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Thermal Storage Control of a Local Energy Supply System Acting as District Heating Prosumer

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The Buildings



Picture from www.vulkanoslo.no



The Energy Supply System

- Covers product cooling, space cooling, space heating and DHW preheating
- District heating used for DHW temperature lift and space heating backup
- Main components
 - Heat pumps
 - Water tanks for short term storage/buffering
 - Boreholes for long term thermal storage
 - Solar collectors



The Energy Supply System





The System Model

- Modelled with Dymola/Modelica
- Goal: Analyze system performance for one year period
- Component models built based on "Thermal" library
- Inputs
 - Measured demand data
 - Ambient temperature and radiation
 - Variable prices for electricity and district heating



The System Model



Case Study

- Export to district heating grid possible
- Larger solar collector area
 - 1000 m² instead of 290 m²
- Bigger water storage tanks
- Less boreholes



Control strategy

- Heating/cooling mode based on demand forecast for next day (perfect forecast in model)
- Rule-based control for solar collectors
 - Different rules before and after solar radiation peak
- Buffer tank temperatures kept constant at first
- Parameter study
 - Warm side: 45…55°C
 - Cold side: 0...10°C



Results





Future Work

- Make control "smarter"
 - Many degrees of freedom due to storages and grid interaction
 - Adjust tank temperatures for operation mode
 - Use tanks for peak shaving (demand and price peaks)
- Optimization of component sizes with "smart" control
 - Avoid over-dimensioning
 - Flat optimum important (sensitivity)



Thank you for your attention!

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