



**Presentation**  
NREL/PR-5600-51646  
December 2010

# National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Technology Validation Activities

J. Kurtz, K. Wipke, L. Eudy, S. Sprik, T. Ramsden, C. Ainscough, G. Saur

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# National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Technology Validation Activities



**J. Kurtz, K. Wipke, L.  
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**December 10<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**FCHEA Winter Meeting**

# Contents

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NREL's Technology Validation Team

Update on Backup Power Results

Update on Material Handling Analysis Results

# NREL Tech Val – Who We Are, What We Do

Within NREL's **Hydrogen Technologies and Systems Center** the **Technology Validation** group works on third party assessment and validation of operation targets and system performance under realistic operating conditions.



- ✓ ***Real World Operation Data***  
*from the Field and State of the Art Lab*
- ✓ ***Collection***
- ✓ ***Analysis***
- ✓ ***Collaboration***
- ✓ ***Reporting***

# NREL Tech Val – Capabilities



*NREL's Team*

*Sam Sprik, Chris Ainscough, Jennifer Kurtz, Keith Wipke, Leslie Eudy, Todd Ramsden, & Genevieve Saur (not pictured)*



*Fleet Analysis Toolkit*

*Real World Data Analysis*

*Reporting*



*Facility*

**HSDC**



NREL's Hydrogen Secure Data Center



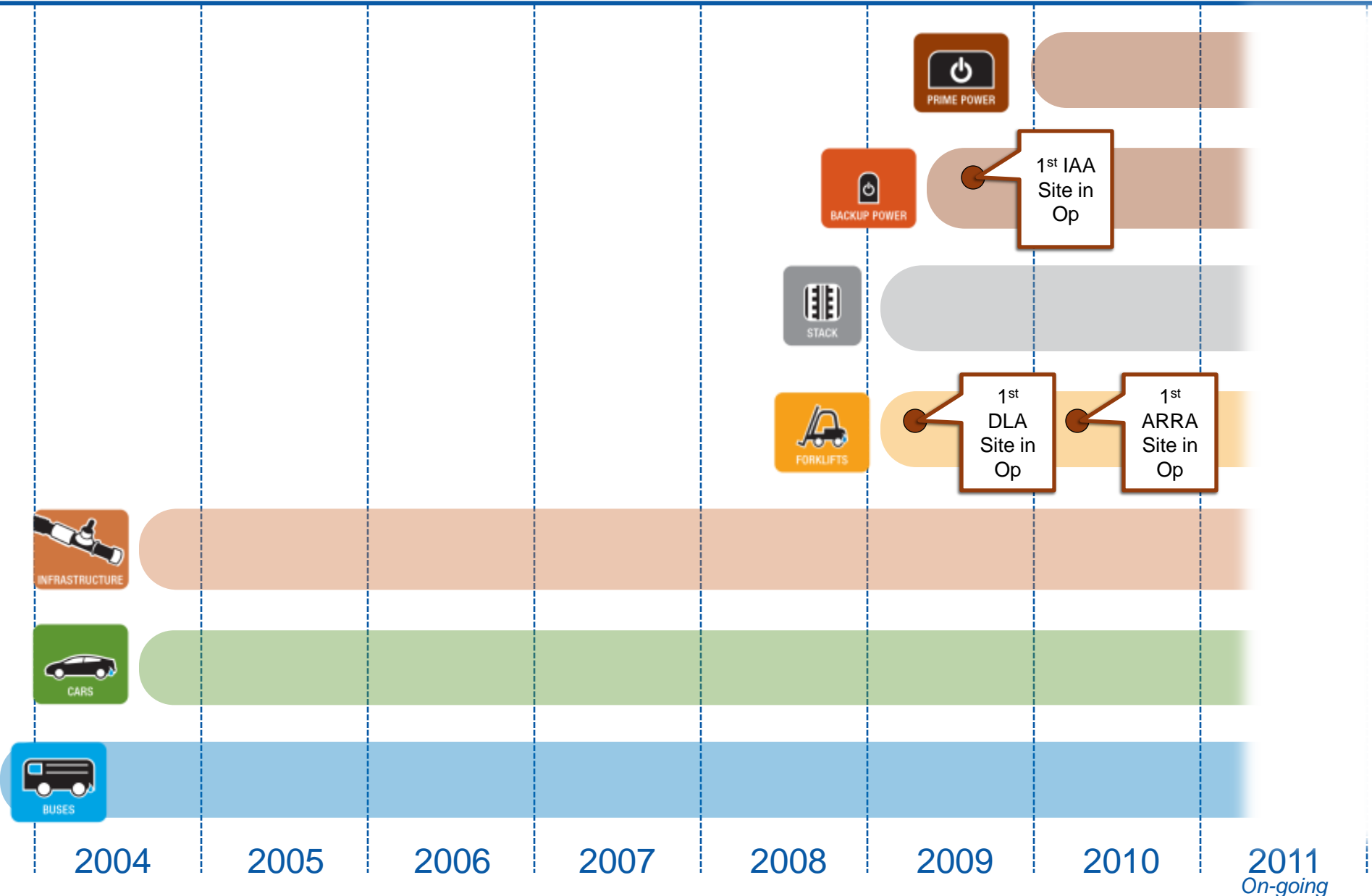
**Results**

**DDPs**

*Partner Collaboration*

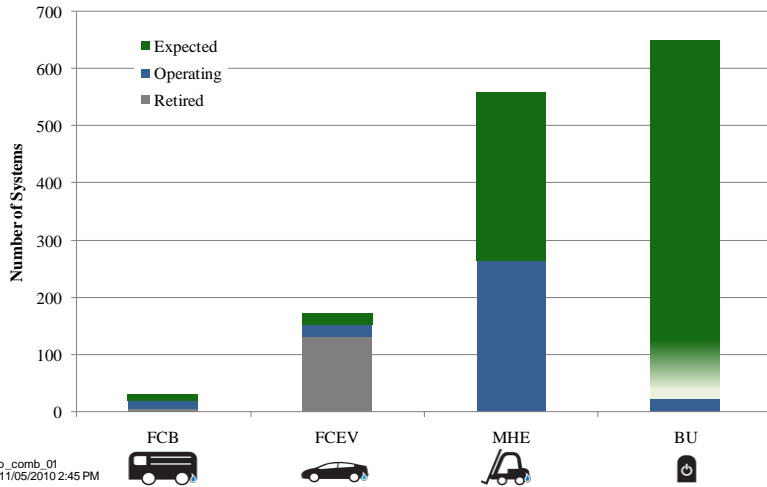
**CDPs**

# NREL Tech Val Projects – Timeline Highlights



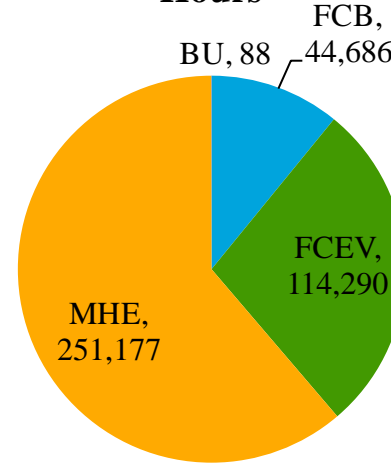
# Demonstrations are essential for validating the performance of technologies in integrated systems, under real-world conditions.

HSDC - Fuel Cell Systems

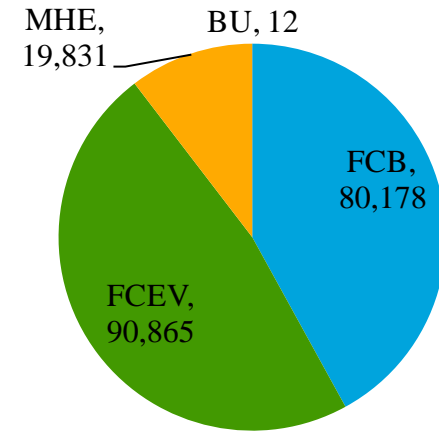


NREL cdp\_comb\_01  
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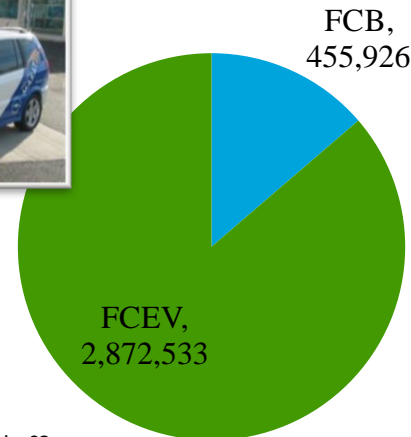
Hours



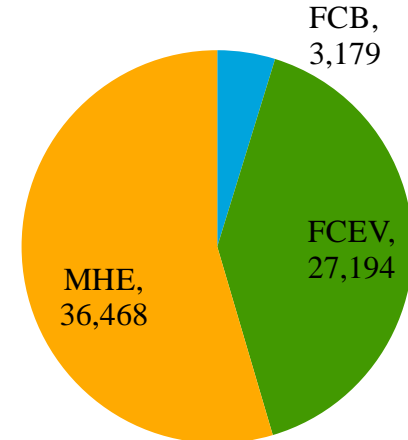
Hydrogen Amount



Miles



Hydrogen Fills



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# ARRA Early Market Fuel Cell Project – Evaluating deployments in many applications, sites, and regions

COMPANY	APPLICATION
Delphi Automotive	Auxiliary Power
FedEx Freight East	Specialty Vehicle
GENCO	Specialty Vehicle
Jadoo Power	Backup Power
MTI MicroFuel Cells	Portable
Nuvera Fuel Cells	Specialty Vehicle
Plug Power, Inc. (1)	CHP
Plug Power, Inc. (2)	Backup Power
Univ. of N. Florida	Portable
ReliOn Inc.	Backup Power
Sprint Comm.	Backup Power
Sysco of Houston	Specialty Vehicle

**Deploy up to  
1,000 FC  
Units**

Material Handling,  
Backup Power,  
Combined Heat &  
Power, Auxiliary Power,  
and Portable Power

Accelerate the commercialization of fuel cells, manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and support service through 12 awards

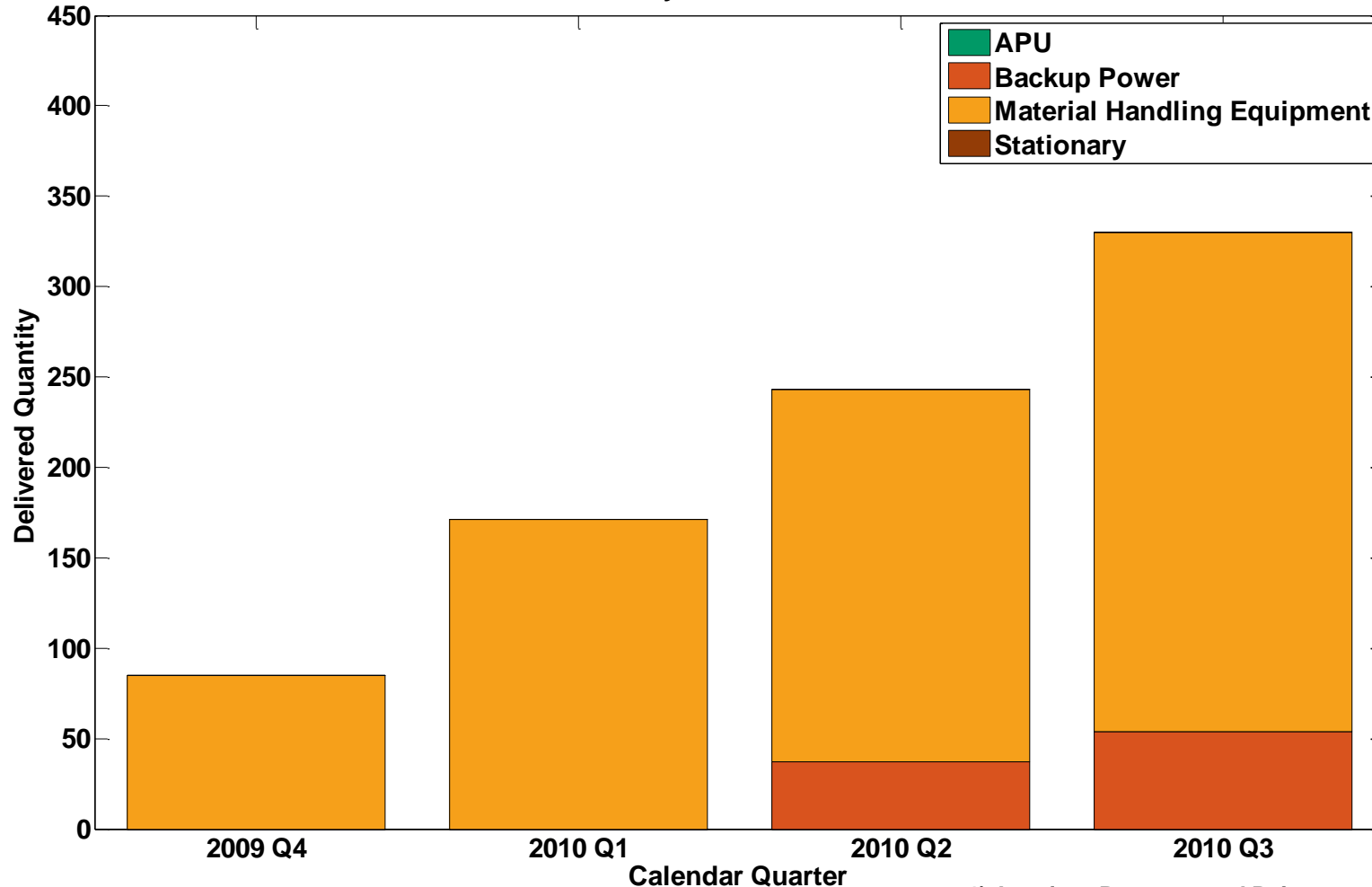
Material Handling: 206 units deployed, 149,046 hours accumulated, 13,300 fills, and 6,200 kg\*

Backup Power units in early stages of deployment and operation

\*Through June 2010

# ARRA Delivered Fuel Cell Units

DOE ARRA<sup>1</sup> Funded Early Fuel Cell Markets: Delivered Units



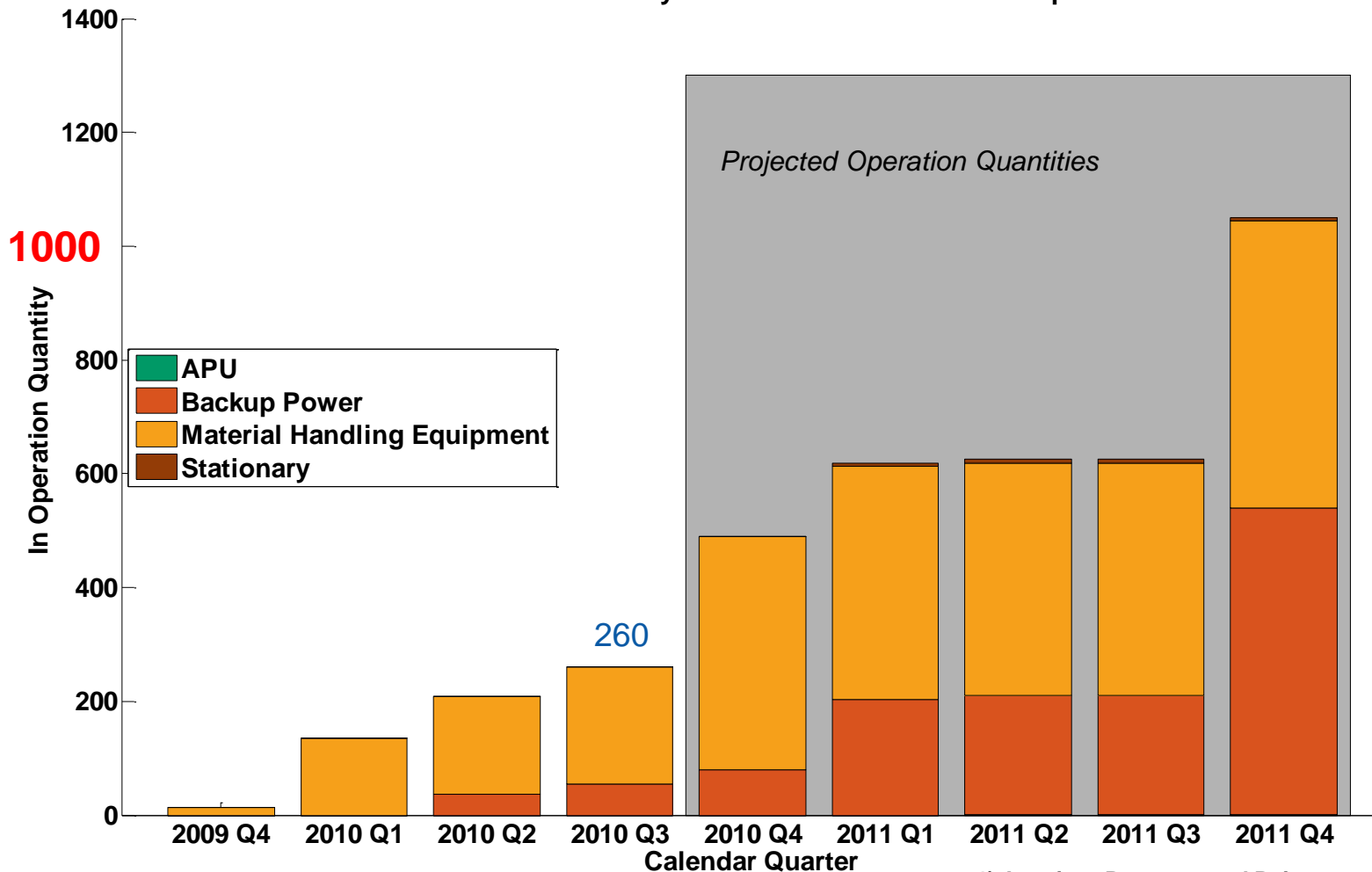
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1) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

# ARRA Fuel Cell Units in Operation

## Current and Projected Quantities

DOE ARRA<sup>1</sup> Funded Early Fuel Cell Markets: Units in Operation



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1) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



# FC Backup Power

Deployment & Operation Data



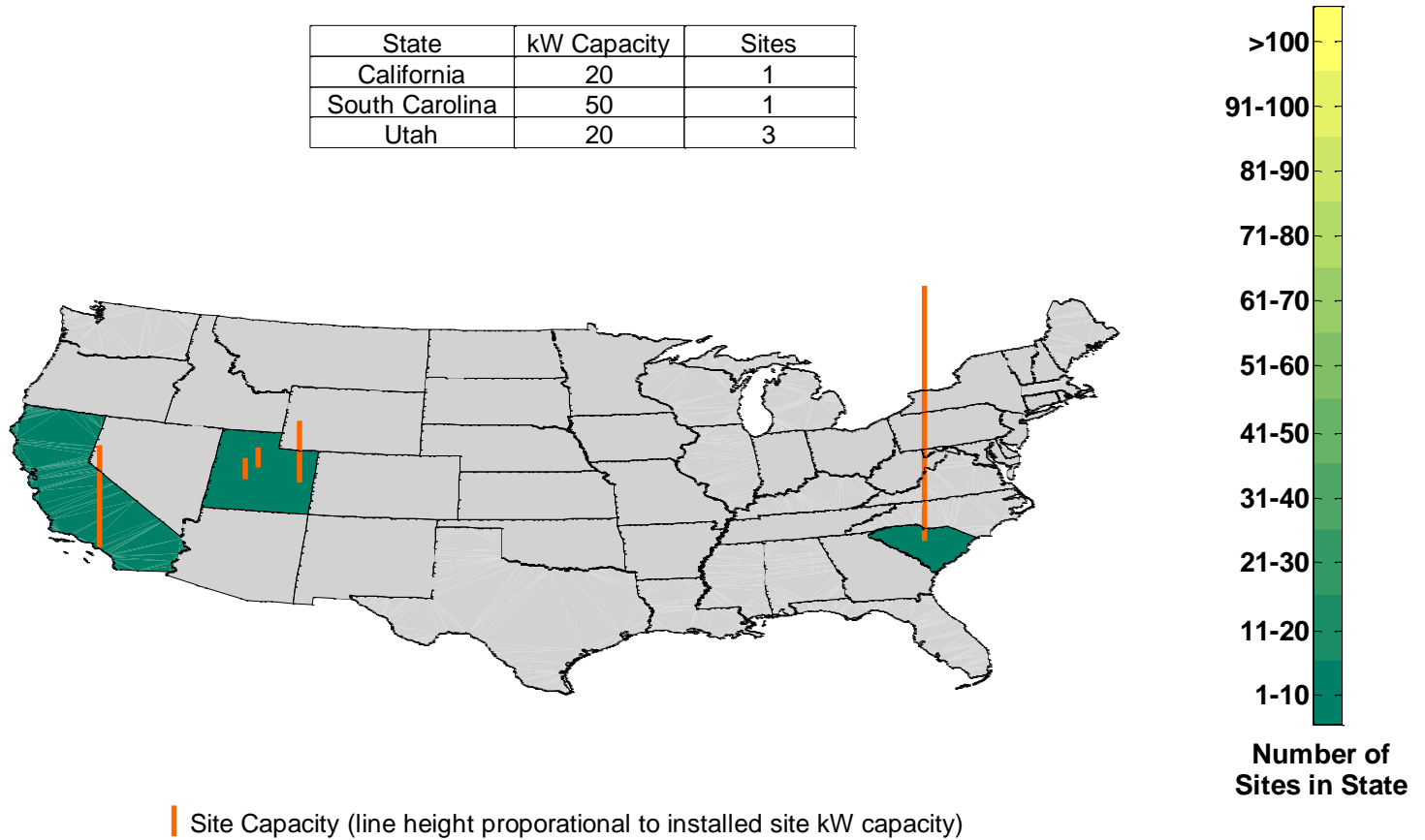
High level summary of operation  
First cycle of CDPs (IAA & ARRA Sites)  
Trends still developing  
Many additional analyses planned for future  
CDP cycles

# Backup Power Sites

Units Deployed	24
Sites	5
Total Capacity	90 kW

## Backup Power Deployments

State	kW Capacity	Sites
California	20	1
South Carolina	50	1
Utah	20	3



NREL cdp\_bu\_03

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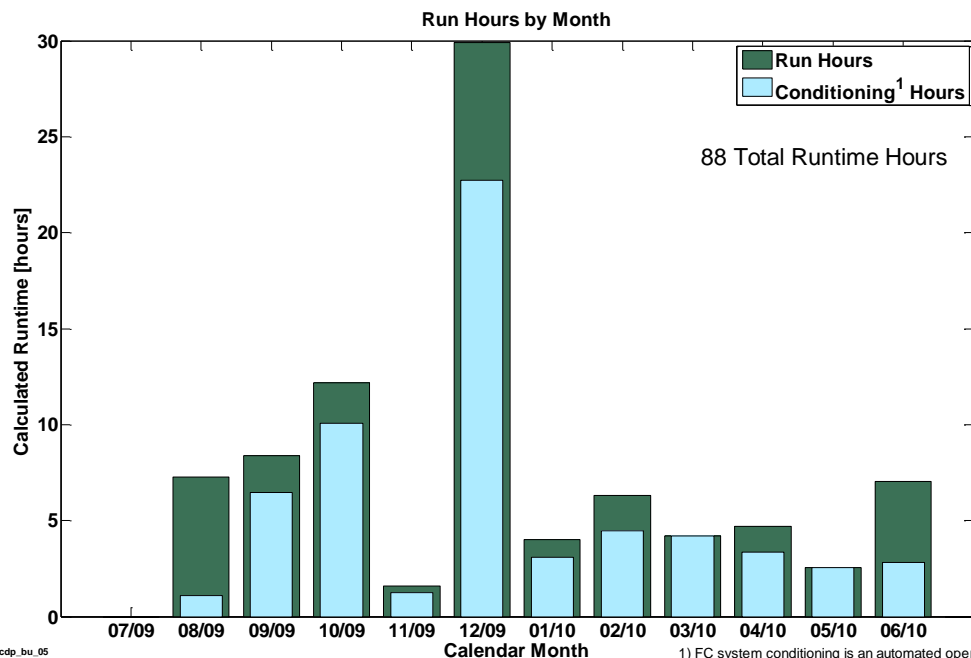
# Backup Power Sites – Many deployments in the next year



<b>Total Starts</b> <i>(Thru June 2010)</i>	<b>201</b>
Total Successful Starts	199 (99%)
Total Run Time	88 hours
Total Hydrogen	12.4 kg

## Key Performance Metrics

- Reliability
- Low Emissions
- Low Noise
- Ease of Use
- Remote Monitoring



NREL cdp\_bu\_05  
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1) FC system conditioning is an automated operation for regular system checks that are run after long periods of no operation.

# FC Material Handling Equipment

Deployment & Operation Data



High level summary of operation

First cycle of CDPs

Trends still developing

Many additional analyses planned for future

CDP cycles



# FCMHE – End User facilities, accumulating high hours and fills safely and already showing productivity gains



6 (ARRA & DLA)	Sites*
266	Units in Operation
251,177	Hours Accumulated
19,831	kg Hydrogen Dispensed
36,468	Hydrogen Fills
0.5 – 0.6 kg/fill	Average Fill Amount
1.9 – 3.4 min/fill	Average Fill Time



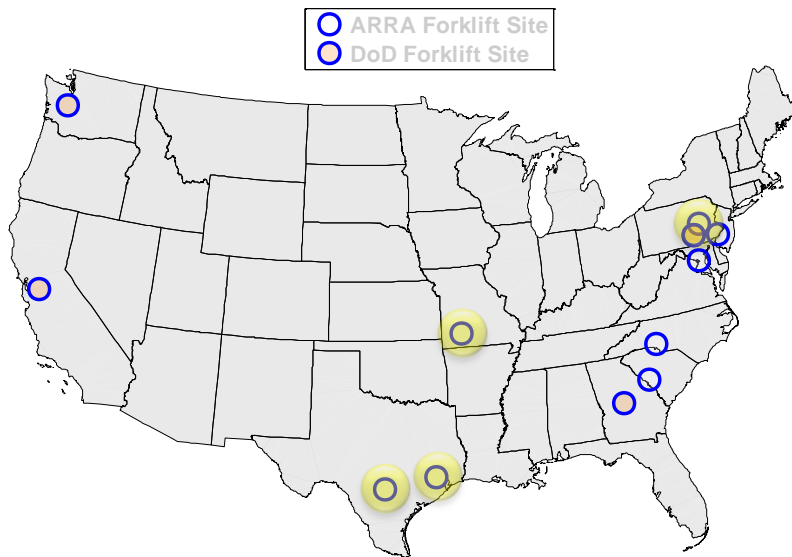
\*Through June 2010

# ARRA FCMHE Units & Sites

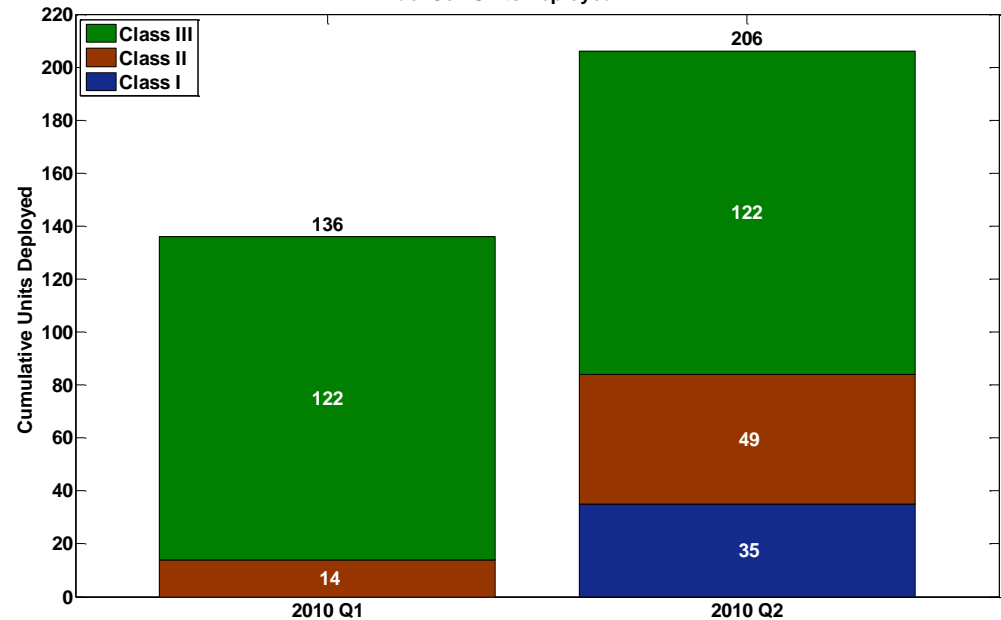
## Sites

4

Operational MHE Units/Site	14	35	59	98
Operating Shifts/Site	2	3	2	2
	9 hrs	8 hrs	8-10 hrs	9 hrs
Facility Square Footage (1,000)	1,000	75	90	580
FC Units/MHE Unit	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0



Fuel Cell Units Deployed - ARRA

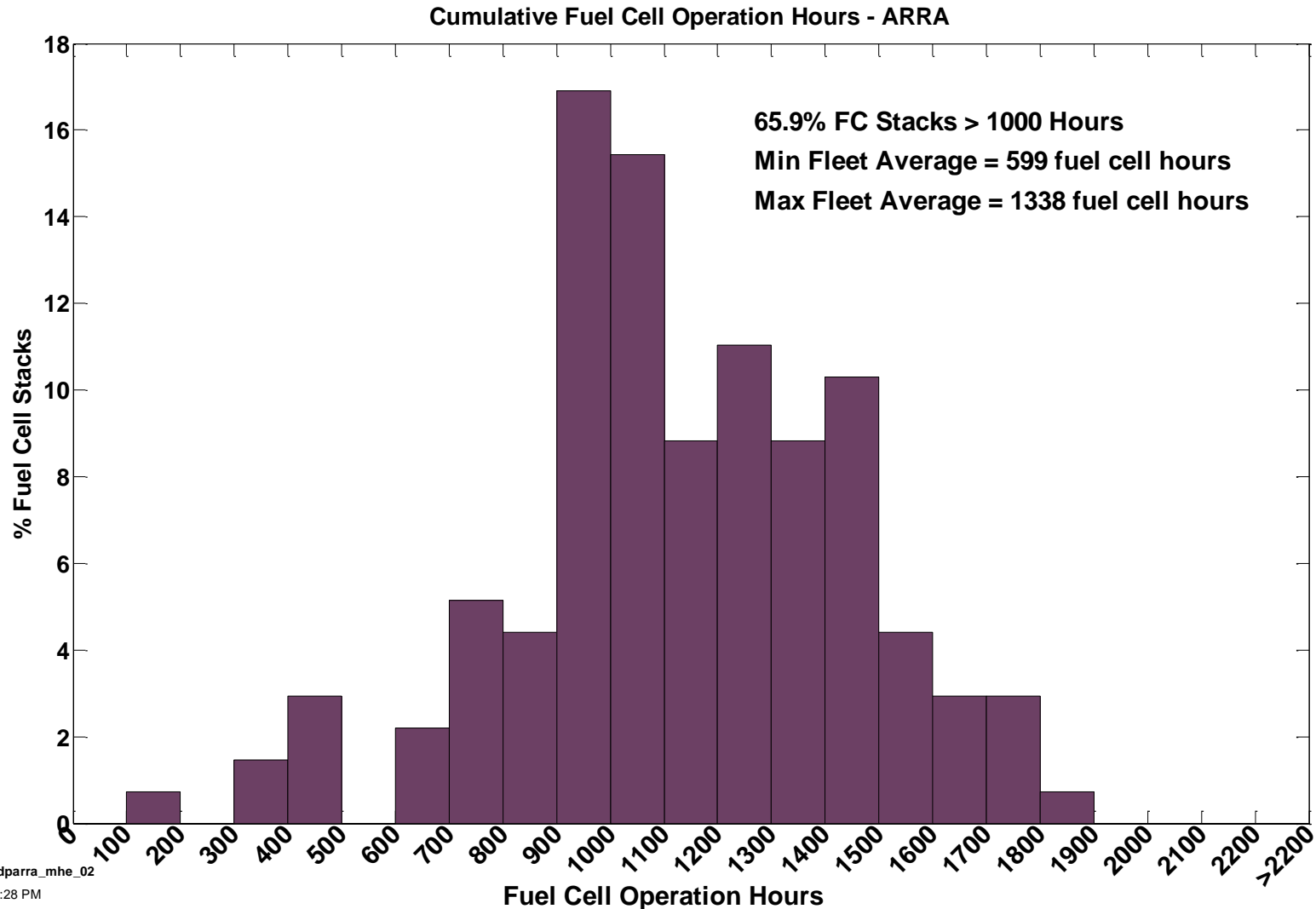


# FC Operation Summary – ARRA Sites

149,046

Total Hours Accumulated

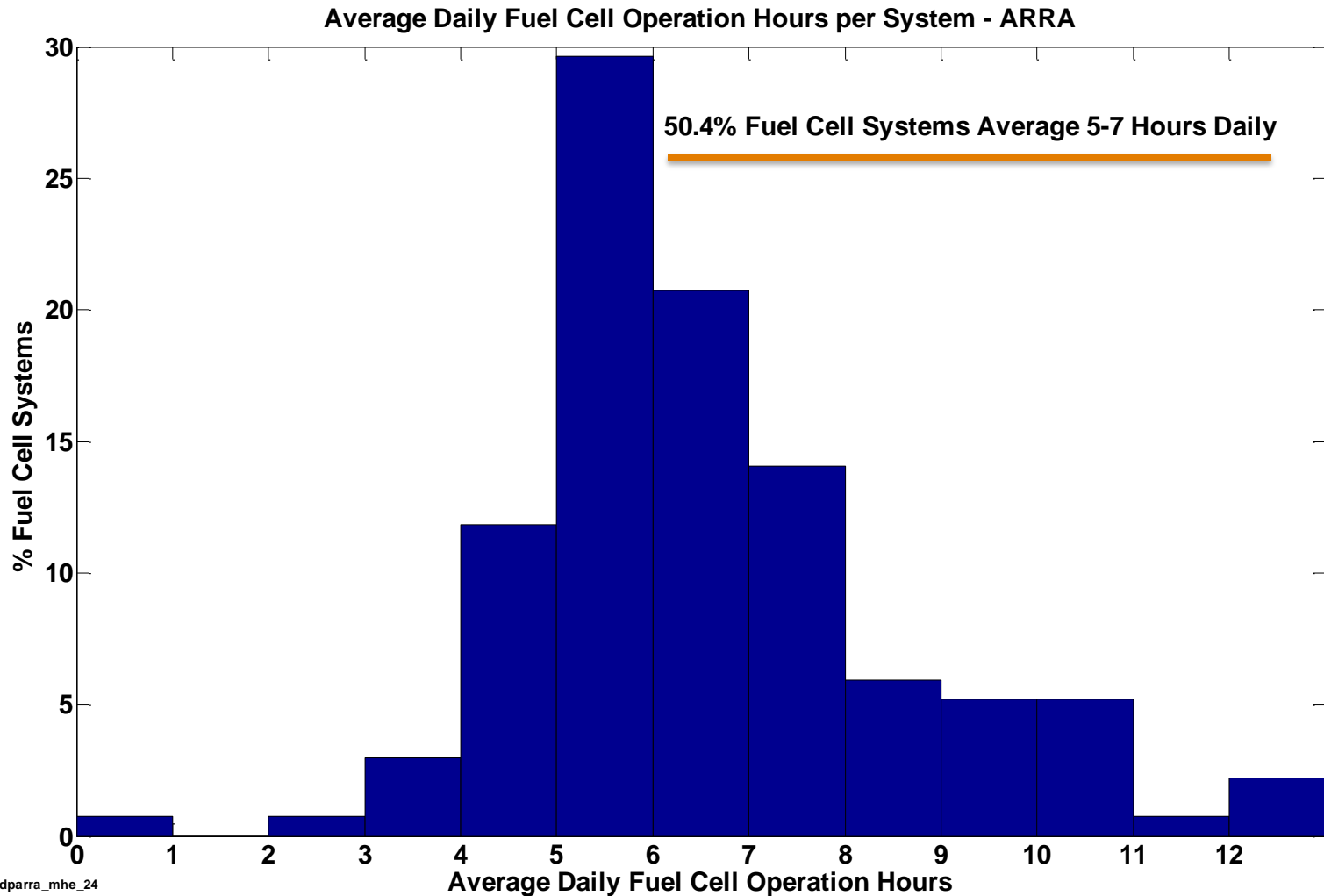
66% FC Stacks > 1000 hours



NREL cdparra\_mhe\_02

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# FC Daily Operation – ARRA Site



NREL cdparra\_mhe\_24

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# Indoor Hydrogen Fill Events

H<sub>2</sub> Fills

13,329

H<sub>2</sub> Dispensed

6,198 kg

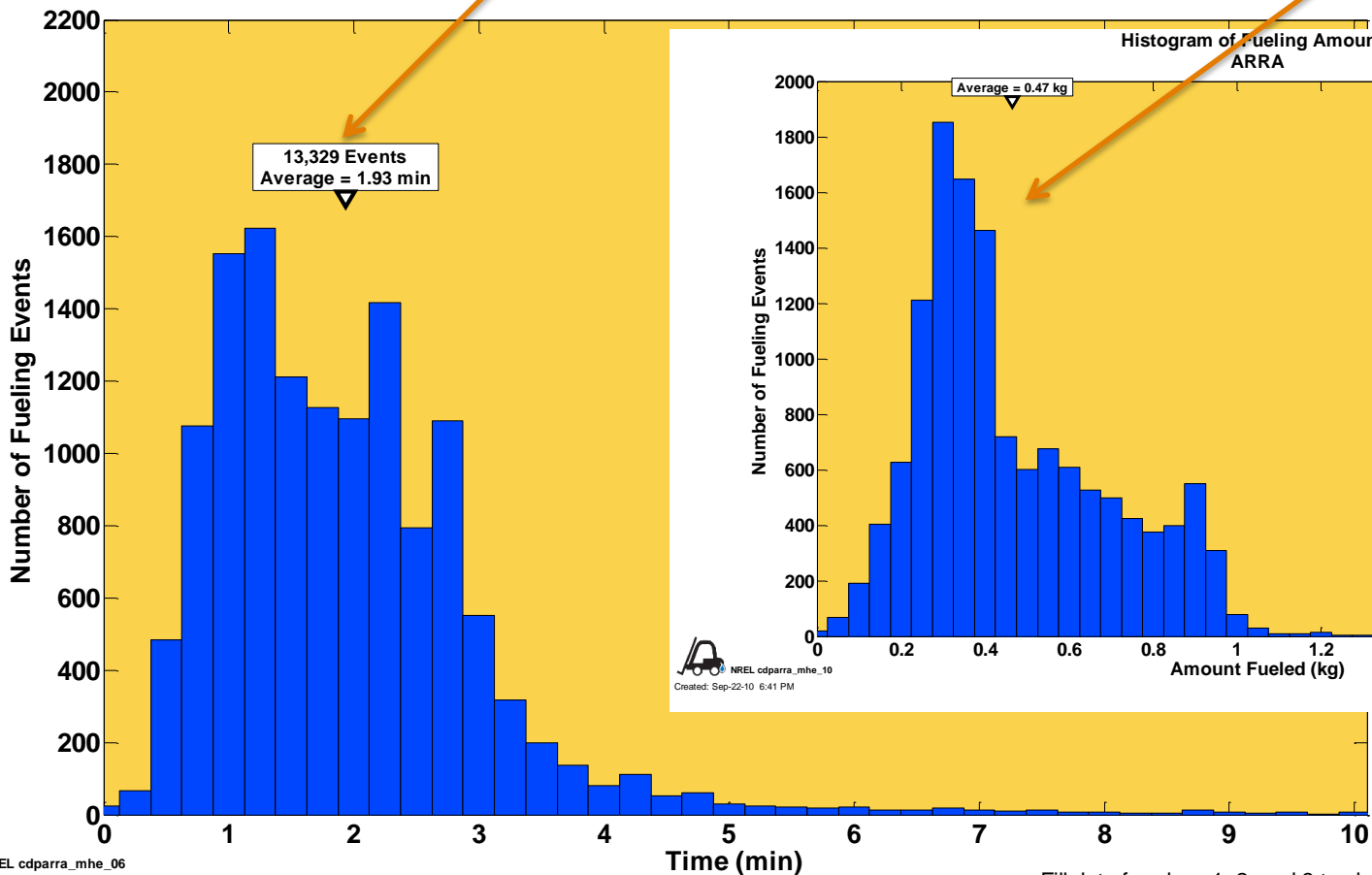
Average Fill Time

1.9 minutes

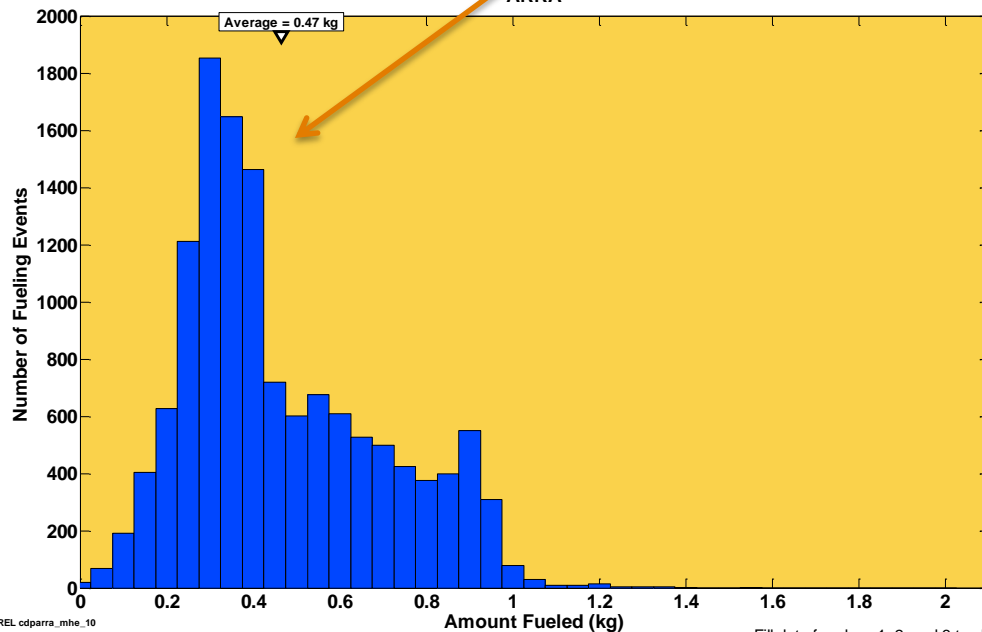
Average Fill Time

0.47 kg

Histogram of Fueling Times  
ARRA



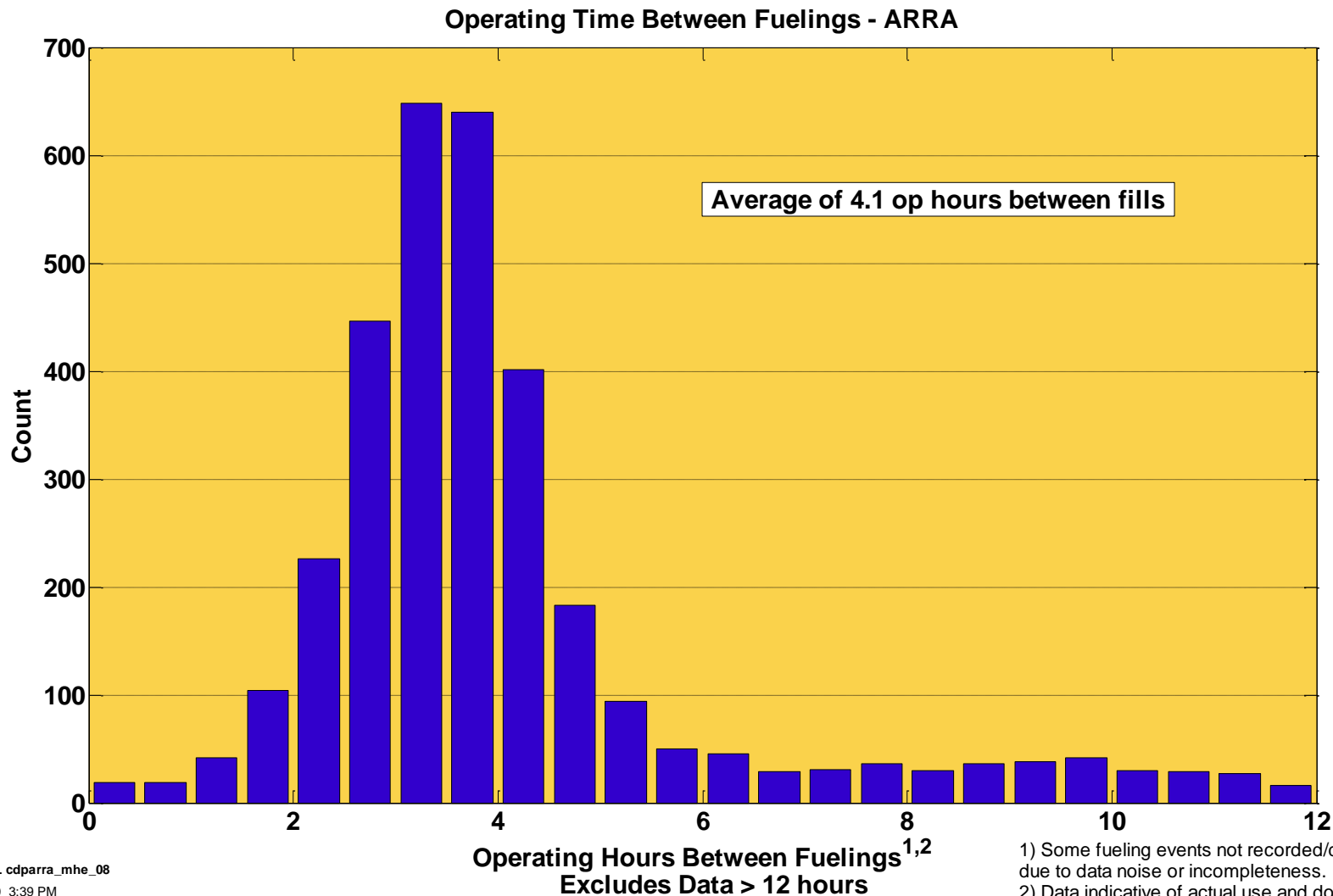
Histogram of Fueling Amounts  
ARRA



Fill data for class 1, 2, and 3 trucks

Fill data for class 1, 2, and 3 trucks

# Operation Time between Fueling

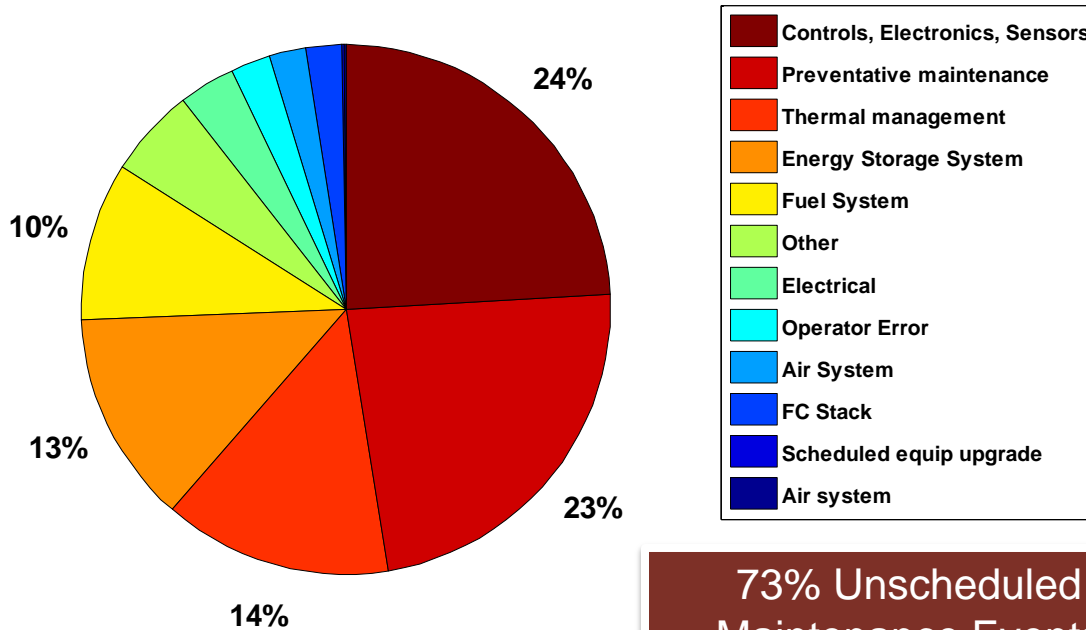


1) Some fueling events not recorded/detected due to data noise or incompleteness.  
2) Data indicative of actual use and does not represent the max capability of the systems.

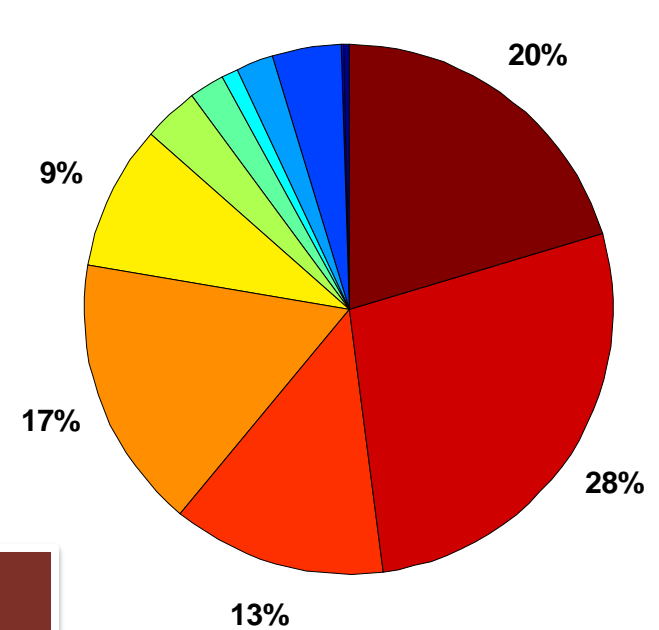
# Fuel Cell System Maintenance by Category

## Forklift Maintenance By Category - ARRA

**Number of Events**  
**Total Events = 789**  
**73% were unscheduled**



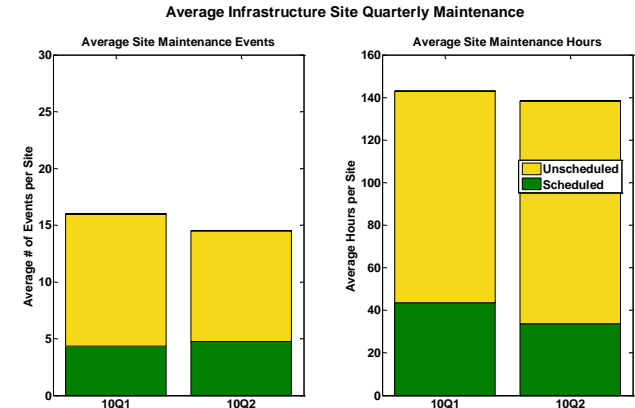
**Labor Hours**  
**Total Hours = 1165**  
**69% were unscheduled**



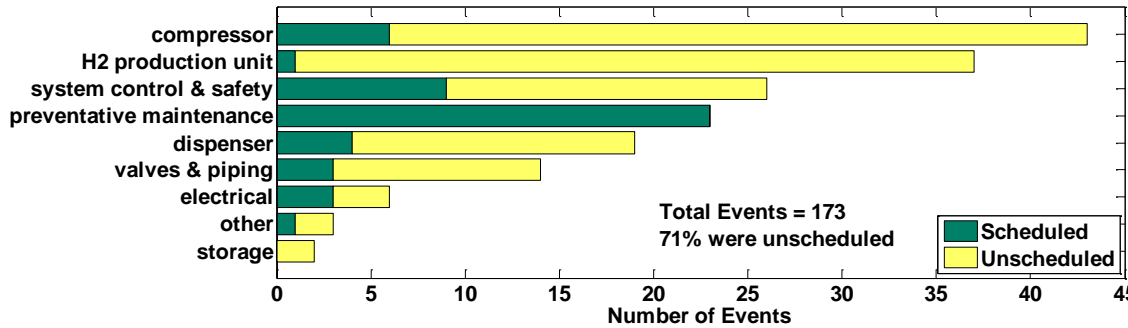
**73% Unscheduled Maintenance Events**  
**38% Events for Controls, Electronics, Sensors or Thermal Mgmt**

# Infrastructure Maintenance

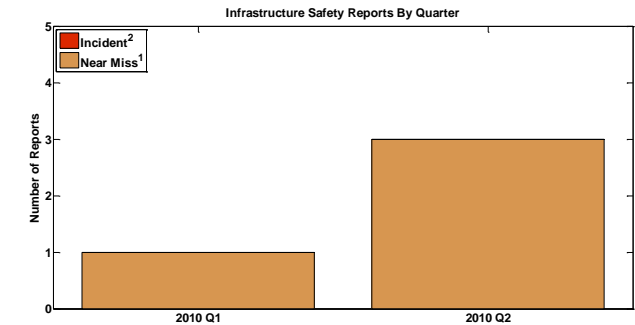
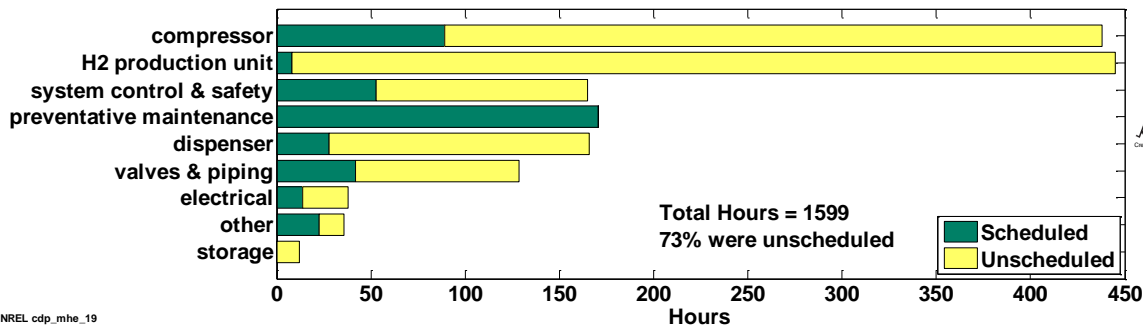
<b>Total Hydrogen Dispensed</b>	<b>19,831 kg</b>
<b>Total Hydrogen Fill Events</b>	<b>36,468 fills</b>
<b>Total FC Hours</b>	<b>251,177 hours</b>
<b>Maintenance Events</b>	<b>173 (71% Unscheduled)</b>
<b>Safety Incidents</b>	<b>0</b>



**Infrastructure Maintenance Scheduled vs. Unscheduled  
Number of Maintenance Events by Category**



**Number of Labor Hours by Category**



- Near Miss is an event that under slightly different circumstances could have become an incident  
-unplanned H2 release insufficient to sustain a flame
- Incident is an event that results in:
  - a lost time accident and/or injury to personnel
  - damage/unplanned downtime for project equipment, facilities or property
  - impact to the public or environment
  - any hydrogen release that unintentionally ignites or is sufficient to sustain a flame if ignited
  - release of any volatile, hydrogen containing compound (other than the hydrocarbons uses as common fuels)

**ARRA & DLA Sites Combined**

*Innovation for Our Energy Future*



# Summary

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- NREL's technology validation team provides third party validation of demonstrations, focusing on target validation, real world operation, performance status, and collaboration
- 206 ARRA FCMHE Units in operation at 4 sites with more than 13,300 fills, 6,200 kgs dispensed, and 149,000 hours accumulated without a safety incident.
- 24 FCBU Units (90 kW installed capacity) in operation at 5 sites with 199 of 201 Starts successful and 88 total hours run time.
- Operation trends unclear because we are in early stage of deployment and analysis
- Many more sites coming on-line in the next 6-12 months
- Many more planned analyses like fuel cell durability, system reliability, and application value proposition

# Contact Information & Website

[http://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj\\_fc\\_market\\_demo.html](http://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj_fc_market_demo.html)

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 303-275-4061





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## Hydrogen & Fuel Cells Research

Hydrogen & Fuel Cells Research Home

**Capabilities**

**Projects**

- Hydrogen Production & Delivery
- Hydrogen Storage
- Fuel Cells
- Technology Validation
- Fuel Cell Vehicle Learning Demonstration
- Fuel Cell Bus Evaluations
- Early Fuel Cell Market Demonstrations**
- Safety
- Codes & Standards
- Analysis
- Education
- Manufacturing

**Research Staff**

**Facilities**

**Working with Us**

**Energy Analysis & Tools**

**Publications**

**Awards & Honors**

**News**

### Early Fuel Cell Market Demonstrations

Early fuel cell market demonstrations are focused primarily on using fuel cell technologies for material handling, backup power, and prime-power applications. The Department of Energy-sponsored demonstration projects support fuel cell market transformation activities and help foster the growth of fuel cell markets. In addition, the Department of Defense funds early fuel cell demonstration projects.

NREL receives operational data from these early market fuel cell demonstrations, analyzes, and reports on these data. By aggregating data across numerous industry teams and sites, NREL develops composite data products (CDPs), which provide relevant data results on the technology status and fuel cell performance without revealing proprietary data. These publicly available CDPs will help the development community understand the state of fuel cell technologies, identify areas for continued improvement, and provide data metrics that are important to the business case for these fuel cell markets.

This page provides the following resources:

- [Composite Data Products](#)
- [Presentations and Publications](#)
- [Presentations Containing All CDPs](#)

### Composite Data Products

The public technical analysis results are generated in the form of composite data products. The following CDPs can be sorted by title, category, CDP number, and date updated. Download the CDPs as PowerPoint or JPG files using the links in the two columns on the right. Download the current presentation containing all CDPs ([PowerPoint 2.7 MB](#)) or see the [archived presentations containing all CDPs](#).

Sort by Title ▼	Sort by Category ▼	Sort by CDP No. ▼	Sort by Date Updated ▼	PowerPoint	JPG
Operating Hours between Fueling	Fuel Cell Fuel Economy Range and Efficiency	FL08	2008-11-08		
Accumulated Forklift Operating Hours	Fuel Cell Usage and Operation Behavior	FL02	2008-11-08		
Forklifts Deployed by Quarter	Fuel Cell Usage and Operation Behavior	FL01	2008-11-08		
Fuel Cell Units Delivered to Site	Fuel Cell Usage and Operation Behavior	ARRA01	2010-02-18		
Fuel Cell Units in Operation—Current and Projected Quantities	Fuel Cell Usage and Operation Behavior	ARRA02	2010-02-18		

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Hydrogen PEM fuel cells are leading candidates for use in fuel cell vehicles. Today's commercially available PEM fuel cells are particularly appropriate for low-power applications requiring intermittent backup.