


# **ICT for Energy Balanced Living**

**Gerd Kortuem, Janet van der Linden,  
Blaine Price, Jacky Bourgeois**

**The Open University**

**[gerd.kortuem@open.ac.uk](mailto:gerd.kortuem@open.ac.uk)**



## Solar power generation world record set in Germany

Plants produced 22 gigawatts at midday hours on Friday and Saturday, meeting half country's electricity needs on second day

---

Reuters

[guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk), Monday 28 May 2012 18.03 BST



**We will all be ENERGY FARMERS soon ...?**

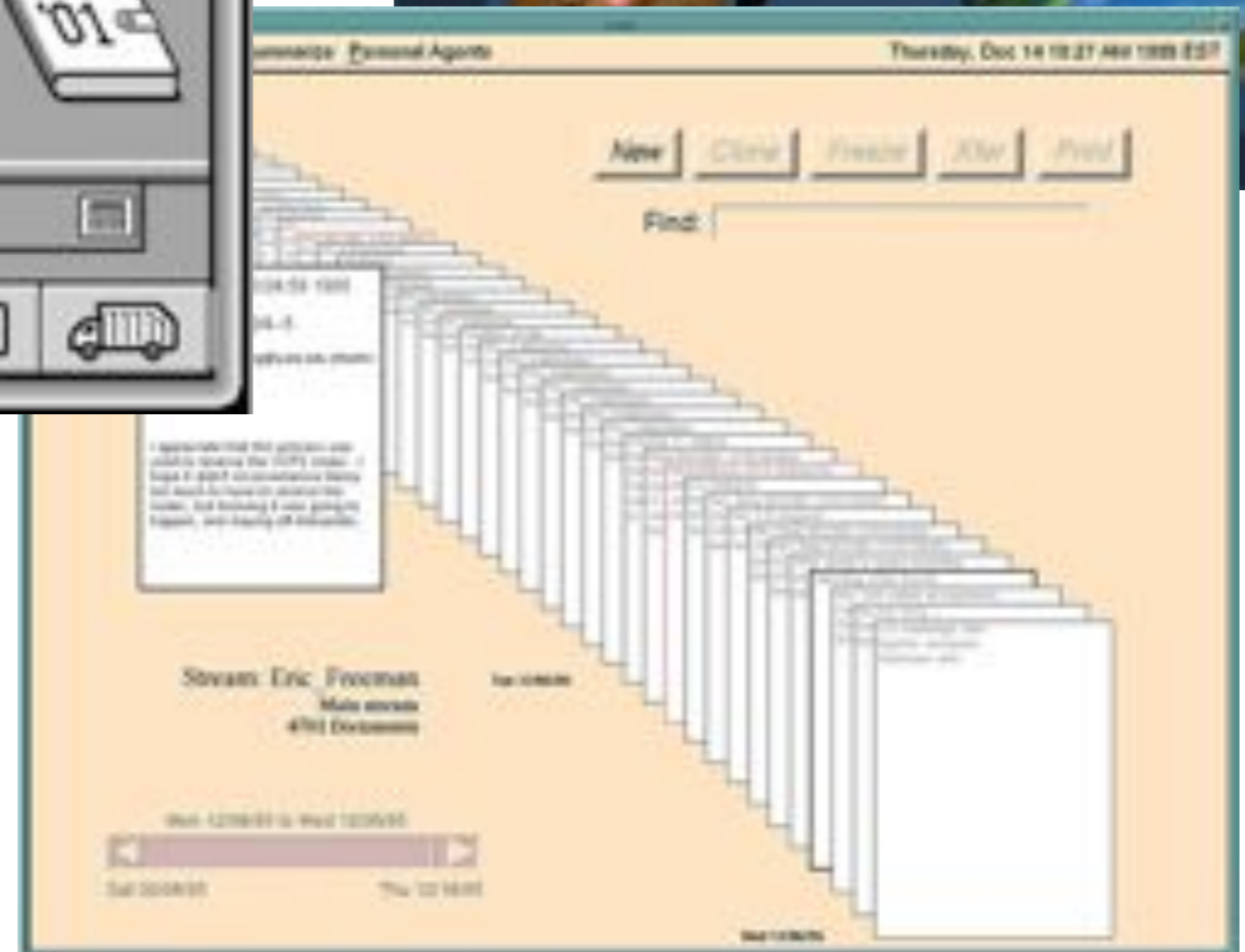
**By September 2012 there were over 360,000 domestic microgeneration installations in the UK, with a constant pace of over 1,200 installations added per week.**

**As of March 2012, domestic PV systems registered under the Feed-in Tariffs reached 800 megawatt, which is about 0.1% of UK domestic electric consumption.**

**[Feed-in Tariff statistics - Department of Energy and Climate Change: 2012. [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy\\_stats/source/fits/fits.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/fits/fits.aspx)]**



**Energy is becoming more COMPLEX for consumers**



**Computer Science is about dealing with complexity**

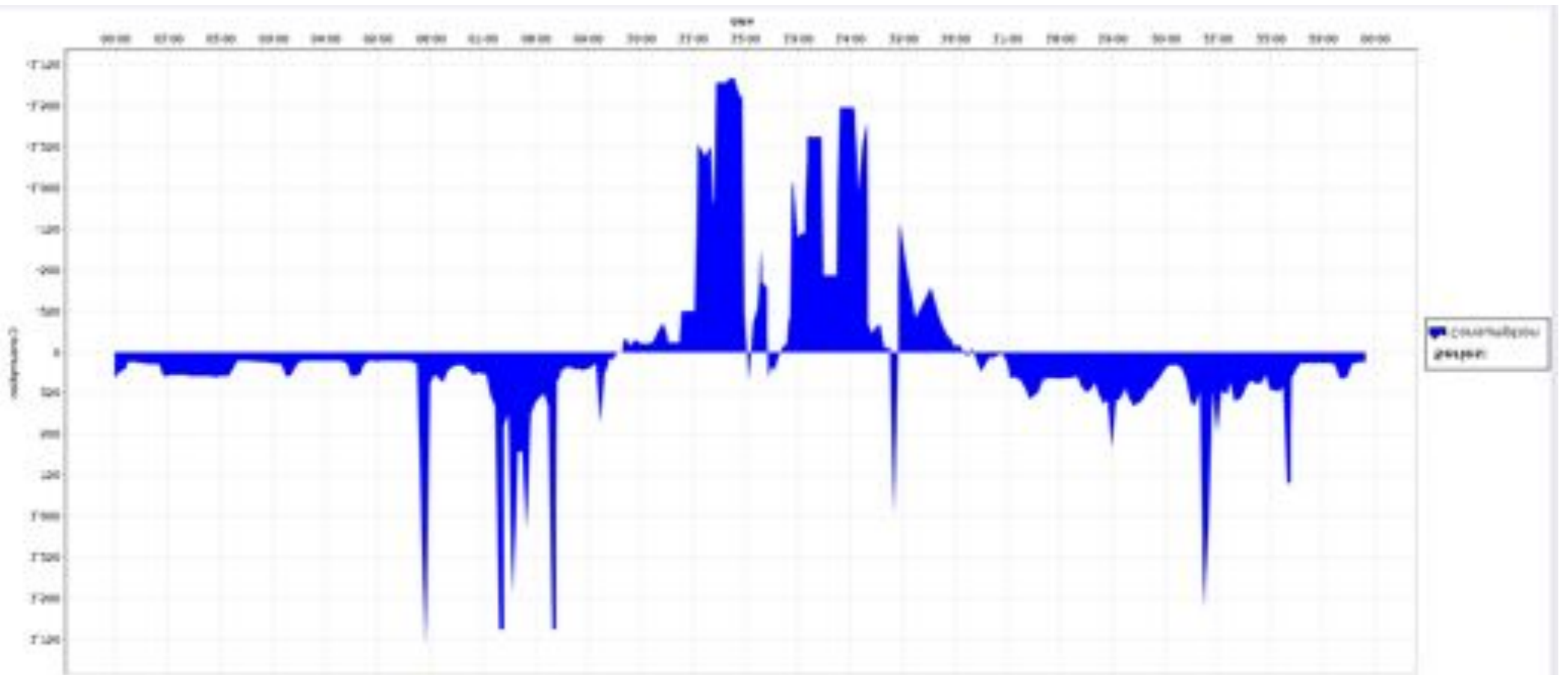


**Currently we are just exposing complexity**

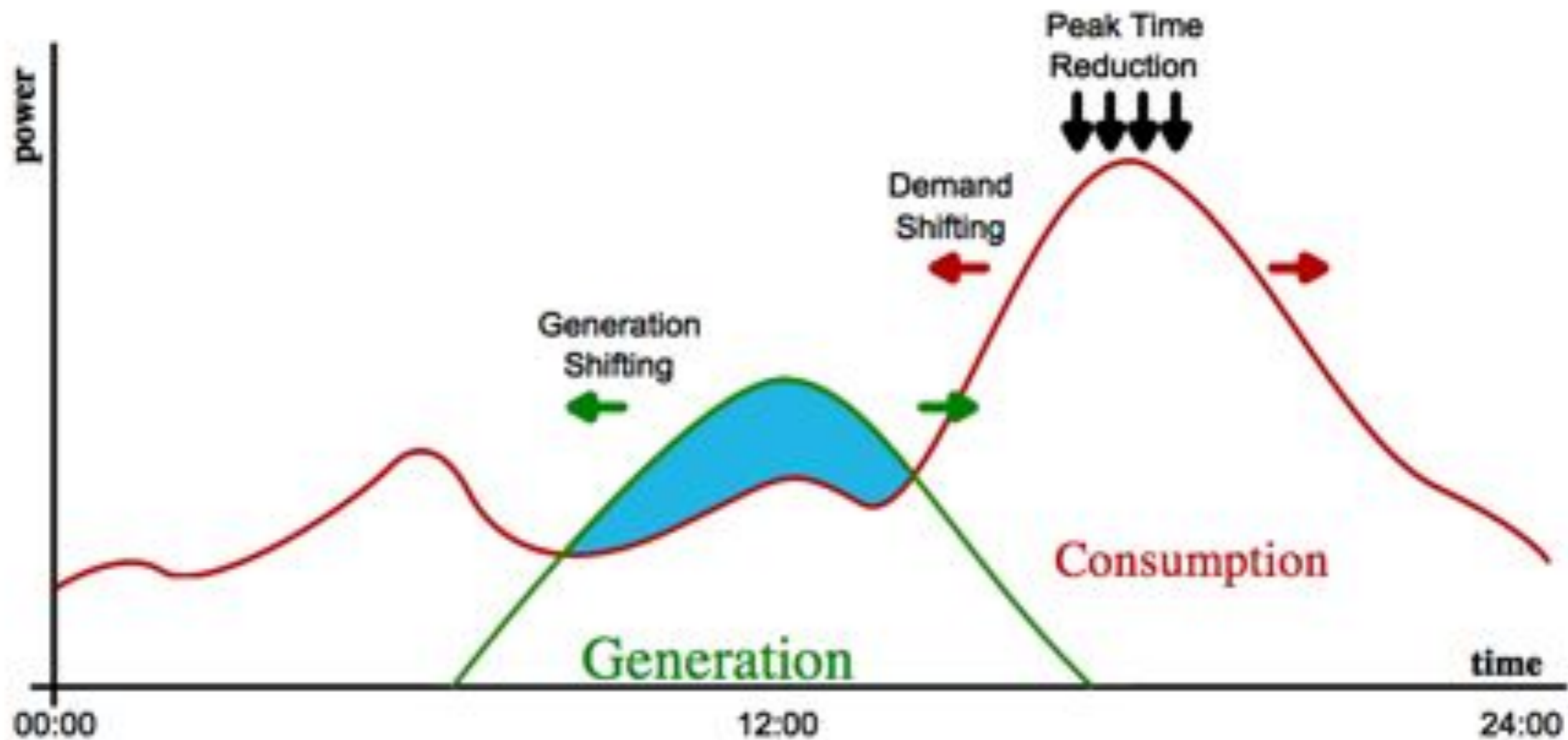
**What is the role of ICT in helping people deal with ENERGY COMPLEXITY?**

**What is the role of ICT in enabling people to live an ENERGY-BALANCED LIVE?**

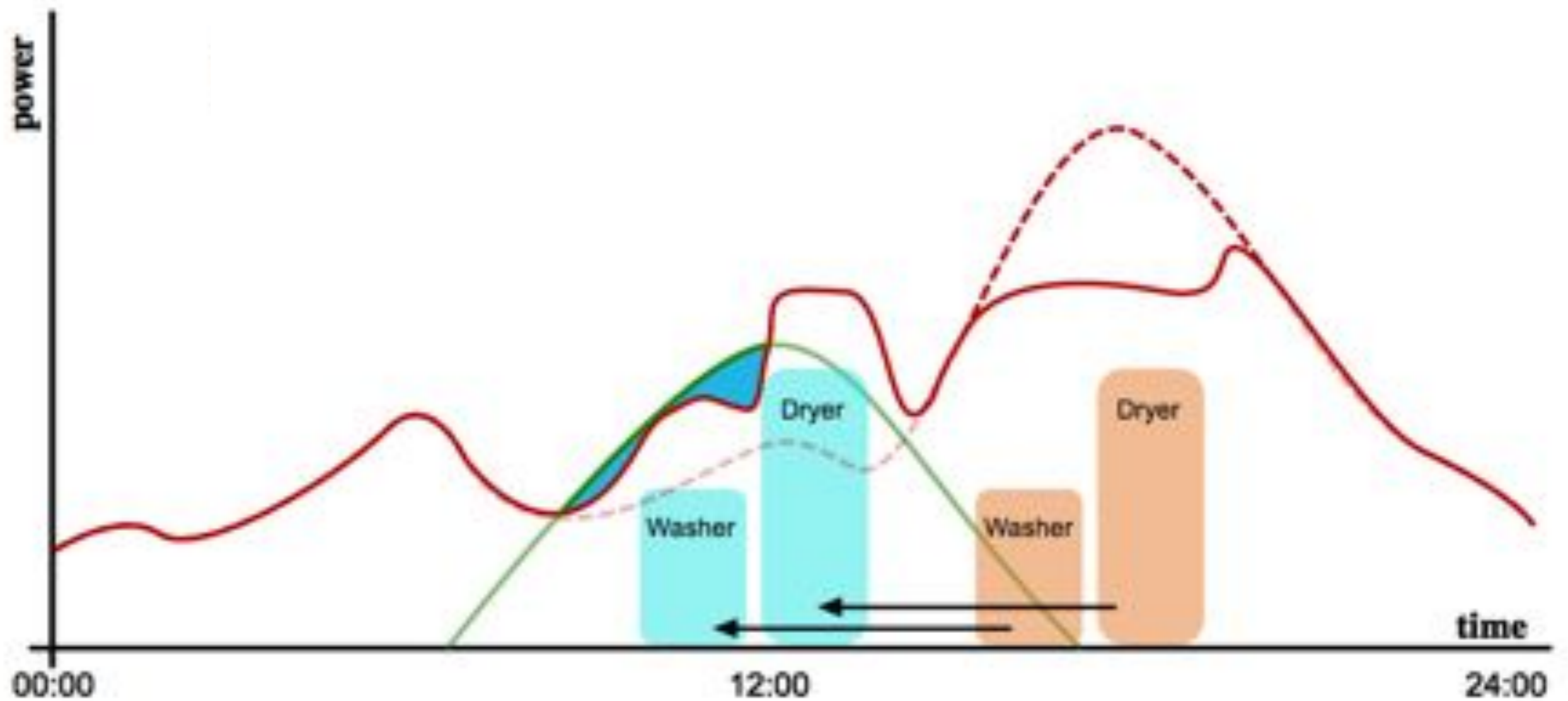




**Consumption vs Generation (2013-01-15)**

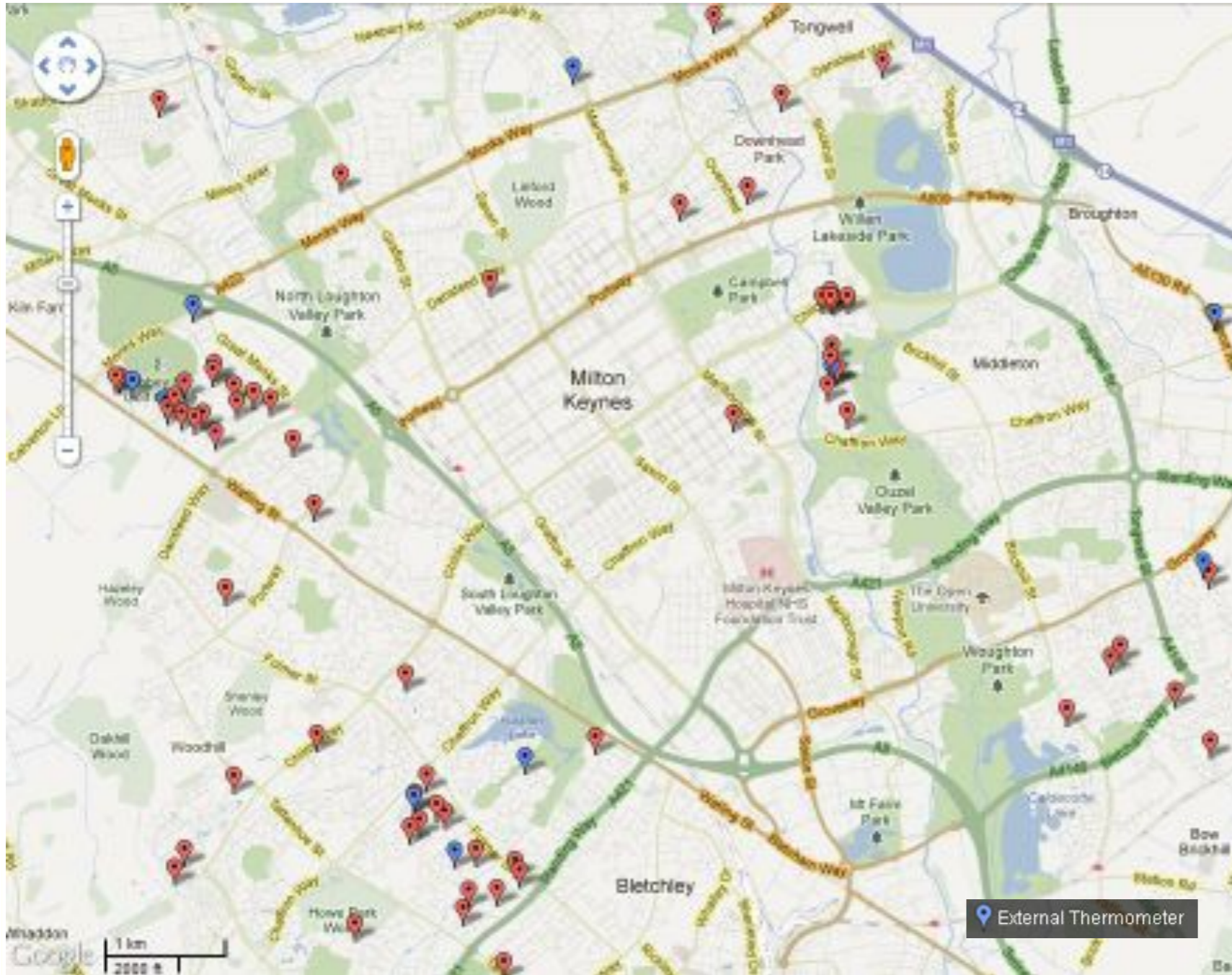


**Is DEMAND-SHIFTING a viable option?**

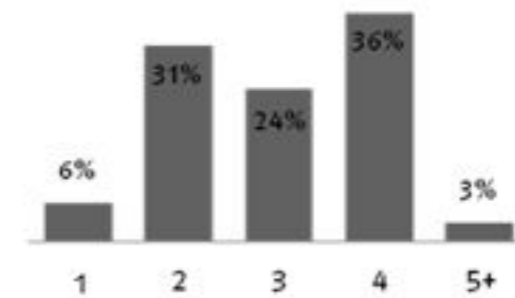
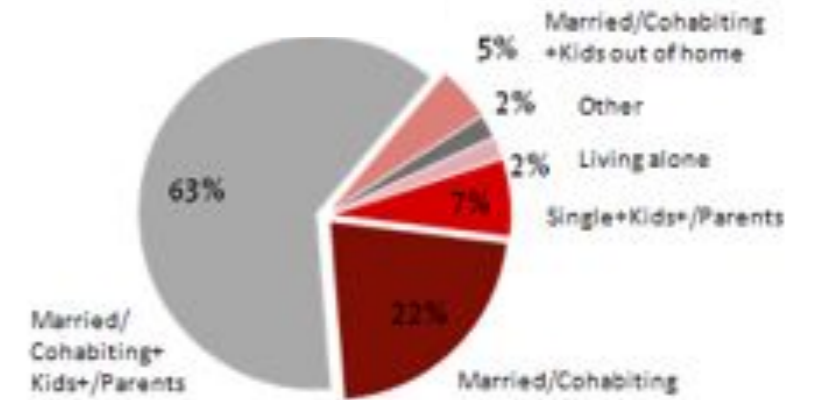


**Is DEMAND-SHIFTING a viable option?**

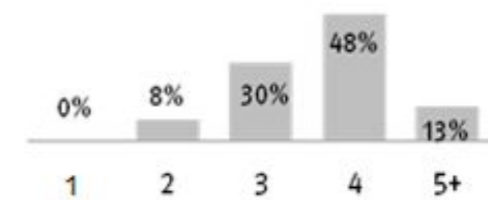
# Map of participant distribution



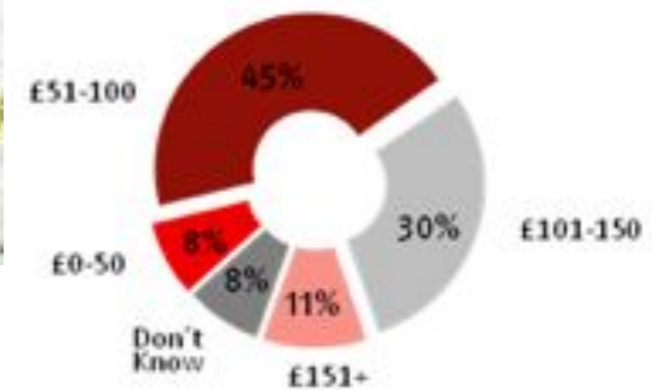
# Participant Demographics



People in Household



No of bedrooms



Monthly Energy Cost

**FOCUS GROUPS with 75 Households**

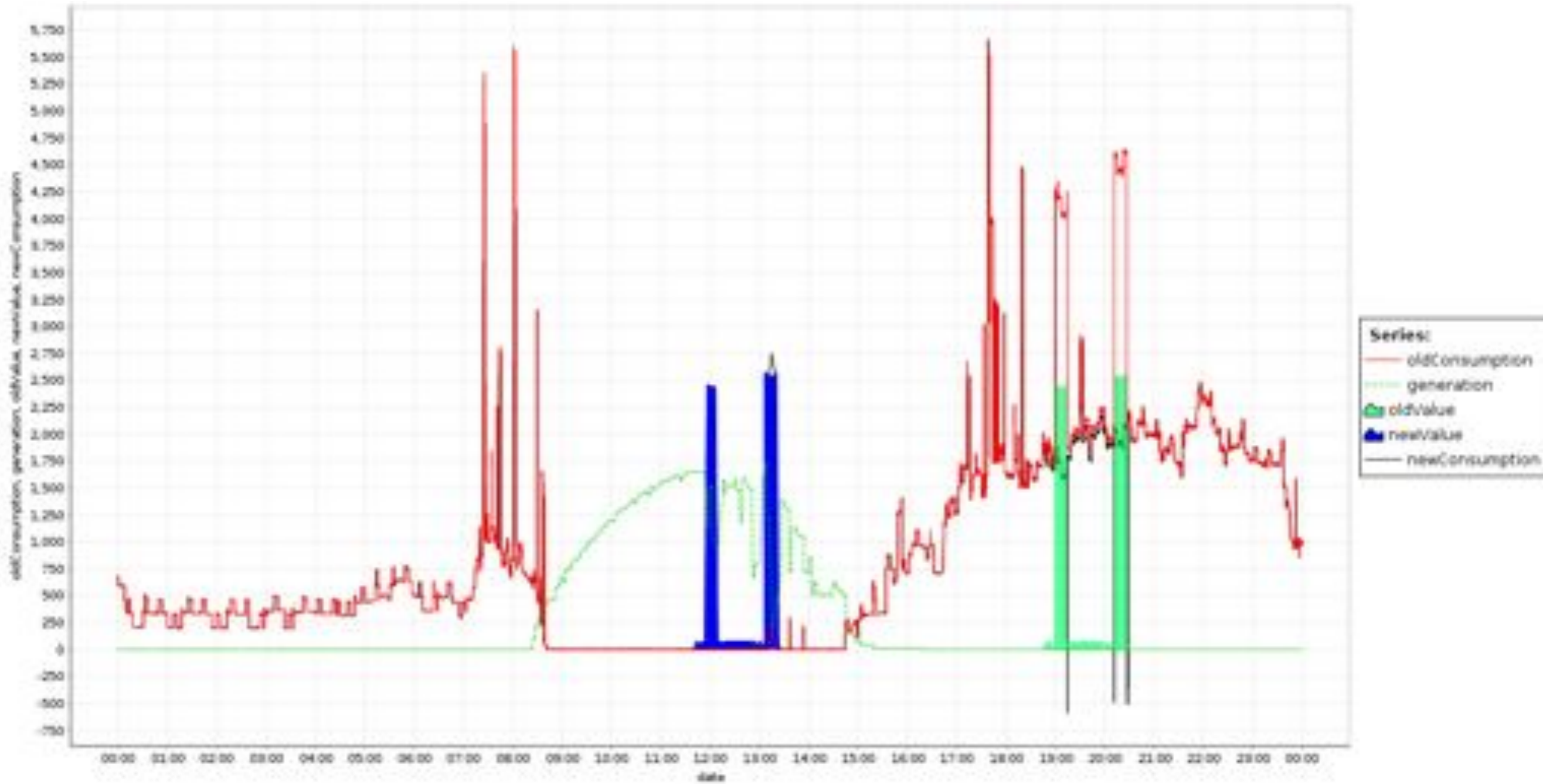
**“We now switch on (appliances) when the sun is out – so that’s happened with the introduction of solar panels...”**

**“the sun was out, so the washing machine was on. It would be nice if I could do the ironing – but I don’t know how much ...”**

**There is evidence that people do DEMAND SHIFTING**



**People BELIEVE they understand their own energy generation, but is their understanding correct?**



**Do they understand the precision required to do effective demand shifting?**



Strategy 1: send all local generation to the grid

- Export all the local generation
- Import all the consumption



Strategy 2: use local generation locally, export excess

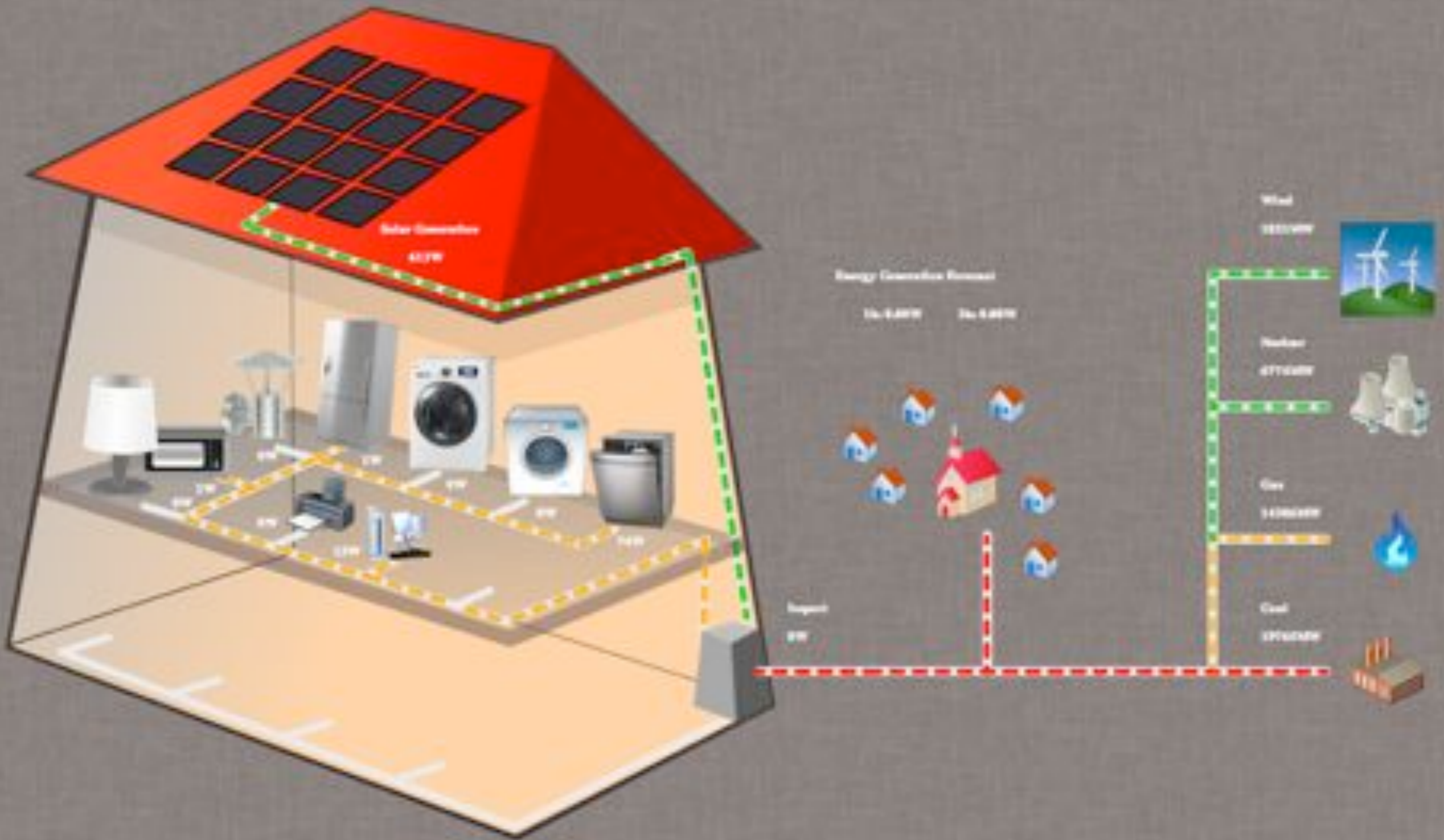
- Use the local generation to power the consumption
- When Generation > Consumption then Export
- When Generation < Consumption then Import

**Do they understand the how import/export works?**





**Do they understand import/export tariffs?**



**The current FEEDBACK-based approach is not enough**



**Recommendation User Interface for DEMAND-SHIFTING**

**“Now is not a good time for using me.”**

**“In 3 hours there will be enough local energy to run me.”**

**“Would you like me to start in 3 hours?”**

**“You could save £100/year if you follow my advice (or 80kg CO<sub>2</sub>).”**

**“80% of your neighbours follow my advice, why don't you?”**



**How well can we predict local demand and generation?**

**What are the social constraints for demand shifting?**

**How does the message effect people's willingness to shift demand?**

**What are the overall savings that can be realized?**

**Recommendation User Interface for DEMAND-SHIFTING**