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ENGINEERING
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District heating in 100% renewable energy systems: Combining industrial excess heat and heat pumps



Meng Yuan^{*}, Jakob Zinck Thellufsen, Peter Sorknæs,
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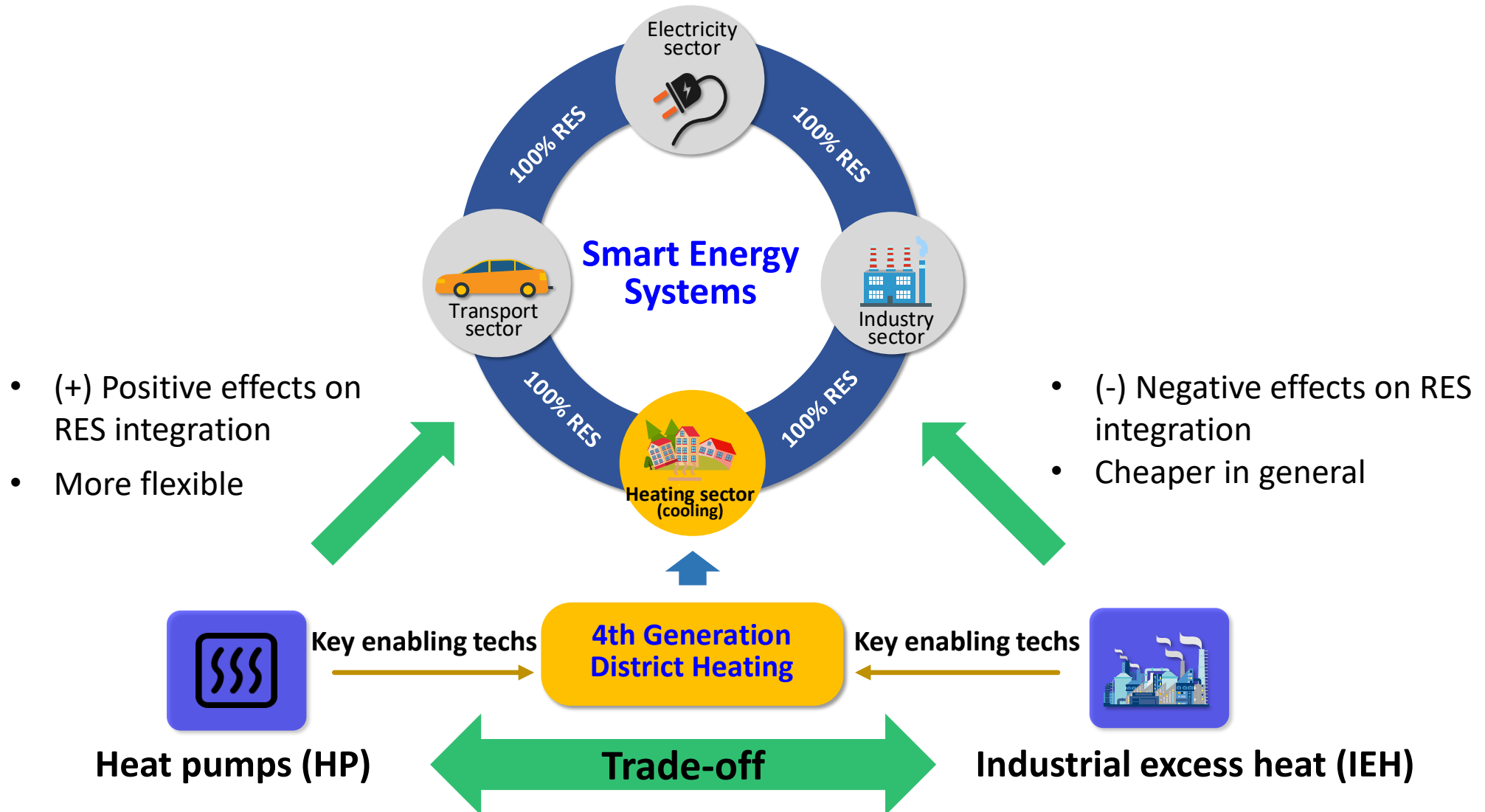
Trade-off problem between IEH and HP



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Research questions

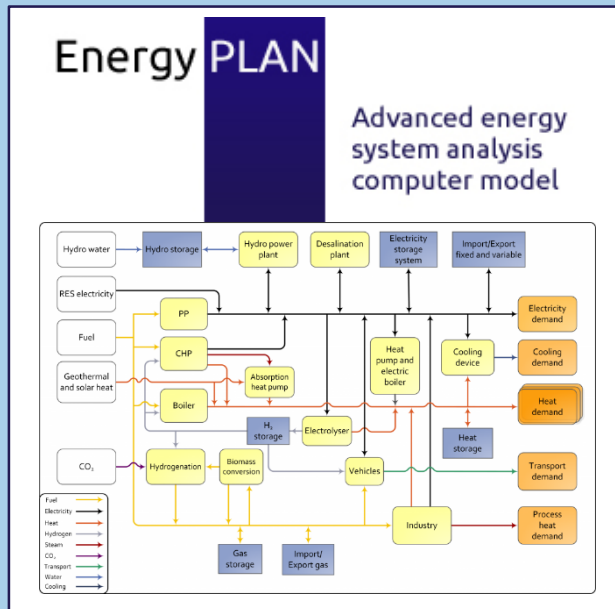


100% renewable smart energy systems

- How to determine 1) the **optimal share** of IEH and HP in a given DH system, 2) associated **RES capacity** in a 100% RE system?
- What are the **techno-economic impacts** on the integrated energy system caused by the integration of IEH and HP under the smart energy systems context?

Methodology

Smart energy system modelling

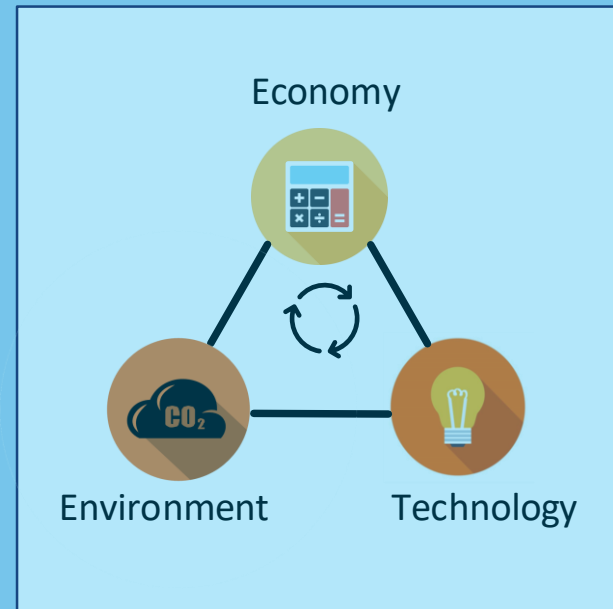


EnergyPLAN

www.energyplan.eu

- Hourly operation simulation of the 100% RE system in a defined year

Multi-objective optimization

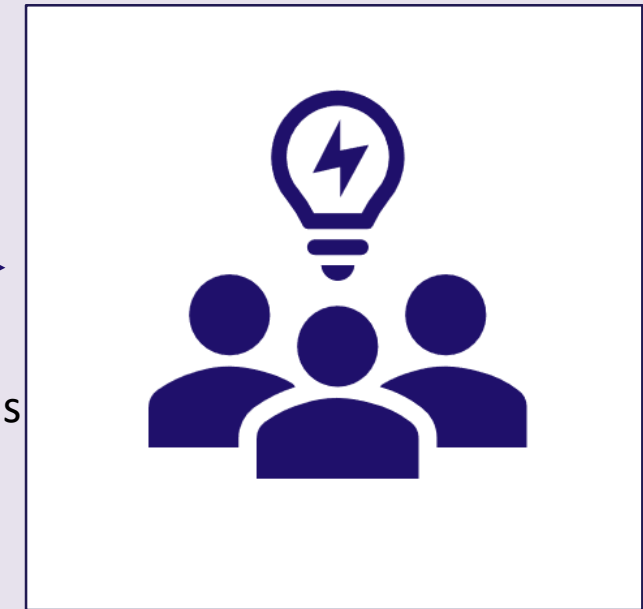


MOPSO

Multi-objective particle swarm optimization

- Three-objective minimum: total annual cost, CO₂ emissions, and CEEP
- Decision variables: HP, IEH, PV & wind

Multiple-criteria decision-making



Improved TOPSIS

Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution

- Post-process of Pareto front
- Determine an optimal solution considering the **weights** of 3-objectives

Capacities of techs



System operation results



Pareto solutions



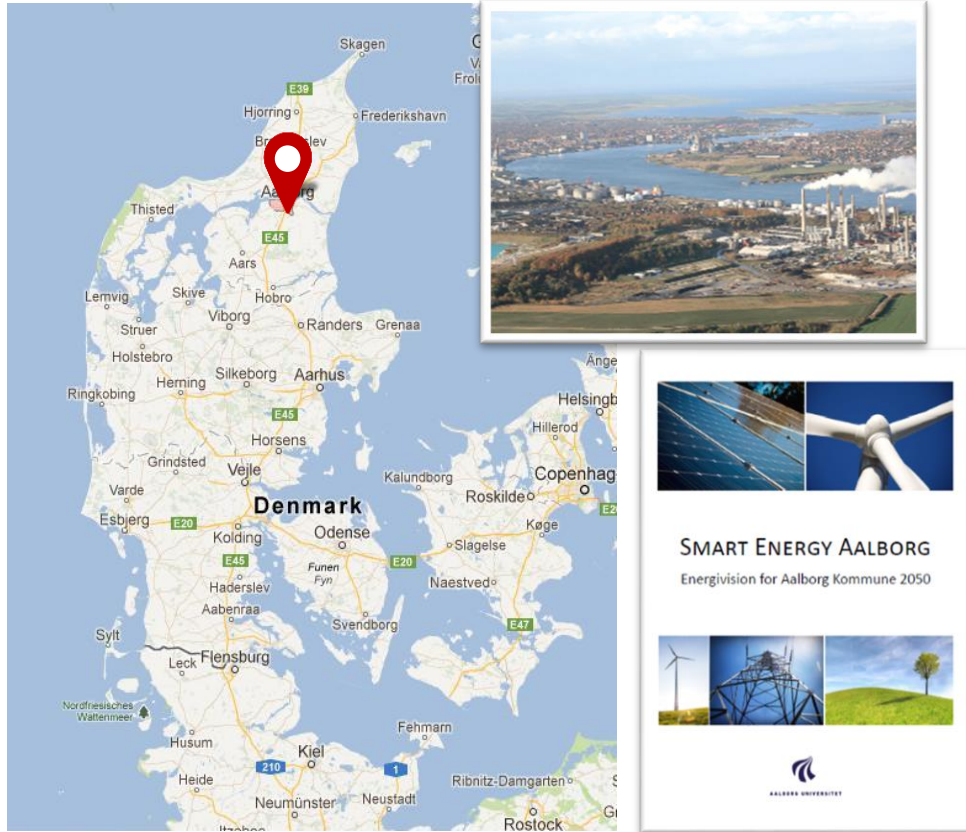
2050 Smart Energy Aalborg



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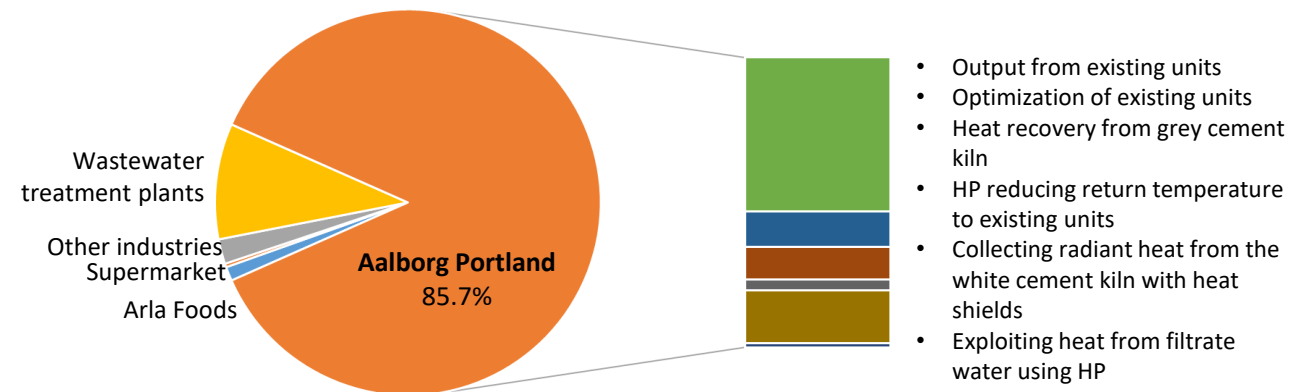


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- Based on the “**Smart Energy Aalborg**” project* in AAU, which aims to transit Aalborg to 100% RE in 2050
- The **BAU scenario** and **Energy Vision scenario** are adopted as the baseline of this study

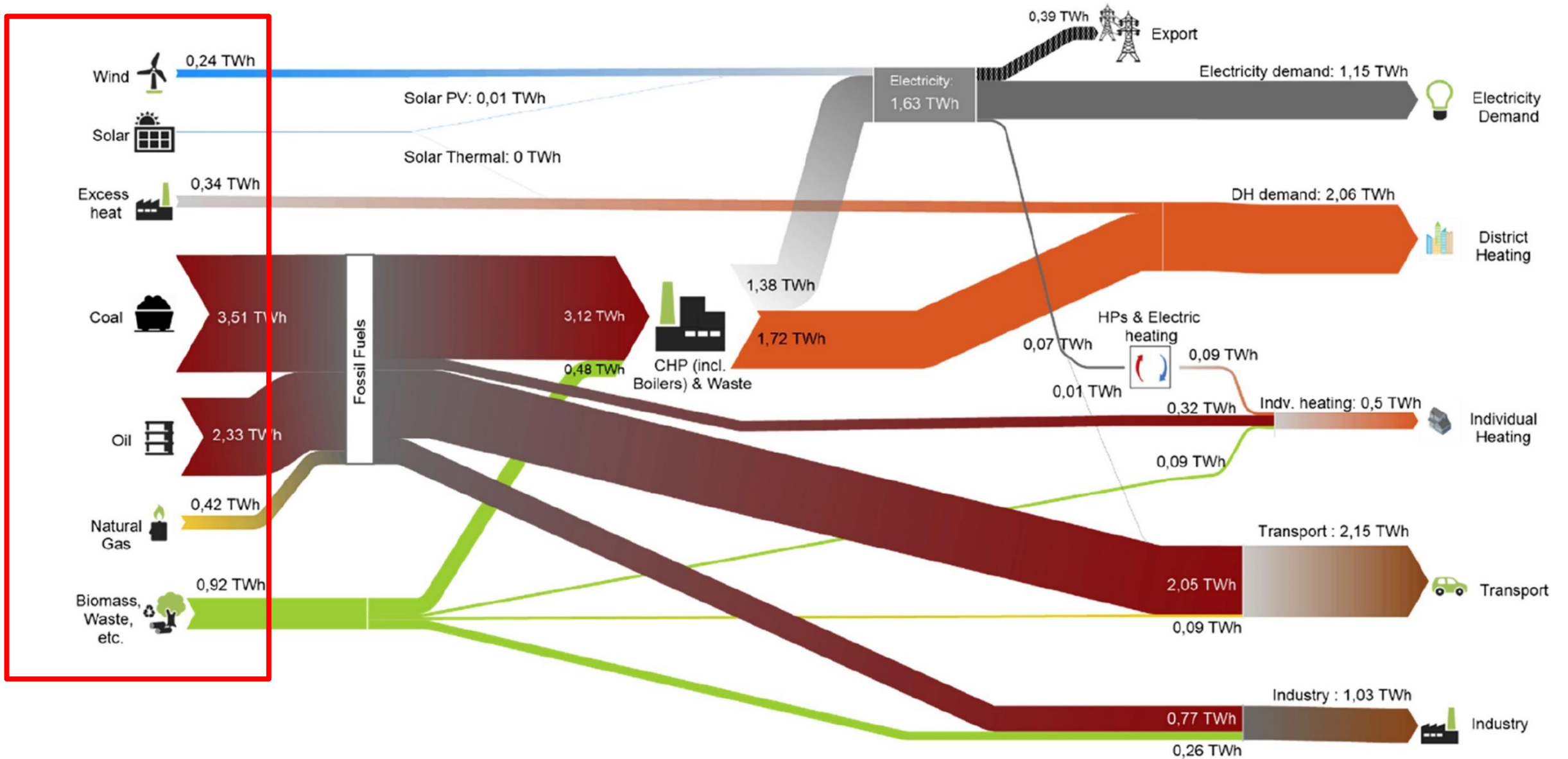
Technical potential of IEH in Aalborg



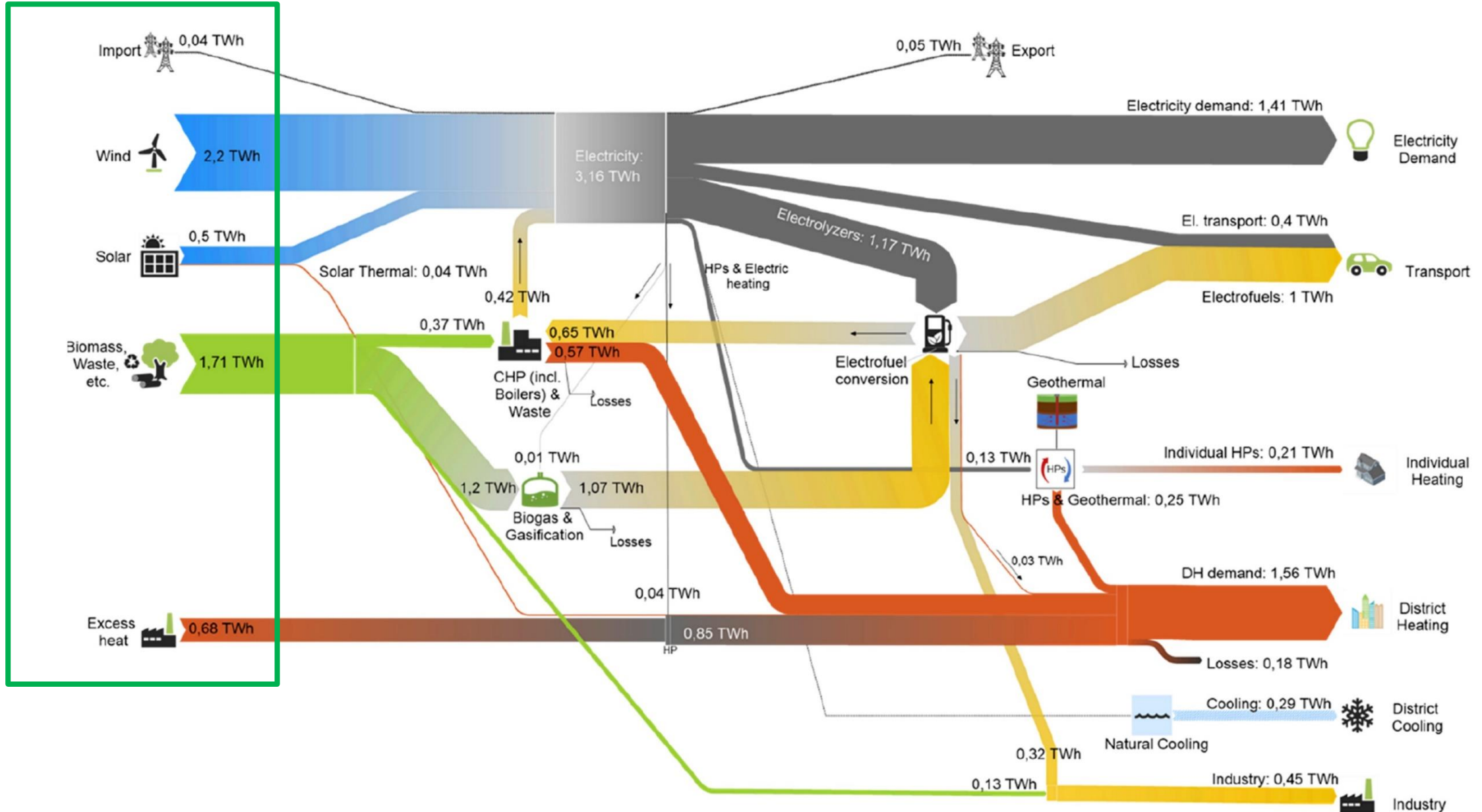
Total IEH potential: 1023 GWh
IEH in Energy Vision: 850 GWh

* “Smart Energy Aalborg” research was conducted by the Sustainable Energy Planning Research Group Aalborg University at the request of the city council of Aalborg Municipality and the local municipality-owned utilities and authorities. <https://vbn.aau.dk/en/publications/smart-energy-aalborg-energivision-for-aalborg-kommune-2050-2>

2050 BAU scenario



2050 Energy Vision scenario



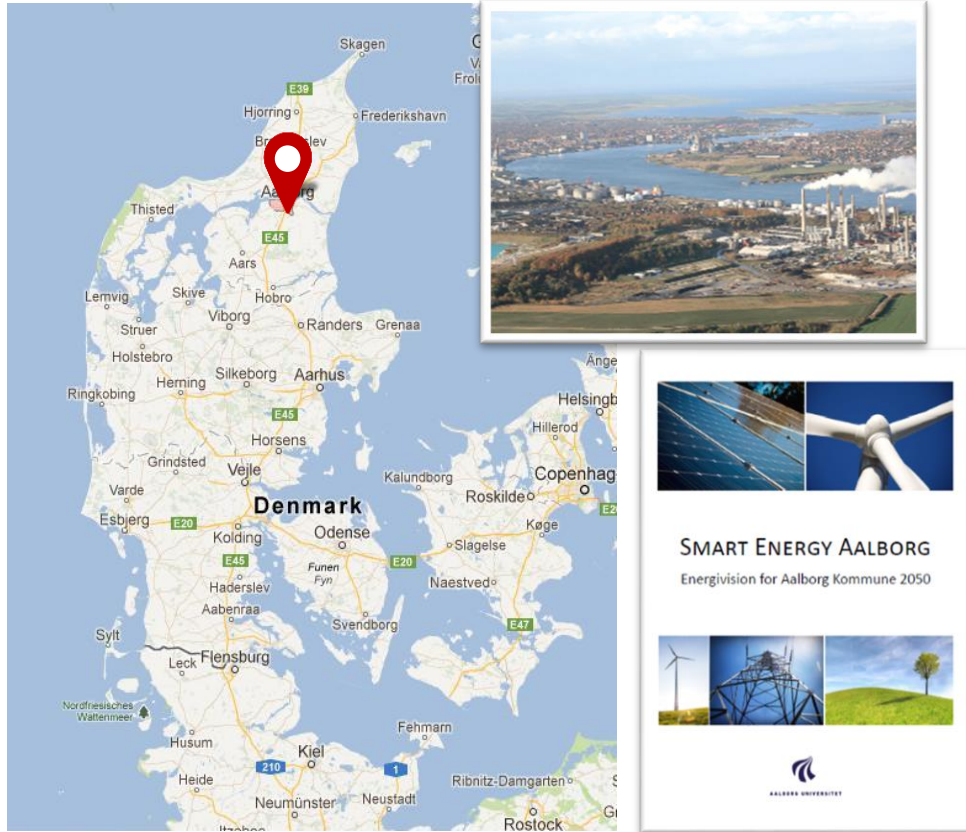
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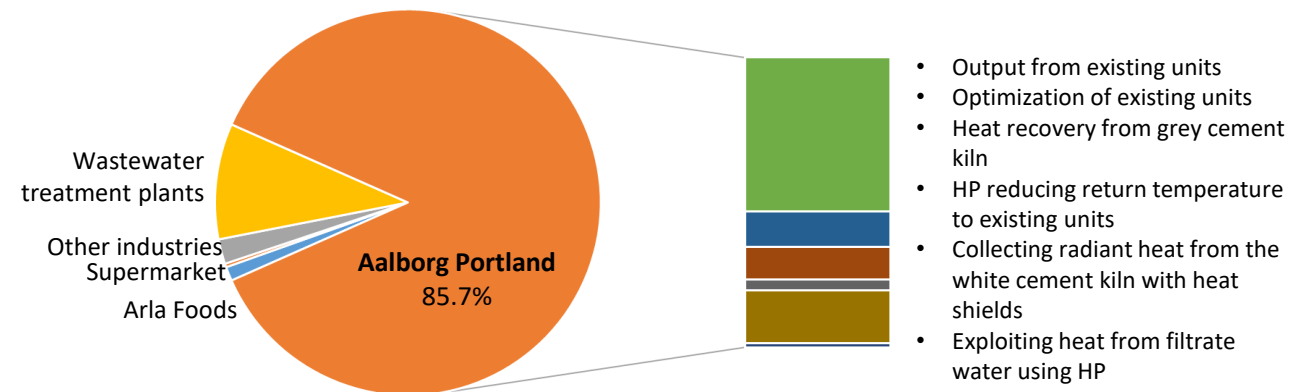


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Results - Optimal DH planning



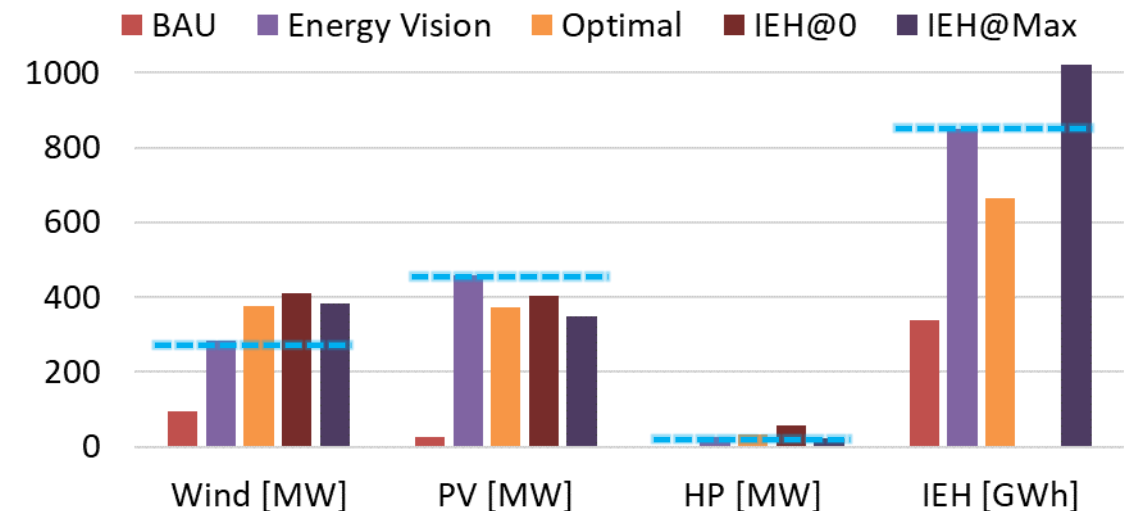
Scenarios

- **BAU**: Maintain the status quo of the energy system of 2018 in the year 2050
- **Energy Vision**: The 100% RE system defined in Smart Energy Aalborg
- **Optimal**: The optimal 100% RE system obtained by using the proposed approach
- **IEH@0**: The 100% RE system does not utilize IEH in DH
- **IEH@Max**: The 100% RE system utilizes the max technical potential of IEH in DH

Results of the three-objectives in different scenarios

Scenarios		Cost [MEUR]	CO ₂ [Mton]	CEEP [TWh]
Smart Energy Aalborg	BAU	673	2.374	0.47
	Energy Vision	626	0.044	0.05
This study	Optimal	621	0.001	0.07
	IEH@0	628	0.001	0.09
	IEH@Max	624	0	0.07

Results of the decision variables in different scenarios



Results - District heating systems

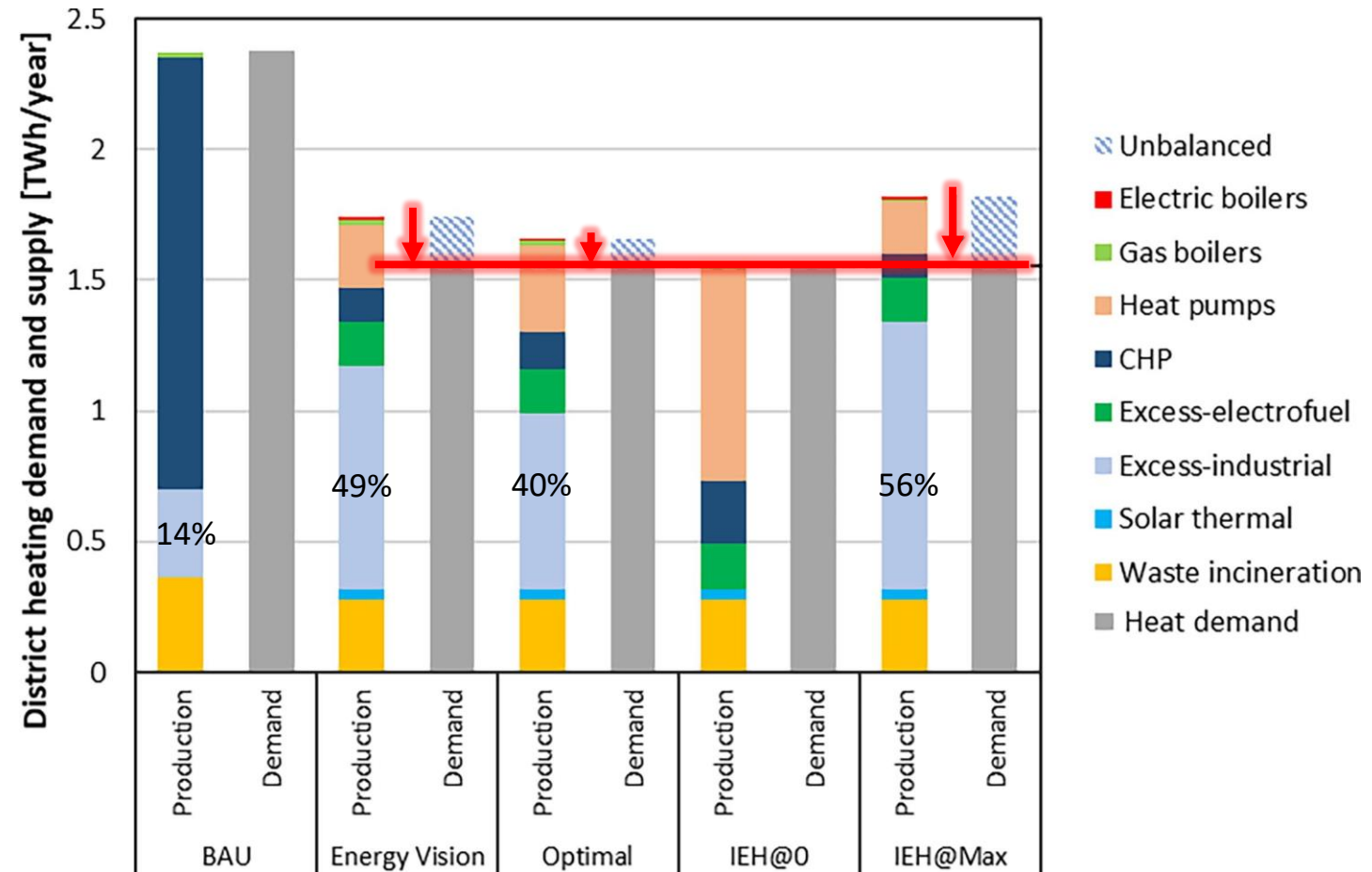


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- 20% HP and 40% IEH in the total DH supply under the Optimal scenario
- The larger-scale integration of HP will bring a more balanced DH system



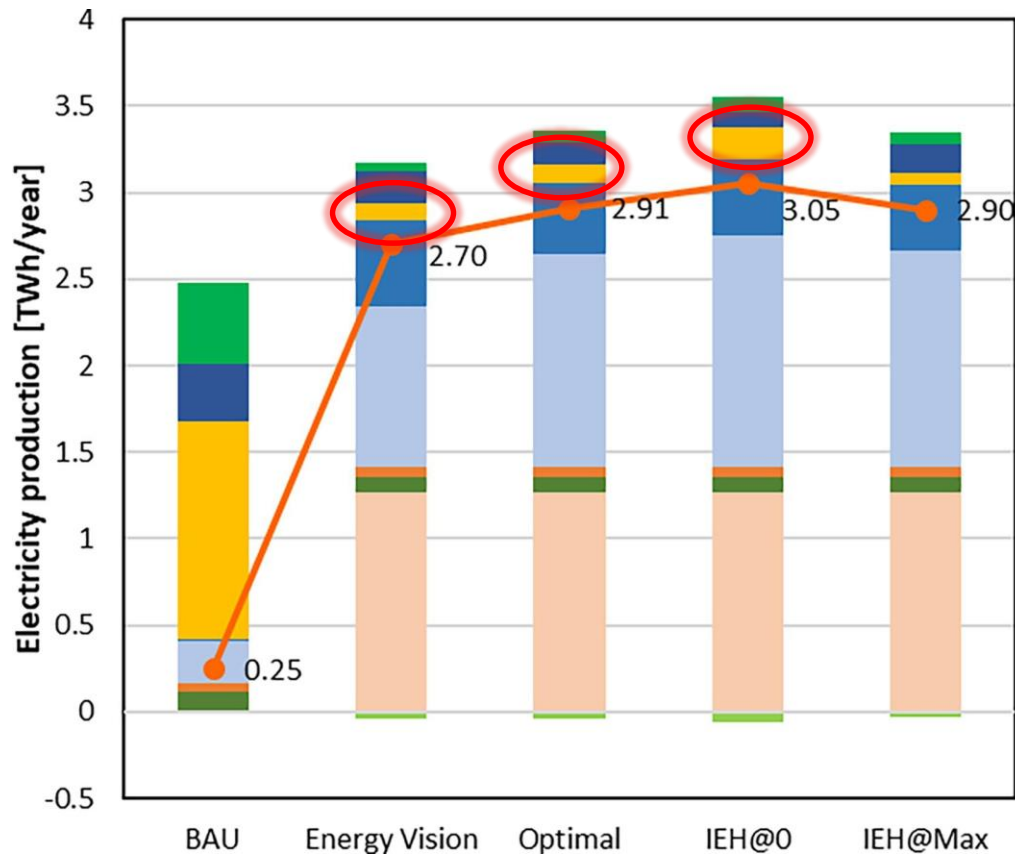
Results - Structure of electricity generation



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Other results and analysis

- Sector synergies between heating, electricity, and gas grid
- Sensitivity analysis of the gas prices
- Technology choice impacts of each single IEH resource
- Sensitivity analysis of the weights of three-objectives

Key points



- A **proper mix** of both HP and IEH technologies in the DH supply will bring larger benefits
- While IEH is a key resource for future low-temperature 4GDH and smart energy systems, it is vital to emphasize that the **HP solution is also feasible**
- This work has provided a reference and a methodology for policymakers and system operators in the design of district heating systems under multiple feasible technical options

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Thank you for your attention!

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More info:

[1] Yuan M, Thellufsen JZ, Sorknæs P, Lund H, Liang Y. District heating in 100% renewable energy systems: Combining industrial excess heat and heat pumps. Energy Convers Manag. 2021;244:114527.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enconman.2021.114527>