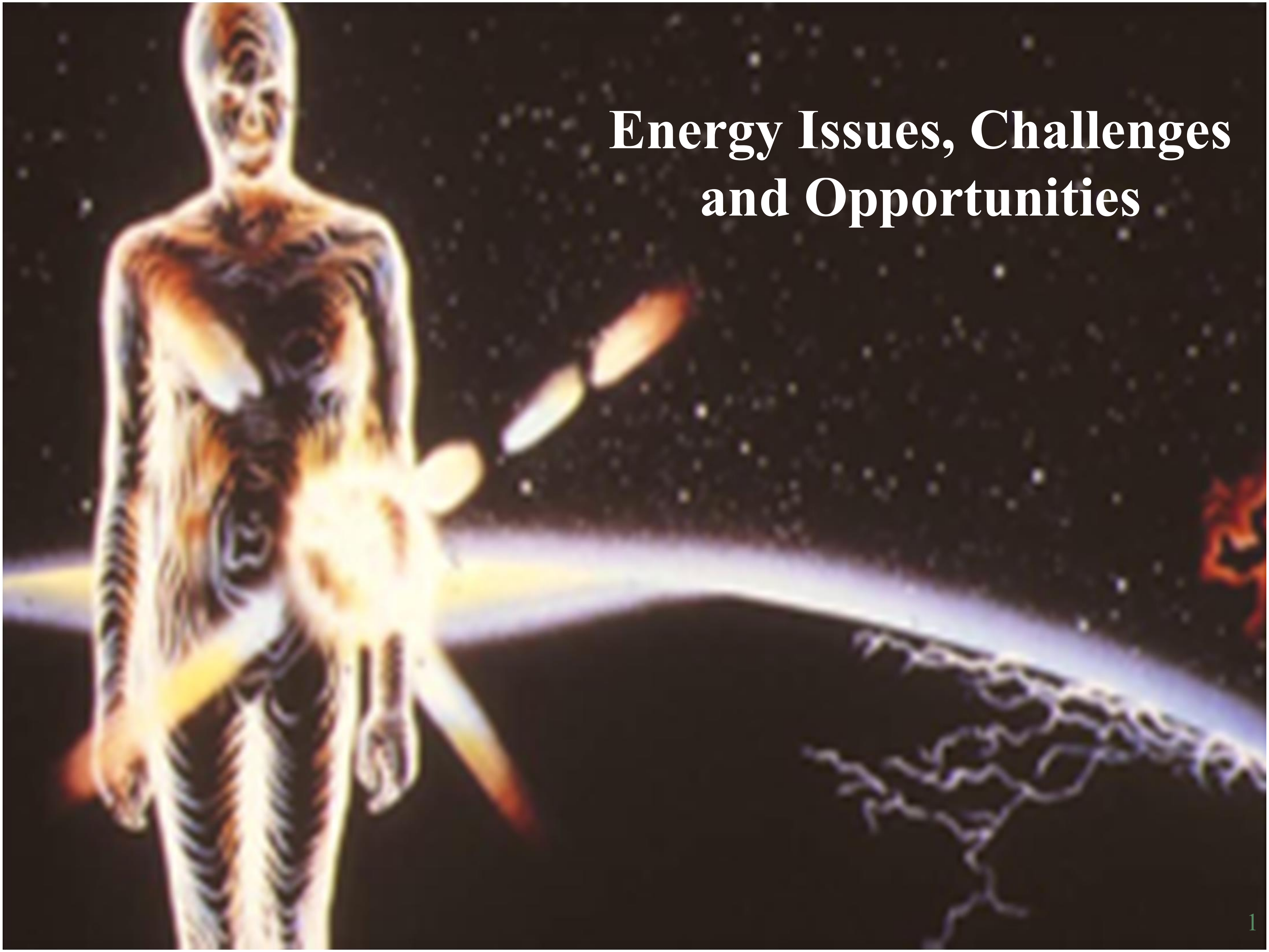
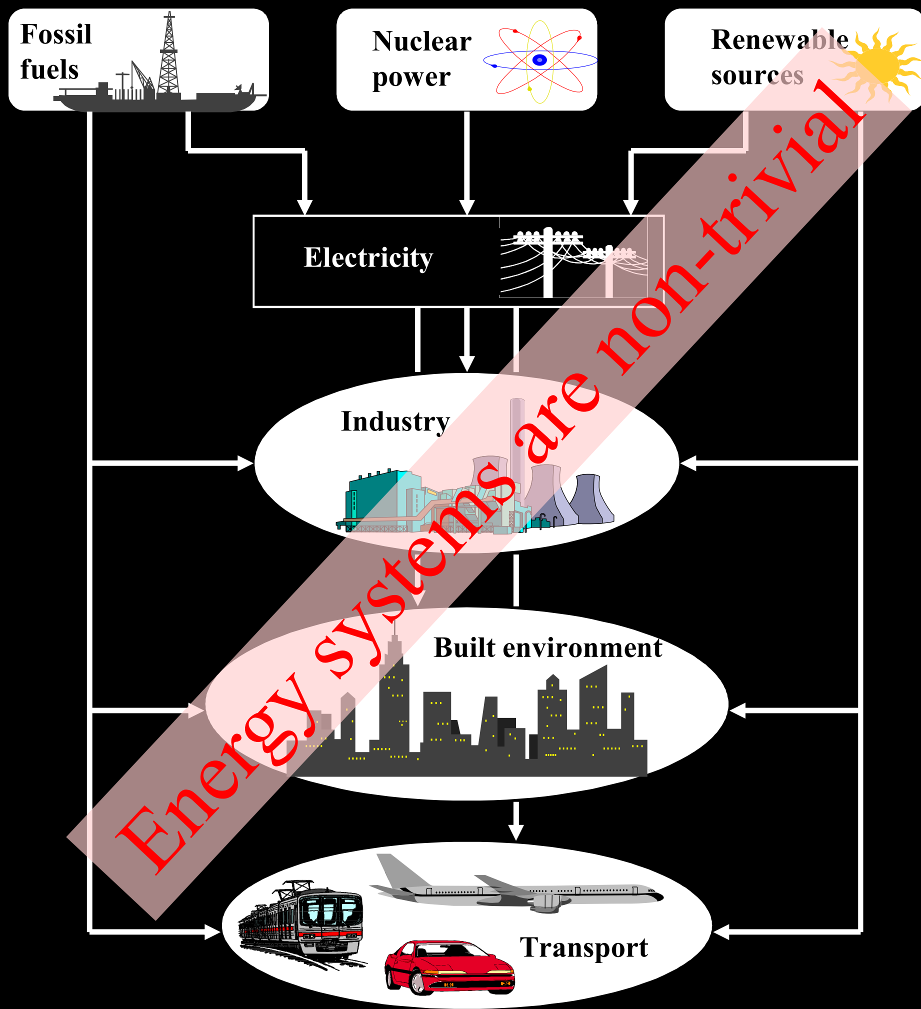
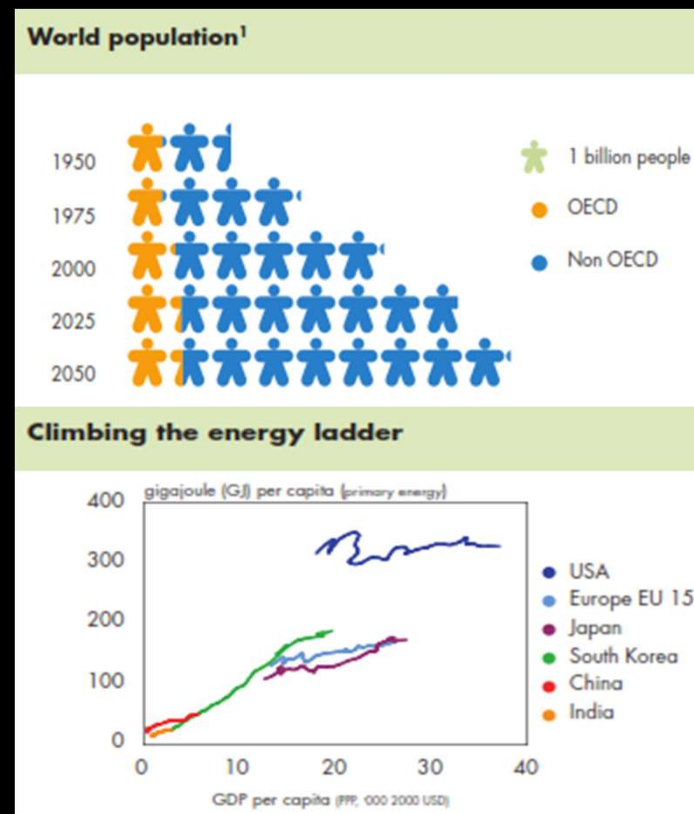
Energy Issues, Challenges and Opportunities



Energy production, conversion and distribution

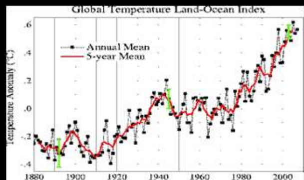


Step-change in energy use.
Supply struggling to meet demand.
Environmental stresses increasing.



Source: Shell Global Scenarios to 2050,
www.shell.com/scenarios

Viewpoints and options



Viewpoints:

- ❑ human well-being
  (moral obligation)
- ❑ climate change mitigation
  (save the planet)
- ❑ environment protection
  (biodiversity)
- ❑ fossil fuel prolongation
  (sustain economic growth)
- ❑ fossil fuel replacement
  (pollution reduction)
- ❑ security of supply
  (political autonomy)

Reduce/reshape energy demand:

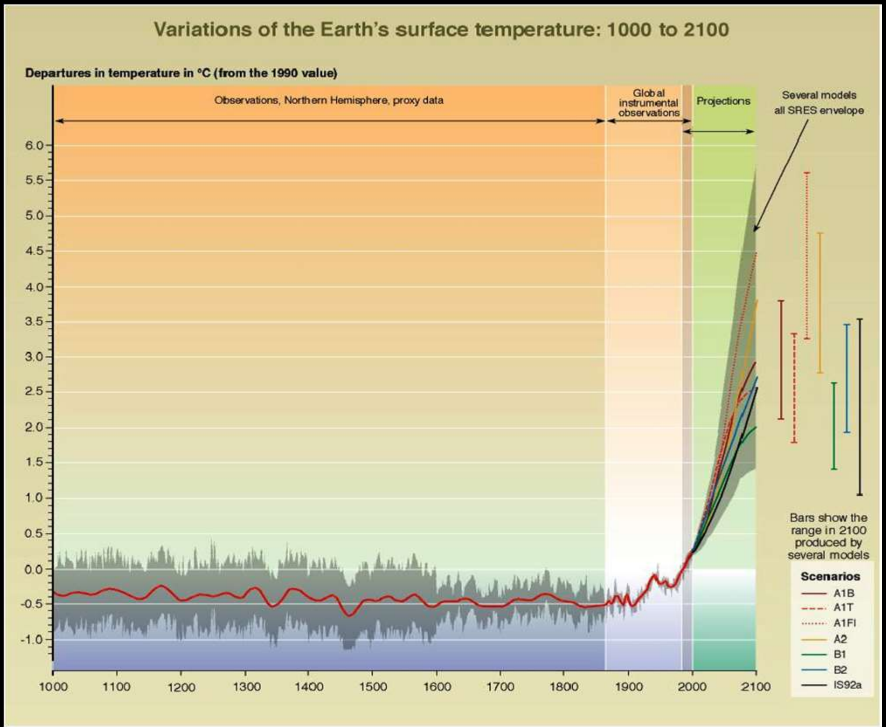
- ❑ population control
  (not an option)
- ❑ lifestyle change
  (do little, save little)
- ❑ apt technologies
  (plethora of options)

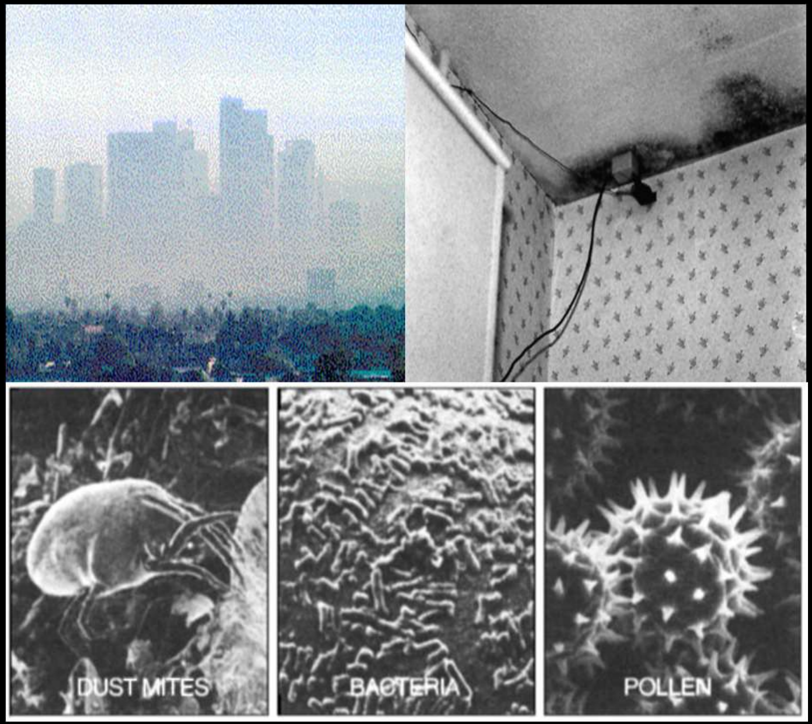
Deploy clean energy sources:

- ❑ clean fossil fuels
  (cost increase)
- ❑ nuclear fission
  (public acceptance)
- ❑ renewable energy
  (needs infrastructure)

Challenges: accommodate disparate views, negotiate non-optimal solutions, design and operate hybrid systems, obtain investment capital, keep costs down and taking the long view politically.

Conflicting viewpoints

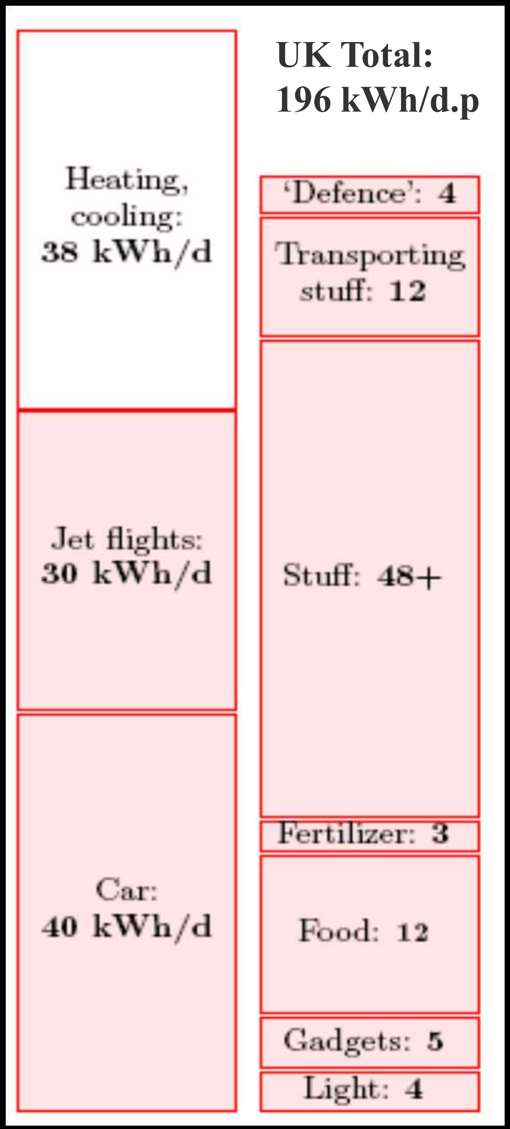




Caution!:

- ❑ energy efficiency measures may exacerbate indoor air quality;
- ❑ decentralised power production reduces global emissions but moves them to the breathing zone;
- ❑ increased system complexity may increase capital, operating and maintenance costs.

Lifestyle change



Source: MacKay, www.withouthotair.com

'Simple' actions	Possible saving (kWh/d.p)
Frugal heating system use	20
Switch off appliances at home/work	4
Stop flying	35
Efficient transport	20
Don't replace gadgets	4
Use CFL or LED	4
Avoid clutter	20
Become vegetarian	10
Sub-total	117
'Difficult' actions	
Eliminate draughts	5
Double glazing	10
Improve insulation	10
Solar hot water panels	8
Photovoltaic panels	5
Replace old building with new	35
Electric heat pump for heating	10
Sub-total	83

Challenge: Lifestyle change is unlikely to result in substantial energy demand reduction.

Apt technologies

Challenge: how to identify the best deployment combination.

Transport (25-65%):
- ❑ ~~journey curbing~~
- ❑ efficient engines
- ❑ alternate fuels
- ❑ fuel cells
- ❑ hybrid engines

Buildings (30-85%):
- ❑ ~~frugal living~~
- ❑ fabric & ventilation
- ❑ efficient systems
- ❑ passive solar
- ❑ embed renewables

Industry (15-75%):
- ❑ ~~produce less~~
- ❑ efficient plant
- ❑ heat recovery
- ❑ smart control
- ❑ new materials

Low carbon solutions

Demand-side:

- Daylight utilisation
- Smart control
- Smart zoning
- Passive solar devices
- Heat recovery
- Solar ventilation pre-heat
- Switchable glazings
- Selective films
- Transparent insulation
- Moveable devices
- Breathable walls
- Phase change material
- Demand management
- Smart meters & grids
- Electric vehicles

Supply-side:

- Condensing boiler
- Heat pump
- Combined heat and power
- Tri-generation
- Photovoltaics
- Desiccant cooling
- Evaporative cooling
- Electricity to heat
- Smart space/water heating
- Wind power
- Biomass/biofuel heating
- Culvert heating/cooling
- District heating/cooling
- Energy storage
- Fuel cells

Energy systems characteristics:

- ❑ all processes are dynamic;
- ❑ parameters are non-linear;
- ❑ overall system is systemic;
- ❑ influences are stochastic.

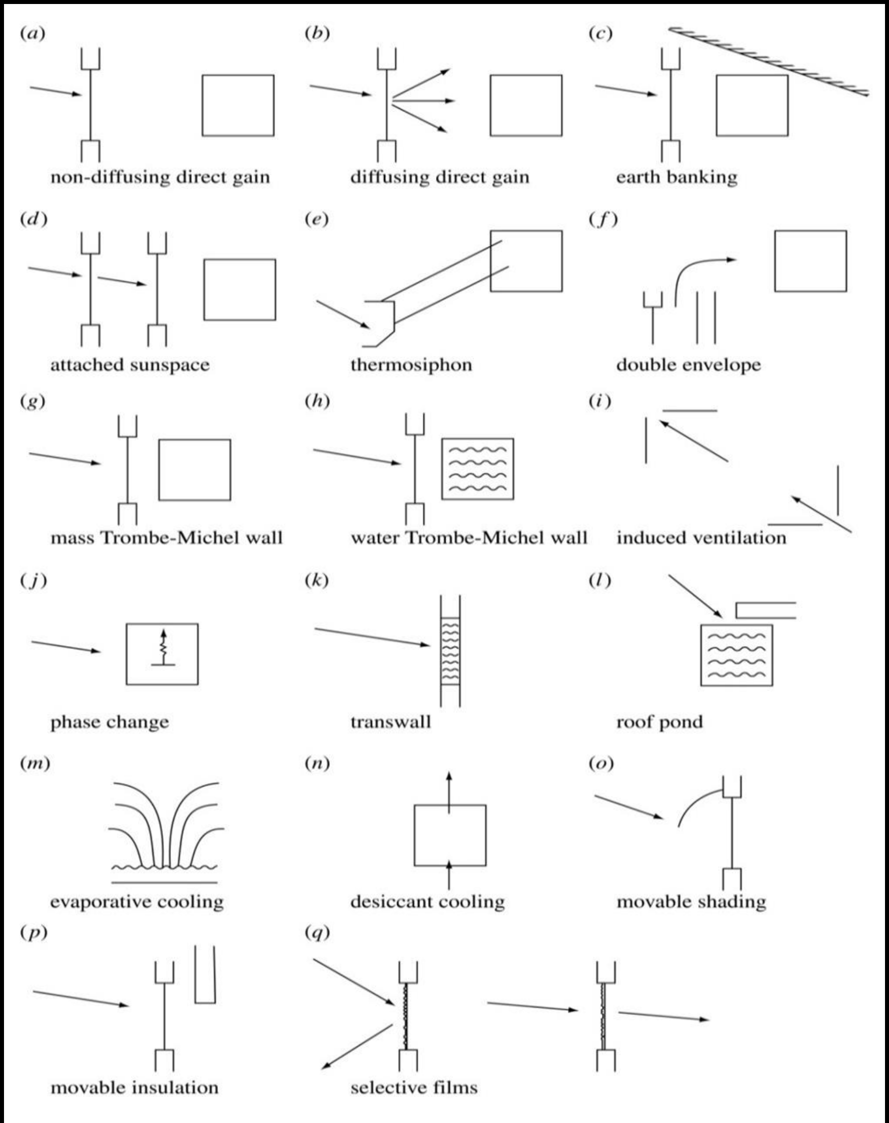
Challenges: performance in practice; hybrid systems design; robustness; user understanding; cost shifts; unintentional impacts; impact on network loads.

Built environment issues

- Passive solar (user control)
- Heat recovery (heat sink matching)
- Fabric upgrades (moisture problems)
- Efficient systems (cost implications)
- Daylight utilisation (glare avoidance)
- Smart control (commissioning)
- Local heat/power generation (demand matching)

Challenges: balancing energy, emissions, air quality, comfort, cost, controllability, robustness, job creation *etc*.

Passive solar features



Typical problems

- Systems do not perform as well as expected.
- Products/ components not robust and performance degrades over time.
- Controls often don't.
- Upgrades create unexpected problems, e.g.
  - Constructional moisture problems
    - derive from inadequate heating/ventilation, construction failure and/or inappropriate user behaviour;
    - moisture flow is a function of rain penetration and temperature/pressure gradients;
    - epidemiological evidence suggests that mould infestation in buildings can have health implications for vulnerable individuals.
- The devil is in the detail.

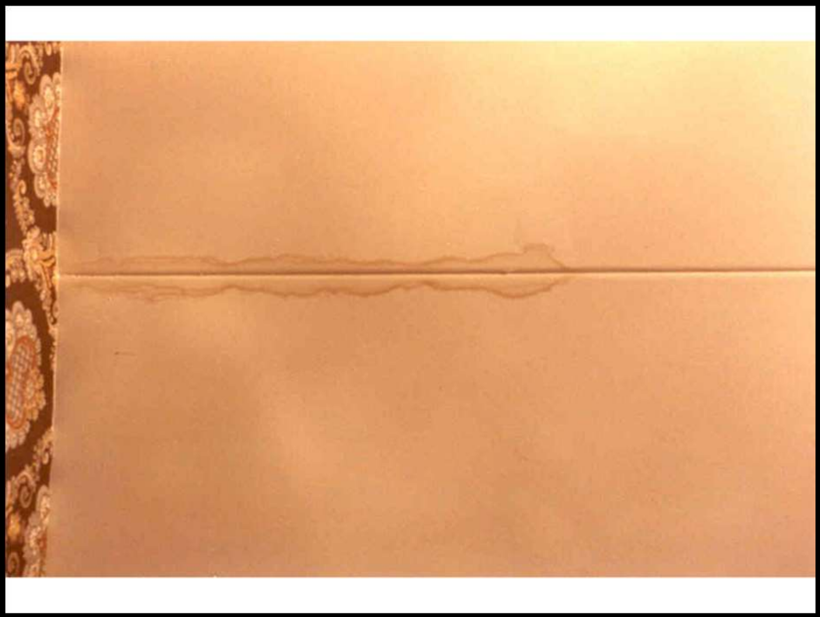
Surface condensation on glass

Source: Hugo.Hens@bwk.kuleuven.be

Mould on thermal bridges

Source: Hugo.Hens@bwk.kuleuven.be

Interstitial condensation



Insulated pitched roof, condensation against the corrugated fibre cement sheet roof cover by air leakage, dripping moisture wetting the gypsum board internal lining.

Source: Hugo.Hens@bwk.kuleuven.be

Natatorium with low slope timber roof

Insulation with vapour decompressing layer below the insulation, interstitial condensation in that layer wetting the timber floor causing rot.

Concrete deck with no vapour retarder. Interstitial condensation wetting the insulation.

View of the decompressing layer and what is left of the insulation after wetting by interstitial condensation.

Source: Hugo.Hens@bwk.kuleuven.be

Insulated low slope steel deck

Corroding deck due to solar driven condensation of moisture below the membrane in winter.

Source: Hugo.Hens@bwk.kuleuven.be

Insulated cavity wall

Rain penetration around windows

Source: Hugo.Hens@bwk.kuleuven.be

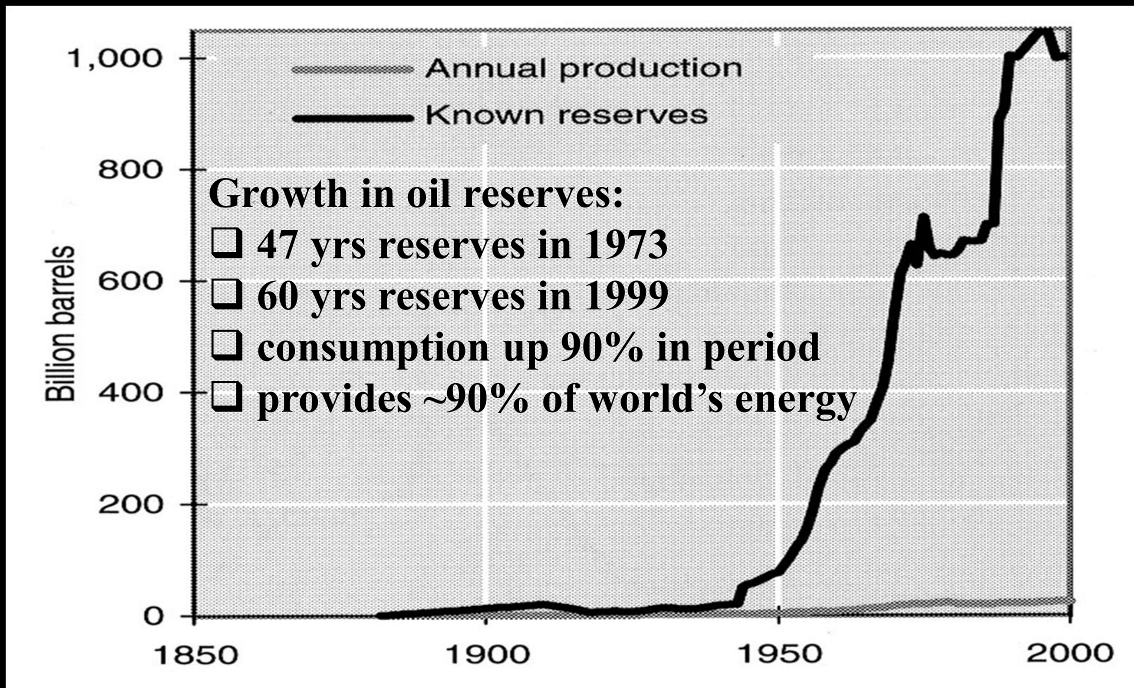
Post-filled cavity wall

Cavity tray wrongly detailed.

Source: Hugo.Hens@bwk.kuleuven.be

Rain penetrating the veneer wall and running off between insulation and veneer, wetting the underside of the inside leaf and the ground floor screed.

Fossil fuels



Reserves:
- ❑ Coal 230-1500 yrs;
- ❑ Oil 40-250 yrs;
- ❑ Gas 60 yrs.

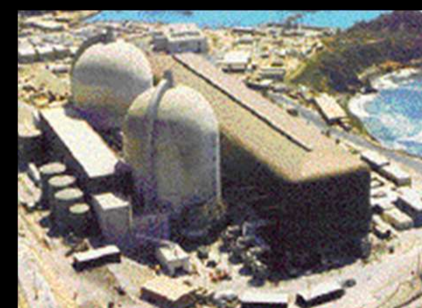
Outlook:
- ❑ global energy spend <2% of GDP;
- ❑ UK spend 6% of GDP (£75b/y; c.f. £10b/y spent on discarded food);
- ❑ will dominate the world economy for 30 years or more.

Challenges:
- ❑ refine exploration techniques;
- ❑ make less 'polluting' (e.g. decarbonise);
- ❑ enhanced extraction (e.g. sequestrate C);
- ❑ new resources (e.g. coal bed methane, oil shale, tar sand);
- ❑ new uses (e.g. methanol production).

Nuclear

"We made the mistake of lumping energy in with nuclear weapons, as if all things nuclear were evil. I think that's a big mistake, as if you lumped nuclear medicine in with nuclear weapons."

Patrick Moore, Greenpeace Co-founder



Fission:

- ❑ ~6% of global energy production;
- ❑ more expensive than fossil-based power generation but less expensive than most renewables;
- ❑ radioactive waste is a problem (transmutation initiatives);
- ❑ 100 years of $U_{235;}$
- ❑ 14,000 years of U_{238} but security problematic.

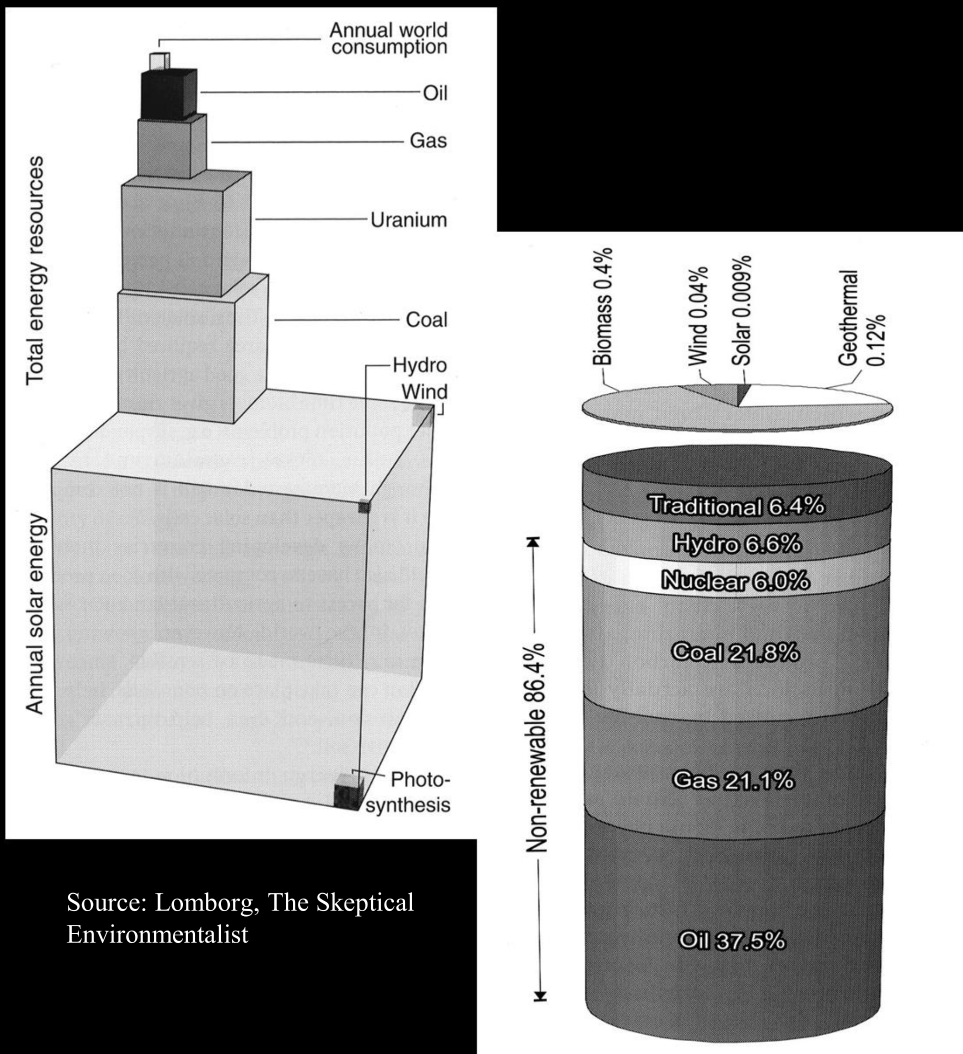
Fusion:

- ❑ abundant fuel supply (sea water);
- ❑ 1g equivalent to 45 barrels of oil;
- ❑ little radioactive waste;
- ❑ astronomical temperatures required;
- ❑ commercial by 22nd century?

Challenges:

- ❑ new build;
- ❑ waste disposal;
- ❑ public acceptance;
- ❑ life cycle costs.

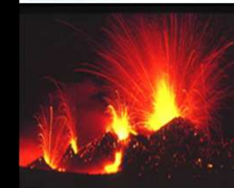
Strategic renewable energy



Source: Lomborg, The Skeptical Environmentalist

- To avoid problems with fault clearance, network balancing and power quality, distributed RE systems with limited control possibility should be restricted to ~25% of network capacity.
- High capture levels require:
  - increased transmission network capacity;
  - active distribution network management;
  - energy storage and/or standby capacity.
- Practical resource not vast relative to total demand.

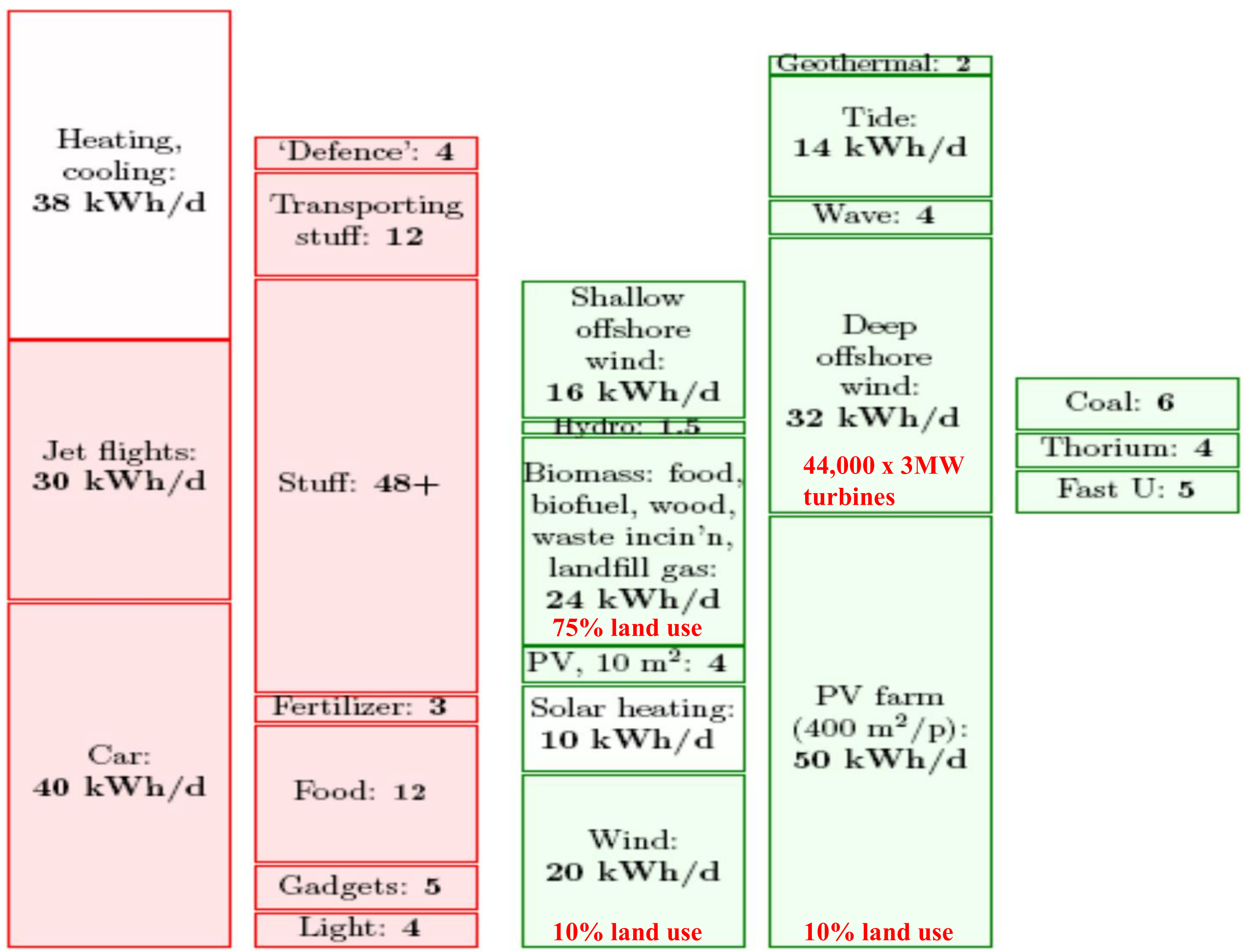



Renewable energy: supply/demand match

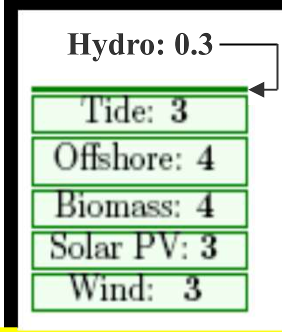
UK energy consumption
------ (196 kWh/d.p) ------

Maximum conceivable UK sustainable production
-------------------- (174 kWh/d.p) ----------------------



Caution: Matching energy demand from renewable sources requires the industrialisation of the environment on a vast scale.

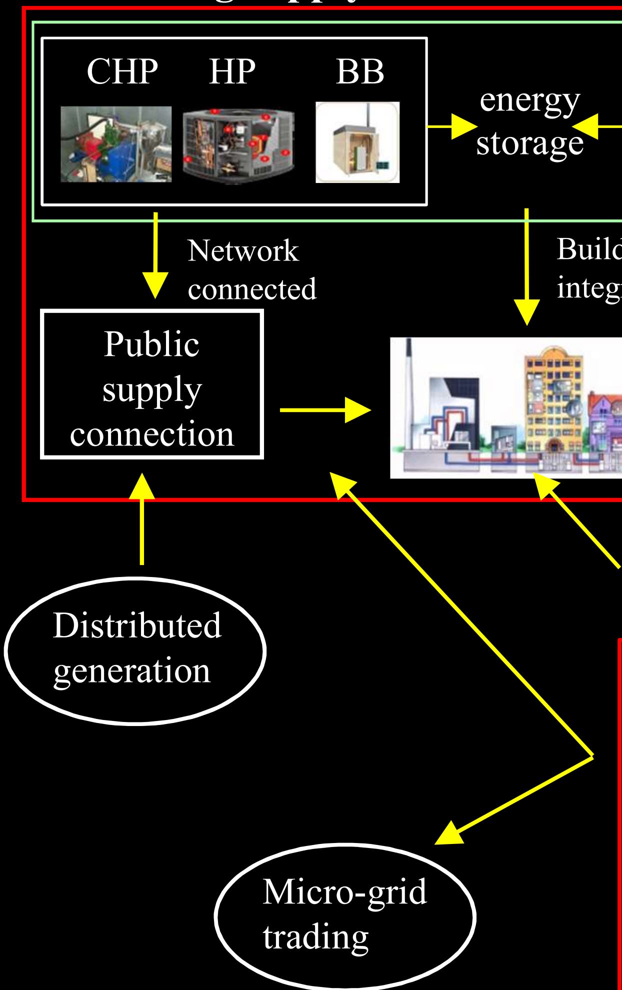
Likely resource (17 kWh/d.p)



Source: MacKay, www.withouthotair.com

Micro-generation and micro-grids

Embedding supply within a community



Power station .... 1 @ 2000 MW
Wind .... 100 @ 20 MW
Marine .... 4,000 @ 0.5 MW
CHP .... 40,000 @ 0.05 MW
Urban RE .... 200,000 @ 0.01 MW

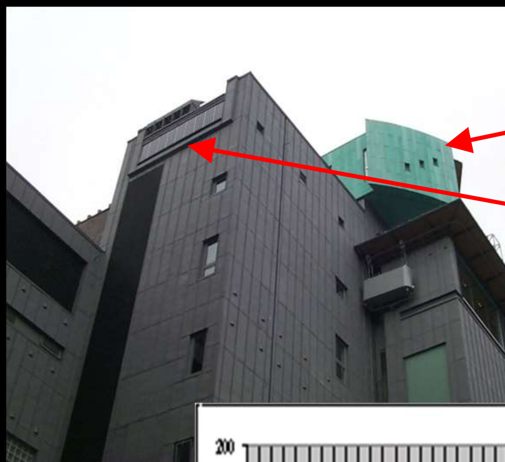
Renewable energy systems 3-5 times larger if the requirement is to match energy production.

Challenges: hybrid systems sizing; smart control, pervasive sensing, ‘e-service’ delivery.

Internet-enabled energy services

New energy-related services:
- ❑ environmental monitoring;
- ❑ smart metering;
- ❑ local & aggregate control;
- ❑ demand-side management;
- ❑ information for citizens.

Building-integrated micro-generation

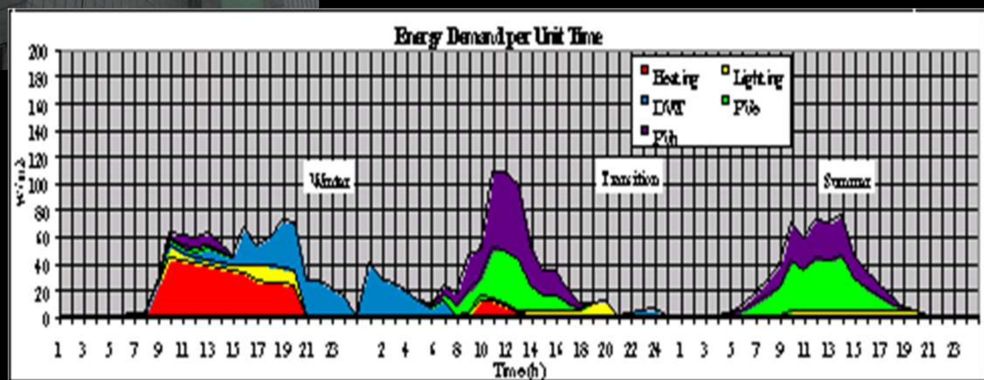


Demand reduction through transparent insulation, advanced glazing and smart control.

PV: 0.7 kW_e

DWT: 0.6 kW_e

PV hybrid: 0.8 kW_e / 1.5 kW_h



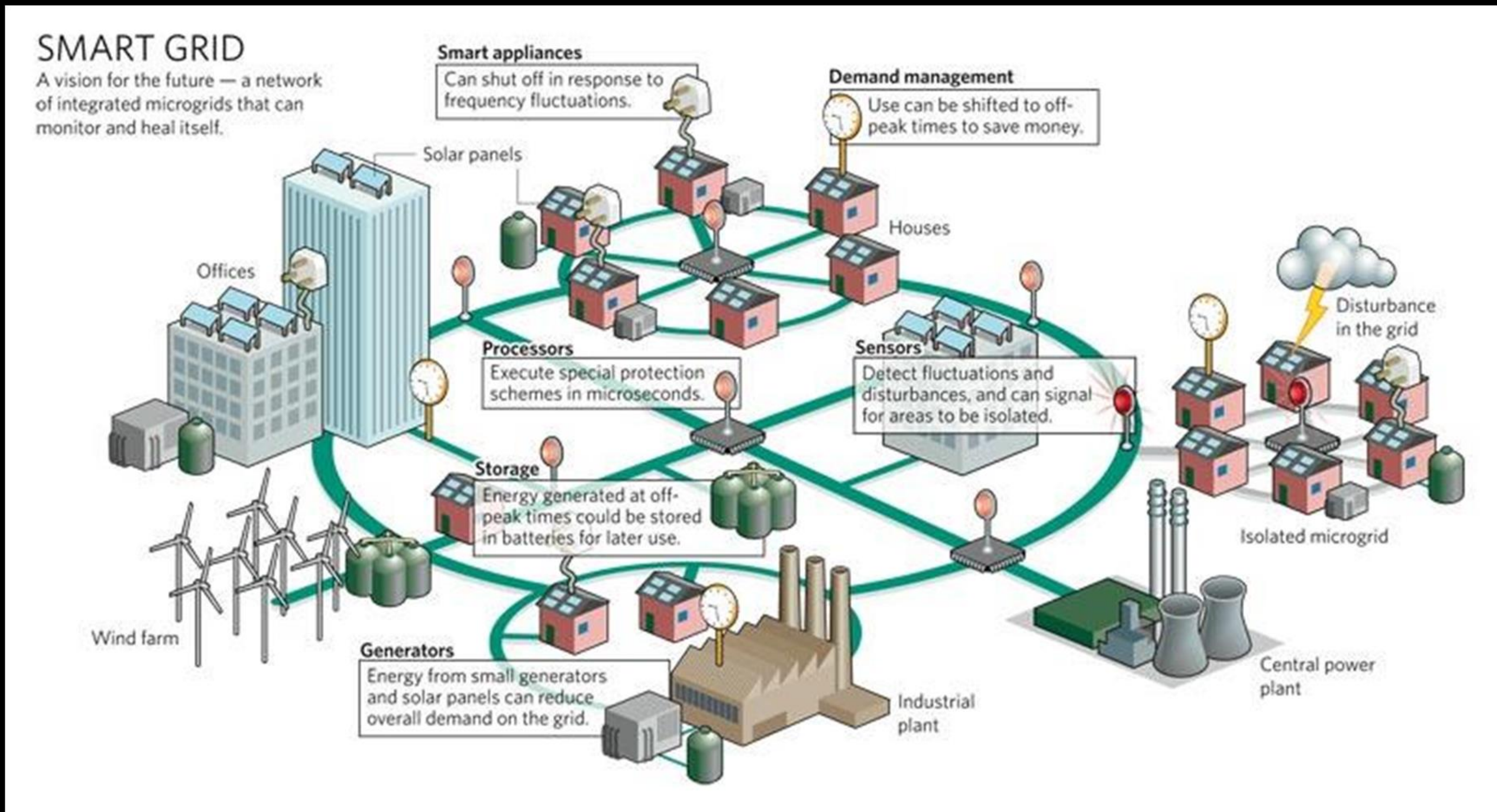
total demand: 68 kWh/m^2.yr

total RE supply: 98 kWh/m^2.yr

Challenges:

- ❑ accommodate the grade, variability and unpredictability of energy sources/demands;
- ❑ hybrid systems design;
- ❑ strategies for co-operative control of stochastic demand and supply;
- ❑ network balancing, fault handling and power quality maintenance.

Future concept: smart grids



https://smartgridtech.wordpress.com/smart-grid/

Challenges:

- ❑ market transformation;
- ❑ policy & legislation;
- ❑ new business models;
- ❑ large capital investment;

- ❑ market transformation;
- ❑ policy & legislation;
- ❑ new business models.

How best to stimulate development and assess proposals?

- With so many options, how do we identify the optimum deployment combinations?
  - Feasibility (technical, social acceptability) – requires modelling tools.
  - Economics (in the conventional sense).
  - Energy/carbon economics:
    - energy efficiency rating;
    - net CO_2 per unit of useful energy produced;
    - embodied energy in life cycle of products.
  - Environmental impact:
    - consumption of valuable resources (actual and potential).
  - Social impact (jobs).

- UK policy framework:
  - Mostly financial instruments.
  - 2020 targets (limited agreement on means to attain them):
    - EU target: 20% of energy requirements to be met from renewable resources;
    - Scotland: 100% renewable electricity;
    - UK: 15% of energy consumption from renewable sources (2009 Renewable Energy Directive);
    - Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT).

"The real need is to leave future generations with knowledge and capital, such that they can obtain a quality of life at least as good as ours, all in all."

Nobel Laureate, Robert Shaw