to alter messaging and the types of customers targeted, among other options. Yet, this analysis makes clear that cycling serves as one viable alternative to the current design of continual monthly treatment to all enrolled customers. The key takeaways can be summarized as follows:

- High-use discontinued groups exhibit statistically significant savings at least two but no more than three years post-treatment, with the variation in persistence largely an artifact of the sample size (i.e., statistical power) and length of treatment (eight months versus one year). The average annual degradation was 16% spread across three years for all high-use discontinued groups.
- High-use continued groups exhibited an average ramp-up rate of 2% (including the second-year of treatment in which they had a three-month report hiatus; the average ramp-up was 8% without the hiatus). Ramp-up rates for the high-use continued groups declined over time.
- Average-use continued groups also exhibited ramp-up, with an average of 40%, but with substantial variation from year to year. Because they achieve smaller percentage savings and kWh savings compared to high-use groups, it took the average-use group four full years of treatment to accumulate the same savings as one year of treatment among high-use groups.
- Taking persistence savings and ramp-up into account, the cost per kWh saved over five years was less than one cent for high-use discontinued groups, about three cents for high-use continued groups, and approximately 12 cents for average-use continued groups.
- Cycling approaches provide an avenue to maximize savings at the lowest cost per kWh saved and touch a greater number of customers in the process. The cycles that perform the best involve treating successive groups for one year each, banking the persistence savings. Two-year treatment cycles are less cost-effective and, for average-use households, do not maximize savings.

Based on these findings, the study makes the following two recommendations.



- Recommendation 1: This study assessed cost-effectiveness using a very simple approach—the cost per kWh saved. Deciding whether a cycling approach meets the more detailed utility cost test (or other benefit-cost ratio tests) would require a more thorough analysis to determine the full benefits and costs of cycling versus continued treatment.
- Recommendation 2: If the HERs program stops sending reports to high-use and average-use continued groups, examine the degradation rates of their savings to inform long-term program design.

Eversource and OPower expanded the program in 2014, adding 300,000 households and enrolling HES and HES-IE customers into the program. These program changes inform the third and fourth recommendations.

- Recommendation 3: Because savings vary by pre-program energy use, Eversource should examine the pre-program energy use of the 300,000 households in the current iteration of the Eversource HERs program for the distribution of pre-program energy use and analyze the most effective and fair way to target the program. For example, the program may want to consider cycling high-use households (who achieve higher percentage and kWh savings) but treating average-use households continuously (due to lower percentage and kWh savings). The use of cycling may allow such a design to achieve high cost effectiveness and touch more customers, while maximizing savings overall.
- Recommendation 4: Households that opt in to a program like HES or HES-IE may differ from the randomly selected population of high users and average users that were in the HERs pilot. Moreover, by already taking part in HES and HES-IE and then receiving HERs, the program runs the risk of double counting savings between HERs and HES/HES-IE. Therefore, Eversource should study the impact of enrolling HES and HES-IE households into HERs on program attribution and double counting of savings.
- Recommendation 5: When the current implementer contract ends, Eversource should consider adopting a revised program design that includes a cycling approach, particularly for the high-use customers in the sample, who achieve similar or higher savings from treatment and retention savings compared to continual treatment, even with ramp-up taking into account.





Appendix A Expanded Methods

This section provides more information on the data used in the study and the energy use characteristics of treatment and control households.

Eversource provided data on households that had service disconnected since they started receiving reports or who had opted out of the program

(i.e., asked not to receive reports). Opt-out households have been retained in the analysis.

OPower provided the billing data used in this analysis, making certain to include electricity account numbers for matching to other data files (e.g., data from prior evaluations' study years) and providing the data in formats requested by the evaluators. These data included monthly electricity use per service account for both the HERs treatment group and control group as well as the meter read dates from January 1, 2010, through July 31, 2016. OPower also sent data on treatment group, control group, and sub-treatment group assignments (i.e., average use, quarterly, monthly, and persistence samples). Data sent by OPower also showed the date that they mailed the first report to each treatment household.

Weather data came from four regional stations in Connecticut, as agreed on during the initial evaluation in 2012 and retained in subsequent studies over time for the sake of comparability and consistency. Figure 4 includes a map that links ZIP codes to the nearest of the four weather stations. The areas in white are served by municipal utilities and the United Illuminating Company. The Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport is outside of the Eversource service territory, but it is the closest weather station to many of the Eversource towns located in the southwest corner of the state. For each region, the study calculated average monthly temperature, total monthly heating degree days, and total monthly cooling degree days from daily data available from the NCDC website for December 2009 through July 2016 and included the heating and cooling degree days as a control for the impact model.

Eversource	OPOWER	NCDC
Flag for treatment households	Monthly billing data in kWh,	Average daily temperature for
who opted out of program ^a	presented as total usage and	four major weather stations in
who opted out of program	Monthly billing data in kWh,	Connecticut
		Heating Degree Days (HDD),
Flag for service disconnection	Meter read date	calculated from the average
		daily temperature data
		Cooling Degree Days (CDD),
	Date of first report	calculated from the average
		daily temperature data
	Assignment to treatment and	
	control as well as any sub-	
	treatment group	

Table 18: Billing Analysis Data Sources



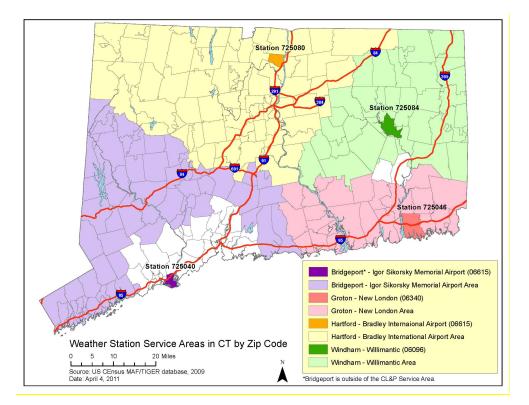


Figure 4: Weather Station Assignment



Table 19 summarizes the final sample sizes used in the billing analysis as well as the monthly pre-treatment electricity use for the households.

Table 19: Total Pre-Program Electricity Usage for Households Included in
Current Analysis¹

	Sample Size	Average Monthly Use (kWh)
Average-use Expansion Treatment Group	8,985	713
Average-use Expansion Control Group	9,963	707
High-use Extension Treatment Group	7,211	1,606
High-use Extension Control Group	22,584	1,577
Discontinued Treatment Group	14,733	1,576
Discontinued Monthly	1,507	1,611
Discontinued Persistence	3,796	1,595
Discontinued Quarterly	9,374	1,601
Discontinued Control Group ³	22,584	1,577

¹ These data reflect the period from January 2010 through December 2010 for the high-use Extension and Discontinued groups and August 2011 through July 2012 for the average-use Expansion groups.
 ² Sample size of households included in the current analysis, which is smaller than at the program start due to

² Sample size of households included in the current analysis, which is smaller than at the program start due to attribution related largely to disconnected accounts.
 ³ Encompasses all control group households from the Year 1 Pilot including the high-use Extension control

³ Encompasses all control group households from the Year 1 Pilot including the high-use Extension control group. The high-use Extension control group households have never received a report and should be statistically similar to the other control group households from the Year 1 Pilot.

Table 20 presents the results of savings explorations over the course of the pilot program, from January 2011 through June 2016.



		Dise	continued		Continued	
	Monthly	Quarterly	Persistence	All	High-use	Average-Use
Study 1: Submitted 2013		•	· · ·			·
Sample Size	9,681 ²	9,990	3,923	23,594 ²	N/A	N/A
Average Daily Treatment kWh Savings	1.07*	0.72*	0.76* ³	0.85*	N/A	N/A
Average Daily Treatment % Savings	2.17%*	1.45%*	1.57%*	1.75%*	N/A	N/A
Study 2 Submitted 2014						
Sample Size	1,670	9,856	3,979	15,505	8,047	10,217
Average Daily Treatment kWh Savings	1.75*	0.76*	0.76*	0.91*	1.19	0.26
Average Daily Treatment % Savings	3.62%*	1.55%*	1.57%*	1.88%*	2.31%	1.17%
Average Daily Post-Treatment kWh Savings	1.49*	0.83*	0.75*	0.88*	N/A	N/A
Apr. 2012 to Jul. 2013	1.49	0.05	0.75	0.00		
Average Daily Post-Treatment % Apr. 2012	3.70%*	2.06%*	1.86%*	1.82%*	N/A	N/A
to Jul. 2013 Savings	5.70%	2.00%	1.00 /0	1.02 /0		
Study 3 Submitted 2016						
Sample Size	1,670	9,641	3,896	15,207	Not explored	Not explored
Average Daily Treatment kWh Savings	1.75*	0.86*	0.76*	0.91*	Not explored	Not explored
Average Daily Treatment % Savings	3.62%*	1.79%*	1.57%*	1.88%*	Not explored	Not explored
Average Daily Post-Treatment kWh Savings	1.49*	0.83*	0.75*	0.88*	N/A	N/A
Apr. 2012 to Jul. 2013	1.49	0.03	0.75	0.00	IN/A	
Average Daily Post-Treatment % Savings	3.70%*	2.06%*	1.86%*	1.82%*	N/A	N/A
Apr. 2012 to Jul. 2013 %	5.70%	2.00 /0	1.00 /0	1.02 /0		
Average Daily Post-Treatment kWh Savings	0.71	0.61*	0.09	0.48*	N/A	N/A
Aug. 2013 to Nov. 2014 kWh	0.71	0.01	0.03	0.40		
Average Daily Post-Treatment % Savings	1.66%	1.27%*	0.23%	0.99%*	N/A	N/A
Aug. 2013 to Nov. 2014 %	1.00 /0	1.27/0	0.2370	0.3370		

Table 20: Energy Savings by Treatment Group Across Studies



		Disc	continued		Continued	
	Monthly	Quarterly	Persistence	All	High-use	Average-Use
Study 4: Current Study Submitted 2017						
Sample Size	1,507	9,374	3,796	14,733	7,211	8,985
Average Daily Treatment kWh Savings	1.75*	0.86*	0.76*	0.91*	1.21*	0.36*
Average Daily Treatment % Savings	3.62%*	1.79%*	1.57%*	1.88%*	2.54%	1.64%
Average Daily Post-Treatment kWh Savings Apr. 2012 to Jul. 2013	1.49*	0.83*	0.75*	0.88*	N/A	N/A
Average Daily Post-Treatment % Savings Apr. 2012 to Jul. 2013 %	3.70%*	2.06%*	1.86%*	1.82%*	N/A	N/A
Average Daily Post-Treatment kWh Savings Aug. 2013 to Nov. 2014 kWh	0.71	0.61*	0.09	0.48*	N/A	N/A
Average Daily Post-Treatment % Savings Aug. 2013 to Nov. 2014 %	1.66%	1.27%*	0.23%	0.99%*	N/A	N/A
Average Daily Post-Treatment kWh Savings Dec. 2014 to July 2016 kWh	0.96	0.35	0.08	0.57	N/A	N/A
Average Daily Post-Treatment % Savings Dec. 2014 to July 2016 %	1.96%	0.70%	0.16%	1.20%	N/A	N/A

Statistical significant at the 0.1 level.

¹ Studies include: NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2013. *Evaluation of the Year 1 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program*.

http://www.energizect.com/government-municipalities/final-clp-behavioral-year-1-program-report-030613

NMR Group, Inc. and Tetra Tech. 2014. Evaluation of the Year 2 CL&P Pilot Customer Behavior Program (R2). Available at http://www.energizect.com/government-municipalities/evaluation-year-2-clp-pilot-customer-behavior-pgm-r2-final-report-8-8-14

NMR Group, Inc. 2016. R32 Evaluation of Persistence in the Eversource Customer Behavior Program (R32). Available at

http://www.energizect.com/sites/default/files/R32%20-%20Persistence%20of%20Eversource%20HER%20Pgm Final%20Report%2C%203.30.16.pdf

² Includes high-use continued group

³ Treatment continued for eight months only; total savings for January 2011 through March 2012 was 0.52 daily kWh (1.06%) per household.



Appendix B Additional Comparisons of Savings by Treatment Group Under Various Scenarios

The tables below continue the exploration started in <u>Optimal Program Delivery Scenarios</u>, particularly Table 9, but vary the assumed degradation rate. While Table 9 relied on annual degradation rates, Table 21 turns to the average degradation rates, Table 22 the low degradation rate identified in the literature, and Table 23 the high

degradation rate identified in the literature.

Table 21: Comparison of Savings by Treatment Group Under Different Program Delivery Scenarios

		High-use D	Continued			
	Monthly ¹	Quarterly	Persistence ¹	Overall	High Use	Average Use
Actual Conditions through Five Years						
Year 1 savings kWh per household (HH)	849	417	369	388	437	81
Year 2 savings (% of Yr1)	82%	68%	64%	79%	84%	126%
Year 3 savings (% of Yr1)	77%	56%	50%	67%	113%	173%
Year 4 savings (% of Yr1)	NS ²	56%	NS ²	50%	108%	122%
Year 5 savings (% of Yr1)	NS ²	NS ²	NS ²	NS ²	102%	NA
Total Cumulative Savings	2,195	1,053	789	1,095	2,214	422
Cost/household for treatment	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$59.67	\$52.53
Single Year of Reports, No Persistence Cor	sidered					
Achieved Savings	849	417	369	388	437	81
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.009	\$0.018	\$0.020	\$0.019	\$0.017	\$0.154

(Average Annual Degradation Rate by Treatment Group)



		High-use [Continued			
	Monthly ¹	Quarterly	Persistence ¹	Overall	High Use	Average Use
Single Year of Reports / One Year No Repor	t					•
Achieved Savings	1,600	734	646	713	802	149
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.005	\$0.011	\$0.012	\$0.011	\$0.010	\$0.086
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	20%	44%	47%	43%	39%	63%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	93%	87%	87%	91%	91%	76%
Single Year of Reports / Three Years No Rep	oort					
Achieved Savings	2,351	1,368	923	1,362	1,533	284
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.003	\$0.008	\$0.009	\$0.007	\$0.006	\$0.055
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	14%	30%	35%	28%	24%	44%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	68%	81%	62%	87%	87%	67%
Two Years of Reports / Two Years No Report	t					
Achieved Savings	3,214	1,475	1,298	1,431	1,612	299
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.007	\$0.015	\$0.017	\$0.015	\$0.013	\$0.089
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	25%	57%	67%	57%	51%	71%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	94%	87%	87%	91%	91%	71%
Two Years of Reports / Three Years No Reports	ort					
Achieved Savings	3,214	1,792	1,298	1,756	1,977	367
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.007	\$0.014	\$0.017	\$0.013	\$0.012	\$0.080
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	24%	50%	64%	50%	44%	65%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	62%	71%	58%	75%	75%	59%

¹Results reflect that this group exhibited statistically significant savings for only two-years post-treatment. ² Savings not statistically different from the control group.



Table 22: Comparison of Savings by Treatment Group Under Different Program Delivery Scenarios
(Literature Low Degradation Rate)

		High-use D	Continued			
	Monthly ¹	Quarterly	Persistence ¹	Overall	High Use	Average Use
Actual Conditions through Five Years						
Year 1 savings kWh per household (HH)	849	417	369	388	437	81
Year 2 savings (% of Yr1)	82%	68%	64%	79%	84%	126%
Year 3 savings (% of Yr1)	77%	56%	50%	67%	113%	173%
Year 4 savings (% of Yr1)	NS ²	56%	NS ²	50%	108%	122%
Year 5 savings (% of Yr1)	NS ²	NS ²	NS ²	NS ²	102%	NA
Total Cumulative Savings	2,195	1,053	789	1,095	2,214	422
Cost/household for treatment	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$59.67	\$52.53
Single Year of Reports, No Persistence Con	sidered					
Achieved Savings	849	417	369	388	437	81
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.009	\$0.018	\$0.020	\$0.019	\$0.017	\$0.154
Single Year of Reports / One Year No Repor	t					
Achieved Savings	1,605	788	697	733	826	153
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.005	\$0.011	\$0.012	\$0.011	\$0.010	\$0.086
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	20%	44%	47%	43%	39%	63%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	94%	94%	94%	94%	94%	79%
Single Year of Reports / Three Years No Rep	oort					
Achieved Savings	2,360	1,530	1,026	1,424	1,604	297
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.003	\$0.008	\$0.009	\$0.007	\$0.006	\$0.055
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	14%	30%	35%	28%	24%	44%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	69%	91%	69%	91%	91%	70%



		High-use [Discontinued		Continued	
	Monthly ¹	Quarterly	Persistence ¹	Overall	High Use	Average Use
Two Years of Reports / Two Years No Repor	t	•				
Achieved Savings	3,223	1,583	1,401	1,473	1,659	307
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.007	\$0.015	\$0.017	\$0.015	\$0.013	\$0.089
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	25%	57%	67%	57%	51%	71%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	94%	94%	94%	94%	94%	73%
Two Years of Reports / Three Years No Repo	ort	·				
Achieved Savings	3,223	1,954	1,401	1,818	2,048	380
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.007	\$0.014	\$0.017	\$0.013	\$0.012	\$0.080
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	24%	50%	64%	50%	44%	65%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	63%	77%	63%	77%	77%	62%

¹ Results reflect that this group exhibited statistically significant savings for only two-years post-treatment. ² Savings not statistically different from the control group.

Table 23: Comparison of Savings by Treatment Group Under Different Program Delivery Scenarios (Literature High Degradation Rate)

	High-use Discontinued				Continued	
	Monthly ¹	Quarterly	Persistence ¹	Overall	High Use	Average Use
Actual Conditions through Five Years			·		•	·
Year 1 savings kWh per household (HH)	849	417	369	388	437	81
Year 2 savings (% of Yr1)	82%	68%	64%	79%	84%	126%
Year 3 savings (% of Yr1)	77%	56%	50%	67%	113%	173%
Year 4 savings (% of Yr1)	NS ²	56%	NS ²	50%	108%	122%
Year 5 savings (% of Yr1)	NS ²	NS ²	NS ²	NS ²	102%	NA



		High-use [Continued			
	Monthly ¹	Quarterly	Persistence ¹	Overall	High Use	Average Use
Total Cumulative Savings	2,195	1,053	789	1,095	2,214	422
Cost/household for treatment	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$7.55	\$59.67	\$52.53
Single Year of Reports, No Persistence Cons	sidered					
Achieved Savings	849	417	369	388	437	81
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.009	\$0.018	\$0.020	\$0.019	\$0.017	\$0.154
Single Year of Reports / One Year No Report	t					
Achieved Savings	1,520	746	661	695	782	145
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.005	\$0.011	\$0.012	\$0.011	\$0.010	\$0.086
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	20%	44%	47%	43%	39%	63%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	89%	89%	89%	89%	89%	74%
Single Year of Reports / Three Years No Rep	oort					
Achieved Savings	2,190	1,405	952	1,308	1,473	273
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.003	\$0.008	\$0.009	\$0.007	\$0.006	\$0.055
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	14%	30%	35%	28%	24%	44%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	64%	83%	64%	83%	83%	65%
Two Years of Reports / Two Years No Repor	t					
Achieved Savings	3,053	1,500	1,327	1,395	1,571	291
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.007	\$0.015	\$0.017	\$0.015	\$0.013	\$0.089
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	25%	57%	67%	57%	51%	71%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	89%	89%	89%	89%	89%	69%
Two Years of Reports / Three Years No Repo	ort					
Achieved Savings	3,053	1,829	1,327	1,702	1,917	355
Cost / kWh Achieved	\$0.007	\$0.014	\$0.017	\$0.013	\$0.012	\$0.080



R1606 EVERSOURCE BEHAVIOR PROGRAM PERSISTENCE EVALUATIO

	High-use Discontinued				Continued	
	Monthly ¹	Quarterly	Persistence ¹	Overall	High Use	Average Use
Percent of \$/kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	24%	50%	64%	50%	44%	65%
Percent of kWh compared to similar years of continual treatment	59%	72%	59%	72%	72%	58%

¹ Results reflect that this group exhibited statistically significant savings for only two-years post-treatment. ² Savings not statistically different from the control group.

