



Evaluating Energy Use at Two Passive House Plus Dwellings in the UK

May 2020 - April 2021

Introduction



Lark Rise, Buckinghamshire, 2015

PHI Database ID #5535

175m² single-family dwelling

12.4 kWp PV array connected to Tesla Home Battery with a 4 kW limit on grid export



Brambles, Hertfordshire, 2020

PHI Database ID #6613

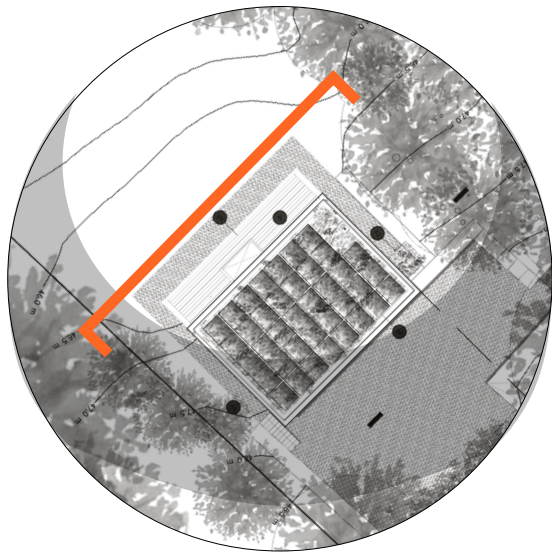
150m² single-family dwelling

10kWp PV array connected to Tesla Home Battery with no limit on grid export

On Tesla Octopus Energy Tariff since November 2020

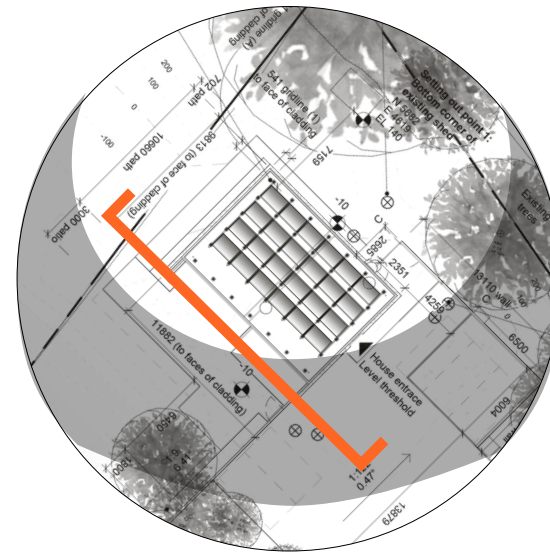
Roof Plans

Garden Elevations & Sun Paths



Lark Rise, Buckinghamshire
#5535

Northwest-facing garden elevation
Large canopy of trees to the southwest of PV array

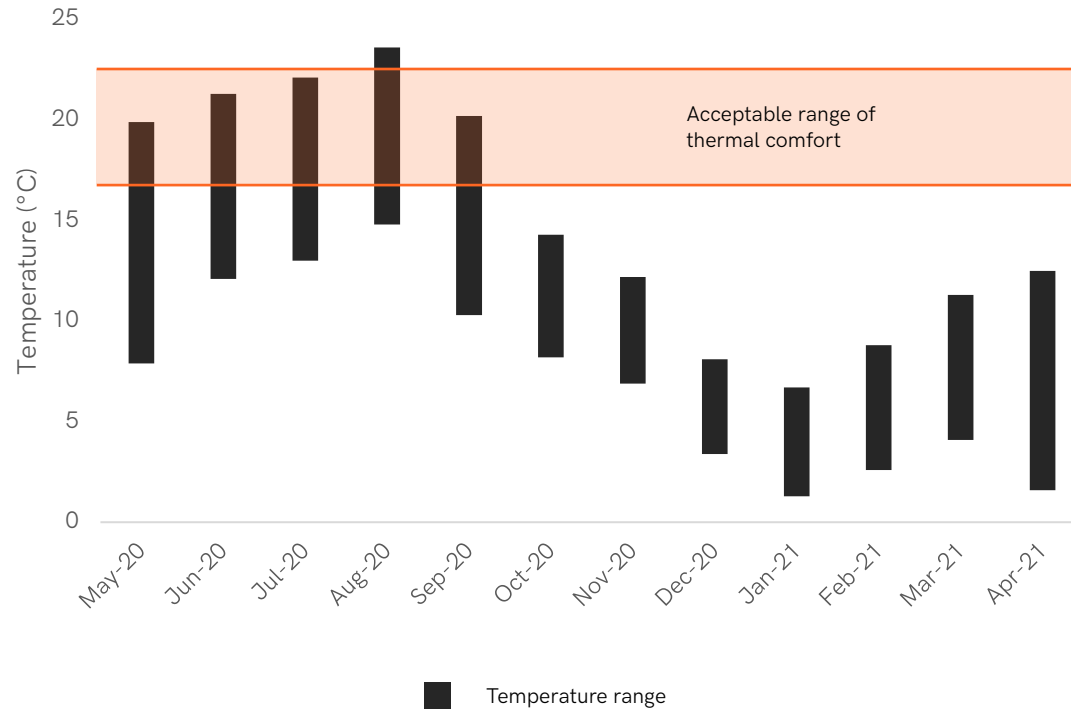


Brambles, Hertfordshire
#6613

Southwest-facing garden elevation
Hardly any obstructions shading the PV array

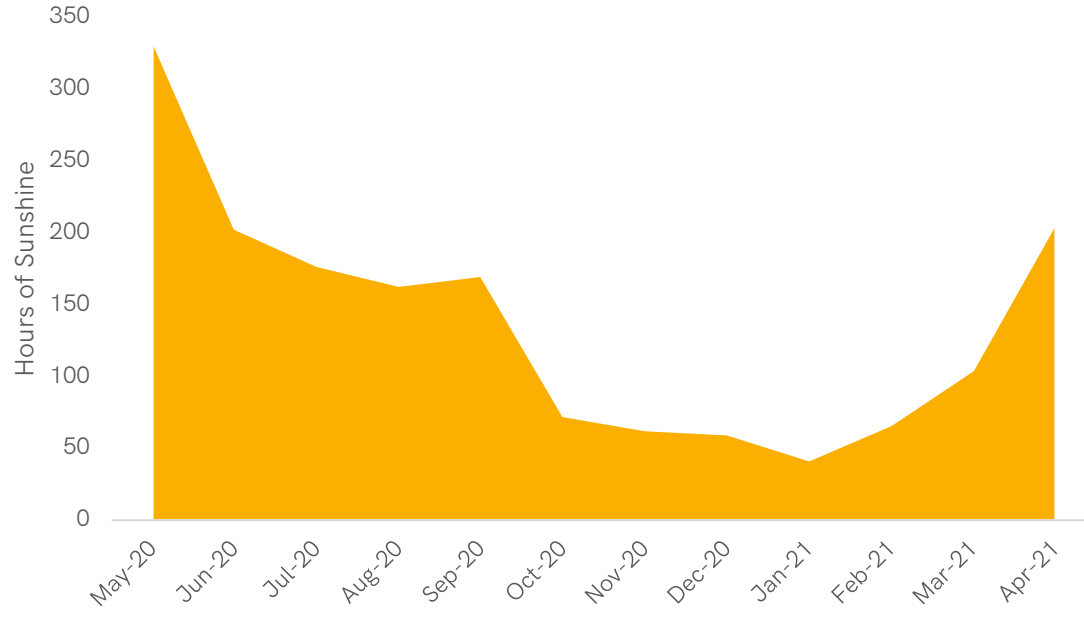
Monthly Temperature

Oxford Station Met Office



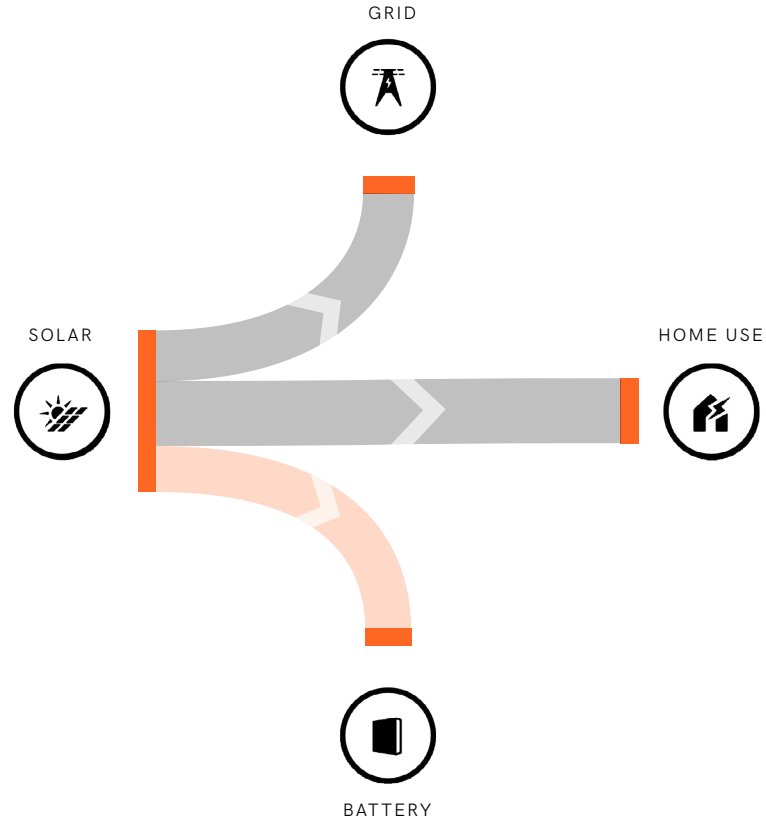
Monthly Sunshine

Oxford Station Met Office



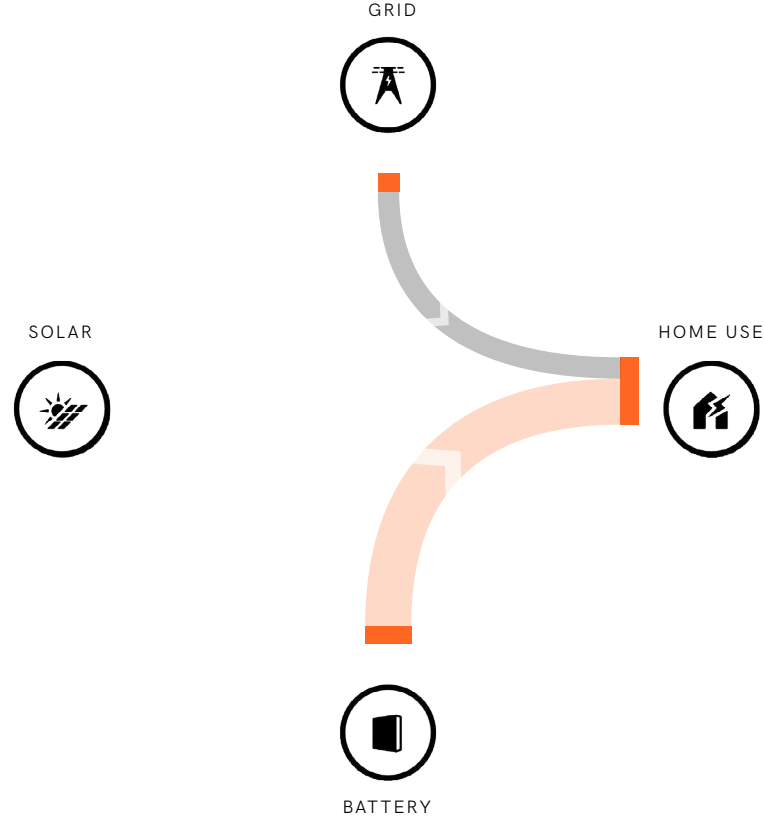
Charging Battery

During the Day



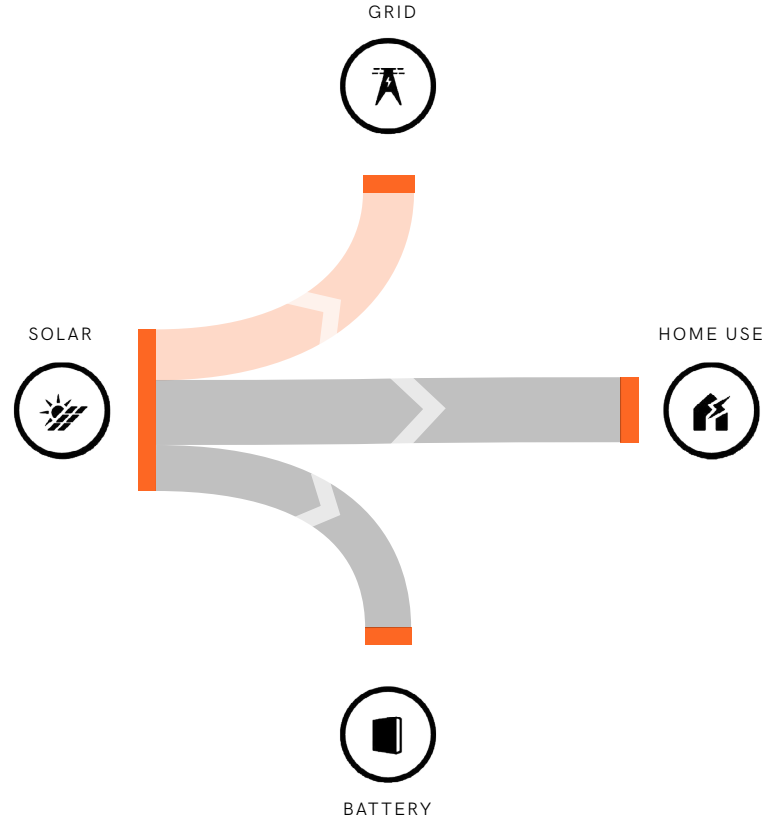
Discharging Battery

Throughout the Night



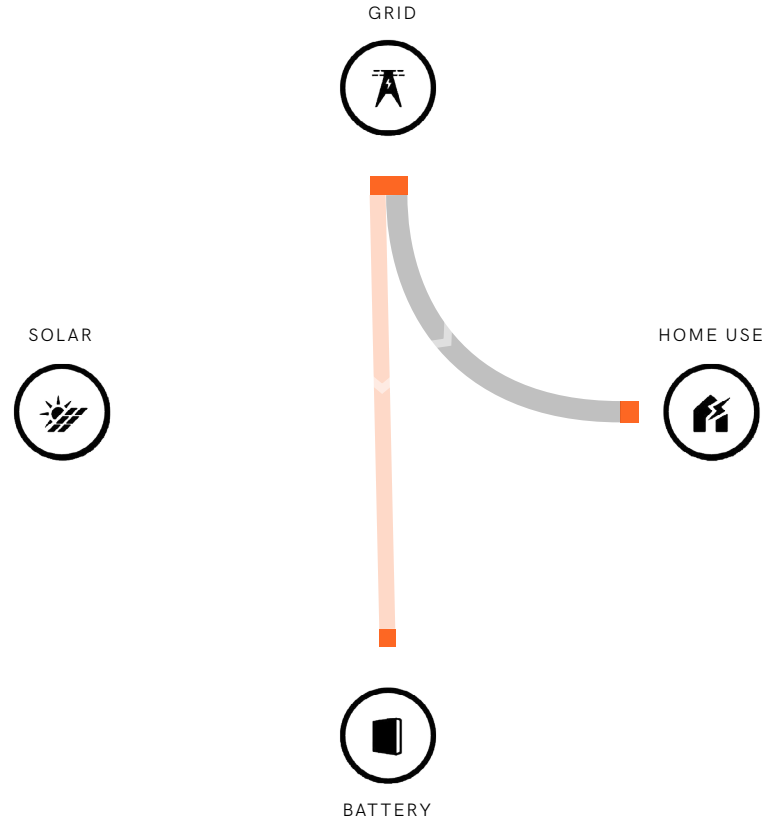
Exporting to Grid

With Excess Solar Energy



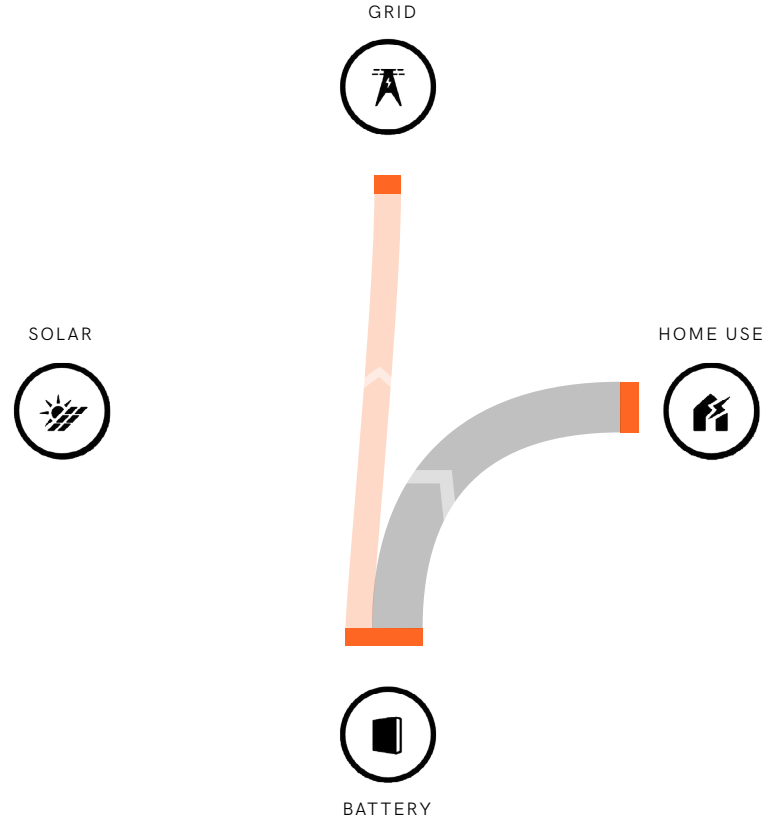
Tesla-Octopus Smart Tariff

Off-Peak Imports from Grid



Tesla-Octopus Smart Tariff

Peak Exports to Grid



Project Aims

- To assess **energy-use against a typical UK home** as per the Department of Business, Energy & Industry's data (ECUK data available on-line).
- To **compare Lark Rise and Brambles' energy consumption and generation** on an overall scale.
- To **study energy usage behaviour over the scale of a single day** and their effect on overall energy usage.
- To compare **energy consumption and PV generation in relation to seasons**.
- To assess the **solar energy self-production** of the homes in view of energy self-sufficiency.
- To appraise the **effectiveness of the Tesla Powerwall battery** that is operational in both homes.
- To evaluate the dwellings' **energy performance during winter**, when the environmental conditions did not favour on-site PV generation.
- To understand the **renewable/ non-renewable energy balance** with a view to further optimise energy decarbonisation in future projects.
- To consider the effect of the **Tesla-Octopus Smart Tariff** as a advocate for off-site renewables.
- To **speculate about a future** with similarly performing Passive House Plus homes.

Overall Energy Performance

Energy Self-Production & Self-Sufficiency

Net- Zero Energy & Renewable Balance

A Future of Renewables

Project Aims

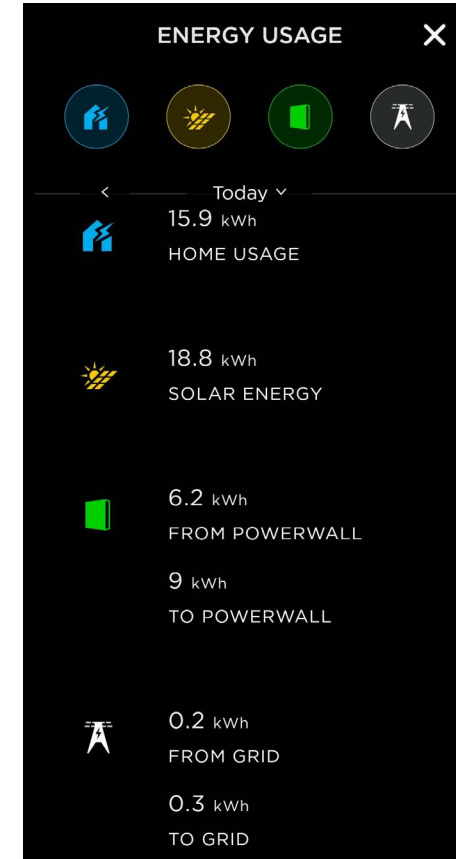
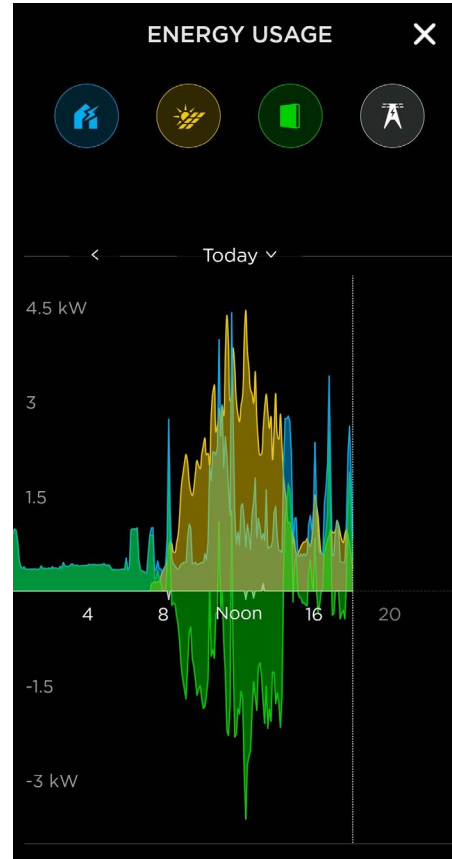
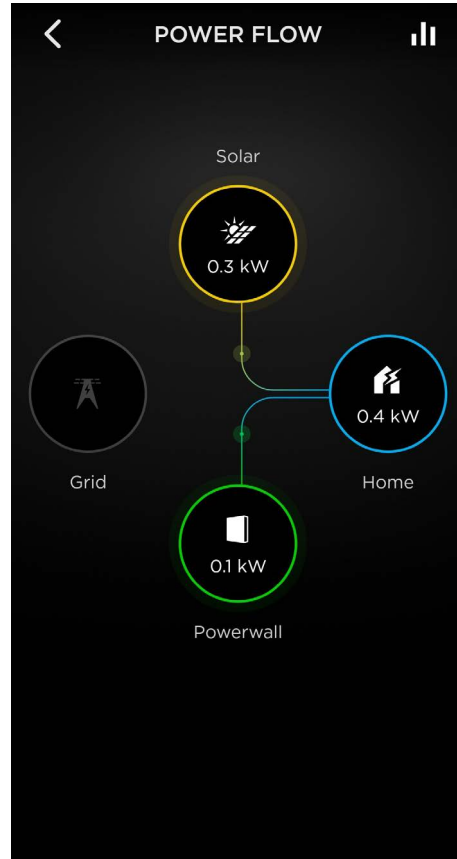
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- To **speculate about a future** with similarly performing Passive House Plus homes.

Hypotheses

- **80-90% energy saving** compared to a typical UK home.
- **Brambles will generate more solar energy and have lower energy demand** due to less overshadowing, uninhibited solar power generation and more optimal orientation.
- A **mismatch between demand and supply could be to the energy performance's disadvantage**, affecting the effectiveness of having an on-site solar array and battery.
- **Brambles will be more energy self-sufficient and will be able to export more to the grid**.
- The **Tesla Powerwall home battery will be invaluable to ensuring that the houses make the most of their solar arrays**.
- There will be **challenges in the winter** with regards to low renewable energy supply and high energy demand.
- The **Octopus Energy Plan at Brambles will keep the house running renewably**, through off-site renewables.
- It is **easier to be net-positive with the Octopus Energy Plan**, where the grid energy is 100% renewable.
- We need to **encourage deep-retrofit/ low-energy new-builds on a large scale** to meet UK decarbonisation goals.

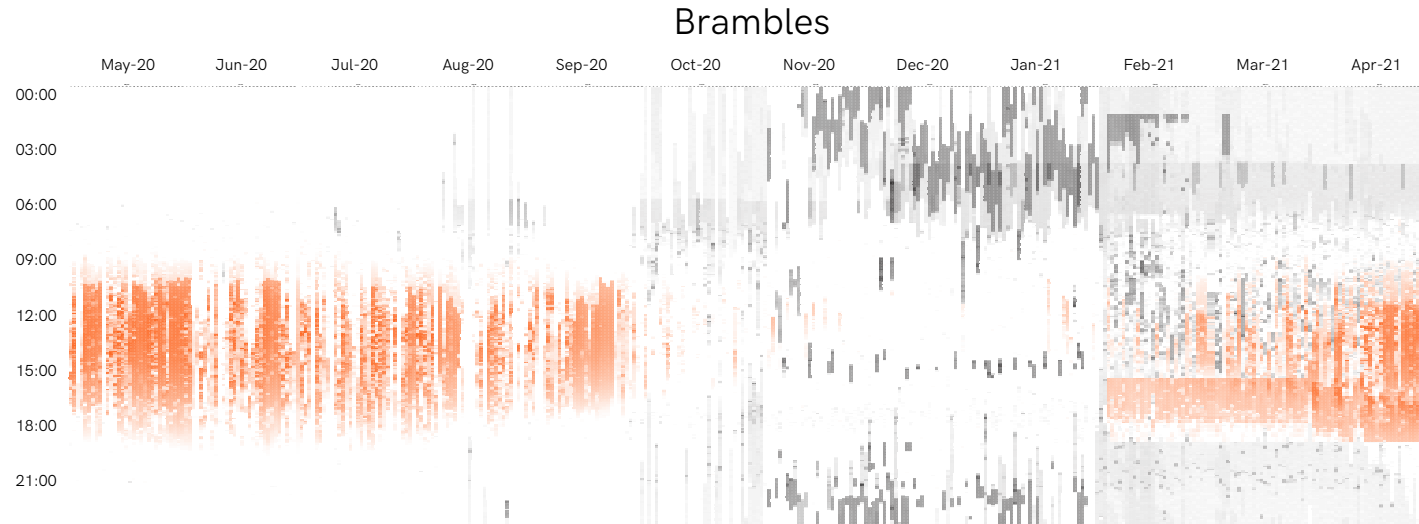
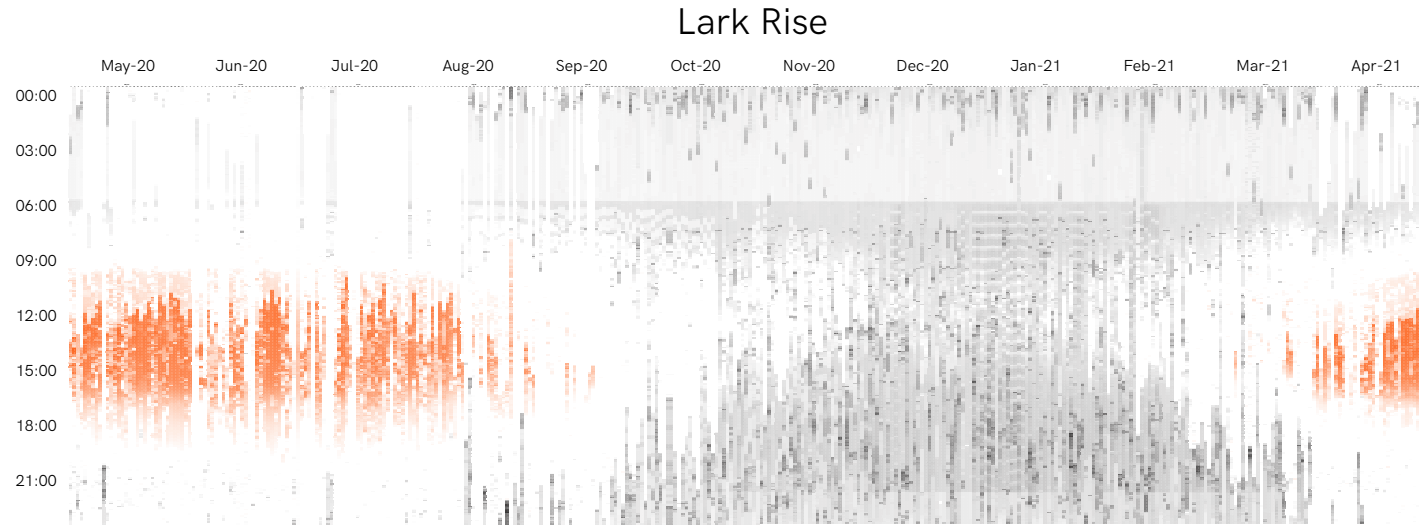
Data Collection

Tesla Powerwall Mobile App



Data Collation

5-Minute Grid Import/ Export in kW, May 2020 - April 2021

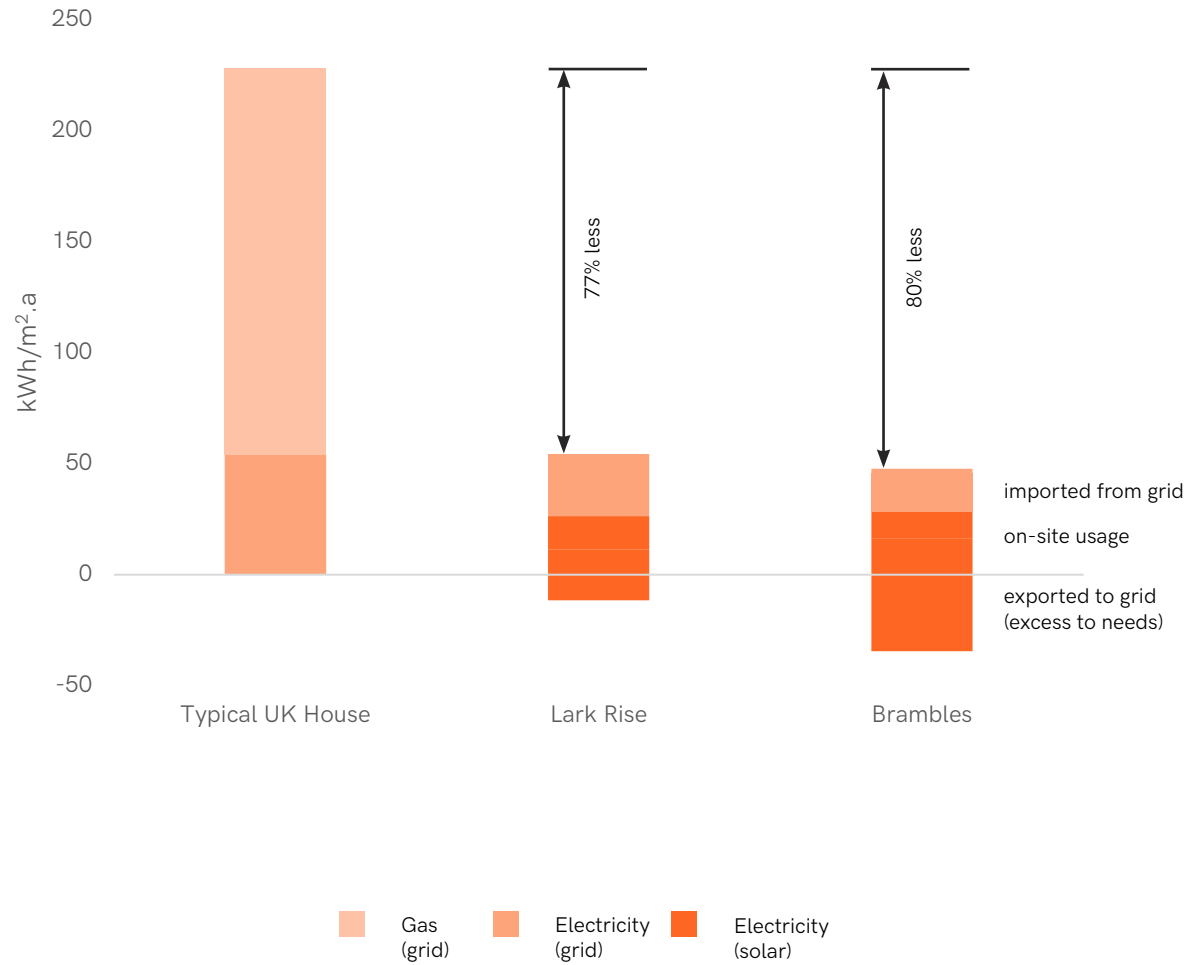


To assess **energy-use against a typical UK home** as per the Department of Business, Energy & Industry's data (EUK data available on-line).

Typical vs. Passive House Plus

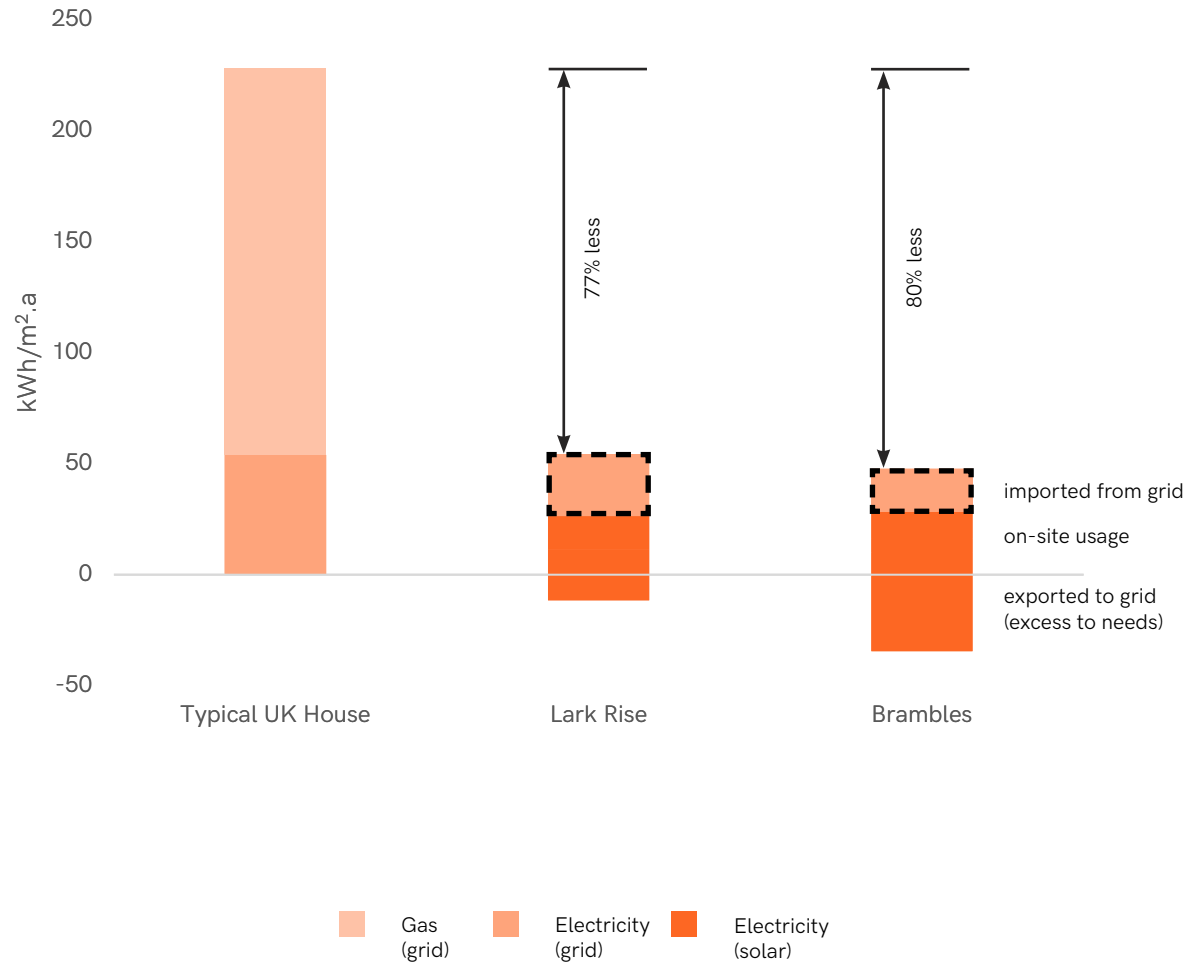
Final Energy Usage

Typical UK Home vs Passive House Plus



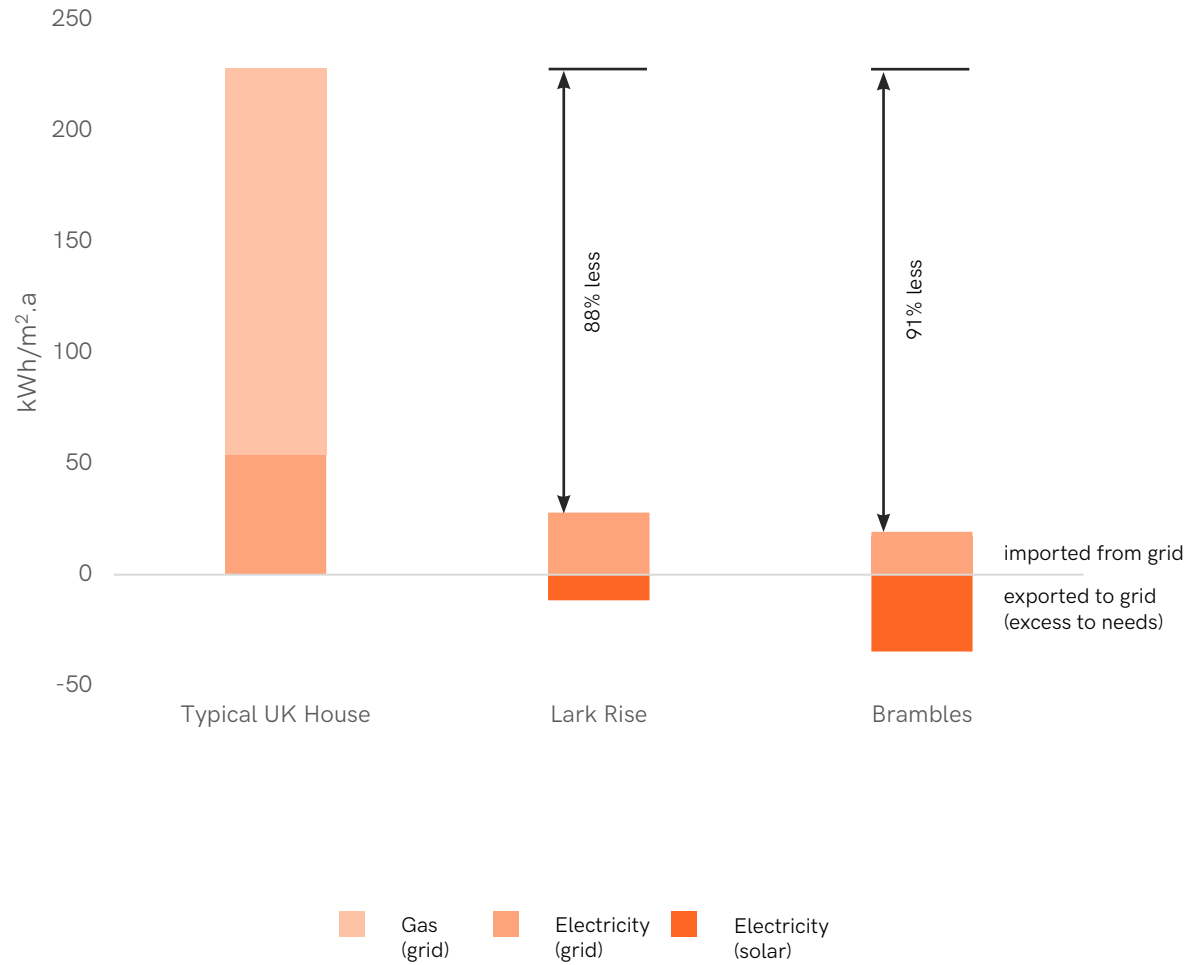
Final Energy Usage

Typical UK Home vs Passive House Plus



Final Grid Energy Import & Export

Typical UK Home vs Passive House Plus



To assess **energy-use against a typical UK home** as per the Department of Business, Energy & Industry's data (EUK data available on-line).

Passive House Plus homes use 80% less energy than a typical UK home.

With on-site renewables and a home battery, they draw 90% less energy from the grid.

To compare Lark Rise and Brambles' energy consumption and generation on an overall scale.

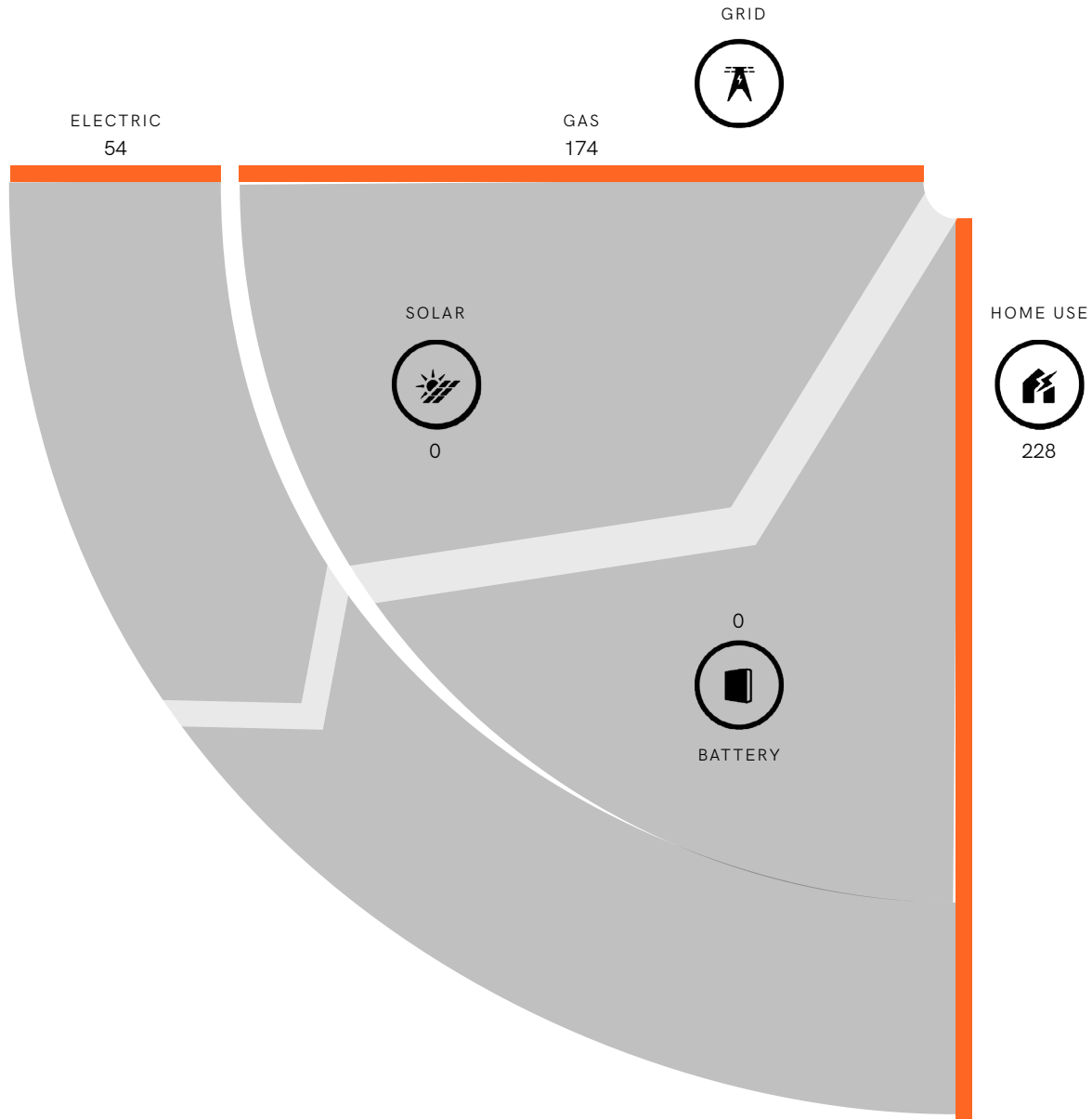
To study energy usage behaviour over the scale of a single day and their effect on overall energy usage.

To compare energy consumption and PV generation in relation to seasons.

Lark Rise vs Brambles

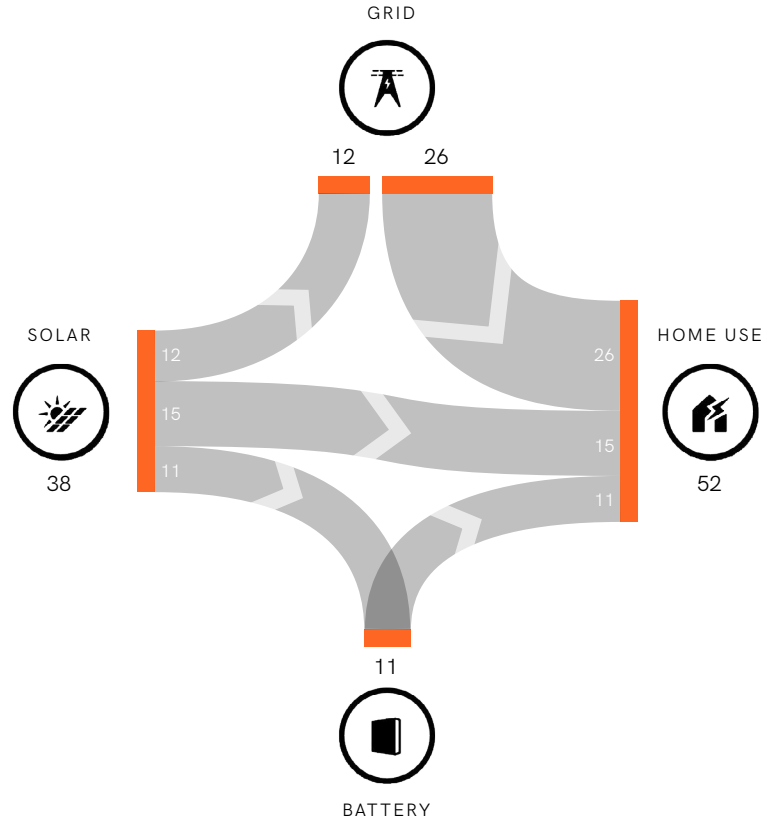
TYPICAL UK HOME

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



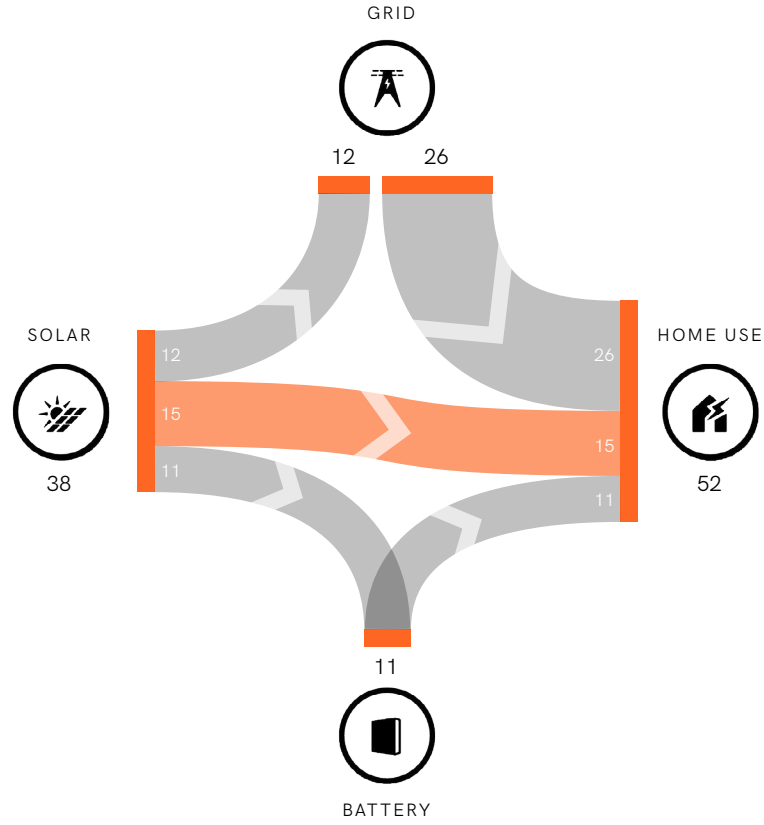
LARK RISE

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



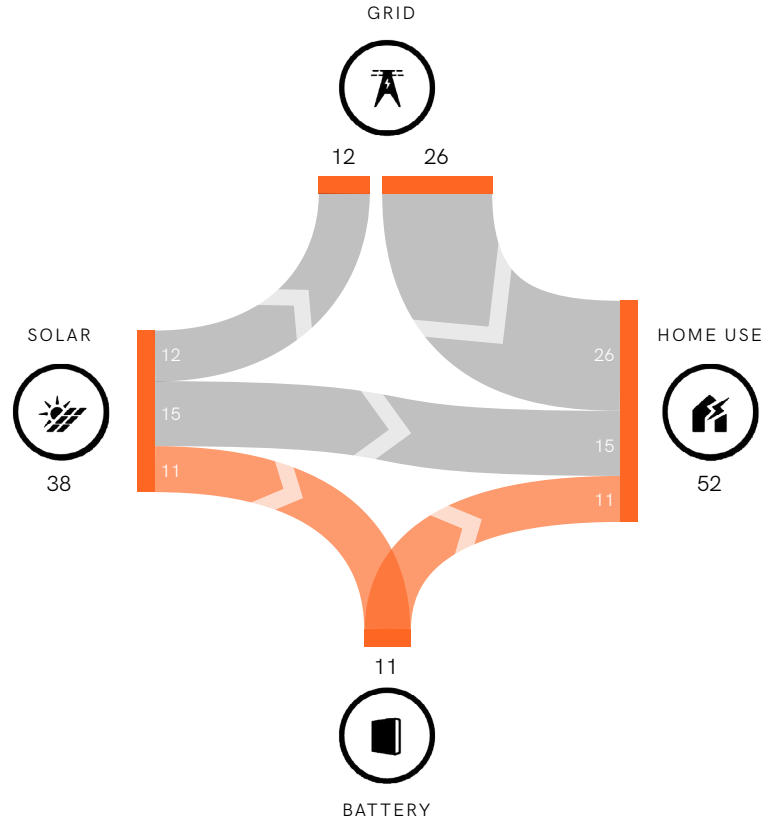
LARK RISE

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



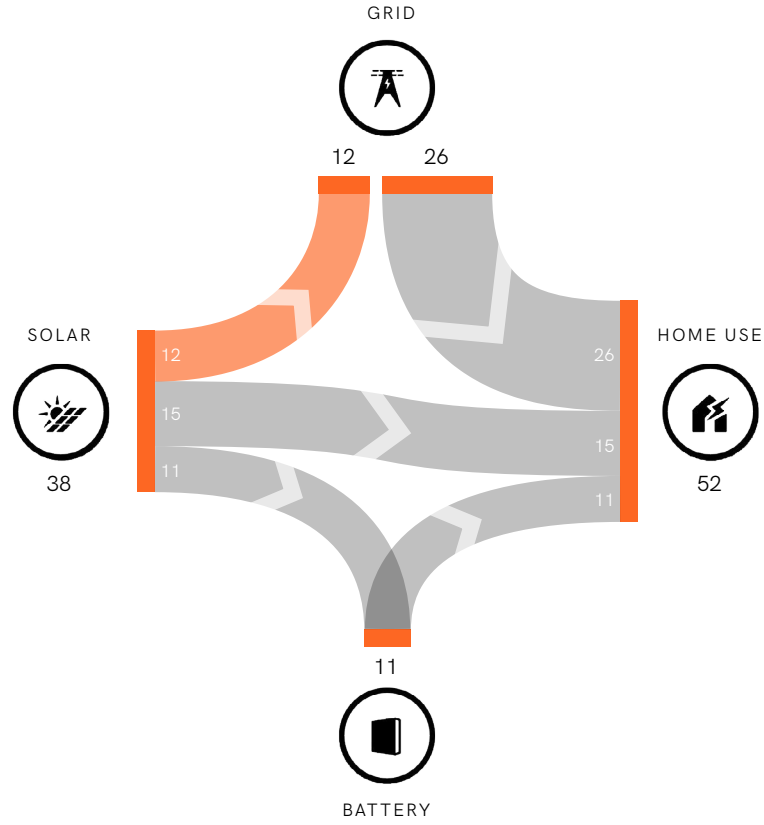
LARK RISE

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



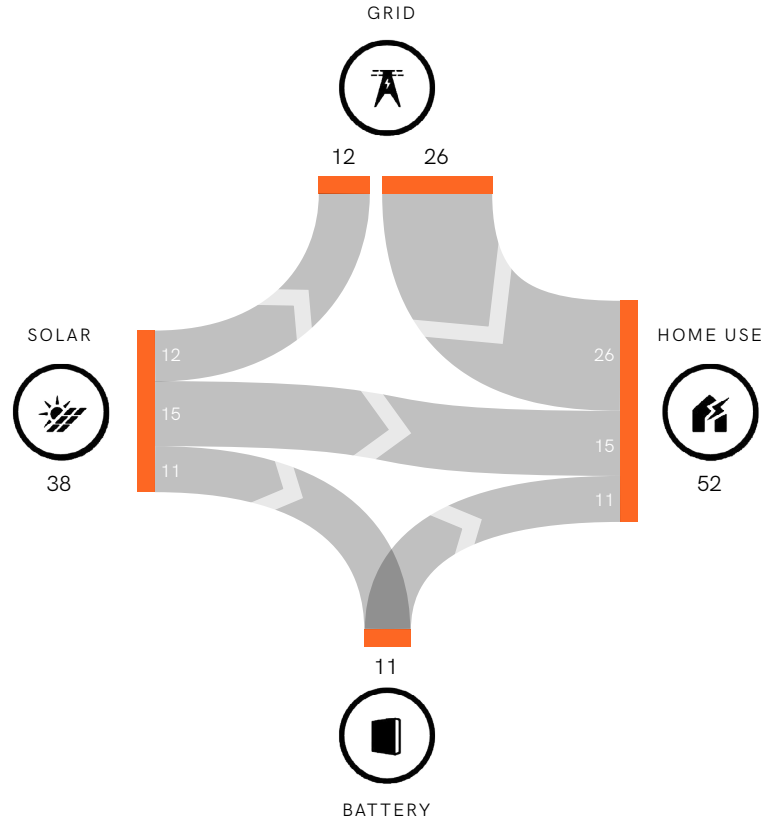
LARK RISE

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



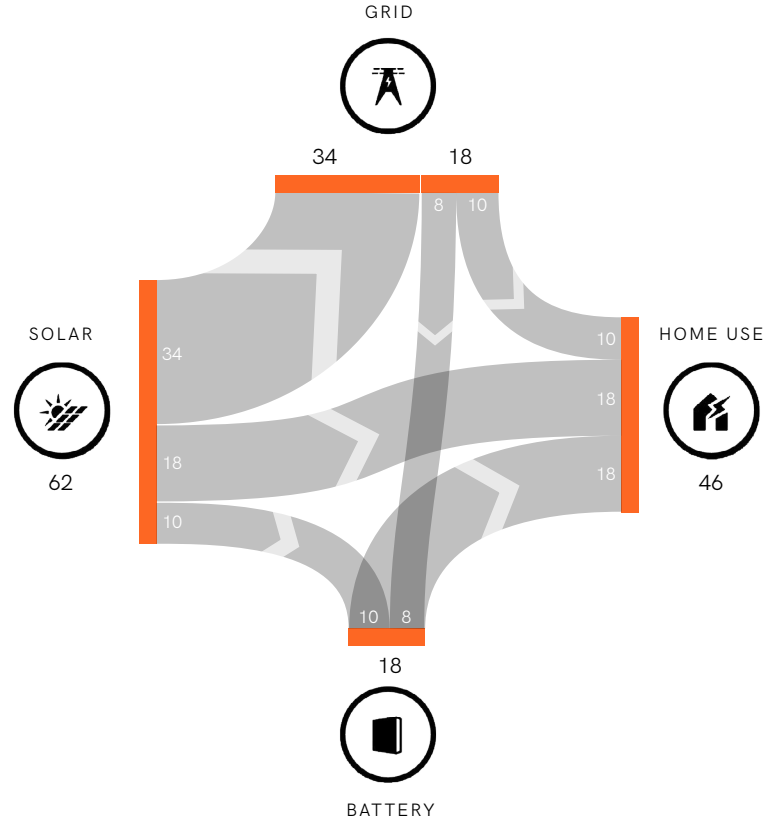
LARK RISE

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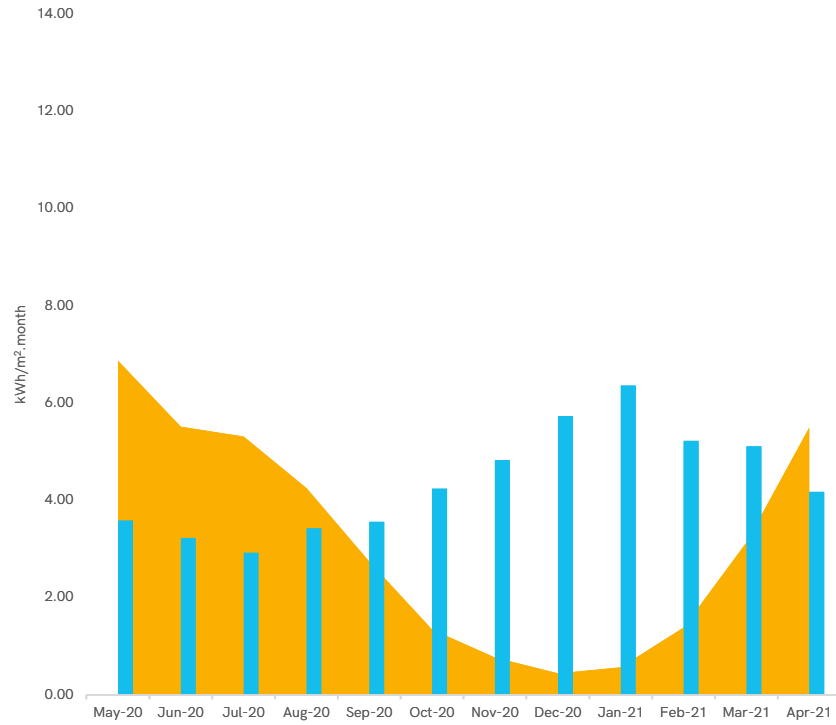


BRAMBLES

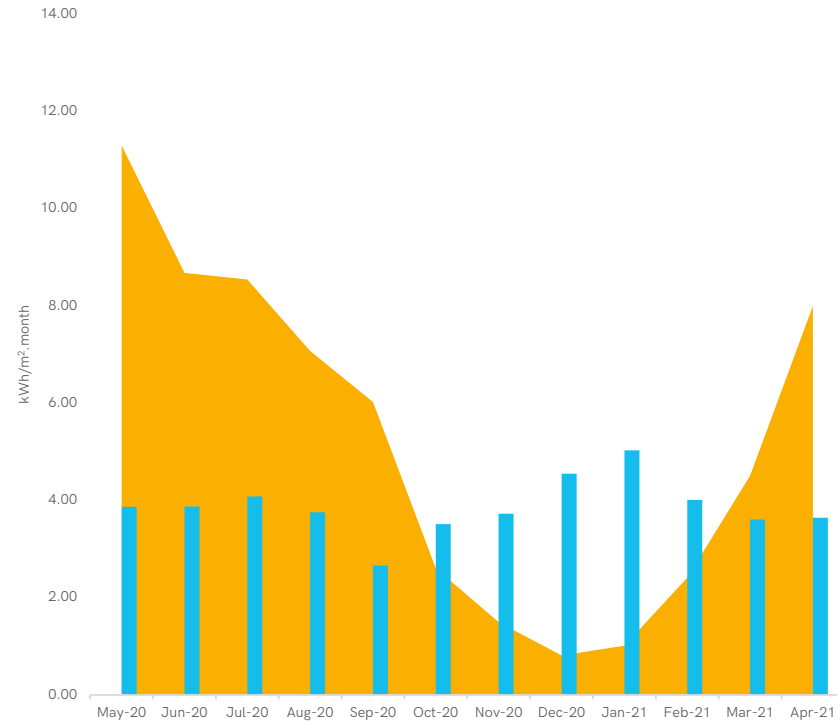
ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



Lark Rise



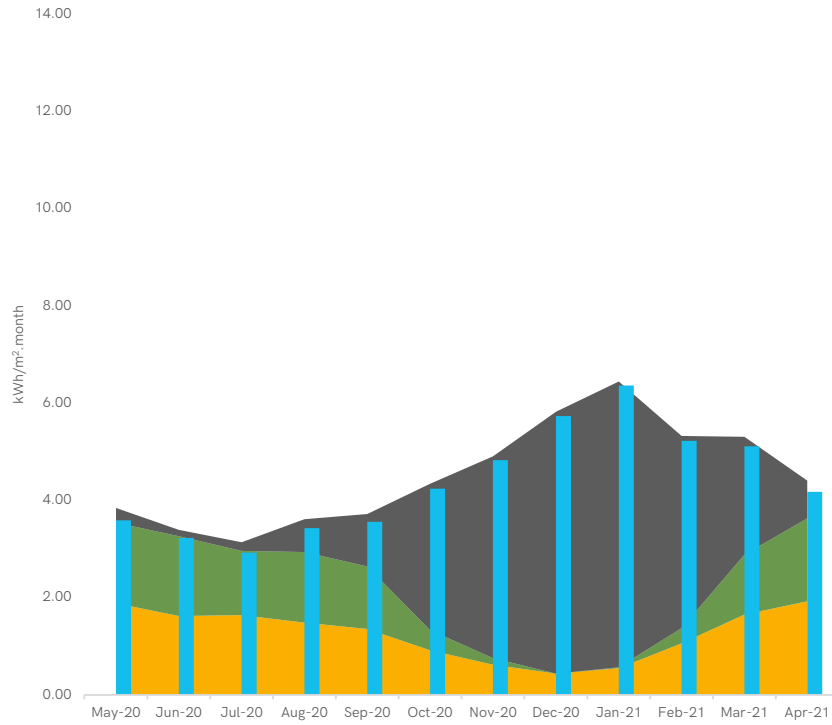
Brambles



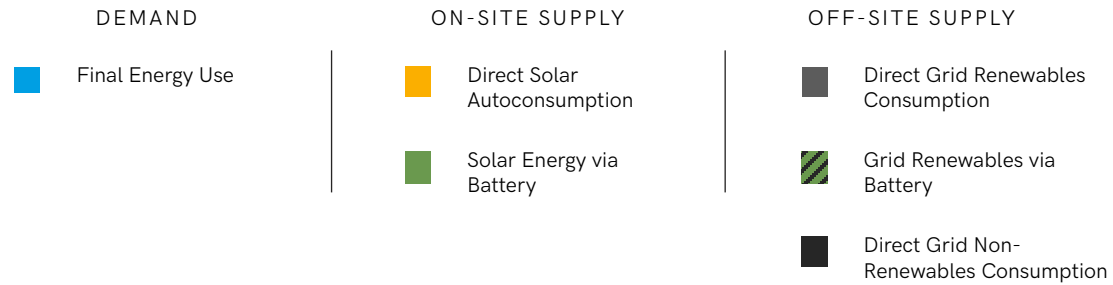
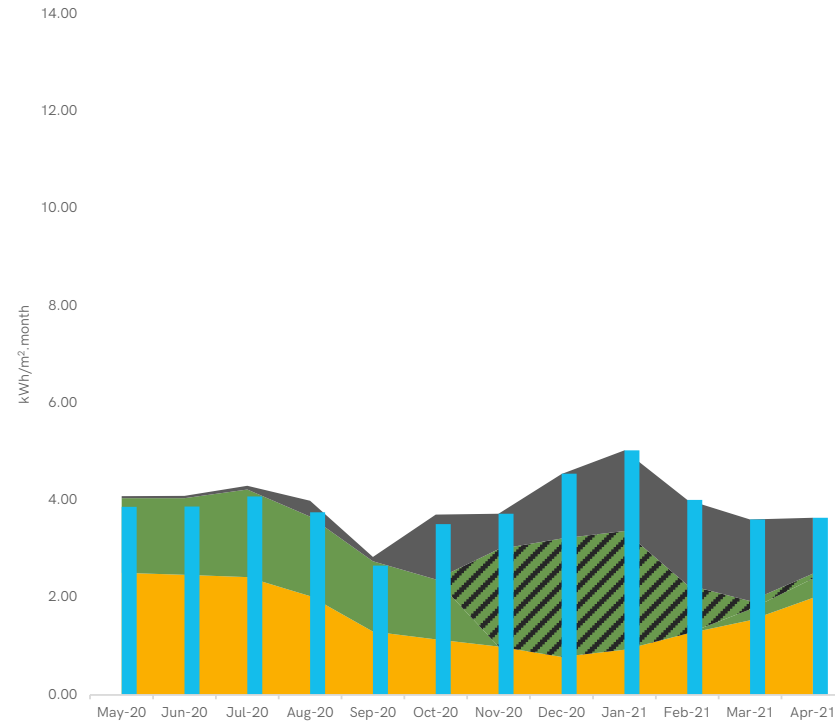
Recorded

■ Solar Energy
 ■ Final Home Use

Lark Rise

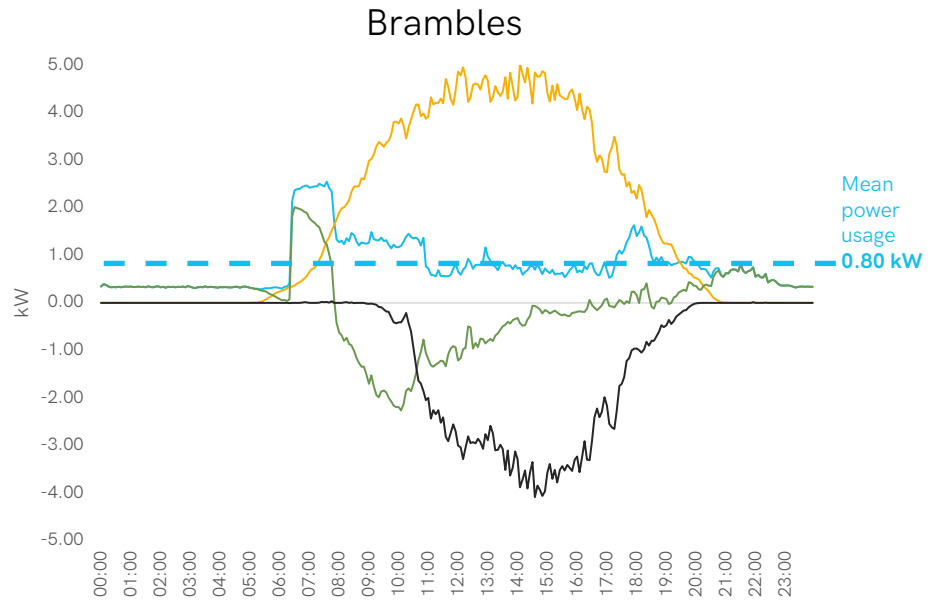
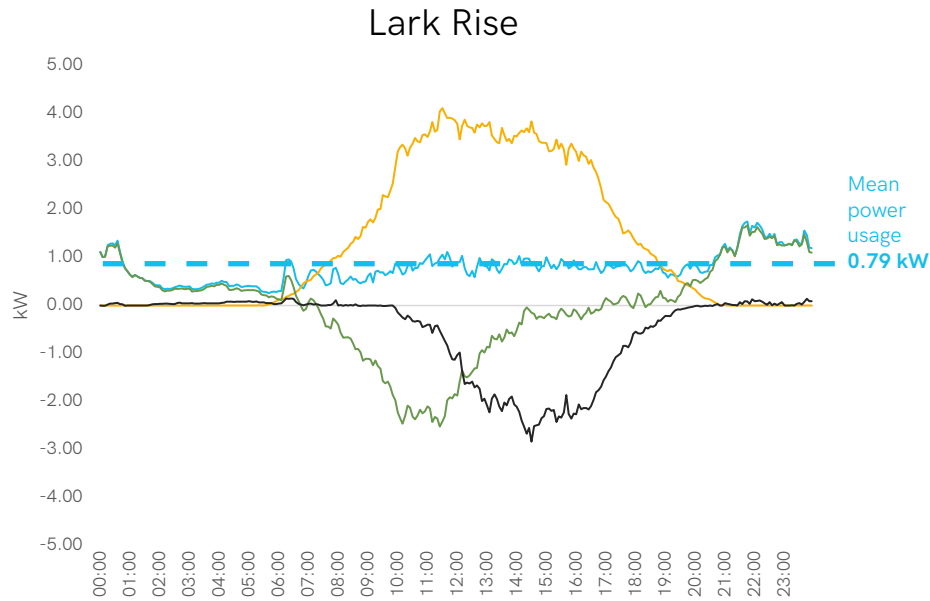


Brambles



Occupant Behaviour

'Average' Summer Day at Lark Rise and Brambles

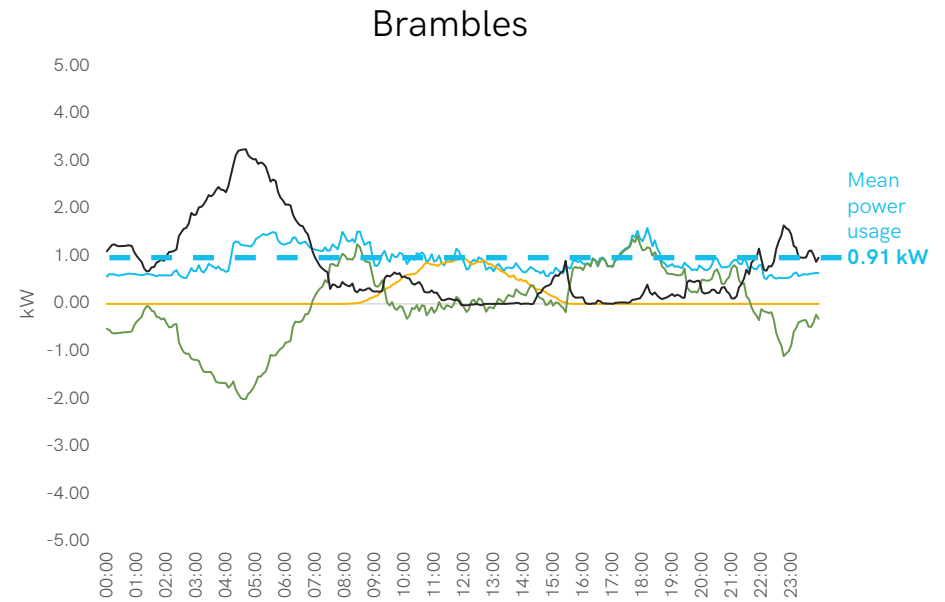
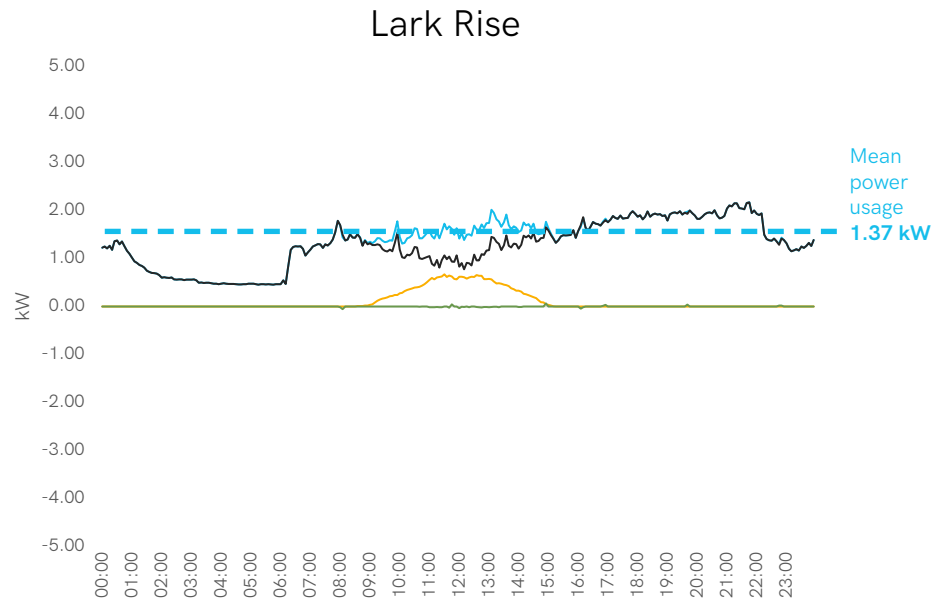


— Solar Power
 From rooftop PV array
— Home Usage
 Unregulated & Regulated Loads

— Battery
 (+) Discharging and (-) Charging
— Grid
 (+) Importing from and (-) Exporting to

Occupant Behaviour

'Average' Winter Day at Lark Rise and Brambles



— Solar Power
 From rooftop PV array
— Home Usage
 Unregulated & Regulated Loads

— Battery
 (+) Discharging and (-) Charging
— Grid
 (+) Importing from and (-) Exporting to

To compare Lark Rise and Brambles' energy consumption and generation on an overall scale.

To study energy usage behaviour over the scale of a single day and their effect on overall energy usage.

To compare energy consumption and PV generation in relation to seasons.

Brambles has better overall performance due to:

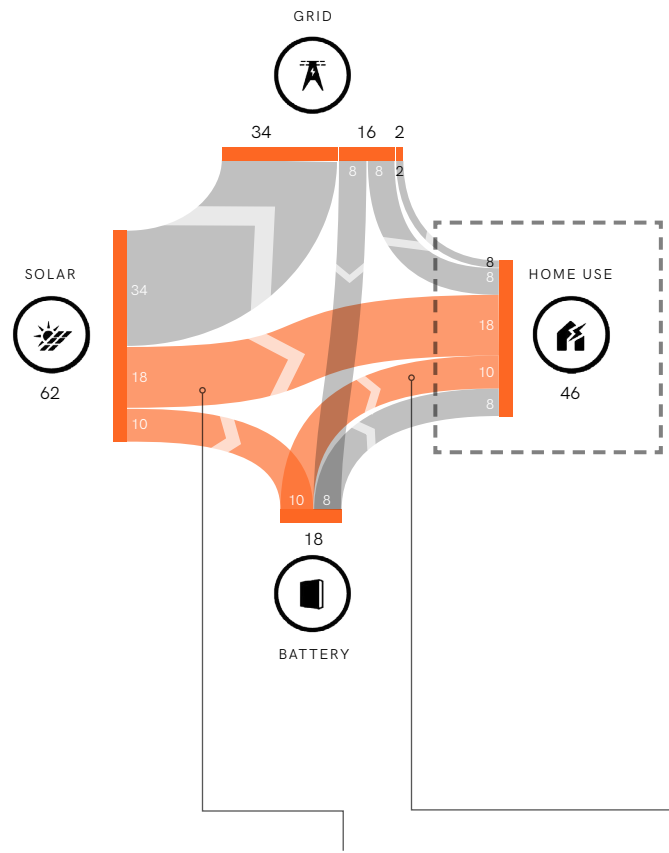
- more favourable orientation
- lack of overshadowing on the solar array
- uninhibited energy exports to the grid
- occupant behaviour
- and a complementary energy tariff.

To examine the **energy sources and destinations** of the houses.

To assess the **energy self-production** of the homes in view of energy self-sufficiency.

To appraise the **effectiveness of the home battery** that is operational in both homes.

Energy Self-Production



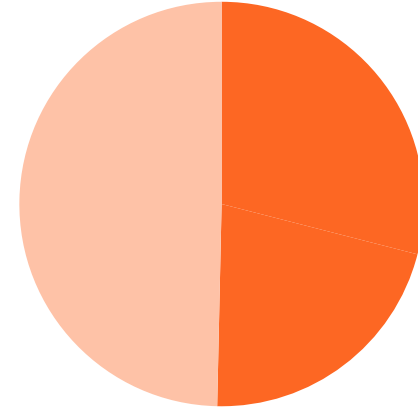
$$\text{Energy Self-Production} = \frac{\text{Solar energy directly consumed} + \text{Solar energy consumed via battery}}{\text{Overall energy demand of house}}$$

How independent is the house from the grid?



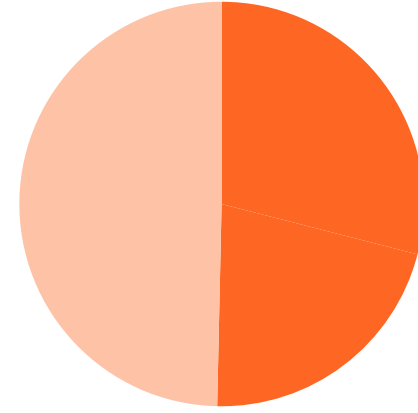
Typical UK Home
0% self-production

Typical UK Home
0% self-production

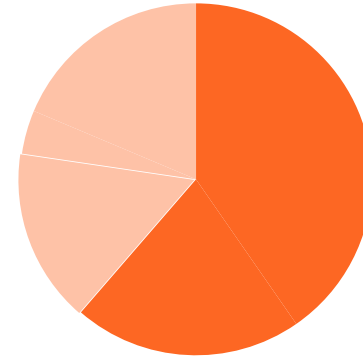


Lark Rise
50% self-production

Typical UK Home
0% self-production



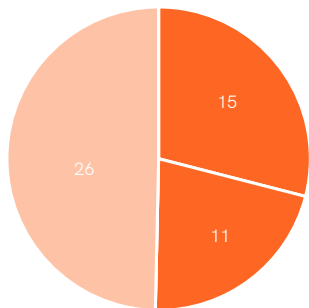
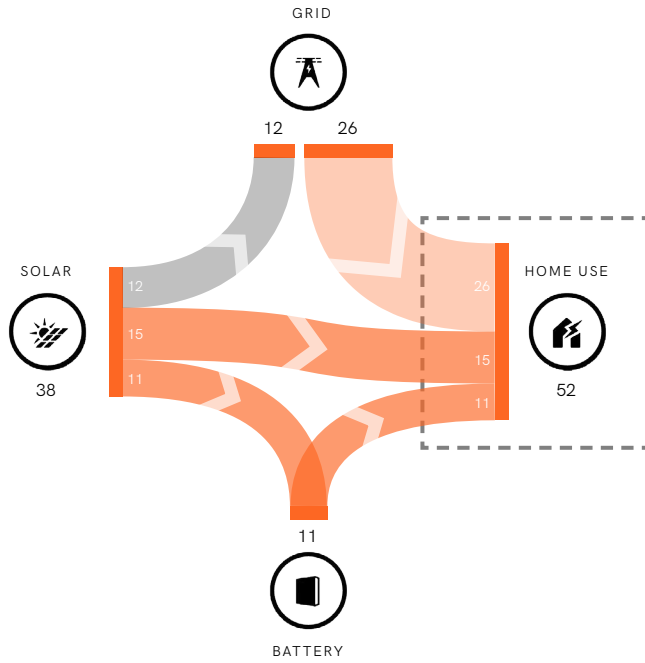
Lark Rise
50% self-production



Brambles
61% self-production

LARK RISE: SELF-PRODUCTION

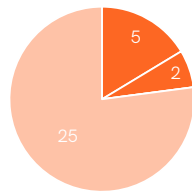
ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



Annual
50% self-production



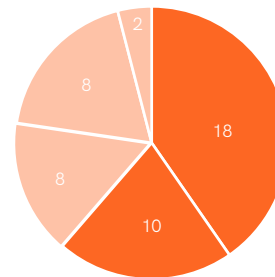
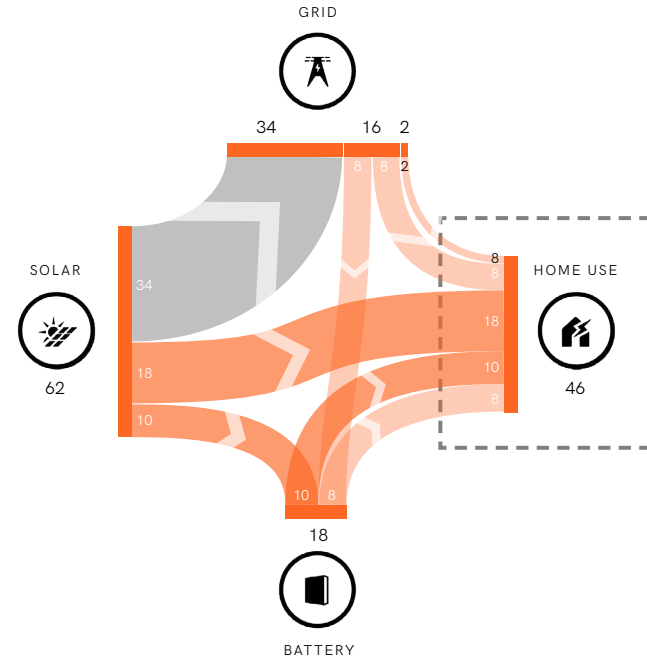
Summer
86% self-production



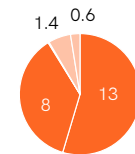
Winter
23% self-production

BRAMBLES: SELF-PRODUCTION

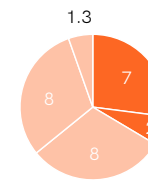
ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



Annual
61% self-production



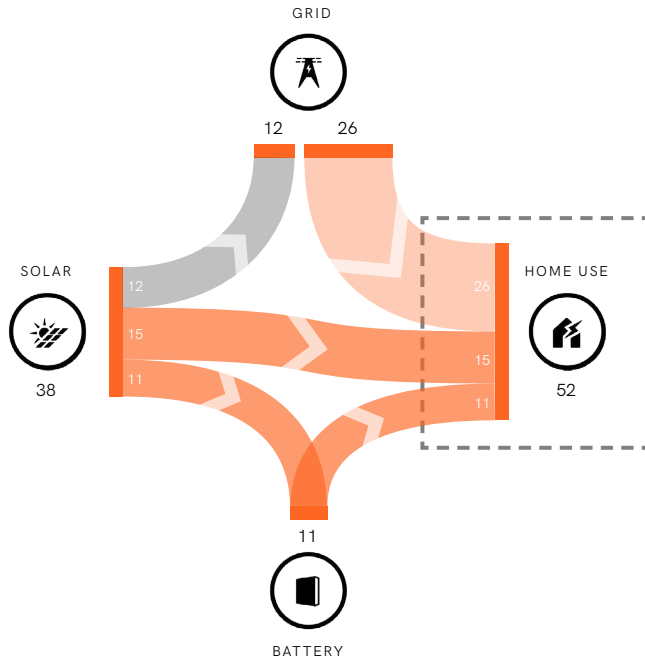
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91% self-production



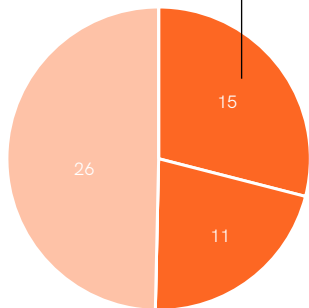
Winter
34% renewable energy

LARK RISE: SELF-PRODUCTION

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



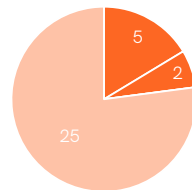
Direct solar consumption



Annual
50% self-production



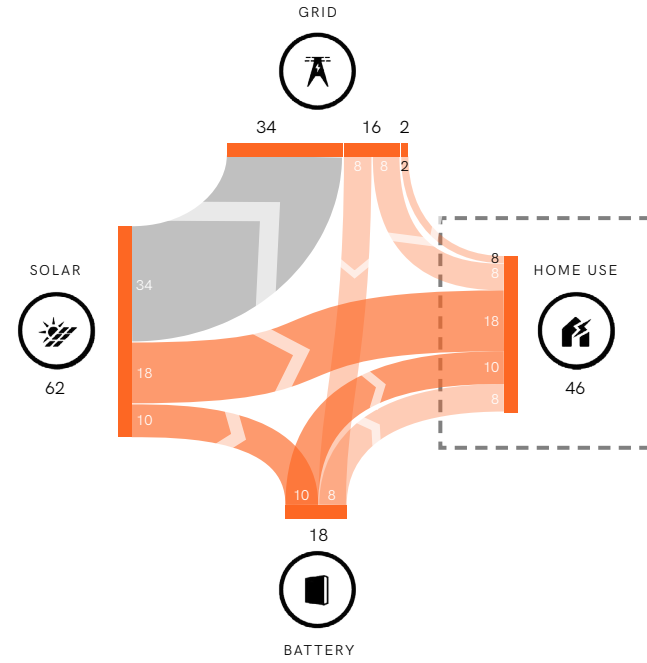
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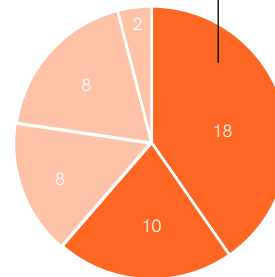
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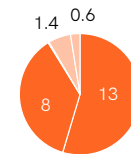
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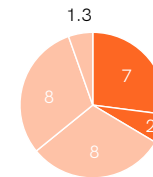
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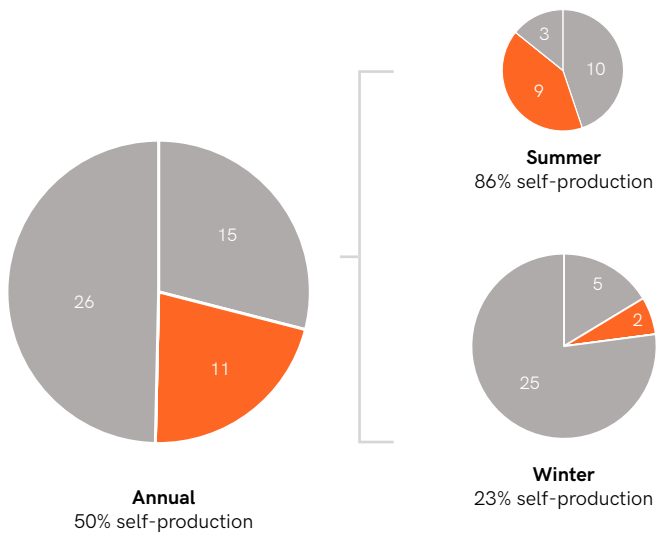
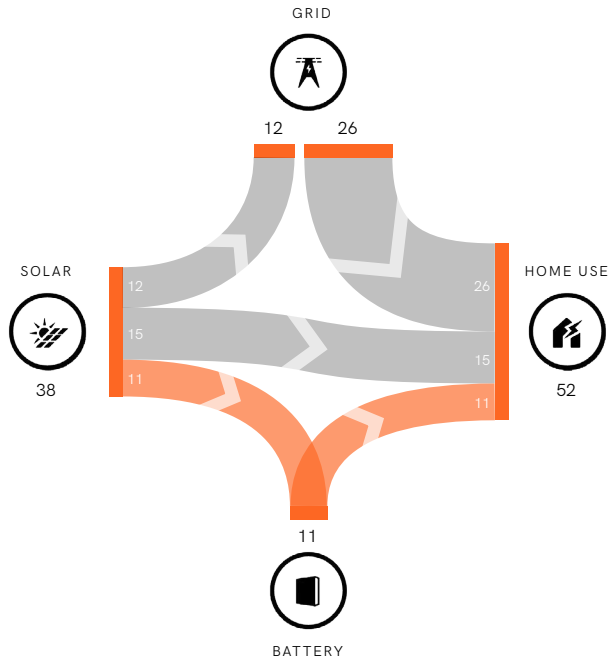
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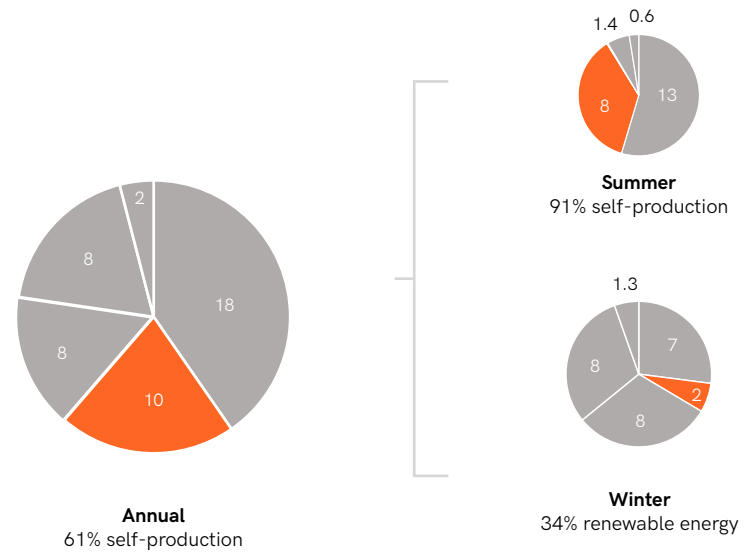
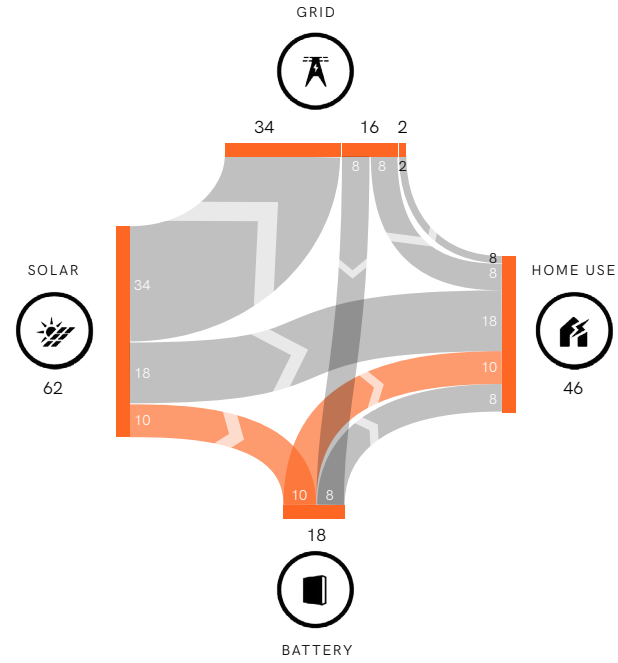
LARK RISE: BATTERY CONTRIBUTION

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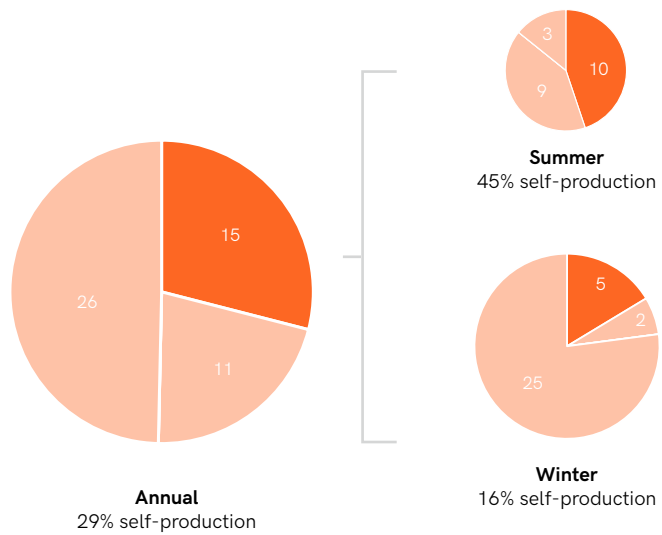
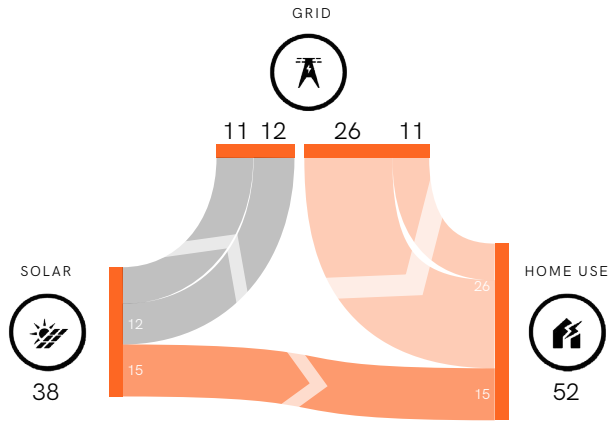
BRAMBLES: BATTERY CONTRIBUTION

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



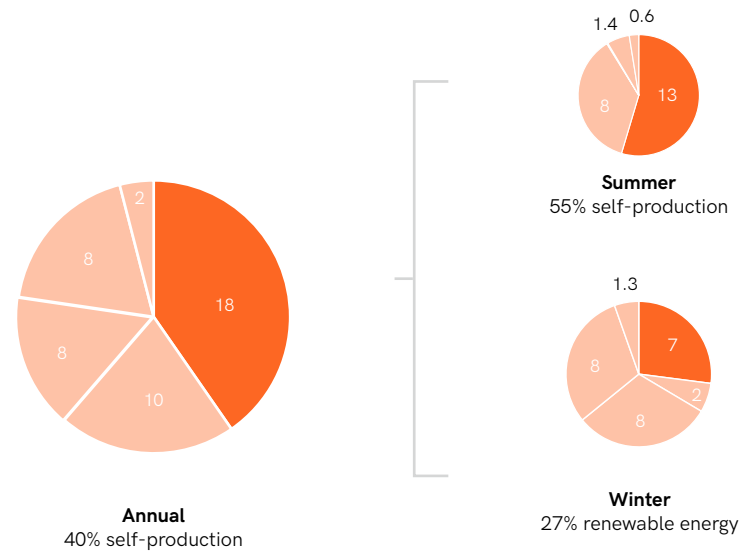
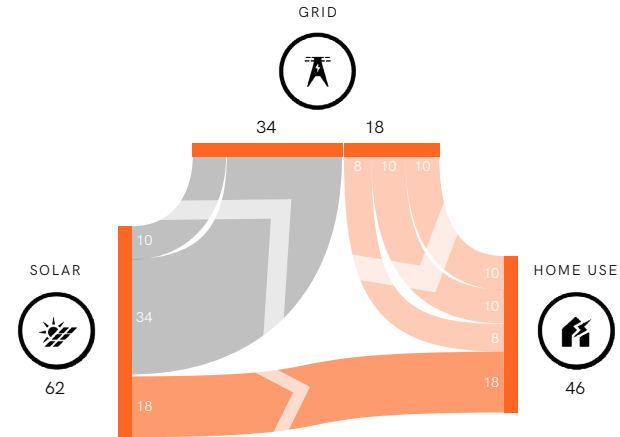
LARK RISE: BATTERY ABSENCE

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



BRAMBLES: BATTERY ABSENCE

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



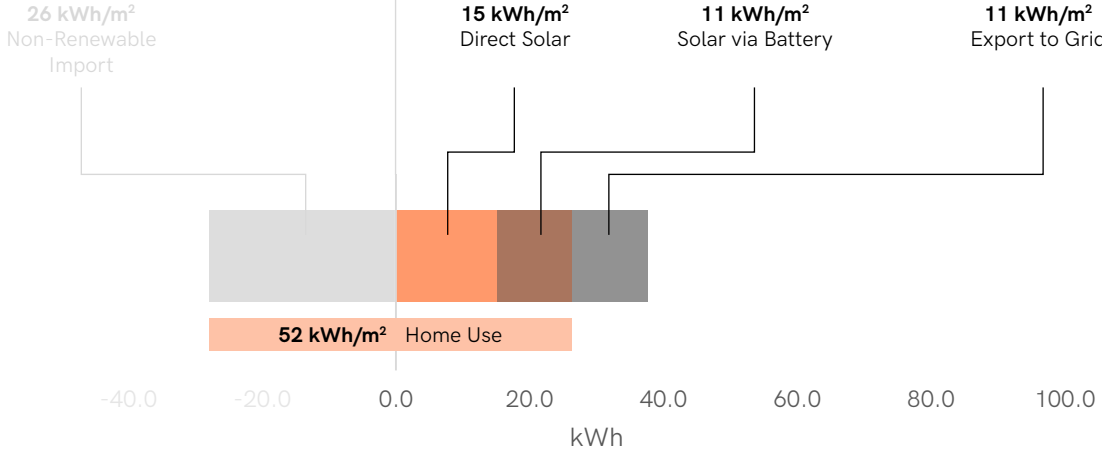
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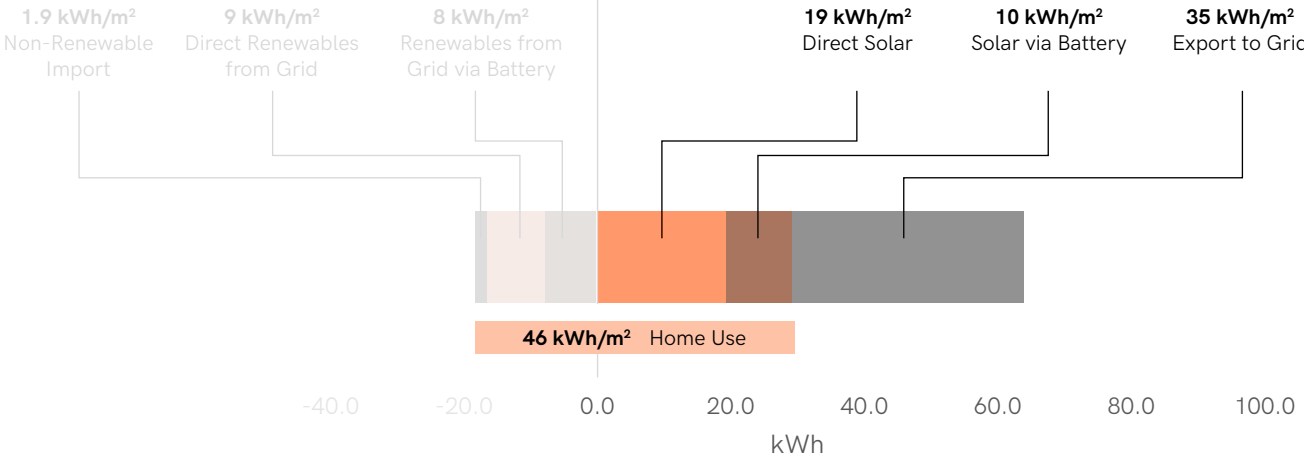
To appraise the **effectiveness of the home battery** that is operational in both homes.

The Tesla Battery augments the solar self-production ratio throughout the year.

LARK RISE



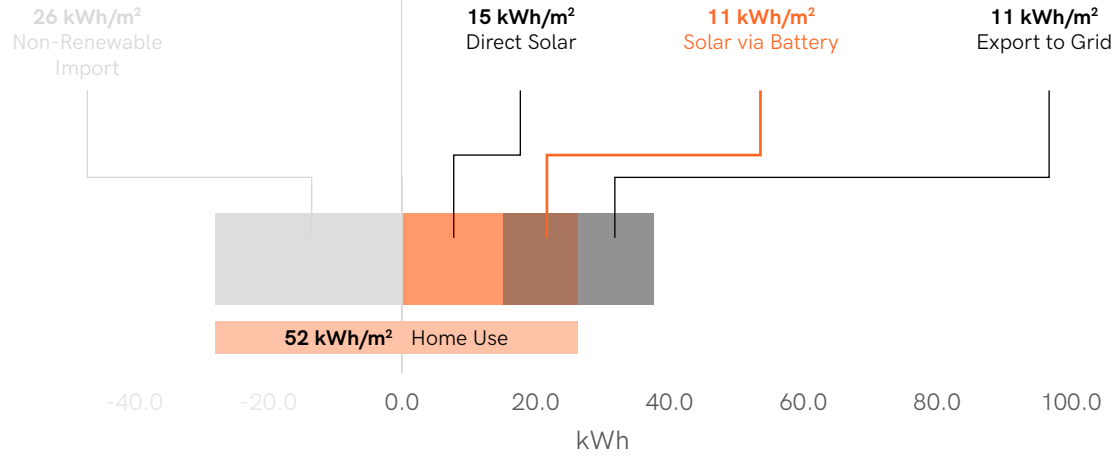
BRAMBLES



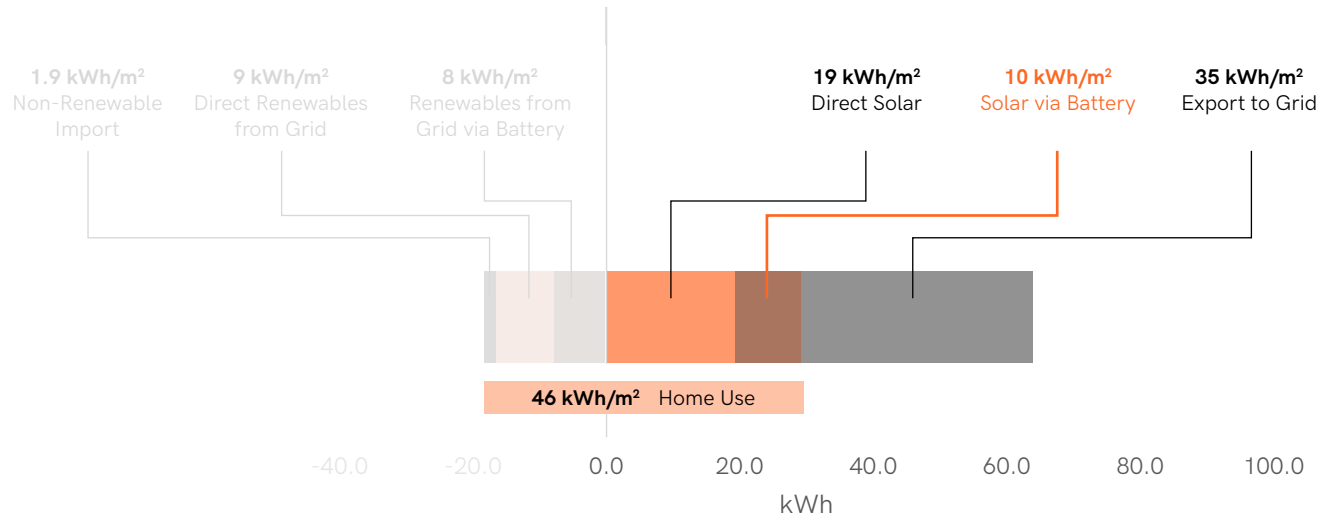
(-) GRID ENERGY

ON-SITE SOLAR ENERGY (+)

LARK RISE



BRAMBLES



(-) GRID ENERGY

ON-SITE SOLAR ENERGY (+)

To understand the **renewable/ non-renewable energy balance** with a view to further optimisation of energy decarbonisation in future projects.

To consider the **effect of the Tesla-Octopus Smart Tariff** as a advocate for off-site renewables.

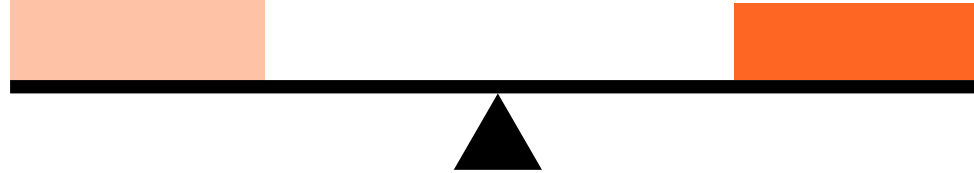
To compare **energy consumption and PV generation in relation to seasons**.

Renewables vs. Non-Renewables

Net-Zero Energy

(-) ENERGY USE

RENEWABLE ENERGY (+)
GENERATED ON-SITE

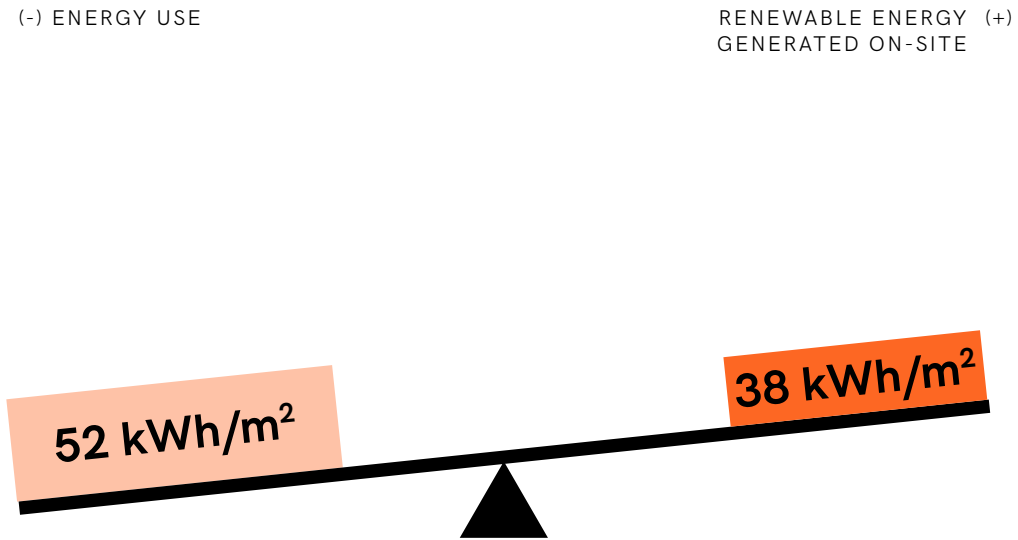


■ Total energy used including unregulated

■ Total renewable energy generated on-site

Lark Rise

Net-Negative



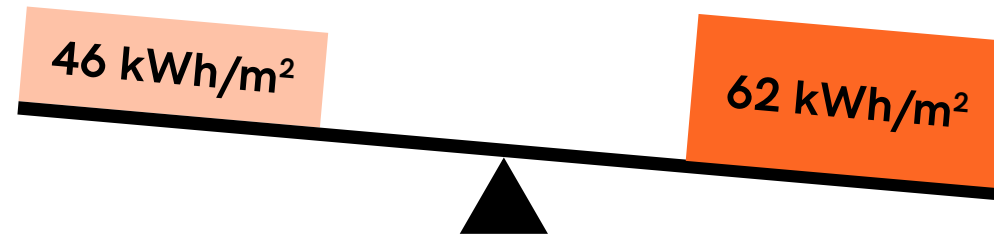
- Total energy used including unregulated
- Total renewable energy generated on-site

Brambles

Net-Positive

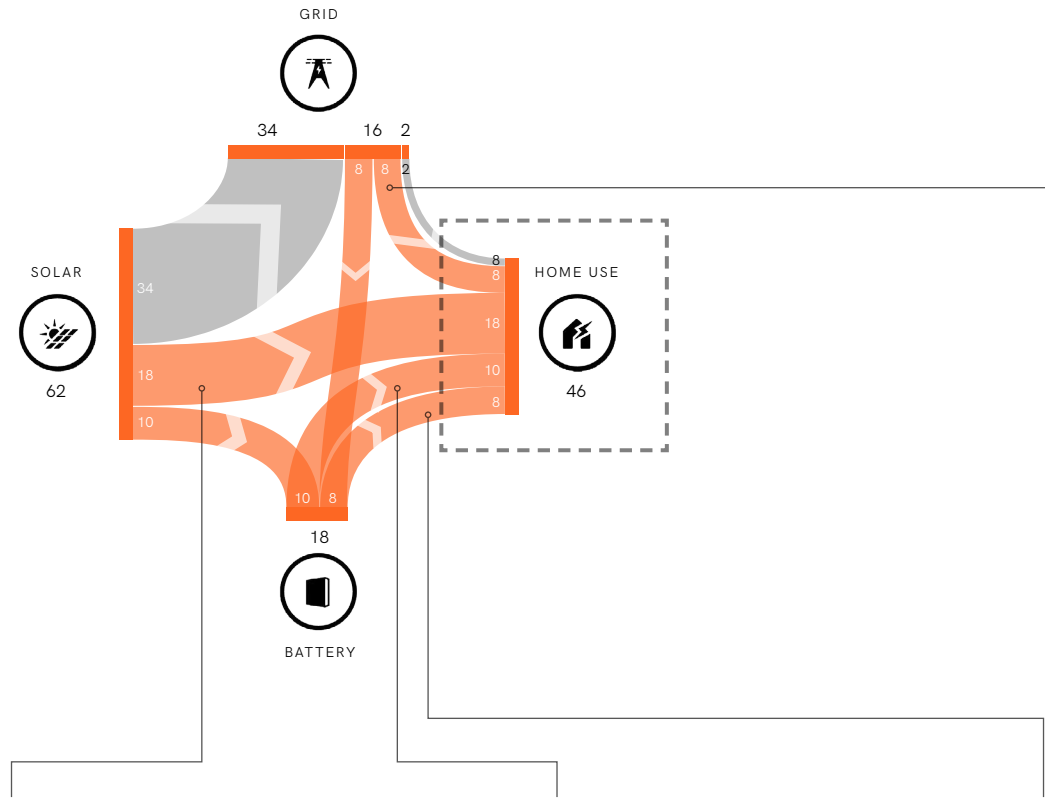
(-) ENERGY USE

RENEWABLE ENERGY (+)
GENERATED ON-SITE



■ Total energy used including unregulated

■ Total renewable energy generated on-site

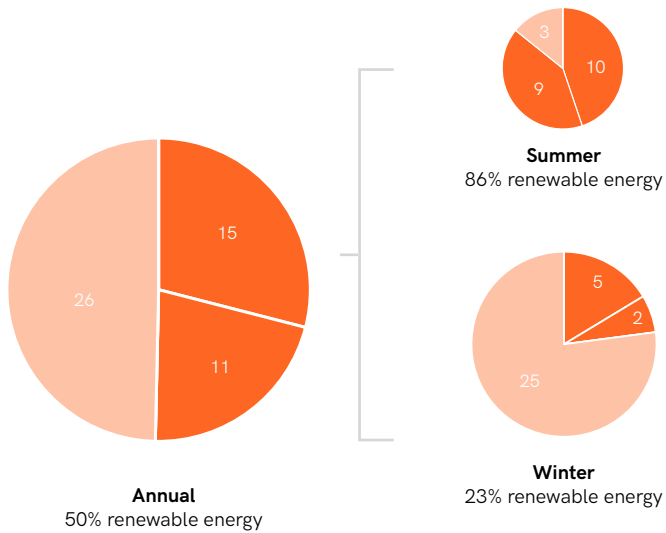
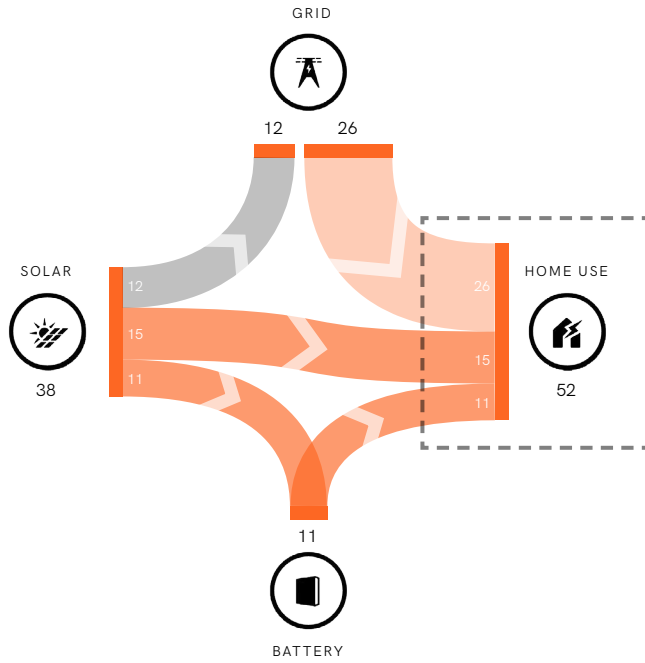


$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Ratio of Renewable Energy Used} = & \text{On-site solar energy directly consumed} + \text{On-site solar energy consumed via battery} + \text{Off-site renewables consumed} \\
 & \text{Overall energy demand of house}
 \end{aligned}$$

How much of its energy needs are met renewably?

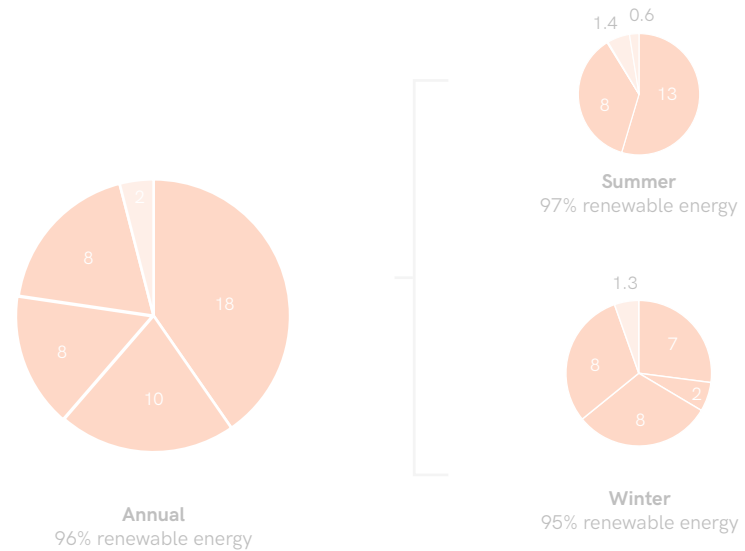
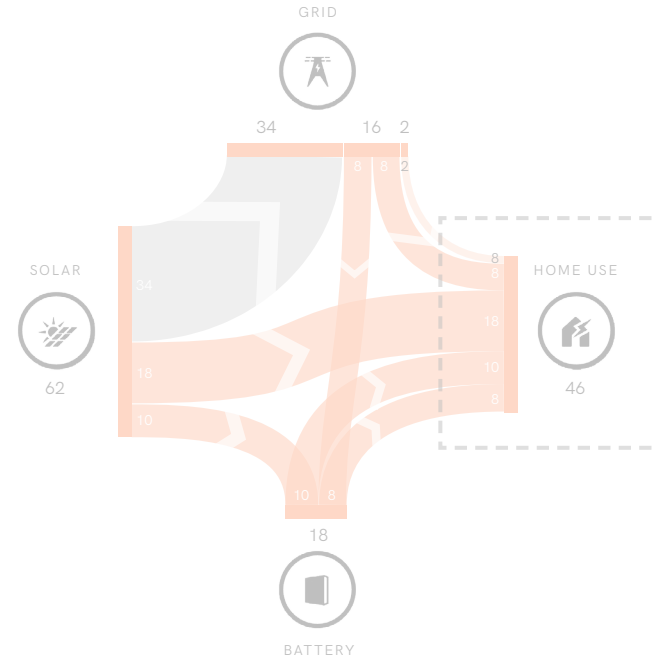
LARK RISE: RENEWABLES

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



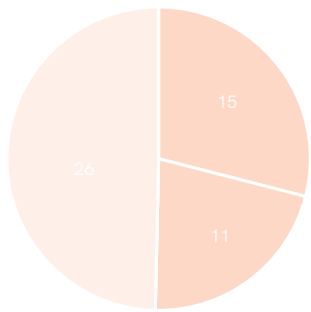
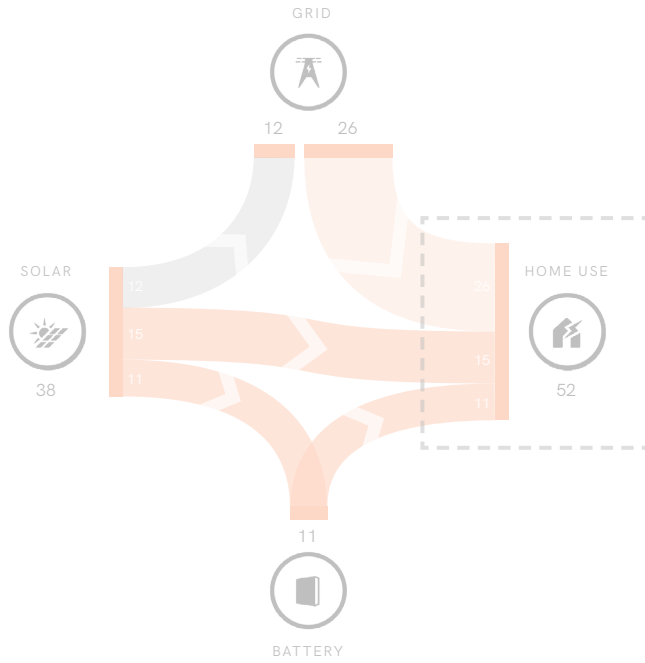
BRAMBLES: RENEWABLES

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020

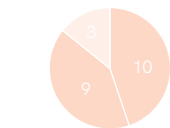


LARK RISE: RENEWABLES

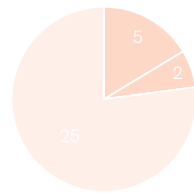
ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



Annual
50% renewable energy



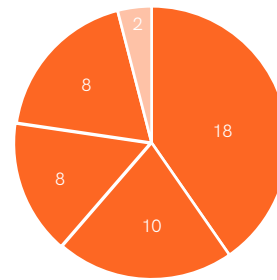
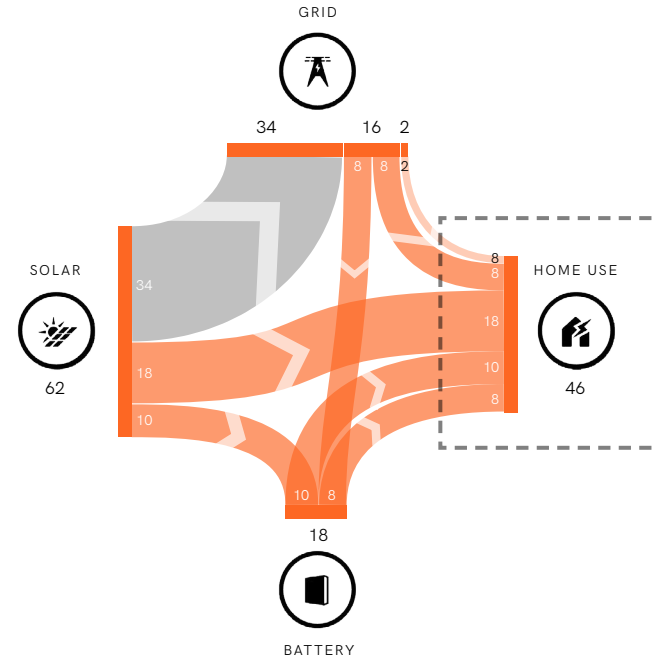
Summer
86% renewable energy



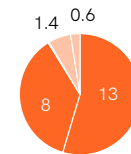
Winter
23% renewable energy

BRAMBLES: RENEWABLES

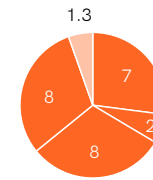
ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



Annual
96% renewable energy



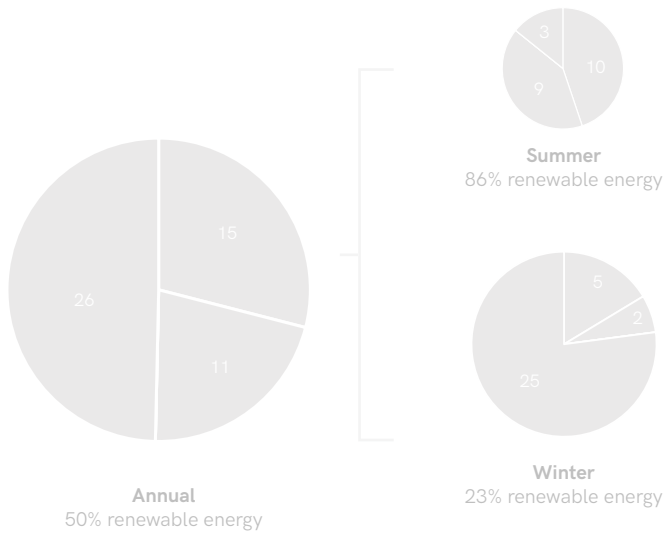
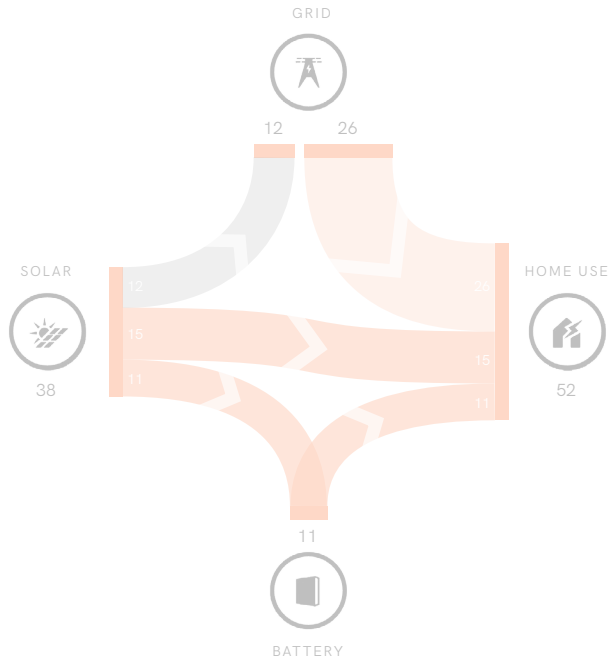
Summer
97% renewable energy



Winter
95% renewable energy

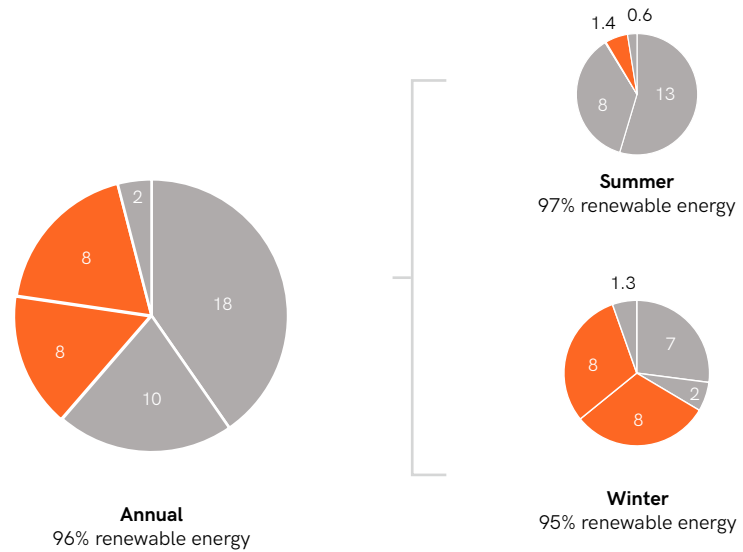
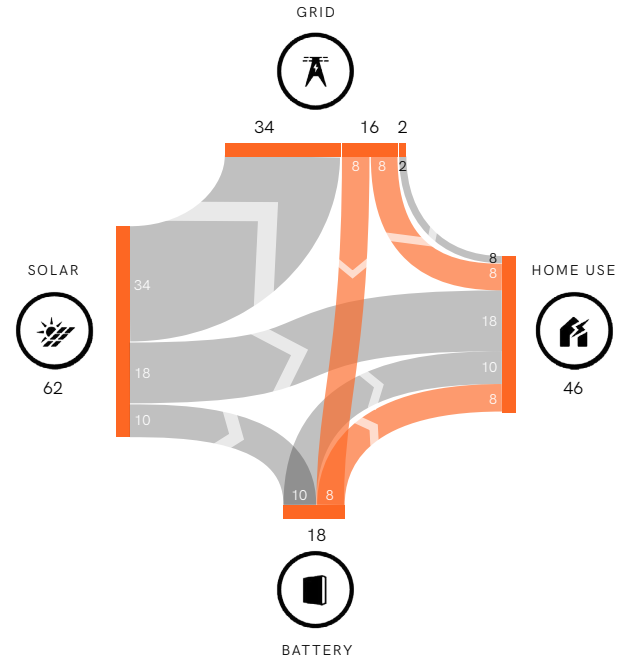
LARK RISE: RENEWABLES

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



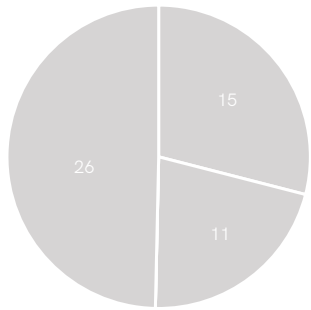
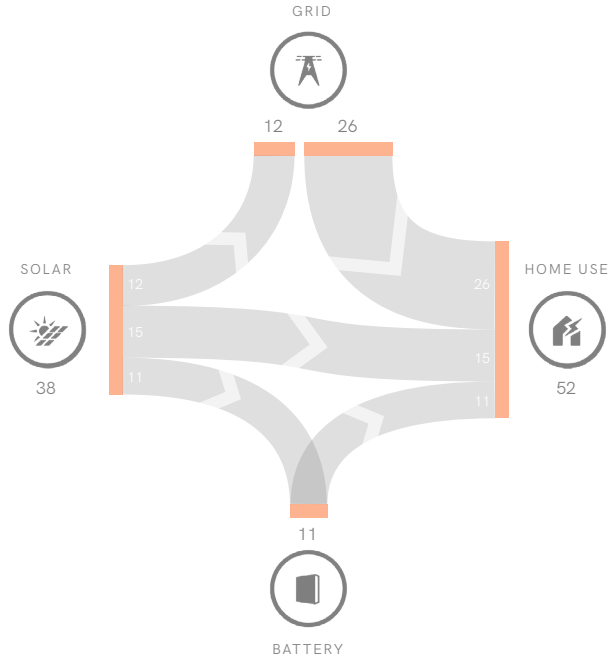
BRAMBLES: OFF-SITE RENEWABLES

ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



LARK RISE: RENEWABLES

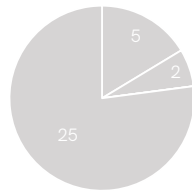
ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



Annual
50% renewable energy



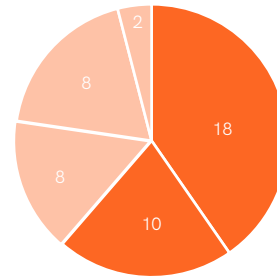
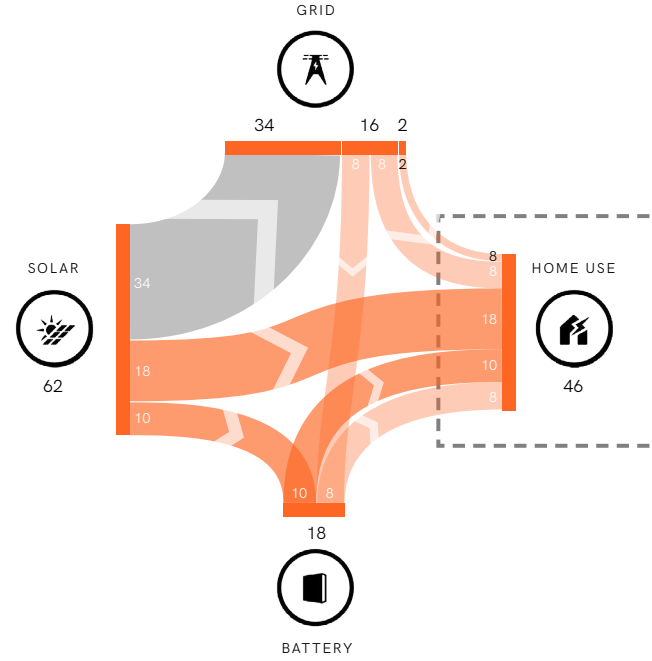
Summer
86% renewable energy



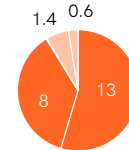
Winter
23% renewable energy

BRAMBLES: NO OFF-SITE RENEWABLES

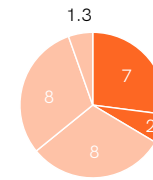
ENERGY FLOWS (kWh/m².a) // MAY 2020 - APRIL 2020



Annual, without smart tariff
61% renewable energy

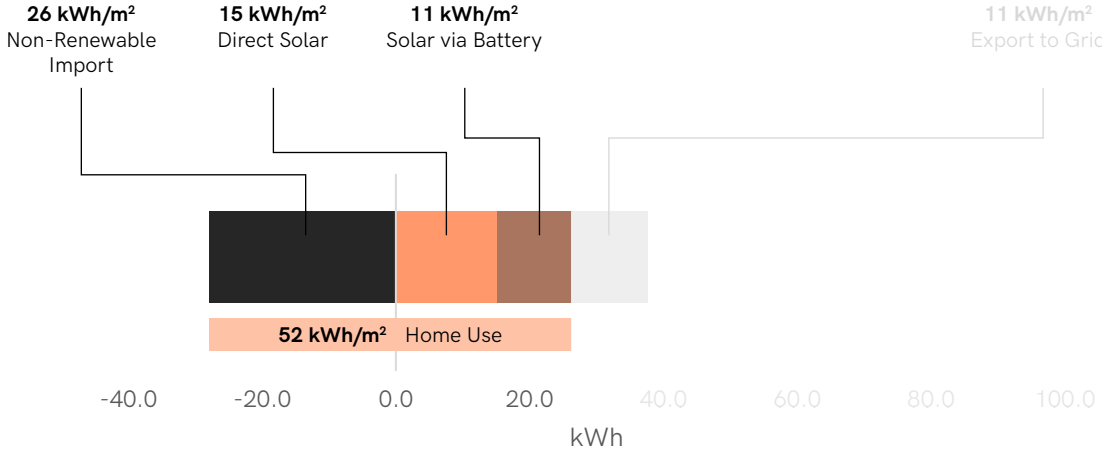


Summer, without smart tariff
91% renewable energy

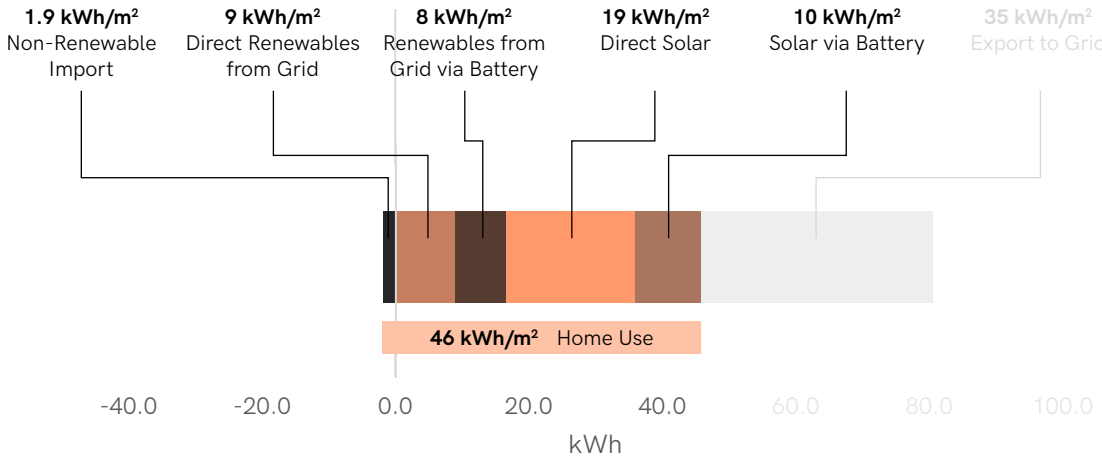


Winter, without smart tariff
34% renewable energy

LARK RISE



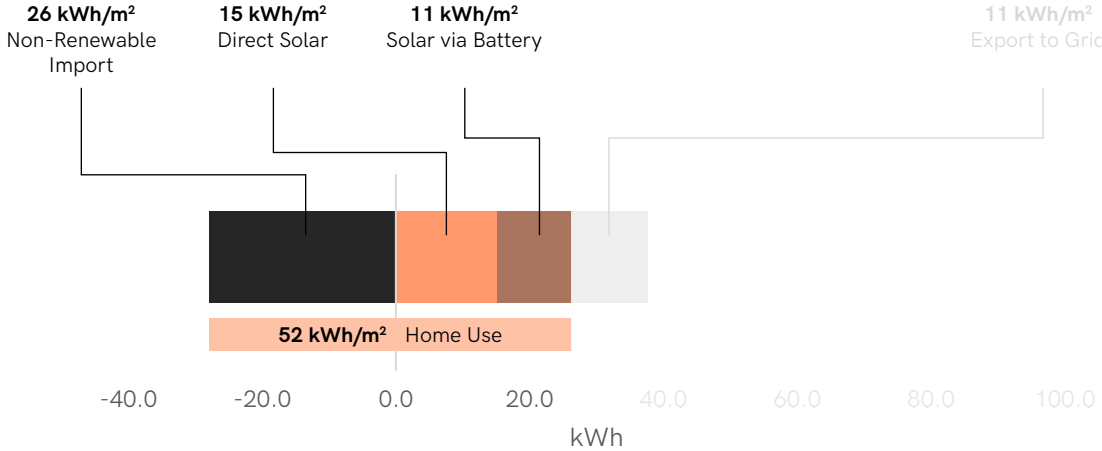
BRAMBLES



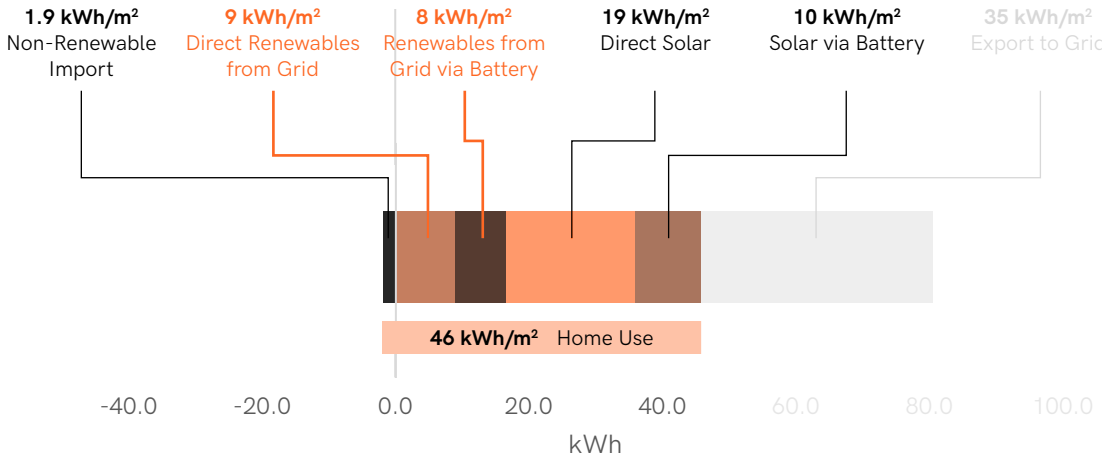
(-) NON-RENEWABLE

RENEWABLE (+)

LARK RISE



BRAMBLES



(-) NON-RENEWABLE

RENEWABLE (+)

To understand the **renewable/ non-renewable energy balance** with a view to further optimisation of energy decarbonisation in future projects.

To consider the **effect of the Tesla-Octopus Smart Tariff** as a advocate for off-site renewables.

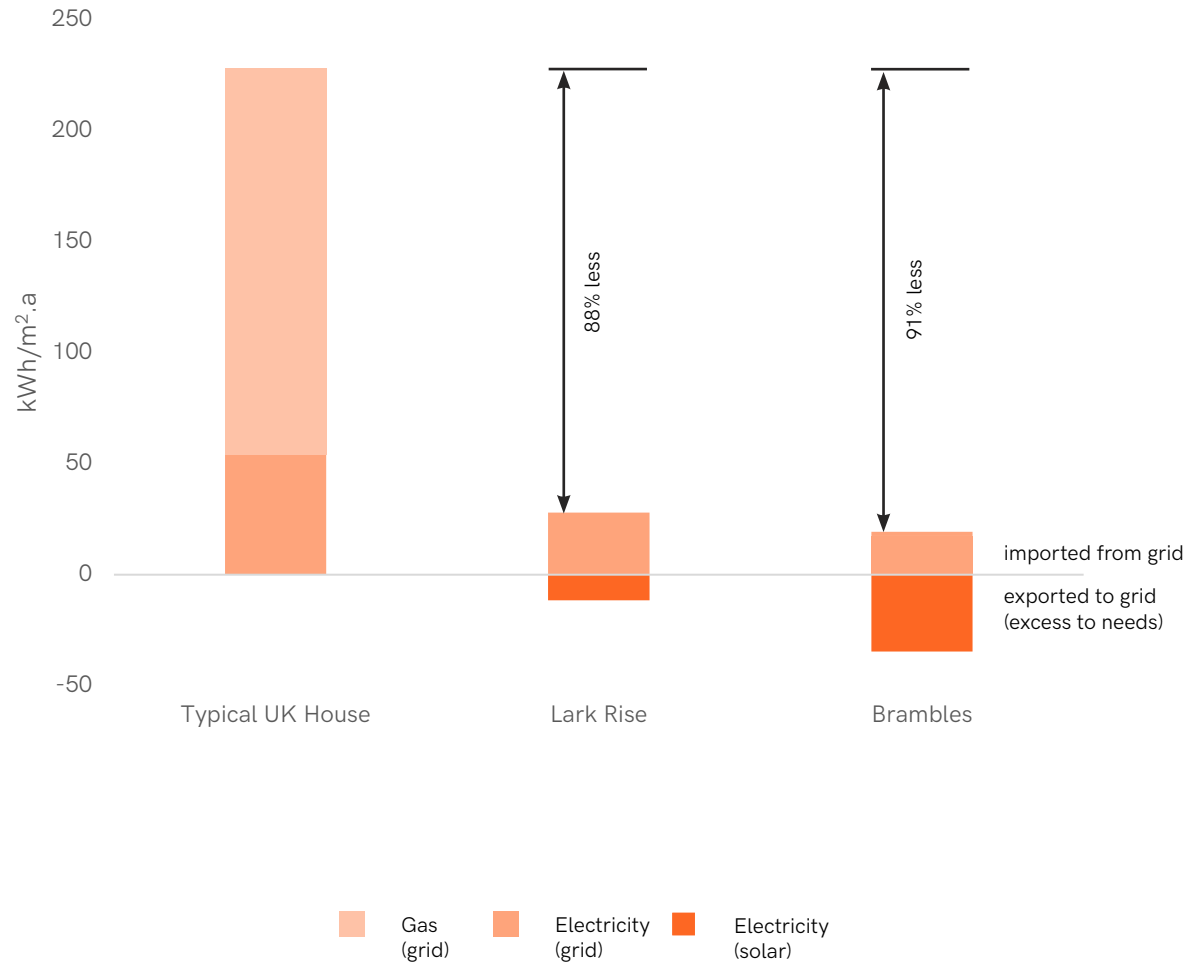
The Tesla-Octopus Smart Tariff enables Brambles to source its energy almost 100% renewably - which is crucial in winter - demonstrating the efficacy of a decarbonised community grid all-year-round.

To **speculate about a future** with similarly performing Passive House Plus homes.

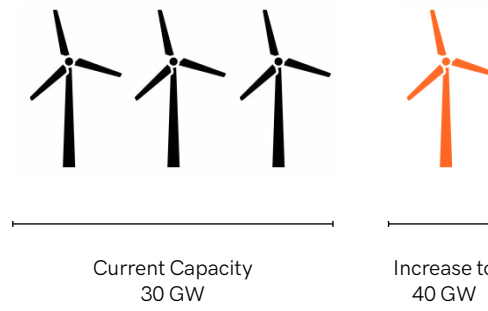
Going Forth

Final Grid Energy Import & Export

Typical UK Home vs Passive House Plus



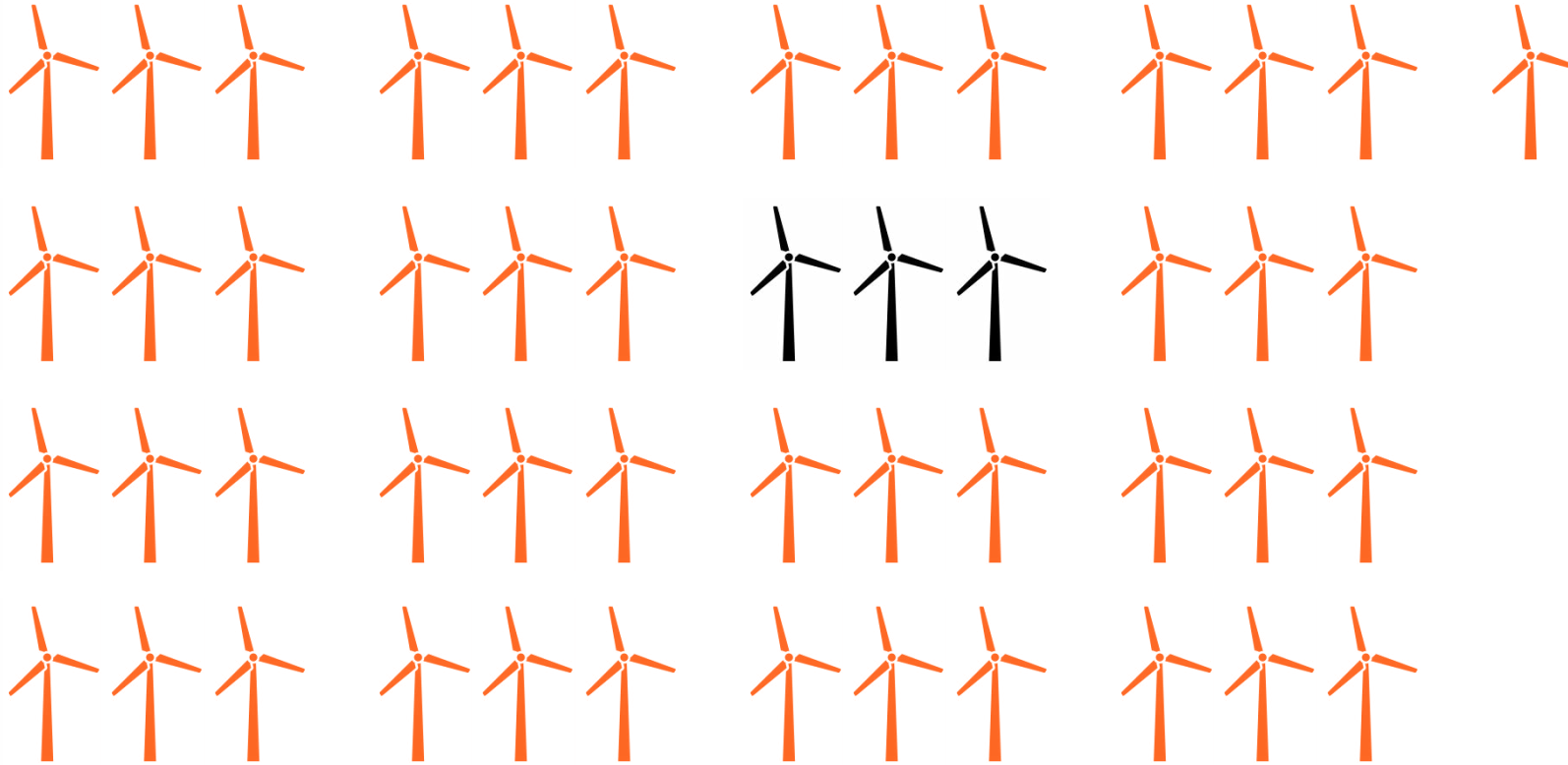
Johnson's Renewables Plan



1.3x

"We believe that, in 10 years' time, **offshore wind will be powering every home in the country**, with our target rising from 30 gigawatts to 40 gigawatts."

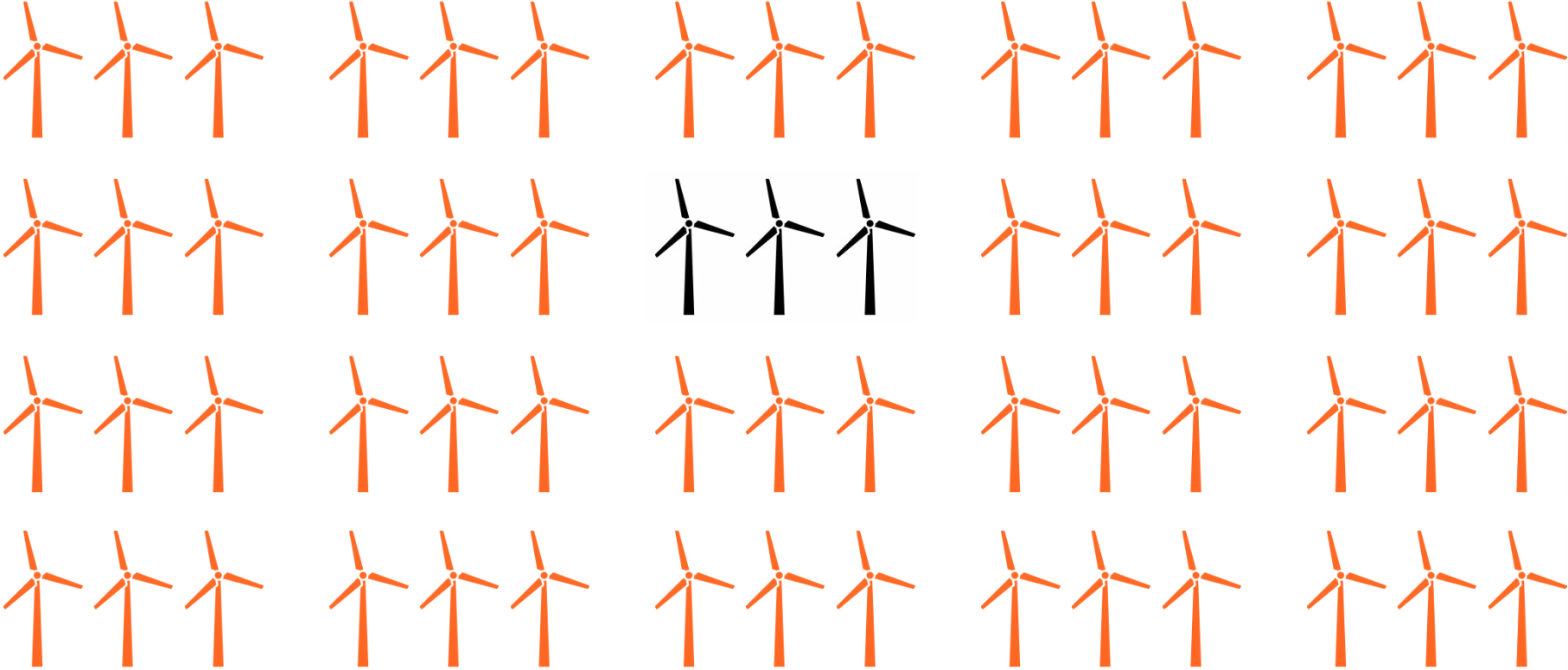
Current Domestic Heating & Electrical Loads Decarbonised



16.4x

increase in current offshore wind generating capacity needed to decarbonise current final electricity demand for ~25 years

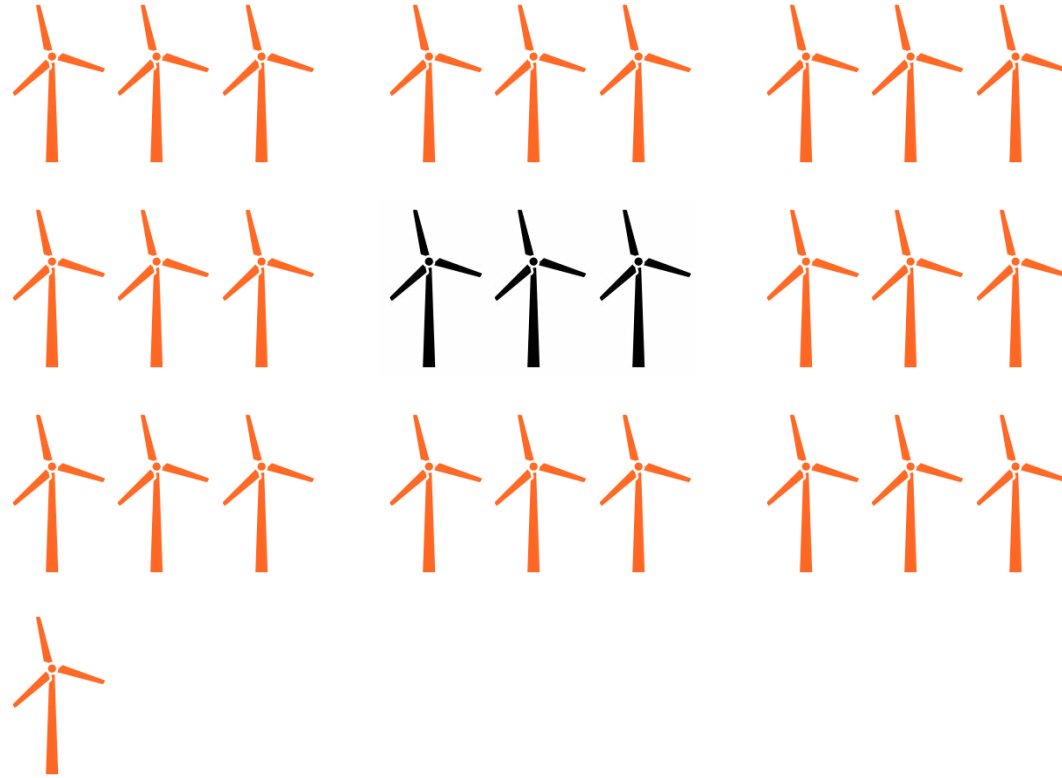
Current Domestic Heating & Electrical Loads, Transport Decarbonised



20.9x

increase in current offshore wind generating capacity needed to decarbonise current final electricity demand for ~25 years **and to decarbonise transport demand**

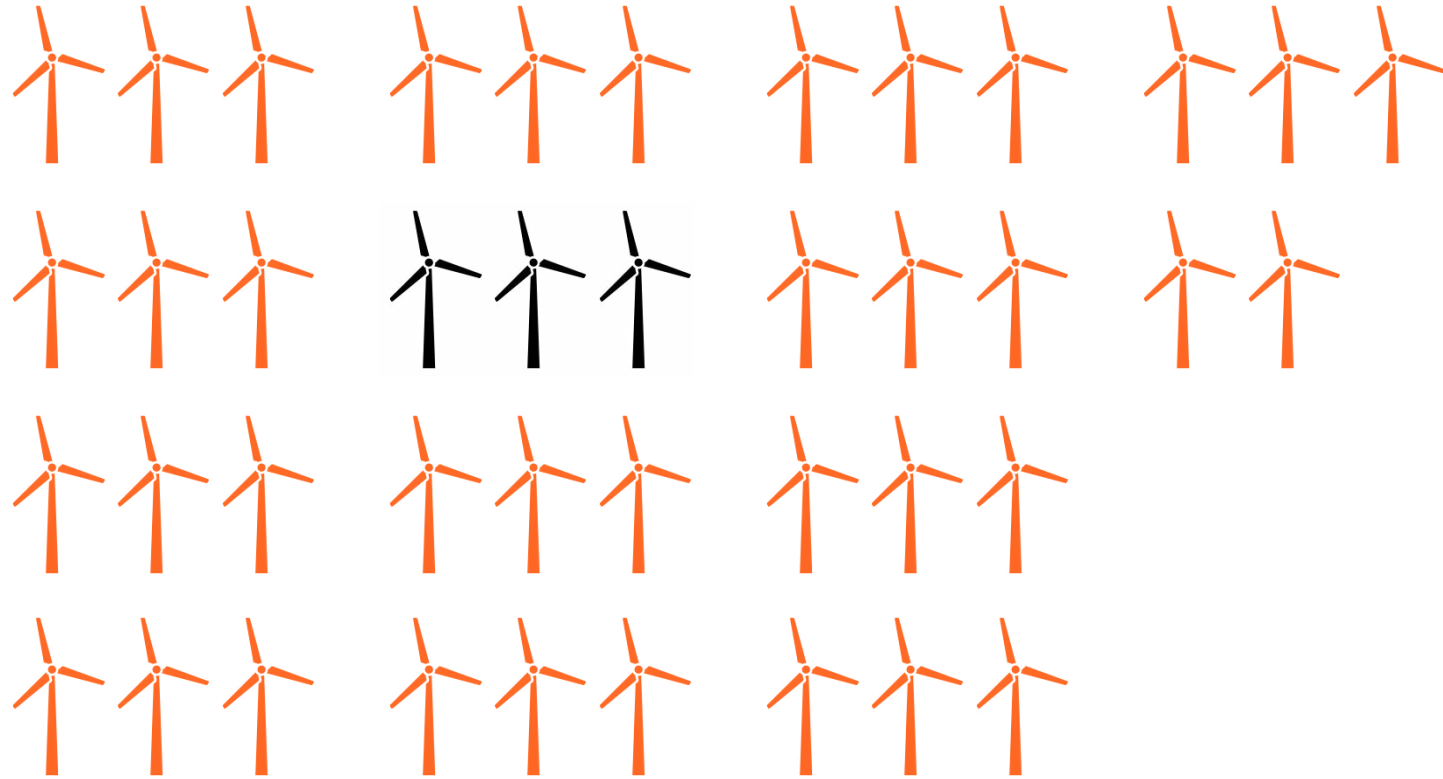
Deep Fabric-First Retrofit of Homes



9.3x

increase in current offshore wind generating capacity needed to decarbonise current final electricity demand for ~25 years **if all homes undergo deep fabric-first retrofit with 80% reduction in heating demand.**

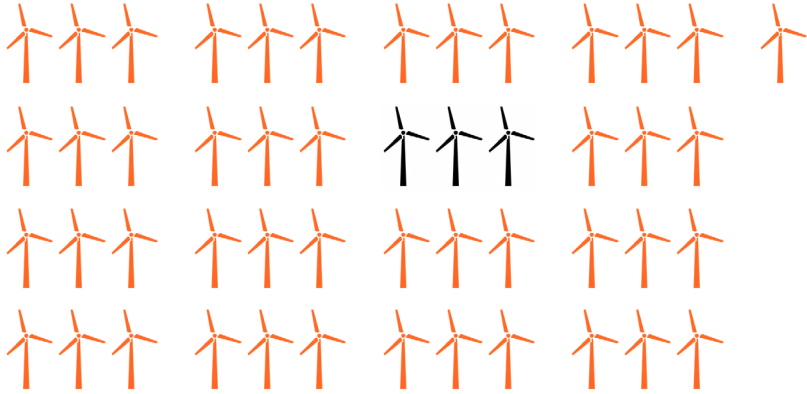
Deep Fabric-First Retrofit, Transport Decarbonised



13.8x

increase in current offshore wind generating capacity needed to decarbonise current final electricity demand for ~25 years **and to decarbonise transport demand**

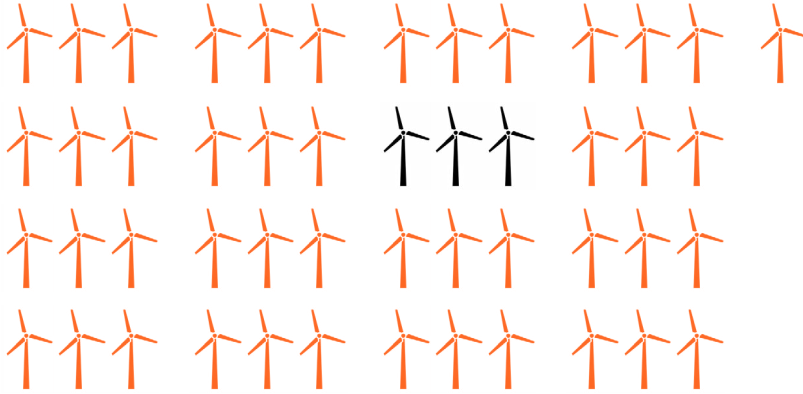
Current Patterns of Domestic Heating
& Electrical Loads



16.4x

Doing more...

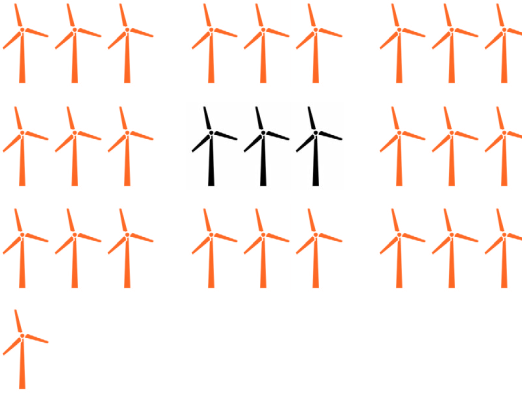
Current Patterns of Domestic Heating & Electrical Loads



16.4x

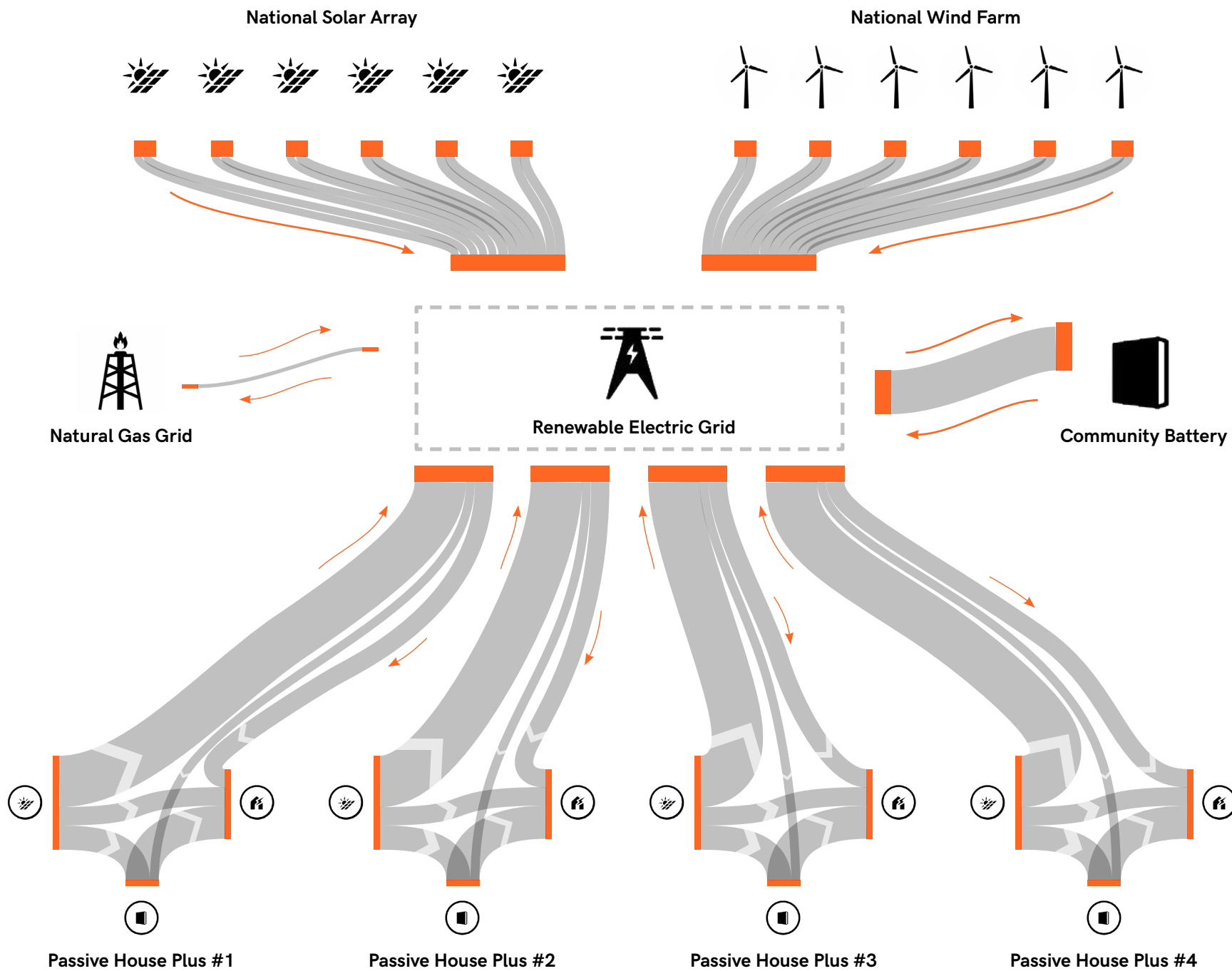
Doing more...

Deep Fabric-First Retrofit



9.3x

...with less



Thank You

bere:architects

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