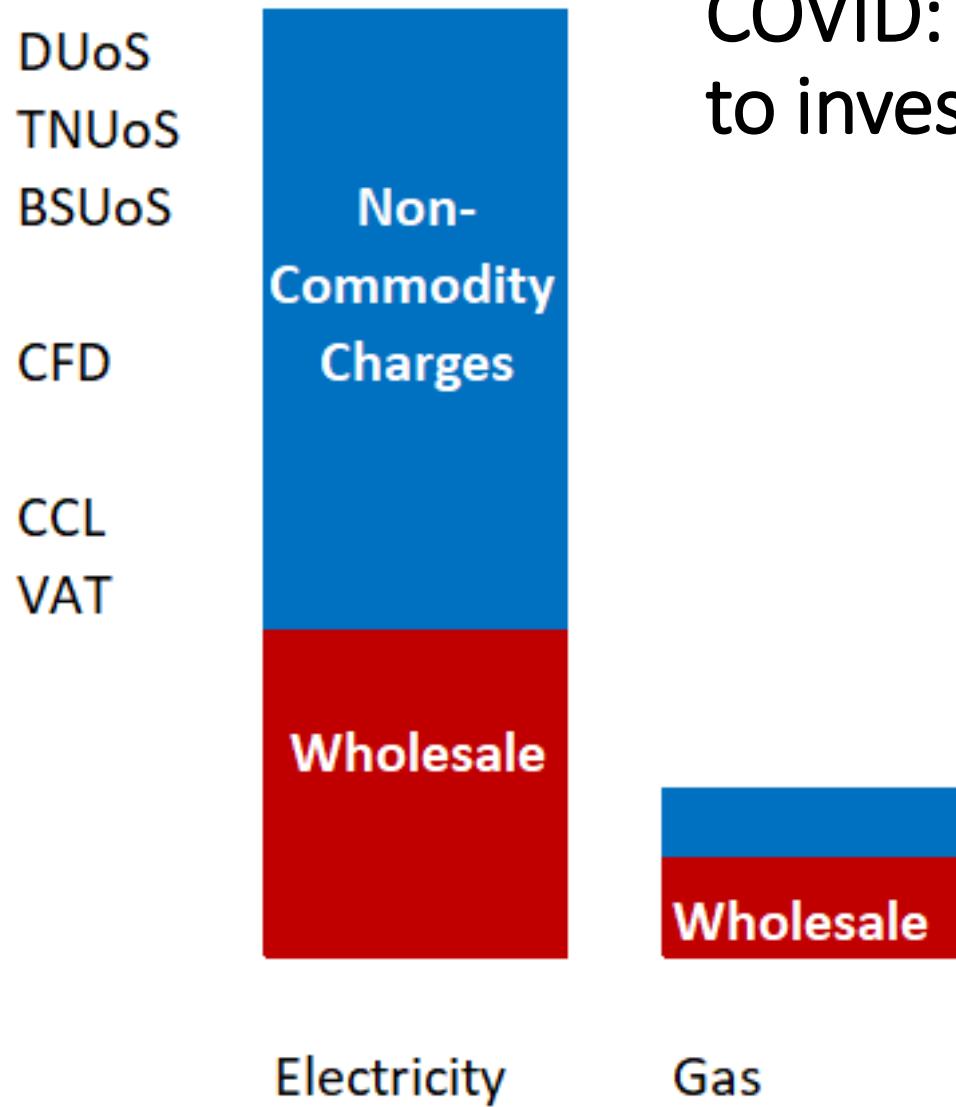


Elec & Gas Price make-up



COVID: Falling gas and electricity demand; Risk to investment in low-carbon electricity?

Covid – UK electricity consumption fall of 19% after lockdown... UoB part of this.

Broadly

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Dilemma for a zero carbon UK

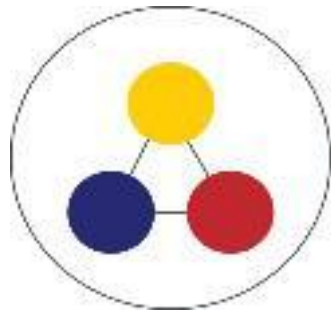
- Some studies suggest only 600-700 TWh of zero carbon energy will be available by 2050 in the UK – need to almost entirely electrify, but only use 60% of current energy services (UKFIRES, ZCB/CAT) – conservation and efficiency are urgent, but we need to grow – and pay for low carbon supply.
- BUT, Covid has shrunk the electricity market (it was shrinking anyway) and this may be persistent.
- Absent other policy drivers, we need to grow the market for electricity quickly to incentivise zero carbon generation in the face of potentially long-term-cheaper gas.
- **What can we do now to encourage the use of electricity for heat in the next three years?**

- **Covid has disrupted ‘normality’**
- Normality is the routine practices that underpin everyday life.
- Routine practices challenge conventional understandings of demand – ‘we rarely ‘think’ or ‘choose’ routines but ‘fall into them’
- Routine practices underpin resource-intensive forms of consumption



- But how do routine practices become normal?

The elements that configure (or ‘hold in place’) social practices:



MATERIAL:

Objects, tools, infrastructures

SOCIAL:

Knowledge, skills, rules and know how

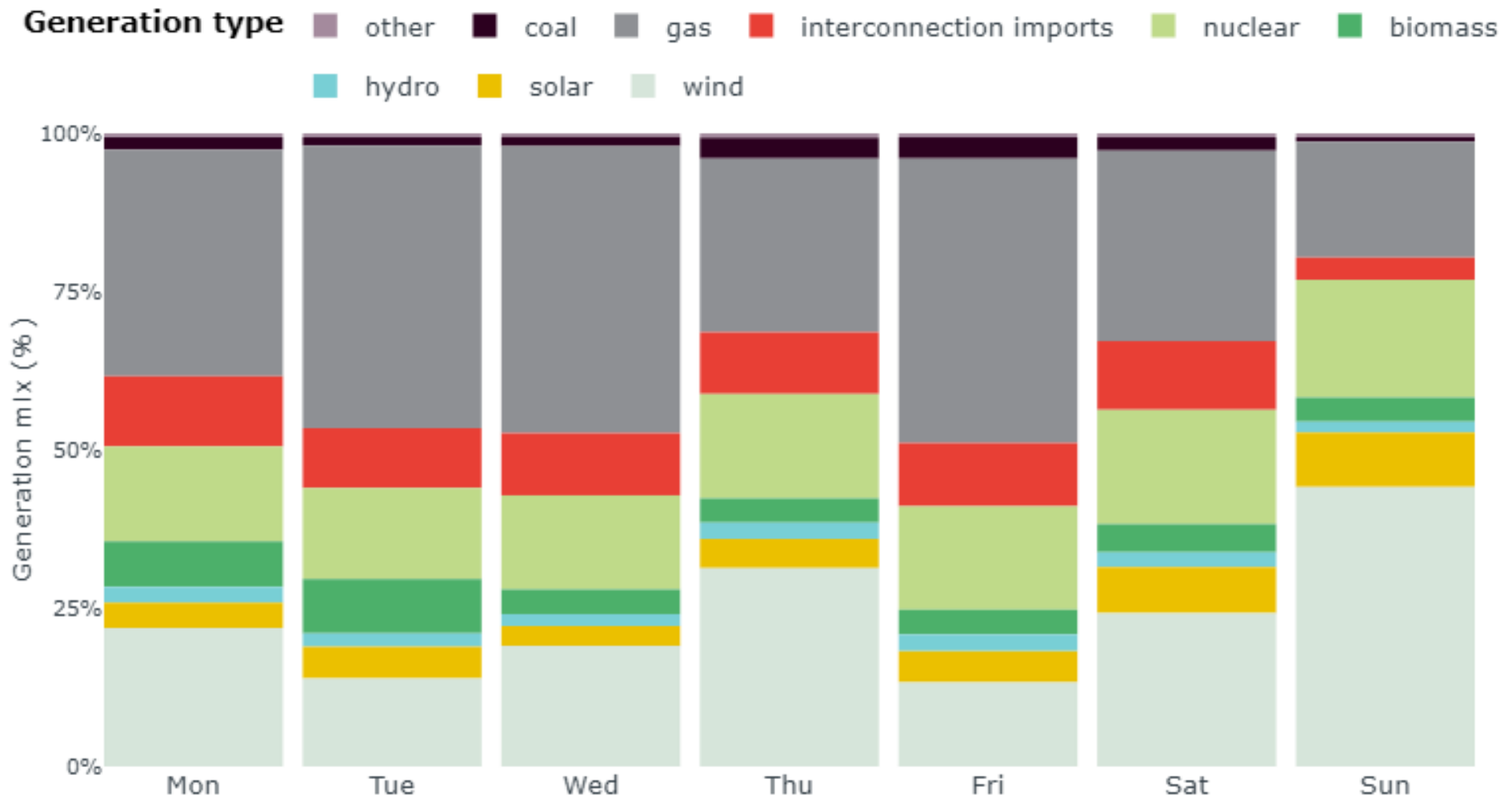
CULTURAL:

Meanings, conventions, expectations and understandings

How might Covid reconfigure practices: the example of homeworking?









- Opportunity to re-imagine the everyday lives, routines and normalities upon which energy demand depends.
- That re-imagining would need to address the material, cultural and social elements that configure practices.
- Take homeworking as an example:
 - Material: home office infrastructure, consumables, heating, local interaction spaces
 - Cultural: convenience but isolation, mental health, loss of work-place culture
 - Social: skills for competent job performance, inequalities, new forms of time discipline
- Need evidence: is homeworking less resource-intensive?
- Current arrangement of material, cultural and social elements will 'pull back' to the old normal if not actively re-configured!

GB electricity generation mix, 30 March to 5 April



Source: [Hussain and Jian, 2020](#)

Current national 'green recovery' policies

Country	Sector	Subsector	Description	Date	Status	Amount (USD)	Amount (local)
	Agriculture		The European Commission's plan includes an increase to the budget for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, given the role farmers have in the "green transition".	27/05/2020	Proposed	\$17.05bn	15.00bn
	Buildings	Energy efficiency	Extra funding for a CO2-focused building renovation programme, with an additional €1bn in 2020 and 2021 taking the annual totals to €2.5bn.	03/06/2020	Agreed	\$2.27bn	2.00bn
	Buildings	Adaptation	Support for smaller municipalities to access the national climate protection initiative, with extra funds during 2020 and 2021.	03/06/2020	Agreed	\$0.11bn	0.10bn
	Buildings	Energy efficiency	Aim under the European Commission's proposal would be to "at least double" the annual renovation rate of existing building stock through regulatory and financial support, such as doubling th...	27/05/2020	Proposed		tbc
	Buildings	Energy efficiency	The Danish government has proposed funding for green renovations to social housing between 2020 and 2026. This includes measures such as insulation, window replacements and replacing oil-fired heating...	01/05/2020	Proposed	\$4.58bn	30.00bn
	Buildings	Energy efficiency	A £2bn "green homes grant" voucher scheme to fund home efficiency improvements such as insulation during financial year 2020-21. The vouchers will cover up to two-thirds of the cost of work ...	08/07/2020	Implemented	\$2.52bn	2.00bn
	Buildings	Energy efficiency	A £1bn programme for this year to make public buildings greener, including schools and hospitals. It will fund energy efficiency and low-carbon heat upgrades.	08/07/2020	Implemented	\$1.26bn	1.00bn
	Buildings	Energy efficiency	A £50m demonstration project for retrofitting social housing in 2020-21, with press reports suggesting measures could include insulation, double glazing and heat pumps. The government says it will hel...	08/07/2020	Implemented	\$0.06bn	0.05bn

Source: [Carbon Brief, 2020](#)



Two-thirds of UK adults to work remotely more often after Covid-19

Research commissioned by Ciena reveals how coronavirus pandemic will likely change UK internet usage, as increased use of online home working applications is complemented by commensurate rise in online education



By Joe O'Halloran, Computer Weekly

Published: 24 Jun 2020 16:45

Confirming other studies that have made the clear point that the new normal of mass home working will persist into the short- and mid-term at least, research from networking systems, services and software company Ciena has found that the just over two-thirds of British adults currently working from home fully expect to carry on doing so.

HERE TO HELP

virtualise your workforce with safe and secure VDI.

[SEE HOW >>](#)

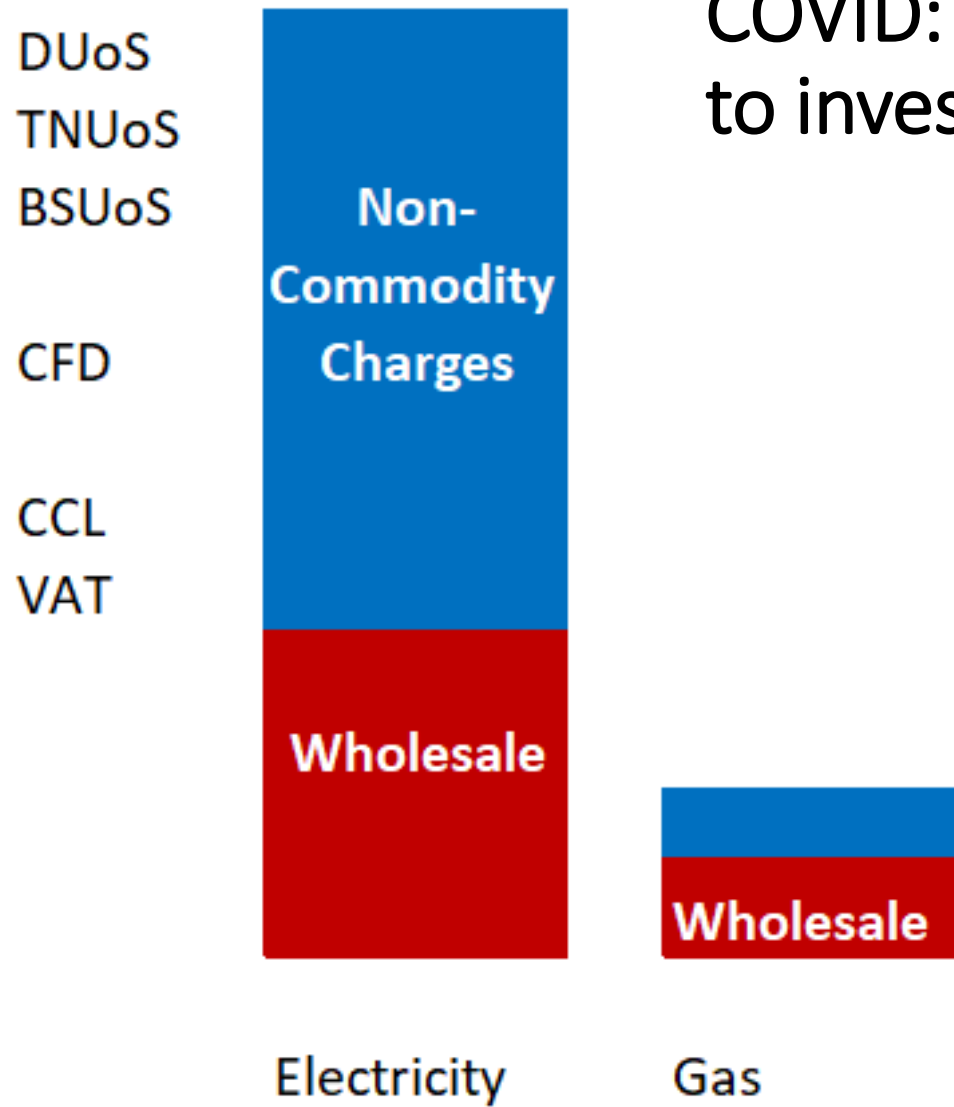
 Hewlett Packard Enterprise





- 1 hr videoconference about the same emissions as 400m drive in an efficient car – roughly 40g CO₂e
- Also, it is capacity not use which primarily determines power draw and emissions. (eg your home WiFi)
- But many people using dig tech around the world – so it all mounts up.
- That means eco-design is needed.
- Bigger picture: Systemic impact of home working: people live further from their jobs, and so commute less but further.
- So policy frameworks needed: COVID shows that digital tech allows us to live and work more comfortably under constraints.

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