

Life cycle cost and primary energy analysis of a multi-storey residential building retrofit to different energy levels with varied materials

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Aim of the study

To analyze the effect of different retrofit materials on primary energy and cost savings when retrofitting a building to passive house levels.

Case-study building with an expected remaining lifetime of at least 50 years

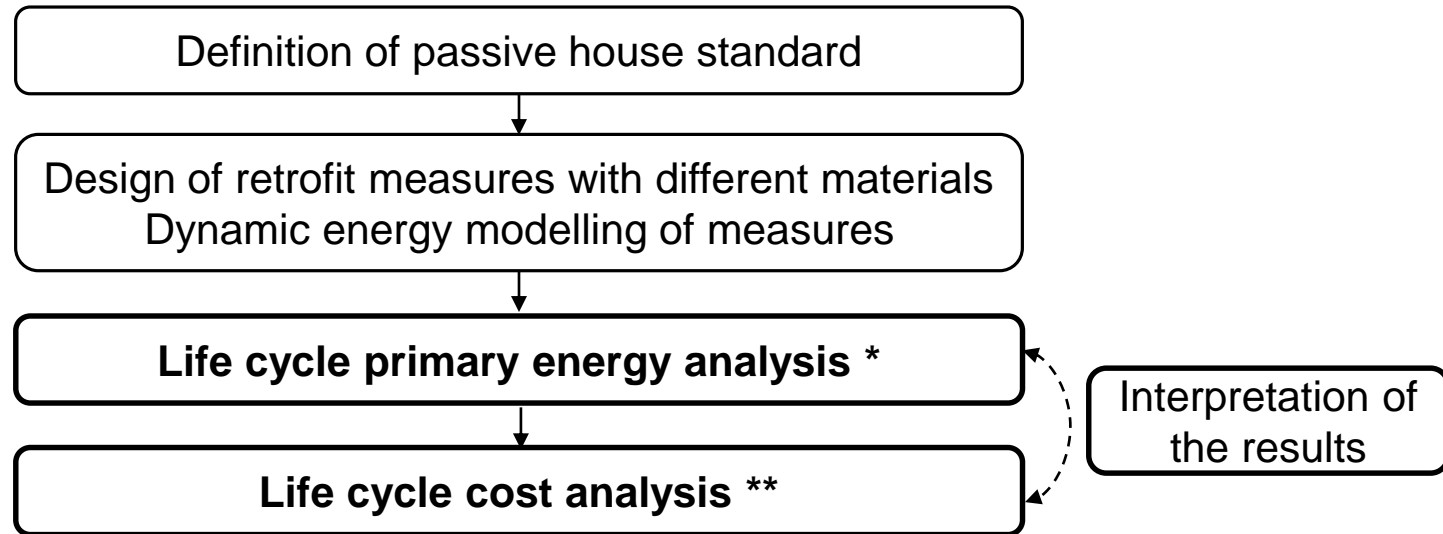
- Year of construction: 1972
- Living floor area: 2000 m² (heated volume: 5400 m³)
- Initial final heat use: 110 kWh/m² (building connected to the local district heating system)



AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK



Research structure and methods



Data sources:

* Ecoinvent database

** Wikells database (average contractor prices in Sweden)

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Definition of passive house standard

We selected two different passive house standards applicable in Sweden to be achieved in the retrofitted buildings:

Passive house standard	Energy use* [kWh/m ² , year]
Forum Energy Efficiency Buildings (FEBY)	≤ 50
Passive House Institute (PHI)	≤ 30
* space and tap water heating	

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Design of retrofit measures

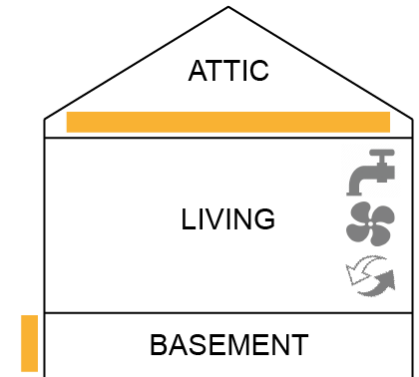
Upgrade of technical devices

- energy-efficient ventilation fans
- ventilation heat recovery (VHR) units
- efficient water taps

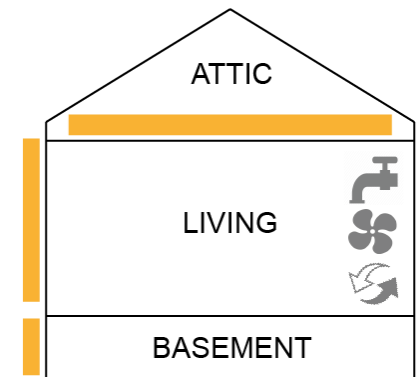
Improvement of thermal envelope

- extra insulation and airtightness
 - basement
 - attic
 - windows ($U = 0.8 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ in FEBY and **$0.6 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ in PHI**)
 - **external walls (and new cladding) – only PHI option**

FEBY = 50 kWh/m²,year



PHI = 30 kWh/m²,year



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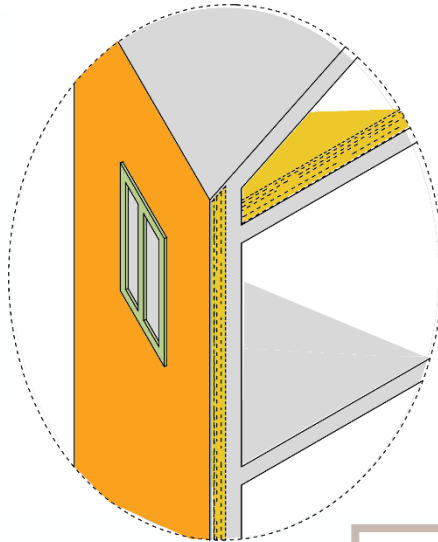
Material options

We combine alternative retrofit materials for:

Thermal insulation

Facade system

Window frame



We obtain

- 6 material options for FEBY,
- 18 material options for PHI.

Retrofitted building

Glass wool

Aluminium facade

Brick facade

Wood facade

Aluminium
-framed
windows

Wood-
framed
windows

Aluminium
-framed
windows

Wood-
framed
windows

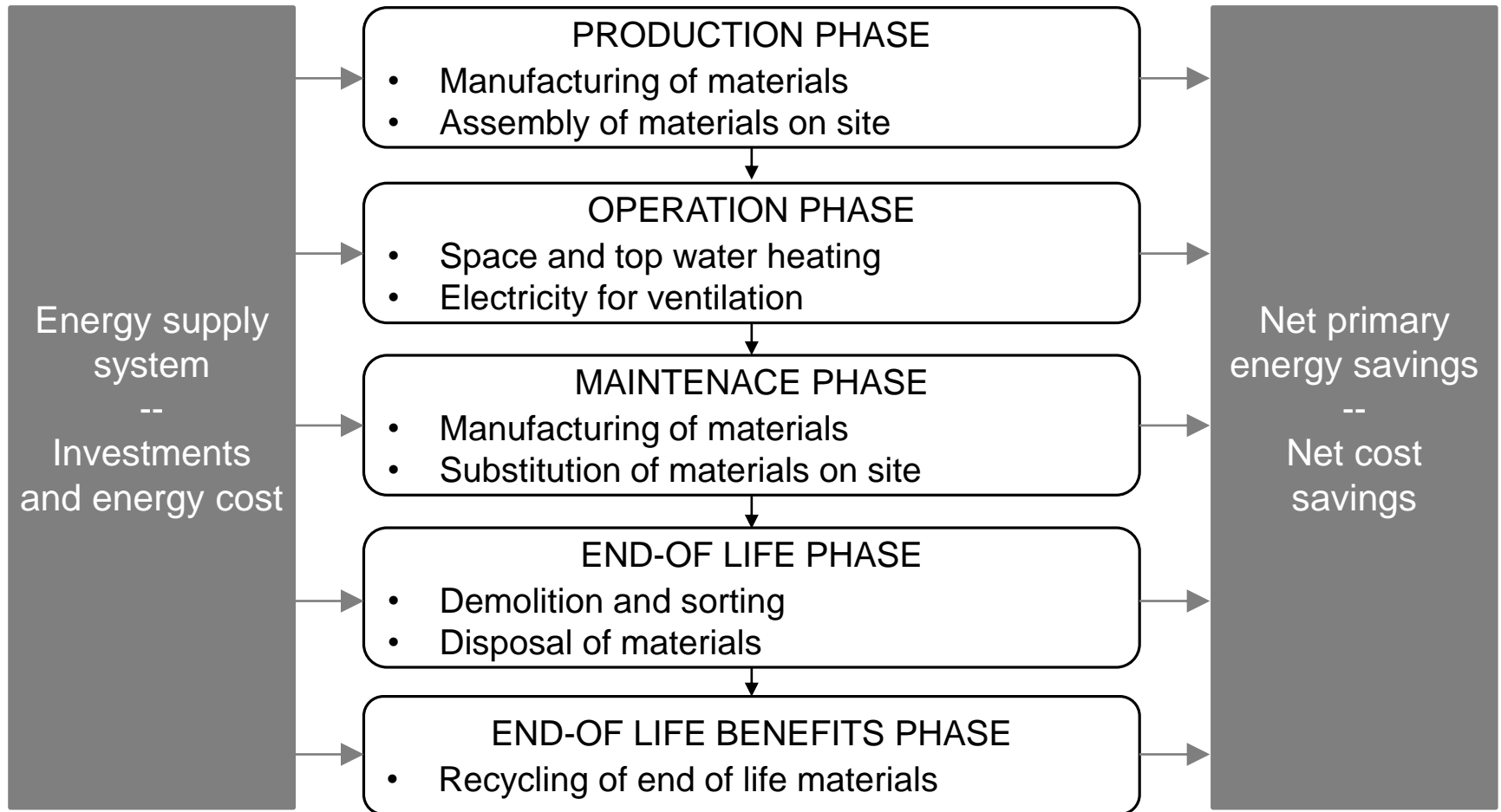
Aluminium
-framed
windows

Wood-
framed
windows

Rock wool

Wood fibre





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Price scenarios

Three price scenarios are adopted following an approach already used in other studies from our research group, Sustainable Built Environment Research (SBER):

	Business as usual (BAU) scenario	Intermediate scenario	Sustainability scenario
Real discount rates	5%	3%	1%
Annual energy price increase	1%	2%	3%

A discount rate of 6% is used for investments in energy supply.

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Primary energy and cost savings from retrofit

Primary energy and cost savings are calculated assuming two energy scenarios:

- 1) Fossil gas is the marginal electricity energy source
(the cost of district heat is calculated based on current reference electricity);
- 2) Wind (70%) and biomass (30%) are the marginal electricity energy source
(the cost of district heat is calculated based on wind-bio reference electricity*).

Varied real discount rate of 1%, 3% and 5%

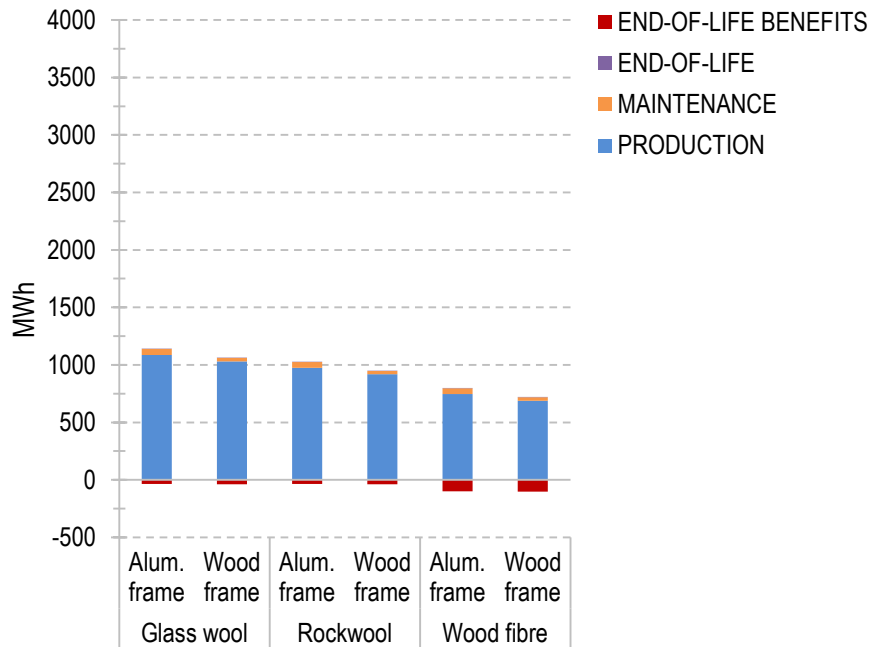
	FEBY								PHI							
	Fossil gas				Wind-bio				Fossil gas				Wind-bio			
	Primary energy savings		Cost savings [k€]		Primary energy savings		Cost savings [k€]		Primary energy savings		Cost savings [k€]		Primary energy savings		Cost savings [k€]	
	[MWh]	5%	3%	1%	[MWh]	5%	3%	1%	[MWh]	5%	3%	1%	[MWh]	5%	3%	1%
Space and tap water heat	221	5	7	10	221	4	5	8	280	6	8	12	280	5	6	9
Electricity for ventilation	-4	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-4	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0
Total	217	5	6	10	220	4	5	8	276	6	8	12	279	5	6	9

*The biomass price is assumed to be 18.7 €/MWh.

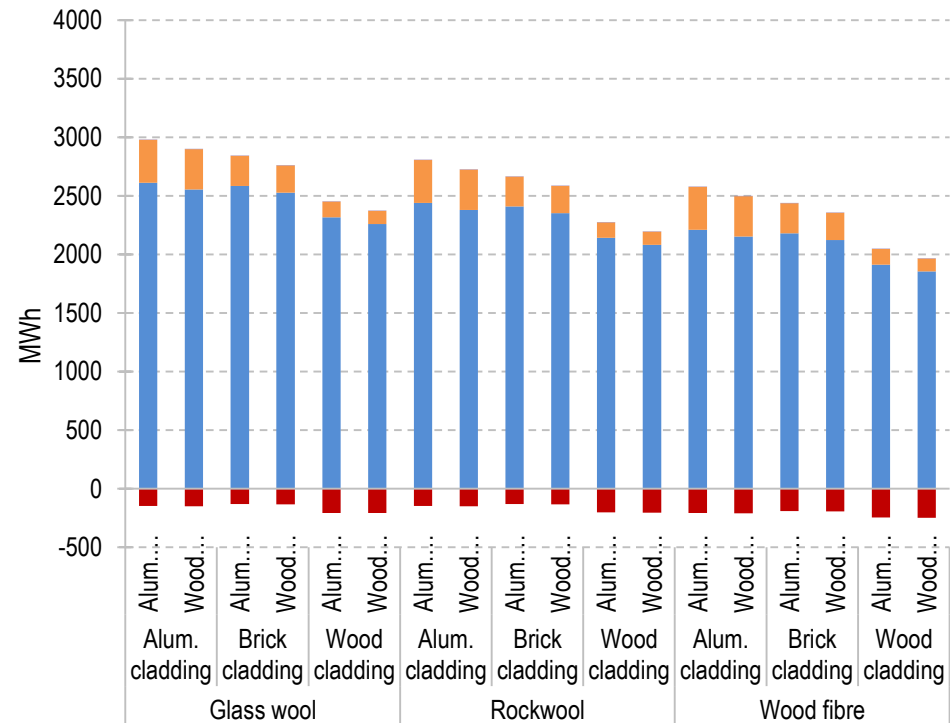
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Primary energy use to retrofit *

FEBY (50 kWh/m², year)



PHI (30 kWh/m², year)

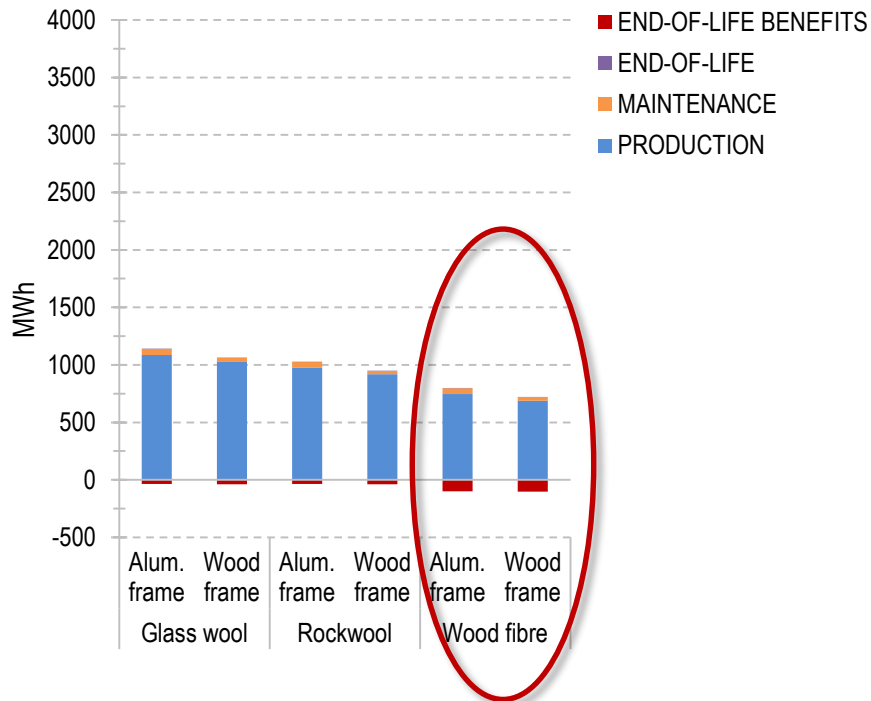


* fossil gas is assumed to be marginal electricity source

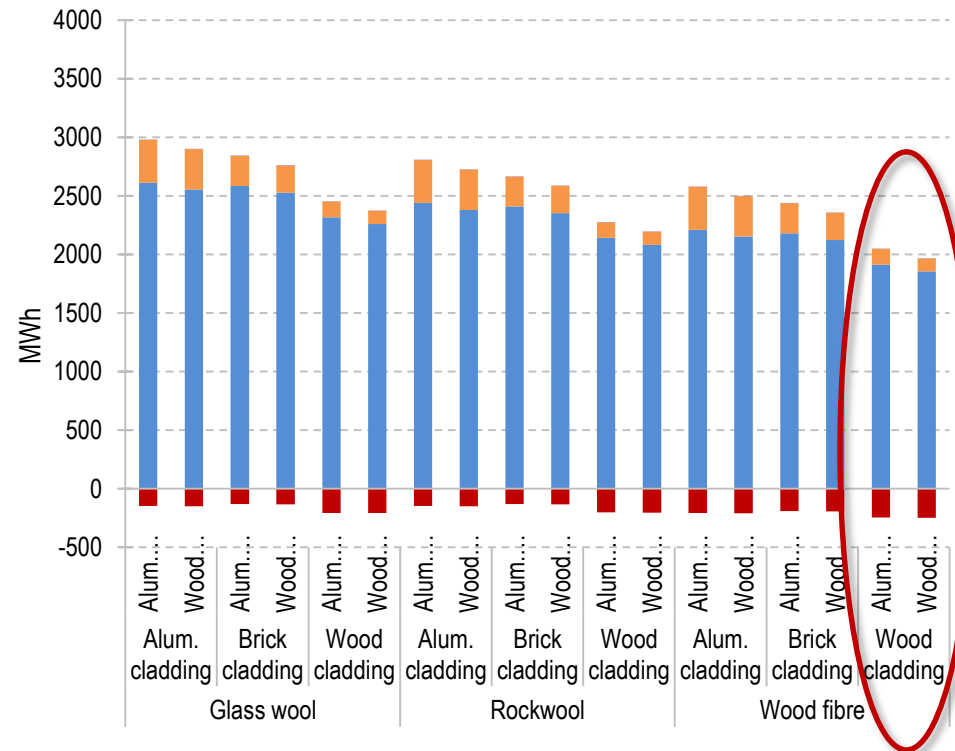
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Primary energy use to retrofit *

FEBY (50 kWh/m², year)



PHI (30 kWh/m², year)

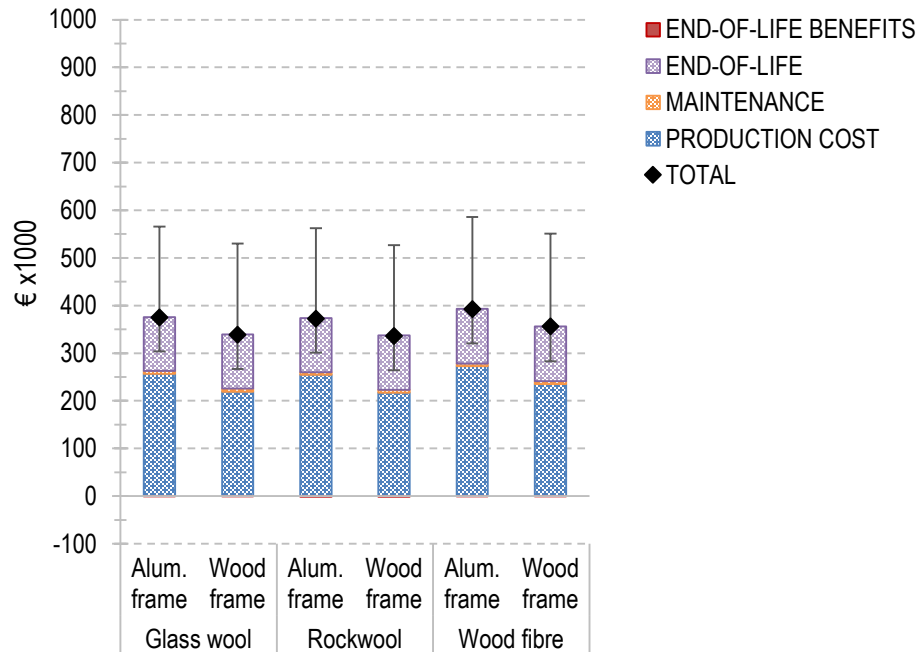


* fossil gas is assumed to be marginal electricity source

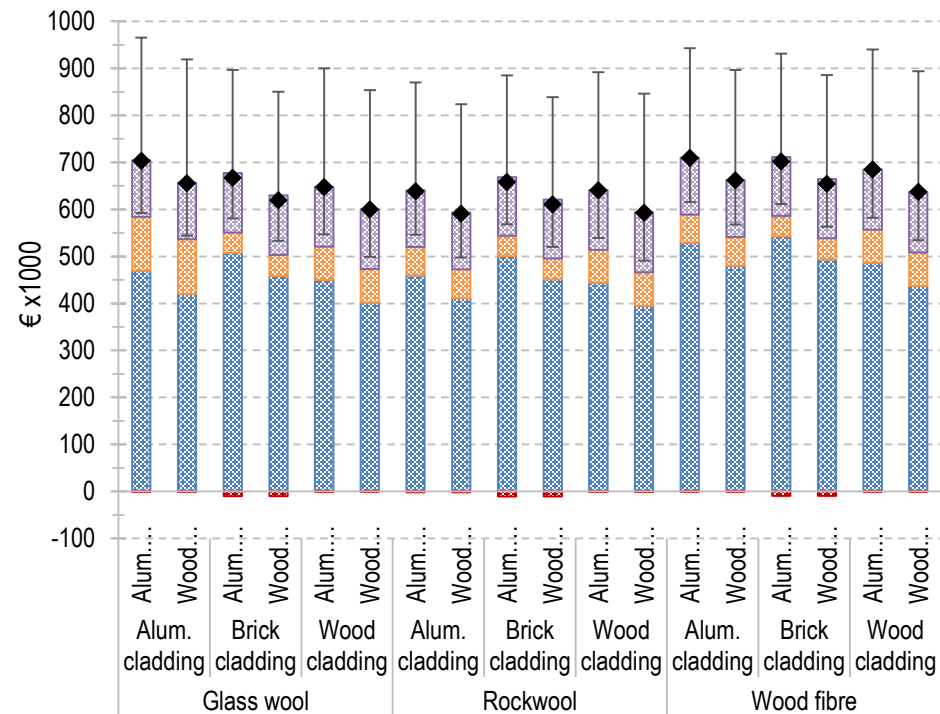
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Life cycle cost to retrofit excluding saved energy cost*

FEBY (50 kWh/m², year)



PHI (30 kWh/m², year)

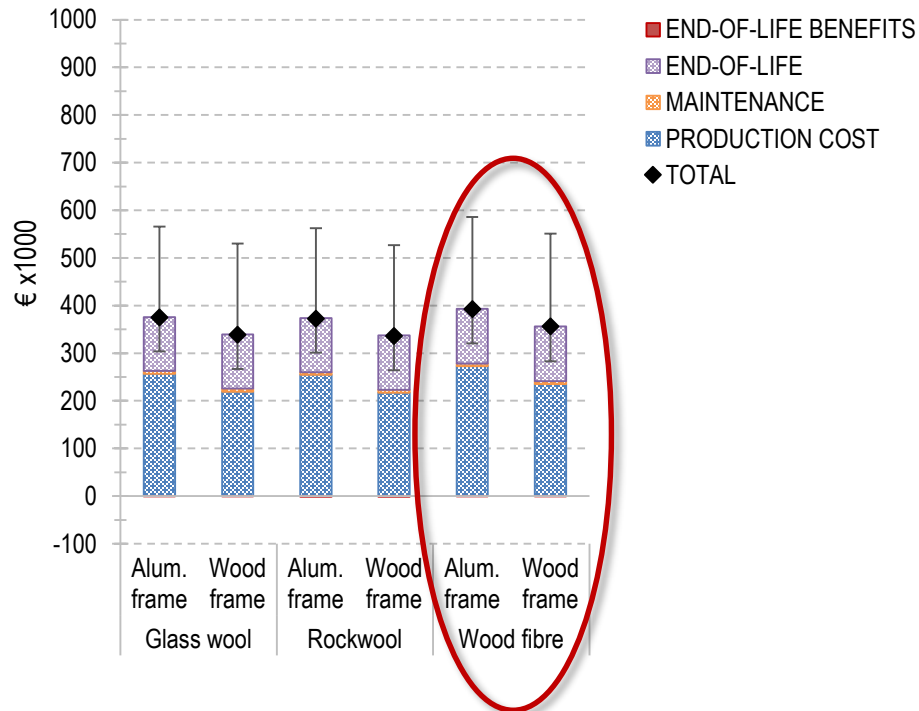


*costs are calculated with a discount rate of 3%

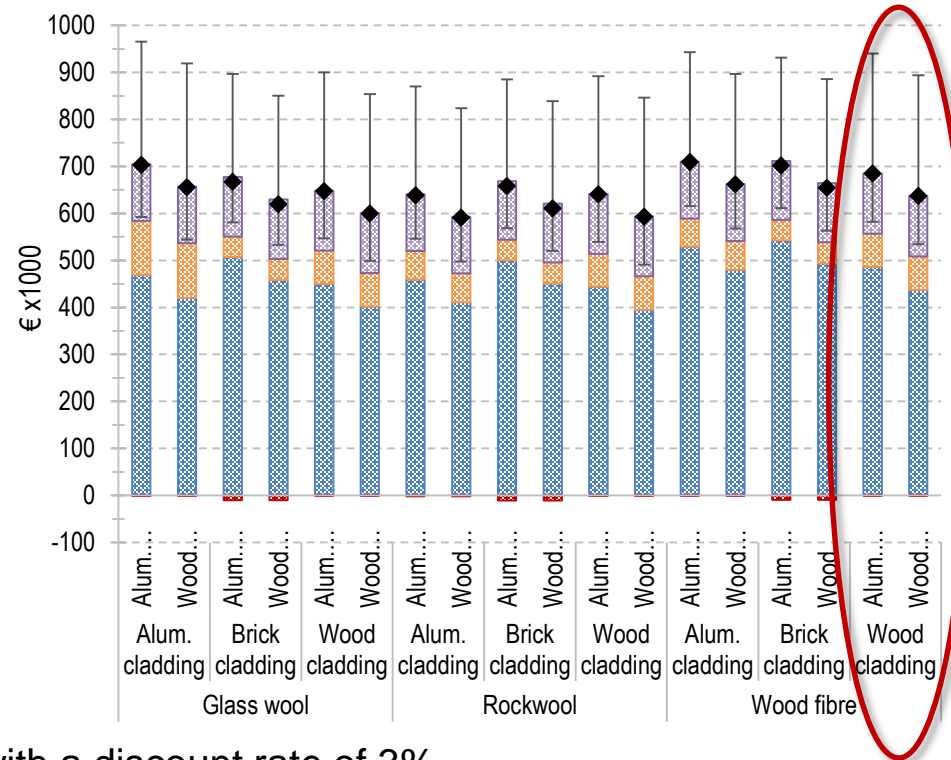
error bars represents the total cost with a discount rate of 5% (minimum) and 1% (maximum)

Life cycle cost to retrofit excluding saved energy cost*

FEBY (50 kWh/m², year)



PHI (30 kWh/m², year)



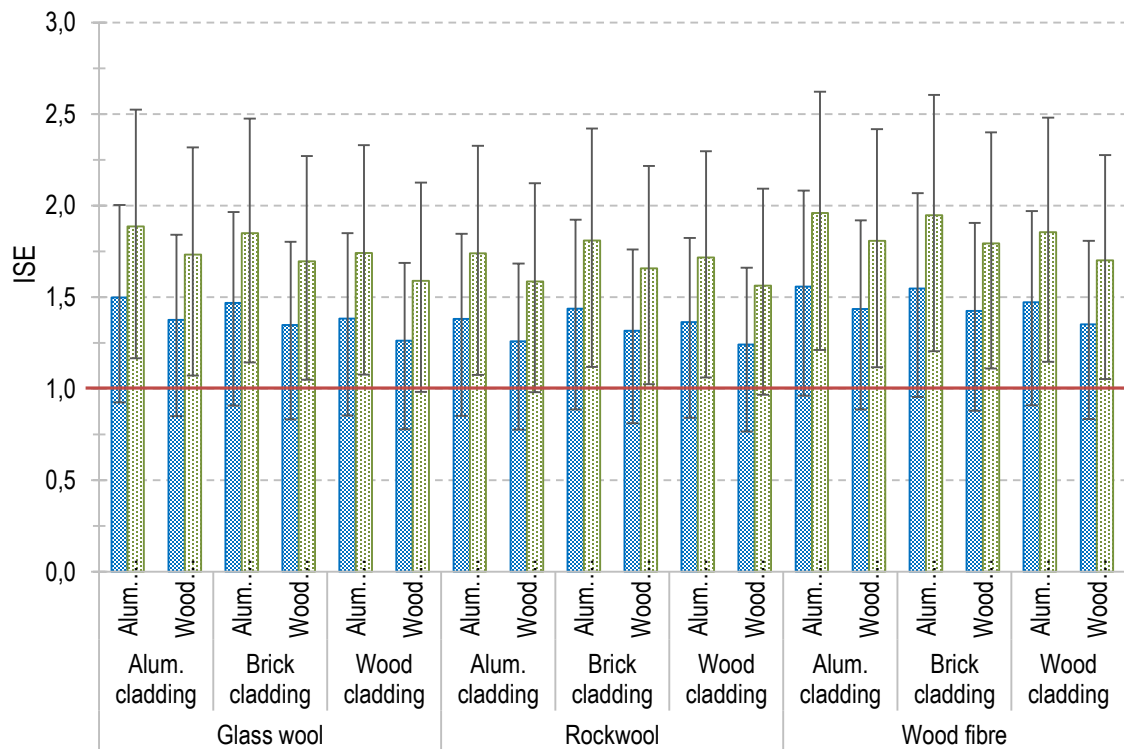
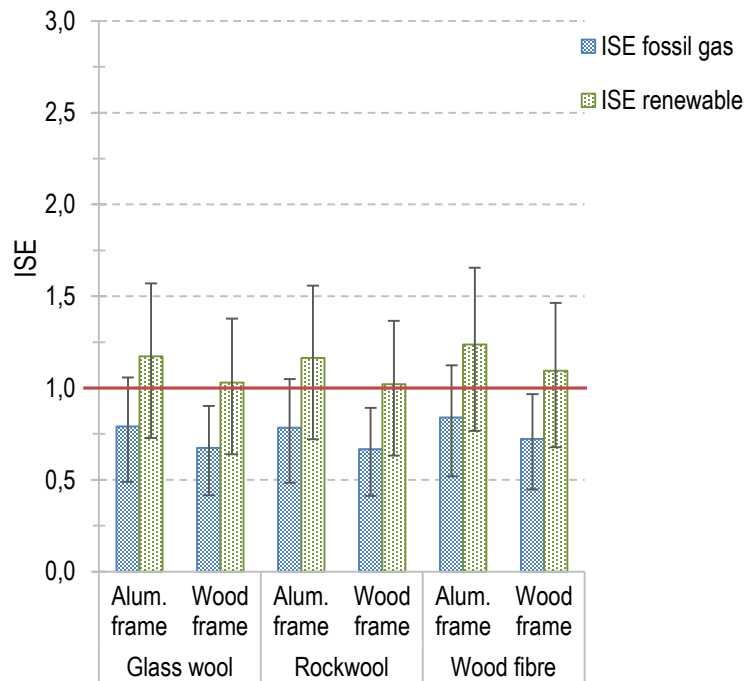
*costs are calculated with a discount rate of 3%

error bars represents the total cost with a discount rate of 5% (minimum) and 1% (maximum)

Ratio between initial investment (production phase) and saved energy cost (ISE) *

FEBY (50 kWh/m², year)

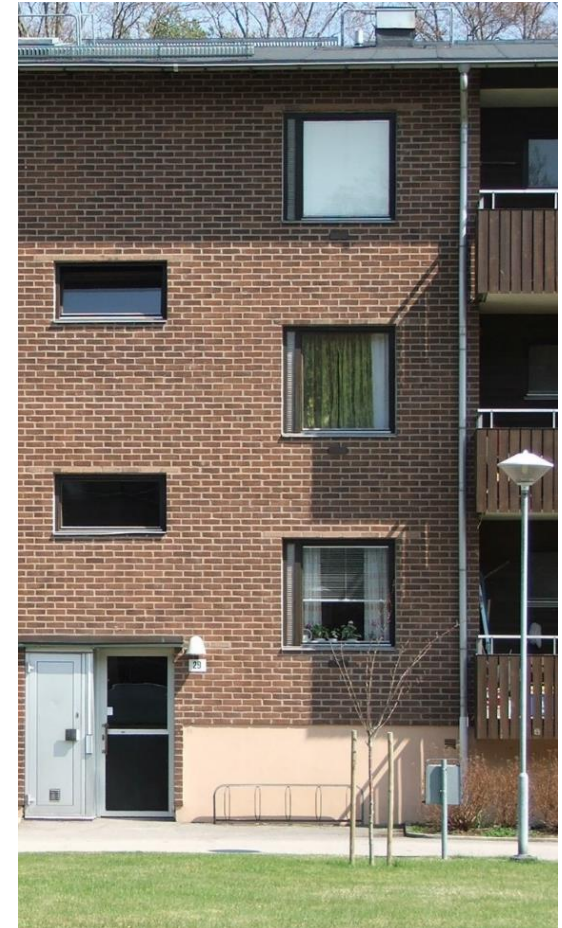
PHI (30 kWh/m², year)



* costs are calculated for two marginal energy scenarios (i.e. fossil gas and renewables) with a discount rate of 3%; error bars represents costs with a discount rate of 5% (min.) and 1% (max.)

Conclusions

- Different material options for building retrofit show different trends for life cycle primary energy use and cost.
- The production phase accounts for the highest share of primary energy use and costs in both the FEBY (50 kWh/m²,year) and PHI (30 kWh/m²,year) retrofits. The maintenance phase is also relevant when the retrofit meets the PHI standard.
- Different material options can affect the cost efficiency (ISE ratio) by up to 12% in FEBY and 30% in PHI retrofit.
- The use of bio-based materials results in up to 40% lower primary energy use. However, the use of wood fibre insulation can increase the costs by up to 7% in the FEBY (50 kWh/m², year) and 14% in the PHI (30 kWh/m²,year) retrofits.
- The study assumptions, i.e. real discount rate and energy scenario, can affect the results significantly.



Thank you for your attention!

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