

# Sizing the impact of BESS on grid emissions

Motivation, methodology, results, and next steps



18 February 2025  
Energy Storage Summit

# BESS carbon emissions – what did we do

## Working group



1

### **Develop** methodology to calculate BESS emissions impact

- Find the right metrics
- Collect necessary data

2

### **Validate** methodology's results

- Use actual inputs
- Finetune methodology

3

### **Standardize** methodology and make it widely accessible

- Make methodology public
- Create online tool

Focus of presentation

Focus of panel

# Pulse motivation – why participate



**Mission**

▶ **Do good:** are we having the desired impact



**ESG**

▶ **Reporting:** LCA to consistently track and update this number



**Investors**

▶ **Requirement:** asked to track our environmental impact



**Industry**

▶ **Credentials:** BESS industry struggles to prove its carbon benefits

# *Developing the methodology*

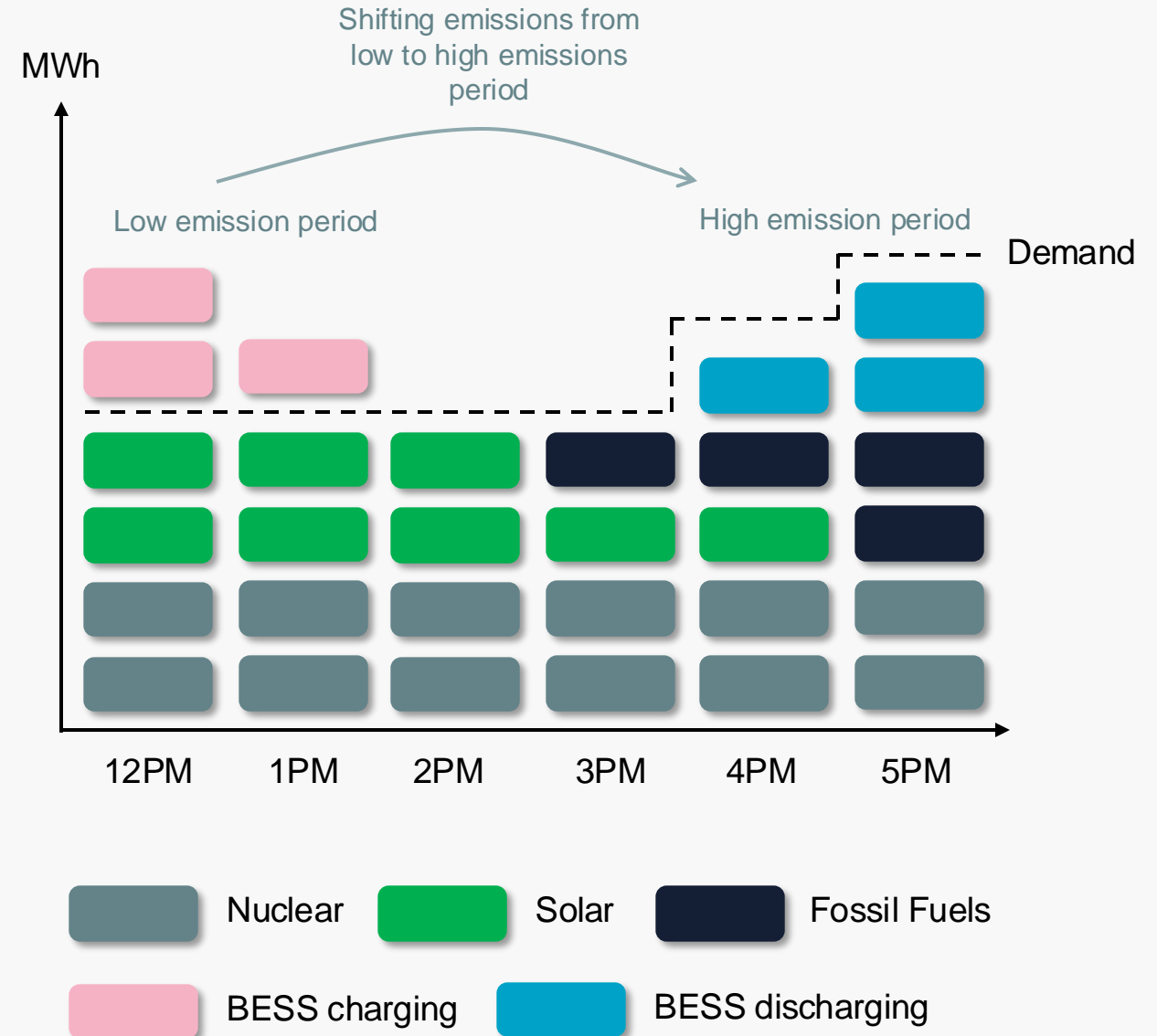
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## How can a battery reduce emissions

### 1) Energy actions

- Batteries follow price signals, shifting energy **from low price periods to high price periods**.
- Low price periods tend to be lower carbon emitting**, high price periods tend to be higher carbon.
- The **marginal unit** in a period responds to the BESS asset charging/discharging.
- The difference in emissions between these marginal units **can cause a net emission or abatement**.

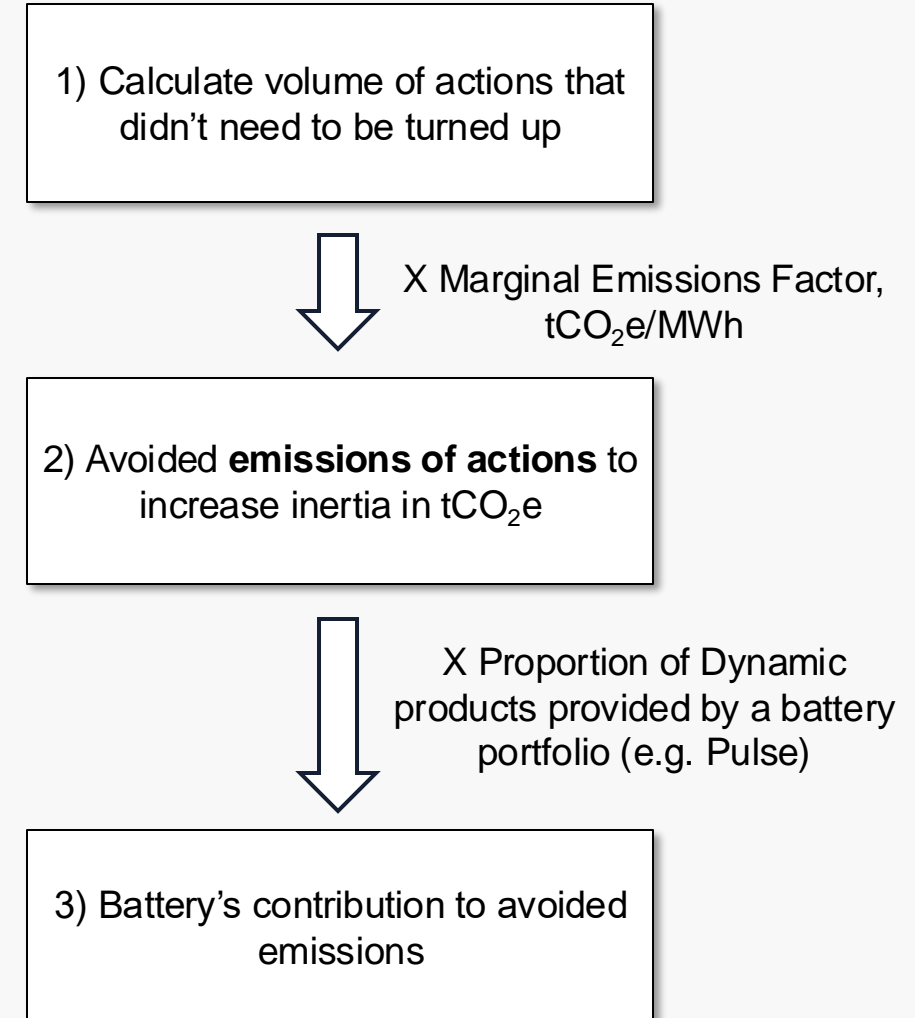


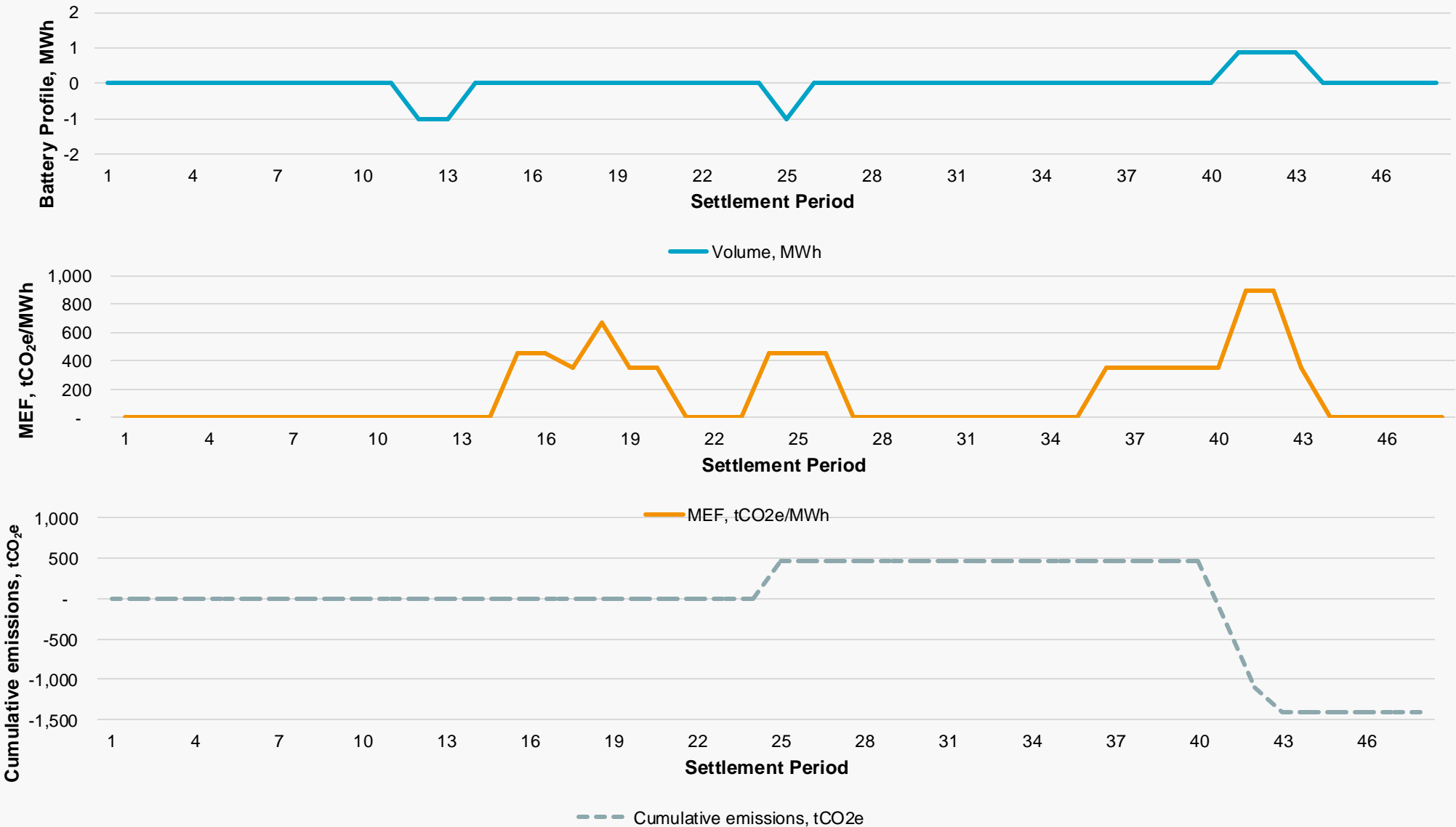
## How can a battery reduce emissions

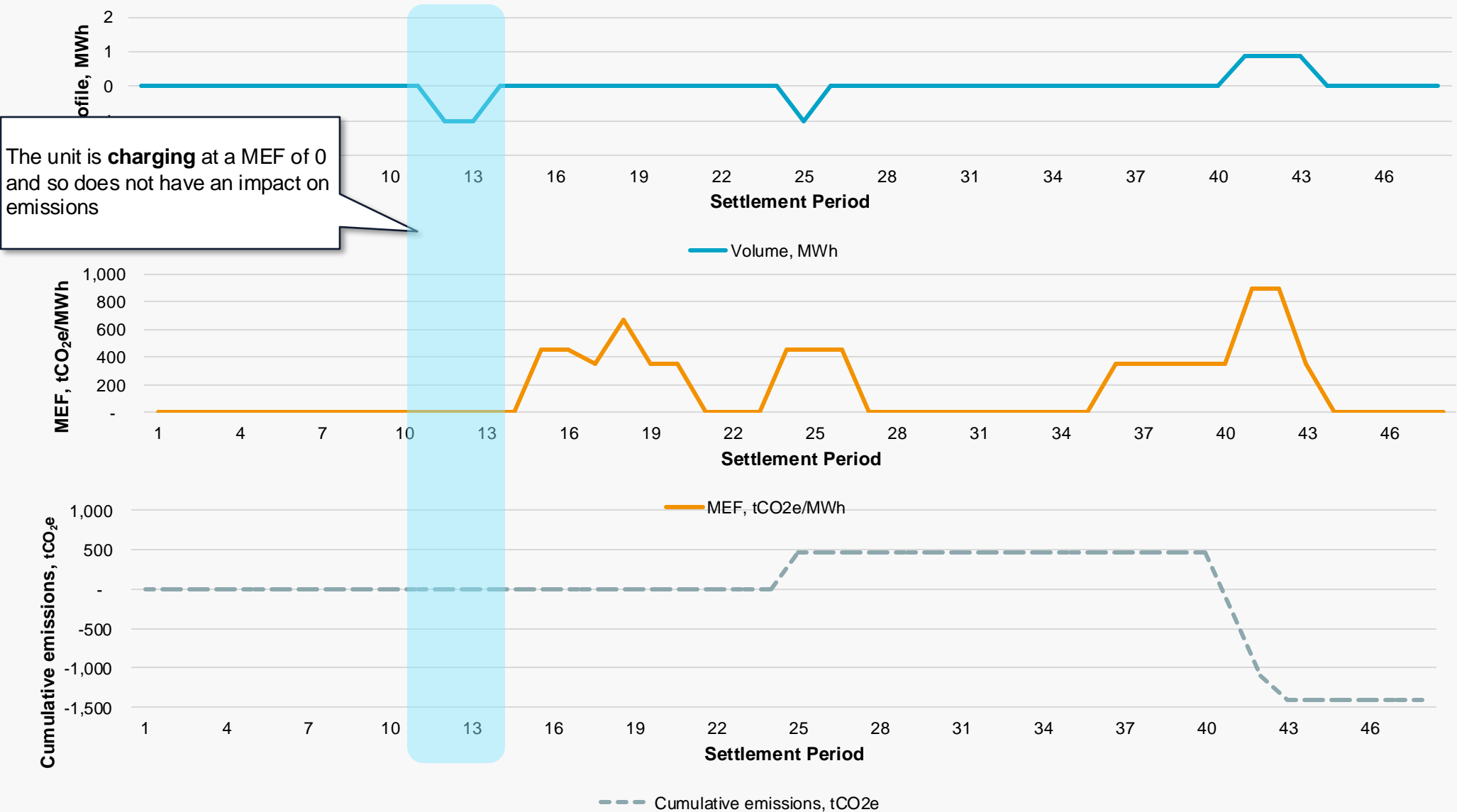
### 1) Energy actions

### 2) System services

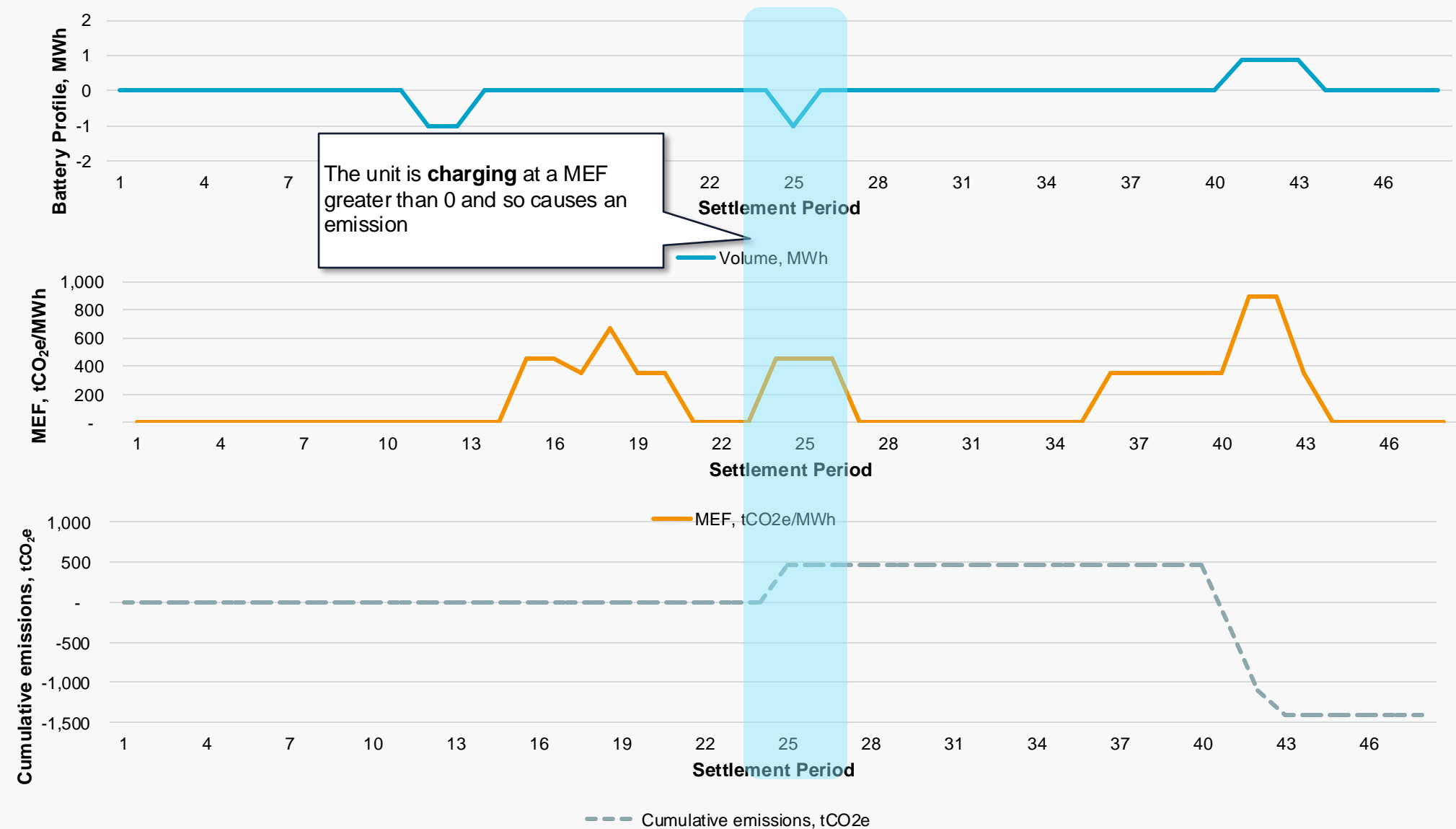
- NESO must procure a certain level of inertia on the system, typically from fossil fuel generators.
- The dynamic suite of flexibility products has reduced the inertia level that NESO must procure.
- This means on some occasions fewer fossil fuel generators need to be turned up, leading to carbon savings, and some of this can be attributed to batteries participating in Dx.
- This will **always be an emission reduction**

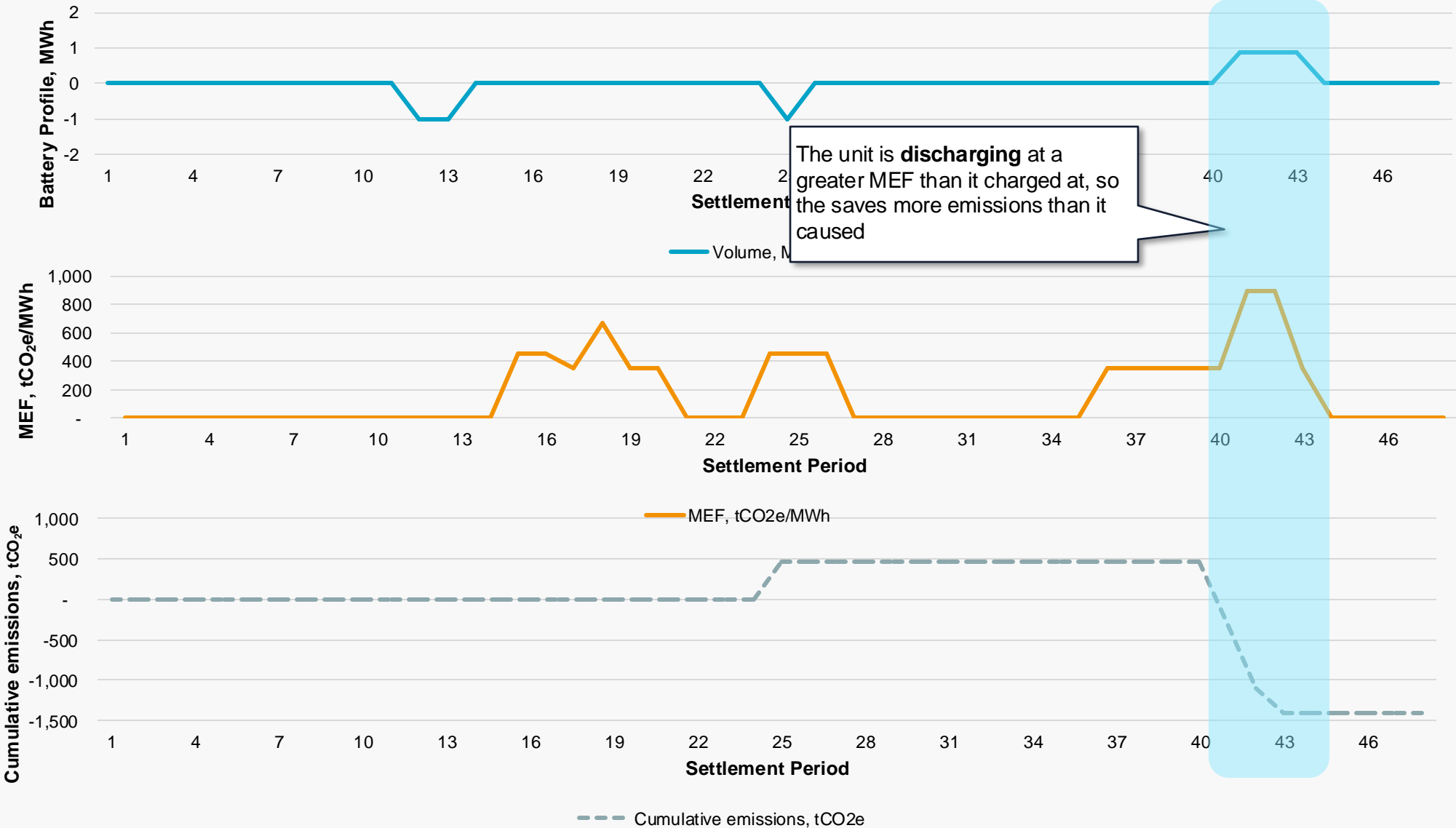




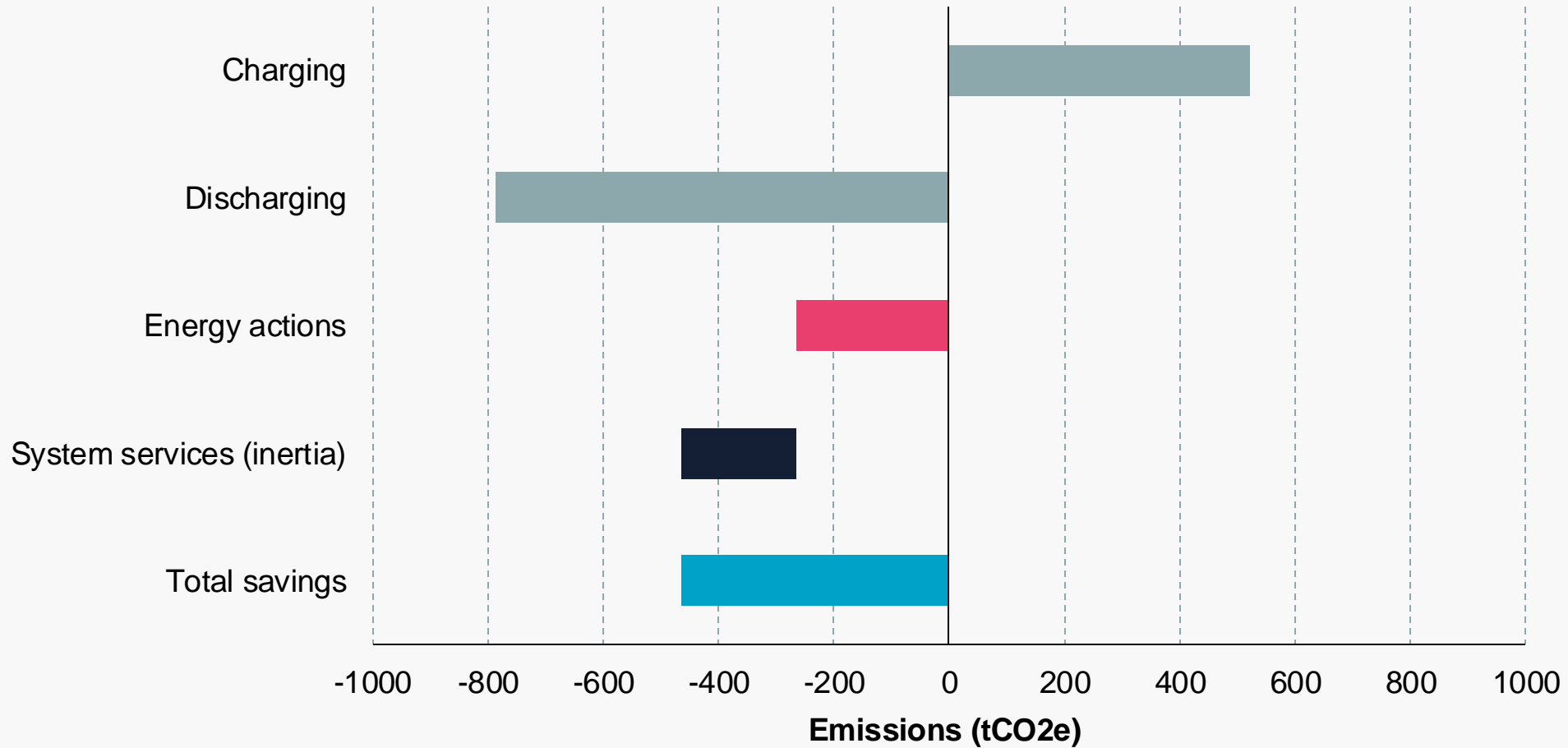




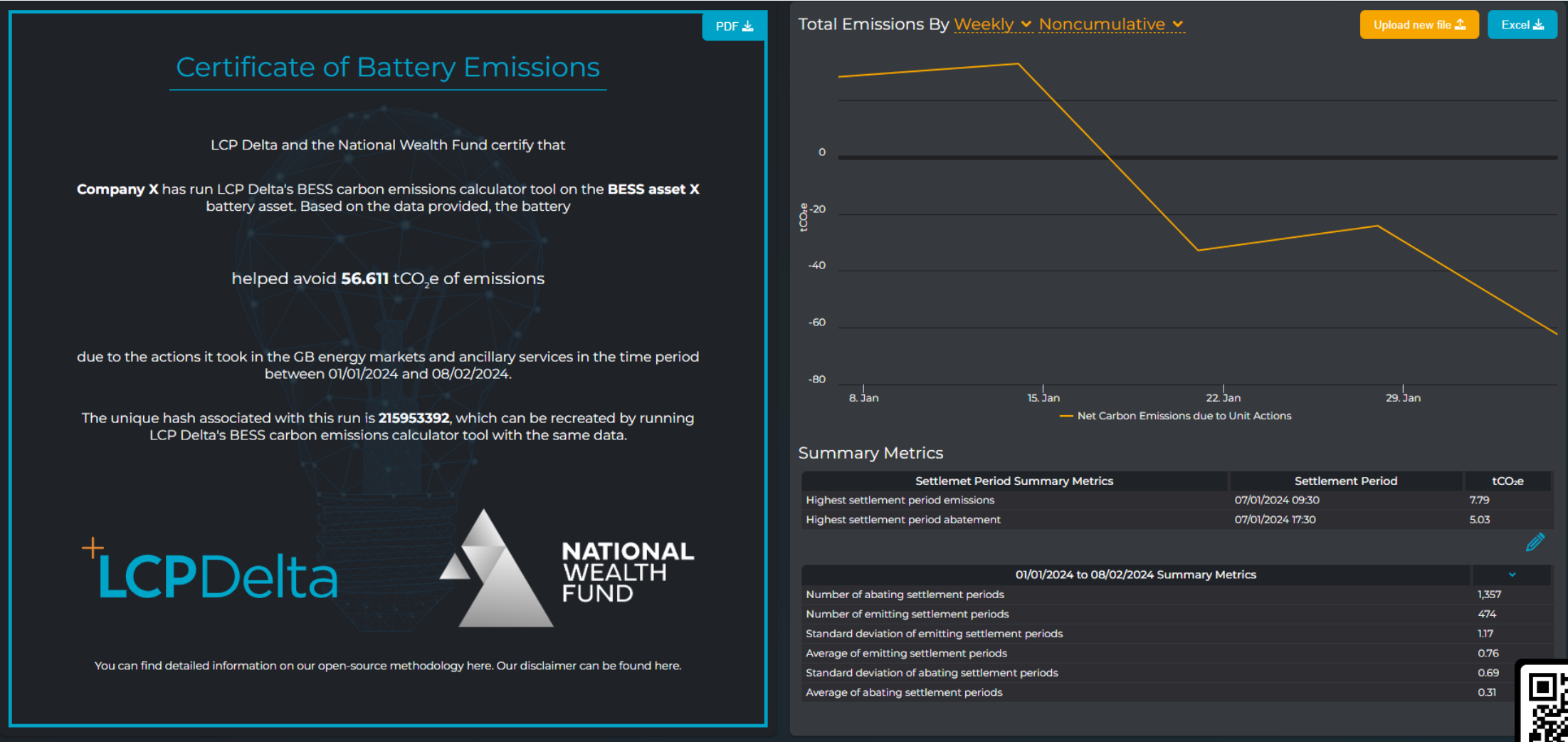




### Illustrative example of emissions abated from a battery



Project objectives



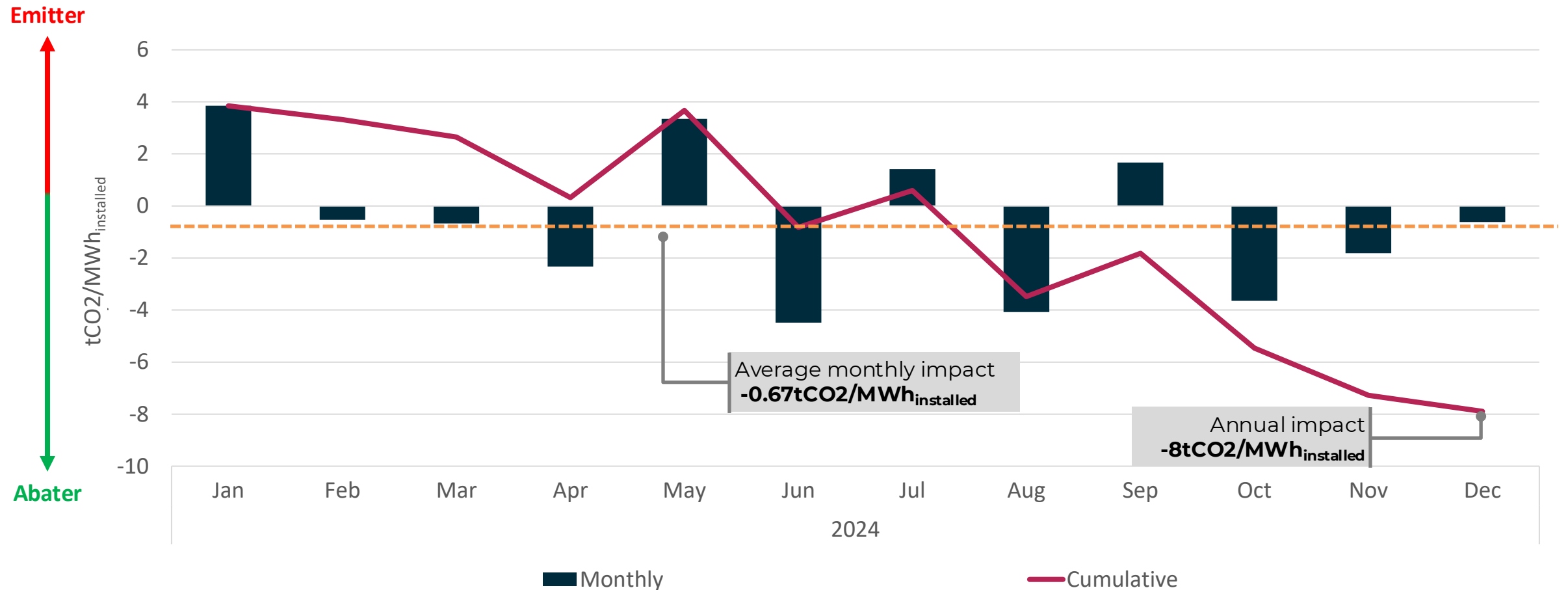
# Results



**PCE – Andreas Gandolfo**

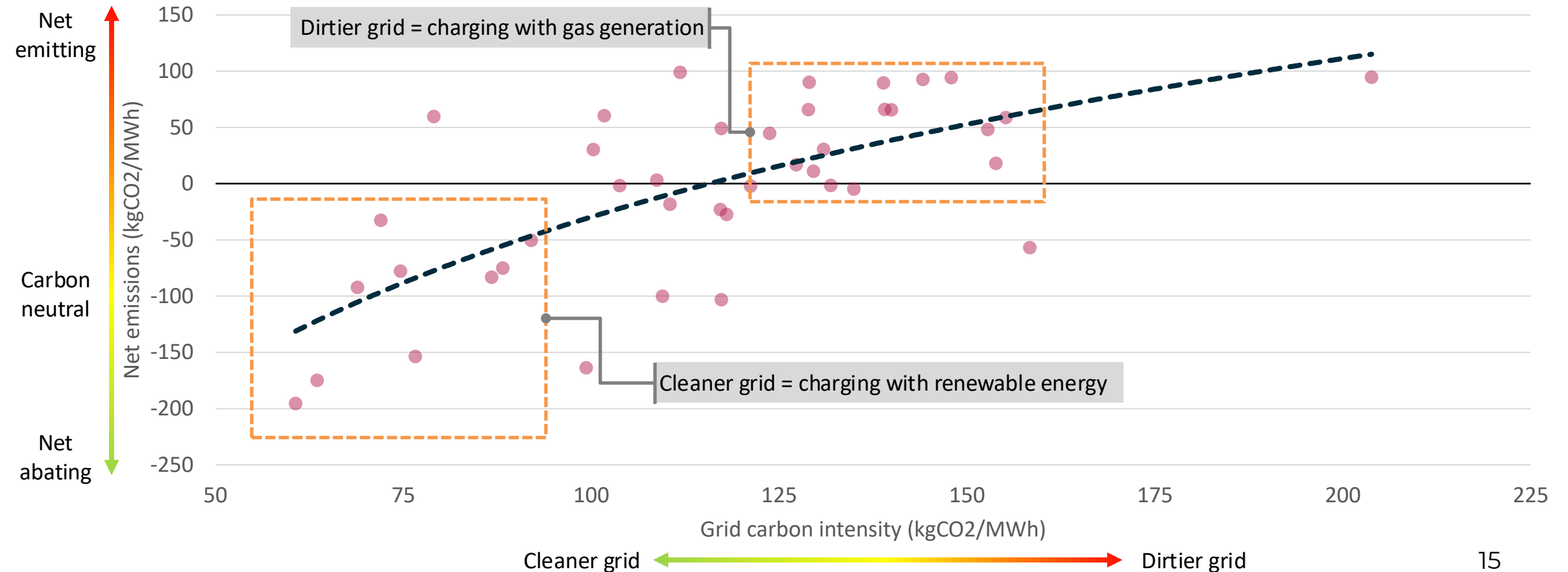
# PCE assets have successfully reduced grid emissions already

## Monthly Emissions of PCE Projects in 2024



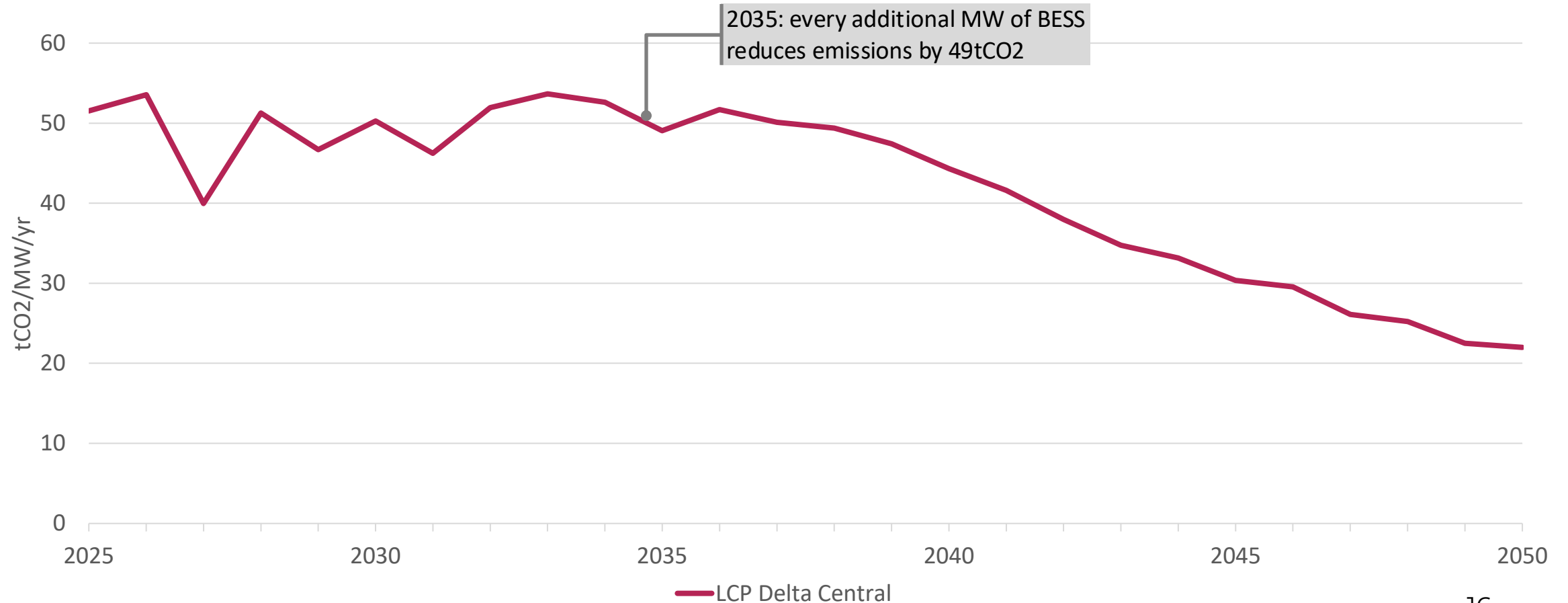
# Batteries' carbon impact on the grid relates to fossil fuel generation

UK Grid Weekly Avg. Carbon Intensity vs. Carbon Impact per MWh Shifted by a PCE Battery



# How the carbon impact of batteries evolves

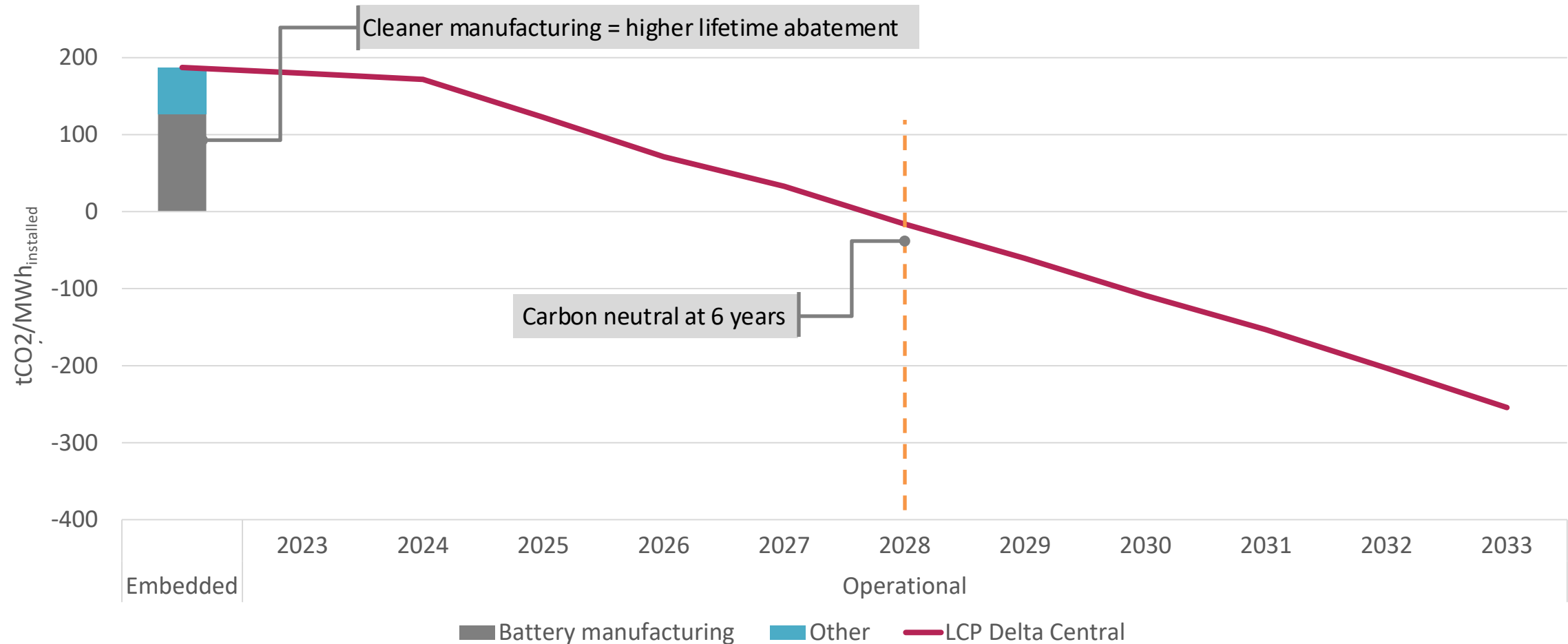
## Impact of Battery Capacity on UK Grid Emissions (average of 2 and 4 hr assets)





# Lifetime emissions of PCE assets

## Annual Trends in Lifetime Emissions of Operational PCE Batteries



# *Appendix*

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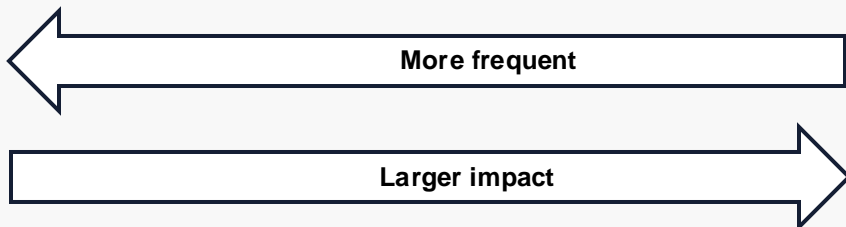
# Batteries impact on emissions from System Solutions

How does a battery avoid emissions from System Solutions

ESO must maintain various **non-energy system requirements**, such as inertia. Historically these have been provided by **unabated generators**.

ESO has introduced new products and requirements which better account and reward technologies like batteries for their key characteristics. These changes have also resulted in a reduction in emissions related to the procurement of these services.

- **New Frequency Response Products:** by leveraging the quick reaction time of batteries, the ESO needs to take fewer carbon-intensive actions in the Balancing Mechanism.
- **Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP):** by speeding up the process for upgrading special hardware in distributed generators, the ESO has reduced the risk of blackouts. This has allowed the ESO to lower the number of generators kept online for back-up.



← More frequent

→ Larger impact

	BMU-only	VS-only	BMU + RoCoF	VS + RoCoF	BMU + VS	BMU + VS + RoCoF
Considered by policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mitigated in real-time	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Main control	Frequency response	Frequency response	Reduce BMU loss size	Inertia	Reduce LoM loss size	Reduce LoM loss size
Additional control	Inertia or Reduce BMU loss size	n/a	Inertia	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 3 - Overview of NGESO policy

New Dynamic suite can address smaller events automatically

ALoMCP has reduced the expected impact of less frequent but larger risk

# Calculating inertia impact

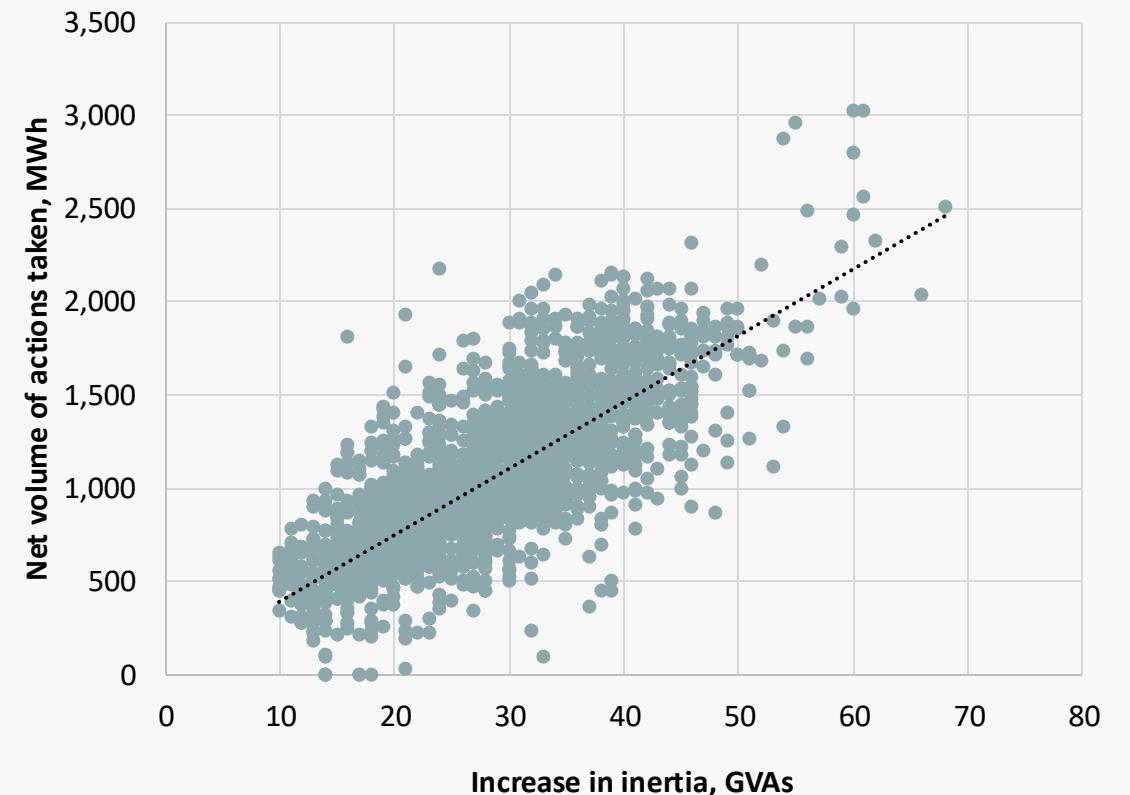
Mapping inertia increases with volume actions taken

In early 2023 the ESO started trials when it allows inertia to fall down to 120GVAs from the current minimum of 140GVAs.

During these lower inertia periods, the ESO would have taken action by turning on **synchronous generation in the Balancing Mechanism**.

In order to associate how much **emissions were avoided** from operating a low inertia system we first calculate what **volume of actions** would have been **needed to increase inertia from 120 to 140 GVAs**.

We use a regression-based approach to model the relationship between the increase in inertia that is needed, and the corresponding net volume of actions taken by the ESO.



**Increase in inertia:** difference between outturn and market-provided inertia - which accounts for all balancing actions. The difference between these two values is the change in inertia that was caused by ESO balancing actions.

**Net volume of actions taken:** accepted bids and offers from synchronous generators that ESO marked to be 'turning on' or 'turning off'. The overall net volume of these actions is what ESO took in MWh with an impact on inertia.

# Avoided emissions from System Solutions

Calculating avoided emissions from System Solutions

## Calculate volumes associated with ESO actions when the initial market-provided inertia was between 120 and 140 GVAs

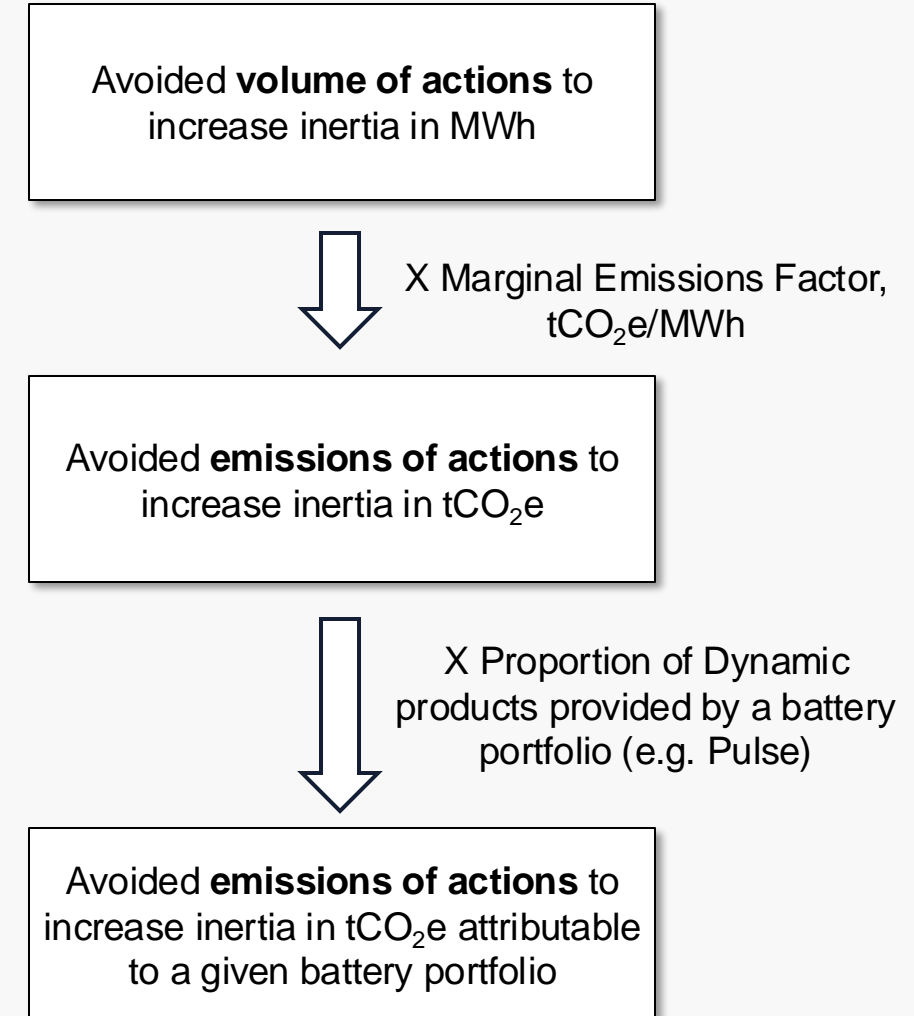
- ESO recently reduced the inertia requirement from 140 GVAs to 120 GVAs partly thanks to the adoption of the Dynamic flexibility products that are only provided by batteries.
- This means that in the past, ESO would have taken additional action in the time periods when the market provided inertia between 120 GVAs and 140 GVAs. These actions and their associated carbon emissions are now avoided.
- We calculate the volume of actions that would need to have been taken to increase inertia to 140GVAs using a regression-based model.

## Calculate the MEF & avoided emissions for the volumes associated with ESO actions

- We calculate the avoided emissions for each period associated with this volume using a **Marginal Emissions Factor (MEF)**. This MEF is a modified version of the one used to calculate emissions impacts of Energy Arbitrage actions, using only **offers** from **synchronous generators**, as these are the only possible actions that can increase inertia in these circumstances.

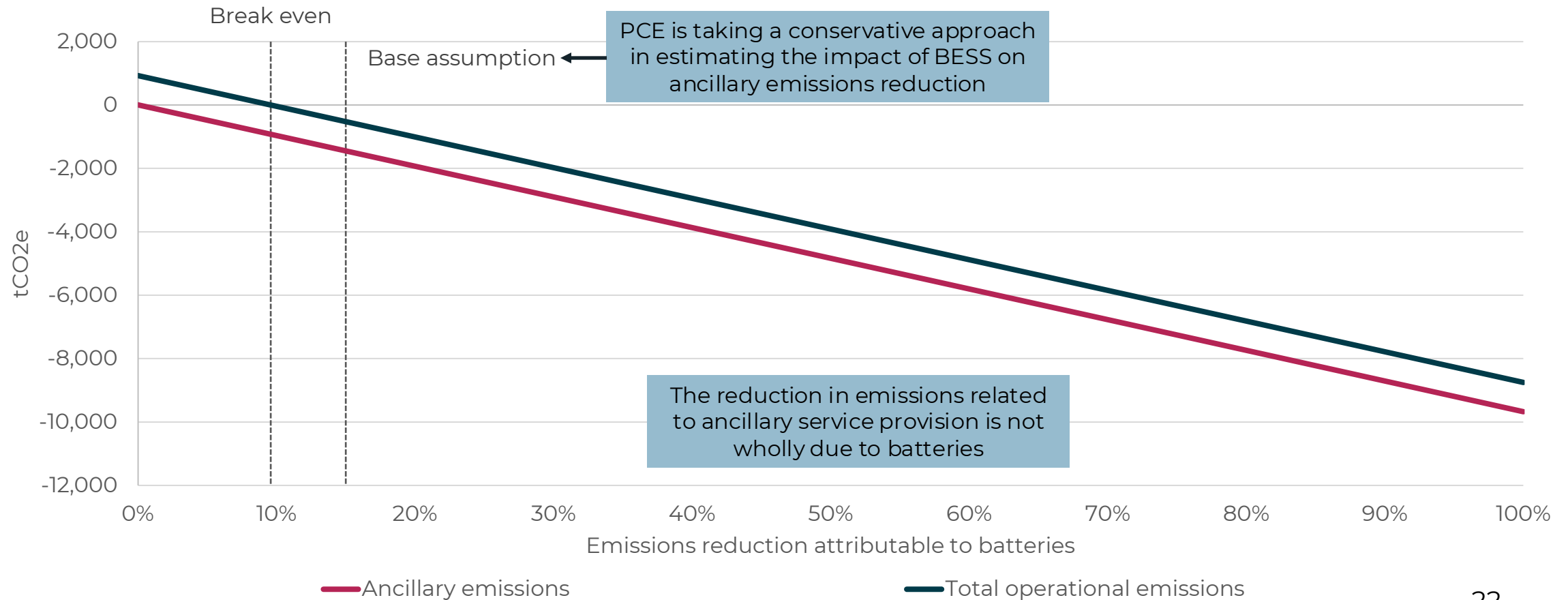
## Assign the share of avoided emissions to a given battery, or battery portfolio

- Finally, we assign a share of these avoided emissions to a given battery portfolio depending on the proportion of the ESO's Dynamic products they were providing in each period, as it is thanks to the Dynamic products that these actions are now not taken.



# Ancillary service carbon impact requires assumptions

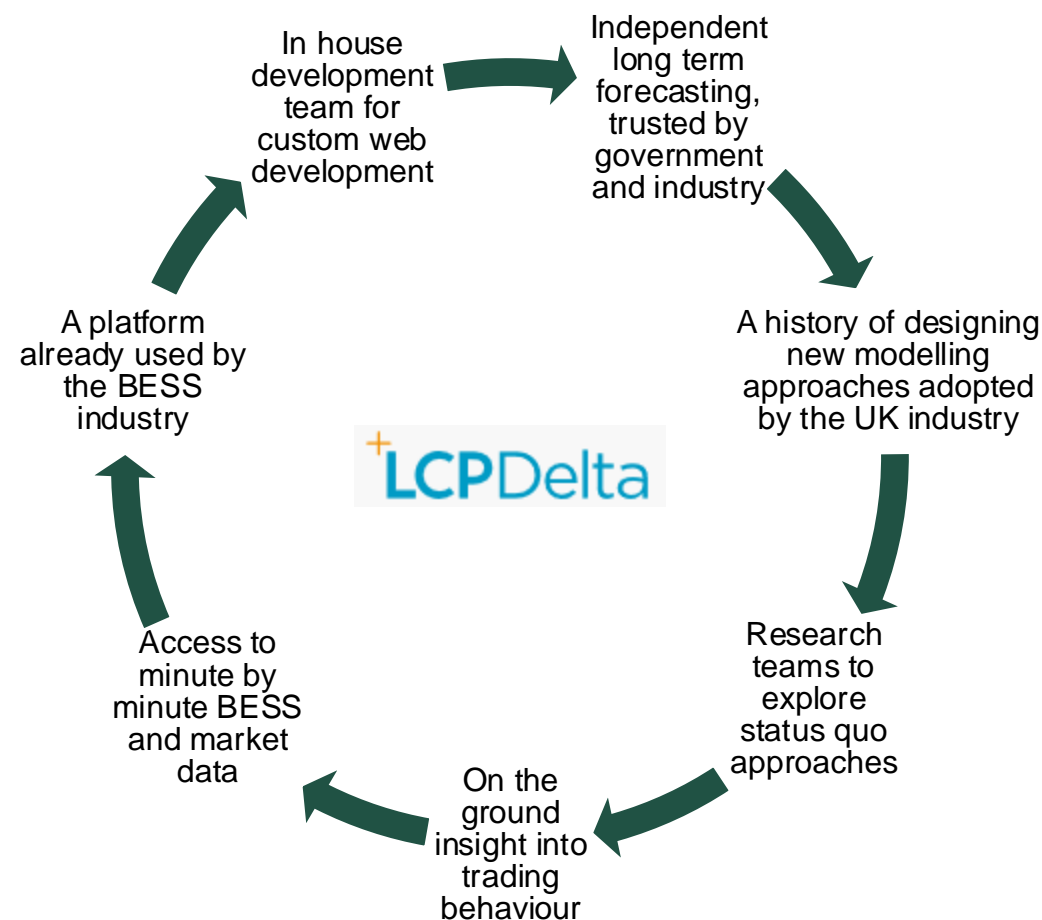
## PCE project operational emissions as a function of ancillary emission reduction attribution



# Why LCP Delta



LCP Delta brought together a number of teams spanning on the ground research, power trading and operations, web development and long term forecasting to work with Pulse Clean Energy and the National Wealth Fund to deliver this project.





## *About LCP Delta*

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**+** LCP Delta provides data-driven consultancy, research, technology products and training services to companies investing in and navigating the energy transition.



Generation ← Coverage across the full Energy value chain → Consumer Demand

### Our People

#### 120+ Energy transition experts:

- +** Power system modellers
- +** Economists and policy experts
- +** Researchers
- +** Market Specialists
- +** Technical specialists

### Our Expertise

#### Pan European client/research base covering:

- +** Grid-scale generation
- +** Storage
- +** Solar
- +** Networks
- +** Hydrogen
- +** Electrification of heat
- +** Flexibility services
- +** EV charging
- +** Home Energy Management

### Our Clients

#### 250+ clients across multiple sectors:

- +** Investors
- +** Regulators
- +** Utilities
- +** Governments
- +** Developers
- +** Asset owners
- +** OEMs
- +** Manufacturers
- +** Policy associations
- +** Power traders

**+** We help clients across the full energy storage value chain, enabling them to build a successful storage business, from strategic advice and market entry through to financing, operation and sale.



## Strategy

- In depth research to identify which European market to enter and when
- Regular reports on policy, regulatory, country and key player trends
- Europe's leading database of storage projects and players to identify the best partnerships and opportunities



## Financing

- Bankable revenue forecasting, trusted by industry, government, equity and debt for ~15 years for buy and sell side.
- Fundamental first modelling to capture a changing power system, rooted in the reality of on the ground trading
- Stochastic approach to help clients minimise risk through understanding full range of outcomes



## Operations and insights

- Benchmarking storage performance through leaderboards and custom indices for asset owners, diving deep into trading strategy.
- Real time trading support and storage specific workflows for optimisers, with advanced weather and imbalance forecasting.
- An insights service that produces regular research into policy, regulation and market events to keep your finger on the pulse.

“We’ve worked closely with LCP for almost a decade, and they’ve provided us with market-leading analysis and modelling tools to support key commercial decisions. They get to grips with the most significant issues and invariably deliver significant insights.”

**Mark Jones, UK  
market analysis  
manager**



+ Our research services provide unparalleled insight into the evolution of the storage sector, ensuring our clients can anticipate market trends and enter markets at the right time

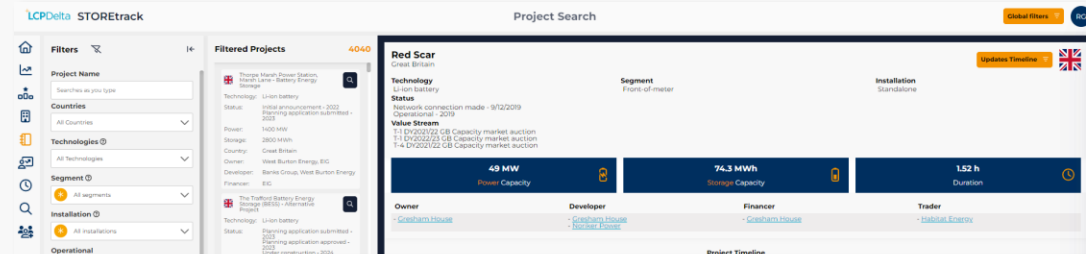


## The European Storage Research Service

+ The European storage research service publishes regular analysis, commentary and data across Europe covering the evolution of policy, regulation and the competitive landscape. This allows clients to understand at a country and technology level the attractiveness of each market.

+ This team also produce the flagship annual market monitor for EASE, and maintains a database of 4,000+ storage projects, tracking key players and milestones.

+ The service is primarily aimed at **investors, developers and manufacturers** to keep their fingers on the pulse of the key trends, landscapes and players in each European storage market, to help formulate their next strategic steps and develop key partnerships.



### Key Findings

A range of revenue streams makes Belgium an attractive country for storage



### Key trends

- Positive regulatory landscape**: In addition to a suite of ancillary services, there is no double charging for storage in Belgium.
- Capacity market contracts**: 363 MW of de-rated capacity was awarded storage in Elia's 2023 auction, with future auctions expected.
- Renewable deployment**: Renewable deployment could more than double by the end of the decade with over 6 GW offshore wind online by 2030.
- Slowing BtM market**: With the closure of Flanders' subsidy scheme, residential battery installations are unlikely to match 2022 & 2023 rates by the end of the decade.

### Market players

- Local developers:
  - The largest player is onshore wind developer, **Storm** develops three projects over 100 MW.
  - The largest battery project in the country, with a capacity of 300MW, is being developed by **Giga Storage**.
  - Large electricity generators such as Engie, Luminus & Total are developing a series of projects, but currently have small or no operating capacity.

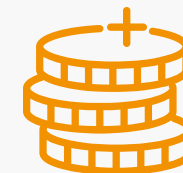
### Key project developers:



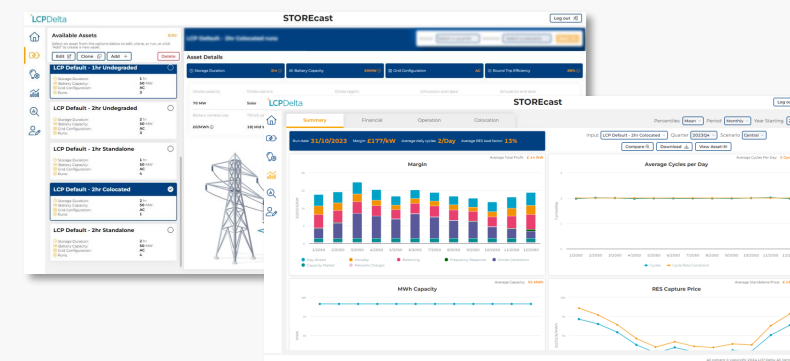
“The geographic coverage of your research, combined with the quality of analyst interaction really impressed us and made us want to expand this partnership”

Pulse Clean Energy

We have been at the forefront of power market modelling for 15 years, providing modelling that has driven market wide reform, shaped policy and underpinned £billions of investment decisions. We offer storage forecasts off the shelf through our fully customisable, self-serve STOREcast platform, or through our bespoke consulting service.



- + **Deeply embedded** with GB power market decision makers and at the forefront of evolving policy and regulation, supporting over 100 clients with GB power market forecasts.
- + A reputation for **independent, trusted, bankable** advice, delivered through rigorous models that are used extensively by government, industry and financiers, built and maintained in-house and **continuously updated**.
- + Extensive experience **modelling storage** assets, including developing a standalone platform for self-service storage revenue forecasting with high configurability.
- + **Real world expertise** in how storage assets are traded, powered by working with storage optimisers and owners through our Enact platform, uniquely placing us to review trading arrangements.
- + In depth research of **the full value chain** to ensure our scenarios capture the evolution of flexibility and demand side behaviour, powered by our storage and flexibility research services.
- + Supported £billions of energy transition investment through **commercial due diligence** projects
- + Significant experience in producing ad-hoc policy insight and analysis for lobbying in conjunction with our **Economics and Policy team**.



“We engaged with LCP because we want reliable and consistent market forecasts. Their analytical approach to forecasting has provided us with invaluable insights into the fundamental factors driving the UK electricity market through the energy transition”

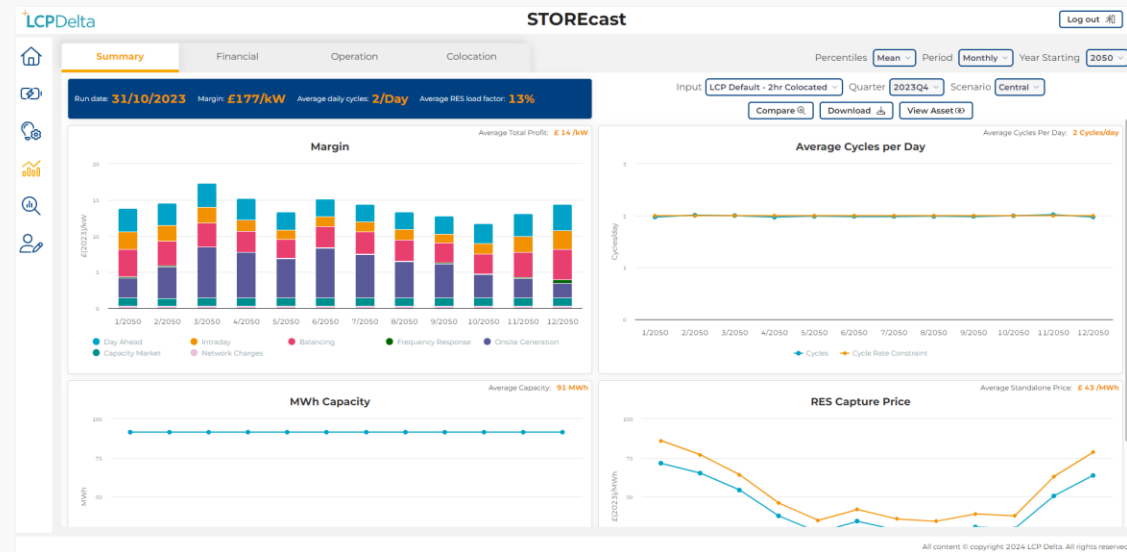
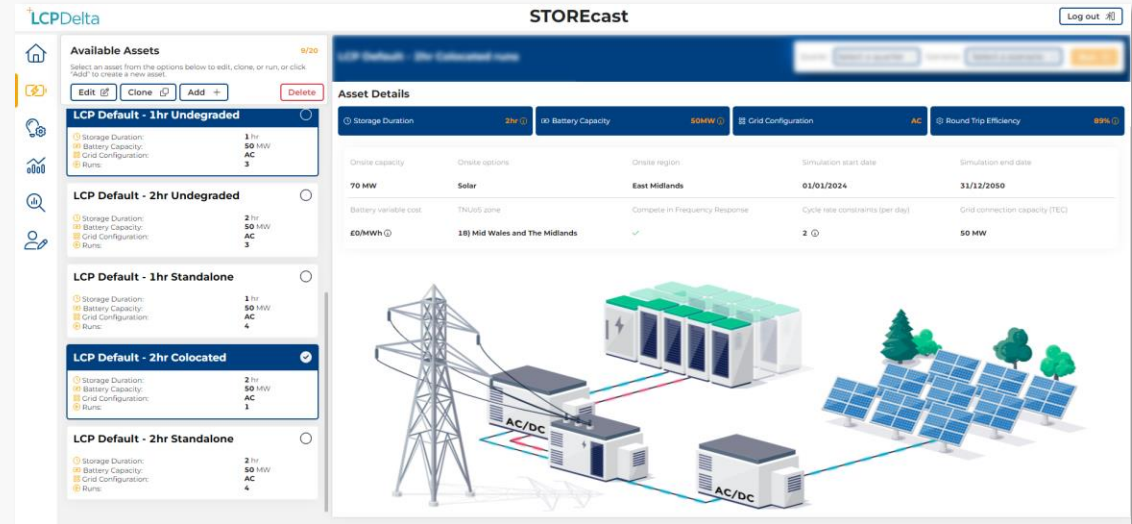
**Tom Vernon, Managing Director**

We provide quarterly forecasts for BESS assets (standalone and co-located) through our highly customisable STOREcast platform, combining the ease of a subscription service with bespoke configurability



## Our STOREcast platform

- Quarterly updates** to storage forecasts under LCP Delta's Central, Low & High scenario, with the option to develop custom scenarios with clients.
- Clients can configure their own **bespoke storage assets** (in addition to generic assets provided) specifying: location, efficiency, costs, solar and wind co-location options, grid configuration and cycling limits, rather than relying on generic curves or libraries.
- Uses LCP Delta's **trusted models** that have been used to support Government, NESO and the majority of the UK power industry for over a decade
- Results can be downloaded into excel format and each quarterly update comes with an **accompanying report** summarising assumptions & results.



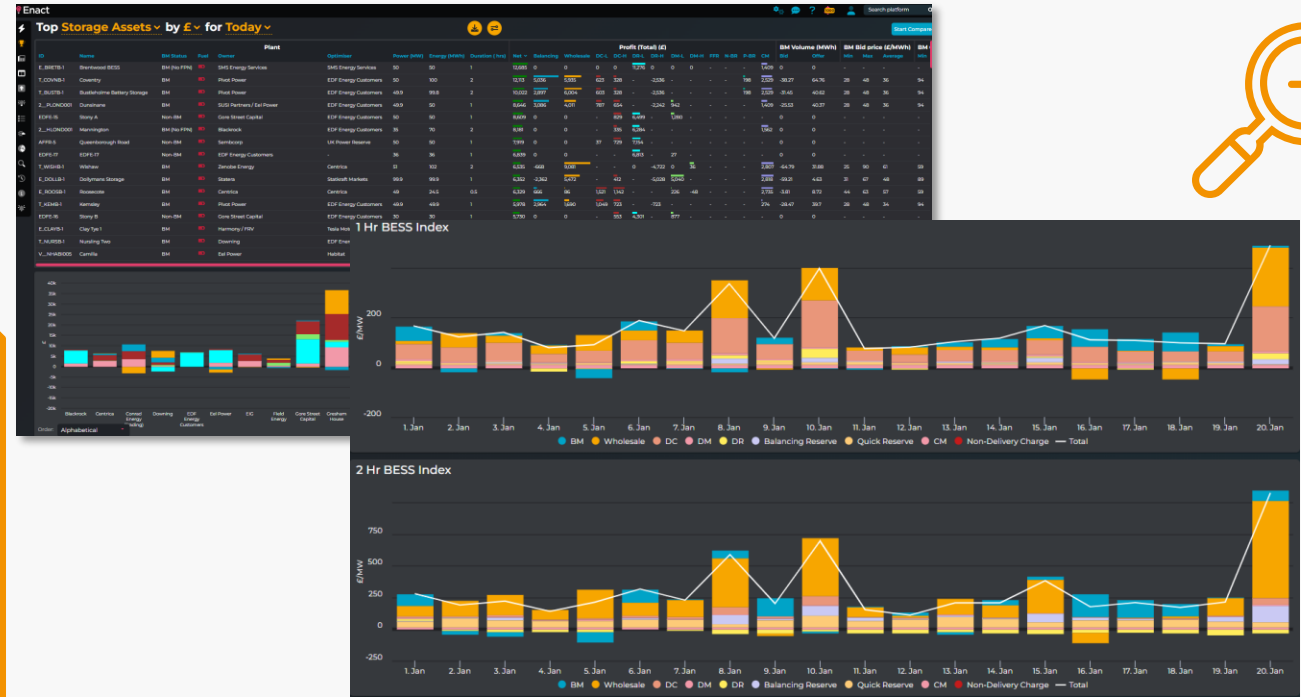


## Our Enact platform

Enact is a SaaS platform that provides analysts and traders with **real-time trading analytics**. Enact integrates data from a range of sources and provides intuitive visualisations and real-time NIV/system price forecasts to help traders make better decisions.

Access to this tool allows asset owners to monitor individual assets' profits and strategies, benchmark performance and deep dive into trading strategy, through leaderboards, indices and specific analytical workflows

High level of customisation enables clients to increase the level of sophistication of their analysis, and facilitate meaningful, data-driven conversations between route to market providers and asset owners.



*"We required a platform to help us make decisive investment decisions across the power space, with a particular interest in **assessment of trading strategies and benchmarking of battery storage assets**. After assessing multiple platforms on the market, Enact was the clear choice. It was the only platform where we could perform both **macro, high level analysis** as well as **micro, detailed investigations in a quick, easy and extremely user-friendly manner**."*

Leading UK storage asset owner





## Our Power Insights Service

A collection of must-have research services for UK power market participants.

**Market Frameworks** provides key analysis on power and gas markets, including policy and regulatory shifts, and the impact they will have on investors and asset owners.

**Market Operations** provides regular and ad-hoc insight into the operations of the UK market, including research papers on optimiser trading strategy, summaries of BESS performance and the impact of market reforms on revenues and operations.

**Market Forecasts** provides our bankable regular forecasts for BESS and all technology types, with commentary on how changing conditions impact future revenue outlook.



## The Power Market Outlook 2024 The route to Clean Power 2030

### Battery Fleet

June sees batteries achieve second highest revenues of the year

- In June, the estimated BESS fleetwide monthly revenue was £3.14kW, up from £2.48kW in May and represents the second highest monthly revenue of the year to date (YTD). The month-on-month increase can be largely attributed to higher revenues in the wholesale and ancillary markets. In June 2024, total BESS revenues remained stable compared to June 2023. Despite this, the revenue distribution shifted, with negative pricing in the Enduring Auction Capability (EAC) platform reducing ancillary revenues.
- Wholesale revenues in June reached £1.2kW, matching the six-month high recorded in April 2024. This increase can be attributed to an increase in day-ahead (DA) price spreads, which represent the difference between the daily maximum and minimum prices. Batteries benefit from higher spreads as they can buy electricity at low prices and sell at high prices, maximising their earnings. This month, the average daily spread was £50/MWh, the highest in the YTD. February has the lowest spread of the year at £40/MWh and consequently, the lowest wholesale revenue of £0.63kW. Price spreads peaked on the 5th, 8th, 9th, 16th, and 20th, all reaching over £50/MWh. Lower wholesale revenues on the 6th, 9th and 20th were due to negative prices. Batteries capitalised on this by buying cheap energy instead of selling it in the wholesale market, focusing on generating revenue through the BM and ancillary markets. Balancing revenues remained steady, with higher earnings on days with increased wind curtailment.
- Revenue from the frequency response markets increased by 47% in June compared to May. This is primarily a result of a considerable month-on-month increase in frequency response prices – the second highest prices of the year. The increased prices were driven by a greater occurrence of negative prices in the DA markets.

Month	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Average Daily DA Price Spread (£/MWh)	48.5	40.1	45.2	55.5	43.4	59.2



### What happened and why?

An Electricity Margin Notice and Capacity Market Notice were issued due to low forecasted margins

At 20:29 on Tuesday 7th January, the NESO's control room triggered an Electricity Margin Notice with a commencement time of 16:00 to 18:00 on Wednesday 8th January. The EMN was issued due to a system margin shortfall of 1.7GW and a contingency requirement of 1GW.

The tight margins were driven by interconnector and COGT outages, low wind generation and high demand. ElecLink (GB-FR) and BritNed (GB-NL) were on outages, whilst Viking (GB-DK) was scheduled to operate at 50% capacity (728MW). Interconnector capacity was therefore reduced by 4.1GW to 5.7GW, the majority of which was already scheduled to be fully importing throughout the day.

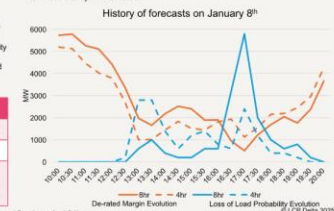
Wind generation on January 8th reached a period low of 2.25GW at 21:30, and from 11:30 onwards it was below the de-rated capacity for wind – as set out in the Winter Outlook – of 4.42GW. Further, due to units being offline, there was only 2.75GW of additional COGT capacity available to the NESO, falling short of the de-rated capacity set out in the Winter Outlook. Much of the remaining fleet was already scheduled to be generating, leaving fewer options for the NESO. In addition, GB demand reached a peak of 46.8GW at 17:30, representing the highest single period demand since January 2024.

Outage	Available Capacity	Planned/Unplanned	Outage reason	Start (UTC)	End (UTC)
ElecLink (France)	8000	Planned	Forecasted maintenance	Oct 12th 2024, 08:00	Feb 10th 2025, 08:00
BritNed (Netherlands)	8000	Unplanned	Onshore cable fault	Dec 8th 2024, 19:50	Feb 11th 2025, 00:00
Viking (Denmark)	728000	Planned	Essential reactive maintenance (Pole 2)	Jan 8th 2025, 08:00	Jan 8th 2025, 15:15 (originally due to end on Jan 9th 17:00)

Power Insights: Market Notices

As of 09:34 on Wednesday 8th January, the de-rated margin (forecasted excess supply) was forecasted to reach a low of 510MW and loss of load probability (LOLP) was due to peak at 29%, both at 17:00. Day-ahead prices rose to between £300/MWh and £400/MWh between 15:30 and 18:00.

A Capacity Market Notice was subsequently issued automatically at 12:01 with a commencement time of 16:30 on Wednesday 8th January due to a 210MW difference in the expected capacity of Balancing Mechanism (BM) units and transmission demand and operating margin, falling well below the 500MW threshold. This was cancelled shortly after at 12:35.



\* See glossary for definition

“The team at LCP Delta demonstrated a unique insight into power markets and government workings to allow us to assess how policy changes could impact us as investors in the UK.”

**Ross Grier, Managing Director**

**NEXTENERGY  
CAPITAL**

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Where this report contains projections, these are based on assumptions that are subject to uncertainties and contingencies. Because of the subjective judgements and inherent uncertainties of projections, and because events frequently do not occur as expected, there can be no assurance that the projections contained in this report will be realised and actual events may be difference from projected results. The projections supplied are not to be regarded as firm predictions of the future, but rather as illustrations of what might happen. Parties are advised to base their actions on an awareness of the range of such projections, and to note that the range necessarily broadens in the latter years of the projections.