

# Strategies for Modeling and Simulation of Alternative Energy Systems for Powering Health Facilities using HOMER Application

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## Abstract

Hybrid Optimization Model for Electric Renewables (HOMER) is one of the tools used by the World Health Organization (WHO) for designing renewable energy health facilities. This paper demonstrates the depth of the software application and instructs health workers (step by step) on how to model and simulate (design) renewable energy health facilities with HOMER by using hypothetical off-grid health facilities at various geographical locations which were chosen to reflect the various climatic conditions in Nigeria as the case studies. This tool (HOMER software) was used to design an optimal hybrid power system based on comparative economic and environmental analysis. Simulation was run on each of the case study sets of data and results (both the graphical and tabular output) were provided. The findings of the study were organized and presented as a supplementary data, and the results could aid in the planning of energy system for health facility projects in Nigeria.

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**Index terms**— HOMER, health facility, renewable energy systems, wind turbine, PV panel, diesel generator, hybrid system, nigeria

## 1 Introduction

Health facilities are community institutions where reliable and sustainable energy requires particular attention. Energy in health facilities is a critical enabler of access to many medical technologies, and thus to health services access. Studies conducted by World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that electricity access have a significant impact on some key health service indicators, such as: prolonging night-time service provision; attracting and retaining skilled health workers to a facility; and providing faster emergency response, including for childbirth emergencies. Without energy, many life-saving interventions cannot be undertaken (WHO, 2014). Modern energy provision is therefore a critical enabler of universal access to health care and universal health coverage.

The problems that health facilities encounter in Nigeria based on power supply are found throughout much of the world. Where there is a central power system, it is unreliable. Bringing power from the central grid to rural health facilities is not economically feasible in many cases. Hybrid systems designed with Hybrid Optimization Model for Electric Renewables (HOMER) can be cost effective and robust, solving both these issues simultaneously. Many studies throughout the world have used HOMER software to investigate the optimal design of proposed hybrid energy systems (HESs). Alabi Each study proposed certain components that differed from others and the simulation was conducted for a specific area. Ani (2014) used HOMER to model energy map for off-grid health clinics in Nigeria. The author found that the most ideal solutions for the sites were hybrid systems (PV/diesel; PV/wind/diesel) with a battery backup. Malika (2016) also used HOMER to model renewable energy systems for rural health clinics in Algeria. The study focused on the optimization and the cost analysis of renewable energy hybrid systems for electricity production at rural health clinics situated in coastal, high plains and desert regions of Algeria, represented by Algiers, Ghardaia and Djanet. Regarding the cost of fuel in different regions of Algeria, the optimized renewable energy systems found for Algiers and Ghardaia are composed of PV systems, wind generators and batteries, while for Djanet it is a PV system and batteries. Ani

### 3 B) LITERATURE REVIEW

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44 and Emetu (2013) used the HOMER software to model robust, reliable energy systems for a rural health service  
45 facility in the southern part of Nigeria. Although HOMER is increasingly used for state-of-the-art microgrid  
46 design, these examples go back to HOMER's roots as a tool for electrification. The benefits of electrifying rural  
47 health clinics can literally mean the difference between the health clinics standards of the "dark ages" compared  
48 to that of the modern world. By having electricity, a health clinic will have prolonged opening hours. With more  
49 electricity, health clinics could access basic medical devices and appliances, such as vaccine refrigerators, as well  
50 as general equipment such as water sterilization, heating, cooling, and ventilation.

51 An international donor agency United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (2016) has been  
52 working with a health clinic in the Kalahari Desert of Botswana to improve local health care service delivery.  
53 The health clinic is not connected to the grid and currently utilizes a diesel generator to partially meet its energy  
54 needs. The donor agency decided to explore different options for upgrading the clinic's power generation systems,  
55 by comparing costs for a variety of different energy generation systems that can meet 100% of the clinic's load  
56 using HOMER program. Evaluating the energy generation options, the resulting cost estimates show that the  
57 lowest cost system is a PV/diesel-battery hybrid system. A diesel-battery system costs 13% more than this hybrid  
58 system because the added fuel cost over the life of the system is more than the savings in initial PV investment,  
59 and a PV-battery system costs about 28% more than the least-cost design. In a diesel-only system, the cost of  
60 energy from a diesel system with no batteries is over twice the cost from a diesel-battery system. The calculations  
61 demonstrate that because of fuel and maintenance costs, the system with the lowest capital cost is not the system  
62 with the lowest lifetime cost of energy.

63 World Health Organization (2016) conducted a simulation to compare the costs of different stand-alone power  
64 supply technologies to a hypothetical health clinic in rural Kenya, using HOMER Power System Design tool.  
65 The simulation tested and compared power supply arrays reliant upon a fuel-based generator, PV and generator  
66 combinations, and PV only, with and without battery backup; and looked at costs of the different supply options  
67 (both initial and long-term), as well as the pollution and climate emissions. The simulation further explored these  
68 supply options for two demand scenarios: one using conventional medical devices and one using more energy-  
69 efficient medical devices that reduce the clinic's overall energy demand. The simulation provides an interesting  
70 example of how optimal combinations of photovoltaic and diesel generation with appropriate energy storage  
71 can yield multiple gains: lower overall cost of energy, a shift to renewable energy, and a reliable supply for all  
72 health facility energy needs. The simulation also demonstrates how investments in more energy-efficient medical  
73 devices, can help reduce the required capital investment in energy supply for a rural health clinic. The results  
74 of the simulation demonstrate that the best combination remains energy efficiencies + more efficient supply  
75 configurations.

## 2 a) Description of HOMER Software

77 HOMER is a computer model developed by the United States (U.S.) National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
78 (NREL) to assist in the design of power systems; evaluate technical (power system's physical behavior) and  
79 financial (power system's life-cycle cost, which is the total cost of installing and operating the system over its life  
80 span) options for on-grid and off-grid power systems, for distributed generation and standalone applications. This  
81 software application (HOMER) helps to facilitate the comparison of power generation technologies across a wide  
82 range of applications. It allows one to model the performance of a power system configuration and determine  
83 its technical feasibility and life-cycle cost; compare many different design options based on the satisfied technical  
84 constraints at the lowest life-cycle cost; and assists in understanding and quantifying the effects of uncertainty  
85 or changes in the inputs. In 1993, NREL developed the first version of HOMER for the U.S. Department of  
86 Energy (DOE) for renewable energy programs. The developed design tool (HOMER) was used in predicting  
87 the long-term performance of hybrid power systems and to understand the tradeoffs between different energy  
88 production configurations. HOMER has a user-friendly windows-based interface with a library of input data files  
89 and users can readily model new applications. HOMER simulates different system configurations, or combinations  
90 of components, and generates results that can be viewed as a list of feasible configurations sorted by net present  
91 cost. It displays simulation results in a wide variety of tables and graphs that help one compare configurations  
92 and evaluate them on their economic and technical merits (Getting Started Guide, 2005).

## 3 b) Literature Review

94 Based on literature search, many case studies concentrate on the use of HOMER at the national, regional, and  
95 rural communities for households scale. Olubayo et al. with only a few research efforts directed at healthcare  
96 facilities. Furthermore, the strategies for modelling and simulation of alternative energy systems for powering  
97 health facilities have not been comprehensively studied. Razmjoo and Davarpanah (2018) studied four different  
98 models of hybrid renewable energy systems with a combination of photovoltaic panels, wind turbine, and diesel  
99 generators for residential application in Damghan city. Simulation, optimization, and modeling procedures were  
100 done by HOMER software. The simulation results show that among three hybrid systems investigated, PV-wind  
101 system has the highest value of electrical production with 18,478 kWh/yr and the PV-diesel system has the  
102 lowest value of electrical production with 9,876 kWh/yr. Moreover, from the environmental view, the PV-Diesel  
103 system is highest with 2,402 kg/yr and the PV-wind system has the lowest pollution rate, i.e., 0%. Shezan et

al (2016) carried out a research to analyze the performance of an off-grid PV (photovoltaic)-wind-diesel-battery hybrid energy system for a remote area located in the state of Selangor, Malaysia. The system was designed as well as simulated to support a small community considering an average load demand of 33 kWh/day with a peak load of 3.9 kW. The simulation and optimization of operations of the system was done by HOMER application using the real time field data of solar radiation and wind speed of that area. The simulation ensures that the system is suitably feasible with respect to net present cost (NPC) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission reduction purpose. The result shows that NPC and CO<sub>2</sub> emission can be reduced about 29.65% and 16 tons per year respectively compared to the conventional power plants. The NPC of the optimized system has been found about USD 288,194.00 having the per unit Cost of Energy (COE) about USD 1.877/kWh. The analyzed hybrid energy system might be applicable for other region of the world where the climate conditions are similar. Similar research was conducted in Shezan and Ping (2017) which uses the HOMER to design an off-grid Hybrid PV-Wind-Biomass-Diesel Energy System in order to support a small community having an average load demand of 80kWh/d with a peak load of 8.1 kW. The simulation ensures that the system is economically and environmentally feasible with respect to NPC and CO<sub>2</sub> emission limitations. The result shows that the NPC of the optimized system has been found to be about USD 160,626.00, having the per unit COE of USD 0.431/kWh. In a related research, a PV-wind-diesel system was designed by Bernal-Agustín et al. (2006) to minimize the total cost of system installation and to reduce the pollutant emissions by using HOMER software. The results demonstrated the practical utilization of the method used. Bekelea and Boneya (2011) designed a wind-PV hybrid power system for supplying electricity for a community living in Ethiopian remote area using HOMER. Moreover Kusakana and Vermaak (2013) used HOMER to investigate the possibility of using hybrid PV-wind renewable systems to supply mobile telephone stations in remote areas of Congo. Li et al. (2013) presented a techno-economic feasibility study of an autonomous hybrid wind/PV/battery power system for a household in Urumqi, China using Hybrid Optimization Model for Electric Renewable (HOMER) simulation software. They recommended a hybrid wind/PV/battery system with 5 kW of PV arrays (72% solar energy penetration), with a one wind turbine of 2.5 kW (28% wind energy penetration), 8 unit batteries each of 6.94 kWh and 5 kW sized power converters for the household. Furthermore Ngan and Tan (2012) analyzed the implementation of hybrid photovoltaic (PV)/wind turbine/diesel system in Johor Bahru, Malaysia and used "HOMER" software. Bad awe et al. (2012) integrated and optimized a hybrid wind and solar energy system to an existing diesel generator with a battery backup to supply power to telecommunication towers using HOMER software. Their results indicated that the hybrid renewable energy system is a cost effective solution.

HOMER software is one of the tools being used by WHO for designing renewable energy health facilities. HOMER can evaluate a range of equipment options over varying constraints to optimize small power systems for health facilities. HOMER's flexibility makes it useful in the evaluation of design issues in the planning and early decision-making phase of health facility electrification projects. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to design energy system options that can optimize health services delivery, using HOMER software and demonstrates in detail the depth of the software application; teach health workers step by step on how to model renewable energy health facilities. The objective of this research is to ensure the uninterrupted power supply to the health facilities in the remote and decentralized areas, to ensure environmentally safe energy system, to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to reduce the COE and improving the NPC.

## 4 II.

# 5 Methods and Materials a) Modeling of Alternative Energy System Components

Before going to the computer simulation, modeling of alternative energy system components is done step by step as described below. The proposed system contains wind energy sub-system, PV subsystem, diesel generators unit and battery storage subsystem.

Step One: Defining the Power System This schematic (Add/Remove Equipment to Consider) shown in Figure 1 represents all of the technology options for a power system design. The power system design can be defined by clicking the Add/Remove button. For this exercise, we selected a number of different components as shown in Figure 1 by clicking the check box of each of the following: Primary Load 1 (Health Facility Load), PV, Wind Turbine 1 (BWC Excel-R), Converter, Generator 1 (diesel generator) and Battery 1 (Surrette 6CS25P). At the bottom of the window select 'do Not Model Grid', and Click OK to return to the Main window. Year 2021

Step Two: Defining the Facility Load and its Location

The load inputs describe the electrical demand that the power system must be served according to a particular schedule. In this case, clinic personnel must examine their facility's specific needs and discuss them with energy design experts. The needs assessment will include an inventory of the types of equipment used in the facility, the power required to operate each device, and the average "daily load", or the amount of power required to operate equipment under normal working conditions. Therefore, in this study, the hourly load profile of each load [shown in Table ??1 of the supplementary data] needs to be entered into primary load according to the setup defined in the schematic and model. To find wattage information for a given ??1 of the supplementary data, which was

163 used to define the hourly profile, and the random variability parameters was set to 0% for accurate power load  
164 measurements as indicated in Figure 2.

### 165 6 Strategic Thinking and Adjusting for Change

166 Once a facility has comprehensively analyzed the energy requirements of its daily operations, it must be  
167 determined whether those demands are likely to change. One must think strategically about the possibility  
168 that energy demands may increase due to the addition of new services or extended operating hours.

### 169 7 b) Power Generation Options

170 After determining the facility's typical daily energy usage as described above, it is time to evaluate the energy  
171 technologies available to electrify the facility. Rural health clinics have a number of options available to supply  
172 reliable electricity. The best option for a given application depends on energy technology drivers such as the  
173 capital cost, operating cost, reliability, and durability.

174 Capital Cost is the initial cost to purchase and install the equipment. Power equipment -including generators  
175 (PV panels, wind turbine, and diesel), inverters, charge controllers, and batteries -can vary greatly in cost and  
176 quality. In many cases, higher-quality models will cost more, but can have a greater return on investment in  
177 terms of greater reliability of power and longer system lifetimes. Costs also vary considerably based on the local  
178 market.

179 Operating Cost includes the cost of fuel (where applicable), operations and maintenance, and parts purchased  
180 for repairs. Operating costs will vary more than capital costs, due to differences in:

181 ? Fuel prices over time and from location-to-location.

182 ? Use patterns -systems will experience more or less stress in a given day, based on the number of hours  
183 they operate, the amount of power they provide, and the type of equipment drawing loads (e.g., high intensity  
184 equipment such as sterilizer oven (laboratory autoclave), as opposed to low-intensity equipment such as lighting);  
185 and ? Environmental conditions.

186 Reliability is expressed as a fraction of time the equipment is available to provide power. Generators need  
187 to be taken off-line for service periodically; wind and solar power systems require optimal weather conditions to  
188 operate at maximum efficiency. Systems can generally achieve greater reliability by adding backup components;  
189 hybrid systems (include photovoltaic panels and/or a wind turbine, batteries, and a generator) which has the  
190 ability for one system to support the other provide greater flexibility, although this generally increases cost and  
191 complexity.

192 Durability is the typical system lifetime, expressed either in years or in hours of run-time (for engine generators).

### 193 8 Facility Location -The Case Study Sets of Locations in Nigeria

194 The locations of the hypothetical health facility are chosen to reflect the various geographical and climatic  
195 conditions in Nigeria. Nigeria is divided into three main climatic regions: the equatorial climatic region where  
196 the global solar radiation ranges from 4.1 to 4.9 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day, the tropical climatic region where the global  
197 solar energy is around 5kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day, and finally the arid climatic region where the global solar radiation is  
198 higher than 5kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day, while the wind is characterized by a moderate speed (2.4 to 5.4m/s) as can be seen  
199 in (Ani, 2014). These locations for the hypothetical health facility are: Nembe (Bayelsa State) in the equatorial  
200 climatic region, Abaji (Abuja, FCT) in the tropical climatic region, and Guzamala (Borno State) in the arid  
201 climatic region.

202 Step Three: Renewable Energy (Wind and Solar) Resources

203 The availability of renewable energy system (RES) at a location differs considerably from location to location.  
204 This is a vital aspect in the development of the power system. The performances of solar and wind energy  
205 components are influenced by the geographical location and climatic conditions. As RES (solar and wind) are  
206 naturally available and intermittent, they are the best option to be combined into a hybridized diesel system.  
207 These resources (solar and wind) depend on different factors such as the amount of solar energy available is  
208 dependent on climate and latitude (your specific location on the Earth's surface), the wind resource is influenced  
209 by atmospheric circulation patterns and geographic aspects; in turn influences when and how much power can  
210 be generated. The specific geographical locations (latitude and longitude) of the health facility based on solar  
211 and wind resources are discussed below.

### 212 9 c) Wind Resources

213 Wind resources can be determined by using the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Surface  
214 Meteorology and Solar Energy database. Therefore, to determine the wind resources of a location, log into the  
215 NASA Meteorology website (<http://eosweb.larc.nasa.gov/>) and enter the coordinates and select the annual wind  
216 speed average, which (the annual wind speed average) is a good indicator of the suitability of the installation of  
217 a wind turbine in any given location. Generally, values above 7m/s with few months below 5m/s are considered  
218 adequate for satisfactory results (Kassam, 2011). Once the data is received, click on the wind resource icon in  
219 HOMER and click on the "enter monthly averages" and enter the monthly wind data, then fill the Altitude and  
220 Anemometer Height with the appropriate information. For this exercise, a hypothetical site coordinates of 4° 17'

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221 N latitude and 6° 25' E longitude for Nembe (Bayelsa State), of 9° 00' N latitude and 7° 00' E longitude for Abaji  
222 (Abuja, FCT), and latitude 11° 05' N, longitude 13° 00' E for Guzamala (Borno State), were used as indicated  
223 in Figure 3.

## 224 10 d) Solar Resource

225 Solar resources can be obtained directly via internet by HOMER from the NASA Surface Meteorology and Solar  
226 Energy database by entering the GPS coordinates. NASA provides extensive information on solar resources by  
227 month for any location in the world (<http://eosweb.larc.nasa.gov/sse/>). Using the coordinates from the wind  
228 resources above, the annual solar radiation of these areas are 4.12 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/d for Nembe (Bayelsa State), 5.45  
229 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/d for Abaji (Abuja, FCT), and 5.90 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/d for Guzamala (Borno State) which can be seen from  
230 Figure 4. Kassam (2011) advised that the average radiation should have a constant trend and that the annual  
231 radiation should be above 5 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/d in order to have a reliable source of power coming from the photovoltaic  
232 panels. Step Four: Diesel Price Diesel price has a significant impact on the running costs of a system equipped  
233 with a diesel generator (Kassam, 2011). The diesel price can be added by clicking the diesel icon in HOMER,  
234 then click on the "Diesel Inputs" and enter the diesel price. In the exercise, 1 \$US/L for Nembe, 1.5 \$US/L for  
235 Abaji and 1.8 \$US/L for Guzamala, were considered as reference price for the diesel as shown in Figure 5. Step  
236 Five: Economics The economic factors of the project shown in Figure 6 can all be defined by clicking on the  
237 Economics icon in HOMER. In this exercise, a real annual interest rate of 6% was assumed. The real interest rate  
238 is equal to the nominal interest rate minus the inflation rate. The appropriate value for this variable depends on  
239 current macroeconomic conditions, the financial strength of the implementing entity, and concessional financing  
240 or other policy incentives. Also, the project lifetime was set to 20 years -in line with the expected life span of the  
241 renewable equipment (wind turbine, photovoltaic system). Diesel generators and batteries have usually a much  
242 lower lifetime, which largely depends on the Step Six: Equipment Diesel Generator

243 The Generator in the power system can be defined by considering the Size, Cost, Replacement Cost, Operating  
244 Lifetime, and Operations & Maintenance (O & M) expenditure of the generator. In generator-only systems, the  
245 generator must be sized to handle the peak expected load, but the system frequently runs at lower loads at  
246 reduced efficiency. Therefore, in such situation, a battery bank can be added to a generator-based system to  
247 reduce run time and save fuel costs. The addition of batteries to a diesel system are often a good investment in  
248 terms of fuel savings.

249 In this exercise, by clicking on the Generator icon, a 2.5 kVA diesel generator has been considered. The minimum  
250 allowable load on the generator has been set as 30% of its rated capacity and has 20,000 operating hours life time.  
251 The default efficiency curve present in HOMER was used, as often vendors do not provide comprehensive details  
252 to design a specific efficiency curve. Generators typically have low capital cost compared to other alternatives,  
253 but higher operating costs due to the need for fuel (USAID, 2016). Initial capital cost will vary with the size  
254 and type of generator, while the Operating costs will vary depending on the level of usage. Generators have  
255 several maintenance requirements; and maintenance checks will vary depending on the design of the engine and  
256 its duty cycle (whether it is a primary energy source or a back-up/emergency unit). Engine oil and the oil filter  
257 should be changed after approximately 1,000 hours of operation. Meanwhile, it is often difficult to determine  
258 the generator hourly maintenance cost (the expense and transport associated with acquiring diesel) due to many  
259 health facilities have contract with companies or individuals to supply diesel to the generator at the facility  
260 and also manage the generator's O&M services. In the exercise, an hourly O&M cost of 0.1 US\$ were assumed  
261 as indicated in Figure 7. (1) For better performance and higher efficiency the diesel  
262 generator will always operate between 80 and 100% of their kW rating, where DEG ? is the diesel generator  
263 efficiency.

## 264 11 f) Converter

265 Converter in the power system represents both an inverter (for the conversion of generated direct loba Journal  
266 of Researches in Engineering ( ) Volume Xx XI Is sue III Version I J Year 2021 current (DC) power into required  
267 alternating current (AC) power; both for energy flowing directly to the load from the PV and for energy transiting  
268 through the battery), and a rectifier (for the conversion of generated AC power in order to charge the battery). It  
269 is a device that can convert electrical power from ac to dc in a process called rectification and from dc to ac in a  
270 process called inversion (Shezan et al., 2016). When defining the converter, the key parameters to consider are  
271 the energy conversion efficiencies, Size, Cost, and O&M Cost as shown in Figure ??.

## 272 12 Figure 8: HOMER input for converter g) Mathematical 273 Model of Converter

274 In the proposed scheme converter contains both rectifier and inverter. PV, wind energy generator and battery  
275 sub-systems are connected with DC bus while diesel generating unit sub-system is connected with AC bus. The  
276 electric loads connected in this scheme are DC loads (Ani, 2015).

277 The rectifier is used to transform the surplus AC power from the diesel electric generator to DC power of  
278 constant voltage. The diesel electric generator will be powering the load and at the same time charging the

279 battery. The rectifier model is given below (Ani, 2015):  
 280 
$$- \left( \frac{P_{REC IN} - P_{REC OUT}}{P_{REC IN} + P_{REC OUT}} \right) \times \frac{P_{REC IN} + P_{REC OUT}}{2} = P_{REC IN} - P_{REC OUT}$$
  
 281 -

### 13 h) Storage System -Battery

282 Battery is a device that stores energy and makes it available in an electrical form. Batteries are not a power  
 283 technology, but a means of storing the power produced by other systems, such as photovoltaic and/or wind  
 284 systems, hybrid systems. The battery stores the generated electricity during the availability of the renewable  
 285 energy sources and the stored energy supplied to the consumer whenever required (Partha and Nitai, 2020).  
 286 For some renewable energy clinics, batteries can be used to provide backup power during surges and outages.  
 287 However, if renewable energy is absent for a lengthy period of time, some other system (generator) would be  
 288 useful to recharge the batteries. Batteries' lifetimes are partly dependent on the cycling (charging and discharging)  
 289 they experience. HOMER provides a library of several predefined batteries, and users can add to the library if  
 290 necessary. When choosing from the library, the key parameters to consider or include are the Nominal Capacity,  
 291 Voltage, Round Trip Efficiency, Minimum State of Charge, Capacity Curve and Lifetime Curve (User Manual,  
 292 2016). By clicking on the battery icon (selected or created) in HOMER we are able to define the battery bank  
 293 used in the power system by entering the cost of the battery, the loba Journal of Researches in Engineering (  
 294 ) Volume Xx XI Is sue III Version I J Year 2021 number of batteries per string and the number of strings of  
 295 batteries. Therefore, in this exercise, a single string of Surrette 6CS25P battery, 6V/1,156Ah sealed lead-acid  
 296 batteries were considered as indicated in Figure ??.

### 14 Figure 9: HOMER input for storage battery i) Mathematical Model of Storage Battery

298 HOMER uses the Kinetic Battery Model (Manwell and McGowan, 1993) to determine the amount of energy that  
 299 can be absorbed by or withdrawn from the battery bank each time step. HOMER determines the total amount of  
 300 energy stored in the battery at any time as the sum of the available (energy that is readily available for conversion  
 301 to DC electricity) and bound energy (energy that is chemically bound and therefore not immediately available  
 302 for withdrawal) by the following equation (HOMER help, 2015; User Manual, 2016):  
 303 
$$Q_{chem} = Q_{avail} + Q_{bound}$$
  
 304 where:  $Q_{chem}$  is the energy in kWh that is chemically bound and therefore not immediately available for withdrawal.  
 305  $Q_{avail}$  is the energy in kWh that is readily available for conversion to DC electricity.

### 15 2

307  $Q_{chem}$  is the energy in kWh that is chemically bound and therefore not immediately available for withdrawal.  
 308 Each hour of the simulation, the maximum amount of power that the battery bank can withdraw (or absorb) is  
 309 being calculated using maximum discharge (or charge) power. The maximum discharge (or charge) power varies  
 310 from hour to hour according to its state of charge and its recent charge and discharge history, as determined by  
 311 the kinetic battery model.  
 312 Using the kinetic battery model, the maximum amount of power that the battery can discharge over a specific  
 313 length of time  $t$  is given by the following equation (User Manual, 2016):  
 314 
$$P_{max}(t) = P_{max} \left( 1 - \frac{t}{t_{max}} \right)^2$$
  
 315 where:  $P_{max}$  is the maximum power that the battery can discharge over a specific length of time  $t$ .

### 16 j) Mathematical Model of Charge Controller

316 To prevent overcharging of a battery, a charge controller is used to sense when the batteries are fully charged  
 317 and to stop or decrease the amount of energy flowing from the energy source to the batteries. The  
 318 
$$P_{CC} = \frac{P_{PV} - P_{load}}{1 - \eta_{CC}}$$
  
 319 where:  $P_{CC}$  is the amount of surplus energy from DC sources, kWh (Ani, 2015).  $\eta_{CC}$  is the efficiency of the charge controller.  
 320  $P_{PV}$  is the power generated by the PV system, kWh.  $P_{load}$  is the power consumed by the load, kWh.

### 17 k) Photovoltaic (PV) System

321 Photovoltaic (PV) Systems generate electricity from sunlight collected by solar panels. Solar panels are available  
 322 in different shape and size. For instance, the size of the PV system depends on the power requirement of the  
 323 health facility and its location. PV systems are highly modular, so the system can be customized to cover power  
 324 demand of the health facility and add units if the power demand increases. PV systems typically have higher  
 325 capital costs, but lower operating costs when compared to other energy generation options. Solar panels has the  
 326 lowest O&M cost due to it does not require extensive maintenance; only to remove dust from the panels twice a  
 327 year (Kassam, 2011).  
 328 For the facility under analysis we assumed for the photovoltaic panels a derating factor of 90% and expected  
 329 lifetime of twenty years as indicated in Figure 10. The cost of PV panels was estimated as US\$ 0.600/Wp based  
 330 on prices cited by Nigerian suppliers (Solar Power Systems Components, 2015). This was adjusted upward to US\$  
 331 2/Wp (US\$ 2,000 per kWp) to account for other support components that are required, also known as balance of  
 332 system (BOS) parts, such as cables, charge controller with Maximum Power Point Tracker, lightning protection,  
 333 as well as delivery/labour and installation costs.  
 334 
$$P_{PV} = A_{PV} \times G \times \eta_{PV} \times \eta_{inverter}$$
  
 where:  $A_{PV}$  is the area of the PV panels, m<sup>2</sup>.  $G$  is the solar irradiance, W/m<sup>2</sup>.  $\eta_{PV}$  is the efficiency of the PV panels, %.

335 monthly average radiation on the horizontal surface of the earth (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day) ave o H , is the extraterrestrial  
 336 horizontal radiation, meaning the radiation on a horizontal surface at the top of the earth's atmosphere (kWh/m  
 337 2 /day) Mathematically, the output of the PV array are calculated by HOMER using the following equation(Help  
 338 Manual, 2015):
$$P_{PV} = P_{STC} \left( \frac{G}{G_{STC}} \right) \left( 1 + \alpha_p \left( \frac{G - G_{STC}}{G_{STC}} \right) \right)$$
  
 339 — (11), where

## 340 18 Wind Turbine

341 Wind Turbine converts the wind energy to the mechanical torque, which rotates the shaft of an electrical generator  
 342 to generate electrical energy (Hur, 2018;Zammit et al., 2017).The wind turbine in the power system generation  
 343 can be defined by considering the wind turbine power curve, cut-in speed, and cut-out speed of the wind turbine.  
 344 HOMER provides a library of several wind turbines already defined to choose from (select), but the wind turbine  
 345 of ones interest (not found in the library)can be defined (create) based on the manufacturer specifications. By  
 346 clicking on the wind turbine icon (selected or created) in HOMER, we are able to define the wind turbine used in  
 347 the power system by entering the quantity (number of wind turbine), Capital Cost, Replacement Cost, Operations  
 348 & Maintenance (O&M) expenditure, Operating Lifetime, and Hub height of the wind turbine. Full details of the  
 349 chosen wind turbine can be seen by clicking the 'Details' button.

350 For the health facility in this exercise, a BWC Excel-R 7.5kW wind turbine (mounted on a standalone  
 351 monopole) was considered as shown in Figure 11using the default model present in HOMER library. Due to the  
 352 moving parts, maintenance for wind turbines is somewhat higher than for PV systems. Wind speed increases with  
 353 height above ground. This is because; the ground-level obstacles such as vegetation, buildings, and topographic  
 354 features tend to slow the wind near the surface. Since the effect of these obstacles decreases with height above  
 355 ground, wind speeds tend to increase with height above ground. This variation of wind speed with height is  
 356 called wind shear. HOMER uses wind shear to calculate the wind speed at the hub height of the wind turbine.  
 357 Wind energy engineers typically models wind shear using the logarithmic profile mathematical model.

358 The logarithmic profile (or log law) assumes that the wind speed is proportional to the logarithm of the height  
 359 above ground. The following equation gives the ratio of the wind speed at hub height to the wind speed at  
 360 anemometer height(HOMER help, 2015):
$$\frac{v_z}{v_{z_0}} = \left( \frac{z}{z_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}$$
 (12), where: A2 of the supplementary data.  
 361 ( ) ( ) o anem o hub anem hub z z z z z z v / ln / ln = -

362 Step Seven: Calculate Results HOMER model can be used to compare costs for a variety of different energy  
 363 generation systems that can meet 100% of this clinic's load. By clicking the Calculate button, the program  
 364 runs the simulation of different permutations of all possible configurations of system types based on the inputs  
 365 provided. After the design system had completely simulated, the best possible system configurations will be  
 366 determined under optimization process. HOMER sorts the feasible cases in order of increasing net present (or  
 367 lifecycle) cost. This cost is the present value of the initial, component replacement, operation, maintenance, and  
 368 fuel costs(User Manual, 2016). HOMER lists the optimal system configuration, defined as the one with the least  
 369 net present cost, for each system type.

370 In this investigation, and by Ani (2014)an attempt was made to determine for each region and re-  
 371 garding the selected components, which of the mix renewable energy (PV/wind/battery) or hybrid system  
 372 (PV/wind/diesel/battery; PV/diesel/battery; wind/diesel/ battery) is the optimal power system. A 60%  
 373 renewable fraction was used as criteria for the energy solution. The components needed to satisfy the health  
 374 facility centre's annual load of 7,082kWh are shown in Figure 12. The equation for estimating the level of  
 375 optimization of any energy solution being considered for a health clinic and location is derived as below:

## 376 19 c) The Annualized Cost of a Component

377 The annualized cost of a component includes annualized capital cost, annualized replacement cost, annual O&M  
 378 cost, emissions cost and annual fuel cost (generator). Operation cost is calculated hourly on daily basis (Ani,  
 379 2015):d Annualized Capital Cost

380 The annualized capital cost of a system component is equal to the total initial capital cost multiply by  
 381 the capital recovery factor. Annualized capital cost is calculated using (Ani, 2015):
$$ACCR = \frac{C_{cap}}{N} \left( \frac{1 + r}{1 - (1 + r)^{-N}} \right)$$
 The  
 382 annualized replacement cost of a system component is the annualized value of all the replacement costs occurring  
 383 throughout the lifetime of the project, minus the salvage value at the end of the project lifetime. Annualized  
 384 replacement cost is calculated using (Ani, 2015):
$$ACR = \frac{C_{rep}}{N} \left( \frac{1 + r}{1 - (1 + r)^{-N}} \right) - \frac{S}{(1 + r)^N}$$
 ( 14) rep f , a factor arising  
 385 because the component lifetime can be different from the project lifetime, is given by (Ani, 2015):
$$f = \frac{1 - (1 + r)^{-N_{comp}}}{1 - (1 + r)^{-N}}$$
  
 386 —————( 15) rep R , the replacement cost duration, is given by (Ani, 2015): ( ) proj cap acap R i  
 387 CRF C C , ? = -( ) ( ) proj comp rep rep arep R i SFF S R i SFF f C C , , ? ? ? ? = -( ) ( ) ? ? ? ? ? = > =  
 388 0 , 0 0 , , rep rep rep proj rep R R R i CRF R i CRF f -? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? = comp proj comp rep R R INT R  
 389 R —————(16),

## 390 20 ( )

391 SFF , the sinking fund factor is a ratio used to calculate the future value of a series of equal annual cash flows,  
 392 is given by(User Manual, 2016):
$$SFF = \frac{r}{1 - (1 + r)^{-N}}$$
 ( 17) The salvage value of the component at the end  
 393 of the project lifetime is proportional to its remaining life.( ) ( ) 1 1 , ? + = N i i N i SFF -

Therefore the salvage value  $S$  is given by (User Manual, 2016): —————(18), where  $R$ , the remaining life of the component at the end of the project lifetime is given by (User Manual, 2016):  
 $rem\ rep\ R\ R\ C\ S\ ? = -$   
 ( ) ?? ————— ( The operating cost is the annualized value of all cost and revenues other than initial capital costs and is calculated using (Ani, 2015): ?? ————— Annualized cost of a component is calculated using (Ani, 2015): ?? ————— ( 22) Annualized total cost of a component is calculated using (Ani, 2015): ?? ————— - rep proj comp rem R R R R ? ? = -( ) [ ] ? = = ? ? ? ? ? ? = emissions aop arep acap ann C C C C C + + + = -( ) ? = + + + = c N c emissions c aop c arep c acap c tot ann C C C C C 1 , , , , , ) , The mathematical model derived estimates the life-cycle cost of the system, which is the total cost of installing and operating the system over its lifetime. The output when run with HOMER software/tool will give us the optimal configuration of the energy system that takes into account technical and economic performance of supply options (rated power characteristics for solar Photovoltaic (PV), power curve characteristics for wind turbine (WT), fuel consumption characteristics for diesel generators (DG) and minimum and maximum state of charge (SOC) of a battery bank), the 20-year life cycle cost (LCC) of equipment, locally available energy resources (hourly solar insolation data ( $W/m^2$ ), hourly wind speed (m/s), as well as cost of fossil fuels), environmental costs, and system reliability.

IV.

## 21 Simulation

Simulation process determines how a particular system configuration, a combination of system components of specific sizes, and an operating strategy that defines how those components work together, would behave in a given setting over a long period of time. HOMER simulates the operation of a system by making energy balance calculations for each of the 8,760 hours in a year (User Manual, 2016). For each hour, HOMER compares the electric demand of the health facility in the hour to the energy that the system (energy option) can supply in that hour, and calculates the flows of energy to and from each component of the system.

After running the simulations, HOMER sorts the feasible cases in order of increasing NPC (or lifecycle cost). This cost is the present value of the initial, component replacement, operation, maintenance, and fuel costs. HOMER lists the optimal system configuration, defined as the one with the least net present cost, for each system type. It is possible to display the overall (entire) list of configurations or to show the categorized lists (the best solutions from an economic perspective) per system design. Overall list of configuration is the simulation results, while the categorized lists is the optimization results. In this exercise, the optimization result panels in Figure 13 show the categorized list displayed four. By clicking on each of the displayed solution we can access a comprehensive set of data providing high level of detail on each system component such as economical information essential to run a thorough business case. HOMER's main financial output is the total NPC and COE of the examined system(s) configurations (Farid et al., 2017). The Cost summary and Cash Flow details represent a practical starting point for developing a customized business case, including financial indicators such as ROI (Return on Investment), payback period and NPV (Net Present Value), in comparison to the diesel generator only base case that will enable decision makers within health organizations to make accurate investment decisions. In addition it is possible to display many other relevant data concerning renewable (PV and wind turbine) equipment details (i.e. electrical production, hours of operation, etc.), diesel generator (i.e. diesel generator hours of operation, fuel consumption), batteries performances (battery state of charge histogram, etc.), and emissions, etc. These data were organized and presented in the supplementary data.

V.

## 22 Results and Discussion

Results in the supplementary data (Tables ??3 -A14) show that the study of electrification options for the hypothetical health facility at various geographical locations (Nembe (Bayelsa State) in the south, Abaji (Abuja, FCT) in the centre, and Guzamala (Borno State) in the north) in Nigeria illustrate that the percentage of energy generated by both the solar and the wind renewable energy components of each of the hybrid system types tends to vary with the locations of the health facility; and that both the lifetime cost of different energy system and the environmental impact of the hybrid energy system types studied vary significantly with the locations of the health facilities due to availability of the renewable energy resources and climatic conditions. Therefore in setting up power system for off-grid rural health facility in Nigeria, the following options were to be chosen based on different regions as this depends on climatic conditions and available renewable energy resources.

? Equatorial Region has two options (PV/diesel, and PV/wind/diesel) ? Tropical Region has also two options (PV/diesel, and PV/wind/diesel) ? Arid Region has four options (PV/diesel, PV/wind, PV/wind/diesel, and wind/diesel) VI.

## 23 Conclusion

This paper is a resource for health professionals seeking to electrify health facilities that currently lack power. A case study of a hypothetical off-grid health facility at various geographical locations in Nigeria was used to



453 illustrate the stepwise approach to electrification of health facilities and demonstrate the utility of a modeling  
 454 tool to assist in the critical task of system design. Information was provided to help the health professionals weigh  
 455 the pros and cons of various energy systems with a focus on appropriate solutions and special considerations for  
 456 off-grid rural health clinics. When considering the lifetime cost of different system designs, a modeling program  
 457 HOMER is a valuable tool. HOMER simplifies the task of determining the most suitable combination of renewable  
 458 source to supply a given load, and is, therefore, a useful tool in systems load sizing. The product could be used  
 459 during the process of design, energy analysis and simulation of electrical power process in hybrid and stand-alone  
 systems for energy supply of daily needs and technological processes in health clinics. <sup>1</sup>

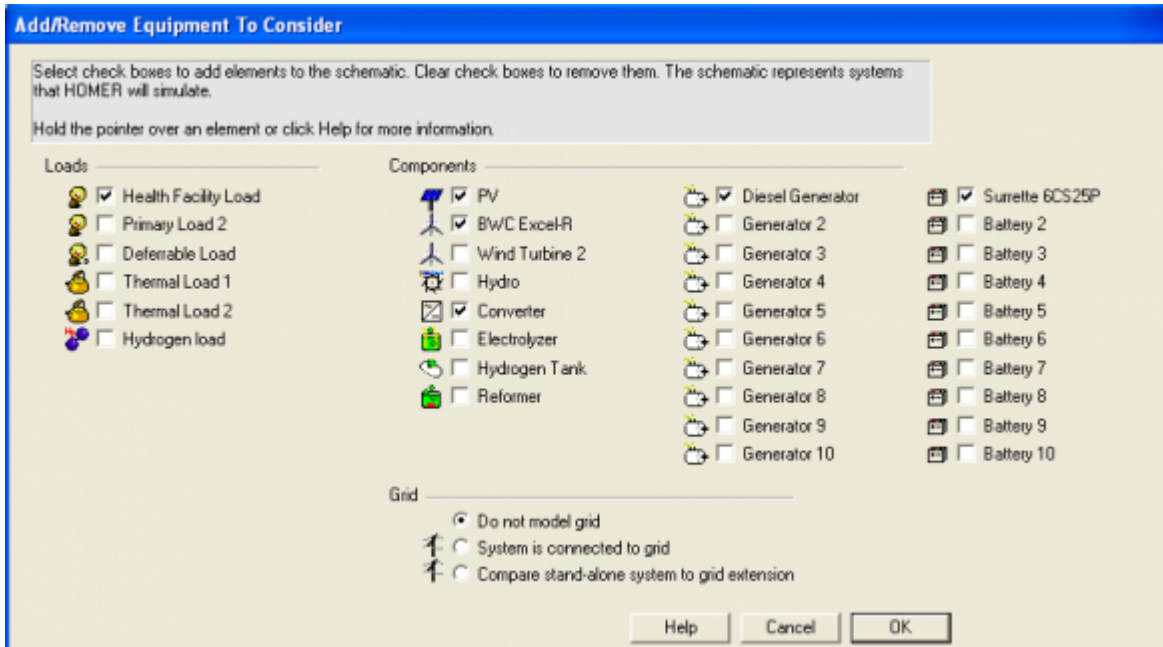


Figure 1:

460

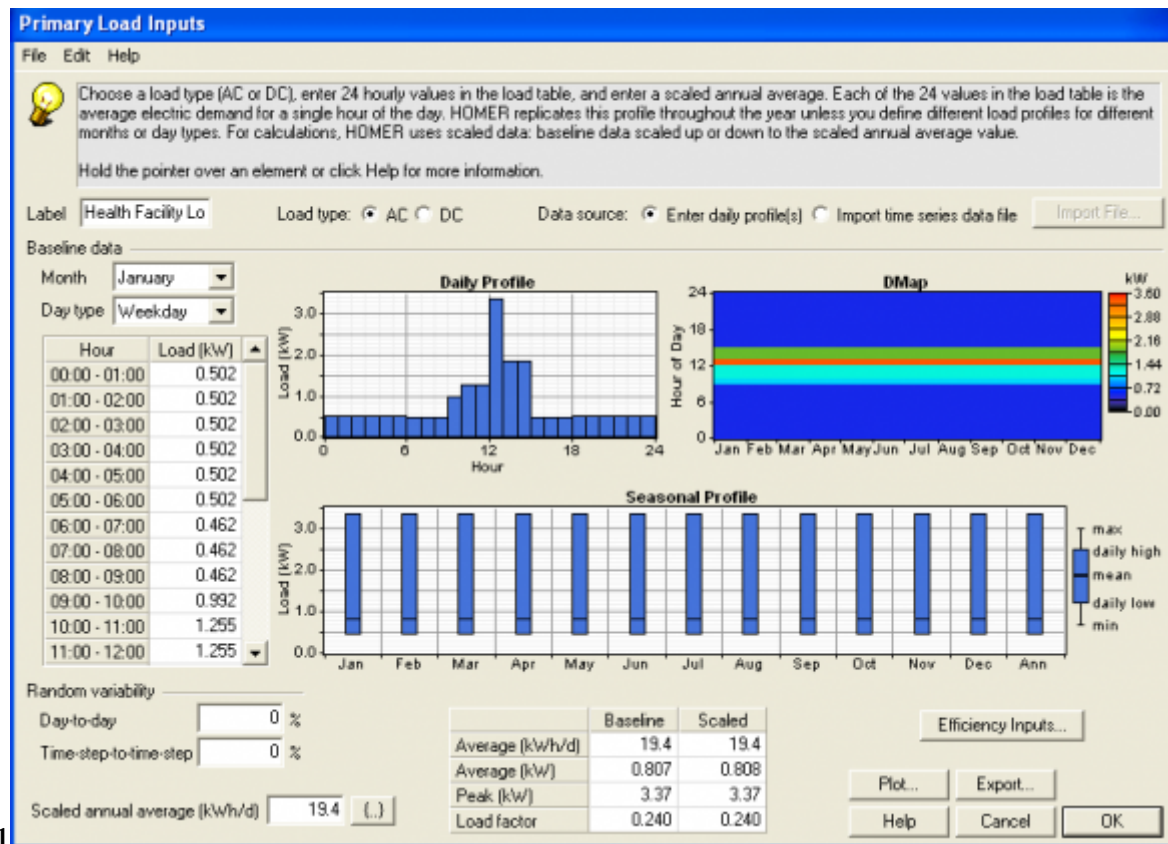
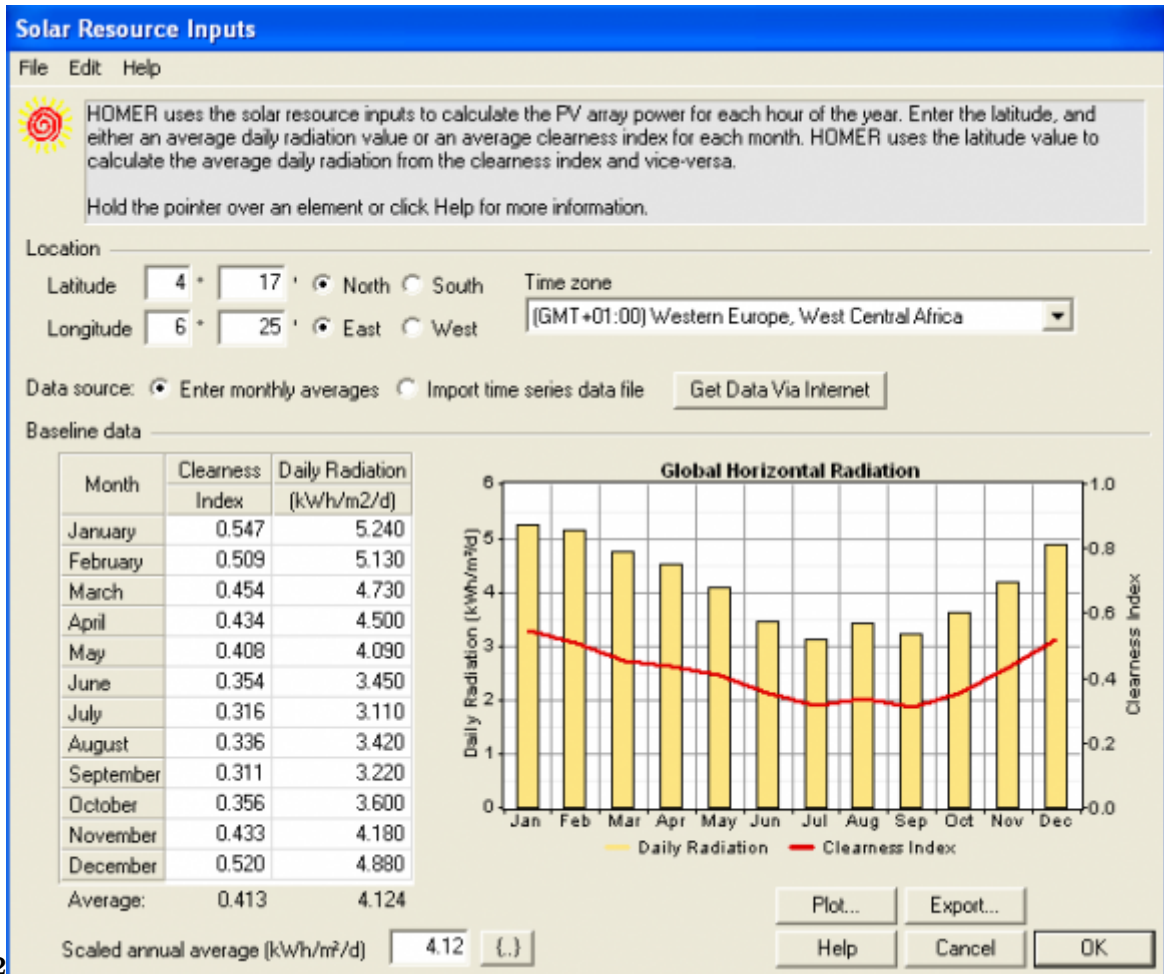
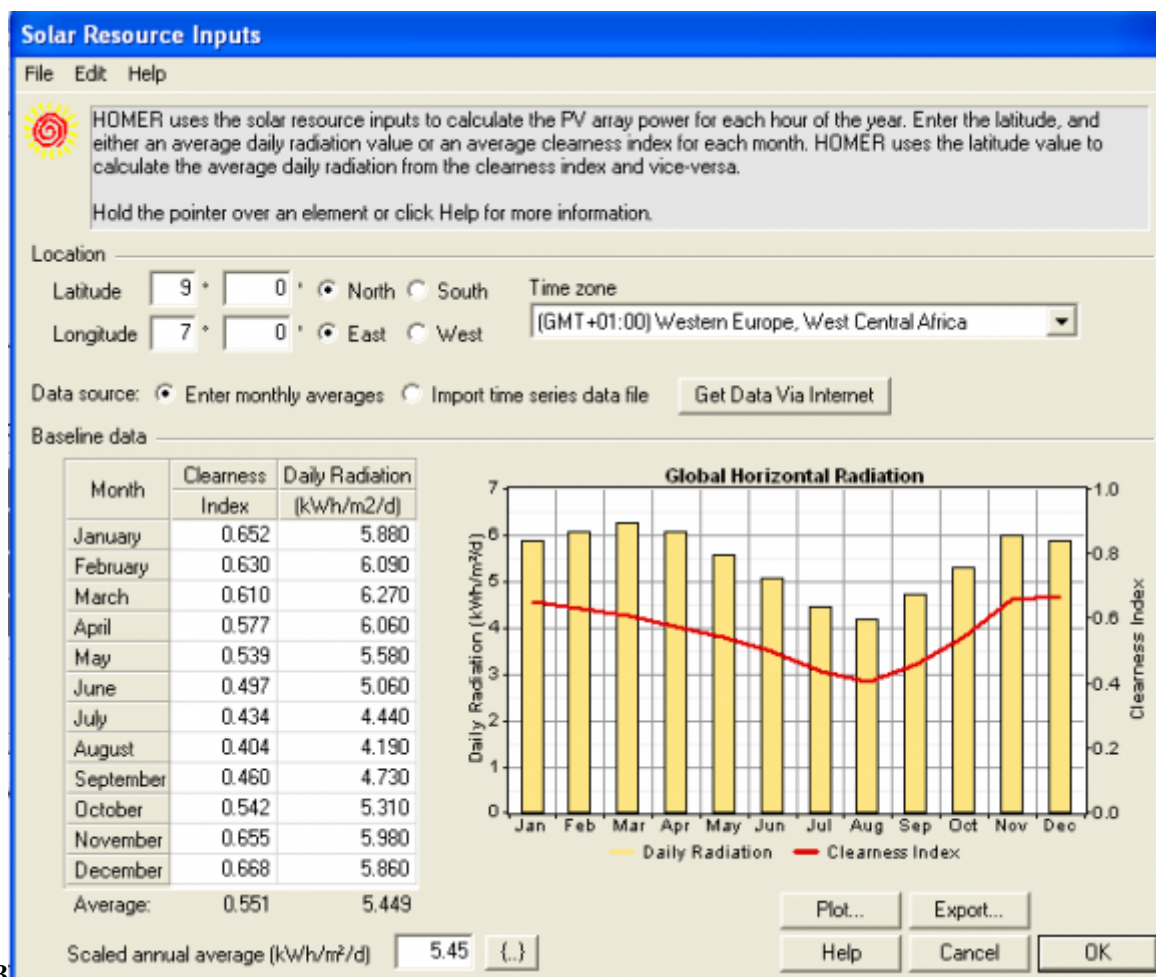


Figure 2: lobalFigure 1 :



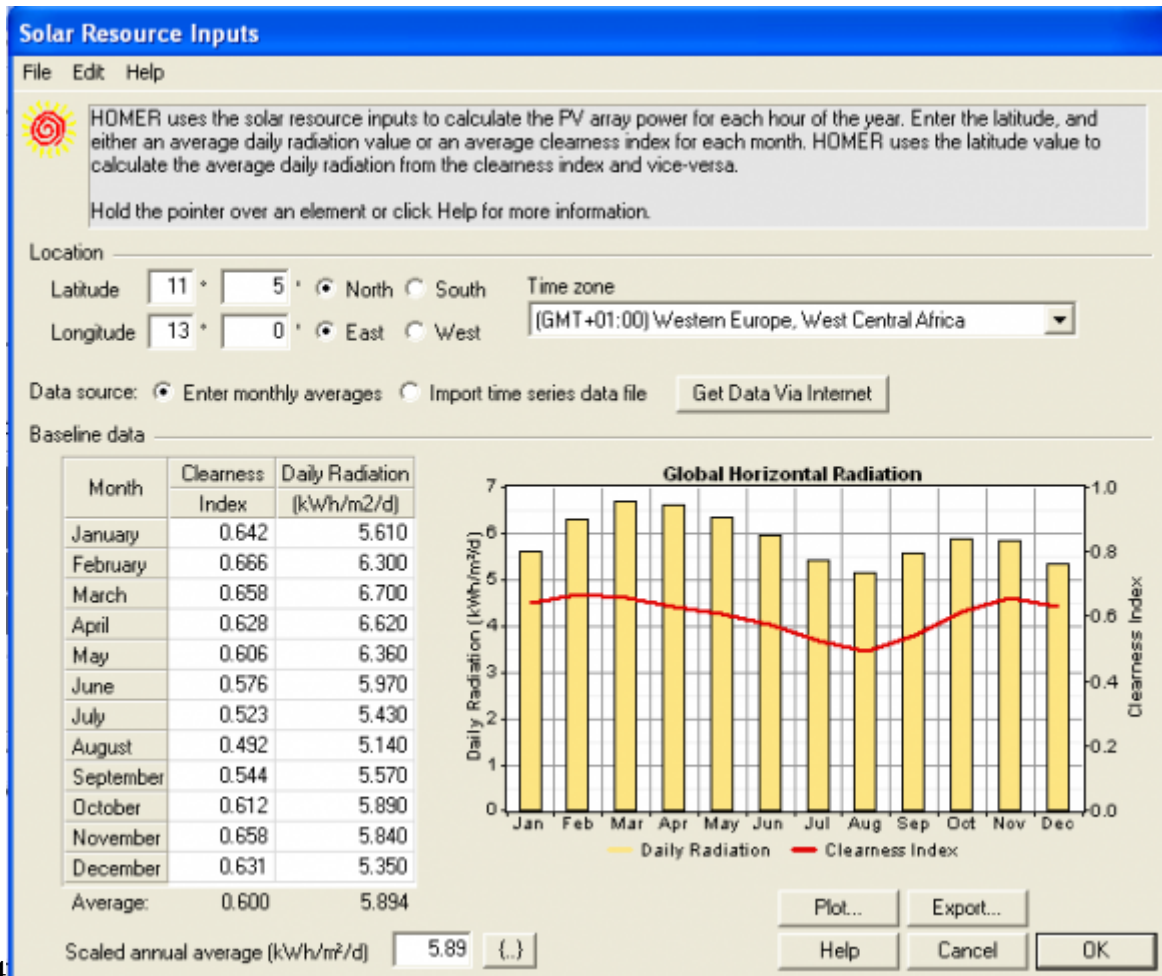
2

Figure 3: Figure 2 :



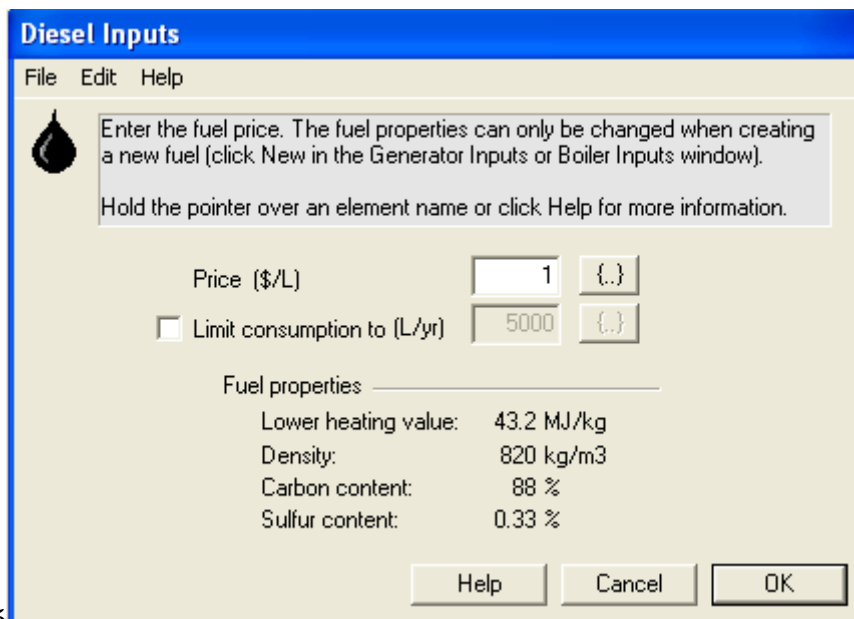
3

Figure 4: Figure 3 :



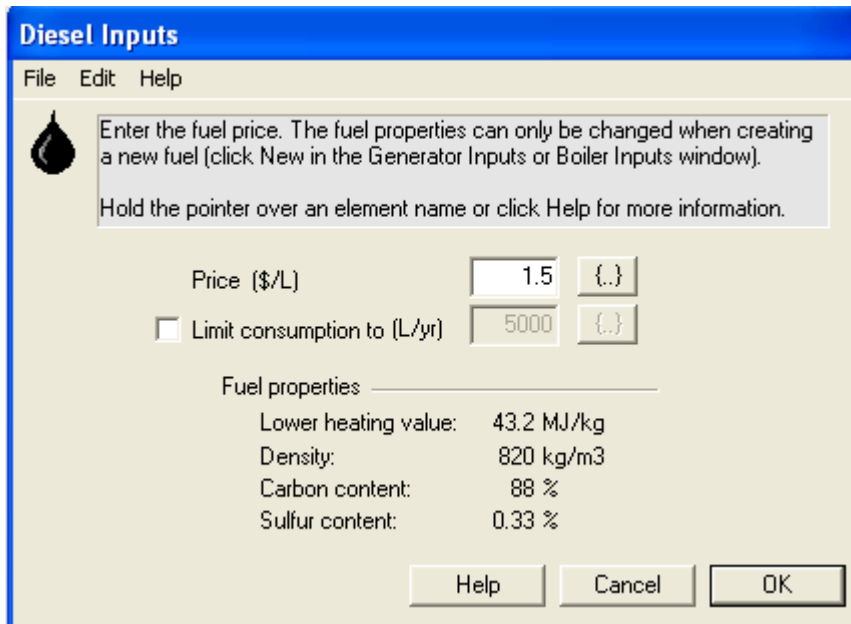
4

Figure 5: aFigure 4 :



5

Figure 6: Figure 5 :



**Diesel Inputs**  
File Edit Help

Enter the fuel price. The fuel properties can only be changed when creating a new fuel (click New in the Generator Inputs or Boiler Inputs window).  
Hold the pointer over an element name or click Help for more information.

Price (\$/L)  (.)

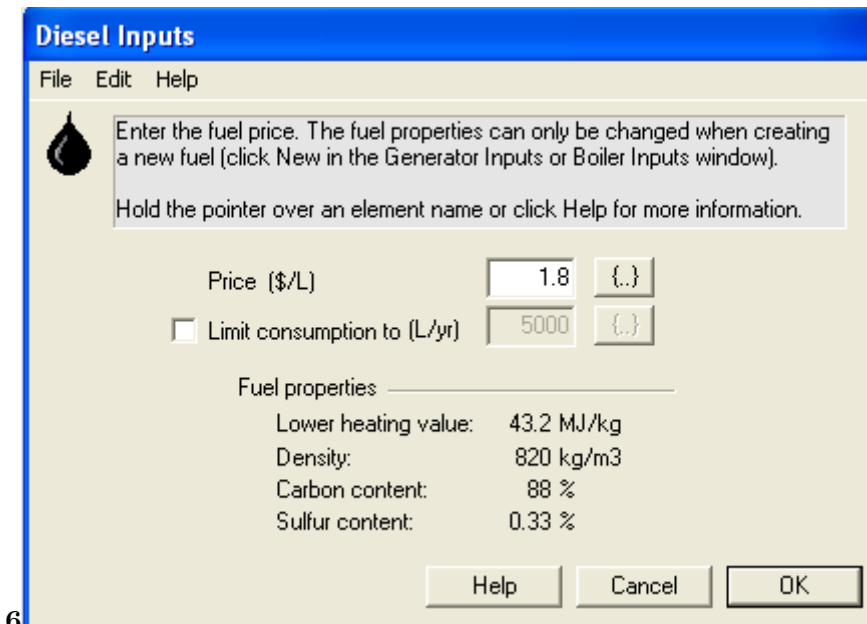
Limit consumption to (L/yr)  (.)

Fuel properties

Lower heating value:	43.2 MJ/kg
Density:	820 kg/m3
Carbon content:	88 %
Sulfur content:	0.33 %

Help Cancel OK

Figure 7: lobal



**Diesel Inputs**  
File Edit Help

Enter the fuel price. The fuel properties can only be changed when creating a new fuel (click New in the Generator Inputs or Boiler Inputs window).  
Hold the pointer over an element name or click Help for more information.

Price (\$/L)  (.)

Limit consumption to (L/yr)  (.)

Fuel properties

Lower heating value:	43.2 MJ/kg
Density:	820 kg/m3
Carbon content:	88 %
Sulfur content:	0.33 %

Help Cancel OK

6

Figure 8: Figure 6 :

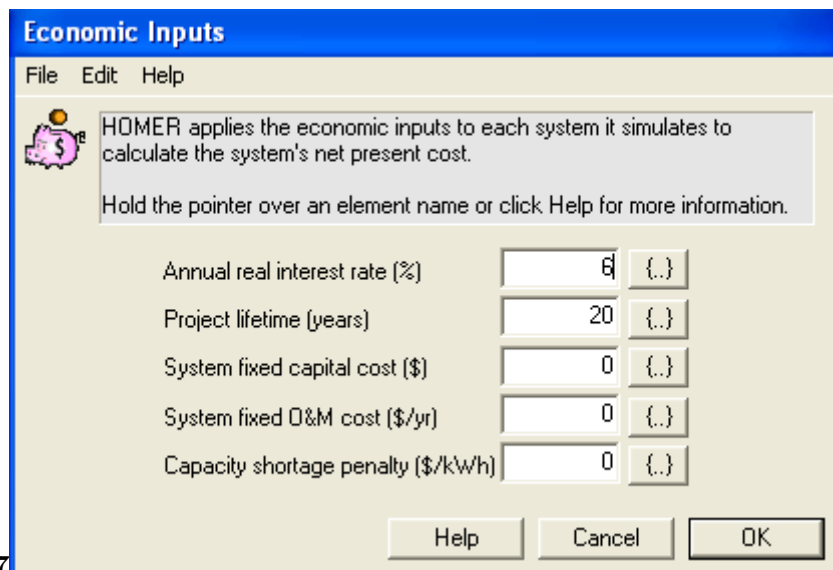


Figure 9: Figure 7 :

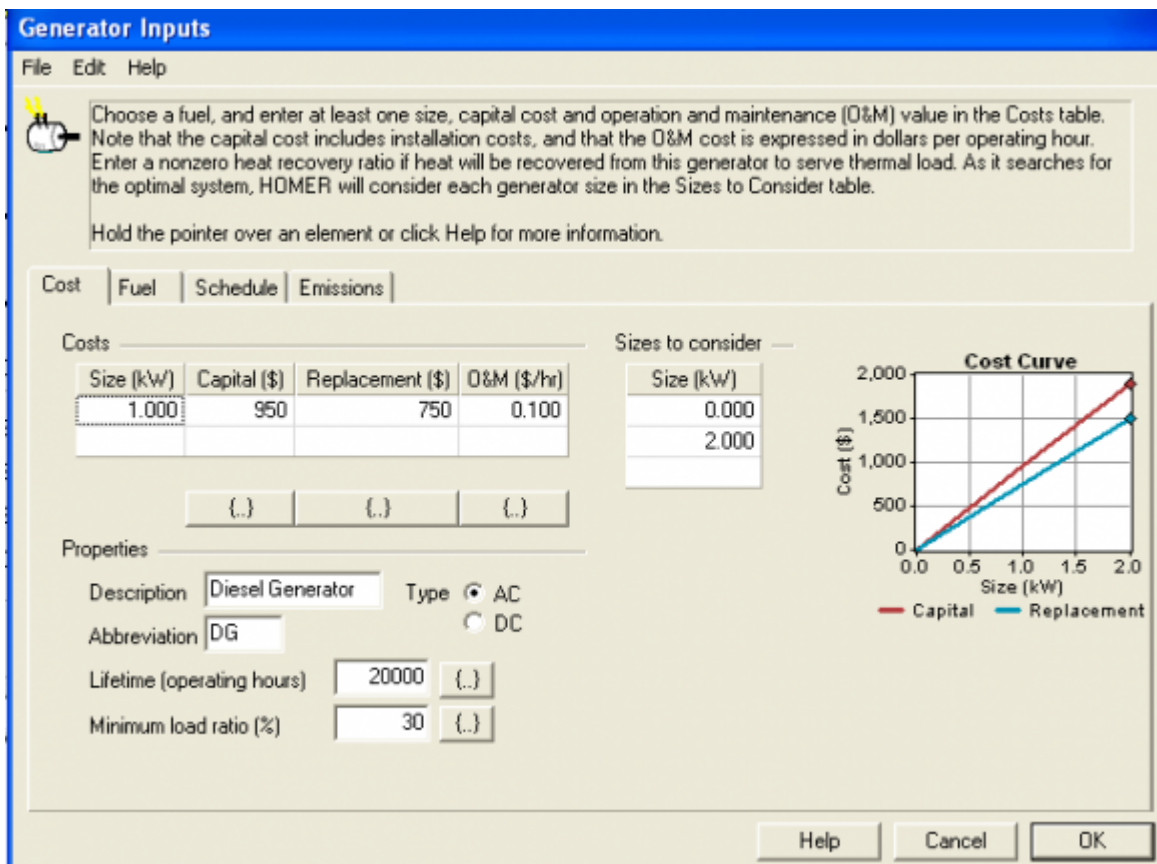


Figure 10:

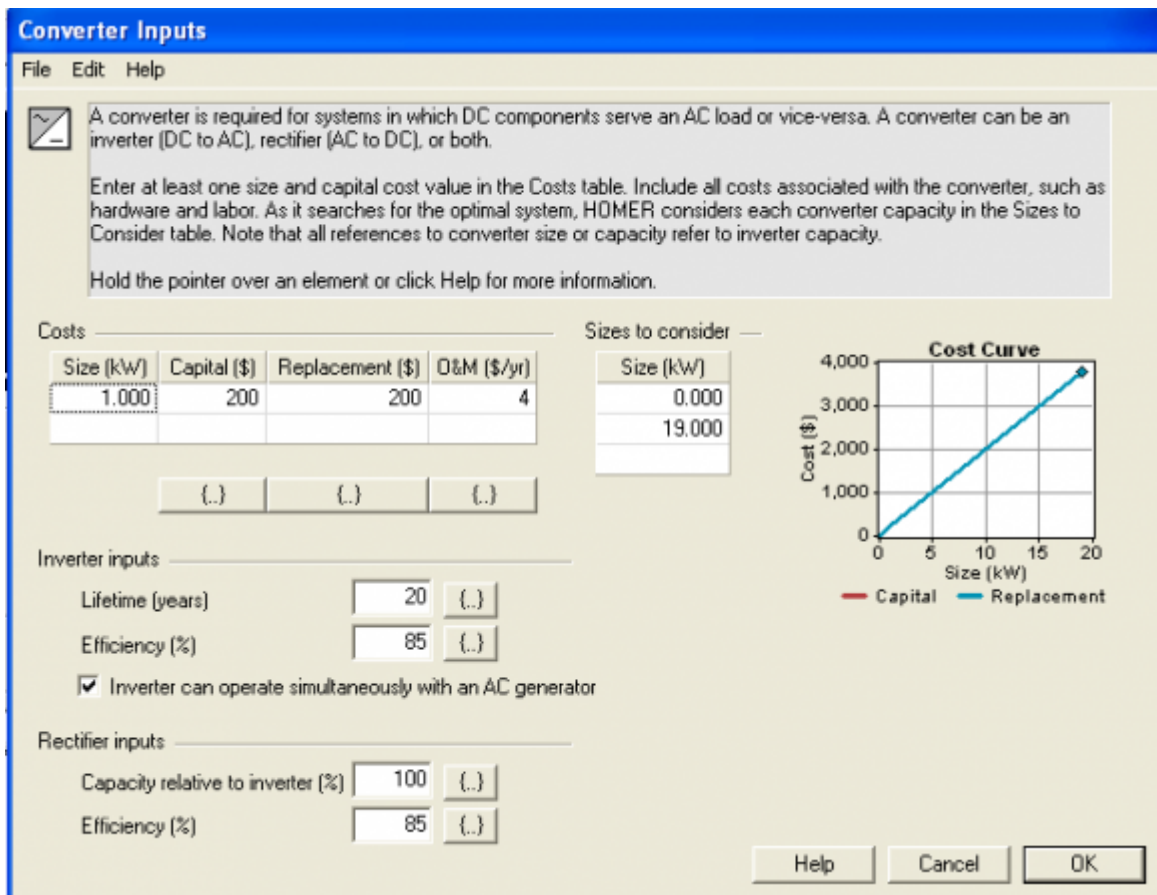


Figure 11: lobal



**Battery Inputs**  
File Edit Help

Choose a battery type and enter at least one quantity and capital cost value in the Costs table. Include all costs associated with the battery bank, such as mounting hardware, installation, and labor. As it searches for the optimal system, HOMER considers each quantity in the Sizes to Consider table.

Hold the pointer over an element or click Help for more information.

Battery type:  Details... New... Delete

Battery properties

Manufacturer: Rolls/Surrette  
Website: [www.rollsbattery.com](http://www.rollsbattery.com)

Nominal voltage: 6 V  
Nominal capacity: 1,156 Ah (6.94 kWh)  
Lifetime throughput: 9,645 kWh

Costs

Quantity	Capital (\$)	Replacement (\$)	O&M (\$/yr)
1	1145	1000	200.00
<input type="text" value="()"/>	<input type="text" value="()"/>	<input type="text" value="()"/>	<input type="text" value="()"/>

Sizes to consider

Batteries
0
24
48

Advanced

Batteries per string:  (6 V bus)  
 Minimum battery life (yr):

**Cost Curve**

Cost (000 \$)

Quantity

— Capital — Replacement

Help Cancel OK

10

Figure 12: Figure 10 :

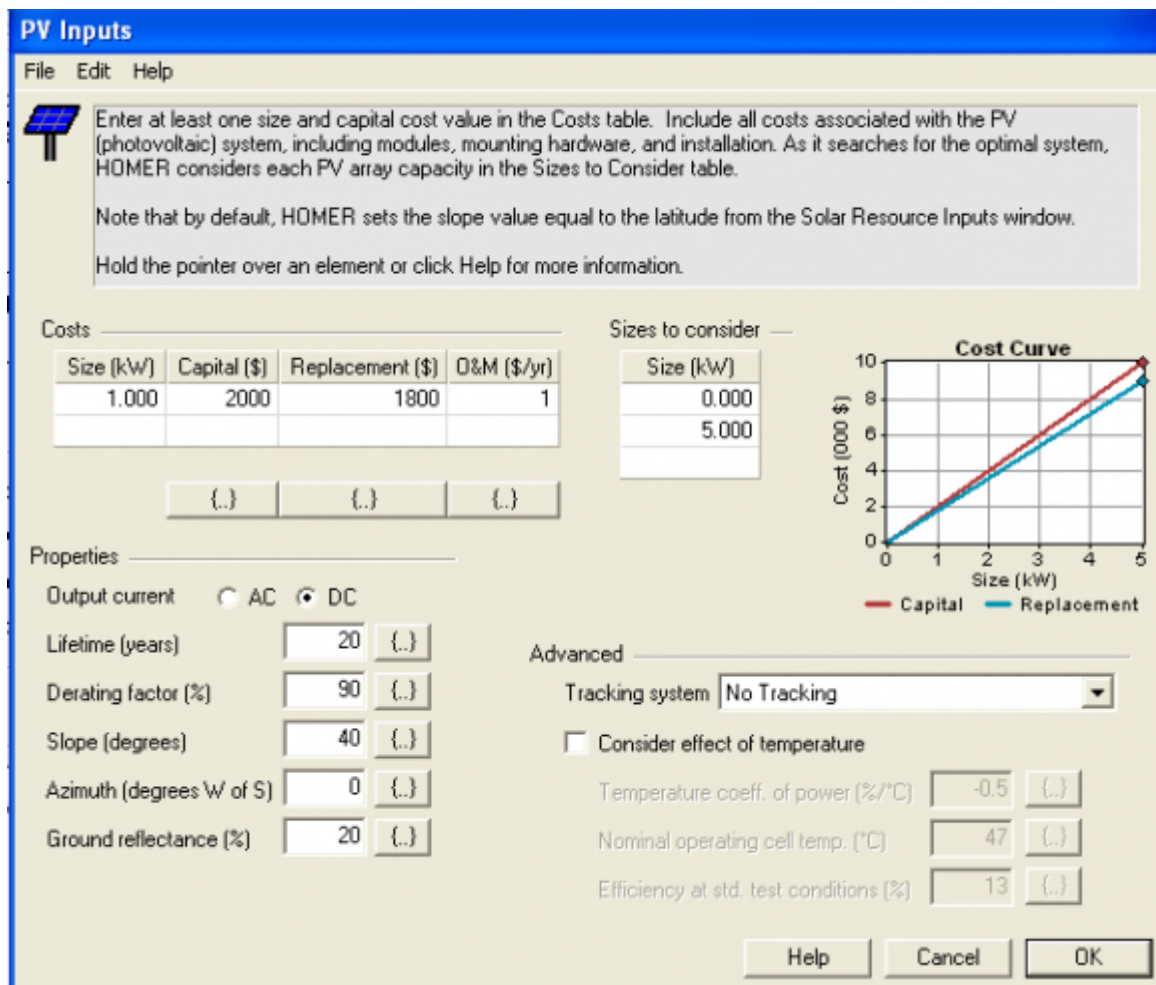


Figure 13:

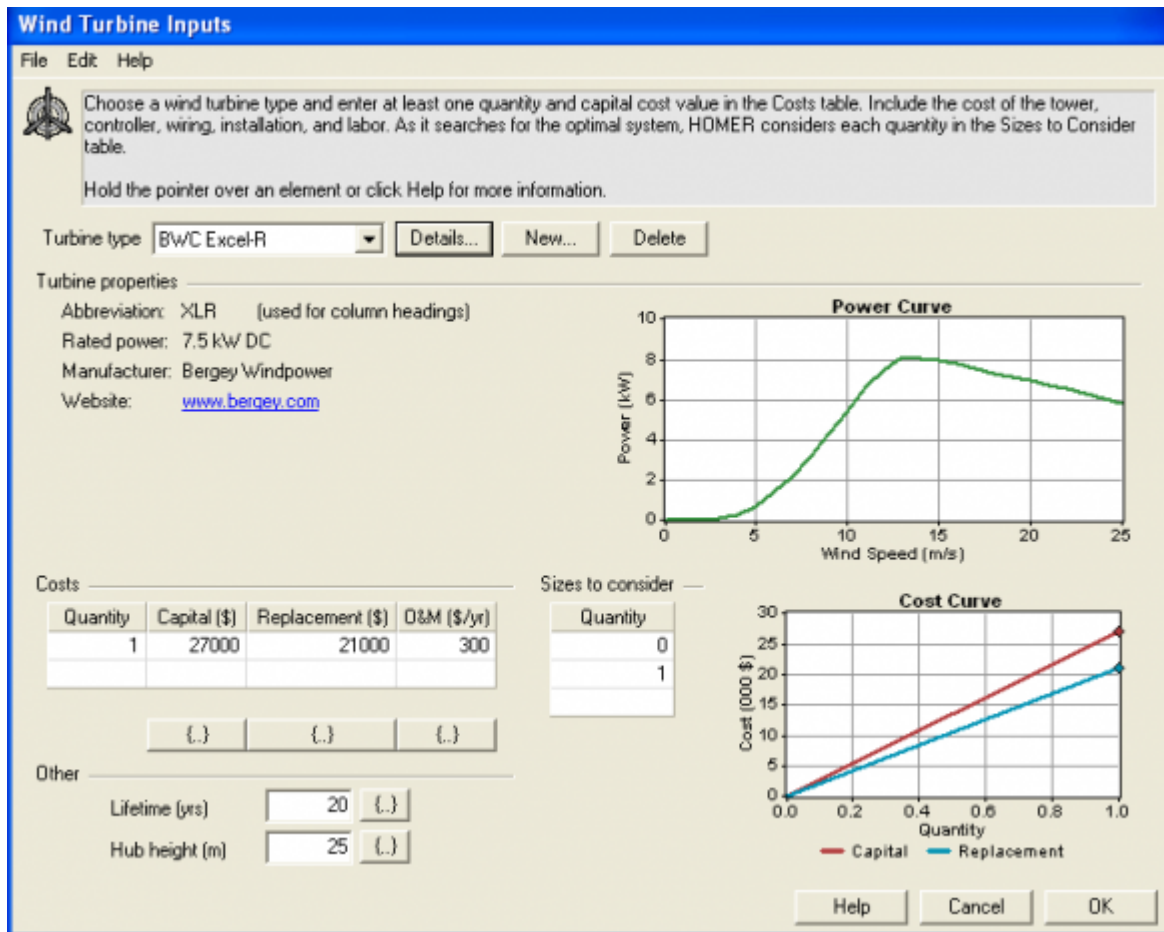


Figure 14: H

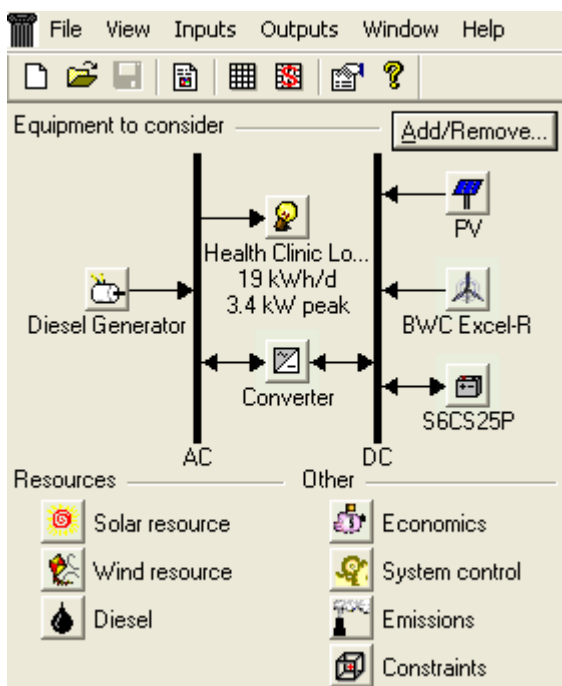


Figure 15: PVY

## 23 CONCLUSION

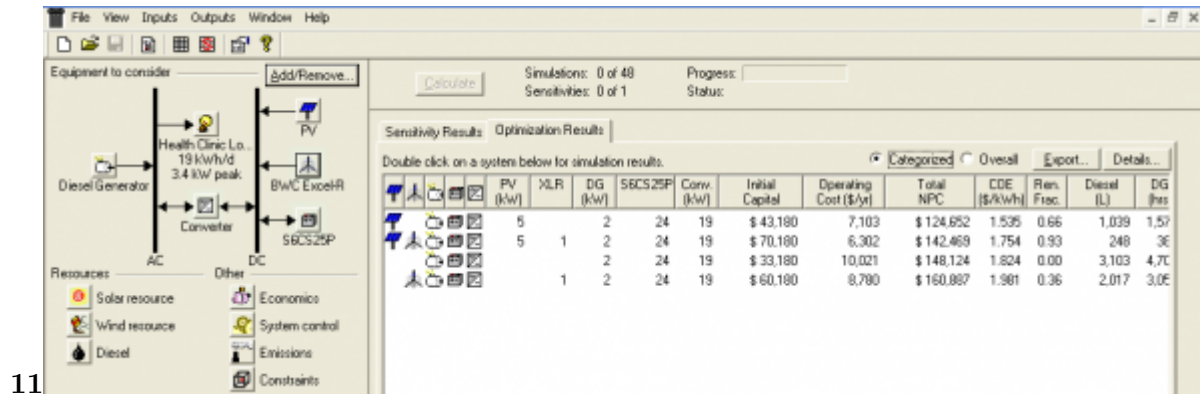


Figure 16: Figure 11 :

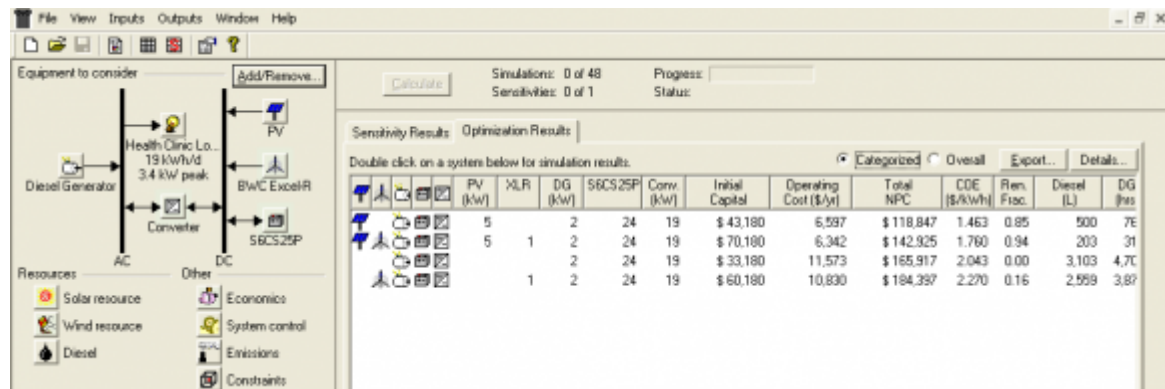


Figure 17:

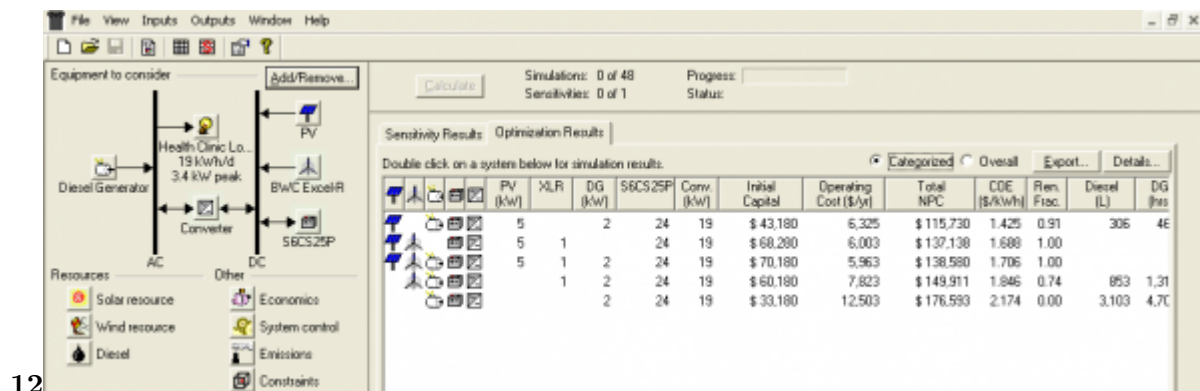


Figure 18: Figure 12 :

Nagger et al., 2018; Bahramara et al., 2016; Adetunji et al., 2018; Al-Hamdani et al., 2016; Hassan et al., 2016; Rajbongshi et al., 2017; Ronad and Jangamshetti, 2015; Jamalaiah et al., 2017; Rohit and Subhes, 2014; Deshmukha and Singha, 2019; Al Garni et al., 2018; Zahboune et al., 2016; Mohammed et al., 2013; Shahinzadeh et al., 2015a; Shahinzadeh et al., 2015b)

Figure 19:

**A2**

lobal	3	1 1 1 1 4 2 1 1 1 1 2 1	Very smooth,	300 575 28	5	(10.00hr -15.00hr)	J ( )
Jour-	4	ice or mud	575 28 15 10 10 Ster-	15 40 20	2	(12.00hr -14.00hr)	Vol-
nal of	5	ilizer Oven (Laboratory Centrifuge	1,564 400	2	(10.00hr -12.00hr)	ume	
Re-	6	Hematology Mixer Microscope Se-	1,000 2	5	(09.00hr -14.00hr)	Xx	
searches	7	curity light Lighting Autoclave)	30 400 65	12	(18.00hr -6.00hr)	XI Is	
in	8	1,564 Incubator 400 Water Bath	0.00001 m	7	(09.00hr -16.00hr)	sue	
Engi-	9	1,000 Communication via VHF Ra-	z 0 0.0002	1	(12.00hr -13.00hr)	III	
neer-	10	dio Stand-by 2 Transmitting 30	m 0.0005	24	(0.00hr -23.00hr)	Ver-	
ing (	11	Desktop Computer 200 Printer 65	m 0.003 m	1	(14.00hr -15.00hr)	sion I	
) Vol-	12	Terrain Description Calm open sea	0.008 m	24	(0.00hr -23.00hr)	lobal	
ume	13	Blown sea Snow surface Lawn grass	0.010 m	4	(09.00hr -13.00hr)	Jour-	
Xx	14	Rough pasture Fallow field	0.03 m	5	(09.00hr -14.00hr)	nal of	
XI Is				3	(09.00hr -10.00hr;	Re-	
sue					13.00 -15.00hr)	searches	
III						in	
Ver-						Engi-	
sion I						neer-	
J						ing	
		Crops	0.05 m				
		Few trees	0.10 m				
		Many trees, few buildings	0.25 m				
		Forest and woodlands	0.5 m				
		Suburbs	1.5 m				
		City center, tall buildings	3.0 m				

Figure 20: Table A2 :



.1 Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Carlos Dora for inviting me to the World Health Organization (WHO) expert consultation on energy access in health care facilities Geneva, Switzerland -24-26 March 2015. I would also like to thank Elaine FLETCHER for all her technical support of me attending the WHO consultation, which provided me with ideal opportunities to present my work and meet experts in the field and the chance to acquaint myself with new research dimensions from around the world.

.2 Supplementary Data

Electrical Load Data

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