

Energy Storage in High Performance Buildings



Photo credit Bruce Coldham



Photo credit Hillside

PV energy in and out	100 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	Fraction of PV
of Battery, kWh, 95% efficiency	after Battery,	energy used on site
0	10644	54%



Photo credit Amanda Nickerson

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

1) Describe the grid generation issues inherent in widespread use of renewable electricity

2) Describe the benefits of using energy storage, both thermal and electrical

3) Describe the types of thermal storage and identify suitable approaches for a particular project type

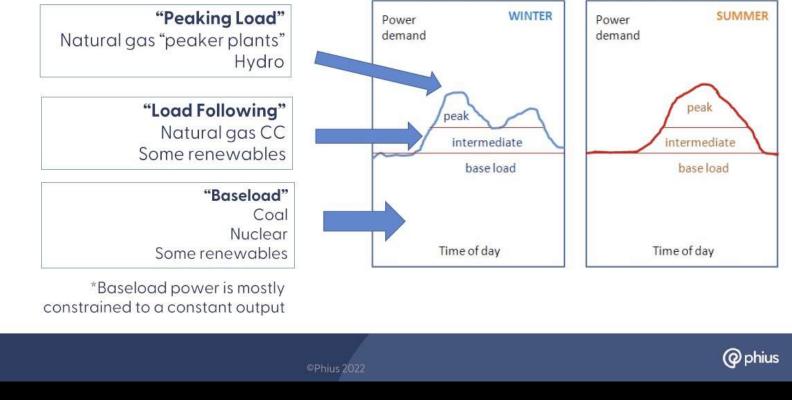
4) Describe the effects of increasing storage capacity and PV array size and how marginal benefits per additional increment decrease

Why Bother?

Grid Stability and Integration of Renewable Energy Sources

SEASONAL LOAD PROFILES ON GRID

General daily patterns / grid loads are predictable, variability is mostly based on space conditioning loads.

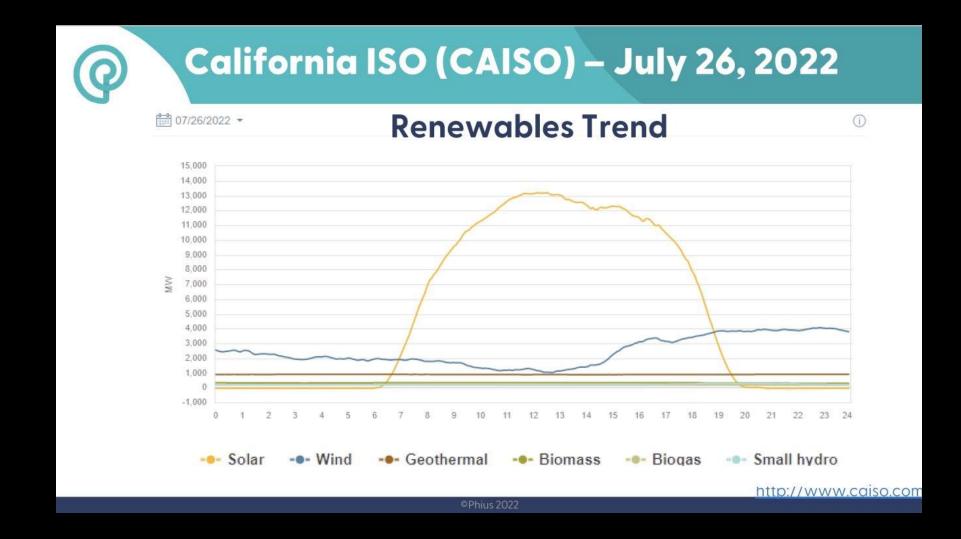


Huge Thanks to Lisa White and PHIUS for these slides

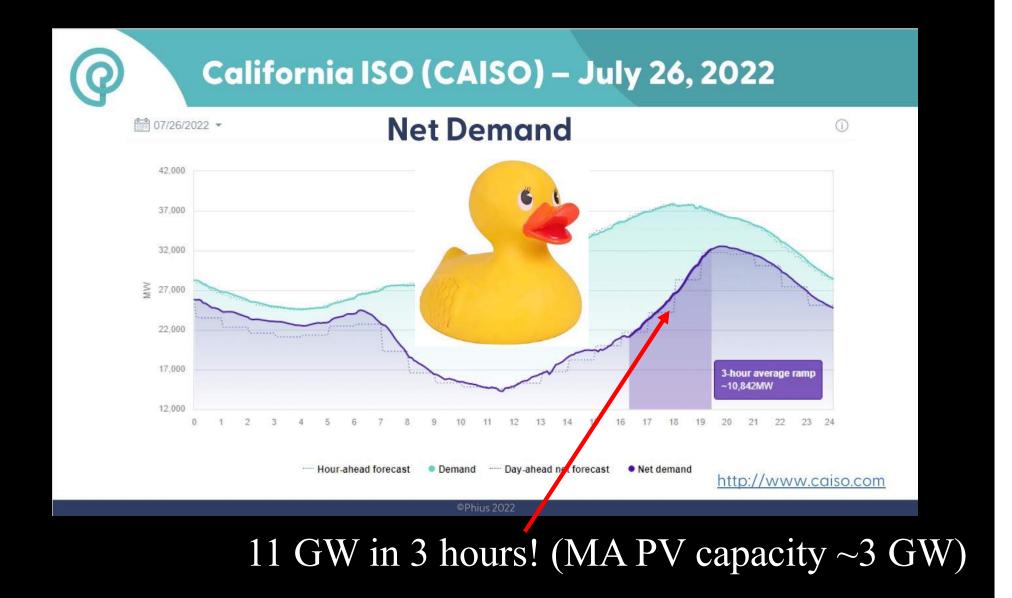
CA ISO Load



CA ISO Renewable Generation



CA ISO Load After Renewables



ISO-NE

New England ISO – April 2, 2022



Emissions Vary

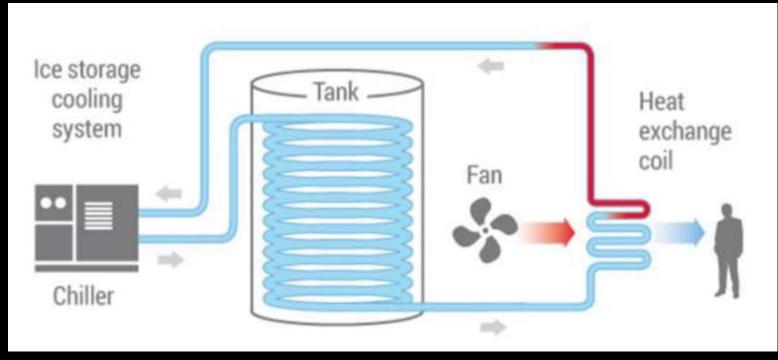
Not all kWh's (used and produced) are equal

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	12:00 AM												
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©Phius 2022								U.IIIC			1.84		@ phiu

Strategies

- Load reduction in buildings, both thermal and electrical
- Grid-interactive control two way grid
- Load shifting in time

Energy storage is a load-shifting strategy





Solar Net Metering Is Under Threat All Over The US

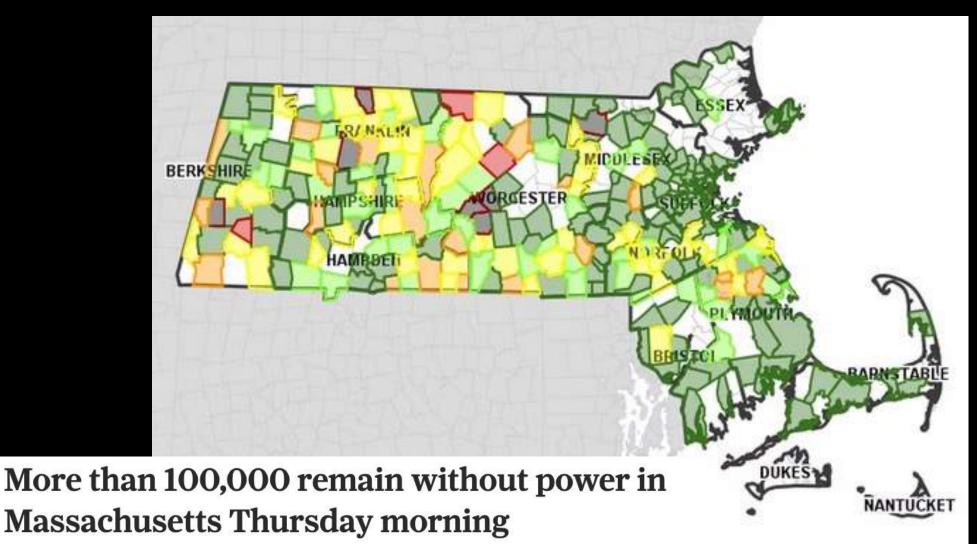
NET METERING UNDER ATTACK (AGAIN)!

February 21, 2023 | 2 min read



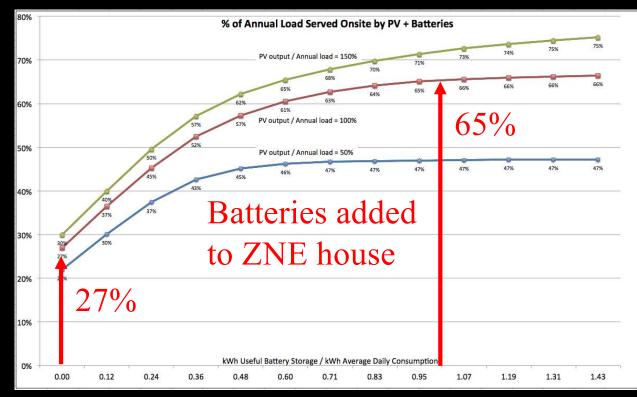
Why Bother?

Resilience in Grid Outage Events



Electric Storage Batteries

- Most flexible type of storage
- Provides grid outage resilience
- Provides load shifting and peak shaving
- Boosts % of site-generated energy that is consumed on-site





Electric Storage Batteries

- Expensive
- Capacity drops over time
- Don't provide the inherent resilience of a superb enclosure with thermal storage
- Best application may be in distributed microgrids
- For many of us as homeowners, V2B is the future

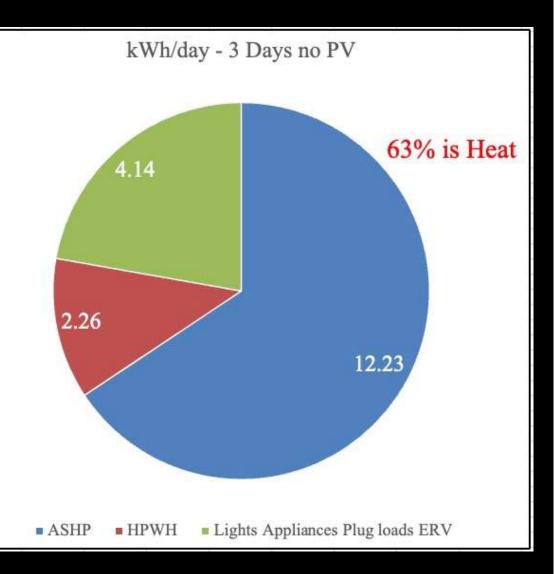




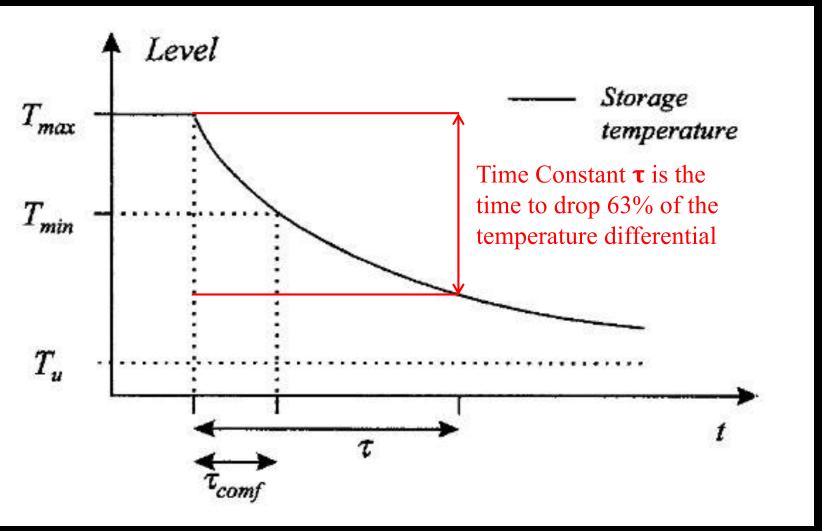
Heat is the Biggest Load

Electric usage February 8th-10th 2016 after snowstorm covered the PV system. Superinsulated house with passive solar gain





Time Constant



From On the thermal inertia and time constant of single family houses, Hedbrant

Time Constant for Buildings

Thermal Capacity per °F change in temperature (BTU/°F)

Heat loss coefficient, UA (BTU/hr-°F)

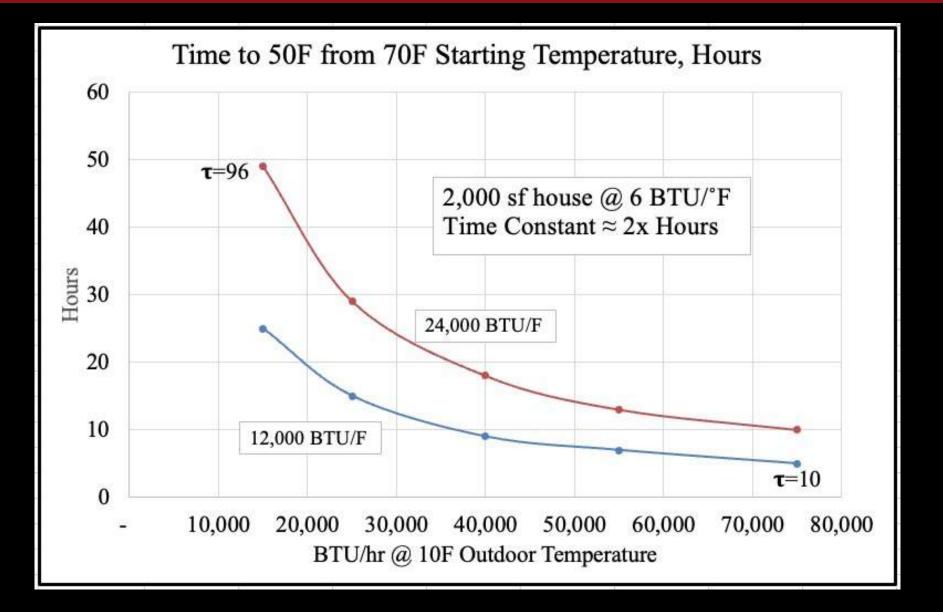
A range of thermal capacity of light frame houses might be 5-7 BTU/sf-°F

A range of UA of light frame houses might be 0.125 – 0.625 BTU/hr-sf-°F (2000 sf house 15-75,000 BTU/hr)

Therefore, a range of time constant of light frame houses would be 10-50 hours

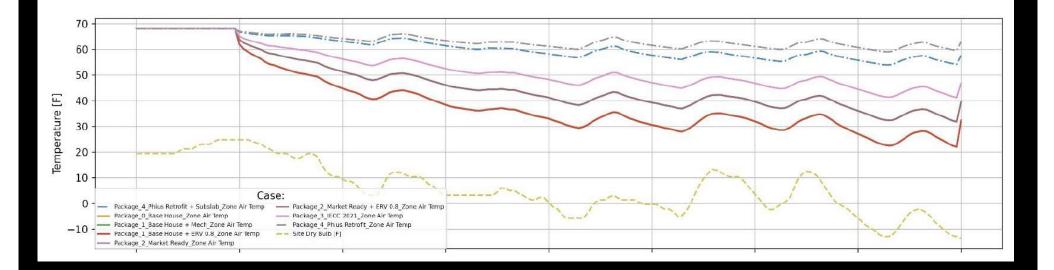
A 2018 paper (John et al) analyzed data from over 10,000 Ecobee thermostats and estimated that a majority of time constants were in the 15-55 hour range

Time Constant and Cool Down



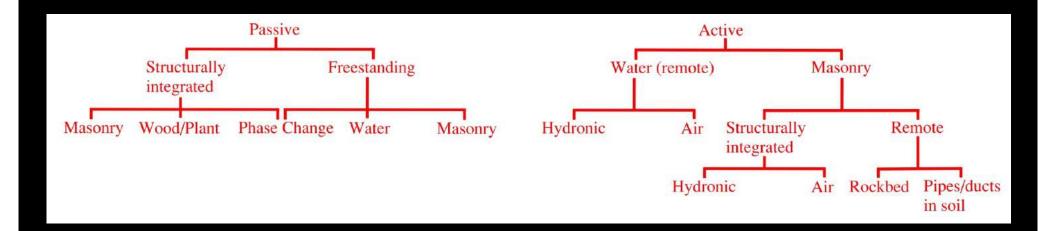
1 Week Heating Resilience

CHICAGO_NV_Heating Outage Resilience



Thanks to Al Mitchell, Graham Wright, and PHIUS for this slide

A Taxonomy of Thermal Storage





Passive Solar Design Handbooks



https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/5672634

Passive Freestanding



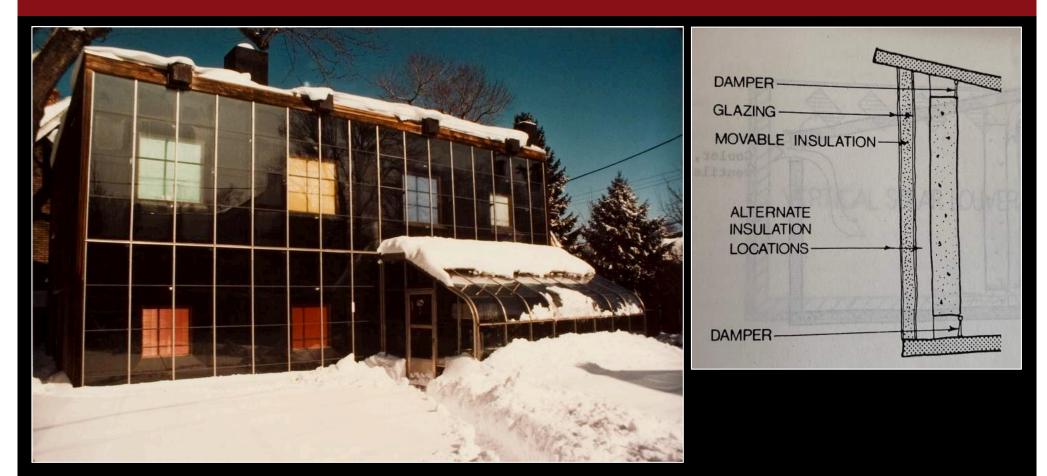


Phase Change pouches over metal ceiling panels



Photos courtesy of Amanda Nickerson and E. Lord - Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests Conservation Center - Banwell Architects

Passive Structurally Integrated



Doug Kelbaugh's Trombe (mass) wall house in Princeton NJ 15" concrete with black selective surface Mass walls delay the solar heat delivery (best when unvented)

Passive Thermal Storage

The material parameter that matters is *thermal effusivity e*

$$e = \sqrt{k^* \rho^* C p}$$

The square root of thermal conductivity (k) times density (ρ) times specific heat (*Cp*). Density times specific heat is volumetric heat capacity - how much heat a material holds per degree of temperature change (BTU/ft³-°F).

So, how much energy can penetrate into the surface of a material is dependent on both how well it conducts heat, and how much heat it can hold.

Thermal Effusivity of Materials

Material	Density, lb/ft3	Conductivity, BTU/hr-ft-°F	Specific heat, BTU/lb-°F	Heat capacity, BTU/ft3-°F	Thermal effusivity, BTU/ft-°F-√hr
Cast iron	450	28	0.12	54	38.9
Concrete	150	1.16	0.19	28	5.69
Gypsum plaster	81	0.29	0.26	21	2.47
Softwood	27	0.067	0.76	20	1.17
Drywall	50	0.093	0.26	13	1.1
Fiberglass batt	0.8	0.025	0.16	0.12	0.06

Thin layers of materials like plaster and wood can store usable amounts of heat when applied over lots of area

Direct Gain Passive Guidelines

- Up to 7-8% net S glazing/floor area needs no additional storage
- Above that, 5-6 sf of directly sunlit thermal storage per 1 sf additional sf of glazing
- Or, 40 sf of indirect (convective) thermal mass connected to the space (here, thin is OK)

Plaster and wood



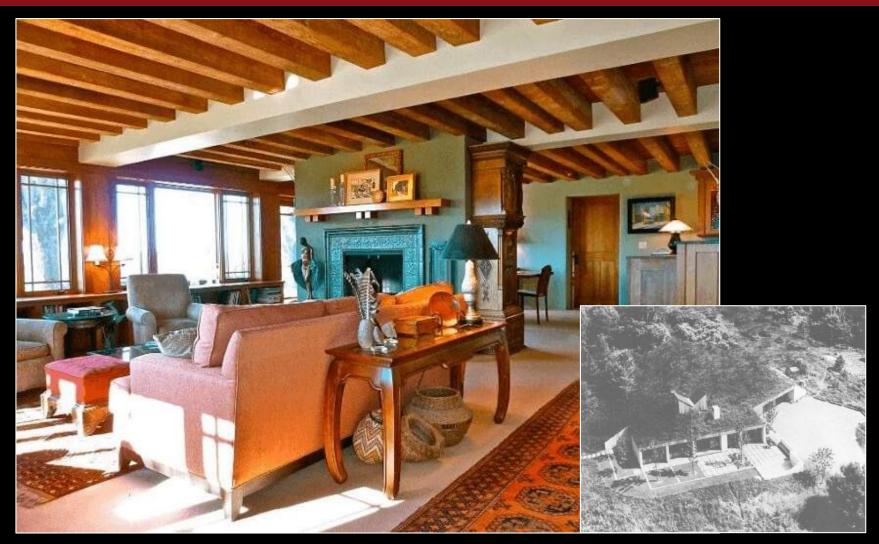
Straw Bale and Timber - New Frameworks Natural Building

Masonry floors, wood structure & decking



Kern Center Living Building – Bruner Cott

Masonry floors, wood structure & decking



Winston Underground House – Don Metz Architect

Cross-laminated Timber





Marc Rosenbaum, PE – Energysmiths – West Tisbury, MA

hitects

Precast Concrete (or other masonry?)





Hillside Center for Sustainable Living Hall & Moskow (developers) Moskow Linn Architects

Middlebury Bicentennial Hall – Payette Architects



Precast Concrete



- Precast concrete on steel beams
- Absorbs daily heat (no A/C)
- Shape reflects uplighting down
- Shape reflects sound onto sound absorption panels

Wessex Water – Bath, England Bennetts Architects Buro Happold Engineers *Integration of design team from conceptual stage*



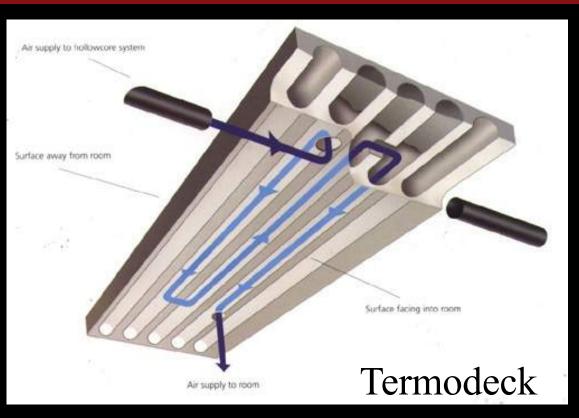
NESEANERDS-

Active Thermal Storage

- Storage is (usually) remote
- Storage is dispatchable according to need
- Much higher ΔT is possible
- Power is needed to charge/discharge (not always both)

Masonry Structurally Integrated - Air

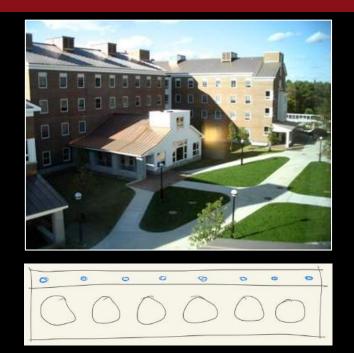






- Hollowcore precast planks
- Ventilation air delivered in space conditioning air
- 35,000 sf building, 5 zones
- CMU walls add passive mass
- Highest occupant satisfaction in PROBE Study

Masonry Structurally Integrated - Hydronic

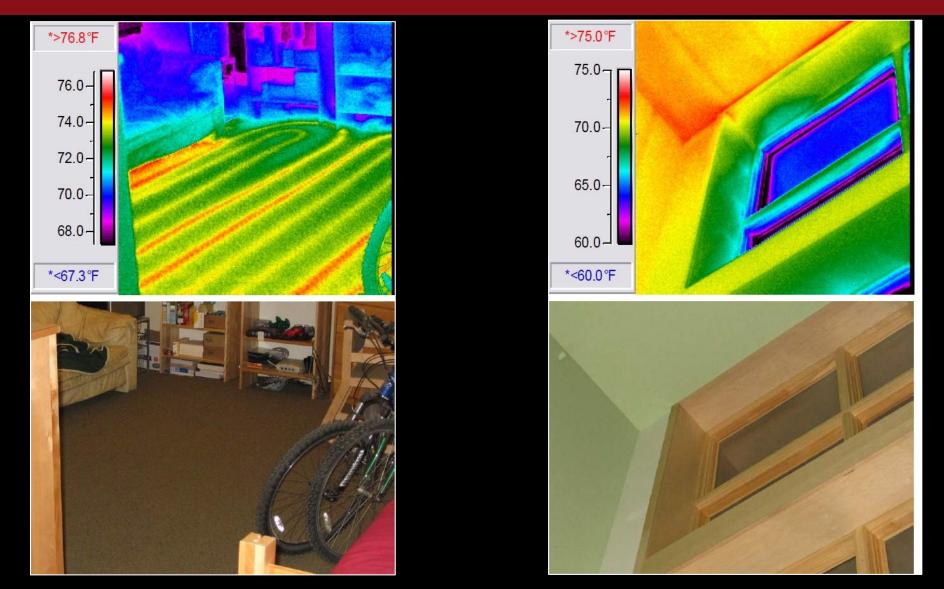




- PEX tubing in topping slab over precast hollowcore plank
- Both floor and ceilings are thermally active
- Floor dominates in heating; ceilings dominate in cooling
- Latent load removed in ventilation air

Dartmouth McLaughlin Dorms – Moore Rubell Yudell / Bruner Cott Dan Nall – mechanical engineer

Masonry Structurally Integrated - Hydronic



PEX tubing in topping slab over precast hollowcore plank

Fan-forced Rockbed

Active storage; passive release

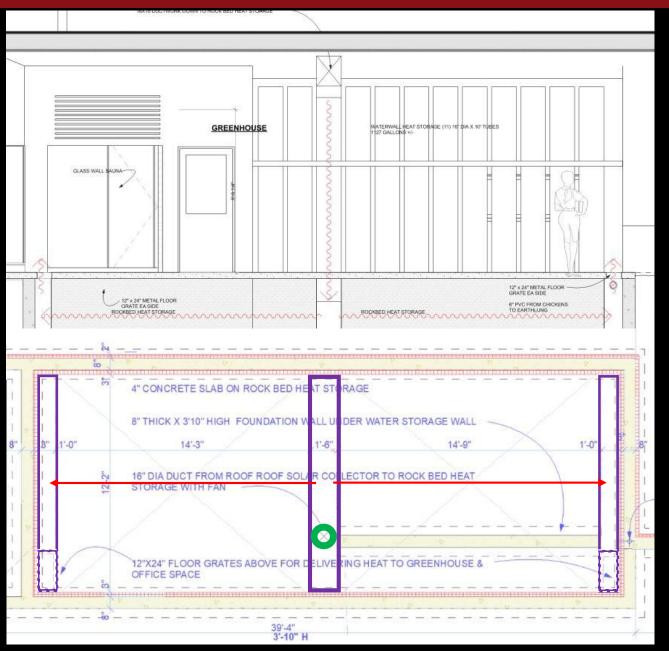


Solar attic above greenhouse charges the air up to 110°F for more energy stored per CFM in this VT house



Natick Community Greenhouse – Jon Romig Architect

Fan-forced Rockbed



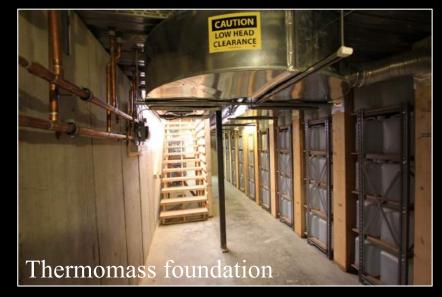
Marc Rosenbaum, PE – Energysmiths – West Tisbury, MA

Fan-forced Water Containers

Active storage; passive release







45°F min. temp. at -7°F outdoors



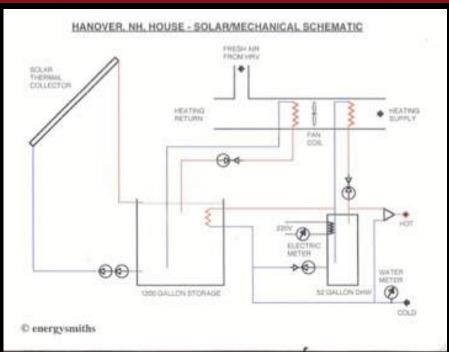
Fan-forced Water Containers

Active storage; passive release

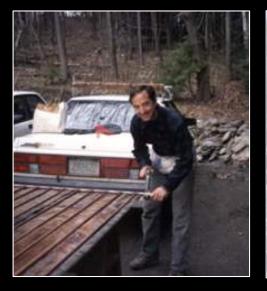
		15 COM	
70 Q, ft3/sec	1.17	ΔP, psi	0.0071
32.2		ΔP, inches of water	0.197
0.25 D, ft	0.0208	ΔP, Pascals	50
0.075		V, ft/min	1245
0.70		V, ft/sec	20.7
165 A, ft2	0.056		1
	32.2 0.25 D, ft 0.075 0.70	32.2 0.25 D, ft 0.0208 0.075 0.70	32.2 ΔP, inches of water 0.25 D, ft 0.0208 ΔP, Pascals 0.075 V, ft/min V, ft/min 0.70 V, ft/sec



Active Solar Thermal Water Storage







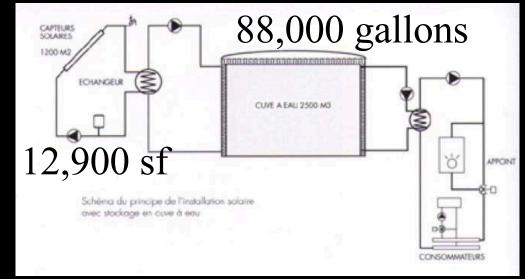


Back-up energy in very low energy solar buildings varies year to year (2:1 here) 1,200 gallons @ 80°F ΔT = 800,000 BTU

Active Annual Solar Thermal Water Storage



Swiss Federal Statistics Building



PV/A-WHP w/ Thermal Water Storage

- 4,500 sf footprint airplane hangar with office space
- Owner wanted maximum onsite consumption of solar energy
- Non-optimal solar orientation and tilt
- A-WHP and hydronic radiant floor slab
- "Brick in a box" Excel hourly model to inform sizing of storage and PV
- Hourly model of PV gain and outdoor temp from PV Watts
- Hourly heating; cooling; DHW; EV; plug and lighting loads
- A-WHP COP vs. outdoor temp varied from manufacturer's data

UA, BTU/hr/F	1,007	Setpoint, F	68			
Month	Day	Hour	Ambient Temp, F	Heat loss, BTU/hr	Heat pump COP	Heat pump usage, kWh
1	1	0	28.4	39,865	3.0	3.9
1	1	1	28.4	39,865	3.0	3.9
1	1	2	28.4	39,865	3.0	3.9
1	1	3	26.6	41,677	3.0	4.1
1	1	4	26.6	41,677	3.0	4.1
1	1	5	26.6	41,677	3.0	4.1
1	1	6	26.6	41,677	3.0	4.1
					2	

Model Inputs and Outputs

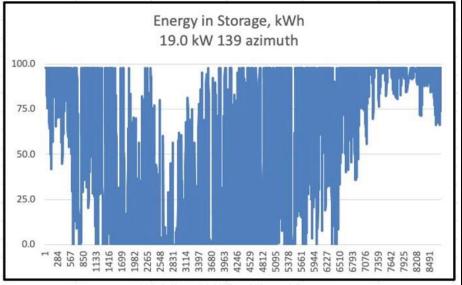
Thermal :	storag	ge capac	ity, kV	VH	98	B The	Thermal storage capacity, gallons H2O 1000										Storage temp high limit 125								
																	Stora	age temp	low li	mit	85				
														Ro	of area	PV W	V/sf	<u> </u>	21	-					
	D	V array	130 1	w	19.0								-	1	1055		18	Max roof a	area at 9	00/ - 1	924 of				
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1	P	V array	319, 1	κW	0.0)									0		18								
		PV generated,			P/L/A,		Heating,			Total non- heating used,	Grid energy imported serving non- heating,	Total	directly	Heating loads served directly by PV,	Grid energy into heating,	Total imported grid energy,	PV energy into thermal storage,	PV energy exported,	PV generation	Fraction of PV energy / used on					
			1000 C	kWh		V, kWh				kWh	kWh	load, kWh		kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh	load	site	9				
		22925	702	702	6302	2118	13107			9824	5204	22931	4620	3280	5241	10445	438	10644	100%	54%					
1	Max	15.0	0.1	0.5	5 1.3	1.7	5.7			2.7	13.8	14.9	4.6	14.9	12.7	14.9		5.7 10.3	7 51.	1 13.	0				
	Total	22925	702	702	2 6302	2118	13107			9824	18305	47237	3280	35032	17239	17793	52	41 438	1 1723	7 1064	4				
Date/Time		PV, kWh	DHW, kWh	Cooling, kWh	P/L/A, kWh	EV, kWh	Heating, kWh			heating,	Surplus PV after Use except heating, kWh	Heating load, kWh	and the second se	Remaining heating load, kWh	Heat extracted from storage, kWh	Remaining heat load, kWh	Grid energy in heating, kWh	Surplus PV applied to thermal storage, kWh	Energy added to storage, kWh	Surplus PV exported to the grid, kWh	PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF ADDRESS				
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9/1/2014 1:00		0.0	0.06	0.20	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0 0.0	0 0.	0 0.	0 97.7				
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the second s		0.0	0.06	0.37	0.35	1.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	0.0 0.0	0 0.	0 0.	0 97.7				
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Model starts September 1st

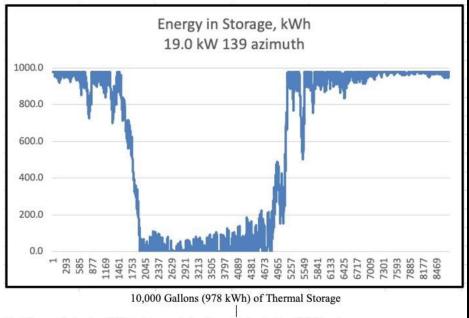
Results: Ten Cases Modeled

PV, kW	% load	Storage, gallons	PV Used, kWh	PV stored, kWh	PV exported, kWh	Grid imported, kWh
19	100	0	7900	0	15025	15031
19	100	1000	7900	4381	10644	10445
19	100	2000	7900	5020	10005	9768
19	100	5000	7900	5276	9749	9491
19	100	10000	7900	5384	9641	9355
32.4	171	0	8629	0	30484	14302
32.4	171	1000	8629	5412	25072	8718
32.4	171	2000	8629	7131	23353	6907
32.4	171	5000	8629	7750	22734	6252
32.4	171	10000	8629	7899	22585	6089

The Winter Trough



1,000 Gallons (98 kWh) of Thermal Storage



Note that the vertical axis, kWh in storage, is ten times higher in the 10,000 gallon case.

Solar availability and high heating loads always produce the winter trough. The same result occurred on the solar thermal house in Hanover, NH – the tank dropped from peak temperature to minimum temperature for 6-8 weeks then bounces back up.

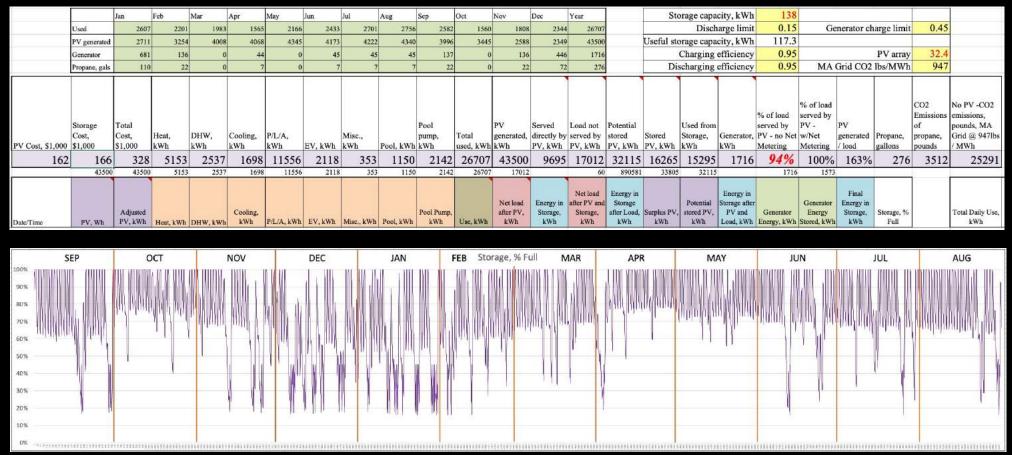
Add Electric Batteries

Thermal s	storage	capacit	y, kWł	ł	98	98 Thermal storage capacity, gallons H2O							0		Sto	rage te	mp hig	h limit	12	.5	# ot	ries	3	
															St	orage t	emp lo	w limit	8	5	kW	h/Batt	terv	13.5
											3		D (с р			unp io		0	Construction and		1.58	2	
													Root	t area P	V W/sf	0.01				Bat	tery stor	rage, k	Wh	40.5
PV array 139, kW 19.0								1	055	18	Mayr	oof area	at 80% =	1824 ef	Cl	arging	efficie	ncv	95%					
	23 - 332		1	21 E		-					-		1				oor area	ai 0070	1024 31	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
	PV	array 3	19, kW	V	0.0									0	18	3				Dis	scharge	efficie	ncy	95%
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		PV generated, kWh	DHW, kWh	201201207	P/L/A, kWh	EV, kWh	Heating, kWh			Total non- heating	Grid energy imported serving non- heating, kWh	Total load, kWh	Non- heating use served directly by PV, kWh	Heating loads served directly b PV, kWh		Total imported grid energy, kWh	PV energy into thermal storage, kWh	PV energy exported, kWh	PV generation/ load	Fraction of PV energy used on site	PV energy in and out of Battery, kWh, 95% efficiency	exported after		
		22925	702	702	6302	2 2118	13107			9824	5204	22931	4620	3280	5241	10445	4381	10644	100%	79%	5756	4888		
	Max	15.0	0.1	0.5	1	.3 1.7	5.7			2.7	13.	8 14.9	4.6	5 14.	9 12.7	14.9	9 5.7	10.	7 51.	1 13.4)			
	Total	22925								9824	1830													
Date/Time		PV, kWh	DHW, kWh	Cooling, kWh	P/L/A, kW	/h EV, kWh	Heating, kWh			Use except heating,	Surplus PV after Use except heating, kWh	Heating load, kWh	Surplus PV applied to heating load, kWh	Remaining heating load, kWh	Heat extracted from storage, kWh	Remaining heat load, kWh	Grid energy into heating, kWh		Energy added to storage, kWh	Surplus PV exported to the grid, kWh	Energy in Thermal Storage, kWh		Surplus PV stored in batteries, kWh	
9/1/2014 0:00		0.0		0.09	0.3			0.00	0.00	0.5	0.													
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9/1/2014 5:00		3.5						0.00	0.00	0.0	2.													
9/1/2014 7:00		6.6						0.00	0.00	1.1	5.													
9/1/2014 8:00		9.2						0.00	0.00	1.1	8.													
9/1/2014 9:00		10.9						0.00	0.00	1.1	9.													
9/1/2014 10:00		11.8	0.06	0.09	1.2	23 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.4	10.	4 0.0	0.0) 0.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0 0.0	0 10.4	4 97.7			
9/1/2014 11:00		12.3		0.14		23 0.00		0.00	0.00	1.4	10.													
9/1/2014 12:00		7.6		0.14				0.00	0.00	1.4	6.													
9/1/2014 13:00		8.0		0.19				0.00	0.00	1.5	6.													
9/1/2014 14:00		6.1	0.06	0.19				0.00	0.00	1.5	4,													
9/1/2014 15:00		5.4		0.19				0.00	0.00	1.5	4.													
9/1/2014 16:00		2.4		0.23				0.00	0.00	1.5	0.													
9/1/2014 17:00		0.5						0.00	0.00	1.3	0.													
9/1/2014 18:00 9/1/2014 19:00		0.0						0.00	0.00	1.3	0.													
9/1/2014 19:00		0.0						0.00	0.00	2.2	0.													
9/1/2014 21:00		0.0		0.37				0.00	0.00	2.6	0.													
								0.00	0.00	1.9	0.													
9/1/2014 22:00		0.0	0.06	0.37	0.3	1.10	0,00	0.00													91.1			

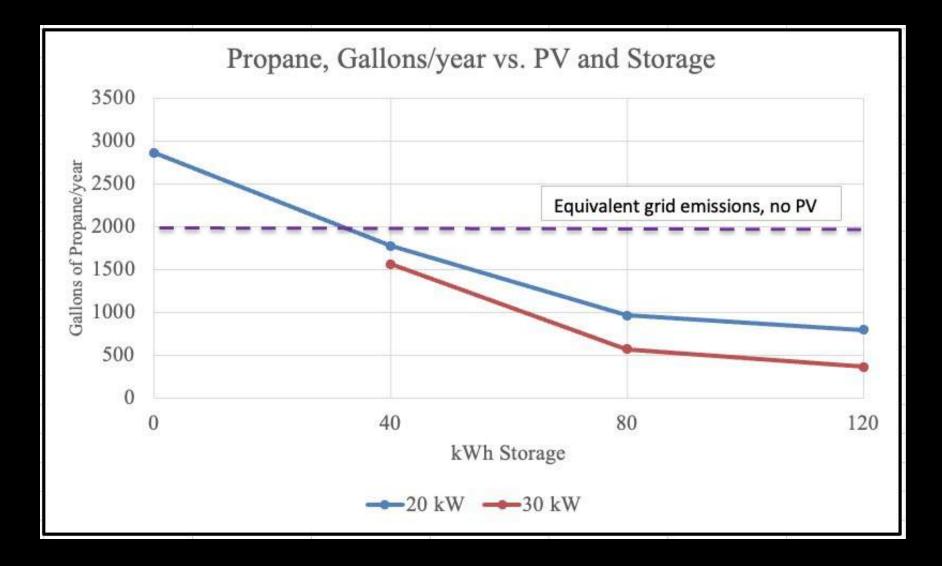
This is a simplified model on the battery side, likely overestimates the energy stored

An Off-grid House

- 4,400 sf house on Martha's Vineyard with a heated pool
- 32.4 kW PV; 138 kWh battery storage; propane generator
- Hourly model to optimize systems
- Systems design by Brice Delhougne Energylogik



An Off-grid House



Thank You!

