

Microgrid Design and Simulation: Solar Pumping

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Project Type: **Solar Pumping**

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Solar Pumping Microgrid - Description and Overview

This microgrid project includes non-grid supplied power systems for domestic water supply and electrical lighting serving a small community in Uganda.

In Uganda clean, potable water is often attained from vertical boreholes where aquifers are available. Hand pump kiosks allow for manual extraction of water but this is not effective for larger communities where community members face long wait times (figure 1.1).



Figure 1.1: People waiting to pump water.

This microgrid project develops electric power to pump domestic water from a borehole to a water storage tank. The system is designed to serve a community of 1800 persons. Figure 1.2 shows a general solar pumping diagram.

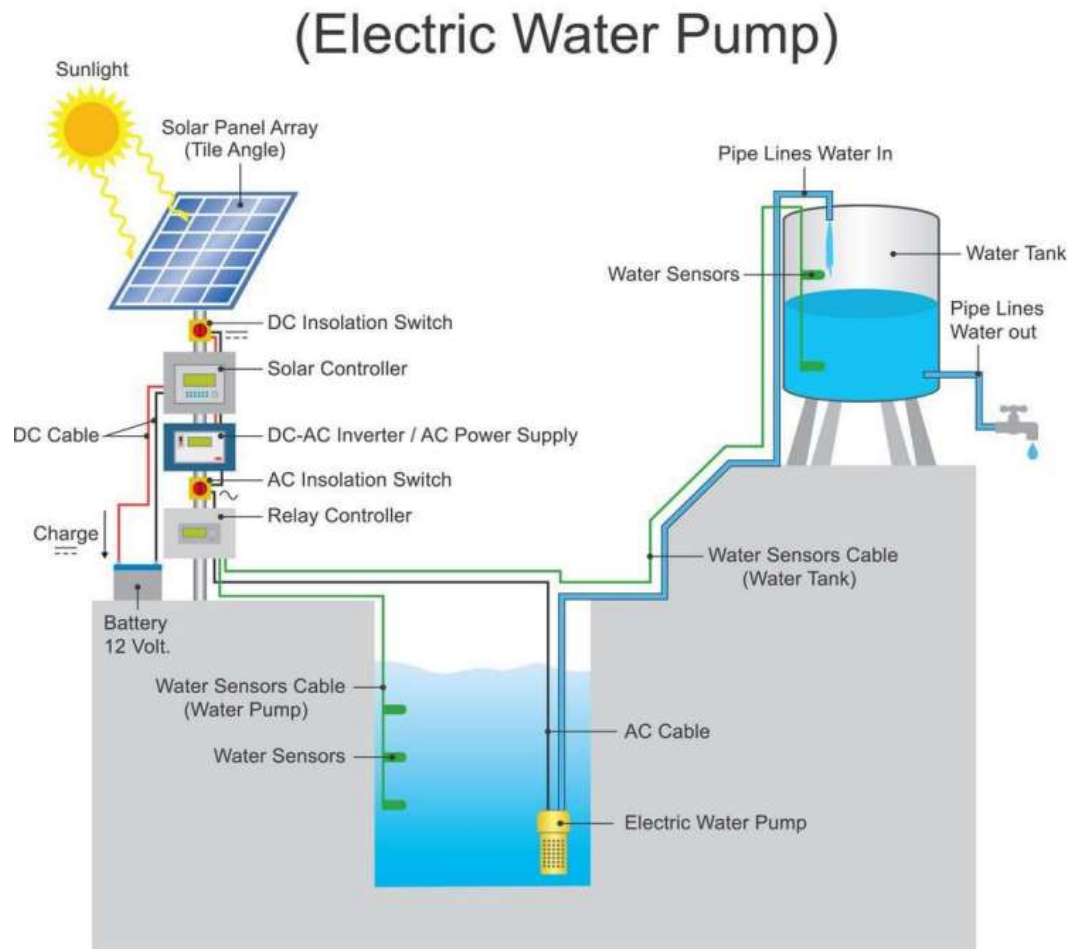


Figure 1.2: General components for solar water pumping.

Microgrid design parameters for our community are based on an Engineers Without Borders 2020 implementation report by the Penn State University chapter of Engineers Without Borders. The chapter worked with the community of Namutamba for several years to understand design requirements such as daily water volume requirements and water storage.

Water storage is required for buffering against cloudy days when the microgrid power source for water pumping is not available.

This microgrid project includes electrical power and electrical storage requirements to serve a small school house. Electrical storage is required for inclement weather where daily power resources fall below average.

Microgrid projects (non-grid tied) with similar designs are implemented by Engineers Without Borders chapters in a number of African countries. Figure 1.3 shows solar projects in Uganda and Kenya where each colored circle indicates a solar installation. Reasons for solar adoption are solar can be more reliable than grid power, less expensive than grid power, and solar can be erected where needed.



Figure 1.3: EWB Solar Installation Projects.

Satellite images (figure 1.4) show large open areas that favor solar installation sites. The community is low density with few structures and land use includes agriculture. The Pen State University chapter has completed reports describing the demographic and socioeconomic profiles for the community.

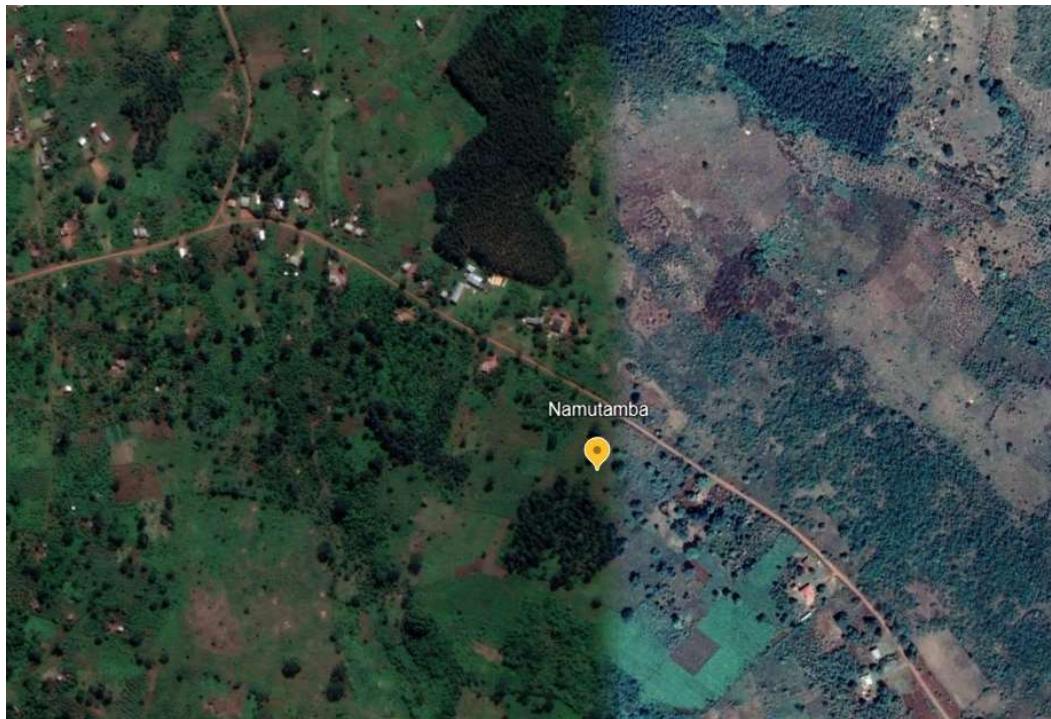


Figure 1.4: Satellite image of Uganda community.

The community is located at:

- latitude: 0.5345
- longitude: 32.0877

Load Calculations

This project is designed to power both a water pump and electrical loads for a small school house.

Load Calculations - Electrical Lighting

The school house floor plan is shown 2.1 with a floor area of 77 sqm (UNICEF architectural designs for schools in Rwanda).

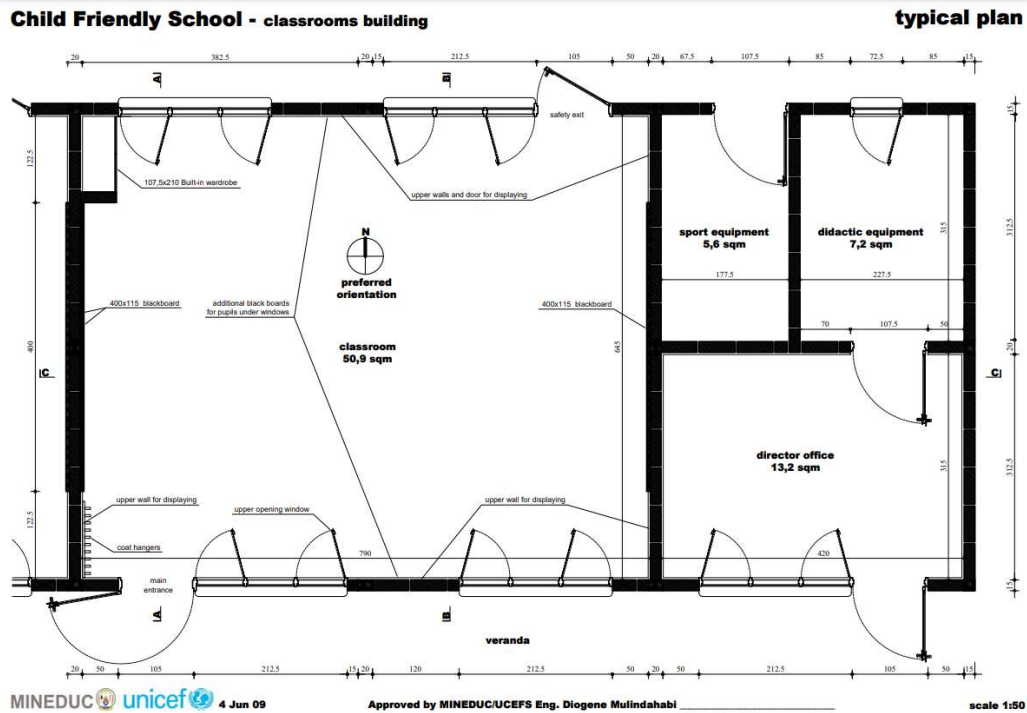


Figure 1.2: School house drawing.

The project scope for the school house includes power for lighting and a few small plug loads for computers and a printer.

Electrical lighting power continues to fall with the apoption of LEDs. Several US states have adopted the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) standards, including its lighting power density (LPD). The 2021 IECC standards (LPD) is 0.71 watts per square foot(w/sqft) or 7.64 w/sqm. These standards are appropriate for this project as LED lighting is available in Uganda.

Plug Load estimates include 4 laptops and a small printer. Laptops are estimated to run 30watts per device and operational 24 hrs/day. A small printer is estimated to draw 50watts and is operational 24 hrs/day.

School Electrical Lighting and Power Electrical Power Use = $0.71 * 77\text{sqm} = 588$ watts Laptops = $4 * 30\text{watts/each} = 120$ watts Printer = 50 watts Total Power Plug Loads = $120 + 50 = 170$ watts Total Power all Loads = $588 + 120 + 50 = 758$ watts

Daily Use Assumptions School Operational Hours: 6 days/week 8am-5pm with 2 hour evening classes 3 times per week.

Total Operational Hours per week = $6\text{days} * 9\text{hrs} + 3\text{days} * 2\text{hrs} = 60$ hrs

Energy Use School Energy Lighting = $60\text{hrs} * 52\text{weeks/year} * 588$ watts = 1,834 kWh Energy Plug Loads = $24\text{hrs} * 365\text{days/year} * 170$ watts = 1,489 kWh Total Energy School = 3,323 kWh

This estimate includes no safety margins for estimated electrical lighting power or lighting schedules at this time.

Load Calculations - Domestic Water Pumping

Uganda has a national water standard of 20 liters per day per person. Our community of 1,800 persons requires 36,000 liters per day. The average water flow is calculated to be 1,500 liters/hr to deliver the required volume in a 24 hour period. This initial operational assumption is that electrical power is available 24 hours a day.

The total static head pressure required includes the depth of the well and head pressure to move the water from the well to a reservoir. The total dynamic head pressure is estimated at 154 to 170 meters.

A datasheet selected to meet the demand of pressure and flow is shown on figure 2.2. The pumps listed can deliver 1,500 liters/hr and the red lines indicate the required band of 154 to 170 meters. SP 2A-48 can deliver the flow and pressure required. Another pump not shown on this data sheet is SP 2A-40 that lies just under SP 2A-48 and can deliver the flow at that specified pressure. This pump has a 2.2kw (3hp) motor. The datasheet shows 0.04 kW power per stage and the SP 2A-40 has '40 stages.' The pump power is then given as 0.04 kw x 40 stages for 1.6kW. Pump selection is well within the estimated requirements but no pumping power safety margins are included in these calculations at this time.

Pump Power = 1.6kW Figure 2.2: Grundfos pump data sheet. The red lines indicate the operational band.

Energy pumping power As with the electrical lighting, this assessment assumes power is available 24 hours a day for pumping. The pumping energy estimate is therefore given as:

Annual Pumping energy => 365 days/year 24hrs/day * 1.6kW = 14,016 kWh

Under this assessment the reservoir will be sized to hold sufficient water for daily use fluctuations but the pump will continuously fill the reservoir and the peak power will match the pump power: 1.6kW.

Load Calculations - MicroGrid Peak Power

The current estimated loads assume power is always available. The total electrical lighting loads and pumping loads are given as:

758watts + 1.6kW = 2.36 kW

Load Calculations - MicroGrid Annual Energy Use

The annual energy usage includes electrical lighting and pumping energy and is given as:

3,323 kWh + 14,016 kWh = 17,339 kWh

Load Calculations - MicroGrid Load Factor

This initial design reflects the 'grid like' access to electrical power; that is, electrical power is assumed to be available when needed from microgrid resources. The 1.6kW pumping power will likely be constant as it has been sized for 24 hour operation. If the pump does turn off it will occur when little water is being used (at night) and once the reservoir has been filled.

The load factor is given as Total Annual Energy Use / (Peak Demand * 365 days)

```
Load_factor = 17339/(2.36 * 24 * 365);  
fprintf('Load Factor: %0.3f \n\n',Load_factor)
```

Load Factor: 0.839

References

- Reference for IECC Lighting Power Density: <https://www.archtoolbox.com/recommended-lighting-levels/>
- 2019 Solar Prices for Kenya: https://energypedia.info/wiki/File:Solar_Prices_KE_Matrix.xlsx

- Solar Powered Water Guidelines Rwanda: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lr7iS9qK3hgrlIGmuUqderht0T_6Wgs/view?usp=sharing

Start with a few sentence description of the load and its characteristics. You'll need to determine the daily kWh of your load, and the load factor. (The load factor is the ratio of daily average power to daily peak power; see the instructions for more discussion). Include all assumptions and calculations. 2 pts for a good description of how you arrived at your estimated daily kWh load. 2 pts for a description of how you arrived at an estimate of load factor. 1 pt for neatness and completeness.