

# Electricity Committee

# Millennials and Boomers: Centuries Apart?

Moderator: Hon. John  
Rosales, Illinois

# Panelists:

Martin Burns, AARP

Nathan Shannon, Smart Energy  
Consumer Collaborative

Molly Bauch, Accenture

# **“Millennials and Boomers: Centuries Apart?”**

Martin Burns

Campaign Director

AARP

NARUC 2017 Annual Meeting

November 13, 2017

# About AARP

**AARP, with its nearly 38 million members, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities, and protection from financial abuse.**

**Learn more at [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org).**

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- A large graphic composed of numerous circular icons arranged in a heart shape. The icons are blue or red with white silhouettes representing various political and social concepts such as voting, government buildings, people, and symbols like the USA flag and a donkey.

# Who are Boomers/Millennials?

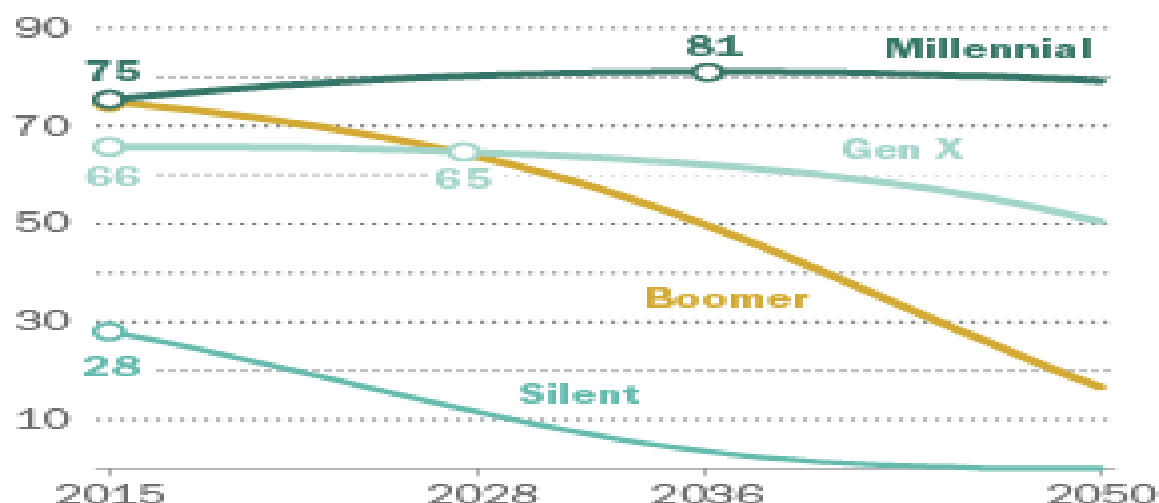
Millennials have surpassed Baby Boomers as the nation's largest living generation, according to [population estimates](#) released this month by the U.S. Census Bureau. Millennials, whom we define as those ages 18-34 in 2015, now number 75.4 million, surpassing the 74.9 million Baby Boomers (ages 51-69). And Generation X (ages 35-50 in 2015) is projected to pass the Boomers in population by 2028.

- Source: Pew Research Center, April 2016

# The Graphic View

## Projected population by generation

*In millions*



Note: Millennials refers to the population ages 18 to 34 as of 2015.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population projections released December 2014 and 2015 population estimates

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**



# Millennials and Technology

**Millennials see technology and “connectedness” as part of their identity.**

“In nearly every focus group I have done of young people, whenever I’ve asked what makes their generation special, they inevitably bring up their own comfort with technology. Every major corporate or PR firm research study on young adults that I have ever been a part of or have a chance to review names connectedness and technology aptitude as a core defining attribute of this generation. Being a connected, technologically savvy candidate is a necessary though not sufficient condition these days for being acceptable to young voters.”

Kristen Soltis Anderson, “The Selfie Vote, Broadside Books, 2015.”

# Boomers and Technology

“During my years of marketing to baby boomers, I’ve learned that the baby boomer generation spends as much time online as do watching television. It might surprise you to learn that 96% of baby boomers use search engines, 95% use email and 92% shop for products and services online rather than shopping in stores and shopping malls.”

Karina Tama-Rutigiliano, Senior Digital Marketing Manager at Caring People Inc., Forbes, September 26, 2017.

## Boomers vs. Millennials: Boomers are still ahead in purchasing power

“The 50-plus and 60-plus populations clearly playing a larger role in consumer spending and older consumer are going to become more significant as these trends intensify,” says Wayne Best, chief economist of Visa. “Paul Davidson, USA Today, July 17, 2017. There are a lot of them. The 90.7 million Americans 55 and older last year made up 28% of the population, according to the Census Bureau.”

“There are 80 million millennials in the US. They outnumber boomers (76 million) and Generation X (60 million). But while millennials, those born from about the mid-1980s to 1995, hold the “power,” boomers hold the money,” according to the Oracle content strategist, Mia McPherson.”

“Boomers Still Wield Mighty Retail Power,” Catherine Salifino, Sourcing Journal, October 12, 2017.

## Key Question: Will Millennials Value Connectedness Over Cost?

- “More specifically, the millennial customer wants information, services and products that meet the criteria of the three “Cs”: cheap convenient and cool.”
- “Millennials and the Future of Electric Utilities,” John P. Banks, Brookings, July 11, 2014

# Millennials and Price Sensitivity

- Millennials want to be connected and in control – but they are still very price sensitive. See: “The Cheapest Generation. Why Millennials aren’t buying cars or houses, and what that means for the economy,” Derek Thompson and Jordan Weismann, the Atlantic, September 2012.

# Boomers and Millennials: Different but Similar

- Boomers and Millennials may be different in how they communicate with businesses, but they are still very price sensitive.
- AARP research has consistently shown that both Boomers and Millennials want fair utility prices.

# Questions/Comments

Martin Burns

AARP Campaigns

Office phone: 202/434-2572

Fax: 202/434-6547

Cell: 202/746-9196

[Mburns@aarp.org](mailto:Mburns@aarp.org)

Follow me: @mburns2009

# Spotlight on Millennials

Nathan Shannon,  
*Smart Energy Consumer  
Collaborative*



## Key Research Questions & Objectives

What demographic and other factors describe Millennials and where they are in their professional and personal lives?

What energy-related issues are important to Millennials and what drives their decision-making?

What are Millennials' attitudes regarding renewables, electric vehicles and other Smart Grid-related technologies?

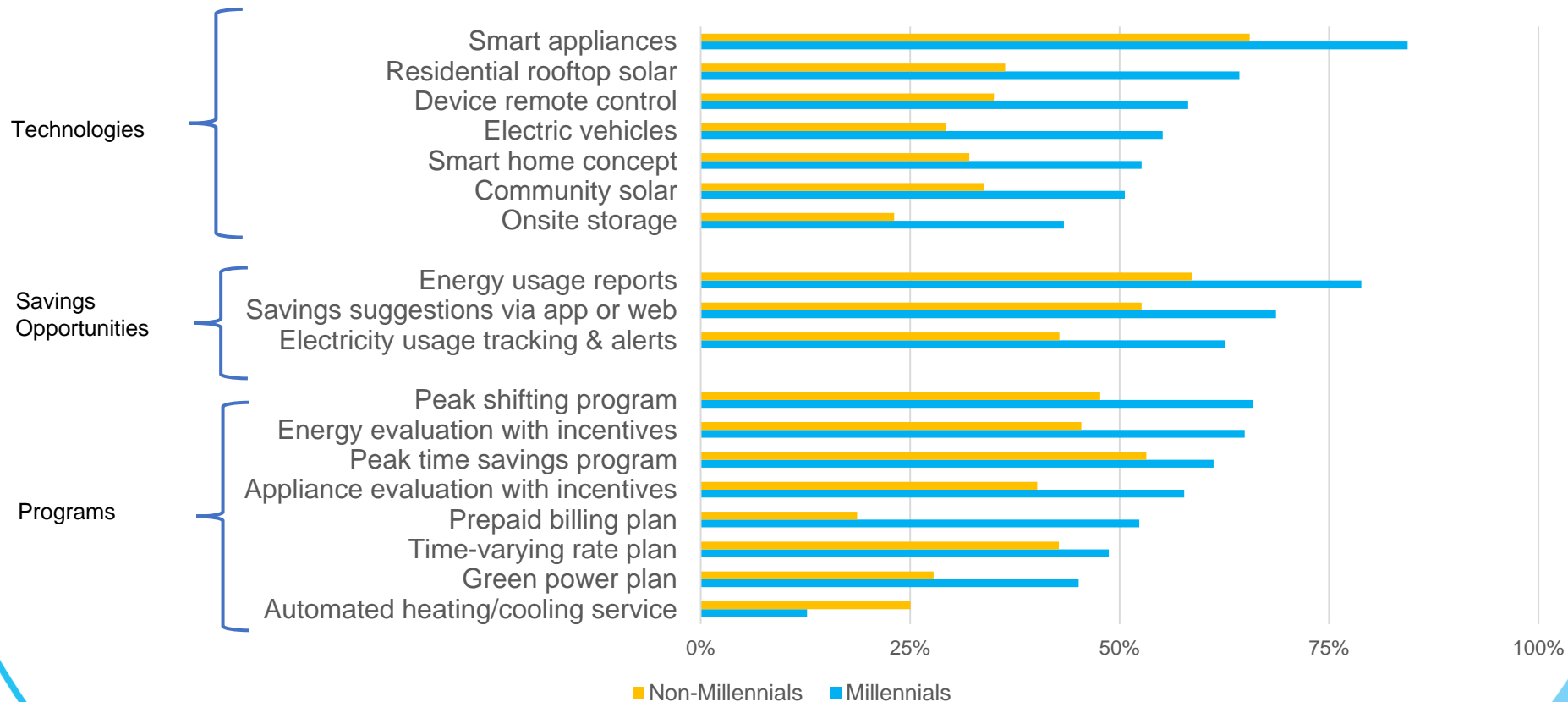
What do Millennials think of their electricity service provider?

How do Millennials engage with their electricity service provider, if at all?

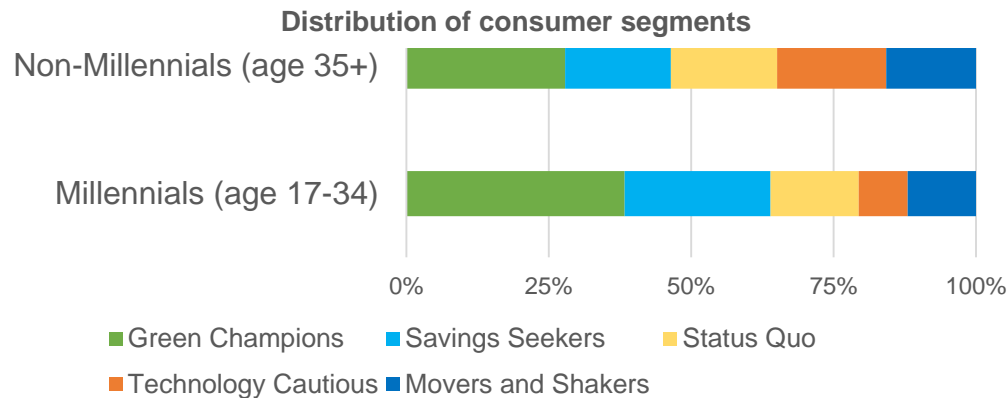
What energy-related programs and offerings might interest Millennials?

One interesting thing about Millennials is that they're more interested in almost everything

### Interest in 18 energy-related technologies and services



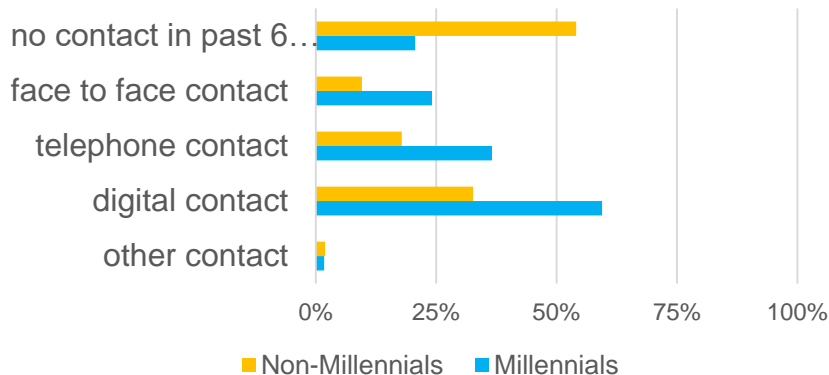
# #1: Treat me like the individual I am



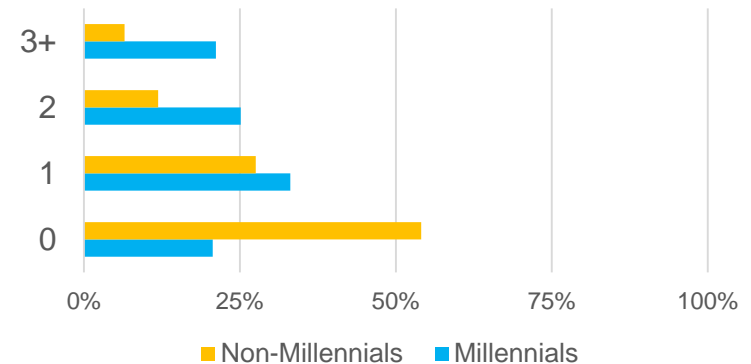
- Millennials are most commonly classified as Green Champions
- Millennials are more likely to be classified as Green Champions than non-Millennials
- Millennials are more likely to be Savings Seekers than non-Millennials

## #2: I will contact you using any means you make available

Communication channels used to contact electricity providers



Number of channels used to contact electricity providers



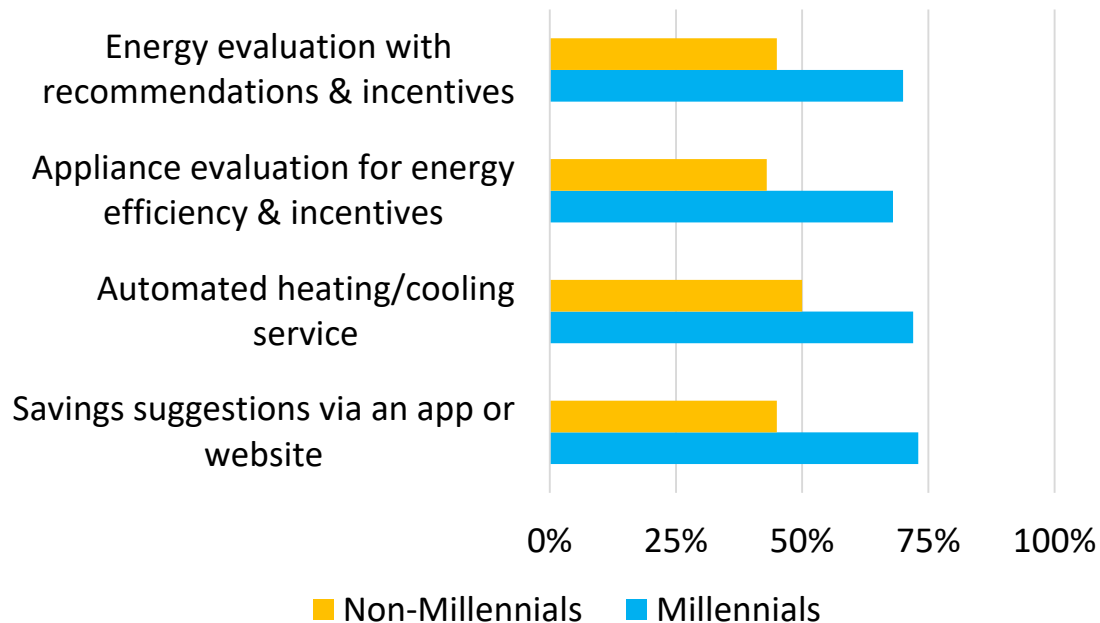
- Millennials are more likely to make contact
- Although they prefer digital channels, they will use whatever channel is available and convenient

**AND**

They're more likely to use multiple channels to communicate with their providers

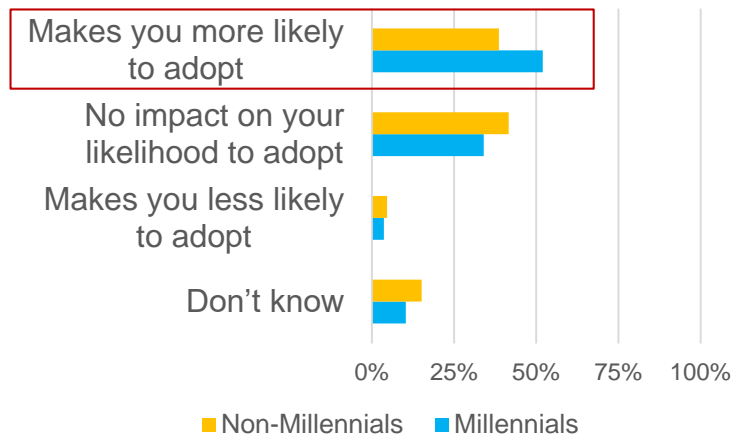
### #3: I expect good service and am willing to pay for it

#### Willingness to pay for energy-saving equipment or services

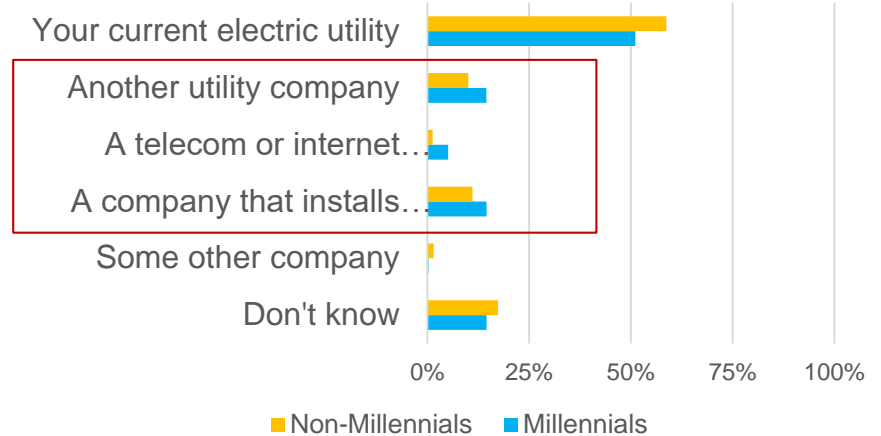


## #4: I like you and trust you, but don't think I won't jump for a better offer

Potential influence of provider endorsement on adoption of energy-related technologies

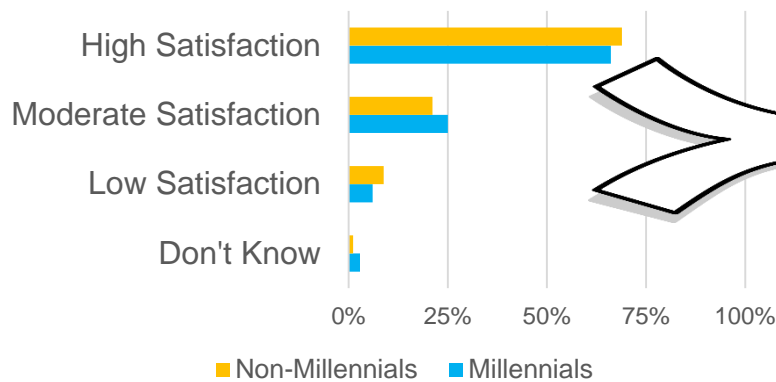


Electricity provider preference



## #5: I'm satisfied with my energy provider, but banks and online retailers provide better customer service

Satisfaction with current electricity provider

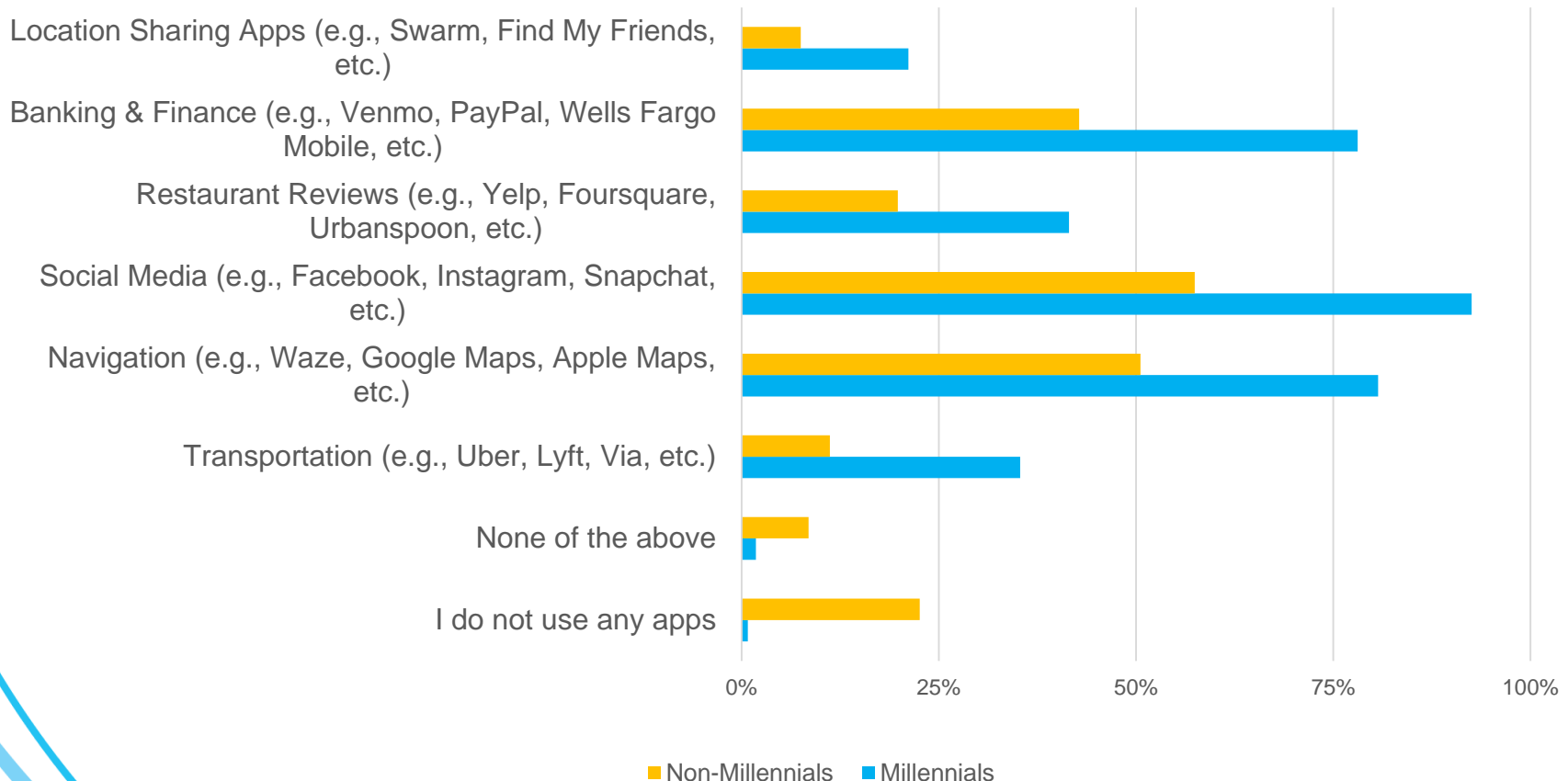


Best providers of customer service

Rank Order	Millennials	Non-Millennials
1st	Banks	Banks
2nd	Online retailers	Utilities
3rd	Utilities	Doctor's offices
4th	Communications providers	Online retailers
5th	Cable providers	Communications providers

## #6: I shop around for the best value, so help me understand your offer and how it benefits me

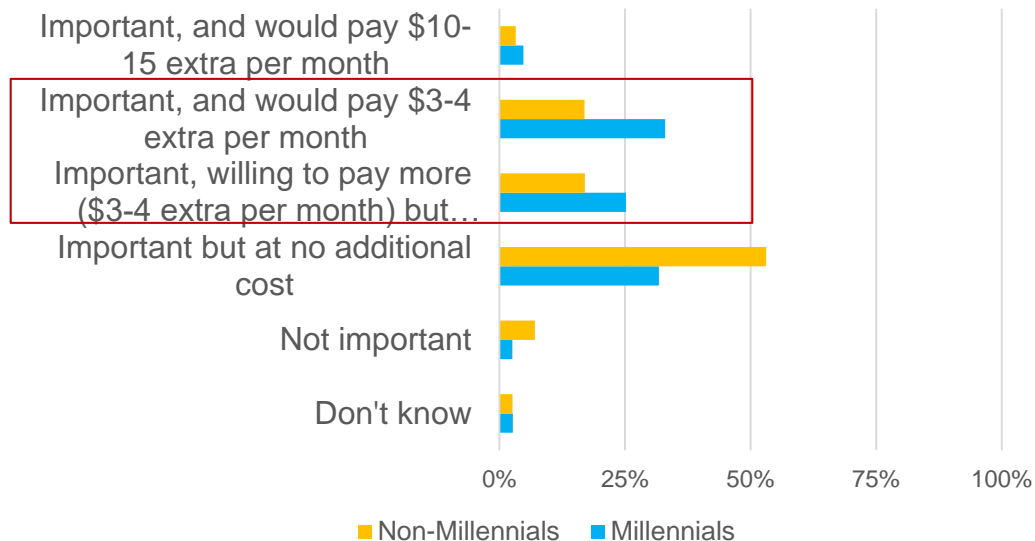
### Types of smartphone apps





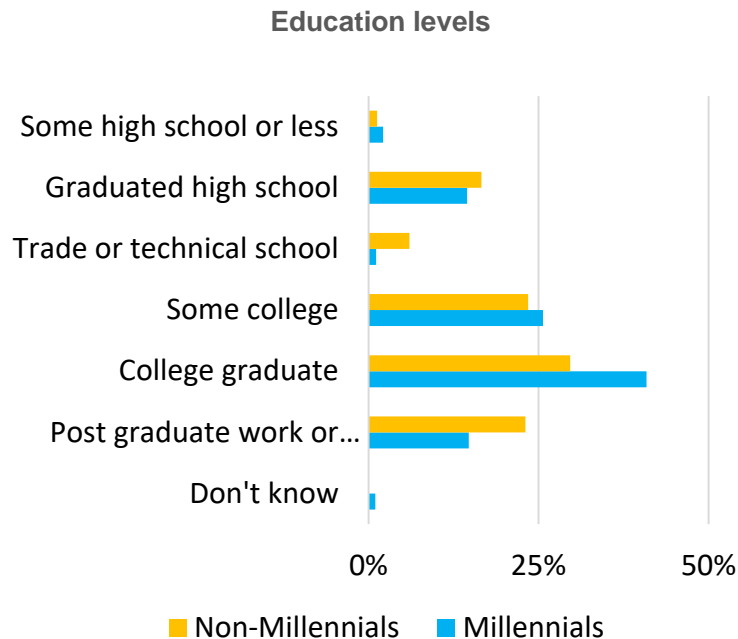
## #7: I want renewable resources and am willing to invest in them

### Importance of renewable energy & reducing GHGs



- Millennials are most commonly classified as Green Champions
- Millennials are also more willing to pay to achieve their “green objectives”

## #8: I'm a savvy, well-educated consumer



### 1,000 JD Power Customer Satisfaction Index

811 *Auto Insurance*

793 *Retail Banking*

726 *Airlines*

680 *Utilities*

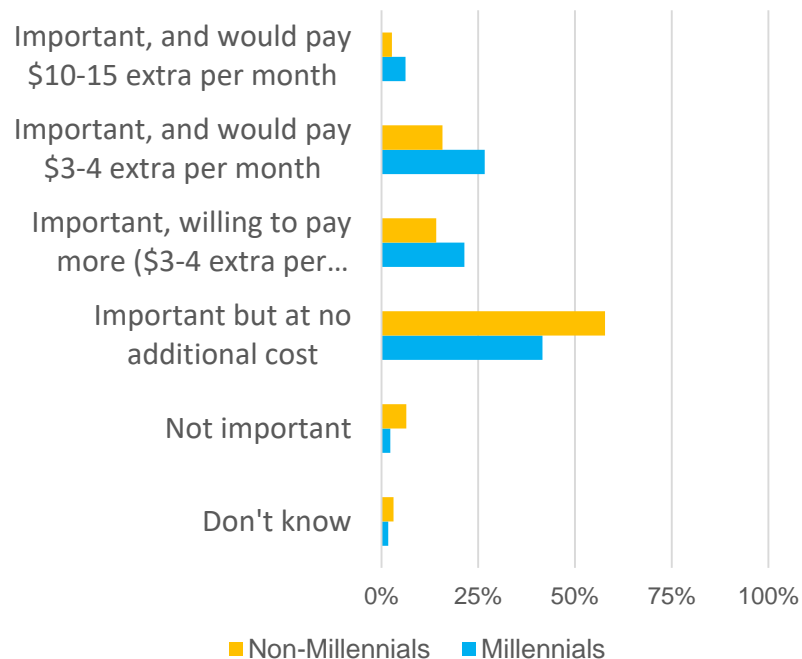
“The lesson that utilities can learn from other high-performing service providers is that to excel you need a culture that puts customers and employees first,” said **John Hazen, senior director of the utility practice at J.D. Power.**

“And because customer expectations continue to increase, you need to have a mindset of continuous improvement to keep up.”

*JD Power Residential Customer Satisfaction Study, July 2016*

## #9: I do my research, so make useful information easy to find anywhere, anytime

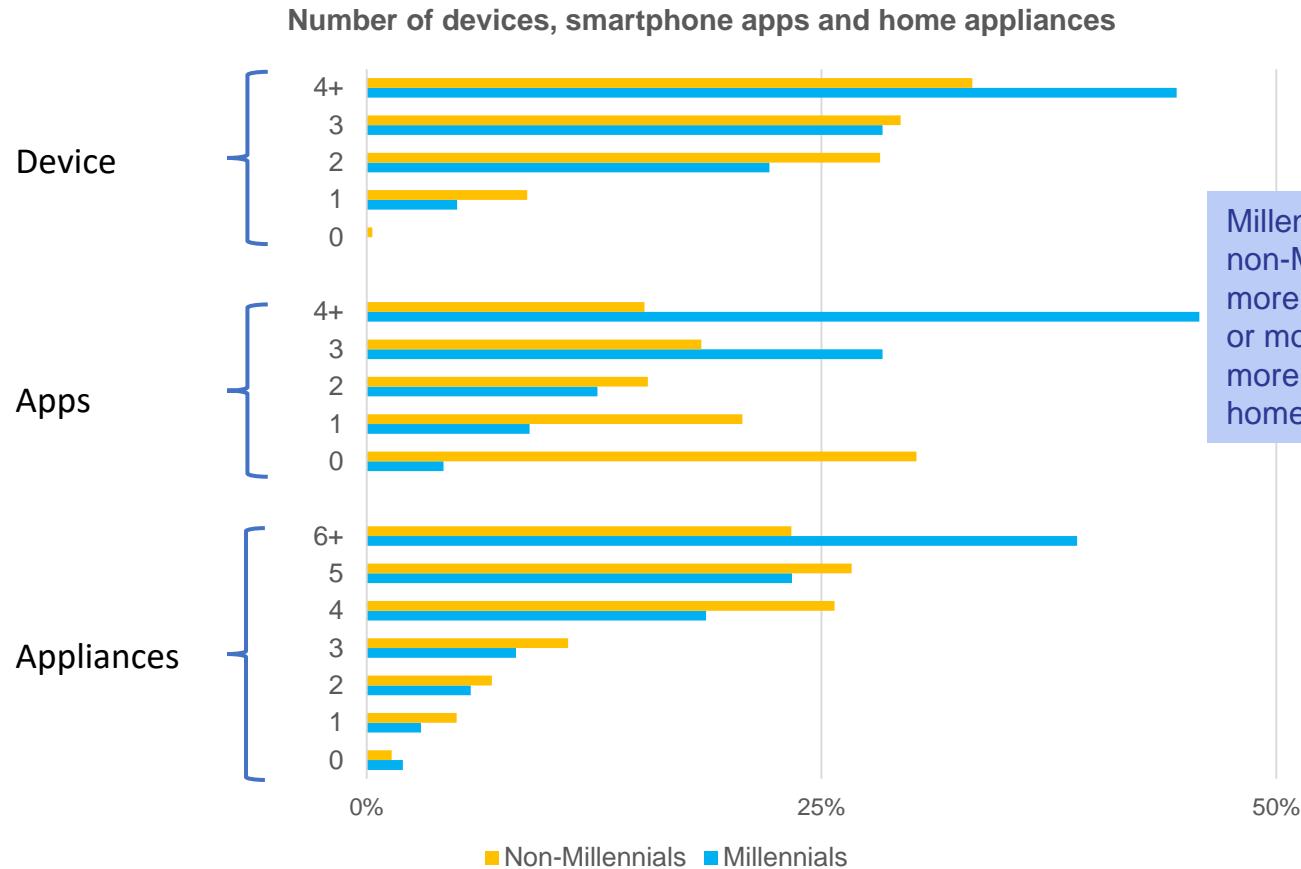
### Importance of real-time energy usage data



More than half the Millennial respondents felt that access to real-time energy usage data was important for making better energy management decisions...

And they are more willing to pay extra to get access to data

## #10: I depend on my digital devices, appliances, and tech “toys”, so give me technology I’ll want to use



Millennials are more likely than non-Millennials to own four or more digital devices, use three or more apps and have six or more appliances in their homes.

## Millennials shine the light on the path forward

**Millennials are engaged and “ambidextrous”; you should be too.**

**Millennials are inquisitive and information hungry: take advantage of it.**

**Millennials are adept at change, and are willing to support it financially.**

**Millennials are enthusiastic about energy and sustainability; engage them now.**

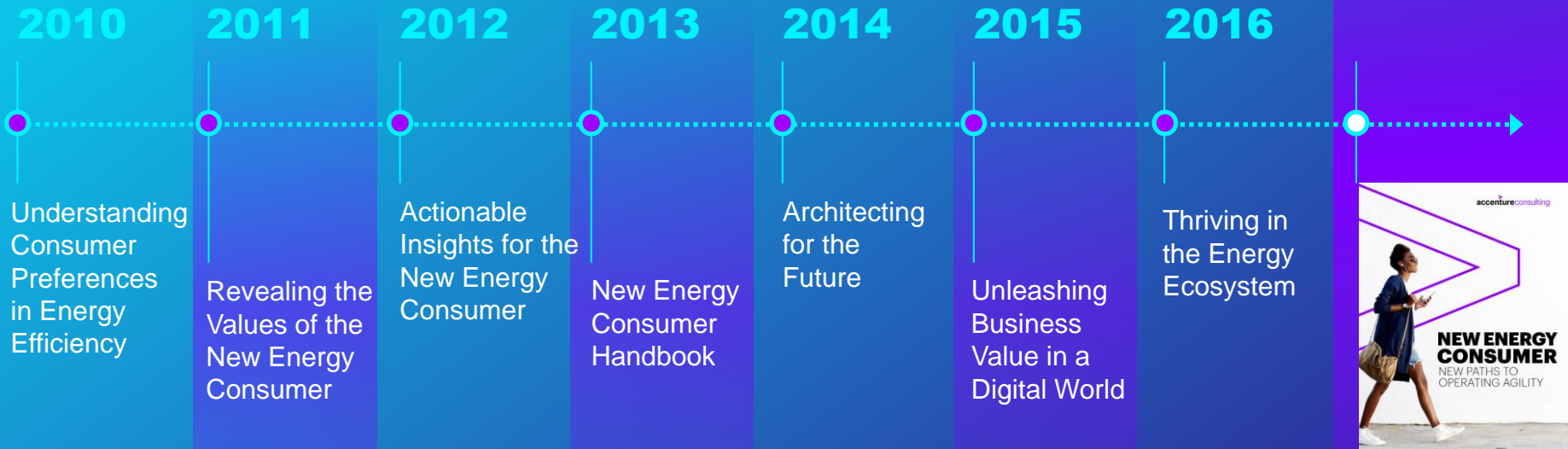
**MOLLY BAUCH**  
**NOV. 13, 2017**  
**SECC NARUC MEETING**

# NEW ENERGY CONSUMER

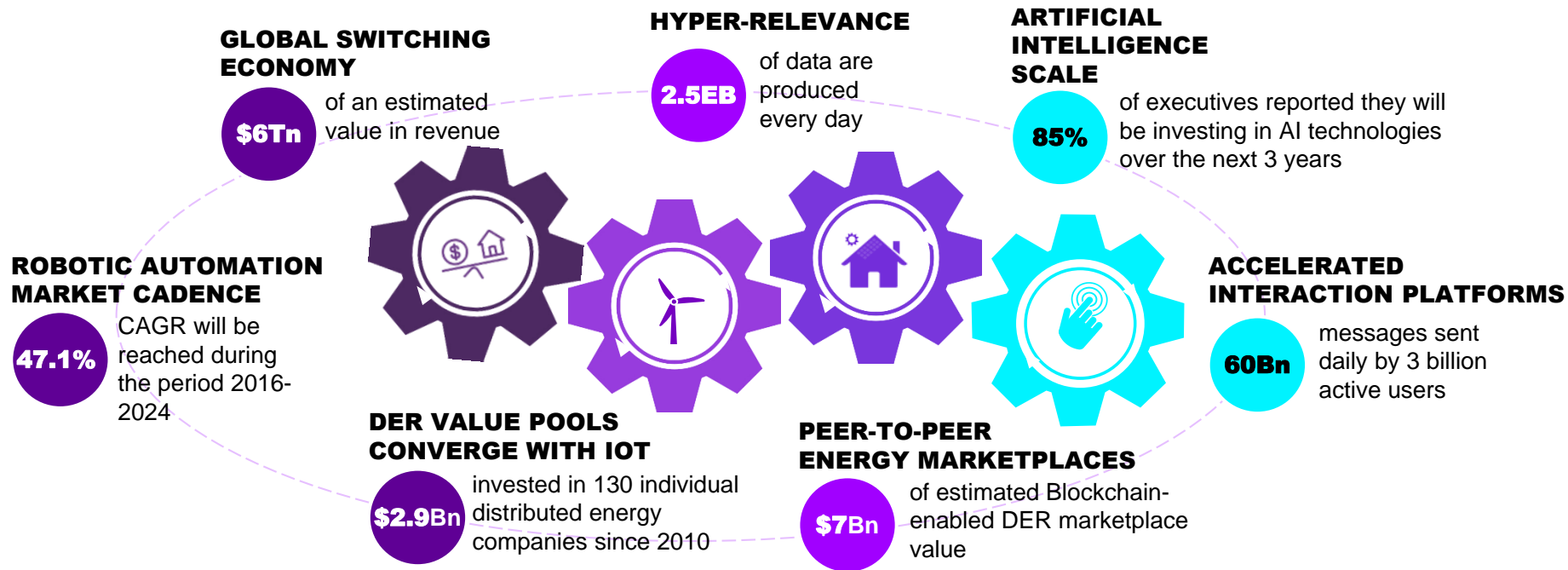


  
**accenture**

# ACCENTURE'S GLOBAL NEW ENERGY CONSUMER MULTI-YEAR RESEARCH



# TECHNOLOGY AND MARKET CHANGES CONTINUE TO FUEL THE NEW ENERGY REALITY



Sources: "Advanced Customer Strategy: 12th Annual Global Consumer Pulse Survey," Accenture, 2017; "Technology Vision 2017," Accenture, 2017; "Global IT Robotic Automation Market: Rising Demand across Emerging Economies to Help Market Exhibit a Staggering 47.1% CAGR 2016-2024, says TMR," Transparency Market Research press release, November 4, 2016; "Chatbots in Customer Service," Accenture Interactive, 2016; "Profiles in Innovation: Blockchain," Goldman Sachs, May 24, 2016.



**ACCENTURE  
IDENTIFIED  
FIVE  
NEW  
PERVASIVE  
CONSUMER  
TRENDS**

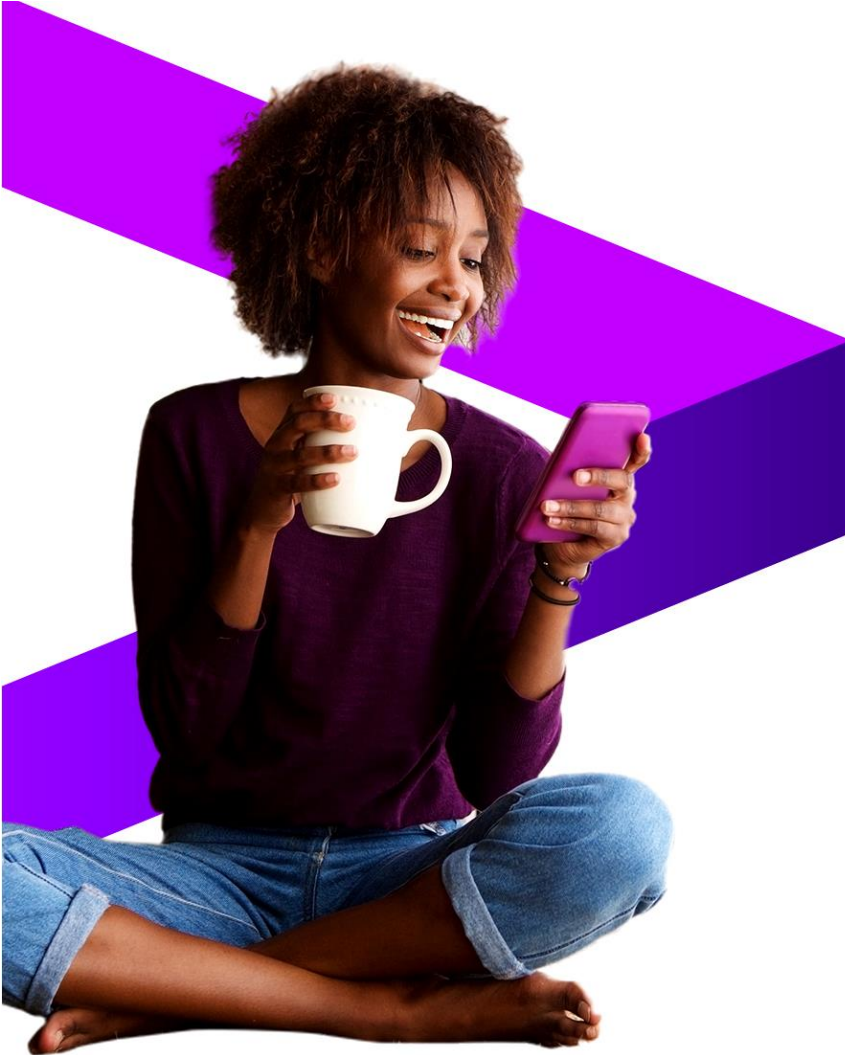




# TOTALLY DIGITAL? MAYBE NOT







**THIS TIME  
IT GETS  
PERSONAL**



**MAY THE  
BOTS BE  
WITH YOU**

How can I help  
you?

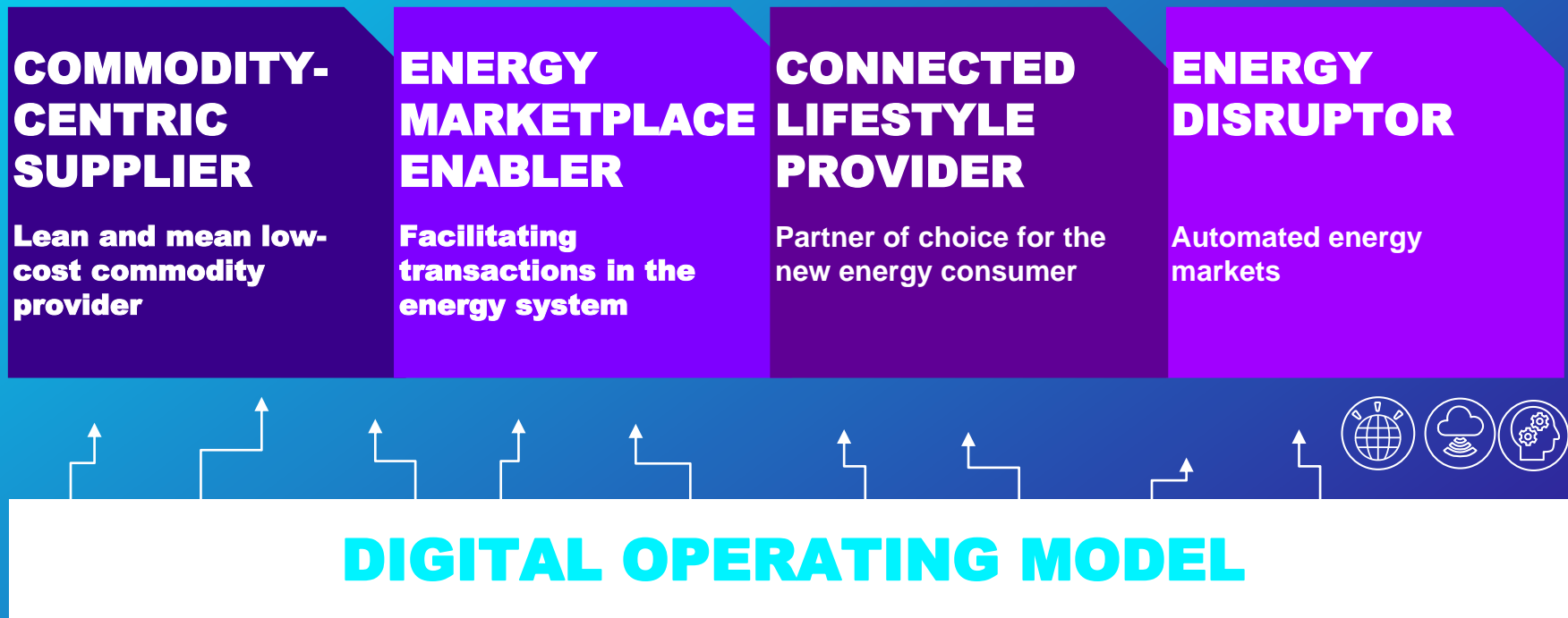


**PARTNER  
OR PERISH**

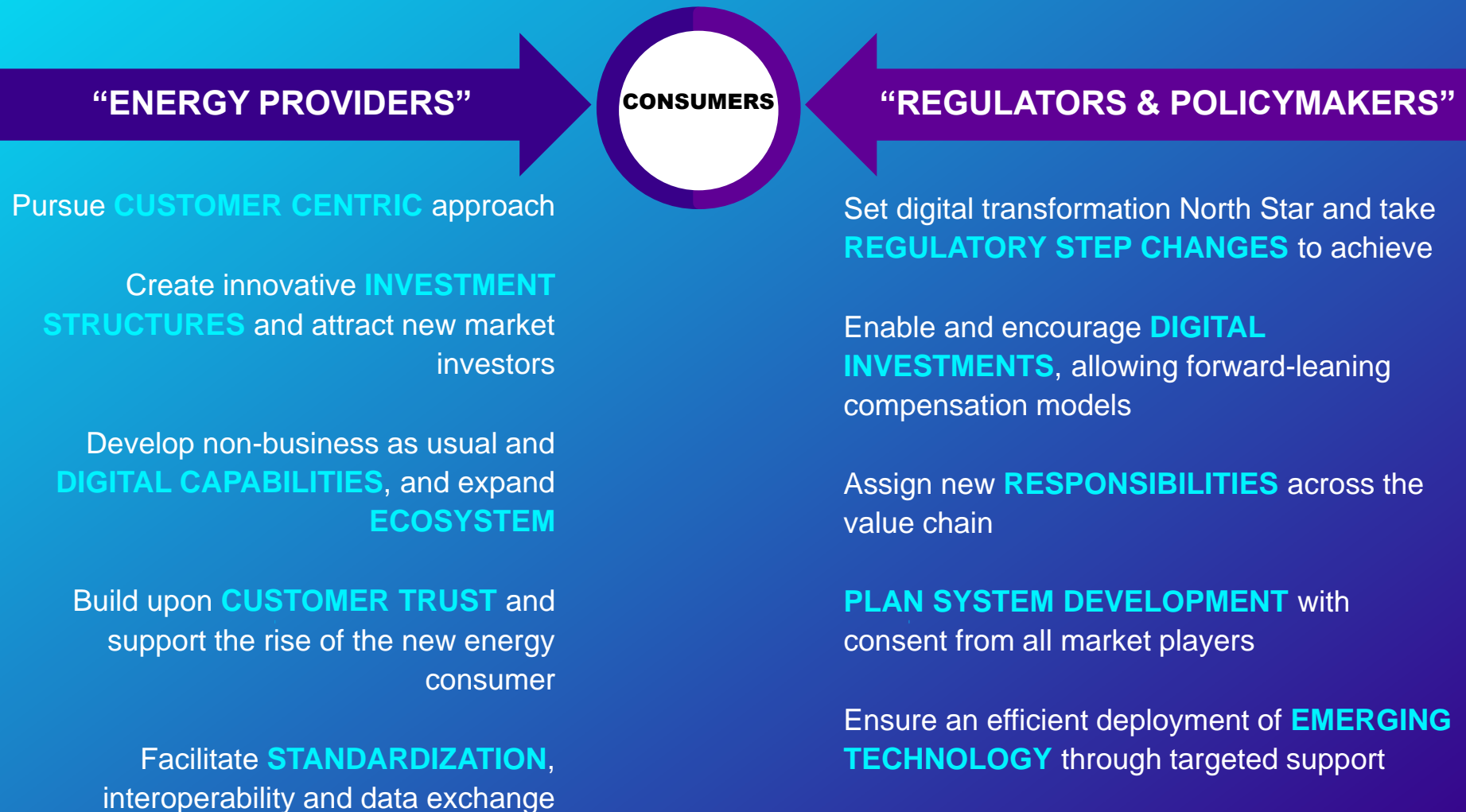
A photograph of a white door with a silver handle and lock. On the left side of the door, there is a vertical strip of three electrical outlets. A hand is visible on the left, hovering over the top outlet. The text "SWITCH THE SWITCHERS" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters. To the right of the text, there are two large, overlapping, diagonal stripes in shades of purple and magenta.

# **SWITCH THE SWITCHERS**

# A DIGITAL, CUSTOMER CENTRIC, OPERATING MODEL IS KEY TO DELIVERING DIFFERENTIATED CUSTOMER PLAYS



# INTERVENTIONS ARE REQUIRED FROM ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NEW ENERGY CONSUMER





# Backup

# NEC 2017 SAMPLE DETAILS

The New Energy Consumer Research Overview

## # Interviews by country

Australia	Ireland	Philippines*
Brazil*	Italy	Portugal
China*	Japan	Singapore
France	Malaysia*	Spain
Germany	Netherlands	Sweden

**500**

Canada

**529**

UK

**641**

USA

**1049**



**Regulated markets:** Brazil, Canada (some provinces), China, Malaysia, Singapore, United States (some states)

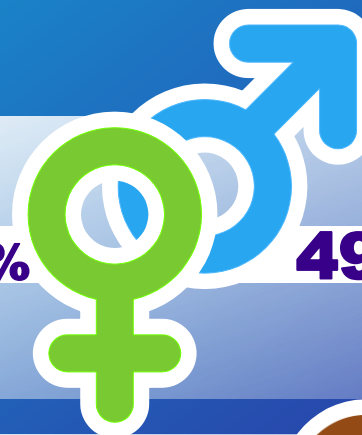
**Competitive markets:** Australia, Canada (some provinces), France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Philippines, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States (some states)

Notes: \*Sample representative of the urban population.

## Gender

Women

**51%**



**49%**

Men

## Age

18-24s

**13%**

25-34s

**19%**

35-54s

**35%**

55+

**33%**



# UNITED STATES 2017 NEC SURVEY RESULTS



American consumers spend more time interacting in both digital and non-digital channels

## In the US

**11.5 min**

Time spent interacting via digital channels

vs.

## Globally

**9.6 min**

Time spent interacting via digital channels

**11.8 min**

Time spent interacting via non-digital channels

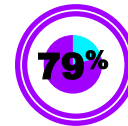
vs.

**9.8 min**

Time spent interacting via non-digital channels

American consumers are more effective in interacting via digital channels

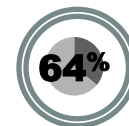
## In the US



Were always able to successfully complete their requests via digital channels

vs.

## Globally



Were always able to successfully complete their requests via digital channels

## SLEEPING GIANTS

American “sleeping giant” users are more likely to prefer a low-cost brand

In the US = 35% of the sample

Globally = 36% of the sample



More likely to prefer a low-cost brand



More likely to prefer a low-cost brand



More likely to **switch** in the next 12 months\*



More likely to **switch** in the next 12 months\*



Amongst the rest of respondents



Amongst the rest of respondents



Amongst the rest of respondents



Amongst the rest of respondents

## ACTIVE DIGITAL USERS

American active digital users are more likely to switch in the next 12 months

In the US = 31% of the sample

Globally = 27% of the sample

# MOVE AHEAD WITH NO REGRETS: SEVEN STEPS TO ACCELERATE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



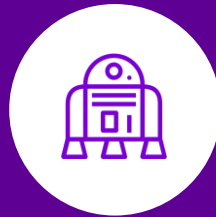
Create new  
business and  
ecosystem  
management  
capabilities.



Set up the  
right  
organization  
and KPIs.



Build a  
digital  
workforce  
and foster  
digital  
leadership.



Automate  
customer  
operations by  
deploying RPA  
and AI in  
operations  
at scale.



Enable  
agile at  
scale.

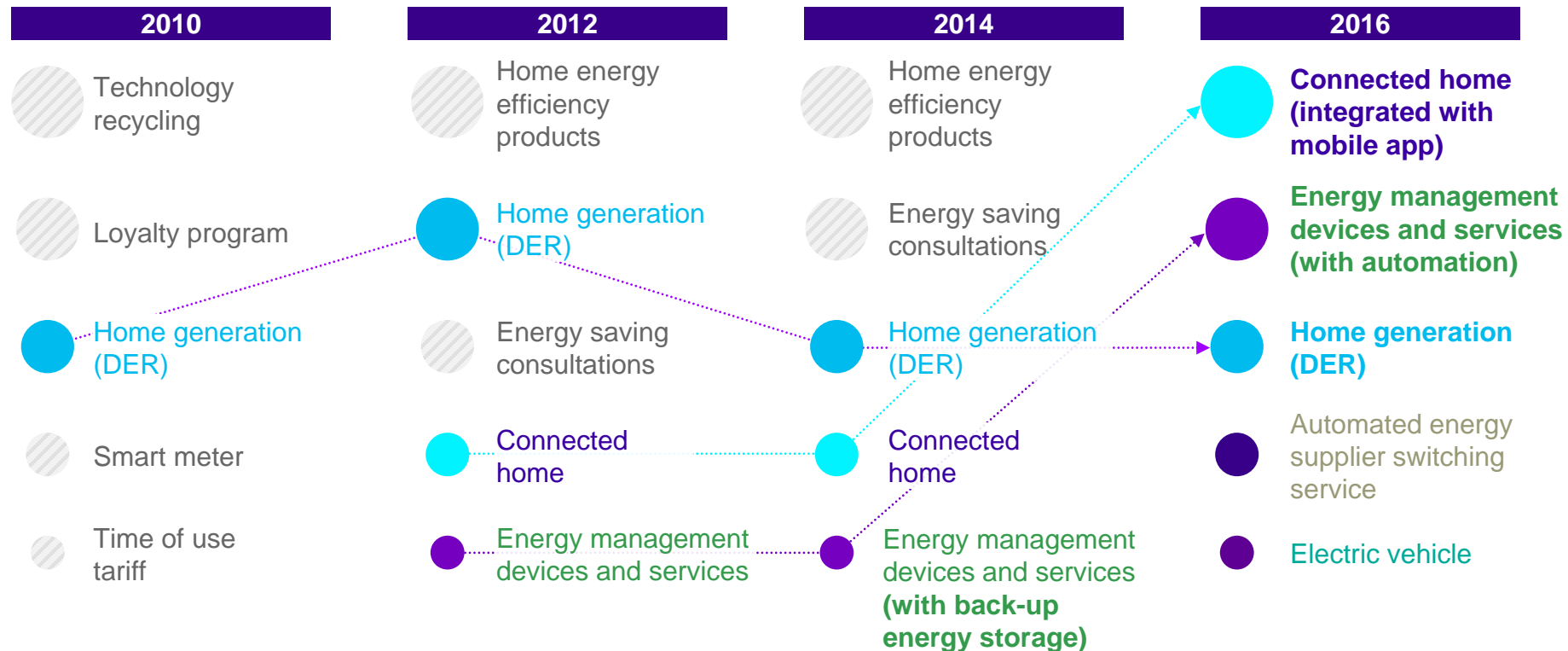


Digitize  
customer  
journeys.



Become  
relentlessly  
customer  
obsessed.

# CONSUMER INTEREST IN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY



\* Back-up energy emerging in 2014 and analytics driven home energy management applications becoming common in 2015-2016.

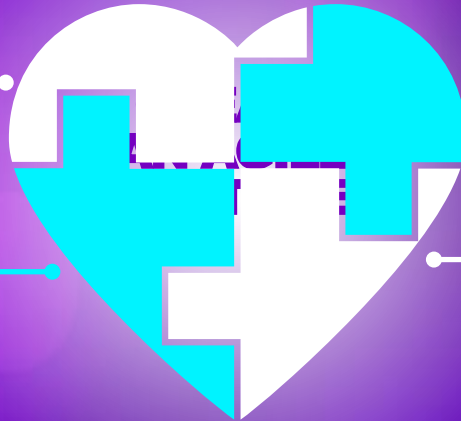
# DIGITAL OPERATING MODEL

Promoting people-first, speed and experimentation

**NEW  
LEADERSHIP  
STYLE**



**NEW WAYS  
OF WORKING**



**PEOPLE AT  
THE CORE**



**RIGHT  
GOVERNANCE**



## DIGITAL FOUNDATION

Applying new methods to the **DIGITAL WORKFORCE**, **NEW IT**, and **NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

Tracking transformation: Measure **WHAT MATTERS MOST**

# Electricity Committee