Practical impact of Energy planning: *Facts or feelings?*

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Why do we need energy planning?

New technologies for distributed energy systems are emerging

- <u>better possibilities</u> to design sustainable energy systems for the future
- more complex energy systems to design, operate and maintain
- <u>mutual influence</u> and dependence between multiple infrastructures





Integrated energy systems



Natural gas / Biomass etc



New renewable energy sources - some drawbacks...

- Ownership, operation and maintenance by private owners with low technical competence
- Fuel transportation often by road (biomass, waste, gas, fuel oil)
 - Transport cost and environmental impact like exhaust, noise, dust and security must be considered
- Often new immature technology
 - "Laboratory tested"
 - 95-98% availability (>175 h/year down-time ≈ 1 week!)
 - Electricity grid: 99,96% => 3.5 h/year down-time





Some other concerns...



- Current concessions and regulations give few incentives to reduce the energy consumption
- Water-based (hydronic) space heating with electric boilers give NO energy saving
- Heat pumps increase the customers' dependence on electricity
- Hydronic space heating based on heat pumps is much more expensive than electric heaters - bank rate and VAT must be included for private investors!
- Change of energy system (e.g. from electrical to hydronic heating) difficult to implement during rehabilitation of existing buildings
- Building designers and constructors are mostly focused on construction cost, not operating cost



Planning and operation of buildings





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Public pressure to "do the right thing"

- an <u>overall system perspective</u> is necessary for planning and operation
- <u>multiple infrastructures</u> and geographic distance must be considered
- sufficient documentation and <u>communication</u> of complex decisions
- NIMBY, NOMH, NOPE...





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Liberalization...

- development from vertical integration to horizontal: <u>Multi-utilities</u>
- Both <u>complementarity</u> and <u>competition</u> must be evaluated
- More comprehensive and flexible planning tools needed



Planning of energy systems

The outcome of a planning process is a plan

- Descriptive; what, where, when
- Continuous process
- May support decisions
- The outcome of a decision process is a choice
 - Identifiable in time and space
- Actors involved in planing (and decision making)
 - Utilities and grid companies (concessionaires)
 - Local/regional authorities
 - Regulatory authorities
 - Environmental and other special interest groups
 - Local political groups
 - Industrial and domestic customers
 - Technology vendors
 - Commercial energy providers





Different decision makers have different preferences...

Economy

- Maximize profit (corporate / micro-economic)
- Minimize total cost (Socio-economic)

Environmental consequences

- Quantitative (measurable): Emissions, noice ...
- Qualitative (not measurable): Esthetic, visual, experience of nature...

Quality

- Security of supply
- Technical: Voltage, temperature, pressure ...
- Use: Comfort, user friendliness, controllability

Public opinion

- Company reputation
- Service level

etc...





How to find the best expansion plan? An example...

If three investments A, B and C are mutually exclusive, the following investment alternatives exist:

- *None*, A, B, C, (A,B), (A,C), (B,C), (A,B,C) => 8 different
- Expression: 2^N
 - N=10: 1024 combinations
 - N=20: 1.048.576 combinations
 - **•**
- Many alternatives will not be mutually exclusive – but which ones?





How to find the best expansion plan?

Manual calculations e.g. in Excel spreadsheets

- Each expansion alternative is analyzed one at a time
- The alternatives are compared (NPV method)
- Probably a good strategy in many cases

Time consuming if

- there are many investment alternatives
- the investments can be made at different points in time
- operating costs are dependent on the investments
- A good investment analysis will often require many and complicated calculations
- Without a formal optimization methodology, preferences, rules of thumb and gut feeling might easily become dominant





Models for energy planning

Main model classifications

- Simulation or Optimization (Inform or Choose)?
- Bottom-up or Top-down (Engineering or Econometric)?
- How to choose model(s)?
 - Consider acceptable levels of detail, simplifications, abstraction, uncertainty, user-friendliness, time consumption etc
 - Presentation of results!
 - Choose the right tool for the job!

GIGO

- "Garbage In Garbage Out"
- "Guesses In Guidance Out"
- "Garbage In Gospel Out"





eTransport model at SINTEF Energy Research

- Developed with external funding after internal pilot studies (1998-2005)
- Formal optimization model with several types of energy carriers, sources, transmission, conversion and demand
 - Expansion planning of local energy systems
 - Optimize construction of new DER power plants subject to multiple infrastructures
 - Evaluate up-stream infrastructure for DER fuels (including road, rail or keel)
 - Identify mutual influence and dependence between energy systems
 - Evaluate "threats" from other DER and suppliers in the same area
 - Visualize the conclusion of complex problems



eTransport Planning of local energy supply





eTransport Operation and expansion planning combined





eTransport Optimal expansion plan



States



eTransport Current modules

- Electricity networks (DC power flow)
- District heating networks
- Gas pipeline with compressor
- Discrete transport (LNG ship and biomass by car)
- CO₂ transport (ship or pipeline) Mass transport!
- Boilers: Gas, oil, electricity, biomass
- CHP: Gas (engine + turbine), biomass, special waste
- Heat pump
- Storage: Heat, biomass, gas
- CCGT model w/CO₂ capture
- LNG factory and reformer
- End user models by function (work, lighting, heating ...)
- Markets for el, heat, gas and CO2
- Investment analysis / expansion planning incl. emissions







Next step: Bridging different decision levels...



Multiple decision levels

DECISION LEVELS		
Main actions		Main factors influencing the decision(s)
STRATEGIC	Building new energy infrastructure – for gas	 Political and social implications national energy policy / regulations local social impacts: jobs, etc
TACTICAL	 Create premises for a gas market attract local consumers: households, municipality, industry convince other stakeholders 	 % of the estimated gas market expected consumer's costs and their willigness to pay compliance with possible new rules and regulations
OPERATIONAL	 assess all possibilities/alternatives assess the main uncertainties and the possible timing of investments construct scenarios: prices, demands, emission taxes, etc. 	 costs emissions system's reliability quality of service, etc.



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Multiple system boundaries





Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM)

Impact model

 Use optimization model (eTransport)

Preference model

 E.g. Multi-Attribute Utility Theory (MAUT)





Conclusions



- New technologies for distributed energy systems are emerging
 - better possibilities to design sustainable energy systems for the future
 - more complex systems to design, operate and maintain
- Public pressure to "do the right thing"
 - overall system perspective is necessary for planning and operation
 - multiple infrastructures and geographic distance must be considered
 - complex decisions must be sufficiently documented
 - communication across scientific and organizational barriers is important
- A good investment analysis will often require many and complicated calculations
 - Without a formal optimization methodology preferences, rules of thumb and gut feeling might easily become dominant
- More comprehensive and flexible planning tool is needed



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