Infrastructure Outlook 2050

A joint study by Gasunie and TenneT on an integrated energy infrastructure in the Netherlands and Germany

Gasurie crossing borders in energy



Han Fennema, CEO of Gasunie:

"The study shows the requirements and limitations of a future energy system based on solar and wind energy. With these highly fluctuating sources of energy, we need strong gas and electricity infrastructures that are seamlessly coordinated. If something is clear from our Outlook 2050, it is that interweaving TenneT's grid with that of Gasunie will give the flexibility the energy system needs."





Manon van Beek, CEO of TenneT:

"The cost of solar PV and offshore wind energy has rapidly declined over a very short period of time. If governments continue to set higher targets for limiting CO2 emissions, the energy transition will accelerate. This Infrastructure Outlook 2050 by TenneT and Gasunie is a joint review, which provides valuable insights that had not been shown before. To reach the 2050 climate goals in an efficient and affordable way, cooperation with other partners, such as politics and industry, is crucial as energy systems are not transformed from one day to the next, but require a long-term commitment."

Foreword Gasunie and TenneT hereby present their first Infrastructure Outlook 2050, which is the result of a joint study on the development of an integrated energy infrastructure in the Netherlands and Germany. It takes the target of the Paris Agreement (COP21), to achieve a 95% CO₂-emission reduction by 2050, as its starting point. The European transition towards a renewable energy system is entering With respect to the overall energy system, the study clearly reveals the a new phase with plans by EU Member States that specify how the important role that hydrogen can play in providing flexibility and system targets of the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework should be met. security. Although these plans do not specify all the details of the precise As mentioned in the Dutch Draft Climate Agreement, Gasunie and TenneT transition pathways towards 2050, the general direction is starting to will begin an explorative infrastructure study for the period 2030-2050 in become clear: a strong growth of solar and wind power in combination cooperation with regional grid companies later this year. This study will be with the development of power-to-gas (P2G) (hydrogen) conversion, the used as a basis for agreements on investments in infrastructure between production of chemicals and liquid fuels and the development of energy network operators and governments and will be published in 2021. storage. For different scenarios, this Infrastructure Outlook describes the To further analyse the infrastructural needs for the period 2030-2050 in consequences of possible transition pathways for the existing gas and Germany, TenneT has invited the IAEW energy research institute of the electricity infrastructures. University of Aachen to make an in-depth analysis of the future national energy system. Gasunie Deutschland is involved as an important stakeholder, providing the gas expertise. Results of the already ongoing One of its key messages is that, in the energy system of the future, electricity, heat and gas will be increasingly integrated in order to study are expected for mid-2019. absorb the large fluctuations in solar and wind power production. With respect to this matter, TenneT and Gasunie also welcome the We expect that this Outlook 2050 will contribute to a better understanrepeated emphasis on the importance of system integration in the ding of the current and future possibilities for the development of a Dutch Draft Climate Agreement. The study furthermore shows that sustainable, reliable and affordable future energy system. the long-term need for infrastructure expansion can be greatly reduced if guidance can be given to the locations of power-to-gas installations. Tenhema Ilanon van Beek The electricity grid in both Germany and the Netherlands will, however, Manon van Beek still require considerable reinforcement due to the growth of peak Han Fennema CEO, TenneT demand under all scenarios. CEO. Gasunie

Executive summary

Summary

To meet the 2050 emission targets set in the Paris Climate Agreement, the energy transition will require a complete overhaul of the current fossil fuel-dominated energy system. Although electricity produced from sun and wind is seen as the main source of energy by 2050, a major part of it has to be converted to molecules (such as hydrogen) to meet the demand of the chemical and fertilizer industries, and other forms of final consumption, all of which are difficult to electrify. The gas system also allows to accommodate green and CO₂ neutral gases from biomass and imports.

As a consequence, the energy system of the future is expected to not only require a strong electricity infrastructure, but also a strong gas infrastructure. For the Netherlands, this gas infrastructure is expected to transport hydrogen, bio-methane and imported natural gas, and for Germany it is expected to transport hydrogen, bio-methane and domestic or imported synthetic CO₂ neutral methane.

As such, TenneT and Gasunie, the electricity and gas transmission system operators (TSOs) in Germany and the Netherlands, have joined forces to answer questions regarding the future energy system. These questions address such matters as how both infrastructures interact, which energy will flow through which part of the infrastructure, and how to obtain a match between supply and demand, both in terms of space and time.

We decided for both Germany and the Netherlands to base the analysis on a common set of scenarios, outlining a plausible future energy system

with power-to-gas (P2G) as a cornerstone to fulfil a major proportion of energy demand and reflecting different governance approaches regarding the energy transition. In both cases, we took the scenarios from state-of-the art studies¹ available for the respective countries.

As an infrastructure outlook, this study provides initial insights on infrastructure implications and should not be considered as an investment proposal. The model we have used considers electricity and gas transport infrastructure in an integrated way from a high-level perspective.

All the scenarios show that not only the electricity, but also the existing gas transport infrastructure in Germany and the Netherlands will play a crucial role in the future energy systems envisaged in this study

We observe that electricity and gas fulfil complementary roles. Wind and solar power are the major primary sources of renewable energy. The

¹ CE Delft (2017), Net voor de Toekomst; Enervis (2017), Erneuerbare Gase - ein Systemupdate der Energiewende; FNB Gas (2017), Der Wert der Gasinfrastruktur für die Energiewende in Deutschland; dena (2018), dena-Leitstudie - Integrierte Energiewende.

scenarios consider supplying this renewable energy as electricity or as green gases to the market. The advantage of transporting electricity directly to those sectors where electrification is technically and economically feasible has the advantage of avoiding energy conversion and the associated energy loss. Green gases, meanwhile, provide an option to decarbonise those sectors where electrification is harder to achieve. In the figures below it is shown that for all scenarios studied in the Infrastructure Outlook 2050 electricity and gas are the main energy carriers.

Electricity supply based on wind and solar power is very volatile by nature. Although generation sometimes exceeds demand by an order of magnitude, there are also times when wind and solar power generation is very low ('Dunkelflaute'), resulting in dramatic undersupply. The analysis we performed shows that coupling power and gas grids gives the energy system valuable flexibility and transport capacity, by using the existing infrastructure throughout the modelled year. The existing gas transmission grid has enough capacity to fulfil its fundamentally changed role in the future energy system, although some technical adaptations are needed due to the different characteristics of hydrogen.

Provided that proper guidance can be given to power-to-gas (P2G) interfaces, coupling electricity and gas infrastructures may significantly alleviate the long-term expansion needs for electricity infrastructure. However, we foresee further expansion of the electricity grid after 2030 due to the expected growth in demand by end users.

We can conclude that the energy systems of the future will require both a strong gas and electricity backbone, including storage facilities, to secure supply to all forms of final consumption at any moment in time.



Final energy demand for the Netherlands (2017 and three 2050 scenarios)

Final energy demand for Germany (2017 and three 2050 scenarios)



Although electricity storage will be widely available by 2050, only gas storage will provide a solution for seasonal storage in a system based on solar and wind power

An energy system based on wind and solar power will require vast amounts of storage to cope with fluctuations in supply on timescales ranging between 'frequency restoration' to 'seasonal storage'. Furthermore, demand for energy varies considerably over the year (e.g. extra energy demand for heating in winter). Significant installed capacities of electricity storage (e.g. batteries, pump storage) have been considered in this study. However, the energy volume of such storage options, even until 2050, is limited. Existing underground gas storage facilities, on the other hand, can absorb large quantities of renewable energy for seasonal and long-term storage. Gas storage provides the main source of energy to the entire system during 'Dunkelflaute' situations. By coupling electricity and gas grids, renewable energy can gain access to existing underground gas storage facilities. As such, much like transmission infrastructure, electricity and gas storage are complementary.

The location, capacity and operation of P2G installations are decisive factors and must be aligned with both electricity and gas TSOs

Coupling the electricity and gas transport infrastructure with P2G installations gives the overall energy system additional flexibility. However, under scenarios with a high penetration of wind and solar power, the use of P2G causes a massive increase in electrical peak load, as a result of which it can potentially worsen infrastructural bottlenecks if the capacities and locations of these P2G installations are not properly aligned with the grids. Summary

An analysis of the results indicates that locating P2G installations close to renewable production facilities can reduce the need for electricity grid expansion. This is especially the case when the overall P2G capacity is relatively high in comparison to renewables. It is not a given however that P2G installations always relieve grid constraints. Significant electricity and gas grid constraints may still arise if, from a grid perspective, the operation of these installations is suboptimal. Therefore, appropriate incentives for the operation of P2G units must be put in place to ensure efficient grid operation.

Socially accepted solutions for an integrated energy infrastructure require a new level of public and political support

In most scenarios, increasing peak demand in the electricity grid results in an increased utilization or even overloading of transmission lines. According to the methodology chosen for this study, this may indicate a need for additional electrical grid expansions in addition to the measures until 2030 that have already been confirmed, both technically and politically.

We have identified two crucial aspects for the realisation and success of the energy transition: political willingness to construct new electricity transmission lines, to accommodate the predicted demand growth by end users and a fundamentally changed energy supply structure based on renewable energy sources, and the creation of a clear supportive regulatory framework for the integration of P2G plants into the energy system in order to minimise the total number of grid expansions.

Recommendations and further work

- Future discussions within the overall debate on the energy transition should aim for a detailed P2G implementation strategy, with special consideration of the corresponding implications it will have on electricity and gas grids.
- This strategy should also include work on the technical and economic feasibility of large-scale P2G facilities.
- In order to ensure efficient network investments, the electricity and gas TSOs should be involved in drawing up a detailed P2G integration strategy.
- To facilitate an efficient transition, we recommend that various pathways to 2050 described in this study are worked out in further detail.
- The findings of this study can provide guidance to the investment plan processes (NEP in Germany and IP/NOP in the Netherlands).
- The scenarios used in this study were based on national CO₂ accounting rules and therefore did not consider the future energy demand for international aviation and sea shipping. Since these forms of transport are expected to require substantial amounts of energy in the future for both Germany and the Netherlands, we recommend including them in a follow-up analysis.

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1. Introduction



The European transition towards a renewable energy system is entering a new phase with plans from EU member states that specify how the targets of the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework should be met. Although these plans leave some room to manoeuvre for the transition pathways towards 2050, a certain clarity is starting to appear regarding the direction of the overall route to be taken.

As can now be seen, the overall transition route for Europe will be based on an interplay between the production of renewable electricity and the conversion of 'green electrons' into 'green molecules', which are needed in bulk quantities outside the electricity system, e.g. for base chemical and plastics production.

The electrolysis of water is currently the most promising technology to convert renewable electricity into a physical product (i.e. hydrogen), since the technology will be able to provide the required flexibility to deal with large fluctuations in electricity production by wind and solar power. Another advantage of the electrolysis process is that the hydrogen produced and its derivative, methane, can be stored and transported in the current natural gas infrastructure. Also, both products can readily be used as fuel and as a building block for a large range of chemicals.

The conversion of power into gas also offers the possibility for largescale energy imports from elsewhere in the world. Some studies, such as by the International Energy Agency² already point out that the vast potential for offshore wind in the North Sea will not be enough to meet final demand³ of surrounding countries and that by 2050 these countries will have to import considerable amounts (up to 50%) of renewable energy from outside Europe. It has been predicted that the large-scale application of P2G conversion (and the continued use of methane and hydrogen in power plants for gas-to-power conversion) will lead to an increased interweaving of the gas and electricity transport infrastructures. Although the conceptual idea of coupling gas and electricity infrastructures has been observed in a number of studies, plotting the consequences for the transmission of energy on a national scale has not been addressed so far. Early 2018, TenneT and Gasunie decided to initiate a study into this matter.

The *Infrastructure Outlook 2050* outlines an integrated energy infrastructure design based on supply and demand requirements that fulfil greenhouse gas emission reductions as stated in the Paris Agreement. The goal of the study is to gain insight in the potential and limitations of the combined gas and electricity infrastructures of the Netherlands and Germany in 2050. For this, we used an integrated infrastructure model for gas and electricity that enabled us to study the possible infrastructure consequences of available supply and demand scenarios for 2050. This outlook presents a direction in which the infrastructure could develop to 2050. It serves to support the shorter-term decisionmaking processes. After all, although the Outlook concerns the year 2050, the relevant decisions must be made today.

² International Energy Agency, World Energy Outlook 2017

³ Final demand includes energy demand (e.g., for heating, as feedstock, etc.) supplied by all energy carriers (e.g., electricity, hydrogen) together.

2. Methodology

This section describes the methodological approach of the Infrastructure Outlook 2050. Key elements of the approach are a comprehensive modelling approach of the national energy systems of Germany and the Netherlands, and the use of an integrated infrastructure model that can assess the gas and electricity transport systems simultaneously.

| Scenario framework | Energy system calculations | Regionalisation and selection of snapshots | Infrastructure analysis | Visualisation & analysis of results |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|

Figure 1: Overall study set-up

2.1 Corporate approach

The overall set-up for the study includes five consecutive steps, as presented in Figure 1.

Step 1: Scenario framework

We worked out in detail three different scenarios for each country. The scenarios differ in how the transition process will be steered. For this study, we assumed that steering can be done at a local level by local councils, at a national level by national governments and at a global level based on international trading agreements. All the scenarios fulfil the long-term climate target, i.e. reduction of CO₂ emissions by 95% in 2050 compared to the reference year 1990. For more information on the scenario framework and the contents of the scenarios, please refer to Appendix I.

Step 2: Energy system calculations

Each scenario considers four energy carriers: liquid fuel (synthetic and fossil oil), electricity, hydrogen and methane (natural gas, synthetic methane and biogas). For the latter three, hourly values for supply and demand (including interrelated conversions) were generated.

Historic hourly weather data from 2015⁴ was used to quantify the weather-dependent behaviour of demand and of solar and wind power for the reference year 2050. We assessed the data focusing on the analysed country alone, i.e. not integrated in the European energy infrastructure system.

P2G (electrolysis) and gas-to-power (gas-fired power plant) installations were modelled as base options for balancing the electricity system. Batteries and pump storage (the second only in Germany) were modelled as to provide peak balancing (i.e. daily flexibility) due to their

⁴ Temperature and wind data series from 2015 were used, as these were readily available in the tooling. This weather year represents an 'normal' year.

limited storage capability. We used the remaining flexibility possibilities, e.g. import/export and power to heat, in the model as the last option for balancing the electricity system. The annual pattern of the gas demand of different sectors of the economy was taken from the consulted studies. For each sector, the hourly gas demand was calculated in line with the weather data from 2015.

The main supply source of gas in scenarios with marginal gas imports is hydrogen produced by electrolysis (P2G). As such, the calculated gas supply is strongly influenced by the hourly production of solar and wind power. The same applies to gas demand, which is strongly affected by the consumption of the gas-fired power plants serving electrical demand during times with low production by solar and wind power. In terms of flexibility, the main element on the gas side to cover the resulting supply/demand imbalances are the underground storage facilities for hydrogen and methane.

The result of this procedure is a set of hourly time series (8,760 hours) for supply, demand and flexibility for each scenario.

Step 3: Regionalisation and selection of critical hours (snapshots)

For the analysis of what infrastructure is needed, national supply and demand had to be split up into smaller regions. We based this regional split on category-dependent regionalization keys derived from a number of statistical sources. We determined the locations of P2G installations by testing different options for the Dutch and German energy systems.

Demand and supply values for the different energy carriers were available for all 8,760 hours of every scenario. For the selection of critical hours, we considered three infrastructure stressing situations:

- High renewable energy supply and high electrical demand (main stress test for the electricity grid)
- High renewable energy supply and low demand (stress test for both the gas and the electricity grid)
- Low renewable energy supply and high demand (main stress test for the gas network).

For these situations, we selected several representative hours from the time series. More information on snapshot selection is provided in Appendix I.

Step 4: Infrastructure analysis

One of the key elements of the chosen methodological approach is the integrated infrastructure model, developed by Gasunie Transport Services and TenneT TSO B.V.. This model enables simultaneous modelling of gas (methane and hydrogen) and electricity transport systems.

The model is based on a linear programming algorithm. For any balanced entry/exit combination, it calculates an optimised network flow pattern. The model assumes a (pipe)line transport load function T(Q) that is linear in transported power (Q) and (pipe)line length (L): $T(Q) = Q \cdot L$. The minimum of the sum of (pipe)line load functions then determines the flow pattern. In this way, electricity and gas flows can be treated on the same basis.

Each (pipe)line in the model is assumed to have a (bidirectional) transport capacity, expressed as a maximum possible energy flow (MW) over this (pipe)line. The model is set up in a way that available (pipe)line capacity will always be fully used before a bottleneck occurs. The model assesses whether the total energy throughput is possible in the modelled combined grid. The calculated flow pattern may not always represent the actual, physical flow, but it does provide a good indication whether bottlenecks will occur in the grid or not. The capacity of gas pipelines is based on available data of the present networks of Gasunie Transport Services, those of the electricity lines on similar data from TenneT. We assumed⁵ that the transport capacity of a hydrogen pipeline is 80% of the capacity of a high-calorific methane pipeline and 95% of a low-calorific pipeline.

Due to the high reliability requirements imposed on electricity networks, we decided to decrease the nominal capacities of AC lines by a factor of 0.7 to mimic the N-1 requirement⁶ of electricity transmission networks. Further details of the model can be found in Appendix II.

Step 5: Visualisation and analysis of results

The output of the grid model calculations for each snapshot is presented in the form of a grid map with coloured network flows: green for light to moderate (pipe)line loads, yellow for heavily loaded lines and red for overloaded lines. The width of the (pipe)lines indicates the (relative) magnitude of the flow.

2.2 Dutch specifics

1) Scenario framework

We developed Dutch scenarios using the data from the 'Net voor de Toekomst' (NvdT) study⁷. According to the chosen storyline framework of our outlook, we selected the scenarios 'local steering', 'national steering' and 'international steering'.

2) Energy system calculations

We calculated national hourly supply and demand values for the total Dutch energy system with the Energy Transition Model (ETM) developed by Quintel⁸. The total national energy demand was allocated to the three energy carriers considered. Where necessary, we considered additional data. With regard to the production of electricity from solar and wind power and the effect of temperature on energy demand (cooling and heating), we modelled the Netherlands as a single weather zone.

3) Regionalisation and selection of critical hours (snapshots)

We mapped the hourly data to municipalities, which means we considered 380 areas in total. The municipal values are linked to the nearest entry/exit⁹ of the corresponding electricity or gas transport network in order to create the required input data for the integrated infrastructure model. We have assumed that the location of the conventional power plants in 2050 will not change. Power production was scaled with respect to current installed capacity.

4) Infrastructure analysis

We modelled the Dutch integrated transport infrastructure using TenneT's current 380/220kV high-voltage network, including expansions up to 2030, and the current high-pressure (80 and 67 bar) networks of Gasunie Transport Services (see Figure 2). The current Dutch high-calorific natural gas network is, in the model, largely assigned to future hydrogen trans-

⁵ Based on a report by DNV-GL (DNV-GL, 2017, 'Verkenning waterstofinfrastructuur'.)

⁶ This is the rule according to which the elements remaining in operation within a (TSO's) control area after a contingency occurs must be capable of accommodating the new operational situation without violating operational security limits.

⁷ CE Delft (2017). 'Net voor de Toekomst' (Achtergrondrapport), november 2017.

⁸ See: https://pro.energytransitionmodel.com/; the 'Net voor de Toekomst' scenarios are available on the Energy Transition Model (ETM) website and can be freely used for further analysis and evaluation purposes.

⁹ The closest neighbour analysis considering the underlying infrastructure.

ports and the low-calorific network to the transports of natural gas and bio-methane.

2.3 German specifics

For Germany, the modelling and analysis steps were generally similar to those applied for the Netherlands. The specific deviations from this approach are described in the following subsections.



Figure 2: Geographic overview of assumed topologies for the Dutch gas and electricity infrastructures. (Line thickness represents maximum available transport capacity. Visual representation of gas and electricity capacities is not proportional.)

1) Scenario framework

Since the 'Net voor de Toekomst' study did not include neighbouring countries, we selected specific energy studies for Germany in line with the general storyline definition of this outlook. As such, the German scenarios are not identical to the Dutch ones. The three selected studies are:

- Local: 'Optimiertes System' from the study 'Erneuerbare Gase ein Systemupdate der Energiewende' published by INES and Enervis¹⁰.
- National: 'Strom und Grünes Gas' from the study 'Der Wert der Gasinfrastruktur für die Energiewende in Deutschland' published by FNB Gas and Frontier Economics¹¹.
- International: 'Technologiemix 95%' from the study 'dena Leistudie Integrierte Energiewende' published by dena and EWI¹².

2) Energy system calculations

We used the ETM to model the hourly structure of supply and demand for the considered scenarios. For Germany, we took regional weather conditions into account in the model, leading to regional profiles for supply and demand.

The supply of methane in two scenarios was based on methanation of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide with hydrogen. The assumed 'operation strategy' (see Appendix II) for this process has a major effect on the use of storage for both hydrogen and methane.

¹⁰ https://erdgasspeicher.de/files/20171212_studie_erneuerbare_gase.pdf

¹¹ https://www.fnb-gas.de/files/fnb_gas_wert_von_gasinfrastruktur-endbericht.pdf

¹² https://shop.dena.de/fileadmin/denashop/media/Downloads_Dateien/esd/9261_dena-Leitstudie_Integrierte_Energiewende_lang.pdf



Figure 3: NUTS 2 regions of Germany (Source: de.wikipedia.org).

3) Regionalisation and selection of critical hours (snapshots) We mapped the demand and supply data of Germany to the NUTS 2 regions and as such Germany was divided into 38 regions (see Figure 3).

4) Infrastructure analysis

As for the Dutch modelling, we modelled separate energy transport infrastructures for electricity, hydrogen and methane. The mapping of supply and demand data to NUTS 2 level meant we had to define a grid and an aggregated grid topology. To match the structure of the input data from regionalisation to the grid model and to also limit overall model complexity, we had to simplify the German grid topology as well. The transport capacities between the nodes enable an exchange of energy between the regions. We modelled the connection links using a capacity and a length according to the asset properties. If there were more links between two corresponding regions, then we aggregated the capacity. Figure 4 shows the topology of the electricity grid including today's 380/220 kV transport grid and all the reinforcement and expansion measures until 2030 that are officially approved by the German regulator (Bundesnetzagentur)¹³.

As the German gas grid is owned and operated by several TSOs, detailed grid data and a calculation tool for the whole grid are not available. To develop a calculation model in alignment with the NUTS 2 regions, we used public information like maps or data from the German NDP (Netzentwicklungsplan – NEP). This data was collected and combined to generate a simplified grid model that takes into account the capacity of each pipeline as a function of diameter, nominal pressure

¹³ Confirmed measures according to German grid development plan 2030 (v2017), not covering all measures proposed by the German transmission system operators (TSOs)

and gas quality. We only considered pipelines with a pressure higher than 40 bar and a diameter larger than 400 mm. We assumed that the transport capacity of a pipeline used for hydrogen transport is 80% of the capacity of the same pipeline used for methane.

As the low calorific gas grid only covers part of North West Germany, we had to take a different approach for the split of the gas infrastructure than the one we used for the Dutch grid models. This approach was based on the fact that the future hydrogen system will have to provide the main flexibility to the integrated energy system to absorb the large fluctuations in the electricity generation in the scenarios with large amounts of solar and wind power. In order to create a strong hydrogen grid, we selected most of the 'backbone' pipelines in the German gas infrastructure, such as the main transit or import pipelines, for hydrogen transport. For the methane grid, we used smaller pipelines and loop pipelines to the transit infrastructure.



Figure 4: Geographic overview of assumed topologies for the German gas and electricity infrastructures. (Line thickness represents maximum available transport capacity. Visual representation of gas and electricity capacities is not proportional.)

3. Scenario framework

The second second

IN IN

'National'

- Aim for energy independence relying mostly on **centralised** RES supply
- Mostly central supply of wind
- Strong support of power-to-gas and batteries as flexibility options
- Limited energy exchange with other countries

NvdT 'national' (NL) FNB 'Strom und Grünes Gas' (DE)



min. -95% CO₂ emissions until 2050

'Local'

- Strong aim for energy independence relying on **centralised** RES supply
- Mostly decentral supply of **solar**
- Strong support of power-to-gas and batteries as flexibility options
- No energy exchange with neighbouring countries

'International'

- Globally oriented policy with focus on international energy exchange
- No strong support of extensive RES supply increase
- 'Business as usual'

NvdT 'international' (NL) dena 'Technologiemix 95%' (DE)

NvdT 'regional' (NL) Enervis 'Optimiertes System' (DE)

Table 1: Overview of the main CO2 reduction measures per end user sector for each scenario

3.1 Overall storylines

As can be seen from Table 1, the use of the scenario driver, governance structure, has resulted in scenarios with significantly different energy systems though all achieve the 95% emission reduction target by 2050. graphic representation of the scenarios, which clearly indicates their differences, is provided on pages 26 through 31.

1) Local – focus on decentralised renewables

In this scenario (page 26-27), we assumed that municipalities and city

councils are in the driver's seat, thereby placing a strong emphasis on energy independency at a national level. Power and heat are generated decentrally where possible using local renewable sources, such as solar power, but also wind, biomass and geothermal energy play a rol. Overall electrification is the highest in this scenario. Due to the strong dependence on solar PV, we assumed a high amount of battery storage to cover intraday variations. The local scenario also contains the highest amount of installed power-to-hydrogen capacity to span seasonality in supply and demand. The hydrogen produced is mainly used as a transport fuel Scenario framework

and as feedstock or heating fuel for the process industry. Hydrogen, and to some extent renewable methane, is also used as a fuel for back-up power plants.

2) National – focus on centralised renewable production

This storyline (page 28-29) assumes that national governments take the lead in the energy transition and, like the local scenario, aims for a high degree of energy self-sufficiency. There is an emphasis on centralised wind power and electrification of final energy demand. Besides electricity, there is a substantial demand for hydrogen and methane (bio-methane or methane from methanation of hydrogen) from renewable sources.

Hydrogen is used in the industry as a feedstock, process fuel for spatial heating and a transport fuel. Hydrogen and methane are also used as fuel for back-up power plants during periods with a low infeed of wind power. Due to the strong dependence on variable wind power, there is a need for a considerable amount of flexibility from power-to-hydrogen and battery storage.

3) International – focus on energy import

This storyline (page 30-31) assumes that renewable energy will be produced in bulk at locations around the world with the most favourable conditions for solar and wind power. This would lead to the majority of the required renewable energy being imported in the form of gas (methane or hydrogen) or as green liquid fuels hence, imported as 'molecules'. As such, domestic installed renewable capacities will be lower compared to the other two scenarios.

3.2 Dutch specifics

As presented in chapter two the Dutch scenarios were based on three of the four scenarios from the 2017 'Net voor de Toekomst' study. The main assumptions of these three scenarios are presented in Table 2.

3.3 German specifics

From the system studies described in the previous chapter, we used the scenario 'Optimiertes System' from the INES and Enervis study¹⁴ for the local scenario, as this scenario considers Germany as mainly selfsufficient with high shares of solar PV in electricity generation. For the national scenario, we chose the scenario 'Strom und Grünes Gas' from the FNB Gas study¹⁵, as this also takes a national approach with a focus on centralised offshore wind. For the international scenario, we chose the 95% technology mix scenario from the dena-Leitstudie¹⁶ because of its high P2X imports from EU and non-EU countries. In order to make the data basis of these scenario comparable to the "International" Dutch Scenario from NvdT, the final energy demand for international aviation and sea shipping was not taken into account by performing this study. There is no pure electrification strategy in any of the considered scenarios. Instead, green gas (hydrogen or methane) accounts for a high share of demand in all sectors. Methane is mainly used to cover domestic heat demand, whereas hydrogen is used for for industrial processes and mobility. P2G plays a key role in decarbonising Germany's energy system. Green transport fuels from power-to-liquid process are nationally produced in the local scenario and otherwise imported. According to the scenario framework, imports are highest in the international scenario. Table 3 provides an overview of the scenarios' main parameters.

¹⁴ https://erdgasspeicher.de/files/20171212_studie_erneuerbare_gase.pdf

¹⁵ https://www.fnb-gas.de/files/fnb_gas_wert_von_gasinfrastruktur-endbericht.pdf

¹⁶ https://shop.dena.de/fileadmin/denashop/media/Downloads_Dateien/esd/9261_dena-Leitstudie_Integrierte_Energiewende_lang.pdf

| | Local | National | International |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Power & Light | 25% base-load savings through more efficient appliances. Substantial electrification of industry | 25% base-load savings through more efficient appliances. Substantial electrification of industry | 25% savings through more efficient appliances |
| Low-temperature heat | High penetration of heat grids and all-electric (restrictions on green gas, no H2 distribution) Savings: 23% | High penetration of hybrid heat pumps burning H2 (and green gas) (restrictions on green gas) Savings: 23% | High penetration of hybrid heat pumps burning H2 and green gas (mild restrictions on green gas). Savings: 12% |
| High-temperature & feedstock industry | Circular industry and ambitious process innovation: 60% savings 55% electrification 97% lower CO ₂ emissions | Circular industry and ambitious process innovation: 60% savings 55% electrification 97% lower CO ₂ emissions | Biomass-based industry: 55% savings 35% biomass 14% electrification 95% lower CO ₂ emissions |
| Passenger transport | 100% electric | 75% electric 25% hydrogen | 50% electric 25% green gas 25% hydrogen |
| Freight transport | 50% green gas 50% hydrogen | 50% green gas 50% hydrogen | 25% biofuels 25% green gas 50% hydrogen |
| Renewables generation | 84 GW solar 16 GW onshore wind 26 GW offshore wind | 34 GW solar 14 GW onshore wind 53 GW offshore wind | 16 GW solar 5 GW onshore wind 6 GW offshore wind |
| Conversion and storage | 75 GW electrolysis 60 GW battery storage | 60 GW electrolysis 50 GW battery storage | 2 GW electrolysis 5 GW battery storage |
| Hydrogen | 100 TWh domestic generation | 158 TWh domestic generation | 73 TWh import 4 TWh domestic generation |
| Methane | 23 TWh domestic biomethane 35 TWh imported natural gas | 46 TWh domestic biomethane 55 TWh imported natural gas | 24 TWh domestic biomethane 72 TWh imported natural gas |
| Biomass | | | 28 TWh import |

Table 2: Main characteristics of the Dutch scenarios

| | Local | National | International |
|--|--|--|--|
| Power & Light | 25% base-load savings through more efficient appliances | 10% savings | 25% savings through more efficient appliances |
| Low-temperature heat | High penetration of efficient electric heat pumps. Savings: 41% | High penetration of heat pumps and gas fired heaters burning methane. Savings: 33% | 35% Electric heat pumps. Savings: 41% |
| High-temperature & feedstock industry | Mix of many energy sources: 15% savings 16% biomass 29% electrification 100% lower CO ₂ emissions | Mix of many energy sources: 25% savings 24% biomass 29% electrification 100% lower CO ₂ emissions | Growing importance of green gas in industry: 18% savings 4% biomass 36% electrification 86% lower CO ₂ emissions |
| Passenger transport | 100% electric | 25% electric 25% hydrogen 50% synthetic fuels | 25% electric 25% hydrogen 25% methane 25% synthetic fuels |
| Freight transport | 50% hydrogen 50% synthetic fuels | 35% hydrogen 65% synthetic fuels | 25% electric 25% hydrogen 50% synthetic fuels |
| Renewables generation | 600 GW solar 210 GW onshore wind 64 GW offshore wind | 218 GW solar 193 GW onshore wind 191 GW offshore wind | 114 GW solar 171 GW onshore wind 26 GW offshore wind |
| Conversion and storage | 281 GW electrolysis 110 GW battery storage | 254 GW electrolysis minor effect of battery storage on transmission level | 63 GW electrolysis 15 GW battery storage |
| Hydrogen | 365 TWh by domestic P2G <i>No imports</i> Demand from industry/transport Fuel for power-plants | 323 TWh by domestic P2G <i>No imports</i> Demand from industry/transport Fuel for power-plants | 164 TWh by domestic P2G 5 TWh imports Relatively small demand from industry/ transport |
| Methane | 365 TWh by domestic methanation 200 TWh by domestic biomethane <i>No imports</i> High demand in all sectors | 323 TWh by domestic methanation <i>No imports</i> Demand from residential | No domestic methanation 1 <i>08 TWh imports</i> High demand in all sectors |
| Power-fuels | 151 TWh by domestic generation <i>No imports</i> Demand from transport | No domestic generation 286 TWh imports of green power-fuels Demand from transport | 87 TWh by domestic generation 108 TWh imports of green power-fuels Demand mainly from transport, but also from industry and residential |

Local scenario (the Netherlands)



Supply:Large volume solar PV and limited wind power. Some biogas production and import of natural gasDemand:Spatial heating: district heating (geothermal, residual heat), electric heat pumps and hybrid green gas boilers.Industry:feedstock: plastic waste and hydrogen, heat: hydrogen and electricityTransport:passenger cars: 100 % electric, trucks: 50% hydrogen and 50% green gas

Flexibility: Power to gas and batteries

Local scenario (Germany)



 Supply: Large volume of installed solar PV and considerable amount of wind power. Biogas production
Demand: Spatial heating: district heating, electric heat pumps and green gas boilers. Industry: feedstock: methane, heat: biomass, electricity, hydrogen and methane
Transport: passenger cars: 100 % electric, trucks: 45% hydrogen, 50% synthetic fuel, 5% electric
Flexibility: Power to gas and batteries Scenario framework

National scenario (the Netherlands)



Supply: Large volume offshore wind and limited solar PV. Some biogas production and import of natural gas.

Demand: Spatial heating: hybrid and conventional hydrogen and methane gas boilers.

Industry: feedstock: plastic waste and hydrogen, heat: hydrogen and electricity

Transport: passenger cars: 75 % electric, 25% hydrogen, trucks: 50% hydrogen and 50% green gas

Flexibility: Power to gas and batteries

National scenario (Germany)



Supply:Large volume of off- and onshore wind and considerable amount of solar PV. Biogas production and import synthetic fuelDemand:Spatial heating: mainly green gas boilers and electric and district heating.
Industry: total: biomass, hydrogen, methane and electricity.
Transport: passenger cars: 25 % electric, 50% hydrogen, 25% synthetic fuel, trucks: 40% hydrogen and 60% synthetic fuels

Flexibility: Power to gas

International scenario (the Netherlands)



- Supply: Import of biomass, synthetic liquid fuels, hydrogen and methane. Some biogas production
- Demand: Spatial heating: Hybrid and conventional hydrogen boilers and hybrid biogas boilers Industry: feedstock: biomass and hydrogen, heat: hydrogen, biomass, green gas and synthetic fuel Transport: passenger cars: 50 % electric, 25% hydrogen and 25% biogas; trucks: 50% hydrogen, 25% green gas and 25% synthetic fuels

Flexibility: (no specific measures)

International scenario (Germany)



Supply: Considerable volumes of wind and solar PV. Biogas production and import of synthetic methane and fuels

Demand: Spatial heating: Electric heat pumps, synthetic gas and fuel boilers

Industry: feedstock: methane and synthetic fuel, heat: hydrogen, methane and electricity

Transport: passenger cars: electricity, methane, hydrogen and synthetic fuel (all 25%); trucks: 25% hydrogen, 25% electricity and 50% synthetic fuel

Flexibility: Power to gas and some batteries

4. What do the energy scenarios teach us regarding transport infrastructure?

4.1 Final annual electricity and gas demand

For the Netherlands, the scenarios with a high share of domestic renewable electricity production ('Local' and 'National') show an increase of 30% in the total amount of electricity that will need to be transported. For the international scenario, the total amount of electricity that will need to be transported is comparable to today's transport volumes. The total amount of electricity that will be transported through the German electricity system in 2050, will remain within a range of \pm 10% of the present levels.

For all German and Dutch scenarios, we found that the total annual volume of gas that will need to be transported (synthetic methane and hydrogen) will be either comparable to, or even higher than today's volume.

In addition to the above mentioned findings, Figures 3 and 4 also show that the final total energy demand will decrease in both countries. This is mainly because of a decline in liquid fuel consumption. It should be noted that both figures present the values for *final* demand. The primary production of electricity will be much higher in both countries due to the intermediate conversion of power into gas.

For most German scenarios, the demand for hydrogen will also be higher, due to the subsequent conversion of hydrogen into methane and liquid fuels.



Figure 3: Final annual demand in the Netherlads in 2017 and in 2050 for the three Dutch scenarios.



Figure 4: Final annual demand in Germany in 2017 and in 2050 for the three German scenarios.

4.2 Annual gas storage demand

The findings regarding gas storage are based on the assumption that the available pore and aquifer storages will be used to store methane in 2050. For hydrogen, we assume storage in salt caverns to be the preferred option, based on a recent report by TNO¹⁷.

The results show that there are currently enough pore and aquifer storages (depleted gas fields) available for both countries to store methane in all of the considered scenarios. The available storage volumes of salt caverns in the Netherlands need to be expanded for all scenarios considered. For Germany the results show that the available cavern storage capacity is sufficient to meet the demand for the local scenario. For the other two scenarios a certain expansion is foreseen. Due to the lower calorific value of hydrogen, converting caverns from methane to hydrogen storage will reduce the energy content of the facility by a factor three. In the Netherlands, around 3 TWh of cavern storage is available for natural gas. Converting all caverns from methane to hydrogen would therefore reduce the energy content to 1 TWh. The modelling results for the Netherlands show that, depending on the scenario, a cavern storage volume up to 20 times higher than current capacity will be needed to secure future hydrogen supply.

The currently available pore and aquifer storages in the Netherlands have a total storage capacity of 150 TWh for natural gas, which is more than enough for the future storage of methane. In Germany, some 140 TWh of cavern storage is available for methane. Converting all caverns from methane to hydrogen storage would reduce the energy content of cavern storage to 45 TWh. This is enough for the international scenario, but not enough for the other scenarios, based on the current assumptions.

Cavern storages for hydrogen will play an important role for all three German scenarios due to the large amounts of installed P2G capacities that are foreseen. In all scenarios the storages are also heavily used with respect to capacity and storage volume. As mentioned above it may be necessary to expand not only storage volumes, but also their capacity in the future hydrogen system. However, this issue will require further study because the need for hydrogen and methane storage very much depends on the way the methanation installations are handled.

The currently available pore and aquifer storages in Germany have a

total storage volume of 120 TWh for methane, which, based on the current assumptions, is more than enough for future methane storage.

4.3 National peak supply and demand for electricity and gas

In order to cover annual energy demand with solar and wind power, the electricity system must absorb supply surpluses of up to five times the current peak electricity demand. This is the case in both Germany and the Netherlands.

The total gas system has sufficient capacity for hydrogen and methane transport to handle the volatilities in electricity supply, if enough storage for hydrogen, both in terms of capacity and volume, is made available. Peak electricity demand for power and light applications will increase up to a factor two for both Germany and the Netherlands.

Above findings are illustrated in Figures 7 and 8, which present the



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Required gas storage volumes in the Netherlands (TWh)

Figure 6: Required hydrogen and methane gas storage volumes in 2050 for the three German scenarios

¹⁷ https://www.nlog.nl/sites/default/files/2018-11/Ondergrondse+Opslag+in+Nederland+-+Technische+Verkenning.pdf



Figure 7: Dutch national peak demand and supply (GW) for the three scenarios¹⁸.

values for peak demand and supply of electricity, hydrogen and methane for both the Dutch and the German scenarios.

Transport frastructure

The considerable increase in electricity peak demand already indicates that reinforcement of the transmission grid will become necessary. t is also clear, that measures must be taken to prevent an overload of the electricity system, which may occur by inappropriate choice of P2G locations or way of operation. Figure 8: German national peak demand and supply (GW) for the three scenarios¹⁹.

As the model results show that the transport needs in 2050 for both total gas demand and total gas supply will be lower than the currently observed levels, no severe problems are foreseen if the locations for P2G and methanation (Germany) are properly selected. Under the local scenario for Germany this location selection can become a critical factor, because the total gas demand corresponds exactly with the current peak transport capacity.

¹⁸ Demand and supply do not include any flexibility instruments, e.g. storage capacities.
¹⁹ Demand and supply do not include any flexibility instruments, e.g. storage capacities.

5. What does the infrastructure model teach us?

5.1 Regarding the coupling of gas and electricity infrastructure?

Converting renewable energy to hydrogen at locations close to the renewable production facilities will relieve bottlenecks in the electricity infrastructure, without causing problems for the gas infrastructure. This means that the location of P2G installations is crucial for the energy flows in the system and the amount of renewable energy that can be collected using hydrogen as a carrier.

We tested the abovementioned findings by analysing the grid consequences for a situation where P2G installations are located near solar and wind energy production (proportional to installed generation capacity) and for a situation where the P2G installations are sited near industrial areas with hydrogen demand. As illustrated by Figure 9, where a critical situation of high demand and high infeed of renewables in the Netherlands is used as an example, siting P2G installations near renewable supply will decrease the total transport demand for electricity and will reduce the number of bottlenecks.

Model results, which are provided in Appendix III, also revealed that siting of P2G installations near renewable supply at quantities proportional to the total installed capacity of solar and wind power does not always prevent congestion in the electricity grid. This is because the favourable locations for solar and wind power installations in both countries are in different areas of the country, e.g. for Germany, wind power in the north and solar power in the south. This finding is best illustrated on the basis of two snapshots for Germany as presented in Figure 10. The left side of the figure shows the results of a snapshot for the local scenario for an hour at the end of February with a simultaneous high infeed of wind and solar power. As the figure shows, the German electricity system is able to accommodate this situation in the given set-up of the P2G installations.



Figure 9: Impact of electrolyser location on electricity flows in the Netherlands. Snapshot 4044 (high demand and high infeed of renewable energy), with electrolysers located close to renewable electricity supply (left) and close to hydrogen demand (right). The right side of the picture shows an hour at the beginning of February, again for the local scenario, with only a high infeed of electricity from wind. In this case, we found that the German electricity transmission system will be considerably overloaded, even though the fact that total supply is lower than calculated for the left situation. This is because a large share of the surpluses of wind power produced in the north of the country has to be transported to the P2G installations in the south, near locations of solar generation.

Our analysis underlines the importance of the careful consideration of the locations and installed capacities of P2G facilities for the efficient use of existing infrastructures. For example, placing P2G installations predominantly at the same locations as wind generation may be advantageous because, over time, 1 GW of installed wind power generates more energy than 1 GW of installed solar power.

The way P2G facilities are operated could also have a major impact on the grids. For example, if not all P2G capacities are used at a certain point in time, the decision of which plant to have in operation will determine the flow on the electricity and gas grids.

5.2 Regarding the electricity infrastructure?

In addition to the findings in the previous section regarding the locations and capacities of P2G installations, our study also found that the Dutch electricity transmission network (as foreseen for 2030) will be able to accommodate a considerable part of the forecasted load increase for everyday power and light applications. However, for situations in which the Dutch electricity grid has to accommodate transit flows, there appears to be insufficient available transport capacity.



Figure 10: Left: snapshot with high infeed of wind and solar Germany ('Local' scenario, hour 1450, which is a daytime hour at the end of February). Right: snapshot high infeed of only wind ('Local' scenario, hour 916, which is a nighttime situation in the beginning of February).

For Germany, meanwhile, we have found that the electricity network as foreseen for 2030 will still not have sufficient capacity to cover the peak demands as forecast for 2050.

The specific findings for the Netherlands, as illustrated in Figure 11, show that the transmission network in 2030 can facilitate an increase in peak electricity demand to some extent, but that doubling the peak demand to 35 GW will result in network bottlenecks.

Model results for Germany show that an increase of 20% in current peak load for power and light applications will cause bottlenecks in the 2030 transmission network.





Figure 11: Model results for Dutch snapshots with high demand (Left: National, hour 7746 / Right: Local, hour 954).

Figure 12: Model results for German snapshot with high demand (Local, hour 473).



Figure 13: Example of the impact of transit flows on the Dutch electricity transmission grid (Local, hour 4044).

Figure 13 illustrates the impact of transit flows on the Dutch electricity system, assuming an international transit flow from the north of the country to the south. As can be seen, this transit leads to a higher load, leaving less capacity available for domestic energy transports.

5.3 Regarding the gas infrastructure?

Even without performing infrastructure calculations, it is clear that the future use of the gas infrastructure in the Netherlands and Germany will

be different from its present use. TSOs currently transport natural gas (of different gas qualities), but in 2050 gas networks must transport hydrogen, (synthetic) methane and maybe even CO₂, if carbon capture has a role in the future energy system.

The infrastructure calculations for the Dutch gas network show that the gas system can accommodate all foreseen severe combinations of hydrogen and methane transport. This includes transport of hydrogen to

and from cavern storage facilities in the north-east of the country and the transport of (bio)methane to and from empty gas fields, also mainly located in the north-east.

For Germany, the infrastructure model generally shows higher loads on the methane and hydrogen grids than in the Netherlands. Some snapshots show a high load of the methane or the hydrogen grid infrastructure. The limitations are local: for a small number of connections, the available capacity, assigned based on a relatively simple method, is exceeded.

In the Netherlands, the assumed conversion of the present gas network to a hydrogen transmission network and a methane transmission network is fairly straightforward. The present high-calorific gas network has excellent connections to all large industrial areas in the Netherlands, and to the import and export points. Because hydrogen will become very important as feedstock and as fuel for industrial heating, there are many advantages to assigning the high-calorific network to the transport of hydrogen. The low-calorific network is very well connected to the domestic market (via the intermediate pressure network of GTS and low pressure networks of a number of DSOs), making it the obvious choice for the transmission of methane. With this design, (existing) end-user applications can still be used in the future. As hydrogen and methane pipelines can be found in many areas in parallel stretches, the transport of hydrogen to DSO networks is also possible in these areas.



Figure 14: Results of model run for situation with low demand and extensive P2G conversion (National, hour 4044) in the Netherlands.

The above findings for the Netherlands' infrastructure are proven in the model runs, where extensive P2G conversion will be used to store excess energy during a high supply situation, while for a high-demand situation and no infeed from renewables, previously stored energy will be used. As can be seen in Figure 14, situations with low demand and high hydrogen production give rise to hydrogen flows in the direction of the storage locations in the north of the country, which can easily be accommodated by the current high-calorific system.

The model results for a situation with high gas demand due to extra demand for spatial heating and the operation of gas power plants supplied with methane from gas storages show a high load of the future methane infrastructure (see Figure 15).



Figure 15: Results of model run for situation with high demand due to spatial heating and operation of back-up power plants (Local, hour 954) in the Netherlands.

For Germany, there are a few situations where the assigned capacities of the gas system are exceeded locally, e.g. when all P2G installations are operating at full capacity to convert a large surplus of electricity resulting from a high infeed of solar and wind power.

Figure 16 shows high flows occurring on the German hydrogen grid due to the transport of hydrogen from the P2G facilities to the storage Figure 16: Snapshot for a daytime hour at the end of June (Local, hour 4358), with maximum hydrogen production from a high infeed of solar and wind power in Germany.

locations, which are mainly located in northern Germany due to the presence of geological salt formations there.

The methane grid shows a moderate transport situation, since it only has to cope with a constant, relatively small supply of methane from methanation installations. The bottleneck in the methane grid in the very north of Germany (Schleswig-Holstein) results from the high amount of methanation installations in this area, optimising the integration of offshore renewable production.

Similar to the Netherlands, another stressful situation for the German gas infrastructure (mainly in the local and the national scenario) appears in hours with no hydrogen supply from P2G plants. Here, basically the total gas demand (including gas-for-power plants) will be covered by withdrawal from storages in different regions of Germany. As mentioned above, most hydrogen storages are located in the north of the country, while methane storages can be found in the central area and to a large extent in the south of Germany.

As can be seen in Figure 17, this so-called 'Dunkelflaute' situation results in a high load of the total gas infrastructure. Hydrogen from storages in north-west regions is transported to the south of the country, while at the same time methane is transported from storages in the south to the north-west of the country (an important industrial region with high demand is the Ruhr Area). A high load flow exceeding the maximum capacity can be seen for the methane grid in the south of the country.

frastructure model We should emphasise that, in 'splitting' the German gas infrastructure, the hydrogen grid was modelled as a stronger system. The high load of the system we observed may also be a result of the simplifications made for the infrastructure model. As such, detailed modelling for the relevant grid regions is required to draw clear conclusions about any bottlenecks.

Furthermore, it should be kept in mind that the 'split' of the gas infrastructure into a hydrogen and a methane grid could be optimised with a broad range of options, which was not done in the context of this study.



Figure 17: Snapshot of a 'Dunkelflaute' situation at the end of January at 6 p.m. (Local, hour 474) in Germany.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

This joint study by TenneT and Gasunie addresses the requirements and limitations of a future energy system largely based on solar and wind power. Meeting demand with these highly fluctuating energy sources will require both a strong electricity and gas infrastructure, in which gas storage plays a crucial factor in securing supply at every moment in time.

This study is intended to support the development of a clear infrastructure strategy that can be of value in the (political) discussions on sector coupling. It should be noted that there are still some 'unknowns' surrounding the energy transition and although technology is progressing rapidly, some major components of the future energy system are economically unfeasible under present conditions. However, as technology progresses, costs will continue to fall. Also, if governments continue to set higher targets for carbon emission reductions, energy producers and consumers will react. To achieve this, however, we must take action now. After all, energy systems are not transformed overnight, but require a long-term commitment.

This study applied an innovative modelling approach focused on coupling the gas and electricity infrastructure, which enabled it to consider the (future) infrastructures for electricity, methane and hydrogen as well as their mutual dependence for the Netherlands and Germany. A model simulation was used to examine three different energy system-wide supply and demand scenarios. These scenarios formed the starting point for an exploration of the interplay between electricity and gas, in order to determine the roles and requirements for both energy carriers and illustrate their future application.

The most salient findings from the study are:

Both the existing electricity and gas infrastructure will play a crucial role the energy system of the future

We have found that electricity and gas will play complementary roles in future energy systems, where wind and solar power are the major primary sources of energy for both Germany and the Netherlands. In the scenarios this renewable energy is mainly supplied to end users as electricity or as a green gas. The advantage of transporting electricity directly to those sectors where electrification is feasible is that it avoids energy conversion and the associated energy loss. Green gases, meanwhile, will provide an option for those sectors where electrification is harder to achieve.

Our analysis shows that coupling electricity and gas will give the energy system the flexibility it needs. The existing gas transmission grid has enough capacity to fulfil its fundamentally changed role in the future energy system, although some technical adaptations are needed due to the different characteristics of hydrogen.

Provided that proper guidance can be given to P2G locations, coupling electricity and gas infrastructures may significantly alleviate the long-term expansion needs of the electricity transmission networks. However, further expansion of the electricity grid after 2030 will be required due to the expected growth in demand from end users and the fundamentally changed energy supply structure based on renewable energy sources. We can conclude that the energy system of the future will require a strong integrated gas and electricity backbone, including storage facilities to secure supply to all forms of final consumption at any moment in time.

Although additional electricity storage will be available by 2050, only gas storage provides a solution for seasonal storage

An energy system based on wind and solar power will require vast amounts of storage to cope with fluctuations in supply, ranging from 'frequency restoration' to 'seasonal storage'. Significant *installed capacities* of electricity storage (e.g. batteries, pump storage) have been considered in various scenarios. However, the energy volume of such storage options is still limited. Existing underground gas storage facilities, on the other hand, can absorb large quantities of renewable energy for seasonal and long-term storage via P2G conversion. Gas from storage provides the main source of energy to the entire system during 'Dunkelflautes'. As such, gas and electricity storage are also complementary.

Location, capacity and operation of P2G installations are decisive factors and must be aligned with both electricity and gas TSOs

Coupling the electricity and gas transport infrastructure with P2G installations gives the overall energy system additional flexibility. However, under scenarios with a high penetration of wind and solar power, the use of P2G causes a massive increase in electrical peak load, as a result of which it can worsen the infrastructural bottlenecks if the capacities and

locations of these P2G installations are not properly aligned with the grids.

Our analysis of results indicates that locating P2G installations near renewable production facilities can reduce the need for electricity grid expansion. This is especially the case when the overall P2G capacity is relatively high in comparison to renewables. It is not a given however that P2G installations always relieve grid constraints. Significant electricity and gas grid constraints may still arise if, from a grid perspective, the operation of these installations is suboptimal. Therefore, appropriate incentives for the operation of P2G units must be put in place to ensure efficient grid operation.

Socially acceptable solutions for an integrated energy infrastructure require a new level of public and political support

Increasing peak demand in the electricity grid, as is the case under all scenarios that were researched in this study, will result in an increased use or even overloading of transmission lines. According to the methodology chosen for this study, this can lead to a need for additional electrical grid expansions in addition to the long-term measures until 2030 that have already been confirmed, both technically and politically.

We have identified two crucial aspects for the realisation and success of the energy transition: political willingness to construct new electricity transmission lines to accommodate the predicted demand growth by end users and the creation of a clear supportive regulatory framework for the integration of P2G plants in the system in order to minimise the total number of grid expansions.

Recommendations and further work

- Future discussions on energy transition should aim for a detailed P2G implementation strategy, with special consideration of the corresponding implications it will have on electricity and gas grids.
- This strategy should also include work on the technical and economic feasibility of large-scale P2G facilities.
- In order to ensure efficient network investments, the electricity and gas TSOs should be involved in drawing up a detailed P2G integration strategy.
- To facilitate an efficient transition, we recommend that various pathways to 2050 described in this study are worked out in further detail.

- The findings of this study can provide guidance to the investment plan processes (NEP in Germany and IP/NOP in the Netherlands).
- The scenarios used in this study were based on national CO₂ accounting rules and therefore did not consider the future energy demand for international aviation and sea shipping. Since these forms of transport are predicted to require substantial amounts of energy in the future for both Germany and the Netherlands, we recommend including them in a follow-up analysis.



Appendices

The appendices are included in the digital version only; obtain your free copy at www.tennet.eu and www.gasunie.nl or www.gasunie.de

Appendix I: Methodology overview (NL) Methodology overview (DE)

Appendix II: The Infrastructure model

Appendix III: Infrastructure Outlook 2050 - Dutch study part Infrastructure Outlook 2050 - German study part

