



# Transactive Energy Microgrids

Integrating Load Flexibility into Microgrids for  
Better Allocation of Resources

## Transactive Energy Microgrids

Microgrids and Networked Microgrids using a one-way Economic Dispatch Value (EDV) to balance and allocate resources efficiently.



KAY AIKIN, co-founder,  
CEO, Introspective Systems  
Dynamic Grid

## Research and Development

5 Department of Energy (DOE) projects

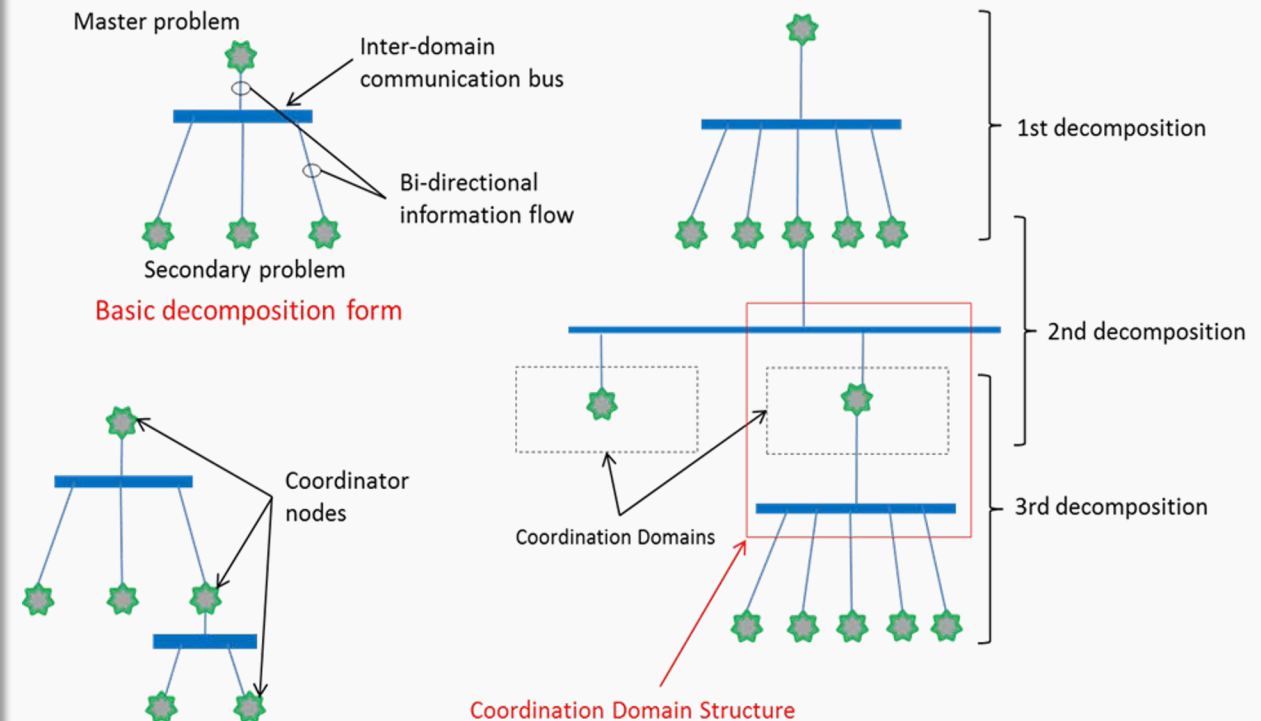
- Fractal electrical grid architectures
- AI powered Transactive Energy controls
- Smart Ledger value transfer
- Enhanced Geothermal evaluation, monitoring and control
- Dynamic Grid Pricing with Edge Load Responsive Device Control

# THE ARCHITECTURE

## Grid Future State: Decarbonized, Decentralized and Distributed (D<sup>3</sup>)

### Path to Full Decarbonization

- High penetration renewable DER
- Beneficial Electrification; electrifying other energy uses (EV, space heating, process heat)



GMLC 1.2.1 v0.3 Grid Architecture Specification High DER/DA/STO  
Reference Architecture, Taft, Etal

## THE CHALLENGES

### Grid Future State:

Decarbonized, Decentralized and Distributed (D<sup>3</sup>)

#### Managing;

- **Beneficial Electrification**  
Broad conversion strategy (EV, Space/process heat)
- **Power Quality**  
High penetration renewable DER
- **Peak Loads**  
Storage  
Demand Flexibility

## THE CHALLENGES

**Grid Future State:**  
Decarbonized, Decentralized and Distributed (D<sup>3</sup>)

### Beneficial Electrification

Broad conversion strategy of fossil fuel energy uses to electricity including, Electrical Vehicles, Space heating/cooling and Industrial process heat.

This is a **policy discussion** with some technology innovation required in the Industrial process heat sector

## Grid Future State: Decarbonized, Decentralized and Distributed (D<sup>3</sup>)

## THE CHALLENGES

### Power Quality

As we reach high renewable penetrations (>50%), we have a system with dynamic complexity. Currently the system manages this in a centralized fashion.

Primary concerns:

- Real-time control and coordination under latency in communications
- Complex computations for system balancing
- System coordination

This is a **technical** discussion with some technology innovation required but most of the technology like smart inverters, SCADA systems, Volt/VAR can handle the power quality problem.

**ARE OUR CURRENT POWER QUALITY  
SYSTEMS BROKEN?**

## THE CHALLENGES

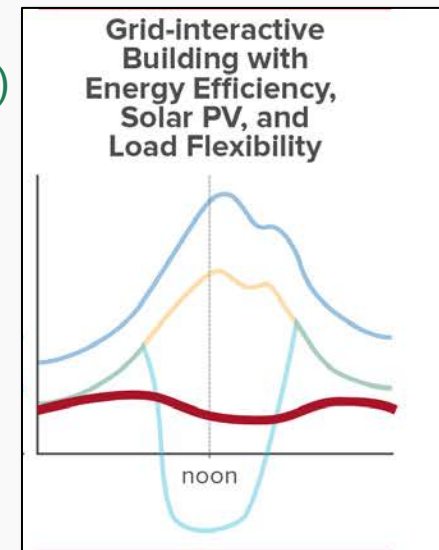
### Grid Future State: Decarbonized, Decentralized and Distributed (D<sup>3</sup>)

#### Peak Loads

As we reach high renewable penetrations (>50%), Temporal interactions between load and variable Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Primary concerns:

- Load Shifting (demand flexibility)
- Storage
- System coordination

This is a **technical** discussion with significant architectural structure decisions and technology innovation required



## BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION

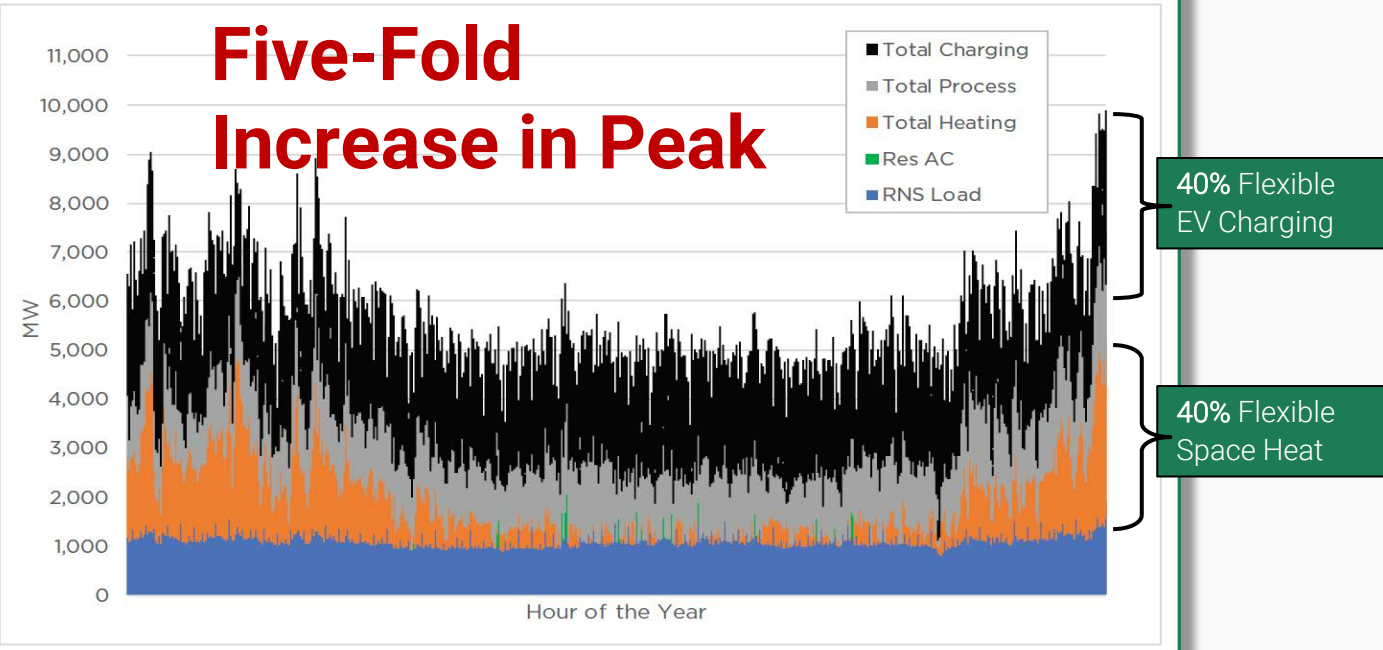
### Challenge: Beneficial Electrification

With the strategic electrification of loads the grid peak will be 3 to 5 times higher

#### Takeaway:

Major Challenge- but tremendous **Opportunity** to use load flexibility to manage DER variability without massive storage

FIGURE 2-7 | Total Hourly Electricity Use Under Beneficial Electrification



**A new Energy Policy Direction For Maine**

Rich Silkman, Ph.D. CEO  
Competitive Energy Services



## PEAK LOADS

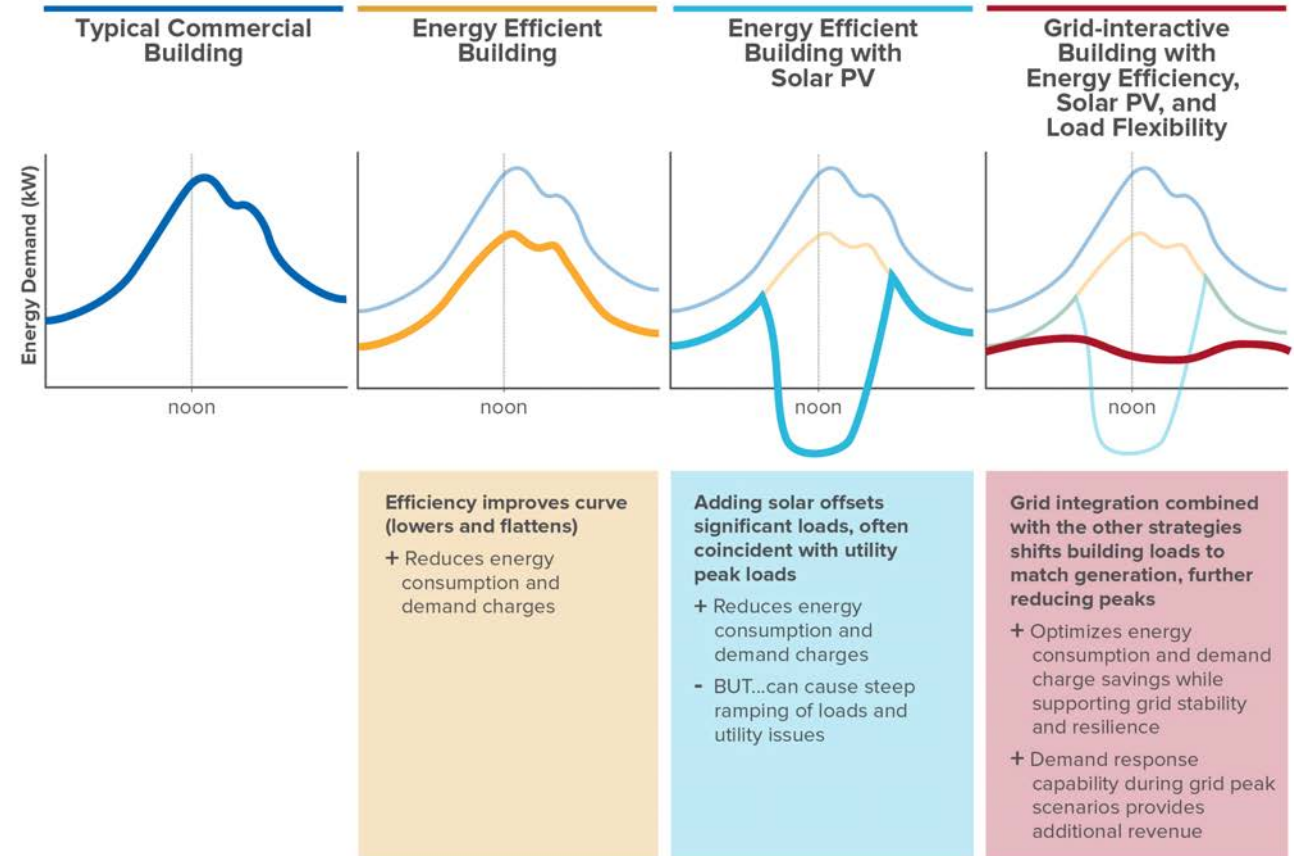
### Challenge: Load Shaping

Increases in peak loads and ramping due to Distributed Energy Resources (DER) can be largely mitigated by load shaping.

### Opportunity:

Use load flexibility to manage DER variability without large increases in energy storage

### Grid Integrated Building: Load Profiles



Value Potential for Grid Integrated Buildings in the GSA Portfolio, Rocky Mountain Institute p. 10

## VALUE OF DEMAND FLEXIBILITY

Hourly simulation of Texas power system with a high-penetration demand flexibility.

	WITHOUT FLEXIBILITY	WITH FULL FLEXIBILITY	% CHANGE
AVERAGE ENERGY VALUE OF RENEWABLE GENERATION	\$8.70/MWh	\$11.82/MWh	36% increase
ANNUAL PEAK NET LOAD	58,441 MW	44,354 MW	24% decrease
AMOUNT OF ANNUAL CURTAILMENT	42,405,742 MWh	25,637,233 MWh	40% decrease
AVERAGE MULTIHOUR NET-LOAD RAMP MAGNITUDE	3,898 MW	1,728 MW	56% decrease
ANNUAL SYSTEM-WIDE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS	31 million tons	24 million tons	23% decrease

"Reinventing Fire"  
Rocky Mountain Institute

## A DYNAMIC GRID

### Path forward

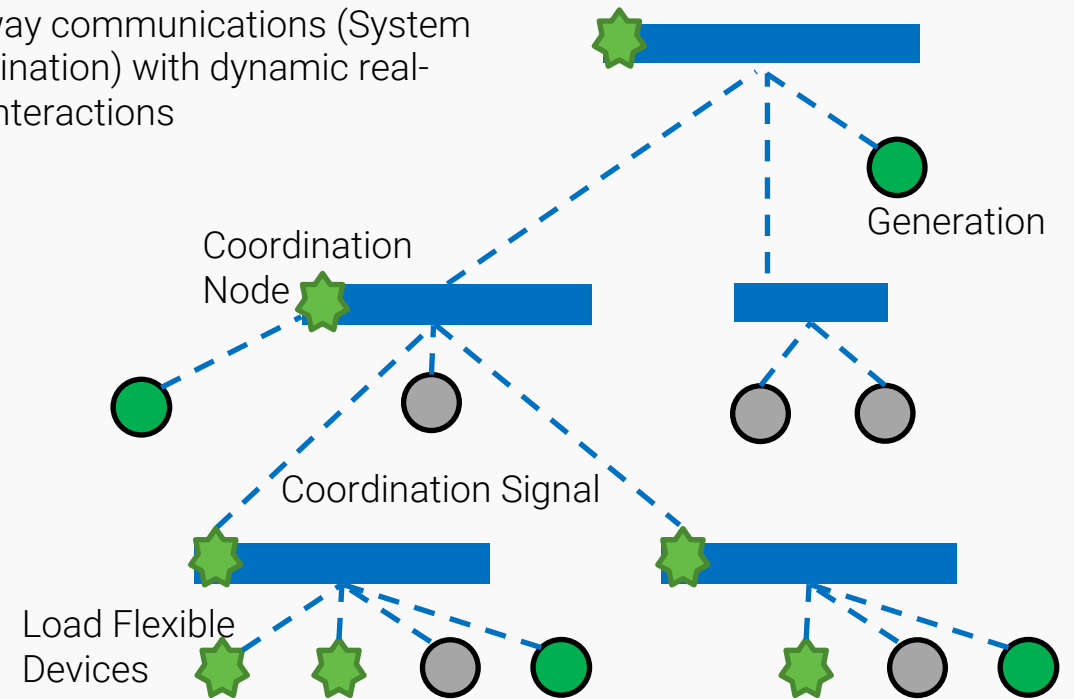
- Layered Decomposition Architecture
- Simplified Coordination Signal (EDV-based on voltage)
- Multi-Agent architecture
- Device Operation based on local data
- Local Agent Optimization (Machine Learning)
- Individual Agents potentially provide multiple services (reliability, capacity, FQ, V/Var, Peak)

**Leading to:**

**Decentralized, Distributed and Collaborative Control Structure**

### Dynamic Grid Transactive Energy

One-way communications (System Coordination) with dynamic real-time interactions



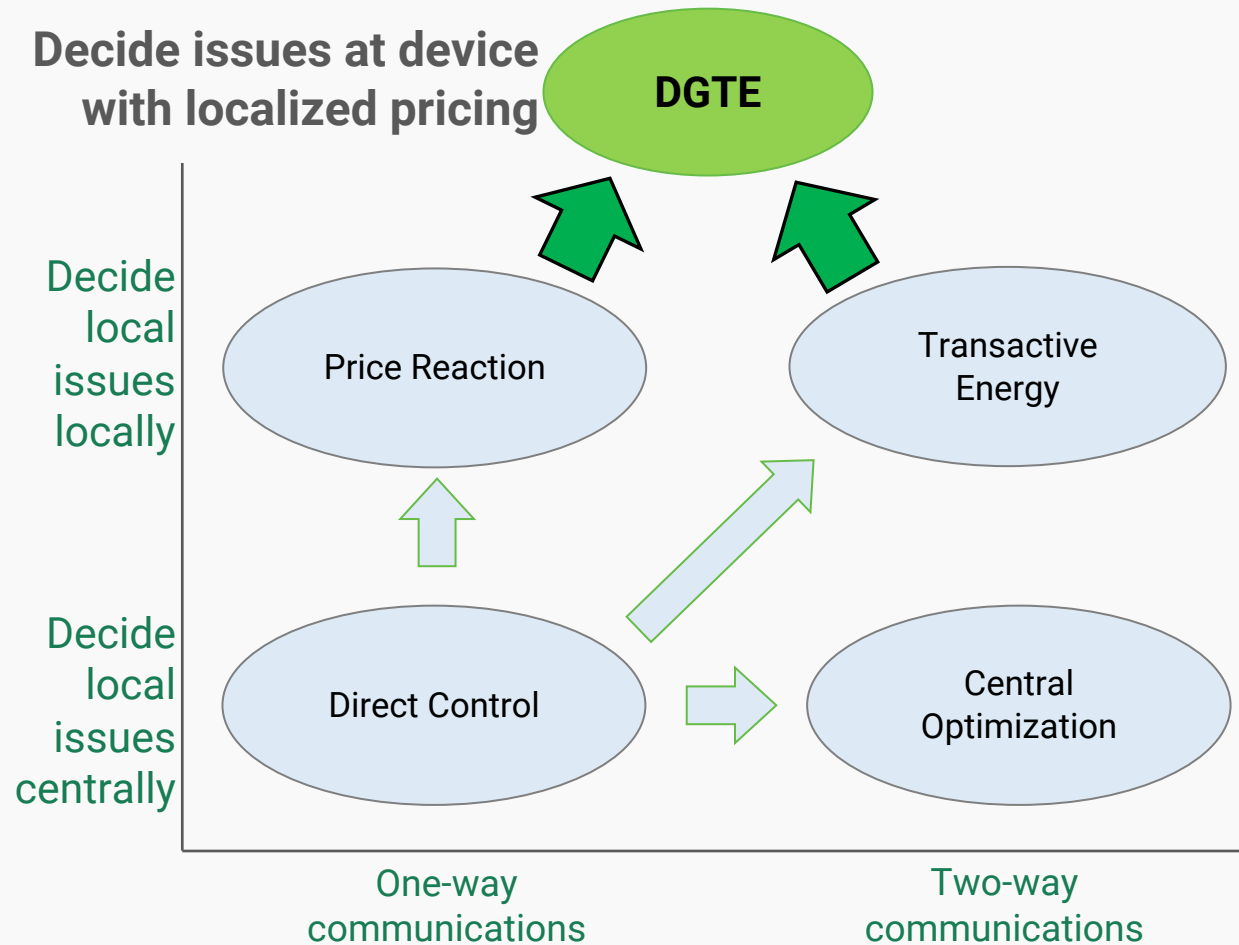
### Opportunity:

Use load flexibility to manage DER variability without large increases in energy storage

## System Coordination Methods:

- **Direct (Top-Down) Control** (DSM)
- **Central Control/Optimization** (ISO Bulk Power)
- **Price Reaction Control**
- **Transactive Energy (TE)** – Two way (method demonstrated)
- **Dynamic Grid Transactive Energy** – One-way coms with dynamic real-time interactions
  - Autonomous devices (decisions at edge)
  - Layered problem sub-optimization
  - Intelligent gateways develop local dynamic pricing (Economic Dispatch Value-EDV) for reaction by edge devices, EDV is downward only to promote cyber-security and simplicity

## SYSTEM COORDINATION

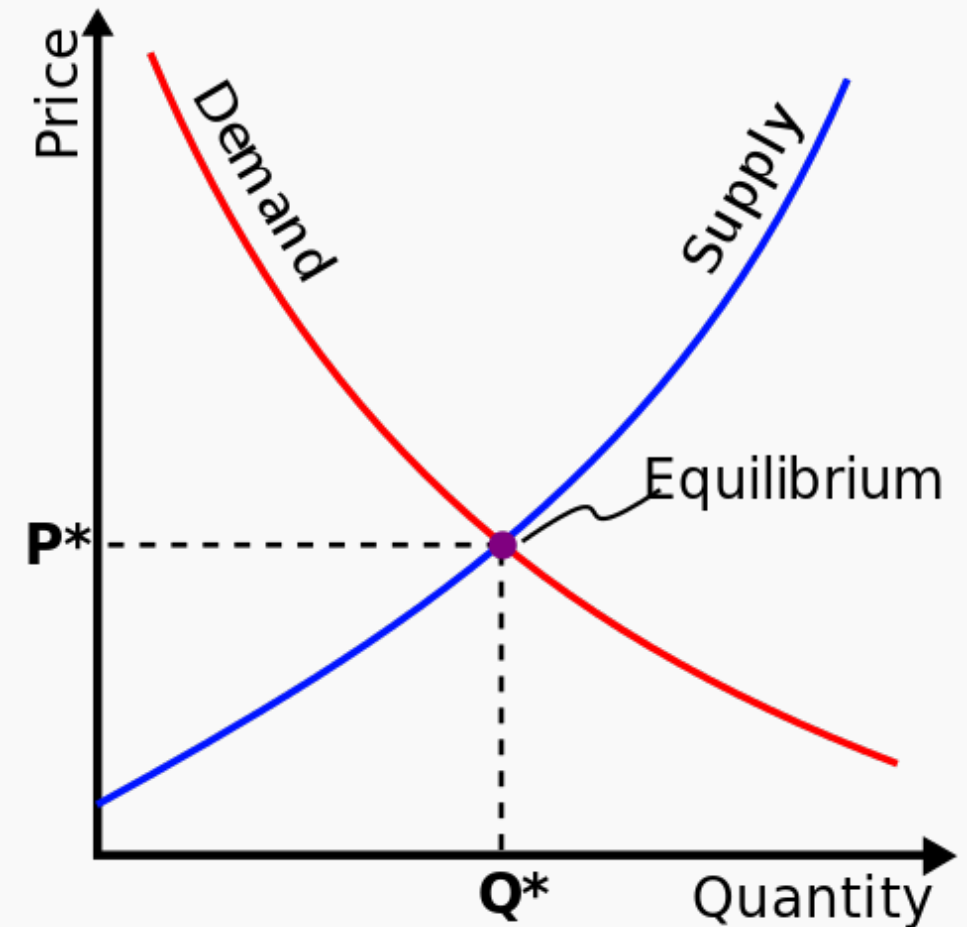


**Adapted From: IEEE Power and Energy Magazine** Volume: 14 Issue 3, A Society of Devices: Integrating Intelligent Distributed Resources with Transactive Energy, Koen Kok and Steve Widergren

## ECONOMICS

### Economic Competitive Market:

- Market clearing (two-way communication) is nearly impossible at scale and cyber-insecure
- Law of many prices rather than law of one price
- Market Localization- Each entity sets their own price based upon past price and local environment and needs
- Neither side considers global equilibrium - resulting in competitive equilibrium.

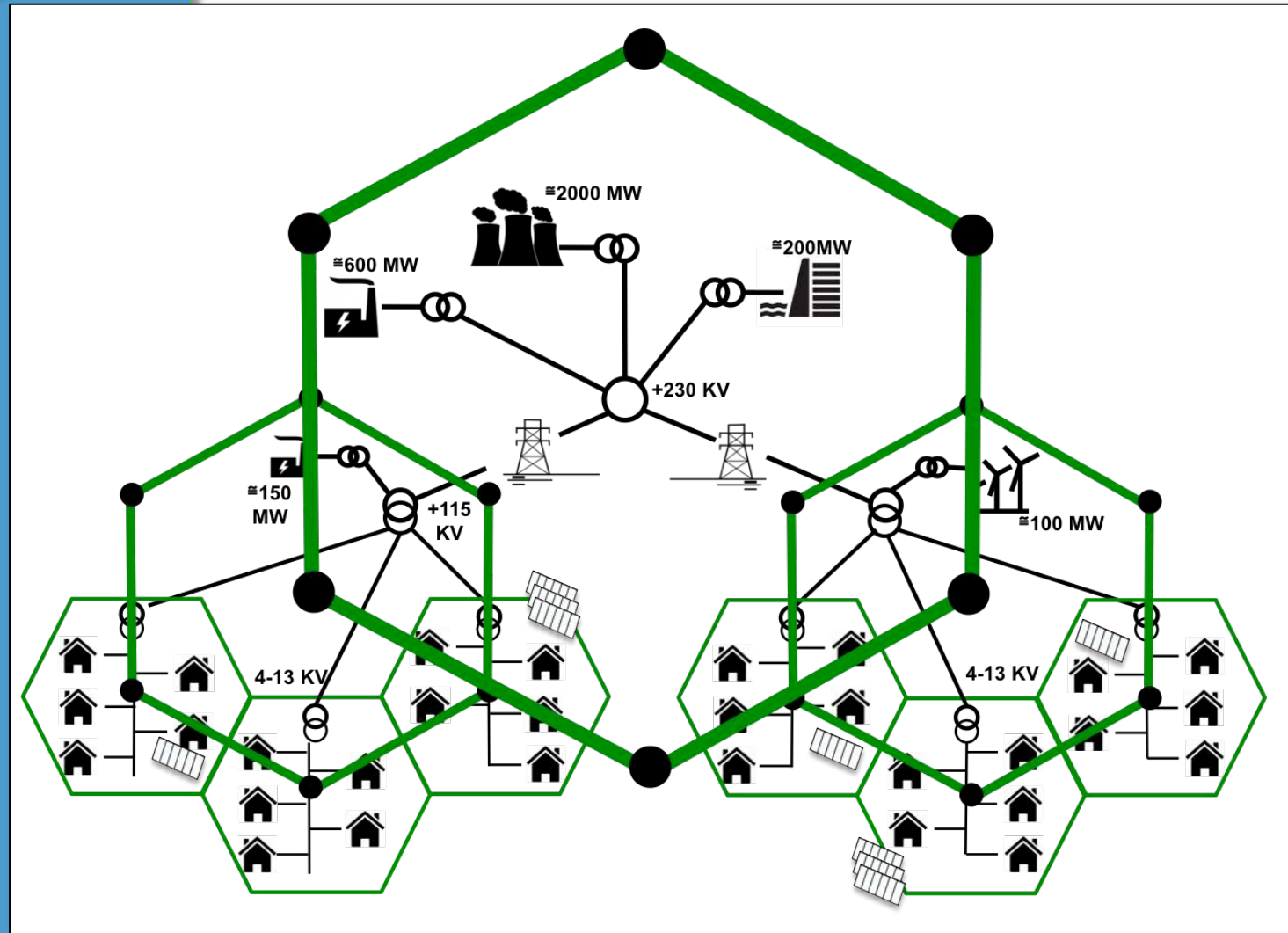




### Layered Networked Microgrids:

#### Layered microgrids with price coordination

- Fractal (Layered decomposition)
- One-way price responsive (secure)
- Passive feedback (upward response)
- Scales (no complexity bounds)
- Transition path (through microgrids)
- Self-optimizing (Consumer driven)
- No “head nodes” (decisions made by lower entities)



## Transactive Energy Microgrids

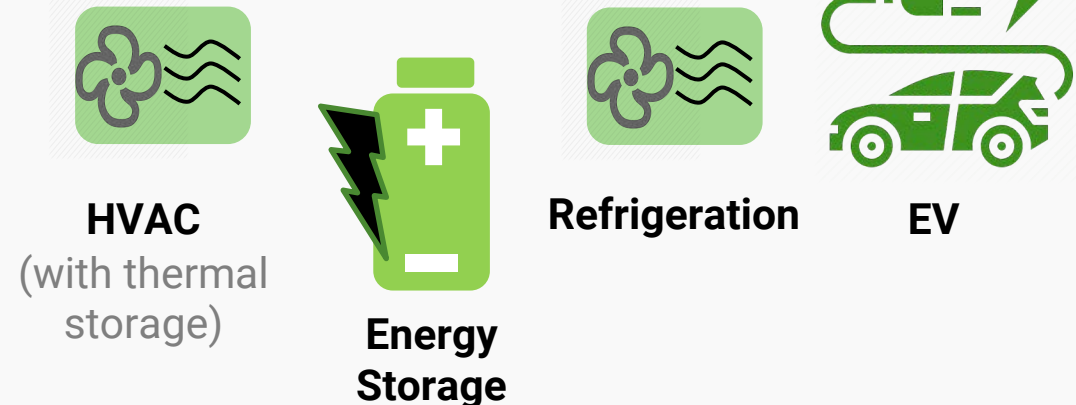
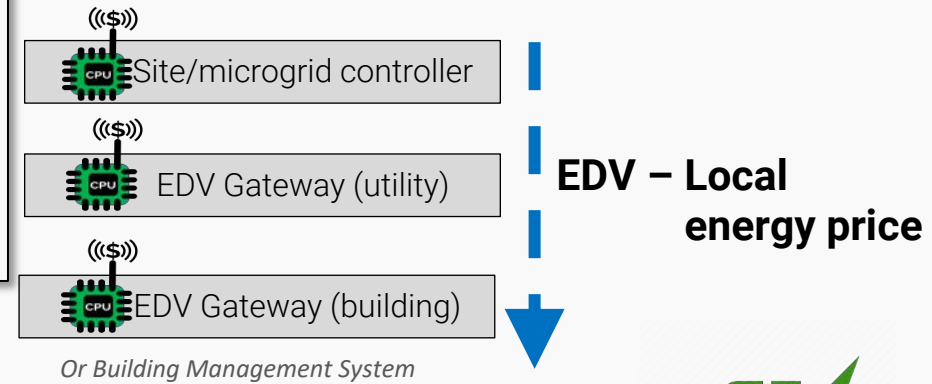
Expand demand response value streams beyond direct load control

- Peak Load (Infrastructure deferral)
- Curtailment (increase RE capacity factors)
- Load Ramp (decrease ramping needs and peaker plants)
- Decarbonization (decrease CO<sup>2</sup> across entire energy sector)
- Storage (decrease requirements for storage)

EDV= resource \$,

Others Possible  
 + Capacity \$  
 + Grid services \$,  
 + (FQ, V/Var, etc)  
 + Carbon

## ECONOMIC DISPATCH VALUE



Edge devices operate independently without direct coordination

By responding to EDV, edge devices provide load deferral/load augmentation services to grid for value

## ISLE AU HAUT MAINE

### Project Objectives:

The proposed system must meet the following criteria:

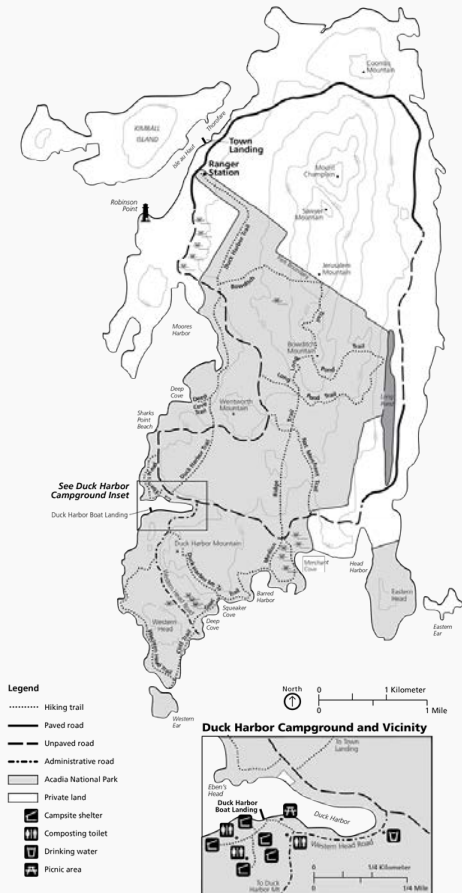
- Maintain power without a grid link (Islandable).
- Keep electricity pricing at or below the current blended price (service charge + energy) including inflation.
- Enable IAHEPCO sufficient monetary funds for operations and maintenance.
- Design a system that is locally maintainable.
- The aim for 100% renewable energy.

**95 kW peak load with 37-year-old seven-mile undersea cable ready to fail and 143 households. Large imbalance between summer/winter load. To serve summer load winter supply would be excessive.**

300 kWp DC PV and 1 MWh battery.

**SOLUTION:** Co-optimization financial/systems engineering and controls

- Include up to 20 plus heat pumps with thermal storage to use excess winter generation
- Dynamic Grid's edge-based Intelligent Control System (ICS). It provides an Economic Dispatch Value (EDV) to heat pumps that determine their own optimal dispatch.



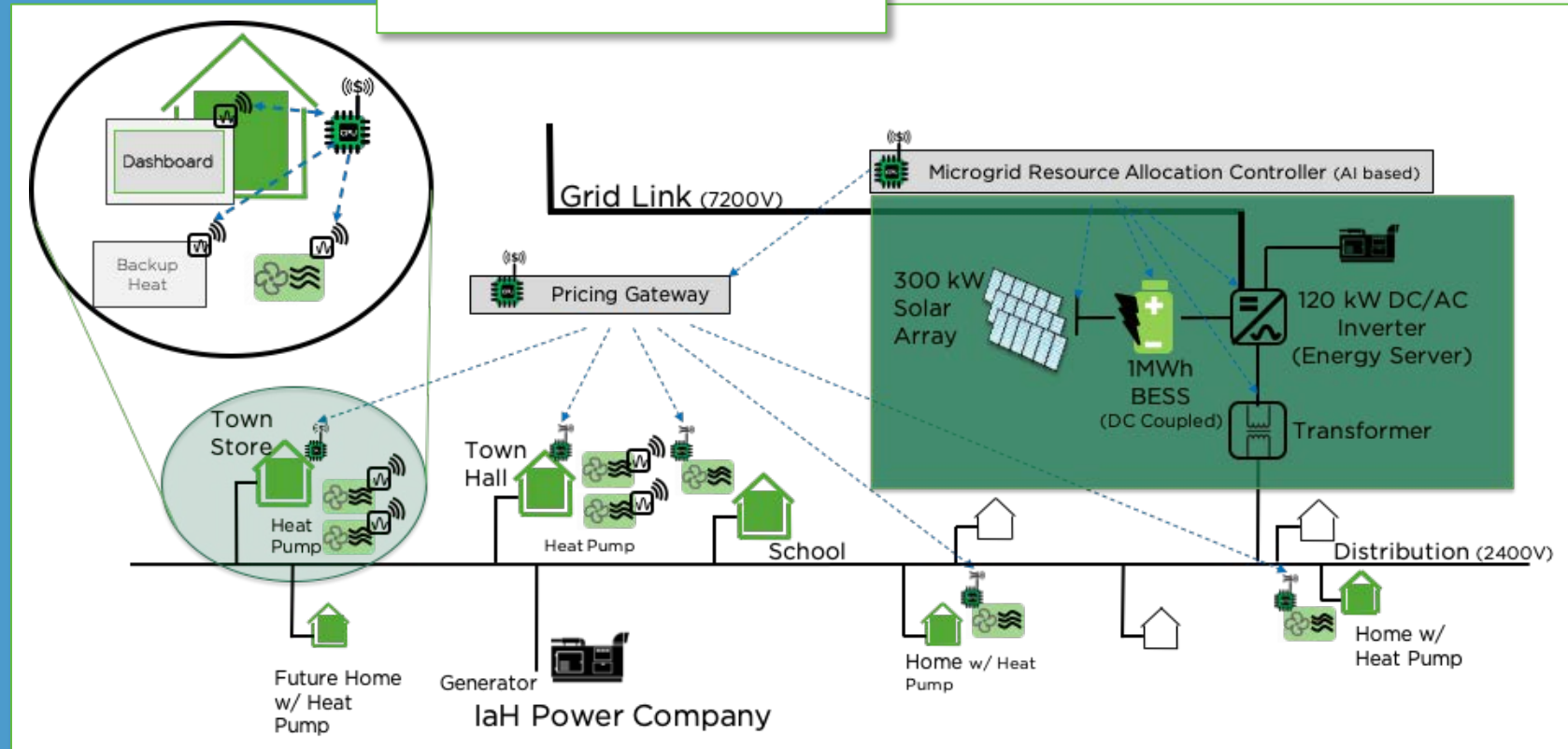
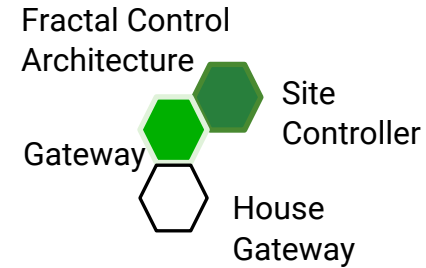


## ISLE AU HAUT MAINE

### Transactive Energy Microgrids

Take advantage of **Load Flexibility** for dynamic system management and renewable energy balancing improving microgrid revenues

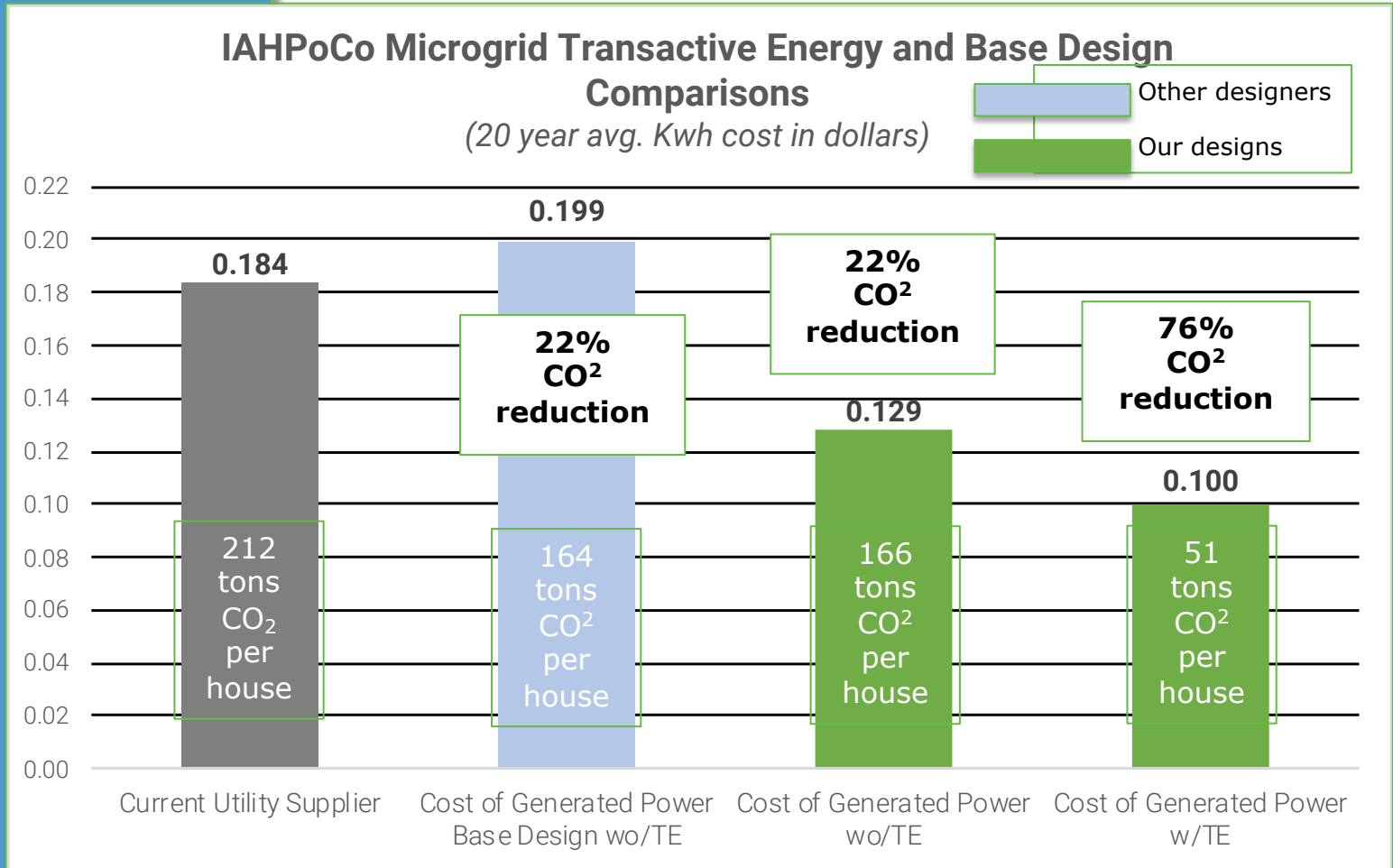
- One-way, Economic Dispatch Value (EDV) signal sent by Gateways (coordination nodes)
- Three layers of coordination
- Heat pumps and other building loads develop optimal local policy (edge devices)



## Isle au Haut

- 45% lowered kWh cost
- 76% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction

## RESULTS



## CONCLUSIONS

### Grid Future State:

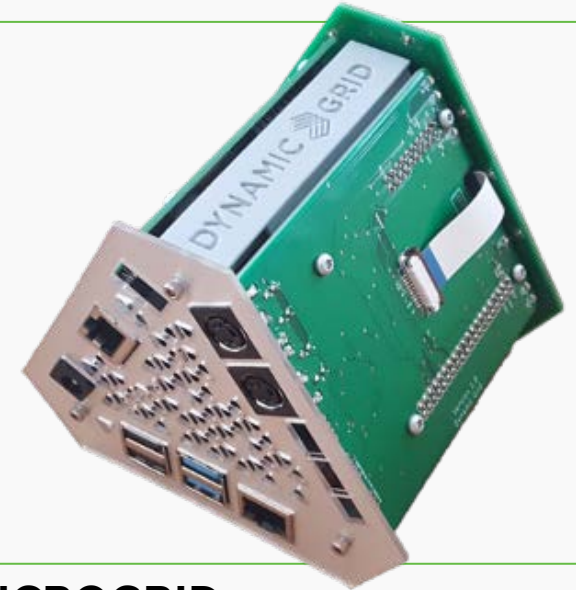
Decarbonized, Decentralized and Distributed (D<sup>3</sup>)

- Decarbonization
- Decentralized and Distributed
- Energy and cost savings
- Increased infrastructure utilization (capacity factor)
- Increased opportunities for Distributed Energy

Need Utility and Regulator  
focus on DYNAMIC PRICING

#### DISTRIBUTION ICS GATEWAY-

Intelligent AI powered device that calculates an Economic Dispatch Value (EDV) based upon current conditions, including the EDV received from above and predicted demand.



#### MICROGRID ICS CONTROLLER-

Dynamic controller using AI to continuously optimize the management of resources (resource allocation) within the confines of a microgrid. Dynamic control system distributes the EDV to other devices in the ecosystem to communicate the state of the available electricity supply.

# Thank-you

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[www.dynamicgrid.ai](http://www.dynamicgrid.ai)

## FURTHER READING

### **A Practical Approach to the Management of Dynamic Complex Systems**

<https://www.introspectivesystems.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/A-Practical-Approach-to-the-Management-of-Dynamic-Complex-Systems-Introspective-Systems.pdf>

**Transactive Energy: Real World Applications for an Evolving Grid** <https://sepapower.org/knowledge/new-smart-electric-power-alliance-report-demystifies-transactive-energy/>

### **The Role of Microgrids in Helping to Advance the Nation's Energy System**

<https://www.energy.gov/oe/activities/technology-development/grid-modernization-and-smart-grid/role-microgrids-helping>