

## Connectivity in the Smart Grid for the Integration of Renewables in Saudi Arabia

Professor Saifur Rahman
Director, Advanced Research Institute, Virginia Tech, USA





"Smart grid" is a concept with many elements where monitoring and control of each element in the chain of generation, transmission, distribution and end-use allow the electricity delivery and use to be more efficient.



### Motivations for a Smart Grid

Desire to make the grid smarter, safer, reliable and more cost-effective using advanced sensors, communication technologies and distributed computing.







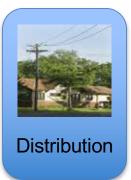
### Difference Between a Normal Grid and a Smart Grid



### Starting and Ending Points of a Smart Grid





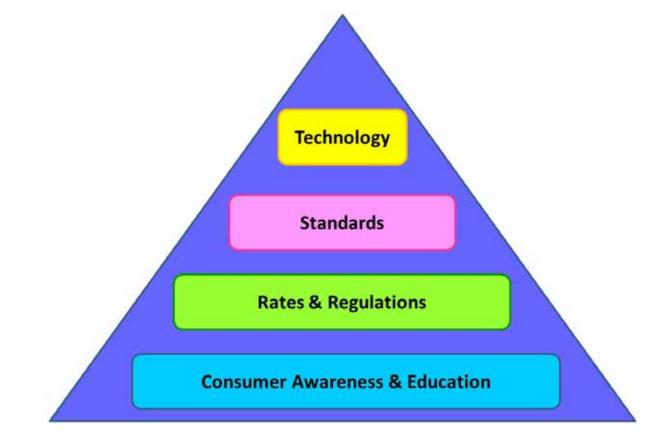






### From Generator to Refrigerator





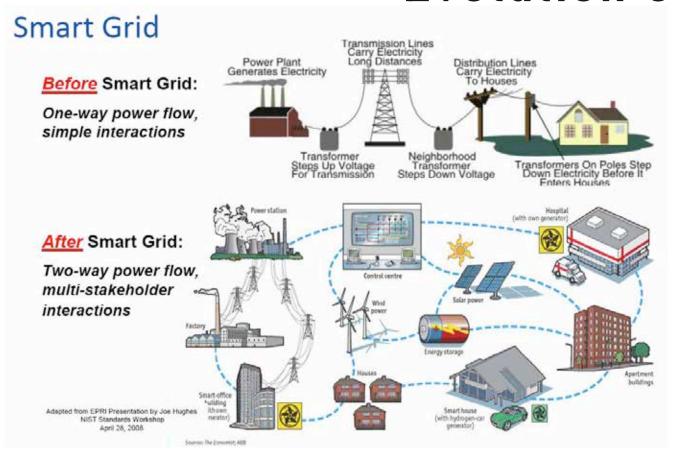
## Smart Grid Building Blocks

© Saifur Rahman 2021

6



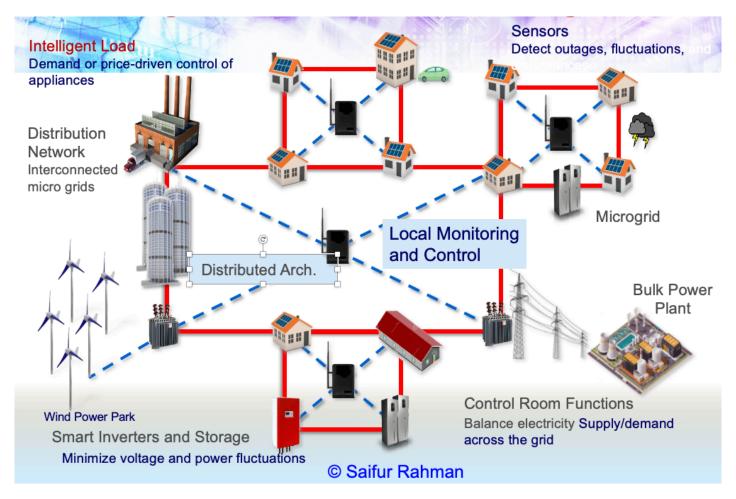
### Evolution of the GRID





#### #WEP2021 CONNECTIVITY

### Intelligent Interconnected Microgrids



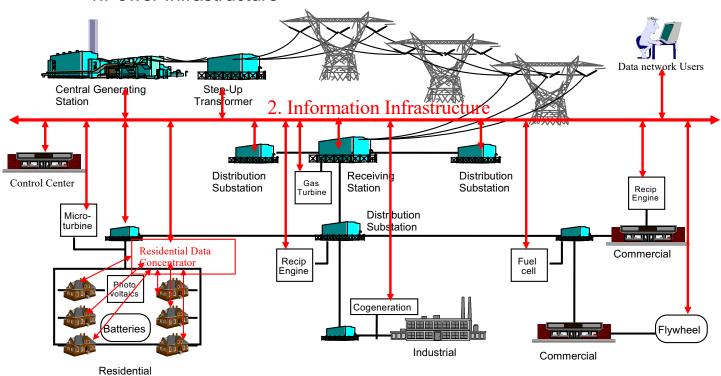


## Merging Power Flow with Information Flow

## Integrated Communications

## **Electric Power & Communication Infrastructures**

#### 1.Power Infrastructure





## Issues in Smart Grid Deployment

- Regulatory
- Business
- Technical
- Security and Privacy



## Regulatory Issues

- Time varying rates
- Who pays the upfront costs
- Who owns the data



## Business Issues

- Return on investment
- Customer acceptance
- Trained manpower



## Security and Privacy Issues

- Data transmission over the public internet
- Data sharing by multiple parties
- Ownership of the data

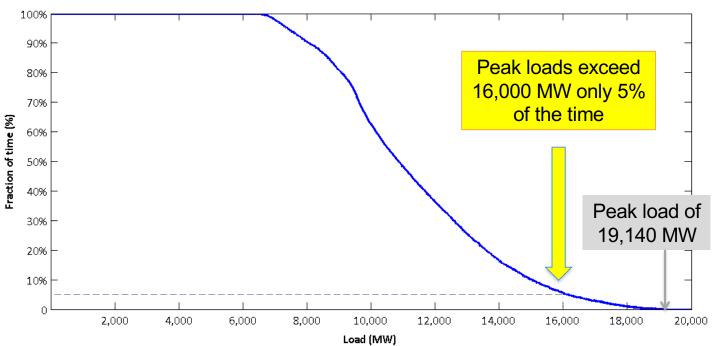


## Technical Issues

- Service monitoring and recovery
- Remote meter reading & billing
- Transformer/Switchgear loading
- Peak load reduction
- Renewables integration
- Demand response application



## Electrical Load Profile in Virginia, USA

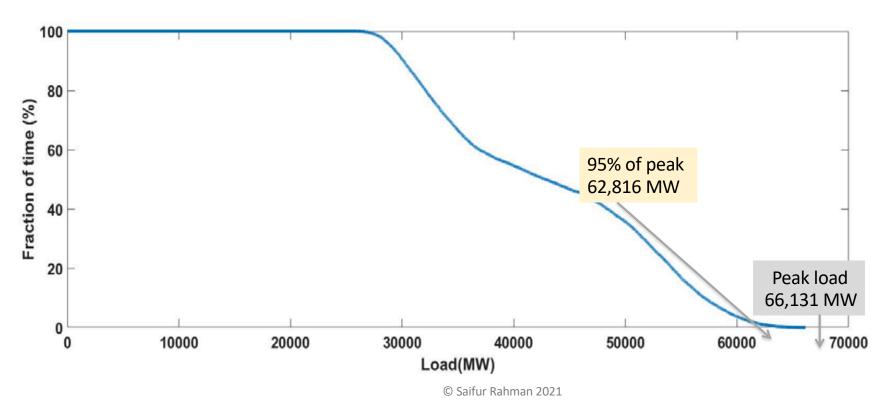


© Saifur Rahman 2021

16



### Electrical Load Profile in KSA in 2016





## Peak Load and its Duration

- In the US highest 20% of the load happens 5% of the time
- In Australia highest 15% of the load happens 1% of the time
- In Egypt highest 15% of the load happens 1% of the time
- In Saudi Arabia highest 5% of the load happens 0.75% of the time



#### #WEP2021 CONNECTIVITY

# Changing Landscape for the Electric Utility









## In-depth Look at Solar PV in KSA



2-MW Roof-top Solar PV plant at KAUST



### Solar PV Panels in Saudi Arabia

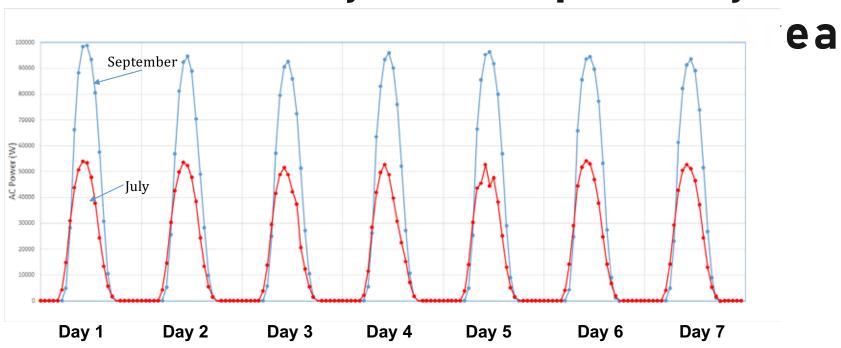




## Reality Check



## Solar PV Array (100kWp) in Riyadh





#### #WEP2021 CONNECTIVITY

# Solar PV Panel Cleaning Cost and Frequency



© Saifur Rahman 2021



## How Can the Smart Grid Help

It helps to integrate intermittent sources of generation into the electric power grid.



Short term load control for a large number of end-use devices through demand response makes it possible to get quick load relief to match fluctuations in generation.



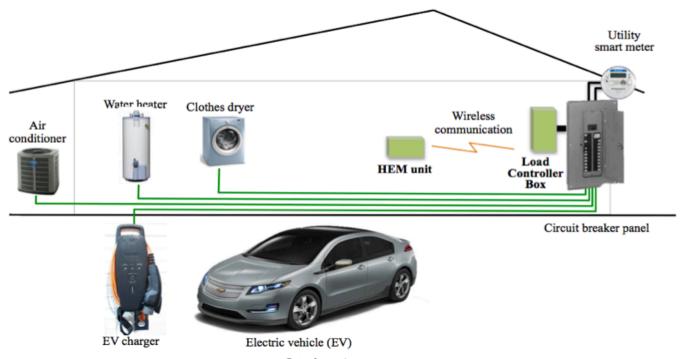
## Demand Response

Demand Response is a customer action to control load to meet a certain target. Here the customer chooses what load to control and for how long.



### **Selective Control of**

### Two compare ntc e) SIEM unit and 2) load controller box





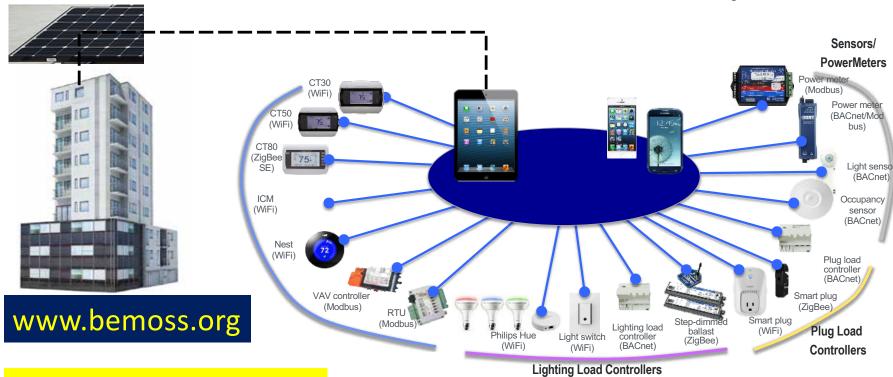
## IoT-based Building Automation Systems

- In KSA the roof-top solar is gaining popularity
- Roof-top solar helps with mitigating peak loads
- Building Automation Systems (BAS) help to maintain comfortable/healthy indoor environment
- Low-cost customizable BAS systems is needed



#### #WEP2021 CONNECTIVITY

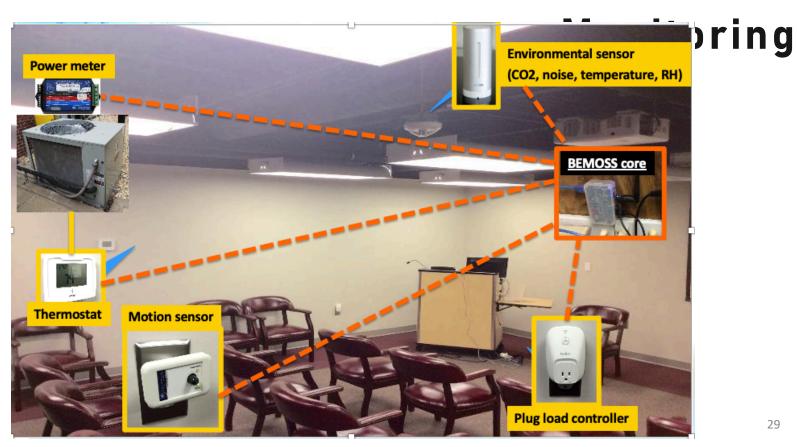
## IoT Device Integration for Building Automation System (BAS)



www.bemcontrols.com

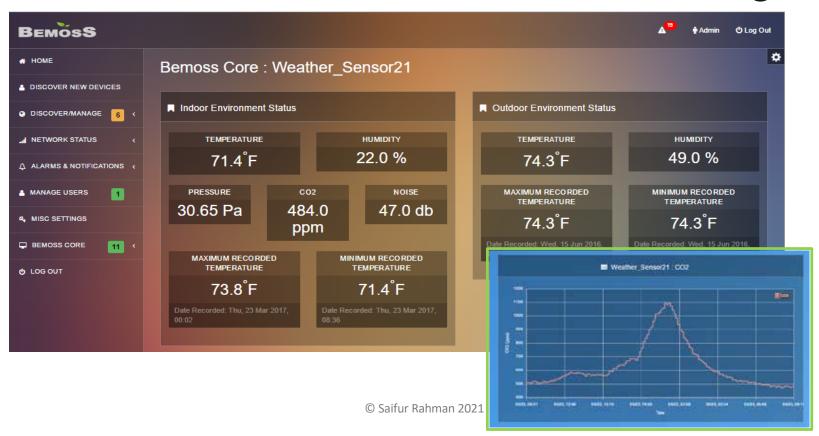


### VT Classroom under Real-time





## Indoor Envrionmental Monitoring





## Energy Savings from Lighting Control

Location: Arlington, Virginia

Area: 5,000 sq ft

#### **Deployed Devices**

3 Lighting controllers

1 Power meter







#### An average energy savings of 35% was achieved through dimming control

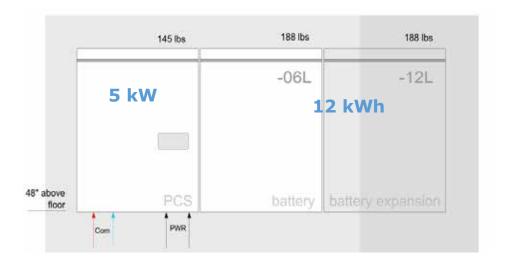
Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	AVERAGE
33.7%	33.9%	34.4%	33.4%	35.9%	36.2%	35.0%	36.0%	36.3%	<b>34.5%</b> 31



#### #WEP2021 CONNECTIVITY

## Managing Battery Storage from a BAS Platform







#### #WEP2021 CONNECTIVITY

## Battery Storage Data Access from a BAS



© Saifur Rahman 2021

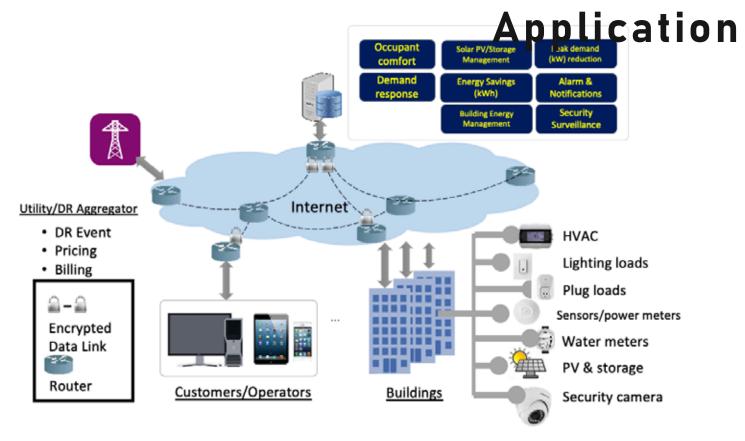


# Roof-top Solar Photovoltaics at Virginia Tech





### BAS for a Campus-wide





## New Paradigm for the Power System

- Historically: Demand driven supply (supply responds to demand)
- New Reality: Supply driven demand

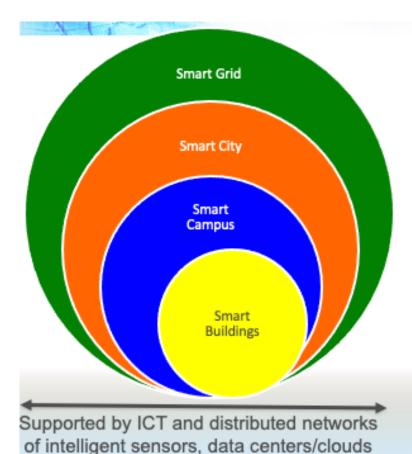
(demand needs to adjust to meet fluctuating supply with help from storage)

THE SMART GRID ECOSYSTEM



#### #WEP2021 CONNECTIVITY

### The Smart Grid



Smart grid: Bi-directional flows of energy, remote control/automation of power, integrated distributed energy...

**Smart city:** Complex system of interconnected infrastructures and services...

**Smart Campus:** A collection of buildings managed by the same facility manager...

Smart buildings: Intelligent building automation systems, smart devices, productive users, grid integration...

