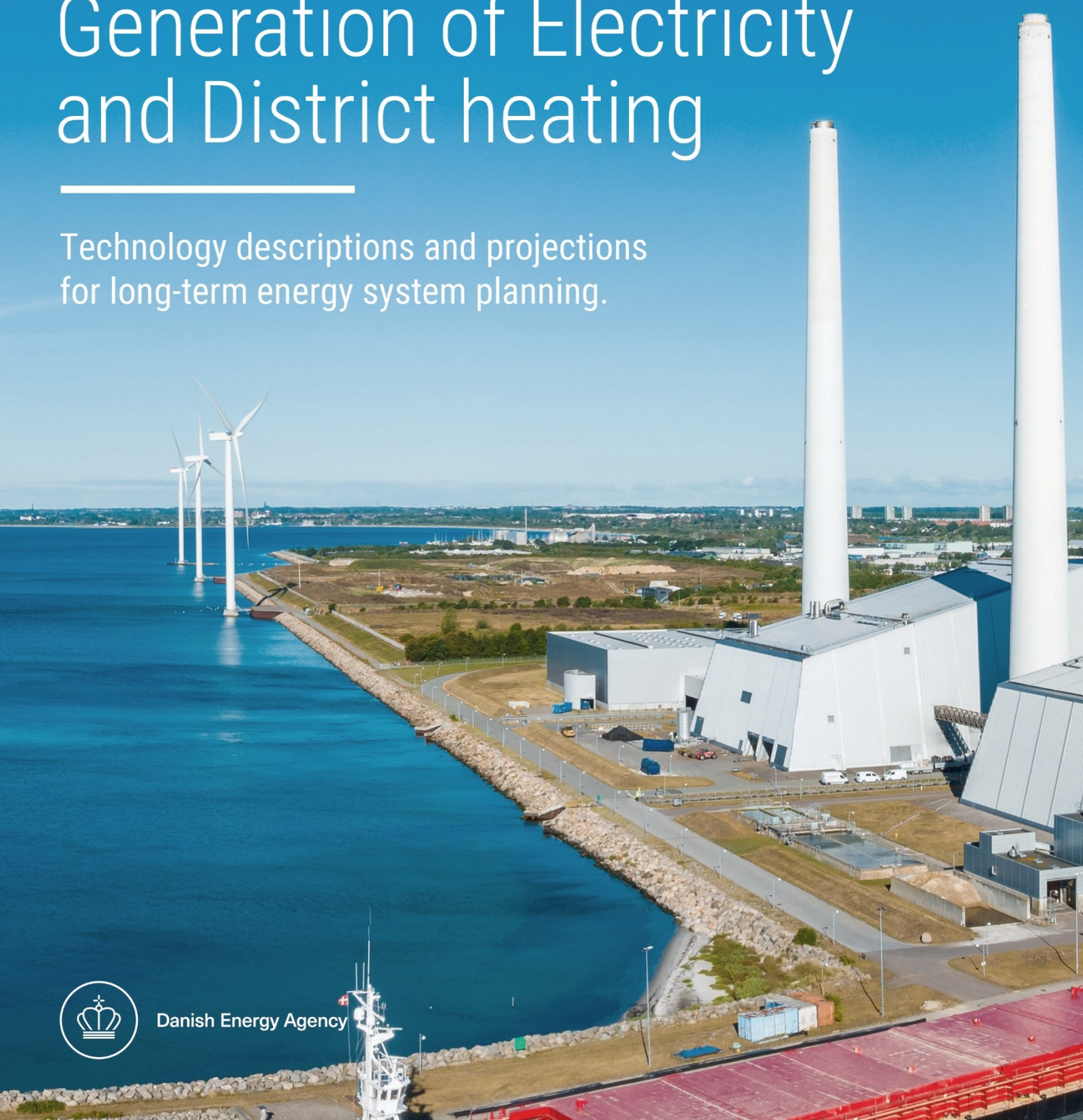
TECHNOLOGY DATA

Generation of Electricity and District heating

Technology descriptions and projections for long-term energy system planning.



Danish Energy Agency



Technology Data – Generation of Electricity and District heating

ISBN 978-87-94447-55-3
First published August 2016 by the Danish Energy Agency and Energinet

Current version published by:
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www.ens.dk/technologydata

Design and production: Danish Energy Agency
Front cover photo: Adobe Stock

Version number: 0019

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Amendment sheet

Publication date

Publication date for this catalogue "Technology Data for Energy Plants" is august 2016. In June 2017 this amendment sheet has been added and also the possibility to add descriptions of amendments in the individual chapters if required. Hereby the catalogue can be updated continuously as technologies evolve, if the data changes significantly or if errors are found.

The newest version of the catalogue will always be available from the Danish Energy Agency's web site.

Amendments after publication date

All updates made after the publication date will be listed in the amendment sheet below.

Version	Date	Ref.	Description
0019	August 2026	22 Photovoltaics	New datasheets and descriptions for PV plants and BESS co-location, considerations on the impact on costs by not buying Chinese. Descriptions of new module types and PV technologies.
0018	April 2026	40 Heat pumps	All descriptions and datasheets updated. Description and datasheet on absorption heat pump removed
0018	April 2026	41 Electric boilers	Description and datasheets updated
0018	April 2026	42 Oil boiler	Description and datasheet added
0018	April 2026	45 Geothermal	All descriptions and datasheets updated. 2 datasheets with absorption heat pumps removed
0017	May 2025	21 Wind turbines, Offshore	Corrected numbers of DC cables in datasheet and figures
0016	February 2025	21 Wind turbines, Offshore	Updated technology description and data sheets. Updates for AC offshore and nearshore wind. Additions of AC floating wind, AC and DC far offshore wind
0015	April 2024	Guideline/cover	Updated guideline in terms of scenario projection reference, price year, and further minor updates / new cover
0014	February 2024	20 Wind Turbines Onshore	Updated qualitative description and datasheets
0013	February 2023	08 WtE DHP and HOP plants	Updated info on operation of Amager Bakke power plant
0012	June 2022	45 Geothermal district heating	Updated with large-scale geothermal systems
0012	June 2022	40 Heat pumps	Seawater heat pump updated with infrastructure costs and seawater CO_2 heat pump added

0011	March 2022	21 Wind Turbines, Offshore	Technology description revised and updated Updated data sheets for offshore wind turbines and nearshore wind turbines
0010	February 2022	22 Photovoltaics	Technology description revised and updated Updated data sheets for small (residential) and medium (commercial/industrial) rooftop PV, and large utility scale fixed and single axis tracking PV
0009	April 2020	45 Geothermal district heating	Updated qualitative description and datasheets. Datasheets now divided in 1200 m and 2000 m depth, electric- and absorption heat pumps and 2 different district heating temperatures.
0009	April 2020	40 Heat pumps	Updated qualitative description and datasheets. Datasheets now divided in 3 types and different plant sizes
0009	April 2020	Guideline	Assumed full load hours for heat pumps changed from 4000 to 6000
0008	March 2020	09 Biomass section	Medium and Large scale wood chips boilers added. Text revised to incorporate new larger boilers. Revision of ash-content and lower heating value for wood chips.
0007	January 2020	09 Biomass CHP and HOP plants	Addition of extraction units in qualitative- and quantitative description
0007	January 2020	08 and 09 Biomass and waste chapters	Revised qualitative- and quantitative description. Among adjustments in datasheets are efficiencies, distribution between variable and fixed O&M and notes Addition of 50/100 °C datasheets for large backpressure units
0007	January 2020	Introduction, biomass and waste sections	Text revised. PQ-diagrams for backpressure and extraction units added.
0006	November '19	22 Photovoltaics	Technology description revised and updated Updated data sheet for large utility scale PV systems

			New data sheet for large utility scale PV systems with single axis tracker
			Updated description of losses of small and medium sized systems equivalent to data sheets of utility scale systems
0005	October '19	45 Geothermal district heating	Heat pump included in financial data for geothermal plants
0004	September '19	21 Wind turbines offshore	Financial data (2050) and space requirements of nearshore wind datasheet corrected
0003	June '19	03d Rebuilding coal plant to Biomass	Added Datasheet d for rebuild coal fired plants to chips backpressure plant
		03a-b Rebuilding coal plant to Biomass	Updated datasheets a and b for rebuild coal fired plants to wood pellets
0002	May '19	20 Wind turbines onshore	Financial data (Investment cost and O&M) updated
		21 Wind turbines offshore	Financial data (Investment cost and O&M) updated
		45 Geothermal DH	Variable O&M adjusted to include electricity consumption
0001	Feb '19	45 Geothermal district heating	Qualitative description and data sheet updated
-	November '18	Introduction to Peak Power Plants and Reserve Technologies, 50 Diesel Engine Farm, 51 Natural Gas Engine Plant, 52 Open Cycle Gas Turbine	Chapters added

-	October '18	03 Rebuilding Large Coal Power Plants to Biomass	Datasheets updated
-	October '18	07 CCS, 10 Stirling engines, 22 PV, 23 Wave energy, 45 Geothermal DH	Chapters transfered from previous catalogue
-	October '18	46 Solar District Heating	Qualitative description and datasheets updated
-	October '18	01 Advanced Pulverized Fuel Power Plant	Qualitative description updated
-	September '18	08, 09, 42, 43, 99 Biomass and waste section	Description of WtE (08) and Biomass (09) updated. CHP and HOP descriptions have been merged for WtE and Biomass respectively and Introduction, Biomass and Waste sections moved
-	July '18	22 Photovoltaics	Datasheets for small residential and medium commercial size systems updated
-	March '18	99 Introduction, Biomass and Waste sections	Chapter added that gives a common introduction to the biomas and waste sheets (chapter 08, 09, 42 and 43)
-	March '18	08,09,42,43 Waste and Biomass CHP and boilers	Datasheet included, chapters will be included soon
-	March '18	11 Solid oxide fuel cell CHP (Natural gas/biogas)	Chapter added
-	March '18	12 Low temperature proton exchange membrane fuel cell CHP (hydrogen)	Chapter added
-	January '18	05 Combined cycle gas turbine	Additional references have been included
-	January '18	06 Gas engines	Reference sheet have been updated
-	January '18	40 Heat pumps, DH and 44 gas fired DH boiler	Updated prices for auxiliary electricity consumption in data sheet

-	November '17	01 Advanced Pulverized Fuel Power Plant	Datasheet for Advanced Pulverized Fuel Power Plant - Coal CHP included
-	October '17	22 Photovoltaics	Datasheet for large ground mounted PV plants included
-	June '17	Preface	Small changes explaining the amendment sheet
-	June '17	21 Wind Turbines Offshore	Financial data (Investment cost and O&M) updated
-	June '17	41 Electric Boilers	Revised chapter added

Preface

The *Danish Energy Agency* publishes catalogues containing data on technologies for Energy Plants. This current catalogue includes updates of a number of technologies which replace the corresponding chapters in the previous catalogue published jointly by the Danish Energy Agency and Energinet, the Danish Transmission System Operator, in May 2012 with updates published on an ongoing basis since. The intention is that all technologies in the previous catalogue will be updated and represented in this catalogue. Also, the catalogue will continuously be updated as technologies evolve, if data change significantly or if errors are found. All updates will be listed in the amendment sheet on the previous page and in connection with the relevant chapters, and it will always be possible to find the most recently updated version on the Danish Energy Agency's website, as well as an archive of older versions.

The primary objective of publishing technology catalogues is to establish a uniform, commonly accepted and up-to-date basis for energy planning activities, such as future outlooks, evaluations of security of supply and environmental impacts, climate change evaluations, as well as technical and economic analyses, e.g. on the framework conditions for the development and deployment of certain classes of technologies.

With this scope in mind, it is not the target of the technology data catalogues, to provide an exhaustive collection of specifications on all available incarnations of energy technologies. Only selected, representative, technologies are included, to enable generic comparisons of technologies with similar functions in the energy system e.g. thermal gasification versus combustion of biomass or electricity storage in batteries versus fly wheels.

Finally, the catalogue is meant for international as well as Danish audiences in an attempt to support and contribute to similar initiatives aimed at forming a public and concerted knowledge base for international analyses and negotiations.

Data sources and results

A guiding principle for developing the catalogue has been to rely primarily on well-documented and public information, secondarily on invited expert advice. Where unambiguous data could not be obtained, educated guesses or projections from experts are used. This is done to ensure consistency in estimates that would otherwise vary between users of the catalogue.

Cross-cutting comparisons between technologies will reveal inconsistencies which may have several causes:

- Technologies may be established under different conditions. As an example, the costs of off-shore wind farms might be established on the basis of data from ten projects. One of these might be an R&D project with floating turbines, some might be demonstration projects, and the cheapest may not include grid connections, etc. Such a situation will result in inconsistent cost estimates in cases where these differences might not be clear.

- Investors may have different views on economic attractiveness and different preferences. Some decisions may not be based on mere cost-benefit analyses, as some might tender for a good architect to design their building, while others will buy the cheapest building.
- Environmental regulations vary from between countries, and the environment-related parts of the investment costs, are often not reported separately.
- Expectations for the future economic trends, penetration of certain technologies, prices on energy and raw materials vary, which may cause differences in estimates.
- Reference documents are from different years.

The ambition of the present publication has been to reduce the level of inconsistency to a minimum without compromising the fact that the real world is ambiguous. So, when different publications have presented different data, the publication which appears most in compliance with other publications has been selected as reference.

In order to handle the above-mentioned uncertainties, each catalogue contains an introductory chapter, stating the guidelines for how data have been collected, estimated and presented. These guidelines are not perfect, but they represent the best balance between various considerations of data quality, availability and usability.

Danish preface

Energistyrelsen udarbejder teknologibeskrivelser for en række el- og varmeproduktionsteknologier. Dette nuværende katalog indeholder opdateringer af en stor del af teknologibeskrivelserne, som erstatter de tilsvarende kapitler i det gamle katalog, som tidligere blev udgivet i fællesskab mellem Energistyrelsen og Energinet i 2012 og senere opdateret løbende. Det er hensigten, at alle teknologibeskrivelserne fra det gamle katalog skal opdateres og integreres her. Desuden vil kataloget løbende opdateres i takt med at teknologierne udvikler sig, hvis data ændrer sig væsentligt eller hvis der findes fejl. Alle opdateringer vil registreres i rettelsesbladet først i kataloget, og det vil altid være muligt at finde den seneste opdaterede version på Energistyrelsens hjemmeside.

Hovedformålet med teknologikataloget er at sikre et ensartet, alment accepteret og aktuelt grundlag for planlægningsarbejde og vurderinger af forsyningssikkerhed, beredskab, miljø og markedsudvikling hos bl.a. de systemansvarlige selskaber, universiteterne, rådgivere og Energistyrelsen. Dette omfatter for eksempel fremskrivninger, scenarieanalyser og teknisk-økonomiske analyser.

Desuden er teknologikataloget et nyttigt redskab til at vurdere udviklingsmulighederne for energisektorens mange teknologier til brug for tilrettelæggelsen af støtteprogrammer for energiforskning og -udvikling. Tilsvarende afspejler kataloget resultaterne af den energirelaterede forskning og udvikling. Også behovet for planlægning og vurdering af klima-projekter har aktualiseret nødvendigheden af et opdateret databeredskab.

Endeligt kan teknologikataloget anvendes i såvel nordisk som internationalt perspektiv. Det kan derudover bruges som et led i en systematisk international vidensopbygning og -udveksling, ligesom kataloget kan benyttes som dansk udspil til teknologiske forudsætninger for internationale analyser og forhandlinger. Af disse grunde er kataloget udarbejdet på engelsk.

Med dette omfang i tankerne er det ikke målet for teknologidatakatalogerne at give en udtømmende samling af specifikationer for alle tilgængelige inkarnationer af energiteknologier. Kun udvalgte, repræsentative, teknologier er inkluderet, for at muliggøre generiske sammenligninger af teknologier med lignende funktioner i energisystemet.

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Guideline/Introduction

This catalogue covers data regarding energy plants for generation of electricity and district heating. Three distinct categories of plants are included:

- Heat-only generation: technologies producing only heat to be provided to the district heating network (e.g. boilers and heat pumps);
- Thermal electricity generation: plants producing electricity with thermal processes (for example steam cycle or internal combustion engines), including combined heat and power plants (CHP).
- Non-thermal electricity generation: technologies producing electricity without thermal processes, such as wind power, solar power or hydroelectric power plants.

The main purpose of the catalogue is to provide generalized data for analysis of energy systems, including economic scenario models and high-level energy planning.

These guidelines serve as an introduction to the presentations of the different technologies in the catalogue, and as instructions for the authors of the technology chapters. The general assumptions are described in the section below. The following sections (1.2 and 1.3) explain the formats of the technology chapters, how data were obtained, and which assumptions they are based on. Each technology is subsequently described in a separate technology chapter, making up the main part of this catalogue. The technology chapters contain both a description of the technologies and a quantitative part including a table with the most important technology data.

General assumptions

The boundary for both cost and performance data is the generation assets plus the infrastructure required to deliver the energy to the main grid. For electricity, this is the nearest land-based substation of the transmission/distribution grid, while district heat is delivered to the nearest district heating network. In other words, the technologies are described as they are perceived by the electricity or district heating systems receiving their energy deliveries. Thus, stated capacities are net capacities, which are calculated as the gross generation capacity minus the auxiliary power consumption "capacity" at the plant. Similarly, efficiencies are also net efficiencies.

Unless otherwise stated, the thermal technologies in the catalogue are assumed to be designed and operated for approx. 4000-5000 full load hours annually. 75 % of generation is expected to take place in full load and the remaining 25 % in part load. Some of the exceptions are municipal solid waste incineration facilities and stand-alone biogas plants, which are designed for continuous operation, i.e. approximately 8000 full load hours annually. The assumed numbers of full load hours are summarized in table 1.

For electricity and heat production technologies dependent on wind and solar resources, estimates of annual full load hours of production are made for each technology.

Table 1: Assumed number of full load hours.

	Full load hours (electricity)	Full load hours (heat)
CHP back pressure units	4000	4000
CHP extraction units	5000	4000
Municipal solid waste / biogas stand alone	8000	8000
Boilers		4000
Geothermal heat and heat pumps		6000
Electric boilers		500

1.2. Qualitative description

The qualitative description describes the key characteristics of the technology as concise as possible. The following paragraphs are included where relevant for the technology.

Contact information

Containing the following information:

- Contact information: Contact details in case the reader has clarifying questions to the technology chapters. This could be the Danish Energy Agency, Energinet (as the previous joint publisher) or the author of the technology chapters.
- Author: Entity/person responsible for preparing the technology chapters
- Reviewer: Entity/person responsible for reviewing the technology chapters.

Brief technology description

Brief description for non-engineers of how the technology works and for which purpose.

An illustration of the technology is included, showing the main components and working principles.

Input

The main raw materials and primarily fuels, consumed by the technology.

Output

The forms of generated energy, i.e. electricity and heat, and any relevant by-products.

Typical capacities

The stated capacities are for a single unit capable of producing energy (e.g. a single wind turbine or a single gas turbine), not a power plant consisting of a multitude of unit such as a wind farm.

In the case of a modular technology such as PV or solar heating, a typical size of a solar power plant based on the market standard is chosen as a unit. Different sizes may be specified in separated tables, e.g. Small PV, Medium PV, Large PV.

Space requirement

Space requirement is expressed in 1000 m^2 per MW. The value presented only refers to the area occupied by the facilities needed to produce energy.

In case the area refers to the overall land use necessary to install a certain capacity, or a certain minimum distance from dwellings is required, for instance in case of a wind farm, this is specified in the notes. The space requirements may for example be used to calculate the rent of land, which is not included in the financial cost, since this cost item depends on the specific location of the plant.

Regulation ability and other power system services

Regulation abilities are particularly relevant for electricity generating technologies. This includes the part-load characteristics, start-up time and how quickly it is able to change its production when already online.

If relevant, the qualitative description includes the technology's capability for delivering the following power system services:

- Inertia
- Short circuit power
- Black start
- Voltage control

- Damping of system oscillations (PSS)

Advantages/disadvantages

A description of specific advantages and disadvantages relative to equivalent technologies. Generic advantages are ignored; e.g. renewable energy technologies mitigating climate risks and enhance security of supply.

Environment

Particular environmental characteristics are mentioned, for example special emissions or the main ecological footprints.

The energy payback time or energy self-depreciation time may also be mentioned. This is the time required by the technology for the production of energy equal to the amount of energy that was consumed during the production and the installation of the equipment.

Research and development perspectives

This section lists the most important challenges to further development of the technology. Also, the potential for technological development in terms of costs and efficiency is mentioned and quantified if possible. Danish research and development perspectives are highlighted, where relevant.

Examples of market standard technology

Recent full-scale commercial projects, which can be considered market standard, are mentioned, preferably with links. A description of what is meant by "market standard" is given in the introduction to the quantitative description section. For technologies where no market standard has yet been established, reference is made to best available technology in R&D projects.

Prediction of performance and costs

Cost reductions and improvements of performance can be expected for most technologies in the future. This section accounts for the assumptions underlying the cost and performance in the first technology year (base year) as well as the improvements assumed for future years. For chapters published or updated after 2020, 2020 serves as base year for the technology instead of 2015, which had been the base year for several chapters previously.

The specific technology is identified and classified in one of four categories of technological maturity, indicating the commercial and technological progress, and the assumptions for the projections are described in detail.

In formulating the section, the following background information is considered:

Data for the base year

In case of technologies where market standards have been established, performance and cost data of recent installed versions of the technology in Denmark or the most similar countries in relation to the specific technology in Northern Europe are used for the base year estimates.

If consistent data are not available, or if no suitable market standard has yet emerged for new technologies, the base year costs may be estimated using an engineering based approach applying a decomposition of manufacturing and installation costs into raw materials, labor costs, financial costs, etc. International references such as the IEA, NREL etc. are preferred for such estimates.

Assumptions for projecting costs into future years

According to the IEA:

"*Innovation theory describes technological innovation through two approaches: the technology-push model, in which new technologies evolve and push themselves into the marketplace; and the market-pull model, in which a market opportunity leads to investment in R&D and, eventually, to an innovation*" [6].

The level of "market-pull" is to a high degree dependent on the global climate and energy policies. Hence, in a future with strong climate policies, demand for e.g. renewable energy technologies will be higher, whereby innovation is expected to take place faster than in a situation with less ambitious policies. This is expected to lead to both more efficient technologies, as well as cost reductions due to economy of scale effects. Therefore, for technologies where large cost reductions are expected, it is important to account for assumptions about global future demand.

The IEA's Announced Pledges Scenario (APS) is used as a central estimate for projections in the Technology Catalogue, whenever possible. The IEA describes the Announced Pledges Scenario in their 2022 version as follows:

"The Announced Pledges Scenario introduced in 2021 aims to show to what extent the announced ambitions and targets, including the most recent ones, are on the path to deliver emissions reductions required to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. It includes all recent major national announcements as of September 2022 for 2030 targets and longer term net zero and other pledges, regardless of whether these have been anchored in implementing legislation or in updated NDCs. In the APS, countries fully implement their national targets to 2030 and 2050, and the outlook for exporters of fossil fuels and low emissions fuels like hydrogen is shaped by what full implementation means for global demand. […] Non-policy assumptions, including population and economic growth, are the same as in the STEPS."

According to the IEA, the less ambitious Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS) *"provides a more conservative benchmark for the future, because it does not take it for granted that governments will reach all announced goals. Instead, it takes a more granular, sector-by-sector look at what has actually been put in place to reach these and other energy-related objectives, taking account not just of existing policies and measures but also of those that are under development. The STEPS explores where the energy system might go without a major additional steer from policy makers."*

The STEPS Scenario may be used as an upper bound and to assess the expected development of technologies based on a frozen-policy approach. Previous versions of the Technology Catalogue before updating the guideline in april 2024 have used the outdated New Policies Scenario, relatively equivalent to the current STEPS, as a central framework for projections (and supplemented by other outdated scenarios of the IEA). This scenario corresponds to the frozen-policy approach that the Danish Energy Agency uses to project international fuel prices and CO_2-prices and technologies may be assessed in that regard when suitable.

Technologies updated before this cutoff date and which do not contain any explicit methodological description within the chapter regarding alternative supplementary scenarios have been updated based in this previous methodology.

As a more ambitious projection, the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario (NZE) may be used as a lower bound for the technology development. According to the IEA, the NZE *"is a normative IEA scenario that shows a pathway for the global energy sector to achieve net zero CO2 emissions by 2050, with advanced economies reaching net zero emissions in advance of others. This scenario also meets key energy-related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular by achieving universal energy access by 2030 and major improvements in air quality. It is consistent with limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 °C with no or limited temperature overshoot (with a 50% probability), in line with reductions assessed in the IPCC in its Sixth Assessment Report."*

By using this approach, the quantitative data in the Technology Catalogue provides a sample space that is consistent with the IEA's Global Energy and Climate Model, encompassing relevant outcomes for policy assessments of technologies as well as technology developments in compliance with national targets, and international treaties.

Learning curves and technological maturity

Predicting the future costs of technologies may be done by applying a cost decomposition strategy, as mentioned above, decomposing the costs of the technology into categories such as labor, materials, etc. for which predictions already exist. Alternatively, the development could be predicted using learning curves. Learning curves express the idea that each time a unit of a particular technology is produced, learning accumulates, which leads to cheaper production of the next unit of that technology. The learning rates also take into account benefits from economy of scale and benefits related to using automated production processes at high production volumes.

The potential for improving technologies is linked to the level of technological maturity. The technologies are categorized within one of the following four levels of technological maturity.

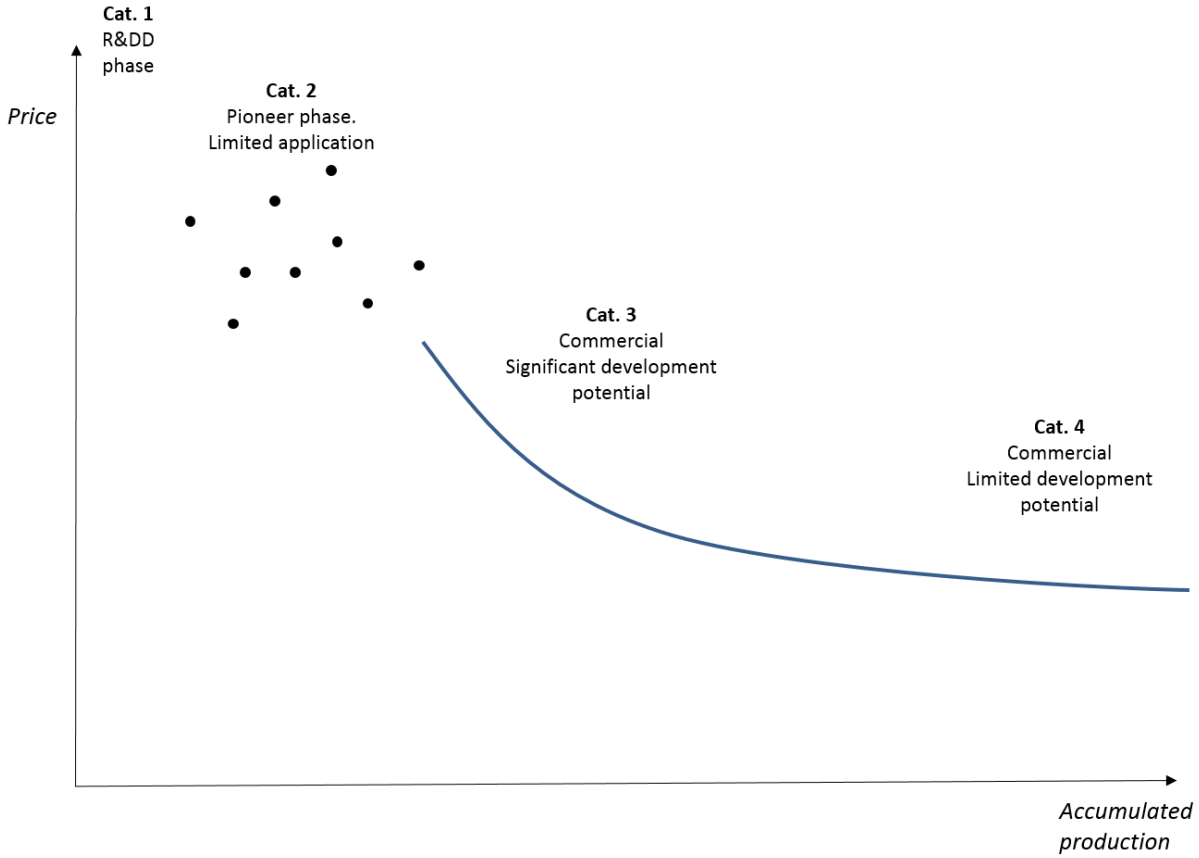
Category 1. Technologies that are still in the *research and development phase*. The uncertainty related to price and performance today and in the future is highly significant (e.g. wave energy converters, solid oxide fuel cells).

Category 2. Technologies in the *pioneer phase*. The technology has been proven to work through demonstration facilities or semi-commercial plants. Due to the limited application, the price and performance is still attached with high uncertainty, since development and customization is still needed. The technology still has a significant development potential (e.g. gasification of biomass).

Category 3. *Commercial technologies with moderate deployment*. The price and performance of the technology today is well known. These technologies are deemed to have a certain development potential and therefore there is a considerable level of uncertainty related to future price and performance (e.g. offshore wind turbines)

Category 4. *Commercial technologies, with large deployment*. The price and performance of the technology today is well known and normally only incremental improvements would be expected. Therefore, the future price and performance may also be projected with a relatively high level of certainty. (e.g. coal power, gas turbine)

Figure 1: Technological development phases. Correlation between accumulated production volume (MW) and price.



Uncertainty

The catalogue covers both mature technologies and technologies under development. This implies that the price and performance of some technologies may be estimated with a relatively high level of certainty whereas in the case of others, both cost and performance today as well as in the future are associated with high levels of uncertainty.

This section of the technology chapters explains the main challenges to precision of the data and identifies the areas on which the uncertainty ranges in the quantitative description are based. This includes technological or market related issues of the specific technology as well as the level of experience and knowledge in the sector and possible limitations on raw materials. The issues should also relate to the technological development maturity as discussed above.

The level of uncertainty is illustrated by providing a lower and higher bound beside the central estimate, which shall be interpreted as representing probabilities corresponding to a 90% confidence interval, whenever possible. It should be noted, that projecting costs of technologies far into the future is a task associated with very large uncertainties. Thus, depending on the technological maturity expressed and the period considered, the confidence interval may be very large. It is the case, for example, of less developed technologies (category 1 and 2) and long-time horizons (2050).

Additional remarks

This section includes other information, for example links to web sites that describe the technology further or give key figures on it.

References

References are numbered in the text in squared brackets and bibliographical details are listed in this section.

1.3. Quantitative description

To enable comparative analyses between different technologies it is imperative that data are actually comparable: All cost data are stated in real prices excluding value added taxes (VAT) and other taxes. The information given in the tables relate to the development status of the technology at the point of final investment decision (FID) in the given year (2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040 and 2050 where applicable). FID is assumed to be taken when financing of a project is secured and all permits are at hand. The year of commissioning will depend on the construction time of the individual technologies after permits have been received.

A typical table of quantitative data is shown below, containing all parameters used to describe the specific technologies. The table consists of a generic part, which is identical for groups of similar technologies (thermal power plants, non-thermal power plants and heat generation technologies) and a technology specific part, containing information, which is only relevant for the specific technology. The generic part is made to allow for easy comparison of technologies.

Each cell in the table contains only one number, which is the central estimate for the market standard technology, i.e. no range indications.

Uncertainties related to the figures are stated in the columns named *uncertainty*. To keep the table simple, the level of uncertainty is only specified for years 2020 and 2050. For updates after 2020, 2025 is the first year of uncertainty.

The level of uncertainty is illustrated by providing a lower and higher bound. These are chosen to reflect the uncertainties of the best projections by the authors. The section on uncertainty in the qualitative description for each technology indicates the main issues influencing the uncertainty related to the specific technology. For technologies in the early stages of technological development or technologies especially prone to variations of cost and performance data, the bounds expressing the confidence interval could result in large intervals. The uncertainty only applies to the market standard technology; in other words, the uncertainty interval does not represent the product range (for example a product with lower efficiency at a lower price or vice versa).

The level of uncertainty is stated for the most critical figures such as investment cost and efficiencies. Other figures are considered if relevant.

All data in the tables are referenced by a number in the utmost right column (Ref), referring to source specifics below the table. The following separators are used:

; (semicolon)	separation between the time horizons
/ (forward slash)	separation between sources with different data
+ (plus)	agreement between sources on same data

Notes include additional information on how the data are obtained, as well as assumptions and potential calculations behind the figures presented. Before using the data, please be aware that essential information may be found in the notes below the table.

The generic parts of the tables for thermal power plants, non-thermal power plants and heat generation technologies are presented below:

Technology	Thermal elec. generation CHP or ELEC only									
	2020[1]	2025[1]	2030[1]	2050[1]	Uncertainty (2020[1])		Uncertainty (2050[1])		Note	Ref
Energy/technical data					Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper		
Generating capacity for one unit (MW)										
Electricity efficiency (condensation mode for extraction plants), net (%), name plate										
Electricity efficiency (condensation mode for extraction plants), net (%), annual average										
Cb coefficient (50°C/100°C)										
Cv coefficient (50°C/100°C)										
Forced outage (%)										
Planned outage (weeks per year)										
Technical lifetime (years)										
Construction time (years)										
Regulation ability										
Primary regulation (% per 30 seconds)										
Secondary regulation (% per minute)										
Minimum load (% of full load)										
Warm start-up time (hours)										
Cold start-up time (hours)										
Environment										
SO_2 (degree of desulphuring, %)										
NO_X (g per GJ fuel)										
CH4 (g per GJ fuel)										
N2O (g per GJ fuel)										
Financial data										
Specific investment (M€/MW)										
- of which equipment										
- of which installation										
Fixed O&M (€/MW/year)										
Variable O&M (€/MWh)										
Startup cost (€/MW/startup)										

[1]Technology years may be updated from this shown example and extended

Technology	Non-thermal electricity generation									
	2020[1]	2025[1]	2030[1]	2050[1]	Uncertainty (2020[1])		Uncertainty (2050[1])		Note	Ref
Energy/technical data					Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper		
Generating capacity for one unit (MW)										
Average annual full-load hours										
Forced outage (%)										
Planned outage (weeks per year)										
Technical lifetime (years)										
Regulation ability										
Primary regulation (% per 30 seconds)										
Secondary regulation (% per minute)										
Financial data										
Specific investment (M€/MW)										
- of which equipment										
- of which installation										
Fixed O&M (€/MW/year)										
Variable O&M (€/MWh)										

[1]*Technology years may be updated from this shown example and extended*

Technology	Heat only generation tech (boilers, heat pumps, geothermal)									
	2020[1]	2025[1]	2030[1]	2050[1]	Uncertainty (2020[1])		Uncertainty (2050[1])		Note	Ref
Energy/technical data					Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper		
Heat generation capacity for one unit (MW)										
Total efficiency, net (%), name plate										
Total efficiency , net (%), annual average										
Auxiliary electricity consumption (% of heat gen)										
Forced outage (%)										
Planned outage (weeks per year)										
Technical lifetime (years)										
Construction time (years)										
Regulation ability										
Primary regulation (% per 30 seconds)										
Secondary regulation (% per minute)										
Minimum load (% of full load)										
Warm start-up time (hours)										
Cold start-up time (hours)										
Environment										
SO_2 (g per GJ fuel)										
NO_X (g per GJ fuel)										
CH4 (g per GJ fuel)										
N2O (g per GJ fuel)										
Financial data										
Specific investment (M€ per MW)										
- of which equipment										
- of which installation										
Fixed O&M (€/MW/year)										
Variable O&M (€/MWh)										
Startup cost (€/MW/startup)										

[1]*Technology years may be updated from this shown example and extended*

Energy/technical data

Generating capacity for one unit

The capacity, preferably a typical capacity (not maximum capacity), is stated for a single unit, capable of producing energy e.g. a single wind turbine (not a wind farm), or a single gas turbine (not a power plant consisting of multiple gas turbines).

In the case of a modular technology such PV or solar heating, a typical size of a solar power plant based on the historical installations or the market standard is chosen as a unit. Different sizes may be specified in separated tables, e.g. Rooftop PV residential and Rooftop PV Commercial & Industrial, as well as Utility-scale PV.

The capacity is given as net generation capacity in continuous operation, i.e. gross capacity (output from generator) minus own consumption (house load), equal to capacity delivered to the grid. For heat only technologies, any auxiliary electricity consumption for pumps etc. is not counted in the capacity. For combined heat and power generation, only the electric capacity is stated. For extraction plants, the capacity is stated in condensation mode.

The unit MW is used both for electric generation capacity and heat production capacity. While this is not in accordance with thermodynamic formalism, it makes comparisons easier and provides a more intuitive link between capacities, production and full load hours.

The relevant range of sizes of each type of technology is represented by a range of capacities stated in the notes for the "capacity" field in each technology table, for example 200-1000 MW for a new coal-fired power plant.

It should be stressed that data in the table is based on the typical capacity, for example 600 MW for a coal-fired power plant. When deviations from the typical capacity are made, economy of scale effects need to be considered inside the range of typical sizes (see the section about investment cost). The capacity range should be stated in the notes.

Energy efficiencies

Efficiencies for all thermal plants (both electric, heat and combined heat and power) are expressed in percent at lower calorific heat value (lower heating value) at ambient conditions in Denmark, considering an average air temperature of approximately 8 °C.

The electric efficiency of thermal power plants equals the total delivery of electricity to the grid divided by the fuel consumption. Two efficiencies are stated: the nameplate efficiency as stated by the supplier and the expected typical annual efficiency. Total efficiency of thermal power plants can be calculated as described in the formulas of the Annex in the previous catalogue for energy plants available from the Danish Energy Agency's web site.

For extraction plants, the electric efficiency is stated in condensation mode.

For heat only technologies, the total efficiency equals the heat delivered to the district heating grid divided by the fuel consumption. The auxiliary electricity consumption is not included in the efficiency, but stated separately in percentage of heat generation capacity (i.e. MW auxiliary/MW heat).

The energy supplied by the heat source for heat pumps (both electric and absorption) is not counted as input energy. The temperatures of the heat source are specified in the specific technology chapters.

The expected typical annual efficiency takes into account a typical number of start-ups and shut-downs and is based on the assumed full load hours stated in the introduction (table 1). Regarding the assumed number of start-ups for different technologies, an indication is given in the financial data description, under start-up costs.

Often, the electrical efficiency decreases slightly during the operating life of a thermal power plant. This degradation is not reflected in the stated data. As a rule of thumb 2.5 – 3.5 % may be subtracted during the lifetime (e.g. from 40 % to 37 %). Specific data are given in [3].

Some combined heat and power plants and heat producing boilers are equipped with flue gas condensation equipment, a process whereby the flue gas is cooled below its water dew point and the heat released by the resulting condensation of water is recovered as low temperature heat. In these cases, the stated efficiencies include the added efficiency of the flue gas condensation equipment.

If a combined heat and power plant is equipped with a turbine bypass enabling the plant to produce only heat – for example during periods with low electricity prices – this is mentioned in a note. Per default, it is assumed that the heat efficiency equals the plant's total efficiency when the turbine bypass is applied. Moreover, it is assumed that in by-pass mode the heat capacity corresponds to the sum of the heat and electrical capacities in back-pressure mode.

In a Danish context, seawater is normally used for cooling/condensation, when there is a surplus of heat generation from a CHP plant. Therefore, cooling towers are not considered, for the CHP plant in this catalogue.

The energy efficiency for intermittent technologies (e.g. PV and wind) is expressed as capacity factor. The capacity factor is calculated as the annual production divided by the maximum potential annual production. The maximum potential annual production is calculated assuming the plant has been operating at full load for the entire year, i.e. 8760 hours /year.

Auxiliary electricity consumption

For heat-only technologies the consumption of electricity for auxiliary equipment such as pumps, ventilation systems, etc. is stated separately in percentage of heat generation capacity (i.e. MW auxiliary/MW heat).

For heat pumps, internal consumption is considered part of the efficiency (coefficient of performance, COP), while other electricity demand for external pumping, e.g. ground water pumping, is stated under auxiliary electricity consumption.

For CHP generation, auxiliary consumption is not stated separately but included in the net efficiency and for non-thermal plants, as a reduction in the number of full load hours.

Cogeneration values

The C_b-coefficient (backpressure coefficient) is defined as the maximum power generation capacity in backpressure mode divided by the maximum heat production capacity (including flue gas condensation if applicable).

The C_v-value for an extraction steam turbine is defined as the loss of electricity production, when the heat production is increased one unit at constant fuel input.

Values for C_b and C_v are given – unless otherwise stated – at 100 °C forward temperature and 50 °C return temperature, corresponding to heat delivered to district heating transmission systems. For technologies where delivery to district heating distribution systems are more relevant a temperature set of 80/40 °C may also be used, and this is stated in the data sheet.

Average annual full load hours

The average annual capacity factor mentioned above describes the average annual net generation divided by the theoretical maximum annual net generation if the plant were operating at full capacity for 8760 hours per year. The equivalent full load hours per year is determined by multiplying the capacity factor by 8760 hours, the total number of hours in a year.

The full load hours for non-thermal technologies represent the expected production considering planned and forced outage and auxiliary consumption, if any.

Full load hours vary largely depending on the location and the technology choice. The value stated refers to the Danish context, in an average location and with market standard technology.

Forced and planned outage

Forced outage is defined as the number of weighted forced outage hours divided by the sum of forced outage hours and operation hours. The weighted forced outage hours are the sum of hours of reduced production caused by unplanned outages, weighted according to how much capacity was out.

Forced outage is given in percent, while planned outage (for example due to renovations) is given in days per year.

Technical lifetime

The technical lifetime is the expected time for which an energy plant can be operated within, or acceptably close to, its original performance specifications, provided that normal operation and maintenance takes place. During this lifetime, some performance parameters may degrade gradually but still stay within acceptable limits. For instance, power plant efficiencies often decrease slightly (few percent) over the years, and O&M costs increase due to wear and degradation of components and systems. At the end of the technical lifetime, the frequency of unforeseen operational problems and risk of breakdowns is expected to lead to unacceptably low availability and/or high O&M costs. At this time, the plant is decommissioned or undergoes a lifetime extension, which implies a major renovation of components and systems as required to make the plant suitable for a new period of continued operation.

The technical lifetime stated in this catalogue is a theoretical value inherent to each technology, based on experience. As stated earlier, the thermal technologies producing electricity and/or heat are in general assumed to be designed for operated for approximately 4,000-5,000 full loads hours annually. The expected technical lifetime takes into account a typical number of start-ups and shut-downs (an indication of the number of start-ups and shut-downs is given in the Financial data description, under Start-up costs).

In real life, specific plants of similar technology may operate for shorter or longer times. The strategy for operation and maintenance, e.g. the number of operation hours, start-ups, and the reinvestments made over the years, will largely influence the actual lifetime.

Construction time

Time from final investment decision (FID) until commissioning completed (start of commercial operation), expressed in years.

Regulation ability

Five parameters describe the electricity regulation capability of the technologies:

A. Primary regulation (% per 30 seconds): frequency control
B. Secondary regulation (% per minute): balancing power
C. Minimum load (percent of full load).
D. Warm start-up time, (hours)
E. Cold start-up time, (hours)

For several technologies, these parameters are not relevant, e.g. if the technology is regulated instantly in on/off-mode.

Parameters A and B are spinning reserves; i.e. the ability to regulate when the technology is already in operation.

Parameter D. The warm start-up time used for boiler technologies is defined as the time it takes to reach operating temperatures and pressure and start production from a state where the water temperature in the evaporator is above 100°C, which means that the boiler is pressurized.

Parameter E. The cold start-up time used for boiler technologies is defined as the time it takes to reach operating temperature and pressure and start production from a state were the boiler is at ambient temperature and pressure.

Environment

All plants are assumed to be designed to comply with the regulation that is currently in place in Denmark and planned to be implemented within the 2020-time horizon.

The emissions below are stated in mass per GJ of fuel at the lower heating value.

CO_2 emission values are not stated, as these depend only on the fuel, not the technology.

SO_x emissions are calculated based on the following sulfur contents of fuels:

	Coal	Ori-mulsion	Fuel oil	Gas oil	Natural gas	Peat	Straw	Wood-fuel	Waste	Biogas
Sulphur, kg/GJ	0.27	0.99	0.25	0.07	0.00	0.24	0.20	0.00	0.27	0.00

For technologies, where desulphurization equipment is employed (typically large power plants), the degree of desulphurization is stated in percent.

NO_x. NO_x equals NO_2 + NO, where NO is converted to NO_2 in weight-equivalents.

Greenhouse gas emissions include CH_4 and N_2O in grams per GJ fuel.

Particles includes the fine particle matters (PM 2.5). The value is given in grams per GJ of fuel.

Financial data

Financial data are all in Euro (€), real prices, at the 2020-level and exclude value added taxes (VAT) and other taxes. For updates after before, prices were given at the 2015-level in previous versions of the catalogue.

Several data originate in Danish references. For those data a fixed exchange ratio of 7.45 DKK per € has been used.

The first catalogue was in 2011 prices. Some data had been updated by applying the general inflation rate in Denmark (2011 prices have been multiplied by 1.0585 to reach the 2015 price level). Similarly, real 2015 prices were multiplied by 1.0634 to update them to 2020 prices.

European data, with a particular focus on Danish sources, have been emphasized in developing this catalogue. This is done as generalizations of costs of energy technologies has been found to be impossible above the regional or local levels, as per IEA reporting from 2020 [4]. For renewable energy technologies this effect is even stronger as the costs are widely determined by local conditions.

Investment costs

The investment cost is also called the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) price or the overnight cost. Infrastructure and connection costs, i.e. electricity, fuel and water connections inside the premises of a plant, are also included.

The investment cost is reported on a normalized basis, i.e. cost per MW. The specific investment cost is the total investment cost divided by the capacity stated in the table, i.e. the capacity as seen from the grid, whether

electricity or district heat. For electricity generating technologies, incl. combined heat and power generation, the denominator is the electric capacity.

The investment cost of extraction steam turbines, which can be operated in condensation mode, is stated as cost per MW-condensation mode capacity.

Where possible, the investment cost is divided on equipment cost and installation cost. Equipment cost covers the components and machinery including environmental facilities, whereas installation cost covers engineering, civil works, buildings, grid connection, installation and commissioning of equipment. Cost may be disaggregated in a more detailed cost breakdown if it improves readability or understanding of the given technology.

The rent of land is not included for centralized plants but may be assessed for decentralized plants based on the space requirements, if specified in the qualitative description, and if the cost is a noteworthy component in the developer's scope. In that case land rent can be given as either upfront investment cost or yearly rent.

The owners' predevelopment costs (administration, consultancy, project management, site preparation, approvals by authorities) and interest during construction are not included, unless specifically mentioned by a separate parameter in within the cost breakdown. The costs to dismantle decommissioned plants are also not included, unless it can be a necessity for a given project, as e.g. for repowering of turbines. Decommissioning costs may be offset by the residual value of the assets.

Contingency

Project owners often add a contingency to a project's capital cost estimate to deal with project overruns due to uncertainties and risks caused by uncertainties in the project definition. The Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International (AACE International) has defined contingency as "*An amount added to an estimate to allow for items, conditions, or events for which the state, occurrence, or effect is uncertain and that experience shows will likely result, in aggregate, in additional costs. Typically estimated using statistical analysis or judgment based on past asset or project experience*.". AACE International further describes contingency as "*…planning and estimating errors and omissions…..design developments and changes within the scope, and variations in market and environmental conditions**. The Technology Catalogues represent general techno-economic data for different technologies; and are not intended as basis for investment decisions. Therefore, the data in the Technology Catalogues aim at not including contingency.

*Source: AACE (2022) Cost engineering terminology (https://library.aacei.org/terminology/welcome.shtml).

Cost of grid expansion

The costs of grid expansion from adding a new electricity generator or a new large consumer (e.g. an electric boiler or heat pump) to the grid are not included in the presented data.

The most important costs are related to strengthening or expansion of the local grid and/or substations (voltage transformation, pumping or compression/expansion). The costs vary significantly depending on the type and size of generator and local conditions. For planning purposes, a generic cost of 0.15 M€2020 may be added to the stated investment costs per MW the grid needs be strengthened. This is due for a single expansion. If more generators (or consumers) are connected at the same time, the aggregated capacity addition may be smaller than the sum of the individual expansions, since peak-loads do not occur simultaneously.

Business cycles

Historic costs of energy equipment can show fluctuations that are related to business cycles. This was the case of the period 2007-2008 for example or more recently around 2021-2022, where prices costs of many energy generation technologies increased dramatically driven by rapid increases in global raw material costs and supply chain costs. The primary objective of the technology catalogues is to establish general representative techno-economic data for different technologies, which can form a basis for energy planning activities and technical and economic analyses. The catalogues do not attempt to reflect fluctuations in technology costs due to fluctuations in costs of labour and materials driven by e.g. global/regional crises or major events affecting short term supply or demand. The technology cost developments in the catalogues thus intend to reflect an average business cycle situation and macroeconomic environment in a general long-term equilibrium.

Economy of scale

The main idea of the catalogue is to provide technical and economic figures for particular sizes of plants. Where plant sizes vary in a large range, different sizes are defined and separate technology chapters are developed.

For assessment of data for plant sizes not included in the catalogue, some general rules should be applied with caution to the scaling of plants.

The cost of one unit for larger power plants is usually less than that for smaller plants. This is called the 'economy of scale'. The basic equation [2] is:

$$\frac{C_1}{C_2} = \left(\frac{P_1}{P_2}\right)^a$$

Where: C_1 = Investment cost of plant 1 (e.g. in million EUR)

C_2 = Investment cost of plant 2

P_1 = Power generation capacity of plant 1 (e.g. in MW)

P_2 = Power generation capacity of plant 2

a = Proportionality factor

Usually, the proportionality factor is about 0.6 – 0.7, but extended project schedules may cause the factor to increase. It is important, however, that the plants are essentially identical in construction technique, design, and construction time frame and that the only significant difference is in size.

The relevant ranges where the economy of scale correction applies are stated in the notes for the capacity field of each technology table. The stated range represents typical capacity ranges.

Large-scale plants, such as coal and nuclear power plants, seems to have reached a size limit, as few investors are willing to add increments of 1000 MW or above. Instead of the scaling effect, multiple unit configurations may provide savings by allowing sharing of balance of plant equipment and support infrastructure. Typically, about 15 % savings in investment cost per MW can be achieved for combined cycle gas turbines and big steam power plants from a twin unit arrangement versus a single unit [3].

Operation and maintenance (O&M) costs

The fixed share of O&M is calculated as cost per generating capacity per year (€/MW/year), where the generating capacity is the one defined at the beginning of this chapter and stated in the tables. It includes all

costs, which are independent of how many hours the plant is operated, e.g. administration, operational staff, payments for O&M service agreements, network or system charges, property tax, and insurance. Any necessary reinvestments to keep the plant operating within the technical lifetime are also included, whereas reinvestments to extend the life are excluded. Reinvestments are discounted at 4 % annual discount rate in real terms. The cost of reinvestments to extend the lifetime of the plants may be mentioned in a note if data are available.

The variable O&M costs (€/MWh) include consumption of auxiliary materials (water, lubricants, fuel additives), treatment and disposal of residuals, spare parts and output related repair and maintenance (however not costs covered by guarantees and insurances).

Planned and unplanned maintenance costs may fall under fixed costs (e.g. scheduled yearly maintenance works) or variable costs (e.g. works depending on actual operating time), and are split accordingly.

Fuel costs are not included.

Auxiliary electricity consumption is included for heat only technologies. The electricity price applied is specified in the notes for each technology, together with the share of O&M costs due to auxiliary consumption. This enables corrections from the users with own electricity price figures. The electricity price does not include taxes and PSO.

It should be noticed that O&M costs often develop over time. The stated O&M costs are therefore average costs during the entire lifetime.

Start-up costs

The O&M costs stated in this catalogue includes start-up costs and takes into account a typical number of start-ups and shut-downs. Therefore, the start-up costs should not be specifically included in more general analyses. They should only be used in detailed dynamic analyses of the hour-by-hour load of the technology.

Start-up costs, are stated in costs per MW of generating capacity per start up (€/MW/startup), if relevant. They reflect the direct and indirect costs during a start-up and the subsequent shut down.

The direct start-up costs include fuel consumption, e.g. fuel which is required for heating up boilers and which does not yield usable energy, electricity consumption, and variable O&M costs corresponding to full load during the start-up period.

The indirect costs include the theoretical value loss corresponding to the lifetime reduction for one start up. For instance, during the heating-up, thermal and pressure variations will cause fatigue damage to components, and corrosion may increase in some areas due to e.g. condensation.

An assumption regarding the typical amount of start-ups is made for each technology in order to calculate the O&M costs. This assumption is specified in the notes. The following table shows the assumed number of start-ups per year included in the O&M costs for some technologies.

	Assumed number of start-ups per year
Coal CHP	15
Natural gas CHP (except gas engines)	30
Gas Engines	100
Wood pellet CHP	15
Heat only boilers	50
Municipal solid-waste / biogas stand alone	5
Geothermal heat	5
Heat pumps	30
Electric boilers	100

The stated O&M costs may be corrected to represent a different number of start-ups than the one presented in the table by using the stated start-up costs with the following formula:

$$O\&M_{new} = O\&M_{old} - \left(Startup\ cost * n_{startup}^{old}\right) + \left(Startup\ cost * n_{startup}^{new}\right)$$

where $n_{startup}^{old}$ is the number of start-ups specified in the notes for the specific technology and $n_{startup}^{new}$ is the desired number of start-ups.

Technology specific data

Additional data is specified in this section, depending on the technology.

Definitions

The steam process in a CHP (co-generation of heat and power) plant can be of different types:

1. Condensation: All steam flows all the way through the steam turbine and is fed into a condenser, which is cooled by water at ambient temperature. A condensing steam turbine produces only electricity, no heat.
2. Back-pressure: All steam flows all the way through the steam turbine and is fed into a condenser, which is cooled by the return stream from a district heating network or an industrial process heating network. The condensation takes place at elevated temperatures enabling utilization of the produced heat. A back-pressure turbine produces electricity and heat, at an almost constant ratio.
3. Extraction: Works in the same way as condensation, but steam can be extracted from the turbine to produce heat (equivalent to back-pressure). This enables flexible operation where the electricity to heat ratio may be varied.

References

Numerous reference documents are mentioned in each of the technology chapters. The references mentioned below are for Chapter 1 only.

[1] Forudsætninger for samfundsøkonomiske analyser på energiområdet (Generic data to be used for socio-economic analyses in the energy sector), Danish Energy Agency, May 2009.
[2] Economy of Scale in Power Plants, August 1977 issue of Power Engineering Magazine.
[3] Projected Costs of Generating Electricity, International Energy Agency, 2010.
[4] Projected Costs of Generating Electricity, International Energy Agency, 2020.
[5] Konvergensprogram Danmark 2015, Social- og Indenrigsministeriet, March 2015.
[6] Energy Technology Perspectives, International Energy Agency, 2012.
[7] International Energy Agency. Available at: http://www.iea.org/. Accessed: 11/03/2016.

01 Supercritical Pulverized Fuel Power Plant

This chapter has been moved here from the previous Technology Data Catalogue for Electricity and district heating production from May 2012. Therefore, the text and data sheets do not follow the same guidelines as the remainder of the catalogue.

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Publication date

May 2012

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
October 2018		Section for prediction of performance and costs added
November 2017		Datasheet for Supercritical Pulverized Fuel Power Plant - Coal CHP included

Brief technology description

Large base-load units with pulverised fuel (PF) combustion and advanced (supercritical) steam data.

Supercritical steam data are above 240-260 bar and 560-570 °C. The term 'ultra-supercritical' has been used (e.g. by ref. 4) for plants with steam temperatures of approximately 580 °C and above. Advanced data (AD) goes up to 350 bar and 700 °C (ref. 3). The advanced steam cycle includes up to ten pre- heaters and double re-heating.

The AD plants obtain higher efficiencies, both the electricity efficiency in condensing mode and the total energy efficiency in backpressure mode. The higher efficiencies are obtained in full load mode as well as part load and the high efficiencies remain even after many years of operation.

The integrated coal gasification combined-cycle (IGCC) plants are a fundamentally different coal technology, expected to achieve efficiencies above 50% in demonstration projects before year 2020 (ref. 4). Data for this technology are not presented below, since the AD technology appears to have better performance data.

Input

The process is primarily based on coal, but will be applicable to other fuels such as wood pellets and natural gas.

Output

Power and possibly heat.

The auxiliary power need for a 500 MW plant is 40-45 MW, and the net electricity efficiency is thus 3.7-4.3 percentage points lower than the gross efficiency (ref. 3).

Typical capacities
AD plants are built in capacities from 400 MW to 1000 MW.

Regulation ability
Pulverized fuel power plants are able to deliver both primary load support (frequency control) and secondary load support.

The units are in general able to deliver 5% of their rated capacity as primary load support within 30 seconds at loads between 50% and 90%. This fast load control is achieved by utilizing certain water/steam buffers within the unit. The secondary load control takes over after approximately 5 minutes, when the primary load control has utilized its water/steam buffers. The secondary load control is able to sustain the 5% load rise achieved by the primary load control and even further to increase the load (if not already at maximum load) by running up the boiler load.

Negative load changes can also be achieved by by-passing steam (past the turbine) or by closure of the turbine steam valves and subsequent reduction of boiler load.

A secondary regulation ability of 4% per minute is achievable between approximately 50% and 90% load on a pulverized fuel fired unit. The unit will respond slower below 50% and above 90%, approximately at 2% per minute (ref. 5).

Advantages/disadvantages
The efficiencies are not reduced as significantly at part load compared to full load as with CC-plants.

Coal fired power plants using the advanced steam cycle possess the same fuel flexibility as the conventional boiler technology. However, AD plants have higher requirements concerning fuel quality. Inexpensive heavy fuel oil cannot be burned due to materials like vanadium, unless the steam temperature (and hence efficiency) is reduced, and biomass fuels may cause corrosion and scaling, if not handled properly.

Environment
The main ecological footprints from coal-fired AD plants are bulk waste (disposal of earth, cinder, and rejects from mining), climate change and acidification. The fly ash can be utilized 100% in cement and concrete.

Research and development
Conventional super critical coal technology is fairly well established and so there appear to be no major breakthroughs ahead. There is very limited scope to improve the cycle thermodynamically. It is more likely that the application of new materials will allow higher efficiencies, though this is unlikely to come at a significantly lower cost (ref. 6).

Best-available-technology plants today operate at up to 600 °C. An electricity efficiency of 55 % requires steam at 700 °C and the use of nickel-based alloys (ref. 2). Further RD&D in such alloy steels is required in order to obtain increased strength, lower costs and thereby cheaper and more flexible plants.

Examples of best available technology
- Avedøre Power Station (Copenhagen), Unit 2; 570 MW; gas fired; steam at turbine inlet 580 °C and 300 bar; pre-coupled gas turbines.
- Nordjylland Power Station, Unit 3; 400 MW, commissioned 1998, coal fired.
- Skærbæk Power Station, Unit 3; 400 MW, gas fired; commissioned 1997.

Prediction of performance and costs

In Denmark, most thermal units are combined heat and power plants (CHP). Most other countries do not have the demand for residential heating to utilize the waste heat from power plants, and are therefore using pure condensing plants. It is assumed that all new coal fired CHP units in Denmark will be extraction units.

The following section follows the steps of (1) analysing the possible differences between CHP and condensing units which could impact the CAPEX and OPEX, then (2) analysing and comparing data of coal fired power plants from different sources. In this connection, OPEX is considered a total of fixed and variable O&M costs. Thereafter (3) an estimation of the split between fixed and variable O&M cost is performed.

The data is based upon the following publications and projects:

1. The IEA World Energy Outlook 2014 coal fired Ultra-supercritical power plants in Europe. Values used are the projection for 2020.
2. The IEA Projected Cost of Generating Electricity 2015 for coal fired power plants. Here both the 'world median' is used, and data from recently commissioned plants in the Netherlands. The three units in the Netherlands are chosen because of the proximity to Denmark, because the socio-economic parameters (labour cost etc) are assumed to be similar and because the units are new (all from 2015).
3. EIA Updated Capital Cost Estimates for Utility Scale Electricity Generating Plants 2013 for pulverizes coal fired advanced single units.[1]
4. Aggregated data from different projects on existing units that Ea Energy Analyses have been working on since 2010. Data is used for estimating O&M costs.

All prices in this analysis are in €2015. The cost from each source have been converted to its original value and currency, and then converted to €2015. All specific values are in MW electricity output. Due to economy-of-scale relationships, only larger power plants are considered, i.e. above 400 MW.

Table 1: Exchange rates from currency used in source to €2015.

	Exchange rate to €2015	Used by source
€2011	1.059	**DEA TC 2011**
$2012	0.824	**[1]**
$2013	**0.767**	**[2],[3]**

In the evaluation, European plants are weighted higher than overseas (USA) plants, and newer plants (2015-2020) are weighted higher than older (before 2015). And data from newer sources are weighted higher than older.

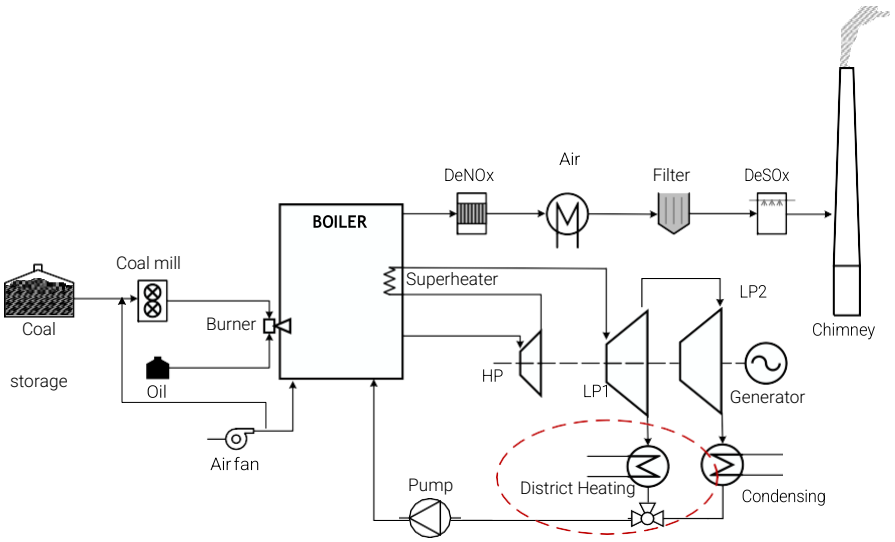
Differences between CHP and condensing units

The main difference between a condensing power plant and an extraction CHP plant, is that an extraction plant needs an additional heat exchanger compared to a condensing plant (see Figure 1). This additional district heating heat exchanger utilizes extracted intermedia steam from the turbines. From Danish

[1] In the report the costs estimates were based on information derived from actual or planned projects known to the consultant, when possible. When this information was not available, the project costs were estimated using costing models that account for the current labor and materials rates necessary to complete the construction of a generic facility as well as consistent assumptions for the contractual relationship between the project owner and the construction contractor. All costs were weighted average of the sources.

experiences, the whole district heating installation is only around 5% of the total CAPEX, which suggest only a small increase in the overall cost. There is therefore assumed 5 % higher costs of both CAPEX and OPEX on CHP compared to condensing power plants.

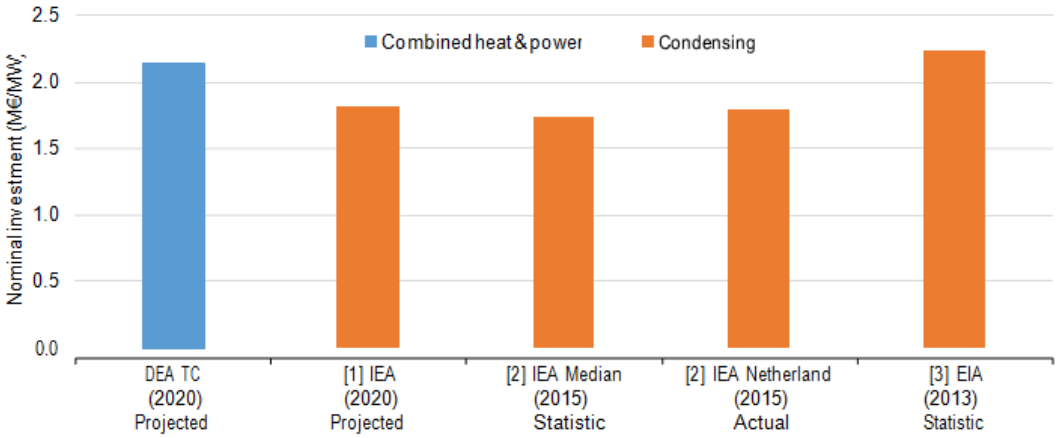
Figure 1: A schematic diagram of an extraction plant.



CAPEX and OPEX cost of new coal fired power plants

All values compared are for new units (year 2020 is chosen when possible – assumed year of commissioning). The specific investment costs for the different sources are plotted in Figure 2 below. The MW is the unit's full load condensing power capacity. For condensing units, it is assumed that the costs are for a power plant cooling with sea water, which is known to be the case for the three units in the Netherlands.

Figure 2: Nominal investment in coal fired power plants (2015M€/MW). The years in () indicate the year of the commission or statistic.



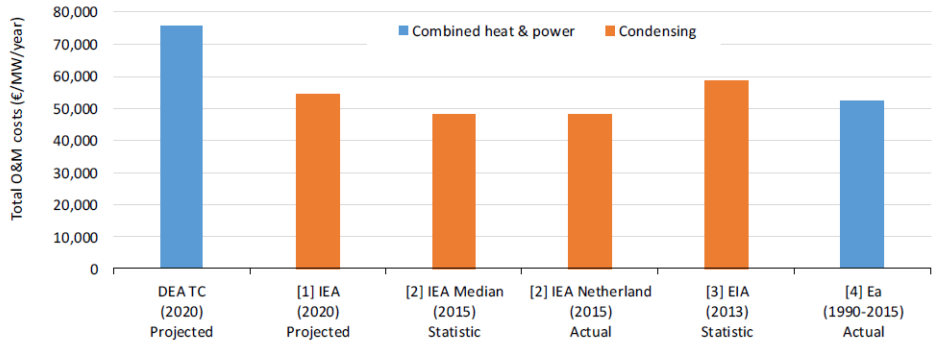
The investment cost from the European sources [1-2] is around 1.8 M€/MW, where the exception is the current value from the Technology Catalogue of 2.15 M€/MW, which is app. 20% higher. The cost listed by EIA for the USA is on the same level as the Technology Catalogue. According to the IEA the price of coal power is around 5 % higher in the USA compared to Europe. Under this assumption the EIA price for the USA can be translated to around 2 M€/MW for a European plant.

Weighting the newest projects and European sources highest, 1.8 M€/MW is proposed as the central estimate for condensing power plants. Assuming a 5% additional investment cost for adding the districtheatingunits, the 1.9 M€/MW for coal fired CHP plants is proposed.

In the data sheet in the Technology Catalogue the OPEX is split into variable and fixed O&M costs. However, it is not always clear when a cost is going from fixed to variable and vice versa, and therefore different sources list O&M cost differently. To be sure that we can directly compare the costs we therefore look at O&M as a yearly sum (see Figure 3). And here used the amount of full load hours that each source assuming[2].All sources assume a lifetime of 40 years.

Most sources project a decrease in the O&M cost for future plants (not shown in the figure), except the data in the current (before June 2017) Technology Catalogue, which surprisingly project an increase over time. The increase in the electrical efficiency over time is further increasing the O&M per input to the boiler, because the costs are given per MW and MWh electricity.

Figure 3: Total annual O&M costs for coal fired power plants (2015€/MW/year). The year in ( ) indicate the year of the projection or statistic.



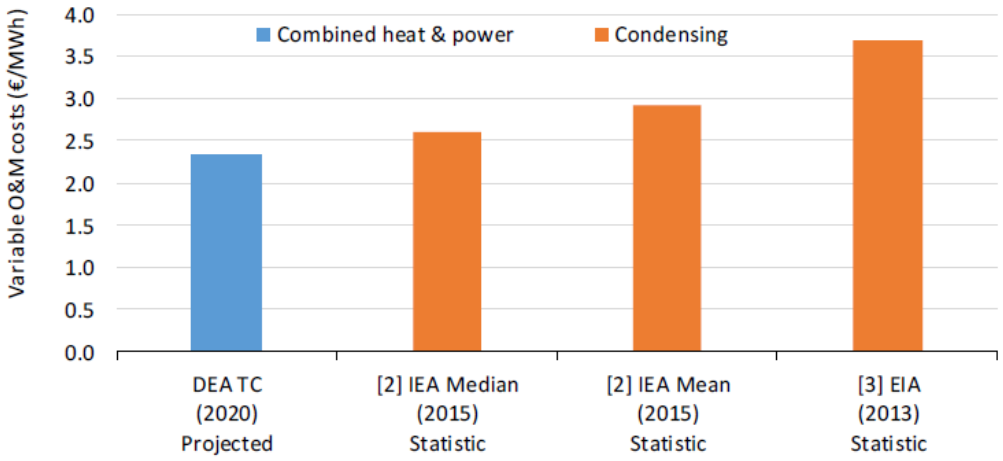
The current data in the Technology Catalogue again list highest value, which is around 75,000 €/MW/year – i.e. 50% higher compared to the weighted average of the other sources of around 50,000 €/MW/year [1-4]. CHP plants are assumed to have a 5% higher O&M costs due to the extra heat element in the unit. So, the total O&M costs of a coal fired CHP unit are evaluated to be around 52,500 €/MW/year.

Split between variable and fixed O&M cost

As mentioned, it is not always clear when a cost is going from fixed to variable and vice versa. To evaluate the split, variable costs from the sources that list these are used (see Figure 4). The prices seem to be between 2-4 €/MWh.

[2] For the current DEA TC and the data from Ea are assumed 4500 hours and for the IEA and EIA sources are assumed 7500 hours.

Figure 4: Variable O&M cost (2015€/MWh). The year in ( ) indicate the year of the projection or statistic.



Choosing 2.75 €/MWh as variable O&M cost for a condensing plant (weighting the newer sources highest) and adding 5% for the CHP part gives around 2.9 €/MWh. Using 7500 full load hours as used above, and 52,500 €/MW/year in total O&M costs, this yields a fixed O&M of 31,000 €/MW/year.

Updated financial numbers

The table below summarise the findings and updated financial figures of coal power CHP plants in the Danish Technology Catalogue for commission year 2020. Newer and European data are weighted higher than older data and data from overseas.

Year 2020	Previous catalogue	New financial figures	Difference
Nominal investment (M€/MW)	2.15	1.9	**-12%**
Fixed O&M (€/MW/year)	65,000	31,000	**-52%**
Variable O&M (€/MWh)	**2.3**	**2.9**	**+24%**

Note: Data for plant with a max. capacity of 400-1000 MW. The costs are given in relation to the maximum electricity output, e.g. in condensing mode. The fixed and variable O&M are assumed to be independent of the amount of full load hours.

According to the NREL report[3] mature power plant costs are generally expected to follow the overall general inflation rate over the long term. And since the suggested prices listed in the table are in real 2015 prices, then no, or very little (annually 0% -1%), development is expected.

Prediction of the cost in 2030 and 2050

To predict the costs in 2030 and 2050, it is assumed that the cost is falling by 0.2 % p.a. This is based on an assumption of accumulation of capacity commissioned from 2020 to 2050 deduced from predictions of the

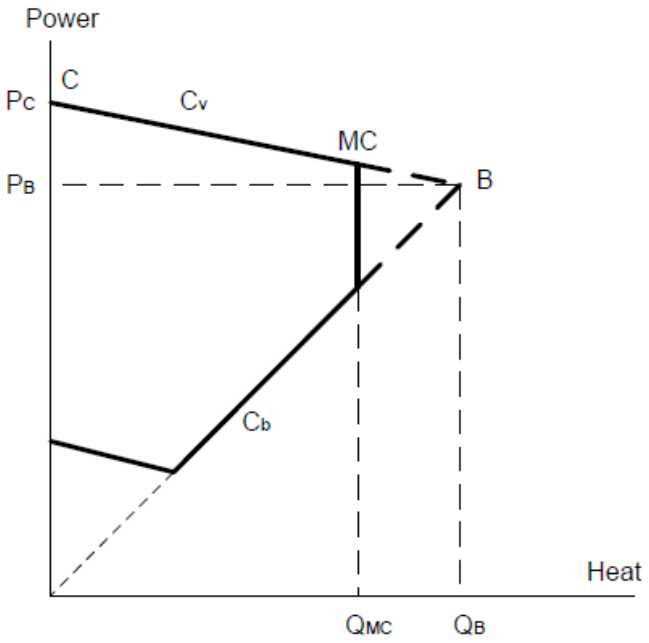
[3] Black & Veatch for NREL (2012), "Cost and performance data for power generation technologies"

future global installed electricity capacity in the 4D scenario in the Energy Technology Perspectives[4] [IEA,2016], and a assumed learning rate[5] of app. 8 % for coal technologies.

Additional remarks

The efficiencies shown in the tables below assume the availability of sufficient cooling water at low temperatures (North European oceans).

A steam extraction turbine enables a large degree of freedom in varying the electricity and heat generation. This is shown by the below (ideal) figure:



P_C: Power capacity in full condensation mode; point C. No heat production.

$\eta_{e,c}$: Electricity efficiency in full condensation mode.

Q_B: Heat capacity in full back-pressure mode (no low-pressure condensation); point B.

P_B: Power capacity in full back-pressure mode.

Q_{MC}: Heat capacity at minimum low-pressure condensation; point MC.

c_v: Loss of electricity generation per unit of heat generated at fixed fuel input; assumed constant.

c_b: Back-pressure coefficient (electricity divided by heat); assumed constant.

4 IEA(2016),Energy Technology Perspectives
5 E.S. Rubin et al. / Energy Policy 86 (2015) page 198–218, A review of learning rates for electricity supply technologies

The fuel consumption H for any given combination of power generation (P) and heat generation (Q):

$$H = \frac{P + c_v \cdot Q}{\eta_{e,c}}$$

At point MC the efficiencies can be determined by:

$\eta_{e,MC}$: Electricity efficiency at minimum low-pressure condensation:

$$\eta_{e,MC} = \eta_{e,c} \cdot \left\{1 - \frac{c_v}{c_b + c_v} \cdot \frac{Q_{MC}}{Q_B}\right\}$$

$\eta_{q,MC}$: Heat efficiency at minimum low-pressure condensation:

$$\eta_{q,MC} = \frac{\eta_{e,c}}{c_b + c_v} \cdot \frac{Q_{MC}}{Q_B}$$

$\eta_{tot,MC}$: Total efficiency (electricity plus heat) at minimum low-pressure condensation:

$$\eta_{tot,MC} = \eta_{e,c} \cdot \left\{1 + \frac{1 - c_v}{c_b + c_v} \cdot \frac{Q_{MC}}{Q_B}\right\}$$

In 2009, 3 out of 13 Danish extraction steam turbines had Q_{MC}/Q_B = 1.0, the average of all units being

0.80. This excludes a number of extraction steam turbines, which to a large extent were operated as condensation turbines, since the district heating loads were very small.

More details are given in Annex 1.

The biggest capital items of a coal plant are boiler, steam turbine and generator, with the boiler alone accounting for over 25% of costs. The civil works component falls around 20%, while the fuel handling is larger item than for most other technologies, except solid fuel biomass. Flue gas desulphurisation (FGD), which once accounted for some 15-20% of investment cost has fallen over time such that FGD and SCR (selective catalytic reduction of NOx) together typically account for some 10-15% of investment (ref. 6).

References

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2. Elforsk: "El från nya anläggningar", Stockholm, 2000.
3. www.ad700.dk
4. "Energy technology perspectives 2008", International Energy Agency, 2008.
5. DONG Energy, 2009.
6. "UK Electricity Generation Costs Update", Mott MacDonald, June 2010; commissioned bythe Department of Energy and Climate Change, United Kingdom.

02 Life Time Extensions of Coal Power Plants

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Author: Ea Energy Analyses

Publication date
August 2016

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

Large coal power plants have been a major source of combined electricity and heat generation in Denmark for the last decades. When a plant has been in operation for 25 years or more, the reliability of its components and systems will likely decrease leading to reduced availability and/or increased O&M costs. Therefore, based on experience, it will usually be necessary and beneficial to carry out a larger package of work that addresses repairs, renovation, and replacement of selected components and systems depending on their actual condition. Often also, improvement of environmental performance may be required, e.g. by improving the flue gas cleaning performance. This 'Life Time Extension' (LTE) is done with the purpose of restoring the plant to come close to its original conditions in terms of availability, efficiency and O&M costs. The exact scope and extent of such a campaign though, shall be tailored to the actual plant in question and will depend on its design, previous records of operation, earlier major works carried out, etc. Also, the expected/desired future operation of the plant is taken into account. Whether or not to extend the life of a power plant is therefore not a simple decision, but involves complex economic and technical factors [1].

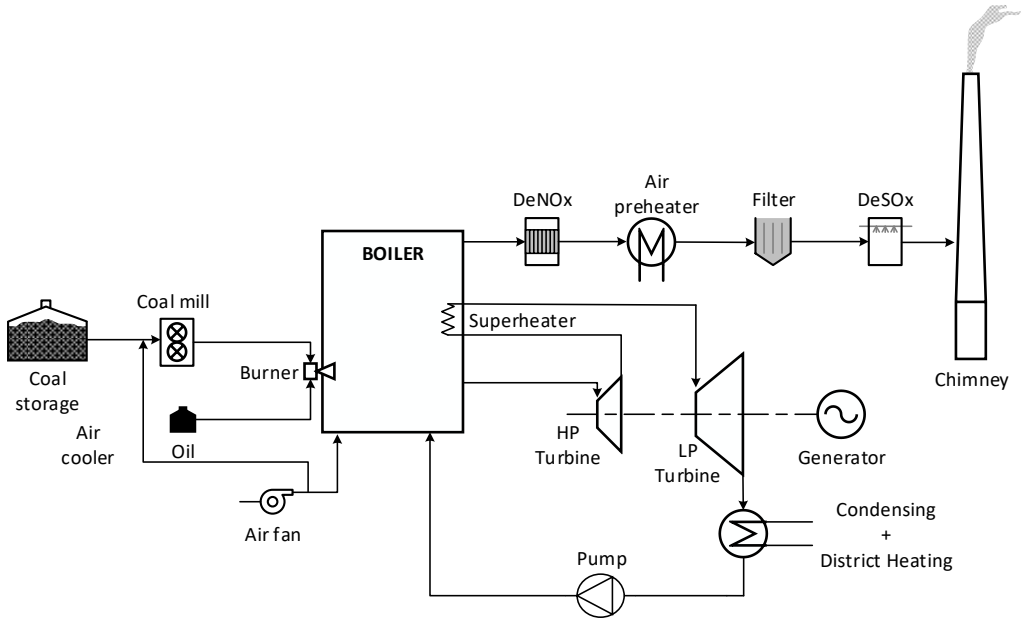
In this technology catalogue it is assumed that the life time extension

- takes place after approx. 25 years of normal operation, during which
- the maintenance of the plant has been carried out as planned, and
- enables the plant to be operated with the availability rate close to that of the original new plant
- within the originally expected O&M budget,
- for an extended life time of approx. 15-20 years

It may be convenient to carry out all necessary works in one campaign, to reduce the overall down time, or to distribute the work over several years. For this case it is assumed that all work is done in one campaign. It is expected that the original plant complies with the environmental legislation at the time of the LTE. The costs of bringing it up to date prior to the LTE are therefore not taken into account.

The LTE described here does not take specific measures to increase the efficiency, emissions level standards, or regulation abilities of the plant. Such required or desirable improvements may follow as a consequence without further investments, or may be possible at a reduced investment when major overhauls and component replacements are carried out anyhow.

Figure 1: Sketch of the main elements of a large coal fired CHP plant.



In connection with the LTE the plant will be out of operation for a period, typically 6-9 months.

The LTE will typically involve considerable project costs for planning and management since it requires establishing a project organisation for engineering, purchase, construction management, test, and commissioning.

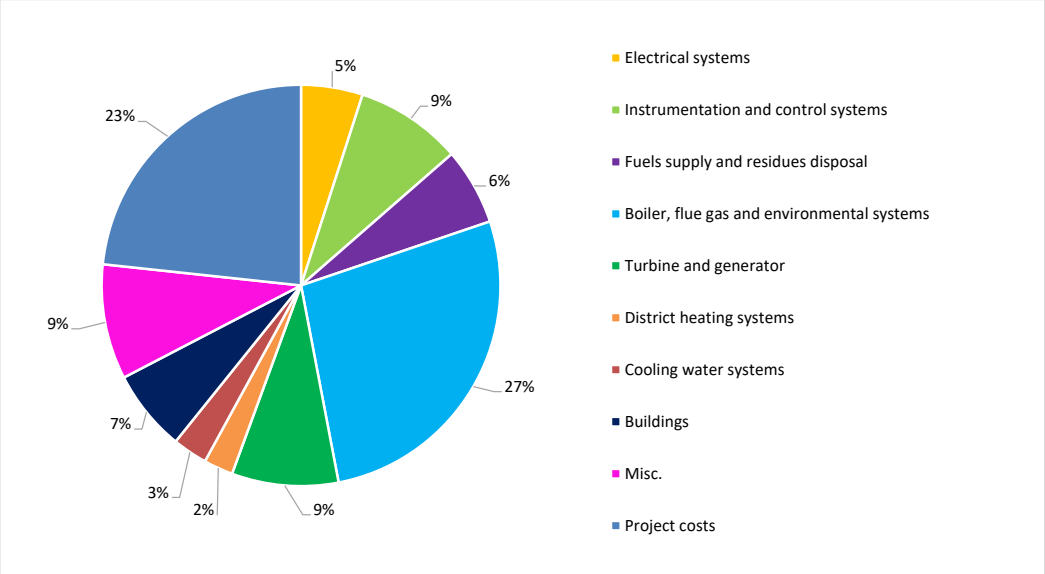
The distribution of works and costs involved with a LTE of and existing coal fired plant could typically be as follows, however depending widely on the actual scope [1]

Main elements can be:

- Revision of electrical systems
- Instrumentation and control systems replacement
- Pulverizers upgrade or replacement (fuel supply and disposal)
- Boiler upgrade,
- Turbine refurbishment (possibly generator refurbishment)
- Water systems (heat exchanges for condensers and district heating)
- Buildings
- Flue gas cleaning.

At top of that, there is a relatively large share of project- and unexpected costs (see figure 2). The basis for deciding which works to include in the LTE is an understanding of the plant's condition, which can be obtained using diagnostic systems and making a detailed remaining life assessment [2].

Figure 2: Diagram showing an example of the share of investment cost for an LTE project.



Life time extension of existing plants is also relevant when rebuilding to other fuels e.g. biomass as discussed in chapter 03 on conversion of power plants.

Input

Primary fuels are coal. Oil and/or natural gas are typically used for auxiliary start-up burners.

Output

The output is electricity and possibly heat for use in district heating systems.

Typical capacities

The capacity range considered is 200-400 MW_e.

Space requirement

The space requirements are not considered to change due to LTE.

Regulation ability and other power system services

The regulation abilities of coal fired power plants, e.g. start-up time and ramp rates may improve in connection with LTE due to implementation of better control systems [2]. This effect is, however, not possible to quantify on a general level. In general, start-up times and -costs are not considered to change due to LTE.

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages

Life time extension of existing large coal fired power plants offers a relatively quick and easy solution to keep existing capacity in operation, since the costs are typically several times lower than investments in new capacity. Typical Danish power plants of age 20-25 years have quite high efficiencies and environmental performance compared with today's standard, so the difference in comparison to a new plant may not be crucial. The overall difference in efficiency compared to a new plant will be 3-5% points.

Disadvantages

One disadvantage is that the original performance data of the plant are difficult to alter significantly. Also, the future operation of coal fired plants is challenged by their environmental effects (especially CO_2 emissions), which may be deemed politically unacceptable on a medium to longer term.

Environment

The lifetime extension is not in itself expected to change the environmental performance characteristics beyond the maximum allowed emission values at the time of LTE, that probably are more stringent than the original requirements. If advantageous or required, such further improvements may be implemented in connection with LTE campaign.

Research and development perspectives

It is not anticipated that there will be a considerable further development in the technology relevant for life time extension of Danish large coal fired power plants. However, with the large number of coal power plants running world-wide, it is expected that LTE methods will generally improve.

Examples of market standard technology

The life time extension (LTE) of DONG Energy's Studstrupværket blok 3, 350 MW, 2012-2013 is one of the most recent Danish examples [3]. There have only been few recent LTE projects in Denmark.

Uncertainty

The investment costs of an LTE presented in the table are connected with relatively large uncertainties. The main reasons for this are the differences among the existing power plants in terms of design, technical condition, previous works carried out, etc. Also, some uncertainty is expected related to general variations of prices and markets in the energy sector, e.g. raw materials like steel and copper, and the supply situation in the construction sector.

03 Rebuilding Large Coal Power Plants to Biomass

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Publication date
August 2016

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
June '19	03d Rebuilding coal plant to Biomass 03a-b Rebuilding coal plant to Biomass	Added Datasheet for rebuild coal fired plants to chips backpressure plant Updated datasheets for rebuild coal fired plants to wood pellets
October 18	03 Rebuilding Large Coal Power Plants to Biomass	Datasheets updated

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

Existing coal power plants may be rebuilt for biomass combustion, mainly in order to reduce CO_2 emissions without discarding existing generating capacity. The conversion to biomass in existing pulverized coal fired power plants may be done partly by co-firing a fraction of biomass together with the coal, or by converting the plant fully to biomass. The data and descriptions in this chapter only consider the full conversion options.

The power plants for rebuilding are assumed to be of age approximately 25 years meaning that a life time extension will be necessary in any case. Thus, the expected costs of lifetime extension are included for those parts of the plant that remain in operation after the rebuilding. It is further assumed that the rebuilt power plant will have a technical life time of 15 years, i.e. the O&M costs will cover the necessary refurbishments in this period.

The necessary works and associated costs for life time extension and rebuilding of existing power plants will in any case vary over a large span since the original power plants are all unique in terms of technical design and condition.

Coal power plants can be modified for biomass in a number of ways. Here the following three concepts are considered:

a) Wood pellets, existing boiler
b) Wood chips, new boiler
c) Wood chips, existing boiler

These options will determine the requirements for the necessary technical modifications and replacements of the fuel handling equipment, boiler systems etc. of the plants.

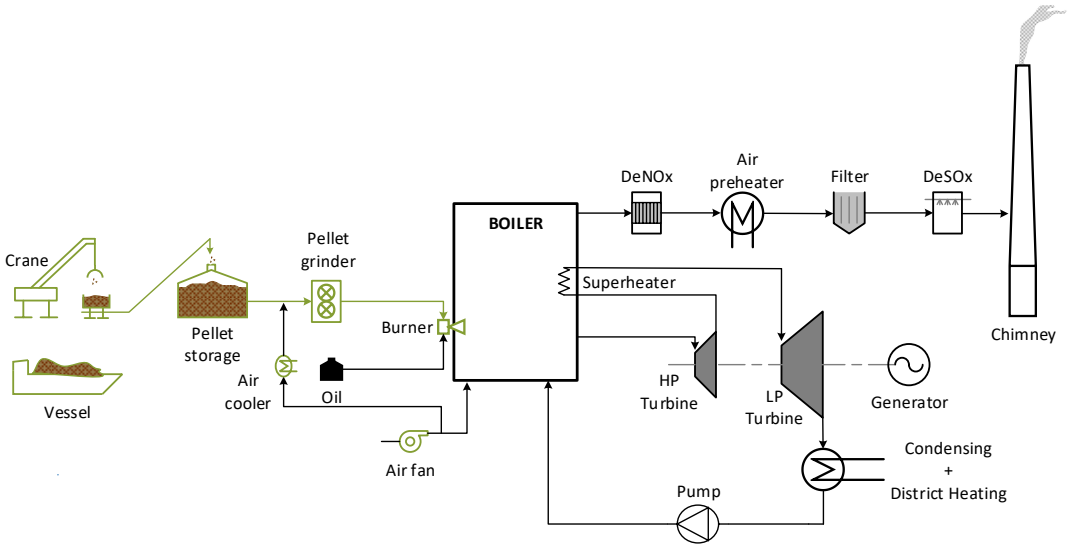
a) Wood pellets

The easiest and cheapest (concerning the investment costs) solution is to convert the fuel from coal to wood pellets, which is a fuel with the most similar characteristics to coal, meaning that the same boiler can be used. Pellets is a homogeneous and pre-dried fuel of various standardized qualities, produced from biomass material such as wood, wood residues, other energy crops or residues of agricultural production, etc., typically produced abroad and transported to the power plants in large vessels. The pellets have controlled water content, typically below 10% [1]. The energy consumption in the production of the pellets is around 10% of the energy content of the finished product [2], whereas the energy consumption for transportation depends on e.g. the type of ship, the distance and whether or not the ship is returning empty or with cargo. Shipping of pellets from Canada consume around 4% of the energy content in the finished product (efficient ship and full cargo), whereas transportation from the Baltic countries consume approximately 1.5% of the energy content of the finished product [3].

The figure below shows a principle sketch of the plant and which elements are expected to be added, replaced, or refurbished. Among these are:

- New storage silos and transport systems for the pellets
- Coal mills, to be modified and with extended capacity due to lower calorific value
- Larger fans for pneumatic transport systems
- New burners
- Boiler modifications, e.g. soot blowers to avoid deposits
- Other life time extensions, as relevant

Figure 1: Sketch of a CHP plant converted to firing with wood pellets. The green elements indicate the equipment that needs to be added, replaced or refurbished.



The existing boilers, flue gas systems, and steam systems can be kept in operation with minor modifications done in connection with the life time extension. It should be considered to by-pass the desulphurization plant as the sulphur content in wood is much lower than in coal. This has been done on Amagerværket Unit 1 to attain higher efficiency. In such cases boiler efficiency and steam data will probably only be marginally affected. Since cold air is used for the fuel feeding less combustion air is heated in the air preheater, and subsequently the heat extracted from flue gas is less than in the original plant resulting in a minor reduction of the boiler efficiency. Application of flue gas condensation is not relevant due to the low water content of the pellets. In the boiler, increased formation of ash and slag deposits, e.g. corrosive chlorines, may normally be

expected when shifting from coal to wood firing. This may be remedied by use of steam soot blowers. To improve the chemical processes and avoid deposits and dust formation, an amount of coal or fly ash from coal can be added to the boiler. The lower calorific value of wood compared with coal increases the necessary fuel amounts to approximately double volume. Storage of pellets requires new covered storage facilities. Therefore, expansions of harbor facilities and land use for storage may be required. The possible additional costs for this are not considered.

It is here assumed that the boiler can be reused. In case existing boiler steam parameters are outdated or the boiler is worn out it can be beneficial to replace the boiler completely as done on Amagerværket Unit 1.

b) Wood chips, new boiler

Conversion of the fuel type from coal to wood chips requires major changes and is more time consuming and costly than conversion to pellets. However, this could be counterbalanced by a lower fuel price. One option for converting to wood chips is to install an entire new boiler. Wood chips are a less homogeneous fuel than pellets, with large variations in quality and size. Its water content is high, typically from 20% and up to more than 50%, and it may as well contain fractions of soil. The chipping can take place in the forest where smaller branches and treetops can also be used. Due to the low energy density and high water content wood chips are less suitable for transport over long distances and are most often locally sourced. However, logs can be transported by boat and chopped at the destination site.

The need for boiler replacement is due to the inability of the coal dust fired boiler to be adapted to the larger and inhomogeneous wood chips. For larger units > 200 MWth it is assumed that a circulating fluid bed (CFB) type furnace will be chosen (a chapter on large biomass circulating fluidized bed combustion systems (CFBC) will soon be included in the catalog), whereas bubbling fluid bed (BFB) and grate fired boilers are typically preferred for smaller units up to 150 MWth, but not feasible above this size due to physical limitations. For existing larger plants, it is an option though, to build more than one grate fired boiler in parallel when converting to biomass. The data given here are based on the CFB type boiler. Due to the high water content in the fuel the boiler system will be equipped with flue gas condensation for increasing the heat output. The condensation will normally use the district heating return water, but further energy may be recovered by applying heat pumps (not considered in the data sheet).

The amount of condensate water is high due to the fuel's high moisture content. Therefore, water treatment costs can be considerable.

Flue gas cleaning and dust filters need to be provided. Due to the lower combustion temperature in CFB the creation of NOx is lower than in other boilers [4, 5]. Still some kind of DeNOx plant probably is required. SCR (selective catalytic reduction) will probably be necessary to achieve the NOx emission limit value in the upcoming European standards [1]. A low duct tail end SCR can be integrated with flue gas cleaning [2]. Due to low sulfur content of woodchips, DeSOx is normally not required.

Further, the plant needs to be supplemented by a system for storage and handling of the wood chips, which can normally be stored outdoors. As for wood pellets expansions of harbor facilities and land use for storage may be required, but the possible additional costs for this are not considered here.

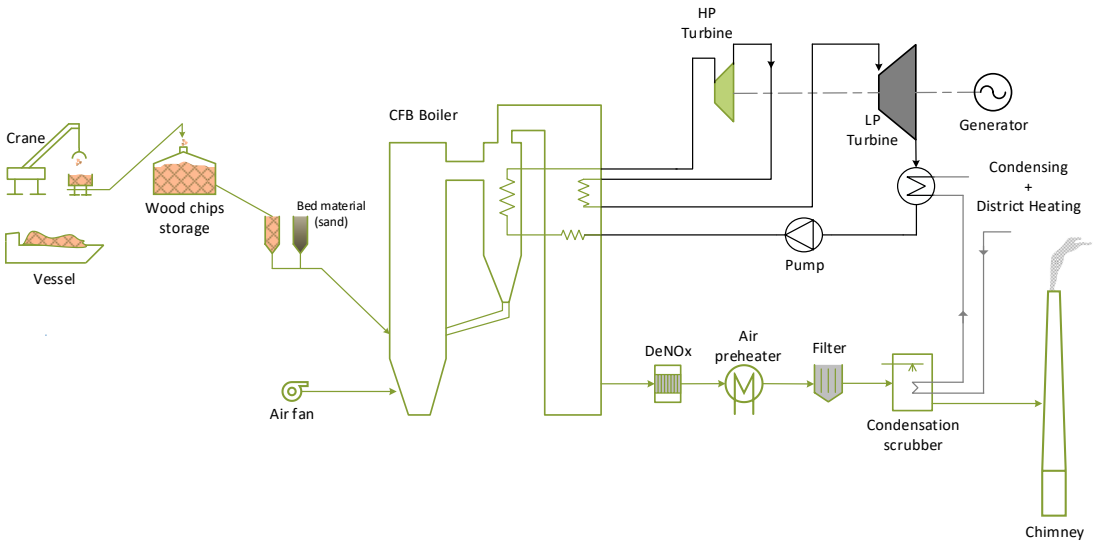
The figure below shows a principle sketch of the plant and which elements are expected to be added, replaced or refurbished. Among these are:

- New storage and transport systems for the wood chips
- New CFB boiler and air fans
- New high-pressure turbine due to lower steam pressure. CFB boiler can also be made as super critical with high steam parameters
- New flue gas system, filters and condensation scrubber and probably also SCR

[1] LCP BREF (140 mg NOx/Nm3 @ 6% O2 for plant above 100 MWth)

- Other life time extensions, as relevant

Figure 2: Sketch of a CHP plant converted to firing with wood chips with a new CFB boiler. The green elements indicate the equipment that needs to be added, replaced or refurbished.



c) Wood chips, existing boiler

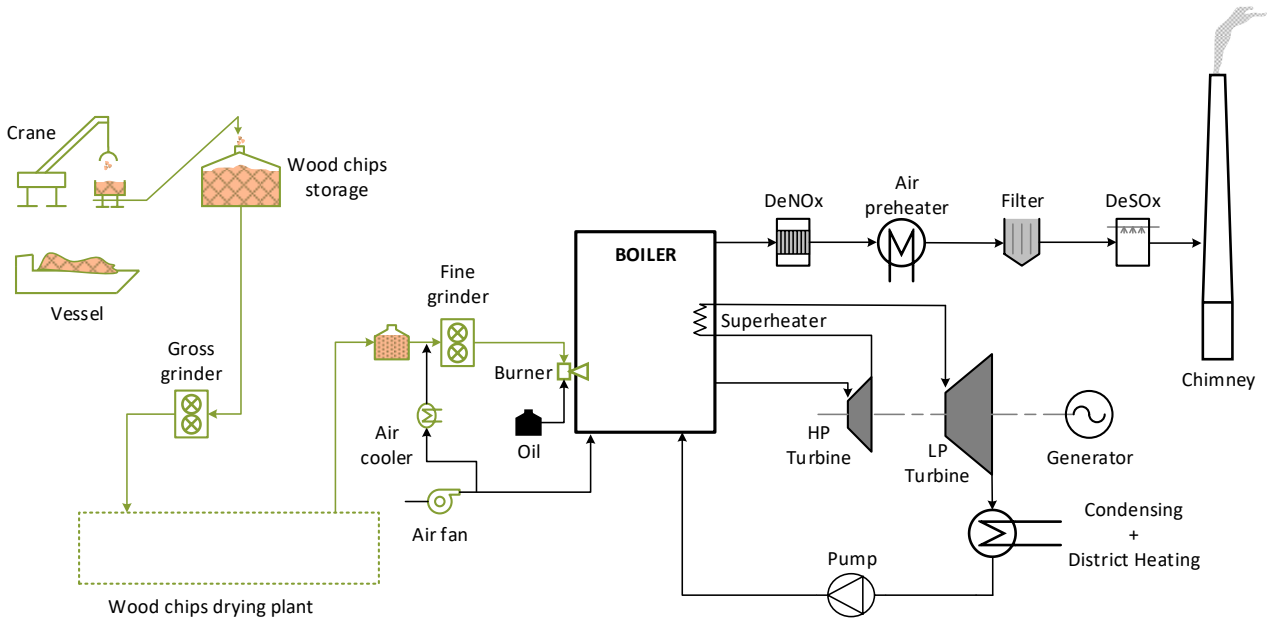
Another option for converting to wood chips is to reuse the existing boiler but install a plant for processing the chips into dry and fine-grained matter, i.e. comparable to the fuel obtained by grinding wood pellets.

Thus, the existing boilers, flue gas systems, and steam systems can be kept in operation with minor modifications done in connection with the life time extension.

The water content of the wood chips must be lowered to usually below 10%, which may be achieved by adding a separate wood chip fired furnace or by using heat from the boiler flue gas. Before the drying the wood chips must be ground down to smaller sizes e.g. in hammer mills, depending on the quality of the raw material. After the drying the final grinding takes place for the fuel to be suitable for the dust-type burners.

Due to the large fuel volumes the storage and preparation plant may constitute a considerable extension of the existing plant. In the cost estimates, no potential expansions of harbor facilities and land use for storage are considered.

Figure 3: Sketch of a CHP plant converted to firing with wood chips with its existing boiler. The green elements indicate the equipment that needs to be added, replaced or refurbished.



As an alternative to converting the wood chips into pulverized fuel quality the boiler can be modified by installing a grate below the boiler. In such case the heat input on the grate is typically smaller than the original heat input and the plant is down rated accordingly.

Input

Primary fuels are biomass in the form of either a) dried and compressed wood pellets, or b) and c) Wood chips.

Output

The output is electricity and heat for use in district heating systems.

Typical capacities

The capacity range considered is in the range of 200-400 MW_e.

Regulation ability and other power system services

The regulation abilities will in most cases not change much, in case existing boilers of coal fired plants are rebuilt to biomass firing.

The regulation abilities of coal fired power plants with respect to primary and secondary load support are described in the Technology Catalogue item 01. The start-up times from cold state to initial generation for pulverized fuel (PF) and CFB boilers normally vary between 8 and 15 hours the higher end represent the CFB boilers. Typically, a power output of 25% of full capacity can be reached after 3 hours following the initial start-up time during which oil- or gas burners are used [6].

Start-up costs

The direct start-up costs include the fuel consumption for heating up boilers (which is not utilised for energy production), the electricity consumption, and other costs related to operation. The costs of a start-up also depend on the type of fuel used in the start-up period. As for a conventional plant it is normal to use oil or gas to pre-heat the boiler in a biomass converted plant, before the primary fuel is inserted. Thus, the direct start-up costs will not change much due to the shift of fuel from coal to biomass, assuming that fossil fuel could still be used for start-up purpose.

The indirect costs are the lost value corresponding to the lifetime reduction for one start up. For instance, during the heating-up, thermal and pressure variations will cause fatigue damage to components, and corrosion may increase in some areas due to e.g. condensation. This will depend on the initial plant.

Advantages/disadvantages

In general, rebuilding of coal fired power plants to biomass combustion is a relatively fast and cost-effective way to reduce the use of fossil fuels (coal). Compared to building entire new units, investments are likely to be significantly lower. Also, the outage periods are likely to be shorter than if an entire new plant should be built at the same location as the one that is assumed rebuild. However, in case of building a new boiler and HP turbine, the advantage in time may not be significant.

One of the disadvantages is that the performance data will be more or less locked by those of the old plant, for instance the efficiencies will depend largely on the allowable steam temperature and pressure. The original plants may be 20-30 years old and therefore not fully live up to the standards of present technology regarding efficiencies etc. Compared to coal, the chemistry of wood combustion causes increased challenges with ash and slag formation and corrosion in the boiler. This makes it necessary to reduce the boiler and steam temperature slightly, and thereby the plant's electrical efficiency is typically also lowered a few percent.

The three rebuilding options have various advantages and disadvantages compared to each other. The use of pre-fabricated wood pellets offers a quick solution for rebuilding older coal power plant with less investment than the other options. On the other hand, the fuel costs are higher.

Wood chips are a cheaper fuel than wood pellets. However, in case of both replacing the boiler and building a fuel drying and processing plant, the investment is higher.

When installing a new boiler for combustion of wood chips, which have a relatively high water content, a higher heat efficiency can be obtained when recovering the condensation heat from the flue gas, though with a somewhat lower electric efficiency. Still, the overall fuel efficiencies may be higher and even above 100% (LHV).

In the case of a CFB-type boiler, and possibly also with converted boilers, the steam pressure is often lower than in the original plant and therefore the high pressure turbine has to be replaced with a new one. However, a number of CFB suppliers are able to offer also super critical boilers. Otherwise, the pressure drop over the high pressure turbine will condense the steam too much, and the low pressure turbine will get steam that is too "wet" and will eventually break faster than it should.

It is common to add coal ashes or coal in the combustion of biomass to prevent slag formation and corrosion in the boiler, this will most likely make the ashes unsuitable for spreading in the environment. At the same time, the recycling of the ashes for use in concrete products, which is normal practice with coal ashes, is questionable with wood ashes due to its high alkali content. The ashes from firing with coal or biomass can be used for producing synthetic gypsum.

Environment

The environmental issues when using biomass as a fuel in rebuilt coal power plants are generally similar to those of new biomass plants. Central issues are emission of particulate matter, NO_x emissions and condensate water. Existing plant configuration often results in higher cost for flue gas cleaning than for new plants.

Another environmental issue is heavy metals in ashes. The ashes from biomass combustion contain minerals that are valuable in agriculture and forestry, and may be recycled. This is subject to regulation involving chemical analysis and controlling concentrations of heavy metals. Especially the cadmium and lead concentrations in the ashes will limit the amounts that can be spread over a certain area per year.

There are several specific health and safety issues connected with the transportation, handling and storage of wood pellets and chips. These involve e.g. the risk of suffocation, self-ignition, explosion, and formation of poisonous molds in storages and transport systems.

Research and development perspectives

Among the areas for further research activities within wood firing is the emission control and handling of residues.

Improvements in operation and maintenance may be gained when further experience is obtained, e.g. in process and emissions control, reduced corrosion rates, material selection for use in boilers, etc. In a wider perspective, a major area for discussion and development is the issue of sustainability connected with the sourcing of the wood material for fueling rebuilt power plants.

Examples of Market Standard technology

Conversion to wood pellets:

DONG Energy Avedøreværket Unit 1, 254 MW_e, ongoing, expected completed in 2016.

DONG Energy has converted several other power plant units to biomass, for example Skærbækværket in 2015-2017 and Herningværket in 2002 and 2009. [7].

GDF Suez plant, Poland, 205 MW_e 2012.

HOFOR Amagerværket Unit 1 pulverized fuel plant converted to wood pellets and a small fraction of straw pellets in 2009.

Prediction of performance in the future

As the technologies for rebuilding power plants have reached a mature stage, only incremental improvements of processes and equipment can be expected. These are largely driven by the emission limitation requirements and therefore not likely to lead to significant cost reductions.

Specific operation and maintenance issues with large biomass units can still be improved along with further experience being gained, and this knowledge can be utilized for converted coal units as well.

In principle, rebuilding will only be interesting as long as existing coal power plants are available, which offer financially interesting investments in competition with other electricity generation technologies.

Uncertainty

The relatively large uncertainty intervals in the investment costs for the rebuilding options reflect mainly the following, in order of magnitude:

- The existing power plants are quite different in terms of design, technical condition size etc. This will widely influence the necessary works for life time extension and adding of new equipment in connection with rebuilding projects.
- There is some uncertainty expected related to general variations of prices and markets in the energy sector, e.g. raw materials like steel and copper, and the supply situation in the construction sector.

04 Gas Turbine, Simple-Cycle

Contact information:
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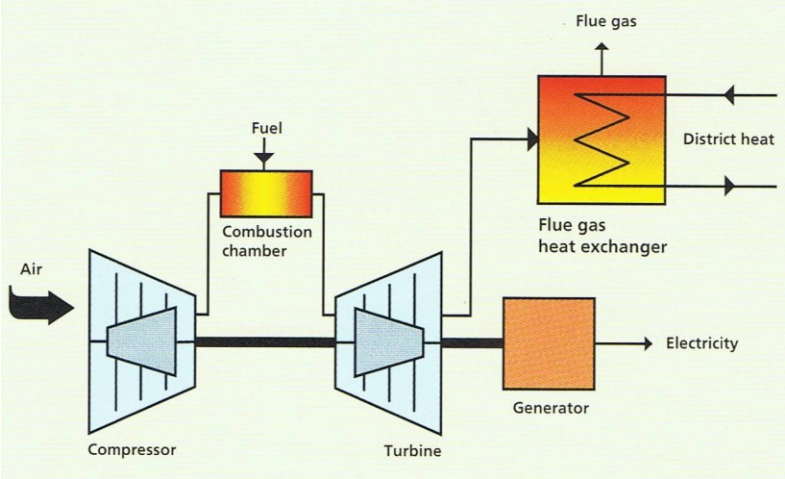
Publication date
August 2016

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

The major components of a simple-cycle (or open-cycle) gas turbine power unit are: a gas turbine, a gear (when needed) and a generator. For cogeneration (combined heat and power production), a flue gas heat exchanger (hot water or steam) is also installed, see the diagram below.

Figure 1 Diagram of a simple cycle plant designed for combined heat and power production



If applying heat pumps for extra cooling of the exhaust gas, even higher total fuel efficiency can be reached. Depending on priorities, the flue gas heat pumps can be electrical or absorption type.

Simple cycle gas turbines can be used for preheating the feed water of steam power plants. This is the case at the Danish Avedøre 2 power station.

There are in general two types of gas turbines;

1. industrial turbines (also called heavy duty)
2. aero-derivative turbine

Industrial gas turbines differ from aero-derivative turbines in the way that the frames, bearings and blading are of heavier construction. Additionally, industrial gas turbines have longer intervals between services compared to the aero-derivatives.

Aero-derivative turbines benefit from higher efficiency than industrial ones and the most service-demanding module of the aero-derivative gas turbine can normally be replaced in a couple of days, thus keeping a high availability.

Gas turbines can be equipped with compressor intercoolers where the compressed air is cooled to reduce the power needed for compression. The use of integrated recuperators (preheating of the combustion air) to increase efficiency can also be made by using air/air heat exchangers - at the expense of an increased exhaust pressure loss. Gas turbine plants can have direct steam injection in the burner to increase power output through expansion in the turbine section (Cheng Cycle). Direct steam injection is not common for turbines in Denmark

Small (radial) gas turbines below 100 kWe are now on the market, the so-called micro-turbines. These are often equipped with preheating of combustion air based on heat from gas turbine exhaust (integrated recuperator) to achieve reasonable electrical efficiency (25 - 30 %).

Input

Typical fuels are natural gas and light oil. Some gas turbines can be fuelled with other fuels, such as LPG, biogas etc., and some gas turbines are available in dual-fuel versions (gas/oil).

Gas fired gas turbines need an input pressure of the fuel (gas) of 20-60 bar, dependent on the gas turbine compression ratio, i.e. the entry pressure in the combustion chamber. Typically, aero derivative gas turbines need higher fuel (gas) pressure than industrial types.

Output

Electricity and heat (optional). All heat output is from the exhaust gas and is extracted by a flue gas heat exchanger (heat recovery boiler).

The heat output is usually either as steam or hot water.

Typical capacities

Simple-cycle gas turbines are available in the 30 kWe – 450 MWe range [1].

The enclosed data tables cover large scale (40 – 125 MW), medium and small scale (5 - 40 MW) installations. Data on micro gas turbines (0.03 – 0.100 MW) is also presented.

All data are for gas turbines operating in simple cycle cogeneration mode without flue gas condensation, if no additional notes are made.

Regulation ability and other power system services

A simple-cycle gas turbine can be started and stopped within minutes, supplying power during peak demand. Because they are less power efficient than combined cycle plants, they are in most places used as peak or reserve power plants, which operate anywhere from several hours per day to a few dozen hours per year.

However, every start/stop has a measurable influence on service costs and maintenance intervals. As a rule-of-thumb, a start costs 10 hours in technical life expectancy [5].

The flue gas heat exchanger (heat recovery boiler) may lead to some constraints on start-up gradients. This can be solved by including a flue gas bypass.

Gas turbines are able to operate at part load. This reduces the electrical efficiency and at lower loads the emission of e.g. NOx and CO will increase. The increase in NOx emissions with decreasing load places a regulatory limitation on the regulation ability. This can be solved in part by adding de-NOx units.

The heat produced from cooling of the exhaust gas can be either hot water (for district heating or low-temperature process needs) or steam for process needs. Variations in steam production may be achieved by varying the gas turbine load, by supplementary firing in the heat recovery boiler or via a bypass stack.

To operate a simple cycle gas turbine of a cogeneration plant in power-only mode, the exhaust gas is directed to a bypass stack.

Most simple cycle gas turbine plants installations for CHP include short time heat storage. This leads to more flexibility in production planning.

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages
Simple-cycle gas turbine plants have short start-up/shut-down time, if needed. For normal operation, a hot start will take some 10 - 15 minutes [5,6]. Construction times for gas turbine based simple cycle plants are shorter than steam turbine plants [6].

Disadvantages
Concerning larger units above 15 MW, the combined cycle technology has so far been more attractive than simple cycle gas turbine, when applied in cogeneration plants for district heating [3]. Steam from other sources (e.g. waste fired boilers) can be led to the steam turbine part as well. Hence, the lack of a steam turbine can be considered a disadvantage for large-scale simple cycle gas turbines.

Environment

Gas turbines have continuous combustion with non-cooled walls. This means a very complete combustion and low levels of emissions (other than NOx). Developments focusing on the combustors have led to low NOx levels as stated elsewhere. To lower the emission of NOx further, post-treatment of the exhaust gas can be applied, e.g. with SCR catalyst systems.

Research and development perspectives

Increased efficiency for simple-cycle gas turbine configurations has also been reached through inter-cooling and recuperators. Research into humidification (water injection) of intake air processes (HAT) is expected to lead to increased efficiency due to higher mass flow through the turbine.

Additionally continuous development for less polluting combustion is taking place. Low-NOx combustion technology is assumed. Water or steam injection in the burner section may reduce the NOx emission, but also the total efficiency and thereby possibly the financial viability. The trend is more towards dry low-NOx combustion, which increases the specific cost of the gas turbine [3]

Examples of market standard technology

The best technology on the marked today is a medium size gas turbines with integrated recuperator that can reach approx. 38 % electrical efficiency (5 MWe unit).

Prediction of performance and costs

Gas turbine technology is a well-proven commercial technology with numerous power generating installations worldwide, making simple cycle gas turbines a category 4 technology. Technological improvements are continuously being made; new materials, new surface treatments or improved production methods can lead to higher electrical efficiency, improved lifetime and less service needs.

Developments now also focus on broader gas quality acceptance during operation and improved dynamic performance.

The efficiency of the simple-cycle turbine can be increased, if inlet temperatures to the turbine section can be increased. Therefore, development of ceramic materials that can withstand high temperatures used in the hot parts of the gas turbine is taking place.

However, the expectations for the gas turbine market in Denmark are limited, since gas turbines are currently predominantly used in the reserve power market. This means that no significant reductions in investment

and/or operation/maintenance costs are expected to be seen in the years to come. In a longer perspective, gas turbines may become relevant for green gas-based power production.

Uncertainty

Uncertainty stated in the tables both covers differences related to the power span covered in the actual table and differences in the various products (manufacturer, quality level, extra equipment, service contract guarantees etc.) on the market.

A span for upper and lower product values is given for the year 2020 situation. No sources are available for the 2050 situation. Hence the values have been estimated by the authors.

Additional remarks

Figures for service and maintenance costs are usually based on generated electricity. Service contract may also be on this basis; pricing may be influenced by the number of starts/stops.

05 Gas Turbine Combined-Cycle

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Publication date

August 2016

Amendments after publication date

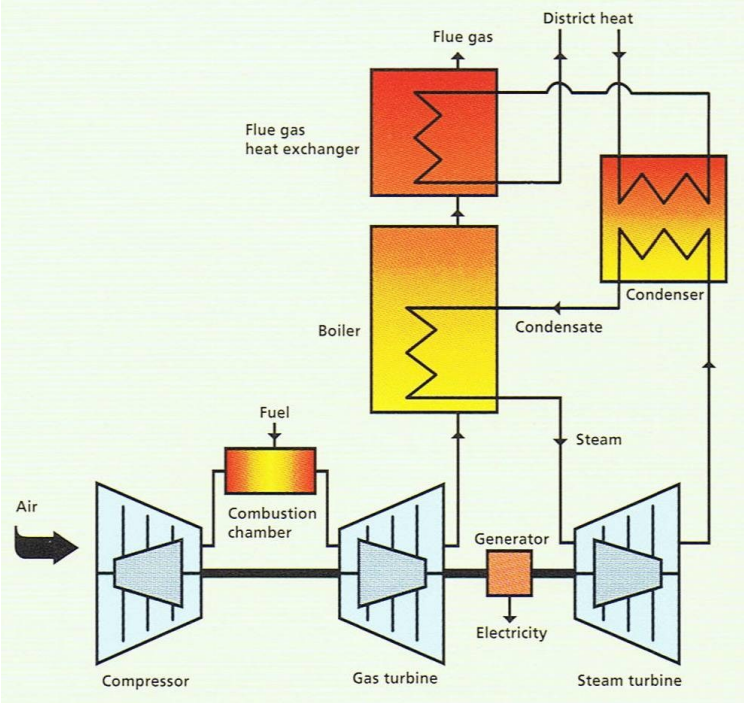
Date	Ref.	Description
January 2018		Additional references have been included

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

Main components of combined-cycle gas turbine (CC-GT) plants include: a gas turbine, a steam turbine, a gear (if needed), a generator, and a heat recovery steam generator (HRSG)/flue gas heat exchanger, see the diagram below.

Figure 1 Diagram showing an example of a CC-GT plant designed for combined heat and power production.



The gas turbine and the steam turbine are shown driving a shared generator. In real plants, the two turbines might drive separate generators. Where the single-shaft configuration contributes with higher reliability, the multi-shaft has a slightly better overall performance.

The condenser is cooled by the return water from the district heating network. Since this water is afterwards heated by the flue gas from the gas turbine, the condensation temperature can be fairly low.

The overall energy efficiency depends on the flue gas stack temperature, while the electricity efficiency depends, besides the technical characteristics and the ambient conditions, on the district heating flow temperature. However, some plants do not have the option to sell district heating, and the condenser is therefore cooled by a sea/river/lake or a cooling tower.

If applying heat pumps for extra cooling of the exhaust gas, even higher total fuel efficiency can be reached. Depending on priorities, the flue gas heat pumps can be electrical or absorption type.

The heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) is defined through the number of pressure levels, each producing steam for the steam turbine. Small, medium and large-scale units usually have one or two steam pressure stages whereas very large units may have three steam pressure stages. Steam is fed to the turbine both at the inlet and at a later stage between the two adjacent steam turbine sections; this is one of the special features of steam turbines in CC-GT.

Plants being able to shift between condensation mode (power only) and back-pressure mode (power and district heat) include a so-called extraction steam turbine. Such turbines are not available in small sizes, and dual-mode plants are therefore only feasible in large scale.

The power generated by the gas turbine is typically two to three times the power generated by the steam turbine. An extraction steam turbine shifting from full condensation mode at sea temperature to full back-pressure mode at district heat return temperature will typically lose about 10% of its electricity generation capacity. For example, a 40 MW gas turbine combined with a 20 MW steam turbine (condensation mode), loses 2 MW, (10% of 20 MW) or 3% of the total generating capacity (60 MW).

Input

Typical fuels are natural gas and light oil. Some gas turbines can be fuelled with other fuels, such as LPG, biogas etc., and some gas turbines are available in dual-fuel versions (gas/oil).

Gas fired gas turbines need a fuel gas pressure of 20-60 bar, typically aero-derivative gas turbines need higher pressure than industrial gas turbines.

Additional steam from other sources may be fed to the steam turbine section.

Output

Electricity and heat. The heat is most often supplied as hot water.

Typical capacities

The enclosed datasheets cover large scale CC-GT (100 – 400 MW with extraction steam turbine) and medium scale (10 – 100 MW with back pressure steam turbine).

Most CC-GT units have an electric power of > 40 MWe

Regulation ability and other power system services

CC-GT units are to some extent able to operate at part load. This will reduce the electrical efficiency and often increase the NOx emission.

If the steam turbine is not running, the gas turbine can still be operated by directing the hot flue gasses through a boiler designed for high temperature or into a bypass stack.

The larger gas turbines for CC-GT installations are usually equipped with variable inlet guide vanes, which will improve the part-load efficiencies in the 85-100 % load range, thus making the part-load efficiencies

comparable with conventional steam power plants in this load range. Another means to improve part-load efficiencies is to split the total generation capacity into several CC-GTs. However, this will generally lead to a lower full load efficiency compared to one larger unit.

The NOx emission is generally increased during part load operation.

Some suppliers have developed CC-GT system designs enabling short start up both regarding the electrical output and the steam circuit as well.

Most CC-GT plants installations include a short time heat storage. This leads to more flexibility in production planning.

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages

Large gas turbine based combined-cycle units are world leading with regard to electricity production efficiency among fuel based power production.

Smaller CC-GT units have lower electrical efficiencies compared to larger units. Units below 20 MWe are few and will face close competition with single-cycle gas turbines and reciprocating engines.

Gas fired CC-GTs are characterized by low capital costs, high electricity efficiencies, short construction times and short start-up times.

Disadvantages

The economies of scale are substantial, i.e. the specific cost of plants below 200 MWe increases as capacity decreases.

The high air/fuel ratio for gas turbines leads to lower overall efficiency for a given flue gas cooling temperature compared to steam cycles and cogeneration based on internal combustion engines.

Environment

Gas turbines have continuous combustion with non-cooled walls in the combustion chamber. This means a very complete combustion and low levels of emissions (except for NO_x). Developments focusing on the combustor(s) have led to low NO_x levels.

Flue gas post-treatment can consist of SCR catalyst systems etc.

Research and development perspectives

Continuous research is done concerning higher inlet temperature at first turbine blades to achieve higher electricity efficiency. This research is focused on materials and/or cooling of blades.

Continuous development for less polluting combustion is taking place. Increasing the turbine inlet temperature may increase the NOx production. To keep a low NOx emission different options are at hand or are being developed, i.e. dry low-NOx burners, catalytic burners etc.

Development to achieve shorter time for service is also being done.

Examples of market standard technology

Large CC-GT units have demonstrated an electrical efficiency of 60 % (LHV reference). Systems are now being offered and built with an electrical efficiency close to 62 %. The units are large units with an output in the 500 – 600 MWe [3].

In 2009, Eon opened one of the most efficient power plants in Europe, the CHP plant Öresundsverket in Malmö, Sweden. The 440 MW CC-GT has an electrical efficiency of 58% and an overall fuel efficiency in full cogeneration mode of 90%. The total investment figure for the project was €300 million [12].

Prediction of performance and costs

Gas turbine based combined cycle plants are a well-proven, widespread and available technology, making CC-GT a category 4 technology. Improvements are still being made primarily on the gas and steam turbines used. Developments for faster load response and dynamic capabilities are now also in focus. In [13] examples is given for a large (>250 MWe) CC-GT plant with full GT power in less than 15 minutes and approx. 70 % power supply from the steam turbine. Full steam turbine power is achieved in less than one hour.

The expected market in Denmark is limited and declining for the time being. This means that no significant reductions in investment and/or operation/maintenance cost is expected in the years to come. In a longer perspective, gas turbines or gas turbine combined cycle plants may become relevant for green gas based balancing power.

Uncertainty

Uncertainty stated in the tables both covers differences related to the power span covered in the actual table and differences between the various products (manufacturer, quality level, extra equipment, service contract guarantees etc.) on the market.

A span for upper and lower product values is given for the year 2020 situation. No sources are available for the 2050 situation. Hence the values have been estimated by the authors.

Additional remarks

The main rotating parts (the gas turbine, steam turbine and the generator) tend to account for around 45-50% of the investment costs (EPC price), the heat recovery steam generator, condenser and cooling system for around 20%, the balance of plant components for around 15%, the civil works for around 15% and the remainder being miscellaneous other items [10].

06 Gas Engines

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Publication date

August 2016

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
January 2018	06 Gas engines	Reference sheet have been updated

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

A gas engine for co-generation of heat and power drives an electricity generator for the power production. Electrical efficiency up to 45- 48 % can be achieved. The engine cooling water (engine cooling, lube oil and turbocharger intercooling) and the hot exhaust gas can be used for heat generation, e.g. for district heating or low-pressure steam.

In district heating systems with low return temperatures both sensible and latent heat in the exhaust gas can be recovered by using a condensing cooler as the final cooling of the flue gasses and a total efficiency of approx. 96-98% can be reached. If applying heat pumps for extra cooling of the exhaust gas system, 5-7% higher total efficiency can be reached. The flue gas heat pumps can be electrical or absorption type.

Two combustion concepts are available for spark ignition engines; lean-burn and stoichiometric combustion engines. Lean-burn engines have a high air/fuel-ratio. The combustion temperature and hence the NOx emission is thereby reduced. The engines can be equipped with oxidation catalysts for CO-reduction.

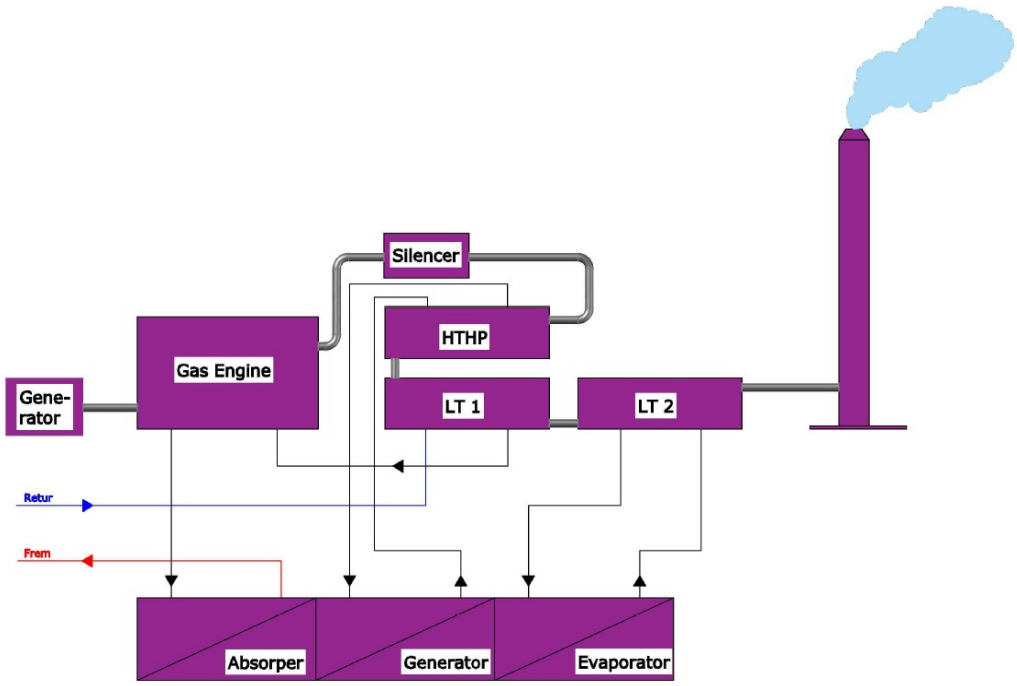
In stoichiometric combustion engines, the amount of air is just sufficient for (theoretically) complete combustion. For this technology, the NOx emission must be reduced in a 3-way catalyst. Only few of such engines are used for combined heat and power production in Denmark. These engines are usually in the lowest power range (< 150 kWe).

Pre-chamber lean-burn combustion system is a common technology for engines with a bore size typically larger than 200 mm. This technology helps to maximize electrical efficiency and increases combustion stability along with low NOx emissions.

Another ignition technology is used in dual-fuel engines. A dual-fuel engine (diesel-gas) with pilot oil injection is a gas engine that - instead of spark plugs - uses a small amount of light oil (1 - 6%) to ignite the air-gas mix by compression (as in a diesel engine). Dual fuel engines can often operate on diesel oil alone as well as on gas with pilot oil for ignition.

More than 800 gas engines for combined heat and power production are installed in Denmark [4].

Figure 1 A gas engine based cogeneration unit with heat recovery boilers and an absorption heat pump to obtain a high heat production and highest possible overall efficiency. The heat pump is steam driven [9].



Input

Gas, e.g. natural gas, biogas, landfill gas, special gas and syngas (from thermal gasification) can be input to gas engines. Multi-fuel engines are also on the market, and installations are in service in Denmark and abroad.

In recent years, engines have been developed to use gasses with increasingly lower heating values.

Output

Electricity and heat (district heat; low-pressure steam; industrial drying processes; absorption cooling) are output of the gas engine.

Typical capacities

5 kW_e - 10 MW_e per engine.

Regulation ability and other power system services

Gas engines can start faster than most other electricity production technologies. For many engines 5-15 minutes are needed. Large gas engines have been successfully developed and tested for start to full electrical load in less than one minute. Engines have been developed for fuel switch during operation [7].

Part load is possible with only slightly decreased electric efficiency. The dual-fuel engines have the least decrease of efficiency at part load. Gas engines have better part load characteristics than gas turbines.

To operate a gas engine in power-only mode, the exhaust gas can be emitted directly to the atmosphere without heat extraction (but with de-NOx if required), whereas engine heat (about 50% of total heat) must be removed by a cooler. Approximately 10% of O&M costs can be saved in power-only mode [7].

Most gas engine based CHP plants installations include a short time heat storage. This leads to more flexibility in production planning.

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages
Gas engines are known and proven technology making it a highly reliable technology.

Gas engines can operate on moderate gas pressures. Gas engines can be supplied by a gas pressure of less than 1 bar(g). The pre-chamber lean-burn technology often requires a pressure for the pre-chambers of approx. 4 bar(g).

Disadvantages
Gas engines cannot be used to produce considerable amounts of high-pressure steam, as approx. 50 % of the waste heat is released at lower temperatures.

Environment

Spark ignition engines comply with national regulations within EU by using catalyst and/or lean-burn technology to reduce the NOx emission.

The content of other air pollutants than NOx in the flue gas from a gas engine is generally low.

Research and development perspectives

Multi-fuel or flexible fuel operation has been introduced, and R&D efforts are continuously put into this. Engines with almost instantaneous shift from gas to diesel and vice versa have been developed and demonstrated.

Short start-up, fast load response and other grid services are becoming more important as more fluctuating power sources are supplying power grids. Gas engines have a potential for supplying such services, and R&D efforts are put into this.

R&D in further emission reduction is continuously taking place; biogas and other such gasses may lead to new catalytic post treatment solutions.

Examples of market standard technology

Best available technology from an efficiency point of view will be a large gas engine with approx. 48-50 % electrical efficiency and a total fuel efficiency of some 106% if fitted with an absorption heat pump using the outlet flue gas as heat source.

Engine based cogeneration units can be fitted with a small low pressure steam turbine for extra power generation.

From a grid service point of view (power balancing and backup) engines with a start to full electrical load in less than one minute is the best available technology.

Prediction of performance and costs

Cogeneration based on gas engines is a proven and commercial technology in Denmark and abroad. Development still takes place mostly related to advanced control and diagnostic systems, making gas engines a category 4 technology. Development also takes place related to efficiency improvements, auxiliary equipment as heat pumps and/or heat driven cooling systems (tri-generation).

Gas engines are now being developed for wider acceptance of various fuel compositions. This includes operation on upgraded biogas.

Even higher electrical production efficiency can be reached by including small low pressure steam turbines to the shaft. This is being tested and supplied to some larger gas engine makes; it improves the mechanical/electrical efficiency by 2-4 percentage points.

A number of gas engine based cogeneration plants have increased their heat output and the total overall efficiency by including heat driven absorption heat pumps in the cogeneration system configuration. The outlet flue gas can be cooled to a temperature less than the available cooling water, and total efficiencies up to approx. 106% have been achieved.

For shorter start-up time services, new designs/solutions on the water side are needed to avoid sudden temperature disturbances in the heat supply.

The expected market in Denmark is limited and declining as well as the annual operation hours. This means that no significant reductions in investment and/or operation/maintenance cost are expected to be seen in the years to come.

Uncertainty

Uncertainty stated in the tables both covers differences related to the power span covered in the actual table and differences between the various products (manufacturer, quality level, extra equipment, service contract guarantees etc.) on the market.

A span for upper and lower product values is given for the year 2020 situation. No sources are available for the 2050 situation. Hence the values have been estimated by the authors.

Additional remarks

The information given in tables is for gas fired (n-gas and biogas) engines only. The natural gas basis is the natural gas supplied in Denmark according to regulations. The biogas basis is a methane/CO2 mixture (digestion of manure and/or industrial organic waste).

Introduction to Waste and Biomass plants

Due to large similarities the qualitative description of biomass and waste fired plants are presented with a common technology description. Also, the chapters describing combined heat and power (CHP) and heat only plants (HOP) for biomass and waste respectively have been merged in an effort to make the catalogue easier to read.

Contact information

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Reviewer: Niels Houbak

Publication date

March 2018

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
March 2020	09 Biomass section	Medium and Large scale wood chips boilers added. Text revised to incorporate new larger boilers. Revision of ash-content and lower heating value for wood chips.
January 2020	Introduction, biomass and waste sections	Text revised. PQ-diagrams for backpressure and extraction units added.
September 2018	Introduction, biomass and waste sections	Version 3: Updated introduction to waste and biomass and merging of CHP and HOP descriptions for waste and biomass respectively.

Qualitative description

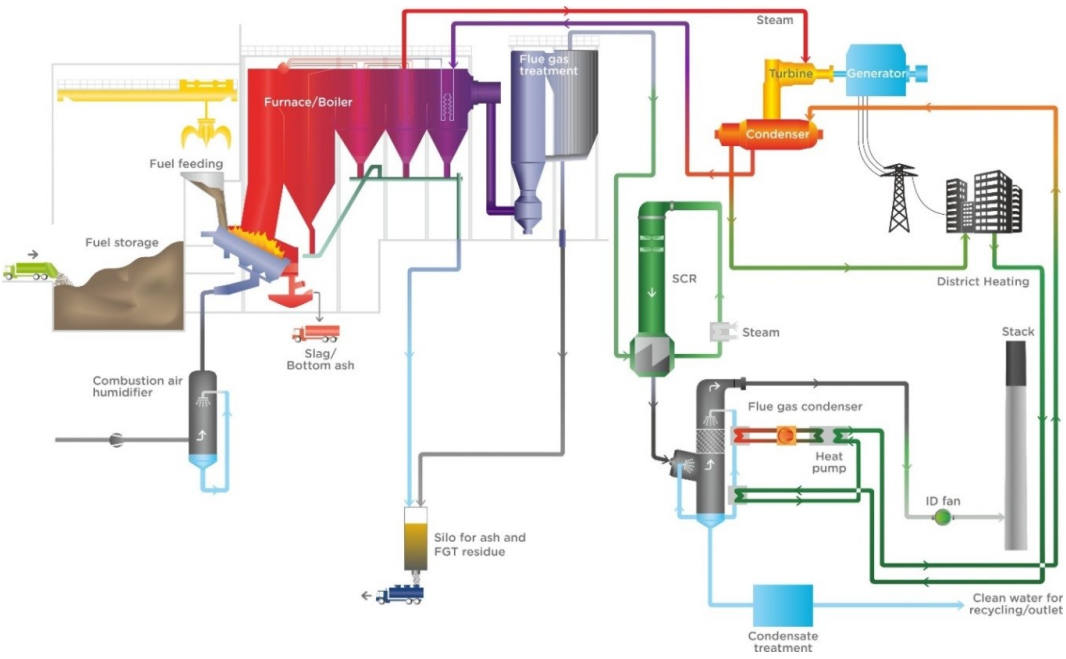
Brief technology description

The description includes technologies that have large similarities when used for CHP and HOP fired with biomass or waste, the latter named Waste-to-Energy (WtE) facility. The main systems are presented in Figure 9, illustrated by a WtE CHP facility.

The main systems of a biomass or waste fired CHP plant are:

- Fuel reception and storage area,
- Furnace or firing system including fuel feeding
- Steam boiler
- Steam turbine and generator,
- Flue gas treatment (FGT) system potentially including an SCR-system for NOx reduction
- Systems for handling of combustion and flue gas treatment residues
- Optional flue gas condensation system
- Optional combustion air humidification system

Figure 1 Main systems of a CHP (or Heat only) facility, example WtE CHP facility



In case of HOP, the steam boiler is replaced with a hot water boiler, and no turbine/generator set is included. Other main systems are in principle the same as for the CHP-plants. New Danish plants with a heat capacity >1 MW are currently required to be designed as CHP [6]. This requirement for combined heat and power production is debated and changes in legislation must be checked up on.

Input

Wood chips, wood pellets and straw are considered for biomass plants. Other types of biomass e.g. other forest residues; sawdust and nut shells may be relevant as energy source, while different fuels set different technical requirements for the plant, these differences will not be addressed.

Waste to energy (WtE) facilities receive non-recyclable municipal solid waste (MSW), commercial waste and certain fractions of industrial waste and construction & demolition waste. It may also include refuse derived fuel (RDF), for instance imported from the United Kingdom. Certain types of hazardous waste may be included but dedicated hazardous waste plants are not covered here. More on fuel follows in the respective chapters on WtE and biomass.

Fuel reception and storage

The fuel is received by ship or lorry. Storage is usually available on site for a minimum of two days full load operation. For wood chips and wood pellets the fuel storage will typically have a capacity of 1-2 weeks. Straw is received in bales and stored in an enclosed building in order to avoid exposure to moisture; wood pellets are stored in a closed silo; wood chips may be stored outside, but often under roof to limit exposure to rain. The investment costs in the datasheets for biomass include two days' storage, only. In many cases the optimal fuel storage capacity would be larger. Therefore, specific cost of fuel storage per day in excess of 2 days is listed separately in the datasheet.

Waste is received and stored in a closed building to avoid escape of odour and it is unloaded into a dedicated bunker from where a grab brings it to the feeding hopper. The bunker would usually be sized for 4 days of operation.

Furnace

The furnace is where the fuel is injected, dried, pyrolyzed and burnt and the energy content is converted to hot flue gas for subsequent uptake in the boiler. The typical furnace technologies can be divided into: grate firing, different types of fluidised beds (FB) and suspension firing, where the fuel is pulverized or chopped and blown into the furnace, optionally in combination with a fossil fuel.

Grate combustion is a well-established and robust technology with regard to using different types of biomass. It can be further divided into a number of subcategories, e.g. according to EN ISO 17225-1 Solid biofuels – Fuel specifications and Classes – Part 1: General requirements. There are examples of combined boiler technologies with both suspension- and grate firing. For geometrical reasons there is a limit to how big a grate fired plant can be constructed – of the order slightly below 200 MW thermal input.

Only a few biomass FB boilers exist in Denmark. Large FB boilers are of the type Circulating Fluid Bed (CFB) and they are typically used for CHP plants in situations where the plant size exceeds the maximum for grate firing. In particular, wood chips is an excellent fuel for FB boilers.

Alternatively, suspension firing is suitable for very large biomass power plants (substantially above 200 MW thermal input) and it requires a pulverisation of the fuel before it is fed into the furnace. Pulverisation of biomass is not an easy task but in particular pellets can be disintegrated into its finer particles using a (coal) mill. These particles are often adequate directly for combustion. Dust firing from milled wood pellets is widely used in e.g. Sweden for smaller plant down to approx. 50 MW thermal input.

WtE facilities in Denmark are all grate fired. At WtE plants an afterburning chamber ensures that temperature and residence time requirements are met. During boiler start-up biomass or auxiliary burners in the furnace fired by oil or gas are needed to ensure heating to the required temperature. During normal operation, no auxiliary fuel is added.

Typical sizes of furnace types are shown in the following table.

Table 1 Typical sizes of furnace technologies, BFB refers to bubbling fluidized bed, CFB to circulation fluidized bed and grate furnace have been further divided in three subcategories.

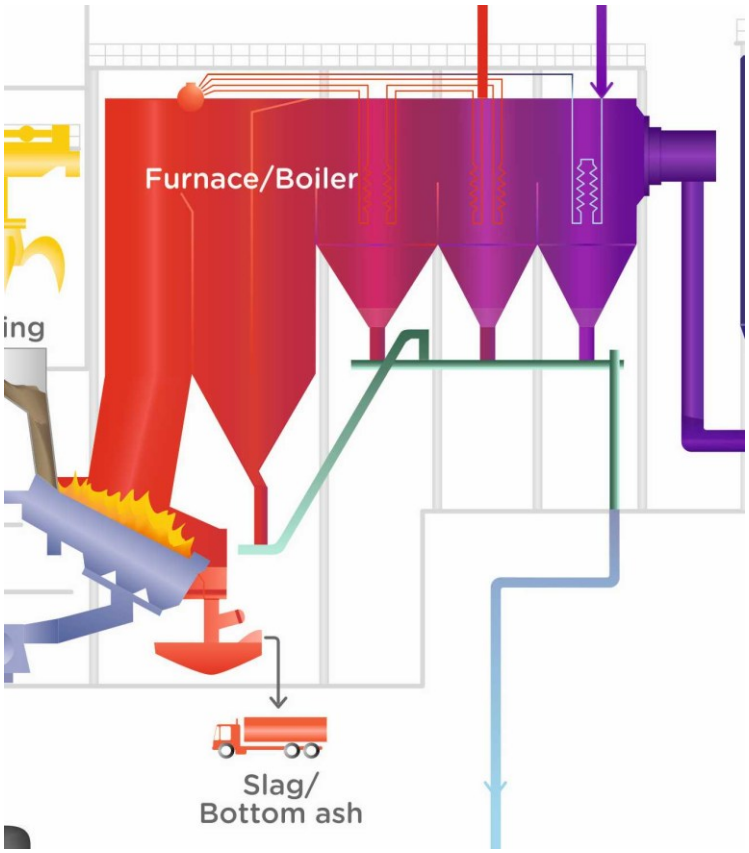
Boiler input	MW	1	2	5	10	20	50	100	200	500	1000
FB	BFB										
	CFB										
Grate	Traveling grate										
	Reciprocating grates										
	Vibrating Grate										
Dust fired											

Boiler

The boiler is where the energy content of the flue gas is transferred by heat exchange to the heat media, which is usually hot water and in case of CHP, water and steam. As flue gas passes through the boiler, it is cooled, and the heat media is heated by heat exchange. In a heat only boiler, water is heated to supply the necessary

district heating (DH) supply temperature, which is typically up to 90°C in Denmark for distribution networks and somewhat higher when the DH water is led to the transmission networks.

Figure 2 Furnace/boiler system



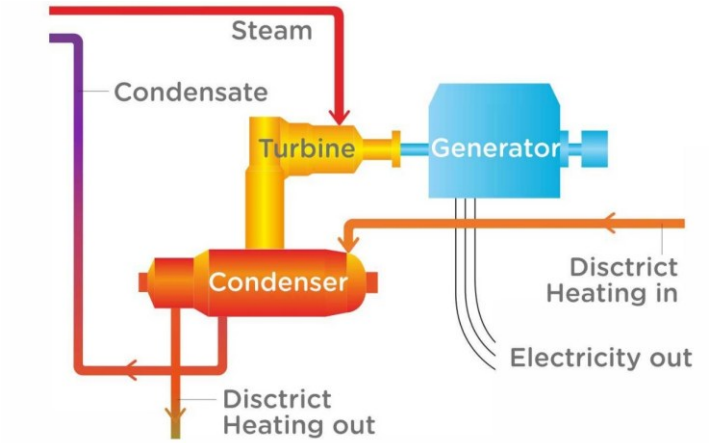
The output from the boiler of a CHP facility is superheated steam, i.e. steam that is heated above the boiling point. The plant includes feed water pumps supplying high pressure water to the boiler, an economiser, where the input water is heated towards the boiling temperature, evaporators, where the water is evaporated to steam, a drum vessel for separation of steam and water, and super heaters, where the steam is heated above the boiling temperature. Large biomass facilities may use different boiler types.

Turbine/generator

The turbine/generator set is only included in CHP (or power only) facilities. The superheated high-pressure steam from the boiler is led to the turbine where the energy content of the steam is converted to rotation energy in the turbine. Through its connection to the generator, the rotation energy is converted to electricity.

The temperature and pressure of the steam decrease as the steam drives the rotation of the turbine blades. The low-pressure steam is extracted from the turbine to DH condensers at the pressure and temperature levels that suit the requirements of the DH network. The condensation heat is delivered to the DH network. This is different from a power-only facility where condensation happens at lower temperatures and the heat of condensation is wasted, e.g. in an air-cooled condenser. The power efficiency of a CHP facility is therefore lower than the corresponding power-only facility, but the total efficiency is much higher. Power-only facilities are not included in the present technology sheets. The turbine- and generator system of a backpressure CHP is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Turbine/generator system of backpressure CHP



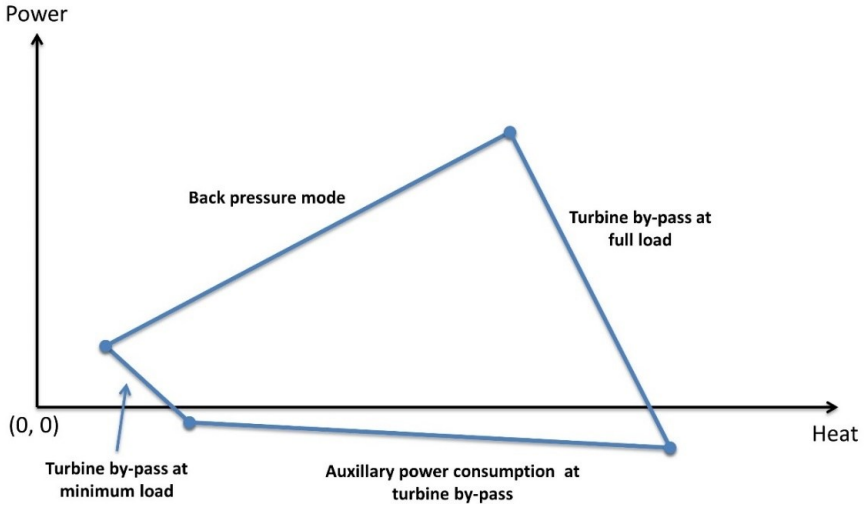
A steam extraction turbine is more complex and has two heat exchangers. One of them is connected to the DH network, similar to the case for the backpressure CHP, while the other exchanges heat to the surroundings (usually large water reservoirs are used in DK, e.g. sea water). The steam can be cooled in one of the heat exchangers (condensing- or backpressure mode) or in a combination of both (extraction mode).

Heat- and power diagrams (PQ-diagrams)

The heat- and power diagrams (PQ-diagram) for backpressure- and extraction CHPs differs due to their different turbine setups. They both share the option to co-produce electricity and heat to the DH network in backpressure pressure mode. In backpressure mode the ratio of electricity divided by heat and electricity is specified by the backpressure coefficient (cb).

The PQ-diagram for a generic backpressure CHP with the ability to by-pass the turbine is shown in Figure 4.

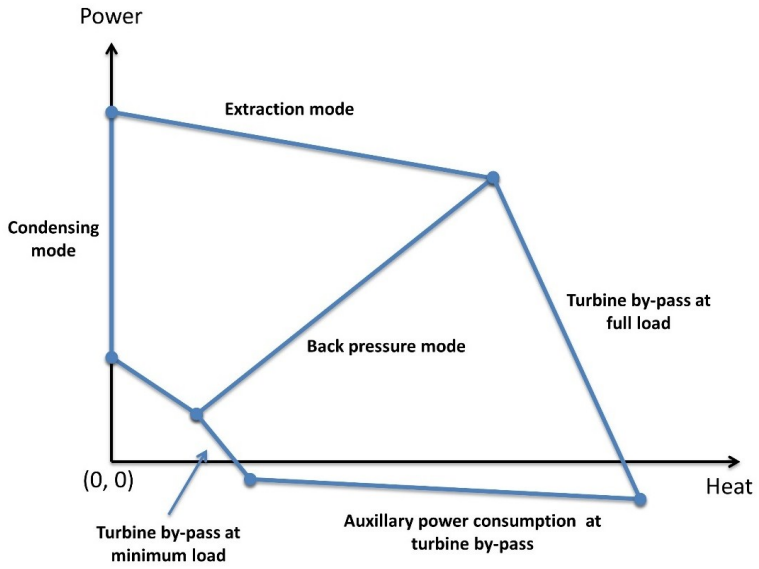
Figure 4 Generic PQ-diagram for backpressure CHP



The backpressure CHP can by-pass the turbine and produce heat only. As indicated in the figure, the net electricity output can also be negative when the turbine is completely disengaged. The electricity consumption at this point is given by the auxiliary power consumption.

The PQ-diagram for an extraction CHP is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5 Generic PQ-diagram for extraction CHP



The extraction unit is capable of operating both in backpressure and condensing mode as well as every combination in between. This enables a large degree of freedom in varying the electricity and heat generation. From the point of full production in condensing mode to full production in backpressure mode, the loss of electricity generation per unit of heat generated at fixed fuel input is given by the extraction coefficient (Cv).

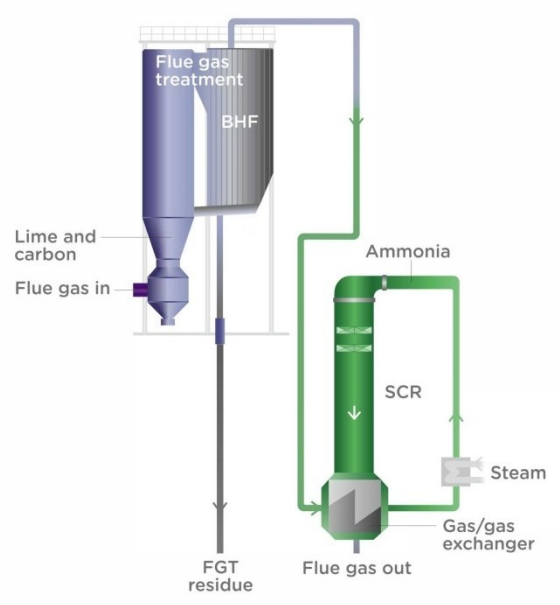
See Annex 1 for more information about steam extraction turbines.

Flue gas treatment (FGT)

The flue gas is treated to meet the emission requirements of biomass and waste, respectively. The FGT always includes a particle filter, either an electrostatic precipitator (ESP) or a bag house filter (BHF). Acid gases (HCl, SO_2 and HF) are mitigated in a dry or semi-dry process by injection of hydrated lime, for subsequent capture in a BHF, or in a wet scrubbing system. Using a wet scrubbing system reduces the amount of solid residue compared with the dry process, but effluent water must be treated before discharge to meet stringent emission levels. In WtE dioxin and mercury may be captured by injection of activated carbon.

NOx is mitigated by the SNCR or SCR process (SNCR and SCR are Selective Reduction of NOx by ammonia injection, by the respective Non-Catalytic or Catalytic process). The SNCR process works by injection of ammonia in the furnace at around 900°C. It has limited efficiency, and to meet stringent emission limit values it may be necessary to install the highly efficient catalytic SCR system. With biomass and waste an SCR system would usually be located downstream of the main FGT (tail-end) or at least downstream the particle filter to avoid that certain elements in in the flue gas deactivate the catalyst.

Figure 6 Flue gas treatment system (dry/semi-dry) including reactor with injection of hydrated lime, a bag house filter and an SCR system with gas/gas heat exchanger, steam reheater, ammonia injection and catalyst.



Handling of solid residues

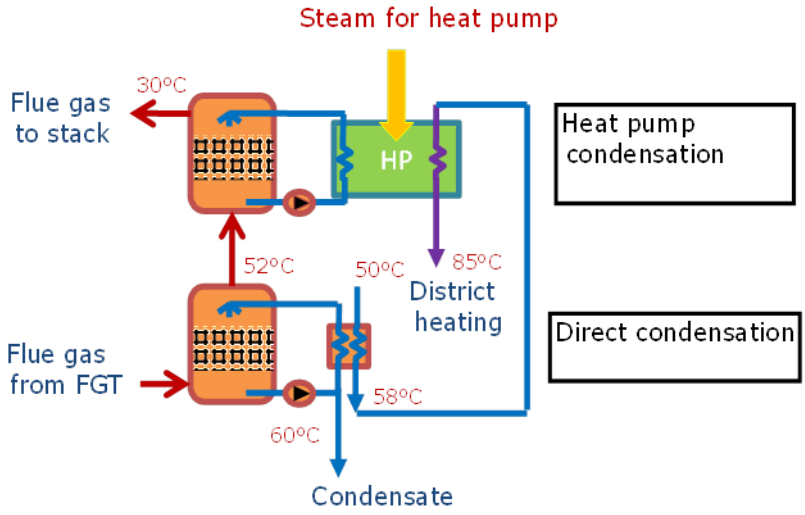
Solid residues include incombustible matter (ash) and flue gas treatment (FGT) residues. With biomass most of the ash is segregated in the boiler or particle filter and collected in a silo for disposal together with the FGT residue. In case of WtE the ash makes up 15-20% of input waste, and around 90% thereof leaves the facility as bottom ash, segregated from the furnace grate.

Flue gas condensation system

The flue gas condensation system is installed for increased heat recovery primarily through condensation of the water vapours of the flue gas. The energy efficiency could thereby be increased by more than 20%-point. Flue gas condensation is currently customary in WtE facilities and biomass fired facilities, particularly when using wood chips, waste, and similar relatively wet fuels.

Flue gas condensation may be arranged as a wet scrubbing system (Figure 13) in which the scrubbing liquid is cooled by heat exchange with DH water. The relatively cold DH water cools the scrubber and it is thereby heated. When the cooled scrubbing liquid meets the warmer flue gas that has been saturated with water vapour, the vapour condenses, thereby releasing the heat of condensation. The condenser may also be arranged with flue gas running in vertical tubes exchanging heat with DH water surrounding the tubes or plate heat exchangers in the flue gas path. The flue gas condensation system may be divided into two systems. First stage is direct condensation where heat recovery happens by direct heat exchange with DH water and in the second stage condensation is assisted by heat pumps. The heat recovery by direct condensation is limited by the DH return temperature. The lower the temperature, the higher the heat recovery. The heat pump allows cooling the flue gas and condensation of water vapour to quite low temperature (20-30°C), corresponding to very high energy recovery at the expense of driving energy for the heat pump (typically steam or electricity).

Figure 7 Flue gas condensation, direct and heat pump driven with 50°C DH return temperature, and typical WtE adiabatic scrubber temperature of 60°C.



In the datasheets, only direct condensation is included to the level limited by the DH return temperature of 40°C or 50°C, depending on the case. The heat pump condensation potential is listed separately ("Additional heat potential for heat pump (%)"), and not included in the listed efficiencies. Section *Total energy efficiency determination with flue gas condensation* below describes how to quantify the total efficiency for a biomass or WtE facility with flue gas condensation given a specific fuel and DH temperature.

Running the flue gas through several wet scrubbers of the flue gas condensation system contributes to reaching very low emissions of HCl, SO_2, dust, heavy metals and ammonia.

Condensate and wastewater treatment

Process waste water from a wet scrubber (if included) must be treated prior to discharge to the sewage system or the sea. In any case, stringent requirements apply, governed for instance by [7]. Treatment includes neutralisation, precipitation of heavy metal ions and filtering, and generation of a small amount of sludge.

Condensate from flue gas condensation has low content of salts and pollutants when the condensation system is located downstream the FGT-system. Condensate treatment includes reverse osmosis to yield very clean water useful for industrial applications including boiler make-up water and make-up water for the DH network. The net water production may significantly exceed the original fuel moisture content, due to water formed from hydrogen and oxygen during combustion. For relatively wet fuels the excess water may be more than 500 kg per tonne of fuel input.

The excess condensate is clean, virtually salt-free water and may be used for internal purposes such as boiler make-up water, for FGT and cooling of bottom ash, effectively replacing external water supply. It may also be considered a recovered resource to be used externally for covering water losses in the district-heating network and for industrial purposes. If this is not possible, excess cleaned condensate may be discharged to the sea or the local sewage system (at a cost). The amount of excess recovered condensate is listed in the tables and included in the variable operating cost, cf. financial section. Only internal consumption for make-up water supply of steam systems is subtracted in the listed values.

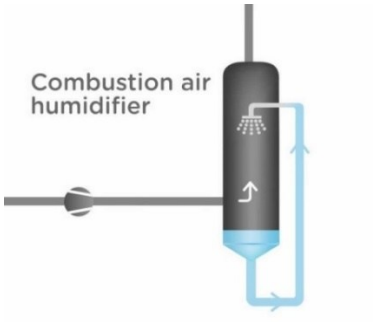
Combustion air humidification system

Combustion air humidification may to some extent substitute the use of heat pump driven condensation for increased heat production. Combustion air humidification works by adding water vapour to the combustion

air, thereby increasing the content of water vapour in the flue gas as it enters the flue gas condensation system, in turn increasing the heat output of the direct flue gas condensation. The energy needed to generate the water vapour input to the combustion air is recovered from the last stage of the flue gas condensation system, at the temperature level below the DH temperature. This low temperature heat, at e.g. 40°C, is used as heat source for evaporation of water in the combustion air humidification system.

The high-level effect of combustion air humidification is that the flue gas is cooled further than it is possible by heat exchange with the DH water, thereby representing an increase in energy recovery from the fuel. In the data tables it is assumed that combustion air humidification (if included) reduces the flue gas condensation temperature by 5°C and 8°C at DH return temperatures 40°C and 50°C, respectively. Currently no WtE facilities in Denmark are equipped with air humidification, but the system is customary in biomass fired facilities having flue gas condensation.

Figure 8 Combustion air humidifier, where water heated by a low-temperature source is evaporated into the combustion air flow.



The energy model for the technology datasheets

A new approach has been introduced to generate the data tables for the biomass and waste combined heat and power (CHP) and heat only plants in this version of the datasheets. Due to the technological similarities, a common model has been used to populate the sheets for biomass and waste. This ensures a better consistency of the data spanning many scenarios and feedstocks. It is believed that this will eliminate skewness caused by interpretation of reference data and differences in conditions for the reference plants, such as fuel and DH infrastructures.

The energy efficiency estimates in the datasheets were calculated using a thermodynamic model of flue gas energy recovery to steam and DH, including flue gas condensation [4]. A steam cycle model estimated the steam-to-power efficiency based on the steam parameters and turbine sizes. The same models were used to estimate efficiencies for the datasheets covering heat only and CHP plants for WtE as well as biomass plant types at all size ranges. The different performances are thus a consequence of different plant design data assumed in each case and the fuel properties.

Table 1 shows the basis plant design assumptions made for the “2015” scenarios for different feedstocks. Conservative and optimistic variations of these assumptions were made to produce the future, “Upper” and “Lower” performance data. For example, the electricity efficiency in “Lower” WtE would assume steam at 400°C/40bar and no combustion air humidification, while “Upper 2050” assume 500°C/90bar, which will require advances in the technology. For small-to-medium biomass plants, “Upper” electricity efficiency assumes the relatively low excess air level offered by the Dall boiler already today etc.

Table 2 Base assumptions for "2015" model CHP plants for energy performance estimation

Fuel	Waste	Wood chips	Wood pellets	Straw
Firing system	Grate	Grate/ CFB (large)	Suspension	Grate
Live steam, CHP	425°C/50 bar	540°C/90 bar	560°C/90 bar	540°C/90 bar
Flue gas temperature after steam boiler	160°C	130°C	130°C	130°C
Excess air ratio	1,5	1,3	1,3	1,3
Boiler losses other than flue gas (% of LHV)	2%	2%	2%	2%
Turbine losses (gear/generator) (% of gross power), CHP	3%	3%	3%	3%
Flue gas condensation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Combustion air humidification	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flue gas cleaning type	Wet	Dry	Dry	Dry
NOx abatement (small and medium size)	SNCR	SNCR	SNCR	SNCR
NOx abatement (large facilities)	SNCR	SNCR	SCR	SCR

The total efficiency of plants with flue gas condensation is calculated assuming "direct condensation", where the condensation heat is recovered directly with the available DH water without the use of heat pumps.

DH plants share base assumptions with the CHP plants, except that live steam parameters are not applicable, and the losses associated with a steam system and turbine/generator do not exist for these plants.

At some plants, condensation heat recovery is augmented by cooling the flue gas further, typically to 30°C using heat pumps. In the datasheets, the row "Additional heat potential for heat pump (%)" contains the additional heat that a heat pump would recover from the flue gas by cooling it further to 30°C. The so produced additional heat is the sum of this recovered amount of heat and any external driving energy (electricity or steam) supplied to drive the heat pump. The efficiencies listed in the data tables do not include the contribution from heat pump driven condensation, and the heat pump investments are not included in the listed investments.

As an example, the plant Amager Bakke would belong to the "Large WtE" plants with high DH temperature levels of 50/100°C. The 2015 data from the datasheets provide name plate values of 21.3% for power and 75.3% for heat, summing up to 96.6%. The additional heat from heat pumps is given as 10.0%, increasing the sum to 106.6%.

Without heat pumps, the actual design power efficiency of 25% at Amager Bakke is higher than the 21.3% that the tables suggest. This is mainly due to the high steam parameters (440°C/70bar), and the lower forward temperature of the actual DH water (85°C instead of the 100°C assumed in the tables). The total design efficiency is 95% without using heat pumps, which is on level with the 96.6% from the tables.

With heat pumps activated, the total efficiency at Amager Bakke reaches 107%. This is slightly higher than the 105.5 % in the tables, which is due to the flue gas being cooled to 20 °C instead of 30 °C, and some additional component cooling heat recovery is performed by the installed heat pumps as well. The power efficiency is reduced to 22.5% when using the heat pumps, mainly due to the transfer of driving steam for the heat pumps. The system coefficient of performance (COP) of the heat pump system is estimated at around 5.5, meaning that 5.5 MWh of heat is generated for one MWh reduction of electricity production.

The loss of power production caused by the steam consumption of the heat pumps is system specific and cannot be tabulated here. If electrically driven heat pumps had been used instead, the power production loss would be avoided, but instead the heat pump would consume power themselves. Please refer to the heat pump technology sheets for more information.

Total energy efficiency determination with flue gas condensation

Flue gas condensation is a technology that can significantly increase the heat efficiency of biomass and WtE plants by recovering the heat of condensation from water vapour in the flue gases. It is now implemented at the majority of the WtE plants (more than 70% of the installed capacity in 2018, [5]) and at most biomass plants in Denmark.

The heat of condensation is not included in the heating value definition of the lower heating value, LHV, which is usually used in Europe as basis for defining the energy input. Thus, total efficiencies based on LHV at plants with flue gas condensation may exceed 100%. Furthermore, the total efficiency of such plants can vary significantly for different fuels with different compositions and moisture contents when using the LHV as the basis.

For flue gas condensation the relevant heating value definition to describe the heat recovery and the total plant efficiency is the higher heating value (HHV), which takes into account the energy recovery potential from condensation. Thus, we will in the specific section below need to make references to the HHV. The rest of the technology data sections as well as all the data tables will refer to the usual LHV only. The total HHV-based efficiency of a given plant with flue gas condensation is almost the same for any fuel, when the flue gasses are cooled, and water vapour condensed to a certain temperature. The total HHV-based efficiency with flue gas condensation depends mainly on the temperature of the DH return water, which is used to recover the low temperature heat through heat exchange.

Figure 15 shows the HHV-based total gross efficiency for typical biomass plants and WtE plants. This curve is generally applicable to such plants, for CHP as well as heat only configurations. Biomass plants with flue gas condensation have slightly higher HHV-based gross efficiencies because they typically operate with lower excess air ratios and have lower ash loss than WtE plants. The dashed boiler efficiency indications in Figure 15 show the no-condensation lower efficiency limit, which is fuel specific. Wood chips were selected for the example to give a low lower limit.

Figure 9. Total HHV-based efficiency estimates for WtE plants[1] and biomass plants[2] given varying DH return temperatures [5] – or temperature of the cold media of a heat pump.

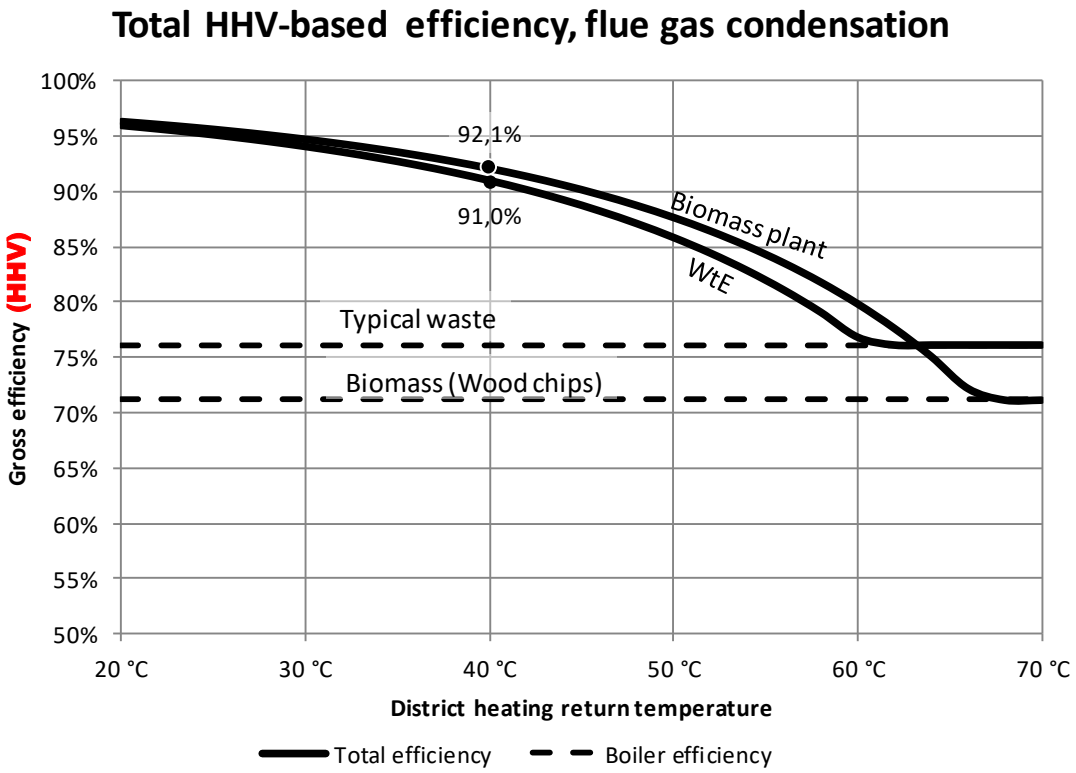


Figure 15 can be used generally with good accuracy to estimate the total efficiency (based on HHV) of a WtE or solid biomass plant equipped with flue gas condensation, based only on the available DH return temperature. The estimate is even valid for marginal efficiencies of single waste fractions such as organic waste, paper, plastics etc. The conversion to the usual LHV-based total efficiency is straight-forward. As an example, typical municipal solid waste with a LHV of 10.6 MJ/kg and a HHV of 12.2 MJ/kg treated at a plant with flue gas condensation fed with 40°C DH water would according to Figure 15 have a total efficiency of 91.0% based on HHV. This can be calculated to the LHV-based gross total energy efficiency as: $91.0\% \cdot \frac{12.2\ \text{MJ/kg}}{10.6\ \text{MJ/kg}} = 104.7\%$. For wet organic waste with a HHV of 6.5 MJ/kg and LHV of 4.4 MJ/kg treated at the same plant, gross total energy efficiency would be $91.0\% \cdot \frac{6.5\ \text{MJ/kg}}{4.4\ \text{MJ/kg}} = 134.9\%$. Table 2 shows examples of gross total efficiencies calculated the same way for different fuels at WtE and biomass plants connected to DH networks with return temperatures of 50, 40 and 30°C.

[1] Assumptions for WtE: Excess air ratio λ=1.5. Ash content 25% of dry matter. Flue gases cooled to 2°C above the DH return temperature. The efficiencies may not exactly match the ones listed in the data-tables due to slight differences in preconditions.

[2] Assumptions for biomass: Excess air ratio λ=1.3. Wood chips with an ash content of 2% of dry matter. Flue gases cooled to 2°C above the DH return temperature. The efficiencies may not exactly match the ones listed in the data-tables due to slight differences in preconditions.

Table 3 Gross total efficiencies for different fuels at biomass and waste fired plants with access to different DH return temperatures using flue gas condensation

Gross total efficiencies with flue gas condensation	Heating value		Total efficiency (LHV)		
WtE configuration HHV boiler efficiency (from Figure 7)			*85.8%*	*91.0%*	*94.1%*
Mixed waste 10.6 GJ/t (31% moisture)	10.6	12.2	**98.8%**	**104.7%**	**108.3%**
Organic waste (70% moisture)	4.4	6.5	**127.3%**	**134.9%**	**139.5%**
Green waste (50% moisture)	9.5	11.5	**103.4%**	**109.6%**	**113.3%**
Paper	11.1	12.6	**97.4%**	**103.3%**	**106.8%**
Plastic	35.0	37.5	**91.9%**	**97.5%**	**100.8%**
Biomass configuration HHV boiler efficiency (from Figure 7)			*87.7%*	*92.1%*	*94.7%*
Wood chips (50% moisture)	8.1	10.0	**107.7%**	**113.1%**	**116.3%**
Wood chips (40% moisture)	10.3	12.0	**102.5%**	**107.7%**	**110.8%**
Wood pellets (5% moisture)	17.7	19.0	**94.3%**	**99.0%**	**101.9%**
Straw (11% moisture)	15.0	16.4	**95.8%**	**100.6%**	**103.5%**

At some plants, large heat pumps have been installed to supply condenser cooling water at even lower temperatures than the DH return temperature in order to further increase the heat recovery. In these cases, the total efficiency can still be read from Figure 15 by replacing the DH return temperature on the x-axis by the (lower) chilled water temperature from the heat pump. The use of a heat pump to extend the flue gas condensation is considered an add-on, the feasibility of which is judged as a separate project (cf. technology sheets on heat pumps). The heat pump constitutes most of the necessary additional investment.

Even higher total efficiencies can be achieved by recovering the heat from component cooling at the plant, which is usually lost. This would require the use of heat pumps. Recovery of component cooling energy is being implemented both at the WtE plants Amager Bakke and Fjernvarme Fyn in Odense during 2017, both reaching total net total efficiencies around 105-110 %.

All efficiencies in the main data tables of all ENS technology data sheets are given based on the usual LHV basis for the specifically assumed waste and biomass composition. Given other waste or biomass compositions, the total efficiency at plants with flue gas condensation is much more accurately estimated using the table or procedure described above with the given fuel. The power efficiency should however be taken directly from the technology data sheets, as it is not significantly affected by flue gas condensation.

Financial data

Investment

The CAPEX is based on green-field construction and the investment cost includes engineering, procurement and construction, in which a lot-based tendering approach is selected to reach a turn-key plant. This approach is in accordance with the most common practice in Denmark.

The pricing reference and distribution of cost between contract nominal price and project cost is based on tendering in relatively large lots, including a separate civils lot and 3 major M&E lots, e.g. furnace/boiler, flue gas treatment and turbine/generator. There may be some minor lots to make the balance of plant. The typical civils cost is 30% of total construction cost and project cost typically amounts to 15% of total construction cost (total construction cost excluding project cost).

The project cost includes:

- Owner's organisation
- Owner's or consultants' fees related to procurement, and design, construction and commissioning surveillance
- Insurances
- Contingencies
- Hedging of currency exchange rates related to contracts
- Utilities connections etc. (power, water, district-heating)
- Roads, manoeuvring space and parking on site for staff and visitors
- Visitor facilities, basic to accommodate school classes and the like.

Following costs are not included:

- Land acquisition – and preparation
- Pre-development cost
- Approvals, environmental and others
- Infrastructure outside site (roads, power connections, district-heating piping, sewage)
- Financing cost other than specifically included above
- Interest payments during construction
- Any cost related to operation after take-over
- Financial risk element associated with acquisition of waste (waste is assumed available)
- Financial risk element associated with sale of heat and power (sale opportunity of power is considered available, and 100% sale of heat is considered available in the heating season, 5000-6000 h/y, but there may be limited sale in the summer)
- Demolition of existing constructions on site
- Site preparation such as relocation of infrastructure elements (e.g. gas-, water- and DH-piping, sewage systems, electric cables, etc.)
- Adaptions to a restricted footprint of the available site, e.g. brown-field plants and construction in proximity to cites.
- Particular architectural features and designs.
- Particular visitor facilities other than basic.

For EPC–contracts, i.e. contracts in which the entire plant includes engineering and commissioning is contracted as a turn-key project, the CAPEX is estimated as roughly unchanged or slightly higher. There could be higher cost to allow for the Contractor's project management and assumed risk compared to a lot-based approach, but particularly at small plants this may be counteracted by savings if the Contractor has experiences with working closely together with sub-suppliers. At larger plants the owner would often prefer to procure the plant in lots to ensure control of the technical specification and execution of major subsystems and the civils works. In such cases using an EPC contract may release some additional cost. The cost also depends on the risk allocation and the details of the technical description of the tender documents.

In summary the additional cost of an EPC contract is estimated as 0-10%. This only relates to a lot-based approach compared with an EPC-contract in the construction of a plant. The plant ownership, the owner's responsibility for the operation and the other risk elements described above must not be affected by the contracting approach.

Comparing heat-only plants (HOP) with CHP plants will show relatively large difference in investment costs expressed in €/MW input. This is because CAPEX for CHP plants will include a steam boiler with associated high-pressure systems, steam turbine with auxiliary equipment, a generator with step-up transformer, switchyard, control system etc. and a steam turbine/generator building, which a HOP does not require.

Furthermore, when comparing investment costs expressed as €/MW input for the same category, e.g. wood chip fired HOP, this will show a declining trend as unit size increase and the decline will typically be greatest for small plants up to say 30-40 MW fired capacity after which it will even out to an almost constant figure.

The investment costs are also influenced by legislative requirements for emission to air which will shift depending on heat input. For biomass fired plants more stringent requirements come into force when the heat input is 50 MW or higher which will require more sophisticated flue gas cleaning equipment and may also increase O&M costs.

Operation and Maintenance

O&M-costs are composed of the following components in relation to their dependence on plant production:

Variable O&M:

- Consumables (water, lubricants, oils, chemicals, additives, absorbents, etc.)
- Effluent charges for disposal of condensate from flue gas condenser
- Electricity consumption (lighting excluded as this appears as auxiliary electricity consumption)
- Temporary staff
- Other

Fixed O&M:

- Administration cost, tests (e.g. R&D, office equipment and utensils, utilities, vehicles, cleaning, etc.)
- Operating staff
- Maintenance staff
- Planned and unplanned maintenance costs (spare and wear parts, tools and scaffolding, external work force, etc.)
- Service agreements
- Property taxes
- Network and system charges
- Insurances
- Other

O&M costs are high-level estimates based on experience rather than detailed analyses of cost elements shown in above lists. As for CAPEX estimates O&M costs for a greenfield, stand-alone plant is envisaged

meaning that any resources or facilities potentially shared with other units are not considered. In case of plants established as extension to existing and similar plants, where shared manning, O&M facilities and partly unmanned/remote operation are good opportunities, substantial cost reductions can be obtained, but such cases need to be analysed individually to quantify.

Fixed O&M costs are estimated with the following elements:

- fixed maintenance cost for process plant (M&E) calculated as 2% p.a. of the M&E CAPEX
- fixed maintenance cost for civil structures calculated as 1% p.a. of civil CAPEX,
- other fixed O&M costs estimated individually for all scenarios,
- fixed staff for a stand-alone plant with permanent manning of control room and including staff administrative tasks.

Variable O&M costs are estimated with the following elements:

- consumables used for the specific case,
- estimated costs for disposal of excess recovered condensate from flue gas condenser,
- other variable O&M costs for the specific case covering the rest in above list.

Excess recovered condensate is included in the data tables and included as variable operating cost at a rate of 1 € per tonne of water. The variable cost is very dependent on the opportunities available locally. It may be zero if internal or external use could be the off-taker, or if outlet to the sea (or another recipient) is possible. In case of discharge to the local public sewage system, the unit pricing is locally dependent and dependent on annual volume. It would usually be in the range 1.5-4 € per tonne of water.

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08 WtE CHP and HOP plants

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Publication date
March 2018

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
February 2023	08 WtE CHP and HOP	Updated info on operation of Amager Bakke power plant
January 2020	08 WtE CHP and HOP	Revised qualitative- and quantitative description. Among adjustments in datasheets are efficiencies, distribution between variable and fixed O&M and notes. Addition of 50/100 °C datasheets for large backpressure units
September 2018	08 Waste CHP and HOP	Updated qualitative description and merging of CHP and HOP descriptions

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

WtE plants incinerate waste and produce energy. HOP's produce only heat, while CHP's also produce electricity.

Flue gas condensation technology was introduced at WtE plants in Denmark in 2004 and has been installed in every new built WtE line in Denmark since 2007. It recovers the heat of condensation of the flue gas content of water vapour. The heat i.e. recovered as low temperature heat and thereby increases the energy efficiency by additional 10-25%-points for mixed waste.

Common technology description for biomass and WtE is found in Introduction to Waste and Biomass plants. Also, flue gas condensation, combustion air humidification, fuels and an improved energy model for technology data is described there.

Input

The fuels used in WtE plants include mainly municipal solid waste (MSW) and other combustible non-recyclable wastes. Biomass may be used mainly for starting up and closing down. Some plants in Denmark are feeding green waste from gardens and parks and challenging forest residues such as stubs. In addition, imported Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) may be used as fuel. Other fuels include gasoil or natural gas for burners used mainly for start-up.

The fuel, waste, is characterised by being heterogeneous having large variation in physical appearance, heating value and chemical composition. The heating value of the waste fed to the furnace is a result of controlled mixing of available waste sources fed to the bunker of the WtE facility. It is usually in the range 7-15 MJ/kg, typically averaging 10-11 MJ/kg, referring to the lower heating value, LHV. For instance, the average heating value was 9.5 MJ/kg varying from 8-11 MJ/kg in 2014 in the WtE facility owned by Amager Resource Center (ARC) in the Copenhagen area. At the time ARC had about 50% waste from trade and industry, which is a high ratio in Denmark [2].

The table below shows the trend of the heating value at Vestforbrænding I/S – the largest MSW plant in Denmark, and also located in the Copenhagen area.

Table 1 Development of lower heating value at Vestforbrænding, Denmark. [3]

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
MJ/kg	10.32	10.30	9.80	10.0	10.4

The heating value of the waste received at the WtE plants may be affected by increased focus on recycling, which on one hand may divert organic waste with relatively low heating value and on the other hand divert plastics, paper and wood with relatively high heating value. Many Danish WtE plants are importing RDF waste with relatively high heating value.

Output

The products from WtE CHP plants are electricity and heat as steam, hot (> 110°C) or warm (< 110°C) water.

The output from WtE HOP is hot water for district heat or low-pressure steam for industrial purposes. The energy efficiency of the WtE plant has increased over the last decade, driven by focus on combustion control, limiting the flue gas temperature at boiler exit and the excess air level, assisted by the increased use of flue gas condensation [7] and [8]. The total energy efficiency is identical for heat and CHP plants, except that for HOP some minor heat losses in the generator and turbine gearbox of the CHP plant is avoided. The heat production from a HOP is thus identical (or slightly higher) than the sum of produced electricity and heat from an equivalent CHP plant.

In case of flue gas condensation, excess condensate (which represents up to 50% of mass input of waste) may be upgraded to high quality water useful for technical purposes such as boiler water or for covering water losses of the district-heating network.

Typical capacities

The capacity of a WtE plant is typically in the range 10-35 tonnes of waste per hour, corresponding to a thermal input of approx. 30 - 110 MW. The furnace capacity is limited to around 120 MW thermal input at the current state of development.

WtE HOPs are typically relatively small with a capacity of 5-15 tonnes of waste per hour, corresponding to a thermal input in the range 15-50 MW.

The initial costs for WtE CHP plants are so high that smaller plants (< 5-10 t waste/h) are rarely financially attractive. The typical production line has a capacity of 10-35 t waste/h. More lines are installed if required. In Scandinavia WtE plants are typically located close to larger cities with a district heating system and they are designed to treat the waste amounts produced in the vicinity. During periods where local waste generation is below the treatment capacity, it is possible to supplement with waste from other regions, including imported

waste (as RDF). The size of the moving grate defines the upper limit waste mass capacity for each boiler line (approximately 40 t waste/h).

Regulation ability and other power system services

The CHP plants can be down regulated to about 70 % of the nominal capacity. Below the limit the boiler may not be capable of providing adequate steam quality and compliance with the requirement of high temperature residence time of the flue gas, cf. environmental section. WtE plants are preferably operated as base load due to high initial investments and that longer term storage of some types of waste is problematic and therefore it must be incinerated continuously. This also ensures continuous district-heating supply. In order to be able to maintain a waste treatment capacity (and heat supply) during outages WtE plants are sometimes built as 2 (or more) parallel lines instead of one large unit depending on alternative disposal options of waste.

Most CHP facilities are constructed with fully flexible and fast reacting electricity production meaning that the turbine may be taken in or out of operation through the use of a turbine by-pass, which may also be used partly. When the turbine is out, the output is 100% heat for district-heating, and furnace/boiler operation continues unaffected. Turbine operation can usually be maintained down to around 15% of nameplate load.

Advantages/disadvantages

A WtE plant is not just an energy producing unit but a multi-purpose facility. Main purpose is the treatment of waste by which the waste is sterilised, and its mass and volume are greatly reduced. Compared to landfilling and anaerobic digestion the WtE prevents emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from the waste handling.

Recovery of energy from waste is a main feature for resource recovery as part of the circular economy system for waste. It provides the opportunity of recovering resource from wastes that are not recyclable, e.g. contaminated waste, rejects from recycling operations and wastes that are too demanding to recycle [14].

The energy recovery process also provides the opportunities of recovering secondary raw materials from waste such as metals eventually replacing virgin metals produced from excavated metal ore. Metals (including iron, steel, aluminium and copper) are recovered from the bottom ashes. Metals contained in compound waste products that would otherwise be difficult to recycle may be recycled after the thermal treatment in the WtE facility. The remaining bottom ash is used as aggregate for road construction. Furthermore, clean water may be recovered as a result of flue gas condensation.

The disadvantage is that a polluted, corrosive flue gas is formed, requiring extensive treatment, and that the flue gas treatment generates residues usually classified as hazardous waste. The capital costs are relatively high due to the flue gas treatment system, other environmental requirements, the heterogeneous nature of the fuel and corrosive properties of the flue gas. The corrosive nature of the flue gas also limits the permissible steam data to approximately 40 - 70 bar and 400-440°C [10] and hence the net power efficiency to around 20-30%. Due to the corrosive flue gasses the hottest parts of new boilers are often coated with expensive corrosion resistant alloys (Inconel).

The main advantage of a WtE HOP compared to a WtE CHP plant is lower investment and maintenance costs.

The main disadvantage of a WtE HOP is the lack of electricity sale and thus lower energy sales revenue and higher dependence on the sale of energy at the local heat market.

Environment

The environmental impact includes emissions to air and water, bottom ash (slag), and residues from flue gas treatment, including fly ash. Bottom ash making up around 15% of the mass input of waste is sorted to recover metals for recycling and production of aggregates for road construction.

Flue gas treatment residues and fly ash (totalling around 2-4% of the mass input of waste) are treated, e.g. through neutralisation with similar acid residues, and stored in a geologically stable underground deposit designed for the purpose. If the flue gas is treated by wet methods, there may also be an output of chloride containing waste water, which is treated at the plant to a purity that fulfils the requirements for discharge to the municipal sewerage system or to the sea. The discharged chloride salt substitutes deposition of a large quantity of solid residue.

On the positive side the recovered energy replaces energy produced from other resources and the emissions from this production, and recovered metals replace metals production from virgin ore.

Excess condensate from flue gas condensation may be considered a secondary raw material recycled for replacing water for technical purposes such as covering losses of district-heating networks to which the energy system is attached. The flue gas condensation system is usually located downstream of the flue gas treatment system, making the condensate low in salts and pollutants when leaving the condenser. The condensate could be treated further by electro deionization (EDI) and reverse osmosis to reach the quality required for its subsequent use or discharge to sensitive water recipients.

The air emissions from energy recovery of waste must comply with the environmental permit setting limit values on a range of pollutants including dust, CO, total organic carbon (TOC), HCl, SO_2, HF, NO_x, heavy metals and dioxins/furans. The limit values are based on the EU Industrial Emissions Directive (IED, [15]) of 2010 and the EU reference note on best available techniques for waste incineration (BAT-reference note or BREF [1]) supplemented by assessment of local conditions. Energy recovery also involves the generation of climate-relevant emissions of which mainly CO_2, and N_2O may be contributors. Methane, CH_4, is not emitted in in any significant amount. It is destroyed in the combustion process and its potential emission included under the restrictive limit value of TOC.

Waste is a mixture of CO_2 neutral biomass and products of fossil origin, which are mostly plastics. The CO_2-emission from energy recovery of plastics is defined as fossil CO_2 emitted from the WtE-facility. Typically, 32% ±5% of the emitted CO_2 originates from fossil sources [3].

A typical emission factor for fossil CO_2 is 37.0 kg/GJ (LHV-basis) for the waste mixture currently incinerated in Denmark.

The IED includes a residence time requirement of the hot flue gas, meaning that the flue gas must be heated to min. 850°C for at least 2 seconds after the last air injection. This is to ensure conditions for complete burnout of the combustible gases and hence, ensure low emissions of CO, TOC and dioxins. HCl, HF and SO_2 are captured in the course of flue gas treatment and leave the facility in the solid flue gas treatment residue in the case of a dry or semi-dry FGT process. In case HCl, HF and SO_2 are removed by wet processes, the chloride in HCl will instead leave the facility in a chloride containing wastewater stream, which is treated to fulfil the local water emission limit values in addition to the IED limit values.

In general, political and economic framework conditions define the emission limits from WtE. A revised BAT reference note has been published in draft in 2017. The implications in terms of revised environmental requirements in the final version are uncertain.

Decision on pollutant abatement technology and hence, emission levels, are also affected by taxation. Currently (2018) emission tax is imposed on NOx and SO_2.

Technical development in deNOx-technology and gradually more stringent emission requirements are expected to lower emissions of NOx for new facilities.

The solid residues from treatment of flue gas and wastewater are classified as hazardous wastes and they are usually treated before they are placed in an underground storage for hazardous waste (cf. Council Decision 2003/33) [17].

Research and development perspectives

The electrical efficiency of WtE CHPs may be increased with higher steam temperature and pressure. However, this may reduce the lifetime of the super-heater, due to corrosion by chloride and other aggressive ingredients in the flue gas, thereby increasing super-heater replacement rates and/or decreasing the operational availability. Simple solutions, which are common in the US, are to replace the super-heater regularly, and to protect the super-heater with a layer of Inconel, a corrosion resistant alloy. Another solution is to use a clean fuel (e.g. natural gas or self-produced gas) for heating an external super-heater, as implemented at MEC Bioheat & Power (formerly 'Måbjergværket') , Holstebro. A novel proposed solution ("Steamboost" being developed by company Babcock & Wilcox Vølund) is to separate a less corrosive part of the flue gas from the last part of the furnace. An additional high temperature superheater installed in this flue gas can increase the steam temperature from the usual 400-440 °C to 480 °C. Operating at a higher temperature the new superheater will increase the electricity efficiency by 3-6 percentage points [12].

Technology with net power efficiency 25% is available now (up to 30% for power-only) but the future development is depending on the price on electrical power, which is currently low in Denmark. New plants are optimised for best net present value over the planning period which currently makes it unattractive to strive for very high power efficiency considering the increased capital cost and risk of corrosion. Optimisation may even question the concept of CHP compared to heat only boilers, depending on forecast of electricity prices and heat market availability and pricing. In Denmark, Scandinavia and other countries having district heating systems we expect the total energy efficiency to increase in the future due to increased penetration of flue gas condensation possibly augmented by combustion air humidification, and decreasing return temperatures from the district heating (please, refer to Examples of best available technology).

Other energy conversion technologies may find its place such as organic rankine cycle (ORC), the use of which may significantly reduce the capital cost of a plant at the expense of some percent points of power generation efficiency.

Combustion air humidification is a method to increase the energy recovery by flue gas condensation without using a heat pump, as described in the Introduction to Waste and biomass. This technology is in successful use in several biomass plants in particularly Sweden and Finland. Combustion air humidification is expected to be introduced at the first WtE plant in Denmark within a few years.

Similarly, the amount of hazardous waste (fly ash and flue gas cleaning residue) may be reduced by optimisation of the overall process. In addition, treatment of residues may be further developed for recovery of salts and metals Zinc, in particular. Treatment may also render the residue non-hazardous easing the landfilling and possibly over time and development allowing use for construction purposes.

Advances in the metal recovery from the bottom ashes may increase the recycling rate. Dry bottom ash extraction systems are demonstrated at plants in Switzerland and allow increased metal recovery rates as

sub-millimetre metal particles can be extracted and mechanically sorted in a non-corroded form. Even for wet extracted bottom ash metals recovery is expected to increase significantly through further development of sorting systems.

Prediction of performance and cost

When it comes to technological maturity, WtE is under Category 4, *Commercial technologies, with large deployment.* The technology has been used for 50 years, and more than 400 WtE plants are currently in operation in Europe most of which produce electricity and many of which are CHP-facilities, mainly in the Northern Europe [16].

Examples of market standard technology

Amager Bakke at ARC put in operation in 2017 has a waste capacity of 2 x 35 tonnes/hour, steam data 440°C and 70 bars. It is equipped with flue gas condensation augmented by large heat pumps that cool the flue gas to 22°C. The net power efficiency and total energy efficiency based on a lower heating value of 11.5 MJ/kg depends on the selected operation [11]:

CHP-operation without heat pumps: η_{el}: 25%, $\eta_{total:}$ 95%

CHP-operation with heat pumps: η_{el}: 22%, $\eta_{total:}$ 107%

Amager Bakke is expected to be one of the WtE plants with the highest total energy efficiency in the world. Only Fjernvarme Fyn in Odense will achieve a similar total efficiency when heat pump assisted flue gas condensation cooling the flue gas to 24°C is implemented here during 2017.

Since 2017 and up to 2020 based on later knowledge about the operation at Amager Bakke after the first publication of the chapter, the actual total energy efficiency was between 81% - 104%, of which η_{th} was between 64% - 88% and η_{el} between 13 - 18%, which are lower ranges than the initial expectations.

The Afval Energie Bedrijf in Amsterdam is the largest incineration plant in the world (1.5 million tonnes per year). The most recent extension (2007) involved 2 units of 34 tonnes/hour, steam data 440°C and 130 bar and river cooled condensers, which together with steam re-heating results in a net electricity efficiency of 30% when producing power-only [2]. This is the current world record power efficiency for WtE plants.

Uncertainty

The amount and the heating value of the available waste are dynamic properties, which change with time. Waste sorting (at source and central) and liberalization of commercial waste in DK are factors that might reduce the amount of residual waste and change its properties. In Sweden, relatively high recycling rates have not significantly changed the heating value of waste used in WtE.

Other more exotic processes such as thermal gasification may in a distant future develop and take over specific fractions from WtE.

Additional remarks

Contrary to other fuels used for energy generation, waste has a negative price and is received at a gate fee. The primary objective of a waste-to-energy plant is the treatment of waste. Produced energy may be considered a useful by-product although with increasing importance for the future Danish energy system with extensive use of district-heating and high power production from wind. The total energy production from a WtE boiler can be varied by varying the fuel feed, although WtE facilities run at full load most of the time if the district-heating demand allows together with additional cooling opportunities. Operation of WtE CHP-unit as

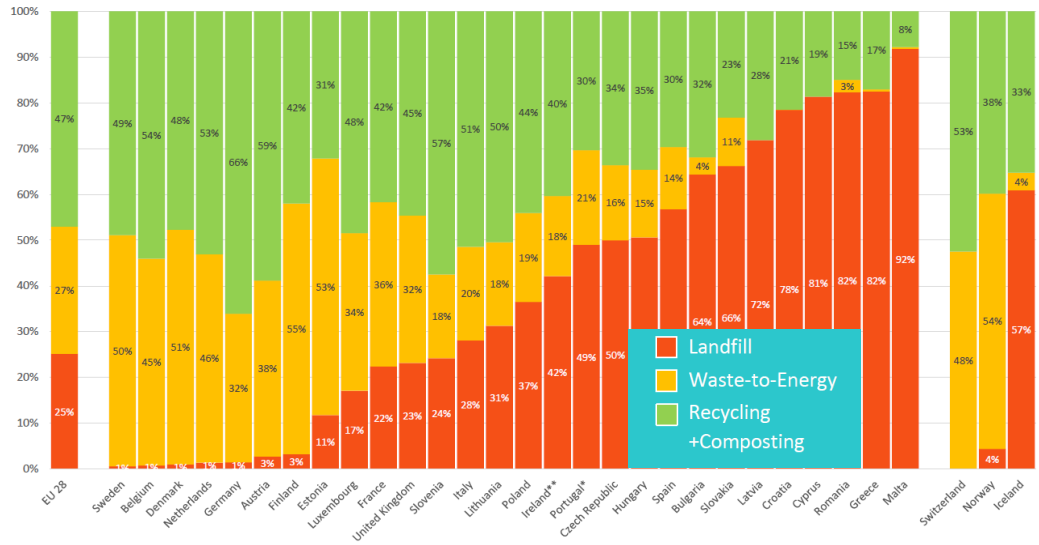
power-only may not be financially attractive, and often CHP facilities are constructed so that operation at power-only is not physically possible, as the necessary cooling facilities are not in place. The heat production can be changed also by starting or stopping the flue gas condensation. The electricity production is usually fully flexible from CHP plants because the turbine can be by-passed fully or partly at short notice and the rate of change may be as high as the turbine allows. The heat generation is thus changed corresponding to the change in electricity generation.

A World Bank study projects a 70% global increase in urban solid waste – with developing countries facing the greatest challenges. The projected rise in the amount of waste, from 1.3 billion tonnes per year today to 2.2 billion tonnes per year by 2025, is expected to raise the annual global costs from $205 billion to $375 billion [5].

Even in Europe, the potential for WtE is huge. Only 6 countries have reduced the amount of municipal waste landfilled to a minimum: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden landfill only 4% of municipal waste or less. They have all introduced landfill bans of combustible waste and worked towards a complementary waste management system where both recycling and waste-to-energy play a role in diverting waste from landfills (diagram below).

In a Danish perspective this may provide an opportunity of offering waste treatment at high resource efficiency by WtE-facilities from which virtually all energy is used. At the same time waste would replace the import of other fuels in the energy system. And with payment following the waste import, the treatment and energy recovery effectively becomes an export activity with a potentially advantageous business case.

Figure 1: Waste management in Europe in 2016, Graph by CEWEP [4]. Source: EUROSTAT



More information on development perspectives and future demand are published by various stake holders, plant manufacturers and World Bank, for example:

- www.cewep.eu
- www.eswet.eu
- www.worldbank.org
- www.iswa.org

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Data sheets for WtE plants

The total efficiency of plants with flue gas condensation is calculated assuming "direct condensation", where the condensation heat is recovered directly with the available DH water without the use of heat pumps.

Condensation heat recovery can be augmented by cooling the flue gas further, typically to 30°C using heat pumps. In the datasheets, the row "Additional heat potential for heat pump (%)" contains the additional heat that a heat pump would recover from the flue gas by cooling it further to 30°C. The so produced additional heat is the sum of this recovered amount of heat and any external driving energy (electricity or steam) supplied to drive the heat pump.

For more information see Introduction to Waste and Biomass plants.

09 Biomass CHP and HOP plants

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Publication date

March 2018

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
March 2020	09 Biomass section	Medium and Large scale wood chips boilers added. Text revised to incorporate new larger boilers. Revision of ash-content and lower heating value for wood chips.
January 2020	09 Biomass CHP and HOP	Revised qualitative- and quantitative description. Among adjustments in datasheets are efficiencies, distribution between variable and fixed O&M and notes. Addition of 50/100 °C datasheets for large backpressure units. Addition of extraction units in qualitative- and quantitative description
March 19	09 Biomass CHP and HOP	Datasheets added for large WtE and biomass backpressure CHP's with a temperature set of 50 °C/100 °C in addition to existing datasheets for 40 °C/80 °C . Sheets for extraction plants are incorporated
September 2018	09 Biomass CHP and HOP	Updated qualitative description and merging of CHP and HOP descriptions

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

Energy conversion in CHP or HOP (Heat Only Plant) of biomass is the combustion of wood-chips from forestry and/or from wood industry, wood pellets or straw. The main technical differences between the two are the electricity production, which is produced in a CHP but not a HOP, and the resulting necessary operating temperatures.

CHP production from biomass has been used in an increasing scale for many years in Denmark utilizing different technologies. The typical implementation is combustion in a biomass boiler feeding a steam turbine. The energy output from the boiler is either hot water to be used directly for district heating or it could be (high pressure) steam to be expanded through a turbine. The turbine is either a backpressure – or an extraction turbine. In the backpressure turbine, the expansion ends in the district heat condensers at a pressure at app. 0.4 bara, in the extraction unit the expansion is extended to the lowest possible pressure app. 0.025 bara, which is provided by a water-cooled condenser. The extraction unit is capable of running both in backpressure and condensing mode as well as every combination in between.

Application of flue gas condensation for further energy recovery is customary at biomass fired boilers using feedstock with high moisture content, e.g. wood chip, except at small plants below 1 - 2 $MW_{th\ input}$ due to the

additional capital and O&M costs. Plants without flue gas condensation are typically designed for other biomass fuels with less than 30% moisture content.

Flue gas condensation is however available also for straw firing. The flue gas condensation may raise the efficiency with around 10%-points according to model calculations (at 40°C DH return temperature), representing advances in condensation efficiency and return temperature compared with previous indications of 5-10%. Currently in Denmark only a few straw-fired plants are equipped with flue gas condensation.

Straw-fired boilers are normally equipped with a bag filter for flue gas cleaning. Electro filters do not work as efficiently with straw firing as they do with wood firing due to deposits formed by salts in the straw.

Straw fired plants should be equipped with heat accumulation tanks due to their disability to produce at less than 40% of full load, as described under the section "Regulation ability".

ORC plant

An alternative type of plant is the organic Rankine cycle plants (ORC plants). In this the (biomass-) boiler is used for heating (no evaporation) thermal oil to slightly above 300°C. This heated oil transfers the heat to an ORC plant which is similar to a steam cycle but it uses a refrigerant instead of water as working media.

The reason for an interest in ORC plants is that such equipment is delivered in standardized complete modules at an attractive price and in combination with 'a boiler' that only is used for heating oil, the investment is relatively modest.

The ORC technology is a waste heat recovery technology developed for low temperature and low-pressure power generation. The ORC unit is a factory assembled module – this makes them less flexible but cheap. This may make it financially attractive to build small scale CHP facilities. The 'Rankine' part indicates that it is a technology with similarities to water-steam (Rankine) based systems. The main difference being the use of a media i.e. a refrigerant or silicone oil (an organic compound that can burn but does not explode) with thermodynamic properties that makes it more adequate than water for low temperature power generation.

Common technology description for biomass and WtE is found in chapter "*Introduction to Waste and Biomass Plants*". Also, flue gas condensation, combustion air humidification, fuels and an improved energy model for technology data are described there.

Input

The fuel input to biomass plants can in general be described as biomass; e.g. residues from wood industries, wood chips (from forestry), straw and energy crops. Combustion can in general be applied for biomass feedstock with average moisture contents up to 60% for wood chips and up to 25% for straw dependent on combustion technology. The three types of biomass feedstock considered here are: Wood chips, wood pellets (white pellets), and straw. They are in several ways very different (humidity, granularity, ash content and composition, grindability, and density).

Sometimes it is possible to change fuel at a plant from one type of biomass to another, but it should be explicitly guaranteed by the supplier of the plant. Below is a broad description of biomass fuels.

Wood (particularly in the form of chips) is usually the most favourable biomass for combustion due to its low content of ash, nitrogen and alkaline metals, however typically with 45 % moisture for chips and below 10% for pellets. Herbaceous biomass like straw, miscanthus and other annual/fast growing crops have higher

contents of K, N, Cl, S etc. that lead to higher primary emissions of NO_x and particulates, increased ash generation, corrosion rates and slag deposits.

The amount of biomass available for energy production varies over time. From 2006 to 2014, the Danish straw production varied between 5.2 and 6.3 million tonnes per year (avg. 5.6 mil. t.), while the amount used for energy varied between 1.4 and 2 million tonnes (avg. 1.6 mil. t.).

Other exotic biomasses as empty fruit bunch pellets (EFB) and palm kernel shells (PKS) are available in the market; however, operating experience seems to be limited.

Forest residues are typically delivered as wood chips. Forest residues may also be delivered as pellets. During pellet production the fuel is dried to moisture content below 10%. As of today, the use of forest biomass for energy purposes accounts for only a small percentage of the total forest biomass production for, say, timber, paper, and other industrial purposes; thus, typically biomass for energy purposes is (and must be) a residual product. This is also reflected by the fact that the current price per GJ for wood products for energy purposes is much lower than the price for industrial applications of wood. Further to this there seems to be a growing interest for utilizing other types of surplus biomass from industrial productions like Vinery, olive oil production, sugar production, and more.

Wood chips are wood pieces of 5-50 mm in the fibre direction, longer twigs (slivers), and a fine fraction (fines). The quality description is based on three types of wood chips: Fine, coarse, and extra coarse. The names refer to the size distribution only, not to the quality. Fine particles as well as thin, long fibres may cause problems (in case the boiler is using grate firing). In the table below can be seen some typical (commercial) requirements for wood chips.

Typical sizes in a sample (refer also to EN ISO 17225-1):

Table 2 General terms and commercial requirements for wood chips

Name	Withhold on sieve	Share w%
Fines	<3 mm	<12
Small	3 < X < 8 mm	<25
Coarse	8 < X < 16 mm	No requirement
Extra coarse	16 < X < 45 mm	No requirement
Over size	45 < X < 63 mm	< 3
Over long 10	> 63 mm	< 6
Over long 20	100-200 mm long	< 1.5

Ash concentrations must not exceed 2% on dry basis.

Existing CHP and HOP boilers in Denmark can burn wood-chips with up to 45-63% moisture content, depending on technology. In 2014-2015, the actual moisture content was 40% in average, varying between 25 and 55% [1]. Wood chips with high moisture content will often be mixed with dry wood chips. Smaller units use grate firing technology when firing wood chips, while some larger units uses a Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) or Bubbling Fluidized Bed (BFB) boiler technology.

Other possible fuels are chipped energy crops (e.g. willow and poplar) and chipped park and garden waste. The fuel quality must be in focus. Small particles must be avoided as well as long thin pieces. High moisture content of e.g. willow will increase the level of CO and PAH, so either the willow must be low in moisture content or it must be mixed with other fuels. Willow is known to take up Cadmium from the soil and thus increasing the concentrations in ash. The amount of cadmium up take is depending on where the willow is grown. Poplar has been found to give problems in the boiler like "popcorn" in a combustion test. Chipped Park and garden waste must be of a good quality with low content of non-combustible materials, because of risks of blocking the grate [1]. Impurities as plastic can classify the fuel as waste resulting in taxation of all the fuel. Difficult biomass residues are therefore often utilized in WtE facilities having available capacity.

Wood pellets are made from wood chips, sawdust, wood shavings and other residues from sawmills and other wood manufacturers. Pellets are produced in several types and grades as fuels for electric power plants and DH (low grade), and homes (high grade). Pellets are extremely dense (up to the double of the density of the basic material) and can be produced with a low humidity content (below 5% for high grade products) that allows easy handling (incl. long-term storage) and to be burned with high combustion efficiencies. When humidified, pellets are prone to auto-ignition. When exposed to mechanical treatment like conveyer transportation the pellets may break (or disintegrate) and release dust; this dust is highly explosive and therefore constitute a serious hazard. Danish plants using wood pellets or –chips must ensure the sustainability of the fuel. Both the disintegration of wood chips in hammer mills and the subsequent drying require energy and this must come from non-fossil sources (e.g. the wood itself). Wood pellets are fired in larger CHP's with modified coal burners and mills. Coal ash is generally cofired with wood pellets by adding an amount of around 5% of the feed in order to absorb alkali metals and sulfur from the flue gas. Coal ash has a good effect on minimising the slagging and fouling tendency as well as on the SCR catalyst efficiency and lifetime.

Straw is a by-product from the growing of commercial crops, in North Europe primarily cereal grain, rape and other seed-producing crops. Straw is often delivered as big rectangular bales (Hesston bales), typically approx. 500-750 kg each, or MIDI bales (400-800 kg each) from storages at the farms to the DH plants etc. during the year pursuant to concluded straw delivery contracts. MIDI bales are smaller, so transportation can be with 3 layers. However, the density is higher. Not all plants have a system to handle these bales.

Output

The products from biomass CHP plants are electricity and heat as steam, hot (> 110°C) or warm (< 110°C) water as district heat.

The output from biomass HOP is hot water for district heat or low-pressure steam for industrial purposes. The total energy efficiency is identical for heat and CHP plants, except that some minor heat losses in the generator and turbine gearbox of the CHP plant are avoided. The heat production from a HOP is thus identical (or slightly higher) than the sum of produced electricity and heat from an equivalent CHP plant.

In case of flue gas condensation, excess condensate may be upgraded to high quality water useful for technical purposes such as boiler water or for covering water losses of the district-heating network.

Typical capacities

Large scale CHP:	> 100 $MW_{th\ input}$ (~>25 MW_e)
Medium scale CHP:	25 - 100 $MW_{th\ input}$ (~6-25 MW_e)
Small scale CHP:	1 – 25 $MW_{th\ input}$ (~0.1-6 MW_e)

The size classification for CHP's has been changed from previous editions of the catalogue. The boundary between small and medium-sized plants of 25 $MW_{th\ input}$ is selected based on the suppliers' experience[1]. Large scale CHP may be constructed up to around 1000 $MW_{th\ input}$. and possibly even larger.

The capacities of CHP's supplying heat to district heating systems are primarily determined by the heat demands. Most plants are equipped with a facility to by-pass the turbine temporarily to increase the heat production at the expense of losing the electricity production; the by-pass is in use more often than it was 10-20 years ago.

For biomass HOP's the typical capacities are 1 - 50 $MW_{th\ input}$. The majority of district heating plants are below 15 $MW_{th\ input}$ with an average size of 5-6 $MW_{th\ input}$ dependent of the fuel [11].

Regulation ability and other power system services

The CHP's can operate in a large range (20% to 100% for once-through suspension fired boilers). Biomass plants with drum type boilers (typical for grate fired boilers) can be operated in the range from 40-100% load. The lower end of the range is defined by the ability to generate super-heated steam at the required temperature to operate the turbine and obtain reasonable electricity efficiency. For heat production only, the boiler could go to lower load. The CHP-range is likely to broaden slightly in the future, but the technology appears to have limitations.

Large plants may be designed for optional operation in pure electrical mode (condensing mode) with slightly higher electrical efficiency but without heat production. The condensing ability is mainly seen in large plants over 130 $MW_{th\ input}$ and primarily used today for large Pulverized Fuel (PF) plants.

CHP's, with and without extraction, are capable of supplying both primary and secondary load support. Though somewhat slower than coalfired PF plants of comparable sizes.

Typical wood fired HOP's are regulated 25-100% of full capacity, without violating emission standards. The best technologies can be regulated 10-120% with fuel not exceeding 35% moisture content.

Straw fired HOP's should not be operated below approx. 40% of full load due to emission standards. Straw fired plants should accordingly be equipped with a heat accumulating tank allowing for optimal operational conditions.

Advantages/disadvantages

Extraction units have the possibility to optimize the power-production when the market calls for it i.e. when the power prize is high. Additional power can be produced, especially in the warmer periods when the need for heat is low.

Some biomass resources, in particular straw, contain highly corrosive components such as chlorine which together with potassium forms deposits that are both corrosive and limits heat uptake. In order to avoid or reduce the risk of slagging and corrosion, boiler manufacturers have traditionally abstained from using similar steam pressure/temperatures in biomass-fired plants as in coal-fired plants. However, advances in materials and boiler design have enabled the newest plants to deliver fairly high steam data and power efficiencies. Straw fired boilers can be operated up to 540°C and wood fired boilers up to slightly above 560°C. In most

[1] This classification does not correspond to the classification according to EU's IE-Directive which operates with medium size (1-50 $MW_{th\ input}$) and large size (≥50 $MW_{th\ input}$) combustion plants

cases the technical limits are somewhat above what is economically feasible. The availability of suited steam turbines might limit the steam temperature for smaller sized plants.

Space requirements

Generally, in this chapter, all the investigated biomass plants are designed and priced with a small fuel storage facility. Typically, it is sized to last for two days of full load operation. The size of the storage has for some fuels a major impact on the totally required space (area) and it also can have a serious impact on the total CAPEX; to avoid this influence the store is kept small. In order to calculate CAPEX for a different size of the store, the tables contain an entry called 'Fuel storage specific cost in excess of 2 days (M€/$MW_{th\ input}$/storage day) for biomass fuels.

The area to be used for the buildings containing the process equipment is estimated in various ways. Very little additional area is added, say for administration, canteen, garages, work shop, etc. independent of the size of the plant. Further to this, some additional area to be used for other fuel handling, manoeuvring and weighing of trucks, parking of vehicles, roads and other free area. In total, it is ensured to have a reasonable percentage of area usage.

The largest plants (wood chips and pellets) are so large that a harbour facility is most appropriate, which is a significant cost addition. This element is not included neither in space requirements nor in cost in the data tables. Other infrastructure facilities like a railroad for fuel transport are not considered.

Extraction units will, compared to backpressure units, require additional space for extra heaters, condenser and cooling-water channels and/or pipes.

Environment

The main ecological footprints from biomass combustion are persistent toxicity, climate change (GHG potential), and acidification. However, the footprints are considered small [1]. It is, however, an area of both major concern and discussion. Further to this is also added a concern on the sustainability of using in particular wood-like biomasses for power production. It is not the intent of this catalogue to initiate such a discussion but merely to mention that biomass fuelled plants can reduce GHG emissions considerably compared to fossil fuel fired plants, but it is still discussed if it resource-wise globally is a viable long term solution.

Modern flue gas cleaning systems will typically include the following processes: DeNOx - ammonia injection (SNCR) or catalytic (SCR), SO_2 capture by injection of lime or the use of another SO_2 absorbing system, dust abatement by bag house filters.

NO_x emissions may be reduced, by about 60-70%, by selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR) on wood chips fired boilers and 30-40% on straw fired boilers. NOx emission may be reduced by 80-90% by selective catalyst (SCR). SNCR is a relatively low-cost solution but it is not necessarily applicable for a boiler subject to large load variations and constructed with high cooling rates and super heaters in the area most suitable for ammonia injection. The SCR solution requires installation of a catalyst which can be either a high temperature location near or in the boiler (downstream a particle filter) or it could be a much more expensive tail-end solution requiring re-heat of the flue gas. For fuels with high alkali-metal concentrations (mainly potassium) tail end solution is preferred to avoid poisoning of the catalyst that could quickly reduce its activity, however some plants with high-dust SCR can utilize these fuels provided they are mixed with other fuels with low alkali metal content.

Due to the cost of the catalyst SCR is used mainly at large facilities. NOx emission limit values are also lower for large facilities, giving further incentive to use SCR. SCR is rarely used in HOP because of their relatively small size, and their ability to reach below the NOx emission limit values without using SCR.

The limit values for NOx emissions are expected to be gradually tightened over time in the future. The technology in terms of combustion control, boiler design and improvements in the SNCR technology may relieve the need of SCR, but the application of SCR is nonetheless expected to increase in the future.

This is reflected in the datasheets by adding the cost of a tail-end DeNOx to the medium (and larger) plants at a certain point in the future. Application of SCR in the respective scenarios appears from the notes.

Desulfurization is not a big issue for wood firing because of the low sulfur content in the fuel. A typical sulfur content in wood is 0.04 g/GJ (dry basis) which has been used in the tables, and the generated SO_2 is to a large extent taken together with the ash and other pollutants (e.g. HCl and mercury) by particle filters in combination with flue gas condensation. On that basis we expect most plants to yield a very low SO_2 emission of up to 2 g/GJ. Plants will be built without wet-scrubbers which have the sole purpose of cleaning the flue gas, because they are not needed for fulfilling environmental requirements. In addition, the scrubbers would barely generate any gypsum due to the low sulfur content. If the plant does not include a flue gas condenser, the sulfur dioxide is expected to be captured in the bag filter, in a dry process, when injecting a small amount of hydrated lime. In a plant with a flue gas condenser the majority of sulfur dioxide will be captured here. The flue gas condenser can act as a wet scrubber when adding lime or sodium hydroxide to the circulating water.

Future plants above a certain capacity are required to have monitoring of air emissions of mercury, Hg. Generally, Hg is not a problem in straw fired units since Hg is oxidized by the chlorine in fuel and captured in the bag filter. Wood fired units might have a challenge with Hg if fired with woodchips from certain regions and only cleaning the flue gases with an electrostatic precipitator, ESP.

The EU Industrial Emission Directive (IED) [4], the directive on medium combustion plants [6], the BAT reference note on large combustion plants [5], the Danish guideline (Luftvejledningen), [7], and air dispersion modelling make up the basis for determining the emission limits for a specific plant in Denmark. It is expected that new, lower emission limits will be introduced with the future legislation initiated by the EU.

The emissions in the Data Sheets from 2020 and in the following years are based on proposed limits in the coming Best Available Technologies Air Emission Levels (BAT AELs) introduced by the EU BREF document (BAT reference documents) for Large Combustion Plants [5] that is expected to come into force as of 2020. For small and medium scale plants, similar EU legislation is expected to come into force in the same timeframe, [6]. It is noted that emission limit values (ELV) for biomass plants are linked to the thermal input to the boiler in MW. More stringent requirements are valid for plants above 50 $MW_{th\ input}$ according to the EU IED [4] and air emission levels of the EU reference note on best available technology of large combustion plants, LCP BREF AEL [5].

Biomass units produce four sorts of residues: Flue gas, fly ash, bottom ash and possibly condensate from flue gas condensation.

All bottom ash and most fly ash from straw firing is recycled to farmland as a fertilizer.

Often ash from wood firing is deposited in landfills and some bottom ash is used as fertilizer. Research is ongoing on how to meet environmental acceptance limits for recycling the ash to forests. Bottom ash with relatively high content of cadmium cannot be used as fertilizer. Coal ash, if used as an additive, will make it

impossible to use the ash as fertilizer, but opens the possibility to be used as coal ash in cement and concrete production.

The condensate water from wood firing is usually treated to remove heavy metals, particularly cadmium, so that its content reaches 3 milligrams per m³, or the level required for its discharge, which is usually the local municipal sewage system. The treatment may involve pH-adjustment, addition of polymers and flocculants and the use of belt filters for separation of the generated sludge. The treatment residue (sludge) must be deposited in a safe landfill. As described in the Introduction, condensate treatment may include electro deionization (EDI) and reverse osmosis to produce water that is virtually free of salts and pollutants. Hereby, it may be discharged to recipient or used for industrial purposes, such as topping up the water losses of the DH network. The condensate treatment is facilitated if an efficient particle separator is installed in the flue gas path upstream the flue gas condensation stage.

Condensate from straw-firing may be clean enough to be expelled without cleaning, since almost all cadmium is withheld with the fly ash in the bag filter.

Research and development perspectives

Research is ongoing in many areas relevant for bio mass units, e.g.:

Both CHP, extraction and HOP:

- Reduce the cost of fuel, by improved collection and pre-treatment, better characterization and measurement methods.
- Improved combustion process for reduction of CO (that will also affect other unburned components e.g. PAH), NO_x, particles and SO_2
- Further development of secondary techniques for reduction of emissions of particles, aerosols, cadmium, NO_x and SO_2
- Improve boiler design and control of ammonia injection to allow efficient use of SNCR for DeNOx as an alternative to tail end SCR.
- Environmentally safe recycling of ashes to forestry; e.g. by pellets to ensure slow release of nutrients, alternatively recovery of potassium for generation of potassium fertilizer
- Cleaning condensate for reuse and discharge to recipient

CHP and extraction:

- Improve control ability against fuel variations
- Reduce corrosion, in particular high-temperature corrosion
- Reduce slagging
- Improve steam cycle by introduction of steam reheat (>75 $MW_{th\ input}$)
- Optimize the use of ORC systems in a Danish environment, including collection of operating experiences

HOP – Heat Only Plants:

- Handling and combustion of new types of fuels, such as energy crops and garden/park waste

New technology:

Instead of implementing the combustion process in the boiler vessel, an alternative Danish solution has been developed and demonstrated in three plants until now. The Energy Biomass Furnace combines updraft gasification and gas combustion. Hereby several advantages are achieved: The plant becomes simpler and

possibly less expensive, the reactor is fuel flexible, the primary emissions are reduced and the furnace can regulate between 10-100 % according to the supplier.

The Biomass Furnace delivers hot flue gas to a commercial boiler. This concept is promising and has already drawn attention in the energy sector.

The plant in Sindal (2018) includes an ORC unit and a flue gas condenser, produces 800 kW electric power and 5 MW thermal heat.

Prediction of performance and cost

Both biomass CHPs and HOPs represent today well-known technologies that has been erected in reasonably large numbers. Improvements can still be expected, but only at an incremental level. Therefore, the technology belongs to Category 4: *Commercial technologies, with large deployment*.

Development within this area is driven by possible prospects for being able to earn money and therefore also by the expected future prices on heat and power. Twenty years ago electric power was a valuable product and thus it was beneficial to aim at as high an electrical efficiency that could possibly be achieved. Today, power prices are in periods below prices of heat and this has a big impact on investment decisions; it is no longer certain that the electrical efficiency should be as high as possible. In years to come the difference between the units with highest electricity efficiency commercially available and the electricity efficiency of solutions actually bought will increase.

In the low capacity range (less than 25-30 $MW_{th\ input}$) the scale of economics effect is quite considerable and there is a very significant economical difference between steam (and thereby electricity) producing boilers and hot water (DH only) producing boilers. In particular boilers for the latter type can be series produced and are thus much cheaper than a boiler for producing super-heated steam for power production of similar size.

Wood chips heat only boilers (hot water) up to 20 MW thermal input have become very popular; they are produced in a more or less serial production and this lower both capital and O&M cost.

Uncertainty

Biomass plants are fully commercial (Category 4) with small uncertainties for performances and costs. The trend of the recent years towards building large plants (>110 $MW_{th\ input}$ for CHPs and >25 $MW_{th\ input}$ for HOPs) including steam reheat (CHP only), absorption heat pumps for enhanced flue gas condensation, humidification of combustion air, more advanced flue gas cleaning etc., introduces a moderate increase of uncertainty. These advanced solutions are expected to be in Category 4 within a few years.

The real cost uncertainty is related to what extent the emission limits will be tightened. Further tightening of emissions requires development of more efficient combustions processes in the boiler and secondary flue gas cleaning systems. This will increase the capital costs and O&M cost.

Examples of market standard available technology

CHPs:

- Fyn Power Plant (DK), Unit 8; commissioned in 2009; 120 $MW_{th\ input}$, 35 MW_e ; 84 MW district heat. 170,000 tonnes of straw per year. Equipped with flue gas condenser. Retrofitted with SCR tail end.
- Sleaford (UK) commissioned 2014, 115 $MW_{th\ input}$ (straw/wood chips), 38.5 MW_e, net electrical efficiency 33%. 240,000 tonnes of straw per year.
- Lisbjerg (DK) commissioned 2016, 110 $MW_{th\ input}$. Energy efficiency 103% at CHP mode. Equipped with tail end SCR, combustion air humidification and flue gas condenser.

- Snetterton (UK), commission year 2017, 130 $MW_{th\ input}$ (straw/wood chips), 44 MWe, net electrical efficiency 34%. 270,000 tonnes of straw per year.
- Avedøre Power Plant (DK) Unit 2 is a multi-fuel CHP extraction power plant that can operate on wood pellets, straw, oil (HFO), and natural gas. It was commissioned in 2002. It has a 100 $MW_{thinput}$ separate biomass-fired boiler (ultra-super critical steam data – 290 bar, 540°C) supplying steam in parallel with the main boiler; 170,000 tonnes of straw per year. When the plant is running 100% on wood pellets in the main boiler and 100% straw, it is producing 425 MW_e in condensing mode, and 355 MW_e and 485 MW_{th} heat output in backpressure CHP mode.
- In Denmark the two extraction plants Studstrup 3 and Avedøre 1 have recently been converted from coal firing into wood pellets firing. In Skærbæk a gas fired unit is converted into firing wood chips by installing 2 new grate fired boilers supplying steam to the existing turbine. In Herning a coal fired suspension boiler is equipped with grate thus enabling both wood chips and wood pellets combustion up to 90% load. The remaining 10% is natural gas.
- There are a few new large CHP plants expected to be built in the coming years. The currently known projects are Amager 4 and Asnæs 6.
- Sindal, commissioned 2018, combined updraft biomass gasification and combustion chamber with ORC, heat output 5 MW_{th}, electricity generation 800 kW_e.

HOPs:

- Hobro district heating (DK) commissioned 2017, 11.3 MW_{th} input (wood chips) and 13 MW_{th} output
- Hasle district heating (DK) commissioned 2017, 12 MW_{th} input (wood chips) and 15 MW_{th} output
- Lemvig district heating (DK) commissioned 2016, 8 MW_{th} input (wood chips) and 10.4 MW_{th} output
- Sønderborg district heating (DK) commissioned 2015, combined updraft biomass gasification and combustion chamber (various biomass), 9 MW_{th} input and 9 MW_{th} output.
- Bogense utility company (DK) commissioned 2011, combined updraft biomass gasification and combustion chamber (varied biomass), 8 MW_{th} input and 8 MW_{th} output.
- Hvidebæk district heating (DK) commissioned 2017, 7 MW_{th} input (straw) and 7 MW_{th} output
- Ørnhøj Grønbjerg district heating (DK) commissioned 2017, 1.7 4 MW_{th} input (straw) and 1.5 MW_{th} output
- Nexø halmvarmeværk (DK) commissioned 2016, with flue gas condensation and heatpump, 12 MW_{th} input (straw) and 15 MW_{th} output

Additional remarks

Despite the observation that straw is a much more difficult fuel than wood (chips/pellets) the electricity efficiencies of CHP's are almost equal. This reflects the fact that the development of straw-fired CHP's for many years was driven by power utilities focusing on high electricity efficiencies.

The deployment of small and medium-sized biomass fired CHP plants in DK was largely inactive for some years after 2000, but changed conditions for DH is changing the situation. There are several trends in the area of new biomass CHP plants:

1. They are being built in large sizes, mainly because of a better plant economy, but also to accommodate for an increase in the DH market.
2. The electrical efficiency is not in focus due to low electricity prices.

Additional explanation of extraction contra backpressure units can be found in chapter *01 Supercritical Pulverized Fuel Power Plant*.

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Data sheets for biomass plants

Data for biomass plants is presented in accompanying excel data sheets. First, data for the CHP's is presented.

Large backpressure units are shown with two different temperature sets (return- and forward temperature of the district heating network):

- 40/80 °C – corresponding to a plant connected to the distribution network
- 50/100 °C – corresponding to a plant connected to the transmission network

Furthermore, data for large extraction plants fuelled by wood chips and wood pellets is presented. Lastly, data for HOP plants is shown.

The total efficiency of plants with flue gas condensation is calculated assuming "direct condensation", where the condensation heat is recovered directly with the available DH water without the use of heat pumps.

Condensation heat recovery can be augmented by cooling the flue gas further, typically to 30°C using heat pumps. In the datasheets, the row "Additional heat potential for heat pump (%)" contains the additional heat that a heat pump would recover from the flue gas by cooling it further to 30°C. The so produced additional heat is the sum of this recovered amount of heat and any external driving energy (electricity or steam) supplied to drive the heat pump.

For more information see Introduction to Waste and Biomass plants.

10 Stirling engines, gasified biomass

This chapter has been moved here from the previous Technology Data Catalogue for Electricity and district heating production from May 2012. Therefore, the text and data sheets do not follow the same guidelines as the remainder of the catalogue.

Brief technology description

A Stirling engine is driven by temperature differences created by external heating and cooling sources. One part of the engine is permanently hot, while another part of the engine is permanently cold.

The engine is filled with a working gas, typically Hydrogen or Helium, and pressurized. This working gas is moved between the hot and the cold side of the engine by a mechanical system comprising of a displacement piston coupled to a working piston. When the working gas is heated in the hot side of the engine, it expands and pushes the working piston. When the working piston moves, the displacement piston then forces the working gas to the cold side of the engine, where it cools and contracts.

In the biomass-gasifier solution developed by the company Stirling DK, the engine is Helium-filled, heated by biomass combustion flue gasses, and cooled by cooling water.

Specifically, a solid biomass fuel is converted into producer gas, which is led to one or more combustion chambers, each coupled to a Stirling engine. The gas is ignited in the combustion chamber(s), and the flue gases are heating the Stirling engine(s), which is driving an electricity generator.

For a more detailed description of the gasifier process, please refer to technology no. 84.

Input

Wood chips, industrial wood residues, demolition wood and energy crops can be used. Also, it is expected that more exotic fuel types, such as coconut shells and olive stones, can be used. Requirements to moisture content and size of the fuel are depending on the design of the gasifier.

The Stirling engines can also be fuelled by natural gas and mineral oil.

Output

Electricity and heat.

The electricity efficiency, when using wood chips, is around 18%.

Typical capacities

The electric output of one Stirling engine is 35 kW. For plants with several engines, one common gasifier is used.

Regulation ability

The heat load can be changed from 10 to 100 % and vice versa within a few minutes. The electrical output can not be regulated quickly.

Advantages/disadvantages

The main advantage of the Stirling engine is that it can generate power using residues from forestry and agriculture, which typically have a very low economic value. In addition, emission levels are very low. Finally, the service requirement of a Stirling engine is very low compared to otto- and diesel-engines.

The main disadvantage is a relatively high capital cost compared to otto- and diesel-engines.

Stirling engines are therefore ideally used for base load generation with many annual operating hours, preferable 6-8,000 hours/year.

Environment

A highly controlled gasification process together with the continuous combustion process secure much lower air emissions than otto- and diesel-engines.

Research, development and demonstration

The Danish Stirling engine updraft-gasifier technology is presently being supported in two projects:

- A multi-unit system with two engines and a wood gas boiler (for heat only) on one common updraft gasifier, is being developed, supported by PSO-means. Also a new combustion technology, high efficiency, is being developed under this program.

- A containerized plant has been built, supported by EUDP-means. In order to demonstrate fuel flexibility, the plant will be tested with 8 different fuel types. Also, an off-grid solution will be developed.

Examples of best available technology

Examples of plants in Denmark:

  - In Svanholm, an 800 kJ/s updraft counter-current fixed bed gasifier was installed in 2009. The gasifier utilises wood chips and is coupled to two 35 kW Stirling engines and a 400 kJ/s wood gas boiler.

  - In both Copenhagen and Lyngby, a 200 kJ/s updraft counter-current fixed bed gasifier was installed in 2009. Each gasifier utilises wood chips and is coupled to one 35 kW Stirling engine

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20 Wind Turbines onshore

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Publication date

August 2016

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
November 2023	20 Wind turbines onshore	Financial and technical data updated in data sheets along with text and figure updates where relevant
May 2019	20 Wind turbines onshore	Financial and technical data updated in data sheets

Note to amendment November 2023:

There has been a sharp rise in electricity prices throughout 2022, significantly surpassing inflation rates from previous years. Notably, turbine project costs experienced a substantial decline during 2018-20, largely due to the plummeting electricity prices, which, in turn, drove turbine prices below their manufacturing expenses. Consequently, these factors have culminated in an approximate 30% increase in the cost of wind projects.

Note to amendment April 2019:

A marked decrease in turbine expenses has been evident in recent years. Furthermore, the advancement in rotor size has progressed more rapidly than anticipated in the 2016 version. Larger generators, taller hub heights, and expanded rotors have collectively boosted electricity generation from wind turbines. However, the most significant transformation lies in a nearly 50% reduction in service costs since the 2016 version of this chapter. Simultaneously, the escalating electricity prices rendered onshore wind turbines almost independent of subsidies. This was evident in the results of the inaugural Danish auction (concluded in late 2018), where the average feed-in premium stooped as low as 2.27øre/kWh (for both onshore wind and solar PV). The announcement of the first subsidy-free onshore project surfaced in March 2019.

Since the 2016 version of this chapter, additional cost components have been integrated into the data sheets. These encompass land procurement, compensations to neighbouring entities, acquisition of neighbouring settlements, and procurement of old turbines.

Beyond cost reductions, ongoing technical enhancements in turbine control persist. An exemplary case is the "power boost" feature, enabling turbines to operate beyond their rated power when favourable conditions permit, such as optimal generator temperatures. This results in increased production at the segment of the power curve where the turbine typically reduces output. Moreover, the ability for turbines to withstand high wind speeds ("ride through") without shutting down at 25 m/s has emerged, proving advantageous for grid stability. Halting 5 GW of wind power within a few hours during a hurricane poses a significant challenge for grid operations. A new control mechanism currently undergoing testing involves wind farms employing

detailed turbine control to minimize wake losses and simultaneously reduce loads to maximize the overall output for the entire farm.

These novel control strategies are estimated to yield an additional increment of a few percentage points to the annual production.

Qualitative description

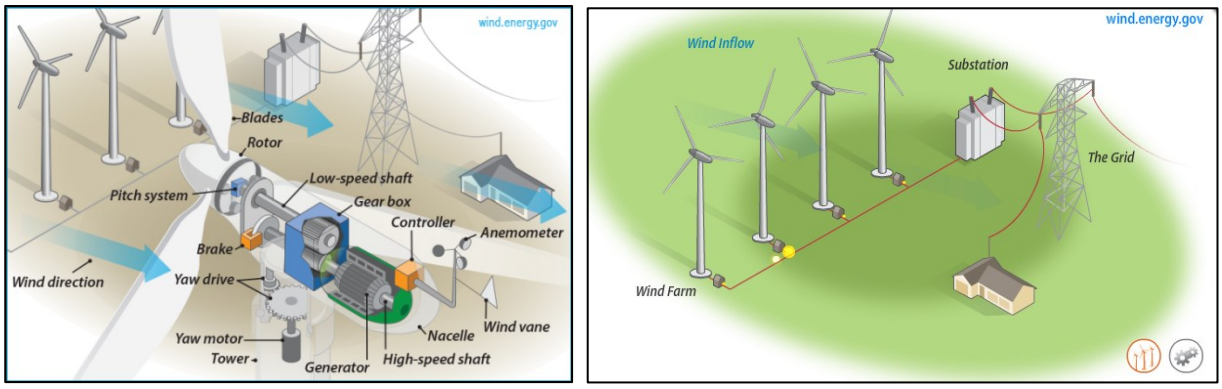
Brief technology description

The contemporary large onshore wind turbine typically adopts a horizontal-axis design with three blades, positioned upwind and connected to the grid. These turbines utilize active pitch, variable speed, and yaw control mechanisms to optimize electricity generation across a spectrum of wind speeds.

Wind turbines function by harnessing the kinetic energy present in the wind through their rotor blades, subsequently transferring this energy to the drive shaft. This drive shaft is linked either to a speed-boosting gearbox in conjunction with a medium- or high-speed generator, or to a low-speed, direct-drive generator. The generator then converts the rotational energy of the shaft into electrical power.

In modern wind turbines, blade pitch control plays a pivotal role in maximizing power output at low wind speeds. Simultaneously, it ensures a consistent power output while limiting mechanical stress and loads on the turbine during high wind speeds. Figure 1 offers a comprehensive depiction of the turbine technology and electrical system, illustrating the example of a geared turbine.

Figure 1 General turbine technology and electrical system



Wind turbines are engineered to function within a specific wind speed spectrum delimited by a low "cut-in" wind speed and a high "cut-out" wind speed. Below the cut-in speed, the wind lacks sufficient energy to be effectively harnessed. Once the wind speed surpasses the cut-in threshold, the turbine initiates operations and begins generating electricity. With rising wind speeds, the turbine's power output increases, hitting its rated power output at a particular wind speed. To sustain this rated power output at higher wind speeds, the blade pitch is regulated. Upon reaching the cut-out speed, the turbine undergoes shutdown or operates in a reduced power mode to prevent mechanical damage.

Onshore wind turbines can be installed individually, in clusters, or as part of larger wind farms.

Commercial wind turbines operate autonomously and are overseen and managed via a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

Input

Input is wind.

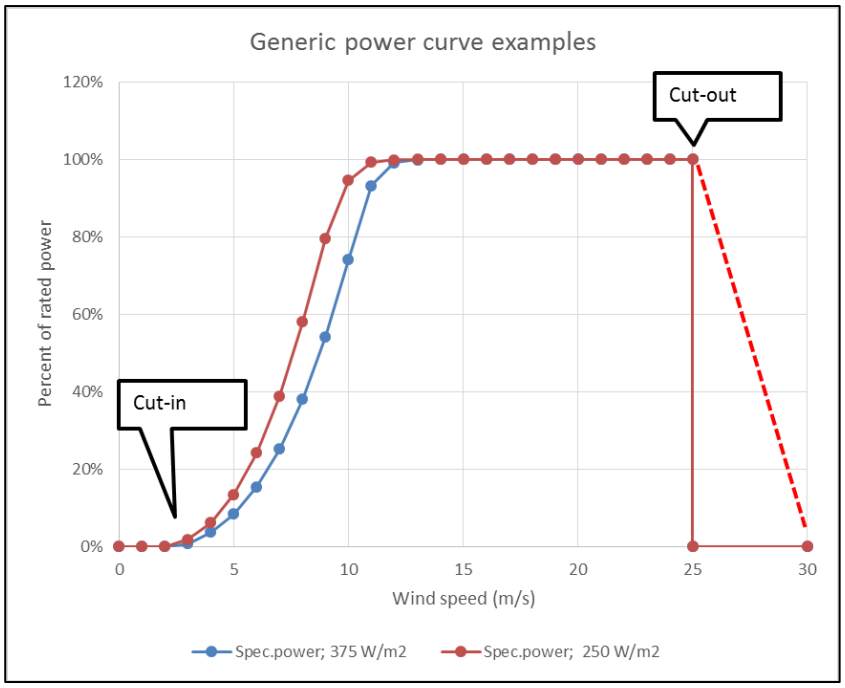
Cut-in wind speed: 3 – 4 m/s.

Rated power generation wind speed: 10-12 m/s, depending on the specific power (defined as the ratio of the rated power to the swept rotor area).

Cut-out or transition to reduced power operation at wind speed: 25 m/s.

In the future, it is expected that manufacturers will apply a soft cut-out for high wind speeds (indicated with dashed red curve in figure 2) resulting in a final cut-out wind speed around 30 m/s.

Figure 2 Turbine power curves (Information's from expert workshop held by DEA 27-4-2015). Specific power values refer to e.g. 3 MW with 124m rotor diameter (250 W/m2) and 3 MW with 101 m rotor diameter (375 W/m2)

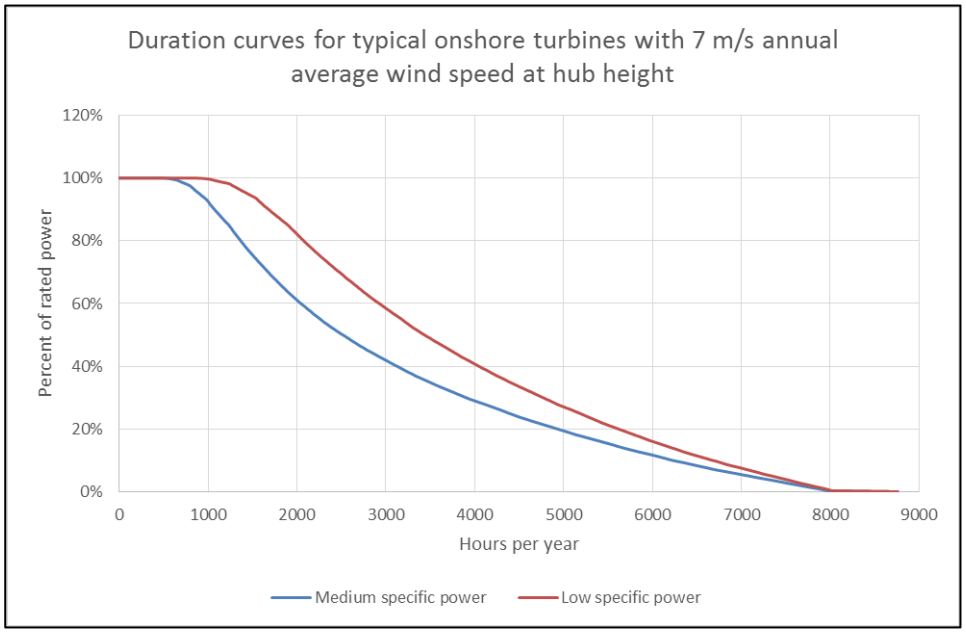


The power in the wind is given by the formula $P = ½*rho*A*u^3$, where rho is the air density, A the swept area and u the wind speed. To calculate the net power output from a wind turbine, the result must be multiplied by C_p (Coefficient of power). C_p varies with wind speed and has a maximum of around 45%, which is typically reached at ~8 m/s, depending on the specific power.

Output

The output of wind turbines is electricity. Modern onshore turbines commonly found in Denmark exhibit capacity factors within the range of 35%, equating to approximately 3100 annual full load hours. Graphical representations outlining typical duration curves are provided in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Duration curve for typical modern onshore wind turbines (> 2 MW) located in Denmark (DTU International Energy Report - Wind Energy, 2014). The two curves are based on the V117 3.3 MW (307 W/m2) and V126 3.3 MW (265 W/m2) wind turbines.



The annual energy yield of a wind turbine is significantly influenced by the average wind speed at its location. This average wind speed is contingent upon various factors such as geographical positioning (North-western Jutland being notably the windiest region in Denmark), the turbine's hub height, and the surface roughness of the area. While hills and mountains can affect wind flow, Denmark's predominantly flat terrain means that local wind conditions are primarily dictated by surface roughness. Additionally, localized obstructions like forests, buildings (especially for smaller turbines), hedges, and the wake effects from neighboring turbines all contribute to reductions in wind speed.

Surface roughness, a critical factor, is commonly categorized using the following table:

Table 1: Description of surface roughness classification

Roughness class	Roughness Length (m)[1]	Description
0	0.0002	Water
1	0.03	Open farmland
2	0.1	Partly open farmland with some settlements and trees
3	0.4	Forest, cities, farmland with many windbreaks

[1] The roughness length is the height above ground level, where average wind speed is 0. The wind speed variation with height is governed by the roughness length.

Figure 4 Annual average wind speeds as a function of hub height and roughness class for flat terrain. The green dot represents a typical modern inland site; the blue dot represents a typical coastal site. The typical hub height is 90 m

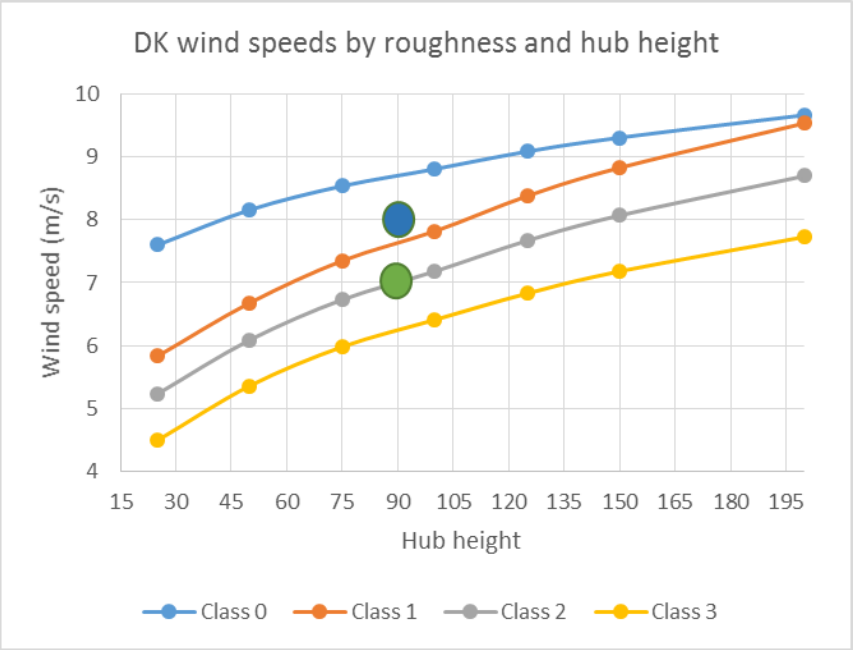


Figure 4 provides a depiction of average wind speeds categorized by hub height and surface roughness for flat terrain. Presently, onshore wind turbines installed in Denmark commonly feature hub heights ranging between 85-90 meters. For a standard inland site, the average wind speed hovers around 7 meters per second, whereas on a typical coastal site, the average wind speed elevates to approximately 8 meters per second.

Notably, an incremental rise in the average wind speed from 7 to 8 meters per second yields a substantial 25% increase in annual energy production.

Figure 5 Wind resource map for Denmark in 200 m resolution, 100 m above terrain.

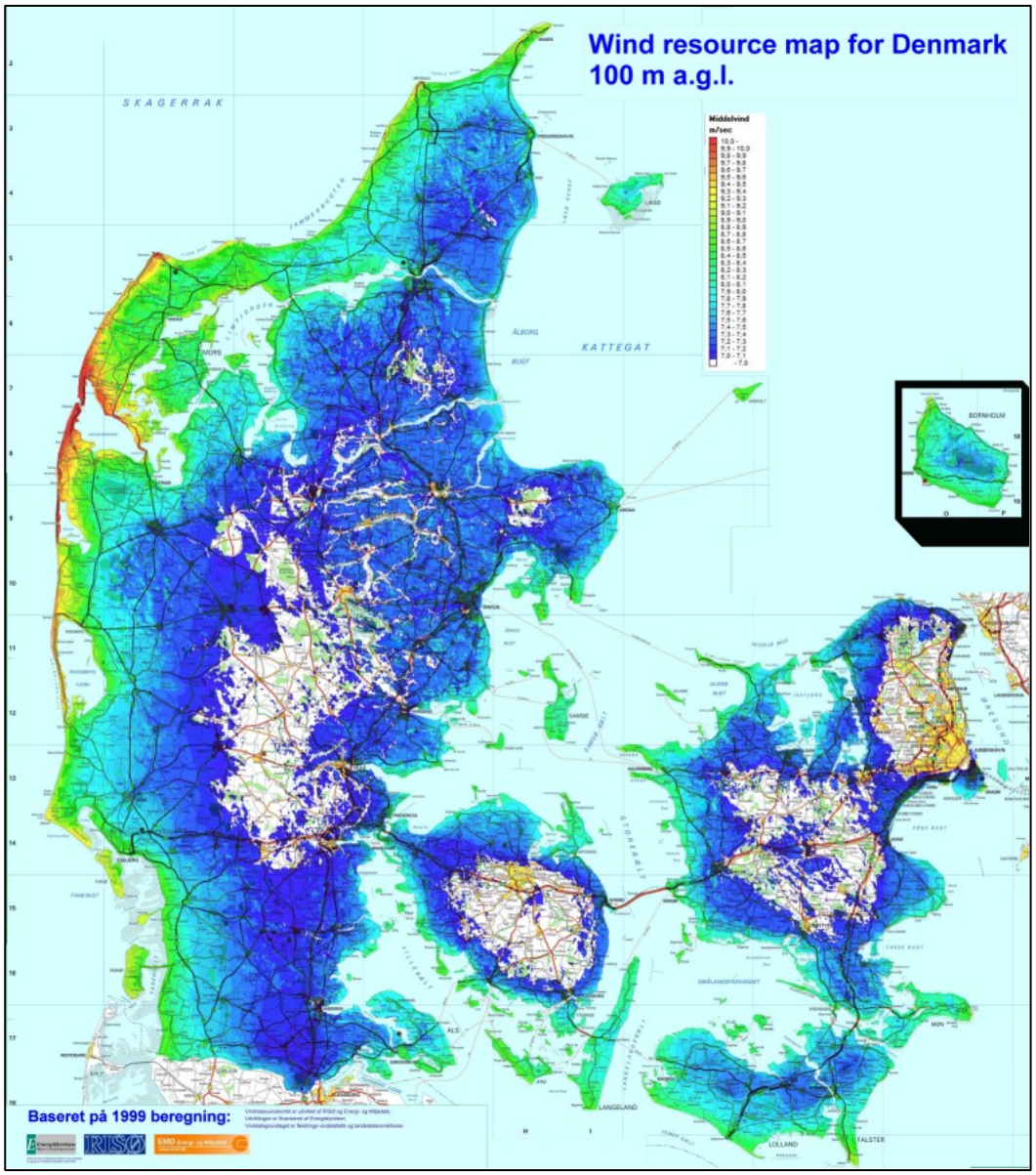


Figure 5, the wind resource map for Denmark, effectively highlights the regional disparities in wind potential. Notably, regions proximate to the sea, where prevailing wind directions, primarily from the west-southwest, are dominant, exhibit the highest wind resources. This is attributable to the low surface roughness in the upwind direction, fostering optimal wind conditions.

The white areas delineated on the map indicate regions with average wind speeds below 7 meters per second at a height of 100 meters above the terrain.

Figure 6 Annual full load hours as a function of mean wind speed at hub height. The examples in the figure are 3 MW with 90m rotor diameter, specific powers are 472 W/m2 called "high specific power" and 3.3 MW turbines with 112 m and 126 m rotor diameters, specific powers are 335 W/m² called "medium specific power" and 265 W/m² called "low specific power"

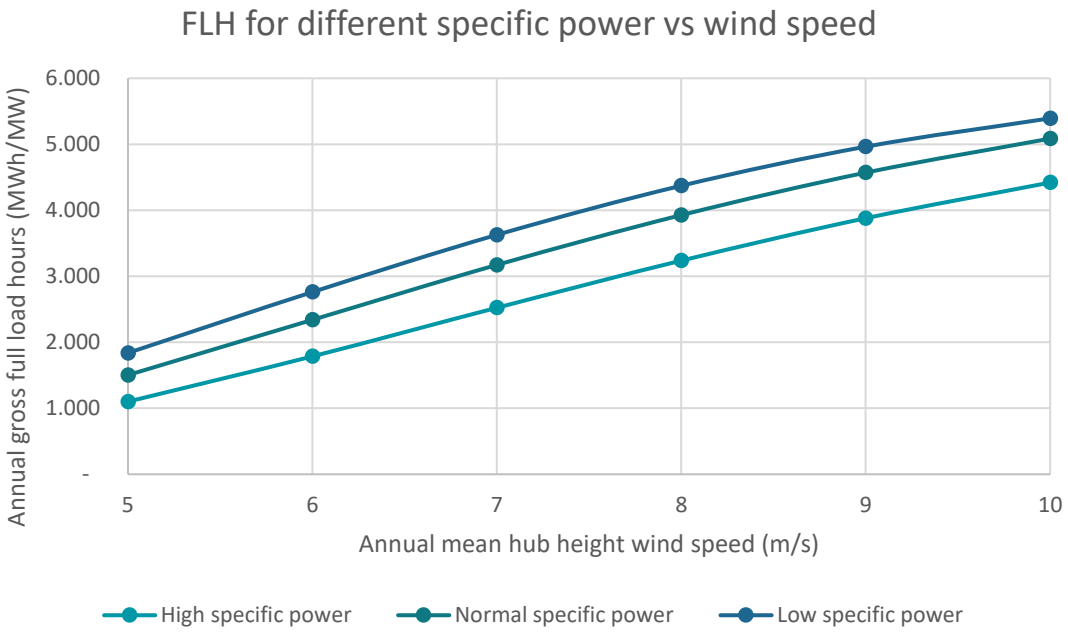


Figure 6 provides a visual representation illustrating the correlation between the annual mean wind speed and the specific power for annual energy production (AEP). Notably, the increase in AEP demonstrates an almost linear relationship with the mean wind speed, especially within the range of 6 meters per second to 9 meters per second. Projections indicate that forthcoming turbines will likely feature even lower specific power compared to the "low" example depicted in the aforementioned figure.

Typical capacities and development statistics

Onshore wind turbines, currently installed in the capacity range of 2 to 6 megawatts (MW), are generally categorized based on their nameplate capacity. Smaller variants and micro turbines, falling within the 1 to 25 kilowatts (kW) range, are classified as Domestic wind turbines, detailed in a separate section.

Two primary design parameters significantly impact a wind turbine's overall production capacity. At lower wind speeds, electricity production correlates with the turbine rotor's swept area. Conversely, at higher wind speeds, the power rating of the generator dictates the power output. The intricate relationship between mechanical and electrical characteristics, coupled with their associated costs, determines the optimal turbine design for specific sites.

In Denmark, the size of wind turbines has steadily increased over time. This growth is attributed to larger generators, taller hub heights, and expanded rotor sizes, collectively enhancing electricity generation. The adoption of lower specific power—increasing the rotor area more than proportionally to the generator rating—enhances the capacity factor, particularly as power output at wind speeds below rated power scales directly with the rotor's swept area. Additionally, taller hub heights associated with larger turbines generally offer higher wind resources.

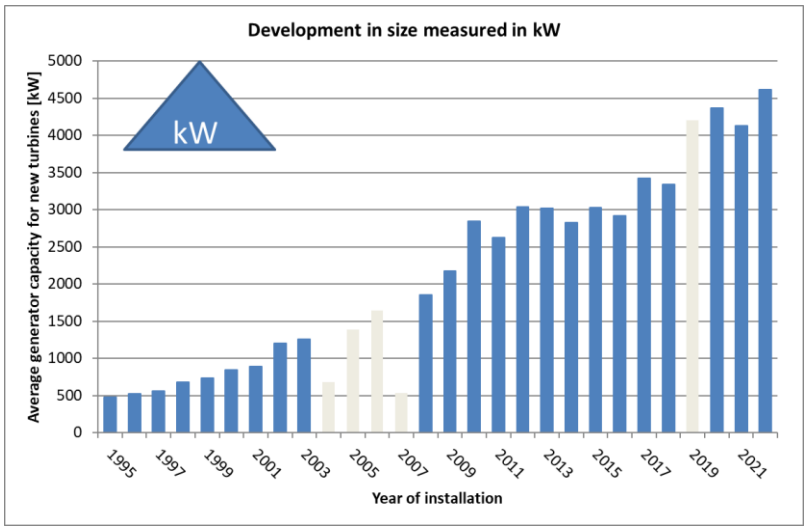
The increment in hub heights had been limited by regulations until 2018, restricting municipalities from planning turbines taller than 150 meters in tip height. Another limitation stipulated a minimum distance of 4

times the tip height from settlements. Although the first mentioned regulation ceased in 2018, the tip height constraint remains intact.

The average rated power of new onshore wind turbines in Denmark has escalated from around 1 MW since the year 2000 (refer to figure 17 below) to approximately 4.5 MW in 2022 (excluding 2 x 15 MW test WTGs, which are offshore wind turbines installed on land).

Note: Certain bars in the figures may appear greyed out due to minimal installations in specific years.

Figure 7 Average generator capacity for new turbines (rated power > 25 kW) [2]



During the same period, there's been a notable increase in rotor diameters and hub heights, depicted in Figure 8 and 9. However, it's important to note that the hub heights in recent years remain below the maximum level set in 2013 due to previously mentioned restrictions. These regulations, particularly the mandated distance required from settlements, have had a practical limiting impact on hub heights. However, post-2019, the average tip height has surpassed the 150-meter limit.

Figure 8 Average rotor diameter for new turbines (rated power > 25 kW) [2]

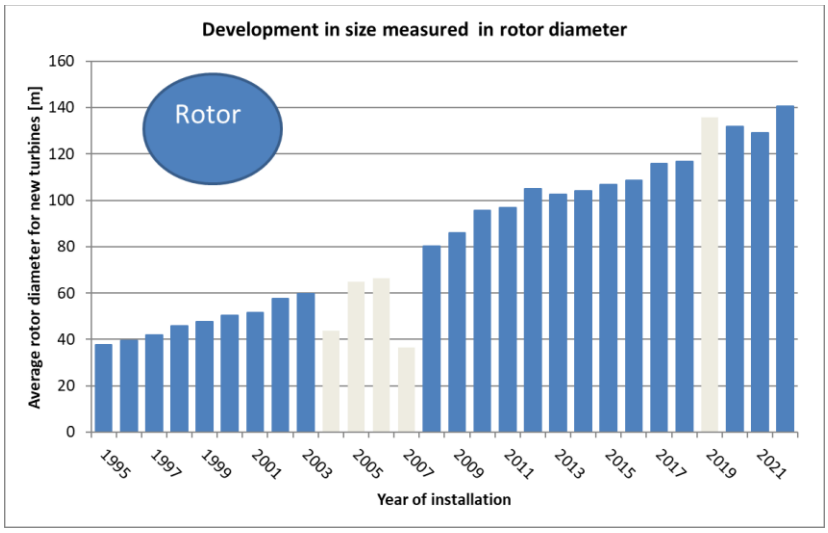


Figure 9 Average hub height for new turbines (rated power > 25 kW) [2]

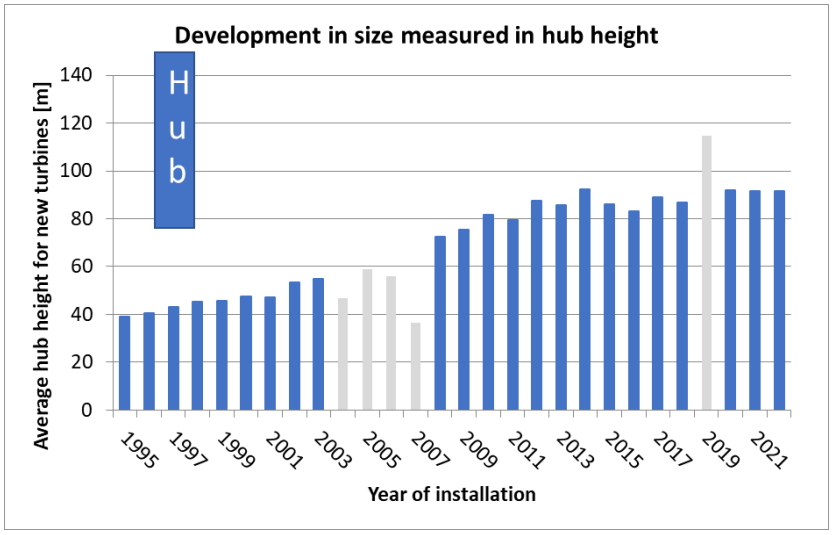


Figure 10 Average tip height for new turbines (rated power > 25 kW) [2]

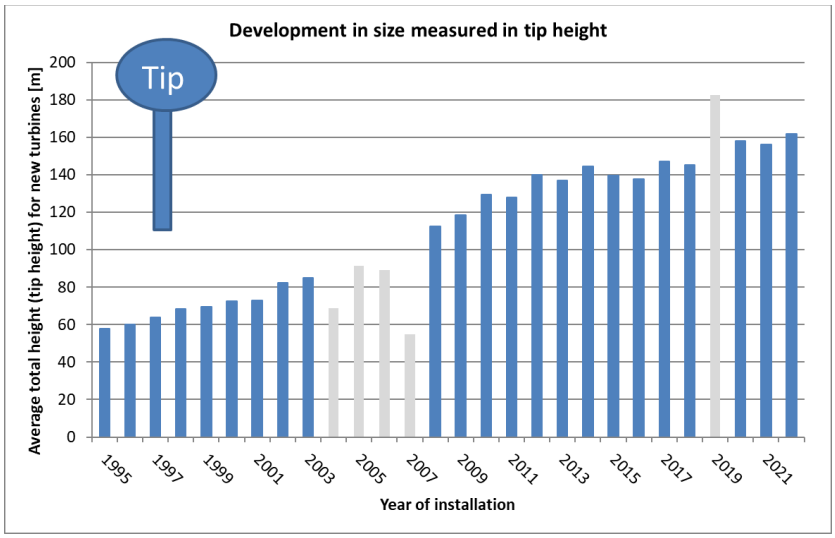
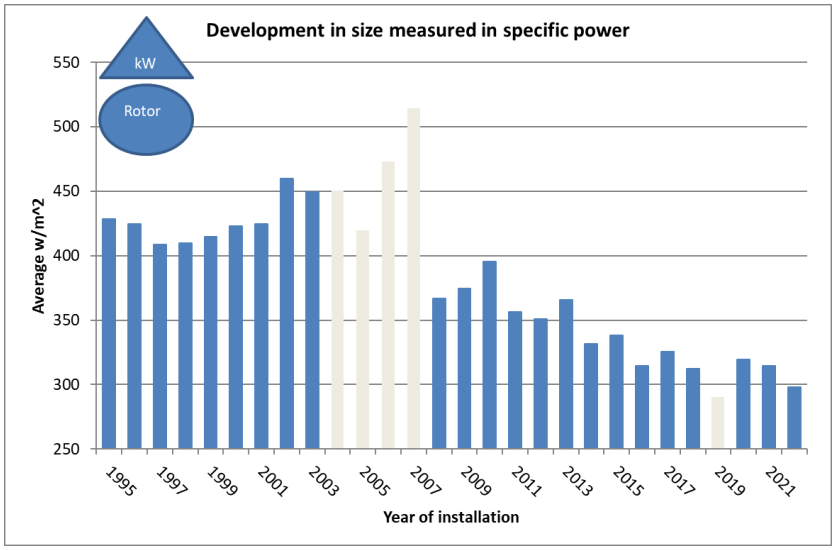


Figure 11 Average specific power for new turbines (rated power > 25 kW) [2]



Over the past two decades, wind turbines installed in Denmark have witnessed a decline in specific power. Previously, turbines were often characterized by specific power values of approximately 400-450 watts per square meter. Post-2010, the average specific power has consistently fallen below 375 watts per square meter, reaching approximately 225-300 watts per square meter in 2023. This reduction, coupled with enhancements in turbine efficiency and the rise in average hub heights, has led to an increase in capacity factors.

On average, capacity factors for onshore turbines installed in Denmark before 2000 lingered below 25% (equivalent to approximately 2200 full load hours). In contrast, onshore turbines installed post-2010 exhibit average capacity factors typically ranging from 30% to 35% (equating to 2600-3100 full load hours). This trend towards larger rotor sizes and diminished specific power is not exclusive to Denmark but is evident globally.

Regulation ability and power system services

Wind-generated electricity is inherently variable due to its reliance on prevailing wind conditions. Consequently, the regulation capability of wind turbines is contingent upon the prevailing weather. During periods of low wind

(speed less than 4-6 meters per second), turbines have limited capacity to provide regulation, except potentially for voltage regulation. While modern turbines, equipped with inverters and advanced control systems, aid in stabilizing the grid by supplying reactive power, their regulation ability is weather-dependent.

In conditions where there's adequate wind resource available (speed higher than 4-6 meters per second but lower than 25-30 meters per second), wind turbines can consistently offer downward regulation and, in many instances, upward regulation provided the turbine operates in a power-curtailed mode, deliberately maintaining an output below its potential based on available wind. Although technically possible, the practice of operating turbines at a reduced power level to facilitate up regulation is infrequent. This is due to the typical requirement for system operators to compensate owners for the reduced revenue, leading to limited utilization of this feature in many countries [3].

Wind turbine generation can swiftly adjust down for grid balancing purposes. The start-up time from no production to full operation depends on the prevailing wind conditions.

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages:

- Wind turbines produce no emissions to air during their operation.
- Operating wind turbines do not emit greenhouse gases, contributing to a cleaner environment.
- Due to low operational costs and the absence of fuel expenses, wind power offers predictable and stable cost structures.
- The modular nature of wind technology facilitates scalable capacity expansion, ensuring flexibility to align with demand, thus preventing unnecessary overbuilds and associated stranded costs.
- Wind energy projects generally have shorter lead times compared to various alternative energy technologies, enabling quicker implementation.

Disadvantages:

- Wind energy is capital-intensive initially, requiring significant investment for installation.
- Dependence on wind as an energy resource introduces variability in energy production, impacting consistency.
- Compared to traditional thermal power plants, wind power offers a moderate contribution to ensuring continuous capacity adequacy.
- The intermittent nature of wind energy necessitates complementary regulating power to manage fluctuations and grid stability.
- Wind turbines may pose visual impact concerns and generate noise, affecting nearby communities.

Environment

Wind energy is a clean energy source. The main environmental concerns are visual impact, flickering from rapid shifts between shadow and light when turbine is between sun and settlement, noise and the risk of bat or bird-collisions.

The visual impact of wind turbines is an issue that creates some controversy, especially since onshore wind turbines have become larger.

Flickering is generally managed through a combination of prediction tools and turbine control. Turbines may in some cases need to be shut down for brief periods when flickering effect could occur at neighbouring residences.

Noise is generally dealt with in the planning phase. Allowable sound emission levels are calculated based on allowable sound pressure levels at neighbours. In some cases, it is necessary to operate turbines at reduced rotational speed and/or less aggressive pitch setting in order to meet the noise requirements. Noise reduced operation may cause a reduction in annual energy production of 5-10%. Despite meeting the required noise emission levels turbines sometimes give rise to noise complaints from neighbours. In 2013, it was decided to investigate in detail how wind turbines and especially noise from wind turbines influence human health. The report concludes[2] that:

- No conclusive evidence was found of a correlation between short-term and long-term exposure to wind turbine noise and the occurrence of blood clots in the heart and stroke.
- The results of the study do not support a link between long-term exposure to wind turbine noise and newly emerging diabetes or between exposure to wind turbine noise during pregnancy and negative birth defects.
- For first-time redemption of prescriptions for sleep medication and antidepressant medicine, the researchers found a connection with high levels of outdoor wind turbine noise among the elderly over the age of 65 and weak indications of similar findings for first-time intake of prescriptions for medicines for the treatment of high blood pressure.
- The study generally includes few illnesses / pregnancies among the groups exposed to the highest noise levels. The findings are not considered valid by the researchers unless reproduced by other researchers.

A Canadian literature study concludes that wind turbines might cause annoyance for the neighbours, but no causal relation could be established between noise from wind turbines and the neighbour's health [4].

The risk of bird collisions has been of concern in Denmark due to the proximity of wind turbines to bird migration routes. In general, it turns out that birds are able to navigate around turbines, and studies report low overall bird mortality but with some regional variations [5].

The environmental impact from the manufacturing of wind turbines is moderate and is in line with the impact of other normal industrial production. The mining and refinement of rare earth metals used in permanent magnets is an area of concern [1, 6, 7].

The energy payback time of an onshore wind turbine is in several studies calculated to be in the order of 3-9 months [8, 9].

Life-cycle assessment (LCA) studies of wind farms have concluded that environmental impacts come from three main sources:

- bulk waste from the tower and foundations, even though a high percentage of the steel is recycled
- hazardous waste from components in the nacelle
- greenhouse gases (e.g. CO2 from steel manufacturing and solvents from surface coatings)

Research and development perspectives

R&D potential: [1, 10]

- Reduced investment costs resulting from improved design methods and load reduction technologies
- More efficient methods to determine wind resources, incl. external design conditions, e.g. normal and extreme wind conditions
- Improved aerodynamic performance

[2] https://mst.dk/service/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2019/mar/undersoegelse-om-helbredseffekter-af-vindmoellestoej-er-afsluttet/

- Reduced operational and maintenance costs resulting from improvements in wind turbine component reliability
- Development in ancillary services and interactions with the energy systems
- Improved tools for wind power forecasting and participation in balancing and intraday markets
- Improved power quality. Rapid change of power in time can be a challenge for the grid
- Noise reduction. New technology can save the losses by noise reduced mode and possible utilize good sites better, where the noise set the limit of number of turbines
- Public acceptance
- Repowering strategies, like when it is feasible to repower for society and for investors – subsidy schemes must support optimal solutions
- Storage can improve value of wind power much, but is expensive at present

Examples of best available technology

Current Onshore Wind Turbine Offerings in Denmark:

At present, the Danish onshore wind market predominantly features commercially approved turbines offered by Siemens Gamesa and Vestas. These turbines typically encompass rated power within the 3–6 megawatt (MW) range, accompanied by rotor diameters spanning 100 to 150 meters. However, hub heights are frequently constrained, primarily due to visual impact concerns and neighbouring distance stipulations.

Notably, hub heights beyond 125 meters have not been observed outside of dedicated test sites, as existing projects navigate limitations imposed by visual impact considerations and prescribed distance requirements from neighbouring areas.

Prediction of performance and cost

Cost breakdown of total capital costs for onshore wind turbines

The estimated capital costs for onshore wind power projects in 2020 were derived from the analysis of 27 projects installed between 2017 and 2021.

- Dominant Cost Component: The primary portion of capital costs for onshore wind projects revolves around the expenditure on the wind turbines themselves.
- Grid Connection Costs: Historically covered by the Transmission System Operator (TSO) or Distribution System Operator (DSO) depending on the connection point, grid connection costs typically range between 3% to 7% of the total investment costs. However, these expenses are not included in the analyzed cost breakdown.

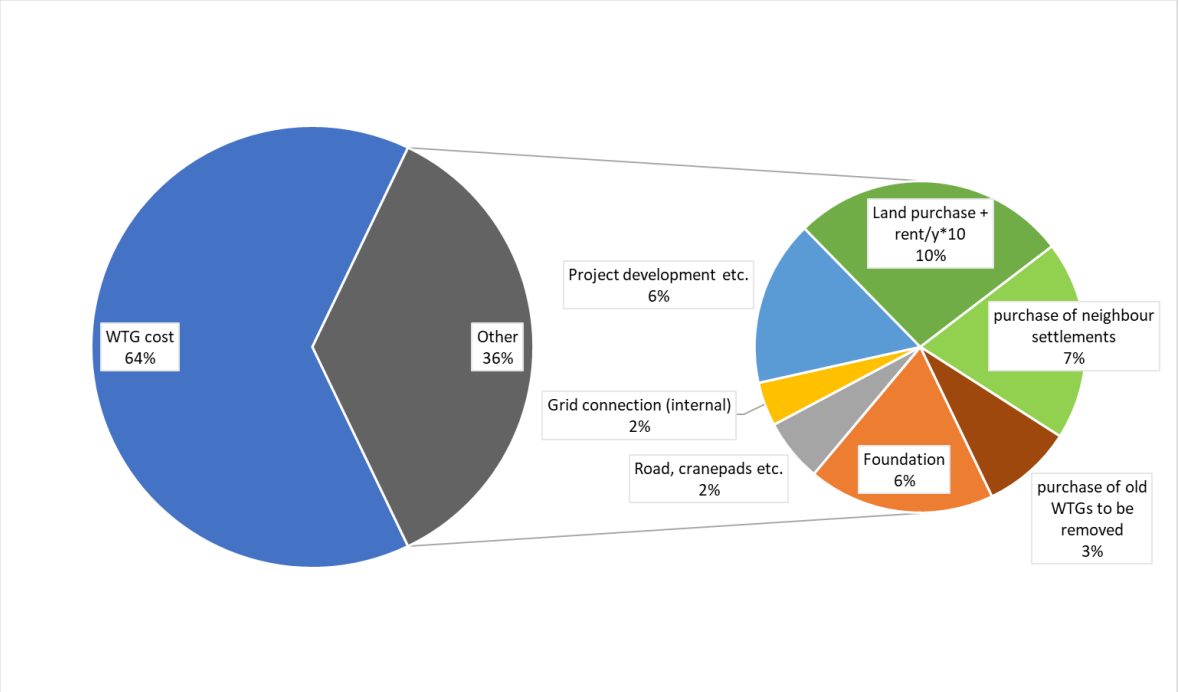
The breakdown comprises additional project costs, including:

- Cost of Land: Encompasses land expenses, incorporating annual rent multiplied by a factor of 10.
- Purchase of Existing Turbines: Involves the acquisition of turbines to be dismantled either on-site or in nearby locations.
- Purchase of Nearby Settlements: Acquiring nearby settlements to clear space for the project.

Exclusions from Cost Breakdown: Not accounted for in the analysis are politically mandated payments like Neighbour compensations and "Grøn pulje."

Variability in Supplementary Costs: These supplementary costs exhibit substantial variability across projects, fluctuating between 0% to approximately 25% of the total investment. The actual percentage varies contingent upon the specific local circumstances of each project.

Figure 12 The cost breakdown including land costs etc. from "køberetsordning" 2017-21 projects.



The expenses related to the purchase of neighboring settlements and old Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) may escalate in the future. This trend is influenced by the growing inclination towards larger projects necessitating more space, subsequently raising costs associated with acquiring neighboring settlements and old turbines.

While grid expansion costs are not accounted for in the current cost breakdown, recent changes stipulate that wind project owners are now responsible for expenses related to grid expansion. These costs are linked to the grid connection of projects and vary based on voltage levels and geographical locations, particularly in production-dominated or demand-dominated grid areas. Estimated at approximately 5% of all other costs, the actual expenses can vary significantly depending on voltage levels and project locations.

Renewable energy support regulations (latest revised pr. 1-1-2021):

Purpose of Regulations: There's an emergence of more regulations aimed at promoting local acceptance of wind projects. These regulations focus on fostering community support and minimizing opposition to wind energy developments. These regulations, typically adding 2-5% in costs on top of data sheet estimates, vary significantly based on specific site characteristics.

Neighbour Compensation:

Neighbours near a project can be compensated for the loss of the property value based on the visual impact due to this. For wind projects, neighbours within 6 x total height of nearest turbine can seek compensation. For PV plants distance requirement is 200m. Historically the costs average for this have been in size order 1% of the total project costs.

Sales Option:

Neighbours entitled to compensation can within the first year of plant production force project developers to purchase their property at a price set by an independent real estate consultant. No established impact on project costs as of yet due to this regulation.

Bonus Payment:

Neighbours within 8 x total height distance (for wind) or 200 meters (for PV) receive compensation equivalent to the annual production value from 6.5 kW of the plant. For wind, this amounts to around 10,000 DKK/year. No observed impact on project costs due to this regulation yet.

Green Municipality Payment:

Project developers are obligated to pay municipalities 125,000 DKK per installed MW onshore wind. For some PV plants, this amount is 40.000 DKK/MW and for some offshore wind projects (near-shore), the amount is 165.000 DKK/MW. Revised amounts roughly represent 1.5% of total project costs, compared to previously representing 1% of total project costs for wind.

Abolished "Purchase Right":

Previously existing purchase rights for 20% of the plant no longer apply. While this didn't incur direct costs for the project, it limited potential profits for developers.

Operating and Maintenance (O&M) costs for wind projects.

1. Service Agreements: Covering the majority of expenses related to maintenance and operational needs.
2. Administrative Costs: Costs associated with the administrative management of the wind project.
3. Insurance: Expenses related to insurance coverage for the wind project.
4. Electricity Purchase: Costs associated with purchasing electricity needed for operational purposes.

Additionally, while some projects incur land rent, most either own or purchase the land required for the wind project's installation and operation.

The detailed review in Figure 22 delineates the breakdown of O&M costs excluding land rent and contingencies, amounting to a total of 23,424 EUR per megawatt per year, considered representative for the 2020 cost level.

This breakdown provides insight into the major cost components involved in running and maintaining contemporary wind projects, with service agreements being the primary contributor to O&M expenses.

Cost and production dependence of hub height and specific power

Understanding the relationship between cost and production in wind turbine technology is crucial for identifying future drivers. This analysis typically involves examining how changes in parameters such as hub height and specific power influence production relative to turbine cost.

Figure 13 The production increase relative to the investment cost based on current available Vestas turbines. By increasing height, costs are extrapolated using DKK 100.000 per m hub height increase; the rotor area is kept constant

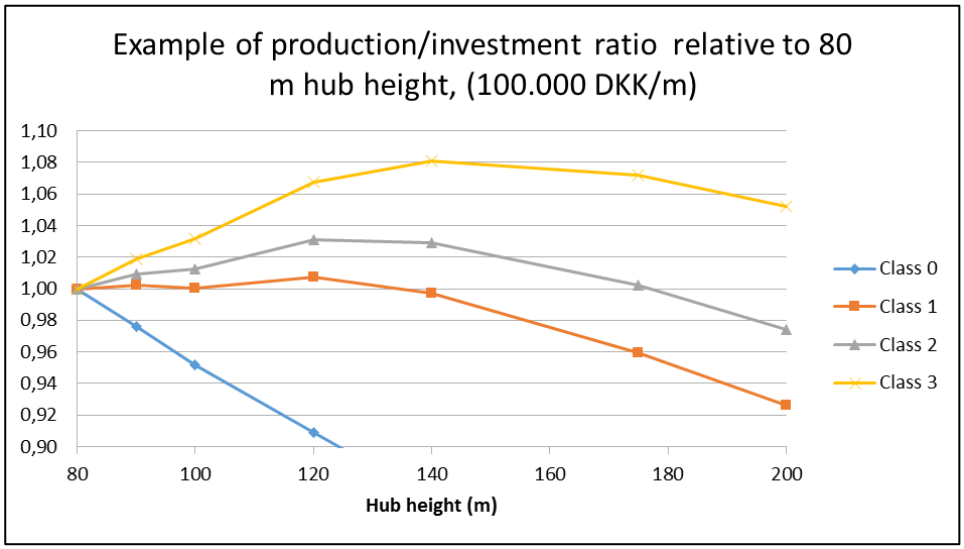
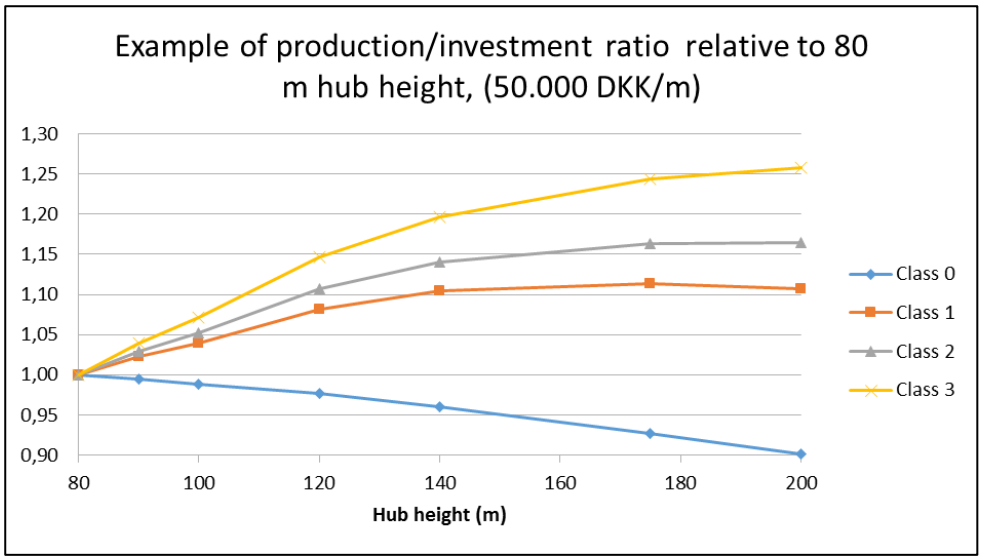


Figure 14 Similar, the production increase relative to the investment cost based on current available Vestas turbines, for increasing height, where costs are extrapolated using DKK 50.000 per m hub height increase, the rotor area is kept constant



Figures 13 and 14 outline that, with the exception of offshore roughness class 0, elevating hub heights beyond current standards would enhance cost efficiency. This improvement tends to be more pronounced in countries like Germany and Sweden due to their higher average roughness classes. In recent times, hub heights of 140m are becoming increasingly common in commercial projects in these regions.

However, while the assumed cost increase of DKK 50-100,000 per meter for each hub height increase falls within the range observed in present technologies, it's vital to note that several other factors influence the cost increase associated with height adjustments. These factors include specific tower technology, project location concerning manufacturing facilities, and crane availability.

It's crucial to understand that the actual cost increase won't follow a linear pattern with height increments, as assumed in the figures, because of the abovementioned factors. Instead, the impact on costs due to height

variations should be regarded as a general representation of the potential cost reductions achievable through higher hub heights. The complexities involved in construction, logistics, and technology nuances contribute to a non-linear relationship between height and cost, making these figures illustrative rather than prescriptive benchmarks.

Figure 15 The production relative to the investment cost based on current available Vestas turbines for different rotor areas, generator size is 3.6 - 4 MW for all (= different specific power)

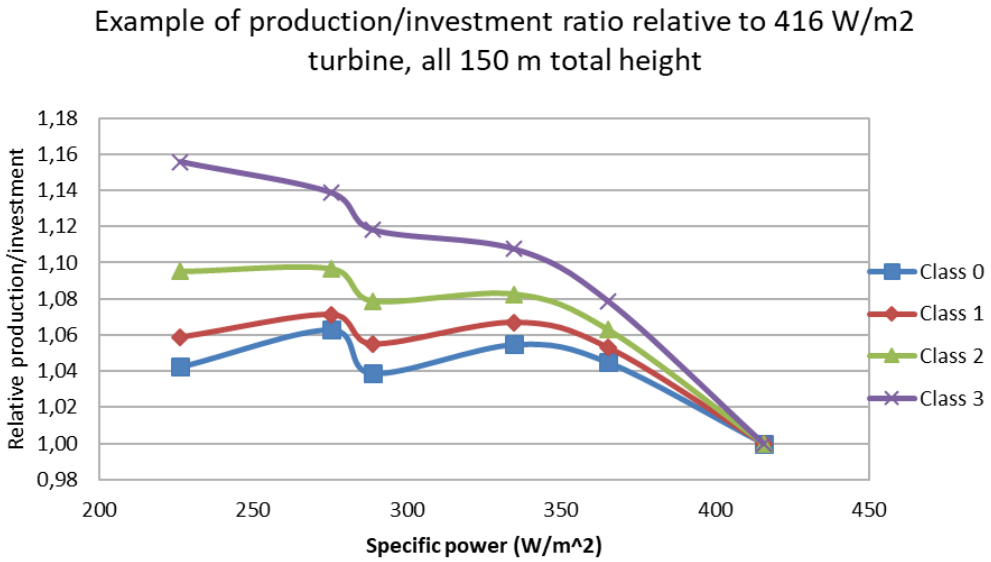


Figure 15 highlights the potential advantages derived from reducing specific power in wind turbine models. Turbines featuring a specific power below 250 W/m² exhibit up to a 15% improvement in energy production per cost when compared to models with the highest specific power presently available. If the benefits of increased hub height were factored into this analysis, even greater improvements could be anticipated.

It's essential to note that noise regulations impacting turbine operations have influenced the average capacity factors of onshore turbines installed since 2010. Typically, operations that comply with noise reduction regulations result in approximately a 5% lower annual production compared to scenarios where non-noise reduced operation would be feasible.

While adhering to noise regulations in Denmark typically leads to around a 5% reduction in annual production, some countries have observed even more substantial reductions. This factor contributes to a decrease in overall energy output from wind turbines installed since 2010 when compared to scenarios without noise-related operational limitations.

Historical development in investment costs (CAPEX)

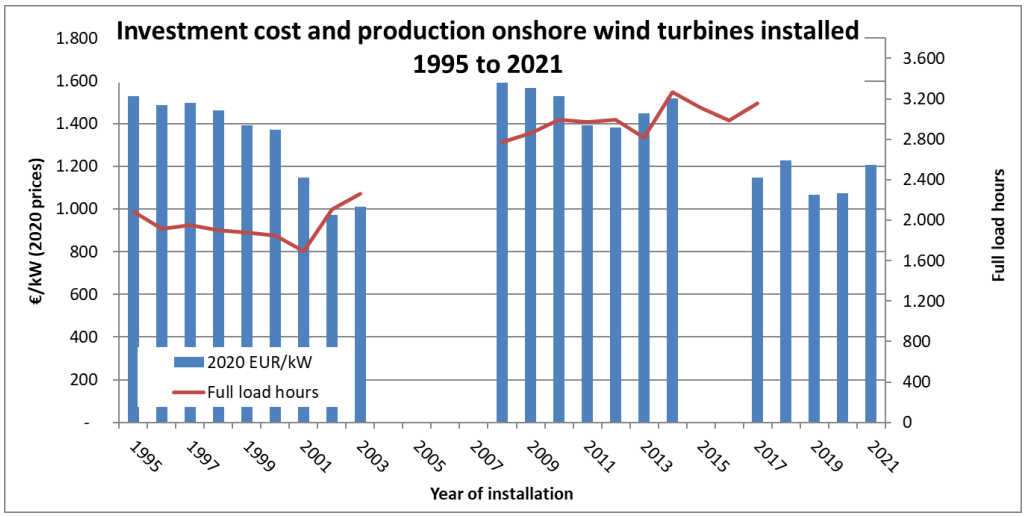
The investment cost of wind turbines is expressed as investment per installed MW. This should however not stand alone when assessing the cost of the production of electricity from wind turbines. As mentioned before, the increase in hub height and rotor size of the turbine incurs additional investment costs per MW, but also increases the production per MW.

Figure 16 provides an insightful view of the relationship between investment costs and energy production (measured in annual full load hours) from wind turbines since 1995.

- Between 2003 and 2008, there was a noticeable increase in investment costs, attributed to several factors such as larger turbine sizes, technological complexities, rising costs of materials and labor, increased mark-ups by manufacturers, and supply chain shortages. During this period, there was also a significant rise in energy production per megawatt (MW) due to technological advancements and turbine size increases.
- Subsequently, from 2017 to 2021, costs decreased notably, nearly returning to the levels seen in 2002-2003. This reduction was propelled by the development of new turbines focused on cost reductions, decreased electricity prices, and heightened market competition. Turbines were even sold without profit during this period.
- In the years 2008-2014, the rise in energy production outpaced the increase in investment costs, indicating an improvement in efficiency despite rising costs.

It's important to note that fluctuations in annual full load hours are largely influenced by the sensitivity to the wind resources of actual project locations rather than alterations in technology from year to year. This sensitivity emphasizes that the number of full load hours is significantly impacted by the specific locations of wind projects, underscoring the importance of wind resource quality in determining energy production.

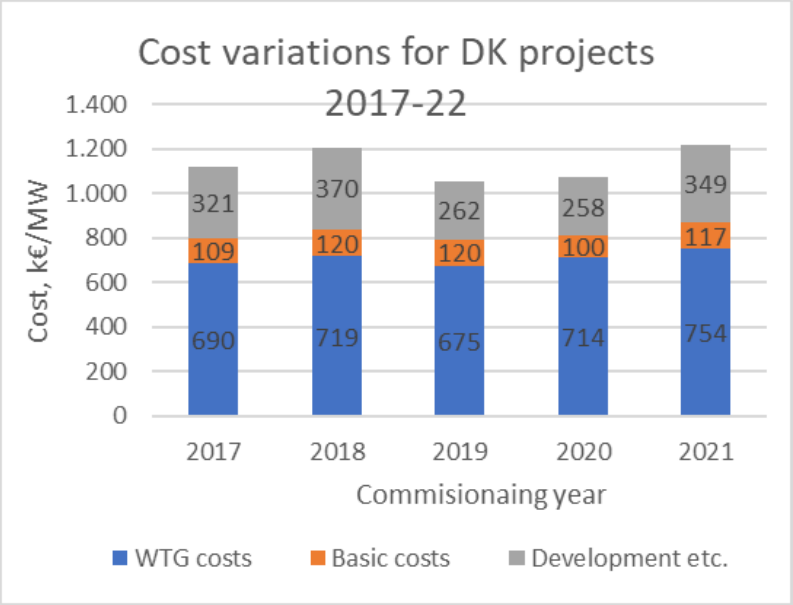
Figure 16 Development in investment cost (2020 price level) and average production (full load hours) for onshore turbines > 25 kW by installation year based on 2018 production [2, 12, 1]



The data from wind projects installed in 2013 and 2014 indicated an average investment cost of around 1450 k€/MW [11]. However, for projects installed between 2017 and 2021, the costs decreased notably to approximately 1150 k€/MW, encompassing all expenses, including those related to land, neighbor compensations, among others. This showcases a remarkable cost reduction of more than 20% over the recent four-year period.

It's noteworthy that detailed data for the years 2015-2016 isn't available in this analysis, hence the absence of specific year-by-year information for this intermediate period. However, the significant decrease in investment costs observed between 2013-2014 and 2017-2021 highlights a substantial and positive trend towards cost efficiency in wind project installations.

Figure 17 Development in average costs for "Køberets" projects. Basic costs are foundation, roads and internal grid, the needed "hardware" in addition to the turbines. Development etc. cover land purchase + land rent/y x 10, neighbour compensations and purchase of neighbour settlements and old turbines if such on the site or nearby and finance costs. Grid connection costs and contingencies are not included



Prediction of cost in the period from 2020 to 2050

The year 2022 witnessed a significant and radical change in the wind energy landscape. There was a sharp increase in electricity prices along with notable escalations in raw material and labor costs. Consequently, this surge in expenses resulted in substantial price hikes, estimated to be around 30% specifically on turbines, based on interview data, list prices and Average Selling Prices (ASP). This escalation reflects the direct impact of the market dynamics and cost fluctuations on the wind turbine sector during this period.

Figure 18 IEA price index. [Monthly commodity and freight price indexes, 2020-2023 – Charts – Data & Statistics - IEA]

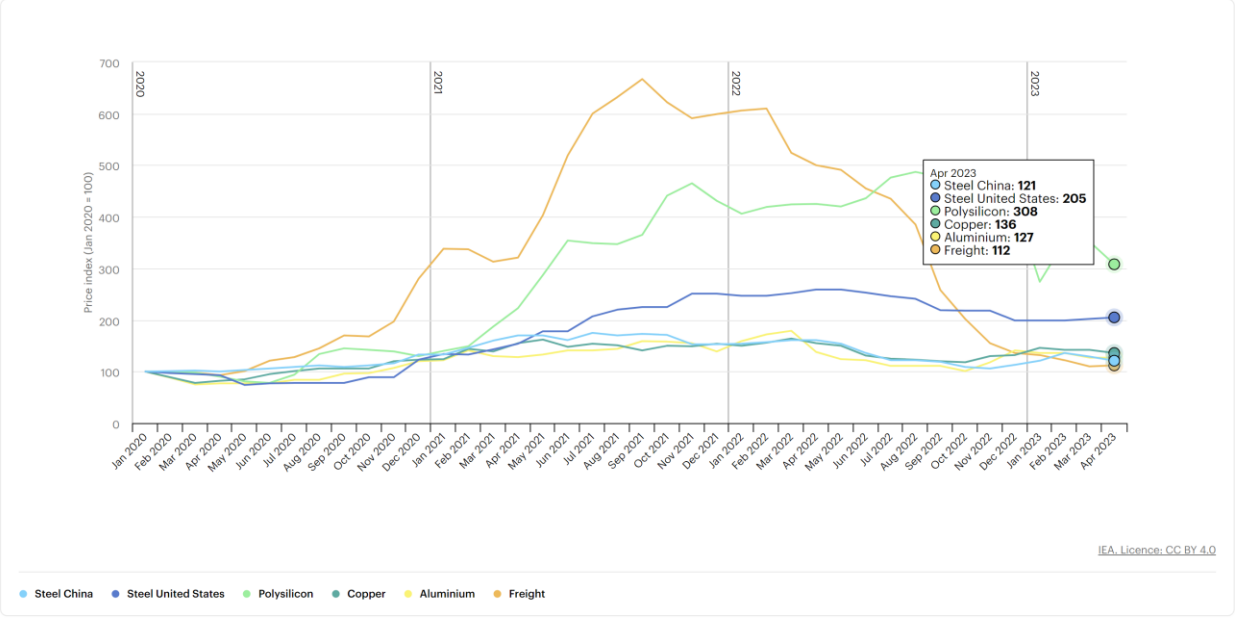
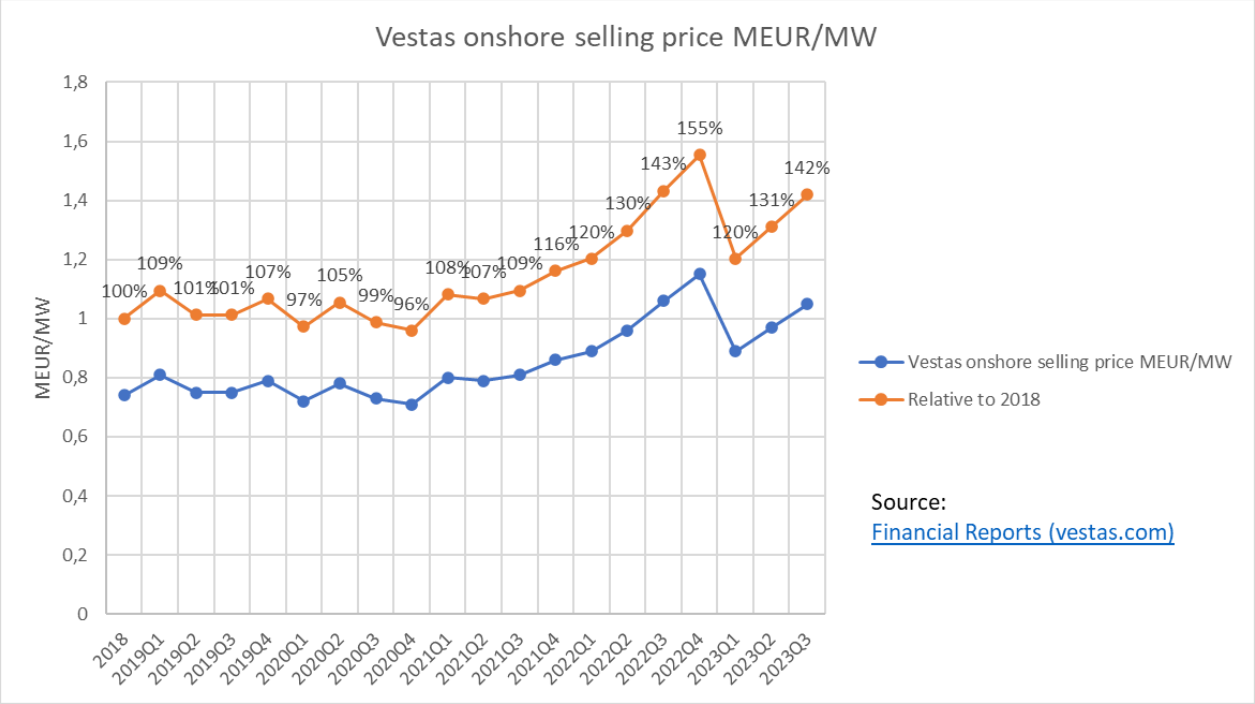


Figure 19 Vestas average selling price and ratio to 2018



The average selling price of turbines is subject to various market factors and order volumes. However, recent trends have shown a distinct trajectory. Specifically, for Siemens Gamesa, the price increase has been comparatively less pronounced than for Vestas, but the price increase for Siemens Gamesa in 2023 Q1 is still 30% higher than in 2018. The recent two quarters show some decrease however.

Estimations based on the observed prices from 2022-23 indicate that turbine costs have surged by 25% in 2023 compared to 2020. This increase is in real prices, meaning it accounts for inflation. Speaking of inflation, between 2020 and 2023, an estimated 11% inflation rate is expected. This surge in costs reflects the current pricing landscape and we assume this will serve as the baseline for future price assessments.

Learning rates

Table 3 Assumed learning rates in cost breakdown. Learning rate for the nominal investment is based on cost weights.

	Learning rate	Comments on learning rates
Nominal investment (M€/MW)	4,6%	Resulting investment LR
- of which equipment	6,0%	Non fully mature technology
- of which installation/development	6,0%	Non fully mature technology
- of which is related to grid connection	3,0%	Mature technology
- of which is related to land (purchase/rent)	0,0%	No tech. development
- of which is related to decommissioning of existing turbines	0,0%	No tech. development

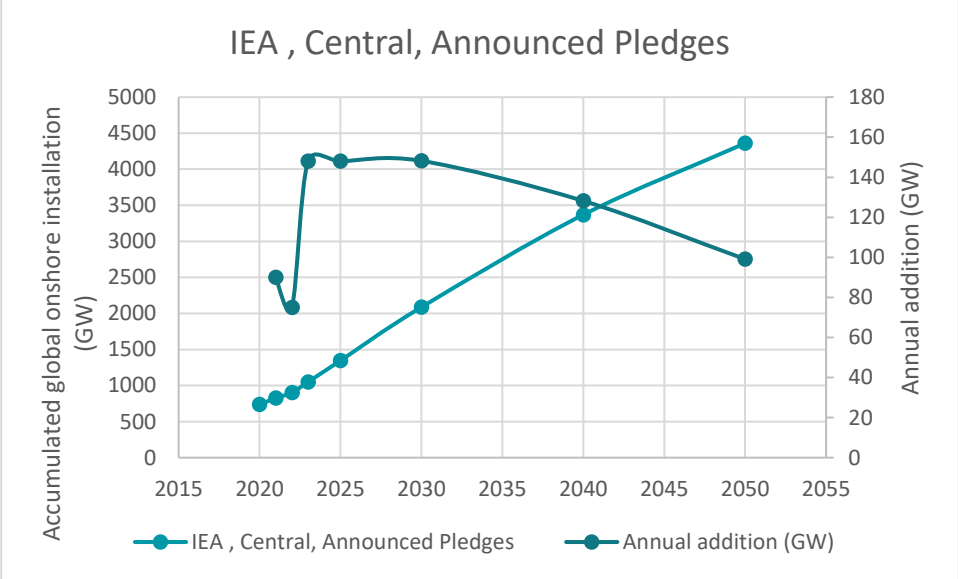
- of which is related purchase of neighbour settlements	-2,0%	Some increase expected due to larger turbines require more space
Fixed O&M (€/MW/year)	6,0%	Non fully mature technology
Variable O&M (€/MWh)	6,0%	Non fully mature technology

The learning rates express the cost reduction by doubling the installed capacity.

Accumulated installations

The accumulated installed capacity is estimated in Figure 20

Figure 20 Onshore wind installations used in price predictions based on learning curves



How much annual added capacity is assumed depends on many factors, especially political. IEA does regular updates based on expectations for each country.

Table 4 Accumulated GW and price factor by 4,5% Learning Rate.

Year	2020	2022	2023	2025	2030	2040	2050
Accumulated GW	702	821	979	1296	2087	3369	4360
Factor on 2023 accumulated	0,7	0,8	1,0	1,3	2,1	3,4	4,5
Factor on 2023 price by LR: 4,6%	1,00	1,00	1,00	0,98	0,95	0,92	0,90

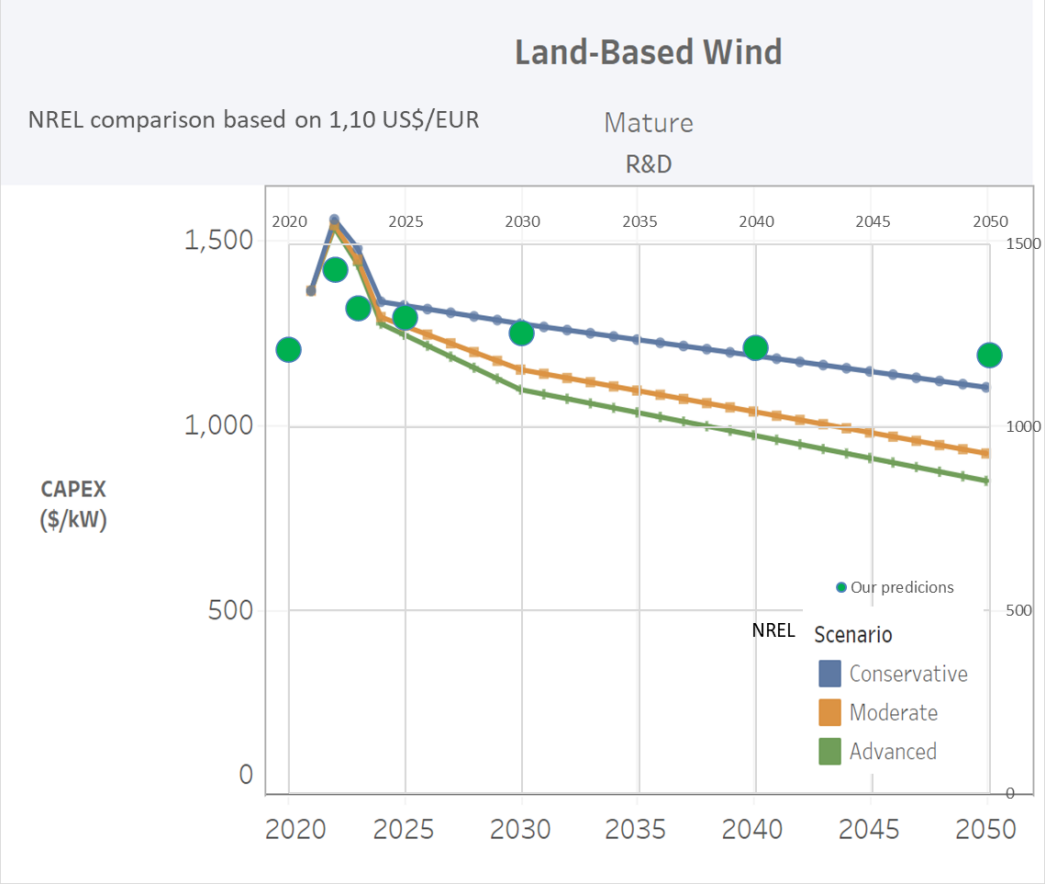
With 4,5% Learning rate, the 2025 prices will be 1% lower than 2023 and the 2050 will be 9% lower.

Table 5 Expected 2023 cost breakdown.

	2023-prices	2020-prices	
Description	New 2023 expect.	New 2023 expect.	factor23
Nominal investment (M€/MW)	1.333	1.208	1.21
- of which equipment	0.978	0.886	1.25
- of which installation/development	0.101	0.092	1.15
- of which is related to grid connection	0.019	0.018	1.15
- of which is related to land (purchase/rent)	0.122	0.111	1.15
- of which is related to decommissioning of existing turbines	0.035	0.032	1.00
- of which is related purchase of neighbour settlements	0.077	0.070	1.00
Fixed O&M (€/MW/year)	19,676	17,827	1.20
Variable O&M (€/MWh)	2.5	2.3	1.20

The table provided illustrates the anticipated 2023 pricing projections in nominal values. These figures are derived by multiplying the 2020 prices, which are based on the average prices from 2017 to 2021—years marked by minimal year-to-year variations—obtained from Køberets projects, with the factors detailed in the rightmost column. The '2020 prices' column reflects costs adjusted for core inflation in DK. It's worth noting that the core inflation excludes energy costs, labeled as 'core inflation' by 'Danmarks Statistik'. The rationale behind using core inflation (excluding energy costs) is the significant fluctuations observed in energy expenses from 2021 to 2023, primarily attributed to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Figure 21 The resulting CAPEX (2020 prices) for onshore wind projects put on top of NREL similar prediction scenarios



Expected Capex development

NREL assume an initial learning rate of 8%, deeming it "conservative" until 2030. Subsequently, they transition to a "back-calculated" learning rate of 10% based on LCOE (Levelized Cost of Energy). Denmark's comparatively lower assumed learning rate is justified by the projected rise in expenses associated with the mandatory acquisition of properties or settlements situated within a specific proximity to new onshore projects. As most available open land sites have been utilized, new projects are moving closer to existing buildings or settlements. Simultaneously, larger turbines necessitate increased distances from neighboring buildings or settlements.

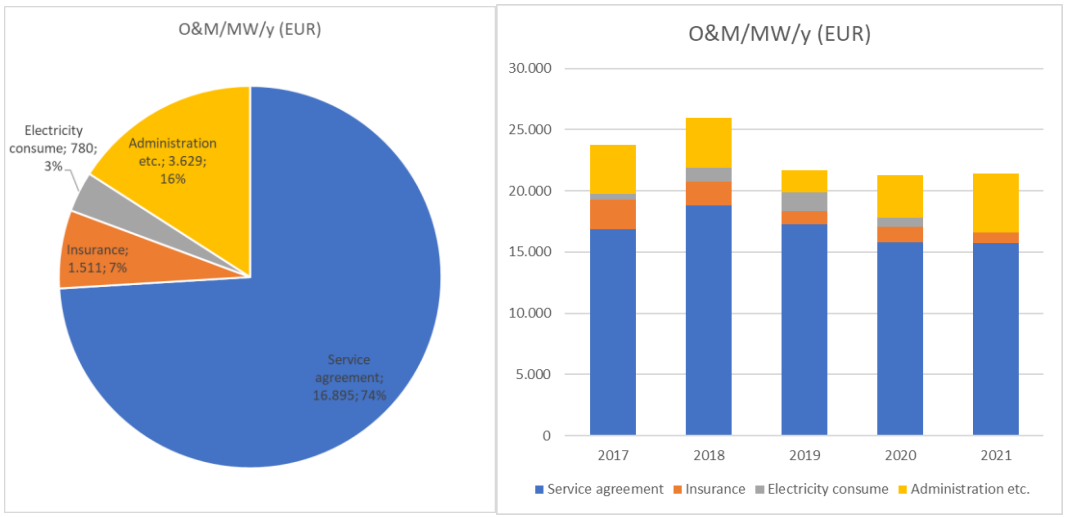
Another factor contributing to the lower expected learning rate, relative to NREL's projections, is the anticipated decrease in specific power, leading to increased costs per MW. Additionally, the expected rise in hub heights further escalates costs per MW. It's worth noting that recent years witnessed artificially lower hub heights, a consequence of the 150m limit on tip heights until 2019.

The decline from 2022 to 2023 can be attributed partially to the anticipated decrease in raw material costs and partly to the deflation of real 2020 prices. This deflationary effect for 2023 diminishes the learning rate by 10%.

Expected O&M costs development

From the Køberets projects, following costs are reported as average and year by year from 2017-21:

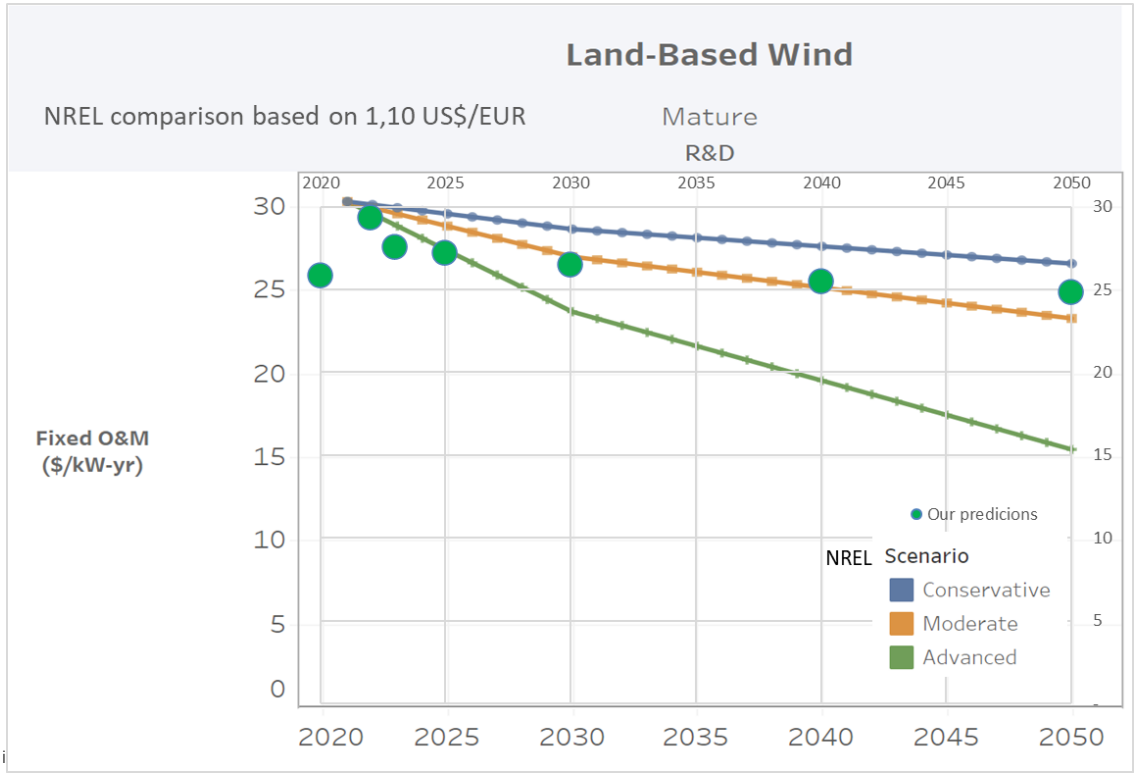
Figure 22 O&M costs excl. land rent and contingencies, total ~23.000 EUR/MW/y assumed representative as 2020 cost level.



Certainly, for certain projects, internal electricity consumption is factored into administrative and operational costs. Additionally, some projects allocate a portion of their O&M (Operations and Maintenance) cost budget for covering balance costs to the grid, while others perceive this as a deduction from their income.

In terms of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX), the anticipated O&M cost expectations have risen notably in 2022 and 2023, as evidenced in Table 3. The costs projected for 2023 serve as the initial reference point for learning-based cost reduction methods depicted in Figure 23.

Figure 23 Calculated future O&M costs (2020 prices) shown on top of NREL prediction scenarios



It's crucial to note that in our O&M cost predictions, land rent is not factored in; instead, it's accounted for within the CAPEX (Capital Expenditure) domain. However, NREL's (National Renewable Energy Laboratory) O&M cost forecasts do encompass land rent in their projections. In our predictions, we've assumed a learning rate of 6% to anticipate reductions in costs over time.

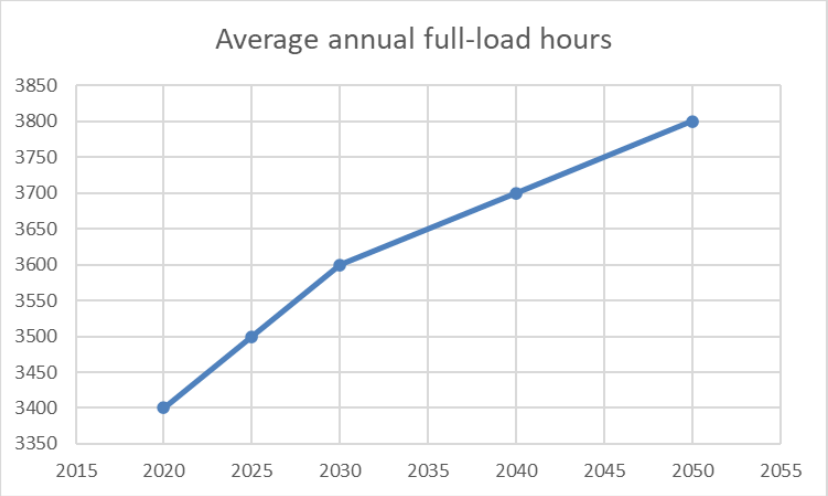
Based on the 2022 Vestas list prices, the service agreement (AOM5000) is indicated to cost 42 DKK/MWh. This translates to an average of 21 $/kW for the Køberets projects, considering expected production figures. Assuming this covers approximately 72% of the total O&M costs, it approximates 29 $/kW as the overall O&M costs, aligning closely with the 2022 value depicted in figure 23. The reduction observed in 2023 compared to 2022 is solely attributed to the adjustment to 2020 values in terms of inflation or deflation.

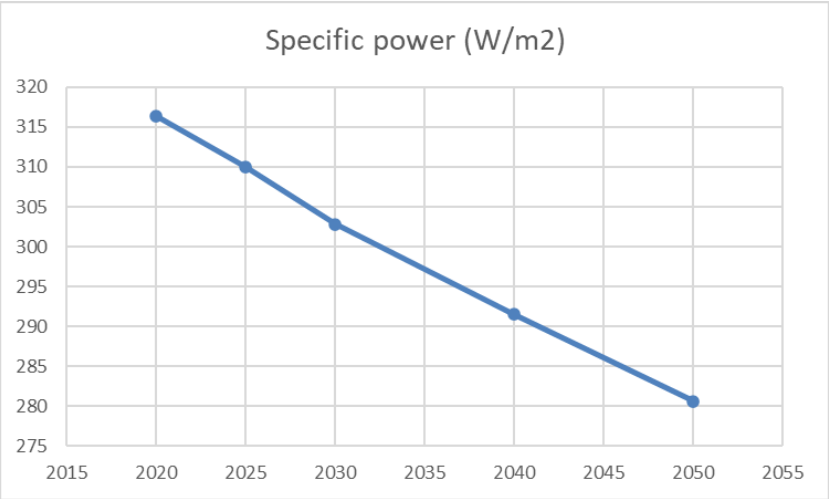
In the domain of O&M costs, the service agreement carries significant weight. Factors contributing to the observed cost decrease might include enhanced turbine control (resulting in reduced stress on components), improved understanding of actual costs (enabling narrower safety margins due to increased experience), and the procurement of cheaper spare parts sourced from China. These elements might collectively contribute to the decrease in O&M costs.

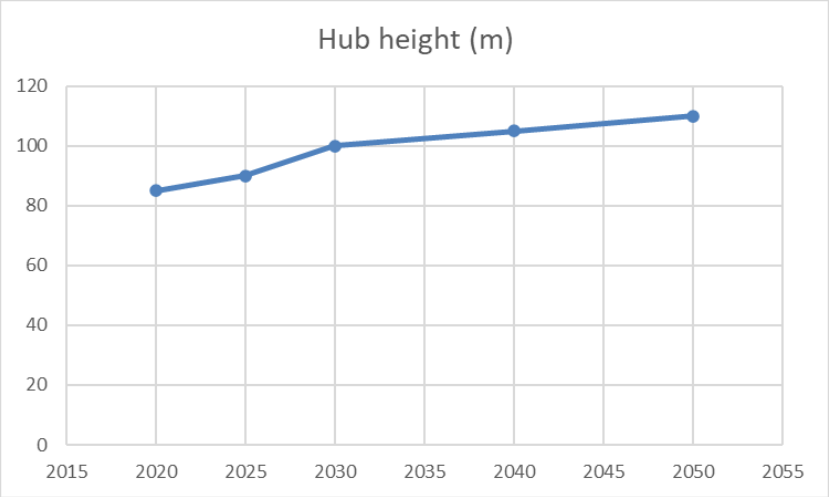
Capacity factors, specific power, and hub heights

Continued advancements in turbine sizes and capacity factors are anticipated to follow the trajectory established in the previous update. The primary catalyst for enhanced capacity factors remains lower specific power and heightened hub heights. Moreover, the integration of more sophisticated turbine control systems, such as flexible noise reduction mechanisms, might further augment these advancements in capacity factors. These technological improvements are expected to continue driving improvements in the performance and efficiency of wind turbines.

Figure 24 Expected development in production (full load hours (FLH)), specific power and hub height for on shore wind turbines located in DK.







Uncertainty

The evolution of onshore wind technology has indeed reached a mature stage. However, projecting future reductions in the cost of energy is subject to certain uncertainties. While advancements in technology and cost efficiencies play a significant role, it's crucial to note that various other factors beyond learning curves influence cost development. Market conditions, fluctuations in the prices of rare earth minerals, iron, copper, and other elements, among other variables, can significantly impact these projections.

Furthermore, the increase in full load hours is intricately linked to the geographical positioning of the majority of turbines slated for installation. Should there be acceptance and integration of taller total heights in future designs, there's potential for a considerable increase in full load hours, positively affecting overall energy output.

Future demands, onshore

Future advancements in onshore wind turbines are likely to encounter increased environmental protection demands. These demands might include stricter noise regulations, enhanced measures for reducing the visibility of aviation light markings, and even alterations in the visual appearance of turbines through color modifications to minimize their visibility.

Additionally, there might be a growing expectation for wind turbines to actively participate in grid regulation processes. This would involve more robust integration of wind farms into the grid infrastructure, allowing for improved and more active contributions to the stability and regulation of the power grid.

Additional remarks

Advancements in technology and ongoing improvements in maintenance and materials have extended the anticipated technical lifespan of wind turbines. While the traditional assumption was a 20-year lifecycle, current studies and practical observations suggest that turbines installed in the near future might well have a projected lifespan of 25 years [13, 14, 15]. Looking further ahead, between 2030 and 2050, it's plausible that wind turbines could endure for up to 30 years, given ongoing enhancements and refinements in turbine design, materials, and operational strategies. Domestic wind turbines (micro wind or small-wind turbines)

Domestic wind turbines, classified as micro or small wind turbines with capacities up to 25 kW, have specific regulations in Denmark. They're typically situated in close proximity to buildings, within 20 meters [17], and are subject to similar noise requirements as larger turbines [17].

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21 Wind Turbines, Offshore

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Publication date

January 2025

Amendments after publication date

Date	Reference	Description
May 2025	Correction of Feb. 2025 version	Corrected numbers of DC cables in datasheet and figures
February 25	Qualitative description and datasheet	Major update and new description of the chapter
March 22 (II)	Qualitative description	Statements about water depth and distance to shore in Table 4 and Table 5 corrected Description of Finance cost in Figure 9 specified
March 22	Qualitative description and datasheet	Technology description revised and updated Updated data sheets for offshore wind turbines and nearshore wind turbines
September 19	Datasheet	Financial data (2050) and space requirements of nearshore wind datasheet corrected
May 19	Qualitative description and datasheet	Financial and technical data updated in data sheets Description of Floating foundations Environment chapter extended
June 17	Qualitative description and datasheet	Financial data (Investment cost and O&M) updated

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

Offshore wind turbines

The basic operating principles of offshore wind turbines, most of the subsystems (electrical, hydraulic, pitching, emergency braking, cooling, ventilation, etc.) and software components are the same as for onshore wind turbines. However, as offshore wind turbines have to withstand higher wind speeds and more stable wind profiles, the configuration of the wind turbine setup parameters differs slightly from onshore wind turbines in order to make the wind turbines suitable for offshore use. The corrosive offshore environment due to the high salt content and increased humidity in the air places additional demands on the electrical and mechanical components. Since the world's first offshore wind project at Vindeby in Denmark, many offshore turbines have been fitted with air conditioning to protect the sensitive electronics inside the units, active corrosion protection systems in the foundations and North Sea-grade paint to protect the external steel structures.

Turbine foundations

Offshore wind turbine foundations are subject to more complex loading conditions than onshore wind turbine foundations, and the design and concept of offshore wind turbine foundations are therefore very different from onshore wind turbine foundations. They must be designed to withstand the harsh marine environment and the effects of large waves and, in some locations, ice. These factors and the complexity of installation result in offshore foundations being more expensive than onshore wind foundations for turbines of a similar size.

To date, offshore wind turbines have been installed on four different types of fixed foundations: gravity, monopile, jacket and tripod structures. Today, monopiles are the most common and cost-effective foundation type, followed by jackets. The choice of foundation type depends on local seabed conditions, wind turbine size and water depth. Today, with the latest technological innovations, fixed foundations can be used in water depths of up to 70 metres.

Meanwhile, floating substructure technology is also being investigated and may have the potential to reduce the overall cost of offshore wind in the future. At the same time, as floating substructures are the only solution for deep waters, it will dramatically increase the possible exploitation of the global resource potential of offshore wind, allowing installation in areas that were previously infeasible. In the Danish context, relevant areas for the use of floating foundations can be in water depths of 50-100 metres, if monopiles or jackets are not feasible due to water depth or soil conditions.

One potential advantage of floating offshore wind turbines is that they can be assembled and maintained in port rather than at sea, as they can be towed (due to their floating nature), which could reduce both installation and maintenance costs in the future compared to bottom-fixed offshore turbines. While initial towing out to sea for installation has proven successful, towing to shore for maintenance has shown mixed results and logistical obstacles, but having the necessary tools and a well-prepared maintenance platform seems to reduce downtime and therefore lost production during maintenance [10,14]. Even though the increasing cost of labour, towing vessels and supply vessels is a negative factor for floating offshore wind, a towed maintenance strategy could be beneficial for floating offshore wind farms. [10]. Despite these advantages for floating offshore wind, the cost level of the foundation structures is expected to remain significantly higher than that of monopiles for the foreseeable future.

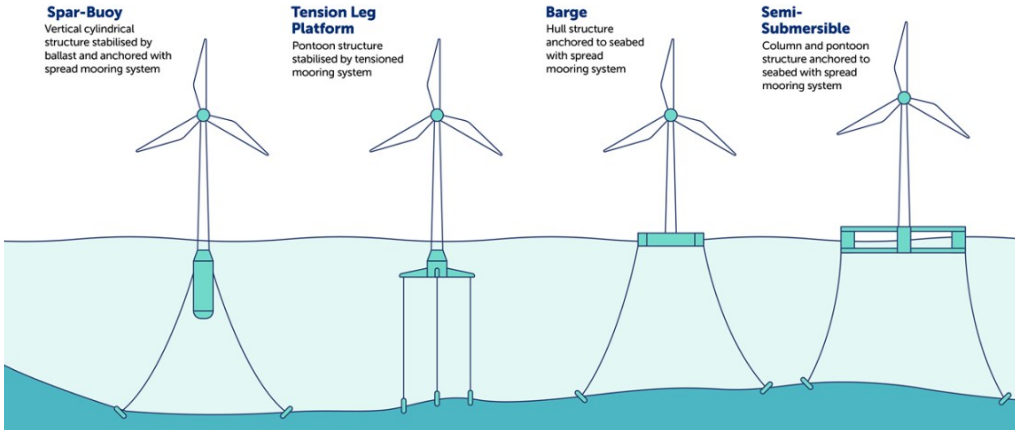
Floating offshore wind technology has been developed over the last 20 years to meet three fundamental requirements:

- Stable and cost-effective foundations structures.
- Control systems that can accommodate the natural motion of the floating structure.
- Sufficient reliability and availability to make floating wind an integral part of the energy grid.

Since 2009, floating wind structures have been introduced to the market, as shown in Figure , and floating wind farms have been demonstrated since 2017. According to interviews with offshore wind developers, the dominant floating foundation types relevant in Denmark will be the barge or semi-submersible due to the limited water depth and lower foundation complexity.

The wind turbines used in floating offshore wind farms are the same wind turbines as for any other offshore wind farm, but configured specifically for the floating environment. This could be special configuration parameters for pitching, tower damping system, safety circuit, yaw system, etc.

Figure 1: Floating foundation structures – dominant types [13], [14]



Electrical systems

While early offshore wind was based on 33 kV level components, today's offshore wind turbines have built-in transformers that provide a standard voltage level of 66 kV to the array cable system in the wind turbine. Solutions based on a 132 kV voltage level are being investigated. The higher voltage level will reduce specific cable costs and losses, as well as overall life cycle costs, and may therefore reduce energy costs, provided that the additional costs associated with increased safety clearances, etc. at the higher voltage level do not outweigh the benefits [34].

In traditional offshore wind farms, the array cables are connected to an offshore substation at the wind farm. Here the voltage is transformed to a higher voltage level for export to the onshore grid. As wind farms today are often built further offshore, and as the feed-in points for exported offshore wind power become more centralised, HVDC solutions are becoming increasingly important.

Input

The input of offshore wind is wind. The kinetic energy of the wind is converted into electrical energy.

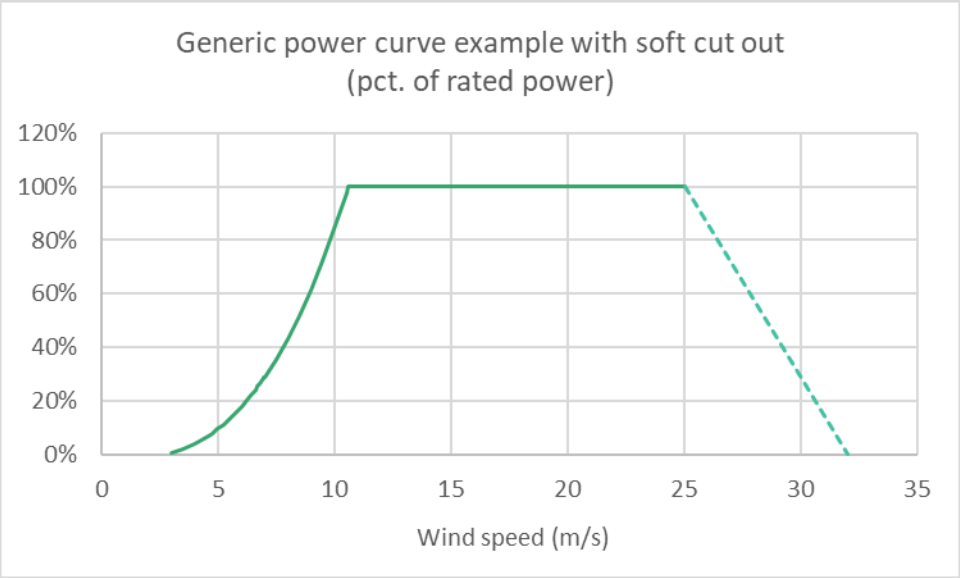
A power curve shows the power output as a function of wind speed at hub height. Figure 1 shows a generic power curve for a soft cut-off wind turbine. The performance of a wind turbine is usually expressed in terms of

three specific wind speed ranges, depending on the turbine model (specific operating conditions may result in deviations from these ranges). The cut-in wind speed is the minimum wind speed at which the turbine will start operating. The rated wind speed is where the turbine reaches its rated power, and the cut-out wind speed is where the turbine will stop operating for safety reasons. In Table 1, the three wind speed ranges are shown for two different turbines.

Table 1: Design wind speed ranges for two Wind Turbine types [11, 12].

WT type	Cut-in [m/s]	Rated [m/s]	Cut-out [m/s]
V236-15 MW	3	11.1	31
SG 14-236 DD	4	12	32

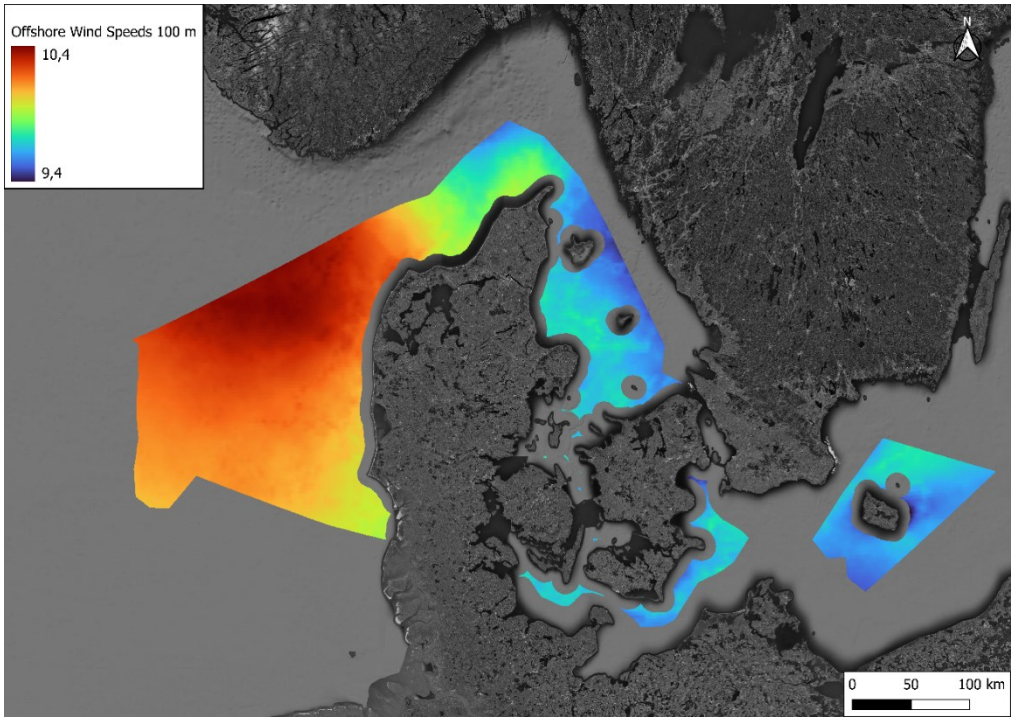
Figure 2: Generic power curve example with soft cut out. Source: IEA 15MW reference turbine.



The quality of the offshore wind resource tends to increase with distance from the coast, so that wind farms far from the coast will generally have higher annual production than those close to the coast (nearshore), with all other things being equal at each site.

The wind resource map of Denmark in Figure 3 shows annual mean wind speeds at 100 m height. Due to the low surface roughness, the variation of wind speed with height is less for offshore sites than for onshore sites [36].

Figure 3: Wind resource map of Denmark, showing the full range of average wind speeds in Danish waters. Areas within 10km from the coastline have been excluded.



Output

The output of offshore wind turbines is electric power.

Typical capacities

The rated capacity of commercially available wind turbines in the Northern European offshore market is in the range of 14-15 MW. These turbines are expected to be installed and operational from 2025 [5], [6]. The first commercial wind farm with 14 MW turbines was commissioned in the UK in late 2024 [34].

Modern Danish offshore wind farms typically consist of around 70 turbines (e.g. Kriegers Flak from 2021 and the upcoming Thor project), while nearshore wind farms consist of around 20 turbines (e.g. Vesterhav Syd and Vesterhav Nord from 2023-2024).

Rotor diameters are increasing, as are hub heights and overall heights. Globally, the weighted average rotor diameter of wind turbines used in commissioned offshore wind projects increased by 84% between 2010 and 2023, and by 16% between 2022 and 2023. In Europe, the weighted average rotor diameter was 141 metres in 2017, increasing by 35% to 190 metres in 2023. In China, the diameter increased by 33% over the same period, from 171 metres to 227 metres. The difference in rotor diameter between China and Europe is mainly due to the difference in wind speed, as the average wind speed of projects in China is lower than in Europe. The site distribution of wind speed has a significant impact on energy production, with manufacturers adjusting rotor and turbine sizes to optimise energy production in different wind conditions [7].

Space requirements

The space requirement of a given wind farm (capacity density) is influenced by several factors that determine the layout of a wind farm, including the spacing (distance) between turbines. The capacity density of a wind farm corresponds to the amount of installed power capacity per unit area and is often one of the key parameters defined in the tender documents. The space requirement as area use / capacity density is mainly influenced by regulatory, economic and geographical aspects [1].

Regulatory aspects include issues such as tender requirements and conditions that could hypothetically incentivise a higher or lower number of wind turbines, or the economic interests of other stakeholders such as shipping lanes, neighbouring wind farms and fishing areas.

Economic aspects have a major impact on the design of wind farms as part of a developer's business case assessment and optimisation. Factors such as array cabling and expected annual energy production, which is affected by wake losses, play a role in this assessment. There is an economically optimal spacing for any given site, depending on a variety of conditions.

Geographical aspects include constraints such as water depth and seabed conditions if they vary significantly within a given site, or proximity to other stakeholders' economic interests, such as shipping lanes, oil and gas production or other offshore wind farms [3].

The layouts, and therefore the capacity densities, of offshore wind farms vary considerably between the EU countries with offshore wind farms, but most existing farms range between 5 to 19 MW/km^2, as shown in Figure 4. Danish offshore wind farms have typically had a lower capacity density than other European farms. In this context, the observed capacity density variation in Denmark is in the range of 4.5 MW/km² to 5.9 MW/km². The actual capacity density (CD) of some operating offshore wind power plants is e.g. *Anholt CD:* 4.54 MW/km²; *Horns Rev 3 CD:* 4.62 MW/km² and *Kriegers Flak CD:* 4.55 MW/km² according to [4]. Furthermore, for the upcoming Thor wind farm which is being developed by RWE, the expected capacity density will be 5.4 MW/km² [27] and Danish tenders at the time of writing also mention around 5 MW/km².

Based on the current and near future offshore wind projects in Denmark, the capacity density assumed in the catalogue data sheet for a Danish wind farm with FID in 2025 is 5 MW/km². In the more distant future (FID in 2030 and beyond), the capacity density of Danish offshore wind farms is expected to increase, as the available space for offshore wind is expected to decrease as deployment in the North Sea is expected to increase. For this reason, it is assumed that the future capacity density of Danish wind farms will increase from 5 MW/km² in 2025 to 10 MW/km² in 2050 (estimated as 1 MW/km^2 per five-year period).

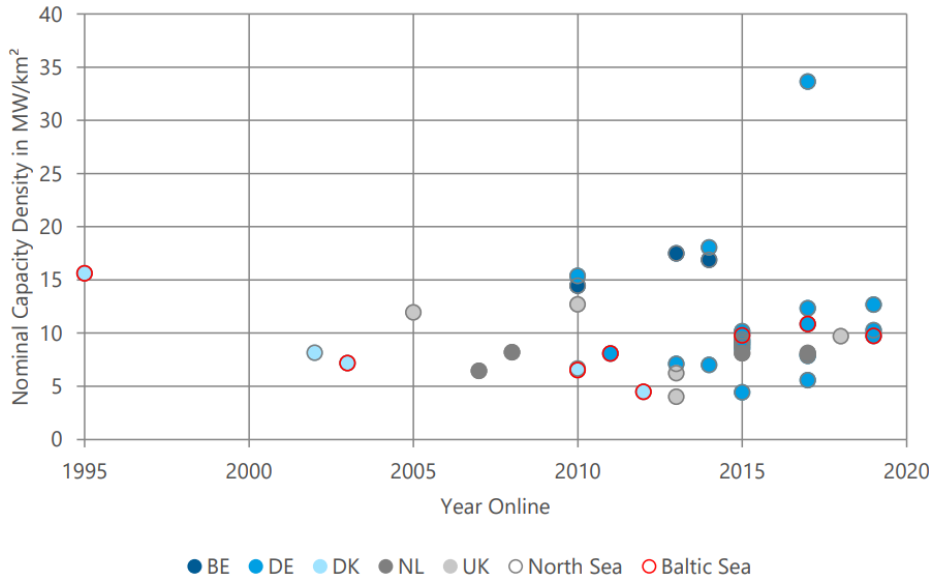
The increase in capacity density has not been taken into account in the calculation of the evolution of full load hours shown later in this chapter.

Table 2: Assumed capacity density for Danish offshore wind farms (MW/km^2),

Year (FID)	2025	2030	2035	2040	2050
Capacity Density (MW/km^2)	5	6	7	8	10

Note: The increase in capacity density has not been considered in the calculation of full load hours development shown later in this chapter.

Figure 4: Nominal capacity densities of European offshore wind farms [4]



A growing area of research related to grid connection requirements is the potential for "overplanting" (oversizing) wind farms. Overplanting refers to the concept of connecting a higher aggregate turbine capacity than the transmission capacity of the wind farm to shore. This can be done either by increasing the capacity of a wind farm (e.g. by adding more turbines) or by reducing the transmission capacity of the transmission line to reduce the cost of connecting to the grid.

For most of the year, an offshore wind farm does not produce at full rated capacity (full load), which means that the transmission facilities are often under-utilised. For each wind farm, the tender documents usually specify a range of full load hours for the specific wind farm. The amount of full load hours is taken into account when designing the transmission capacity for the different wind farms. The idea of overplanting a wind farm is to increase the utilisation of the transmission facilities and to produce more power from a given site. The increased cost of procuring and installing more turbines can be offset by the savings on the transmission system. There are several considerations that affect the use and optimal amount of overplanting, depending on, among other things, the grid connection agreement.

Another reason for the overplanting of a wind power plant could be the fluctuating electricity prices, which are generally lower during high wind hours in Denmark. This means that there is also an incentive to reduce transmission capacity by limiting production during high wind hours, when the price of electricity may be lower, and increasing production during lower wind hours, when the marginal value of electricity is higher. In addition, grid curtailment might be expected during high wind hours, which is another reason to potentially reduce transmission capacity. Several of these considerations make overplanting a risk-hedging option in the design of a wind farm.

Regulation ability (Control capability) and power system services

Regulation ability is the control capability of the individual wind turbine to control the power output of the wind turbine according to setpoints and ramp rates received from the overall power plant controller or a power output schedule. The reactive power output shall also be controllable according to setpoints or setpoint

schedule specifications given by the grid system operator within the limits agreed in the grid connection agreement.

In European countries, active and reactive power control capability must comply with the European Network Code for all Generators - EU 2016/631 in order to be granted a grid connection by the TSO.

Due to the long distances between the wind farm and the point of electrical connection to the grid, the reactive compensation provided by the wind turbines in the wind farm is very low, if any. Voltage regulation is a local phenomenon and therefore offshore wind farms are not normally required to provide any kind of voltage regulation or voltage stabilisation. The reactive compensation of the export cable is usually implemented at the substation or close to the grid connection point. The grid connection agreement specifies who is responsible for what part of the reactive compensation for the export cable and voltage aspects such as on-load tap-changer settings.

Advantages/disadvantages

The general advantages and disadvantages of offshore wind turbines are broadly similar to those of onshore turbines, which are listed in the corresponding chapter.

The main advantages of offshore wind over onshore wind are the better wind resource offshore, the reduced visual and noise impact, and the ability to build much larger turbines than onshore.

On the negative side, offshore wind farms have more complex and expensive foundations and more complex grid connection and logistics than onshore wind farms. In addition, offshore wind farms require vessels, tools and equipment that can be used in an offshore environment, which are more expensive, resulting in higher capital and operating costs for offshore wind farms. Furthermore, the limited availability of ports and vessels compared to the demand for offshore wind construction and maintenance may be a temporary bottleneck in the further development of offshore wind. Looking at floating offshore wind, the wind turbines are complex to operate and maintain and require further development.

These additional costs may be offset by the higher returns from the projects, as the wind resource is better offshore than onshore.

Other advantages and disadvantages of offshore wind power could be listed as follows:

Advantages:

- Wind turbines produce no greenhouse gas emissions during their operation.
- With low operating costs and no fuel costs, wind power offers predictable and stable cost structures.
- The modular nature of wind power technology facilitates scalable capacity expansion, ensuring flexibility to meet demand and avoiding unnecessary overbuilding and associated stranded costs.
- Wind power projects generally have shorter lead times compared to various alternative energy technologies, allowing them to be implemented more quickly.

Disadvantages:

- Wind energy is initially capital intensive, requiring significant investment in turbines, foundations, grid connection, logistics, and machinery.
- Dependence on wind as an energy resource introduces variability in energy production, which impacts the balancing philosophy and forecasting methodology of the grid system operator.

- The variable nature of wind power generation may require ancillary services to ensure grid stability and security of supply.
- Nearshore wind can raise concerns about visual impact and may result in claims for compensation from neighbouring communities for loss of property value.
- Noise can be a nuisance for neighbours of both onshore and offshore wind turbines, but Denmark has legislation in place to ensure that noise levels are low for the nearest neighbours. Denmark is one of the few countries in the world with criteria for sound level and low frequency noise.

Environment

Some disturbance to marine life is to be expected during the construction phase of offshore wind farms. For decades, developers have developed measures to ensure sustainability and protect the marine environment during construction and operation. New technology using patented jetting technology attached to the monopile is used to reduce the resistance of the sandy bottom, further reducing noise during installation.

Before, during and after the construction of the two Danish wind farms Horns Rev I and Nysted Havmøllepark (Rødsand I), extensive monitoring programmes were initiated to investigate and document the environmental impact of these two wind farms. The monitoring programmes have shown that, under the right conditions, large wind farms pose a low risk to birds, mammals and fish. Species diversity actually tends to increase due to the increased habitat heterogeneity created by the foundations, which act as miniature reefs, and because fishing is prohibited in the wind farm area, the conditions for fish breeding have improved [38, 37, 39, 40].

The results of the monitoring programmes show that it is possible to develop offshore wind farms in an environmentally sustainable way that causes negligible damage to the marine environment. However, each offshore wind farm under development is subject to a separate environmental impact assessment to ensure compliance and to identify mitigation measures where necessary.

For near-shore projects, the relative proximity of the wind farms to the coast has an impact on the reaction of people living in the vicinity. For the Vesterhav Nord and Vesterhav Syd projects, this was reflected in compensation claims from around 600 summer cottage owners.

Several life cycle assessment (LCA) studies of wind turbines have concluded that environmental impacts arise from three main sources:

- Bulk waste from the tower, gearboxes, transformers, blades and foundations, although a high percentage of the steel and blades can be recycled.
- Hazardous waste from nacelle components - air conditioning coolant, hydraulic oil, coating of electronic circuits, electrical cables, etc.
- Greenhouse gases (e.g. CO2 from steel production and solvents from surface coatings).

Research and development perspectives

In addition to the research and development potential described in the Onshore Wind Turbines chapter, technology development for offshore wind turbines is expected to include the following:

- Further upscaling of wind turbine capacities and hub heights, but also industrialisation of current wind turbine capacities and their expected benefits.
- New or improved types of fixed and floating foundations suitable for industrialisation,

- Development of power systems based on 132kV and higher components as an alternative to the 66kV currently used, with both voltage levels expected to coexist in decades to come,
- Development of compact offshore substations, including HVDC converter stations, circuit switches and cables. HVDC systems are commercially available today, but are assumed to be economically viable only at grid connection distances above ~100km,
- Multi-terminal HVDC to integrate large amounts of offshore wind power into a future offshore meshed grid system,
- Improvement of design methods in planning and plant layout by reducing wake losses, operation and maintenance costs, e.g. improvements in monitoring and control strategy through the use of AI technologies and maintenance strategy through the use of robots and drones.
- Improved methods of dealing with different seabed conditions, thereby reducing foundation costs and associated risks,
- Improved availability and reliability by incorporating the capability for fault tolerant subsystems through advanced built-in monitoring and control functions to ensure the operation of the entire wind farm,
- Development of offshore wind turbines combined with integrated hydrogen production capability and a battery storage system for direct connection to the future hydrogen network,
- Improvements in mesoscale wake phenomena - modelling and analysis of mesoscale wake losses to better understand the impact of multi-GW wind farms on regional wind speeds.

Examples of best available technology

The market standard technology for wind farms under development in the Northern European market is represented by the Siemens Gamesa SG 14-236 DD turbine [12] and the Vestas V236-15 MW turbine [11]. Both turbines have a rotor diameter of 236 metres, resulting in a specific power of 320-343 W/m2.

The Siemens Gamesa turbine, for example, is expected to be installed in the 1,008 MW Danish Thor project developed by RWE, which is expected to be fully operational in 2027 [29].

The Vestas turbine, for example, is expected to be installed in the 960 MW German He Dreiht project developed by EnBW, which is expected to be commissioned in 2025 [30].

Prediction of performance and costs

The assumptions behind the performance and cost estimates are primarily based on publicly available data and interviews with the Danish wind industry. Industry input is provided on a confidential basis. The performance and cost estimates are therefore an expression of Ea Energy Analyses' best estimate based on these two primary types of sources.

The offshore wind data sheets are divided into five categories representing five geographical areas in Danish waters that are considered relevant for offshore wind development in Denmark towards 2050. In the Danish context, the relevant areas for the deployment of floating foundations cover water depths of 50-100 metres. The five non-exhaustive categories are as follows

1. Nearshore wind AC: Bottom-fixed AC connected offshore wind built within 20 km from shore in inland waters. Built without a dedicated offshore substation.
2. Offshore wind AC Fixed: Bottom-fixed AC connected offshore wind built 20-100 km from shore in the North Sea wind regime. Built with a dedicated offshore substation.

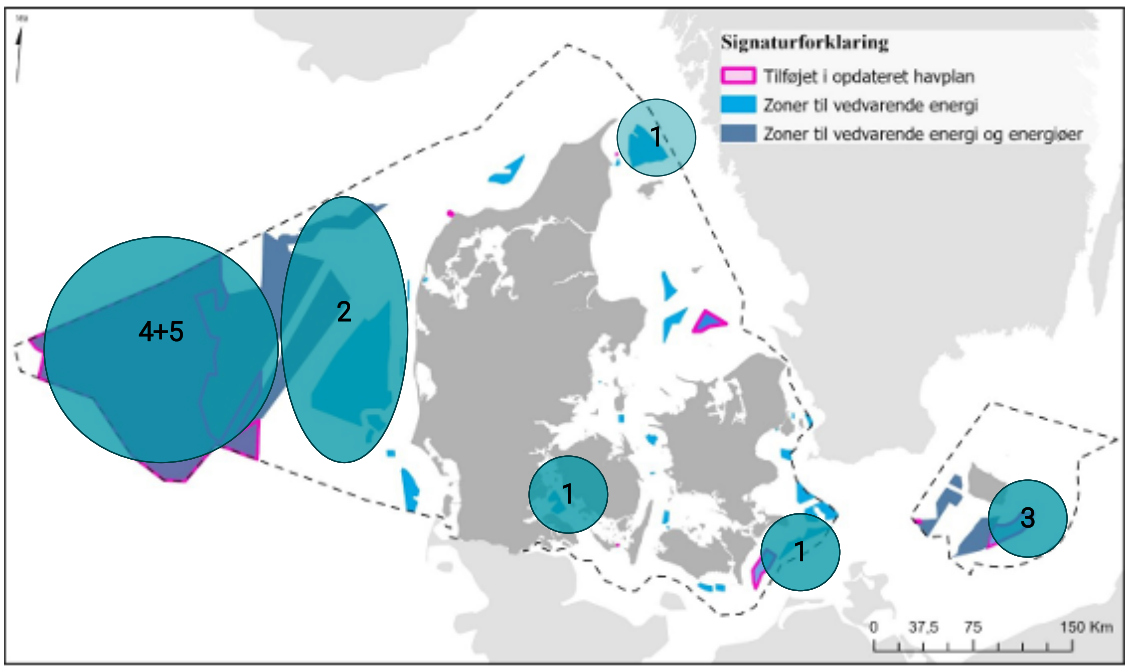
3. Offshore wind AC Floating: Floating AC connected offshore wind built 20-50 km from shore in the Baltic Sea wind regime in areas with a water depth of more than 50 m. Built with a dedicated offshore substation.
4. Far shore wind DC Fixed: Bottom-fixed DC connected offshore wind built 100-250 km from shore in the North Sea wind regime. Built with a dedicated offshore substation.
5. Far shore wind DC Floating: Floating DC connected offshore wind built 125-175 km from shore in the North Sea wind regime in areas with a water depth of minimum 50 m. Built with a dedicated offshore substation.

The five categories correspond overall to the different renewable energy zones in the Danish Maritime Spatial Plan for 2023 shown in Figure 5 [18], and the water depths shown in Figure 6. General assumptions are given in Table 3. Due to Denmark's maritime spatial plan and the increasing size of offshore wind turbines, nearshore wind is currently only considered relevant until 2030, so data is only provided for the base FID year 2025 and 2030. Floating offshore wind is still under development and large-scale commercial floating offshore wind is not considered relevant in base year 2025. Therefore, data are only provided for 2030 and beyond.

Assumptions on water depth and distance from shore vary between categories but are kept constant over time. The costs in the datasheets are calculated based on the assumptions given in brackets and therefore represent an average for the given category. This approach has been chosen to ensure greater transparency in the projected costs and to avoid signalling too much precision in the cost projections, which are subject to very high uncertainty.

The typical size of an offshore wind farm, measured in MW, has increased over time, while the number of turbines has decreased. The recently constructed Kriegers Flak offshore wind farm consists of 72 turbines. The same applies to the forthcoming Thor wind farm. With the exception of the nearshore wind farms, a constant wind farm size of 70 turbines is assumed for the base year 2025 and beyond. The most recent offshore wind farms, Vesterhav Syd and Vesterhav Nord, consist of 20 and 21 turbines respectively. For nearshore wind, a wind farm size of 20 turbines is assumed for base year 2025 and forward, based on the assumption that nearshore wind will be built on smaller areas than today. For all categories a technical lifetime of 30 years is assumed.

Figure 5: Renewable energy zones in "Danmarks Havplan" and illustration of location for the presented cases 1-5. 1 refers to category 1, 2 refers to category 2, etc. The figure shows some but not all of the category 1 sites.



NB: The cases 1-5 are a non-exhaustive list of technical examples. Other technical solutions not investigated in this study may also be relevant, e.g. other foundation types depending among others on water depth and sea bottom conditions.

Figure 6: Bathymetric map showing water depths below 100 m in Danish waters, excluding areas within 10km from the coastline.

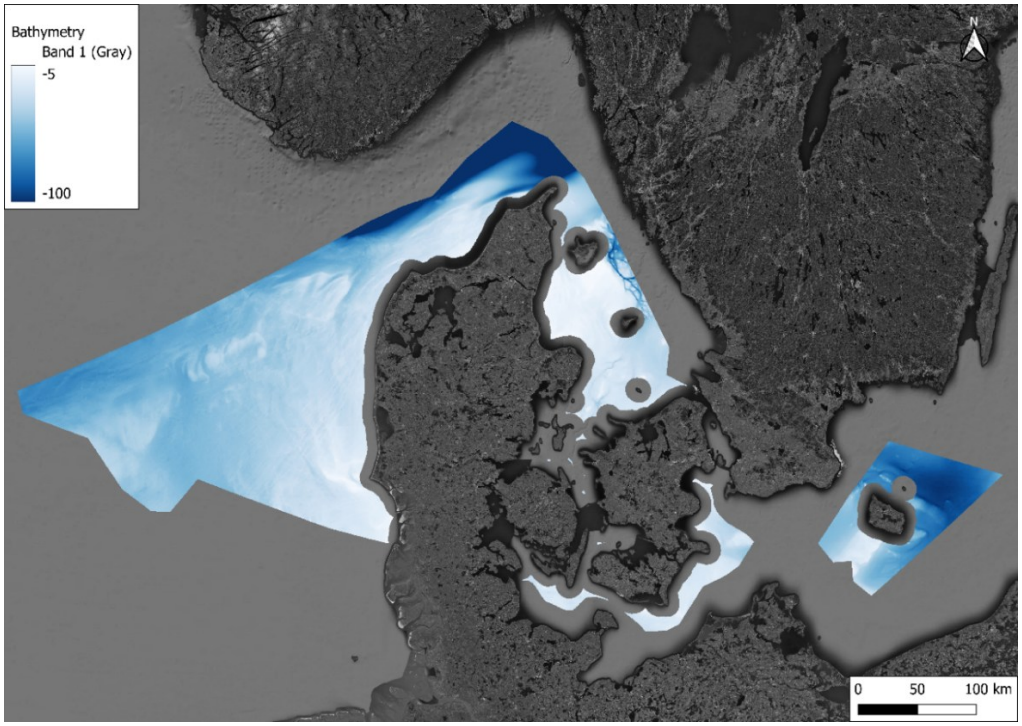


Table 3: Offshore wind categories and general assumptions used for base year and future years.

	Nearshore wind AC	Offshore wind AC Fixed	Offshore wind AC Floating	Far shore wind DC Fixed	Far shore wind DC Floating
Assumed location	Inland waters	North Sea	Baltic Sea	North Sea	North Sea
Size of wind farm (number of turbines)	20	70	70	70	70
Water depth (m)*	10-20 (15)	20-40 (30)	50-100 (75)	30-50 (40)	50-100 (75)
Distance to shore (km)*	10-20 (15)	20-100 (60)	20-50 (35)	100-250 (175)	125-175 (150)
Foundation type	Fixed	Fixed	Floating	Fixed	Floating
Grid connection type	AC	AC	AC	DC	DC
Offshore substation	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Technical lifetime (years)	30	30	30	30	30
Mean wind speed at 100 m (m/s)	9.65	10.30	9.65	10.40	10.40

All categories are assumed to be based on radial grid connection. * Data sheets based on depth and distance given in parentheses.

Turbine size

For the base year 2025, a capacity of 15 MW/turbine, a rotor diameter of 236 m and a resulting specific power of 343 W/m2 is assumed, which corresponds to the best available technology.

The development in capacity depends on the one hand on the desire of European manufacturers for a higher degree of consolidation and standardisation to enable mass production and reduce costs according to [13], [16] and interviews with manufacturers. On the other hand, technological development is expected to continue globally. For example, Chinese wind turbine manufacturer MingYang Smart Energy has already launched an 18-20 MW offshore wind turbine [8] and plans to develop a 22 MW turbine in the next few years [9].. The global market for wind turbine development is pushing Danish manufacturers towards larger capacity wind turbines, so the size is expected to grow to the limits of the blade material.

Historically, the size of offshore wind turbines has increased from an average of 3 MW in 2010 to 10 MW in 2023 [32] [33]. It is assumed that European manufacturers will continue to increase the size of their offshore turbines due to economies of scale and foreign offshore wind turbine manufacturers pursuing larger turbine sizes. It is assumed that European manufacturers will follow the global trend, but that capacity growth will be slower than in the past.

While the size of turbines is expected to continue to increase, the specific power is expected to decrease slightly, reaching 310 W/m2 by 2040 and staying there (whereas Danish wind farms today have specific powers of 380 W/m2). This assumption is based on interviews with members of the industry. With regard to specific power, mesoscale effects from large-scale deployment of offshore wind in the North Sea, which could reduce wind speeds in the future [19] and thus affect specific power, have not been considered.

Table 4: Assumptions for development in capacity, specific power, rotor diamter and hub height

Year (FID)	Capacity (MW/turbine)	Specific power (W/m^2)	Rotor diameter[1] (m)	Hub height[2] (m)
2025	15	343	236	150
2030	20	320	280	170
2035	25	310	320	190
2040	30	310	350	210
2050	35	310	380	220

Production

Over the years, the full load hours (FLH) of Danish wind farms have increased as the technology has matured, hub heights have continued to increase and specific power has decreased [20]. In the future, hub heights are expected to continue to increase and specific power to decrease (to a lesser extent relative to hub height), which means that FLH is also expected to increase. As the FLH is strongly influenced by the average wind speed, each site category has its own FLH (this means, for example, that the FLH for floating offshore wind in the Baltic Sea is lower than for bottom-fixed offshore wind in the North Sea with regard to the AC categories shown in Table 3.

The expected FLH of Danish wind farms shown in Table 5 is based on three pieces of information. First, the FLH assumed for 2025 is based on the FLH of the current Danish fleet, taking into account both weather years and construction time. In order to calculate how this FLH will change as a result of increases in hub height and decreases in specific power, two factors have been derived to give both the change in FLH per change in W/m^2 (specific power delta factor) and the change in FLH per change in metres of hub height (hub height delta factor). The specific power delta factor was derived from [21] and the hub height delta factor was derived from a simple in-house model which uses the shear factor, a Weibull distribution of wind speeds in the North Sea and a power curve from [22] to find the expected FLH and then derives a linear factor from this information to find the change in FLH per change in hub height. This work resulted in an increase of 3.95 FLH per W/m2 decrease in specific power and an increase of 1.95 FLH per metre increase in hub height. It is important to note that these figures are specific to offshore turbines in the Danish North Sea and a change in specific power from 340 W/m2 to 310 W/m2. Different locations and specific power ranges would result in different factors and should therefore not be used for other studies.

Table 5: Assumptions for development in annual net full load hours (rounded to the nearest multiple of 50). Notice that the FLH is for the specific areas decribed for the different types of in this catalogue.

Year (FID) MWh/MW	Nearshore wind AC	Offshore wind AC Fixed	Offshore wind AC Floating	Far shore wind DC Fixed	Far shore wind DC Floating

[1] From 2030 and forward rotor diameter is calculated based on capacity and specific power and rounded to nearest multiple of 10.
[2] Hub height is calculated as 30 m + rotor diameter / 2 and rounded to nearest multiple of 10.
https://ens.dk/sites/ens.dk/files/Vindmoller_hav/bilag_2_-_teknisk_projektbeskrivelse_for_havanlaeg.pdf

2025	4,000	4,400		4,500	
2030	4,150	4,550	4,150	4,650	4,650
2035		4,600	4,200	4,700	4,700
2040		4,650	4,250	4,750	4,750
2050		4,650	4,250	4,750	4,750

The mesoscale effects on wake losses and therefore on production are not included in the table above. However, this may have a significant impact in the case of a large offshore wind development in the North Sea. It should therefore be taken into account when using the catalogue data. Similarly, the impact of higher capacity densities has not been considered.

Costs

Costs consist of capital expenditure (CAPEX) and operating and maintenance (OPEX). CAPEX includes equipment, installation and project development costs. This means that costs related to land rent, contingencies, financing and decommissioning are not included in the CAPEX figures.

The forecasting of costs is done in two steps:

1. Costs in base year 2025 are estimated.
2. Future costs are calculated based on the learning rate method.

Economies of scale are not part of the calculations as a constant wind farm size, measured in number of turbines, is assumed for all categories and increased turbine capacity is included in the assumed learning rate.

Table 6 below shows the factors used to convert costs, e.g. from nominal prices to 2023 prices or from 2023 prices to 2020 prices.

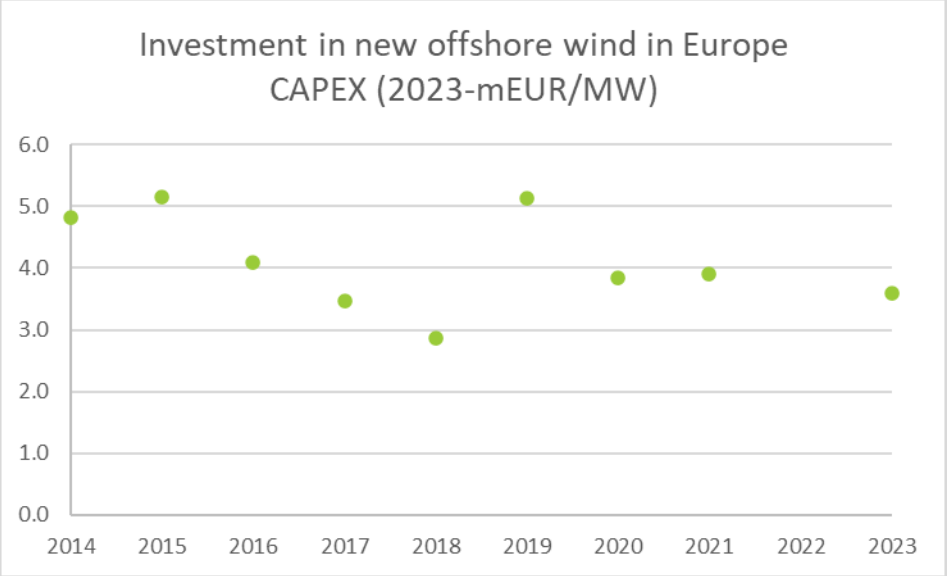
Table 6: Conversion factors. Source: https://www.finansanalyser.dk/vaerktojskassen/inflations-beregner/

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2023 = 100	117.7	117.2	116.9	115.6	114.6	113.8	113.3	111.3	103.3	100.0

Step 1: Base year 2025

After a long period of declining investment costs, offshore wind has seen an increase in costs in recent years and from the lowest level in 2018, as shown in Figure 7. In 2022, there were no final investment decisions (FID) for new large-scale offshore wind farms in Europe - only two 30 MW floating demonstration projects in France took FID. In 2023, 10 GW took FID across Europe. There are large differences between individual European projects, with CAPEX in 2023 ranging from around EUR 2.2-5.4m/MW, according to WindEurope. The upcoming Danish Thor project has an estimated CAPEX of ca. 3.3 mEUR/MW ([30] and interview with RWE and Wind Europe), which is slightly below the capacity weighted European average of 3.6 mEUR/MW.

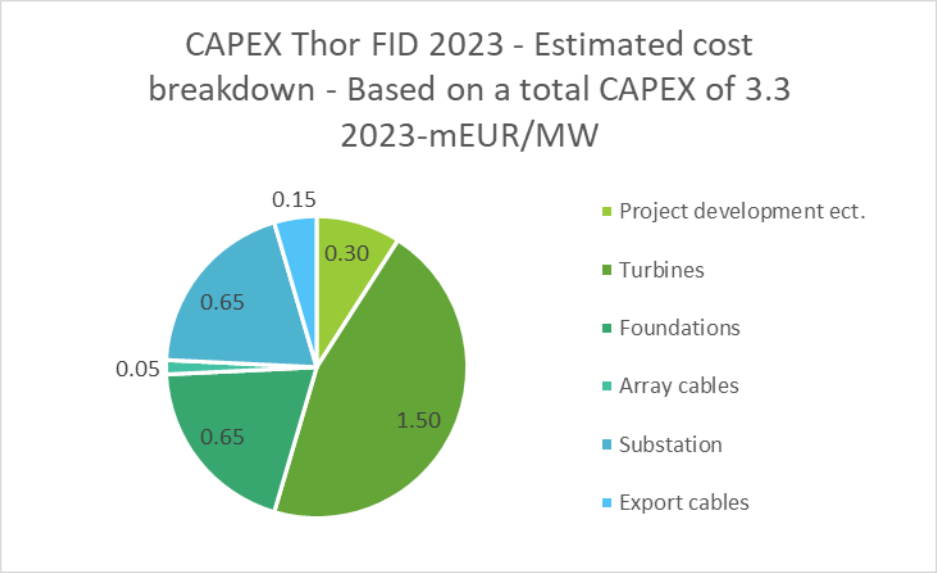
Figure 7: Investment in new offshore wind in Europe. Capacity weighted, 2023-prices. Source: Wind Europe.



Note: In 2019 only 1.4 GW took FID compared to 3.9 GW the year before and 7.6 the year after. This relatively small amount in 2019 makes the average CAPEX more sensitive to CAPEX for individual projects. CAPEX for 2019 should therefore probably not be seen as a general trend.

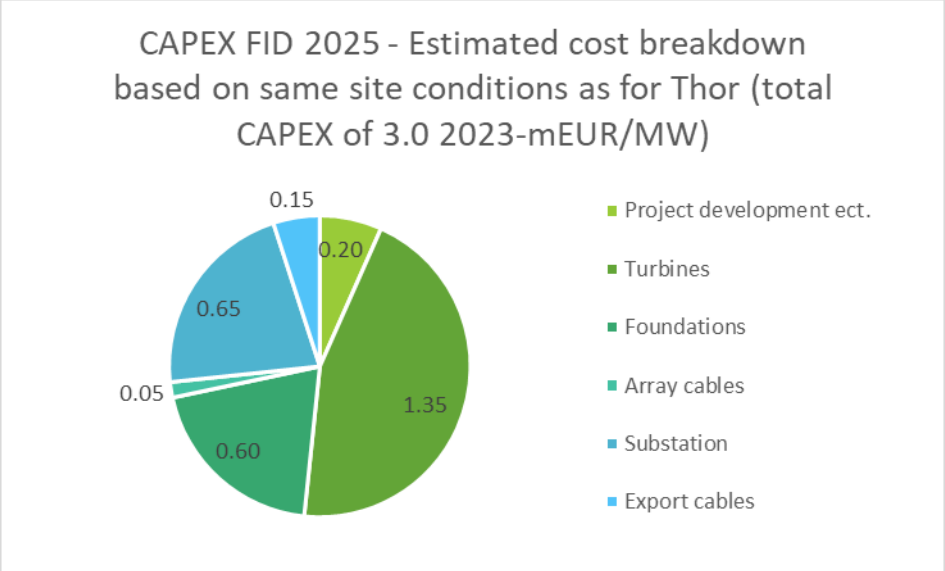
Figure 8 below shows the estimated cost breakdown of the upcoming Danish Thor project, which reached FID in 2023, with several cost factors at their highest, such as the inflation rate and the price of raw materials such as steel.

Figure 8: Estimated cost breakdown for the upcoming Danish Thor project (FID 2023).



Since 2023, both inflation and the price of raw materials such as steel have fallen. However, the supply chain still faces material supply bottlenecks, particularly in the supply of electrical components and stainless steel. In addition, wind turbine manufacturers are in need of profits after years of losses. CAPEX in base year 2025 for bottom-fixed AC is therefore assumed to be only slightly lower than in 2023. For a site similar to Thor, CAPEX is assumed to be around 3.0 2023-mEUR/MW in 2025 compared to 3.3 2023-mEUR/MW in 2023. See Figure 9 below for the estimated cost breakdown.

Figure 9: Estimated cost breakdown for a project like Thor taking FID in 2025.



The base year 2025 assumptions for the different cost elements are shown in Table 7 and described below.

CAPEX, Project development etc.
Costs related to project development etc. are only a small part of the total costs. Nearshore wind is assumed to be lower than offshore/far offshore wind due to lower complexity as no substation needs to be built as part of the project. And project development costs for floating wind are assumed to be higher than bottom-fixed offshore wind due to lower technology maturity and project development experience. Fixed costs are assumed to be lower than for the Thor project, which faced unforeseen challenges that resulted in additional costs.

CAPEX, Turbines
Turbine costs account for almost half of the total costs. Turbine costs have increased significantly in recent years, and although costs are expected to have peaked in 2023, only a small reduction is assumed in 2025 compared to the data representing cost for 2023. As mentioned above, this is due to continued bottlenecks in the supply chain and the current need from the industry to make a profit.

CAPEX, Foundations (fixed bottom)
Foundation costs account for almost a fifth of the total cost of bottom-fixed AC. As for turbines, the costs most likely peaked in 2023. A small reduction is assumed in 2025 compared to 2023 due to lower raw material costs. Costs depend on water depth, and it is roughly assumed that one third of the costs associated with the production of foundations depend on water depth. Based on the estimates for Thor, a simple cost function has been developed that can be adjusted around the central estimate within the ranges shown in Table 3.

CAPEX, Array cables
The cost of array cables is a very small part of the total cost and is therefore kept constant across all categories, except for nearshore wind, which is assumed to be lower due to fewer turbines per wind farm. Costs are assumed to be at the same level as in 2023 (measured in real prices).

CAPEX, Substation and export cables
Costs related to substations and export cables are described in the chapter "Electricity Transmission Grid" of the DEA Technology Catalogue "Energy Transport" [15]. Costs depend on whether the wind farm is connected to the mainland via an AC or DC connection. Export cables also depend on the distance to shore, which can be

adjusted around the central estimate with a simple cost function within the ranges given in Table 3.
Point of connection is defined at the coastline, i.e. costs associated with onshore cables are not included. Also, the point of connection is defined at AC level, which means that the costs associated with wind farms connected to land via a DC connection also include an onshore substation.

OPEX, Fixed (fixed bottom)
Fixed costs are costs related to personnel allocated to the operation, e.g. control and monitoring centre, maintenance managers, insurance, port activities, specific allocated tools, supply vessels and licensing fees for the offshore wind farm. These costs do not fluctuate as production fluctuates. The fixed OPEX costs for 2025 are mainly obtained through interviews.

OPEX, Variable (fixed bottom)
Variable costs include spare parts (brake bads, seals and gaskets, etc.), hydraulic oil, oil filters, other lubricants, anodes used to prevent corrosion on foundations, breakdown labour/service technicians, breakdown supply vessels, jack-ups, cranes, transport costs associated with breakdown repair (e.g. helicopter), etc. These costs vary as a direct result of production. The variable OPEX costs for 2025 are mainly obtained through interviews.

CAPEX, Foundations (floating)
Assumptions for the cost of floating foundations in 2025 are given in Table 7 below and are mainly based on interviews. The cost of floating foundations, including installation, is assumed to be around five times the cost of fixed foundations for the cases considered in this catalogue. The datasheet does not include figures for 2025, but the data is used to calculate the assumed costs from 2030 onwards (see section *step 2* below).

OPEX, Fixed and variable (floating)
Based on interviews and [26], operating costs are assumed to be around 2 times higher than for fixed-bottom offshore wind in 2025. The datasheet does not include figures for 2025, but the data is used to calculate the assumed costs from 2030 onwards (see section *step 2* below).

Table 7: Base year 2025 cost estimates (2023-prices)

2023-prices	Dependency	Cost
	CAPEX	
Project development etc.	Distance to shore bottom-fixed / floating	0.15 mEUR/MW Nearshore 0.20 mEUR/MW Offshore and Far shore (bottom-fixed) 0.25 mEUR/MW Offshore and Far shore (floating)
Turbines	-	1.35 mEUR/MW
Foundations (fixed bottom)	Water depth	0.45 mEUR/MW + 5 kEUR/MW/m
Foundations (floating)	-	2.65 mEUR/MW [not shown in datasheet for 2025]
Array cables	-	0.02 mEUR/MW Nearshore 0.05 mEUR/MW Offshore and Far shore
Substation*	AC / DC	0.65 mEUR/MW AC 1.20 mEUR/MW DC
Export cables*	AC / DC Distance to shore	5.05 kEUR/MW/km AC 3.60 kEUR/MW/km DC

		OPEX
Fixed	Bottom-fixed	50,000 EUR/MW/y
	Floating	100,000 EUR/MW/y [not shown in datasheet for 2025]
Variable	Bottom-fixed	5 EUR/MWh
	Floating	10 EUR/MWh [not shown in datasheet for 2025]

* Numbers may differ slightly from the numbers in the chapter "Electricity transmission grid" in the DEA technology catalogue "Energy transport". This is because they are rounded to the nearest 0.05 for use in the offshore wind chapter.

Step 2: Learning rate method and assumptions

Future costs are calculated using the learning rate method, see equation below. The method states that as the accumulated capacity doubles, the costs are reduced by the learning rate (LR).

$$Cost\ factor = Capacity\ growth^{\frac{\ln(1-LR)}{\ln(2)}}$$

The learning rate (LR) depends on the maturity of the given technology or cost component. Table 8 shows the assumed learning rates.

The assumed capacity growth, expressed in relative terms compared to the base year, depends on the global development of installed offshore wind power. The capacity growth is based on the Announced Pledges Scenario (APS) of the World Energy Outlook 2023 (WEO23), published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in 2023.

Table 9 shows the capacity growth in all three IEA WEO23 scenarios.

Projected costs for substations and export cables are based on data from the first edition of the Electricity Transmission Network chapter of the Energy Transport Technology Catalogue.

Projected costs for floating foundations and operating costs for floating offshore wind are based on a simpler methodology, see description below.

Table 8: Learning rate (LR) assumptions by cost component

Cost component	Learning rate (LR)	Comments on learning rates
CAPEX		
Project development etc.	2 pct.	Smaller potential of learning. More complex projects in the future
Turbines	10 pct.	Not fully mature technology. A little higher than previous catalogue edition and NREL[3]. Assumed incl. handling of supply chain bottlenecks.
Foundations (bottom-fixed)	10 pct.	Not fully mature technology. A little higher than previous catalogue edition and NREL[4]. Assumed incl. handling of supply chain bottlenecks.
Array cables	2 pct.	Mature technology.
OPEX		
Fixed (bottom-fixed)	10 pct.	Large potential.
Variable (bottom-fixed)	10 pct.	Large potential.

Table 9: Accumulated global capacity compared to base year (2025 = 1). Source: [23]

IEA Scenario	2025	2030	2035	2040	2050
Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS)	1	4	7	10	12
Announced Pledges Scenario (APS)	1	5	9	13	21
Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario (NZE)	1	6	12	17	26

Applying the above learning rates and accumulated global capacity, the cost factors shown in Table 10 below are achieved.

[3] https://atb.nrel.gov/electricity/2024/offshore_wind
[4] https://atb.nrel.gov/electricity/2024/offshore_wind

Table 10: Resulting cost factors compared to base year (2025 = 1).

2025 = 1	2025	2030	2035	2040	2050
CAPEX					
Project development etc.	1.00	0.95	0.94	0.93	0.92
Turbines	1.00	0.78	0.72	0.68	0.63
Foundations (bottom-fixed)	1.00	0.78	0.72	0.68	0.63
Array cables	1.00	0.95	0.94	0.93	0.92
OPEX					
Fixed (bottom-fixed)	1.00	0.78	0.72	0.68	0.63
Variable (bottom-fixed)	1.00	0.78	0.72	0.68	0.63

Projecting the costs of floating offshore wind

Floating offshore wind is still in the early stages of deployment. Unlike onshore or bottom-fixed offshore wind, there are only a few full-scale floating wind projects in operation. This limited experience makes it difficult to draw accurate learning curves from historical data, as there is not yet a clear trend of cost reductions based on cumulative experience. Floating wind turbines use different platform designs (e.g. semi-submersible, tension leg platforms, spar buoys) and these platforms have different cost structures. As the industry has not yet standardised on a single design, it is difficult to create a single learning curve that takes this diversity into account.

Instead of relying on traditional learning curves, cost projections were based on interviews with wind industry stakeholders and insights from international literature sources [14, 24, 25, 26].

CAPEX for floating offshore wind is currently higher than for bottom-fixed wind primary due to foundation costs, which include floating platforms, mooring and installation, but is expected to decrease significantly by 2050. However, the cost of manufacturing and installing floating foundations is expected to fall significantly by 2050. This is partly due to industrialisation benefits such as standardisation, economies of scale, improved designs, improved port facilities and improved installation vessels and access to them. As a result, the cost of floating foundations is expected to be around twice the cost of fixed foundations in 2050 for the cases considered in this report. Development costs for floating wind projects are assumed to have fallen to the same level as fixed wind projects by 2040.

OPEX for floating offshore wind is initially higher due to less experience with complex maintenance and logistics, but could benefit from towed maintenance strategies. The projection is based on maintenance

carried out offshore. OPEX is expected to decrease from current levels to around the same level as fixed offshore installations by 2050. Therefore, it is assumed that OPEX in 2050 will be approximately one third of the expected level in 2025.

Onshore maintenance of floating wind turbines is under examination. Bringing floating turbines into port for repairs will reduce the need for expensive offshore vessels and specialised labour, and with advances in towing logistics, it may become cheaper to maintain floating wind turbines in port than offshore. However, it is not possible to determine whether it will be cheaper overall to maintain in port, as there will be additional costs such as electrical disconnection of the turbine.

CAPEX and OPEX projections

Figure 10 and Table 11 below show the projections of CAPEX and OPEX based on the assumptions described above.

Figure 10: CAPEX projections (2023-mEUR/MW) *(updated in May 2025 after a correction)*.

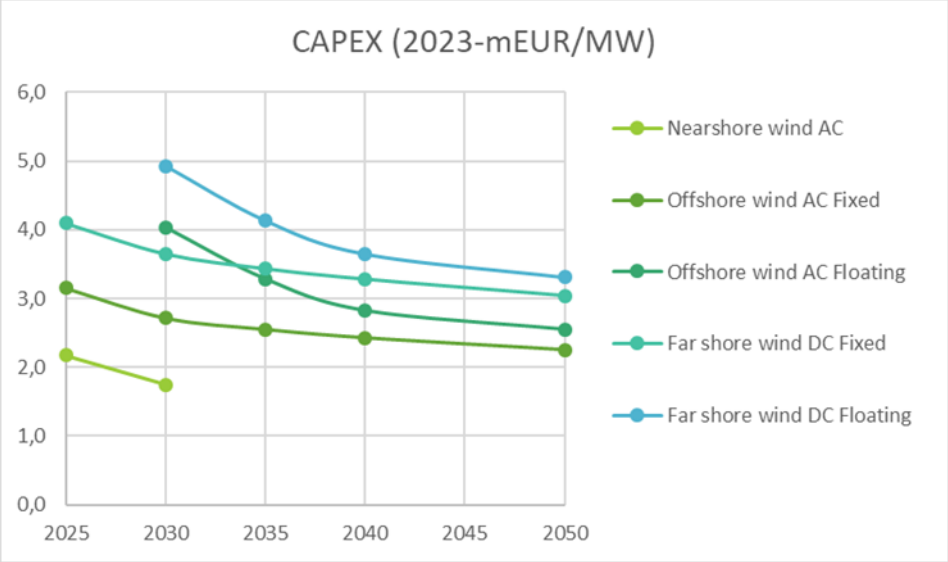


Table 11: OPEX projections (2023-EUR/MW/y and 2023-EUR/MWh).

2023-prices	2025	2030	2035	2040	2050
OPEX, Fixed (EUR/MW/y), Rounded to nearest multiple of 1,000					
Fixed bottom	50,000	39,000	36,000	34,000	32,000
Floating	100,000	70,000	48,000	37,000	32,000
OPEX, Variable (EUR/MWh)					
Fixed bottom	5.00	3.91	3.58	3.39	3.15
Floating	10.00	7.05	4.77	3.67	3.16

NB: Numbers in the datasheet are expressed in 2020-prices

Uncertainty

There is a high degree of uncertainty in forecasting costs, both in the short term and in the longer term. In particular, changes in the cost of raw materials such as steel have a significant impact on costs. But also the development of technical data such as turbine size or specific power is subject to a significant degree of uncertainty. To illustrate this uncertainty, a lower and an upper range have been added for the years 2025 and 2050. These ranges appear in the data sets.

Data sheet (Quantitative description)

Data sheets for the five categories are provided in a separate Excel file. Prices in the datasheets are in 2020-EUR as for the residual technologies (while prices in the qualitative chapter are given in 2023-EUR).

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Interviews:

A significant portion of the chapter and data sheet on offshore wind, particularly the section and data on costs, has been prepared based on interviews. The following companies have contributed knowledge through interviews:

- Ørsted,

- RWE,
- Siemens Gamesa,
- PWC,
- Stiesdal Offshore,
- Green Power Denmark,
- EMD

22 Photovoltaics

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Publication date
March 2015

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
August 26	Qualitative description and datasheet	Update of data sheet, consequential adjustments in the text due to data update and technological development. Including new datasheet and text for plants of PV and BESS co-located, inclusion of text on the impact on costs by not buying Chinese. Descriptions of new module types and PV technologies.
February 22	Qualitative description and datasheet	Technology description revised and updated. Updated data sheets for small (residential) and medium (commercial/industrial) rooftop PV, and large utility scale fixed and single axis tracking PV
November 19	Qualitative description and datasheet	Technology description revised and updated. Updated data sheet for large utility scale PV systems. New data sheet for large utility scale PV systems with single axis tracker. Updated description of losses of small and medium sized systems equivalent to data sheets of utility scale systems
November 18	Qualitative description	Qualitative description for financial data added
July 18	Data sheet	Updated data sheets for small and medium sized systems
October 17	Data sheet	Updated data sheets for large utility scale PV systems

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

A solar cell is an electronic component made from a semiconductor substrate that absorbs (sun)light and converts the energy into electricity. For practical reasons, several solar cells are connected in series and laminated to (or deposited on) a glass pane to form a mechanically rigid, weather-protected solar module with a single DC output terminal. Photovoltaic (PV) modules are divided into two distinct application classes: panels for the residential market (private household / B2C, or "Consumer Use" according to the WEEE Directive classification) are typically 1.5–2.3 m² in size, whereas panels for utility-scale projects (non-private household / B2B, or "Industry Use") are 2.7–3.1 m² in size. Modules for both applications have similar power densities in the range 200–250 Wp per m² and may be made from several different absorber materials, as listed below. They are sold with a product warranty of typically 10 to 12 years, a power warranty of at least 25 years, and an

expected lifetime of 30–35 years or more, depending on the type of cells, the encapsulation method and the installation environment.

PV modules are characterised according to the type of absorber material used:

- Crystalline silicon (c-Si) is the most widely used substrate material. It is made from metallurgical-grade silicon metal, which is purified into a high-purity polysilicon feedstock and further processed into a monocrystalline silicon ingot. The alternative processing route, in which the polysilicon is cast into multicrystalline blocks, is still available, but this technology is not included in current technology roadmaps and is being phased out. After removal of the rounded slabs from the cylindrical monocrystalline ingot, the squared ingots or blocks are cut into 100–150 micrometre thin silicon *wafers* and cleaned before cell processing takes place.
- Thin-film solar cells are those in which the semiconducting absorber layer, made from materials such as amorphous/microcrystalline silicon (a-Si/μc-Si), cadmium telluride (CdTe) or copper indium gallium (di)selenide (CIGS), is deposited on the solar module glass cover in a micrometre-thin layer. Tandem-junction and triple-junction thin-film modules are commercially available for niche applications. In these cells, several layers are deposited on top of each other in order to optimise the spectral response across different wavelengths, with each layer tuned to a specific part of the solar spectrum.
- Monolithic III–V solar cells are made from compounds of group III and group V elements (Ga, As, In and P) and are often deposited on a Ge substrate. These materials can be used to manufacture highly efficient multi-junction solar cells, which are mainly used for space applications or in concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) systems. CPV mainly utilises the direct-beam component of the solar irradiation, which makes it well suited to climate types dominated by direct sunlight, in contrast to Danish conditions, where diffuse sunlight makes up about half of the solar resource.
- Dye-sensitised solar cells (DSC) and polymer/organic solar cells are emerging technologies. Significant research activities are currently addressing efficiency, lifetime and scaling issues, among other challenges. These cells are currently deployed in niche applications where their advantages related to low-weight and mechanical flexibility are considered important.
- Perovskite PV cells are made from a hybrid of organic–inorganic lead- or tin-halide-based materials (salts) organised in a perovskite structure. Under laboratory conditions, perovskite solar cells have shown remarkable progress in efficiency over the years. The potential of perovskites is, however, paired with serious concerns related to their toxicity and performance stability. The best perovskite absorbers contain soluble organic lead compounds that are toxic and environmentally hazardous to a degree that calls for extraordinary precautions. The health and environmental impact of perovskites must therefore be analysed before they can be considered as a viable absorber material in solar cells. Furthermore, challenges in industrial-scale manufacturing and in long-term stability with acceptable degradation are not yet solved. It is currently uncertain when this type of PV cell will become commercially available. The largest potential for perovskite solar cells is seen as a top-layer cell in a multi-stacked tandem device, where a traditional c-Si device is used as the substrate and absorber for the longer-wavelength photons. Other materials, such as copper zinc tin sulphide (CZTS), with proven stability but currently lower conversion efficiencies, are also candidates to become the preferred top layer in next-generation tandem cells.

In addition to PV modules, a grid-connected PV system also includes Balance of System (BOS) components. These consist of a mounting system (rails and coverings for roof mounting, and fixed-tilt tables or tracking systems for ground-mounted PV), a DC-to-AC inverter (central, string, and/or optionally module-level microinverters), DC and AC cables, and performance-monitoring equipment. For larger systems, transformers and a power-plant controller with associated communication systems are also required.

Crystal growth method

The multicrystalline casting method used to be the dominant crystallisation technology, as it supported the fast capacity build-out from the early 2000s, when the availability of high-quality polysilicon was restricted. It

is, however, no longer in use. Since 2024, the global manufacturing capacity of polysilicon has surpassed consumption by hundreds of percent, leading to intense price competition among the (Chinese) suppliers, a build-up of inventory covering several years of demand, and selling prices below cost.

During the same period, capacity for crystal growth has been modernised and fully converted to the monocrystalline Czochralski method. Modern furnaces with larger capacities, and the capability to recharge the crucible during growth – which is essential to obtain a high crystallisation yield – have been deployed. This upgrade of machinery has been a consequence of the need to change the doping base of the crystal, since today's high-efficiency cells are built from n-type wafers rather than p-type wafers. Whereas p-type wafers were suitable for the former mainstream PERC solar cells, today's TOPCon, HJT (heterojunction) and xBC (back-contact) cells are all made from n-type wafers, which must be doped with either phosphorus or antimony during growth. The diameter of the monocrystal is 300 mm, which enables further squaring and processing of the ingot into a square wafer of 210 mm size.

Wafer slicing method

The active silicon substrate that constitutes the solar cell is sliced from the squared ingot with a wire saw using diamond-coated wires. For cooling, ordinary water is used, and the waste slurry with embedded silicon particles can in principle be cleaned and upcycled for reuse of the silicon. The traditional outlet for this upcycled silicon, the casting of multicrystalline ingots, has effectively disappeared, since high-purity virgin polysilicon has been abundantly available since 2024 and is used for the growth of high-quality monocrystals. The upcycled waste silicon is therefore now used as a raw material in the upstream process of purifying metallurgical silicon. The upcycled waste silicon is therefore now used as raw-material in upstream process of purifying metallurgical silicon. After cutting, the wafers are cleaned and the subsurface damage is removed by etching, which is also used to establish a microstructured surface that improves anti-reflection performance during operation of the solar cell.

Solar cell architecture

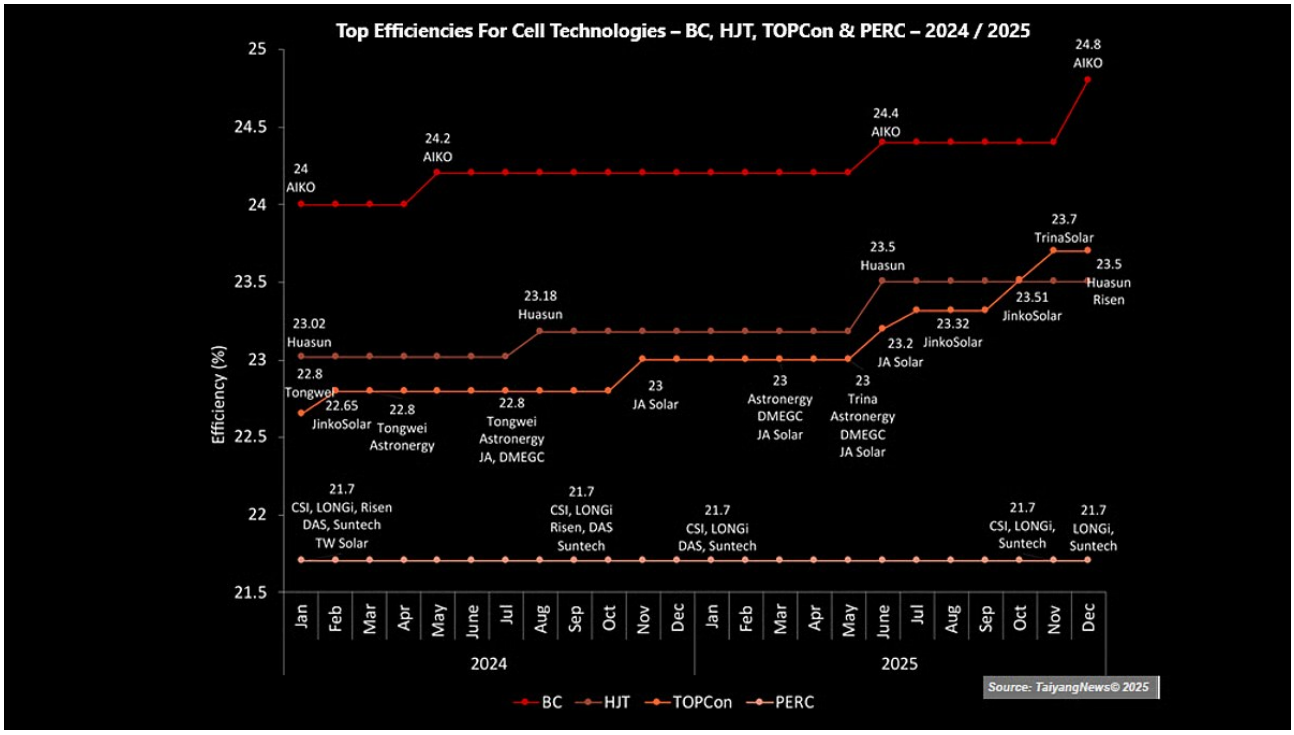
Whereas the main cell technologies until a few years ago were based on PERC (Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell) solar cells, a more diverse portfolio of cell types is being promoted today. The cell type with the highest market share is TOPCon (Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact), which has demonstrated significant improvement potential. Many manufacturers today offer even a 5th-generation upgrade of this product, with each generation representing a meaningful efficiency improvement. The current maximum in commercial operation is 23.7 %, an increase of 0.9 percentage points over two years.

Other cell architectures are also commercialised in meaningful quantities and are candidates to meet or exceed the market dominance of TOPCon by offering higher efficiency.

HJT (heterojunction) solar cells have been commercialised for more than 25 years and still represent a very-high-efficiency solution, currently offering efficiencies of 23.5 %, an increase of 0.3 percentage points over two years. HJT may not have the strongest position for continued market expansion, as the efficiencies tend to be lower and improve more slowly, and the technology struggles with higher processing costs due to more complex equipment.

BC (back-contact) solar cells have been commercialised for decades and have always offered the highest efficiency potential. Today, the highest cell efficiency among commercial products is provided by BC technology at 24.8 %, an improvement of 0.8 percentage points compared to what was offered two years ago.

Figure 11: Top efficiency by cell technology (ref.1).



The underlying design improvements of the various cell types relate to optimisations such as thinner and fewer busbars, the use of light-reflecting films, narrower backside poly fingers, smaller gaps between cells, and so on. An overall, very distinct difference is also the cutting of the original 210 × 210 mm wafer into two, three or even four sub-cells, with additional strategies for protective coating of the cell edges.

The drive to reduce metallisation material through fewer busbars and thinner fingers has now also been applied to the backside of the cell. This means that the backside is no longer opaque by default and, with some further design optimisation, can convert light received through the back of the module into electricity. Even BC cells, which were developed and optimised with the aim of maximising the conversion efficiency of light received through the front, have demonstrated bifacial performance capability almost as high as that of the other cell types.

Solar module

The encapsulation of cells into a PV module has undergone several changes over the last few years. The front protection is still made of a 2.0–3.2 mm thick, anti-reflective-coated, semi-toughened, microstructured glass. However, in many modules, the polymer backsheet has been replaced by a second glass pane, producing a more mechanically rigid structure with better protection against weather and mechanical stress.

From a mechanical-stability point of view, the double-glass structure does not require an outer aluminium frame. Nevertheless, the frame remains standard, as it provides important edge protection for the glass sandwich.

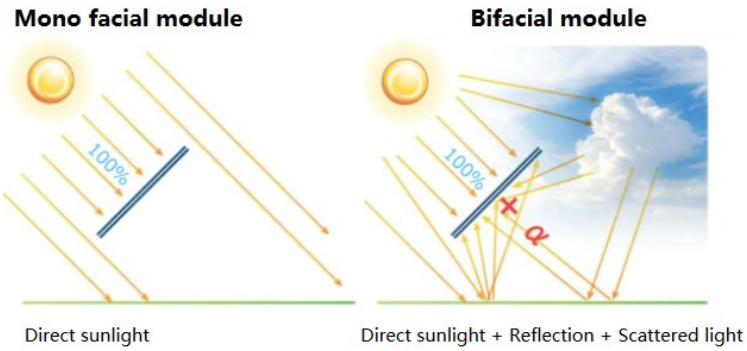
Bifacial PV-panels and half-cut cells

In addition to the upgrades and improvements listed above, another technology change has been introduced and has gained rapid acceptance in the market: the use of solar energy that reaches the cell from both the front and the back of the PV module. This builds on the fact that all solar cells today come in a bifacial version

by default. Bifacial panels are still mainly used for utility-scale ground-mounted systems, where light reaching the ground between the rows can be reflected by grass or other reflecting surfaces (snow, stones, etc.) towards the back of the surrounding modules. However, since the price is essentially the same for glass-glass and glass-backsheet products, and since the protection and supplier warranty are longer for glass-glass than for glass-backsheet modules, glass-glass modules may also be used in industrial and commercial roof systems – unless the installation is sensitive to the weight of the panel.

The bifaciality of a PV module is given by the power ratio between back-side and front-side exposure to a standard 1000 W/m² flashed irradiation, and typically lies between 80 % and 90 %. In real installations, the bifacial gain is much lower, as the amount of sunlight reaching the back side is much smaller. The actual gain depends on a number of factors, including the height of the panel installation, the use of fixed-tilt or tracker mounting systems, ground albedo, strategies to avoid shadowing of the back side by the sub-structure, panel inclination, geographical location and weather conditions. The relative contribution of the bifacial cells is higher in cloudy weather, due to a higher share of diffuse sky radiation. Figure 12 shows the functional principle of a bifacial solar panel compared to a monofacial module.

Figure 12 Bifacial module structure (Ref. 12).



As mentioned, the use of half-cut, three-cut or even quarter-cut cells is now standard in manufacturing and is today seen as the baseline solution. When configuring these smaller rectangular cells into electrical strings with target voltages of around 40–50 V, the number of junction boxes increases, since each panel carries more electrical strings. The junction boxes are now smaller (so that the back side does not block light transmission through the glass) and are typically located at the centre of the module.

Typical characteristics of PV panels are:

- Utility-scale panels typically contain 132–144 half-cut cells, providing a panel power of 600–770 Wp for a module of 2382 × 1134, 2465 × 1134 or 2384 × 1303 mm² (2.7–3.1 m²).
- Residential PV panels typically contain 48, 54 or 60 half-cut cells, providing a panel power of 450–530 Wp for a panel of 1762 × 1134, 1961 × 1134 or 2063 × 1134 mm² (2.0–2.3 m²).

Utility scale PV with tracking system

In Southern Europe, single-axis tracker systems have become the new standard (Ref. 14). In Denmark, however, only a few tracker systems are installed. It is not yet clear how this balance may shift in the future, since several factors will influence the decision.

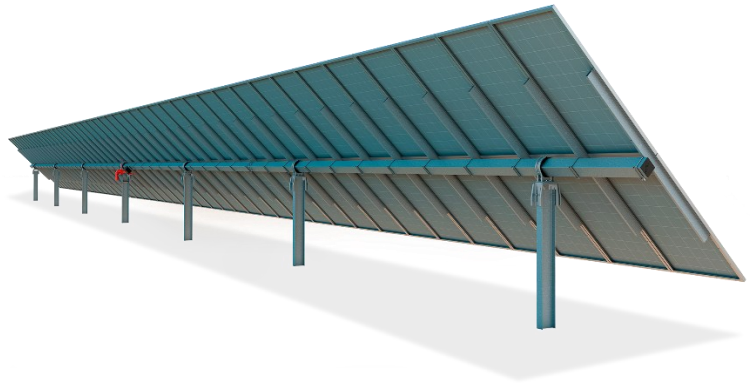
On the one hand, the price of tracker systems may decrease as a wider and more experienced supplier base develops. On the other hand, the relative importance of substructure costs in total system cost is rising, following the significant reductions in PV panel prices over recent years.

A further consideration is that one of the key advantages of trackers, a shift in the generation profile from a single peak at noon to a double peak in the morning and afternoon, which fits better with the hours where retail electricity prices are high, may be offset by the use of battery storage systems. Battery storage systems offer similar – and potentially stronger - effects by shifting low-value electricity to higher-priced hours of dispatch.

Single axis tracking

Single-axis tracking systems allow rotation of the PV panels around a single axis, which can be either horizontal or tilted. Rotation is achieved by connecting an electric motor to a steel beam (the torque tube), which carries transverse steel beams used to mount the panels. In countries in the northern hemisphere, such as Denmark, it is most common to install long vertical single-axis systems that rotate the panels from facing east in the morning to facing west in the afternoon, as shown in Figure 13.

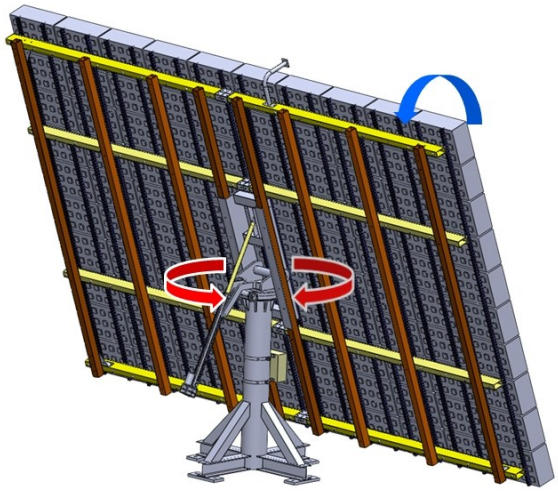
Figure 13 Single axis tracking system on the vertical axis (Ref. 15).



Dual axis tracking

Dual axis tracking systems allow rotation of the PV-panels both horizontally and vertically. It has two respective motors for rotation on each axis. This allows for the minimization of the incidence angle between the sun and the solar panel, which in turn maximizes the generation. However, the mounting structure can only support fewer modules (usually limited to 10 kW_p per tracker structure), and two motors are required, causing the investment costs to be significantly higher than for single axis tracker solutions. For that reason, it is uncommon to apply dual-axis tracker technology for utility scale PV plants, unless a version of CPV that can only utilize the direct (beam) component in the sunlight is installed. An illustration of a dual axis tracker is shown in Figure 14.

Figure 14 A generic dual axis PV system (Ref. 11)



1.5 axis tracking

A 1.5 axis tracking system is a fusion of the single and dual axis system because the system can partly operate on both axes. The 1.5 axis system only has one motor for rotation on both axes and requires a panel structure, which does not allow an inclination angle below 30 degrees. This results in a similar generation with respect to the dual axis system in seasons with a high solar elevation angle as well as a low seasonal angle difference. However, the generation is reduced with respect to the dual axis system if the sun's elevation angle is below 30 degrees, which is the case for most of Europe in winter. Because the tracking system only needs one motor, the investment costs are lower relative to the dual axis tracking system. Still, like the dual axis tracking system, the mounting structure can only support a few modules, making the technology less relevant for large utility scale PV plants. An example of a PV 1.5 axis tracking system is shown in Figure 15.

Figure 15 A Helioslite 1.5 tracking system (Ref. 13).



Performance of tracking systems

PV panels with any kind of tracking system will have increased power generation compared to fixed mount systems. This additional performance ability for tracking systems depends on geographical location, type of PV-module, type of control system, time horizon for measurements, and inclination angle applied.

It is estimated that single-axis tracking systems can increase generation by approximately 15% with respect to fixed mount systems in Denmark. The production pattern of single axis trackers is slightly different to fixed systems as they have an increased generation in the early and late daylight hours while having a decreased

peak in the middle of the day. In general, the generation pattern is more beneficial for the power system as the output is usually less fluctuating throughout the day.

In Denmark, the generation from dual tracking systems can be increased by up to 25-27% with respect to fixed mount systems, however, due to the drawbacks mentioned above neither 1.5 nor 2-axis tracking systems are currently considered relevant for large-scale application in Denmark.

PV module power (capacity)

The energy generation capacity (power) of a solar module depends on the intensity of the irradiation the module receives, incidence angle, spectral distribution of the solar radiation as well as module temperature. For practical reasons the module power is therefore referenced to a set of laboratory Standard Test Conditions (STC) which corresponds to an irradiation of 1000 W/m^2 with an AM1.5[1] spectral distribution perpendicular to the module surface and a cell temperature of 25 °C. This STC capacity is referred to as the peak capacity P_p [kW_p].

Losses and corrections

Since the actual operating conditions will always be different from Standard Test Conditions, the average capacity of the module over the year will differ from the peak capacity. The capacity of the solar module is reduced compared to the P_p value when the actual cell temperature is higher than 25 °C, when the irradiation received is collected at an angle different from normal direct irradiation and when the irradiation is lower than 1000 W/m^2. The *Transposition Factor* is the ratio of the incident irradiation on the plane of array, to the horizontal irradiation. It represents the irradiance losses or gains when tilting the collector plane compared to the horizontal plan. Besides, some of the electricity generated from the solar modules is lost in the rest of the system, e.g. in the DC-to-AC inverter(s), cables, combiner boxes and for larger PV power plants also in the transformer. The power generation from a PV installation with a peak capacity P_p can be calculated as:

$$Energy = P_p * Global\ Horizontal\ Insolation * Transposition\ Factor * Performance\ Ratio$$

For practical reasons, the various losses are often compiled into a single factor, called the performance ratio, which describes the energy yield of the actual system relative to a reference system operating under ideal Standard Test Conditions. This factor describes all energy losses components in the real system, which include optical losses related (light reflections from the glass surface), electrical losses (electrical string mismatch loss, dc- and ac-resistive losses), performance losses as compared to datasheet STC-values (while operating at temperatures different from 25 °C, light intensities different from 1000 W/m2 and spectral conditions different from AM1.5 etc.) as well as inverter- and transformer losses, snow- and soiling loss etc. The uplift from bifaciality, albeit not part of the STC P_p measurement, is typically included in the performance ratio or presented separately.

Inverter capacity and sizing factor

The capacity of a PV inverter is not uniquely defined, which may lead to some confusion. In some countries, the rated power is defined as the maximum conversion power that can be extracted under standard operating temperatures and settings, whereas the nameplate (or rated) power is set by the manufacturer based on sales strategy and tradition.

An inverter may also be rated, for practical purposes, by the amount of power it can supply to the grid while at the same time fulfilling the national grid code requirements for system support – for example, when delivering

[1] The air mass coefficient defines the optical path length of solar irradiation when travelling through the Earth's atmosphere, relative to a vertical path.

reactive power under conditions of high ambient temperature, grid undervoltage and power factors different from 1. The exact parameter settings for such challenging operating conditions are not only country-specific, but also depend on the classification of the grid connection as Class A, B, C or D.

Ultimately, the AC capacity of a PV plant is determined by the capacity stated in the grid-connection agreement, on the assumption that this capacity is equal to or lower than the grid-compliant capacity of all the individual inverters in the system. The latter is established on the basis of approved documentation, in the form of simulation models as well as completed on-site tests. For smaller systems (Class A), it may be sufficient to provide documentation extracted from standardised test protocols delivered by the inverter manufacturers of pre-approved (white-listed) inverters.

For Class A PV systems, it is also required to check that the full export capability of the inverter is in accordance with the existing grid-connection agreement, since the regulation regarding supply and tariffing of electricity into the grid has recently been updated.

Despite the complexity in defining the inverter capacity and the grid maximum export capacity, it is still relevant to consider the sizing KPI defined as the ratio between the DC capacity of the PV installation, P_p [W_{DC}], and the plant capacity, P [W_{AC}], where the plant capacity is the lower value between the inverter capacity and the grid maximum export capacity. This relationship (P_p/P) is also known as the DC/AC sizing factor.

A sizing factor above 1 leads to either inverter "clipping" or curtailment. Clipping occurs during peak hours when the inverter is unable to fully convert the DC input energy into AC electricity, so the surplus is lost. Curtailment occurs when the limitation is in the grid, which imposes a derating on the inverter, so that energy is lost because the grid does not have sufficient capacity to receive it.

The optimum sizing factor depends on which factor is limiting the installation, for example the availability of area, the availability of grid capacity, the subsidy scheme, imposed constraints on the allowed nominal power, the daily self-consumption profile, or a fixed physical orientation or tilt angle of the modules. Globally, the sizing factor is generally in the range 1.0 to 1.5.

Historically, the sizing factor for utility-scale PV facilities in Denmark used to be quite high, in some plants up to 1.5. This was applied between 2012 and 2019, when subsidy schemes were available for plant sizes capped by an AC capacity of either 400 kW_{AC} or 499 kW_{AC}.

Between 2020 and 2023, the typical sizing factor in Denmark was reduced to around 1.25, reflecting the relatively low cost of the DC-to-AC inverter and the fact that the Danish grid tariff schemes during these years did not include a capacity-based payment.

Sizing-factor design criteria changed in 2021, when the national implementation of EC Regulation 2016/631 (the Network Code on Requirements for Generators, RfG) entered into force. Due to network system capability requirements introduced for the larger Category C and D projects – in particular the capability to deliver reactive power – it became necessary to reduce the sizing factor to a level below 1.1 for these projects.

Also in 2021, the grid-connection tariff scheme was updated so that the cost of connecting renewables to the grid was assigned to the developer through a production-connection tariff. With effect from 2023, the cost of grid capacity therefore increased significantly. This led to a rush to connect projects in 2022 without this tariff payment, with "unoptimised" grid capacity assigned to each project. From 2023 onwards, connections have been DC/AC-optimised to ensure that no more capacity is contracted and paid for than is needed to export a reasonable amount of energy. As a result, the DC/AC ratio has again increased and is now typically around 1.3.

In summary, both the extent to which tracker systems become commercially attractive in Denmark and the framework conditions (capacity payments and network code requirements) under which utility-scale projects can be connected to the grid (DSO and TSO) will influence the sizing factor.

Wear and degradation

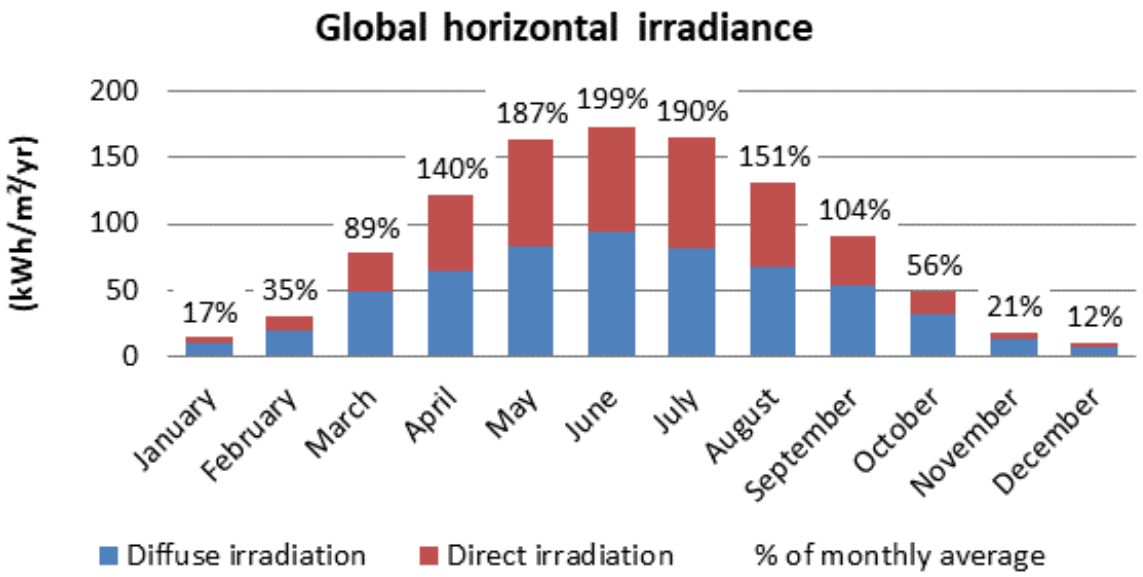
In general, a PV installation is very robust and only requires a minimum of component replacement over the course of its lifetime. The inverter typically needs to be replaced every 15 years. For the PV module only limited physical degradation will occur. It is common to assign a constant yearly degradation rate of 0.3 – 0.5 % to the overall production output of the installation. This degradation rate does not reflect a specific known physical degradation mechanism but rather reflects general failure rates following ordinary reliability theory with an initial high (compared to later) but rapidly decreasing "infant mortality" followed by a low rate of constant failures and with an increasing failure rate towards the end-of-life of the various products (Ref. 13). Failures in the PV system are typically related to soldering, cell crack, hot spots, yellowing or delamination of the encapsulant foil, junction box failures, loose cables, hailstorm and lightning (Ref. 14). Degradation is difficult to assess on a project level, as the magnitude of degradation easily can be offset or overwhelmed by other factors influencing the individual system's efficiency (Ref. 2).

Input

Solar radiation is the input of a PV panel. The irradiation, which the module receives, depends on the solar energy resource potential at the location, including shading conditions and the orientation of the module.

The annual solar irradiance received on a horizontal surface in Denmark is determined for 6 different geographical zones in Denmark within the DMI introduced reference year (Ref. 4) which can be converted into a typical annual irradiation of 1068 ± 33 kWh/m^2/year. The distribution of this solar energy over the year is illustrated in Figure 16.

Figure 16 Monthly sum of global irradiance on a horizontal surface according to the newly defined Danish reference year (Ref 4).



Both the direct light (beam) and diffuse components of the light, which in Denmark typically comprise approximately 50 % of the energy each, can be utilised. This implies a fairly high degree of freedom in orienting the PV modules, both with respect to inclination and orientation East-West.

For a fixed tilt system, where modules are installed in a 15-45 degrees inclination angle, the available energy received in the plane of the PV module (glass surface) is increased compared to horizontal by a so-called transposition factor of 1.10 - 1.19. In Denmark, the inclination angle that yields the highest generation is approximately 39 degrees, but in practice, utility scale PV plants are typically installed with a 25 degrees tilt angle (1.17 transposition factor) to reduce shadow effects between rows, thereby decreasing the spatial footprint per installed capacity, and to reduce the wind load on the panels.

Panels facing other directions than south receive less energy than panels facing directly towards south. Table 12 shows the transposition factor for different orientations of a fixed tilt panel.

Table 12 Transposition factor for solar modules as function of orientation calculated for Risø near Roskilde in Denmark by the program PVsyst based on the Meteonorm (1991-2000) dataset.

Transposition Factors for Risø (Denmark)

Period : Whole year --- Horizontal Global Irrad. = 998 kWh/m2

Azimuth / Tilt	-90°	-75°	-60°	-45°	-30°	-15°	0°	15°	30°	45°	60°	75°	90°
90°	0.63	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.83	0.86	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.83	0.79	0.73	0.66
80°	0.71	0.78	0.84	0.90	0.94	0.96	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.93	0.88	0.81	0.73
70°	0.78	0.85	0.92	0.98	1.02	1.05	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.01	0.95	0.88	0.80
60°	0.83	0.91	0.98	1.04	1.09	1.12	1.13	1.13	1.11	1.07	1.01	0.94	0.86
50°	0.88	0.96	1.03	1.09	1.13	1.16	1.17	1.17	1.15	1.11	1.05	0.99	0.91
40°	0.92	0.99	1.05	1.11	1.15	1.18	1.19	1.18	1.16	1.13	1.08	1.01	0.94
30°	0.95	1.01	1.06	1.11	1.14	1.17	1.18	1.17	1.16	1.13	1.08	1.03	0.97
20°	0.97	1.01	1.05	1.09	1.12	1.13	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.10	1.07	1.03	0.98
10°	0.99	1.01	1.03	1.05	1.07	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.07	1.06	1.04	1.02	1.00
0°	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Note that the typical tilt angle of 25 degrees directly south-facing panel will receive a transposition factor of 1.17, which is 0.02 lower than the maximum value at a 39-degree angle.

Output

All PV modules generate direct current (DC) electricity as an output, which then needs to be converted to alternating current (AC) by use of an inverter. Some modules (AC modules) come with an integrated inverter, which exhibits certain technical advantages, such as better modularity in installation, more flexibility in installation orientation of individual modules (standard string inverters require all modules in an electrical string to be installed in the same orientation), more shade resistance, easy shutdown in case of fire thus being safer, and simple AC-electrical work to be performed directly at the panel on the roof. However, these integrated inverters are more costly and therefore they are typically only applied in residential PV modules. As an alternative to AC modules, poweroptimizers exist, which are module connected DC/DC converters that allow modules subjected to different shadings to be connected to the same inverter, via the optimizer. These systems exist both where all modules need a poweroptimizer (Solaredge) and systems where only selected modules are equipped with a poweroptimizer (Tigo, Huawei). The power optimizer solution is cheaper compared to the microinverter solution and offers the same safety and operational benefits.

The power generation depends on:

- The amount of solar irradiation received in the plane of the module (see above).
- Installed module generation capacity (size and efficiency).
- Losses related to the installation and site (soiling and shade).
- Losses related to the conversion from sunlight to electricity (reflections from the glass, electrical mismatch).
- Losses related to conversion from DC to AC electricity in the inverter.
- Grid connection cable and transformer losses.
- Cable length and cross section, and overall quality of components.

Typical capacities

PV systems are available from a few Watts to Gigawatt sizes but in this context, only PV systems from a few hundred Watt to a few hundred MW are relevant.

PV systems are inherently modular with different typical module sizes for respective residential, commercial and utility scale applications. A typical module unit size is between 450 and 530 W_p for residential purposes whereas utility scale size is currently between 600W_p and 770 W_p

The size of a typical *residential* installation in Denmark is normally between 5 and 7 kW_p corresponding to an area of 25-40 m^2 for c-Si modules. Residential PV installations are often optimised for a high degree of self-consumption, with an inverter sizing factor around 1 to 1.1 but may also deliver surplus power to the outer radials of the distribution grid. To increase self-consumption, residential PV's can be combined with a small sized battery to absorb peak generation. Additional cost of a battery varies by size, but for a 6.7 kWp PV system, a 5 kWh lithium-ion battery will typically cost about 5,000-6,000 € excl. VAT including installation. The cost of the batteries may be offset by savings from increased self-consumption, reducing retailer power costs, grid tariffs, and potentially energy taxes.

Commercial and *Industrial* PV systems are typically installed on residential, office or public buildings, and typically range from 50 to 500 kW_p in size. Such systems are often designed to fill the available roof area but also for a high degree of self-consumption. They will typically have a sizing factor around 1 to 1.2 and may deliver non-self-consumed power to a transformer in the low voltage distribution grid.

Utility scale systems or PV power plants will normally be ground mounted and typically range in size from 1MW and beyond. Newer utility scale plants in Denmark are typically between 20 and 240 MW_p (as of 2025). They are typically operated by independent power producers that by use of transformers deliver power to either the medium voltage distribution grid or directly to the high voltage transmission grid. As previously described, the sizing factor may vary from 1.05 (due to RFG requirements) to 1.5.

Space requirement

The module area needed to deliver 1 kWp of peak generation capacity ranges between 4 and 5 m² for today's standard PV modules. A typical residential module of approximately 2 m² has a small additional perimeter (around 1.5 cm in width on each side) included in this figure.

For modules on tilted roofs, approximately 1 m² of roof surface is required per m² of module area. When projected onto the ground plane, this corresponds to approximately 0.7 m² per m² of module area for a typical roof inclination of around 45°. When estimating the potential of rooftop PV, it should be taken into account that not all roof area is usable due to roof orientation, shading from surrounding structures, skylights, chimneys, ventilation systems and other installations.

When PV modules are installed on flat roofs or ground-mounted on fixed-tilt structures, the installation requires more area than that of the modules themselves, in order to allow for service and access between the modules and to reduce row-to-row shading.Table 13 shows the typical area required per kWp or per MWp for different installation types.

For ground-mounted plants, the figures in the data sheet refer to the gross area within the fence of the plant. This includes the area occupied by the modules as well as the ancillary space required at park level for internal roads, compounds, distance to the fence and other restricted or protected zones. A gross area of approximately 0.8 ha per MWp is typically required for a fixed-tilt plant, while tracker systems require around 1.1–1.2 ha per MWp.

In practice, the leased area is often somewhat larger, typically by around 10–20 %, as additional space is reserved for biodiversity measures, hedgerows and buffer zones around the facility.

Table 13 Area consumption per installed capacity in different PV segments. In addition to the net module area, the gross area includes the area within the fence of the plant, which includes the area occupied by the modules as well as the ancillary space required at park level for internal roads, compounds, distance to the fence and other restricted or protected areas. In practice, the leased area is often somewhat larger, typically by around 10–20 %, as additional space is reserved for biodiversity measures and buffer zones around the facilities.

	Residential on tilted roof	Commercial on flat rooftop	Utility with fixed tilt	Utility with tracker
Space requirement per kWp in m2	4-5	4-8		
Net space requirement per MWp in ha			0.6-0.7	0,85.0,9
Gross space requirement per MWp in ha			0.7-0.8	1.1-1.2

Regulation ability

Generation from a PV system reflects the yearly and daily variation in solar irradiation. When PV systems are connected to the grid, a set of grid codes describing the required functionality and communication protocols, as set by the TSO and DSO, must be complied with. The detailed technical requirements depend on the system size, but they do not impose any technical demand that cannot be fulfilled by a modern PV inverter.

For systems above 125 kW, a park controller that interfaces with the grid operator is required to ensure system-level remote control of all individual inverters. This enables the system to deliver ancillary grid services such as frequency response, reactive power, variable voltage output, and power fault ride-through.

In addition to the park controller, a simulation model must be delivered to the utility for verification of the technical capability of the plant. Developing and delivering this model can be complex and time-consuming, particularly for smaller installers. Utility-scale PV plants can in principle provide downregulation when generating, and upregulation when not generating at maximum capacity. However, today most PV systems simply supply the full amount of available energy to the consumer or to the grid.

The inverters in residential and commercial or industrial rooftop systems follow the local grid conditions and deliver their output in accordance with the applicable network codes. This also implies that the inverter must reduce its output if the observed frequency or voltage conditions move outside predefined limits.

Over the last few years, it has become common to sign grid-connection agreements with both Energinet and the local utilities based on a Flexible Grid Agreement. Under these agreements, the full export capacity from the plant cannot be guaranteed, and the plant must be able to reduce its output immediately upon request from the grid operator.

In addition to grid-operator-driven curtailment under the Flexible Grid Agreement, market conditions can also force a similar interruption in export. In particular, hours with negative spot prices typically lead the plant to curtail its production. The combination of these two curtailment mechanisms introduces significant uncertainties into the overall PV business case.

Advantages

- PV does not use any fuel or other consumable.
- PV is noiseless (except for fan-noise from inverters and transformers).
- Power is produced in the daytime when demand is high.
- PV complements wind power as the generic seasonal/daily generation profile is different.
- PV offers grid-stabilisation features.
- PV modules have a long lifetime of more than 30 years, and PV modules can be recycled to a high degree (Ref. 47).
- PV systems are modular and easy to install.
- Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of PV plants is simple and limited as there are no moving parts, except for tracker systems, and no wear and tear. Inverters need only be replaced once or twice during the operational life of the installation.
- Large PV power plants can be installed on land that otherwise are of no or limited commercial use (water collection/pesticide-free areas, landfills, low-lands, areas of restricted access or chemically polluted areas).
- PV systems integrated into buildings require no incremental ground space, and the electrical inter-connection and export capacity is readily available at no or small additional cost.
- Affordable aesthetic panels are expected to become available for building integration in the coming years.

Disadvantages

- PV systems have low capacity factors.
- Aesthetic concerns may limit the use of PV in certain urban environments and in the open space when the visual impact is unacceptable.
- PV installations can only provide energy and services following the daily and yearly variations in solar irradiation.
- Materials abundancy (In, Ga, Te) is of concern for large-scale deployment of some thin-film technologies (CIGS, CdTe).
- Some thin-film technologies do contain small amounts of toxic cadmium and arsenic.
- The best perovskite absorbers contain soluble organic lead compounds, which are toxic and environmentally hazardous at a level that calls for extraordinary precautions.
- PV systems are quite area intensive.

Environment

The environmental impacts from manufacturing, installation and operation of PV systems are limited.

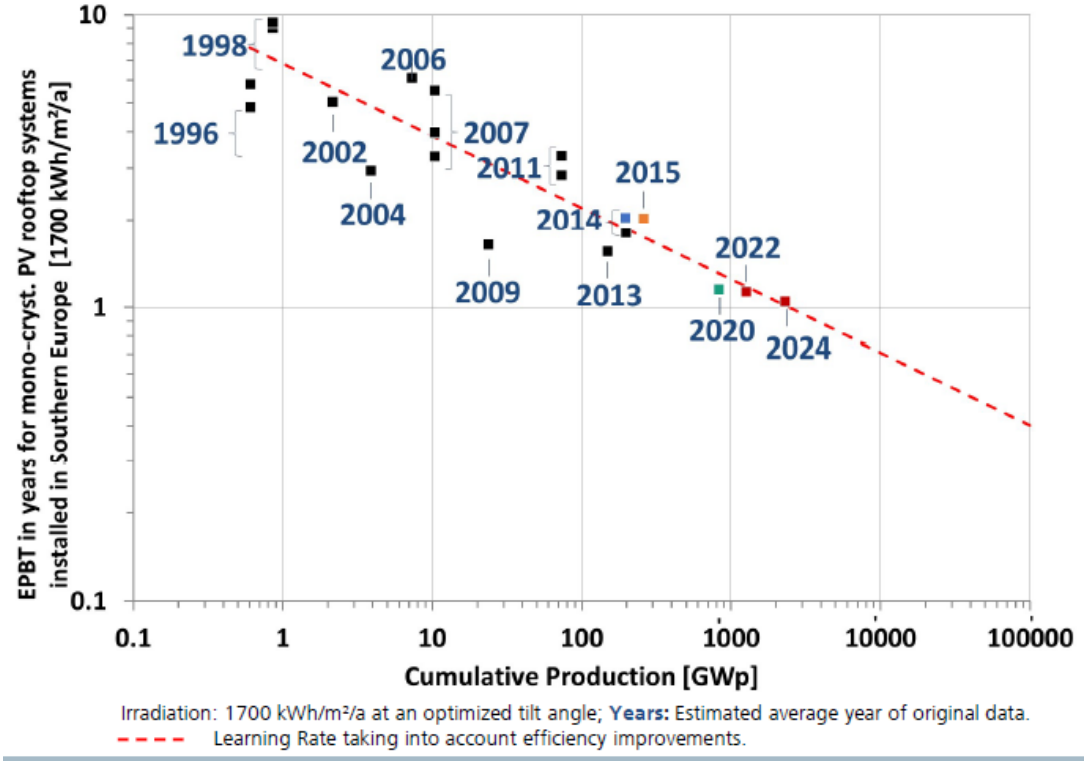
A single version of thin-film modules may contain small amounts of cadmium and telluride, but these PV modules are almost entirely sold in the US.

All front glasses are coated with a roughly 100 nm thick silica-based layer which has been sintered into the surface during tempering of the glass. This coating may be referred to as “nano” – due to its thickness – but does not contain any nano-sized particles that could be washed off and released to the environment. No risks have therefore been identified in relation to the installation of PV panels, including above groundwater protection areas.

The energy payback time (EPBT) depends on multiple factors such as PV technology type, manufacturer and geographical location. The current average EPBT of a typical crystalline silicon PV system in Europe is around

1 year, shown in Figure 17, which corresponds to little more than one year for Denmark, due to a lower number of full load hours compared with Southern Europe.

Figure 17 Historic energy payback time of PV modules (Fraunhofer 2025, Ref. 9, page 36).



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Subasi et. al. (2025) - PV Module Energy Payback Time Analysis for Silicon Solar Cell Technologies, EU PVSEC 2025, Bilbao, Spain

End-of-life regulatory framework

All PV modules, as well as inverters, are covered by the European Union Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive (Ref. 53), which ensures appropriate treatment of the products at end of life. The Directive is currently the central EU regulation defining producer responsibility for PV modules at end of life, covering collection, treatment, recovery and recycling obligations. It has most recently been amended by Directive (EU) 2024/884, which clarifies the financial obligations relating to certain waste from photovoltaic panels (Ref. 54). In Denmark, these requirements are implemented through the Danish electronics WEEE order (Ref. 55) and administered through Dansk Producent ansvar (DPA, Danish Product Responsibility).

The purpose of the regulation is to ensure that the producer placing PV modules on the Danish market – or the importer or other entity qualifying as the producer for the Danish market – is registered with DPA and assumes responsibility for managing the waste arising from those products at end of life.

For products that are likely to be used by private households, the producer is assigned responsibility for financing and organising the management of a proportionate share of WEEE from private households. The share is linked to the producer's market share and to the allocation mechanisms established under the Danish producer-responsibility rules.

For products intended exclusively for professional use, the producer is generally responsible for financing the management of WEEE from those products at end of life, unless another allocation is agreed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. In Denmark, the relevant producer obligations are registered through DPA so that end-of-life responsibility is documented and carried out in accordance with the regulation.

Specific rules also apply to the cross-border shipment of PV module waste. In this case, the EU Waste Shipment Regulation (Ref. 56) applies. This does not amount to a general prohibition on cross-border shipment of PV module waste, but it does mean that shipment is subject to classification rules, documentation requirements and – depending on the waste stream and destination – either general information requirements or prior notification and consent procedures (Ref. 57, Ref. 58).

In terms of actual collection and recovery, the WEEE framework sets minimum targets for Member States. Since 2019, the minimum collection rate is 65 % of the average weight of EEE placed on the market in the previous three years, or alternatively 85 % of WEEE generated. For large equipment under open scope, including photovoltaic panels, the minimum treatment outcome required from 15 August 2018 is 85 % recovery and 80 % preparation for re-use and recycling (Ref. 53, Ref. 59).

Looking ahead, the broader EU regulatory direction continues to move towards stronger circularity requirements for products, materials and waste flows. In parallel with WEEE, the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and related circular-economy initiatives are expected to further strengthen design-for-repair, resource efficiency, durability and recyclability requirements across product groups. For PV modules, this is expected to support improved dismantling, higher-quality material recovery and a stronger market for secondary raw materials.

Recycling practices

Several solutions are in full-scale commercial operation for the recycling of the materials from decommissioned PV modules. Current recycling methodologies are already capable of recovering more than 90 % of the weight of the PV panel, and on a laboratory scale recycling rates close to 98 % have been demonstrated. These innovative solutions are gradually being commercialised as the volume of decommissioned modules increases.

Once a PV module reaches end of life, a decision must be made on whether the most appropriate route is re-use or recycling. Because the operational lifetime of a PV module may exceed the lifetime of the specific installation – for example due to expiring subsidies, repowering decisions, roof renovation, lease expiry, or other practical and commercial reasons – a decommissioned PV module may still be capable of generating electricity. A strategy based on re-use therefore requires careful dismantling, traceability and technical verification of the product's remaining performance and safety.

In practice, this may include measurements of rated power and state of health, as well as checks of electrical safety and product condition, together with the documentation required for lawful re-use. Depending on the intended second-life application, further quality assurance may also be needed. While the establishment of a secondary market for used PV modules represents a strong circular-economy ambition, the related logistics, testing, liability and compliance costs may in some cases exceed the economic value of the remaining usable lifetime (Ref. 60).

When considering physical recycling and the recovery of the constituent materials of PV panels, Europe already has a number of commercial recycling operators in place, alongside research and demonstration activities addressing today's mainstream products – in particular crystalline silicon modules in glass-backsheet or glass-glass configurations with aluminium frames and junction boxes.

Current methodologies typically include dismantling of frames and junction boxes, followed by treatment of the laminate through combinations of mechanical, thermal, optical, water-based or other separation processes. These routes aim to recover fractions such as glass, aluminum, silicon, copper and – where technically and economically feasible – silver and polymer-related materials.

The technologies and industrial set-ups continue to develop, and a number of European projects and industrial operators are working to improve purity levels, recovery efficiencies and the economic viability of advanced recovery routes. Over time, this is expected to improve both compliance performance and the commercial case for higher-value recovery of PV module materials.

As an example, the EU-funded Horizon project Quasar (https://quasar-project.eu/) reports that the company ROSI, using a water-jet separation technique, has demonstrated recycling rates above 80 % for the glass (with a purity above 99.99 %), above 90 % for the silicon and more than 70 % for the silver, in a semi-automatic facility upscaled from a handling capacity of 3,000 t/year to 10,000 t/year. In addition to these materials, the recycling of backsheets has also been addressed, with successful demonstration of the recovery of terephthalic acid (TPA) from PET-based backsheets for re-use as feedstock for new PET (Ref. 61).

Other companies such as the Reiling Group, LuxChemtech and Solar Materials, all in Germany, are also operating advanced recycling facilities that are ready for capacity upscale once larger volumes of modules requiring recycling eventually appear (Ref. 62, Ref. 63, Ref. 64).

Research and development perspectives

A trend in research and development (R&D) activities reflects a change of focus from manufacturing and scale-up issues (2005-2010) and cost reduction topics (2010-2013) to implementation of high efficiency solutions and documentation of lifetime/durability issues (since 2013). In the coming years, as PV plants are expected to play a key role in power generation, a higher focus on increasing the system value of PV generation is expected. R&D is primarily conducted in countries where manufacturing takes place, such as Germany, China, USA, Taiwan and Japan. Nevertheless, some R&D is also taking place in Denmark; the priorities in Denmark are (Ref. 8):

- Silicon feedstock for high-efficiency cells.
- New PV cells e.g. photo-electro-chemical, polymer cells, nanostructured and tandem cells.
- Advanced power electronics for intelligent operation of PV systems.
- Both building integration and building application of PV modules (BIPV2 and BAPV3), design and aesthetics.
- System technology; realisation and modelling of the bifacial gains incl. integration in the electricity grid and digitalisation of O&M.
- Reinforced international cooperation with IEA, IRENA, the EU and the Nordic countries concerning PV and “Smart Grid” development.

2 Building integrated photovoltaics.

3 Building applied photovoltaics.

Examples of standard market technology

Efficiency

High efficiency solar cells and modules have been available for a decade based on interdigitated back contact or hetero-junction cell technologies. The efficiency of such monocrystalline solar cells is above 24%. PV modules with an efficiency of more than 22% are already commercially available. However, a typical global average value for commercially available PV modules today is 19-21%. Figure 18 shows that the average efficiency of commercially available monocrystalline panels has been improved steadily since 2006, reaching 18% efficiency in 2018. The average panel efficiency of most module manufactures in late 2019 was around 20%, as shown below.

Figure 18 Efficiencies of different cell types (Ref. 5).

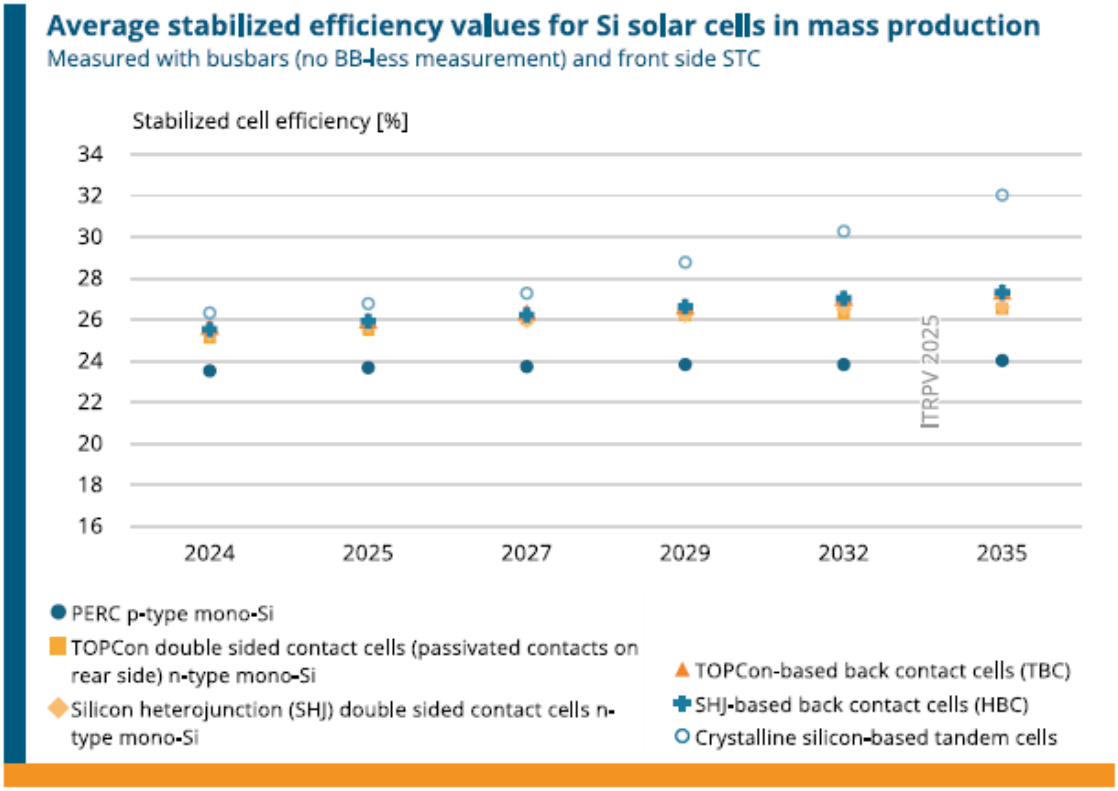


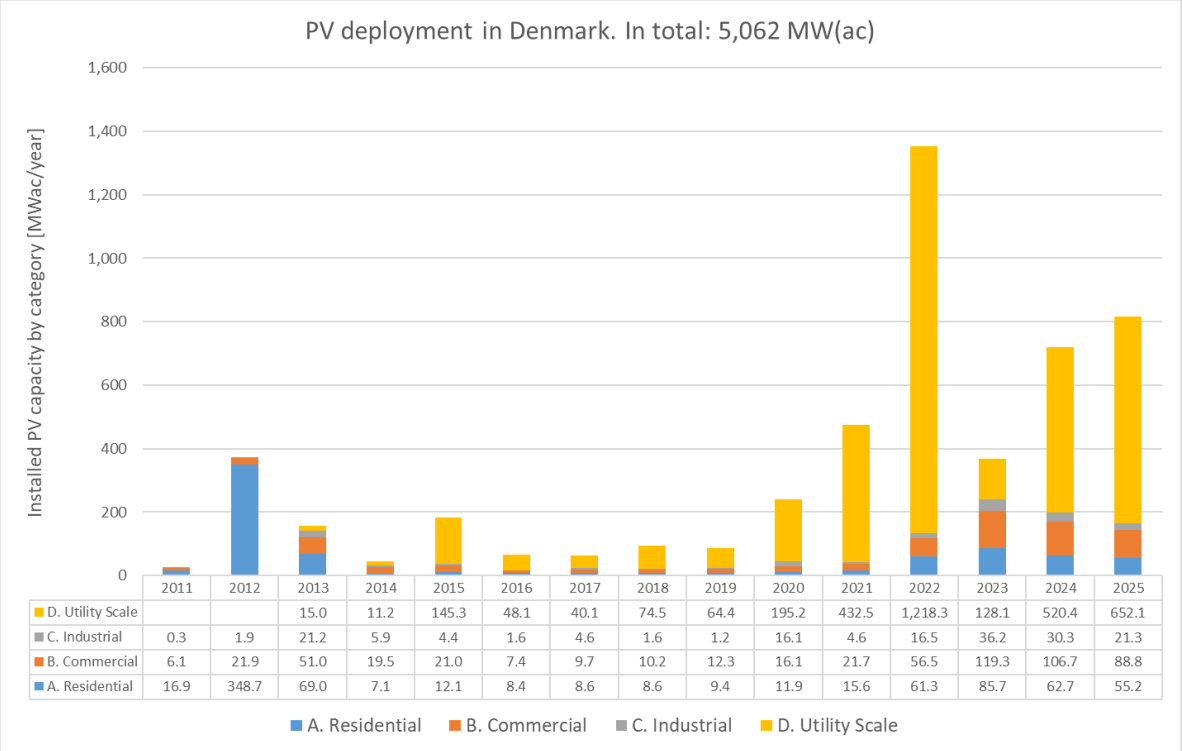
Fig. 43: Average stabilized efficiency values of c-Si solar cells in mass production.

Not only the efficiency but also the reliability of PV modules has improved significantly over the last years. Based on extensive research in materials science and accelerated/field tests of components and systems, manufacturers now offer product warranties for materials and workmanship up to 25 years and power warranties with a linear degrading warranty from initially 97% of the peak power value to a level of 87% after 25 years.

Market capacities and sizes

Figure 19 shows the development in installed and registered PV capacity in Denmark for the recent years 2011-2025.

Figure 19: Annual installed capacity (MWac/year) in Denmark. Based on data from the Danish Energy Agency (Stamdataregister) processed into the following categories: Residential <10, Commercial <250, Industrial <1000 and Utility scale >1000 kW. Data processed by categorizing and addition of known grid-connected projects that had not been registered in the Stamdataregister



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
D. Utility Scale			15.0	11.2	145.3	48.1	40.1	74.5	64.4	195.2	432.5	1,218.3	128.1	520.4	652.1
C. Industrial	0.3	1.9	21.2	5.9	4.4	1.6	4.6	1.6	1.2	16.1	4.6	16.5	36.2	30.3	21.3
B. Commercial	6.1	21.9	51.0	19.5	21.0	7.4	9.7	10.2	12.3	16.1	21.7	56.5	119.3	106.7	88.8
A. Residential	16.9	348.7	69.0	7.1	12.1	8.4	8.6	8.6	9.4	11.9	15.6	61.3	85.7	62.7	55.2

The average yearly installed capacity of Industrial, Commercial and Private PV projects has been slightly decreasing over the last 3 years (2023-2025) with an average installation rate of 29, 93 and 80 MWp/year respectively whereas the utility scale project has grown from 128 to 652 MWp/year over the same period.

Co-located Solar PV and Energy Storage Systems

Solar photovoltaic and storage systems co-located combine PV generation with storage technology behind the same grid connection or within the same consumer installation. Different storage technologies may be used, but the predominant solution today is lithium-ion batteries, typically lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries. The purpose of the batteries is to increase the value of electricity generation by shifting output to higher-value periods or by providing balancing and ancillary services. The co-location of PV and storage can therefore increase the value of PV production by shifting generation from low-price or curtailed hours to higher-value hours, increasing self-consumption, reducing grid export peaks, and supporting grid reliability by delivering ancillary services.

Framing

The dimensioning of a solar photovoltaics -plus-battery system (PV and BESS) co-located plant is determined by the interplay of four parameters: the PV DC capacity, the AC inverter and grid-connection capacity, the battery power rating (MW), and the battery energy duration (MWh or hours). Each parameter has its own cost drivers and revenue linkages, and the optimum combination must reflect both the expected revenue mix, capital investment and constraints imposed by financing, grid regulation, site conditions and permitting.

New greenfield PV in Denmark is today almost exclusively planned as PV and BESS co-located plants, with the battery regarded as a necessary component both to defend the capture price and to deliver the hedge value that lenders increasingly require. Besides providing load shifting used to improve the capture price, the economic rationale for co-locating the battery with the PV plant rests on the sharing of costly high-voltage infrastructure and/or reducing grid tariffs.

Greenfield experience with PV and BESS co-located plants in Denmark is still limited — most of the operating portfolio consists of retrofits, and the detailed design choices for fully integrated greenfield PV and BESS co-located plants are still being worked through in the first wave of projects now under development.

The business case for a PV and BESS co-located plant typically combines three revenue streams: (i) solar output sold through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or directly into the day-ahead market, (ii) battery arbitrage in day-ahead and intraday markets, and (iii) ancillary services such as FCR and aFRR (upward and downward regulation). The early Danish battery fleet was dimensioned with ancillary services as the dominant revenue stream, but market participants increasingly expect these markets to saturate within the coming years. New PV and BESS co-located projects are therefore being dimensioned primarily towards peak-shifting and arbitrage in the wholesale markets, with ancillary services treated as a supplementary rather than a dominant source of income.

Capacity sizing

For utility-scale PV and BESS co-located plants in Denmark, market participants converge on the following current practice:

Battery power is typically dimensioned at approximately 0.3–0.5 MW per MWp of PV. A representative greenfield configuration is 100 MWp of PV paired with a 30–50 MW battery. The corresponding ratio to the plant's AC capacity depends on the DC/AC sizing factor applied (see below).

The addition of a battery storage system to PV plants changes the energy flows of the system. In a typical PV and BESS co-located utility scale PV system roughly half of the energy production will be directed to the electricity grid, while the other half will be directed to the battery storage system and sold at a higher value time of day. Additionally, a small part of the potential production will be clipped or curtailed due to the size of the inverters and grid connection. The battery would typically also trade grid electricity at times where there is limited solar production. However, the volumes traded from only grid electricity is smaller than stored solar production.

Battery duration was historically 2 hours or less, reflecting the dominance of ancillary-service revenue, while the emerging standard for new PV and BESS co-located projects (including retrofits) is 4 hours. The shift is driven by the gradual saturation of the ancillary-service market, by the higher hedge value that a longer-duration battery offers to lenders, and by the simpler financing of projects where wholesale arbitrage is the principal revenue source.

Grid connection capacity for the PV component of PV and BESS co-located plants is currently sized at the full PV RfG compliant AC capacity. Operators report that the cost difference between a restricted and a full grid connection is small relative to the energy value lost through curtailment, and that the battery is today added without reducing the AC grid-connection capacity below the level a stand-alone PV plant would require. As discussed below, this practice is expected to evolve.

Plant architecture: AC or DC coupling

A PV and BESS co-located plant can connect the battery to the PV system on the AC side, where the PV array and the battery each have their own inverter (the PV inverter converting DC to AC, and a dedicated bidirectional inverter handling charge and discharge of the battery), or on the DC side, where the PV array and the battery share a single bidirectional inverter towards the grid and both the battery or the PV is linked to the common DC bus through a DC-DC converter.

AC coupling

AC coupling is the de facto standard in Denmark today and is expected to remain so in the near term. In this configuration, the PV array and the battery each have their own power conversion interface, and both dispatch independently onto the medium-voltage AC bus. The advantages are well established: AC coupling offers full operational flexibility (simultaneous PV dispatch and battery charge or discharge), a mature supply chain for PV string inverters and BESS-connected PCS, and robustness to single-component failures. On the battery side, most utility-scale BESS deployments in Denmark are supplied as standardised container-based units with their own central inverters in the 3–5 MW range.

The main disadvantages of AC coupling are lower Round-Trip Efficiency due to additional DC/AC and AC/DC conversion stages, higher CAPEX due to the duplication of converter equipment, and more complex grid-compliance modelling and testing requirements arising from the number of active components to be controlled by the Power Plant Controller.

DC coupling

DC coupling is of growing interest for future projects. Market participants and international literature converge on three principal benefits:

- Shared inverter: Rather than purchasing two inverter systems (a PV inverter plus a separate bidirectional battery inverter), a single bidirectional inverter serves as the common interface to the grid for both the PV array and the battery. This reduces inverter CAPEX, grid-interconnection equipment and parts of the balance of plant.
- Smaller inverter relative to PV DC capacity: Because the DC-coupled battery absorbs solar peaks before they reach the inverter, the inverter can be sized below the PV DC capacity without sacrificing generation. The developer can therefore specify a smaller, cheaper inverter while still utilising the full DC output of the PV array.
- Capture of clipped energy: In an AC-coupled configuration, PV DC output that exceeds the inverter AC rating is lost as clipping. A DC-coupled battery can absorb this energy upstream of the inverter bottleneck and release it later. The benefit scales with the DC/AC sizing factor.
- Round-trip efficiency will increase, since PV energy directed to the BESS will not see conversion losses to and from inversion.

These benefits are tempered by several practical drawbacks.

- Because the inverter is shared, simultaneous delivery of PV output and battery discharge to the grid is bounded by the total inverter capacity, though in practice this is rarely a binding constraint in Danish PV and BESS co-located projects, because the outgoing power is already capped by the grid-connection capacity, and the inverter is typically sized up to that same limit.
- DC-coupled configurations are less flexible to retrofit - adding a DC-coupled battery to an operating PV plant typically requires inverter replacement and reconfiguration of the DC side.

- The physical layout is more demanding: the battery must be located close to the inverter it shares.

The layout implications are particularly relevant for the Danish market, where string inverters dominate utility-scale PV. A DC-coupled configuration requires either (a) that the PV plant is designed around central inverters, with battery containers co-located at the inverter stations, or (b) that the battery is distributed across the plant in smaller units adjacent to each string inverter. Option (a) is compatible with current BESS container formats but represents a departure from current Danish PV design practice. Option (b) would require a new generation of smaller, distributed battery units and may create challenges for permitting, fire-safety zoning and operations. On the other hand, a distributed layout could reduce the visual dominance of large battery containers in the landscape.

DC/AC sizing factor

Today the typical PV and BESS co-location configuration uses ac-coupling, which requires two sets of bidirectional inverters with an associated doubling of the conversion loss. For this reason, a technical-economic optimisation will not support solutions in which the peak solar generation occurring during relatively few hours per year is included in the BESS storage volume. This leads to a typical DC/AC ratio of 1.5 at most.

A dc-coupled PV and BESS co-location configuration, by contrast, has less CAPEX embedded in the converters, lower conversion loss, and, by design, a better opportunity to sustain a high DC/AC ratio of up to 2. Since the revenue stream of future co-located configurations is assumed to be devoted increasingly to peak-shifting of energy and less to ancillary services, the dc-coupled solution with a high DC/AC ratio is expected to become the dominant configuration deployed around 2030.

The optimal DC/AC ratio for a co-located PV and BESS plant is not a settled technical parameter but the outcome of a site-specific economic optimisation, and there is as yet no industry consensus on where it will ultimately land. Several factors are expected to move the economic optimum towards higher DC/AC ratios over time. Grid access is increasingly a binding constraint: grid-connection capacity is costly, particularly the grid-connection charge and a large connection delivers limited value when a growing midday surplus of renewable generation coincides with PV output peaks and correspondingly low market prices.

Expected future developments

Several design trends can be expected over the 5–10 year horizon:

Higher battery energy storage -to-PV power ratios: Falling battery cell prices, combined with expensive and increasingly rationed grid-connection capacity, will tilt the optimum towards larger batteries energy storage (MWh) per MWp of PV.

Longer battery durations: Industry participants report a steady trend of increase in typical battery duration. Four hours is now superseding two hours as the benchmark for new PV and BESS co-located projects, and longer durations (6–8 hours) are likely to follow as ancillary-service markets saturate and arbitrage becomes the dominant revenue stream. Since an increase in energy storage capacity also imply more energy dispatch (and consumption for arbitrage), the capacity factor of the grid connection will increase.

AC grid connection sized below PV AC capacity: As the regulatory framework for grid-connection pricing (including zoning schemes and capacity-based tariffs for batteries) becomes clearer, PV and BESS co-located plants are expected to dimension the AC grid connection below the combined inverter capacity of PV and battery, relying on the battery to shave peak solar output into later, higher-value hours.

DC-coupled architectures moving into commercial use: Within the 4–6 year horizon, DC coupling of PV and battery is expected to move from concept into deployment for new-build PV and BESS co-located plants.

Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Systems combined with battery storage systems

Rooftop Solar PV Systems and BESS co-located plant combine rooftop solar PV with a battery storage system installed behind the consumer meter. The battery is primarily used to increase self-consumption by storing surplus PV generation during periods when production exceeds on-site demand and discharging it when demand is higher than PV production.

For residential systems, batteries are usually sized to store part of the daily PV surplus for use in the evening and night-time hours, typically from 5 kWh up to 30 kWh of capacity. For commercial and industrial buildings, the optimal battery size depends on the electricity demand profile, total electricity use, size of the PV-system, grid tariff structure, export limitations, and the value of reducing peak demand. Batteries for commercial and industrial buildings can be a few hundred kWh to a few MWh.

Compared with PV-only rooftop systems, PV and BESS co-located rooftop systems have higher investment costs and additional conversion losses. However, they may improve the value of the PV installation by increasing self-consumption, reducing electricity purchased from the grid and limiting export during low-price hours. Some systems can also participate in the ancillary services markets.

In some cases, batteries may also provide backup supply to selected loads, but this requires dedicated backup functionality and is not a standard feature of all grid-connected systems. Backup functionality is typically provided through a separate panel connected to the inverter, thereby separating the system from the primary electricity system of the building.

Existing rooftop solar PV systems can often be retrofitted with batteries. However, this depends on the specific inverter in the system. If the inverter is not ready for the PV and BESS co-located system, it would need to be replaced with a combined dual-purpose inverter. It is common that non- PV and BESS co-located rooftop solar PV systems are sold as ‘storage ready’, which means that the system includes a dual-purpose inverter that can be retrofitted with a battery.

Projection of performance and costs

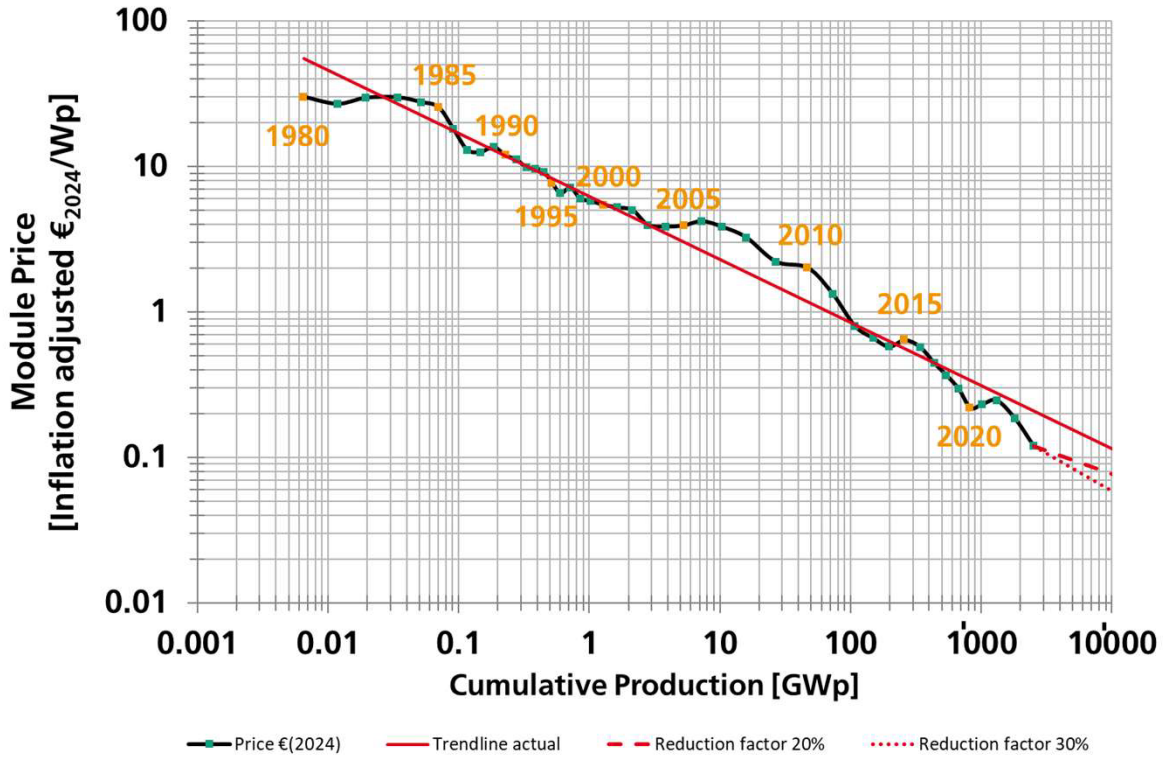
Predictions about the future investment costs are done by using the learning rate (LR) method. Learning rates describe the cost reductions achieved every time cumulative installed capacity doubles. Typical learning rates are on the order of 5–25%, meaning that each doubling of cumulative capacity is associated with a 5–25% reduction in costs; higher learning rates indicate faster technological and industrial learning.

PV system cost projections

The prediction of the LR of PV panels is found by looking at the past development in prices and global capacity of PV modules, see Figure 20. The trend in Figure 20 shows a strong correlation between cumulative production and price reductions. The learning rate of PV modules has been on average 25.7% from 1980 to 2024, shown in Figure 20. The module price has decreased from 30 $€_{2025}$ per W_p in 1980 to about 0.12 $€_{2025}$ per W_p in 2026.

Beyond technical development and improved production efficiency, the low module prices in recent years have been driven by China's VAT export rebate scheme for solar products[4], oversupply in the PV module market, and Chinese producers accepting minimal or negative margins. However, recently these market-related factors have begun to change and reported module prices toward the end of 2025 and beginning of 2026 were higher than during the same months in 2024 (Ref. 24). Therefore, the price expectations for average price in 2026 are used as the starting point for predicting future module costs.

Figure 20: Historic learning rate of PV modules (Ref. 9). Includes all Commercially Available PV Technologies. Note that each time the cumulative PV module production doubled, the module price dropped about 25.7% over the past 44 years. Data: from 1980 to 2010 estimation from different sources: Strategies Unlimited, Navigant Consulting, EUPD, pvXchange; from 2011: IHS Markit from 2022; VDMA for 2024: ISE; Graph: PSE Projects GmbH 2025



A learning rate (LR) of 15% is applied after 2025, as the cost structure of solar PV modules is changing. The solar cell itself, which has historically driven the majority of cost reductions, is becoming a progressively smaller share of total module cost. Instead, an increasing share of costs is associated with materials and components such as glass, silver, encapsulation materials, and transport, where there is limited potential for further technology-driven cost reductions. As these elements are mature and less sensitive to innovation, the overall module learning rate is expected to decline from the historical level of around 25% to a lower level going forward. The 15% LR assumes that future technology shifts, such as the introduction of perovskite-on-silicon tandem cells, will primarily improve module efficiency rather than significantly reduce module costs. However, higher module efficiency may lower costs in other parts of the PV cost chain, as described later.

For inverters, we apply a similar learning rate of 15%, reflecting an expectation of continued but moderating cost reductions going forward.

[4] The VAT export rebate for solar products was reduced from 13 % to 9 % in December 2024 and was fully abolished on 1 April 2026.

For the remaining cost of balance of system and installation costs, encompassing mounting structures, cabling, grid connection, civil works, planning, and permitting, it is difficult to determine the cumulative number of doublings, because similar structures, components, work, and planning activities are also taking place in many other sectors. Since these components are of general use everywhere in the macrotrend related to electrification of our society in general, the cost of these components has been on the rise over the last years and may not provide the same cost reduction potential as expected.

Therefore, for the other cost components of PV, cost reductions are assumed to arise partly from the reduced module area due to efficiency improvements, and partly from modest learning in conventional construction and established materials. Given the potential for technology-driven learning is inherently more limited, a conservative cost reduction of approximately 0.5% per year is applied. However, soft costs are assumed to remain constant over the period 2025–2050.

Table 14 shows that modules and inverters together account for approximately 23–36% of total investment costs, while balance of plant, installation, grid connection, and soft costs make up the remaining share.

Table 14 Component cost shares for utility-scale, ground-mounted, fixed-tilt PV systems, 2025–2030.

Component	Share of total cost
Module	20-30%
Inverter	3-6%
Other costs, i.e. BOP and mounting system	25-30%
Transformer and grid connection	8-15%
Installation	20-25%
Soft costs	8-15%

PV module efficiency projections

In the last 10 years, the efficiency of commercial monocrystalline wafer-based silicon modules increased from about 16% to values over 24% (ref.9). It is assumed that between 2030 and 2035 the market shifts slowly towards tandem PV cells, most likely perovskite-on-silicon tandem cells, leading to increased efficiency. Therefore, it is assumed that between 2025 and 2050 the efficiency of the typical PV module increases from 24% to 32%.

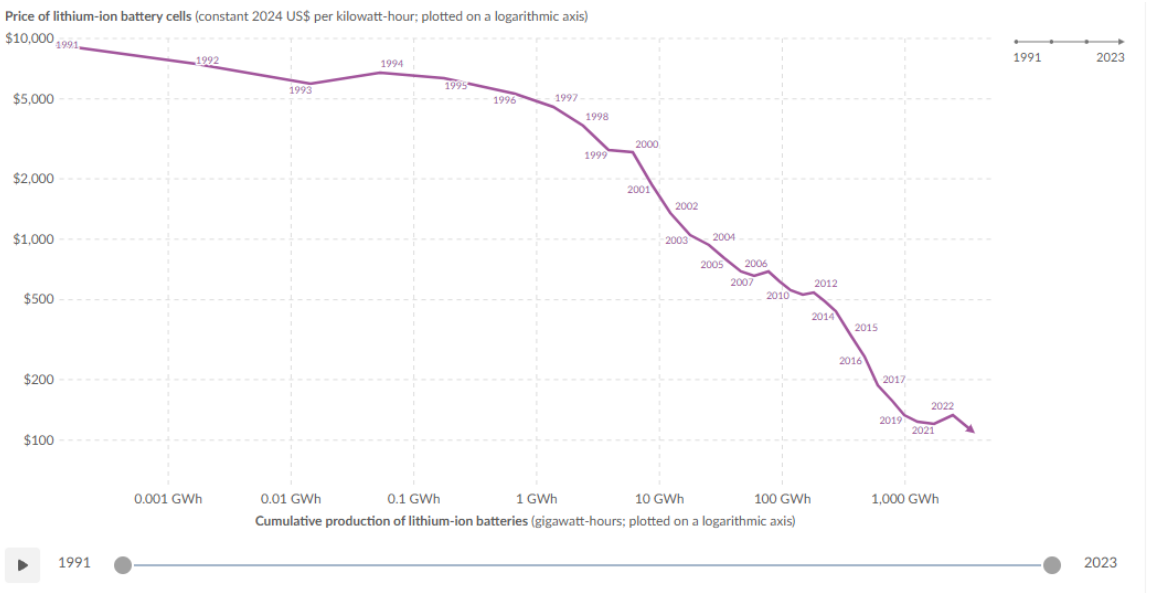
Table 15: Projected PV module efficiency improvements and associated area reduction since 2025, 2025–2050

	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
PV module conversion efficiency %	24%	25%	27%	29%	30%	32%
Area reduction since 2025 caused by improved efficiency	0%	4%	11%	17%	20%	25%

Battery cost projections

Historical data show a strong learning-curve effect for lithium-ion battery cells, with real cell prices per kWh falling by almost 99% between their commercial introduction in 1991 and 2023, and decreasing by 20% on average (14% –30%) for each doubling of cumulative production (ref. 25), see Figure 21.

Figure 21: Average price of lithium-ion battery cells vs. cumulative production. Prices are in US dollars per kilowatt-hour, adjusted for inflation. World, 1991 to 2023, Our World in Data (Ref. 27); Data source: Rupert Way (2026) based on Ziegler and Trancik (2021), BloombergNEF, and Avicenne Energy. Cell-level cost data allowing the LR to be extended to 2025 on a like-for-like basis has not been identified. It can nonetheless be assumed that cell prices have continued to decline after 2023, in the order of 40 % between 2023 and 2025.



Therefore, a learning rate (LR) of 20 % is used for predicting the cost reduction of the battery cells, combined with the assumption that battery cells account for 80 % of the hardware cost of the battery system in 2025. For the remaining hardware cost, i.e. power electronics and packaging, a conservative cost reduction of approximately 0.5 % per year is applied. The same cost reduction of 0.5 % per year is applied to installation costs. Soft costs are assumed to remain constant over the period 2025–2050.

When the battery is co-located with a PV plant, shared cost elements such as grid connection are allocated to the PV component. As a result, hardware costs are assumed to account for approximately 85 % of the total battery cost in 2025 in a co-located configuration, with the remainder covered by installation and soft costs.

Note that the cost assumptions presented here are based on an independent review of available cost data carried out during this chapter update in 2026, and are not aligned with the assumptions for the projection in the battery chapter of the Technology Catalogue for Energy Storage.

In this chapter, separate cost data for battery systems are not presented, as batteries are only considered as part of PV and BESS co-located plants. Battery costs are treated as an integrated element of the PV and BESS co-located system, and cost estimations for the PV and BESS co-located system are only found in the data sheets.

Accumulated capacity projections for PV and batteries

For both PV modules and lithium-ion batteries, projected growth in installed capacity from the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS) in the IEA World Energy Outlook 2025 (IEA, 2025, Ref. 23) is used to estimate future global

cumulative capacity. These capacity doublings form the basis for applying the assumed learning rates for PV modules and lithium-ion batteries (LIB) technologies in the cost projections. The STEPS scenario represents a more conservative trajectory compared to the Net Zero Emissions (NZE) scenario in WEO 2025, which reflects the most ambitious pathway presented.

According to the IEA World Energy Outlook 2025 (WEO), cumulative installed PV capacity is approximately 2,150 GW in 2024. In the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS), cumulative capacity is projected to increase to around 8,850 GW by 2035 and 16,200 GW by 2050. In comparison, under the Net Zero Emissions (NZE) scenario, global cumulative PV capacity is expected to reach approximately 24,000 GW by 2050.

For LIB, cumulative installed capacity is around 170 GW in 2024, according to WEO 2025. In the STEPS scenario, cumulative LIB capacity is projected to reach approximately 1650 GW by 2035 and 3400 GW by 2050. Under the NZE scenario, global cumulative LIB capacity is expected to increase further to around 5,700 GW by 2050. As the IEA reports LIB capacity in GW (power), while the learning rate is applied to GWh (energy), an assumption about average battery duration is required. The WEO 2025 does not specify the expected development of this ratio explicitly, but generally describes 4-hour batteries. Based on the historical trend and on input from industry sources, the ratio is assumed to increase from 2 hours for the accumulated installed fleet in 2025 to 7 hours for batteries installed between 2045 and 2050. No external sources were identified that quantify this expected development.

The cost projection is based on lithium-ion batteries, as this is currently the dominant technology and the technology category for which the IEA provides capacity projections. However, the analysis should also be interpreted as representative of a broader class of battery storage technologies. If alternative chemistries, such as sodium-ion or other salt-based batteries, gain market share, they may contribute to similar system-level cost reductions through scale-up, manufacturing learning and supply-chain development

Table 16 shows the cumulated capacity development for PV and LIB, and the resulting cost projections using learning rates of 15% and 20% respectively, based on STEPS capacity projections, alongside other cost development assumptions.

It shows that the cost of PV is expected to decrease by 23% and the cost of LIB by 65% over the period from 2025 to 2050. Had the NZE scenario been used for the accumulated capacity projections, the predicted reductions would have been somewhat larger.

Table 16: Projection of the cumulated global PV and LIB capacity in the STEPS in WEO 2025, and corresponding cost reductions for utility-scale, ground-mounted, fixed-tilt PV systems and co-located PV and BESS plants. Data for 2025 and 2030 are estimated by interpolation between WEO data for 2024 and 2035.

YEAR	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
PV						
PV capacity in GW	2893	5813	8855	11922	14686	16209
Doublings since 2025		1.0	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.5
Cost reduction since 2025:						
-due to LR =15% (apply to module and inverter)		15%	24%	31%	35%	37%

-due to improved efficiency 5		4.0%	11%	17%	20%	25%
-due to 0.5% reduction per year 6		2.5%	4.9%	7.2%	9.5%	11.8%
In total cost reduction (STEPS)		7%	12%	17%	20%	23%
YEAR	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
LIB						
LIB capacity in GW	328	977	1652	2327	2899	3380
Doublings in GWh since 2025		1.99	3.01	3.72	4.20	4.56
Cost reduction since 2025:						
-due to LR =20% (apply to battery cells)		40%	60%	74%	84%	91%
-due to 0.5% reduction per year 7		2.5%	4.9%	7.2%	9.5%	11.8%
In total cost reduction (STEPS)		28%	42%	53%	60%	65%

Resulting cost projections for PV and batteries

Table 17 shows the projected component costs development from 2025 to 2050 for utility-scale PV with no co-located BESS, based on learning rates, STEPS capacity projections, efficiency improvements, and a 0.5% annual cost reduction for balance-of-system and installation costs.

Table 17: Component costs for large utility-scale, ground-mounted, fixed-tilt PV system, calculated based on learning rates, efficiency improvements, and 0.5% annual cost reduction, and global solar PV capacity projections from STEPS in WEO 2025 (Ref. 23).

Mio. € - 2025/MWp	2025	2030	2035	2040	2050
PV module	0.12	0.10	0.091	0.083	0.075
Inverter	0.020	0.017	0.015	0.014	0.013
Residual Balance of plant. mark-up & contingency cost	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.10
Transformer and grid connection	0.046	0.045	0.042	0.040	0.038

5 for PV : apply to 50% of other cost than moduls, inverters, and soft costs

6 for PV: apply to 50% of other cost than moduls, inverters, and soft costs

7 for batteries : apply to the hardware share which not battery cells and to installation

Installation	0.10	0.10	0.096	0.091	0.085
Soft costs	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Total investment	0.46	0.43	0.40	0.38	0.35

The projections for both PV and batteries suggest that future cost reductions will be more moderate than the dramatic declines seen historically. For PV, total investment costs are projected to decrease by approximately 23% between 2025 and 2050, reflecting a maturing technology with slower learning. This is consistent with classifying PV as a category 3 technology with large deployment, expected to approach category 4 around 2030 in terms of cost development. Battery costs are projected to decline more steeply at 65%, reflecting a higher learning rate and a higher number of cumulative capacity doublings. However, as batteries in this catalogue are treated solely as part of PV and BESS co-located PV-plus-battery systems rather than as a standalone technology, a separate category classification for batteries is not provided here.

Uncertainty

As future PV module price projections show further price reductions, there are uncertainties connected to the magnitude and timing of these reductions. Many different factors can influence the future price development such as the raw material cost of different cell types, new structural innovations, national policies and competition with other renewable technologies.

As for silicon-based cell types, the global silicon reserve is estimated to be abundant and thereby able to supply the current demand for many decades (Ref. 18).

An additional uncertainty is with respect to which cell type will be the dominant one in the future market, as the effect of new near-future production methods for monocrystalline cells are yet to be determined. In addition, there is always the possibility that a new cell type emerges and becomes dominant.

Additional remarks

PV component sourcing from Europe – implications of moving away from Chinese supply

The EU has set a target of 750 GW of installed PV by 2030 (Ref. 65) – a target which, according to current forecasts from SolarPower Europe (Ref. 68), is most likely not going to be met. In addition, within the framework of the Net Zero Industry Act (Ref. 66), the European Commission has launched the European Solar PV Industry Alliance (Ref. 69) in 2022 with the objective of developing a European industry capable of supplying an annual capacity of 30 GW of PV modules. This 30 GW figure matches the capacity target set by the Commission with reference to the need for a resilient industrial solar value chain which has been further emphasized through the EU Commission's proposed Industrial Accelerator Act which opens for “Made-in-EU" criteria to be included in public purchase and tenders when it comes to low-carbon products like solar PV components. Further focus on this topic has been introduced in the EU Cybersecurity Act which further increases the target volume of EU annual deployment needs to 40%, among others through establish restrictions for use of identified high-risk suppliers of digital equipment (like solar inverters) from delivery to key critical infrastructure projects.

Today, PV manufacturing is dominated worldwide by Chinese industrial players. It is therefore recognised that a Strategic Action Plan must address several elements at the same time, as illustrated in Figure 22. The figure also makes it clear that more is required than simply establishing new manufacturing facilities.

Figure 22 Strategic Action Plan elements identified by the European Solar PV Industry Alliance for re-establishing a competitive European PV value chain. Source: European Solar PV Industry Alliance / European Commission (Ref. 69).



In numerical terms, the scale of the challenge can be illustrated either by looking at Chinese dominance across the PV value chain (Figure 23) or by examining the current PV-related manufacturing capacity in Europe (Figure 24).

Figure 23: Solar PV manufacturing capacity by country and region, 2021 (Ref.70).

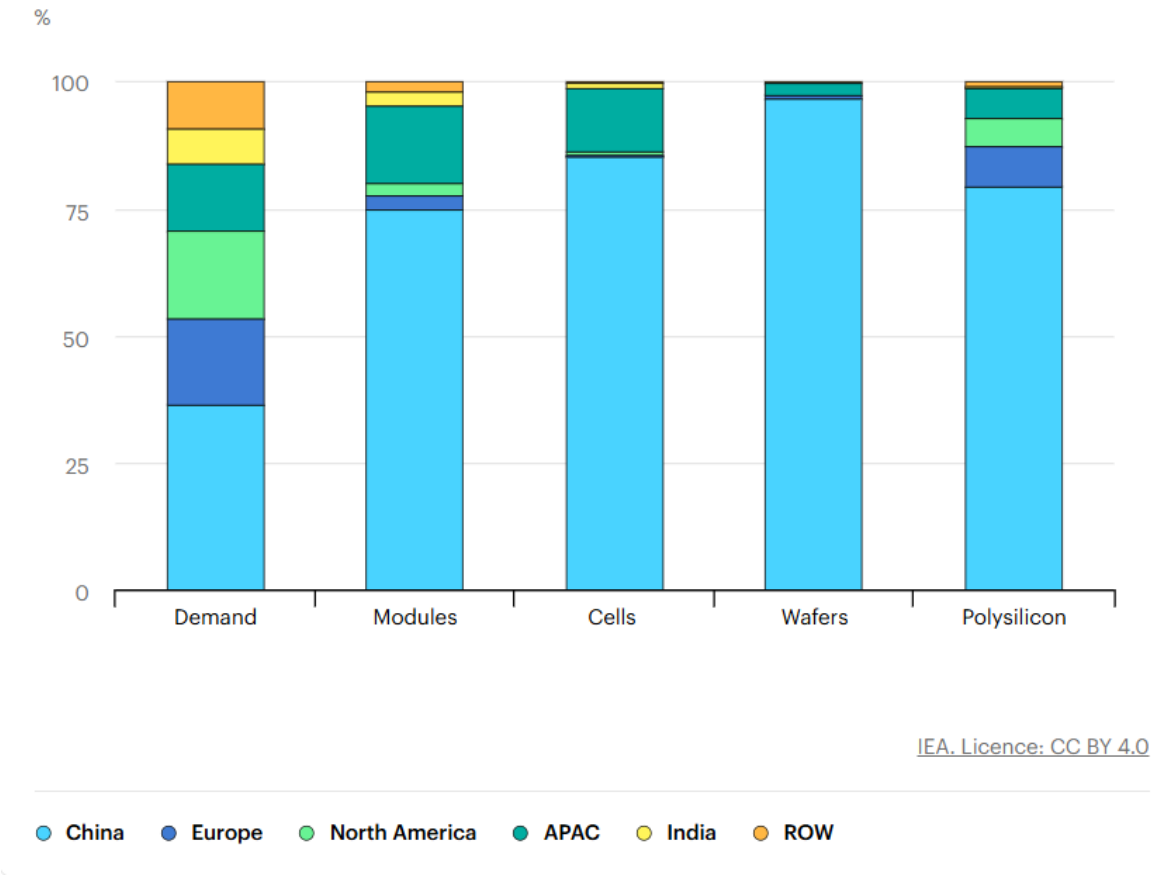
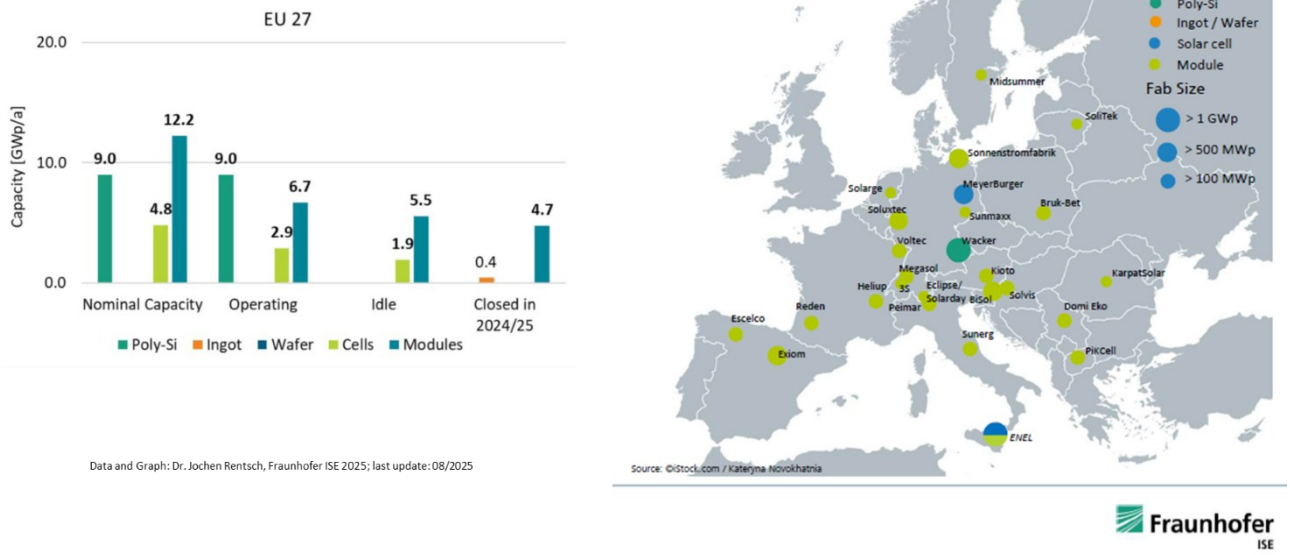


Figure 24: EU PV Manufacturing Landscape, Status Quo 2025, existing EU27 PV manufacturing capacity along the value chain. Identified by Fraunhofer ISE, 2025 (ref.9).



In summary, 81 existing European PV module manufacturing companies have been identified, with a combined nameplate capacity of 14.1 GW – although not all of these are currently in operation. In addition, the European Solar PV Industry Alliance has identified eight large-scale PV module projects currently under development (Ref. 69) - where one large French initiative by May 2026 has just been abandoned.

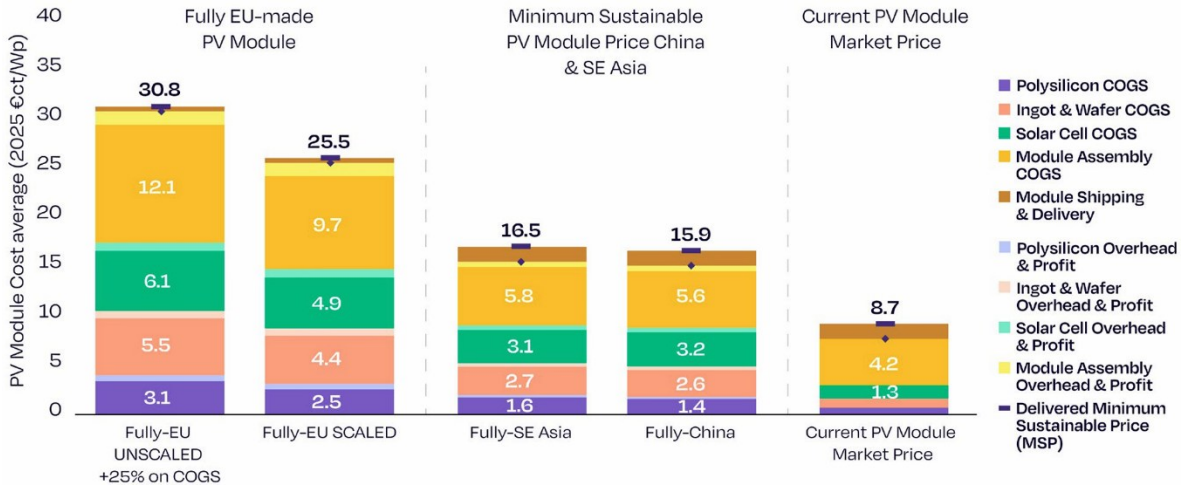
Against this background, it will not be straightforward to establish a fully integrated European value chain of 30 GW by 2030. The most readily accessible step would be to support and incentivize the use of European PV module assembly facilities based on imported cells. PV module assembly lines can be acquired as turn-key deliveries from a number of suppliers, including European-based ones, and module assembly should therefore not be considered a critical bottleneck.

The current competitive landscape has been analysed in detail by SolarPower Europe and the research institute Fraunhofer ISE. According to their 2025 report **(Ref. 67),** the cost gap for NZIA-compliant solar modules is significant: producing such a module in Europe currently costs approximately 10.3 €ct/Wp more than producing the same module in China. The gap is driven by higher European costs across all main inputs, equipment (around +40 %), buildings and facilities (around +110 %), labour (around +280 %) and materials (around +50 %). At system level, this translates into a utility-scale PV system cost of about 60.8 €ct/Wp for European-made modules, compared to about 50.0 €ct/Wp for a system based on Chinese modules. The corresponding Levelised Cost of Electricity (LCOE) is approximately 0.75 €ct/kWh, or about 14.5 %, higher for European-made modules (Ref. 67).

In addition to this gap analysis, the current very high level of excess production capacity in China – which is estimated to be equivalent to two to three times current global demand – will likely prolong the challenging market conditions for years to come, with PV modules being sold at prices well below cost.

As illustrated in Figure 25, the delivered Minimum Sustainable Price for a solar module produced in Europe or in South-East Asia would exceed the current PV module market price by factors of approximately 3 and 2, respectively.

Figure 25: Comparison of current PV module market price with the delivered Minimum Sustainable Price (MSP) for modules produced in Europe and in South-East Asia. Identified by SolarPower Europe / Fraunhofer ISE (Ref. 67).



Further details on this topic can be found in the SolarPower Europe report (Ref.67).

New PV products on the market in 2026

This section reviews a set of emerging PV technologies that are expected to supplement, but not in the short term replace, today's dominant crystalline silicon (c-Si) modules. It focuses on Si-based tandem cells (especially perovskite-on-silicon) as the most likely next step for the volume market over a 5- to 10-year horizon, while thin-film technologies (e.g. CdTe, CIGS) and organic solar cells (OPV) are mainly expected to play niche roles in BIPV and lightweight or design-driven applications. In parallel, high-efficiency multi-junction concepts based on III–V materials are anticipated to remain confined to specialised, high-value segments such as space and concentrated PV, but can still influence mainstream PV indirectly through transfer of architectures and materials innovations.

Tandem solar cells

Tandem solar cells combine two or more layers with different band gaps in one structure, so that a larger part of the solar spectrum can be utilized than in a single silicon junction. The most current development is perovskite-on-silicon tandem cells, where a high-band-gap perovskite top cell is placed on top of a c-Si bottom cell (typically TOPCon or SHJ), enabling efficiencies beyond the practical limit of single-junction c-Si.

The concept is promoted by many manufactures all over the world, but beyond the trust in this technology as a candidate to succeed silicon single-junction cells when improvements of the efficiency improvements of this technology slow down, there almost no common view of the detailed solution to be commercialised. As an example there is no common understanding of cell architecture (tandem or standalone perovskite), the materials to be used in perovskite cells and the associated barrier layers towards the underlying cell and glass, deposition processes and equipment platform to be used, whether the final product should be a 2-Termnal, 3-Terminal or 4-Terminal device, what the first commercial market application beyond niches like "space", access to capital, considerations on when it is time to invest in new manufacturing capacity given the current extreme overcapacity in the market, when a market and demand for the new product can be recognised, what lifetime the final product should be qualified for (since it is not considered likely to be a drop-in replacement for silicon in utility-scale applications etc.).

Despite these fundamental uncertainties related to the new technology, IEA PVPS points out that bifacial multijunction configurations (e.g. perovskite-HJT) can theoretically achieve very high thermodynamic boundary efficiencies, especially in combination with albedo utilization, and predicts that Si-based tandem cells may be in mass production after 2026–2027, with an efficiency for the first commercial modules of around 26.9%, and that average mass production cell efficiencies can reach about 32% by 2035. While Si-single-junction technologies are approaching a practical limit of approx. 27% cell efficiency, after which further efficiency increases will primarily come from tandem concepts (IEA-PVPS 2021, ref. 21), (ITRPV 2025, ref. 5).

On a 5-year horizon (around 2030), the tandems are thus still in a scale-up phase, with initial penetration into premium segments and projects where high efficiency is critical. In the 10-year term (mid-2030s), It is expected that tandem modules can achieve a not insignificant market share. In the 20-year term, Si-based tandems emerge as the most likely "next generation" PV technology in the volume market, provided that challenges around stability, mass production, material consumption (e.g. lead and organic components in perovskites) and supply chains are addressed (ITRPV 2025, ref. 5), (IEA-PVPS 2021, ref. 21).

Organic solar cells (OPV)

Organic solar cells (OPVs) use organic semiconductor materials (polymers or small molecules) in thin layers on flexible substrates, making them lightweight, pliable and potentially semi-transparent. Unlike conventional crystalline silicon modules, OPV is typically pressure or roll printed at low process temperatures and can be

integrated into lightweight structures, facade elements and products where low weight, freedom of form and design are more important than maximum efficiency. At the same time, efficiencies remain significantly below the 20–25% expected for mature single-junction c-Si modules and future tandem modules, and there are challenges with long-term durability and stability during outdoor operation (ITRPV 2025, ref. 5).

On a 5-year horizon, OPV is estimated to be able to achieve use primarily in specialized BIPV solutions, portable electronics and other low-power applications, while the contribution to ordinary grid-connected roof- and ground-mounted systems remains negligible. In a 10- and 20-year perspective, the technology may become more widely used in segments where the combination of low weight, flexibility and aesthetics is crucial, but even in long-term projections, the picture is maintained that c-Si and Si-based tandem cells will drive the majority of the volume market (ITRPV 2025, ref. 5).

Thin-film solar cells

Thin-film PV includes technologies such as amorphous/microcrystalline silicon, CdTe and CIGS, where the active absorber layer is micrometre-thin and deposited directly on glass, metal or plastic. Compared to conventional crystalline silicon modules, thin film uses significantly less semiconductor material, can be manufactured on large substrates, and can offer special form factors (e.g., long, narrow modules) and in some cases better performance at high temperatures or in diffuse light conditions. On the other hand, typical module efficiencies are lower than those of the most efficient c-Si modules, and some compositions use critical or toxic materials (indium, gallium, tellurium, cadmium), which can limit the potential for very large scales (IEA-PVPS 2021, ref. 21), (ITRPV 2025, ref. 5).

On a 5-year horizon, thin film will continue to fill niche positions, including in certain large ground-mounted installations (especially CdTe) and in roof or façade projects where the geometric or weight advantages are central. Over the next 10 years, thin films are still expected to be a complement to, rather than a replacement for, c-Si, as the area efficiency and cost of c-Si modules continue to improve, including via n-type TOPCon, SHJ and larger wafer formats. In the 20-year term, thin film is likely to continue to be present in specific applications and possibly in a few large industrial portfolios, but ITRPV's scenarios indicate that the majority of new capacity will continue to be c-Si-based, including Si-tandem modules (Solar Europe 2025, ref. 14), (ITRPV 2025, ref. 5).

Multi-junction modules

Multi-junction modules based on III-V semiconductors (e.g. GaInP/GaAs/Ge) consist of three or more series-coupled junctions with carefully matched band gaps and can realize laboratory efficiencies significantly above c-Si. Unlike ordinary silicon modules, these cells are usually manufactured on expensive substrates (typically germanium or special III-V substrates), often for use under concentrated sunlight (CPV) or in aerospace where the cell area is small and weight and efficiency are extremely high. The IEA PVPS describes multi-junction cells as relevant in high-concentration and space applications and mentions that research is being done into bifacial and tandem configurations, but that the cost and complexity are significantly higher than for c-Si (IEA-PVPS 2021, ref 21).

On the 5- and 10-year horizon, multi-junction cells are expected to continue to be limited to aerospace, niche CPV and selected demonstration projects, with no significant penetration into conventional grid-connected PV systems. Even in the 20-year term, it is expected that multi-junction modules will remain a high-cost, high-efficiency niche in practice, while lessons learned and design principles from III-V and multijunction research will be transferred to more cost-effective Si-based tandem concepts (ITRPV 2025, ref. 5), (IEA-PVPS 2021, ref. 21).

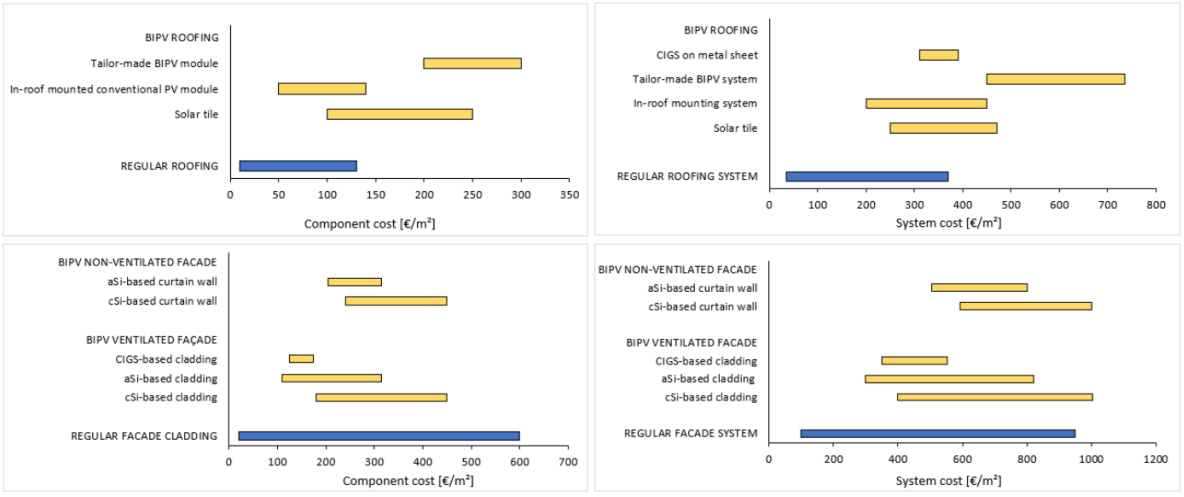
Building integrated PV

In recent years, a large variety of Building Integrated PV (BIPV) solutions have been developed and commercialized. Solar modules are now available in many different types, expressions and colors allowing them to be integrated aesthetically in both new and existing buildings. Commercial solutions are available for roofs and facades, whereas transparent solar cells, which can serve as windows, are still in the development phase. The website of the IEA Solar heating and cooling program presents a large range of buildings, where solar energy solution forms an integrated part of the architecture (ref.48), and specific BIPV examples are collected in the IEA-PVPS Task 15 framework.

Market developments, stakeholder analysis and technological status reports for the BIPV sector are publicly availably on IEA PVPS task 15 (https://iea-pvps.org/research-tasks/enabling-framework-for-the-development-of-bipv/#contacts) and BIPV boost website (https://bipvboost.eu/public-reports/).

The upfront investment in €/W for the building integrated PV solutions is typically significantly higher than traditional PV plants that are mounted on top of an existing roof, or facade systems. However, the advantage of the building-integrated solutions is that they form part of the building's envelope, thereby replacing investments in facade or roof cladding. The actual additional cost €/W by choosing the solar solution is therefore significantly lower. BIPV solutions are replacing conventional building materials and thus the price pr m^2 is also a key performance indicator.

Figure 26: Cost range of BIPV systems compared to conventional counter parts in the literature (Ref 49).



The use of BIPV can contribute to meeting the energy performance requirements in the Danish Building Regulations 2018 (BR18) and support the objective of nearly zero-energy buildings in the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD (EU) 2024/1275).

The additional costs of BIPV depend on which roof or facade solution the building owner would otherwise have chosen, which again reflects the aesthetic preference of the owner of the building. For those reasons the data sheets in the current technology catalogue do not include information on building integrated PV. However, to provide overall guidance on the competitiveness of BIPV solutions, the present section includes select data for building integrated solutions available that were available on the Danish market today in 2021. We focus on rooftop solutions because a number of standardized solutions are available in this segment and limit the scope to a detached house with a roof surface of 160 m^2.

Typically, the capacity per m^2 is lower for building integrated solar panels, because other factors, such as aesthetic and endurance, are weighted higher in the design of the solution. For the building-integrated roofing solutions sold on the Danish market, the capacity per m^2 is typically between 70 and 175 W/m2 against 190 to 220 W/m^2 for traditional roof-top PV solution. In some cases, the reason for the lower capacity per m^2 is poorer efficiency of the solar cells, addition of a coloration layer, whereas in other cases the lower output is explained by the fact that the building integrated solar solutions contains of a mix of active and inactive materials.

Table 18 provides an overview of the cost of different roofing solutions with and without BIPV for a building with a 160 m^2 roof. The additional cost of BIPV roof solutions varies between approximately zero, when comparing a low-capacity BIPV solution (74 W/m^2) with a tile roof, and about 23,000 € when the high capacity BIPV solution (175 W/m^2) is compared to for example a steel roof. The low-capacity solution is estimated to typically generate about 8,500 kWh annually, whereas the high-capacity solution is expected to generate just above 18,000 kWh. Actual generation figures for BIPV roof solutions obviously depend on the inclination and direction of the roof.

Table 18: Approximate cost of different roofing solutions with/without BIPV for a 160 m2 roof. The figures include estimates of the cost of installation for a typical building. (Ref. 45). Note: data collected in 2021.

Roof solutions	Estimated cost incl. installation, excl. VAT, €-2020	PV capacity (kW)	Estimated annual generation (kWh) according to supplier
BIPV, steel, 74 W/m2	24,300	11	8,500
BIPV, steel, 175 W/m2	38,200	26	18,169
Tile roof	23,700		
Steel roof	14,400		
Asphalt roofing	12,500		
Fibre (cement) roof	13,000		

Coloration of PV panels:

PV panels can be colored by adding a coloration layer in front of the solar cell, and the colororation is created by reflecting a desired mix of wavelengths to an observer. The reflected wavelengths are not contributing to power production and thereby reducing efficiency. Approximately 50 % of the AM 1.5 solar spectrum absorbed by silicon solar cells are visible light, and most of the remaining is near infrared light. Theoretical studies prove that coloration using reflective filters can match all RAL colors from the RAL color chart with an efficiency loss of less than 20 % and 10 % for most colors except white colortones (Ref 50), and the ideal solar cell for coloration with the highest achievable cell efficiency is a cell with a bandgap of 1.15 eV to 1.135 eV close to the one of crystalline silicon of 1.12 eV (Ref 51). Practical realization on a large scale of these idealized filters has still to be proved.

Commercially two major types of coloration technologies are available. Pigments based coloration where a pigments base layer in the front of the solar cell is providing the color by absorption of light, using e.g. colored glass. Typically, acceptable color saturation can be achieved with a 20-30 % efficiency loss, and the color is generally angle independent. (Ref 52)

The other major color techology is use of optical filters reflecting specific wavelengths and this shows an angle depended on color, limited color availability and limited color saturation but have a low efficiency loss for coloration of less than 10 %. (Ref 52, commercial actors Swissinso and LOF solar).

Glare from PV can also be reduced using satinized glass and similar surface treatments, and thus a toolbox for solving challenges in relation to the build environment is available.

Quantitative description

See separate Excel file for Data sheet.

As the boundary for both cost and performance data in the catalogue is the delivered energy to the electricity grid, all the values presented in the datasheets are referring to the AC grid connection capacity, if not stated specifically or unless stated otherwise. However, due to the strong correlation of many cost elements to the peak power (except for inverters and AC electrical connection) and relevance in the PV sector, the financial data is also presented explicitly as per DC peak power in the bottom of the datasheets.

Note that previous versions of the catalogue in contrast have explicitly stated both subscripts for either AC power or DC peak power in the datasheet for utility scale plants.

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23 Wave Energy

There are no plans to update this chapter.

This chapter has been moved from the previous Technology Data Catalogue for Electricity and district heating production from May 2012. Therefore, the text and data sheets do not follow the same guidelines as the remainder of the catalogue.

Brief technology description

A wave power converter comprises a structure interacting with the incoming waves. The wave power is converted by a Power Take-off (PTO) system based on hydraulic, mechanical or pneumatic principles driving a rotating electrical generator producing electricity or by a linear generator directly driven by the structure.

Numerous concepts are under development. Most of them can be classified according to three categories (ref. 2):

A *point absorber* is a floating device, moved up and down by the waves, typically anchored to the sea floor.

A *terminator* is a structure located perpendicular to the wave movement, 'swallowing' the waves

An *attenuator* is placed in the wave direction, activated by the passing waves.

There is no commercially leading technology on wave power conversion at the present time. However a few different systems are presently at a stage of being developed at sea for prototype testing or developed at a more fundamental level including tank testing, design studies and optimisation.

Input

Energy in ocean waves.

The energy content along Europe's Atlantic coasts is typically 40-70 kW/m. The wave influx in the Danish part of the North Sea is 24 kW/m farthest West, 7 kW/m nearer the coast, in average about 15 kW/m. The inner seas are irrelevant with only 1 kW/m (ref. 2).

The annual variation is normally within +/- 25%, while the seasonal variation is around 5:1, with highest potential during winter (ref. 2).

Output

Electricity.

Some systems are designed to pump water and produce potable water.

Typical capacities

The electrical output from wave power converters in some cases are generated by electrical connected groups of smaller generator units of 100 – 500 kW, in other cases several mechanical or hydraulically interconnected modules supply a single larger turbine-generator unit of 1 – 3 MW. These sizes are for pilot and demonstration projects. Commercial wave power plants will comprise a large number of devices, as is the case with offshore wind farms.

Regulation ability

The ability to regulate the system operation depends on the design of the PTO system. In general the systems are developed with the aim of regulating the system to absorb most of the incoming waves at a given time, but also to enable disconnection of the system from the grid if required for safety or other reasons.

Wave power is more predictable compared to wind power and the waves will continue some time after the wind has stopped blowing. This could help increase the value of systems with combined wind and wave power.

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages:

- Wave power converters produce power without the use of fossil fuels.
- The power plants are located in the ocean without much visual intrusion.
- Wave power is a more predictable resource compared to wind.
- Extracting energy from waves can help costal protection, as the wave heights are reduced

Disadvantages:

- The initial prototype development at sea is costly and the successful development to reach costs comparable with i.e. off shore wind will require dedicated development programmes and substituted electricity prices until the technology has matured.
- In Denmark, the largest wave energy resource is found 150 km from the shore, making grid connection only feasible for large wave energy farms.
- Wave power converters, albeit at sea, take up large amounts of space, much dependent on type of converter and how much power is extracted. It is too early to tell, whether wave power will require more or less space than offshore wind power (ref. 7).

Environmental aspects

As for wind-energy a positive life cycle impact is expected. Planned in cooperation with navigation, oil exploitation, wind farms and fishing industry wave power plants are expected to have a positive impact on the living conditions for fish in the sea, by providing sheltered areas.

Research and development

The most recent Danish R&D strategy (ref. 3) has three focus areas:

- Continue the development and demonstration of concepts that have already proven a technical and economical potential.
- Support R&D in new concepts with promising perspectives.
- Evaluate most feasible sites, assess ways of safe anchoring, and determine how wave energy is best integrated into the Danish electricity system.

Examples of best available technology

It is too early to define best available technologies, since numerous technologies are being tested and demonstrated. Recent reviews have identified about 100 projects at various stages of development, and the number does not seem to be decreasing. Most concepts are described in ref. 5. This includes the most mature Danish technologies: Wave Star, Wave Dragon, Poseidon Floating Power Plant, Waveplane, Dexa.

By 2009, several plants with an individual turbine/generator capacity of up to 0.7 MW have been demonstrated (ref. 6).

Scotland and Portugal are very active in developing wave energy. Portugal had a goal of having 23 MW capacity installed by end of 2009. The first plant consisted of 3 Pelamis wave devices (www.pelamiswave.com), each 750 kW, installed in 2008 (ref. 1 and 2). However, due to financial problems for one of the investors, the plant was not in continuous operation end of 2009 (ref. 4).

National targets in Europe (ref. 9):

United Kingdom:	0.3 GW in 2020
Ireland:	0.5 GW in 2020

France:	0.3 GW in 2015
Spain:	0.2 GW in 2015
Portugal:	0.3 GW in 2020

Additional remarks

A cost breakdown of a typical mature ocean energy project is as follows (ref. 1):

Site preparation:	12%
Civil works:	55%
Mechanical and electrical equipment:	21%
Electrical transmission:	5%
Contingencies:	7%

Such a breakdown depends much on the chosen system and ocean location i.e. water depth and distance to shore. Energinet.dk has developed a spreadsheet to estimate the cost of energy (ref. 8).

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40 Heat pumps

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Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
November 2025		All descriptions and datasheets updated. Description and datasheet on absorption heat pump removed
June 2022		Seawater heat pump updated with infrastructure costs and seawater CO_2 heat pump added
April 2020		Updated qualitative description and datasheets. Datasheets now divided into 3 types and different plant sizes
January 2018		Updated prices for auxiliary electricity consumption in the datasheet
August 2016		First published

Qualitative description

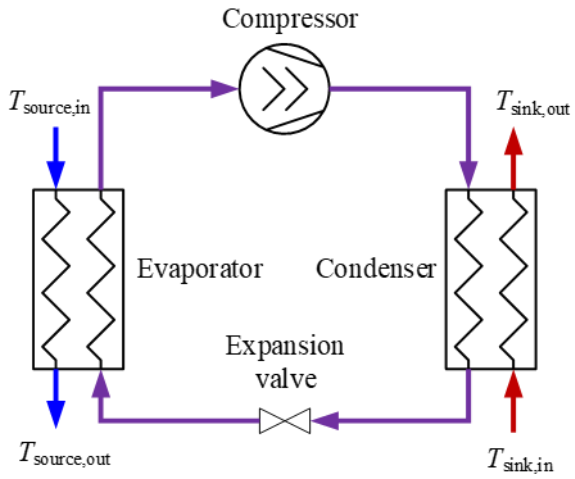
Brief technology description

Heat pumps are generally a well-known technology, moving heat from a low temperature level to a higher temperature level. Heat pumps employ the same technology as refrigerators/chillers that has been widely used for large-scale refrigeration systems. Heat pumps draw heat from a heat source (input heat) and convert the heat to a higher temperature (output heat) through a closed process. An important point regarding heat pumps is the ability to "produce" both heating and cooling. In this chapter the capacity refers to the heat output unless otherwise noted.

The two main types of heat pumps are compression heat pumps (usually using electricity as drive energy) or absorption heat pumps (using heat as drive energy). This chapter primarily focuses on electrically driven compression heat pumps as they are more widely used. These heat pumps can utilize several energy sources e.g. air, groundwater, seawater, wastewater, drinking water, district cooling, geothermal heating, and waste heat from industrial processes or data centers. The heat sources covered in this chapter are the ones with the most relevant current applications in Danish DH systems, that are listed in the "Quantitative description" chapter and are described in the datasheets.

A simple compression heat pump cycle is shown in Figure 1 . For a heat pump that delivers DH, the source can be ambient air or a cooling stream from an industrial process, while the sink is DH return water at a certain temperature being heated to a higher temperature. The evaporator and condenser are heat exchangers that allow heat exchange, while separating the refrigerant from the source and sink liquids.

Figure 1 Sketch of the heat pump cycle with components. (Source: Bach (2014) "Integration of heat pumps in Greater Copenhagen")



The application of large heat pumps in DH systems in Denmark may influence the development of the heat pumps globally – both the technology itself and the application. This is contrary to small-scale heat pumps, where the Danish market is small compared to other markets, and therefore is not expected to influence the overall development of small-scale heat pumps.

Refrigerants

Heat pumps can be supplied with several different refrigerants. The refrigerants most relevant for heat pumps are natural (ammonia, hydrocarbons, CO_2) as most synthetic refrigerants have been or will be phased out due to their environmental effects. The different types of natural refrigerants have different advantages and challenges in terms of efficiency, temperature range, costs and safety measures.

Danish compression heat pumps for district heating have historically mainly used ammonia as a refrigerant. New plants also use CO_2 and hydrocarbons.

Input

Heat pumps require drive energy and a heat source.

Drive energy

Drive energy for compression heat pumps is mechanical energy, typically provided by electricity in an electric compressor, but engines consuming fuel or biogas can also be used.

Drive energy for absorption heat pumps is heat, e.g. steam, hot water or flue gas, which is used to regenerate a refrigerant that can evaporate at a low-temperature level. Absorption heat pumps also consume a minor amount of electricity.

Heat sources

Heat pumps can use various different heat sources. This chapter focuses on ambient air, waste heat (from industrial or cooling processes or wastewater) and seawater (for large central plants) as heat sources for compression heat pumps, since these sources represent the largest share of heat pump capacity installed in Denmark [27] and are considered most relevant. However, other heat sources can be relevant in specific cases.

In some cases, the input heat is delivered through a secondary water or glycol circuit, but the optimal performance is achieved when the heat source is connected directly to the evaporator of the heat pump.

Air source heat pumps can be installed virtually anywhere but can be more complex to operate than heat pumps using water or glycol as heat source. It is important to be particularly thorough regarding the design and dimensioning of the air coolers, where leaves, dust, or frost can block the airflow, as it can have a great impact on both heat capacity and COP of air-source heat pumps. Furthermore, wrong placing or inadequate space around the coolers can cause short-circuits of the cooled air. In this case, already cooled air will return to the cooling surface reducing the flow of ambient air. Moreover, defrosting is important to address properly. Frost should be detected precisely, and dynamic defrosting only be provided when needed. Earlier air source heat pumps stopped heat production entirely while defrosting, whereas newer plants continue at reduced or full capacity while defrosting. Earlier plants were estimated to use 2-2.5 % of the annual heat production to defrost the cooling surfaces [13]. This has been reduced to around 1 % for recently installed smaller plants using secondary circuits, whereas larger plants using refrigerant directly in the air coolers utilize excess heat in the refrigerant to provide defrost without reducing the heat production.

Heat pumps utilizing industrial waste heat most likely yield lower heat production costs because the higher source temperature results in a high coefficient of performance (COP). Heat pump systems for such applications are relatively simple to install and the main obstacle is often the distance between the heat source and the DH system. Heat pumps utilizing waste heat as a heat source are typically connected to existing cooling systems (chillers, cooling towers and gas coolers etc.), thus reducing their energy or water consumption. Moreover, the redundancy and safety of operation of the cooling system is increased as the heat pump covers the base load of the cooling demand whereas the existing cooling plants will be back-up or peak load units. It is important to assess the simultaneity of the cooling and heating demand: often cooling demand is largest during summer, whereas heating demand is largest during winter. In some cases, waste heat is available at high temperatures that allow direct heat recovery with a heat exchanger before using a heat pump for further cooling (beyond the scope of this chapter).

For drying processes, most of the surplus heat leaves through moist ventilation air, and there is, therefore, no direct cooling demand. In such applications, waste heat can be recovered by cooling and dehumidifying the ventilation air as it leaves the process. This requires cooling surfaces at the exhaust from the ventilation system, which is typically more complex than a heat pump utilizing waste heat from cooling water.

Both small-scale and large-scale seawater plants are installed in Denmark currently. Large-scale seawater heat pumps can profitably be located at existing CHP plants, where the heat pump can take advantage of the existing infrastructure, such as the direct connection to the DH and power grid, and sea water connection, and thereby the capital expenditures can be significantly lowered. However, a large-scale seawater heat pump can also be profitable without the infrastructure of an existing CHP. The location of the seawater heat pump also depends on the local seawater conditions, including the salinity, temperature, and depths. The local seawater temperatures and salinity influence the COP of the system and the annual number of operating hours [20], [21]. Seawater heat pumps are explained further in the section Seawater Heat Pumps.

Due to technical reasons, absorption heat pumps are limited to heat sources warmer than approximately 15 °C. Therefore, it is not possible to utilize ambient sources and the technology is primarily suitable for industrial waste heat and flue gas from combustion.

Output

The output is heat. Cooling (of the heat source) can also be regarded as a useful output. For large-scale heat pumps, the heat will typically be delivered to the end-user through a water-based DH system.

The maximum delivery temperature differs according to type (compression or absorption heat pump) and also within both types depending on the actual refrigerant, design pressure and more. The most commonly used types can reach temperatures of around 72 °C and are the focus of this chapter and datasheets. More expensive high-pressure versions are available where 80 or 90 °C is needed. Special compression heat pumps can reach up to 100-110 °C, but these are only applicable in certain applications.

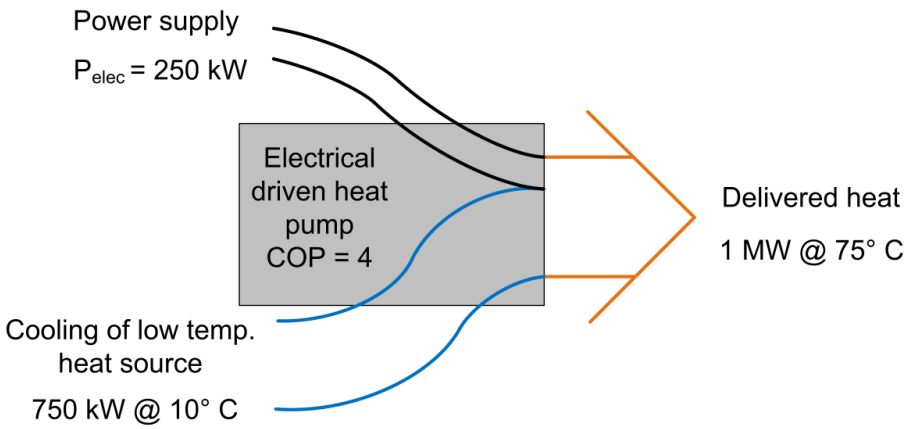
Absorption heat pumps are limited to around 85-87 °C but the specific delivery temperature depends on the temperature of the heat source and drive energy, meaning that a certain DH temperature is only possible with an appropriate heat source and/or a certain temperature level of the drive energy. This is important to consider, as these boundaries can limit the technology in some applications.

This is further outlined in the section Research & Development.

Coefficient of performance (COP)

The relation between output and intput is referred to as the coefficient of performance (COP). The attainable COP depends on the efficiency of the specific heat pump, the temperature of the heat source and sink and their temperature difference (e.g. energy source and district heating temperature). For compression heat pumps, the heat output is usually 3 to 5 times the utilized electricity input (or drive energy). The energy flow is illustrated in the Sankey diagram in Figure 2.

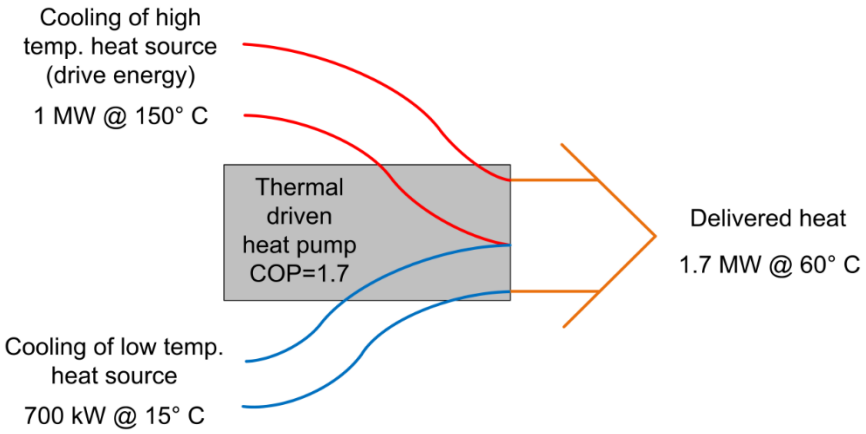
Figure 2 The electrical power consumption of 250 kW enables the heat pump to utilize 750 kW from a low-temperature heat source at 10 °C. Thus delivering 1 MW at 75 °C (COP is 4).



In absorption heat pumps, 1 kJ of heat can regenerate around 1 kJ of refrigerant meaning that an absorption heat pump has a theoretical maximum COP of 2. Due to losses in the system, the practically attainable COP is around 1.7. Two-stage versions are available for particularly high temperatures of the drive heat. In two-stage absorption heat pumps, the drive heat is used twice enabling the heat pump to utilize almost twice as much

low-grade energy. The practically attainable COP of two-stage systems is typically 2.3. Certain temperature differences are required for the functioning of the absorption refrigeration process, but if these requirements are met the COP is not affected by a further temperature increase of the drive energy. The energy flow is illustrated in the Sankey diagram in Figure 3:

Figure 3 The high temperature drive energy of 1 MW enables the heat pump to utilize 700 kW from a low temperature heat source at 15 °C. Thus delivering 1.7 MW at 60 °C (COP is 1.7).



The theoretical COP can be calculated as the "Carnot COP" or "Lorenz COP" which relates mechanical work to temperature differences in power generation, refrigeration and heat pump technology. The Carnot efficiency is calculated with one single sink temperature and one single source temperature. The Lorenz calculation method is preferable for refrigeration cycles where the temperature changes in the sink and source, which is the case for DH, where the sink temperature increases by 30-50 K. The Lorenz cycle is preferable to Carnot in this context, as this includes both inlet and outlet temperature at the sink and source. The formula for Lorenz COP $\mathrm{COP}_{\mathrm{Lorenz}}$ is shown in Equation 1 below.

$$\mathrm{COP}_{\mathrm{Lorenz}} = \frac{T_{\mathrm{lm,sink}}}{T_{\mathrm{lm,sink}} - T_{\mathrm{lm,source}}} \qquad (1)$$

Where $T_{\mathrm{lm,sink}}$ and $T_{\mathrm{lm,source}}$ are the log mean temperatures of the source- and sink heat exchangers, calculated as in Equation 2.

$$T_{\mathrm{lm,sink}} = \frac{T_{\mathrm{in,sink}} - T_{\mathrm{out,sink}}}{\ln\left(\frac{T_{\mathrm{in,sink}}}{T_{\mathrm{out,sink}}}\right)} \; ; \quad T_{\mathrm{lm,source}} = \frac{T_{\mathrm{in,source}} - T_{\mathrm{out,source}}}{\ln\left(\frac{T_{\mathrm{in,source}}}{T_{\mathrm{out,source}}}\right)} \quad [\mathrm{K}] \qquad (2)$$

Accordingly, a heat pump that heats water from 45 to 85 °C (DH) and cools a source from 20 to 15 °C (cooling water from a factory), will have a Lorenz COP of 7.2. In practice though, the real COP will be lower due to mechanical and thermal losses, depending on component efficiencies, heat exchangers, refrigerants and more. The ratio between practically attainable and theoretical COP, called Lorenz efficiency, is typically around 40-60%. The relation between Lorenz COP, the real COP and the Lorenz efficiency η_{Lorenz} is given in Equation 2.

$$\mathrm{COP}_{real} = \mathrm{COP}_{\mathrm{Lorenz}} \cdot \eta_{\mathrm{Lorenz}} \qquad (3)$$

All COP values stated in this chapter are practically attainable values if nothing else is stated.

Figure 4 shows the COP as a function of the source temperature for two different inlet and outlet sink temperatures ($T_{sink,in}$-$T_{sink,out}$). The values are calculated assuming a heat source cooling by 5 °C (e.g. a heat source with $T_{source,in}$ = 30 °C is cooled to $T_{source,out}$ = 25 °C) and a Lorenz efficiency fixed at 50 %. Increasing the cooling of the heat source (lowering $T_{source,out}$) will lead to a lower COP, but a higher output capacity, since more energy is moved.

As the figure shows, temperatures of both sink and source have a great influence on the COP of compression heat pumps regardless of the efficiency of the heat pump itself. It follows that heat pumps are best suited for low DH temperatures combined with high-temperature sources.

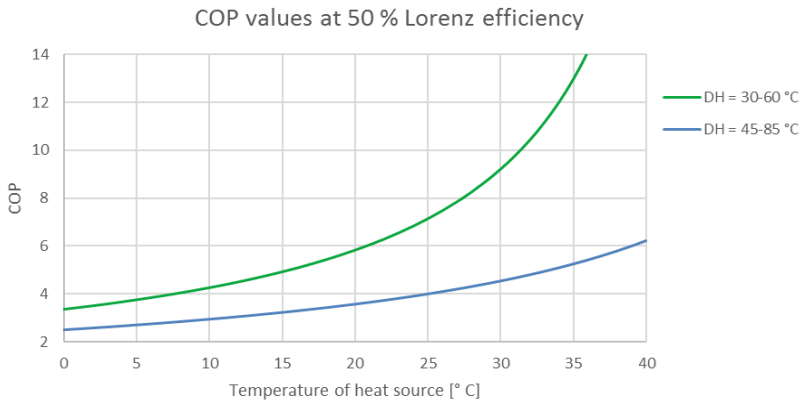


Figure 4 Attainable COP values of a compression heat pump with varying heat source temperatures at two different sink requirements.

Table 1 shows the estimated average Lorenz efficiencies based on practical experience from installed DH plants as well as DH plants currently under construction [15], [18] [21] in Denmark. The Lorentz efficiency is based on the design temperatures seen in the datasheet. For air source heat pumps the Lorez efficiencies are based on heat pumps using CO_2, while for waste heat heat pumps they are based on heat pumps using ammonia. For seawater heat pumps, the Lorenz efficiency of the 20 MW plant is based on an ammonia heat pump, while the 65 MW plant uses CO_2.

Table 1: Estimated Lorenz efficiencies of heat pumps in market standard installations depending on size and heat source. Estimates are given for the years 2025 and 2050.

	Air source			Waste heat			Seawater	
Size	1 MW	3 MW	10 MW	1 MW	3 MW	10 MW	20 MW	65 MW
η-Lorenz, 2025	48 %	48 %	48 %	43 %	48 %	50 %	50 %	47 %
η-Lorenz, 2050	50%	50%	50%	45%	50%	52%	52%	47%

Most of the plants whose Lorenz efficiency are shown in Table have many annual operating hours (7,000-8,000) and are expected to operate for 15-25 years. Consequently, energy consumption covers the largest share of the total cost, and high efficiency is a highly prioritized design criterion. Plants with fewer operating hours, on the other hand, might be designed with lower efficiencies.

Generally, larger plants have higher Lorenz efficiencies than smaller plants by using more complex and efficient systems. However, air-source heat pump plants with higher capacities usually consist of smaller heat pumps connected in parallel and therefore their Lorenz efficiency does not increase with the size of the plant. The 65 MW seaswater plant also consists of two units and uses CO_2 as a refrigerant and therefore its Lorenz efficiency is not higher than smaller plants.

Lorenz efficiencies for air source heat pumps include heat consumption for defrosting.

Example of COP calculation

This section demonstrates a method for calculating temperature-dependent COP-values, using as an example a 3 MW air source heat pump operating in November and heating DH water from 35 to 70 °C.

Smaller air source heat pumps typically cool the ambient air 5 K through the cooling surfaces, whereas larger plants of 3 MW and more, cool the ambient air by 4 K as more cooling surfaces and fans are used.

Table 2 shows the average temperature of ambient air in Denmark.

Table 2: Average air temperature per month in Denmark (references from 2006-2015) [16].

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mean temp. (°C)	1.4	1.1	3.5	7.7	11.3	14.3	17.4	16.7	11.7	9.8	6.3	3.0

$$T_{\mathrm{lm,sink}} = \frac{T_{\mathrm{out,sink}} - T_{\mathrm{in,sink}}}{\ln\left(\frac{T_{\mathrm{out,sink}}}{T_{\mathrm{i,sink}}}\right)} = \frac{70 - 35}{\ln\left(\frac{70 + 273}{35 + 273}\right)} = 325.3\ K$$

$$T_{\mathrm{lm,source}} = \frac{T_{\mathrm{in,source}} - T_{out,source}}{\ln\left(\frac{T_{\mathrm{in,source}}}{T_{\mathrm{out,source}}}\right)} = \frac{6.3 - 2.3}{\ln\left(\frac{6.3 + 273}{2.3 + 273}\right)} = 277.4\ K$$

$$\mathrm{COP}_{\mathrm{Lorenz}} = \frac{T_{\mathrm{lm,sink}}}{T_{\mathrm{lm,sink}} - T_{\mathrm{lm,source}}} = \frac{325.3\ K}{325.3\ K - 277.4\ K} = 6.8$$

$$\mathrm{COP}_{\mathrm{real}} = \mathrm{COP}_{\mathrm{Lorenz}} \cdot \eta_{\mathrm{Lorenz}} = 6.8 \cdot 48\ \% = 3.4$$

Typical capacities

Heat pumps for district heating are commercially available in capacities from 0.5 to around 5 MW, but multiple heat pump units can be connected in groups and thereby provide the required capacity. Some of the largest plants in Denmark are ammonia heat pumps with a capacity of around 40 MW (2 heat pump units), and a CO_2 heat pump plant with a capacity of 65 MW (also 2 heat pump units). Depending on temperature requirements, a heat pump system often consists of one or two compressor stages to reach the highest efficiency.

Depending on the heat source and supply temperature to district heating, it is expected that heat pumps often will be several heat pump units in parallel, also due to redundancy.

Large scale heat pumps are often designed after the size of the heat source available, and due to high specific investment costs, a high number of full load hours is required to make a feasible business case. Therefore, large-scale heat pumps are often designed for baseload rather than peak load.

Absorption heat pumps are available with heating capacities of up to approx. 20 MW. The cooling capacity will thus be up to approximately 12 MW.

Dynamic response and other power system services

Regulation ability is a topic currently being investigated in several projects.

The large-scale heat pumps on market today are not constructed for very fast startup/shutdown or load changes. Use of adequate secondary water systems and control methods can enable most large-scale heat pumps to be regulated faster. In practice, the possibilities of fast regulation depend on the specific heat pump configuration and type as well as system requirements such as outlet temperatures and efficiencies.

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages

A general advantage of heat pumps is that the heat pump can utilize heat sources otherwise left unused by conventional heat production technologies (e.g. waste heat or ambient air). Absorption heat pumps can also utilize the energy quality of high-temperature heat sources, where exergy is otherwise wasted.

Moreover, heat pumps have a high efficiency, low variable production costs and can produce both heating and cooling.

Heat pumps that have no direct emissions from burning fuel and can be installed in locations with restrictions on exhaust emissions.

In energy systems where electricity plays a vital role, compression heat pumps may play an important role as they can integrate the electricity and heating sector. Especially when coupled with thermal energy storage, heat pumps can enhance the flexibility and the overall efficiency of the energy system, bidding in the capacity market and alleviating grid congestion.

Disadvantages

To reach high COP, heat pumps require small temperature differences between source and sink. Therefore, heat pumps are best suited for low-temperature district heating systems.

The heat source must be available and suitable according to the required heat demand. Changes in flow or temperature of the heat source will affect the performance of the heat pump (also heat capacity and O&M), which can increase the complexity of a heat pump system.

Compared to most traditional heat production systems, heat pumps, in general, have higher investment.

For seawater heat pumps, there are added layers of complexity regarding its operation, which include organic material removal from filters, ice protection of water intake, and the fact that seawater is corrosive on the system and its components [20], [21].

Environment

The environmental impact of compression heat pumps depends on the electricity mix and on the efficiency of the heat pump. In Denmark, about two-thirds of the electricy mix is produced without fuel combustion and the share is increasing, thus heat pumps have a lower environmental impact regarding air pollution than fuel-based heating systems. Absorption heat pumps typically do not require fuel consumption as they use waste heat as drive energy, and their electricity use is minor.

Greenhouse gas emissions from refrigerants are negligible as Danish legislation limits the maximum charge to 5 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents [22]. Moreover, a proposal for the restriction of per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) has been submitted under the REACH regulation and, if passed, it would ban most HFC and HFO blends in the EU [24]. Because of environmental regulation, natural refrigerants (ammonia, CO_2 and hydrocarbons) are increasingly being used in Denmark and in other countries.

Ammonia heat pumps must comply with certain safety measures regarding construction, location and operation due to the toxicity of ammonia that can be dangerous to mammals and especially aquatic life forms. On the other hand, hydrocarbons are highly flammable but not environmentally harmful.

Fans and cooling surfaces for air source heat pumps emit noise, which must be considered according to the local regulations. Practical experience in Denmark [14], [15], [18] shows that this is suitably addressed by providing plenty of cooling surface to limit fan and airspeed. With this approach, it is possible to install air source heat pumps closer to residential areas. In general, noise problems regarding the compressors can be handled by noise insulation of the building, thus normally not a critical issue for installing heat pump systems.

For seawater heat pumps, it is necessary to make a cold-water dissipation analysis [20], [21] for environmental protection. The dissipation of the cold water at the outlet is restricted to limit the effect on the temperature of the surrounding seawater. The cooling of the surrounding seawater can be limited by increasing the flow through the evaporator. Furthermore, this analysis is necessary to avoid a short circuit between the input and output water.

Research & Development

In most countries, the development within refrigeration moves toward natural refrigerants. The European F-gas regulation has enforced a phase-down of high GWP synthetic refrigerants [5], [7], [9], [10], [15]. Moreover, the use of most HFC and HFO in EU is probably going to be phased down if the proposal for PFAS restriction is passed [24].

Heat pumps with water as a refrigerant are not yet commercially available, but a demonstration project is in operation in Aarhus. A new compressor type has been developed where a low stage heat pump with water as a refrigerant recovers heat from seawater and delivers it at 20 °C, while an ammonia heat pump increases the temperature from 20 °C to district heating temperature. The technology has several advantages, especially regarding the utilization of low-temperature heat sources such as seawater. This technology can reduce some of the challenges of utilizing seawater at temperatures near the freezing point [9], [10].

Other areas of technology development are:

- Energy-efficient defrosting of air source heat pumps [9], [15]
- Higher outlet temperatures (wider range of high-pressure components) [9], [15]
- Intelligent integration in the overall energy system to increase overall system efficiency and enhance flexibility [11], [15]

Examples of market standard technology

Depending on size, operating hours, temperature requirements and other practical issues, different types of heat pump design, technology or refrigerants can be the best choice. Descriptions of heat pumps that are already operating are found in the *website* Varmepumpedata.dk [23].

The best solutions are often multi-stage plants that will both cool and heat in steps to minimize thermal losses. Oil coolers, desuperheaters and subcoolers are utilized to minimize pressure differences and hereby the mechanical work required.

Ammonia is a widely used refrigerant for industrial refrigeration meaning that large-scale equipment with high efficiencies can be utilized for the heat pumps. Ammonia is typically used for the largest plants reaching up to around 73 °C using standard components and up to 90 °C utilizing special components for high-pressure levels.

Examples of installed or under construction plants using ammonia as refrigerant:

- 2021, Fjernvarme Fyn / Ejby Mølle, Denmark – 20 MW – max. temperature of 65 °C (With waste water as HS)
- 2020, Tårnby Forsyning, Denmark – 6.4 MW – max. temperature 75 °C (With DC and waste water as HS)
- 2020, Fjernvarme Fyn / Tietgenbyen varmecentral, Denmark – two plants with 21 and 24 MW – max. temperature 75 °C (With data center as HS)
- 2020, Gudenådalens Energiselskab, Denmark – 3.6 MW – max. temperature 75 °C (Air and district cooling)
- 2020, Skagen Kraftvarmeværk, Denmark – 12 MW – max. temperature of 72 °C (Air as HS)
- 2021, Langå Varmeværk, Danmark – 3.4 MW – max temperature of 75 °C (Air as HS)
- 2021, Mejlby Fjernvarme, Denmark – 1 MW - max. temperature of 72 °C (Air as HS)
- 2022, Laurbjerg Fjernvarme, Denmark – 1.2 MW - max. temperature of 72 °C (Air as HS)
- 2020, Sdr Herreds, Denmark – 1.2 MW - max. temperature of 72 °C (Air as HS)

CO_2 heat pumps operate in the so-called trans-critical pressure range, meaning that the refrigerant has a temperature glide on the warm side while the cold side evaporates at a constant temperature. This means that CO_2 is particularly suited in applications where heat is drawn from a low-temperature source by cooling it only a few degrees, while the delivered heat is provided at a temperature glide of maybe 40 °C. The maximum outlet temperature of CO_2 systems is app. 90 °C. To obtain good COP values in CO_2 systems the inlet temperature of the heated media (system return temperature) should not be higher than app. 40 °C.

Examples of installed or under contruction plants using CO_2 as refrigerant:

- 2022, Aalborg Forsyning /IKEA, Denmark – 1 MW
- 2022, AffaldVarme Aarhus, Denmark – 600 kW Sæby
- 2023, DIN Forsyning, Denmark – 65 MW
- 2025, Aalborg Forsyning, Denmark – 160 MW
- 2024, Aalborg Renseanlæg Øst – 5.8 MW
- 2024, Tarm Varmeværk, Denmark – 5.1 MW
- 2024, Fors – Jyderup, Denmark – 7.9 MW
- 2024, Støvring, Denmark - 3.3 MW

Hydrocarbons are primarily used in medium-sized applications where either propane or isobutane is used as the refrigerant. These refrigerants can be used with standard components from commercial refrigeration, meaning that investment costs are kept at a low level. Propane can reach temperatures of 65 °C whereas isobutene can reach temperatures of around 85 °C. These refrigerants are flammable meaning that heat pumps are often delivered in a special cabinet and installed outdoors.

Examples of installed plants using Hydrocarbons as refrigerants:

- 2020, Karup Fjernvarme, Denmark – 5 MW – max. temperature of 85 °C
- GKN Wheels, Denmark – 1.1 MW – Propane, max. temperature of 65 °C
- Birn, Denmark – 1.2 MW – Propane, max. temperature of 65 °C
- Skejby Sygehus, Denmark – 0.2 MW – max. temperature of 85 °C

Prediction of performance and costs

In Danish, European and to some extent also global contexts, there is an increased focus on energy efficiency (Danish Energy Policy, European Energy Union and Energy Efficiency Directive). Heat pumps can be a tool to increase energy efficiency. Therefore, a significant market pull can be expected regarding heat pumps.

Cost reductions

Figure 5 shows technological development phases of different types of heat pumps. Large scale heat pumps belong between Categories 3: “Commercial technologies with moderate deployment so far and significant development potential” and 4: “Commercial technologies with high deployment so far and limited development potential”.

The technology development of compression heat pumps leaves a potential for cost reduction. Ideally, the prices could match equipment for industrial refrigeration in the future.

Large-scale compression heat pumps derive from industrial refrigeration applying the same principles and many of the same components. However, heat pumps require a higher working pressure, meaning that some of the main components are special and the supply range is limited. Large-scale heat pumps for high forward temperatures are still rare, meaning that the production numbers for certain components are low.

Based on the above, the following assumptions regarding accumulated volume and cost reduction for investment and maintenance for heat pumps are introduced in Table 3 and Table 4.

Figure 5 Technological development phases of compression heat pumps

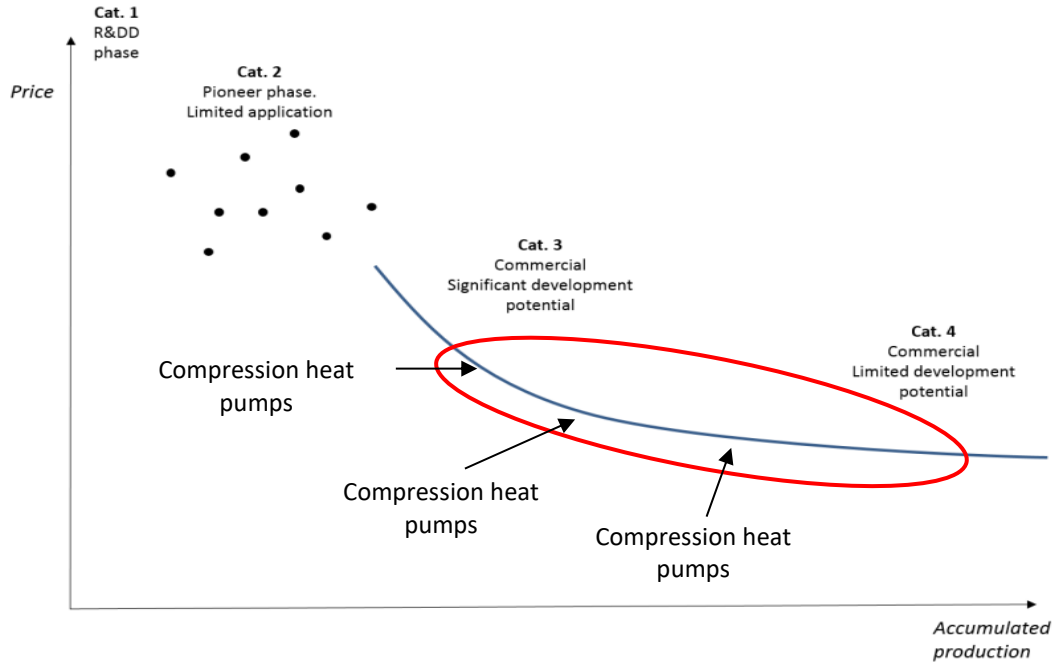


Table 3: Assumed increase in the accumulated installed units in Denmark.

Increase in accumulated installed units	2025-2035	2035-2050
Compression – Seawater	100 %	100 %
Compression – Air source	20 %	20 %
Compression – Waste heat	50 %	50 %

Table 4: Assumed reduction in cost in the different periods.

Reduction in cost	2025-2035	2035-2050
Compression – Seawater	10%	10%
Compression – Air source	5%	5%
Compression – Waste heat	3 %	3 %

Energy efficiency and COP

The practically attainable COP depends on both the temperature set and mechanical and thermal losses (Lorenz efficiency) as described in the section Brief technology description. The Lorenz efficiency is only assumed to increase a few percentage points for the market standard installation [2]. It is however expected that heat pumps with higher COP values will be installed in the future, primarily due to reduced temperatures in DH systems.

Uncertainty

The future development of investment costs and performance is quite uncertain as these parameters are valued against fuel and electricity costs.

Temperature levels of DH systems, as well as possibilities of co-production with other heating technologies, have a great impact on both investment cost and performance of heat pumps. If the temperature levels of a project do not match the temperatures for the given datasheet, it is advised to adjust the COP according to the outlined method in the subsection describing *COP calculation* in the Brief technology description.

If electricity costs increase it would be profitable to invest in a more expensive heat pump with better performance.

The costs of fuels also affect the competitiveness of heat pumps. E.g. expensive biomass, gas, or oil will imply that heat pumps will be better alternatives even with low COP values.

Hence, the competitiveness of heat pumps is not only determined by the improvement of efficient heat pump technology and installation, but also by the development and efficiency of competing technologies, market prices, taxes and subsidies on energy sources including electricity.

One method to navigate this uncertainty is to refer to official scenarios for the development of energy prices issued regularly by the Danish Energy Agency.

In a specific project, context uncertainty can be mitigated by applying the calculation tool developed in combination with the *Playbook for large-scale heat pumps* [1], which enables an initial assessment of the feasibility of a heat pump based on key data for a specific plant.

Economy of scale effects

Larger plants tend to invest in more expensive components with higher efficiencies meaning that economy of scale benefits the efficiency of the larger plants rather than the investment costs.

Because of this, the effect of the economy of scale is often limited for large-scale heat pumps. As capacity increases 100 % the investment costs are estimated to increase by 80 %. This primarily concerns the heat pump itself, whereas installations around the heat pump have a greater economy of scale effect.

Components of investment and O&M

The investment costs for heat pumps consist of the following overall parts:

- Heat pump
- Heat source (air coolers, connection to waste heat etc.)
- Connection to the power grid (including transformers etc.)
- Connection to existing DH network
- Building for heat pump
- Consulting

The total cost of a heat pump system can vary significantly depending on local conditions and specification requirements. As a rule of thumb, the investment cost of an air source heat pump can be divided as indicated in Figure 6 below. It should be noted that the specific investment of each part can differ considerably from one project to another.

Figure 6 Typical share of investment costs of an air source heat pump. Note that costs for advisors are not included in the datasheets

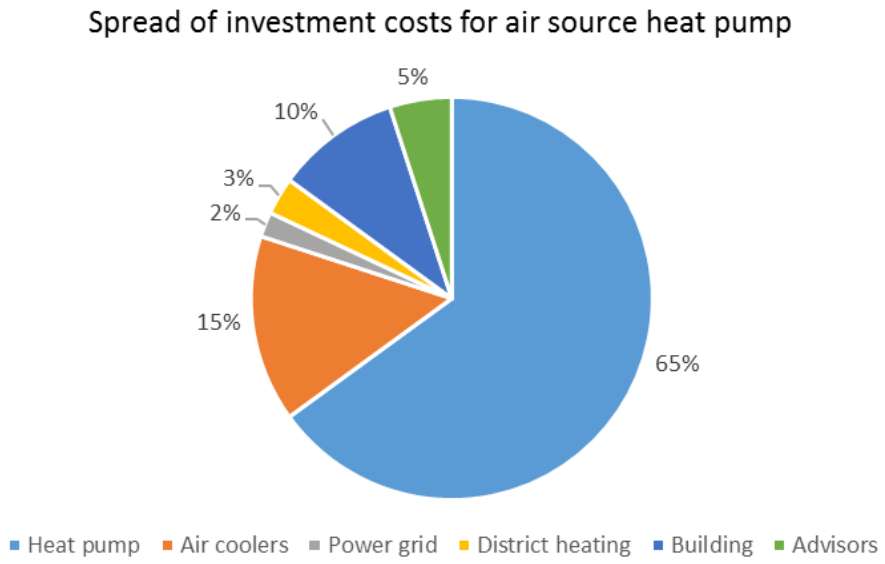


Figure 6 shows that around 80 % of the total project cost relates to the heat pump (including installation) and the heat source (air coolers). This distribution is estimated for smaller plants of 1-2 MW. For larger installations, the relative cost of connection to the power grid and DH system, the building and advisors, will be less, as these do not increase proportionally to the size of the heat pump.

For plants utilizing waste heat, the costs that relate to the heat source can both be less or more, depending on the specific conditions.

Regarding operation and maintenance, heat pumps require almost no maintenance from the operator [1], [13]. Heat production needs to be planned in context with other production units, but maintenance is always outsourced as it requires certifications to maintain the plants. Electrical heat pumps have no chimneys or fuel storage and maintenance is almost always scheduled.

Maintenance includes compulsory inspections and replacements required by law as well as inspections and replacements of oil, refrigerant and worn parts. At 6,000 annual operating hours, the fixed maintenance costs represent 10-20 % of the total costs, whereas 80-90 % relate to operation.

Quantitative description

A key point to consider when using the data in the data sheets is that the COP may vary considerably depending on the specific temperature set. If the temperature levels of a project do not match the temperatures for the given datasheet, it is advised to adjust the COP according to the outlined method in the subsection describing *COP calculation* in the Brief technology description.

The application of the data in the datasheets for specific calculations of a project should be evaluated according to the specific local conditions. Many factors influence performance and investment costs, and the data sheets should only be considered as estimates for average installations.

Assumptions

Performance data regarding ambient air and waste heat are based on typical supply temperatures of decentral DH systems with an average return temperature of 35 °C and a forward temperature of around 70 °C. Return

temperatures are typically higher in the summertime when space heating is not used. Forward temperatures can rise to 80 °C in peak demand during the coldest periods.

For the 10 MW air source heat pump, the data sheet also contains data for a plant performing at a DH temperature level of 40 / 80.

Furthermore, it is assumed that the heat pumps co-produce with peak load units during the coldest periods and therefore only cover 85 % of the annual heat demand. This means that the forward temperature of the heat pump can be kept at around 70 °C during the coldest periods or even lowered depending on the ratio between the different heat production units. A reduced forward temperature during peak demand increases the overall COP of the heat pump.

For 1 MW air source heat pumps, it is assumed that these are designed with a secondary glycol circuit between the refrigerant and air coolers. This simplifies the design and is commonly used on air source heat pumps with less than 1.5 MW of capacity. For air source heat pumps of 3 and 10 MW capacities, it is assumed that the refrigerant is used directly in the air coolers ensuring higher efficiency. This design is commonly used in air source heat pumps with capacities above 2 MW.

The number of heat pump units is specified in each sheet. Smaller plants (1 MW) commonly have one unit, while 3 MW ones have two and larger plants have three or four.

The data for airsource heat pumps are based on heat pumps using CO_2, which is the most common for airsource heat pumps, while for heat pumps utilizing waste heat, the data are based on heat pumps using ammonia. Heat pumps using CO_2 typically have lower COP and O&M costs.

Performance data for seawater heat pumps is based on typical supply temperatures in larger DH systems with a return temperature of 40 °C and a forward temperature of 80 °C.

The data in all sheets are based on plants that have at least 6,000 annual operating hours and operate for 15 years or more. This means that energy consumption makes up for most of the costs considering the life cycle costs. Because of this, plants with fewer operating hours/years might be designed with lower efficiencies.

Datasheets

The following types and sizes are covered in these technology sheets:

- 1 MW Compression heat pumps using ambient air as a heat source
- 3 MW Compression heat pumps using ambient air as a heat source
- 10 MW Compression heat pumps using ambient air as a heat source
- 1 MW Compression heat pumps using waste heat as a heat source (cooled from 13 to 8 °C)
- 3 MW Compression heat pumps using waste heat as a heat source (cooled from 15 to 8 °C)
- 10 MW Compression heat pumps using waste heat as a heat source (cooled from 27 to 15 °C)
- 20 MW Compression heat pumps using seawater as a heat source
- 65 MW Compression heat pumps using seawater as a heat source

The above sizes in MW are for the whole plant. As the plants consist of more units, the unit size is smaller. For the 1 – 10 MW plants, a unit size of 1 – 3 MW is assumed. For the seawater plants, a unit size of 3 – 50 MW is assumed.

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Annex: Seawater Heat Pumps

This section describes a large seawater heat pump and is based on interviews with the two utilities DIN Forsyning and Aalborg Forsyning, who currently are establishing large-scale seawater heat pumps [20], [21].

Both heat pumps use CO_2 as a refrigerant. The two DIN Forsyning heat pumps have capacities of 35 MW each, and the four Aalborg Forsyning heat pump have capacities of 44 MW each.

Location

Large-scale seawater heat pumps can profitably be placed at existing CHP plants. Here the heat pump can take advantage of the existing infrastructure of the CHP plant, such as the direct connection to the DH and power grid. Sometimes, it is also possible to utilize the existing cooling water intake and outlet of the CHP. Hence, the capital expenditures can be significantly lowered if the heat pump can be integrated into the infrastructure of the existing CHP. However, a large-scale seawater heat pump can also be profitable without the infrastructure of the CHP.

The location of the seawater heat pump also depends on the local seawater conditions. This includes the salinity, temperature, and depths. The local seawater temperatures and salinity influence the COP of the system and the yearly annual number of operating hours. The heat pump should be placed with access to deep water since the water properties here are less fluctuating. The average temperature and salinity are slightly higher in the deep water, and therefore, the seawater intake of the heat pump can preferably be placed in deep water. In Esbjerg, the intake is placed in the harbor (at 6.5 m) since the area outside the harbor is too shallow. The intake in Esbjerg harbor is placed at 6.5 m even though the seabed is at 9.5 m. This is a balance of maximizing the depth while avoiding the organic material living at the seabed. The outtake is placed at the surface to minimize the impact on the environment. The intake and outtake are placed 1.6 km apart to prevent a short circuit.

Based on measurements in Esbjerg harbor, the average freezing temperature is found to be approx. -1.7 °C with a variation of 0.5 °C. This significant variation is based on the salinity of the seawater which is varying due to the addition of freshwater from streams and heavy rain. A similar tendency applies all over Denmark and especially in the eastern part, where the salinity is varying because of the massive amount of freshwater coming from the Baltic Sea.

Seawater temperatures are more constant compared to air temperatures; fluctuations are monthly more than hourly. Seawater temperatures vary depending on location, but in Denmark the variations are limited. Monthly temperatures are seen in Table 1 [1].

Table 1. Seawater temperatures in Denmark, [1]

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average temperature – Bay and shore (Degree celsius)	4	2	5	7	12	14	17	18	15	11	7	4

Seawater Connection

To place the in and outtake properly and to prevent a short circuit in between, it is essential to analyze the cold-water dissipation. This analysis is also important to ensure that any issued permits are complied with. Even if existing in- and outtake of a CHP plant are reused, it is still necessary to perform the cold-water dissipation analysis because flow and temperature are different from the CHP plant.

If the reuse of an existing seawater connection is a possibility, the capital expenditures can be reduced. However, some expenditures are still required to extend the lifetime of the seawater connection. Implementation of a new seawater connection can be an expensive and complex matter as more knowledge is needed on the technology. For instance, DIN Forsyning found it necessary to invest extra resources to obtain a reliable seawater connection and thus maximize the operating hours. This included experimental tests regarding the seabed, pipe materials, and evaporator heat exchangers. The tests are all related to minimizing the organic material in the intake and the formation of organic material in the system which can be a challenge.

Control of Organic Material in the Seawater Connection

The organic material mainly consists of mussels and barnacles. Filters are installed in the intake of the seawater connection to avoid or at least minimize the organic material in the system. If the organic waste is removed above the surface, it must be transported to a waste station by the regulatory requirements of the Danish authorities. Therefore, the organic waste from the filters can with advantage be removed and handled below the surface. According to DIN Forsyning, tons of mussels and barnacles need to be removed from the harbor every year. In addition, as a precaution, it is possible to supply steam to the filters to avoid frost in the filters.

To avoid the formation and growth of organic material in the pipes, DIN Forsyning has tested and compared the two pipe materials of, respectively, plastic and fiberglass. It was concluded that fiberglass is the smoothest material and, therefore, less exposed to the formation of organic material. However, fiberglass is also the most expensive material of the two at least in smaller dimensions. Hence, the optimum pipe material is a balance between capital expenditures and the necessity of minimizing organic formation. The tests also show a critical velocity in the pipe of approximately 1.5 m/s about the formation of organic material. This means that the formation of organic material can be suppressed by sustaining a seawater velocity of 1.5 m/s or above in the pipe. However, the 1.6 km pipe from the in- to outtake must still be cleaned occasionally.

In general, seawater is rough for the system and also rougher than freshwater. Therefore, as a precaution, freshwater can be injected into the system in certain situations to protect the system to rinse meters and valves.

Evaporator Heat Exchanger

Concerning the heat exchanger installed as an evaporator, DIN Forsyning wants a shell-and-tube heat exchanger in titanium. This is a recognized heat exchanger which is used for seawater heat exchange at several locations. It is a very robust heat exchanger that can be cleaned by letting foam balls through the pipes. This is important as the issued permit restricts the cleaning process to be based on mechanical cleaning.

The falling-film heat exchanger has also been considered because of recommendations from a supplier. The falling-film heat exchanger contains a smaller amount of refrigerant which can be an advantage depending on the issued permits. The supplier claims that this exchanger can handle seawater. However, DIN Forsyning chose to build an experimental set-up and perform tests. It turned out that this type of exchanger has complications related to corrosion. Compared to the shell-and-tube heat exchanger, the falling-film heat exchanger is, furthermore, less stable and efficient. Hence, the shell-and-tube heat exchanger is here confirmed to be the better option for seawater heat exchanging.

Ice Defending

At DIN Forsyning a 60 MW wood chip plant is installed next to the seawater heat pump. The heat from the flue gas condensation can be added to the feedwater of the heat pump to prevent ice from building up. Here, the seawater before the evaporator is preheated by up to 6-7 MW. As a result, the heat pump can operate regardless of the seawater temperature. Ice winters may be an exception. This setting is primarily implemented for safety reasons. Alternatively, the heat should have been exchanged directly between the flue gas condensation and the DH.

Environmental Permits

If establishing a large-scale seawater heat pump, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a requirement. The EIA is based on a cold-water dissipation analysis where certain criteria must be fulfilled. This includes that the dissipation of the cold water at the outtake is restricted to affect the temperature of the surrounding seawater to a limited degree. The cooling of the surrounding seawater can be limited by increasing the flow through the evaporator. Hence, the temperature drop between the in- and outtake is decreased yielding a higher temperature at the outtake. The impact on the temperature of the surrounding water can, furthermore, be limited by integrating a diffuser system at the outtake to improve the distribution of the cold-water dissipation.

However, if a large-scale seawater heat pump is reusing the existing seawater connection of a CHP plant, the existing EIA can also be reused. This requires, however, that the environmental impact of the seawater heat pump is lower than the environmental impact of the former CHP plant. For instance, the EIA is assessed as non-significant for DIN Forsyning, as the environmental impact of the heat pump is significantly lower than the impact from the CHP plant which it replaces. Therefore, the authority process went smoothly and without any major complications for DIN Forsyning. Aalborg Forsyning is also reusing an existing seawater connection, but here the EIA is assessed as significant. This is based on, that the environmental impact from the seawater heat pump might surpass the environmental impact from the existing CHP plant.

Both DIN Forsyning and Aalborg Forsyning are categorized as hazardous industrial sites by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. Consequently, restrictions are formed concerning the assortment of refrigerants and the management of the refrigerants. This includes that all CFC refrigerants are banned, ammonia and HFO refrigerants have certain restrictions, and natural refrigerants such as CO_2 have no restrictions. These restrictions are related to the quantity of refrigerant and certain requirements for technical equipment in case of leakage of the refrigerant. Often, the companies are applying simultaneously for permits for multiple refrigerants, both HFO's and naturals. From a business perspective this ensures that multiple suppliers are capable to handle the task and, therefore, multiple tenders will be available.

To avoid any pollution in the seawater environment, the cleaning process of the seawater connection including the evaporator is restricted to exclusively be performed mechanically.

In general, a lot of advice from biologists is necessary to obtain the required permits related to a large-scale heat pump system.

Status on the Technology

Only a few references are existing concerning large-scale seawater heat pumps and the two systems at Esbjerg and Aalborg are, moreover, the largest worldwide. Therefore, the two systems are unique and can potentially form the foundation for global scaling. Subsequently, there is a wide interest in the two projects from all over the world.

Accordingly, to DIN Forsyning it has been a challenge to find suppliers with experience or comparable references within the subject. This indicates that the technology is in an early phase and has the potential for maturing. The recommendation from the suppliers also differed concerning the refrigerant, compressor type, evaporator heat exchanger, and the number of heat pumps in connection. Again, indicating that the technology is in an early phase of development.

Concerning the compressor, DIN Forsyning has both tenders with turbo compressors and screw compressors. DIN Forsyning assessed that turbo compressors are modern, stable, and well-suited for the purpose, while the

screw compressors are less suited for the purpose. In general, the market lacks compressors designed for this capacity, indicating that the technology has potential for development.

Because the technology is in an early phase, Din Forsyning has experienced that it was a challenge to identify the authority and where to request the relevant permits. It was a time-consuming process since many authorities were involved and none of them had experience with the specific topic. In the end, it was confirmed that the authority was the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. From here the authority process went smooth and without complications.

Operational Hours, Regulation, and Integration of Supplementary Plants

Both DIN Forsyning and Aalborg Forsyning will cover the base load from other energy sources such as excess heat from industry. Also, both plants cover the base/middle load with large-scale seawater heat pumps. DIN Forsyning wants to cover the peak load with a 60 MW wood chip plant and Aalborg Forsyning wants to cover the peak load with a large electric boiler.

Both DIN Forsyning and Aalborg Forsyning plants deliver a forward temperature of 90 °C for DH. However, some suppliers cannot guarantee this temperature and therefore it can be necessary to boost the temperature by implementing a supplementary energy source such as an electric boiler. To ensure as many tenders as possible Aalborg Forsyning is open to a system with or without a supplementary boost of the temperature. DIN Forsyning has already agreed with their supplier, who guarantees a forward temperature of 90 °C.

Refrigerants in Seawater Heat Pump with Focus on CO_2

At the moment, Aalborg Forsyning is looking into multiple refrigerants to obtain as many tenders as possible. DIN Forsyning has been looking into the three refrigerants CO_2, R1234, and ammonia, and has found CO_2 to be the most suitable refrigerant for the system.

Among the tenders received by DIN Forsyning, the tender from the chosen supplier using CO_2 as a refrigerant was the only one capable of delivering a forward temperature of 90 °C. This is an advantage since, otherwise, a supplementary energy source is required to boost the temperature. A higher forward temperature is not necessarily better than using a supplementary heat source for the overall efficiency, however, DIN Forsyning prefers to keep the system as simple as possible.

CO_2 is a natural refrigerant which is an advantage in heat pump systems since it is not subject to environmental restrictions. Non-natural refrigerants such as ammonia are restricted in the allowed quantity. For instance, DIN Forsyning and Aalborg Forsyning are, respectively, restricted to a maximum of 5 tons and 50 tons ammonia. This might cause challenges related to achieving the desired capacities and efficiencies. However, this is not an issue for natural refrigerants such as CO_2.

The environmental restrictions are also related to safety precautions in case of leakage. This can be a challenge, especially for a seawater heat pump due to detecting restrictions. For instance, for ammonia, it is restricted that the system can detect and process any leakage, which can be expensive. Ammonia is difficult to detect in saltwater and, therefore, a complex detection system is needed. Any contaminated seawater must be encapsulated in the system which can be achieved with fast closing valves. The encapsulated contaminated seawater must be decontaminated or removed. These leakage precautions have high capital expenditures and can, furthermore, shut down the operation for 2-3 days according to DIN Forsyning. However, CO_2 has no restrictions related to detection which is an advantage both in terms of economy and related operational safety.

For a heat pump using CO_2 as a refrigerant, the pressure at the evaporator is huge and has potential hazards in case of leakage in the condenser. If a leak occurs in the condenser, the building could potentially blow up. In general, there is a lack of information on this topic. Therefore, DIN Forsyning has had several talks with the Danish Working Environment Service regarding requirements and dispensations related to the building.

41 Electric Boilers

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Publication date

June 2017

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
November 25	41 Electric boilers	Updated description and data sheets
January 18	41 Electric boilers	Updated prices for auxiliary electricity consumption in data sheet
June 17	41 Electric boilers	Chapter from previously catalogue revised and added

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

Electric boilers are devices in the MW size range using electricity for the production of hot water or steam for industrial or district heating purposes. They are usually installed as peak load units in the same way as oil or gas boilers. Hence, the following description of electric boilers is based on an operation strategy, aiming at approx. 500 full-load hours/year.

The conversion from electrical energy to thermal energy takes place at almost 100 % efficiency. However, from an exergetical point of view, this technology should be justified by its systemic advantages. For example, electric water heaters can be a part of the energy system facilitating utilization of wind energy and enabling efficient utilization of various heat energy sources.

Thus, the application of electric boilers in district heating systems is primarily driven by the demand for ancillary services rather than the demand for heat. Although examples of electric boilers that operate on the spot market can be found.

Generally, two types of electric boilers are available:

Heating elements using electrical resistance, with same principle as a hot water heater in a normal household (shown in

- Figure 2). Typically, electrical resistance is used in smaller applications up to 1-2 MW. These electric boilers are connected at low voltage (e.g. 400 or 690 V, depending on the voltage level at the on-site distribution board).
- Heating elements using electrode boilers (shown in Figure). Electrode systems are used for larger applications. Electrode boilers (larger than a few MW) are directly connected to the medium to high voltage grid at 10-15 kV (depending on the voltage in the locally available distribution grid).

The water in electrode boilers is heated by means of an electrode system consisting of (typically) three-phase electrodes, a neutral electrode and a water level & flow control system. When power is fed to the electrodes, the current from the phase electrodes flows directly through the water in the upper chamber, which is heated in the process. The heat production can be varied by varying the flow through the upper chamber and the power that is led through, thus enabling output to be controlled between 0 and 100 %. [3]

In a similar technology, the heat output is varied, by varying the contact area between water and electrodes, by covering the electrodes in control screens. Thus, the contact area between water and electrodes can be varied by varying the water level around the electrodes.

In both technologies, there will be no high-voltage consumption in a stand-by situation, as the only stand-by consumption is due to circulation pumps, which lies in the range of 5 % of full load.

Figure 1: Schematic illustration of an electrode boiler. The heat is generated in the upper chamber through ohmic resistance between the electrodes. The boiler is pressurized with an inert gas system, e.g. nitrogen. [3]

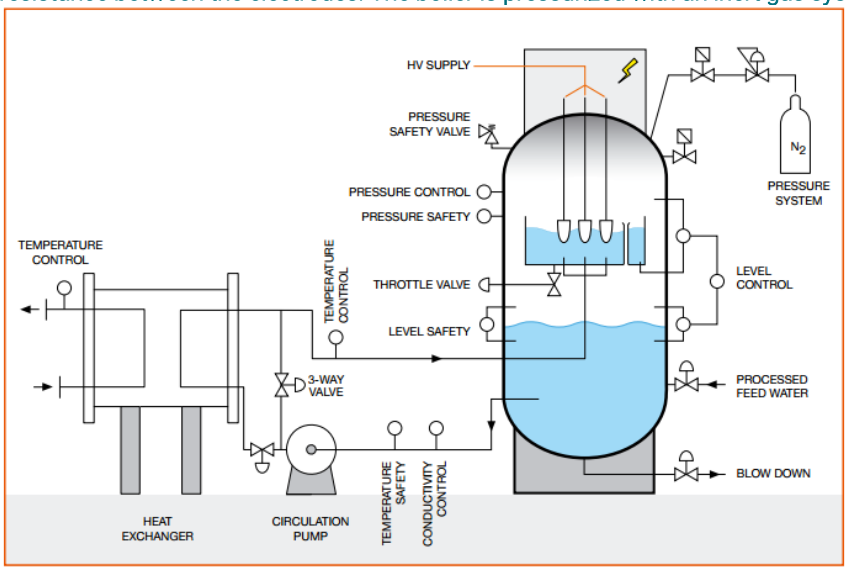
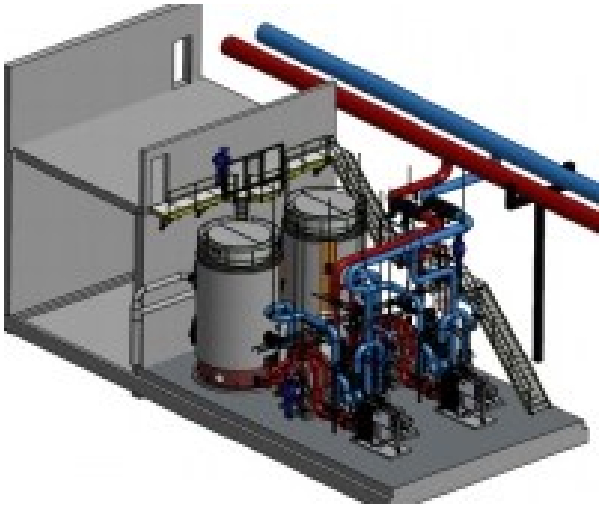


Figure 2: Illustration of 2x40 MW electric boilers installed at Studstrup power plant. The heat exchangers in front of the electric boilers transfer the heat from the water circuit in the boiler to the district heating circuit (blue/red piping). [9]



Input

Electricity.

Output
Heat (hot water).

Typical capacities
Resistance-boilers are available in the span 6-5,000 kW/unit.

Electrode boilers are available in the seamless span 0-60 MW/unit, with typical appliances being 5-50 MW/unit.

Larger applications are typically a combination of multiple single units.

Space requirements
The net space requirements of electric boilers are in the range of 20-40 m^2/unit with a total height of approx. 5-6.5 m. Examples of smaller units can be found as well. Furthermore, there is a space requirement of approx. 50-100 m^2/appliance for heat exchangers, piping etc.

Regulation ability
Electric boilers can participate in up- and downward regulation. Modern electrode boilers have a minimal standby consumption when used as frequency-controlled reserves (down regulation). The standby consumption varies with the type of electric boiler. New electrode boilers of e.g. 12 MW have electricity consumption down to a few kW and no consumption at high voltage. Older types may have a standby consumption of 5-10 %. The above-mentioned new generation of electrode boilers operate in such a way that the voltage is kept in the boiler, without applying any power. Using this technology, the only "stand-by consumption" is related to internal pumps, and electric boilers can start with close to no standby consumption. Considering the very low standby demand, in many plants it is chosen to keep the boiler operating in standby mode in order to be able to utilize the electrode boilers immediately when necessary.

Alternatively, it is possible to offer regulating power from cold start, hence eliminating the need for a standby consumption. This is made possible with ramp-up times of approx. 5 minutes in cold start situations, typically being shorter than necessary to participate on e.g. the power balancing market. However, due to the above-mentioned minimal standby consumption, operation on electrode boilers in standby is very common. The load shift from 0-100 % of nominal capacity is approx. 30 seconds. [8] [9]

Most older electrode boilers, built before 2010-12, have been modified, making it possible to ramp up from 0 % to 100 % of the nominal capacity within 30 seconds. Thus, the early boilers today have the same technical specifications in terms of start-up times and energy efficiency as the new built.

Advantages/disadvantages
Advantages
Due to its very simple design, the electric boiler is very dependable and easy to maintain. The boiler has no built-in complex components, which may impede operation and maintenance. The boiler has quick startup and fast load response. It requires no fuel feeding systems and no stack.

Disadvantages
As the input energy is electricity, electricity prices thus constitute a major part of the operation costs. The operating costs are subject to the variation in the electricity prices (market dependent) and in electricity taxes.

In case electric boilers utilize power from thermal power production, exergetical losses will have to be considered in the evaluation of the total energy balance. Depending on the type of grid connection (full/limited), the availability of the electric boiler may be limited, as explained in the Brief technology description.

Environment

During operation, the electric boiler uses electricity and the environmental impact from operation depends on the origin of the electricity. Electric boilers have no local environmental impact.

Research and development perspectives

The technology is well developed, tested and commercially available [13]. Current and future development focus on the dynamic application of electric boilers according to the economic & legislative framework, rather than further development of the electric boiler itself. [8] [9] [15]

Examples of market standard technology

In 2024 the electric boilers in Denmark were 136 with a total capacity of 1860 MW [14]. The installed electric boiler capacity has doubled from 2019 to 2023 [15]

Technical aspects of applying electric boilers in district heating

The technical criteria for participating in the ancillary services of the Nordic electricity market vary in terms of the necessary start up times and the duration of activation. It is possible for both new and older boilers to participate in the markets, as most older boilers have been modified to meet the market demands.

Most distribution system operators (DSO) choose to offer limited grid access for electric boilers, thus limiting the available electric capacity for the boilers in hours of high load. Having the possibility of full grid access at all times typically results in higher expenses for the grid connection, worsening the economy of the electric boiler project. Depending on the DSO and the grid situation, a minimum load can be negotiated.

The techno-economic application of electric boilers in district heating

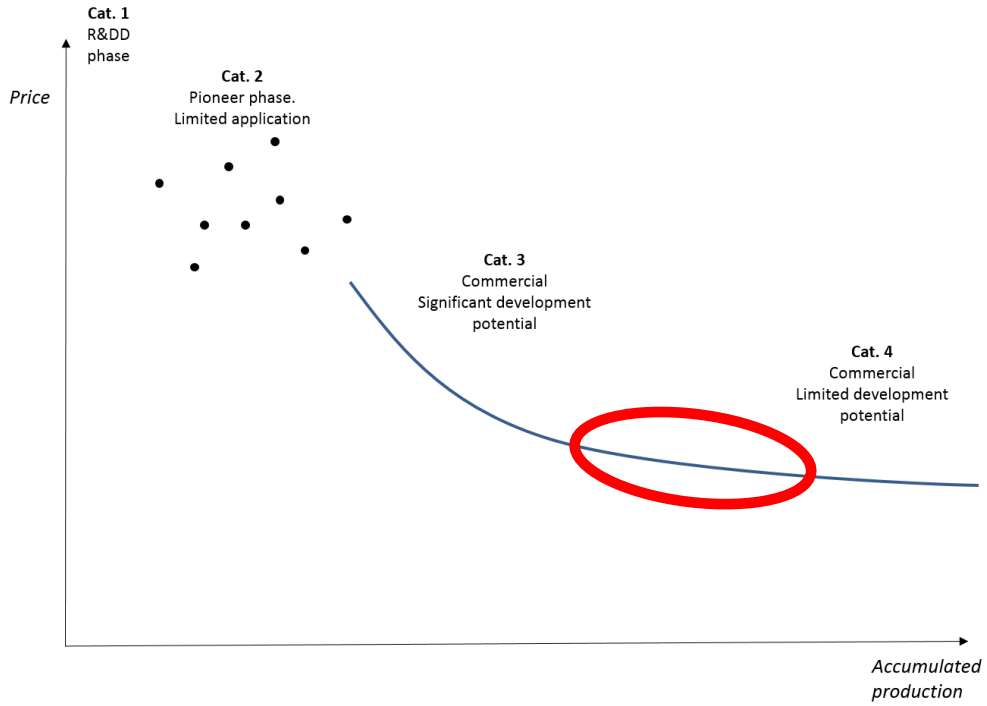
Electric boilers are normally operated as capacity regulation to the electricity system and investments have historically been driven by the chance of making a profit at the FCR market. However, there are also plants where electric boilers are included as peak load capacity for heat production. [13]

Prediction of performance and costs

Electric boilers are a mature technology. Further development is thus estimated to be limited to reductions in equipment costs, due to an increase in the volume of sales.

The likeliness of district heating companies to invest in electric boilers is dependent on market prices, as they affect revenues from the regulating power market and other flexible ways to offer (downward) regulating power. Electric boilers are important for maintaining grid balance as renewable energy production expands as they can enable a rapid operation that aligns with market conditions. As the above factors are subject to uncertainty, minimizing the planning security, no major development of electric boilers is expected. The development potential is assessed to be related to the market shares of electric boilers only, as opposed to further technological development.

Figure 3: Technological development phases. Correlation between accumulated production volume (MW) and price. Electric boilers are to be placed between category 3 and 4, with the main development potential being related to a possible increased market penetration ("Commercial, limited development potential").



Uncertainty

For electric boilers, the uncertainty is low, because electric boilers are categorized as category 3-4. It is assessed that there will be no major decreases in the equipment costs, as these would imply a strong increase in sales volumes (and vice versa).

Additional remarks

The operating costs of an electric boiler are highly dependent on the costs of electricity, i.e. the market price of electricity and currently applicable taxes and fees. Thus, heat production on electric boilers in e.g. a district heating plant can only compete with other heat production units at low electricity prices (e.g. in periods with high wind power production).

The number of full-load hours (heat) for electric boilers is assumed to be 500 according to the Guideline.

Data sheets

The following types and sizes are covered in these datasheets:

- Electric boilers with heat capacity lower or equal to 10 MW
- Electric boilers with heat capacity higher than 10 MW

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44 District Heating Boiler, Gas Fired

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Publication date
August 2016

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
January 2018	44 gas fired DH boiler	Updated prices for auxiliary electricity consumption in data sheet

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

The fuel is burnt in the furnace section. Heat from the flame is transmitted via radiation (and convection) to the inner walls of the boiler and from there to the water to be heated. After the combustion part, the hot flue gasses are led through the convection parts of the boiler and heat is transmitted to the water to be heated.

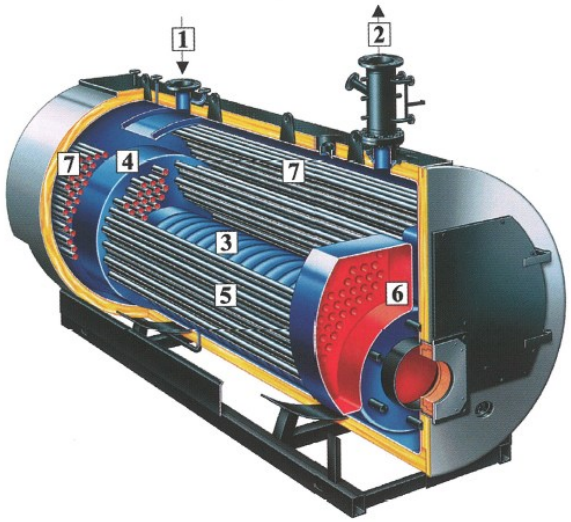
Shell and flue gas tube type boilers are the most commonly used type of boilers at Danish district heating plants.

The boiler may be fitted with an external heat exchanger (economizer) to utilise any remaining heat (including latent heat) in flue gasses.

Boilers for district heating have been used for decades. Today, many gas fired district heating boilers are used for peak-load or backup capacity. During periods with low electricity prices, gas fired district heating boilers have accounted for a relatively large part of the district heating production as it has been less feasible to operate the engines at CHP plants.

As illustrated in Figure 1, combustion takes place in the firetube (3). Flue gasses then pass inside a number of flue gas tubes ((5) & (7)) transmitting further heat to the boiler water around these. The water connections (forward/return) are on the top ((2) & (1)) [6].

Figure 1 Typical flue gas tube boiler for the power range 1- 20 MW



Input
Natural gas or biogas.

Output
District heat.

Typical capacities
0.5-20 MJ/s.

Regulation ability and other power system services
Gas fired boilers has a wide turn-up/turn-down ratio. The load can typically be adjusted within 15-100% load. If in operation, this can be done within a few minutes if needed.

If not heated, start-up of cold boilers often takes some 30 minutes.

Advantages/disadvantages
Advantages
Gas fired boilers are a proven and well-known technology. They can be supplied over a wide range of output capacities. Load response is good.

The boilers may also be used for heat extraction at medium- or high-temperature from waste process air.

Heat pumps, either electrical or absorption, may be added to utilize flue gas heat, thereby increasing the efficiency of the heat pump.

Disadvantages
When gas boilers are being fuelled with diesel or biogas, possibly in combination with natural gas, additional sulphur cleaning may be needed.

Environment
Sulphur, NOx and methane emissions when burning natural gas are low compared to biomass or waste fired boilers.

If condensing operation is used, the condensate must be treated to comply with local wastewater standards and regulations before being led to sewage systems. Such treatment often includes pH adjustment.

Research and development perspectives

Multi-fuel operation has been made possible (gas/oil) if supplied with burners for such operation. Biogas is also widely used in same type of boilers. Some boilers can be fitted with special burners for wood dust (e.g. from ground wood pellets) thus enabling conversion to biomass.

Examples of market standard technology

If operated with low return water temperatures (30-35 °C), a district heating boiler with economizer can achieve a fuel efficiency up to approx. 106-107% (lower heating value (LHV) reference).

Prediction of performance and costs

Boiler technology, including gas fired boilers, is a commercial technology with large deployment on both national and international scale. Gas boilers are a commercial technology with a moderate need for R&D, making it a category 4 technology.

Development of the burner technology or post treatment of flue gas may lead to lower emission levels.

Uncertainty

Uncertainty stated in the tables both covers differences between various products and differences related to the power span covered in the actual table.

A span for upper and lower product values is given for the year 2020 situation. No sources are available for the 2050 situation. Hence the values have been estimated by the authors.

No reliable sources are present for the uncertainty of the 2050 numbers listed. However, as a deployed, mature and highly fuel-efficient technology, there is relatively little uncertainty in performance numbers given.

Additional remarks

Power production units have been developed to be installed in connection with gas fired boilers. The flue gas from power production units can be used as preheated combustion air for the boiler burner.

45 Geothermal district heating

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Author (descriptions and data sheets updated): Troels Bruun Hansen, Rambøll

Amendments after publication date

Date	Ref.	Description
November 2025		Qualitative descriptions and datasheets updated. 2 datasheets with absorption heat pumps removed
June 2022		Updated with large-scale geothermal systems
April 2020		Updated qualitative description and datasheets. Datasheets are now divided into 1200 m and 2000 m depth, electric- and absorption heat pumps and two different district heating temperatures.
October 2019		Heat pump included in financial data for geothermal plants
May 2019		Variable O&M adjusted to include electricity consumption
April 2019		First published

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

A Geothermal district heating (DH) plant extracts heat from subsurface water reservoirs. Each plant consists of several wells and installations on the surface. Hot water (called the brine) is pumped from deep subsurface natural occurring reservoirs. The brine has a temperature below 100 °C and the heat is extracted using a heat exchanger and possibly a heat pump. Afterward, the heat-depleted brine is returned to the reservoir. The scope for this chapter is geothermal plants exploiting permeable sandstone reservoirs, as the data regarding e.g. Enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) or Hot Dry Rock (HDR) is still very sparse, cf. the section on Research and development perspectives.

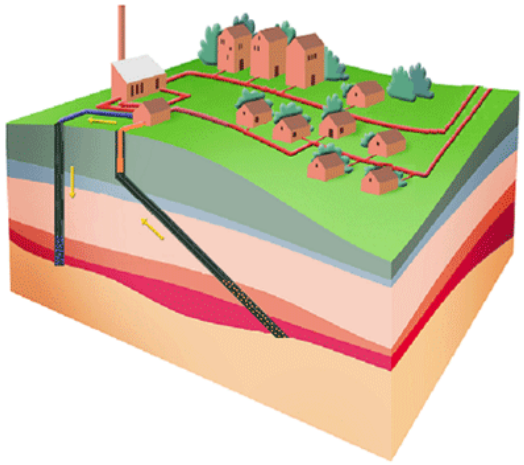
Recent definitions of geothermal energy include all heat from the ground. In the context of the technology chapter at hand, only heat production from deep wells (1.000 – 3000 m) is described. Other uses of ground source-based heat production and storage, such as ground source heat pumps and aquifer thermal energy storage can be found in our other Technology Catalogues:

- Technology Data for Individual Heating Installations
- Technology Data for Energy Storage

The geothermal potential of a well can be expressed by two key factors: The temperature of the reservoir and the permeability of the sedimentary layers found in the reservoir. On average, the temperature of the reservoir increases by around 25-30 °C per 1 km depth in Danish conditions. The permeability is roughly halved for every 300 m of depth [5]. Further, the thermal energy yield from a well is limited by the thickness and continuity of the reservoir layer.

In the typical system, warm geothermal water is pumped to the surface from one or more production wells, where heat is extracted via heat exchangers and possibly a heat pump. The heat-depleted brine is pumped back into the source reservoir via one or more injection wells to maintain the pressure. Figure 0 1 shows a system with two wells, a so-called doublet system. As shown, a certain lateral spacing in the reservoir between production and reinjection wells is necessary. This can be obtained with deviated well trajectories (as the figure shows) or, from a drilling point of view simpler, with vertical wells and a horizontal transmission pipe on the surface.

Figure 1: The principle of a doublet system geothermal plant producing into a DH system [7]



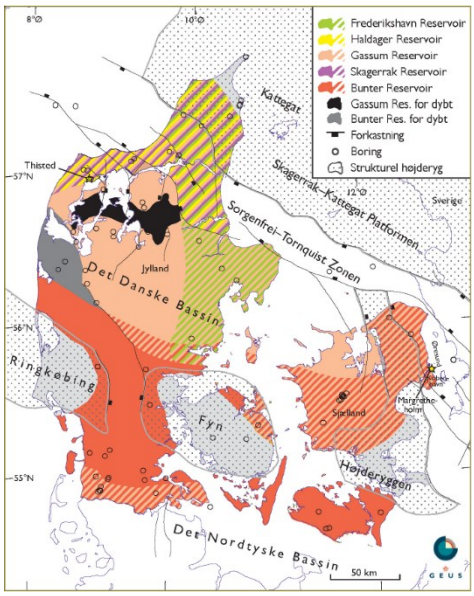
The heat from deep reservoirs can be utilized directly through a heat exchanger if the demanded temperature is lower than the temperature of the reservoir. Typically, heat pumps are applied to meet the demand temperature, as geothermal resources in Denmark in most cases are not sufficiently hot to utilize the heat directly. Likewise, the use of heat pumps increases production capacity by cooling the brine before reinjection. The geothermal water has a high content of salt - often 10-20% (weight-%) - and various other minerals.

Geothermal Potential in Denmark

The deeper geothermal resources in Denmark are mainly located in two deep, low-enthalpy sedimentary basins, the Norwegian-Danish Basin (marked as *Skagerak-Kattegat Platformen* in Figure 2) and the North German Basin (marked as *Det Nordtyske Bassin* in Figure 2). Comprehensive research based on seismic- and well data primarily from previous hydrocarbon exploration campaigns has shown that the Norwegian-Danish Basin contains several geological formations with sandstones of sufficient quality and temperature to serve as geothermal reservoirs [2].

The geothermal potential is situated in the sandstone formations, at depths of 800-3000 m, thickness ≥ 25 m. Grey and black areas in Figure 2 indicate that reservoirs do not exist or that they are situated too deep (>3,000 m) or too shallow (<800 m). [6] (Please refer to Annex 2 in [6] and [14] for further information regarding the specific reservoirs).

Figure 2: Fairway-map of regional geothermal potentials in Denmark

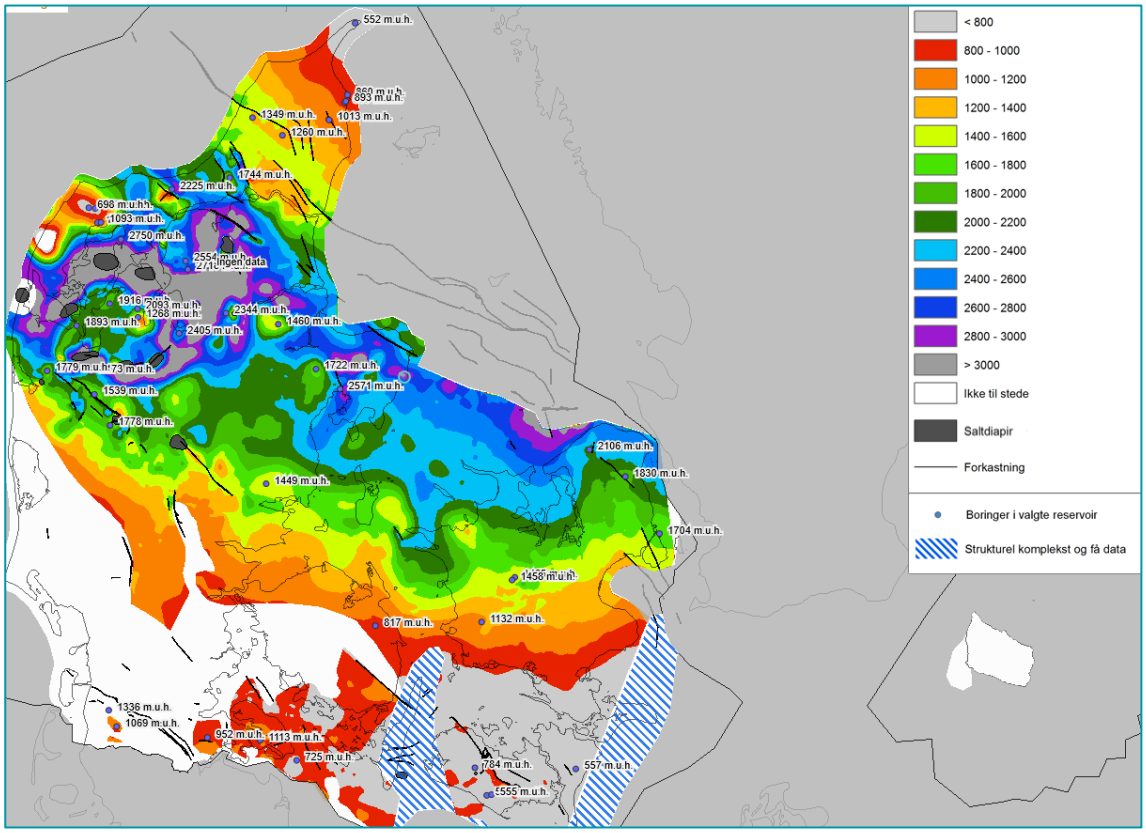


In a Danish context, the Gassum Formation is assessed to be most relevant in terms of a geothermal potential, which in Thisted, Sønderborg, Aarhus and Stenlille has shown the presence of good-quality sandstones with high permeabilities. Also, the higher Haldager Sand Formation and Frederikshavn Formation are relevant exploration targets in certain areas in Denmark. The Bunter Formation is the deepest residing Danish reservoir, exploited at Margreteholm, where it was found to have good transmissivity for the production of geothermal brine.

Typically, the permeabilities found in formations suitable for exploration are in the range of 100 to 1000 meters depth where the permeability decreases with depth. GEUS (The Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland) has developed a web portal, which provides a general tool for mapping geological formations of interest for geothermal energy in Denmark.

Figure 3 shows a map of the depth to the top of the Gassum formation across Denmark generated with this tool.

Figure 3: Depth to the top of the Gassum Formation in the Danish area (meters). Locations of wells encountering the Gassum Formation are indicated. Figure from GEUS WebGIS portal https://dybgeotermi.geus.dk/en/interactive-maps/ selected layers Gassum Fm and "Dybde til top".



Energy potential

The technical potential for producing geothermal energy for DH is generally assessed to be high in most parts of Denmark. But the geothermal potential for a specific location will vary according to the availability (thickness and permeability) of reservoir layers at that specific site, which in each case need to be assessed during an exploration phase.

The economic potential depends on the DH systems' locations and abilities to accommodate the produced heat and the heat production price of alternative heat-producing technologies.

Several investigations have been done by DH utilities and other companies regarding the potential of geothermal energy in specific areas. Further, a screening of the geothermal potentials in 28 Danish DH systems was carried out on behalf of the Danish Energy Agency in 2015 [5]. These 28 DH systems were assessed to be large enough to accommodate heat from a geothermal plant. The study evaluated the projects individually, according to especially two factors: the geothermal potential and the techno-economic system in which a geothermal resource would be applied, taking into consideration the setup of the existing DH system, as well as economic preconditions. Both factors show large variations across the country.

Geothermal District Heating

A key parameter in the design phase of a geothermal DH plant is the set of temperatures (supply/return) in the connected DH grid. Most of the existing Danish DH grids operate at a supply temperature of approx. 70-80 °C at the distribution level. As the temperature of the geothermal well is usually insufficient, it is often boosted using a heat pump. The efficiency of the heat pumps increases with lower temperature differences between

the heat source and heat sink, so reducing the DH supply temperature generally increases the feasibility of geothermal DH.

Another important factor regarding the operation phase is the pumping costs. The use of deeper reservoirs with higher temperatures will generally also increase pumping costs, due to lower permeability generally expected for deeper reservoirs. Thus, in a Danish context, it may be economically more attractive to extract heat from shallower reservoirs, typically at 1,000-3,000m depth, where temperatures are 35-90 °C. The heat pumps can either be compressor heat pumps driven by electricity or absorption heat pumps driven by heat, cf. the technology chapter 40 in this catalogue. The return temperature of the DH system is also crucial, possibly enabling direct heat exchange with the geothermal water for a part of the energy thereby increasing the overall system efficiency.

However, there are examples of projects, where the ambition is to achieve the required supply temperature without the use of heat pumps. Thus, direct use of geothermal energy may be possible also in a Danish context, making heat pumps redundant. However, avoiding heat pumps is a trade-off. While it does omit the investments in the heat pumps, the direct use of geothermal energy would also require deeper wells and increased pumping – both of which increase overall costs.

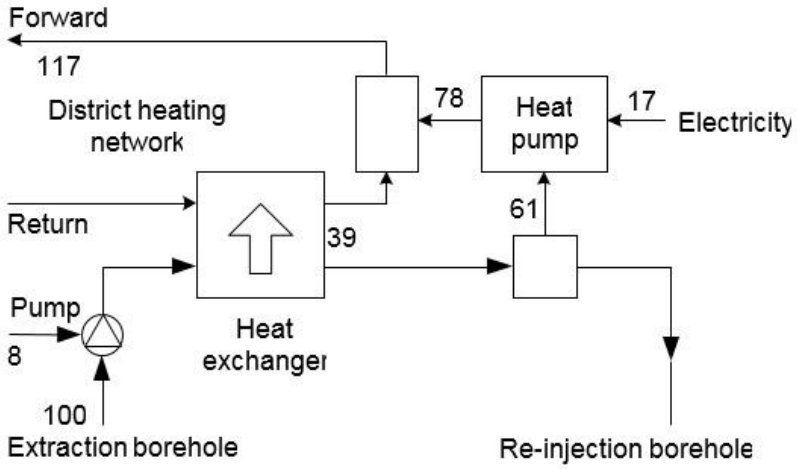
Combining Geothermal Wells with Heat Pumps

Increasing the supply temperature with heat pumps implies a higher reduction of the return temperature of the geothermal water before it is pumped back to the reservoir via the injection well, resulting in increased heat extraction from the geothermal water. However, the possibility of this depends on the chemistry of the water. Hence, applications with heat pumps could increase the efficiency by extracting more heat energy from the geothermal water but also increase the risk of clogging from minerals in the injection well.

Electricity consumption for the geothermal circulation pumps is normally 2-10 % of the heat extracted from the geothermal water [14], but the exact number depends on a range of factors, e.g. the depth and properties of the reservoir, and the cooling of the geothermal water.

In all cases, the energy used for the electrical submersible pump will to some extent be recovered as heat in the geothermal water. However, as a rough estimate, the heat losses in the well will correspond to the energy used for pumping, and thus 100 energy units are assumed available for DH.

Figure 4: Example of a system with an electric heat pump. The COP of the electric heat pump is approximately 4.6 and the total efficiency (COP) of the system is approximately 4.7.



As shown in Figure 4, electric heat pumps can extract relatively more geothermal energy than absorption heat pumps as their drive energy constitute a smaller part of the heat output. Note that the auxiliary energy in the above case is included in the total efficiency.

Input

The input is the heat from brine (saline water) from subsurface reservoirs. Indirectly, to increase the temperature to the appropriate level in DH systems, electricity or thermal energy is needed in heat pumps, cf. the above section regarding technology-combinations of geothermal wells and heat pumps. The thermal energy may be supplied as steam or high-pressure hot water, through the combustion of (bio-)fuels or as excess heat.

Electricity for submersible and reinjection pumps is also necessary.

Output

The output is thermal energy for DH. Please refer to the section on Research and development perspectives for an example of geothermal electricity production in a Danish context.

Typical capacities

10-50 MW per facility (e.g. 1-3 production wells and 2-6 injection wells) without heat storage. However, for large-scale facilities, the ratio between production and injection wells is expected to decrease when the ratio between the production and injection capacity in the well is balanced.

Examples of best available technology

Several plants using geothermal reservoirs, comparable to those in Denmark, are in operation in neighboring countries, e.g. Sweden, Germany and Poland, see e.g. [14], and [16]. The three Danish geothermal DH plants are:

- Thisted has produced thermal energy since 1984 for DH. (Nominally) 7 MJ/s heat is extracted from water (44 °C, cooled to 10-12 °C) by absorption heat pumps, driven by high-pressure hot water that is heated by either a waste incineration plant, natural gas or straw (boilers). The geothermal reservoir is

located approx. 1,300m below the surface. The production license was renewed in 2016 for another 30 years. A third well was drilled in 2017-18 as a supplementary injection well [11].

- Amager, established in 2005, is a demonstration plant, exploiting the Bunter reservoir at 2.6 km, with a temperature of 73-74 °C, cooling the geothermal water to 17 °C. Geothermal capacity is nominally 14 MJ/s. Three absorption heat pumps are used, driven by steam from the steam system in Copenhagen or the CHP plant located close to the geothermal plant. The facility was established as a demonstration facility and was not intended to deliver continuous input to the DH system. The facility was connected to the peak load system at Amagerværket until 2013 when it was re-connected to the ordinary production system [1]. The facility has suffered numerous production issues, mostly due to clogging of the injection wells and heat pump failure and is currently not in operation (2020)[1]. The plant consists of 1 production well and 1 injection well.
- Aarhus, planning for 3 geothermal plants. Kredsløb and Innargi are planning to construct three geothermal plants called Skejby, Halmstadgade and Bautavej. The plant at Skejby is producing heat in 2025, while the two others are in the planning phase. The plants are combining geothermal heat with heat pumps to be able to deliver the required temperature and capacity for the district heating system in Aarhus. The total capacity from the 3 locations is expected to be 110 MW and the plants will produce approx. 20% of the district heating in Aarhus [21], [22].

Research and development perspectives

The International Energy Agency (IEA) expects the major development in geothermal energy to be increasing deployment of geothermal power production. However, increasing deployment of geothermal energy for heating purposes is mentioned as an area of development too. Furthermore, the two applications of geothermal energy overlap to some extent, e.g. regarding drilling technology [4].

The following areas of development are assessed to be the main development objectives:

- New technologies:
  - Hot Dry Rock (HDR) (internationally): Heat extraction from hot dry rock layers at e.g. 3,000-4,000 m below the surface. The challenge is to increase the extremely small natural fractures, allowing water to be heated to temperature levels, where it can be used for electrical power production. As there are still expected to be water-bearing geothermal potentials in Denmark that are to be explored, which are significantly easier to exploit, HDR is not expected to gain significance in Denmark in the short- and midterm perspective.
  - Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) (internationally): Making it possible to exploit geothermal heat in impermeable solid rock formations. Still in a very early phase.
  - Closed loop deep geothermal in dual piping: Closed loop concept with the supply and return in the same pipe, where the hot fluid is in the middle and the cold in the outer part of the pipe. The pipes can be longer than traditional geothermal pipes, because they can be horizontal in the bottom [23].
- New deep drilling technologies and improvement of existing (horizontal, multiwells) drilling technologies, resulting in possible cost reduction for deep wells of approx. 25 % [3]
- Improved design and operation of plants [3]:
  - Well design and completion[2], the definition of suitable materials, e.g. composite-material well-casing, reservoir stimulation, prevention of formation-damage, high-temperature-high-pressure tools, etc.). Potential to reduce operation and maintenance costs by at least 25 %
  - Improvement of pump technologies, resulting in a reduction of the electricity demand by up to 50 %

[1] Ingeniøren 17.01.2020.
[2] An improved well design is carried out in Thisted in 2017, where a new reinjection well is designed with larger dimension and finer lining, resulting in the pressure drop and thus resulting in less needed pumping effect. [11]

- Better utilization of the geothermal resources could furthermore be achieved by lowering the DH temperatures. This would increase the system COP, thus improving the operation economy of the solution.
- Large-scale plant effects are expected to reduce CAPEX primarily as a result of the repeatability factor in particular related to well establishment. The reference case suggests that the costs could potentially be reduced by 15% every time the number of wells is doubled.

Furthermore, strategic international cooperation regarding the mapping of geothermal resources is expected to support the achievement of the above aims. Parts of the above aims are also mentioned in [4].

Regulation ability and other system services

The geothermal flow should, as a rule, be operated continuously. However, in combination with electrical heat pumps, up- and down-regulating services can be provided. Up-regulation by turning off heat pumps (reducing the electricity consumption) and down-regulation by increasing the power consumption (and hence output) of the heat pumps. In this case, the operation can be varied from 20 to 100 %. The flexibility can also be obtained by applying heat storage. This is, however, only relevant to a limited extent, since the geothermal production is primarily baseload and, in general, will be operated as such. However, the addition of batteries to the geothermal facility can enable it to deliver additional services to the electricity market.

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages:

- Low costs in the operational phase
- high efficiencies
- Renewable energy source and environmentally friendly technology with low or no direct CO_2 emission
- Potential for combination with other production technologies and heat storage
- Limited area requirement
- No noise
- No direct emissions
- Local resource – security of supply
- Stable long-term production costs, once in operation
- Potential in many areas in Denmark

Disadvantages:

- A high geological risk persists until the first exploration well has been drilled and the reservoir has been tested
- High investment costs
- Extensive project period for development and construction
- Needs access to a heat sink with a corresponding baseload or a long-term storage
- The best reservoirs are not always located near cities (can partly be addressed through transmission pipes)

Environment

The utilization of geothermal energy does not result in any local emissions. The largest challenge is the handling of geothermal water on the surface. At startup, the loop is opened to save on filter capacity and for the first few hours, the water is led to a recipient, if possible. Noise during the construction phase is an issue. Drilling is typically ongoing 24 hours a day for 3 months.

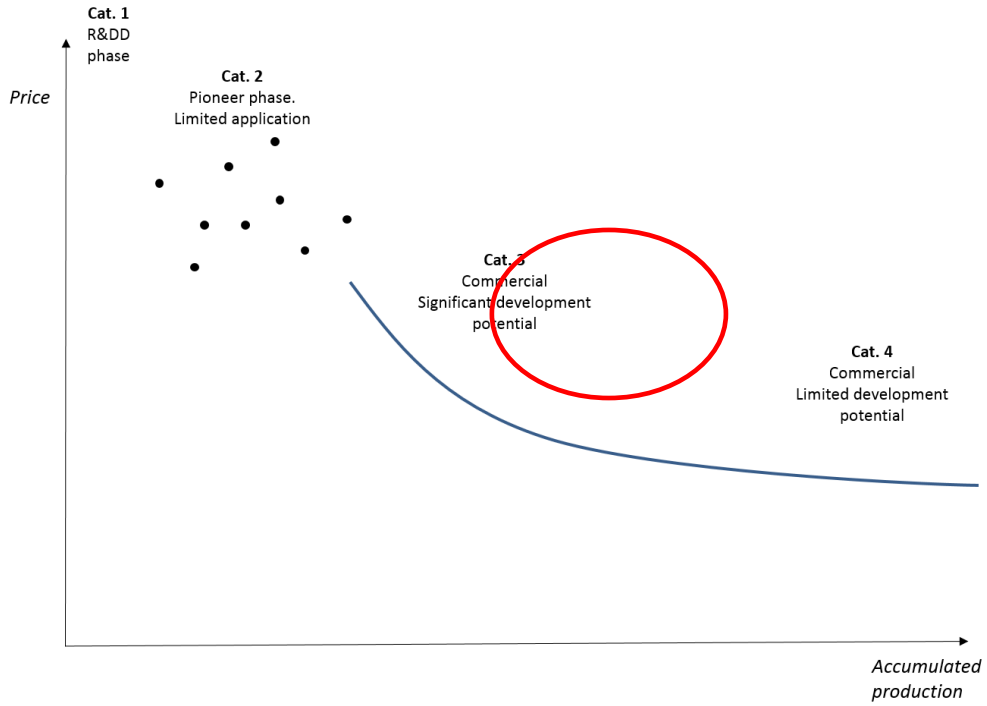
Indirectly, in the case of the application of thermally driven heat pumps, there may be environmental considerations, related to the energy source/fuel used to drive the heat pump. Correspondingly, when electric heat pumps are chosen, there may be emissions related to electricity consumption.

Prediction of performance and costs

Geothermal energy has a significant development potential and provides adequate risk mitigation, geothermal DH technology could reach a level of commercialization enabling it to have a significant application in the supply of DH in Denmark.

Therefore, geothermal DH in a Danish context is categorized in Category 3 “Commelcial. Significant development potential”.

Figure 5: Technological development phases. Correlation between accumulated production volume (MW) and price



Geothermal DH is based on proven technology in the oil business (geophysical surveys, drilling, etc.). There are barriers to further deployment – these are mainly non-technical barriers e.g. handling of the risks related to the initial exploration and drilling costs.

There is a potential for technological development. Plants are now in operation in more locations in Denmark and several Danish feasibility studies have assessed the commercial improvement potential for up-scaling [18] [19] [21] [22].

Cost reductions can be achieved when building plants in larger series owing to, among others, the following factors [17]:

- Learning curve for well construction: The average drilling time per well declines as a larger series of wells is sequentially produced since the rig's operational performance is gradually optimized and the geology becomes better known.
- Lower average fixed establishment costs per unit: The drilling rig's mobilization/demobilization costs are divided between a larger number of wells rather than between 4 to 6 wells.
- Economies of scale when ordering: Lower prices for equipment and services can be obtained when a large order is tendered (classic quantum discount).
- Lower average engineering cost per unit, e.g. with scalable modularized facilities.

- Lower operating costs, e.g. fewer employees are required per MW to operate plants in larger series and spare parts stocks may be reduced with standardized design.

Uncertainty

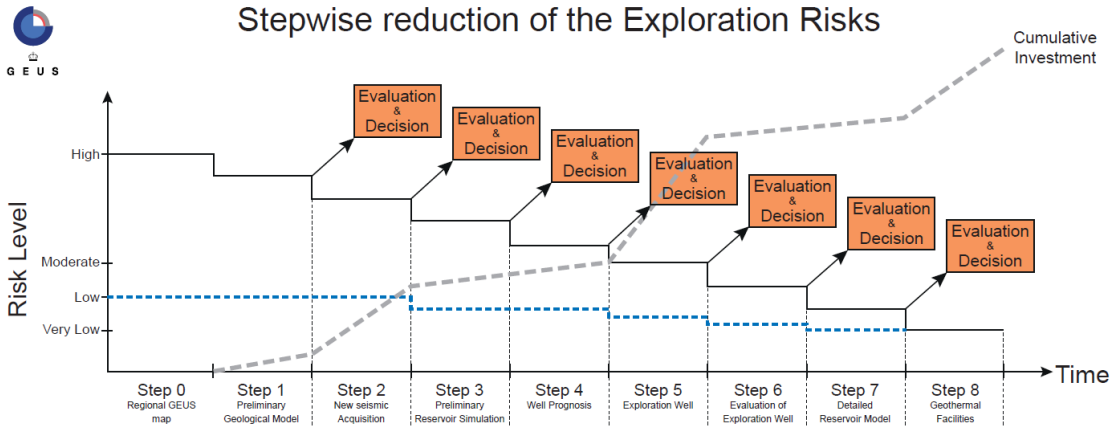
Geothermal projects are generally connected with relatively high uncertainty compared to other heat generation technologies. The uncertainty is mostly in the early phases of the projects, e.g. the drilling phase, after that phase the uncertainty is much lower and similar to other heating production plants. The economy and performance of specific projects may vary significantly with the geological conditions at different locations. Since uncertainties mostly lead to negative impacts on the project economy, they can be interpreted from a risk perspective.

Exploration and construction risks

The initial assessment of the geothermal potential before the drilling and testing of an exploration well depends on available seismic and geological surveys, quality of models, performance data for and distance to reference wells, etc. The uncertainties for a given geothermal project must be continuously evaluated throughout the project from the initial screening and idea phase to the commissioning in case the project is carried out. The risk linked to geothermal projects is thus highest in the early project phases and can be significantly decreased by carrying out test wells. However, the risk of an initiated project not leading to an operational plant remains high, until the first drillings are evaluated positively.

As a rule of thumb, the project uncertainties can be mitigated by having a continuous risk management process with the participation of relevant stakeholders. The risks should be reviewed at each step/decision (in the illustration below). The risk/uncertainty process should look at technical, commercial, and regulatory/permitting items, and generally also address the project organization and the responsibilities of each party. The risk will drop significantly after step 5 when the exploration well has been drilled and tested. Upon non-optimal technical parameters, the project group must be able to drop/stop the project as non-economically feasible.

Figure 6: Illustration of the correlation between accumulated investment costs and risk reduction in the fundamental steps of geothermal projects. The black line illustrates the risk level in a green field project, where no or very little knowledge about the geological and seismic preconditions does exist. The blue dotted line illustrates the risk level in a project, where basic knowledge about the seismic and geological preconditions does exist, resulting in lower risk levels in early project stages. The figure is a translated version of Figure 30 in [10].

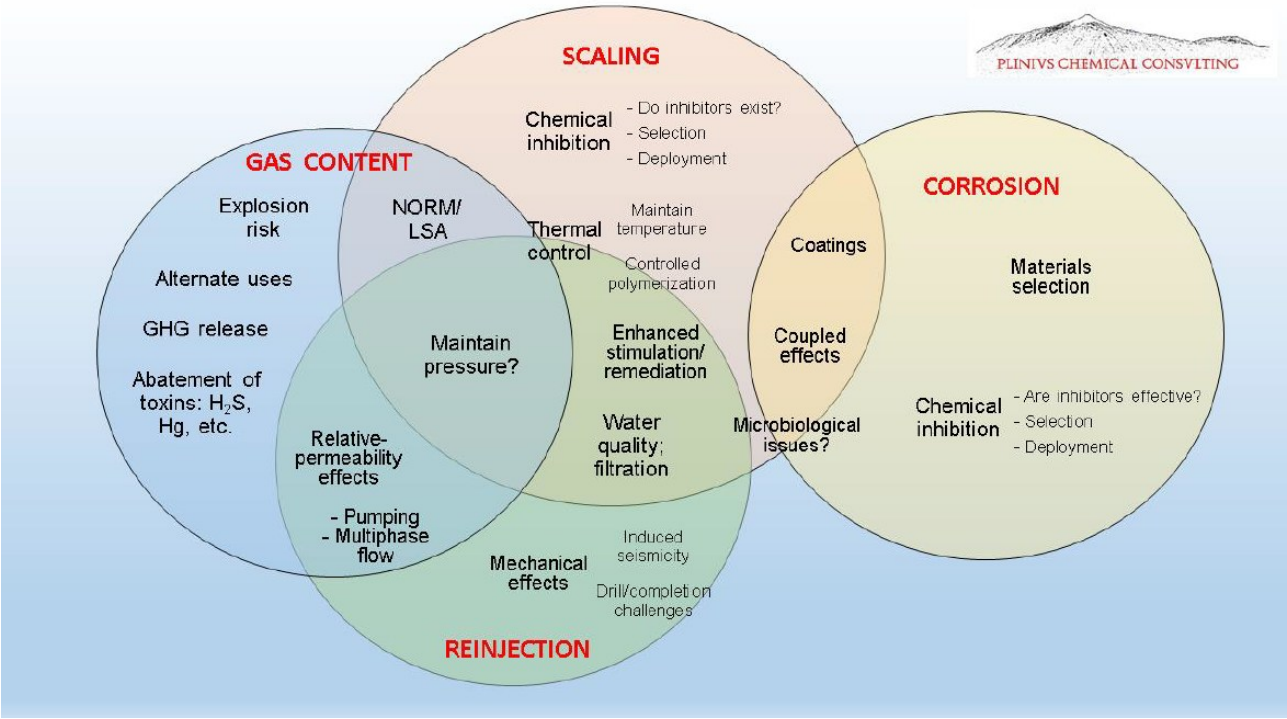


Besides the uncertainty regarding the geothermal potential of a specific reservoir at a specific location, especially the drilling process is also uncertain in terms of duration, which implies a relatively high-risk level on CAPEX budgets. Thus, a relatively high contingency is usually included in the budget for drilling projects.

Risks in the operational phase

The risk of a geothermal project is not only present in the project development and construction phase. Certain risks remain during the operational phase. Two of the three geothermal plants in Denmark (Sønderborg and Margretheholm) have discontinued the operation owing to long-lasting operational issues, and it is at present unknown whether they will resume operation. The operational issues in one of these plants initially pertained to the precipitation of radioactive material on the inside of the geothermal well casings, leading to reduced injectivity, combined with other technical problems, e.g. the heat pumps. The operational issues related to the other concern incremental injection degradation, probably due to, among other things, incorrect selection of sand (gravel pack) for the screens. These two types of operational issues are well known by geothermal companies in other countries.

Figure 7: Mapping of operation phase issues and interdependencies from the OPERA workshop [16]



The overview in [16] shows typical operational issues (not all of which have been seen in Denmark) in geothermal plants in Denmark, along with Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Turkey, and show how operational issues can be accommodated to prolong the wells' lifespan and increase the wells uptime and production efficiency.

Large efforts are put into understanding how to mitigate the risks in the operational phase. Careful initial exploratory analysis before design and installation, e.g. analysis of water chemistry before the final design of the production facility, together with correct operation and maintenance of the plant is crucial to reduce the risks during the operational phase.

There is a risk that injection wells must be re-drilled before the projected plant life of 25 years, thereby adding significant unforeseen costs to the project. High specific flow rates through injection wells have a significant impact on the risk during operation. This can be mitigated by assuming 2 injection wells per production well in this chapter as opposed to the usual doublet system. Further, it is assumed in this chapter that the risk of

precipitations and resulting clogging of reservoirs will be reduced by limiting the cooling of geothermal brine to 35 K.

Timeline for exploration and construction phase

The construction time in the datasheets is counted from the final investment decision and therefore excludes the project development and exploration phase following the guideline. This, however, adds a significant amount of time to the total time from project initiation to plant commissioning.

The duration of the exploration phase can vary, but it is estimated to be two to three years, and the construction phase two to four years, depending on the size of the plants. Total project time may thus be between five and seven years before the plant is commissioned. The duration of the exploration phase also depends on collaboration between the relevant parties in the process.
For large-scale plants, i.e. plants with approximately 3-6 production wells and 3-6 injection wells, the construction time is expected to be around four to six years. For a smaller size, i.e. plants with 1-2 production and injection wells, the construction time is estimated to be 3-4 years. The repeatability factor will reduce the time per well significantly by the number of additional wells to be established.

Before drilling in the exploration phase, the best well positioning needs to be identified both in terms of the subsurface geology and the distance to the existing DH grid. It may be necessary to re-visit the heat supply plans.
After an exploration well has been drilled, the development will be refined and adapted based on the exploration well's test results. This work can take several months. For plants in a larger series, it may be considered to drill two exploration wells and perform pulse tests between them to map the subsurface between the two wells.
The two to the three-year duration of the exploration phase is partly attributable to a possibly long delivery time on equipment (long lead items). Thus, additional time may be required from when the investment decision is made and the first equipment to the well is ordered until drilling can commence. At the same time, once the investment decision has been made, other activities must be initiated, such as the procurement process and obtaining authority permits.

More information on this subject is found in the subsection about geothermal energy on www.ENS.dk and [10].

Additional remarks

The number of full-load hours for geothermal heating is assumed to be 6,000, according to the guidelines for this technology data catalog.

The number of full-load hours available will depend on other heat production capacities present in the district heating system in which a geothermal plant is operating. E.g. waste incineration or solar thermal would influence the operation strategy of geothermal DH.

European examples of geothermal DH plants (Germany, Poland, Sweden, France, etc.) can be found in [2], [14], and [16].

Quantitative description

The heat generation costs for geothermal energy primarily depend on geological data (reservoir depth, thickness, permeability and temperature) and the heating system (heat demand, duration curve, and forward/return temperatures). The quantitative description contains data that are expected to represent realistic conditions for geothermal plants in Denmark based on current knowledge and experience. However, it shall be noted that the geological conditions may vary substantially from one site to another.

For the context of this catalog, five different scenarios for geothermal DH are described, varying by the factors

- reservoir depth with anticipated temperature (1200m/46 °C and 2000m/65 °C)
- supply and return temperature in the connected DH-grid (80/40 °C and 70/35 °C)
- large scale geothermal facility

Thus, scenarios 1.a and 1.b describe possible plant designs for DH plants with a supply temperature of 80 °C and a return temperature of 40 °C. In scenarios 2.a and 2.b, a system with a supply temperature of 70 °C and 35 °C return is presumed. Scenarios 2.a and 2.b are primarily to be used to evaluate the effect of temperature decreases on the secondary side when comparing 1.a with 2.a and 1.b with 2.b respectively. The assumptions in the given scenarios are collected in the datasheets. In addition, a scenario for a large-scale geothermal plant has been included for comparison (scenario 3). The provided large-scale data are based on one case only and thus it should be expected that the potential well yields may change with the local reservoir characteristics.

The underlying data have been derived from geothermal conditions from six operating geothermal plants (reference plants) where reservoir characteristics are comparable to expected conditions in Denmark[3]. For the large-scale facility, one specific case from Denmark has been applied.

Table 2: Scenario-overview for described combinations of the geothermal reservoir, heat pumps and DH temperatures.

	Reservoir temp. [°C]		Reservoir depth	DH temp. [°C]	
Scen.	T_{res}	T_{reinj}	m	T_{supply}	T_{return}
1.a	46	10	1,200	80/40	
1.b	65	10	2,000		
2.a	46	10	1,200	70/35	
2.b	65	10	2,000		
3	65	10	2,000	80/40	

Energy data

The corresponding energy production data and need for auxiliary energy input have been assessed based on design and operating experiences from the above-mentioned reference plants:

- Production wells:
  - 1 production well
- Reinjection wells:
  - 1 reinjection wells
  -

For the a-scenarios (1200 m reservoir depth) this results in 14 MW_h and for the b-scenarios (2000 m reservoir depth) 21 MW_h.

Scenario 3 (2000 m reservoir depth) is based on similar reservoir parameters as the above but with 3 production wells and 3 injection wells with similar specific flows. This results in 62 MW_h.

The thermal effect in the datasheet is stated as a heat source from the geothermal reservoir for the given amount of wells with a given flow and a given temperature (th_{geo}) and the energy added as drive energy for a heat pump (th_{HP}; electricity for electrical heat pumps or net heat from a boiler for absorption heat pumps).

[3] Thisted, Neustadt-Glewe, Neubrandenburg, Pyrzyce, Stargard and Torun, in accordance with [14].

If the reservoir temperature exceeds the return temperature of the connected DH grid by more than 4 K (assumed loss of a heat exchanger), direct heat exchange is assumed to cover as much as possible of the heat production. The remaining geothermal heat is presumed to function as a heat source for a heat pump.

The efficiency for both the geothermal part and the heat pumps is given by [20].

Table 3: Key energy data cf. the technology datasheets.

	DH temp. [°C]	Thermal power, total	Thermal power, geothermal	Thermal power, heat pumps	Electricity consumption for pumps etc.
Scen.	T_{supply}/T_{return}	[MW]	[MW]	[MW]	[kWh_{el}/kWh_{geoth}]
1.a	80/40	11.4	9.4	2	0.1
1.b		13.2	12.2	1	0.1
2.a	70/35	10.9	9.4	1.5	0.1
2.b		12.7	12.2	0.5	0.1
3	80/40	62	52	10	0.1

The total efficiency for a geothermal plant is calculated as the total heat output divided by the energy input, i.e. the energy input for both heat pumps and auxiliary electricity. The energy consumption for submersible and circulation pumps is assumed in the case of reservoir depth 1200 m to be 25% of the total electricity consumption kWh_{el}/kWh_{geoth} and for reservoir depth 2000 m to be 30% of the total electricity consumption as the pumping requirement increases with lower permeability generally expected for deeper reservoirs.

Financial data

The stated cost and performance data cover the geothermal plant itself, as well as investments in heat pumps. Cost and performance data including learning curve effects for heat pumps have been taken from the relevant chapter of the Technology Catalogue, i.e. heat pumps from Ch. 40 and through dialogue with [20].

The boundaries for the financial data are outlined in Figure 8.

The financial data are given based on the total heat capacity (output) delivered by the geothermal plant to the DH system. However, the data is presented so that it becomes transparent which shares of costs relate to heat pumps and which to the geothermal plant itself.

The investment costs for a geothermal plant have been based on actual data from [20]. Note that investment costs for plants with deeper wells may be considerably higher, as drilling equipment requirements, well dimensions, etc. will increase.

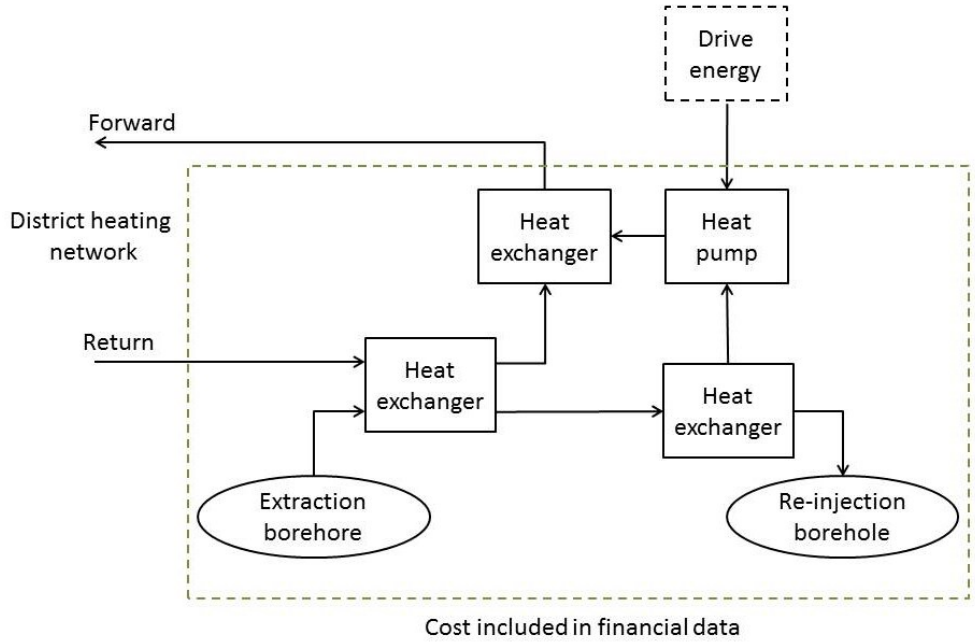
The investment cost for a large-scale geothermal plant has been based on data from one specific plant [20]. Most noteworthy is the repeatability factor which reduces the CAPEX with the added number of wells.

The data sheet 45.3 for large scale plants has been revised to split the costs into the following parts:

- Well and down-hole equipment
- Heat pump incl. installation
- Surface installations excl heat pump

In addition to the above nominal investments an abandonment cost (ABEX) has been added (expected to be approximately 7.5% of the nominal investment) [20]

Figure 8 Included in financial data in data sheets



Cost components of a geothermal plant

The estimated project cost in 2025, for a 12 MW geothermal plant 1.a - 1,200 m reservoir depth with electrical heat pump is approx. 2.5 MEUR/MW.

Definitions

COP:	Coefficient of Performance of a heat pump at a certain moment of operation. The ratio between energy output and energy input.
EGS:	Enhanced Geothermal Systems
Electric heat pump:	Heat pump using electricity as drive energy for a compressor
HDR:	Hot Dry Rock
System-COP:	Coefficient of Performance of the total geothermal / heat pump system, including electricity demand for pumps, etc.

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- www.geus.dk, knowledge on subsurface resources
- www.egec.org, European Geothermal Energy Council, Association based in Brussels representing the geothermal sector in Europe
- www.geothermalcommunities.eu, demonstrates the best available technologies in the use of geothermal energy combined with innovative energy-efficiency measures and integration of other renewable energy sources at three different pilot sites (Hungary, Slovakia and Italy)
- Energy Technology Perspectives 2012 – Pathways to a Clean Energy System, pp 490-491 includes an overview of global deployment and investment needs, as well as technology milestones and policy recommendations.
- Dutch TNO has developed an application DoubletCalc, which indicates the nominal values for flow (m^3/h) and energy potential (MWh) with user input values for the geological properties etc. DoubletCalc is freeware. See http://www.nlog.nl/en/tools

46 Solar District Heating

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Publication date

October 2018

Brief technology description

Collecting energy from the sun using it to heat water is a technology, which has been in use for many years. Today, more than 580 million m^2 of solar collectors are installed around the globe, with a total installed capacity of 410 GW_{th}. Although the majority of this capacity is used for small domestic hot water systems, the fastest growth rate is for large systems (mainly for district heating) [1].

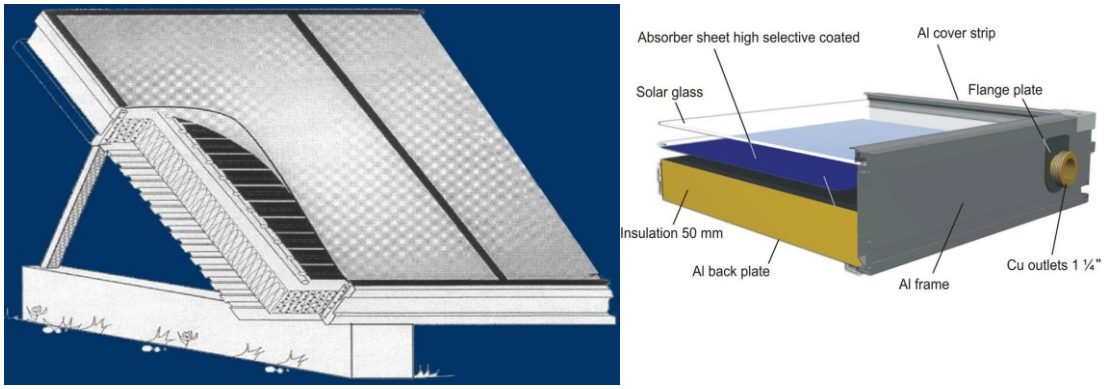
Three different types of solar panels are produced:

- Flat Plate Collectors (FPC) (Basic principle)
- Evacuated Tubular Collectors (ETC)
- Concentrated Solar Power (CSP)

Flat plate large module collectors are by far the most common collector type used for district heat in Denmark. ETC-collectors are more efficient than flat panels at higher temperatures, but also more expensive. CSP can produce heat at high temperatures. It is possible to combine different collector types in one system; e.g. using flat plate collectors in the "cold section" of the field in order to preheat the heat transfer-fluid before evacuated tubes or CSP collectors in the "hot section". Currently one solar heating plant has both flat plate panels and CSP (Taars). Due to the applicability in the context of Danish district heating, focus in this catalogue is on FPC.

As shown in Figure 1, the principle of flat solar panels in a district heating system is to absorb the solar energy in order to heat a fluid. Corrugated copper or aluminium-sheets serve typically as absorber, with the transfer-fluid being circulated behind these. The absorbers are surrounded by a glass layer, protecting the absorber from the surrounding environment. The back of the panel is insulated, in order to reduce heat loss, cf. Figure 2. The heat is transferred from the circulated fluid to district heating water via a heat exchanger.

Figure 1 Basic principle of a flat plate solar collector



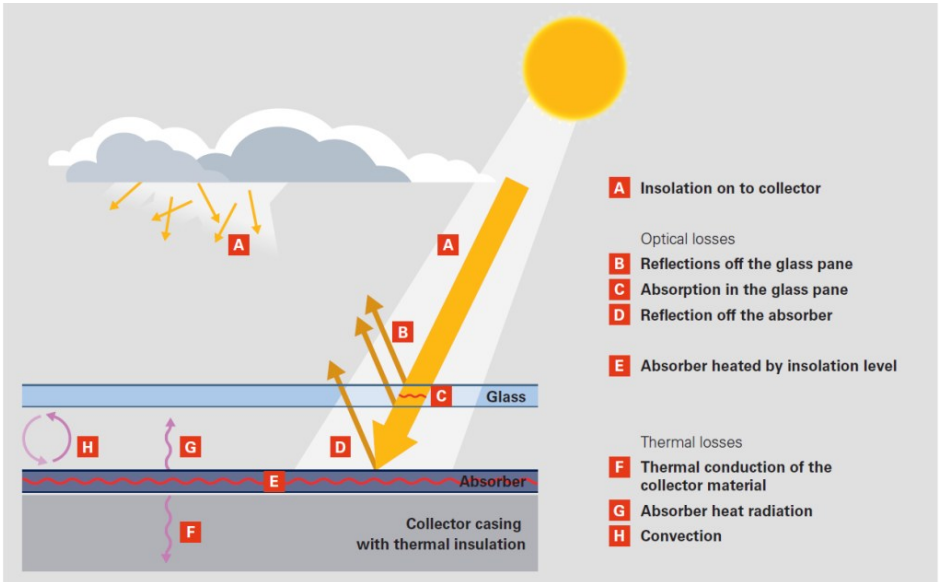
For district heating systems, the collectors are typically installed on the ground in long rows connected in series. In Danish systems, the solar heating system normally takes in the return water and heats it up to the desired forward flow temperature. All plants have the solar collectors mounted on the ground. Ground mount foundations can be concrete blocks, concrete foundations or steel foundations.

In principle, solar district heating is operating all hours of the year, but of course, the heat production depends on the solar irradiation, weather conditions, time of day and the season of the year. The seasonal variation can be compensated using a seasonal storage. Typical performance of large solar collector fields in Denmark is ca. 450 kWh/m^2/year. This corresponds to an efficiency of around 40 % (40 % of the solar irradiation is utilized).

Efficiency and energy yield

The yield of a solar collector depends on the solar collector type and size, the solar radiation, the temperature of the collectors and the ambient temperature. The efficiency is defined by efficiency parameters, and values for these are available in the Solar Keymark Database [7], [8]. Figure 2 visualises the source of radiation, optical losses and thermal losses of a solar thermal system (FPC).

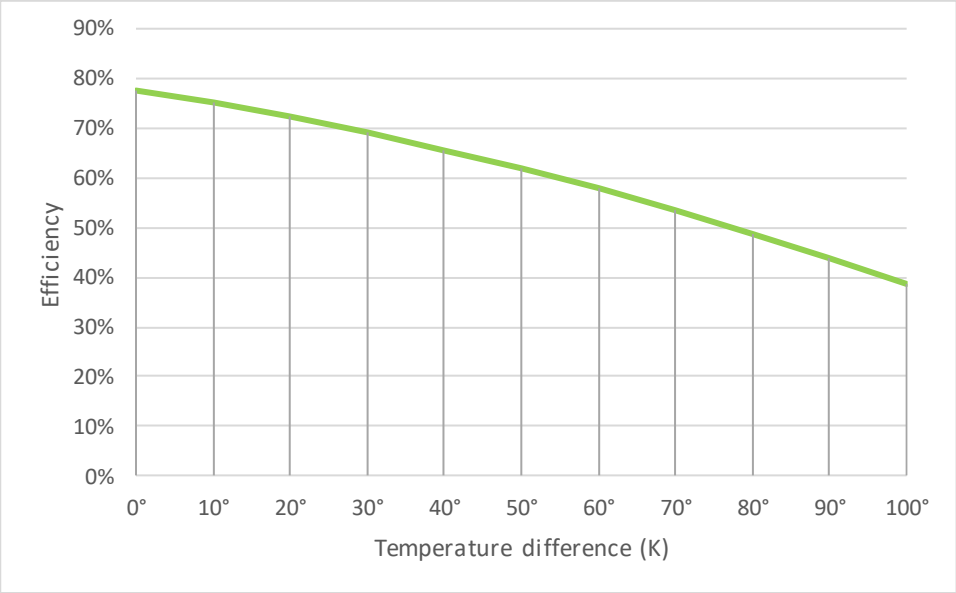
Figure 2 Example of utilisation rate of solar energy and effects influencing the efficiency. [10]



The efficiency of a FPC depends on the temperature difference between the ambient air and the average temperature of the fluids. The lower the temperature difference, the higher the efficiency. Therefore, the thermal performance at a given radiation level is higher at lower temperature differences. The efficiency

depends on the flow, since this is how the temperature difference is controlled. The dependency between efficiency and temperature difference is illustrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Efficiency as a function of temperature difference. (Based on data from [8], example with G=1.000 W/m², η_0=0.777, a_1=2.41, a_2=0.015)[1]



FPCs are typically produced in two product classes that differ by the energy efficiency of the collectors. Higher efficiencies may be achieved by applying an additional insulating layer, e.g. polymer foil or an extra layer of glass. The SUNSTORE 3-project [15] evaluated the business economic optimal ratio of FPC with/without an extra insulating layer for the solar district heating system for Dronninglund District Heating. In the project it was concluded that under the given circumstances regarding temperature levels, the economic optimum was to only install collectors with an extra insulating layer. In other projects, it is chosen to combine the two levels of insulation, in order to let the less insulated panels preheat the absorber fluid, before boosting it in the better insulated ones. Whether only high efficient or a combination of efficient and high efficient panels are installed, is evaluated from case to case.

The specific yearly thermal output of flat plate solar collectors is around 300-600 kWh/m^2, with an average of around 450 kWh/m^2 in the years 2012-2015. This shows variation due to solar radiation and site-specific conditions, as well as other aspects [4].

A performance guarantee may be given by the contractor. Fact Sheet 3.3 in [13] describes a method for performance guarantees. A performance guarantee may be given for certain operation situations at given solar radiation and temperatures (mean absorber fluid and outdoor temperatures). However, the guarantees provided by the producers do not ensure yearly specific annual thermal outputs. Yet given the performance guarantees, likely yearly outputs may be assessed quite accurately, when also taking into consideration the uncertainties regarding solar radiation and temperature variations.

Application of solar thermal systems in district heating systems

A solar thermal plant consists of:

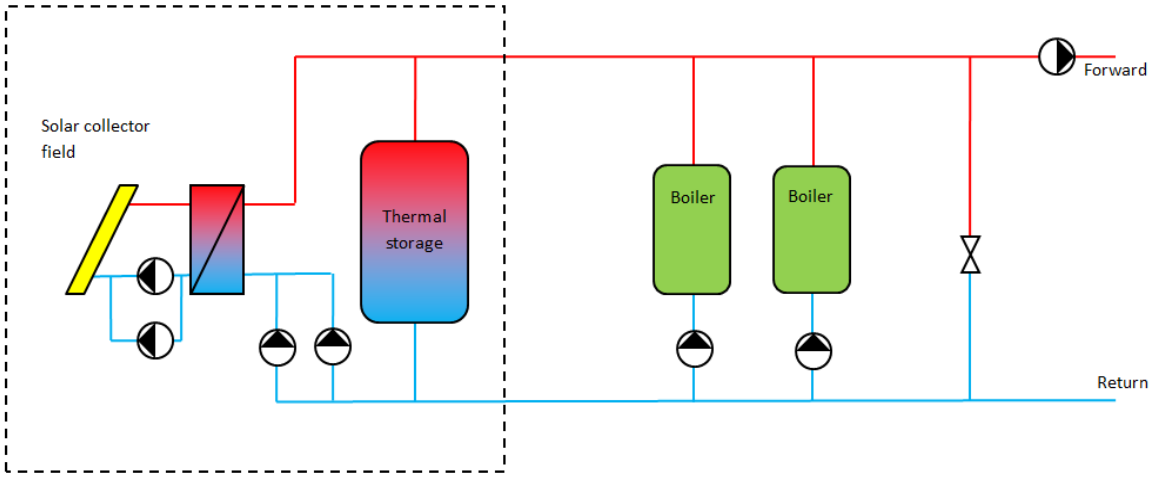
- Solar collectors
- Transmission pipeline

[1] G = Total (global) irradiance on the collector surface
η_0 = Maximum efficiency if there is no heat loss (also referred to as the "optical efficiency").
a_1 and a_2=first and second order heat loss coefficients cf. European Standard EN12975 for efficiency of solar collectors.

- Tank storage
- Tank and collection tank for heat-transfer fluid (e.g. glycol/water)[2]
- Heat exchanger, including pumps, valves etc.
- Integration of control with the existing plant

A schematic drawing of a solar thermal system integrated with a district heating grid can be seen in Figure 4.

Figure 4 Schematic drawing of a possible system integration of solar district heating [5]



When properly designed, solar collectors can work when the outside temperature is well below freezing, and they are protected from overheating on hot, sunny days.

All district heating systems equipped with solar heating utilize them as a supplement to other heat generating units, thereby ensuring that all consumers' heat demands are met, also when there is insufficient solar irradiation available.

The tilt of the collector panels can impact both annual total yield and production curve production over the year. Hence the tilt of the collector panels becomes an optimization parameter as production can be increased in the autumn at the expense of max. thermal effect and hence production during the summer (where the solar irradiation typically peaks).

Production of solar heating is taking place when the heat demand is lowest – both on daily and seasonal basis. The share of solar heating in a district heating system without heat storage is relatively low (5-8 % of yearly heat demand). Hence, the most common application is the combination of a solar thermal system with a diurnal heat storage, which will enable approximately 20-25 % share of solar district heating in a district heating system. A typical Danish system with a short-term heat storage of 0.1 - 0.3 m^3 per m^2 solar collector covers correspondingly 10 – 25 % of the annual heat demand [4].

Moreover, the combination with a seasonal heat storage can increase the share of solar heating to 30-50 % and in theory up to 100 %. Hence, there is an important synergy with seasonal storage technologies, cf. chapter 60 "Seasonal Heat Storage".

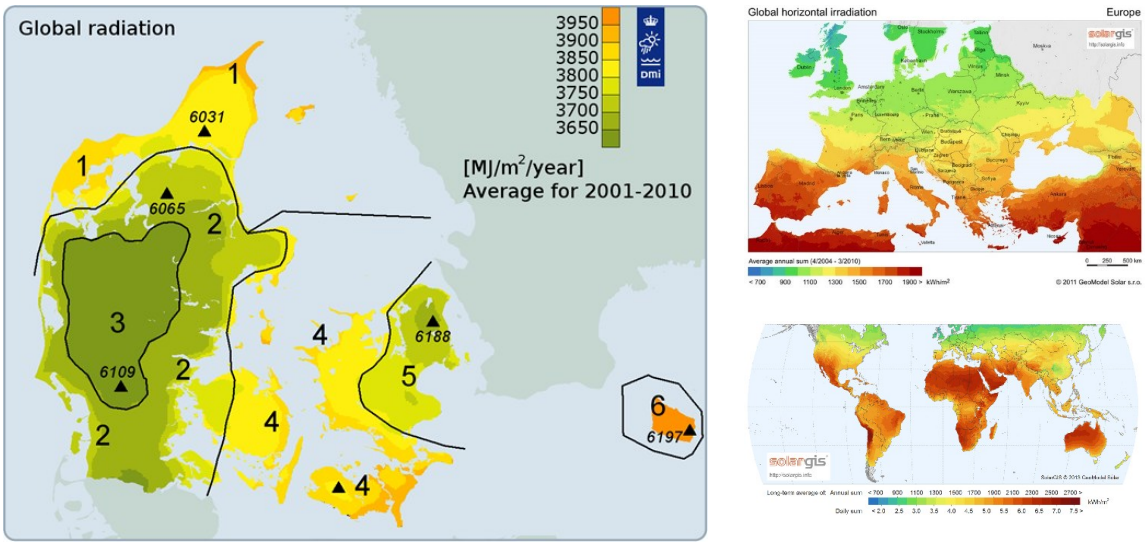
Input

The input is solar radiation.

[2] Circulated in the solar thermal collectors. The heat-transfer fluid is typically separated from the district heating water by a heat exchanger, cf. the illustration.

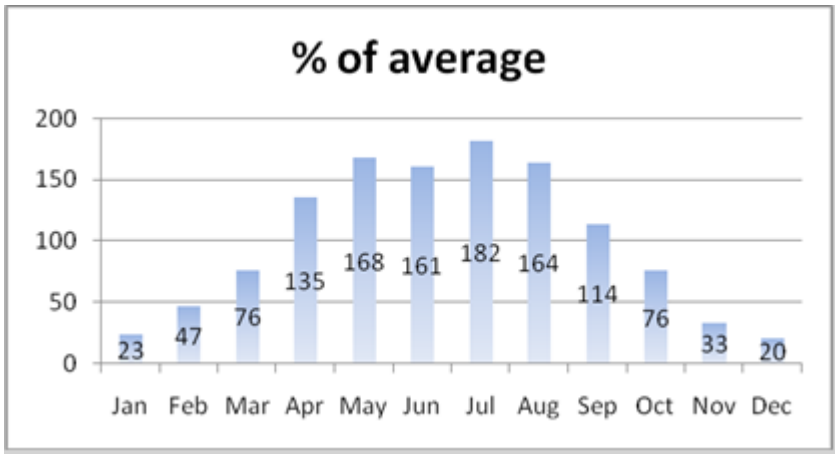
Outside the atmosphere of the Earth, the solar radiation is 1367 W/m^2 [6]. The solar radiation is highest perpendicular to the solar beams; this is why solar collectors in Denmark are placed with an angle of approximately 30-40 degrees, while also taking into consideration the cast of shadows [13].

Figure 5 The amount of radiation in Denmark, Europe and the World is illustrated in the maps [6].



As mentioned earlier, the production from solar collectors is highly depended on the seasonal variations of radiation. Figure 6 shows the seasonal variation of the heat generation from a typical solar collector in Denmark as generation in the specific month as the percentage of the average monthly generation.

Figure 6 The seasonal variation of heat generation from typical solar collectors in Denmark [3]



Output

Hot water for district heating.

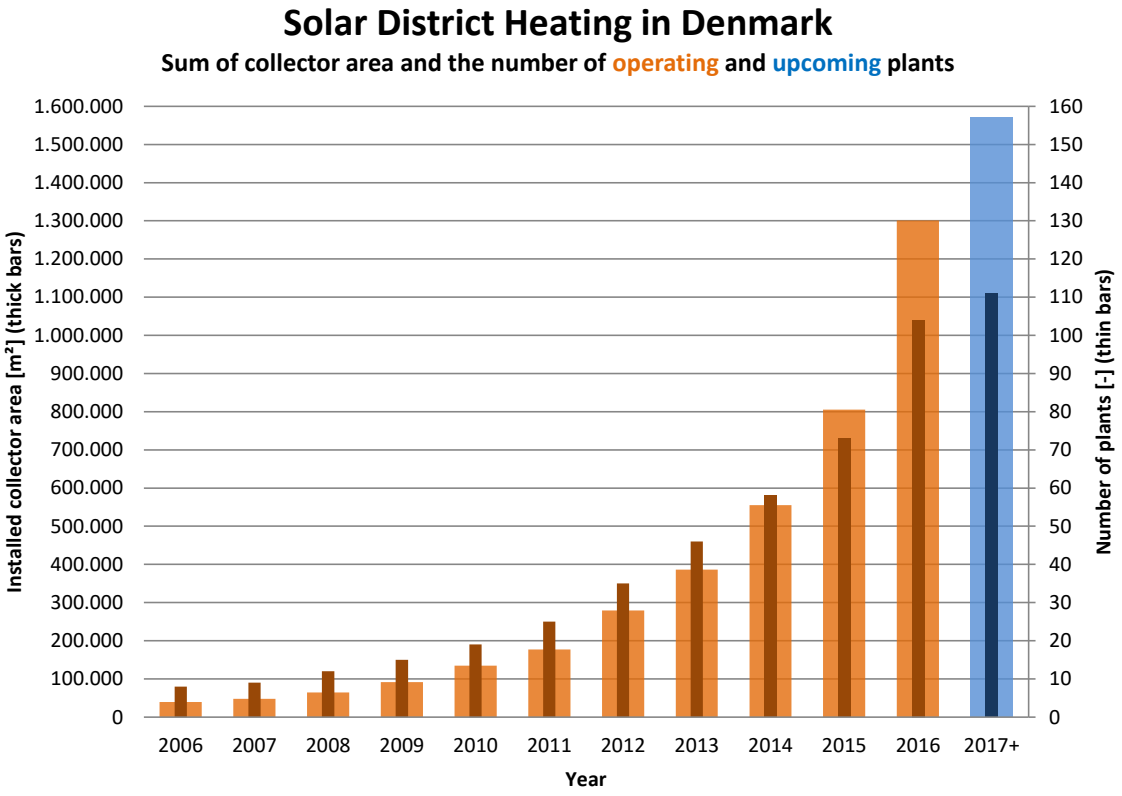
The thermal performance of solar heating plants is first of all influenced by the temperature level of the solar collector fluid. Besides that, the thermal performance is also influenced by the weather, the collector type, the solar collector fluid, the flow volume and the collector tilt.

Typical capacities

The typical application of solar thermal plants for district heating purposes aims at a solar share of 10-25 % of the annual heat demand [4]. Thus, the installed capacity varies by the plant.

Figure 7 shows the development in number of plants and collector area, illustrating that the plants being implemented now is larger than previous plants. Cf. Figure 7 the average plant size has increased rapidly in recent years, indicating two key trends: Larger systems in general and higher solar shares in the plants that decide to invest in solar thermal district heating.

Figure 7 Solar district heating plants in Denmark in operation (until 2017) and planned. The trend is that the new plants are larger and include seasonal heat storages [5].

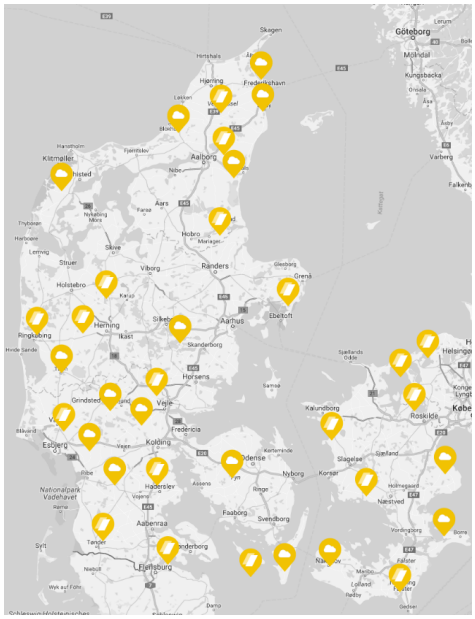


In the context of the size and heat demand in Danish district heating plants, typical sizes for solar thermal installations are in the range of 5-15,000 m^2. With increasing plant sizes and/or increased solar coverage share, this figure increases. The biggest plant in operation in Danish district heating grids (as of June 2017) is the solar thermal at Silkeborg District heating at 156,694 m^2, followed by Vojens with approx. 70,000 m^2 (completed in two steps).

Examples of best available technology

There are several suppliers of FPC for solar district heating, [14], with the panels from Danish Arcon-Sunmark being the most widely applied option in Denmark. From an international perspective, manufacturers like Austrian GREENoneTEC, TiSUN and Finish SavoSolar offer large FPC-panels too. As of early 2017, there are in total more than 100 plants and 1.3 million m^2 collectors installed in district heating plants around Denmark (while only considering plants sizes >1,000 m^2). This is a significant increase from less than 100,000 m^2 in 2009. The placement, plant data and production data can be found for several plants in [2] and is visualised in Figure 8.

Figure 8 Solar heating plants in Denmark – more than 100 plants with a total installed collector size of more than 1.3 million m2. The map is interactive and includes detailed information on solar heating plants [2]



Examples of plants are:

- Brædstrup, Denmark: A combined energy system including 18,600 m^2 of solar collectors, 7,500 m^3 heat storage tanks, 19,000 m^3 pilot borehole seasonal heat storage (corresponding to approximately 9,000 m^3 of water), an electrical driven heat pump, an electrical boiler, a natural gas fired engine (combined heat and power production) and natural gas fired heat-only boilers. Also an advanced control system, balancing maximum solar heat and maximum electricity sales. Solar coverage: 22 %. Established in 2007, expanded in 2012 [9].
- Dronninglund, Denmark: Solar panel field of 35,000 m^2, combined with a seasonal pit heat storage, filled with 60,000 m³ of water. The pit storage is used to store the heat produced in the summer, to be utilised during the winter. The solar plant yields 16,000 MWh per year and provides 40 % of the heat for the local district heating network with its 1,350 customers. Other heat sources are a natural gas fired engine and a boiler with an absorption heat pump, cooling the storage. The solar district heating (SDH) plant was commissioned in 2014 [9].
- Vojens, Denmark: The experiences made with the 17,000 m^2 large collector field since 2012 convinced Vojens Fjernvarme to plan adding another 52,500 m^2 (36.75 MW_{th}) to the field as well as seasonal storage, which should increase the annual solar share from the 14 % measured in 2014 to an expected 45 %. The expansion was commissioned in May 2015 [9].
- Silkeborg, Denmark: Solar panel field of 156,694 m^2. Commissioned late 2016, making it the world's largest SDH-plant at the time. Other heat sources in the system are natural gas fired CHP, an electric boiler and industrial excess heat.

An overview of the World's largest installations can be found in [9] and [14].

Research and development objectives

More suppliers have entered the market in Denmark, offering different technologies. This implies that there is a process of improvement of the efficiency of the panels as well as reduction of the costs of the panels.

Examples of research and development objectives include:

- Production of panels – e.g. extruded absorber aluminium panels (Savo-Solar)

- Absorbers – increased absorbance and reduced emittance
- Improved absorber design – increased heat transfer to fluid and better flow distribution
- Use of concentrating collectors (CSP)
- Improved plant layout – serial connection of different collector types in rows and optimised serial/parallel connections for solar collector fields
- Control strategies – optimised integration of solar in existing district heating plants

Additionally, [4] contains an extensive list of possible development aspects of solar heating.

Regulation ability and other system services

Regulation with regard to electricity is not relevant for solar thermal plants.

There are however other relevant regulation aspects for solar thermal collectors, e.g. the possibility to vary the flow of the absorber fluid. By varying the flow of the absorber fluid, the temperature in the plant can be regulated. This is especially important, considering the variation in intensity of solar radiation. Varying the flow secures the possibility to optimize the flow rate according to the external circumstances and desired output temperature.

Boiling of the absorber fluid can cause reduction of the corrosion protection. Ways to avoid boiling are the installation of conventional cooling towers or the scheduled and preventive cooling of stored heat by circulating water through the plant at night. The latter is applied in many Danish plants, as it reduces the installation costs, but the cooling capacity of collectors is practically limited to FPC-technology and has decreased in recent years, due to the increased energy efficiency of collectors.

In the event that the thermal solar district heating plant is oversized compared to the available cooling capacity, the absorber fluids remain at risk of boiling.

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages:

- Simple, robust and proven technology. More than 100 Danish district heating plants have solar thermal plants
- Long technical lifetime, proven at least 25-30 years
- Low maintenance costs, based on current plants approximately <1 €/MWh_{th} [11]
- Low electricity consumption required (3-4 kWh pr. produced MWh solar heating, primarily electricity consumption for circulation pumps) [11]
- No continuous presence of operation personnel required during operation
- Heat production price not sensitive to variable costs of fuel, easier budgeting of the heat price, when a share of the heat price is known
- CO_2-free energy source
- High energy yield pr. occupied land-area compared to e.g. biomass, in terms of possible energy production on a given area
- Easy reestablishment of area, no or low impact on the soil from the foundations
- Approx. 98 % of a plant can be recycled after decommission [12]
- Can be combined with heat pumps to increase yields

Disadvantages:

- Production dependent on solar radiation and weather conditions
- Summer load defines the size of the capacity in case of diurnal storage only
- Produces approx. 80 % of the heat energy during the period April – September, when the heat demand is lowest. Can be mitigated by including a seasonal heat storage [3]
- High area occupation, compared to other district heating technologies like boilers or heat pumps, approximately 3 m^2 ground area for each m^2 solar panel collector, near by the district heating network

– although this can be mitigated with a transmission pipeline e.g. some km, which may imply additional costs
- High initial investment pr. MW, but with a depreciation period of 15-20 years, the heat production cost is competitive with e.g. biomass-based heat production.

Environment

No emissions related to the heat production.

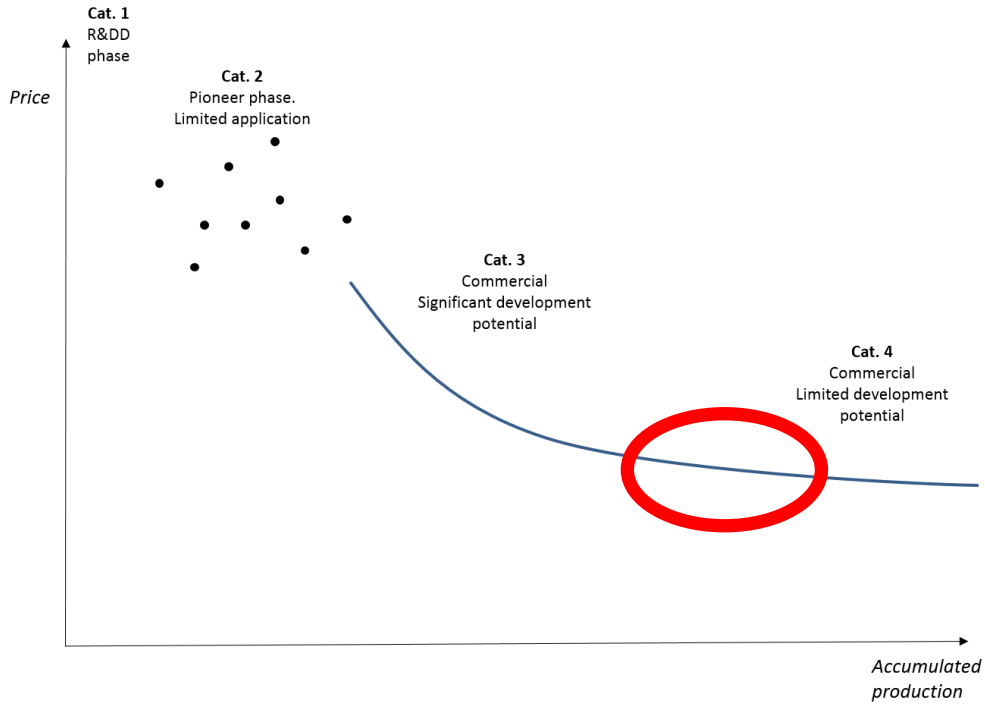
Anti-freezing agents such as organic glycols are typically added to the water in the system, in order to avoid frost damages in the winter. Leakage risks can be mitigated by installing monitoring systems, monitoring e.g. pressure in the system as well as moisture in the insulation material of the pipes.

The basic components of solar thermal collectors consist of metals, insulation material, glass and the above-mentioned anti-freezing agents. Thus, most of the used materials can be recycled after decommission.

Assumptions and perspectives for further development

Solar district heating has developed significantly during the recent years towards category 4 "Commercial, limited development potential". This is illustrated by the significant deployment of solar district heating cf. Figure 7. Figure 9 visualizes the technological development phases for solar thermal.

Figure 9 Technological development phases. Correlation between accumulated production volume (MW) and price



There has been an increase of efficiency of production of solar thermal panels through automation. During the past decade, the production of solar panels has matured, resulting in lower production costs, which results in better business cases for the district heating utilities, due to a reduction in investment costs.

The cost of installation has been reduced by applying steel profiles instead of concrete foundations. This enables faster installation and is independent on the weather conditions at the time of installation – both these parameters contribute towards a reduction of the installation costs.

Design of the solar fields is another parameter, which can imply further reduction of the investment costs.

The yield of the solar panels has improved substantially during the past decade. This is due to various improvements in the materials and the elimination of thermal bridges that have improved the efficiency.

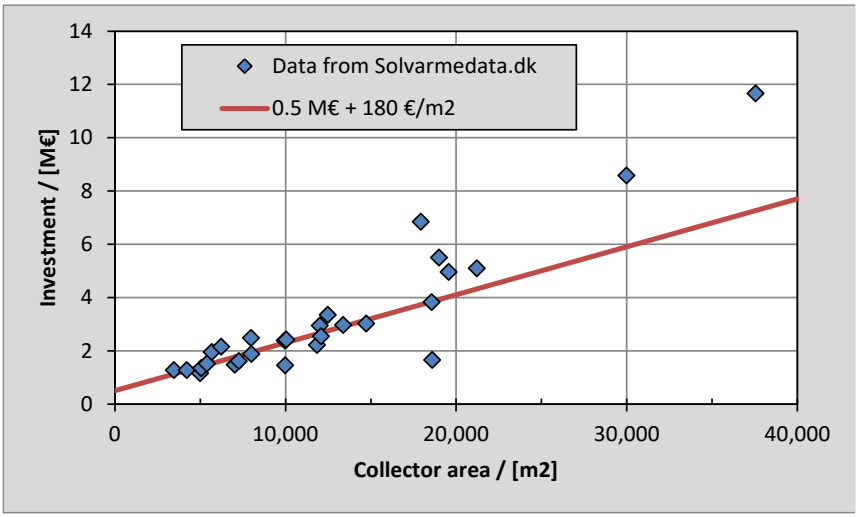
A potential for further development of solar district heating is control of the operation of the solar plants, i.e. flexibility. This relates to the role of solar district heating as one element in a complex system of different production and storage technologies – even at the same plant – thus efficiently utilizing the solar energy, while efficiently fulfilling the heat demand. The flexibility also includes meeting demands at lower supply temperature – which would improve the efficiency of the solar panels (cf. Figure 3).

The development potentials for solar thermal plants and how they are expected to influence the market situation for solar district heating are characterized by:

- Increased applications of solar district heating systems internationally
- Solar thermal with large storages (Economy of scale and increased independency of fluctuations in energy prices due to increased substitution of conventional heat production)
    - Leading to up to 80 % solar fraction of yearly heat demand
- More suppliers (an increased number of competitors is expected to result in increased development and competition):
    - Cf. the overview of suppliers in [4]
- Combination of solar thermal and biomass for 100% RES-district heating systems
    - Solar thermal already is business economically feasible in combination with wood chips and straw (including ”energy saving” subsidy)
    - If designed correctly, SDH-plants can improve the operation of other heat producing capacity in the summer time, by covering the entire heat demand and thus eliminating inefficient part-load-operation etc.
- Other hybrid systems
    - Combinations with other technologies such as long term storages and heat pumps
- Solar thermal for large cities (Economy of scale and increased attention to these kinds of projects):
    - Graz; 265,000 inhabitants, 450,000 m^2 solar panels, 2.0 million m^3 storage
    - Silkeborg, 156,694 m2 solar panels
    - Belgrade – under investigation
- Solar with higher temperatures (new product developments):
    - Supply of industrial heat demands (i.e. for process energy demands)
        - E.g. CSP (concentrated solar power) and ORC (organic rankine cycle)

The correlation between the collector area and investments costs of solar heating plants in Denmark can be seen in Figure 10.

Figure 10 Solar plant investment for Danish SDH projects. The plant in the upper right corner is “Dronninglund” with 37,573 m2 which includes a seasonal heat storage – and the investment for that is 2.4 M€ (see the section below on the seasonal heat storage), bringing this plant closer to the red line [5]



Different suppliers provide different quality at different prices. There seem to be a balance between quality and price, resulting in heat production prices on the same level due to different yields. Hence, there is increasing competition between suppliers, resulting in improved quality and lower prices.

As shown in Figure 10, there is a close correlation between investment costs and solar collector area for plants with a collector area below 15,000 m^2. When considering the investment costs of thermal solar plants with a collector area above 15,000 m^2 the investment costs is increasing faster than what is predicted by the regression line (the red line). This is predominantly because the larger plants include a seasonal heat storage (for example when considering the plant in the upper right corner, Dronninglund with a collector area of 37,573 m^2 and a seasonal heat storage). The investment for the seasonal heat storage alone is approx. 2.4 M€ (cf. Section 1.1.11, on *additional remarks* regarding the seasonal heat storage).

In conclusion, the above considerations illustrate that solar thermal is a well-proven and robust technology with a long technical lifetime. Solar thermal district heating is also competitive in large-scale applications in combination with other technologies, including seasonal heat storage technologies. The development potential for energy yields and cost reductions are estimated to be limited.

Uncertainty

Solar thermal plants are a low risk technology, which has matured in terms of reduction of production costs and improvement of the yield of the solar panels during the past few years. Consequently, the uncertainty on the provided parameters is considered small.

Additional remarks

Relevant sources of information include:

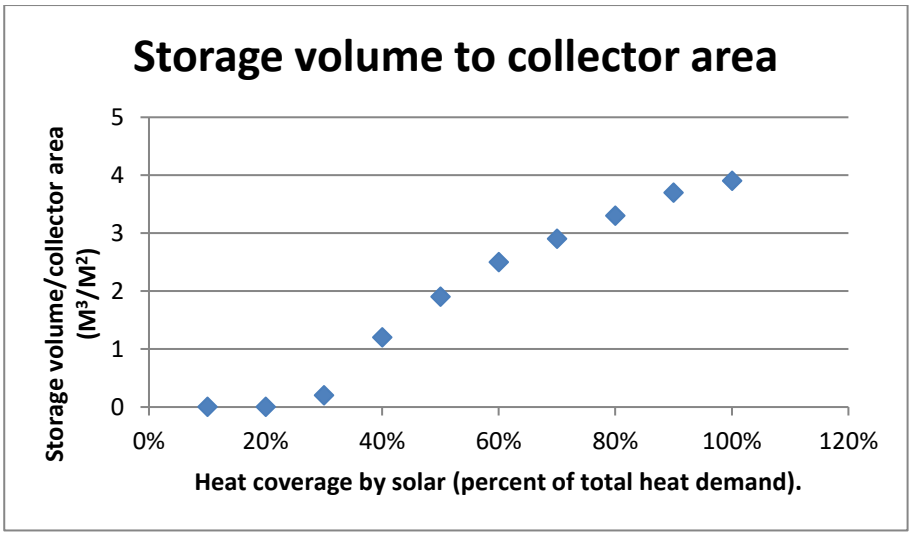
- Factsheets from the IEA SHC Task 45 Project, www.Task45.iea-shc.org
- Guidelines developed in the Solar District Heating Project, http://solar-district-heating.eu/Documents/SDHGuidelines.aspx, i.a. detailed technical descriptions and considerations regarding operation economy and organization of an SDH-plant
- www.solvarmedata.dk and www.solarheatdata.eu, include data on specific plants
- Homepages of suppliers. Please refer to http://solar-district-heating.eu/ServicesTools/FindProfessionals.aspx for a list of suppliers.

Some district solar heating systems also have seasonal heat stores (cf. chapter '60 Seasonal heat storage'). Under Danish climatic conditions, a district heating system, which is based entirely on solar energy, needs a seasonal store with a volume of about 4 m^3 per m^2 of solar collector, provided a heat pump is installed to

extract the heat energy from the storage. This ratio is based on a 50° C temperature difference T_{out} - T_{in} of the storage water.

Figure 11 shows calculated data for the seasonal storage requirement as a function of solar heat coverage in the DH system, based on the data sheet below and data for seasonal heat storage in this publication technology catalogue, chapter 60 on seasonal heat storage.

Figure 11 Ratio of seasonal storage volume to collector area (y-axis) as a function of solar heat coverage [4] and [5]



47 District Heating Boiler, Oil Fired

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Publication date
November 2025

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

Boilers for district heating have been used for many years. Today, many oil-fired district heating boilers are used for covering the peak load or as backup capacity, especially in the areas where the natural gas is not available.

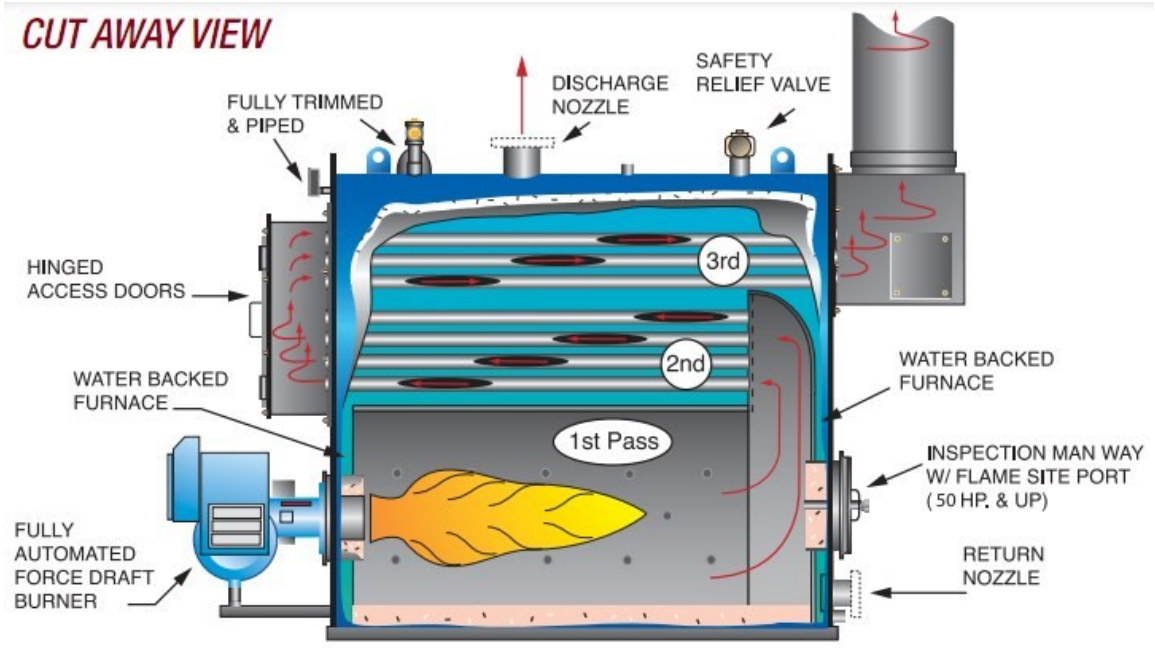
Shell & tube boilers are the most commonly used type of boilers at Danish district heating plants.

The heat transfer process in the oil-fired boiler occurs mainly through radiation and convection. So that, the intense heat from the combustion process emits infrared radiation, and the wall of combustion chamber and the boiler tubes absorb it. This radiant energy then is transferred to the water through the convection. Furthermore, the hot flue gases flow through the tubes and the heat is transferred to the water around through convection.

In newer installations, the oil-fired boiler is equipped with an economizer. An economizer is a heat exchanger that captures residual heat from the flue gases (exhaust gases) before they escape into the atmosphere. This recovered heat is then used to preheat the boiler feedwater before it enters the boiler and so improves the boiler efficiency. It is also called a condensing oil boiler, as the vapor in the flue gas will be condensed in the economizer.



Figure 1. Typical oil-fired shell & tube boiler. Red lines denote the hot flue gases passing through the combustion chamber and flue gas pipes, transferring the heat to the water through convection [1]



Input

Oil. It is possible to use both mineral oil and bio-oil in an oil-fired boiler. In case of using bio-oil, it needs to be ensured that the boiler is compatible with the type of bio-oil. Some bio-oils require special handling or modifications to the boiler system.

Due to environmental regulations, heavy fuel oil (HFO) is no longer an alternative to regular mineral oil.

Output
District heat.

Typical capacities
5- 10 MW.

Regulation ability and other power system services
Oil-fired boilers have a moderate turn-up/turn-down ratio. The turn-up to turn-down ratio refers to the range within a boiler can operate effectively, from its maximum capacity down to its minimum capacity. For oil boilers, this ratio usually falls within a range of 4:1 to 5:1, meaning that the load typically be adjusted with 20-100%. This allows for some flexibility in operation to meet varying heating demands.

The start-up time for cold oil boilers can vary depending on the specific model and configuration of the boiler. It typically takes around 30 minutes to 2 hours for a cold oil boiler to reach its operating temperature (3-5 ^{o}C per minute). Factors that influence this duration include the size of the boiler, the efficiency of the burner system, and the initial temperature of the boiler and the surrounding environment.

Advantages/disadvantages [2]
Advantages

Oil-fired boilers are a proven and well-known technology. They can be manufactured for a wide range of capacities. Load response and start-up time is reasonable. To increase the energy efficiency, heat pumps can be integrated with oil-fired boilers, utilizing the flue gas heat as a heat source. In addition, oil-fired boilers can be adapted to burn biofuels or other renewable sources to reduce their environmental impact. Oil is easy to store, however with some safety and risk measures to be considered. When natural gas is not available, oil-fired boilers is the cheapest alternative - installation wise, even compared to LPG.

Disadvantages

In comparison to gas boiler systems, oil boilers may require more frequent servicing to ensure optimal performance. This is because oil-fired systems can be prone to soot and debris build-up, which can reduce their efficiency if not attended to. Heat from oil boilers is often more expensive compared to other district heating production technologies.

As the investment for oil boilers is similar to natural gas boilers, a natural gas boiler is often chosen if natural gas is available, because of a cleaner technology reducing maintenance cost and because of reduced CO_2 emissions.

Environment
Oil boilers generally produce higher levels of carbon dioxide (CO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and particulate matter when compared to gas boilers.

If condensing operation is used, the condensate must be treated to comply with local wastewater standards and regulations before being led to sewage systems. Such treatment often includes pH adjustment.

Research and development perspectives
Multi-fuel operation has been made possible (gas/oil) if supplied with burners for such operation. Research is exploring the use of alternative and sustainable fuels to replace traditional oil. This includes biofuels, synthetic fuels, and blends that can reduce the carbon footprint of oil boilers.

Examples of market standard technology
If operated with low return water temperatures (30-35 °C), a district heating boiler with economizer can achieve a fuel efficiency up to approx. 103-105% (lower heating value (LHV) reference).

Prediction of performance and costs

Boiler technology, including oil-fired boilers, is a commercial technology with large deployment on both national and international scale. Oil-fired boilers is a commercial technology with a moderate need for R&D, making it a category 4 technology.

Development of the burner technology or post treatment of flue gas may lead to lower emission levels.

Uncertainty

Uncertainty stated in the tables both covers differences between various products and differences related to the power span covered in the actual table.

A span for upper and lower product values is given for the year 2025 situation. No sources are available for the 2050 situation. Hence the values have been estimated by the authors.

No reliable sources are present for the uncertainty of the 2050 numbers listed. However, as a deployed, mature and highly fuel-efficient technology, there is relatively little uncertainty in performance numbers given.

Introduction to Peak Power Plants and Reserve Technologies

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Publication date

November 2018

Introduction

This chapter covers data regarding energy plants designed for providing of peak power either in the wholesale market or reserve capacity for the system operator.

The focus is on newly built thermal power plants. Other technologies may in the future provide the same service, such as storage technologies or demand response. However, these technologies are not treated here nor compared to thermal peak power plants. Some of these technologies (e.g. electrical energy storage) are described in a separate technology catalogue.

It is intended as a specific chapter of the *Technology Data for Energy Plants*, thus follows the same structure and data format. The chapter focuses on the assumptions that differ from the main catalogue.

This section provides an introduction, a definition of the services covered and some general assumptions. Each technology is subsequently described in a separate technology chapter. The technology chapters contain both a description of the technologies and a quantitative part including a table with the most important technology data. For some of the technology chapters, the qualitative technology description is brief and only focuses on the specific service described. For additional information, see the respective technologies in the main catalogue (e.g. simple-cycle gas turbines and gas engines).

Definition of the services

The services that are covered in this chapter refer to provision of peak load and reserve.

The peak load service, provided by the peak power plants - also referred to as peakers - is defined as the provision of power in the hours with the highest price. It is characterized by few operating hours and is therefore served with technologies characterized by:

- Low capital expenditure (CAPEX)
- High variable cost, mainly in relation to high fuel cost
- Low start-up costs and quick start-up time

The peak power plants regularly bid into the market and appears on the right-hand side of the supply curve as the last units available, due to their high short-term marginal cost. A representation of a potential merit order curve is shown in Figure .

Figure 1 Example of a supply curve (merit-order curve), in which peakers appear on the right side

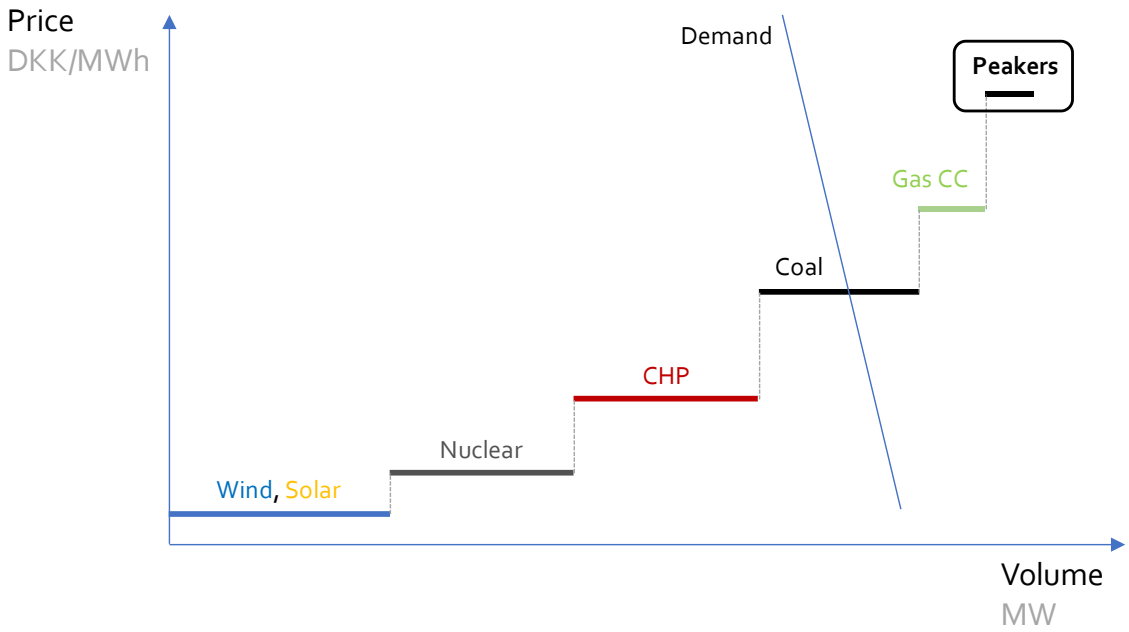
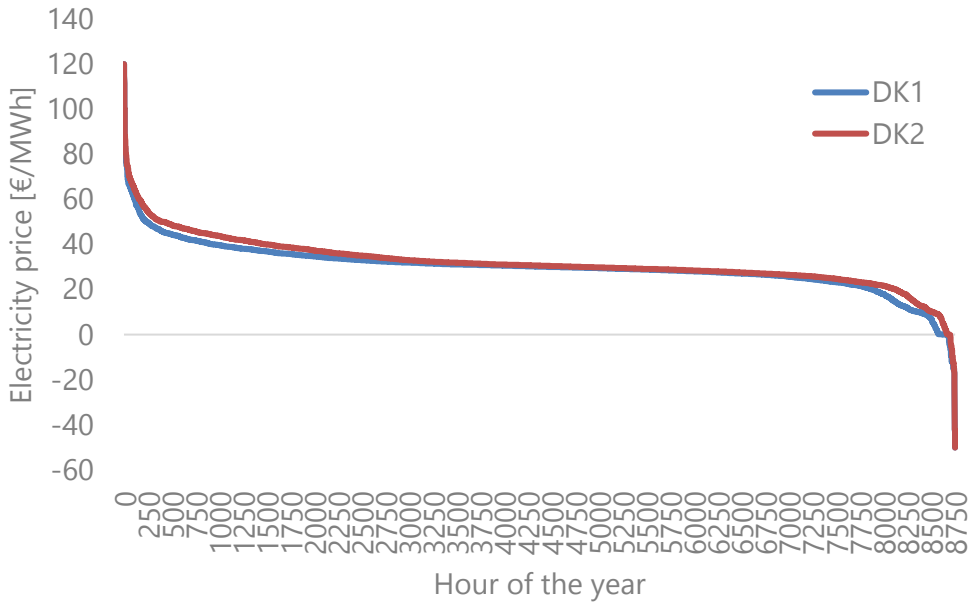


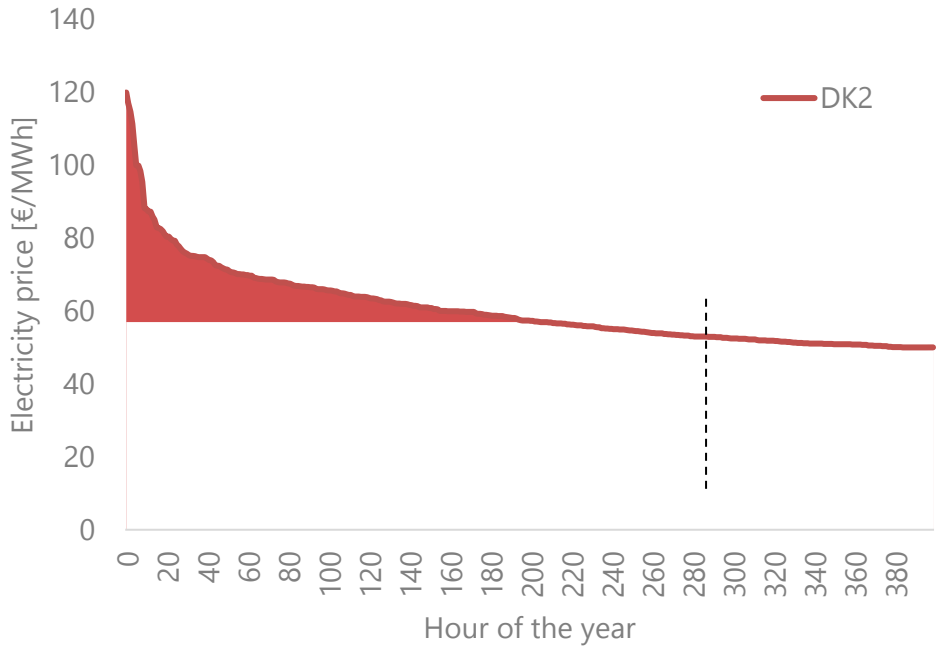
Figure 2 shows the price duration curve in DK1 and DK2 and a zoom on the highest price hours in DK2. In 2017, the 200 hours with the highest price were all above 57 €/MWh, with peak price of around 120 €/MWh.

With an increasing penetration of variable renewable energy sources (VRES) and a decommissioning of more conventional and dispatchable power plants, it is expected that hours with a high electricity price will increase making more room in the system for peak technologies.

The plants providing this type of service have also the opportunity to participate to balancing markets held by the TSO.

Figure 2 Price duration curve for DK1 and DK2 bid areas (top) and price in the 200 hours with highest price in DK2 (bottom). Data for the year 2017 [1].





The reserve service (or emergency service) has similar technical requirements compared to the peak load serving, i.e. fast response and low capital expenditure. However, the reserve service is characterized by the fact the that generator offering this service does not bid into the day-ahead but, instead, make their generation capacity available to the Transmission System Operator (TSO) in case lack of generation or failures in the transmission network triggers a risk for security of supply.

An example of such a service is the strategic reserve adopted in some Nordic countries (Sweden and Finland) and planned in Eastern Denmark (DK2).

The strategic reserve is intended to operate only when the market does not provide sufficient capacity and should therefore be dispatched at a price above a reference level signaling scarcity. In theory, the reserve should only be dispatched at a price close to VoLL (value of lost load) in order not to interfere with the market. In this case the natural price formation on the market is not affected and generators receive the same investment incentive as if there were no strategic reserve.

Capacity for strategic reserves is procured through a tendering procedure for a specified amount of capacity (in MW), for example on a year-to-year basis. The strategic reserve may consist of existing or - provided the auction takes place well in advance of when the contracted capacity should be available - new generation built for the purpose of reserve capacity. The specification of the amount and type of capacity (e.g. peak units) or demand resources may be based on a so-called reliability study [2].

General assumptions

The boundary for both cost and performance data is the generation assets plus the infrastructure required to deliver the energy to the main grid. For electricity, this is the nearest land-based substation of the transmission/distribution grid. In other words, the technologies are described as they are perceived by the electricity system receiving their energy deliveries.

In the calculation and description of technology cost and performance, it is assumed that a typical service is characterized by 200 operating hours, 75% are taking place at full load, while the remaining is characterized by part-load generation.

Due to service envisioned and the low number of operating hours, no investment in environmental facilities to reduce polluting emissions is assumed in this catalogue. Indeed, European directives and relative national

Danish implementations exempts plants operating for less than 500 hours a year from complying with the emission limitations. The assumption of no deployment of environmental facilities is therefore valid for all operations below this threshold of 500 hours a year.

More detail on environmental aspects and legislation is available in ANNEX 2: Emissions limitations for peak- and reserve plants.

Co-generation of district heating is not considered for these technologies. Indeed, with 200 operating hours, it is assumed that investments in facilities to collect the heat will not be economically justified[1]. Moreover, the access to district heating network poses limits to the choice of the location of the emergency plant in the power network.

O&M and Start-up costs

In expressing the operations and maintenance cost for the reserve and peakers technologies in this chapter, the same approach of the main catalogue is used: O&M costs stated in this catalogue includes start-up costs and takes into account a typical number of start-ups and shut-downs. Therefore, the start-up costs specified in the data sheet should not be specifically included in more general analyses. They should only be used in detailed dynamic analyses of the hour-by-hour load of the technology. For all three peaking technologies 50 start-ups a year is assumed to be representative.

Maintenance on engines and OCGT turbines is generally done according to a maintenance schedule that is based on a certain number of total running hours. This means that a plant with very few annual operating hours will have a low variable cost until it reaches one of the bigger schedules. With the 200 hours a year assumed, the large maintenance window will not be reached in the lifetime of the plant, reducing maintenance costs and scheduled downtime, compared to a plant with fuller load hours a year. Another driver for a lower O&M cost compared to a baseload or intermediate plant is the possibility to monitor and operate the plant remotely, removing the need for permanent staff on site.

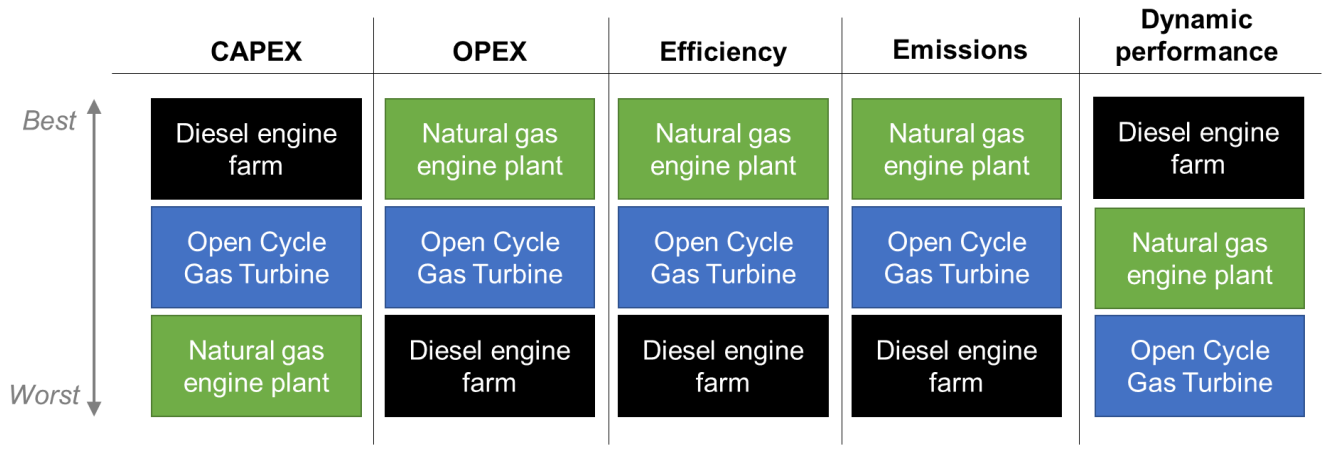
Technologies assessed and qualitative comparison

The technologies considered to provide peak and reserve service diesel engines, natural gas engines and open cycle gas turbines.

Figure 3 shows a qualitative comparison of the technologies presented in this chapter across the main parameter. It has to be noted that this is an indicative ranking based on the central estimate values and it can vary depending on specific applications.

[1] As a reference, the extra investment cost of adding district heating equipment to an engine for cogeneration purposes is around 50-100 €/kW.

Figure 3 Qualitative comparison of technologies described in the chapter, across the five main parameters



Diesel engine farms present the lowest level of CAPEX and good dynamic performance, with short start-up time and flexible operation. On the other hand, they perform less well on efficiency, operational costs and emissions. *Natural gas engine* plants have high efficiencies even at lower loads, low emissions and operational costs, good dynamic performance, but are the most expensive solution. Finally, *Open cycle gas turbines* presents a medium level of capital and operational costs, have the worst dynamic performance, especially in terms of start-up time and ramp rates and features a reduced efficiency and increased emissions at part load.

Forecasting future costs

Historic data shows that the cost of most electricity production technologies has been reduced over time. It can be expected that further cost reductions and improvements of performance will also be realized in the future. Such trends are important to consider for future energy planning and therefore need to be taken into account in the technology catalogue. [2]

For projection of future financial costs there are three overall approaches: Engineering bottom-up, Delphi-survey, and Learning curves. This catalogue uses the learning curve approach. The reason is, that this method has proved historically robust and that it is possible to estimate learning rates for most technologies. Furthermore, learning curve correlations are well documented, the risk of bias is reduced compared to the alternative approaches. The cost projections are based on the future generation capacity in IEA's 2 DS and 4 DS scenarios (2017 values are assumed to be a good approximation for 2015) [3].

Learning rates typically vary between 5 and 25%. In 2015, Rubin et al published "A review of learning rates for electricity supply technologies" [4], which provides a comprehensive and up to date overview of learning rates for a range of relevant technologies, among which:

[2] Based on methodology developed and explained in "Technology Data for the Indonesian Power Sector" [6].

Table 1 Learning rates from different technologies [4].

Technology	Mean learning rate	Range of studies
Coal	8.3%	5.6 to 12%
Natural gas CC	14%	-11 to 34%
Natural gas, gas turbine	15%	10 to 22%
Nuclear	-	Negative to 6%
Biomass power	11%	0 to 24%

The authors of the review emphasize that "methods, data, and assumptions adopted by researchers to characterize historical learning rates of power plant technologies vary widely, resulting in high variability across studies. Nor are historical trends a guarantee of future behaviour, especially when future conditions may differ significantly from those of the past" [4]. Still, the study gives an indication of the level of learning rates, which may be expected. 10-15% seems to be a common level for many technologies, whereas nuclear power and coal are in the lower end.

Considering the uncertainties related to the estimation of learning rates, a default learning rate of 10% is applied for the technologies in this catalogue. The choice of the lower bound reflects the fact that all technologies treated in the catalogue are all mature technologies corresponding to Category 4.

When the abovementioned learning rates are combined with the future deployment of the technologies projected in the IEA scenarios, an estimate of the cost development over time can be deduced.

Table 2 Estimated development of technology costs in the IEA's 2 and 4 DS scenarios in 2020, 2030 and 2050, relative to 2017. The average of 2DS and 4DS is considered in this catalogue.

		2DS				4 DS				Average of 2 & 4 DS			
Technology	**Rate**	**2017**	**2020**	**2030**	**2050**	**2017**	**2020**	**2030**	**2050**	**2017**	**2020**	**2030**	**2050**
Oil	10%	100%	98%	98%	97%	100%	98%	98%	94%	100%	98%	98%	96%
Natural gas	10%	100%	97%	94%	91%	100%	97%	92%	85%	100%	97%	93%	88%

References

[1] Energinet.dk, "Energi Data Service," 2017. [Online]. Available: https://www.energidataservice.dk/en/. [Accessed: 02-Aug-2018].

[2] EUETS.com, "Strategic reserve as a capacity remuneration mechanism (CRM)." [Online]. Available: www.emissions-euets.com/strategic-reserve.

[3] IEA, "Energy Technology Perspectives 2016," 2016.

[4] E. S. Rubin, I. M. L. Azevedo, P. Jaramillo, and S. Yeh, "A review of learning rates for electricity supply technologies," *Energy Policy*, vol. 86, pp. 198–218, Nov. 2015.

[5] D. Santoianni, "Defining true flexibility – a comparison of gas-fired power generating technologies," *Detail Wärtsilä Tech. J.*, vol. 1, pp. 10–15, 2015.

[6] T. Data and P. Plants, "Technology Data for the Indonesian Power Sector," no. December, pp. 1–140, 2017.

50 Diesel Engine Farm

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Publication date
November 2018

Qualitative description

Brief technology description
Diesel farms or gensets are blocks of reciprocating diesel engines which includes an electric generator. They provide modular electric generating capacity and come in standardized sizes. Lately, they have been widely used in the United Kingdom (UK) to provide standby power generation for large industrial and commercial sites that cannot afford to lose power in the event of interruptions of the electricity network supply.

Increasingly, they are being built and connected to the network also to provide peak clipping to avoid demand charges. They are able to start-up and reach full load very quickly, which is very useful to National Grid in managing short-term fluctuations and potentially other ancillary services. A typical diesel farm is constituted by a set of containerized diesel engines of various ratings (normally from 400-500 kW up to the MW scale) and a connection to the grid by means of low to medium voltage transformer.

The deployment of this solution for peaking and reserve service has been relevant in United Kingdom following the auctions for capacity market implemented starting from 2014 and those for Short term operating reserve (STOR). One of the reasons for the success of these type of plants is the access to several nested benefits. First of all, they could receive a payment from the capacity market for the availability of their capacity; moreover, they could partially participate to the auctions for STOR.

Additionally, they have access to the so called “embedded benefits”, exempting them to pay the connection charges in light of the fact that they are connected to the distribution grid. Finally, until November 2015, they could access the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) designed to help smaller, higher-risk trading companies raise finance by offering a range of tax reliefs.

Following an internal debate, a reform of embedded benefits is expected in the near future. After the publication of a note stating that this reform could be applied retroactively to new plants once it will enter into force, a large number of proposed diesel farms have been retired from the last round of capacity market auction in December 2017, questioning the future for this solution in UK.

Input
The input is light fuel oil (diesel or biodiesel).

Output
The output is electricity.

Typical capacities

In the latest tender for capacity market and short-term operating reserve in the UK, the typical farm size was between 3 MW and 50 MW. However, given the modularity of the solution, it is potentially expandable to higher ratings. A very large number of plants awarded are around 18 – 20 MW, constituted by a variable number of engines rated 400 kW – 2 MW each. This is assumed as the typical capacity of the plant.

Regulation ability and other power system services

The start-up time of diesel generators are amongst the lowest compared to other generation facilities.

A typical figure for the cold start-up time of these types of generators is down to 2-3 minutes. The ramping capabilities are also good, with a typical engine able to provide 50% output in around 15 seconds and full capacity after 5 additional seconds. Part load generation does not result in a large drop of efficiency due to the modular nature of the diesel farm. When the plant has to be regulated downward, some generators can be switched off and each online generator can be kept at the optimal output level (for emissions and efficiency).

Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages and disadvantages of this technology is stated in relation to other peak and reserve options.

Advantages

- Known and proven technology with high reliability
- Minimal impact of ambient conditions (temperature and altitude) on plant performance and functionality
- Very low CAPEX
- High performance and low response time
- High efficiency at part load
- Decentralized option
- Modular solution
- Short construction time
- Option to use biodiesel

Disadvantages

- High air pollutant emissions
- Need for on-site tanks to store diesel
- Relatively low efficiency
- Expensive fuel

Environment

Emissions highly depend on the characteristics of the fuel applied, fuel type and its content of sulphur.

Diesel generators are one of the most polluting sources of electricity. Beside large CO_2 emissions, other pollutants include Nox, SO2 and particles. The fact that the engines are assumed to run on average for

less than 500 hours a year, makes them eligible for exemption to emission limitation by EU directive on medium combustion plants. This results in higher specific emission whenever they are running.

Research and development perspective

Diesel generators have reached technological maturity long ago and, while some developments are still happening in the emission reduction and dynamic performance, the engines used for the services described in this catalogue will most likely not be Best-available-technology, due to the need to keep CAPEX levels low.

Example of market standard technology

Example of market standard diesel farms for the provision of reserve and peak load are represented by the plants built in United Kingdom in the last few years following auctions for capacity market and reserve services. In order to access different revenue streams and participate to e.g. frequency regulation, most of these plants have start-up time as low as 2-3 minutes.

Figure 1 A diesel farm in the Ernesettle area of Plymouth. Photograph: Ben Mostyn for the Guardian





Figure shows a 20 MW diesel farm built close to Playmouth (UK) and composed of 52 containerized diesel generators, for the provision of STOR service. Smaller 400 kW units have been used.

Figure 2 Emergency plant in Cornwall. Photograph: SEA Trasformatori



Figure 2 shows a similar plant of 20 MW plant built as an emergency reserve in Cornwall (UK), composed of 40 diesel generators and 10 step-up transformers.

Prediction of performance and cost

The technology is classified under the Category 4: Commercial, limited development potential.

Due to technological maturity, a progressive switch to less polluting power sources and the problems of public acceptance, no significant reduction in investment and operation costs are expected in the future.

Some technical improvements can be expected from the manufacturers driven mainly by other applications such as marine propulsion.

Uncertainty

The uncertainty in the quantitative figures mainly relates to the different manufacturers using different models and makes of engines making up the diesel farm.

Additional remarks

The proposal of excluding all plants with specific CO_2 emissions above 550g/kWh from capacity mechanisms payments poses a regulatory risk on future installation of this technology (see ANNEX 2: Emissions limitations for peak- and reserve plants for details).

51 Gas Engine Plant

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Publication date

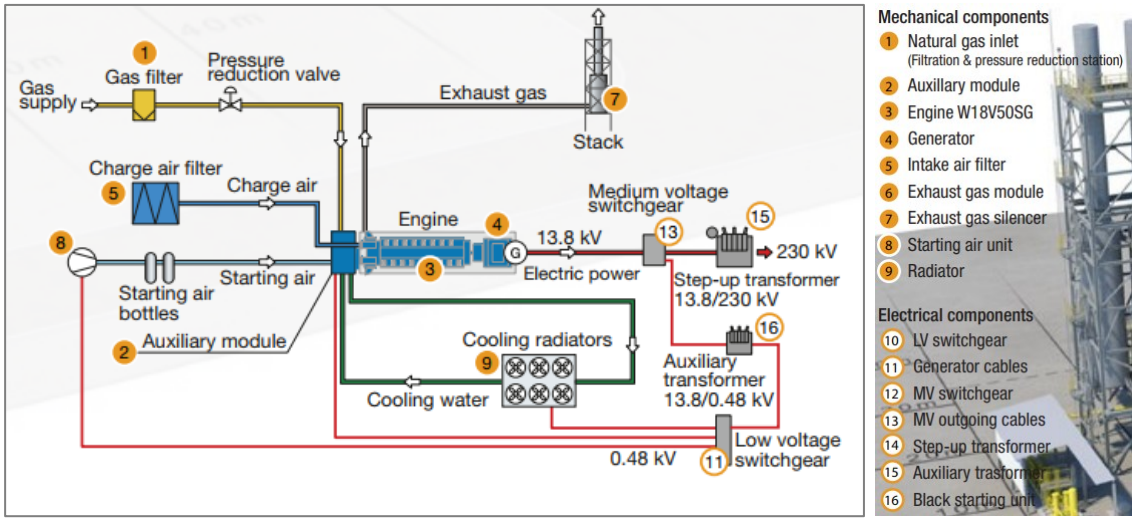
November 2018

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

The description of the natural gas engine technology is presented in the main catalogue. The only difference in the technology used for the service presented here is the lack of district heating connection. Several large engines, which size can vary between 1 and 10 MW, can be combined into a power plant, as shown in Figure .

Figure 1 Large engine power plant scheme [16]



The gas engines can be upgraded to handle dual fuel operation, utilizing light fuel oil and natural gas with the capability to switch fuel supply while operating. This increases the reliability of the system at the expense of slightly higher engine cost and the installation of fuel storage tanks on-site.

Increasing need for flexibility and backup following the increasing variable renewable sources penetration, combined with stringent regulations related to emissions of pollutants and CO_2, is expected to lead to the utilization of natural gas plant for emergency and reserve services.

Input

The input is Natural gas with the option to have dual fuel operation with Light Fuel Oil (LFO).

In the future, biogas and biodiesel could be considered as alternative, with low impact on the cost and a slight reduction of efficiency.

Output

The output is electricity.

Typical capacities

Typical capacities for these plants range from 20 MW to 400 MW. The technology is modular and easily scalable.

Regulation ability and other power system services

The response time of gas engines is very low, with new models able to start in one or two minutes.

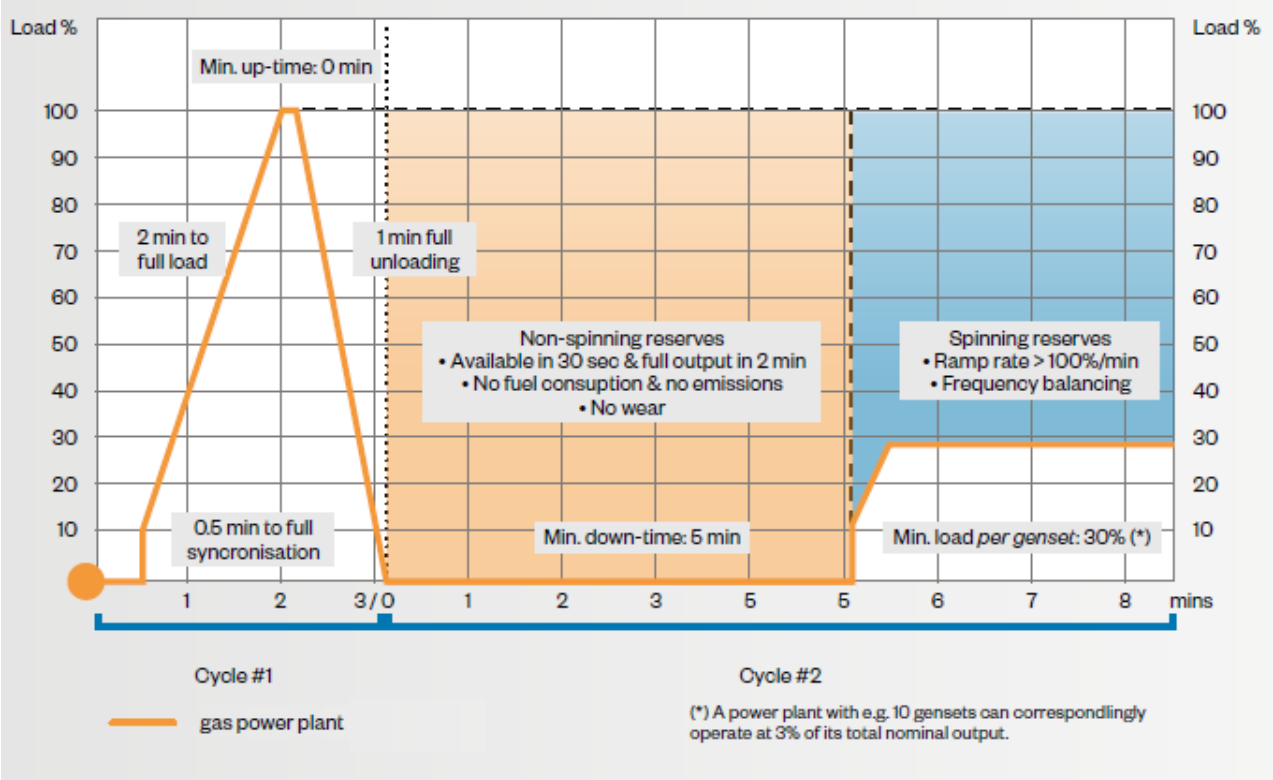
However, for large plants used in emergency situations and connected to high voltage grid, the temperature of the transformer becomes the largest bottleneck related to ramp-up production. This increases the cold start-up time to 10 minutes.

The reduction of efficiency at part load is much lower compared to open-cycle gas turbines and equal to about 4%-point reduction from full-load efficiency to 30% part-load efficiency.

When running, the ramp rates of engine power plants are very high, corresponding to more than 100% of load per min.

The dynamic characteristics of a gas engine power plant are depicted in Figure 2.

Figure 2 Dynamic characteristic of a gas engine power plant [13]



Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages and disadvantages of this technology is stated in relation to other peak and reserve options.

Advantages

- Known and proven technology with high reliability
- High efficiency
- Modular solution
- High performance and ramp rate and low response time
- Low emission, also at part-load
- Relatively low fixed OPEX
- Possibility of dual fuel operation

Disadvantages

- More expensive than diesel and OCGT solution
- Larger space requirements and installation time than OCGT
- Necessity of connection to the gas grid, with related investment and operational costs
- Higher Nox emission than OCGT at full load

Environment

Gas engines emissions are much lower compared to diesel gensets. Modern gas engine models comply with all industrial emission standards without the need to use catalysts.

A small and inexpensive CO catalyst can be used to limit the CO emissions.

Research and development perspective

The technology is considered mature with small potential for improvement. Some developments are happening in relation to dynamic performance and emissions. The efficiency will also increase slightly due to improvement of the engine design and is expected to reach a value of 50% by 2030.

Example of market standard technology

An example of market standard technology is the Kiisa plant commissioned by Wartsila for the Estonian TSO Elering between 2013 and 2014 [14]. It is an emergency and reserve power plant composed by two units (100+150 MW) for a total of 27 engines rated 10 MW each. The engines are dual fuel and can run on natural gas or light fuel oil.

The plant is remotely controlled from the control center in Tallin and requires no personnel on site. The standby consumption is maintained very low at 200 kW using a air heat pump to keep the equipment warm and ready to start service [15].

Figure 3 Kiisa emergency reserve power plant (ERPP) in Estonia [14]



Prediction of performance and cost

The technology is classified under the Category 4: Commercial, limited development potential.

Some developments can be expected in terms of improved experience in managing the gas engines for reserve purpose and optimization of plant design. However, the impact on cost will be minor.

Uncertainty

The uncertainty in the quantitative figures mainly relates to the different manufacturers and quality of engines utilized.

52 Open Cycle Gas Turbine

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Publication date

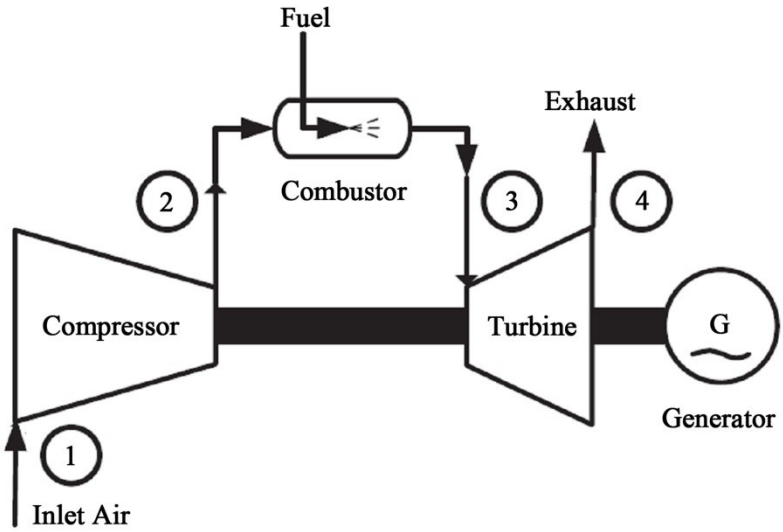
November 2018

Qualitative description

Brief technology description

Open cycle gas turbines (OCGT), also called simple-cycle turbines, are electricity generating units composed of a compressor, combustion chamber, turbine and a coupled generator.

Figure 1 Schematic representation of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine. Figure from: *Scientific Research Open Access*



In power system applications with lower utilization rate and necessity of flexibility, aero-derivative turbines are preferred to heavy industrial ones. Aero-derivative gas turbines are a popular choice for energy generation thanks to their reliability, efficiency and flexibility. Based on advanced aircraft engine technologies and materials, they are significantly lighter, respond faster and have a smaller footprint compared with their heavy industrial GT counterparts. With up to 45% efficiency compared to up to 35% for heavier GTs, these turbines are often seen as a good choice in smaller-scale (up to 100 MW) energy generation [13]. Another feature is their fuel flexibility, allowing a combination of gas and liquid fuel operation.

Input

The input is natural gas or light fuel oil. Some gas turbines are available in dual-fuel versions (gas/oil).

In the future, biogas and biodiesel could be considered as alternative, with low impact on the performance and cost.

Output

The output is electricity.

Typical capacities

Typical capacities of aero-derivative OCGT turbines vary from smaller 5-6 MW turbines to large turbines of 100MW.

For the application described, modular power plant designs composed of smaller turbines are less favourable from an investment cost perspective, since the technology largely benefit from economy of scale. An OCGT-based power plant will therefore most likely be composed by larger aero-derivative turbine (in the range of 50-100 MW) combined for a total output that can reach 200 – 300 MW.

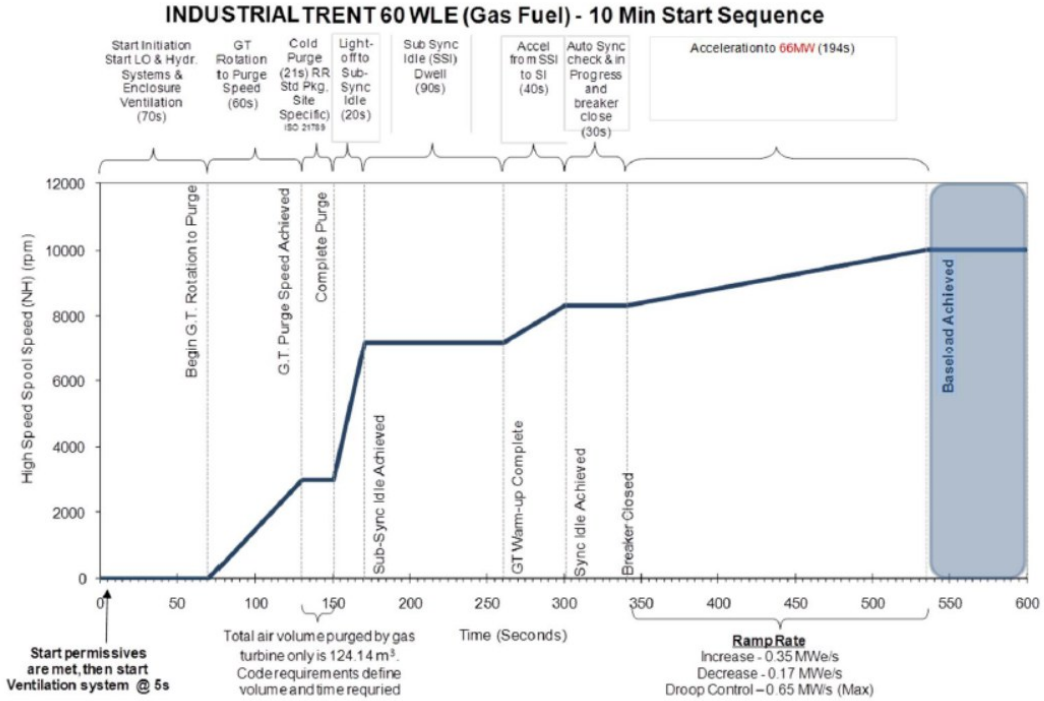
Regulation ability and other power system services

Modern turbines are able to start-up from cold in just under 10 minutes, with some turbines able to start in 7 minutes. In Figure 2, a typical start sequence is represented. When self-sustained speed is reached, the turbine has a ramp rate capability between 0.17 MW/s and 0.8 MW/s, depending on the model. This corresponds to ramp rates of 15-50 MW/min.

Typical average values are around 20 MW/min, while the largest value corresponds to the 118-MW aero-derivative turbine GE-LMS100.

The part-load characteristic of OCGT is limited by a large drop in efficiency at lower loads. On average, the drop is equal to 15% when going from 100% to 50% load [14].

Figure 2 Start sequence and ramp rate of an aero-derivative turbine [15]



Advantages/disadvantages

Advantages and disadvantages of this technology is stated in relation to other peak and reserve options.

Advantages

- Known and proven technology with high reliability
- High performance and low response time
- Higher efficiency than diesel engines at full load
- Short construction time
- Low space requirement
- Low downtime and lower maintenance requirements

Disadvantages

- More expensive than diesel solution
- Lower efficiency than gas engines
- Large reduction of efficiency at part-load
- Not ideal for frequent start and stops
- Open cycle gas turbines require an input of high pressure gas, which limits potential sites available for open cycle gas turbines to locations in close proximity to the gas transmission grid.

Environment

Gas turbines have continuous combustion with non-cooled walls. This means a very complete combustion and low levels of emissions (other than NOx). Developments focusing on the combustors have led to low NOx levels [11].

The use of light fuel oil instead of natural gas increases the emissions from the turbine, particularly SO_2, Nox and particles.

Research and development perspective

Increased efficiency for simple-cycle gas turbine configurations has also been reached through inter-cooling and recuperators. Research into humidification (water injection) of intake air processes (HAT) is expected to lead to increased efficiency due to higher mass flow through the turbine.

Additionally, continuous development for less polluting combustion is taking place. Low-NOx combustion technology is assumed. Water or steam injection in the burner section may reduce the NOx emission, but also the total efficiency and thereby possibly the financial viability. The trend is more towards dry low-NOx combustion, which increases the specific cost of the gas turbine [11].

Example of market standard technology

An example of reserve power plant using OCGT turbines is the Forssa Power Plant, a 318 MW plant commissioned in 2012 for the Finnish TSO Fingrid. It is constituted by two unit of 159 MW each, the fuel used is Light Fuel Oil and the plant is controlled remotely from Fingrid's Main Grid Control Centre in Helsinki. The reported total cost for the plant was 111 million euros[1] [16].

[1] Converting the value to 2015€ (from 2010€) and expressing the value in relative terms, this corresponds to an investment cost of 0.39 M€/MW.

Figure 3 Forssa Power plant commissioned for Fingrid [17]



Prediction of performance and cost

Gas turbine technology is a well-proven commercial technology with numerous power generating installations worldwide, making simple cycle gas turbines a category 4 technology. The cost development will be favoured by an increase in the installation of natural gas generation, mainly to balance the increase in VRES generation worldwide, while the learning rates will be moderate.

Uncertainty

Uncertainty stated in the tables both covers differences related to the power span covered in the actual table and differences in the various products (manufacturer, quality level, extra equipment, service contract guarantees etc.) on the market.

Data sheets

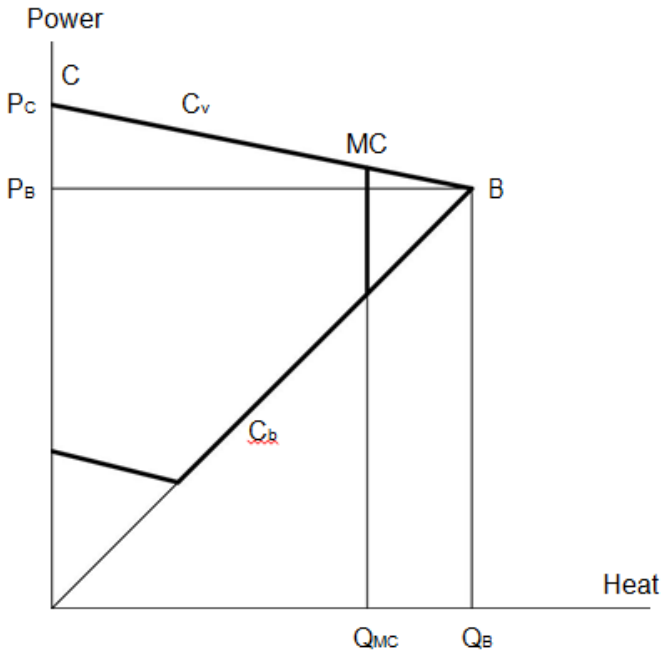
Two data sheets are provided for the OCGT: the first is the natural gas fired plant and the second LFO fired one. In the second sheet, only the differences with the first sheet are displayed. All other data can be considered equal to the gas-fuelled plant.

ANNEX 1: Features of steam extraction turbines

With an extraction steam turbine, all steam may be condensed (e.g. by sea water) to generate maximum electricity (P_C), or all steam may be extracted to be condensed at a higher temperature to

$$\eta_{tot,MC} = \eta_{e,c} \cdot \left\{1 + \frac{1 - c_v}{c_b + c_v} \cdot \frac{Q_{MC}}{Q_B}\right\}$$

generate district heat (Q_B). In the latter case, full back-pressure mode (point B in the below figure), some electricity generation is lost ($P_C - P_B$).



With the steam boiler at full capacity, the turbine may be operated at all points along the line C-B. In the real world, C-B may not be a straight line, but a linear relationship is a good proxy.

By varying full input and steam extraction, the generation of electricity and heat may in theory be varied within the area limited by lines C-B and origo-B. However, in practice there is a minimum power generation capacity (e.g. 10-20% of P_C), and the maximum heat generation capacity may be lower than Q_B.

Below, some relationships are given for key variables.

P_C: Power capacity in full condensation mode; point C. No heat production.

$\eta_{e,c}$: Electricity efficiency in full condensation mode.

Q_B: Heat capacity in full back-pressure mode (no low-pressure condensation); point B.

P_B: Power capacity in full back-pressure mode.

Q_{MC}: Heat capacity at minimum low-pressure condensation; point MC.

c_V: Loss of electricity generation per unit of heat generated at fixed fuel input; assumed constant.
c_b: Back-pressure coefficient (electricity divided by heat); assumed constant.

The fuel consumption H for any given combination of power generation (P) and heat generation (Q):

$$H = \frac{P + c_v \cdot Q}{\eta_{e,c}}$$

$\eta_{e,B}$: Electricity efficiency in full back-pressure mode:

$$\eta_{e,B} = \eta_{e,c} \cdot \frac{c_b}{c_b + c_v}$$

$\eta_{q,B}$: Heat efficiency in full back-pressure mode:

$$\eta_{q,B} = \frac{\eta_{e,c}}{c_b + c_v}$$

$\eta_{tot,B}$: Total efficiency (electricity plus heat) in full back-pressure mode:

$$\eta_{tot,B} = \eta_{e,c} \cdot \frac{1 + c_b}{c_b + c_v}$$

$\eta_{e,MC}$: Electricity efficiency at minimum low-pressure condensation:

$$\eta_{e,MC} = \eta_{e,c} \cdot \left\{1 - \frac{c_v}{c_b + c_v} \cdot \frac{Q_{MC}}{Q_B}\right\}$$

$\eta_{q,MC}$: Heat efficiency at minimum low-pressure condensation:

$$\eta_{q,MC} = \frac{\eta_{e,c}}{c_b + c_v} \cdot \frac{Q_{MC}}{Q_B}$$

$\eta_{tot,MC}$: Total efficiency (electricity plus heat) at minimum low-pressure condensation:

Example:

Electricity efficiency in full condensation mode = 45%, c_V = 0.15, c_b = 1 and Q_{MC}/Q_B = 0.7.

This gives the following values in point B:

Electricity efficiency = 39.1%

Heat efficiency = 39.1%

Total efficiency = 78.3%

While in point MC:

Electricity efficiency = 40.9%

Heat efficiency = 27.4%

Total efficiency = 68.3%

ANNEX 2: Emissions limitations for peak- and reserve plants

The emissions of thermal power plants are regulated at European level, through a number of Directives from the European Union and the subsequent national legislative implementation.

The two main directives to target emission from industrial combustion plants are:

- *Medium Combustion Plant* (MCP) *Directive*[2], which covers smaller plants;
- *Industrial Emission Directive* (IED) for larger plants.

Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 November 2015 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants (*Medium Combustion Plant Directive*) regulates pollutant emissions from the combustion of fuels in plants with a rated thermal input equal to or greater than 1 megawatt (MWth) and less than 50 MWth. The directeive regulates emissions of SO_2, NO_x and dust into the air with the aim of reducing those emissions and the risks to human health and the environment they may cause. It also lays down rules to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO).

The emission limit values set in the MCP Directive will have to be applied from 20 December 2018 for newly built plants.

The directive includes the possibility to introduce exemptions from compliance, as a decision of each Member State:

"Member States may exempt existing medium combustion plants which do not operate more than 500 operating hours per year, as a rolling average over a period of five years, from compliance with the emission limit values"

[2] See more at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/stationary/mcp.htm

The Danish implementation (*MCP-bekendtgørelsen*[3]) sets emission levels for medium size combustion plants (1-50 MWth) in accordance with both EU directives, and the implemented Danish requirements for NO_x, which are stricter than the directive. Refer to appendices in the Danish directive for current emission limitations. New power plants[4] are subject to regulation, including new peakers. For exceptions see §3. A relevant exception to the regulation is new reserve plants operating less than 500 hours per year on a 3-year rolling average. Such plants do not need to follow regulation on SO_2, NO_x, dust and CO. However, if running on solid fuel, these plants must stay below dust emissions of 100 mg/Nm^3 at 6% oxygen.

Large plants (>50 MWth) are covered by the EU Industrial Emission Directive (IED, n. 2010/75/EU), which has been adopted in Denmark through the document *Store fyringsanlæg bekendtgørelsen*[5] and it is effectuating limitations on emissions. The Danish directive targets all larger plants and engines besides diesel engines and soda boilers.

Moreover, similarly to the *MCP-bekendtgørelsen*, large plants for emergency situations operating less than 500 hours are also exempted from the emission limits.

Whether a plant is peak or reserve (emergency situations) is determined through the given definitions (§4.20 and §4.23):

Emergency plant: Medium-sized combustion plants kept in readiness and only put into operation if the commonly used generation plants fails, or in the event of a failure in the transmission network [6].

Peak load plant: Combustion plant which can be quickly started and stopped to supplement the normal supply of district heating and electricity to make up for the fluctuations in district heating or electricity consumption [7].

As of this writing, there is no clear definition of whether a plant could provide the reserve and peaker service interchangeably. This will be later addressed in an appendix to the directive by Miljøstyrelsen[8].

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the internal market for electricity (recast), 30.11.2016, COM (2016) 861 final 2016/0379 (COD):

A proposal to limit the access to capacity mechanisms to technologies with lower CO_2 emissions has been proposed as part of the *Winter Package*. It states:

"Generation capacity for which a final investment decision has been made after [OP: entry into force] shall only be eligible to participate in a capacity mechanism if its emissions are below 550 gr CO_2/kWh. Generation capacity emitting 550 gr CO_2/kWh or more shall not be committed in capacity mechanisms 5 years after the entry into force of this Regulation"

This would apply to strategic reserve, since it is defined as a capacity mechanism, leaving room only for gas technologies and the very efficient diesel generators. The potential entry into force of this

[3] Available online at: https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2017/1478
[4] defined as plants put into operation after 20 December, 2018.
[5] Available online at: https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=180091
[6] "Nødanlæg: Mellemstore fyringsanlæg, der holdes i beredskab og kun sættes i drift, hvis det normalt benyttede anlæg havarerer, eller ved udfald af transmissionsnettet".
[7] "Spidslastanlæg: Fyringsanlæg, som ved udsving i fjernvarme- eller elforbruget kan supplere leveringen af fjernvarme eller el fra den normale forsyning, og som hurtigt kan startes og stoppes."
[8] As for phone communication with Miljøstyrelsen (December 2017).

amendment poses a serious regulation risk for new investments in less efficient and more polluting diesel farms.

The discussion related to the acceptance of the proposal is an ongoing debate topic at EU level and has recently been part of the discussions in the EU28 energy ministers summit (18 December 2017).

The ministers also proposed to supplement the 550gr limit with an alternative limit of "*700kg of CO_2 per installed kW per year*", which would allow more polluting plants to remain subsidized when running for a limited number of hours per year[9]. This limit corresponds to 1400 operating hours per year for a power plant with an emission factor of 500 gr CO2/kWh.

For reference, an overview of CO_2 emissions from the different type of plants and fuels is shown in Figure .

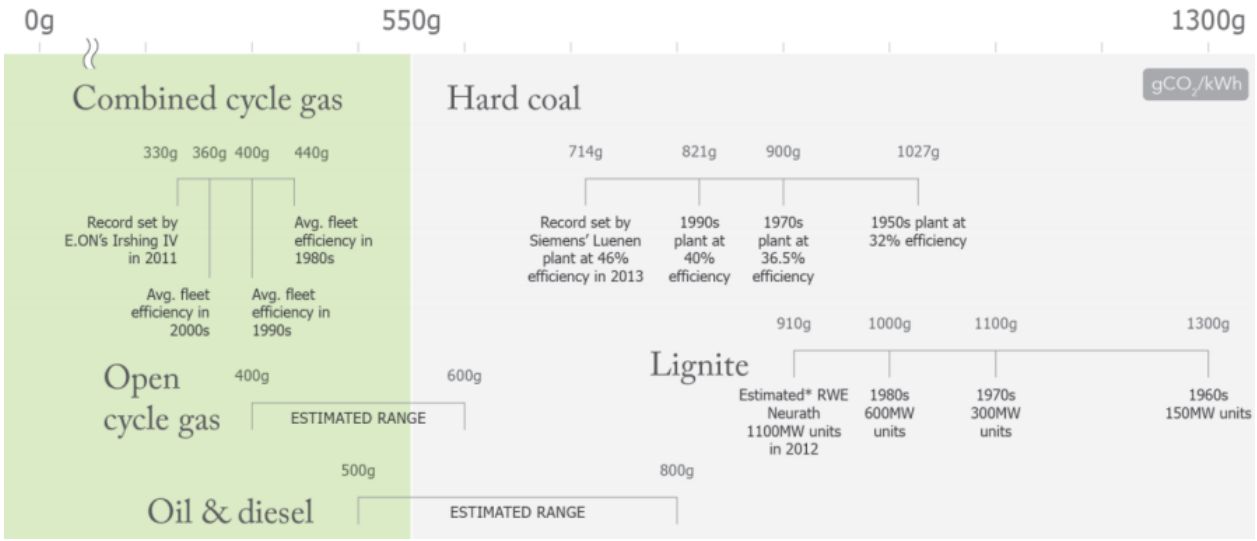


Figure 1 Assessment of carbon-intensity levels by fossil technology [1].

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Technology Data – Generation of Electricity and District heating

ISBN 978-87-94447-55-3
First published August 2016 by the Danish Energy Agency and Energinet

Current version published by:
Danish Energy Agency
Carsten Niebuhrs Gade 43
1577 Copenhagen

E-mail: teknologikatalog@ens.dk

www.ens.dk/technologydata

Design and production: Danish Energy Agency
Front cover photo: Adobe Stock

Version number: 0019

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