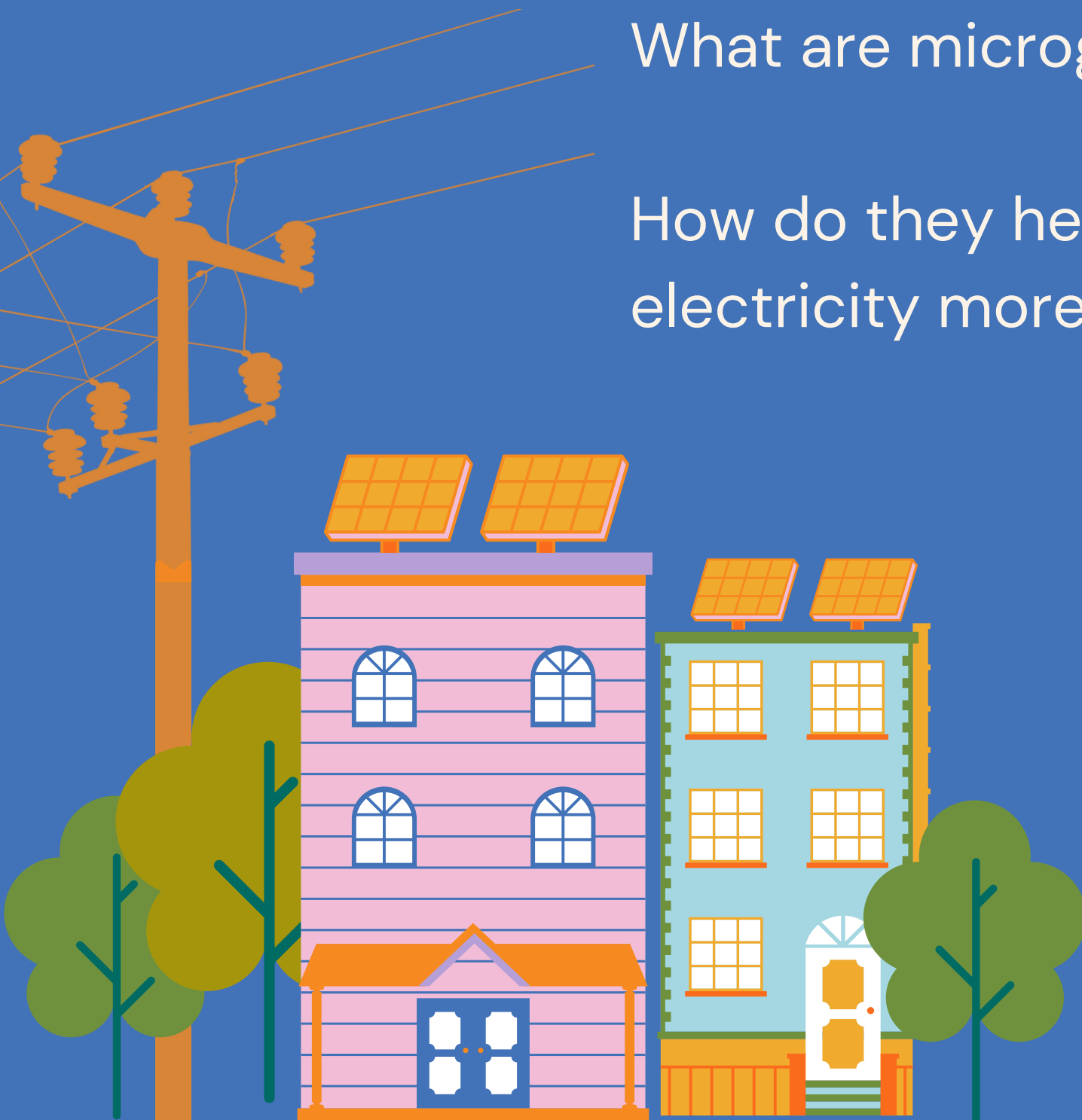




MICROGRIDS 101

What are microgrids?

How do they help make electricity more **reliable**?

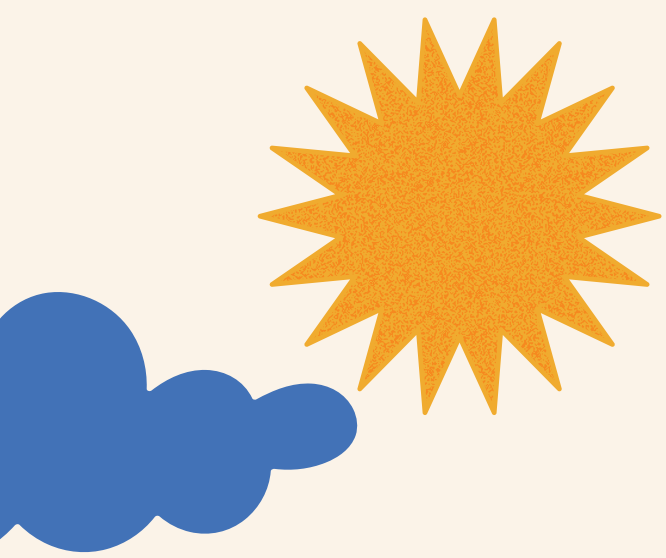


How do we get electricity now?

Power lines carry electricity from power plants to our homes as a part of the macro grid (aka the grid).

This *massive* electrical network connects energy producers to homes and businesses.

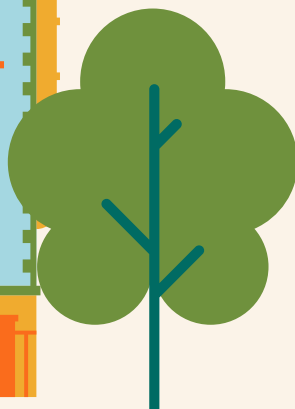
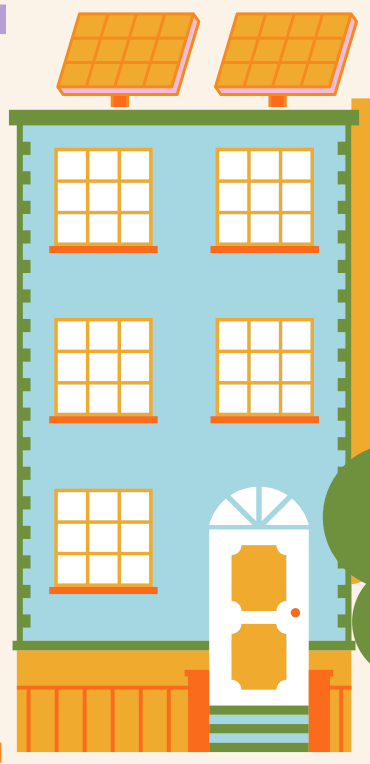




Micro vs. Macro Grid

A microgrid is like the macro grid, but much smaller.

It can disconnect from the grid and has a **local source of generation**, like solar panels!



How could a microgrid help me & my community?

If the macro grid loses power, the buildings that make up the microgrid can disconnect (aka 'island') and still have electricity!

Being prepared and able to recover after a disaster are key to public wellbeing.





Imagine this...

There's a heat wave.
Everyone's AC is working
extra hard. Since the grid
is over-loaded, there is a
power outage.



The Port goes dark.

But with a microgrid...

The illustration features a large, bright orange sun with many sharp points in the upper left. Wavy orange lines representing solar rays extend from the sun towards a utility pole on the left. The utility pole has several cross-arms with power lines. Below the sun and utility pole are two black buildings with solar panels on their roofs. The buildings have several windows, some of which are lit with a yellow glow. In the foreground, there are several green trees of varying sizes. The background is a solid blue color.

The power stays on!

By disconnecting from the grid and switching to its local power source (like solar panels or battery storage), a microgrid prevents loss of power.

The switch happens so quickly that you won't notice any disruption!



**Microgrids
provide
reliable electricity,
something everyone
should have.**

Learn more at

CambridgeEnergyAlliance.org/microgrids

