

Challenges of Integrating Renewables in Small Grids

Brian Miller, PE Strategic Team Lead, Microgrids Brian.Miller@NREL.gov

This work was authored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, operated by Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Federal Energy Management Program. The views expressed in the presentation do not necessarily represent the views of the DOE or the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the presentation for publication, acknowledges that the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, worldwide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this work, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.

Overview

- 1. Renewable power variability, prospecting, & forecasting
- 2. System engineering: technical challenges



Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas

COMMUNITY ENERGY STORIES

HOME MAP DATA RESOURCES AREA Interactive Map Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas Legends Q ▷ Global ▲ Alaska ▲ Reference ▲ Infrastructure Operating REF Projects ▲ Generation and Transmission AEDI Transmission Lines Electric Service Areas Power House Generators ▲ Non-Renewable Infrastructure Natural Gas Plants Petroleum Plants ■ TAPS Pipeline ■ Boundary AK Energy Development Regions WREZ Hubs » Admin ▲ Tribal Alaska Native Regional Corporations Alaska Native Areas ▶ Land Ownership ▲ Environment Areas of Critical Environmental Concern ✓ National Parks EPA Contaminated Lands PM 2.5 (2006 Standard) ▲ Resource ■ Biomass ▶ Crop Residue ▶ Biomethane



Variable Renewable Resource Data

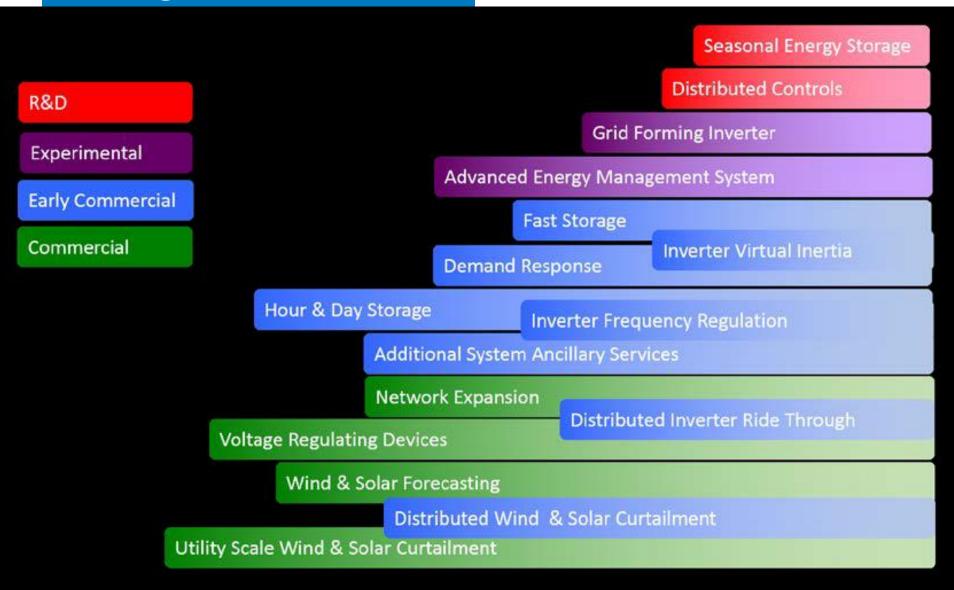
- Resource variability
 - Seasonal variation → annual energy production
 - Capacity factor → overbuilding
 - Managing real-time variability
 - » Over frequency curtailment (Tokelau)
 - » Under frequency load shedding (Maui)
 - » Energy storage
- Heat load following vs electrical load following
 - Diesel cogeneration; biomass; geothermal
- Underdeveloped hydro; small pumped storage (El-Hierro)

Variable Renewable Resource Data



Underdeveloped hydro; small pumped storage (El-Hierro)

Renewable Integration Mitigation Measures



Technical Challenges and Solutions

- Grid forming inverters
 - Energy storage
- Wind generators: controls for synthetic inertia
- Black start
 - Close-couple energy storage with diesel plant
- Protection schemes
 - Short circuit studies
 - Fault clearing (El-Hierro)
- Autonomous Energy Grids
 - Self-Reconfiguring Power Systems

