Electric Efficiency Potential Down-Under: New Zealand in Perspective

Bobbi Tannenbaum, KEMA, Madison, WI
Fred Coito, KEMA, Oakland, CA
Michael Ting, Itron, Oakland, CA
Steven Meyers, Rational Energy Network, Austin, TX
Elizabeth Hicks, KEMA, Burlington, MA
Andrew Stevenson, Electricity Commission of New Zealand, Wellington

Abstract

The New Zealand Electricity Commission is responsible for regulating the country’s electricity industry and for promoting electric energy efficiency and conservation. The Commission funded a study to identify the potential for electric energy efficiency in all sectors, over a 10 year planning period, and to develop programme designs for implementation of continuing national energy efficiency efforts. This paper is based on the preliminary results from that study.

The paper starts by providing an overview of the New Zealand electricity industry. We discuss the basic approach and terminology used to identify efficiency potential. We discuss consumption characteristics and then focus on the economic potential for electric energy efficiency in New Zealand. Throughout the paper we discuss characteristics specific to New Zealand, including those that affect identifying the efficiency potential and in realizing energy efficiency savings through programs.