

# Storms are coming

The power of predictive analytics for storm response, restoration, and outage communications



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# We understand utilities because we've made them our business for more than 35 years.



## Research and Advisory

Using market research data, expert analysis, and industry experience, we help utilities put their customers first and meet their business objectives

## Data Science

Applying predictive data science to help electric and gas utilities make data-driven decisions that improve their bottom line and increase customer satisfaction

## Solution Services

Advancing business and technology solutions that strategically enhance operations for utilities



# Weather's impact on reliability, customers



## Weather and outages

- Largest driver of customer interruptions
- Account for 50% to 60% of US power interruptions



## Key drivers of customer satisfaction

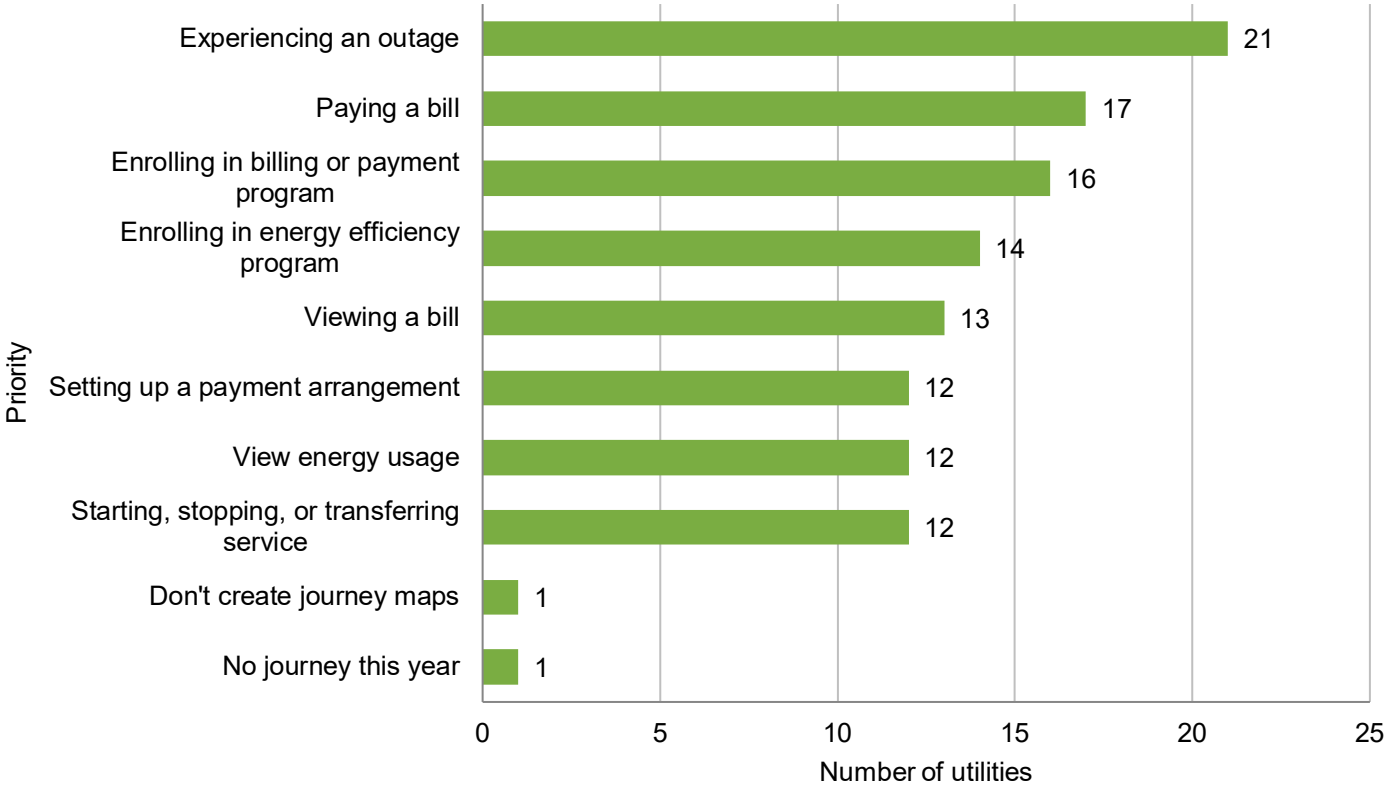
- Outage frequency and duration
- Timeliness, accuracy, and convenience of information during an outage



## Foundations of improved reliability and customer experience

- Understanding historic impacts of weather
- Accurately predicting and accounting for future impacts

# Outage customer experience (CX) is top utility priority in 2023



© E Source (2022 Customer Experience Survey). **Base:** n = 32 utilities. **Question S3\_6:** Which customer journeys is your utility focused on improving in the coming year? Select all that apply. **Note:** We feature only the top eight journeys in this chart.

Utility CX, distribution, and field operations departments often work separately, though improving reliability, decreasing outages, and increasing customer satisfaction are shared objectives.

# Our experience crosses utility enterprise

Development and application of data science models to streamline outage prediction systems, optimize crew allocation and scheduling, and prioritize vegetation management and undergrounding



**Distribution operations**

Collaborative and targeted change management strategies to help ensure that employees have proficiency and desire to adopt new practices



**Field operations**

**Customer experience & operations**



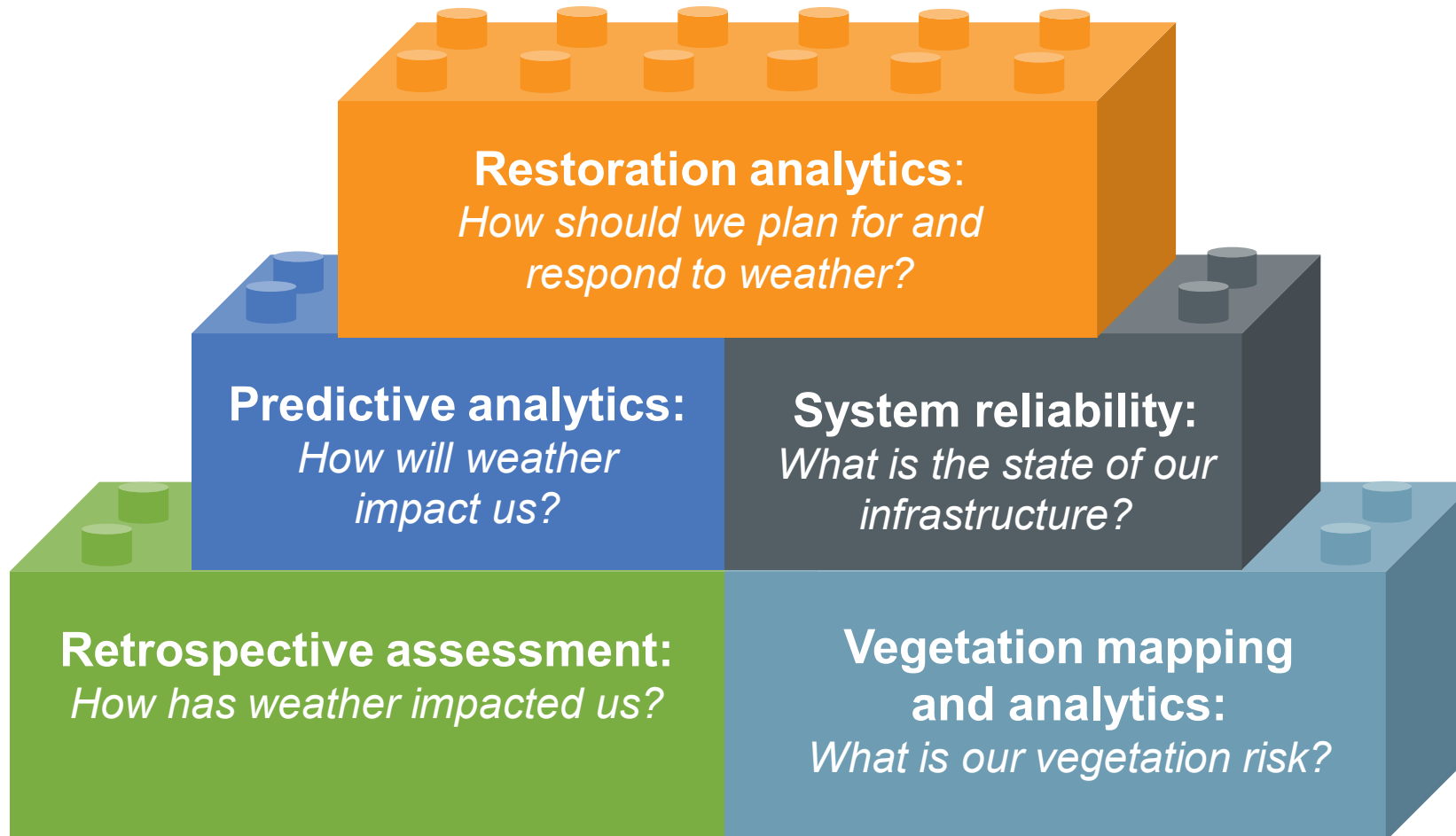
CX strategy development and benchmarking, including journey mapping and primary market research for vegetation management and outage experience



# Weather and outage analytics



# Building blocks to improved analytical results

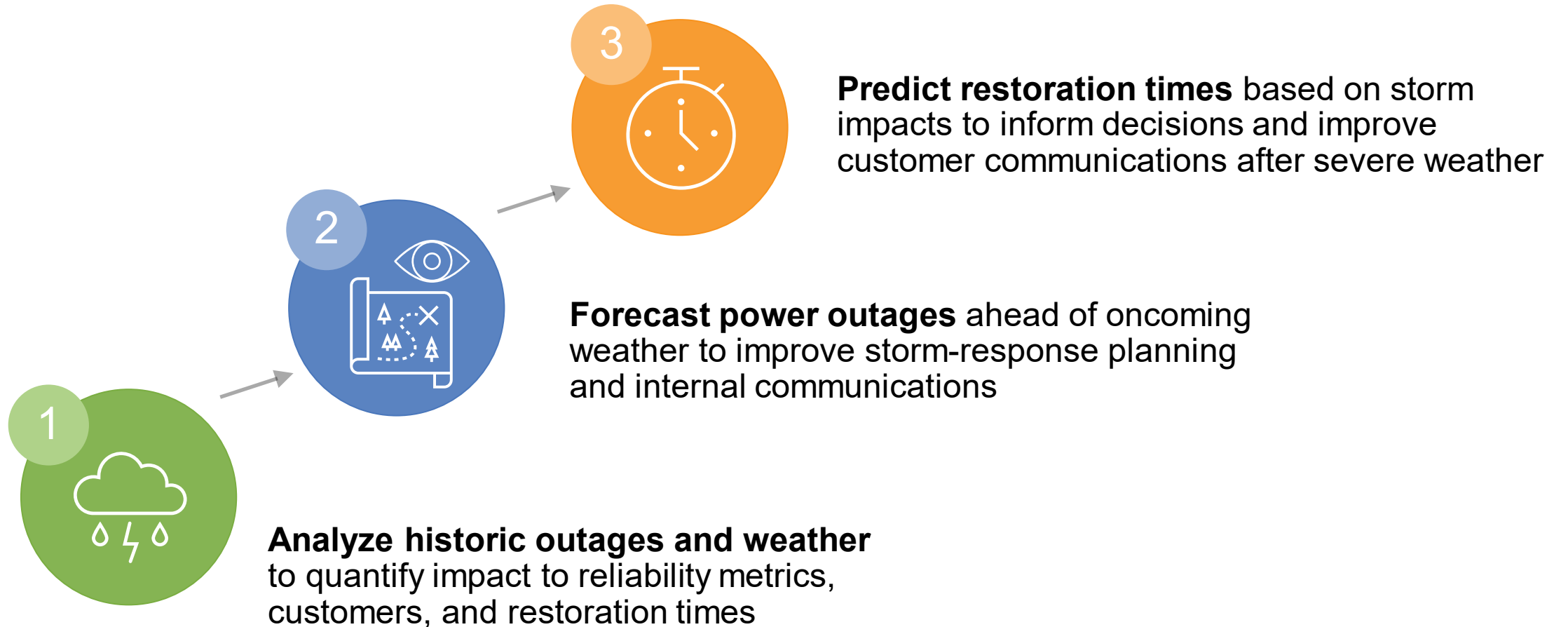


# E Source results

- 20% more accurate outage predictions compared to utility's previous method three days ahead of a storm, and 30% more accurate one day ahead
- Significantly less variability in outage predictions in days leading up to storm events
- Security of objective, data-backed estimated times of restoration (ETR) based on available personnel and outage incidents



# E Source weather and outage analytics approach

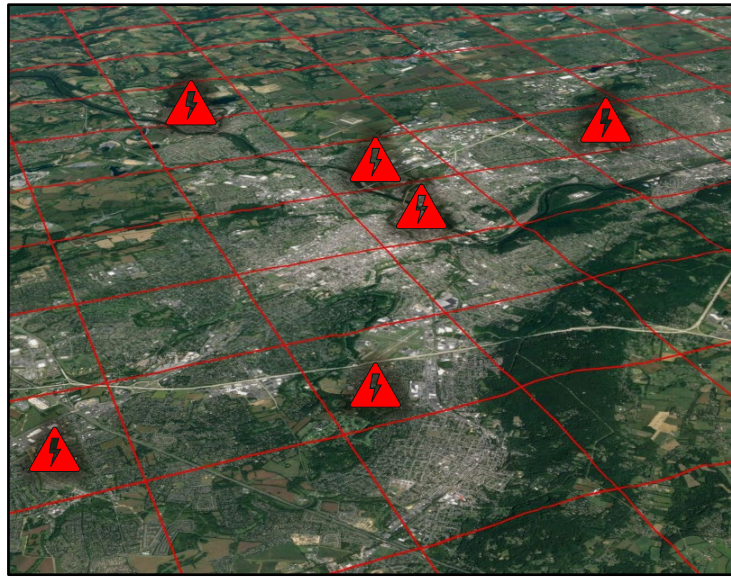


# Probing space and time effects



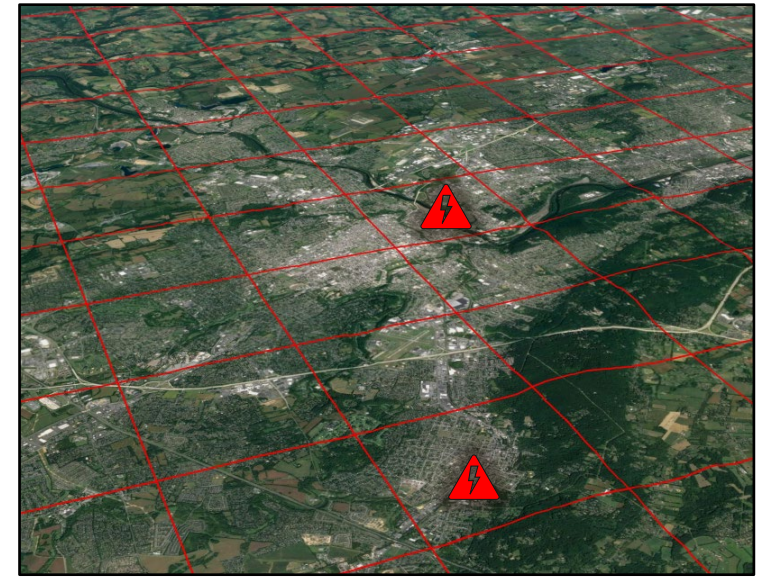
$t_1$

...



$t_2$

...



$t_n$

Each space-time unit can be defined by:

- Count of outages
- Temporal effects (e.g., forecasted weather, seasonality)
- Spatial effects (e.g., vegetation and infrastructure)

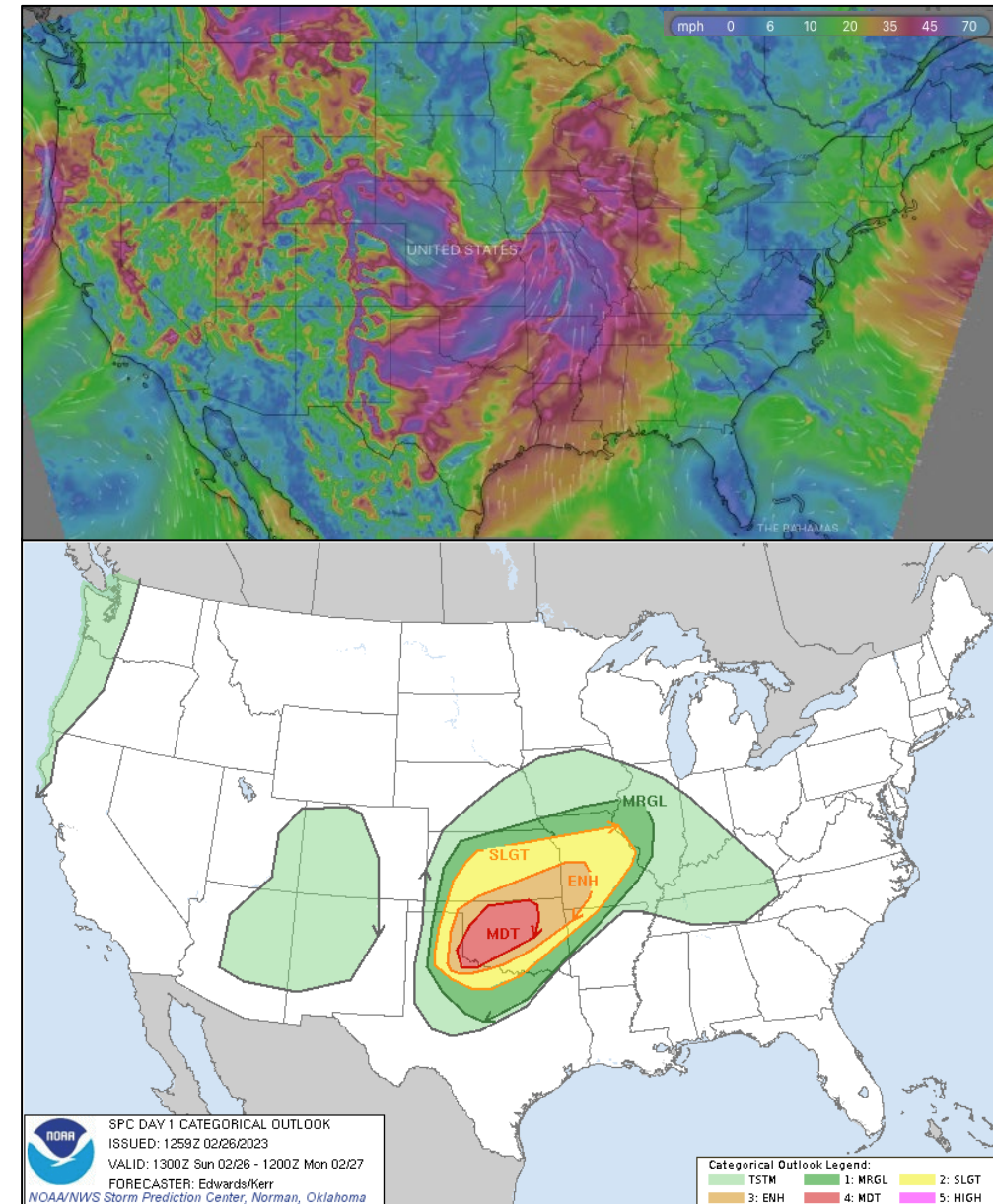
# Comprehensive data sources

We bring together disparate data sources capturing key mechanistic effects

Mechanism	Data source
Current weather conditions	Weather forecasts
Meteorological threats	Storm Prediction Center convective threats
Preceding weather conditions	Recent observational and forecast data
Vegetation abundance and risk	E Source tree canopy and outage analytics
Infrastructure exposure	Conductor and asset locational and attribute data
Accessibility	Land use, slope, other geospatial attributes
Major system upgrades	Dropout reclosers, spacer cables, feeders / segments moved underground
System at risk	Preceding permanent and momentary outages

# Weather forecast data

- Numerical Weather Prediction model forecasts updated hourly
- We compile historical forecasts for training outage prediction models
  - Hourly resolution out to multiple days
  - Spatial resolution of up to 3 kilometers
  - Millions to billions of records ...
    - Big data problem!
  - Data is blended from multiple sources with varying resolutions





# E Source tree canopy mapping



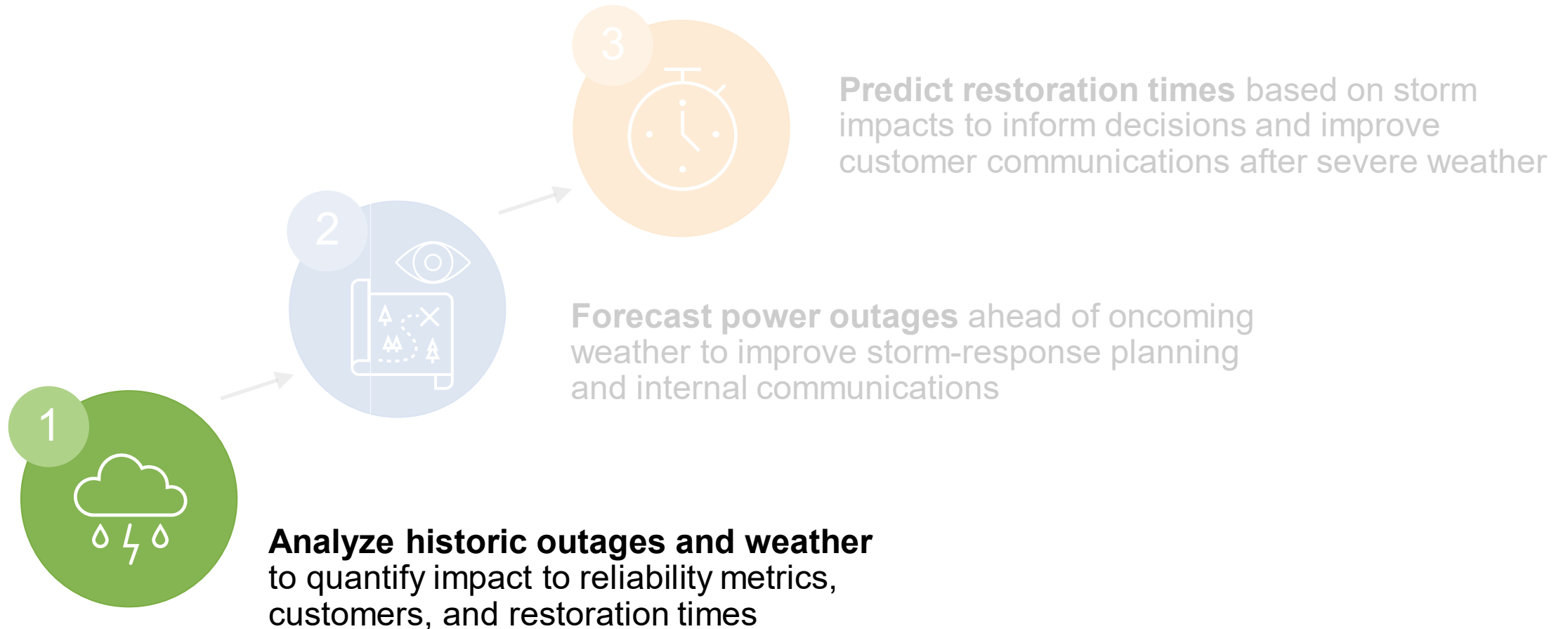
Remote sensing analytics to map tree cover and tree heights in proximity to distribution conductor

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Vegetation and weather-induced outages are inherently correlated

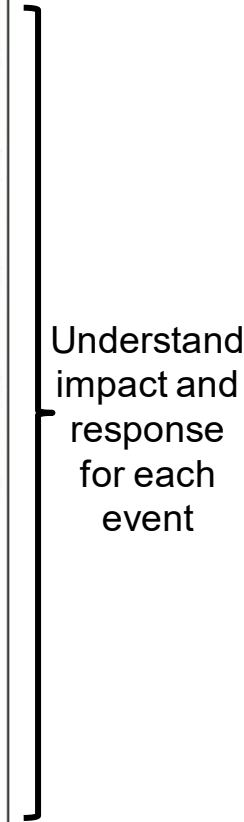
# E Source weather and outage analytics approach



# Retrospective assessment: Monitoring



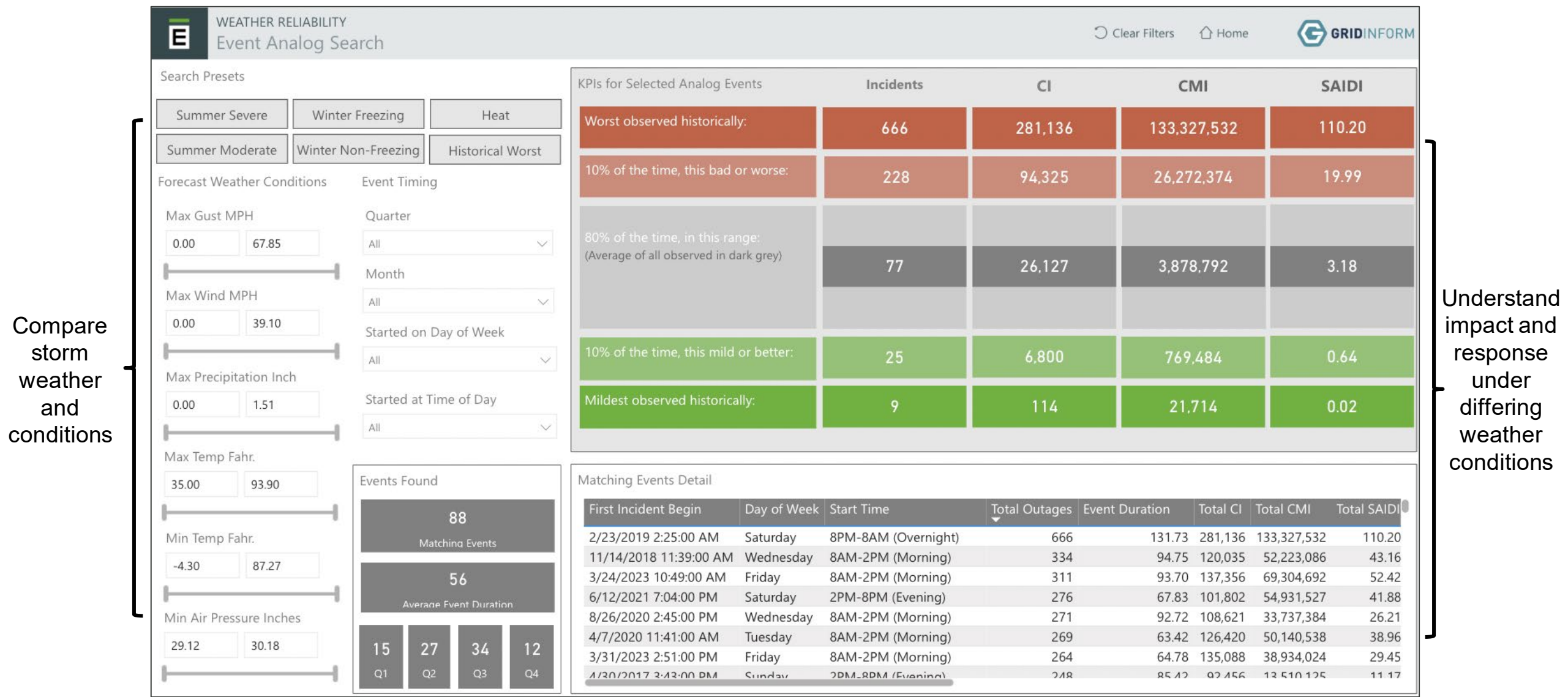
# Retrospective assessment: Storm view



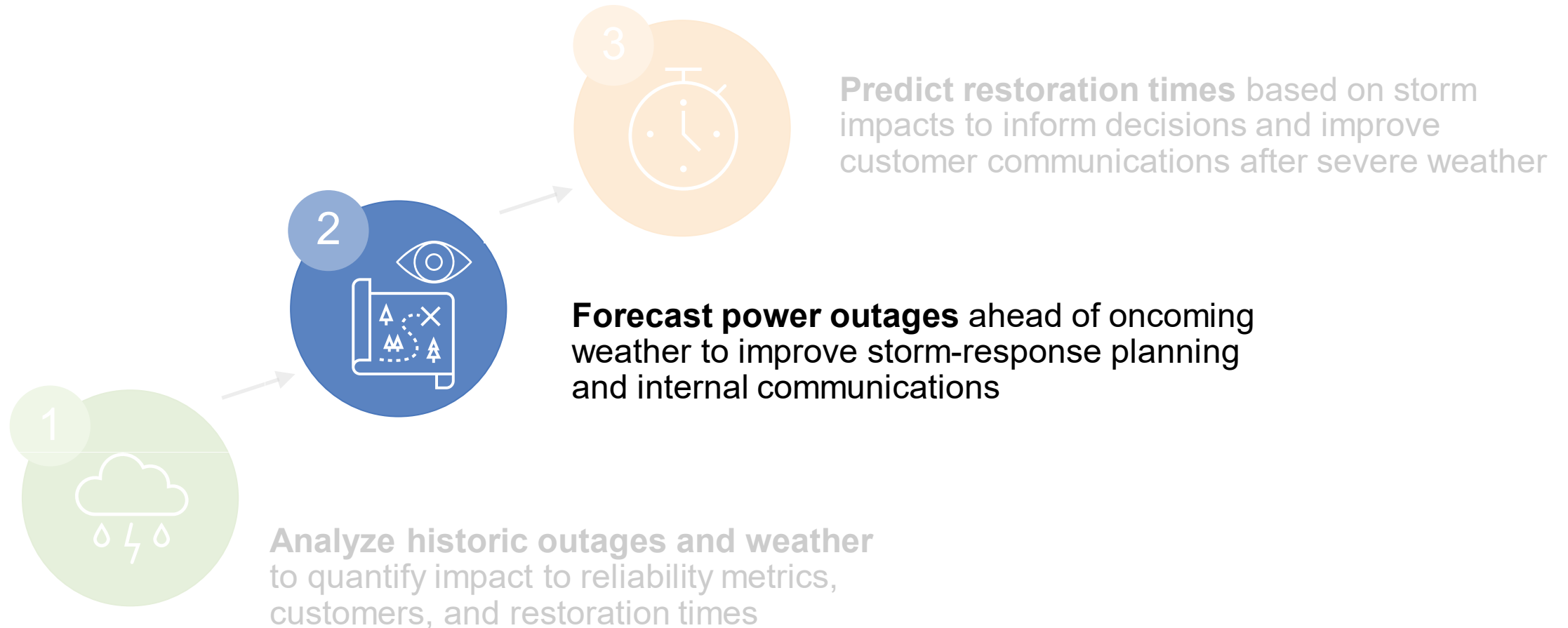
Understand  
impact and  
response  
for each  
event



# Retrospective assessment: Analog search



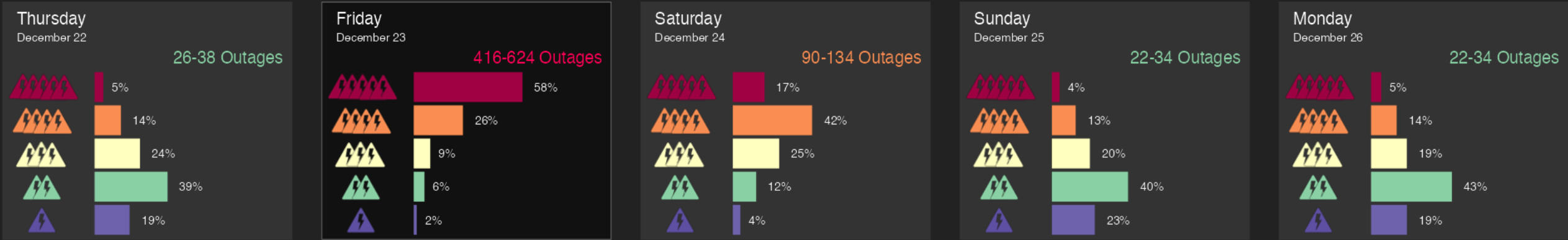
# E Source weather and outage analytics approach



# Predictive analytics: Days ahead

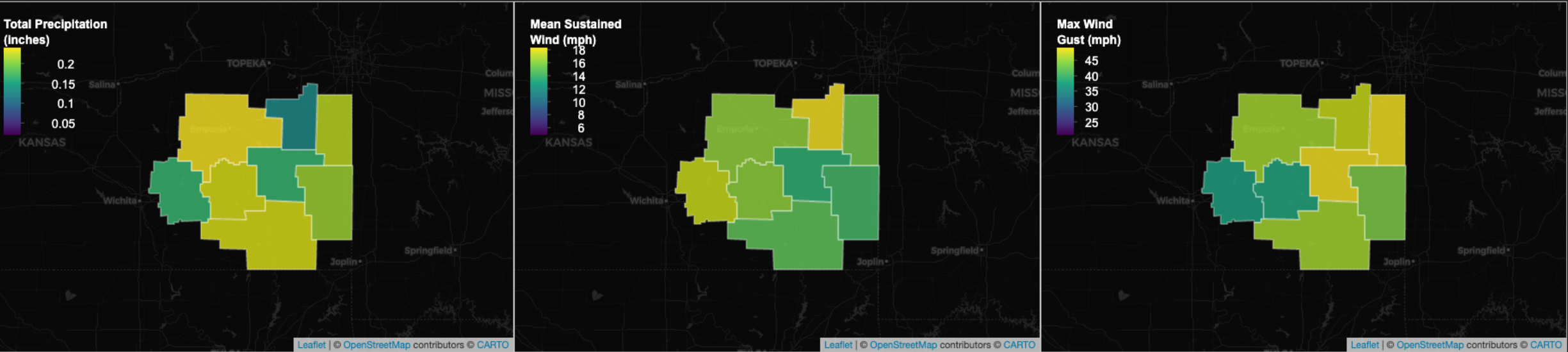
As of 3:00 PM Thursday, December 22nd

Hourly **Daily**



## Spatial aggregates of forecasted weather for Friday

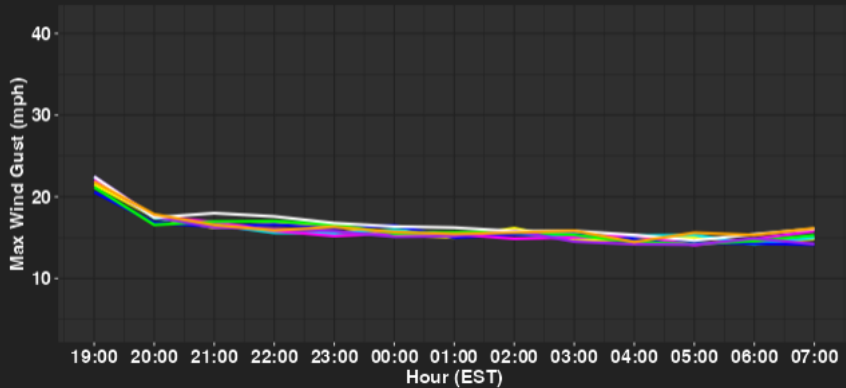
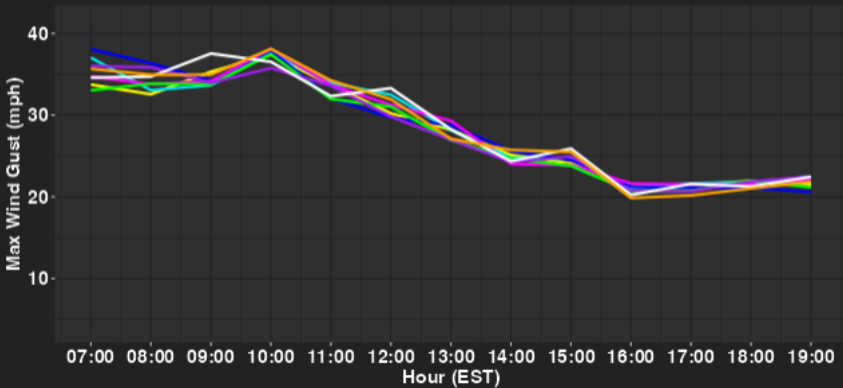
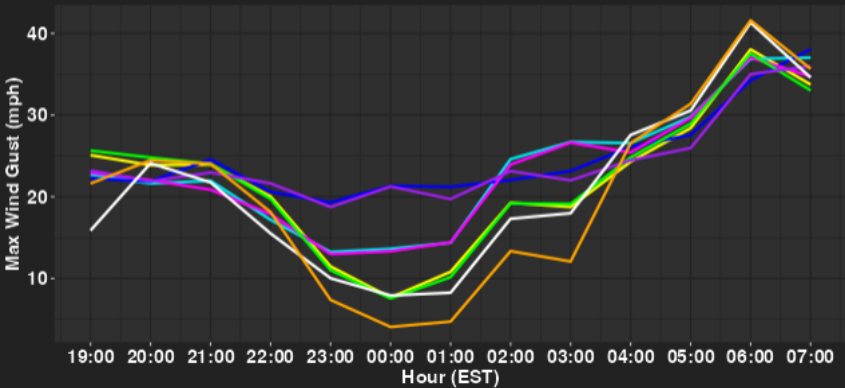
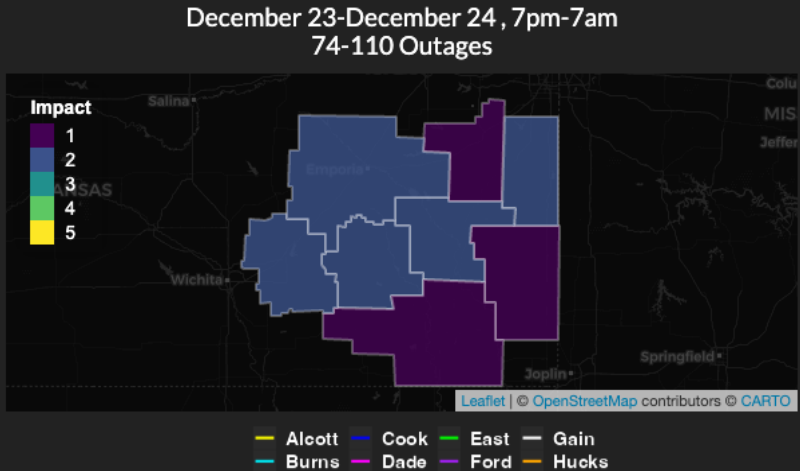
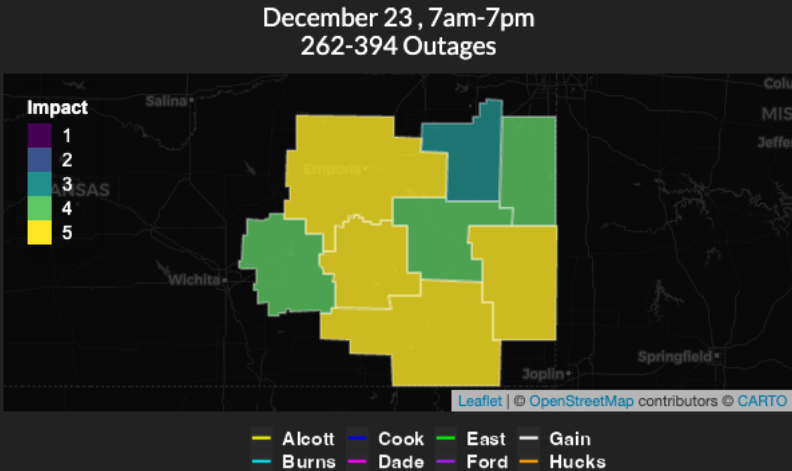
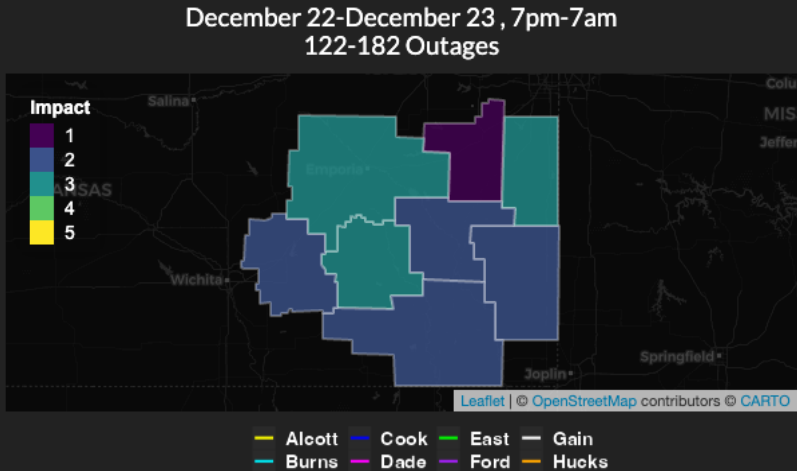
Select Weather Features



As of 3:00 PM Thursday, December 22nd

Hourly Daily

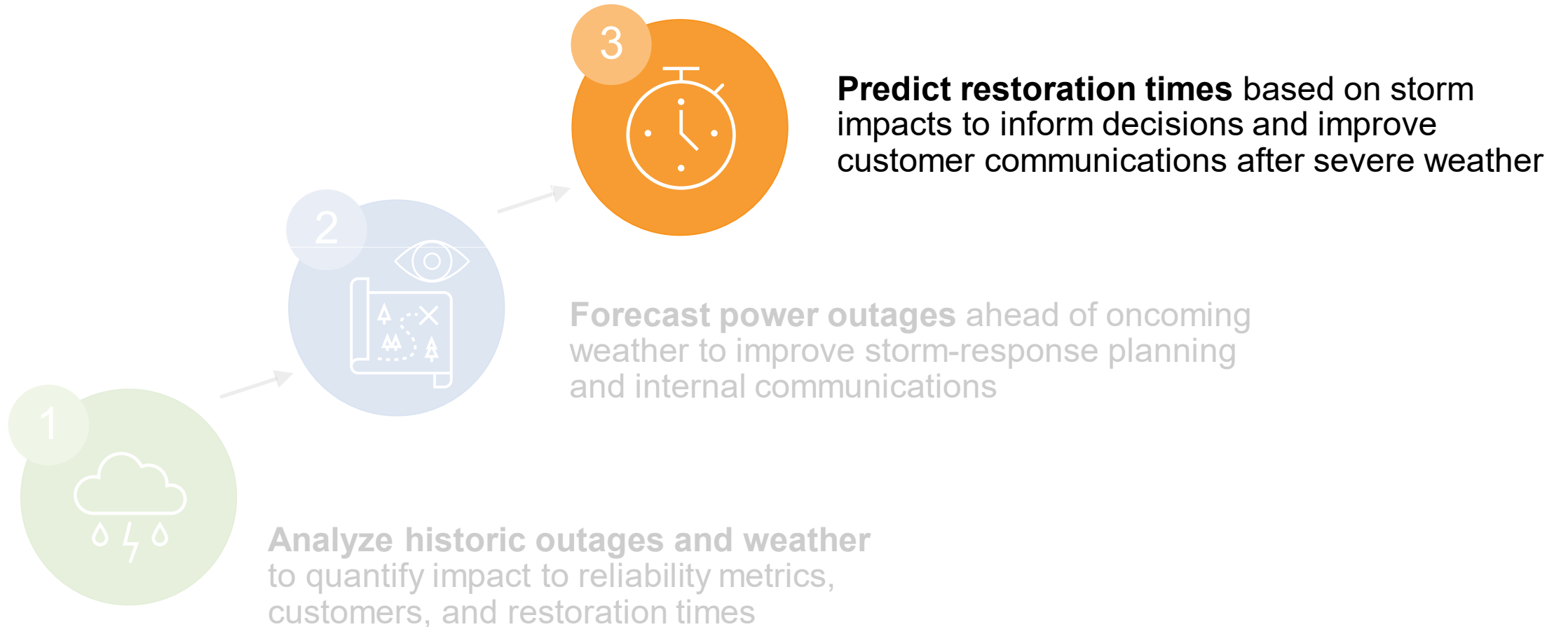
458-686 Outages  
in the next 36 hours



Max Wind Gust (mph)



# E Source weather and outage analytics approach



# Restoration analytics: Planning view

As of December 23, 6:30 AM

Severe Weather Start Time : December 23, 2:30 AM

	Active Incidents	Active Customer Outages	Resident Company Crew	Resident Contractor Crew	Non-Resident Crew	Total Resources	Projected ETR	Targeted ETR	Percent Restored
*Service Center 1	*56	*2,241	62	11	0	73	12-25 16:00	12-25 08:00	0%
Service Center 2	68	2,652	65	13	0	78	12-25 17:30	12-25 08:00	2%
Service Center 3	22	990	58	8	0	66	12-24 20:00	12-25 08:00	12%
*Service Center 4	*31	*1,488	72	19	0	91	12-25 03:00	12-25 08:00	7%
*Service Center 5	*82	*3,116	67	15	0	82	12-25 21:30	12-25 08:00	3%
	*259	*10,487	324	66	0	390	12-25 21:30	12-25 08:00	4%
*Severe Weather is still affecting this area, ETRs may change									

- ON

Enable manual edits to crew allocation
- OFF

Auto-adjust crew allocation to achieve targeted ETR
- OFF

Optimize current crew allocation to achieve earliest system-wide ETR

13.5 Hours Behind  
targeted ETR  
given current crew allocation

# Using analytics to improve storm response and customer experience

Analytical suite spans full timeline of storm response



## Before storm

Use weather to forecast outages, predict area-specific impacts, stage resources, and estimate ETRs days in advance



## During storm

Use a combination of forecasted and actual outages and crews to predict ETRs while storm is active

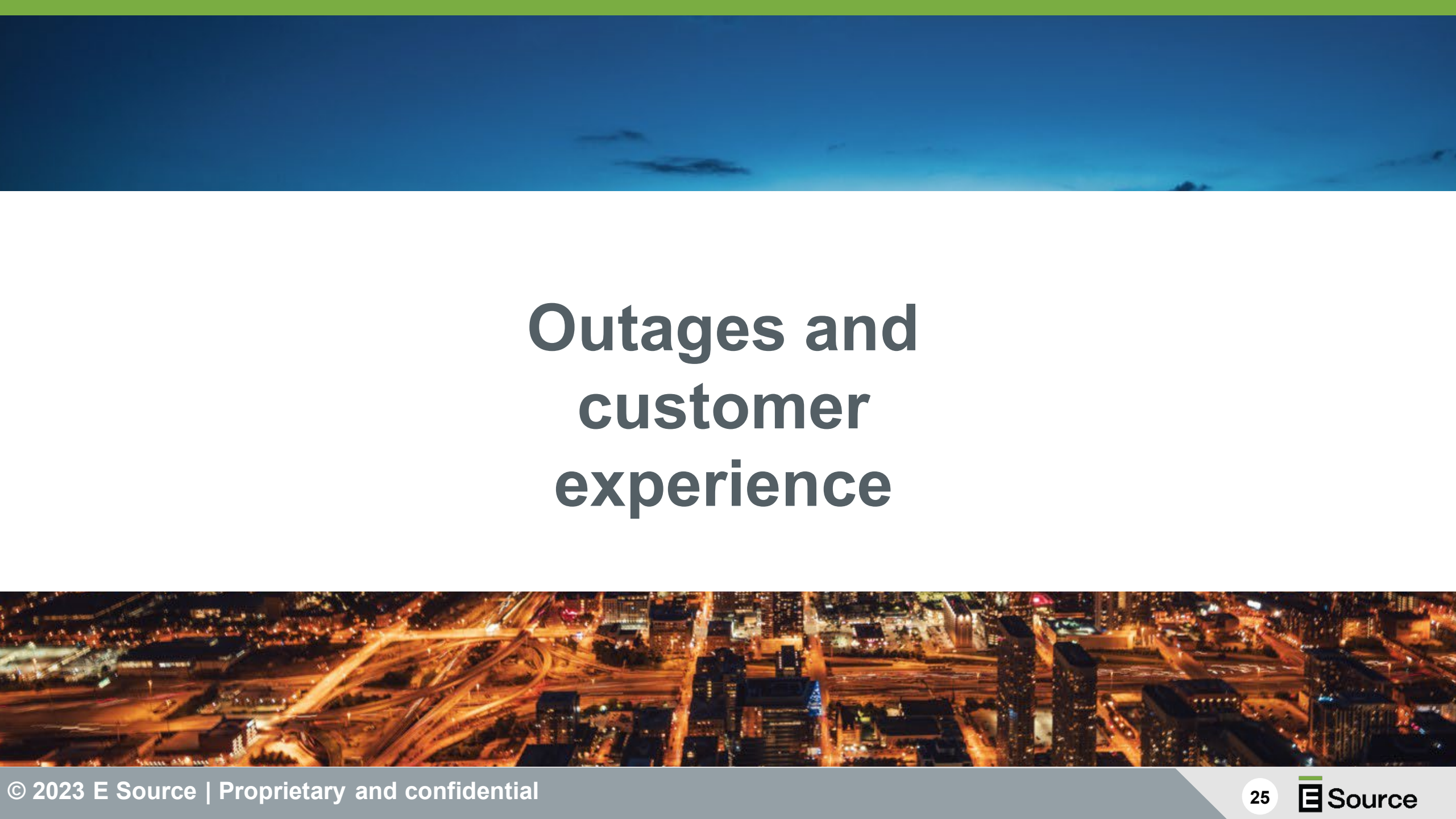


## After storm

Use actual outage impacts and available crews to estimate ETRs, or estimate crews needed to meet ETR goals after the storm



**E Source restoration analytics enable optimal support for planning, monitoring, and communication from days ahead of storm impact until the last customer is restored.**

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half shows a clear, deep blue sky. The bottom half is a wide, panoramic aerial photograph of a city at night. On the left side of the city view, a complex multi-level highway interchange is visible, with light trails from cars. To the right of the interchange, several tall skyscrapers are illuminated, their lights reflecting on the surrounding urban landscape. The overall scene is a vibrant, high-angle view of a major metropolitan area.

# Outages and customer experience



# Reliability is key driver of overall customer satisfaction



© E Source. **Base:** n = 4,472 electric, gas, and water customers from Georgia, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Missouri, California, Arizona, and Arkansas.

# Reliability is key driver of overall customer satisfaction

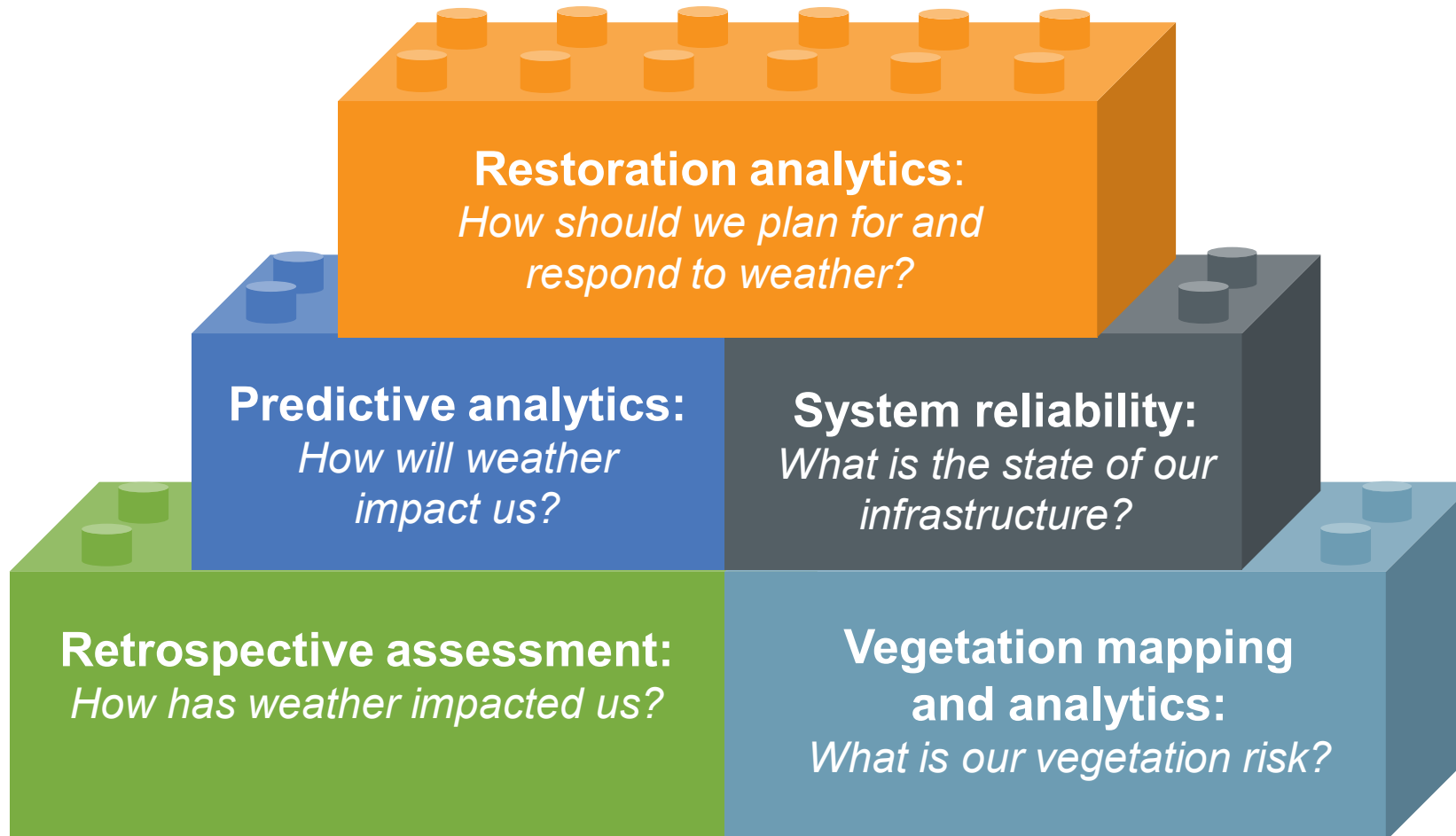
## Key drivers of reliability perception:

- Frequency and duration of outages
- Accuracy, timeliness, and convenience of communications *during* an outage
- Vegetation management practices
- Grid investment practices (hardening, resiliency, etc.)

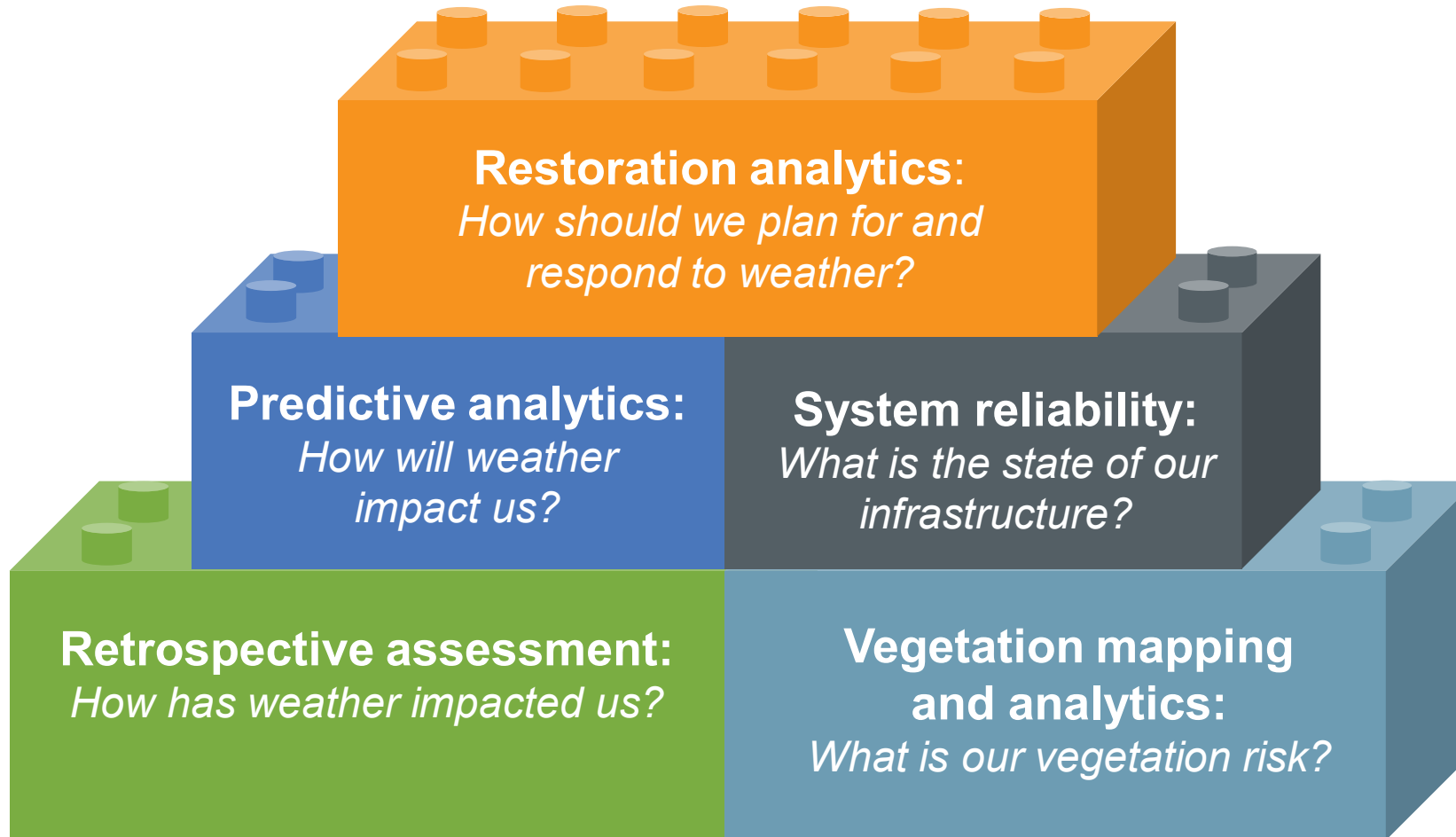


© E Source. **Base:** n = 4,472 electric, gas, and water customers from Georgia, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Missouri, California, Arizona, and Arkansas.

# Building blocks to improved analytical results

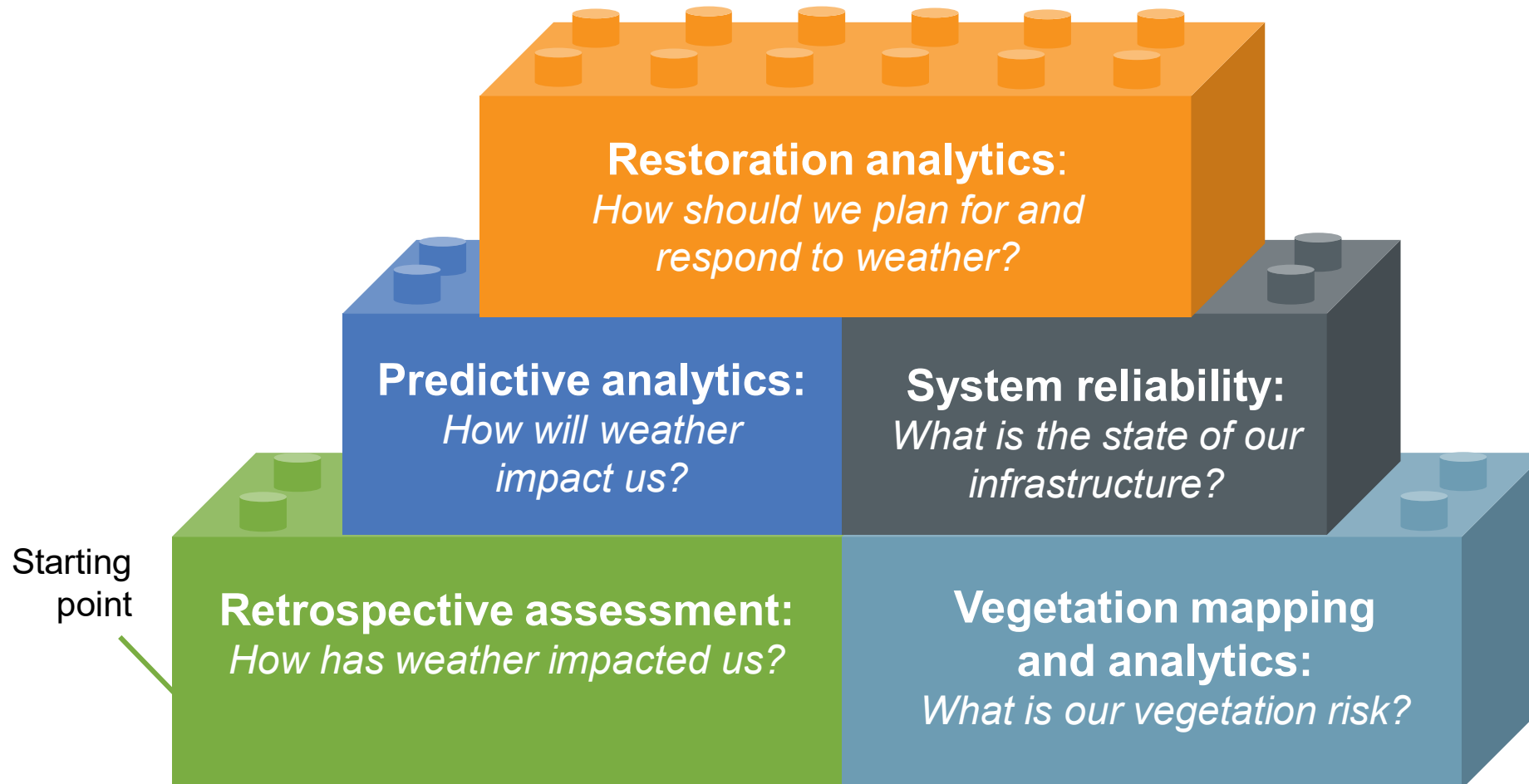


# Building blocks to improved analytical results customer experience

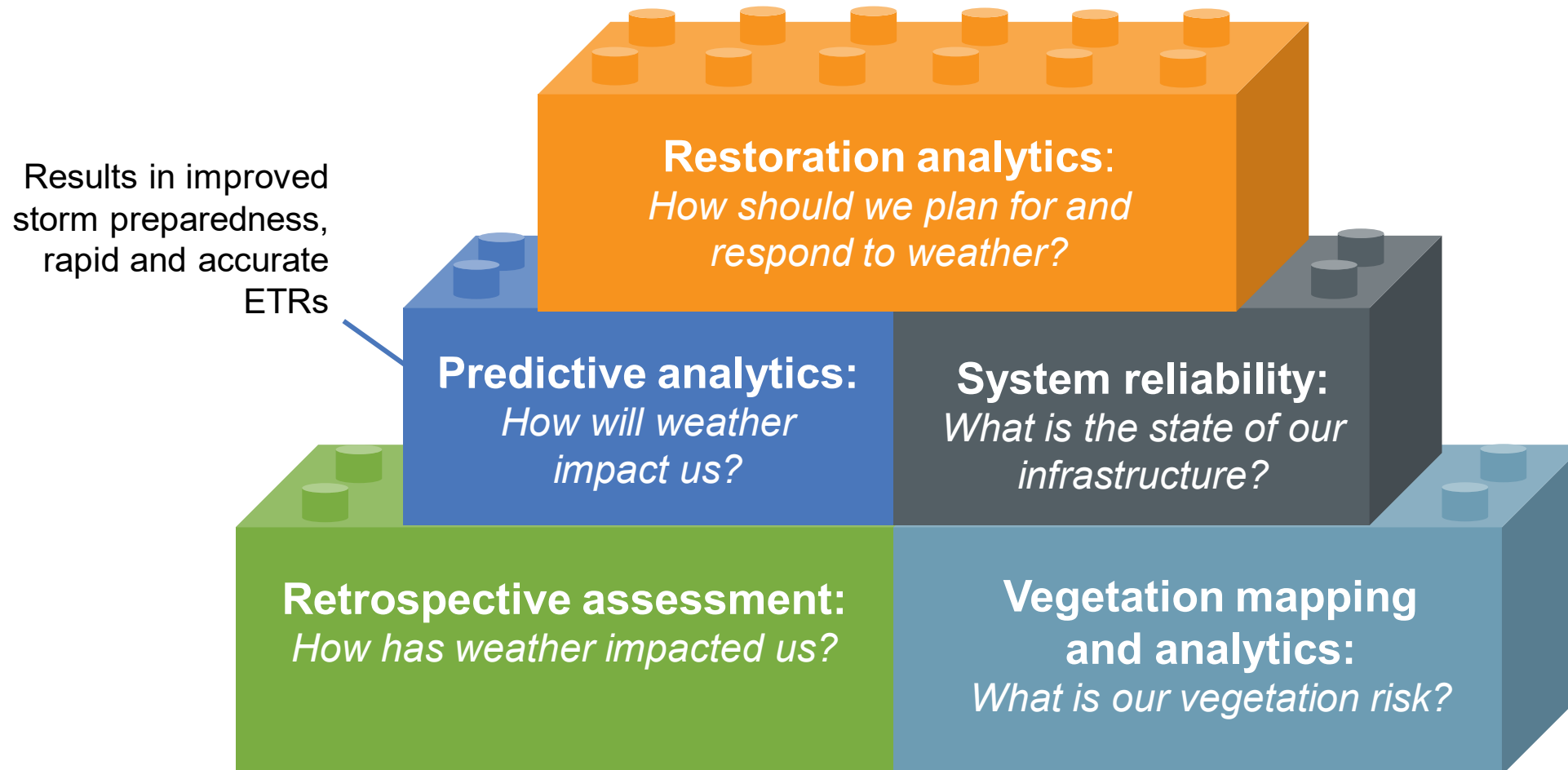




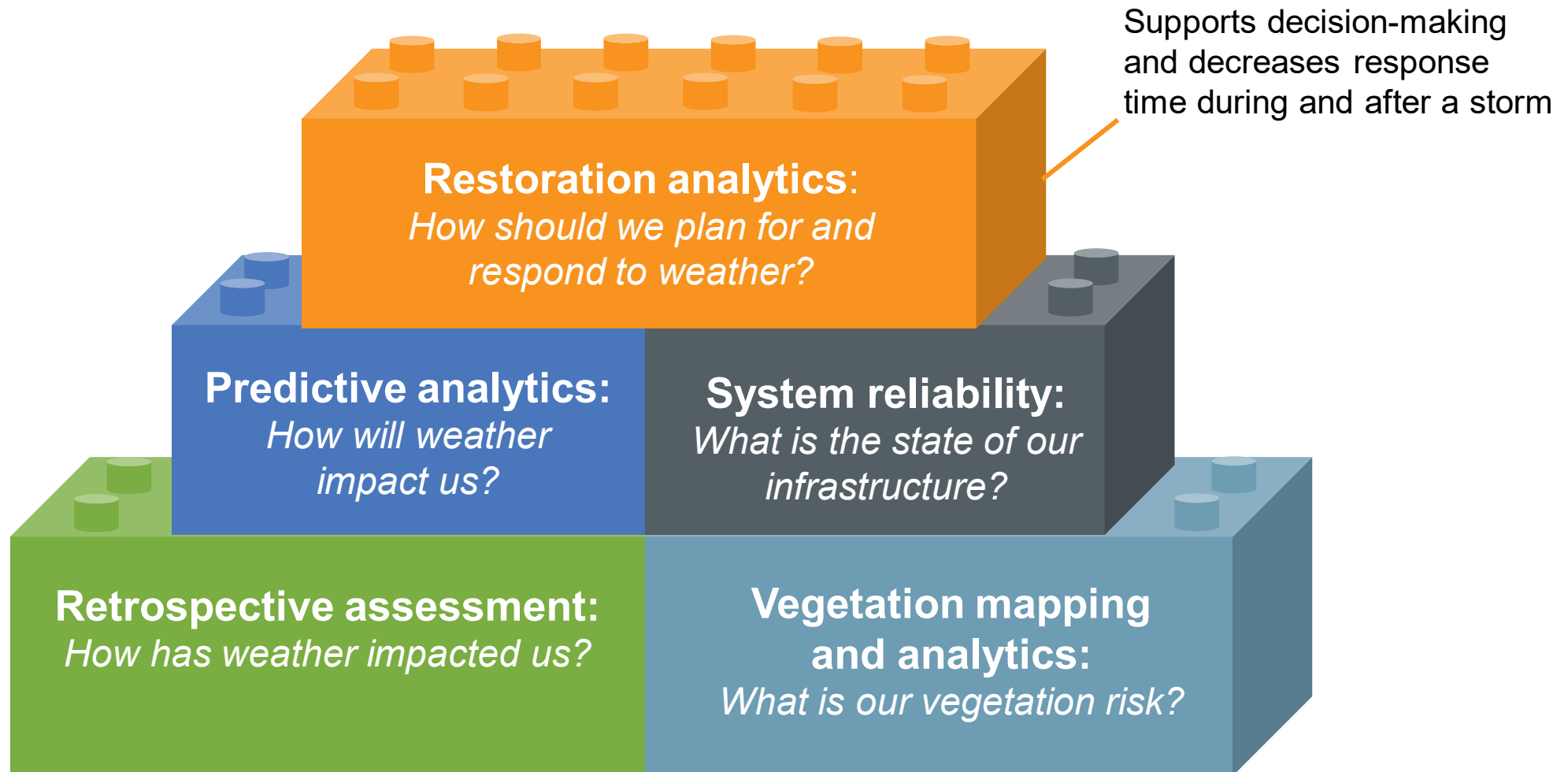
# Building blocks to improved customer experience



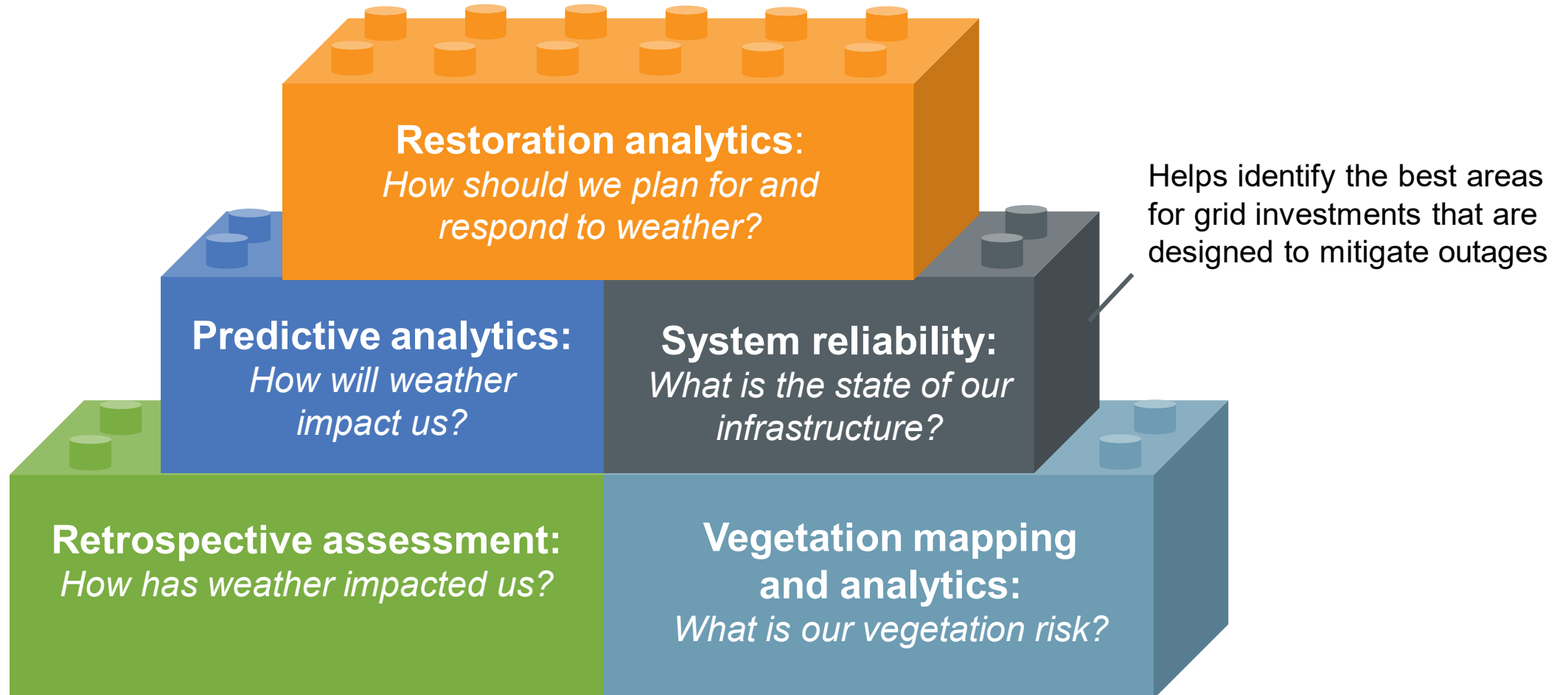
# Building blocks to improved customer experience



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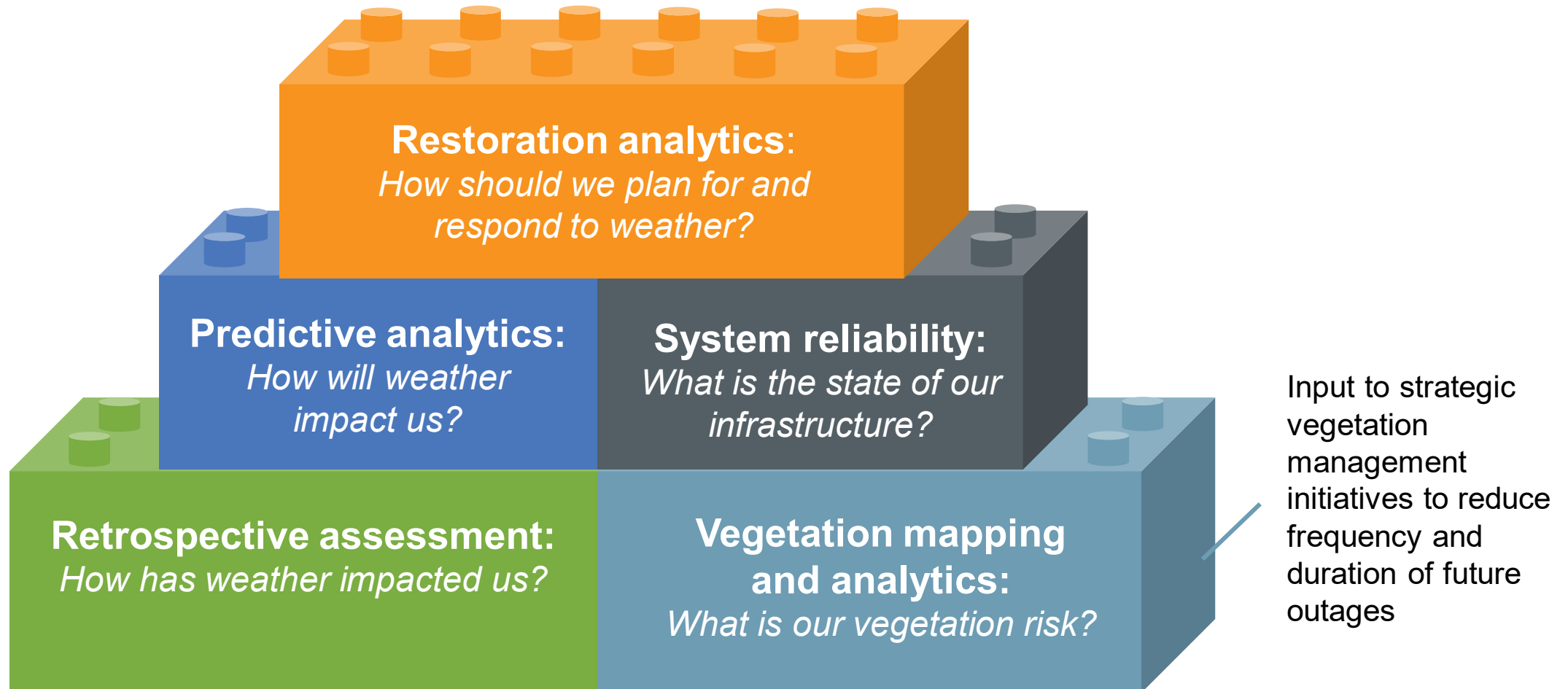


# Building blocks to improved customer experience





# Building blocks to improved customer experience



# For more information



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