



U.S. Department of Energy  
**Energy Efficiency  
and Renewable Energy**  
Bringing you a prosperous future where energy  
is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable  
**Building Technologies Program**



**Building  
AMERICA**  <sup>SM</sup>  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Research Leading to Zero Energy Homes

# The Pursuit of Affordable Zero Energy Homes

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**Southeastern Solar  
Summit**

**October 25, 2007**

# Focus on Zero Energy House 5

- ZEH5 results
- Zero energy peak potential
- Commercial house plans and detailed specifications now available

# First four occupied houses to sell solar power to TVA the largest public electric utility in U.S.

- Solar credits \$1.00/day
- Net off site total energy cost \$1.00 to \$0.42/day
- Construction cost \$100,000



ZEH1 built in 2002

# TVA Electric Rate Structure

- Residential rate flat; \$0.07/kWh
- National average; ~\$0.10/kWh
- Grid-tied Solar buyback on dual metered houses; \$0.15/kWh
- Ontario, CA; \$0.42/kWh
- Wisconsin Electric; \$0.22/kWh

ZEH2 August total monthly energy bill  
\$16.70 2004, \$26.54, 2007



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ZEH 3 entire heating season cost <\$40



# ZEH5 an unoccupied test house for two year period

- Tested as a one-story conditioning 1232 ft<sup>2</sup> in 2006
- Testing two ton heat pump conditioning 2600 ft<sup>2</sup> in 2007
- Geothermal horizontal water loop in existing excavations (Foundation geothermal system)
- Air-tight, mechanical ventilation, ducts inside
- R-21 walls, R-36 roof
- Exterior insulated block walkout basement



ZEH4; measured \$0.42/day in 2006 for all off-site energy



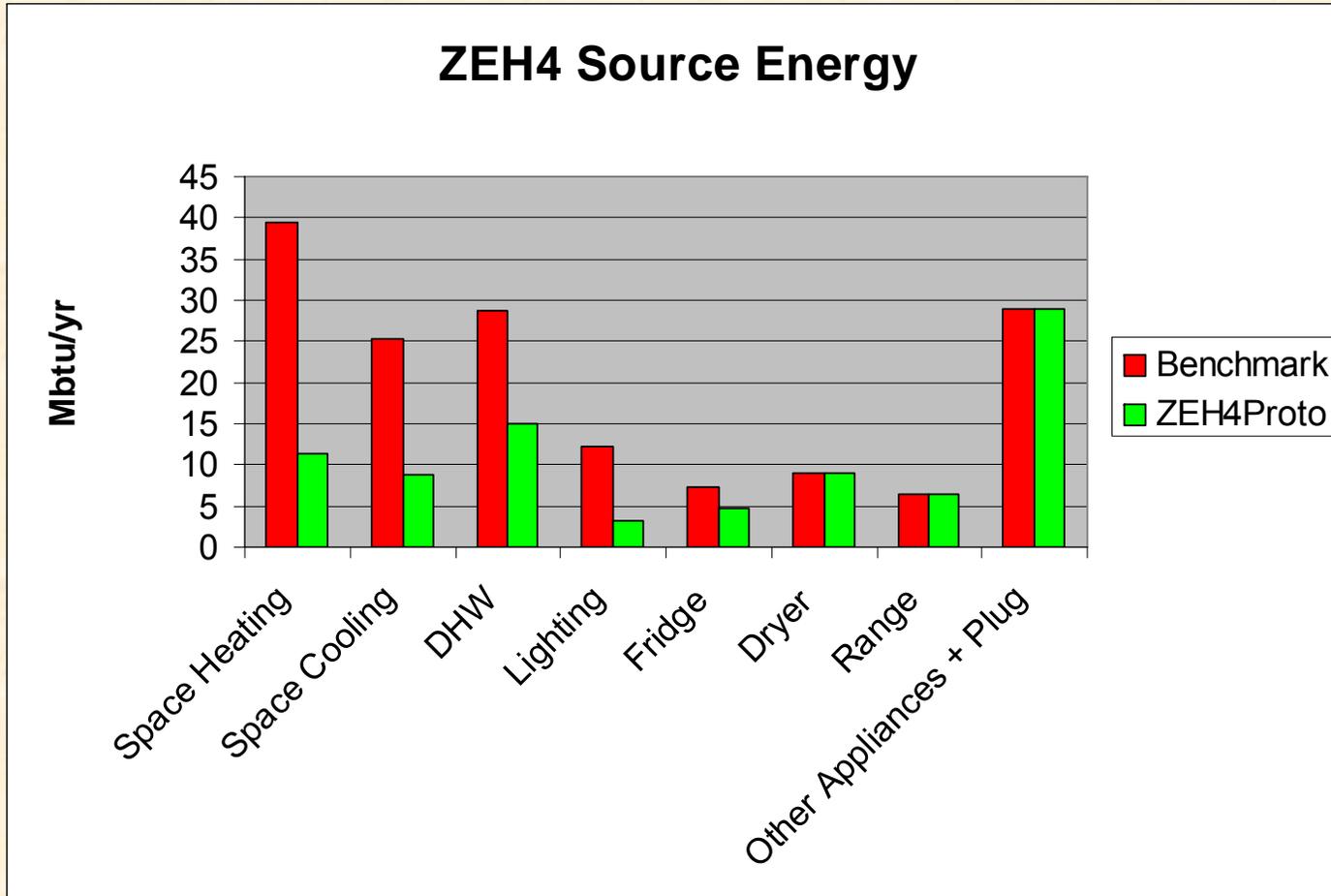
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# ZEH4

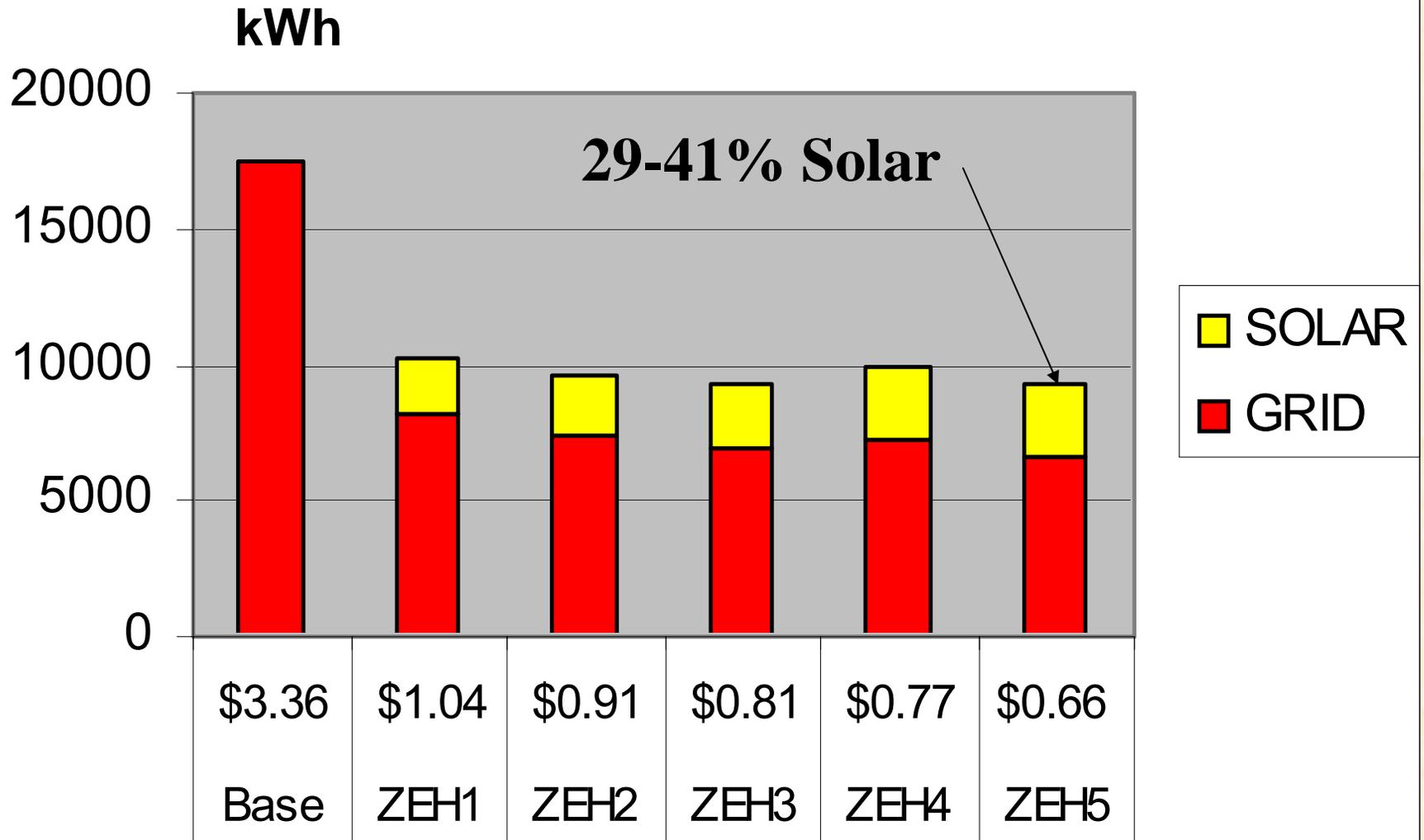
- \$15.41, August 2006 including hook up charge of \$6/month
- \$17.43, August 2007, the hottest month out of 113 years of recorded history.
- Features
  - 2.2 kWp Solar PV
  - Structural Insulated Panels
  - SEER 17 Heat Pump
  - Air-tight, mechanical ventilation
  - Exterior insulated thermal mass in the walkout basement

# ZEH4 DOE Building America modeling validation



\$0.50/day for 1200 ft<sup>2</sup>

# Energy Consumption; kWh and \$/day



# ZEH5 a 2-story 2600 ft<sup>2</sup> walkout



# 6-pipe Geothermal Heat exchanger installed in ZEH5 overcut



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3 pipes pinned to the clay soil wall and 3 spread about a foot apart at base of the overcut



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# Geothermal loop utilized water trench dug out another 4 foot deeper

Water trench

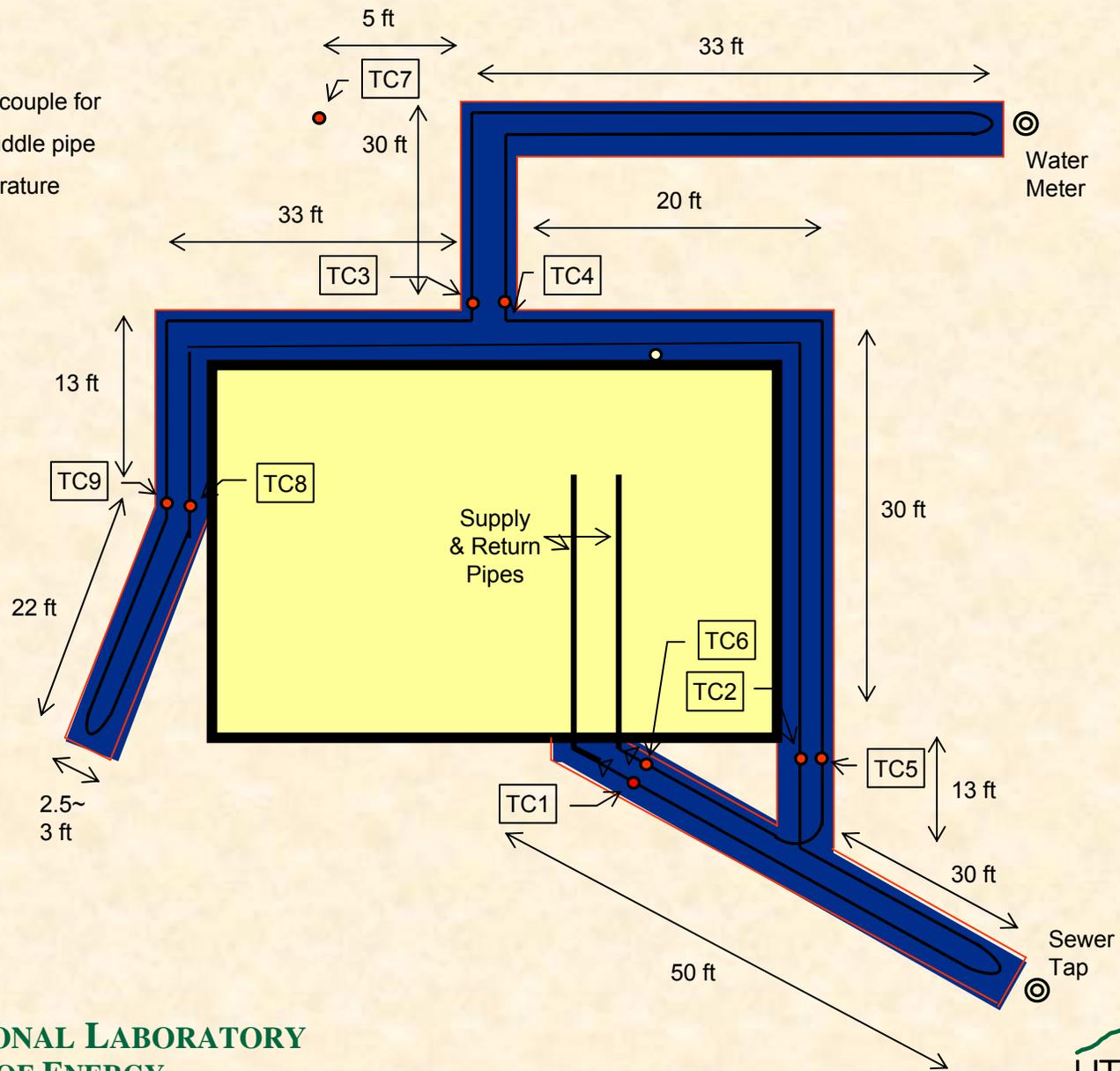


# Heat exchangers also run in trenching for sewer tap

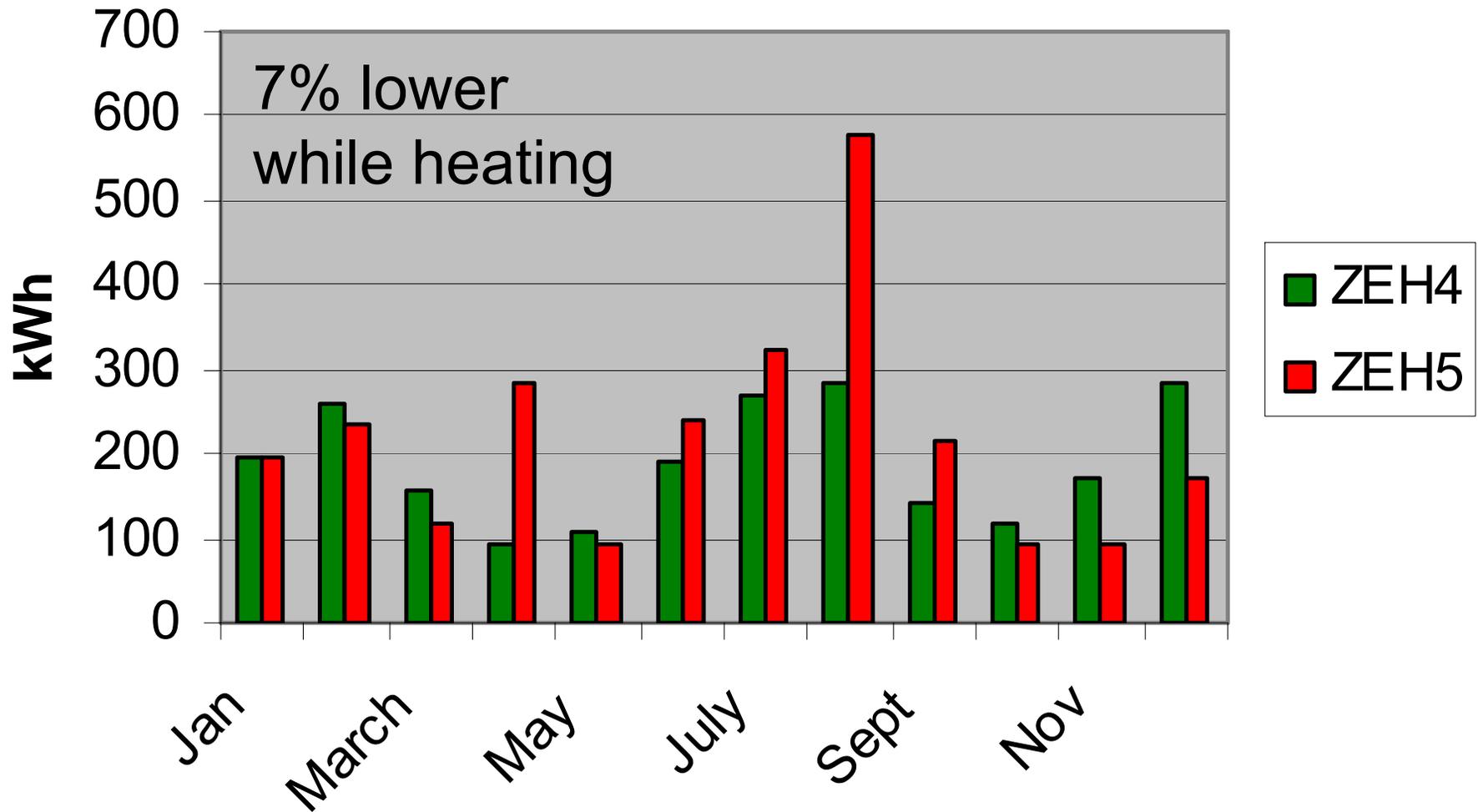


# Ground Pipe Installation and Sensors (ZEH5)

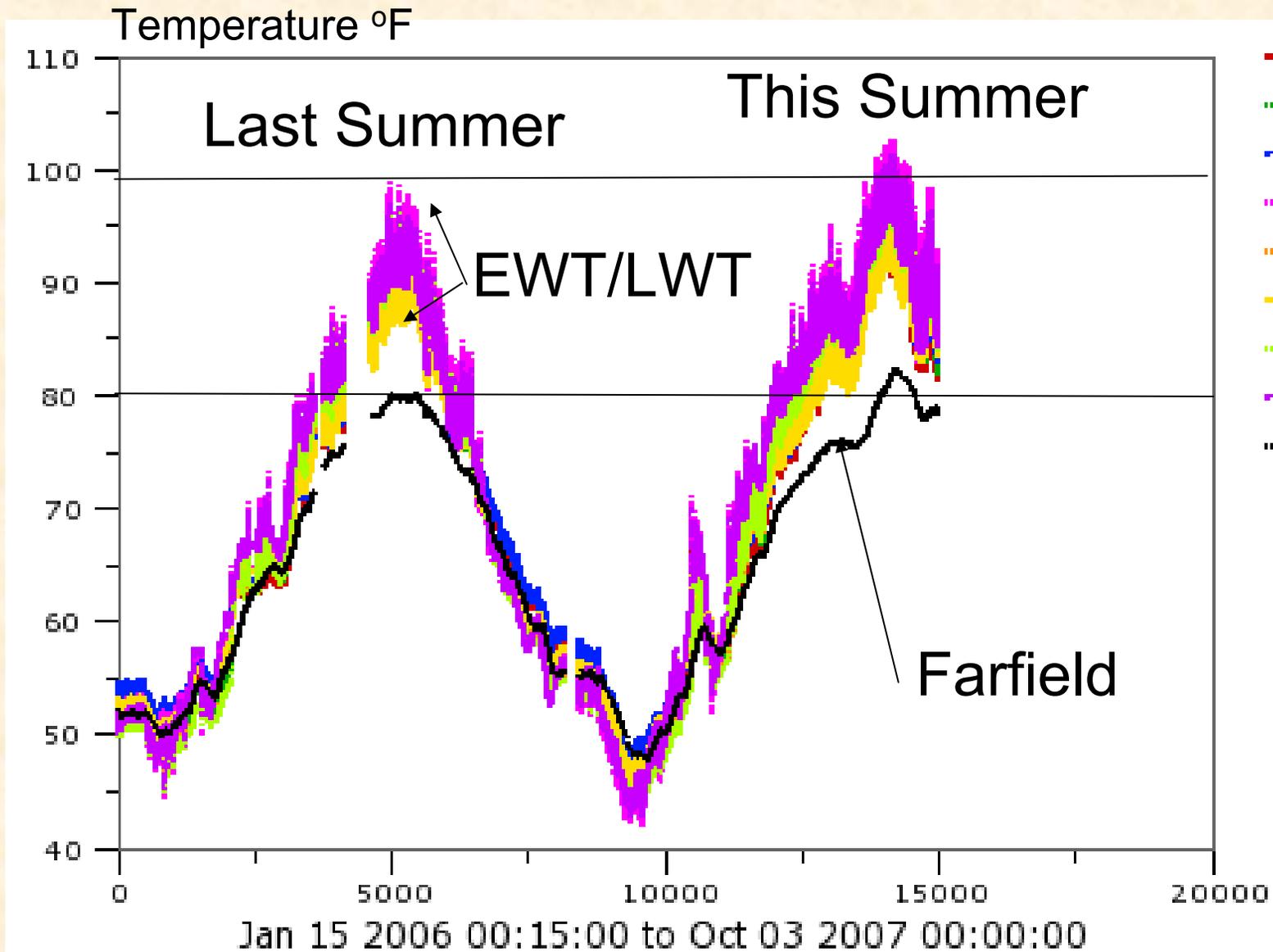
TC 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9: Thermal couple for  
Temperature on the middle pipe  
TC7: Far field ground temperature  
Δ : Ground pipe header



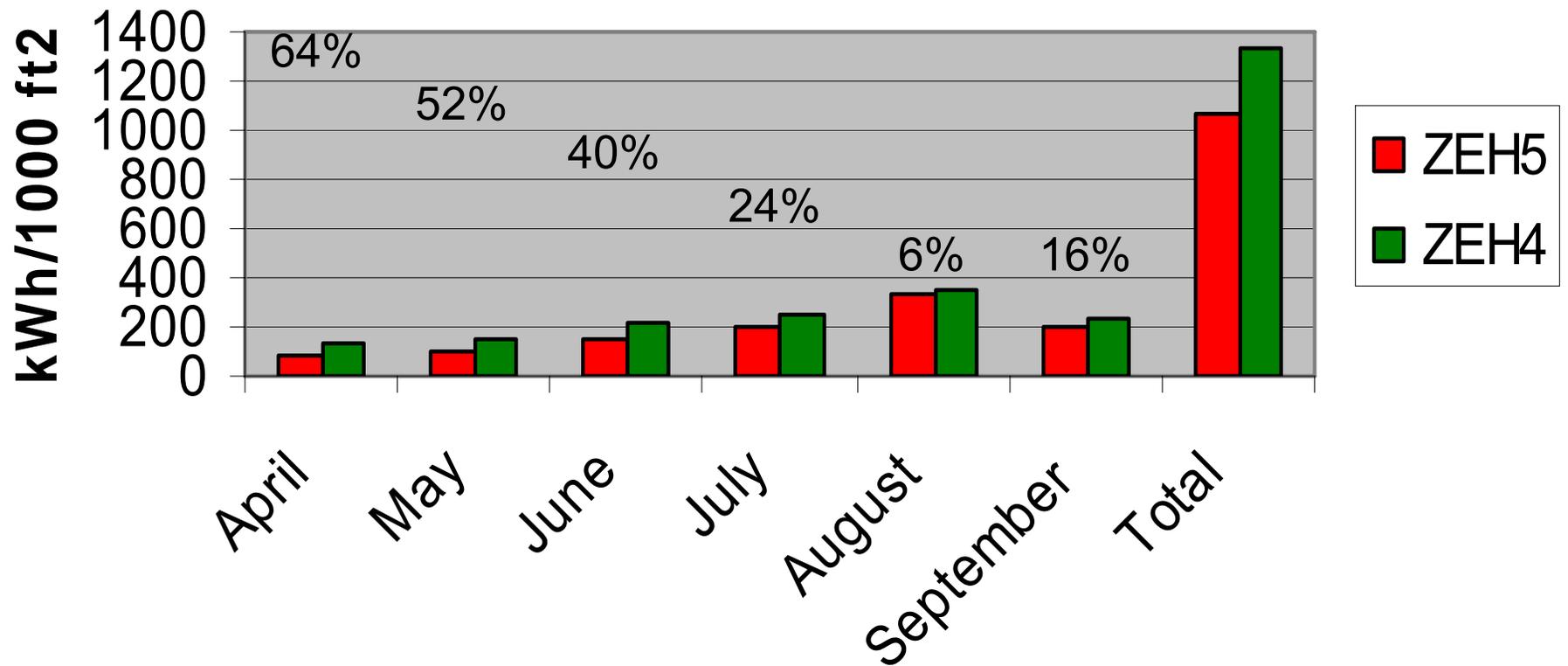
# ZEH5 one-story Monthly Heat Pump kWh, 2006



# Measured temperatures, Jan. 2006- Oct. 3, 2007, 1:00 am



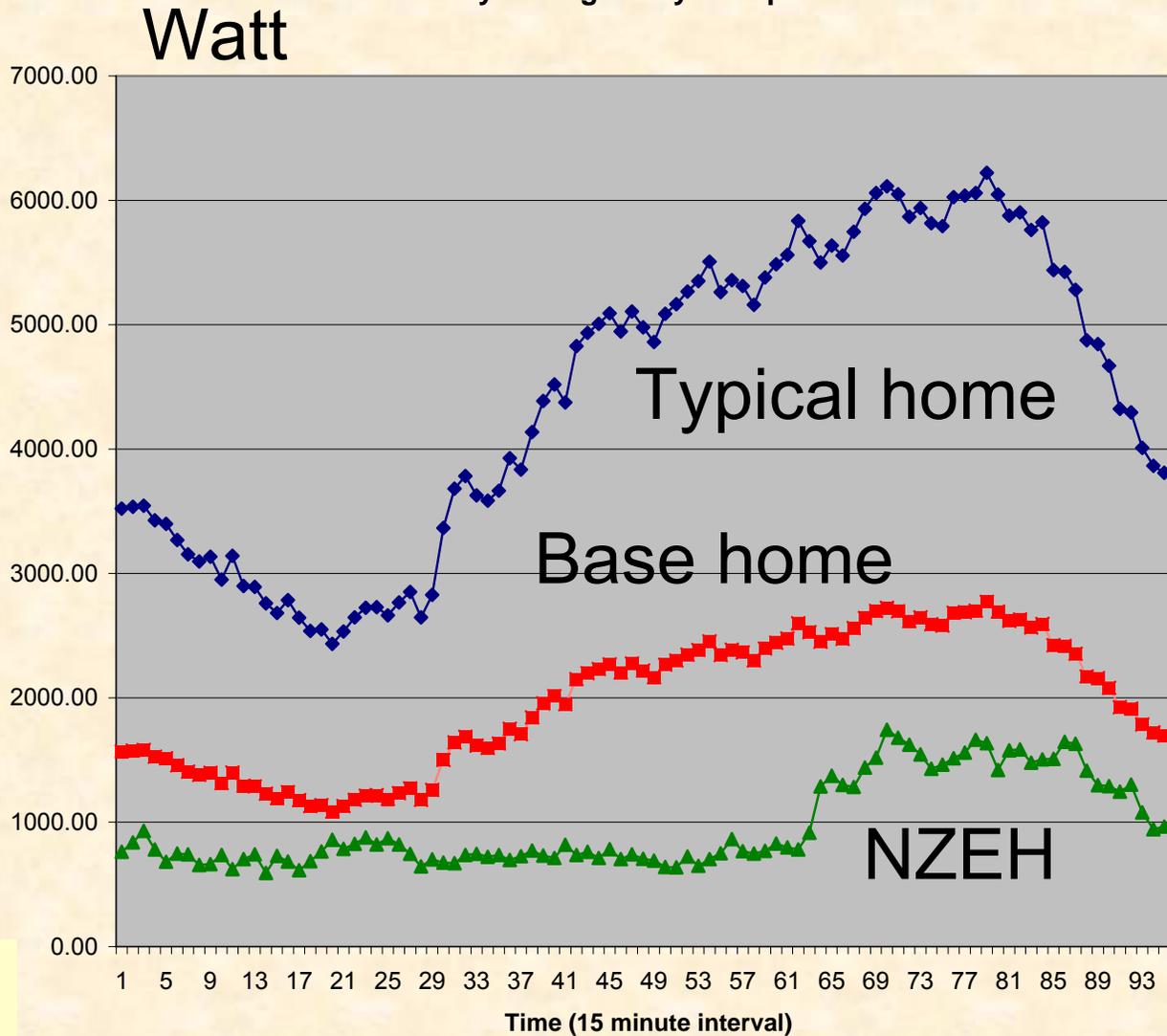
# ZEH5 vs ZEH4 Heat Pump Energy; 24% less cooling energy per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> 2007



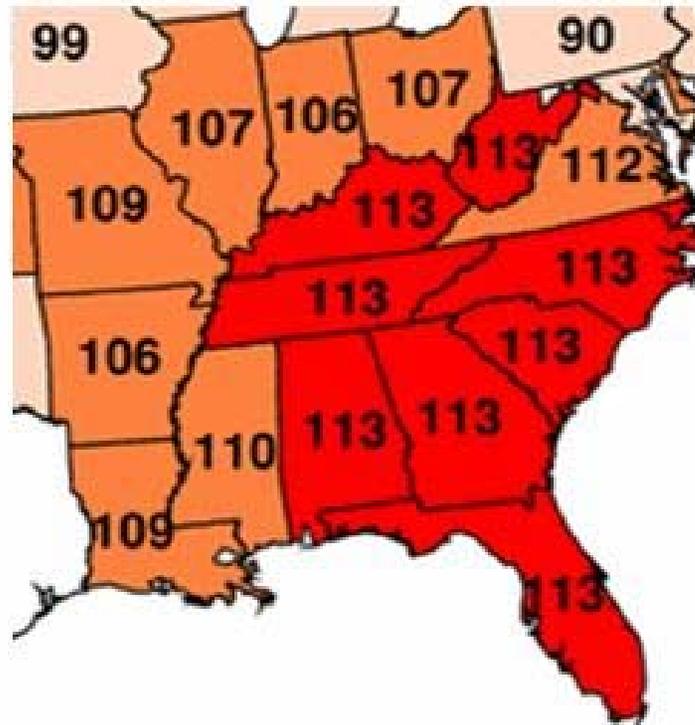
Zero Peak Energy

# ZEH reduces summer peak loads by 40% with no Demand side Management

July average daily load profiles Conv vs ZEH2-4



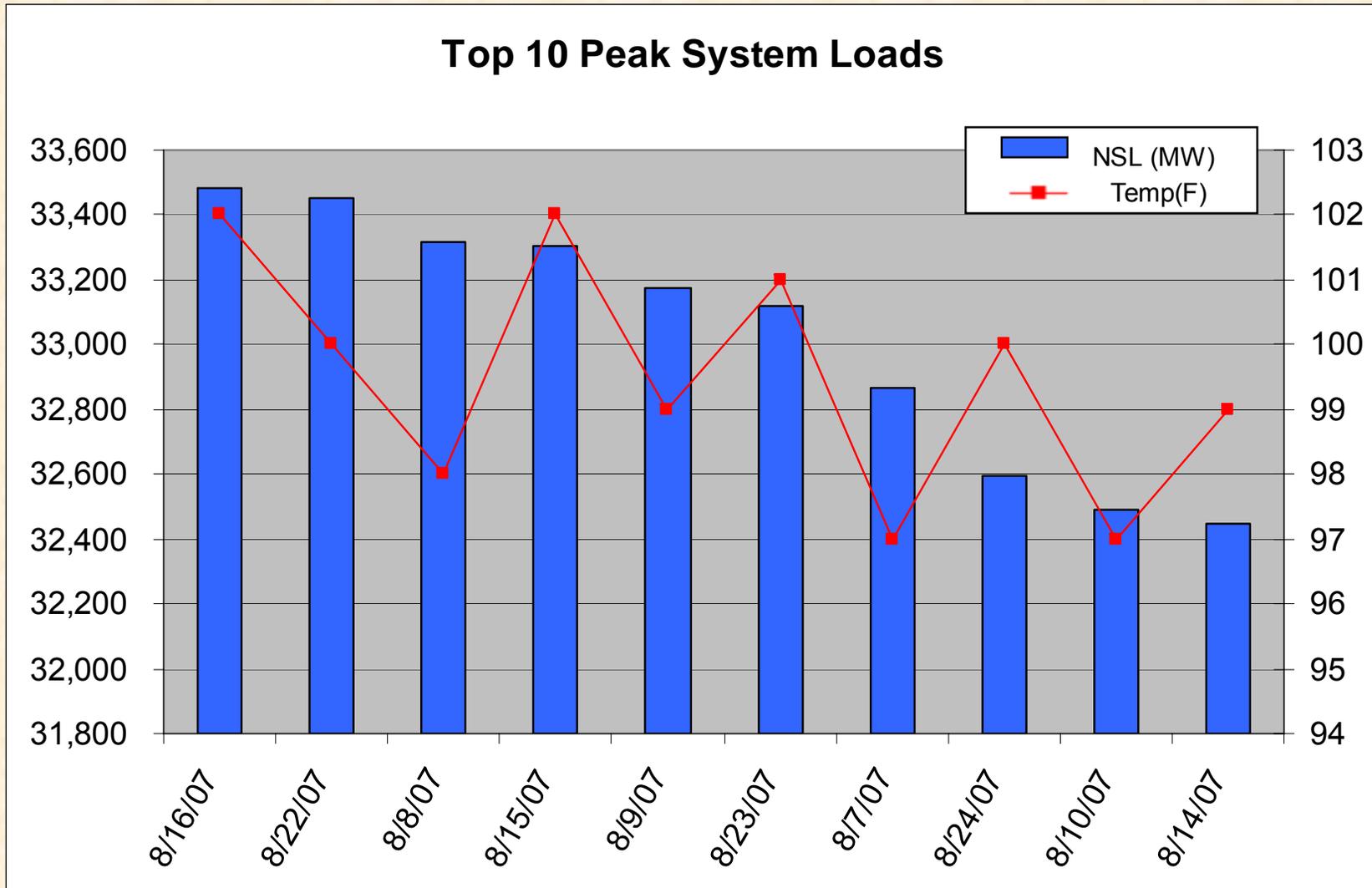
# August 2007 The Hottest on Record



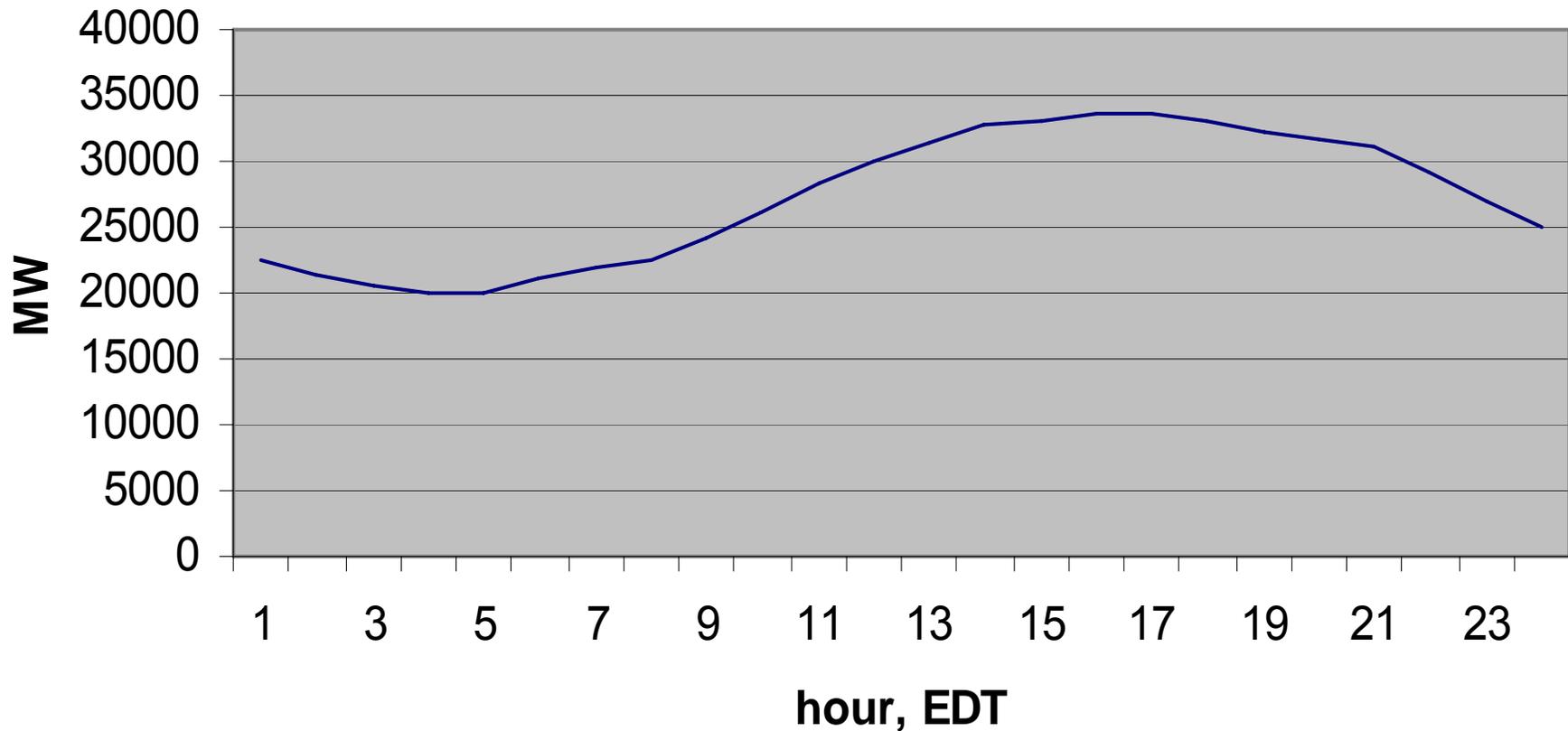
August 2007 Statewide Ranks over 113 years,  
i.e., 113 indicates record high.

Source: National Climatic Data Center,  
NESDIS/NOAA

# TVA all time Top 10 System Peaks



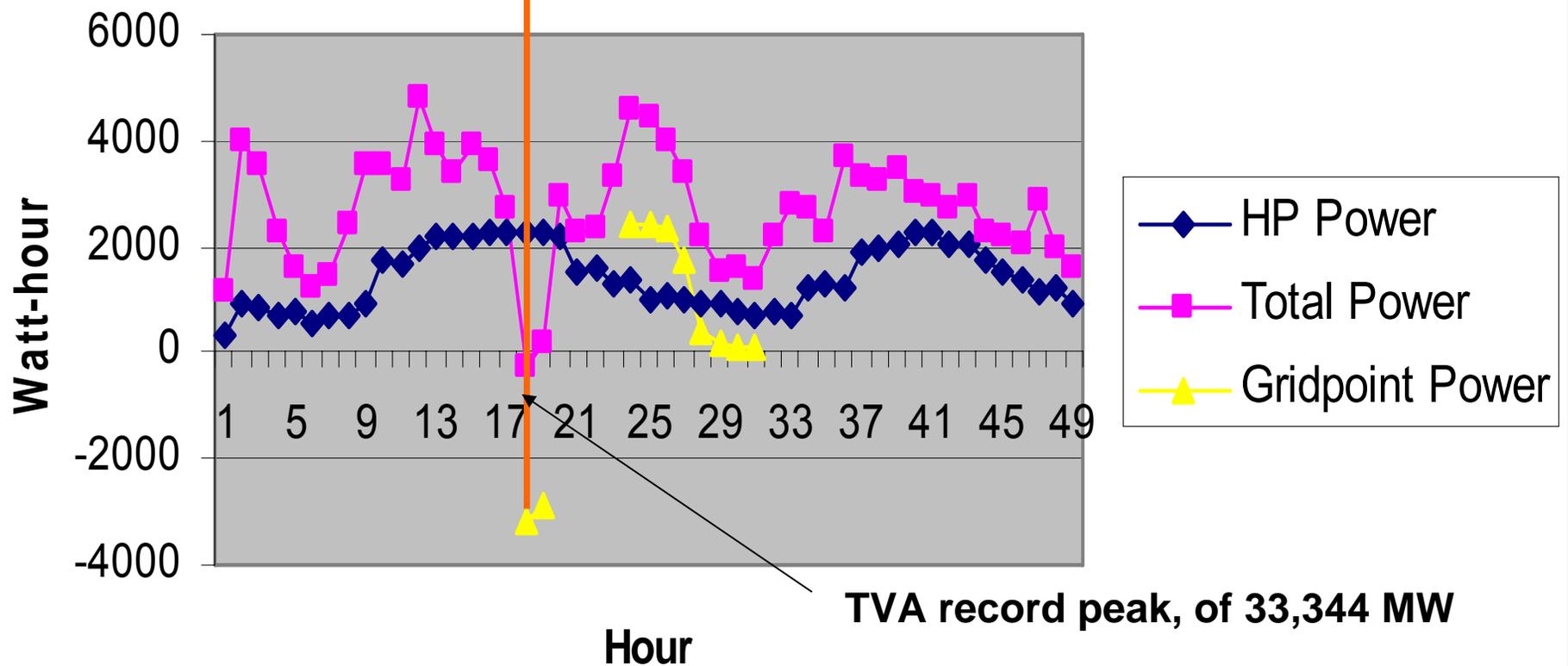
# TVA System Load August 16, 2007



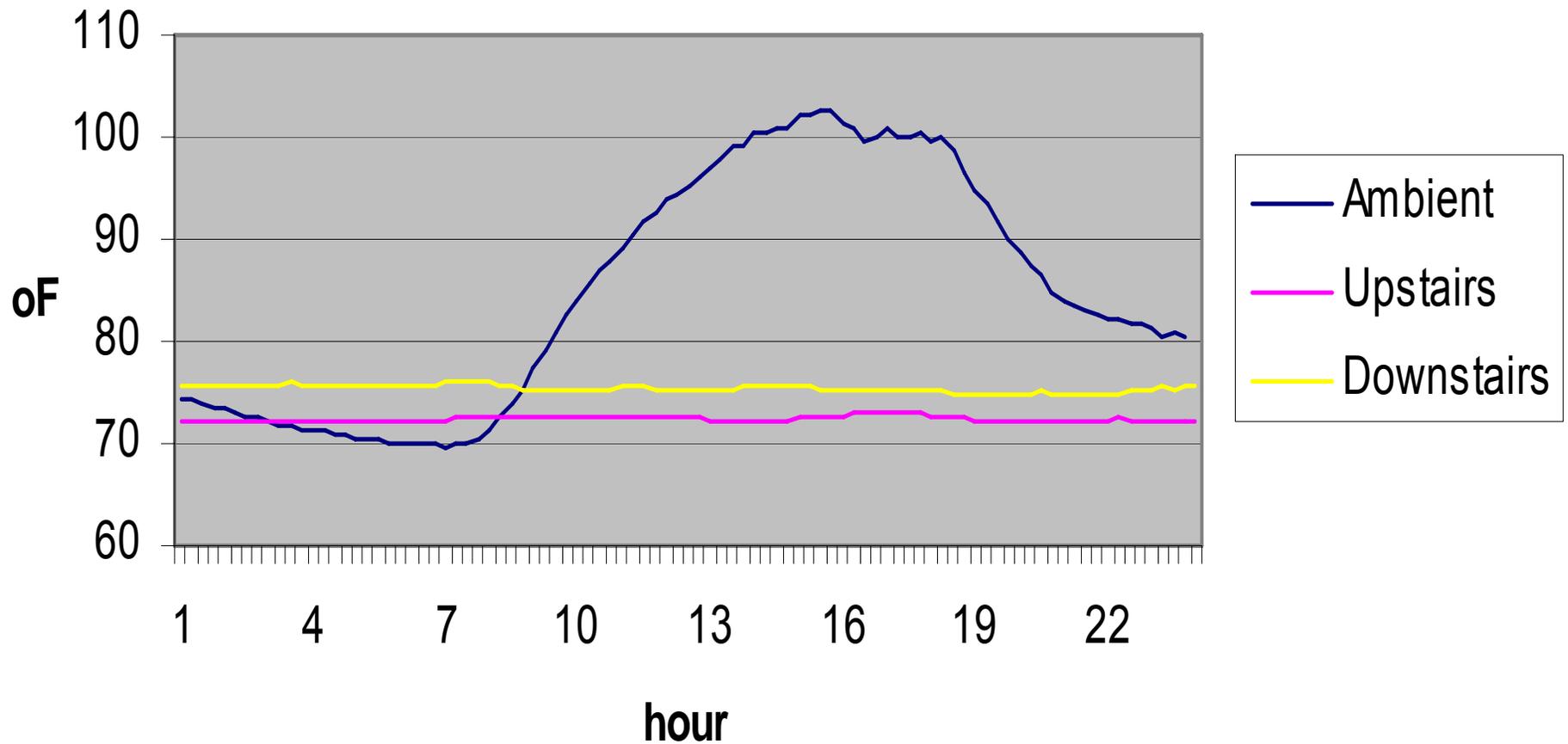
— TVA System Load

With DSM these houses can reach zero peak;  
ZEH5 Hourly energy on TVA peak day, August  
16, 2007

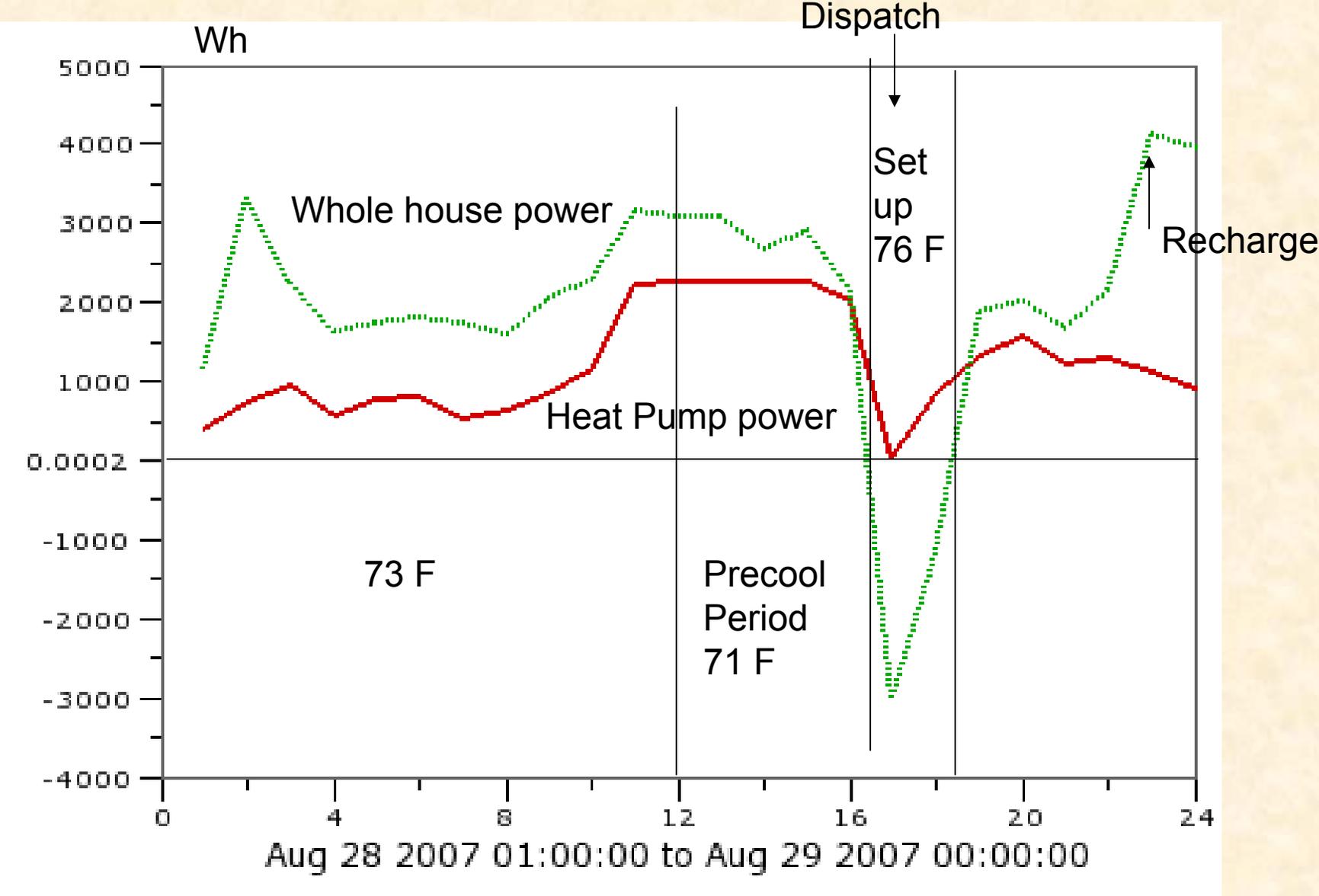
### ZEH5 Energy Demand on August 16, 2007



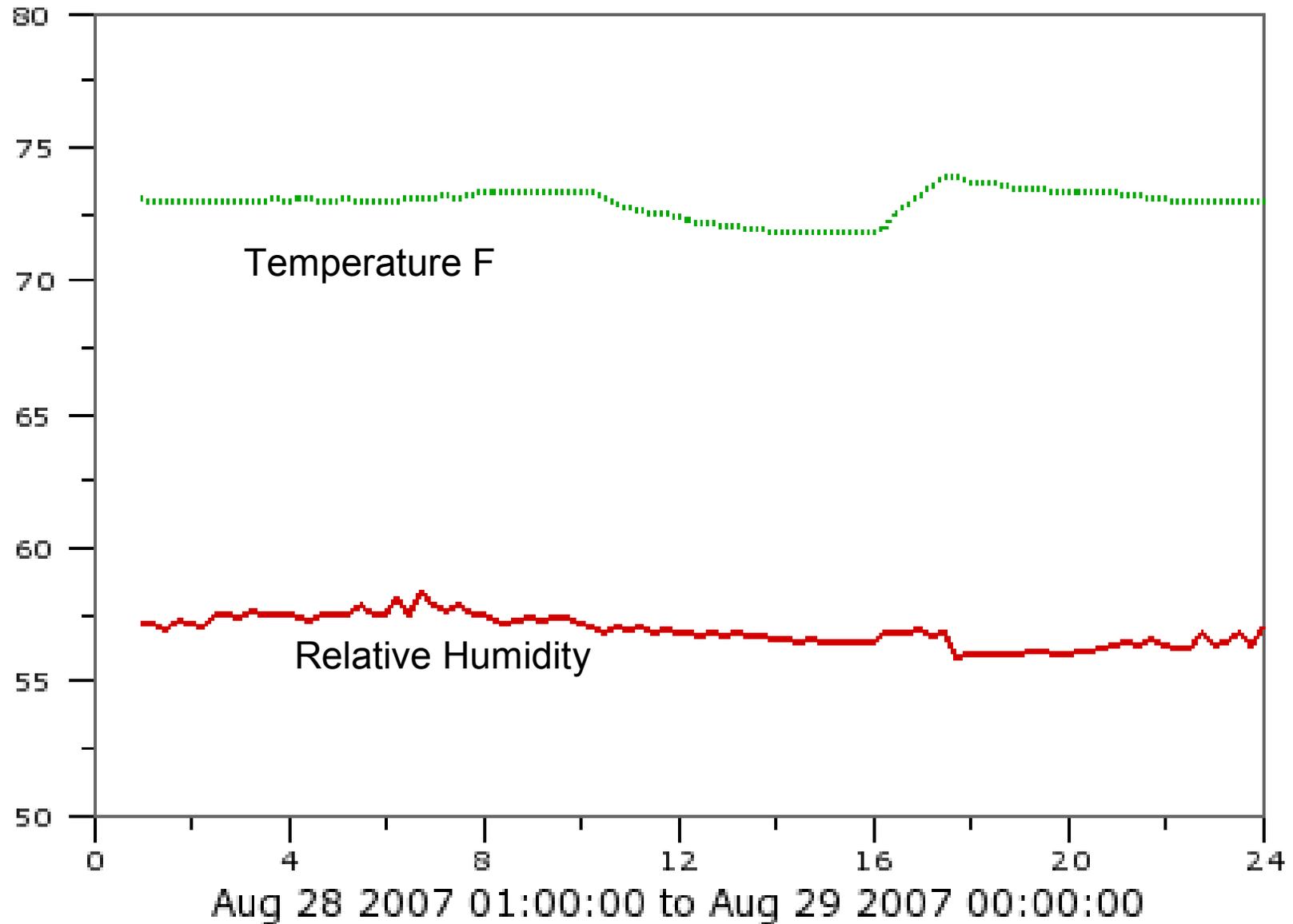
# Temperatures on August 16



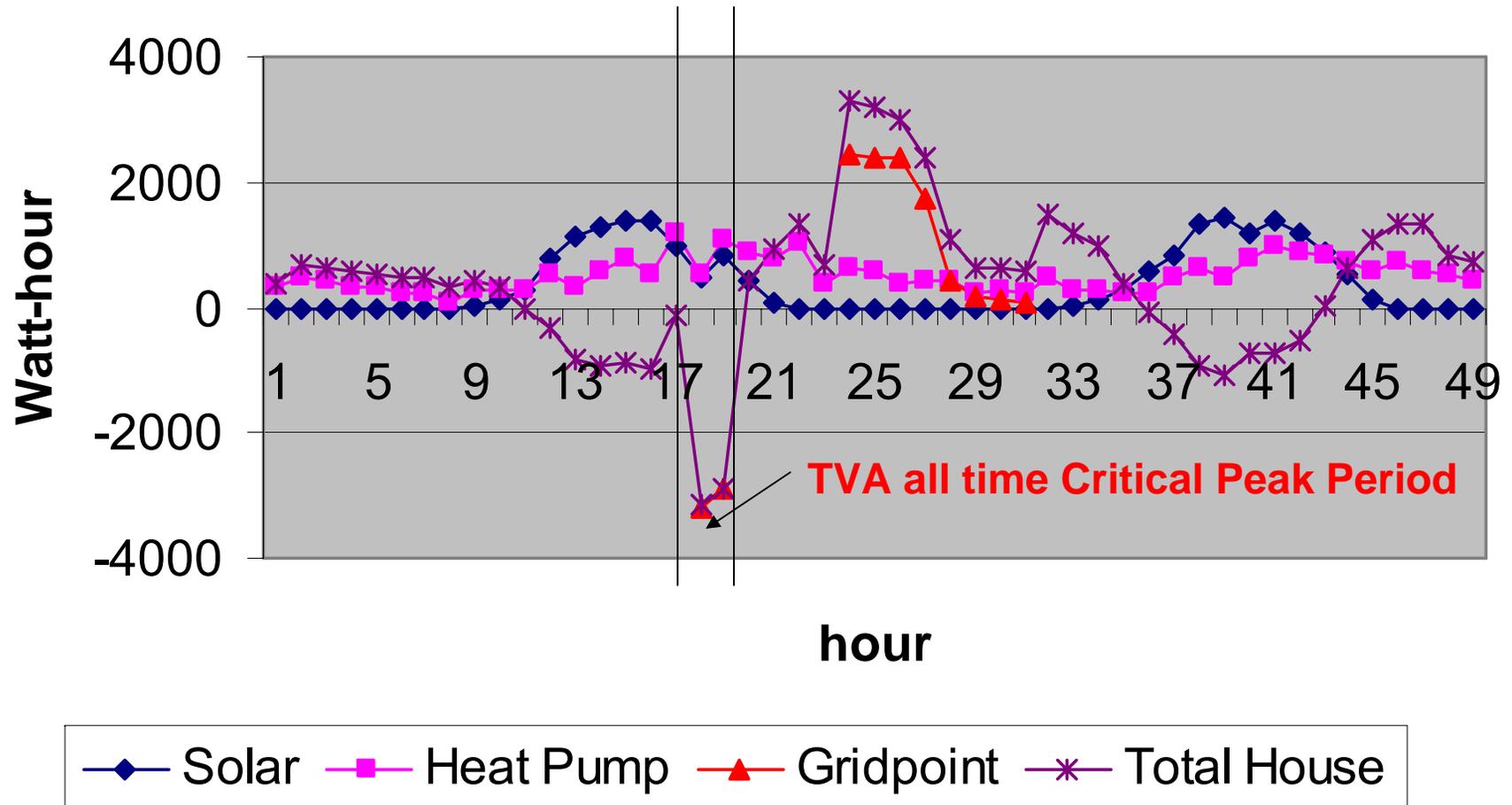
# Precooling helps reduce peak cooling



# Thermal comfort maintained; precool starts before critical peak



## ZEH4 with Gridpoint installed on August 16, 2007



# Summary of peak load savings from near zero annual energy homes in East Tennessee

Component	Low estimate of Peak load savings kW	Average Peak load savings kW	High estimate of Peak load savings kW
ZEH Energy efficiency	0.55	0.75	4
2.2 Solar PV	0.55	0.75	1
Battery dispatch	2.9	3	3.1
Pre-cooling strategy	1.5	2.5	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	5.5	7.0	11.1

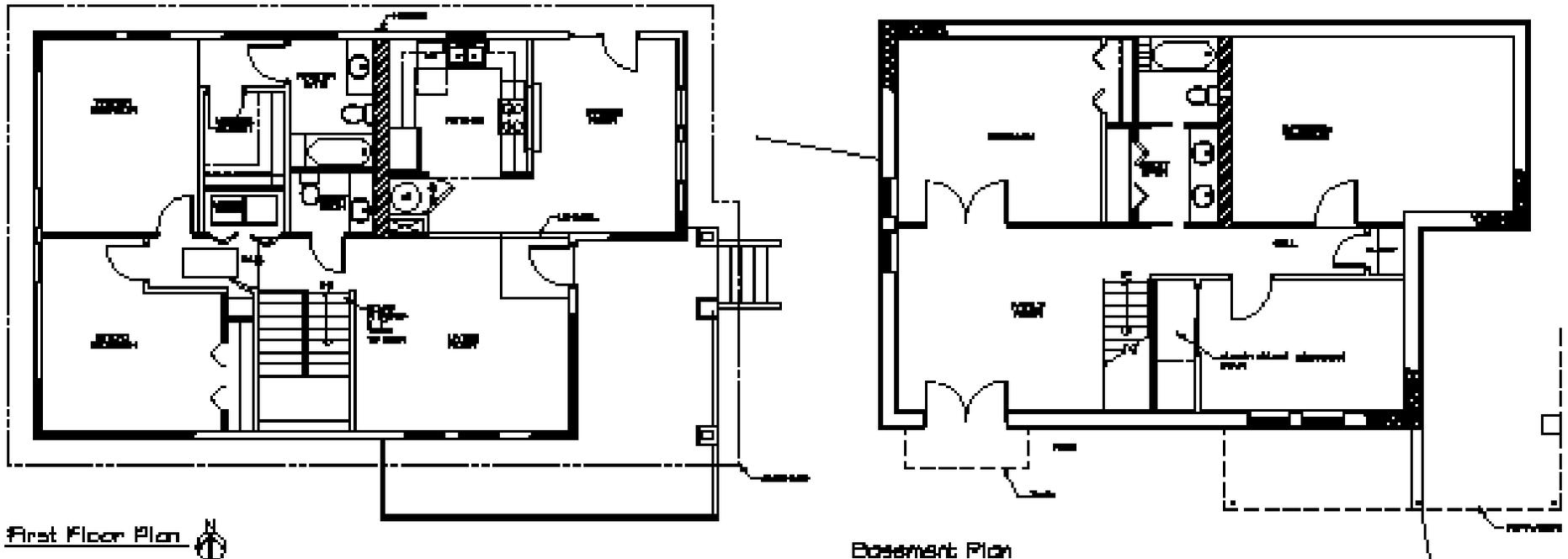
ZEH7; 2.5 kW PV, Solar HW, SIP walls and roof, less than \$1/day, Solar 37%, enough roof area to be "ZEH ready"



2640 ft<sup>2</sup>

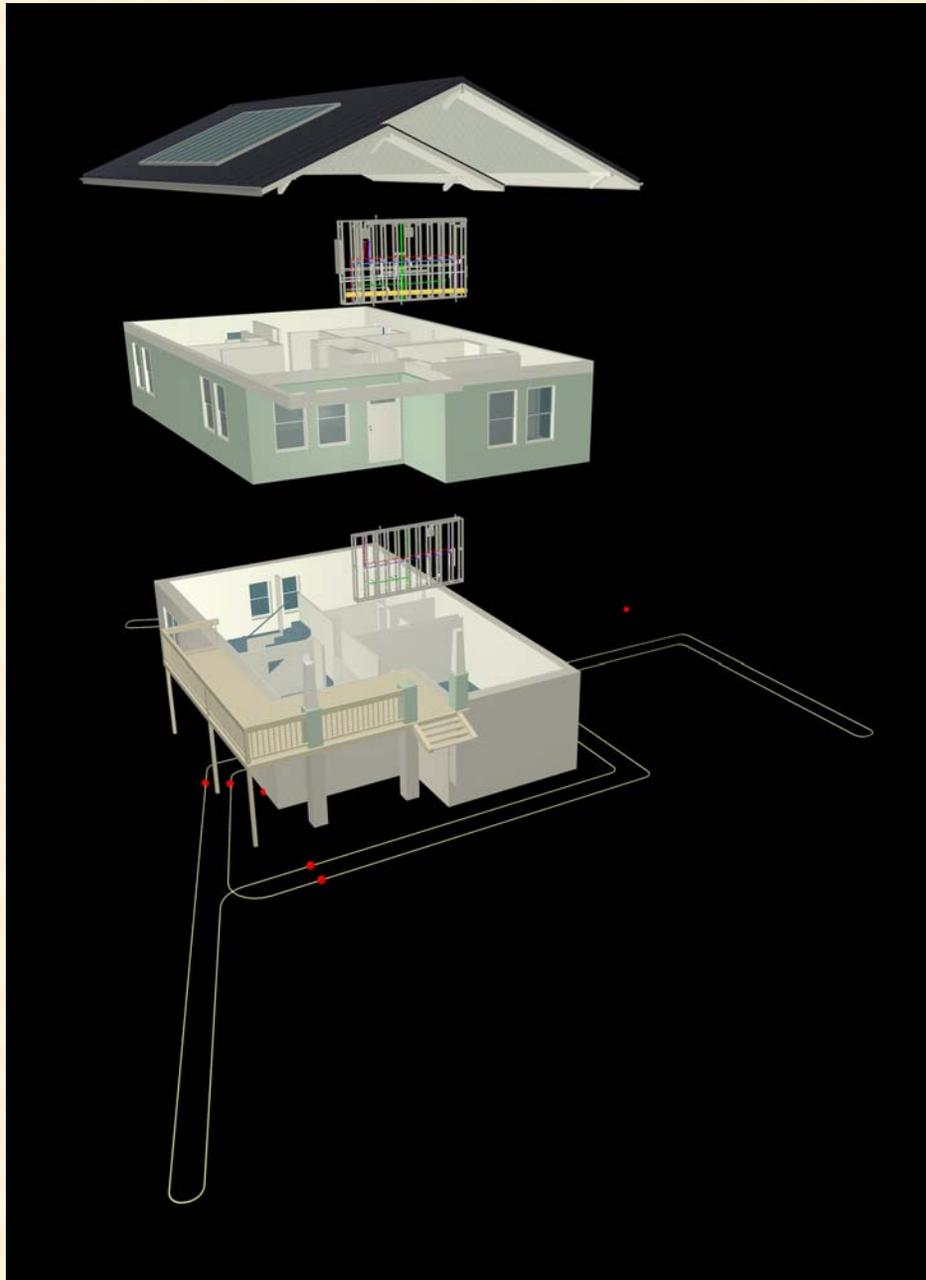
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This SIP house is designed with a family of 4 in mind. It is equipped with a high efficiency geothermal heat pump, a solar water heater, and a 2.5 Kw photovoltaic system. In the TVA service territory the PV connected to the TVA green power generation program reduces your electric bill by allowing you to sell the solar power back to your service provider\*. With the PV system in place the house, with typical internal energy loads, costs just \$0.80 a day. The same house without the PV system cost is estimated at \$2.12. The HERS index with the PV is 37 and without it is 53.

The cost per day with PV was determined using a \$0.15/Kw buyback rate.



# Upscale version with same energy performance

- **8/12 pitch roof**
- **Cedar shakes**
- **Crab Orchard Stone**
- **Stair Punch out**
- **400 ft<sup>2</sup> Loft option**
- **Cost estimate \$310K**





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Thank you!



**Jeff Christian**

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