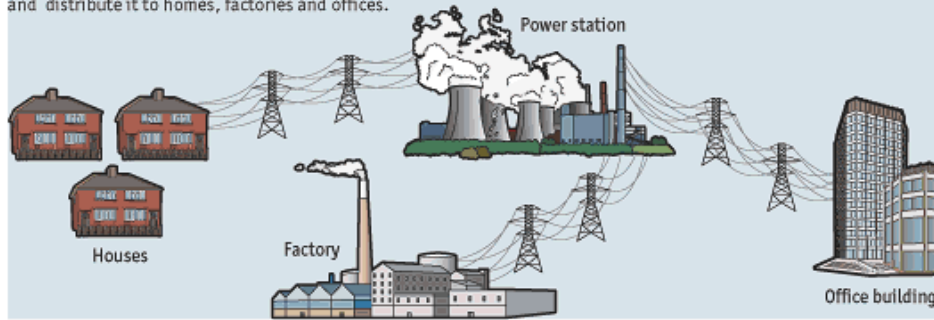


The shape of grids to come?

Conventional electrical grid

Centralised power stations generate electricity and distribute it to homes, factories and offices.

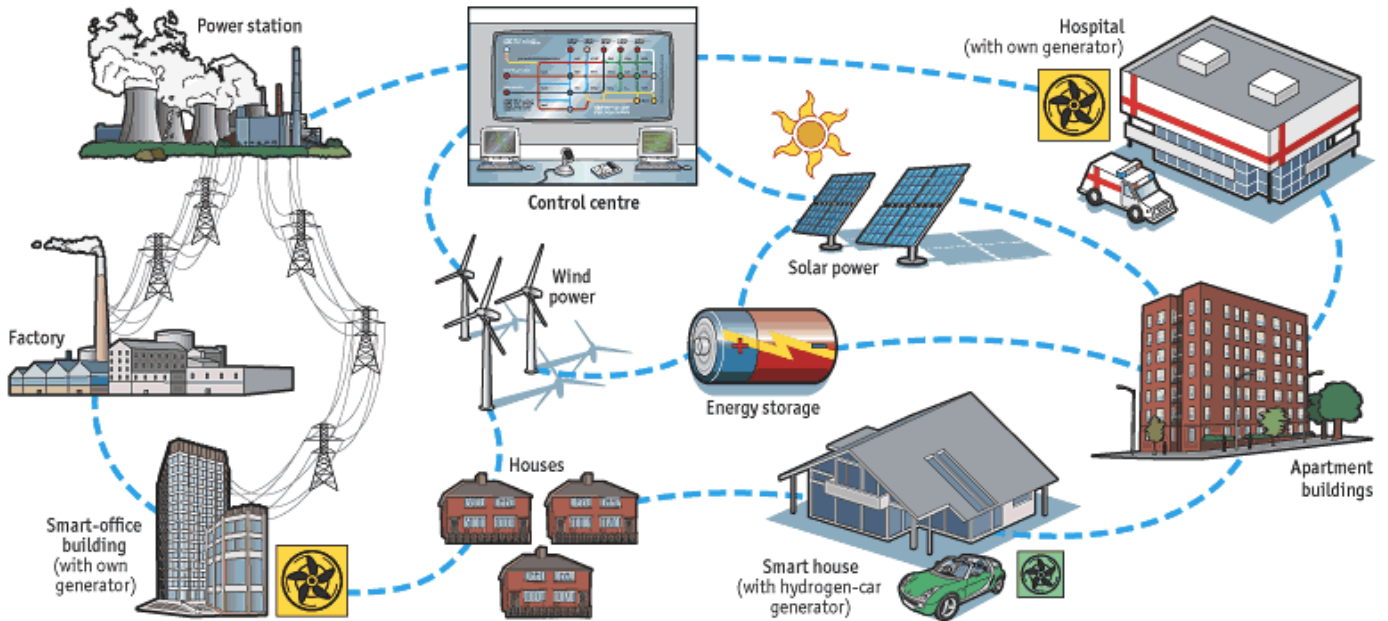


Energy internet

Many small generating facilities, including those based on alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power, are orchestrated using real-time monitoring and control systems.

Offices or hospitals generate their own power and sell the excess back to the grid. Hydrogen-powered cars can act as generators when not in use. Energy-storage technologies smooth out fluctuations in supply from wind and solar power.

Distributing power generation in this way reduces transmission losses, operating costs and the environmental impact of overhead power lines.



Sources: *The Economist*; ABB