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# On how to integrate large quantities of variable renewables into electricity systems

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Energy Economics Group, TU Wien

**Singapore, 21 June 2017**

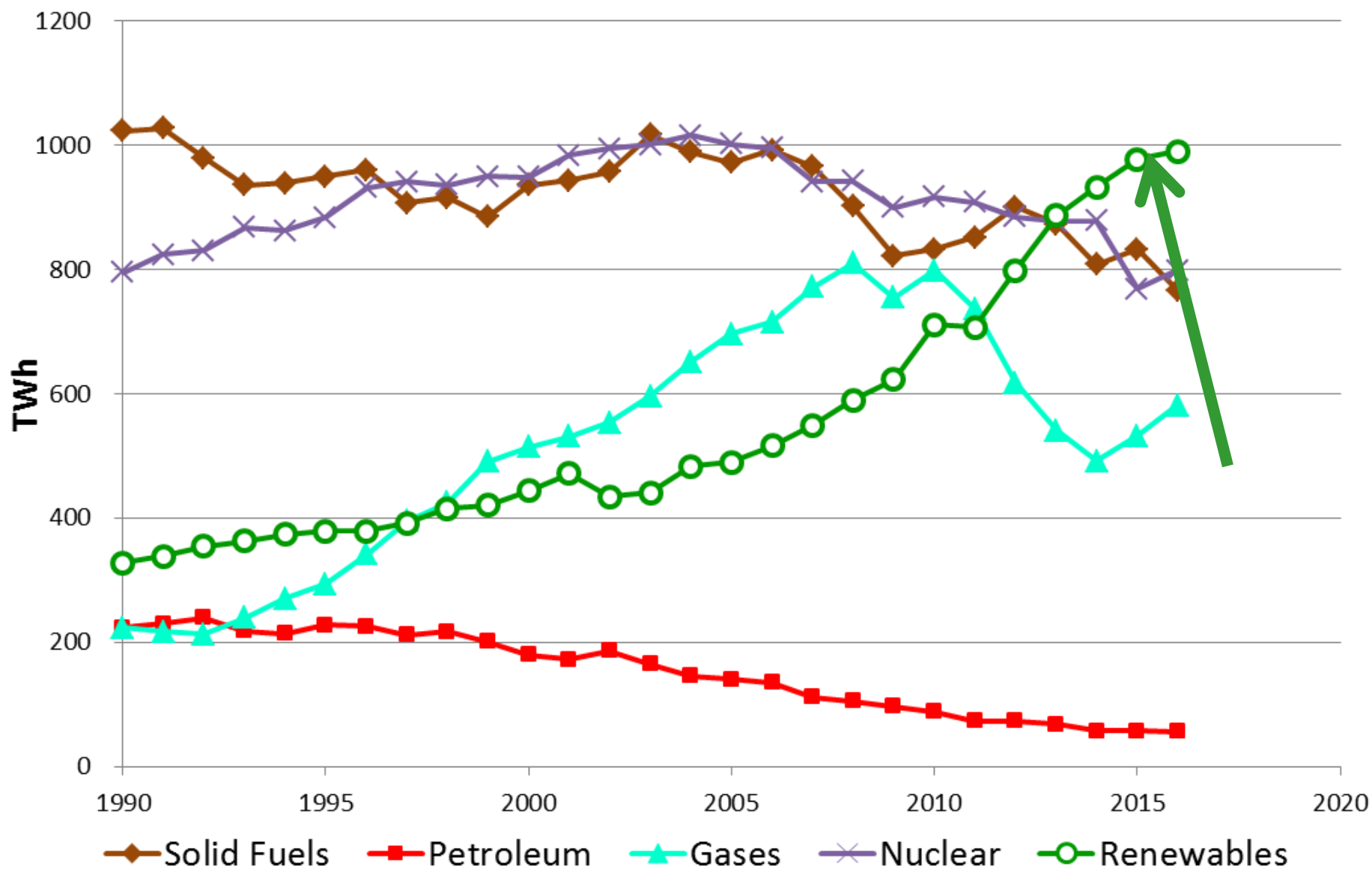
- 1. Introduction: Motivation**
- 2. How variable renewables impact prices in electricity markets**
- 3. The core problem of capacity payments**
- 4. Flexibility and sector coupling**
- 5. Balancing groups: A future market design**
- 6. Conclusions**

## Motivation:

- \* Climate change → Paris agreements
- \* European targets for renewables → „Clean energy“ winter package
- \* Competition & democracy
- \* It is not possible to squeeze variable renewables into the system by violence



# Electricity generation EU-28

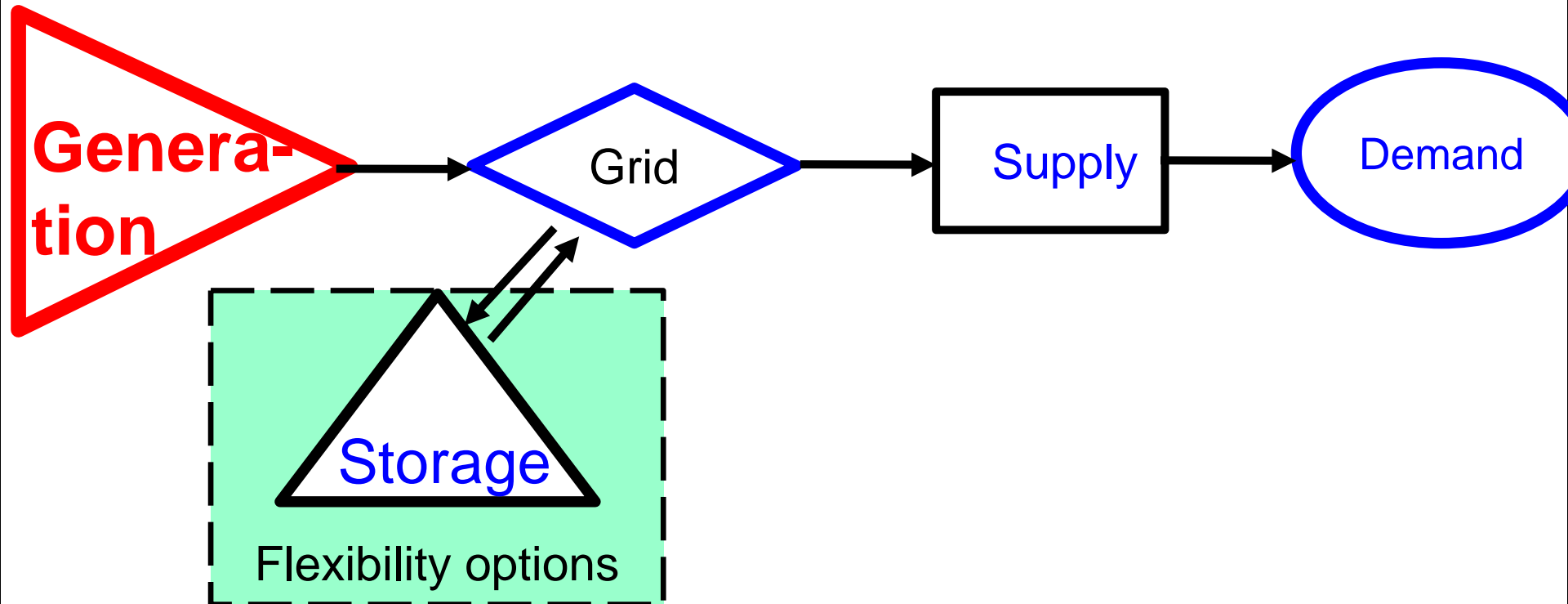


... to identify the major boundary conditions to integrate even larger amounts of variable renewables into the electricity system

**Very important:**

Our reflections apply in principle to every electricity system world-wide;

.... are based on **electricity economic** point-of-view



**Expectation of**

**prices = Short-term marginal costs**

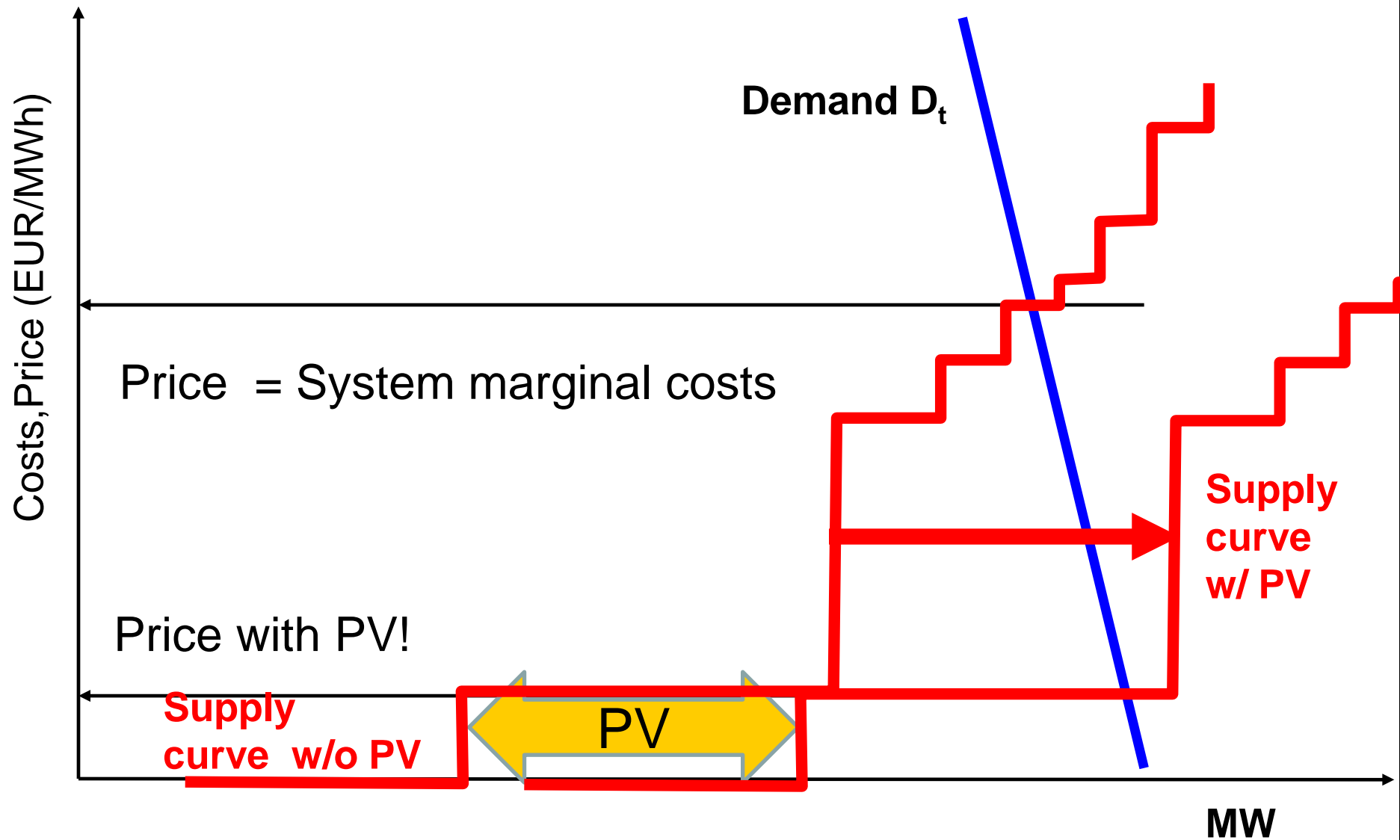
**(Short-term marginal costs = fuel costs)**

**due to huge depreciated excess  
capacities at the beginning of  
liberalisation!**



## **2 HOW VARIABLE RENEWABLES IMPACT PRICES IN ELECTRICITY MARKETS**

# Example: prices without and with PV



RES Production

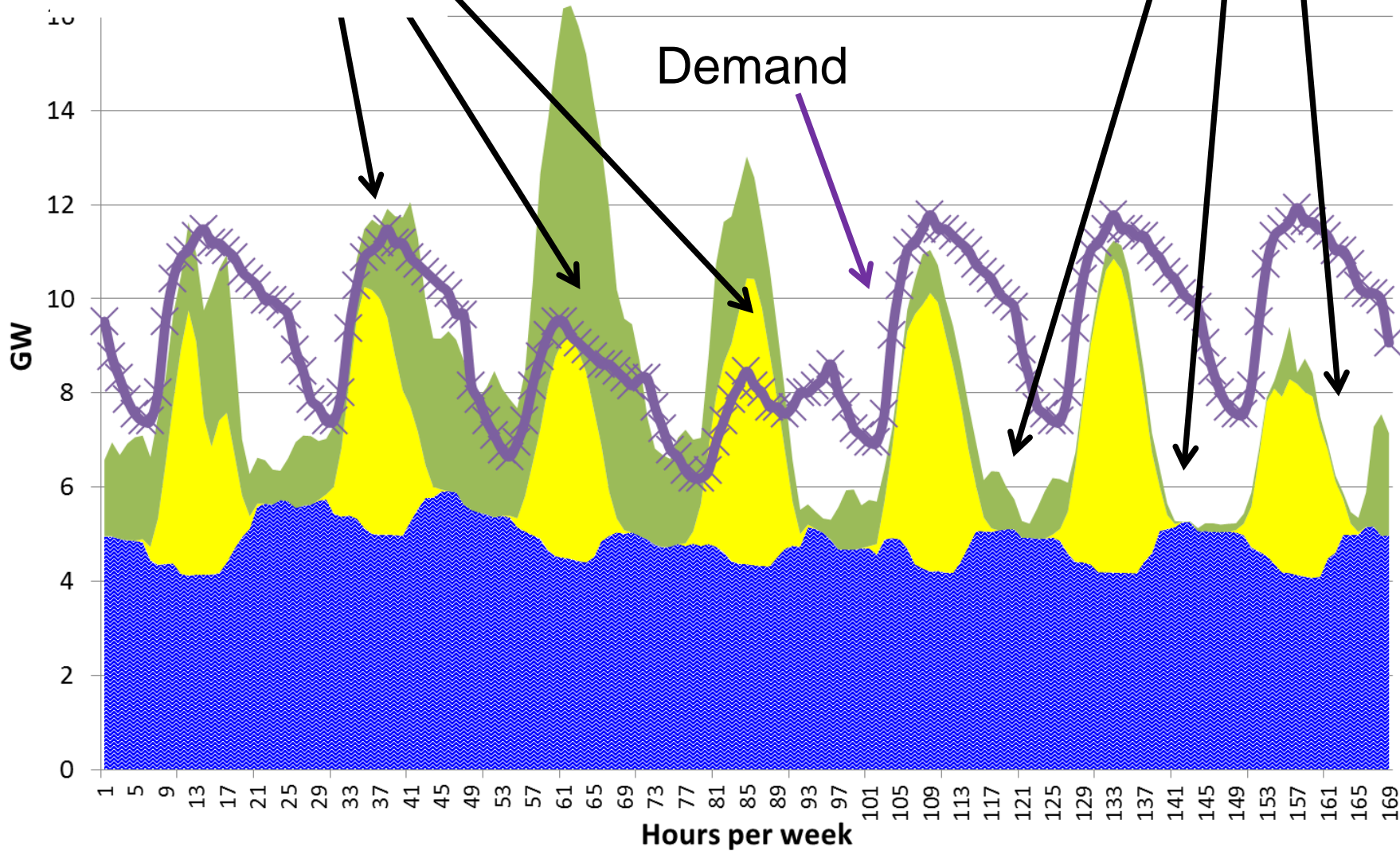
> Demand

on-river hydro PV Wind Load

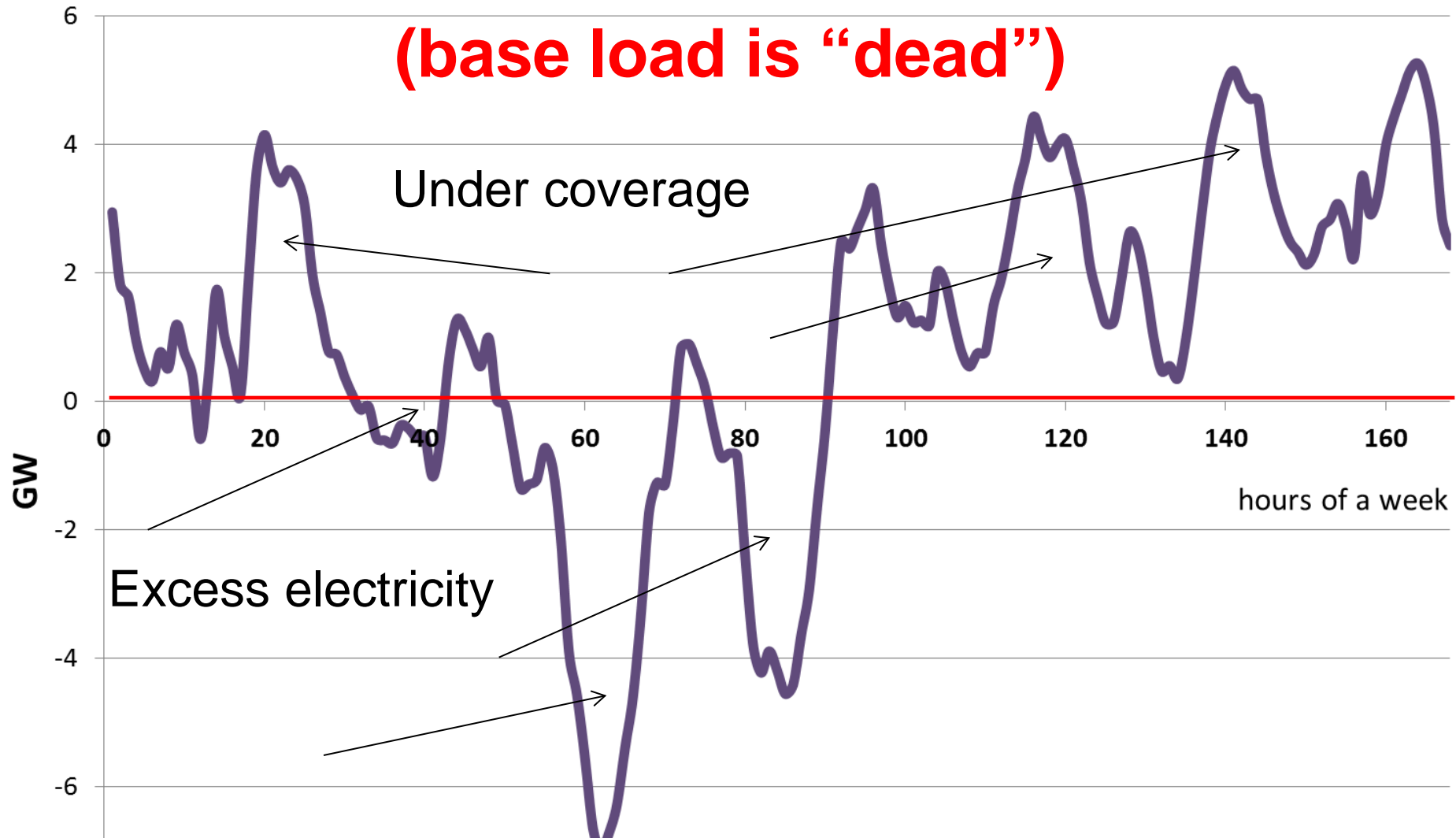
Demand

RES Production

< Demand



# Key term of the future: Residual load (base load is “dead”)

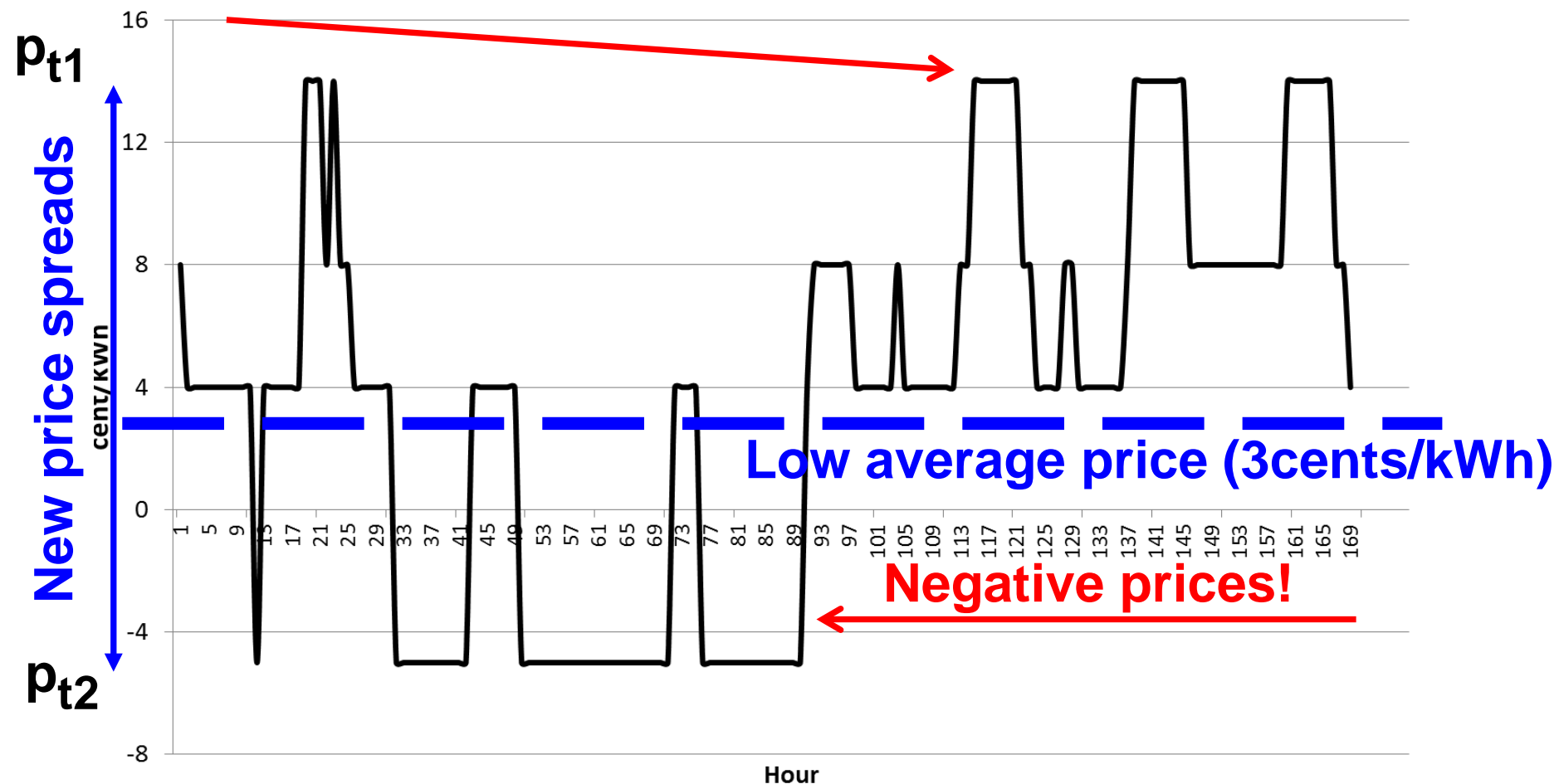


**Residual load = Load – non-flexible generation**

# Deviation from STMC-pricing in spot markets

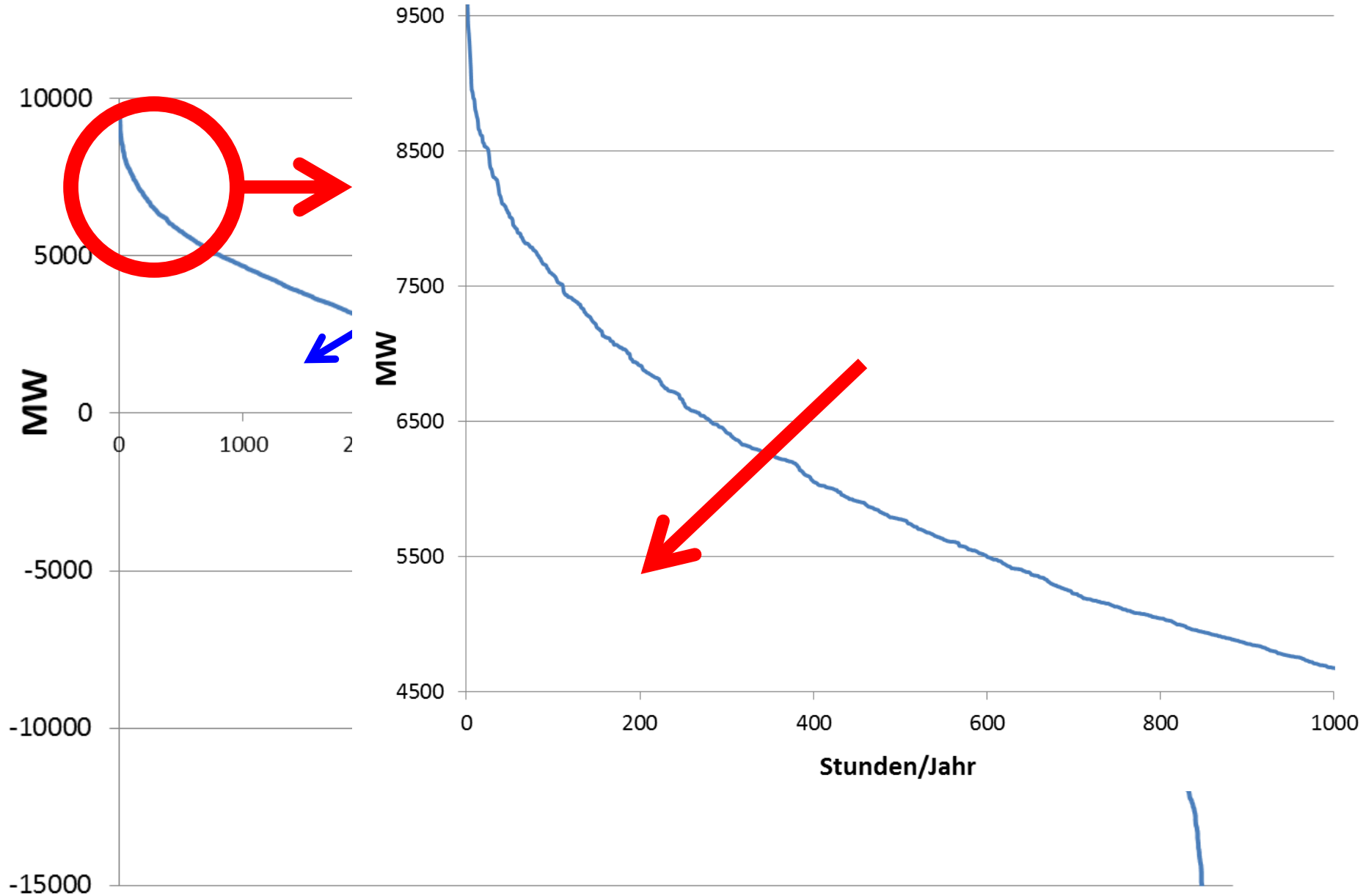
**Scarcity prices!**

Electricity price spot market



**→ These price spreads provide incentives  
for new flexible solutions!!!!**

# Classified residual load





By a regulated capacity „market“ with STMC pricing?

or

By competition between supply-side and demand-side technologies and behaviour (incl. Storages, grid and other flexibility options) with correct scarcity pricing signals??

Given a price pattern, showing **excess and scarcity prices** it would be attractive for a sufficient number of flexible power plant operators to stay in the market!



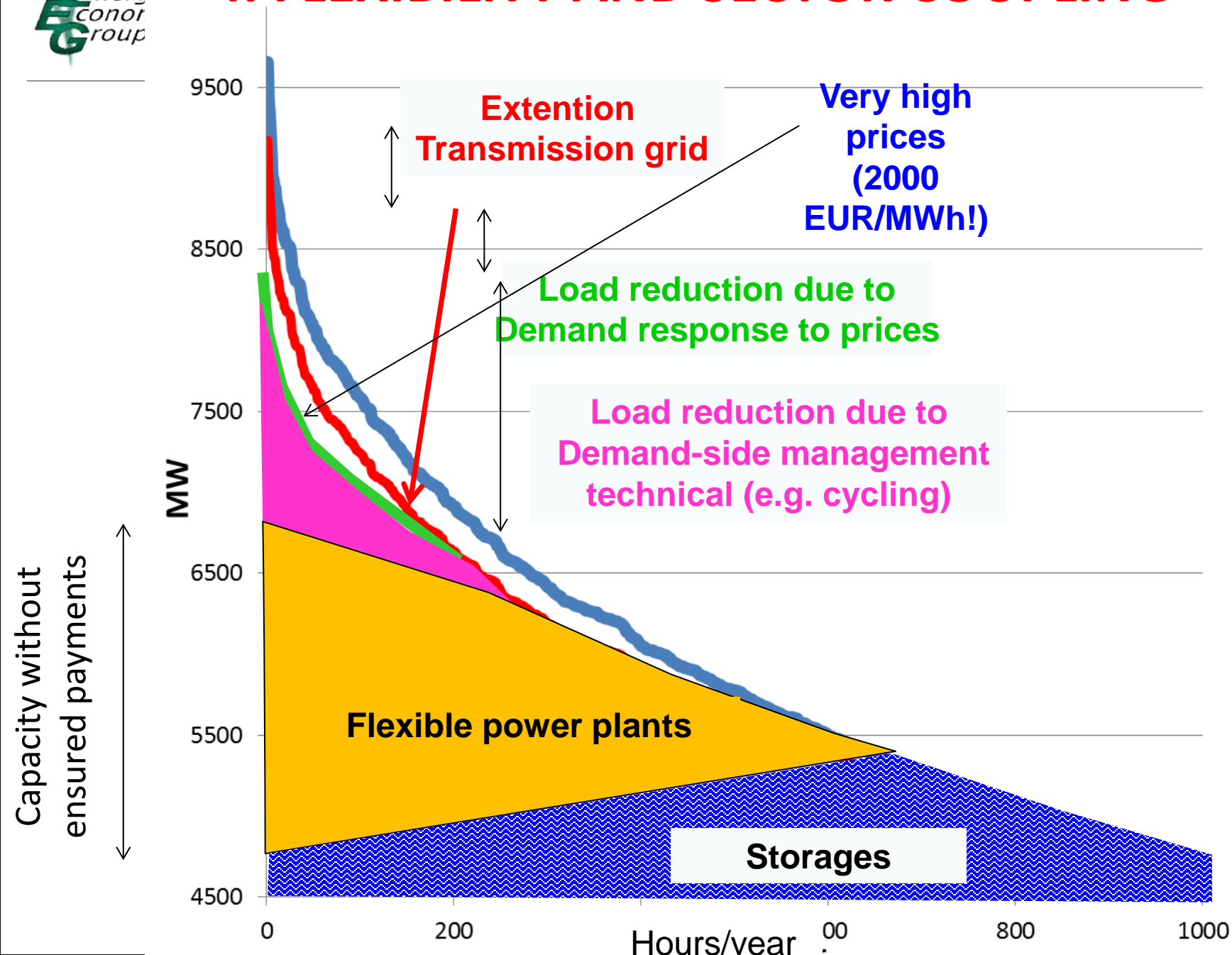
**REVISED ENERGY-ONLY MARKET**

# 3 THE CORE PROBLEM OF CAPACITY PAYMENTS

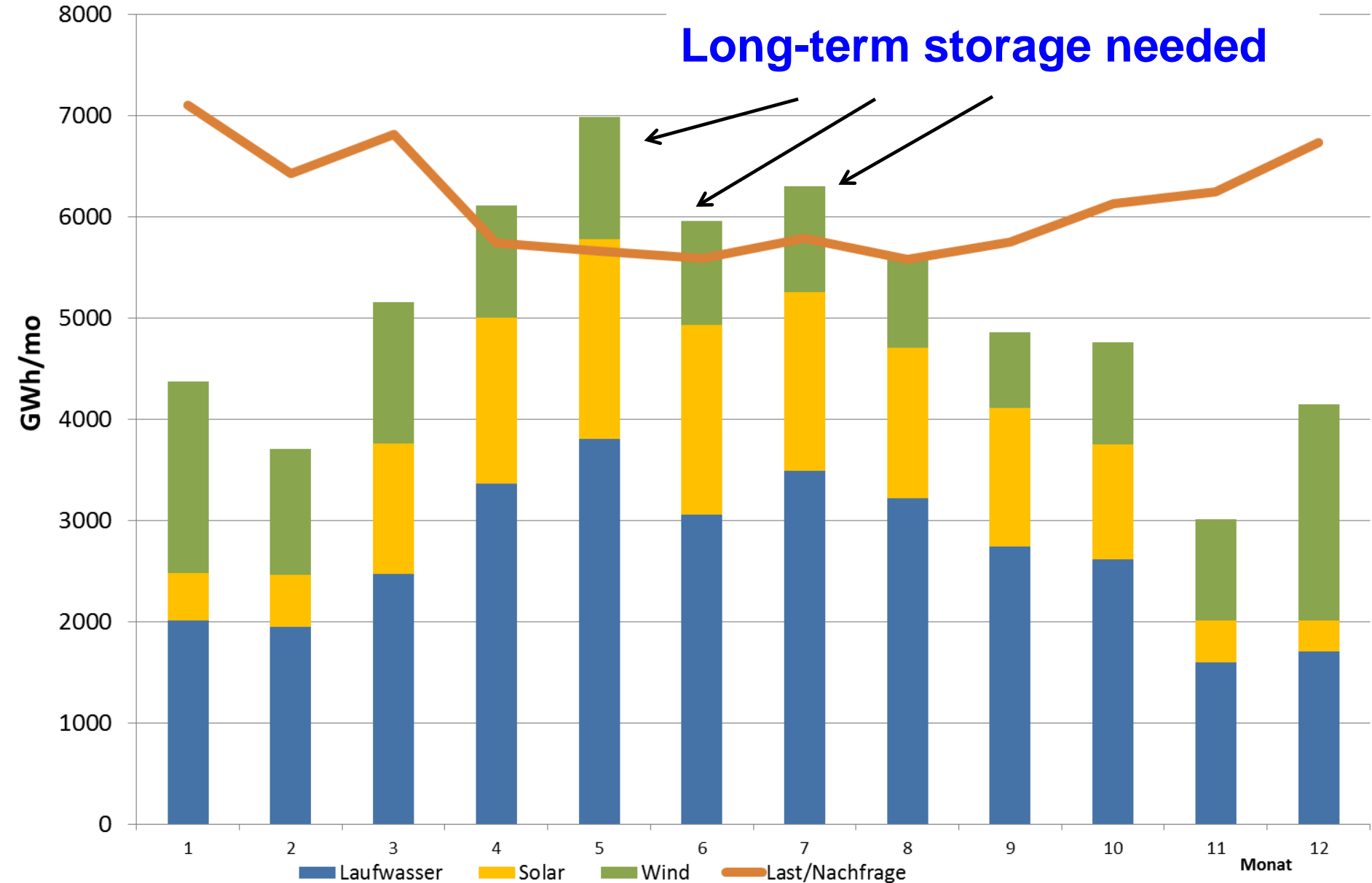
**Strategic reserves as well as capacity payments for power plants destroy the EOM by providing misleading price signals!**

**Price peaks at times of scarce resource should revive the markets and lead to the correct quantities from comp markets point-of-view!**

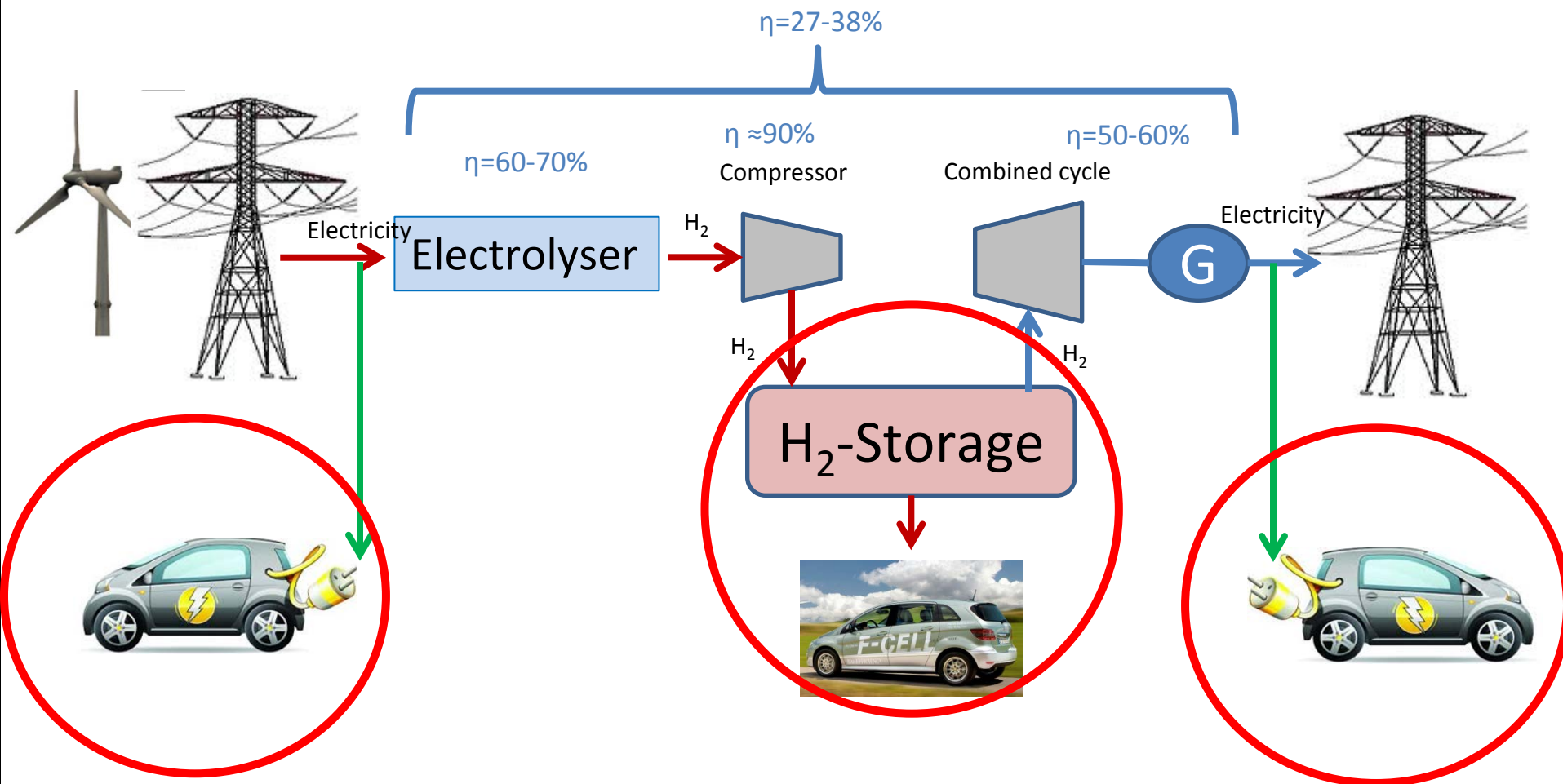
# 4. FLEXIBILITY AND SECTOR COUPLING



# Demand for long-term storage



# Sector coupling hydrogen: Storage and fuel in transport?

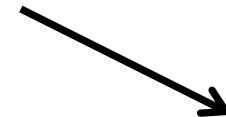




- \* In times of surplus generation: How to **use excess electricity** in a meaningful way?

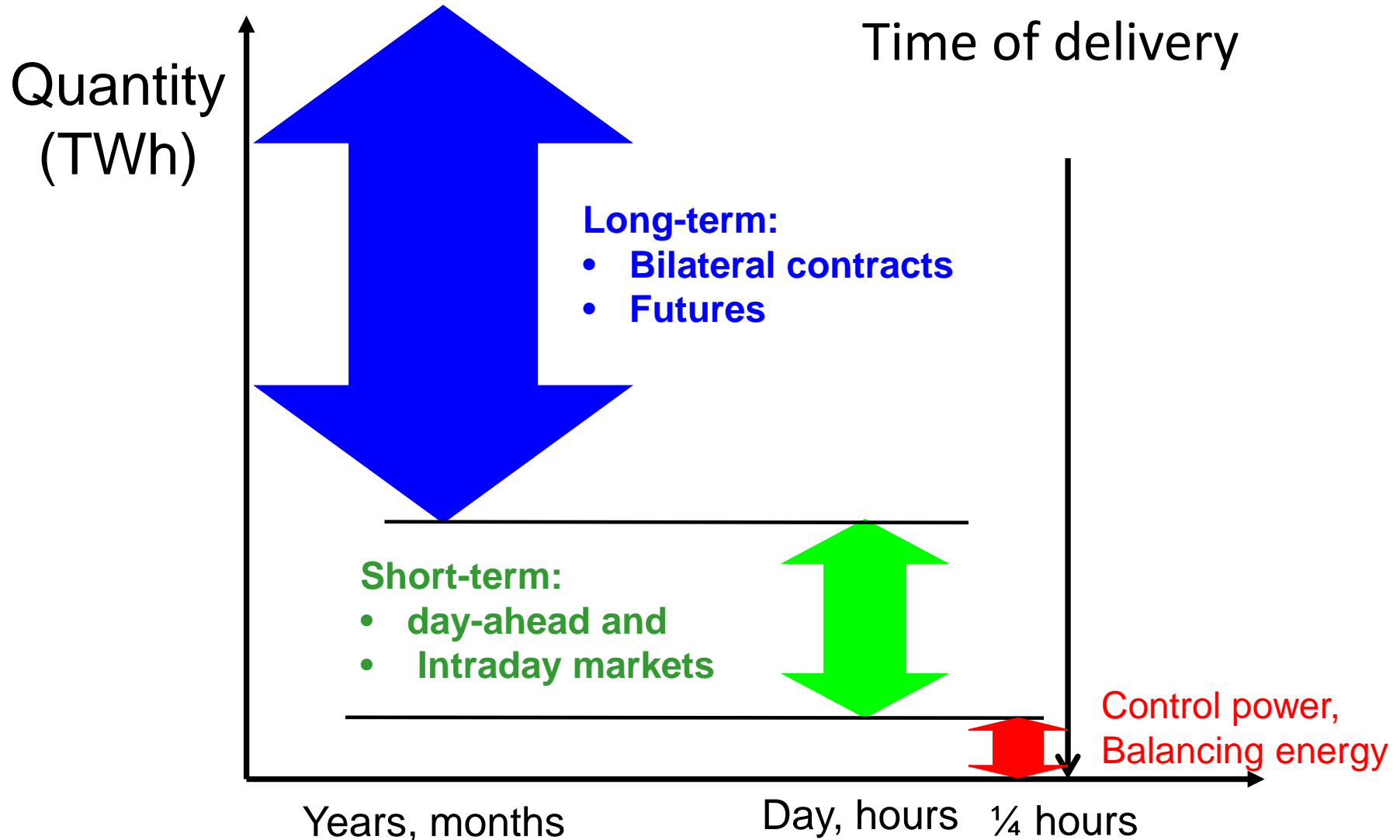


**Heating/Cooling**

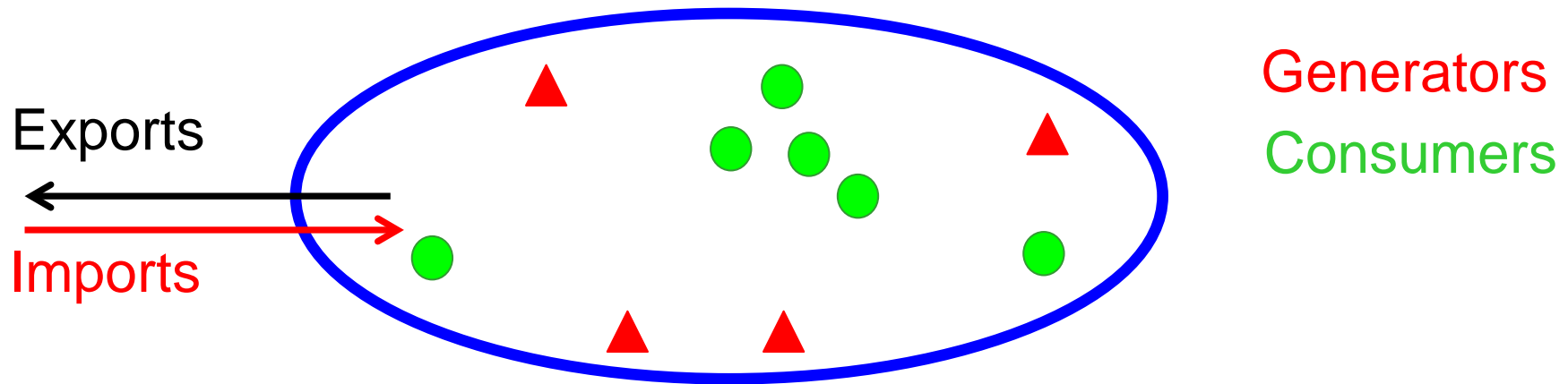


**Transport**

- \* Vague simplified suggestions, no convincing long-term solutions
- \* **Central** (Ptx approaches, e.g. H2) vs **decentral** (end user level, E.g. EVs, heat pumps for heating) applications
- \* How to **fit use with time of surplus**, e.g. of PV for heating ?



# 5. THE CORE ROLE OF BALANCING GROUPS



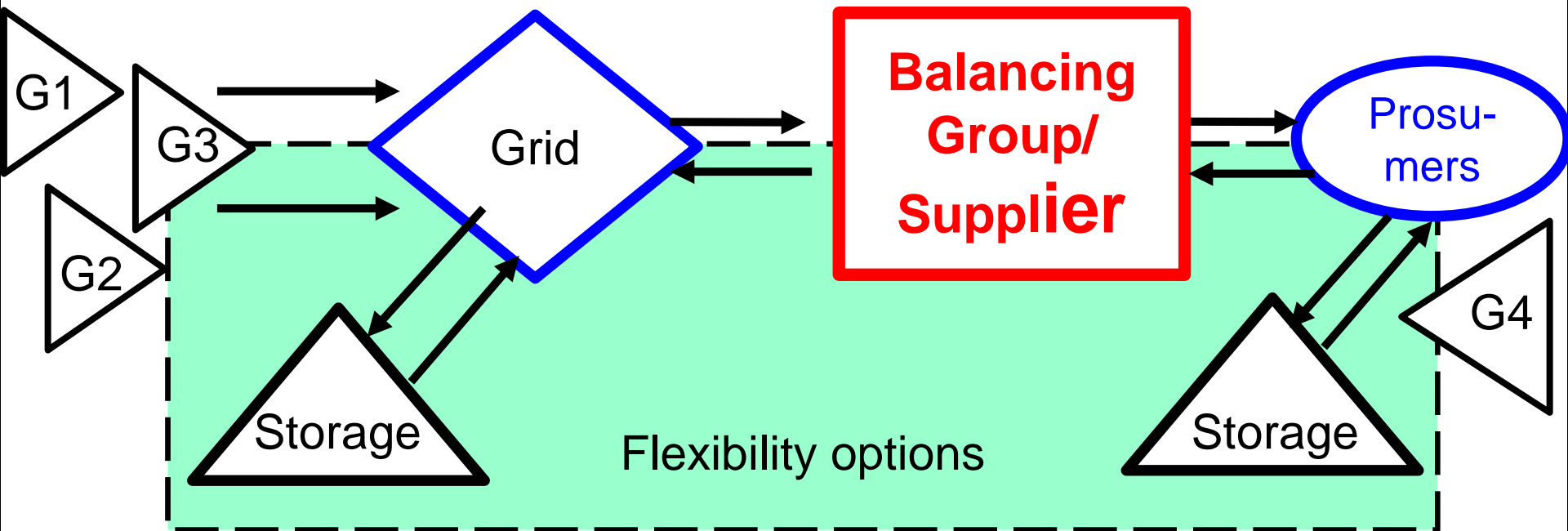
**Balancing group: entity in a control area of an electricity system; it has to ensure that at every moment demand and supply is balanced**

**E.g. municipal utility of Vienna, Singapur, Shanghai**

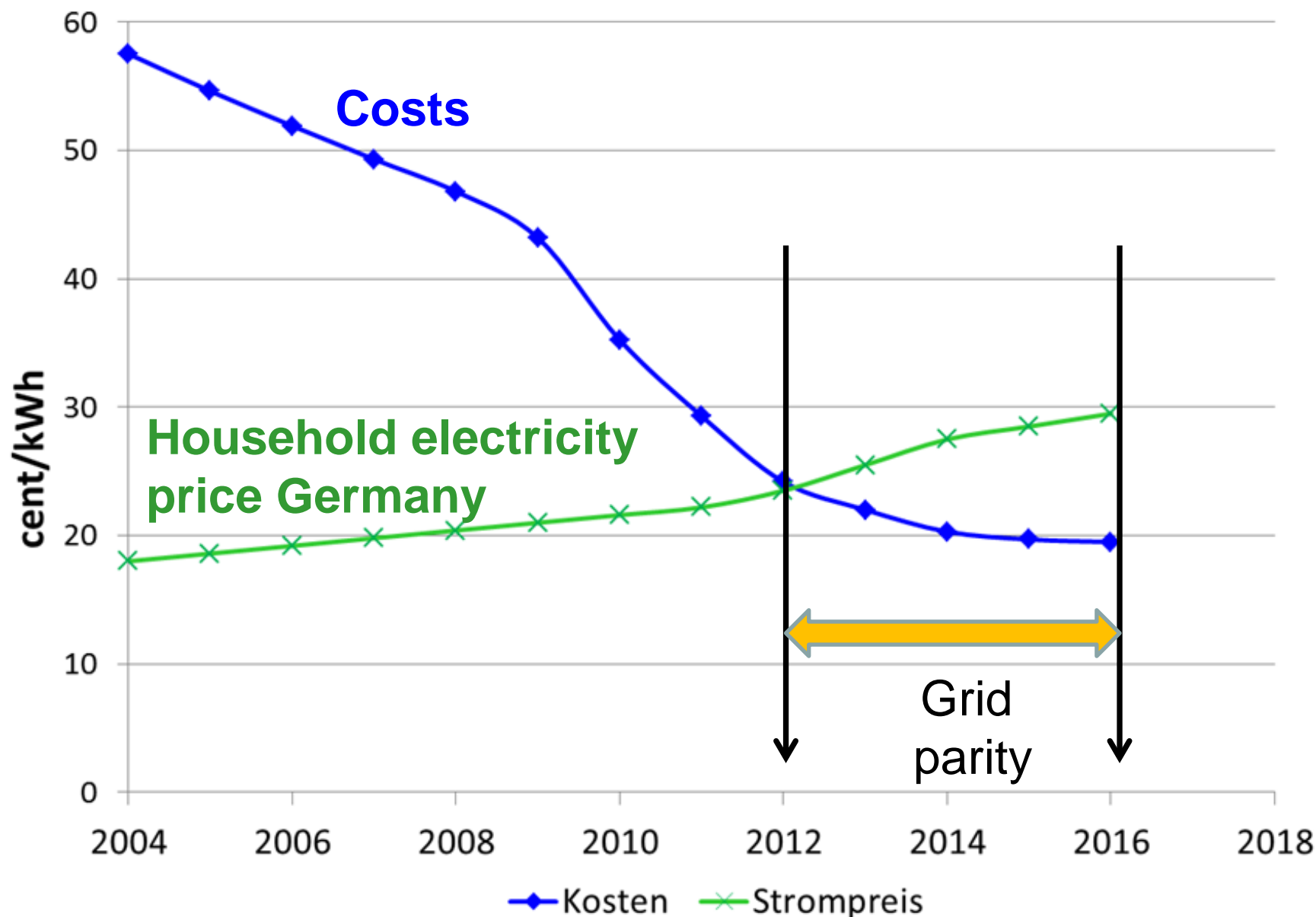
**To meet this target: own generation , storage, flexibility,  
Trading in long-term, day-ahead and intraday market**

**Every difference → high costs!**

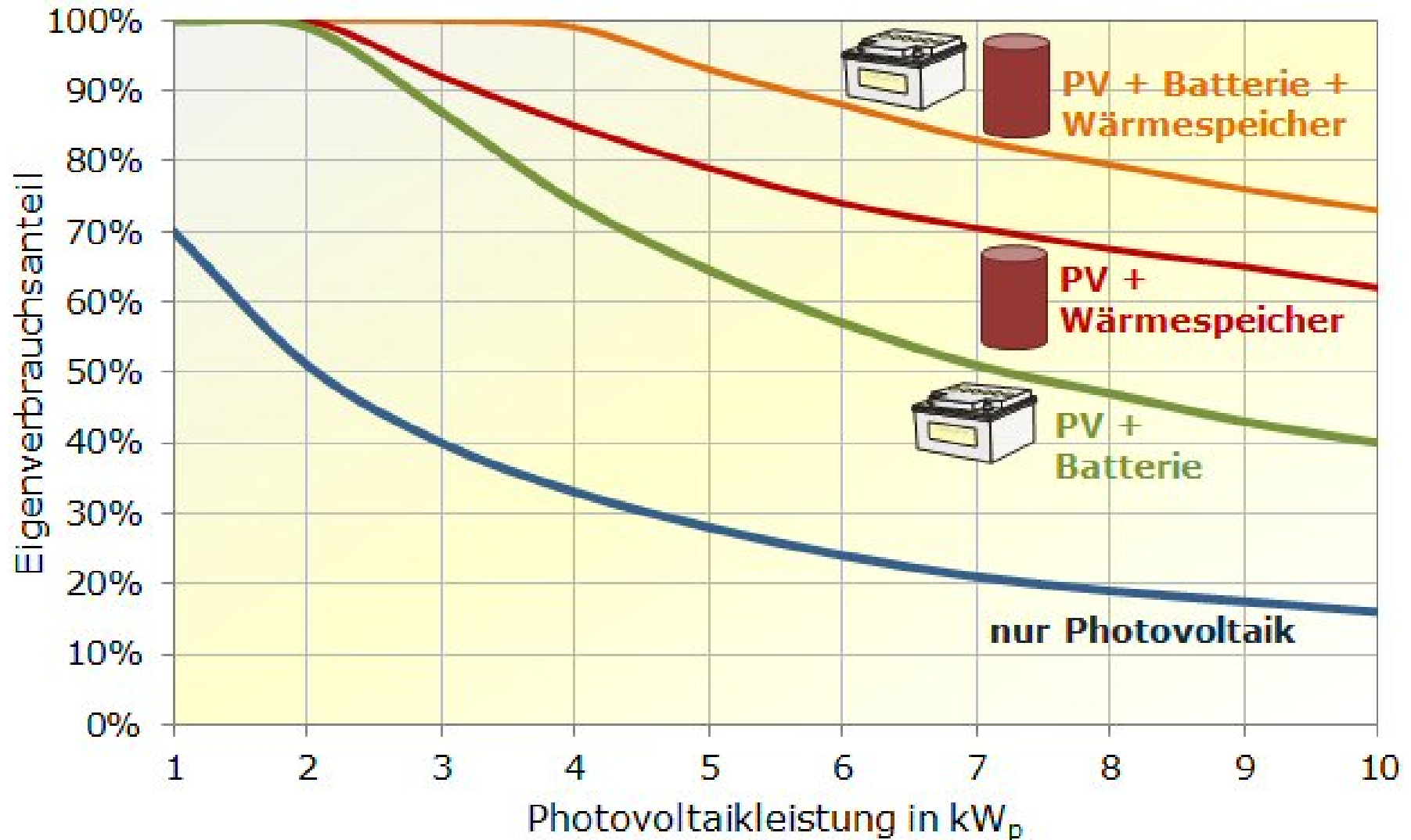
# New Thinking: Making the electricity system more democratic



# Grid parity: PV-costs and household electricity prices



# Share of own consumption





- Sustainable electric. system → integrating many technologies & demand-side options!
- Larger market areas favourable
- Very important: correct price signals (incl. CO<sub>2</sub>)
- most urgent: exhaust full creativity of all market participants incl. decentralised PV systems
- The key: Flexibility (incl. dispatchable var RES)!  
Currently low economic incentives but activities started → very promising!
- Capacity payments: Any CP will distort the system towards more conv. and less RES capacity
- New key player: Balancing group (Supplier), no more the generator