

# Renewable Energy Systems as an example of layered Systems of Systems

by *Gerrit Muller* University of South-Eastern Norway

e-mail: `gaudisite@gmail.com`

`www.gaudisite.nl`

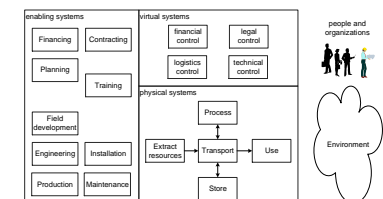
## Abstract

The energy transition required to achieve the Paris climate agreement impacts the entire energy system. The energy system consists of many systems and an infrastructure connecting these systems. How can (Systems of) Systems Engineering assist in this complex transition? In this presentation, we will use a number of concrete examples to explore the systems engineering role and methods for this complex and dynamic application.

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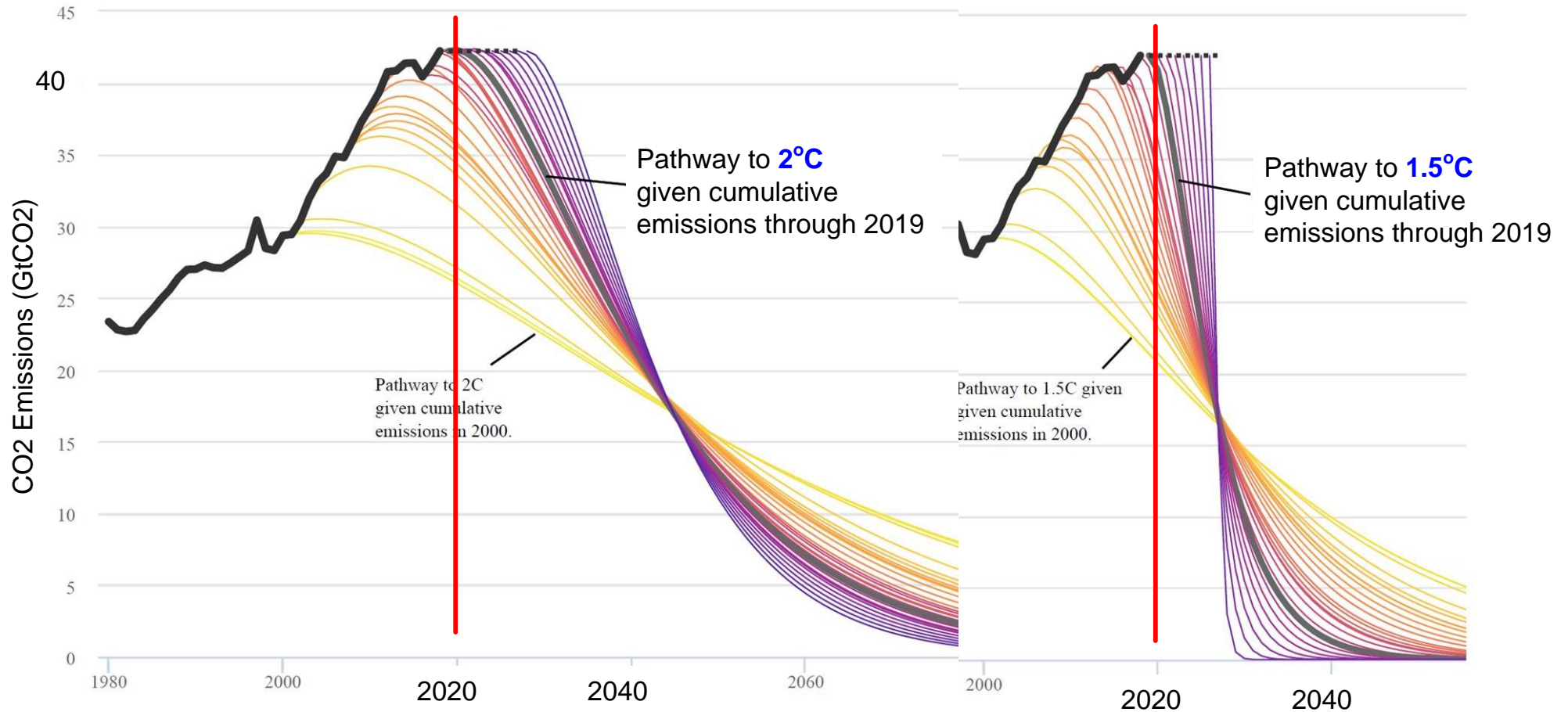
August 16, 2025  
status: preliminary  
draft  
version: 0



# UN Sustainability Development Goals



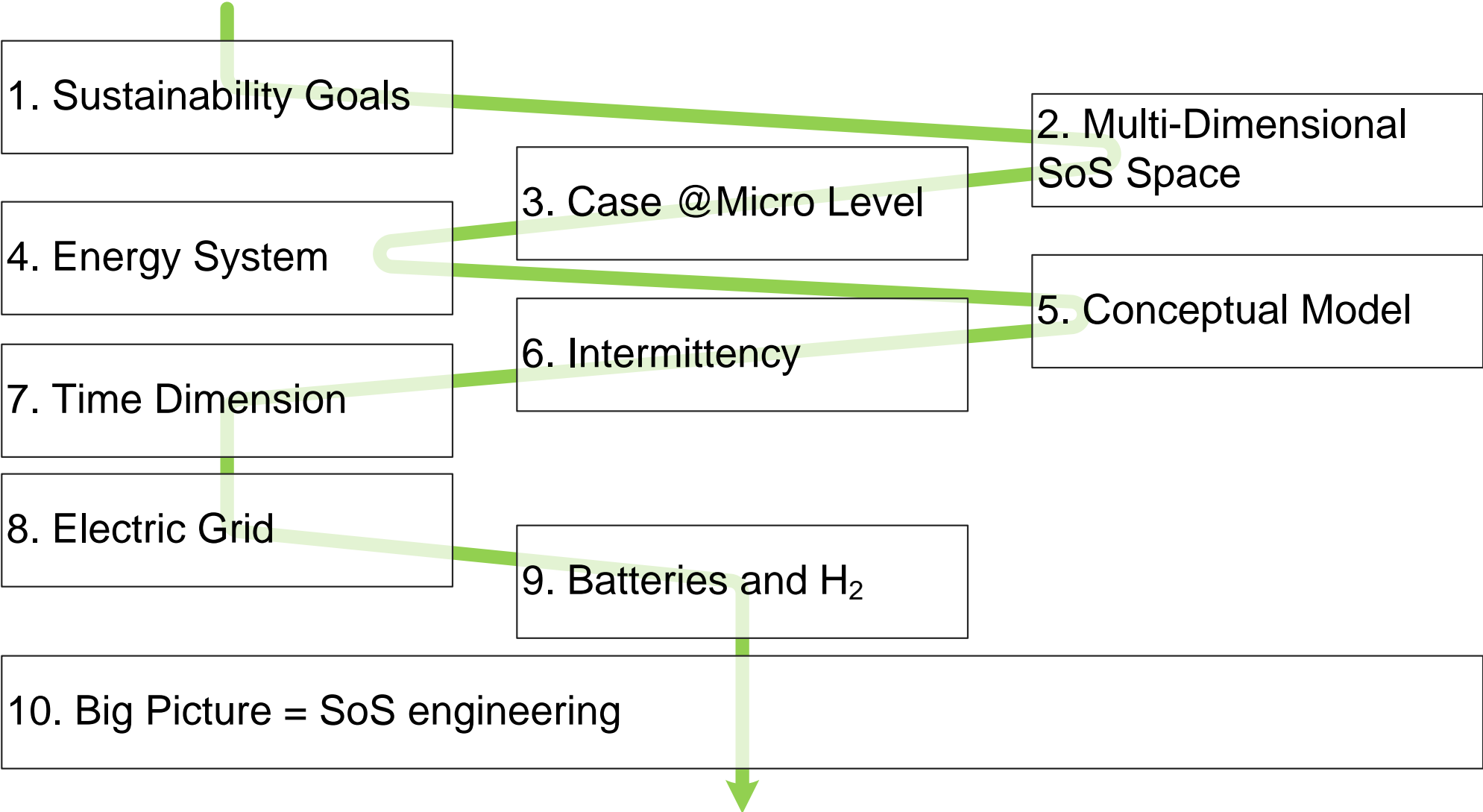
# Time is Running Out



<https://www.carbonbrief.org/unep-1-5c-climate-target-slipping-out-of-reach>

Source: Historical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Global Carbon Project. 1.5C carbon budgets based on the IPCC SR15 report. Original figure from Robbie Andrews. Chart by Carbon Brief using Highcharts.

# Figure Of Contents TM



## Sustainability Goals

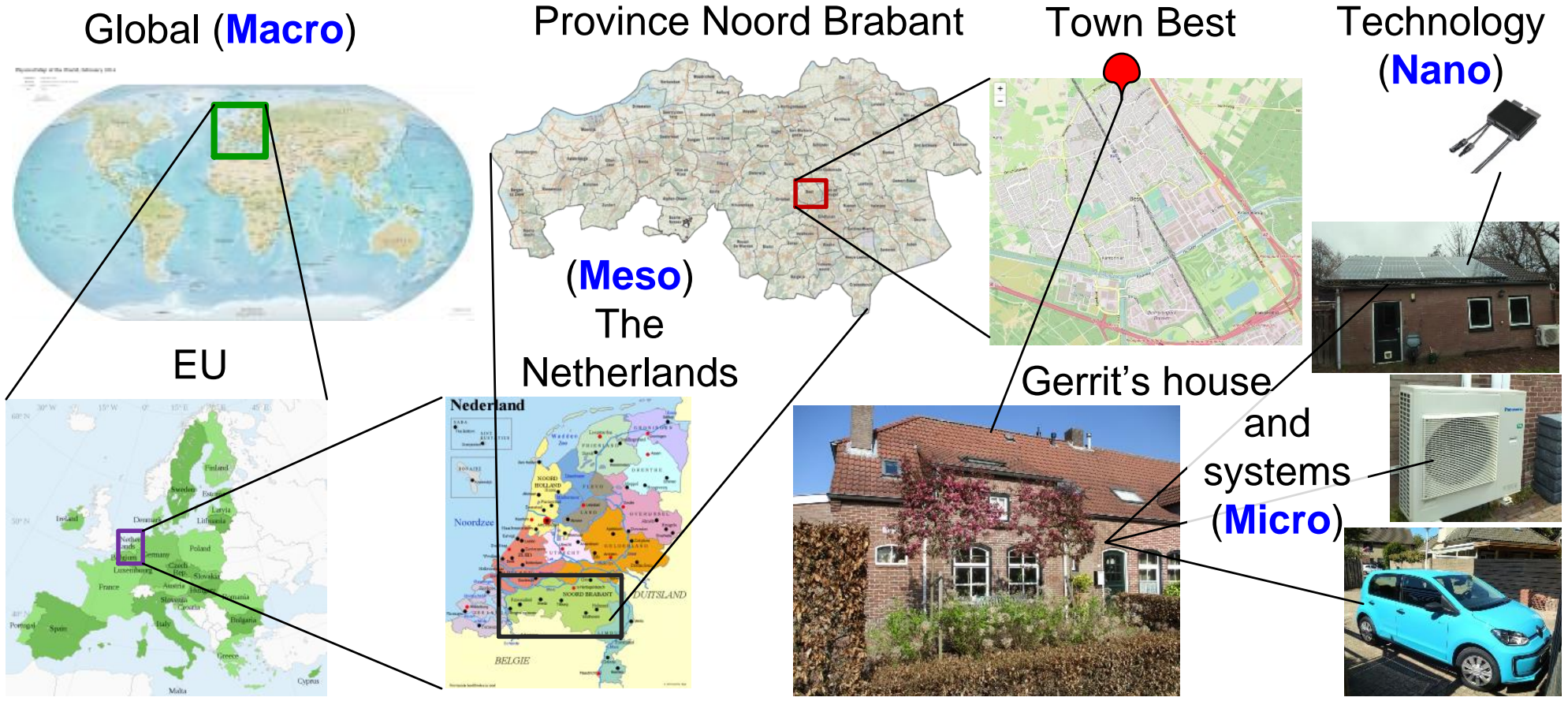
Geographic (from device to global)

Function (from extraction/harvesting to use)

Socio-economic and technical (from goal to operation)

Time (from subsecond to century)

# From Macro to Nano



# Traditional Fossil Energy Systems



coal mine



coal train



coal power plant

High Voltage network



oil and gas FPSO



LNG tanker



LNG storage tank

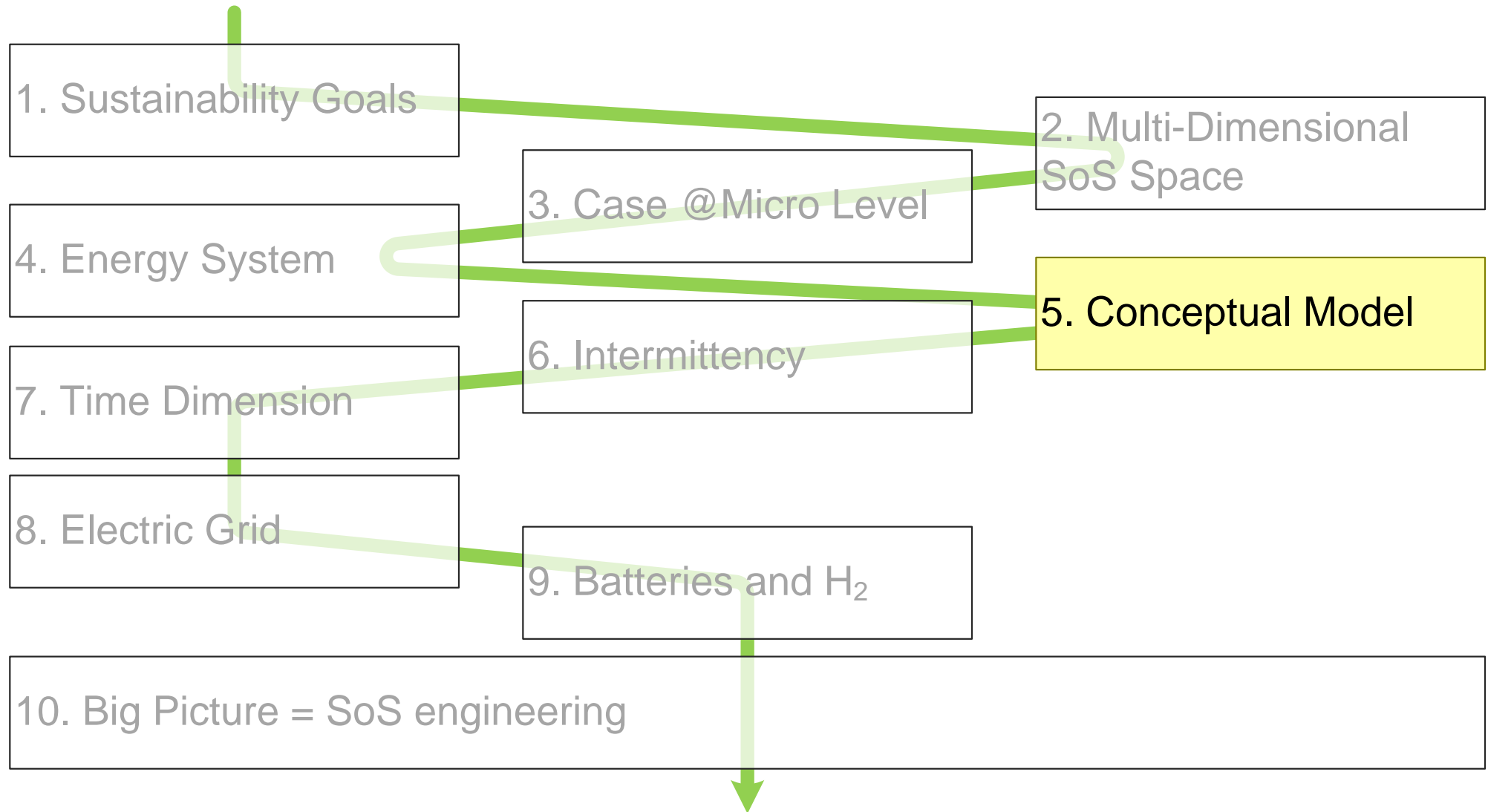


gas power plant



subsea processing system

# Conceptual Modeling



# Simple Functional Model



coal mine



coal train

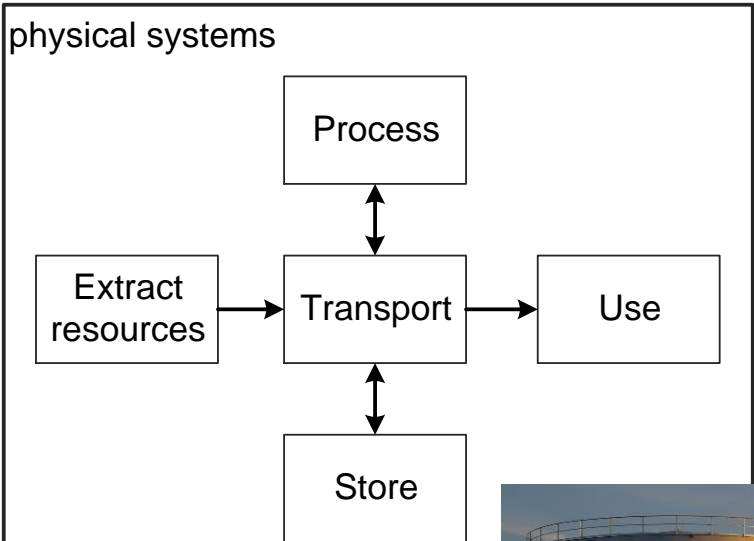


coal power plant

oil and gas FPSO



subsea processing system



gas power plant

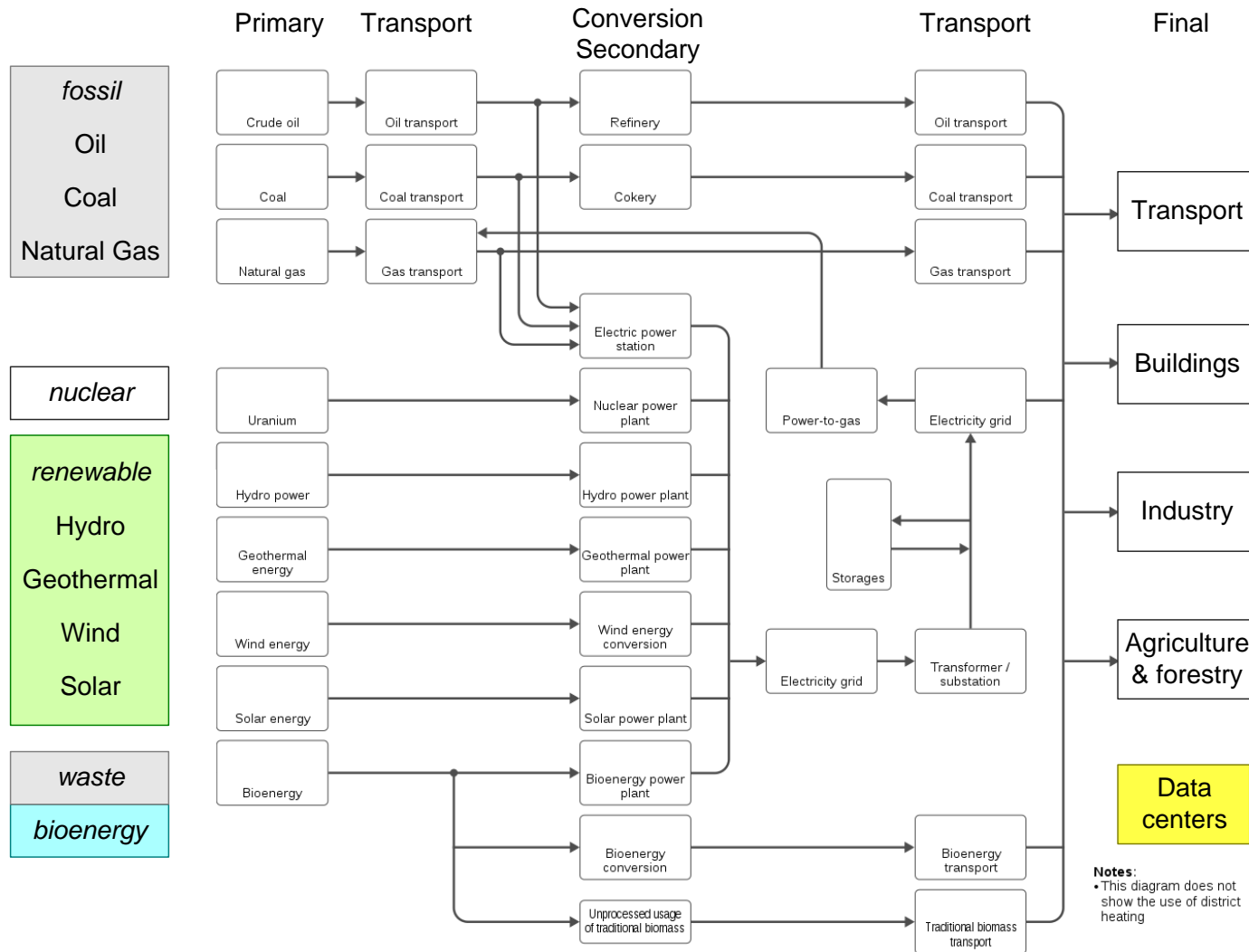


LNG tanker



LNG storage tank

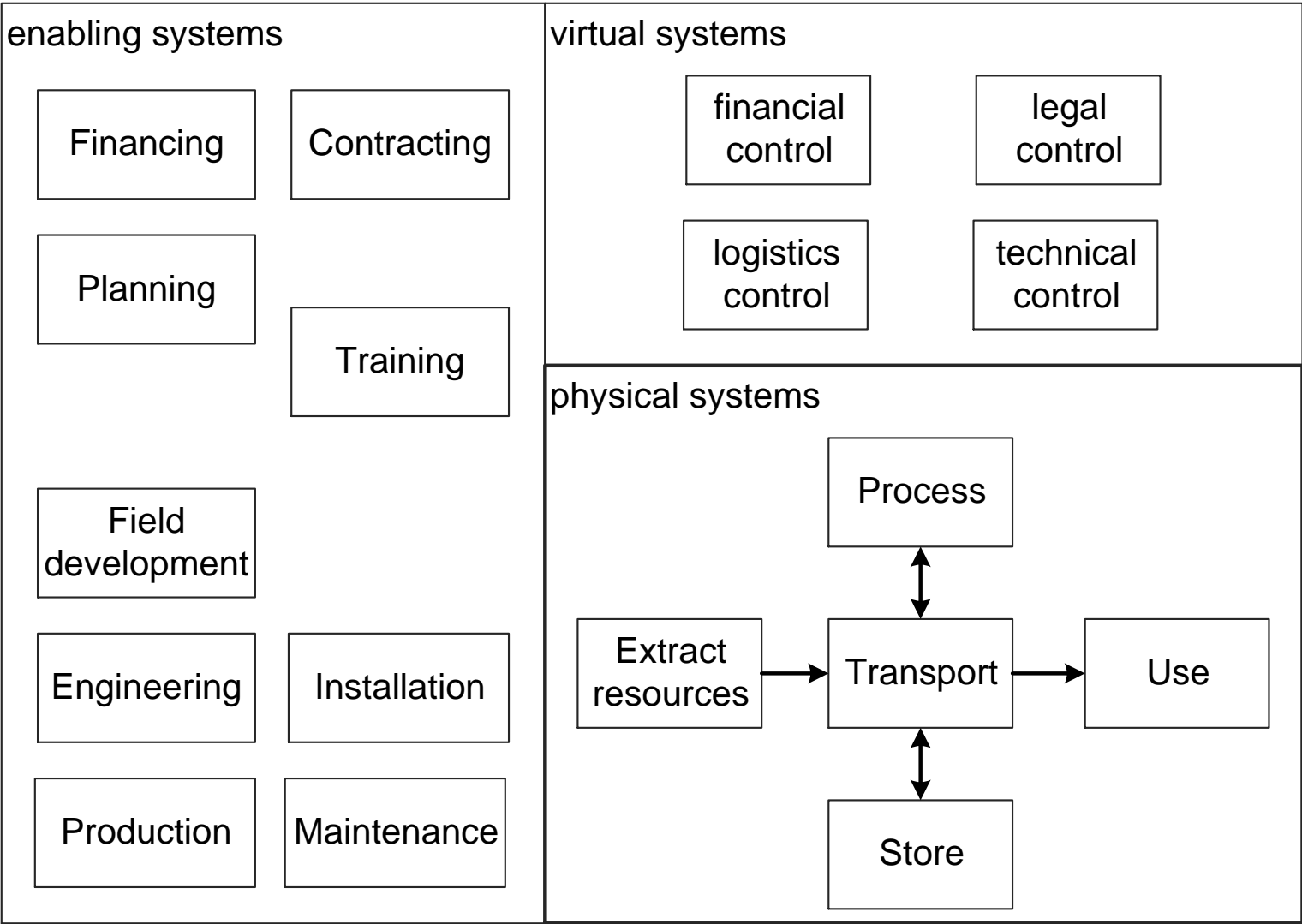
# Wikipedia Energy Model



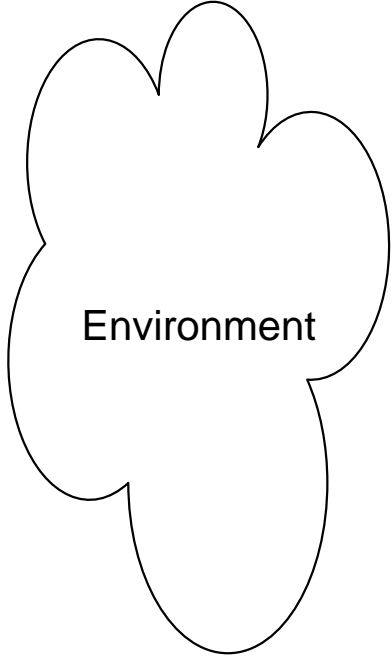
based on: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy\\_system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_system) This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/en:Creative\\_Commons\\_-\\_Share\\_Alike\\_4.0](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/en:Creative_Commons_-_Share_Alike_4.0) <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en> International license.

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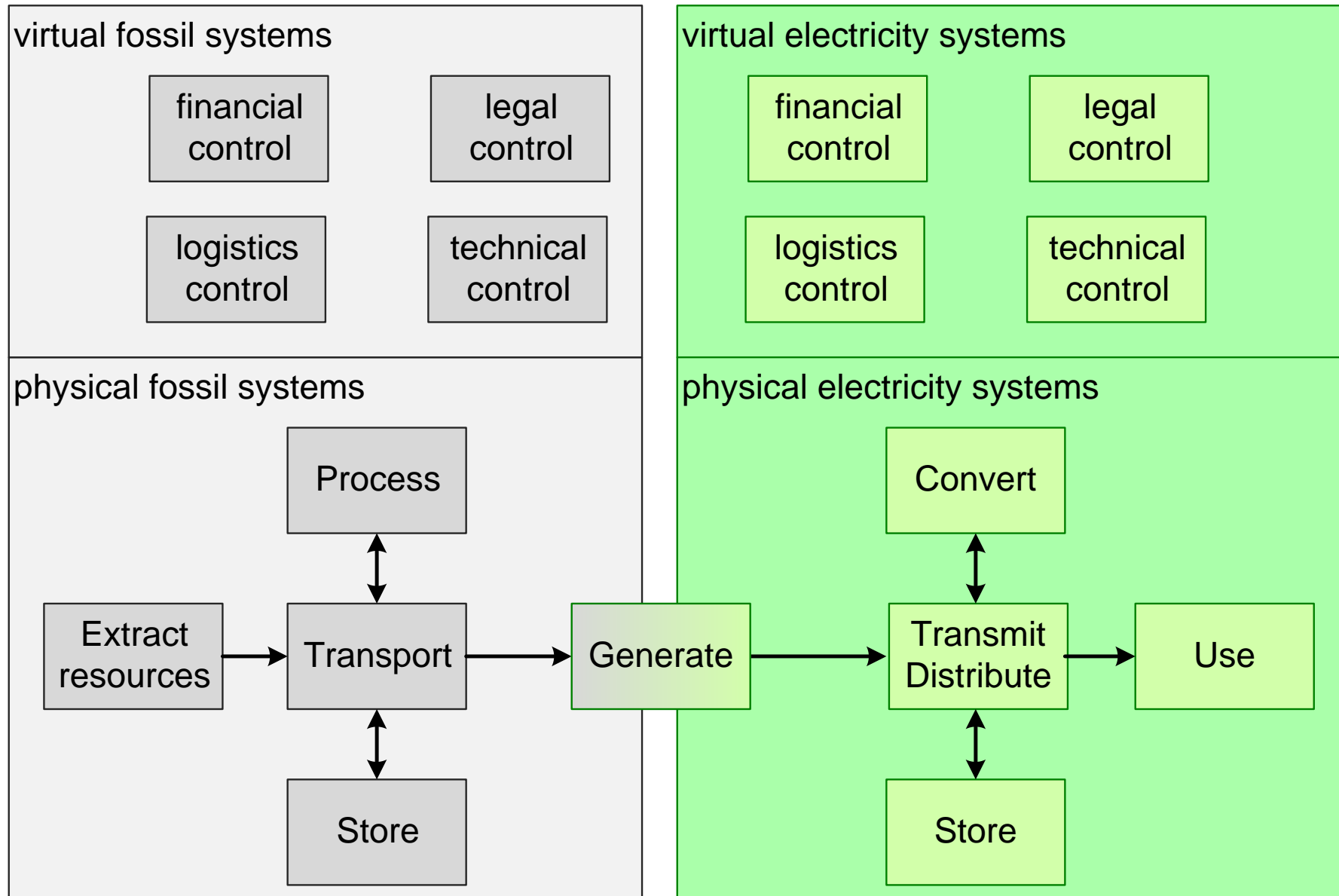
# More than Physical Systems



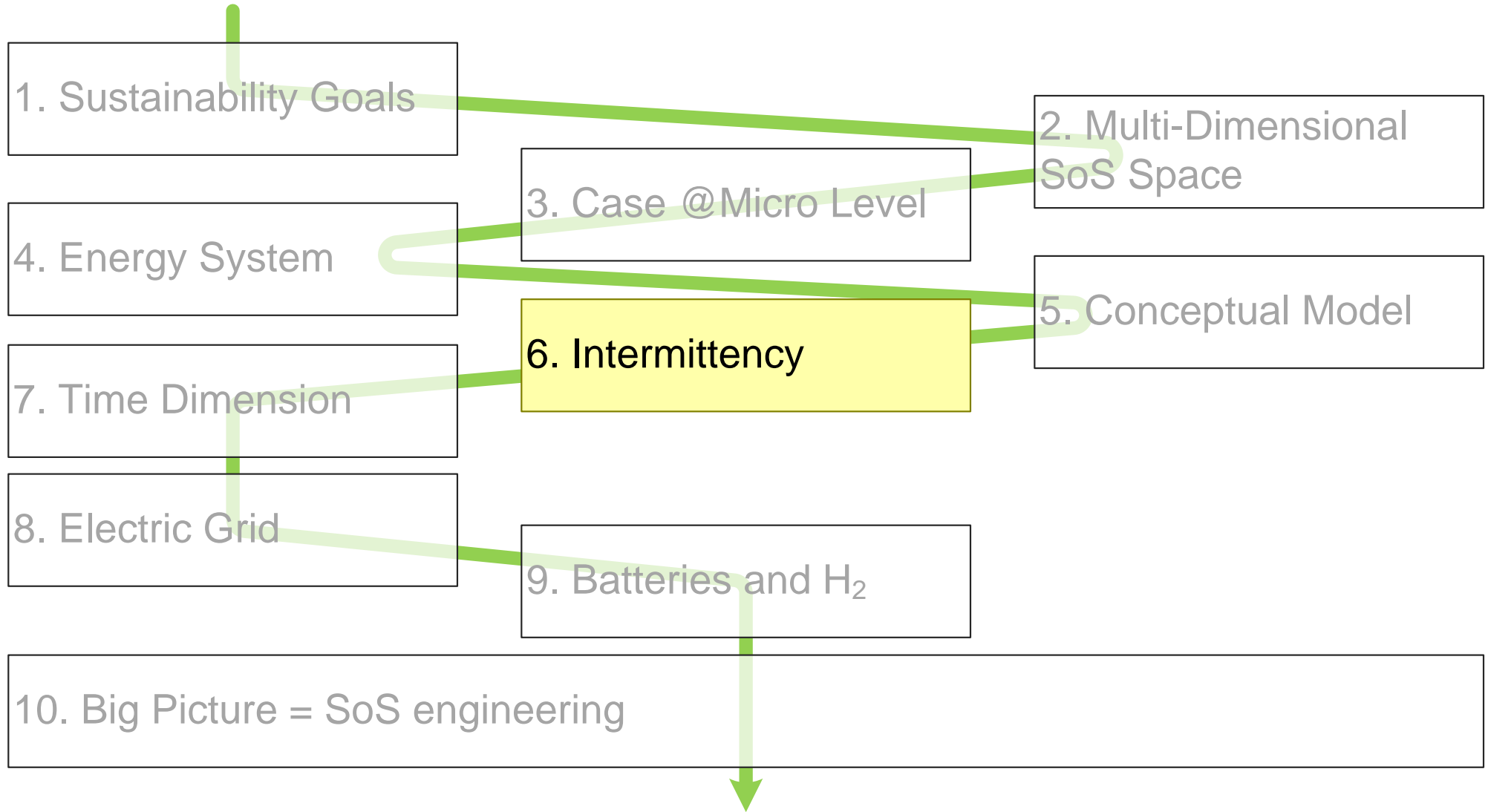
people and organizations



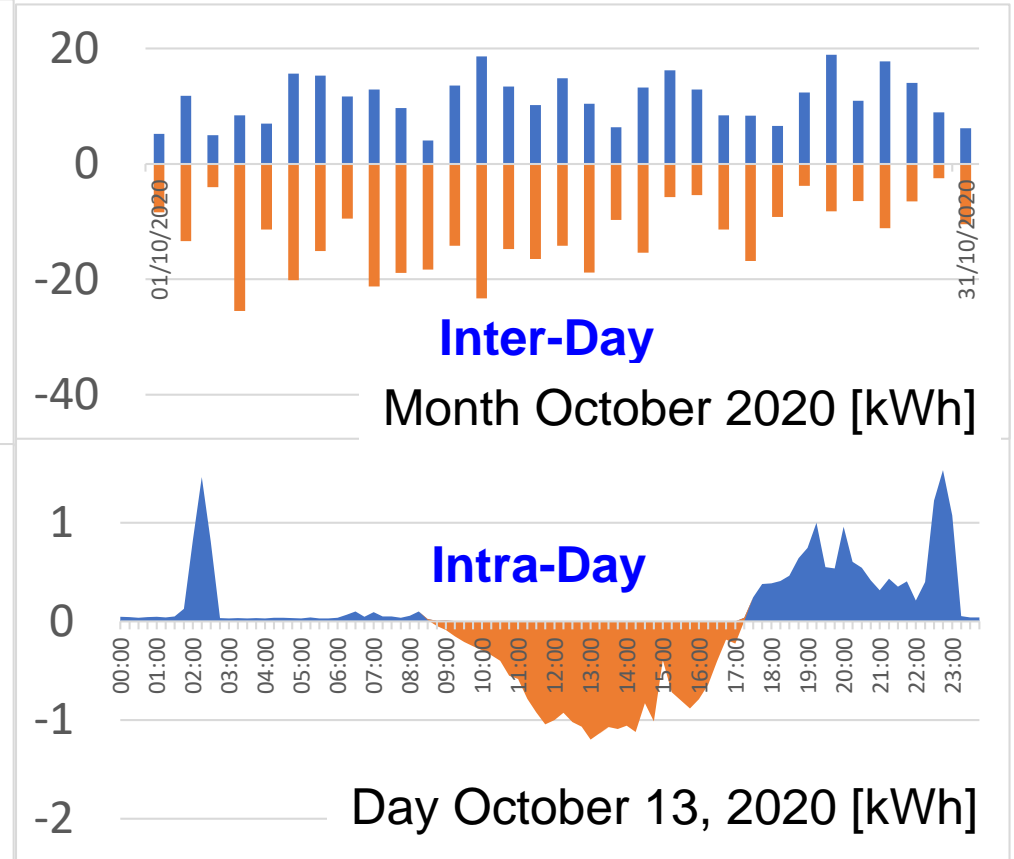
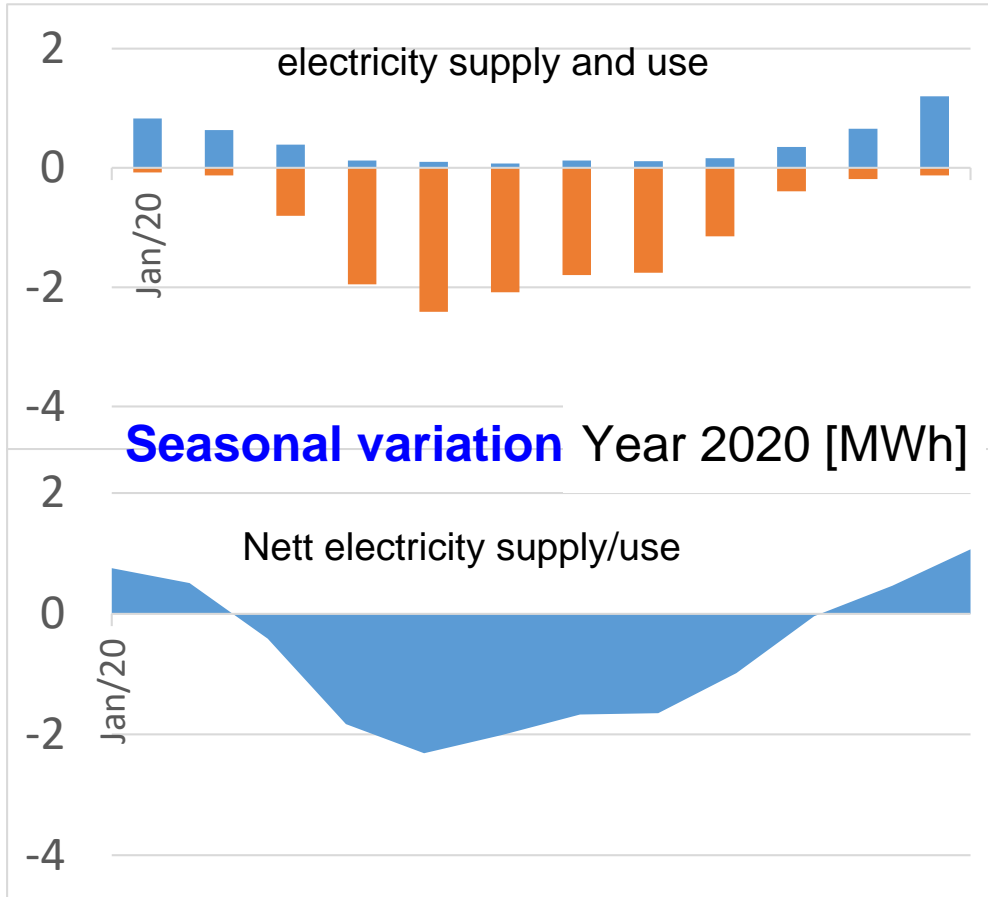
# Toward Electricity



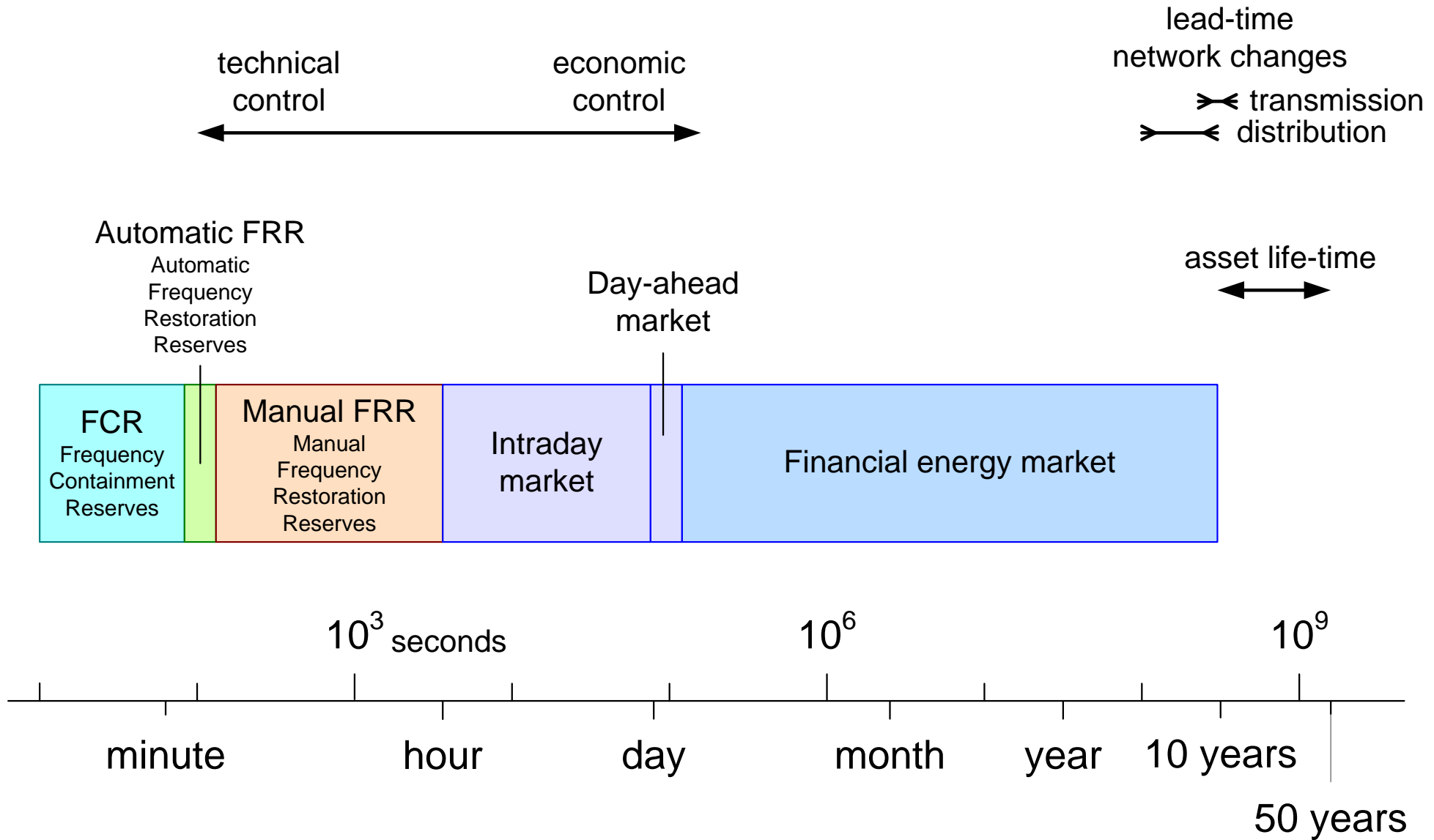
# Renewable Energy Introduces Intermittency



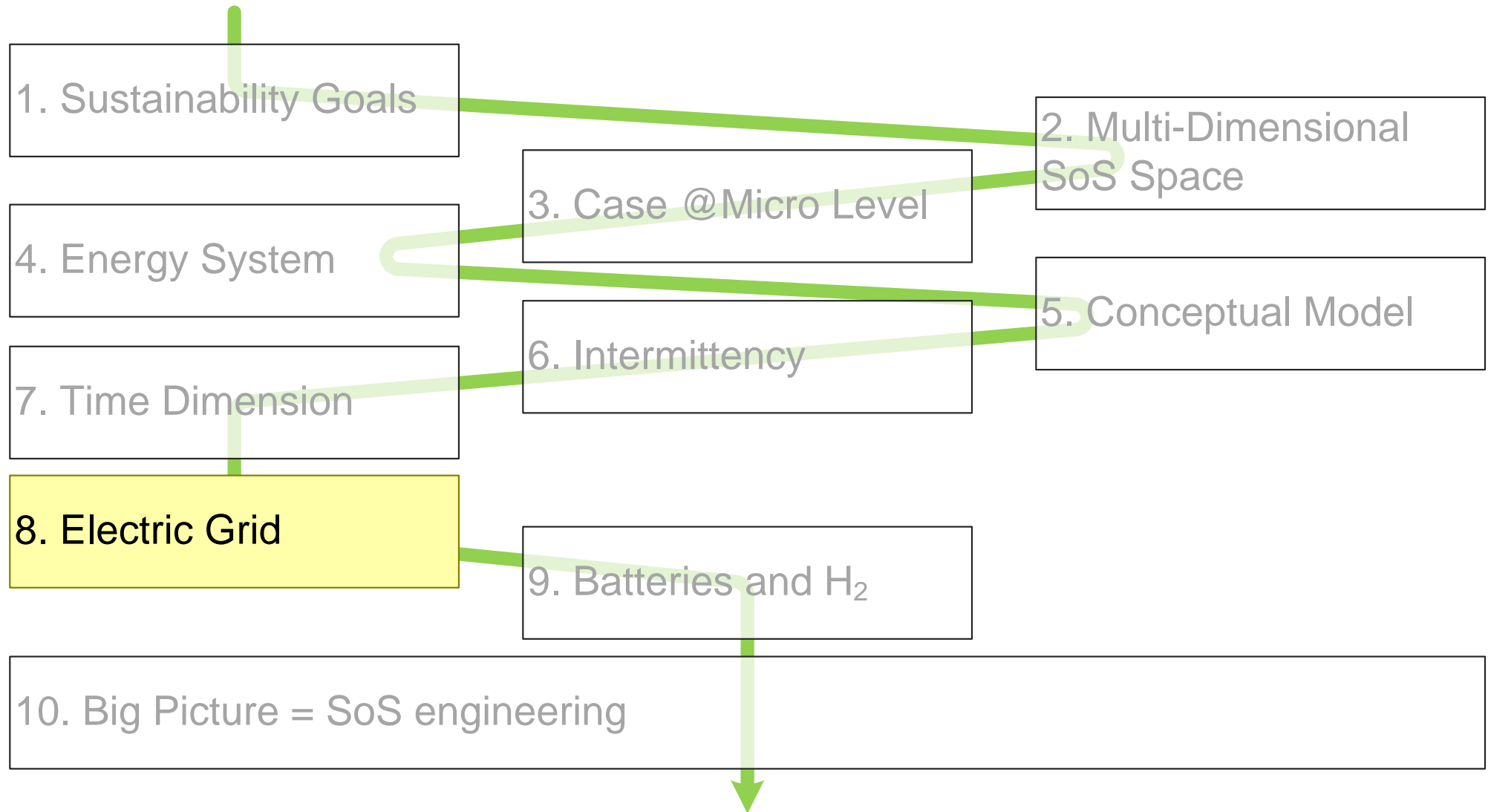
# Variations at Micro-Level



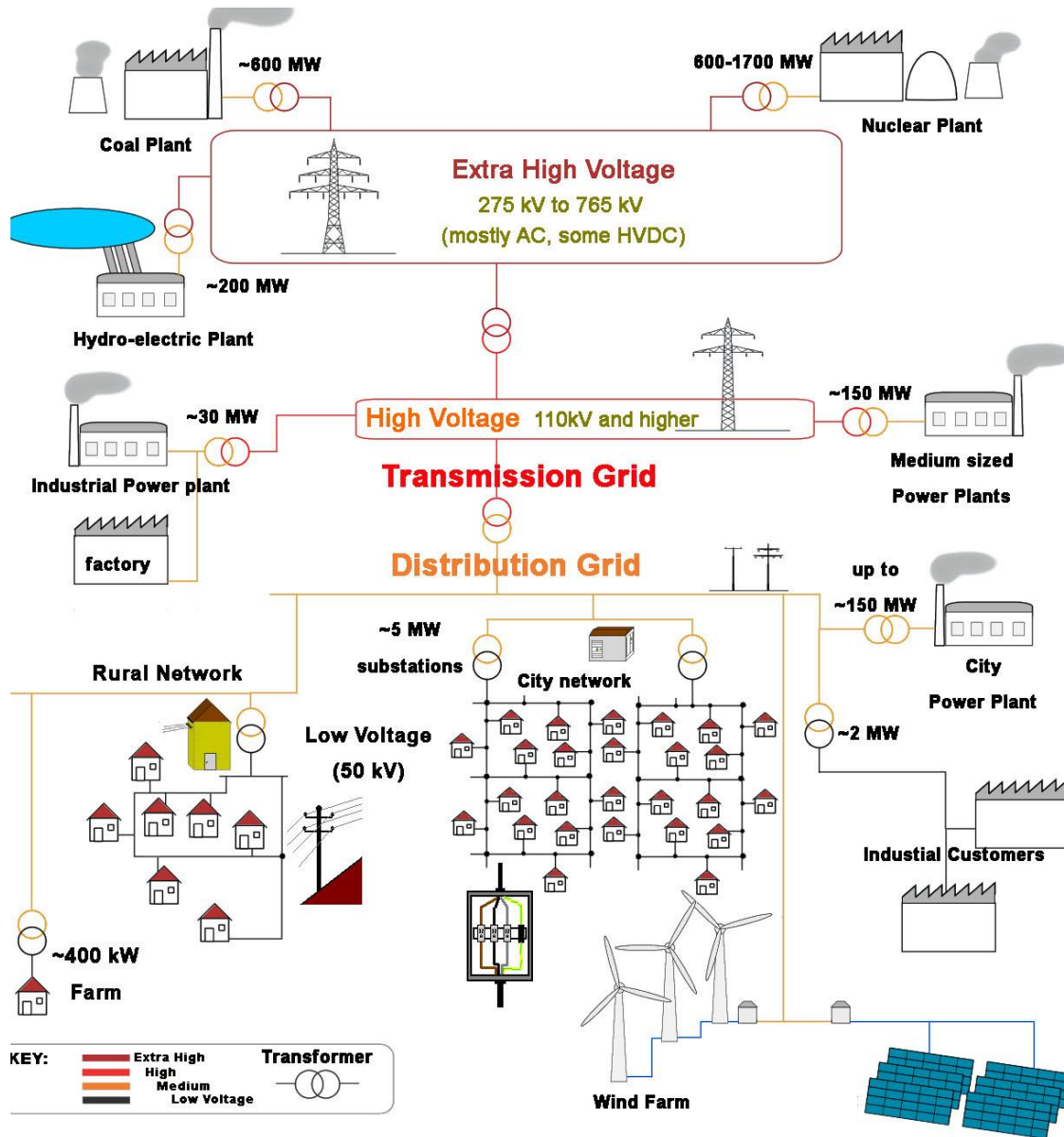
# Dynamics on a Logarithmic Time Scale



# Zooming in on Electric Grid



# Wikipedia Electric Grid



from: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Electricity\\_grid\\_schema\\_-\\_lang-en.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Electricity_grid_schema_-_lang-en.jpg)  
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Large  
 High Power 100s MW  
 High Voltage up to ~1 MV  
 High cost G\$

**Transmission Grid**



**Distribution Grid**



**Neighborhood Grid?**



**Home Grid**

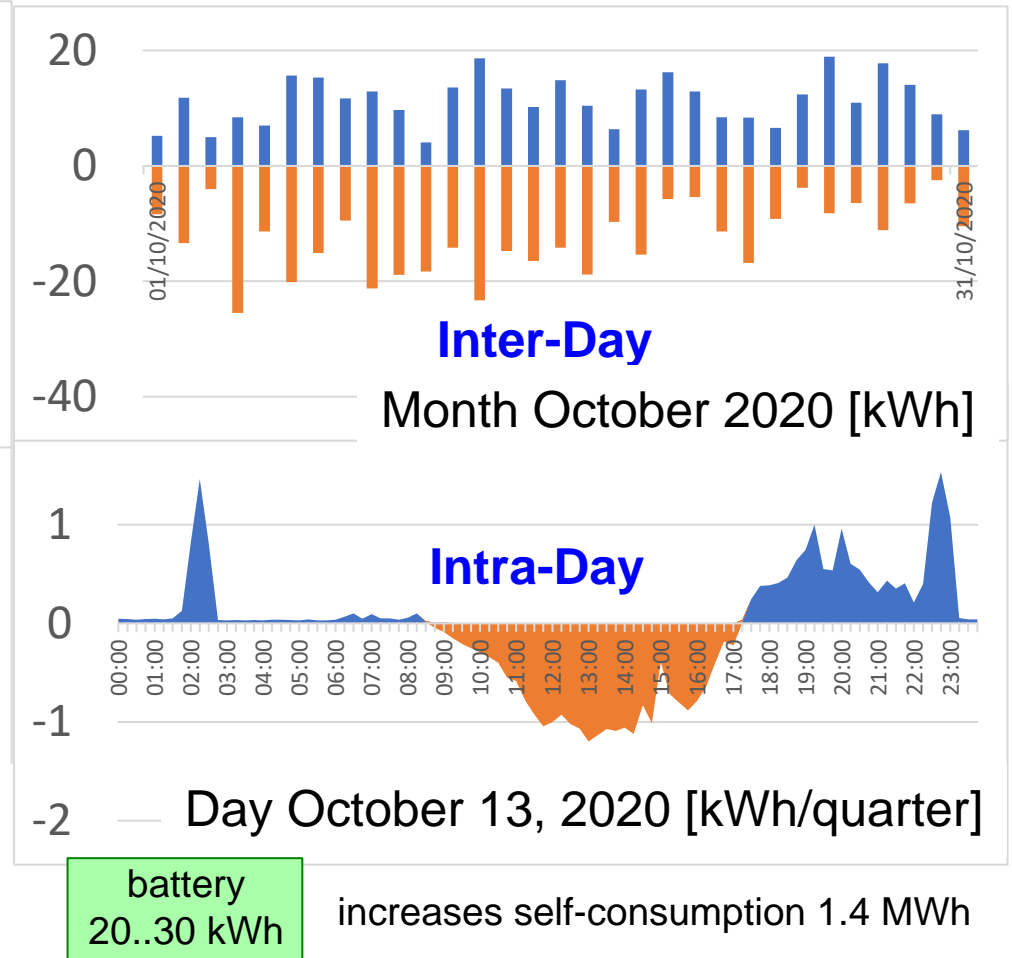
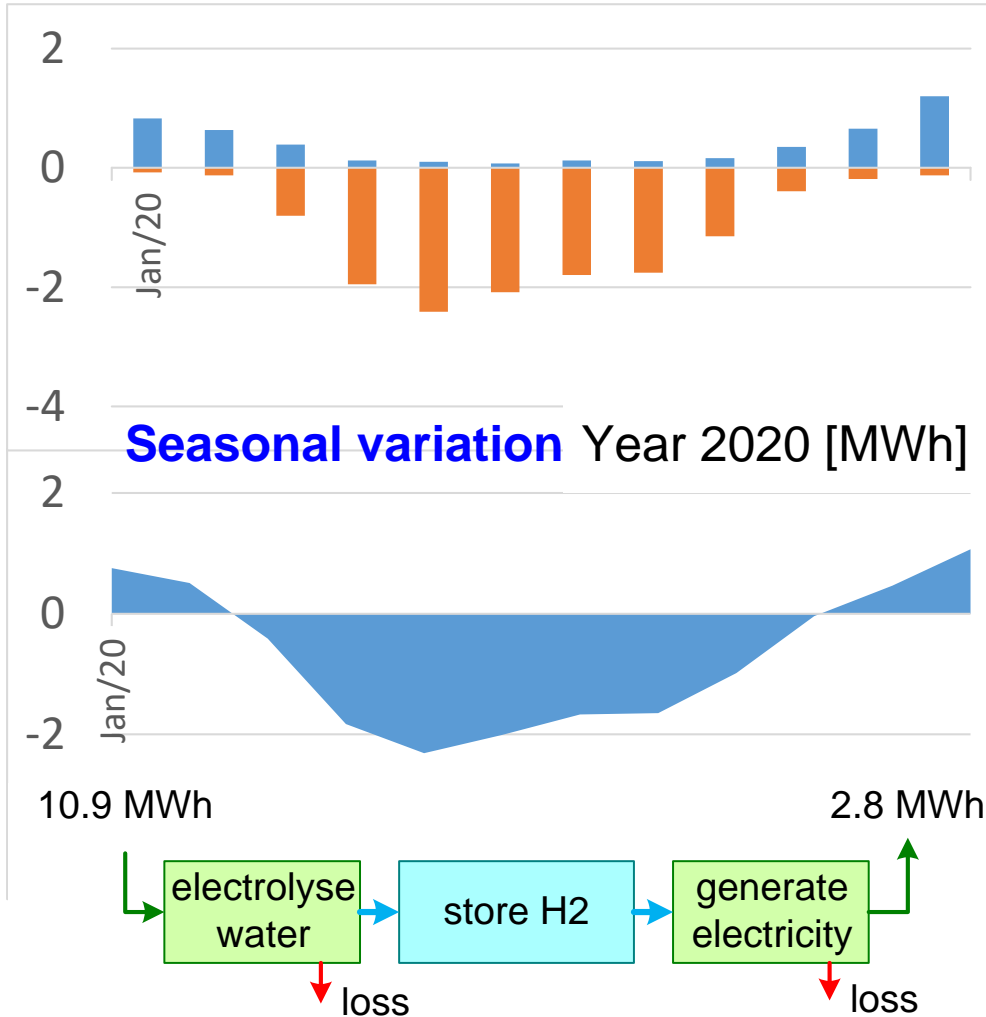
Small  
 Power few to 100s kW  
 Voltage up 0.24..50 kV  
 10s..100s k\$

# How to Keep the Grid Stable?

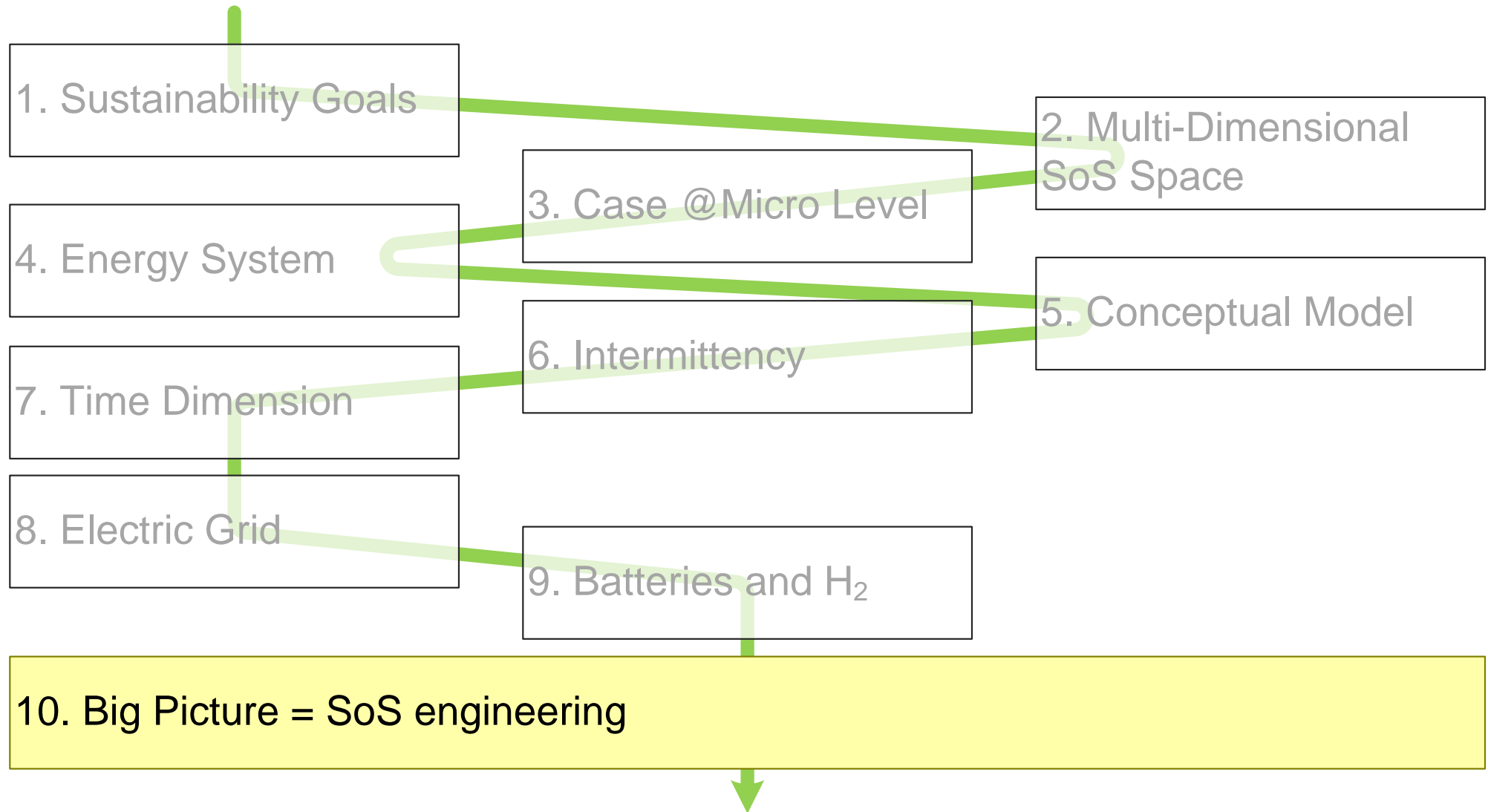
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- Geographic smoothing      **Transport** (distribution, transmission)
- Time smoothing              **Store, retrieve**
- Demand control              **Control, incentivize**
- Over dimensioning          **Curtail**
- Add generation capacity    **Bio Mass, Gas or worse**

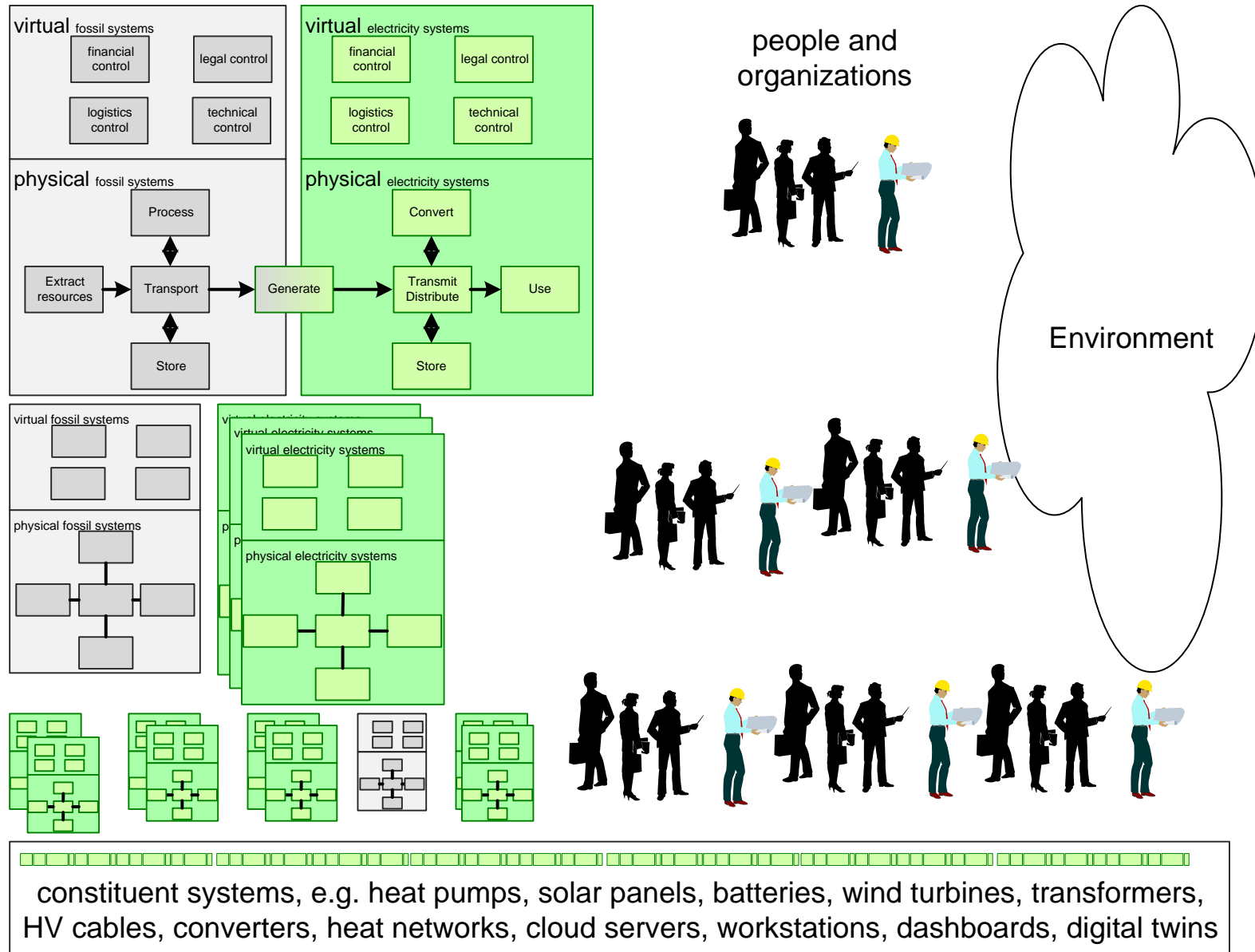
# Micro Level Storage



# Systems of Systems Engineering



# Layers of SoS





June 14-18, 2021, Online from Västerås, Sweden

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual System of Systems Engineering Conference

Conference theme: Autonomous Cyber-Physical Systems of Systems

<http://sosengineering.org/>



### Academic sponsors



### Technical co-sponsors



### Key dates for submissions

Technical papers & panels: **Jan. 31, 2021**

Notification, papers & panels: **March 14, 2021**

Final manuscript: **April 11, 2021**