

# Local Levelised Cost of Energy

a financial indicator for  
decision-making on local energy systems

Rolf Bastiaanssen

Practitioner

Director, Bax & Company

[r.bastiaanssen@baxcompany.com](mailto:r.bastiaanssen@baxcompany.com)



# Background

## Piloting innovations

### Policy

- Energy Community, PED

### Economy

- Capacity as a Service

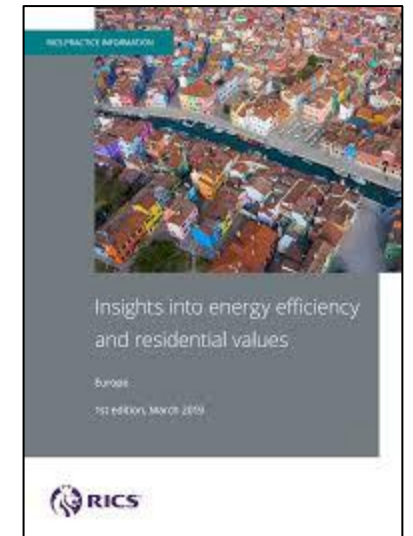
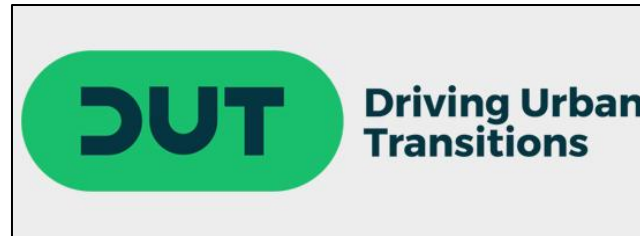
### Societal

- Municipal one-stop-shops

### Technology

- ICT – Peer to Peer energy trading

## Local Energy Systems



# Action Research

Research <> Practice



# The Challenge for Local Energy System design

## EU Policy

- Green, Smart, Decentral
- Local Energy Systems
  - Collective Self-consumption
  - Citizen Energy Community
  - Positive Energy District
  - ...
- And building-level, grid energy

## What level of action?



# LCOE as Metric for Cost-effectiveness

Lifetime cost / lifetime output  
€/MWh

Across generation technologies  
Benchmarking, PPA

## “Levelised Cost” of Energy (LCOE):

“LCOE is defined as the ratio of the net present value of total capital and operating costs of a generic plant to the net present value of the net electricity generated by that plant over its operating life.”

Simple...

$$LCOE = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n \frac{I_t + M_t + F_t}{(1+r)^t}}{\sum_{t=1}^n \frac{E_t}{(1+r)^t}}$$

Not so simple...!

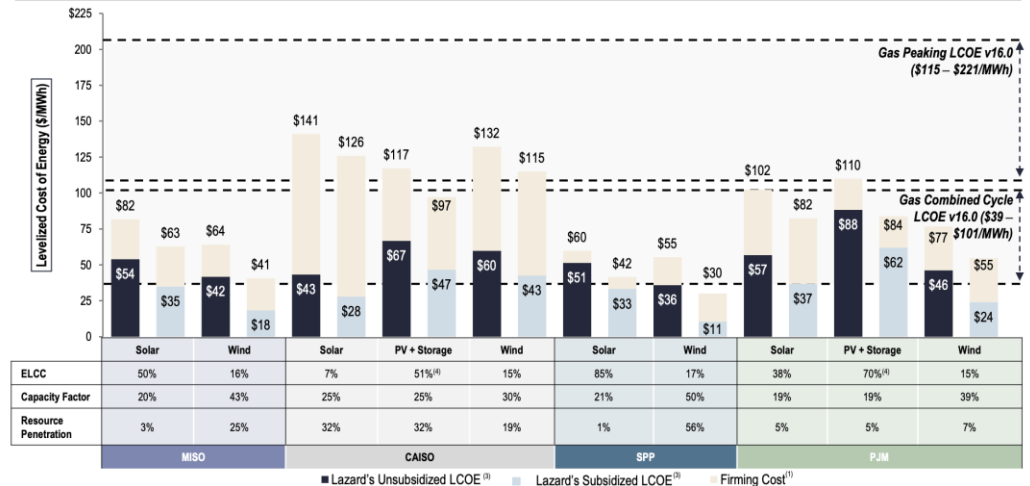
Investment

Annual Operation

$$= \frac{PCI + \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{DEP}{(1+DR)^n} * TR + \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{LP}{(1+DR)^n} - \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{INT}{(1+DR)^n} * TR + \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{AO}{(1+DR)^n} * (1-TR) - \frac{RV}{(1+DR)^n}}{\sum_{n=1}^N \frac{Initial\ KWh * (1 - System\ Degradation\ rate)^n}{(1+DR)^n}}$$

quote: www.gov.uk

LCOE v16.0 Levelized Firming Cost (\$/MWh)<sup>(3)</sup>



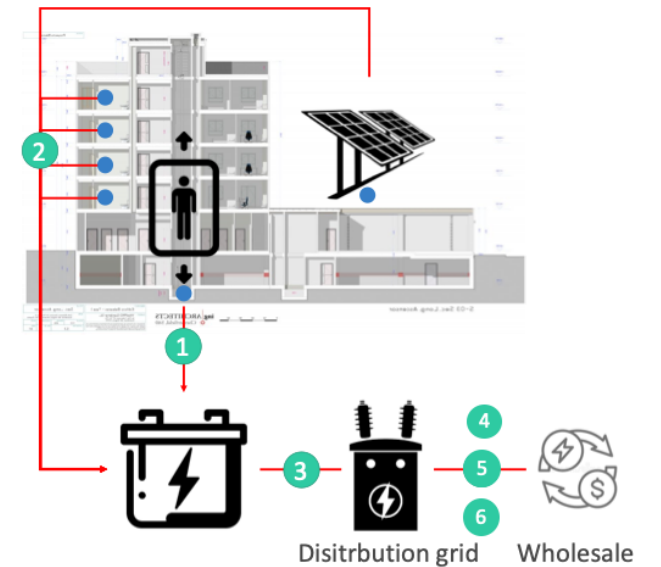
# Case study: multi-family dwelling



- Amersfoort, the Netherlands
- PV + Storage + Grid flexibility
- 169 MWh/y, 110kVa, 100kWp PV, 160kWh/kW BESS

# Building – grid interaction and convergence

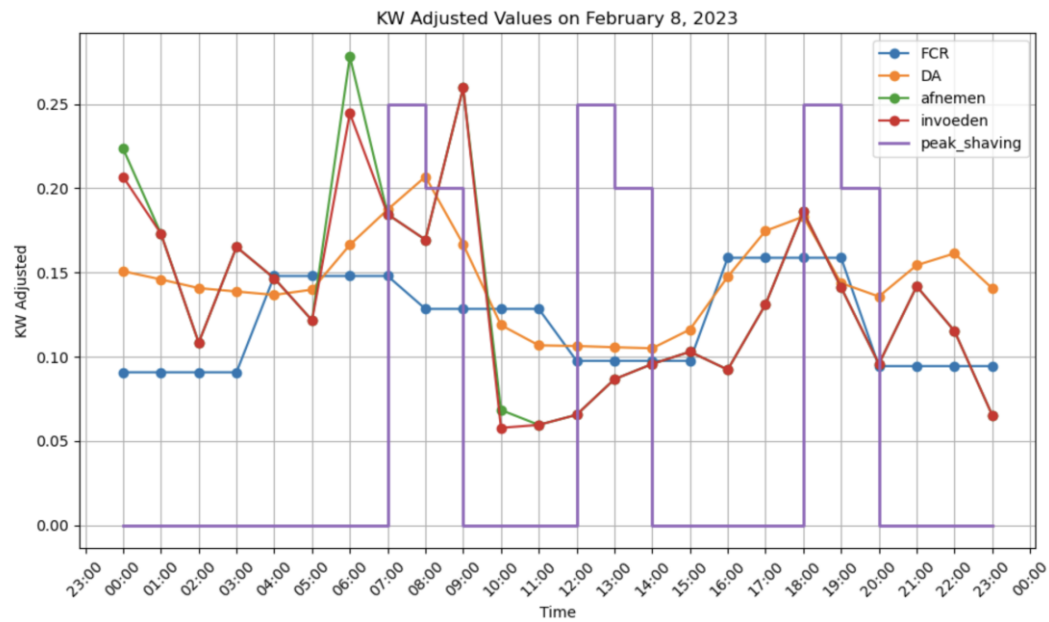
- Deep renovation programmes
- Smart systems become available
  - VRE generation
  - BESS
  - Flexibility services
- Smart systems are complex
  - Integrated (not stand-alone)
  - Have value potential
  - Have dynamic outcomes



Self-consumption 1 2  
DSO capacity services 3  
TSO capacity and wholesale 4 5 6  
+ Integrated asset management

# Flexibility Services drive the business case

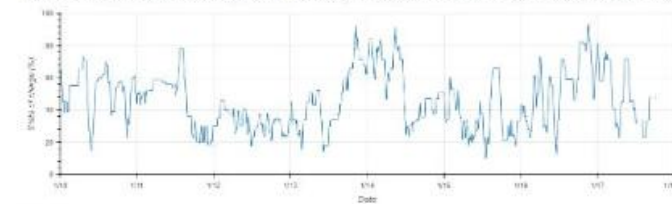
€ / kW / 60 min



## SoC + revenue potential

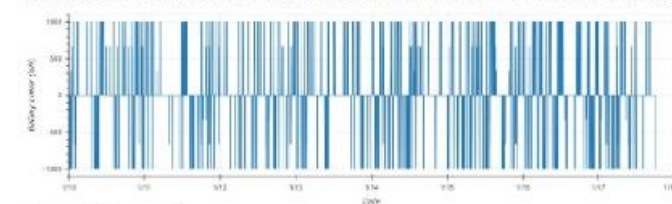
### State of charge

The state of charge indicates how much energy is stored in the battery over the specified period. This is expressed as a percentage of the total available capacity.



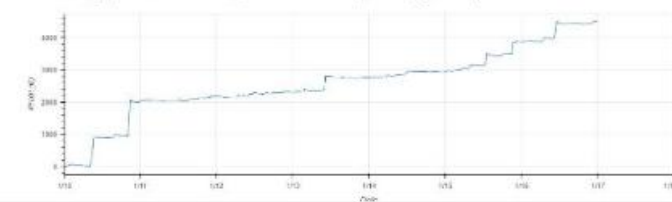
### Battery power

The battery power indicates the power used by the battery over the specified period. A positive value means that the battery is being charged.



### Cumulative profit

The cumulative profit shows how much money the battery has 'earned' over the specified period. It's important to note that the start date is always the zero point of the calculation. Therefore, this graph does not show absolute profit but rather the development or progression of profit over time.



# Labour is a hidden cost

## Estimate baseline

- Employment, total cost
  - Support >€50.000
  - Specialised >€75.000
  - Specialised >€100.000
- External, per hour
  - Junior €75-100
  - Project mgr €150
  - Senior €200-250

## Effort in pilot

- 500+ hours
- 100+ hours

# Proposal Local Levelised **Cost** of Energy

+ Revenue

+ Management Cost

# Proposal

## Local Levelised Cost of Energy

### Governance Model

- In LES, significant spending on
  - Comparing alternative scales
  - Inclusive Development
    - Housholds, Local businesses
- Structural characteristics
  - Beyond current innovations

### Pricing of inputs

- Hourly rates vary
  - Per organisation
  - Per region
- Grid services vary
  - Per DSO
    - Towards LV capacity pricing

# Results Case study

## LCOE

- Grid + Energy

LCOE: Scenario 1 grid-provided energy			
	Per year	15 years	
Grid Connection (kVa)	110 €	6.633 €	99.489 €
Consumption (kWh)	167.926 €	25.088 €	376.322 €
WACC 2,5%		€	-
<b>15-year Total cost</b>	2.518.890 kWh	€	475.811
<b>Cost of Energy (kWh)</b>		€	<b>0,189</b>

## SLCOE (1)

- + PV + BESS + WACC

SLCOE (1): LCOE + PV + Storage + Grid integration			
	Per year	15 years	
Grid Connection (kVa)	110 €	6.633 €	99.489 €
PV system	100kWP		€ 39.600
BESS system	80kW / 160kWh		€ 100.000
Production PV (kWh/y)	85.000		
Net demand grid (kWh/y)	82.926	€ 12.389	€ 185.837
WACC 2,5%		€	52.350
<b>15-year Total cost</b>	2.518.890 kWh	€	477.276
<b>Cost of Energy (kWh)</b>		€	<b>0,189</b>

# Results Case study

## SLCOE (2)

- + Grid Services

SLCOE (2): SLCOE (1) + Grid integration			
		Per year	15 years
Grid Connection (kVa)	110	€ 6.633	€ 99.489
PV system	100kWP		€ 39.600
BESS system	80kW / 160kWh		€ 100.000
Maintenance, insurance		€ 1.500	€ 22.500
Production PV (kWh/y)	85.000		
Net demand grid (kWh/y)	82.926	€ 12.389	€ 185.837
WACC 2,5%			€ 52.350
Imbalance trade revenue		-€ 17.563	-€ 263.445
Imbalance trade cost		€ 7.346	€ 110.190
15-year Total cost	2.518.890 kWh		€ 346.521
<b>Cost of Energy (kWh)</b>			<b>€ 0,138</b>

## LLCOE

- + Preparation, Management

LLCOE: SLCOE + management			
		Per year	15 years
Normalised professional prep (250 hour @ €100)			€ 25.000
Design study			€ 2.500
Volunteer prep (500 hours @ €20)			€ -
Grid Connection (kVa)	110	€ 6.633	€ 99.489
PV system	100kWP		€ 39.600
BESS system	80kW / 160kWh		€ 100.000
Maintenance, insurance		€ 1.500	€ 22.500
Production PV (kWh/y)	85.000		
Net demand grid (kWh/y)	82.926	€ 12.389	€ 185.837
WACC 2,5%			€ 52.350
Imbalance trade revenue		-€ 17.563	-€ 263.445
Imbalance trade cost		€ 7.346	€ 110.190
Annual management (25 hours at €100)			€ 37.500
15-year Total cost	2.518.890 kWh		€ 411.521
<b>Cost of Energy (kWh)</b>			<b>€ 0,163</b>

# Comparison

Indicator	LCOE	SLCOE (1)	SLCOE (2)	LLCOE
	Grid purchase	Mixed grid and PV		
Main additions		+ Cost of capital + Intermittence + Integration (BESS)	+ Flexibility services + Grid costs	+ PREPEX + OPEX
Cost of Energy	€0,189	€0,189	€0,138	€0,163
c. LCOE		0%	-27%	-14%
c. LLCOE	+14%	+14%	-19%	

# Implications

## **Micro / business case**

- More detailed metric
  - Significant Cost and Revenue
- 5-25% net lifetime €/kWh delta
  
- Main impact factors
  - Flexibility markets
  - Management (Labour cost)
  - External services (labour cost)

## **Macro / policy**

- Energy prices will diverge
  - Locally, per Governance model
  
- Home with rooftop v Urban District
  
  
- LLCOE practical metric
  - Compare alternative models
  - Inform policy
    - Centralised to increase (grid cost)
    - Local needs to account for effort