



TALL  
TECH

# DC BUILDINGS – DECARBONIZATION EMPOWERED BY POWER ELECTRONICS

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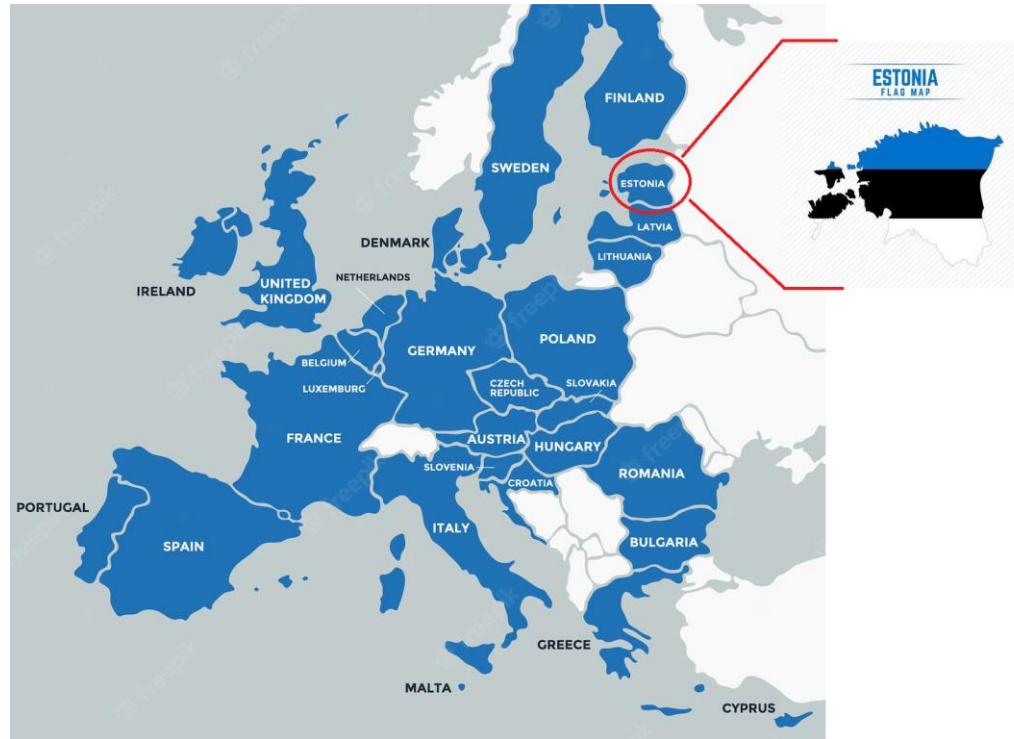


Centre of Excellence  
in Energy Efficiency

# WHERE I AM FROM

## ESTONIA - A Destination for Tech Lovers

## TALLINN - The Best-Preserved Medieval City in Northern Europe



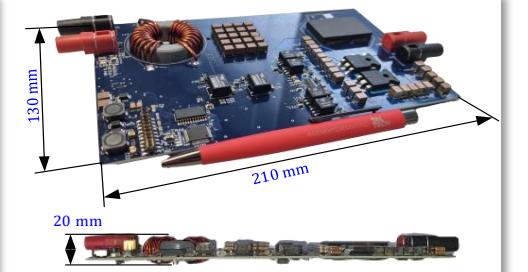
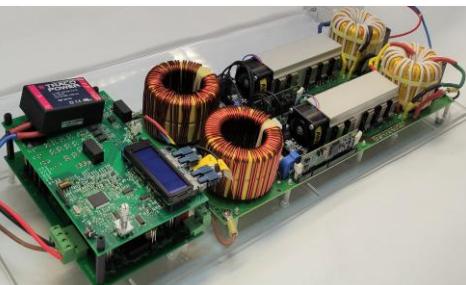
- *Population: 1.35 million*
- *Currency: Euro*
- *World's most digitally advanced society*
- *Estonia leads Europe in startups, unicorns, and investments per capita*



- *Population: 456.000*
- *Historic Centre (Old Town) of Tallinn is UNESCO world heritage site*
- *Annually welcoming over 3.2 million foreign visitors*

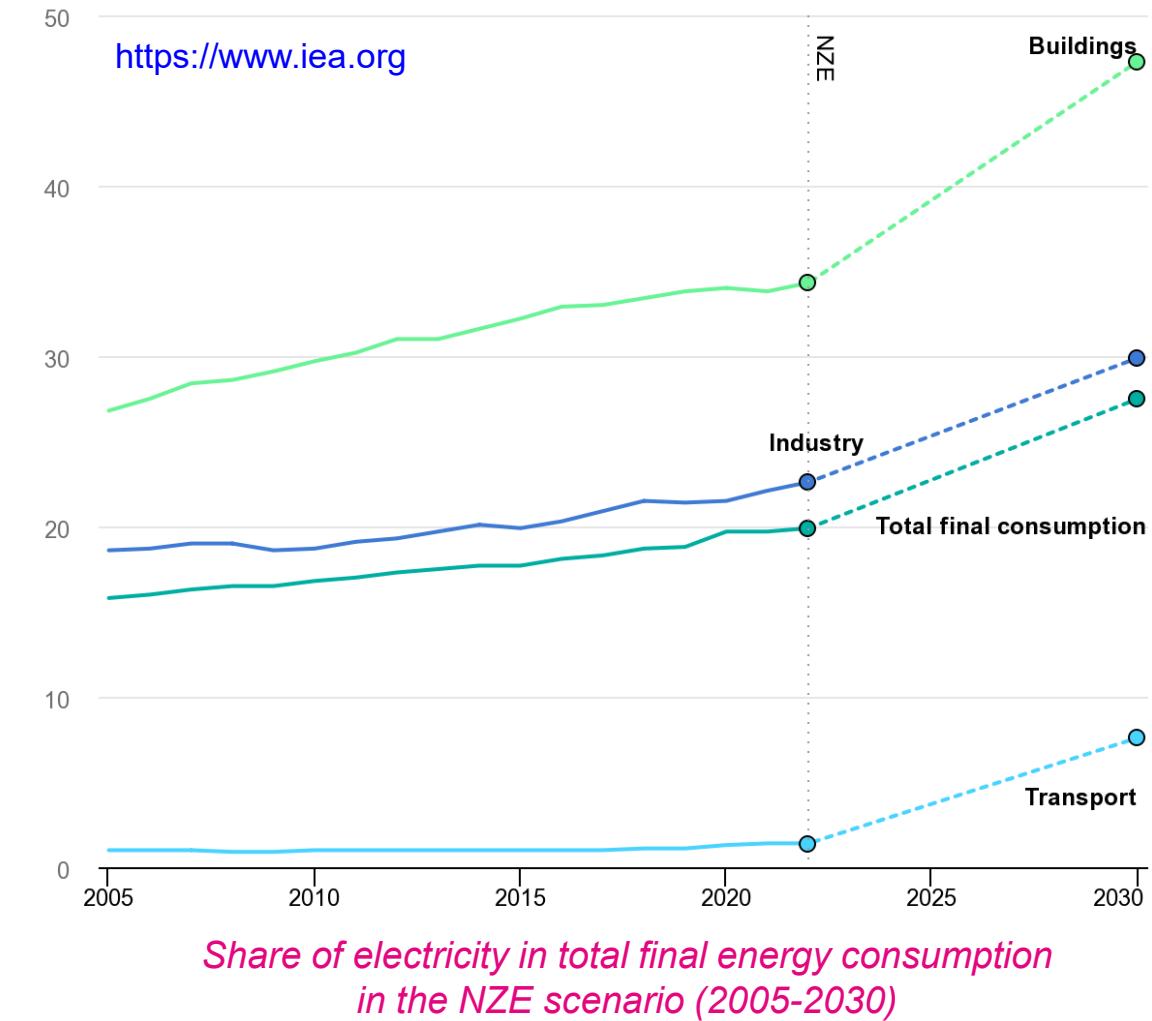
# POWER ELECTRONICS GROUP OF TALTECH

LARGEST RESEARCH CENTER FOR APPLIED POWER ELECTRONICS IN BALTIC STATES



# TOWARDS 2050 NZE PATHWAY (EU GREEN DEAL)

- By 2050 the EU aims to become the **world's first "climate-neutral bloc"** with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (NZE)
- **Electrification** is considered one of the key strategies to reach NZE goals
- Much of the NZE need will be met by shifting towards **electric transport** and **electrification of heating/cooling demand of buildings** using heat pumps
- In 2050, **electricity will become the dominant energy carrier for the buildings in EU**. The prognosed growth in demand by 2030 is 12% and 35% by 2050

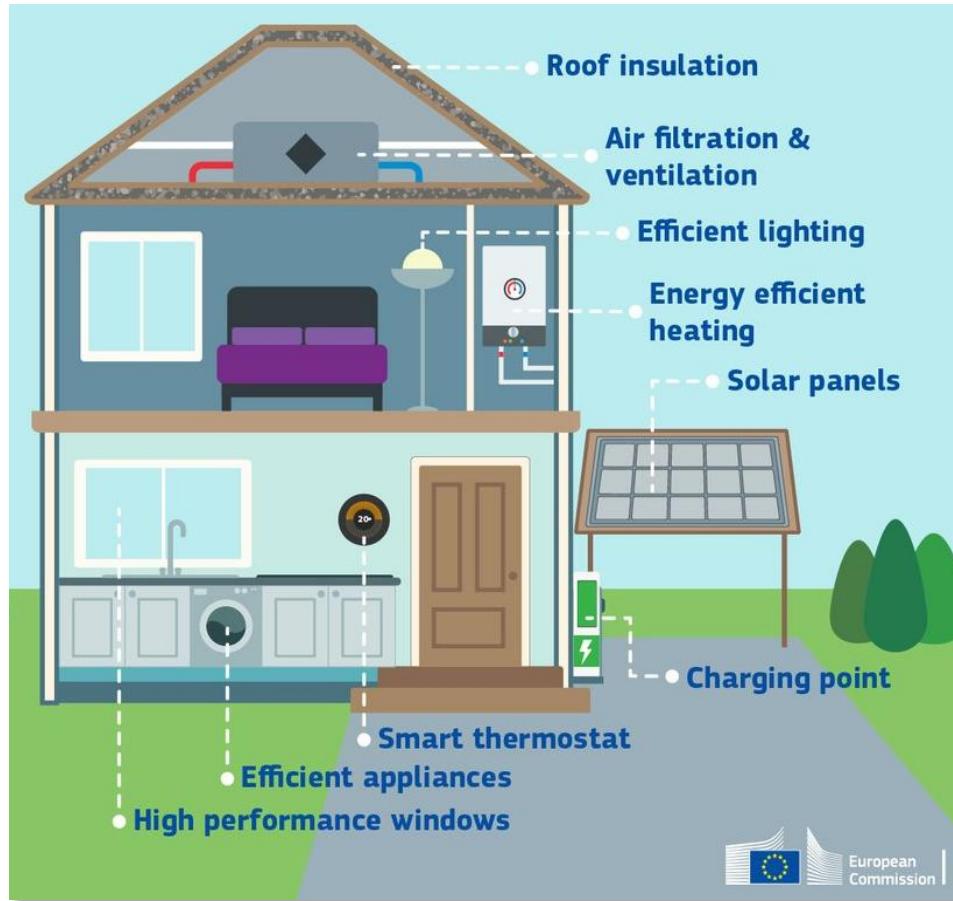


# DECARBONIZATION OF BUILDING STOCK IN EU

- **Buildings** are responsible for approx. **40% of EU energy consumption, 50% of EU gas consumption, and 36% of the energy-related CO2 emissions**. About 80% of energy used in EU homes is for heating, cooling and hot water
- **85% of buildings in the EU were built before 2000** and 75% have poor energy performance. 85–95% of today's buildings will still be in use in 2050
- In 2002, the EU began implementing the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)**, which is a framework to reduce energy consumption and boost decarbonization of buildings
- The EPBD requires all new buildings from 2021 to be **nearly zero-energy buildings (nZEB or class A)**, i.e. must have a **high energy performance and very low energy needs**, covered largely by **onsite or nearby renewable energy sources**
- From January 2030 the EPBD requires all new buildings (all new public buildings from January 2030) to be **zero-emission buildings (ZEB, A+ or A<sub>0</sub>)**, i.e. **without on-site carbon emissions from fossil fuels**
- EPBD demands the installation of **EV charging points** in new and significantly renovated non-residential buildings with more than 5 parking spaces, and in residential buildings with more than ten parking spaces
- EPBD introduces „Smart Readiness Indicator“ to assess the technological readiness of the building to **interact with their occupants and adapt to signals from the grid (for ex., energy flexibility)**

# ZEB AND POWER ELECTRONICS

- **ZEB = HIGH ENERGY PERFORMANCE + LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION + “ALL-ELECTRIC” LIFESTYLE**
- **ENERGY PERFORMANCE** is the main feature of ZEB - PV installation (backed up with energy storage), heat pump, heat recovery ventilation, energy-efficient appliances and lighting, smart control of loads, energy arbitrage
- In result, ZEB consumes **up to 4 times less energy** than the traditional „old school“ non-renovated building
- Most of the energy saving technologies used in ZEB are **power electronics based**



# GOOD EXAMPLES OF BUILDING DECARBONIZATION



# BAD EXAMPLES OF BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

## SOLAR HALL OF SHAME



# BAPV vs BIPV- RENEWABLE ENERGY SHOULDN'T COME AT THE COST OF AESTHETICS !

**Building-Attached Photovoltaics (BAPV)**  
lacks full integration into the building, adds additional load, with limited contributions to aesthetics and structural integrity

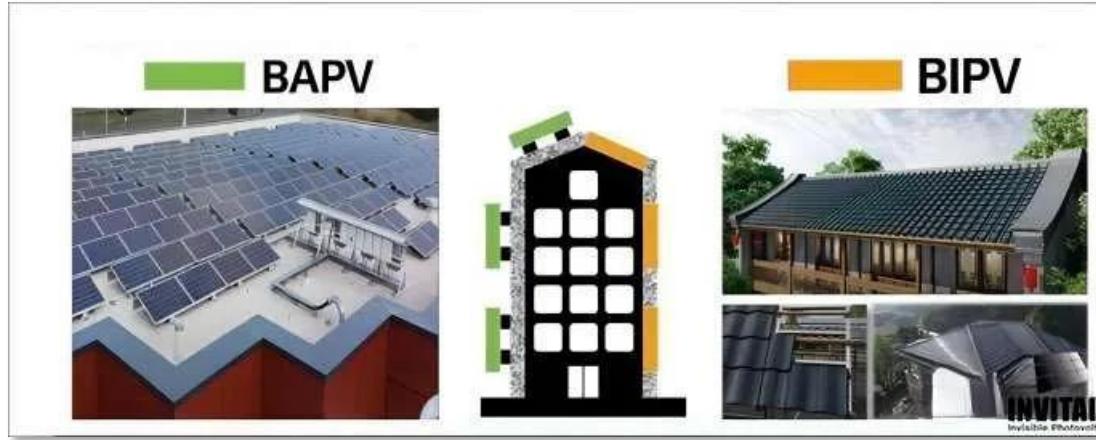


Image: Roofit Solar



Image: Solarstone



# THERE'S MORE OPTIONS THAN THE ROOFTOP PV!

**SOLAR PV FENCES**



*Image: Clickcon*

**SOLAR WINDOWS**



*Image: SolReina*

**SOLAR PANEL WINDOW BLINDS**



*Image: SolarGaps*

**SOLAR BALCONIES**



*Image: Hoymiles*

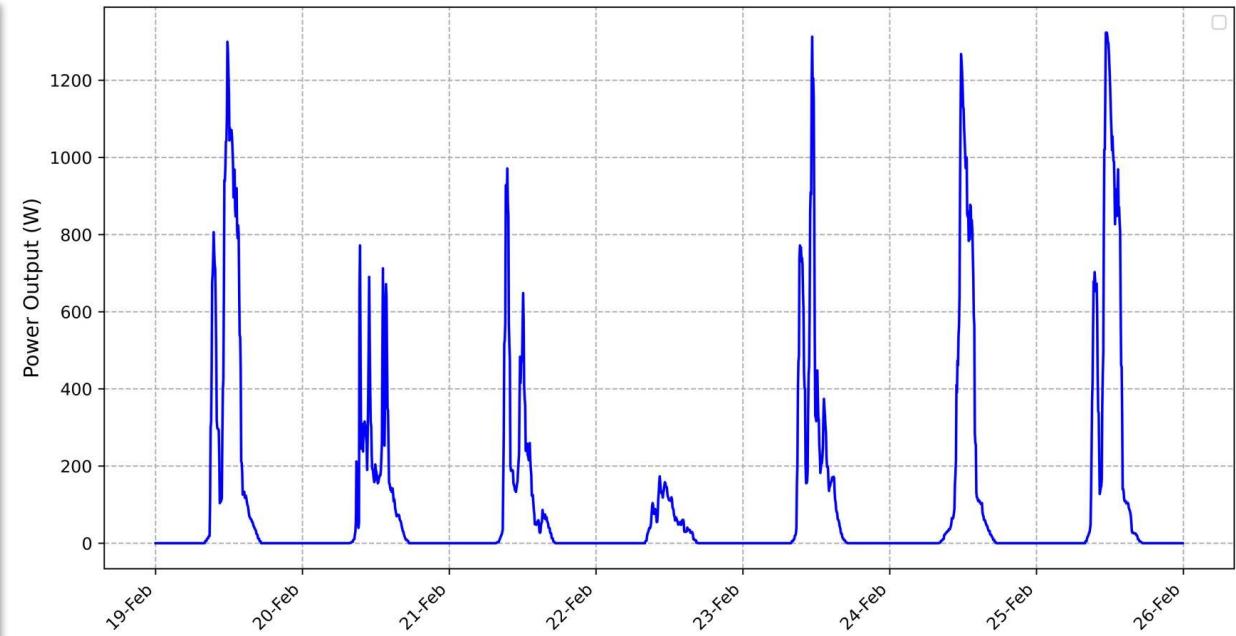
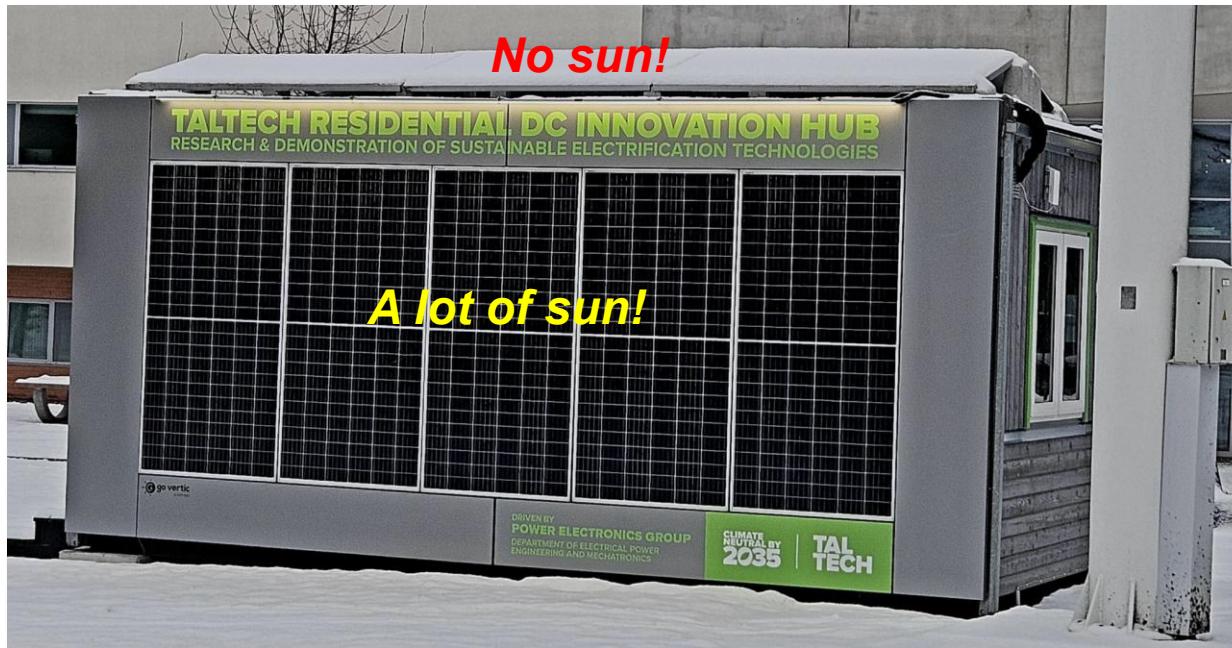
**SOLAR FAÇADES**



*Image: GoVertic*

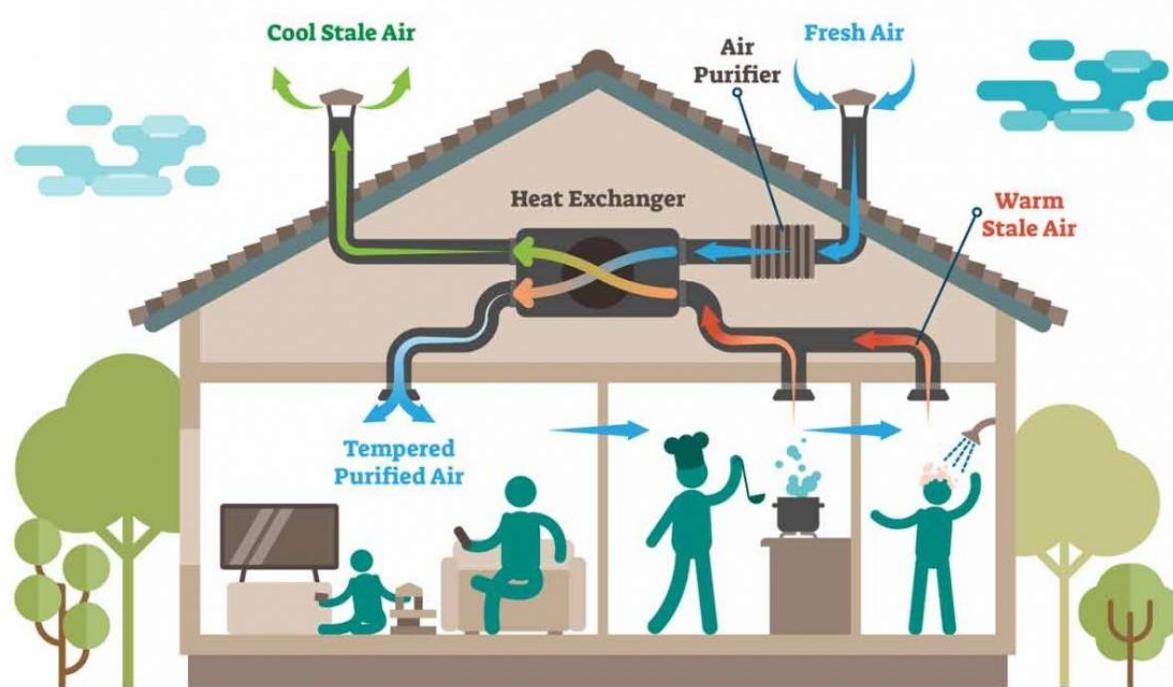
# SOLAR FAÇADE – GENERATE WHEN OTHER DO NOT

- *In Northern EU, snow covers the PV panels on the roof for long time, but they cannot generate much even without snow as sun ray's incident angle is highly unfavorable (sun rays nearly horizontal)*
- *Solar façades* are never covered by snow, while sun incident angle is nearly ideal in winter
- *TalTech Residential DC Innovation Hub* has 5 PV modules of 144 half-cut cells rated for 360 W
- *Test data from February 2026 show that the solar façade produced 17.9 kWh vs. 0 kWh from the roof*

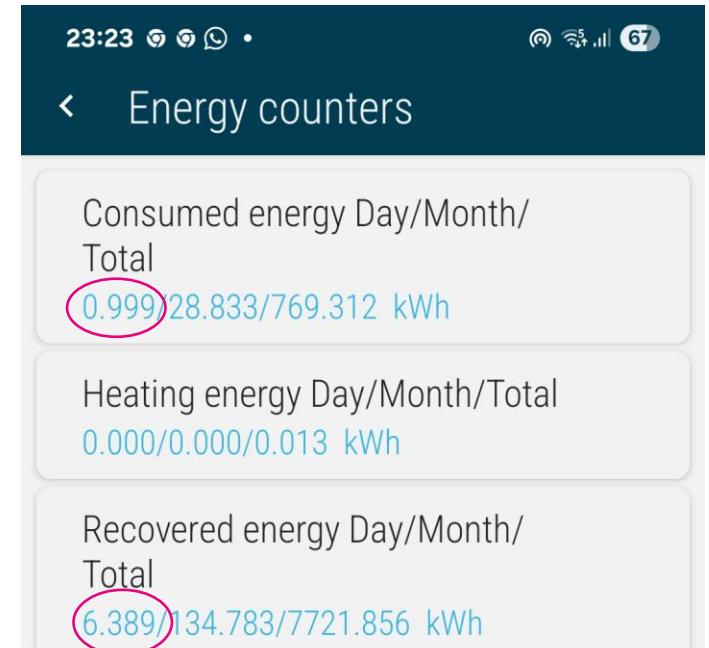


# HEAT RECOVERY VENTILATION SYSTEMS

- **Improved energy efficiency**: reduces heating demand of the building by **recovering up to 60–90% of the heat** from exhaust air; lowers energy bills
- **Better indoor air quality**: reduces buildup of carbon dioxide and radon levels, removes pollutants such as VOCs (from paints, furniture), allergens, and odors; maintains balanced indoor humidity levels.
- **Power electronics enabled smart control** and **easily pairing with PV installation**

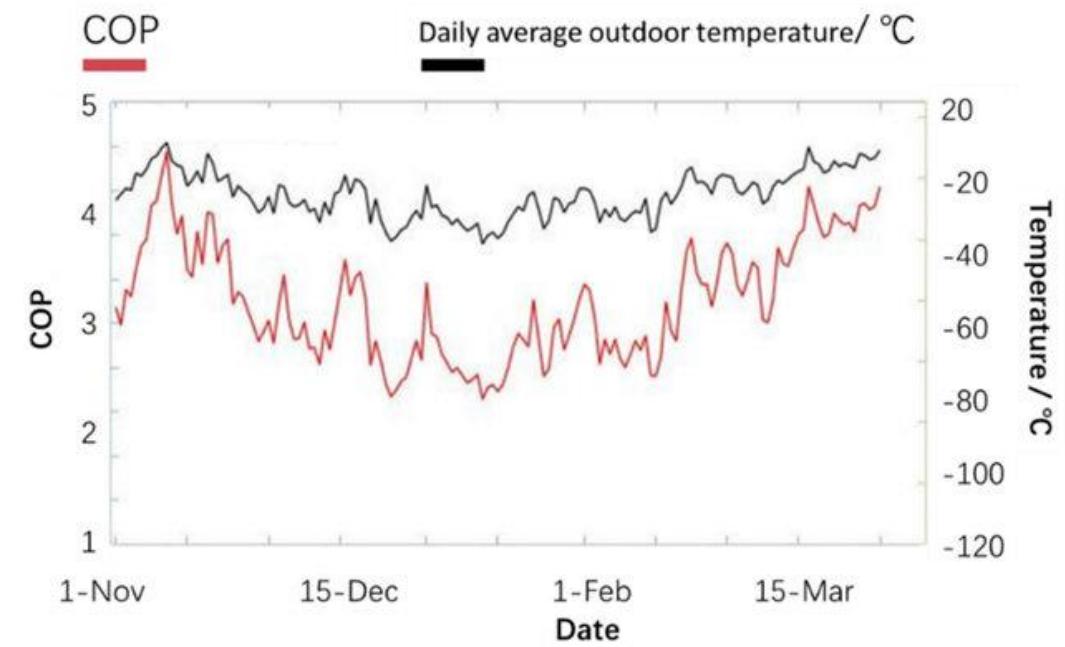
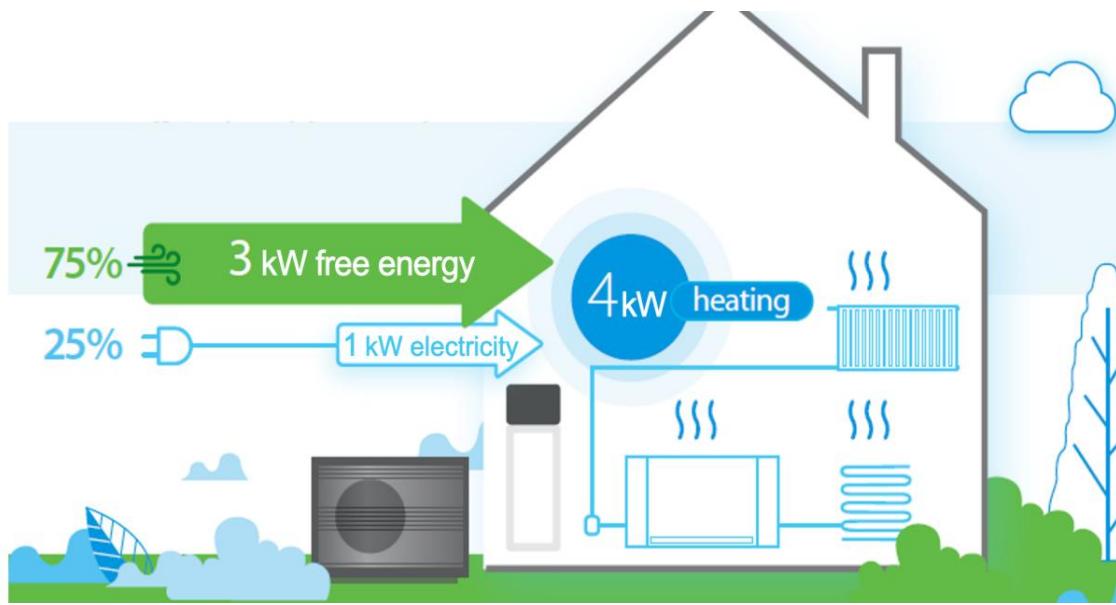


Temperature efficiency					
Winter					
Outdoor temperature, °C	-23	-15	-10	-5	0
After heat exchanger, °C	15,6	16,7	17,4	18,1	18,9
indoor +22 °C, 20 % RH					



# ELECTRIFICATION OF HEATING WITH HEAT PUMPS

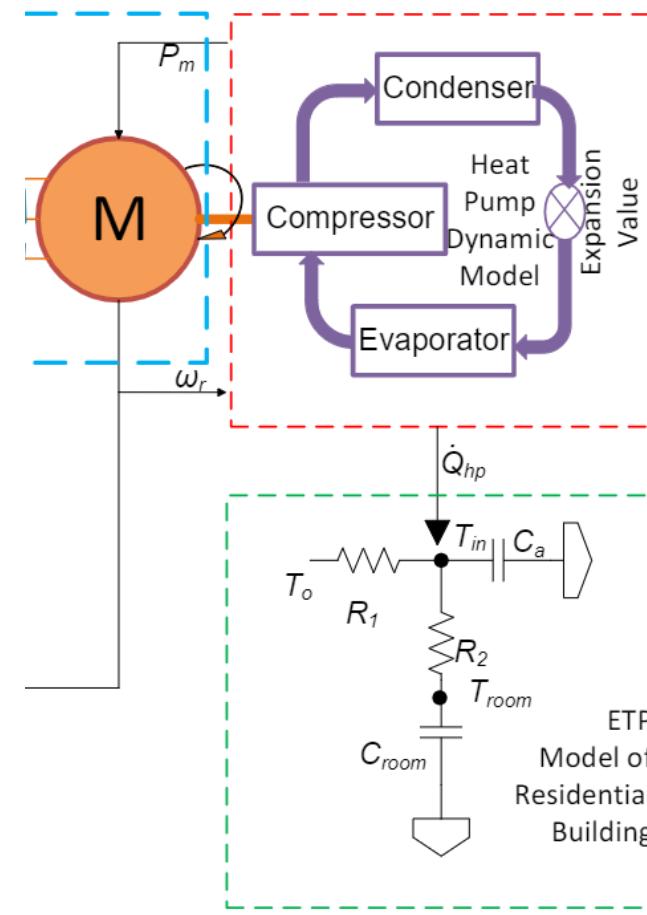
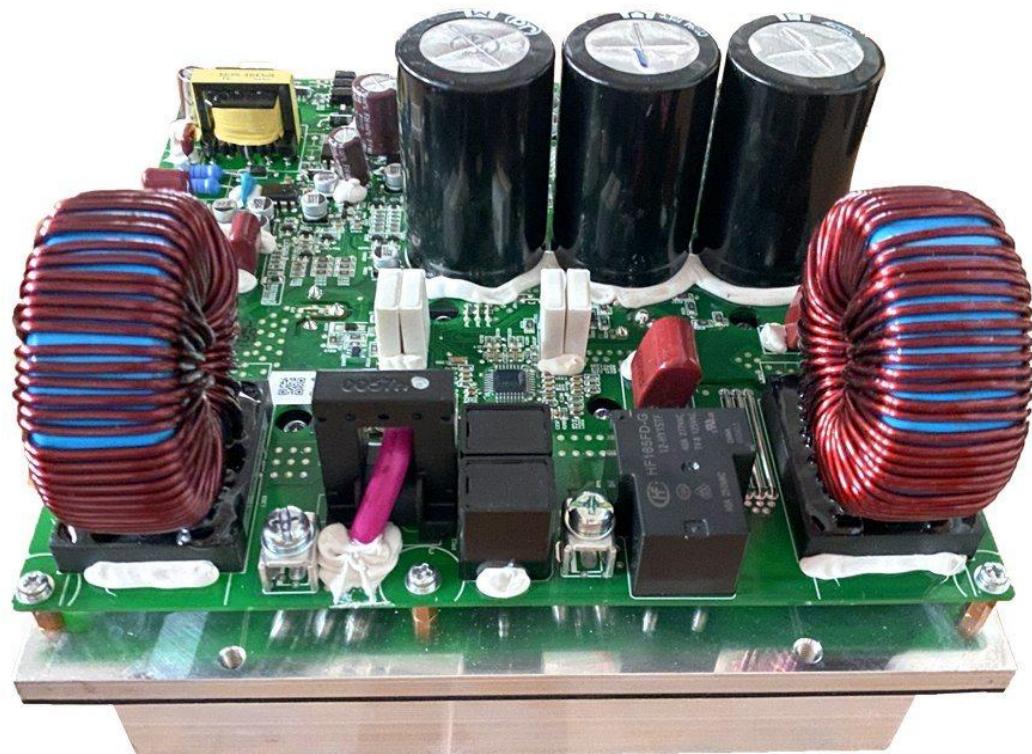
- **Excellent energy efficiency**: can deliver up to 5 times more heat energy to a home than the electrical energy it consumes (see COP – Coefficient of Performance or SCOP – Seasonal Coefficient of Performance )
- Used for **space heating/cooling** and providing **domestic hot water** for showers and sinks
- Can be **easily paired with PV** installation
- **Power electronics enabled smart control** – heat pump can be operated as a **flexible and grid-responsive resource**



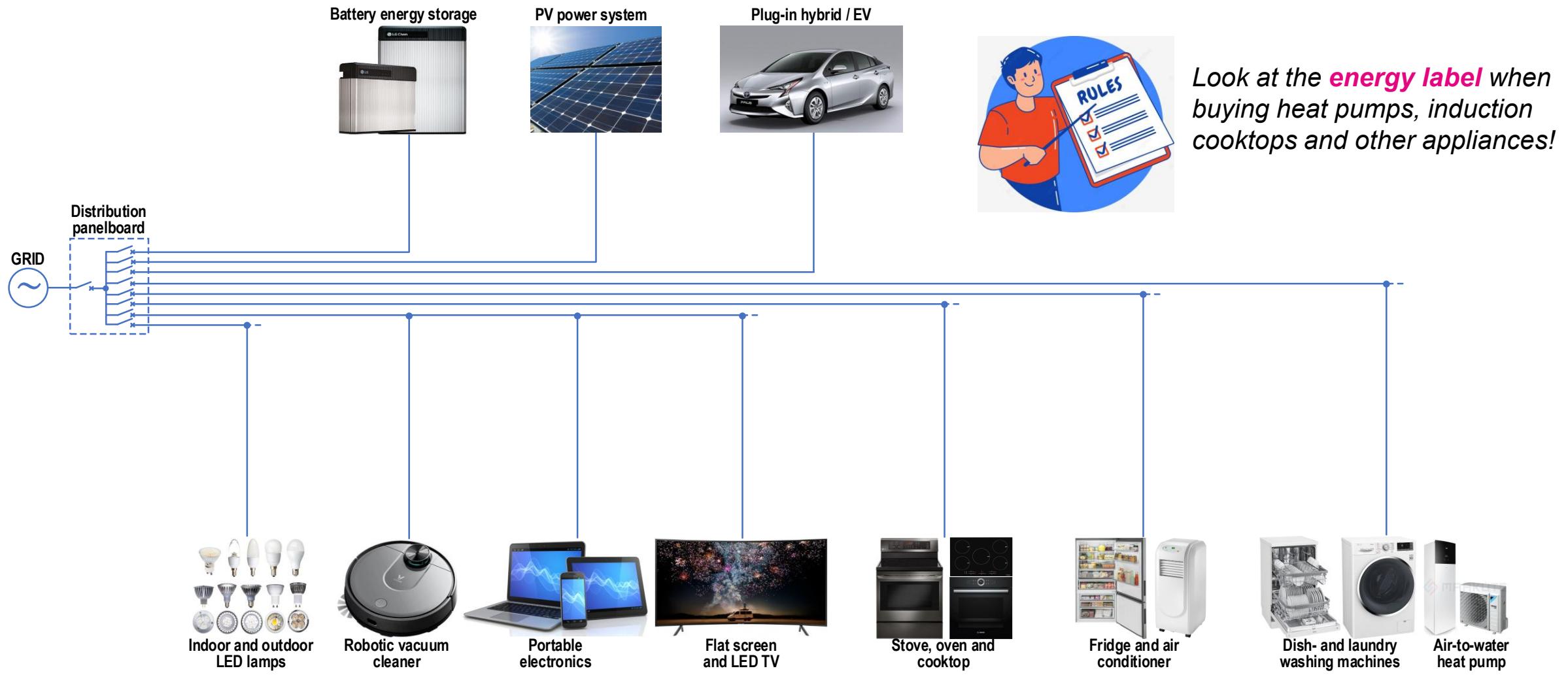
- Source: [daikin.ie](http://daikin.ie)

# HEAT PUMPS USE POWER ELECTRONICS

- Source: daikin.ie



# DECARBONIZATION OF BUILDINGS: „ALL-ELECTRIC“ LIFESTYLE WITH ZEB

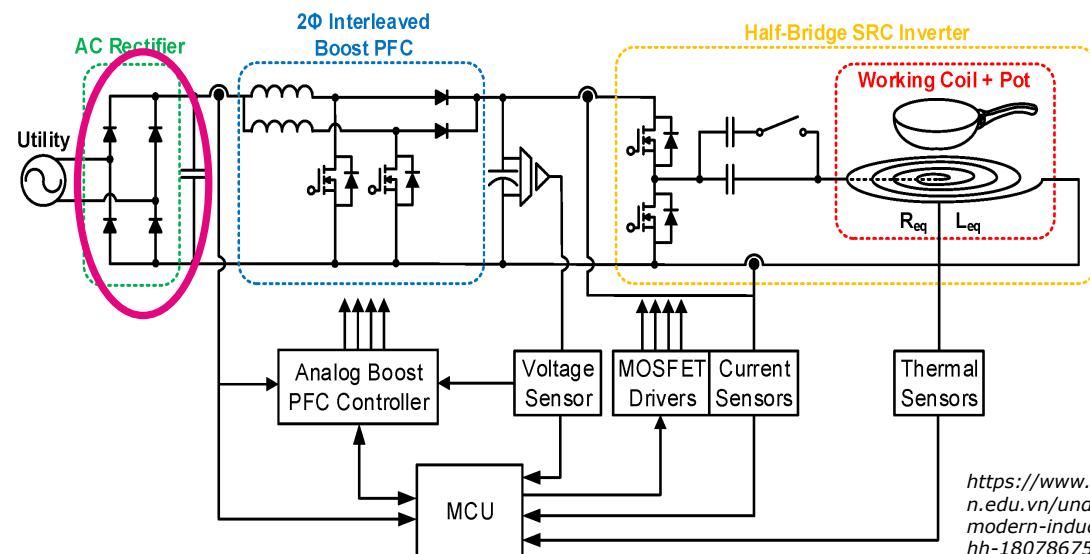
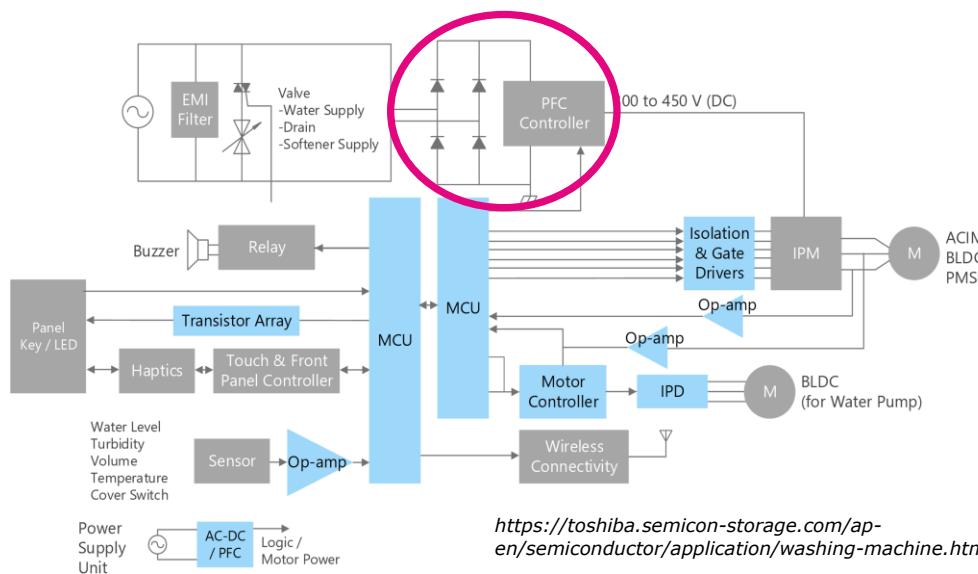


# CLASS-A ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

WASHING MACHINES, REFRIGERATORS, INDUCTION COOKTOPS, HEAT PUMPS, ETC.

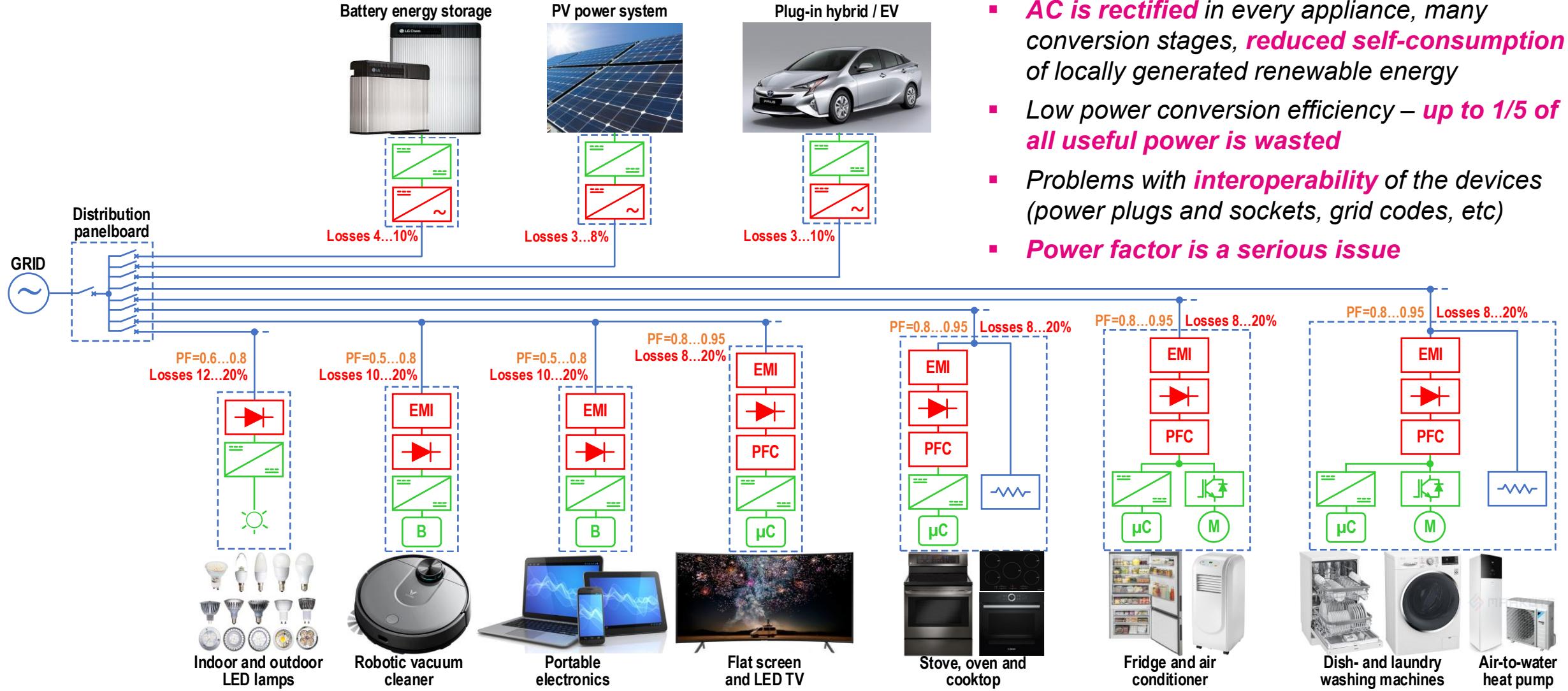


**THEY ALL USE DIRECT CURRENT (DC) FOR OPERATION !!!**



# AC-BASED ELECTRICAL SYSTEM OF A ZEB TODAY

WE ARE LIVING IN A DC WORLD WITHOUT FULLY REALIZING ITS TRUE POTENTIAL !

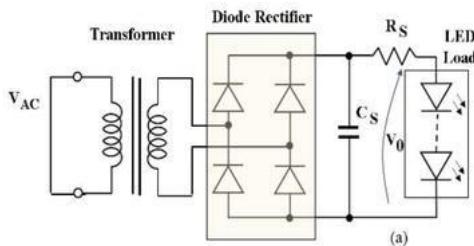
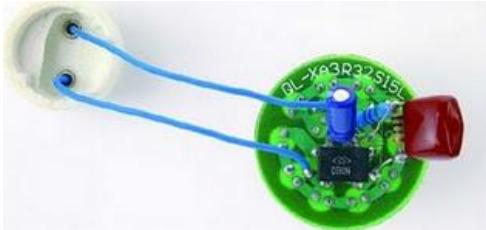


# FULL-ELECTRIC LIFESTYLE WITH AC

## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE POWER FACTOR ISSUE

PFC stage is required only above 75W - energy efficiency is additionally affected by the non-unity power factor

*GU10 LED bulb (4.3 W)*

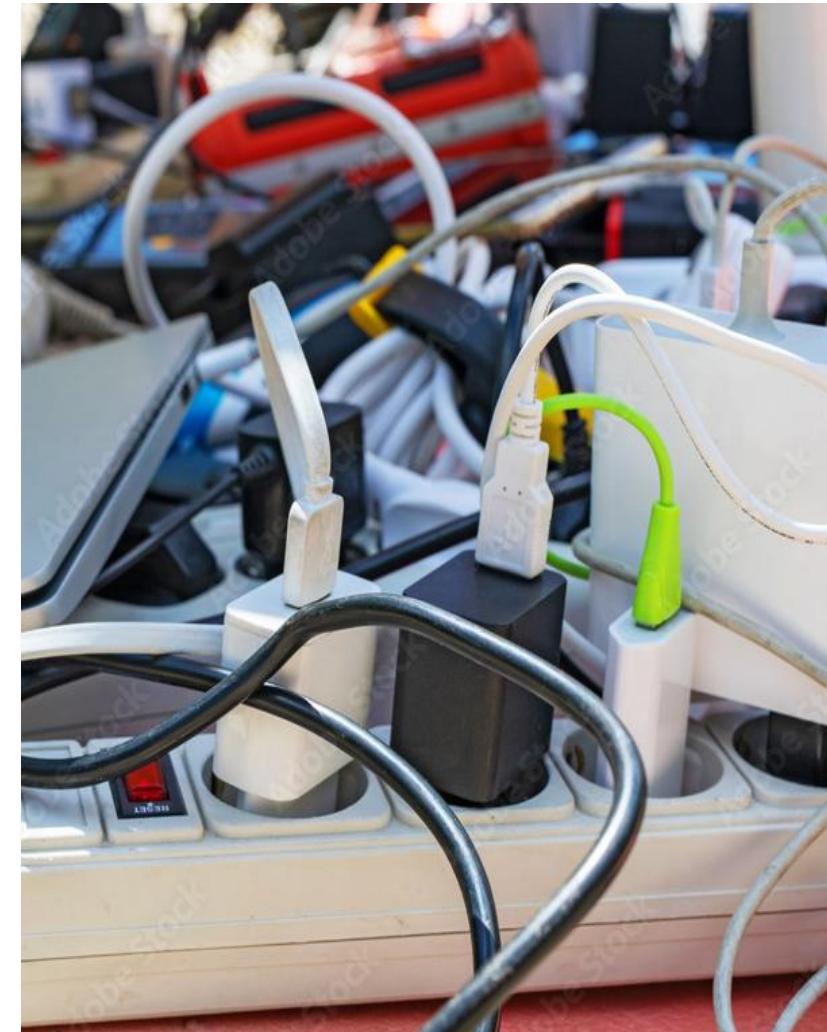


1	Urms	1	—	232.40	V
2	Irms	1	—	0.0337	A
3	P	1	—	4.33	W
4	S	1	—	7.83	VA
5	Q	1	—	6.52	var
6	Uthd	1	—	0.964	%
7	Ithd	1	—	74.420	%
8	PF	1	—	0.5534	

*Laptop/Phone chargers (65 W)*



No.	Function	Data	Units
1	Urms	232.37	V
2	Irms	0.5766	A
3	P	65.09	W
4	S	133.99	VA
5	Q	117.12	var
6	Uthd	1.122	%
7	Ithd	86.841	%
8	PF	0.4858	
9	Udc	19.243	V
10	Idc	-3.022	A
11	P	-58.16	W



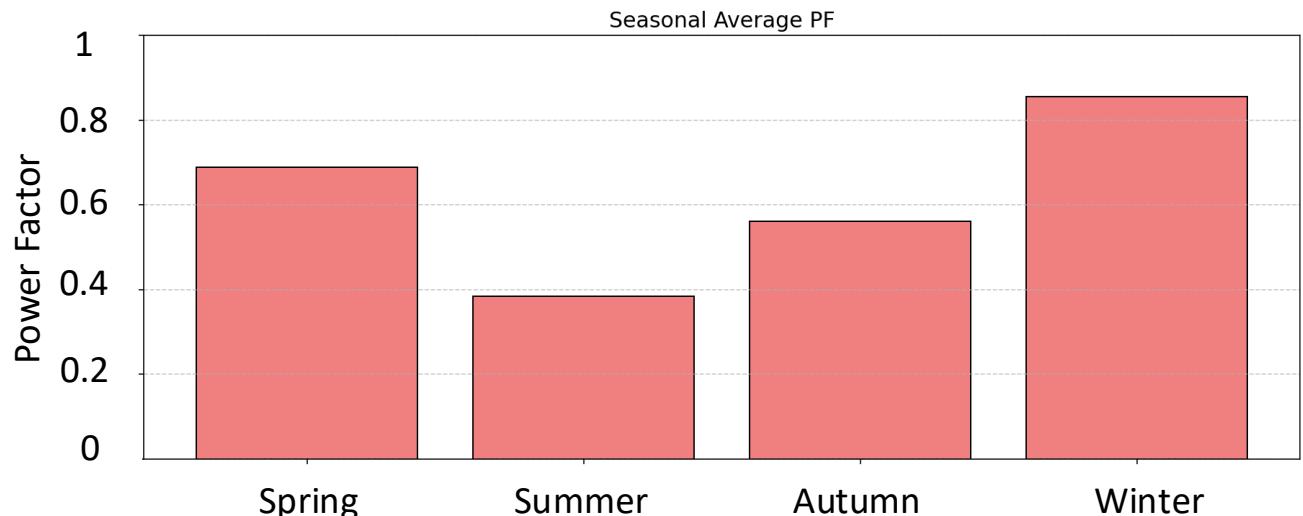
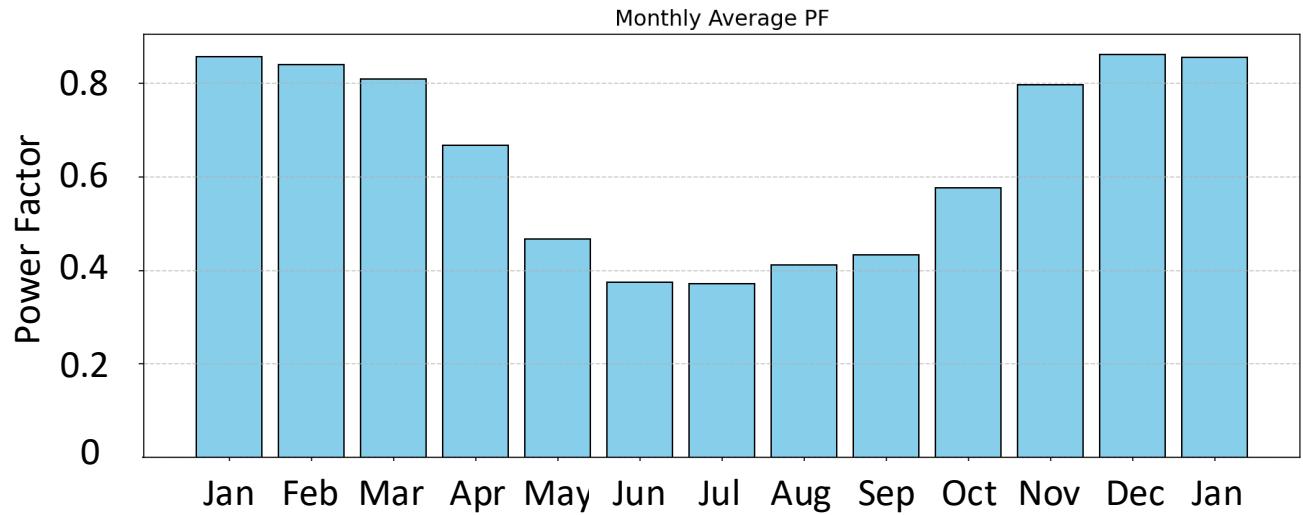
# FULL-ELECTRIC LIFESTYLE WITH AC

## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE POWER FACTOR ISSUE

176.7 m<sup>2</sup> single-family detached home



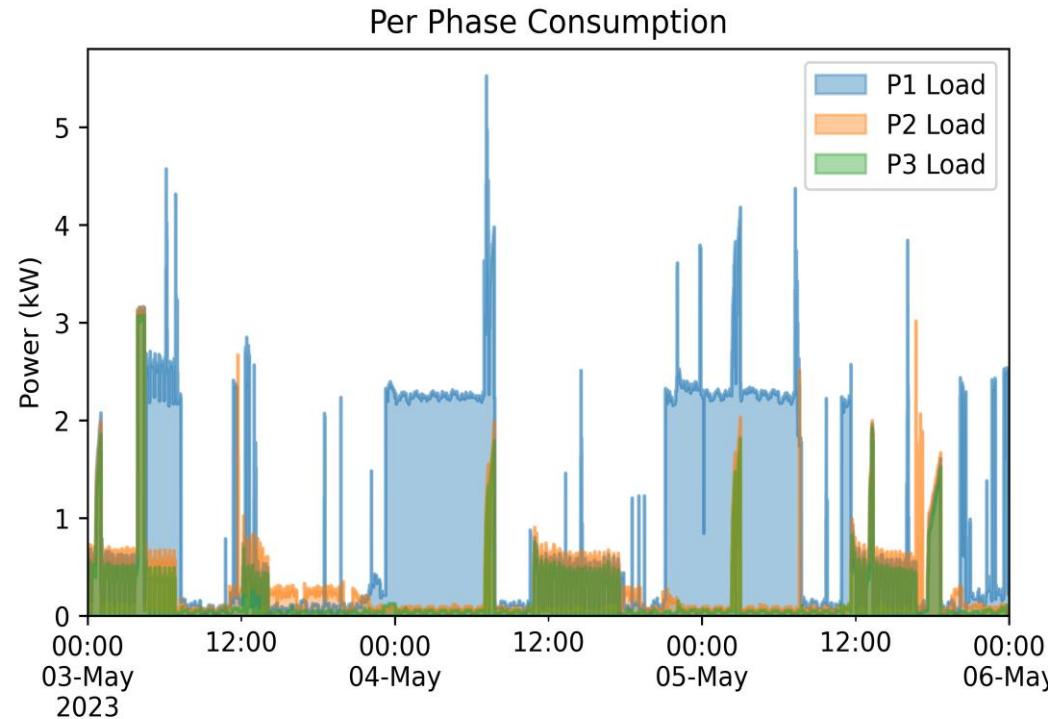
Location Estonia, Tallinn  
Total power of PV 5 kWp  
Model of HP Thermia Atec HP 11  
Electric car BMW i3  
COP of HP COP 3.8 (+7/+45 °C)  
Habitants 4



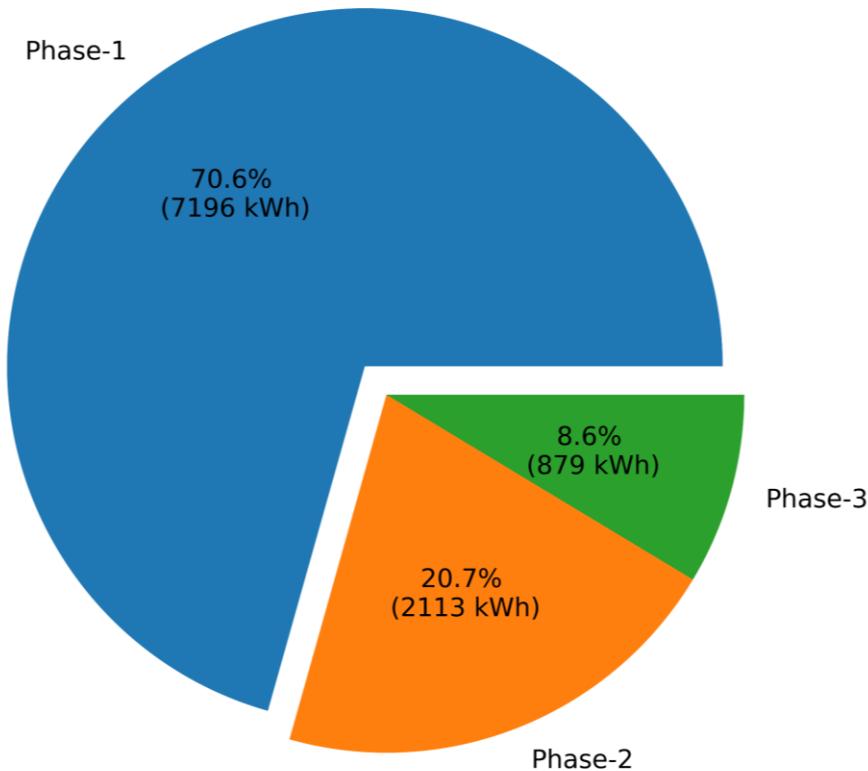
# FULL-ELECTRIC LIFESTYLE WITH AC

## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PHASE LOAD IMBALANCE

Many residential (home) EV chargers have a single-phase grid connection with resulting negative impact on distribution transformers

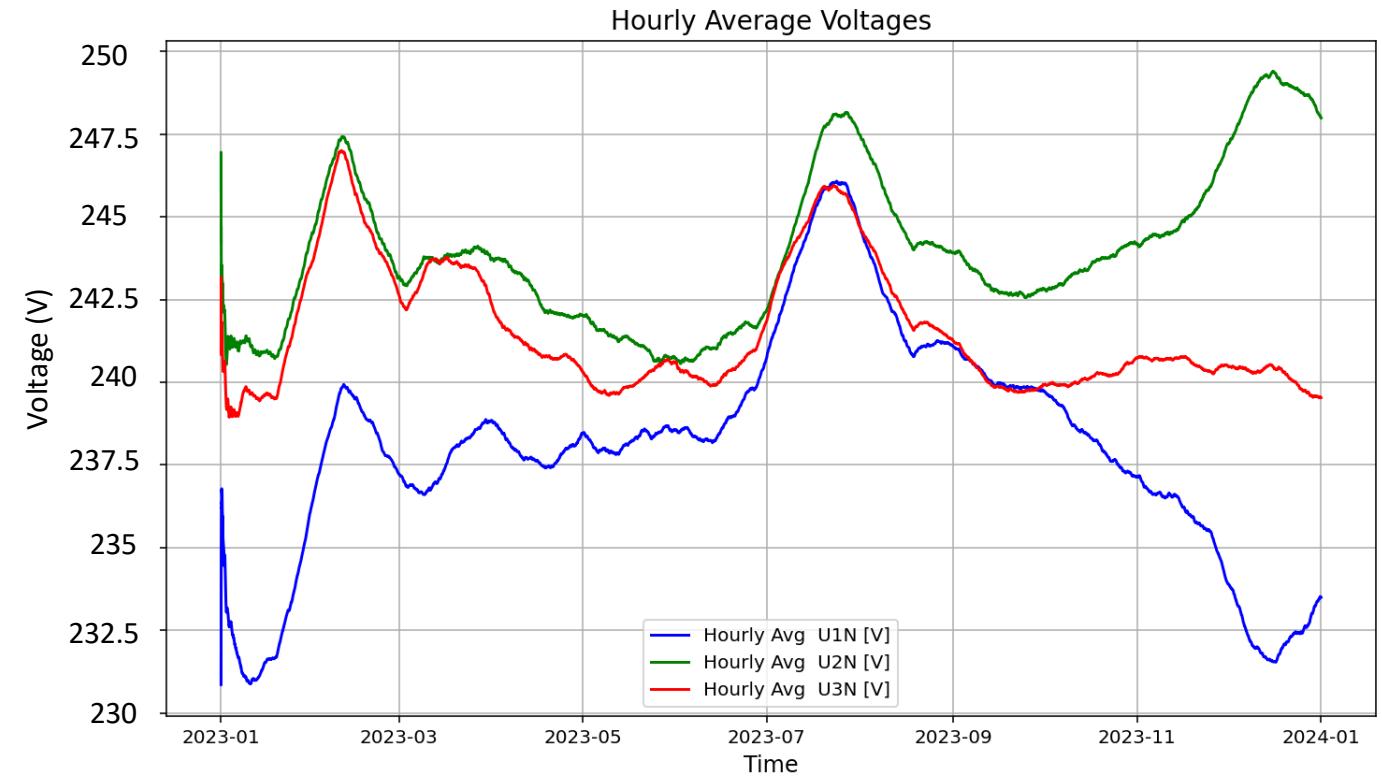
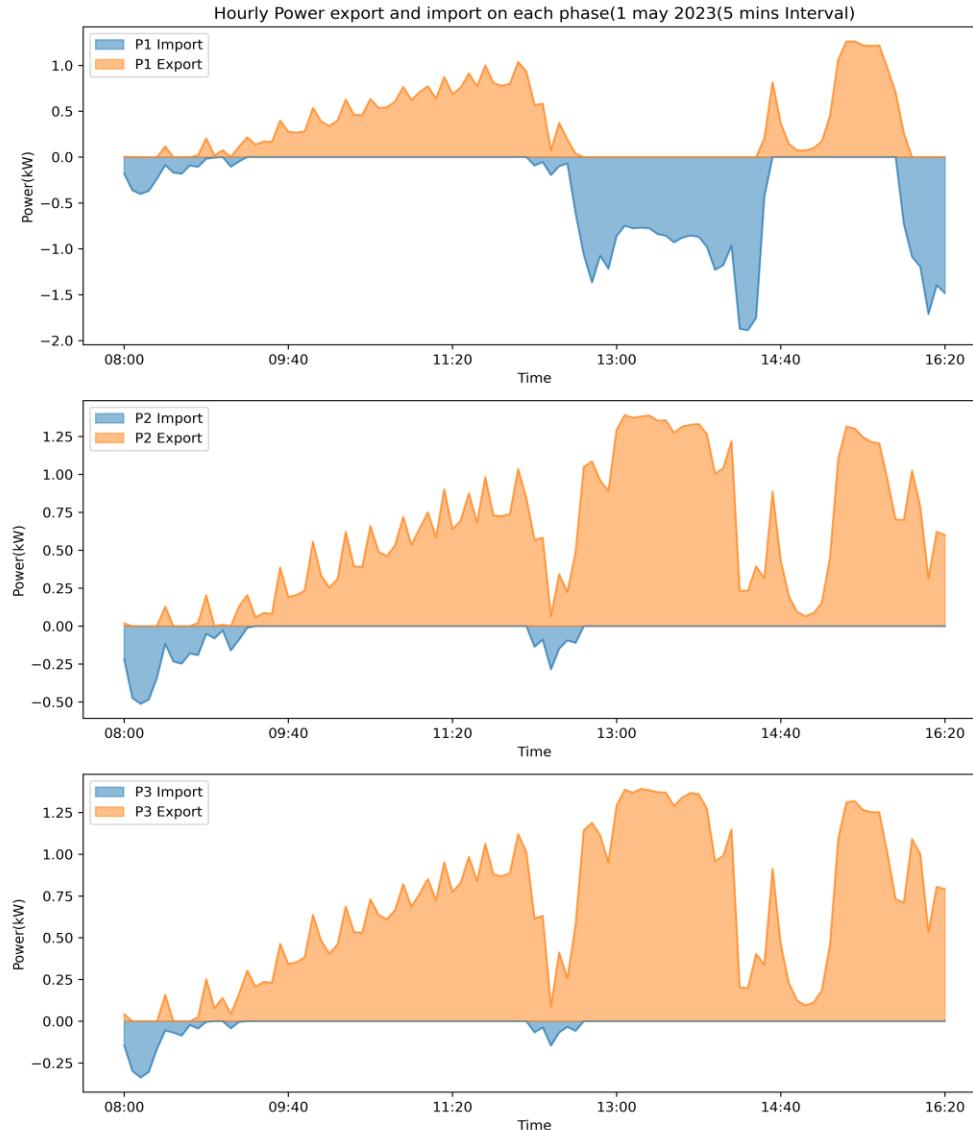


Annual Consumption: 10187.46 kWh



# FULL-ELECTRIC LIFESTYLE WITH AC

## ENERGY EXPORT/IMPORT BALANCE and VOLTAGE IMBALANCE ISSUES



# FULL-ELECTRIC LIFESTYLE WITH AC

## Electronic waste or e-waste

Is the fastest growing waste stream

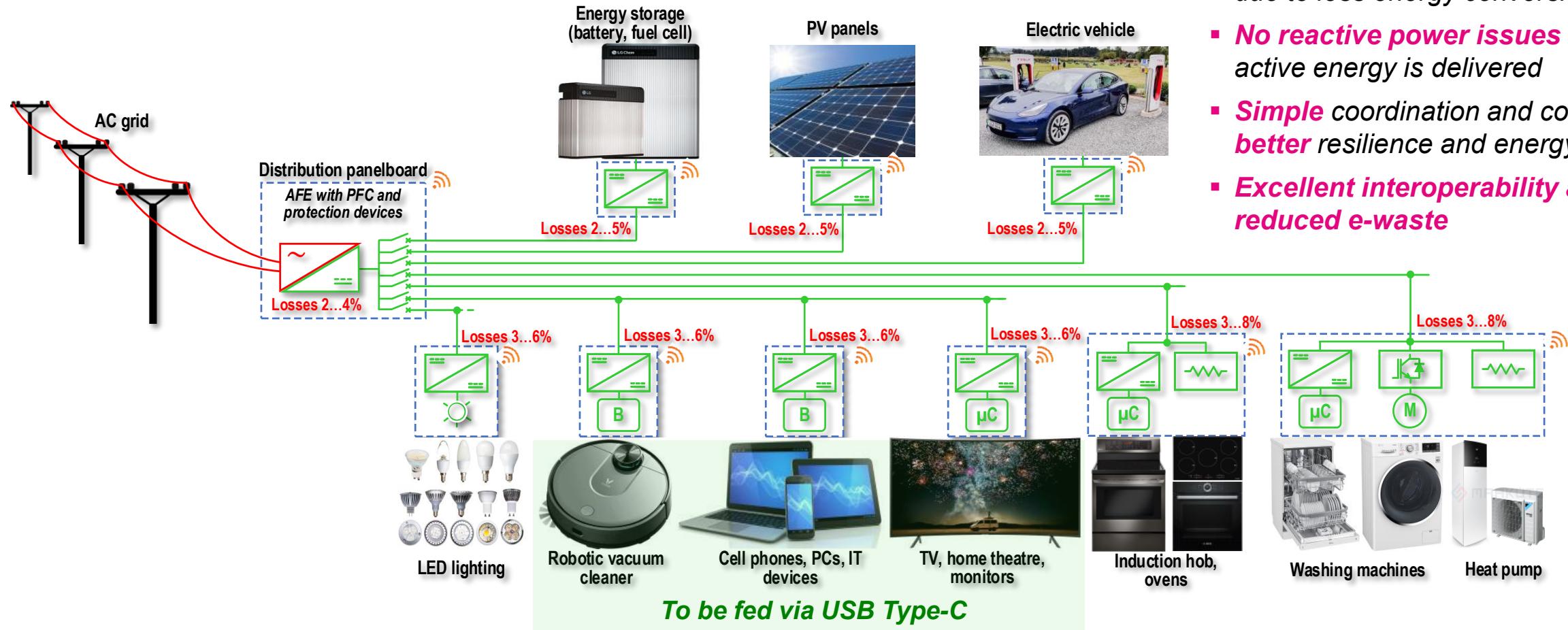


Every problem has a  
solution 😊😊



# NEXT-GEN ELECTRICAL SYSTEM OF A ZEB

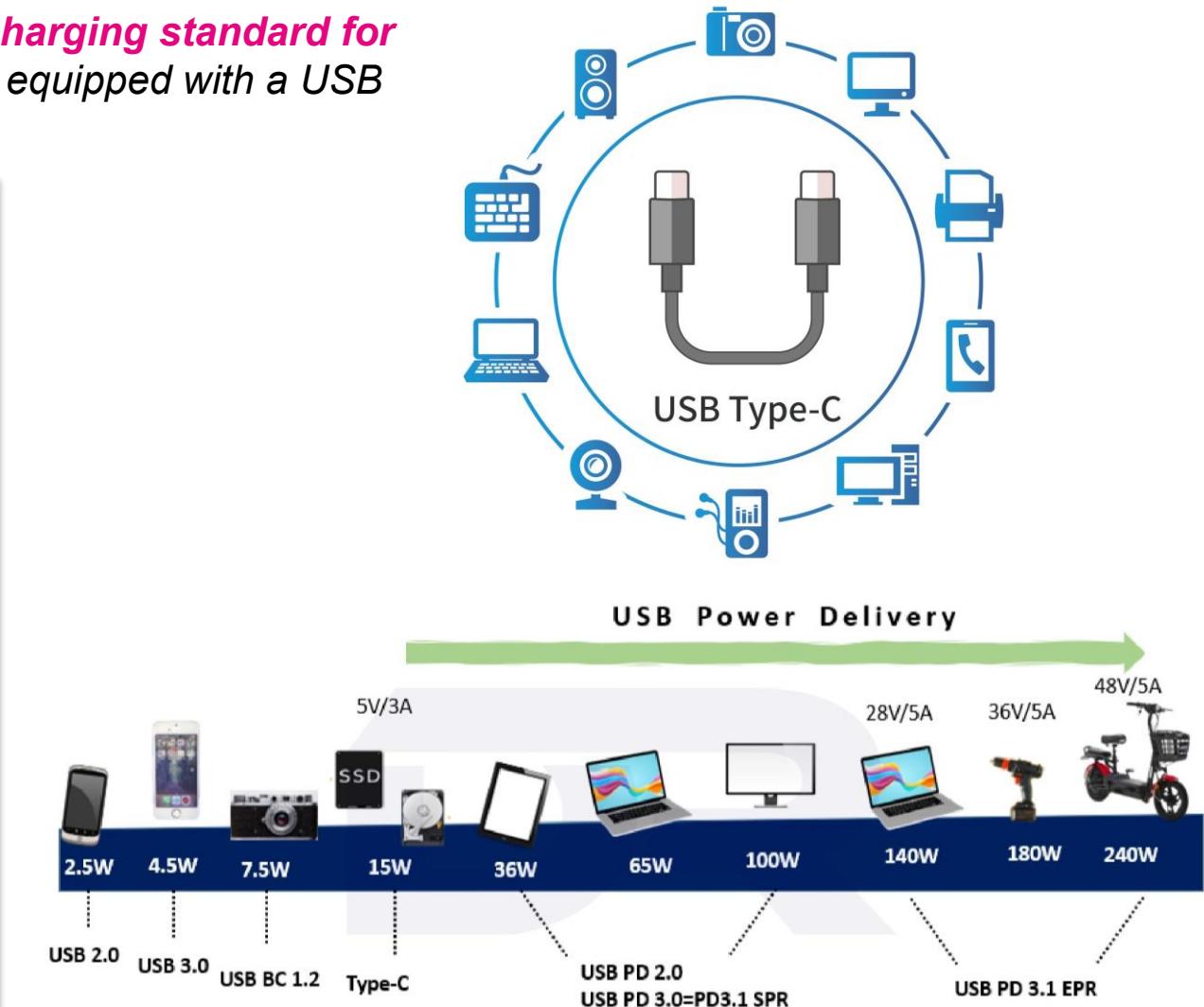
## DC POWER DISTRIBUTION AND DC-FED APPLIANCES



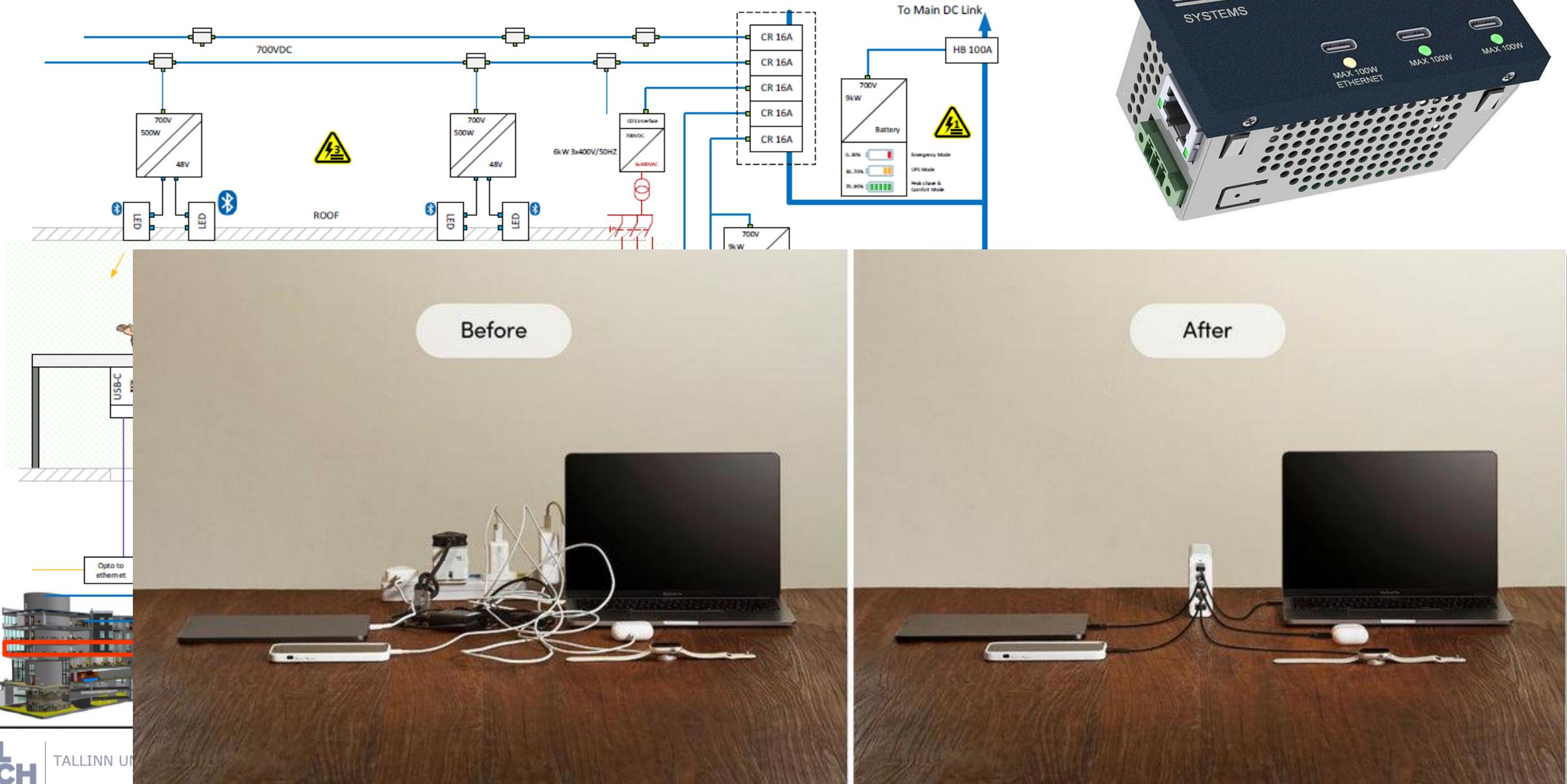
- **Increased efficiency and maximized self-consumption of renewable energy due to less energy conversion stages**
- **No reactive power issues** – only active energy is delivered
- **Simple coordination and control, better resilience and energy security**
- **Excellent interoperability and reduced e-waste**

# USB TYPE-C IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD ENERGY-EFFICIENT AND INTEROPERABLE DC POWER DISTRIBUTION

Starting from 2025 the **USB Type-C became the common charging standard for small electronic devices in the EU**. Laptops will have to be equipped with a USB Type-C port by 28 April 2026.



# ENERGY NEUTRAL DC WORKSPACE



# HISTORICAL CHOICE: FROM 230 VAC TO 350 VDC

- The **LVDC** power distribution concept was proposed by **DC Systems** and implemented in Dutch standardization in **2018** (NPR9090 - Dutch Practical Guideline for the installations up to 1500 V DC)
- Starting **from 2021** the concept is continuously developed, improved and showcased by **Current/OS Foundation**
- **350 VDC** is considered as a substitute for 230 VAC and **700 VDC** for 3x400 VAC\*
- Residential DC installations can be realized either with a **unipolar** or **bipolar architectures**
- **Droop control** based power management, where voltage is used as a shared signal that reflects the power availability. The installation is **self-regulating** featuring excellent **resilience\*\***
- Residential DC installations require ultrafast **solid-state circuit breakers (SSCB)** with tripping times less than **10 µs**. In combination with **residual current detection** and **arc fault mitigation** the SSCBs help eliminating safety concerns associated with DC and ensure **ultimate safety** of residents and property



by Schneider Electric

Current**OS**

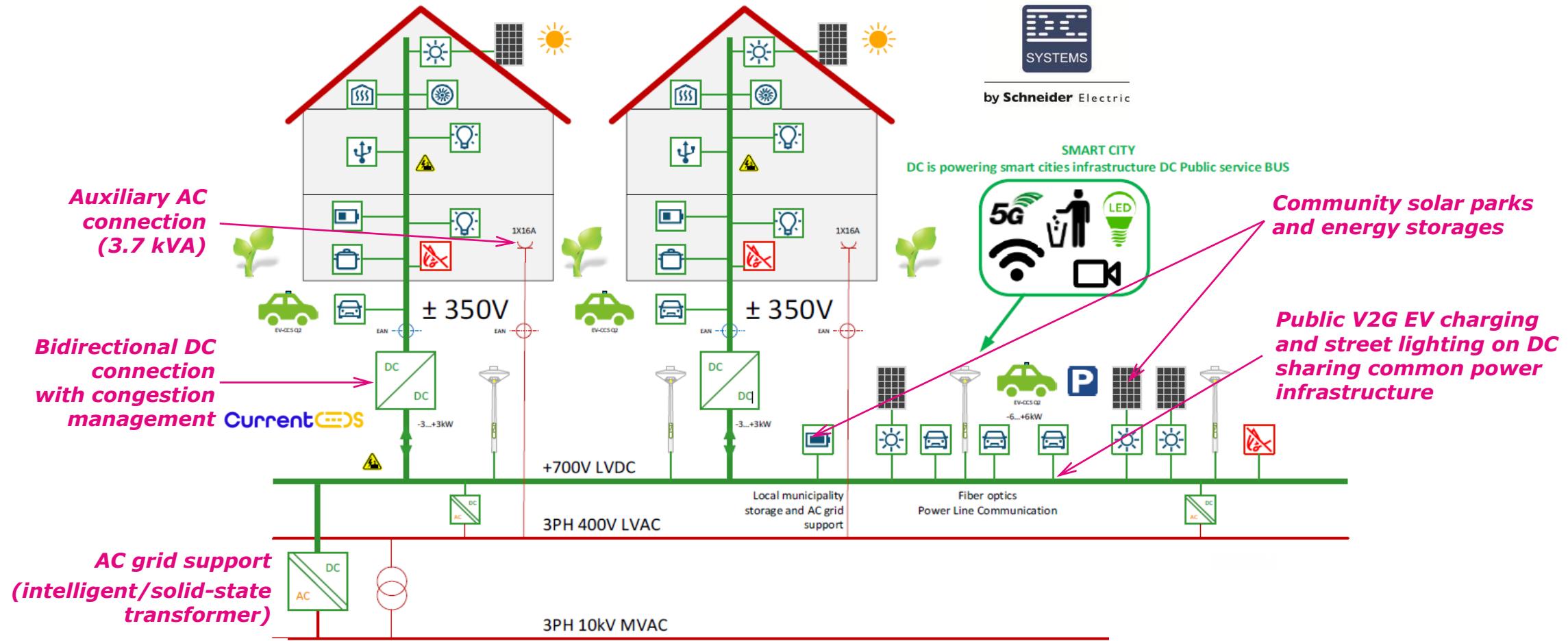
# BENEFITS OF DC OVER AC IN HOUSEHOLDS\*

## DC OPENS A NEW DIMENSION IN ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS

- *100% power electronics enabled* technology with *ultimate control flexibility, efficiency, power density and reliability*
- *Up to 35% power loss reduction* due to *more efficient power conversion and distribution and better utilization of the local renewable energy (solar photovoltaics, battery energy storage and heat pump)*
- *Up to 55% reduction* in *distribution cabling mass (copper or aluminum)*
- *Up to 85% reduction* in *the required connection capacity to the AC distribution grid*
- *Up to 20% reduction* in *lifecycle costs when a building is fully converted to DC*
- *Easy implementation of Vehicle-to-Home (V2H) and Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technologies*
- *Resilient* power supply during blackouts with possibility to support grid stability (power consumption curtailment, phase balancing, etc.)

# DC ELECTRIFICATION OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

**DC enables new revenue streams** for homeowners from participation in energy services and collective initiatives (EaaS, VPPaaS, energy communities, energy hubs, etc.)



# MAIN CHALLENGES OF DC TODAY

- Lack of international standardization and certification schemes
- Lack of market-ready power electronic systems and appliances
- Lack of public awareness and technology demonstration

***General Motors EV1 (1996)***



***Tesla Model S (2012)***



- Global DC partnership
- Member of IEC SyC LVDC
- 100+ partners to date, more joining every month
- 25 countries represented in
  - North America
  - Europe
  - Asia
- Universities join for free
- <https://currentcos.org>



# 350 VDC TECHNOLOGY IS VERY FAST DEVELOPING

**RECENTLY IS A TECHNOLOGY VALIDATION AND DEMONSTRATION PHASE (2020-2027)**

- *Big players (Schneider Electric, EATON, ABB, etc.) strongly support the technology development and innovation*
- *Solid state circuit breakers (DC Systems B.V., Blixt, DC Opportunities B.V.)*
- *USB-C PD (power delivery) 100 W wall socket outlet (DC Systems B.V.)*
- *Public light LED drivers (DC Systems B.V., Tridonic)*
- *Induction cooktop (ATAG Benelux)*
- *Hood fan (ATAG Benelux)*
- *Refrigerator (ATAG Benelux)*
- *Heat pumps (NRGtec)*
- *Under development: coffee machine, oven, microwave, washing machines, etc.*



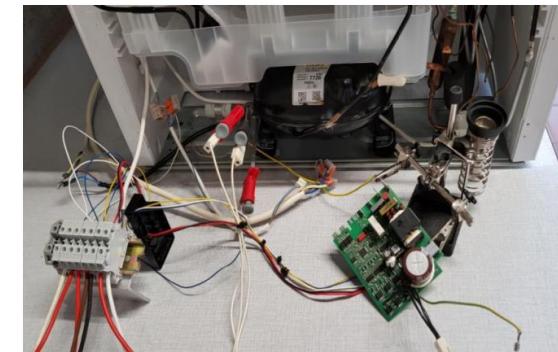
TRIDONIC



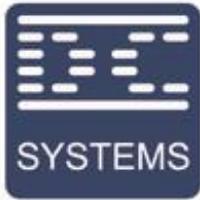
BLIXT



<https://gelijkspanning.org/>  
<https://www.dc.systems/>  
<https://blixt.tech/>



# DC TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES (1)



by Schneider Electric

- DC-powered office setups;
- Energy recovering industrial automation equipment,
- Solar technology;
- EV charging and more.

## DIRECT CURRENT EXPERIENCE CENTER (AALSMEER, NL)

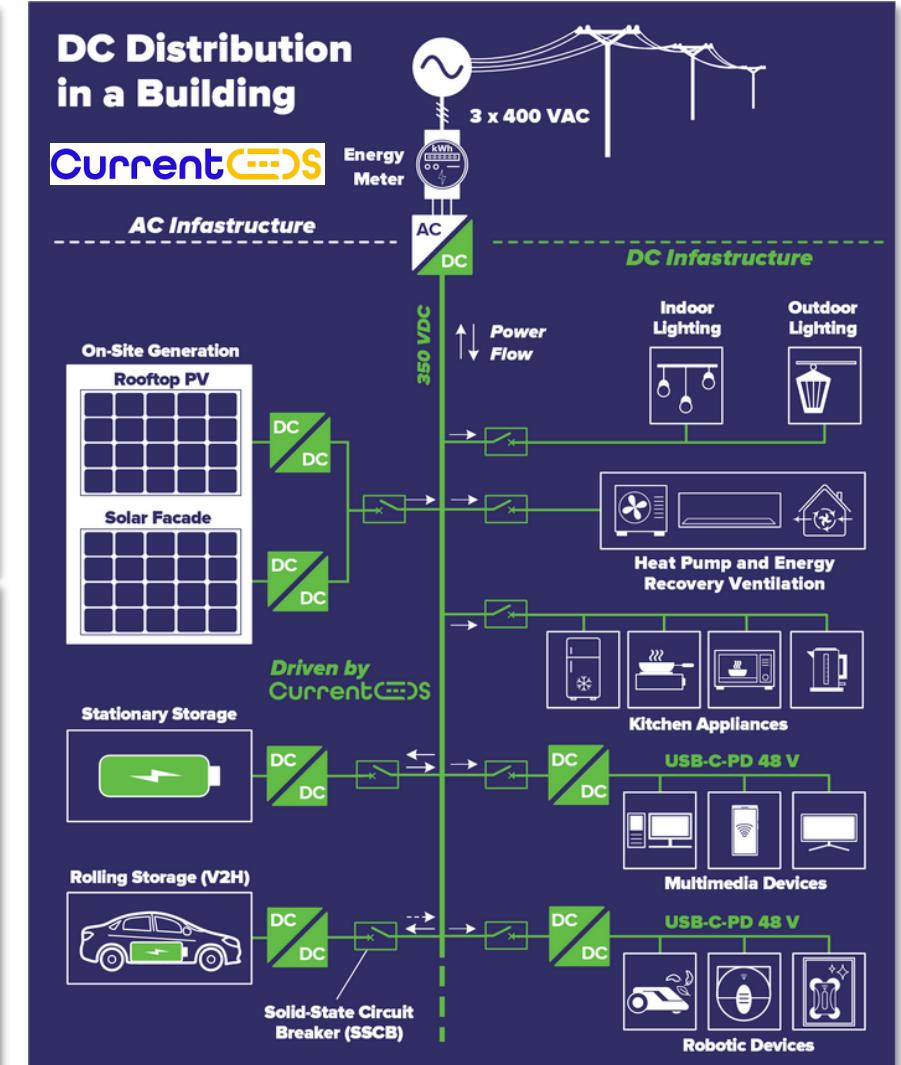


Book your visit via email: [experience.center@dc.systems](mailto:experience.center@dc.systems)

# DC TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES (2)

## TALTECH RESIDENTIAL DC INNOVATION HUB (TALLINN, ESTONIA)

TAL  
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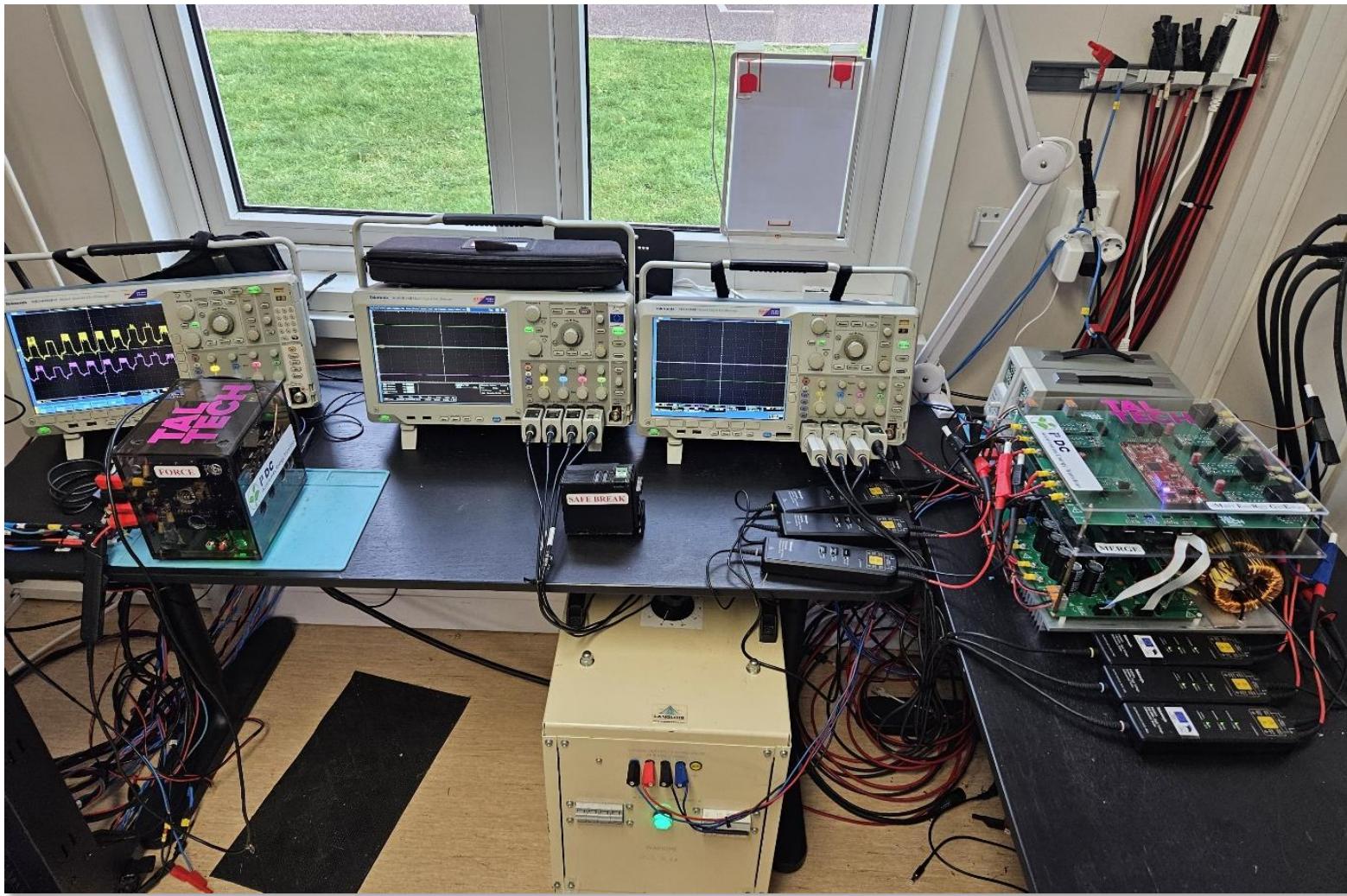


Book your visit via email at: [i3dc@taltech.ee](mailto:i3dc@taltech.ee)

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TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

# OUR NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES UNDER TEST IN DC INNOHUB



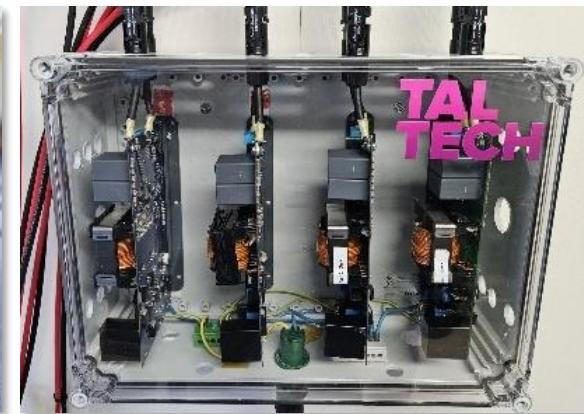
SAFEBREAK



MERGE



FORCE



FlexiVerter

# *<sup>3</sup> DC INITIATIVE: inform inspire & innovate*



**i³ DC**  
Accelerates Energy Transition



# PEMC 2026 IN TALLINN – SAVE THE DATE!

## THE 22<sup>ND</sup> IEEE POWER ELECTRONICS AND MOTION CONTROL CONFERENCE (PEMC2026) – September 23-25, 2026

CO-SPONSORED BY THE IEEE IES

You can expect:

- *Highly relevant program on power electronics, controls, electrical drives, robotics and their industrial applications*
- *~150 papers to be presented*
- *Tutorials from world-renown experts: J.W. Kolar, M. Malinowski, F. Blaabjerg, A. Rathore, etc.*
- *12 IES SYPA awards at \$1,500 USD each will be granted*
- *Entertaining social events for attendees, special events for students and WiE members*
- *Luncheons and coffee breaks*

### IEEE PEMC 2026

22<sup>nd</sup> International Power Electronics  
and Motion Control Conference  
Sept. 23-25, 2026 — Tallinn, Estonia

Power Electronics  
and Motion Control  
Conference

PEMC  




### CALL FOR PAPERS

IEEE  
Industrial  
Electronics  
Society  
IEC

IAS  
IEEE  
APPLICATIONS  
SOCIETY

Power Electronics  
and Motion Control  
Council  
PEMC

IEEE  
ESTONIA SECTION

IEEE  
Xplore  
THE KOREAN INSTITUTE OF  
POWER ELECTRONICS  
KIPE

#### SPECIAL SESSIONS

PEMC2026 invites special session proposals on **focused topics** within the conference, convened by 2-4 experts.

#### PAPER SUBMISSION

Prospective authors are invited to submit **full papers** in English, following instructions on the website. The conference proceedings will be submitted to **IEEE Xplore**.

#### TUTORIALS

PEMC2026 invites tutorial proposals on emerging topics from academic and industry experts. Companies are welcome to showcase their innovations at the exhibition!

#### VENUE

The conference will be held at the Original Sokos Hotel Viru.



#### IMPORTANT DATES

- Tutorial proposal submission **1 Feb. 2026**
- Special session proposal submission **1 Feb. 2026**
- Full paper submission **1 Mar. 2026**
- Notification of paper/tutorial acceptance **15 May 2026**
- Final paper/tutorial materials submission **20 Jun. 2026**
- Early bird registration fee **30 Jun. 2026**

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*The most recent news and activities you will find in our LinkedIn groups*



*Power Electronics Group*



- <https://taltech.ee/en/power-electronics-research-group> (to be updated)
- <https://taltech.ee/en/i3dc-initiative>

# DC:



Not this.



But this.



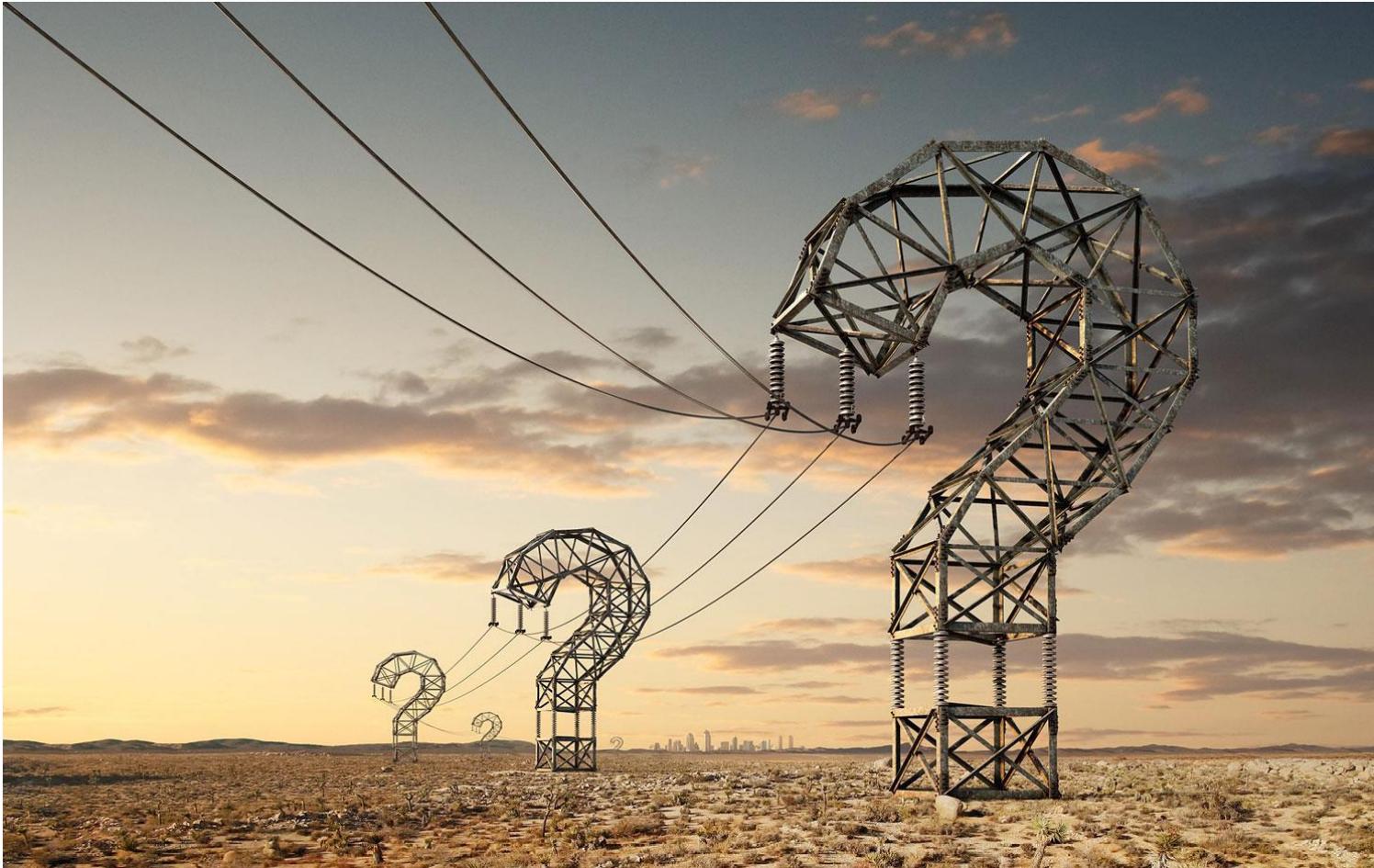
## CALL FOR COLLABORATION!!!

We will welcome  
**collaboration on DC buildings**  
with interested partners  
all over the World!

Feel free to contact us at  
**[i3dc@taltech.ee](mailto:i3dc@taltech.ee)**



# QUESTIONS



– POWER ELECTRONICS GROUP –

Your Reliable Partner in Power Electronics

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