



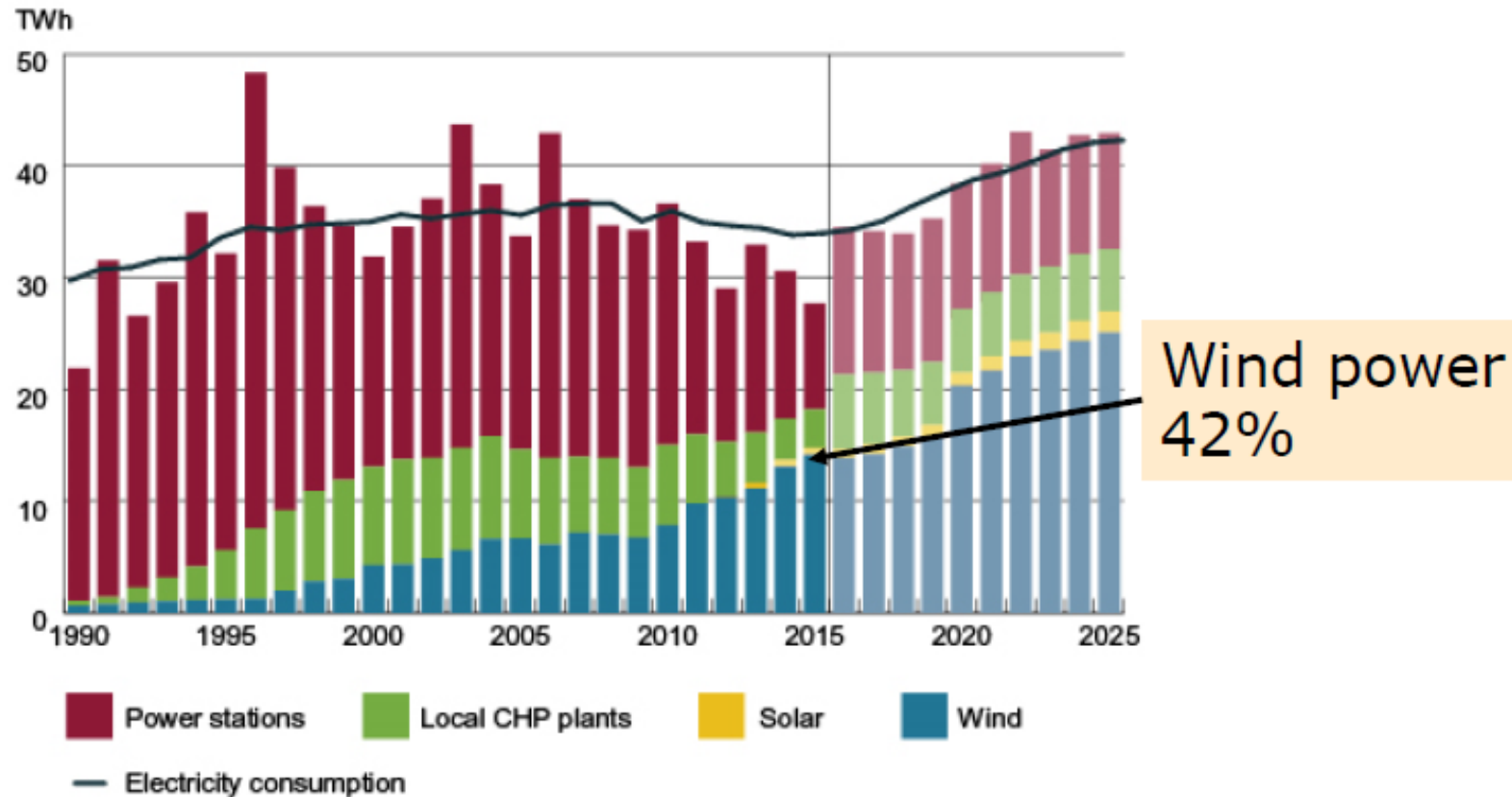
# Need for Flexibility

The future energy system will be characterized by a significant penetration of **renewable energy**:

→ Challenge for the stability of the system, as both the production and the consumption side would have fluctuating patterns.

→ The concept of **energy flexibility** will be necessary in order for the consumption to match the production patterns.

# Renewable Energy in the Danish Energy System



By Energinet.dk, last update in Sep. 2016

<http://www.energinet.dk/EN/KLIMA-OG-MILJOE/Miljoerapportering/Elproduktion-i-Danmark/Sider/Elproduktion-i-Danmark.aspx>

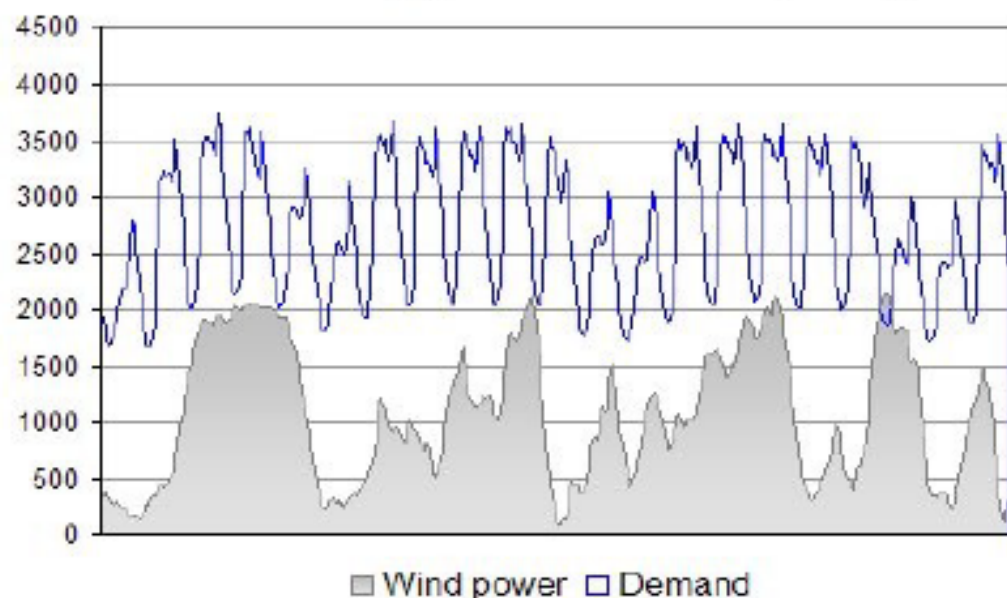
Gathered by: Rongling Li



# The Danish Wind Power Case

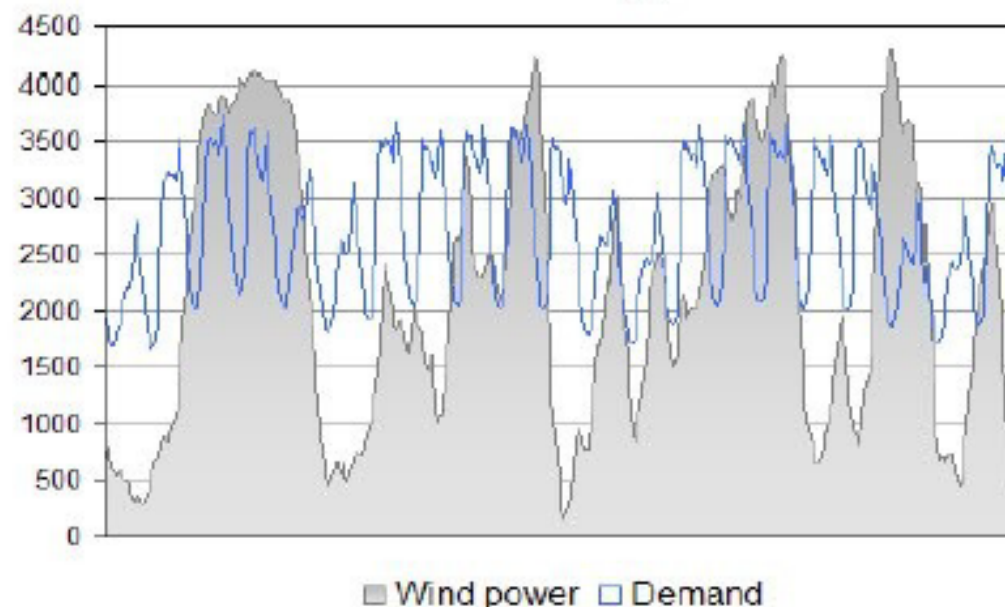
.... *balancing of the power system*

25 % wind energy (West Denmark January 2008)



Wind power covers the entire demand of electricity  
in 200 hours (West DK)

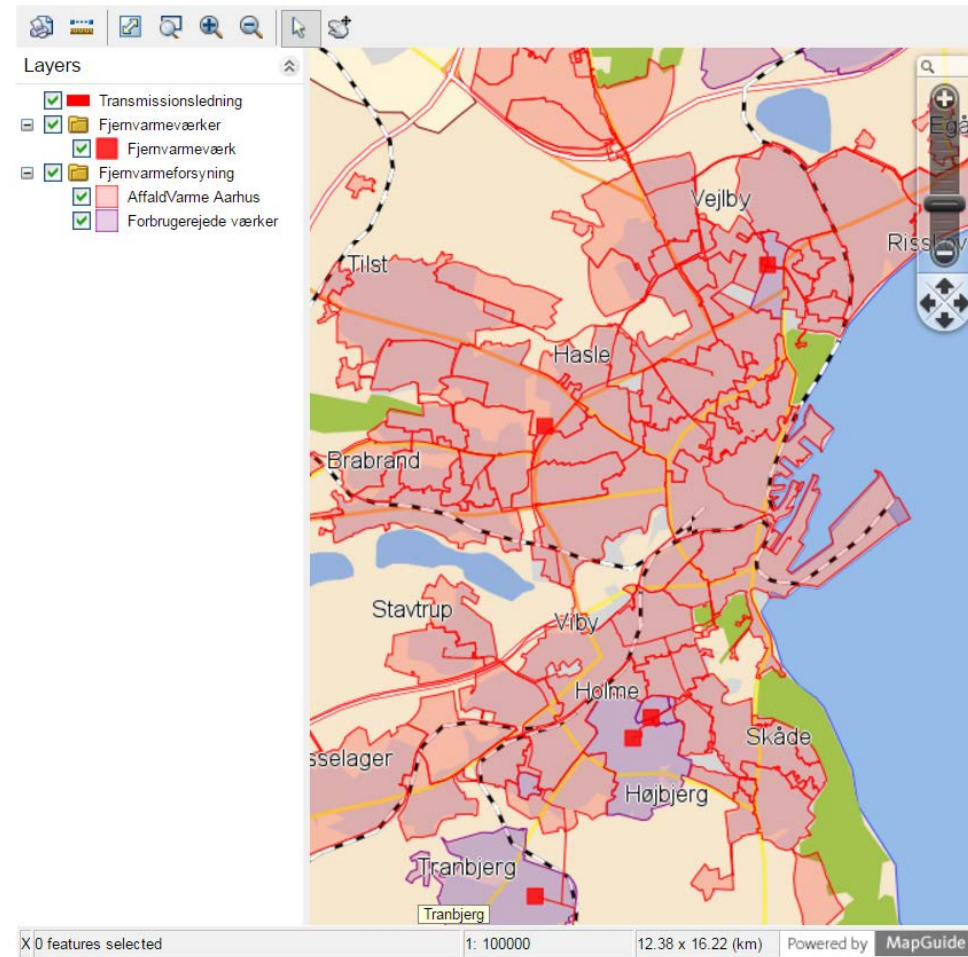
50 % wind energy



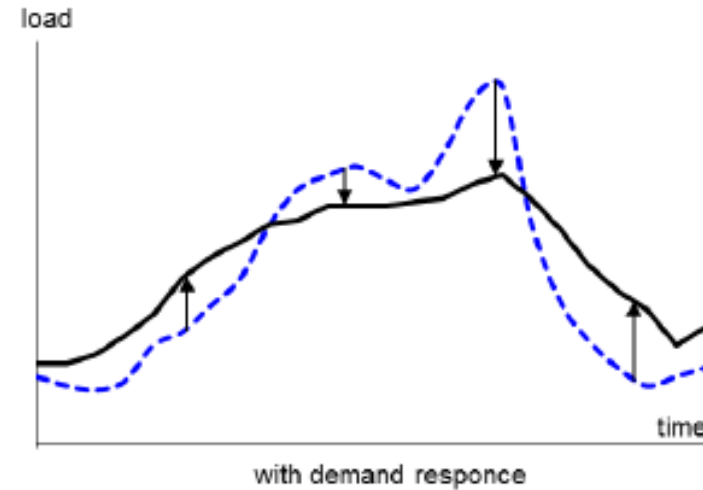
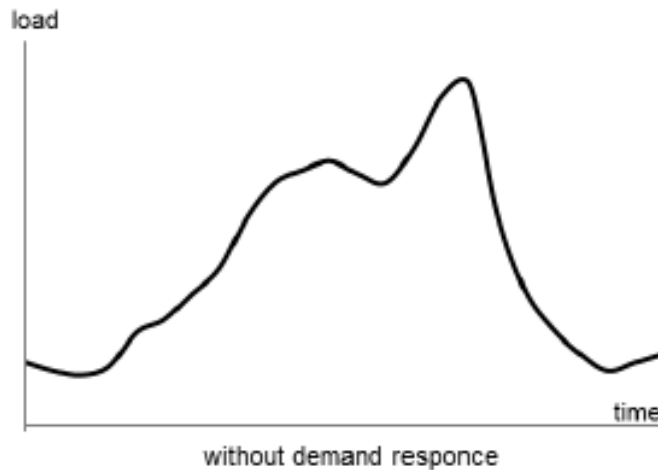
In the future wind power will exceed demand  
in more than 1,000 hours

# For District Heating

- District heating companies also need flexibility
- They can avoid "turning on" a power plant in situations with peak heating demand – possibly saving on the need for fossil energy!



# Most Buildings Have the Ability to Become Energy Flexible



Building thermal mass  
Building energy systems



Gathered by: Rongling Li



# Why Flexible Buildings?

The building sector is dominating in terms of energy demand:  
In most European countries 32% of the total final energy use or 40% of the primary energy use are related to buildings.

→ Ideal platform to integrate **smart energy solutions** for the future.

Hypothesis:

*Buildings could provide energy flexibility to the system, thus facilitating the integration of a larger share of renewable energy.*

Interconnection of buildings with the energy network is crucial to form **energy hubs**.

# Energy Flexibility in Buildings

## Techniques:

- Demand-Side Management (DSM) → any activity adopted on the demand side that ultimately changes the utility's system load profile
- Demand Response (DR) → a set of techniques to induce the customer to change their energy demand
- Electric Load Management (ELM) → any policy devised to manage a set of electric loads to obtain the desired goal, such as peak load reduction or energy usage optimization

[Benetti et al., 2015]

## Demand-Side Management includes:

- Reduce peak loads
- Shift load from on-peak to off-peak
- Increase the flexibility of the load
- Reduce energy consumption in general

[Müller et al., 2015]



# Energy Flexibility in Buildings

## Aspects:

- Technical parameters of buildings:
  - Thermal mass: Building thermal properties
  - HVAC: System characteristics
- Occupants
- Micro-climate and other external influences

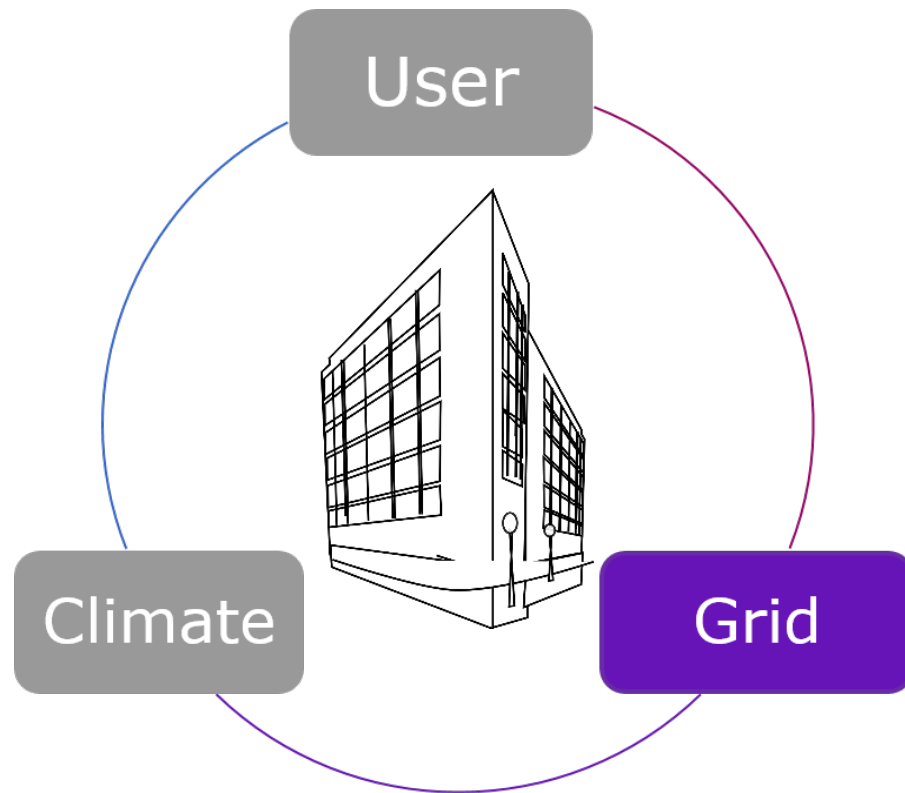
## Storage in the thermal mass of the buildings:

- Store energy during periods with high availability of RE  
→ No additional CO<sub>2</sub>
- No investments required for this method, apart from controllers

## Flexible users:

- Informed and motivated users
- A building management system (BMS) will be extended with smart energy management.

# Grid need and flexibility potential in buildings



## District heating grid

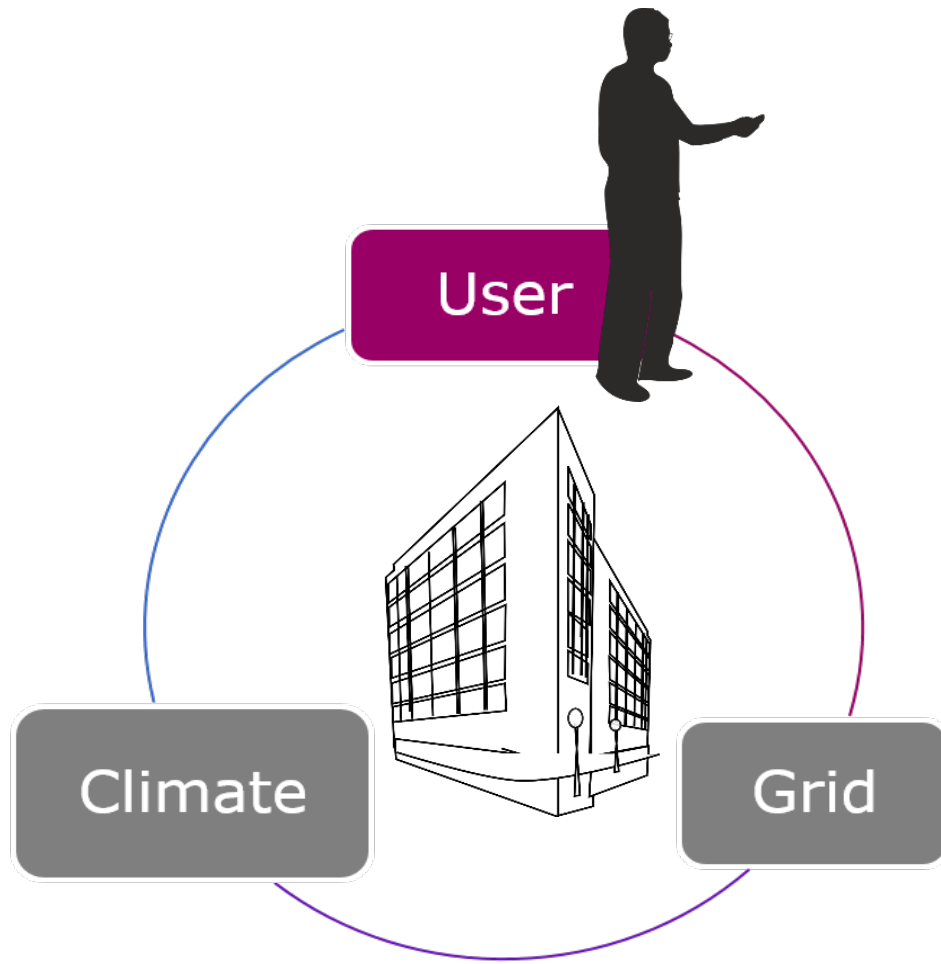
- Reduction of peak load
- Reduction of heat generation costs
- Reduction of GHG emissions

## Heat demand flexibility in buildings

- Building thermal mass
- Hot water storage tank
- Heat pump

Source:  
Rongling Li

# User behaviour



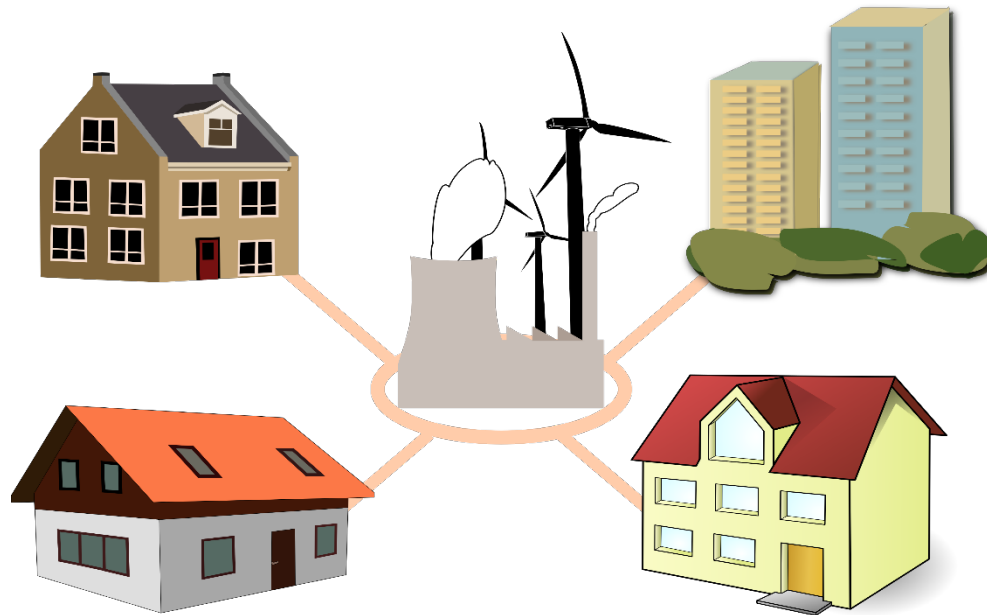
## Stochastic daily activities

- Occupancy
- Lighting
- Thermostat adjustment
- Use of white goods
  - Window opening
  - Blinds adjustment
  - etc.

## Building performance simulation

- Occupancy
- Lighting
- Thermostat adjustment
- Use of white goods
  - Window opening
  - Blind adjustment

# Categorization of heating energy flexibility for thermal flexibility integration



- Heat flexibility quantification for different building types
- Applicable indicator development
- Flexibility integration to district level

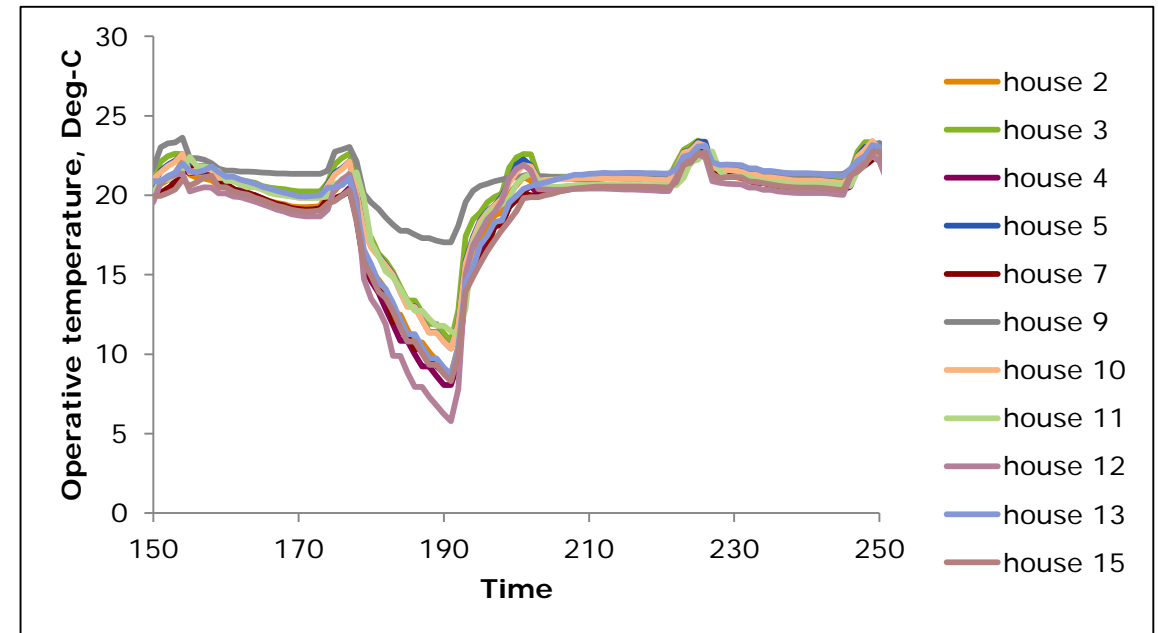
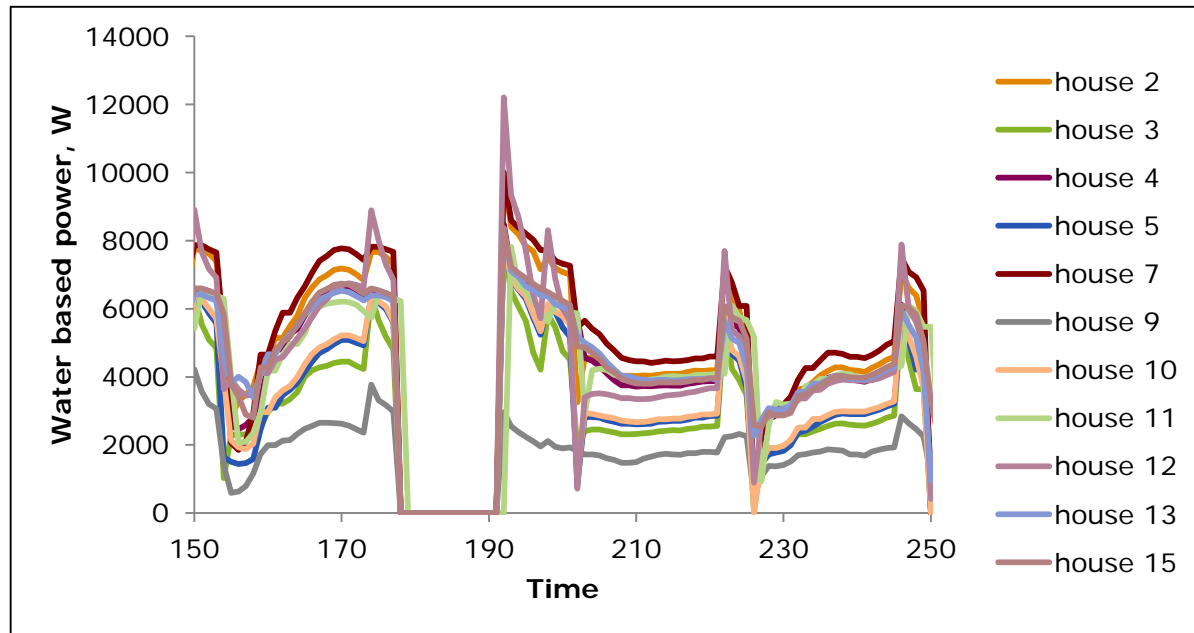
# Example 1

## Energy flexibility potential of building stock

- 11 archetypes of buildings
- Mainly built in 1950-1970s
- Heating cut-off experiment applied on a winter day with reduced solar radiation
- Pre-heating strategy up to 25°C for 4h was applied followed by heating cut-off

Source:  
Panagiota Gianniou

# Energy flexibility potential of building stock



## Findings

- Reduced energy flexibility potential: mean thermal autonomy duration after cut-off= 1 h
- Operative temperature falls below 10° C in some cases, which is indicative of poor building envelope and cold ambient temperatures

# Building typologies

## Types of Danish houses



*Approx. 1900*



1920s



1930s



1940s



1950s



1960s



1970s



1980s
























1990s

Source: SBI 2012:04



# Categorization of Buildings for Heating Energy Flexibility

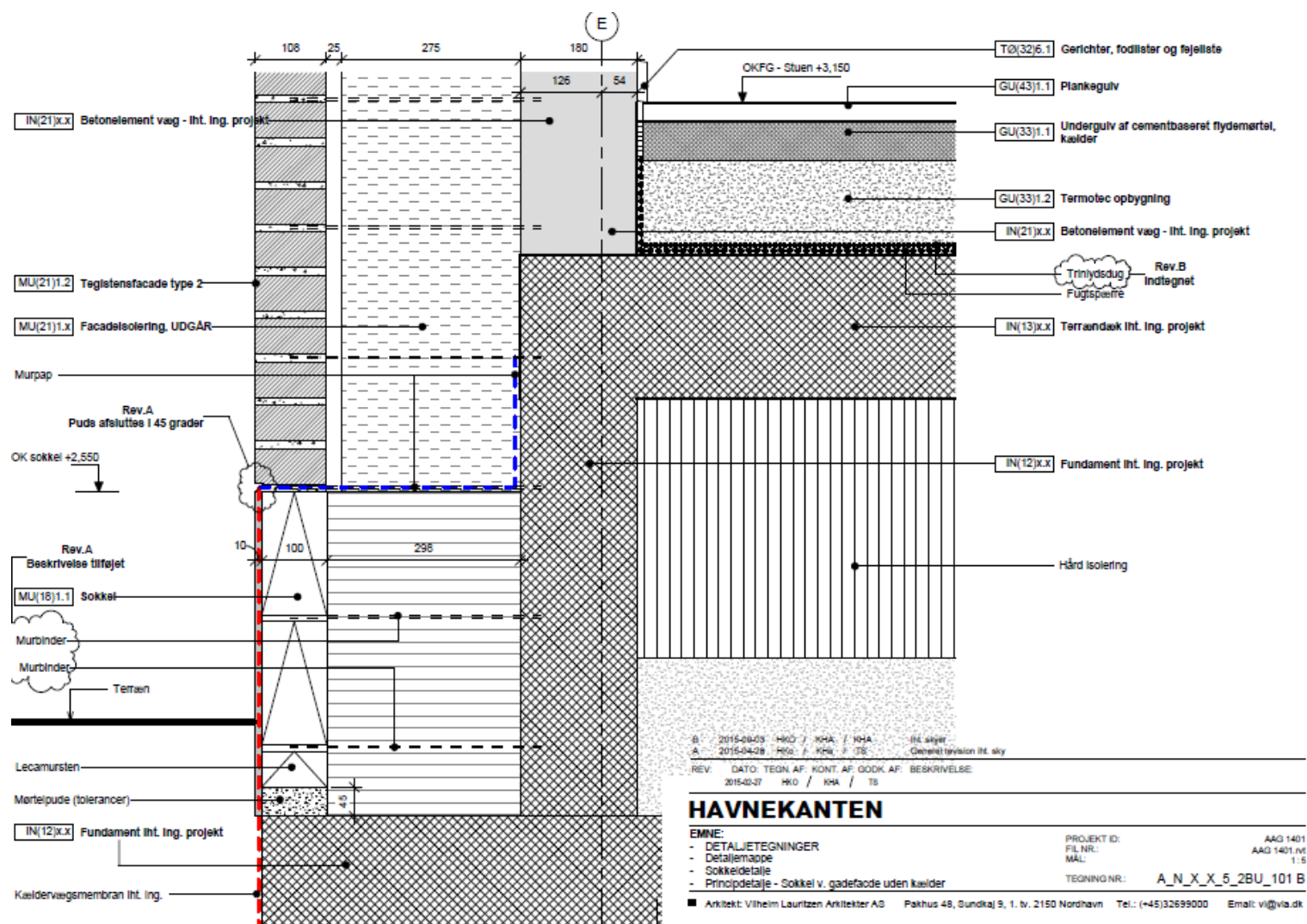
 <p>TABULA WebTool</p> <p>Selection Building</p> <p>Selection System</p> <p>Building Data</p> <p>System Data</p> <p>Charts 1</p> <p>Charts 2</p> <p>Charts 3</p> <p>Comparison Charts</p> <p>Calculation PDF 1</p> <p>Calculation PDF 2</p> <p>Calculation PDF 3</p> <p>AT.Oil.B.SUH.01</p> <p>AT.Oil.B_C.Gen.01</p> <p>AT.Bio_WP.B_WP.Gen.01</p> <p>Ventilation System</p> <p>AT_-.Gen.01</p> <p>AT_-.Gen.01</p>	Country	Region	Construction Year Class	Additional Classification	SFH Single Family House	TH Terraced House	MFH Multi Family House	AB Apartment Block
		(Hele Denmar...	1979 ... 1998	Generic (Standard)	 DK.N.SFH.06.Gen	 DK.N.TH.06.Gen		 DK.N.AB.06.Gen
		national (Hele Denmar...	1979 ... 1998	Generic (Standard)	 DK.N.SFH.07.Gen	 DK.N.TH.07.Gen		 DK.N.AB.07.Gen
		national (Hele Denmar...	1999 ... 2006	Generic (Standard)	 DK.N.SFH.08.Gen	 DK.N.TH.08.Gen		 DK.N.AB.08.Gen
		national (Hele Denmar...	2007 ... 2010	Generic (Standard)	 DK.N.SFH.09.Gen	 DK.N.TH.09.Gen		 DK.N.AB.09.Gen
		national (Hele Denmar...	2011 ...	Generic (Standard)	 DK.N.SFH.10.Gen	 DK.N.TH.10.Gen		 DK.N.AB.10.Gen

## Example 2 – more modern buildings



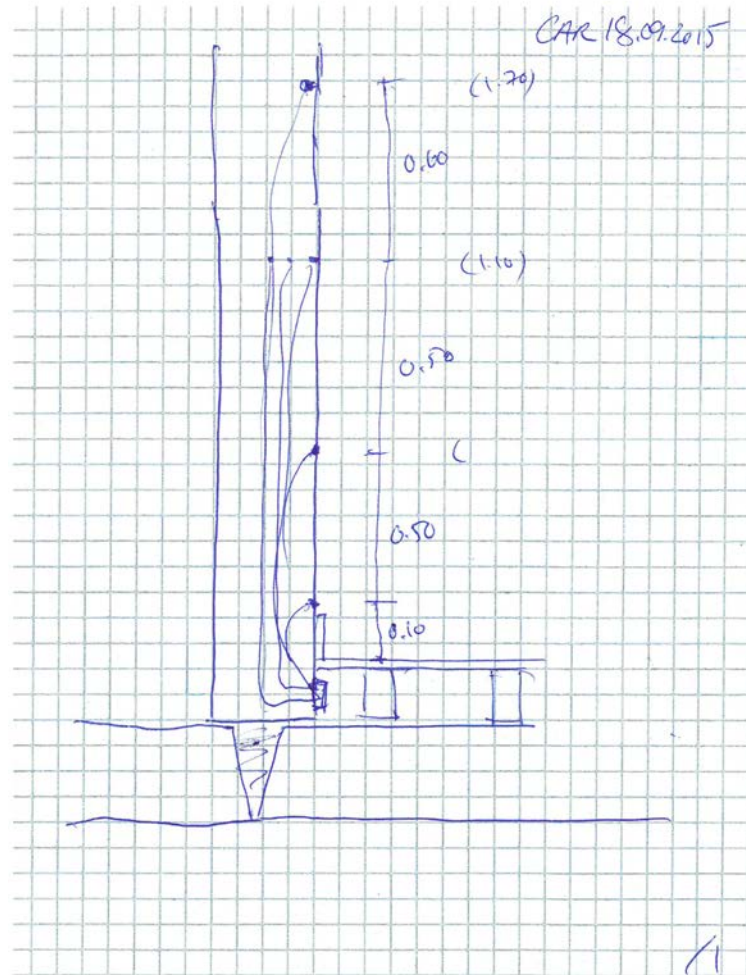
From EnergyLab Nordhavn  
Project:

Case Terra Nova



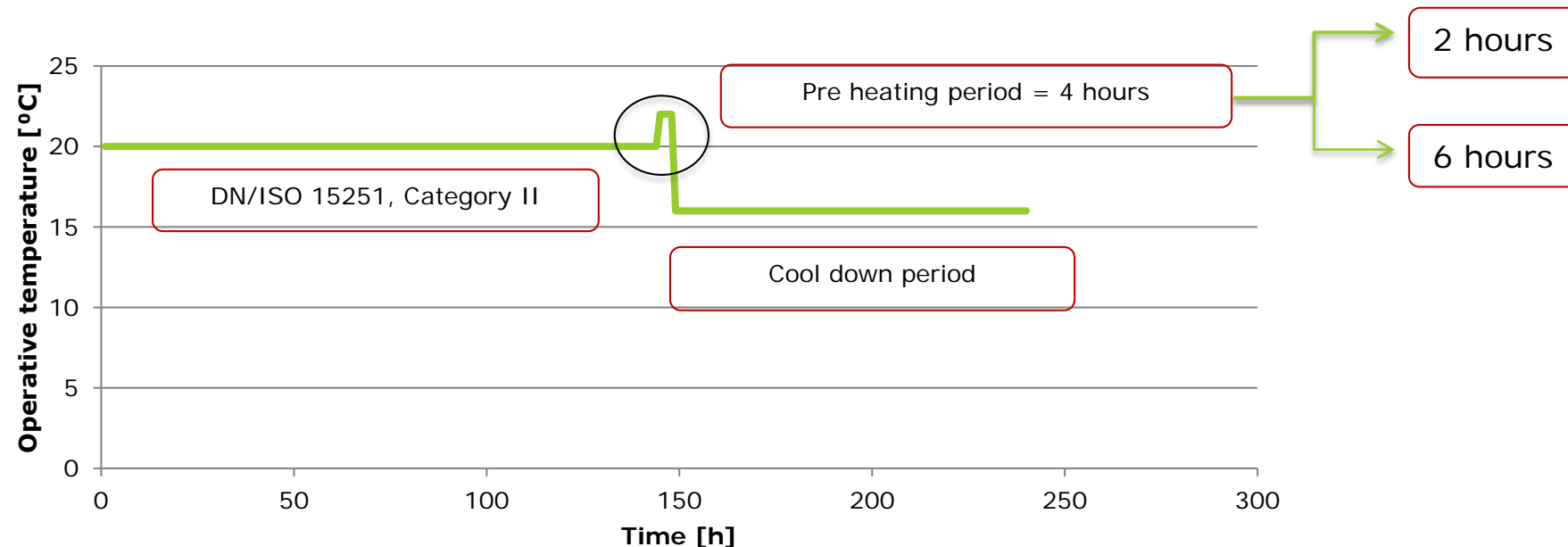


# Sensors in Structures to Study Flexibility with Thermal Mass



# Scenario

- For the Danish District Heating system, the main goal to be achieved is to avoid the utilization of peak load boilers.  
 → Scenario examined: When there is limited/no availability of RES, heat supply needs to stop at specific city districts for certain time intervals.

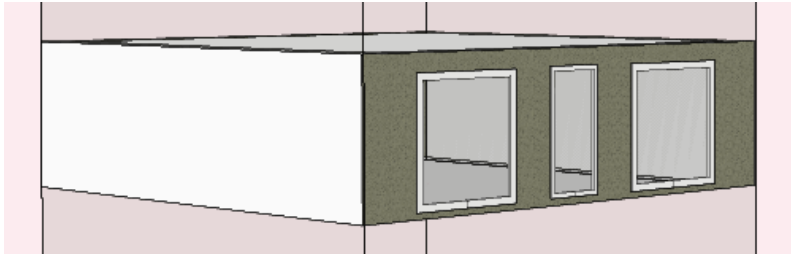


Source:  
Kyriaki Foteinaki

# Methodology

Building simulation tool IDA ICE

- An apartment belongs to a multi-family house low-energy building
  - 81 m<sup>2</sup> area; 2.6 m height; North and South walls exposed to the ambient; East and West walls, floor and ceiling attached to similarly heated spaces.



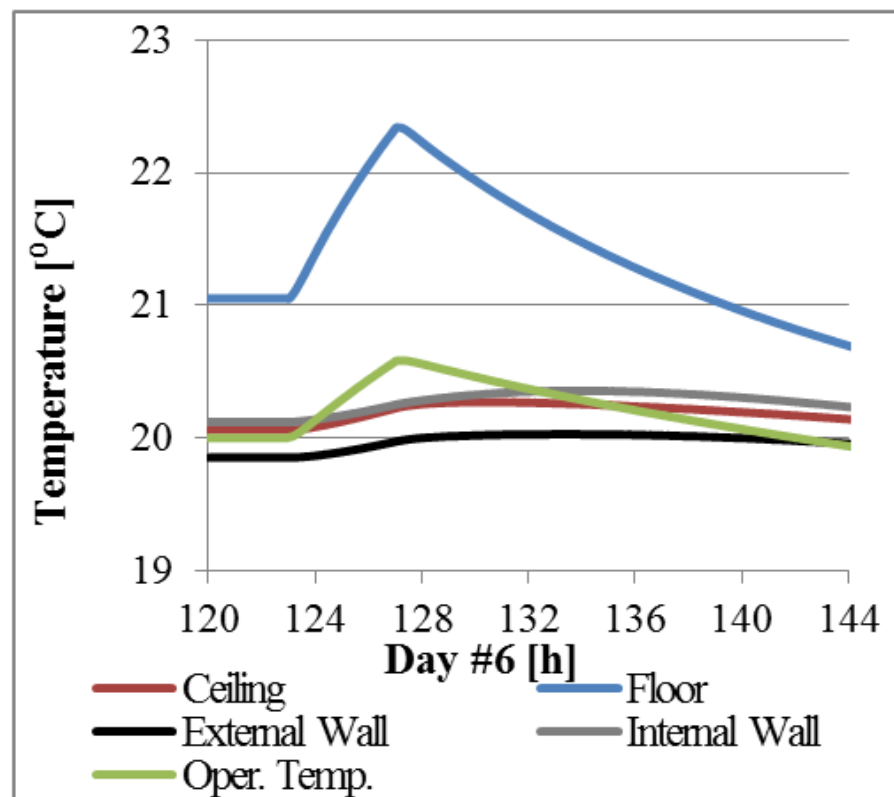
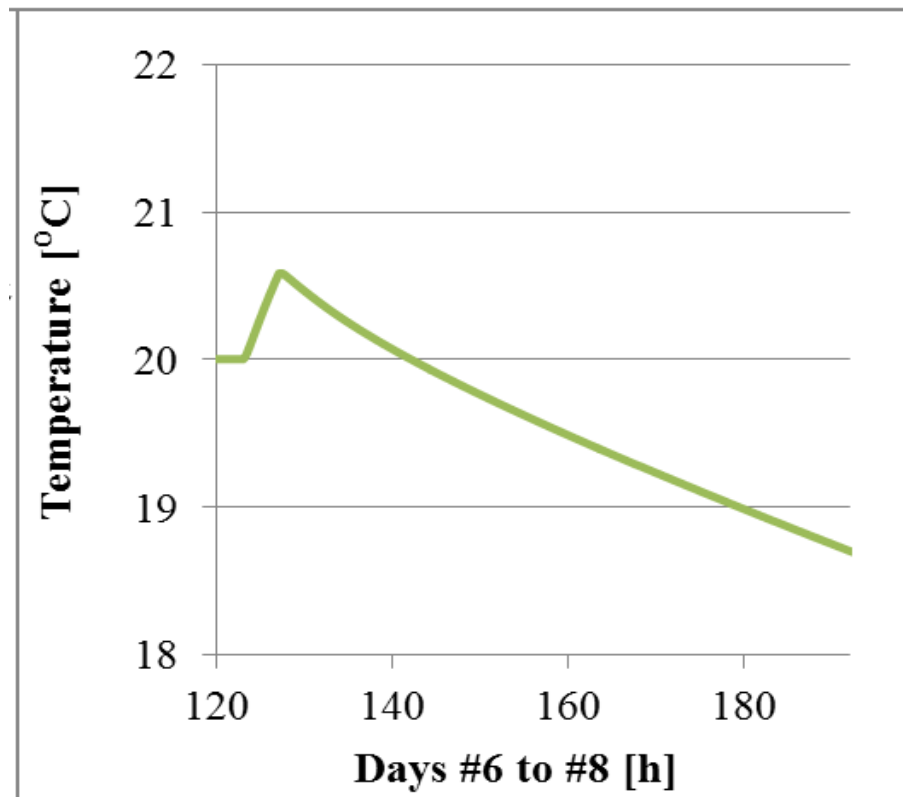
- Connected to the DH system; Floor heating system
- Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery
- Low Infiltration

# Objective

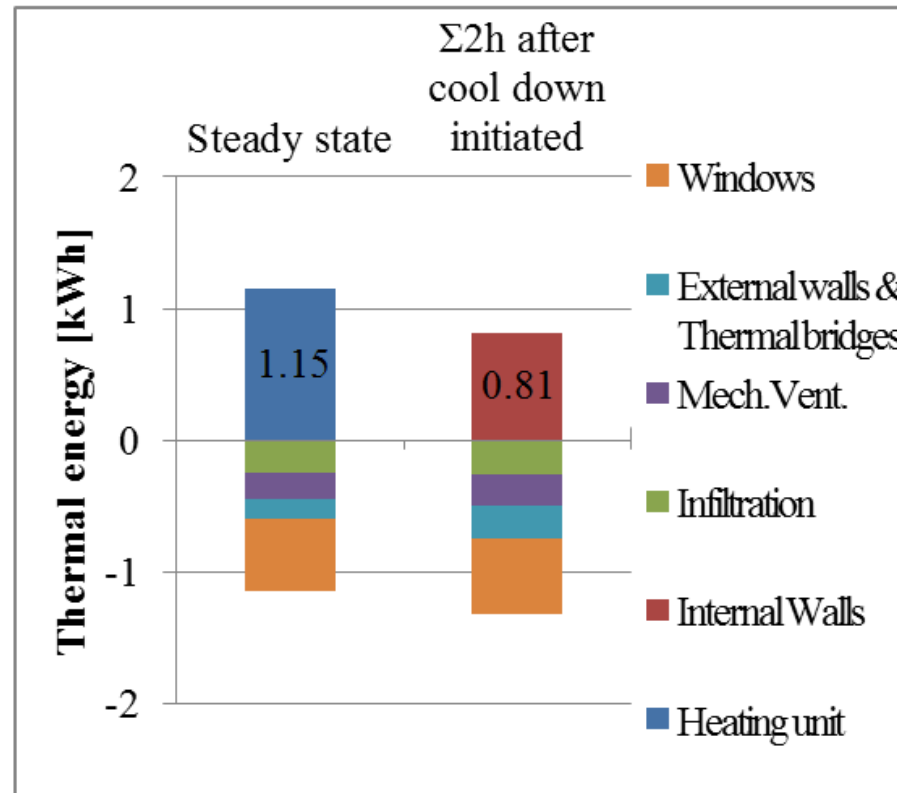
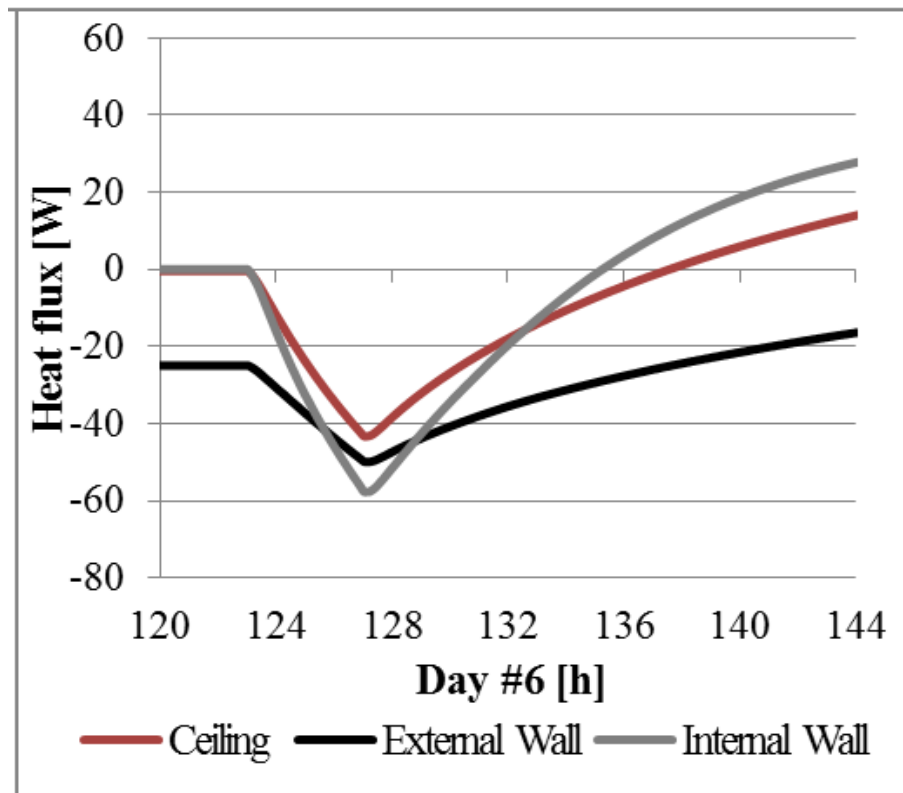
- The purpose of the study is to identify the effect of such a stop on an apartment.
  - Focus on impact of thermal mass on the apartment's thermal behaviour.
  - Key parameter is the duration of preheating period before the stop, in order to maintain thermal comfort.



# Results



# Results



# Results

Basic case apartment	Preheating duration		
	2 h	4 h	6 h
Max operative temperature difference during preheating [ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ]	0.3	0.6	0.8
No. of hours operative temperature above $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ [h]	8.3	15.1	21.2

## Need for Flexibility indicator

- effect of thermal capacity of the internal walls on the load shifting potential
  - effect of the heat losses of the building envelope on the load shifting potential
- => Time constant: > 800 hours

# Building energy flexibility

## Definition by **IEA EBC Annex 67 – *Energy Flexible Buildings***

The Energy Flexibility of a building is the ability to manage its energy demand and generation according to local climate conditions, user needs and grid requirements.

*IEA EBC: International Energy Agency, Energy in Buildings and Communities Programme*

# Consequences of Use of Flexible Heating Paradigms

Flexibility causes:

- Peak shaving
- Higher energy use
- Less use of fossil fuel in energy system
- May influence occupant comfort – is it acceptable?
- More research needed (Occupant  $\leftrightarrow$  City Scale)

**Thank you for your attention !**