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# RED WoLF: Combining a Battery and Thermal Energy Reservoirs as a Hybrid Storage System

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## Abstract

Energy consumption of households is not evenly distributed. To satisfy peak demand, additional CO<sub>2</sub> intensive generators are turned on when demand peaks. To avoid peak demand from dwellings, the RED WoLF (Rethink Electricity Distribution Without Load Following) hybrid storage system is proposed, consisting of batteries, storage heaters and a water cylinder. This aims at avoiding the use of these peak generators and integrating a higher share of renewables on the Power Grid. This system is planned to be tested in 100 houses distributed in 6 pilot sites in Great Britain, Ireland and France, which are currently undergoing construction or refurbishment. This study presents the theoretical model of the controlling algorithm, which enables the uptake of Grid electricity only when CO<sub>2</sub> intensity is below a dynamically computed threshold. The algorithm is tested in computer simulations over the four seasons with varying size of batteries and photovoltaic arrays. Results show how RED WoLF algorithm satisfies households demands while, at the same time, successfully avoiding domestic peak demand, with a significant drop of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This is achieved by both increasing photovoltaic self-consumption and uptake of low carbon Grid energy. For example, with a 7 kWh battery and a 4 kW photovoltaic array, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions drop by 30% to almost 100%, depending on the season, relative to the same house without the RED WoLF system. The system has the potential to shift residential demand from peak power/peak times to low value electricity at a time of low demand.

**Keywords:** Energy Storage, Photovoltaic, Artificial Intelligence, Peak Shifting, Grid Integration

## 1. Introduction

Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is a worldwide challenge and a major goal of European Union policy. This is reflected by many indicators, not least the high number of European research programs and funded projects aimed at Greenhouse gas reduction. Decarbonization of the built environment, one of the most CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive sectors of the global economy, is a key step towards a low-carbon Europe (European Climate Foundation, ECF) and is mentioned in the Europe 2020 strategy (Europe 2020 Strategy). Increasing the share of renewables in the production and consumption mix is another a major objective of the EU (European Union) policy, as evidenced by innovation funding programs (Cooperation Programme).

A major contribution to decarbonizing the built environment can be made by supplying dwellings with green energy. According to the UK (United Kingdom) Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the domestic sector was responsible in 2017 for the consumption of 40.1 million tonnes of oil-equivalent. This amounts to ~27% of total national consumption (Department for Business, energy & Industrial Strategy, 2017), a

BEIS	Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
EU	European Union
HSS	Hybrid Storage System
NWE	North West Europe
PV	Photovoltaic
RED WoLF	Rethink Electricity Distribution Without Load Following
SHs	Storage heaters
The Grid	Electric Grid
UK	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

List of Acronyms

percentage that increases if buildings other than dwellings are considered.

A number of strategies are currently considered at the industrial, academic and public authority level, to decarbonize energy supply to dwellings. This manuscript focuses on homes powered only by electricity. A model is proposed in which batteries and thermal storage are combined with behind-the-meter PV systems. Carbon reduction is achieved through maximization of local photovoltaic (PV) consumption and, more importantly, by means of storing electricity from the Power Grid (henceforth abbreviated to 'Grid') in times when the CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of Grid electricity is low.

North West Europe (NWE), especially the British Isles and northern France, is particularly well suited for the

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electrification of domestic heating coupled to energy storage, due to it relatively mild winters resulting from the influence of the Atlantic ocean Peel, Finlayson and McMahon (2007); Colantuono, Wang, Hanna and Erdélyi (2014); Pozo-Vázquez, Tovar-Pescador, Gámiz-Fortis, Esteban-Parra and Castro-Díez (2004) , and due to the projected increased penetration there of renewables, particular aeolian-generated power, which is already leading to curtailment when high wind generation and low demand occur simultaneously. As a very recent publication points out (Le, Huang, Wilson, Shah and Hewitt, 2020), most of the existing literature focuses on reducing running costs or energy consumption rather than aiming to increase the uptake of green electricity, as is found in the present study approach to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

Energy policy and energy landscape in NWE countries are also relevant factors in promoting homes powered solely by electricity. The UK’s energy policy revolves around the *energy trilemma* (Royal Academy of Engineering); that is, the energy supply must be cheap, secure and clean. These three goals are not easily achieved simultaneously. However, electricity produced from green sources, and the removal of fossil fuels from houses, represent a significant step forward in this direction. In France, nuclear power plants generate  $\sim 75\%$  of the total national electricity. A significant fraction of these plants are ageing and not set to be replaced, and renewable penetration is increasing. This makes storage valuable: further CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in homes can be achieved thanks to local PV and to storage, by means of reducing peak load and, in turn, integrating more renewables on the Grid. Ireland would greatly benefit from affordable electricity heating as most houses are still heated by oil, a high carbon fossil fuel (68% of dwellings in Northern Ireland in 2010, up to 82% in rural areas, The Consumer Council <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/blog/northern-ireland-reducing-dependency-oil-fired-heating>).

This manuscript introduces and experiments with a mathematical algorithm that proposes a novel strategy to store electricity in homes for all energy uses, from space and water heating to appliances and lighting. Modelled houses are endowed with a Hybrid Storage System (HSS) combining batteries, storage heaters (SHs) and hot water cylinders. SHs provide space heating on demand to individual rooms within 24 hrs. HSSs will store both the houses’ PV output and low-carbon energy drawn from the Grid at times of low CO<sub>2</sub> intensity. This strategy will remove the generation-demand temporal mismatch currently hindering the growth of renewables: when demand is low on sunny/windy days, output of solar/wind farms must be reduced. Every year, in some countries, up to almost 10% of available wind energy is curtailed (e.g. Northern Ireland in 2018, EirGrid-SONI) or achieves negative wholesale price. If no action is taken to facilitate the intake of intermittent/non dispatchable power, this figure is expected to grow as penetration of renewables on the Grid increases.

In order to identify the time interval during which electrical energy must be taken and stored, the model predicts the house energy requirements  $\mathcal{E}$  for the next 24 hours, based on previous consumption patterns. PV generation for the next 24 hours is also predicted. Three separate predictions are made for space heating, hot water and appliances/lighting requirements. Such energy forecasts can be satisfied by taking electricity during the unknown time duration  $T$  (that can be either simply connected, or the sum of several disjoint sub-intervals) at the maximum power intake  $P$ , which is predetermined for the house. Once the time duration  $T = \mathcal{E}/P$  has been calculated, the sub-intervals of cumulative duration  $T$  for electricity uptake are determined by the model. The prediction is updated every hour, and due to the lower cost of thermal mass with respect to battery capacity, the energy aimed at space and water heating is estimated and stored independently in the dwelling’s thermal masses (SHs and water cylinder).

### 1.1. The RED WoLF European project

RED WoLF (Rethink Electricity Distribution Without Load Following) is an EU project funded by Interreg North West Europe. 100 houses, organized in 6 Pilot sites in EIRE, UK and France, are being equipped with battery storage, SHs, PV modules and a control network that can drive the storage reservoirs in the dwelling, according to the algorithmic rules and computations outlined in the previous paragraph, with the aim of reducing housing CO<sub>2</sub> emission via a reduction of peak power intake. The present manuscript reports the results of a computer simulation based on these rules. Experimental data acquired in the Pilot sites will be discussed in future publications and compared with the simulations discussed in this manuscript.

### 1.2. Main contribution

Within the frame of Interreg NWE’s call for proposals, RED WoLF responded to Priority 2 (Low Carbon) and Specific Objective 3, “To facilitate the uptake of low carbon technologies [...]” (Interreg NWE., 2019). The aim of the Project and of the present study is to combine two storage technologies that have not yet enjoyed full market acceptance (batteries for home storage; SHs). Smartly combining batteries with thermal reservoirs decreases the average cost of storage per kWh: advanced SHs with 30 kWh capacity cost  $\sim 1000$  euros; a battery with equal capacity is ten times more expensive than this. Telaretti, Graditi, Ippolito and Zizzo 2016 concluded that the sole usage of batteries to shift peak demand could lead to the increase of overall expenditures, unless a time of use tariff with strong intra day price difference is used. The storage combination proposed here, while covering the main requirements of a house (appliances; space heating; domestic hot water) makes electricity intake adaptive to the Grid (by reducing peak load), to the environment (by cutting CO<sub>2</sub>) and increases self-consumption rather than just exporting PV power regardless of demand. SHs, previously

deployed in the British Isles, Australia and France, came on the market more than half a century ago (with the Economy 7 tariff) to store energy from inflexible UK coal plants suffering from reduced night-demand due to deindustrialization. The present study (and the RED WoLF Project) is aimed at demonstrating that, in combination with batteries, these SHs can also become a viable solution also elsewhere, as nowadays it is crucial to store energy although for different purposes: to “make room” for the growing renewable generation on the Grid side, to increase behind-the-meter self-consumption and, ultimately, to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This combination has been selected as it also requires only electric wiring. Neither gas (already being phased out in some countries, e.g. the Netherlands, The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. 2019) nor pipes nor plumbing are needed. PV is the only chosen source of domestic microgeneration since RED WoLF’s pilot sites consist of social houses, and the public perception of technological risk is thus a prominent issue. The main innovations of this study (and of the RED WoLF project) are in the combination of thermal and battery storage, in the tracking of the CO<sub>2</sub> signal to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and in the pilot houses self-adapting to Grid conditions without the need of external management.

The time series of PV output and Grid intake, and of the electricity flow inside the house (towards storage reservoirs and between battery and appliances) are simulated here. The objective is to schedule the electricity intake/storage that achieves the lowest average CO<sub>2</sub> index over the next 24 hours, based on the predicted demand of the house over those same 24 hours. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are therefore reduced by acting on the “quality” of the consumed electrical energy.

Demand management is not considered: it is a layer that can be added on top of the RED WoLF system and it is already the subject of many studies. Likewise efficiency improvement of home appliances is not considered. The goal here is to assess (for now, via a simulation) how a combination of battery and thermal storage can reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emission associated with a given demand profile by “smartly” decoupling the scale of energy demand time series (due to space heating, domestic hot water and appliances) from electricity intake.

Individual elements of the RED WoLF system are well addressed in scientific literature. Sufyan, Rahim, Aman, Tan and Raihan (2019) present a review centred on the performance of different battery technologies, while Arani, Gharehpetian and Abedi (2019) focus on battery control methods in microgrids. The review of Yan and Yang (2019) analyses latest achievements on thermal storage published between 2009 and 2017. They identify 5 articles focused on peak-load shifting and 20 on the wider topic of thermal storage in buildings. Felten and Weber (2018) concluded that the combination of a heat pump and a thermal storage may achieve financial for some specific technical characteristics and control models. Baeten, Rogiers and Helsen (2017) coupled a heat pump with a hot water tank

dedicated to space heating. In order to perform thermodynamic work, the heat pump, despite being more energy efficient than SHs, requires power on demand. That leads to energy consumption during high CO<sub>2</sub> or high price periods. A combination of water-based thermal reservoirs with heat pumps can reduce peak demand by controlling the usage of the pump. However, that requires a more complicated wet heating system. Moreover, SHs efficiently provide adjustable supply in different rooms within the dwelling, which may lead to further carbon reduction and financial savings.

The RED WoLF logic differs substantially from configurations involving heat pumps: the space heating is directly electrical and does not feature any circulating fluid, heat engines and moving parts. RED WoLF is geared toward future scenarios featuring abundant renewable but intermittent energy, where timing of electricity uptake is increasingly relevant with respect to the amount of energy used. Such scenarios are already peeking out: wind energy curtailment (Zhang, Lu, McElroy, Nielsen, Chen, Deng and Kang, 2016; Andoni, Robu, Frh and Flynn, 2017), energy’s wholesale negative prices (Ederer, 2015) and the *duck curve* in California and elsewhere (Mills and Wiser, 2015; Hou, Zhang, Du, Miao, Peng and Kang, 2019).

Luthander, Widn, Nilsson and Palm (2015) discuss different strategies to improve PV self consumption. Widén (2014) addresses demand shifting via appliances management, while McKenna, McManus, Cooper and Thomson (2013) achieve a similar goal by means of introducing batteries in the system. In addition to a PV array, Kuboth, Heberle, König-Haagen and Brüggemann (2019) combine thermal storage with heat pumps and batteries to reduce the operation cost. Although their model shares the combination of batteries and thermal reservoirs with the present manuscript, it differs from it in many instances. Like in Baeten et al. (2017), space heating in Kuboth, Heberle, König-Haagen and Brüggemann (2019) is based on circulating hot water rather than SHs. Moreover, the present manuscript develops an original control strategy aimed at optimizing the time intervals of Grid’s electricity intake: the RED WoLF algorithm is a function of the predicted Grid state, i.e. Grid’s CO<sub>2</sub> intensity.

Wagh and Kulkarni (2018) review strategies to minimize CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, a goal broadly similar to the objective of this manuscript. The papers analyzed therein are however focused with system planning and modelling rather than with driving/managing storage reservoirs in real time. Grosspietsch, Saenger and Girod (2019) analyze studies and practical implementations (i.e. pilot projects) focused on matching production and consumption, a goal which is present also in the present study: reducing Grid CO<sub>2</sub> intake using storage offers an outlet to low-value electricity that is being curtailed increasingly often. Reda and Fatima (2019) discuss various ways of reducing electricity intake from the Grid, some of them include batteries and thermal storage combined; however, no SHs are used. Uddin, Romlie, Abdullah, Halim, Bakar and Kwang (2018)

recommend the implementation of demand management strategies on top of energy storage. This resembles our vision: storage, which charges in an automated way, can either provide the basis for implementing a demand management strategy, or be used as it is by the least energy-literate dweller.

## 2. Design of the RED WoLF System

### 2.1. Overview

To reduce the intake of the CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive Grid electricity during peak hours, we introduce the hybrid storage system which is able to store energy in batteries and SHs for space heating, depending on the predicted need of the user. A PV array is present, and is allowed, together with the Grid, to charge batteries, SHs and to power appliances, with the only difference that the Grid is permitted to charge battery and SHs only when CO<sub>2</sub> intensity drops below a certain threshold. In addition to that, the PV array is allowed to send excess power (in this context, power is labelled as 'excess' when all the electric load is satisfied, the battery is fully charged and the thermal storage reservoirs have reached the maximum capacity set for the day) to the Grid (see figure 1).

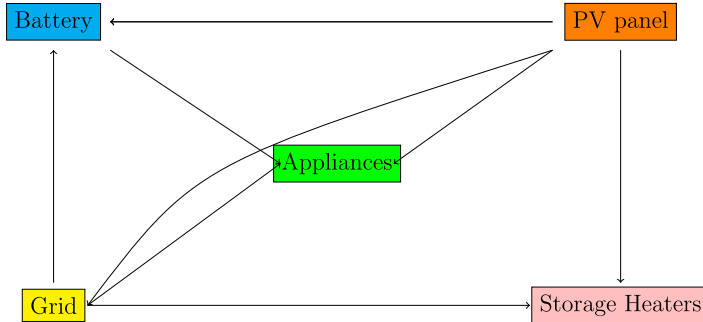


Figure 1: Schematic representation of the electricity distribution implemented in the RED WoLF project. Arrows represent the allowed flow of electricity within the system.

The ability to predict how and what kind of energy will be used will be ultimately defined by forecasts, for the next 24/48 hours, of PV output, CO<sub>2</sub> Grid intensity, heat demand and appliances' demand. These forecasts will later be replaced by measured data to update predictions. A more detailed explanation of the procedure will be discussed in the following section.

Below, we briefly discuss the models used to estimate the generation of energy for the PV array. We employ weather forecast available on OpenWeather (2019) to estimate irradiance and convert it into PV. The Seo and Krarti (2011) model, which is employing Kottek, Grieser, Beck, Rudolf and Rubel (2006) classification of different climate zones, is used to estimate global horizontal irradiance, where direct horizontal irradiance is estimated by DISC model Maxwell (1987). Finally with the aid of PV\_LIB (National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, 2018) for Python

the estimates of energy generation from the PV array are obtained. A detailed analysis and discussion will be the object of future publications, after data acquisition from pilot houses. The aim of this manuscript is to evaluate the proposed storage strategy, and the subsequent algorithm, based on the existing PV generation and the domestic consumption data.

### 2.2. Simulation model

In what follows we slightly alter the model originally outlined (figure 1) by adding a water cylinder into the system. This added component is used only to heat domestic hot water. This adds another degree of complexity and ultimately some of the households will not use a water cylinder but instead other possible sources of water heating (e.g. instant hot water). Thus, we propose an algorithm that can neglect this extra information.

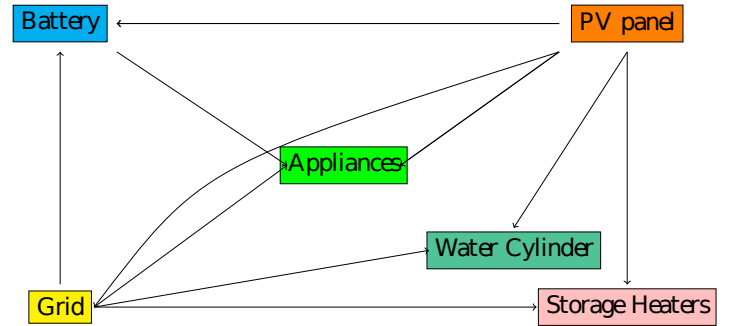


Figure 2: Schematic representation of the electricity distribution implemented in the RED WoLF simulation of performance. A water cylinder has been added with respect to figure 1.

With the perspective of operating the system in pilot sites, we prove here the concept by means of numerical simulation. In what follows we will analyze the behavior of the algorithm on the existing time-series. We use the same domestic consumption profile and PV generation output as in Lichman, 2013; Colantuono, Kor, Pattinson and Gorse, 2018 obtained in Oxford (Oxford PV array (2016)), which is later scaled to 5 MWh annual consumption, and we produce 3 different datasets of PV generation by taking \*0.5, \*1 and \*2 of the original 4 kW system. In the simulations reported here, this consumption profile plays the role of the forecast consumption time series; the "real" consumption is obtained by adding white noise. The same goes for PV output.

## 3. The RED WoLF Algorithm

In this section we briefly outline the system procedure. A list of variables is available in table 1.

Some predefined parameters are not related to dwellers and are determined by the house's equipment:  $H_{IMax}$ ,  $\tilde{H}_{IMax}$ ,  $C_{IMax}$ ,  $B_{IMax}$  and  $B_{Max}$ . Other values may instead be chosen by the dweller or set up automatically in advance for the next 24/48 hour period:  $\tilde{H}_{Setup}$  and

Predefined parameters	
$B_{IMax}$	Maximum rate of battery intake in kW
$B_{Max}$	Maximum battery capacity in kWh
$C_{IMax}$	Maximum rate of cylinder intake in kW
$H_{IMax}$	Maximum rate of house intake from Grid in kW
$\tilde{H}_{IMax}$	Maximum rate of heat intake in kW
Variables	
$B_D$	Battery demand in kW
$B_{level}$	Battery level in kWh
$C_D$	Cylinder demand in kW
$C_{level}$	Cylinder level in kWh
$C_{Setup}$	The energy required by user obtained in 24 hours in kWh
$\tilde{H}_D$	Heat demand in kW
$\tilde{H}_{level}$	Heat level in kWh
$\tilde{H}_{Setup}$	The energy needed for SHs to obtain in 24 in kWh
$P_{P2A}$	Predicted power to appliance in kW
$P_{PV}$	Predicted power from PV in kW
$T_{PV}$	Actual power from PV in kW
$T_{P2B}$	Actual power to battery in kW
$T_{PFB}$	Actual power from battery in kW
$T_{P2H}$	Actual power to heat in kW
$T_{P2C}$	Actual power to cylinder in kW
$T_{PFG}$	Actual power from Grid in kW
$T_{P2G}$	Actual power to Grid in kW
$T_{P2A}$	Actual power to appliance in kW
$Q$	CO <sub>2</sub> intensity level prediction in gCO <sub>2</sub> /kWh
$\delta$	CO <sub>2</sub> intensity threshold in gCO <sub>2</sub> /kWh

Table 1: List of variables and predefined parameters

$C_{Setup}$ . The other inputs required to simulate the system are the 48 hour PV generation forecast  $P_{PV}$ , the 48 hour CO<sub>2</sub> intensity from the Grid forecast  $Q$  and household consumption forecast  $P_{P2A}$ . All these input parameters and variables enable our system to operate in the next 24/48 hours and are interpolated to generate numerical arrays with 1 minute step. In addition, we assume that the range of power intake for all devices can continuously vary from 0 to the maximum amount.

Now, we define heat demand, battery demand and cylinder demand as

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{H}_D &= \tilde{H}_{IMax}H(\tilde{H}_{Setup} - \tilde{H}_{level}(\hat{t})), \\ B_D &= B_{IMax}H(B_{Max} - B_{level}(\hat{t})) \quad \text{and} \\ C_D &= C_{IMax}H(C_{Setup} - C_{level}(\hat{t}))\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

respectively, where  $H(x)$  is the Heaviside step function and 1 in the domain of function represents the initial value of it.  $C_D$  and  $\tilde{H}_D$  are defined in similar fashion to  $C_{DMax}$  and  $\tilde{H}_{DMax}$  with the only exception that  $t > 1$  for  $C_{level}(t)$  and  $\tilde{H}_{level}(t)$  in Equation (1). Then we introduce the integral balance of the system  $\mathcal{I}$  and construct it as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{I} &= \int_{\hat{t}}^{\mathcal{T}} (P_{P2A}(t) - P_{PV}(t))/60dt \\ &\quad + C_{Setup} - C_{level}(\hat{t}) + \tilde{H}_{Setup} - \tilde{H}_{level}(\hat{t}),\end{aligned}\quad (2)$$

where  $t$  is the time in minutes,  $\hat{t}$  is the current time in minutes and  $\mathcal{T}$  is time period for which our system run will be operational before the update of set up variables.

Equation (2) defines the difference between the total energy demand and the energy generated from the PV array at a given moment. If the value of  $\mathcal{I}$  is non-positive, then, on average, the amount of generated energy exceeds the energy required for consumption. Otherwise, if  $\mathcal{I}$  is positive, the average generated energy is lower than what is needed to satisfy consumption. This enables us to modify the time of Grid energy intake based on forecasts. In more details, it means that less energy is taken from the Grid for a higher forecast of PV generation and vice-versa.

We then introduce the rate of power intake.

$$\omega = \int_1^{\mathcal{T}} P_{P2A}(t)dt/\mathcal{T} + \tilde{H}_{IMax} + B_{IMax} + C_{IMax} \quad (3)$$

The allowed time of power intake  $\mathcal{T}_{int}$  is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{T}_{int} &= \left[ \max \left( \frac{60\mathcal{I}}{\omega}, \frac{C_{setup} - C_{level}(1)}{C_{IMax}}, \frac{H_{setup} - H_{level}(1)}{H_{IMax}} \right) \right],\end{aligned}\quad (4)$$

where  $\max(x, y, z)$  is the function which locates the maxima points  $\forall x \wedge y \wedge z$  and  $[x]$  is the nearest integer function of  $x$ . The second component of the max function on the right hand side of the equation is used to fix the minimum charging time needed for both SHs and the water cylinder, in case predicted energy generation and consumption differ from actual ones. Now, we rearrange the  $Q$  array to obtain an array in monotonically increasing order  $Q_{sort}$ . This lets us to define the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold for which energy is allowed to be taken from the Grid to charge the battery, SHs and water cylinder as

$$\delta = Q_{sort}(\mathcal{T}_{int}) \text{ for } > 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \delta = 0 \text{ for } \mathcal{I} \leq 0. \quad (5)$$

We are now able to discuss the system procedure in more details. In general, whether the Grid will be used or not at any time  $t$  will be defined by either  $\delta > Q(t)$  or  $\delta \leq Q(t)$ . Below we present a more detailed explanation of how the system works by describing one step at a time the behavior of the algorithm. In what follows, unless stated otherwise, we consider all variables with exception of  $\delta$  as a function of  $t$ .

First of all, in case  $Q(t) \geq \delta$  and  $T_{P2A}(t) \geq T_{PV}(t)$ , if PV power does not cover demand, power is drawn from the battery to be used in appliances. If battery power is also insufficient, the system is forced to rely on the Grid to satisfy demand and nothing else will happen. Thus, we write

$$\begin{aligned}T_{PFG} &= (T_{P2A} - T_{PV}) \\ &\quad \times H(T_{P2A}/60 - T_{PV}/60 - B_{level}), \\ T_{PFB} &= (T_{P2A} - T_{PV}) \\ &\quad \times H(T_{P2A}/60 - T_{PV}/60 - B_{level}).\end{aligned}\quad (6)$$

When  $Q \geq \delta$  and  $T_{P2A} \leq T_{PV}$  there is enough PV power to satisfy the electricity demand. As a result, we obtain

the extra power  $E = T_{PV} - T_{P2A}$ . There are the four following options on how to proceed with this excess. In case  $E < C_d$  then we transfer all of the extra power to the water cylinder to obtain

$$T_{P2C} = EH(\tilde{H}_{Setup} - C_{level}). \quad (7)$$

On the other hand, if  $E \geq C_D$  and  $E < C_D + \tilde{H}_D$  then

$$\begin{aligned} T_{P2C} &= C_D \\ T_{P2H} &= (E - C_D)H(\tilde{H}_{Setup} - \tilde{H}_{level}). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

That means that if we have enough power to cover the demand for the water cylinder and appliances, but not enough to charge SHs at maximum power rating, then we first charge the water cylinder and then SHs. The other option is  $E \geq C_D + \tilde{H}_D$  and  $E < C_D + \tilde{H}_D + B_D$ . Therefore, the equations representing the performance of our algorithm will be

$$\begin{aligned} T_{P2C} &= C_D \\ T_{P2H} &= \tilde{H}_D \\ T_{P2B} &= \min((E - C_D - \tilde{H}_D), B_{IMax}) \\ &\quad \times H(B_{Max} - B_{level}), \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where  $\min(x, y)$  is the function which locates the minima points  $\forall x \wedge y$ . As a result, in case the extra power  $E$  suffices to charge both the water cylinder and SHs, but is still insufficient to charge the battery at maximum power rating, the latter will be charged by the excess power, below maximum battery intake. Finally, whenever  $E > C_D + \tilde{H}_D + B_D$ , PV power exceeds all the demand and thus we are able to export the excess to the Grid. Therefore, we write

$$\begin{aligned} T_{P2C} &= C_D \\ T_{P2H} &= \tilde{H}_D \\ T_{P2B} &= B_D \\ T_{P2G} &= E - (T_{P2C} + T_{P2H} + T_{P2B}). \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

We now consider the case when  $Q < \delta$ , so that the CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level on the Grid is less than our calculated threshold. To be able to proceed further we introduce

$$M_{HPV} = H_{IMax} + T_{PV} \quad (11)$$

the maximum power that can be directed into the house: it combines both maximum Grid power intake and the generated PV power. Since the level of CO<sub>2</sub> is less than the threshold we are free to use cleaner energy from the Grid. Hence, the governing equations for the procedural run will be

$$\begin{aligned} T_{P2C} &= \min(C_D, (M_{HPV} - T_{P2A}) \\ &\quad \times (C_{Setup} - C_{level})), \\ T_{P2H} &= \min(\tilde{H}_D, (M_{HPV} - T_{P2A} - T_{P2C}) \\ &\quad \times H(\tilde{H}_{Setup} - \tilde{H}_{level})), \\ T_{P2B} &= \min(B_D, (M_{HPV} - T_{P2A} - T_{P2C} - T_{P2H}) \\ &\quad \times H(B_{Max} - B_{level})). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Now, we might also have excess power if  $T_{PV} > T_{P2B} + T_{P2H} + T_{P2C}$ , in which case we are able to send all the excess of power into the Grid.

The above is 1 minute step of the RED WoLF algorithm which will run for 24/48 hour period based on predictions for CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level as well as predictions for PV output. In addition to that we update the CO<sub>2</sub> intensity threshold only if the demand of SHs and the water cylinder is not satisfied due to deviation from the original prediction. The new threshold will be used by computing the new prediction values for PV generation as well as CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level. This will improve the performance of the algorithm, in case the original predictions are different to the actual energy generation and consumption.

To summarize, we consider two options. The first one is when the threshold is below the current Grid CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level. In which case the system first attempts to use the PV array to satisfy demand, with appliances having priority over the water cylinder. In turn, the water cylinder has the priority over SHs. SHs have the priority over the battery. Finally, the battery has the priority over the excess energy being exported to the Grid. However, if PV output is insufficient to satisfy appliances' demand, battery power is used; if the battery is empty, power is imported from the Grid. The opposite holds if the threshold is above current CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level. In which case, we are free to use the Grid along with the PV array to satisfy the house demand. The hierarchy just outlined, with power directed first to appliances, then to the water cylinder, then to SHs and finally to the battery is summarized in the flowchart in figure A.10 (Appendix).

The order of charging might be explained from the point of a view of efficiency: a battery is less efficient than thermal storage (converting electricity into heat is 100% efficient) and therefore chosen the last. Water cylinders are prioritized over SHs because they leak less heat. Prioritizing the least leaky and most efficient reservoir will decrease losses in the RED WoLF pilot houses. Storage inefficiency and thermal leakage have not been taken into account in the simulation but will be carefully assessed during practical implementation. We also check if the SHs and water cylinder demand is satisfied in real time on an hourly basis. Results show that our algorithm is able to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emission level during peak time while at the same time satisfying the demand of the dweller. Thus RED WoLF is a viable solution to be implemented in the household of a greener future.

### 3.1. The comparison to other recent models

Roberto, De Iulio, Di Somma, Graditi, Guidi and Noursan, 2019 (from now on model 1) analyze Power and heat co-generation (CHP) coupled to district heating. They concluded that thermal storage in district heating networks is convenient in presence of low flexibility of the supply side. Thermal storage systems are also useful in the case of large daily energy price fluctuations and to decrease the peak demand on the district heating network.

The authors also deem heat storage beneficial as a balancing factor in view of the increased intermittency on the Grid resulting from the increasing share of renewables. These motifs are in line with those behind the RED WoLF concept, where storage is added as a buffer for intermittent renewables, but can in principle also compensate for scarce flexibility on the generation side.

Graditi, Ippolito, Telaretti and Zizzo, 2016 (from now on model 2) and Telaretti, Graditi, Ippolito and Zizzo, 2016 (model 3) concluded that batteries, when coupled to a time of use tariff, can be economically viable in, respectively, public buildings (model 2) and houses (model 3). Both models provide viable solutions to store the energy outside peak time and, like model 1, display similar goals to ours. The main difference is that RED WoLF combines the features of model 1 on one side and models 2-3 on the other, considering both thermal storage and chemical storage in combination. This presents different challenges from model 1 (where heat is co-generated outside the house, and batteries are not present) and models 2 and 3 (with no thermal storage). RED WoLF algorithm is required to split in advance the energy to be stored in one reservoir or the other. Firstly, because low grade heat cannot be converted back to electricity by any reasonable means; secondly, because using the battery to store energy for later use in heating would impose an additional inefficiency penalty and would require a battery capacity at least one order of magnitude larger, which nowadays is not financially sustainable.

Moreover, model 1 copes with district heating generated from gas, with the latest being planned to be phased out in Europe and indeed already being phased out in some countries (e.g. the Netherlands from 2050 on, The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. 2019).

Other differences are more technical: instead of knowing in advance the price signal for the next day, our system is focusing solely on following the CO<sub>2</sub> intensity and the PV generation forecast, with regular forecast updates throughout the day. As reminded above, the presence of thermal energy storage in our system forces us to make real time predictions as low grade heat cannot be efficiently reverted to electricity. Making predictions has a positive effect also on battery efficiency as storing too much in batteries creates needless efficiency losses. Finally, in contrast to models 1, 2 and 3, we focus on every individual dwelling separately, since each of them would have its own consumption prediction for SHs, water cylinders and appliances, which can vary drastically between two different dwellings depending on many factors.

#### 4. Behavior of the RED WoLF Algorithm using Existing Data as Input

Here we are testing the behavior of the system on existing data. We simulate the system during four days, representative of the seasonal cycle. Recordings of consumption

and PV generation during these days are taken from Lichman, 2013 and Oxford PV array, 2016, respectively. This combination of datasets has already been used in Colantuono, Kor, Pattinson and Gorse, 2018, where the Lichman, 2013 consumption data (coming from the household in France) have been detrended and had their seasonal dependency removed, in order to eliminate any possible effect of electric heating if present. In short terms, only the pattern of electricity demand across the days has been retained. The PV generation data come instead from Oxford, UK (Oxford PV array (2016)), while the time series of Grid CO<sub>2</sub> intensity refer to Sheffield in 2018 (which represents the demand in a UK urbanised area). The four days are namely the winter solstice (21 of December), the spring equinox (20 of March), the summer solstice (20 of June) and the autumn equinox (23 of September). Then we normalize the available consumption time series to 5 MW output, a value close to the UK average in accordance to Enerdata (2019) (to put this figure into context, Romania features the lowest European yearly consumption,  $\approx 1.5$  MWh, while Sweden displays the highest,  $\approx 10$  MWh). We also assume that the actual PV output obtained from the Oxford data might be treated as the predicted one and we add variability to the system by considering four options  $0, 0.5P_{PV}, P_{PV} = 4 \sim kW$  and  $2P_{PV}$  (0 kW, 2 kW, 4 kW and 8 kW PV array respectively). This will allow us to stress test the system for various PV sizes. We also consider three different battery capacities namely 5, 7 and 10 kWh.

We will simulate the pilot homes by adding white noise to the actual PV output as well as adding white noise to the actual normalized consumption. Thus we assume that  $P_{PV}$  and  $P_{P2A}$  is obtained directly from the Oxford data, whereas  $T_{PV} = |P_{PV} + \gamma|$  and  $T_{P2A} = |P_{PV} + \kappa|$ , where each iteration  $\gamma$  and  $\kappa$  are normally distributed random numbers obtained by Python procedure `numpy.random.uniform(-1, 1, (T, 1))`. The demand of the combined SHs during the winter solstice has been set to 80 kWh, during the spring equinox to 32 kWh, while during summer solstice and autumn equinox has been set to 0. We also assume that the set up capacity of the water cylinder is 10.5 kWh (The average charging time of the water cylinder is around 3 hours and 30 minutes with a 3 kW resisting element). Then, we assume that the maximum rate of house power intake from the Grid, maximum rate of power intake to SHs, maximum rate of power intake to water cylinder and maximum amount of power intake to the battery are, respectively, 25 kW (as a benchmark, standard UK house has 30/32 A, ring circuits per floor and 52 A circuit for oven/cooker), 15kW, 3 kW and 14 kW. It is also assumed that power can take a continuous spectrum of values from 0 to the maximum amount; however, in some real devices, maximum values are the only possible allowed. Since the RED WoLF system has been designed to be used in various countries and households across North West Europe, the permitted energy intake from the Grid may vary significantly. We also set the ini-



tial battery level to 4 kWh, water cylinder to 0.7 kWh and initial SHs level at 6 kWh. Although the set up parameters are quite arbitrary, the results of our simulations suggest that totally empty storage reservoirs are quite rare. From the definition of the CO<sub>2</sub> thresholds (equation (5)) follows that a lower initial level in storage reservoirs would lead to higher intake from the Grid. As a result, more CO<sub>2</sub> would be emitted.

We are now able to analyze the results of the RED WoLF system simulation for the 24 hours.

Looking at table 2, we conclude that the RED WoLF system reduces the CO<sub>2</sub> emission, for all considered sizes of the PV array. The effect is more prominent during winter and spring, when there is high energy demand for heating. The absence of the battery increases CO<sub>2</sub> emission. We can also see that having larger PV arrays significantly reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emission level. Even in the scenario when all storage reservoirs are empty, the RED WoLF system reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a significant amount. We should also note that table 2 excludes all further reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emission level due to the energy exported to the Grid. Although the energy is sent back to the Grid, the complexity of the Grid structure should be studied to investigate the contribution of export on the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> level for each individual property.

Figure 3 shows that the RED WoLF algorithm indeed avoids times with CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level peaks. The PV generation forecast has a seasonal effect on the power taken from the Grid for both powering appliances and charging storage reservoirs. First of all, during the winter solstice, when the energy demand for heating is much bigger than at other times, the energy generated by PV has little effect on the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold behavior. Around midday, a small separation in the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold becomes nonetheless detectable between different PV sizes, due to the continuously sunny morning (4) which makes differences in PV output significant. The same holds also during the spring equinox. However, since the CO<sub>2</sub> index on this particular spring equinox is much higher than on the previous winter solstice, and due to a cloudier sky (figure 4), the CO<sub>2</sub> thresholds results are virtually insensitive to PV size.

On the days with no heat demand, threshold sensitivity to PV size is much higher due to the increased weight of PV output on total demand. During the summer solstice, due to the low energy demand, the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold looks initially the same for all PV sizes, with exception to the case with no PV array. Later, the system “realizes” the demand from the water cylinder and updates the threshold computation for the smallest, non-zero PV array.

Note how the 0.5 PV curve “rebounds” at a higher level with respect to the zero PV array: in the 0 PV case, the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold is higher than at a previous time because a higher input on the Grid was needed earlier. This is confirmed by figure 8, showing how in the summer solstice the charging of the water cylinders starts earlier for the 0 PV system, which is enabled to draw electricity earlier thanks to the higher CO<sub>2</sub> threshold.

A similar situation, although not identical, can be seen during the autumn equinox. However, due to the lower predicted PV generation, the 0.5 PV’s threshold starts at the same level of the 0 PV one. In this case, it is the system equipped with the 1 PV array that needs a threshold adjustment in the early afternoon, as happened to 0.5 PV in the summer case. The 2 PV threshold remains instead unaffected, as the larger PV output does not require relaxing of the CO<sub>2</sub> constraint for taking Grid electricity.

We can see that, in general, the lower the predicted PV output (see figure 4), the higher the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold. This is due to CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of PV power being zero.

The above situation can change depending on how much the actual, recorded demand and PV output time series, here emulated by adding white noise to the available time series (that play the role of predictions), differ from the predicted ones. The real system will need to systematically compare predicted time series with recorded ones. A high PV generation prediction means there is a higher likelihood of more energy being produced by the PV array. Consequently, the likelihood of using less energy from the Grid to satisfy demand is also higher. This will cause the algorithm to lower the threshold to avoid using the energy from the Grid.

Additional simulations, here not reported for brevity, show that if a non-adaptive CO<sub>2</sub> threshold (i.e. based on a 24 hour prediction without hourly updates) is used, Grid uptake during peak times can be equally avoided. However, such a coarser threshold results in a higher chance of storage reservoirs running empty at the “wrong” time (in which case the Grid energy is taken at high CO<sub>2</sub> times). To prevent this outcome, a less stringent threshold could be required. This however causes higher daily CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, since a more relaxed threshold enables electricity uptake during suboptimal time intervals. The CO<sub>2</sub> threshold used in RED WoLF algorithm is therefore adaptive, can be fine-tuned to recent emission and storage state of charge and is designed to avoid such drawbacks.

The “predicted” PV generation is presented in figure 4. As anticipated earlier, adding white noise creates a different time series, here used to emulate actual PV output. Although it is not an ideal construction from the physical point of view, white noise addition provides an extra time series, enabling us to run the simulation. It is also pointed out that storing energy is mathematically analogous to integrating power in time over the uptaking subintervals, which makes unrealistic white noise spikes irrelevant. White noise addition has also been used to obtain a proxy for the “real” appliances demand profile shown in figure 5.

Figure 6 shows how the energy input to all SHs combined is only slightly affected by the PV generation profile. This is due to PV output being small (approximately by one order of magnitude) with respect to space heating demand, and also because PV is to some extent in phase with direct household’s appliances demand, which has the priority on charging storage. Since CO<sub>2</sub> intensity peaks

	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
No RED WoLF Scenario 1	30698	22470	5221	6402
No RED WoLF Scenario 2	32494	24234	5405	6476
No RED WoLF Scenario 3	24843	15836	2150	4363
RED WoLF No PV Array 7kWh Battery (all storages empty)	27697	18761	4606	5801
RED WoLF 4 kW PV Array 7kWh Battery (all storages empty)	24115	14810	794	4072
RED WoLF No PV Array 5 kWh Battery	24989	16157	3940	5394
RED WoLF 2 kW PV Array 5 kWh Battery	23738	12766	2515	2773
RED WoLF 4 kW PV Array 5 kWh Battery	21540	12301	27	1651
RED WoLF 8 kW PV Array 5 kWh Battery	21029	12170	0	316
RED WoLF No PV Array 7 kWh Battery	25340	16028	3869	5646
RED WoLF 2 kW PV Array 7 kWh Battery	24090	12493	2896	2879
RED WoLF 4 kW PV Array 7 kWh Battery	21540	12077	27	1910
RED WoLF 8 kW PV Array 7 kWh Battery	21205	11968	0	316
RED WoLF No PV Array 10 kWh Battery	25911	15765	3743	6203
RED WoLF 2 kW PV Array 10 kWh Battery	24660	12609	4021	3395
RED WoLF 4 kW PV Array 10 kWh Battery	21540	12609	27	2403
RED WoLF 8 kW PV Array 10 kWh Battery	21204	12590	0	316

Table 2: CO<sub>2</sub> emission in g of CO<sub>2</sub> in four selected days: winter solstice, spring equinox, summer solstice and autumn equinox. The daily heat demand (due to water cylinder and SHs) for those four days is specified in the main text. Scenario 1 represents the case with no RED WoLF and uniform heat demand throughout the day. Scenario 2 corresponds to the case without RED WoLF and the same total daily heat demand of Scenario 1, but being distributed across 8 hours grouped in two peak time intervals, 6h–9h and 17h–22h, being constant therein with triple magnitude with respect to Scenario 1. Scenario 3 is like Scenario 1 with the addition of a 4 kW PV array. "All reservoirs empty" means that the energy in the water cylinder, SHs and battery is zero at  $t = 0$ ; the energy at  $t = 0$  in all other Scenarios is specified in the main text

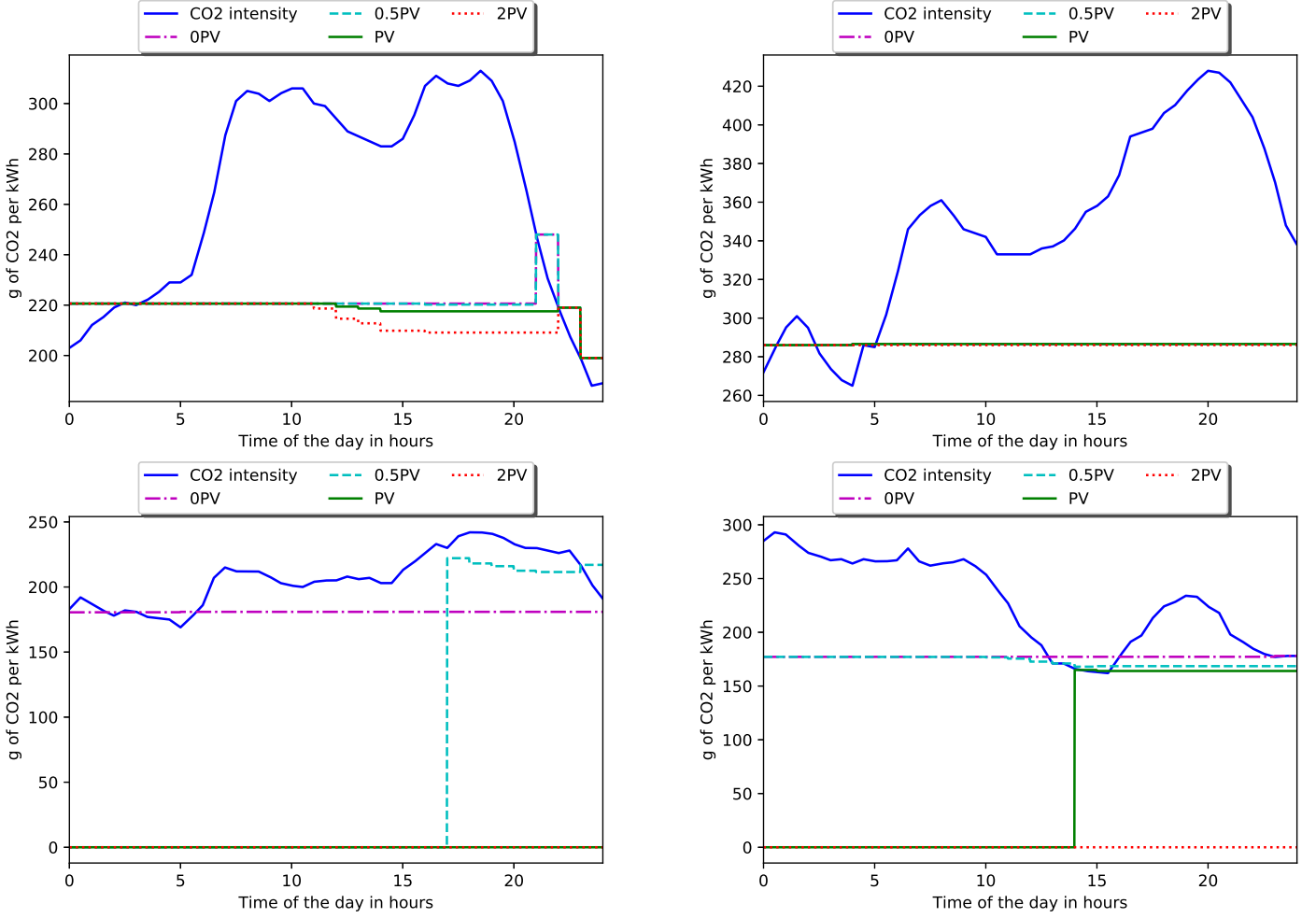


Figure 3: CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level and threshold in g of CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh. The blue line represents the CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level. The green line represents the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold for the case of the “standard” 4 kW PV array (1 PV in the next captions). The red, cyan, purple lines represent the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold for the 2 PV, 0.5 PV and no-PV (0 PV in the next captions) cases, respectively. Top left, top right, bottom left, bottom right graphs refer to winter solstice, spring equinox, summer solstice and autumn equinox, respectively

usually occur during the day, the Grid is used to charge SHs during low CO<sub>2</sub> intensity night-time periods. In addition to that, we conclude from our simulation that there is no deviation in the charge level of SHs if the battery capacity varies. This is due to battery capacity being an order of magnitude smaller than SHs capacity and designed to be charged the last.

In figure 7 the sensitivity of the state of charge of a 7 kWh battery with respect to varying PV size is displayed in each of the four seasons. The analyses of a 5 kWh and a 10 kWh battery in the summer solstice are also displayed. The most evident result is that the battery charge level is virtually insensitive to PV size in winter. The RED WoLF algorithm is not required to top up the battery to full capacity, which is instead charged based on the power needs predicted by the algorithm. Nevertheless, there are some differences between actual energy stored in batteries. The first one is that higher capacity batteries preserve higher charge throughout 24 hours. In addition to that, higher

PV power results in faster charging of the battery or less energy usage from the battery, due to a higher fraction of power demand being directly satisfied without the intermediation of storage. We can also directly see the effect of the computed CO<sub>2</sub> threshold on the battery level. Whenever there is the need of Grid energy and CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level is higher than the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold, then the power is drawn from the battery and the energy level of the latter drops down. On the other side whenever the CO<sub>2</sub> intensity level is lower than the threshold, the battery is charged.

The water cylinder level presented in figure 8 varies as a function of PV size in winter, summer and autumn, whereas it is insensitive to PV size in the spring equinox. This result can be explained by the position of the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold, which in first three cases allows the water cylinder to be charged directly from the Grid and the PV array, whereas in the spring equinox power is received only from the Grid, due to PV power being produced just after the water cylinder being charged.

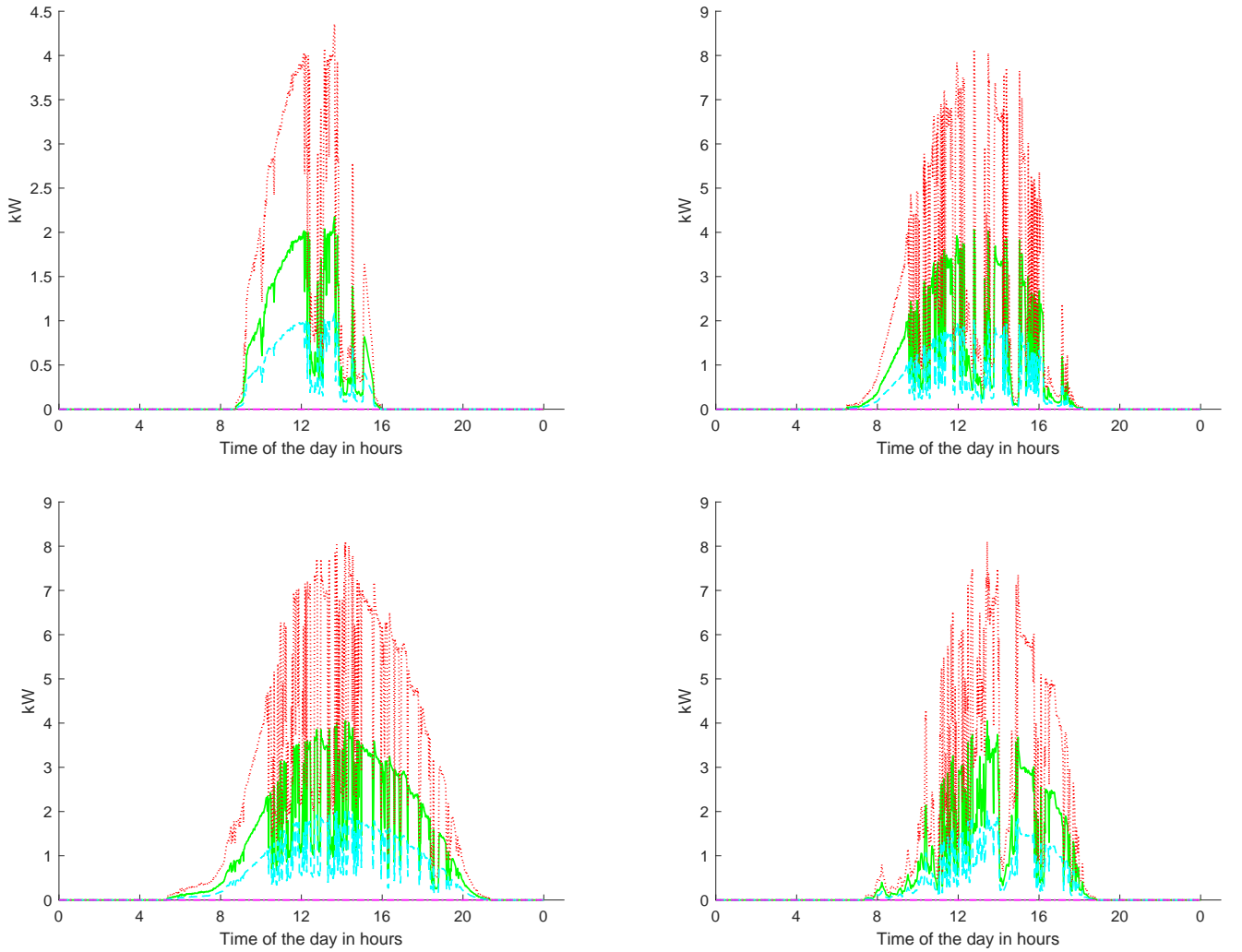


Figure 4: Predicted PV generation kW. The green, red, cyan and purple lines represent the energy generated by a PV array of size 1 PV, 2 PV, 0.5 PV and 0 PV, respectively. Top left, top right, bottom left, bottom right graphs are obtained from the data taken in the winter solstice, in the spring equinox, in the summer solstice and in the autumn equinox respectively.

Finally we see from figure 9 that the excess of energy which is sent directly to the Grid is the most affected both by prediction of energy generated from the PV array as well as by the maximum capacity of the battery used in the household. The higher the rate of energy generated from PV the more energy will be sent back to the Grid. On the contrary the system with higher battery capacities will send less energy back to the Grid, since higher battery capacities are boosting the demand of low  $\text{CO}_2$  energy. Table 3 explicitly presents the energy sent back to the Grid in the simulated scenarios.

## 5. Conclusion

We have proposed the RED WoLF hybrid storage system to reduce  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions associated to energy usage in residential buildings. This is achieved thanks to a combination of batteries and thermal storage governed by an

algorithm which encourages the intake of Grid electricity outside of peak times and increases PV self-consumption. Such an approach is unique of its kind: energy is stored in storage heaters and the water cylinder to satisfy demand of space heating and domestic hot water, respectively, while the rest of the anticipated and deferred electricity demand is covered by a battery. Electricity intake and storage are optimized with respect to the time series of predicted  $\text{CO}_2$  intensity of Grid electricity.

Battery output is not enabled to satisfy thermal demand, due both to the large amount of energy required to cover the heating load and to avoid unnecessary losses for converting to heat the chemical energy stored in the battery. The comparative high capacity and low price of thermal storage make the RED WoLF combination appealing to unleash the potential of domestic energy storage as the residential battery market is currently hampered by high prices.

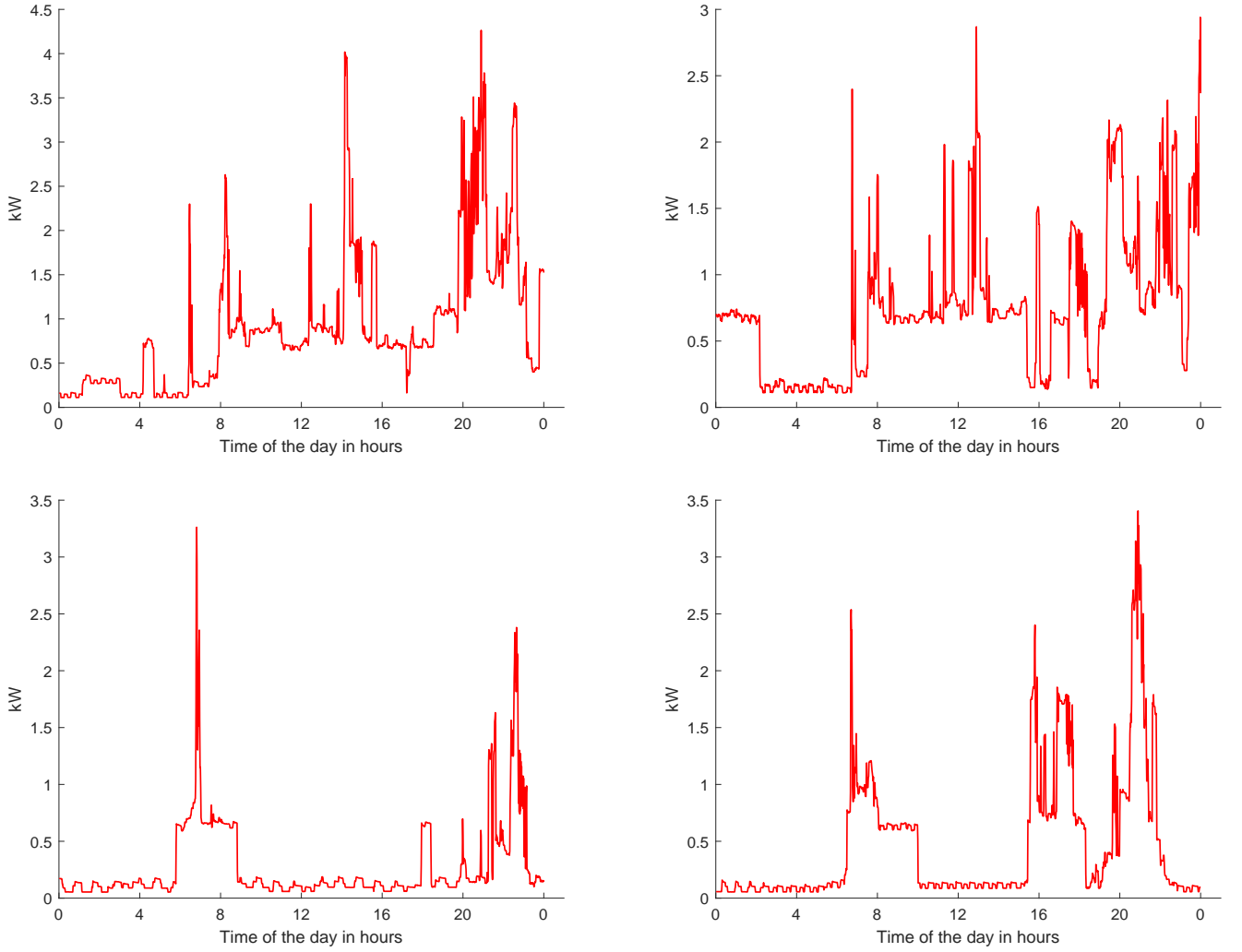


Figure 5: Predicted household demand in kW in the 1 PV (i.e. 4 kW) case. Top left, top right, bottom left, bottom right panel refers to winter solstice, spring equinox, summer solstice and autumn equinox, respectively.

The algorithm avoids the Grid’s electricity intake during CO<sub>2</sub> intensity peak time. The core task of the algorithm is the frequent recursive computation of the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold, above which the intake of the Grid’s power is forbidden. This threshold depends on the CO<sub>2</sub> Grid profile, on the prediction of local domestic PV generation and on the predicted home energy consumption, based on environmental parameters and on household’s historical data. The threshold is therefore a transient, ever changing benchmark which allows/forbids electricity intake based on the temporal locality of the consumption/PV output/CO<sub>2</sub> intensity predictions.

The RED WoLF model has been tested over four days in different seasons in a numerical experiment. Results are promising. The system shows the ability to meet demand while avoiding the usage of CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive Grid power. The usage of a battery with higher capacity successfully leads to lower usage of the “dirtier” Grid energy. It can be also concluded that the amount of predicted energy gener-

ated by PV exerts a seasonal-dependent effect on the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold, due to the lower/higher weight of PV output on the mix of consumed electricity when space heating is off/on.

The main achievement of the system is the significant reduction of domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emission even when a PV array is not present. This key result testifies RED WoLF’s induced carbon reduction thanks to the thermal/chemical reservoirs combined with algorithmic and predictive support. This manuscript shows how a house can suppress peak demand and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission independently from demand management (which can be eventually superposed to the system) and adaptively, without the need of any centralized control on the supply side.

In the standard configuration, with a 4 kW PV array and a 7 kWh battery installed, the simulated CO<sub>2</sub> emission decreases by a fraction ranging from 30% in winter-time to almost 100% during summer compared to a house without the system. Doubling the battery size from 5 kWh

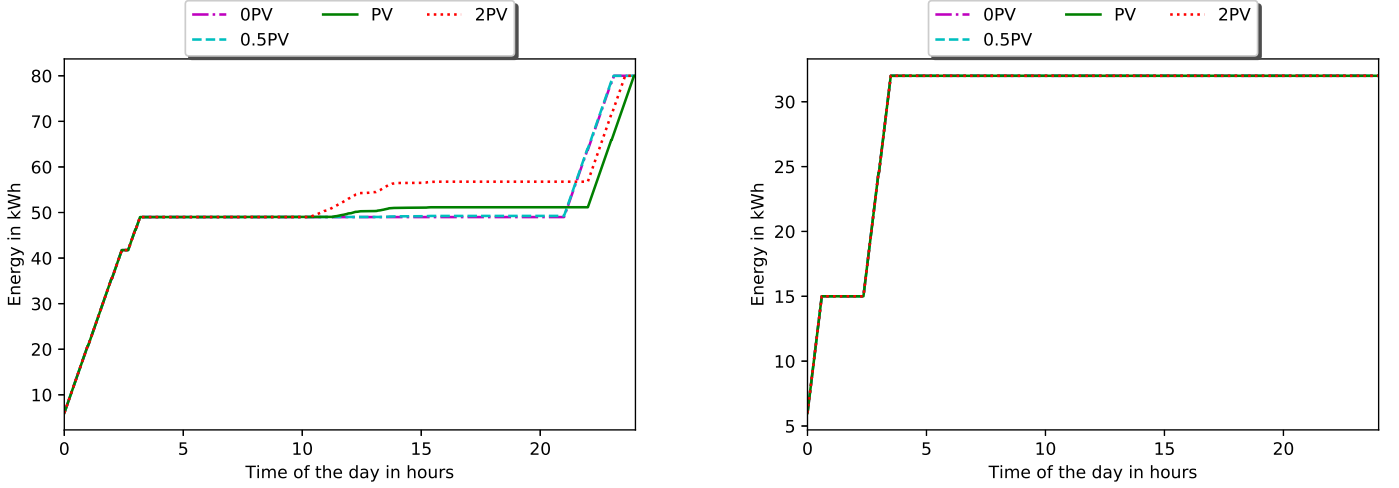


Figure 6: SHs energy input in kWh for battery maximum capacity of 7 kWh. The green, red, cyan and purple lines represent the scenario with PV array of size 1 PV, 2 PV, 0.5 PV and 0 PV, respectively. The left (right) panel refers to the winter solstice (spring equinox).

	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
RED WoLF 0.5 PV Array Battery 5 kWh	0	0	0	0
RED WoLF 1 PV Array Battery 5 kWh	0	4.9	2.3	0.9
RED WoLF 2 PV Array Battery 5 kWh	0	18.6	25.6	7.6
RED WoLF 0.5 PV Array Battery 7 kWh	0	0	0	0
RED WoLF 1 PV Array Battery 7 kWh	0	4.9	0.5	0.9
RED WoLF 2 PV Array Battery 7 kWh	0	18.6	23.8	5.5
RED WoLF 0.5 PV Array Battery 10 kWh	0	0	0	0
RED WoLF 1 PV Array Battery 10 kWh	0	4.9	0	0.9
RED WoLF 2 PV Array Battery 10 kWh	0	18.6	20.7	2.6

Table 3: The excess of power directed back to the Grid in kWh

to 10 kWh causes the RED WoLF system, endowed with a 4 kW PV array, to augment CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from 31% to 37% in winter and from 94% to 100% in summer. On the other hand, with a battery size fixed at 7 kWh and a PV array assuming the values of 2, 4 and 8 kW, CO<sub>2</sub> drops by 22%–30%–31% in winter and by 65%–99%–100% in summer, suggesting that the environmental benefit of increasing PV size is small above 4 kW. RED WoLF can potentially also reduce the Grid’s CO<sub>2</sub> index by exporting excess PV output. This effect should be investigated further depending on national regulations and on the local Grid’s state at the time of export.

Although carbon reduction is the main goal of the RED WoLF algorithm, replacing a CO<sub>2</sub> signal with a price signal in the simulations will shed light on the performance

of the system for reducing utility bills, and will provide a financial benchmark to establish its economic viability in comparison to potentially competing technologies and solutions. Comparing the emissions resultant from following a CO<sub>2</sub> signal versus following a price signal will also be possible.

The RED WoLF algorithm will be tested in pilot sites once the construction/refurbishment of the houses therein will be complete. This will generate a unique dataset to be explored to understand the environmental and financial effect of combining thermal and battery storage in dwellings.

## 6. Author Contribution

All authors contributed equally

## 7. Declaration of Interest

The authors declare no competing interests

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## Appendix A. Appendix

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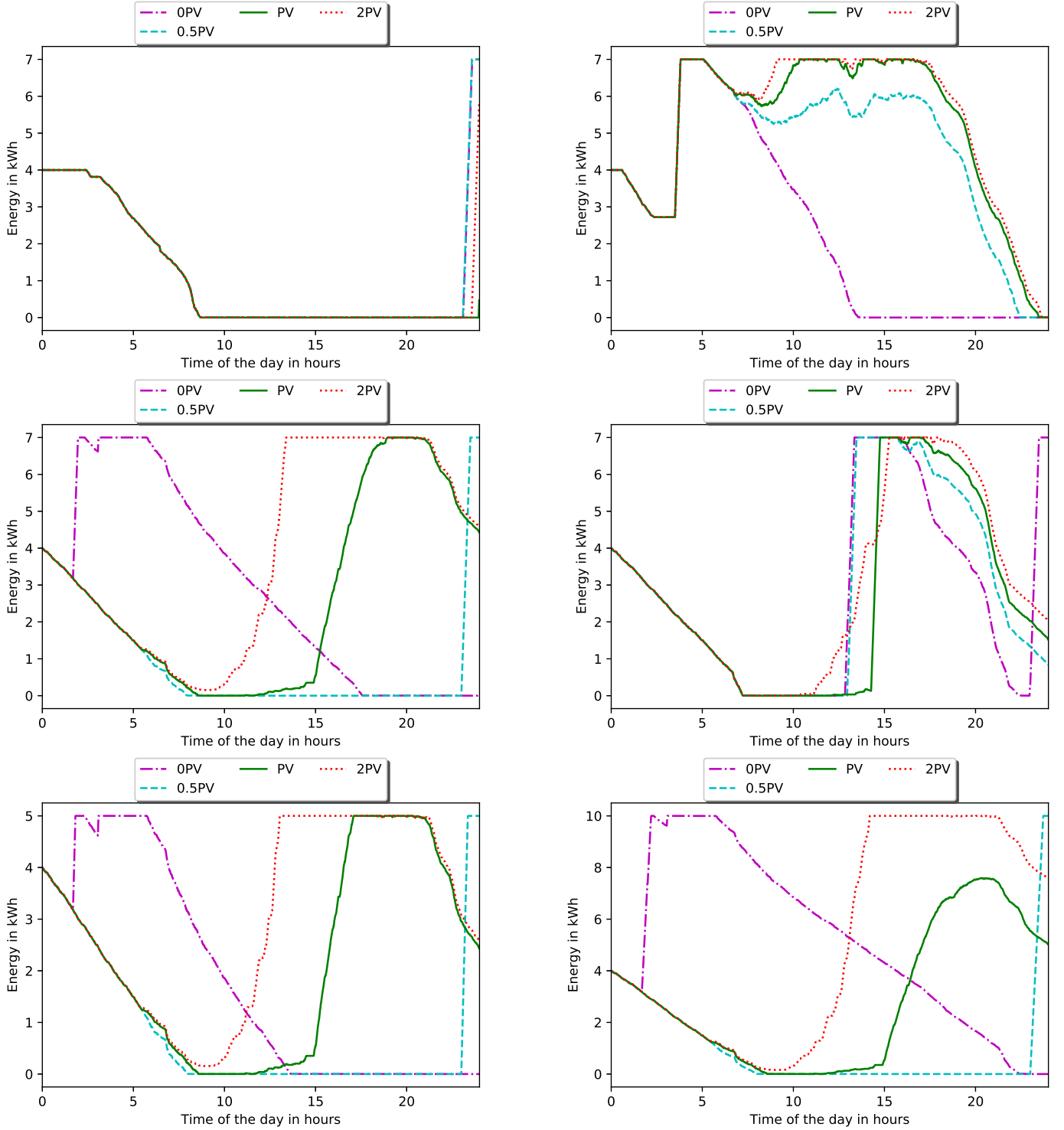


Figure 7: The top and middle panels display the level of charge of a battery with capacity of 7 kWh in combination with PV arrays of varying size. The green, red, cyan and purple line refers to a PV size of 1 PV, 2 PV, 0.5 PV and 0 PV, respectively. Top left, top right, middle left, middle right panels refer to winter solstice, spring equinox, summer solstice and autumn equinox, respectively. The bottom panels refer to the summer solstice, with left and right panel corresponding to maximum battery capacities of 5 and 10 kWh, respectively.

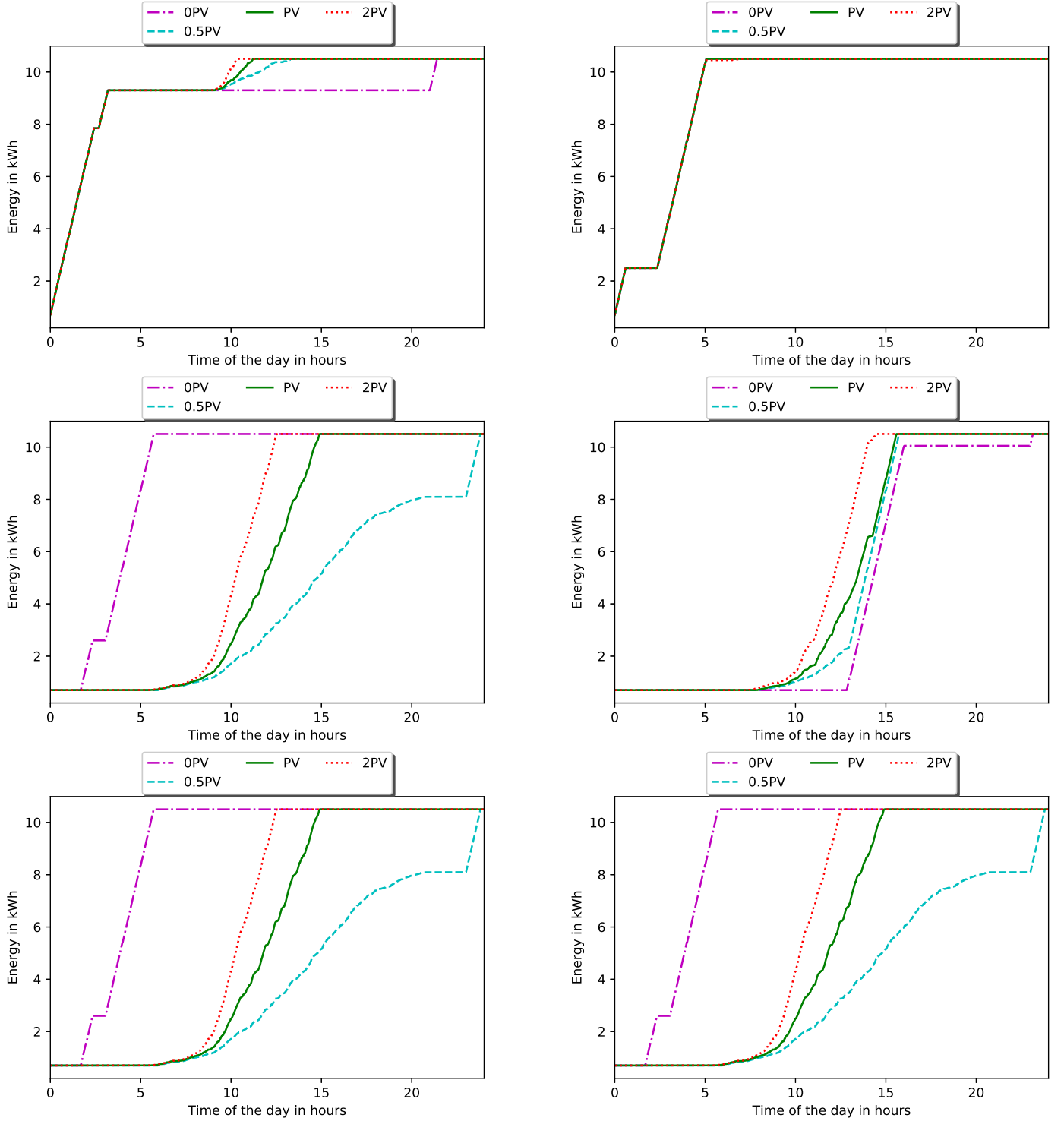


Figure 8: The top and middle panels display the water cylinder level in kWh for battery maximum capacity of 7 kWh. The green, red, cyan and purple lines represent the energy generated by a PV array of size 1 PV, 2 PV, 0.5 PV and 0 PV (i.e. no PV), respectively. Top left, top right, middle left, middle right panels refer to winter solstice, spring equinox, summer solstice and autumn equinox, respectively. Bottom panels refer to summer solstice, with left (right) panel corresponding to a maximum battery capacity of 5 kWh (10 kWh).

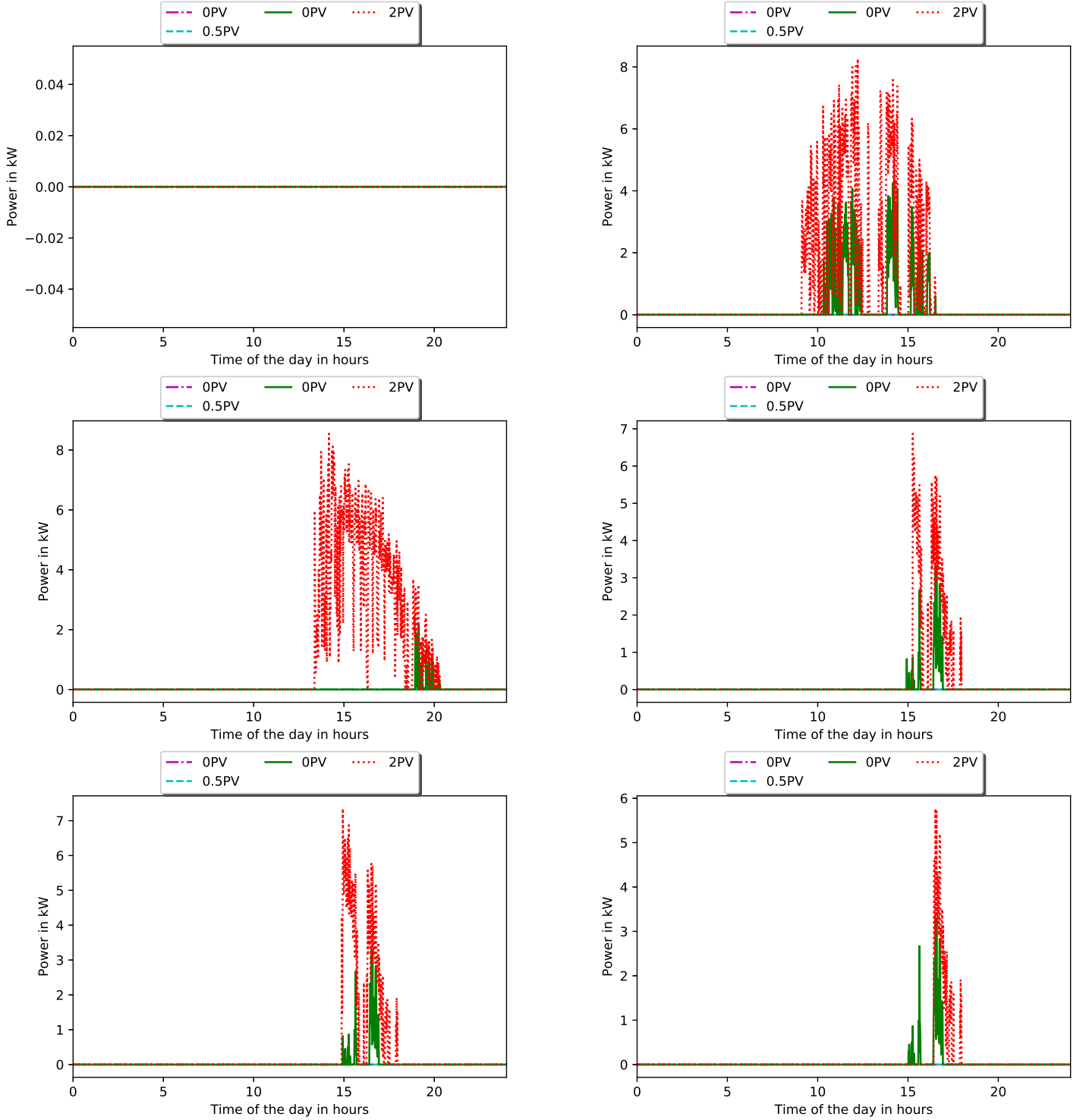


Figure 9: Excess power exported to the Grid in kW. The top and middle panels correspond to the maximum battery capacity of 7 kWh. The green, red, cyan and purple lines represent the energy generated by a PV array of size 1 PV, 2 PV, 0.5 PV and 0 PV, respectively. Top left, top right, middle left, middle right panels refer to winter solstice, spring equinox, summer solstice and autumn equinox, respectively. Both bottom panels relate to the autumn equinox, with left (right) panel corresponding to maximum battery capacities of 5 kWh (10 kWh).

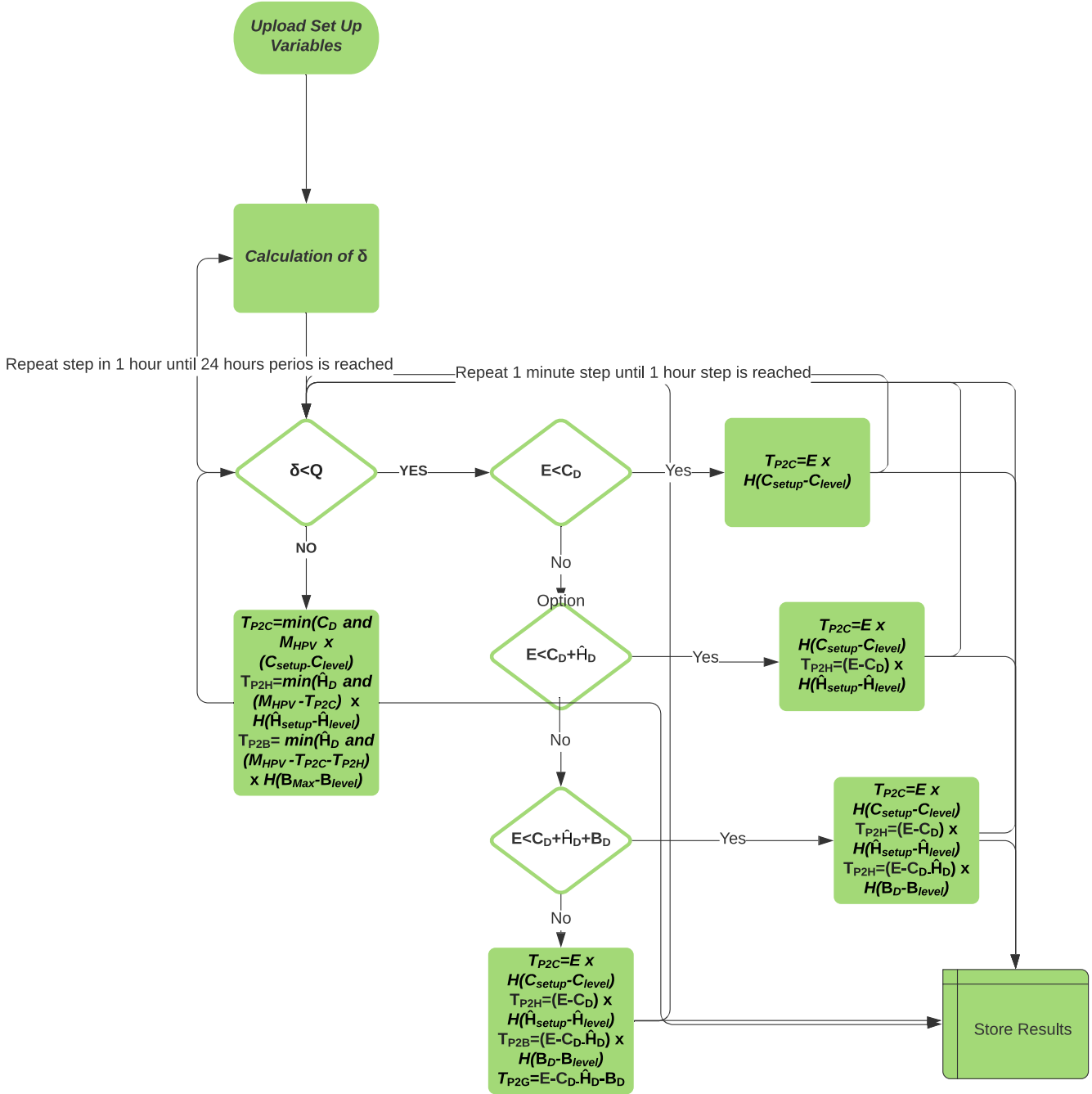


Figure A.10: 24 hours RED WoLF algorithm flowchart