Scenarios for sustainable heat supply and heat savings in municipalities - the case of Helsingør, Denmark

Local climate action is not only a domain of large cities, but also smaller urban areas that increasingly address climate change mitigation in their policy. The Danish municipality of Helsingør can achieve a substantial CO2 emissions reduction by transforming its heat supply and deploying heat savings. In this paper, we model the heating system of Helsingør, assess it from a simple socio- and private-economic perspective, develop future scenarios, and conduct an iterative process to derive a cost-optimal mix between district heating, individual heating and heat savings. The results show that in 2030 it is cost-optimal to reduce the heating demand by 20–39% by implementing heat savings, to deploy 32%–41% of district heating and to reduce heating-related CO2 emissions by up to 95% in comparison to current emissions. In 2050, the cost-optimal share of district heating in Helsingør increases to between 38 and 44%. The resulting average heating costs and CO2 emissions are found to be sensitive to biomass and electricity price. Although the findings of the study are mainly applicable for Helsingør, the combined use of the Least Cost Tool and modelling with energyPRO is useful in planning of heating and/or cooling supply for different demand configurations, geographical region and scale.

General information
State: Accepted/In press
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Systems Analysis
Authors: Ben Amer-Allam, S. (Intern), Münster, M. (Intern), Petrovic, S. (Intern)
Number of pages: 12
Publication date: 17 Jun 2017
Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences

Publication information
Journal: Energy
ISSN (Print): 0360-5442
Ratings:
BFI (2017): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2017): Indexed Yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 5.17 SJR 1.999 SNIP 1.798
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2015): SJR 2.276 SNIP 2.046 CiteScore 5.03
Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes
Municipal activities play an important role in national and global CO2-emission reduction efforts, with Nordic countries at the forefront thanks to their energy planning tradition and high penetration of renewable energy sources. In this work, we present a case study of the Danish municipality of Sønderborg, whose aim is to reach zero net CO2 emissions by 2029. Sønderborg has an official strategic plan towards 2029, which we compared with four alternative scenarios to investigate how the municipality could approach its target in the most energy-efficient and cost-effective way while simultaneously keeping biomass and waste consumption close to the limits of the locally available residual resources. We modelled all sectors of the energy system on the municipal scale, applying a broad range of energy conversion technologies, including advanced biomass conversion technologies and reversible electrolysis. We constructed five scenarios, each representing a different energy mix for Sønderborg’s energy system in 2029. We modelled these scenarios using the mixed-integer linear optimization tool Sifre. We compared the results for the five scenarios using four indicators: annual total system cost, total energy system efficiency, annual net system CO2 emissions and total annual biomass consumption. The results show that scenarios with a high degree of electrification perform better on the selected indicators than scenarios with a lower degree of electrification.
high degree of biomass utilization. Moreover, the incorporation of advanced conversion technologies such as electrolysis, fuel cells and methanol production further reduces both the total system cost and net CO2 of the highly electrified energy system. Our sensitivity analysis demonstrates that scenarios with a low biomass consumption and a high degree of electrification are less dependent on changes in energy prices. We conclude that in order to achieve their CO2 emission goals in the most energy-efficient, cost-effective and sustainable way, municipalities similar to Sønderborg should compare a wide range of energy system configurations, for example, scenarios with a high degree of electrification and a limited biomass use.
Production of cellulosic ethanol (CE) has not yet reached the scale envisaged by the literature and industry. This study explores CE production in Europe to improve understanding of the motivations and barriers associated with this situation. To do this, we conduct a case study-based analysis of CE production plants across Europe from a global value chain (GVC) perspective. We find that most CE production plants in the EU focus largely on intellectual property and are therefore only at the pilot or demonstration scale. Crescentino, the largest CE production facility in Europe, is also more interested in technology licensing than producing ethanol. Demonstration-scale plants tend to have a larger variety of feedstocks, whereas forestry-based plants have more diversity of outputs. As scale increases, the diversity of feedstocks and outputs diminishes, and firms struggle with feedstock provisioning, global petroleum markets and higher financial risks. We argue that, to increase CE production, policies should consider value chains, promote the wider bio-economy of products and focus on economies of scope. Whereas the EU and its member states have ethanol quotas and blending targets, a more effective policy would be to seek to reduce the risks involved in financing capital projects, secure feedstock provisioning and support a diversity of end products.
Value chain structures that define second generation bio-refineries in Europe

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Systems Analysis, DTU Climate Centre, Technical University of Denmark
Authors: Gregg, J. S. (Intern), Bolwig, S. (Intern), Hansen, T. (Ekstern), Solér, O. (Intern), Ben Amer, S. (Intern), Pladevall Viladecans, J. (Ekstern), Coenen, L. (Ekstern), Klitkou, A. (Ekstern), Fevolden, A. (Ekstern)
Number of pages: 2
Pages: 96-97
Publication date: 2016

Host publication information
Title of host publication: EU-SPRI Conference Lund 2016 : Book of abstracts
Chapter: 2D
Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences
Global Value Chain, 2nd generation bio-refinery, Ethanol, Economies of scope

Electronic versions:
Value_chain_structures_that_define_second_generation_bio_refineries_in_Europ_.pdf
Publication: Research - peer-review › Conference abstract in proceedings – Annual report year: 2016

Value chain structures that define second generation bio-refineries in Europe

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Systems Analysis, Technical University of Denmark
Authors: Gregg, J. S. (Intern), Bolwig, S. (Intern), Hansen, T. (Ekstern), Solér, O. (Intern), Ben Amer, S. (Intern), Pladevall Viladecans, J. (Ekstern), Coenen, L. (Ekstern), Klitkou, A. (Ekstern), Fevolden, A. (Ekstern)
Number of pages: 19
Publication date: 2016

Publication information
Original language: English
Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences
Electronic versions:
NoRest.pdf
Publication: Research › Sound/Visual production (digital) – Annual report year: 2016

What is a city?

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Systems Analysis, DTU Climate Centre, Centre for IT-Intelligent Energy Systems in Cities
Authors: Ben Amer, S. (Intern)
Number of pages: 1
Publication date: 2016
Energy system modelling of Nordhavnen, the sustainable urban district of Copenhagen

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Systems Analysis, DTU Climate Centre
Authors: Ben Amer, S. (Intern)
Publication date: 2015
Event: Poster session presented at DTU Sustain Conference 2015, Lyngby, Denmark.
Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences
Electronic versions:
Poster_SaraBenAmerFIN.pdf
Source: PublicationPreSubmission
Source-ID: 125246910
Publication: Research - peer-review › Poster – Annual report year: 2015

Sustainable district of Nordhavnen – energy system modelling

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Systems Analysis, DTU Climate Centre
Authors: Ben Amer, S. (Intern), Ravn, H. (Ekstern)
Number of pages: 1
Publication date: 2015
Event: Poster session presented at DTU Sustain Conference 2015, Lyngby, Denmark.
Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences
Electronic versions:
L13_DTU_Sustain_2015.pdf
Source: PublicationPreSubmission
Source-ID: 125246910
Publication: Research - peer-review › Poster – Annual report year: 2015

A Value Chain Analysis of Nordic Cellulosic Ethanol Production

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Systems Analysis, DTU Climate Centre, Energy Systems Analysis, Lund University
Authors: Bolwig, S. (Intern), Gregg, J. S. (Intern), Klitkou, A. (Ekstern), Wessberg, N. (Ekstern), Hansen, T. (Ekstern), Ben Amer, S. (Intern), Coenen, L. (Ekstern)
Number of pages: 1
Publication date: 2014
Event: Poster session presented at International Bioenergy Conference, Manchester, United Kingdom.
Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences
Electronic versions:
A_Value_Chain_Analysis_of_Nordic_Cellulosic_Ethanol.pdf
Scenario modelling as a tool for planning sustainable urban energy systems

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Systems Analysis, DTU Climate Centre, Energy Systems Analysis
Authors: Ben Amer, S. (Intern)
Number of pages: 19
Publication date: 2014
Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences
Urban energy systems, Sustainable energy planning, Scenario modelling, Quantitative models
Electronic versions:
Sara_Ben_Amer_Paper_for_Urban_Futures_Conference_2014.pdf
Source: PublicationPreSubmission
Source-ID: 101181905
Publication: Research - peer-review › Paper – Annual report year: 2014

Definition of Smart Energy City and State of the art of 6 Transform cities using Key Performance Indicators: Deliverable 1.2

This report summarises the work undertaken under the EU-FP7 TRANSFORM project for Work Package 1 (part 1): Becoming a Smart Energy City, state of the Art and Ambition. Part 1 starts with a clear outline of each of the participating cities. The work describes the context in terms of climate, energy assets, ambitions, targets and main possibilities in terms of energy efficiency, flows and energy production. After this first step, the work focuses on the description of what a smart energy city is (this report), what the main Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are that should be met and how this relates to where the current cities and the living labs are. It describes at the same time the current status of city planning, energy planning tools, and existing energy data. The outline should also include information on energy production, energy flows and energy efficiency, where possible. The work will draw largely on existing Strategic Energy Action Plans, Climate Action Plans and planning documents.

This report establishes a definition of smart cities develops Key Elements, Key Performance Indicators and reports on the state of the art regarding the KPIs for the 6 Transform cities. As specified in the Transform proposal, the objective of the evaluation is to identify previous and existing initiatives as a sort of stocktaking on the way to establishing a smart city transformation pathway for each of the participating cities in the Transform project. The definition of a smart energy city and the key performance indicators will be used throughout Transform the guide the work.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Systems Analysis, DTU Climate Centre, Energy Systems Analysis
Authors: Nielsen, P. S. (Intern), Ben Amer, S. (Intern), Halsnæs, K. (Intern)
Number of pages: 23
Publication date: 2013

Publication information
Original language: English
Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences
Electronic versions:
Definition_of_smart_city_D1.2_FINAL.pdf

Bibliographical note
EU-FP7 TRANSFORM project
Source: dtu
Source-ID: u::9645
Publication: Research › Report – Annual report year: 2013

Projects:

Fostering the use of renewable energies for heating and cooling
The progRESsHEAT project aims at assisting local, regional, national and EU political leaders in developing policy and strategies to ensure a quick and efficient deployment of renewables in heating and cooling networks. The project’s aim is
in line with the objectives of the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive that require Member States to develop ambitious policies as regards the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in heating and cooling networks. progRESSHEAT is intended to support the market uptake of existing and emerging renewable electricity, heating and cooling technologies. More specifically, the project helps policy makers develop integrated, effective and efficient policy strategies aimed at achieving a fast and strong penetration of renewable and efficient heating and cooling systems. This includes the analysis of cross-sectoral effects between renewables and energy efficiency measures in industrial heat and cold, waste heat, heating and cooling in buildings and district heating. Together with six local authorities in six target countries across Europe (Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Denmark, Portugal, Romania), heating and cooling strategies will be developed through a profound analysis of (1) heating and cooling demand and future developments, (2) long-term potential of renewable energies and waste heat in the regions, (3) barriers & drivers and (4) a model-based assessment of policy intervention in scenarios up to 2050. The established local energy advisory tool EnergyPRO will be used for the local studies and further developed to appropriately reflect district heating and cooling. The final versions for the investigated regions will be handed over to the authorities. In the target countries, progRESSHEAT will support the implementation of national heating and cooling plans which have to be released by member states by the end of 2015. The plans will include a policy outlook on how the potentials identified by the comprehensive assessment will be achieved. progGRESSHEAT will assist national policy makers in implementing suitable policies with a model-based quantitative impact assessment of local, regional and national policies up to 2050. Policy makers and other stakeholders are strongly considered in the process. They will be offered the opportunity to learn from the experience of other players and gain deep understanding of the impact of policy instruments and their specific design. They are involved in the project via policy group meetings, workshops, interviews and webinars dedicated to policy development assistance, capacity-building and dissemination. The project is supported by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union.

Department of Management Engineering

Systems Analysis

Vienna University of Technology

Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI

Institute for Resource Efficiency and Energy Strategies - IREES GmbH

OÖ Energiesparverband

ee energy engineers GmbH

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Instituto de Engenharia Mecanica e Gestao Industrial - INEGI

Agentia Pentru Management ul Energiei si Protectia Mediului Brasov - ABMEE

City of Litomerice

Energy Cities, the European association of local authorities in energy transition

Period: 01/03/2015 → 01/10/2017

Number of participants: 6

Acronym: progRESSHEAT

Project participant:

Karlsson, Kenneth Bernard (Intern)

Münster, Marie (Intern)

Petrovic, Stefan (Intern)

Kitzing, Lena (Intern)

Ben Amer-Allam, Sara (Intern)

Salvucci, Raffaele (Intern)

Relations

Related projects:

Geographical representations of renewable energy Systems

Strategic research centre for 4th Generation district heating technologies and systems

Urban energy transitions and quality of life

Department of Management Engineering

Period: 01/12/2013 → 30/11/2017

Number of participants: 3
Phd Student:  
Ben Amer-Allam, Sara (Intern)  
Supervisor:  
Gregg, Jay Sterling (Intern)  
Main Supervisor:  
Nielsen, Per Sieverts (Intern)  

Financing sources  
Source: Internal funding (public)  
Name of research programme: Institut stipendie (DTU)  
Project: PhD  

Activities:  

Modelling tools for energy planning and energy system integration  
Period: 2 Nov 2016  
Sara Ben Amer-Allam (Invited speaker)  
Department of Management Engineering  
Systems Analysis  
DTU Climate Centre  

Related event  
EERA JP Energy Integration  
02/11/2016 → 04/11/2016  
Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark  
Activity: Talks and presentations › Conference presentations  

Modelling of low-carbon district heating: lessons learnt from a Danish and a Czech case  
Period: 28 Sep 2016  
Sara Ben Amer-Allam (Speaker)  
Department of Management Engineering  
Systems Analysis  
DTU Climate Centre  

Related event  
2nd International Conference on Smart Energy Systems and 4th Generation District Heating  
27/09/2016 → 28/09/2016  
Aalborg, Denmark  
Activity: Talks and presentations › Conference presentations  

Energy modelling with energyPRO - results and lessons learnt from progRESs HEAT project  
Period: 13 Sep 2016  
Sara Ben Amer-Allam (Invited speaker)  
Department of Management Engineering  
Systems Analysis  
DTU Climate Centre  

Related event  
Energy Cities' District heating fact-finding mission to Denmark  
13/09/2016 → …  
Frederiksberg, Denmark  
Activity: Talks and presentations › Conference presentations
Scenarios for sustainable heat supply in cities - case of Helsingør, Denmark
Period: 7 Sep 2016
Sara Ben Amer-Allam (Speaker)
Department of Management Engineering
Systems Analysis
DTU Climate Centre

Related event
11th Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems
04/09/2016 → 09/09/2016
Lisbon, Portugal
Activity: Talks and presentations › Conference presentations

A comparison of tools for energy planning
Period: 24 May 2016 → 25 May 2016
Sara Ben Amer-Allam (Invited speaker)
Department of Management Engineering
Systems Analysis
DTU Climate Centre
Centre for IT-Intelligent Energy Systems in Cities

Description
Speaker and panel member
Links:

Related event
3rd General Consortium Meeting of the CITIES project
24/05/2016 → 25/05/2016
Lyngby, Denmark
Activity: Talks and presentations › Conference presentations

Progressive heating and cooling: progRESsHEAT project in Helsingør, Denmark
Period: 10 Nov 2015
Sara Ben Amer-Allam (Speaker)
Department of Management Engineering
Systems Analysis
DTU Climate Centre

Related event
The role of Nordic municipalities and regions in the green transition : Energy festival
10/11/2015 → …
Copenhagen, Denmark
Activity: Talks and presentations › Conference presentations

Modelling scenarios for sustainable urban energy systems
Period: 23 Feb 2015
Sara Ben Amer-Allam (Speaker)
Department of Management Engineering
Systems Analysis
DTU Climate Centre
Centre for IT-Intelligent Energy Systems in Cities

Related event

Smart Sustainable Cities Seminar at NTNU
23/02/2015 → 24/02/2015
Trondheim, Norway
Activity: Talks and presentations › Conference presentations

Groningen Energy Summer School 2014
Period: 19 Aug 2014 → 29 Aug 2014
Sara Ben Amer-Allam (Participant)
Department of Management Engineering
Systems Analysis
DTU Climate Centre

Description
University of Groningen Energy Summer School 2014

Related event

Groningen Energy Summer School 2014
18/08/2014 → 29/08/2014
Groningen, Netherlands
Activity: Attending an event › Participating in or organising workshops, courses, seminars etc.

Association of European Schools of Planning PhD Workshop 2014
Period: 5 Jul 2014 → 8 Jul 2014
Sara Ben Amer-Allam (Participant)
Department of Management Engineering
Systems Analysis
DTU Climate Centre
Energy Systems Analysis

Related event

Association of European Schools of Planning PhD Workshop 2014
05/07/2014 → 08/07/2014
Delft, Netherlands
Activity: Attending an event › Participating in or organising workshops, courses, seminars etc.