

Analysis and Design of a Hybrid Renewable Energy System – Lebanon Case

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ABSTRACT

The depletion of fossil fuels and their environmental consequences have prompted searching for other sources of energy aiming to global status amelioration. In the recent past, renewable energy sources have been considered as alternatives for the fossil fuel energy sources. The unexpected pattern of natural resources assesses integrated utilization of these sources to provide persistent and reliable power supply to the consumers. The technology's advantages, requirements and related improvements are underlined and results are generalized. This paper covers the design of a solar and wind based hybrid renewable system presenting calculations and considerations in order to achieve an optimized design. Since hybrid systems performance relies mainly on geographical and meteorological aspects, the study will consider the case of the Mediterranean area and in particular Lebanon.

Keywords: Wind energy, Solar energy, Hybridization, Optimum Design Requirement, Return on Investment

I. INTRODUCTION

With the population and energy need increase around the world, power production was forced to be raised. Our action today in producing power is to use fossil fuels as a central source of energy. These resources are non-renewable, so they are subject to depletion. Fossil fuels based generation emits harmful gases that have a major effect in increasing the global warming. Therefore, the need for searching for alternative energy source that conserves the environment and save people is a must. Renewable energy is proven to be the ultimate solution. It has a lot of environmental benefits and lessens global warming by reducing the emission of toxic gases, that is, beside its socio-economic benefits. However, renewable energy sources used solely do not provide continuous and reliable power, thus, the ultimate solution is to use them in a combined way, forming what is known by a hybrid generating system.

The first solar power system was developed in 1860 in France to produce steam to drive machinery whereas the first windmill was developed in 1888 in Cleveland, Ohio for electrical generation [1]. These systems were simple and small and it is until 1990 when the actual development started [2]. The high hazard correlating with fossil fuels supply and safety have accelerated the renewable energy growth in an exponential way. Nowadays renewable technologies supply about 19.1% of the world's total energy needs and 23.7% of global electricity [3]. Renewable energy is continuing to grow against the increasing global energy consumption and the slight fall of fossil fuels. Regardless of the rise in energy needs, the carbon emission remained constant in 2014 with the global economic growth. This

stabilization is associated with the rising penetration of renewable energy.

The paper is divided as follows: Section II discusses solar and wind renewable energies in general and shows the requirements of hybridization. Section III reflects the hybridization principles that are based on a real implemented system in Lebanon. Section IV represents the different steps in designing the project. Section V presents a preliminary design along with its calculations. Section VI discusses the possibilities of improving the design and presents an optimum design using HOMER software. Simulation results are detailed in section VII. Finally, section VIII ends with a summarizing conclusion and highlights the results as well as the potential improvements.

II. WIND / SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Wind energy distribution is not uniform and changes function of geographical aspects. The regional patterns of dissipation affect the availability of wind sources. The estimated wind power source is currently estimated to around 2470 EJ [4]. The wind power varies geographically due to many factors. The most important factor is the height. Places of higher altitudes have more wind due to various atmospheric factors. Besides, at higher places there is less obstruction from the surrounding hills, trees and building. In fact the height is so important that alternative energy scientists and engineers are trying to use kites (due to the heights they can easily reach) to tap the wind power [5].

Solar energy power depends on the available radiation. The available energy at the surface of the sun is approximately 60,000 kWh/m², while the total radiation reached to the surface of the

atmosphere is only 1.4 kWh/m^2 , representing around 80 trillion kW [6]. This amount of radiation represents 13,000 times the present world energy use. Solar energy is by far the largest energy resource on Earth. About 47% of all incident solar energy is reaching the top of the atmosphere. Due to the properties of the atmospheric gases, only 51% of the solar intensity on the top of the atmosphere reaches to the ground whether in a direct or un-scattered way [6]. This represents 89 PW of the energy received by the earth surface. From this huge amount of energy, only less than 0.02% is sufficient to replace the conventional energy used in the whole world [7]. Therefore one can realize the tremendous potential of solar energy in addition to its significant benefits on the environment, human health, economics and so on. The current installed PV capacity is somewhat limited compared to other renewable energy sources. However, PV technical potential is considered high compared to other renewable energy sources for a per unit area. This latter depends on the available area, the solar irradiation, and solar PV efficiency. Till now, the PV efficiency for the used solar cells is limited to 23%. This efficiency is limited by the laws of physics. Solar yearly energy density varies between 2000 kWh/m^2 and 3200 kWh/m^2 in the South Mediterranean region [8]. In Lebanon, the average yearly solar irradiance can reach 2939 kWh/m^2 at 0 degree inclination [9].

III. HYBRIDIZATION

This section begins with the typical configuration of an ON grid hybrid system as shown in Fig. 1. We note the wind turbine, solar panel, main supply, the backup generator, storage system, power electronics (inverter and converter), the energy management system (controllers) as well as the load. Generally the main control system has many functions including the following: ensuring the continuity of energy to the load, evaluating the excess of energy and monitoring the smooth operation of all components of the system. In most cases, a hybrid system requires power control techniques leading to mounting of AC-DC or DC-DC converters in both wind and solar power generation systems.

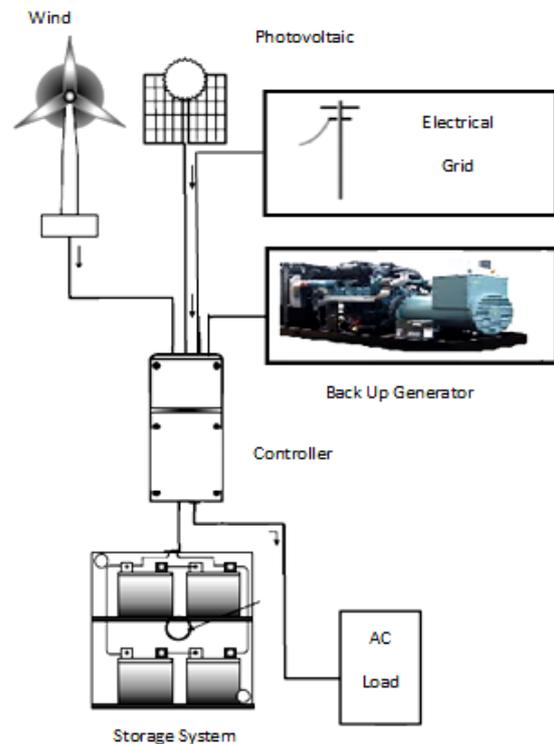


Fig. 1. Typical grid connected hybrid wind-solar system with backup generator.

The two systems may be interconnected in parallel at the output of the converters and connected to a storage battery. Each DC-DC converter can control the battery charging for load supplying. In the case of installing converters and batteries at a centralized location, storage batteries are mostly installed near the wind and solar power generation systems, so this will restrict the freedom of installing batteries on flat ground or in places easy to be accessed for maintenance and replacement [10]. Fig 2 shows the block diagram model of this system including the various sources, converters, controllers and loads.

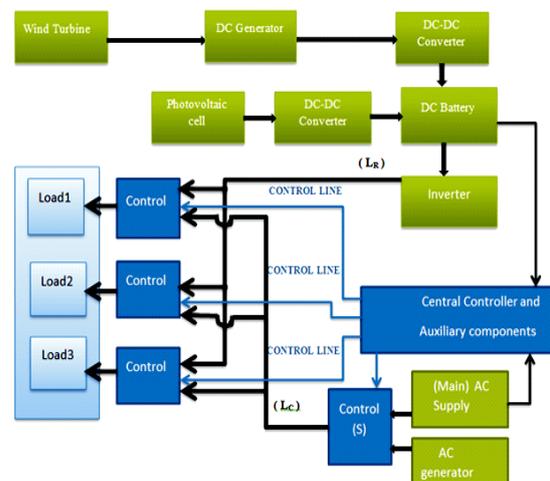


Fig. 2. Block diagram model of a typical hybrid power system.

IV. HYBRID SYSTEM DESIGN

This section focuses on designing the different components of the system. The study starts by specifying the load demand followed up by sizing all components. A financial study underlining the return on investment is also carried out. The project discussed in this paper consists of a typical four rooms' house located in South of Lebanon at a 400 meter altitude. The location matters as it affects the efficiency of both solar and wind captured energies.

A. Load Demand

In general, the typical rating demand of such houses is around 4 kW. A study covering all electrical equipments, their power ratings, the average working hours per day and their quantities has been carried out. Such study allows calculating the total energy consumed and the total power delivered. Table I shows the maximum load demand in Wh/day of the system under study. For such typical residential load, an approximated 14 kWh/day consumption is noted. This calculation is necessary in order to be able to size the various components.

B. Components Design

There are many components that have been designed for this hybrid system. This part will mention only the basic outcomes.

1) PV Array Design

In designing the PV module, first we should calculate the required array output per day; it can be obtained by dividing the total energy demand per day (14.42 kWh/day) by the inverter efficiency (typically 85%) [11], leading to a required array output of 16.97 kWh/day. For the selected PV module, the guaranteed output power is obtained from the manufacturer's datasheet. The nominal maximum output power at STC is 200W. The power tolerance is 3% and the guaranteed output power is 97% of the maximum output power, or 194 watts [12]. The number of peak sun hours is identical to the average daily solar insolation over 1 kW/m² [13]. From the HOMER data for the design location and optimum array tilt, the worst peak sun hour for south Lebanese located house is in December and equals to 2.41 hours. Table II shows all the required parameters needed for the design of PV panels.

Table I Average load demand for a typical Lebanese house

Appliances	Typical Power (W)	Working hrs./day	Qty	Energy (Wh/day)
TV	150	5	3	2,250
Water heater	500	2	1	1,000

Satellite receiver	8	5	3	120
Hair dryer	350	0.10	1	35
Bread oven	1,000	0.10	1	100
Microwave	1,400	0.15	1	210
Refrigerator	650	8	1	5,200
AC	1,500	2	1	3,000
Wi-Fi router	10	24	1	240
Telephone handy	3	24	1	78
Mobile charger	3	2	3	18
washing machine	350	0.50	1	175
laptop	100	2	1	200
fan	60	3	3	540
iron	1,200	0.10	1	120
Lights	20	8	6	960
Water pump	500	0.10	1	50
Vacuum cleaner	1,250	0.10	1	125
			Total	14,421

Table II Parameters of the designed PV system

Parameters	Results
Energy Output of Module (Wh)	465.6
Energy Output at operating Temperature (Wh)	419.04
Number of Required Modules	41
Number of Modules per String	3
Number of String in Parallel	14
Total Number of Modules purchased	42
Nominal Rated Array Output (W)	8400

2) Wind Turbine Design

The selection of the wind turbine depends on the load size (4 kW) and the wind speed that depends on the location (5 to 5.5 m/s) [14]. Therefore, the design has to account for a wind turbine that gives 4 kW at a wind speed of 5 m/s. Accordingly, the selected system is a 20 kW wind generator based wind turbine. The output power versus the wind speed curve is thoroughly explained in [15]. This latter provides more than 4 kW at this speed range, thus satisfying the load demand.

3) Battery Design

The storage battery bank is sized to meet the load demand during the absence of the renewable energy sources. It should also have days of autonomy, which is normally taken to be 2 or 3 days [16]. We will assume in this case study that the storage will be for only one day or 20 hours (according to the battery specifications) due to the presence of multiple sources of power. The most

common battery type used in such applications is the lead acid deep cycle batteries. These batteries are specifically designed to be discharged to low energy level and rapidly recharged and discharged day after day for years [17]. Thus, we will take into consideration the use of lead acid batteries with 80% depth of discharge and 48V battery bank voltage. The minimum ampere hour capacity required for the battery can be calculated according to (1).

$$C_B = \frac{E_L S_D}{V_B DOD} \quad (1)$$

Note that E_L is the load demand in Wh, S_D is the battery autonomy or storage days; V_B is the battery bank voltage; and DOD is the battery depth of discharge [16]. The selected battery has storage of 20 hours with a capacity 140 Ah. Hence, with 14.42 kWh/day load energy consumption, the required battery capacity will be 312.96 Ah. Further parameters are listed in table III. The total Ah demand per day and the total battery Ah capacity are needed to calculate the actual daily DOD [12].

Table III Parameters of the designed battery system

Parameters	Results
Number of the Parallel Batteries	3
Number of Series Batteries in Each String	4
Total Number of Batteries	12
Total Amp-Hour Capacity	420
Total kWh Capacity	20.16

4) Controller Design

The controller gives orders to turn On/Off any source according to a predefined logic. It senses some inputs and according to the setting, it orders an output, in order to satisfy the user need. In this system, the controller will sense the power from the two main renewable sources of energies, the battery bank, the back-up generator and the state of the load demand. Following that, the control unit compares the inputs and orders to switch (On/Off) the different power sources. The logic of the controller is divided into many scenarios, as shown below in Table IV.

Table IV Controller various scenarios

1	If P_{wind} and P_{solar} are both sufficient, only solar feeds the load.
2	If P_{wind} is larger than P_{load} , then the wind turbine is only switched on. After that the controller checks if there is an excess in power, then it checks the status of batteries. If they are not fully charged, then it charges them.
3	If P_{solar} is greater than P_{load} , then it switches on the solar panels only. After that it checks if there is an excess in power, checks the status of batteries and if not fully charged, it charges them.
4	If P_{wind} and P_{solar} are less than P_{load} , but their sum combined is greater than the load, then it connects both wind turbine and solar panels. If there is still an excess in power, and the batteries

	are not fully charged, then it charges them.
5	If $P_{wind} + P_{solar}$ are less than the load, then it directly connects the battery bank.
6	If the battery bank is insufficient, then the back-up generator is turned on in order to charge the batteries.

C. Return on Investment

The ROI (return on investment) of renewable systems is becoming more appealing and popular every day. When considering upgrades to a home, ROI is a sound way to determine when and where to invest. To calculate the ROI, we should consider the home's location, sun insolation, type of installation and current available encouragements, as well as financing terms [18].

First of all we should calculate the annual electricity expense. In Lebanon, there is an outage in the electricity supply from the official supplier 'Electricite du Liban' (EDL); thus, a backup generator's expense has to be taken into account. For the considered location (south of Lebanon), the electricity is available only 8 hours per day, and the power supply for the remaining 16 hours is provided by the backup generator. Starting with EDL, we can expect the daily energy consumption from it by dividing the 8 hours over 24 hours and then multiplying by the total energy demand per day (14.421 kWh/day); so the average energy supply from EDL will be 4.807 kWh/day or 144.21 kWh/month. For the total amount of the electrical bill of the EDL, the reader may refer to [19]. Many parameters contribute to this latter, namely, the subscription fee, the rehabilitation tax, the electricity cost (which is 13 cents/kWh in Lebanon) and other minor costs. Calculations for our case study lead to an estimated averaged bill of 349.54 USD/year. The energy consumption from generators is obtained by considering the number of operating hours and the total energy demand per day, leading to 9.614 kWh/day or 288.42 kWh/month. The generator's energy price in Lebanon is 47 cents/kWh. Thus, the energy price resulting from the use of the backup generator is approximated to 1616 USD/year. Therefore, the total amount paid for electricity in our case study project is about 1965 USD/year.

In order to be able to calculate the ROI, the overall cost of implementation and maintenance of the hybrid system needs to be calculated. This latter depends on the choice and the sizing of the elements. The cost of the preliminary sizing previously presented will be presented in the next section.

V. PRELIMINARY DESIGN

According to the preliminary design, the different components were sized and their cost was calculated based on a market survey and the availability of the various components. The overall

cost is shown below in Table V. These components and their characteristics are introduced to HOMER software in order to know the percentage of renewable participation in supplying the load.

Table V System components' prices (Preliminary design)

Component	Qty	Price/Component (USD)	Price (USD)
PV panels	42	250	10,500
Wind turbine	1	13,580	13,580
Batteries	12	250	3,000
Inverter	1	950	950
Generator	1	2,200	2,200
Converter	1	226	226
		Total Price	30,456

The solar and wind energy resources supply about 99.84% of the total energy demand, thus leading to a total annual savings will be of 1961.55 USD/year. The ROI is then obtained by dividing the total cost of our system by the annual savings; leading to a payback period of 15.5 years [18]. Accounting for 1 year cost of maintenance to every 5 years of operation [18], the ROI is finally estimated to 20 years. From this point on, and accounting for the associated maintenance cost, the user shall economize around 1570 USD per year. Note that at this stage, HOMER software was only used to depict the percentage of participation of the various sources. The above numbers present the ROI based on a preliminary modeling, but not necessary an optimum one. In order to account for all influencing parameters and to obtain an optimum design, simulations will be fully carried out next using the HOMER software. This latter will allow to define the optimal parameters for a better and more economical design.

VI. OPTIMUM DESIGN

Hybrid Optimization Model for Electric Renewables (HOMER) provides highly sensitive analysis of hybrid systems and accounts for the location specific characteristics. The needed inputs for analysis are the solar insolation, wind speed, temperature data, load profile, particular constraints, system control and economic factors [20]. In this section the prices of the components with different sizes are considered in order to reach the optimum design.

1) PV Array Design

The cost of one 200 watt PV panel is approximated to 250 USD. The installation and maintenance costs are approximated respectively to 1000 USD and 10 USD/year. Four different configurations are considered for our system and inserted into HOMER. The sizes are 0 (no PV

modules), 2.8, 5.6, 8.4 kW. Note that no tracking system is included in the PV system.

2) Wind Turbine Design

Availability of energy from wind turbine depends greatly on wind speed variations. Therefore, wind turbine rating is generally much higher compared to the peak load demand (which is 3.06 kWp according to HOMER). In this analysis, wind turbine of FD5-5000 model is considered. It has a rated capacity of 5kW and provides a 240V AC output. The cost of one unit is considered to be 4,612 USD while replacement and maintenance costs are taken as 3,699 USD and 47 USD/year respectively [21]. Different units are given (0, 1 or 2 units) to allow the simulation program find the optimum solution. Lifetime of a turbine is taken to be 20 years.

3) Power Inverter Design

The estimated capital and replacement costs of an inverter are approximated to 950 USD. A lifetime of 15 years was assumed in which the inverter efficiency was assumed to be 95%, for all considered sizes [22]. Inverters of various sizes ranging from 0 to 4 kW are considered in the analysis. The choice of this range is justified by the fact that all renewable sources are meant to be of lower rating in the optimized design.

4) Battery Bank Design

When the total outputs of the PV array and wind turbine are more than the energy demand, the battery bank is charged. We will assume that the properties of the battery remain constant throughout its lifetime and are not affected by external factors such as temperature [23]. The selected batteries in our study have a nominal voltage of 12 V with a rated capacity of 140 Ah. Every 4 lead-acid batteries are connected in series forming a string capable of producing 6.72 kWh of electricity. The estimated price of each battery replacement is 250 USD. The life expectancy of each battery usually varies between 2 and 6 years [24] and will be assumed in our study to 5 years. Different numbers of battery strings (0, 1, 2, and 3) were considered in this analysis.

5) Diesel Generator

A 5kVA generator is used as a backup power supply. Its cost is estimated to 2,200 USD. The present cost of diesel is 0.38 \$/L and it may vary around this value. The operation over maintenance cost is estimated to 0.082 \$/hr [24-25].

VII. SIMULATION RESULTS

The load profile (typical Lebanese house) was introduced into our simulation. The meteorological data for a one year period including

the hourly solar radiation and the wind speed were introduced as well in order to calculate the monthly average values of clearness index (5.32 kWh/m²/day), the daily radiation (0.61 kWh/m²) and daily wind speed (5.41 m/s). The results are exhibited in a complete form in which the system configurations are listed according to their net present cost NPC. Fig. 3 shows the list of possible combinations of the system components. Parameters such as the operational characteristics, annual electrical energy production, served annual electrical loads, excess of electricity, RE fraction, capacity shortage, and so forth can be evaluated. The optimal energy system includes a 2.8 kW PV module (14 PV panels), one wind turbine (rated 5 kW), 4 kW diesel generator, 4 kW inverter and 4 batteries (140 Ah each). The cost of energy (COE) would be then 0.307 USD/kWh, whereas the initial capital required and NPC are respectively 12,262 USD and 20,909 USD. This could be considered as a good choice for the system operation especially that the participation in energy production made by renewable resources is relatively high. Furthermore, simulation results show that this system has a total annual electrical energy production of 14,812 kWh/yr and the total energy produced from the wind turbine is higher than the energy generated from the PV array.

Architecture				Cost						System
PV (kW)	WT (kW)	Gen4kW (kW)	140 Ah battery	Inverter (kW)	COE (\$)	NPC (\$)	Operating cost (\$)	Initial capital (\$)	Ren Frac (%)	Cap S (kWh)
2.80	1	4.00	4	4.00	\$0.307	\$20,909	\$668.85	\$12,262	68	0
		4.00	4	4.00	\$0.355	\$24,127	\$1,545	\$4,150	0.0	0
2.80	1	4.00		4.00	\$0.412	\$28,053	\$1,299	\$11,262	15	0
2.80		4.00		4.00	\$0.421	\$28,676	\$1,704	\$6,650	0.0	0
	1	4.00			\$0.437	\$29,757	\$1,775	\$6,812	0.0	0
		4.00			\$0.479	\$32,601	\$2,352	\$2,200	0.0	0

Fig. 3. Overall optimized results according to NPC

All results related to both the electric energy production and consumption is summarized in Table VI. In addition, the share of PV array, wind turbine and diesel generator for electrical production in each month of the year are shown in Fig. 4. The amount of electricity production is ranged from 1.4 kW in November to almost 1.85 kW in August.

Table VI Electrical production / demand for PV-Wind systems

Annual electric PV array production	5,926 kWh/yr. (40.01%)
Annual electric wind production	7,200 kWh/yr. (48.61%)
Annual electric generator production	1,686 kWh/yr. (11.38%)
Annual electric total production	14,812 kWh/yr.
Annual electric consumption (AC load)	5,263 kWh/yr. (100%)

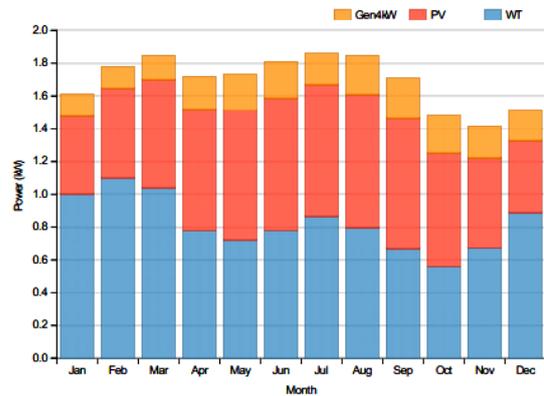


Fig. 4. Contribution of the power units

We note that the yearly cost saving of this system is 16.8% with respect to the initial investment as shown in Fig 5 and 6. Furthermore, the system payback is about 6-7 years which makes it a good applicable system with tolerable present and annual worth of 11,694 \$ and 1,095 \$ respectively. The ROI is considerably improved compared with the preliminary design.

Component	Capital (\$)	Replacement (\$)	O&M (\$)	Fuel (\$)	Salvage (\$)	Total (\$)
Suntech PV	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$361.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,862.00
WT 5 kW	\$4,612.00	\$1,179.30	\$607.59	\$0.00	(\$664.59)	\$5,734.30
4kW Kipor	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,274.20	\$3,501.80	\$0.00	\$6,976.00
Leoch 140 Ah Lead Acid	\$1,000.00	\$2,059.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,059.10
Converter	\$950.00	\$403.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$75.86)	\$1,277.20
System	\$12,262.00	\$3,641.50	\$2,243.80	\$3,501.80	(\$740.45)	\$20,909.00

Fig. 5. Total NPC of the proposed system components - 25 years

Metric	Value
Present worth (\$)	\$11,694
Annual worth (\$/yr)	\$1,095
Return on investment (%)	16.8
Internal rate of return (%)	16.9
Simple payback (yr)	5.80
Discounted payback (yr)	7.10

Fig. 6. Economic factors of current system vs. base system

VIII. CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

This paper deals with the design and analysis of a solar wind hybrid system. First, a preliminary design underlining all necessary challenges and calculations is presented. This design is then improved and optimized. Simulation results seem to be promising with a 33% decrease in the overall cost of the system as well as a notable improvement in the ROI. The current design can be further improved by including more advanced

control techniques. More accurate design and financial studies should be carried out in various areas and markets and for various loads in order to present generalized numbers that can be adopted as official references.

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