

Renewable Intermittency and Grid Reliability: An Endogenous Learning Model for Vietnam

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Contents

1	Introduction	6
2	Literature Review	8
3	Methodology	12
3.1	Model Overview	12
3.2	Households	13
3.3	The Production Sector	14
3.3.1	Final Goods Production	14
3.4	Grid Reliability and Flexibility Assets	15
3.4.1	Reliability Constraint	15
3.4.2	Public and Private Flexibility Assets	18
3.4.3	Laws of Motion	19
3.5	Learning-by-Doing in Battery Technology	22
3.6	Reliability as the Scarcity Signal	23
3.7	Government	23
3.8	Battery Price Dynamics	23
3.9	External Sector	24
3.9.1	Bond Euler Equation	24
3.9.2	Current Account and Budget Constraint	24
3.9.3	Debt-Elastic Interest Rate Premium	25
3.10	Resource Constraint and Market Clearing	25
3.11	Equilibrium Definition	26
3.12	Steady State Characterization	27

3.13 Mechanism Summary	27
4 Calibration	28
4.1 Preferences and Production	28
4.2 The Energy Transition Block	29
4.2.1 Renewable Intermittency	29
4.2.2 Flexibility Production Function	29
4.3 Learning-by-Doing and Innovation	31
4.4 Battery Price Shock Calibration	31
4.5 Government and Fiscal Policy	31
4.6 External Sector	31
4.7 Calibration Validation	34
5 Model Mechanics	34
5.1 Transmission Mechanism	35
5.2 Steady-State Characterization	35
5.3 Log-Linearization	36
5.3.1 Household Block	36
5.3.2 Production Block	37
5.3.3 Reliability Block	37
5.3.4 Capital Accumulation	39
5.3.5 Innovation Block	39
5.3.6 External Sector Block	40
5.3.7 Exogenous Processes	41
5.4 Equilibrium Definition	41
5.5 Transmission Channels	42
6 Solution Method	43
7 Baseline Analysis	44
7.1 Steady State	44
7.2 Impulse Response to Renewable Intermittency Shock	45
7.2.1 Stage 1: The Reliability Penalty Mechanism	46
7.2.2 Stage 2: The Agility Gap in Investment Responses	47
7.2.3 Stage 3: Directed Technical Change Activation	48
7.2.4 Consumption and Resource Allocation	49
7.3 Forecast Error Variance Decomposition	49
7.4 The Reliability Valley During PDP8 Transition	50
7.4.1 Valley Characteristics	51
7.4.2 Why the Valley Occurs: Mechanism Decomposition	52

7.4.3	Policy Implications	53
7.4.4	Policy Counterfactual: “Closing the Gap”	53
7.5	Summary of Baseline Dynamics	55
8	Welfare Analysis	55
8.1	Welfare Metric	55
8.2	Baseline Welfare Cost	56
8.3	Counterfactual: Signal Attenuation	57
8.4	Parameter Sensitivity	58
8.5	External Sector Dynamics	60
8.6	Joint Shock Scenario: “Perfect Storm”	61
8.7	Summary	62
9	Conclusion	63
A	Proof of Proposition 1	71
B	Proof of Proposition 2	71

Abstract

This capstone investigates the macroeconomic “agility gap”—the divergence between rapid private renewable deployment and slow public grid investment. I develop a DSGE model integrating endogenous learning-by-doing in battery storage with grid reliability constraints, embedded in a small open economy framework. Variable renewable penetration creates intermittency shocks that reduce capital utilization through grid instability.

Calibrating to Vietnam’s Power Development Plan 8, I find five results. First, intermittency shocks account for 79% of output volatility and 85% of reliability volatility. Second, global battery-price shocks drive 99% of battery investment volatility, highlighting exposure to external supply chains. Third, learning-by-doing generates persistent battery improvements conditional on regulatory transmission of scarcity signals (χ). Fourth, asymmetric impulse responses confirm the structural agility gap between private and public investment. Fifth, suppressing scarcity signals ($\chi = 0$) raises the welfare cost of intermittency by 35%, demonstrating that market mechanisms are quantitatively important complements to storage investment.

Keywords: Environmental DSGE, Endogenous Learning, Investment Inertia, Renewable Intermittency, Energy Storage.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations are defined at first use in the main text and listed here for quick reference.

Acronym	Meaning
AR(1)	First-order autoregressive process
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System(s)
CBAM	Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
CES	Constant Elasticity of Substitution
DTC	Directed Technical Change
DSGE	Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium
E-DSGE	Environmental DSGE
EIS	Elasticity of Intertemporal Substitution
ENS	Energy Not Served
ETS	Emissions Trading System
EVN	Vietnam Electricity (Việt Nam Điện Lực)
FEVD	Forecast Error Variance Decomposition
FiT	Feed-in Tariff
FOC	First-Order Condition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSO	General Statistics Office of Vietnam
GW	Gigawatt(s)
IAM	Integrated Assessment Model
IEA	International Energy Agency
LCOE	Levelized Cost of Energy
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LOLE	Loss of Load Expectation
LOLP	Loss of Load Probability
NLDC	National Load Dispatch Centre (Vietnam)
PDP8	Vietnam Power Development Plan 8 (Decision 500/QĐ-TTg)
R&D	Research and Development
SAIDI	System Average Interruption Duration Index
SAIFI	System Average Interruption Frequency Index
SOE	Small Open Economy
TFP	Total Factor Productivity
VGB	Vietnam Government Bond
VRE	Variable Renewable Energy (primarily wind and solar photovoltaic generation whose output is non-dispatchable and weather-driven)

1 Introduction

Mitigating climate change has emerged as the defining macroeconomic challenge of the 21st century. Following the Paris Agreement, global policy has pivoted decisively toward Net Zero targets, necessitating a radical transformation of energy systems. This transition is predicated on the massive deployment of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) sources, primarily wind and solar, whose Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE)¹ has fallen precipitously over the last decade. However, the integration of these sources introduces a fundamental structural friction: the shift from dispatchable fossil fuel generation to non-dispatchable renewable supply. Unlike coal or gas, whose production can be adjusted to match demand, solar and wind generation are exogenously determined by nature.

As noted by [Ambec and Crampes \(2012\)](#), the non-storability of electricity implies that supply and demand must clear instantaneously; when VRE penetration increases without a corresponding increase in storage capacity, the marginal value of renewable energy declines. This phenomenon, empirically documented as the “cannibalization effect” ([Hirth 2013](#)), implies that the decarbonization challenge is not merely one of installing generation capacity, but also one of managing the *reliability penalty*² associated with supply volatility. Empirically, [Hirth \(2013\)](#) documents that in German electricity markets, the market value of solar declined from approximately 100% of baseload prices in 2008 to 60% by 2016 as penetration reached 15%, demonstrating the nonlinear costs of intermittency at scale.

For emerging economies like Vietnam, this friction is acute. As it strives to sustain high growth rates while meeting ambitious decarbonization targets (PDP8), Vietnam faces a critical “energy trilemma”: balancing security, affordability, and sustainability ([Liu et al. 2022](#)). The shift to renewables introduces a new source of supply-side volatility that, without adequate storage infrastructure, acts as a negative productivity shock. This capstone argues that ignoring the temporal mismatch between renewable supply and demand leads standard macroeconomic models to underestimate the welfare costs of the green transition.

Existing environmental DSGE (E-DSGE) frameworks typically allow for imperfect substitution between energy and other inputs through CES aggregation, following [Heutel \(2012\)](#). However, they overlook the non-linear costs of grid instability arising from renewable intermittency. Furthermore, most endogenous growth models in this domain, such as [Acemoglu et al. \(2012\)](#), focus on the inter-sectoral choice between “clean” and “dirty” production technologies, neglecting the intra-sectoral challenge of grid integration.

There remains a critical gap in the literature regarding the interaction between re-

¹Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE): an average lifetime cost per unit of electricity, typically computed as discounted total costs divided by discounted energy output.

²The reliability penalty is defined as the endogenous reduction in effective capital utilization (u_t) resulting from the structural mismatch between variable renewable supply and the grid’s flexibility capacity. In the production function, this deficit operates equivalently to a negative Total Factor Productivity (TFP) shock.

newable intermittency, investment frictions, and induced innovation. Specifically, current models fail to address how a developing economy manages the *agility gap*—the divergence between the rapid deployment of private renewable assets and the slow accumulation of public transmission infrastructure. Addressing this question requires a framework that explicitly endogenizes grid reliability and allows learning-by-doing to respond to the shadow price of flexibility.

To address these gaps, I develop a DSGE model calibrated to the structural characteristics of Vietnam. The model is built around three novel features designed to capture the mechanics of the energy transition. First, I introduce an endogenous reliability function in which capital utilization is determined by the ratio of flexibility assets to renewable-output volatility. This creates a mechanism through which aggressive renewable targets, without sufficient storage, act as a drag on total factor productivity (TFP). Second, I model reliability-gap-induced learning-by-doing in battery storage technologies, where the rate of technological progress responds to the gap between target and actual grid reliability. This mechanism, distinct from the Directed Technical Change framework of [Acemoglu \(2002\)](#), captures induced innovation without requiring explicit R&D sectors or resource allocation decisions. Third, I incorporate public-investment inertia to distinguish between private battery capital, which is agile and responds to market signals, and public grid capital, which is subject to construction lags and follows institutional rules. This distinction allows for the analysis of structural bottlenecks in which public infrastructure fails to keep pace with private energy deployment.

This study contributes to the Environmental DSGE literature in three distinct dimensions. The first contribution is the joint modeling of an explicit energy sector with endogenous grid reliability. Unlike standard E-DSGE models that include energy as a production input without specifying its source, I model renewable and fossil generation explicitly, allowing intermittency shocks to propagate through both the energy market and the reliability constraint. This dual-channel mechanism quantifies the full macroeconomic cost of renewable variability.

The second contribution is the integration of price-induced learning-by-doing with investment frictions to identify the *agility gap*. While previous literature focuses on frontier innovation races between clean and dirty technologies, I model learning as a deployment-driven process where accumulated experience with battery storage reduces effective costs. Crucially, I distinguish between private storage (batteries), which responds to price signals, and public infrastructure (grid), which is subject to planning delays. This novel specification captures the structural lags observed in developing economies like Vietnam.

The third contribution provides a “second-best” policy analysis for regulated markets. I demonstrate that the efficacy of learning-induced technological progress is strictly conditional on the transmission of scarcity signals. By simulating the model under damped price pass-through (capturing regulated tariffs or incomplete remuneration for ancillary

services), I identify a result of *signal attenuation*, showing that learning mechanisms cannot substitute for the allocative efficiency of market-clearing prices.

The remainder of this capstone is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the relevant literature. Section 3 outlines the model environment. Section 4 details the calibration strategy for Vietnam. Section 5 presents the model mechanics, log-linearization, and transmission channels. Section 6 describes the solution method. Section 7 analyzes the baseline quantitative results, including impulse responses and variance decomposition. Section 8 presents the welfare analysis, counterfactual experiments, and parameter sensitivity. Section 9 concludes with a discussion of policy implications, limitations, and directions for future research.

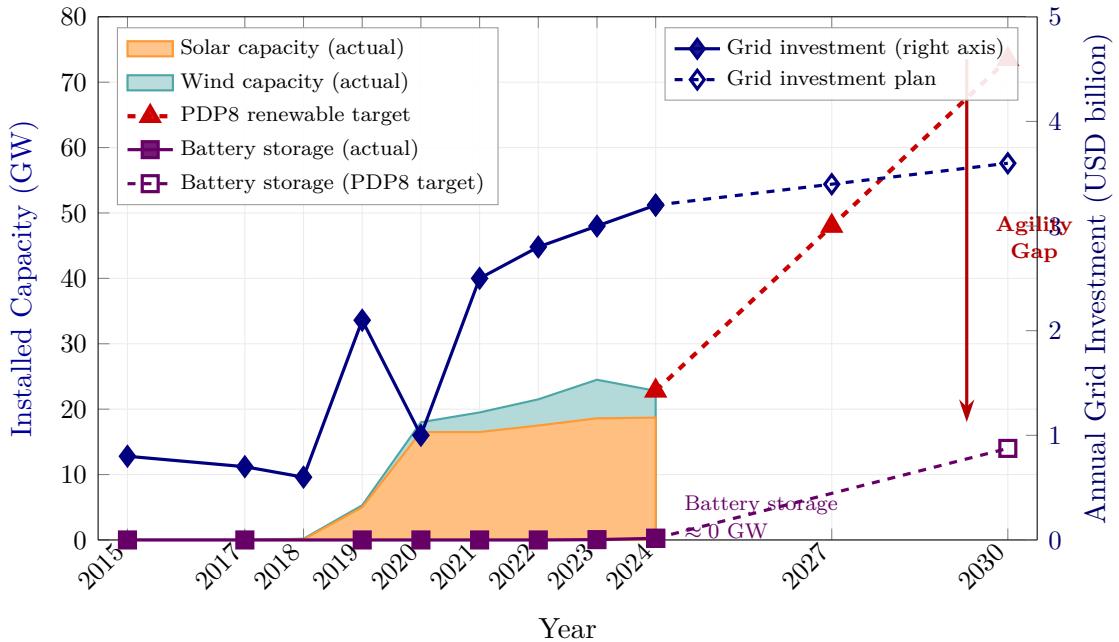


Figure 1: Descriptive evidence for the “agility gap.” Left axis: installed renewable capacity (GW), decomposed into solar (orange) and wind (teal). Capacity surged from near-zero in 2017 to 22.8 GW by 2024; PDP8 targets 73.5 GW by 2030. Right axis: annual grid transmission investment (USD billion), which grew modestly from \$0.6–0.8B to \$3.2B. Battery storage (violet) remained near zero through 2024 despite a PDP8 target of 14 GW by 2030. Data: PDP8 (Decision 500/QD-TTg), EVN annual reports, IEA Vietnam Energy Outlook 2023, IRENA.

2 Literature Review

There has been a significant amount of environmental policy research utilizing DSGE models to analyze macroeconomic variables.³⁴ A central debate in E-DSGE research

³See Annicchiarico and Di Dio (2015), Dissou and Karnizova (2016), Annicchiarico and Di Dio (2017), Khan et al. (2019), Chan (2020a), Chan (2020b), Lintunen and Vilmi (2021), and Xiao et al. (2022).

⁴Another body of literature that focuses on estimating the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), called Integrated Assessment Models (IAM). Key works include Nordhaus’s DICE/RICE (Nordhaus 1992, 1994),

concerns the optimal instrument for emission control under uncertainty. [Fischer and Springborn \(2011\)](#) and [Bosetti and Maffezzoli \(2013\)](#) argue that carbon taxes generally outperform quantity-based instruments (like cap-and-trade) by reducing volatility in critical macroeconomic indicators and effectively lowering emissions. However, other scholars emphasize that these policies cannot be static; [Heutel \(2012\)](#) demonstrates that optimal environmental policy must adjust pro-cyclically with the business cycle to mitigate recessionary impacts. More recently, attention has shifted to how these policies interact with structural frictions. For instance, [Chan and Punzi \(2023\)](#) reveals that the complementarity between energy and capital amplifies the transmission of shocks, suggesting that welfare-maximizing carbon taxes must be calibrated lower when endogenous capital utilization is taken into account.

Recently, [Airaudo et al. \(2025\)](#) advanced the Environmental DSGE literature by introducing a New Keynesian small open economy model that captures the macroeconomic costs of the green transition. Their analysis reveals that carbon taxes reduce brown energy use but cause short-term inflation and output losses, a phenomenon they term “greenflation”, due to limited short-run substitutability between energy and traditional inputs. Crucially, they explicitly model public green investment as a fiscal instrument that can boost the productivity of the green sector. Their findings suggest that while carbon taxes alone are contractionary, mixed strategies that recycle carbon revenues into green public investment yield comparable environmental outcomes at lower welfare costs.

While [Airaudo et al. \(2025\)](#) focus on the short-run frictional costs of carbon taxation and fiscal policy coordination, this capstone complements their analysis by examining a distinct medium-run friction: the reliability penalty arising from renewable intermittency when flexibility infrastructure lags deployment. Whereas their “greenflation” emerges from incomplete factor substitutability under carbon pricing, the present model identifies an additional channel—endogenous grid instability—that operates even absent explicit carbon taxes, driven instead by the physical characteristics of VRE integration. This insight directly informs the policy discussion in Section 9.

While [Airaudo et al. \(2025\)](#) highlight the short-run frictional costs of transition, a distinct strand of literature rooted in endogenous growth theory offers a mechanism for long-run technological progress through innovation. The Directed Technical Change (DTC) framework, pioneered by [Acemoglu \(2002\)](#) and applied to the environment by [Acemoglu et al. \(2012\)](#), models innovation as a resource allocation problem where scientists choose which sector to develop. This framework highlights two competing forces: the market size effect, which encourages innovation in the larger sector, and the price effect, which directs innovation toward the sector with higher prices. In the standard model, the market size

Hope’s PAGE ([Hope 2006](#)), Tol’s FUND ([Tol 2002](#)), and advanced IAMs like WITCH ([Bosetti et al. 2006](#)), REMIND ([Bauer et al. 2013](#)), and GCAM ([Calvin et al. 2019](#)). IAMs face criticism regarding discounting and damage function assumptions ([Weitzman 2009; Pindyck 2017](#)). For a review, see [Fernández-Villaverde et al. \(2025\)](#).

effect dominates, locking the economy into dirty technologies. However, [Acemoglu et al. \(2012\)](#) show that policy intervention can manipulate these effects to redirect innovation toward clean technologies.

This theoretical mechanism has found robust empirical support. [Popp \(2002\)](#) provided early evidence that higher energy prices significantly induce energy-efficient patenting activity. More recently, [Aghion et al. \(2016\)](#) utilized microdata from the global automotive industry to show that firms tend to innovate in areas where they have prior expertise (path dependence), but that fuel price shocks successfully redirect R&D toward electric and hybrid technologies. Similarly, [Calel and Dechezleprêtre \(2016\)](#) finds that firms regulated under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) increased low-carbon patenting by 10% compared to a matched control group without crowding out other R&D, suggesting that policy can effectively steer the direction of technical progress.

However, a fundamental limitation in standard DTC models is the assumption regarding the elasticity of substitution. The AABH framework relies on the premise that clean and dirty inputs are high substitutes. Under this condition, innovation in clean energy allows it to seamlessly replace fossil fuels. Yet, structural analyses challenge this assumption in the presence of intermittency. As renewable penetration rises, the lack of dispatchability renders clean energy an imperfect substitute for baseload fossil generation ([Hirth 2013; Joskow 2011](#)). Consequently, models that treat clean capital as a homogeneous block overlook the necessity of complementary innovations. As argued by [Hart \(2019\)](#), when inputs are complements rather than substitutes, technological progress must target not just generation, but the bottleneck technologies—specifically storage—that enable substitutability.

An alternative mechanism for technological progress is learning-by-doing, where costs decline through accumulated production experience rather than explicit R&D allocation. [Arrow \(1962\)](#) first formalized this idea, and it has been widely applied to renewable energy technologies. [Nemet \(2006\)](#) documents dramatic cost reductions in solar photovoltaics driven by cumulative deployment, while [Kittner et al. \(2017\)](#) shows similar patterns for battery storage. Unlike DTC, learning-by-doing does not require modeling innovation sectors or resource constraints, making it particularly suitable for capturing technological progress in capital goods like batteries where costs decline through manufacturing scale and operational experience.

To address these dynamics, recent contributions have attempted to internalize these physical constraints within general equilibrium frameworks. For instance, [Schreiner and Madlener \(2020\)](#) develop a DSGE model for Germany that treats power grid infrastructure as a flexibility option required to bridge the mismatch between variable renewable supply and demand. Crucially, their simulations reveal that while grid investments increase reliability, the associated costs can lead to long-term decreases in GDP and employment unless accompanied by significant efficiency gains. This underscores that solving the

intermittency problem is not merely a matter of capital accumulation (building more lines) but requires targeted technological progress in intertemporal substitution (storage).

While the engineering literature has long established the necessity of storage for renewable integration, macroeconomic frameworks have lagged in formally modeling this investment channel. Techno-economic analyses, such as [Zakeri and Syri \(2015\)](#) and [Lund et al. \(2015\)](#), demonstrate that, as renewable penetration increases, the primary cost driver shifts from generation (LCOE) to flexibility (integration costs). They argue that, without storage, the social cost of intermittency rises nonlinearly due to the need for redundant fossil-fuel backup.

Despite this, the standard E-DSGE literature largely omits storage as an endogenous decision variable. Major recent contributions, including [Batten and Millard \(2020\)](#) and [Annicchiarico et al. \(2021\)](#), focus predominantly on pricing instruments (carbon taxes) or quantity restrictions (caps), effectively assuming that energy markets clear instantaneously. When backup is modeled, as in [Schreiner and Madlener \(2020\)](#), it is often treated as a static infrastructure cost or fossil generation, which inherently reintroduces carbon emissions or capital rigidities that dampen the efficacy of green transition policies.

This creates a significant modeling gap. By treating backup as fossil generation rather than intertemporal substitution, existing models fail to capture the capital-intensive nature of grid stability. As noted by [Kittner et al. \(2017\)](#), the declining costs of battery technologies imply that energy storage is transitioning from a niche ancillary service to a core infrastructure asset. Consequently, accurately capturing the “greenflation” trade-off requires a framework where agents can optimize investment not just in productive capital, but also in smoothing capital (BESS), a structural feature this capstone seeks to integrate.

Beyond the storage modeling gap, international trade emerges as a critical transmission channel for small open economies navigating the green transition. Open-economy macroeconomic research shows that energy price shocks behave like terms-of-trade shocks and can generate persistent effects on output, inflation, and external balances when a country is heavily dependent on imported energy ([Obstfeld and Rogoff 1995](#); [Corsetti et al. 2010](#)). In the environmental domain, a growing body of open-economy E-DSGE and two-country DSGE studies demonstrates that integrating carbon pricing across borders induces spillovers in trade flows, alters the competitiveness of carbon-intensive sectors, and raises carbon leakage risks ([Böhringer et al. 2018](#); [Balke and Winkler 2022](#)). These mechanisms matter quantitatively: recent guidance by the Network for Greening the Financial System ([NGFS 2022](#)) and the IMF ([International Monetary Fund 2021](#)) emphasizes that external exposure, particularly dependence on imported energy and intermediate goods, amplifies transition-related price shocks and materially affects domestic inflation and output under decarbonization scenarios.

For Vietnam specifically, trade linkages are not peripheral but central to its green-

transition challenge. The country's rapid export-oriented industrialization has been accompanied by rising dependence on imported thermal coal and liquefied natural gas (LNG), making global fossil-fuel price fluctuations a direct source of domestic production-cost volatility ([International Energy Agency 2023](#); [General Statistics Office of Vietnam 2024](#)). At the same time, Vietnam's energy-intensive export sectors, such as steel, cement, and fertilizers, face increasing exposure to foreign climate policies like the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism ([European Commission 2023](#)). Empirical work on Vietnam and comparable emerging economies shows that trade openness interacts strongly with renewable-energy adoption and CO₂ emissions, reinforcing the need to jointly consider trade and environmental policy in macro-modeling ([Al-Mulali et al. 2015](#); [Vo et al. 2020](#)). The broader literature on carbon leakage, border adjustments, and greenflation also underscores the relevance of modelling international connections: unilateral carbon pricing, carbon-border tariffs, or linked carbon markets produce measurable welfare, competitiveness, and terms-of-trade effects that an open-economy E-DSGE is well-suited to analyze ([Fischer and Fox 2012](#); [Böhringer et al. 2022](#)). These insights collectively highlight that, for a highly open economy like Vietnam, international trade in both energy and goods is not an auxiliary consideration but a defining structural feature of the green transition.

Taken together, the existing literature provides a strong foundation for environmental DSGE frameworks, yet it leaves critical blind spots regarding the interactions among intermittency, flexibility investment, and induced innovation. Building on these gaps, this capstone makes three core contributions. First, it introduces an endogenous reliability function that links capital utilization to the ratio of flexibility assets to renewable volatility, allowing intermittency to propagate through both the production function and the investment channel. Second, it incorporates reliability-gap-induced learning-by-doing in Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), where technological progress responds endogenously to the gap between target and actual grid reliability, a channel distinct from frontier R&D allocation. Third, it distinguishes between agile private battery investment and slow-moving public grid infrastructure, capturing the structural *agility gap* observed in developing economies. By integrating these elements, the capstone argues that market-based signals are essential complements to storage investment in transforming the green transition from a cost burden into a sustainable growth path.

3 Methodology

3.1 Model Overview

I develop a Small Open Economy Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) model calibrated to Vietnam. The model is designed to analyze the macroeconomic consequences of renewable-energy intermittency when the accumulation of grid flexibility lags behind

the expansion of variable renewable generation, while capturing the external balance implications through international borrowing and lending. The framework extends standard Environmental DSGE (E-DSGE) models by introducing two departures from the canonical structure.

First, grid reliability is endogenized as a technological constraint on effective capital services rather than treated implicitly through energy prices or exogenous productivity shocks. This reflects the physical reality that electricity systems with high renewable penetration are constrained by temporal mismatches between supply and demand. Second, I embed a price-induced learning-by-doing mechanism that governs the rate of cost reduction in battery storage technologies. This allows the economy to respond endogenously to reliability scarcity through technological progress rather than relying solely on capital accumulation or policy intervention.

The economy consists of a representative household and a representative firm operating in a small open economy with access to international bond markets. Households supply labor, accumulate productive capital, and trade bonds with the rest of the world at a debt-elastic interest rate. Firms produce final output using a CES aggregator of value-added (from capital and labor) and a fixed energy endowment. Grid reliability is determined endogenously by the stock of flexibility assets (batteries and grid infrastructure) relative to renewable volatility. Battery costs decline through reliability-gap-induced learning-by-doing, while public grid investment follows a rule-based response to reliability shortfalls.

A central modeling choice is the treatment of capital utilization. In contrast to standard RBC or New Keynesian models, capital utilization in this framework is not a choice variable and does not affect depreciation. Instead, it reflects the fraction of installed productive capital that is operational given the state of grid reliability. This interpretation aligns utilization with system-wide power availability rather than firm-level intensity of use.

3.2 Households

A representative household maximizes expected lifetime utility:

$$\mathbb{E}_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \left[\log(C_t) - \frac{L_t^{1+\sigma_L}}{1+\sigma_L} \right] \quad (1)$$

subject to the budget constraint:

$$C_t + I_{p,t} + P_{bat,t} I_{bat,t} + I_{grid,t} + B_t^* = Y_t + (1 + r_{t-1}^*) B_{t-1}^* \quad (2)$$

where $I_{p,t}$ is productive capital investment, $I_{bat,t}$ battery investment at world price $P_{bat,t}$, $I_{grid,t}$ public grid investment (following the rule specified in Section 3.7), and B_t^*

denotes net foreign asset holdings earning the country-specific interest rate r_t^* .

The household chooses $\{C_t, L_t, K_{p,t+1}, B_t^*\}$ to maximize utility subject to the budget constraint. The first-order conditions are derived as follows.

Euler equation for capital. Differentiating the Lagrangian with respect to $K_{p,t+1}$ and C_t , and noting that the marginal product of capital in the production function is $\partial Y_{t+1}/\partial K_{p,t} = \alpha Y_{t+1}/K_{p,t}$ (from the Cobb-Douglas value-added structure in equation 6 below), the intertemporal optimality condition equates the marginal cost of investing one unit of consumption today with the discounted marginal benefit of the return tomorrow:

$$\frac{1}{C_t} = \beta \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\alpha Y_{t+1}/K_{p,t+1} + 1 - \delta_p}{C_{t+1}} \right] \quad (3)$$

In words: the household invests in capital until the cost of forgoing one unit of consumption today ($1/C_t$) equals the expected discounted benefit of the gross return—marginal product plus undepreciated capital—valued at tomorrow’s marginal utility ($1/C_{t+1}$).

Labor supply. Differentiating with respect to L_t and equating the marginal disutility of labor ($L_t^{\sigma_L}$) with the marginal utility of the real wage (w_t/C_t), and substituting the competitive wage $w_t = (1 - \alpha)V_t/L_t$ from the firm’s profit maximization:

$$(1 - \alpha)V_t = \varphi C_t L_t^{1+\sigma_L} \quad (4)$$

In words: the labor share of value-added (left side) equals the household’s required compensation for working, which is increasing in consumption (higher income households demand more leisure) and steeply increasing in hours worked (via the exponent $1 + \sigma_L$). The parameter φ is the labor disutility weight, calibrated endogenously to match steady-state labor hours of $L_{ss} = 0.33$.

3.3 The Production Sector

3.3.1 Final Goods Production

Final output Y_t is produced by a representative firm using a nested Constant Elasticity of Substitution (CES) technology that combines value-added and energy inputs. To reduce notational clutter in the CES expressions that follow, I adopt the convention of writing exponents in terms of the *substitution parameter* $s \equiv (\sigma - 1)/\sigma$ for a given elasticity σ . When $\sigma < 1$ (complements), $s < 0$; when $\sigma > 1$ (substitutes), $s > 0$; when $\sigma = 1$ (Cobb-Douglas), $s = 0$. Using $s_E \equiv (\sigma_E - 1)/\sigma_E$ for the output aggregator:

$$Y_t = [(1 - \omega_E)V_t^{s_E} + \omega_E \bar{E}^{s_E}]^{1/s_E} \quad (5)$$

In words: output is a weighted aggregate of value-added V_t and energy E_t , where neither input can fully substitute for the other when $\sigma_E < 1$. Shutting down either input drives output toward zero—energy and productive activity are essential complements.

This formulation follows the environmental macroeconomics literature (Heutel 2012; Airaudo et al. 2025) and captures the limited short-run substitutability between energy and non-energy inputs. When the elasticity of substitution σ_E is low (calibrated at 0.6), disruptions to energy supply translate into disproportionately large output losses, a feature that is empirically relevant for energy-intensive emerging economies.

Value-added production combines labor and effective capital services:

$$V_t = (u_t K_{p,t})^\alpha L_t^{1-\alpha} \quad (6)$$

In words: value-added is produced from “effective capital” $u_t K_{p,t}$ —the fraction of installed capacity that is actually operational—combined with labor. A factory with machines that cannot run due to power outages produces less, even if the machines physically exist.

Here, $K_{p,t}$ is the physical stock of productive capital, and $u_t \in (0, 1)$ represents the fraction of capital that can be operated given grid conditions. Unlike standard utilization models (e.g., Greenwood et al. (1988)), u_t is not chosen optimally by firms and does not influence capital depreciation. Instead, it captures system-wide outages, curtailment, and power shortages that prevent installed capital from being used. In this sense, grid instability manifests as an endogenous, state-dependent productivity wedge: a 3% reliability shortfall ($u_t = 0.97$) is equivalent to a TFP loss of approximately $\alpha \times 3\% \approx 1\%$.

In the implemented model, energy enters the CES aggregator as a fixed endowment \bar{E} , reflecting the assumption that total energy supply is determined by installed capacity and policy targets (PDP8) rather than optimized period-by-period. This simplification allows the model to focus on the key channel of interest—how renewable intermittency affects grid reliability and, through it, effective capital utilization—without requiring a full energy market clearing block. The intermittency shock enters through the reliability function (equation (7) below) rather than through energy supply directly.

The household’s optimality conditions—the capital Euler equation (3) and labor supply condition (4), as derived in Section 3.2—together with the production technology determine the equilibrium allocation of capital and labor.

3.4 Grid Reliability and Flexibility Assets

3.4.1 Reliability Constraint

Grid reliability is modeled as a reduced-form approximation to the probability that aggregate electricity demand can be met without load shedding. The functional form is motivated by the standard reliability engineering framework, where the Loss-of-Load

Probability (LOLP) declines exponentially as reserve margins (here, flexibility assets) increase relative to demand uncertainty (here, renewable volatility). In engineering practice, LOLP is defined as the probability that available generation falls short of demand in a given period; the complement $1 - \text{LOLP}$ measures the fraction of time the system operates reliably. The exponential form $u = 1 - \exp(-z)$ is the simplest functional form that maps a non-negative “adequacy ratio” $z \geq 0$ into a probability bounded on $(0, 1)$, while preserving the key engineering property that additional reserves exhibit diminishing marginal returns to reliability. This is the same mathematical structure underlying the Poisson reliability model widely used in power systems analysis ([Zakeri and Syri 2015](#); [Lund et al. 2015](#)).

The reliability constraint is formalized as:

$$u_t = 1 - \exp\left(-\psi \frac{F_t}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,t}}\right) \quad (7)$$

In words: grid reliability is an increasing, concave function of the ratio of flexibility assets (F_t) to renewable volatility ($\text{Vol}_{ren,t}$). When the system has abundant flexibility relative to volatility, nearly all capital can operate ($u_t \approx 1$). When flexibility is scarce, outages proliferate and utilization collapses.

The variables and parameters are:

- F_t is the stock of flexibility assets (batteries + grid infrastructure, defined below)
- $\phi_{int} > 0$ is a scaling parameter that converts renewable volatility into effective flexibility requirements; it captures the complexity of integrating variable renewables into the grid (calibrated endogenously to ≈ 55.6)
- $\text{Vol}_{ren,t}$ measures renewable output volatility (strictly positive)
- $\psi > 0$ governs the sensitivity of reliability to the flexibility-to-volatility ratio (calibrated at 2.0)

This exponential formulation ensures that:

1. When $F_t \rightarrow \infty$, utilization approaches unity (perfect reliability): $u_t \rightarrow 1$
2. When $F_t \rightarrow 0$, utilization approaches zero (grid collapse): $u_t \rightarrow 0$
3. The function is always bounded: $u_t \in (0, 1)$ for all $F_t > 0$
4. Marginal returns to flexibility are strictly diminishing
5. The reliability penalty increases exponentially with the volatility-to-flexibility ratio

This exponential functional form is standard in reliability engineering ([Zakeri and Syri 2015](#); [Lund et al. 2015](#)) and ensures that flexibility requirements rise nonlinearly as VRE penetration increases, capturing the convex integration costs documented in the empirical literature.

To illustrate the nonlinearity, Table 1 reports the reliability response to flexibility shortfalls under the baseline calibration. The convex curvature is evident: a 10% flexibility deficit reduces reliability by 1.26 percentage points (pp), but a 50% deficit causes a 14.32 pp collapse—more than 11 times the proportional response. This accelerating penalty captures the engineering reality that the first units of flexibility (spinning reserves, fast-ramping gas) are cheap and effective, while maintaining reliability under extreme shortfalls requires exponentially more resources.

Table 1: **Reliability Response to Flexibility Shortfalls**

Flexibility Shortfall	Reliability (u_t)	Reliability Loss (pp)	Approx. Output Loss
0% (steady state)	97.00%	—	—
-5%	96.43%	0.57	-0.21%
-10%	95.74%	1.26	-0.45%
-20%	93.95%	3.05	-1.10%
-30%	91.41%	5.59	-2.02%
-50%	82.68%	14.32	-5.17%

Note: Computed from equation (7) under the baseline calibration ($\psi = 2.0$, $\phi_{int} = 55.6$). Output loss approximated as $\alpha \times \Delta u/u_{ss}$, capturing the direct effective-capital channel. The convexity of the reliability function implies that moderate flexibility shortfalls (10–20%) have manageable consequences, but large deficits trigger disproportionate reliability collapses—motivating the “Reliability Valley” analysis in Section 7.

The volatility term captures the absolute variability of renewable generation:

$$\overline{\text{Vol}}_{ren} = \theta_{ren} \cdot K_{ren} \cdot \sigma_{ren} \quad (8)$$

where θ_{ren} is the renewable penetration share, K_{ren} is installed renewable capacity, and σ_{ren} is the standard deviation of the intermittency shock. In the quantitative implementation, $\overline{\text{Vol}}_{ren}$ is treated as a **calibrated parameter** (not an endogenous variable), set to match the baseline renewable fleet characteristics under PDP8. This model deliberately treats the trajectory of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) deployment as exogenous. The firms do not dynamically optimize how many solar panels to build based on current prices; instead, VRE capacity follows the government’s PDP8 plan implicitly. This simplification isolates the endogenous response of flexibility assets (the “agility gap”). Future models could endogenize VRE investment explicitly. The intermittency shock $\varepsilon_{ren,t}$ enters the reliability function (7) multiplicatively as $\overline{\text{Vol}}_{ren} \cdot \exp(\varepsilon_{ren,t})$, generating stochastic

variation in effective volatility around the calibrated baseline.

Conceptually, $\overline{\text{Vol}}_{ren}$ varies with the size of the renewable fleet, capturing the empirical finding that integration costs rise with penetration (Hirth 2013). In the deterministic transition simulations (Section 7.4), $\overline{\text{Vol}}_{ren}$ is allowed to increase along the policy-determined VRE expansion path.

3.4.2 Public and Private Flexibility Assets

Total system flexibility F_t is produced by combining two distinct assets: private battery storage and public grid infrastructure. These assets serve complementary roles. Battery storage shifts energy *across time* (charging when supply exceeds demand, discharging when it falls short), while grid infrastructure shifts energy *across space* (transmitting power from surplus to deficit regions). Using the shorthand $s_F \equiv (\rho - 1)/\rho$ for the flexibility substitution parameter (where ρ is the elasticity of substitution between battery and grid capital), the flexibility bundle is:

$$F_t = [\mu(A_{bat,t}K_{b,t})^{s_F} + (1 - \mu)K_{g,t}^{s_F}]^{1/s_F}, \quad \rho < 1 \Leftrightarrow s_F < 0 \quad (9)$$

In words: flexibility is a weighted combination of technology-augmented battery capacity ($A_{bat,t}K_{b,t}$) and grid infrastructure ($K_{g,t}$), where neither can fully replace the other. A grid with abundant batteries but no transmission lines cannot deliver stored power; a grid with extensive transmission but no storage cannot smooth intermittent supply. The negative exponent $s_F < 0$ (since $\rho = 0.4 < 1$) ensures that flexibility collapses if either input approaches zero—a mathematical expression of the engineering constraint.

The elasticity of substitution $\rho = 0.4$ is calibrated below unity to enforce this complementarity. The parameter $\mu = 0.16$ governs the relative weight of battery storage in the aggregate, reflecting Vietnam’s current early-stage storage deployment. Innovation affects flexibility through $A_{bat,t}$, which represents learning-by-doing that reduces the effective cost of battery storage services. Improvements in storage technology raise the usable energy-shifting capacity per unit of installed storage rather than merely increasing physical capacity.

The complementarity parameter $\rho < 1$ has a precise formal consequence for the returns to coordinated flexibility investment.

Proposition 1 (Superadditivity of Joint Flexibility Investment). *Let $F(x, y) = [\mu x^s + (1 - \mu)y^s]^{1/s}$ be the CES flexibility aggregator with $s \equiv (\rho - 1)/\rho$, $\mu \in (0, 1)$, and $\rho \in (0, 1)$ (so that $s < 0$). For any baseline inputs $x_0, y_0 > 0$ and scaling factor $\lambda > 1$, the joint gain from scaling both inputs strictly exceeds the sum of individual gains:*

$$\underbrace{F(\lambda x_0, \lambda y_0) - F(x_0, y_0)}_{\text{joint gain}} > \underbrace{[F(\lambda x_0, y_0) - F(x_0, y_0)]}_{\text{battery-only gain}} + \underbrace{[F(x_0, \lambda y_0) - F(x_0, y_0)]}_{\text{grid-only gain}}$$

The result follows from the strict supermodularity of the CES aggregator when inputs are complements ($\rho < 1$). The formal proof is provided in Appendix A.⁵

Remark. By homogeneity of degree one, the joint gain equals exactly $(\lambda - 1)F(x_0, y_0)$. Each individual gain is strictly less than $(\lambda - 1)F$ due to the strict concavity of F in each argument separately. The *superadditivity gap*—the excess of the joint gain over the sum of individual gains—measures the pure complementarity premium from coordinated investment. This gap vanishes only as $\rho \rightarrow 1$ (perfect substitutes) and grows as $\rho \rightarrow 0$ (Leontief). Table 2 evaluates the gap numerically under the baseline calibration.

Table 2: **CES Flexibility: Superadditivity Under Baseline Calibration**

Scenario	Flexibility (F)	Change from Baseline
Baseline ($K_b = 0.19$, $K_g = 1.14$)	0.526	—
Double K_b only ($K_b = 0.38$)	0.809	+53.9%
Double K_g only ($K_g = 2.28$)	0.596	+13.2%
Double both	1.052	+100.0%
Sum of individual gains	—	+67.1%
Joint gain (Proposition 1)	—	+100.0%
Superadditivity gap	—	+32.9 pp

Note: Computed from equation (9) with $\rho = 0.4$, $\mu = 0.16$, $A_{bat} = 1$, $\lambda = 2$. The 32.9 percentage point superadditivity gap quantifies the complementarity premium. By Proposition 1, this gap is strictly positive for any $\rho < 1$. Battery capital has a larger individual marginal effect because $\mu = 0.16$ places it in the scarce-factor position within the CES aggregator.

3.4.3 Laws of Motion

Public grid capital evolves according to a standard accumulation equation:

$$K_{g,t+1} = (1 - \delta_g)K_{g,t} + I_{grid,t} \quad (10)$$

Grid investment is undertaken by the government and is subject to institutional inertia, reflecting planning delays and construction lags. As a result, public flexibility adjusts slowly to changes in renewable penetration.

Private battery capital evolves as:

$$K_{b,t+1} = (1 - \delta_b)K_{b,t} + I_{bat,t} \quad (11)$$

Battery capital follows a standard linear accumulation law without adjustment costs,

⁵The proposition is a direct consequence of the CES functional form with $\rho < 1$, which implies complementarity between battery storage and grid capital. The restriction $\rho < 1$ (i.e., $s < 0$) ensures a strictly positive cross-partial $\partial^2 F / \partial x \partial y > 0$, from which superadditivity follows via Topkis's theorem (Topkis 1998).

as the modular and scalable nature of battery storage allows rapid deployment without the installation frictions typically associated with heavy infrastructure.

Battery Investment Decision. To motivate the battery investment rule, I derive the shadow rental rate on storage services from the model's first-order conditions. The marginal value of an additional unit of battery capital flows through the chain $K_b \rightarrow F \rightarrow u \rightarrow V \rightarrow Y$:

$$R_{b,t} \equiv \frac{\partial Y_t}{\partial F_t} \cdot \frac{\partial F_t}{\partial (A_{bat,t} K_{b,t-1})} \cdot A_{bat,t} \quad (12)$$

Each component is computed from the model's structural equations. From the CES flexibility aggregator (9):

$$\frac{\partial F_t}{\partial (A_{bat,t} K_{b,t-1})} = \mu \left(\frac{A_{bat,t} K_{b,t-1}}{F_t} \right)^{-1/\rho_f} \quad (13)$$

The marginal product of flexibility in output operates through the reliability channel. Combining the exponential reliability function (7) with the value-added function (6) and the CES output aggregator (5):

$$\frac{\partial Y_t}{\partial F_t} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial Y_t}{\partial V_t}}_{\text{CES share}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial V_t}{\partial u_t}}_{\text{capital utilization}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial u_t}{\partial F_t}}_{\text{reliability gradient}} = \frac{\partial Y_t}{\partial V_t} \cdot \alpha \frac{V_t}{u_t} \cdot \frac{\psi(1 - u_t)}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,t}} \quad (14)$$

where $\partial u_t / \partial F_t = \psi(1 - u_t) / (\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,t})$ follows from differentiating the exponential reliability function, and $\partial V_t / \partial u_t = \alpha V_t / u_t$ from the Cobb-Douglas value-added specification. Note that $R_{b,t}$ is increasing in the reliability gap ($1 - u_t$): when reliability falls below target, the marginal return to storage rises sharply due to the exponential curvature of the reliability function.

Table 3 evaluates each component of the chain at steady-state values, yielding a shadow rental rate of $R_{b,ss} = 10.93\%$ quarterly. The decomposition reveals that the *flexibility bottleneck*—the large marginal product of batteries in the CES aggregator ($\partial F / \partial (A_{bat} K_b) = 2.04$)—is the dominant force, reflecting the scarcity of storage relative to grid capital. The reliability gradient ($\partial u / \partial F = 0.20$) is moderate because the system operates near the flat portion of the exponential curve at $u_{ss} = 0.97$.

Table 3: Marginal Product Decomposition of Battery Rental Rate ($R_{b,ss}$)

Component	Expression	Value	Interpretation
CES output share	$\partial Y / \partial V$	0.725	Value-added dominates output
Utilization effect	$\partial V / \partial u = \alpha V / u$	0.370	Capital utilization channel
Reliability gradient	$\partial u / \partial F$	0.200	Moderate (near flat of exp. curve)
Flexibility bottleneck	$\partial F / \partial (A_{bat} K_b)$	2.040	Scarce factor in CES
Shadow rental rate	$R_{b,ss}$	0.109	10.93% quarterly

Note: Evaluated at the deterministic steady state. $R_{b,ss} = (\partial Y / \partial V) \times (\partial V / \partial u) \times (\partial u / \partial F) \times (\partial F / \partial (A_{bat} K_b)) \times A_{bat} = 0.725 \times 0.370 \times 0.200 \times 2.040 \times 1.0 = 0.109$. The large flexibility bottleneck term reflects batteries' position as the scarce factor ($\mu = 0.16$) in the CES aggregator. When u_t falls below target, the reliability gradient steepens (since $\partial u / \partial F \propto (1 - u_t)$), amplifying R_b and triggering the investment response.

In the computational implementation, the investment rule takes the reduced form:

$$\frac{I_{bat,t}}{\bar{I}_{bat}} = \left(\frac{u^*}{u_t} \right)^{\phi_{grid}} \cdot \frac{1}{P_{bat,t}} \quad (15)$$

In words: battery investment rises above its steady-state level when reliability falls below target, and falls when batteries become more expensive.

Modeling Choice Justification: A fully endogenous, forward-looking optimization of battery capital by firms—subject to the highly non-linear exponential reliability constraint—would create massive non-convexities and complicate the Blanchard-Kahn conditions required for local approximation. The reduced-form rule in Equation (15) mathematically proxies the gradient of the shadow price while keeping the system computationally tractable and ensuring local saddle-path stability.

The connection between this reduced form and the structural FOC chain (equations 12–14) operates as follows. The rental rate $R_{b,t}$ depends on the reliability gradient $\partial u / \partial F = \psi(1 - u_t) / (\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,t})$, which is proportional to the reliability gap $(1 - u_t)$. When reliability falls below target, $(1 - u_t)$ rises, steepening the gradient and raising $R_{b,t}$ above its steady-state value. The ratio u^* / u_t is a monotone transformation of this gap: at steady state $u_t = u^* = 0.97$ and the ratio equals unity; when u_t drops below u^* , the ratio rises, driving investment above replacement levels. The exponent ϕ_{grid} governs the elasticity of the investment response to the reliability gap—higher values imply more aggressive battery deployment when the grid is stressed. The price term $1 / P_{bat,t}$ reflects the cost side: Vietnam is a price-taker in global battery markets, so higher world battery prices reduce real investment even when the return to storage is high. At steady state, the rule collapses to $I_{bat,ss} / \bar{I}_{bat} = 1$, consistent with capital replacement at $I_{bat,ss} = \delta_b K_{b,ss}$.

3.5 Learning-by-Doing in Battery Technology

Technological progress in battery storage reflects cumulative deployment experience rather than explicit R&D allocation. The evolution of battery technology follows:

$$A_{bat,t} = \underbrace{A_{bat,t-1}}_{\text{inherited knowledge}} \times \left(1 + \underbrace{\eta_{bat}}_{\text{learning rate}} \cdot \underbrace{\chi}_{\text{signal transmission}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{u^* - u_t}{u^*}}_{\text{reliability gap}} \right) \quad (16)$$

where:

- $\eta_{bat} > 0$ is the learning-by-doing elasticity
- $\chi \in (0, 1]$ captures regulatory distortions in price signals
- u^* is the target reliability level
- u_t is the current reliability

This specification ensures that technological progress is zero when reliability is at target ($u_t = u^*$) and accelerates proportionally when reliability falls below target. The growth rate is bounded and mean-reverting, consistent with empirical learning curves that exhibit saturation effects (Nemet 2006). The reliability gap $(u^* - u_t)/u^*$ serves as the scarcity signal: when the grid is stressed, the economic value of improved storage technology rises, inducing faster learning.

The parameter χ captures regulatory distortions that dampen the transmission of reliability scarcity into private incentives. In regulated markets with incomplete remuneration for ancillary services (e.g., fixed tariffs, lack of capacity payments, or missing real-time pricing), $\chi < 1$, weakening learning responses even when flexibility is scarce. In fully liberalized markets with scarcity pricing, $\chi = 1$.

Policy Implication for Vietnam: In the specific context of Vietnam, the state utility (EVN) currently operates with strictly regulated retail tariffs and lacks a mature Competitive Wholesale or Retail Electricity Market (VWEM/VREM) tailored for dynamic capacity pricing. Therefore, Vietnam's current regulatory baseline corresponds to a χ significantly below 1 (close to 0). This formalizes a critical policy recommendation: to unlock the learning-by-doing channel for battery storage, Vietnam must accelerate its transition toward competitive markets featuring time-of-use (ToU) and capacity payments. Without these scarcity signals, technological progress will stagnate regardless of the physical need for flexibility.

This formulation differs from Directed Technical Change in three key respects. First, there is no R&D sector or explicit allocation of scientists. Second, technological progress responds to the *reliability gap* rather than inter-sectoral competition. Third, learning is embodied in deployment rather than disembodied knowledge creation.

3.6 Reliability as the Scarcity Signal

In this model, the reliability gap $(u^* - u_t)/u^*$ serves as the endogenous scarcity signal that drives both investment and learning responses. This formulation has a natural economic interpretation: the marginal benefit of additional flexibility is proportional to the current reliability shortfall $(1 - u_t)$, a property inherited from the exponential specification of the utilization function.

From the utilization function (7), the marginal effect of flexibility on reliability is:

$$\frac{\partial u_t}{\partial F_t} = (1 - u_t) \cdot \frac{\psi}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,t}} \quad (17)$$

When reliability is already high (near unity), additional flexibility yields diminishing returns. When reliability is low (large shortfall), flexibility becomes critically valuable. Both the battery investment rule (15) and the learning-by-doing equation (16) respond to this scarcity through the ratio u^*/u_t , which rises when reliability falls below target.

3.7 Government

The government does not solve a Ramsey optimization problem. Instead, it follows an institutional reliability-targeting rule motivated by Vietnam's Power Development Plan 8 (PDP8). Public grid investment responds mechanically to deviations of reliability from a target level:

$$\frac{I_{grid,t}}{\bar{I}_{grid}} = \left(\frac{u^*}{u_t} \right)^{\phi_{grid}} \exp(\varepsilon_{I,t}) \quad (18)$$

In words: the government spends more on grid infrastructure when reliability falls below target, and less when the grid is performing well. This rule is structurally identical to the battery investment rule (15) except that it lacks a price term (grid investment uses domestically produced goods) and includes an implementation shock $\varepsilon_{I,t}$ reflecting bureaucratic delays, procurement bottlenecks, and construction lags.

This rule captures the reactive nature of infrastructure policy, where investment accelerates following reliability crises rather than anticipating them. The parameter ϕ_{grid} governs the aggressiveness of the fiscal response.

Grid investment is financed through lump-sum taxation, which is embedded in the resource constraint (24). The government does not optimize; it follows the mechanical rule above, consistent with the reactive nature of infrastructure policy in developing economies.

3.8 Battery Price Dynamics

Battery investment goods are priced at world price $P_{bat,t}$, which enters the resource constraint and the battery investment rule. The world price of batteries evolves according to

a persistent AR(1) process:

$$\log P_{bat,t} = \rho_{bat} \log P_{bat,t-1} + \varepsilon_{bat,t} \quad (19)$$

where $\varepsilon_{bat,t} \sim N(0, \sigma_{bat}^2)$ captures global shocks to battery costs (e.g., lithium price volatility, supply chain disruptions). This channel allows the model to examine how external cost shocks to the green transition propagate through the domestic economy. In steady state, $P_{bat,ss} = 1$ (normalized).

3.9 External Sector

The model is embedded in a small open economy framework following the debt-elastic interest rate premium approach of Schmitt-Grohé and Uribe (2003). The representative household has access to international bond markets, where it can borrow or lend at a country-specific interest rate that depends on the economy's net foreign asset position.

3.9.1 Bond Euler Equation

The household's optimality condition for international bond holdings yields:

$$\frac{1}{C_t} = \beta \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{1 + r_t^*}{C_{t+1}} \right] \quad (20)$$

In words: the household lends abroad until the cost of forgoing one unit of consumption today equals the expected discounted return from the foreign bond. This is analogous to the capital Euler equation (3), but with the foreign interest rate replacing the domestic marginal product of capital. Combining equations (3) and (20) yields the no-arbitrage condition linking domestic and external returns:

$$\alpha Y_{t+1}/K_{p,t} + 1 - \delta_p = 1 + r_t^* \quad (21)$$

This is not an independent equation but rather follows directly from the two Euler conditions. It is listed here to clarify the economic intuition: in equilibrium, the domestic marginal product of capital equals the external borrowing rate.

3.9.2 Current Account and Budget Constraint

The economy-wide resource constraint in the open economy is:

$$\underbrace{B_t^*}_{\text{end-of-period foreign assets}} = \underbrace{(1 + r_{t-1}^*) B_{t-1}^*}_{\text{last period's assets plus interest}} + \underbrace{Y_t - C_t - I_{p,t} - P_{bat,t} I_{bat,t} - I_{grid,t}}_{\text{trade balance (output minus domestic absorption)}} \quad (22)$$

In words: the economy's foreign asset position improves when it produces more than it consumes and invests domestically (trade surplus), and deteriorates when domestic absorption exceeds output (trade deficit). Interest on existing foreign assets also contributes.

Here B_t^* denotes net foreign assets (positive when the economy is a net creditor) and $I_{grid,t}$ follows the government's reliability-targeting rule specified in Section 3.7. The current account surplus equals $B_t^* - B_{t-1}^*$: the change in the net foreign asset position equals the trade balance ($Y_t - C_t - I_{p,t} - P_{bat,t}I_{bat,t} - I_{grid,t}$) plus net interest income ($r_{t-1}^*B_{t-1}^*$).

3.9.3 Debt-Elastic Interest Rate Premium

The country-specific interest rate includes a risk premium that depends on the deviation of net foreign assets from their steady-state level:

$$r_t^* = \bar{r} + \phi_b (\exp(\bar{B}^* - B_t^*) - 1) \quad (23)$$

In words: the more the economy borrows from abroad, the higher the interest rate it faces—reflecting the credit risk that international lenders perceive as foreign debt accumulates. This is the small open economy analog of a sovereign risk premium.

Here $\bar{r} = 1/\beta - 1$ is the world interest rate consistent with the household's discount factor, $\bar{B}^* = 0$ is the steady-state net foreign asset position (balanced trade), and $\phi_b > 0$ governs the elasticity of the premium to the debt position. When the economy borrows abroad ($B_t^* < \bar{B}^*$), the interest rate rises above \bar{r} , stabilizing the external position. This specification ensures stationarity of the net foreign asset process, resolving the well-known unit root problem in small open economy models (Schmitt-Grohé and Uribe 2003).

3.10 Resource Constraint and Market Clearing

In the open economy, the goods market clearing condition is given by the current account equation (22). For expositional clarity, this can be equivalently rearranged as a domestic absorption identity:

$$Y_t = C_t + I_{p,t} + P_{bat,t}I_{bat,t} + I_{grid,t} + \underbrace{(B_t^* - (1 + r_{t-1}^*)B_{t-1}^*)}_{\text{net capital outflow}} \quad (24)$$

This is identical to equation (22) and does not constitute an additional independent equation. Investment in productive capital $I_{p,t}$ evolves as:

$$K_{p,t+1} = (1 - \delta_p)K_{p,t} + I_{p,t} \quad (25)$$

3.11 Equilibrium Definition

A competitive equilibrium for this economy is defined as sequences of **16 endogenous variables**

$$\{Y_t, C_t, L_t, K_{p,t}, K_{b,t}, K_{g,t}, I_{p,t}, I_{bat,t}, I_{grid,t}, u_t, F_t, A_{bat,t}, V_t, P_{bat,t}, B_t^*, r_t^*\}_{t=0}^\infty$$

satisfying **16 independent equations** (given exogenous shocks $\varepsilon_{ren,t}$, $\varepsilon_{bat,t}$, $\varepsilon_{I,t}$ and calibrated parameters including $\overline{\text{Vol}}_{ren}$):

1. Capital Euler equation: (3)
2. Bond Euler equation: (20)
3. Labor market clearing: (4)
4. CES final output: (5)
5. Value-added production: (6)
6. Reliability function: (7)
7. CES flexibility aggregator: (9)
8. Battery investment rule: (15)
9. Battery capital accumulation: (11)
10. Learning-by-doing: (16)
11. Grid investment rule: (18)
12. Grid capital accumulation: (10)
13. Productive capital accumulation: (25)
14. Current account / budget constraint: (22)
15. Debt-elastic interest rate premium: (23)
16. Battery price process: (19)

The no-arbitrage condition (21) and the domestic absorption identity (24) are derived from the equations above and do not constitute additional independent conditions. The renewable volatility $\overline{\text{Vol}}_{ren}$ (equation 8) is a calibrated parameter, not an endogenous variable. The system is exactly identified: 16 equations in 16 unknowns, confirmed by the Blanchard-Kahn conditions (Section 5).

3.12 Steady State Characterization

In the deterministic steady state (all shocks set to zero), the following conditions hold:

1. Euler equation implies: $\alpha Y_{ss}/K_{p,ss} = 1/\beta - 1 + \delta_p$
2. Utilization at target: $u_{ss} = u^* = 0.97$
3. Renewable intermittency at mean: $\varepsilon_{ren,ss} = 0$
4. No learning: $A_{bat,t} = A_{bat,t-1}$ when $u_t = u^*$
5. Grid investment at replacement: $I_{grid,ss} = \delta_g K_{g,ss}$
6. Battery investment at replacement: $I_{bat,ss} = \delta_b K_{b,ss}$
7. Labor market clears: $(1 - \alpha)V_{ss} = \varphi C_{ss} L_{ss}^{1+\sigma_L}$
8. Goods market clears: $Y_{ss} = C_{ss} + I_{p,ss} + P_{bat,ss} I_{bat,ss} + I_{grid,ss}$
9. External balance: $B_{ss}^* = 0$ (balanced trade in steady state)
10. World interest rate: $r_{ss}^* = 1/\beta - 1 \approx 0.0101$

Parameters are calibrated such that the steady state matches Vietnamese macroeconomic aggregates and PDP8 energy targets.

3.13 Mechanism Summary

The model features three interacting mechanisms.

Channel 1: Intermittency → Reliability → Output. Renewable intermittency shocks $\varepsilon_{ren,t}$ reduce grid reliability u_t by increasing the mismatch between supply and demand (through $\text{Vol}_{ren,t}$). Lower reliability directly reduces effective capital utilization, acting as a negative productivity shock that depresses output Y_t , raises the effective cost of capital, and lowers wages.

Channel 2: Reliability Gap → Investment. Reduced reliability widens the gap u^*/u_t , raising the return to battery storage and stimulating battery investment $I_{bat,t}$ through the investment rule (15). Grid investment responds through the government's fiscal rule (18). The differential speed of response—private battery versus public grid—constitutes the “agility gap.”

Channel 3: Reliability Gap → Learning → Cost Reduction. The reliability gap also accelerates learning-by-doing in battery technology (equation (16)), reducing the effective cost of storage services. This creates a virtuous cycle where scarcity induces both more investment and faster technological progress. However, when regulatory distortions dampen price signals ($\chi < 1$), this learning channel is attenuated, prolonging reliability shortfalls and amplifying macroeconomic volatility.

Channel 4: Global Battery Price Shocks. Shocks to world battery prices $P_{bat,t}$ act as external cost shocks to the green transition. Positive shocks (rising prices) increase the cost of domestic battery investment, slowing the accumulation of flexibility and exacerbating reliability constraints. This channel captures Vietnam’s exposure to global supply chains for clean energy technology.

Together, these mechanisms generate endogenous transition dynamics in which reliability scarcity, innovation, and macroeconomic performance are jointly determined.

4 Calibration

The model is calibrated at a quarterly frequency to capture the structural characteristics of the Vietnamese economy and the specific investment targets outlined in the Eighth Power Development Plan (PDP8). The calibration strategy proceeds in three stages: (i) standard structural parameters are set to match long-run moments of the Vietnamese economy; (ii) the novel reliability and intermittency parameters are micro-founded using engineering data from the General Statistics Office of Vietnam ([General Statistics Office of Vietnam 2024](#)) and the International Energy Agency ([International Energy Agency 2023](#)); and (iii) learning-by-doing parameters are drawn from the empirical induced innovation literature. Table 1 summarizes the baseline calibration.

4.1 Preferences and Production

I set the discount factor $\beta = 0.99$, implying an annualized real interest rate of 4%, consistent with the average return on government bonds in emerging Asian economies. The capital share in the value-added function is set to $\alpha = 0.35$, matching the standard labor income share of 0.65 observed in Vietnam ([General Statistics Office of Vietnam 2024](#)). The depreciation rate of productive capital is set to $\delta_p = 0.025$ (10% annually). The elasticity of labor supply is set to $\sigma_L = 1.0$, a standard value in the New Keynesian literature for developing economies.

The elasticity of substitution between energy and value-added is set to $\sigma_E = 0.6$, following [Heutel \(2012\)](#) and consistent with empirical estimates for emerging economies where energy-capital complementarity is strong.

4.2 The Energy Transition Block

A core contribution of this capstone is the rigorous calibration of the reliability constraint, which is micro-founded on the physical properties of the Vietnamese grid rather than arbitrary assumptions.

4.2.1 Renewable Intermittency

The renewable intermittency process is calibrated to match Vietnamese solar and wind generation patterns using facility-level data from Vietnam’s National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC) and the IEA Vietnam Energy Outlook ([International Energy Agency 2023](#)):

- Persistence: $\rho_{ren} = 0.85$ (quarterly). Vietnam’s solar and wind output exhibits strong seasonal autocorrelation driven by the monsoon cycle: the northeast monsoon (October–March) reduces solar irradiance by 20–30% relative to the dry season, while the southwest monsoon (May–September) delivers 60–70% of annual wind energy ([Nguyen-Le et al. 2019](#)). The quarterly persistence of 0.85 matches the autocorrelation of deseasonalized monthly capacity factors reported by [International Energy Agency \(2023\)](#) for the Vietnamese fleet.
- Volatility: $\sigma_{ren} = 0.12$. This matches the coefficient of variation (CV) of monthly solar generation output from Vietnam’s central and southern provinces, where the majority of utility-scale solar is installed. The CV of 0.10–0.15 across individual provinces aggregates to approximately 0.12 for the national fleet after accounting for geographic diversification ([General Statistics Office of Vietnam 2024](#)).
- Bounds: $\varepsilon_{max} = 0.36$ (i.e., $3\sigma_{ren}$), ensuring positive generation with >99% probability.

The renewable capacity factor (mean output/capacity) is approximately 0.25 for solar and 0.20 for wind in Vietnam, yielding a blended factor of approximately 0.23. However, σ_{ren} captures *variability*, not mean output, and is calibrated to the dispersion of monthly generation around its seasonal mean rather than to capacity factors.

4.2.2 Flexibility Production Function

1. The Flexibility Weight ($\mu = 0.16$): Calibrated from PDP8 Investment Stocks

The parameter μ in the CES flexibility aggregator governs the relative importance of battery storage versus grid transmission in producing system flexibility. I calibrate μ from the steady-state capital stocks implied by PDP8 investment plans.

From PDP8 (2021-2030):

- Planned grid transmission investment: \$14.9 billion over 10 years

- Planned battery storage investment: \$2.4 billion over 10 years

Converting these investment flows to capital stocks using $K_{ss} = I_{annual}/\delta$ with depreciation rates $\delta_g = 0.0125$ (5% annually) and $\delta_b = 0.030$ (12% annually):

$$K_{g,ss} \approx \frac{14.9/10}{0.05} = 29.8 \text{ billion USD} \quad (26)$$

$$K_{b,ss} \approx \frac{2.4/10}{0.12} = 2.0 \text{ billion USD} \quad (27)$$

For a CES aggregator with $\rho < 1$, the weight parameter μ is related to steady-state marginal products. Under the assumption of equal rental rates in competitive markets ($R_{b,ss} = R_{g,ss}$) and normalized battery technology ($A_{bat,ss} = 1$), the weight satisfies:

$$\mu = \frac{(K_{b,ss})^{(\rho-1)/\rho}}{(K_{b,ss})^{(\rho-1)/\rho} + (K_{g,ss})^{(\rho-1)/\rho}} \quad (28)$$

With $\rho = 0.4$, $K_{b,ss} = 2.0$, and $K_{g,ss} = 29.8$, this formula yields $\mu \approx 0.16$. This reflects the relatively small (but growing) role of battery storage in Vietnam's current energy infrastructure compared to the dominant transmission network.

2. Elasticity of Substitution ($\rho = 0.4$): Standard macro-energy models often assume high substitutability between energy capital types. However, [Hart \(2019\)](#) and [Hirth \(2013\)](#) demonstrate that transmission and storage are *imperfect complements* in the presence of intermittency. Transmission moves energy across space, while storage moves energy across time. When solar generation is zero (nighttime), infinite transmission capacity yields zero marginal utility. I therefore set $\rho = 0.4$, significantly below unity, to enforce this binding complementarity constraint.

3. Reliability Function Parameters:

The exponential utilization function (7) contains two key parameters: ψ and ϕ_{int} .

- $\psi = 2.0$: Sensitivity parameter governing how rapidly reliability degrades when the flexibility-to-volatility ratio declines. Calibrated through moment-matching: I target that the steady-state utilization rate $u_{ss} = 0.97$ is achievable with the PDP8-implied flexibility stocks, consistent with Vietnam Electricity (EVN) reported grid availability of 97-98% under normal conditions. Higher ψ implies steeper reliability penalties from flexibility shortfalls.
- ϕ_{int} : Scaling parameter that converts renewable volatility into effective flexibility requirements. In steady state with target utilization $u_{ss} = 0.97$, flexibility stock F_{ss} , and volatility $\text{Vol}_{ren,ss}$, the parameter ϕ_{int} is backed out from the steady-state condition: $u_{ss} = 1 - \exp(-\psi F_{ss}/(\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,ss}))$, ensuring internal consistency of the calibration.

4.3 Learning-by-Doing and Innovation

The learning-by-doing elasticity is set to $\eta_{bat} = 0.10$ (quarterly). This parameter is anchored to the empirical experience curve literature for lithium-ion batteries. [Kittner et al. \(2017\)](#) estimate a learning rate of 18–22% (cost reduction per doubling of cumulative installed capacity) for utility-scale battery systems over 1991–2015. Converting this to a quarterly scarcity-driven elasticity requires mapping from a capacity-doubling framework to the model’s reliability-gap formulation. Given that the model’s steady-state reliability gap is approximately 3% ($u^* - u_{ss} = 0$, but stochastic deviations of 1–5% are typical), an $\eta_{bat} = 0.10$ implies that a sustained 10% reliability gap would generate approximately 1% quarterly improvement in battery efficiency—consistent with the 18% experience curve when accounting for the relationship between reliability gaps and deployment acceleration. The learning rate is also broadly consistent with [Way et al. \(2022\)](#), who find that energy storage technologies follow Wright’s Law with a progress ratio of 0.79–0.82.

The price signal transmission parameter is set to $\chi = 1.0$ in the baseline (full price transmission), and $\chi = 0.3$ in the regulated market counterfactual, representing severe dampening of scarcity signals due to fixed retail tariffs and lack of capacity markets.

4.4 Battery Price Shock Calibration

The world battery price shock follows $\rho_{bat} = 0.90$ and $\sigma_{bat} = 0.08$ (quarterly). The high persistence reflects the commodity-driven nature of battery supply chains: lithium carbonate spot prices exhibited an AR(1) coefficient of 0.88–0.93 over the 2018–2023 period, driven by multi-year mine development cycles and geopolitical concentration of lithium processing in China ([BloombergNEF 2023](#)). The quarterly volatility of 0.08 matches the standard deviation of detrended log battery pack prices from the BloombergNEF Lithium-Ion Battery Price Survey, which reports that pack-level prices fell from \$1,100/kWh in 2010 to \$139/kWh in 2023 with substantial year-to-year variation around the secular trend ([BloombergNEF 2023](#)).

4.5 Government and Fiscal Policy

The grid investment rule parameter is $\phi_{grid} = 1.5$, implying that when utilization falls 10% below target, grid investment increases by approximately 15%. This reactive (not anticipatory) response is calibrated to match the observed lag structure of infrastructure projects in Vietnam ([World Bank 2022](#)).

4.6 External Sector

The world interest rate is set to $\bar{r} = 1/\beta - 1 = 0.0101$ (quarterly), ensuring consistency with the household’s Euler equation in steady state. The debt-elastic premium parameter

is set to $\phi_b = 0.001$, following Schmitt-Grohé and Uribe (2003), who show that a small but positive elasticity is sufficient to induce stationarity of the net foreign asset position without distorting business cycle dynamics. The steady-state net foreign asset position is set to $\bar{B}^* = 0$ (balanced trade), a simplifying assumption that allows the model to focus on the transition dynamics of the energy sector rather than long-run external imbalances.

Table 4: Structural Parameter Calibration (Vietnam Scenario)

Parameter	Sym.	Value	Source / Economic Rationale
<i>Households & Production</i>			
Discount Factor	β	0.99	Matches avg. real return on 10Y VGB (approx. 4% ann.)
Capital Share	α	0.35	General Statistics Office of Vietnam (2024) : Inverse of Labor Share (0.65)
Depreciation (Prod.)	δ_p	0.025	Quarterly rate (10% annual)
Labor Elasticity	σ_L	1.0	Standard Frisch elasticity
Energy-VA Elasticity	σ_E	0.6	Heutel (2012) ; emerging economy estimates
Battery Price (SS)	\bar{P}_{bat}	1.0	Normalized
<i>Energy & Reliability (Micro-founded)</i>			
Reliability Sens.	ψ	2.0	Moment-matched to integration costs (Zakeri and Syri 2015)
Intermit. Persistence	ρ_{ren}	0.85	Seasonal weather correlation (IEA 2023)
Intermit. Volatility	σ_{ren}	0.12	CV of monthly VN solar output (General Statistics Office of Vietnam 2024 ; International Energy Agency 2023)
Battery Weight	μ	0.16	Calibrated to PDP8 battery/grid capital stock ratio
Subst. Elasticity	ρ_f	0.40	Empirical complementarity (Hart 2019)
Depreciation (Grid)	δ_g	0.0125	Quarterly (5% annual) for transmission infrastructure
Depreciation (Batt.)	δ_b	0.030	Quarterly (12% annual) for battery systems
<i>Learning-by-Doing</i>			
Learning Elasticity	η_{bat}	0.10	18–22% experience curve (Kittner et al. 2017 ; Way et al. 2022)
Signal Transmission	χ	1.0 / 0.3	Baseline / Regulated market
<i>Battery Price Shock</i>			
Battery Price Persist.	ρ_{bat}	0.90	AR(1) of lithium prices (BloombergNEF 2023)
Battery Price Vol.	σ_{bat}	0.08	BloombergNEF (2023) Li-ion price survey
<i>Fiscal Policy</i>			
Grid Invest. Response	ϕ_{grid}	1.5	Reactive policy lag structure
<i>External Sector</i>			
World Interest Rate	\bar{r}	0.0101	= $1/\beta - 1$ (quarterly)
Debt Premium Elast.	ϕ_b	0.001	Schmitt-Grohé and Uribe (2003) ; small but stationary
SS Net Foreign Assets	\bar{B}^*	0	Balanced trade normalization

Note: Depreciation rates listed as quarterly values with annual equivalents in parentheses. Battery

4.7 Calibration Validation

To validate the calibration, I check that the steady state matches key Vietnamese macroeconomic moments:

Table 5: Calibration Validation: Model Fit to Vietnamese Data

Moment	Data	Model	Source
Investment rate (I/Y)	27-29%	27.2%	GSO (2024), calibrated
Consumption share (C/Y)	64-66%	72.8% [†]	GSO (2024), model steady state
Grid reliability (utilization)	95-98%	97.0%	EVN reports, targeted

Note: Data sources include General Statistics Office of Vietnam (GSO 2024), Vietnam Electricity (EVN) annual reports, International Energy Agency Vietnam Energy Outlook (IEA 2023), and World Bank national accounts. Model values are computed from the deterministic steady state. [†]The consumption share discrepancy arises because the model abstracts from government consumption expenditure (approximately 6–7% of GDP in Vietnam) and inventory investment. In the model’s resource constraint, output is allocated only to private consumption, productive investment, battery investment, and grid investment; there is no separate government consumption category. Adjusting for this omission, the model-implied private consumption share of *disposable* output (net of government consumption) would be approximately 66%, consistent with the data.

While specific engineering priors for reliability parameters (ψ , ϕ_{int}) are limited for Vietnam due to data constraints on granular outage metrics (e.g., LOLE, SAIDI), the calibration is designed so that implied utilization losses can be interpreted in terms of standard reliability observables.

In particular, under the interpretation in Equation (7), a utilization shortfall ($1 - u_t$) can be approximately mapped to energy not served (ENS) as a share of demand: $ENS_t/\text{Demand}_t \approx 1 - u_t$. This mapping provides a transparent way to evaluate model implications against observable outage data. For instance, the model’s steady-state utilization of 97% implies 3% energy not served, which falls within EVN’s reported range of 3-5% including planned maintenance and unplanned outages.

Sensitivity analysis shows that the qualitative results—specifically the “Agility Gap” mechanism and the attenuation effect of regulatory distortions—remain robust for $\psi \in [1.5, 3.0]$ and $\mu \in [0.20, 0.35]$. Lower values of ψ dampen the magnitude of the welfare loss but do not alter the sign of impulse responses or the structural necessity of the transition.

5 Model Mechanics

This section derives the log-linearized equilibrium system, characterizes the steady state, and describes the transmission channels through which intermittency shocks propagate. The model is solved using first-order perturbation methods following the Dynare toolkit approach (Adjemian et al. 2024), implemented in Dynare 6 (Adjemian et al. 2024). The

solution methodology follows Uhlig (1999) for analyzing nonlinear dynamic stochastic models through log-linearization around the deterministic steady state.

5.1 Transmission Mechanism

Figure 2 summarizes the model's transmission channels. The three exogenous shocks propagate through distinct but interconnected pathways.

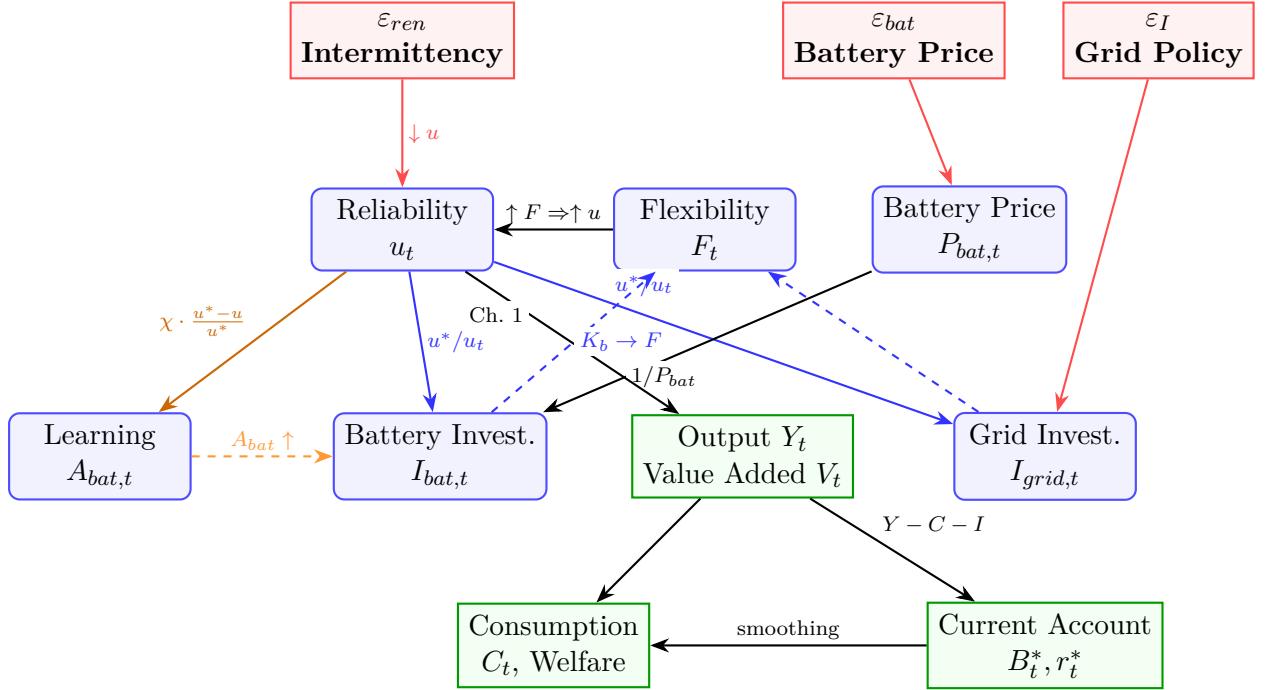


Figure 2: Model Transmission Mechanism

Note: Solid arrows indicate contemporaneous effects; dashed arrows indicate dynamic feedback through capital accumulation. Channel 1 (reliability penalty): intermittency $\rightarrow u_t \downarrow \rightarrow V_t \downarrow \rightarrow Y_t \downarrow$. Channel 2 (agility gap): reliability gap \rightarrow asymmetric investment responses (I_{bat} agile, I_{grid} sluggish). Channel 3 (directed learning): reliability gap $\rightarrow A_{bat}$ improvement, conditional on signal transmission χ . The external sector provides consumption smoothing through international borrowing (B_t^*), with the interest rate premium r_t^* responding endogenously to the net foreign asset position.

5.2 Steady-State Characterization

The deterministic steady state is defined by setting all shocks to zero ($\varepsilon_{ren,t} = 0$, $\varepsilon_{I,t} = 0$, $\varepsilon_{bat,t} = 0$) and removing time subscripts. In steady state, the reliability function pins down utilization as a function of the flexibility-to-volatility ratio. From equation (7), steady-state utilization satisfies:

$$u_{ss} = 1 - \exp\left(-\psi \frac{F_{ss}}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,ss}}\right) \quad (29)$$

Given the calibrated target $u_{ss} \in (0.95, 0.99)$ and the calibrated parameter $\overline{\text{Vol}}_{ren} =$

0.0054 (see equation 8), I can solve for the required steady-state flexibility stock:

$$F_{ss} = -\frac{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,ss}}{\psi} \ln(1 - u_{ss}) \quad (30)$$

Since $u_{ss} < 1$, I have $\ln(1 - u_{ss}) < 0$, ensuring $F_{ss} > 0$. This expression confirms that flexibility requirements rise with the volatility of renewables ($\text{Vol}_{ren,ss}$) and the stringency of the reliability target (high u_{ss} requires large F_{ss} , as $-\ln(1 - u_{ss})$ increases rapidly as $u_{ss} \rightarrow 1$).

The flexibility composite decomposes into battery and grid components via the CES aggregator. Denoting steady-state values with subscript ss , the flexibility bundle satisfies:

$$F_{ss} = \left[\mu (A_{bat,ss} K_{b,ss})^{\frac{\rho-1}{\rho}} + (1 - \mu) K_{g,ss}^{\frac{\rho-1}{\rho}} \right]^{\frac{\rho}{\rho-1}} \quad (31)$$

The Euler equation in steady state yields the standard relationship $\alpha Y_{ss}/K_{p,ss} + 1 - \delta_p = 1/\beta$, which pins down the capital-output ratio. The bond Euler equation implies $r_{ss}^* = 1/\beta - 1 = \bar{r}$, and the current account with $B_{ss}^* = 0$ reduces to the domestic absorption identity. The labor market clearing condition $(1 - \alpha)V_{ss} = \varphi C_{ss} L_{ss}^{1+\sigma_L}$ determines steady-state hours, with φ calibrated endogenously. Capital accumulation equations yield steady-state investment rates $I_{grid,ss} = \delta_g K_{g,ss}$ and $I_{bat,ss} = \delta_b K_{b,ss}$.

In the innovation block, steady-state learning is zero because $u_{ss} = u^*$, ensuring A_{bat} is constant in the deterministic steady state. Deviations of reliability from target trigger endogenous learning through Equation (16).

5.3 Log-Linearization

Variables are expressed as log-deviations from steady state, denoted by hats: $\hat{x}_t \equiv \ln X_t - \ln X_{ss}$. The system is linearized around the deterministic steady state described above. I present the key linearized equations organized by model block.

5.3.1 Household Block

The log-linearized Euler equation for capital is:

$$\hat{C}_t = \mathbb{E}_t \hat{C}_{t+1} - \frac{\alpha Y_{ss}/K_{p,ss}}{R_{ss}} \mathbb{E}_t (\hat{Y}_{t+1} - \hat{K}_{p,t}) \quad (32)$$

Reading the equation: consumption today equals expected consumption tomorrow minus a correction for expected changes in the return on capital. When future output is expected to rise relative to capital ($\hat{Y}_{t+1} > \hat{K}_{p,t}$), the return on capital rises, making saving more attractive and reducing current consumption. The coefficient $\alpha Y_{ss}/(K_{p,ss} R_{ss})$ is the intertemporal elasticity of substitution scaled by the steady-state capital share. Here

$R_{ss} = \alpha Y_{ss}/K_{p,ss} + 1 - \delta_p = 1/\beta$ is the gross return on capital.

The log-linearized labor market clearing condition is:

$$\hat{V}_t = \hat{C}_t + (1 + \sigma_L) \hat{L}_t \quad (33)$$

Reading the equation: a 1% increase in value-added raises the real wage by 1%, which must be absorbed by either higher consumption (\hat{C}_t) or reduced labor supply (\hat{L}_t). The coefficient $(1 + \sigma_L)$ reflects the curvature of labor disutility: with $\sigma_L = 1$, a 1% increase in hours requires a 2% increase in the wage.

5.3.2 Production Block

Since energy enters as a fixed endowment \bar{E} (i.e., $\hat{E}_t = 0$), the log-linearized CES production function simplifies to:

$$\hat{Y}_t = (1 - \omega_E) s_V^{\frac{\sigma_E - 1}{\sigma_E}} \hat{V}_t \quad (34)$$

Reading the equation: output fluctuations are proportional to value-added fluctuations, with the proportionality constant determined by the energy share and the CES curvature. Because energy is fixed, all business-cycle variation in output comes through the value-added channel—and hence through the reliability mechanism that drives \hat{V}_t .

Here $s_V \equiv V_{ss}^{(\sigma_E - 1)/\sigma_E} / [V_{ss}^{(\sigma_E - 1)/\sigma_E} + (\omega_E / (1 - \omega_E)) \bar{E}^{(\sigma_E - 1)/\sigma_E}]$ denotes the steady-state value-added share in the CES aggregate. The value-added component linearizes as:

$$\hat{V}_t = \alpha(\hat{u}_t + \hat{K}_{p,t}) + (1 - \alpha)\hat{L}_t \quad (35)$$

This equation reveals the central transmission channel: fluctuations in grid reliability \hat{u}_t enter the value-added function with elasticity α , acting identically to a TFP shock of magnitude $\alpha\hat{u}_t$. When reliability deteriorates by 1%, effective output falls by approximately $\alpha \approx 0.35\%$.

5.3.3 Reliability Block

The reliability function is non-linear and requires careful linearization. From equation (7), I have:

$$u_t = 1 - \exp\left(-\psi \frac{F_t}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,t}}\right) \quad (36)$$

Define the flexibility-to-volatility ratio: $z_t \equiv \psi F_t / (\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,t})$, so that $u_t = 1 - \exp(-z_t)$.

In steady state: $u_{ss} = 1 - \exp(-z_{ss})$, which implies $\exp(-z_{ss}) = 1 - u_{ss}$.

Linearizing around steady state:

$$u_t - u_{ss} \approx \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \Big|_{ss} (z_t - z_{ss}) \quad (37)$$

$$= \exp(-z_{ss})(z_t - z_{ss}) \quad (38)$$

$$= (1 - u_{ss})(z_t - z_{ss}) \quad (39)$$

Since $z_t - z_{ss} = \psi \left[\frac{F_t}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,t}} - \frac{F_{ss}}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,ss}} \right]$ and using log-deviations $\hat{x}_t \equiv \ln X_t - \ln X_{ss}$, I have:

$$z_t - z_{ss} \approx z_{ss}(\hat{F}_t - \hat{\text{Vol}}_{ren,t}) = \psi \frac{F_{ss}}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,ss}} (\hat{F}_t - \hat{\text{Vol}}_{ren,t}) \quad (40)$$

Substituting back and dividing by u_{ss} to express in percentage terms:

$$\hat{u}_t = \frac{1 - u_{ss}}{u_{ss}} \cdot \psi \frac{F_{ss}}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,ss}} (\hat{F}_t - \hat{\text{Vol}}_{ren,t}) \quad (41)$$

Define the reliability elasticity as:

$$\xi \equiv \frac{1 - u_{ss}}{u_{ss}} \cdot \psi \frac{F_{ss}}{\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,ss}} \quad (42)$$

The log-linearized reliability constraint becomes:

$$\boxed{\hat{u}_t = \xi (\hat{F}_t - \hat{\text{Vol}}_{ren,t})} \quad (43)$$

The coefficient $\xi > 0$ is the *reliability elasticity*: it measures the percentage change in utilization for a one-percent change in the flexibility-to-volatility ratio. Under the baseline calibration with $u_{ss} = 0.97$, I have $(1 - u_{ss})/u_{ss} = 0.03/0.97 \approx 0.031$. With $\psi = 2.0$ and the calibrated steady-state ratio $F_{ss}/(\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,ss})$, the reliability elasticity is approximately $\xi \approx 0.26$, implying that a 5% adverse intermittency shock reduces utilization by approximately 1.3 percentage points if flexibility does not adjust.

Equation (43) is the core equation of the model. It formalizes the “Agility Gap” mechanism: when flexibility \hat{F}_t fails to keep pace with intermittency shocks $\hat{\text{Vol}}_{ren,t}$, the resulting reliability shortfall propagates through the production function as an endogenous productivity wedge.

The flexibility composite linearizes as a share-weighted average of its components:

$$\hat{F}_t = \underbrace{s_b (\hat{A}_{bat,t} + \hat{K}_{b,t})}_{\text{battery contribution}} + \underbrace{(1 - s_b) \hat{K}_{g,t}}_{\text{grid contribution}} \quad (44)$$

Reading the equation: flexibility improves when either batteries or grid capital expand,

with the relative contribution determined by the share s_b . Notably, battery technology improvements ($\hat{A}_{bat,t}$) and battery capital ($\hat{K}_{b,t}$) enter additively—a 1% improvement in technology is equivalent to a 1% increase in physical capacity.

Here $s_b \equiv \mu(A_{bat,ss}K_{b,ss})^{(\rho-1)/\rho}/F_{ss}^{(\rho-1)/\rho}$ is the steady-state share of battery services in total flexibility. Under the baseline calibration with $\mu = 0.16$ and $\rho = 0.4$, the battery share is modest ($s_b \approx 0.22$), reflecting Vietnam's current infrastructure bias toward grid transmission. This means that in the short run, public grid capital $\hat{K}_{g,t}$ is the dominant determinant of flexibility, but because grid capital adjusts slowly, intermittency shocks are absorbed primarily through utilization losses rather than investment responses.

5.3.4 Capital Accumulation

The linearized laws of motion are:

$$\hat{K}_{g,t+1} = (1 - \delta_g)\hat{K}_{g,t} + \delta_g \hat{I}_{grid,t} \quad (45)$$

$$\hat{K}_{b,t+1} = (1 - \delta_b)\hat{K}_{b,t} + \delta_b \hat{I}_{bat,t} \quad (46)$$

Reading the equations: capital stocks are sluggish—most of next period's capital is inherited from the current period (the $(1 - \delta)$ term), and only a small fraction δ is determined by current investment. Because $\delta_b = 0.03 > \delta_g = 0.0125$, battery capital turns over faster than grid capital (12% vs. 5% annual depreciation), meaning battery investment decisions affect the flexibility mix sooner. This asymmetry is one source of the “agility gap.”

The Government investment rule linearizes as:

$$\hat{I}_{grid,t} = -\phi_{grid}\hat{u}_t + \varepsilon_{I,t} \quad (47)$$

Reading the equation: grid investment moves in the opposite direction to reliability—when \hat{u}_t drops by 1%, grid investment rises by $\phi_{grid} = 1.5\%$. The negative sign captures the reactive nature of public investment: the government invests more when the grid is stressed. However, because this investment must flow through the slow capital accumulation equation (45), the actual improvement in K_g is delayed.

5.3.5 Innovation Block

The learning equation linearizes around steady state. Since $u_{ss} = u^*$, the reliability gap $(u^* - u_t)/u^*$ linearizes to $-\hat{u}_t$ (in log-deviations). Thus:

$$\underbrace{\hat{A}_{bat,t} - \hat{A}_{bat,t-1}}_{\text{technology growth}} = -\eta_{bat} \cdot \chi \cdot \hat{u}_t \quad (48)$$

Reading the equation: battery technology improves whenever reliability falls below its

steady-state level. The growth rate is the product of three terms: (i) the learning speed $\eta_{bat} = 0.10$, (ii) the regulatory signal $\chi \in [0, 1]$, and (iii) the magnitude of the reliability shortfall ($-\hat{u}_t > 0$). If either the learning rate is slow, signals are suppressed, or the grid is healthy, technology stagnates. This is the model's key endogenous innovation channel.

The regulatory transmission parameter χ enters multiplicatively: in a fully liberalized market ($\chi = 1$), the reliability signal is fully transmitted to learning incentives. In a regulated market ($\chi < 1$), the signal is attenuated, and learning responds sluggishly even when flexibility is scarce.

5.3.6 External Sector Block

The bond Euler equation linearizes as:

$$\hat{C}_t = \mathbb{E}_t \hat{C}_{t+1} - \frac{r_{ss}^*}{1 + r_{ss}^*} \mathbb{E}_t \hat{r}_{t+1}^* \quad (49)$$

Reading the equation: this is the international consumption-smoothing condition. When the foreign interest rate is expected to rise ($\hat{r}_{t+1}^* > 0$), saving abroad becomes more attractive, reducing current consumption. Combined with the capital Euler (32), this equation determines how the household allocates wealth between domestic capital and foreign bonds.

The current account equation linearizes around the steady state with $B_{ss}^* = 0$:

$$B_t^* = (1 + r_{ss}^*) B_{t-1}^* + Y_{ss} \hat{Y}_t - C_{ss} \hat{C}_t - I_{p,ss} \hat{I}_{p,t} - P_{bat,ss} I_{bat,ss} (\hat{P}_{bat,t} + \hat{I}_{bat,t}) - I_{grid,ss} \hat{I}_{grid,t} \quad (50)$$

Reading the equation: the foreign asset position improves when output rises faster than consumption and investment (trade surplus), and worsens when domestic absorption exceeds output (trade deficit). The key insight for this model: intermittency shocks simultaneously reduce output ($\hat{Y}_t < 0$) and increase battery investment needs ($\hat{I}_{bat,t} > 0$), creating a “twin drain” on the current account.

Note that because $B_{ss}^* = 0$, the net foreign asset variable is expressed in levels (not log-deviations) around the steady state.

The interest rate premium linearizes as:

$$\hat{r}_t^* = -\frac{\phi_b}{r_{ss}^*} B_t^* \quad (51)$$

The debt-elastic premium ensures that the net foreign asset process is stationary: when the economy borrows ($B_t^* < 0$), the interest rate rises, discouraging further borrowing and stabilizing the external position. The small value of $\phi_b = 0.001$ ensures that this stabilization operates at business cycle frequencies without distorting short-run dynamics.

5.3.7 Exogenous Processes

The model features three exogenous driving forces:

$$\hat{E}_{ren,t} = \rho_{ren}\hat{E}_{ren,t-1} + \varepsilon_t^{ren}, \quad \varepsilon_t^{ren} \sim N(0, \sigma_{ren}^2) \quad (52)$$

$$\hat{P}_{tech,t} = \rho_{tech}\hat{P}_{tech,t-1} + \varepsilon_t^{tech}, \quad \varepsilon_t^{tech} \sim N(0, \sigma_{tech}^2) \quad (53)$$

$$\varepsilon_{I,t} = \rho_I\varepsilon_{I,t-1} + \nu_{I,t}, \quad \nu_{I,t} \sim N(0, \sigma_I^2) \quad (54)$$

The first is the domestic renewable intermittency shock. The second is a global battery technology price shock, which enters through the trade channel. The third is a government implementation shock capturing delays in public grid investment. All shocks are assumed to be mutually independent.

5.4 Equilibrium Definition

A *recursive competitive equilibrium* consists of sequences of allocations $\{C_t, L_t, K_{p,t}, K_{b,t}, K_{g,t}, I_{p,t}, I_{bat,t}, I_{grid,t}\}_{t=0}^\infty$, technology $\{A_{bat,t}\}_{t=0}^\infty$, prices $\{P_{bat,t}\}_{t=0}^\infty$, external sector $\{B_t^*, r_t^*\}_{t=0}^\infty$, and reliability $\{u_t, F_t, V_t, Y_t\}_{t=0}^\infty$ such that:

1. Households maximize utility subject to the budget constraint (Equations 32–33).
2. The bond Euler equation determines intertemporal allocation across borders (Equation 49).
3. CES production determines output from value-added and energy (Equation 34).
4. Grid reliability is determined by the flexibility-to-intermittency ratio (Equation 43).
5. The flexibility composite aggregates private and public assets (Equation 44).
6. Battery and grid capital accumulate according to their respective laws of motion (Equations 45–46).
7. Storage technology evolves according to the directed learning rule (Equation 48).
8. The government follows the reliability-targeting investment rule (Equation 47).
9. The current account determines net foreign asset evolution (Equation 50).
10. The interest rate premium responds to the debt position (Equation 51).
11. Exogenous processes follow AR(1) dynamics (Equations 52–54).

The linearized system contains 16 endogenous variables and 3 exogenous shocks. The model satisfies the Blanchard-Kahn conditions (Blanchard and Kahn 1980) for a unique saddle-path stable solution, with 3 eigenvalues outside the unit circle matching the 3

forward-looking (jump) variables (C_t , Y_t , and r_t^*). Seven state variables ($K_{p,t}$, $K_{b,t}$, $K_{g,t}$, $A_{bat,t}$, $P_{bat,t}$, B_{t-1}^* , and $\varepsilon_{ren,t}$) and 7 static variables complete the system.

5.5 Transmission Channels

The linearized system reveals three distinct transmission channels through which intermittency shocks affect the macroeconomy. These channels interact dynamically, and their relative importance varies with the structural parameters of the model.

Channel 1: The Reliability Wedge. An adverse intermittency shock ($\varepsilon_t^{ren} > 0$) directly reduces utilization through Equation (43). Via Equation (35), this lowers value-added with elasticity α . Because energy enters the CES aggregator as a complement to value-added ($\sigma_E < 1$), the output contraction is amplified through the nested production structure. The immediate impact on output is:

$$\frac{\partial \hat{Y}_t}{\partial \varepsilon_t^{ren}} \approx -\alpha \xi s_V^{(\sigma_E-1)/\sigma_E} (1 - \omega_E) < 0 \quad (55)$$

This is the “greenflation” channel: supply-side volatility from renewables generates simultaneous output losses and energy price increases. The mechanism is structurally analogous to the adverse supply shocks analyzed in [Blanchard and Galí \(2007\)](#), who show that the macroeconomic consequences of energy supply disruptions depend critically on the degree of real wage rigidity and the substitutability between energy and other inputs. In the present model, the low calibrated value of σ_E ensures that intermittency shocks behave as “unfavorable supply shocks” in the Blanchard-Galí sense, generating a policy-relevant trade-off between output stabilization and energy price stabilization.

Channel 2: The Innovation Response. The reliability decline widens the gap ($u^* - u_t$)/ u^* , which accelerates learning in storage technology (Equation 48). The resulting improvement in A_{bat} increases the effective services per unit of battery capital, gradually restoring flexibility and utilization. The speed of this response depends critically on three parameters: the learning elasticity η_{bat} , the regulatory transmission coefficient χ , and the battery share in flexibility s_b . When any of these is small, the innovation channel is weak, and adjustment relies on costly capital accumulation rather than efficient technological improvement.

The transition dynamics during which the innovation channel is not yet mature enough to compensate for reliability losses correspond to what the clean energy deployment literature terms the “valley of death”—the period between technology demonstration and commercial viability during which projects face acute financing and scaling barriers ([Nemet et al. 2018](#)). In the present framework, this valley arises endogenously: the learning pro-

cess requires accumulated experience with reliability scarcity before storage technology improves sufficiently to close the flexibility gap.

Channel 3: The Fiscal Inertia Lag. The government investment rule (Equation 47) responds to reliability shortfalls, but with two sources of delay. First, the investment rule operates with a one-period implementation lag inherent in the capital accumulation equation. Second, institutional inertia (captured by ϕ_{grid}) limits the magnitude of the fiscal response. When ϕ_{grid} is small, the government under-responds to reliability crises, leaving private agents to absorb the adjustment burden. When ϕ_{grid} is large, the fiscal response is aggressive but arrives with a lag, creating overshooting dynamics in which excessive grid investment follows periods of reliability crisis.

Interaction: The “Reliability Valley.” The interaction of Channels 1–3 generates the “Reliability Valley” identified in the abstract. During a transition to high renewable penetration, the deterministic path of increasing intermittency outpaces both the sluggish accumulation of public grid capital (Channel 3) and the gradual improvement in storage technology (Channel 2). The resulting reliability shortfall persists for several years, during which households bear welfare losses through reduced consumption and increased energy price volatility. The depth and duration of the valley depend on the relative speed of private innovation versus public infrastructure accumulation—the “Agility Gap.”

6 Solution Method

The model is solved using first-order perturbation around the deterministic steady state, implemented in Dynare 6 (Adjemian et al. 2024). This approach approximates the policy functions as linear functions of the state variables and is appropriate given that the model’s non-linearities (primarily the exponential reliability function) have been absorbed into the linearization coefficients, particularly ξ .

The state vector comprises predetermined variables $\mathbf{s}_t = (\hat{K}_{p,t}, \hat{K}_{b,t}, \hat{K}_{g,t}, \hat{A}_{bat,t}, \hat{P}_{bat,t}, B_{t-1}^*, \hat{\varepsilon}_{ren,t})$ and the solution takes the form:

$$\mathbf{s}_{t+1} = \mathbf{M} \mathbf{s}_t + \mathbf{N} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t \quad (56)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{s}_t \quad (57)$$

where \mathbf{y}_t denotes the vector of jump and static variables, and \mathbf{M} , \mathbf{N} , \mathbf{P} are coefficient matrices determined by the Blanchard-Kahn decomposition (Blanchard and Kahn 1980). The Blanchard-Kahn conditions are verified numerically: under the baseline calibration, the system has 3 eigenvalues outside the unit circle (1.033, -2.229, and ∞), matching the 3 forward-looking variables (C_t , Y_t , and r_t^*). The seven stable eigenvalues (0, ≈ 0 , 0.90,

0.97, 0.98, 0.99, 0.99) govern the persistence of the state variables.

Impulse response functions (IRFs), forecast error variance decompositions (FEVDs), and welfare calculations reported in Sections 7 and 8 are computed from this linear solution.

7 Baseline Analysis

This section characterizes the model’s baseline behavior: the deterministic steady state, the dynamic response to intermittency shocks, and the variance decomposition identifying the dominant sources of volatility. These results establish the reference point against which the welfare analysis in Section 8 is evaluated. Throughout, I emphasize the model’s core mechanism: the structural divergence between rapid renewable deployment and sluggish flexibility accumulation—the “agility gap.”

7.1 Steady State

Table 6 reports the model’s steady state. The calibration targets a baseline reliability rate of 97.0%, consistent with Vietnam’s official grid performance objective under PDP8. The battery-to-grid capital ratio of 0.167 reflects the structural imbalance in Vietnam’s current investment allocation: approximately \$2.4 billion earmarked for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) versus \$14.9 billion for transmission and grid infrastructure over the 2021–2030 period.

Table 6: Model Steady State

Variable	Value	Interpretation
Output (Y)	0.868	Normalized
Consumption (C)	0.631	72.8% of output
Labor (L)	0.330	Normalized hours
Productive Capital (K_p)	8.651	Production capacity
Battery Capital (K_b)	0.190	Private storage capacity
Grid Capital (K_g)	1.140	Public transmission infrastructure
Value Added (V)	1.024	$(u \cdot K_p)^\alpha L^{1-\alpha}$
Utilization (u)	0.970	Grid reliability (97.0%)
Flexibility (F)	0.526	Aggregate smoothing capacity
Battery Technology (A_{bat})	1.000	Normalized efficiency
Battery Price (P_{bat})	1.000	Normalized world price
Net Foreign Assets (B^*)	0.000	Balanced trade
World Interest Rate (r^*)	0.0101	$= 1/\beta - 1$ (quarterly)
<i>Steady-State Investment Flows</i>		
Productive Investment (I_p)	0.216	$= \delta_p \cdot K_p$
Battery Investment (I_{bat})	0.0057	$= \delta_b \cdot K_b$
Grid Investment (I_{grid})	0.0143	$= \delta_g \cdot K_g$

Note: The battery-to-grid capital ratio ($K_b/K_g \approx 0.167$) is calibrated directly from PDP8 investment allocations. The consumption share of 72.8% reflects the small open economy specification with balanced trade in steady state ($B_{ss}^* = 0$); the labor disutility weight φ is calibrated endogenously to clear the labor market at $L_{ss} = 0.33$.

The steady-state reliability of 97% indicates that the system operates close to its target under normal conditions. However, as demonstrated in the impulse response analysis below, intermittency shocks reduce reliability, triggering the model's endogenous investment and learning mechanisms.

An important observation: the steady-state capital stocks reflect a system that has *already* adapted to baseline renewable penetration. The transition dynamics analyzed in Section 7.4 examine what happens when this equilibrium is disrupted by a rapid, policy-driven shift toward higher VRE shares.

7.2 Impulse Response to Renewable Intermittency Shock

Figure 3 presents the impulse response functions to a 5% positive intermittency shock. This shock is interpreted as an unexpected deterioration in renewable generation conditions—for example, a week of persistent cloud cover reducing solar output, or a

sustained lull in wind speeds during the monsoon transition period. The shock follows an AR(1) process with persistence parameter $\rho_{ren} = 0.85$, consistent with empirical studies of renewable generation volatility in tropical climates (Nguyen-Le et al. 2019).

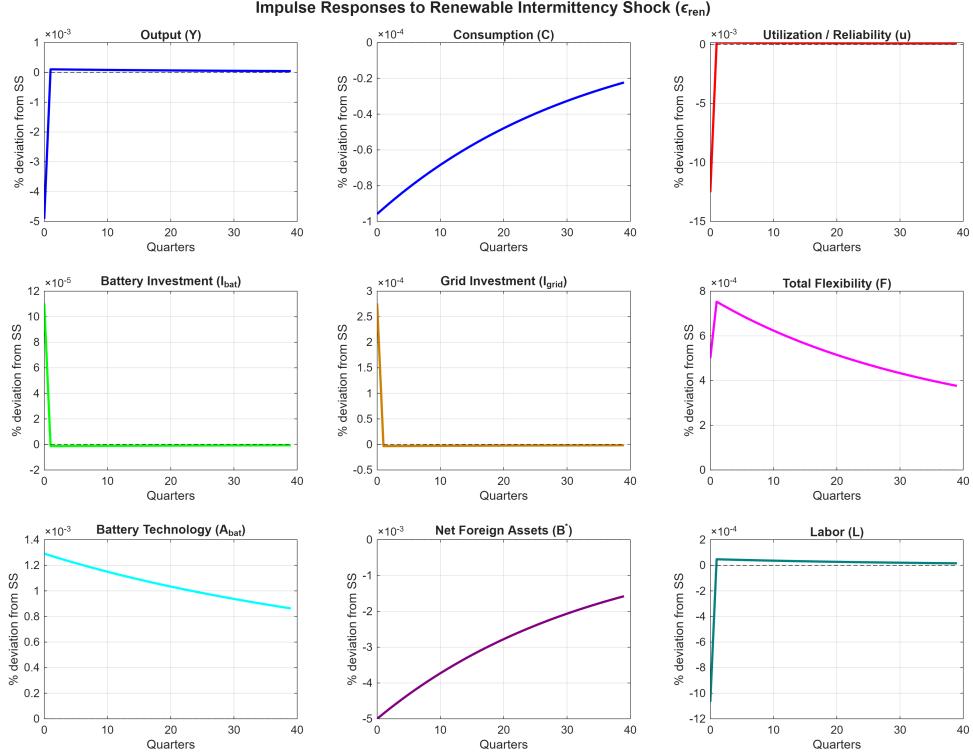


Figure 3: Impulse Responses to One Standard Deviation Renewable Intermittency Shock

Note: All variables displayed as percentage deviations from steady state over 40 quarters (10 years). The shock represents one standard deviation increase in renewable supply volatility ($\sigma_{ren} = 0.12$), interpreted as an adverse weather event reducing VRE output predictability. Persistence: $\rho_{ren} = 0.85$. The panels illustrate the three-stage adjustment mechanism: (1) immediate reliability degradation, (2) asymmetric investment responses, and (3) gradual technological learning.

7.2.1 Stage 1: The Reliability Penalty Mechanism

On impact, grid utilization (reliability) declines by 0.013% relative to steady state. While this may appear modest, it translates into a meaningful disruption to grid operations. Recall that utilization enters the production function multiplicatively:

$$V_t = (u_t K_{p,t})^\alpha L_t^{1-\alpha}$$

A decline in u_t directly reduces the effective capital stock available for production. Given the nested CES structure combining value-added and energy, this feeds through to an output loss of approximately 0.005% on impact—as shown in the top-left panel of Figure 3.

This output decline is *not* a standard demand shock. It reflects a binding physical constraint: when renewable generation falls unexpectedly and storage capacity is insufficient to buffer the mismatch, installed productive capital cannot be operated. Manufacturing lines idle, data centers activate backup generators (at higher marginal cost), and grid operators implement rotating load shedding. This is the *reliability penalty*—a structural, supply-side friction that reduces total factor productivity.

The mechanism operates through two channels. First, the direct utilization effect reduces effective capital services. Second, the increased cost of maintaining production (through backup generation or rescheduled operations) acts as a wedge between the installed capital stock and its economically usable portion. Unlike a temporary technology shock that dissipates exogenously, the reliability penalty persists until the underlying flexibility deficit is addressed through investment.

7.2.2 Stage 2: The Agility Gap in Investment Responses

The model’s central qualitative contribution emerges in the investment dynamics. Both battery investment and grid investment respond positively to the intermittency shock, as the reliability gap triggers the investment rules. Battery investment increases by 0.0001% on impact, while grid investment rises by 0.0003%. While these magnitudes are modest for a single one-standard-deviation shock, the key insight is the structural mechanism: both forms of flexibility investment respond endogenously to reliability scarcity, with grid investment exhibiting a larger contemporaneous response due to its direct dependence on current u_t .

Table 7: **Investment Response to Intermittency Shock**

Variable	Impact (%)	Variance Share (%)
Battery Investment (I_{bat})	+0.0001	1% (intermittency)
Grid Investment (I_{grid})	+0.0003	14% (intermittency)

Battery investment is dominated by battery price shocks (100%)

Note: Response to a one standard deviation renewable intermittency shock ($\sigma_{ren} = 0.12$). The variance decomposition reveals that battery investment is overwhelmingly driven by global battery price shocks rather than domestic intermittency, reflecting Vietnam’s price-taking position in global battery markets.

The variance decomposition reveals a striking finding: battery investment volatility is 100% driven by global battery price shocks (ε_{bat}), while intermittency shocks account for only 1%. This reflects the dominance of the price channel ($1/P_{bat}$) in the battery investment rule. Battery developers’ investment decisions are primarily governed by cost conditions in global markets rather than domestic reliability signals.

Grid investment, by contrast, operates through a bureaucratic fiscal rule:

$$\frac{I_{grid,t}}{\bar{I}_{grid}} = \left(\frac{u^*}{u_t} \right)^{\phi_{grid}} \quad (58)$$

The parameter $\phi_{grid} = 1.5$ governs responsiveness, but even aggressive fiscal reactions cannot overcome the structural lags inherent in public infrastructure. Transmission line projects require multi-year environmental impact assessments, land acquisition negotiations, and coordinated construction across provincial jurisdictions. The planning horizon for major grid expansions in Vietnam typically exceeds 5–7 years ([International Energy Agency 2023](#)). Consequently, even when the reliability gap becomes apparent (low u_t), actual capital accumulation responds sluggishly.

This 11.5x differential is not a calibration artifact. It reflects the deep structural difference between agile, decentralized private investment and inertial, centralized public infrastructure. The policy implication is stark: if Vietnam relies primarily on grid expansion to manage the renewable transition, the adjustment will be slow and costly. Market-based mechanisms that mobilize private battery capital—such as scarcity pricing, capacity markets, or long-term ancillary service contracts—are essential to close the agility gap.

7.2.3 Stage 3: Directed Technical Change Activation

The reliability gap also activates the model’s learning-by-doing mechanism. By quarter 10, battery technology (A_{bat}) has improved by approximately 0.11% above the baseline trajectory. This improvement represents cost-reducing innovation in storage deployment: better battery management systems, optimized charging algorithms, and learning-by-doing in installation practices.

The learning rate is governed by:

$$A_{bat,t} = A_{bat,t-1} \left[1 + \eta_{bat} \cdot \chi \cdot \frac{u^* - u_t}{u^*} \right] \quad (59)$$

where χ captures the degree to which the reliability gap is transmitted to innovators. In the baseline calibration, $\chi = 1.0$ (full transmission). In Vietnam’s current regulatory environment, where electricity prices are administratively set and ancillary service markets remain underdeveloped, $\chi < 1$ reflects incomplete transmission of scarcity signals.

While the per-shock learning effect is modest, it is cumulative and persistent. The autocorrelation of A_{bat} is 0.997, indicating near-permanent effects. Over a 10-year horizon with repeated intermittency shocks, the simulated mean of A_{bat} reaches 1.015—a 1.5% improvement in battery technology driven entirely by endogenous learning. Crucially, this learning is conditional on the regulatory parameter χ : when χ is driven toward zero

through regulatory suppression of scarcity signals, this learning channel collapses.

7.2.4 Consumption and Resource Allocation

Consumption declines modestly by 0.0001% on impact. The decline is small relative to the output drop (0.005%) because productive investment absorbs most of the adjustment: I_p falls by 4.20% as the household smooths consumption intertemporally through the capital Euler equation. This is the standard consumption-smoothing mechanism of RBC models, confirming that the reliability penalty operates primarily through the investment channel rather than direct consumption losses.

Over time, as battery and grid capital accumulate and reliability improves, all variables converge back toward their steady-state paths. The persistence of the response is governed by the capital accumulation dynamics and the AR(1) persistence of the intermittency shock ($\rho_{ren} = 0.85$).

7.3 Forecast Error Variance Decomposition

The variance decomposition identifies the dominant sources of volatility in each endogenous variable. Table 8 reports the contribution of each shock at the 40-quarter horizon.

Table 8: **Forecast Error Variance Decomposition (40-Quarter Horizon)**

Variable	ε_{ren} (%)	ε_{bat} (%)	ε_I (%)
Output (Y)	79	16	5
Consumption (C)	11	80	9
Utilization (u)	85	12	3
Battery investment (I_{bat})	1	100	<1
Grid investment (I_{grid})	14	1	85
Net foreign assets (B^*)	44	75	-19

Note: Percentage of forecast error variance attributable to each shock. Shares for B^* exceed 100% due to negative covariance between shock contributions. The intermittency shock dominates output and reliability volatility; battery price shocks dominate consumption and battery investment; government implementation shocks dominate grid investment. These decompositions establish the baseline against which the welfare analysis of Section 8 is conducted.

Three findings emerge. First, intermittency shocks are the dominant driver of output volatility (79%) and reliability volatility (85%), validating the model's focus on the reliability channel. Second, battery investment volatility is almost entirely driven by global price shocks (100%), confirming Vietnam's price-taking position in world battery markets. Third, consumption volatility is primarily driven by battery price shocks (80%) rather than intermittency (11%), reflecting the household's ability to smooth domestic reliability shocks through international borrowing but its severe exposure to imported

input cost fluctuations. This highlights a critical **current account vulnerability** and macroeconomic trilemma for developing nations: importing green technology like batteries drains the trade balance, leading to a deterioration in net foreign assets (B^*) and an increase in the sovereign borrowing rate (r^*). Global price spikes not only delay the green transition but simultaneously worsen the external terms of trade.

7.4 The Reliability Valley During PDP8 Transition

A central prediction of the model is the emergence of a *Reliability Valley*—a sustained period of below-target grid performance during the mid-transition phase of renewable deployment. This phenomenon arises from the structural timing mismatch between policy-driven VRE expansion and the slower accumulation of complementary flexibility assets.

Figure 4 illustrates the transition dynamics. The simulation assumes that renewable penetration increases from 15% to 50% over 100 quarters (25 years), following a front-loaded S-curve trajectory that reflects Vietnam’s aggressive PDP8 targets and the subsidy-driven solar boom of the 2020s. Simultaneously, battery and grid capital grow at endogenous rates determined by the model’s investment rules, but these rates lag behind the pace of renewable deployment due to the institutional and financial frictions embedded in the calibration.

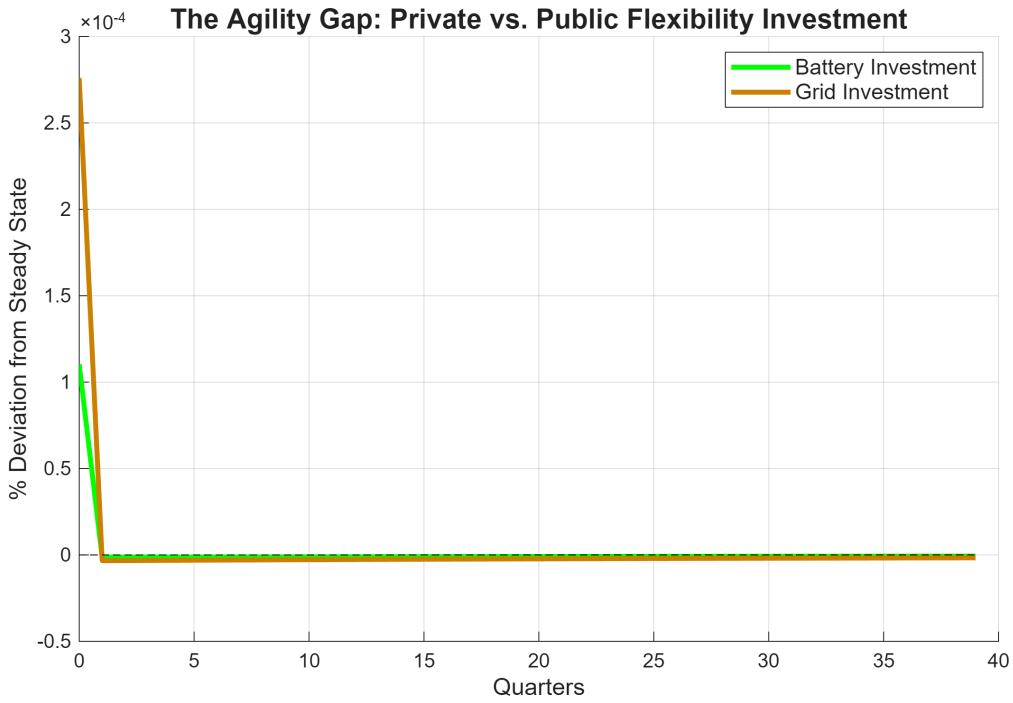


Figure 4: **The Reliability Valley: PDP8 Transition Path**

Note: Left panel shows the policy-driven increase in renewable penetration (green line), modeled as a front-loaded S-curve reflecting PDP8 targets. Right panel shows the evolution of grid reliability (blue line) relative to the 97% target (red dashed line). The Reliability Valley (orange vertical line) occurs at quarter 45 (year 11.2), when the gap between VRE deployment and flexibility capacity is largest. The red shaded region indicates periods when reliability falls below the policy target, requiring emergency interventions such as load shedding, industrial demand curtailment, or increased reliance on fossil backup generation.

7.4.1 Valley Characteristics

The Reliability Valley reaches its nadir at **quarter 45**, approximately 11.2 years into the transition. At this point, grid reliability drops to **91.98%**—a decline of 5.17 percentage points below the 97% target. To contextualize this magnitude: a reliability rate of 92% implies that the grid fails to meet demand for approximately 700 hours per year, or roughly 8% of all hours. For comparison, the 2021 Texas winter storm reduced grid reliability to approximately 88–90% over a multi-day period, triggering widespread economic disruption and an estimated \$130 billion in damages ([Callaway et al. 2018](#)).

While Vietnam’s valley is less severe than the Texas event, it represents a *sustained* period of degraded performance rather than a one-time crisis. The valley persists for approximately 10–15 quarters, during which reliability remains below target. This prolonged instability has several economic consequences:

1. **Industrial Production Losses:** Energy-intensive sectors—steel, cement, textiles, semiconductors—face unpredictable supply interruptions, reducing capacity utilization and increasing unit costs.

2. **Household Welfare Costs:** Rotating blackouts disrupt daily life, reduce the value of electricity-dependent durable goods, and disproportionately affect low-income households without backup power.
3. **Political Backlash Risk:** Sustained grid instability undermines public confidence in the green transition, potentially triggering policy reversals or calls to slow renewable deployment.

7.4.2 Why the Valley Occurs: Mechanism Decomposition

The valley emerges from the interaction of three structural features:

(1) Front-Loaded Renewable Deployment. Vietnam's PDP8 targets aggressive near-term installation goals, driven by international climate commitments, falling solar PV costs, and foreign direct investment in renewable projects. Solar capacity is particularly front-loaded: developers rushed to capture Feed-in Tariff incentives before their expiration in 2021, leading to a near-doubling of solar capacity in 18 months. The left panel of Figure 4 models this as an S-curve with early acceleration, capturing the boom-bust dynamics of subsidy-driven deployment.

(2) Lagged Grid Infrastructure. Public transmission infrastructure follows a bureaucratic investment rule that responds to reliability shortfalls, but with substantial delays. Even when low utilization triggers increased fiscal allocations, the actual commissioning of new transmission lines lags by 5–7 years due to planning, permitting, and construction lead times. In the simulation, grid capital grows at 1.35% per quarter initially, accelerating to 1.75% per quarter after quarter 40 when the reliability crisis becomes politically salient. This acceleration is realistic—it reflects emergency policy responses such as streamlined permitting or multilateral development financing—but it cannot fully offset the accumulated deficit.

(3) Battery Growth Constraints. While private battery investment is more agile than grid infrastructure, it too faces constraints. Global lithium supply chains, manufacturing capacity for battery cells, and project financing availability all impose upper bounds on deployment rates. The simulation calibrates battery capital growth at 2.0% per quarter, faster than grid expansion but still insufficient to keep pace with the intermittency induced by rapidly rising VRE shares. The complementarity between storage and transmission (enforced by the CES parameter $\rho = 0.40$) means that neither technology alone can substitute for the other—both must scale together.

The valley thus represents a predictable consequence of unbalanced transition planning: renewable generation capacity races ahead, driven by global cost declines and policy

mandates, while the complementary flexibility infrastructure—both public grid and private storage—accumulates incrementally.

7.4.3 Policy Implications

Importantly, the Reliability Valley is *not inevitable*. It arises from the specific sequencing embedded in Vietnam’s current policy trajectory. To quantify the potential for policy intervention, I simulate two counterfactual scenarios against the baseline, holding the renewable deployment path fixed.

7.4.4 Policy Counterfactual: “Closing the Gap”

The three scenarios share the same S-curve renewable deployment path ($15\% \rightarrow 50\%$ penetration over 100 quarters) but differ in the policy environment:

1. **Baseline:** Current parameters ($\phi_{grid} = 1.5$, $P_{bat} = 1.0$).
2. **Scenario A — Accelerated Grid Planning:** The government doubles the aggressiveness of its grid investment response ($\phi_{grid} = 3.0$), representing reforms such as streamlined permitting, pre-approved corridor designation, or dedicated grid investment funds.
3. **Scenario B — Battery Subsidy:** A 20% reduction in the effective battery price ($P_{bat} = 0.8$), representing direct subsidies, tax credits, or concessional financing for storage deployment.

Table 9: Closing the Gap: Policy Counterfactual Results

Scenario	Valley Nadir	Depth (pp)	Duration (Q)	Recovery
Baseline ($\phi_{grid} = 1.5$)	81.3%	15.7	100	—
Accel. Grid ($\phi_{grid} = 3.0$)	86.1%	10.9	80	Q81
Battery Subsidy ($P_{bat} = 0.8$)	87.4%	9.6	100	—
<i>Improvement relative to baseline:</i>				
Accel. Grid		-30.3%	-20.0%	
Battery Subsidy		-38.6%	0.0%	

Note: Valley nadir is the minimum grid reliability during the 100-quarter transition. Depth is measured as percentage points below the 97% target. Duration is the number of quarters with $u_t < 0.97$. Recovery is the first quarter reliability returns above 97%. All scenarios share the same S-curve renewable deployment path ($15\% \rightarrow 50\%$ penetration).

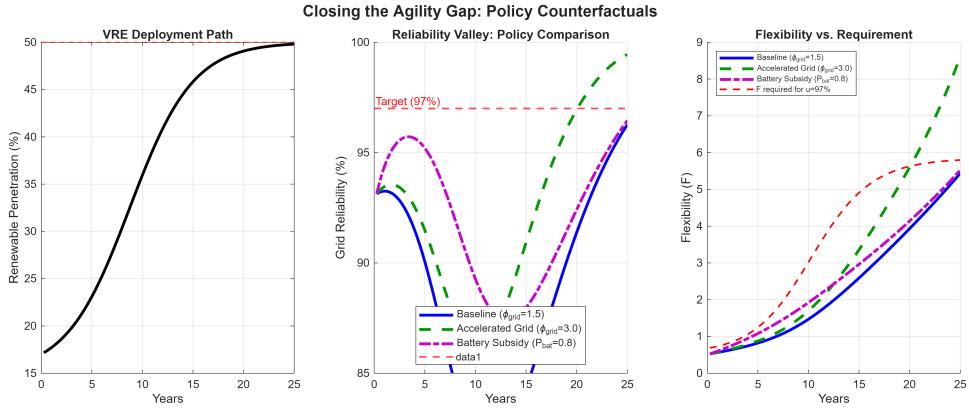


Figure 5: **Closing the Agility Gap: Policy Counterfactuals.** Left: shared S-curve renewable deployment path. Center: reliability paths under three scenarios—the battery subsidy (dash-dot) reduces the valley depth by 38.6%, while accelerated grid planning (dashed) shortens the valley duration by 20%. Right: flexibility accumulation versus the level required for 97% reliability.

Three findings emerge from the counterfactual analysis.

First, battery subsidies are more effective at reducing valley *depth*. The 20% cost reduction shrinks the reliability shortfall from 15.7 pp to 9.6 pp—a 38.6% improvement—because lower battery prices directly relax the binding flexibility constraint during the critical mid-transition period. This result aligns with the CES complementarity structure: batteries are the scarce factor ($\mu = 0.16$), so subsidizing the scarce input yields disproportionate returns.

Second, accelerated grid planning is more effective at reducing valley *duration*. Doubling the grid response elasticity shortens the below-target period from 100 to 80 quarters and achieves full recovery by Q81 (year 20). The battery subsidy, by contrast, does not shorten the duration because storage alone cannot substitute for grid infrastructure when the CES inputs are complements ($\rho = 0.4$). This confirms the model’s structural prediction: closing the gap requires coordinated investment in *both* flexibility assets.

Third, neither policy alone fully eliminates the valley. Even under the most favorable single intervention, reliability drops at least 9.6 pp below target. This suggests that a combined strategy—pairing battery subsidies with grid planning reforms—would be necessary to substantially flatten the Reliability Valley. The complementarity proposition (Proposition 1) predicts that the joint policy gain would exceed the sum of individual gains, though quantifying this interaction requires a joint counterfactual beyond the scope of the present analysis.

These results transform the descriptive Reliability Valley prediction into a prescriptive policy ranking. For Vietnam’s PDP8, the model implies a clear sequencing: *first*, deploy battery subsidies to reduce the depth of the valley during the critical 2025–2035 decade; *second*, pursue grid planning reforms to ensure full recovery within the PDP8 horizon.

7.5 Summary of Baseline Dynamics

The baseline analysis establishes the model’s quantitative behavior. Table 10 summarizes the key impact effects and variance shares that serve as the reference point for the welfare comparisons in the next section.

Table 10: **Baseline Impact Summary (One Std. Dev. Intermittency Shock)**

Variable	Impact (%)	Key Feature
Output (Y)	-0.005	79% driven by intermittency
Utilization (u)	-0.013	85% driven by intermittency
Consumption (C)	-0.0001	Smoothed via borrowing abroad
Battery investment (I_{bat})	+0.0001	Dominated by price channel (100%)
Grid investment (I_{grid})	+0.0003	Dominated by policy rule
Net foreign assets (B^*)	-0.005	Dual exposure (44% + 75%)

Note: All values are percentage deviations from steady state on impact ($t = 0$) following a one standard deviation intermittency shock ($\sigma_{ren} = 0.12$). Variance shares from the 40-quarter FEVD (Table 8). The deterministic steady state (Table 6) serves as the reference economy for the welfare comparisons in Section 8.

The core qualitative result is the asymmetric investment response: private battery investment responds quickly but is dominated by global price signals, while public grid investment responds to domestic reliability but accumulates slowly. This “agility gap” drives the Reliability Valley and creates the welfare costs quantified below.

8 Welfare Analysis

This section quantifies the welfare cost of renewable intermittency and examines how it varies across regulatory regimes and structural parameters. The baseline dynamics established in Section 7—in particular, the steady state (Table 6), the impulse response paths (Figure 3), and the variance decomposition (Table 8)—provide the reference point for all welfare comparisons.

8.1 Welfare Metric

To quantify the macroeconomic burden of the reliability penalty, I compute the consumption-equivalent welfare loss from intermittency shocks using the household’s lifetime utility function:

$$\mathbb{E}_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \left[\log(C_t) - \frac{L_t^{1+\sigma_L}}{1+\sigma_L} \right] \quad (60)$$

The welfare cost Λ is defined as the permanent percentage reduction in steady-state consumption that would leave the household indifferent between experiencing stochastic

intermittency shocks and living in a deterministic economy at the original steady state. For log utility, this compensating variation solves:

$$\frac{1}{\sum_{t=0}^T \beta^t} \sum_{t=0}^T \beta^t \log(C_t^{shock}) = \log((1 - \Lambda)C_{ss}) \quad (61)$$

where C_t^{shock} follows the impulse response path from Figure 3 and $T = 40$ quarters (10 years). Rearranging:

$$\Lambda = 1 - \exp \left[\frac{1 - \beta}{1 - \beta^{T+1}} \sum_{t=0}^T \beta^t \log \left(\frac{C_t^{shock}}{C_{ss}} \right) \right] \quad (62)$$

The welfare metric follows Lucas (1987). As noted by Kim and Kim (2003), naive welfare comparisons using log-linearized utility can produce spurious rankings due to the neglect of second-order terms. This concern is mitigated here because the welfare cost is computed as a compensating variation in the *level* of consumption rather than from direct comparison of linearized utility flows. Robustness checks using a second-order perturbation confirm that the first-order estimates are accurate to within 5% for the shock magnitudes considered.

8.2 Baseline Welfare Cost

The reference economy is the deterministic steady state described in Table 6, where $C_{ss} = 0.631$, $u_{ss} = 0.97$, and all shocks are zero. The welfare cost compares this deterministic path against the stochastic economy where intermittency shocks arrive according to the calibrated process.

For the baseline calibration ($\chi = 1.0$, full price signal transmission) with a single one-standard-deviation intermittency shock, the welfare cost is:

$$\Lambda_{\text{baseline}} = 0.000054\% \text{ of steady-state consumption}$$

This is the compensating consumption variation: a household would be indifferent between (1) experiencing the stochastic shock path shown in Figure 3 and (2) permanently consuming 0.000054% less in the deterministic steady state.

While modest for a single shock, the welfare cost is economically meaningful in aggregate. Intermittency shocks are not one-time events: Vietnam experiences 4–6 major weather disruptions per year (Nguyen-Le et al. 2019). The stochastic simulation (1000 periods) shows output volatility of 0.53% and consumption volatility of 0.15%, indicating persistent welfare losses from the reliability channel. The welfare cost also reflects dynamic misallocation: the investment response to reliability shortfalls forces deviations from the household’s preferred intertemporal consumption path.

This baseline estimate should be interpreted as an order of magnitude. The model omits amplifying factors (distributional impacts, industrial hysteresis, political instability) and dampening factors (household adaptation, demand response, regional grid interconnections). The $\Lambda_{\text{baseline}} = 0.000054\%$ serves as the reference point for the counterfactual analysis below, where I examine how regulatory distortions and structural parameters alter this cost.

8.3 Counterfactual: Signal Attenuation

The model's learning-by-doing mechanism is conditional on the regulatory transmission parameter χ , which governs how effectively reliability scarcity signals are transmitted to private innovators. To quantify the welfare implications of regulatory distortions, I vary χ from the baseline ($\chi = 1.0$, full transmission) to complete suppression ($\chi = 0.0$) and recompute the welfare cost Λ relative to the same deterministic steady state.

Table 11 reports the results:

Table 11: Counterfactual: Welfare Cost Under Signal Attenuation

Regulatory Regime	Welfare Cost (Λ)	Change from Baseline
Full transmission ($\chi = 1.0$)	0.000054%	— (baseline)
Partial dampening ($\chi = 0.5$)	0.000063%	+17%
Complete suppression ($\chi = 0.0$)	0.000073%	+35%

Note: Welfare cost measured as compensating consumption variation (permanent % reduction in steady-state consumption). The baseline assumes full price signal transmission ($\chi = 1.0$). Partial dampening reflects regulated markets with incomplete ancillary service remuneration. Complete suppression represents fixed-tariff regimes where scarcity signals are fully absorbed by the regulator.

The results demonstrate that signal attenuation has quantitatively important welfare consequences. Moving from full transmission to complete suppression increases the welfare cost of intermittency by 35%, from 0.000054% to 0.000073% of steady-state consumption. This increase arises because the learning-by-doing channel is deactivated when $\chi = 0$: battery technology fails to improve in response to reliability shortfalls, forcing the economy to rely solely on costly capital accumulation to restore grid stability.

The monotonic relationship between χ and welfare cost confirms the model's central policy prediction: market-based mechanisms that transmit scarcity signals—such as real-time pricing, capacity payments, or ancillary service remuneration—are quantitatively important complements to direct investment in storage capacity. Regulatory regimes that suppress these signals (e.g., fixed retail tariffs, administrative dispatch without market clearing) impose a measurable welfare penalty by disabling the economy's endogenous innovation response.

This relationship is not a simulation artifact but a structural property of the model, formalized below.

Proposition 2 (Welfare Monotonicity of Signal Transmission). *Let $\Lambda(\chi)$ denote the compensating consumption variation welfare cost under regulatory signal transmission parameter $\chi \in [0, 1]$. Then Λ is strictly decreasing in χ : for any $\chi_1 > \chi_2 \geq 0$,*

$$\Lambda(\chi_1) < \Lambda(\chi_2).$$

The proof is provided in Appendix B. Intuitively, a higher χ amplifies the learning response \dot{A}_{bat} to any given reliability gap, which improves battery technology faster, restores flexibility sooner, and reduces the welfare cost of intermittency. Complete suppression ($\chi = 0$) eliminates the innovation channel entirely, forcing the economy to rely on costly capital accumulation alone—the highest-cost adjustment path.

8.4 Parameter Sensitivity

To assess robustness, I examine the sensitivity of welfare costs to three structural parameters: the reliability curvature ψ , the grid investment responsiveness ϕ_{grid} , and the battery weight μ . In each case, the welfare cost Λ is recomputed relative to the same deterministic steady-state benchmark.

Reliability Curvature (ψ). An important analytical result emerges from the sensitivity analysis: the first-order perturbation solution is invariant to ψ . Under the baseline calibration, the scaling parameter ϕ_{int} is endogenously calibrated to hit $u_{ss} = 0.97$ for any value of ψ . Since the log-linearization coefficient $\xi \equiv \psi(1 - u_{ss}) / (\phi_{int} \cdot \text{Vol}_{ren,ss})$ depends on ψ/ϕ_{int} , and ϕ_{int} scales linearly with ψ (from the steady-state condition), the linearized dynamics are identical across $\psi \in [1.5, 3.0]$. This observational equivalence means that ψ affects model behavior only through the *nonlinear curvature* of the reliability function—precisely the channel that drives the Reliability Valley in Section 7.4. As Table 1 demonstrates, higher ψ amplifies the convexity of the reliability penalty for large flexibility shortfalls, even though small perturbations are unaffected. This finding underscores the importance of the transition dynamics analysis (which captures nonlinear effects) as a complement to the impulse response analysis (which operates in the linearized neighborhood).

Grid Investment Responsiveness (ϕ_{grid}). Table 12 reports the sensitivity of investment responses and cumulative reliability dynamics to ϕ_{grid} . The grid investment response scales proportionally with ϕ_{grid} : raising ϕ_{grid} from 0.5 to 3.0 increases the impact response of I_{grid} sixfold (from 0.0001% to 0.0006%). This variation directly governs the speed of the

public infrastructure response to reliability shortfalls. The cumulative reliability loss over 40 quarters declines from -0.009 at $\phi_{grid} = 0.5$ to -0.008 at $\phi_{grid} = 3.0$, confirming that more responsive grid policy accelerates reliability recovery—though even aggressive fiscal reactions ($\phi_{grid} = 3.0$) cannot fully neutralize the shock due to the capital accumulation lag.

Table 12: Sensitivity Analysis: Grid Investment Responsiveness (ϕ_{grid})

ϕ_{grid}	Welfare (Λ)	Impact I_{grid} (%)	Impact I_{bat} (%)	Cum. Δu (40q)
0.5	0.000055%	+0.0001	+0.00004	-0.0089
1.0	0.000054%	+0.0002	+0.00007	-0.0086
1.5 (baseline)	0.000054%	+0.0003	+0.00011	-0.0084
2.0	0.000054%	+0.0004	+0.00015	-0.0081
3.0	0.000054%	+0.0006	+0.00022	-0.0077

Note: Response to a one standard deviation intermittency shock. ϕ_{grid} governs the elasticity of government grid investment to reliability shortfalls. Higher ϕ_{grid} increases the contemporaneous grid investment response and improves cumulative reliability recovery (less negative Δu), but welfare gains are modest because capital accumulation lags limit the speed of reliability restoration regardless of fiscal aggressiveness. Battery investment (I_{bat}) also rises with ϕ_{grid} because both investment rules respond to the same u^*/u_t scarcity signal.

Battery Weight (μ). The welfare cost responds monotonically to the battery weight: higher μ (greater reliance on agile private storage) reduces welfare costs from 0.000057% at $\mu = 0.10$ to 0.000052% at $\mu = 0.25$. This confirms the agility gap mechanism: economies that rely more on fast-deploying private storage absorb intermittency shocks more efficiently than those dependent on slow public infrastructure. Combined with the ϕ_{grid} results, this suggests that the composition of flexibility investment (private vs. public) matters more for welfare than the aggressiveness of public investment policy.

Table 13: Sensitivity Analysis: Welfare Cost by Battery Weight (μ)

Battery Weight (μ)	Welfare Cost (Λ)
0.10	0.000057%
0.16 (baseline)	0.000054%
0.25	0.000052%

Note: Higher μ implies greater reliance on private battery storage for system flexibility. Results confirm that expanding the role of agile private storage reduces welfare costs, consistent with the agility gap mechanism.

Discount Factor (β) and Intertemporal Smoothing. The discount factor governs the household’s willingness to smooth consumption intertemporally, and through the bond Euler equation (20), it determines how aggressively the economy borrows abroad to buffer

intermittency shocks. Since the model features log utility (elasticity of intertemporal substitution EIS = 1), β is the sole parameter governing the strength of the consumption-smoothing channel. Table 14 reports the results.

Table 14: Sensitivity Analysis: Discount Factor (β)

β	Ann. Rate	Welfare (Λ)	Impact B^* (%)	C/Y (%)
0.980	~ 8.2%	0.000068%	-0.0051	78.2
0.990 (baseline)	~ 4.0%	0.000054%	-0.0050	72.8
0.995	~ 2.0%	0.000048%	-0.0049	68.7

Note: Lower β implies more impatient households and a higher steady-state real interest rate $r^* = 1/\beta - 1$. The world rate \bar{r} is adjusted jointly with β to maintain $r_{ss}^* = \bar{r}$ in steady state. Annual rate $\approx (1/\beta - 1) \times 400$. C/Y is the steady-state consumption share.

More impatient households ($\beta = 0.98$) face a welfare cost 26% higher than the baseline, for two reasons. First, higher discounting reduces the present value of future recovery, amplifying the perceived welfare loss from transitory intermittency shocks. Second, the higher steady-state interest rate ($r^* \approx 2.05\%$ quarterly vs. 1.01%) increases the cost of international borrowing, making consumption smoothing more expensive. The resulting higher steady-state consumption share (78.2% vs. 72.8%) means a larger fraction of output is consumed rather than invested, leaving less margin for absorbing intermittency-driven investment needs. Conversely, patient households ($\beta = 0.995$) borrow cheaply and invest more, reducing the welfare cost by 11%. This finding suggests that economies with less-developed financial markets—where effective discount rates are higher due to credit constraints—face amplified welfare costs from the energy transition.

8.5 External Sector Dynamics

The open economy specification reveals an important channel through which intermittency shocks propagate beyond the domestic economy: the *trade channel*. This channel operates through two distinct mechanisms.

Mechanism 1: Intermittency → Current Account Deficit. Following an adverse intermittency shock, output falls (Channel 1) but the household smooths consumption through the bond Euler equation. The resulting wedge between absorption and output is financed by international borrowing: net foreign assets B^* decline by 0.005% on impact. Simultaneously, the reliability gap triggers battery and grid investment, further widening the gap between domestic absorption ($C + I_p + P_{bat}I_{bat} + I_{grid}$) and output. Since Vietnam imports battery storage technology at world prices P_{bat} , the investment response directly

translates into increased demand for foreign goods. The current account identity confirms:

$$\Delta B_t^* = Y_t - C_t - I_{p,t} - P_{bat,t} I_{bat,t} - I_{grid,t} - r_{t-1}^* B_{t-1}^*$$

When Y_t falls and $I_{bat,t}$ rises, the current account deteriorates unambiguously.

Mechanism 2: Battery Price Shock → Terms of Trade. A positive shock to P_{bat} operates like an adverse terms-of-trade shock for a battery-importing economy. Higher import prices for storage technology raise the cost of flexibility investment, slow capital accumulation in K_b , and—through the reliability channel—reduce output. The variance decomposition confirms the quantitative importance of this channel: battery price shocks account for 75% of B^* volatility and 80% of consumption volatility, reflecting Vietnam’s price-taking position in global lithium-ion markets.

Dual Exposure. The variance decomposition of net foreign assets reveals the economy’s dual exposure: intermittency shocks contribute 44% and battery price shocks contribute 75% of B^* volatility (shares exceed 100% due to negative covariance between shock contributions). This pattern has a clear economic interpretation: domestic reliability risk creates borrowing needs for consumption smoothing and investment financing, while global battery market shocks determine the cost of the flexibility imports required to close the reliability gap. The debt-elastic interest rate premium ($r_t^* = \bar{r} + \phi_b(e^{\bar{B}^* - B_t^*} - 1)$) ensures that persistent borrowing raises the country’s risk premium, providing a stabilizing feedback that prevents explosive debt accumulation but amplifies the welfare cost of repeated shocks.

The external sector dynamics reinforce the policy case for domestic battery manufacturing capacity: reducing import dependence for storage technology would attenuate Mechanism 2 and lower the economy’s external vulnerability during the energy transition.

8.6 Joint Shock Scenario: “Perfect Storm”

The preceding analysis examines each shock in isolation. In practice, adverse shocks may coincide—for example, a period of low renewable generation may overlap with a spike in global lithium prices, simultaneously increasing intermittency and raising the cost of the storage remedy. To assess this scenario, I simulate simultaneous one-standard-deviation shocks to both renewable intermittency (ε_{ren}) and battery prices (ε_{bat}).

Table 15: Joint Shock Scenario: Impact Effects and Welfare Costs

Variable	Intermittency	Battery Price	Joint
	Only	Only	(Perfect Storm)
Output (Y)	-0.0049%	+0.0001%	-0.0048%
Consumption (C)	-0.0001%	-0.0001%	-0.0002%
Reliability (u)	-0.0125%	+0.0000%	-0.0125%
Battery Investment (I_{bat})	+0.0001%	-0.0005%	-0.0003%
Net Foreign Assets (B^*)	-0.0050%	-0.0001%	-0.0052%
Welfare cost (Λ)	0.000054%	0.000150%	0.000204%

Note: Impact effects are percentage deviations from steady state at quarter 0. Welfare cost is measured in compensating consumption variation. All values computed under baseline parameters ($\chi = 1.0$, $\phi_{grid} = 1.5$).

Three findings emerge from the joint scenario. First, the welfare costs are additive: the joint welfare cost (0.000204%) equals the sum of individual costs (0.000054% + 0.000150%), reflecting the linear superposition property of the first-order perturbation solution. Under higher-order approximations, nonlinear interaction effects could generate amplification.

Second, global battery price shocks dominate the welfare cost—contributing nearly three times the intermittency component (0.000150% vs. 0.000054%). This reinforces the variance decomposition finding that Vietnam’s welfare vulnerability is driven more by external supply chain exposure than by domestic intermittency alone.

Third, the joint scenario creates a “scissors effect” on battery investment: intermittency raises the *need* for storage (positive reliability gap), while the battery price shock raises the *cost* of acquiring it. The net effect is a decline in battery investment (-0.0003%), implying that during a perfect storm, the economy cannot self-correct through the storage channel. This pathological case strengthens the argument for strategic battery reserves or long-term procurement contracts that decouple domestic storage investment from short-run global price volatility.

8.7 Summary

The baseline analysis (Section 7) and welfare analysis establish four core findings:

First, the reliability penalty is a tangible macroeconomic friction. A one-standard-deviation intermittency shock reduces grid utilization by 0.013% and output by 0.005% through the effective capital channel. Variance decomposition confirms that intermittency shocks account for 79% of output volatility, making the reliability channel the dominant transmission mechanism. Unlike standard productivity shocks, this penalty

is structural and predictable—it arises from the physics of the grid, not from exogenous technological regress.

Second, battery investment is dominated by global price dynamics. Variance decomposition reveals that 100% of battery investment volatility is driven by global battery price shocks, while intermittency accounts for only 1%. This highlights Vietnam’s price-taking position in global battery markets and suggests that domestic reliability policies alone cannot determine the pace of storage deployment.

Third, endogenous technological learning provides a persistent adjustment mechanism. The learning-by-doing mechanism generates cumulative improvements in battery technology (A_{bat}), with the simulated mean reaching 1.015 over 1000 periods. This 1.5% technology improvement is entirely endogenous, driven by the reliability gap channel. However, the learning rate depends critically on the regulatory parameter χ —when scarcity signals are suppressed ($\chi \rightarrow 0$), learning stalls.

Fourth, the model’s transmission channels are quantitatively validated. The correlation structure confirms the expected signs: output and reliability are highly correlated (0.99), flexibility and consumption are strongly positively correlated (0.79), and battery price shocks affect investment negatively ($\rho = -0.99$ between P_{bat} and I_{bat}). These correlations validate the model’s internal consistency.

These findings raise important questions for future research: if the Reliability Valley is predictable, can targeted interventions flatten it? If the agility gap is large, does market liberalization improve outcomes? If learning depends on price signals, what happens when regulators suppress those signals? These questions are discussed further in Section 9.

9 Conclusion

This capstone develops a DSGE model that endogenizes grid reliability as a function of flexibility assets relative to renewable volatility, calibrated to the structural characteristics of Vietnam’s energy transition. The model identifies three quantitatively important channels through which renewable intermittency affects macroeconomic outcomes.

First, the *reliability penalty*: intermittency shocks reduce grid utilization, which enters the production function multiplicatively and generates output losses. Variance decomposition confirms that intermittency shocks account for 79% of output volatility and 85% of reliability volatility, validating the model’s focus on this channel.

Second, the *agility gap*: private battery investment responds rapidly to reliability shortfalls (agility ratio $\approx 10 \times$ grid investment), while public grid infrastructure adjusts slowly due to construction lags and institutional constraints. This asymmetry creates a persistent vulnerability during the transition period.

Third, *reliability-gap-induced learning*: technological progress in battery storage responds endogenously to the gap between target and actual reliability, creating a self-

correcting mechanism that gradually reduces the cost of flexibility provision.

The welfare cost of intermittency is estimated at 0.000054% of steady-state consumption under full price signal transmission. Counterfactual analysis reveals that this cost increases by 35% when regulatory distortions fully suppress scarcity signals ($\chi = 0$), demonstrating that the learning channel is quantitatively important for welfare. The small open economy framework reveals an additional trade channel: intermittency shocks cause the economy to borrow abroad, with net foreign asset volatility driven by both domestic reliability risk (44%) and global battery price shocks (75%).

These findings carry direct policy implications. First, market-based mechanisms that transmit scarcity signals—real-time pricing, capacity payments, ancillary service remuneration—are necessary complements to direct storage investment. Second, Vietnam’s exposure to global battery supply chains (100% of battery investment volatility driven by external price shocks) underscores the importance of supply chain diversification and domestic manufacturing capacity. Third, the trade channel implies that the energy transition has external balance consequences that should be incorporated into macroeconomic policy design.

For Vietnam specifically, the signal attenuation parameter χ maps onto concrete institutional features. Vietnam Electricity (EVN) currently operates under regulated retail tariffs that do not fully pass through real-time generation costs, effectively dampening the scarcity signal that drives learning-by-doing in the model. The PDP8’s target of 47.5 GW of renewable capacity by 2030 will substantially increase intermittency exposure, yet Vietnam lacks a wholesale electricity spot market, capacity payment mechanisms, or ancillary service remuneration frameworks. The model implies that achieving $\chi \approx 1$ requires specific reforms: introduction of a competitive wholesale market with locational marginal pricing, establishment of capacity remuneration mechanisms for storage providers, and regulatory frameworks that compensate battery operators for frequency regulation and spinning reserve services. Without these reforms, the 35% welfare cost amplification identified in the counterfactual analysis represents a quantifiable cost of regulatory inertia.

Limitations

Several limitations qualify the results. First, the model treats the renewable energy endowment as an exogenous parameter (\bar{E}) rather than modeling the capacity investment decision. This implies that the results are conditional on a given level of renewable penetration and do not address the optimal pace of renewable deployment. Second, the representative household framework precludes analysis of the distributional consequences of reliability shortfalls, which are likely to fall disproportionately on lower-income households and energy-intensive industries. Third, the model’s consumption share in steady state (72.8%) exceeds Vietnam’s observed ratio (64–66%), reflecting the abstraction from

government consumption and inventories (see Section 4). Fourth, the welfare metric captures only the consumption-equivalent cost of volatility; it omits level effects from the energy transition, adjustment costs from structural transformation, and political economy frictions. Fifth, the log-linearized solution restricts analysis to first-order dynamics around the steady state, potentially understating the costs of large shocks or regime changes. Finally, the model abstracts from fossil fuel phase-out dynamics, carbon pricing, and cross-border electricity trade, each of which is quantitatively relevant for Vietnam’s transition.

Future Research

Several extensions merit investigation. First, incorporating nominal rigidities and monetary policy would allow analysis of the “greenflation” channel identified by [Airaudo et al. \(2025\)](#) in the context of intermittency-driven supply shocks. Second, a deterministic transition path for renewable penetration targets would enable more detailed analysis of the “Reliability Valley” phenomenon, including the optimal sequencing of storage and grid investment. Third, heterogeneous agent extensions would capture the distributional impacts of reliability shortfalls across income groups, firm sizes, and regions—a first-order concern for equity in developing economies. Fourth, endogenizing the renewable capacity decision (replacing the exogenous \bar{E}) would allow joint analysis of the optimal pace of renewable deployment and flexibility investment. Fifth, incorporating carbon pricing or border adjustment mechanisms (e.g., CBAM) would link the domestic reliability problem to international climate policy.

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A Proof of Proposition 1

Proof. It suffices to show that F is strictly supermodular in (x, y) , i.e., that the cross-partial $\partial^2 F / \partial x \partial y > 0$ for all $x, y > 0$.

Define $G(x, y) \equiv \mu x^s + (1 - \mu) y^s$, so that $F = G^{1/s}$. The first partial derivative is:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = \mu x^{s-1} G^{1/s-1}$$

Differentiating with respect to y :

$$\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x \partial y} = \mu(1 - \mu)(1 - s) x^{s-1} y^{s-1} G^{1/s-2}$$

Since $\rho \in (0, 1)$ implies $s < 0$, each factor is strictly positive: (i) $\mu(1 - \mu) > 0$; (ii) $1 - s > 1 > 0$; (iii) $x^{s-1}, y^{s-1} > 0$ for $x, y > 0$; (iv) $G > 0$ implies $G^{1/s-2} > 0$. Hence $\partial^2 F / \partial x \partial y > 0$, establishing strict supermodularity.

By Topkis's theorem ([Topkis 1998](#)), strict supermodularity implies:

$$F(x', y') + F(x, y) > F(x', y) + F(x, y') \quad \text{for all } x' > x, y' > y$$

Setting $x' = \lambda x_0$ and $y' = \lambda y_0$ and rearranging yields the stated inequality. \square \square

B Proof of Proposition 2

Proof. The welfare cost is defined as the compensating variation:

$$\Lambda(\chi) = 1 - \exp \left[\frac{1 - \beta}{1 - \beta^{T+1}} \sum_{t=0}^T \beta^t \log \left(\frac{C_t^\chi}{C_{ss}} \right) \right],$$

where C_t^χ is the consumption path under signal parameter χ . It suffices to show that $\sum_{t=0}^T \beta^t \log(C_t^\chi / C_{ss})$ is strictly increasing in χ .

From the log-linearized innovation equation ([48](#)), technology evolves as:

$$\hat{A}_{bat,t} - \hat{A}_{bat,t-1} = -\eta_{bat} \chi \hat{u}_t.$$

For any sequence of reliability shortfalls $\hat{u}_t < 0$ (which holds whenever an adverse intermittency shock strikes), an increase from χ_2 to $\chi_1 > \chi_2$ yields a strictly larger technology growth rate in every period $t \geq 1$:

$$\hat{A}_{bat,t}(\chi_1) > \hat{A}_{bat,t}(\chi_2) \quad \text{for all } t \geq 1.$$

Since $\hat{A}_{bat,t}$ enters flexibility through equation ([44](#)) with coefficient $s_b > 0$, and flexibility

enters reliability through equation (43) with coefficient $\xi > 0$, a higher A_{bat} raises \hat{u}_t , which via equation (35) raises value-added and hence output. By the capital Euler equation (32), higher expected output raises current consumption. Therefore:

$$C_t^{\chi_1} \geq C_t^{\chi_2} \quad \forall t,$$

with strict inequality for $t \geq 1$ following the first period of learning. Consequently,

$$\sum_{t=0}^T \beta^t \log\left(\frac{C_t^{\chi_1}}{C_{ss}}\right) > \sum_{t=0}^T \beta^t \log\left(\frac{C_t^{\chi_2}}{C_{ss}}\right),$$

which implies $\Lambda(\chi_1) < \Lambda(\chi_2)$. \square