

# RISK MINIMIZATION FOR DECARBONIZING HEATING NETWORKS VIA NETWORK TEMPERATURE REDUCTIONS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES, EXPERIENCE FROM AUSTRIA AND OUTLOOK

SÉMINAIRE ÉNERGIE – ENVIRONNEMENT, Conférences 2022 – 2023

Jeudi 30 mars 2023, Université de Genève

Ralf-Roman Schmidt, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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  - **DeRiskDH**: funded by the Climate and Energy Fund of the Federal Government of Austria within the framework of the Energy Model Region Green Energy Lab

# CONTENT

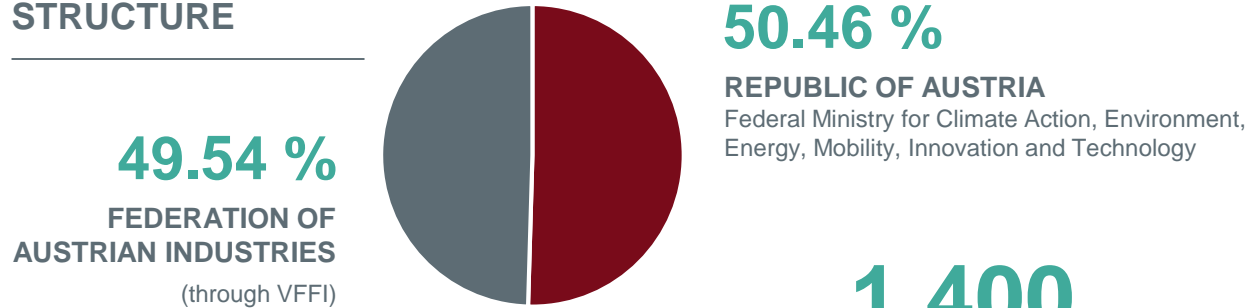
- AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH - an introduction
- District heating in Austria, status and challenges
- DH temperatures as a key element for decarbonisation
  - positive effects of reduced system temperatures
  - Business models for reducing district heating return temperatures
  - How to identify reasons for high return temperatures?
- Seasonal energy storages
- Risk assessment using monte-carlo-simulations
- Outlook

# AIT AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



# AIT AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GMBH

## OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE



**1.400**

**EMPLOYEES**

**167 m EUR**

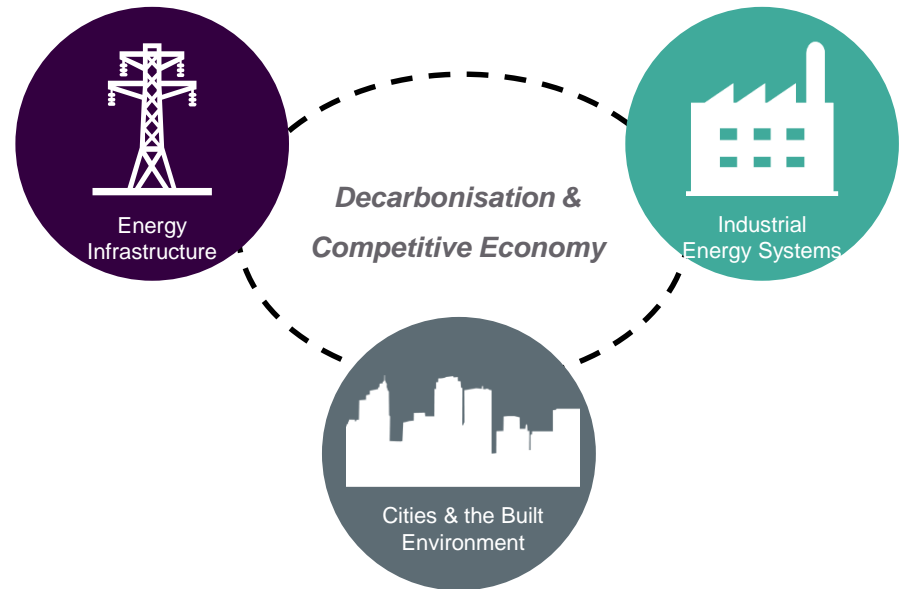
**TOTAL REVENUES**  
as of YE 2019

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>90,4 m EUR</b> | Contract research revenues (incl. grants)                        |
| <b>49,8 m EUR</b> | BMK funding  |
| <b>22,8 m EUR</b> | Other operating income,<br>incl. Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf |
| <b>4,0 m EUR</b>  | Profactor (51% of 7,9 m EUR)                                     |

# AIT CENTER FOR ENERGY – FACT & FIGURES

- 240+ researchers & scientists
- Diverse competence fields & teams
  - 25+ nationalities
  - engineering, physics, architecture, IT ...
- 9 Research Fields
- 145+ scientific publications per year

- 3 Strategic research domains



# CENTER FOR ENERGY: TOPICS



## ENERGY CONVERSION & HYDROGEN

- Sustainable Technologies for a hydrogen based energy system
- Functional coatings for energy conversion technologies
- Digital material development based on processing and AI
- Performance & reliability of renewable energy technologies
- Digital operation & maintenance of photovoltaic systems



## CLIMATE-RESILIENT URBAN PATHWAYS

- Framework for climate-resilience
- Urban climate models
- Nature-based solutions
- Modelling and design of infrastructure interventions
- Climate resilience pathways
- Visualisation and co-creation in City Intelligence Lab (CIL)



## SMART & CARBON NEUTRAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- City analytics and monitoring platforms
- Urban energy and green house gas emission models
- Upscaling of smart city solutions
- Impact assessment of Energy, Mobility and ICT
- Visualisation and co-creation in City Intelligence Lab (CIL)

# CENTER FOR ENERGY: TOPICS



## INTEGRATED ENERGY SYSTEMS

- Energy markets
- Flexibility
- Hybrid energy systems (District heating and cooling, Industrial energy systems, Hydrogen)
- Integrated transport optimization



## POWER SYSTEM PLANNING & OPERATION

- Power grids as part of an integrated energy infrastructure
- Grid planning and operation with distributed generation, flexibility, e-mobility, storage
- Low inertia systems, hybrid AC/DC Systems



## EFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES & SYSTEMS

- Industrial Heat Pumps
- Industrial thermal energy storage
- Simulation and optimisation of industrial processes
- Decarbonisation pathways for industry

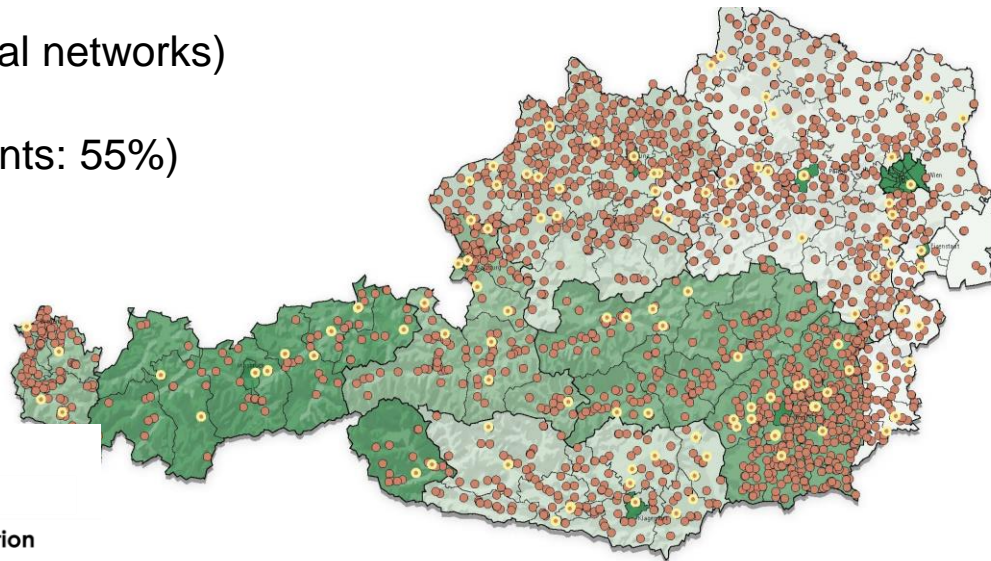
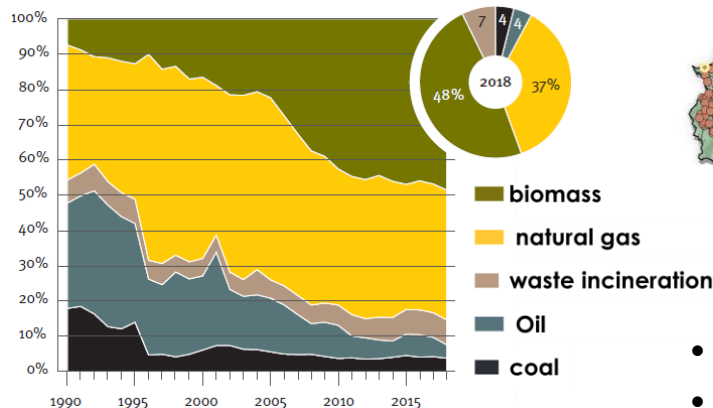


# DISTRICT HEATING IN AUSTRIA



# DISTRICT HEATING IN AUSTRIA

- > 2,400 systems (incl. many rural networks)
- DH share = 27%
- (for buildings with > 20 apartments: 55%)

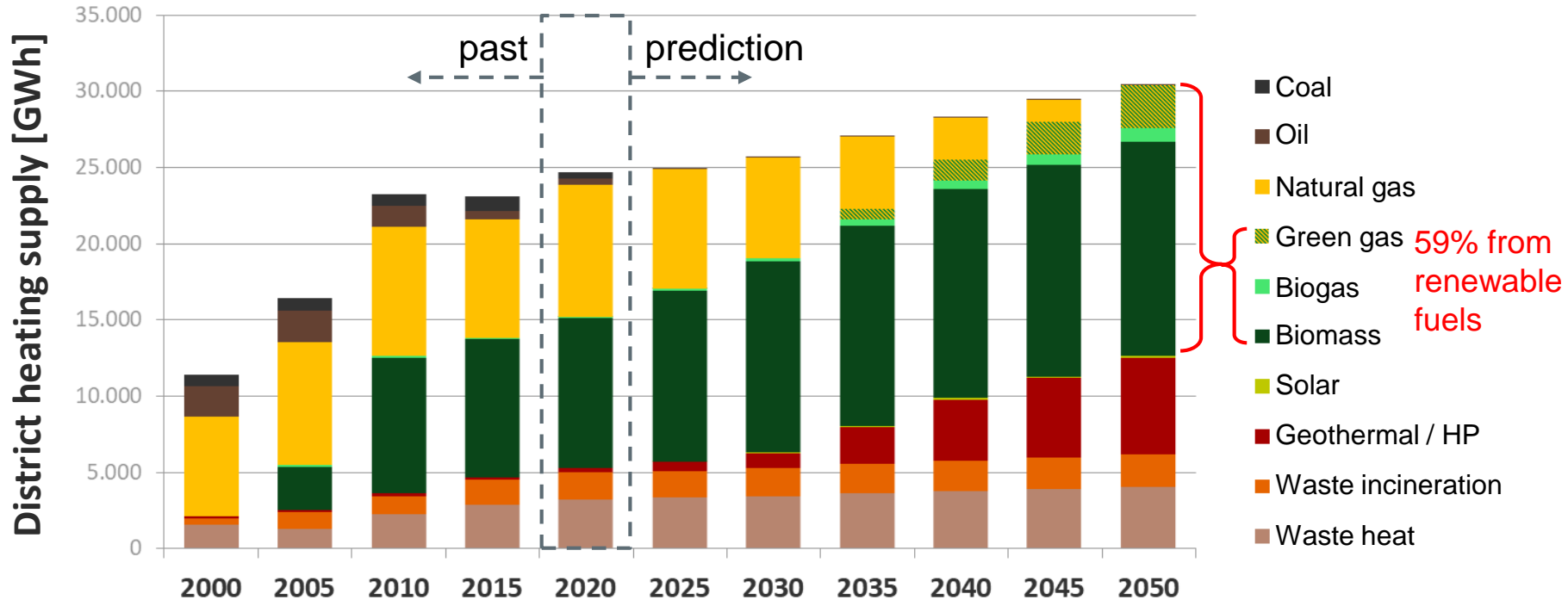


- heat delivery = 24 TWh (hereof 15 TWh from CHP)
- Growing demand in district cooling (192 GWh)

[https://www.gaswaerme.at/media/medialibrary/2019/09/zasp19\\_endversion.pdf](https://www.gaswaerme.at/media/medialibrary/2019/09/zasp19_endversion.pdf)

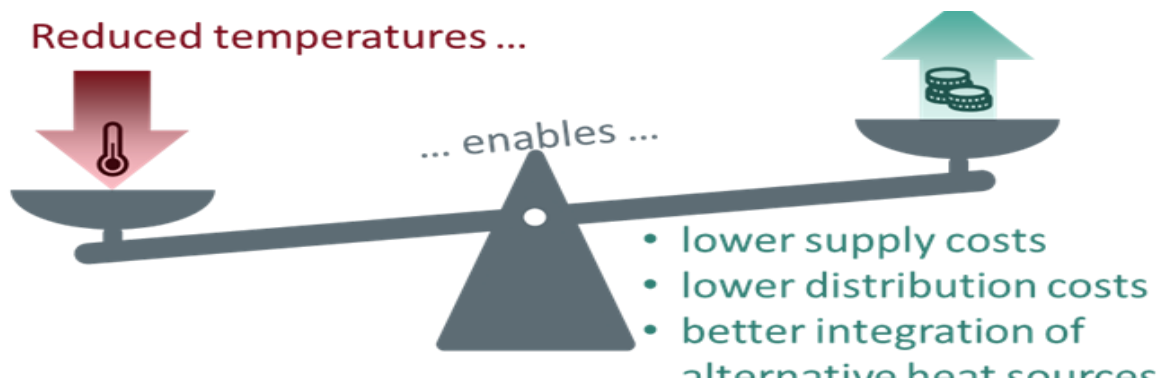
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# DISTRICT HEATING DECARBONIZATION SCENARIO



# TRENDS AND DRIVERS: LESS CHP, NEW HEAT SOURCES REQUIRED

- The role of **CHP as a dominant heat source will significantly change**
  - Declining role of fossil fuels, strong competition for renewable fuels
  - Less CHP based electricity required due to more PV and wind
- **Other heat sources are required** (stable demand in DHC can be expected), e.g.
  - Cooling of data centres, office buildings, super markets etc.,
  - Waste heat from (future) industrial processes, tunnels, or electrolyses processes,
  - Power-to-heat from excess electricity (e.g. avoiding curtailment in areas with weak el. network),
- However, those sources often have **low temperatures**, appear in **decentralized** locations, is owned by **third parties** + have a **seasonal mismatch**
  - In turn, the use of Biomass (and synthetic fuels on H2-basis) is a solution currently preferred by many (Austrian) DHC operators (stick to the “Business-as-usual” scenario)



**Assessment based on:**

- Geothermal
- Heat pump
- Waste heat
- Solar thermal
- Flue gas condensation
- Combined heat and power
- Storage
- Distribution

# POSITIVE EFFECTS OF REDUCED SYSTEM TEMPERATURES

This part of the presentation is an extract from  
<https://www.iea-dhc.org/the-research/annexes/2017-2021-annex-ts2>  
and

<https://energieforschung.at/projekt/transformation-von-konventionellen-waermenetzen-in-richtung-niedertemperaturnetze-durch-sekundaerseitige-massnahmen/>



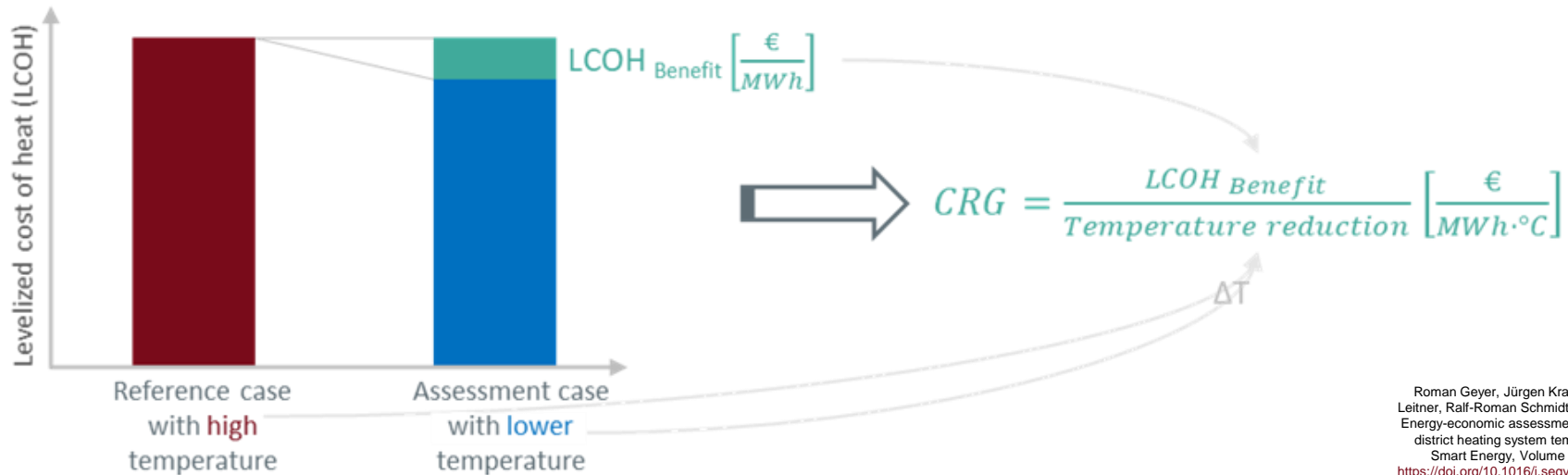
# POSITIVE EFFECTS OF REDUCED SYSTEM TEMPERATURES

- More **geothermal heat** extracted from wells since lower-temperature geothermal fluid can be returned to the ground.
- Less electricity used in **heat pumps** when extracting heat from heat sources with temperatures below the heat distribution temperatures since lower pressures can be applied in the heat pump condensers.
- More **industrial excess** heat extracted since lower temperatures of the excess heat carrier will be emitted to the environment.
- More heat obtained from **solar collectors** since their heat losses are lower, thereby providing higher conversion efficiencies.

# POSITIVE EFFECTS OF REDUCED SYSTEM TEMPERATURES

- More electricity generated per unit of heat recycled from **steam CHP** plants since higher p-t-h ratios are obtained with lower steam pressures in the turbine condensers
- More heat recovered from **flue gas condensation** since the proportion of vaporised water (steam) in the emitted flue gases can be reduced.
- Higher **heat storage** capacities since lower return temperatures can be used in conjunction with high-temperature outputs from high-temperature heat sources.
- Lower **heat distribution losses** with lower average temperature differences between the fluids in heat distribution pipes and the environment.
- The ability to **use plastic pipes** instead of steel pipes to save cost.

# EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

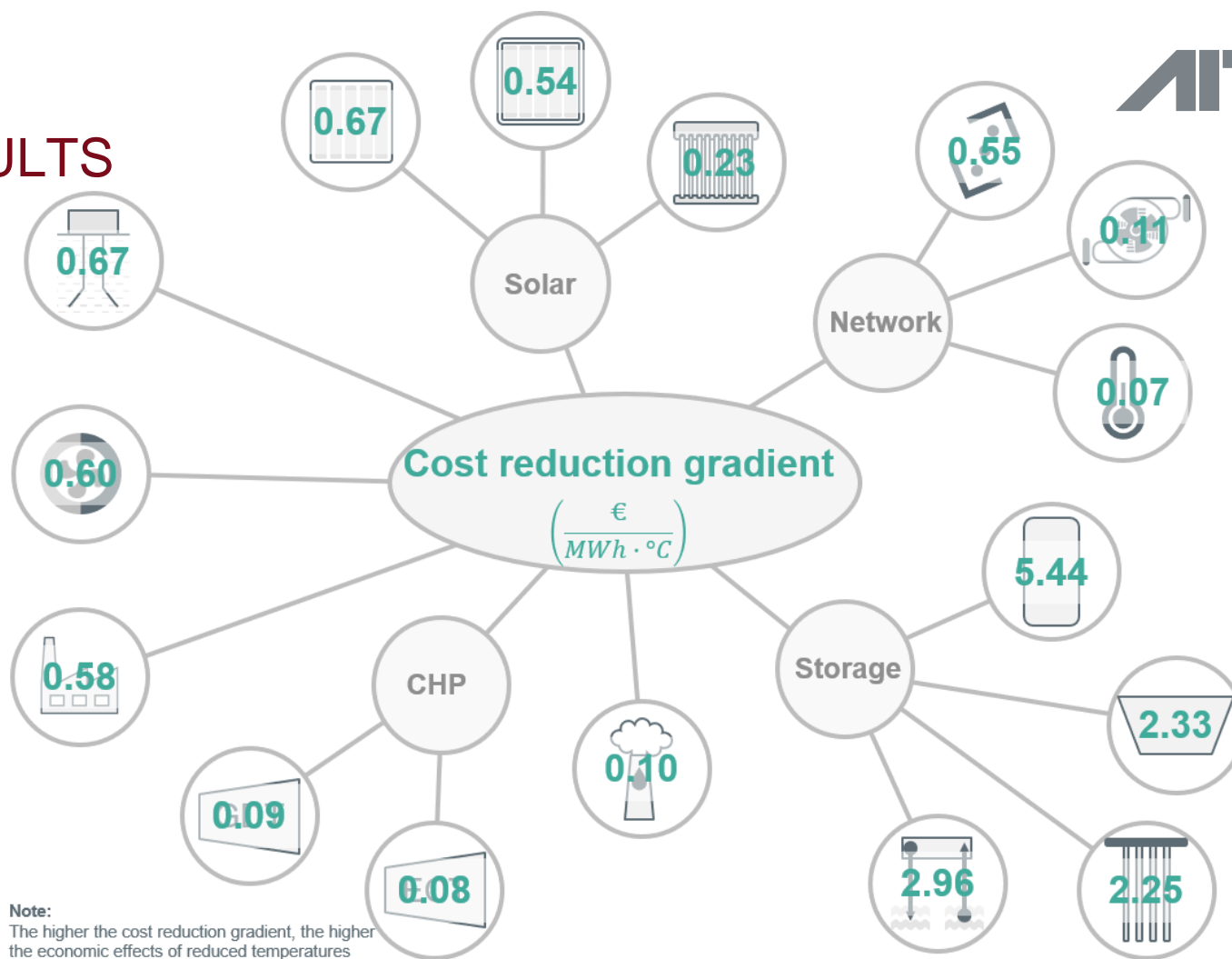


Roman Geyer, Jürgen Krail, Benedikt Leitner, Ralf-Roman Schmidt, Paolo Leoni, Energy-economic assessment of reduced district heating system temperatures, Smart Energy, Volume 2, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.segy.2021.100011>

- **Thermodynamic models** have been used to investigate capacity and efficiency improvements.
- cost data were derived from extant **literature**, with indicative cost estimations from **manufacturers**
- → calculate the **levelized cost of heat (LCOH)** determined for both reference and assessment cases.

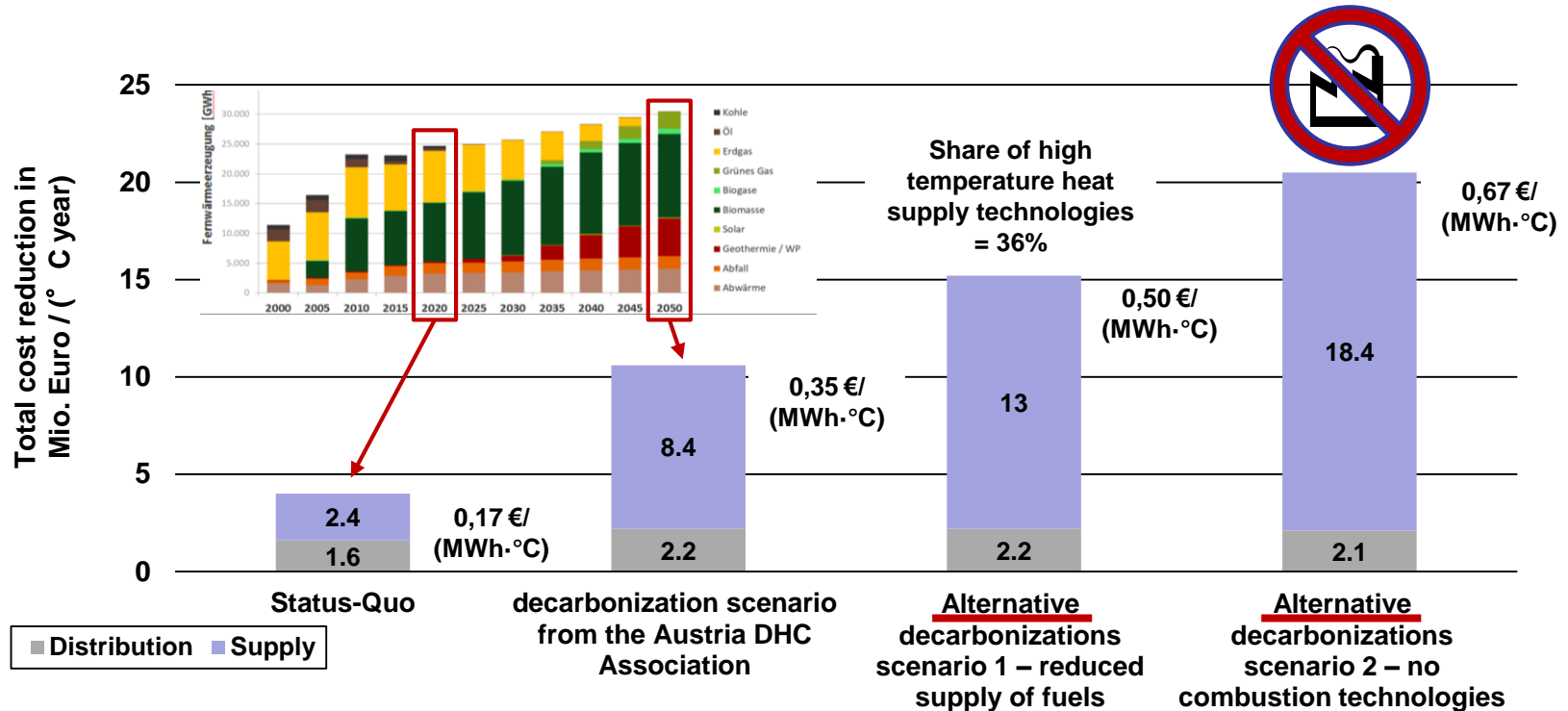


# RESULTS



Roman Geyer, Jürgen Krail, Benedikt Leitner, Ralf-Roman Schmidt, Paolo Leoni, Energy-economic assessment of reduced district heating system temperatures, Smart Energy, Volume 2, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.segy.2021.100011>

# ESTIMATION OF THE MONETARY EFFECTS FOR AUSTRIA

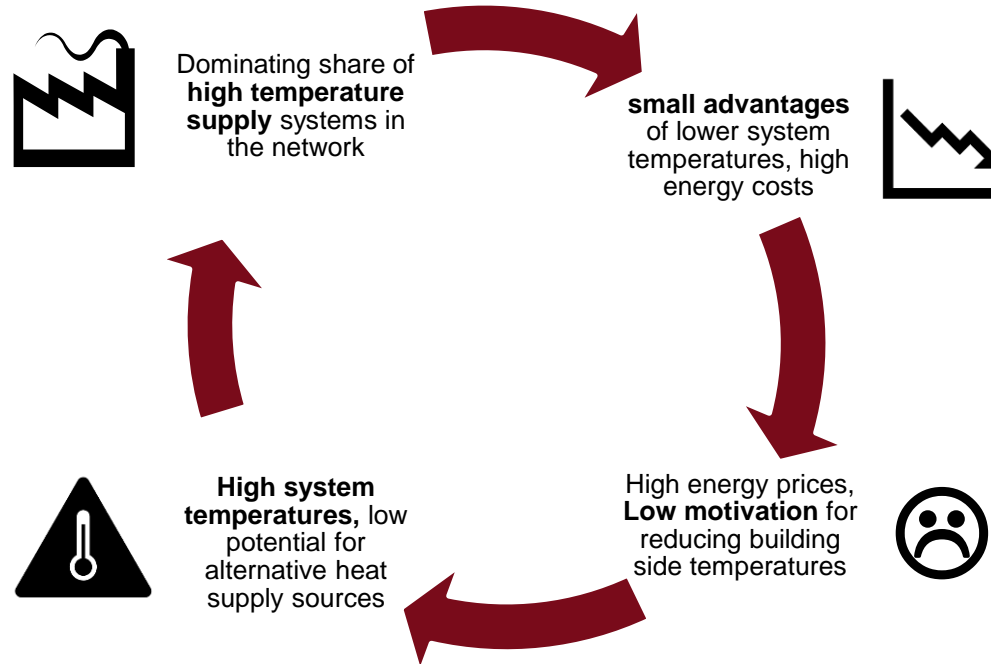


# BUSINESS MODELS FOR REDUCING DISTRICT HEATING RETURN TEMPERATURES

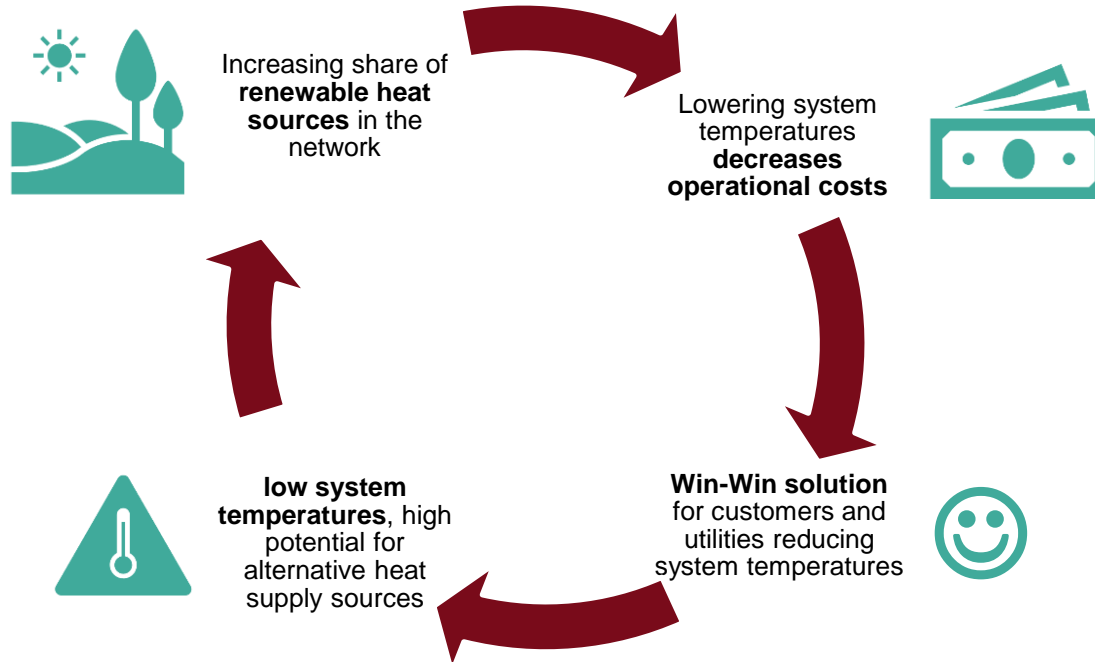
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# VICIOUS CIRCLE OF HIGH SYSTEM TEMPERATURES



# ADDED VALUE OF LOW SYSTEM TEMPERATURES



# HOW TO REDUCE THE SYSTEM TEMPERATURES?

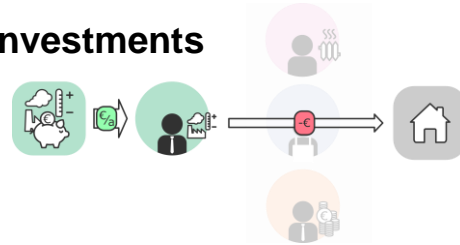
- **Counter measures** for correcting building side faults are well known and manageable
- The person supposed to bear the investment for optimization (**building owner**) is often different than person profiting from lower return temperatures (**operator**)



**Identification of suitable business models**

# POSSIBLE BUSINESS MODELS FOR REDUCING SYSTEM TEMPERATURES

## Utility Own Investments



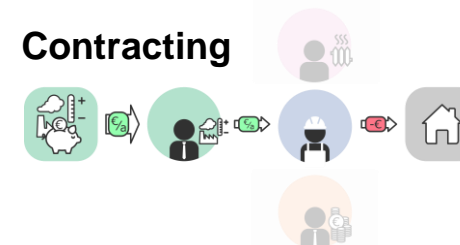
## Loan



## Motivational Tariffs



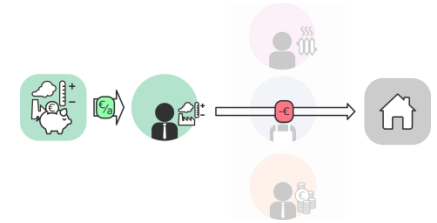
## Contracting



Paolo Leoni, Roman Geyer, Ralf-Roman Schmidt, Developing innovative business models for reducing return temperatures in district heating systems: Approach and first results, Energy, Volume 195, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2020.116963>

# (REFERENCE)

## BM-1: UTILITY OWN INVESTMENTS



- The utility takes over the investment and implements the return temperature-reducing measures. Repayment via savings in operational costs.

### Strength/ Opportunities

- Standard model
- utilities have know-how for correcting faults
- Can be implemented directly

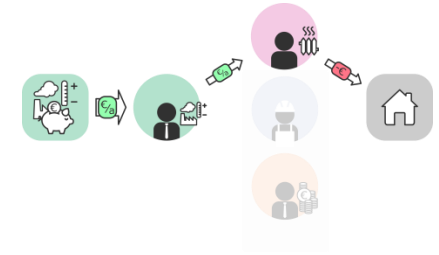
### Weaknesses/ Threats

- Availability of technical staff?
- Investment risk lies with the utility
- Possibly access restrictions?
- Some installations are complex
- Lack of interest in investing in customer plants + liability issues



## BM-2: MOTIVATIONAL TARIFFS

- The customer takes over the investment or carries out the measures. Repayment of the investment via a bonus (malus) tariff depending on the return temperature.



### Strength/ Opportunities

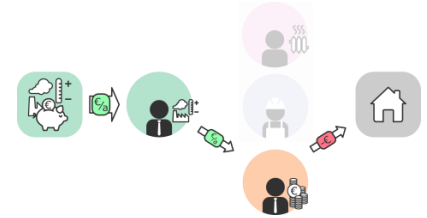
- Best practice examples available
- can be implemented directly by the utility
- Easily scalable
- Encourages behavioral change
- Risks remain with the customer
- Repayment of investments via lump sum rent including heating
- Digitalisation for visualisation
- Initiation of competition between customers?

### Weaknesses/ Threats

- Investor-user dilemma
- High complexity of the tariff
- Low customer satisfaction in case of malus
- Often long-term heat supply contracts
- Customer has little knowledge of and access to the system
- Billing according to temperature levels not permitted?

## BM-3: LOAN

- **External investors (e.g. crowdfunding) take over the investment. Repayment over an agreed period of time.**



### Strength/ Opportunities

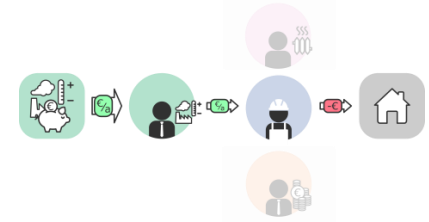
- New financing channels for the utility
- Citizen participation models/ investment in environmentally friendly/ long-term projects.
- Use within cooperatives?
- Utilisation of online platform increases visibility of the utility and transparency + Additional services possible

### Weaknesses/ Threats

- Guarantees regarding repayments?
- Data protection with regard to customer installations
- Cannot be implemented without further ado

## BM-4: CONTRACTING

- **An external contractor implements the measures (e.g. tendering according to the best bidder principle) Repayment of the investments via sharing of the real savings.**



### Strength/ Opportunities


- Measures are cost-effective due to economies of scale.
- Sharing of the risk between the contractor and the utility.
- Utility companies can act as contractors outside their own network area (increase in staff utilization).

### Weaknesses/ Threats

- Often short-term view of the contractors
- Negative relationship between utility and customer in case of failure
- Complicated contract design
- Measures for customer data protection
- cannot be implemented easily

# COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS AND SELECTION OF SUITABLE BUSINESS MODELS

## Excel Tool

| Evaluation of business models for return temperature reduction in district heating networks  |   |
|--|---|
| VERSION 0.5, 17.11.2020<br>Copyright © 2020 AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH. All Rights Reserved.  |   |
|   |   |
| <b>Introduction</b>  |   |
| This tool has been developed within the Austrian project T2LowEx (FFG-Nr. 858747) with the intention to support district heating (DH) utilities in the definition of business models for return temperature reduction in DH networks. The tool considers a list of possible secondary-side optimization measures and evaluates costs and benefits of user-selected scenarios. The approach consists of the following steps:    |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Inputs from user to specify network and building parameters</li><li>- Inputs from user to parameterize the possible business models</li><li>- Cost-benefit-analysis of measures for individual buildings</li><li>- User selects measures and business models for individual buildings</li><li>- Scale-up on the entire DH network and calculation of the business model KPIs</li></ul> |   |
| Input in the yellow cells are mandatory<br>Input in the light-yellow cells are optional  |   |
| Sheets:  | Description:  |
| 1. Network and Building data   | Please enter the requested data of the DH network and of the buildings to be optimized. Buildings can be clustered in max. 3 types.   |
| 2. Business Model data   | Please enter the requested data for the parameterization of the four business models: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Business Model 1: 100% of the optimization investment is paid by the DH utility</li><li>- Business Model 2: Customer investment motivated through bonus system</li><li>- Business model 3: Financing (e.g. loans, crowdfunding, funds)</li><li>- Business model 4: Energy-saving contract</li></ul> |
| 3a. Measure assumptions  | Overview of the model assumptions on measure costs, effects and life time<br><i>Changes are optional</i>  |
| 3b. Measure check  | This sheet reports costs and effects of measures calculated for each building type based on model assumptions<br>The user can overwrite the values in the yellow cells in case more reliable data is available<br><i>Changes are optional</i>   |
| 4. Business Model selection  | This sheet reports KPIs calculated for the four defined business models<br>Based on these KPIs, the user can select the business model for each measure and for each building type<br>Please enter in the yellow cells the value 1 (selected) or 0 (not selected)<br>It is possible to select up to one measure per building type and business model  |
| Aggregated results   | Scale-up over the entire network considering that the measures and business models selected for each building type in the sheet before are implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CAPEX of the involved stakeholders</li><li>- Effects on the network operation</li><li>- NPV for the DH utility after 5, 10, and 15 years</li></ul>  |

### • Input:

- Data on the network, buildings, tariff
- Measures, costs, effects (CRG), life time
- BM specific data (interest rate, height of the bonus, duration of contract ...)

### • output:

- Building-specific costs and effects
- KPI calculations, selection of BM
- Results scaled to network level

→ Use of the tool in the case studies of the project partners

# COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS AND SELECTION OF SUITABLE BUSINESS MODELS

- **Example: implementation of a motivational tariff in a DH network**
  - Standard price at return temperatures between: 55,1 – 60° C
  - 1.8% / 3.5% / 5.1% reduction at: 50,1 – 55° C / 45,1° C – 50° C / < 45° C
  - The customer was implementing different optimization measures
- The resulting **economic effects were evaluated** using the excel tool for two different DH networks:

## Network 1: CRG = 0.21 €/(MWh K)

| NPV for DH utility [€] |                |                |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| After 5 years          | After 10 years | After 15 years |
| - 76.933               | - 69.709       | - 64.310       |

## Network 2: CRG = 1.08 €/(MWh K)

| NPV for DH utility [€] |                |                |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| After 5 years          | After 10 years | After 15 years |
| - 34.396               | 4.614          | 33.764         |

# HOW TO IDENTIFY REASONS FOR HIGH RETURN TEMPERATURES?



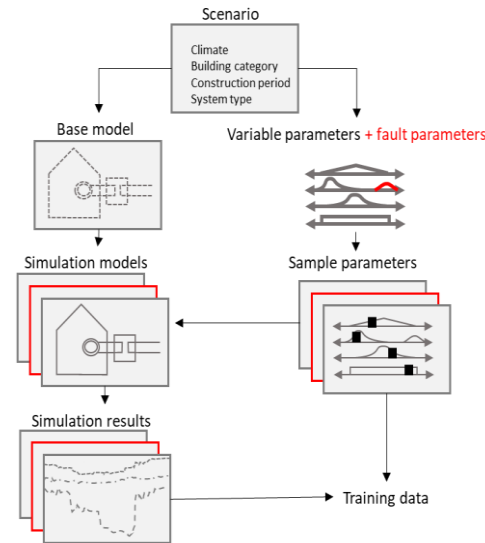
# CHARACTERIZATION OF TYPICAL FAULTS IN BUILDING INSTALLATIONS

- The **main reason for high temperatures** lies on the secondary side: the building installations
- **Various faults can occur**, including wrong design of heat exchanger or radiators, false setpoints, sensor misplacement, valve misfunctions, unnecessary bypasses, user behaviour ...
- This faults do not actually affect the thermal comfort. Thus, **customers are often unaware of them.**

| Kategorie                   | Fehlerquelle                      | Problem / Auswirkung   | Mögliche Maßnahme  | Fehlerortung   | Aufwand          | ... |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------|-----|
| Hausanschlussstation        | Falsche Lage des Wärmeübertragers | Bei horizontaler Lage Anschlüsse oben; Schmutzpartikel setzen sich ab; Anschlüsse unten: Luft sammelt sich                                       | Plattenwärmetauscher immer senkrecht montieren   | Sichtkontrolle   | Mittel - Hoch    |     |
|                             | Regelung                          | Überfahren der primärseitigen Fahrkurve kann instabiles Regieverhalten in der Hausanschlussstation bewirken                                      | Anpassen der Fahrkurve laut Herstellerangaben und Adaptierung nach durchgeführtem hydraulischem Abgleich   | häufiges Taktten von Anlagenkomponenten  | Niedrig          |     |
| Hausanlage                  | Fehlender hydraulischer Abgleich  | Über- bzw. Unterversorgung von Heizflächen; Komforteinbußen "Wohnraumklima": erhöhte Heiz- und Pumpstromkosten                                   | Hydraulischen Abgleich durchführen   | Ungleiche Wärmeverteilungen in den einzelnen Räumen; störende Betriebsgeräusche an Heizkörpern; "Diakomfort" | Niedrig          |     |
|                             | Nutzerverhalten                   | falsches Lüften; verstellen der Heizkörper durch Möbel; falsche Benützung der Heizkörper (ein Heizkörper zum Heizen für die ganze Wohnung); etc. | Stoßlüften statt Fenster dauerhaft gekippt; auf freistehende Heizkörper achten; Nutzen aller Heizkörper in jedem Raum und Verwendung der Thermostate | Aufklärungsmaßnahmen und Bewusstseinsbildung bei den Nutzern   | Niedrig - Mittel |     |
| Trinkwassererwärmungsanlage | Anlage / System selbst            | niedrige RLT nur möglich, wenn sich das Heizungswasser an der Sekundärseite abkühlen kann  | Wassermengen kontrollieren → Einregulieren der Verbraucher; Zählerpositionen optimieren; drehzahlgeregelte Pumpen                                    | Anlageninspektion / Überprüfen der hydr. Schemata  | Niedrig - Hoch   |     |
|                             | Zirkulationssystem                | Speicherlose Durchflusssysteme liefern im zapffreien Zeit systembedingt RLT über der minimal erforderlichen Zirkulations-RLT von 55 °C           | stufenweise / klassische TW. Erwärmung; Einsatz von Speicher (Zwischenspeicherung der Restwärme möglich)   | Anlageninspektion / Überprüfen der hydr. Schemata  | Niedrig - Hoch   |     |
| ...                         |                                   |  |  |  |                  |     |

# FAULT IDENTIFICATION BY ANALYSES OF MONITORING DATA

- **Example:** Application of a **self-learning algorithm** for fault detection using monitoring data
- **Training data** based on simulation of building and technical system
- Accounting for **variability in parameters** (constructions, systems, occupancy...)



Aurélien Brès et al: 2019

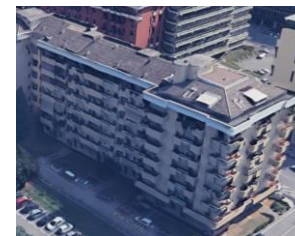
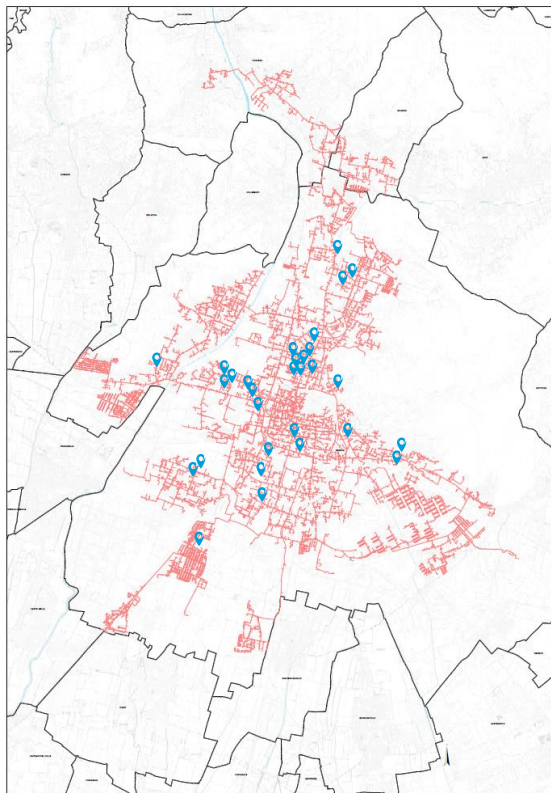
<https://doi.org/10.26868/25222708.2019.210629>

\*when considering data from secondary side temp. measurements using simulation models



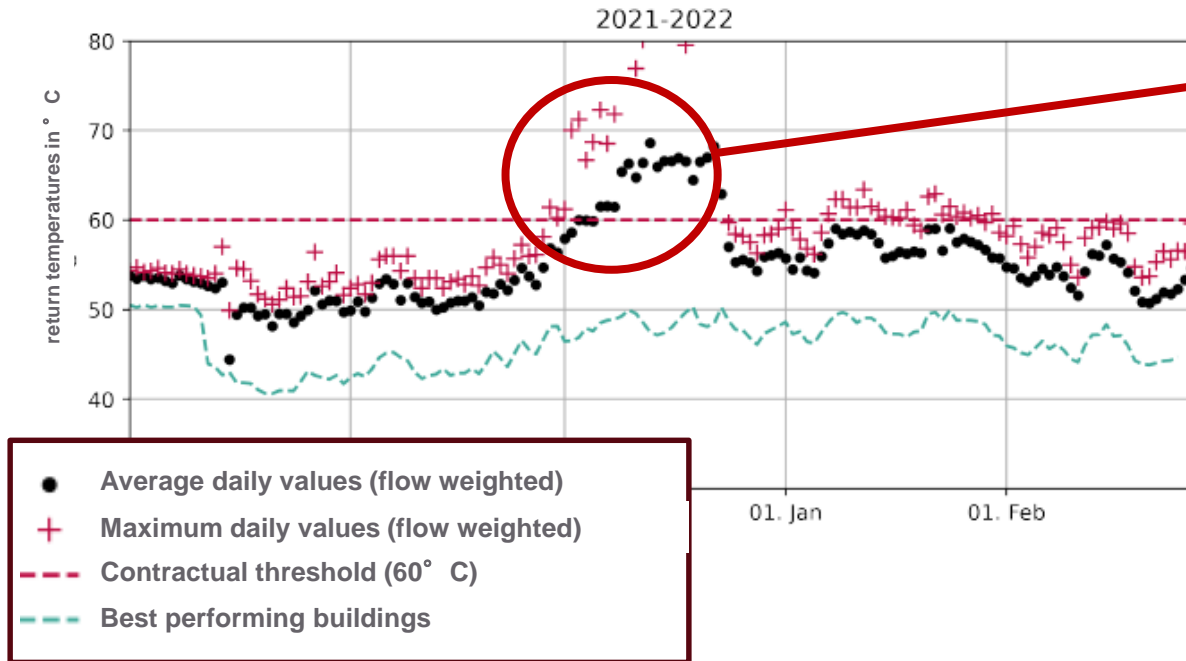
# DEMONSTRATION IN THE DH NETWORK OF BRESCIA (ITALY)

- 680 km network length
- > 21.500 customers
- 1.000 GWh supplied heat
- Supply / return temp: 90°C ÷ 130°C / 60°C;
- Supply via: Waste to Energy, CHP + heat recovery
- **Demonstration of the fault detection algorithm in 31 multi family houses (MFH) distributed in the city**





# EXAMPLE RESULTS

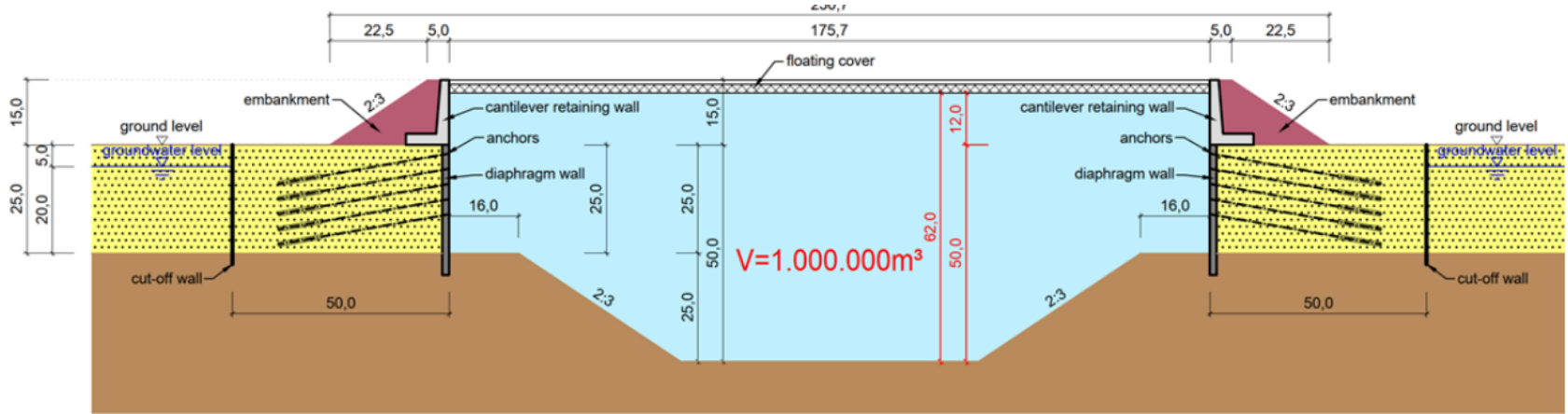


1. high return temp. have been **identified by the algorithm**

2. the **communication with the local technicians** revealed the reason for this behaviour (*heat exchanger fouling, and cleaned in Dec.*) + **counter measures** were suggested to avoid fouling in the future

# TEMPERATURE REDUCTIONS

- **High DH network temperatures** create a fatal lock-in effect and significantly reduce the potential for decarbonization
- **Future prove DH networks** will be dominated by diversified, alternative heat source where **low system temperatures will have a significant benefit**
- **Digitalization and AI** can support the identification of optimization potentials and the implementation of business models
- For implementing measures to reduce system temperatures the **customer needs to be involved**, creating win-win situations
- Every **involvement and communication towards the customer** is sensitive and needs to be planned carefully;
- **Contractual terms as well as responsibilities / ownership** must be carefully evaluated when proposing activities on customers side;

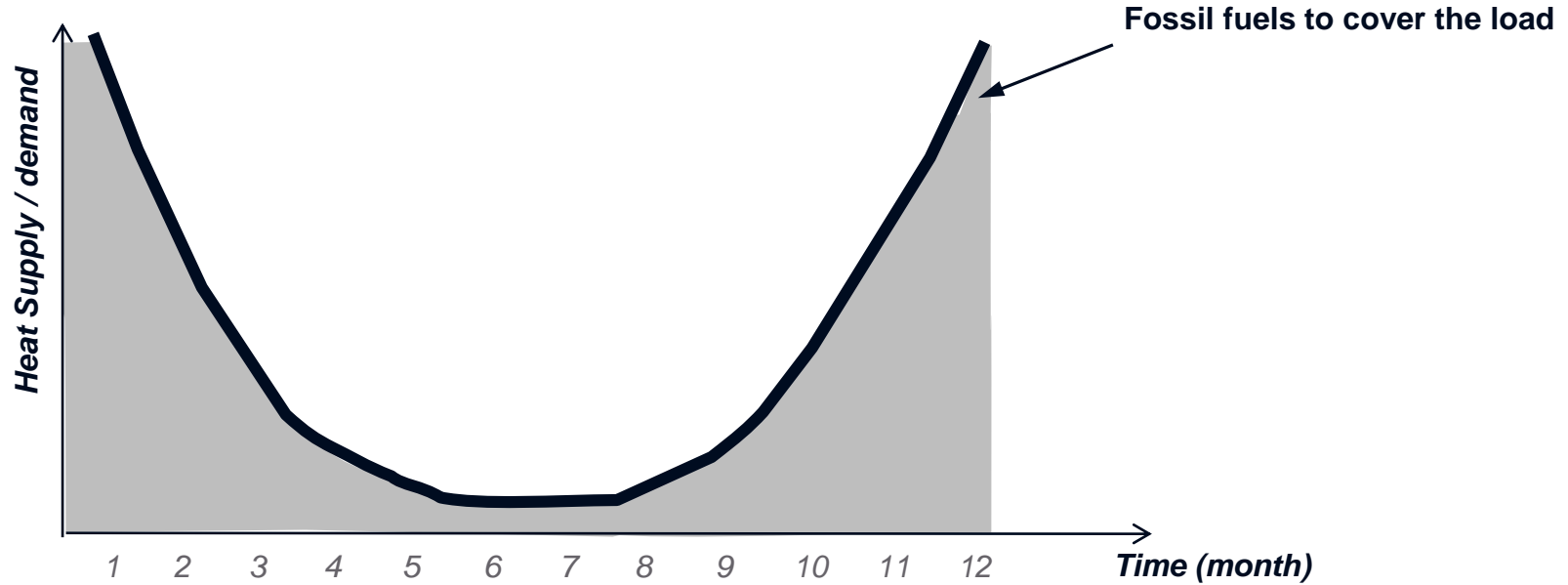


[https://nachhaltigwirtschaften.at/resources/nw\\_pdf/events/202111/23/2-2\\_Deix\\_van\\_Helden\\_WimvanHelden.pdf?m=1637609879&](https://nachhaltigwirtschaften.at/resources/nw_pdf/events/202111/23/2-2_Deix_van_Helden_WimvanHelden.pdf?m=1637609879&)

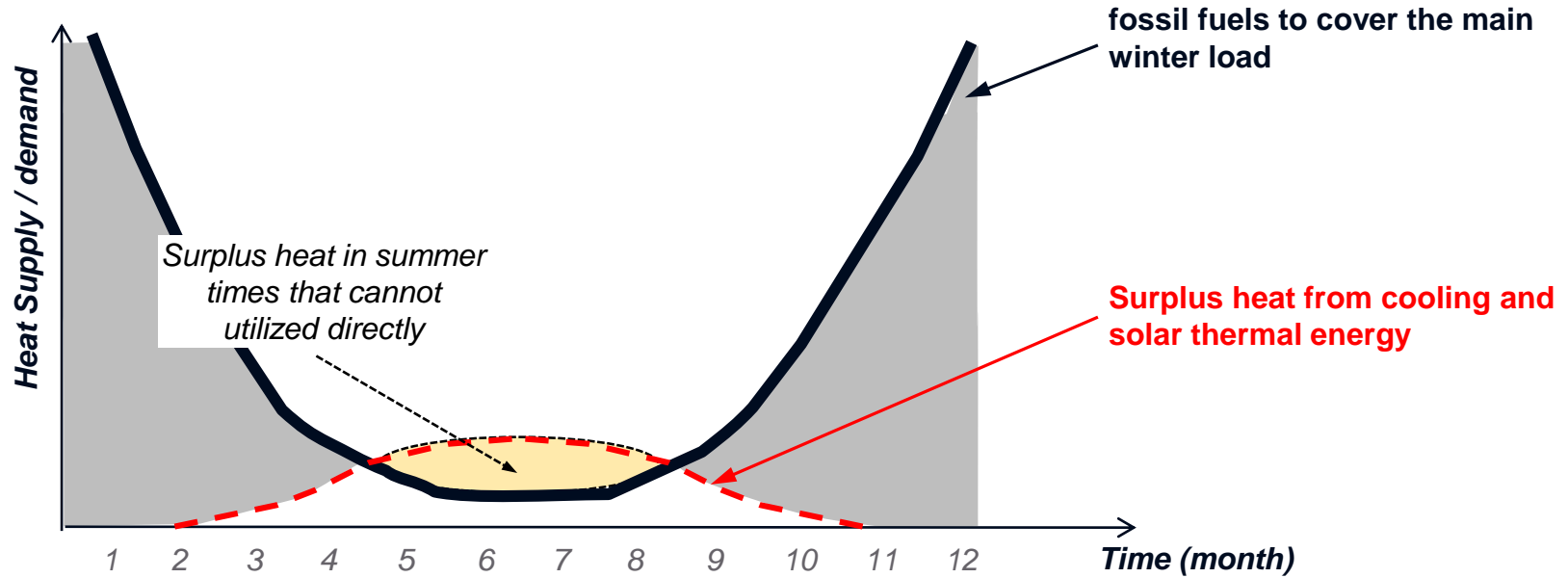
# SEASONAL ENERGY STORAGES



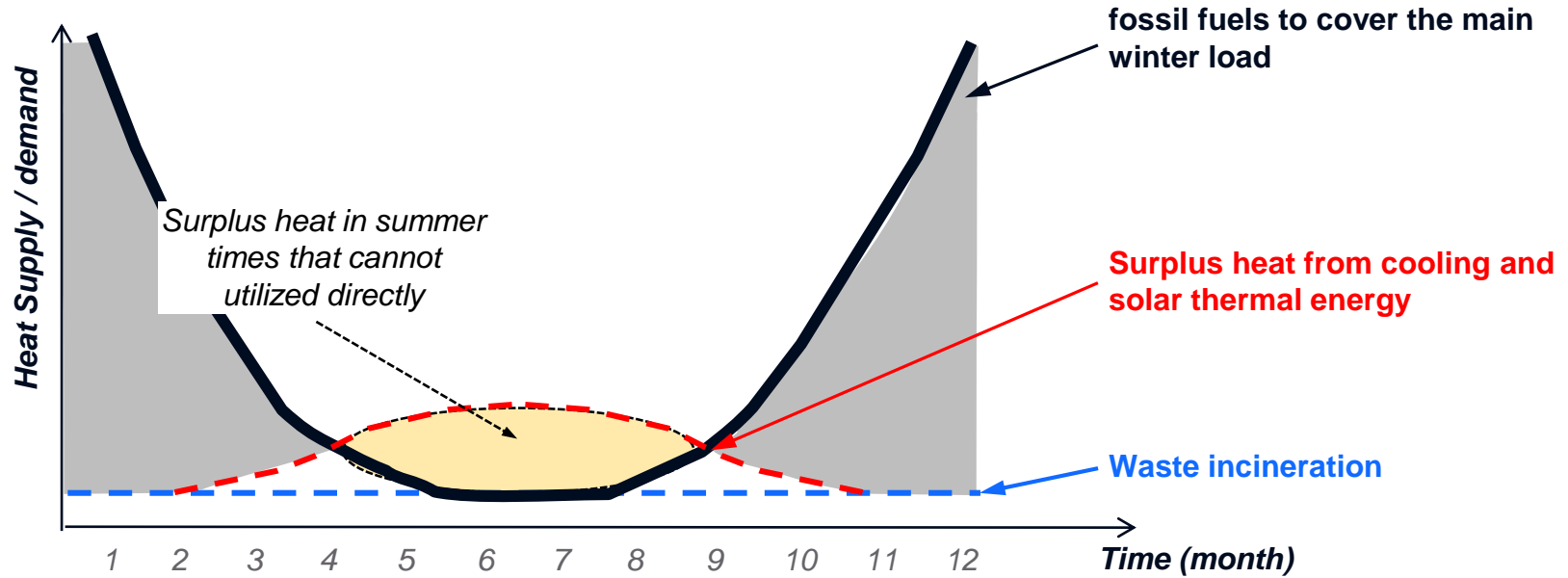
# MOTIVATION: SURPLUS HEAT IN SUMMER TIMES



# MOTIVATION: SURPLUS HEAT IN SUMMER TIMES

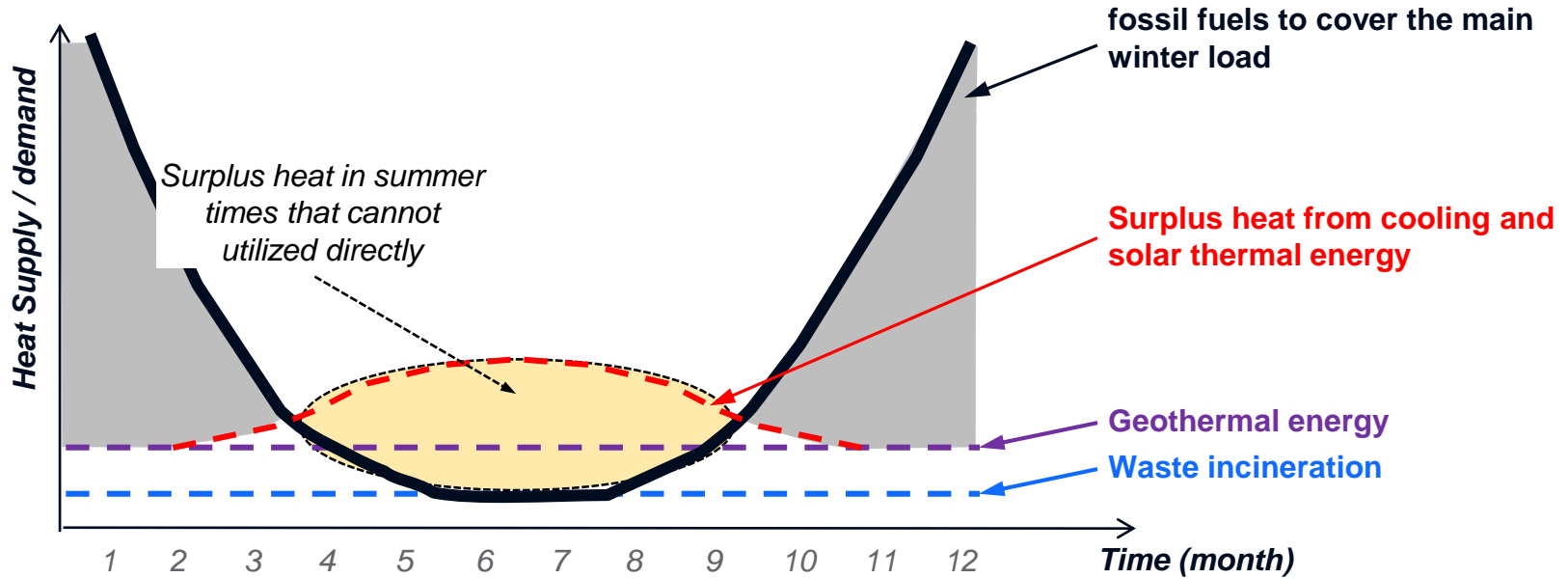


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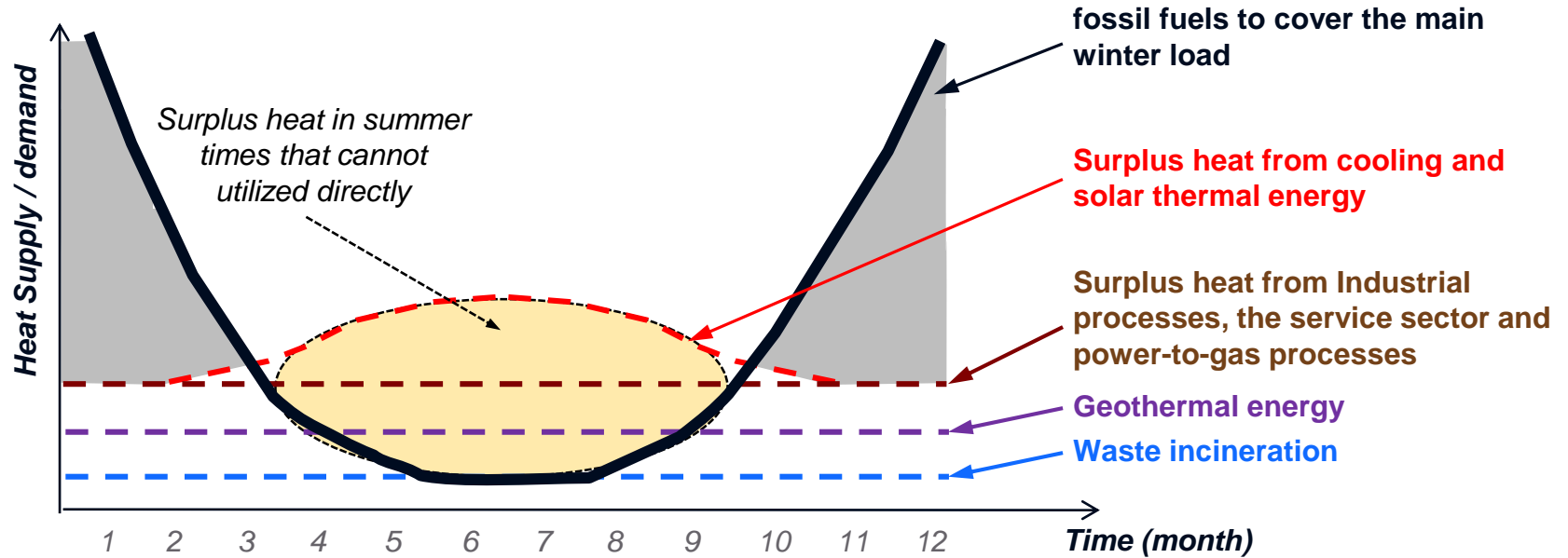




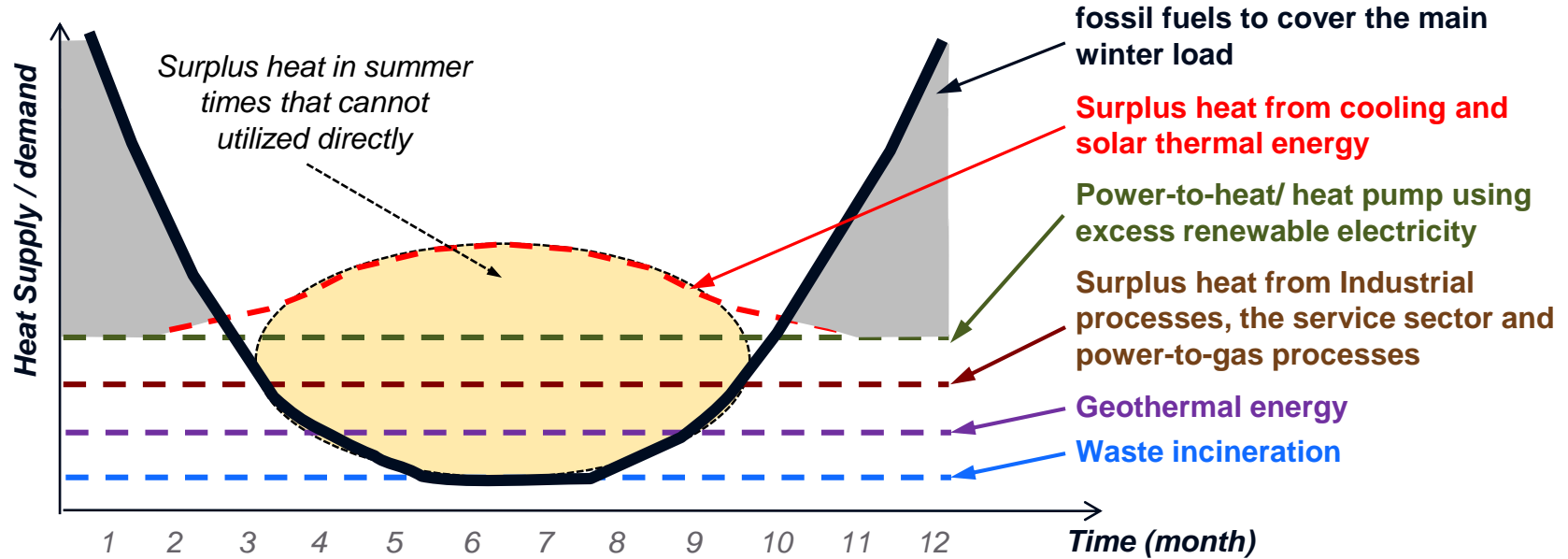
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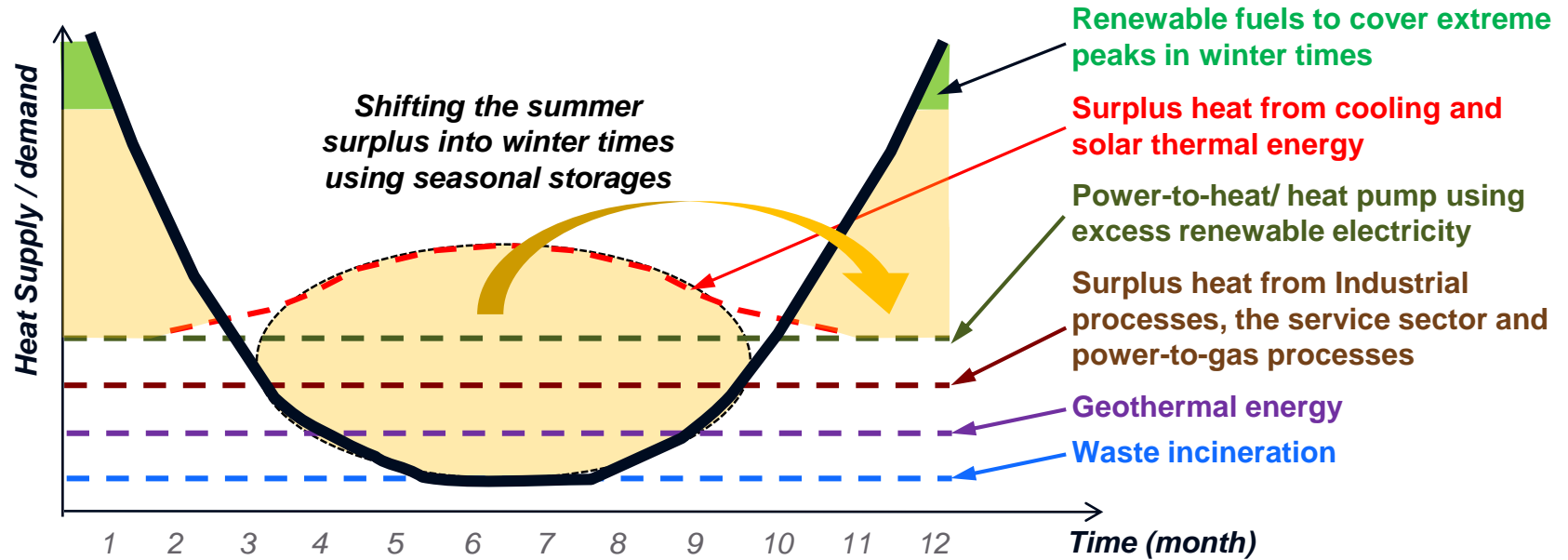
# MOTIVATION: SURPLUS HEAT IN SUMMER TIMES



# MOTIVATION: SURPLUS HEAT IN SUMMER TIMES



# USING SURPLUS HEAT IN WINTER TIMES

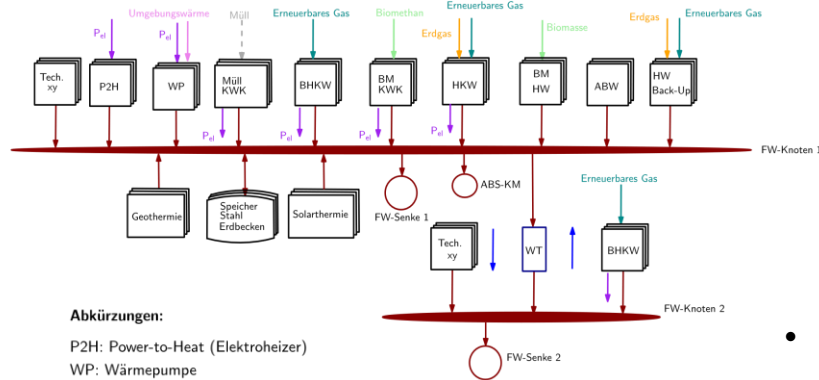


## EXAMPLE:

- **Model-based optimization of the future supply portfolio of a district heating network (medium-sized city) in Austria**
  - For a long-term and holistic view of the heat supply an optimised "no regrets" heat and gas strategy for the entire province was developed, including
    - supply of green biomethane & hydrogen;
    - heating demand and supply
      - rural and **urban district heating network**
      - Decentralized heating sector
      - Industrial heating / gas demand
    - Infrastructure/ gas grid

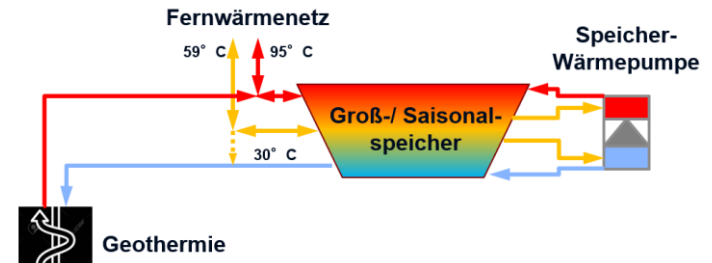
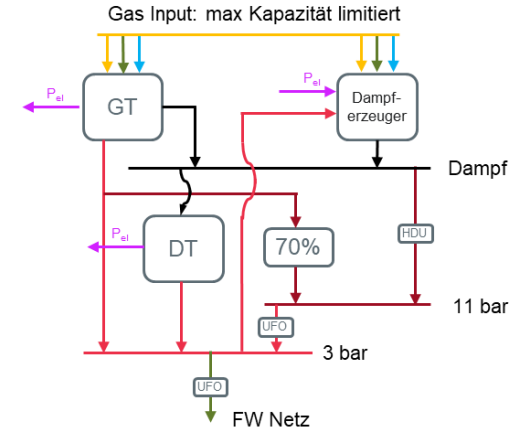
# AIT DISTRICT HEATING DECARBONIZATION MODELLING & OPTIMIZATION FRAMEWORK

- **Method:** Mixed integer optimization, objective function: minimisation of the discounted total system costs, consideration of
  - **energy price fluctuations** (forecasts of gas and electricity prices)
  - Different degrees of district heating **expansion**
  - current and potential **new heat supply technologies + storages**
  - grid transmission **capacities**.
- **Model horizon:** from 2026 to 2050.
  - Use of four base years and 6 representative weeks; temporal resolution: 3h (achieving acceptable computation time and convergence).
- **Results:** Optimal investment path (incl. plant sizes), heat production costs etc.



# CONSIDERED TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS

- Existing plants + possible new plants
  - CHP (extraction condensation, back pressure); heat only boilers, waste incineration
  - heat pumps, solar- + geothermal energy, waste heat
  - Large-scale storage (steel tank, PIT storage)
- Plants with multiple energy flows
- Partial load behaviour
- Various interconnected sub-grids
- Remark heat pumps:**
  - Operation is optimised according to electricity prices
  - Cascade interconnection / Return temperature reduction
    - Better utilisation of geothermal energy
    - Increase in storage capacity
  - Different operating modes and COPs for the same heat pump



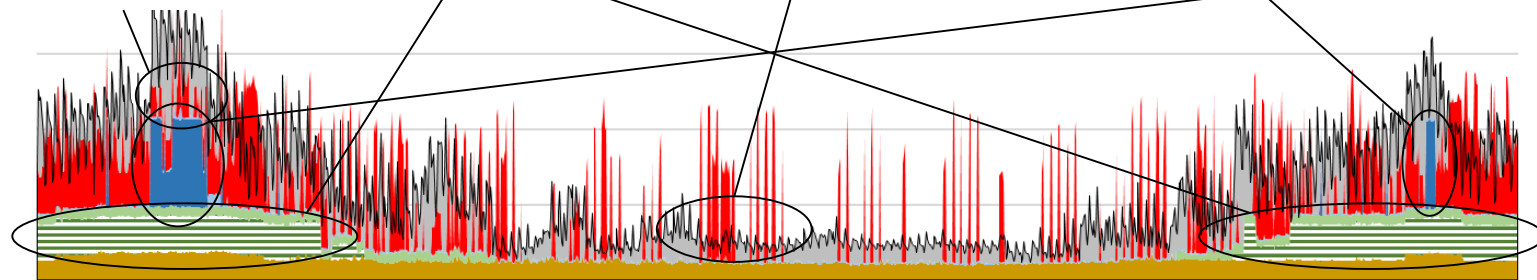
# RESULTS: WITHOUT SEASONAL STORAGE

Due to missing alternatives: operation of HP also during periods with high electricity prices

High amounts of biofuels

Limited buffer charging at low electricity prices

CHP operation due to high electricity prices in winter



■ Base load supply   
 ■ Biomass HOB   
 ■ Biomass CHP   
 ■ CHP 1   
 ■ CHP 2   
 ■ heat pump   
 ■ Storage charging   
 □ demand



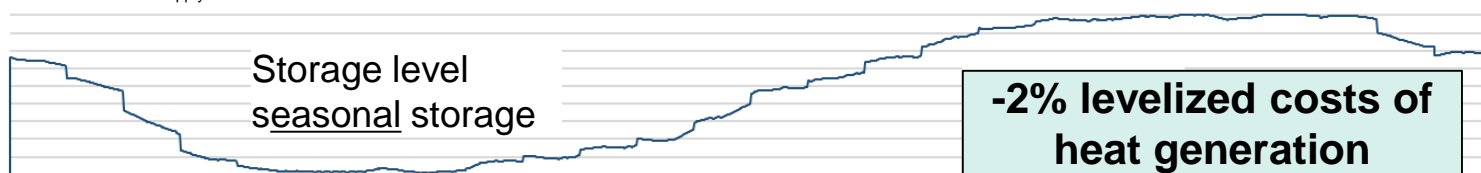
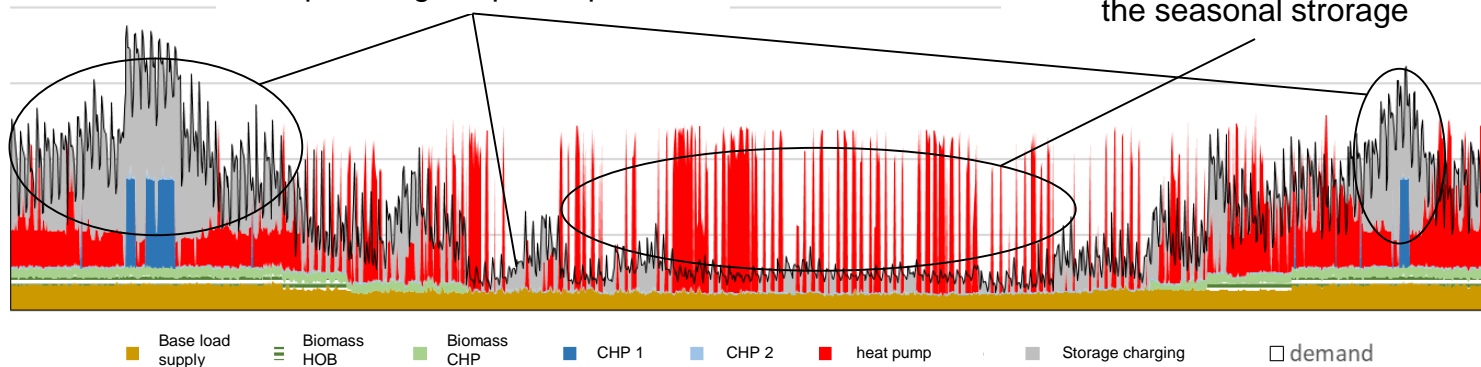
Storage level  
buffer tank



# RESULTS: WITH SEASONAL STORAGE

Discharging of the seasonal storage mainly in winter times + for optimizing the plant operation

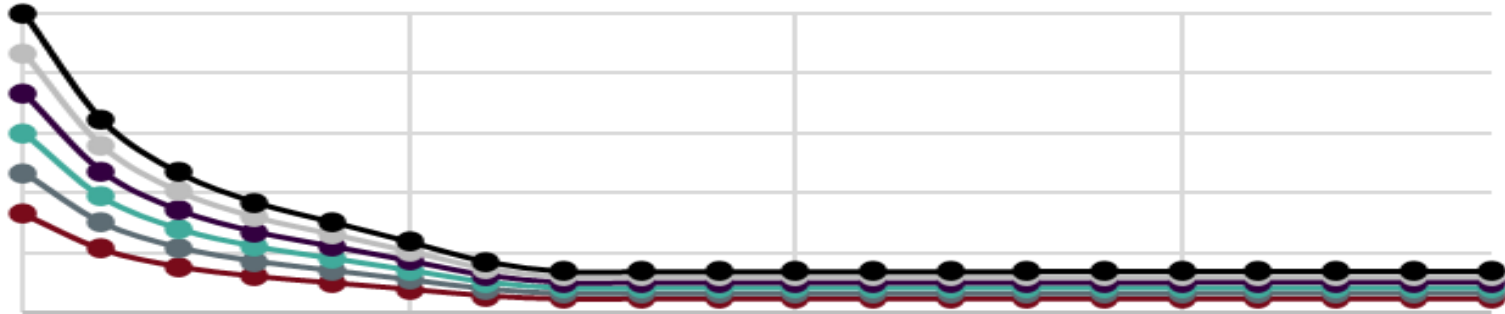
Low electricity prices in summer + high source temperatures → operation of the HP and charging the seasonal storage



**-2% levelized costs of heat generation**  
 compared to the scenario without seasonal storage

# SEASONAL STORAGES

- Large-scale storages create a **seasonal balance** (move surpluses heat from the summer (waste heat, geothermal energy, HP, CHP ...) to the winter) + are also important for **short-term flexibility**
  - Optimization of use of sector coupling technologies (**HP, CHP**)
  - Reduction of **biofuel** demand
- Can be **economic feasible** if low costs of surplus heat is available, the costs of biofuels is high and long observation periods are considered
- **CONTRA:**
  - Space requirement, additional grid infrastructure may be necessary.
  - Possibly acceptance problems?
  - Technology availability (largest storage so far = 0.2 million m<sup>3</sup>) and feasible temperature levels



# RISK ASSESMENT USING MONTE-CARLO-SIMULATIONS

This part of the presentation is an extract from  
[https://iewt2023.eeg.tuwien.ac.at/download/contribution/presentation/266/266\\_presentation\\_20230223\\_100053.pdf](https://iewt2023.eeg.tuwien.ac.at/download/contribution/presentation/266/266_presentation_20230223_100053.pdf)



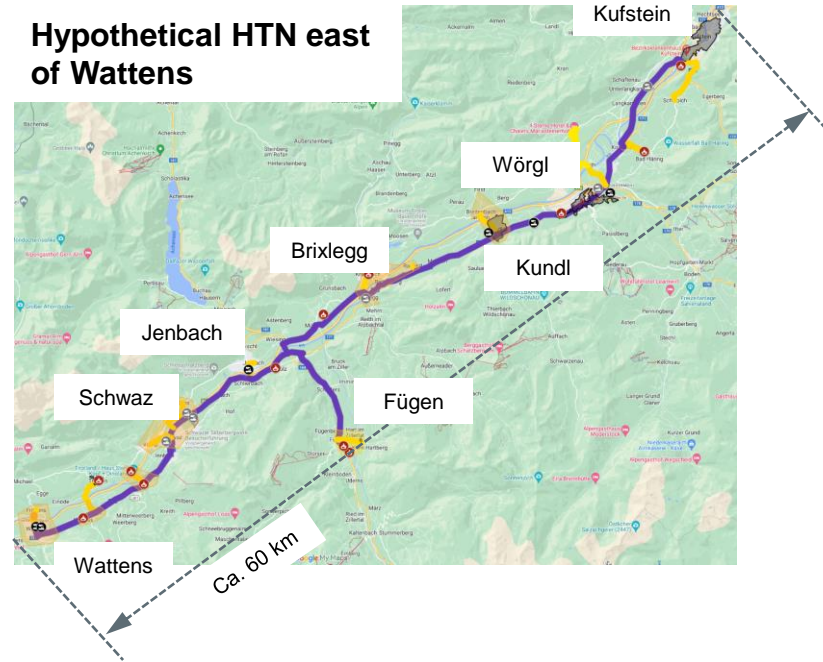
# MOTIVATION

- **The development of district heating networks or their decarbonization is associated with considerable uncertainties**
  - **Electricity** prices (average values and hourly fluctuations)
  - Prices of **renewable fuels** (especially H<sub>2</sub>, biomethane and biomass),
  - Availability of alternative heat sources (especially **waste heat**, but also deep geothermal energy) and seasonal storage.

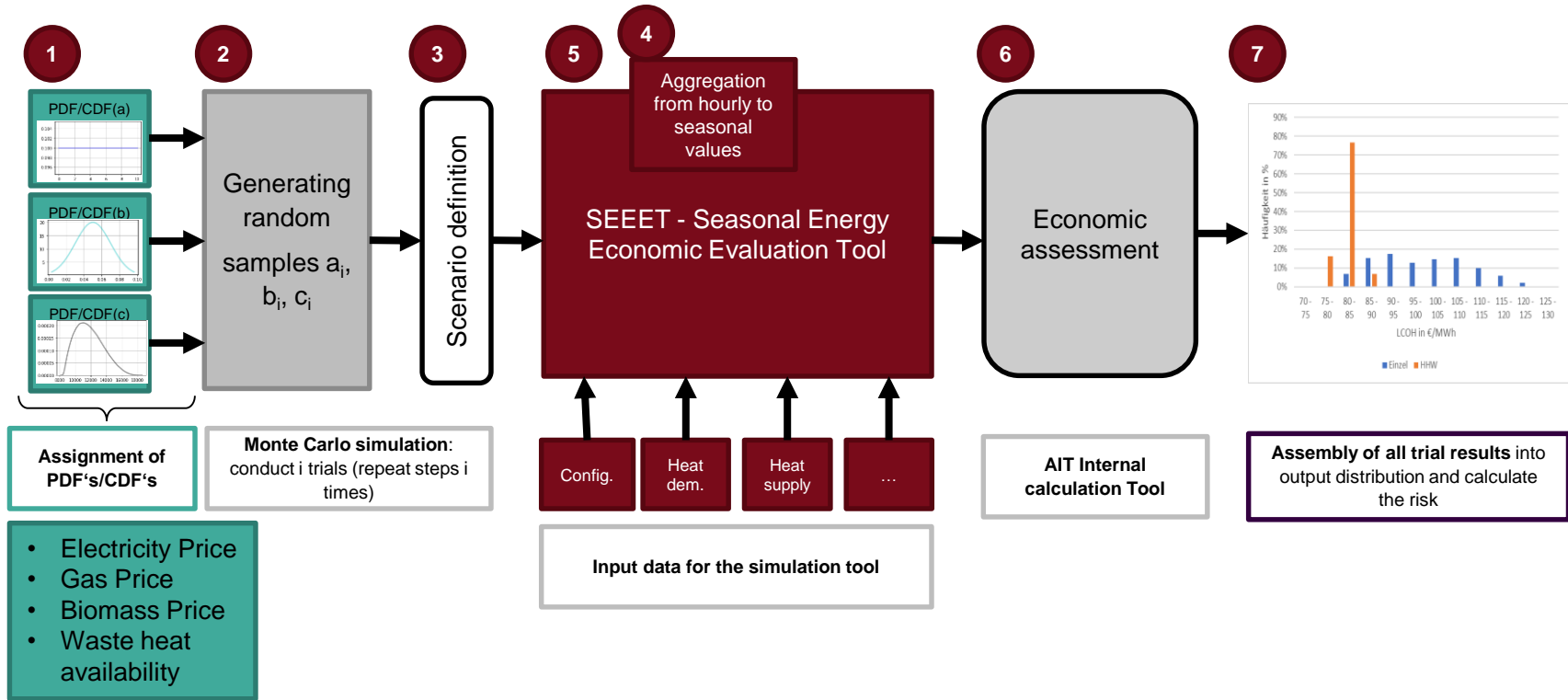
# CASE STUDY: INTERREGIONAL HEAT SUPPLY NETWORK IN AUSTRIA (INN VALEY)

- Identification of the most promising **heat sinks and sources** (8 industrial waste heat suppliers + existing biomass heating plants).
- Elaboration of a **basic pipeline route** + costs
- Calculation of **economic efficiency** via seasonal balances (no optimisation)
- Performing a **risk analysis** in comparison to an "individual" heat supply using Monte Carlo simulation

**Focus of this presentation**

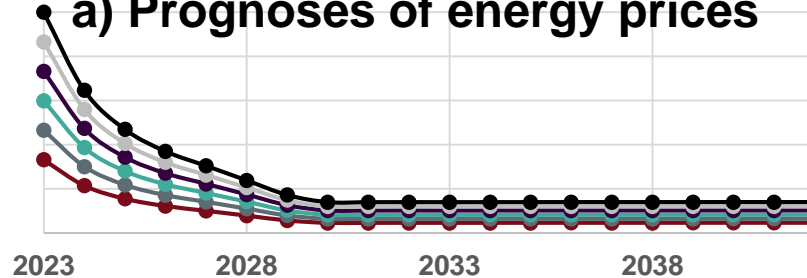


# METHOD



# 1 DEFINITION OF THE UNCERTAINTY FACTORS

## a) Prognoses of energy prices



- Hourly electricity prices
- Monthly biofuel prices
- Yearly biomethane prices (= Gas price + Premium)

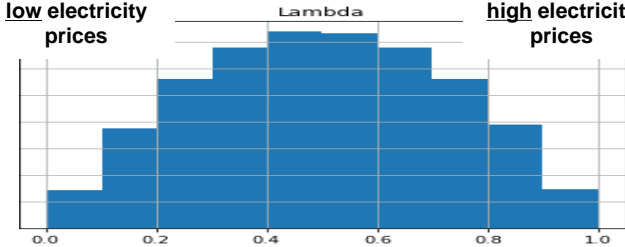
Source: Gas price: EU Energy Outlook 2060, electric prices: öffentlich verfügbare Studien, Schwankungen: VAR-Modell, Biomassepreise: Biomasseverband

## b) Availability of waste heat

- Little data available on when and under what conditions the supply of waste heat fails
- Here: Use of WKÖ statistics on company insolvencies, calculation of the average probability per year.

Lambda = 0 →  
Scenarios with  
low electricity  
prices

Lambda = 1 →  
Scenarios with  
high electricity  
prices



### Lambda draw

- The distribution of the energy price scenarios is described by a beta distribution
- $Price = \text{Lambda} \cdot Price_{max} + (1 - \text{Lambda}) \cdot Price_{min}$

## 2 SZENARIO DEFINITION

- Example of a draw X

|          |        | year, when waste heat is not longer available |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|----------|--------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Scenario | Lambda | Waste heat supplier 1                         | Waste heat supplier 2 | Waste heat supplier 3 | Waste heat supplier 4 | Waste heat supplier 5 | Waste heat supplier 6 | Waste heat supplier 7 | Waste heat supplier 8 |
| X        | 0.73   | 2033  | -                     | 2040                  | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |

- 3 • N draws will be done and handed to the simulation tool

- 4 • For each draw, the economic full load hours of CHP and WPs are calculated using the hourly electricity prices + aggregated to seasonal values



## TECHNO-ECONOMIC EVALUATION

- Using the **simulation programme „SEEET“** (developed within the project [MEMPHIS 2.0](#))
- Consideration of seasonal differences with regard to the main influencing parameters (heat demand and generation, electricity prices, etc.)
- **Comparing two configurations**

### INDIVIDUAL

- Decarbonization on municipal level
- Exchange of oil and coal heating with biomass and heat pumps
- Exchange gas heating with biomethane / biomass/ heat pump

### HEAT HIGHWAY

- Connecting all municipalities via a interregional DH transmission network (90% connection rate)
- Maximizing the waste heat utilization
- Integration of large scale CHP and HP

# CALCULATION OF THE LEVELIZED COSTS OF HEAT (LCOH)

6

## LCOH INDIVIDUAL



### Energy Cost

- Biomass
- Electricity
- Biomethane



### CAPEX

- Individual generation plants



### Depreciation

- Heating plant



### OPEX

- All generation units



### Reinvest

- Assumption: Existing individual plants are at 50% of the service life

## LCOH HEAT HIGHWAY



### Energy Cost

- Biomass
- Electricity
- Profits from electricity sales



### CAPEX

- Individual generation plants



### Depreciation

- Heating plant
- Networks
- CHP
- Large-scale heat pump
- Storage



### OPEX

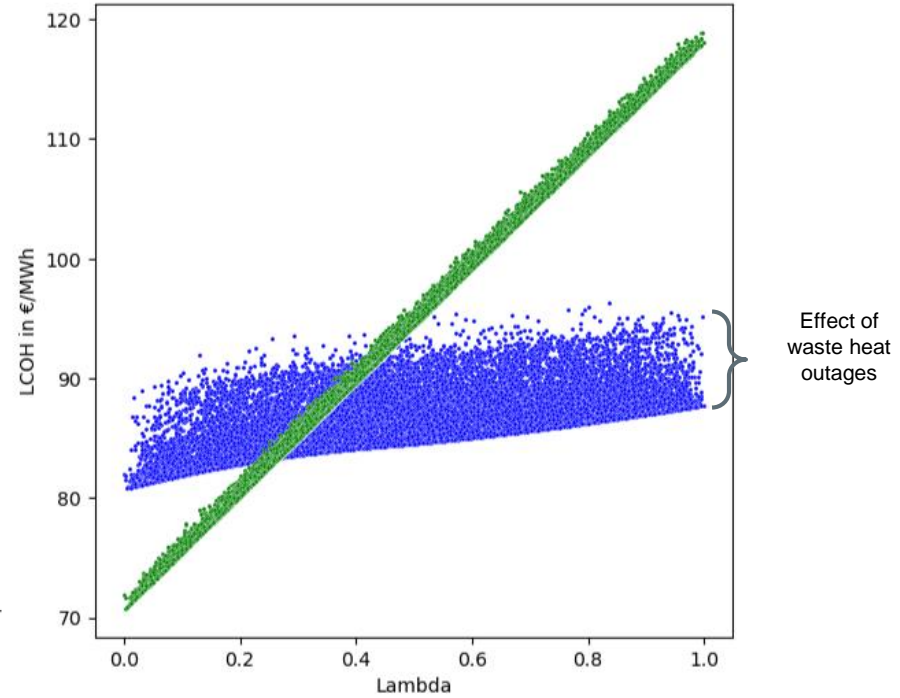
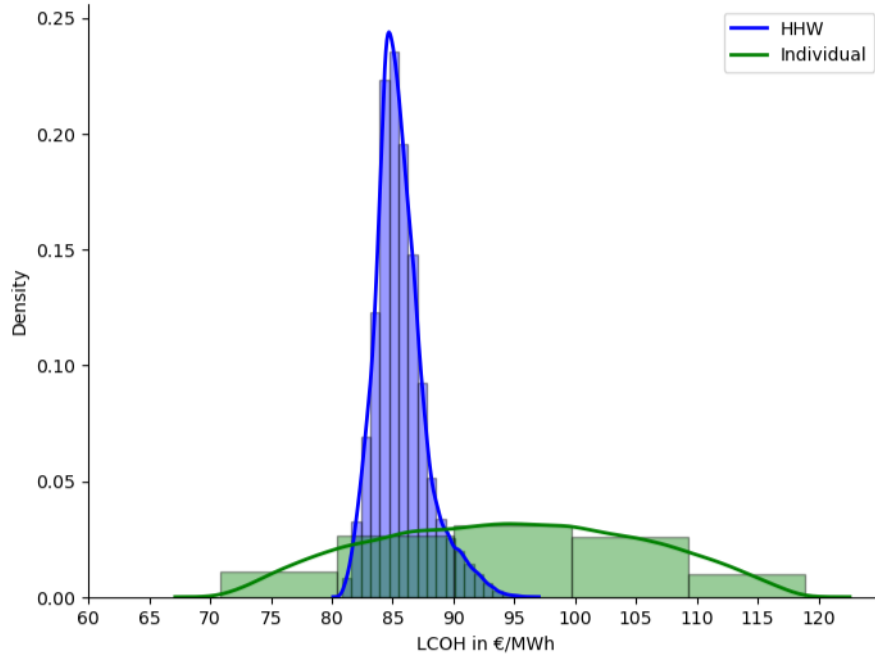
- All generation units



### Reinvest

- Assumption: Existing individual plants are at 50% of the service life

# 7 RESULTS (PRELIMINARY)



N = 50.000

# RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Uncertainties** regarding energy prices have a considerable influence on the economic efficiency of **individual** heat supply.
- Compared to individual heat supply options, **district heating** networks can
  - optimize the use of waste heat (favorable base load), utilize
  - heat pumps (use when electricity prices are low) and
  - CHP (use at high electricity prices)and as a consequence, form a very **robust system**
- However, **individual heat pumps** enable the use of locally generated PV, participation in energy communities, provision of cooling, etc., which was not considered in the context of this study

# OUTLOOK



# OUTLOOK: DeRiskDH

“Risk minimization for decarbonizing heating networks via network temperature reductions and flexibility utilization”

- A green energy lab project
- Run-time: 15.01.2023 – 14.01.2026

**Optimised buildings**

- Analyse and optimize **return temperatures** and **flexibility** of DH connected buildings
- Quantify technical reasons for sub-optimal performance and **measures to improve the building performance**, understand interactions/ **interdependencies**

**Innovative secondary DH networks**

- Develop **robust systems** with low temperatures, **high flexibility**, high share of local heat supply
- **retrofitting** measures on a district scale
- investigate and implement **innovative control algorithms** for the buildings, network and substations

**Overall DH network analysis**

- Analyse **technical options** for the decarbonization of DH networks
- consider optimized **buildings**, future decentralized low temperatures **supply units** and seasonal **storages**.
- Analyse **hydraulic** constrains and heat losses

*Technical analysis and demonstration*

**Risk minimisation for decarbonisation**

- **Monte Carlo** simulations for assessing different scenarios and risks
- Evaluating interdependencies on a **national energy system** level
- considering the **effects of return temperature** reductions and **flexibility** utilization from the technical analysis
- Develop a **general understanding** of the different risks and **apply** the methodology

*Economic evaluation and replication*

**business models and framework conditions**

- **implementing** the DeRiskDH solutions
- **Cost-benefit** assessment
- **Stakeholder** involvement
- **Recommendations** (energy planning processes / regulations / subsidies)

*Socio-economic perspective*

# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Dr.-Ing. Ralf-Roman Schmidt

**AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH**  
Giefinggasse 2 | 1210 Vienna | Austria  
M +43(0) 664 235 19 01 | F +43(0) 50550-6679  
[Ralf-Roman.Schmidt@ait.ac.at](mailto:Ralf-Roman.Schmidt@ait.ac.at) | <http://www.ait.ac.at>

