


**Smart Energy Systems**  
- a holistic and integrated approach to 100 % renewable energy

Brian Vad Mathiesen  
bvm@plan.aau.dk


KEYNOTE AT THE 8TH CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF  
ENERGY, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SYSTEMS – SDEWES

DUBROVNIK, SEP/24 2013

**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PLANNING RESEARCH GROUP**  
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING




AALBORG UNIVERSITY  
DENMARK



## Agenda

- The challenges of the current energy systems
- What are smart energy systems?
- A case study bringing Smart energy systems to life



The electric system

- Fuel 173
- Power plant: 140
- Electric boiler: 40
- Electricity: 30
- Heat: 40
- Transport (30): 33

The traditional system

- Fuel 133
- Power plant: 60
- Fuel boiler: 40
- Electricity: 30
- Heat: 40
- Transport (30): 33

### What are the challenges?

- We want to decrease the use of fossil fuels but:
  - The current system is extremely flexible...
  - We cannot replace these with biomass only...
  - We need to use intermittent renewable resources!

3

The electric system with 25% wind

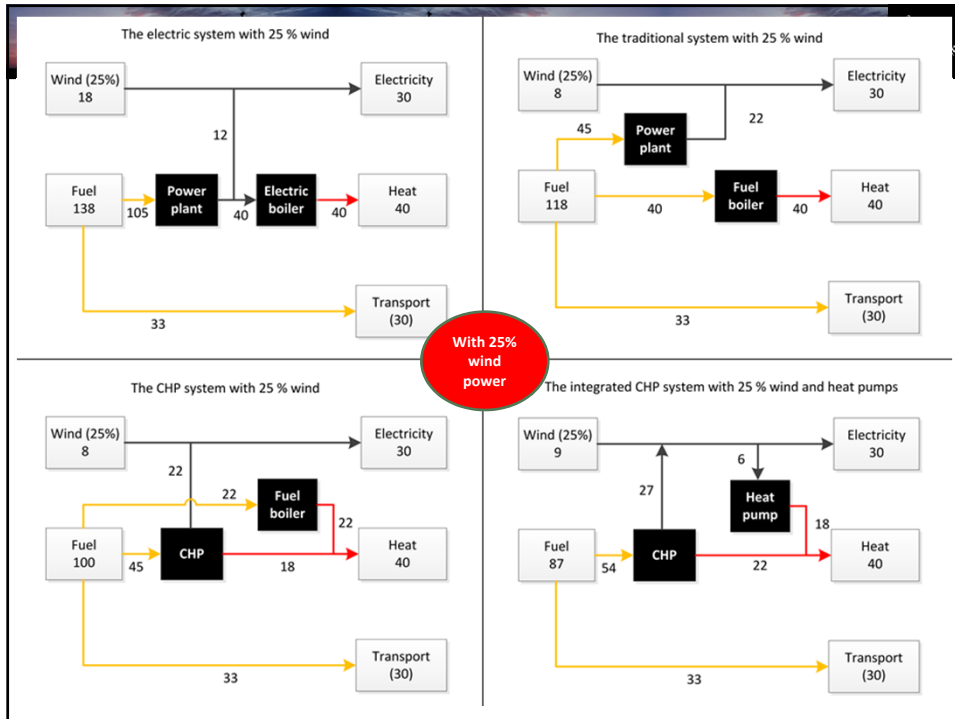
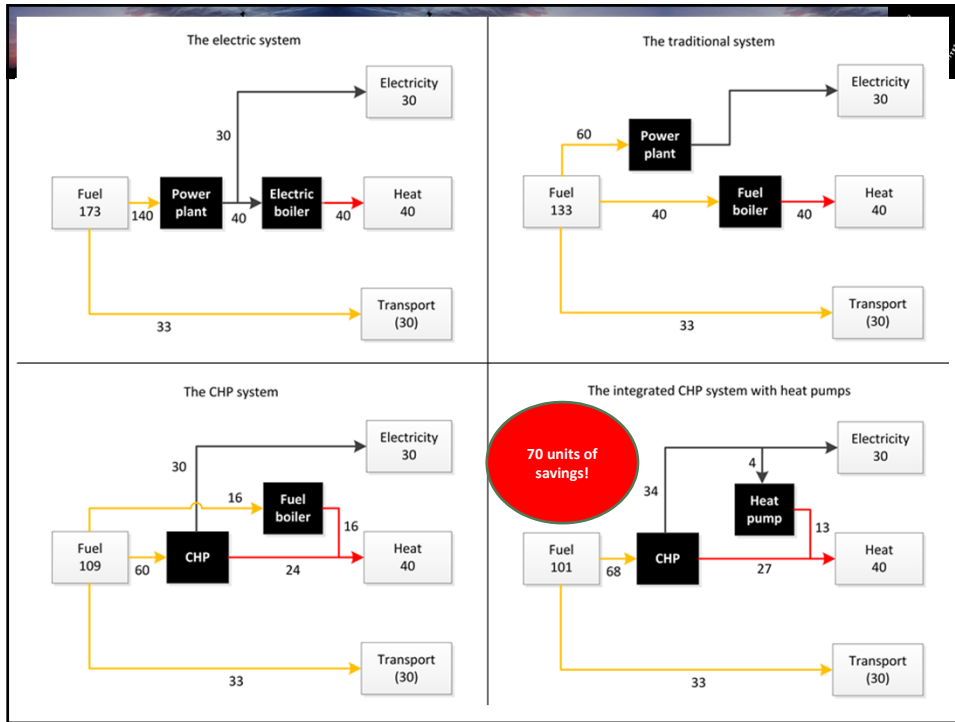
- Wind (25%): 18
- Power plant: 105
- Electric boiler: 40
- Electricity: 30
- Heat: 40
- Transport (30): 33

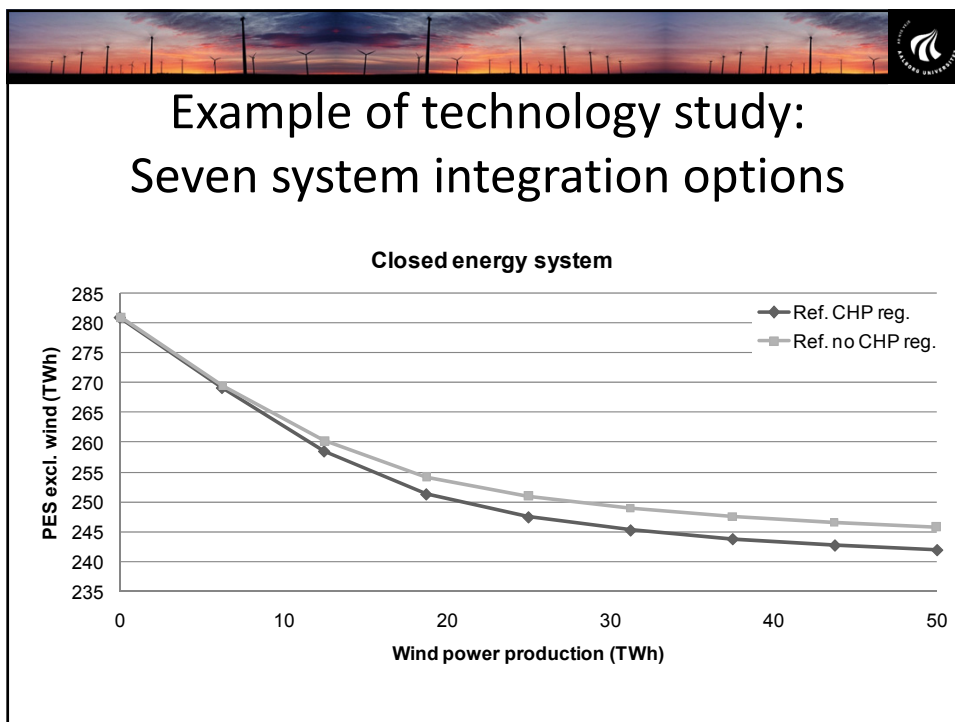
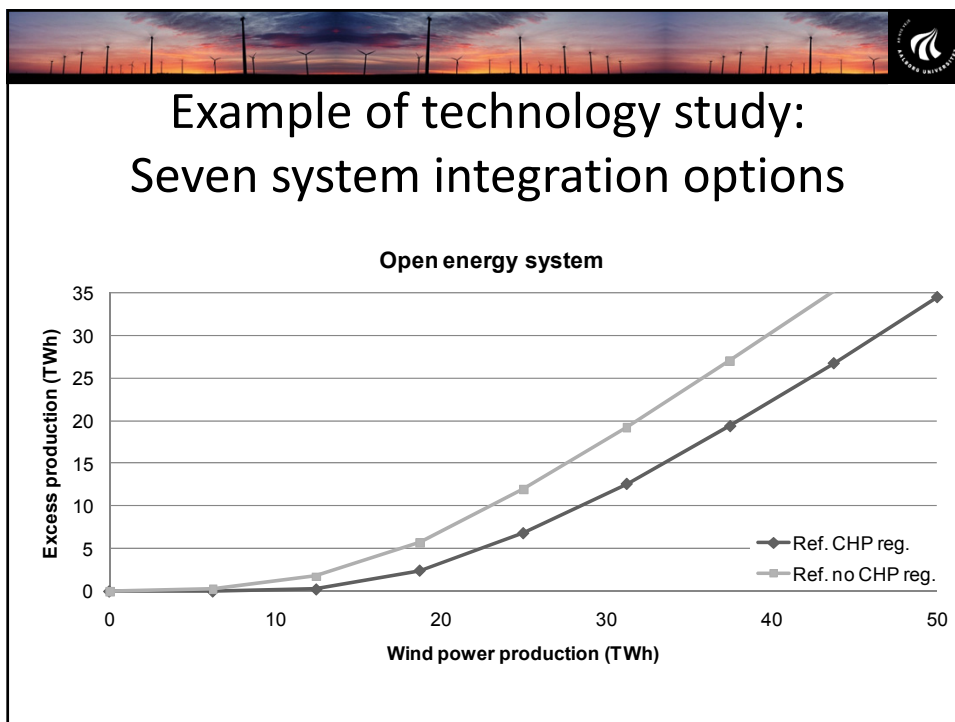
The traditional system with 25% wind

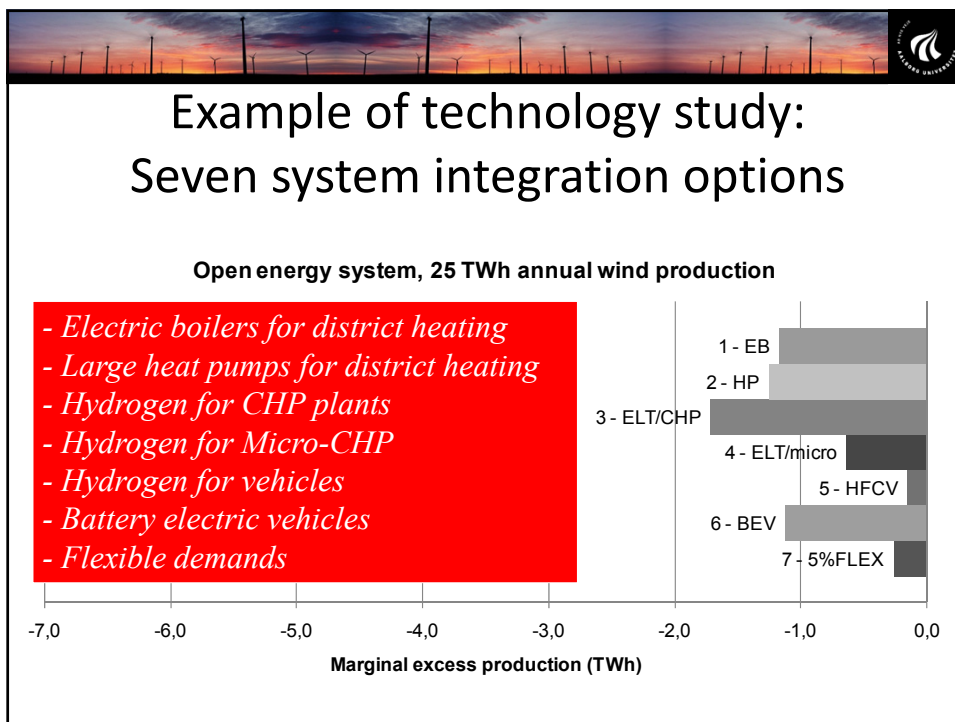
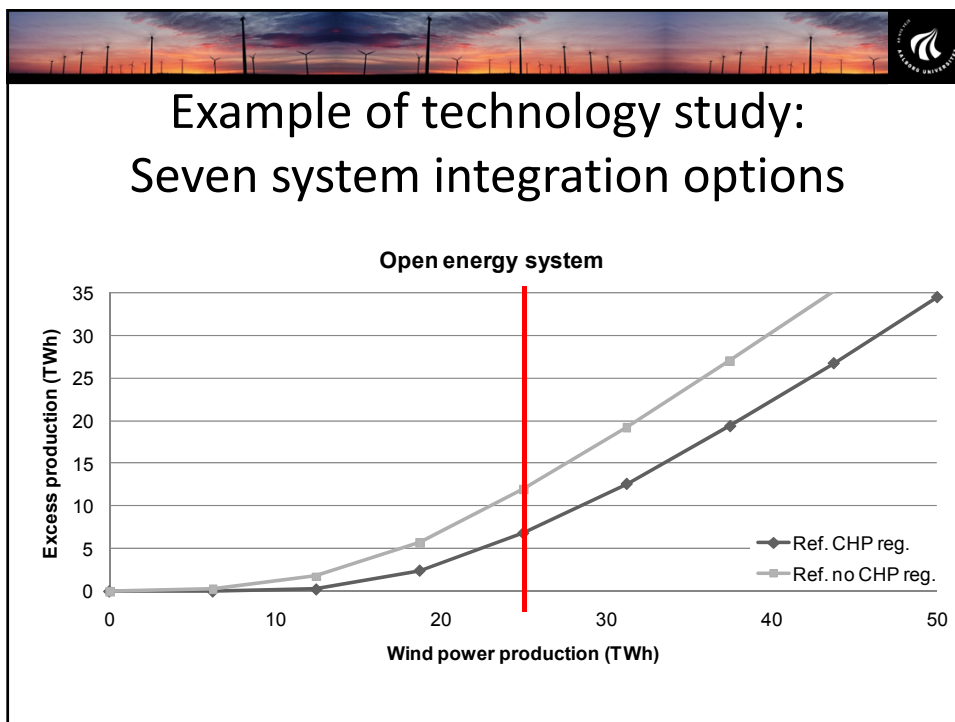
- Wind (25%): 8
- Power plant: 45
- Fuel boiler: 40
- Electricity: 30
- Heat: 40
- Transport (30): 33

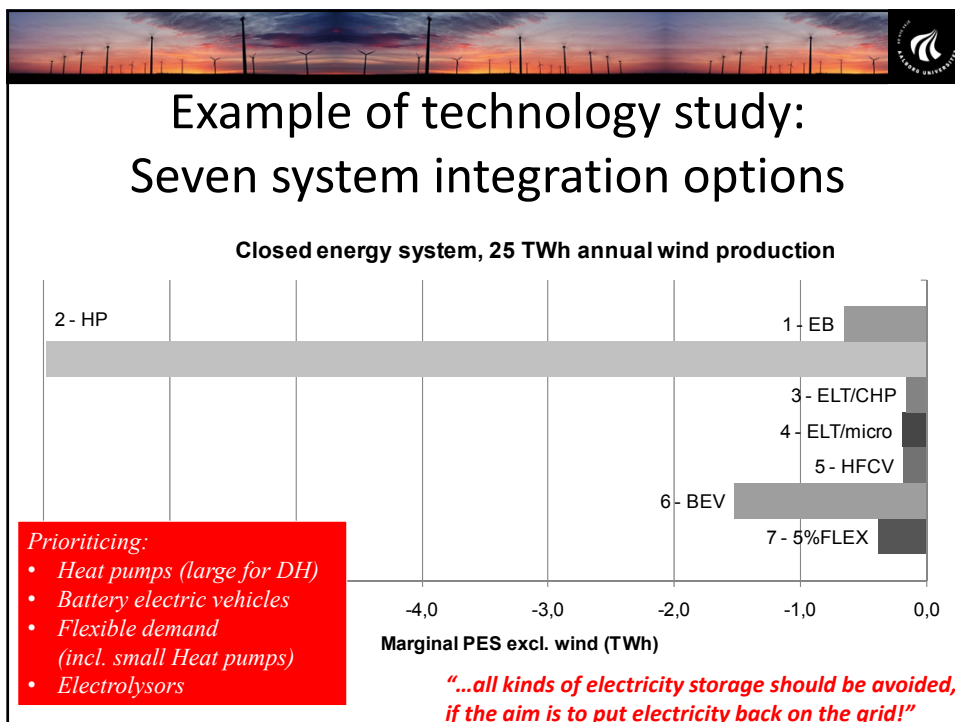
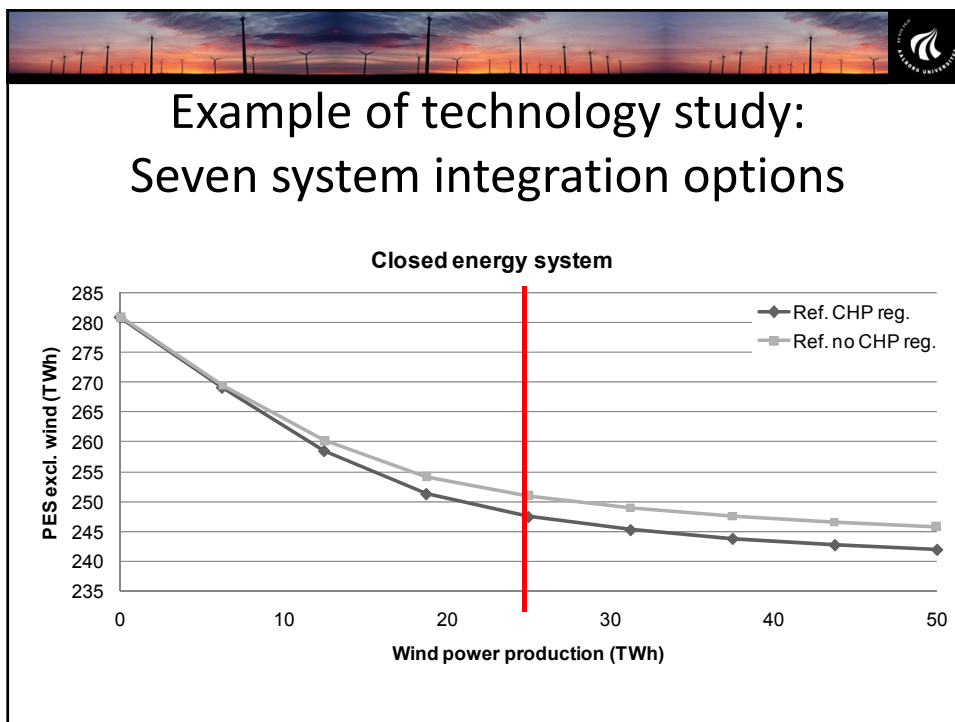
### What are the challenges?

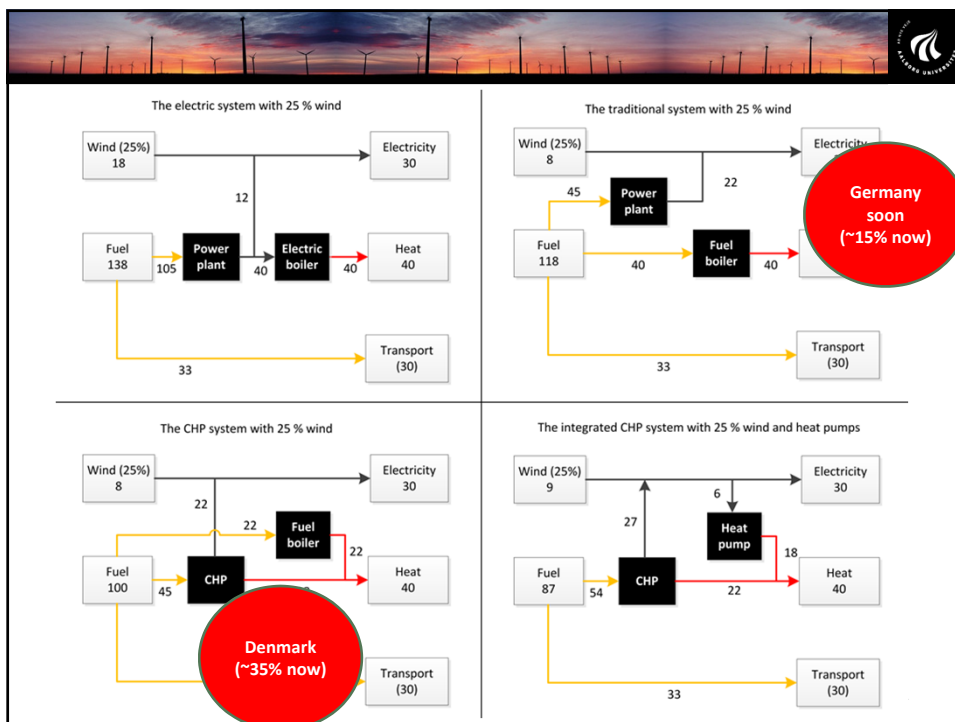
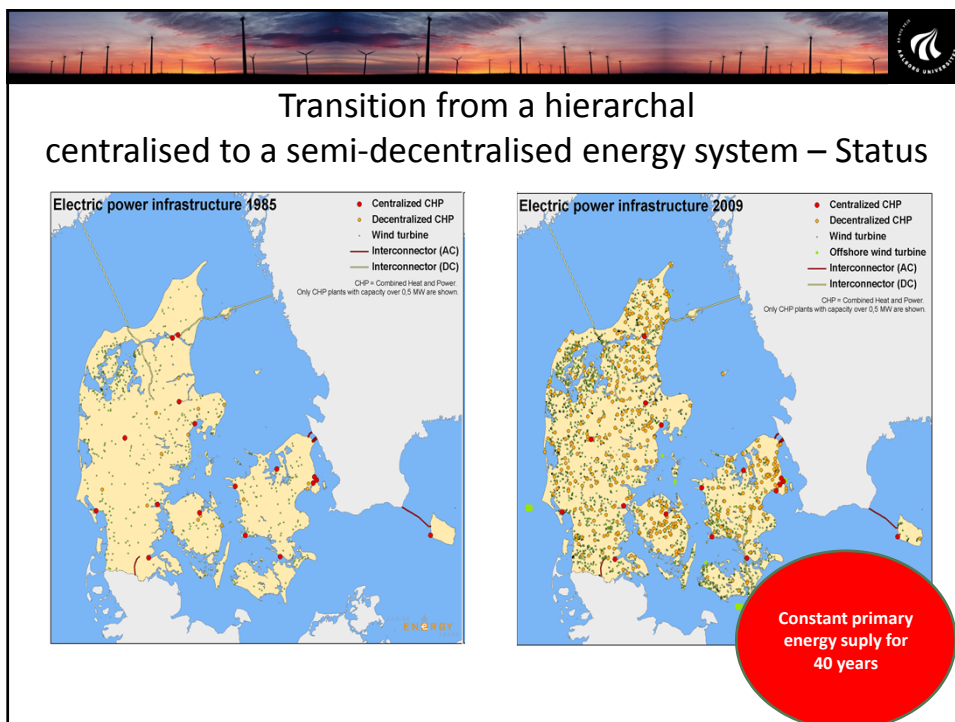
- We can increase wind power but..
  - There is a limit with the current energy system design
  - ....There is a need for a new system design
- .... But lets just go back to basics
















Example of a scenario study:  
Heating technologies and renewable energy

## Heat Plan Denmark


2008: Technical and economic analyses  
2010: Implementation and Public Regulation



- How should we heat the houses in Denmark ??
  - What to do in a **short-term** perspective in which we want to decrease CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions and energy consumptions.
  - And what to do in a **long-term** perspective in which we want to convert to a 100% Renewable Energy System.

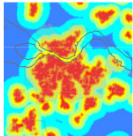



Example of a scenario study:  
Heating technologies and renewable energy



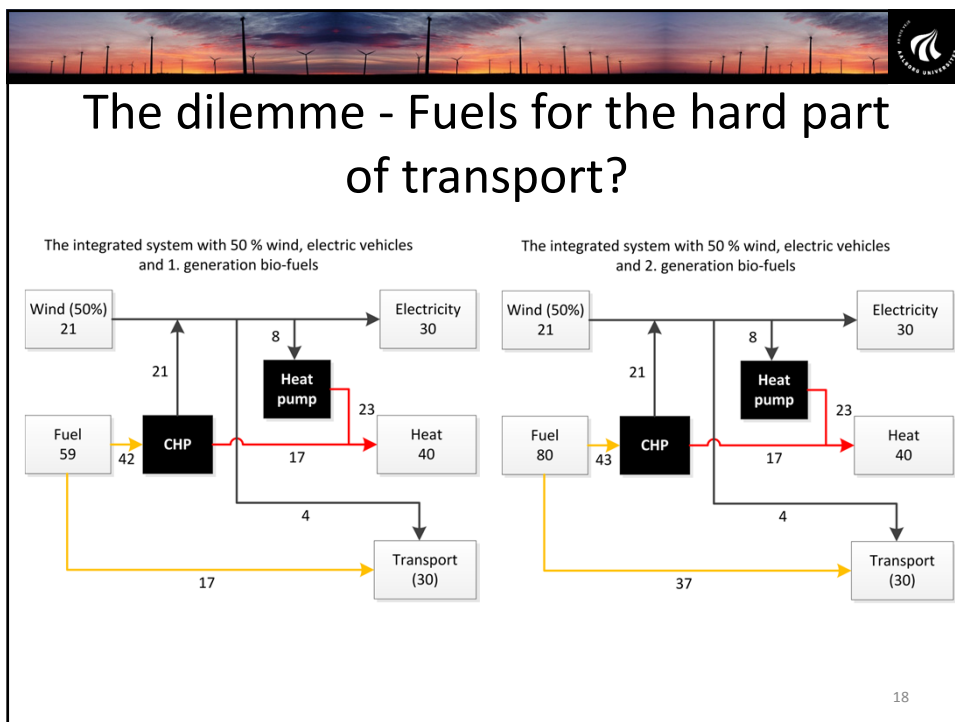
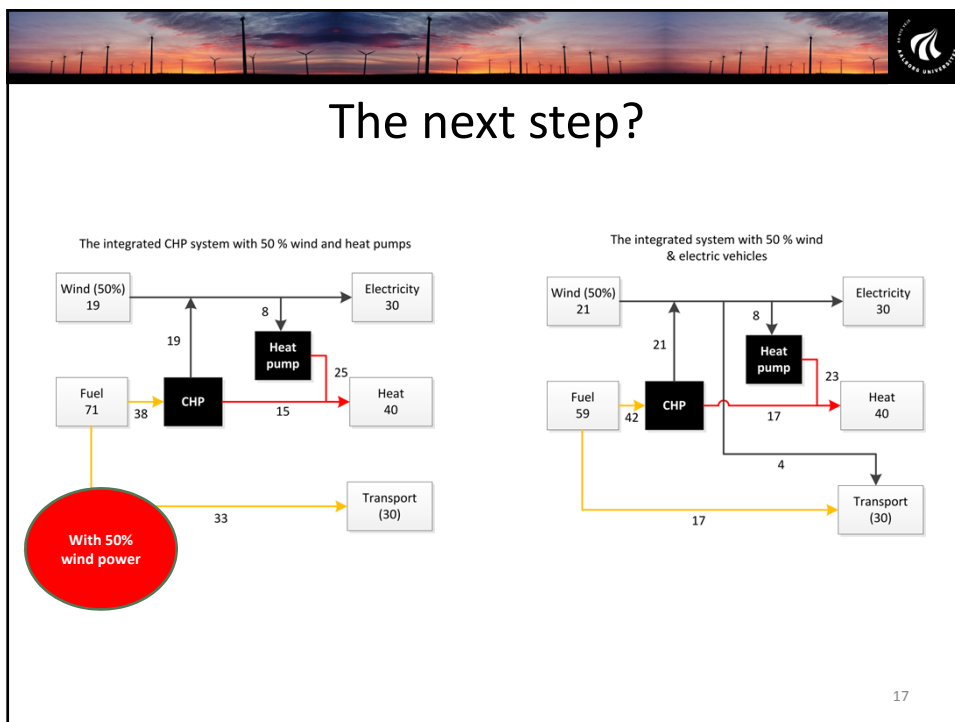
The reasonable solutions seems to be to combine:

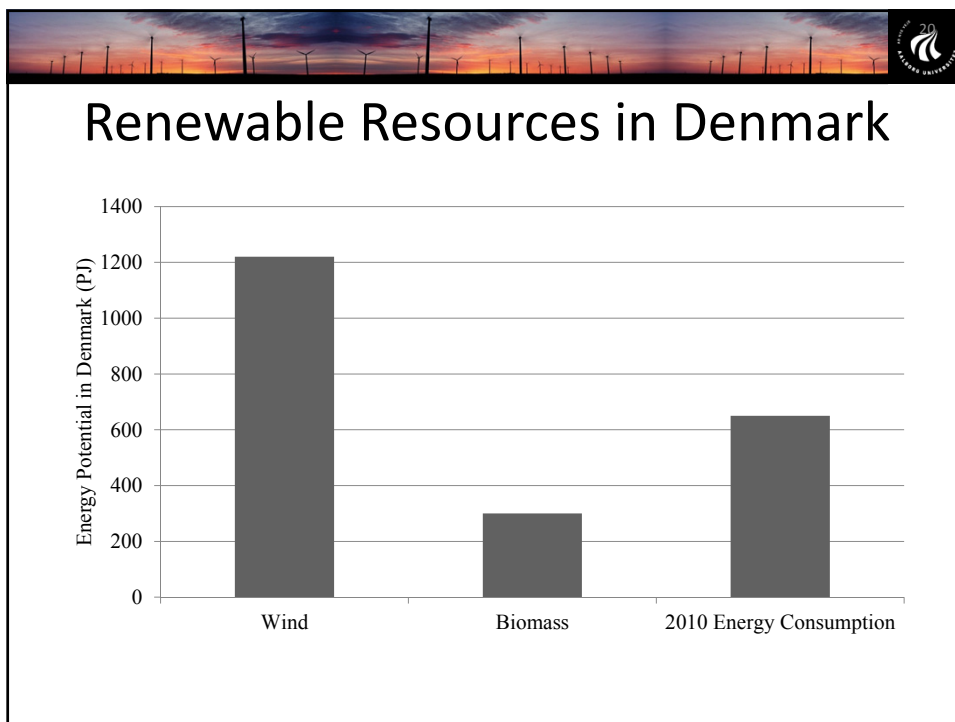
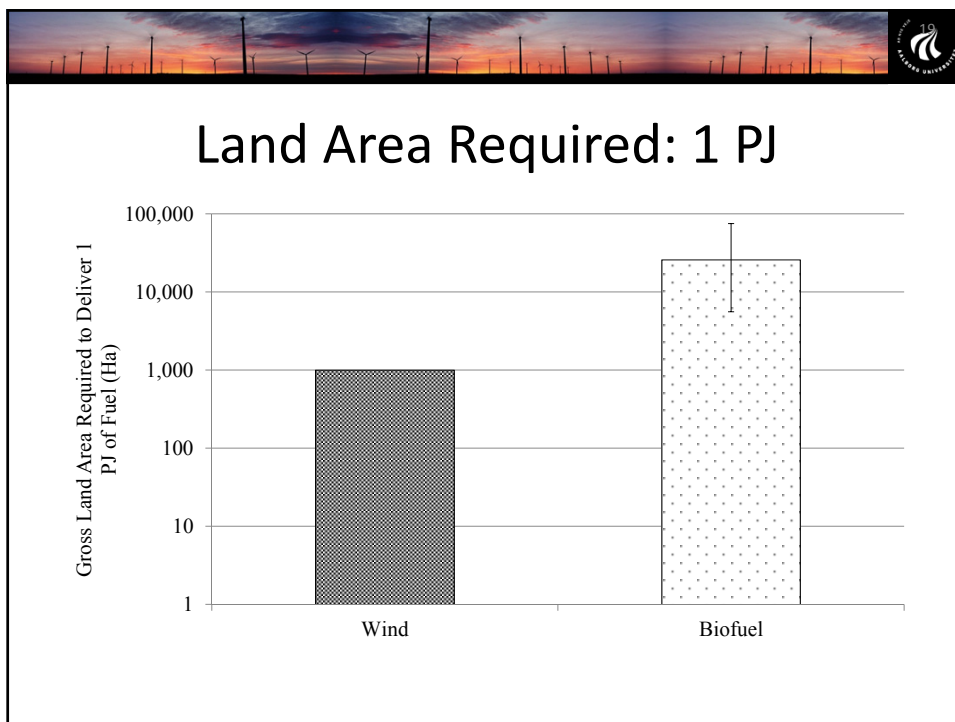
- Gradually increasing District Heating from now 46% to somewhere in between 63% and 70%
- Individual Heat Pumps in the rest of the buildings
- Focus on synergies with regards to increasing the efficiencies of district heating networks (essential)
- District heating can integrate more renewable energy sources
  - And no micro-CHP; especially not in combination with hydrogen...

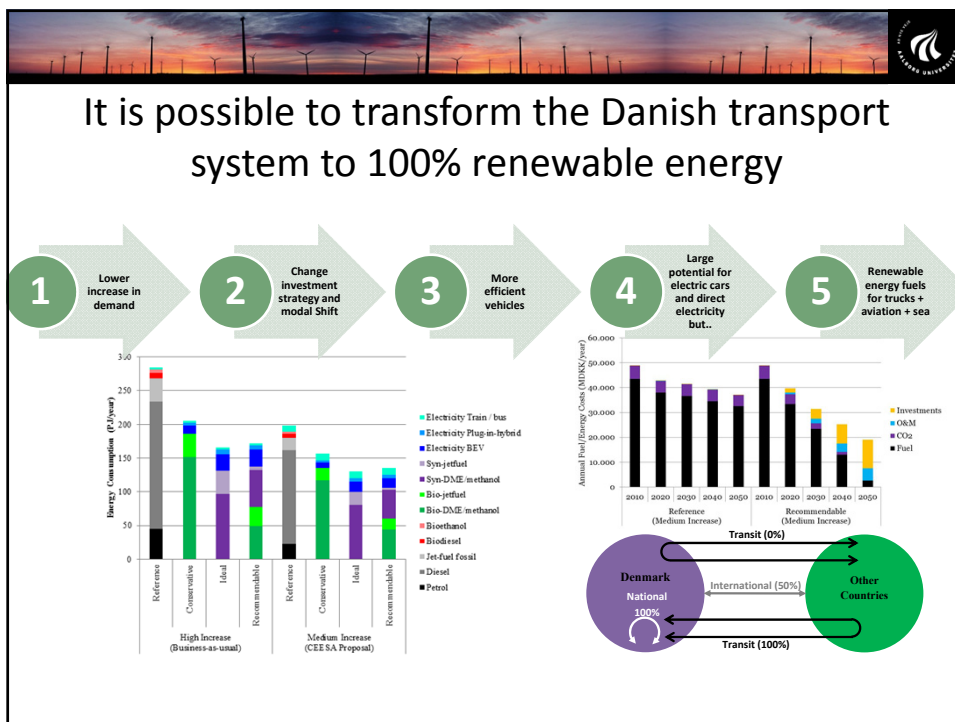
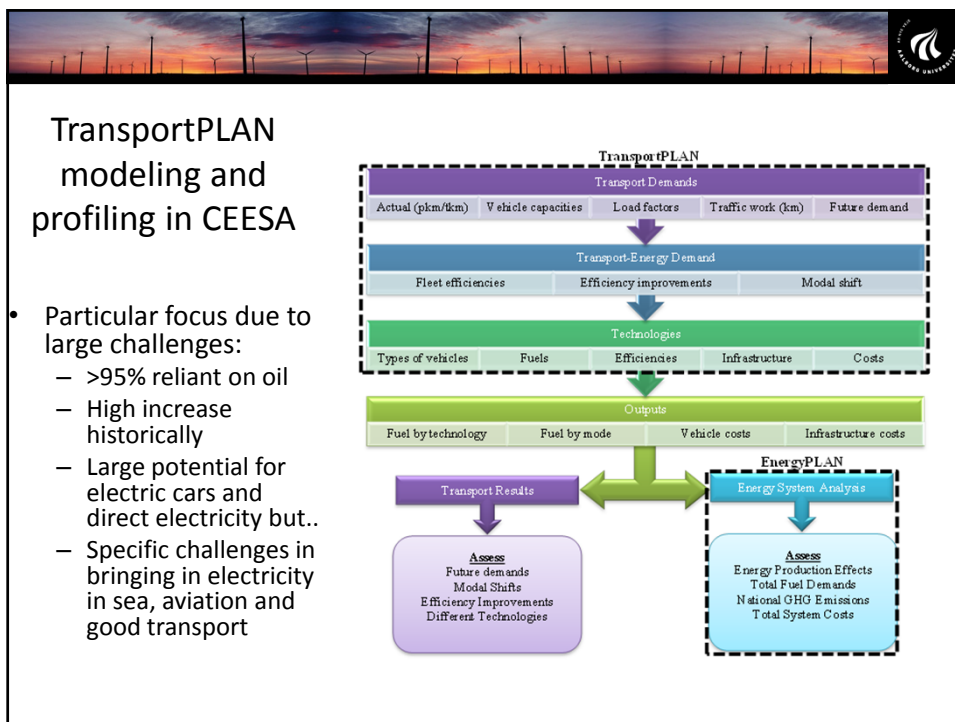




*“...the integration of the electricity sector and the heating sector should be done with CHP plants and large heat pumps with heat storages in district heating systems where possible”*





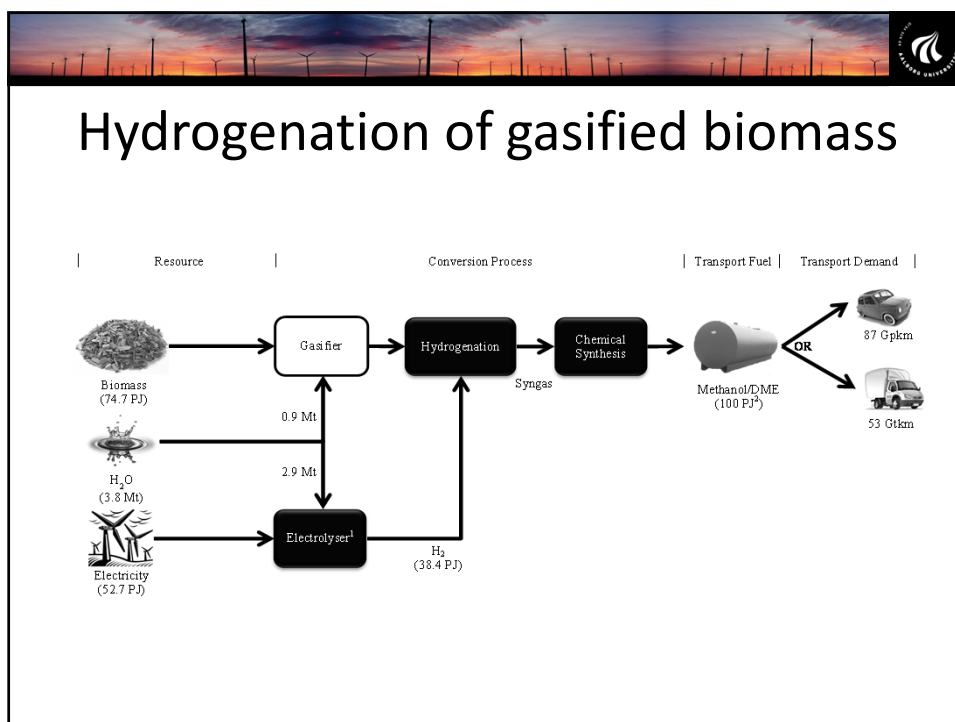


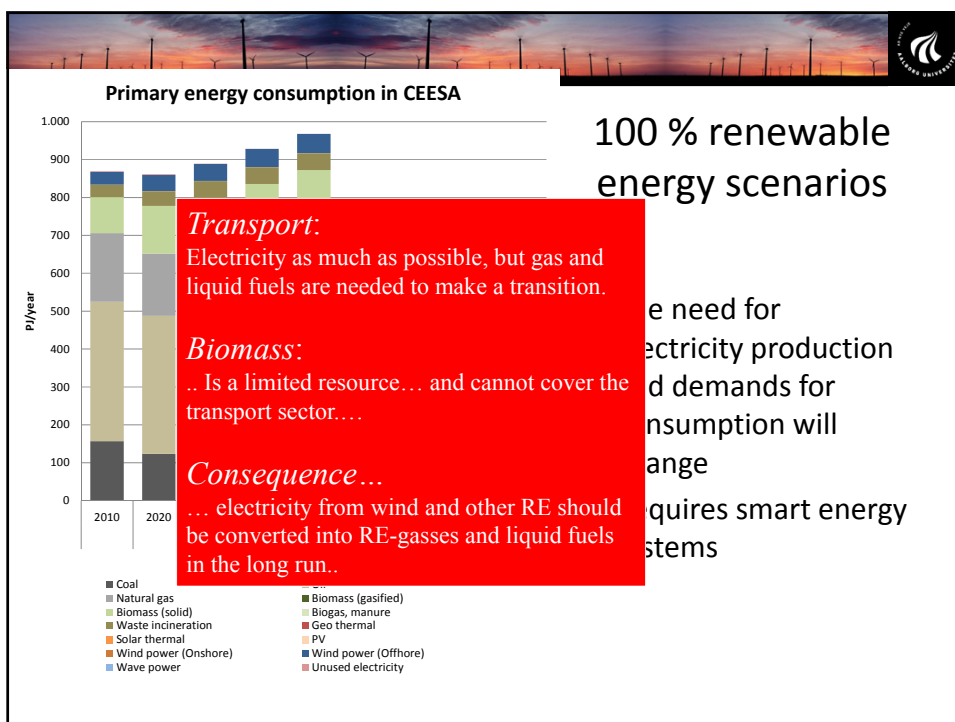
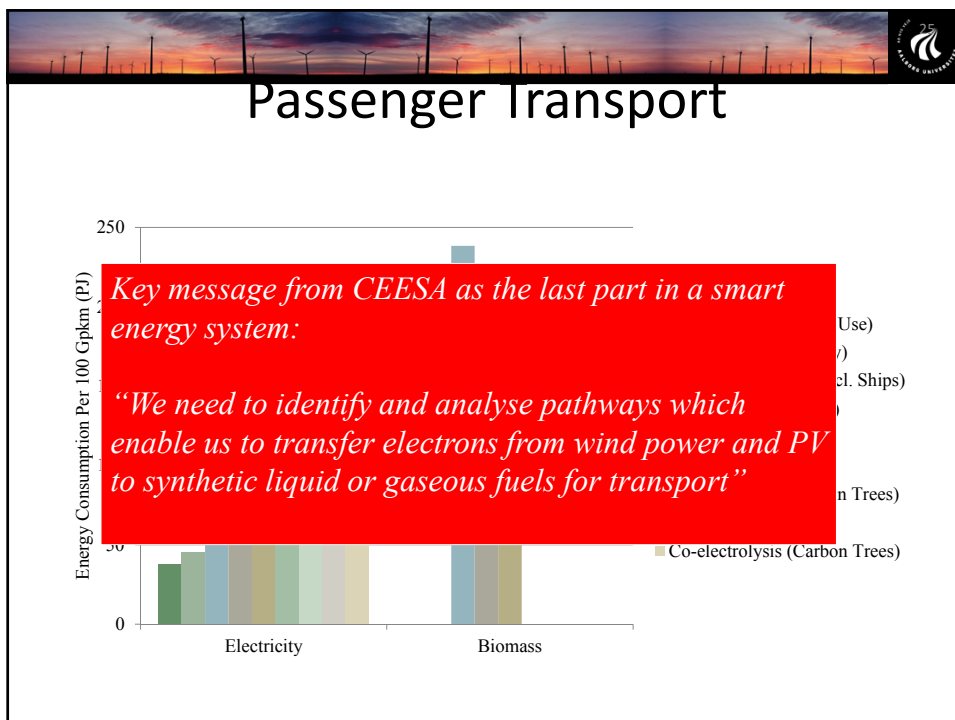


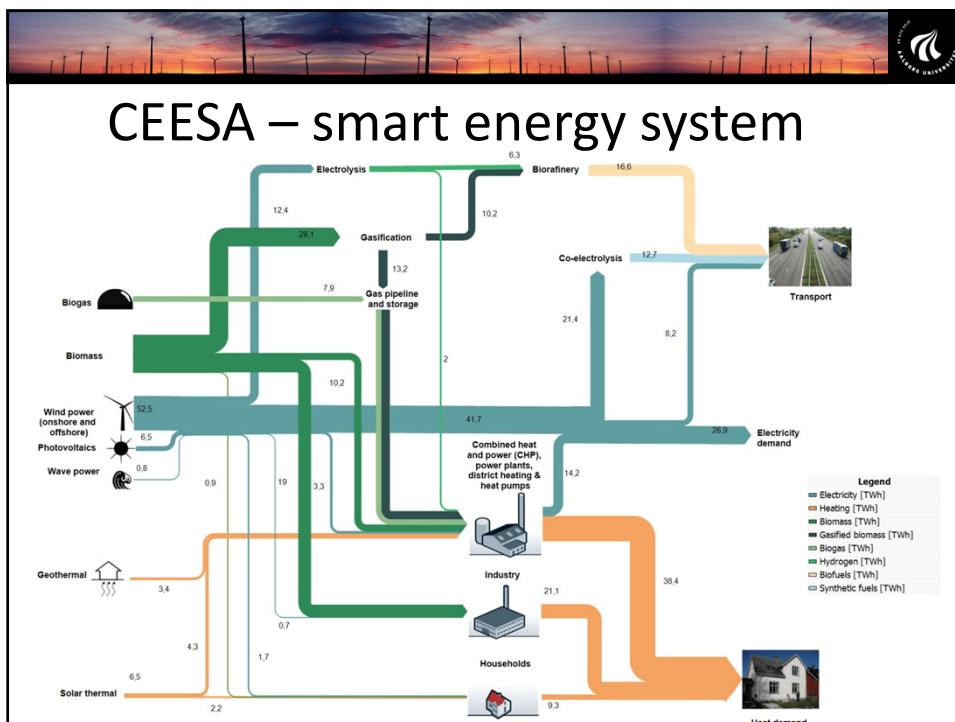
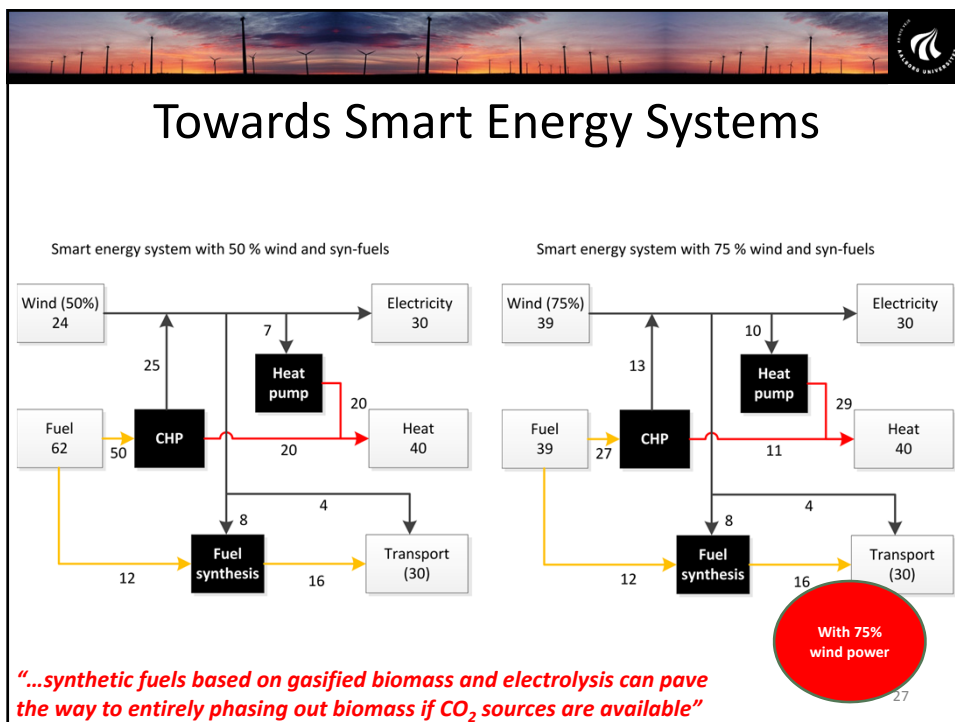



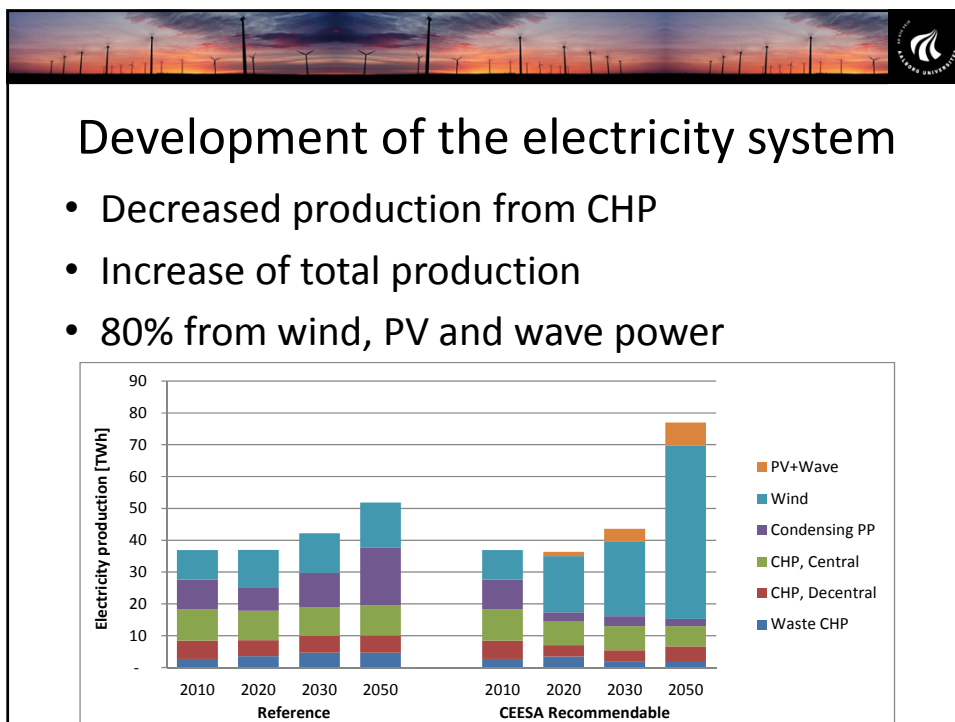
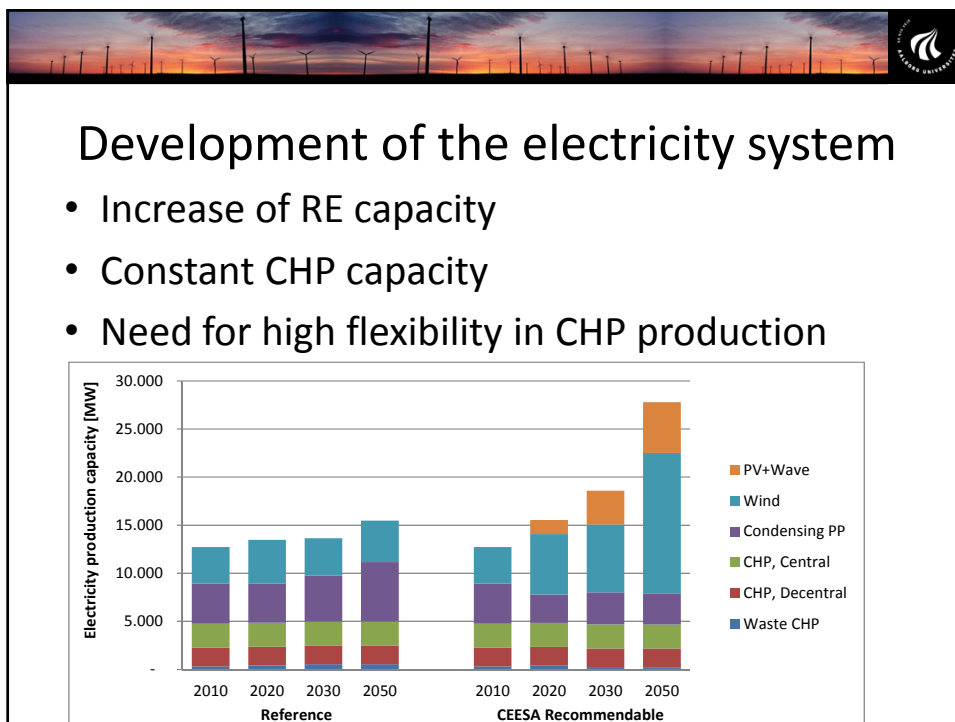
## Creating Liquid Fuels for Transport

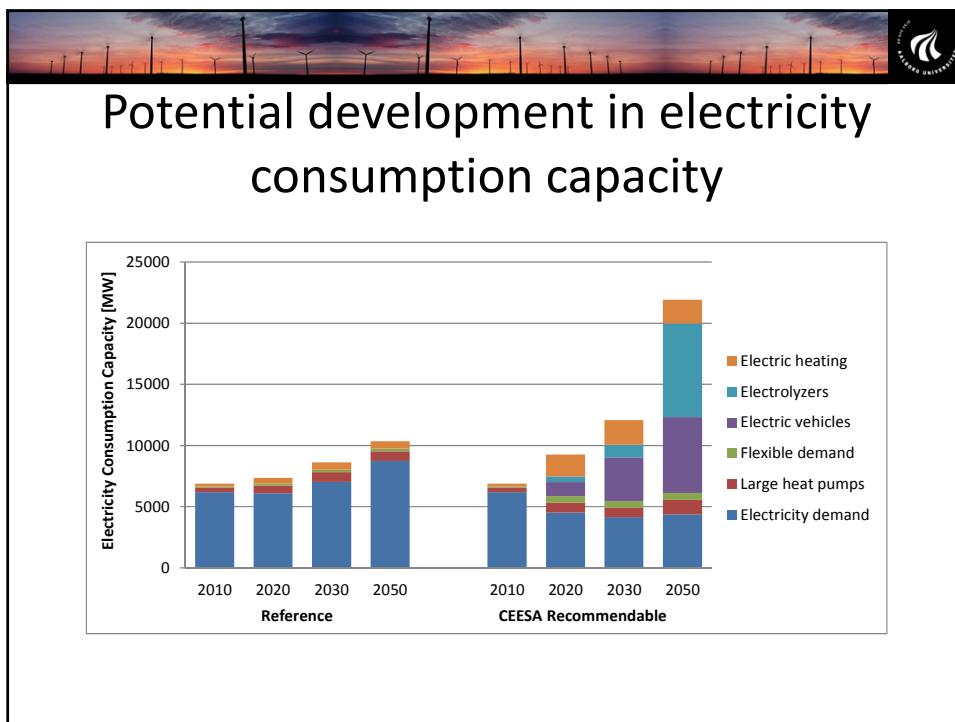
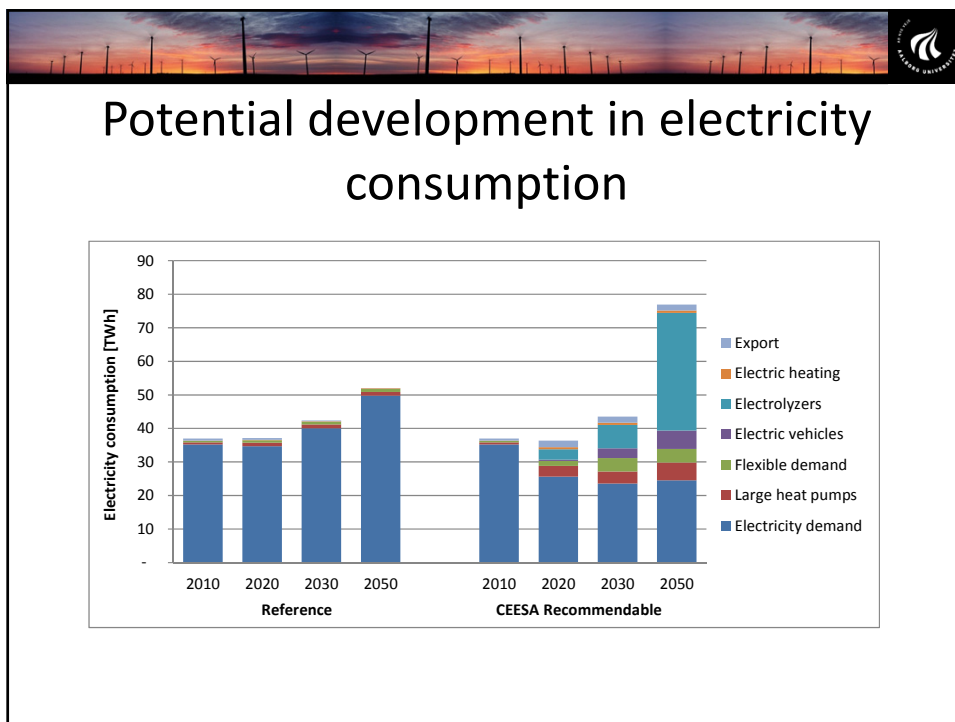
- 4 Principal Options:
  1. Fermentation (and hydrogenation of residues)
  2. Gasification of biomass and hydrogenation
  3. Steam electrolyses and CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation (No biomass)
  4. Combined steam and CO<sub>2</sub> electrolysis (No biomass)
- These pathways were assessed to quantify how much biomass and electricity are required to supply the same transport demand using these pathways


















## The need for flexibility on the production side





- **Larger gas turbines**
  - 10% of full load pr. min
  - Good part-load efficiencies
  - Best efficiencies in base load
  - Quick start-up
  - From Natural gas to biogas and gasified biomass
  - Low investment costs
  - Fuel cells may eventually perform better.
- **New demands for wind turbines**
  - Can be used in the regulation power markets
  - +5MW/min/200MW or 2,5% incr./min of full load





## What can we do on the demand side?

- **Smart Electricity Grids** and infrastructure
  - Connects to storage with flexible electricity demands such as heat pumps and electric vehicles to the intermittent renewable resources such as wind and solar power.
- **Smart Thermal Grids** - District Heating and Cooling infrastructure
  - connects electricity & heating sectors.
  - Enables thermal storage and other heat sources in the energy system to be used.
- **Smart Gas Grids** and infrastructures
  - Connects the electricity, heating, and transport sectors. This enables gas storage to be utilised for creating additional flexibility. (Liquid fuel storages can also be utilised)

## District heating production capacities

- Traditional thermal capacities will be reduced to half
- Several new capacities to supplement these
- Electric efficiencies of CHP will increase which causes lower heat production capacities at the CHP plants

## District heating production capacities

CHP areas:

- Central

DH Production (TWh)



- Solar thermal
- Large heat pump
- Electric heating
- Excess heat
- Geothermal
- Waste
- Fuel boiler
- CHP

- Local





DH Production (TWh)

- Solar thermal
- Large heat pump
- Electric heating
- Excess heat
- Geothermal
- Waste
- Fuel boiler
- CHP


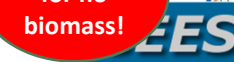
Large scale integration of intermittent resources require integration:

- Regulation of CHP and heat storage (implemented in DK in 2004): Makes possible to integrate 20-25% Wind Power (and 50% CHP)
- Adding large heat pumps and heat storage capacity to existing CHP plants: Makes possible to integrate 40% Wind Power (and 50% CHP)
- Electricity for transportation (integrate approx. 60% wind power)
- Important to involve the new flexible technologies in the grid stabilisation task







...and also

- ***“...all kinds of electricity storage should be avoided, if the aim is to put electricity back on the grid!”***
- ***“...transport demands should be meet by electricity and where direct electricity cannot be used, synthetic fuels using renewable energy should be used due to the limitations in the biomass resources.”***
- ***“...synthetic fuels based on gasified biomass and electrolysis can pave the way to entirely phasing out biomass if CO<sub>2</sub> sources are available”***

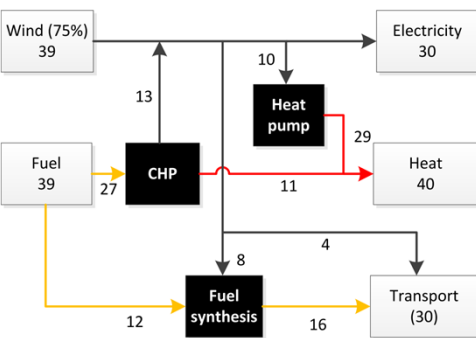
Potential for no biomass!




## What are the challenges?

- We want to decrease the use of fossil fuels but:
  - The current system is extremely flexible...*
  - We cannot replace these with biomass only...*
  - We need to use intermittent renewable resources!*

Smart energy system with 75 % wind and syn-fuels




39



## Solution

### Smart energy systems are crucial in 100% renewable energy systems

- Smart Electricity Grids** to connect flexible electricity demands such as heat pumps and electric vehicles to the intermittent renewable resources such as wind and solar power.
- Smart Thermal Grids** (District Heating and Cooling) to connect the electricity and heating sectors. This enables thermal storage to be utilised for creating additional flexibility and heat losses in the energy system to be recycled.
- Smart Gas Grids** to connect the electricity, heating, and transport sectors. This enables gas storage to be utilised for creating additional flexibility. If the gas is refined to a liquid fuel, then liquid fuel storages can also be utilised.





Thank you for attention

Brian Vad Mathiesen  
bvm@plan.aau.dk

<http://people.plan.aau.dk/~bvm/>

**Remember –  
3 EnergyPLAN  
Special sessions  
today and  
tomorrow**



AALBORG UNIVERSITY  
DENMARK