



2023 ASHRAE WINTER CONFERENCE

ATLANTA, Feb 4-8 | AHR Expo, Feb 6-8



SMNR 60: The Risk of Decoupling Efficiency and Decarbonization

Why Efficiency and Scale Are Critical to Heating Electrification/Decarbonization Retrofits

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ENGINEERING
TOMORROW

1. Understand the risks associated with incorporating carbon free solutions on end use or primary efficiency.
2. Explain the major factors impacting emissions from electrified heating.
3. Provide examples of how in certain cases electrification of heating can actually increase heating emissions.
4. Offer general guidelines for assessing the best decarbonization strategy for heating systems

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Outline/Agenda

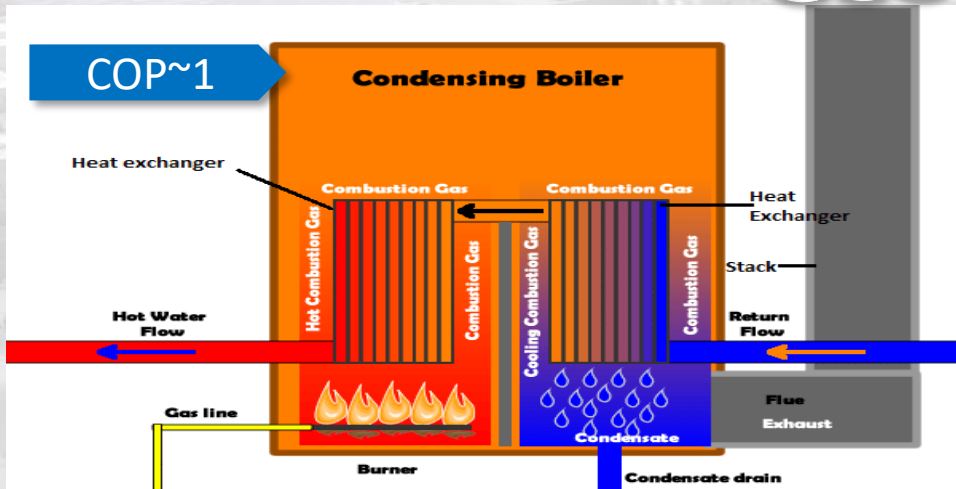
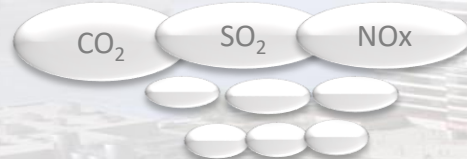
- Why is the market focused on heat pumps
- Challenges created by renewables and heat pumps / How to address
- Integrated system retrofit options
- Why Water-Water Heat Pump & High Heat Recovery Temperature are Critical
- Guidance for Efficient & Resilient Electrification of Heating

Why is the market focused on heat pumps?

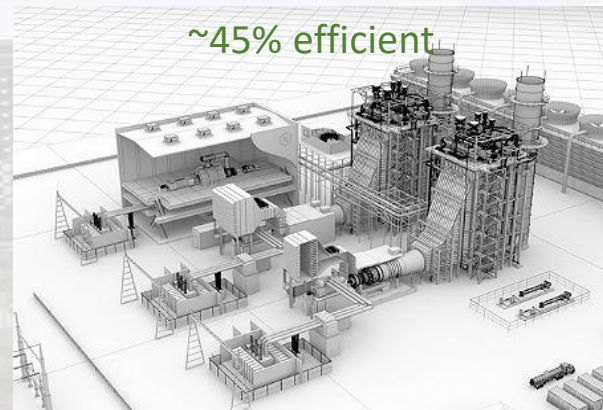
Efficiency & Decarbonization

Fossil fuels

- Inefficient
- Drive CO₂ & other gas emissions impacting environment



Heat pumps



Transmission
& Distribution

10%



~35% operating cost reduction
~60% emissions reduction

- More efficient
- Efficiency increases at part-load/lift

Heat Pump
Part Load
Efficiency

Why is the market focused on heat pumps?

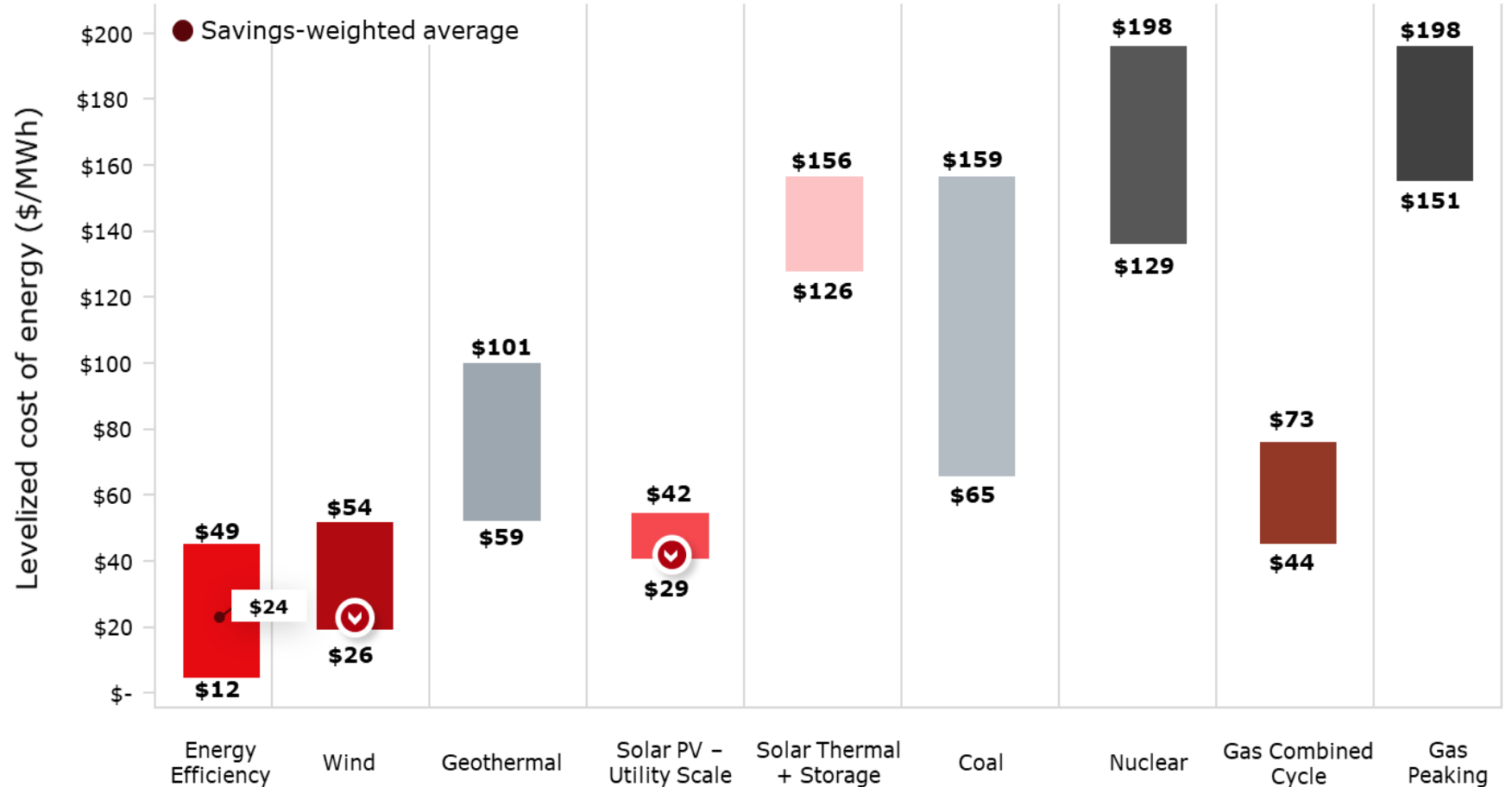
Energy costs



Efficiency still the lowest cost energy source



As renewable volumes go up, cost comes down –
Lowest cost, next to efficiency

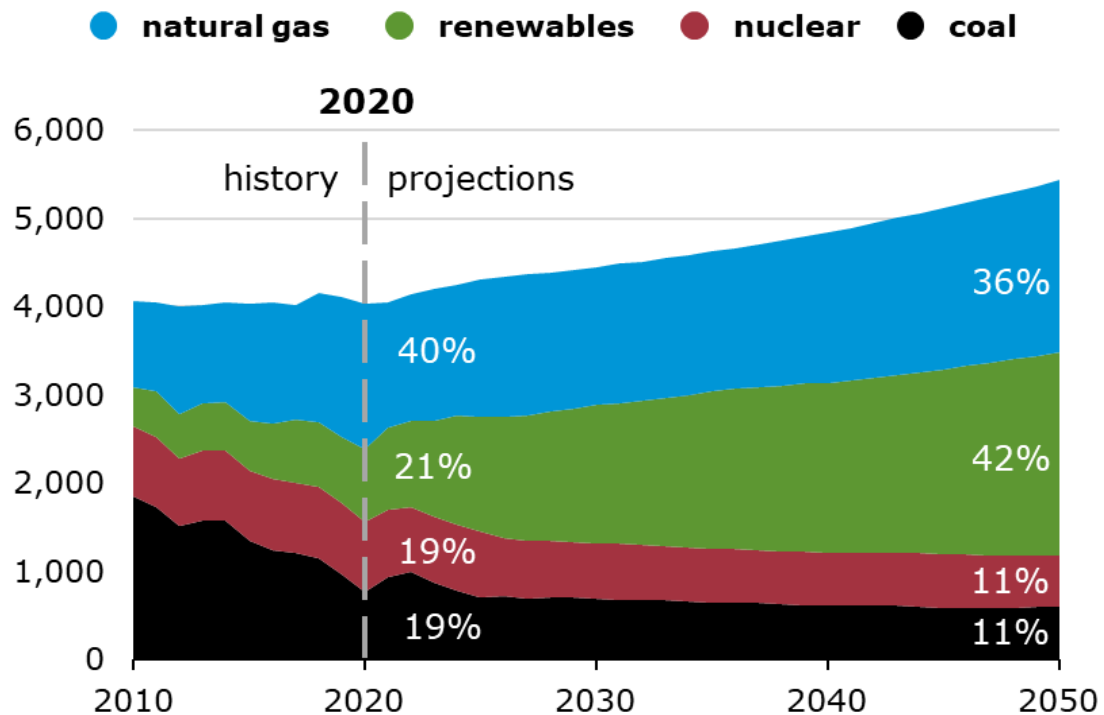


Source: ACEEE

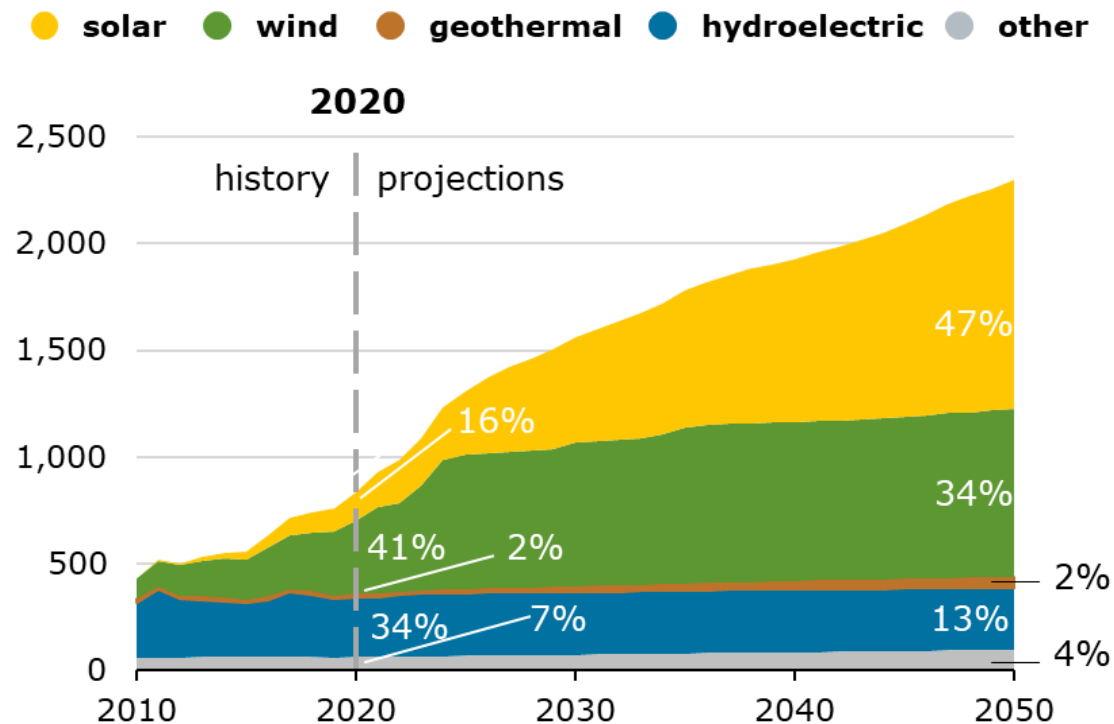
Why is the Market Focused on Heat Pumps?

Emissions Reduction

U.S. electricity generation from selected fuels
AEO2021 Reference case
billion kWh

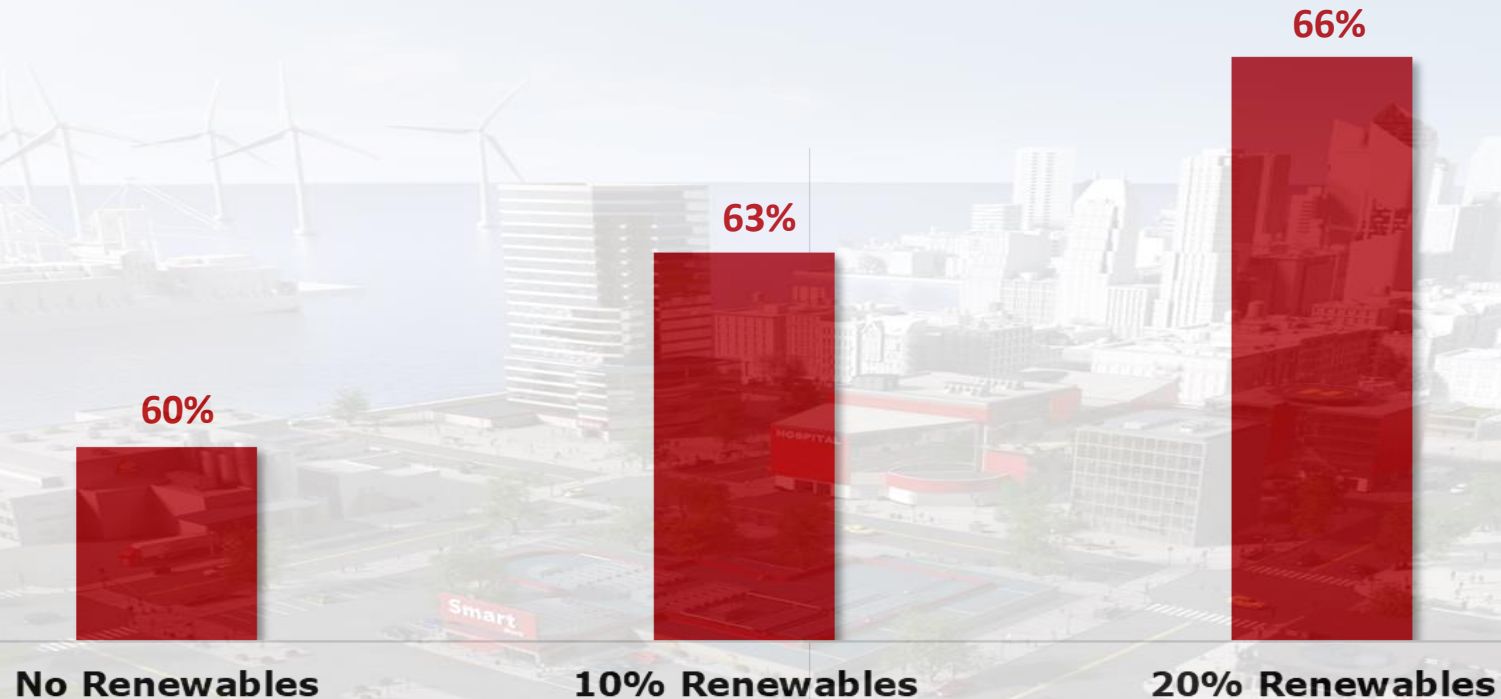


U.S. renewable electricity generation, including end use
AEO2021 Reference case
billion kWh



Why is the Market Focused on Heat Pumps?

Emissions Reduction – Increase with Renewables



As grid integration of renewable energy grows, so does heat pump resulting **greenhouse gas emissions reduction**

Heat Pump CO₂ Emissions Reduction:
Renewables integration impact

Based on AWHP applied in 'warm' climate

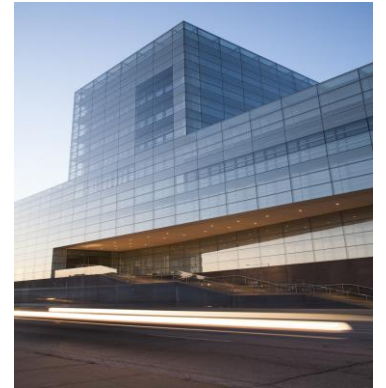
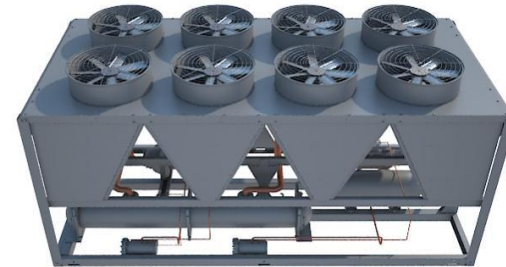
Challenges created by renewables and heat pumps

Supply/Demand Disconnect

Supply



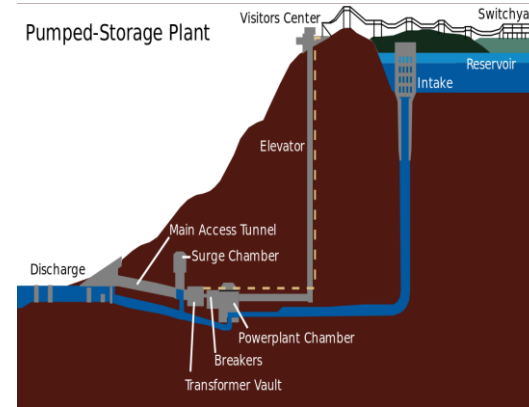
Demand



Challenges created by renewables and heat pumps

Supply/Demand Disconnect – How To Address

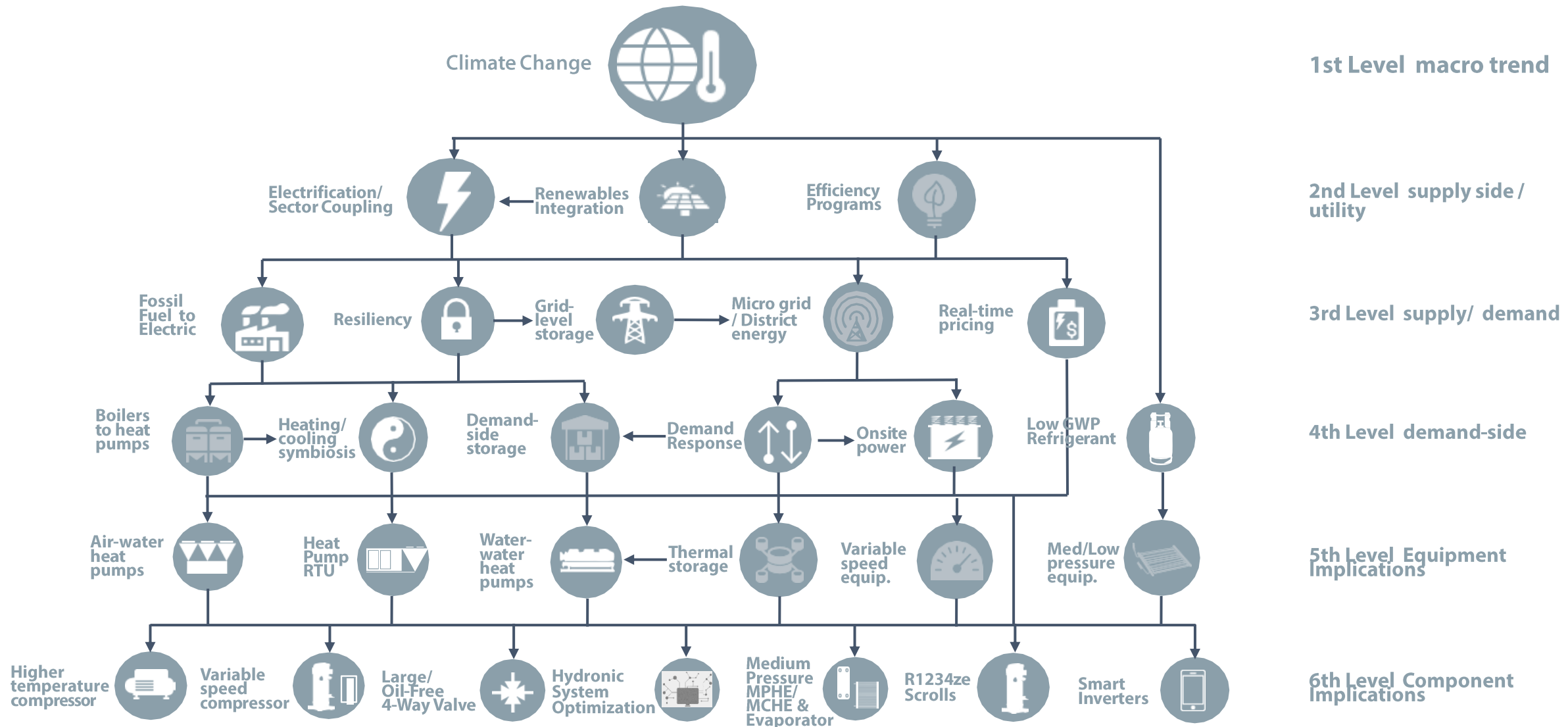
Energy storage / Thermal storage



Demand-side scale provides built-in flywheel storage & enables options

Challenges created by renewables and heat pumps

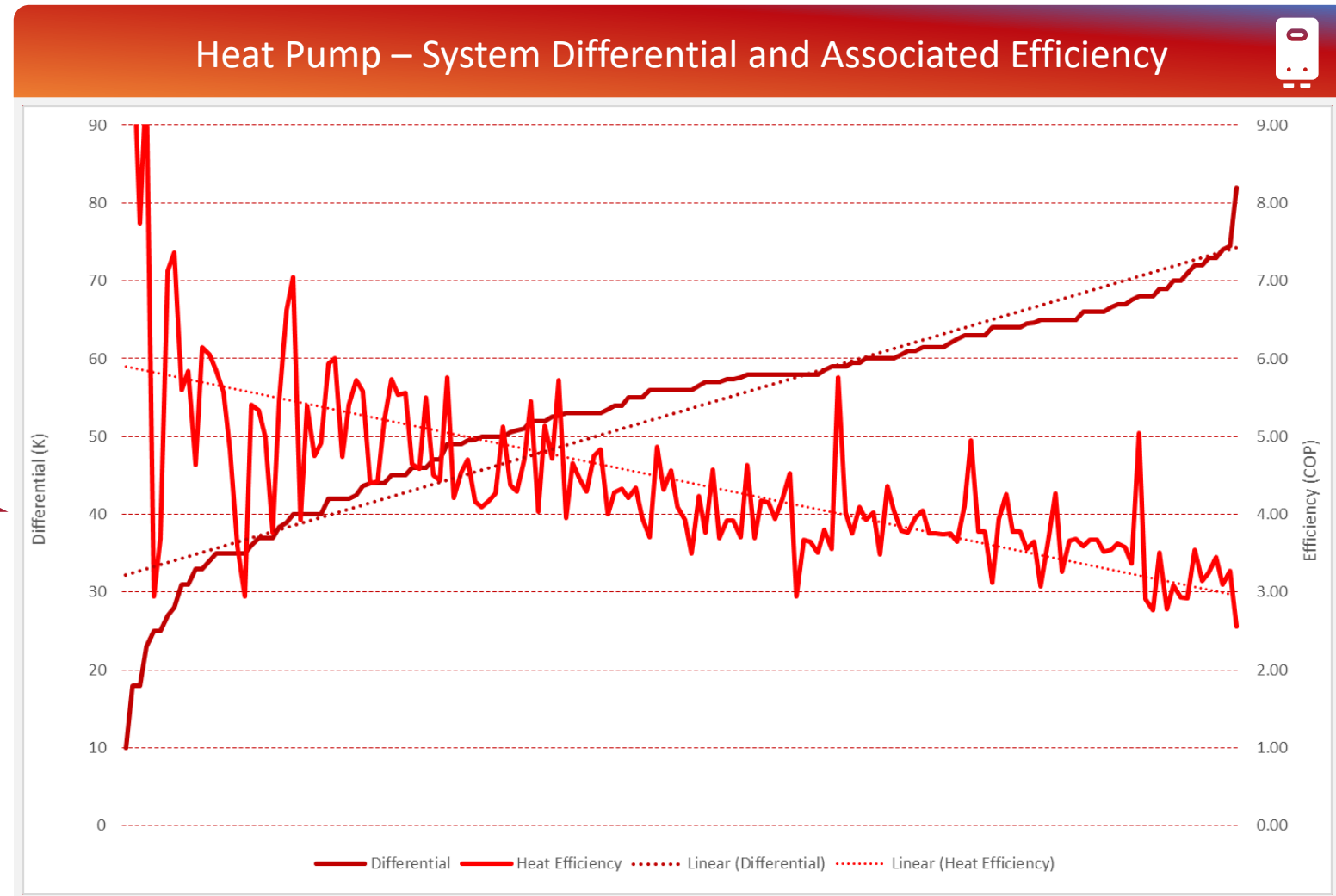
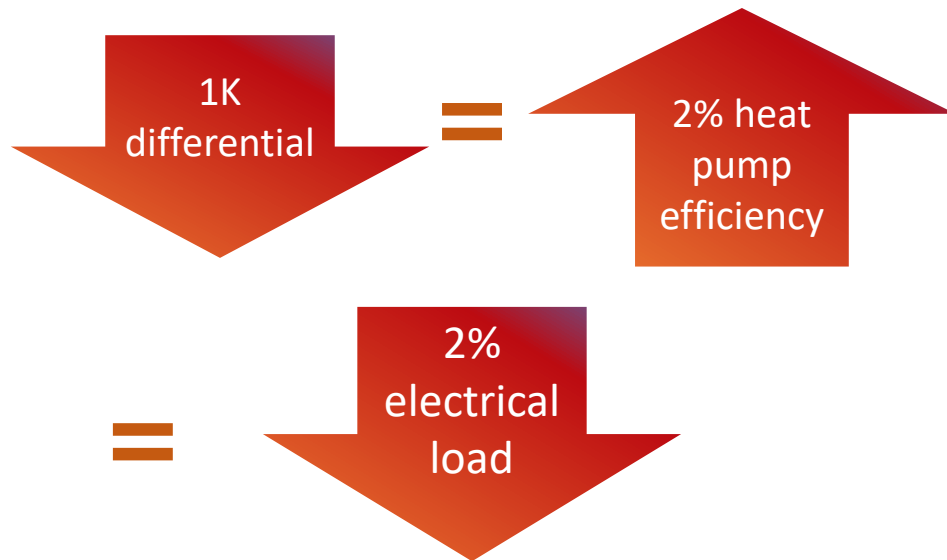
Everything is linked...Maximize factors covered



Challenges created by renewables and heat pumps

Efficiency & Electrical Load

- > Range of heat source to heat supply differential (K)
- > Corresponding heat pump system efficiency (COP)
- > 0.3-60MW+ systems



Challenges created by renewables and heat pumps

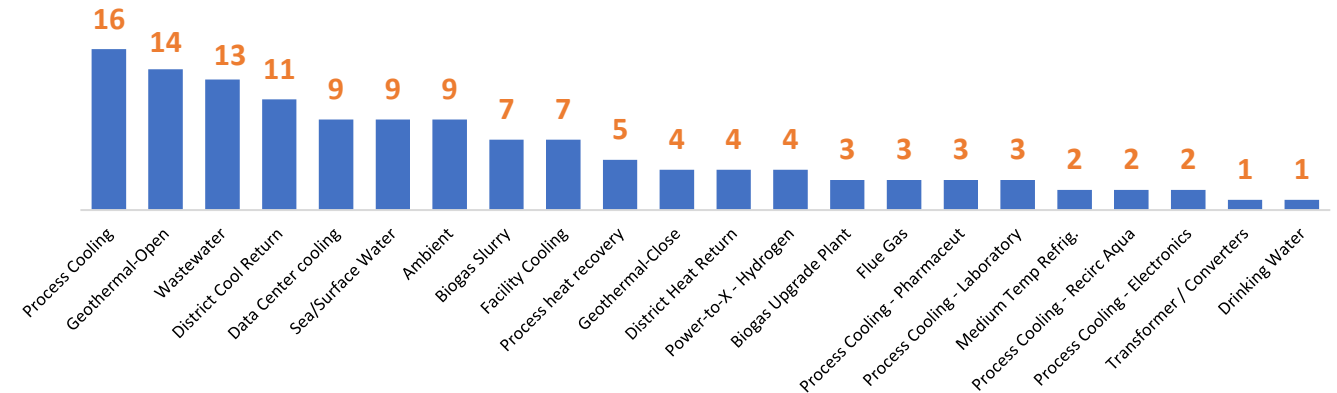
How to Address – Higher Heat Source Temperature



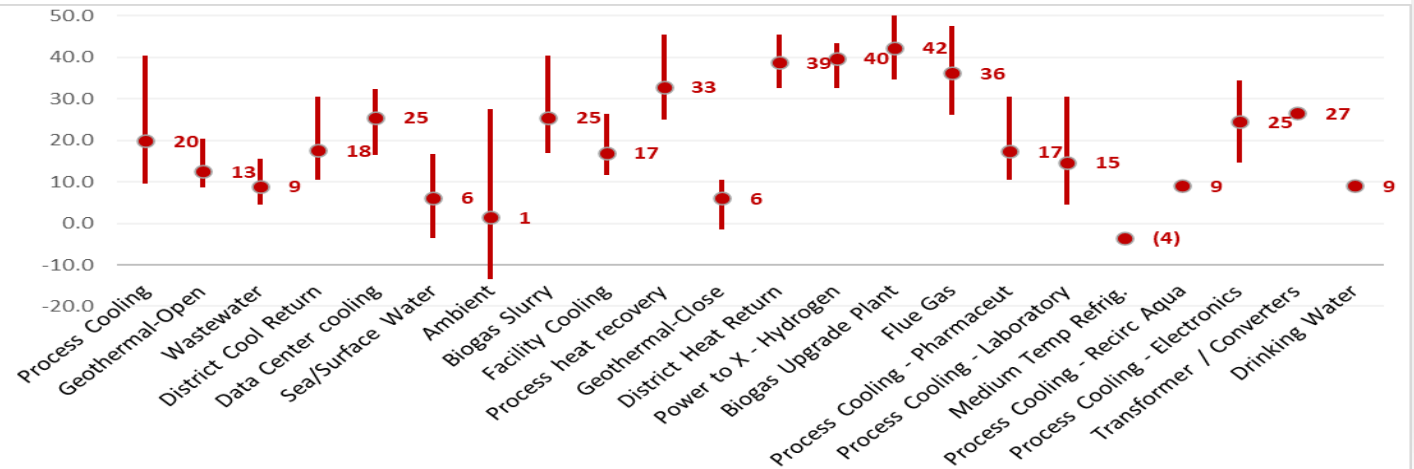
The most prevalent heat recovery heat sources

- Process, Wastewater, district and data center cooling = 44%
- Geothermal total = 14%
- Biogas total = 8%
- Target the most consistent availability and highest temperature heat sources
- To drive...
 - highest operating hours
 - best efficiency
 - lowest resulting heat price

Opportunities by Heat Source (# of projects)



Source Temperature Average/Range



Challenges created by renewables and heat pumps

How to Address – Lower Supply Water Temperature

Radiator 55C



Fan Coil 45C



Floor Heating 35C

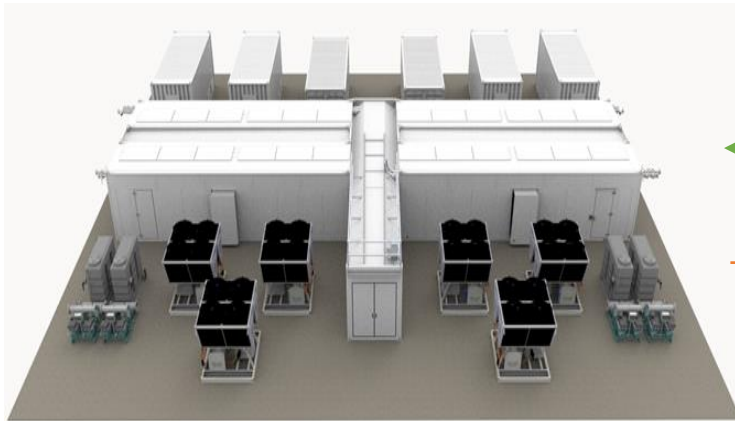


Efficiency

Integrated System Retrofit Options

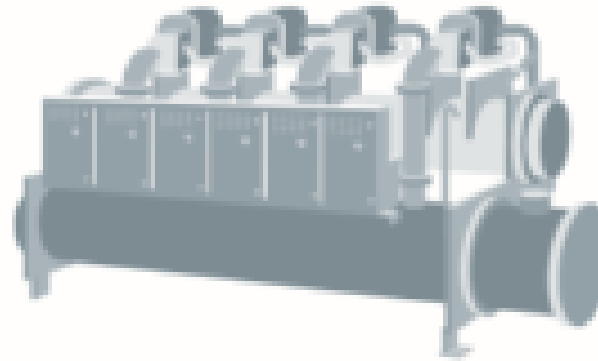
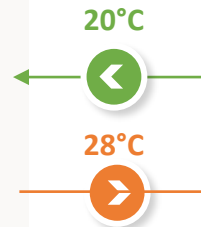
Baseline - Data Center Cooling / Heat Recovery

Data Center
Chilled Water / Air Cooling



4.0 COP
Cooling

Heat Pump
Water-Water



\$250k/MW Heat

District Energy
4th Generation Heating



50°C

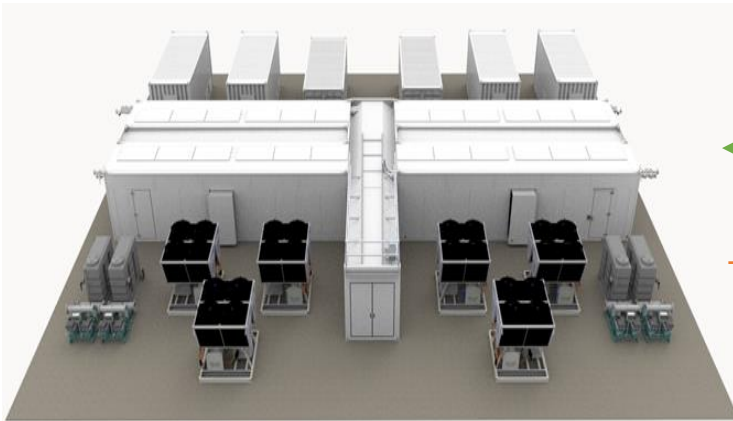
65°C

5.0 COP Heating

Integrated System Retrofit Options

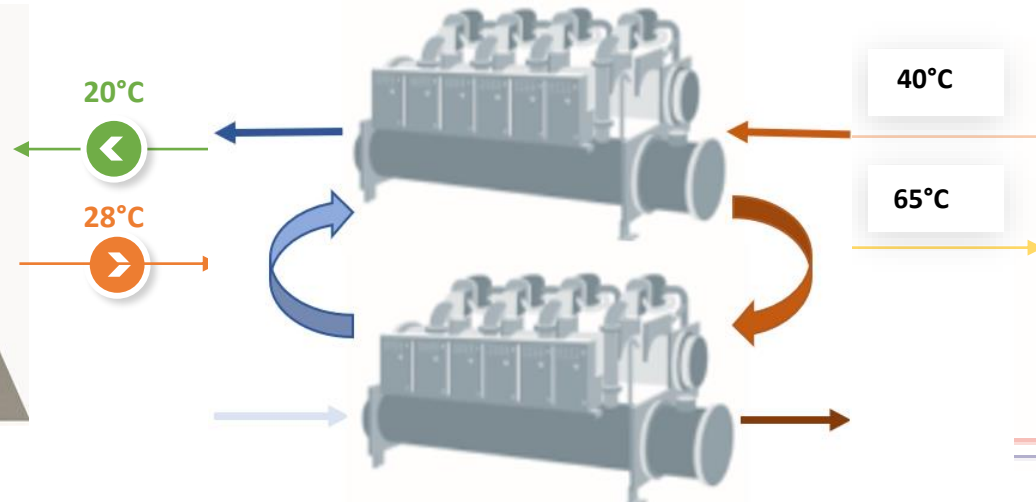
Lower Temps Enable Higher Heat Pump Efficiency

Data Center
Chilled Water / Air Cooling



4.8 COP
Cooling

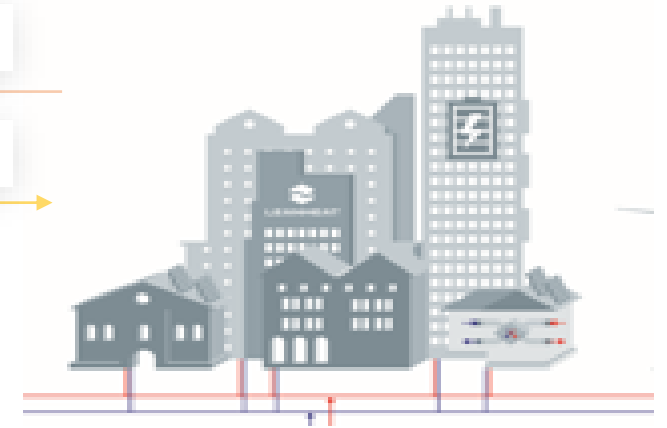
Heat Pump
Series-Series Counterflow



Lower return temp from variable flow, 2-way
PICV and hydronic system control optimization

In-turn allows series-series counterflow heat pump
- 20% efficiency increase

District Energy
*4th Generation Heating
Lower Return Temp*



5.8 COP Heating

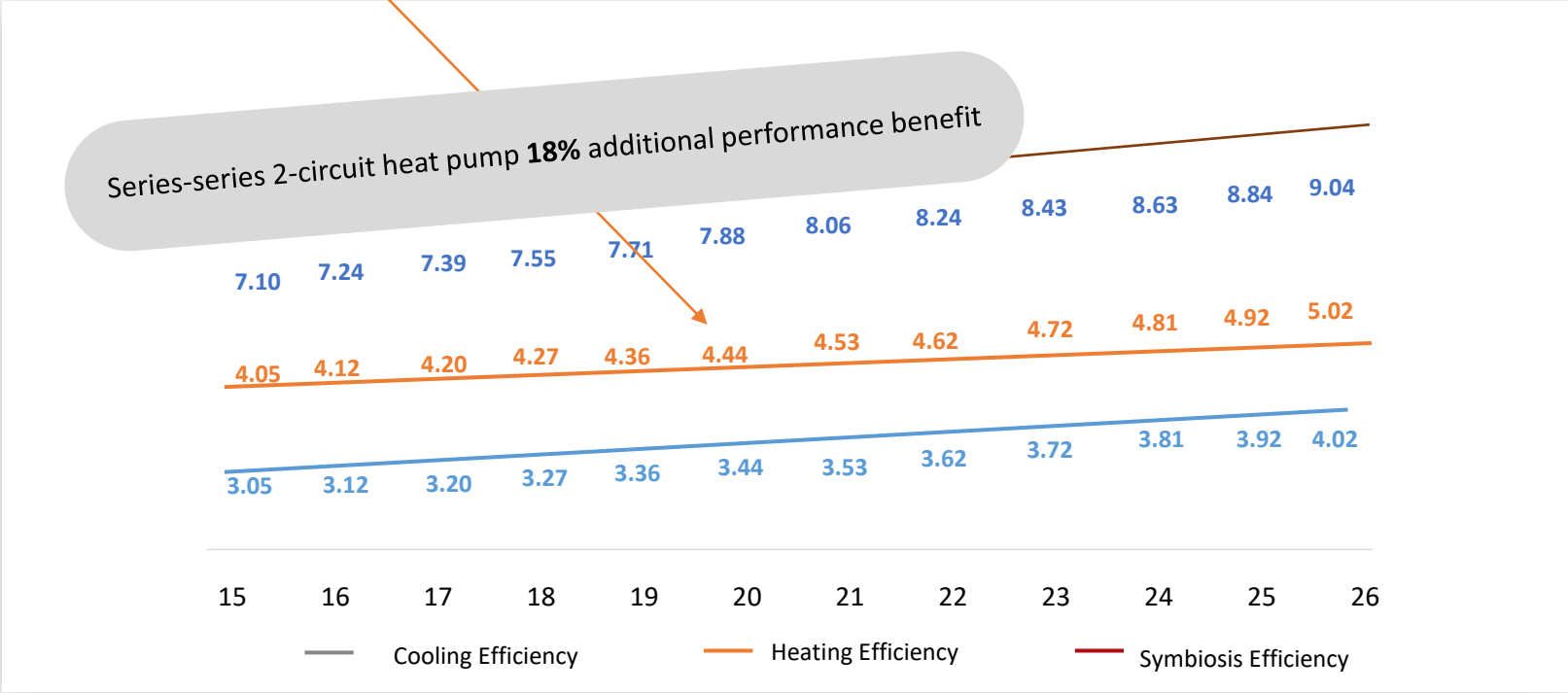
Integrated System Retrofit Options

How to Address - Real Example

Water-Water Heat Pump	Cooling capacity	Heating capacity	Power input	COP Cooling	COP Heating	Chilled water leaving Temp	Chilled water entering Temp	Hot water returning Temp	Hot water supplying Temp	Min. capability ratio
Compressors	kW	kW	kW	W/W	W/W	°C	°C	°C	°C	
Full load, 28-20C	500	617.8	117.8	4.246	5.25	20	28	43	67	49.2%

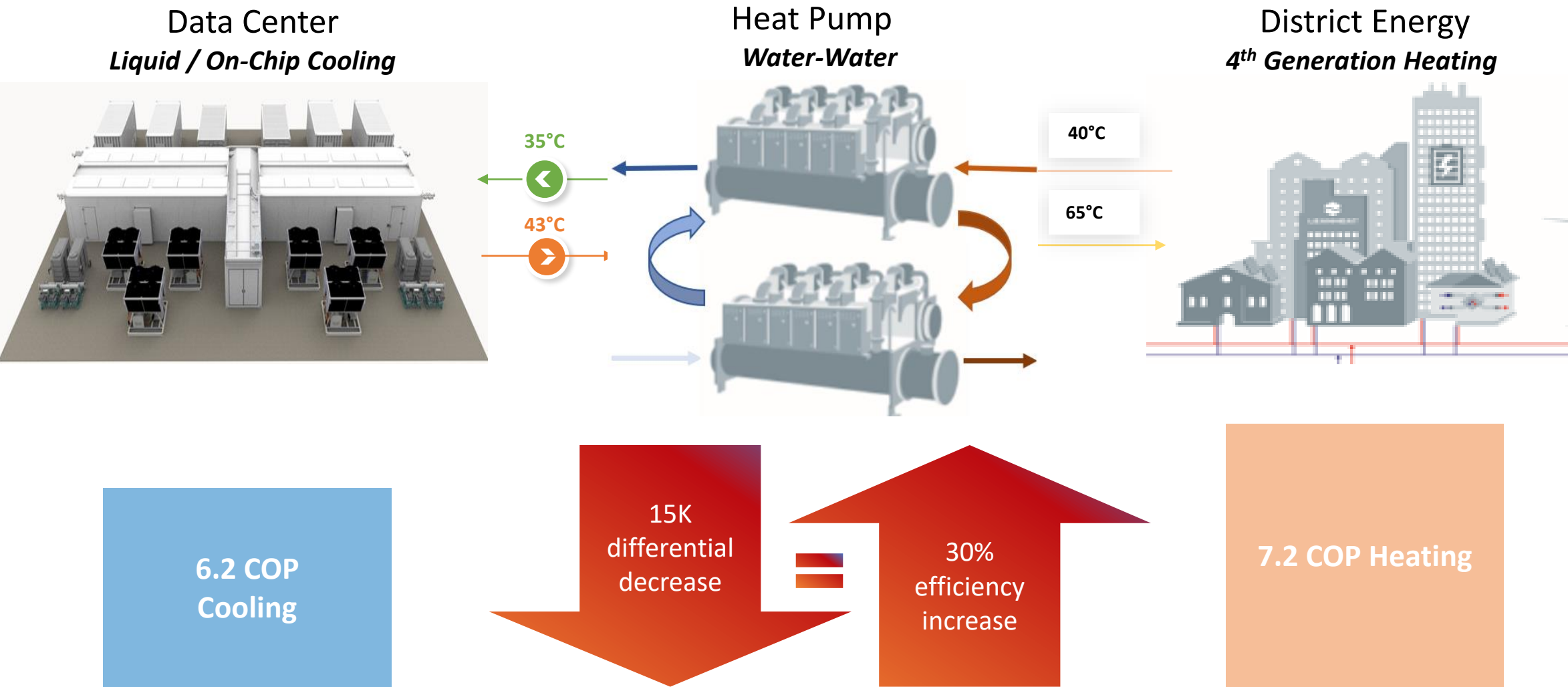
Impact of Increased Cooling Water Temp on Heat Pump Efficiency, supplying 67°C hot water

Symbiosis (combined heating and cooling) efficiency increases **27%** from corresponding chilled water cooling temperature increase of 15°C to 26°C



Integrated System Retrofit Options

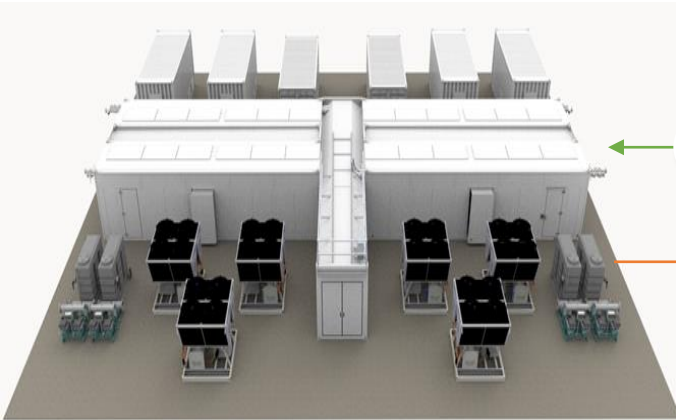
Liquid Cooling / Higher Temps Allows Max Efficiency



Integrated System Retrofit Options

Data Center Free Cooling / Heat Reuse

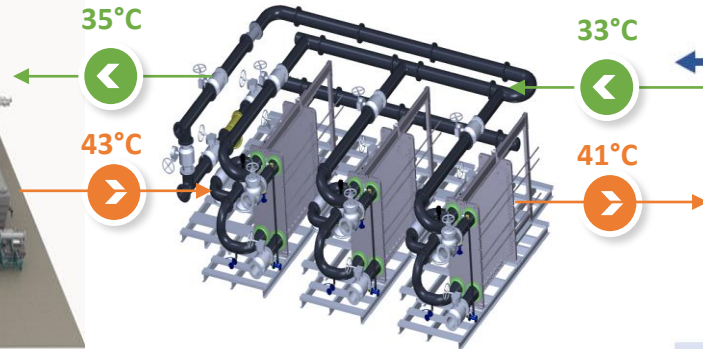
Data Center
Liquid / On-Chip Cooling



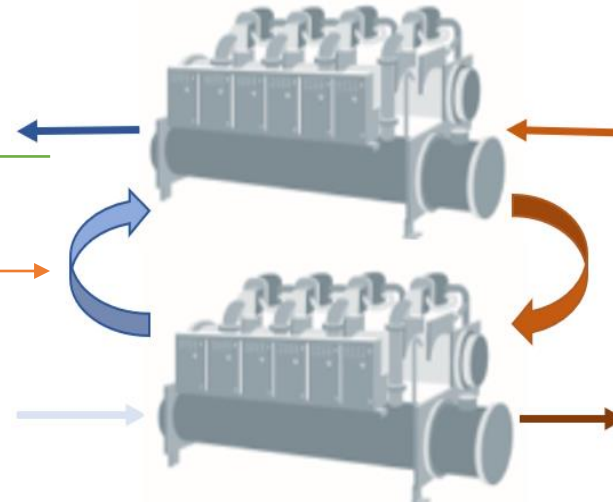
Free Cooling

~20 COP

Heat Recovery Station
Free Cooling / Heat Recovery



Heat Pump
Water-Water



District Energy
4th Generation Heating



Data center heat station enables free cooling / heat recovery at 25% heat pump applied cost with minor heat efficiency impact

Cooling power limited to supply pumps, driven by recovered heat

7.0 COP Heating

Why Water-Water Heat Pump & High Heat Recovery Temperature are Critical

- Multiple heat source choices
- Large air-water heat pump ~3-3.5 COP
- water-water recovery heat pumps ~6-7 COP, based mainly on higher source temperature
- High electricity price fluctuation
- From efficiency & resulting operating cost / heat price
 - Air-water heat pumps operate when electricity price < \$100/MWh (~300 hours this year)
 - Water-Water Heat pumps operate when electricity price < \$200 DKK/MWh (>80% of the year)



Daily electricity price fluctuation –
One day (10/21)

Low

~\$120/MWh

High

~\$360/MWh

For district energy, difference between low-cost baseload heat source with quick payback and peaking plant backup

Guidance for Efficient & Resilient Electrification of Heating



01

Critical facility cooling
& heat recovery
~20°C+

02

Geothermal and
comfort cooling
~10-20°C

03

Ambient air/water &
refrigeration ~<10°C

Conclusions

- The efficiency of heat pumps, integration of renewables and decarbonization via electrification drive heat pump use growth
- The growth of renewables also creates an increasing energy supply/demand disconnect and resulting resiliency and operating cost risk
- All of the trends, risks and potential solution factors are connected, pointing us to the best solutions
- We can learn a lot from recent integrated system design experience, in terms of energy sources
- Demand-side efficiency and operating temperature optimization efforts are critical prior to or as a part of integrated system design efforts
- Critical facility retrofits present the ultimate efficiency and decarbonization opportunity also maximizing energy availability and resiliency
- Smart system design is critical to address the interests of the different business interests of varying large-scale system stakeholders

Questions

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