



# NEED FOR CENTRALIZED COOLING SYSTEMS IN HIGH DENSITY MASS HOUSING IN INDIA

Towards smart energy policy in  
residential communities

# Centralized cooling systems in high density mass housing in the developing world

## *Agenda*

*Background- energy scenario in India in international context, affordable housing sector in India*

*Cooling need in residential communities from household primary surveys*

*Current scenario of unitized AC and district cooling as an alternative low exergy cooling scenario*

*Key benefits of centralized cooling*

*Institutional mechanisms acting as enablers of district cooling*

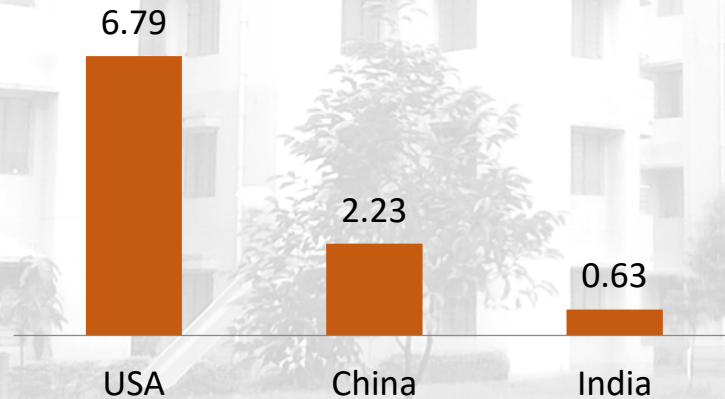
*Summary of conclusions and future work*



# Background: Energy scenario in India in international context

*Per capita energy consumption in 2014  
(Toe)*

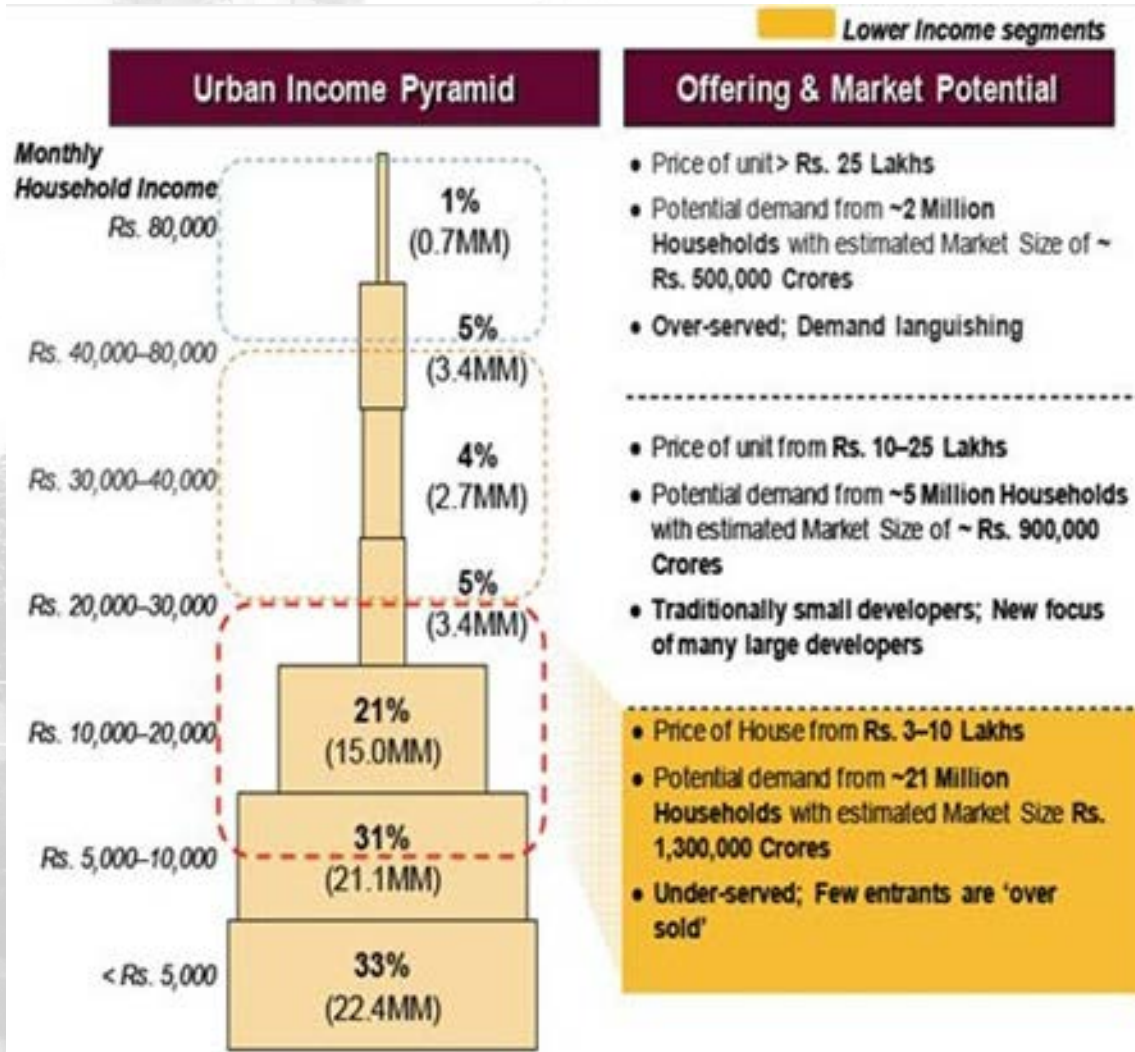
■ Per capita energy consumption



*Source- World Bank, 2014*

- ❑ Per capita energy consumption is expected to increase rapidly in the coming decades
- ❑ Presently, India is heavily dependent on fossil fuel imports which meet 70 percent of the country's energy demands (IEA 2012)- **pushes India to geopolitical risk and international energy market volatility.**

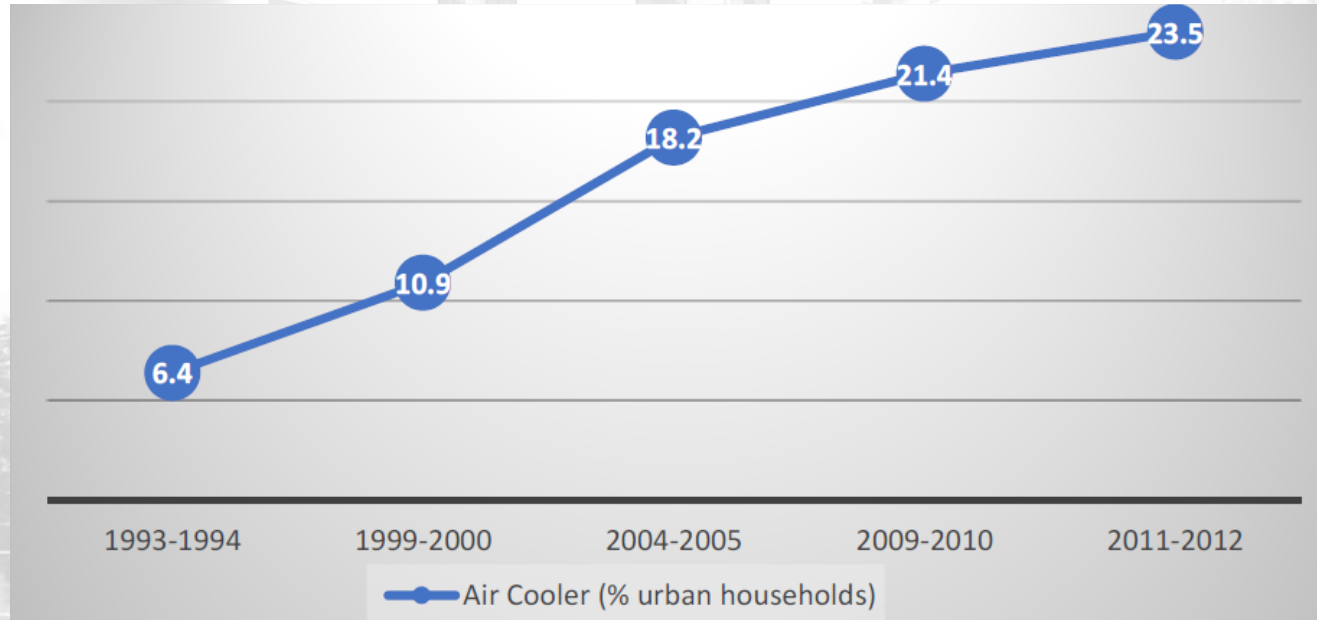
# Background: Affordable housing sector in India



- ❑ The building sector is the second largest energy consuming sector after the power sector.
- ❑ With almost 95% of people falling in middle and lower income brackets, there is a huge demand for affordable mass housing in the coming decades

*Source- Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI). The Economics of Low Income Housing. 2010.*

# Cooling need in the developing world: the case of urban India



Percentage growth of air cooler (including air conditioner) usage in urban households  
(Data source: NSSO, India)

(Source: Sivak, M., 2009. Potential energy demand for cooling in the 50 largest metropolitan areas of the world: Implications for developing countries. *Energy Policy* 37, 1382–1384)

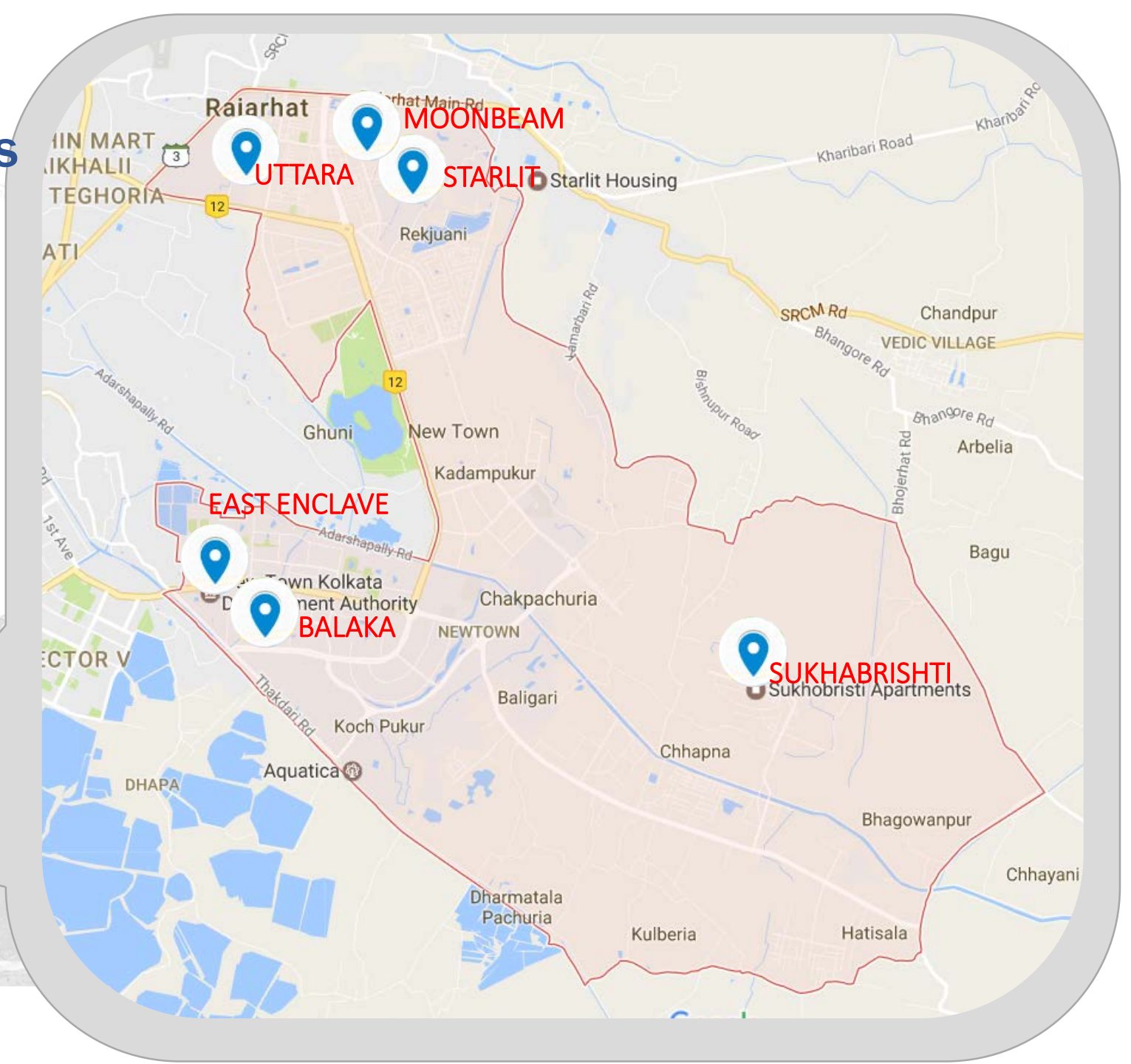
**Table 1**  
Average annual cooling degree days for the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the world.

Metropolitan area	Country	Population, million (2005)	CDD
1 <b>Madras</b>	India	6.9	3954
<b>Bangkok</b>	Thailand	6.6	3884
<b>Ho Chi Minh</b>	Vietnam	5.1	3745
4 <b>Ahmadabad</b>	India	5.1	3514
<b>Manila</b>	Philippines	10.7	3438
<b>Jakarta</b>	Indonesia	13.2	3390
7 <b>Mumbai</b>	India	18.2	3386
8 <b>Hyderabad</b>	India	6.1	3221
9 <b>Calcutta</b>	India	14.3	3211
<b>Karachi</b>	Pakistan	11.6	3136
11 <b>Delhi</b>	India	15.0	2881
<b>Lagos</b>	Nigeria	10.9	2653
<b>Dhaka</b>	Bangladesh	12.4	2560
<b>Miami</b>	USA	5.4	2423
<b>Rio de Janeiro</b>	Brazil	11.5	2401
16 <b>Bangalore</b>	India	6.5	2280
<b>Baghdad</b>	Iraq	5.9	2142
<b>Hong Kong</b>	China	7.0	2107
<b>Shenzhen</b>	China	7.2	2107
<b>Kinshasa</b>	Congo, DR	6.0	2098
<b>Guangzhou</b>	China	8.4	2072
<b>Cairo</b>	Egypt	11.1	1833
<b>Belo Horizonte</b>	Brazil	5.3	1654
<b>Lahore</b>	Pakistan	6.3	1309
<b>Tehran</b>	Iran	7.3	1282
<b>Wuhan</b>	China	7.1	1277
<b>Chongqing</b>	China	6.4	1189
<b>São Paulo</b>	Brazil	18.3	1187
<b>Osaka</b>	Japan	11.3	1180
<b>Shanghai</b>	China	14.5	1129
<b>Tianjin</b>	China	7.0	965
<b>Tokyo</b>	Japan	35.2	938
<b>Lima</b>	Peru	7.2	906
<b>Beijing</b>	China	10.7	840
<b>Los Angeles</b>	USA	12.3	837
<b>Madrid</b>	Spain	5.6	805
<b>Seoul</b>	Korea, South	9.6	746
<b>Philadelphia</b>	USA	5.4	686
<b>New York</b>	USA	18.7	639
<b>Istanbul</b>	Turkey	9.7	567
<b>Buenos Aires</b>	Argentina	12.6	512
<b>Chicago</b>	USA	8.8	461
<b>Santiago</b>	Chile	5.7	290
<b>Toronto</b>	Canada	5.3	259
<b>Mexico City</b>	Mexico	19.4	245
<b>Paris</b>	France	9.8	157
<b>Moscow</b>	Russia	10.7	138
<b>London</b>	United Kingdom	8.5	84
<b>Saint Petersburg</b>	Russia	5.3	73
<b>Bogotá</b>	Colombia	7.7	0

The entries are in decreasing order of cooling degree days.  
The metropolitan areas in developing countries are in **bold**.



# Cooling demand from household primary surveys in Rajarhat Township- an eastern metropolitan extension of Kolkata





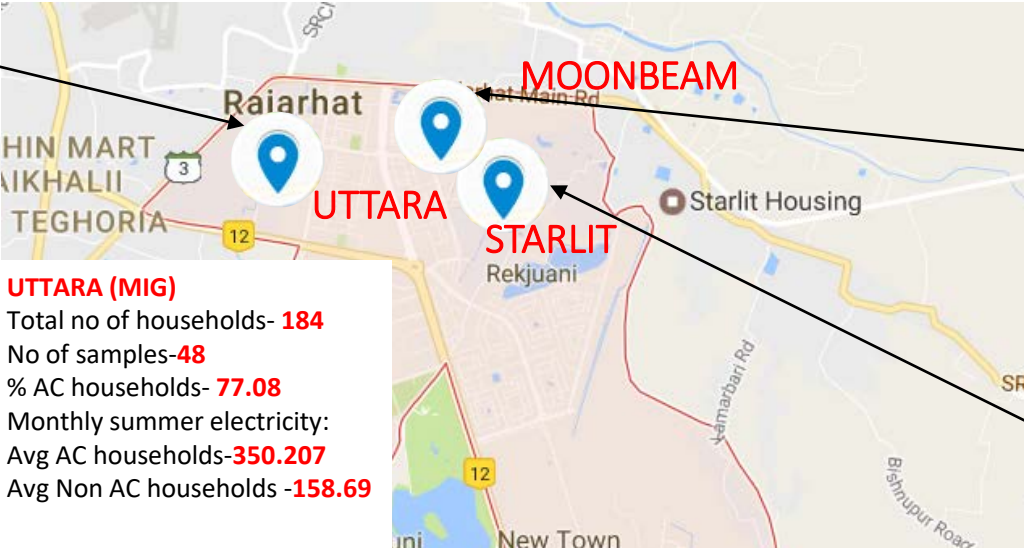
Monthly summer electricity  
billing data unit - kWh



**UTTARA (LIG)**  
Total no of households- **48**  
No of samples-**24**  
% AC households- **37.5**  
Monthly summer electricity:  
Avg AC households-**204.317**  
Avg Non AC households -**125.75**



UTTARA (MIG)



**UTTARA (MIG)**  
Total no of households- **184**  
No of samples-**48**  
% AC households- **77.08**  
Monthly summer electricity:  
Avg AC households-**350.207**  
Avg Non AC households -**158.69**

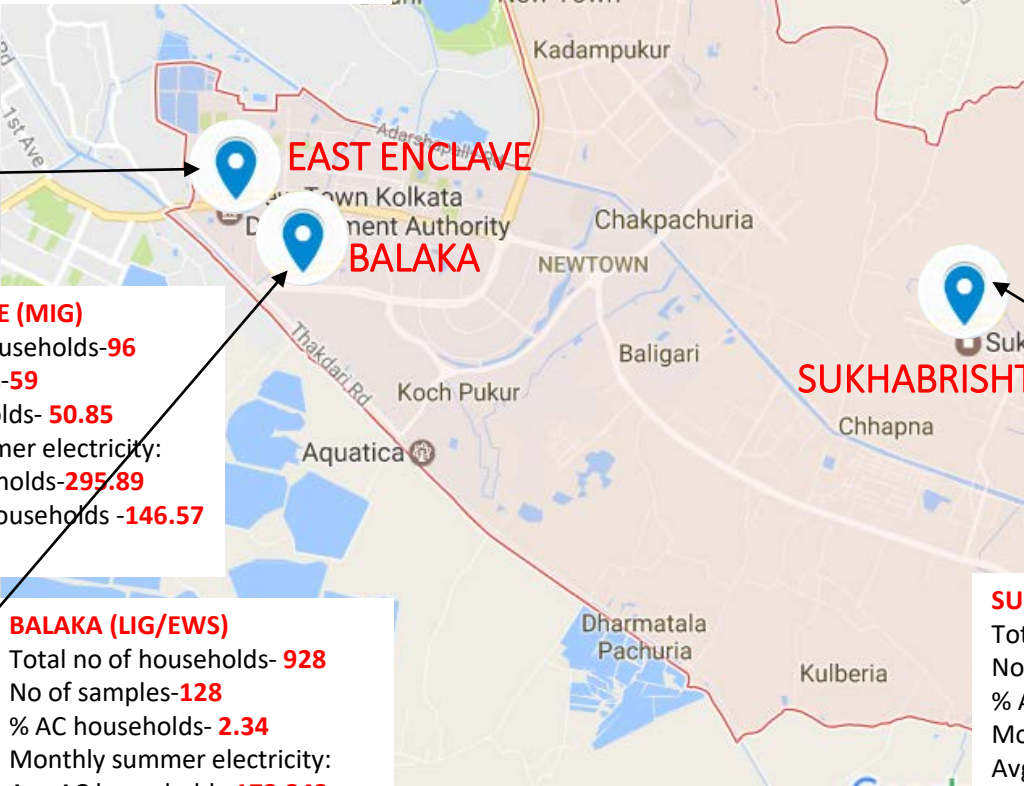


MOONBEAM (MIG)

**MOONBEAM (MIG)**  
Total no of households- **560**  
No of samples-**128**  
% AC households- **53.91**  
Monthly summer electricity:  
Avg AC households-**230.261**  
Avg Non AC households -**170.49**



EAST ENCLAVE (LIG & MIG)



**EAST ENCLAVE (MIG)**  
Total no of households-**96**  
No of samples-**59**  
% AC households- **50.85**  
Monthly summer electricity:  
Avg AC households-**295.89**  
Avg Non AC households -**146.57**

**EAST ENCLAVE (LIG)**  
Total no of households-**80**  
No of samples-**20**  
% AC households- **30**  
Monthly summer electricity:  
Avg AC households-**197.087**  
Avg Non AC households -**100.92**



STARLIT (LIG)

**STARLIT (LIG)**  
Total no of households- **608**  
No of samples-**62**  
% AC households- **4.84**  
Monthly summer electricity:  
Avg AC households-**182.21**  
Avg Non AC households -**96.843**



SUKHABRISHTI (LIG)

**SUKHABRISHTI (LIG)**  
Total no of households- **2118**  
No of samples-**141**  
% AC households- **12.42**  
Monthly summer electricity:  
Avg AC households-**159.297**  
Avg Non AC households -**87.877**



BALAKA (EWS/LIG)

**BALAKA (LIG/EWS)**  
Total no of households- **928**  
No of samples-**128**  
% AC households- **2.34**  
Monthly summer electricity:  
Avg AC households-**172.343**  
Avg Non AC households -**129.47**

**SUKHABRISHTI (MIG)**  
Total no of households- **3287**  
No of samples-**170**  
% AC households- **35.88**  
Monthly summer electricity:  
Avg AC households-**227.583**  
Avg Non AC households -**131.59**



SUKHABRISHTI (MIG)

# Results and deductions

Name of the housing complex in Rajarhat Township	Total no. of households	No. of households surveyed	% households with AC	Mean monthly energy consumption units (kWh) during peak summer in households with AC units	Mean monthly energy consumption units (kWh) during peak summer in households without AC units	Mean % increase in monthly energy consumption in household with AC units
MIG						
Sukhabrishti	3287	170	36	227.58	131.59	72.94
Moonbeam	560	128	54	230.26	170.49	35.06
East Enclave	96	59	51	295.89	146.57	101.87
Uttara	184	48	77	350.21	158.69	120.69
LIG						
Sukhabrishti	2118	161	12	159.30	87.877	81.27
Starlit	608	62	4	182.21	96.843	88.15
Balaka	928	128	2	172.34	129.47	33.11
East Enclave	80	20	30	197.09	100.92	95.28
Uttara	48	24	37	204.32	125.75	62.47



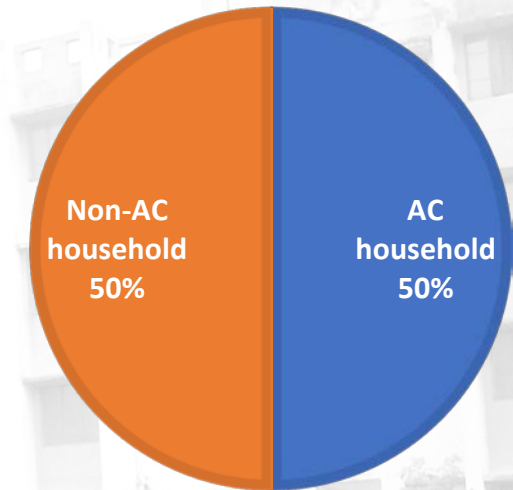
*Dataset for AC electricity consumption in LIG and MIG households from household primary surveys*



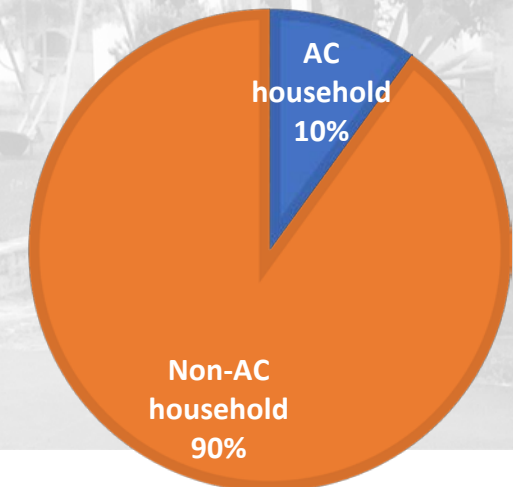
## Results and deductions

- 35-77% middle income group (MIG) housing units and 5-37% low income group (LIG) housing units were found to have air conditioning units. On average about **50% MIG** houses and **10% LIG** houses had ACs
- % increase in electricity billing varies between 35-120% for MIG and 33-95% in LIG, the average total increase being **80% excess electricity consumption**
- Implied current low AC saturation and **future growth in cooling demand**
- Implied **high operating cost** of individual room air conditioners

SURVEYED MIG HOUSING

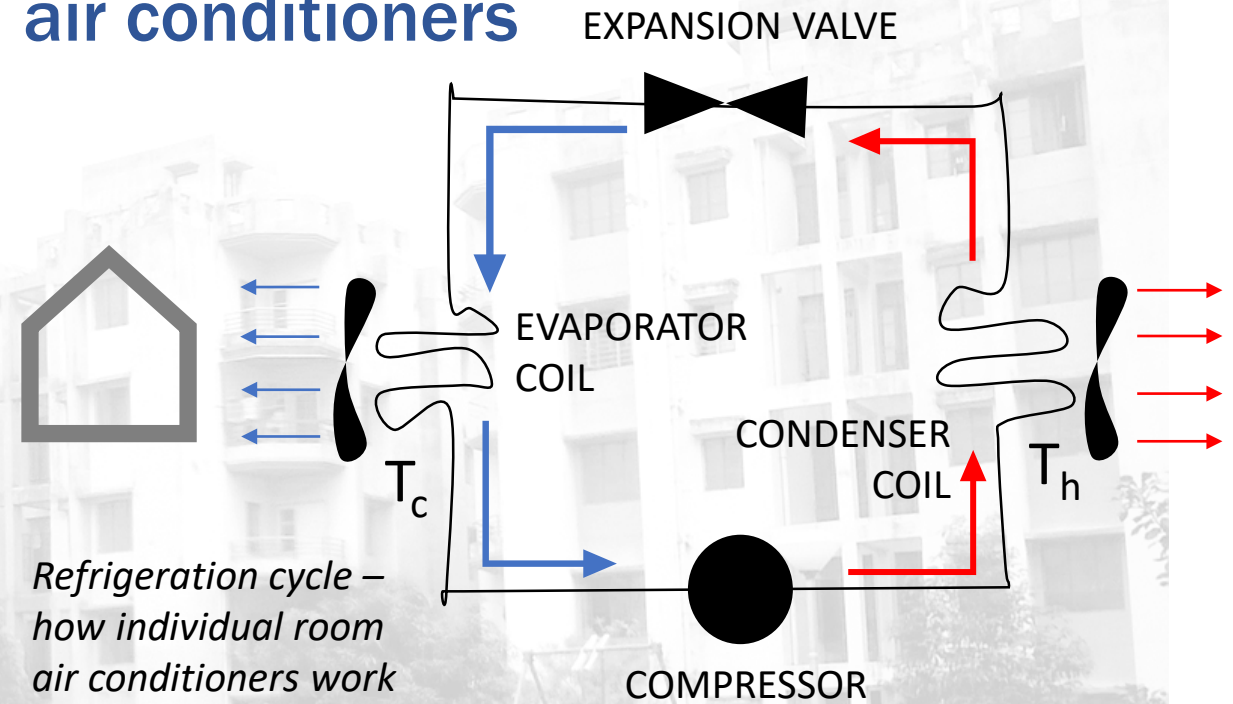


SURVEYED LIG HOUSING



## Existing scenario – individual room air conditioners

*Individual room air conditioner at Sukhabrishti mass housing complex*



- **Easily available**, consumer market driven
- **High operating costs** and AC electricity consumption – hence **low efficiency**
- Rejected heat from AC condensers giving rise to the '**stack effect**' – reduction of AC efficiency in upper floor

$$g = 0.5$$

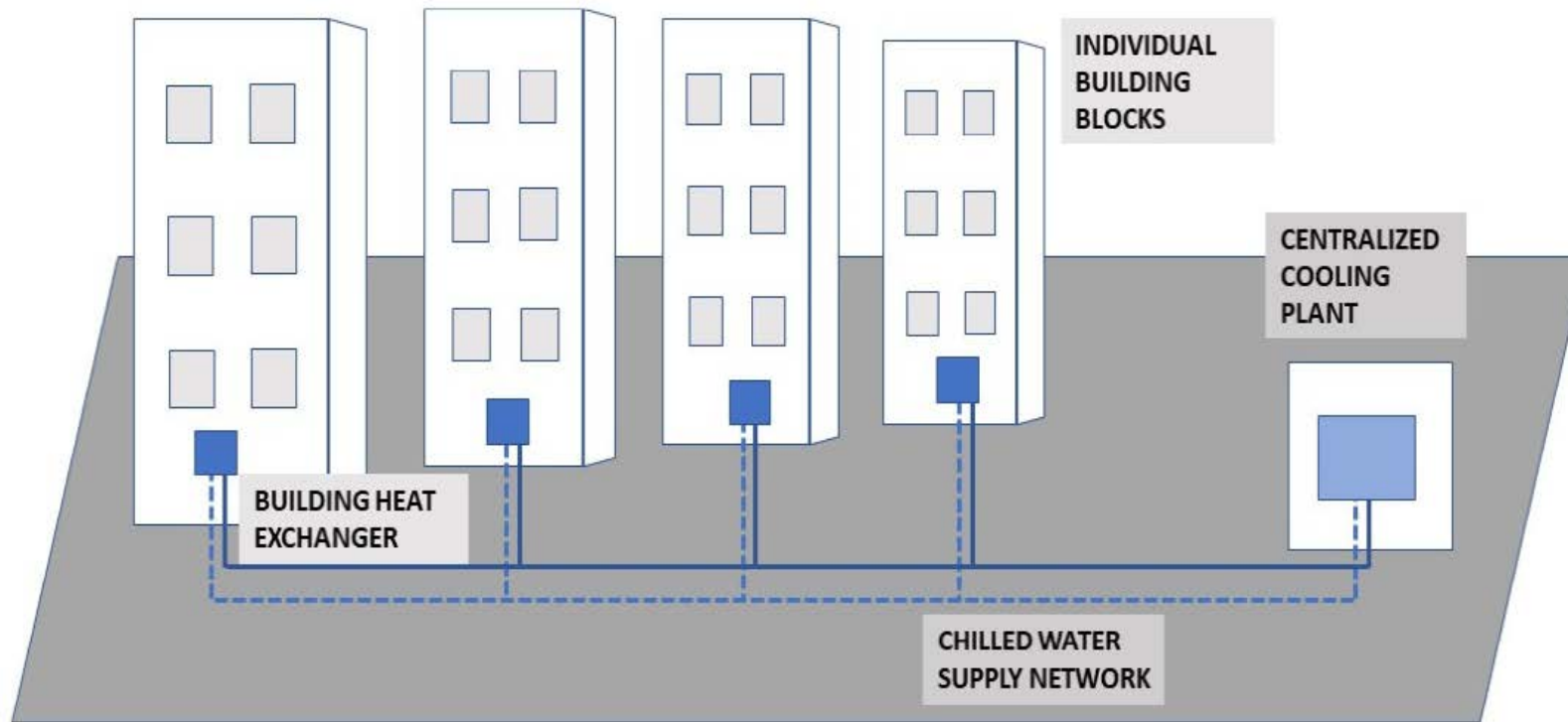
$$T_h = 55-60^{\circ}\text{C}$$

$$T_c = 8^{\circ}\text{C}$$

$$\text{COP} \sim 2.7-2.9$$



# Community scale cooling scenario – district cooling system



*Schematic view of a district cooling network (source: authors)*

- **Chilled water is distributed** from a centralized chiller plant to the housing complexes
- Consists of a central **chiller plant**, chilled water **supply network** and **building heat exchanger**
- **Centralized heat rejection** (assumed temperature at evaporative cooling tower  $T_h = 30-35^\circ\text{C}$ )
- Higher exergetic efficiency

$$g = 0.6$$

$$T_h = 30-35^\circ\text{C}$$

$$T_c = 8^\circ\text{C}$$

$$\text{COP} \sim 6.2-7.6$$

# Key benefits of centralized cooling

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY BENEFITS

- Higher COP and hence **lower cooling energy consumption**

## CLEAN ENERGY AND EMISSION REDUCTION BENEFITS

- **Easy integrability with renewable** energy sources in centralized chiller plant
- **Prevents GHG emissions** from **air conditioning refrigerants**

## FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- **Lower operating costs** in the long run
- **Shift of capital cost** of buying split units from individual to community level

## QUALITATIVE BENEFITS

- Centralized O&M makes it a **more reliable service**
- **Improves urban microclimate** by centralized heat rejection
- **Improves urban aesthetics** as individual units disrupt view of facades



# Institutional mechanisms for implementing district cooling

**Private  
Developer**

**Energy  
Servicing  
Companies  
(ESCO)**

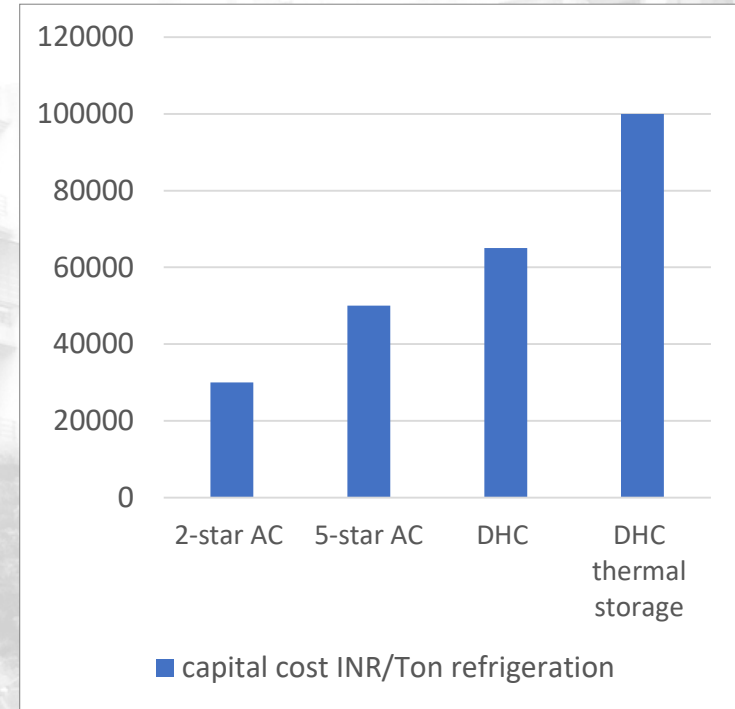
**Governmental  
support**

**International  
Actors**

# Private Developer as enabler of district cooling infrastructure

**Private developer as project financier for mass housing - usually in a PPP model**

- Potential actor for capturing cost effective energy efficient technologies in mass housing communities



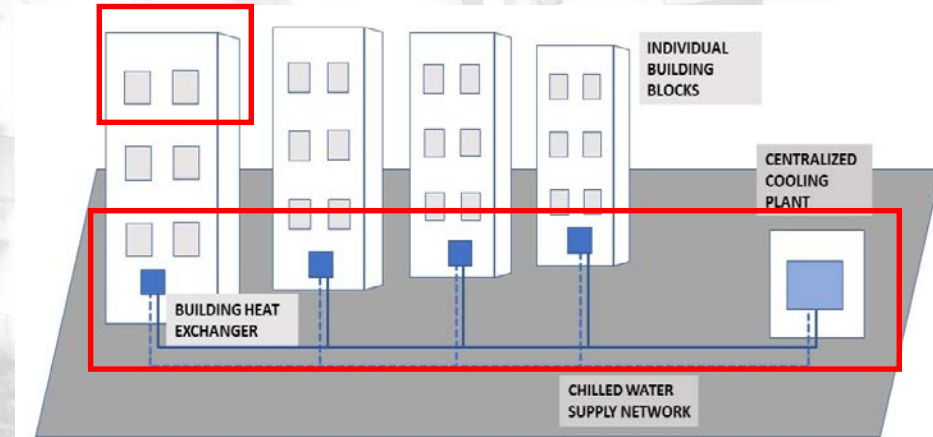
1ton DHC would be around 60000-70000 INR without thermal storage and around 100000 INR with thermal storage against 50000 INR for 5 star rated and 30000 INR for 2 star rated 1.5 ton AC



# Private Developer as enabler of district cooling infrastructure

A Build-Own-Operate (BOO) model for implementing district cooling as community level infrastructure by private developer

- Market survey revealed district cooling has **40-70% more upfront investment costs** as compared to individual units, however the **investment is shifted from individual to community level**
- District cooling constitutes only **4-8% construction cost** of an entire apartment complex- and could act as a subsequent source of revenue generation during the operating phase of the housing complex

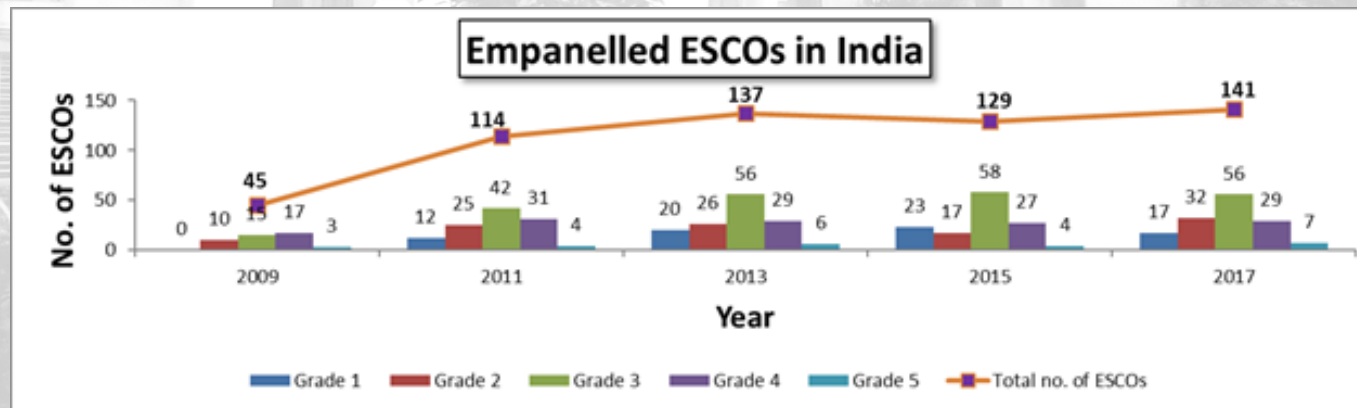


1500 INR/sq ft, 750-1500sqft >> 1125K-2250K INR capital cost with 60-100K INR AC construction cost

4-8% of construction cost

## Role of other enabling actors

- ❑ **ESCOs – enablers** of energy infrastructures, services offered are as follows



Offering energy services –design, retrofitting and implementation-after identifying energy saving opportunities

Source: Bureau of Energy Efficiency, India

# Role of other enabling actors

## ☐ Governmental support –

Incentives

Subsidies

Tax Exemptions

## ☐ International actors -

Project Financing

Increasing awareness among stakeholders



# SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

- **Rapid increase in household air cooler ownership** in India every year from National Sample Survey Organization -reported increase in 2% households from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011
- As observed from household primary surveys, 35-77% MIG housing units and 5-37% LIG housing units were found to have air conditioning units.- on average about **50% MIG houses and 10% LIG houses had ACs**
- percentage increase in electricity billing varies between 35-120% for MIG and 33-95% in LIG, the **average total increase being 80%**
- District cooling systems could decrease the summer monthly AC electricity consumption by **60-65%**
- Easy integrability with renewable energy sources, avoiding GHG emitting air conditioning refrigerants, lowering operating costs in long run, improving urban microclimate and urban aesthetics and overall QoL
- District cooling constitutes only **4-8% construction cost** of an entire apartment complex- and could act as a subsequent source of revenue generation during the occupancy phase of the housing complex for the **private developer** to invest in such community scale cooling infrastructures
- However district cooling technology comes with **challenges** of **high upfront investment costs** and the need for **high amount of cooling load** to be the feasible model for a 'smart community'

## Future work..

Quantifying the housing **density scale** in which district cooling can be profitable in residential neighbourhoods and identifying break-even point for profitability



### CASE STUDY HOUSING

#### Sukhabrishti Mass Housing Complex

Middle Income Housing (MIG)

Total MIG – 3287

35% households having ACs

Summer monthly average cooling demand  
each household- 298196-320285kWh  
(assuming COP range 2.7-2.9)





Special thanks to Prof. **Forrest Meggers**, my mentor and collaborator at the **CHAOS lab** at the **Andlinger Center for Energy and Environment** at **Princeton University** for introducing me in this area of low exergy community cooling during my **Fulbright exchange program** as a doctoral student from **IIT Kharagpur India** in 2017





**THANK YOU!**