

Session Title: Digital Technology to achieve Efficiency and Decarbonization

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Abstract title: Ethnographic Insights into Automated Energy Futures

The energy industry is looking to automated digital technologies to manage electricity supply and demand in a future of Distributed Energy Resources. Automated smart home appliances are expected to enable a win-win-win for consumers, the energy sector, and decarbonization goals. However, through ethnographic social science research with households in Australia, the Digital Energy Futures Project reveals many social complexities that must be taken into account. This presentation will describe a few examples of where everyday priorities often counteract such measures: people's desires for control, emerging demands on air quality, and an incompatibility between existing automation features and energy management.