Itron

Energy Forecasting Services

Decision Support to Drive Better Business Outcomes

Overview Brochure



Itron Forecasting Services help utilities improve financial, operational and planning decisions with accurate, data-driven forecasts. Using AMI data and proven forecasting methods, Itron provides daily sales and revenue tracking that helps utilities monitor financial performance against budget forecasts at the rate-class level.

For decades, Itron has helped energy companies understand and anticipate changes in energy demand, including the impacts of electrification, distributed energy resources (DERs), extreme weather, evolving customer behavior and policy-driven transformation. Itron combines industry-leading forecasting knowledge with innovative software solutions and services to deliver distinctive business intelligence and outcomes.

Today's forecasting environment is more dynamic than ever. Utilities must account for evolving load shapes, electrification, distributed generation, storage, managed electric vehicle (EV) charging, demand response and climate variability while maintaining confidence in financial, operational and long-term planning decisions.

Our customers tell us that Itron forecasting methods and solutions provide valuable perspective historical on observations, helping them to understand what happened and why, and clear visibility into the future, allowing them to plan with confidence and precision.

"Itron's expertise and software has improved our forecasting processes."
-Al Bass, Kansas City Power and Light

Our solutions address the full spectrum of energy forecasting needs, factoring in economic, technical, behavioral, climate and policy forces that shape demand for energy, including electrification, distributed energy resources (DERs), changing load shapes and increasingly granular planning requirements. Since the 1970s, we have built expertise in all aspects of forecasting, ranging from the very short term (five-minutes ahead) to the very long term (30-years ahead). This expertise enables Itron to deliver the outcomes needed to support a broad array of forecasting stakeholders and business users:

- For energy system operators, Itron improves real-time and day-ahead forecast accuracy so teams can operate more efficiently and dispatch resources with greater confidence.
- For financial analysts, Itron improves budget and revenue forecasts while strengthening the processes used to understand variances from budget.
- For long-term planners, Itron anticipates resource and grid needs in an increasingly complex future shaped by renewable generation, DERs, storage, electric vehicles (EVs), building electrification and changing customer adoption patterns.
- For energy suppliers, Itron anticipates customer portfolio requirements to reduce the cost of meeting energy obligations.

Our goal is to help utilities improve operations, reduce uncertainty and increase confidence that important decisions are grounded in business fundamentals and supported by solid data and analysis.

As utilities gain access to more granular data from AMI, SCADA, weather sources and DERs, forecasting processes must also evolve. Itron translates these data into actionable forecast insights that support corporate planning, distribution planning, operations and regulatory processes.

For utilities advancing DER management strategies, Itron forecasting insights complement solutions such as IntelliFLEX by improving visibility into DER adoption, localized load growth, and emerging grid constraints.



Through MetrixDER, Itron extends forecasting to transformer and service-point visibility, providing true demand, DER and net load insights to inform grid-edge operations, estimate load flexibility, and maximize DER hosting capacity.

Itron's forecasting software is backed by experts with deep experience in operational forecasting, financial forecasting and long-term planning. Our services help utilities modernize forecasting processes, improve model performance and apply forecast insights across corporate planning, distribution planning, operations, regulatory support and business decision-making.

OUR SERVICES

Itron has developed proven approaches and a clear understanding of industry best practices through decades of work with utilities, Independent System Operators (ISOs), Transmission System Operators (TSOs), and energy providers. Our flexible services support targeted model reviews, process improvements, training, special projects, ongoing support and full forecasting-function outsourcing.

- **Forecast Process Review.** Review forecasting processes, models, data inputs and results. Compare current practices to industry standards, identify gaps and provide recommendations for improvement.

"Itron takes the time to understand the details behind the forecast. Their responsiveness to our periodic requests is second-to none."
—Rob Bingel, Green Mountain Power

- **Forecast Process Update.** Implement or support implementation of recommended process improvements.
- **Support.** Provide analysis and advice on an as-needed basis. This often follows a forecast process update project.
- **Project Work.** Serve as an extension of staff to perform specific analysis tasks and support special projects.
- **Training.** Web-based or on-site training on forecast methods, analysis methods, and software usage.
- **Forecast Outsourcing.** Provide expert services to perform all aspects of the forecasting process.

"Outsourcing the forecasting process to Itron has greatly improved visibility and confidence in the forecast."
—Mark Haddad, City of Redding

- **Rate Case Support.** Provide written and live testimony to regulatory authorities in support of forecasts and forecast processes.



FINANCIAL FORECASTING SERVICES

Most utilities follow annual forecasting cycles combined with monthly analysis processes. Forecasts anticipate changes in energy-use patterns and the resulting revenues, while analysis processes look backward to explain the most recent results and improve accuracy going forward. Itron financial forecasting services improve the following processes.

- Budget forecasting for customers, sales, revenues and peak loads
- Weather normalization of monthly energy and billing determinants
- Monthly variance analysis to isolate sources of variance between budget forecasts and actual outcomes
- Daily tracking against forecasted levels to improve management visibility
- Long-run forecast of customers, sales, peaks, and hourly loads



LONG-TERM FORECASTING SERVICES

Itron has unmatched expertise and experience in long-term energy forecasting using statistical and end-use models. We provide data products and services to help the industry understand what has changed at the end-use level and how it will change in the future. Our focus is on understanding what makes the meter spin, how that changes over time and how it can affect utility planning and business decisions.

MetrixDx Distribution Forecasting

MetrixDx extends Itron's long-term forecasting expertise to the distribution grid, helping utilities understand how much load is coming, where it will appear and how it may reshape the grid hour by hour and circuit by circuit. The solution connects system-wide projections with hourly, circuit-level forecasts, creating a transparent, auditable foundation for engineering, corporate planning, regulatory teams and capital investment decisions.

- Develop hourly, circuit-level forecasts using cleansed AMI and SCADA data, weather scenarios, DER adoption and customer growth assumptions.
- Model EVs, solar PV, battery storage, building electrification, energy efficiency and load transfers in an integrated framework that shows how each driver reshapes future load on each circuit.
- Support scenario planning, regulatory filings and capital investment decisions with transparent, auditable outputs that show when and where distribution-grid constraints may emerge.
- MetrixDx Forecast Waterfall creates a clear audit trail by showing how customer growth, DERs, electrification, energy efficiency, demand response and planned load transfers contribute to future load changes.

Energy Forecasting Group (EFG)

This subscription service provides participants with a valuable stream of regional data for end-use saturation and efficiency. Both history and forecasts are provided. EFG members represent a significant share of electricity and natural gas delivered in North America. The Annual Energy Forecasting/EFG Meeting provides forecasters with an opportunity to stay current on industry trends and engage with peers.

"A wonderful conference! Every year I think it can't get any better but it does."
—Joanna Cucchi, City of Roseville

"The meeting was fantastic! The ACES team enjoyed the content and networking with our members and the other utilities."
—Erik Miller, ACES

Statistically Adjusted End-Use Models (SAE)

This approach was pioneered by Itron to combine the strengths of statistical modeling with the information content of end-use analysis. The approach builds on the data available through the EFG. The result is a statistical model that is calibrated to local data and explicitly accounts for important changes in lighting, heating, cooling and other end uses, as well as saturation of new technologies such as rooftop solar, EVs, battery storage and building electrification.

"Itron methods have helped us understand changes in load growth and communicate these changes to management."
—Dennis Kelter, Commonwealth Edison

SHORT-TERM FORECASTING SERVICES

Efficient operations require accurate short-term forecasts. Itron is at the forefront of statistical and machine learning modeling approaches and is widely recognized as a leader in this area. MetrixIDR is used by transmission system operators and energy companies worldwide, automates and tracks the entire forecasting process. Itron services in short-term forecasting include:

- **Process Improvement.** Itron helps define business and forecasting requirements, providing a blueprint for system implementation.
- **System Implementation.** Itron configures and implements the Demand Forecasting System to support advanced modeling capabilities that can be optimized for utility data. Itron also trains teams to operate, maintain and expand the system.
- **Model Development and Tuning.** Drawing on its modeling expertise, Itron builds and reviews forecasting models to optimize results and provide accurate and reliable forecasts. For electricity, this includes incorporating the impacts of solar PV generation, DER adoption, battery storage and changing load patterns.

Short-Term Forecast as a Service

The full capabilities of the Itron Demand Forecasting System are also available through a cloud-based forecasting service running on Microsoft Azure. With this approach, Itron supports system and model maintenance and monitoring so utilities can access proven short-term forecasting capabilities without acquiring hardware or operating the system themselves.

For more information please contact us at: forecasting@itron.com or visit itron.com/forecasting



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We create a more resourceful world

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