

*This piece was written tongue-in-cheek in response to the media drama over the effect on the grid of large numbers of plug-in vehicles. Incidentally, no-one in the media seems to point out the reduced electricity demand for refining gasoline that goes along with the deployment of more EVs and PHEVs. Tip of the hat to Barry Cinnamon for his earlier comparison of the ease of purchase of a couple of 1500W hairdryers on the **consumption** side of the equation, with the bureaucratically-impaired installation of a typical 3kW PV system on the **production** side...*

The Networked Hair-dryer Conference

This exciting one-day event will discuss the up-coming wave of hair dryers and their effect on the electrical grid. It will explore answers to the following questions...

As large numbers of hair dryers are deployed, what will the effect be on the grid? What happens when households with multiple teenagers all plug in their hairdryers at the same time? Can we deploy the Smart grid fast enough in order to mitigate impacts of large numbers of hair dryers? Will Time-Of-Use pricing be necessary in order to dissuade customers from all drying their hair at the same time in the morning before setting off for work? What will happen when owners can leave their hair driers out in the wind, run them backwards and feed power back into the grid - so called D2G technology?

Alex Volta, a spokesperson for LADPDSG&E, said that there are concerns regarding transformers when numerous households in a cul-de-sac all follow the trend of allowing their young people unfettered access to hair drying implements. This could cost millions in upgrades, he warned. He suggested that a test program be developed where a few hundred dryers be released in a controlled way in the state of California in order to monitor possible grid disruptions and a maximum of two such appliances be allowed per household. Olly Power, a spokesperson for a well-known refinery operator in California suggested that it was ridiculous to suggest switching to the use of electricity to dry hair and also pointed out, given his follicly-challenged state, his personal lack of need for such a device.

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