

## Regional Workshop on Clean Energy Development strategies in East Africa



July 16-18, 2012  
Arusha, Tanzania



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National Grid

# Renewable Energy Sources

Benefits



and

Hurdles



## Transmission Build-out is a Benefits

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- power from remote renewable generation to load centers far away
- help create jobs
- spur economic growth
- achieve the mandated renewable portfolio standard
- significant environmental benefits

## Cape Wind: first off shore wind farm in the US

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- Off the coast of Massachusetts
- 130 Wind Turbines
- The towers are 79 m tall
- highest blade tip height will be 134 m above water
- Maximum production 454 MW
- Average production 174 MW
- Projected cost \$2.5 B
- Projected saving \$7.5 B over 25 years
- Power sold thru PPA



# National Grid's Renewable Technology

## ■ Six Photovoltaic Sites

### ■ Dorchester

- 1250kW nameplate
- 575 MWh to date

### ■ Everett

- 605kW nameplate
- 1049 MWh to date

### ■ Haverhill

- 1016 kW nameplate
- 1736 MWh to date

### ■ Revere

- 750 kW nameplate
- 1272 MWh to date

### ■ Sutton

- 983 kW nameplate
- 2315 MWh to date

### ■ Waltham

- 225 kW nameplate
- 775 MWh to date



Total PV Capacity: 4829 kW  
Total Production to Date: 7722 MWh

## Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

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- **RECs are another opportunity for renewable plants to create income**
- **A REC is attained for each MWh produced by a renewable energy**
  - Want to increase plant efficiency and decrease power consumption
- **Companies create renewable portfolios**
  - Some states mandate Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)



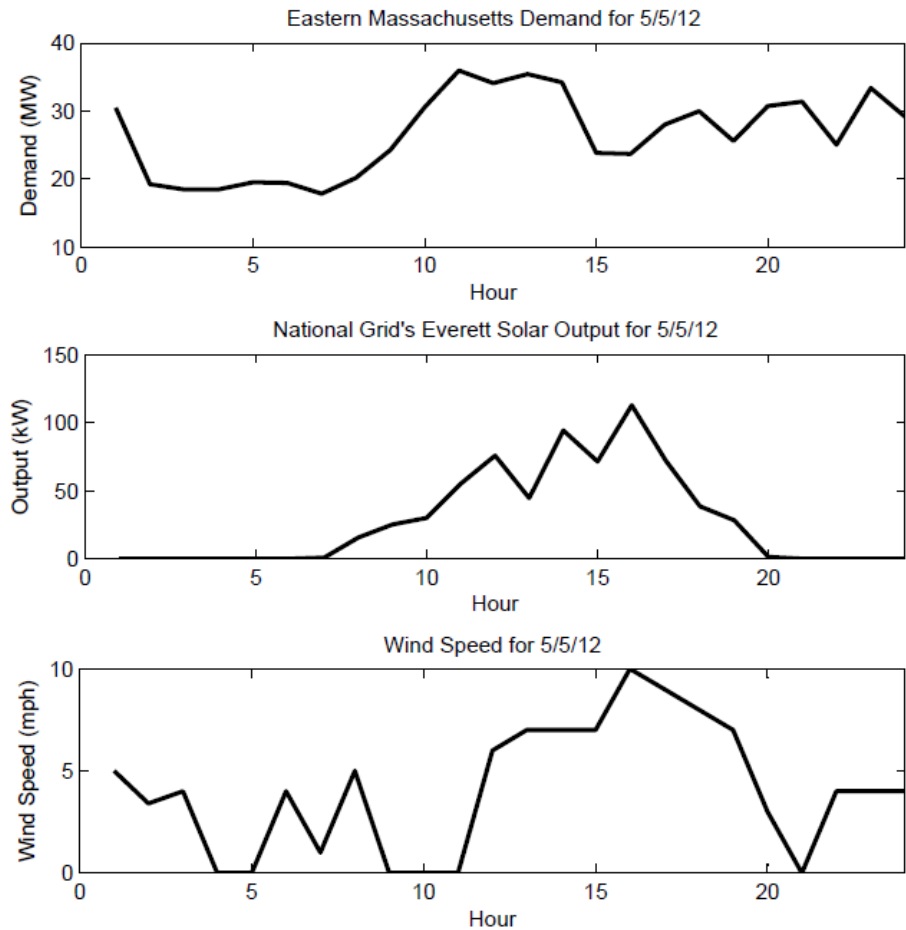
## Hurdles for Renewable on Transmission Lines

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- Interconnection costs
- Siting
- Intermittency
- Available resources (land, wind corridor)
- overlapping state, regional, and federal policies at play in siting new transmission to facilitate the growth of renewable energy
- Objections include charges that new construction obstructs views, reduces property values, and could harm endangered species and habitats.

# Renewable Generation vs. Demand

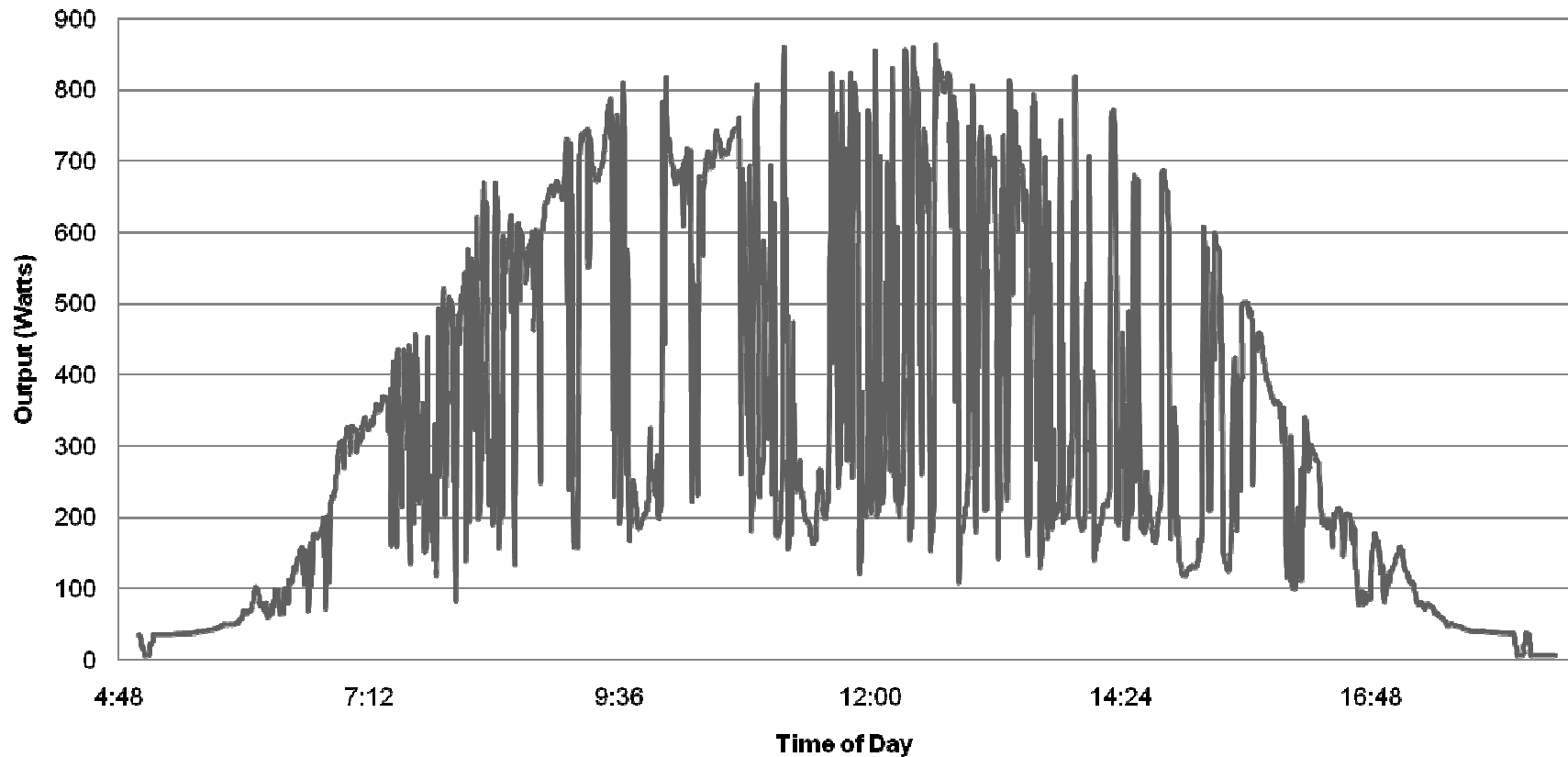
- How do renewable match with demand?
  - Solar seems to be the best fit but still not perfect
  - Wind is much less predictable
  - For large scale integration storage is necessary





# Volatility of Solar

4/24/2012 Minute Resolution Solar Output from Everett



# Renewable's Effects on the Grid

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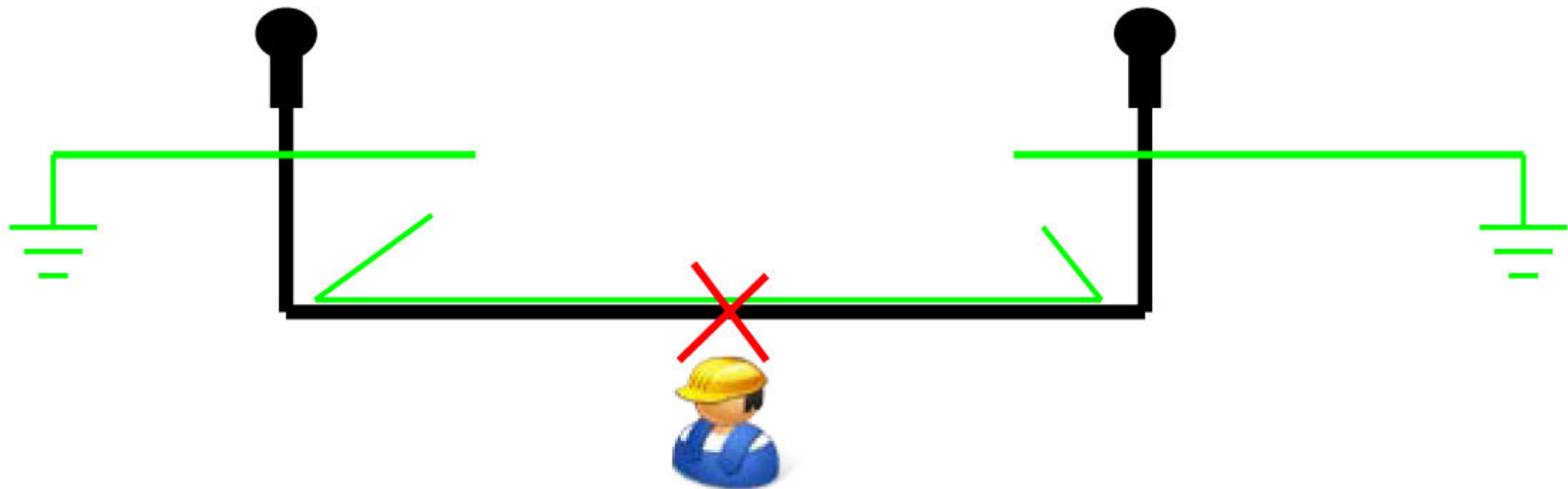
## ■ Slow Transients

- Created by passing clouds
- These transients (in the order of seconds) can cause voltage swings on the feeder
  - Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
    - Found that they were not significant (1991)
    - However, PV arrays were also distributed
      - 30 houses with 2kW nameplate for 60kW total nameplate



# Renewable's Effects on the Grid

- Islanding
  - When the grid has no power on it but the renewable continues to transmit power
  - Creates unsafe work conditions for linesmen



# Capacity Factor

$$\text{Capacity Factor (CF)} = \frac{(\text{MWh of energy produced in a set timeframe})}{(\text{Hours in the set timeframe}) * (\text{Nameplate capacity in MW})}$$

## Capacity Factor vs. System Efficiency

- The two values are not related or dependent on each other
- Efficiency represents losses of energy in the system
  - Should be accounted for in the nameplate capacity
- CF is the percentage of generation capacity potential used on average
  - Usually due to environmental conditions not being ideal but can account for maintenance

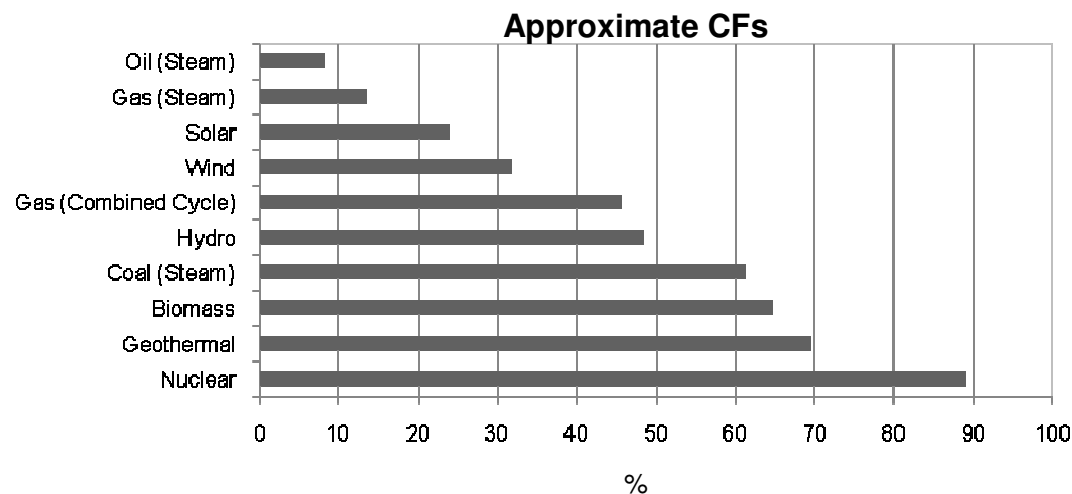


Table data from Nuclear Energy Institute

## Possible Solutions

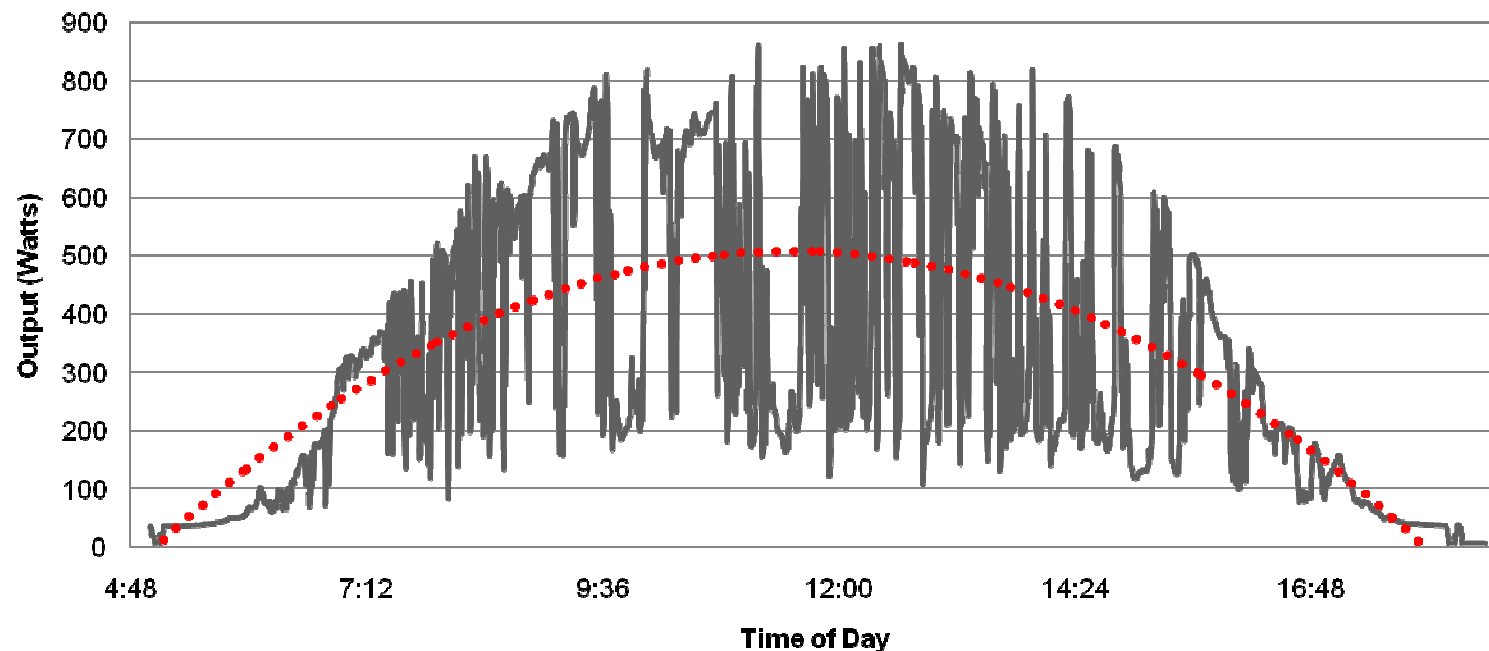
Energy Storage



## Energy Storage - Smoothing

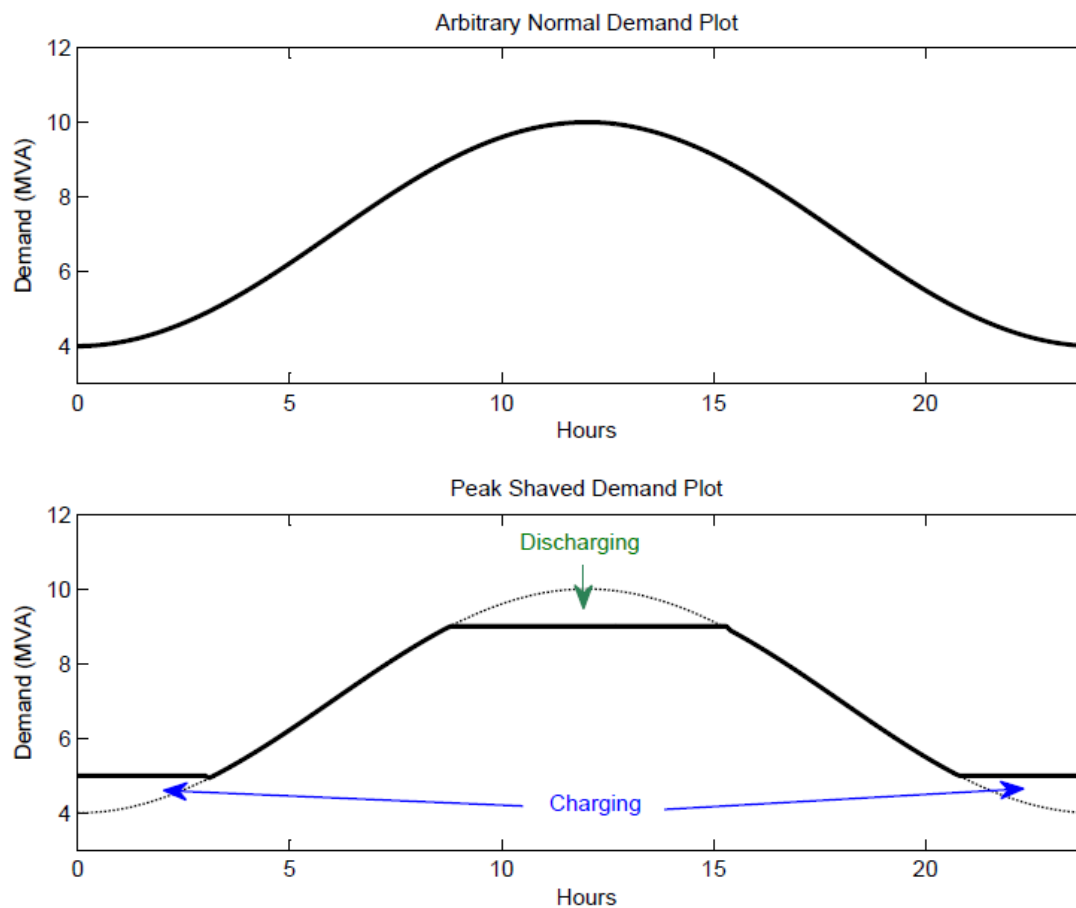
- Stores during high power outputs and supplies during valleys
  - Batteries can quickly change the direction of their power flow
  - Requires prediction or simulation in order to size battery correctly

**4/24/2012 Minute Resolution Solar Output from Everett**



# Energy Storage – Peak Shaving

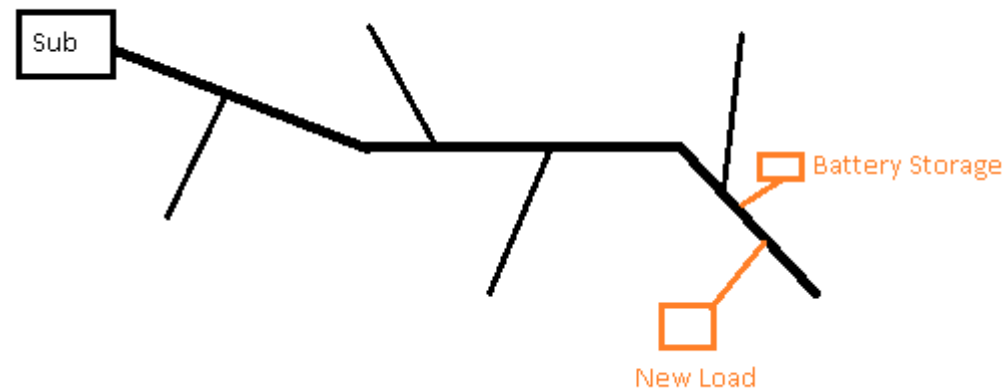
- Store energy during off hours and supply during peaks



## Energy Storage – Capital Deferment

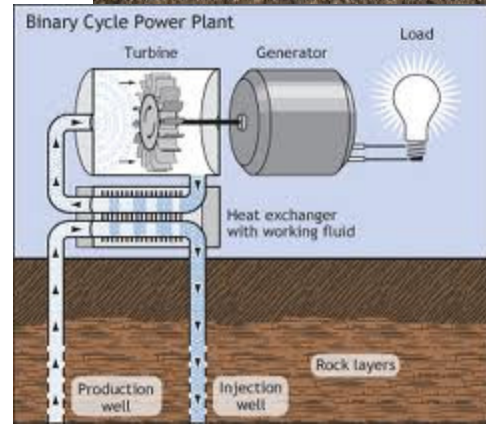
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- Adding new loads to a feeder can overload lines
  - Energy storage charges during the night (under loaded lines)
  - Discharges during peak further down the feeder
    - Eliminates the need to reinforce with higher capacity cables






# The Power Grid of the Future



## America's Energy Future: A Smart Grid City

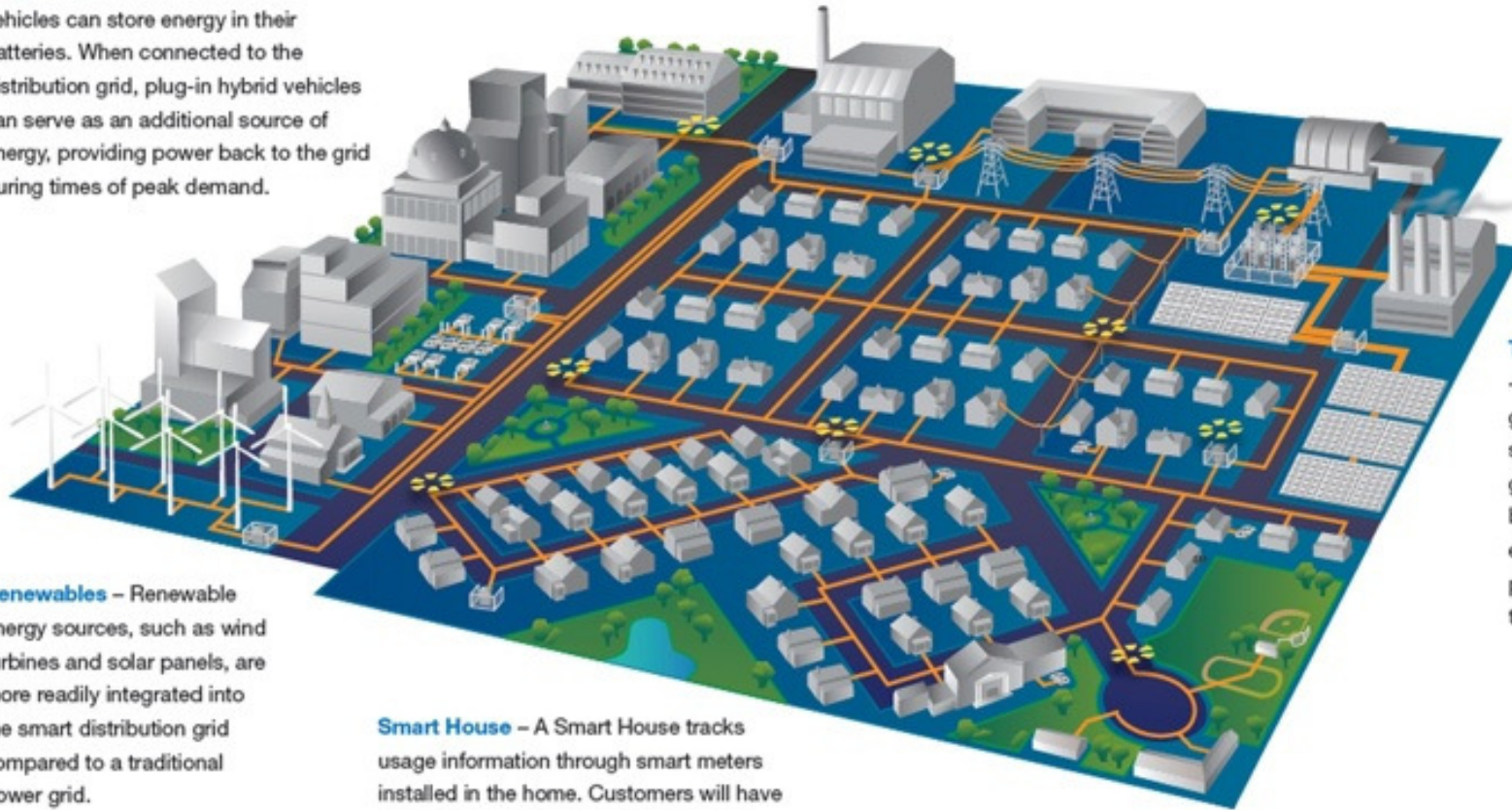
 **Sensors** – Advanced communication equipment on the grid, including sensors, enable utilities to monitor, identify and quickly correct problems. Increased reliability of power is the result.

**Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles** – Plug-in hybrid vehicles can store energy in their batteries. When connected to the distribution grid, plug-in hybrid vehicles can serve as an additional source of energy, providing power back to the grid during times of peak demand.

**Renewables** – Renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines and solar panels, are more readily integrated into the smart distribution grid compared to a traditional power grid.

**Smart House** – A Smart House tracks usage information through smart meters installed in the home. Customers will have a variety of options through which they can interface with to learn about the most cost-efficient energy usage patterns. Increased information empowers consumers to reduce their energy use.

**Traditional Generation** – Over time, traditional generation assets such as coal-fired generation plants will be offset by renewable energy sources in providing energy to the distribution grid.



National Grid Smart Grid Pilot Proposal  
Worcester, Massachusetts

**nationalgrid**

The power of action.