



Turning household water heating systems into MW batteries to support integration of renewables and consumer energy resources (CER)

Deep dive into opportunities and challenges

School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering (SPREE) Research Seminar

Wed, 4th June, 2025

Dr. Baran Yildiz,
Collaboration on Energy and Environmental Markets,
School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering (SPREE), UNSW

Acknowledgment of country

“I would like to acknowledge the Bidjigal and Gadigal people that are the Traditional Custodians of this land. I would also like to pay my respects to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who are present here today.”

Findings from two projects:



Project SolarShift



Treasury



UNSW
SYDNEY

ARENA

PLUS ES South Australia Flexible Demand Trial



UNSW
SYDNEY

Project team:

- Ruby Klisser,
- Dr. David Saldivia Salazar,
- Dr. Hossein Saberi,
- Dr. Arastoo Teymouri
- Dr. Nicholas Gorman
- Assoc. Prof. Anna Bruce,
- Dr. Baran Yildiz



Collaboration on Energy and
Environmental Markets

Our research is supported by Australian Centre for Advanced Photovoltaics (ACAP)



UNSW
SYDNEY

Today's content

1) Project motivation

2) Real-world trials:

- South Australia PLUS ES Flexible Demand Trial
- Endeavour Energy Off-peak + Trial

3) SolarShift Project Thermal Modelling Results

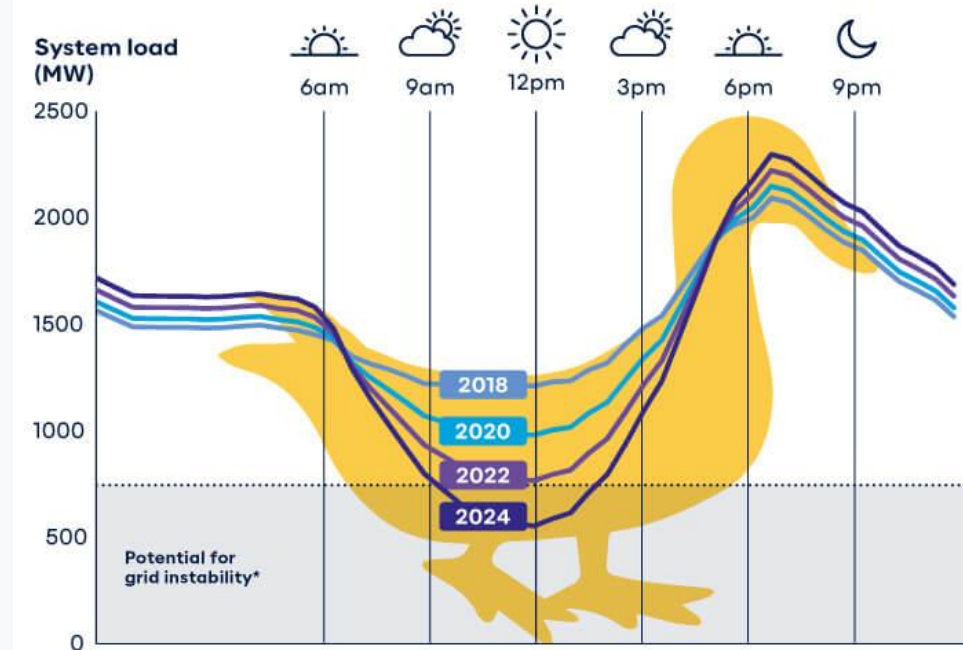
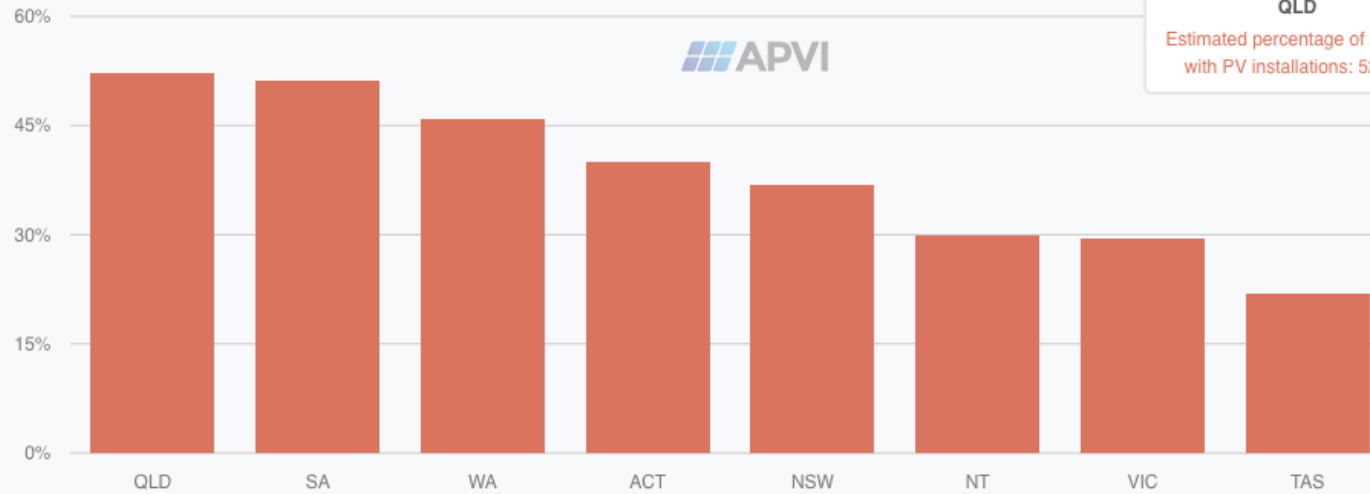
4) SolarShift Project Customer Hot Water Roadmap

5) Contributions & future research directions

Project motivation: Increasing rooftop solar

Compare the Status of States and Territories

Percentage of houses with a PV system by State/Territory



References: APVI 2025, Synergy,



Collaboration on Energy and
Environmental Markets



UNSW
SYDNEY

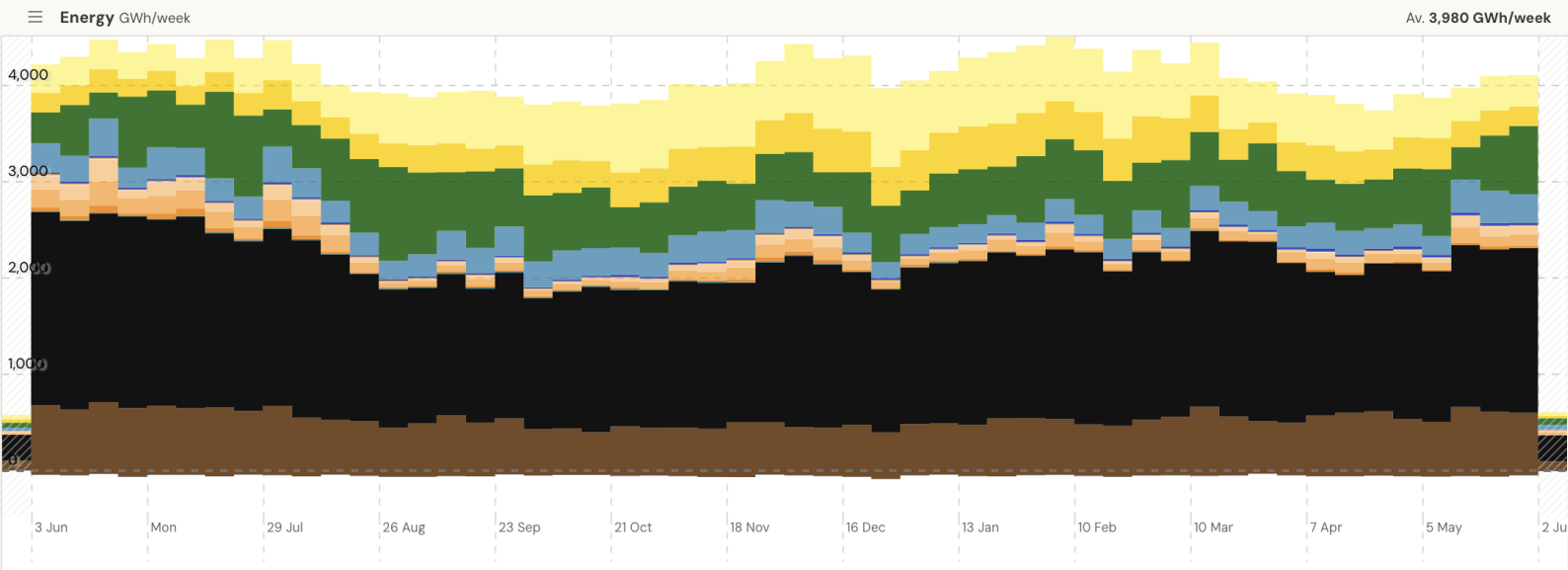
Project Motivation: increasing rooftop solar

OpenElectricity

Energy NEM



1D 3D 7D 30D 1Y ALL Day Week Month



27 May 2024 – 8 Jun 2025

Detailed	Energy GWh	Contribution to demand	Av.Value \$/MWh
Sources			
Solar (Rooftop)	27,764	12.7%	\$33.46
Solar (Utility)	16,791	7.7%	\$47.20
Wind	30,263	13.9%	\$72.78
Hydro	13,362	6.1%	\$174.86
Battery (Discharging)	861	0.4%	\$247.96
Gas (Waste Coal Mine)	399	0.2%	\$109.74
Gas (Reciprocating)	366	0.2%	\$221.60
Gas (OCGT)	3,290	1.5%	\$331.98
Gas (CCGT)	5,763	2.6%	\$193.87
Gas (Steam)	1,228	0.6%	\$186.51
Distillate	54	0.02%	\$962.16
Bioenergy (Biomass)	353	0.2%	\$129.85
Coal (Black)	86,673	39.7%	\$128.61
Coal (Brown)	30,936	14.2%	\$94.44
Loads			
Pumps	-2,070	-0.9%	\$15.16
Battery (Charging)	-1,115	-0.5%	\$32.96
Net	214,918		
Renewables	88,532	40.6%	



Collaboration on Energy and Environmental Markets



UNSW SYDNEY

Project motivation: Integration challenges

NEWS

Rooftop solar PV provides 107.5% of grid demand in South Australia

By George Heynes
November 18, 2024

Power Plants, Grids
Asia & Oceania, Southeast Asia & Oceania

LATEST Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Reddit Email



Harnessing AI and European space tech to transform energy grids
FEATURES, GUEST BLOG

Arctech, ACME sign 175MW solar tracker supply in Oman
NEWS

Fraunhofer ISE and KAUST develop 'hybrid' method for perovskite-silicon cell production
NEWS

National Grid Renewables rebrands to Geronimo Power
NEWS

Meyer Burger on the edge following German cell production insolvency
NEWS

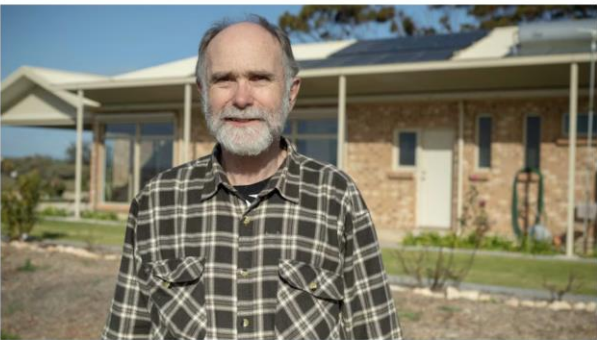
LECO process can increase resistance of TOPCon cells by 'orders of magnitude'
NEWS

Powerlines may be limiting savings Australians can make from solar, UNSW research suggests

By consumer affairs reporter Liz Hobday and the Specialist Reporting Team's Penny Timms

7.30 Solar Energy

Mon 17 Aug 2020



Rolf Wittwer put solar panels on his house, expecting to save money on energy. Instead, they kept shutting down. (ABC News: Tony Hill)

abc.net.au/news/solar-powerlines-alr...



Share article

Do we really need a rooftop solar button – and are households treated fairly with PV, batteries and EVs?



AAP Image/Dan Hinbrechts

Sophie Vorrath Nov 19, 2024



What is renewable energy curtailment and how does it affect rooftop solar?

By technology reporter James Purtill

ABC Science

Solar Energy

Wed 16 Feb 2022



Your rooftop solar panels may be quietly switching off in the middle of the day. (Reuters: Tim Wimborne, file photo)

abc.net.au/news/solar-how-is-it-affect...



Share article

Australia's energy operator wants emergency powers to switch off rooftop solar. What does it mean for households?

By energy reporter Daniel Mercer

Solar Energy

Sat 7 Dec



Rooftop solar can at times meet more than half of the total demand across the national electricity market. (ABC News: Glyn Jones)

abc.net.au/news/rooftop-solar-emerg...



Share article



Home » Solar » Some households lose 20 per cent of their solar output from grid curtailment

Some households lose 20 per cent of their solar output from grid curtailment

Sophie Vorrath Mar 30, 2025



SOLAR UTILITIES



Collaboration on Energy and Environmental Markets

Project motivation: Energy Storage!



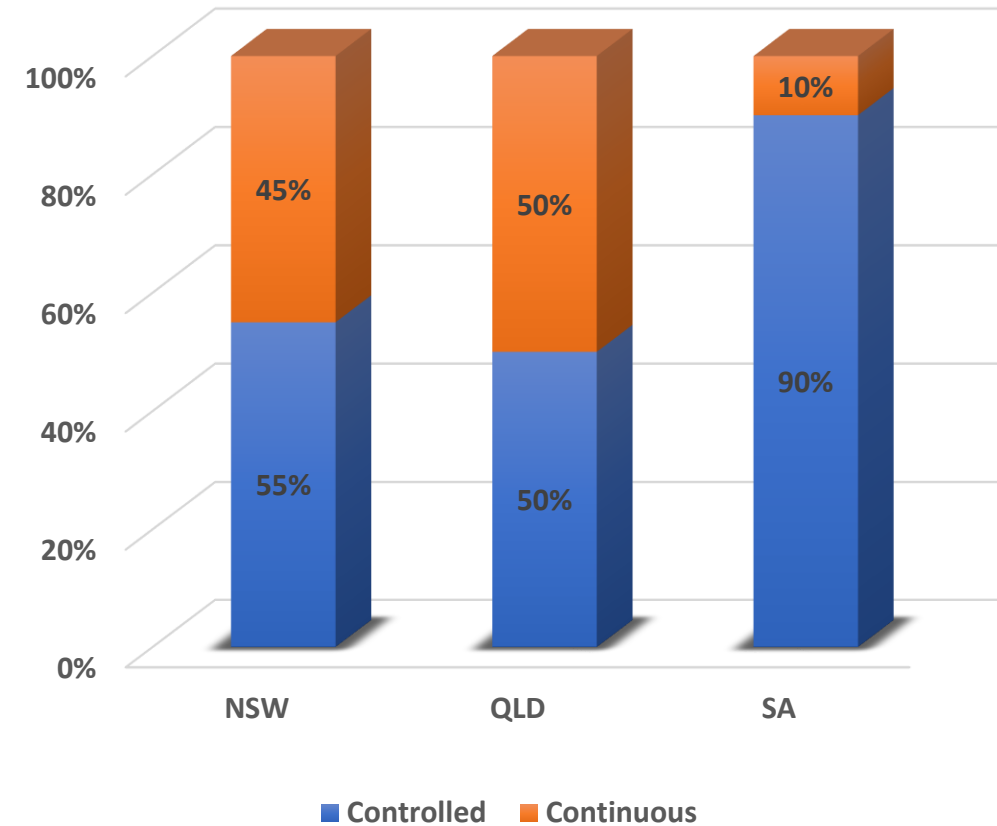
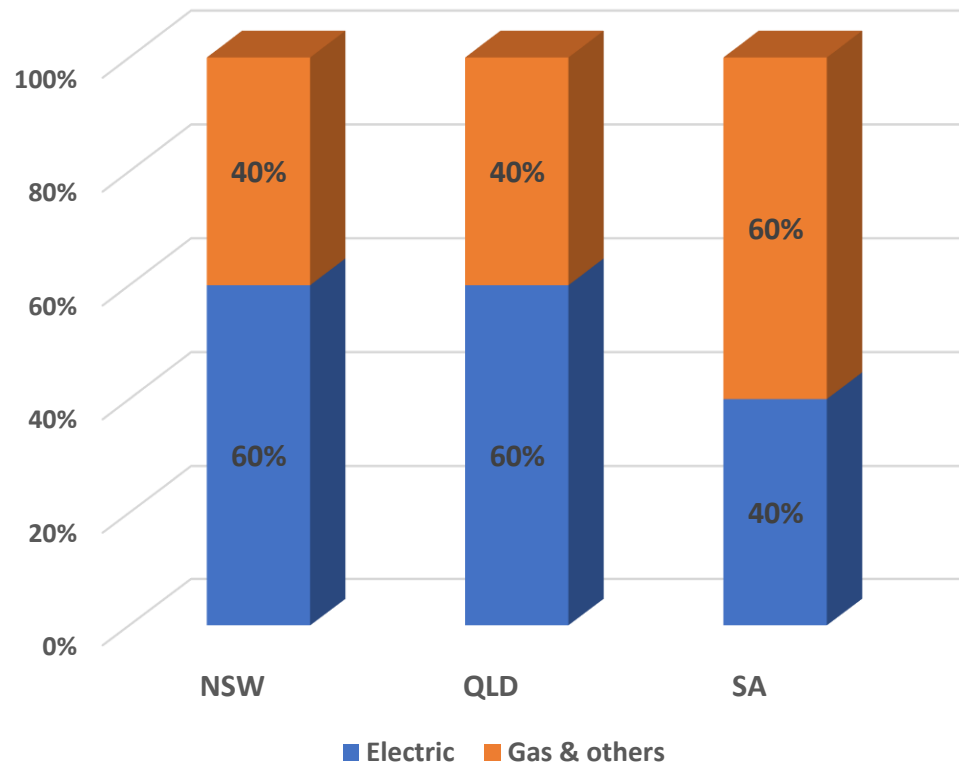
Home batteries vs. electric water heating storage tanks

- 13.5 kWh
- All electric applications
- ~\$10,500 (including \$2k battery rebate in NSW)
- ~ 250k households have a battery
- Typical lifetime 5-8 years
- Typical energy efficiency 85%-95%
- **Can utilize rooftop solar**

- 10 – 15 kWh ($m \times c \times \Delta T$)
- Water heating only
- \$1000 – \$2000 (for a resistive system)
- **~4m households have storage tanks**
- Typical lifetime 10-15 years
- Typical energy efficiency 67-72%
- **Can utilize rooftop solar**



Project motivation: electric hot water system ownership and energy demand



Between 25-30% of total residential energy use is attributed to water heating in Australia

Project motivation: smart meters



Currently between 30-40% of households own smart meters in Australia

A screenshot of the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) website. The header includes the AEMC logo and navigation links: 'About Us', 'Energy System', 'Regulation', 'Our Work', 'News Centre', and 'Contact Us'. The main banner features a blue and purple abstract graphic. Below the banner, a breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home / News Centre / Media Releases / AEMC on smart meters: 100% by 2030, new customer information, real-time data and protections'. The main content area displays the title of the news release in large, bold black text: 'AEMC on smart meters: 100% by 2030, new customer information, real-time data and protections'.

Project Motivation: Control electric water heating systems via smart meters to soak-up solar

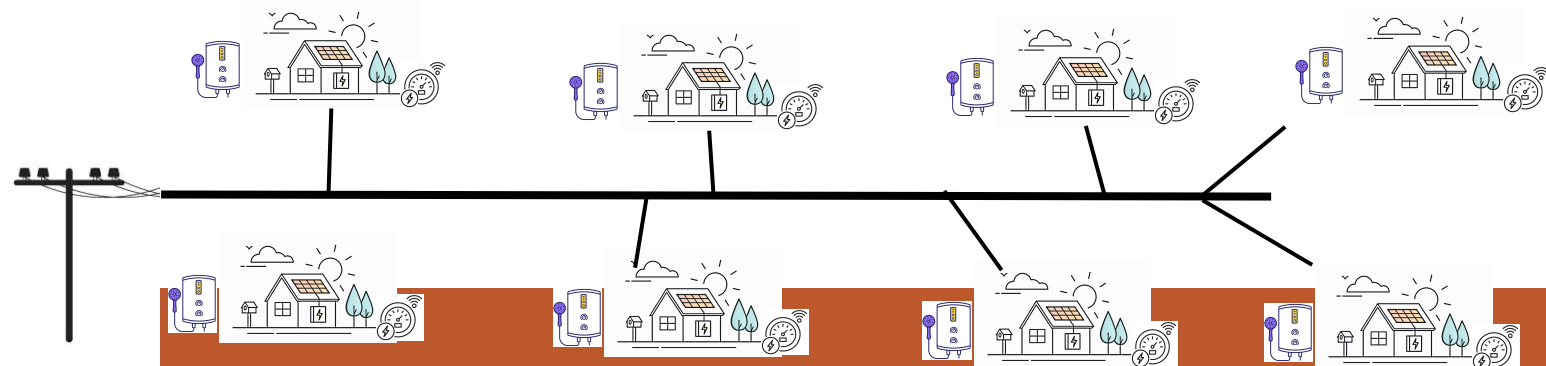
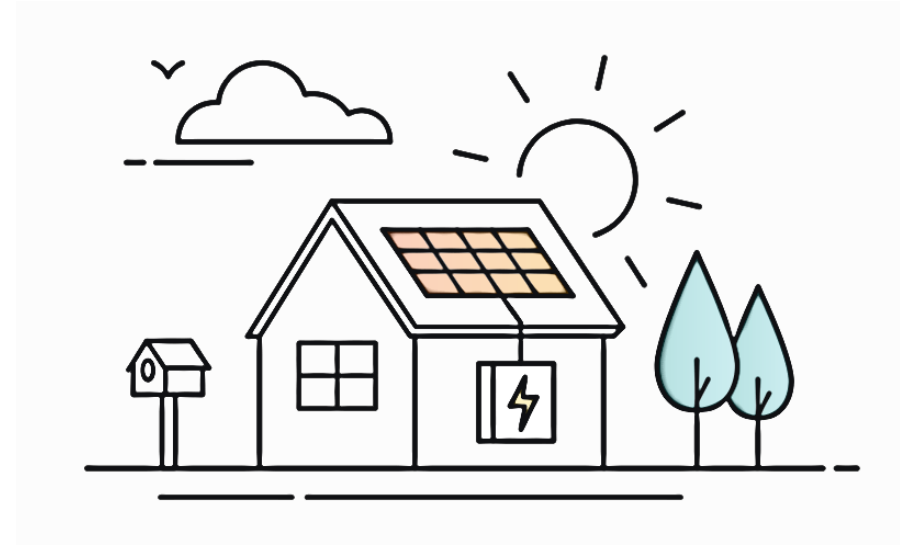
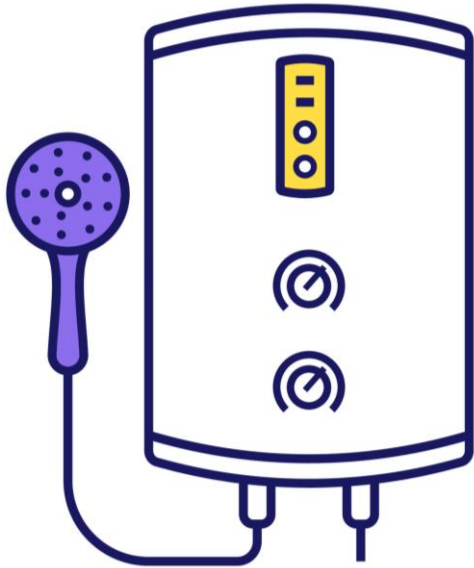


Image credits: Vecteezy, Solar Victoria, iStock



Collaboration on Energy and
Environmental Markets

Part 2

1) Project motivation

2) Real-world trials:

- **South Australia PLUS ES Flexible Demand Trial (~20,000 households)**
- **Endeavour Energy Off-peak + Trial (~10,000 households)**

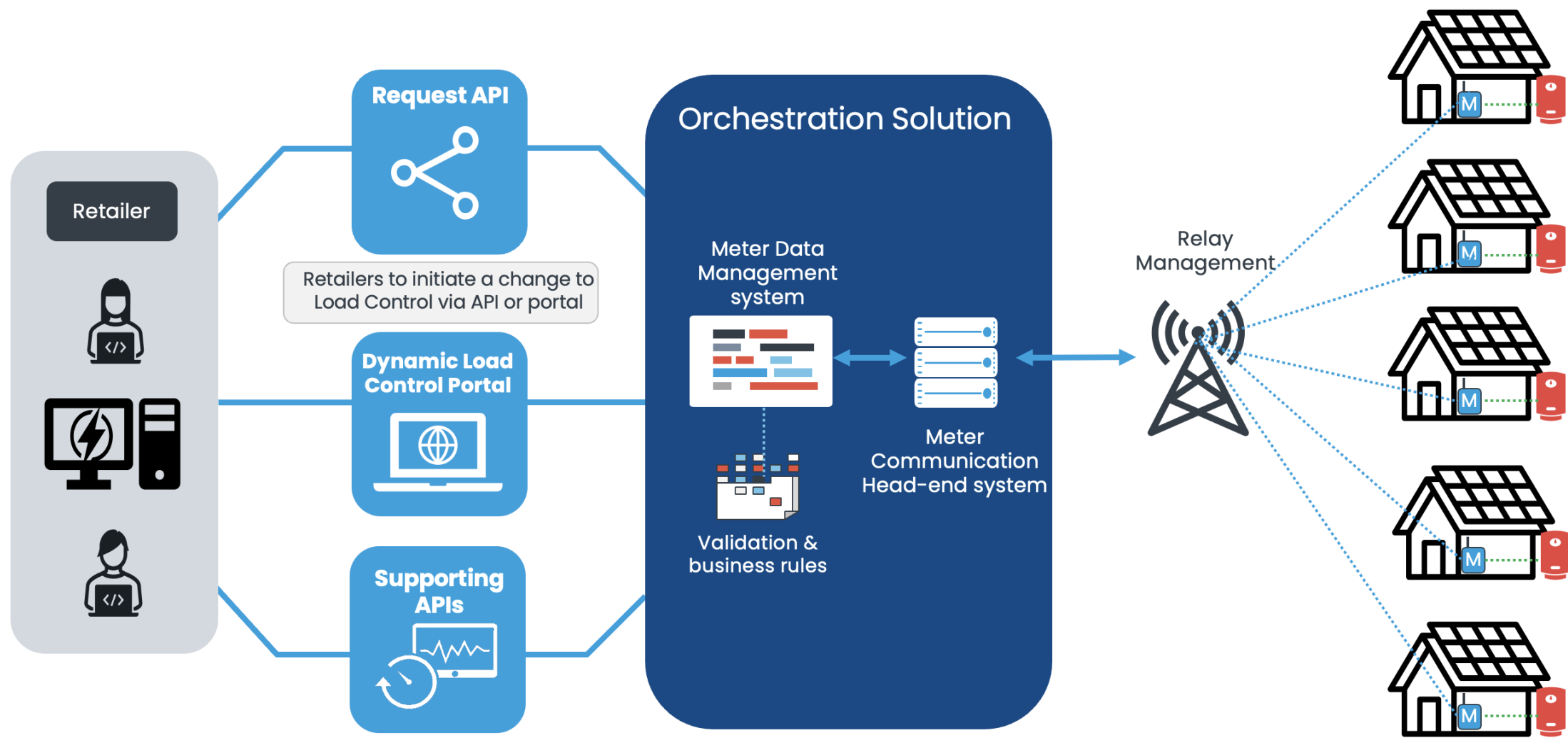
3) Network impact of electric water heating system coordination and control

4) SolarShift Project Thermal Modelling Results

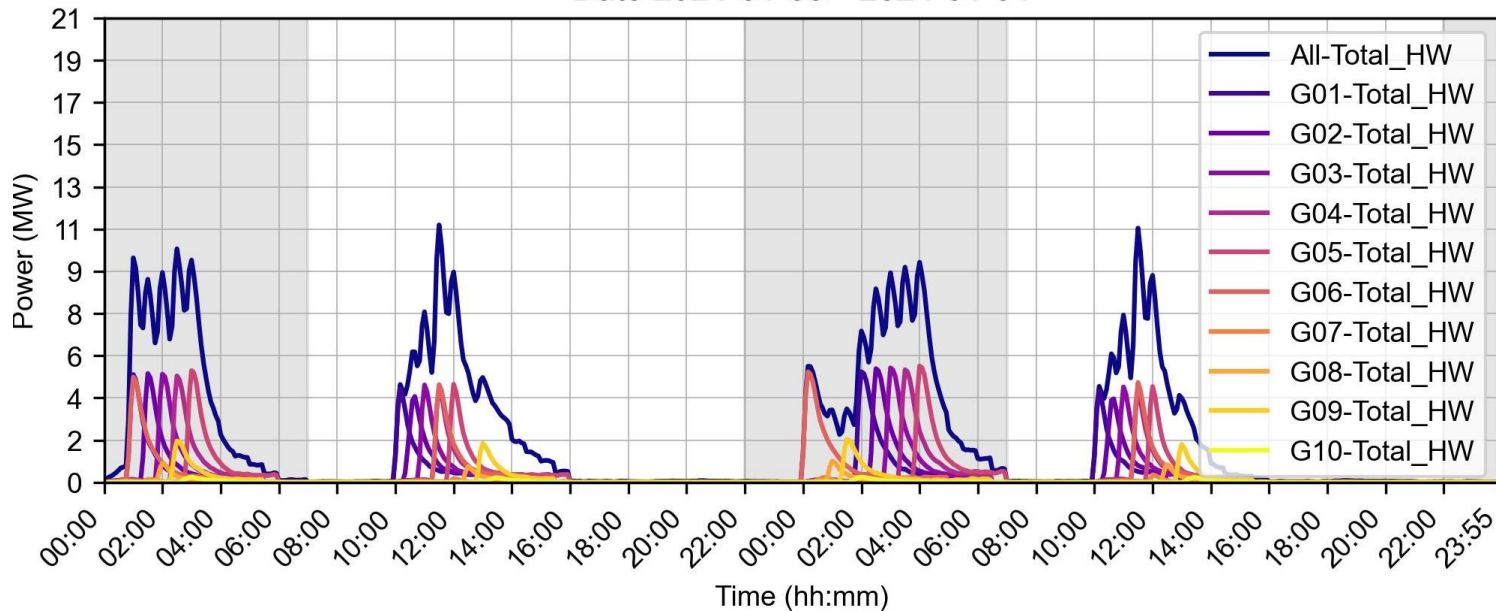
5) SolarShift Project Customer Hot Water Roadmap

6) Future research directions

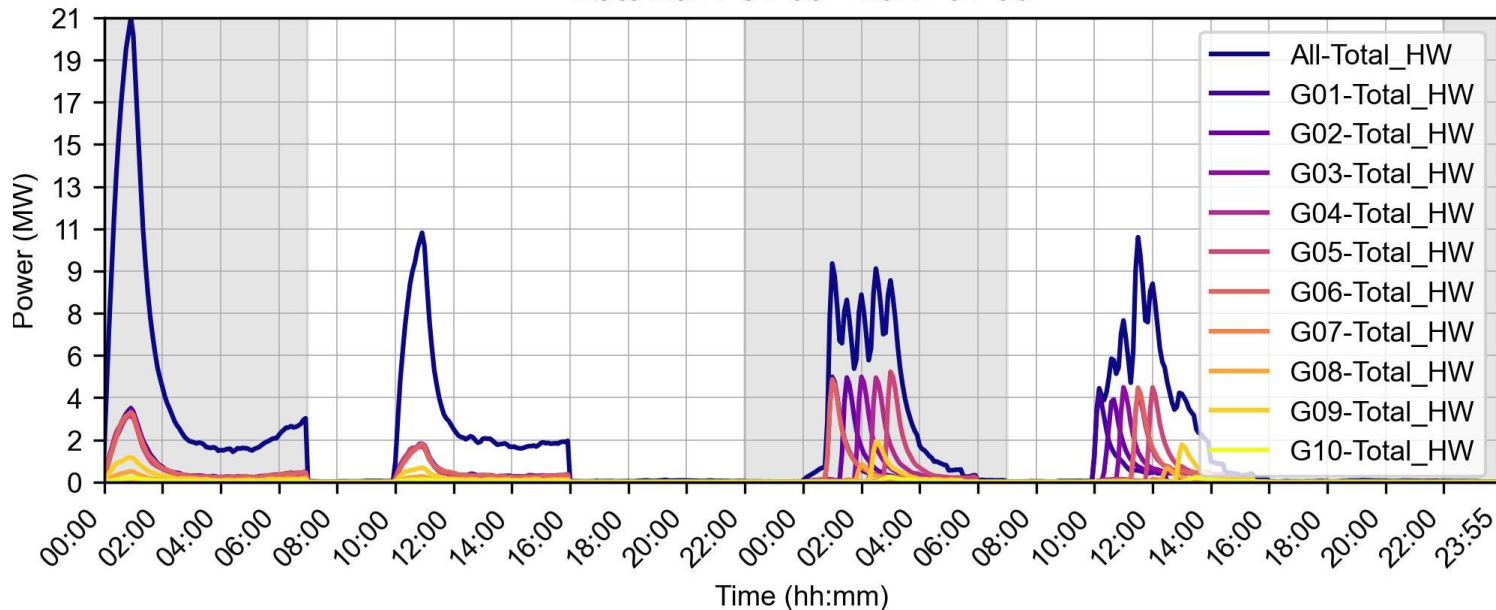
South Australia (SA) Flex Demand Trial: Plus ES Smart meter control solution



Date 2024-01-03---2024-01-04



Date 2024-01-05---2024-01-06



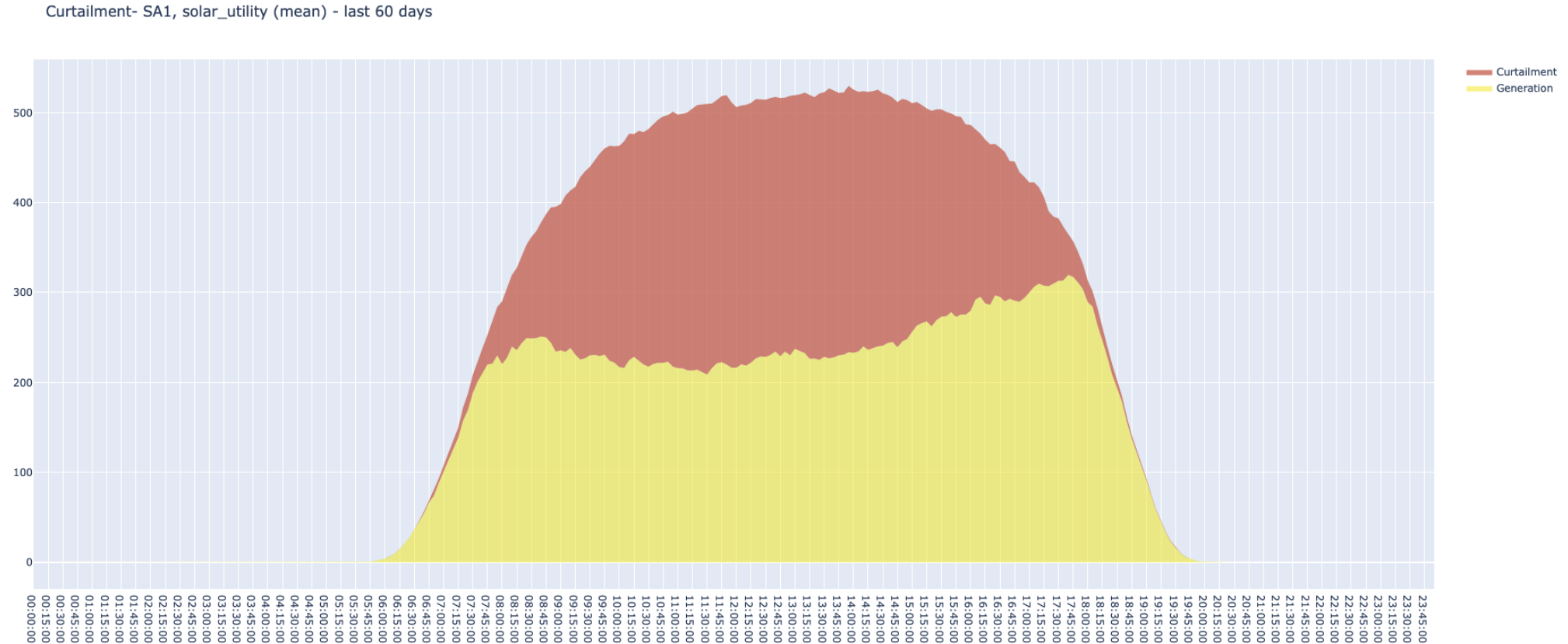
- Randomization between different groups decreased over the course of the trial:
60 mins → 30 min → 15 mins
- There is also randomization within each group (5-10 minutes) depending on the size of group
- Dynamic scheduling considers wholesale market prices and temperature forecasts
- Static schedule applies the same shifting strategy across different days
- Default controlled load strategy (Controlled load, bottom left) causes demand peaks, other control strategies with refined randomization reduce the peak water heating demand

SA Flex Demand Trial: Hot water control

- ~20k households with controlled load in the trial with **smart meters**,
- However, ~25% of the controlled load circuits are inactive (this stat aligns with other states where 15-25% of controlled load fleet is inactive).
- On average **45.5%** of hot water load is shifted to daytime (~**50%** with Static 2 Control, latest control). On the individual household level: **0.9 MWh/year** and **2.5 kWh/day**. Shifted hot water energy during winter was almost twice of summer.
- If the implemented control can be successfully rolled out across the NEM, we estimate that there is on average **10.5 GWh** of **daily** flexible hot water load that can be shifted into solar generation periods.
- According to recent data from Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), there is an average of **6.3 GWh** of daily utility scale solar curtailment (~**11 GWh** including wind) over the last 12 months (fluctuates seasonally)!

Control strategy	Period	Mean daily DEWH load (MWh/day)	Mean daily DEWH load shifted to daytime (MWh/day)	Shifted (%)
Static 1	2023-07-01 to 2023-10-16	84.5	36.0	42.6%
Default CL2	2023-10-17 to 2023-11-08	68.4	27.2	39.8%
Dynamic	2023-11-09 to 2024-04-23	55.2	25.8	46.7%
Static 2	2024-04-24 to 2024-06-30	83.6	41.1	49.2%
Average	2023-07-01 to 2024-06-30	70	31.85	45.4%

Solar curtailment vs. hot water demand

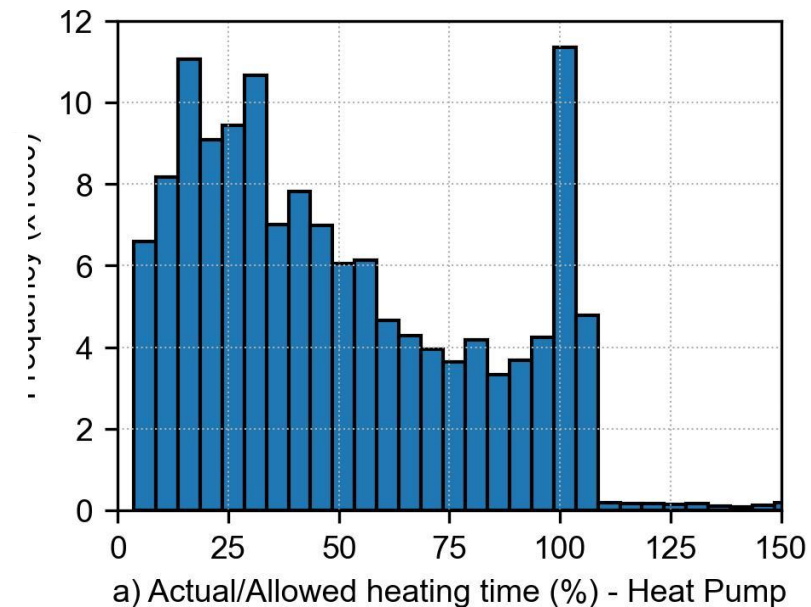
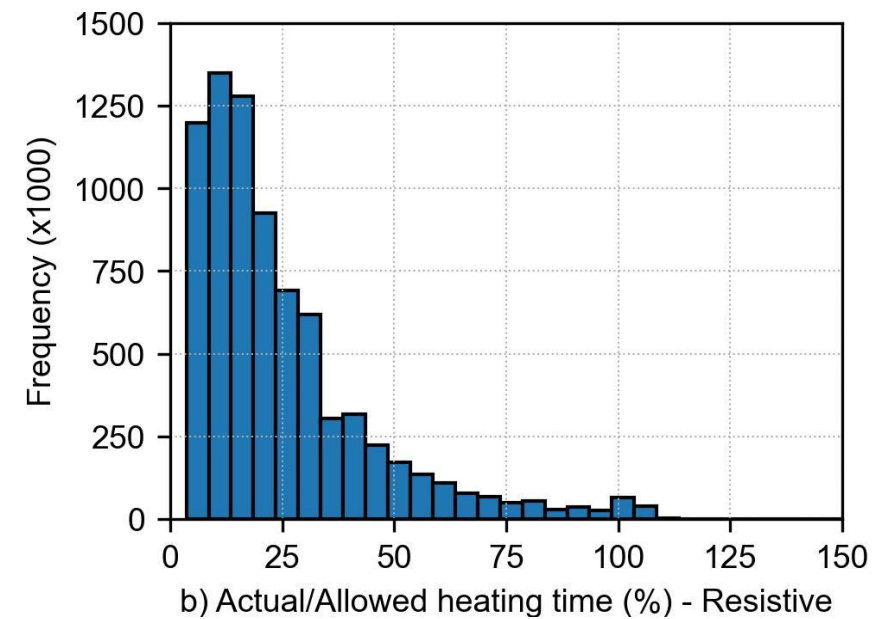
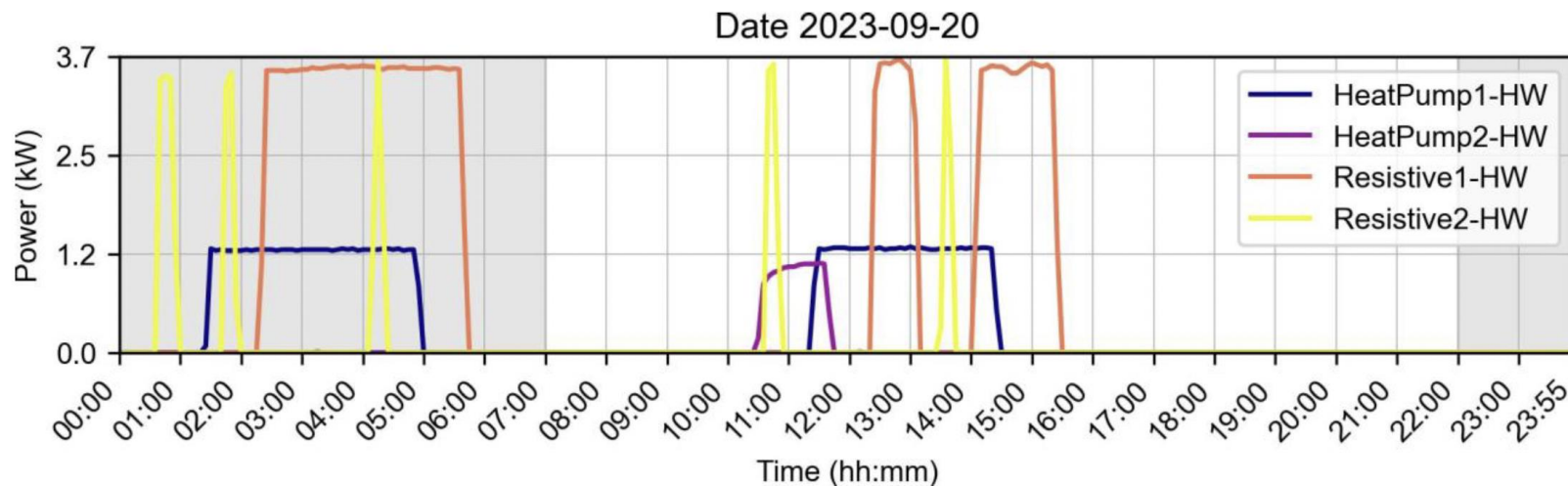


- There is an average of **6.3 GWh** of daily utility scale solar curtailment (~11 GWh including wind) over the last 12 months according to data from AEMO's website (fluctuates seasonally)
- Some solar farms loose **30-40% of daily generation**
- Successful roll out across the NEM: on average **10.5 GWh** of **daily** flexible hot water load that can be shifted into solar generation periods.

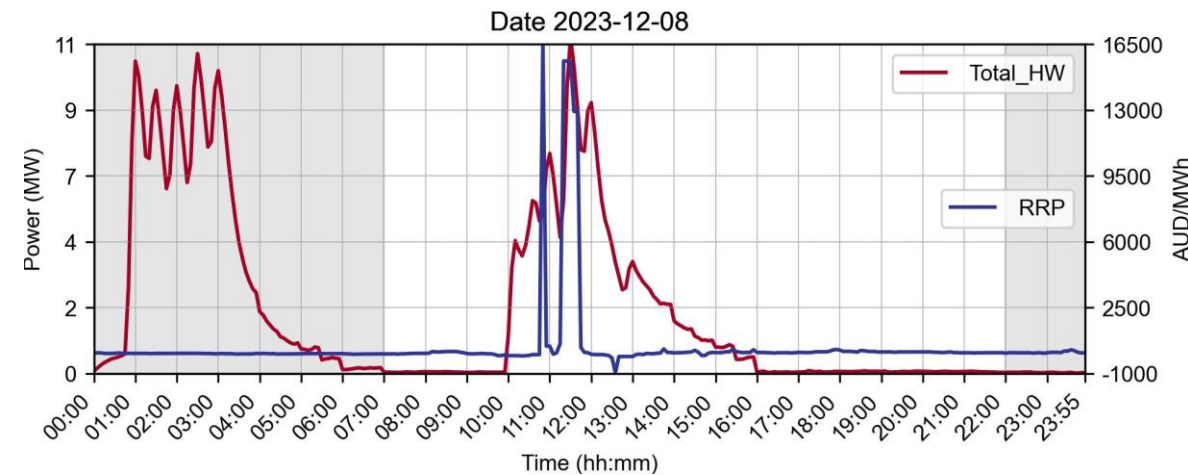
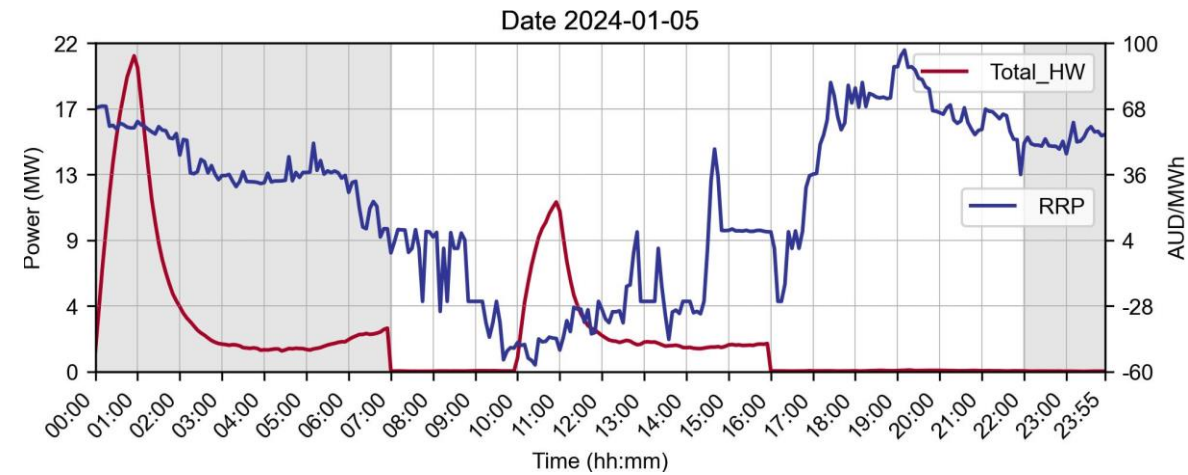


Heat-pumps

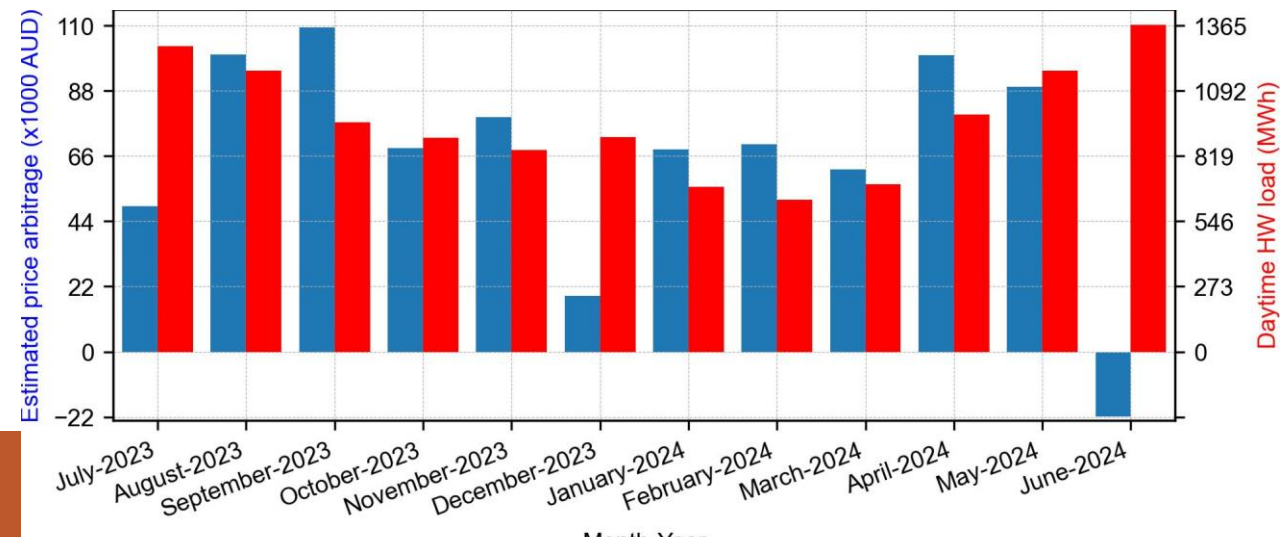
- Heat-pump manufacturers generally* don't recommend external control of heat-pumps due to concerns regarding the compressor life-cycle.
- ~300 heat-pumps in the trial.
- Implemented control strategies generally work for heat-pumps but needs more refinement.
- With further improvements (checking ~0 power in the circuit before turning off, extra heating during winter), these concerns can be addressed.



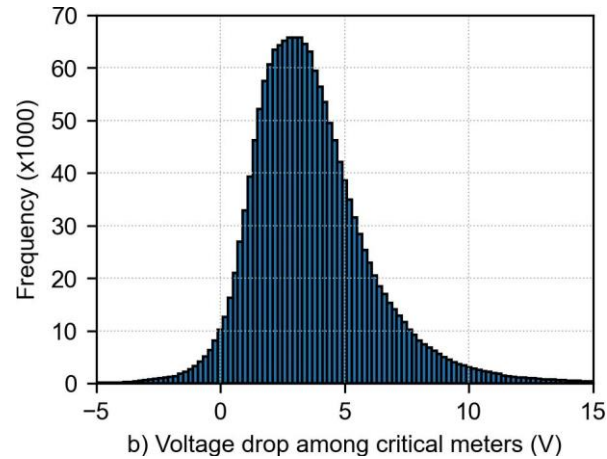
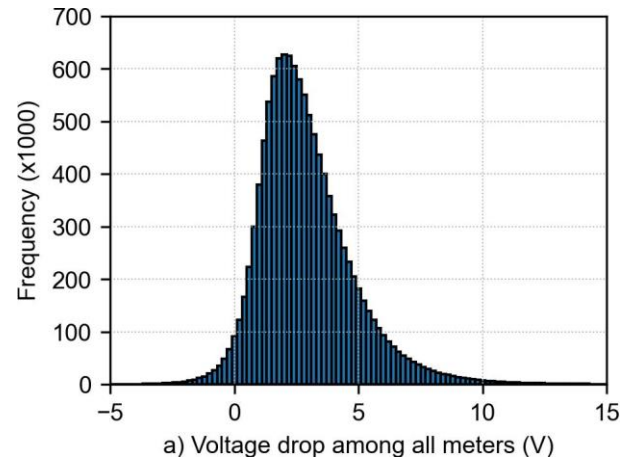
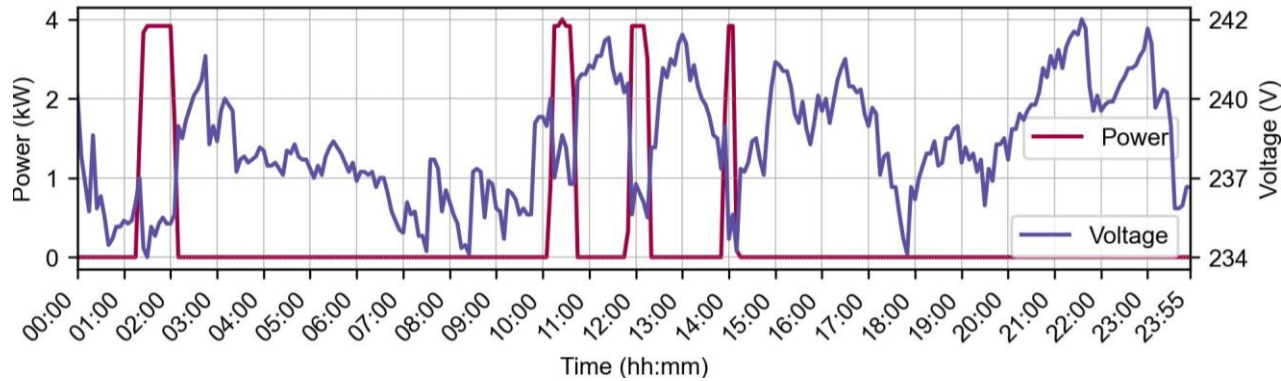
Financial savings & emissions reduction



- \$63/year savings from shifting hot water load
- Saving opportunity is likely to grow → more renewables in the network → lower day time prices & increasing number of resistive and heat-pump water heaters.
- **But these savings are currently are not passed onto households!** We need new tariffs if we want to incentivize households and have a larger controlled load/flex demand fleet.
- Trial operations reduced emissions associated with water heating by 14.3%! (depends on state & RE mix)
- Successfully roll out across the NEM → 2.3 Mt-CO₂/year reduction (8% of water heating emissions)



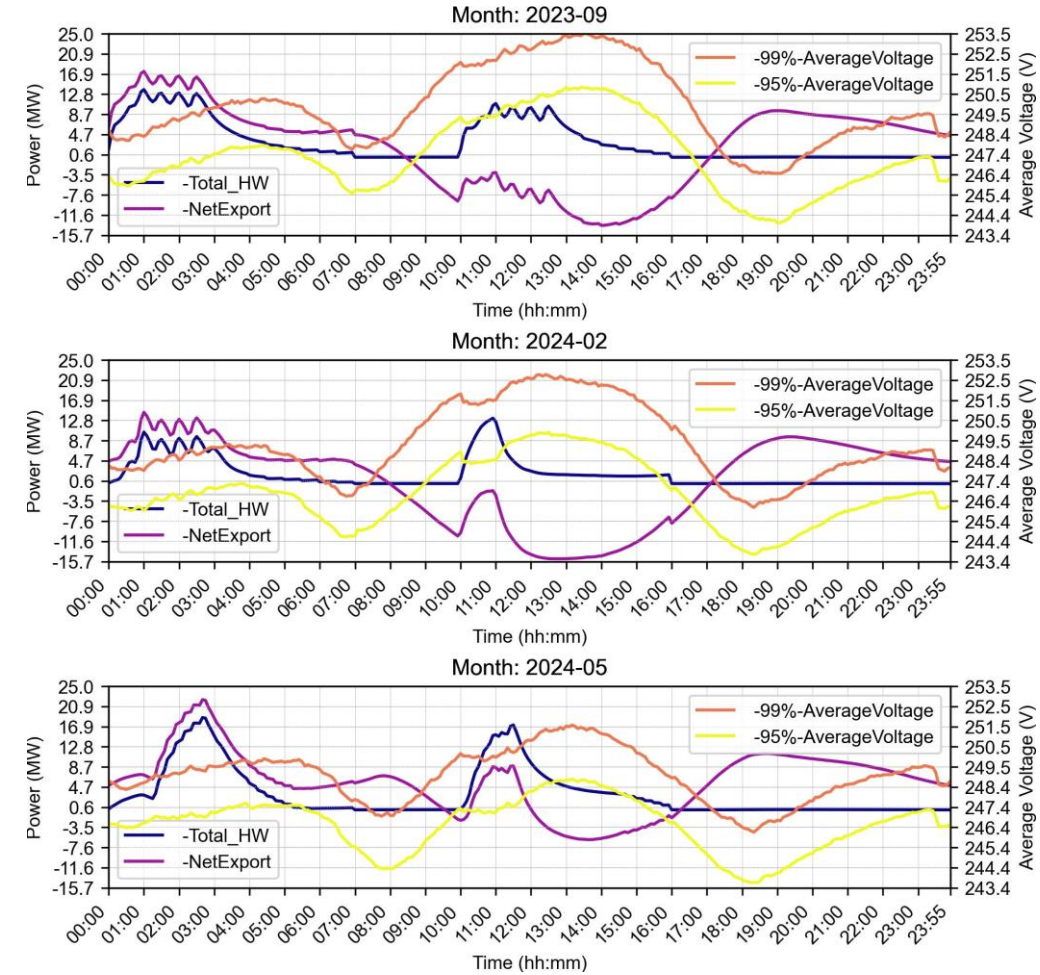
Voltage impact on the network



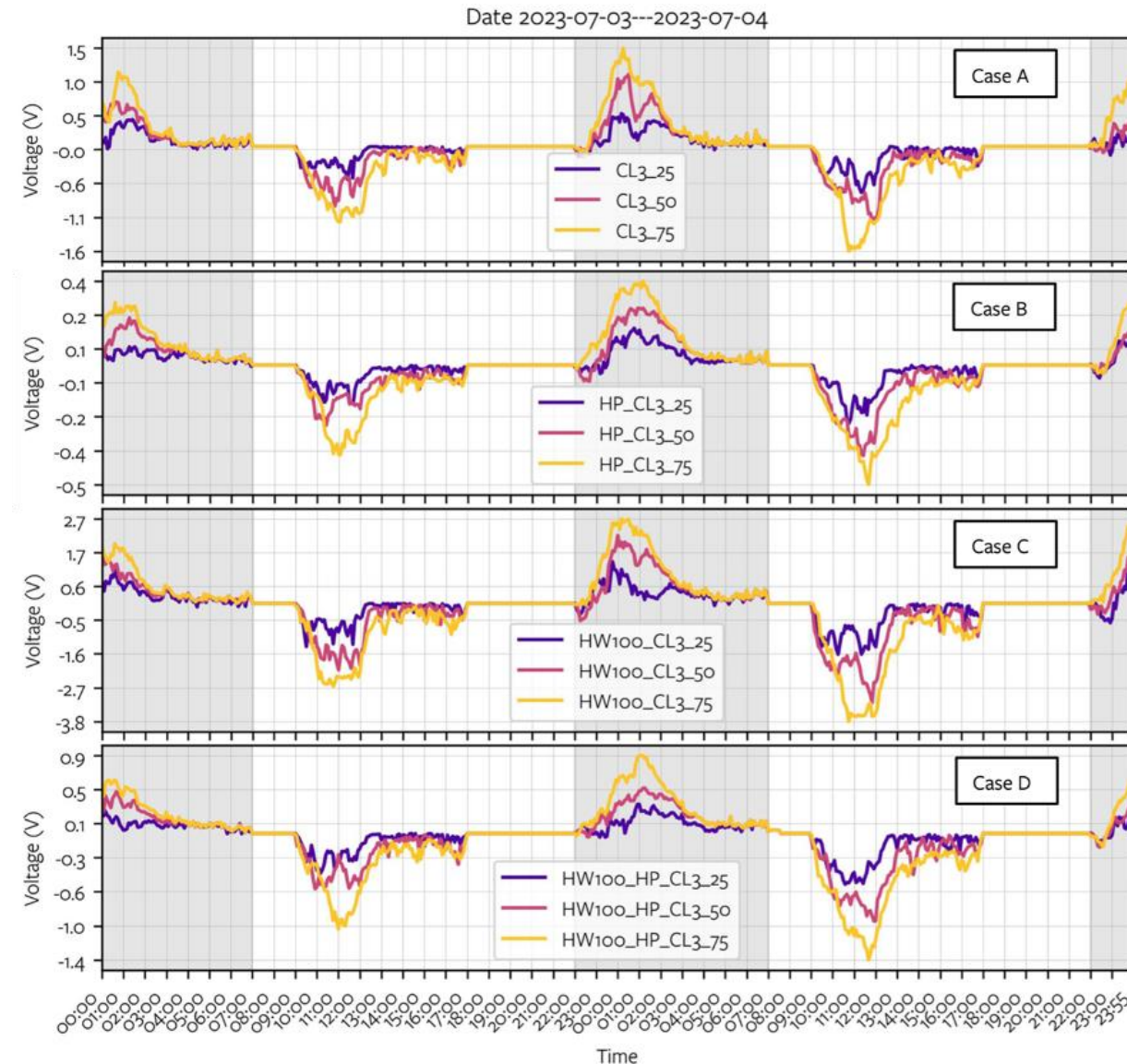
Median of 2.6V and a 95th percentile value of 6.4V

Median of 3.4 V and 95th percentile value of 8.2V

Entire fleet hot water, total export (from network) & voltages



Impact on the network: Power flow modelling (Endeavour Energy trial)

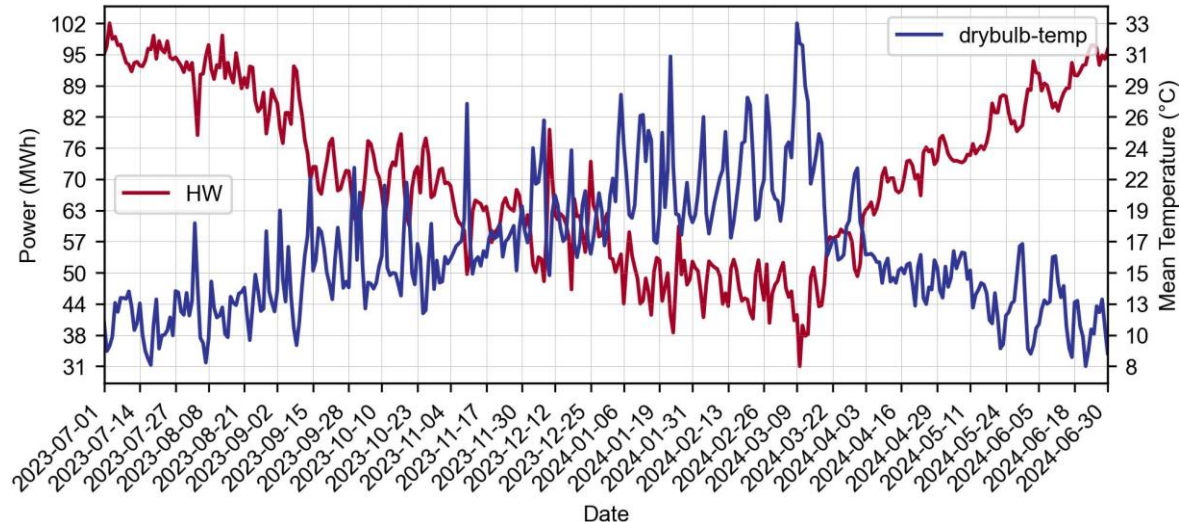


- Focus on a selected feeder with 109 households where 39 of them have electric water heating systems
- DigSILENT power flow modelling of scenarios:
 - Case A: 31/109 resistive
 - Case B: 31/109 heat-pumps
 - Case C: 109/109 resistive
 - Case D: 109/109 heat-pumps
 - Different percentage of shifted load & control strategies
- Delta Voltage is the difference between the default CL1 (nighttime) voltages and the studied simulation
- Different solar ownership (future scenarios)
- We can improve strategies to use hot water as a potential voltage regulation service → smooth and longer voltage drops along the feeder

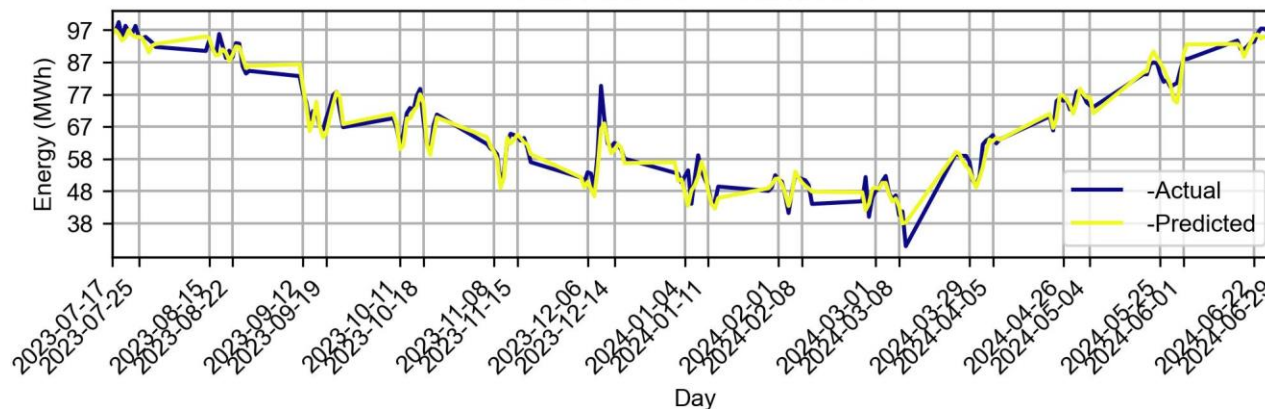
Forecasting day-ahead hot water electricity demand

High correlation with ambient temperature

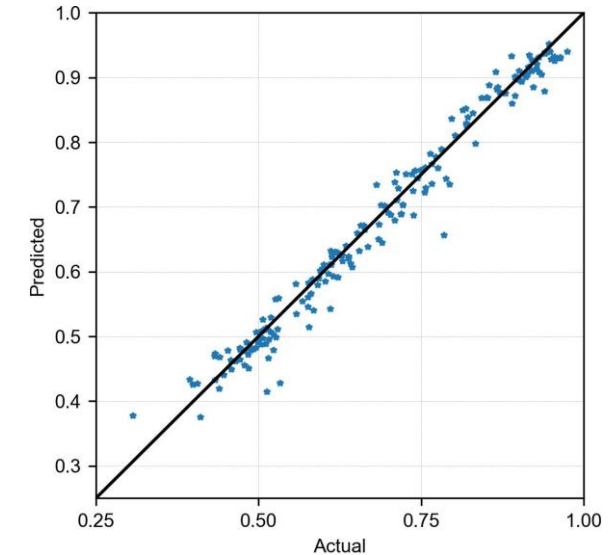
Date 2023-07-01---2024-06-30



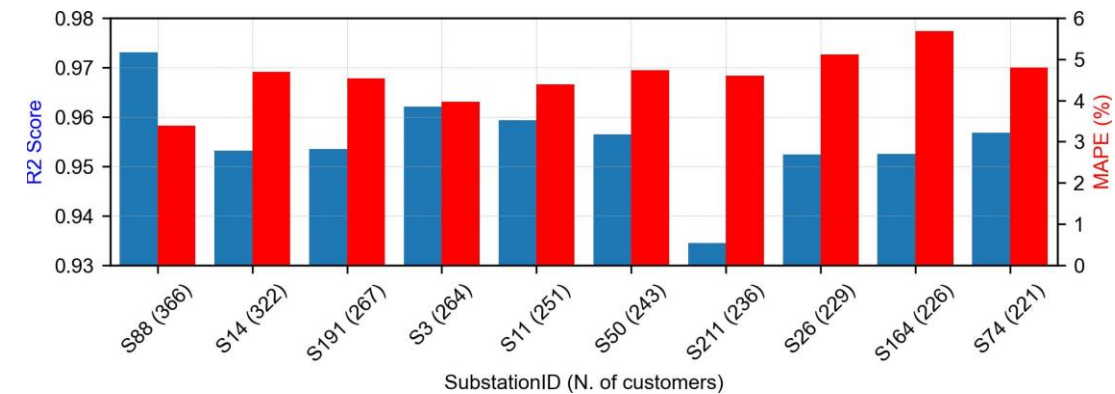
Date 2023-07-1---2024-06-2



Entire fleet day ahead forecast $R^2 = 0.97$ and $MAPE = 3.19\%$



Accurate forecasts at the substation level



Customer survey results

- Out of the 18,843 customers participating in the trial, only 159 contacted AGL's customer service team to discuss or ask questions about the communications they received.
- Of these, 53 opted out of the trial, resulting in an opt-out rate of 0.3%.
- Most customer contacts occurred within the first few weeks after receiving the communications, with 85% of all interactions happening in the first two months.
- More detailed surveys were carried out after the trial
 - 70% of these post trial survey participants felt that the changes did not impact their comfort or convenience.
 - From the remainder of the participants who noticed changes told that the impact was minimal, not a noticeable change to their hot water service as long as they kept their routine

Today's content

1) Project motivation

2) Real-world trials:

- South Australia PLUS ES Flexible Demand Trial
- Endeavour Energy Off-peak + Trial

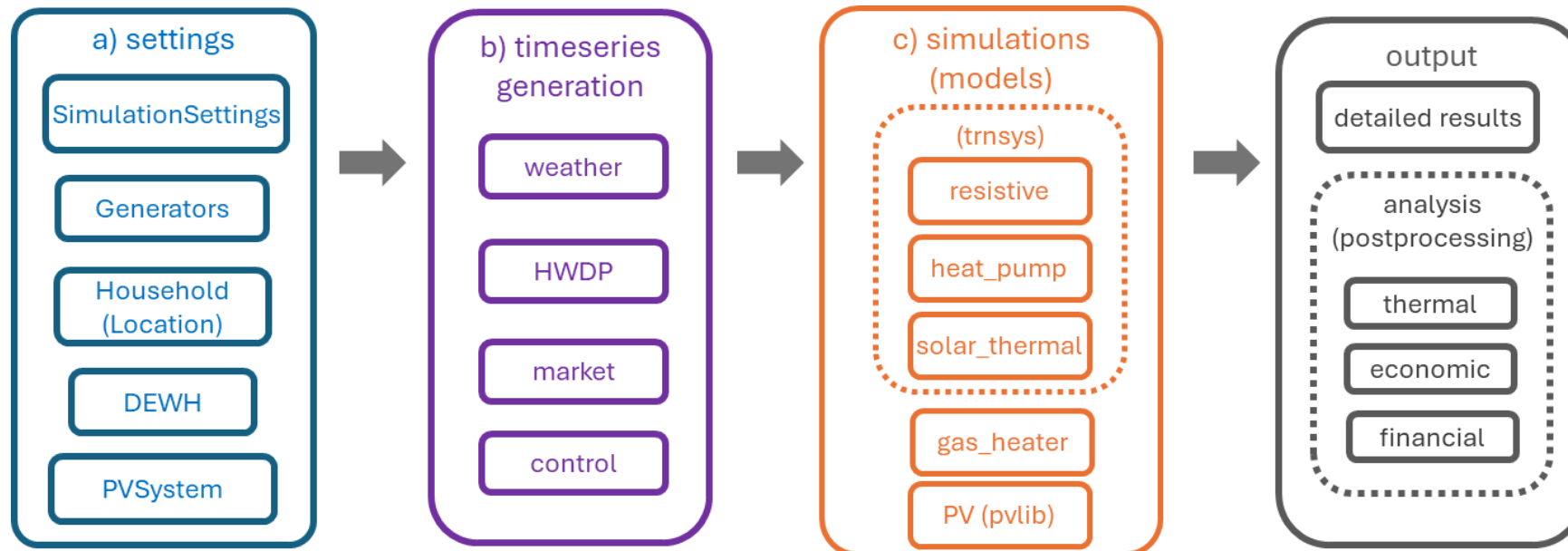
3) SolarShift Project Thermal Modelling Results

4) SolarShift Project Customer Hot Water Roadmap

5) Contributions & future research directions

SolarShift: Thermal modelling of water heating systems

- Open-source repository based on Python/TRNSYS.
- Available in: github.com/UNSW-CEEM/tm_solarshift.



SolarShift: Thermal modelling

PV System:

- 5kW generic installation.
- pvlib's ADR method.

- Different climate regions
- Different number of people
- Network and retail tariffs

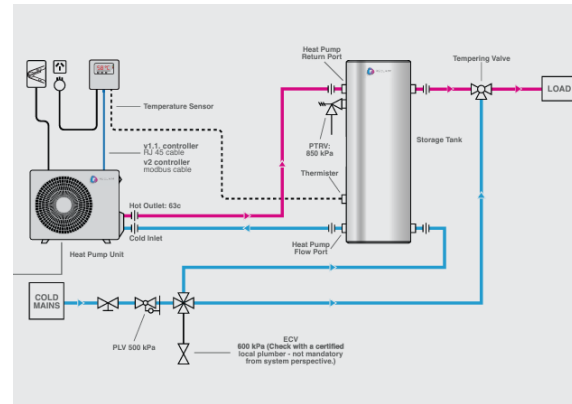
Resistive Heater

- Rheem 492 series (80-400L).
- Model: Trnsys.



Model Numbers:
481/491/492 Series

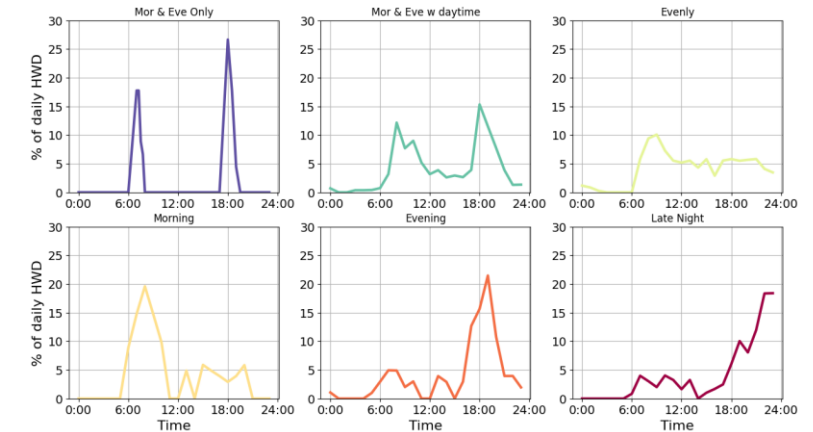
Heat pumps:



- Reclaim energy glass lined systems (160-400 L).
- Model: Trnsys.

(Reclaim Energy)

Hot water draw profile



Gas heater instantaneous

- Rheem gas continuous flow 12-26L.
- Model: Python.



Model Number:
876, 874 Series

Gas heater with storage

- Rheem 4 Star (90L – 170L).
- Model: hybrid.



Model Number:
347 Series

Solar thermal collector

- Rheem Loline, electric booster (270-410 L).
- Model: Hybrid.



Control strategies

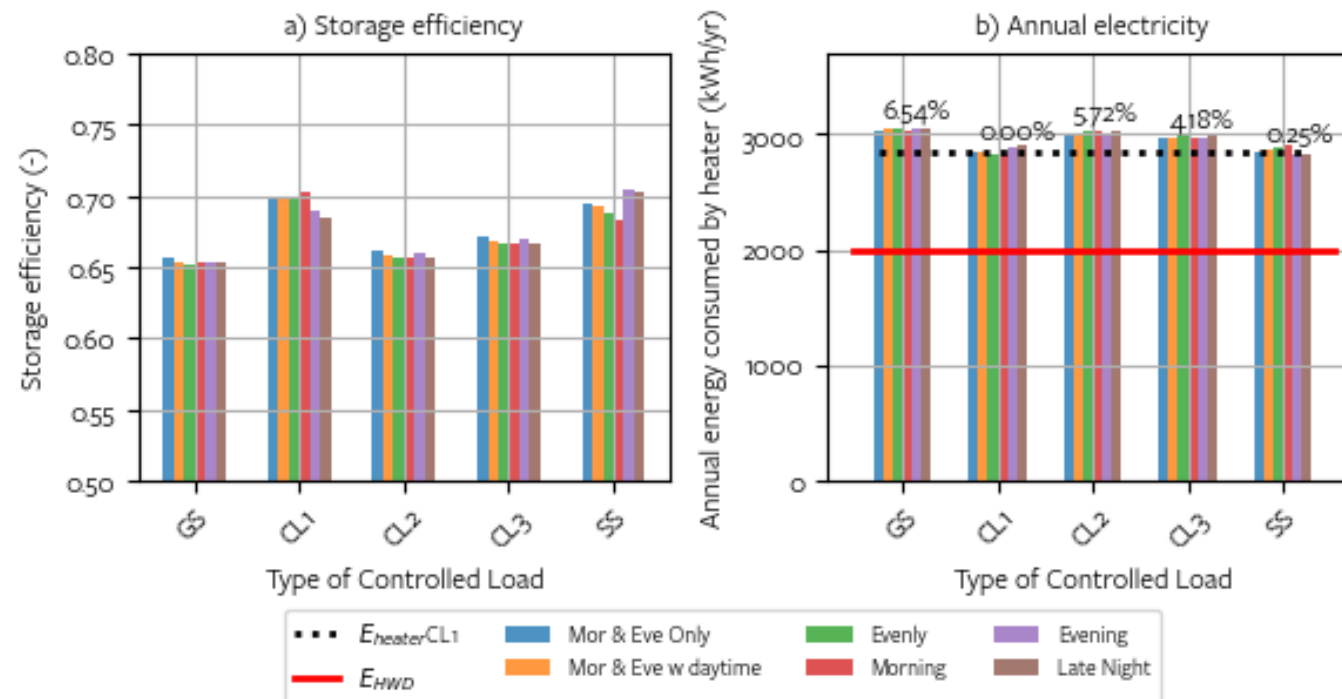
Three controlled loads from Ausgrid's ES7 Network Price Guide:

- **CL1:** nighttime (typically 10 pm-7am).
- **CL2:** all time, except evening peak.
- **'CL3':** new Ausgrid's solar soak (CL1 + solar window)
- **GS:** 24/7 general supply.
- **SS:** only solar soak (9am-3pm).



SolarShift: Thermal modelling performance of water storage tanks

- TRNSYS modelling showed that average storage efficiency is between **67-72%** for standard storage tanks (base case Sydney with 4 people household)
- **1/3rd of energy is lost ambient from the tanks (average Australian household uses is 6kWh of electricity to heat water, 2kWh of is lost to ambient!)**
 - **2 TWh/year across NEM (~1% of total electricity consumption)**
 - This can represent more than 10%-15% of annual electricity bills (depends on tariffs and usage)

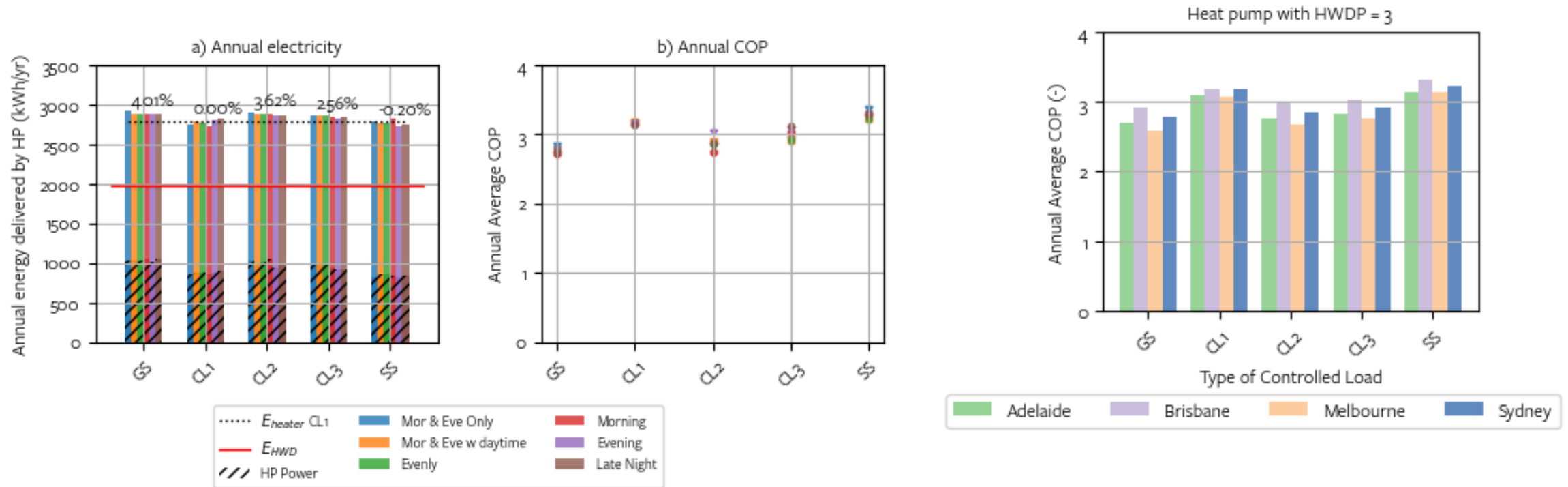


Thermal performance and losses from water tanks

- Our minimum energy performance standards for water storage tanks **AS/NZS 4692 is from 2005**
 - The standard allows large heat losses from the tanks
 - Energy landscape has rapidly changed over the last decades including tariffs, energy offers, consumer energy resources etc.
 - It may be time to revisit these standards and consider what level of heat loss is acceptable!
- Reducing heat loss coefficient by half through improved insulation 15% savings in costs and emissions associated with water heating
- A detailed cost benefit analysis is yet to be undertaken:
 - What is the financial implications of improved insulation for manufacturers and consumers?
 - How difficult is it to change existing tank manufacturing?

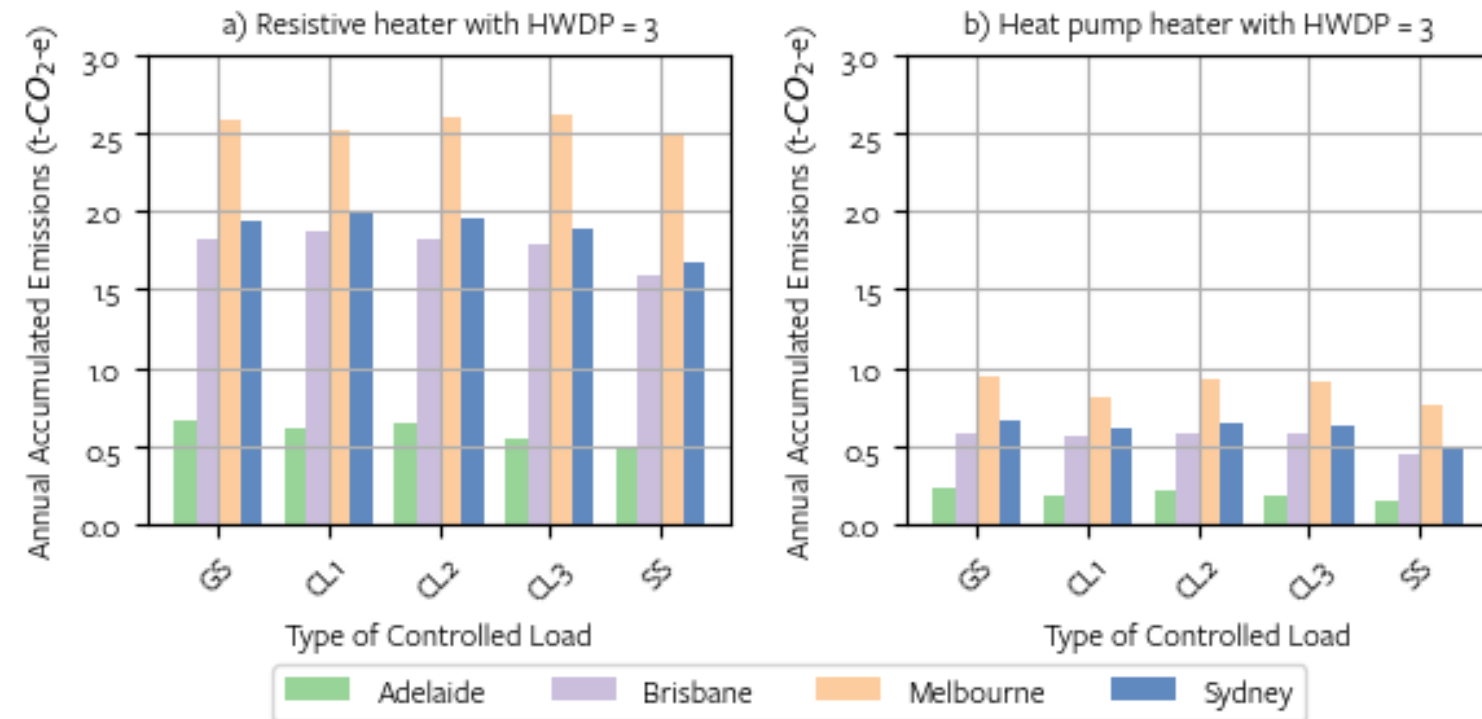


Heat pump thermal modelling



- Hot water energy consumption is reduced by two-thirds compared to resistive heaters.
- An average COP ranging between 2.7 and 3.4 is observed ($COP_{design} = 6.02$).
- The annual COP is both impacted by the climate and control type (in some cases the latter has a larger impact).
- Annual COP is comparable on different cities.

Annual emissions from water heating

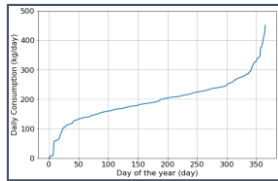


- There is a 67% reduction on average when switching from resistive heater to heat pumps.
- The NEM region plays an important role: Adelaide has 20% of Melbourne emissions.
- Solar soak control offers better results in all cities. 17% reduction from moving from CL1 to SS in Sydney.

MonteCarlo Simulations

- Most tanks don't have thermo-couples, flow meters or data loggers to monitor the temperature or water flow
- How to predict the “shiftable” thermal capacity a day ahead **at the individual site level?**
- Estimate the **hot water shortage risk** in certain conditions (what happens when your family and friends come for an extended visit?)
- Simulate a set of “typical” days and check the output distributions

HWD generator



intra-day dist.

inter-day dist.

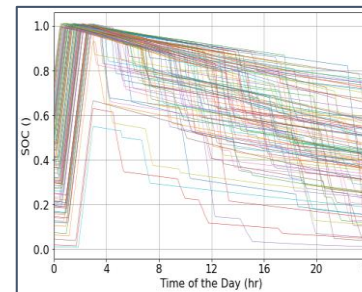
Parameter	Dish/cloth. wash.	Shower	Bath	Sink
DHW vol/day(l)	72	80	20	28
Flow rate (lpm)	6	8.0	14	1
Duration (min)	1	5	10	1
Events per day	12	2	0.14	28

events description
(Fuentes et al., 2018)

Other generators

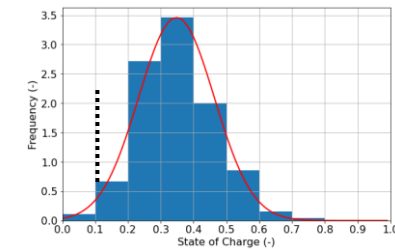
- Weather: selecting days (randomly) from data.
- Control: randomization in CL scenarios.

MC simulation

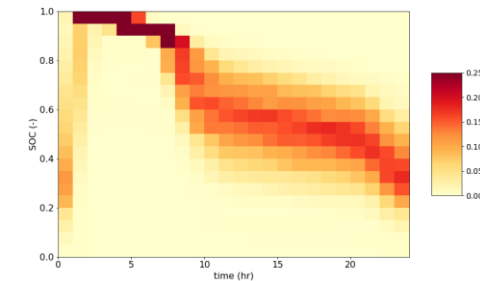


- N simulated days.
- days are generated statistically.
- outputs: probability function of variables of interest

output



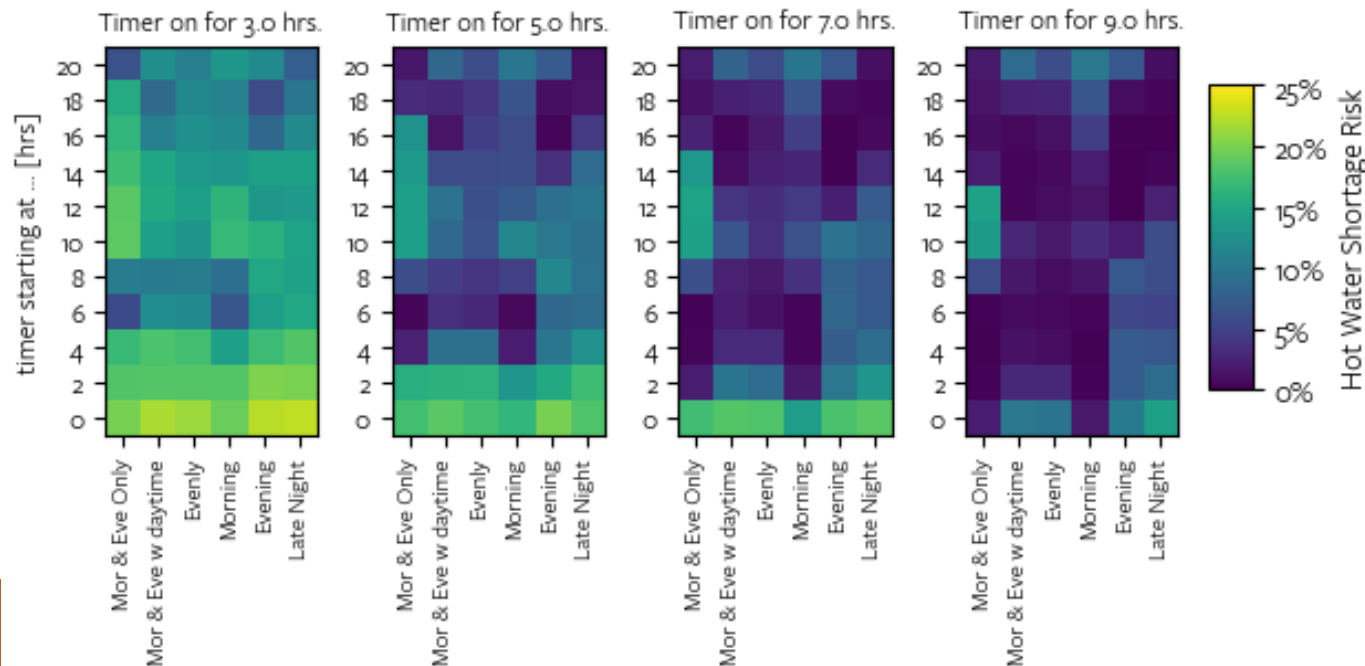
SOC at the end of day



SOC heatmap through
the day

Risk of running out of hot water

- Monte-Carlo simulations to test the state of charge of the tank under different consumption, control strategies and weather patterns (hot water shortage risk $SOC \leq 10\%$)
- Certain hot water draw profiles (HWDP) create more predictable state of charge (SOC) for the tank under different usage circumstances.
- Hot water shortage risk depends on the alignment between heating times and HWDP.
 - Shifting entire water heating to solar-soak period has risks of running out of hot water for certain consumption cases
 - **Including hot water heating windows in early morning and late afternoons significantly reduces the risk of running out of hot water**



Today's content

1) Project motivation

2) Real-world trials:

- South Australia PLUS ES Flexible Demand Trial
- Endeavour Energy Off-peak + Trial

3) SolarShift Project Thermal Modelling Results

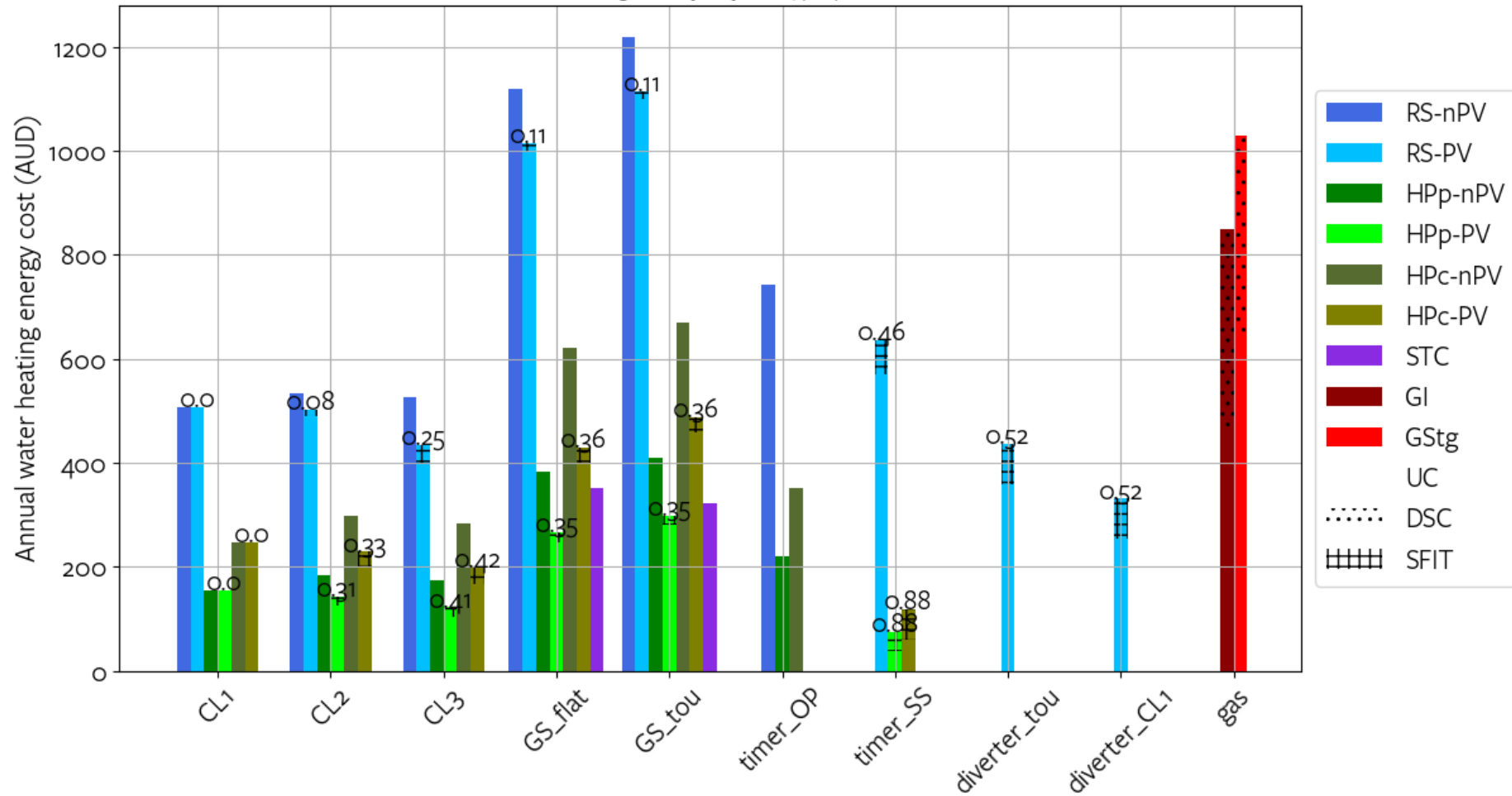
4) SolarShift Project Customer Hot Water Roadmap

5) Contributions & future research directions

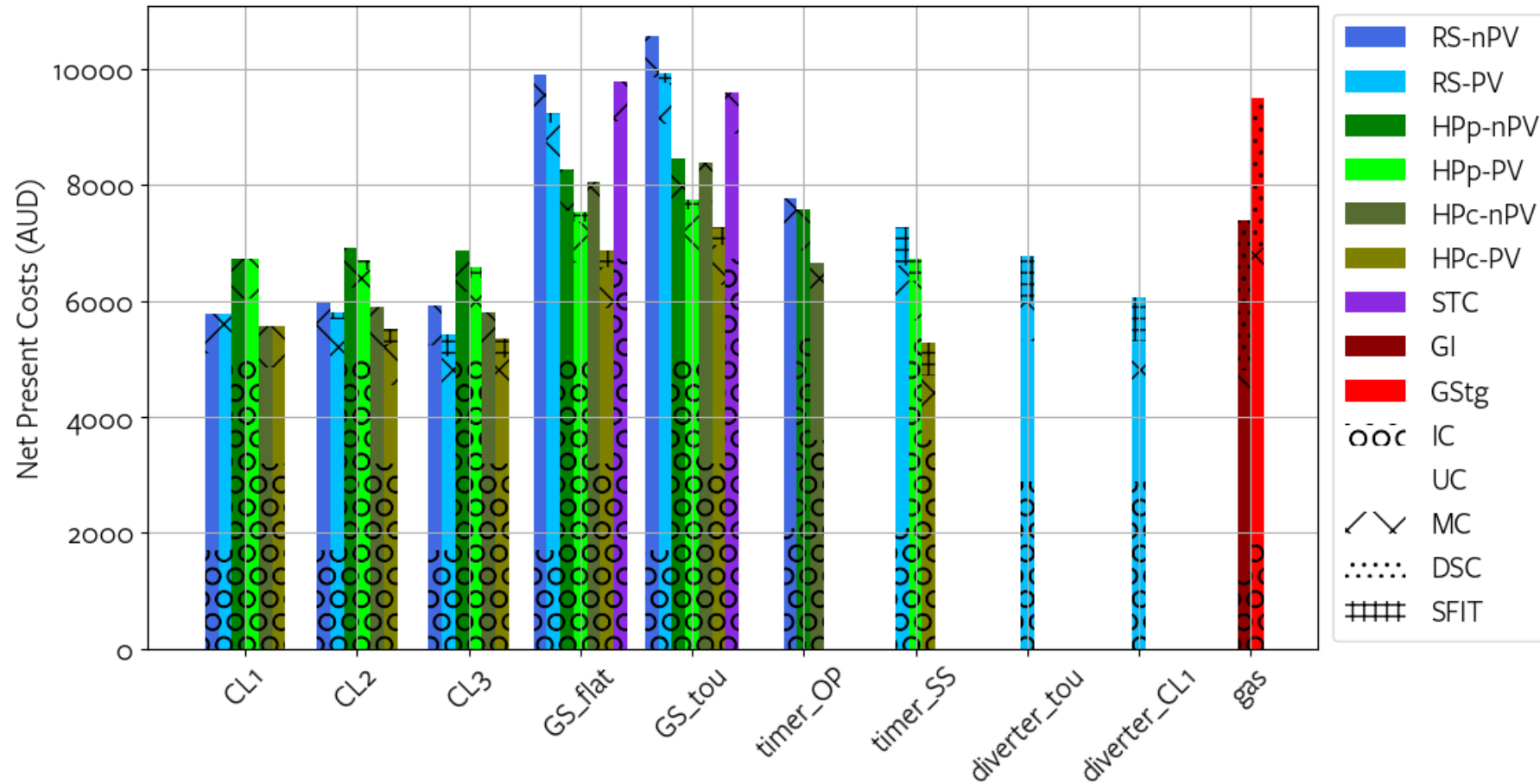
4) SolarShift: Customer Hot Water Roadmap

- Hot water technology (resistive, heat-pump, solar thermal, gas), including PV solar-soak options (timers, diverters)
 - Controlled load strategies (CL1, CL2, CL3, SS)
 - Hot water draw profiles (HWDP)
 - Number of people (1-5+)
 - Climate (capital cities)
 - PV ownership
 - Tariffs and rebates (if applicable)
-
- Annual electricity bills
 - Net present costs
 - Pay-back period
-
- The roadmap will be turned into an online public tool to empower households when making decisions about their water heating systems

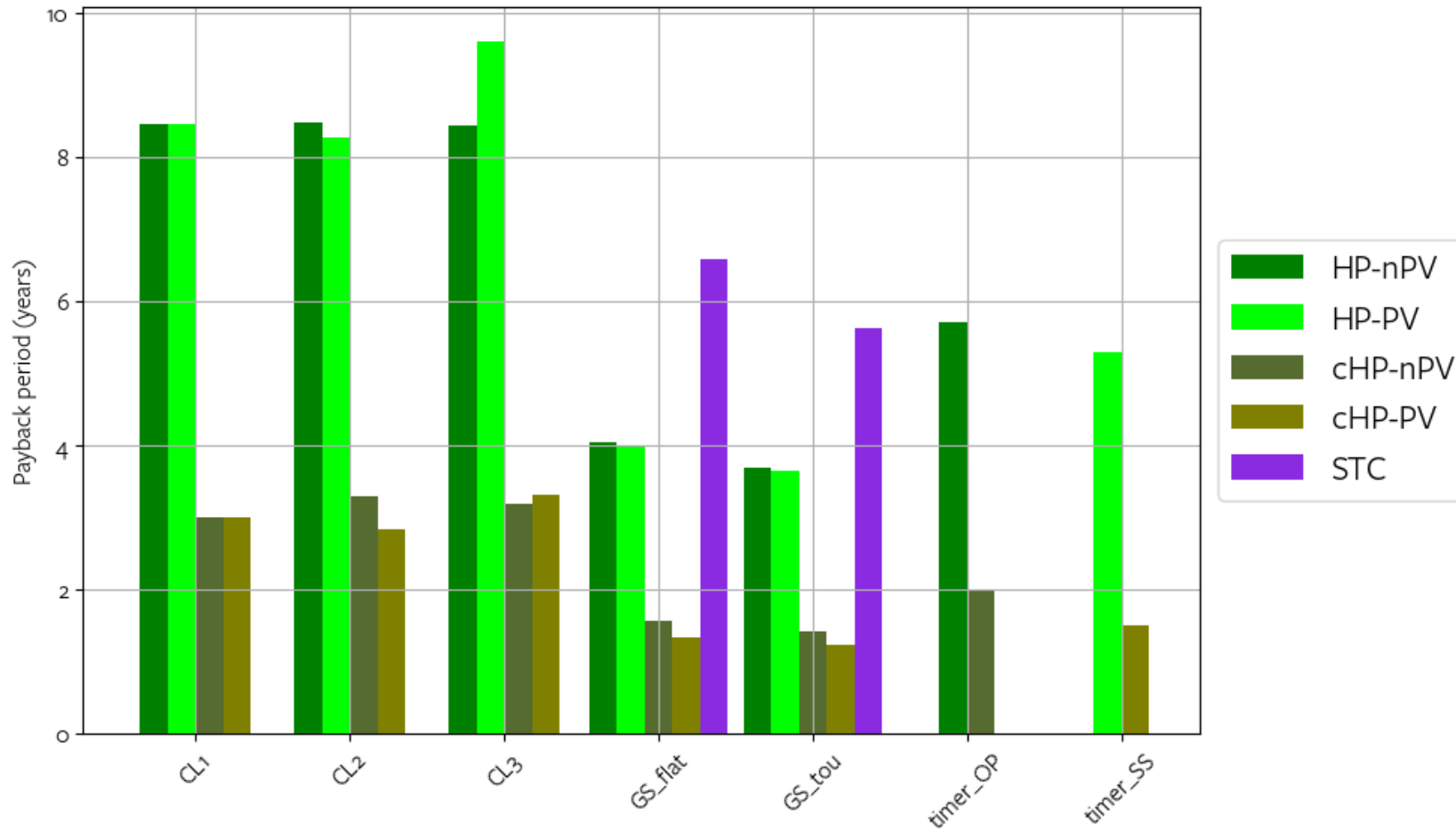
Annual water heating bill



Net present cost



Payback period



Customer Hot Water Roadmap: Online tool

Compare two hot water systems in detail

Current system ▼

Alternative system ? ▲

Location ▼

Sydney

Household occupants ▼

4

Hot water usage pattern ▼

Morning and evening wit...

Solar ▼

Yes

Heater ▼

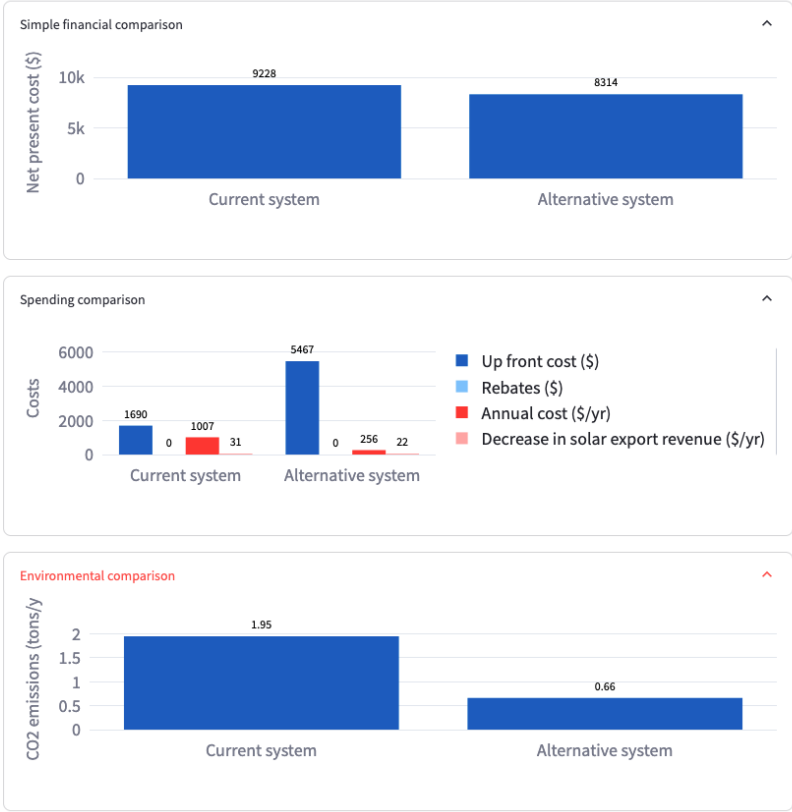
Heat Pump

Hot water billing type ▼

Time varying rate electric...

Heater control ▼

Run as needed (no control)



Explore hot water system configurations

The chart below can display many hot water simulation results at once – use the options on the left to explore the results.

Describe your house ? ▲

Household size ? ▼

4

Location ▼

Sydney

Hot water usage pattern ? ▼

Choose an option

Hot water billing type ? ▼

Choose an option

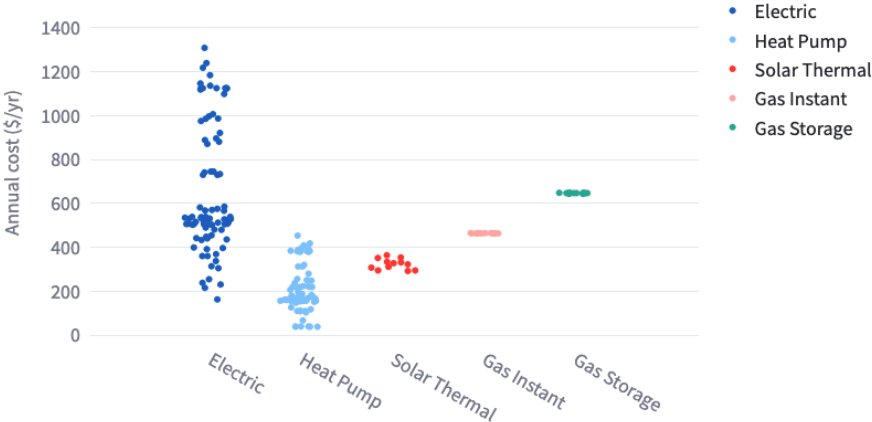
Solar ? ▼

Choose an option

Choose a heater ▼

Chart options ▼

- ☒ Average
- ☐ Show all



Heater	Net present cost (\$)	Up front cost (\$)	Rebates (\$)	Annual cost (\$/yr)	Decrease in solar export revenue (\$/yr)	CO2 emissions (tons/yr)	Annual energy consumption (kWh)
Electric	7181.04	1847.14	0.00	653.85	23.24	1.95	2966
Gas Instant	7874.35	1322.00	0.00	463.86	0.00	0.54	N/A
Heat Pump	7998.82	5467.00	0.00	205.29	8.71	0.63	961
Gas Storage	9578.47	1885.00	0.00	646.53	0.00	0.85	4015
Solar Thermal	10009.31	6740.00	0.00	323.35	0.00	0.63	927

Today's content

1) Project motivation

2) Real-world trials:

- South Australia PLUS ES Flexible Demand Trial
- Endeavour Energy Off-peak + Trial

3) SolarShift Project Thermal Modelling Results

4) SolarShift Project Customer Hot Water Roadmap

5) Contributions & future research directions

On media

UNSW study: channelling rooftop PV into water heating is a residential super saver

Put solar in your hot water tank! Off-peak electricity rates are fast becoming an unhelpful price signal for rooftop solar owners, who benefit by self consuming their excess solar ahead of drawing electricity from the grid at any time of day.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2021 NATALIE FILATOFF

DISTRIBUTED STORAGE ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ENERGY STORAGE ENERGY STORAGE MARKETS
MARKETS & POLICY AUSTRALIA



Love is a hot shower at the lowest possible cost. A new study by UNSW shows it's worth pouring some excess PV into it.






Image: pv magazine Australia

Share     

UNSW

Sydney


StudyResearchFacultiesEngage with usAbout us

Follow     

UNSW > News > 84 >

UNSW leads thermal battery research at RACE for 2030

UNSW leads thermal battery research at RACE for 2030



UNSW's new SolarShift project, led by the School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering (SPREE) will coordinate and operate about 3,000 domestic electric water heaters as a giant, 'Megawatt scale' thermal battery to soak up excess solar generation and support electricity networks.

Published on the 11 April 2023

THE CONVERSATION


Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Arts + Culture Books + Ideas Business + Economy Education Environment + Energy Health Politics + Society Science + Tech

Search analysis, research, academics...

If our hot water heaters ran off daytime solar, we would slash emissions and soak up cheap energy

Published: November 14, 2024 12:41pm AEDT



RENEW ECONOMY

CLEAN ENERGY NEWS AND ANALYSIS

HomeWindSolarStorageElectrificationCommentaryPodcastsMaps ~ AllThe Driven

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Home » Smart Energy » Electric hot water is a hero of flexible demand. Where does it stand in the age of rooftop solar?

Electric hot water is a hero of flexible demand. Where does it stand in the age of rooftop solar?










Image: Rheem

Baran Yildiz Oct 31, 2023

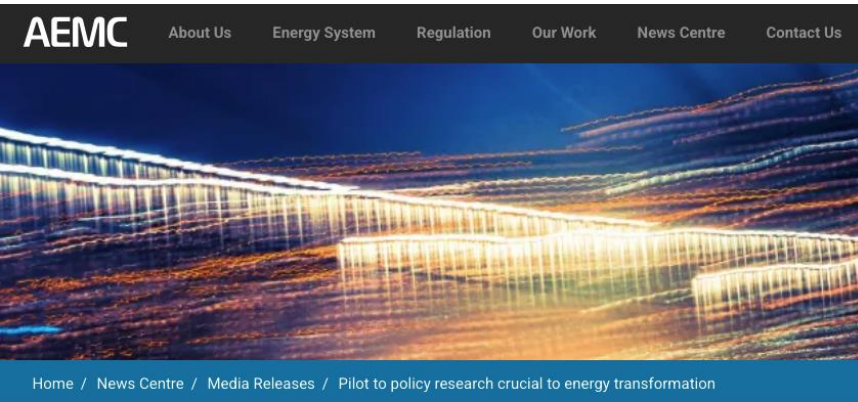
     

Are Off Peak Hot Water Tariffs A Waste Of Time?





Policy and industry impact



- Informing **Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) rule change** on flexible trading arrangements through quantifying potential financial and environmental benefits of the flexible demand of electric water heating systems
- Industry consultations processes & invited speaker:
 - Energy Efficiency Council
 - AEMC
 - Rheem
 - Stiebel-Eltron
 - AGL
 - Smart Energy Council
 - NSW Decarbonization Innovation Hub
 - ANU Centre for Energy Systems

Pilot to policy research crucial to energy transformation

31 January 2023



The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) is calling on Australia's brightest academics to collaborate with the rule-maker to develop more 'pilot-to-policy' approaches to ensure their research contributes quickly and effectively to the energy transformation.

In a keynote speech delivered to the [ERICA - State of Energy Research Conference](#) at UTS today, the AEMC's Chief Executive Benn Barr, claimed the greatest gains the next decade of research can offer might not be in technology, but in the 'missing link' between trials and deployment.

"The energy sector has to move fast. Governments across Australia are largely aligned and keen to act. This means the most successful research projects of any kind in the next decade will have their transition to policy 'baked in' from the start," he said.

Mr Barr cited the [UNSW SolarShift](#) project, which looked at turning household electric hot water heaters into mega batteries, as an example of the close relationship between research and rule-making. He said the work informed a rule change by the AEMC in 2021, allowing greater integration of innovative storage into the National Energy Market (NEM).

Project outputs



Final report
SolarShift
Turning household water heating systems into MW batteries
February 2025



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources
Cooperative Research
Centres Program

ARENA PLUS ES South Australia Demand Flexibility Trial

Final Knowledge Sharing Report

31 October 2024

Final Report

SolarShift Final Report



Collaboration on Energy and
Environmental Markets

- 2 journal articles under review

<https://github.com/UNSW-CEEM/solar-shift>

Product · Solutions · Resources · Open Source · Enterprise · Pricing

UNSW-CEEM / tm_solarshift Public

Code · Issues · Pull requests · Actions · Projects · Security · Insights

main · 1 branch · Tags

DavidSaldiva	Update gas_heater.py	8082775 · 6 months ago	133 Commits
data	Adding .gitignore to data folder		last year
docs	update of docs		6 months ago
examples	Initial structure of documentation		7 months ago
tests	fixing controller tests and cleaning postprocessing.py		7 months ago
tm_solarshift	Update gas_heater.py		6 months ago
.gitignore	edit .gitignore		7 months ago
README.md	updated README.md		7 months ago
mypy.ini	small updates		last year
poetry.lock	Updating repository dependencies		6 months ago
pyproject.toml	Initial structure of documentation		7 months ago

tm_solarshift

A package for thermal simulations of Domestic Electric Water Heating (DEWH) systems as part of the project Solarshift. It allows to generate profiles of hot water draw (HWD), controlled load (CL), use different weather data, and electricity consumption for a household, to run thermal simulations of hot water tanks and estimate their thermal capacity, performance, and its utilization as thermal energy storage.

Installation

For the moment, just download the repository on your local computer, create a virtual environment, and install the requirements. `poetry` is used to handle dependencies. Open a terminal in the main folder and use `poetry install`.

In addition, to run thermal simulations, you'll need TRNSYS installed in your computer with a valid licence.

- Home
- Begin
- Compare
- Advanced explorer
- Details

SolarShift Customer Hot Water Roadmap



Welcome to the SolarShift Hot Water Roadmap Tool – your personalized guide to smarter, greener, and more cost-effective water heating solutions! Our tool is designed to help households across Australia explore and compare a variety of water heating options, including:

- Resistive heating
- Heat pumps
- Solar self-consumption strategies (e.g., controlled loads, timers, diverters)
- Solar thermal systems
- Gas water heaters

Why Use the SolarShift Tool?

- ☒ **Discover Your Savings Potential:** See how much you can save on annual energy bills with each option.
- ☒ **Reduce Your Carbon Footprint:** Understand the environmental impact of your choices.
- ☒ **Tailored to You:** Get recommendations based on your unique household needs and preferences.
- ☒ **Empower Your Decision:** Make informed choices when upgrading or purchasing a water heating system.

5) Future research directions

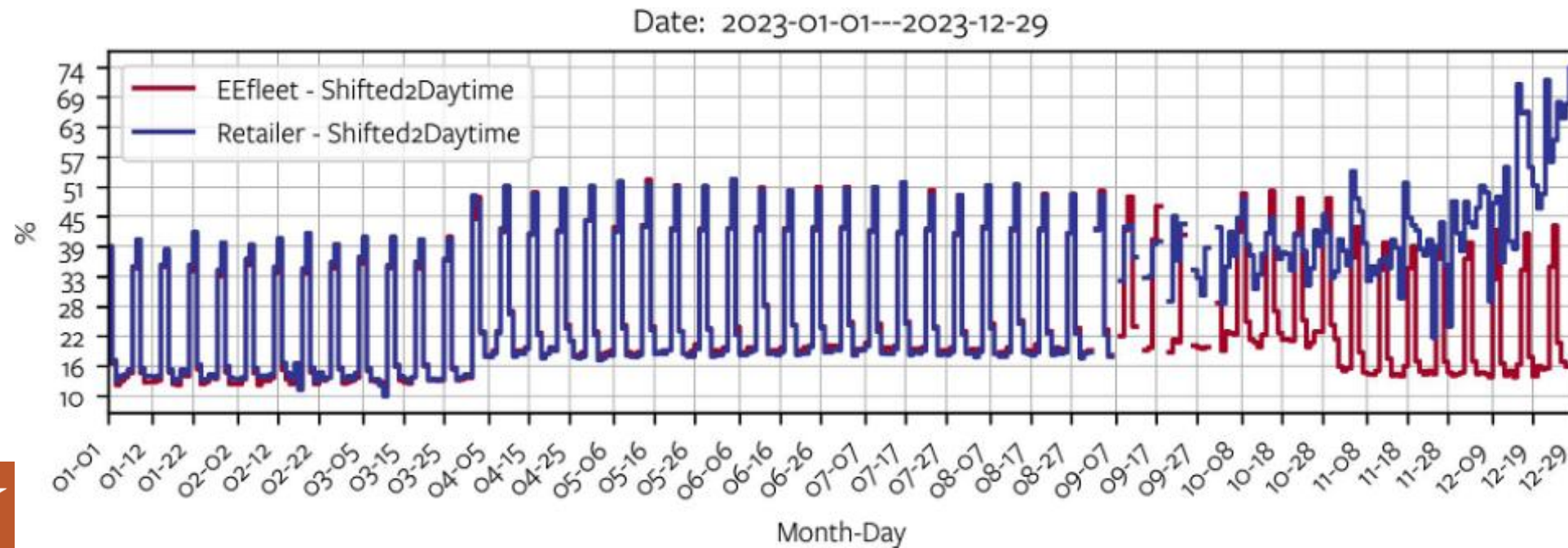
- Improvement of Customer Hot Water Road Map tool
- Expansion and roll-out of electric water heating control onto other states and DNSP regions
- Heat pump control by smart meters
 - Collaboration with heat pump manufacturers
 - Collaboration with smart meter vendors
 - Refinement of control strategies (retailers & aggregators)
- Thermal performance and losses of hot water tanks
 - Real-world site measurements: flow meter, thermocouples (T_{in} , T_{out} , T_{tank})
 - Different climates, number of people and water usage patterns
 - Resistive and heat-pump systems
 - Cost-benefit analysis of improving water tank thermal insulation
- Input into relevant Australian Standards to update minimum energy performance standards to reflect the current status of the energy market (AS/NZS 4692.1:2005, AS/NZS 4692.2:2005, AS/NZS 4234:2021, AS/NZS 3500.4:2018)

Thank you

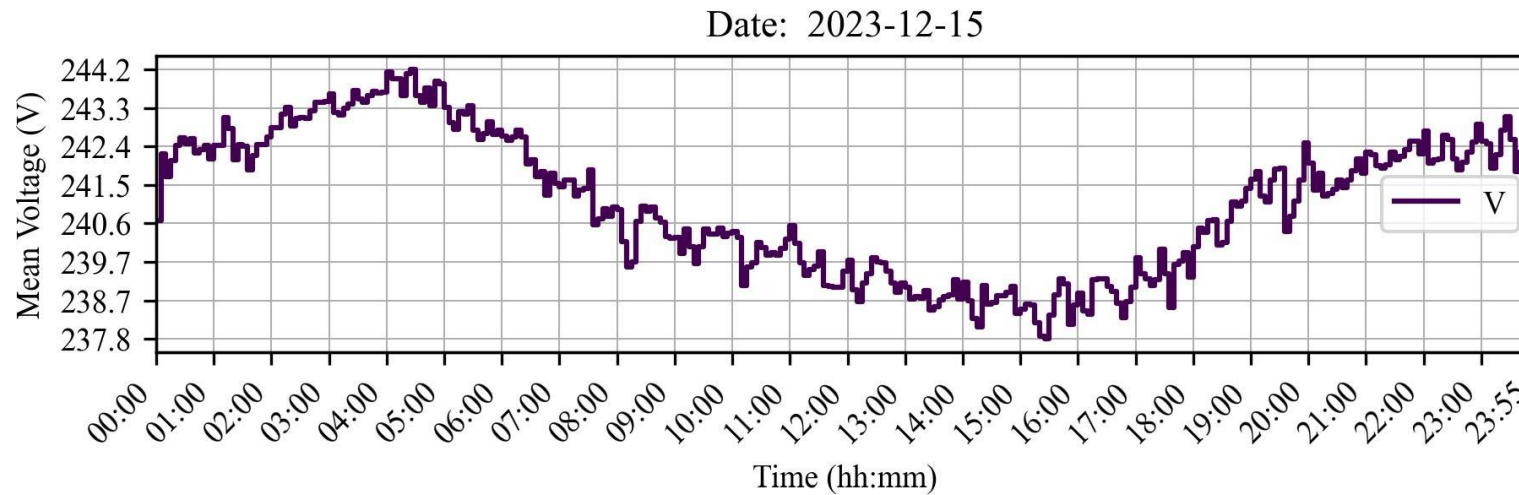
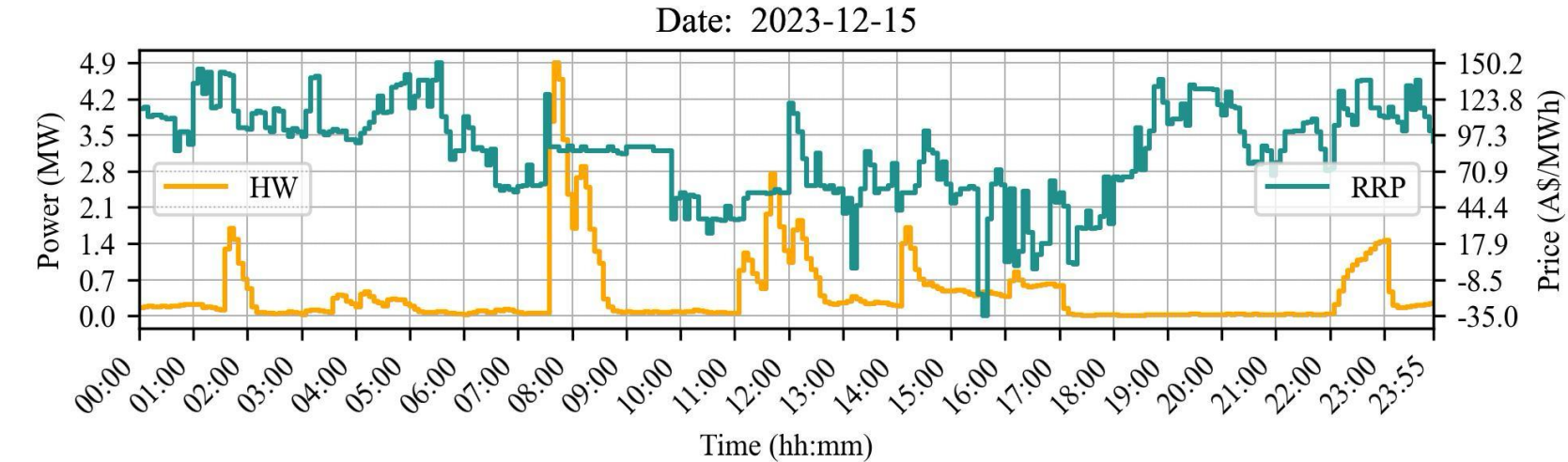
baran.yildiz@unsw.edu.au
www.ceem.unsw.edu.au

SolarShift: Off-peak plus trial by Endeavour Energy

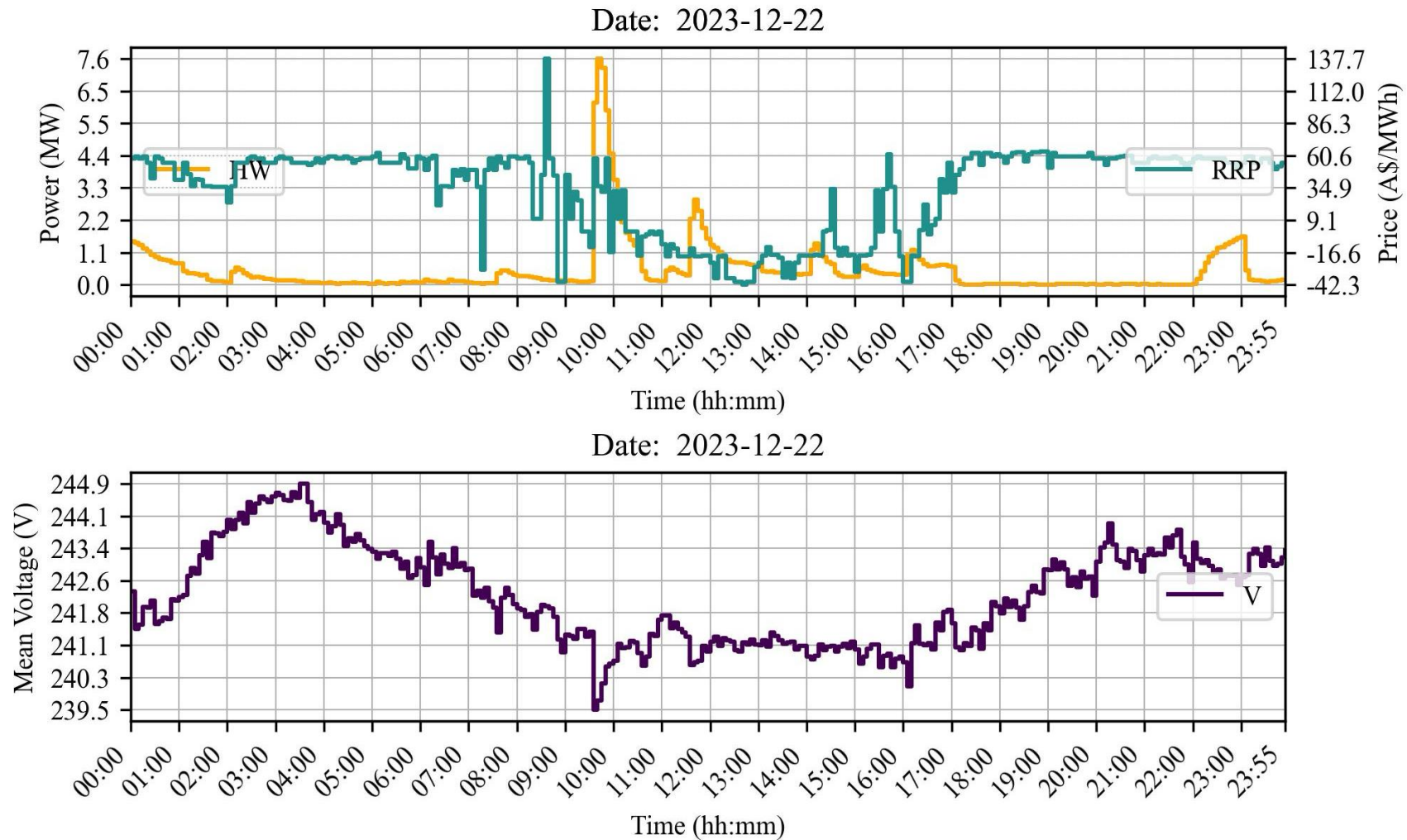
- ~9300 households within Endeavour Energy network, mostly in Albion Park.
- One of the retailers has 37% of the fleet ('Retailer')
- On average 28% of water heating was shifted to daytime periods (mostly with default CL2)
- This percentage significantly increased towards the end of the studied period as the Retailer started shifting more than 70% of daily water heating to solar-soak periods
- Wholesale arbitrage benefit is estimated to be \$27/household (mostly with default CL2)
- Currently households don't benefit!
- 1 Mt-CO₂ emission reduction in NSW compared to nighttime heating (8% reduction of emissions associated with water heating)



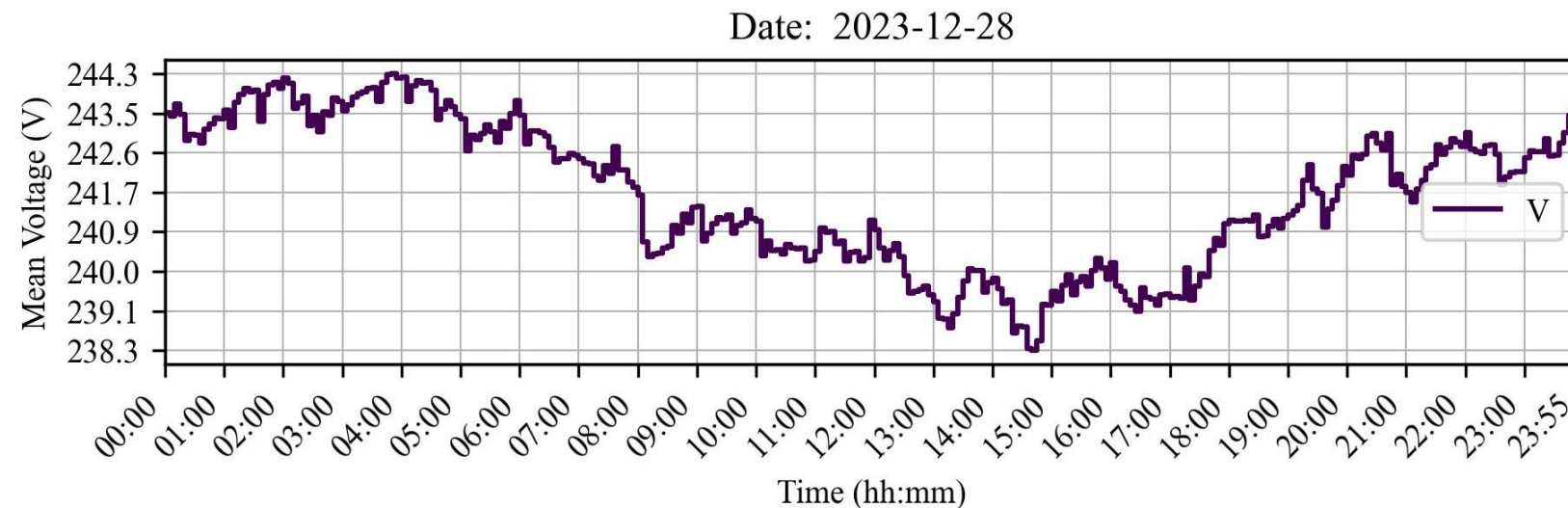
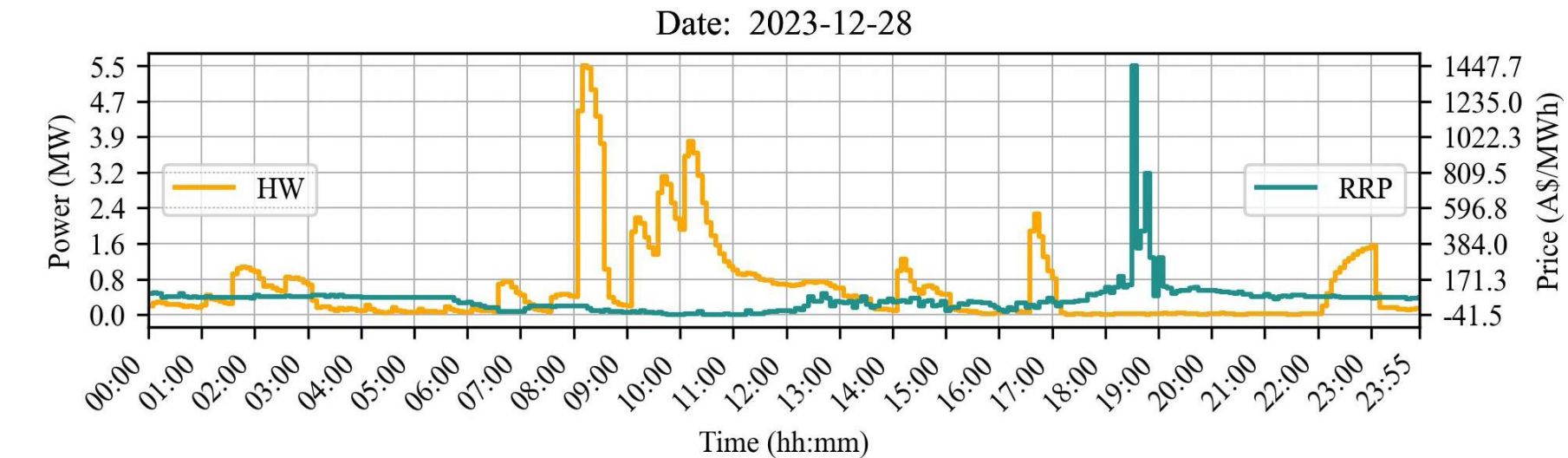
Example daily operation for the fleet against RRP



Example daily operation for the fleet against RRP



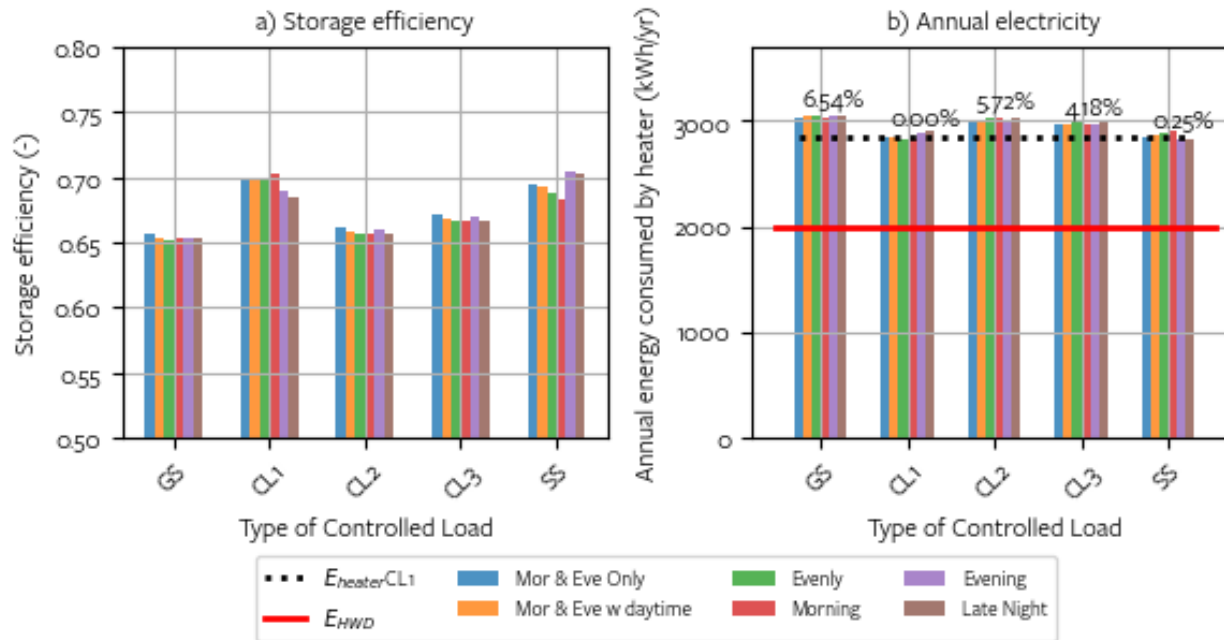
Example daily operation for the fleet against RRP



Key take-aways

- The retailer partners have found the trials to be a great success, and have plans to expand it over the other regions of NEM. Future of controlled load & hot water flex demand seems to lie with retailer/aggregator & smart meter control.
- Every DNSP has a different view on controlled load (i.e. SA, NSW vs. Qld, Vic) and there is no clear pathway to rollout capability. Current regulatory reset process is challenging for pace and scale.
 - Recommendation: National framework and reform for load control access.
- The customer journey has been smooth and relatively positive for SA Flex Demand trial as shown by customer surveys:
 - 0.1% opt-out rate, 86% were neutral or pleased about the trial.
 - Very small number of instances of running out of hot water, having a heating period before the morning use, especially during colder months is important.
- Network tariffs offer cheaper daytime rates (some DNSPs don't charge during peak solar generation periods). Retailers should create new tariff design with cheaper day-time rates (or \$0, considering solar curtailment). We have seen only a couple of examples so far with limited value for households...
- Thermal losses are significant, how can we minimize them to make electric water heating technologies even more efficient and attractive for consumers. Contribution to pathways towards electrification!

Results: Resistive heater



- CL1 and solar soak (SS) are the two schedules with better storage efficiency, with an average of 70%. GS and CL2 are the worst performing strategies.
- Control strategy has higher influence than HWD.
- Switching from CL1 to CL3 (adding solar windows) increase energy consumption by 4%.

Detailed results for SS and HWD. SOC in red.

