

# Grid Connection Paper - DSO Entity's Public Webinar 1

Delivering the Fit for 55: How to face the  
grid capacity challenges?

12 April 2024 (9:30 – 11:00 CET)

*DSO Entity, Regulatory Affairs & Strategy Team*



**DSO  
ENTITY**  
DSOs FOR EUROPE

# Agenda

09:30-09:35	<b>Welcome address</b>	<b>Peter Vermaat</b> DSO Entity, Secretary General
09:35-09:50	<b>Keynote speech</b>	<b>Joachim Balke</b> European Commission, DG ENER, Head of Unit C4 Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation
09:50-10:00	<b>DSOs fit for 55 – Requirements, challenges and solutions for distribution grids in the energy transition</b>	<b>Claire Vandewalle</b> DSO Entity, Regulatory Affairs & Strategy, Advisor
10:10-10:40	<b>Facing grid capacity challenge: Sharing of best practices from distribution grids</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denmark's practice: Geo-dependent standard connection fee</li><li>• Belgium's practice: Introduction of capacity tariffs</li><li>• Netherland's practice: Flexible connection agreements</li></ul>	<i>DSO Entity, Country Expert Group's representatives</i> <b>Henrik Fiil-Nielsen</b> , Denmark, N1, Director, Head of Regulatory Affairs <b>Luc Decoster</b> , Belgium, Fluvius, Regulatory Manager <b>Michiel Roks</b> , Netherlands, Alliander, Senior Advisor Regulatory Affairs & <b>Samira Rotteveel</b> , Policy Advisor
10:40-10:55	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>	
10:55-11:00	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Claire Vandewalle</b> DSO Entity, Regulatory Affairs & Strategy, Advisor

# 1. Welcome address by Peter Vermaat

DSO Entity's Secretary General



## 2. Keynote speech by Joachim Balke

European Commission, DG ENER  
*Head of Unit – C4 Infrastructure  
& Regional Cooperation*



European Commission

#TeamJunckerEU



Europe  
Commissie

Commission  
européenne

European  
Commission





# EU Grid Action Plan

**EU DSO Entity Webinar**

**12 April 2024**

**Joachim Balke  
Head of Unit, DG ENER C.4**



# Importance of electricity grids

€584bn investment by 2030!

Capacity expansion  
(cables & substations),  
modernisation (40%)  
and smartening

## Transmission grids

- Transport of renewables across Europe:
  - Cross-border capacity (PCIs)
    - ✓ x2 by 2030
    - ✓ ↓ Annual €9M generation costs by 2040
  - Offshore ~317 GW
  - Industry electrification
  - Between distribution areas

## Distribution grids

- ~70% new renewables (1,000 GW by 2030)
- 40M electric vehicles by 2030
- Heat pumps deployment rate x2
- Smart grids
  - Digitalisation → Digitalising the Energy Sector Action Plan 2022
  - Flexibility
  - Prosumer

# First PCI/PMI list: Electricity



## Features

- 85 electricity projects
- 5 new offshore corridors, 12 projects
- 7 Projects of mutual interest (PMIs)
- 5 smart electricity grid projects

1

# Network planning

HLGs reinforced monitoring, ministerials  
COM to assess funding needs (CEF-Energy)

ENTSO-E to improve TYNDP



EU DSO Entity to support DSOs

2

# Regulatory incentives

COM guidance on anticipatory investments

COM guidance on offshore cost sharing





## 3 Smart & efficient grids

ENTSO-E and EU DSO Entity to enhance grid capacity transparency

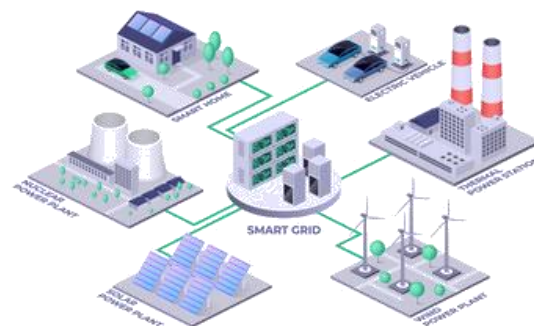
ENTSO-E and EU DSO to promote uptake of smart grids and innovative tech

ACER to recommend best practices on OPEX+CAPEX in tariff reports

## 4 Financing

COM –through Investors Dialogue– to address financing obstacles

COM to increase visibility on funding for distribution (ERDF, CF, RRF)



European  
Commission

5

# Permitting & public acceptance

MSs to use Emergency Reg + RED for grids

COM update ENV guidance for grids

NCA platform

Pact for Engagement

6

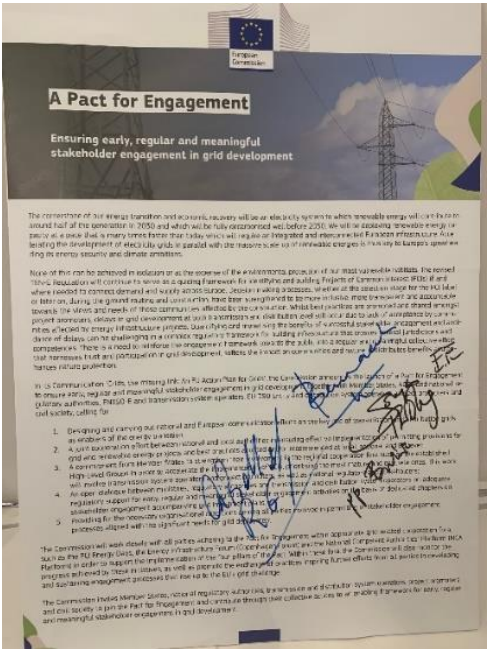
# Supply chain



ENTSO-E, EU DSO and tech providers to develop standard specifications

Grid procurement plans

Common tech requirements for connection (NCs)



# Implementation



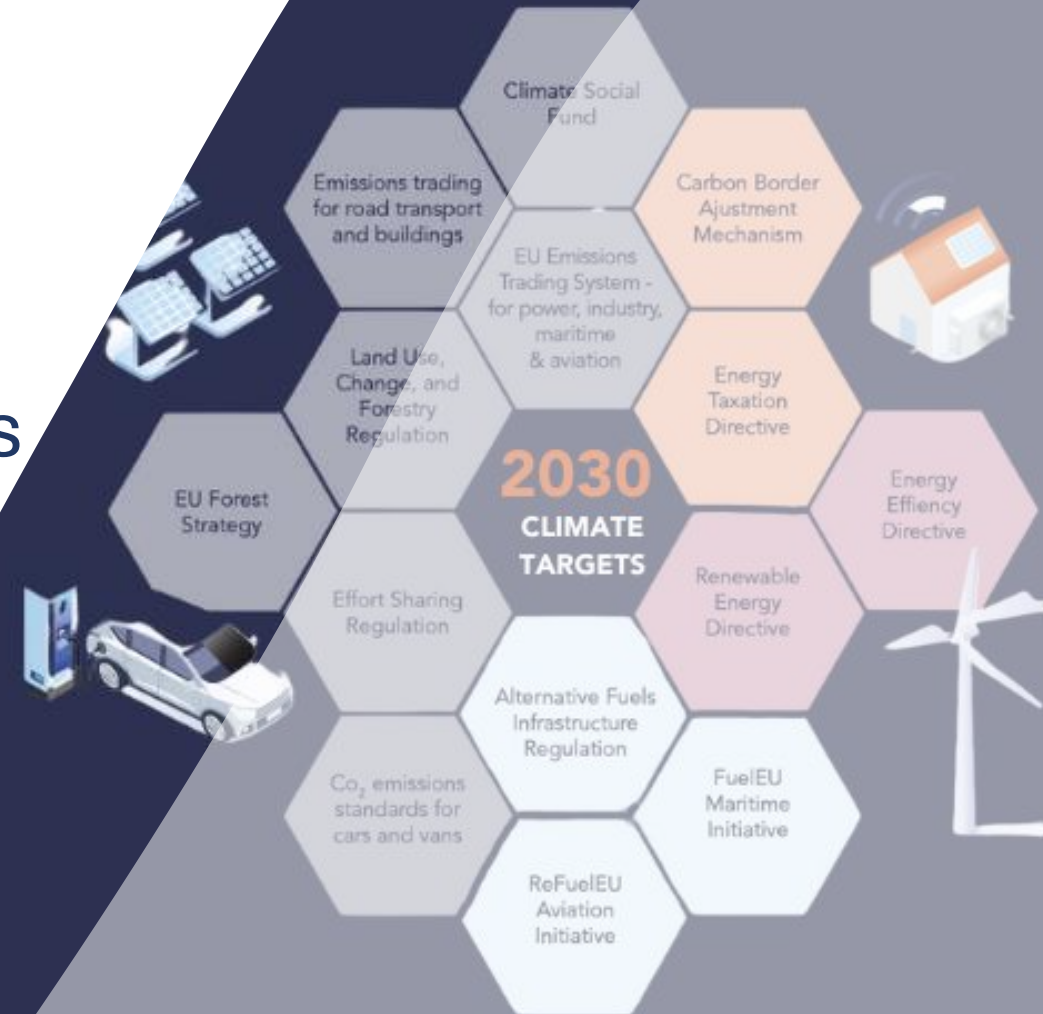
1. Adoption of GAP on 28 November + presentation 2023 PCI Days
2. Implementation ~18 months
3. Numerous dialogue formats: HLGs, Clean Transition Dialogue etc.
4. Copenhagen Energy Infrastructure Forum 27-28 June central platform



# Thank you

### 3. DSOs fit for 55:

Requirements, challenges and solutions for distribution grids in the energy transition



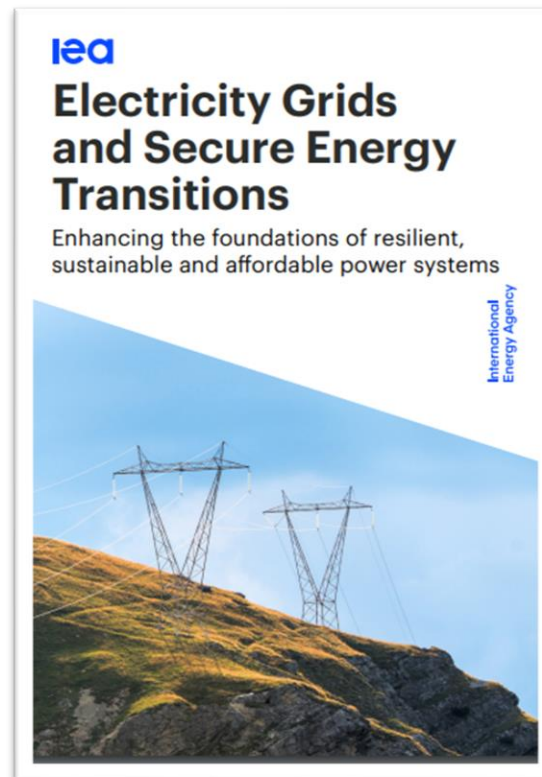
# Grids in the spotlight: Recognition of the relevance of distribution grids (DSOs) in the energy transition



“The EU is bringing grids to the centre of its agenda.”

European Commission, Grid Action Plan

November 2023








“With this special report, we aim to put an urgently needed spotlight on power grids.”

IEA October 2023

- 26 February: European Commission’s **Clean Transition Dialogue on energy infrastructure**
- 25 March: **High-level Roundtable on Grids**
- **15-16 April: Informal Energy Council on grid**

# Role of DSOs as technical enablers of political objectives

EU Objectives

 +42,5% RES by 2030 & 600 GW Solar installed by 2030	 -55% CO2 by 2030	 130M EVs expected on EU roads by 2035 accommodated by 65M chargers	 Active customers energy sharing	 Doubling deployment rate of individual heat pumps to add 10M units by 2027
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70% of RES connected to the distribution grid	General enabler of RES integration and flexibility	85% of charging will happen at home and 6% in the workplace by 2035	Technical realisation	Most heat pumps will need to be connected to the DSO grid
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DSO Reality

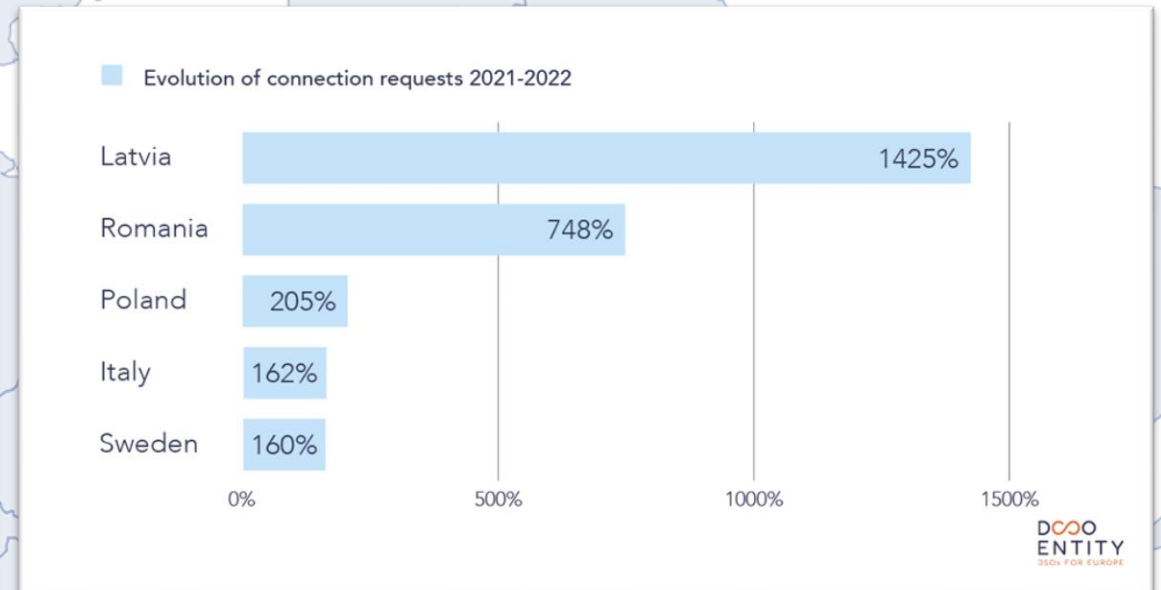
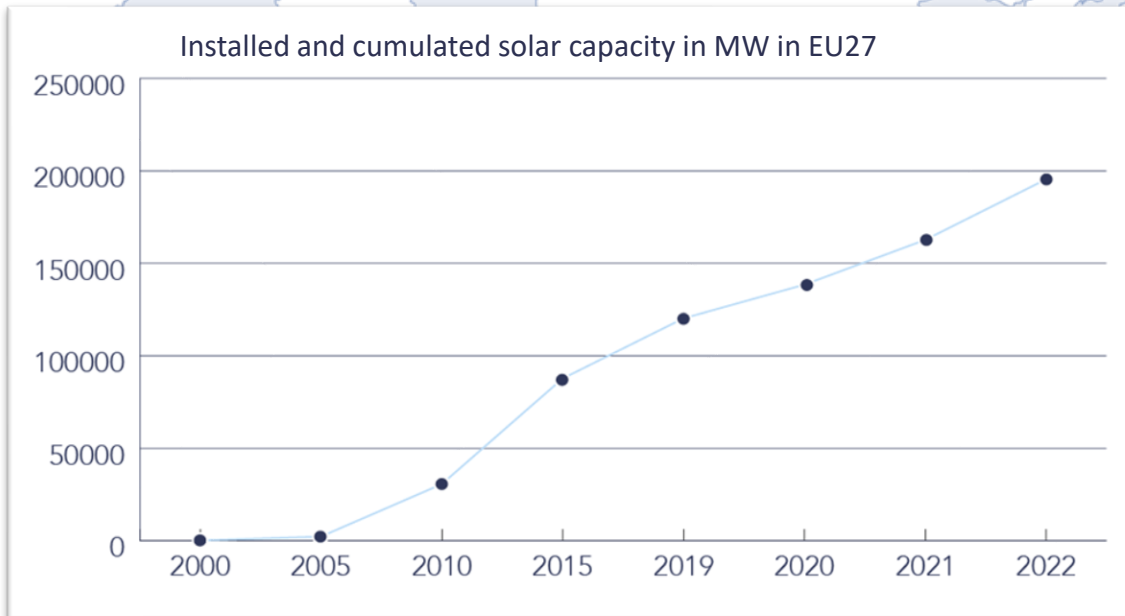
DSOs fit for 55

# DSOs are under growing pressure as they face a significant increase in requests for connecting RES



Increased EU's energy targets require grids to adapt their capacity and increase flexibility

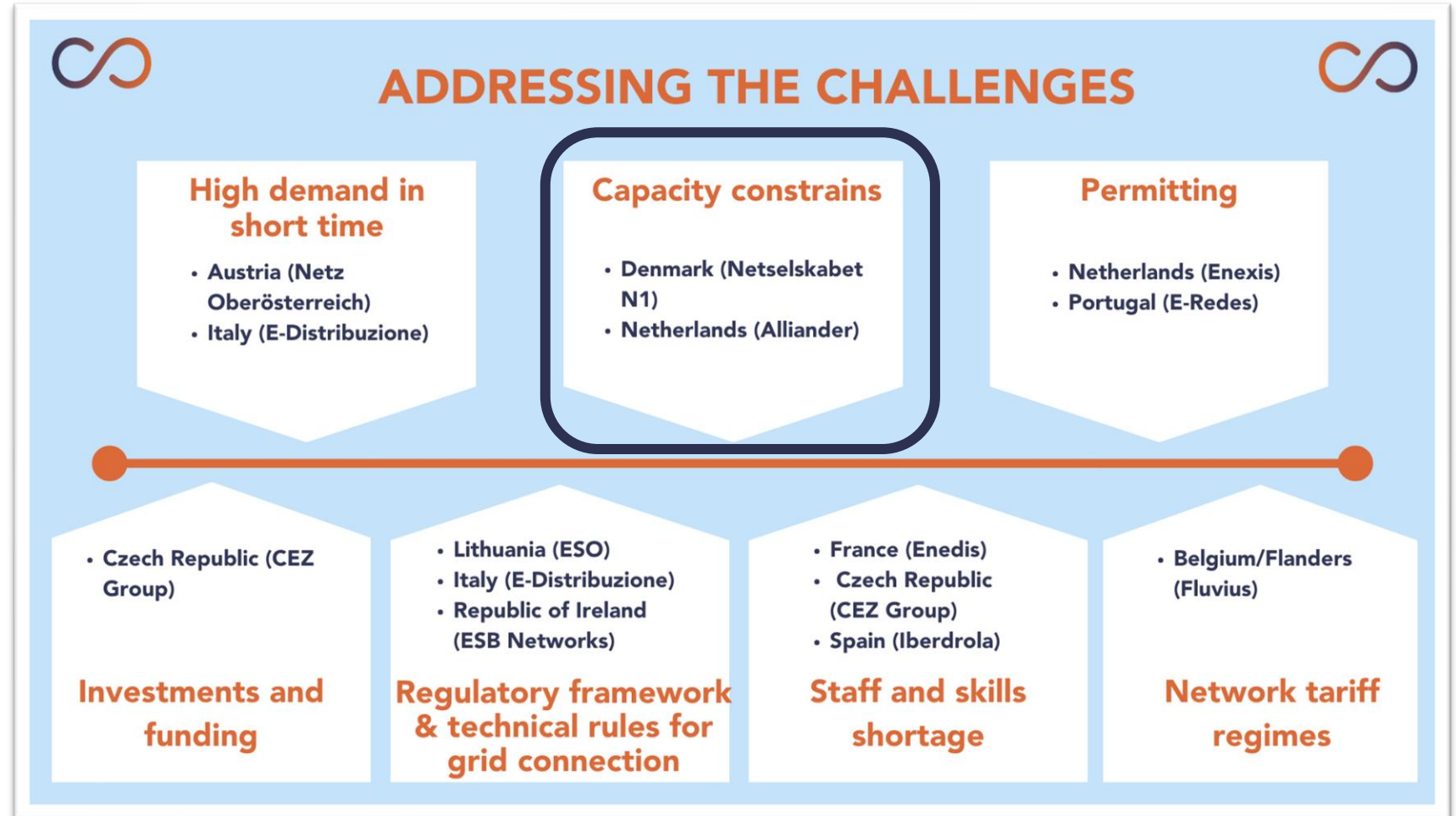
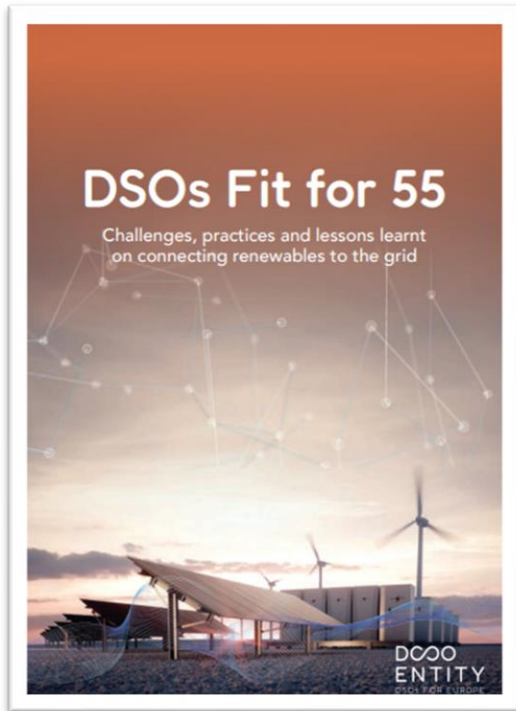
70% new RES installed capacity to be connected to DSO grid by 2030



X10 connection requests in some MS



# DSO Entity, as part of its mandate, identified key challenges for DSOs & shared best practices



# Alignment with the challenges identified in the EU Grid Action Plan

## Zoom-in on grid capacity challenge

### Action Point 3a



Support DSO grid planning by mapping the existence and characteristics of **DSO development plans** and by improving best practices and recommendations

Long-term

### Action Point 6b



*(with ENTSO-E)*  
Agree on harmonized definitions for available **grid hosting capacity** for System Operators and set a pan-EU overview

Short-term



DSO Entity identified in 7 out of the 14 Action Points and key actor to support and deliver the tailored-made measures

Grid investment & financing

Grid capacity & planning

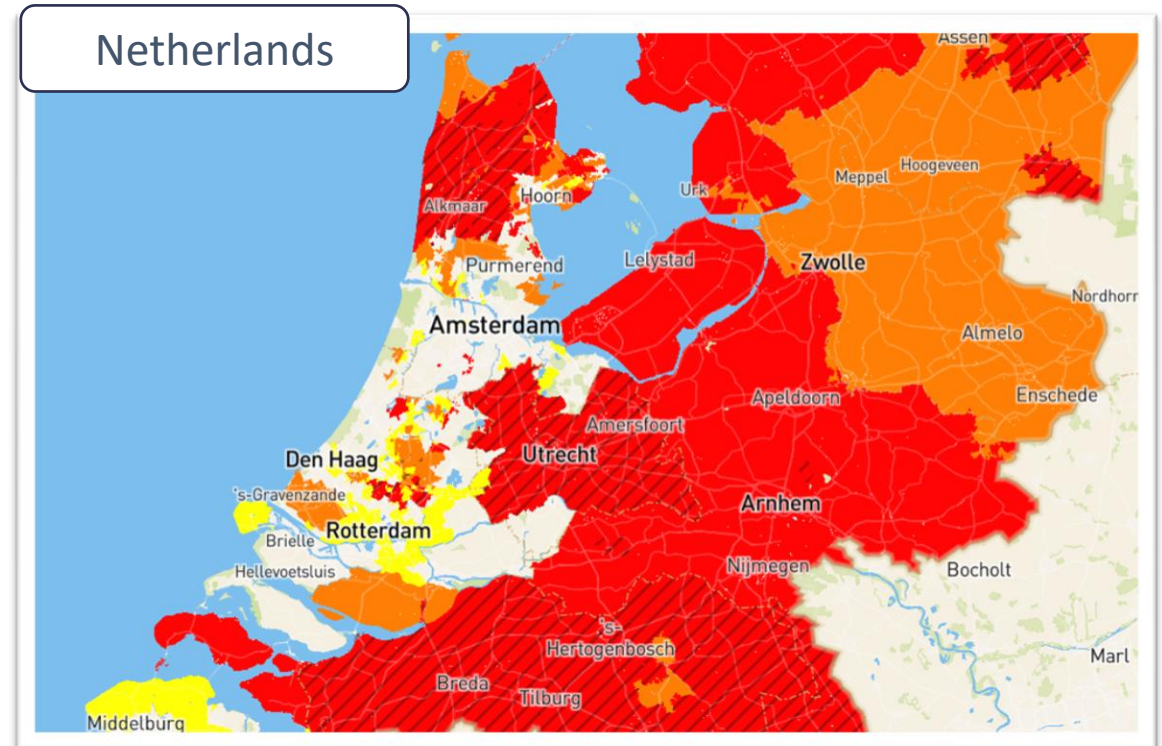
Grid smartening

# Zoom-in on grid capacity challenge for DSOs

## Our challenges

- **40%** of the European Distribution Grids older than **40 years**
- **+60%** electricity consumption by 2030
- **1000 GW** of wind and solar capacity installed by 2030, of which **70%** connected to DSOs
- **€400bn** investments to enable the energy transition for the **benefits of European citizens by 2030**

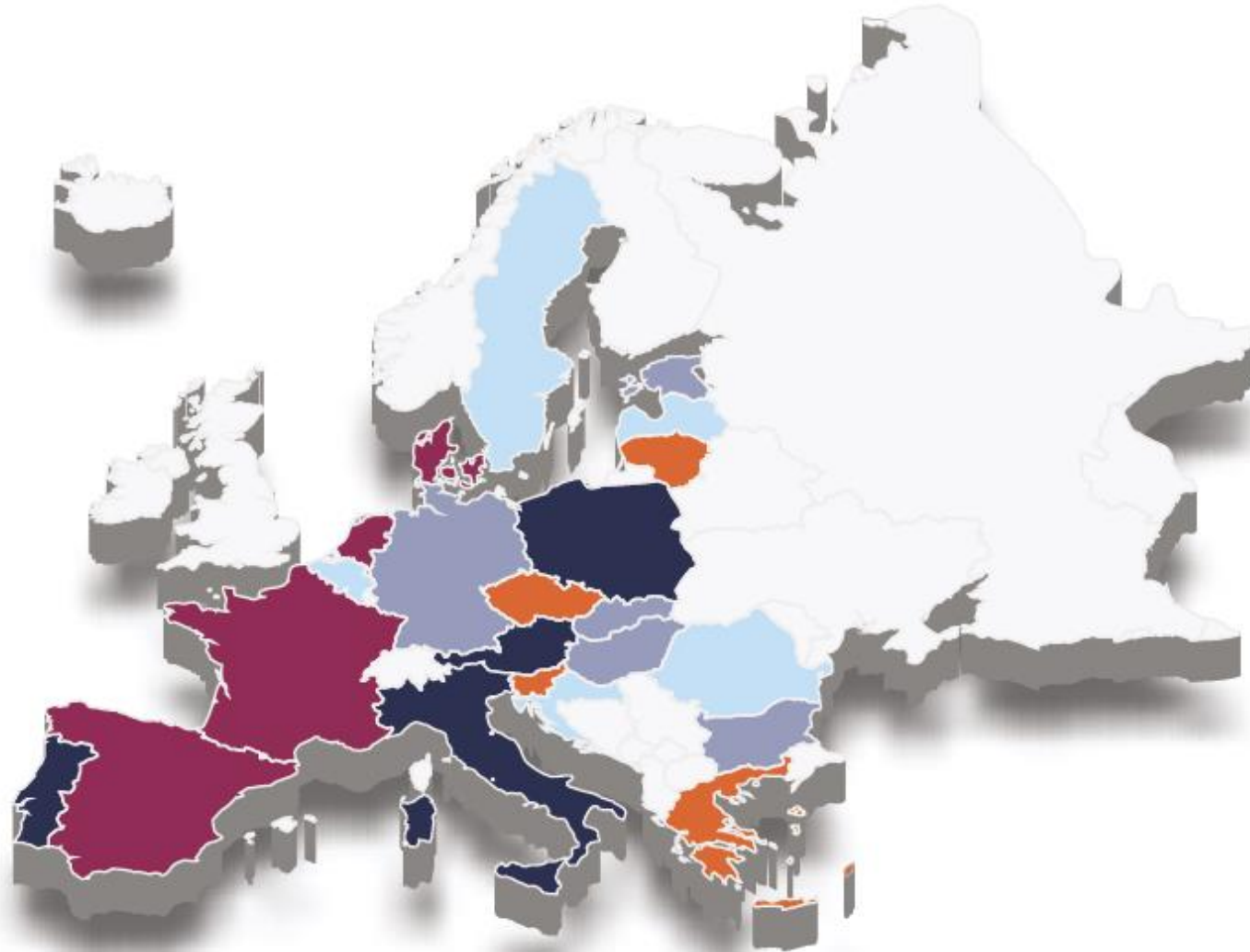
## Facing the risk of grid congestion



Feed-in capacity map in Netherlands

Source: Netbeheer Nederland, 2024.

# DSOs proactively adapt and innovate to connect renewables to the grids with capacity map tools



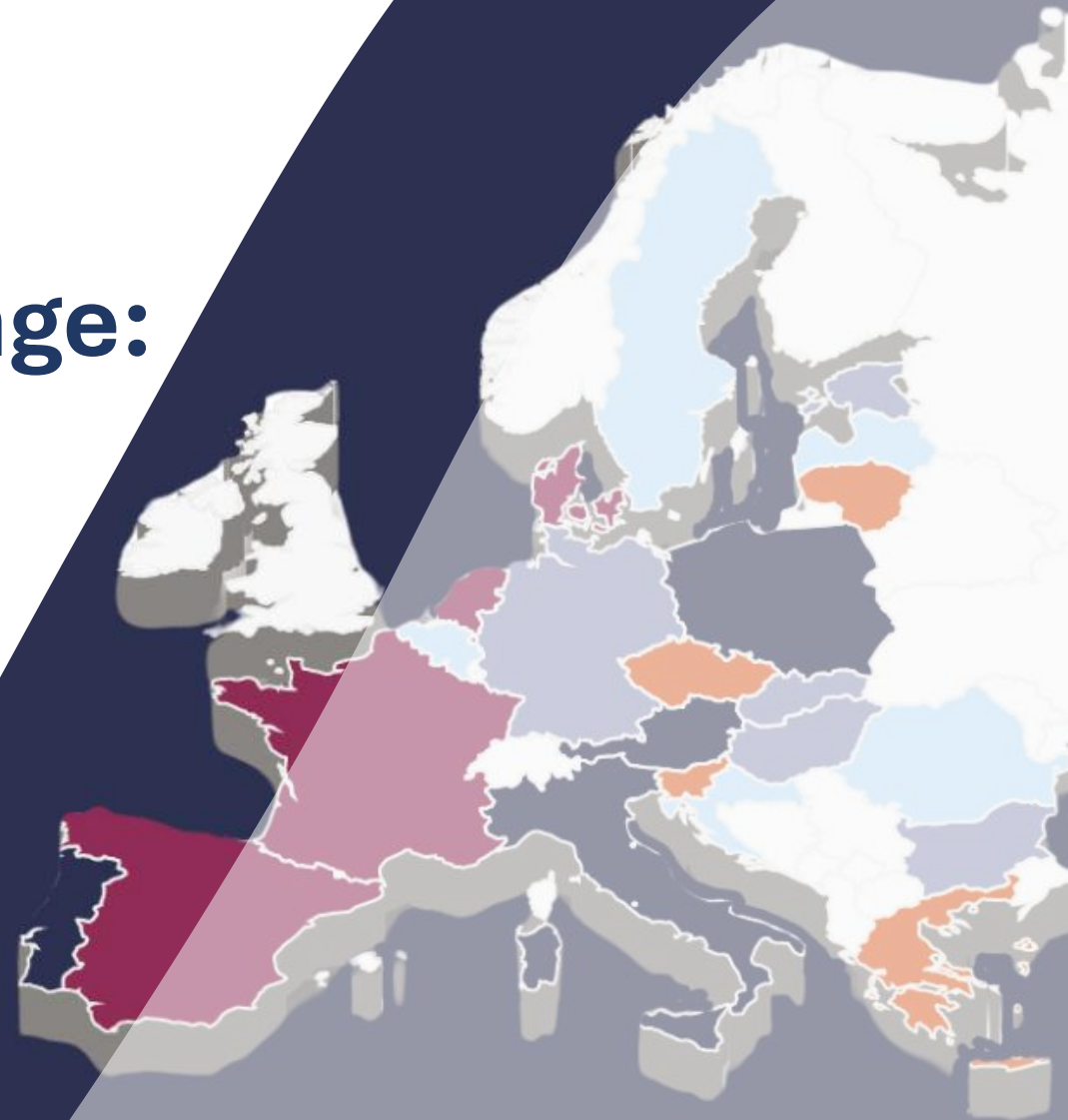
+20

Member States have capacity maps or similar tools informing about grid availability

- National capacity mapping
- Individual DSOs initiatives
- One DSO reporting
- Third Party Reporting (e.g. TSOs)
- Comparable information tool

## 4. Facing grid capacity challenge:

Sharing of best practices from  
distribution grids



# Facing grid capacity challenge: Sharing of best practices from distribution grids



## **Denmark's practice: Geo-dependent standard connection fee**

Henrik Fiil-Nielsen, Denmark, N1, Director, Head of Regulatory Affairs



## **Belgium's practice: Introduction of capacity tariffs**

Luc Decoster, Belgium, Fluvius, Regulatory Manager



## **Netherlands's practice: Flexible connection agreements**

Michiel Roks, Netherlands, Alliander, Senior Advisor Regulatory Affairs

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Facing the grid capacity challenge  
**Geographically dependent standard  
connection fees in Denmark**

*By Henrik Fiil-Nielsen,  
Director, Head of Regulatory Affairs*



**Elnetselskabet N1**



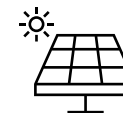
# What?

## A geographically dependent standard connection fee

- Purpose: A **cost-efficient and expedient integration of new energy** production and consumption.

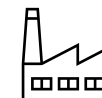
### Applies today

- ✓ **For an electricity producing installation:**  
Higher standard connection fee, if built in areas with production surplus. Lower, if consumption surplus.



### Likely applies by 2025

- ✓ **For an electricity consuming installation:**  
Higher standard connection fee, if built in areas consumption surplus. Lower, if production surplus.

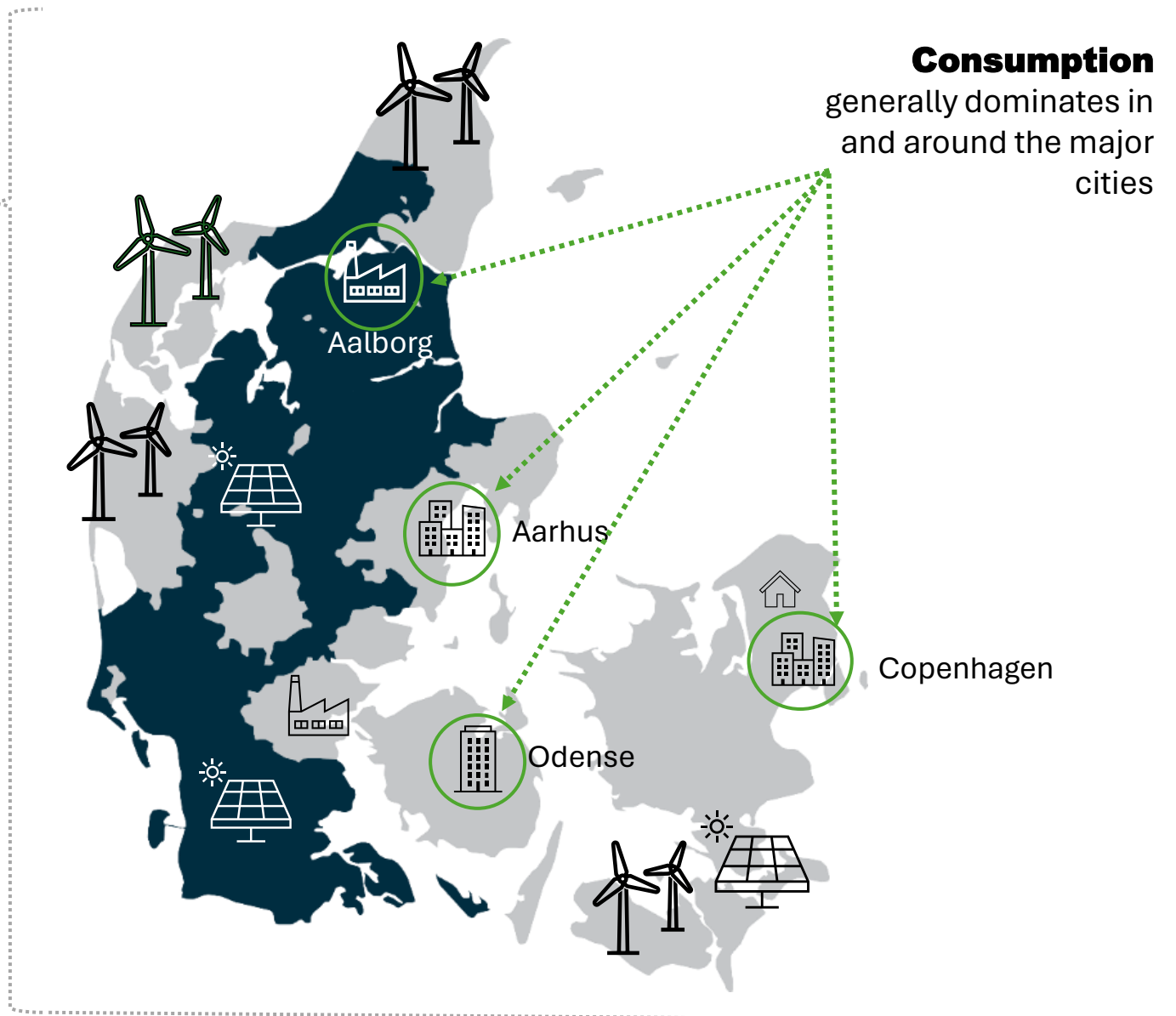


- The **standard connection fee** covers costs of connection **investments for** electricity production and consumption.
- In addition to the connection fee, grid customers pay for **running costs**. This is **not geographically differentiated**.

# The basic argument for differentiating by geography in DK

**Production**  
generally dominates away from the major cities

**Consumption**  
generally dominates in and around the major cities



■ = N1's distribution area

# Why?

Elnetselskabet N1

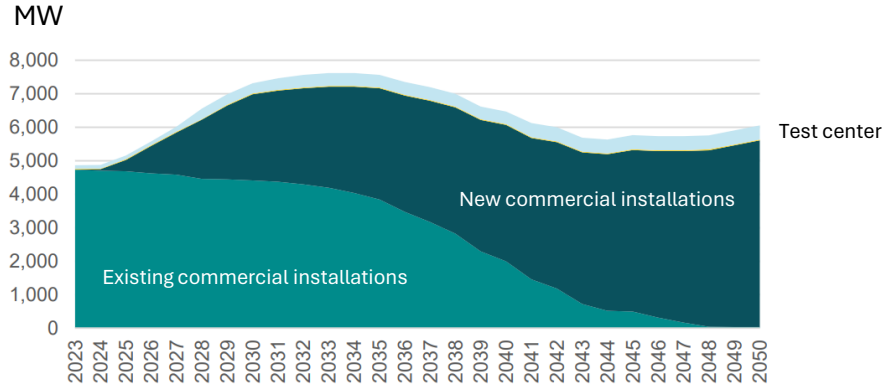
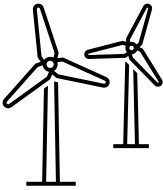
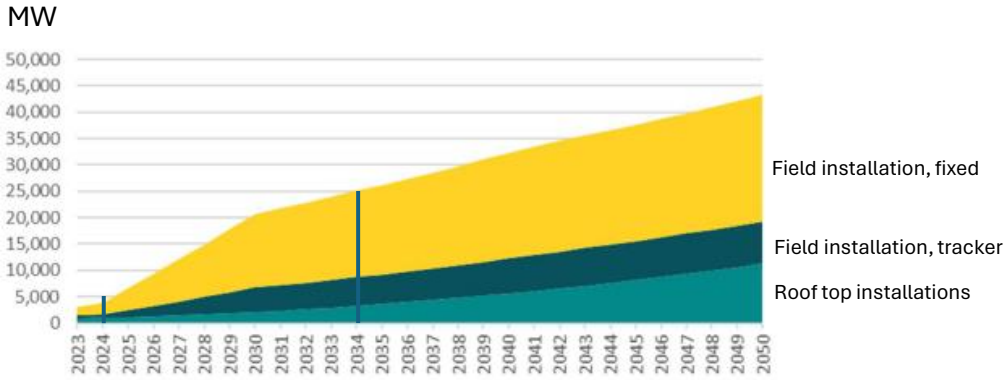
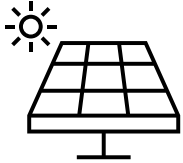
## Benefits of a geographically differentiated connection fee

- ✓ Contributes to **better utilization of the grid** by giving incentives for placing new installations in accordance with grid capacity. This:
  - ❖ Alleviates congestion issues and improves cost reflectivity
  - ❖ Reduces the need for reinforcement of the grid
- ✓ Ensures **cost-efficiency** by linking the fee more closely to the impact on the relevant section of the grid – it's not a penalty.
- ✓ Provides **clarity to the grid costumers** about the cost associated with selecting different locations for a project.
- ✓ Allows **faster grid connections.**
- ✓ **Reduces grid loss** by incentivizing production in areas dominated by consumption and vice-versa .

# The influx of renewable electricity production projects is remarkable

The Danish Energy Agency projects more than a **fivefold increase** in production capacity from solar energy by 2034 and a (moderate) wave of onshore wind projects.

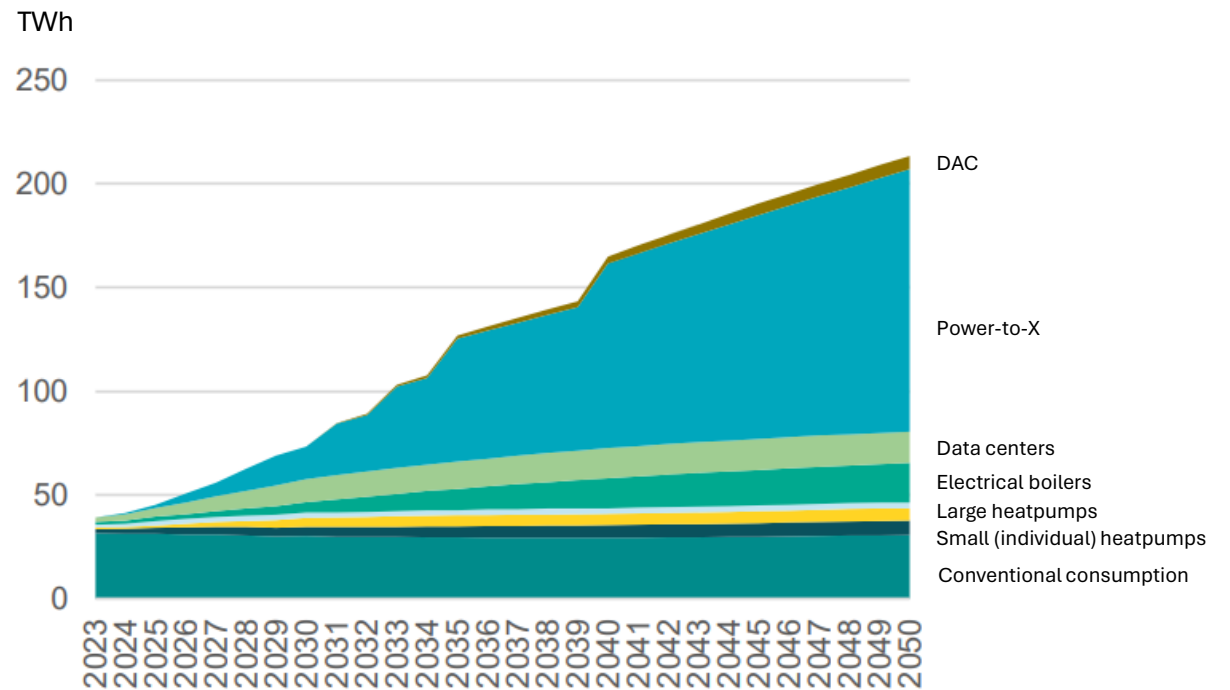
## Why now?



# Why now?

## Denmark is being 'electrified' by electric vehicles and power intensive consumers

The Danish Energy Agency projects a massive increase in electricity consumption driven by Power-to-X, datacenters, electrical boilers and heat pumps.



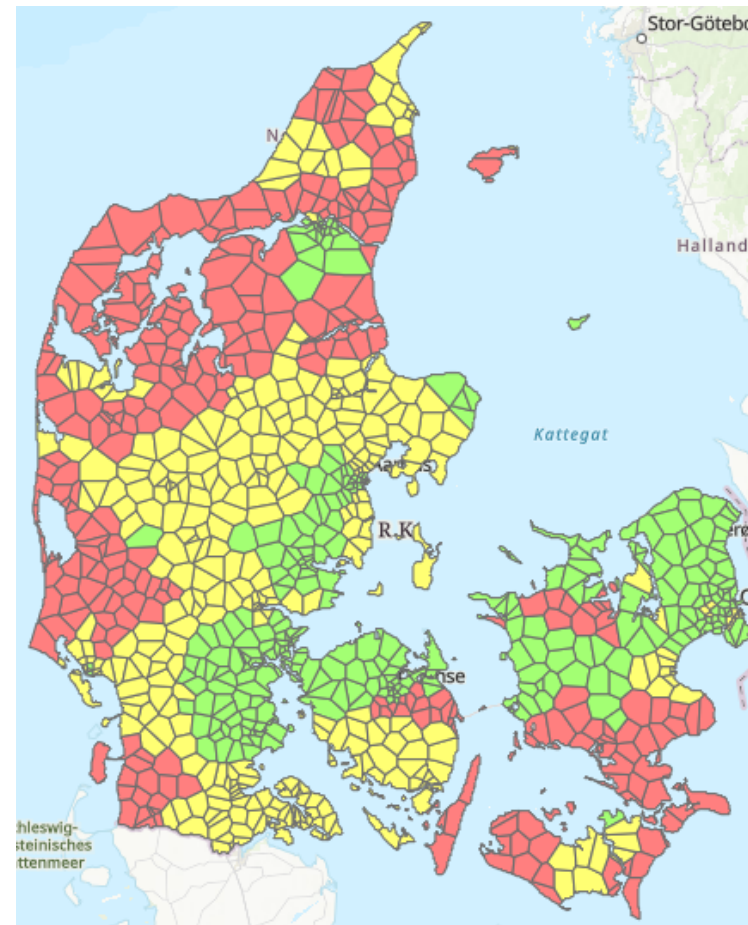
# Solution

Elnetselskabet N1

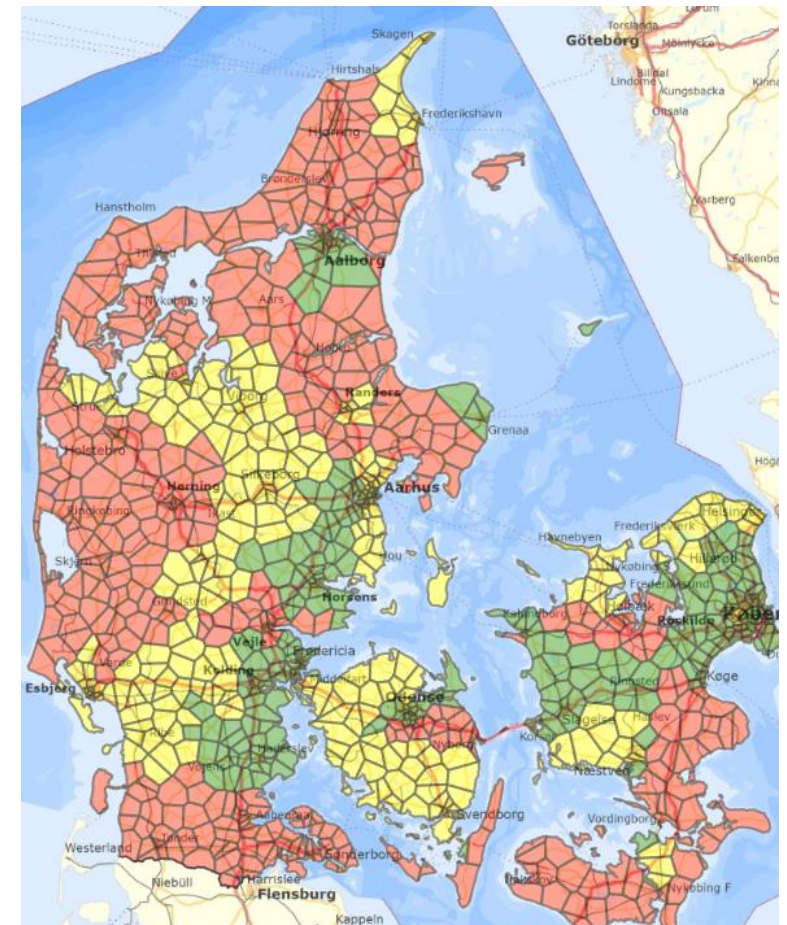
## The Geozone map for production

- Updated annually to **reflect if the geozone is dominated by production (red) or consumption (green)**. Or it is mixed (yellow)

2023



2024



## Geographically differentiated connection fees for production in N1's area

**Solution:  
Example**

Customer category	Red geozone	Yellow geozone	Green geozone
Unit	[DKK/MVA]	[DKK/MVA]	[DKK/MVA]
A-høj+	66000	55000	49000
A-høj	661000	393000	153000
A-lav	917000	508000	147000
B-høj	1693000	967000	317000
B-lav	2130000	1119000	224000
C	164000	164000	164000

Example →

Significantly lower fee in consumption dominated areas (Green geozone)!

**Elnetselskabet N1**

# Improvements and considerations

Elnetselskabet N1

## Improvements:

- ❑ **Geographically differentiated connection fees for consumption**  
(awaits approval by Danish regulatory authority)
- ❑ **Reflect the flow of electricity in lower levels of the grid.** Today, the categorization is based on the direction of the flow of electricity in the intersection between DSO-grid and TSO-grid.
- ❑ **Align with TSO tariffs** by introducing coherent TSO-DSO tariff design. Reflect the full picture of connection costs by geography.

## Considerations:

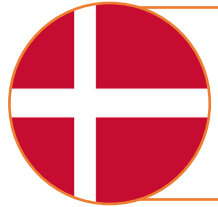
- ❖ **More regular updates** of the map: Predictability vs. real-time cost reflectivity





Questions?

# 4. Facing grid capacity challenge: Sharing of best practices from distribution grids



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# Introduction of capacity tariffs in Flanders

Delivering the Fit for 55

How to face the grid capacity challenges

Luc Decoster

Transition manager Fluvius

Webinar : EU – DSO Entity

Friday 12th of April

*fluvius.*  
Tot bij u



# Fluvius in the energy landscape: → Multi-utility System operator

Electricity & gas distribution

206.000 km distribution grid

2,5 B Turnover  
1,2 B Investment

5500 Employees

6,6 M customers

## Regulator

In Vlaanderen is de VREG de regulator (Vlaamse Regulator van de Elektriciteits- en Gasmarkt). De medewerkers adviseren de gewestelijke overheid en controleren de toepassing van decreten en besluiten.



## Production

elektriciteit onder andere in kerncentrales of klassieke centrales met fossiele brandstoffen. Voor groene elektriciteit worden hernieuwbare energiebronnen zoals wind en zon gebruikt.



## Transport



## Transport



## Fluvius

In Vlaanderen brengt Fluvius als distributiebeheerder aardgas en elektriciteit naar de klanten (tot in woningen en kleinere bedrijven).

## Fluxys

Fluxys vervoert aardgas vanuit de gasterminals via het hogedruknet, naar de Fluvius-netten en naar grote industriële verbruikers.

Data Management

Supply, services

Metering company

3,5 M Smart Meters

Klanten

Public lighting

## Import

In België zijn er geen aardgasbronnen. Het aardgas wordt voornamelijk ingevoerd uit Noorwegen, Nederland en Qatar (vloeibaar aardgas = LNG), en in mindere mate uit Rusland en Groot-Brittannië. LNG wordt aangevoerd per methaanschip, via Zeebrugge.



# Content

1. System challenges and flexibility

3. Introduction of capacity tariffs

4. Next steps and conclusions

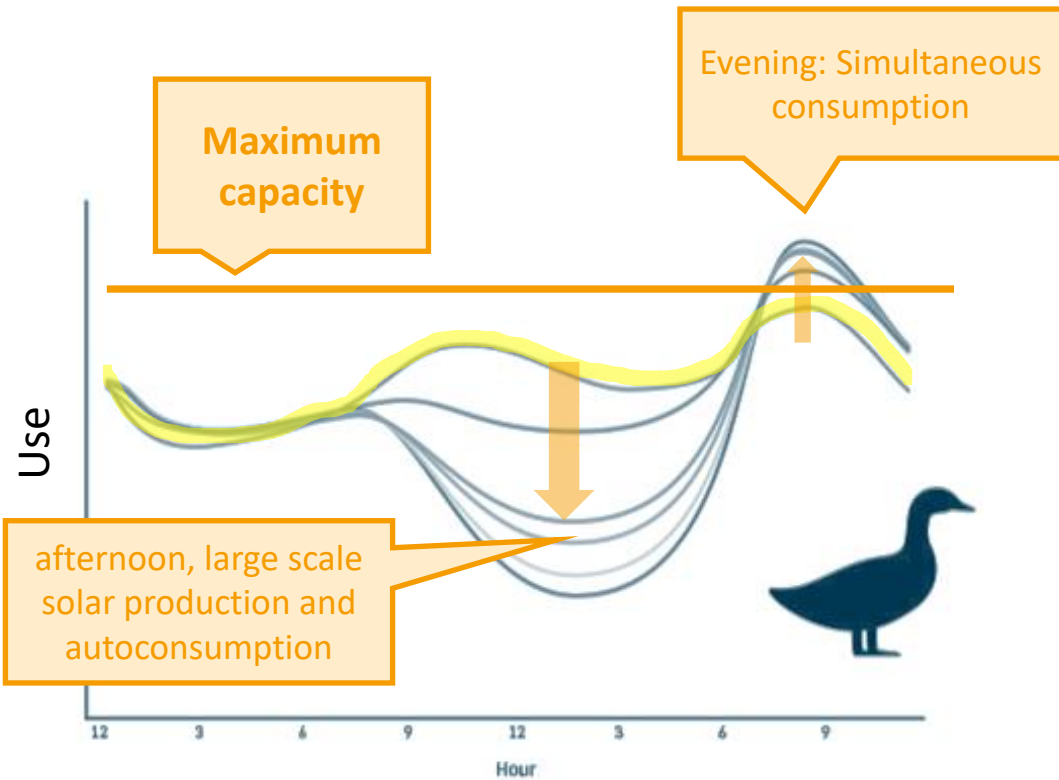
# Content

1. System challenges and flexibility

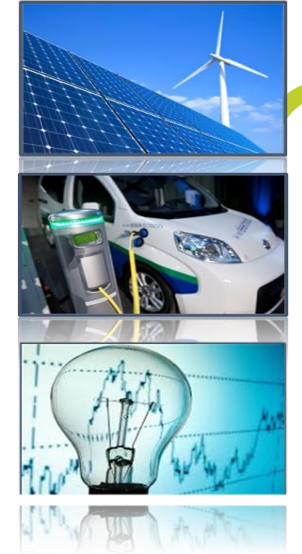
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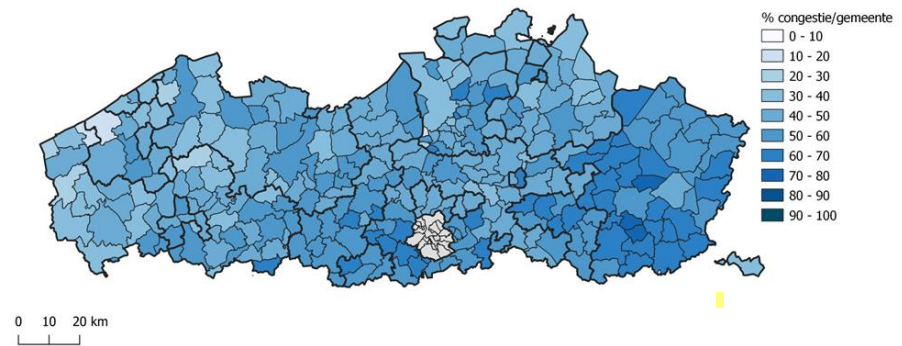
# The electricity grid under pressure ?



- Introduction of production and storage
- Change of consumption behaviour
- New products and services in the market



Estimated amount of networks with congestion risk



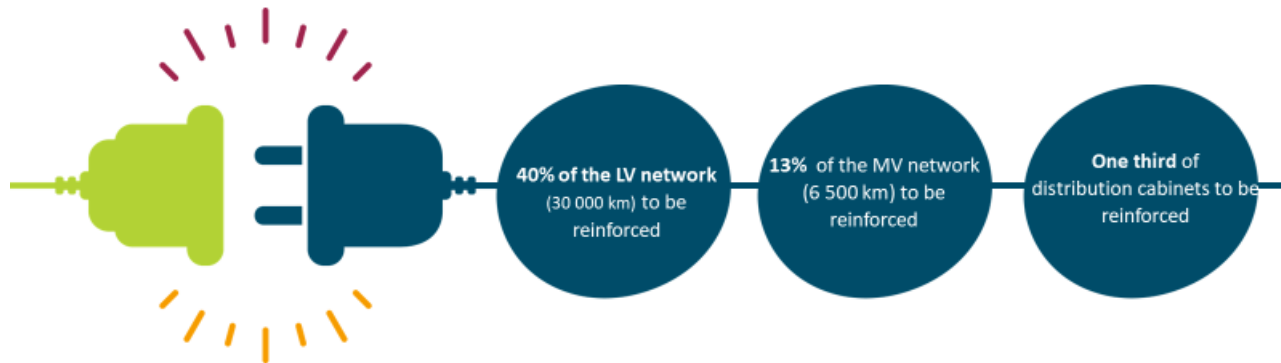
Preparing our grids for the future in order to facilitate the energy transition

# The DSO Investment Plan?

- Specific plan with regard to the planned investments in the distribution networks of electricity and gas, for the coming 10 years

What is the aggregated impact on the grid towards 2035 and 2050?

## “No regret” investment plan



- Important to have the networks ready for the energy transition in due time, even in the high scenario
- No overinvestment towards 2050, even in the low scenario (lower transition pace en high impact of mitigating actions)

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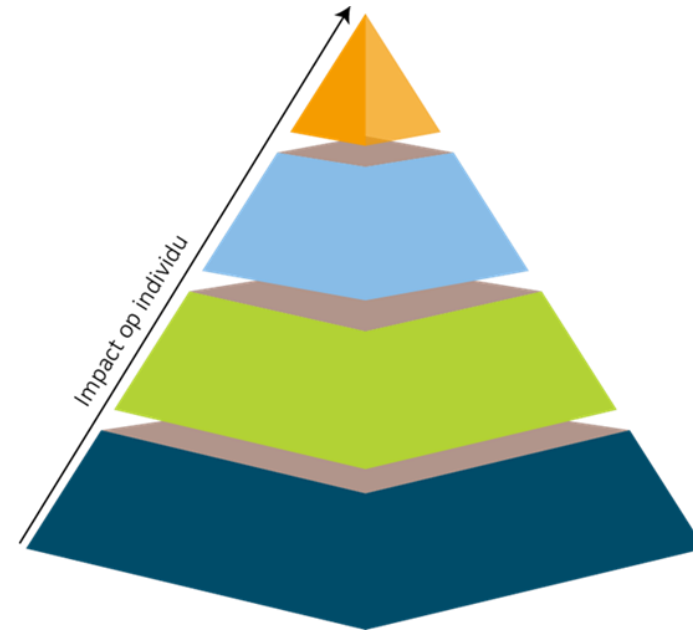
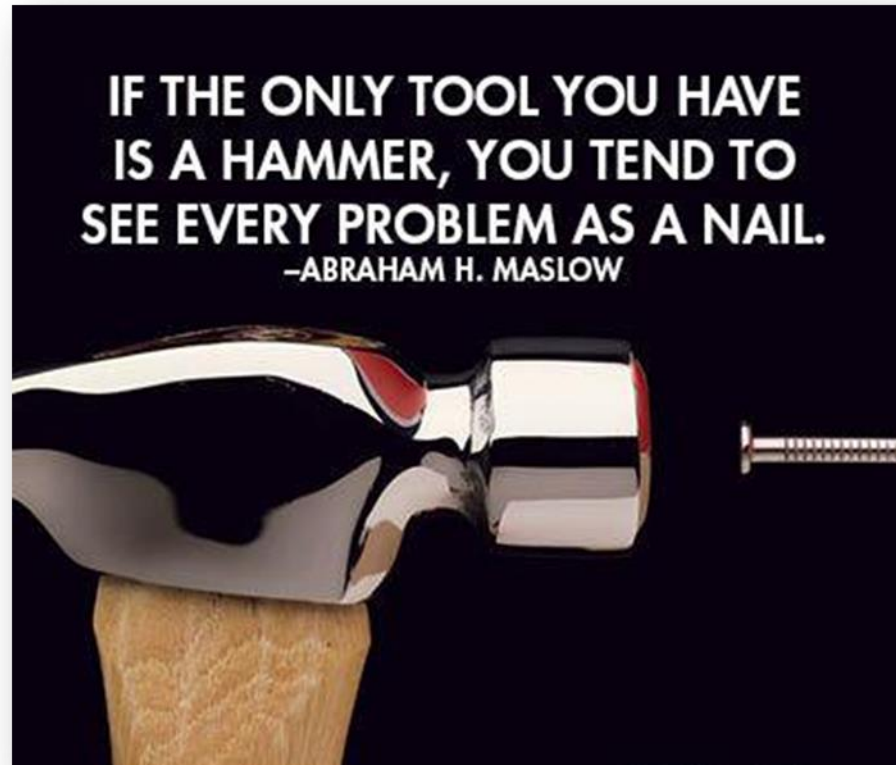
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# Investment versus flexibility

- System foundation: 'No-regret' investments plan
- System optimization: Evolving on every section of the pyramid



- Regulated solutions
  - Direct control
- Market based solution
  - Flex Procurement
- Tariff design
  - Implicit flexibility
- Infrastructure
  - Smart Grid

# Content

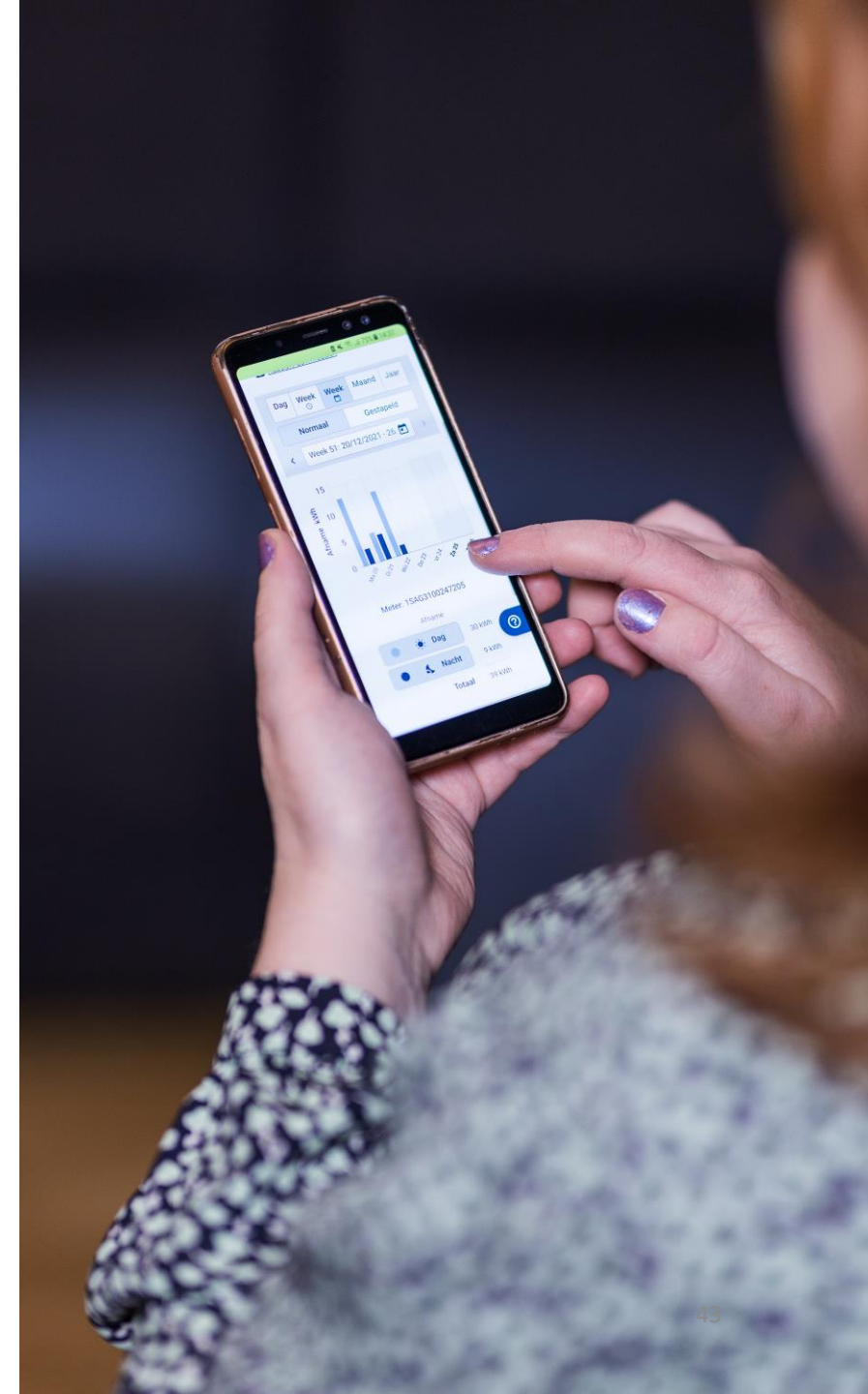
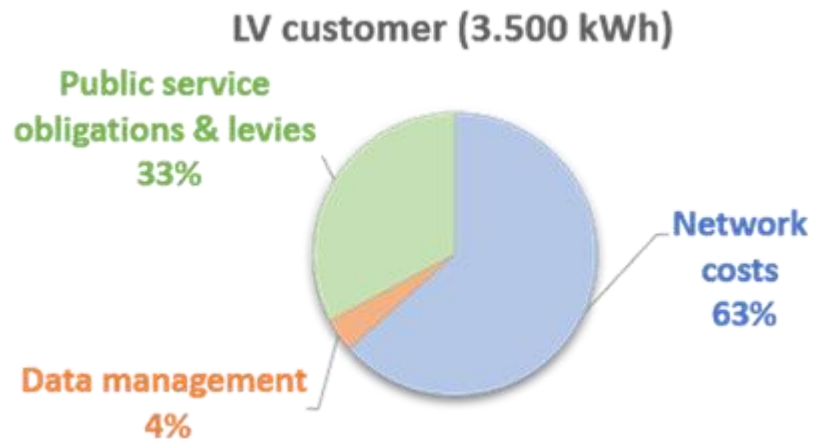
1. System challenges and flexibility

3. Introduction of capacity tariffs

4. Next steps and conclusions

# What?

- Introduction of capacity as a cost driver in the grid tariffs
  - Peak tariff (EUR/kW)
  - Applicable from January 1th 2023
- For all customers in Flanders
  - Residential and professional customers
  - Exemption for protected customers
- No additional tariff (for electricity only)
  - Alternative for volume based cost
  - **Allocation grid cost in a different way**



# Capacity tariffs

# Implicit flexibility



Introducing capacity component in the grid tariffs

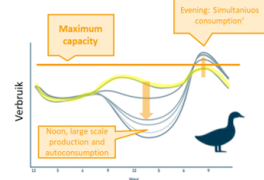
Optimal use of the distribution grid

Transparent, Cost reflective grid tariffs

- ✓ Secure optimal use of the grid
- ✓ Reduce system peak, avoid congestion
- ✓ Reducing future investments in infrastructure



The electricity grid under pressure ?



- Electrification:
  - Higher consumption (volume)
  - Higher simultaneous behaviour
  - Higher system peak
  - Higher impact on the grid

→ Investments in grid infrastructure and smart use of available grid capacity

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- ✓ Optimizing individual behaviour
- ✓ Reduce individual energy bills by shifting consumption and peak reduction
- ✓ Share the available grid capacity

# LV capacity tariff → analogue or digital meter tariff

## Low voltage customers

Introduction of capacity (kW) based tariff for 80 % of the network cost

No time of use differences (day/night) tariffs

Distinction in classic/analogue meter tariff and digital meter tariff

The capacity tariff is not applicable for protected customers (social/lower tariff)

## Analogue meter = peak cannot be measured

- + **fixed minimum contribution of 2,5 kW** (+/- 100 Euro/annual basis)
- + total offtake \* euro/kWh (for a customer with a classic meter this tariff is higher compared to a digital meter customer)



## Digitale meter = billing peak

- + **Measured peak** (calculation based on monthly peak) \* **EUR/kW (min. 2,5kW)**
- + total offtake \* euro/kWh (for a digital meter customer this tariff is lower compared to a customer with an analogue meter)



→ In general, the **impact** of the capacity tariff is **limited** for most customers, except for:

- Customers with very small consumption: e.g. second (holiday)stays  
= on average they pay more (due to the minimum contribution)
- Customers with very large consumption: electric vehicles, heat pumps  
= on average they pay less (if no excessive peak), spreading of consumption is rewarded

# LV capacity tariff – digital meter tariff

QUARTER-HOUR consumption  
from the digital meter



QUARTER-HOUR power  
(= average power within  
the 15')



MONTHLY PEAK  
(= highest quarter-hour  
power in every month)



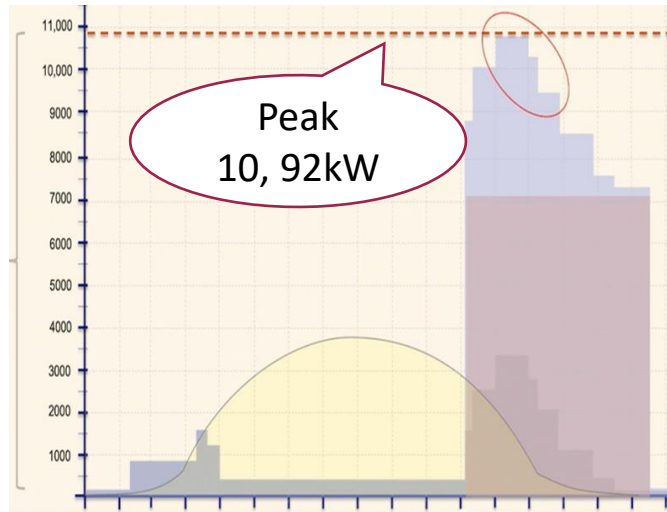
AVERAGE MONTHLY PEAK  
(= yearly average of the  
monthly peaks of the last 12  
months)



What is finally billed to customers?  
**BILLING PEAK \* EUR/kW**  
= weighted average of the average monthly peaks since the last invoice

# Impact for the customer ( ex. EV charging)

## No shifting

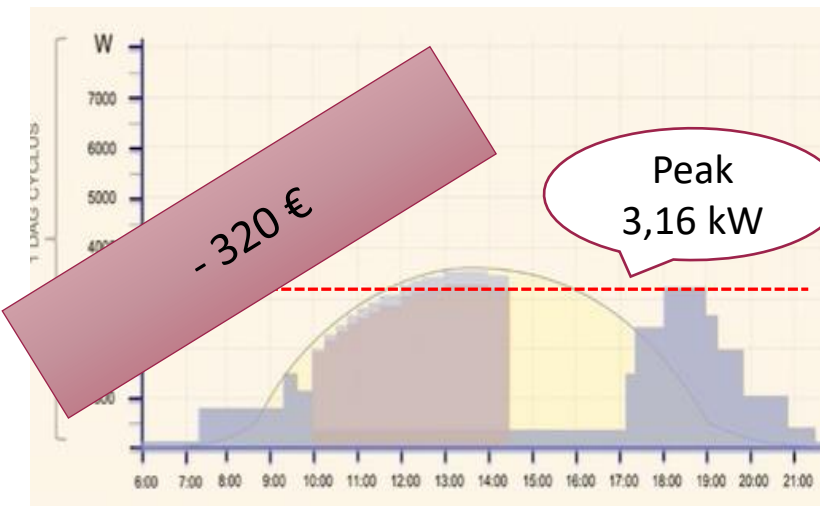


Hi power charging no shifting of consumption:  
→ Significant peak and billing

## Shifting



Charging shifted from normal consumption  
→ Less significant peak and bill savings



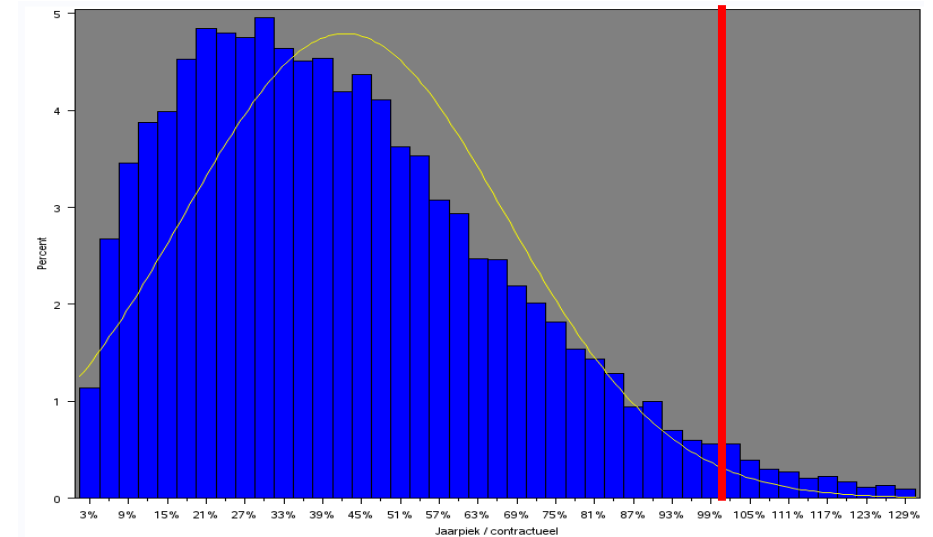
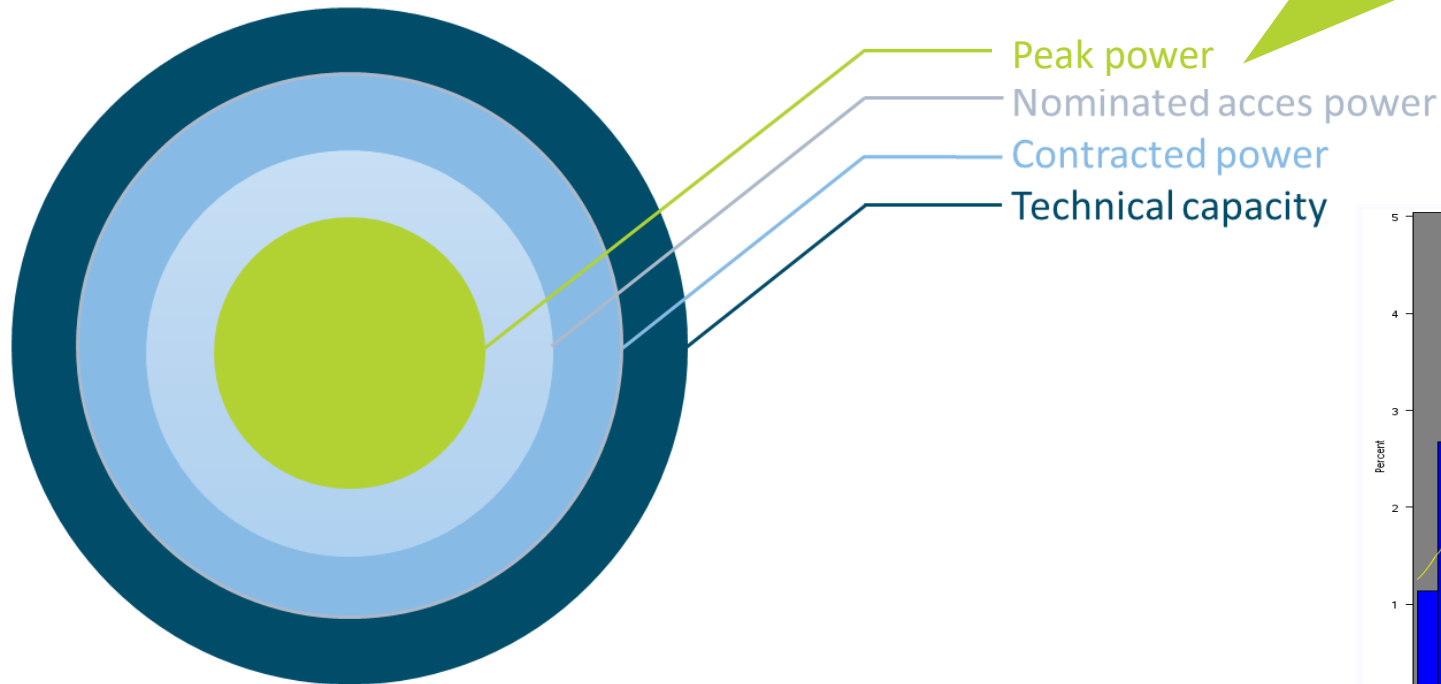
Smart charging, low volume and during solar production:  
→ No additional peak and use of own solar production

# MV capacity tariff – what is the access power ?

## Customers at medium voltage

- Before 2023: gridfee tariffs already billed based on via peak tariff (EUR/kW)
- As from January 2023: capacity/peak tariffs term becomes more important and is calculated in a different way, customers will need to nominate an expected peak power (=access power)

= No extra tariff but a replacement of the previous peak tariff system for billing the network costs

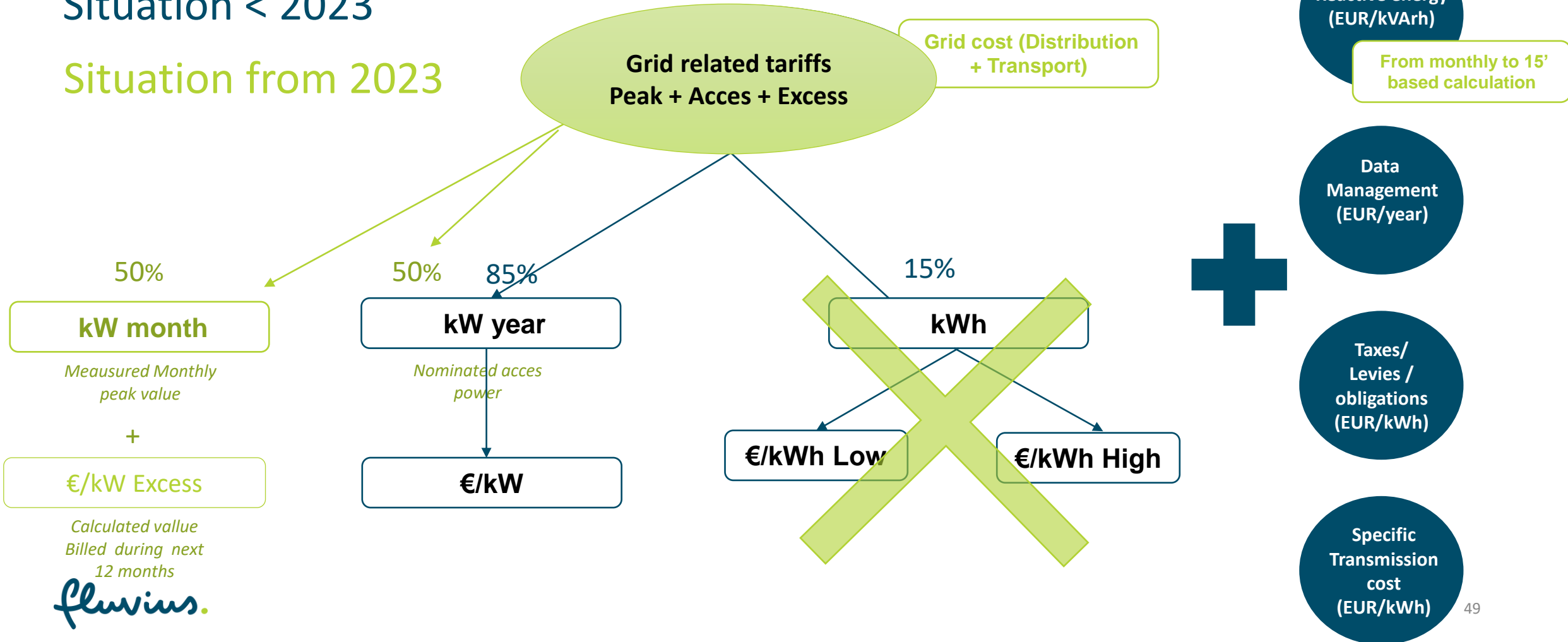




# New capacity tariffs for large professionals and industrial customers

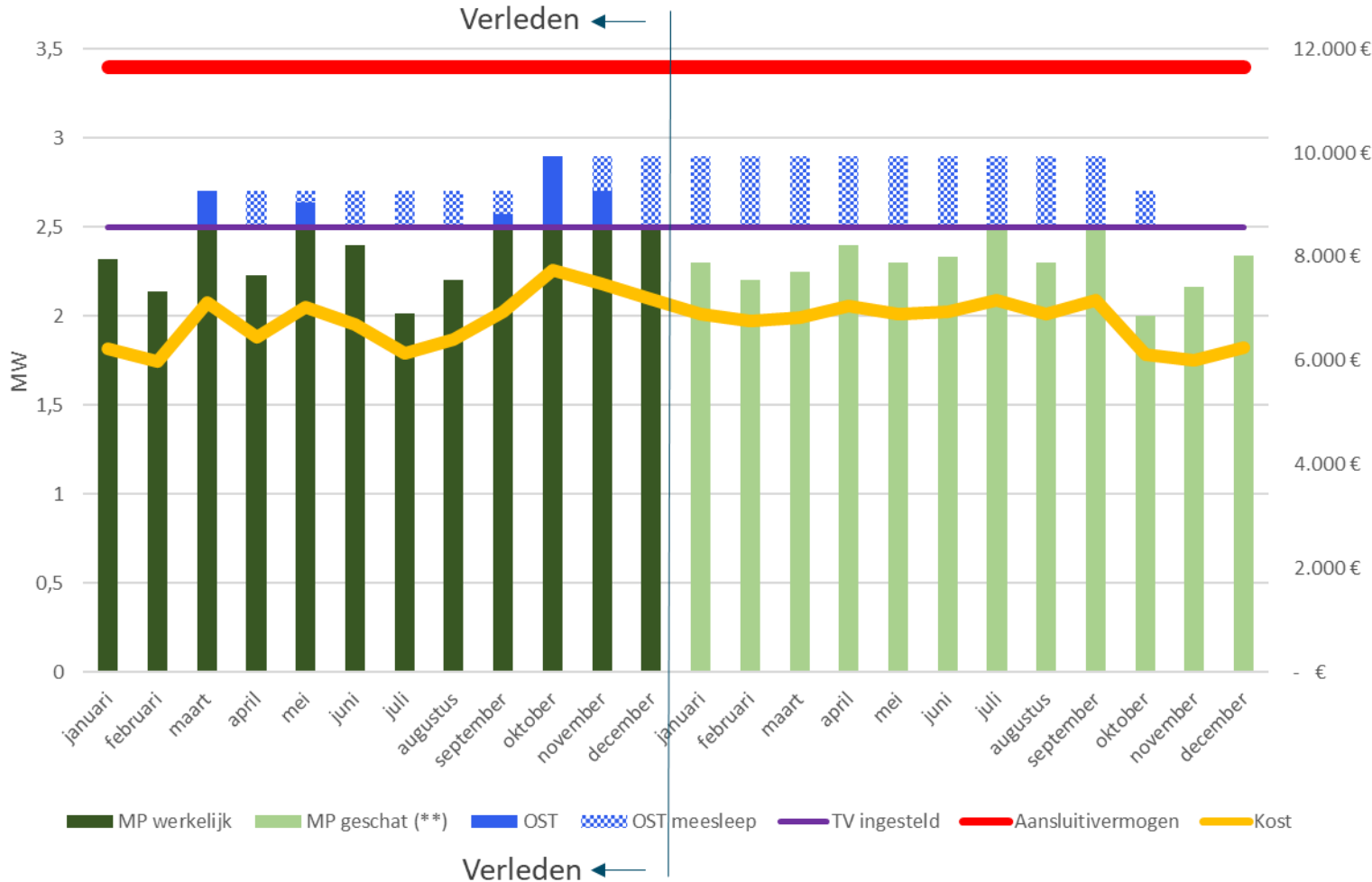
Situation < 2023

Situation from 2023



# MV capacity tariff – tariff drivers

Capacity tariff for billing network costs to medium voltage customers (= monthly billing), no volume based network costs (€/kwh) anymore



**Connection power**

**Nominated Access Power (AP)**

- 50% network costs
- Ex ante customer nomination
  - Increase AP: monthly
  - Decrease AP: 12 months after final increase

**Monthly (measured) Piek (MP)**

- 50% budgetted network costs
- Ex Post – highest monthly peak

**Penalty for exceeding nomination**

- Penalty if  $MP > AP$ , calculated by:  $MP - AP$
- 1,5x tariff of AP
- Is billed for the next 12 months

# Content

1. System challenges and flexibility

3. Introduction of capacity tariffs

4. Next steps and conclusions

# First results

## Impact customer (test on 25,000 LV customers)

- First positive trends are visible
- Customers are reacting to the new tariffs (-8,3 % - 150 W)
- In specific customers with new flexible appliances (- 13,6 % -1,5 kW)
- Positive impact on the energy bill

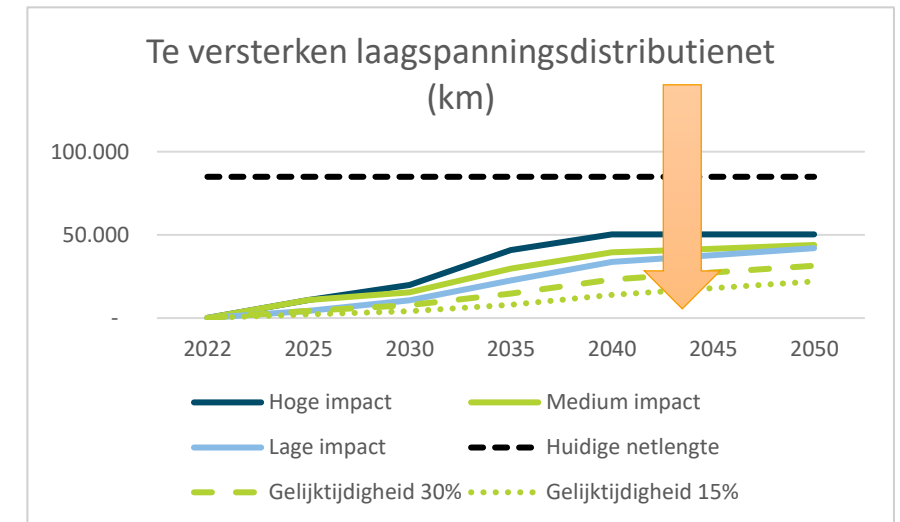
## Impact for the DSO

- Lower individual peak leads to lower system peak (1500 kW on substation level)
- Positive outlook on reducing future grid investments

## Follow up of results

- On wider population (>100.000 customers)
- On price elasticity and interaction with market

Optimizing individual energy consumption contributes to reduction of the system peak and reduces future investments



# Next steps

## Follow up of first results

- Confirm positive behaviour on wider population
- Translate positive effects in investment plan

## Introduction of “Time of Use” tariffs

- Investigate price elasticity
- Investigate further grid optimization opportunities



# Conclusions

## Electrification will rapidly increase in next decennia

- We need to prepare the grid for the future challenges of the energy transition

## We will need to increase investments in electricity networks

- We need to invest in flexibility in order to keep further investments under control

**Introduction of a cost reflective capacity tariff leads to individual optimization for the customer and contributes to reducing overall system investment costs.**



# 4. Facing grid capacity challenge: Sharing of best practices from distribution grids



## **Denmark's practice: Geo-dependent standard connection fee**

Henrik Fiil-Nielsen, Denmark, N1, Director, Head of Regulatory Affairs



## **Belgium's practice: Introduction of capacity tariffs**

Luc Decoster, Belgium, Fluvius, Regulatory Manager



## **Netherlands's practice: Flexible connection agreements**

Michiel Roks, Netherlands, Alliander, Senior Advisor Regulatory Affairs

Samira Rotteveel, Netherlands, Alliander, Policy Advisor



# Flexible connections in the Netherlands

Michiel Roks  
Samira Rotteveel

allliander



# Agenda



- Introduction of the Dutch grid challenges
- Flexible connections in the Netherlands





Liander (DSO), Firan (district heating),  
Entrnce (platform)

95.000 km grid

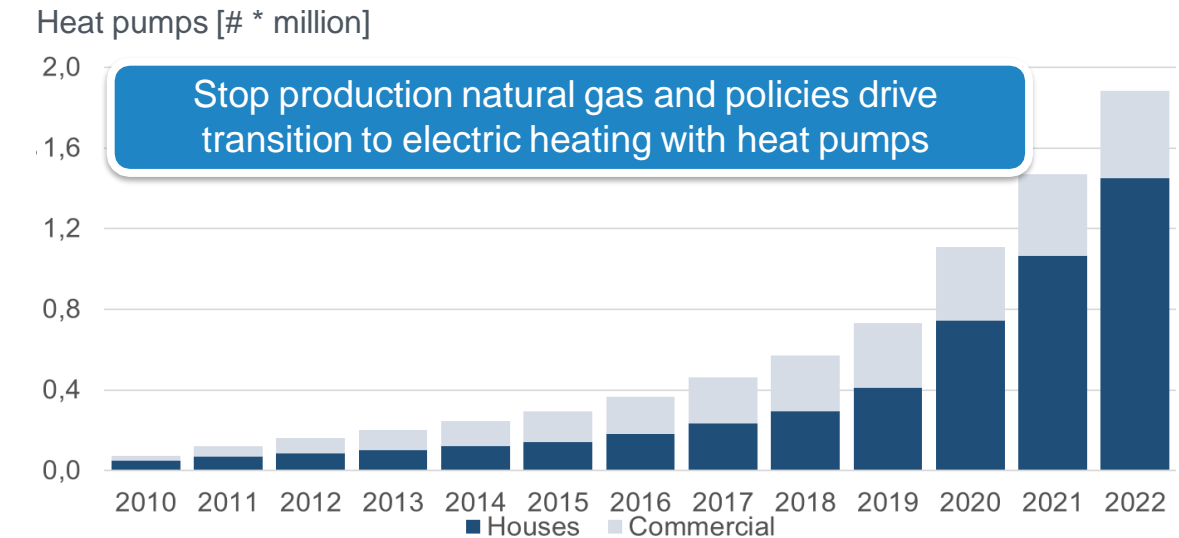
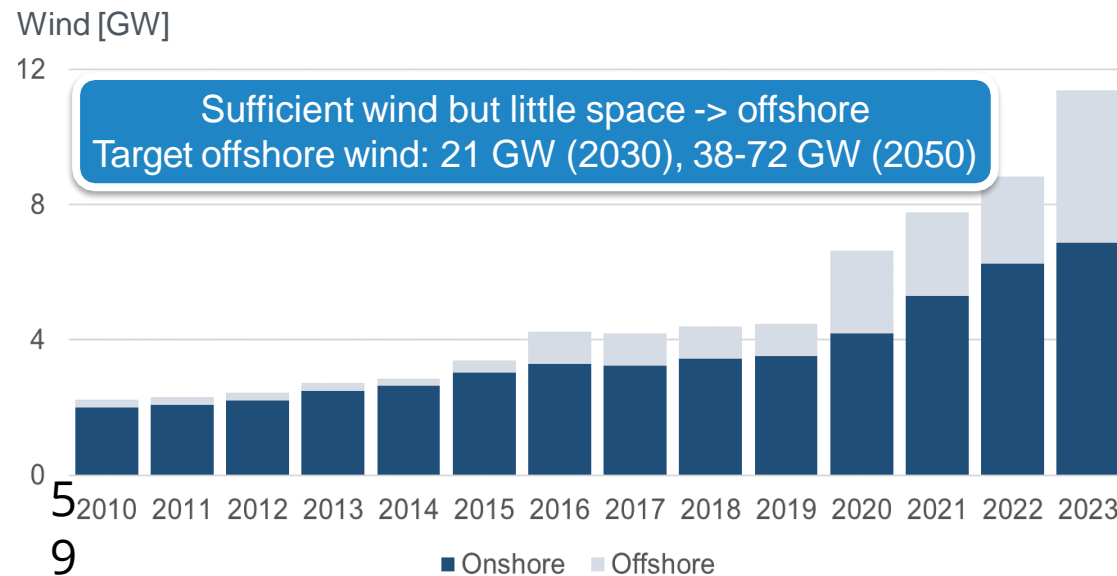
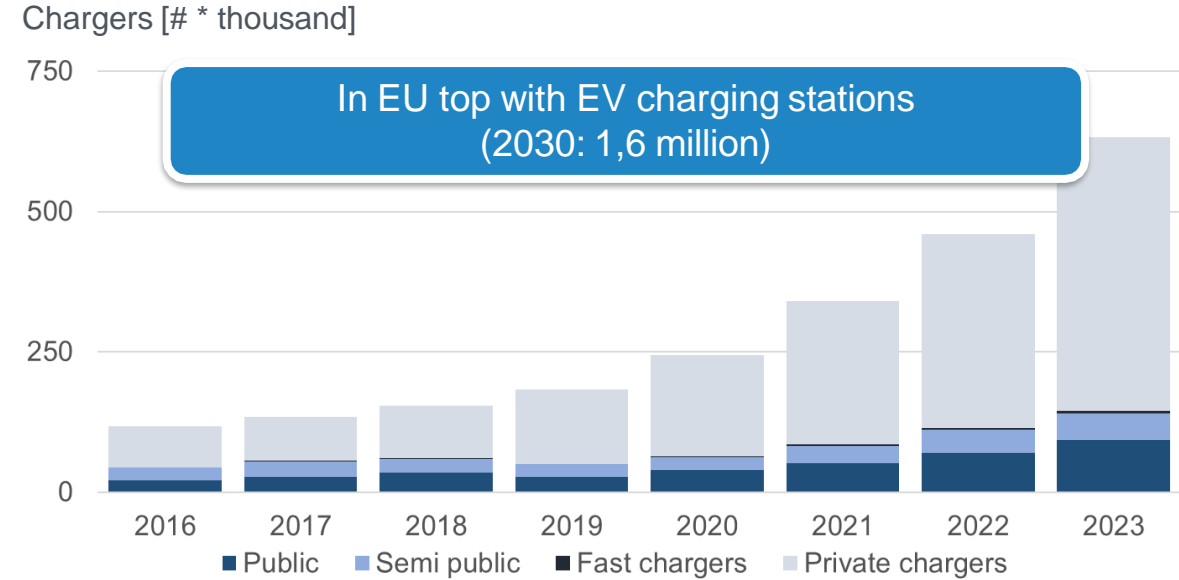
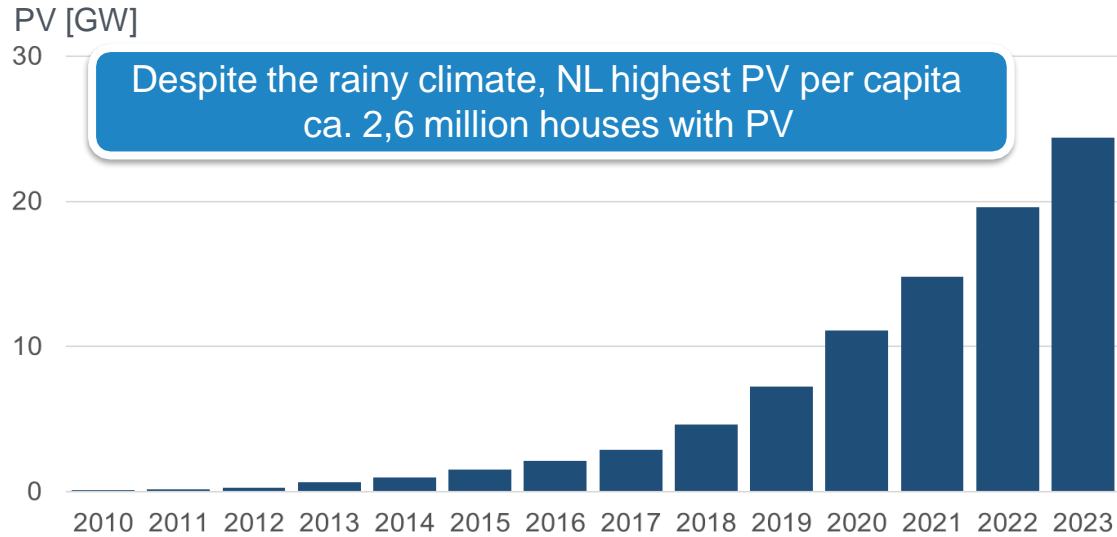
5.9 Million connections

7000+ employees

>1B annual investment

Reliable grid <21 min/year outage

# Sustainable developments faster than new grid capacity



# Lack of capacity to connect demand and generation



Accelerated phase-out of natural gas 

Yearly 50% growth solar-PV 

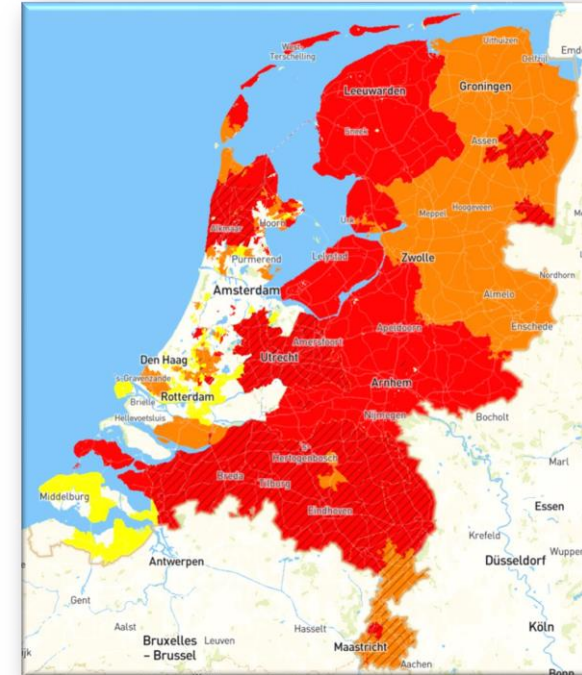
1.000.000 new homes all-electric by 2030 

1.6 million chargers for EV by 2030 

Steep growth of datacenters 

Industry shifting to electricity & hydrogen 

Transport capacity  
(electricity demand)



Transport capacity  
(electricity supply)

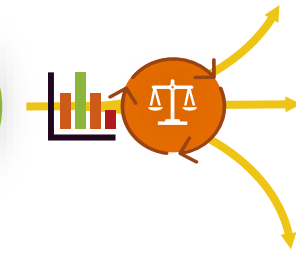
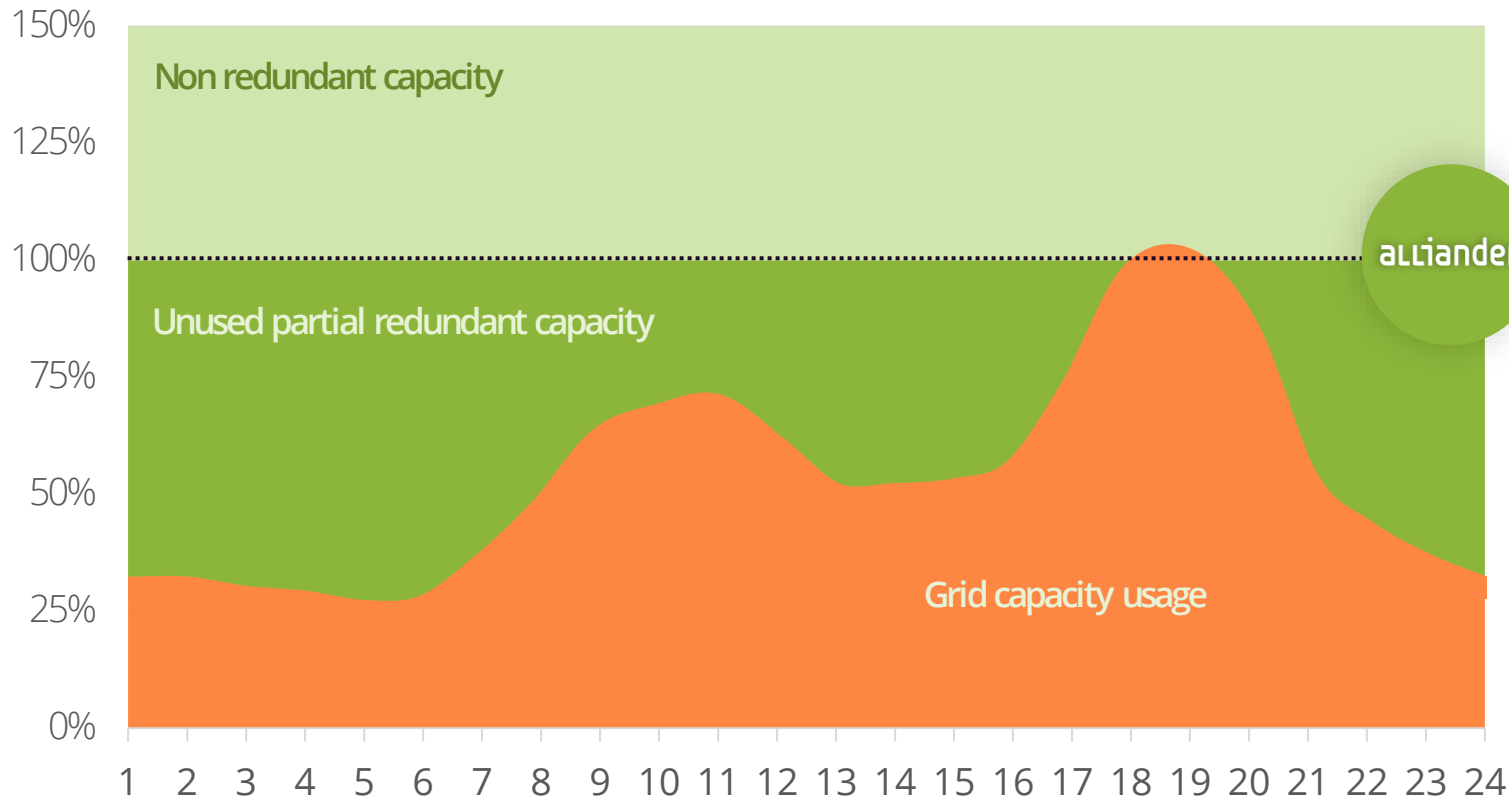
# Fundamental changes towards a future-proof grid



# Flexible capacity – releasing the maximum potential



The traditional connection agreement grants a 24/7 right to use the grid at a certain capacity. In practice, customers rarely use their full capacity and therefore unused capacity emerges in the night and (increasingly) during midday. Flexible connection agreements range of non-24/7 products with varying guarantees at an attractive price



No guarantees



Timeslot agreement

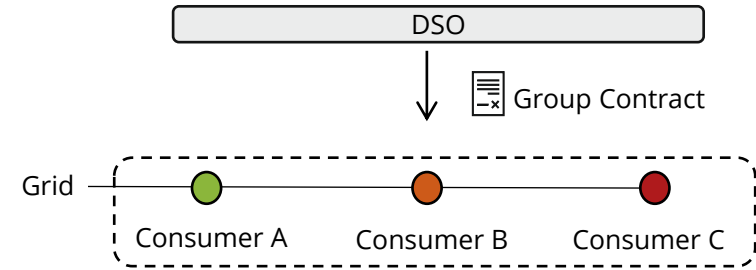
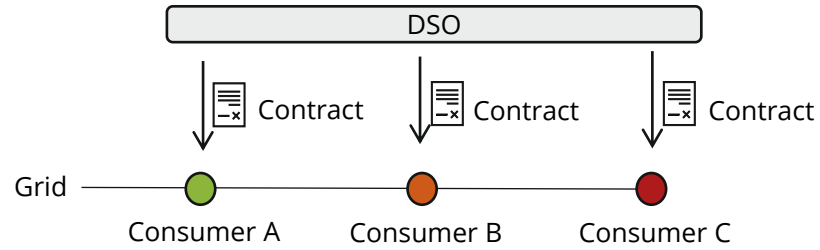


Energy agreement

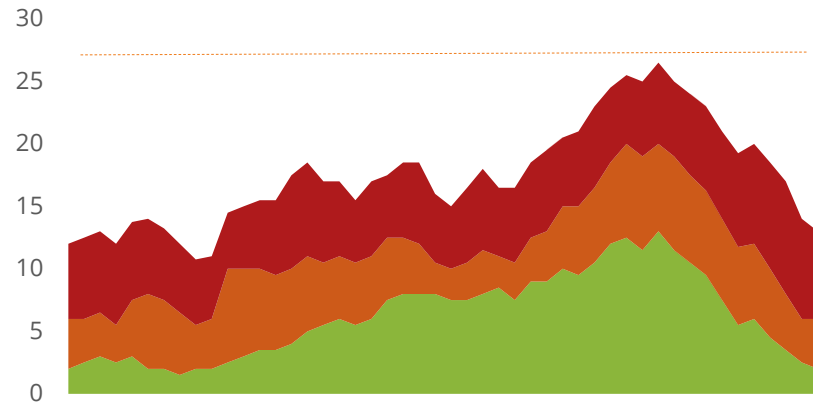


Minimal availability agreement

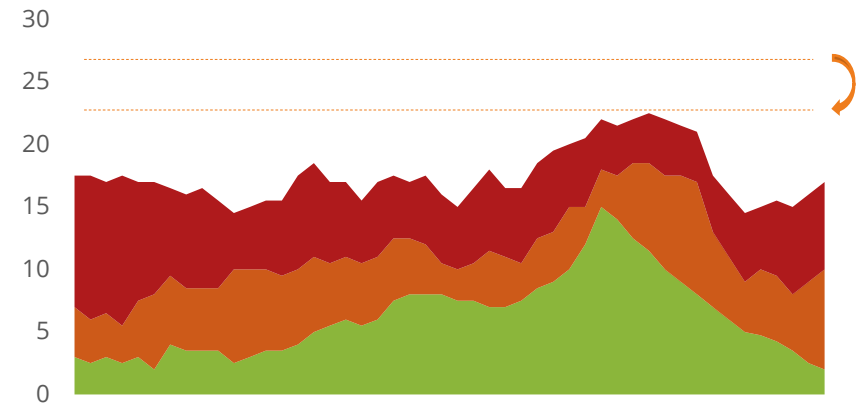
# Group capacity – incentivize local optimization



Sum of individuals



Group optimization



# Use-case: E-boilers for industrial plant

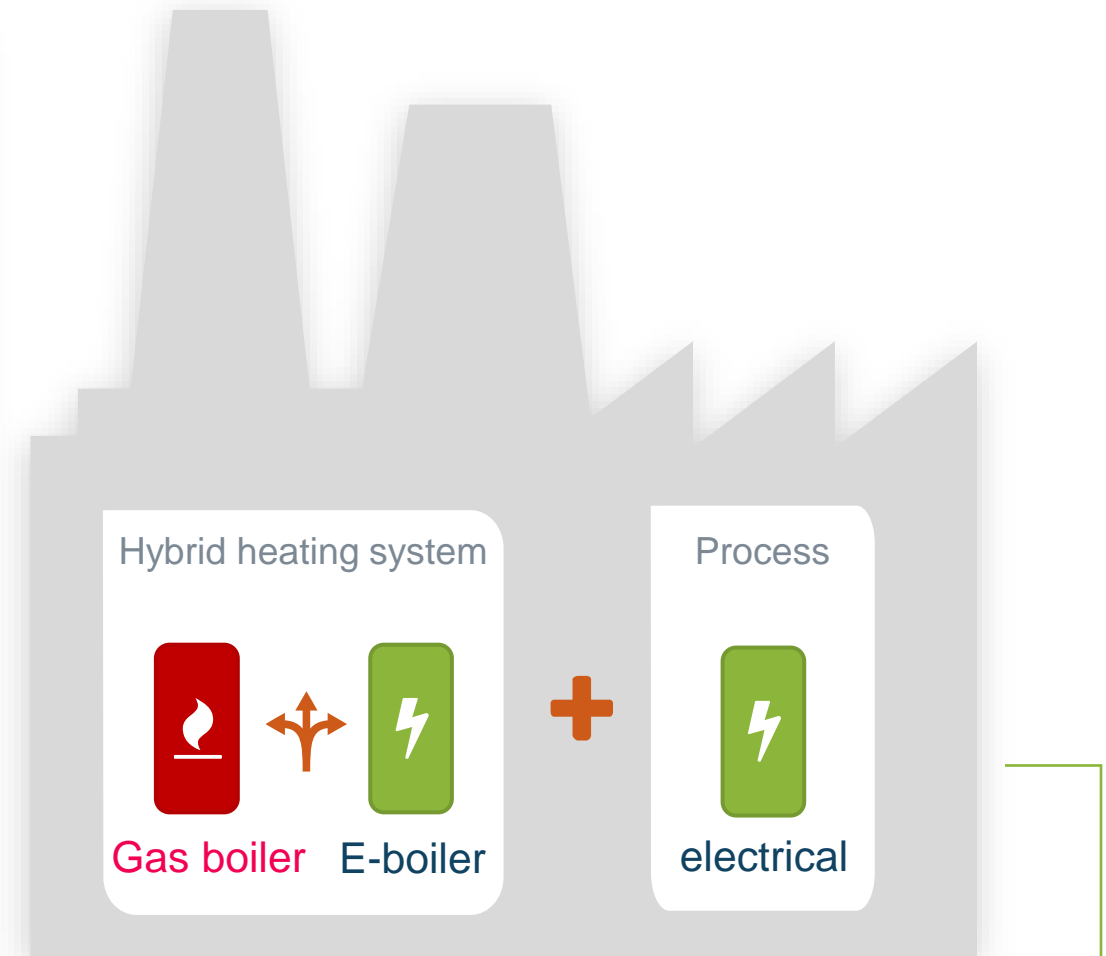
## Power to Heat in industrial plants

Hybrid setup: E-boiler switches on based on availability of renewables  
Expandable in the future: using heat storage or hydrogen

## Grid neutral using a flexible contract

>67% of the time the interests of grid and market are aligned  
A daily availability of 50% is often enough  
Improved business case by lower tariffs

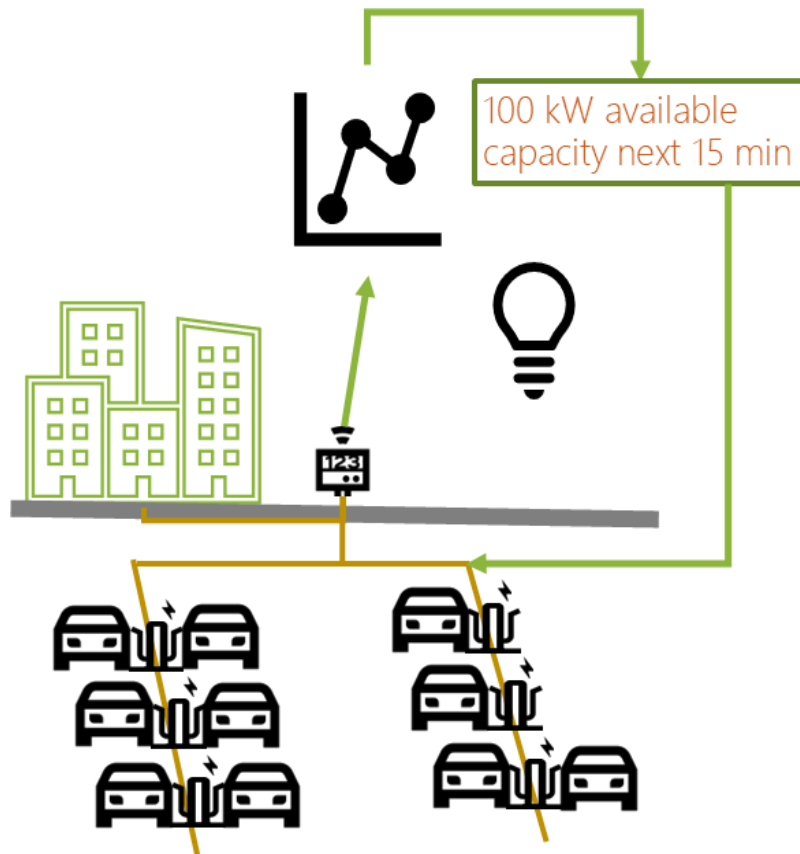
Enabling the transition within the existing grid





# Grid friendly public charging

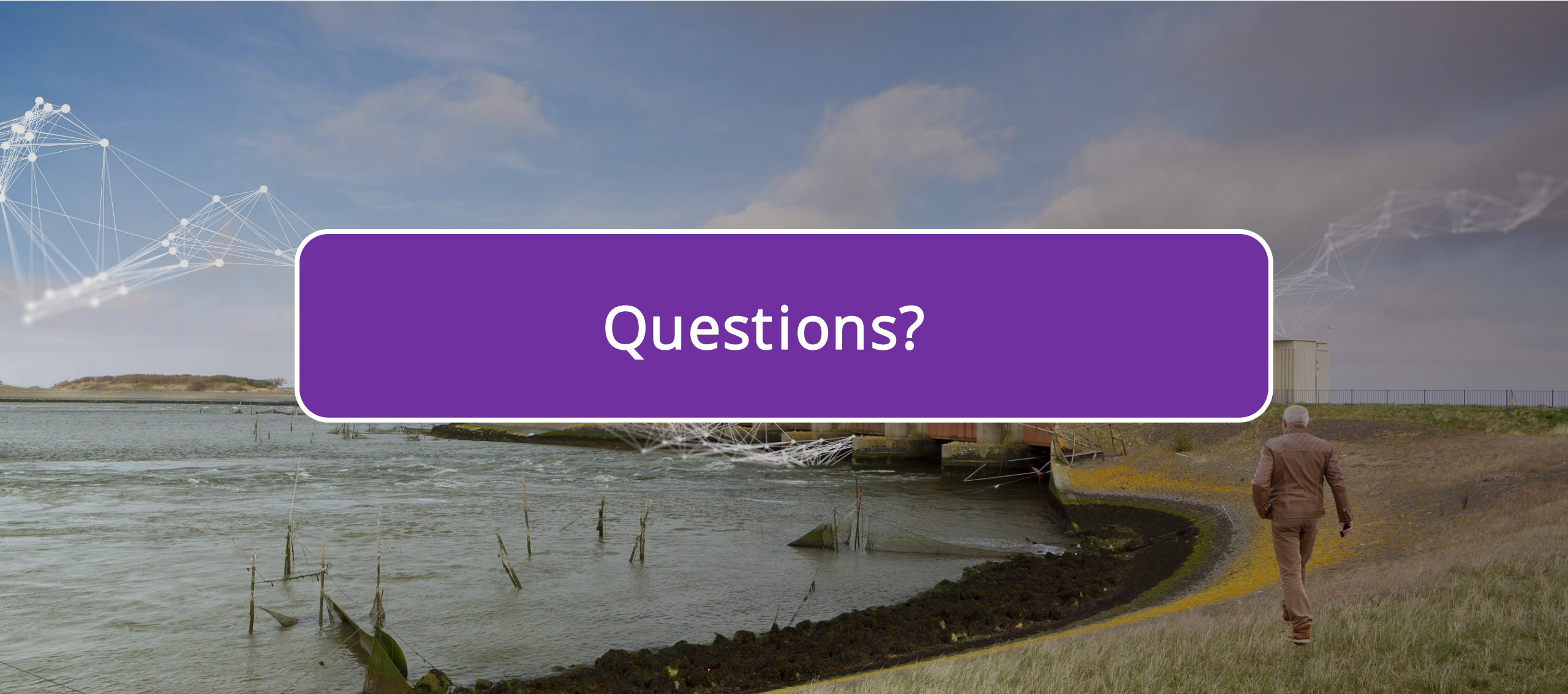
Optimal accommodation of public charging by group contract and non-firm capacity



Congestion prevented –  
factor 3 in hosting capacity  
of charge points

Charging comfort > 95% @ 3,5kW  
average

Comfort rises by releasing  
remaining grid  
capacity Day Ahead and intraday



Questions?

## 5. Q&A session

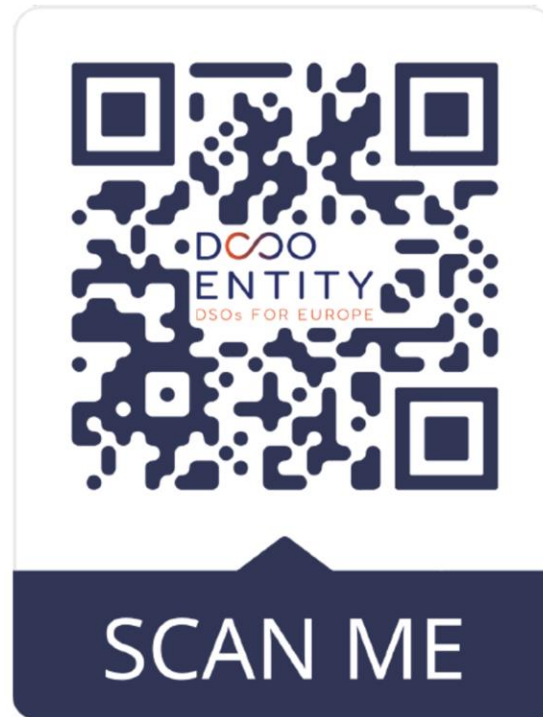


! Please use the Q&A function of the platform to ask your question.

The chat will be disabled for the time being.

## 6. Closing remarks

# Find out more in our Grid Connection Paper!



Stay tune for next webinar  
on our best practices!

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SEPTEMBER

# Thank you!

Contact: Claire Vandewalle  
DSO Entity, Advisor – Regulatory Affairs & Strategy  
[Claire.Vandewalle@eudsoentity.eu](mailto:Claire.Vandewalle@eudsoentity.eu)

The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left, a dark blue diagonal shape contains the text. The right side features a photograph of a wind farm at sunset or sunrise, with several wind turbines visible against a warm, orange sky. In the foreground, there are solar panels and a gravel-covered ground. A network of white lines and dots is overlaid on the sky, suggesting a digital or energy grid. The DSO Entity logo is positioned in the bottom right corner of the image area.

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DSOs FOR EUROPE