

Supporting Information

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SI Text

This supplementary document defines the 33 specific actions that constitute the 17 action types identified in Table 1 and explains how we estimated PER and RAER for each action. The next section, *Current Penetration Estimates*, explains our estimates of current penetration of each action—the proportion of the relevant population currently engaging in it. The third section, *Potential Emissions Reductions*, explains our estimates of PER for each action—the emissions reduction that would be achieved nationally if penetration increased to 100%. The main report explains our estimates of behavioral plasticity—the proportion of those not yet adopting the action who could be induced to do so in the near term with the most effective combination of nonregulatory interventions. The fourth section, *Reasonably Achievable Emissions Reduction*, explains how we estimated RAER, which corrects PER for the limits of behavioral plasticity and for the nonadditivity of actions (e.g., weatherizing a house reduces the impact of thermostat setbacks; use of LRR tires reduces the impact of more efficient driving behaviors). The final section, *Baseline Energy Use and Emissions*, documents our sources for energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions for the U.S. household sector.

Our analysis considers the following specific actions.

W: Weatherization and Upgrades of Home Heating and Cooling Systems. Weatherization (3 actions): (i) weather-strip to seal drafts; (ii) adequately insulate attic space; (iii) replace single-paned windows with triple-pane windows with low-emissivity coatings.

HVAC equipment (2 actions): (i) replace older furnace; (ii) replace central AC unit with Energy Star model.

E: Equipment Upgrades. Low-flow showerheads: replace high-volume showerheads with low-flow ones that have flow rates of no more than 2.0 gallons per minute (gpm). Current federal standards require 2.5 gpm or less.

Efficient water heater (two actions): (i) replace non-Energy Star water heater with Energy Star model; (ii) install an insulating blanket on an electric water heater.

Appliances (3 actions): (i) replace large-screen plasma television with rear-projection or liquid crystal display (LCD) unit; (ii) replace non-Energy Star refrigerator with Energy Star model; (iii) replace non-Energy Star clothes washer with Energy Star model.

Low rolling resistance (LRR) tires: replace high rolling resistance tires on car with LRR ones.

Fuel efficient vehicle: replace 20.8-mpg vehicle (current fleet average) with 30.7-mpg model.

M: Maintenance of Equipment. Change HVAC air filters: replace home ventilation filters for heating and central AC every month in season.

Tune up AC: annual professional inspection and tune-up of central AC.

Routine auto maintenance (4 actions): (i) regular oil changes; (ii) change oxygen sensor at recommended intervals; (iii) remove excess weight from vehicle; (iv) maintain recommended tire pressure.

A: Adjustments of Equipment. Laundry temperature: reduce hot water consumption by washing clothes on warm/cold cycle.

Water heater temperature: set back water heater to recommended 120°F.

D: Daily Use Behaviors. Reduce standby electricity: reduce standby use of electricity by appliances and electronics by 90%.

Thermostat setbacks (6 actions): (i) set back heating thermostat in winter from 72°F to 65°F during day when no one is home, (ii) to 68°F during day when someone is home, and (iii) to 65°F at night; (iv) set “up” AC thermostat in summer from 73°F to 80°F during day when no one is home, (v) to 78°F during day when someone is home, and (vi) to 78°F at night. These settings can be maintained manually or by use of a programmable thermostat. Note that the settings above were based on published suggested targets (1).

Line drying: air-dry clothes during spring and fall (5 months per year) instead of using dryer.

Driving behavior (3 actions): (i) reduce acceleration rate and unnecessary braking; (ii) maintain 55 mph speed for highway driving; (iii) reduce idling time.

Carpooling and trip-chaining (2 actions): (i) carpool by adding 1 passenger for every single-occupant commuting trip; (ii) combine errands to reduce errand mileage by half.

Current Penetration Estimates

We define current penetration as the percentage of the relevant population that had, as of the end of 2008, taken an emissions-reduction action. Where possible, we took estimates from national databases. Where the estimates are several years old or where we believe penetrations are changing rapidly, we have updated these data to 2008 by extrapolating from previous data where appropriate. For actions for which empirical data were lacking, we made current penetration estimates on the basis of informal, expert sources. In general, we attempted to be conservative—to err on the side of greater current penetration so that our estimates of PERs would not be overly optimistic.

W: Weatherization and Upgrades of Home Heating and Cooling Systems. Sealing drafts. We estimate current penetration in homes using space heating at 63% and in homes using central AC at 70%.

Table HC2.5 of the 2005 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS 2005) (2) reports that 109.1 million homes use space heating equipment and that 62.9 million (58%) of these homes report that the “home is never too drafty during the winter.” We raised the resulting figure by 5%, conservatively presuming an increased prevalence of this emissions-reduction action between 2005 and 2008, resulting in a current penetration estimate of 63%.

Table HC2.7 of RECS 2005 (2) reports that 65.9 million homes use central AC and that 42.6 million (65%) report that the “home is ‘never’ too drafty during the summer.” We raised the resulting figure by 5%, conservatively presuming an increased prevalence of this emissions-reduction action between 2005 and 2008, resulting in a current penetration estimate of 70%.

Insulate attic space. We estimate current penetration for homes using space heating at 44% and in homes using central AC at 50%.

Table HC2.5 of RECS 2005 (2) reports that 109.1 million homes use space heating equipment, and that 42.8 million (39%) report that the home’s “adequacy of insulation” was “well insulated.” We raised the resulting figure by 5%, allowing for increased prevalence of this emissions-reduction action between 2005 and 2008.

Table HC2.7 of RECS 2005 (2) reports that 65.9 million homes use central cooling equipment and that 29.5 million (45%) report that the home’s “adequacy of insulation” was “well-insulated.”

We raised the resulting figure by 5% to allow for increased prevalence of this emissions-reduction action between 2005 and 2008.

Replace single-pane windows. We estimate current penetration at 60% for homes using space heating and 63% for homes using central AC. Table HC2.5 of RECS 2005 (2) reports that 109.1 million homes have space heating equipment, and that 59.9 million (55%) report that the “type of glass in windows” was “double-pane glass” or “triple-pane glass.” We raised the resulting figure by 5% to account for increased prevalence of this emissions-reduction action between 2005 and 2008.

Table HC2.7 of RECS 2005 (2) reports that 65.9 million homes use central AC and that 38.1 million (58%) report that the “type of glass in windows” was “double-pane glass” or “triple-pane glass.” We raised the resulting figure by 5% to account for increased prevalence of this emissions-reduction action between 2005 and 2008.

HVAC Equipment. Replace older furnace. We estimate current penetration of high-efficiency furnaces at 38%. On the basis of the manufacturers’ stated lifetimes of 17 years, we assume that no household would trade in a furnace less than 14 years old. We extrapolated from data concerning the age of heating equipment and heating fuel type from Table HC2.4 of RECS 2005 (2) and data on market penetration of Energy Star furnaces (a program begun in 1995 for furnaces). For market penetration, explicit federal government data were available only for furnaces sold in 2004–2007, so we extrapolated for units sold in 1994–2003 and in 2008 (3–6).

More specifically, the 38% figure is the average of estimated market penetration of Energy Star furnaces [percentage of total gas, oil, or propane/liquefied petroleum gases (LPG)] weighted by the number of furnaces in use for each model year (which we extrapolated from the data in Table HC2.4. We used “less than 2 years old” to refer to furnaces purchased in 2007–2008, and so on). We estimated market penetration, for furnaces sold between 2004 and 2007, according to the relevant “Energy Star Unit Shipment and Market Penetration Report Calendar Year Summary”; for 2008 units, we assumed the same figure as for 2007 units; for 2000–2003 units, we assumed 40% market penetration (extrapolated from 42%, the average penetration of 2004–2007 units); and we conservatively assumed 35% market penetration for 1995–1999 units. Our analysis does not include electric furnaces because the models currently being sold already exceed Energy Star minimum standards.

Replace older central AC. We estimate current penetration at 18%. Similarly as with furnaces, we assume that no household would trade in a central AC unit less than 14 years old and extrapolate from data concerning the age of central AC equipment in Table HC2.6 of RECS 2005 (2) and data on market penetration of Energy Star central AC units (as with furnaces, this program started for central AC equipment in 1995). For market penetration, explicit federal government data were only available for units sold in 2005–2007, so we extrapolated for units sold in 1994–2004 and in 2008 (4–6).

More specifically, the 18% figure is the average of estimated market penetration of Energy Star central AC units, weighted by the number of units in use for each model year (the latter extrapolated from the data in RECS 2005. We used “less than 2 years old” to refer to AC units purchased in 2007–2008, and so on). We estimated market penetration for AC units sold between 2005 and 2007 according to the relevant “Energy Star Unit Shipment and Market Penetration Report Calendar Year Summary”; for 2008 units, we assumed the same figure as for 2007 units; for 2004 units, we assumed 18% market penetration (extrapolated from 19.3% average of penetration of 2005–2007 units); for 2000–2003 units, we assumed 17% market penetration (extrapolated from 18%, the average penetration we estimated

for 2004 units); and we conservatively assumed 15% market penetration for 1995–1999 units.

E: Equipment Upgrades. Low-flow showerheads. A recent review of potential efficiency gains from showerheads reported that 24% of showerheads do not satisfy the federal standard of 2.5 gpm and estimated the average flow in these noncompliant showerheads at 3.25 gpm (7). Of the 76% of showerheads that comply with this standard, an unknown fraction have substantially lower flow than mandated by current regulations (e.g., 2.0 gpm), but there has been significant resistance to the current standard, so we assume a 10% penetration of 2.0-gpm showerheads as a conservative estimate. Thus, current penetration for 2.0-gpm showerheads is taken as 10%, but calculations of emissions reductions require us to consider 2 tiers of current equipment. For details, see the discussion of PER in *Potential Emissions Reductions*, below.

Efficient water heater. We estimate that 10% of households with gas water heaters and 35% with electric water heaters have high-efficiency units meeting January 2009 Energy Star specifications.

High-efficiency gas water heaters have been available for sale only since 2006 and first appeared in popular media (e.g., *Consumer Reports*) in 2008. Because we could find no research data on their current penetration, we made a subjective estimate of 10% that we consider high when product replacement rates are taken into account.

For electric heaters, we combine the distribution of ages of existing units reported in Table HC2.8 of RECS 2005 (2) and federal regulations, which required a minimum energy factor 0.9 starting in 2004 (8), to arrive at an estimate that 35% of households had an electric heater with an energy factor 0.9 or greater. We could not find data on the prevalence of insulating blankets on electric water heaters, but in our judgment 60% penetration is a reasonably conservative estimate.

Appliances. Replace plasma TV. We estimate current penetration at 77%: industry reports of high-definition TV (HDTV) sales estimated roughly that at the end of 2007, 40 million households had at least 1 HDTV, with sales of roughly 20 million per year, of which 23% are plasma sets (9). We add 20 million sets to account for sales during 2008 and assume the same ratio of 23% plasma and 77% nonplasma sets.

Energy Star refrigerator. We estimate current penetration at 27%. Tables HC2.9 and HC2.10 of RECS 2005 report that 111.1 million households have a refrigerator and that in 23.9 million of these households the “most-used refrigerator” is an Energy Star unit (2), yielding a penetration rate of 21.6%. We raised the resulting figure by 5% to account for increased penetration of Energy Star between 2005 and 2008, and rounded up to 27%. We did not make estimates of potential savings from upgrading less-used refrigerators.

Energy Star clothes washer. We estimate current penetration at 29%. Tables HC2.9 and HC2.10 of RECS 2005 report that 91.8 million households have a washer and that 21.7 million of these are Energy Star (2), yielding a penetration rate of 23.7%. We raised the resulting figure by 5% to account for increased penetration of Energy Star between 2005 and 2008, and rounded up to 29%.

LRR tires. We estimate current penetration at 10%. The U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy reports that new vehicles are routinely equipped with LRR tires to help meet Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) requirements (10), but because replacement tires are not labeled for rolling resistance, consumers cannot choose them easily. Because we could find no research data on the prevalence of LRR tires in the replacement tire market, we based the estimate loosely on both the estimate in “Slower acceleration, unnecessary braking” (see below) and on our judgment.

Fuel-efficient vehicle. We estimate current penetration at 5%. The 30.7 mpg current penetration criterion figure (average adjusted composite fuel economy) is based on the 26 most fuel-efficient vehicles in the Fuel Economy Leaders section of the U.S. Department of Energy/Environmental Protection Agency (DOE/EPA)'s 2009 *Fuel Economy Guide* (11). The set excludes passenger vans, cargo vans, midsize station wagons, and standard pick-up trucks but includes vehicles in all other categories, including 2-seater, minicompact, subcompact, compact, midsize, and large autos, as well as small station wagons, minivans, sport utility vehicles, and small pick-up trucks.

We estimate current penetration of fuel-efficient vehicles by considering the fraction of light-duty vehicles on the road today with adjusted composite (55/45) mileage greater than 30 mpg (sales data are reported in 5-mpg bins). Distribution of fuel economy, based on sales figures for each model year since 1975, is reported by the EPA (12). We weight the penetration of efficient vehicles in each model year by the fraction of cars and trucks of different ages, as reported by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (13), to calculate the distribution of fuel economy for all light-duty vehicles on the road. This calculation gives a current penetration of 3.9%.

We checked this estimate using a different strategy. Sales-weighted average DOE/EPA composite mpg for autos and for light-trucks remained nearly constant from 1985 through 2007 (14). In addition, the percentage of auto vs. light-truck sales remained relatively constant for the calendar years for which we could obtain manufacturers' sales data, 2000–2007 (15, 16). We combined manufacturers' sales data for each auto and light-truck make and model for a recent calendar year (2003) (17) with corresponding DOE/EPA data on fuel efficiency (composite mpg 55/45) for each model (18). In 2003, only 9 makes/models had mpg ratings above our criterion of 30.7 mpg. These accounted for approximately 3.6% of total auto/light-truck sales. Average annual mileage per vehicle decreases with vehicle age (19), but this trend may be counteracted by decreasing fuel efficiency with vehicle age. If these 2 tendencies cancel each other out, we get a current penetration estimate of $\approx 4\%$, as with the other method of calculation. Our 5% estimate for current penetration thus seems realistic and, if anything, slightly conservative.

M: Maintenance of Equipment. Change HVAC air filters. We estimate current penetration at 50%. According to Tables HC2.4 and HC2.6 of RECS 2005 there are ≈ 109 million households with central heating (warm air, steam or hot water, or electric heat pump) and 66 million with central AC (2). Because the data tables do not identify housing units with both central heating and central AC, and because any unit with both usually has a stacked heat-exchanger and AC-evaporator together with a single air filter, we estimated roughly half the households with central AC also used space heating, for a total of roughly 140 million U.S. space-conditioning units with filters that require regular replacement.

Steven Byers, president of a major U.S. filter manufacturer, estimates that the typical housing unit changes air filters twice per year—around the seasonal changes from heating to cooling, and vice versa (20). Charles Kwiatkowski, vice president of a manufacturer that makes the top-selling filter brand, estimates nationwide annual sales of all brands of residential air filters at 350 million (21). Combining 350 million filters sold per year with our estimate of 109 million household filters suggests that the average housing unit changes its space-conditioning filter between 2 and 3 times per year. We reasoned from this that a conservative estimate would be that half or fewer filters are changed every month.

Tune up AC. We estimate current penetration at 30%. Nevada Power Company estimates that 20% of the households who

applied for rebates on AC tune-ups were free riders (22), and we take this as one estimate of the current penetration. In 2008, when energy prices were exceptionally high, the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association surveyed American households regarding energy-efficiency measures taken that year and found that 50% of households reported tuning up their furnaces (AC tune-ups are not reported, but other efficiency measures showed similar adoption rates for heating and cooling) (23). Because 2008 was an exceptional year, we believe the typical rate of AC tune-ups is significantly lower than 50%. We take 30% as a reasonably conservative estimate. Sensitivity tests indicate that varying the current penetration of AC tune-ups between 20% and 50% changes the total PER and RAER for all actions by less than 1.4 MTC.

Routine auto maintenance. Regular oil changes. We estimate the current penetration to be 51%, according to news reports (24).

Oxygen sensor. We estimate the current penetration to be 51%, according to news reports (24).

Remove excess weight. Because we could find no research data on the current penetration of this action, we subjectively estimated it at 70%, meaning that 30% of cars have at least 100 lb of excess weight that could be removed.

Maintain recommended tire pressure. We estimate the current penetration to be 51%, according to news reports. (24)

A: Adjustment of Equipment. Laundry temperature. We estimate current penetration at 91%. Table HC2.10 of RECS 2005 (2) reports that of the 91.8 million households that use a clothes washer, 85.1 million use a setting of 'warm' or 'cold' for the wash cycle, yielding a penetration rate of 92.7%. Of the 91.8 million households that use a clothes washer, 72.0 million use a setting of 'cold' for the rinse cycle, yielding a penetration rate of 78.5%. We averaged these 2 percentages (85.6%). We raised the resulting figure by 5%, to account for rising penetration between 2005 and 2008, and rounded up to 91%.

Water heater temperature. We estimate current penetration at 20%. Most U.S. states have building/plumbing codes that require that plumbers and building owners set water heater temperatures to deliver water to faucets and showerheads at no more than 120°F. However, these codes generally do not limit water temperature at the water heater (25). Furthermore, a spot-check of 157 dwelling units in inner-city Memphis, TN revealed that 79% had hot tap water at or exceeding 130°F (26). We decided to place greatest weight on this finding, which was based on actual temperature measurements at taps, hence the value of 20% for current penetration.

D: Daily Use Behaviors. Reduce standby electricity. Because we could find no research data on the current penetration of this action, we estimated it at 20%, on the basis of the authors' judgments of the difficulty and the prevalence of the action.

Thermostat setbacks. Gas and electric heat. We estimate current penetration at 33%, according to data in Table HC2.5 of RECS 2005 (2), which reports data on household temperature settings during winter months for the first 3 conditions in section 1 above: (i) daytime setting when no one is home, (ii) daytime setting when someone is home, and (iii) setting during sleeping hours. For these conditions we calculated from table data the percentage of households making the corresponding thermostat setbacks for each of the 3 periods: (i) at or below 65°F (assuming a duration of 8 h), (ii) at or below 68°F (8 h), and (iii) at or below 65°F (8 h). We averaged the percentages for these 3 conditions to get 28%. We added 5% to account for increased adoption of these settings between 2005 and 2008.

Air conditioning. We estimate current penetration at 25%, according to data in Table HC2.7 of RECS 2005 (2), and using an analysis similar to the one for heating, above. RECS 2005 reports statistics on thermostat settings during summer months

in households using central AC for the last 3 conditions in section 1 above: (iv) daytime setting when no one is home, (v) daytime setting when someone is home, and (vi) setting during sleeping hours. For these conditions, we calculated from table data the percentage of households making the corresponding thermostat setups: (iv) at or above 80°F (assuming a duration of 8 h), (v) at or above 78°F (8 h), and (vi) at or above 78°F (8 h). We averaged these percentages for the 3 conditions to get 20%. We added 5% to the estimated penetration to account for increased adoption between 2005 and 2008.

Line drying. We estimate that 8% of households line-dry their laundry during 5 months of the year. According to Table HC2.10 of RECS 2005 (2), of 91.8 million households with washing machines, 2.7 million have clothes dryers that they use only “infrequently or not at all,” and 4.3 million households have a washer but no dryer. Combining these figures, 7.0 million households, or 7.6% of households with washing machines dry naturally, and we rounded this figure to 8%. We did not increase this figure to update from 2005 to 2008 because of evidence that tens of millions of households are prohibited by private homeowners’ association rules from line drying (27).

Driving behavior. Slower acceleration, unnecessary braking. We estimate current penetration at 10%, according to the only source we could find (28).

Maintain 55 mph speed for highway driving. We estimate current penetration at 22%. We began with a review of top speed limits in each state and a tabulation of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in each state, indicating that 19% of highway vehicle miles traveled in the U.S. are in states with a top speed limit of 55 mph or less (29, 30). A study of traffic speeds found that for states with a 65 mph urban interstate speed limit, a significant majority of drivers adhere closely to the speed limit (31). To account for fast drivers in states with speed limits of 55 mph or less, we assume a normal distribution of driving speeds, and matching the mean to the speed limit, we include all drivers below the mean and one half of a standard deviation above it (69% of the 19% of VMT); for states with faster speed limits, we include a 10% estimate of drivers traveling at 55 mph or below (10% of the remaining 81% of VMT). Rounding up to the next integer, the result is a conservative 22% penetration estimate.

Reduce idling. Recent survey data yield the estimate that 47% of drivers regularly idle unnecessarily in nontraffic situations (warming up excessively, waiting for passengers, or queuing in drive-through lanes) (32).

Carpooling and trip chaining. Carpooling. We estimate current penetration at 5%. In 2000, 113 million people commuted to work in a private vehicle (33), which accounts for 60% of the private vehicles in the United States. A 2005 survey found that 8% of commuting involved multiple passengers (34). Given these figures, we estimated a current penetration for carpooling of 4.8% (8% of 60%), which we rounded to 5%. We did not adjust this figure for changes between 2005 and 2008 because we do not perceive a trend for this action.

Trip chaining. We could not find reliable data on trip chaining but estimate a current penetration of 5% on the assumption that trip-chaining is similar to car pooling. For very small penetrations, such as this, our calculations exhibit very little sensitivity to the exact penetration.

Potential Emissions Reductions

We define PER as the reduction in emissions that would be achieved if the penetration were increased from its current level to 100% (i.e., if everyone in the relevant population who is not already performing the action in question would adopt it). The basic formula is $PER = (1 - P) E X_{base}$, where P is the current penetration of the action, E is the fractional emissions reduction from performing the action, and X_{base} is the base national emission rate from the behavior in question (see “Base emis-

sions” in *Reasonably Achievable Emissions Reduction* for an explanation). For example, for replacing an older refrigerator with a current Energy Star compliant model, the current penetration is 27%, the fractional emissions reduction is 40%, and the base emissions are 36.4 MtC, so PER is 10.6 MtC. (Note that there are no double-counting corrections for refrigeration.)

The emissions factors E used in the PER calculations are corrected for double-counting assuming 100% penetration of all relevant actions. The base emissions rates X_{base} are computed using double-counting corrections appropriate to current penetration rates. See “Calculating double-counting corrections” and “Base emissions” in *Reasonably Achievable Emissions Reduction* for details.

We consider the relevant population for an action to be those who could potentially adopt it. For replacing plasma televisions with LCD or rear-projection televisions, the relevant population is the owners of plasma televisions; for annual tune-ups of air conditioners, the relevant population is households with air-conditioners; and so forth. This section identifies the basis of the estimates of PER displayed in column 4 of Table 1 of the main article. Estimates of the relevant populations and the total national emissions from each source are explained in *Baseline Energy Use and Emissions*.

Space heating and cooling calculations depend on the number of heating and cooling degree days. Calculations of efficiency gains were performed using spreadsheets from the U.S. government’s Energy Star web site, which we modified to use national average numbers of heating and cooling degree days, as reported by the National Climatic Data Center, instead of city-specific degree days (35–38).

W: Weatherization and Upgrades of Home Heating and Cooling Systems. The 5 actions in this category yield a combined PER of 37.4 MtC, or 6.0% of individual/household (I/H) emissions.

Weatherization. The 3 weatherization actions, combined, have a PER of 25.2 MtC, or 4.0% of I/H emissions.

Seal drafts. A typical home can reduce annual heating and cooling energy use by 10% by sealing drafts (1), so PER is 3.7 MtC, or 0.6% of I/H emissions. Greater savings may well be achievable if the best available technique, the use of a blower door, is used to detect the drafts. However, we do not consider the use of this technique compatible with our high plasticity estimates. We see a tradeoff between greater plasticity and the greater savings possible with blower doors.

Adequately insulate attic space. Estimates of energy savings from installing or upgrading attic insulation vary greatly, with estimates ranging from approximately 20–40% of home heating energy (1, 39). We make the relatively conservative estimate that insulating attics could reduce household energy use by 25%, which yields a PER of 15.1 MtC, or 2.4% of I/H emissions.

Replace single-paned windows. Replacing single-paned windows with multipaned windows with low-emissivity coatings can reduce heating and cooling energy consumption by 15% (1), which yields a PER of 6.4 MtC, or 1.0% of I/H emissions.

HVAC equipment. The 2 actions in this category yield a combined PER of 12.2 MtC, or 2.0% of I/H emissions.

Replace older furnace with Energy Star model. Replacing a 15-year-old 78% efficient gas or LPG furnace with a 92% efficient Energy Star furnace reduces CO₂ emissions by 15% (35). This yields a PER of 3.7 million MtC nationally for gas and 0.4 MtC for LPG furnaces. Replacing a 15-year-old 80% efficient oil furnace with an 87% efficient Energy Star furnace reduces CO₂ emissions by 8%, which yields a PER of 0.70 MtC nationally. We have not considered any benefits associated with new electric furnaces because there is likely little efficiency gain. According to the Energy Star web page, basic electric furnaces are already 95% or more efficient [using the AFUE (annual fuel utilization efficiency) measure of efficiency], where the Energy Star crite-

and trucks that significantly exceed the U.S. CAFE standard (52). Thus, we take a snapshot of current vehicle fuel economy for these calculations and anticipate that even with changing federal standards, the opportunity to reduce emissions through choice of vehicles will persist.

Efficient lighting. The text does not include an estimate of PER for lighting because of the mandated phaseout of incandescent lighting by 2014. The PER estimate in the main paper was calculated as follows: the current penetration of compact fluorescent lights was estimated at 36%. Table HC2.13 of RECS 2005 reports on the total number of light bulbs and the number of energy-efficient light bulbs in each of 3 categories: those used 1–4 h per day, 4–12 h per day, and >12 h per day (53). We take a weighted average of the fraction of energy-efficient bulbs used in each category using weighting factors of 2, 8, and 14 h of daily usage, respectively, for the 3 categories, to arrive at a penetration of 31% for 2005. We increased this by 5% to account for rising penetration of compact fluorescent lights between 2005 and 2008.

EnergyStar compact fluorescent light bulbs use 75% less energy than conventional incandescent bulbs of the same brightness (54). Increasing penetration from 36% to 100% yields a PER of 30.2 MtC, or 4.8% of I/H emissions.

M: Maintenance of Equipment. The 5 actions in this category yield a combined PER of 20.3 MtC, or 3.2% of I/H emissions.

Change HVAC air filters: Replace home ventilation filters for heating and AC every month in season. If household air filters are not changed regularly, the pores in the filter clog with dust, raising the pressure drop across the filter, decreasing air flow by up to 50% and reducing the efficiency of the heating and cooling equipment by as much as 30% (55). Laboratory measurements suggest that replacing air filters regularly reduces heating and cooling energy consumption by roughly 20% (56). It is not clear from the literature how clogged typical household filters are compared with the dirty filters used in the experiments, so we take a more conservative assumption that changing air filters monthly reduces heating and cooling costs by 15% as compared with replacing them twice a year. This yields a PER of 8.7 MtC, or 1.4% of I/H emissions.

Tune up AC: Annual professional inspection and tune-up of central AC. Regular professional tune-ups of home AC equipment can reduce energy consumption by 17–30% (22, 23, 57). We take the conservative (lower) end of this range, 17% reduction, which gives a PER of 3.0 MtC, or 0.5% of I/H emissions.

Routine auto maintenance. The following 3 routine maintenance actions yield a combined PER of 8.6 MtC, or 1.4% of I/H emissions.

Regular oil changes, tune-ups, and changing oxygen sensor at recommended intervals. Tuning up a car that is noticeably out of tune can improve fuel economy by an average of 4%. Fixing more serious problems, such as replacing a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve fuel economy by up to 40% (58). Using the correct grade of motor oil can improve fuel economy by 1–2% in comparison with even a slightly different grade. We consider that the average motorist performs some degree of regular maintenance, and mandatory emissions tests catch the worst problems, so we propose that more strict adherence to regular maintenance schedules could improve fuel efficiency by $\approx 5.5\%$. This yields a PER of 5.0 MtC, or 0.8% of I/H emissions.

Regularly remove excess weight from vehicle. Removing 100 lb of unnecessary weight from the vehicle (e.g., removing items from the trunk) improves fuel economy by 1–2% (59). Combining the lower, 1%, number with our estimate that 30% of vehicles carry unnecessary weight gives a PER of 0.6 MtC, or 0.1% of I/H emissions.

Maintain proper tire inflation. Inflating tires properly can improve fuel economy by 3.3% (60). This yields a PER of 3.0 MtC, or 0.5% of I/H emissions.

A: Adjustments of Equipment. The 2 actions in this category have a combined PER of 3.4 MtC, or 0.5% of I/H emissions.

Laundry temperature: Reduce hot water consumption by washing clothes on warm/cold cycle. If clothes are washed using a warm/cold cycle instead of a hot/warm cycle, the emissions associated with water heating for clothes washing are reduced by 75% if the water heater is set to 140°F or by 70% if the water heater is set to 120°F (61). Because we estimate that 80% of households have water temperature significantly higher than 120°F, we use a weighted average of the 2 reduction factors: 74%, which gives a PER of 0.5 MtC, or 0.1% of I/H emissions.

Water heater temperature: Set back water heater to recommended 120°F. Every 10°F reduction in a water heater reduces energy consumption by 3–5% (62, 63). Reducing hot water temperatures from 140°F to 120°F would thus reduce energy consumption by $\approx 8\%$, with a PER of 2.8 MtC, or 0.5% of I/H emissions.

D: Daily Use Behaviors. The 8 actions in this category have a collective PER of 85.7 MtC, or 13.7% of I/H emissions.

Reduce standby electricity. Standby electricity use affects all 111 million households that use electricity (63). We estimate average standby consumption per household at 440 kWh/yr (64). This estimate comes from a bottom-up analysis of appliance characteristics *ca.* 1996. Direct measurements of leakage electricity in California and Colorado give a range of 400–1,000 kWh/yr (65). However, it is not clear how these small direct-measurement studies generalize to the nation as a whole. A more recent estimate by Meier argues that 4–10% of total household electricity consumption, or 460–1,200 kWh/yr per household, is standby (66). Higher estimates may reflect the growth of electricity use for electronic equipment with standbys since 1996. However, we have adopted the lower value of 440 kWh/yr per household as a conservative estimate.

Using the emissions factors described in “Emission factors” in *Baseline Energy Use and Emissions*, 440 kWh/yr yields 85 kg/yr carbon per household, or 9.5 MtC nationwide. Thus, 1.5% of national I/H emissions can be attributed to standby electricity. Eliminating all this usage seems unreasonable, but we estimate that a household could reduce standby usage by 90% through nonregulatory measures. Adopting appliances that satisfy the Energy Star criterion of consuming no more than 1 W in standby mode would reduce standby consumption by 80%. Even lower standby power consumption of 0.1 W seems feasible for the future (60). A 90% reduction of standby electricity yields a PER of 10.5 MtC nationally, or 1.5% of I/H emissions.

Thermostat setbacks. The EPA’s programmable thermostat savings calculator spreadsheet provides a useful tool for calculating the impacts of both manual and automatically programmed setbacks (37). We modified the spreadsheet to use U.S. population-weighted heating and cooling degree days averaged over the 8 years of 2000–2007 (4,022 and 1,320 degree days, respectively) instead of individual cities (38). We use the same energy-saving action described in ref. 1: for heating, the consumer adopts a baseline indoor temperature of 72°F in the winter and adjusts it down by 7°F for 8 h at night and 4°F for 10 h during the day during heating season when someone is at home, or by 7°F for 10 h during the day when someone is not at home (leaving 6 h without a setback). For AC, the consumer adopts a baseline temperature of 73°F in the summer and adjusts the temperature up by 5°F for 8 h at night and 10 h during the day when someone is at home, or by 7°F when no one is home. We assume that the average house is occupied during 100% of daytime hours on weekends and 50% on weekdays. This reduces heating emissions

by 12.6% and cooling emissions by 18.7%. The PER for thermostat setbacks is 10.2 MtC, or 1.6% of I/H emissions.

Line drying. A total of 20.3 million households use gas or propane clothes dryers, and 67.2 million use electric dryers (2). Electric clothes drying uses 1079 kWh/yr per household (67). Gas dryers consume a total of 0.07 quads per year nationally, which corresponds to 3 MBTU/yr per household (68). The total nationwide emissions are 15 MtC. Thus, the PER for line drying during 5 months of the year is 6.0 MtC, or 1.0% of I/H emissions.

Driving behavior. The 3 actions relating to driving behavior have a total PER of 24.1 MtC, or 3.9% of I/H emissions.

Reduce acceleration and deceleration rates. Aggressive driving in the United States can reduce fuel efficiency by 25–48% (69). Adjustments to the style of driving, such as optimal shifting or using cruise control, by aggressive drivers can improve fuel efficiency by 10% or more (potentially as much as 45%). The extent of very aggressive driving in the United States is unclear. A study of Dutch drivers by the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research reviews empirical studies of eco-driving training and concludes that “an average achievable effect of 10% seems reasonable” (70). This figure is echoed by a U.S.-based commercial provider of eco-driving feedback devices that reports average fuel savings of 7–11% (71). We consider a 10% reduction of fuel consumption (and consequently of CO₂ emissions) to be reasonably achievable by those who choose to drive efficiently. This would have a PER of 16.4 MtC, or 2.6% of I/H emissions.

Maintain 55-mph speed for highway driving. Reducing highway speeds to 55 mph in the United States would reduce fuel consumption on highways by 21% (69). Scaling this by the fraction of highway driving in the U.S. driving cycle yields potential savings of 3.2% reduction in average fuel consumption if drivers reduced average highway speeds to 55 mph (69). Reducing highway speeds has a PER of 4.5 MtC, or 0.7% of I/H emissions.

Reduce idling time. Carrico et al. (32) estimate that reducing unnecessary idling out of traffic (long periods warming up the car or waiting) could reduce emissions from personal vehicles by 4.3 MtC, or 0.7% of I/H emissions (15.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide = 4.3 million metric tons of carbon). If we correct this for double-counting, we get a PER of 3.2 MtC, or 0.5% of I/H emissions.

We can also calculate from Carrico et al. that an individual driver could reduce emissions by 0.048 metric tons of carbon per year, or 3.7% of emissions from personal driving, by eliminating unnecessary idling. (This individual emissions reduction figure is not corrected for double-counting because it assumes this is the only action the driver takes.)

Carpooling and trip-chaining. Carpooling and trip-chaining yield a combined PER of 36.1 MtC, or 5.8% of I/H emissions.

Carpool by carrying at least 1 passenger for every commuting trip. Adding 1 person to every single-occupant commuting trip in the United States and Canada would reduce overall fuel consumption by 14% (69), which yields a PER of 24.2 MtC, or 3.9% of I/H emissions.

Combine errands to reduce errand mileage by half. If drivers reduce mileage driven to perform errands by 50% by combining multiple errands in a single trip, they would reduce emissions by 6.9% (1). This yields a PER of 11.9 MtC, or 1.9% of I/H emissions.

Reasonably Achievable Emissions Reduction

RAER differs from PER by incorporating estimates of the behavioral plasticity (the proportion of current nonadopters who would become adopters) under the most effective package of interventions that do not add regulations, whereas the PER describes emissions reductions that would be achieved with 100% plasticity. The most effective intervention varies with the

action. The main text discusses these differences and provides our plasticity estimates. We calculate RAER for each behavior within a type and use the sum as RAER for the type.

Both RAER and PER estimates correct for double-counting due to interactions among actions that “overlap.” For instance, if someone replaces a water heater with a more efficient model and also consumes less hot water, the emissions reduction is less than the sum of the savings from each action taken on its own.

For PER, double-counting corrections are performed assuming 100% penetration of every relevant action, whereas for RAER the corrections are performed using our estimates of penetrations for the target year. The next section uses year 10 as an example, but the identical logic applies to RAER calculations for other years.

Calculating RAER. The procedure for calculating RAER is as follows. (i) From the current (reported) emissions associated with an action, we calculate the emissions reduction already achieved by the current penetration of the action, correcting for double-counting (interactive relationships among actions already taken, as described above). (ii) We add the savings calculated in (i) to the current emissions to estimate the “base emissions” for the action, that is the emissions that would have been produced if the current penetration of the action were zero. (iii) From the base emissions, we calculate the emissions reductions due to the year-10 penetration of the actions under consideration, including corrections for double-counting. (iv) Subtracting the year-10 reductions calculated in (iii) from the base emissions calculated in (ii) yields the year-10 emissions. (v) RAER is the difference between the current emissions and the year-10 emissions calculated in (iv).

Calculating double-counting corrections. Sometimes 2 actions interact so that the total savings from adopting both measures is less than the sum of the savings from each measure taken separately. When 2 or more actions overlap in this way, we correct by combining the actions multiplicatively, as described below. Suppose action *A* improves the energy efficiency of a water heater by a factor E_A , and action *B* reduces hot-water consumption by a factor E_B . A household that adopts both actions would reduce its energy consumption by a factor $E_{total} = 1 - (1 - E_A) \times (1 - E_B)$. We will call this effect “multiplicative” in contrast to the combination of independent (noninteracting) efficiency improvements, which combine additively for $E_{total} = E_A + E_B$.

When the penetration for action *A* is p_A and the penetration for action *B* is p_B , we must consider to what extent *A* and *B* are correlated so that the same people who adopt one adopt the other—in other words, we must know what the penetrations are for *A* alone, *B* alone, and *A* and *B* combined. To rigorously treat the interactions among the large number of behaviors we consider in this article, we would need to consider all possible combinations of interacting actions, as well as the correlations among penetrations for the different actions. The mathematics of such a rigorous treatment are beyond the scope of this report and would be of limited use because in any event we do not know the correlations among the different penetrations.

We treat the question of double-counting using a simpler rubric: we consider the full range of possible emissions reductions. At one end of the range is the sum of reductions of each action taken separately, which would be the total if no one took more than 1 action. At the other end of the range, the maximum correction factor would apply if everyone adopting any action also adopted all other interacting actions. In this case, the emissions factor would be $E_{total} = 1 - [(1 - E_1)(1 - E_2) \dots (1 - E_n)]$. The actual emissions reduction must be somewhere between these values, so we interpolate between the 2 endpoints using the median of the penetrations for the interacting actions:

$$E_{total}(P) = P[1 - (1 - E_1)(1 - E_2) \dots (1 - E_n)] \\ + (1 - P)(E_1 + E_2 + \dots + E_n),$$

where P is the median penetration.

For example, 7 different actions interact to affect emissions due to central AC: thermostat setbacks (18.7% emissions reduction), changing household air filters (15.0%), professional tune-ups (17.0%), purchasing a new Energy Star unit (35.0%), weather-stripping the house (10.0%), insulating the attic (25.0%), and installing high-efficiency, low-emissivity windows (15.0%). The first 4 interact multiplicatively, and the latter 3 interact additively with one another, with the sum of these (50%) interacting multiplicatively with the 4 other actions. Without correcting for double-counting, the total emissions reduction for someone performing all 7 actions would be 18.7% + 15.0% + 17.0% + 35.0% + 50.0% = 136%. In fact, someone performing all 7 actions would only save $1 - [(1 - 0.187) \times (1 - 0.150) \times (1 - 0.170) \times (1 - 0.350) \times (1 - 0.500)] = 81.4\%$. Thus, someone performing all 7 actions reduces emissions by only 60% of the sum of the actions taken individually. To correct for double-counting in a household that performs all 7 actions, we would multiply the raw emissions reduction for to each action by a correction factor of 60%.

The correction factor for an entire population, some of whom perform multiple actions and some of whom do not, will be somewhere between the extremes of 100% and 60%. Because we do not know the exact correlation among different actions and because a detailed and rigorous calculation is beyond the scope of this article, we estimate the correction factor by interpolating linearly between the 2 ends of the range, using the median penetration. For example, for year 10, the penetrations for the 7 actions for AC are 51%, 65%, 51%, 84%, 97%, 95%, and 96%. The latter 3 add, with an average penetration of 96%, so we take the median of 51%, 65%, 51%, 84%, and 96%. With a median of 65%, the correction factor for AC at year 10 is $0.65 \times 60\% + (1 - 0.65) \times 100\% = 74\%$. Thus, at year 10 the true emissions reduction for each action would be 74% of the raw reduction; so for instance, the emissions reduction due to thermostat setbacks would be 74% of 18.7%, or 13.8%.

Base emissions. The reason for calculating the base emissions as part of determining RAER is to take into account the fact that current emissions associated with an activity reflect a blend of households that have already adopted the action with those that have not. A household that has not yet adopted a given action will have a greater emissions reduction with that action than the national average household because the national average includes households that have already adopted the action and that therefore have a lower than average base of emissions for the action in question to reduce. To calculate a base rate of emissions that assumes that households have not adopted the emissions-reduction behaviors, we first calculate the emissions reduction already achieved due to the current penetration levels (these reductions are in comparison with what we call a base rate of emissions: what the national emissions would be if no one performed any of the actions under consideration—i.e., if all penetrations were zero). This calculation uses the double-counting corrections described above, performed using the current penetration estimates for the relevant actions.

Next, we calculate the zero-penetration base rate of emissions by adding the reductions due to current penetration to the current emissions as reported by the Energy Information Administration and the EPA.

To calculate the year-10 emissions reductions for an action, we multiply this base rate of emissions by the fractional reduction reported in the third section (*Potential Emissions Reductions*), corrected for double-counting using the year-10 penetrations.

Example calculation of RAER. Replacing inefficient refrigerators with current Energy Star models reduces emissions by 40%. Current penetration is estimated at 27%, and current emissions due to refrigeration are 32.4 MtC. We can express the current emissions X_0 as $X_0 = [P_0 (1 - E_{E^*}) + (1 - P_0)] X_{base}$ and invert this to determine the base emissions $X_{base} = X_0/[P_0 (1 - E_{E^*}) + (1 - P_0)] = 32.4 \text{ MtC}/(0.27 \times 0.60 + 0.73) = 36.4 \text{ MtC}$.

To calculate PER, we calculate emissions for 100% penetration: $PER = X_0 - (1 - E_{E^*}) X_{base} = 10.6 \text{ MtC}$.

Emissions at year 10, when the penetration P_{10} is expected to be 85% is $X_{10} = [P_{10} (1 - E_{E^*}) + (1 - P_{10})] X_{base} = (0.85 \times 0.60 + 0.15) \times 36.4 \text{ MtC} = 23.9 \text{ MtC}$. Thus, RAER10 due to adopting Energy Star refrigerators is $(32.4 - 23.9) \text{ MtC} = 8.5 \text{ MtC}$.

Note that because no other actions interact with refrigeration, there is no double-counting correction. If there were interacting actions affecting refrigeration, we would apply double-counting corrections to E_{E^*} in calculating the base emissions level, energy savings at year 10, and the PER.

Double-Counting Interactions. Heating and AC. Improvements to the building envelope are considered additive because they remove independent paths for heat to leak out of the building. We assume that improving the attic insulation does not appreciably affect air leaks around windows and doors or radiative and conductive losses through window glass, so we add these 3 items.

Improving ventilation efficiency by replacing air filters combines multiplicatively with improvements to the furnace for an efficiency gain of $1 - (1 - E_{furnace}) \times (1 - E_{filter})$. Filters and high-efficiency ACs also combine multiplicatively.

Finally, we multiplicatively combine the 3 classes of improvement: envelope improvements, equipment efficiency improvements, and thermostat setbacks.

Hot water. Setting back the temperature of a water heater and purchasing an Energy Star water heater combine multiplicatively. Two actions curtail laundry demand for hot water: washing on warm/cold cycles and reducing water consumption per load by purchasing an Energy Star washer. These actions combine multiplicatively. Laundry curtailment combines additively with shower curtailment due to low-flow showerheads to give the total reduction of hot water consumption. Finally, the demand curtailment and heating efficiency combine multiplicatively.

Clothes drying. The effects of Energy Star washers and line-drying on energy consumption for drying clothes combine multiplicatively.

Driving. There are 2 classes of efficiency measures relevant to driving: fuel efficiency (new vehicle, regular maintenance, maintaining tire inflation, installing LRR tires, efficient driving practices, and lower highway speeds) and consumption curtailment (carpooling, trip-chaining, and reduced idling). Actions within the efficiency category combine multiplicatively, whereas actions within the curtailment category combine additively. Finally, we combine the 2 categories multiplicatively.

Baseline Energy Use and Emissions

Total Emissions. Total U.S. emissions of CO_2 in 2005 were 6.03 billion metric tons of CO_2 , or 1.65 GtC (72). We take the individual and household share to be 38% of this, or 626 MtC (1).

Emission Factors. Electricity. U.S. average nonbaseload emissions are 1,569 lb $\text{CO}_2/\text{MWh} = 0.194 \text{ kg C/kWh}$ (73). This does not include line losses in the transmission and distribution of electricity. These losses have been estimated at 7.2% (74) and as ranging from 9.6% to 10.6% (75). Our analysis uses the low end of Vaninsky's range of estimates, 9.6%, as our correction for line losses. This raises the emissions factor for electricity to 0.215 kg C/kWh. For conversion between kWh and BTU, we take the

energy content of the delivered energy and use a factor of 3,412 BTU/kWh (68).

Natural gas: 14.5 kg C/MBTU (76); fuel oil: 20.0 kg C/MBTU (76); LPG: 17.0 kg C/MBTU (76); gasoline: 2.19 kg C/gallon (76).

Standby Electricity Use. As noted in *Potential Emissions Reductions* (“Reduce standby electricity”), we estimate emissions from standby electricity use in homes at 94.5 kg C per year per household, which sums to 10.5 MtC nationwide for the 111 million households using electricity, or 1.7% of I/H emissions.

Space Heating. We estimate energy consumption and emissions associated with space heating from the Energy Information Agency’s *Annual Energy Outlook 2007* (68). We consider emissions associated with all types of housing, although it might be useful in future work to disaggregate owner-occupied housing from rental housing and single-family from multifamily buildings.

In all, 33.7 million households use central electric heat (forced-air furnace or heat pump). These houses use a total of 0.40 quads of electricity for space heating (68). One quad corresponds to 293 billion kWh, for total national emissions of 25 MtC, or 4.0% of I/H emissions. The average house using electric space heating consumes 3,479 kWh/yr and is responsible for 747 kg C/yr. A total of 58.2 million households heat with natural gas. Annual national natural gas consumption for residential space heating totals 3.52 quads per year and produces emissions of 51 MtC, or 8.1% of I/H emissions. The average household heating with natural gas uses 60 MBTU/yr and emits 875 kg C/yr. Six million households heat with LPG. Annual national LPG consumption for residential space heating totals 0.26 quads per year and produces 4.4 MtC emissions, or 0.7% of I/H emissions. The average household heating with LPG uses 42 MBTU/yr and emits 736 kg C/yr. In all, 7.7 million households heat with distillate fuel oil. Annual national oil consumption for residential space heating totals 0.82 quads per year and produces 16.4 MtC, or 2.6% of I/H emissions. The average household heating with oil uses 102 MBTU/yr and emits 2125 kg C/yr.

Total emissions from heating, representing 105.6 million households, are 97 MtC, or 15.5% of national I/H emissions. The average household emissions from heating are thus 918 kg C/yr.

Air Conditioning. We estimate emissions associated with AC from RECS 2005, Tables HC2.6 and US14: 65.9 households have central AC equipment (2). Another 28.9 million have window or wall units, but we restrict this analysis to those houses with central AC. The average household with central AC uses 9.8 MBTU, or 2,872 kWh/yr of electricity for AC (77). Annual emissions from AC are 617 kg carbon per household. National emissions are 41 MtC/yr, or 6.5% of total I/H emissions.

Total HVAC comprises heating, AC, and operation of a central ventilation blower, also called a furnace fan, which consumes 500 kWh/yr (67). The blower is responsible for 107 kg C/yr per household, 8.2 MtC nationwide, and 1.3% of I/H emissions. Together, heating, AC, and furnace fans account for 146 MtC/yr nationwide (23.3% of I/H emissions).

Water Heating. In all, 43.1 million housing units use electricity for the main energy source to heat water, with the average household using 2,814 kWh/yr to heat water (2). Emissions are 604 kg C/yr per household, totaling 26 MtC/yr, or 4.2% of I/H emissions.

A total of 58.7 million households use natural gas as their principal energy source to heat water, with the average household using 24 MBTU (76). Emissions are 349 kg C/yr per

household, 20 MtC/yr, or 3.3% of I/H emissions. A total of 4.0 million households use LPG as their principal energy source to heat water, with the average household using 25 MBTU. Emissions are 432 kg C/yr per household, totaling 1.7 MtC/yr, or 0.3% of I/H emissions. Four million households use fuel oil as their principal energy source to heat water, with the average household using 28 MBTU. Emissions are 559 kg C/yr per household, totaling 2.2 MtC/yr, or 0.4% of I/H emissions.

Total emissions from water heating are 50 MtC nationwide, or 8.1% of I/H emissions.

Laundry. Dryers. A total of 20.3 million households use gas or propane clothes dryers, and 67.2 million use electric dryers (2). Clothes drying uses 1,079 kWh/year per household (67). Gas dryers consume a total of 0.07 quads per year nationally, which corresponds to 3 MBTU/year per household (68). The total nationwide emissions are 17 MtC or 2.7% of I/H emissions.

Washers. A total of 91.8 million households have a clothes washer. A typical clothes washer uses approximately 80 kWh/yr running its motor, which emits 17 kgC per household per year, 1.6 MtC nationally, or 0.3% of I/H emissions (78, 79). The washing machine (assuming it is a 1998–2003 model) also uses 240 kWh/yr for heating water in an electric hot water heater, or 1.4 MBTU/yr for a gas heater. This represents approximately 5.6% of water heating energy for electric heaters and 7.4% of water heating for gas heaters. The combined emissions from water heating for clothes washers total 3.0 MtC/yr, or 0.5% of national I/H emissions.

Total. Total emissions for laundry washing and drying are 21 MtC/yr, or 3.4% of national I/H emissions.

Refrigeration. A total of 111.0 million households have a refrigerator (80). Refrigeration (including freezers) consumes 1,359 kWh/yr in the average household, for a total of 0.52 quads per year nationwide. This produces 292 kg carbon per household, with total national emissions of 32 MtC, or 5.2% of I/H emissions.

Televisions. A total of 109.7 million American households have color televisions (2), but large-screen plasma televisions are responsible for a large share of total television energy use. Industry estimates state that in 2007 approximately 35% of U.S. households owned at least 1 large-screen HDTV set, with annual sales of approximately 20 million, from which we extrapolate approximately 60 million HDTV sets at the end of 2008. Approximately 23% of HDTV sales are large-screen plasma sets, which suggests a total of approximately 14 million. The average large-screen plasma television consumes 339 W (44). On the basis of reported usage from the RECS 2005 survey, we estimate that the average household has the television on an average of 7.0 h per day (2).[‡] Thus, large-screen plasma televisions consume 861 kWh/year, with emissions of 185 kg carbon per set and total national emissions of 11 MtC, or 1.8% of I/H emissions.

Household Vehicles. A total of 191 million household vehicles are regularly used for personal (i.e., nonbusiness) transportation in the United States and use an average of 592 gallons of gasoline (or its equivalent in diesel) per year for personal transportation (60). This results in the emission of 1,300 kg carbon per vehicle, which totals 248 MtC nationwide, or 39.7% of I/H emissions.

[‡]On weekdays, 49.1% of the population reports that the television is on 1–3 hours per day, 46.0% reports the television on “most of the day,” and 8.4% reports the television is “on all the time.” On weekends, 35.9% reports 1–3 hours, 56.4% on most of the day, and 10.1% on all the time. Taking 2 hours as typical use for the 1–3-hour group, 8 hours typical of the “most of the day” group, and 24 hours for the “on all the time” group, we find an average of 6.9 hours per day, during the week.

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