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Technical and economic calculation of a solarpowered charging station for electric vehicles

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Abstract. Problem. Development and implementation of green technologies is both an urgent and a cost-effective scientific and engineering task. Therefore, the issues related to the study of renewable energy sources, which are used as the main sources of energy for electric vehicles, are quite relevant and promising. At the same time, an equally important question is how profitable is building solar charging stations in terms of both ecology and economy. Goal. The aim is calculation and analysis of technical and economic indicators of a solar charging station for electric vehicles (EV). Methodology. The analytical methods of studying the development and application of the ways and devices to transform the energy of the sun into electricity are used, as well as the methods of experimental research and mathematical methods of processing and modulation of the received results; methods of calculating technical and economic indicators. Results. The review of the literature on the development of renewable energy sources, in particular, solar power plants, and the spread of electric vehicles with the gradual displacement (replacement) of traditional cars working on internal combustion engines with electric vehicles (BEV and PHEV) was made. The main parameters and technical characteristics of the solar-powered charging station (SPCS) were studied. For the analysis and calculation of technical and economic indicators of SPCS for EV it is offered to take a SPP with a capacity of 20 kW as a basis. The calculation of SPCS electricity generation both for own consumption and for power supply of EV and the sale of surplus electricity to the general network at the "green tariff" was carried out. Originality. The technical and economic calculation of SCS was made taking into account the rise of electricity prices in Kharkiv region (Ukraine). Practical value. According to the analysis of the obtained results, it can be said that the payback period of SPCS for EV is about 7.9 years. If we consider the constant increase in the cost of electricity (approximately 15% per year), we can expect the payback after 6.8 years of operation.

Key words: solar-powered charging station, green energy, green tariff, solar energy, solar power plant, electric car, energy-efficient technologies, solar panels.

Introduction

Solar energy is one of the most common branches of renewable energy, which is rapidly developing in Ukraine. This is not surprising, because after the notorious events at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (Ukraine, 1986) and the Fukushima-1 nuclear power plant (Japan, 2011), the world has changed. Along with the desire to abandon the production of electricity from hydrocarbon fuels, humanity has begun to be very wary of nuclear technologies for generating electricity [1, 2]. Although the generation of electricity at nuclear power plants (NPPs) is caused by the fission of uranium isotope atoms and then by steam and steam turbines, much of the energy generated is converted into electricity, but it is thought that

atomic generation of electricity, due to low emissions of carbon, refers to renewable. It is difficult to disagree with this, but we should take into account the fact that uranium is needed to generate electricity by nuclear technology. This metal is heavy, and its reserves on Earth may eventually be depleted. Although, it should be added that this, with the current consumption of uranium fuel in nuclear power plants can happen in hundreds, if not thousands of years. But progress is not standing still, including the one in electricity generation technologies. Thus, it is possible to say with a great probability that by this time new technologies of electricity generation will be created, and they will not have the disadvantages inherent in the existing ones [3 - 5].

At the same time, renewable energy is obtained from natural sources that do not cause the release of carbon and are recovered fairly quickly. When it comes to protecting the environment, renewable energy sources are much more efficient than traditional ones, as this way of producing energy leads to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Therefore, in various countries, including Ukraine, various incentives are introduced, such as targeted subsidies, abolition or reduction of the tax burden, etc. [6-8]. According to the Law of Ukraine on Electricity № 575/97-BP of 16.10.1997: "green tariff" is a tariff at which the wholesale electricity market of Ukraine is obliged to purchase electricity produced at electricity facilities from alternative energy sources. In accordance with this law, power which is generated using solar power plants (SPP), wind power plants and hydroelectric power plants is accepted by the general network and paid for by the wholesale electricity market at a "green tariff".

Along with the trend of development and distribution of renewable energy sources, there is a growing interest in new transport, which uses these sources for its operation. This is electric transport, as well as the so-called hydrogen transport, using hydrogen to generate electricity and supply it to its power plant [5, 8, 9]. Therefore, the issues related to the study of renewable energy sources, which are used as the main energy sources for electric vehicles are quite relevant and promising.

Analysis of publications

As of the end of 2020, 9.9 million electric vehicles (BEV and PHEV) were registered in the world, of which 4.2 million were in China [10]. It is almost 46% of all Electric Vehicles (EV) in the world. China has held the lead on this indicator since 2010, but it should be said that the gap between the EV market in China and other countries is gradually narrowing. Thus, according to IAA Mobility, the European market, which includes members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), in addition to the European Union, accounts for a total of 3.2 million EV. The third place is occupied by the United States with a rate of 1.7 million EV [11]. If we consider European countries separately, Germany ranks the third with a score of 702981 EV. Next are the United Kingdom (447,486 EV), Norway (433,609 EV) and France (413,212 EV).

In Ukraine, the market of electric vehicles, as well as the market of renewable (green) energy

is only approaching the stage of intensive development. Thus, as of the end of 2020, the Ukrainian market numbered 55051 EV, of which there are 25853 BEVs and 29198 PHEVs [12]. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, for the period of January-October 2021, the Ukrainian fleet of EV was replenished by 6751 units. This is 11.3% more than in the same ten months of 2020. So, as with renewable energy, we can see a steady growth of these trends and these technologies. It is quite logical to combine them into a single system, where renewable energy sources are power sources for EV. That is, it is considered relevant and promising to make the charging infrastructure for EV, for example, on the basis of solar power plants, as proposed in [6, 13 - 18].

The authors of article [14] investigate the possibility of charging the batteries of electric vehicles from SPP. At the same time, the SPP operation system is designed in such a way that the charging station always has enough electricity to charge electric vehicles during the day. In [15], similar issues are considered for the territory of India, with an emphasis on the fact that the solar power plant is the main source of electricity for the EV charge. The SPP itself allows you to connect to its electricity storage devices as an alternative source that compensates for the shortage or excess of electricity in the general network. The authors of [16] went further on the path of introducing renewable energy sources into the EV infrastructure. They proposed to combine a solar power plant with a wind turbine. Thus, the generation of electricity for the EV charge occurs simultaneously in two green ways. Also, it should be noted that such a technical solution will ensure the generation of electricity in the dark (provided there is wind). Similar studies are presented in works [8, 17]. Only here the authors proposed to use low-power sources of electricity together with SPP, which convert kinetic energy from pressure into electricity. This approach is quite relevant and promising for the organization of EV charging infrastructure in large cities. The authors of [18] proposed to make a solar charging station for two types of EV at once – BEV and EV, running on hydrogen fuel. One part of the generated electricity is used to charge EV, and the other part works in aqueous electrolysis to form hydrogen. This provides power to both BEVs and cars, where the main element for the formation of electricity is hydrogen.

So, as was already mentioned, the development of SPP for EV charging infrastructure is an

urgent issue. And quite naturally there is a need to calculate the economic effect of its implementation. For how long is such a solar charging station able to pass the payback period and reach a net income? Building such power plants that accelerate the transition of transport from internal combustion engines to EV is expedient not only from the ecological point of view, but also in terms of economy.

The study in this paper is aimed at finding the answers to the questions.

Purpose and Tasks

The purpose of the work is to calculate and analyze the technical and economic indicators of the solar-powered charging station for electric vehicles

To achieve this goal, there is a need to solve the following tasks:

- to investigate the basic parameters and technical characteristics of the solar-powered charging station (SPCS);
- to calculate the generation of SPCS electricity both for own consumption and for power supply of EV and the sale to the general network at the "green tariff";
- to carry out technical and economic calculation of SPCS taking into account the rising price of electricity in Ukraine.

Basic parameters and technical characteristics of SPCS

For the analysis and calculation of technical and economic indicators of SPCS for EV we will take the SPP with a capacity of 20 kW as a basis. Such capacity, in our opinion, will allow not only to generate enough electricity to charge EV on the territory of Ukraine (Kharkiv region), but also to sell its balance at a "green tariff" to the general network.

The main technical characteristics of SPCS are:

- power of solar panels: 20.72 kW;
- power of the hybrid inverter: 10 kW;
- number of hybrid inverters: 2 pcs.;
- panel power: 280 W;
- number of panels: 74 pcs.;
- number of used Nissan Leaf batteries,

24 kWh - 4 pcs.;

- type of panels: polycrystalline;
- location: pitched roof;
- angle of inclination: 34°;
- orientation: south;
- additional load on the roof: 20 kg/m²;

- area of the solar panels: 126 m².

Calculation of electricity generation

The average values of electricity generation by SPCS with a capacity of 20 kW for the Kharkiv region are given in Table 1. These data were obtained during the experimental studies of the SPP, which was developed in KhNADU [6].

Table 1. Average values of electricity generation by SPCS with a capacity of 20 kW

Month	Generation, kWh
January	1020
February	1280
March	1920
April	2380
May	3080
June	3100
July	3020
August	2900
September	2280
October	1580
November	760
December	620
Together for a year	23940

Based on the results of electricity generation, the generation schedule is built, Fig. 1, kWh.

Generation (kWh)

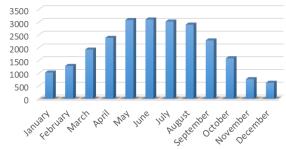


Fig. 1. Schedule of SPCS electricity generation by months

For a more accurate and correct analysis of technical and economic indicators of the proposed SPCS it is necessary to indicate the cost of its main components and the cost of design-installation and commissioning works.

The cost of the main components of the SPCS is:

- solar battery JA Solar JAP60S01-280/SC – 193,866 UAH;
 - hybrid inverter Infini Solar 10 kW –

104,246 UAH;

- AKB Axioma AX-GEL-100, 100 A·h
 W 236,000 UAH;
- mounting structure for solar modules –
 43,665 UAH.

Total (basic equipment): 577,777 UAH. Additional and consumables: 10,650 UAH.

Design-installation and commissioning works: 43,000 UAH.

The total cost of the solar-powered charging station is 631,427 UAH.

The extended structural scheme of SPCS is given in Fig. 2.

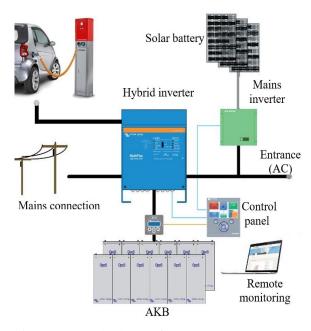


Fig. 2. Structural scheme of SPCS

The service life of the station is the following.

Warranty on solar panels: 10 years. Service life: unlimited.

Warranty on inverter equipment: 5 years. Service life: from 20 to 25 years.

Warranty for installation work: 2 years.

Technical and economic calculation of SPCS

The main parameters of the SPCS, with a capacity of 20 kW for technical and economic calculation are given in Table 2.

In accordance with the specified parameters of the SPCS operation (see Table 2), the technical and economic calculation was carried out in accordance with each month of its operation. The main indicators of technical and economic calculation are summarized in Table 3.

Table 2. Parameters of SPCS operation for technical and economic calculation

and confine calculation						
Parameter / characteristic	Quantity	Dimen- sionality				
Own consumption per month	150	kWh/month				
The cost of electricity per 1 kWh	168	kop				
Green tariff rate	420	kopecks/kWh				
The amount of electricity to be sold to charge electric vehicles per month	300	kWh/month				
Electric vehicle charge rate for 1 kWh	600	kop				

The "green tariff" in Ukraine is:

- until December 31, 2019 –
 499.27 kopiykas;
- from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024 420 kopiykas;
- from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2029 368 kopiykas.

Taking into account the change in the "green tariff", we will calculate the financial performance of SPCS for the first 15 years of its operation, Table 4.

When calculating, we assume that, on average, 300 kWh of generated electricity each month will be spent on charging electric vehicles at a rate of 600 kopiykas for 1 kWh, Table 2.

Table 3. The main indicators of technical and economic calculation of SPCS operation for 2020

Month	Generation, kWh	Own consumption, kWh	Charge of electric cars, kWh	Income from charge, UAH	Sale in a network, kWh	Sales revenue, UAH	Tax 19.5%	Profit from sale, UAH
January	1020	150	300	1800	570	2394	817.83	3376.17
February	1280	150	400	2400	730	3066	1065.87	4400.13
March	1920	150	400	2400	1370	5754	1590.03	6563.97
April	2380	150	400	2400	1830	7686	1966.77	8119.23
May	3080	150	400	2400	2530	10626	2540.07	10485.93
June	3100	150	480	2880	2470	10374	2584.53	10669.47

Month	Generation, kWh	Own consumption, kWh	Charge of electric cars, kWh	Income from charge, UAH	Sale in a network, kWh	Sales revenue, UAH	Tax 19.5%	Profit from sale, UAH
July	3020	150	480	2880	2390	10038	2519.01	10398.99
August	2900	150	480	2880	2270	9534	2420.73	9993.27
September	2280	150	400	2400	1730	7266	1884.87	7781.13
October	1580	150	400	2400	1030	4326	1311.57	5414.43
November	760	150	400	2400	210	882	639.99	2642.01
December	620	150	300	1800	170	714	490.23	2023.77
Together for a year	23940	1800	4840	29040	17300	72660	19831.5	81868.5

In accordance with the calculations, it can be noted that the payback period of SPCS for electric vehicles is about 7.9 years, Fig. 3. If we take into account the constant increase in the cost of

electricity (approximately 15% per year), we can expect the payback somewhere in 6.8 years of its operation.

Table 4. Financial indicators of SPCS by years

	Profit, UAH	Payback, UAH	Profit, UAH	Payback taking into account the rise in price of electricity, UAH
1 year	81868.5	-549558.5	94148.775	-537278
2 years	81868.5	-467690	94148.775	-443129
3 years	81868.5	-385821.5	94148.775	-348981
4 years	81868.5	-303953	94148.775	-254832
5 years	81868.5	-222084.5	94148.775	-160683
6 years	74626.72	-147457.78	85820.728	-74862.4
7 years	74626.72	-72831.06	85820.728	10958.33
8 years	74626.72	1795.66	85820.728	96779.06
9 years	74626.72	76422.38	85820.728	182599.8
10 years	74626.72	151049.1	85820.728	268420.5
11 years	48242.2	199291.3	55478.53	323899
12 years	98242.2	297533.5	112978.53	436877.6
13 years	98242.2	395775.7	112978.53	549856.1
14 years	98242.2	494017.9	112978.53	662834.6
15 years	98242.2	592260.1	112978.53	775813.2

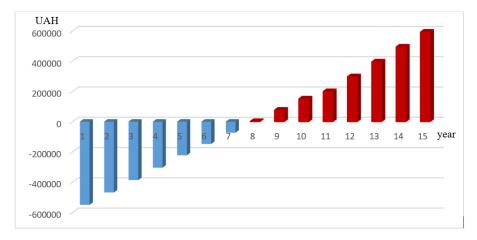


Fig. 3 Efficiency of SPP without taking into account the rise of electricity prices

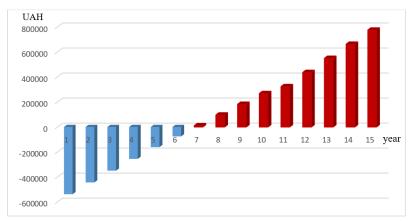


Fig. 4. The efficiency of SPP taking into account the rise of electricity prices

Every year the number of electric cars in Ukraine will increase, as is noted in sources [11-13]. Therefore, along with this growth, there will be a demand for electricity for their charge and for the corresponding charging infrastructure. So, it is possible to predict with high probability that in the year of termination of the "green tariff" (11 years on schedule, Fig. 4) another charging station for electric vehicles worth 50,000 UAH will be purchased, Fig. 2. This will allow all the generated electricity to be spent on the EV charge. Thus, the cost of purchasing another charger stipulates the payback downfall this year.

Conclusion

In the course of work, a review of literature sources on the development of renewable energy sources, in particular, solar power plants, was conducted. The trends in the proliferation of electric vehicles with the gradual displacement (replacement) of traditional ICE cars with electric vehicles (BEV and PHEV) were also studied. It is obvious that electric transport requires the development of appropriate charging infrastructure for its operation. Therefore, the development of SPCS for EV is an urgent issue. Quite naturally there is a need to calculate the economic effect of the introduction of SPCS for EV, the benefit of constructing such SPCSs not only in ecology terms, but also in terms of economy. Their development, in its turn, accelerates the transition from traditional transport with internal combustion engines to EVs.

In the framework of this paper, the main parameters and technical characteristics of the SPCS were studied. For the analysis and calculation of technical and economic indicators of SPCS for EV it was offered to take the SPP with a capacity of 20 kW as a basis.

The calculation of SPCS electricity genera-

tion for both own consumption and for EV supply and sale of surplus electricity to the general grid at the "green tariff" was made.

The technical and economic calculation of SPCS was performed taking into account the rise of electricity prices in Ukraine. According to the analysis of the obtained results, it can be noted that the payback period of SPCS for EV is about 7.9 years. If we consider the constant increase in the cost of electricity (approximately 15% per year), we can expect the payback after about 6.8 years of its operation.

Conflict of interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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Техніко-економічний розрахунок сонячної зарядної станції для електромобілів

Анотація. Проблема. Розробка та впровадження зелених технологій ϵ не тільки актуальною, а й економічно вигідною науковою та інженерною задачею. Тому питання пов'язані з дослідженням роботи поновлювальних джерел енергії, які використовуються як основні джерела енергії для електротранспорту ϵ достатньо актуальними та перспективними. Разом з цим, не менш актуальним питанням є наскільки вигідно не лише з екологічної точки зору, а й з економічної розбудовувати сонячні зарядні станції? Мета. Розрахунок та аналіз техніко-економічних показників сонячної зарядної станції для електромобілів (EV). **Методологія**. Використані аналітичні методи дослідження з розробки та застосування методів та пристроїв для перетворення енергії сонця на електричну. методи Використано експериментальних досліджень та математичні методи обробки та модулювання отриманих результатів. Методи розрахунку техніко-економічних показників. Результати. Проведено огляд літературних джерел щодо розвитку поновлювальних джерел енергії, зокрема, сонячних електростанцій, та електромобілів з поступовим поширенню витісненням (заміною) традиційних автомобілів з ДВЗ електромобілями (BEV and PHEV). Проведено дослідження основних параметрів та технічних характеристики сонячної зарядної станції (СЗС). Для проведення аналізу та розрахунку техніко-економічних показників СЗС для EV запропоновано взяти за основу CECпотужністю 20 кВт. Проведено розрахунок генерації електроенергії СЗС як для власного

споживання, так і для живлення EV та продажу надлишку електроенергії у загальну мережу за «зеленим тарифом». Оригінальність. Проведено техніко-економічний розрахунок СЗС з урахуванням подорожчання електроенергії на території Харківської області (Україна). Практичне значення. За аналізом отриманих результатів можна зазначити, що термін окупності СЗС для EV складає близько 7,9 років. Якщо врахувати постійне зростання вартості електроенергії (приблизно на 15 % в рік), то можна очікувати, що окупність настане на 6,8 році її експлуатації.

Ключові слова: сонячна зарядна електростанція, зелена енергетика, зелений тариф, сонячна енергетика, сонячна електростанція, електромобіль, енергоефективні технології, сонячні панелі.

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