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The U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) research is available for public consumption. This forum will explore NREL's cutting edge planning tools, with a focus on the System Advisor Model. The key takeaways from this session were:

- 1) Introduction to the System Advisor Model including the various technologies (PV, CSP, Wind, Geothermal) and finance models (residential, commercial, utility, PPA, etc.) that are represented within this model.
- 2) Brief history of the SAM model and the typical uses and users of the model today.
- 3) Introduction to the advanced features of SAM including accessing the NREL utility rate database, battery storage combined with PV, stochastic modeling, parametric modeling and optimization.
- 4) The knowledge that there are a variety of methods to interact with SAM beyond the desktop version including scripting, a software development kit with a variety of "Wrappers" (including iOS and Android), and (most recently) the open sourcing of the SAM code so that companies and other research organizations can make use of specific sections of code.