

IRI 2026

# INNOVATORS SUMMIT

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# Powering the Future: Energy Demand, Sustainability, and the Next Wave of Innovation

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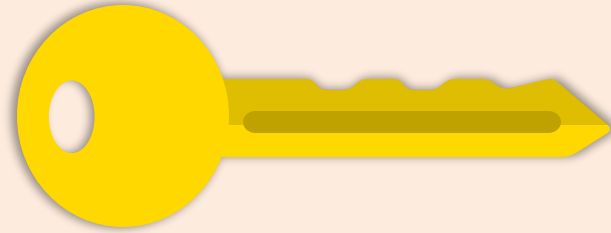


# The Energy System

- The “grid” is a vast, interconnected machine
- Electricity must be balanced in real time
- Reliability comes from coordination not central control
- Affordability, resilience, and sustainability are tightly linked



# Key Challenges



- ① The grid evolved over time and is showing its age.
- ① Extreme weather is impacting in new ways.
- ① Demand is growing from electrification and large loads.
- ① Costs are rising along with the need for investment.
- ① Affordability is a big concern even though customers' energy wallet share is growing slower than inflation.

# Let's Roll Up Our Sleeves to Manage Load Growth

## Typical available options



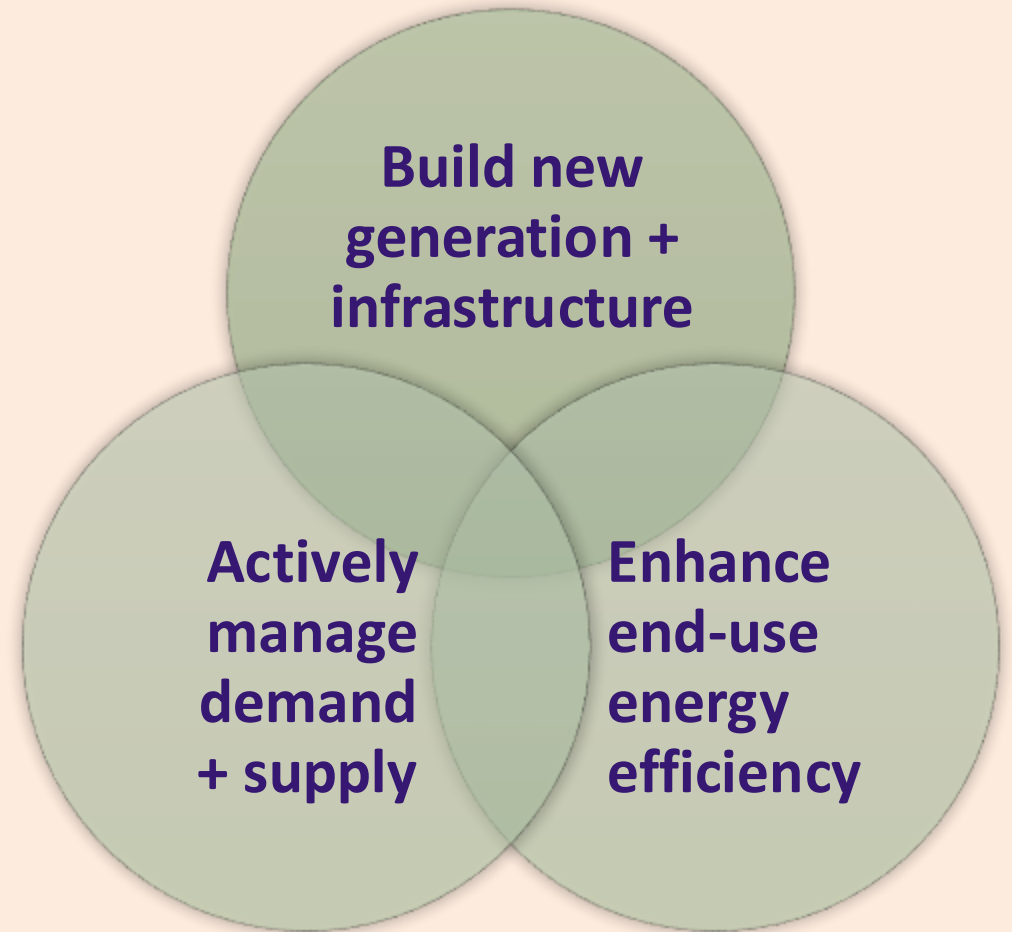
Add solar + storage (utility- or community-scale)



Retrofit home and business building envelopes, replace lighting, appliances, and HVAC



Deploy advanced sensors, communications, and controls



# We Need Solutions That Satisfy an Array of Stakeholder Priorities



Local Utility Operator	Reliability
Public Utilities Commission	Risk-averse
Consumer Advocate	Least cost
Vendor/Supplier	Business viability
Community Member	Quality of life

# Key Questions for any Innovation in the Energy Utility Space

What problem are you solving?  
What is your innovation?

How does it impact reliability and resilience?

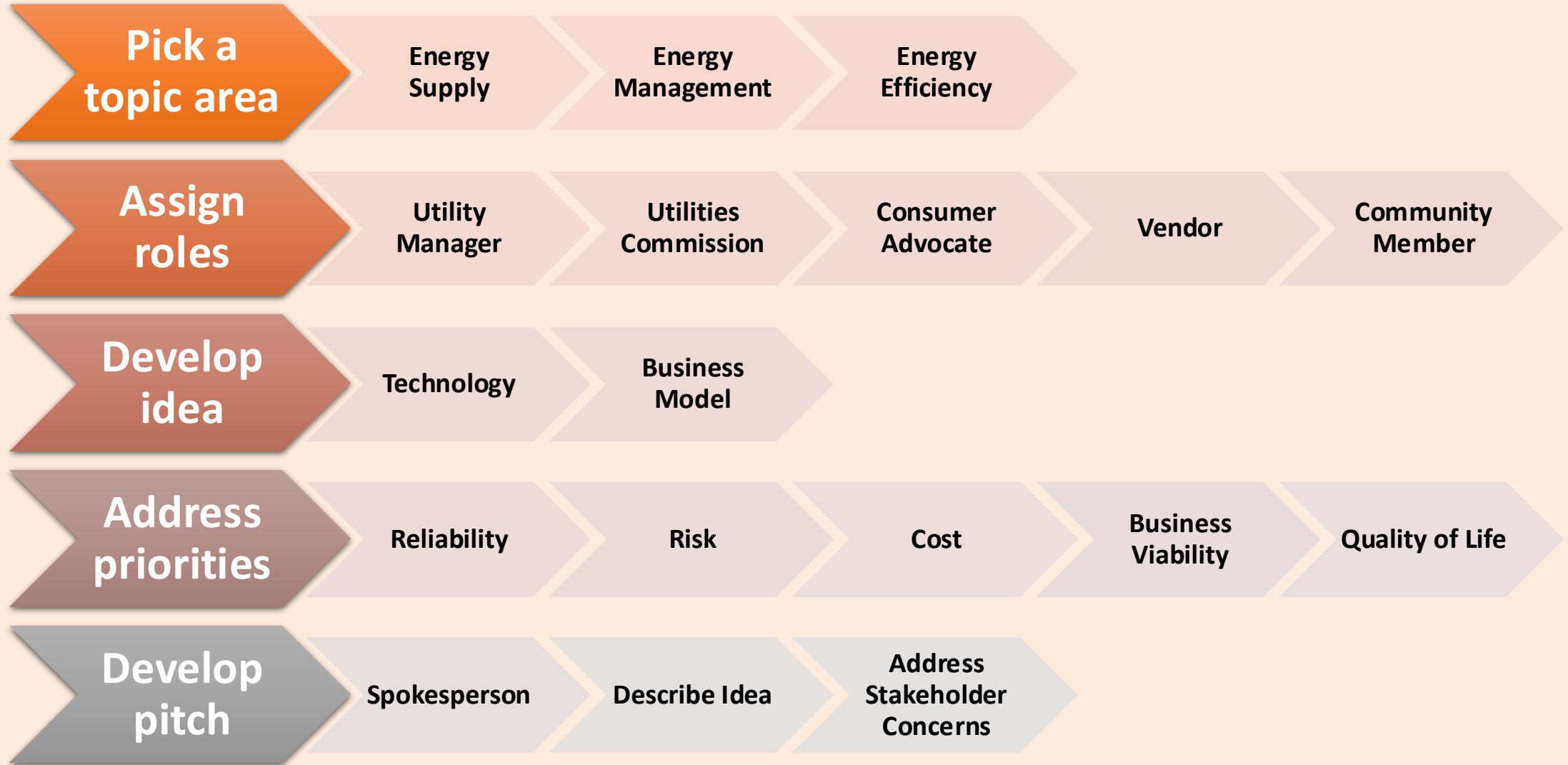
What will it cost and who might pay for it?

How will it impact the community and the environment?

Can a vendor support it? Will it be a viable line of business?

Is it sustainable?  
(financial, environmental, social)

# Assignment | Innovate to Manage Load Growth



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