

DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY MODELS WITH LIMITED DATA
TO OPTIMIZE USE AND BENEFITS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY
IN ISOLATED FOOD-ENERGY-WATER SYSTEMS: A REMOTE
ALASKA COMMUNITY EXAMPLE
(PA23B-1162)

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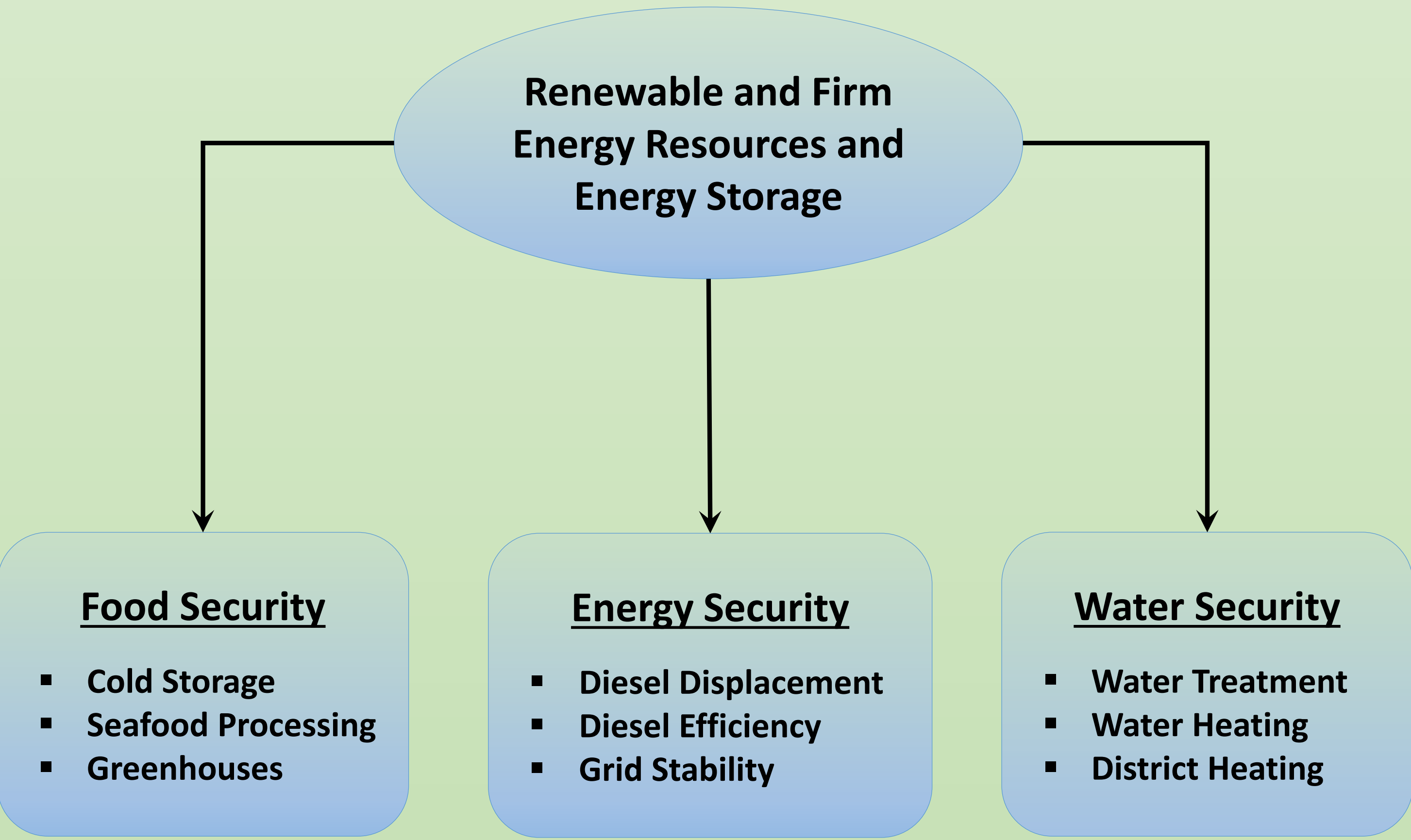
INTRODUCTION

Alaska’s Remote Islanded Microgrids



70 of ~200 Alaska remote islanded microgrids
use renewable energy sources

ENERGY DISTRIBUTION MODELS



Renewable energy resources and connections to food-energy-water
(FEW) systems in Alaska communities

FEW SYSTEMS MODELING
OPPORTUNITIES

- Relative isolation of the communities provides avenues for modelling closed FEW systems.
- Renewable energy optimization using FEW dispatchable loads.
- Limited FEW infrastructure systems provide an opportunity to characterize the often complex FEW system dynamics.

CHALLENGES

- Existing larger FEW infrastructure models are not scalable to remote islanded FEW systems.
- High degree of non-linearity within the connections and energy flows of FEW systems.
- Lack of reliable and quality data from the communities.

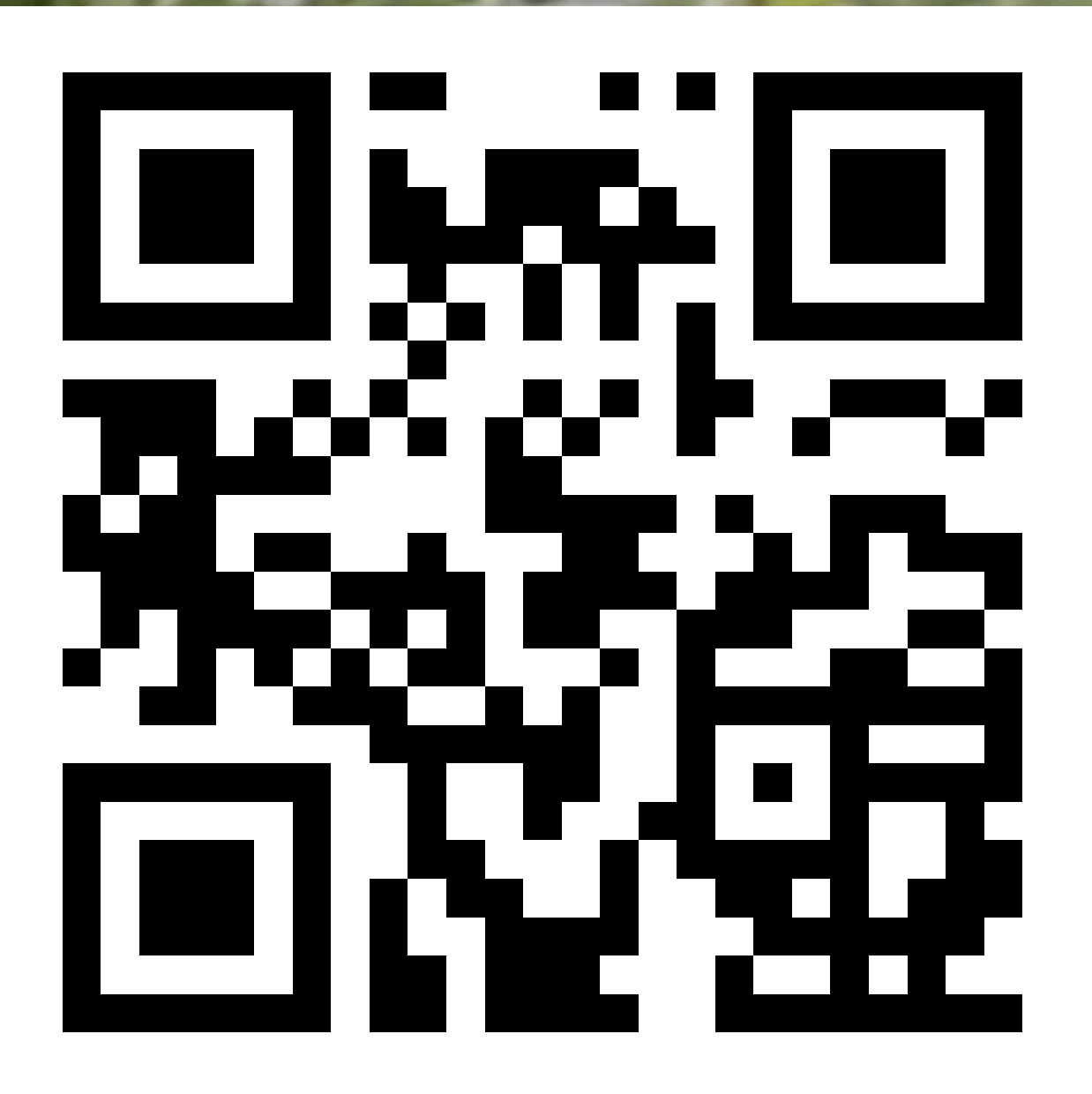


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Coupling infrastructure improvements to food-energy-water system dynamics in
small cold region communities: MicroFEWs.

Use of limited data to inform
renewable energy installation model
scenarios for food, energy, and water
systems in remote Alaska communities



Photo Credit: Amanda Byrd (Alaska Center for Energy and Power)

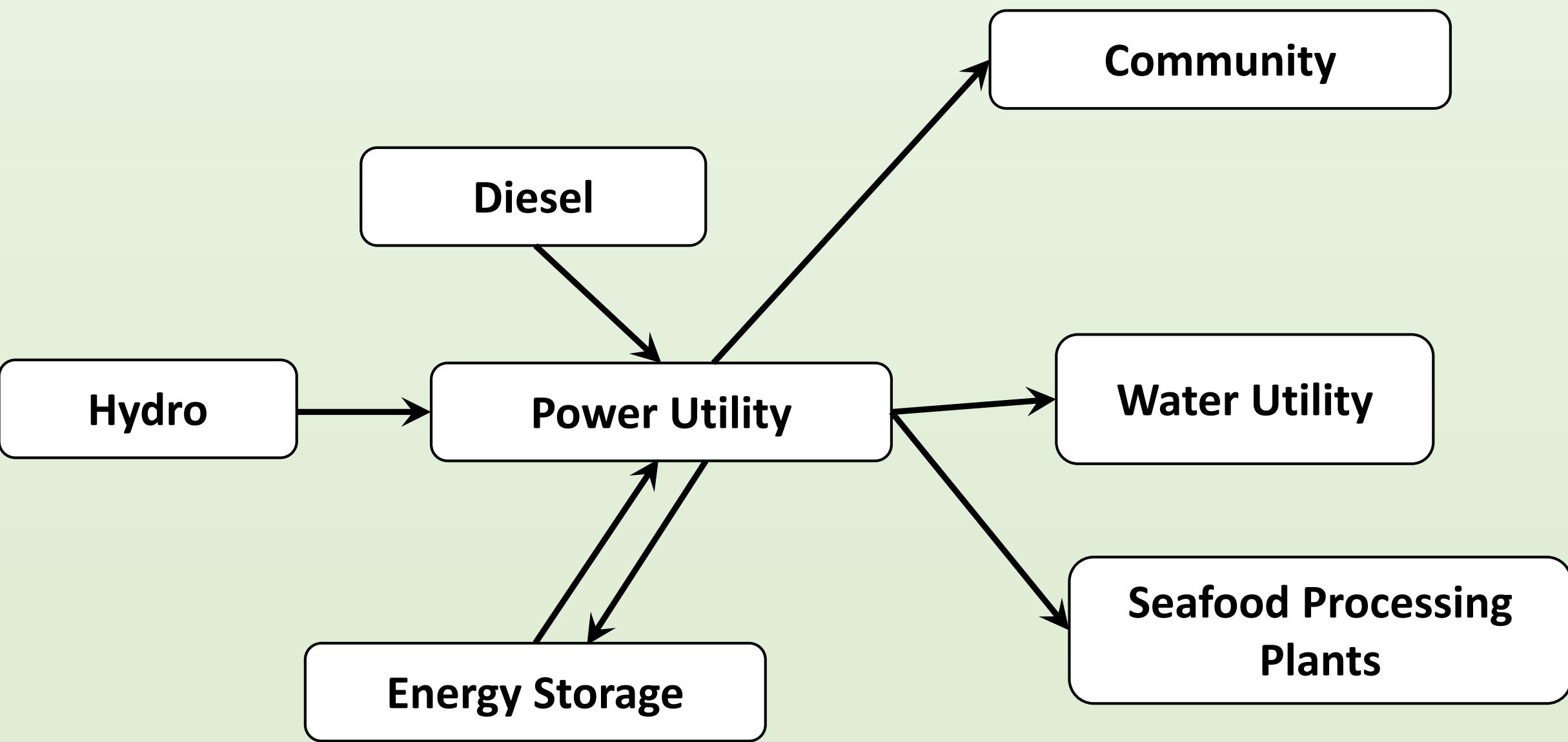


CORDOVA COMMUNITY



- Population: 2300
Grid Size: 3-10 MW
Power Generation Capacity:
- 7.2 MW Run-of-River Hydroelectric
 - 11.2 MW Diesel
 - 1 MW/1 MWh Energy Storage System

CORDOVA ON-GRID FEW SYSTEM DYNAMICS



CORDOVA’S FEW FACTS

- Fishing industry is Cordova’s main economic engine.
- Summer community load can be as high as 10 MW due to the seafood processing plants.
- Summer water demand for the community is over 75 million gallons per month.
- As much as 60% of the summer load is met by the run-of-river hydroelectric power (7.2 MW).
- Hydro capacity exceeds diurnal off-peak and nighttime demand resulting in 10 million kWh of the run-of-river water spillage.

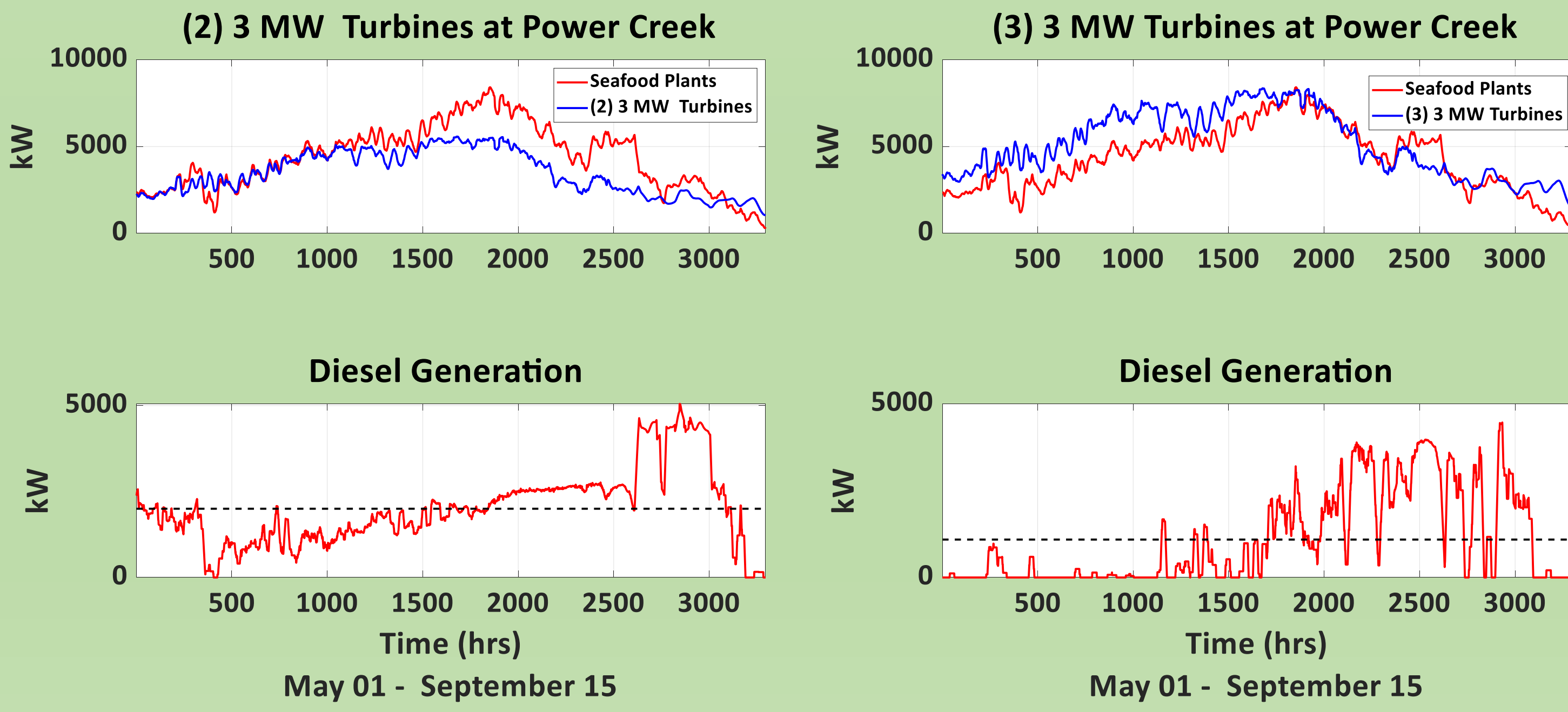
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM BENEFITS

- Annual diesel consumption reduced by 10%.
- Total diesel off time increased to around 45%.

ADDITIONAL 3 MW HYDRO TURBINE BENEFITS

- Diesel fuel consumption reduced by ~50%.
- Increasing summer hydro power supply by 74%.

BEFORE (LEFT) AND AFTER (RIGHT) SCENARIO



E. Whitney, W. E. Schnabel, S. Aggarwal, D. Huang, R. W. Wies, J. Karenzi, H. P. Huntington, J. I. Schmidt, and A. Dotson, “MicroFEWs: A Food-Energy-Water Systems Approach to Renewable Energy Decisions in Islanded Microgrid Communities in Rural Alaska”, *Environmental Engineering Science*. vol. 36, no. 7, Jul. 2019.

J. B. Vandermeer, B. Schenkman, M. Baca, M. Mueller-Stoffels, C. Koplin, “Cordova Electric Cooperative Energy Storage Evaluation”, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM, Nov. 2017.

