Distributed Generation Resources: Promise and Potential

Jatin Nathwani Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Energy University of Waterloo

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Distributed Generation: Vision

- Abundant, secure, clean, flexible and reliable energy resource
- Fuel cells in every basement; micro-CHPs in every kitchen and PVs on every roof
- Industrial facilities generating own power & utilizing waste heat
- Retail malls/community centres as self-sustaining ("microgrids")
- Reliability and outages become non issues
- Storage for intermittency & "on-peak/off peak" arbitrage
- Cars and trucks powered by electrons and or/ hydrogen
- Large scale centralized electricity generation?
- Bulk power transmission?

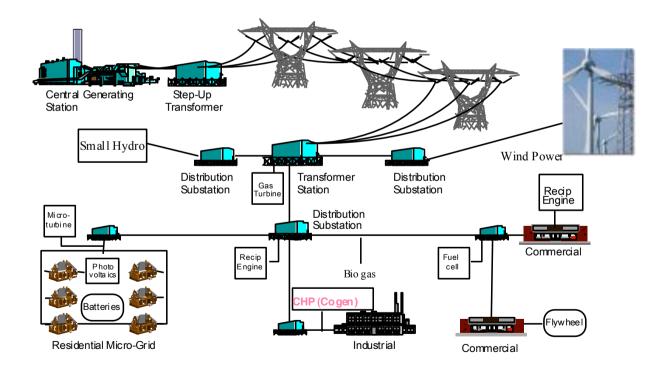


Distributed Generation: Reality

- Performance has not equaled promise
- Fuel cells, microturbines, photovoltaics still too expensive
- Fundamental business case?
 - Availability of "cheap" natural gas?
- Institutional Barriers?
 - case by case connections approvals- problematic
- Transmission and Distribution
 - Capital deferral, utilization, congestion....



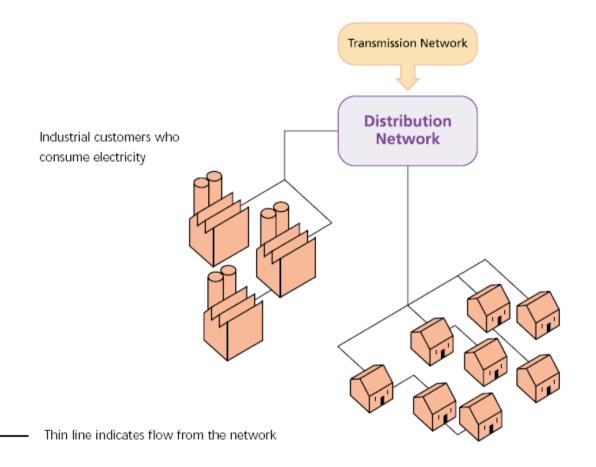
Emerging new supply within an integrated power network





Power flows one way: network to the customer

Distribution network - conventional

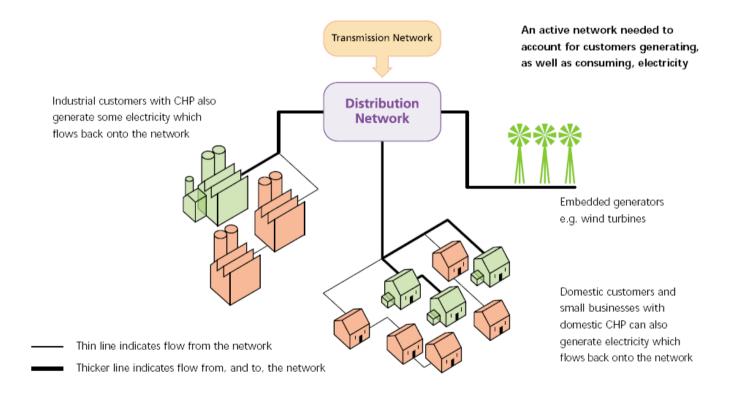


Domestic customers and small businesses who consume electricity



Paradigm shift: Power flows both ways

Distribution network - with distributed generation





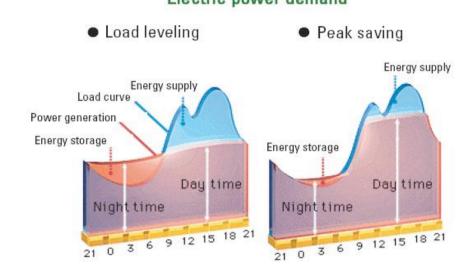
DG Technologies and Characteristics

- Wind power (small projects with outputs from 50kW to 10MW)
- Biogas and biomass (landfill sites, agricultural and livestock operations, wood forest residues, wastewater treatment facilities:1-10MW)
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes including micro-CHP (residential 1kW-25 kW) and Stirling engines (1kW to 55kW)
- Solar photo-voltaic (PV) cells (50kW- 1MW)
- Fuel cells (1kW to 1MW)
- Microturbines (20-100kW)
- Natural Gas reciprocating engines (30kW- 3MW) and dual fuel reciprocating engines (90kW- 2MW)
- Gas and diesel fired combustion turbines (>1MW)
- Large DG applications & mobile systems for standby generation
 - (0.5 to 2MW),
 - peaking (1-5MW)
 - T&D support (0.5-10MW modules) and crisis operations



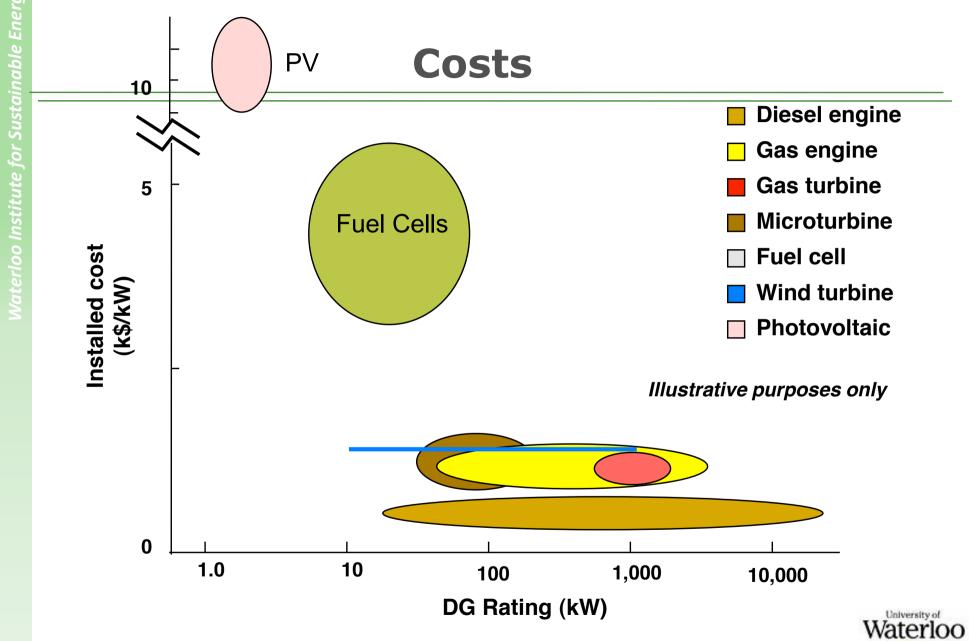
Distributed Energy Resources- Energy Storage Electric power demand

Electricity storage:
 Competitive or
 complementary to DG

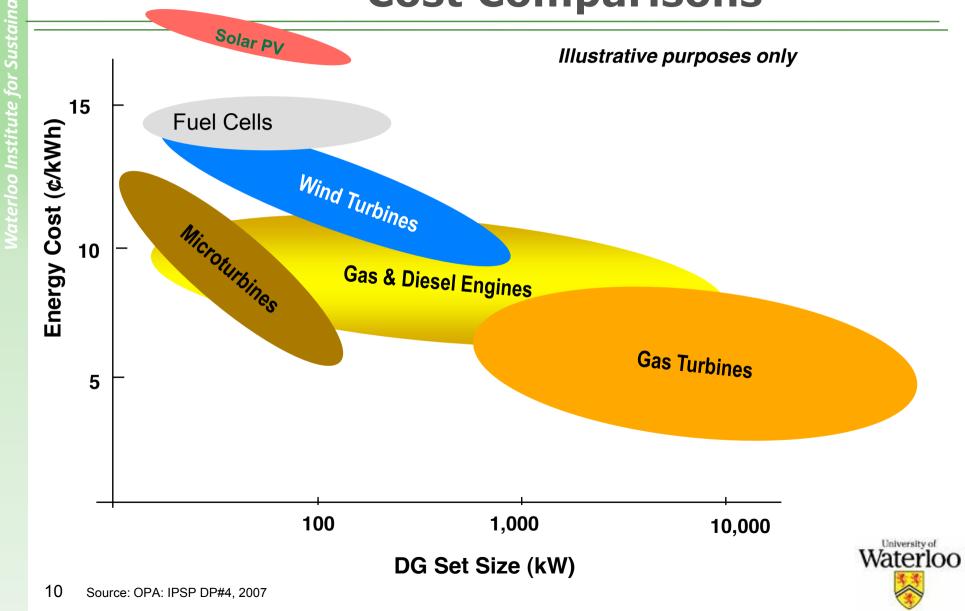


- Convergence of grid and transportation infrastructures?
- Boon for DG?



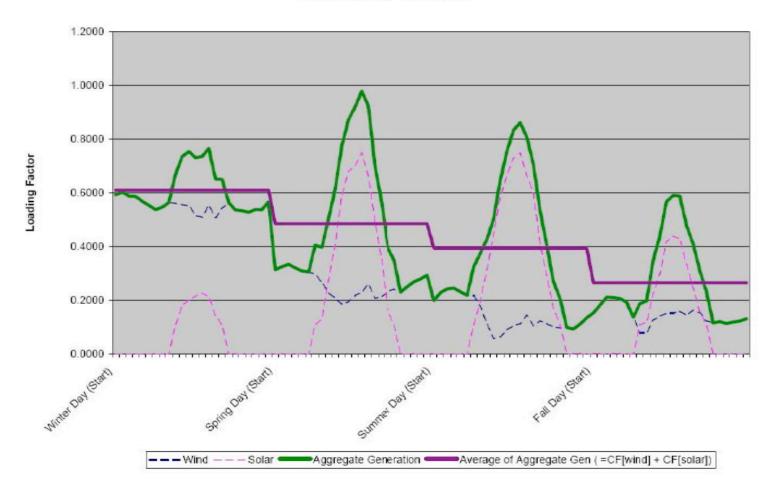


Cost Comparisons



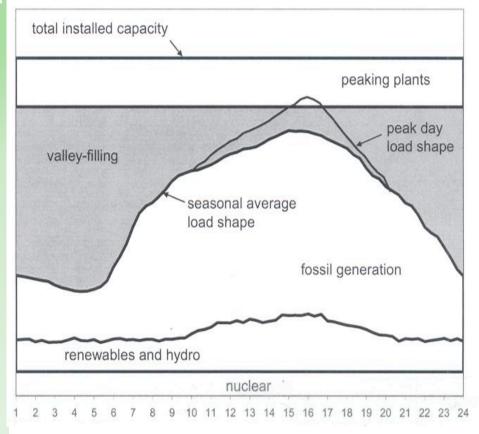
Benefits of Diversity and Distributed Resources

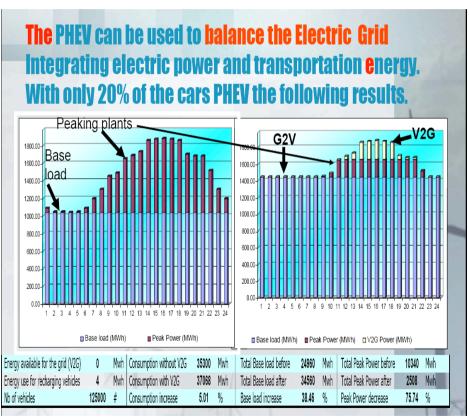
Seasonal Daily Generation





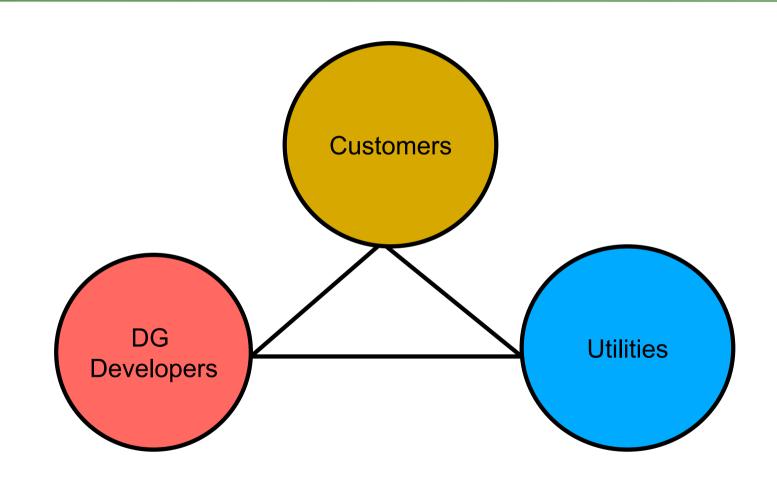
Low cost power to displace gasoline "green electrons as substitutes for carbon"





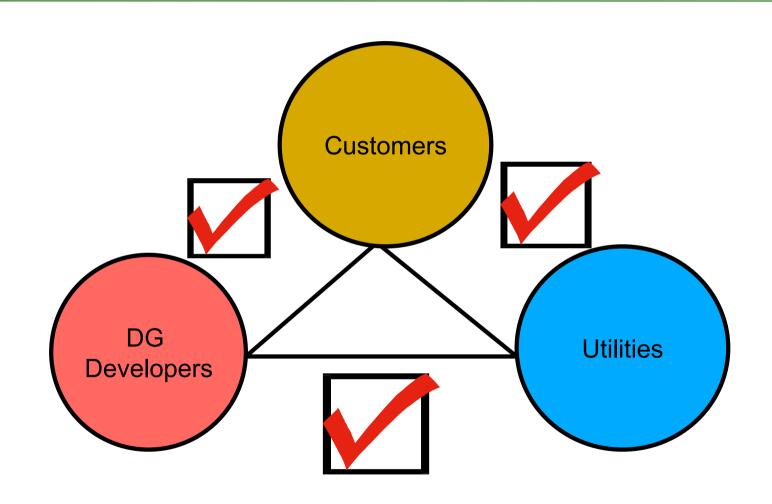


DG Success Matrix





DG Success Matrix: Net positive benefit to society

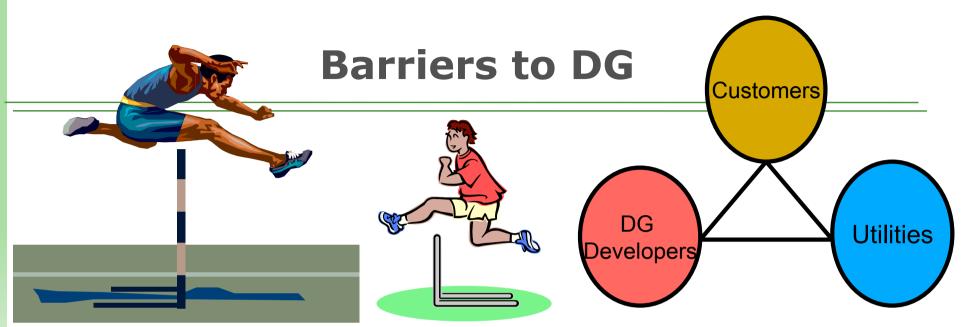




Barriers to DG: Institutional Aspects

- Cost
- Connection Requirements and Costs
- Industry Practices
- Siting and Permitting Requirements
- Compensation & Prices





Connection Requirements and Costs

Potential Solutions

- IEEE 1547
- Pre Certification of DG Equipment
- Uniform Contracts



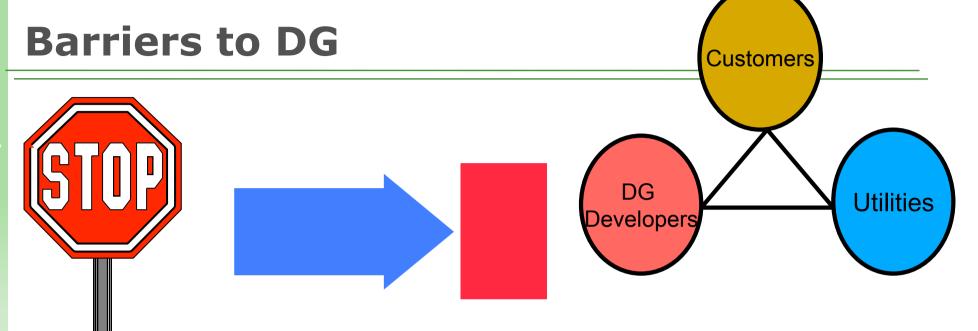
Barriers to DG DG Developers Utilities

Utility Charge Structure, Compensation for Avoided Costs and Prices for Energy

Potential Solutions

- Regulatory Policies and Frameworks
- DG Incentive Mechanisms
- "Shallow" vs "Deep Connection Charges"





- Siting and Permitting Restrictions
- Air quality issues, land-use approvals, building codes

Potential Solutions

- Government Policies
- Promote Uniform Requirements



Technology Innovations



- Powered by lithium-ion battery
- Charges in under 1 minute.
- Range: 15 km at 40 km/h.
- Cold weather testing in Sapporo next month.
- Uses 10% less energy than existing streetcars.



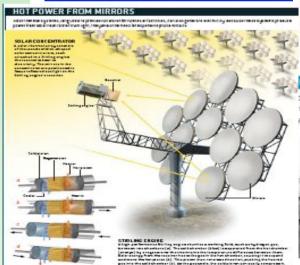


Additional burner

Exhaust Heat Exchanger

Fan

Gas valve/controller Heating water circuit



igure 5: Transportability of 5.2-MW turbines to SRP substations

olar Turbines's 5.2-MW turbines and balance-of-plant equipment will be transportable by uck, allowing Salt River Project to move the units to areas with the greatest distribution



Source: David Gauntlett (25)





Summary

- Reducing costs ("technology + transactional") is the key determinant
- Policy developments and "innovative" regulatory practices are needed to help reduce barriers and enhance prospects for DG
 - Net benefit to society a "reasonable test of inherent value"
- Alignment of customer, utility and DG developer interests will lead to productive solutions.



For follow up and contact information:

Jatin Nathwani, PhD, P.Eng.
Professor and Ontario Research Chair in Public
Policy for Sustainable Energy Management
Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Environment
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON, Canada N2L 3G1

519 888 4567 ext 38252 nathwani@uwaterloo.ca cell: 416 735 6262

www.wise.uwaterloo.ca



Will the utility of the future be fundamentally different? Is renewal an "opportunity" to chart a different path?

