

Urban Systems Science & Engineering: *Toward Smart, Low Carbon, High-Performance Cities*

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(on behalf of 10 labs)

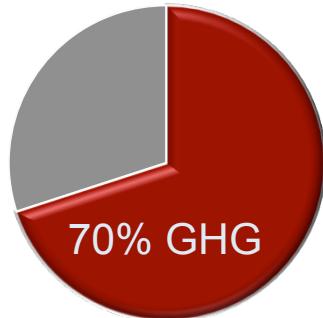


Briefing for
National Research Council study -
Pathways to Urban Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities

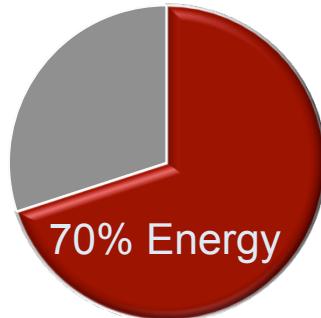
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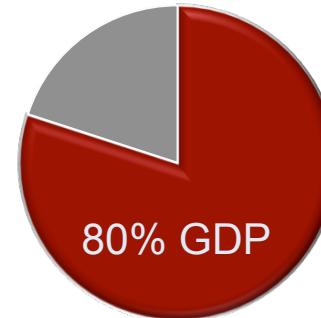
Cities are Central Drivers of:



Climate
Change

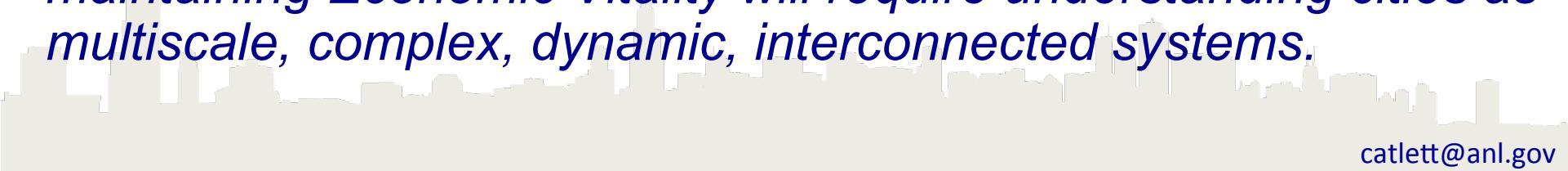


Energy
Security



Economic
Vitality

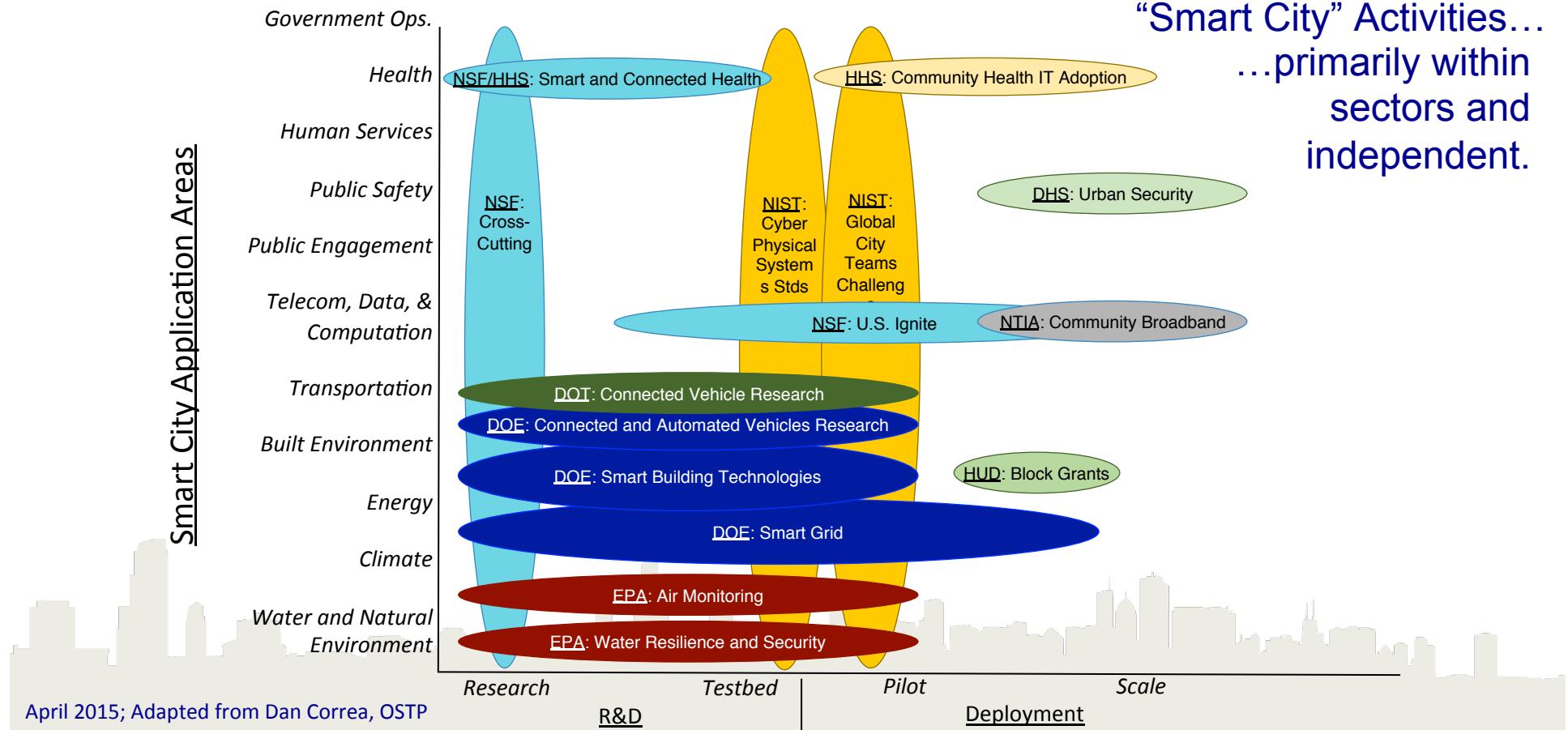
To address Climate Change and Energy Security while maintaining Economic Vitality will require understanding cities as multiscale, complex, dynamic, interconnected systems.



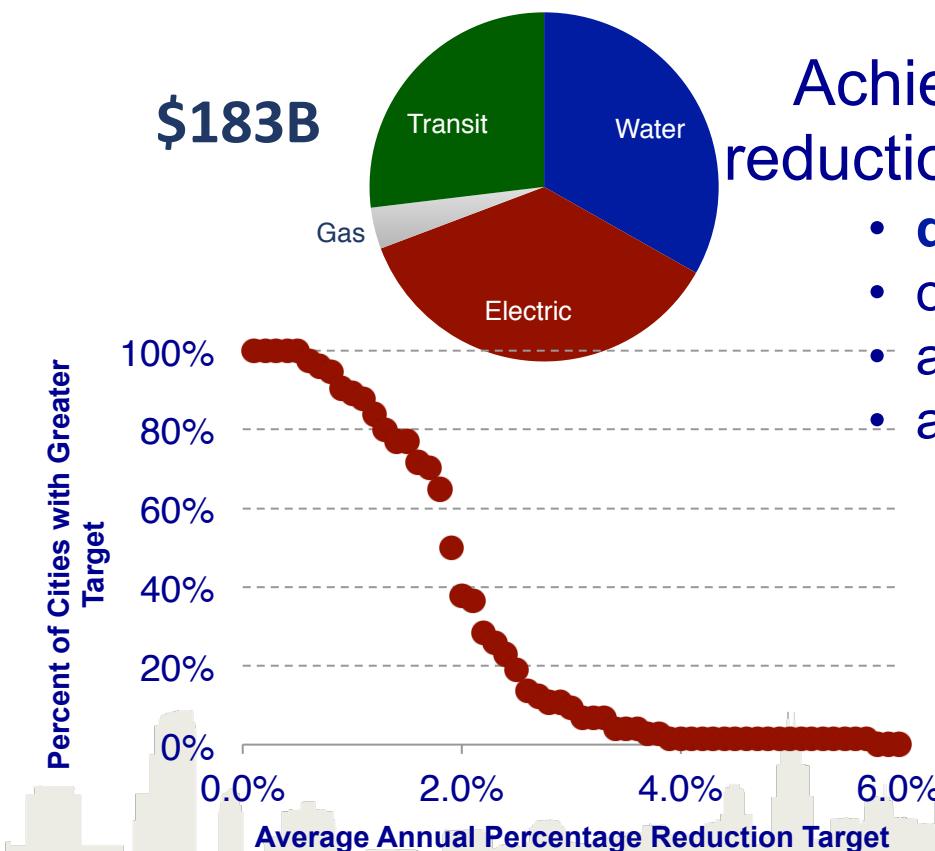
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Federal “Smart City” Programs

There Are Many Federal
“Smart City” Activities...
...primarily within
sectors and
independent.



Urban Energy and Emissions



Achieving the emissions and energy reduction goals of U.S. cities will require:

- **data driven understanding**
- of the **interactions**,
- across **spatial and temporal scales**,
- among **integrated urban**
 - energy (buildings, storage, generation, grid),
 - emissions,
 - water,
 - environment, and
 - mobility.

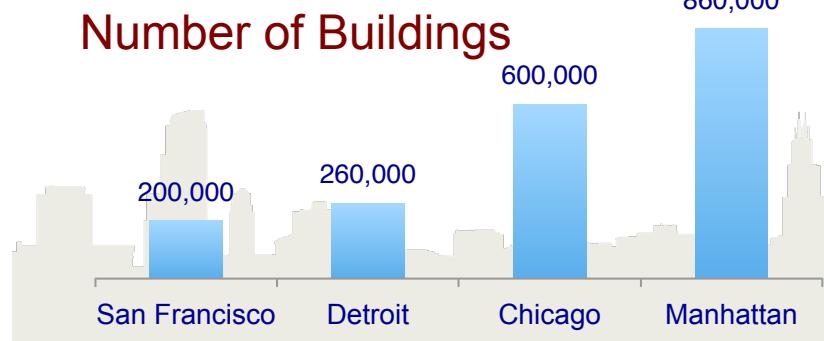
Used with permission: L. Doris (NREL), B. Kiger (NREL), O. Ma, A. Brown (NREL), S. Capanna, J. Dowd

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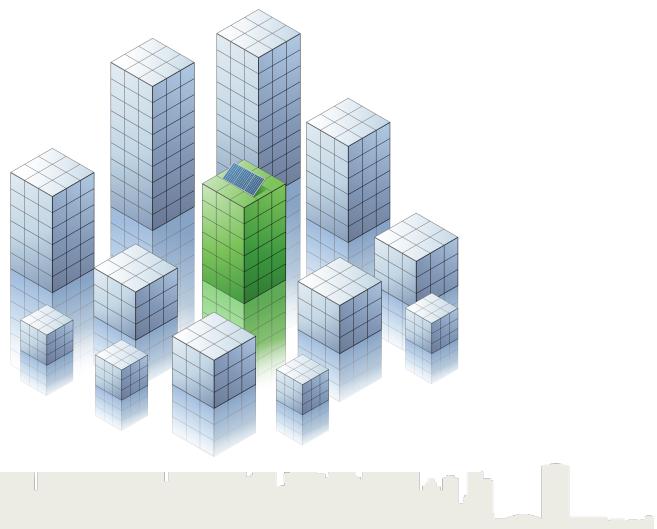
Imagine a City...

...that consumes 50% less total energy per capita, without compromising economic vitality or quality of life.

- Cities emit 80% of global CO₂
- Buildings consume more than 50% of energy in large cities



- Research Challenges: What are the “emergent behaviors” of cities as a whole (buildings, power grid, transportation, socio-economic choices, human activities) that can be leveraged to reduce energy consumption?

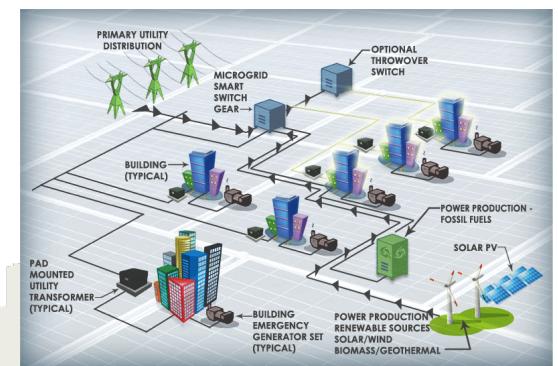


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Imagine a City...

...that is designed to be resilient to disruptions and can rapidly respond to events and changing conditions by harnessing computational models linked to real-time data.

- Research Challenges: How can a city be designed or modified to be as resilient as possible, balancing redundancy and efficiency? How can a city use high performance integrated computational models, predictive analytics, and real-time data to optimize response to disruptive events and conditions and to minimize operational impact?

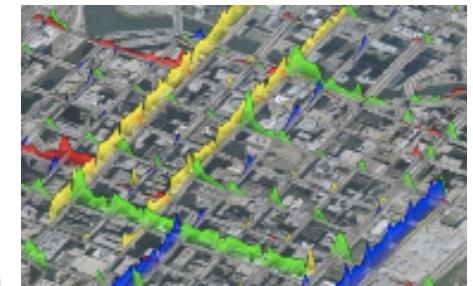


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Imagine a City...

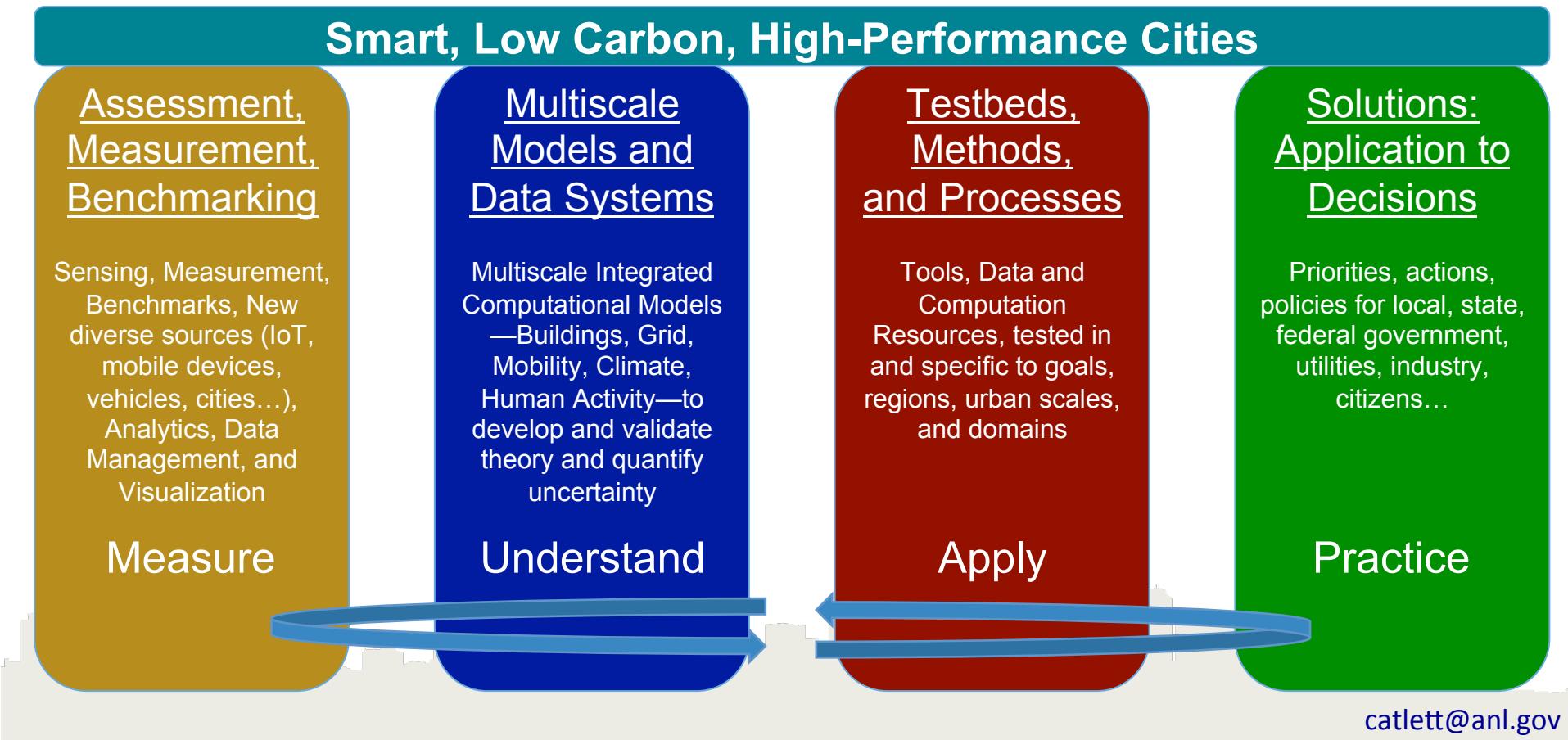
...where travel is unimpeded, no matter the location or time of day, reducing transit fuel costs and GHG emissions and congestion-related delays by 50%.

- **Research Challenges**: Reliable assessment of potential solutions for traffic congestion; delivering real-time routing plans, exploiting autonomous vehicle capabilities such as platooning and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications.

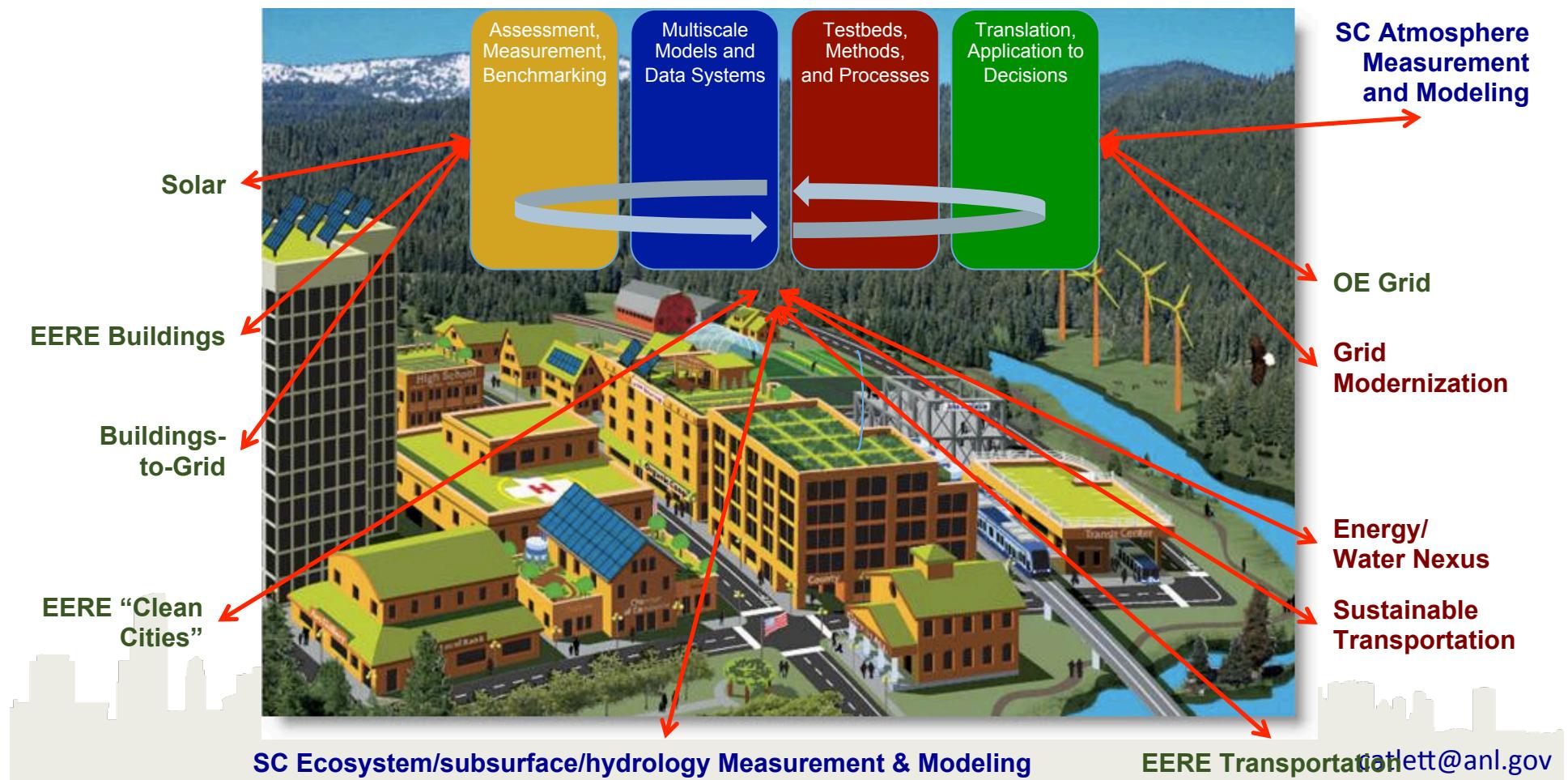


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A Proposed DOE Urban Science and Engineering Initiative



DOE Smart, Resilient, Low-Carbon Cities



Example Research Questions

- How do individual urban systems (buildings, grid, transportation, water, ...) behave, how do they interact, and what reductions (energy usage, GHGs) are possible if the system as a whole is optimized?
- How do urban areas impact regional and global climate? How will their future impact be affected by changes in fuel sources and technology? Climate? Social and Economic Factors?
- How will urban areas be impacted? How can cities respond to these impacts while maintaining sustainability, resilience and livability?
- What impact will connected vehicles, and eventually autonomous vehicles, have on traffic congestion? Energy usage? Urban sprawl? Air quality?
- How can urban renewable energy sources and distributed storage be integrated into building or district management systems to reduce energy usage?
- What is the impact and footprint of urban areas with respect to energy? Carbon and Climate? Water? Environment?

Urban Science and Engineering Initiative Executive and Leadership Team

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