



Opinion **Dynamics**



**Guidehouse**

# ILLINOIS ENERGY EFFICIENCY EVALUATION: BIG PICTURE

Presentation to Illinois Stakeholder Advisory Group



June 16, 2020



# Agenda

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- Evaluation Overview
  - How Opinion Dynamics and Guidehouse coordinate EM&V work;
  - Historical overview of when various types of evaluations are completed and how often; and
  - How evaluation research is utilized in annual IL-TRM update process.
- SAG Discussion

# Illinois Evaluation Coordination

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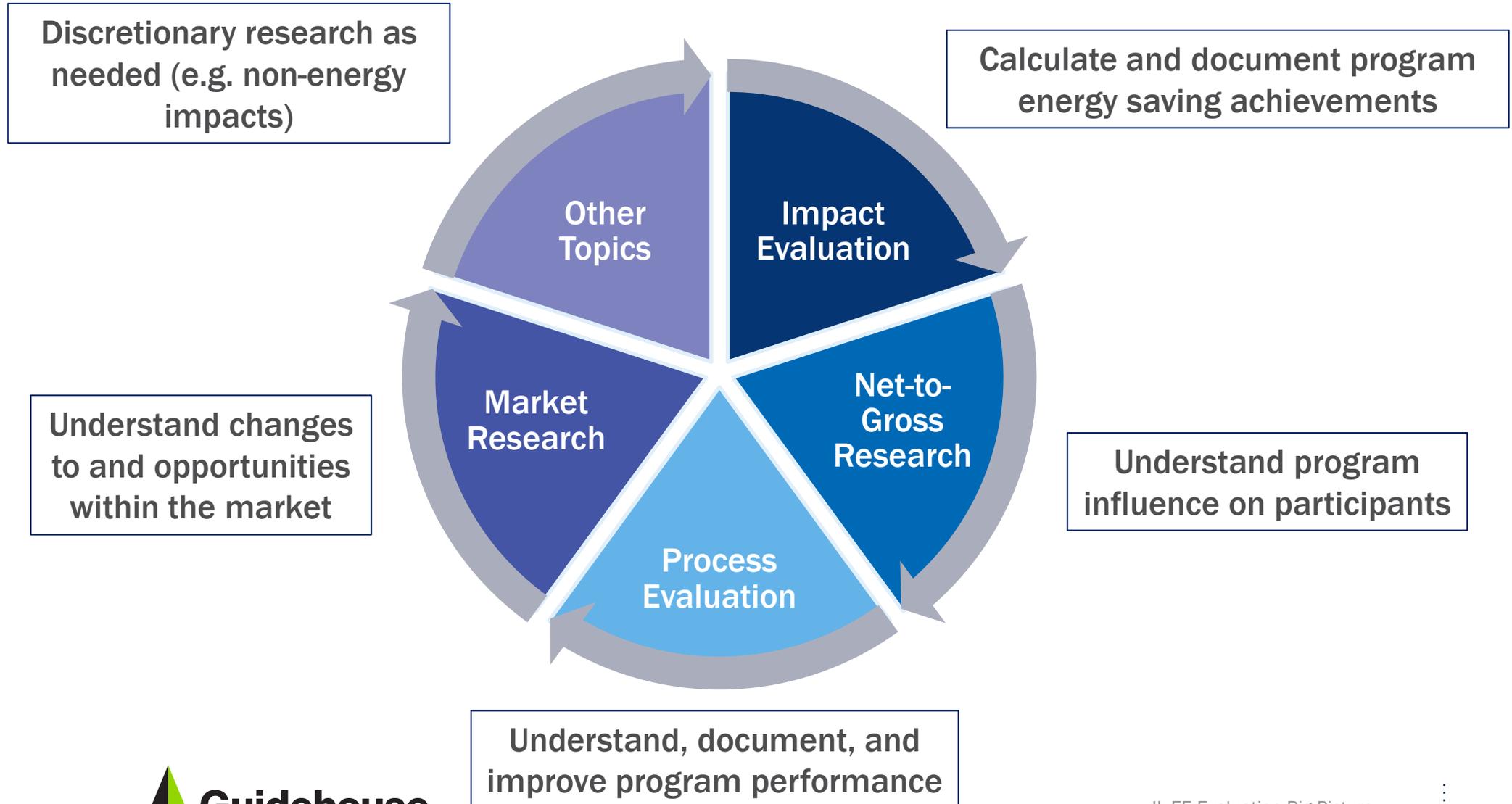
## Coordination Process

- Monthly coordination call
- Ad hoc meetings and discussion
- Participation in SAG and TAC Working Groups
- Collaboration on statewide research efforts

## Key Outcomes

- Collaboration:
  - Advanced thermostat impacts
  - Voltage optimization impacts
  - Behavioral persistence
  - COVID-19 effects on evaluation
- Statewide research:
  - Compressed air EUL (Guidehouse)
  - Advanced thermostat customer preferences (Opinion Dynamics)

# Core Components of Illinois Evaluations



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- Impact evaluation
  - We complete impact evaluations annually for all major portfolio programs
  - We support utilities in pilot development to ensure evaluability, and conduct evaluations as needed
- Net-to-gross research
  - We conduct net-to-gross research at least once per cycle for all programs unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. program is discontinued)
  - More frequently, if needed:
    - Market changes
    - Highly impactful programs

# Core Components of Illinois Evaluations

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- Process evaluation
  - We regularly complete a core set of process evaluation activities (e.g., review of program materials, interviews with program staff, and participation analysis)
  - Additionally, we regularly conduct more detailed process evaluations tailored to specific programmatic questions
- Market research
  - We complete market research studies on an as-needed basis and as evaluation budgets allow
  - Focus from utilities and SAG on specific topics is a major driver in determining if market research tasks need to be completed

# Core Components of Illinois Evaluations

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- Other topics
  - We support a wide range of other activities in Illinois
  - Most notably over the past cycle, we have been researching non-energy impacts (NEIs) associated with utility programs
    - This includes annual quantification of economic and employment impacts from utility programs
  - We conduct effective useful life (EUL) research to support the IL-TRM
  - We conduct verified cost-effectiveness analysis annually
  - We review gas utility adjustable goals on an annual basis
  - We support SAG and utility consideration of market transformation

# Evaluation Research and IL-TRM

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- We design and conduct evaluation activities to support updates to the Illinois Technical Reference Manual (IL-TRM) wherever possible, and TRM research is a significant part of evaluation budgets
- When developing evaluation plans each year, we consider the evaluation priorities list for the IL-TRM (maintained by VEIC) and how evaluation activities can address these items
- Based on our research, we submit workpapers to the Illinois TAC that support TRM updates
- We also participate in TAC and working group discussions to inform TRM development and support VEIC and other stakeholders



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# SAG Discussion Topics and Questions

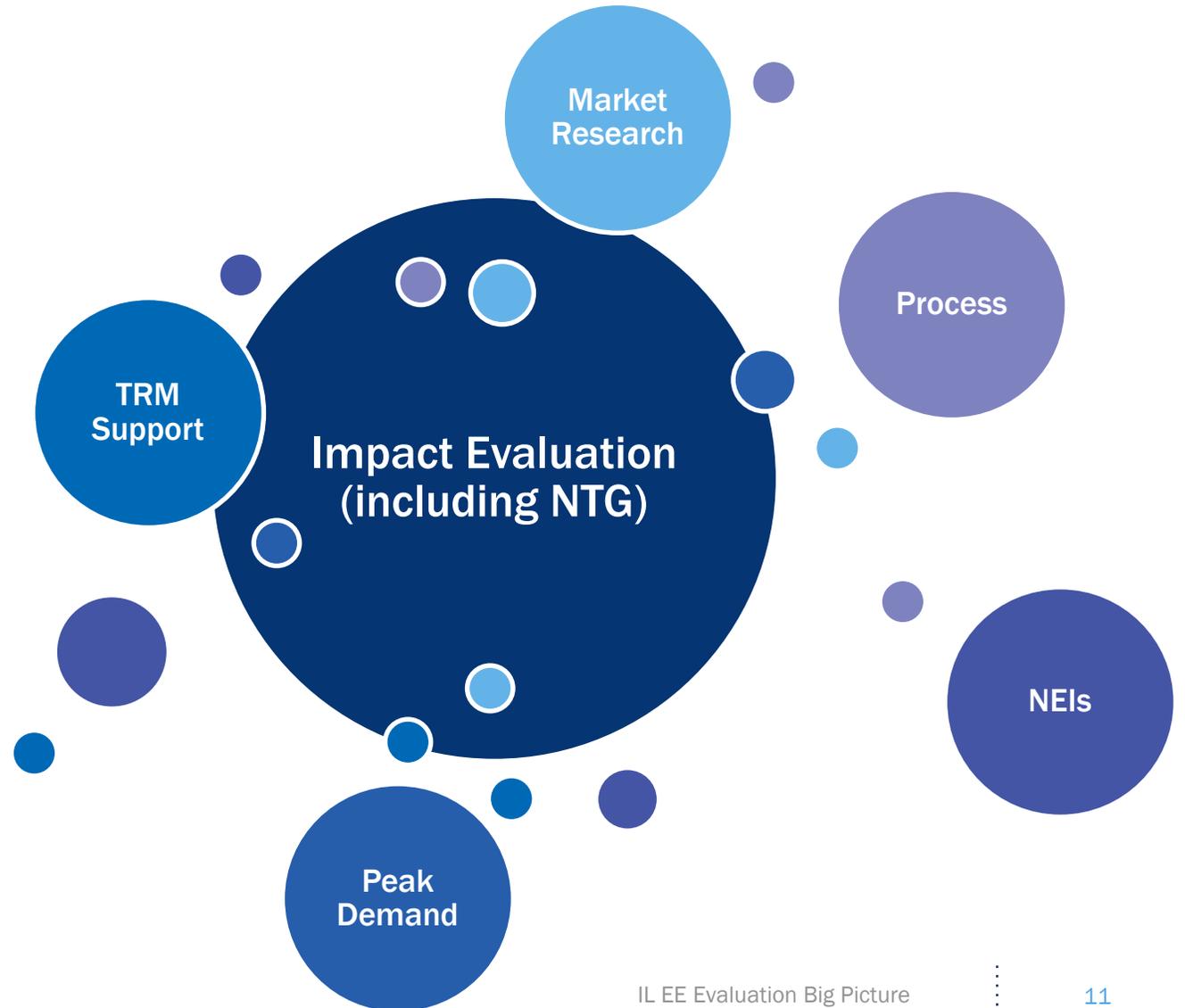
# Discussion Topics

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1. Opportunities for more integration of EM&V work across utility service territories.
2. The level of emphasis on different kinds of evaluation (process vs. impact, NTG vs. other, peak vs. energy, value of NEBs, etc.).
  - a) Where should evaluation research be prioritized?
  - b) Should there be any dedicated shifts in the type of research conducted by evaluators?
3. Opportunities for better integration and prioritization of evaluation research with the IL-TRM update process.

# Evaluation Emphasis

- The primary objective of Illinois portfolio evaluations is to verify net program energy savings for compliance purposes
- Secondary objectives are:
  - To support impact verification (e.g. TRM updates)
  - Program improvement to produce more beneficial results for Illinois ratepayers (e.g. process research, market research, NEI/peak demand research)



# Questions for Discussion

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1. Do SAG participants have feedback on coordinated EM&V work, the levels of emphasis on different kinds of evaluation, and / or how evaluation research is utilized for the IL-TRM?
2. Are there any changes that should be considered on coordination, type of evaluation, etc. for the 2022-2025 EE Plans?



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