

# Statewide Codes and Standards

## 2025 Single Family New Construction Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

March 12, 2026



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# Agenda

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Study Background

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Prototypes and Measures

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Results

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Q&A and Discussion

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Wrap Up

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# 2025 Code Metrics



- › Four Compliance Metrics (for new single family)
  - » Long-term System Cost (LSC) efficiency
  - » LSC total
  - » Source Energy
  - » Peak Cooling

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# 2025 Base Code



- › Heat Pump Baseline
  - » Space Heat
  - » Water Heat
- › Compliance-Neutral Equipment
  - » Stoves, Clothes Dryers
- › Outdoor Equipment

# Energy Related Ordinances: Cost-Effectiveness



**2025 Code Cycle  
Cost-Effectiveness  
Study:  
Single Family New  
Construction**

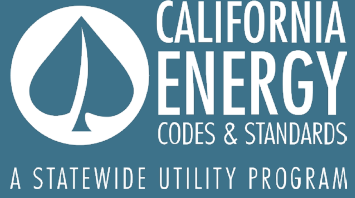
Prepared by:  
Frontier Energy, Inc  
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Prepared for:  
Kelly Cunningham, Codes and  
Standards Program, Pacific Gas  
and Electric

Revision: 1.0  
Last modified: 12/17/2025

## Why do we need cost-effectiveness studies?

- Document compliance with CEC requirements
- Inform ordinance development
- Understand and communicate impacts
- Identify local and regional opportunities



# 2025 Code Cycle Single Family New Construction

Reach Codes Results Report

March 12, 2026



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# Agenda

Energy Code Background

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Prototypes

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Efficiency Measures

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Results

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FRONTIER  
energy



# Reach Code Basics

Goal: **Exceed** the Energy Code

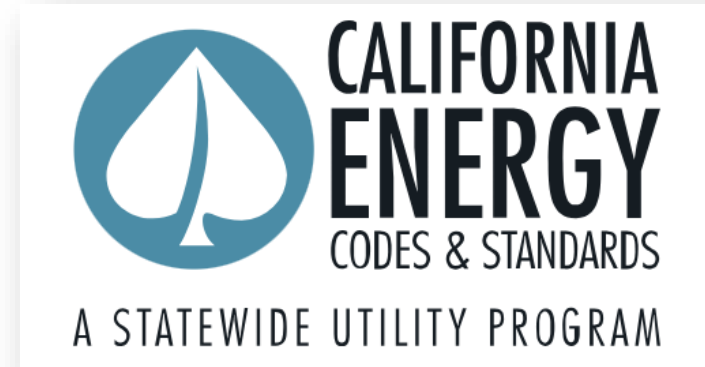
Requirements:

- Demonstrated statewide **cost-effectiveness**
  - Using approved formulas and tools
- Obtain approval from the **CEC**
- File ordinance with **BSC**


The **Statewide Reach Codes Team**

- Facilitates adoption and implementation
- Provides resources

<https://explorer.localenergycodes.com/>



# Reach Code Cost-Effectiveness Explorer

 Cost Effectiveness Explorer

**NEW**  
Show me data for a:  
City or County

Home  
Summary  
Building Estimates  
Study Results  
Policy Design


Login/register

INFO & HELP  
NEXT STEPS

Find more reach code resources at [LocalEnergyCodes.com](http://LocalEnergyCodes.com)

The Cost-Effectiveness Explorer is a free resource to help California local governments and regional entities develop energy policies for the building sector.


Get started exploring data for [City of Irvine](#)



### See a list of policy options

Start by choosing from a menu of energy policy options created by our experts.


[Explore policy options](#) [Learn more](#)



### Unlock insights for benchmarking policies and BPS

Analyze building estimates and customize building size thresholds to assess coverage for existing nonresidential buildings.


[Explore data](#) [Learn more](#)



### Prepare to adopt a reach code for the 2025 code cycle

The new Code Cycle is in effect as of January 1, 2026. Studies on potential amendments to the Code for new buildings are expected in the coming months.

[How to get ready](#) [Overview of 2025 Code](#)



# Results Report

- **Final report** expected April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Preliminary results report** (limited analysis) posted
- Single Family
- New Construction
- Compliance Analysis



# Legal Considerations

## Appliance Efficiency Regulations - Title 20

California appliance regulations, combined with federal standards, set minimum efficiency levels for energy and water consumption in products, such as consumer electronics, household appliances, and plumbing equipment. Learn more about appliance standards and how manufacturers can comply.

### POPULAR LINKS

[Appliance Efficiency Proceedings - Title 20](#)

[Appliance Regulations Certification Assistance](#)

[Modernized Appliance Efficiency Database System - MAEDbS](#)

### Regulatory Advisory for General Service Lamps

Beginning January 1, 2020, general service lamps with an efficacy less than 45 lumens per watt cannot be sold or offered for sale in California.

[APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY REGULATIONS FOR GENERAL SERVICE LAMPS - PDF >](#)



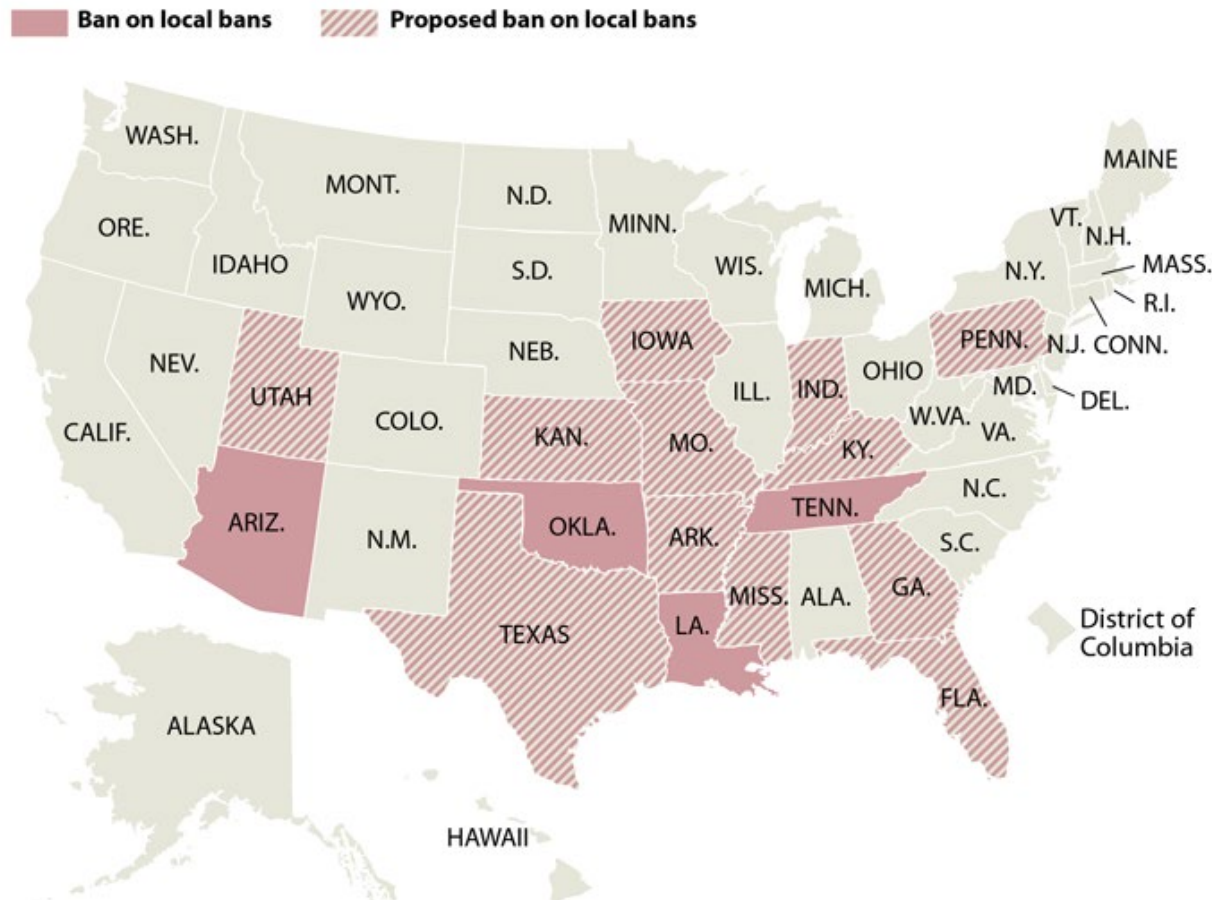
**Energy efficiency requirements** for some **appliances** are regulated at the federal level; states cannot require higher efficiencies—that is, requiring more is **preempted**.

Includes **HVAC** and **DHW**.

# Legal Considerations

## Gas Ban Repeal

## Assembly Bill 130



**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**  
**AB 130 (Housing) - Signed By the Governor**  
*Effective Immediately*

California Legislative Action Committee  
community ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE

California Legislative Action Committee



# Energy Code Background

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# Basics

“Energy Code”

“Part 6”

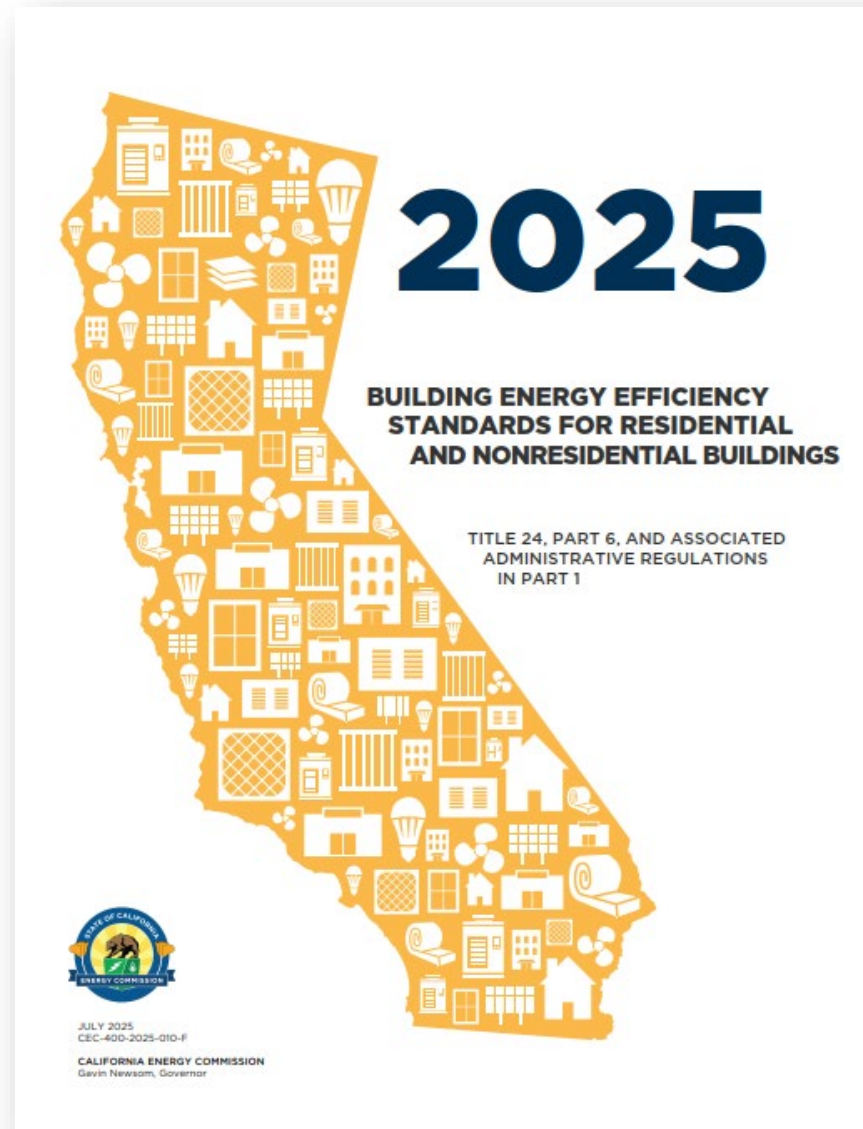
“Title 24”

“Standards”

Updated every 3 years –  
“code cycles”

2022 → 2025

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026



# Energy Code Basics



## Mandatory Measures

Must be met — may be exceeded.



Option 1:

### Prescriptive Approach

- Simple but inflexible - "all or nothing" approach to compliance
- Offers list of requirements for each building feature
- List of requirements based on Climate Zone



Option 2:

### Performance Approach

- Allows flexibility and building customization
- Software verifies whether the "Proposed Design" is as good as, or better than, the "Standard Design" (the baseline for Performance)

Mandatory vs Performance vs Prescriptive

Prescriptive = baseline or base case of compliance and analysis

# 2025 Code Cycle Updates

## “Dual Heat Pump Baseline”

Heat pumps for space heating and water heating prescriptively required for all climate zones

### Prescriptive Space Heating Changes to Heat Pumps



› Prescriptive

› Section 150.1(c)6, Table 150.1-A

### Domestic Water-heating Systems



› Prescriptive

› Section 150.1(c)8, Table 150.1-A

Vs. heat pumps in 2022 cycle:  
 Space heating: climate zones 3, 4, 13, 14  
 Water heating: all other climate zones

## Compliance Metrics

LSC (Long-term System Cost, \$/ft<sup>2</sup>) for efficiency and total;  
 Source  
 (+ Peak Cooling)

Energy Code	New Construction	Additions	Alterations
2022	EDRs, EDRe, EDRT	TDV	TDV
2025	Source, LSCe, LSCt	LSCe	LSCe

2022: **EDRs** = Source EDR; **EDRe** = Efficiency EDR; **EDRT** = Total EDR; **TDV** = Time Dependent Valuation

2025: **Source** = Total Annual Source Energy; **LSCe** = Efficiency LSC; **LSCt** = Total LSC

Vs. metrics in 2022 cycle:  
 EDR (Energy Design Rating) for all 3  
 TDV-based

# 2025 Compliance Metrics

Source Energy (Source)	Efficiency Long-Term System Costs (LSCe)	Total Long-term System Costs (LSCt)
<p>A score representing the building <b>long run source energy use due to fossil fuel combustion expressed as an hourly source-carbon metric.</b></p> <p>Source Energy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Envelope</li><li>+ Indoor fans</li><li>+ HVAC</li><li>+ DHW</li><li>+ PV</li><li>+ Batteries</li><li>+ Other loads</li></ul>	<p>A score representing the <b>building energy efficiency expressed as long-term system costs.</b></p> <p>Efficiency LSC includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Envelope</li><li>+ Indoor fans</li><li>+ HVAC</li><li>+ DHW</li><li>+ Other loads, including self-utilization credit when applicable</li></ul>	<p>A score representing the building <b>long-term system costs for energy efficiency while also factoring in photovoltaics (PV) and flexibility.</b></p> <p>Total LSC includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Efficiency measures</li><li>+ PV</li><li>+ Batteries</li><li>+ Precooling</li></ul>

The 3 components used to calculate compliance have similar goals and end uses.

**PV** = Solar photovoltaics, **HVAC** = Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, **DHW** = Domestic hot water

**Important Note:** For New Construction, a building complies with the Performance Approach **ONLY** if **all three** compliance scores are met, which means that each Proposed Design score is **lower than or equal to** the Standard Design score.

# Selected Pathway: Efficiency LSC (LSCe)

## Efficiency Long-Term System Costs (LSCe)

A score representing the **building energy efficiency expressed as long-term system costs.**

Efficiency LSC includes:

- + Envelope
- + Indoor fans
- + HVAC
- + DHW
- + Other loads, including self-utilization credit when applicable

This is the Reach Code pathway utilized for this report.

LSCe pathway = prescriptive baseline (mixed fuel) + measure(s) to reach X% LSCe

### Why we're using it:

- Due to the new dual heat pump baseline, most non-electric end uses are addressed by prescriptive standards.
  - Range and clothes dryer fuel sources do not impact compliance.
- Source metric has also changed in 2025.
- So, LSCe is now more impactful than Source in driving electrification.
  - LSCe is efficiency-based, and electric equipment is generally higher efficiency than natural gas.
- Added benefit: addresses the importance of envelope in long-term energy savings.

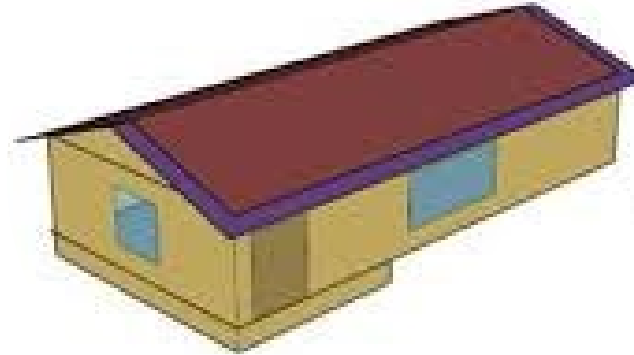


# Prototypes

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# Single Family Prototype

	One-Story
<b>Conditioned Floor Area</b>	2,100 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>Stories</b>	1
<b>Bedrooms</b>	3
<b>Window-to-Floor Area Ratio</b>	20%



	Two-Story
<b>Conditioned Floor Area</b>	2,700 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>Stories</b>	2
<b>Bedrooms</b>	4
<b>Window-to-Floor Area Ratio</b>	20%



43%

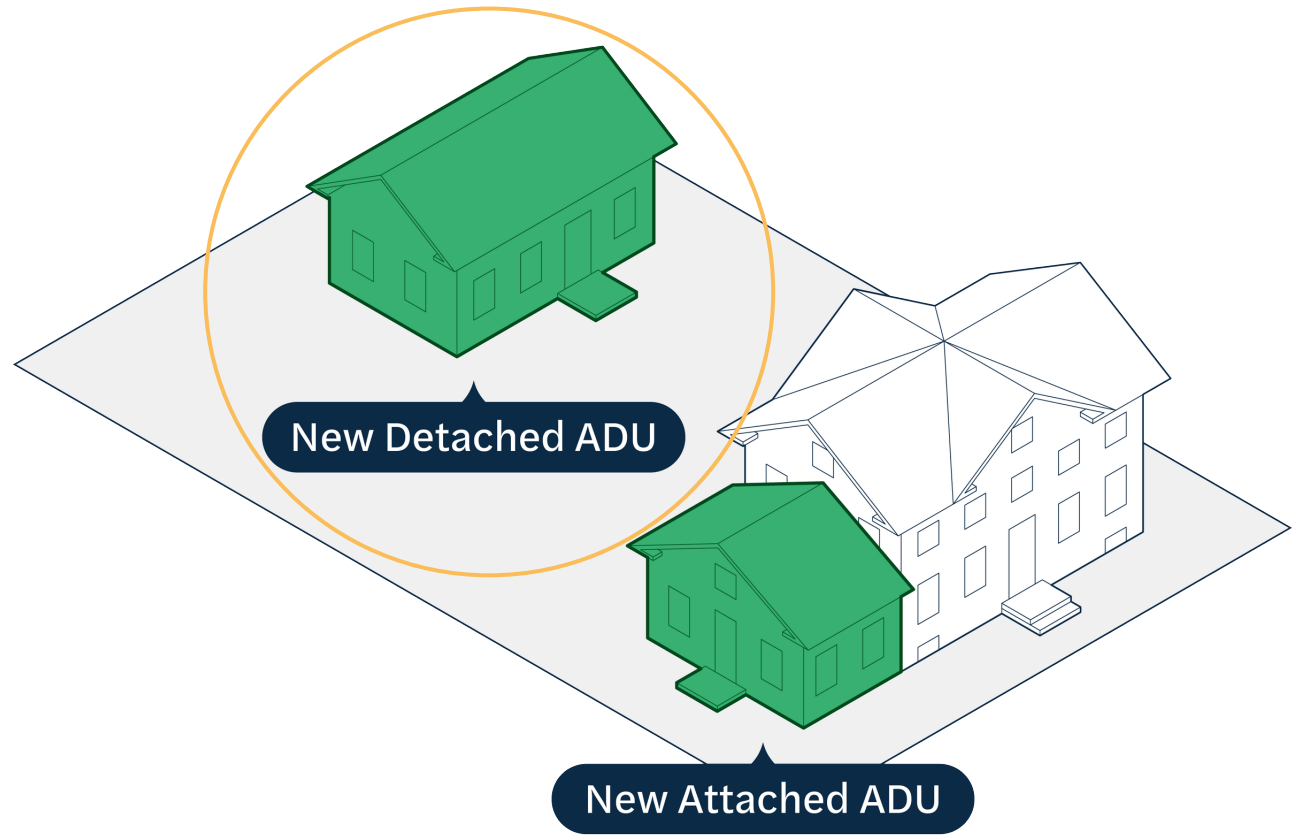
57%

2,400 ft<sup>2</sup>  
Prototype

# ADU Prototype

	<b>CEC</b>
<b>Conditioned Floor Area</b>	500 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>Stories</b>	1
<b>Bedrooms</b>	1
<b>Window-to-Floor Area Ratio</b>	19.2%

	<b>Reach Codes</b>
<b>Conditioned Floor Area</b>	625 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>Stories</b>	1
<b>Bedrooms</b>	1
<b>Window-to-Floor Area Ratio</b>	19.2%



<https://www.newhavenadu.com/>

# Prototype Characteristics

Characteristic	Single Family
<b>HVAC</b>	Split heat pump – 7.5 HSPF2, 14.3 SEER2, 11.7 EER2
<b>Air Distribution</b>	Ductwork located in vented attic
<b>Water Heater</b>	Heat pump water heater (HPWH) UEF = 2.0 located in the garage
<b>DHW Distribution</b>	CZs 1, 16: Basic compact distribution credit
<b>Cooking</b>	Natural Gas
<b>Clothes Drying</b>	Natural Gas
<b>PV System</b>	<p>Sized to meet the prescriptive requirements by climate zone, which is designed to offset 100% of electricity. Sizes = 2.49 to 5.28 kW.</p> <p>When prescriptive calculation is &lt;1.8 kW, PV is not required – this is the case in Climate Zones 1-9, 12, 14, and 16. For others, sizes = 1.80 to 2.45 kW.</p>
<b>Foundation</b>	Slab-on-grade



# Efficiency Measures

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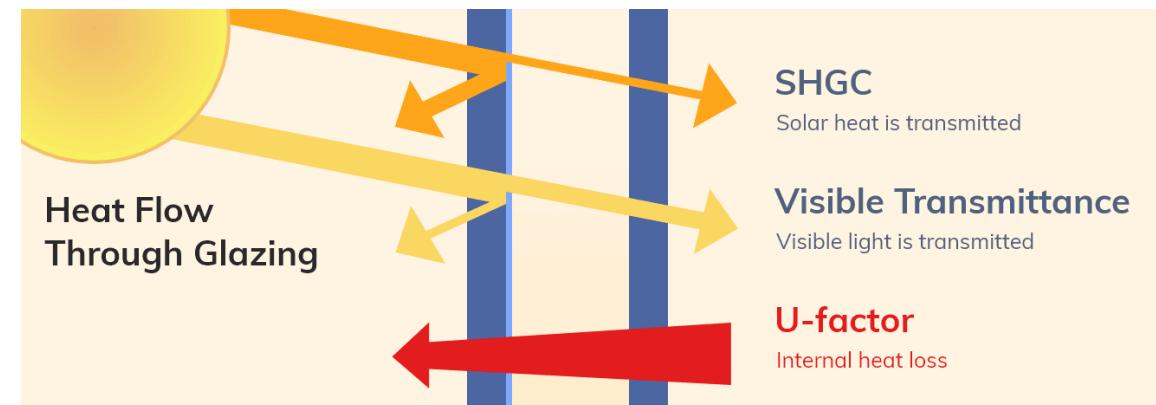
# Efficiency Measures Analyzed

## 1. High Efficiency Windows: Decrease U-Factor, increase SHGC.

Climate Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
U-Factor	Presc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.3			0.27			0.3	0.27			
	Proposed	0.24															
SHGC	Presc.	0.35	0.23	0.35	0.23	0.35	0.23			0.2			0.35				
	Proposed	0.5															

Higher **SHGC** = more heat from the sun passes through the window **into the home**

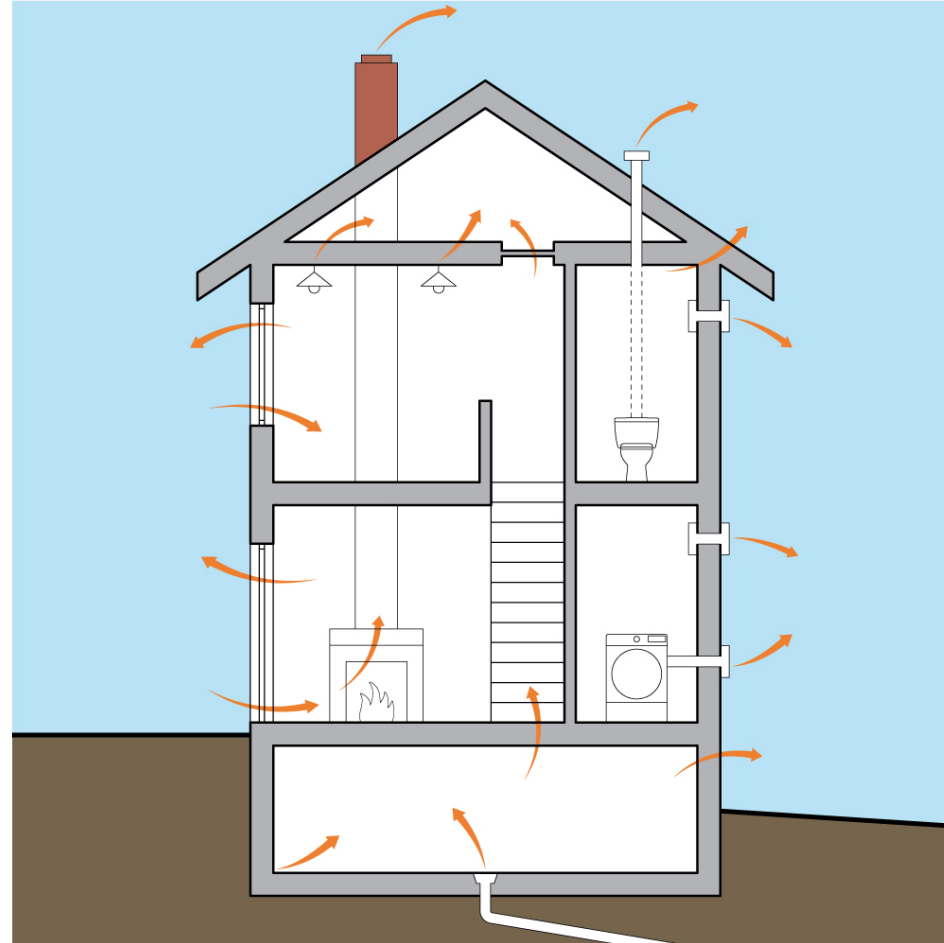
Higher **U-factor** = more heat from the home passes through the window **to the outside**  
Similar concept as insulation



# Efficiency Measures Analyzed

**2. Reduced Infiltration:**  
Decrease from 5  
ACH50 → 3 ACH50  
(40%).

ECC verification required.

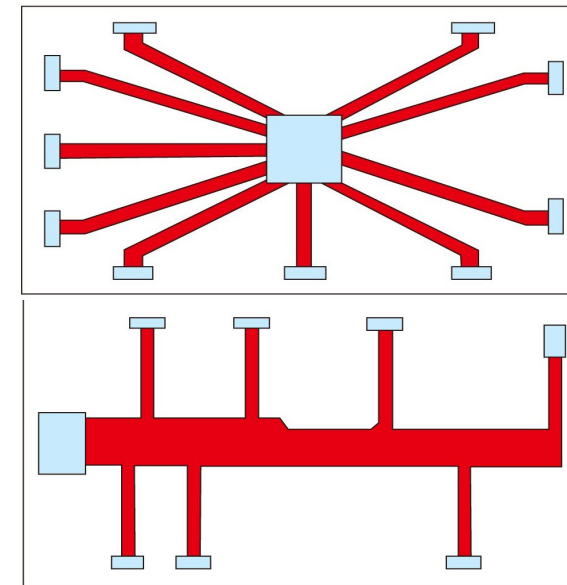
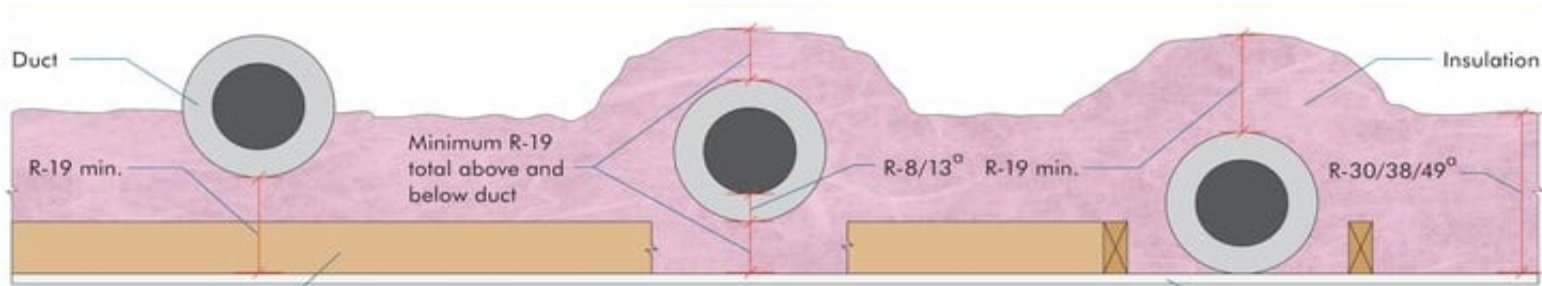


*Christie Architecture*

- Infiltration is the opposite of air leakage.
- ACH50 = air changes per hour at 50 pascals pressure
- ECC = Energy Code Compliance program, replaces HERS

# Efficiency Measures Analyzed

3. **Buried Radial Ducts:** Radial duct design, with R-8 duct insulation (where not already prescriptive), buried in insulation. ECC verification required.



Radial

Trunk-and-branch

4. **Ceiling Insulation:** Increase from prescriptive.

Climate Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
R-Value	Presc.	38	30	38		30							38				
	Proposed	60	49	60		49							60				

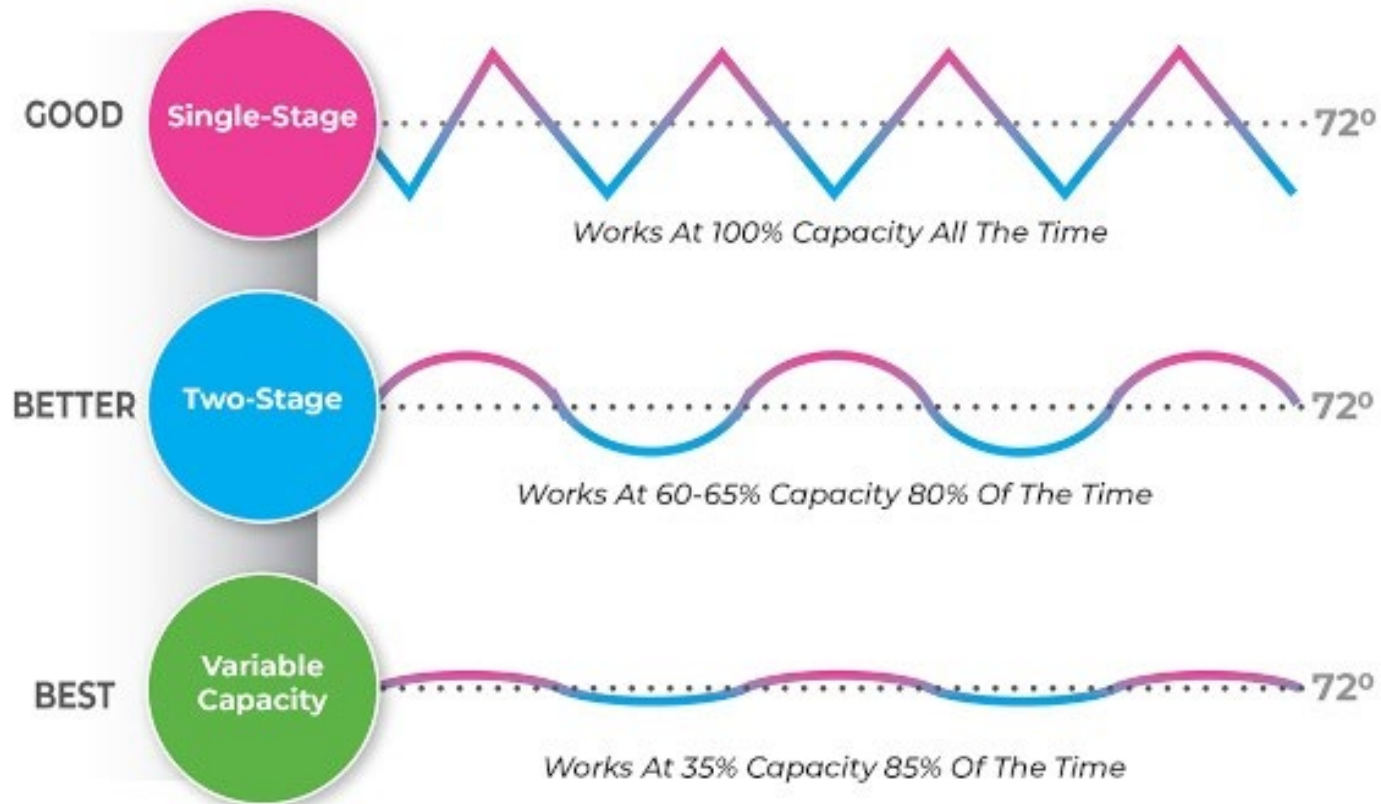
# Efficiency Measures Analyzed

5. **Compact Hot Water Distribution:** Design to meet basic credit, except where prescriptively required.



# Efficiency Measures Analyzed

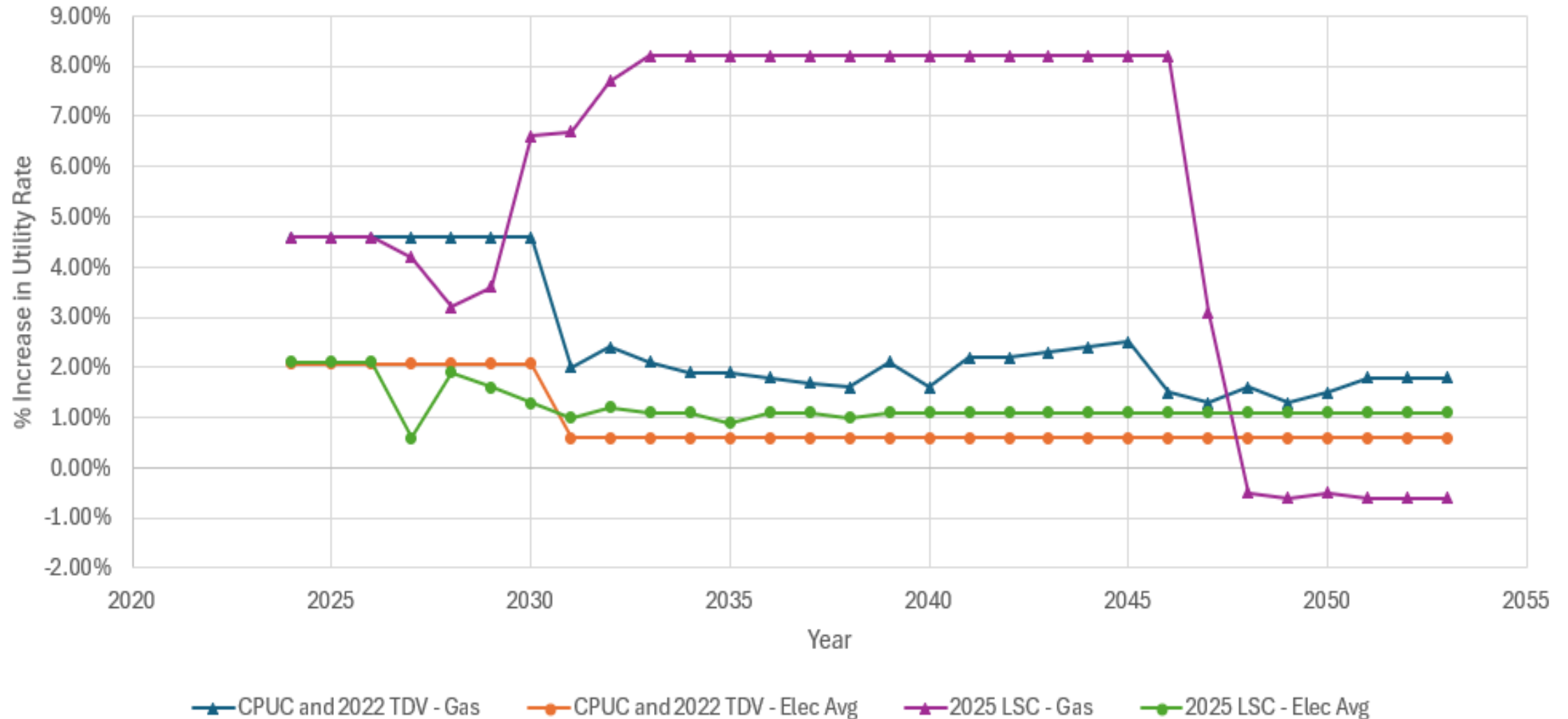
## 6. Ductless VCHP: ADU prototype only.



# Incremental Costs (2,400 ft<sup>2</sup> Prototype)

Measure		Performance Level	First	Lifetime (2026\$)
High Efficiency Windows	U-Factor	0.24 vs. 0.27	\$630	\$873
		0.24 vs. 0.30	\$1,060	\$1,469
	SHGC	0.50 vs. 0.35	\$0	\$0
Reduced Infiltration	--	3 vs. 5 ACH50	\$615	\$860
Buried Radial Ducts	Duct Design	Radial vs Trunk and Branch	\$615	\$860
	Duct Insulation/ECC	R-8 vs. R-6	\$300	\$423
Ceiling Insulation	--	R-49 vs. R-30	\$911	\$1,318
		R-49 vs. R-38	\$493	\$714
		R-60 vs. R-30	\$1,404	\$2,032
		R-60 vs. R-38	\$987	\$1,428
Compact Distribution		Basic credit	-\$131	-\$185
Variable Capacity Heat Pump 18 kBtu base case vs:		9 kBtu with R-6 ducts	-\$5,256	-\$9,427
		9 kBtu with R-8 ducts	-\$5,274	-\$9,448
		12 kBtu with R-8 ducts	-\$5,144	-\$9,160
		18 kBtu with R-8 ducts	-\$4,693	-\$8,237

# Escalation rates





# Results

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# Results: Overview of Measure(s)

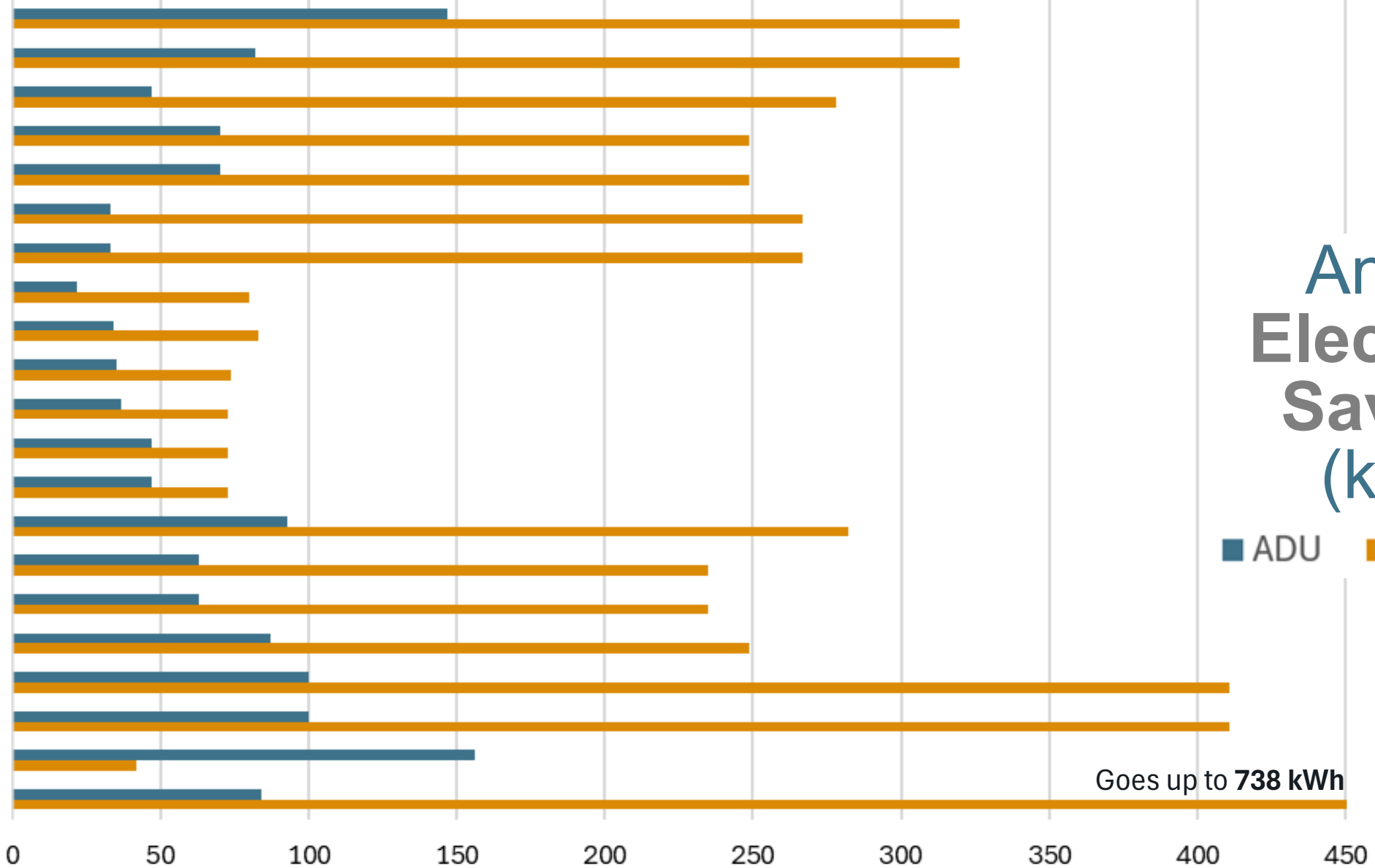
## Single Family:

Climate Zone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
High Efficiency Windows																✓
Reduced Infiltration														✓		
Buried Radial Ducts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Increased Ceiling Insulation	R-60	R-60	R-49	R-60	R-49						R-60	R-60	R-60	R-60		R-60
Compact Hot Water Distribution		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

**ADU:** VCHP only, all climate zones



- CZ1-PGE
- CZ2-PGE
- CZ3-PGE
- CZ4-PGE
- CZ4-CPAU
- CZ5-PGE
- CZ5-PGE/SCG
- CZ6-SCE/SCG
- CZ7-SDGE
- CZ8-SCE/SCG
- CZ9-SCE/SCG
- CZ10-SCE/SCG
- CZ10-SDGE
- CZ11-PGE
- CZ12-PGE
- CZ12-SMUD/PGE
- CZ13-PGE
- CZ14-SCE/SCG
- CZ14-SDGE
- CZ15-SCE/SCG
- CZ16-PGE



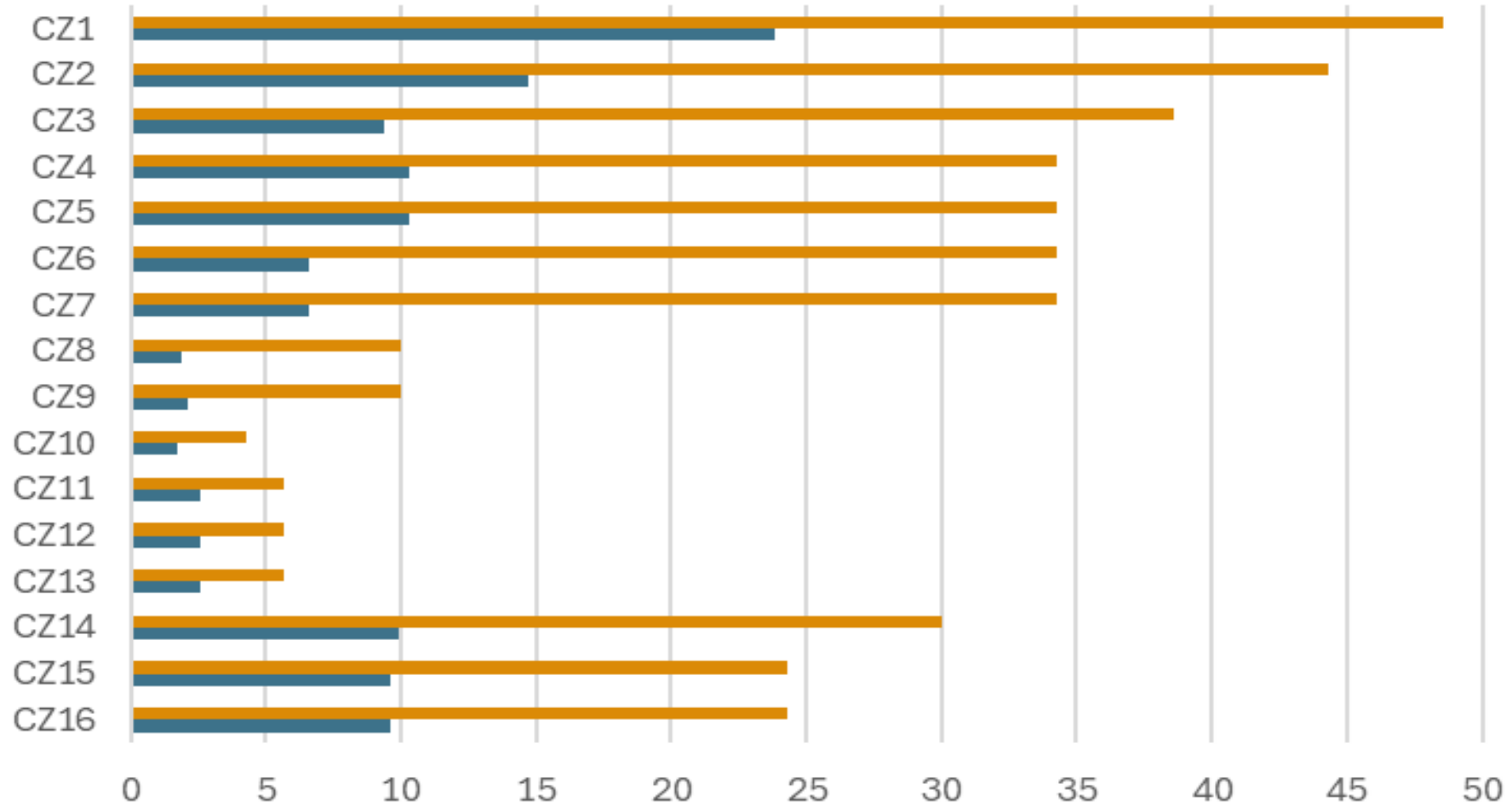
# Annual Electricity Savings (kWh)

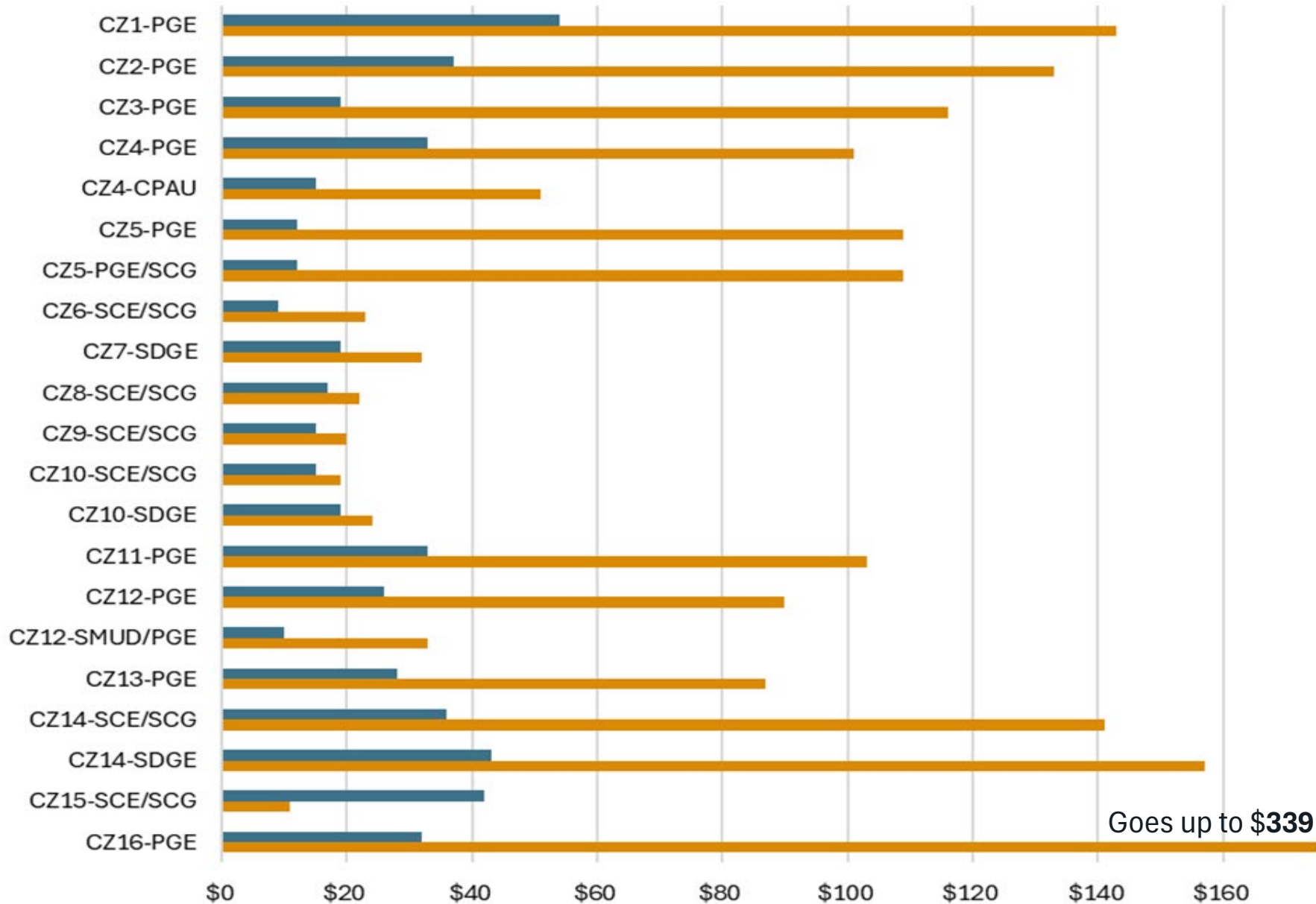
■ ADU ■ Single Family

Goes up to 738 kWh

# Annual GHG Savings (kg)

■ ADU ■ Single Family

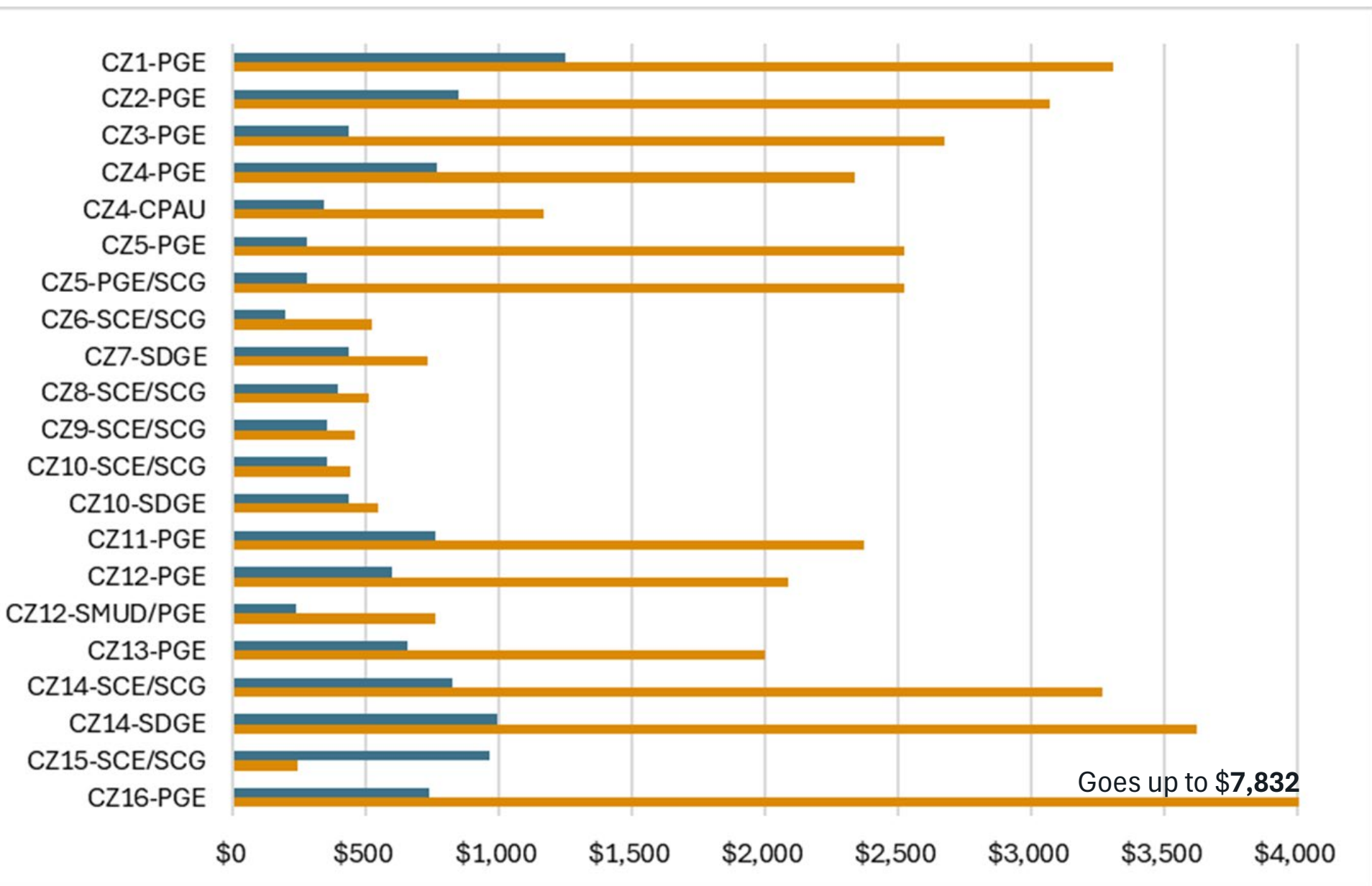




# First-Year Utility Cost Savings

■ ADU ■ Single Family

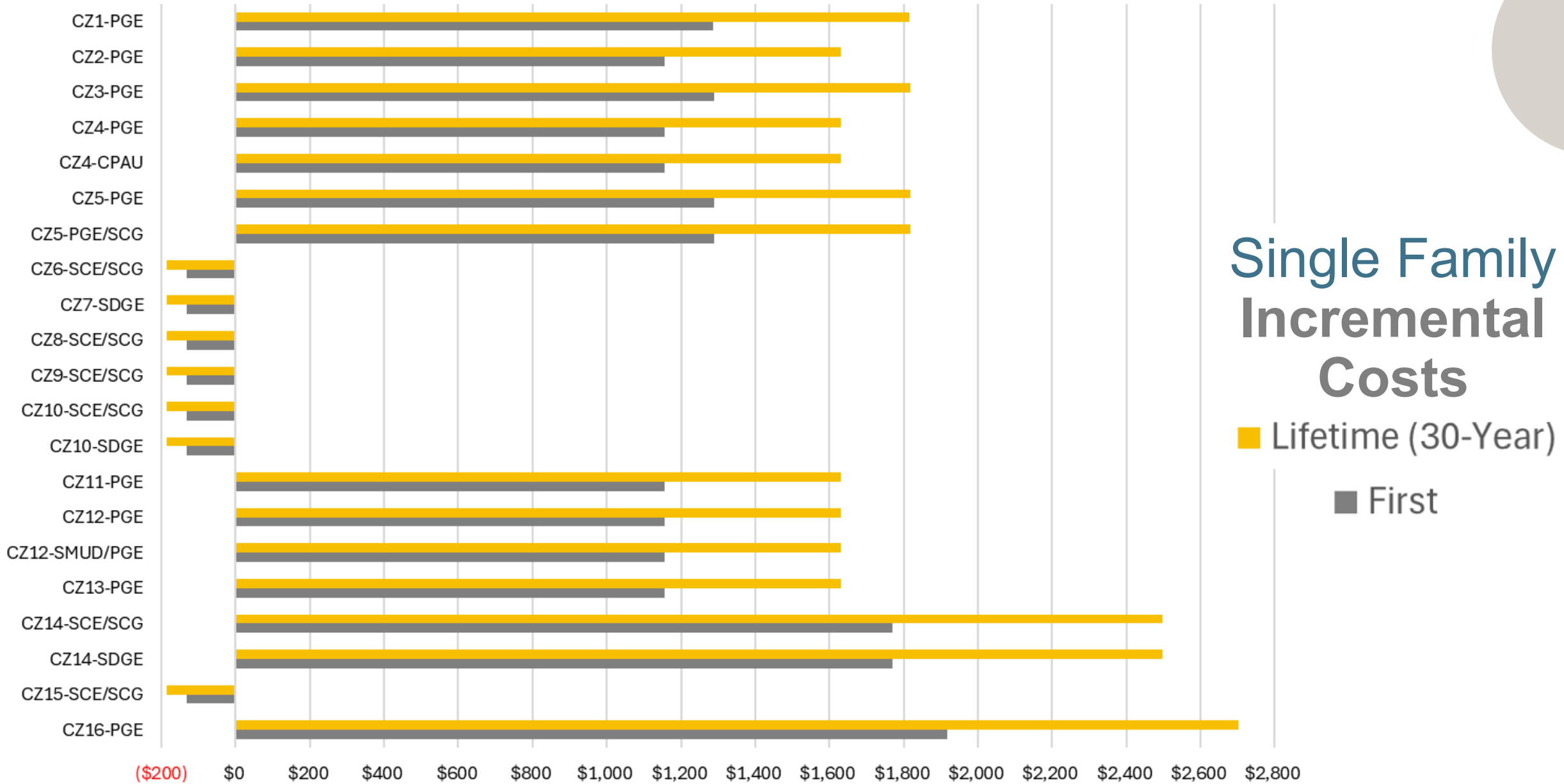
Goes up to \$339



# Lifetime Utility Cost Savings (2026\$)

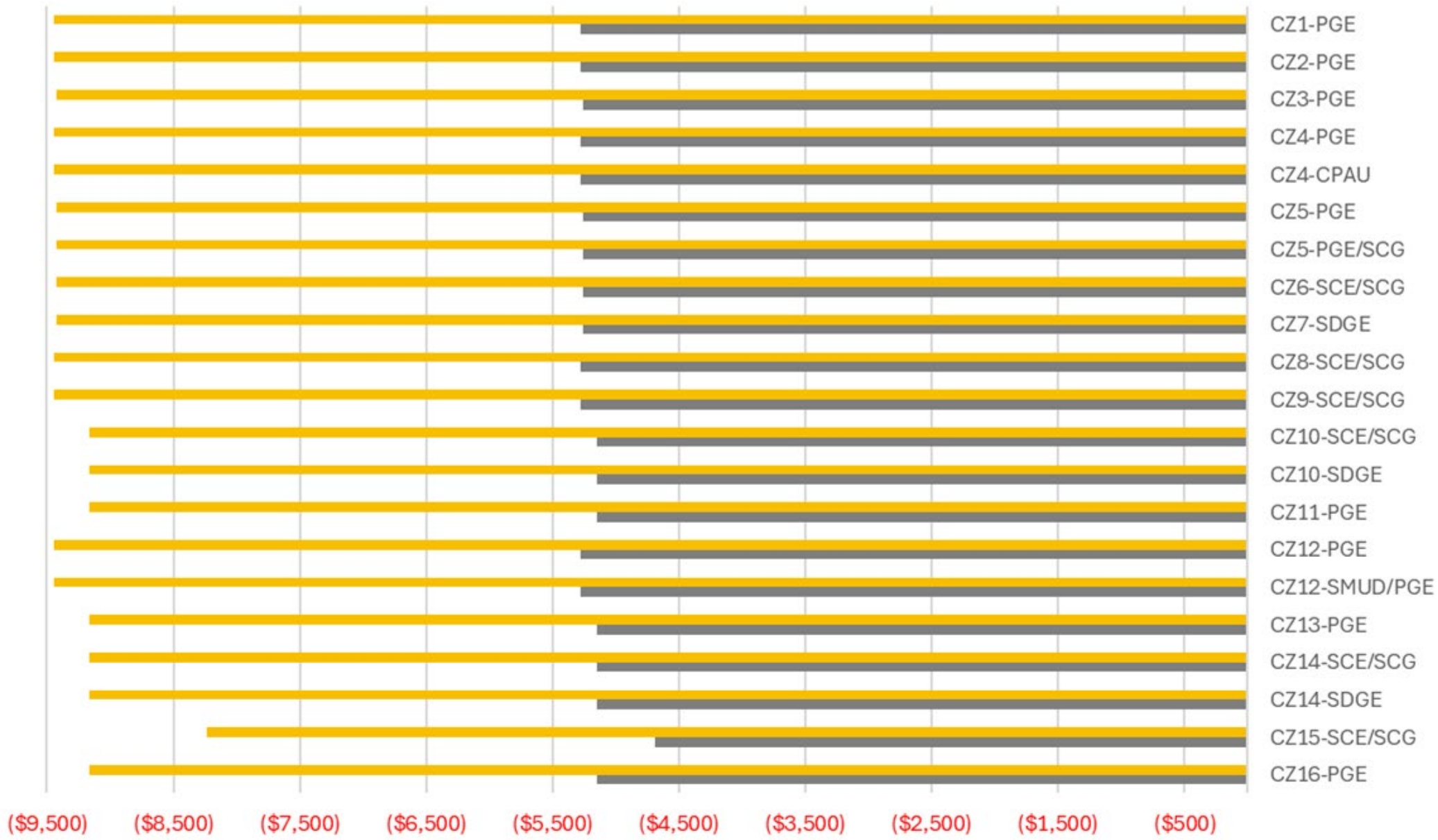
■ ADU ■ Single Family

Goes up to \$7,832

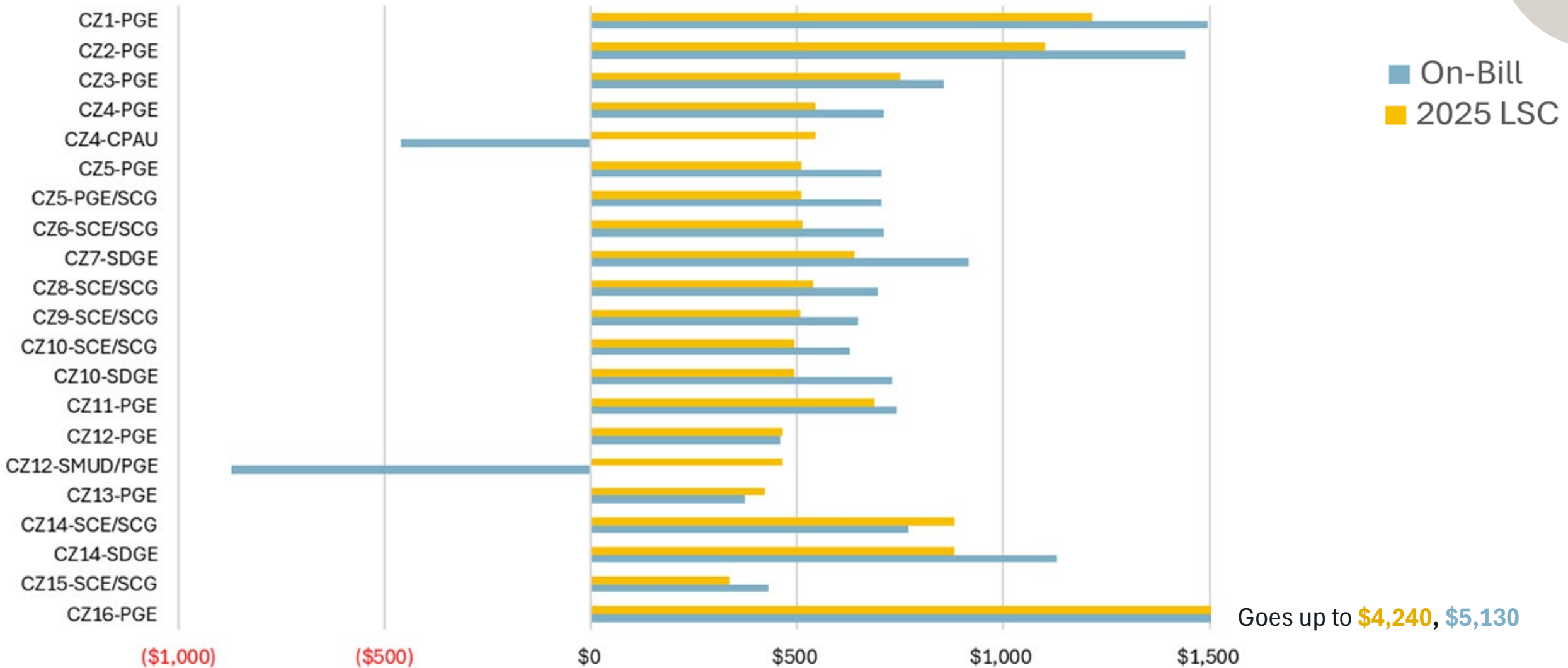


# ADU Incremental Costs

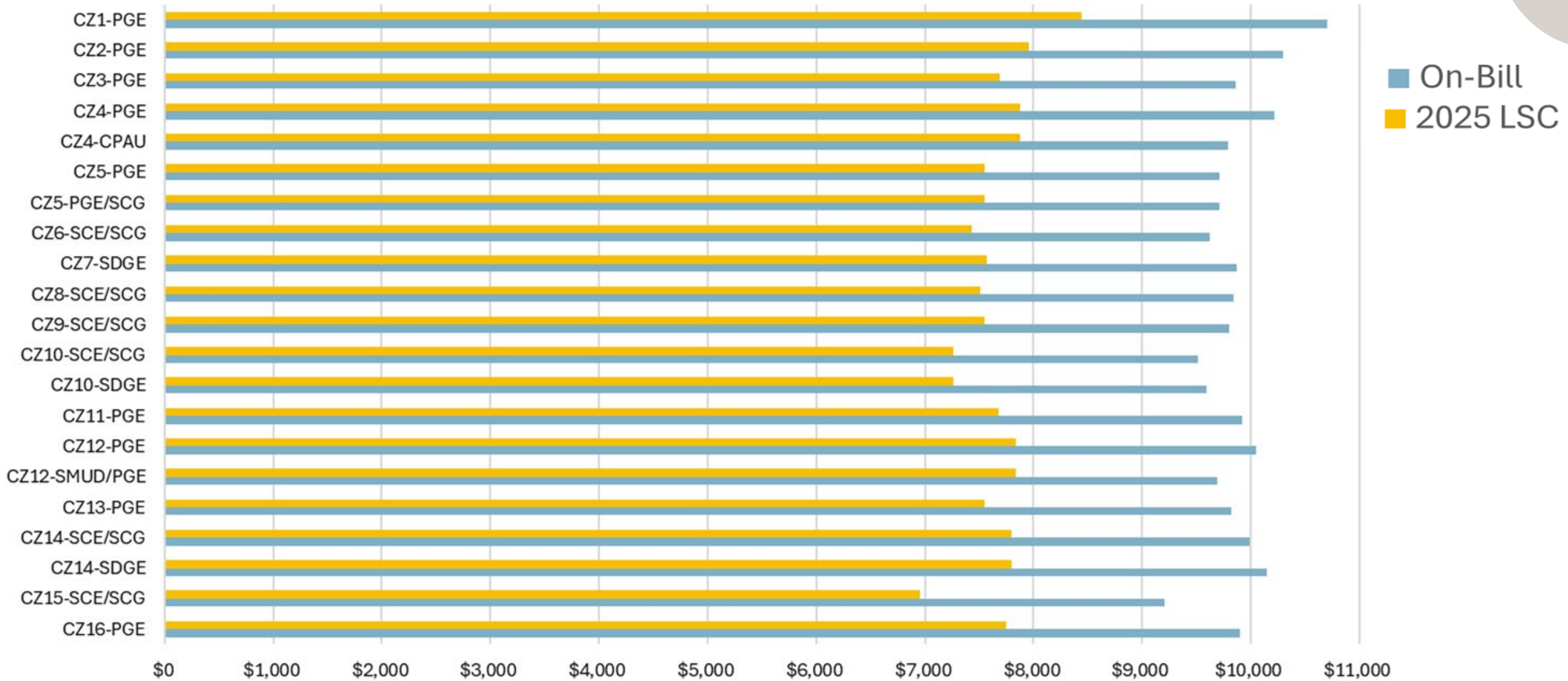
■ Lifetime (30-Year)  
■ First



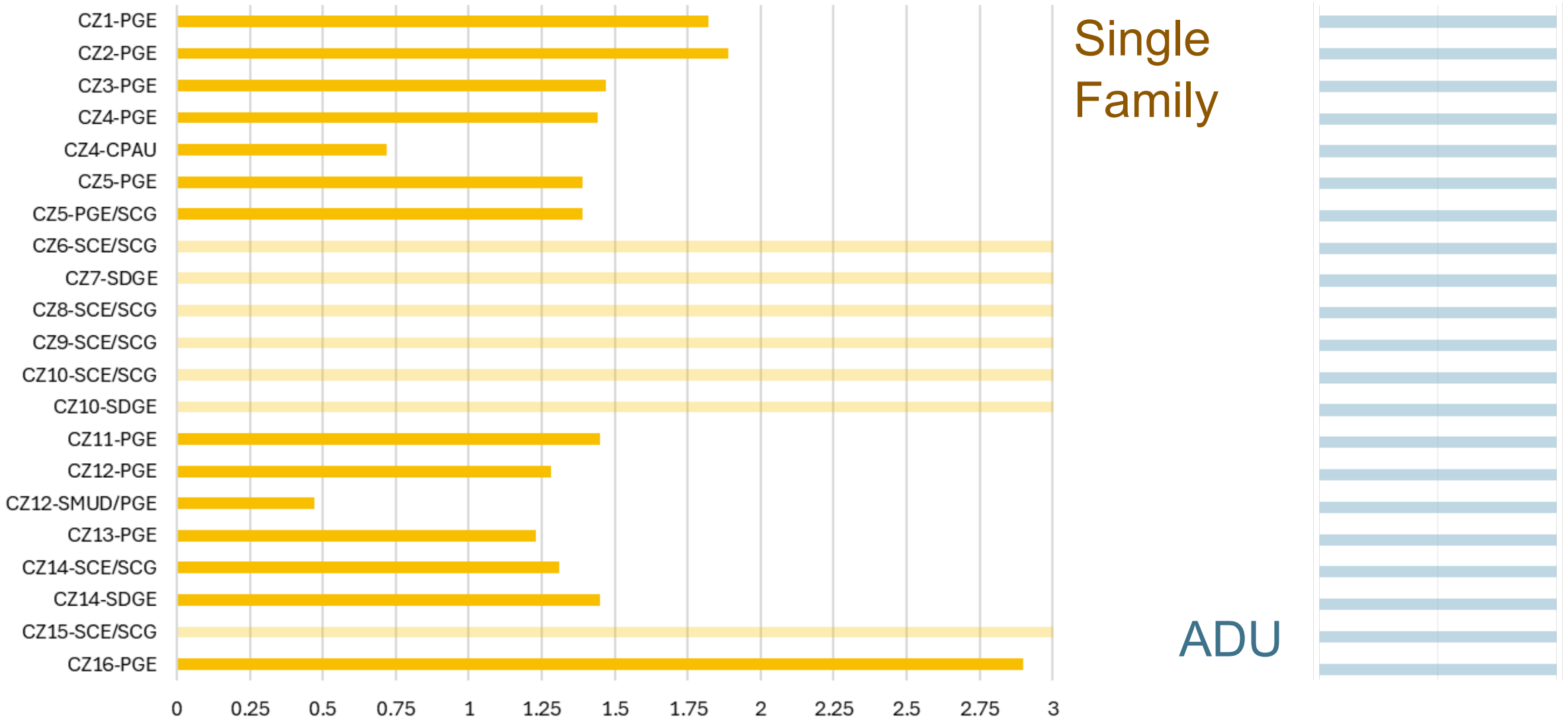
# Cost-Effectiveness: NPV Single Family



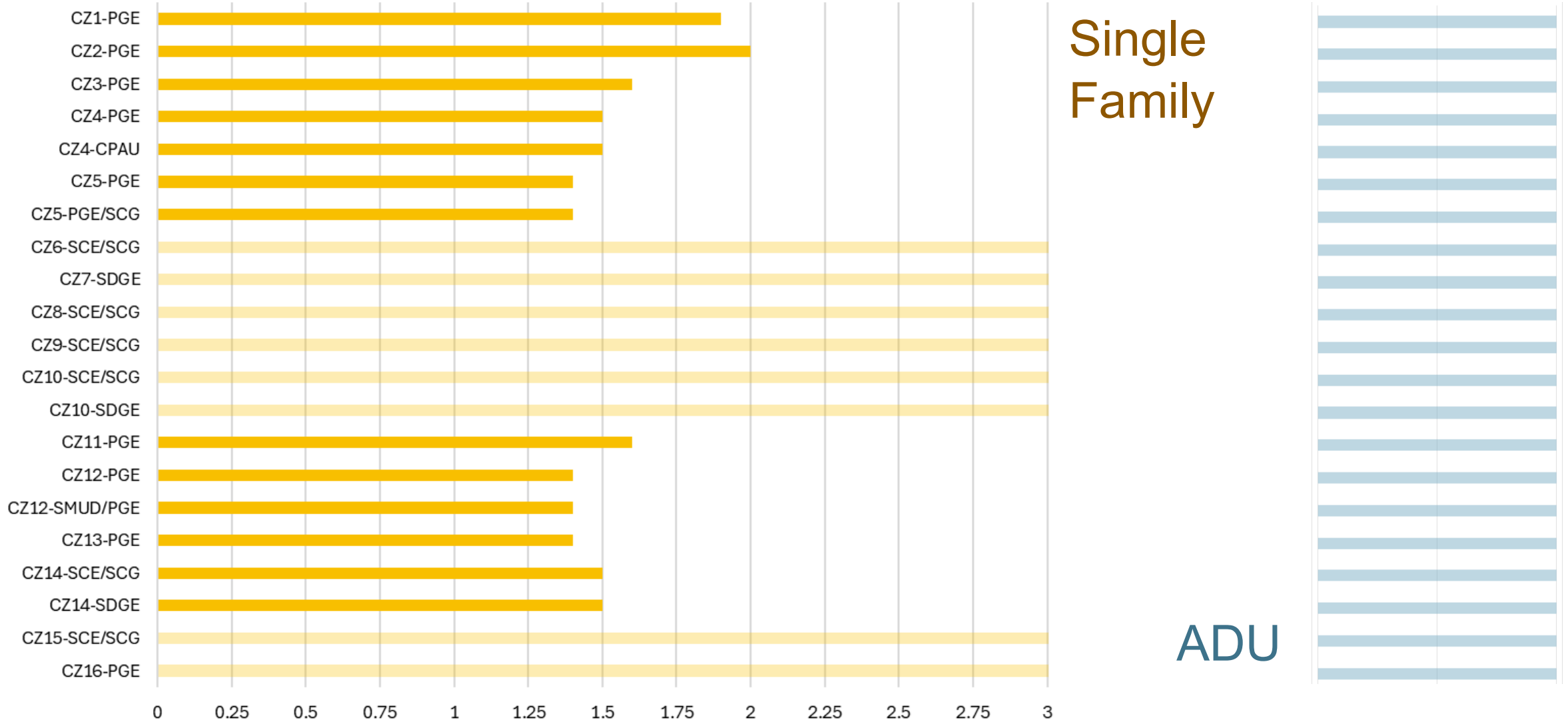
# Cost-Effectiveness: NPV ADU

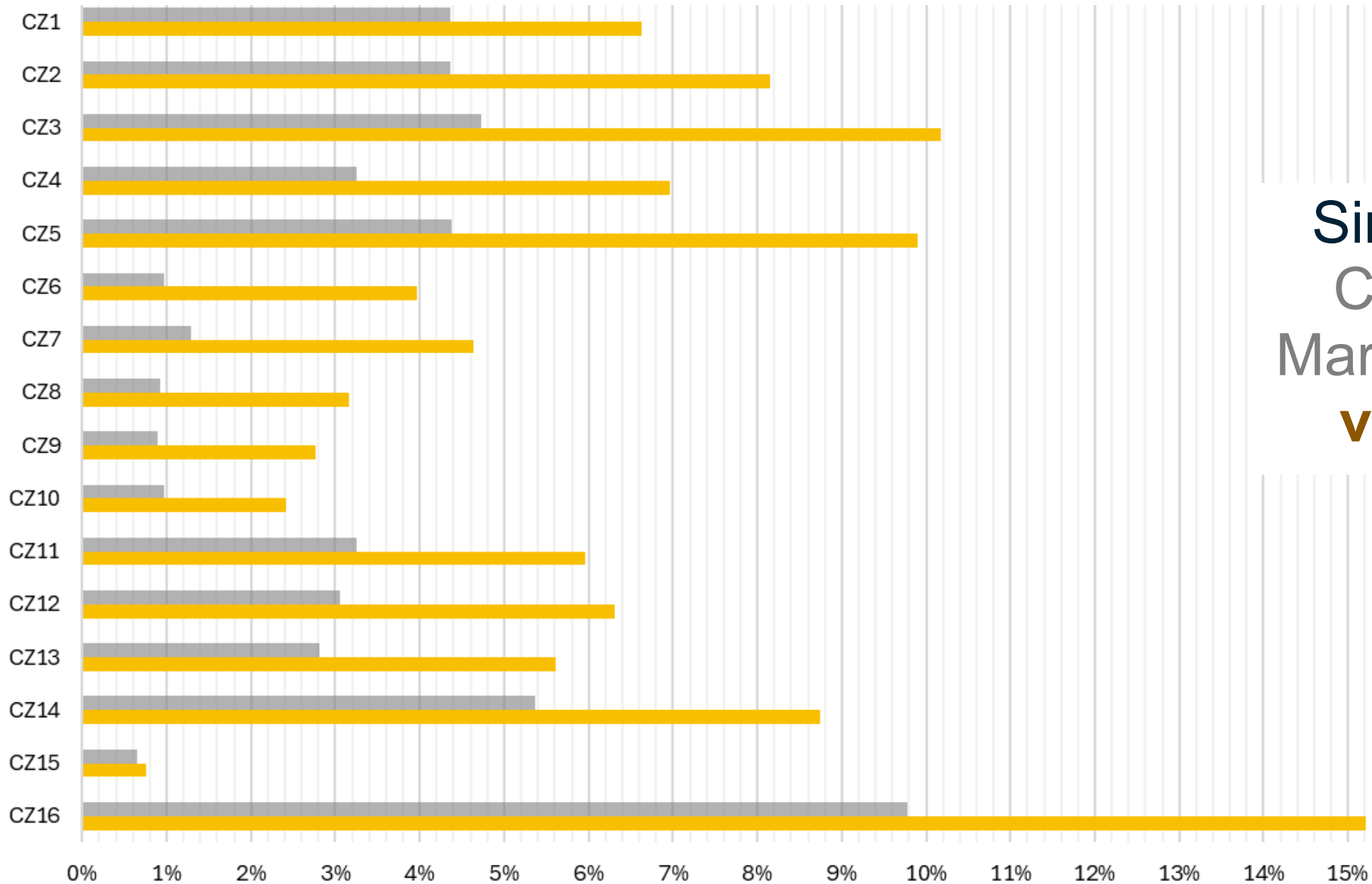


# Cost-Effectiveness: On-Bill B:C Ratio



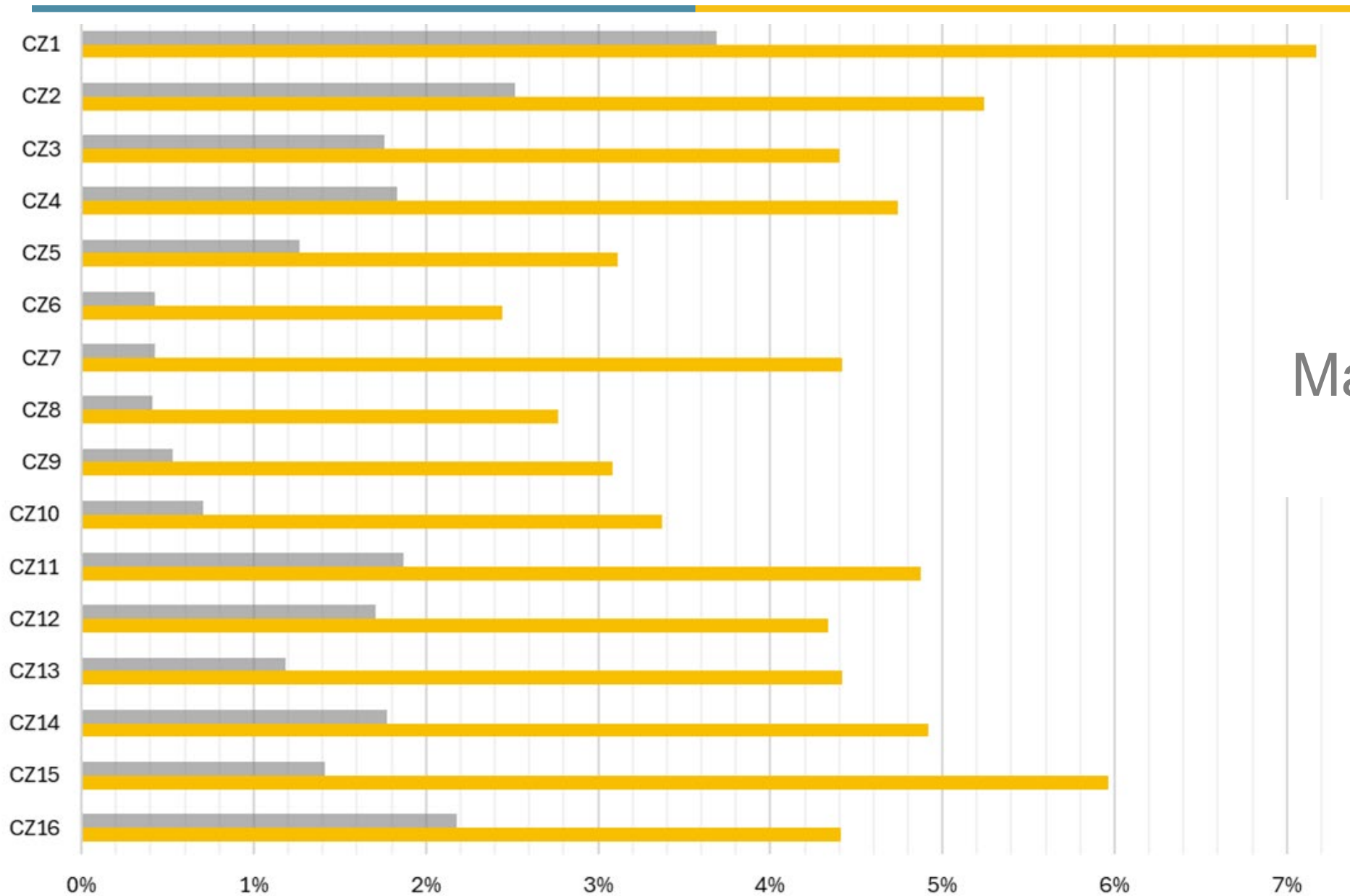
# Cost-Effectiveness: 2025 LSC B:C Ratio





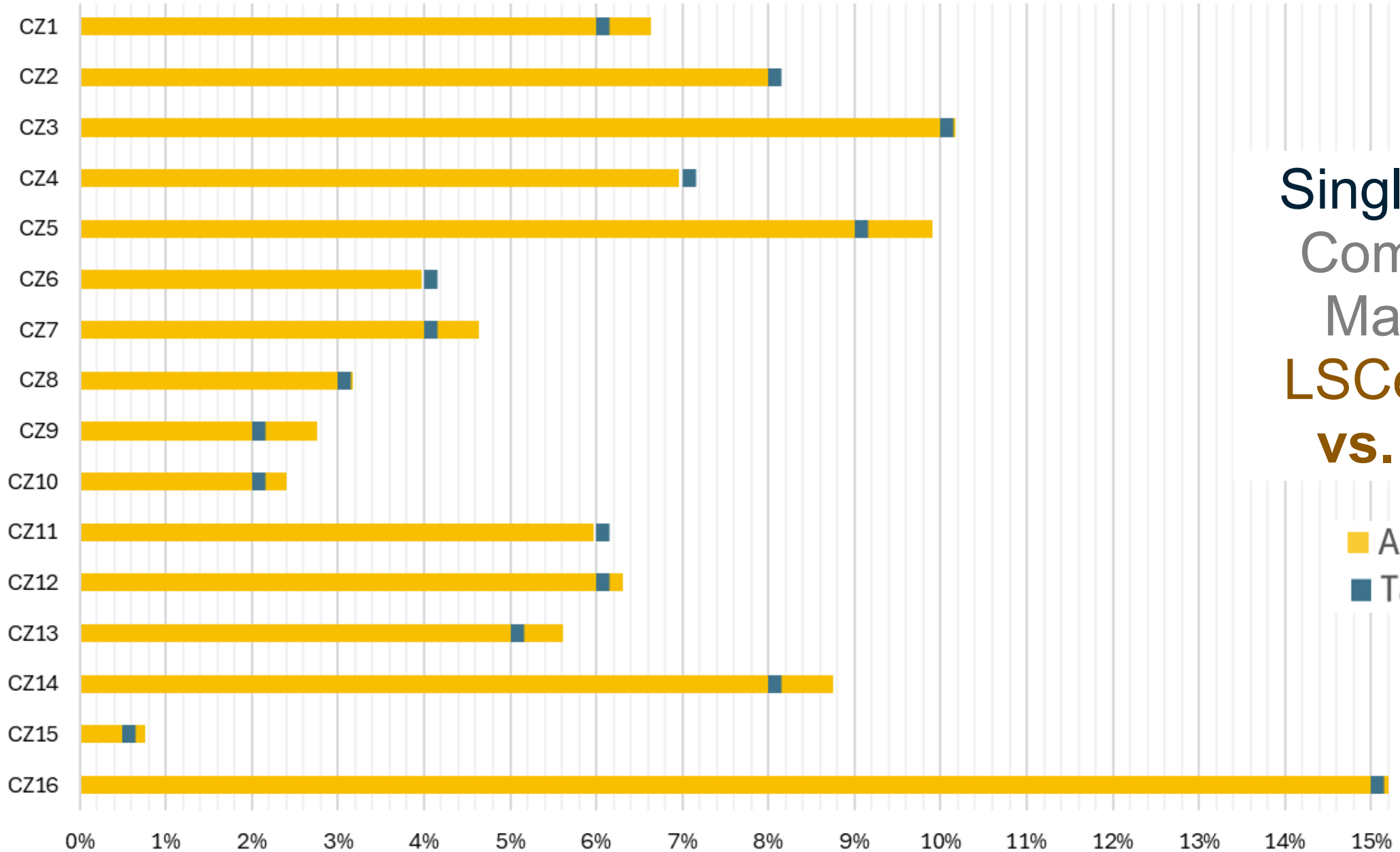
# Single Family Compliance Margins – LSCe vs. Source

■ LSCe Margin  
■ Source Margin



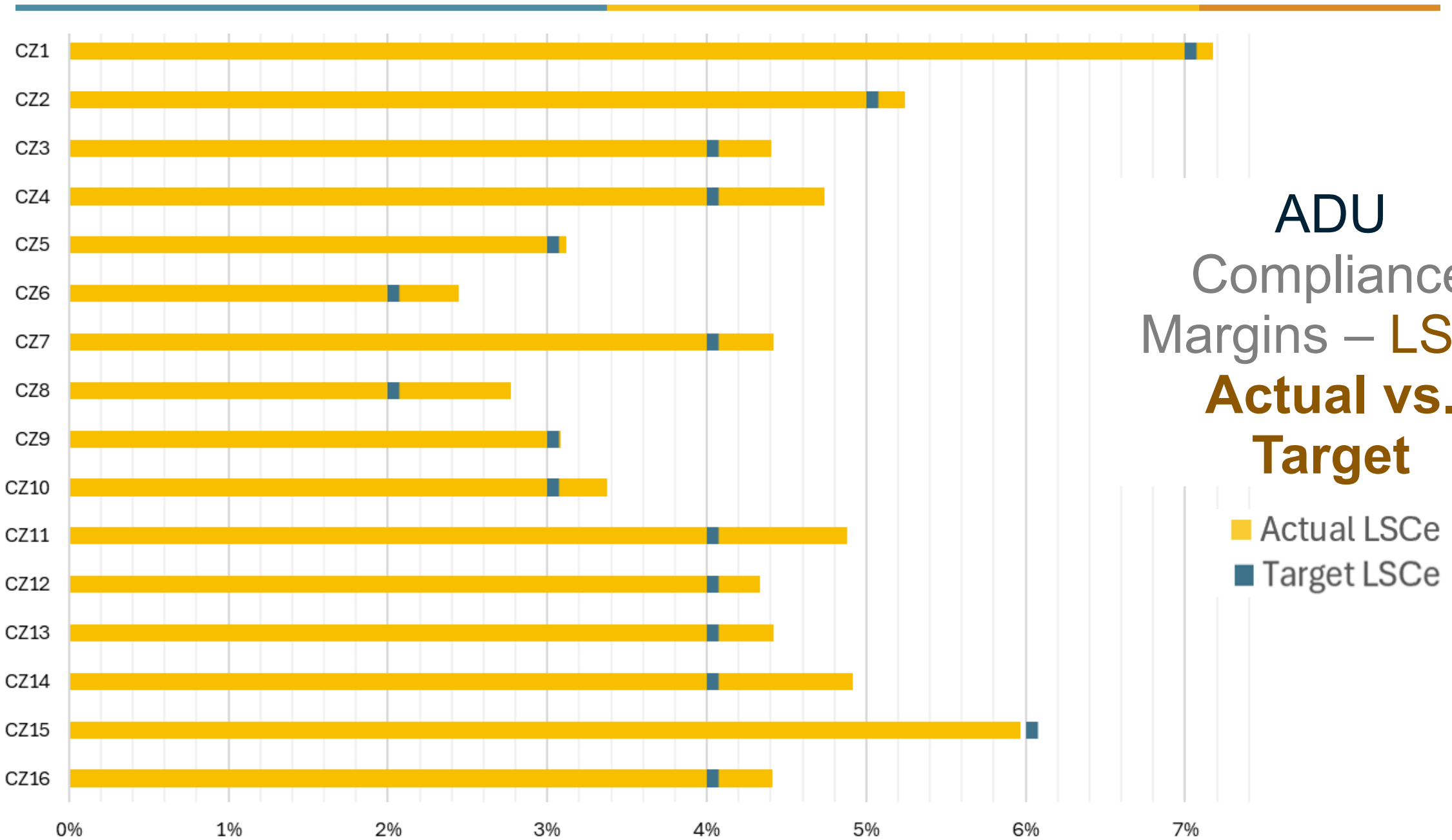
# ADU Compliance Margins – **LSCe** **vs. Source**

■ LSCe Margin  
■ Source Margin



# Single Family Compliance Margins – LSCe Actual vs. Target

■ Actual LSCe  
■ Target LSCe



# Next Steps



Document details in final report, make data available in Cost-Effectiveness Explorer tool.



# Thank you!

We appreciate your time

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**localenergycodes.com**



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**Questions?**

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# Wrap-Up

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# In Summary



There are cost-effective opportunities to exceed minimum single family new construction requirements.

- › 2,400 sf home
  - » On-Bill: All climate zones except CZ 4 in CPAU and CZ 12 in SMUD territories
  - » LSC: All Climate Zones.
- › ADUs
  - » On-Bill and LSC: All climate zones

# Some Ways to Begin Preparing

Research	Review CAP and other guiding documents for related policy goals and objectives
Consult	Consult with your attorney to determine AB130 impacts and eligibility for exceptions
Review	Review new housing development plans
Reach Out	Reach out to begin dialog with stakeholders

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# Additional Resources

## Available Now

- Cost Effectiveness Explorer
- Model Ordinance Language

## Coming Soon!

- Staff Report
- Presentation
- Checklist
- Policy Summary



# Current Study Publication Schedule

Study Name	Scope	Initial Results
Single Family NC Memo	SF (excluding ADUs)	Published
Multifamily NC Memo	Low and Midrise	3/31/2026
Nonresidential NC	Hotels, Cond. Warehouses	4/15/2026
Existing Multifamily	2025 Update	4/15/2026
Cool Roofs	SF, MF, NR (New and Exist)	TBD



# Thank you!

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[LocalEnergyCodes.com](http://LocalEnergyCodes.com)

[CALGreenInfo.com](http://CALGreenInfo.com)