Low Exergy Systems for High Performance Communities

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Energy savings and reduction of CO₂-emissions:

By facilitating and accelerating the use of

low valued and environmentally sustainable energy sources

for heating and cooling of buildings.

Through the utilization of the EXERGY concept

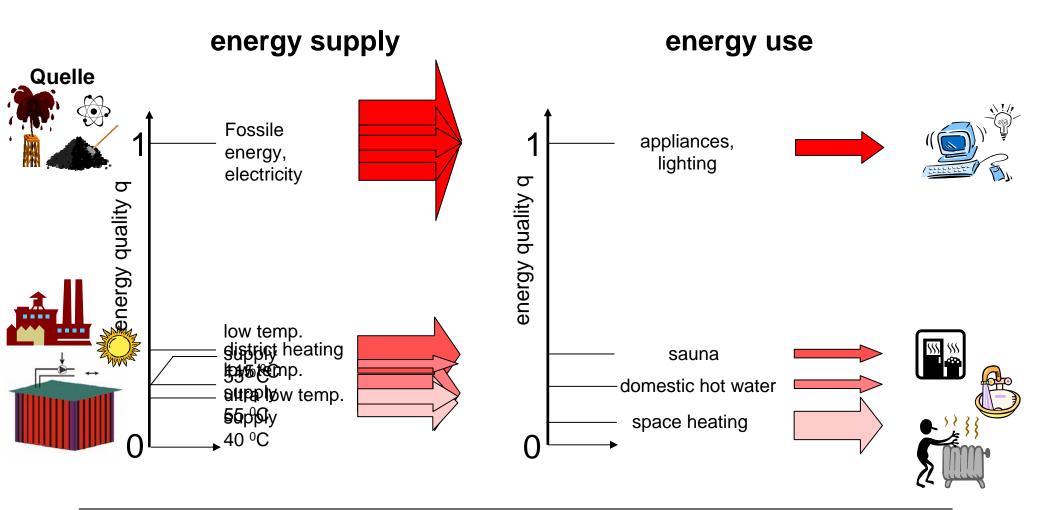
matching the Quantity AND Quality levels of supply and demand

Quantity ⇒ Energy savings

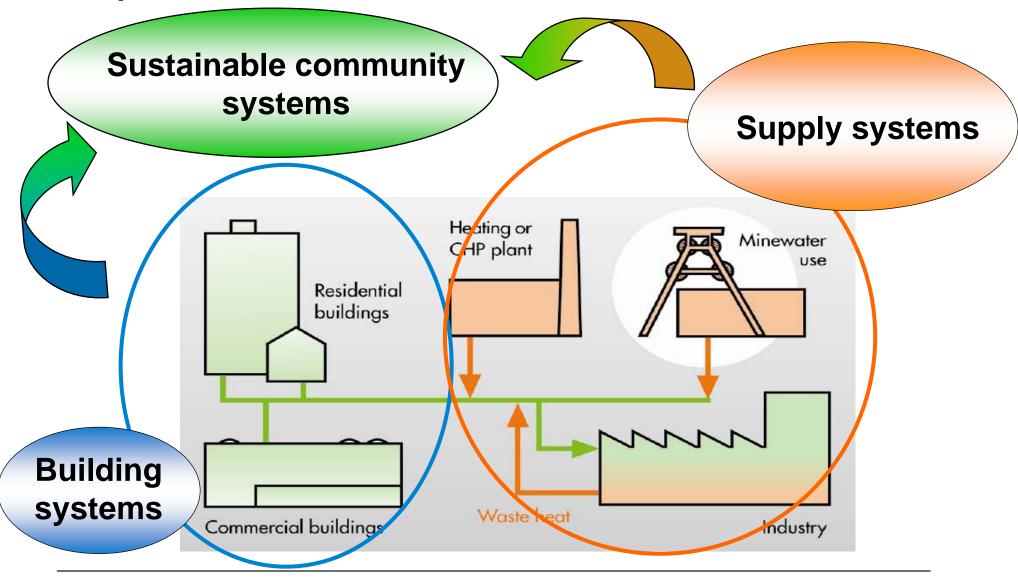
Quality ⇒ use of low quality sources e.g. solar thermal heat, ground/air heat

Matching of the energy quality of demand and supply

Source: VTT



Scope LowEx Activities

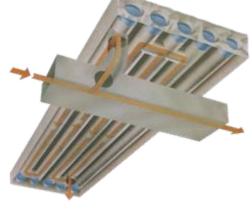


LowEx Building Systems:

Development of innovative system solutions





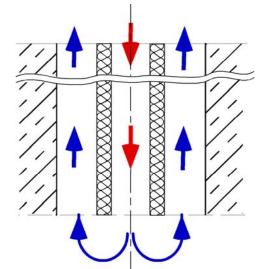




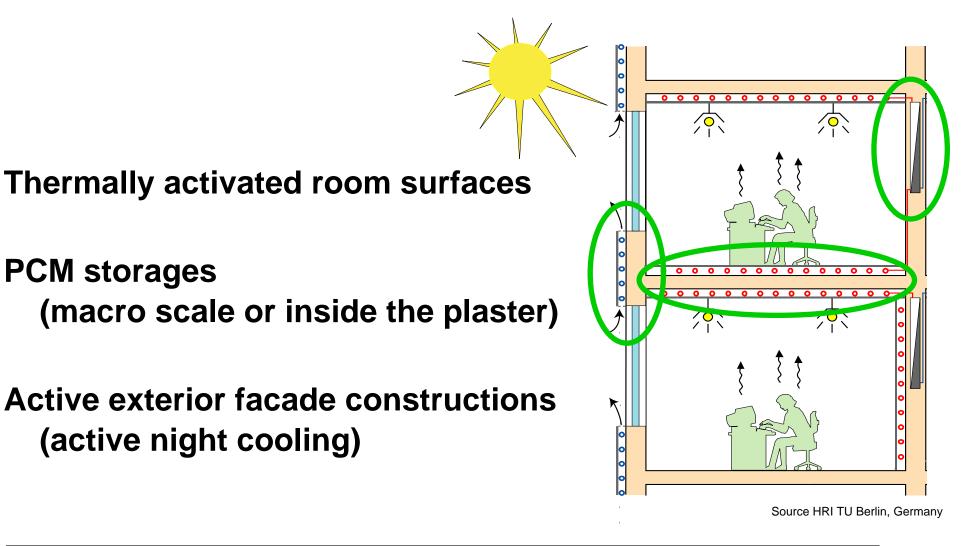
Heating/cooling systems and storages







Example: Thermally activated surfaces



Example: Simple exterior wall activation

Test building



Prototype setup

Source ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Use the ground as a energy source (mainly for cooling)

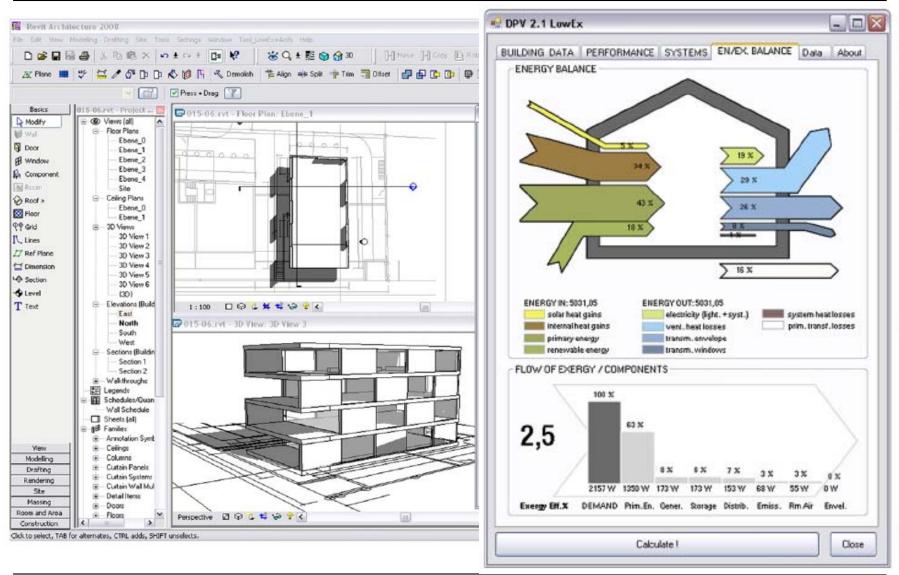
- Energy poles
- Bore holes
- Horizontal heat exchanger
- Horizontal heat exchanger with capillary tubes



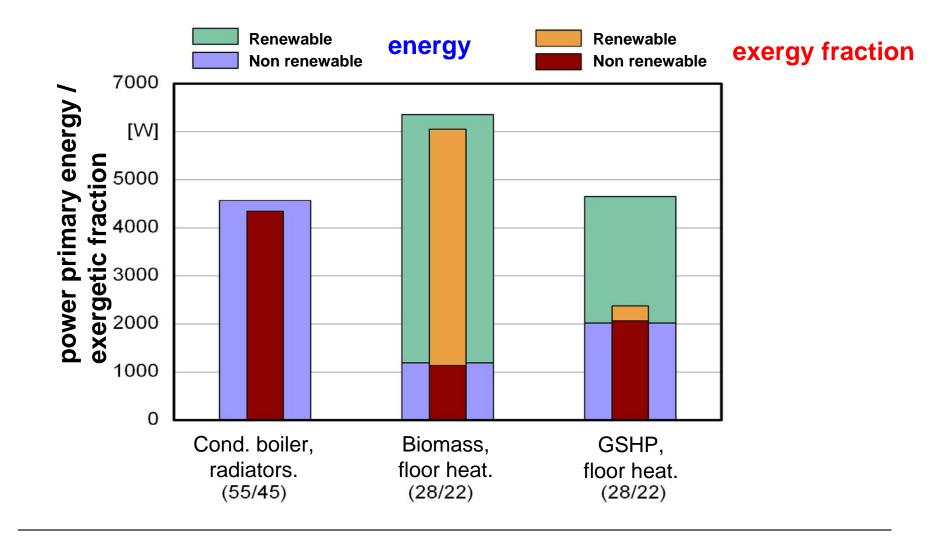
Source WH Zwickau, Germany

Source City of Kassel, Germany

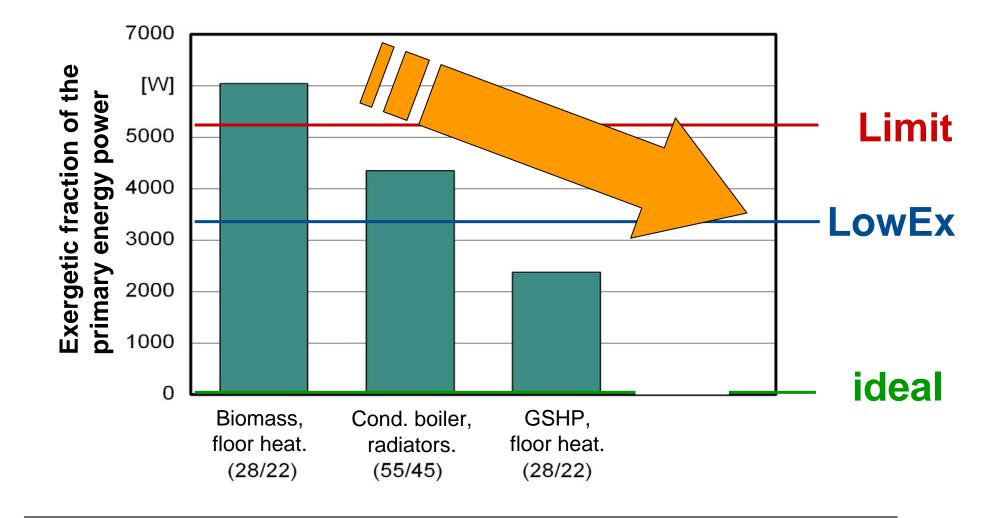
Analyses tools for LowEx systems



Analyses of buildings

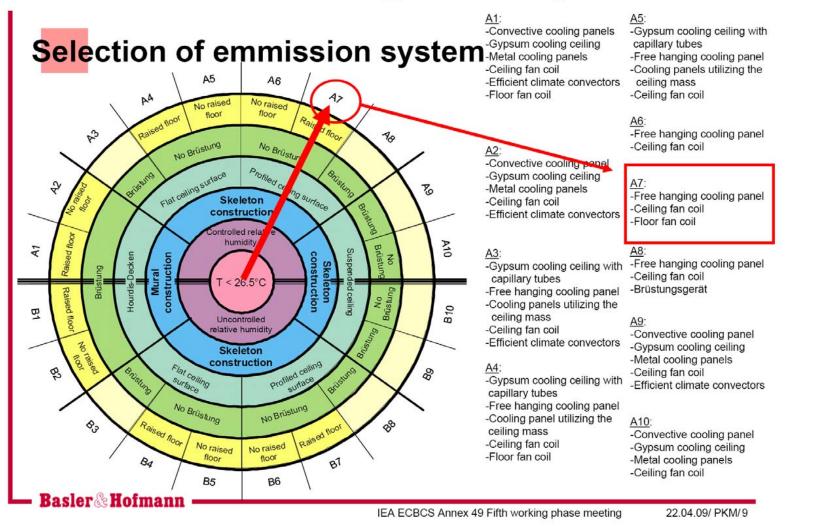


Benchmarking of system solutions

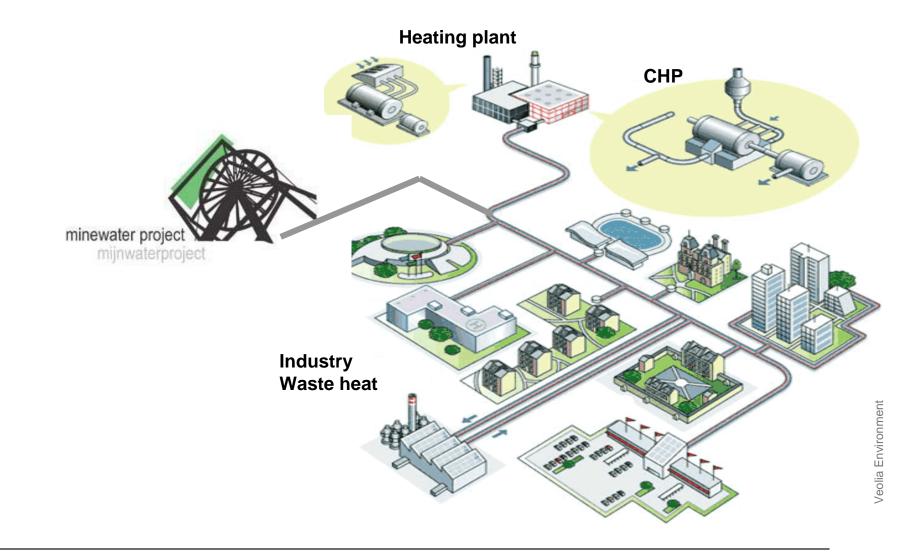


Decision tool for system configuration

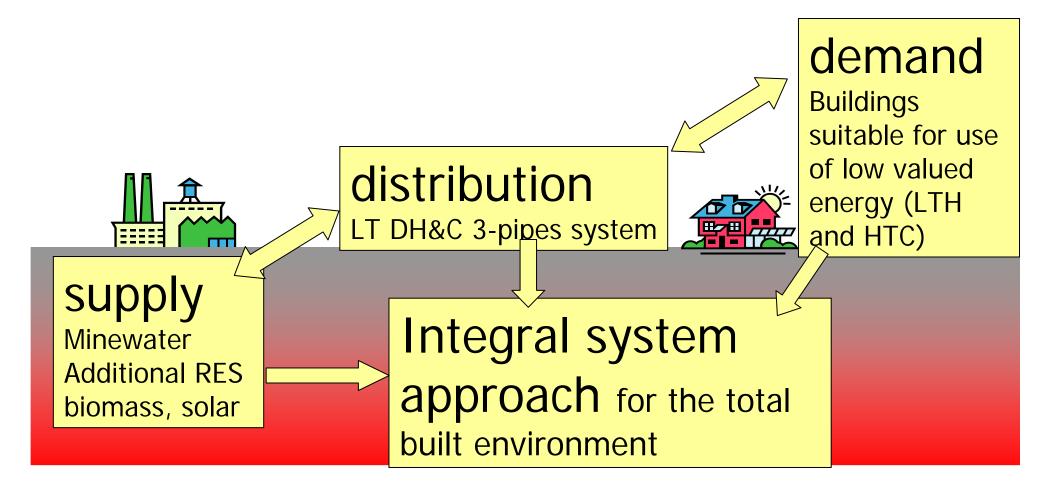
Deliverable C 4.2 Decision tool for energy efficient cooling

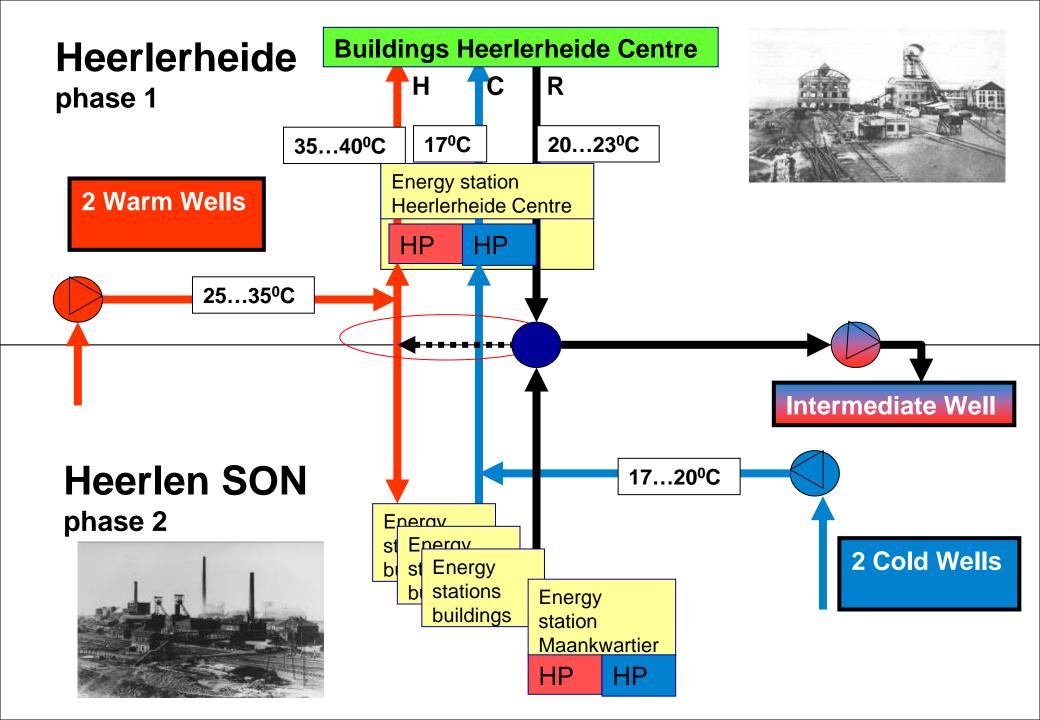


Seeking Low-Exergy Supply Structure for a Community



LowEx approach for the Mine Water Project Heerlen:





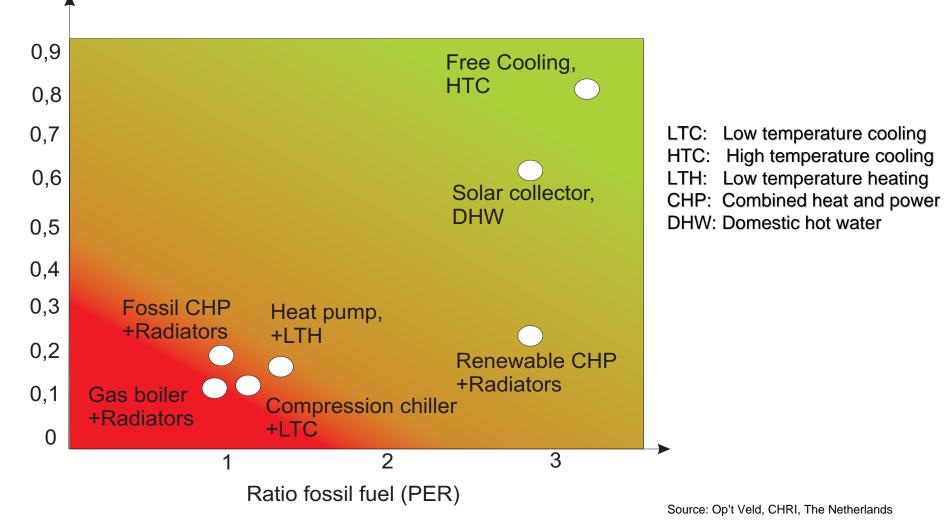
From a schematic approach to a LT H&C grid in practice

Design constraints:

- Chemical quality of the mine water
- Sediments and sludge's
- Scaling
- Corrosion (bacterial)
- Gases (CH₄ and CO₂)
- Transport energy (pumps)



Assessment of different options



Exergy efficiency

Community case: Okotoks, Canada

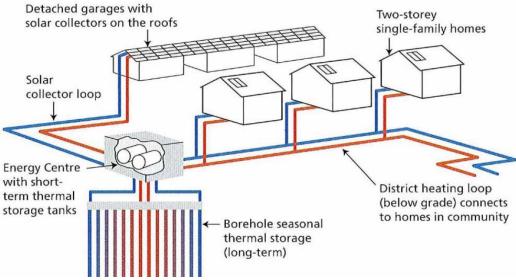


Okotoks, Canada

52 single family homes (140m²) 120m³ short term storage (water)

144 boreholes (35m deep, 15cm ø)

Solar Seasonal Storage and District Loop



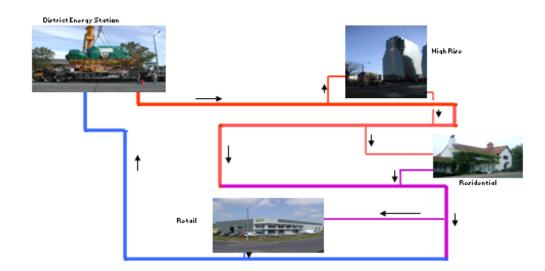
Quelle: Church, NRC Canada

CASCADIA - THE CALCULATION TOOL FOR CASCADED BUILDINGS

Based upon the Pre-Design Heating & Cooling Tool developed as part of IEA ECBCS Annex 37 - Low Exergy Systems for Heating and Cooling of Buildings and on input from IEA ECBCS Annex 49 - Low Exergy Systems for High Performance Buildings and Communities



Low Exergy Systems for High-Performance Buildings and Communities



	High rise	Residential	Retail / Commercial
Building Floor Plate Area	303 square metres	99 square metres	14000 square metres
Number floors per building	5	2	1
Floor Height	3 m	3 m	6 m
Number of buildings	20	75	12
Volume	90900 cubic metre	44550 cubic metre	1008000 cubic metre
Floor plates	30300 square metres	14850 square metres	168000 square metres
losses	2300 watts/deg C	1400 watts/degC	3000 watts/deg C
indoor temperature	20 C	20 C	20 C
Design Temperature	-29 C	-29 C	-29 C
Transmission Losses	2254000 watts	5145000 watts	1764000 watts

Community case: Oberzwehren (GER)



- CO₂-neutral heating (and cooling)
- optimised thermal insulation under ecological and economical aspects
- optimised urban structure from energy perspective
- development of a tailored supply system

Building site 85.000 m² 100 living-units total

Oberzwehren urban development plan - north



Oberzwehren urban development plan - south



Existing energy supply infrastructure

District Heating

Natural Gas



Highly energy-efficient buildings with LowEx emission systems

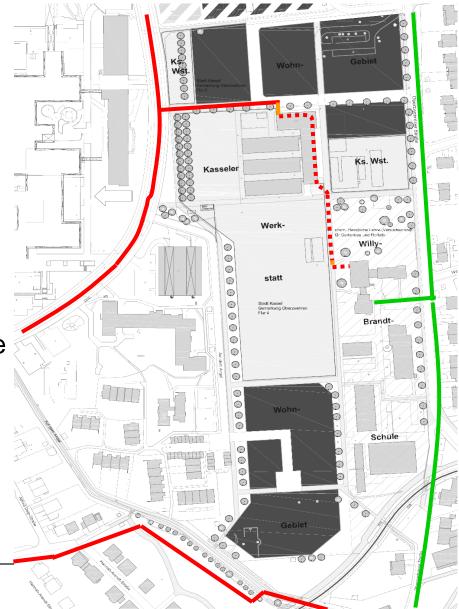


Solar energy for DHW and photovotaics for CO₂-balance

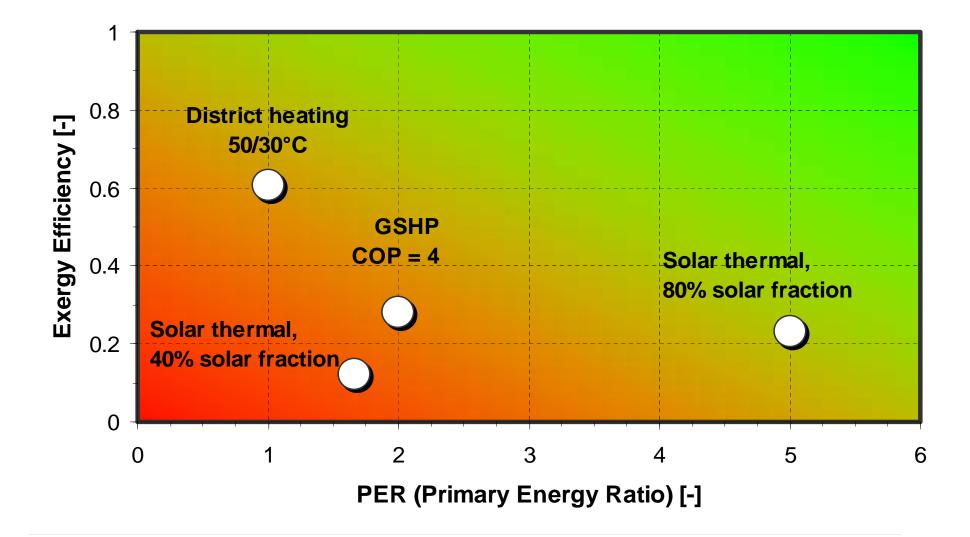
Use of District Heating return to supply buildings



Grid improvement for overall efficiency benefit



Community case: Oberzwehren (GER)



Concluding remarks

- Exergy demands for heating/cooling are very small
 Energy demands are high.
- 2. Supply as low exergy as possible to the room space.
- 3. Find suitable low-exergy sources in the immediate/local environment.
- 4. Development of system-components and their smart integration are necessary.

Rational exergy consumption patterns are possible.

This is our challenge!







Energy Conservation In Buildings And Community Systems: Annex 49

THE FUTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENTS -Integrating the Low Exergy Approach



April 21st 2009 in Heerlen (The Netherlands)

Annex 49

Low Exergy Systems for High-Performance Buildings and Communities



International Energy Agency Energy Conservation in Buildings and Community Systems Programme