Wellington commercial microgrids

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To better understand these dynamics, we’ve modelled a theoretical "microgrid" in a residential subdivision,Totarabank, in the North Island of Aotearoa.

Another interesting finding was that the length of time the batteries were able to sustain critical loads duringunplanned grid outages was greater by about 16 hours per year, compared with the case without intelligent control. This is a remarkable resilience advantage.

Read the original article at The Conversation.

Soheil Mohseni is a postdoctoral research fellow and Alan Brent is professor and chair in Sustainable Energy Systems at Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) has granted CentrePort $500,000 in funding to go towards installing shore power for Cook Strait ferries berthed at King"s Wharf. CentrePort is partnering with StraitNZ Bluebridge on the project.

Shore power means providing electricity to vessels while they are in berth, removing the need for them to run their generator engines, while maintaining power to their onboard systems. By utilising shore power, StraitNZ"s ferries will reduce their overall fuel consumption, improving the quality of air in Wellington"s inner-harbour. Shore power infrastructure at King"s Wharf also has the potential to increase Wellington"s energy resilience in future, as electricity generated by ferries could flow back to shore to support lifeline utilities in emergency situations.

CentrePort Chief Executive Anthony Delaney says CentrePort is targeting net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

"We"re really proud to partner with StraitNZ to create shore power at King"s Wharf and to receive this support from the EECA. We"ve made great strides towards net-zero already, with a verified 31% reduction in emissions from our 2019 baseline, in part through a finance arrangement with New Zealand Green Investment Finance (NZGIF)."

"A critical part of making shore power available to customers is for CentrePort to generate and store energy.

To enable this, we are building the CentrePort MicroGrid, which will combine embedded generation and storage on port, with capacity from an electrical connection to the Wellington grid. This means our microgrid could increase Wellington"s energy resilience, as power may have the potential to flow in either direction."

Delaney says shore power will replace conventional hydrocarbon fuels that would normally be consumed by ships while they are in port.

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