

**Operation and market mechanisms: from dynamic electricity tariffs to day-ahead and intraday auctions**

Christian Winzer (ZHAW) & Thomas Hübner (ETH Zürich)



**ETH** zürich



Empa



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# Dynamische Tarife



Building Competence. Crossing Borders.

Christian Winzer  
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# Einleitung: Hintergrundarbeiten

## – Projekte:

- NETFLEX (2019-22): mit ENIWA zu Netztarife für flexible Lasten
- PATHFNDR (2021-27): zu approaches for linking markets
- PEDALO (2022-26): mit Primeo zu Zahlungsbereitschaft für Senkung der Raumtemperatur
- NEDELA (2023-27): mit Groupe-E zu „Netztarifen für dezentrale Laststeuerung“ (NEDELA)
- ESIT (2023-27) mit Swissspower zu „Entlastung Stromnetz durch Intelligente Tarife“



## – Workshops:

- Forum Energiespeicher Schweiz (2021-11)
- VSE Netztagung (2021-11)
- Strommarkttreffen (2023-04)
- Florence School of Regulation (2023-06)



# Einleitung: Hintergrundarbeiten

- Die vorliegenden Arbeiten wurden im Rahmend der Projekte NETFLEX, PATHFNR, NEDELA und ESIT mit Unterstützung des Bundesamts für Energie durchgeführt.
- Für Inhalt und Schlussfolgerungen sind ausschliesslich die Autoren verantwortlich.



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Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Bundesamt für Energie**

# Übersicht

1. **Einleitung:** Auf welchen Analysen basieren die Empfehlungen?

2. **Akzeptanz:** Welche Tarife wünschen Kunden?  
=> *Konstante Preise*



3. **Effizienz:** Welche Tarife bewirken netzdienliches Verhalten ?  
=> *Dynamische Preise + automatische Laststeuerung*



4. **Synthese+ Ausblick:** Welche Tarife werden empfohlen?  
=> *ÜNB/VNB: dyn.Preise, EVU/AGG: konstante Preise +DLC*



NB



EVU



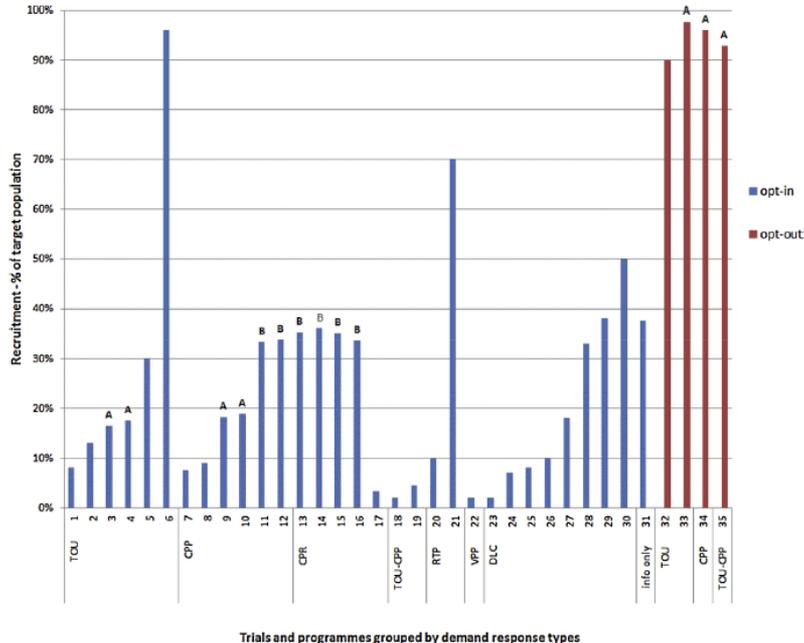
# Kunden wollen konstante Preise

**Table 5**  
Utilities of the analyzed attributes.

Attribute	Specification	Coeff.	S.D.	t	Sig.
Dynamics	Static	0	–	–	–
	Dynamic	–.383	.072	–5.300	< 0.01
	Variable	–.579	.088	–6.547	< 0.01
Rates: price spread	Low	0	–	–	–
	High	–.126	.057	–2.204	< 0.01
Demand response	Manual	0	–	–	–
	Automated	.565	.057	9.900	< 0.01

Abnehmender Nutzen bei  
Verträgen mit zunehmender  
Preisschwankung

# Opt-out Rekrutierung erhöht Teilnahme aber senkt Wirkung



Note: A - SMUD "smart pricing options", B - Green Mountain Power "eEnergy Vermont" - See text for details

Fig. 3. Reported recruitment by type of demand response<sup>5</sup>.

- Hohe Schwankung bei Rekrutierung für denselben Tarifansatz
- Unterschied zwischen Tarifansätzen kaum erkennbar
- Deutlich mehr Rekrutierung über Opt-out als über Opt-in Tarifwahl

Quelle: Parrish, B., Gross, R., & Heptonstall, P. (2019). On demand: Can demand response live up to expectations in managing electricity systems? *Energy Research & Social Science*, 51, 107–118. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2018.11.018>

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NB



EVU



# Automatisierung und höhere Preisspitzen erhöhen Tarifwirkungen

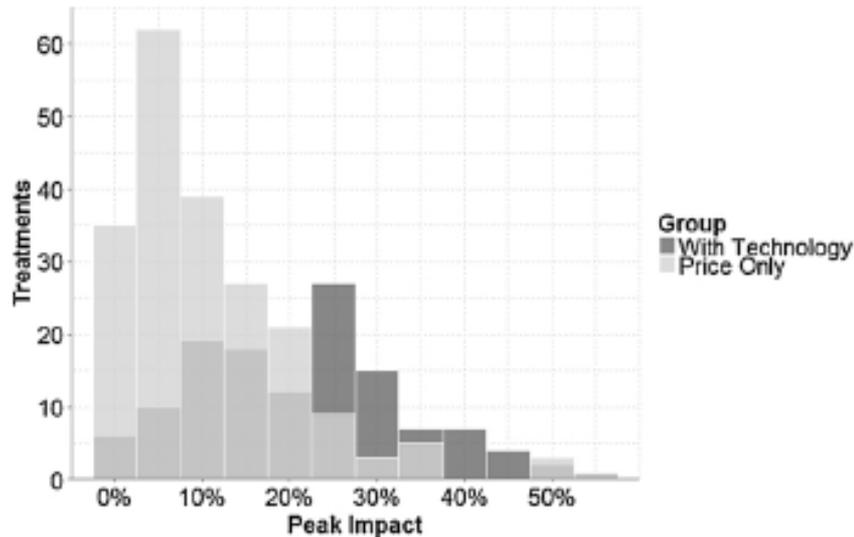


Fig. 8. Comparison of all treatments.

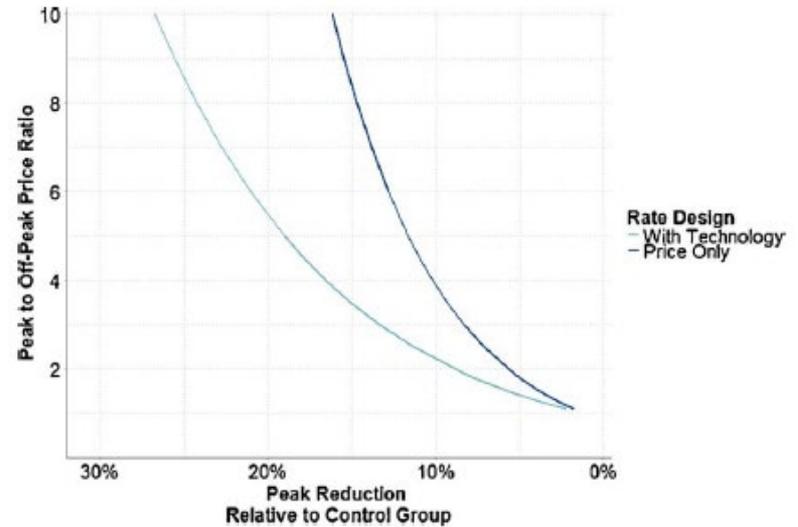
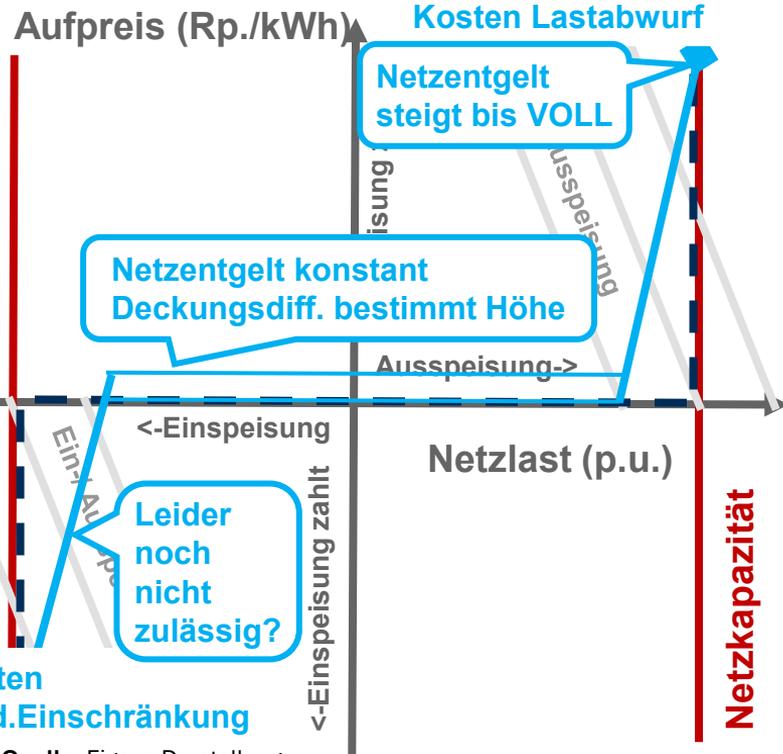


Fig. 14. The arc of price responsiveness.

Quelle: Faruqi, A., Sergici, S., & Warner, C. (2017). Arcturus 2.0: A meta-analysis of time-varying rates for electricity. The Electricity Journal, 30(10), 64–72. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tej.2017.11.003>

# Effiziente Gestaltung und Kalibrierung von dynamischen Tarife



Quelle: Eigene Darstellung.

## First-Best: Nodale Preise:

- Ausserhalb Engpass: kein Aufpreis
- Bei Engpass: marg. Kosten der Lastanpassung

## Second Best: Dynamische Tarife

- Vor Engpass: steigende/fallende Preise für alle Anlagen

## Third Best: Produktionsbeschränkung, Batterietarife...

- Vor Engpass: Anreize nur für Erneuerbare, Batterien...

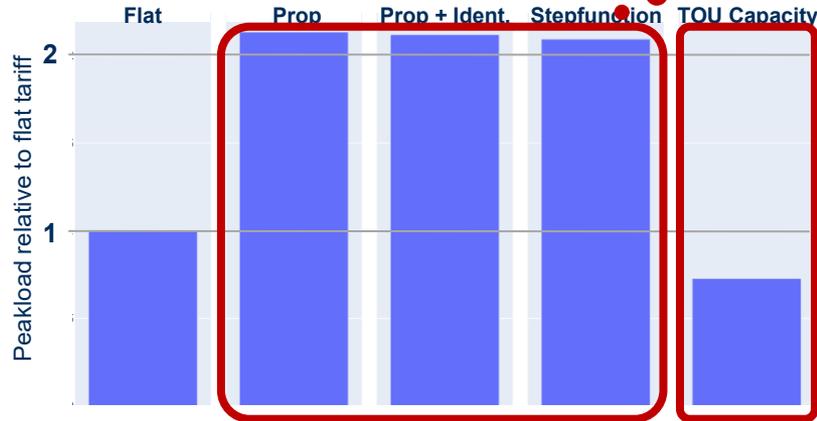
## Literatur:

- Boiteux, Marcel. 1960. "Peak-Load Pricing." *J. of Business* 33 (2): 157–79.
- Chao, Hung-Po, and Stephen Peck. 1996. "A Market Mechanism for Electric Power Transmission." *Journal of Regulatory Economics* 10 (1): 25–59.
- Pérez-Arriaga et al. 1995. "Marginal Pricing of Transmission Services: An Analysis of Cost Recovery." *IEEE Trans. on Power Systems* 10 (1): 546–53.
- Caramanis et al. 2016. "Co-Optimization of Power and Reserves in Dynamic T&D Power Markets." *Proc. of IEEE* 104 (4): 807–36.
- Winzer, Christian, Conceptual Recommendations for Optimal Grid Tariff Design (June 19, 2023). <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4484167> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4484167>

# Ansätze zur Vermeidung von Überkoordination

Können Vorteile dynamischer Arbeits- und Leistungspreise kombiniert werden?

A) Grid peakload



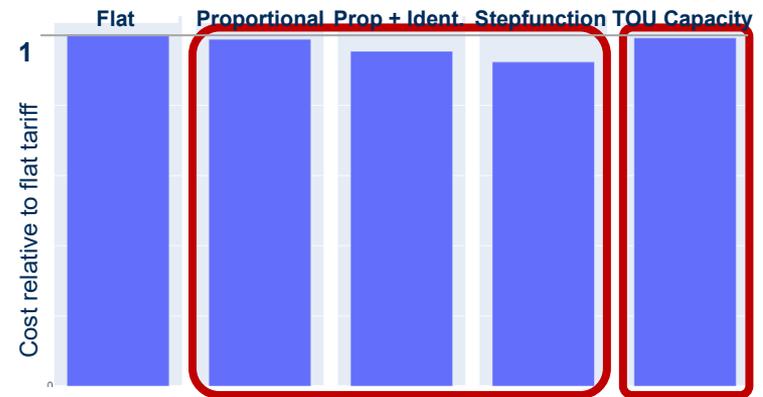
Per-kWh

Per-kWp

Ex-ante kWh Tarife erhöhen Lastspitze

Ex-ante kWp Tarif senkt Lastspitze

B) Energy procurement cost



Per-kWh

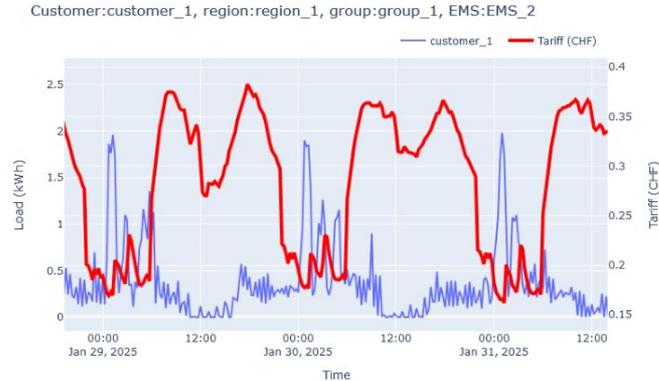
Per-kWp

Stufenfunktion verstärkt Kostensenkung

Ex-ante kWp Tarif verhindert Kostensenkung

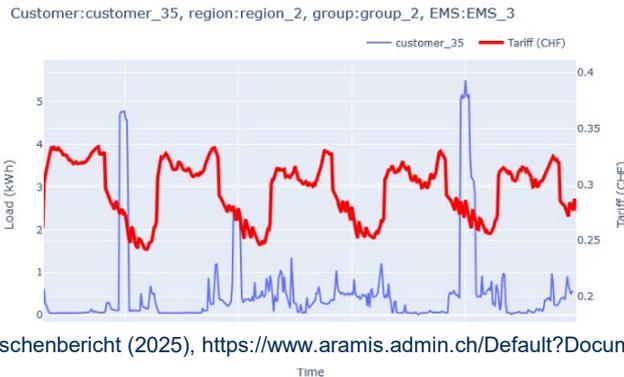
# In der Praxis: reagieren selbst Kunden mit automatisiertem Lastmanagement häufig nicht optimal

good:

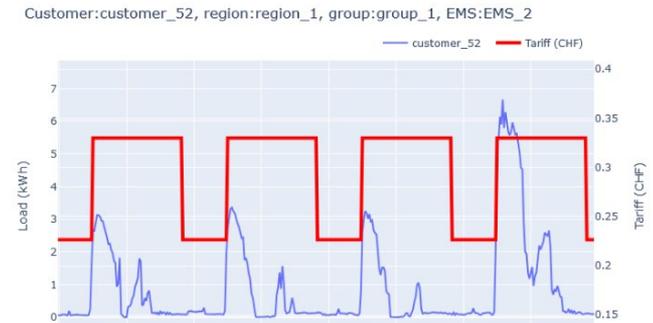


- Im Rahmen der Feldstudie reagierten:
  - 9 Kunden optimal
  - 15 Kunden akzeptabel
  - 32 Kunden nicht, oder widersinnig

bad:



ugly:



Quelle: ESIT Zwischenbericht (2025), <https://www.aramis.admin.ch/Default?DocumentID=73404>

24.02.2026

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VNB



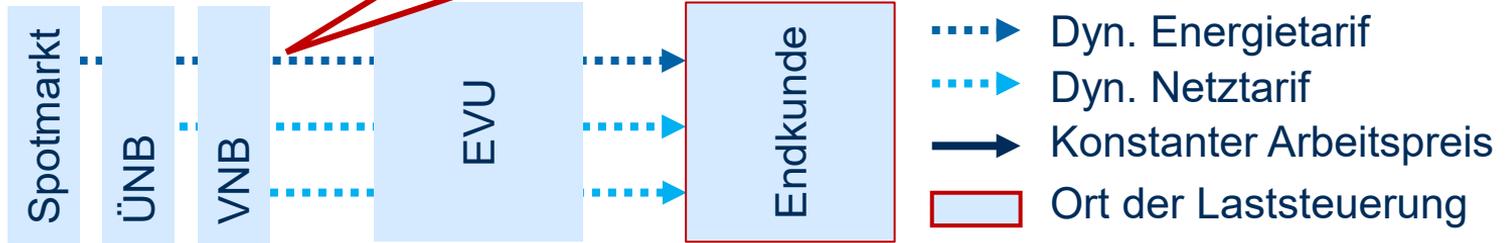
EVU



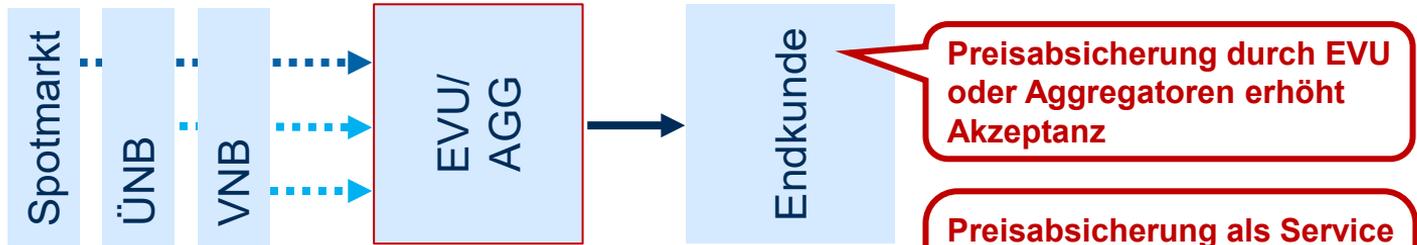
# Synthese & Ausblick

Dyn.Preise wichtig, für optimale  
Priorisierung zwischen Markt und  
versch. Netzebenen

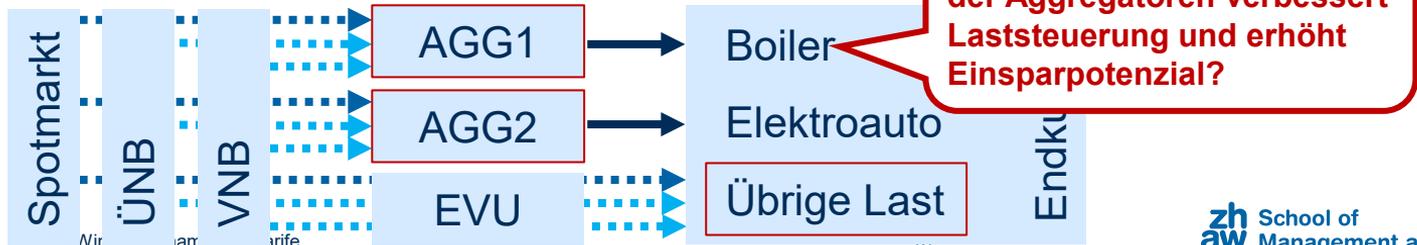
## a) Dynamische Preise/ mehrst. Leistungspreis



## b) Direkte Laststeuerung



## c) Gerätespezifische Verträge



# Profilverträge: könnten Anreize für Laststeuerung auch schon vor Marktöffnung verbessern.. und Kosten flexibler Kunden senken.

- **Voraussetzung: EVUs verrechnen dyn.Tarife +Strompreis (ggf. mit Aufschlag)**
- Aggregatoren bieten Preisabsicherung und Laststeuerung als Service
- Kunden reagieren auf Strompreis und sparen



## Profile contracts for electricity retail customers

Christian Winzer <sup>a</sup>, Héctor Ramírez-Molina <sup>a</sup>, Lion Hirth <sup>b</sup>, Ingmar Schlecht <sup>a</sup>, <sup>b</sup>

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2024.114358>

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### Highlights

- Profile contracts reduce bill volatility to similar levels as fixed price contracts.
- Profile contracts restore flexibility incentives suppressed by fixed price contracts.
- Profile contracts may reduce bill of flexible customers compared to fixed prices.
- Demand for profile contracts expected to increase as load flexibility increases.

**Quelle:** Winzer, C., Ramírez-Molina, H., Hirth, L., & Schlecht, I. (2024). Profile contracts for electricity retail customers. *Energy Policy*, 195, 114358. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2024.114358>

# Weitere Informationen

## Fachtagung Dynamische Tarife

**Wann:** 22. Mai 2026, 10:00 bis 16:00

**Wo:** ZHAW, St.-Georgen-Platz 2,  
8400 Winterthur, [Lageplan](#)

**Anmeldung:** [Link](#)

  
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# Danke für Ihr Interesse!



## **Dr. Christian Winzer**

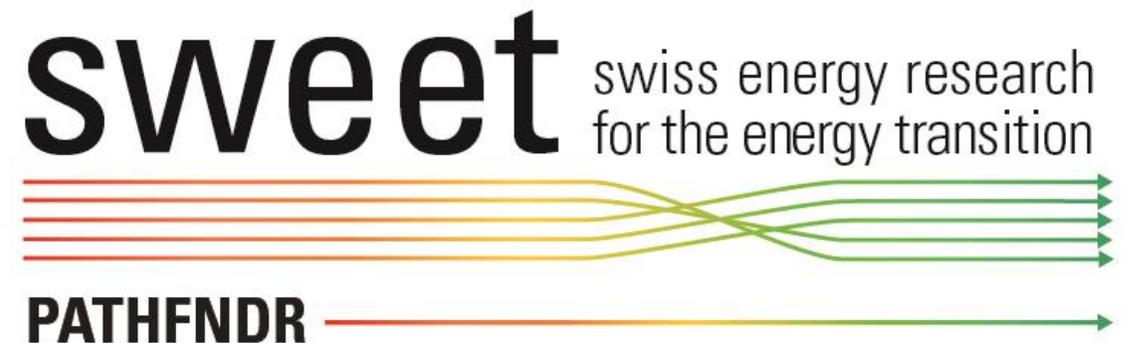
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# Flexibility Provision in Day-Ahead and Intraday Auctions

Thomas Hübner (ETH Zürich)



**ETH** zürich



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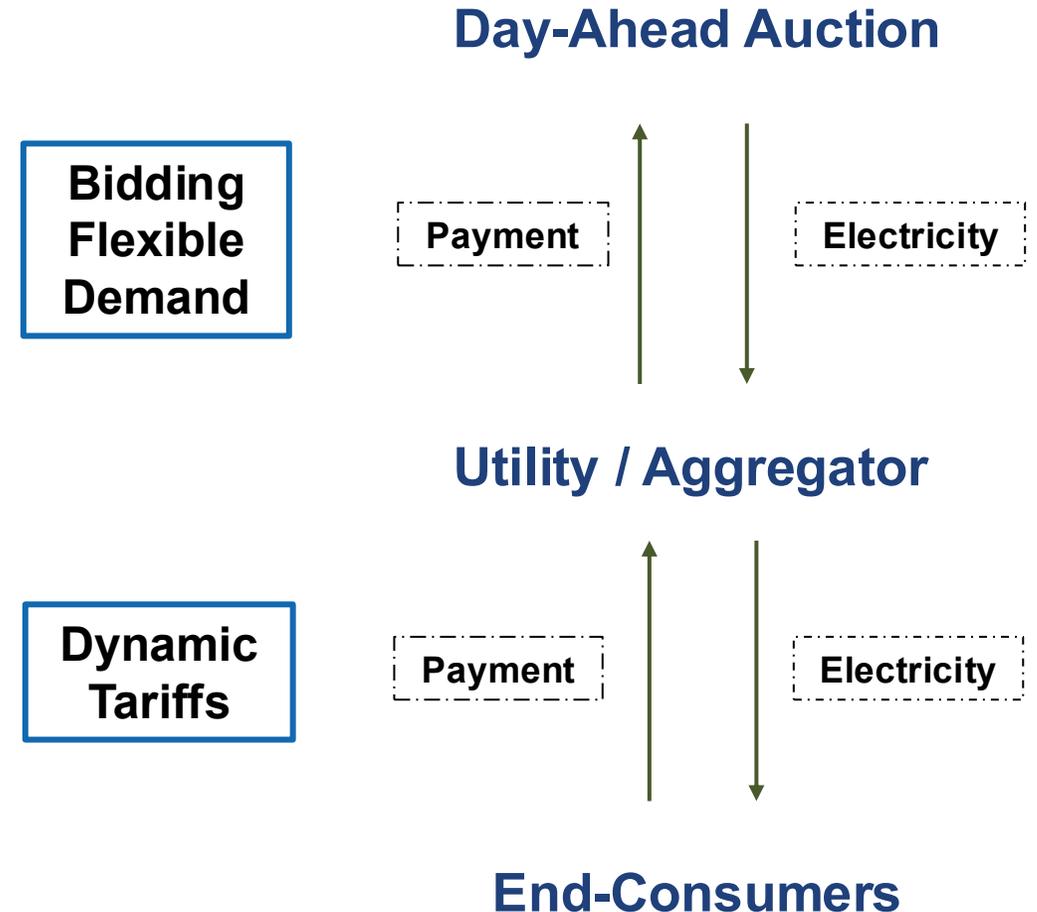
# Lunch talk series V: **Flexibility provision from buildings and electromobility**

1. Impacts of electric vehicles and heat pumps flexibility: European and Swiss perspectives
2. End-user flexibilities for electrical distribution grid planning
3. Modelling flexibility from electric vehicles: where, when, why, and how
4. Modelling flexibility from heat pumps: a bottom-up approach for Swiss buildings
5. Electrification, flexibility or both?
6. Emerging trends in recent Swiss and European policy
7. **Operation and market mechanisms: from dynamic electricity tariffs to day-ahead and intraday auctions**

# Dynamic Tariffs and Auctions: Two Sides of the Same Coin

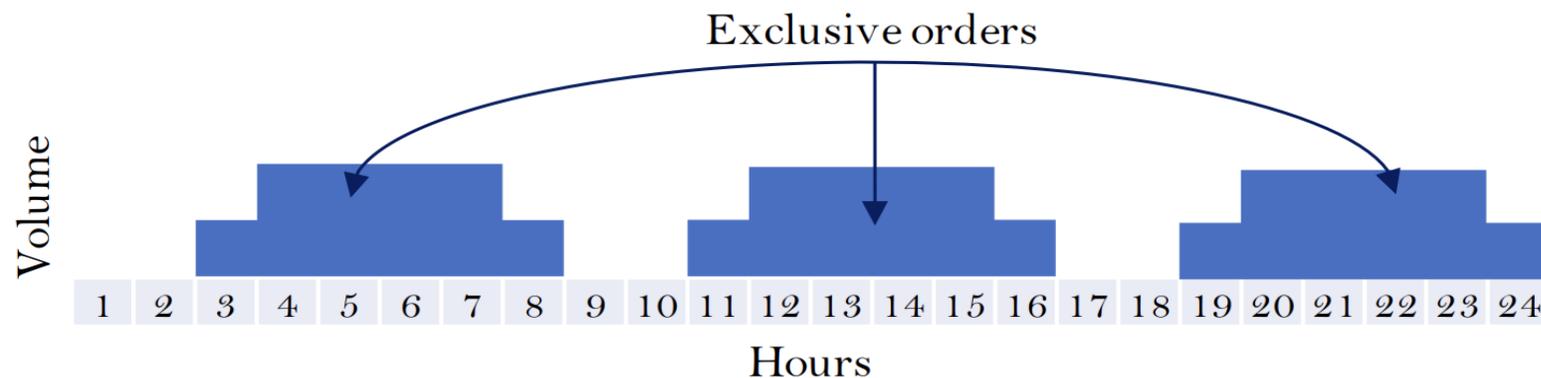
- Dynamic tariff **prices are determined** in the day-ahead auction
- Utilities must bid aggregated flexibility in the day-ahead auction to **avoid losses** when offering dynamic tariffs

***“If consumers buy at low prices, the utility must also buy at low prices.”***



# How to Bid Flexibility?

- **Flexibility bids** offered by EPEX Spot (Swiss Nominated Electricity Market Operator)
- Signal the potential to **shift electricity demand over time**
- **Auction algorithm** matches demand profiles with renewable generation to minimize utilities' procurement costs



Herrero, I., Rodilla, P., & Batlle, C. (2020). *Energies*.

# Demand Side Flexibility in the Day-Ahead Auction: Switzerland compared to Europe

BID DATA OF SUBMITTED EXCLUSIVE GROUPS IN 2024.

Bidding zone	Demand-side EGs	Median buy bids/group	Supply-side EGs	Median sell bids/group
AT	52	1	1	2
BE	448	24	2,483	21
FR	2,259	17	11,260	22
DE/LX	2,101	13	12,589	15
GB	711	8	12,083	24
NL	298	12	5,923	24
CH	19	12	272	20

Switzerland has significantly fewer flexible demand-side bids compared to other countries

# Our Work

- **Decision-Support Tools for Utilities**
  - Fast, simple, and robust algorithms to determine demand-side bids
- **Economic and Mathematical Analysis**
  - Assessment of welfare impacts and mathematical properties of package bids
- **Case Study: Losone, Ticino**
  - Simulation for the town of Losone to demonstrate proof of concept

## Contextual Areas

### Package Bids in Combinatorial Electricity Auctions: Selection, Welfare Losses, and Alternatives

Thomas Hübner,<sup>a,\*</sup> Gabriela Hug<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Power Systems Laboratory, Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, ETH Zürich, 8092 Zurich, Switzerland

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Received: January 30, 2024

Revised: December 11, 2024; April 25, 2025

Accepted: July 8, 2025

Published Online in Articles in Advance:  
August 22, 2025

Area of Review: Energy and Environment

**Abstract.** A key challenge in combinatorial auctions is designing bid formats that accurately capture agents' preferences while remaining computationally feasible. This is especially true for electricity auctions, where complex preferences complicate straightforward solutions. In this context, we examine the XOR package bid, the default choice in combinatorial auctions and adopted in European day-ahead and intraday auctions under the name "exclusive group of block bids." Unlike parametric bid formats often employed in U.S. power auctions,

### Bidding Aggregated Flexibility in European Electricity Auctions

Gabriel Ellemund, Thomas Hübner, Quentin Lété, Stefano Bracco, Matteo Fresia, Gabriela Hug

*Abstract*—Bidding flexibility in day-ahead and intraday auctions would enable decentralized flexible resources, such as electric vehicles and heat pumps, to efficiently align their consumption with the intermittent generation of renewable energy. However, because these resources are individually too small to participate in those auctions directly, an aggregator (e.g., a utility) must act on their behalf. This requires aggregating many decentralized resources, which is a computationally challenging task. In this paper, we propose a computationally efficient and highly accurate method that is readily applicable to European day-ahead and intraday auctions. Distinct from existing methods, we aggregate only economically relevant power profiles, identified through price forecasts. The resulting flexibility is then conveyed to the market operator via exclusive groups of block bids. We

temporal mismatches between supply and demand, supporting RES integration while reducing curtailment and dependence on costly storage solutions [3]. Yet, the flexibility of these small-scale resources remains largely unexploited, as they are typically operated individually and without optimization. To unlock this potential, aggregators must offer the aggregated flexibility of individual resources on the market [4].

For this purpose, the aggregator needs to compute the aggregated flexibility of the individual resources. Mathematically, the flexibility of a single resource can be represented as a set in a multi-dimensional power space, encompassing all feasible operating states of the resource over a given time horizon

ec 2025

# Recommendations

## Swiss Utilities

- Make use of demand-side flexibility bids to reduce procurement costs and shift load
- We offer decision-support tools and a detailed case study to illustrate the approach

## Swiss Nominated Electricity Market Operator (EPEX Spot SE)

- Allow profile bids to include both purchase and sale quantities
- Increase the maximum number of profiles per exclusive group from 24 to 100

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