



Papieri District Cham – Monitoring and Simulation

Workshop IEA HPT Project 61
HPC Vienna, May 26, 2026

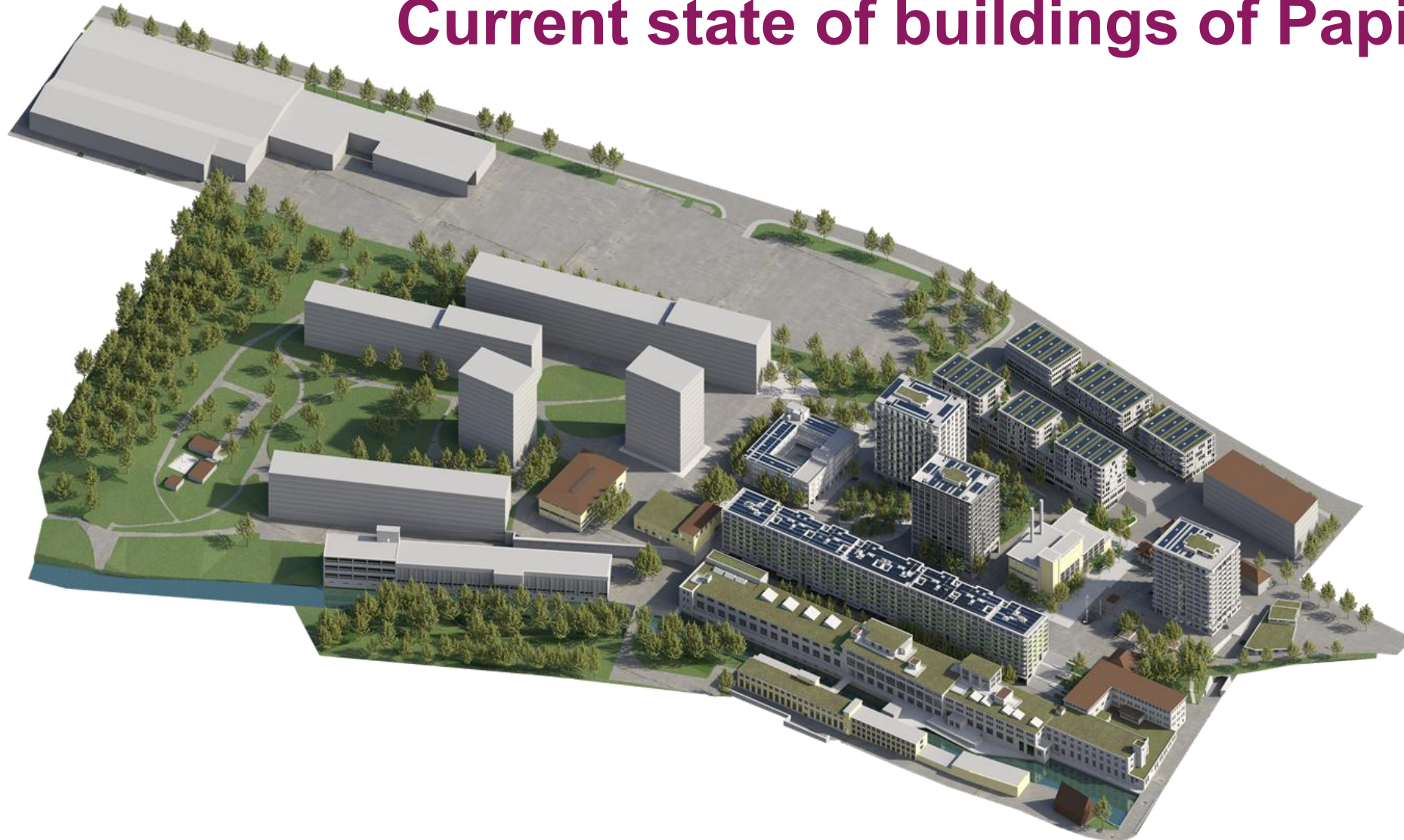
Outline Papieri District

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- **Papieri District**
 - Development until 2035
 - All electric district
 - 11 ha district area
 - In final stage 2035
170,000 m² ERA
 - 1000 Flats/4000 people
 - 1000 Workplaces
 - 6 heritage buildings
retrofitted to MINERGIE-P
 - Watt d'Or 2024 category
"Renewable Energy"
 - Certified as 2000-W-site/
MINIERGIE site



Current state of buildings of Papieri Cham



Outline Papieri District

Papieri District Cham - Impressions

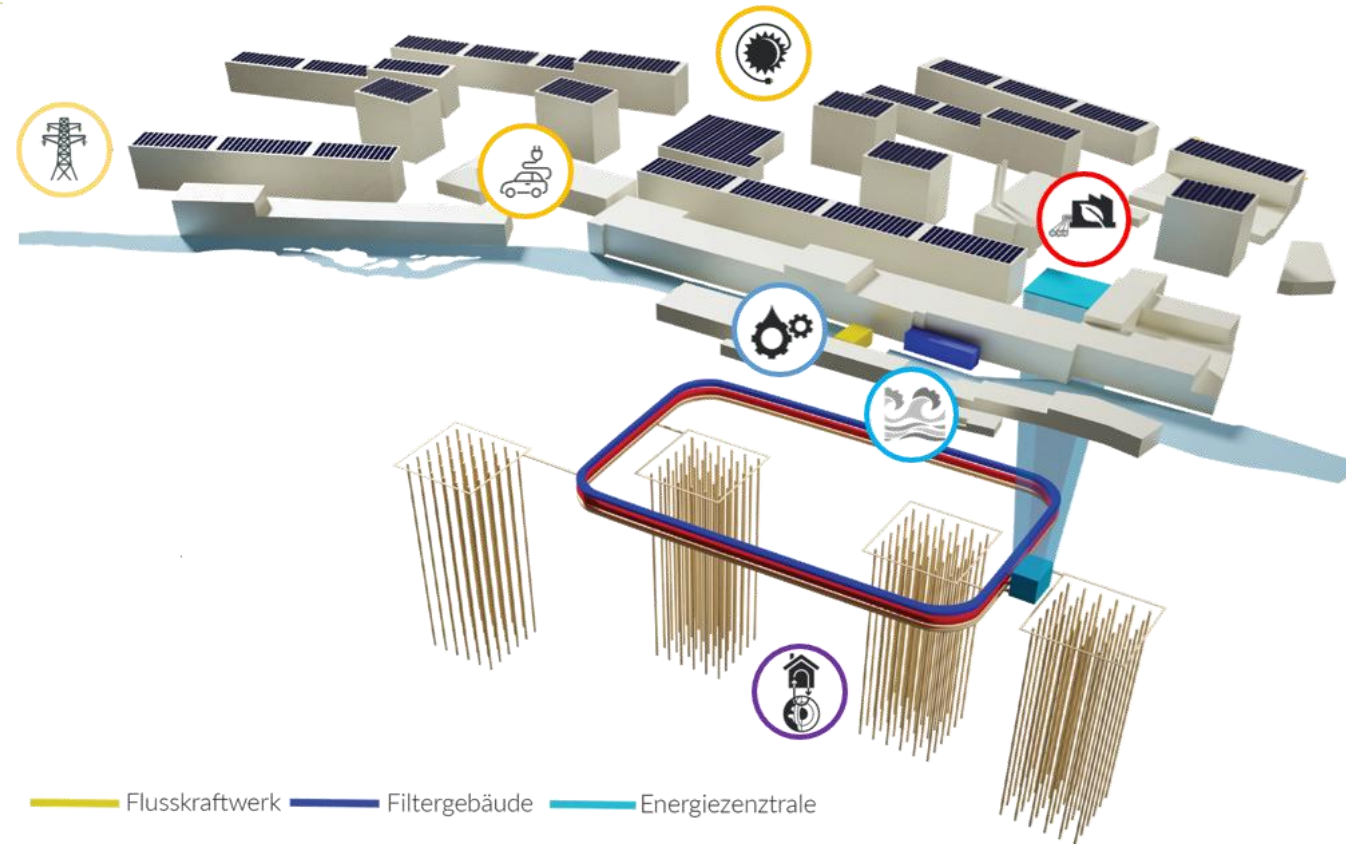


Outline Papieri District

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• Papieri District

- Entirely renewable Heat- and Cold supply with central HP
- 4-pipe Heating-/Cooling grid
- Dual-Source-system with Borehole HX and River water
- On-site electricity generation with Run-of-river power plant and PV production on new buildings
- Charging stations for E-mobility
- Smart homes with energy displays in each flat
- Projected with 75 % Self-sufficiency



Outline Papieri District – Energy concept

- **River (Lorze)**
Run-of-River power plant (230 kW, 1.25 GWh) and thermal energy source (3 lines with 2.9 MW)
- **Energy management**
Energy management of electricity use for enhanced self-consumption and reduced grid interaction
- **Heat pumps**
Centralised heat pumps with natural refrigerant ammonia (3 x 1.7 MW installed)

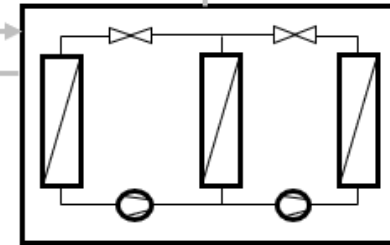
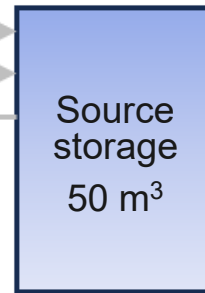
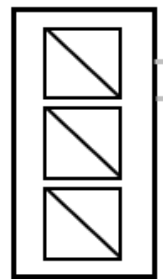


- **Thermal grid**
Integrated space heating, DHW and space cooling
- **Electricity generation**
6500 m² PV systems on new buildings (1.27 MW_p, 1.11 GWh_{el})
ZEV: Tenant electricity model
- **Geothermal heat source/sink**
8 Borehole fields with totally 192 ground probes of 320 m depth

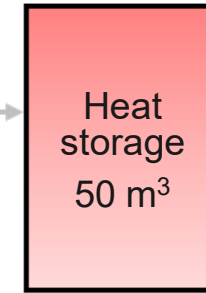
Papieri District – Simplified hydronic integration

- Main components heating center and heat sources

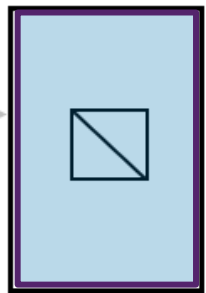
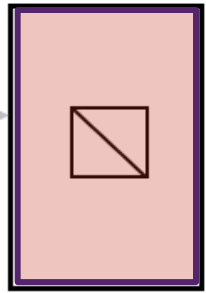
BHX-Fields (192 probes à 320 m)



2-stage Ammonia HPs
3 x 1.7 MW



Heating grid



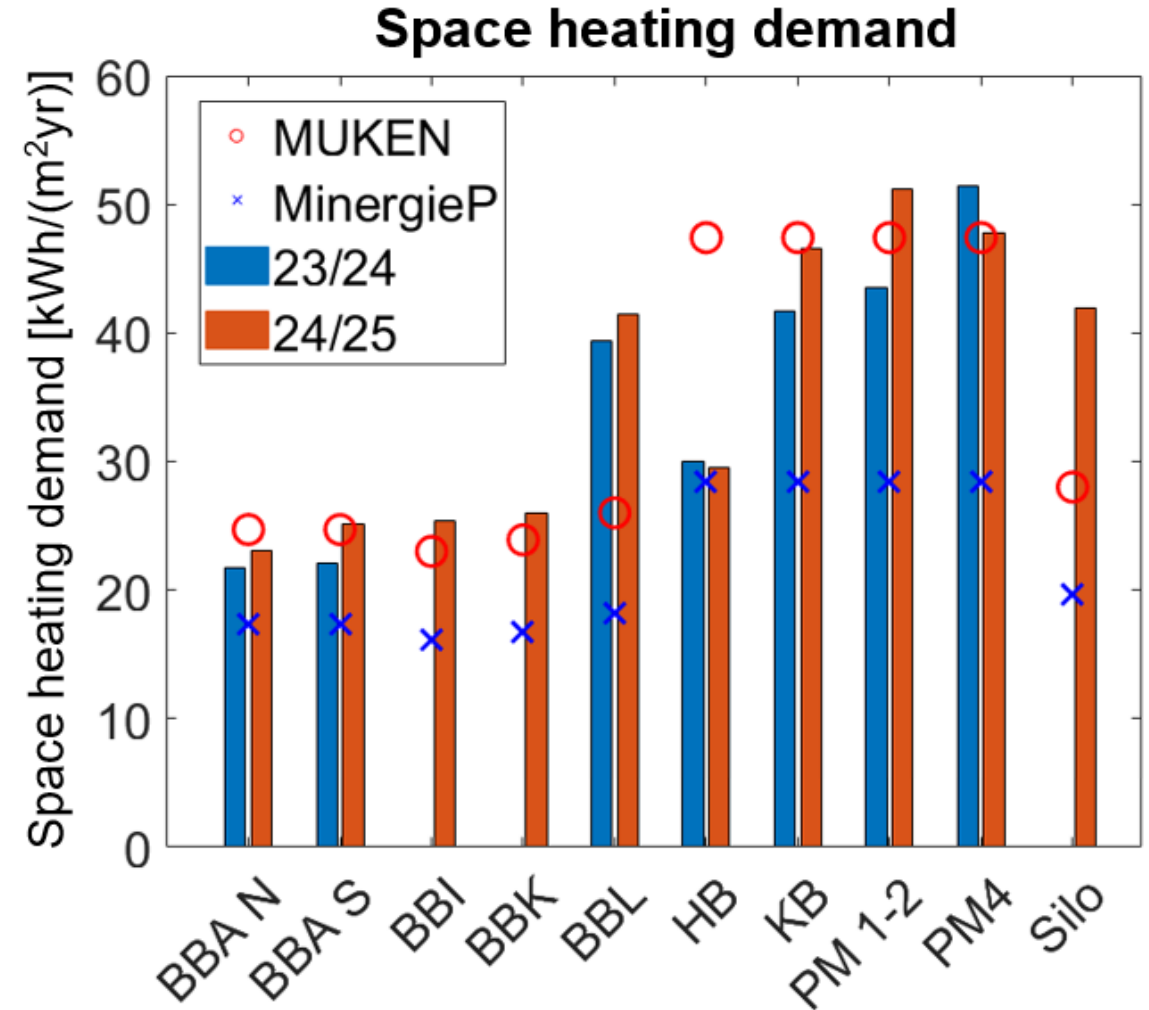
15 operation modes

Potentials:

- High source temperatures
- Free-cooling
- Simultaneous operation (Heating - Cooling)
- Ground regeneration

Space heating

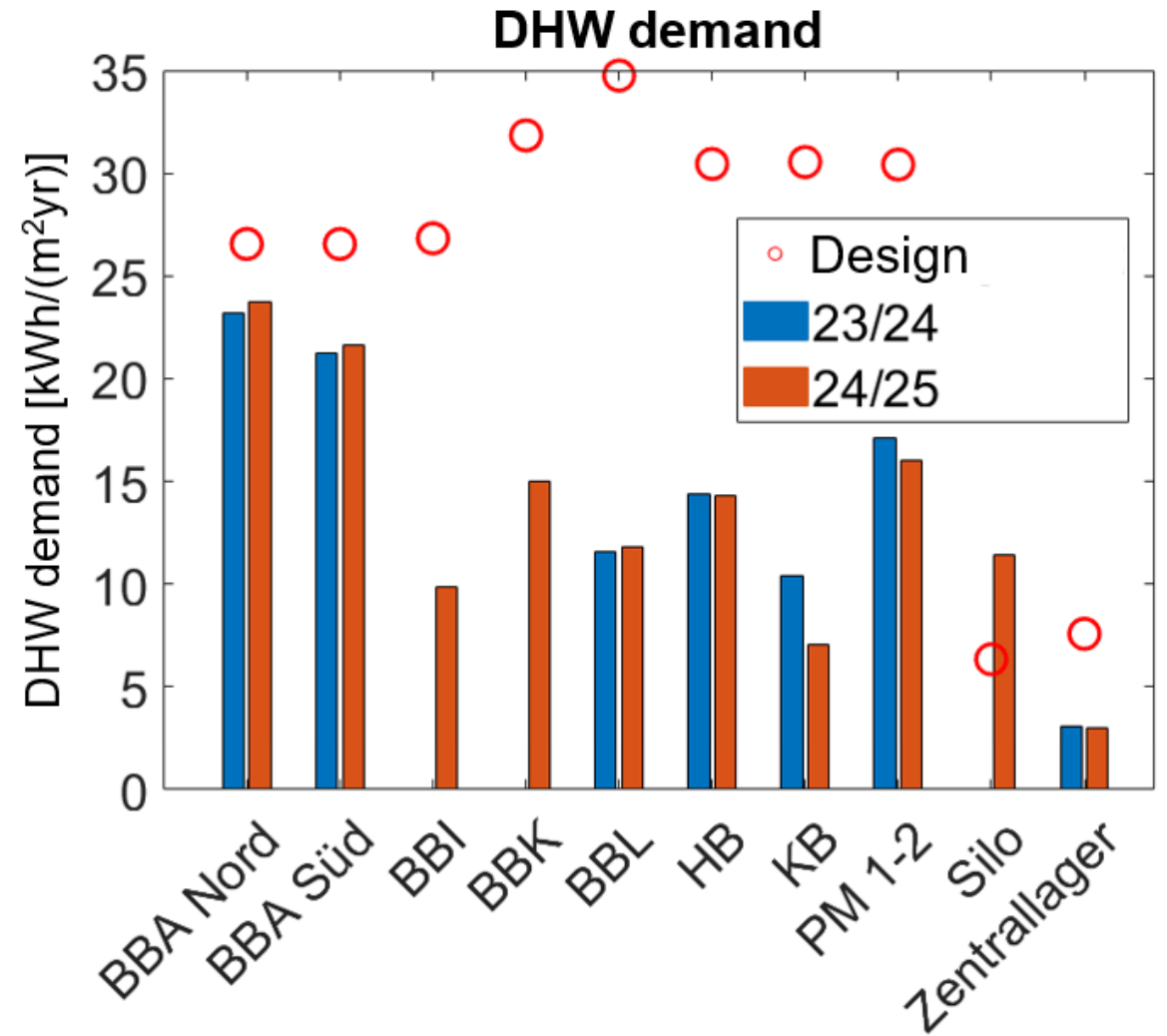
- Heating Demand generally meets the requirements of MUKEN
- Minergie P requirements are not achieved
- Silo and BBL both exceed significantly the target demand
- In general the temperature threshold for the heating is set too high



Monitoring Paperi

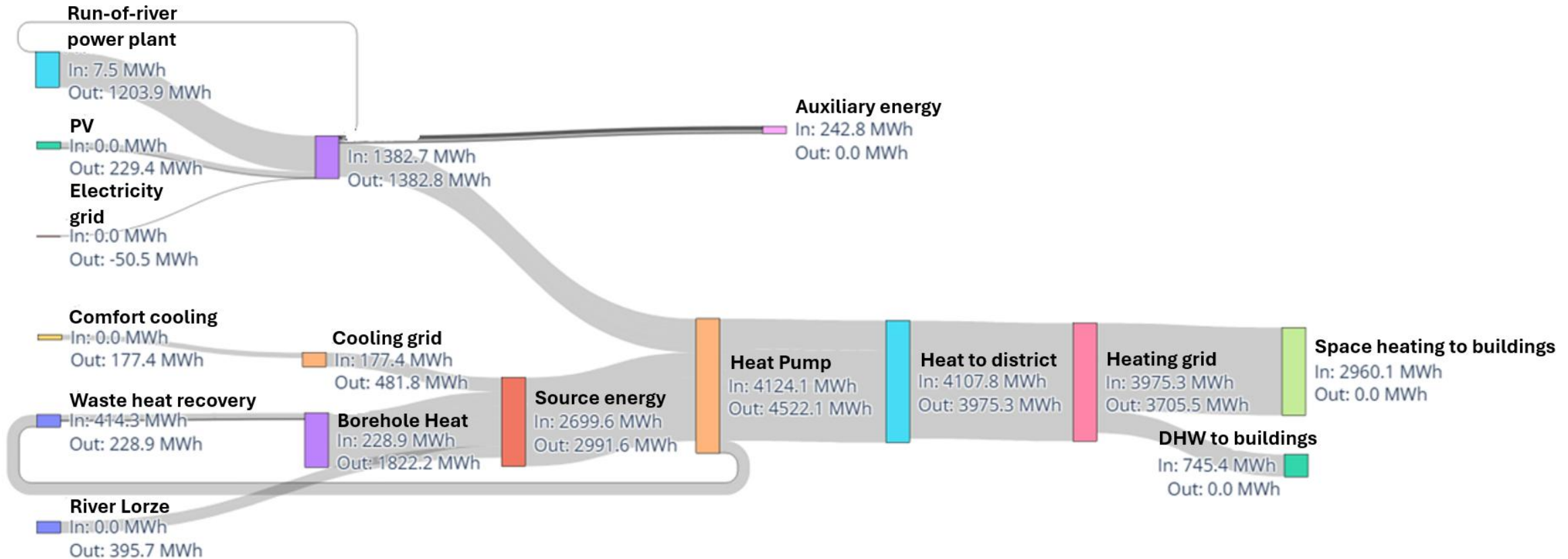
DHW

- Domestic hot water (DHW) Demand is in general much lower than expected although the planning values were in general high.
- In the buildings which are fully occupied and used «as planned» (BBA N und BBA S) the DHW usage is closer to the planned values
- In certain buildings the occupation level remains lower than planned



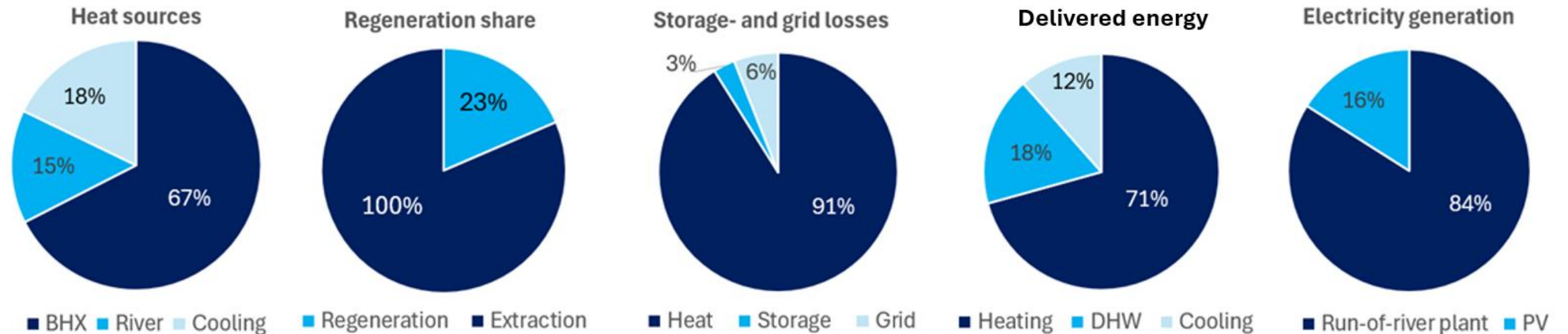
Energy flow diagram 2024/25

- Energy flow diagram from heat-/cooling source to heat-/cold use



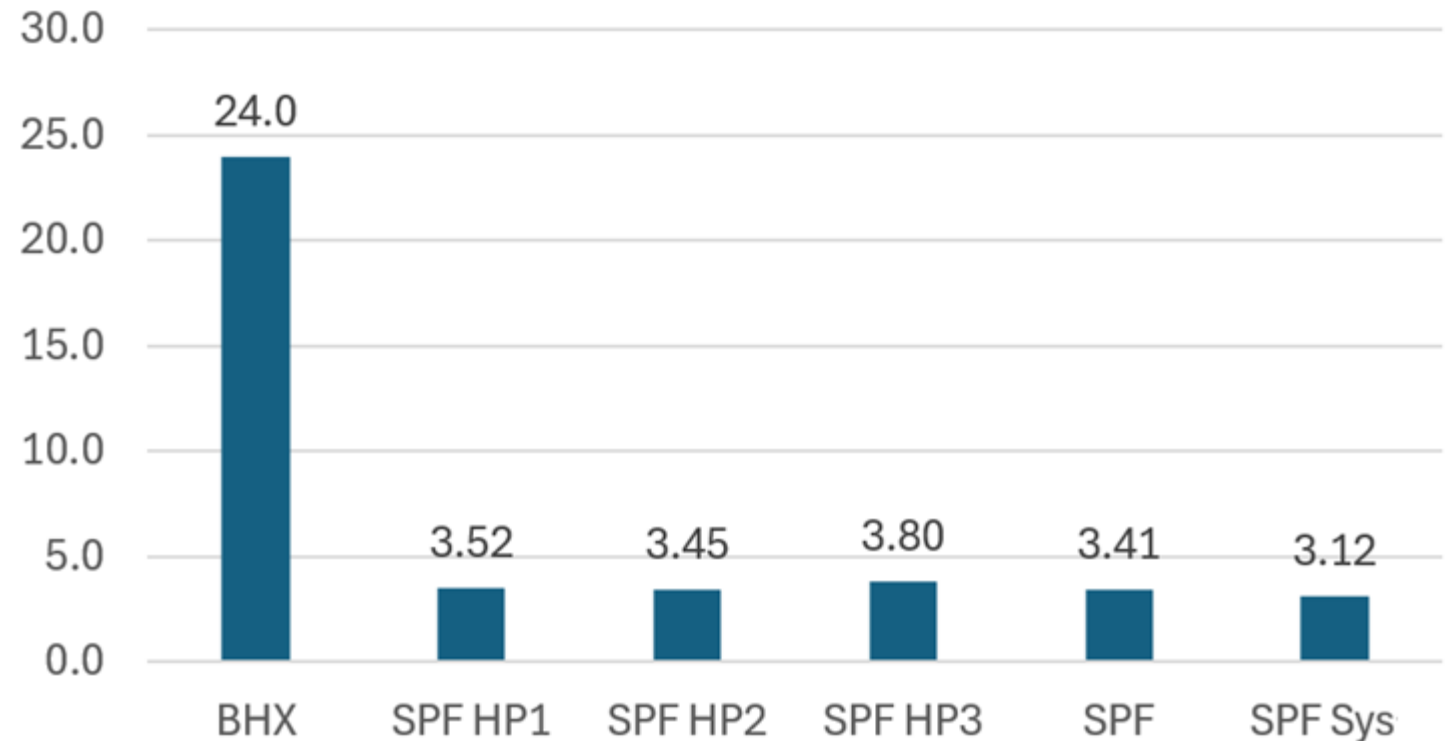
Energy flow diagram 2024/25

- **Source fractions, System losses and delivered energies**
- Main heat source applied is the Borehole heat exchanger (BHX) with 67%, River 15%
- Total Regeneration of the BHX is 23% of the extracted heat
- Moderate system losses with 3% heat storage losses and 6% heating grid losses
- 71% of delivered energy for space heating, low DHW (18%) and cooling (12%) fractions
- 84% of on-site electricity production by run-of-river power plant, 16% PV fraction



Energy flow diagram 2024/25

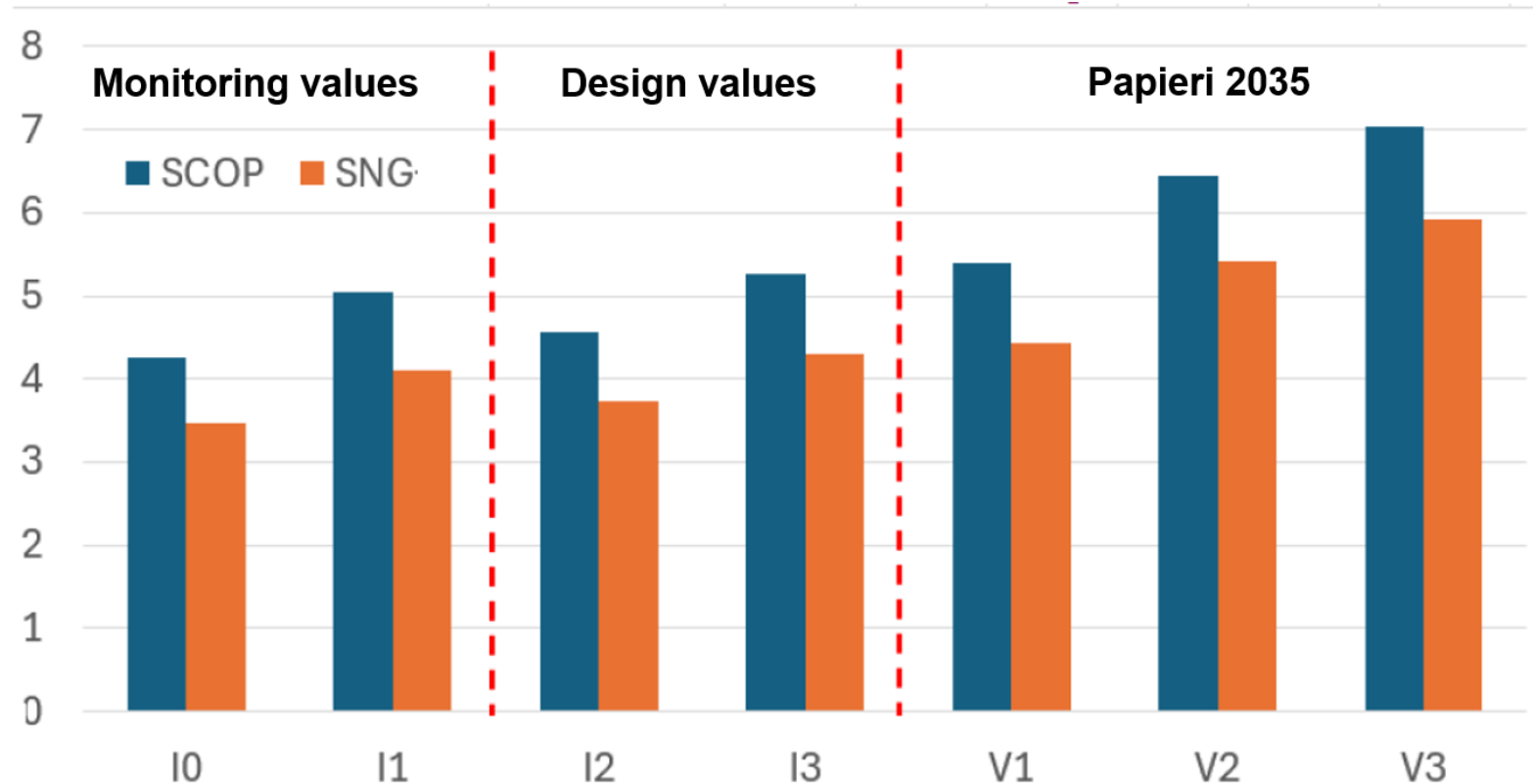
- **Heat pump performance**
- Good performance of the heat pump based on operating conditions
supply 67 °C
source 10 °C
- However, high grid temperature are operated 24/7 around the year
=> optimisation potential



Simulations scenarios and hypothesis

- Comparison with design values
 - System efficiency improves with more cooling demand as per the planned demand. Simultaneous heating (warm water) and cooling.
- Scenarios with reduced grid temperatures
 - Reduction of the network temperature offers potential for more efficient operation of the heat pumps
 - Network temperatures are dictated by the DHW operation
 - Variant: Temporary increase of the network temperature 3 times daily for hot water production (loading windows) with decentral storage in boilers

Simulation results with reduced grid temperatures



Variants:

I0, I2, V1:
67 °C supply,
continuous

I1, I3, V2:
57 °C supply
2 charging windows
à 2 hours

V3:
47 °C supply
2 charging windows
à 2 hours

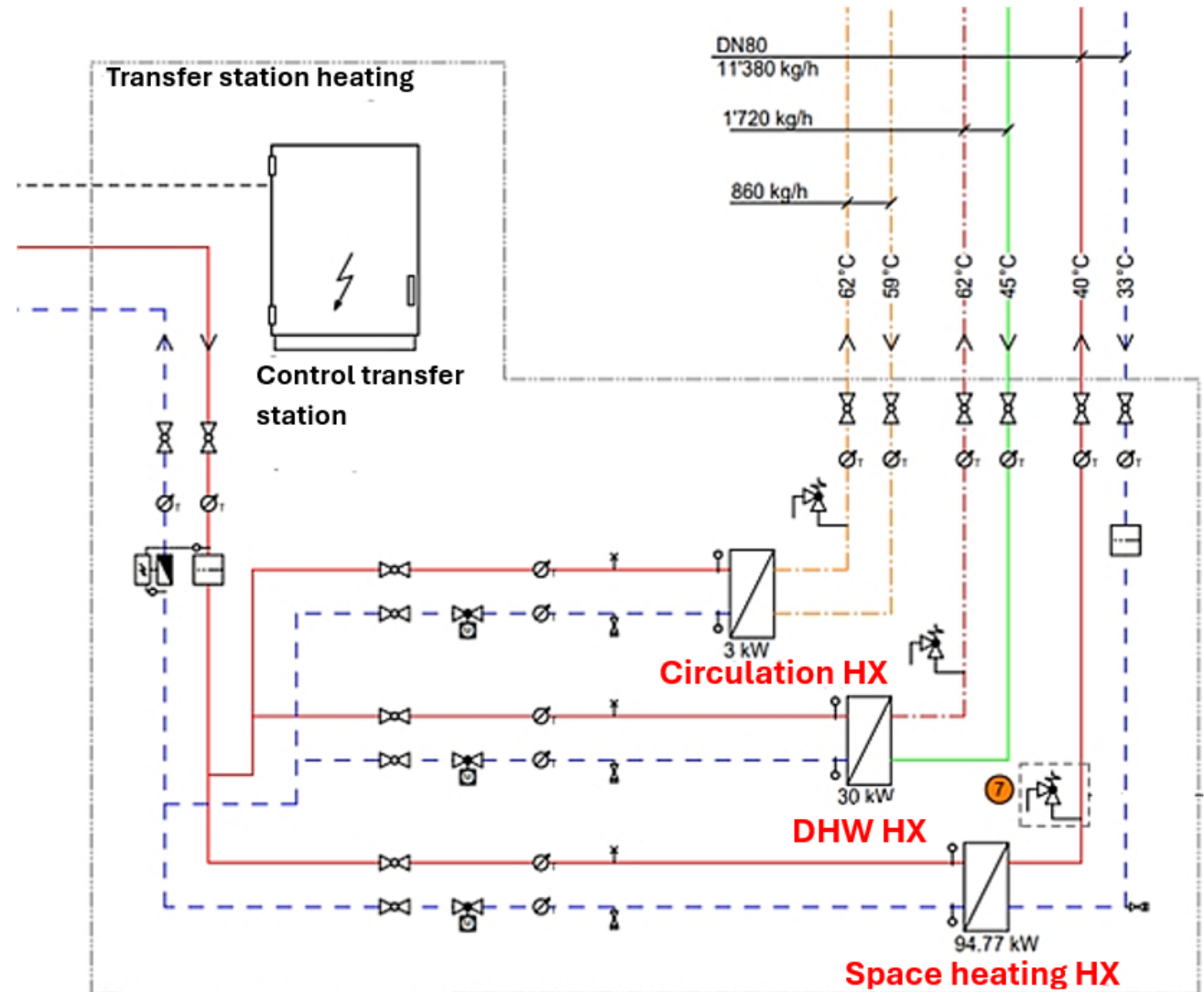
Cost savings: -52500 CHF -46800 CHF -150'000 CHF -216'600 CHF

Assumed electricity price 30 Rp./kWh

Optimisation potentials

Integration DHW

- DHW could be supplied during temporary loading windows and stored in decentral hot water tanks (already installed)
- Circulation losses are currently covered directly from the heating network. This prevents the network temperature from being reduced.
- The circulation losses could be covered by the hot water tank or with decentral small HPs.



Current work and perspectives

- Step-wise implementation of reduced grid temperature
- Simulations of source integration
 - Improved control for high source temperatures
 - Source management Freecooling and Regeneration
 - Regeneration with river water and waste heat from cooling
- Comparison of different grid configurations
- Optimisation of self-consumption and grid-supportive PV and HP use



Conclusion

- Ambitious energy concept for fossil-free district supply
- Good performance of the heat pump and little system losses
- Optimisation potential regarding the integration of DHW/circulation to reduce grid temperature
- Integration matters more than the HP COP
- Further optimisation potentials on the source side currently evaluated
- Accompanying simulations («Digital twin») are a good means to evaluate optimisation measures, in particular for the complexity of district energy systems
- A minimum monitoring is essential for performance optimisation
- Even with optimisations PED will be hard to reach



Thank you for your attention

