

Simulated Life Cycle Cost And Carbon Balance Analysis Of Grid-Connected Solar Photovoltaic Power System For A Hospital In Abuja, Nigeria

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Abstract— In this paper, simulated life cycle cost and carbon balance analysis of grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) power system is presented. The PV power was for a hospital that is located in Abuja, Nigeria with latitude of 9.01 and longitude of 7.29, as well as annual mean temperature of 24.7 °C and mean monthly global irradiance of 1988.9 kWh/m².month. Also, the daily energy demand, of the hospital is 11.5 kWh/day. The life cycle cost analysis and the carbon balance analysis were conducted using PVSyst software. The results showed that the PV system performance ratio is 0.787 (that is 78.7%), total PV array nominal power is 8.93 kWp, annual energy yield is 14.42 MWh/year and solar fraction of 45.5%. The economic evaluation simulation results show that the gross investment cost (without taxes) of the PV power system is 33,424,990 Naira, the net investment cost (all taxes included) of the PV power system is 40,778,488 Naira, and the unit cost of the produced energy is 263 Naira/kWh. The carbon balance analysis simulation results show that the total savings or reduction in CO₂ emissions is 112.469 tCO₂, the annual savings or reduction in CO₂ emissions is 4.499 tCO₂/year, the savings or reduction in CO₂ emissions per installed kWp power is 12.594 tCO₂.kWp and the yearly savings of CO₂ emissions per installed power is 0.504 tCO₂/kWp/year.

Keywords— *Life Cycle Cost Analysis, Grid-Connected, Carbon Balance Analysis, Solar Photovoltaic Power System, Economic Evaluation*

1. Introduction

In recent years, the demand for electric energy is increasing [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10] as more people are drawn towards adoption of electric-powered technologies like cell phone, mobile devices, web-based solutions, Internet of Things, as well as wireless sensors, eLearning solution, and many

more [11,12,13, 14,15,16, 17,18,19, 20,21,22, 23,24,25, 26,27,28, 29,30, 31, 32]. Many of these technologies are electronic and hence can be powered with batteries or relatively moderate capacity power supply systems. Moreover, in view of the lingering power shortage from the grid in many developing countries, alternative power supply options have been employed by many people to power their homes and office [33,34, 35,36, 37,38, 39,40, 41,42, 43,44, 45,46, 47,48, 49,50].

Notably, solar photovoltaic (PV) power supply has dominated the alternative green energy solution for the developing countries [51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61,62, 63, 64]. This has been attributed to the steady drop in the cost of the PV power components which makes it more affordable [65,66,67,68]. Also, the advancements in the PV and battery technologies have also improved on the efficiency of the PV power system. In addition, solar radiation is very much abundant in most of the developing countries in Africa [69,70,71,72,73].

In any case, despite the expected benefits, the solar PV power system is still more expensive to set up than the diesel generator counterpart. Particularly, the initial cost and the unit cost of energy produced by the system are usually required for the solar PV power system adoption decision making. Such costs components are provided in the life cycle cost analysis [74,75,76].

Moreover, nowadays, environmental impact assessment is required for power systems [77,78,79,80]. This is particularly importance for power system for such places like hospital and other health facilities. As such, in this paper, a simulated life cycle cost analysis and the carbon balance analysis of a grid-connected solar PV power system is presented for a case study hospital located in Abuja, the capital territory of Nigeria. The simulation was conducted with PVSyst software based on the daily energy demand of the case study hospital, the meteorological data of the hospital site, and the prevailing cost dataset for the various PV power system components.

2. Methodology

2.1 Power Output Of PV Array

The required PV array total power, P_{PvA} to deliver the daily energy demand, E_L is computed as follows [81,82,83];

$$P_{PvA} = \frac{E_L}{(PSI * \eta_{BO} * K_{loss} * G_d)} \quad (1)$$

Where PSI represents the peak solar intensity (1000 W/m^2), G_d represents the average solar radiation data at the installation site (in $\text{KWh/m}^2/\text{day}$), K_{loss} represents some loss factors that includes circuit losses, module temperature losses, dust, etc and η_{BO} represents the derating factors of the balance of system which is given as [81];

$$\eta_{BO} = (\eta_{inverterlosses}) (\eta_{wiringlosses}) \quad (2)$$

Where $\eta_{inverterlosses}$, $\eta_{wiringlosses}$ and K_{loss} typical values are 15%, 10% and 90% respectively [83,84]. The daily energy demand, E_L is determined from the daily load demand profile of the hospital, which is taken from [81] and presented in Table 1. According to the data in Table 1, the daily energy demand, E_L is 11.5 kWh/day .

Table 1 The daily load demand profile of the case study hospital

	A	B	C=A(B)	D	E = C(D)	F=E/1000
Device Description	Quantity	Power (Watts)	Total Watts	On-Time (watt hours/day)	Wattage (hours/ day)	kWh/day
Vaccine Refrigerator/Freezer	1	60	60	6.0	360	3.6
Small Refrigerator (non-medical use)	1	300	300	5.0	1,500	1.5
Centrifuge	1	575	575	1.5	862.5	0.8625
Hematology Mixer	1	28	28	1.5	42	0.042
Microscope	2	15	30	3.0	90	0.09
Lighting	5	60	300	8.0	2400	2.4
Incubator	1	400	400	10	4,000	4.0
Water Bath	1	1,000	1,000	1.0	1,000	1.0
Communication via VHF Radio	1					
Stand-by		2	2	15	30	0.003
Transmitting		30	30	3	900	0.9
Total			2500		11500	11.500

2.2 Life cycle cost Analysis of the Grid-Connected PV Power System

The PV array total cost, C_{PvA} is expressed in terms of UC_{PvAPw} (the PV array cost per watt), N_{pvT} (the total number of PV modules in the array) and P_{Pv} (the rated power per PV module) as follows;

$$C_{PvA} = N_{pvT}(P_{Pv})(UC_{pvwp}) \quad (1)$$

The cost of installation (C_{inst}) is estimated as 12% of the cost of the PV array, hence,

$$C_{inst} = 0.12(C_{PvA}) \quad (2)$$

The charger controller cost (C_{chc}) is expressed in terms of per ampere unit cost of the charger controller (UC_{chc}) and total charger controller ampere rating (A_{chc}) as follows;

$$C_{chc} = A_{chc} (UC_{chc}) \quad (3)$$

The inverter cost (C_{Inv}) is expressed in terms of per watt unit cost of the inverter (UC_{Inv}) and total inverter power rating in watt (P_{InvWR}) as follows;

$$C_{Inv} = P_{InvWR} (UC_{Inv}) \quad (4)$$

The battery bank initial cost (CC_{bat}) is expressed in terms of Bat_{Ah} (the ampere-hour rating of the battery) and UC_{bat} (the battery unit cost per ampere-hour rating) as follows;

$$CC_{bat} = Bat_{Ah} (UC_{bat}) \quad (5)$$

The system life cycle time is assumed to be 25 years, the battery useful life time is 5 years, then the battery discount rate, $CC_{bat(n)}$ is computed as;

$$CC_{Bat(n)} = C_{bat} \left(\frac{1+i}{1+d} \right)^n \quad (7)$$

Where i is the inflation rate and d is the discount rate and $n = 5, 10, 15,$ and 20 . The initial annual cost of operation and maintenance ($C_{M\&O}$) is assumed to be 2.6 % of the cost of the PV array, then,

$$C_{M\&O} = 0.026(C_{PvA}) \quad (8)$$

The annual operation and maintenance cost ($C_{TM\&O}$) for the entire system lifetime of N years is computed as;

$$C_{TM\&O} = C_{M\&O} \left(\frac{1+i}{1+d} \right) \left(\frac{1 - \left(\frac{1+i}{1+d} \right)^N}{1 - \left(\frac{1+i}{1+d} \right)} \right) \quad (9)$$

The solar life cycle cost (LCC) is then computed as;

$$LCC = C_{PvA} + C_{chc} + CC_{Bt(5)} + CC_{Bt(10)} + CC_{Bt(15)} + CC_{Bt(20)} + C_{Inv} + C_{inst} + C_{TM\&O} \quad (10)$$

The annual life cycle cost (ALCC) is computed as;

$$ALCC = LCC \left(\frac{1 - \left(\frac{1+i}{1+d}\right)^N}{1 - \left(\frac{1+i}{1+d}\right)} \right) \quad (11)$$

The unit cost (UC) of the generated electrical energy expressed in cost per kWh is given in terms of ALCC and E_L (which is the daily electric energy demand) as follows;

$$UC = \frac{ALCC}{365(E_L)} \quad (12)$$

2.3 The Carbon Balance Analysis of the Grid-Connected PV Power System

Carbon balance is the reduction or the savings in the amount of CO₂ emissions due to the PV system installation.

The carbon balance (t_{CO_2e}) computation in PVSyst simulation software is conducted using the following parameters;

- The energy yield of the system (EGrid)
- The lifetime of the system (N = 25 years)
- The Life Cycle Energy (LCE) of grid generated electricity (LCEGrid)
- The Life Cycle Energy (LCE) of PV system generated electricity (LCEPVSystem)

The carbon balance analysis tool in PVSyst gives four (4) values, namely;

- i. The total savings or reduction in CO₂ emissions (t_{CO_2e}) expressed in tons of CO₂ over the PV installation expected lifetime

- ii. The annual savings or reduction in CO₂ emissions (ty_{CO_2e}) expressed in tCO₂/year.

$$ty_{CO_2e} = \frac{t_{CO_2e}}{N} \quad (13)$$

- iii. The savings or reduction in CO₂ emissions per installed kWp power, ($tPWp_{CO_2e}$) expressed in tCO₂/kWp

$$tPWp_{CO_2e} = \frac{t_{CO_2e}}{P_{nomTotal}} \quad (14)$$

Where $P_{nomTotal}$ is the array global power at STC, as presented in PVSyst simulation results.

- iv. The yearly savings of CO₂ emissions per installed power, ($tPWpPY_{CO_2e}$) expressed in tCO₂/kWp/year

$$tPWpPY_{CO_2e} = \frac{tPWp_{CO_2e}}{N} \quad (15)$$

The annual result values are average obtained over the entire PV system lifetime while taking into consideration the annual degradation, which is set at 1 %.

2.3 The simulation setup and data

The simulation of the grid-connected PV power system was conducted using PYSyst software. Specifically, the focus was on the life cycle cost analysis and the carbon balance analysis. The case study hospital is located in Abuja, Nigeria with latitude of 9.01 and longitude of 7.29, as well as annual mean monthly temperature of 24.7 °C and annual mean monthly global irradiance of 1988.9 kWh/m².month. Also, the daily energy demand, E_L of the hospital (as shown in Table 1) is 11.5 kWh/day. The schematic diagram of the grid-connected PV power system is shown in Figure 1 while the PV array and inverter confirmations for the grid-connected PV power system are shown in Figure 2. Again, the screenshot of the PVSyst economic analysis input dialogue and the dataset used for the grid-connected PV power system shown in Figure 3.

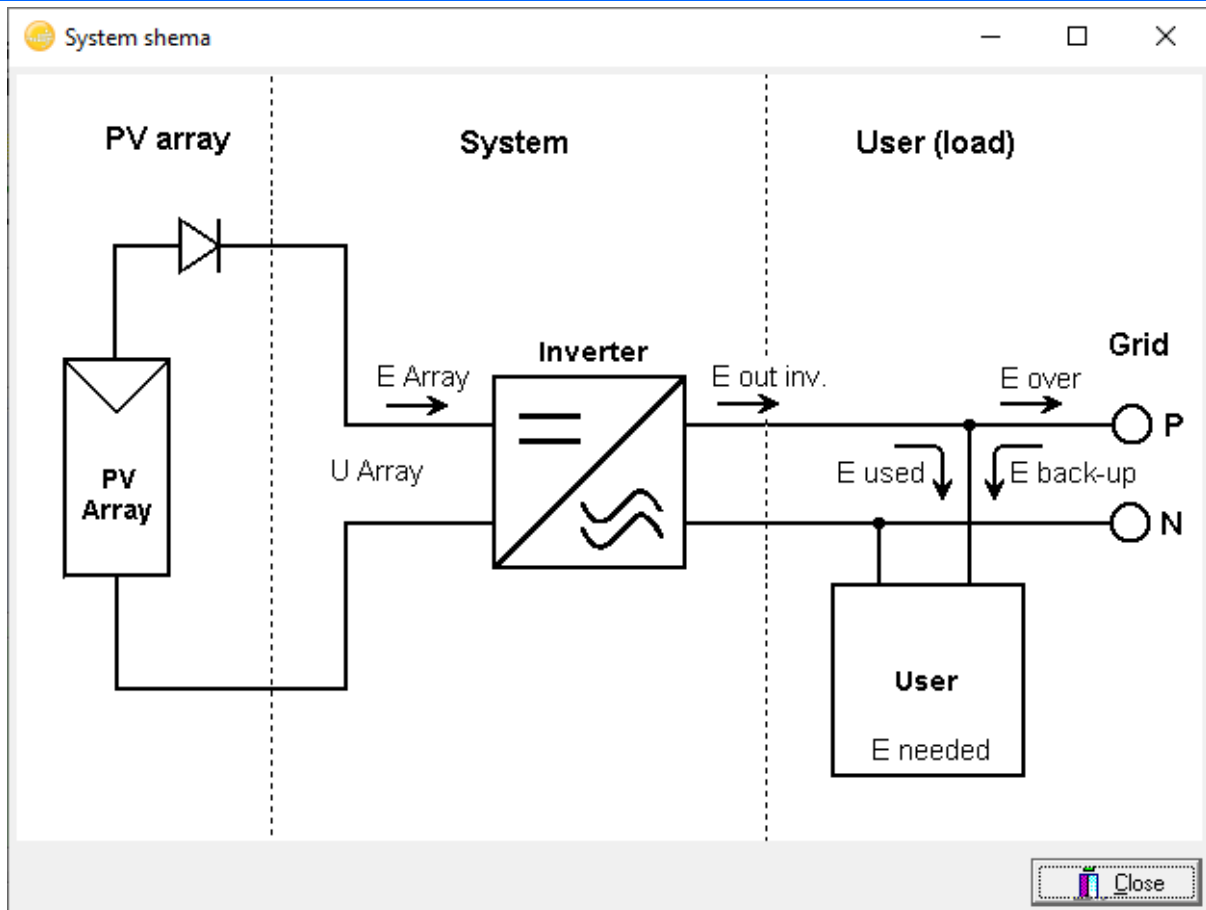


Figure 1 The schematic diagram of the grid-connected PV power system

Grid system definition, Variant "New simulation variant"

Global System configuration
 1 Number of kinds of sub-arrays
 Simplified Schema

Global system summary

Nb. of modules	38	Nominal PV Power	8.9 kWp
Module area	61 m ²	Maximum PV Power	8.6 kWdc
Nb. of inverters	1	Nominal AC Power	8.0 kWac

PV Array

Sub-array name and Orientation
 Name: PV Array
 Orient: Fixed Tilted Plane
 Tilt: 14°
 Azimuth: 0°

Presizing Help
 No sizing Enter planned power: 2.7 kWp
 or available area(modules): 18 m²

Select the PV module
 Available Now
 Samsung SDI, Co. Ltd. 235 Wp 25V Si-mono LPC235SM-06 Since 2010 Manufacturer 2010
 Sizing voltages: V_{mpp} (60°C) 25.1 V
 V_{oc} (-10°C) 41.7 V
 Approx. needed modules: 11

Select the inverter
 Available Now
 Sunset 8.0 kW 350 - 600 V TL 50/60 Hz Sun3Grid 8000 Since 2009
 Nb. of inverters: 1
 Operating Voltage: 350-600 V
 Input maximum voltage: 800 V
 Global Inverter's power: 8.0 kWac
 50 Hz
 60 Hz

Design the array
Number of modules and strings
 Mod. in series: 19 (between 14 and 19)
 Nbre strings: 2 (only possibility 2)
 Overload loss: 0.0 %
 P_{nom} ratio: 1.12
 Nb. modules: 38 Area: 61 m²

Operating conditions
 Plane irradiance: 1000 W/m²
 V_{mpp} (60°C): 477 V
 V_{mpp} (20°C): 578 V
 V_{oc} (-10°C): 792 V
 Impp (STC): 15.8 A
 I_{sc} (STC): 16.9 A
 I_{sc} (at STC): 16.9 A
 Max. in data
 STC
 Max. operating power at 1000 W/m² and 50°C: 7.9 kW
Array nom. Power (STC): 8.9 kWp

System overview Cancel OK

Figure 2 The PV array and inverter confirmations for the grid-connected PV power system

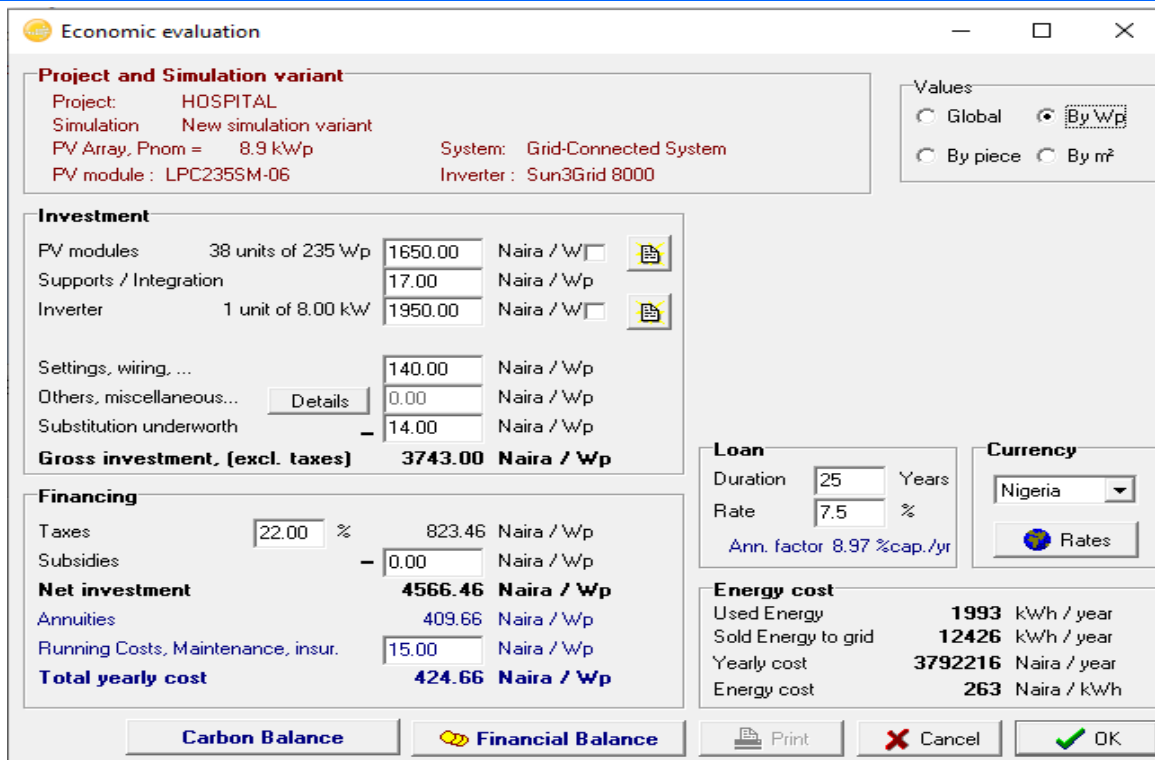


Figure 3 The screenshot of the PVSyst economic analysis input dialogue and the dataset used for the grid-connected PV power system

3. Results and Discussion

With the daily energy demand (presented in Table 1), the PVSyst was used to select the specific PV module and inverter for the solar power system, as well as the required number of PV modules in the PV array, as shown in Figure 2. The screenshot of the results showing the PV system performance ratio of 0.787 (that is 78.7%), total PV array nominal power of 8.93 kWp and annual energy yield of 14.42 MWh/year is presented in Figure 4. The results in Figure 4 also shows the unit cost of energy as 263 Naira/kWh and solar fraction of 45.5%.

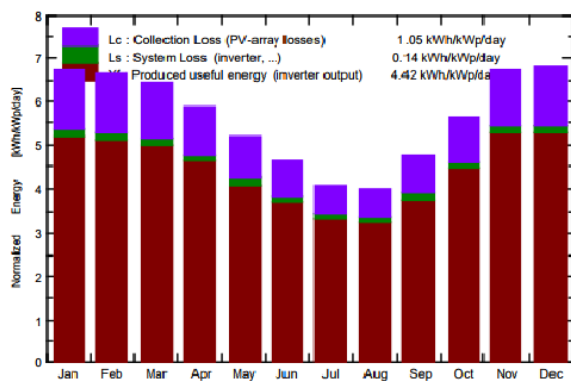
The results on the energy use and the user's energy need are shown in Table 2 where is observed that the annual

available energy is 14419 kWh, the annual energy demand of the user is 4380.0 kWh, the annual energy supplied to the load from the PV system is 1992.9 kWh and the annual energy injected into the grid is 12426 kWh. Again, the solar fraction is 0.455 (that is 45.5%).

The screenshot of PVSyst economic evaluation simulation results is shown in Figure 5. The economic evaluation results (in Figure 5) show that the gross investment cost (without taxes) of the PV power system is 33,424,990 Naira, the net investment cost (all taxes included) of the PV power system is 40,778,488 Naira, and the unit cost of the produced energy is 263 Naira/kWh.

Grid-Connected System: Main results					
Project :	HOSPITAL				
Simulation variant :	New simulation variant				
Main system parameters		System type	Grid-Connected		
PV Field Orientation		tilt	14°	azimuth	0°
PV modules		Model	LPC235SM-06	Pnom	235 Wp
PV Array		Nb. of modules	38	Pnom total	8.93 kWp
Inverter		Model	Sun3Grid 8000	Pnom	8.00 kW ac
User's needs		daily profile	Constant over the year	Global	4380 kWh/year
Main simulation results		Produced Energy		14.42 MWh/year	
System Production		Performance Ratio PR	78.68 %	Specific prod.	1615 kWh/kWp/year
				Solar Fraction SF	45.50 %
Investment		Global incl. taxes	40778488 Naira	Specific	4566 Naira/Wp
Yearly cost		Annuities (Loan 7.5%, 25 years)	3658266 Naira/yr	Running Costs	133950 Naira/yr
Energy cost			263 Naira/kWh		

Normalized productions (per installed kWp): **Nominal power 8.93 kWp**



Performance Ratio PR

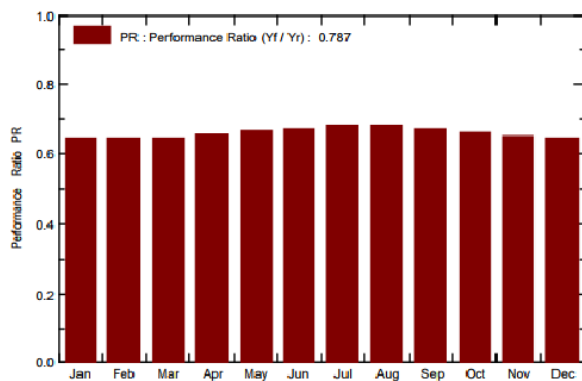


Figure 4 The screenshot of PVSyst simulation result showing the main system parameters, man simulation results, performance ratio and the normalized production of the grid-connected PV power system

Table 2 The results on the energy use and the user's energy need

Energy use and User's needs					
	E Avail	E Load	E User	E_Grid	SolFrac
	kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh	
January	1440	372.0	170.5	1269	0.458
February	1277	336.0	154.5	1123	0.460
March	1384	372.0	170.5	1213	0.458
April	1235	360.0	164.7	1071	0.458
May	1139	372.0	167.9	971	0.451
June	996	360.0	163.4	833	0.454
July	925	372.0	169.3	756	0.455
August	904	372.0	167.8	736	0.451
September	1017	360.0	162.4	855	0.451
October	1234	372.0	166.5	1067	0.448
November	1407	360.0	165.0	1242	0.458
December	1460	372.0	170.5	1289	0.458
Year	14419	4380.0	1992.9	12426	0.455

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Grid-Connected System: Economic evaluation			
Project :	HOSPITAL		
Simulation variant :	New simulation variant		
Main system parameters	System type	Grid-Connected	
PV Field Orientation	tilt	14°	azimuth 0°
PV modules	Model	LPC235SM-06	Pnom 235 Wp
PV Array	Nb. of modules	38	Pnom total 8.93 kWp
Inverter	Model	Sun3Grid 8000	Pnom 8.00 kW ac
User's needs	daily profile	Constant over the year	Global 4380 kWh/year
Investment			
PV modules (Pnom = 235 Wp)	38 units	387750 Naira / unit	14734500 Naira
Supports / Integration		3995 Naira / module	151810 Naira
Inverter (Pnom = 8.0 kW ac)	1 units	17413500 Naira / unit	17413500 Naira
Settings, wiring, ...			1250200 Naira
Substitution underworth			-125020 Naira
Gross investment (without taxes)			33424990 Naira
Financing			
Gross investment (without taxes)			33424990 Naira
Taxes on investment (VAT)	Rate 22.0 %		7353498 Naira
Gross investment (including VAT)			40778488 Naira
Subsidies			0 Naira
Net investment (all taxes included)			40778488 Naira
Annuities	(Loan 7.5 % over 25 years)		3658266 Naira/year
Annual running costs: maintenance, insurances ...			133950 Naira/year
Total yearly cost			3792216 Naira/year
Energy cost			
Used Energy			1993 kWh / year
Energy sold to the grid			12426 kWh / year
Cost of produced energy			263 Naira / kWh

Figure 5 The screenshot of PVSyst economic evaluation simulation results

The screenshot of PVSyst carbon balance analysis simulation results is shown in Figure 6. The carbon balance analysis results (in Figure 5) show that the total savings or reduction in CO₂ emissions (t_{CO_2e}) is 112.469 tCO₂, the annual savings or reduction in CO₂ emissions (ty_{CO_2e}) is 4.499 tCO₂/year, the savings or reduction in CO₂ emissions per installed kWp power, ($tPWp_{CO_2e}$) is 12.594

tCO₂.kWp and the yearly savings of CO₂ emissions per installed power, ($tPWpPY_{CO_2e}$) is 0.504 tCO₂/kWp/year.

The screenshot of PVSyst simulation results showing the produced and the replaced carbon emissions is presented in Figure 7. Again, Figure 7 shows that the carbon balance is 112.469 tCO₂,

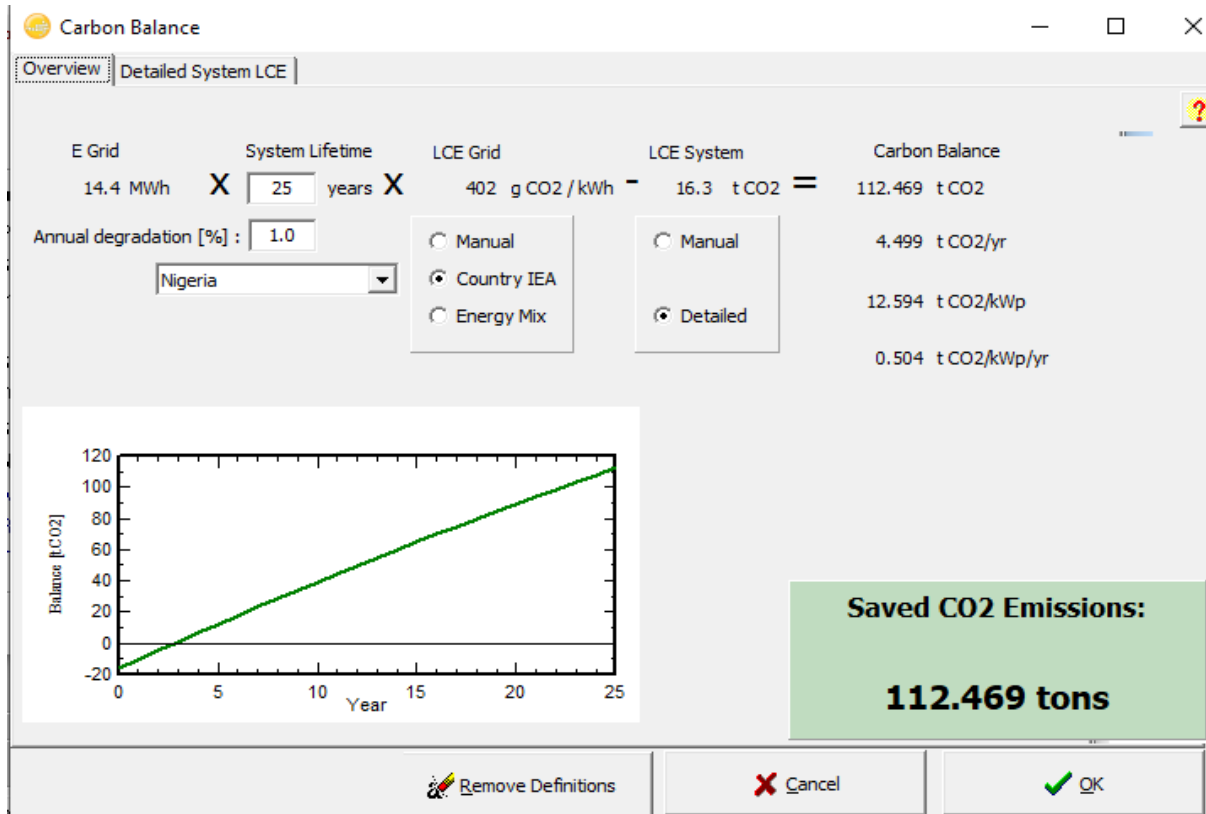


Figure 6 The screenshot of PVSyst carbon balance analysis simulation results

PVSYS V6.70		12/11/22	Page 6/6
Grid-Connected System: CO2 Balance			
Project :	HOSPITAL		
Simulation variant :	New simulation variant		
Main system parameters	System type	Grid-Connected	
PV Field Orientation	tilt	14°	azimuth 0°
PV modules	Model	LPC235SM-06	Pnom 235 Wp
PV Array	Nb. of modules	38	Pnom total 8.93 kWp
Inverter	Model	Sun3Grid 8000	Pnom 8.00 kW ac
User's needs	daily profile	Constant over the year	Global 4380 kWh/year
Produced Emissions	Total:	16.31 tCO2	
	Source:	Detailed calculation from table below	
Replaced Emissions	Total:	144.9 tCO2	
	System production:	14.42 MWh/yr	Lifetime: 25 years
			Annual Degradation: 1.0 %
	Grid Lifecycle Emissions:	402 gCO2/kWh	
	Source:	IEA List	Country: Nigeria
CO2 Emission Balance	Total:	112.5 tCO2	
System Lifecycle Emissions Details:			
Item	Modules	Supports	
LCE	1713 kgCO2/kWp	2.68 kgCO2/kg	
Quantity	8.93 kWp	380 kg	
Subtotal [kgCO2]	15295	1019	

Figure 7 The screenshot of PVSyst simulation results showing the produced and the replaced carbon emissions

4. Conclusion

The life cycle cost analysis and the carbon balance analysis of a grid-connected PV power system is presented. Analysis is conducted using PVSyst software. The daily energy demand of a case study hospital was used for the sizing of the PV system components, including the PV array and the inverter. The life cycle cost analysis are based on the simulated energy yield of the PV system and some cost input dataset of the PV system components, their installation cost and maintenance cost.

Furthermore, the carbon balance analysis was also simulated using the PVSyst. The simulation results show the produced and the replaced carbon emissions along with the carbon balance figure for the PV system.

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