

Renewables: common pool natural resources – distributed generation in intelligent grids

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"Breaking the Rules – Energy Transitions as Social Innovations"

conference June 14th-15th, 2018 at WZB Berlin Social Science Center.

Keynote for the conference

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Abstract

The current trend in our power supply system is to shift power generation towards much smaller energy conversion units: DGRS – Distributed Generation using Renewable Sources. Traditional power plants are large centralised units, primarily fuelled by coal and oil, natural gas, nuclear fission and large hydro-power stations. These are deeply institutionalized socio-technical systems (STS), but the future perspective of this STS needs upgrading, as current systems are run by “big unwieldy corporate machines” whose change is “characterized by recalcitrance and torpor” (Bakke, 2016,p.xx). The adjacent consequences of the emergence of DGRS requires far reaching re-organization of the STS, that implies significant institutional changes moving away from centralized and hierarchical management (Wolsink, 2018).

DG is based on a network of multiple, smaller generating units and other infrastructure – storage, transmission – situated close to energy consumers, integrated in *microgrids* that together constitute an *intelligent grid* (Gui et al. 2018; Wolsink 2012; von Wirth et al., 2018). The essence of DG in microgrids also implies the recognition of the significance of cooperating actors – prosumers – to establish power generating capacity integrated in these microgrids. An essential building block of intelligent grids is adaptation of demand patterns by all sorts of demand response (Siano, 2014). Calculated technical potentials for demand response may be interesting, but eventually the rate of acceptance of such systems becomes the key issue for realization of adapted demand patterns. Centrally led Demand Side Management schemes are known to be unpopular among customers (Darby, McKenna, 2012), but demand response within cooperation

networks of prosumers aiming at enhancing the utilization of their own DG seem to be more promising.

The multi-disciplinary theory applicable to this new STS system, aimed at sustainable use of the natural resource of renewables', is the institutional theory developed for the proper management of social-ecological systems, common pool resource theory (Ostrom, 2009). The concept of 'coproduction' means that citizens can play an active role in producing public goods and services of consequence to them (Ostrom, 1996). Recently, CPR theory has been recognized as a fruitful approach for studying social-technical systems for the provision of power with DG, which is literally co-production of electricity. It is also co-production on planning and decision-making on DG and other intelligent grid infrastructures, as within a microgrid the partner-prosumers have their input in terms of asset like generation capacity, space for infrastructure, and storage capacity, and this input may be individual as well as collective when these assets are installed by co-operation and collectively managed. A major institutional change needed for this, is that generated power or re-loaded power from storage facilities can be peer-to-peer consumed by others in the microgrid. These factors may be considered a manifestation of the 'sharing economy' (Martin, 2016). Peer-to-peer delivery is one of the elements fully running counter to the centralized design of the current power supply system. The producer-customer paradigm is institutionalized in legislation, in design of tariffs, and in hardware (location, design and ownership of meters), and as a result in dominant – even locked-in – ways of thinking. Besides the rapid emergence of DG technologies – PV reaching the level of 'grid-parity', electric vehicles, supercapacitors, batteries (Wolsink, 2018) – within the domain of ICT, there are also rapidly emerging technologies supporting the intelligent self-governance of the energy flows, generation, storage and transmission capacities – sensors, artificial intelligence, blockchain etc. As another major example the consequences of these developments for yet another institution that is part of the lock-in in our current power supply systems, taxing, will be discussed.

Renewables: Common Pool Natural Resources – *Distributed Generation in Intelligent Grids*

"Breaking the Rules – Energy Transitions as Social Innovations"

keynote 14 June 2018

to the conference June 14th-15th, 2018

at WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Berlin (D)



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Starting points

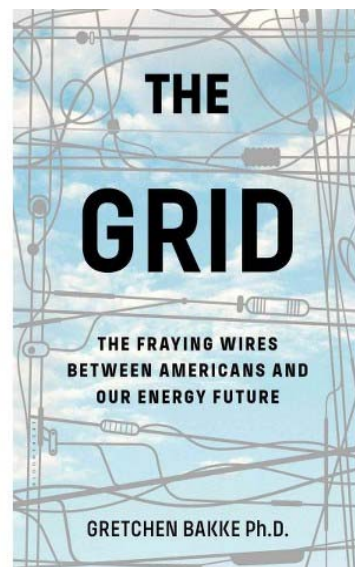
- Conference slogan tells us: transforming energy systems:
'Social Innovations'
- **'Breaking the Rules'**
- Indeed, this talk is about the process of social acceptance of
"institutional change"
- Institutions are (definition)
... *behavioural patterns* as determined by societal rules...
"the rules of the game in society"
North D, 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge University Press.
- Renewables are natural resources. Common Pool Resources
theory on sustainable resources use (Ostrom) is also an
institution

Starting points

- Power supply system(s) is an STS
Social-Technical System
A system be made up of scientific and technological, as well as socio-economic and organizational components.
- Transforming this STS into renewables based, zero-carbon is **Innovation**.... including 'creative destruction'
- Innovation – definition –
A change of **ideas**, that becomes manifest in **products, processes, or organizations**, that are applied successfully in practice.
- Key innovation is:
move the STS away centralized design & hierarchical and centralized management

A 'must read' on the need to innovate power grid (book on North America)

- ❖ The electricity grid is
 - a machine
 - an infrastructure
 - a cultural artifact
 - a set of business practices
 - and an 'ecology'
- ❖designed for the exact opposite of 21st-century needs



Innovation theory on current STS

Famous lock-in example: "Clio and the economics of qwerty" David, AmEconRev, 1985

- Institutional "lock-in" Unruh, 2000 EnergPol 'carbon lock-in'
- Existing configuration **energy sector** emerged in history ("path dependency")
- To serve certain objectives (rational, *but also political*)
- STS cross-linked with sectors like industry, land use, transportation, communication...(also: path dependency)
- Current system → does not serve new objectives
→ barriers; resisting vested interests → **inertia**
- New elements of STS are not accepted easily.....
→ **social acceptance** turns as the key to realize RE potentials,
→ particularly structural social elements of the STS:
institutions

Moving away from Centralization and Hierarchy

- Current STS:
 - generation in **central** power plants
 - distribution via **centralized** infrastructure
 - **hierarchical** and **uniform** regulation and management
 - **centralized** accounting: metering and tariffs
- Move away: towards increasing DGRS
 - Distributed Generation, rapid emergence of **prosumers**
 - rapid increase of **variety** (infrastructure, and organization)
 - **Polycentricity** in governance and management
 - distributed accounting:
 - distributed (intelligent) metering; peer-to-peer delivery;
 - variable and dynamic tariffs; variable and distributed ledgers

Definition

Ackermann et al 2001

❖ Distributed Generation

(more broadly: Distributed Energy Resources)

is an electric power source (or other electric resources)

- connected directly to the distribution network

- or on the customer site of the meter.

- Geographically dispersed
- Numerous locations
- Huge variety

Variety: huge diversity in Distributed Generation: with implications for co-production and spatial requirements

sample Ackermann et al 2001; table Wolsink LandscRes 2018

Table 1. Distributed Generation, options for co-production, spatial claims and landscape issues (sources: see acknowledgement).

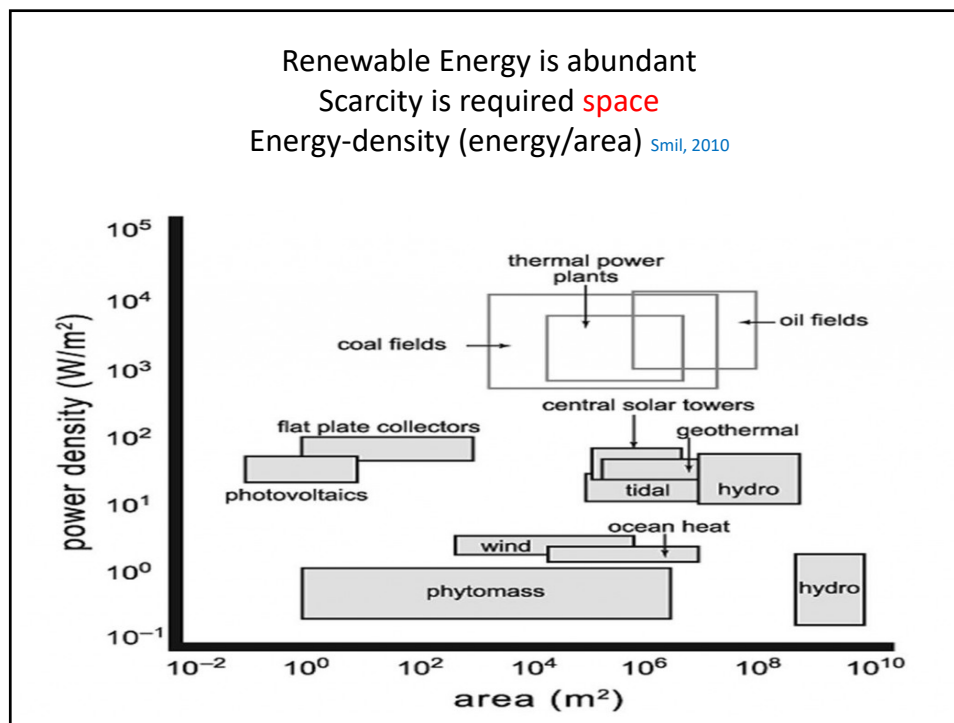
Type of infrastructure	Size (capacity)	Relevance for co-production/participation	Spatial claims (amount / type)	Landscape relevance / type
Combustion turbine CHP (pref. biomass/biofuel)	1–750MW	Single owner / co-operative / or central	Small / Spot	Low / Visual impact; Ecology: crop cult.
Micro-CHP (combustion, pref. biofuel)	35 kW–1MW	Single owner / co-operative /	Moderate / Spot; Large numbers	Low / Visual impact; Ecology: crop cult.
Biomass, e.g. gasification	100 kW–200MW	Co-operative / Possibly single owner	Large (crops) / Areas for growing crops	High / Ecology: crop cultivation
Stirling engine (micro CHP, pref. biofuel)	2–10kW	Single owner	None	None
Small hydro	1–1000MW	Possibly co-operative / shareholder	Substantial / basin	Substantial / Ecology: river
Micro hydro	25 kW–1MW	Co-operative / Single owner	Small	Low / Ecology: stream
Wind farm onshore / near shore	5–5000MW	Possibly co-operative / shareholder	Moderate / Area combined use	High / Visual impact /
Off-shore wind farm	20–10000MW	Possibly co-operative / shareholder	Large / Wide area calling prohibited	High / Ecology / possibly positive
PV panels, crystalline / silicon based	20 W/m–10 kW	Single owner / co-operative	Moderate / Large numbers; Combined use	Moderate / Visual impact / Ecology when sited on soil
PV arrays / silicone or perovskite based	20 kW–100 kW	Single owner / co-operative	Moderate / Large numbers; Combined	Moderate / Visual impact / Ecology when sited on soil
PV plants / panels based / ground based	1–5000MW	Central, possibly co-operative or shareholder	Large / Large areas; hard to combine	High / Visual impact / Ecology: soil
Solar central thermal receiver (mirror based)	1–10MW	Central, possibly co-operative or shareholders	Large / Large areas; hard to combine	Substantial / Visual impact / Ecology: soil
Fuel cells, phosphoric / molten etc. (also table 2)	200 kW–5 MW	Single owner / co-operative / shareholder	Small / Spot	Low / Visual impact
Fuel cells, proton exchange (also table 2, H ₂)	1 kW–250kW	Single owner / co-operative	Small	None
Geothermal	5–1000MW	Single owner / co-operative / shareholder	Spot; indoor	Low / Visual impact
Marine energy: Waves	500kW–500MW	Co-operative / shareholder	Spot; track (pipe)	Moderate / Moderate
Tidal flows	200 kW–250MW	Co-operative / shareholder	Island, coastal	Ecology: shallows
Wind turbine off-shore/near shore	200 kW–5MW	Private and/or co-operative / shareholder	Estuary / bay	Substantial / Ecology: estuaries
Saline fresh water gradient: Reverse Elect. Dialysis	100 kW–50MW	Co-operative / shareholder	Small, combined with agriculture	Visual impact / Ecology: birds, bats
Saline gradient: Osmotic Pressure	41 kW–50MW	Co-operative / shareholder	Moderate / Mainly estuary	Substantial / Ecology: estuaries
Seawater cooling (saving power for Airc)	40MW–50MW	Co-operative / shareholder	Moderate / Coastal / Islands	Low / Deep coastal water
Ocean Thermal Energy conversion	50kW–50MW	Co-operative / shareholder	Small / Islands	Low / Ecology

Micro hydro	25 kW–1MW	Co-operative / Single owner	<i>Small</i>	<i>Low Ecology stream</i>
Wind farm onshore / near shore	5-500MW	Possibly co-operative / shareholder	<i>Moderate / Area combined use</i>	<i>High Visual impact /</i>
Off-shore wind farm	20-1000MW	Possibly co-operative / shareholder	<i>Huge / Wide area sailing prohibited</i>	<i>High / Ecology / possibly positive</i>
PV panels, crystalline / silicone based	20 Watt–10 kW	Single owner / co-operative	<i>Moderate / Large numbers; Combined use</i>	<i>Moderate / Visual impact / Ecology when sited on soil</i>
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PV plants / panels based / ground based	1-500MW	Central; possibly co-operative or shareholder	<i>Large / Large areas; hard to combine</i>	<i>High / Visual impact / Ecology soil</i>
Solar central thermal receiver (mirror based)	1–10MW	Central; possibly co-operative or shareholders	<i>Large / Large area; hard to combine</i>	<i>Substantial / Visual impact / Ecology: soil</i>
Fuel cells, phosphoric / molten / etc. (also table 2)	200 kW–5 MW	Single owner / co-operative / shareholder	<i>Small Spot</i>	<i>Low / Visual impact</i>
Fuel cells, proton exchange (also table 2: H ₂)	1 kW–250kW	Single owner / co-operative	<i>Small Spot; indoor</i>	<i>None</i>
Geothermal	5–100MW	Single owner / co-operative / shareholder	<i>Moderate Spot; track (pipe)</i>	<i>Low / Visual impact</i>
Marine energy: Waves	500kW–50MW	Co-operative / shareholder	<i>Moderate Island; coastal</i>	<i>Moderate Ecology shallows</i>
Tidal flows	200 kW–250MW	Co-operative / shareholder	<i>Moderate Estuary / bay</i>	<i>Substantial Ecology estuaries</i>

Distributed Energy Resources: also storage and transmission options table: Wolsink, 2018

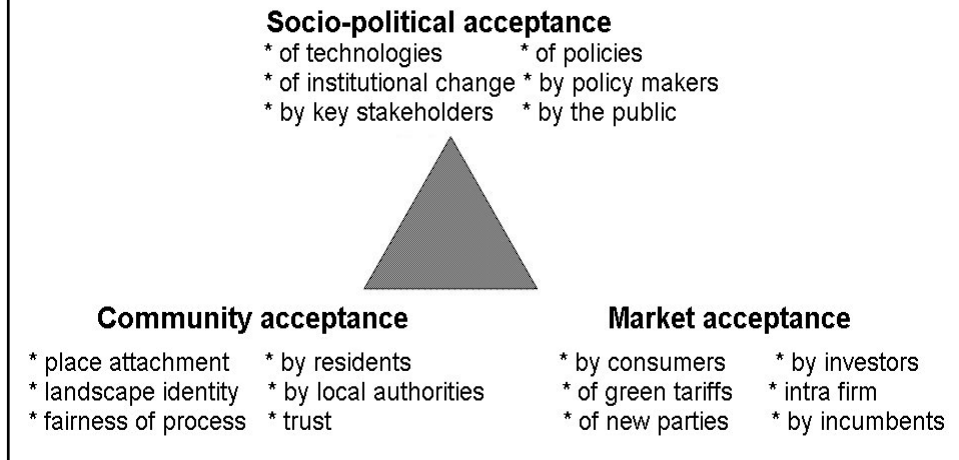
Type of infrastructure	Size (capacity)	Relevance for co-production and participation	Spatial claims (amount / type)	Landscape relevance / type
Distributed Storage				
Heat storage (electric boilers)	1–4kW	Single owner	<i>None indoor</i>	<i>None</i>
Heat stored buildings (solar, electric heat pumps)	10–500kW	Single owner / co-operative	<i>Low Resource rights passive solar</i>	<i>Low Orientation sun, planning design</i>
'Cold' storage (cooling systems)	1–100 kW	Single owner	<i>None Indoor</i>	<i>None</i>
Battery storage	500 kW–5 MW	Single owner / co-operative	<i>Small Indoor or spot</i>	<i>Low Visual Moderate waste</i>
Electrolyzer/ Fuel cell hydrogen storage	50–1kW	Single owner	<i>Small Indoor or spot</i>	<i>None</i>
Electric vehicles (Vehicle-to-grid)	10–100 kW	Single owner / private cars / co-owned	<i>Very small Recharging points possible indoor</i>	<i>None</i>
Electric vehicles public transport; freight	10–100 kW	Public / private / co-operative	<i>Small Recharging points possible indoor</i>	<i>None</i>
Storage Renewable Energy in non heat consumption				
Neighborhood Water systems	10kW–1000kW	Co-operative / public / shareholder	<i>Moderate Level in basins / groundwater level</i>	<i>Low ecology groundwater</i>
Pumped hydro (high altitude water basins)	1MW–1000MW	Centralized	<i>Large Land use change as with large hydro</i>	<i>High Ecology; abandon functions like Agriculture</i>
Desalination: reservoirs	10kW–50 MW	Co-operative / shareholder / public	<i>Moderate plant; basin</i>	<i>Low visual</i>
Transmission of RES generated power				
HVAC Transmission	10–150kV	Public / private / centralized	<i>Large Track in open air</i>	<i>High Ecology; Visual impact</i>
Super Conducting HVDC Transmission	100–1000 kV	Public / private / shareholder	<i>Small Narrow track underground</i>	<i>Low Ecology underground</i>
Low voltage grid (DC)	20–100V	Co-operative / household	<i>Small Indoor / Underground</i>	<i>None</i>
Low voltage grid (AC)	220V–25kV	Public / co-operative	<i>Small Indoor / Underground</i>	<i>Low Visual in case of in open air</i>

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Battery storage	500 kW-5 MW	Single owner / co-operative	Small Indoor or spot	Low Visual Moderate waste
Electrolizer/ Fuel cell hydrogen storage	50-1kW	Single owner	Small Indoor or spot	None
Electric vehicles (Vehicle-to-grid)	10-100 kW	Single owner / private cars / co-owned	Very small Recharging points possible indoor	None
Electric vehicles public transport, freight	10-100 kW	Public / private / co-operative	Small Recharging points possible indoor	None
<i>Storage Renewable Energy in non heat consumption</i>				
Neighborhood Water	10kW-1000kW	Co-operative / public / shareholder	Moderate Level in basin /	Low

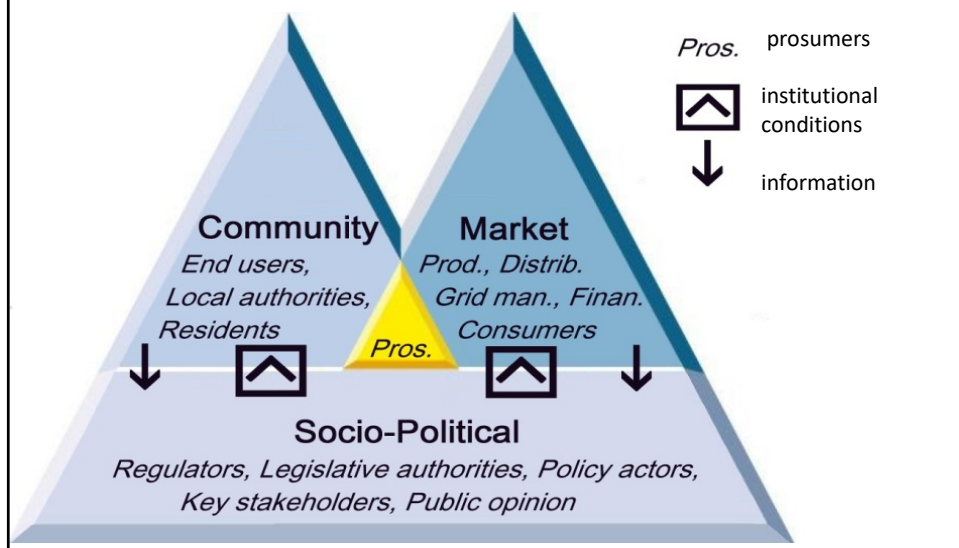


Decision about all elements – social design (economic, political, cultural), technological design, decisions about space for infrastructures taken in processes of **Social Acceptance**

(Original concept: Wüstenhagen et al. 2007)

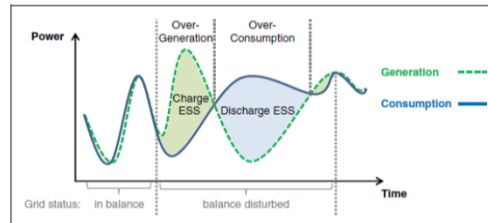


Social Acceptance, advanced: multi-layered processes

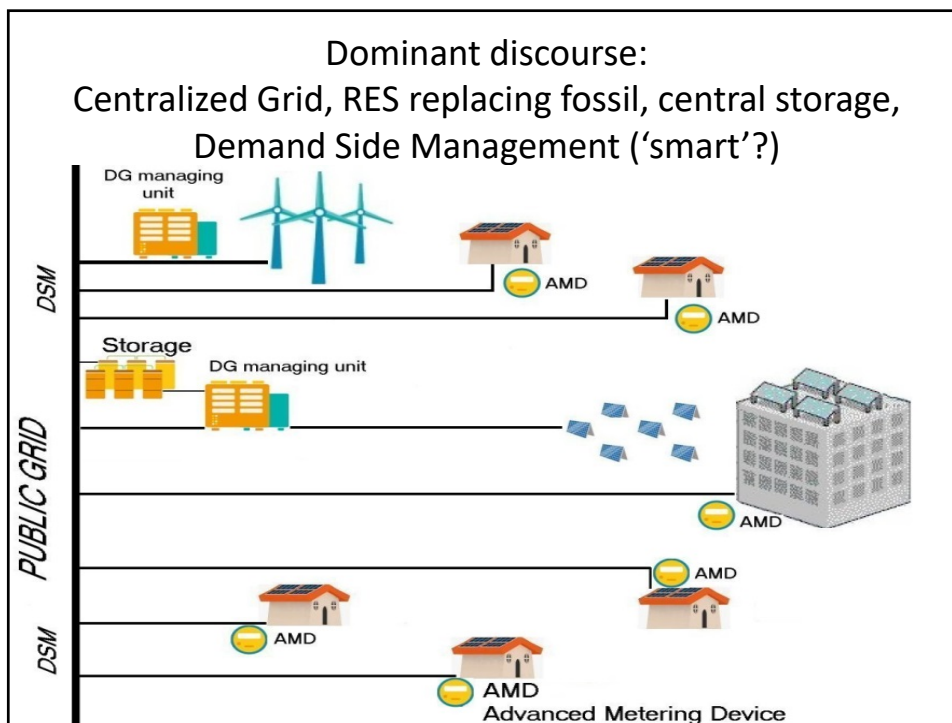


Huge spatial requirements (need reduction distance prod.-cons.)
 Varying in supply patterns (need adapted demand patterns)
 Huge geographical variety STSs (abolishment uniformity)

- Different patterns of variable supply (ecology)
- Optimization supply and demand: needs **(micro-) optimization**



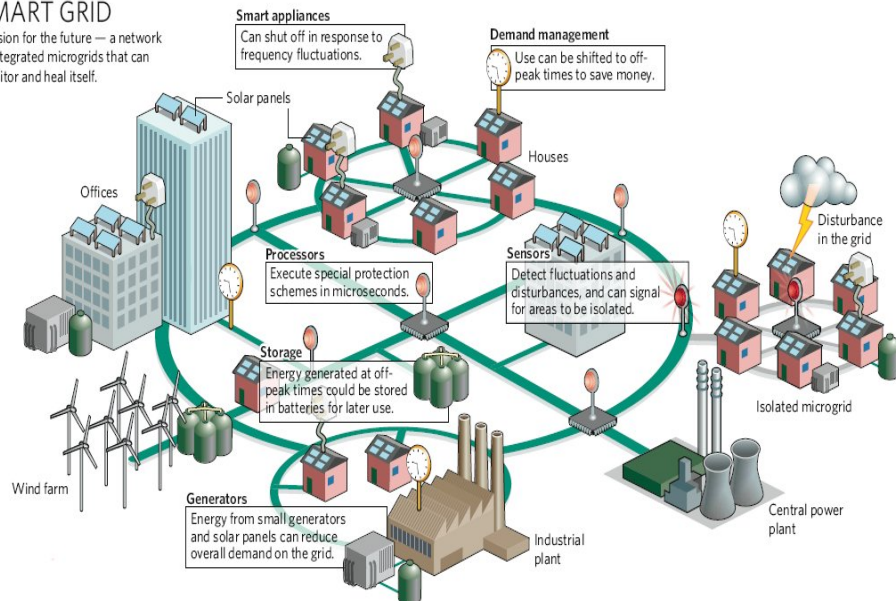
- Development of (local) micro-grids,
 - several 'prosumers' in a 'community'
 - load-control (*supporting DG*)
 - including local storage
- Intelligent metering and regulation devices (*supporting 'prosumers' and 'micro-grid community'*)



Alternative: the intelligent grid Marris, 2008

SMART GRID

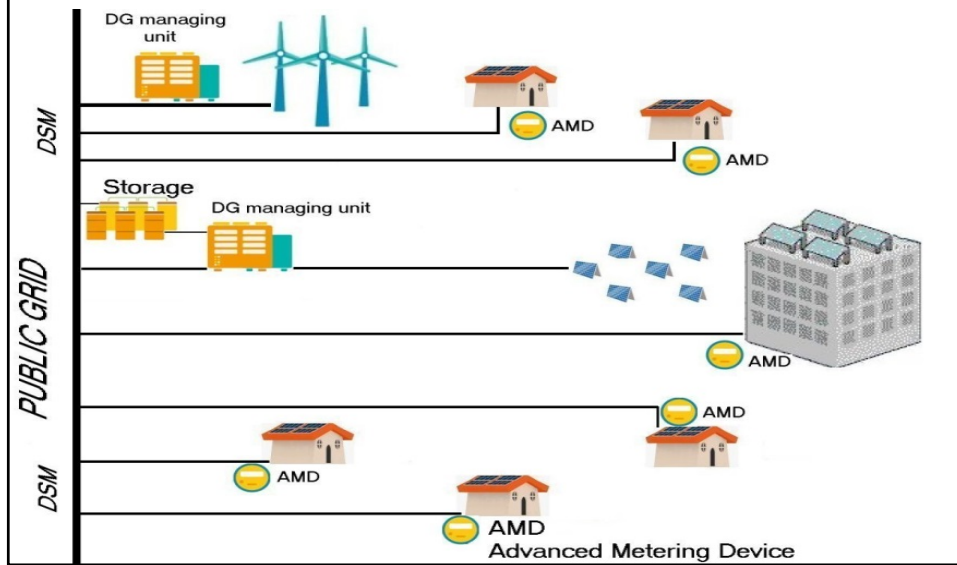
A vision for the future — a network of integrated microgrids that can monitor and heal itself.



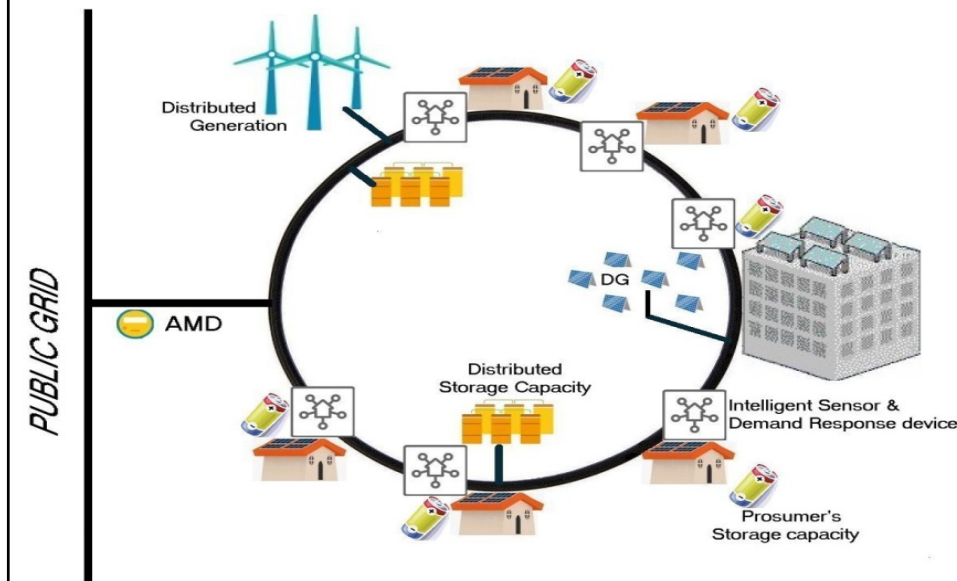
Strong pressure on the power grid: towards an Intelligent Grid

- "Power grid consisting of a network of integrated micro-grids that can monitor and heal itself"
Marris, 2008. *Nature* 454: 570-573
- → Fundamental question:
Which institutional changes needed to establish those micro-grids with renewable DG as much as possible?
- Who will invest?
Who is in control?
Over what?
vonWirth et al, 2018; Gui et al. 2017; Wolsink 2012
- Ownership and control is about:
 - all assets of the infrastructure
 - decisions about space
 - collecting and use of data

Centralized Grid connecting RES, storage, Demand Side Management



Intelligent Microgrid-community DG, *co-production*, storage





= co-produced and individual
Distributed Storage capacity

Parra et al, 2017

- Batteries (Li-ion; NiCd; Ni-Metal hydrate ...)
 - including V2G (electric vehicles)
 - developing: NaS
- Thermal (devices, underground...)
- Developing: Supercapacitors - high (dis-)charge capacity
- Developing: fuelcells; hydrogen
- Possible options:
 - Flywheels (option for short term network stability)
 - Compressed air
 - Superconducting Magnetic Energy Storage (short term, micro SMES for internal microgrid network stability)

Another way to define social acceptance
– in terms of Common Pool Resources theory

Social acceptance of renewables' innovation is the process of organizing 'co-production' Ostrom, 1996; Wolsink 2018

- in establishing infrastructure
 - (investing, required space, sharing data)
- of electricity
 - The inclination to cooperate in varying STSs (as compared to SES's, Social Ecological Systems)
 - among multi-level actors (community, market, policy making)
 - to establish, maintain, operate
 - socio-technical systems of power supply and and shared use
 - based on natural resources of renewables

Fundamental features

- Social-Ecological Systems exist with **huge variety** (→ essentially geographical variety)
- Complex, almost never simple; natural variety *and* social variety (pluralism, polycentrism)
- **Internal variety is good** (supports resilience)
- **Complexity is good**
- All efforts to simplify: “not a good idea”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qr5Q3Vvpl7w#t=0.115416>
- These notions run counter to common sense views, widely held among policy analysts, governments, and technocrats more broadly

Ostrom, 1999. “Coping with tragedies of the commons”

Am Polit Sci Review 2 493-535

"Contemporary policy analysis of the governance of **common-pool resources** is based on three core assumptions:

(a) resource users are **norm-free maximizers of immediate gains**,

(b) designing rules to **change incentives** of participants is a relatively simple analytical task

(c) organization itself requires **central direction**"

"..... all three assumptions are a poor foundation for policy analysis."



Institutional settings should foster, create, and maintain...

- **Trust**

→ crucial characteristics are:

- *Self governance*: within framework let users organize themselves
- *Adaptive governance*: system should be flexible, resilient to sudden, external changes
- *Polycentric governance*: decisions not taken in one centre, but at many different places, different arenas [Ostrom, 2010, p551](#)
- *Multi-level governance*: actors part of SES operate on different scale levels, also different governance levels (**scale ≠ hierarchy**)

Ostrom – General framework - 4 subsystems [Ostrom, 2009](#)

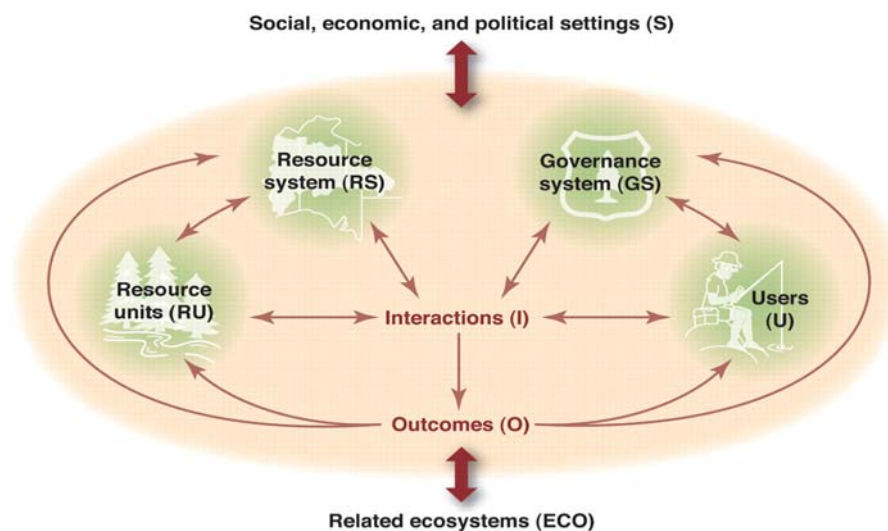


Table 1. Second-tier variables in framework for analyzing an SES

Social, Economic, and Political Settings (S)	
S1- Economic development. S2- Demographic trends. S3- Political stability. S4- Government settlement policies. S5- Market incentives. S6- Media organization.	
Resource System (RS)	Governance System (GS)
RS1- Sector (e.g., water, forests, pasture, fish)	GS1- Government organizations
RS2- Clarity of system boundaries	GS2- Non-government organizations
RS3- Size of resource system	GS3- Network structure
RS4- Human-constructed facilities	GS4- Property-rights systems
RS5- Productivity of system	GS5- Operational rules
RS6- Equilibrium properties	GS6- Collective-choice rules
RS7- Predictability of system dynamics	GS7- Constitutional rules
RS8- Storage characteristics	GS8- Monitoring & sanctioning processes
RS9- Location	
Resource Units (RU)	Users (U)
RU1- Resource unit mobility	U1- Number of users
RU2- Growth or replacement rate	U2- Socioeconomic attributes of users
RU3- Interaction among resource units	U3- History of use
RU4- Economic value	U4- Location
RU5- Size	U5- Leadership/entrepreneurship
RU6- Distinctive markings	U6- Norms/social capital
RU7- Spatial & temporal distribution	U7- Knowledge of SES/mental models
	U8- Dependence on resource
	U9- Technology used
Interactions (I)	→ Outcomes (O)
I1- Harvesting levels of diverse users	O1- Social performance measures (e.g., efficiency, equity, accountability)
I2- Information sharing among users	O2- Ecological performance measures (e.g., overharvested, resilience, diversity)
I3- Deliberation processes	O3- Externalities to other SESs
I4- Conflicts among users	
I5- Investment activities	
I6- Lobbying activities	

Examples RS (Resource system) variables

RU (resource units) variables

RS2 System boundaries → boundaries of microgrid

RS4 Human constructed facilities → all infrastructure

RS8 Storage: also human constructed

RU4 Economic value → peer-to-peer deliverance

RU7 Spatial and temporal distribution → storage, demand response

Examples Variables defined in the Governance System

GS3 Network structure (network organization instead of company) Martin, 2014

GS4 Property-rights systems

GS5 Operational rules → DR system, distributed accounting

.....

GS8 Monitoring and sanctioning processes Advanced sensors and DR device (intelligent meter)

Variables defined in 'U' (Users) and 'I' (Interactions)

U2 Socioeconomic attributes of users

U6 Norms/social capital

U9 Technology used

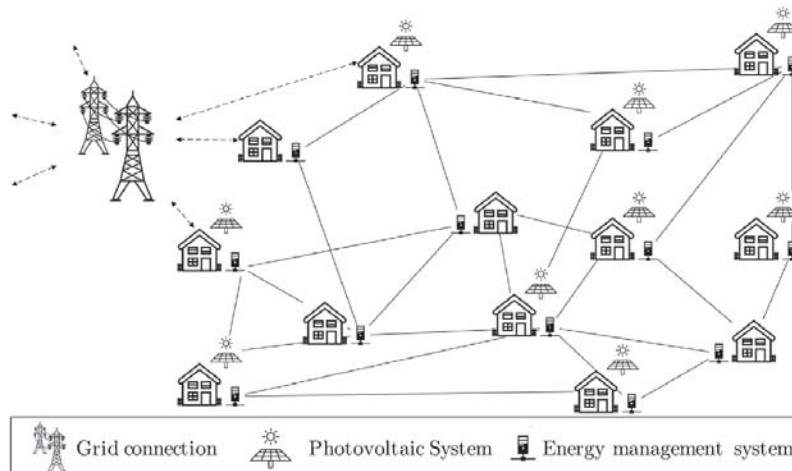
I1 Harvesting levels diverse users

I2 Information sharing among users
ict within the intelligent microgrid

O1 Social performance measures (efficiency, accountability, equity)

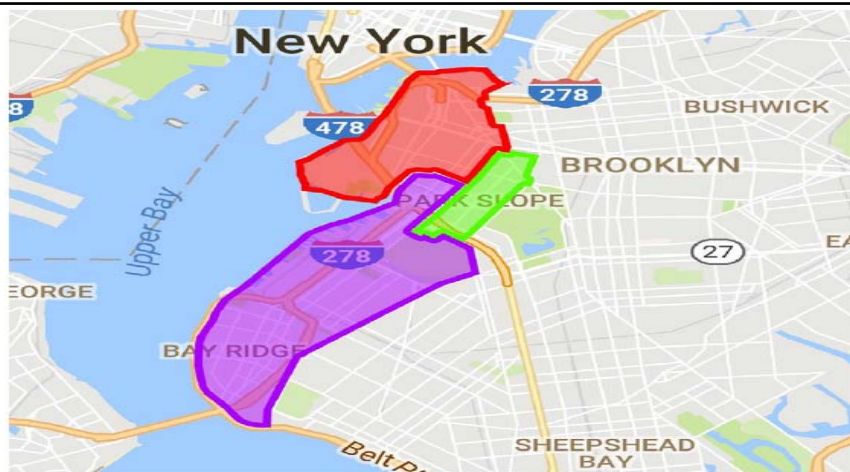
Scheme microgrid based on DG with peer-to-peer delivery

Mengelkamp et al Appl Energ 2018



First DG solar microgrid Brooklyn, NY sept, 2017

- DG with peer-to-peer transactions
- Cooperating prosumers
- Operation based on sensors and processors
- **Mutual accounting** based on internally collected and owned data (→ **distributed ledgers**)
- 'Trust' institutionalized by **blockchain** technology; recent option, further research needed



(a) The BMG connects participants from three distribution grids: the Borough Hall (red), the Park Slope (green), and the Bay Ridge (purple) network.

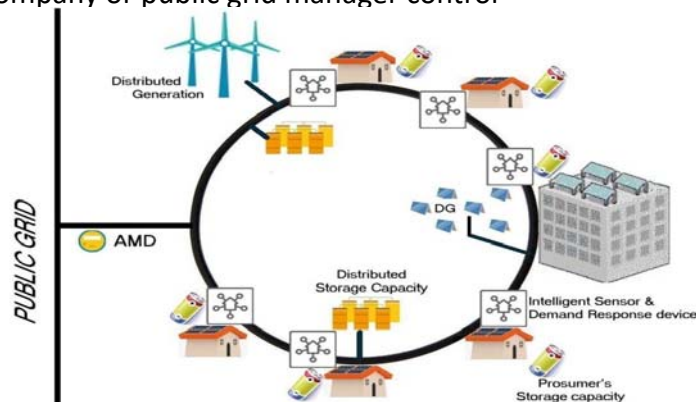
Example of institutional conflict:
Incumbent/vested interest government/state (part of lock-in) in current STS



Intelligent meters (sensor + demand response device)

■ counting blockchain 'credit' based on Artificial Intelligence
→ no energy company or public grid manager control

- Can energy-flows still be taxed?
- Not without impeding DG and DStorage



Thank you

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