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Reviewer #2

Dear reviewer,

The paragraphs below describe the changes made in the paper identified as **sustainability-2146672: Flexible and Modular Metering System to Monitor the Energy Consumed by the Execution of Computer Software**, written by Alberto Ortega, Abel Miguel Cano-Delgado, Beatriz Prieto and Jesús González, and submitted for possible publication in the *Sustainability* journal. All the changes derived from suggestions of reviewer #2 are highlighted in the paper in orange color.

- The main issue with this paper is the novelty. I do not see any contribution of this paper. In several countries we have smart meter which give real time consumption and cost of energy used. In my home I have this system for both my electricity and gas. Thus, it is difficult for me the see any significant contribution of this paper. If the system and process already exist, then this paper only reinvent the wheel. I, however, still want to give the authors any opportunity to address my above main concern, revise their paper, demonstrate the contributions of their research, and resubmit for consideration.

Regarding the availability of smart meters nowadays, the reviewer is right. Many off-the-shelf devices are currently available, and many papers also present custom meter implementations with microcontrollers. However, this paper is not related to the design of a new smart meter but to the design of a standard interface for any currently available smart meter, which is programmatically accessible from any software application too. As the reviewer already knows, usually all the smart meters provide human-friendly interfaces through the app provided by their manufacturer. However, although these apps allow users to manage homes or even buildings, they neither provide a standard interface nor programmatic access from any programming language.

Thus, this paper aims to design a standard interface for any currently available meter directly accessible from applications written in any programming language. In fact, we do not develop any smart meters at all. We propose the design of this standard interface and develop a prototype for the openZmeter device, a cheap and off-the-shelf meter anyone can buy online. Besides, since our interface is structured into two layers, one driver and one proxy, the driver can access the meter and provide the Op-

erating System with all the gathered data via a standard interface, while the proxy eases the programmatic access to these data from any programming language, making possible for a program to be aware of its power consumption in real-time without the intervention of any human being. All in all, this comment has made us realize the way we presented our work was somewhat confusing. We have now changed the title of the paper and also rewritten many paragraphs of the article to make the aim of this work more evident. We would like to thank the reviewer for helping us to improve the paper.

- **Secondly, I am not sure if the experimental work and their results has any statistical significance. This need to be demonstrated to ensure that the results obtained from this research are reliable. In this regard, the number of experiments and the results analysis need to be considered and to ensure that the paper provide some statistical analysis to prove the significance. I assume you might be aware how to establish this statistical significance, however, if you try to review this paper *Making future floating cities sustainable: a way forward*, then it will give you some idea.**

The reviewer is right. Statistical tests are mandatory when comparing the results obtained by a new proposal with others existing in the bibliography is necessary. In fact, as you can see in some of our previous papers [16, 25, 29], we are very used to applying both parametric tests, such as the T-test or the ANOVA, when all the results follow a normal distribution and are homoscedastic as well, or non-parametric tests, such as the Mann-Whitney U-test or the Kruskal-Wallis H-test, if either of the two former constraints is not met. However, as this paper aims to design a new standard interface for whatever smart meter to allow programmatic access from any software application, such tests do not make sense. The key is to demonstrate whether the proposed design meets its requirements. Therefore, a prototype of the interface has been implemented, and some experiments have been specifically designed to show that the design does meet its requirements.

Notwithstanding, Figure 10 has been redrawn to show the minimum, first quartile, median, third quartile, maximum, and outlier values of the instantaneous power measured while executing the Linpack benchmark on the computer with different numbers of threads.

- **Finally, I want you to cover the relevant literature in an explicit manner because there is a lot of work already done in this area. I think it should be a systematic review to ensure the capture of relevant literature more effectively. Here is an article which demonstrate the systematic literature review in an easy and best way *Key factors influencing the implementation of three-dimensional printing in construction*.**

Sections 1 and 2 have been rewritten, and now make a thorough revision of the relevant related bibliography through more than two pages, citing 33 references, including the two references the reviewer suggested. We

would like to thank the reviewer for her/his valuable comment.

We want to thank reviewer #2 for his/her valuable comments.