An aerial photograph of a solar farm in a rural area. The solar panels are arranged in neat rows on a grassy field. In the background, there are palm trees and small houses, suggesting a tropical or subtropical environment. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Right-sizing Renewables through Smart Metering Technology

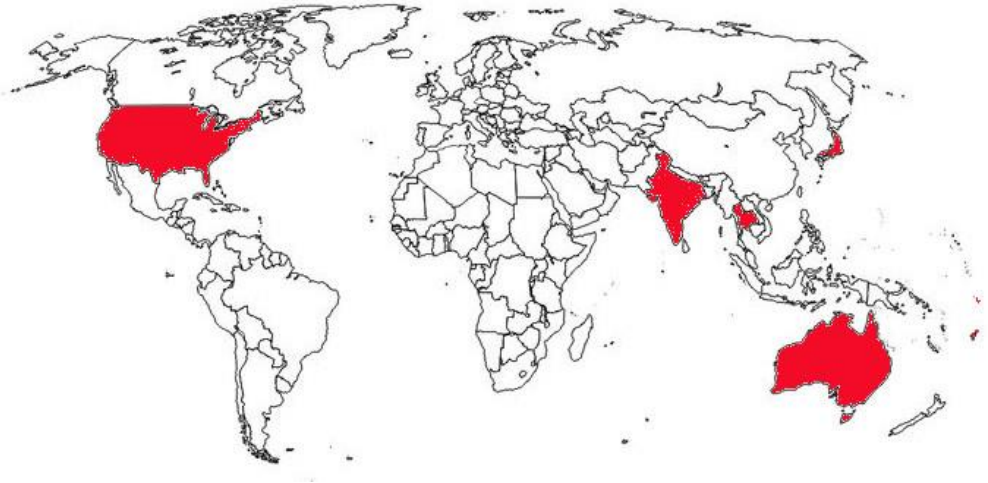
PPA 31st Annual Conference, Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 2024
Nick Phillips | Head Technical Sales (APAC)
Dr. Frank Monforte | Director, Forecasting Solutions

MOVING TO A RENEWABLE ECONOMY

Many Paths to the Same Destination

Factors that define the transition strategy

- » The prevailing manner in which energy is used
- » The existing regulatory framework
- » How energy is traded / bought
- » The capacity limits of the Electrical Network
- » Carbon Reduction



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

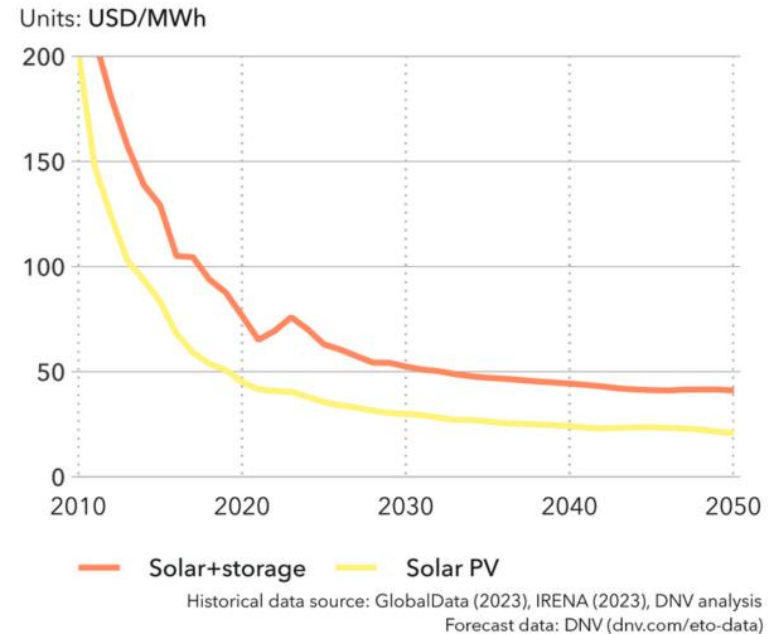
The Which and the When of Implementation

Different renewable technologies available

- » Solar, Wind, Hydro, Geothermal, Biomass
- » Different states of Maturity
- » Cost to Implement Decreasing over time

How do you balance the need to progress against the financial benefits of deferral?

World average levelized cost of solar energy



THE GOLDILOCKS PRINCIPLE

Balancing Generation & Storage

Renewable generation is Intermittent and doesn't often co-exist with the period in which energy needs to be consumed.

- » Storage is needed to be able to transfer the Energy from the generation time period to the deficient usage periods.
- » Too much generation and not enough storage means energy is spilled and lost
- » Too much storage and not enough generation means that batteries aren't charged to financial efficiency



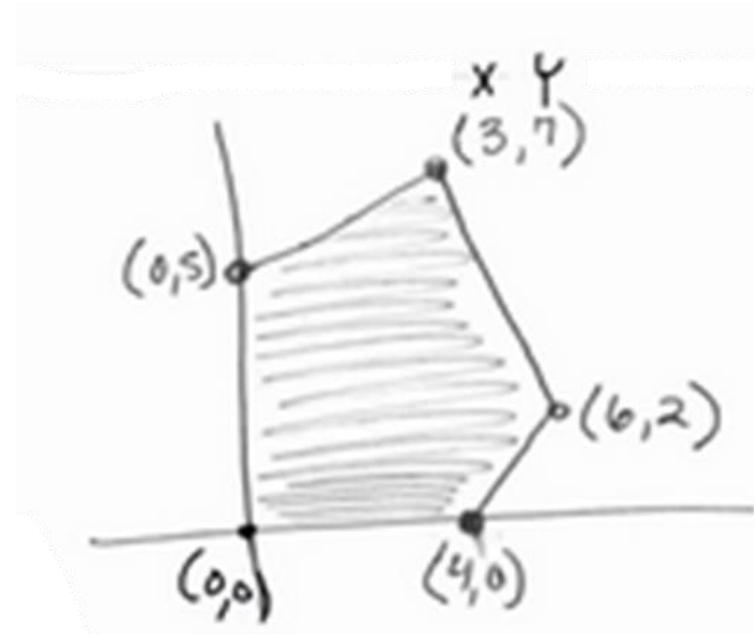
A FRAMEWORK FOR OPTIMIZATION

Building a means to evaluate how to navigate to our goals

An optimization problem:

- » Minimize the cost of ownership / generate given a set of physical and operational constraints:
 - Energy Balance Constraints
 - Generation Dispatch Constraints
 - Network Capacity Constraints
 - Storage Charging Constraints

Define an equation based on costs and allowed generation. Minimize given the constraints to find the OPTIMAL mix given the costs to generate



AN ISLAND ENVIRONMENT

What can this framework us about our choices ?

Looking for guidance to our investment choices.

Starting Point

- » A range of renewable technologies available
- » A self-contained environment
- » What does “lowest cost” mean?

Formulating the problem

- » Marshall islands publicly available data from 2012
- » The corresponding weather data for the time period
- » Illustrative energy costs for diesel, solar and storage

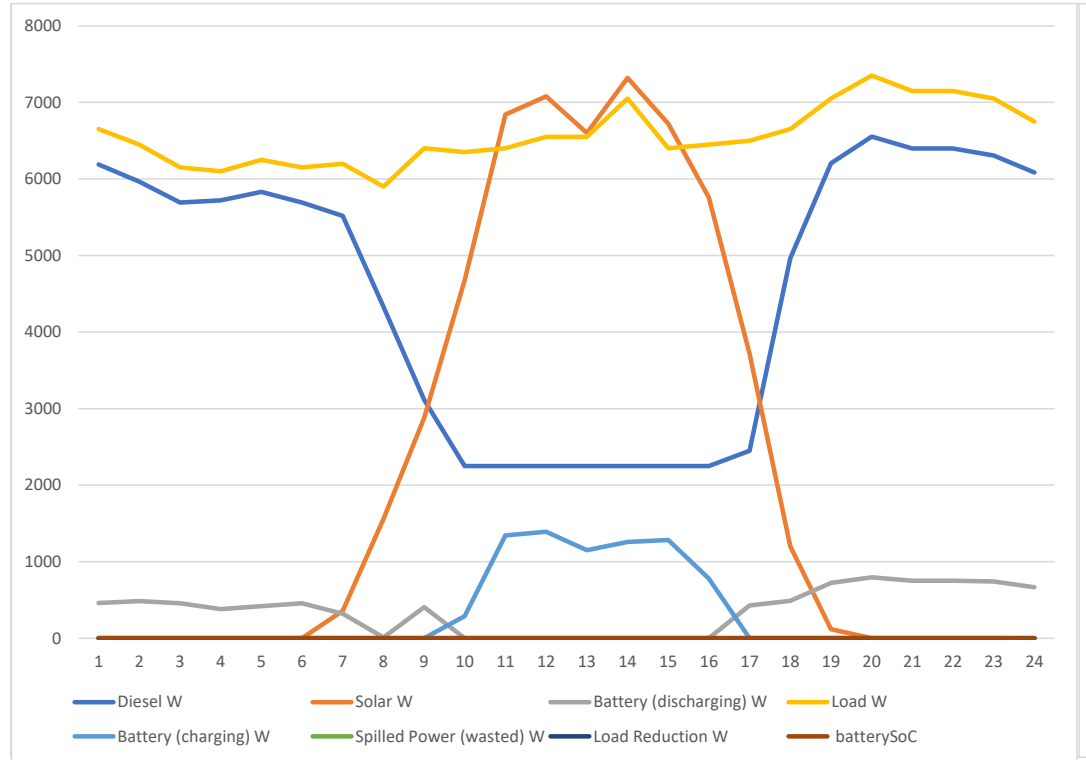
How does a typical day balance with different mixes?



BALANCING SOLAR, BATTERY AND DIESEL

What can we learn?

Find the least cost mix of grid-connected generation that satisfies aggregate demand for power subject to the operating constraints of the network and the operating constraints of the grid-connected generation units.



RESULTS

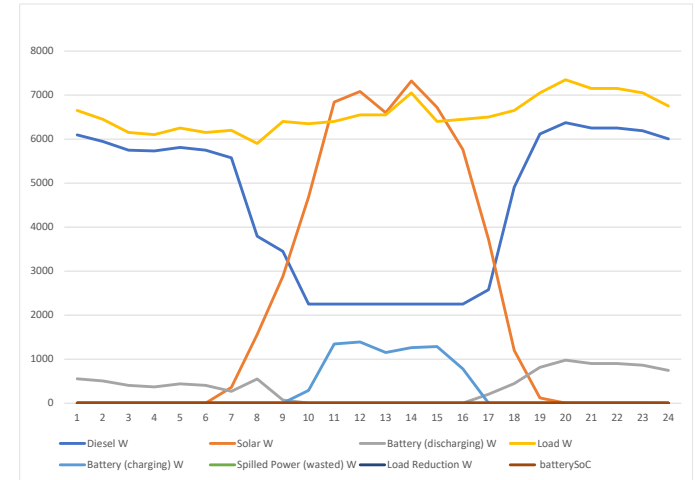
Defines the most optimal solution between generation sources

We solved for the most cost optimal solution.

- » Varying the mix of sources illustrates bottlenecks
- » Can include multiple sources
- » The need to balance Solar with Battery
- » Effect of Rate of Charging / Discharging
- » The importance of ensuring a full charge / discharge cycle

Balanced generation to demand – not balancing generation and demand.

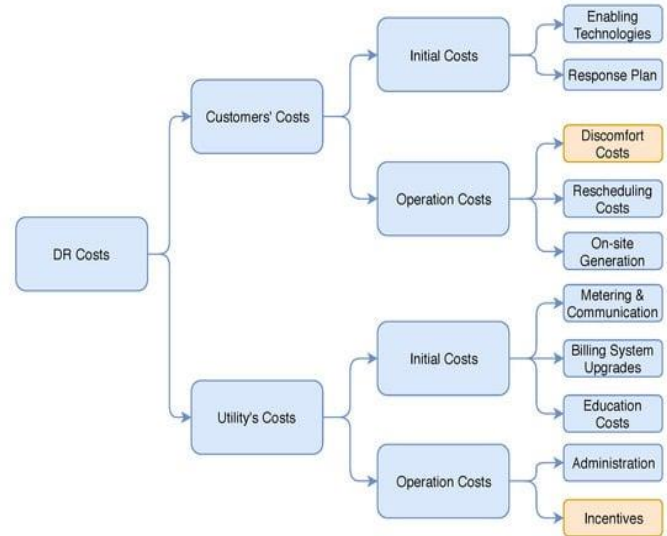
- » By manipulating the demand profile we could lower demand at times when it is expensive to serve.



MODELLING LOAD CONTROL

Manipulating the Demand Profile in the same means as Battery Storage does

- » Batteries & Peak Shifting Load Control
- » How would Battery Storage and Load Control Interact
 - Refine the model to account for the cost of load control
- » Load Control – the Options
 - Passive Load Control (Load Limiting, ToU tariffs)
 - Active Load Control (Load Control, CPP, Interruptible Services)



ATTRIBUTING A COST TO LOAD CONTROL

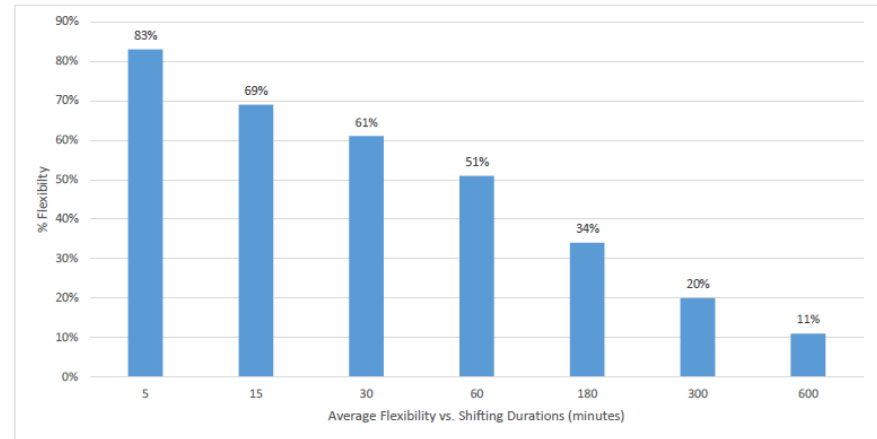
Determining the cost

To be effective a load control program needs to match the compensation offered to Customers against their willingness (and ability) to alter their consumption pattern

- » Understanding of what loads are being used at each time period – and how “Dependent” the user is.

Case Study:

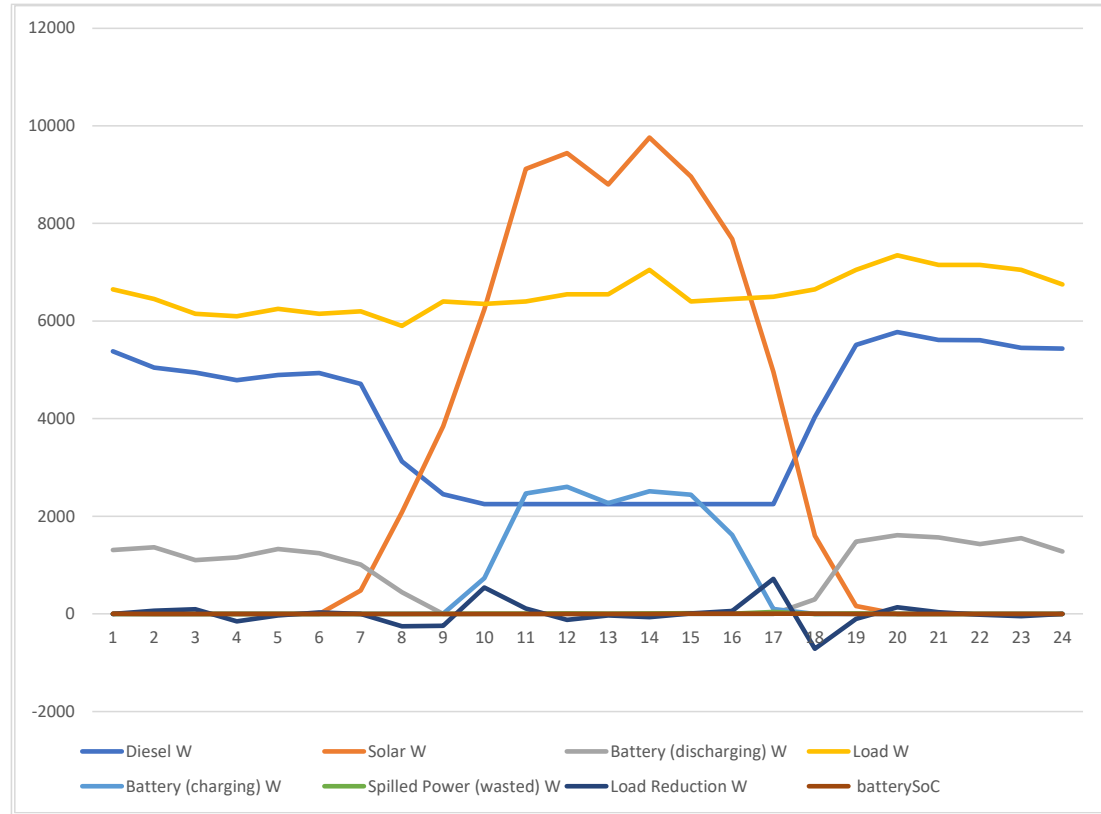
- » Most users have some ability to shift usage
- » Further the shift required the less participate
- » Greater reward creates flexibility
- » Limits to people’s capability



BALANCING WITH PEAK SHIFTING LOAD CONTROL

How does this compare ?

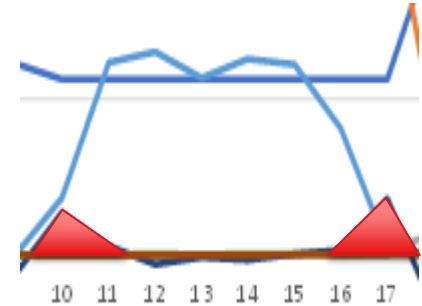
Find the least cost mix of (a) grid-connected generation and BESS and (b) consumer-side generation and load control that satisfies aggregate demand for power subject to the operating constraints of network, the operating constraints of the grid-generation and BESS units, and the operating constraints of consumer side load control.



THE LESSONS LEARNT

Adding Load Control alongside Battery Deployment complements transition

- » As long as there is a higher cost fuel, load control has an effect
- » Battery Charging takes precedence over load control
- » Battery charge rate is increasingly important for two to coexist.
- » Even after including the cost of compensation to Consumers the overall cost to include load control was lower than with battery usage alone



Cost to move x Magnitude

The compensation strategy defines the response profiles
Informs on the budget available for load control program

ADDING COMPATIBLE LOAD CONTROL

Taking advantage of another Lever

#1 – Understanding Consumption

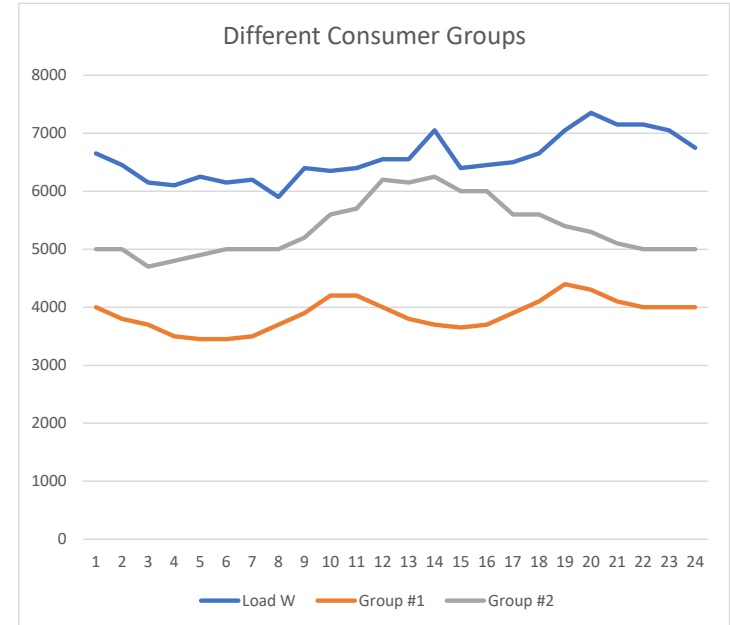
- » Profiling Consumers to Groups
- » Identifying Load Patterns & “Dependency”
- » Determining extent of potential

#2 – Control & Implementation

- » Interval Billing for ToU
- » Load Limiting
- » Emergency Connect / Disconnect

#3 – Reward

- » Determining Participation & Rate Calculation
- » Demand Response / CPP

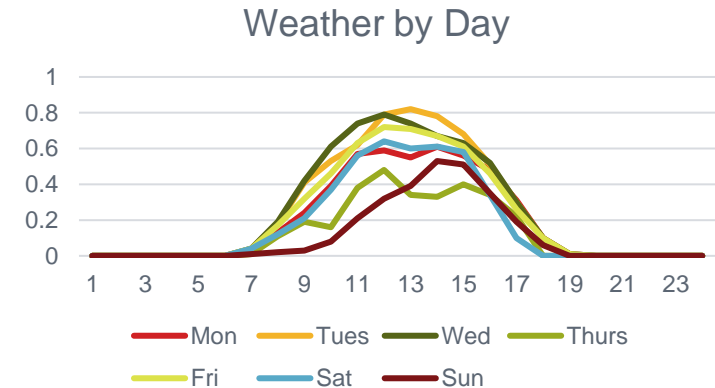
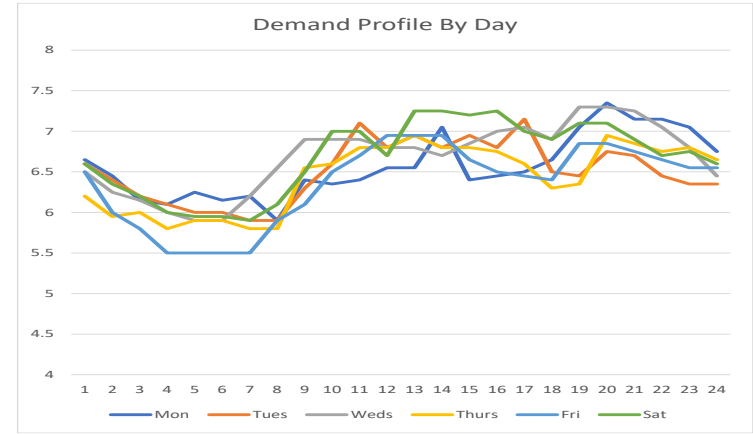


NATURAL VARIABILITY

- » Peak shifting provides a comparable effect to a storage capacity
- » Saves battery storage for out of hours periods

Maximising Battery use essential to efficiency

- » Inherent variability in both weather & demand profile by day
- » ToU programs can be fitted to day types
- » Other forms of Load Control can be used to protect battery ability to charge



CONCLUSION

Modelling & Load Control Options

- » Developed a framework for modelling optimization of renewable integration
- » Like storage, manipulating the load profile matches demand to generation
- » To take advantage, must understand the amount of load that is moveable.
- » Smart metering provides that alongside traditional business cases for revenue collection

- » Different usage to CER monitors but playing the same role of managing renewable integration



THANK YOU