



20TH CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SYSTEMS

ACCESS THE SUBMISSION SYSTEM

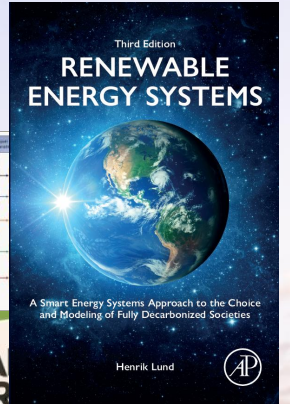
SDEWES CENTRE CONFERENCES PUBLISHING AWARDS SDEWES ISC

20th sdewes Conference DUBROVNIK 2025

OCTOBER 05-10 2025, DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

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SMART ENERGY SYSTEMS

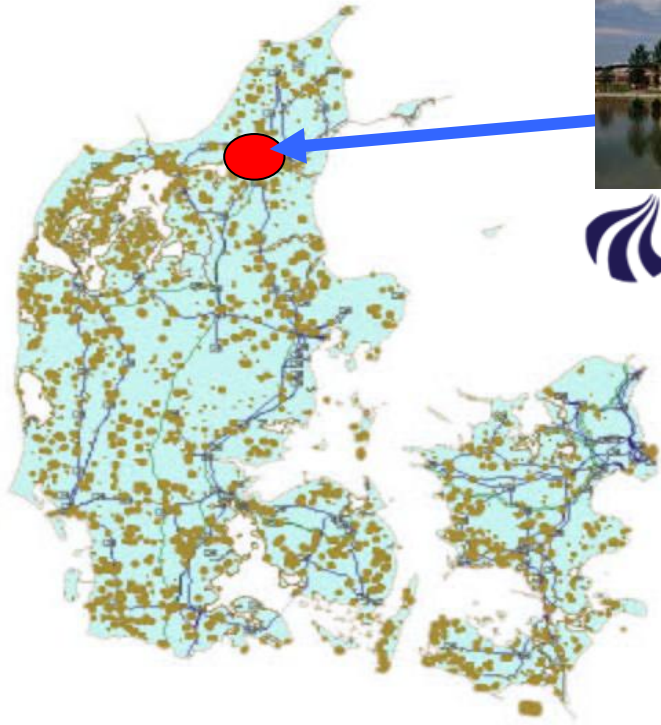


Smart Renewable Energy Systems in the Era of Climate Neutral Societies

Professor Henrik Lund
Aalborg Universitet



Henrik Lund, Aalborg University, Denmark



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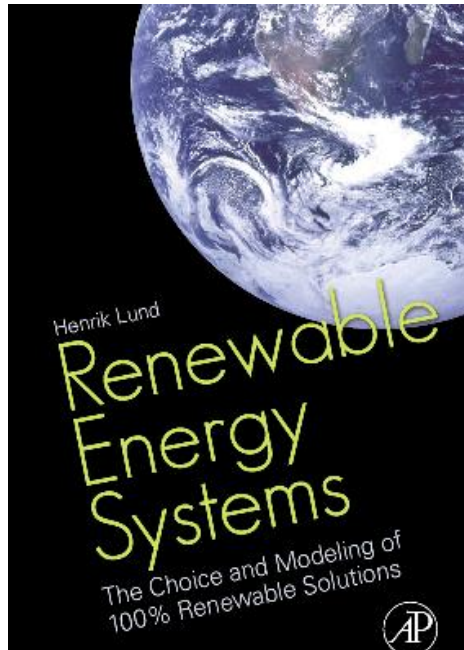
Jutland/Denmark:

- Approx. 50% wind power
- High share of the world's offshore power
- 30-50% of electricity supplied by CHP
- >50% District Heating
- > 40% Biogas in the natural gas supply

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Renewable Energy Systems

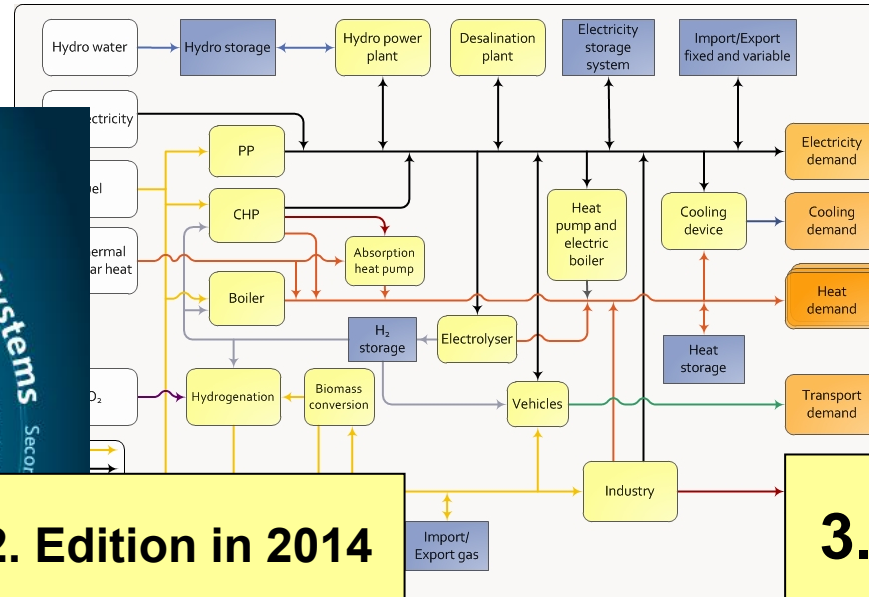
A Smart Energy Systems Approach to the
Choice and Modeling of Fully Decarbonized Societies



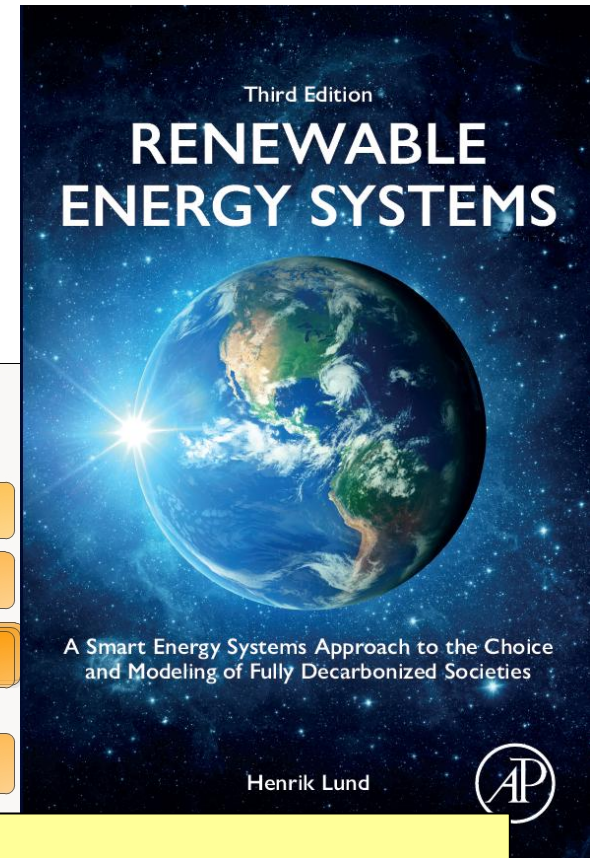
1. Edition in 2010



2. Edition in 2014
New Chapter on
Smart Energy
Systems and
Infrastructures

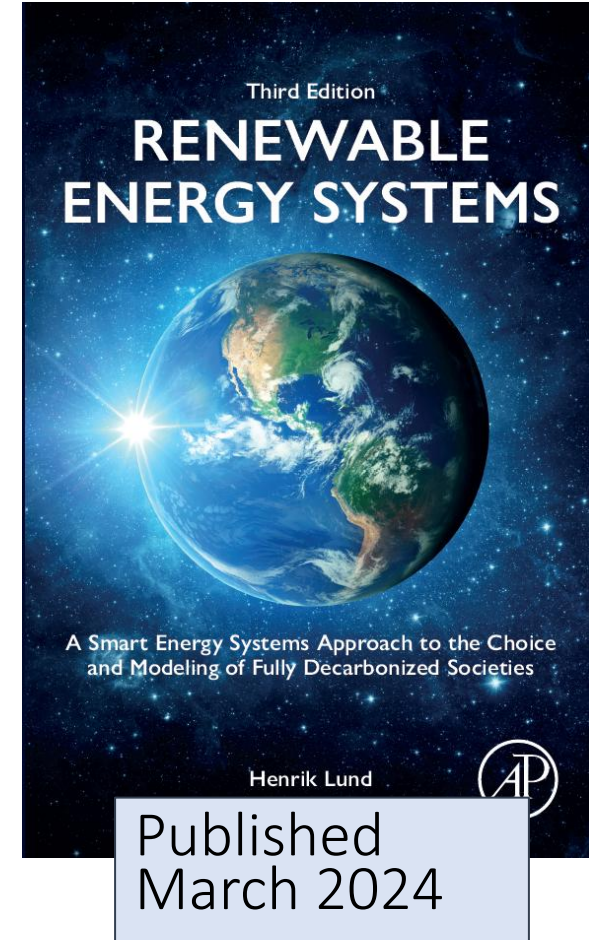


3. Edition in 2024
New Chapter on
Carbon Neutral
Societies



New insights:

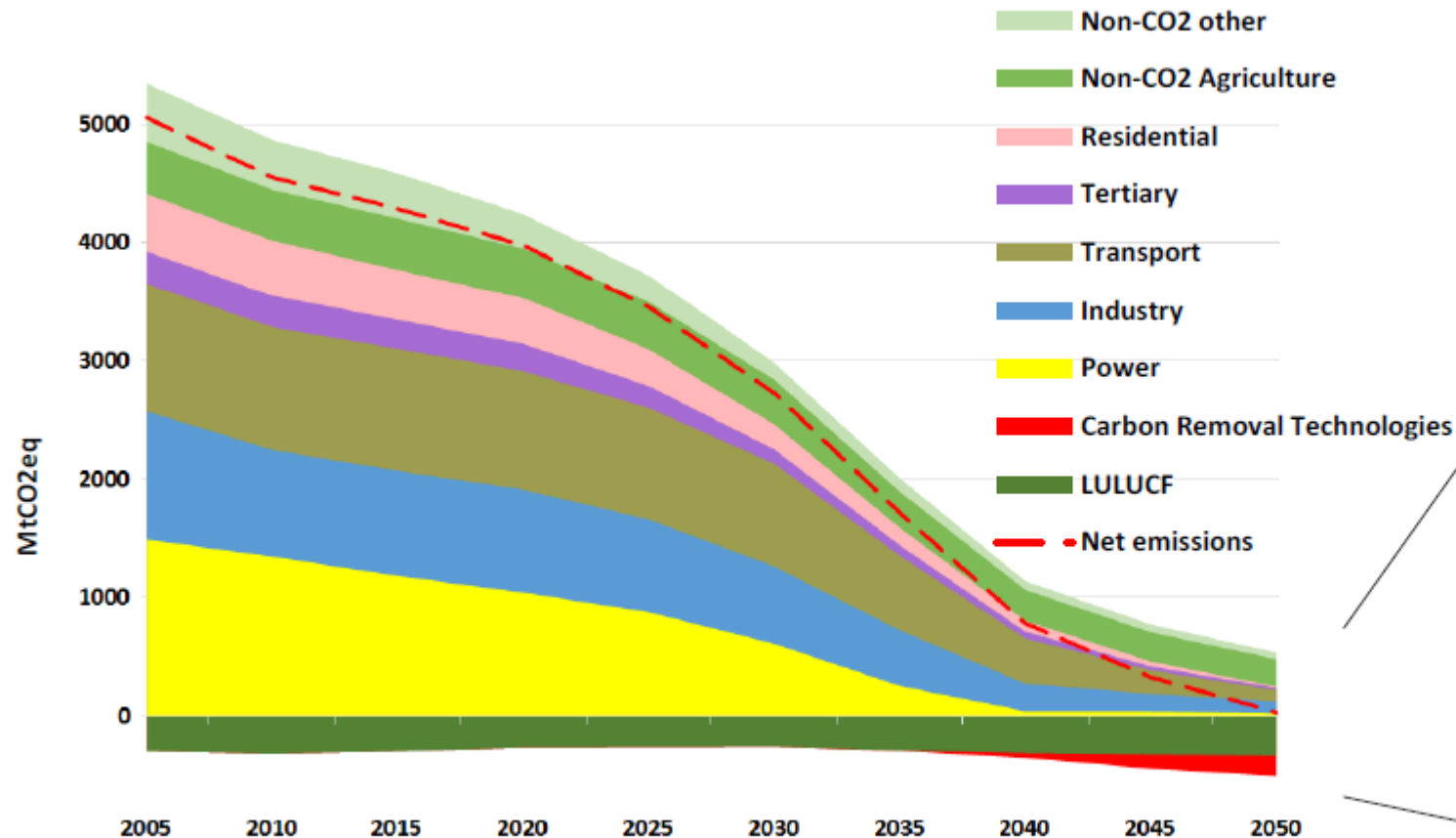
1. Explicit formulation of a Smart Energy Systems **theory** (2 thesis)
2. Next step from 100% Renewable Energy to **Climate Neutral Societies**
3. Application: Smart Energy System Integration Levels to illustrate the **importance of smart energy system sector integration**



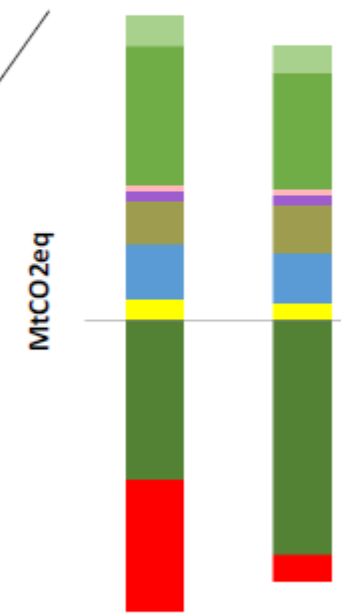
A Clean Planet for all

A European long-term strategic vision
for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy

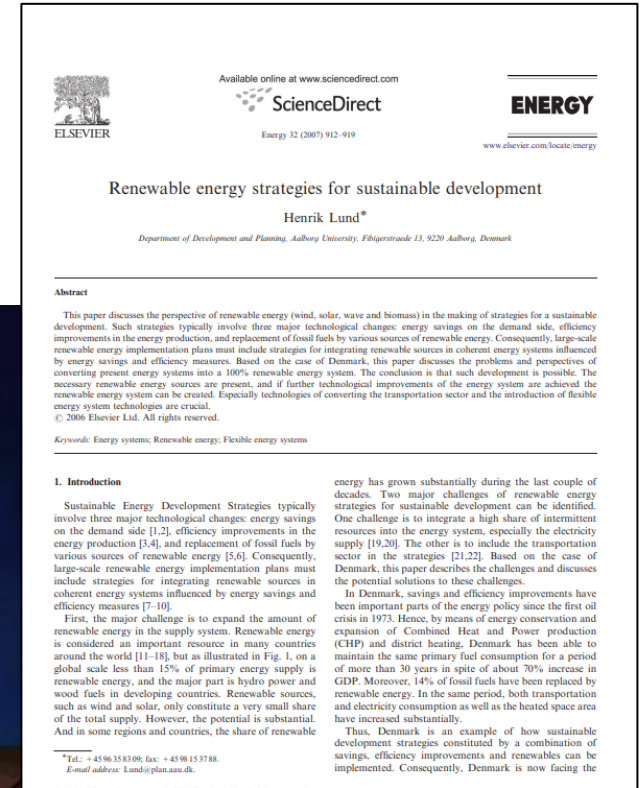
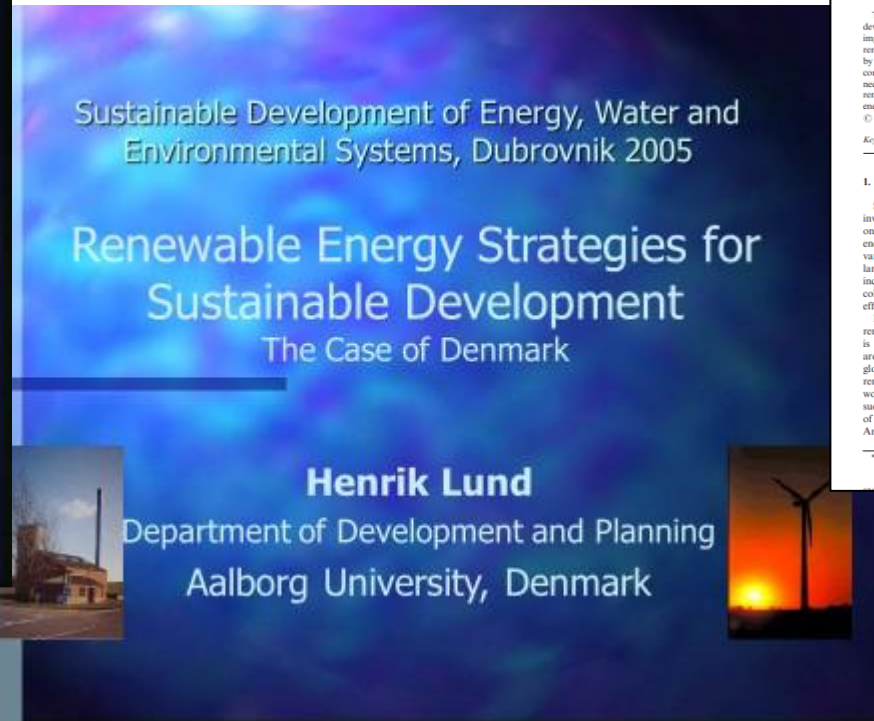
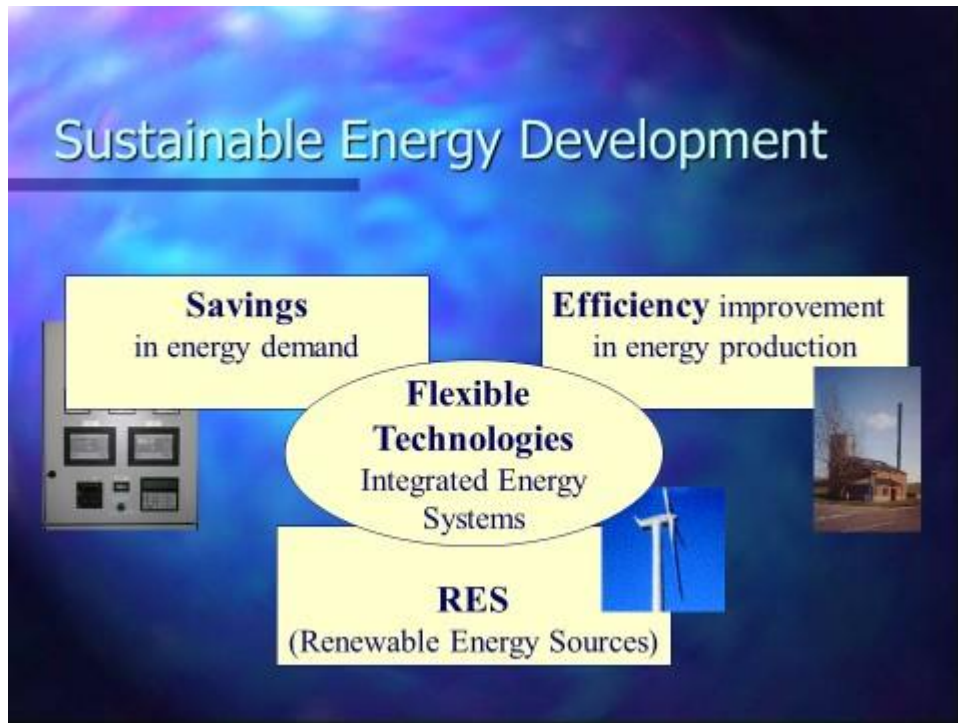
Climate Neutral



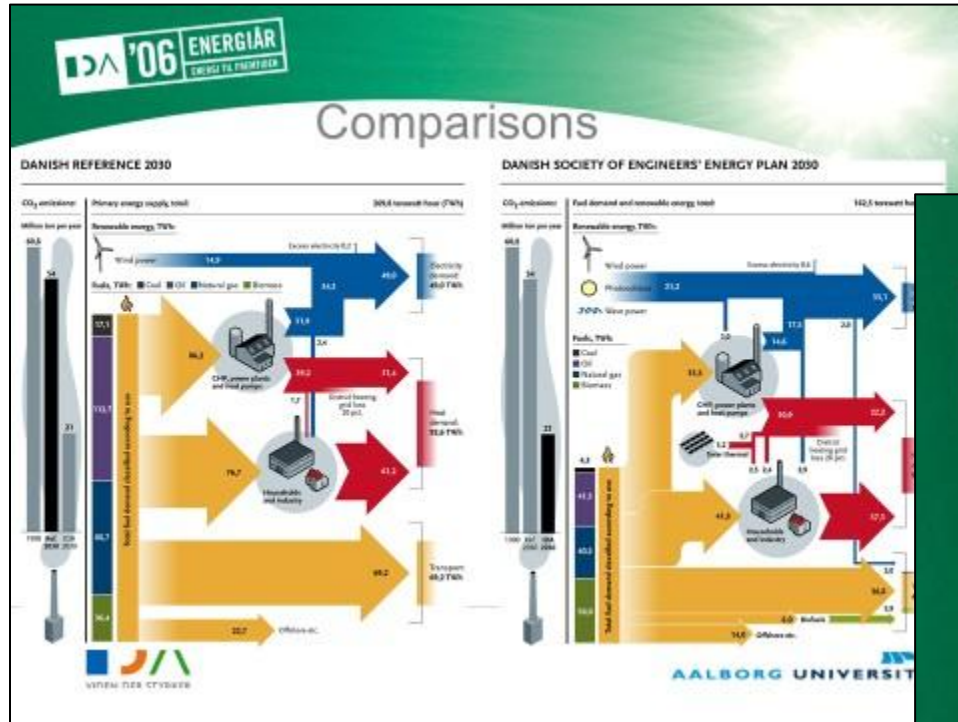
Different zero GHG pathways
lead to different levels of
remaining emissions and
absorption of GHG emissions



Renewable Energy Strategies for Sustainable Development (2005)



100% Renewable Energy Systems (2007)



Energy System Analysis of 100 Percent Renewable Energy Systems
The Case of Denmark year 2030 and 2050

4th Dubrovnik Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems
Dubrovnik 4-8 June 2007

Professor Henrik Lund and PhD Fellow Brian Vad Mathiesen
Aalborg University, Denmark

IDA VORP DER STYRKER
AALBORG UNIVERSITY

Energy 34 (2008) 524–531

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Energy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/energy

Energy system analysis of 100% renewable energy systems—The case of Denmark in years 2030 and 2050

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Keywords:
Energy system analysis
Renewable energy systems
Denmark

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the methodology and results of the overall energy system analysis of a 100% renewable energy system. The input for the systems is the result of a project of the Danish Association of Engineers, in which 1600 participants during more than 40 seminars discussed and designed a model for the future energy system of Denmark. The energy system analysis methodology includes hour by hour computer simulations leading to the design of flexible energy systems with the ability to balance the electricity supply and demand. The results are detailed system designs and energy balances for two energy target years: year 2030 with 100% renewable energy from biomass and combinations of wind, wave and solar power; and year 2050 with 50% renewable energy, emphasising the first important steps on the way. The conclusion is that a 100% renewable energy supply based on domestic resources is physically possible, and that the first step towards 2030 is feasible to Danish society. However, Denmark will have to consider to which degree the country shall rely mostly on biomass resources, which will involve the reorganisation of the present use of farming areas, or mostly on wind power, which will involve a large share of hydrogen or similar energy carriers leading to certain inefficiencies in the system design.

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In 2007, the United Nations' International Panel of Experts (IPE) emphasises the many indicators recommends that the world society today in which 50% of the electricity is produced by combined heat and power (CHP).

In his opening speech to the Danish Parliament in October 2006, the Prime Minister announced the long-term target of Denmark: 100% independence of fossil fuels and nuclear power. A few months later, the Danish Association of Engineers (IDA) put forward a proposal on how and when to achieve such targets. This proposal was the result of the "Energy Year 2006", in which 1600 participants during more than 40 seminars discussed and designed a model for the future energy system of Denmark, putting emphasis on energy efficiency, CO₂ reduction, and industrial development. The proposal was presented as the IDA Energy Plan 2030 (see Fig. 1).

The design of 100% renewable energy systems involves at least three major technological changes [12]: energy savings on the demand side [13,14], efficiency improvements in the energy production [15,16], and the replacement of fossil fuels by various sources of renewable energy [17,18]. Consequently, large-scale renewable energy implementation plans must include strategies for integrating renewable sources in coherent energy systems influenced by energy savings and efficiency measures [19–26].

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100% Renewable Energy and Decarbonized Societies (2021)



October 10 - 15, 2021
Dubrovnik, Croatia

16th sdewes Conference DUBROVNIK 2021

Introductory note:
100% Renewable Energy Systems and D

Professor Henrik Lund
Aalborg Universitet

SENTINEL sEEnergies AALBORG UNIVERSITY



16th CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SYSTEMS


ACCESS THE SUBMISSION SYSTEM

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October 10 - 15, 2021
Dubrovnik, Croatia

16th sdewes Conference

SHIP FAQ



Smart Energy Europe

Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 60 (2016) 1634–1653

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Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rser

Smart Energy Europe: The technical and economic impact of one potential 100% renewable energy scenario for the European Union

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^a Department of Development and Planning, Aalborg University, A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, 2450 Copenhagen SV, Denmark
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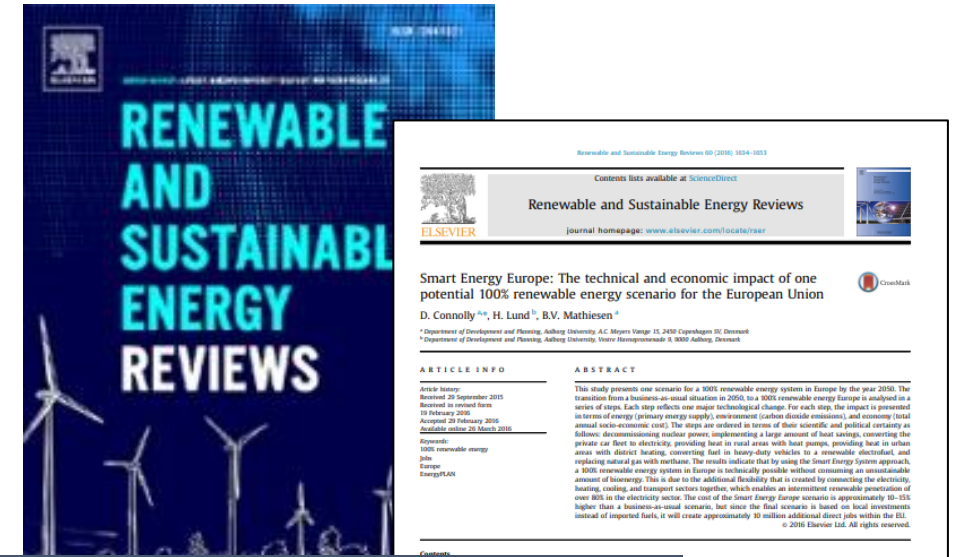
ABSTRACT

This study presents one scenario for a 100% renewable energy system transition from a business-as-usual situation in 2050, to a 100% renewable energy system in 2050.

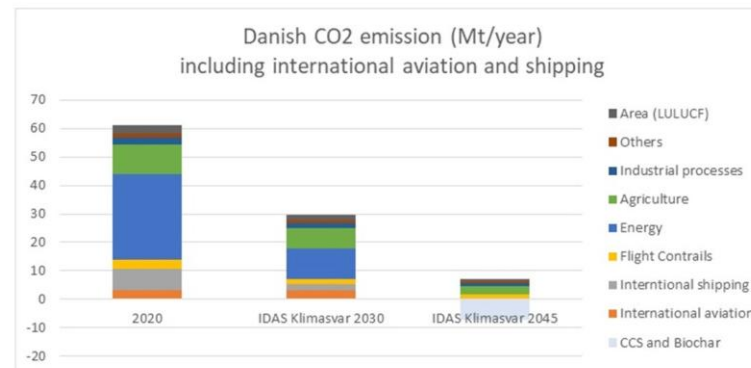
www.EnergyPLAN.eu/SmartEnergyEurope

- Report Online
- Paper Published

Smart Energy and decarbonized societies (2022)



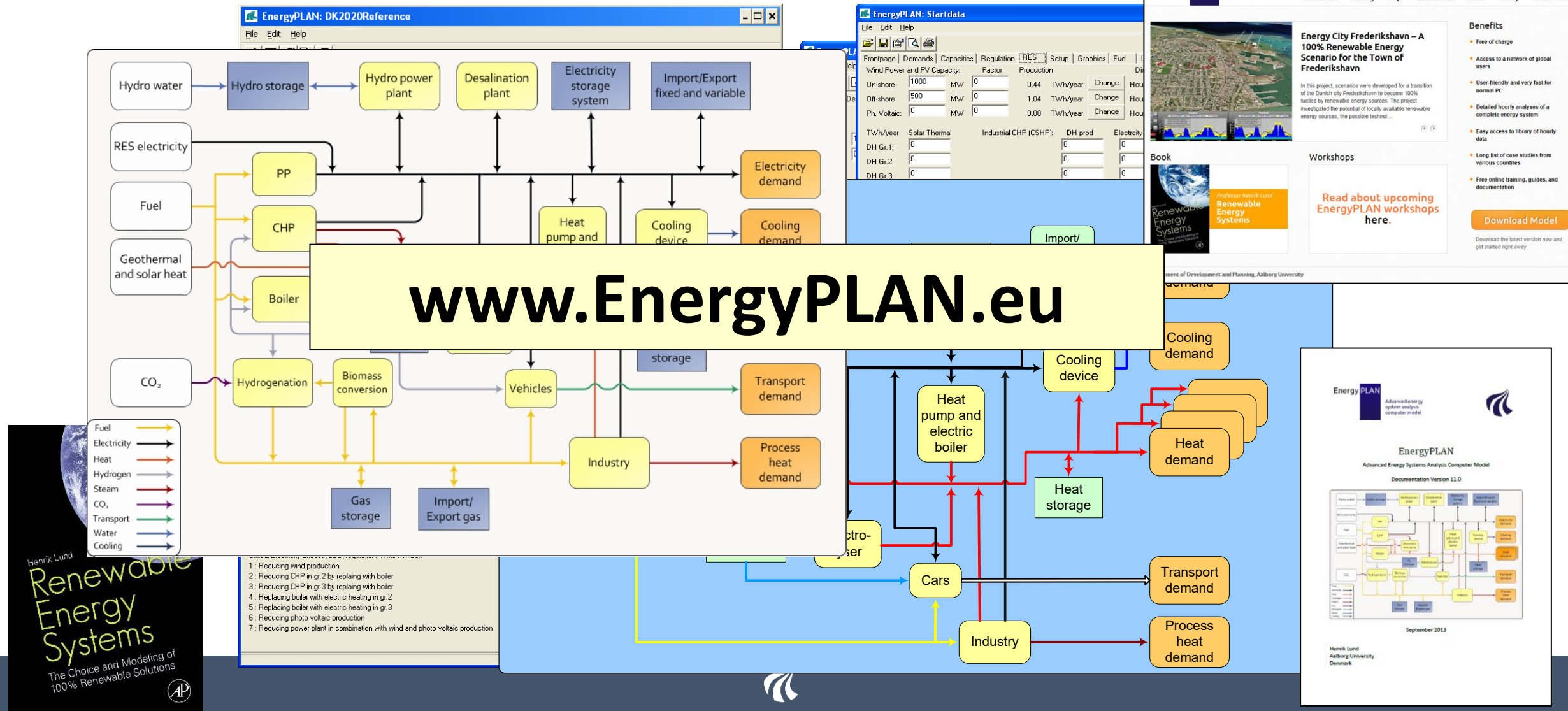
A fully decarbonized Denmark 2045



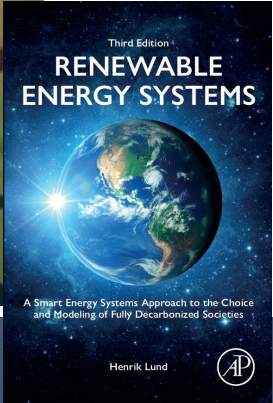
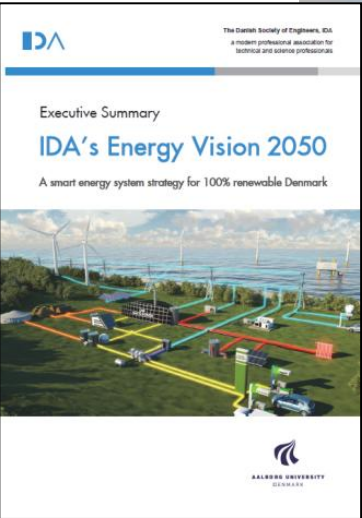
100% Renewable Energy 2050 Or a Climate Neutral Economy but how...???

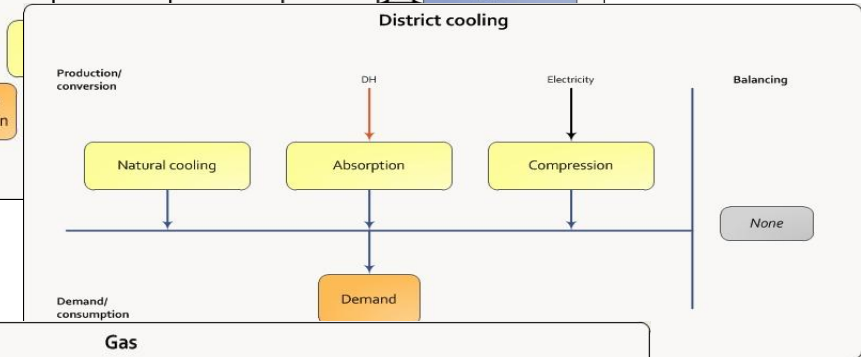
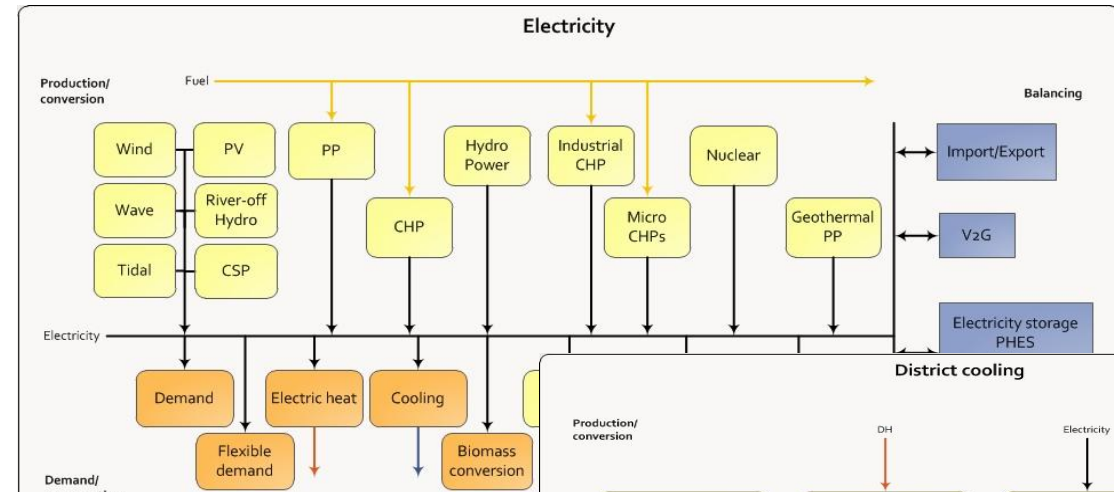
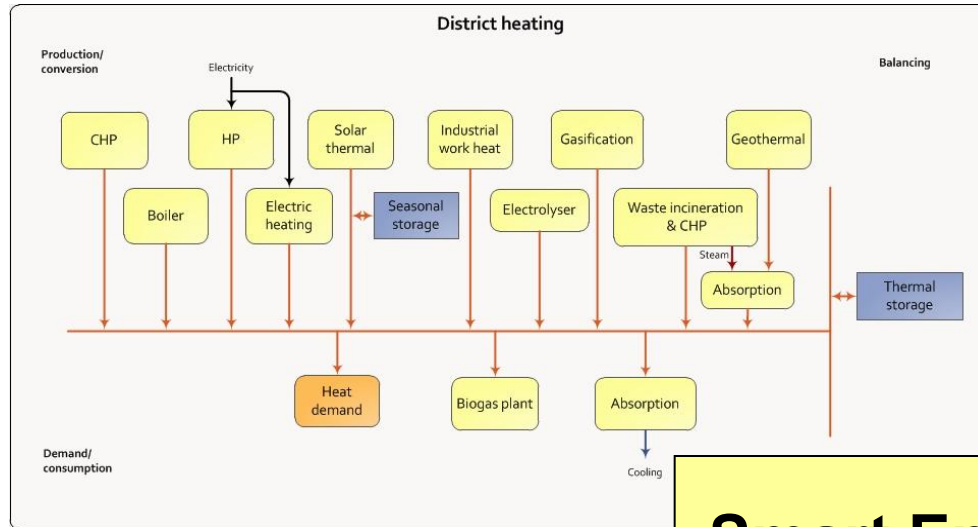


Energi System Analyse Model

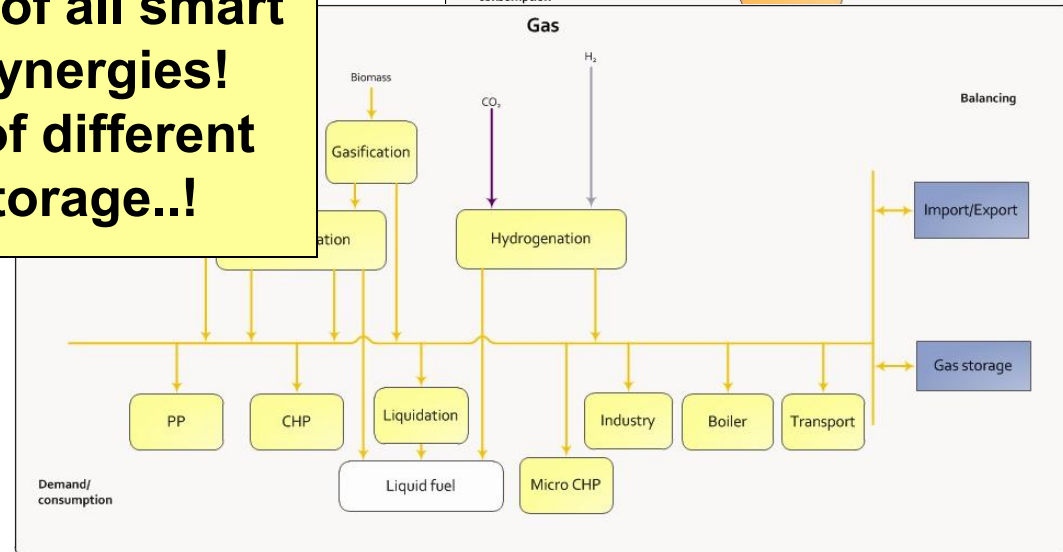
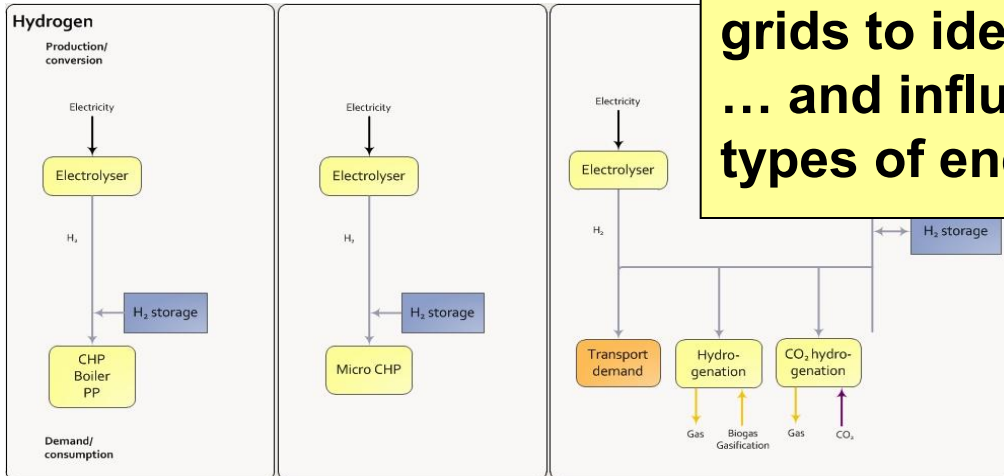


A Holistic Smart Energy Systems Approach

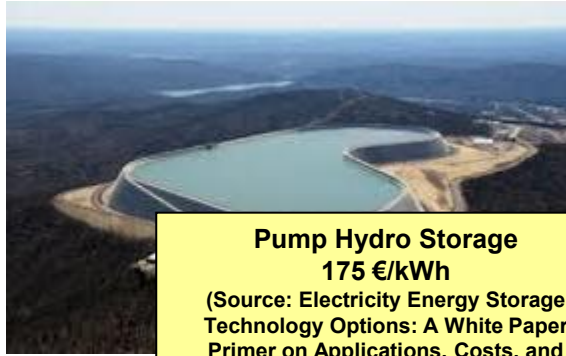




**Smart Energy Systems:
Hourly modelling of all smart
grids to identify synergies!
... and influence of different
types of energy storage..!**



Energy Storage



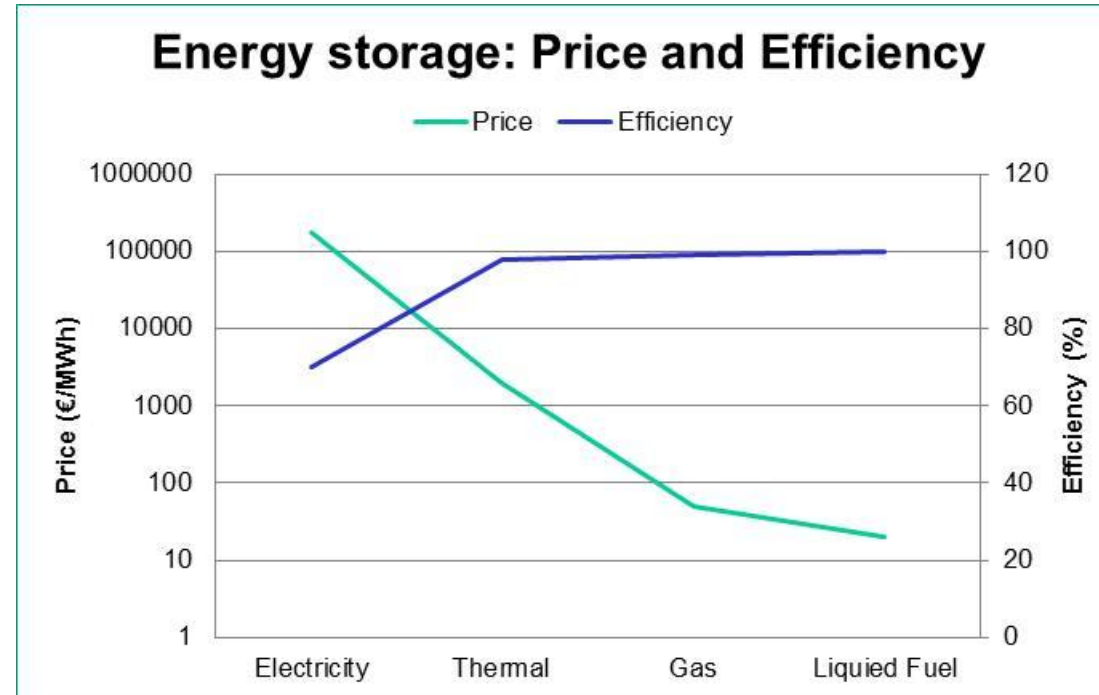
Pump Hydro Storage
175 €/kWh

(Source: Electricity Energy Storage Technology Options: A White Paper Primer on Applications, Costs, and Benefits. Electric Power Research Institute, 2010)

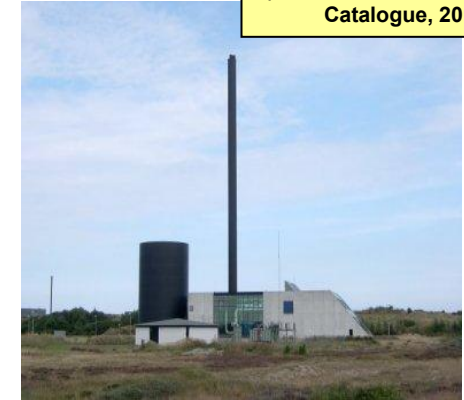


Natural Gas Underground Storage
0.05 €/kWh

(Source: Current State Of and Issues Concerning Underground Natural Gas Storage. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 2004)



Thermal Storage
1-4 €/kWh
(Source: Danish Technology Catalogue, 2012)



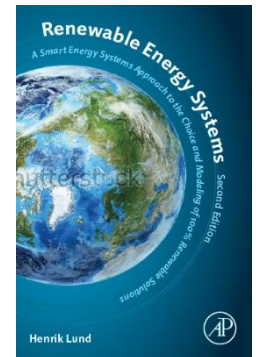
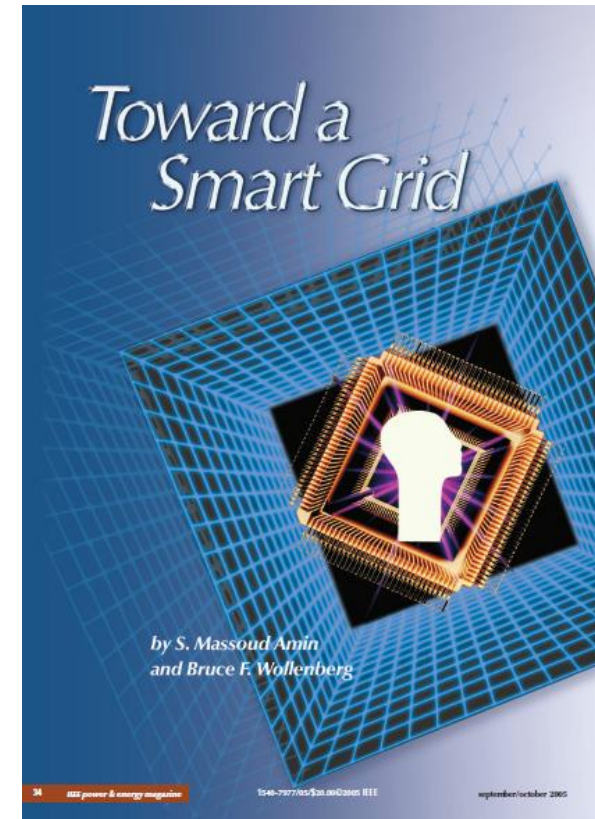
Oil Tank
0.02 €/kWh
(Source: Dahl KH, Oil tanking Copenhagen A/S, 2013: Oil Storage Tank. 2013)

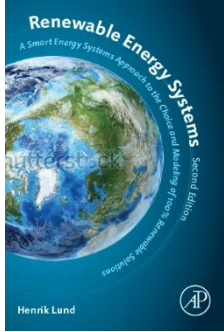


Smart Grid (2005)

No definition.

However it can be understood from the context that a *smart grid* is a power network using modern computer and communication technology to achieve a network which can better deal with potential failures.





Smart Grid - definitions



“A *smart grid* is an electricity grid that uses information and communications technology to gather and act on information, such as information about the behaviors of suppliers and consumers, in an automated fashion to improve the efficiency, reliability, economics, and sustainability of the production and distribution of electricity.” (U.S. Department of Energy)



“*Smart Grids* ... concerns an electricity network that can intelligently integrate the actions of all users connected to it - generators, consumers and those that do both - in order to efficiently deliver sustainable, economic and secure electricity supplies.” (SmartGrids European Technology Platform, 2006).



“A *Smart Grid* is an electricity network that can cost efficiently integrate the behaviour and actions of all users connected to it – generators, consumers and those that do both – in order to ensure economically efficient, sustainable power system with low losses and high levels of quality and security of supply and safety.” (European Commission, 2011)

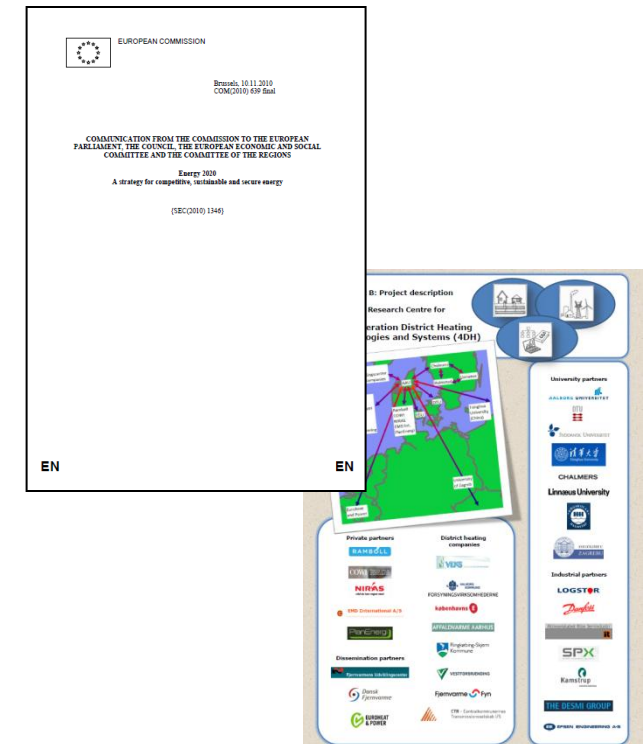
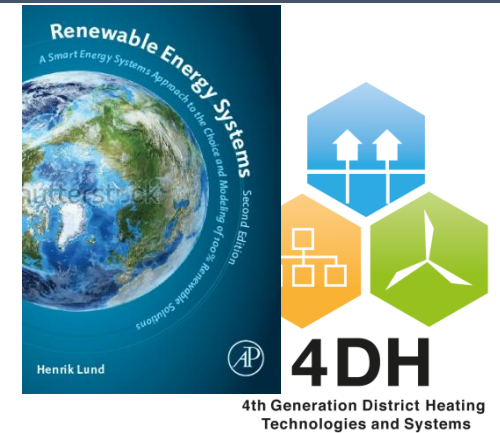


“*Smart grids* are networks that monitor and manage the transport of electricity from all generation sources to meet the varying electricity demands of end users” “The widespread deployment of smart grids is crucial to achieving a more secure and sustainable energy future.” (International Energy Agency 2013).



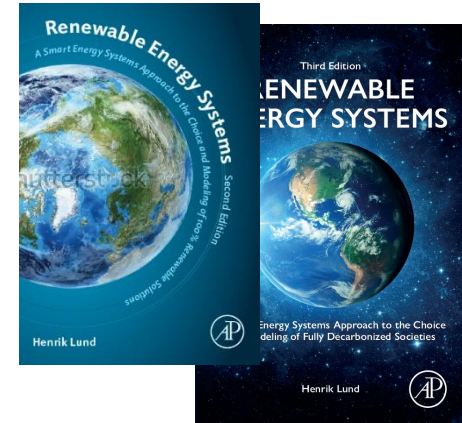
Smart heating and cooling grids - 2010

- In the European Commission's strategy [7] for a competitive, sustainable and secure "Energy 2020", the need for "*high efficiency cogeneration, district heating and cooling*" is highlighted (page 8). The paper launches projects to promote, among others, "*smart electricity grids*" along with "*smart heating and cooling grids*" (page 16).

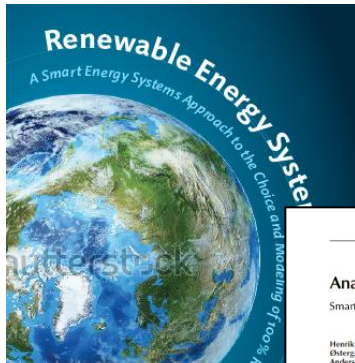




Smart Energy Systems



- **Smart Electricity Grids** are electricity infrastructures that can intelligently integrate the actions of all users connected to it - generators, consumers and those that do both - in order to efficiently deliver sustainable, economic and secure electricity supplies.
- **Smart Thermal** town centre or village number of distributed from the connected
Smart Energy System is defined as an approach in which smart Electricity, Thermal and Gas Grids are combined and coordinated to identify synergies between them in order to achieve an optimal solution for each individual sector as well as for the overall energy system.
- **Smart Gas Grids** are gas infrastructures that can intelligently integrate the actions of all users connected to it - supplies, consumers and those that do both - in order to efficiently deliver sustainable, economic and secure gas supplies and storage.



Chapter 6 Analysis Smart Energy Systems and Infrastructures

Henrik Lund and with contribution by Frede Hvelplund, Poul Østergaard, Bernd Müller, Brian Vad Mathiesen, David Connolly, and Anders N. Andersen

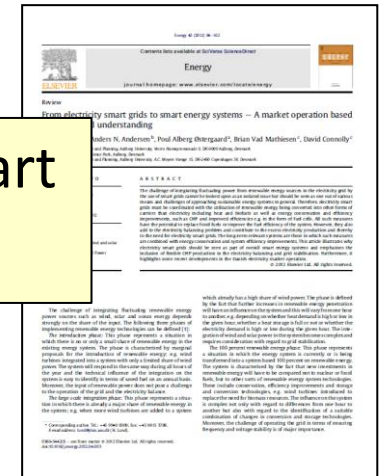
Smart Energy Systems and Infrastructures published 2014

when the electricity sector is combined with the other sectors, such as the heating sector and the transportation sector. Moreover, as will be explained in this chapter, the combination of electricity and gas infrastructures may play an important role in the design of future renewable energy systems. This chapter starts by discussing the challenges as well as the concepts and definitions of various smart grids and energy systems. Then it presents the results of a list of studies relevant to the understanding of the challenges of the different energy infrastructures and how to meet these. One main point is

Renewable Energy Systems
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Smart Energy and Smart Energy Systems published 2017

From electricity smart grids to smart energy systems published 2012



From electricity smart grids to smart energy systems - A market operation based understanding

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^e Aalborg University, Department of Energy Technology, 9220 Aalborg, Denmark

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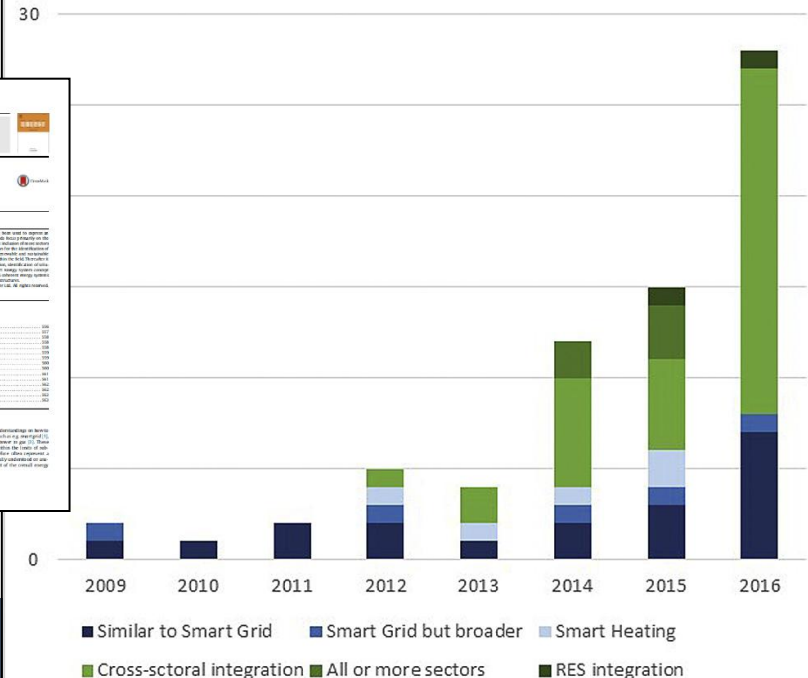
^w Aalborg University, Department of Energy Technology, 9220 Aalborg, Denmark

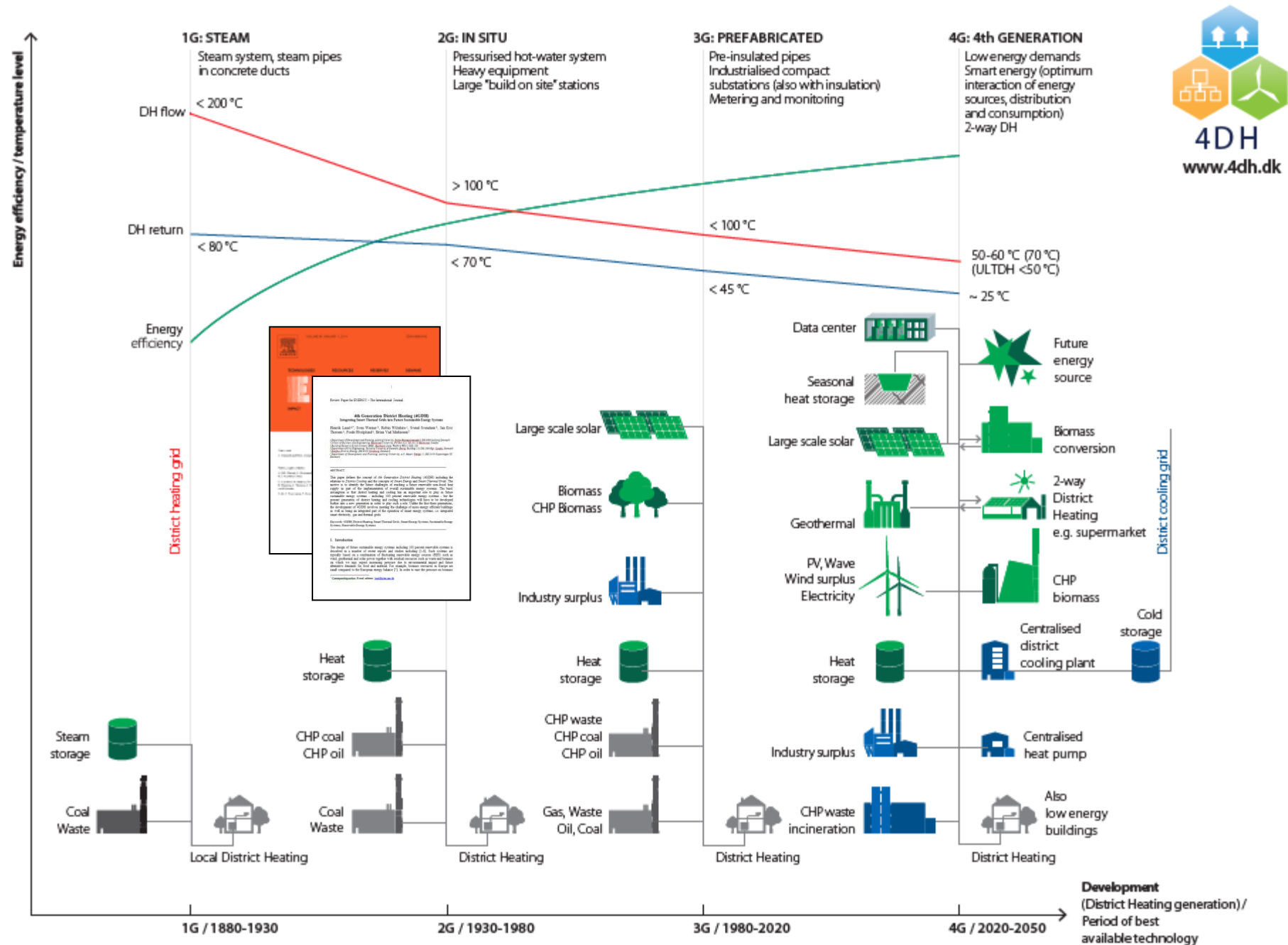
^x Aalborg University, Department of Energy Technology, 9220 Aalborg, Denmark

^y Aalborg University, Department of Energy Technology, 9220 Aalborg, Denmark

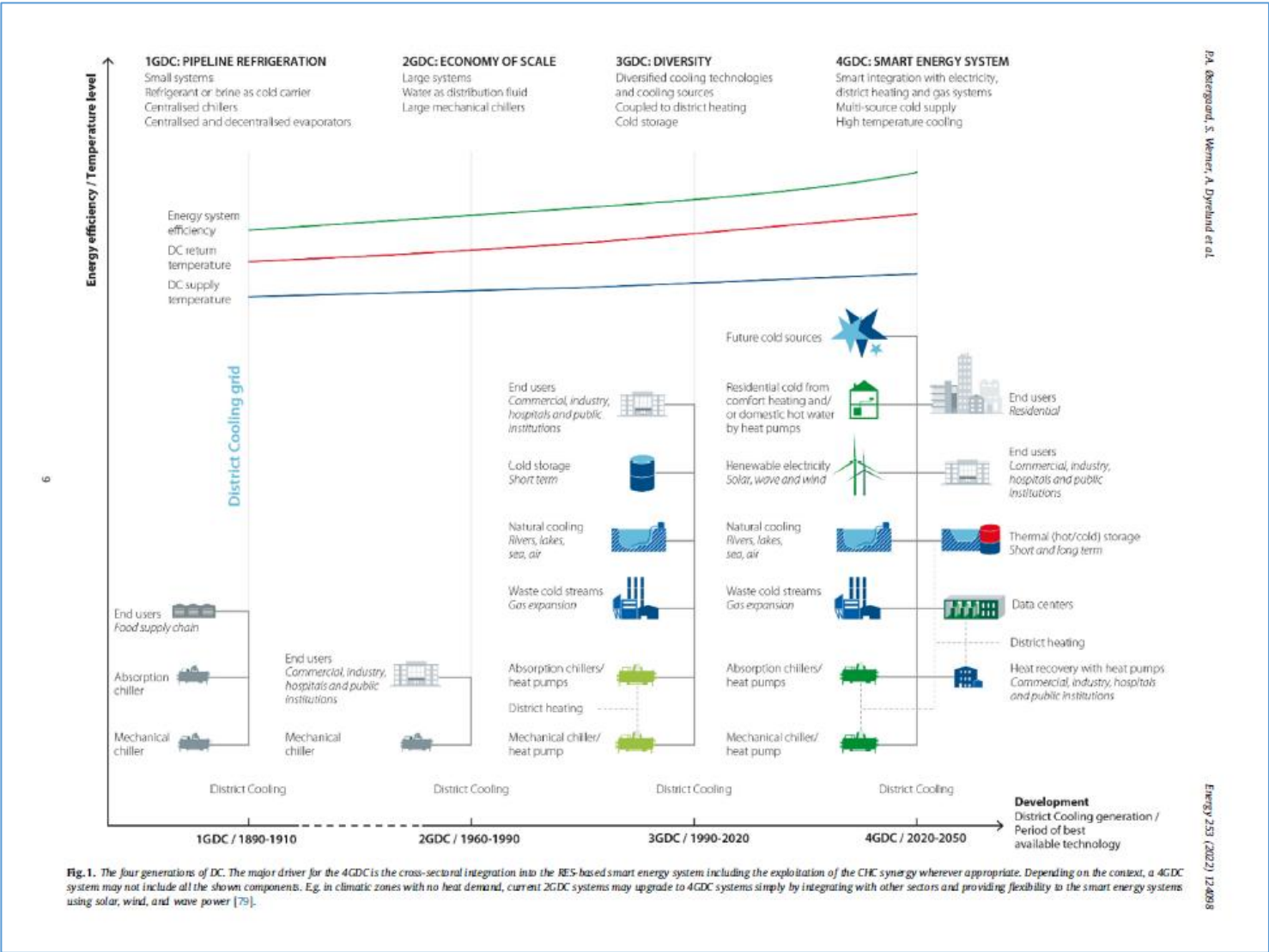
^z Aalborg University, Department of Energy Technology, 9220 Aalborg, Denmark

Understanding of the Smart Energy Systems concept in Scientific Publications





4GDC: 4th Generation District Cooling



Energy 253 (2022) 134908

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Energy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/energy

The four generations of district cooling - A categorization of the development in district cooling from origin to future prospect

Poul Alberg Østergaard ^{a,*}, Sven Werner ^b, Anders Dyrhøj ^c, Henrik Lund ^d, Ahmad Arabkoobas ^e, Peter Sørensen ^f, Oddgeir Gudmundsson ^g, Jan Eric Thorsen ^h, Brian Vad Mathiesen ⁱ

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^b Department of Construction and Energy Engineering, Malmø University, PO Box 423, 5810, Malmø, Sweden
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Energy system integration

ABSTRACT

Research into new advanced district heating concepts has increased since the first four generations of district heating were defined in 2014. This definition created a common framework for research and industry alike, and pointed to potential future for district heating which could benefit from low-temperature heating in buildings. The fully developed fourth-generation district heating includes the cross-sectoral integration into the smart energy system. This paper defines four generations of district cooling to make a similar useful framework for district cooling. The first generation being pipeline refrigeration systems that were first introduced in the late 19th century, the second generation being mainly based on large compression chillers and cold water as distribution fluid, the third generation having a more diversified cold supply such as natural cooling, and the fourth generation combining cooling with other energy sectors sometimes into a renewable energy-based smart energy system context, including combined heating and cooling.

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1. Introduction

Studies show that district energy systems, such as district heating (DH) and district cooling (DC), allow for a low cost and energy-efficient transition towards renewable energy (RE)-based energy systems [1], enabling, for example, increased flexibility in the operation of energy conversion technologies [2], low-cost storage solutions [3] and the utilisation of otherwise non-utilised energy sources such as excess heat from industries and natural cooling from natural cold sources [4,5].

Globally, modern commercial DH has been utilised since the 1870s, and has since then expanded to around 80,000 systems delivering a total of around 115 EJ of heat in 2014 [6]. DH has especially seen a wide implementation in Russia, China, and the European Union (EU), accounting for around 85% of the globally delivered DH [4]. It is estimated that DH supplies 8% of the global end-user heating demand [4]. Due to the relatively high utilisation and potential for allowing a more fuel- and cost-efficient transition to RE-based energy systems, DH has been the subject of extensive focus within research [7] and is playing an important role in the EU and national energy policies.

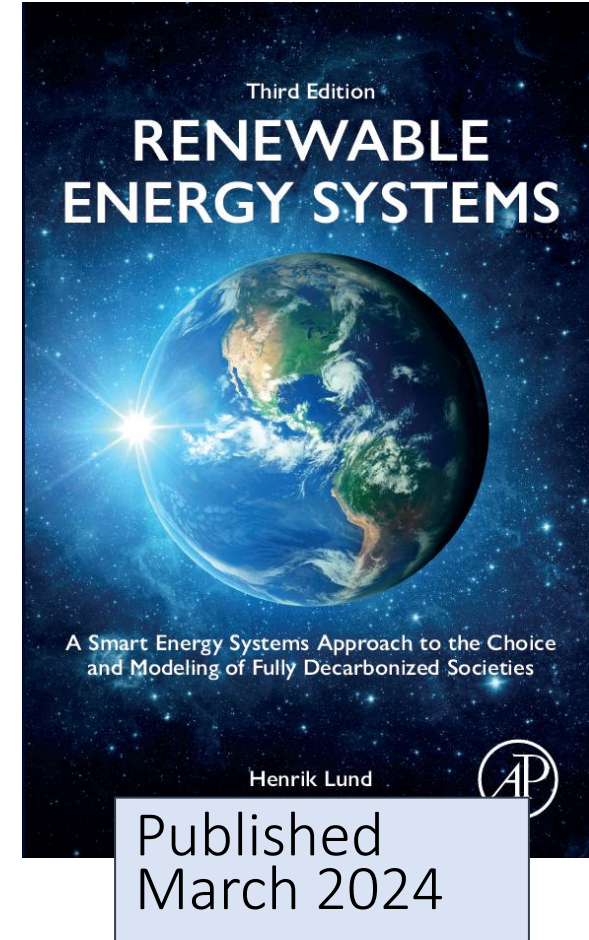
Currently, it is estimated that nearly 20% of the total global electricity demand is used for cooling purposes, via air conditioners and electric fans in buildings. Furthermore, the electricity consumption due to cooling is expected to increase due to urbanisation, industrialisation, climate change, and as the standard of living increases globally with some projecting a tripling of the current electricity demand for cooling [5]. Moreover, uncontrolled use of chillers creates a cooling peak and risk of the town out. Where DH has seen a relatively wide global utilisation, DC is less utilised for covering cooling demands, only delivering around 100 PJ/year globally [4]. However, DC could provide a more efficient and low-cost option for covering cooling demands, as it allows for, e.g.,

^{*} Corresponding author.
E-mail address: poul@byas.aau.dk (P.A. Østergaard).

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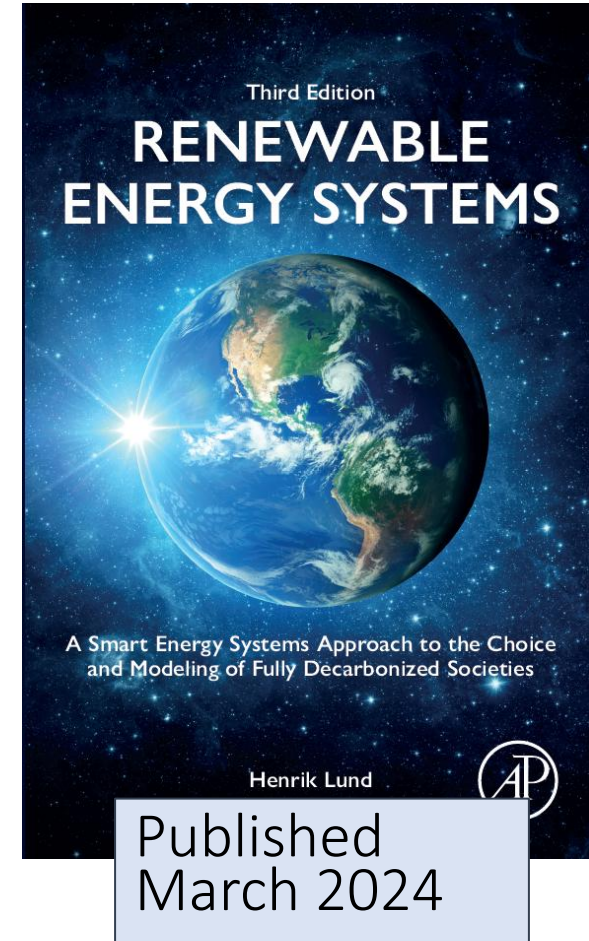
New insights:

1. Explicit formulation of a Smart Energy Systems **theory** (2 thesis)
2. Next step from 100% Renewable Energy to **Climate Neutral Societies**
3. Application: Smart Energy System Integration Levels to illustrate the **importance of smart energy system sector integration**



Two Smart Energy Systems Theses:

1. One cannot find the best solutions for affordable and reliable transitions of the energy system into a carbon neutral society solely within each subsector of the energy system. One must approach the transition in a holistic and cross-sectoral smart energy system perspective in order to be able to identify the best solution for the overall energy system and for society as a whole.
2. Subsector studies (no matter if they concern the role of a specific technology or the role of a region or country) should aim at identifying the role to play in an overall transition of the whole system, rather than aim at decarbonizing the sub-sector on its own

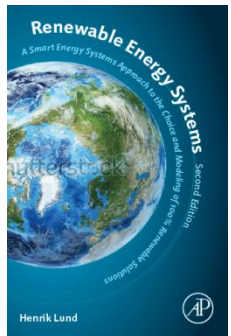
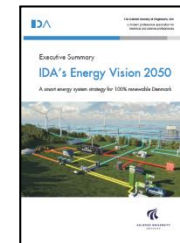


IDAs Climate Response: In a European context

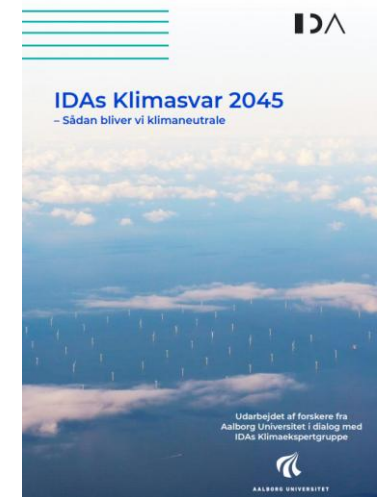
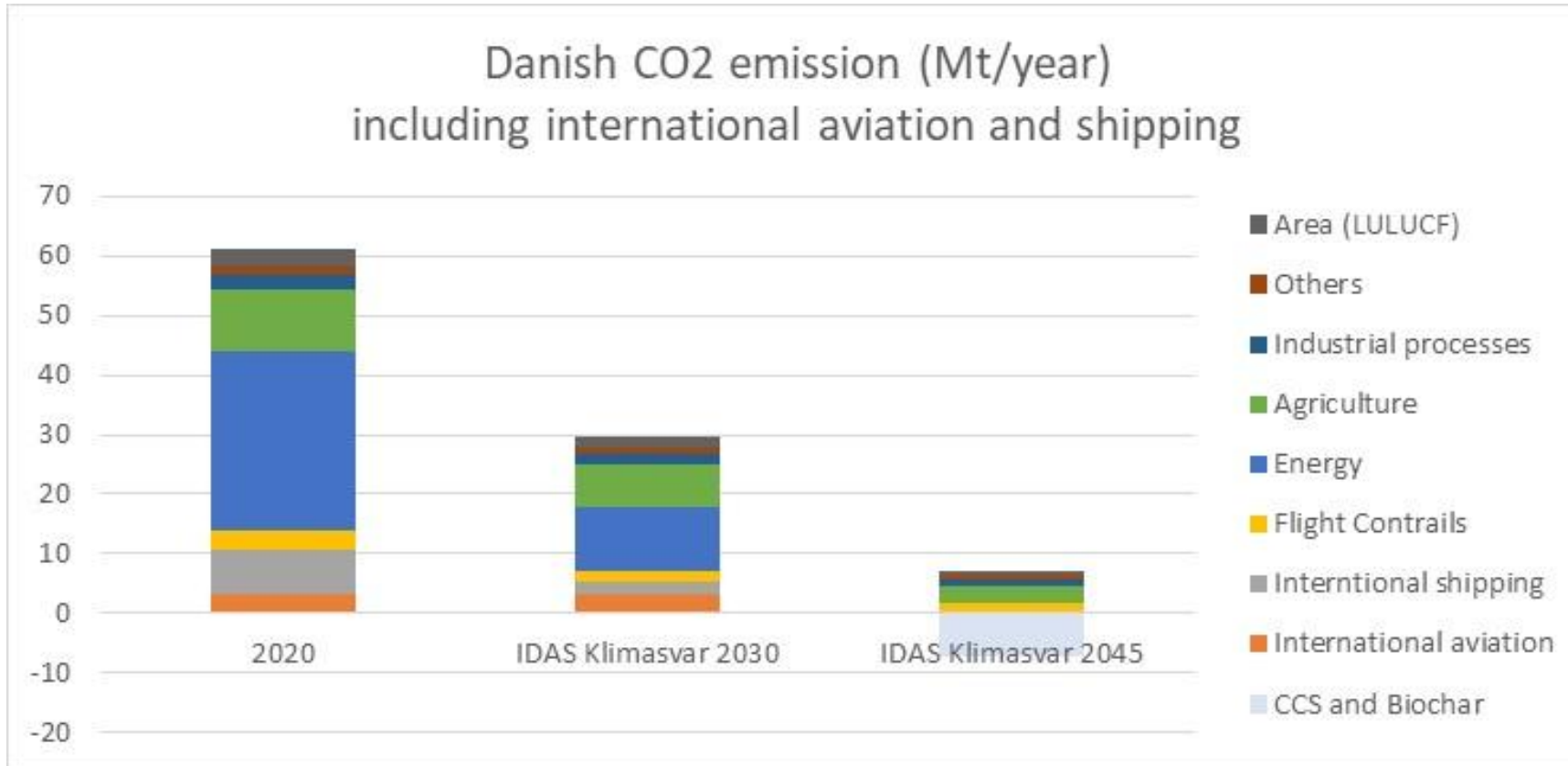
Denmark should fulfill its objective of renewable energy and CO2-reductions in a way, so it fits well into a context in which the rest of Europe - and the world - will do the same.

Therefore:

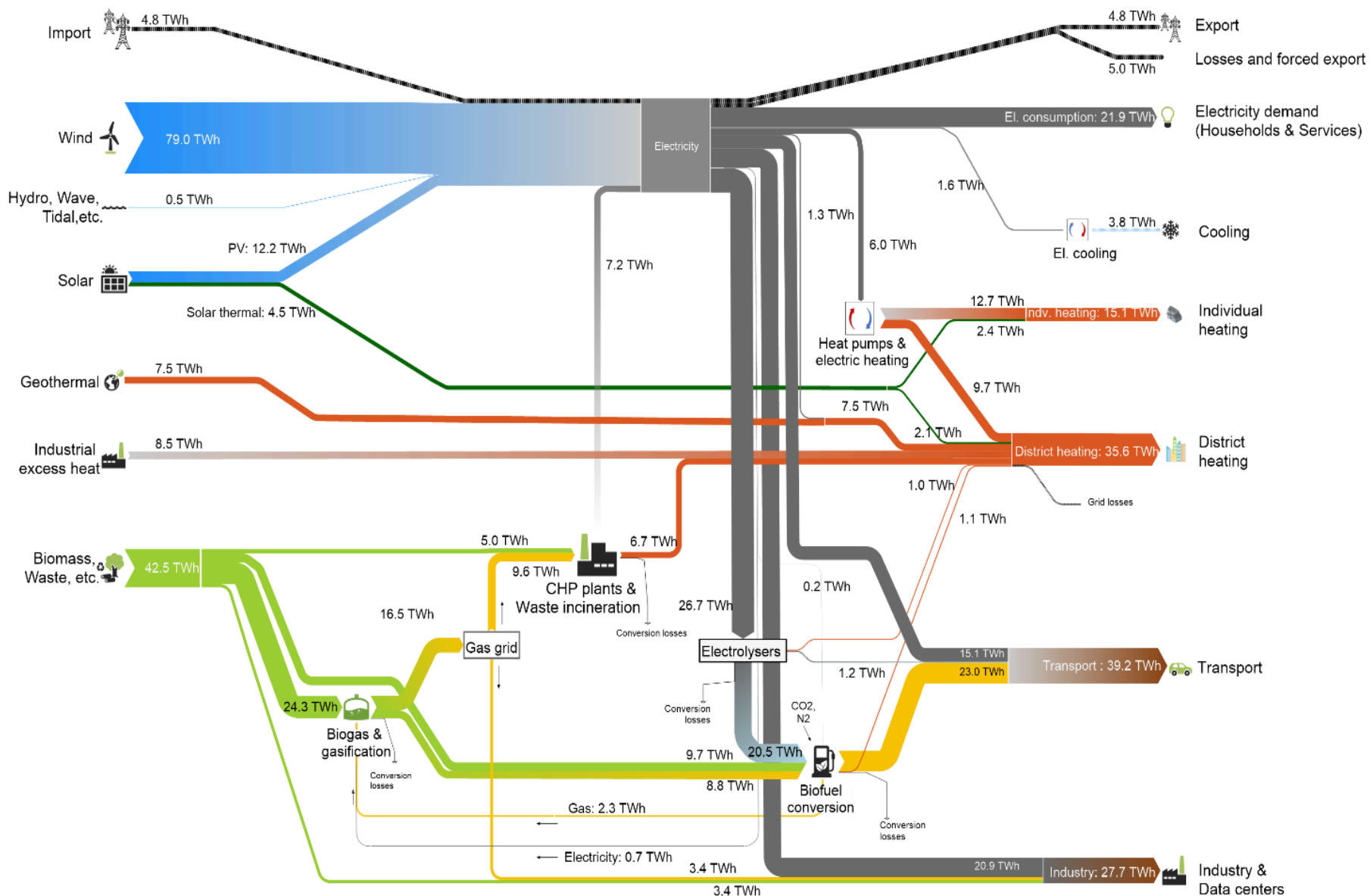
- Denmark should include the Danish share of **international aviation and shipping** even though it is not included yet in the UN way of calculating the Danish CO2 emissions.
- Denmark should not exceed our share of **sustainable use of biomass** in the world.
- Denmark should make our contribution in terms of **flexibility and reserve capacity** to integrate wind and solar into the **European electricity supply**.



A fully decarbonized Denmark 2045



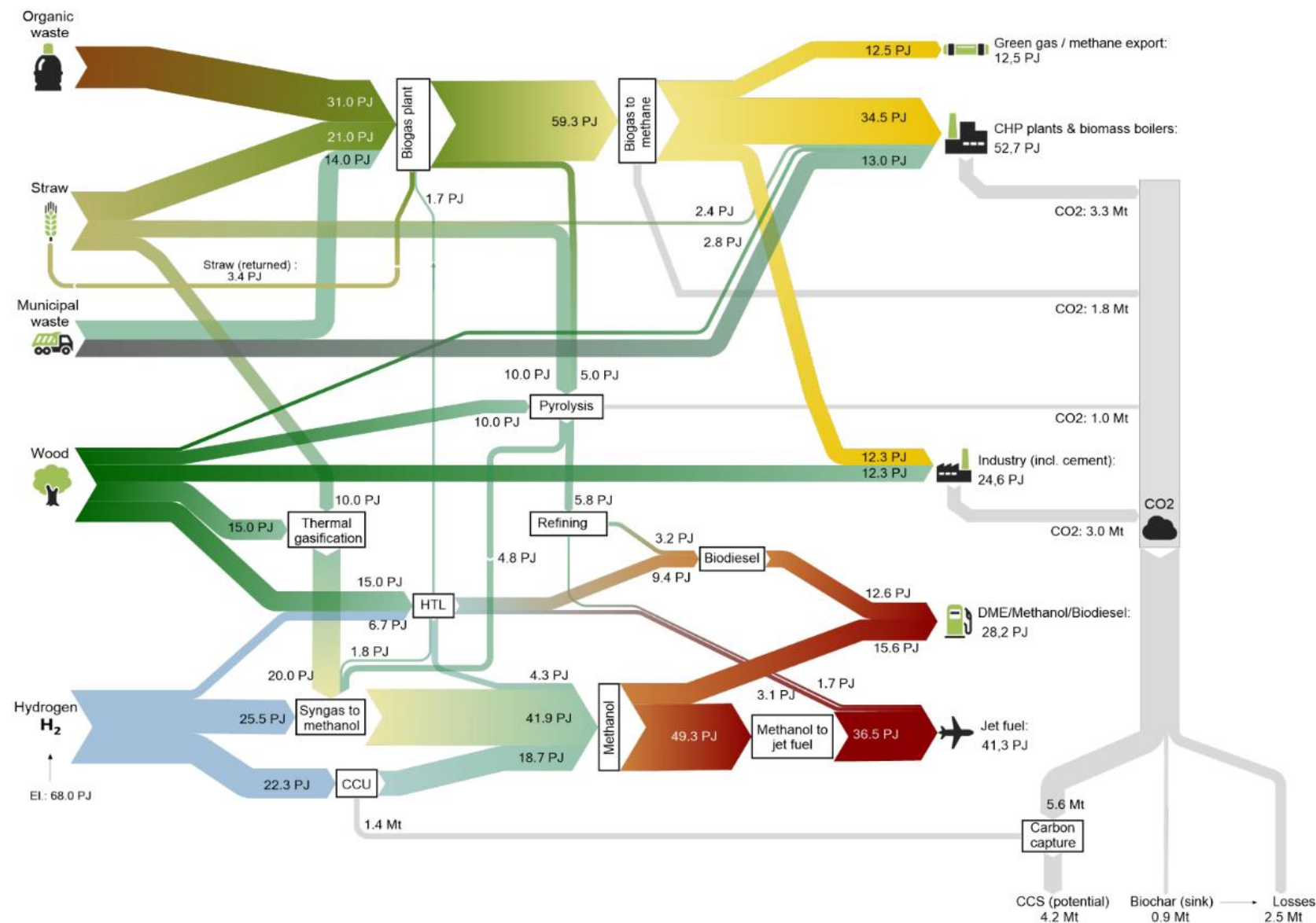
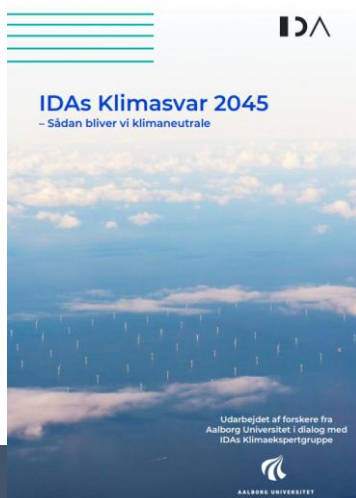
2045



Biomasse 2045

Overview:

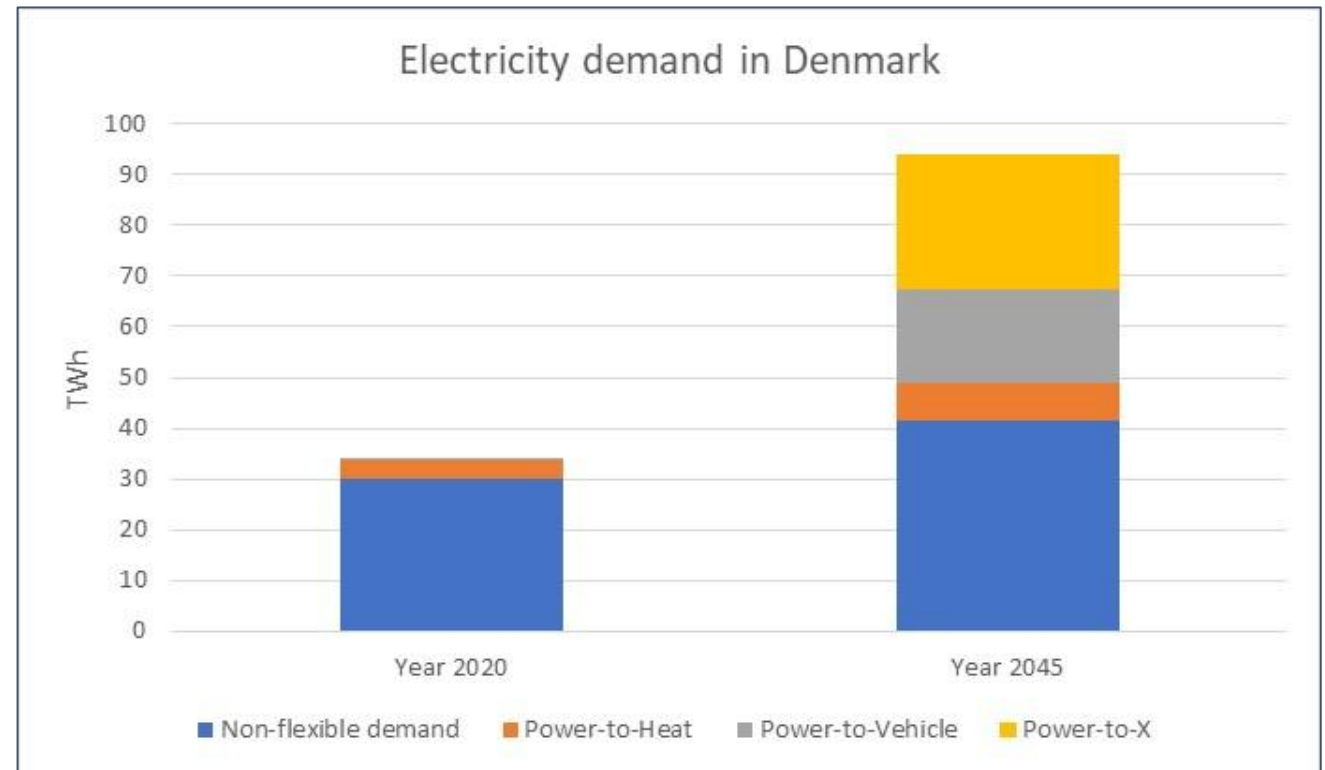
*(153 PJ minus
eksport 13 PJ =
140 PJ svarende
til 23 GJ/capita)*



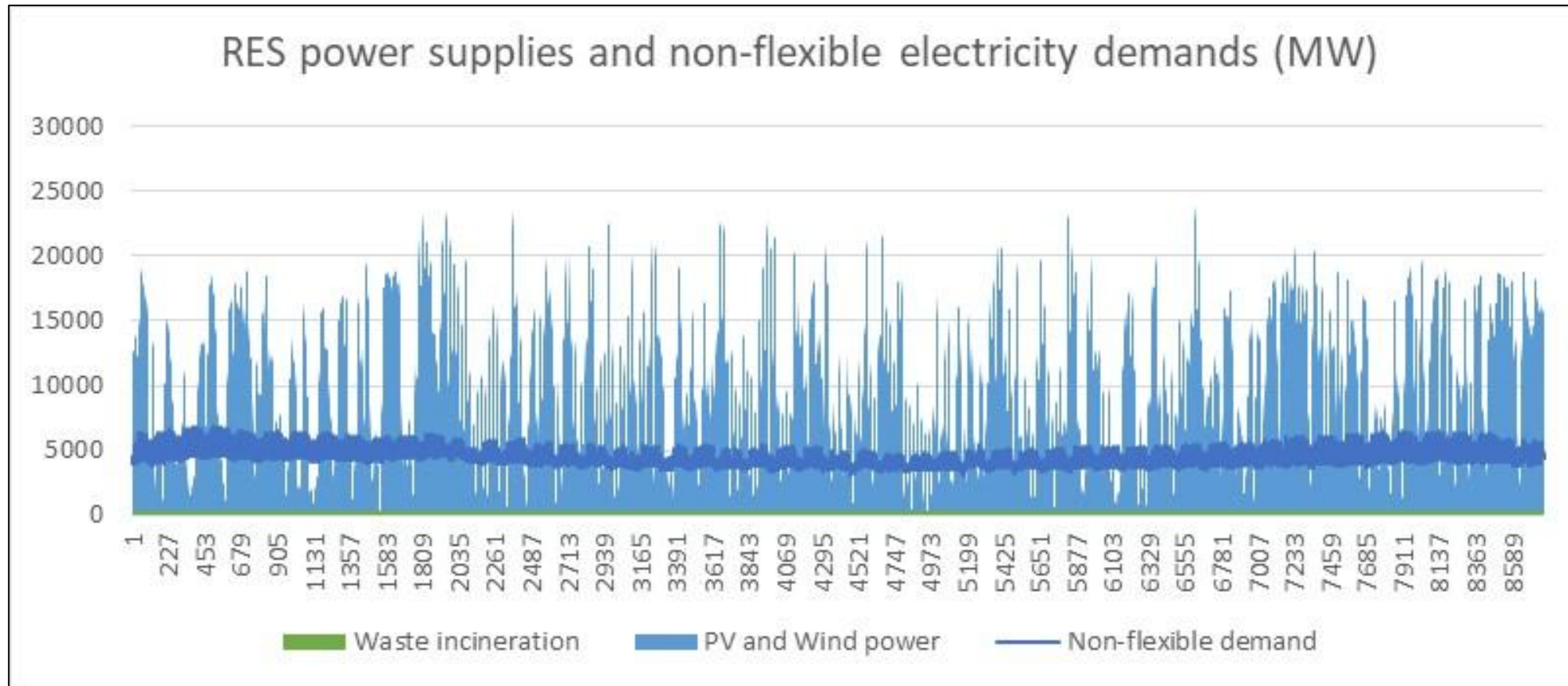
Essential changes in the future electricity demand

The "classical" non-flexible electricity demand increases by new flexible demands for:

- Electric Vehicles
- Power-to-Heat (heat pumps and electrical boilers)
- Electrolysis and Power-to-X



PV and wind will cover the “classical” non-flexible electricity demand in the hour except for only 7%



Literature:



Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 60 (2016) 1634–1653

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rser

Smart Energy Europe: The technical and economic impact of one potential 100% renewable energy scenario for the European Union

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ABSTRACT

This study presents one scenario for a 100% renewable energy system in Europe by the year 2050. The transition from a business-as-usual situation in 2005 to a 100% renewable energy Europe is analysed in a series of steps. Each step reflects one major technological change. For each step, the impact is presented in terms of energy (primary energy supply), environment (carbon dioxide emissions), and economy (total annual socio-economic cost). The steps are ordered in terms of their scientific and political certainty as follows: decommissioning nuclear power, implementing a large amount of heat savings, converting the private car fleet to electricity, providing heat to rural areas with heat pumps, providing heat to urban areas with district heating, converting fuel in heavy-duty vehicles to a renewable electrofuel, and replacing natural gas with methanol. The results indicate that by using the linear Energy System approach, a 100% renewable energy system in Europe is technically possible without consuming an unsustainable amount of bioenergy. This is due to the additional flexibility that is created by connecting the electricity, heating, cooling, and transport sectors together, which enables an intermittent renewable penetration of over 80% in the electricity sector. The cost of the linear Energy Europe scenario is approximately 10–15% higher than a business-as-usual scenario, but since the final scenario is based on local investments instead of imported fuels, it will create approximately 30 million additional direct jobs within the EU. © 2016 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

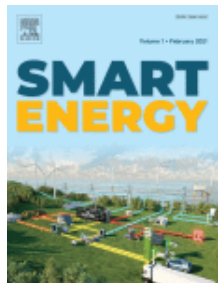
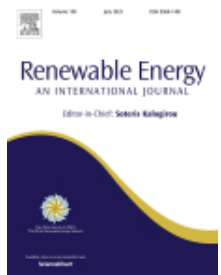
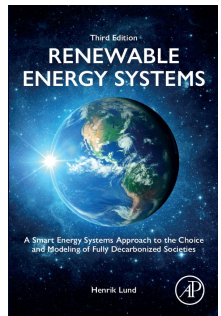
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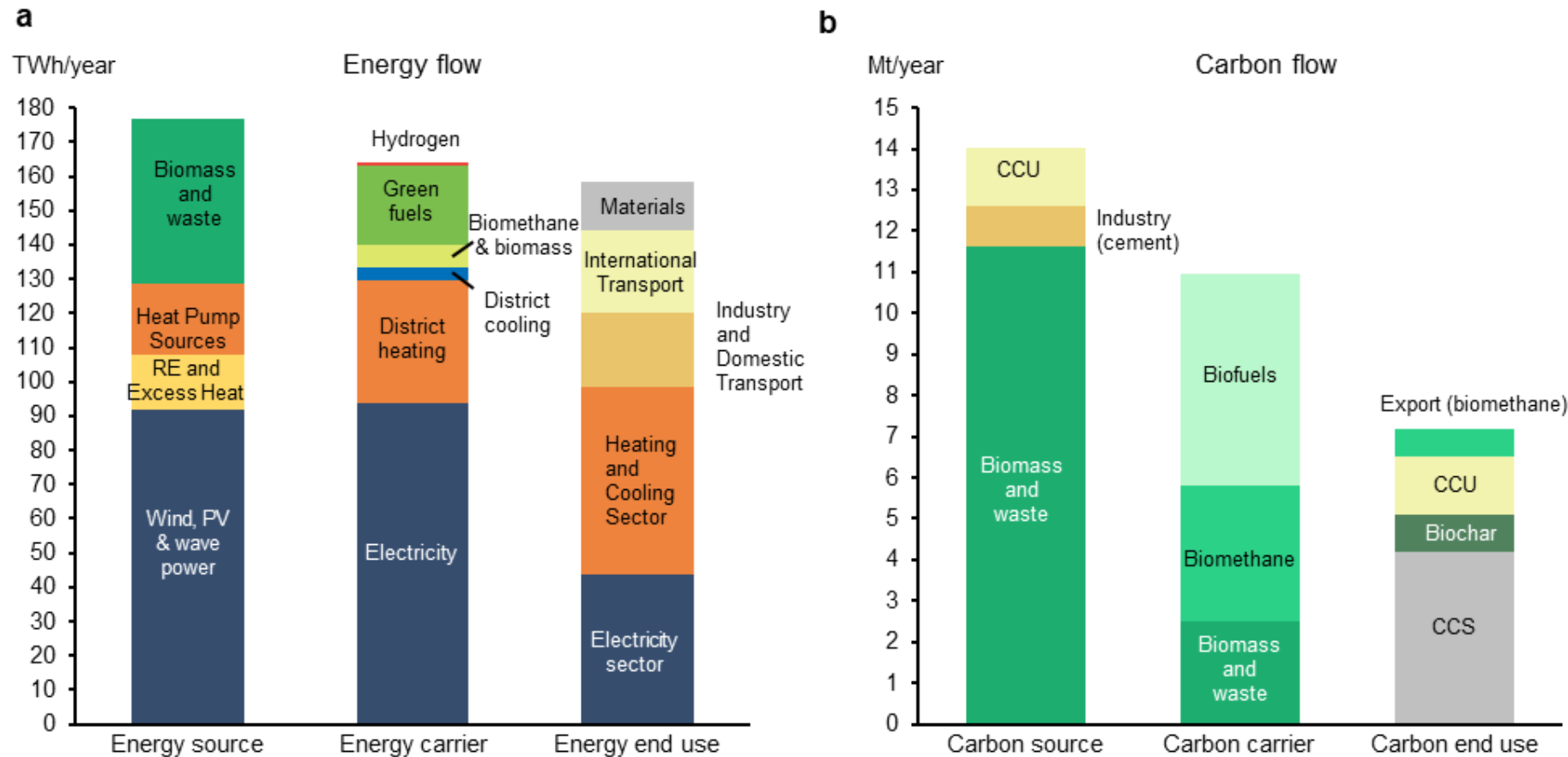
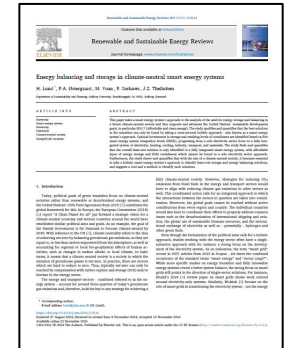
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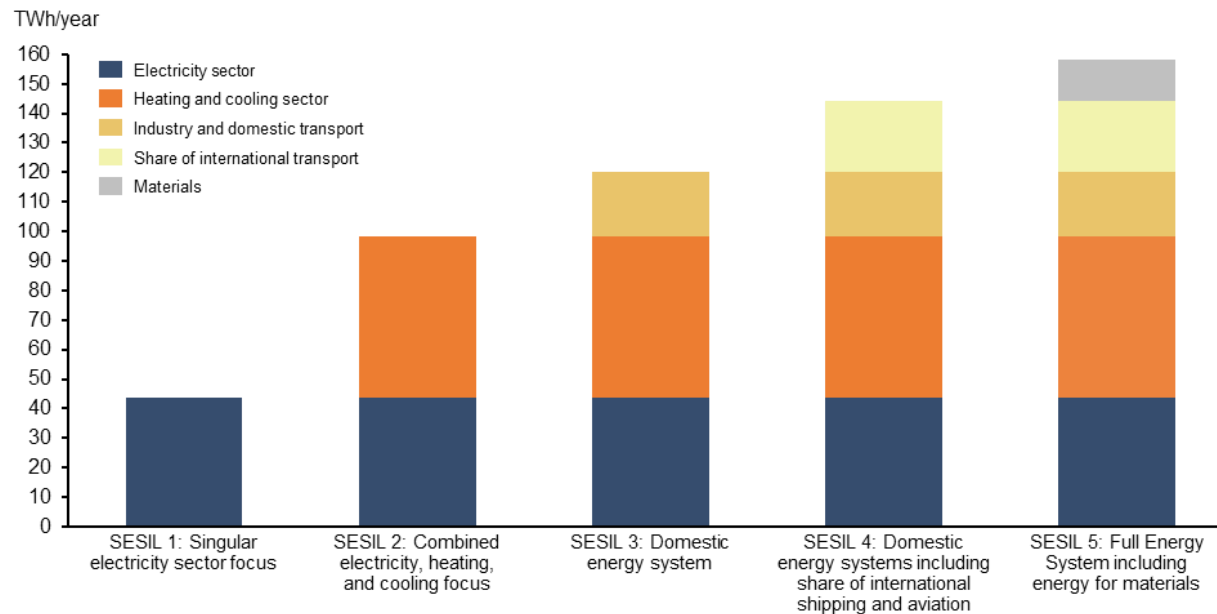
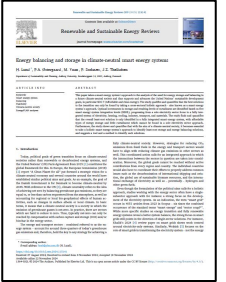
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- Smart Energy Europe: [The technical and economic impact of one potential 100% renewable energy scenario for the European Union. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Vol 60](#), pp. 1634–1653, July 2016.
- The role of sustainable bioenergy in a fully decarbonised society. [Renewable Energy](#), August 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2022.06.026>
- [Energy efficient decarbonisation strategy for the Danish transport sector by 2045](#), Smart Energy, February 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.segy.2022.100063>



Energy and Carbon Flows of the “Smart Energy Denmark 2045” scenario



System Integration levels (SESIL)

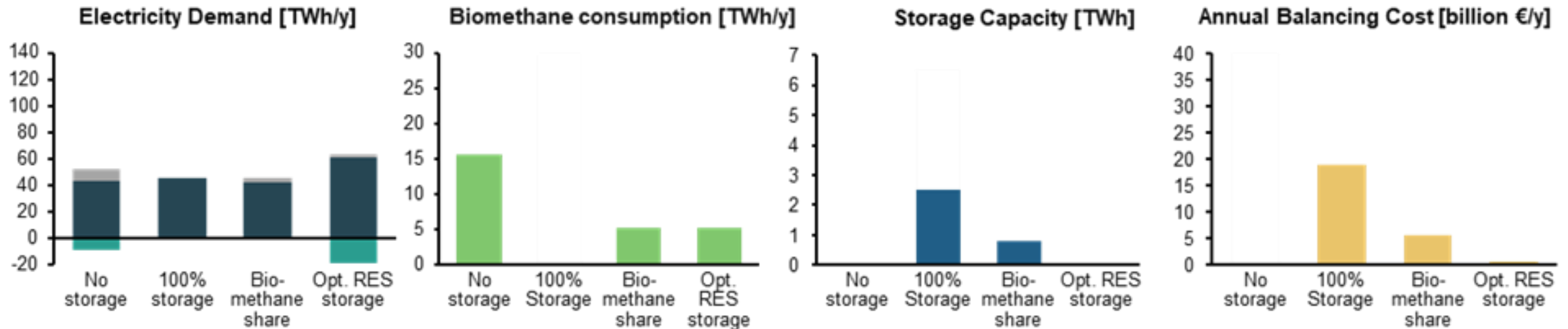


- *SESIL 1: Singular electricity sector focus.* The classical electricity demand with electricity storage as the only option.
- *SESIL 2: Combined electricity, heating, and cooling focus.* Thermal storage as an additional option.
- *SESIL 3: Domestic energy system.* Industrial and domestic transport demands. Smart charging or even V2G.
- *SESIL 4: Domestic energy systems including the share of international shipping and aviation.* Significant increase in Power-to-X technologies to provide liquid green fuels. Gaseous and liquid green fuel storage.
- *SESIL 5: Full Energy System including energy for materials.*

Electricity balancing and least-cost storage solutions in SESIL1



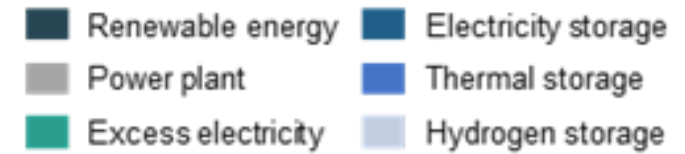
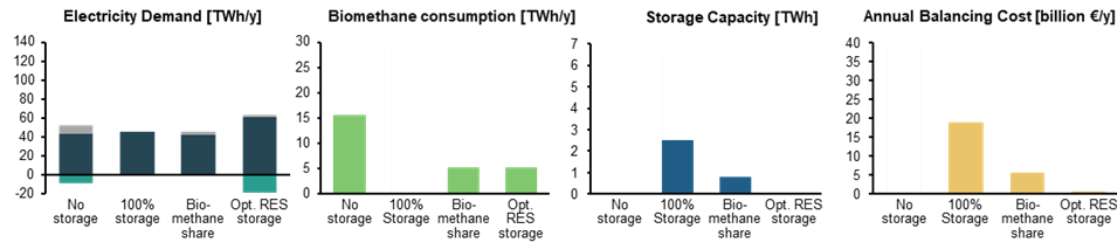
SESIL1 Electricity Sector



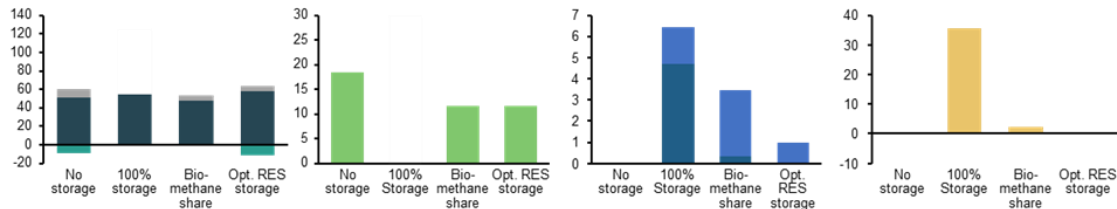
Electricity balancing and least-cost storage solutions in each of the five SESILs



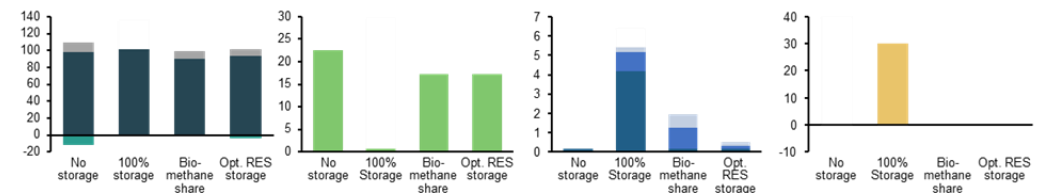
SESIL1 Electricity Sector



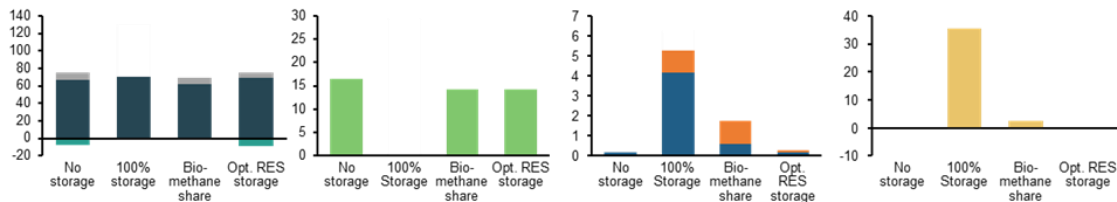
SESIL2 Electricity and Thermal Sectors



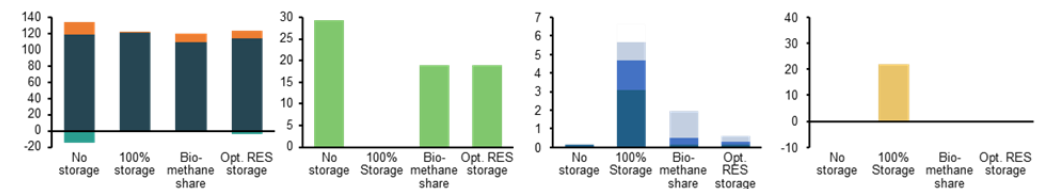
SESIL4 Electricity, Thermal and all Transport Sectors



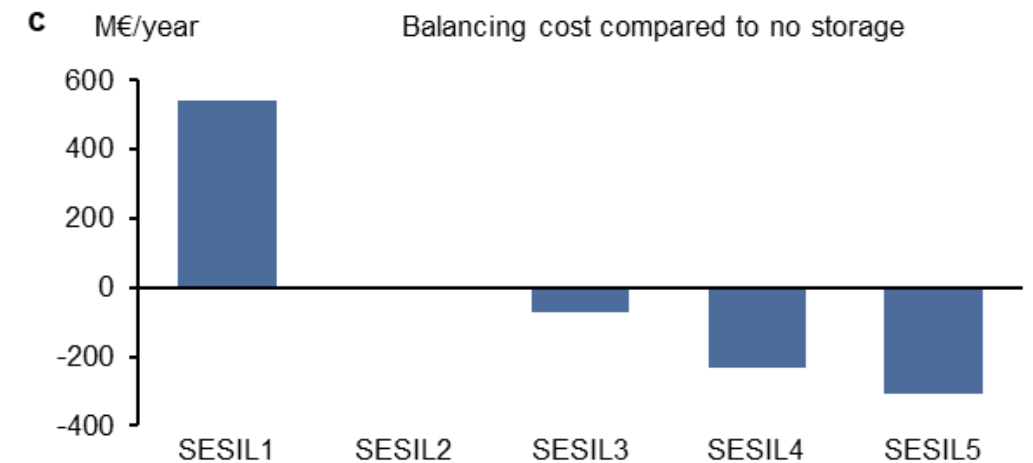
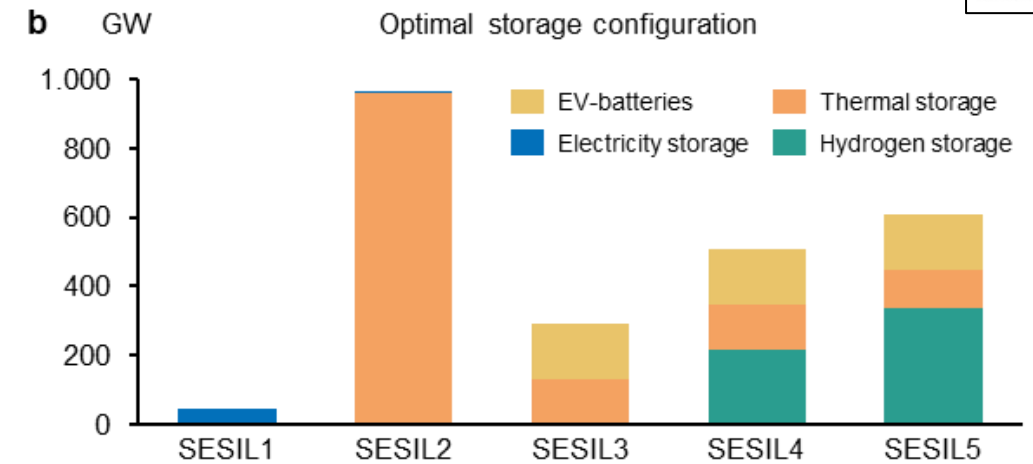
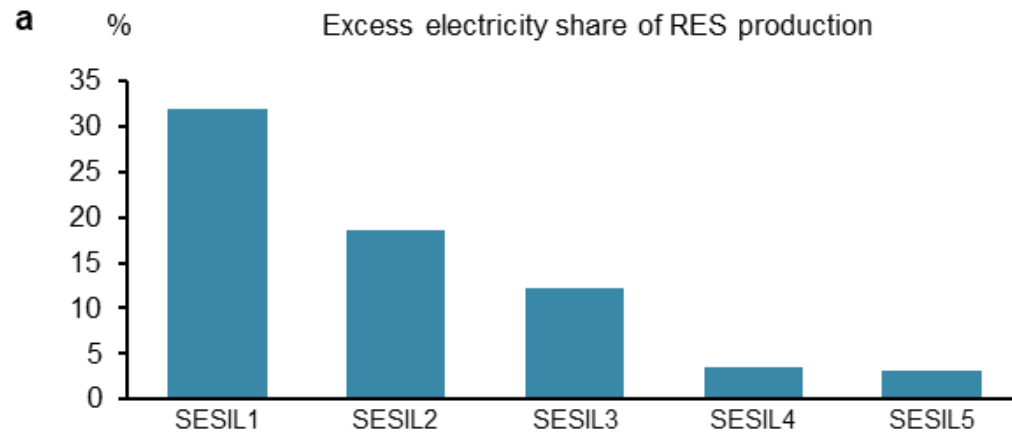
SESIL3 Electricity, Thermal and Domestic Transport Sectors



SESIL5 Electricity, Thermal, all Transport Sectors and Materials

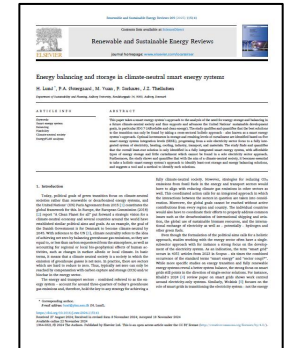
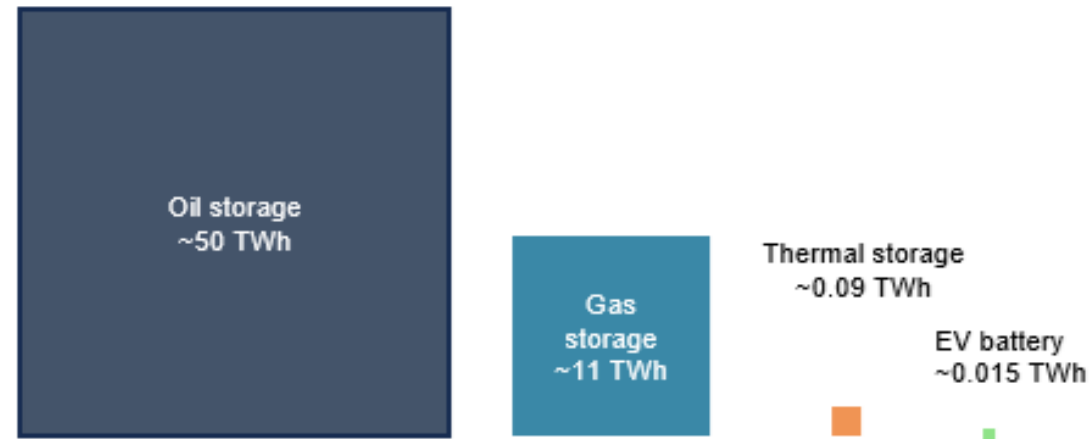


Comparison of least-cost balancing and storage solutions

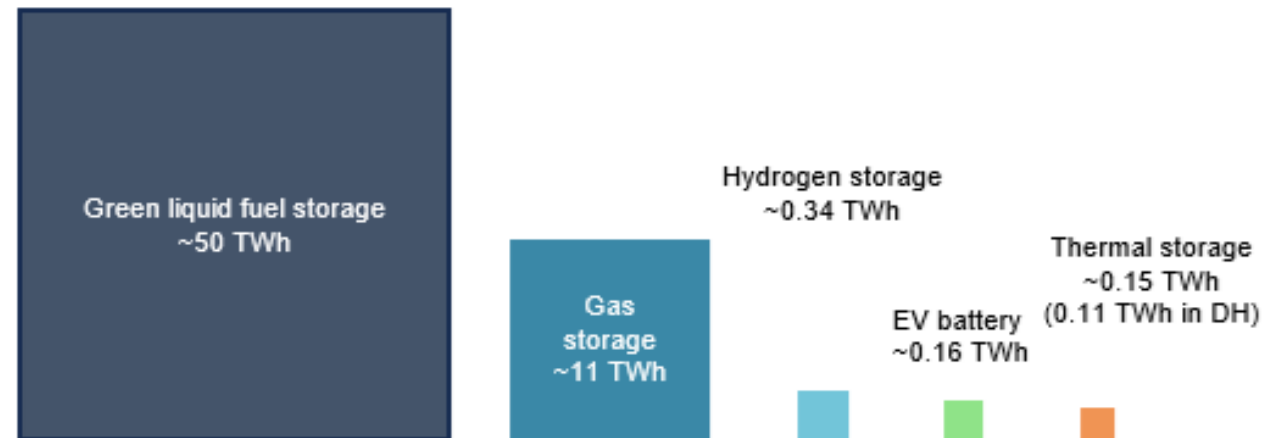


The need for storage in a climate-neutral Denmark

Existing energy storage capacities in Denmark

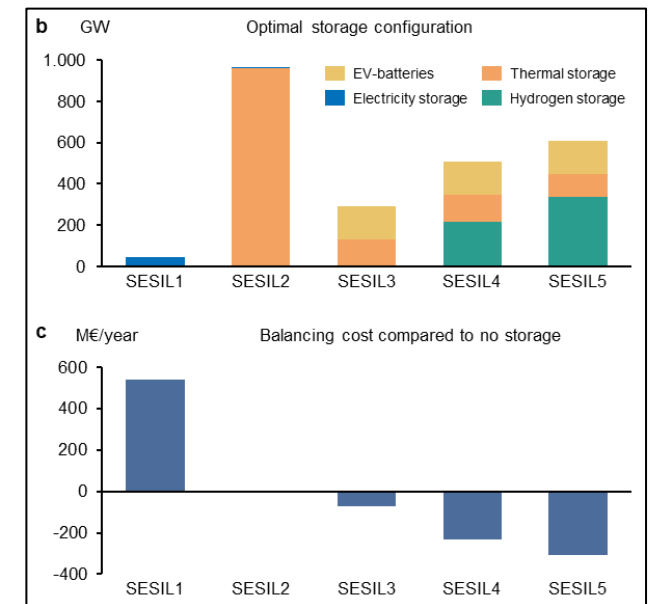
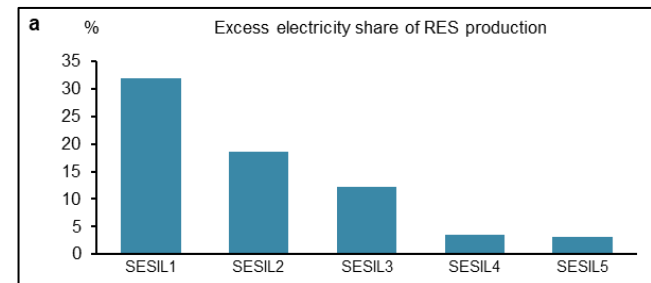
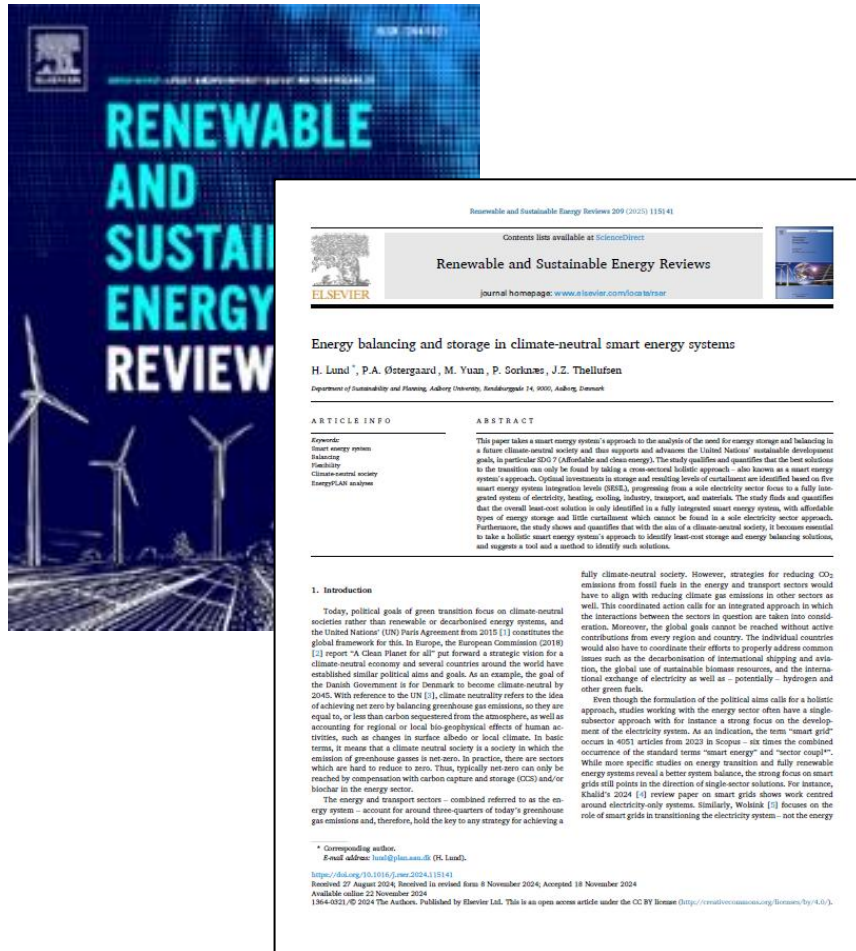


Optimal storage configuration in a Climate Neutral Denmark 2045 scenario



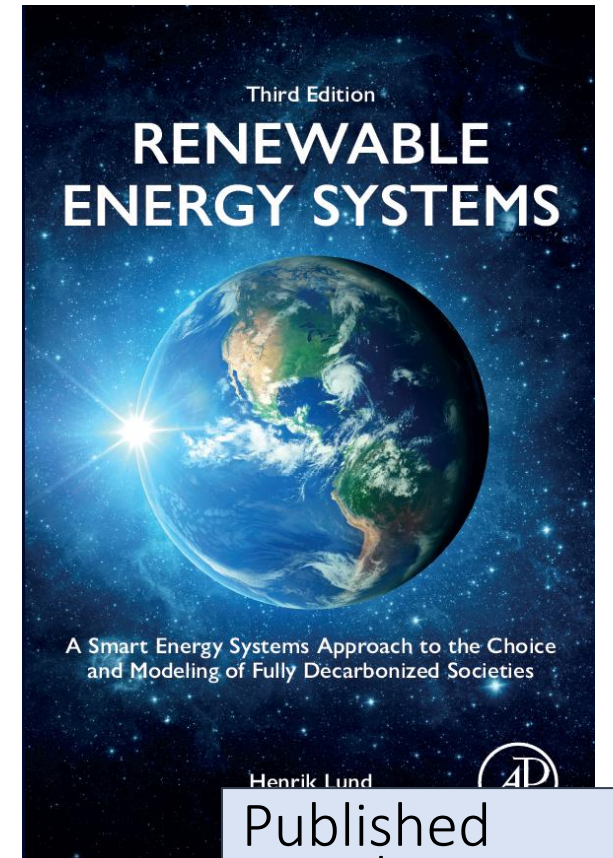
Literature:

- Energy balancing and storage in climate-neutral smart energy systems, [Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Volume 209](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2024.115141), March 2025, 115141.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2024.115141>



Some important news:

1. A **Smart Energy Systems approach** allows for finding a better solution to the green transition.
2. The context of **Climate Neutral Societies** defines a new paradigm for the design of solutions
3. Future Smart Energy System allows for **affordable storage solutions**



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New study (not published yet)

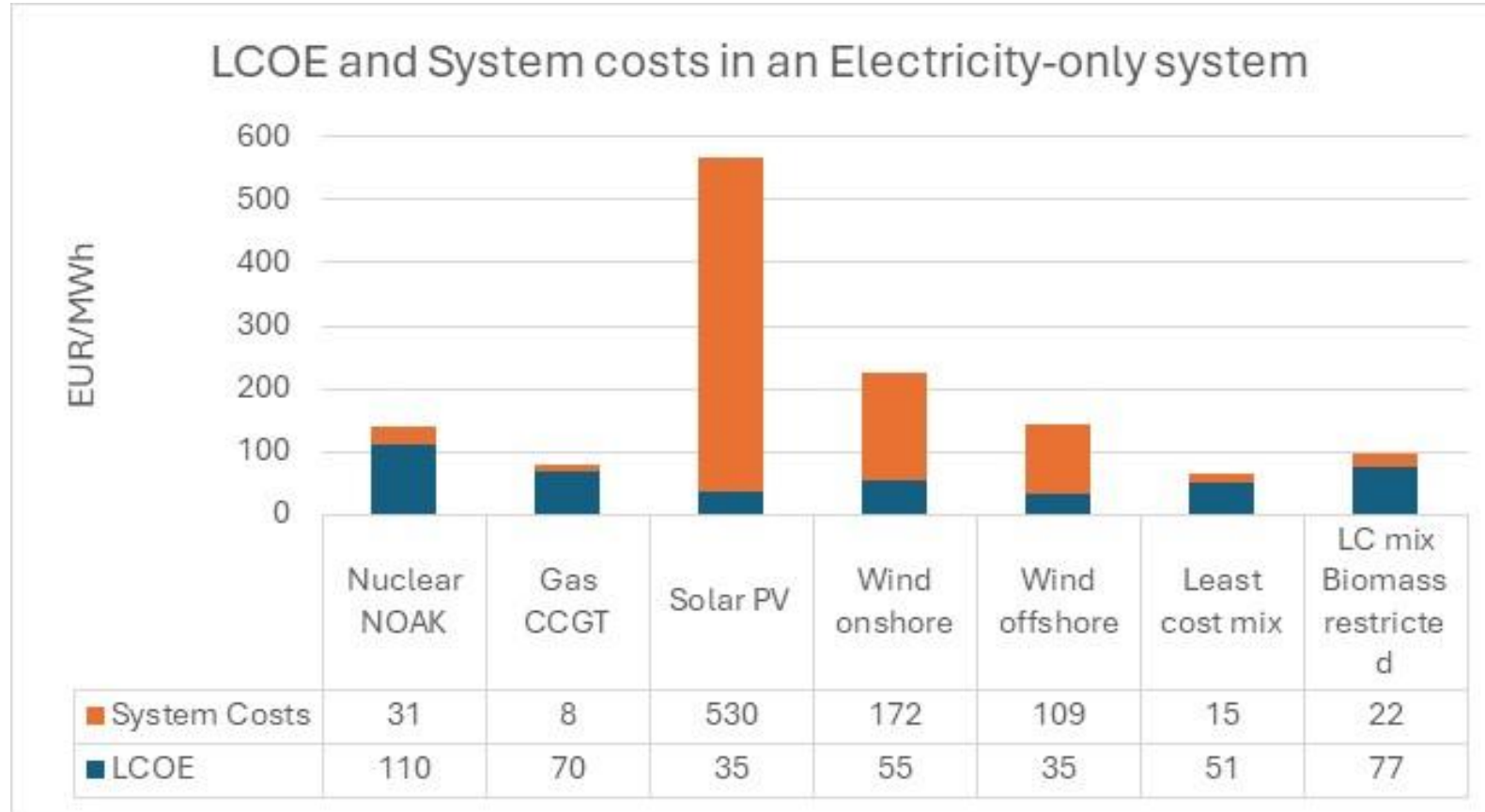
LCOE (Levelized Cost of Energy) vs SLCOE (System Levelized Cost of Energy)

$$\text{LCOE} = f(\text{technology})$$

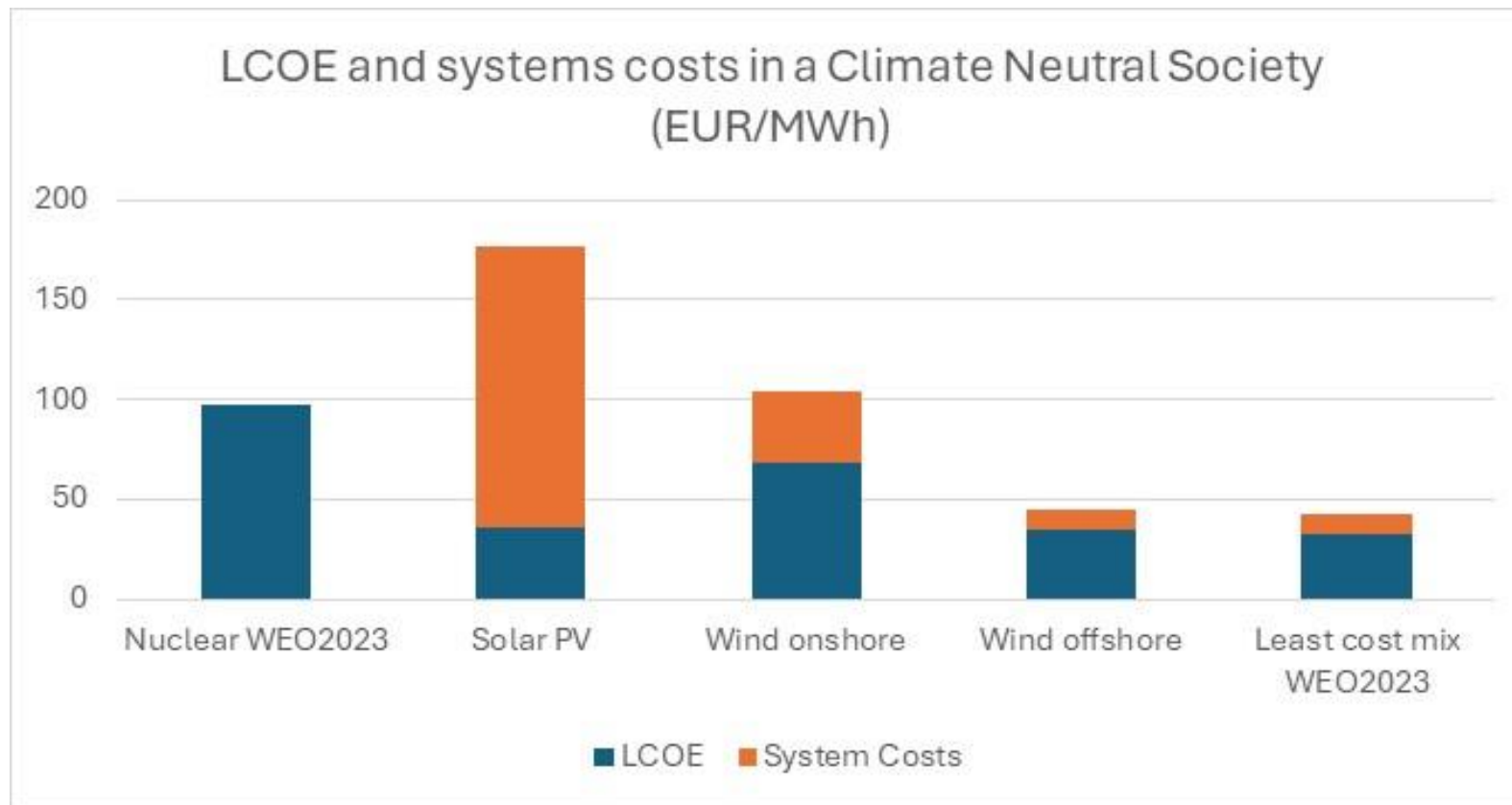
$$\text{SLCOE} = f(\text{technology, energy system})$$

Moreover, the identification of least cost solutions imply combination of technologies and cannot be found only by comparing each of the individual technologies.

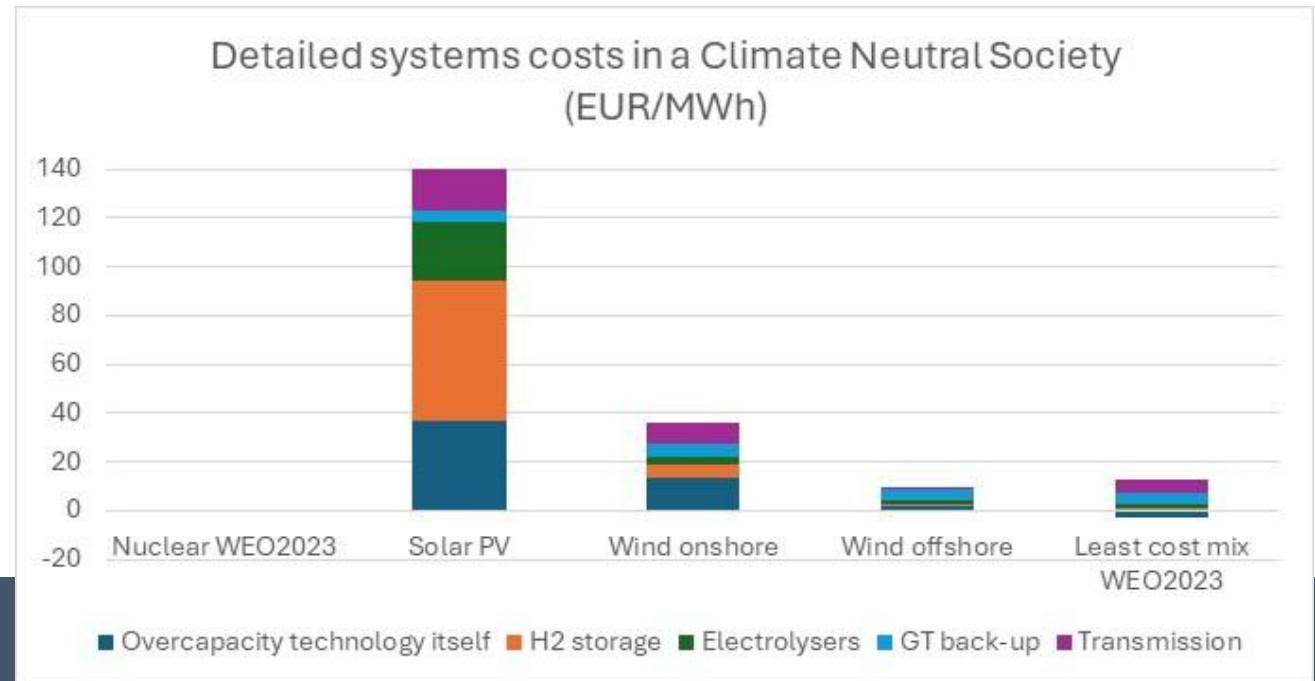
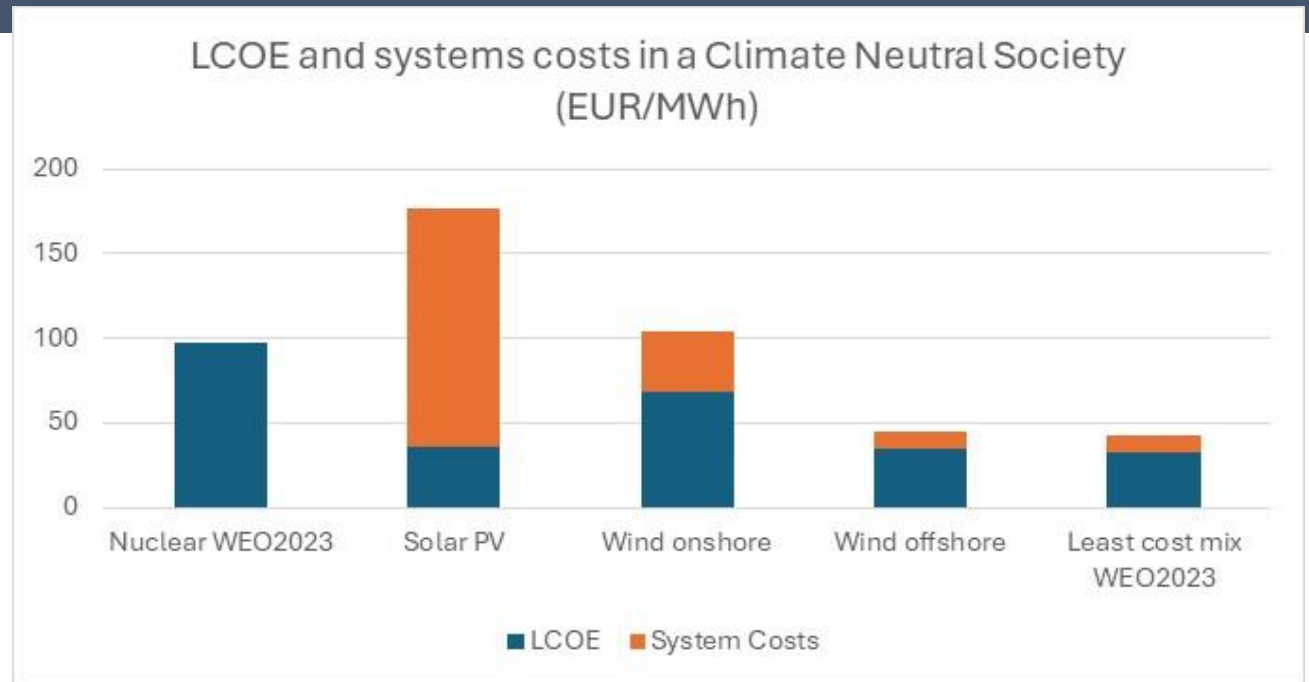
Results: (S)LCOE in an Electricity-only system



Results: (S)LCOE in a Climate Neutral Society

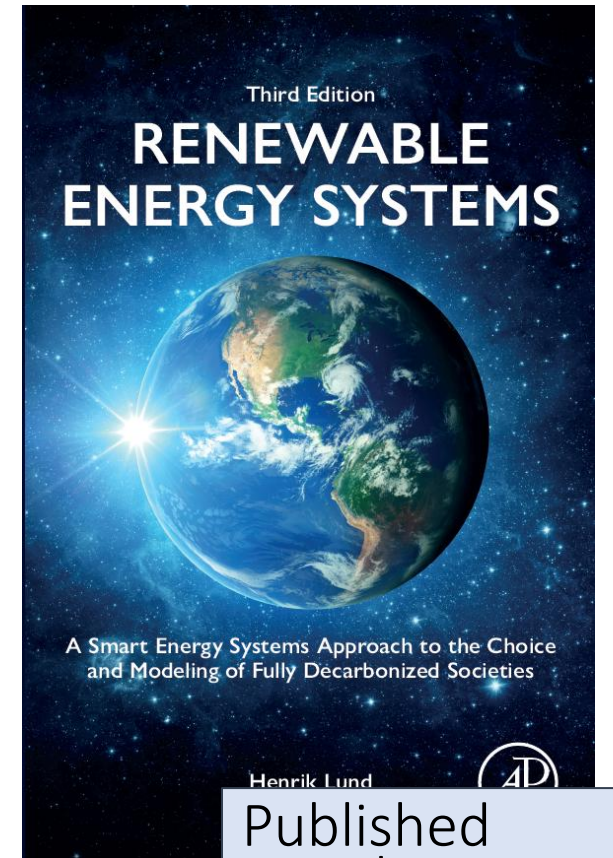


Breakdown of system cost



Some important news:

1. A **Smart Energy Systems approach** allows for finding a better solution to the green transition.
2. The context of **Climate Neutral Societies** defines a new paradigm for the design of solutions
3. Future Smart Energy System allows for **affordable storage solutions**
4. **Combinations** of different PV and Wind sources provide for the least cost system integration costs.



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SDEWES CENTRE

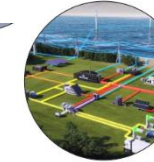
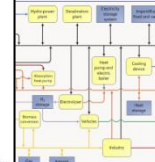
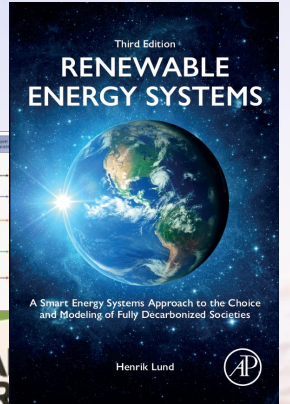
CONFERENCES

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Smart Renewable Energy Systems in the Era of Climate Neutral Societies

Professor Henrik Lund
Aalborg Universitet

