



Preliminary Assessment of Using Solar-Based Systems in The Facade of Building in Abadan: A Sustainable Development Approach

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Abstract

Building integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems have significant advantages and potential for widespread use in buildings. These systems are popular among architects and design engineers today. Despite these cases, so far no feasibility study has been performed on the supply of electricity and heat required for the building of a residential apartment in Iran using solar energy in the facade of the building. Therefore, in the present work, a 5-storey apartment in Abadan has been evaluated using TSOL Pro 5.5 and HOMER 2.81 simulation software. The solar power generation system is connected to the national electricity grid and the solar heat generation system uses a gas boiler as backup. The results showed that 55% of electricity generated, ie 6077 kWh/year is generated by the solar system connected to the grid and 7.4% of the total heat required, ie 1604 kWh/year is supplied by the solar collector system. About 1.3 tons of CO₂ emissions are generated annually due to the use of the national electricity grid. Performing accurate energy-technical-environmental analysis makes the results of the present work with high accuracy correspond to reality.

Keywords: 3E analysis; BIPV/T; CO₂ pollutants; Electricity grid.

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1. Introduction

Today, buildings have become the third-largest consumer of energy after industry and agriculture, accounting for up to 40% of total energy consumption in developed countries [1, 2] and 10% of world greenhouse gas emissions [3]. According to the International Energy Agency, the energy demand for buildings will grow by 30% in 2040 [4]. Energy consumption is increasing rapidly with population growth, urbanization, and demand for building services and comfort levels. Therefore, reducing building energy consumption has a very important role in controlling global energy demand and reducing climate change [5, 6]. Adopting energy-efficient strategies to integrate design into the building structure can be considered necessary [7]. For example, improvements in architectural design, building materials, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems can be implemented to address energy waste issues [7, 8]. One of the highly recommended solutions is the use

of integrated photovoltaic/thermal (BIPV/T) systems in the building due to its thermal comfort aspects [9-11]. Increasing the penetration of renewable energy into energy infrastructure can play a key role in changing this trend towards a more sustainable and cleaner energy [12-14].

In 2020, 25.2 GWh of new solar heat capacity was added to the solar heat capacity and the total capacity of the world increased to about 501 GWh [15]. Photovoltaic (PV) is becoming the least expensive option for electricity generation in most parts of the world, and investment in this sector is expected to increase in the coming years. In 2020 alone, PV production increased by 156 TWh (23%) compared to 2019, reaching 821 TWh [16]. PV-heating systems (which generate both solar heat and solar electricity) have a growing trend in global markets. The global market for this technology has grown by an average of 9% between 2018 and 2020 (Figure 1).

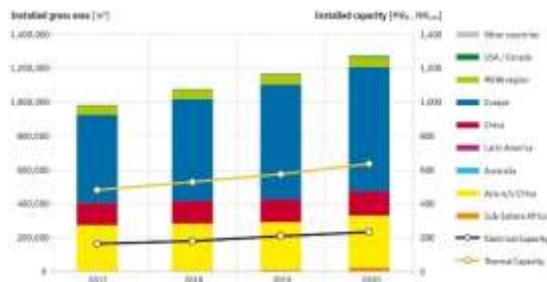


Fig. 1. The global PV-Thermal market from 2017 to 2020 [17].

Table 1 reviews recent studies on electricity and heat generation. The purpose of the work, the methodology of doing the work, and the result are among the items examined.

Literature review			
Reference	Purpose	Methodology (Software)	Result
[18]	Feasibility study of sanitary hot water supply and space heating of a family of four in 10 provinces of Canada	TSOL Pro 5.5	The most suitable station in terms of using a solar water heater (SWH) is Regina, which provides 35% of the total heat load.
[19]	Investigate the potential of using SWH for a residential apartment in 37 stations in Algeria	TSOL Pro 5.5	If SWH is used in 37 stations, 150160 kWh will be produced for space heating and 99861 kWh for sanitary hot water.
[20]	Feasibility study of supplying electricity to a rural household in Iran (Bar Aftab Jalaleh village) using an off-grid solar power system	HOMER	About 70% of the energy required is provided by solar cells at a cost of \$ 0.792 per kWh.
[21]	Evaluation of simultaneous production of electricity and solar heat for a public health center located in Sar Agha Seyed village in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province	HOMER	Continuous and stable supply of electricity and heat to the medical center was done due to the sensitivity of these centers.
[22]	Economic and technical feasibility of using photovoltaic systems to supply electrical energy to a building of Hamadan Research Center	COMFAR Software	The economic evaluation shows that solar energy alone is not economically justifiable to supply electrical and thermal energy to the building.

Based on the above studies, none of the work done so far has provided solar electricity and heat using solar cells and solar collectors on the facade of the building. Therefore, in the present work for the first time, simulations have been performed for

energy and environmental analysis using commercial software. The authors of the present work hope that the results of the present work can serve as a guide for users of BIPV/T buildings.

2. Location understudy

As shown in Figure 2, the study site is the city of Abadan in southwestern Iran. The geographical coordinates of this city are 20° 30' North and 17° 48' East and the height above sea level is 3 m [23]. Due to the location of one of the largest oil refineries in the world, several petrochemical companies and being strategic, this city has been selected for review. The building in question is a 5-storey residential building that will supply part of the electricity and heat required by solar energy in the form of BIPV/T.



Fig. 2. Schematic of the use of solar energy in the city of Abadan

3. Methodology

For one-year simulations in the present work, HOMER 2.81 and TSOL Pro 5 software have been used. HOMER 2.81 is responsible for solar power supply and its task is to perform sensitivity analysis and technical-economic-energy-environmental analysis [24]. TSOL Pro 5.5 is responsible for supplying solar heat and performs analyzes similar to HOMER software [25]. The data used for the simulations were an average of 20 years and were extracted from Meteonorm 7 software [26].

HOMER 2.81 software uses the following equation to generate solar power by photovoltaic cells [27, 28]:

$$E_{PV} = E_{RPV} \times g_{PV} \times \frac{\bar{I}_T}{I_{T,STC}} \times (1 + \beta_p \times (T_c - T_{c,STC})) \quad (1)$$

HOMER 2.81 software also uses the following equations for economic analysis [29, 30]:

$$\text{total NPC} = \frac{C_{ann,tot}}{CRF(i, R_{proj})} \quad (2)$$

$$LCOE = \frac{C_{ann,tot}}{E_{served}} \quad (3)$$

TSOL Pro 5.5 software uses the following equation for the amount of heat generated by solar collectors [31, 32]:

$$\rho = G_{\text{dir}} \cdot \eta_0 \cdot f_{\text{IAM}} + G_{\text{diff}} \cdot \eta_0 \cdot f_{\text{IAM,diff}} - k_0 (T_{\text{cm}} - T_{\text{A}}) - k_q (T_{\text{cm}} - T_{\text{A}})^2 \quad (4)$$

4. Required data

HOMER 2.81 software requires a 24-hour power consumption profile for simulation, as shown in Figure 3 for one year. Also, due to the fact that the system in question is connected to the national electricity grid, a 3-time electricity tariff has been included for the simulations, which is 23 PM to 8 AM (Off-Peak), 8 AM to 4 PM (Normal) and the rest of the time (Peak). Tariffs for household electricity (both for purchase and sale) are \$ 0.05, 0.07, and \$ 0.12 per kW for Off-Peak, Normal and Peak times, respectively [33].

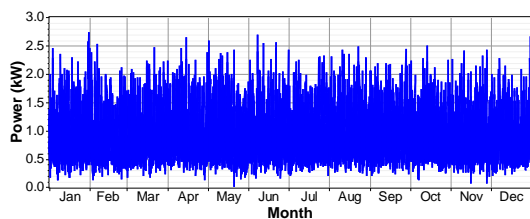


Fig. 3. 24-hour power consumption profile

The annual interest rate is 18% [34] and the lifetime of the project is 25 years [35]. The list of technical and price information of the equipment used in the solar power sector is presented in Table 2 [36-38]. TSOL Pro 5.5 software for simulating climatic data such as temperature and radiation, which receives them from Meteosyn 7 software as input [39]. The amount of sanitary hot water required for each unit is 110 liters with a temperature of 60 oC, which is required all year round [40]. The amount of space heating is 10 kW per unit and the infrastructure area of each unit is 80 m².

Information of BIPV system under study					
Equipment	Cost (\$)			Size (kW)	Other info
	Capital	Replace	OM		
PV [36]	1000	1000	5	5-50	Lifetime: 25 years Ground reflectance: 20%
Battery T-105 [37]	174	174	5	0-20	Nominal Voltage: 6 Nominal capacity: 225Ah
Converter [38]	200	200	10	0-20	Lifetime: 10 years Efficiency: 90%

The need for space heating is only in the cold seasons of the year (November to March). The

dimensions of the solar collectors used are 15 m², whose angle is equal to the latitude of the study area [41] and their orientation is to the south [42, 43]. The length of outdoor piping was 45 m and the length of indoor piping was 5 m in the calculations.

Schematics of systems designed to supply electricity and solar heat are presented in Figures 4 and 5, respectively. A 25 kW gas boiler is also used for the auxiliary boiler.

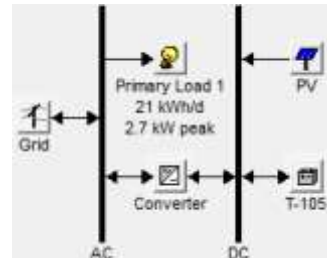


Fig. 4. Schematic of solar electricity system

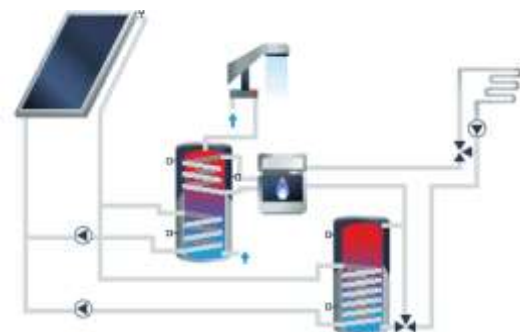


Fig. 5. Schematic of solar heating system

5. Results

Due to the installation of solar cells on the facade of the building, the results of sensitivity analysis are presented in Figure 6. The parameter studied is LCOE and the effect of azimuth angle and derating factor on it has been evaluated. From the results, it is clear that the azimuth angle of 45o (southwest) is the most appropriate angle in terms of solar power generation costs. Also, as the derating factor increases, as the radiation reaching the surface of the solar cell increases, so the cost of generating solar power is reduced. According to the results of Figure 6 for the derating factor equal to 90%, the cheapest solar electricity is produced at a price of \$ 14/kWh. The results of this superior scenario are presented in Table 3.

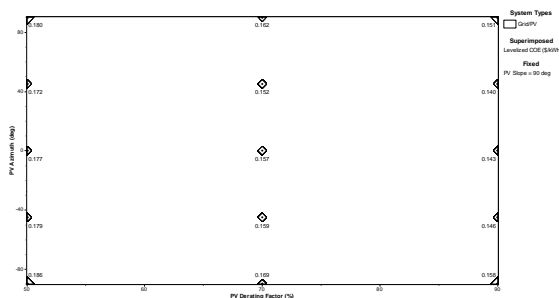


Fig. 6. Results of electricity simulation

Table.1. Results of the best economic scenario in the field of solar power generation

Scenario	Equipment	Initial capital cost (\$)	Operating cost (\$)	Total NPC (\$)	PV production (kWh/year)
PV-grid	PV (5 kW), Converter (2 kW), Grid	5400	363	7384	6077 (55%)

Excess electricity factor (kWh/year)	Capital losses (%)	Converter losses (kWh/year)	Grid purchased (kWh/year)	Grid sold (kWh/year)	CO ₂ (kg/year)
944	13.9	513	5.23	2014	1901

According to the results of Table 3, the optimal system is a 5 kW solar power plant connected to the grid, which annually produces 6077 kWh of solar electricity, which is 8.5% of the total electricity consumption is excess. The capacity factor of solar cells in Abadan is 13.9% and 4.62% of the total electricity generated in the converters is wasted annually. Also, the net amount of electricity purchased from the grid during the year is 3009 kWh, which leads to the production of 1.9 tons of CO₂ pollutants. The results of installing solar collectors on the facade of the building are presented in Table 4.

Table.2. Solar heat generation results

Solar contribution to DHW	Solar contribution to heating (kWh)	Total solar fraction (%)	CO ₂ emissions avoided (kg/year)	Natural gas saving (m ³ /year)	Optical losses (kWh/y)	Thermal losses (kWh/y)	Piping losses (kWh/y)	Tanks losses (kWh/y)
16.4 (19.3%)	0 (0%)	7.4%	594	281	2901	1635	928	581

Based on the results of Table 4, the designed system, which includes 15 square meters of solar collector, was able to produce 19.3% of the total heat required, ie 1604 kWh of solar heat to produce the required hot water. The designed system could not produce any heat to provide space heating. In total, the designed system was able to produce 7.4% of the total heat required and prevented the consumption of

281 cubic meters of natural gas per year, resulting in the prevention of 594 kg of CO₂ pollutants. Losses during the year are 6045 kWh, which are related to optical, thermal, piping and tanks, respectively, from the highest to the lowest.

Figure 7 shows the total solar fraction in the months of the year. According to the results in June, July and August, the total solar fraction is above 40%, which is due to less need for solar heating in hot seasons. Also, in January and December, the total solar fraction is zero, which is due to the great need for heat in these two cold months of the year.

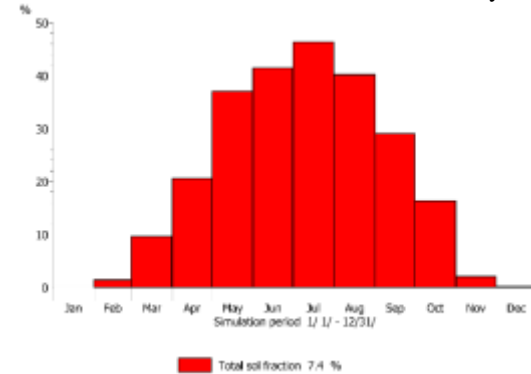


Fig. 7. Results of thermal simulation

6. Conclusion

The integration of the two systems of solar electricity and solar heating and their use in the facade of the building causes significant savings in cost and energy and building materials used in the facade of the building. According to studies, nothing has been done in this field in Iran so far. Therefore, a 5-storey residential building located in Abadan has been evaluated for technical-energy-environmental. HOMER 2.81 commercial software is used to simulate photovoltaic panels used in the facade and TSOL Pro 5.5 commercial software is used to dynamically simulate solar collectors used in the facade. According to the simulations performed, the important results of the present work are:

- PV-grid system with a cost of \$ 0.14/kWh is the most economical scenario.
- An azimuth angle of 45° (southwest) is the most economical.
- Of the total electricity consumption, 8.5% is an excess.
- The net amount of electricity purchased from the grid is about 3 MWh/year.
- The amount of solar electricity produced is about 6 MWh.
- The solar power system produced was 5 kW and the solar heating system was 15 kW.
- The solar fraction of the total heat supply is 7.4%, ie 1604 kWh/year.
- 1.9 tons of CO₂ pollutants are produced annually due to the use of the national electricity

grid, and due to the use of solar collectors, the release of about 0.6 tons of CO₂ pollutants is prevented.

- The annual losses of the solar heating system are about 6 MWh and the annual losses of solar electricity are about 0.6 MWh.

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