



Integrated Energy Systems at Scale

Enabling more Renewable Energy

Benjamin Kroposki, PhD, PE, FIEEE

Director – Power Systems Engineering Center
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
October 2019



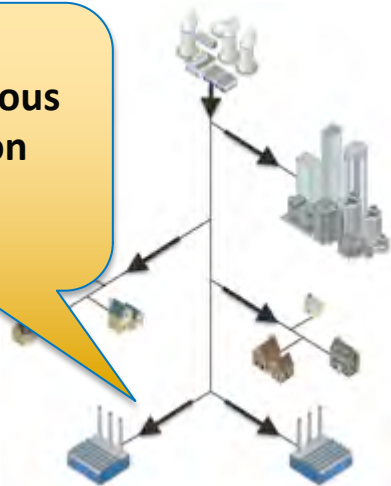
Driving innovation in Energy Systems Integration

Disclaimer: This work was authored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, operated by Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308. The views expressed in the article do not necessarily represent the views of the DOE or the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the article for publication, acknowledges that the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, worldwide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this work, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.

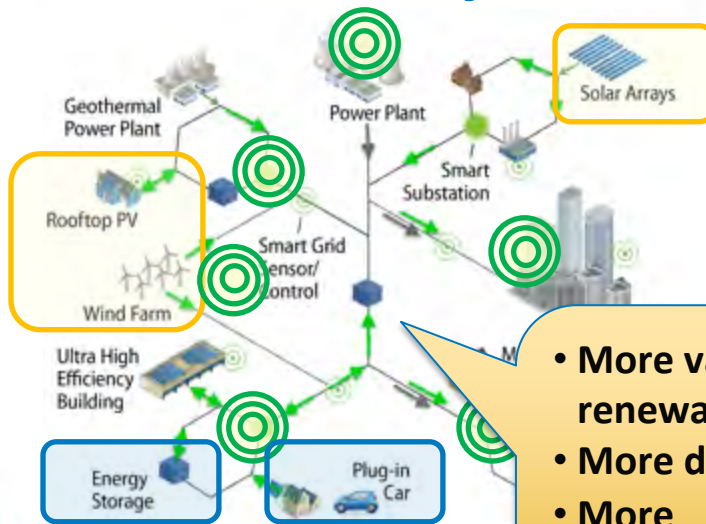
Evolution of the Power System

Current Power System

- Large synchronous generation
- Central control.



Future Power Systems



- More variable renewables
- More data
- More distributed resources

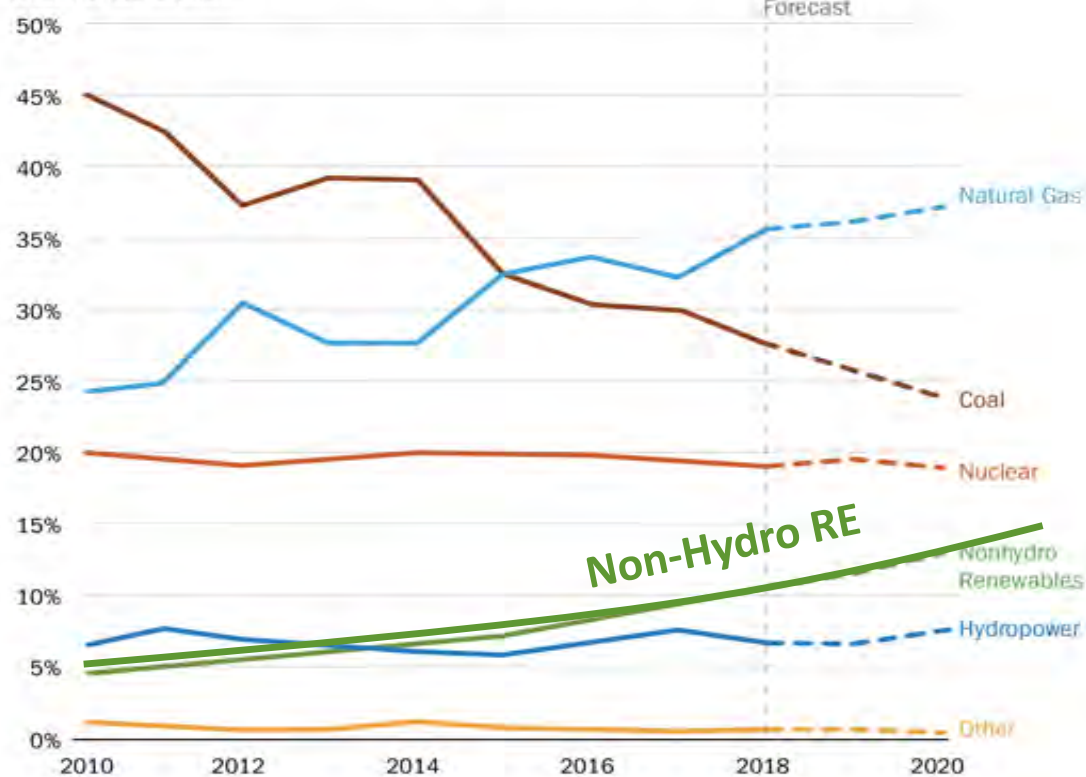
New challenges in a modern grid:

- Increasing levels of power electronics-based VRE: solar and wind
- More use of communications, controls, data, and information (e.g., smart grids)
- Other new technologies: electric vehicles (EVs), distributed storage, flexible loads
- Becoming highly distributed—more complex to control

The US Energy supply is Shifting

U.S. Electricity Generation by Energy Source (2010-2020)

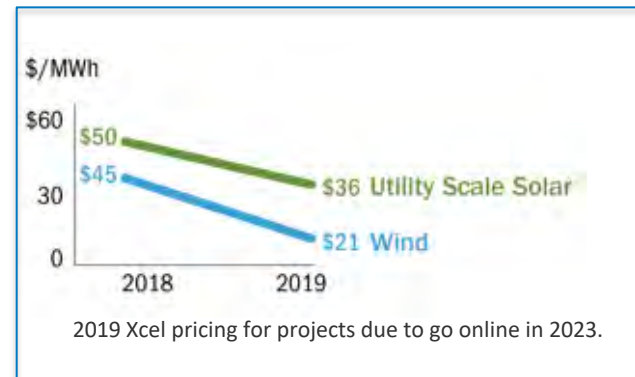
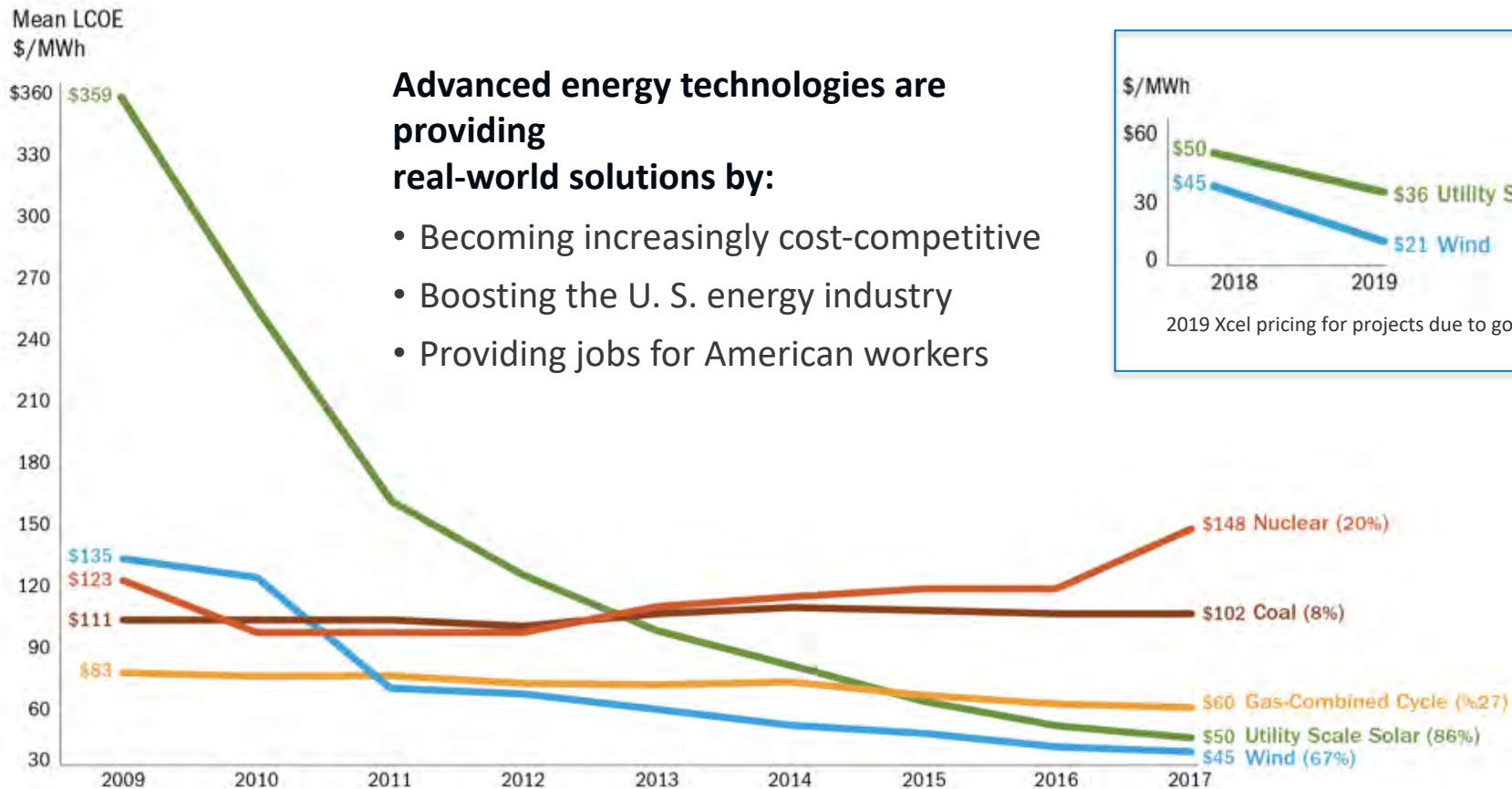
Share of Generation



Source: United States Energy Information Agency, *Today in Energy*, 18 January 2019

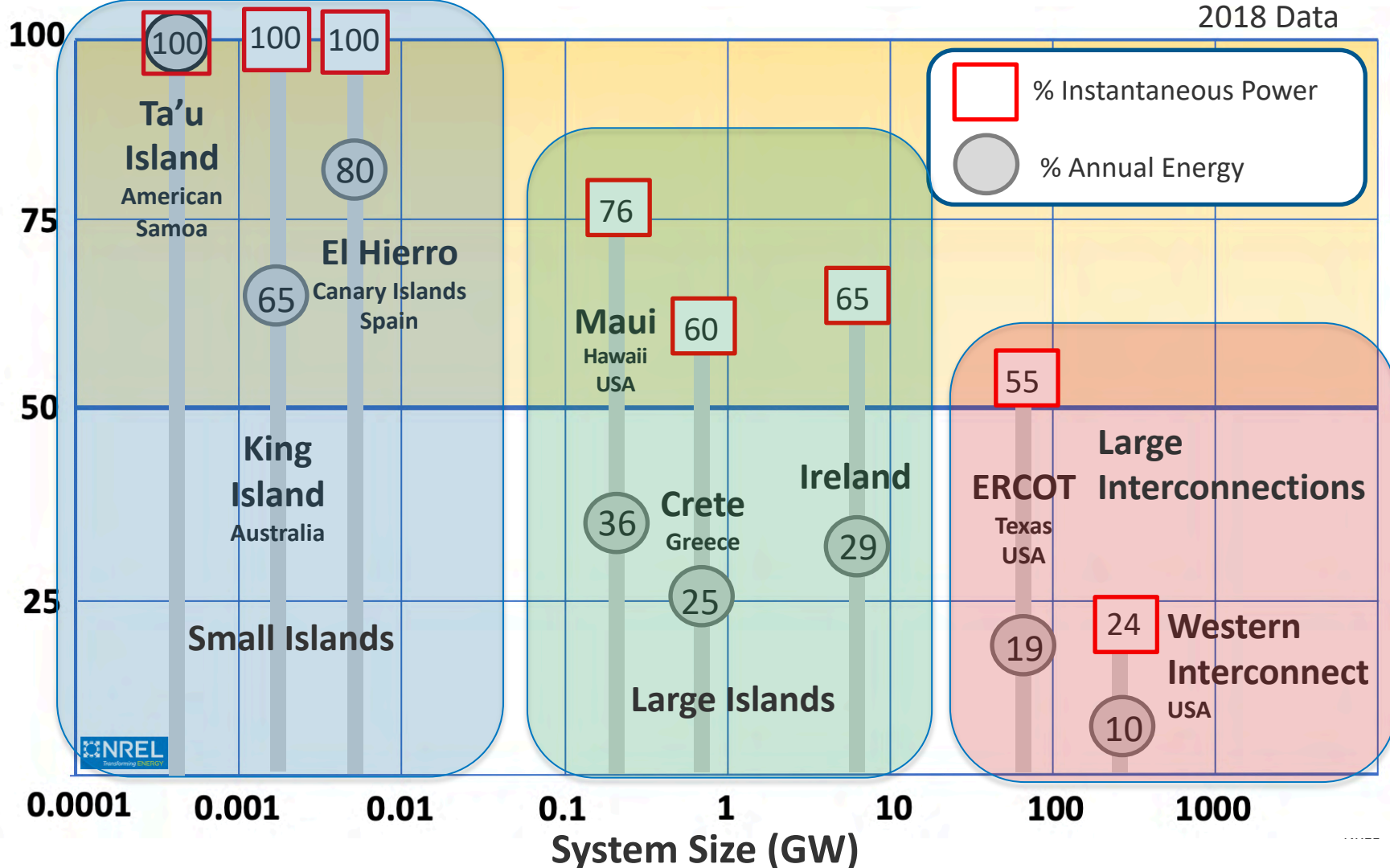
Renewable Energy—
not including
hydropower—currently
produces 10% of the total
U.S. electricity generation.
Within the next two years,
this is expected to grow to
13%.

The Cost of Renewables is Falling



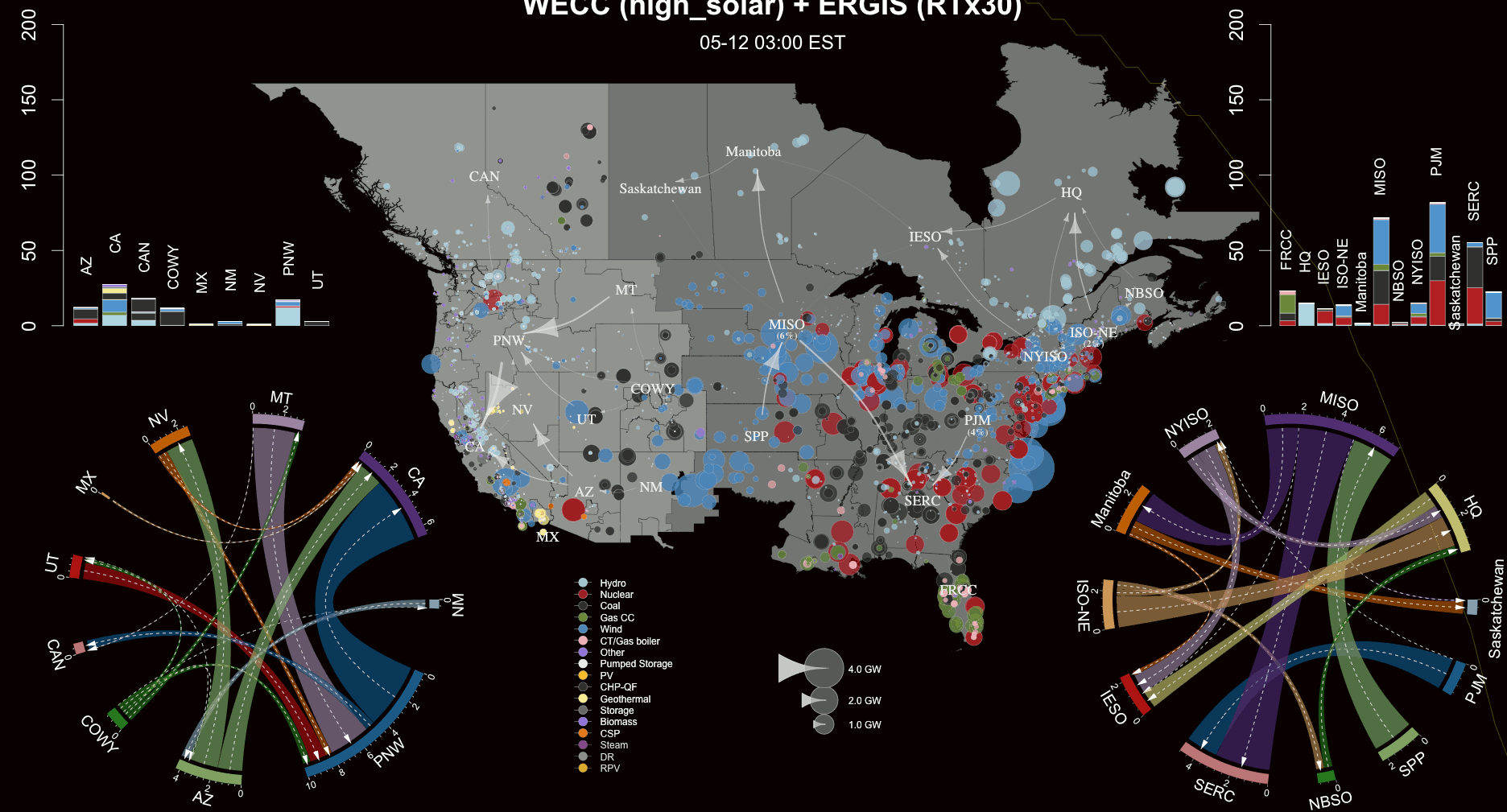
The image is a composite background. In the foreground, there are several rows of blue solar panels with white grid lines, angled towards the viewer. In the background, a large, dark metal lattice tower for high-voltage power transmission stands prominently. The sky is a vibrant mix of orange, red, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Power lines stretch across the upper portion of the image. A semi-transparent grey rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the title text in white.

Current Power Systems Operating with Variable Renewable Energy



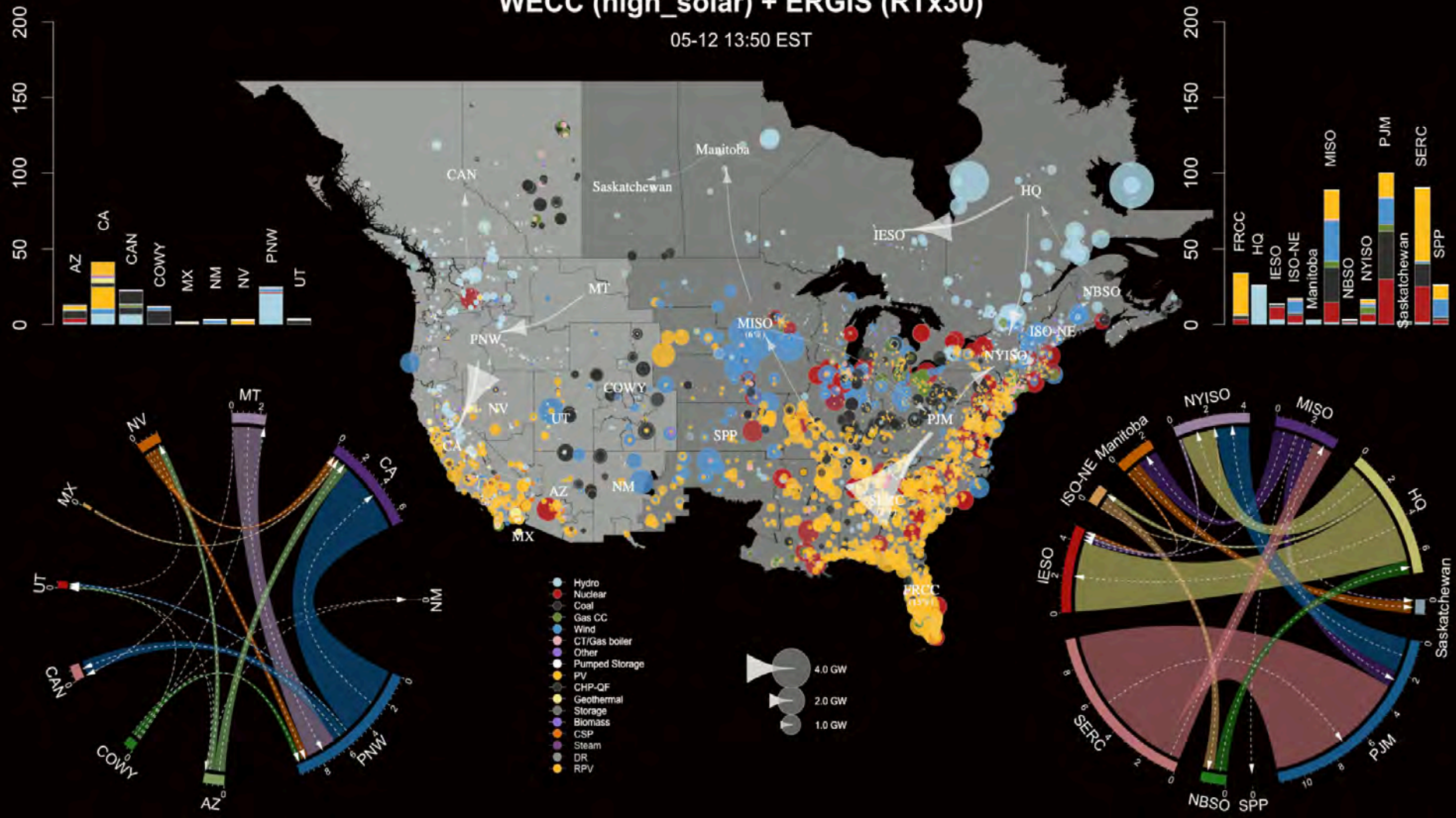
WECC (high_solar) + ERGIS (RTx30)

05-12 03:00 EST



WECC (high_solar) + ERGIS (RTx30)

05-12 13:50 EST

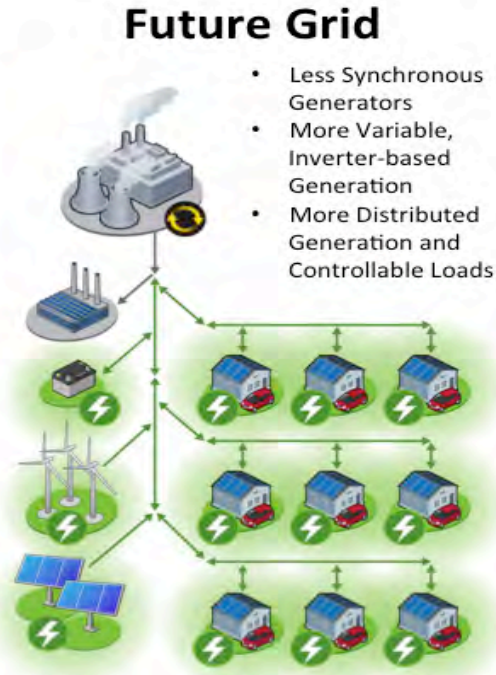
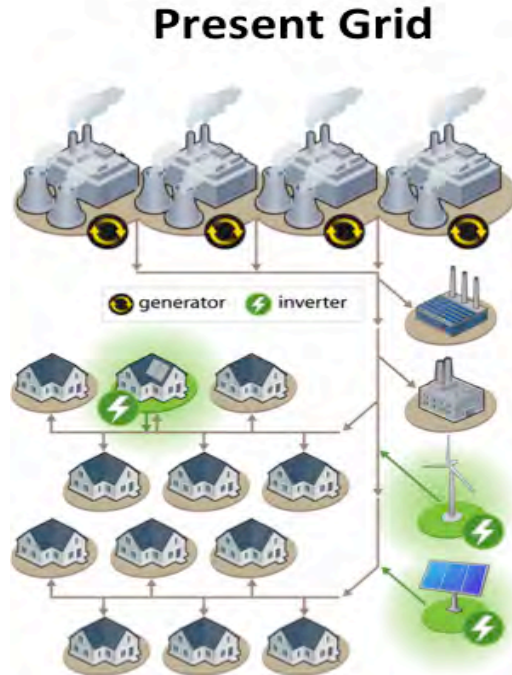


An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The city is densely packed with skyscrapers and buildings, many of which are illuminated with lights. The foreground shows a mix of urban development and some greenery.

We have done the research and demonstrated that achieving 30% VRE is possible with minimal system changes.

What do we need to do to achieve very high levels (more than 50%) of wind and solar integration?

Technical Challenges with Ultra-high Levels of VRE



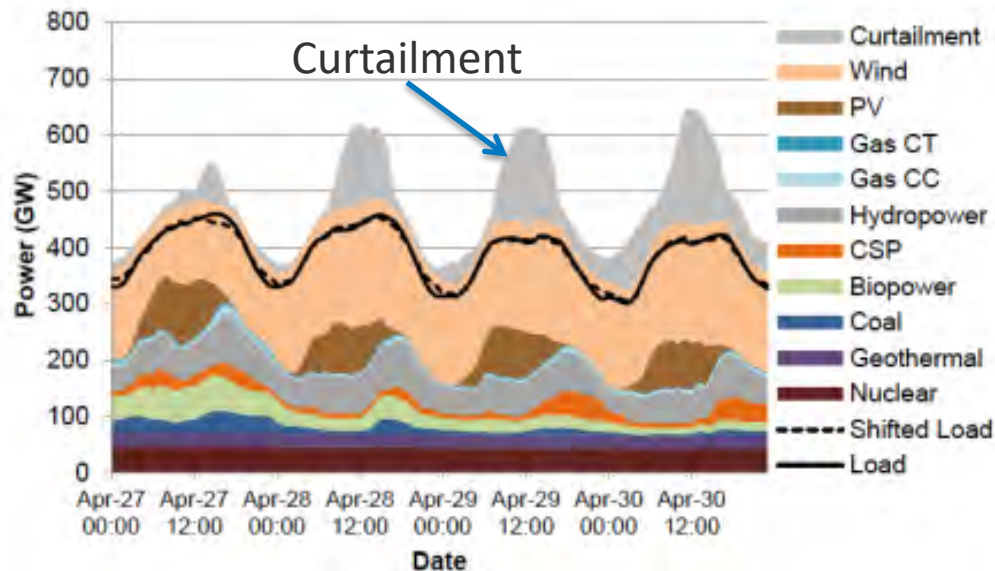
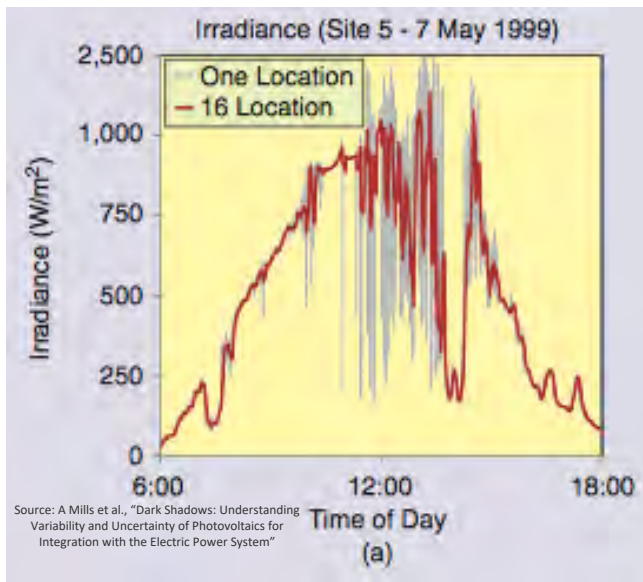
- Variability and uncertainty of VRE
- Power system stability
- Protection coordination
- Unintentional islanding
- Black-start capability

Source: "Achieving a 100% Renewable Grid: Operating Electric Power Systems with Extremely High Levels of Variable Renewable Energy", Kroposki, et al., <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7866938>

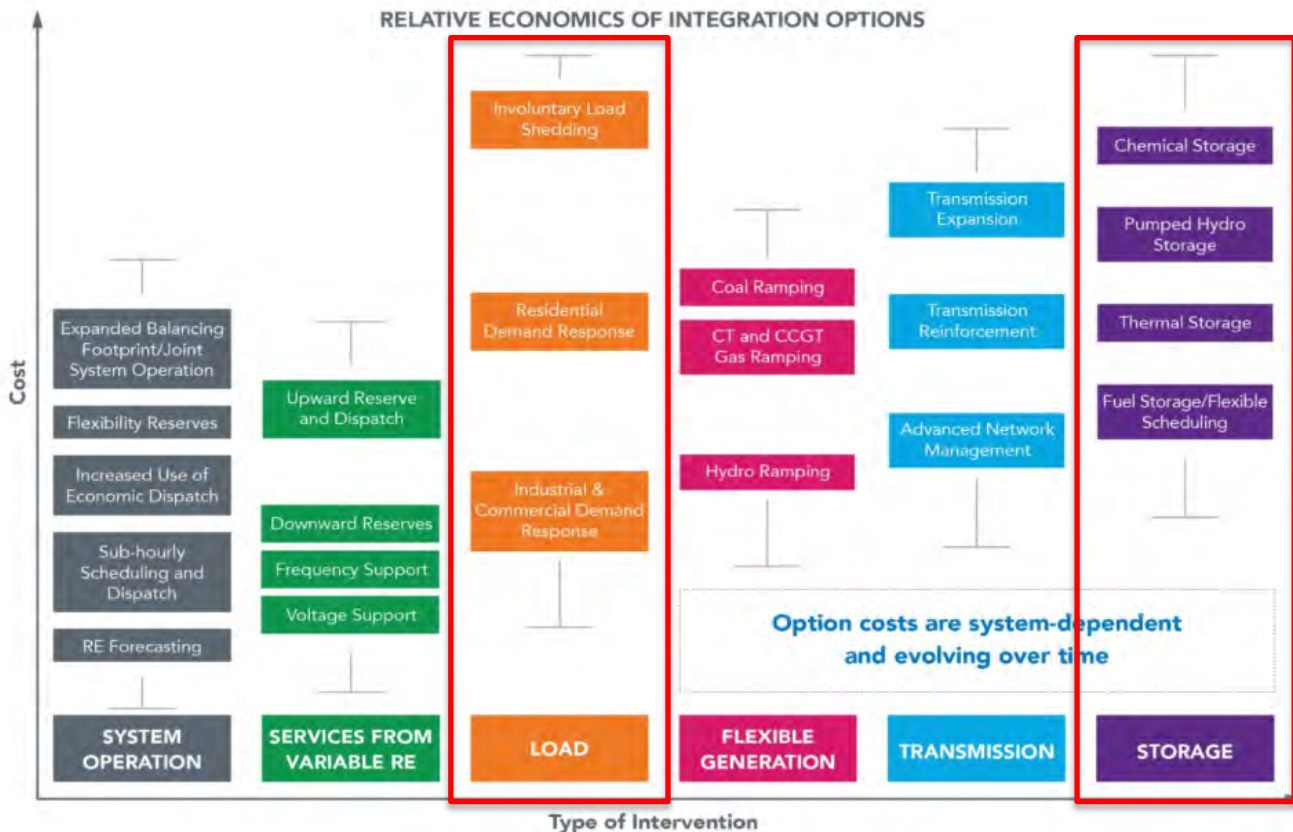
Variability and Uncertainty

Challenges:

- **Energy shifting** (VRE produces energy when resources are available—variable and uncertain)
- **Forecasting** (renewable resources and load)



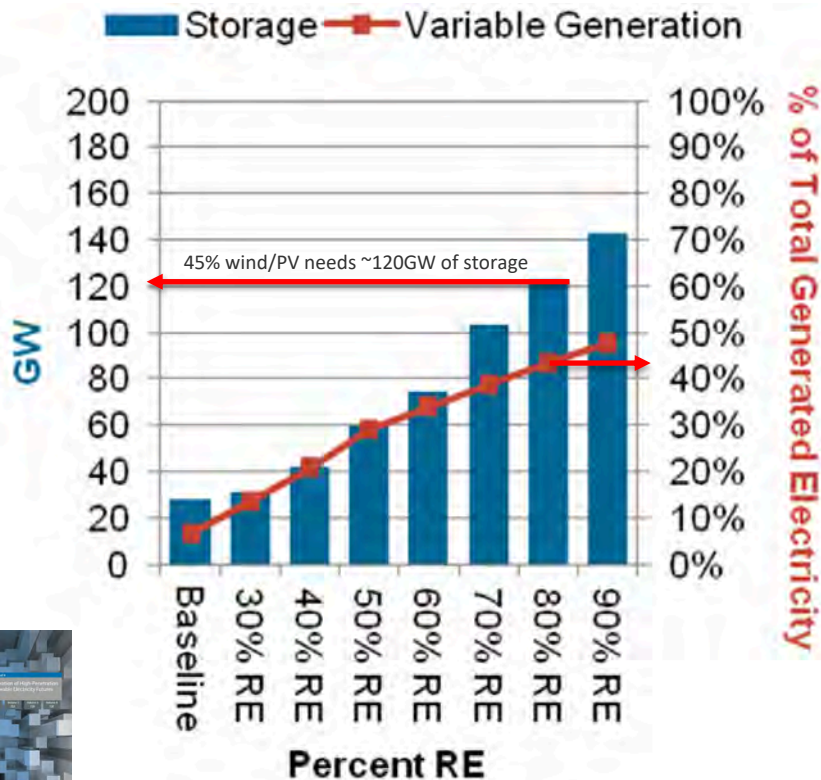
Options for Dealing with Variability and Uncertainty



Solutions:

- Utilize geographic diversity.
- Utilize flexible conventional generation.
- Increase sharing among balancing authority areas.
- Expand the transmission system.
- Curtail excess VRE production.
- Enhance VRE and load forecasting.
- **Coordinate flexible loads (active demand response).**
- **Add electrical storage.**
- **Interact with other energy carriers.**

Energy Storage – How Much do we Need?



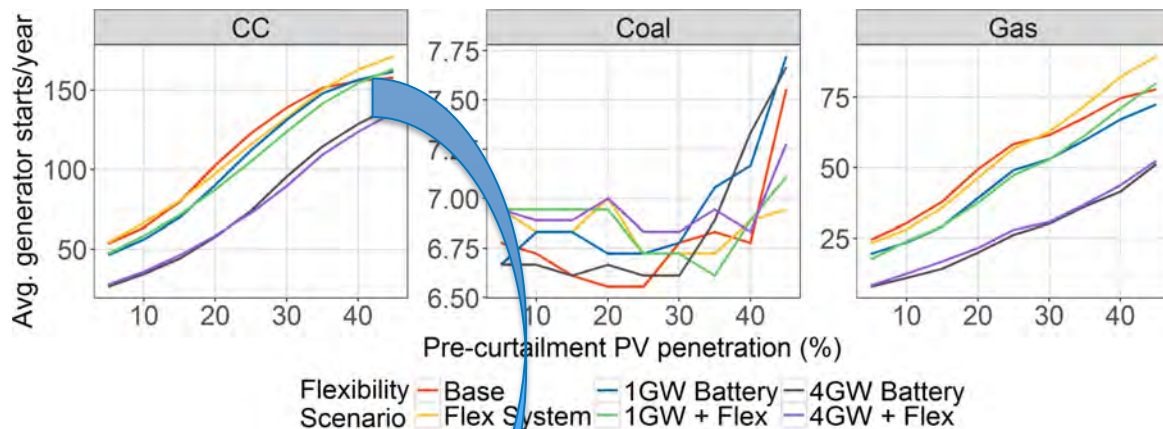
- NREL's Renewable Electricity Futures Study (2012) estimated the amount of energy storage needed for various penetrations of renewable energy (RE) for the continental US in 2050.
- RE included all types of renewables including hydro
- The figure on the left shows GW of storage capacity (Y1-axis), % variable generation (Y2-axis) and % total RE energy (x-axis)
- **For the 80% RE scenario (that has 45% wind and PV) the estimated storage need was ~120GW of 8hr storage.**
- For context, currently there is 22GW of pumped hydro and 1 GW of batteries installed in the US.
- The difference between current levels and 120GW could be made from a variety of new storage technologies, shiftable loads, hydrogen, etc.

Source: Renewable Electricity Futures Study (Entire Report)

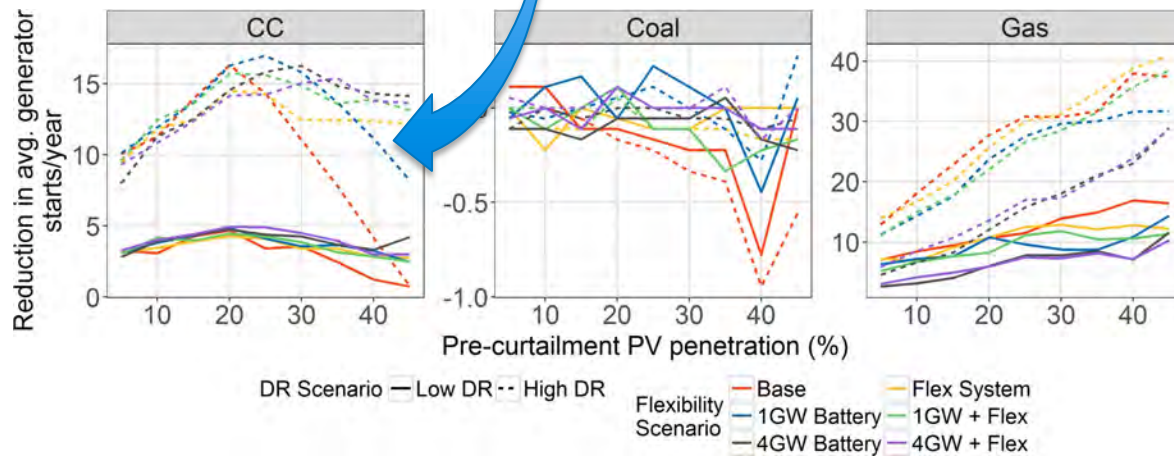
National Renewable Energy Laboratory. (2012). Renewable Electricity Futures Study. Hand, M.M.; Baldwin, S.; DeMeo, E.; Reilly, J.M.; Mai, T.; Arent, D.; Porro, G.; Meshek, M.; Sandor, D. eds. 4 vols. NREL/TP-6A20-52409. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. <https://www.nrel.gov/analysis/re-futures.html>

Tapping into Demand Response (DR)

No DR



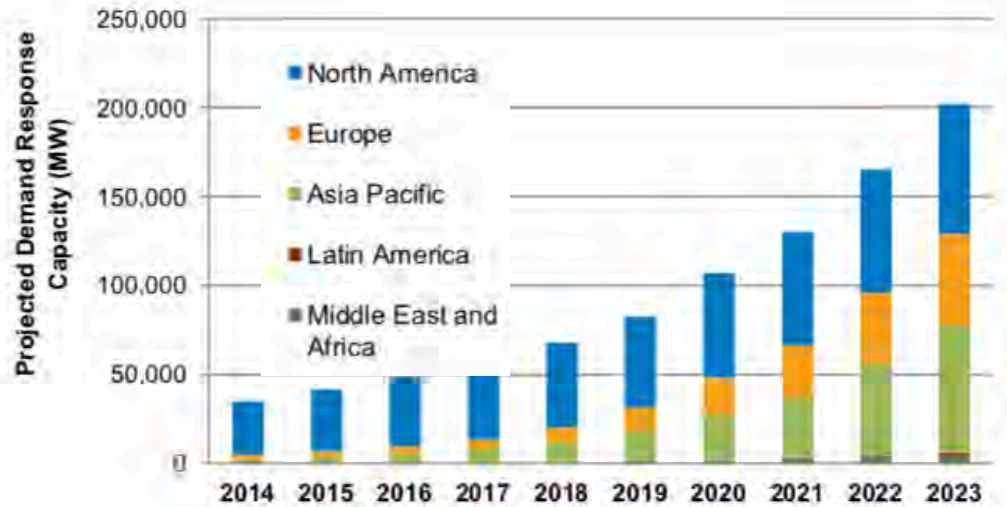
With DR



Reduced number of Combined Cycle and Gas Turbine Starts due to using demand response

Source: "The value of demand response in Florida", Brady Stoll, Elizabeth Buechler, and Elaine Hale, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1040619017302609>

Tapping into Controllable Demand



Feldman, Brett, and Bob Lockhart. 2014. "Demand Response: Commercial & Industrial DR, Residential DR, and DR Management Systems: Global Market Analysis and Forecasts." Navigant Research.



Energy Systems Integration

Energy System Integration (ESI) can increase grid flexibility by increasing connections with other energy domains

Customer

City

Region

Electricity

Thermal

Fuel



Water

Data

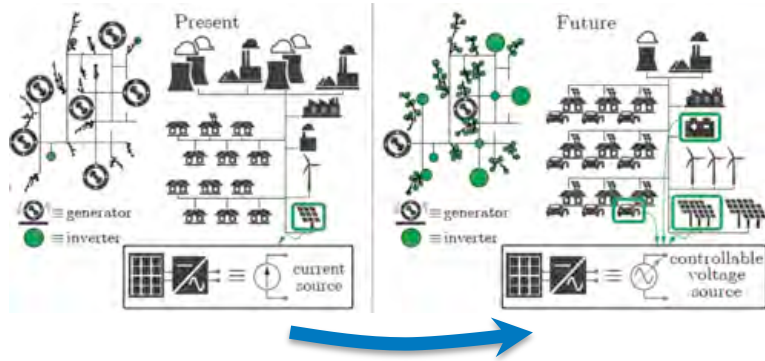
Transport



“Energy Systems Integration: Defining and Describing the Value Proposition”, O’Malley, Kroposki, Hannegan, Madsen, Andersson, D’haeseleer, McGranaghan, Dent, Strbac, Baskaran, Rinker., NREL/TP-5D00-66616. June 2016

How to control millions of devices?

As we migrate from a centrally controlled, synchronous generator-based grid to a highly distributed, inverter-based system...



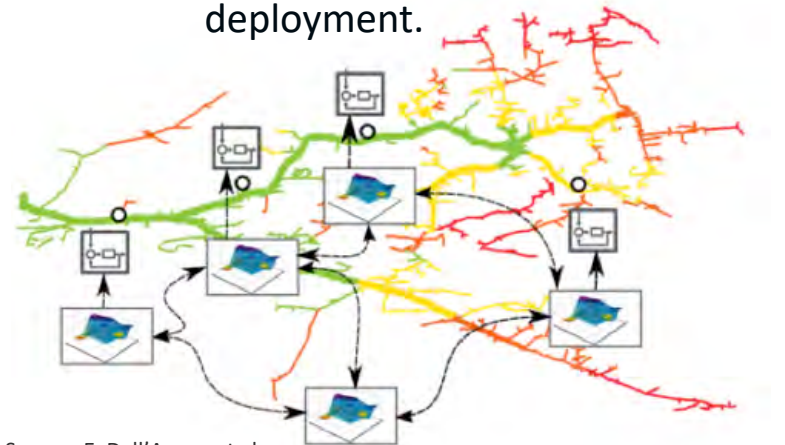
We need smart inverters with advanced functionality to maintain grid stability and...

Improved optimization for millions of controllable devices in the grid.

Source: ARPA-E,
<http://www.arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=arpa-e-programs/nodes>

Research Needs

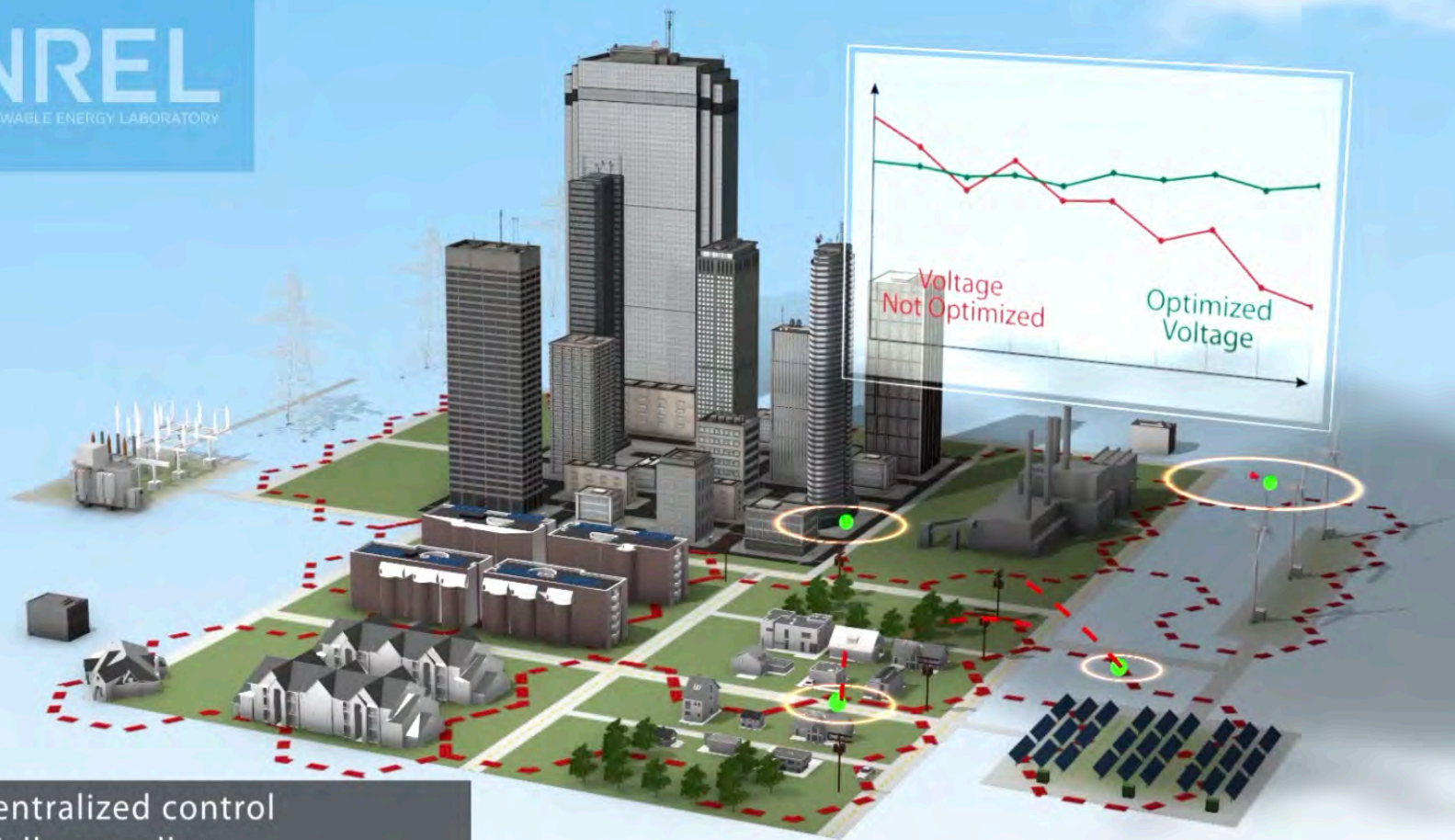
- Control theory
- Advanced control and optimization algorithms
- Imbedded controllers in devices
- Linkage to advanced distribution management systems (ADMS)
- Validation of concepts and deployment.



Source: E. Dall'Anese et al.,
<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/articleDetails.jsp?arnumber=6920041>

Autonomous Energy Grids

NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy,
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.



Blue Rings - Centralized control
Green Dots - Cell controllers
Dashed Red - Cell-to-cell communications
White/Gold - Distributed control



Advancing Technologies through Grid Simulation and Experimentation



NREL Grid Simulation and Experimentation Capabilities

Grid Simulation and Data Capabilities

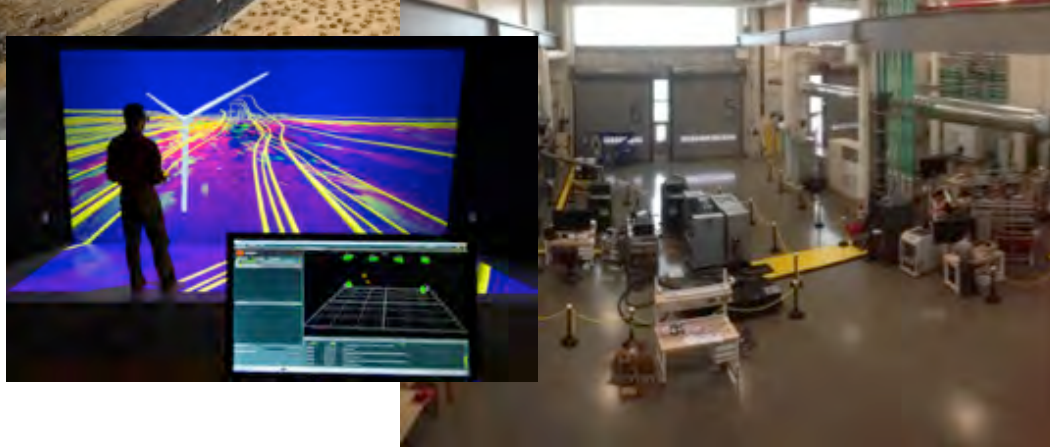
- High Performance Computing (Eagle)
- Large-scale Renewable Integration Studies
- Integrated Transmission, Distribution, Communications, and Markets Grid Co-simulation platform (HELICS)
- Synthetic Grid Datasets
- Renewable Resource Datasets

Grid Experimental Capabilities

- NREL Energy Systems Integration Facility
- Advanced Distribution Management System Testbed
- NREL Flatirons Campus
- Integrated Energy Systems at Scale (IESS) - Integrated multi-site integrated Power Hardware in the Loop Experiments

Energy Systems Integration Facility

**Shortening the time
between innovation
and practice**

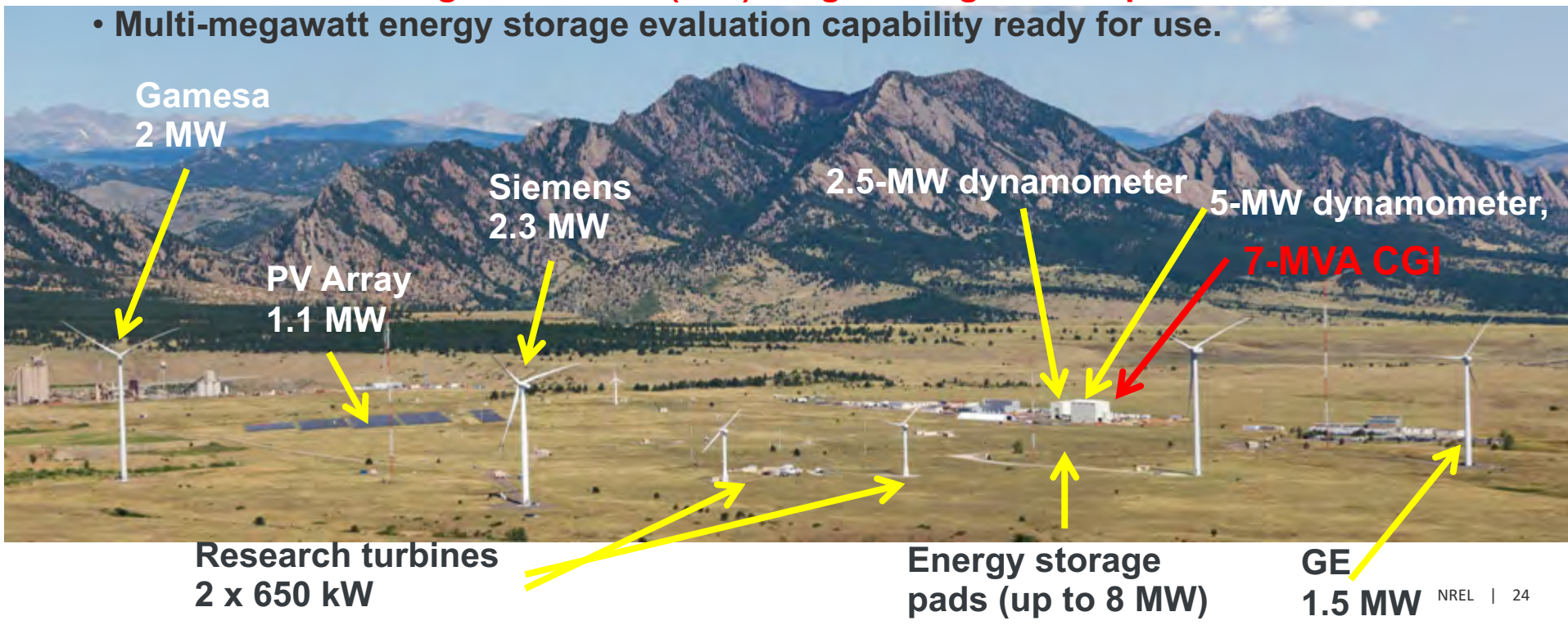


Unique capabilities:

- Multiple parallel AC and DC experimental busses (MW power level) with grid simulation and loads
- Flexible interconnection points for electricity, thermal, and fuels
- Medium-voltage (15-kV) microgrid area
- Virtual utility operations center and visualization rooms
- Smart grid lab for advanced communications and control
- Interconnectivity to external field sites for data feeds and model validation
- Petascale high-performance computing (HPC) and data management system in showcase energy-efficient data center
- MW-scale power hardware-in-the-loop simulation capability to evaluate grid scenarios with high penetrations of clean energy technologies.

Flatirons Campus

- Total of 11 MW of variable renewable generation currently installed
- Many small wind turbines (less than 100 kW) are installed
- 2.5-MW and 5-MW dynamometers
- **7-MVA controllable grid interface (CGI)** for grid integration experiments
- Multi-megawatt energy storage evaluation capability ready for use.



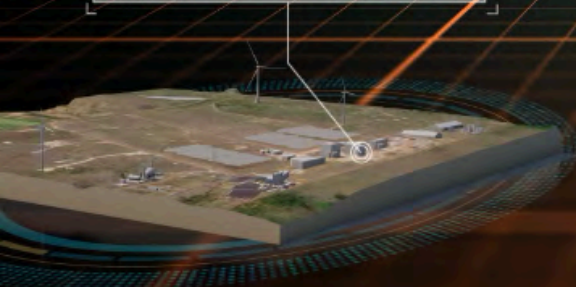
A 3D architectural rendering of a modern building with white walls and a flat roof. The building is situated on a dark, reflective surface. A grid of orange lines is overlaid on the scene, creating a perspective effect that recedes into the distance. A callout box with a white background and a black border is positioned above the building, containing the text 'ESIF (Up to 2 MW) (100s of devices)'. A thin white line connects the callout box to a small circular icon on the building's roof.

ESIF

(Up to 2 MW)
(100s of devices)

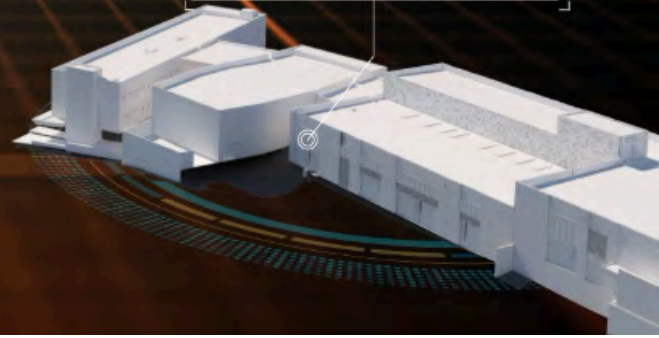
Flatirons

(20 MW+)
(1,000s of devices)



ESIF

(Up to 2 MW)
(100s of devices)



Virtual Emulation Environment (MW to GW Scale) + (Millions of devices)

Flatirons

(20 MW+)
(1,000s of devices)

ESIF

(Up to 2 MW)
(100s of devices)







NREL Power Systems Engineering Center
www.nrel.gov/grid

NREL: Providing Solutions to Grid Integration Challenges

Thank You!