

**LIFE-CYCLE ASSESSMENT AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

by

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STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

I certify that the work in this thesis entitled “**Life-Cycle Assessment and Economic Analysis of Renewable Energy Technologies**” has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of the requirements for a degree to any other university or institution other than Macquarie University.

I also certify that the thesis is an original piece of research and it has been written by me. Any help and assistance that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself have been appropriately acknowledged.

In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

.....

M A Parvez Mahmud

Dedicated to my amazing parents, my loving siblings, my dearest wife and son

&

all the people of Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) offer the potential for low-carbon electricity production. The true potential of RETs can be established by assessing their environmental impact and cost for a region, based on a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) approach. This Ph.D. thesis presents six contributions which analyse the environmental and economic benefit of RETs in specific regions. The first contribution is the LCA-based environmental effects evaluation of a solar-PV and a solar-thermal system. The second contribution is the environmental hazard estimation of existing hydropower plants in Europe. The third contribution is the comparative environmental impact assessment of three different renewable-power plants, namely solar PV, biomass and pumped storage hydropower plants in the United States. The fourth contribution is the design and development of a new life-cycle inventory for solar PV, wind and hydropower plants in Switzerland to evaluate life-cycle emissions and identify the best plant option. The fifth contribution is the development of an advanced power-routing framework for a solar PV-driven islanded microgrid. The final contribution of this research is the accomplishment of a Net-Present-Cost (NPC)-based optimization analysis and an LCA-based environmental-impact assessment of an off-grid microgrid framework. Overall, this work provides a clear identification of technologies which are environmentally-superior and cost-effective; thus allowing prioritisation of appropriate electricity production.

Contents

Table of Contents	xiii
List of Figures	xix
List of Tables	xxv
List of Publications	xxx
1 Introduction	7
1.1 Challenges and Objectives	8
1.2 Main Contributions	10
1.3 Author Contributions	12
1.4 Thesis Outline	13
2 Literature Review	17
2.1 Introduction	18
2.2 Review Selection Criteria and Method	22
2.3 Life Cycle Assessment of Renewable Power Plants	24
2.3.1 Definition and steps of LCA	24
2.3.2 System Boundary, functional unit and software of LCA	24
2.3.3 Life cycle inventory datasets and geographic locations	26

2.3.4	Life cycle assessment methods	27
2.4	LCA of Renewable Energy Systems	31
2.4.1	Impact Analysis of Solar-PV Power Plants	32
2.4.2	Impact Analysis of Hydropower Plants	41
2.4.3	Impact Analysis of Wind Power Plants	45
2.4.4	Impact Analysis of Biomass Power Plants	49
2.4.5	Impact Analysis of Other Renewable Power Plants	52
2.5	Geographic location-wise LCA of Renewable Energy Systems	56
2.5.1	Impact Analysis of Plants in Asia	56
2.5.2	Impact Analysis of Plants in Europe	59
2.5.3	Impact Analysis of Plants in America	62
2.5.4	Impact Analysis of Plants in Other Zones	65
2.6	Summary and Outlook	66
2.6.1	Choice of LCA methods to be used in LCA of renewable power plants .	66
2.6.2	Major impacting elements of each plant at different geographic locations	67
2.6.3	Rate of fossil fuel consumptions by the plants in their life cycle	68
2.6.4	Key mid-point impacts comparison among the considered renewable electricity generation systems	68
2.6.5	Key damage comparison among the renewable plants in their life cycle	70
2.7	Conclusion and Future Recommendation	72
3	Environmental Impacts of Solar-Photovoltaic and Solar-Thermal Systems with Life- Cycle Assessment	74
3.1	Introduction	75
3.2	Materials and Methods	80
3.2.1	Solar-PV and Solar-Thermal System Overview	80
3.2.2	Life-Cycle Assessment Method	81

3.3	Results and Discussion	87
3.3.1	Environmental Profiles of the Solar-PV System	87
3.3.2	Environmental Profiles of the Solar-Thermal System	90
3.3.3	Impacts Comparison between Solar-PV System and Solar-Thermal System	93
3.3.4	GHG Emission Factor Estimation	94
3.3.5	Fossil-Fuel-Based Energy Consumption Evaluation	97
3.3.6	Sensitivity and Uncertainty Analysis	98
3.4	Limitations of this Study	100
3.5	Conclusions	101
4	A Strategic Impact Assessment of Hydropower Plants in Alpine and Non-Alpine Areas of Europe	103
4.1	Introduction	104
4.2	Hydropower Plants of Alpine and Non-alpine Areas in Europe	111
4.3	Methodology	114
4.3.1	Goal and Scope Definition	115
4.3.2	Life-Cycle Inventory	117
4.3.3	Life-Cycle Impact Estimation	120
4.3.4	Impact Outcome Interpretation	122
4.4	Results	123
4.4.1	Comparative Environmental Profiles of the Hydropower Plants	123
4.4.2	Metal- and Gas-Based Emission Evaluation	129
4.4.3	Greenhouse-Gas Emission Estimation	130
4.4.4	Comparative Life-Cycle Inputs and Outputs of the Plants	131
4.4.5	Energy Consumption Comparison	132
4.5	Discussion	133

4.5.1	Impacts Outcome Comparison with Previous Studies	133
4.5.2	Impacts Comparison with Other Power Plants	136
4.5.3	Uncertainty Analysis	137
4.6	Limitations and Future Improvements	139
4.7	Conclusion	139
5	Life-Cycle Impact Assessment of Renewable Electricity Generation Systems in the United States	141
5.1	Introduction	142
5.2	U.S. Electricity Generation and Consumption Overview	148
5.3	Methodology	149
5.3.1	Goal and Scope Definition	153
5.3.2	Life-Cycle Inventory	153
5.3.3	Life-Cycle Impact Assessment	155
5.3.4	Life Cycle Impact Interpretation	157
5.4	Results and Interpretation	158
5.4.1	Environmental Impacts Comparison	158
5.4.2	Fossil Fuel-Based Energy Consumption Evaluation	161
5.4.3	GHG Emission Factor Estimation	163
5.4.4	Impacts Comparison with Other Power Plants	167
5.5	Uncertainty Analysis	167
5.6	Sensitivity Analysis	170
5.7	Discussion	173
5.8	Conclusion	175
6	Life-Cycle Impact Assessment of Renewable Electricity Generation Systems: a Practical Approach towards Switzerland	177

6.1	Introduction	178
6.2	Renewable Energy Matrix in Switzerland	181
6.3	Methodology	183
6.3.1	Goal and Scope	184
6.3.2	Life-Cycle Inventory	191
6.3.3	Life-Cycle Impact Assessment	191
6.3.4	Life-Cycle Impact Interpretation	192
6.4	Results	193
6.4.1	RMF Method	193
6.4.2	CML Method	195
6.4.3	Eco-indicator 99 Method	196
6.4.4	Eco-points 97 Method	197
6.4.5	IPCC Method	199
6.4.6	CED Method	200
6.5	Discussion	201
6.5.1	Impact Outcome Comparison	201
6.5.2	Comparison with other Non-renewable Power Plants	204
6.5.3	Comparison of the Findings with Existing Studies	205
6.6	Uncertainty Analysis	205
6.7	Limitations	208
6.8	Conclusion	209
7	Advanced Power Routing Framework for Optimal Economic Operation and Control of Solar Photovoltaic-Based Islanded Microgrid	210
7.1	Introduction	211
7.2	Power routing framework	215
7.3	Optimization-based energy-sharing model	218

7.4	Power-routing control strategy	220
7.4.1	DC-to-DC converter control	220
7.4.2	DC-to-AC inverter control	221
7.5	Simulation and Results	224
7.5.1	Simulation setup	224
7.5.2	Results of energy-sharing model	226
7.5.3	Controller operation outcomes	229
7.6	Conclusion	231
8	Techno-Economic Operation and Environmental Life-Cycle Assessment of a Solar PV-Driven Islanded Microgrid	233
8.1	Introduction	234
8.2	Microgrid System Overview	239
8.3	Methods	241
8.3.1	Optimal Economic Operation Method	241
8.3.2	Life-Cycle Environmental Impact Assessment Method	244
8.4	Results and discussion	250
8.4.1	Optimal Economic Operation Outcome	250
8.4.2	Life-Cycle Environmental Impact Assessment Results	251
8.5	Sensitivity Analysis	256
8.5.1	Effects for Various Community-Storage Life and Solar Scale Rates	256
8.5.2	Impacts for Various Types of PV Modules	257
8.5.3	Impacts for Various Types of Community Storages	258
8.6	Conclusion	259
9	Conclusions and Future Work	261
9.1	Thesis Summary and Concluding Remarks	262

9.1.1	Summary	262
9.1.2	Conclusions	264
9.2	Future Research Directions	266
References		268