The top portion of the slide features a photograph of a sky with dramatic, dark clouds illuminated by a low sun, creating a sunset or sunrise effect.

Life Cycle Analysis and The Energy System

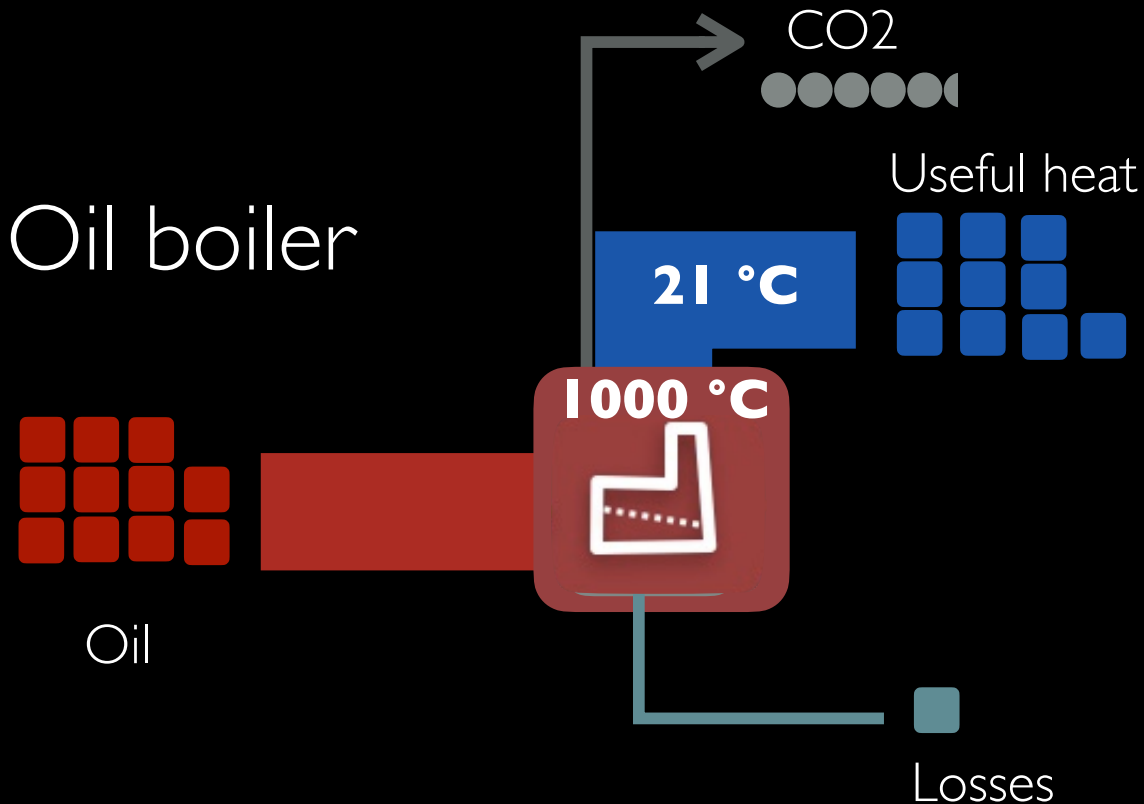
The bottom portion of the slide shows an aerial photograph of the EPFL campus. It includes several large, modern buildings with flat roofs, some of which are covered with solar panels. A prominent red structural element is visible on the left side of the image.

Prof. François Maréchal
EPFL – IPESE

Sion – 02/11/2021

HOW DO WE SATISFY THE ENERGY NEEDS IN A BUILDING ?

“Good” Oil boiler



ENERGY NEEDS OF A BUILDING

170

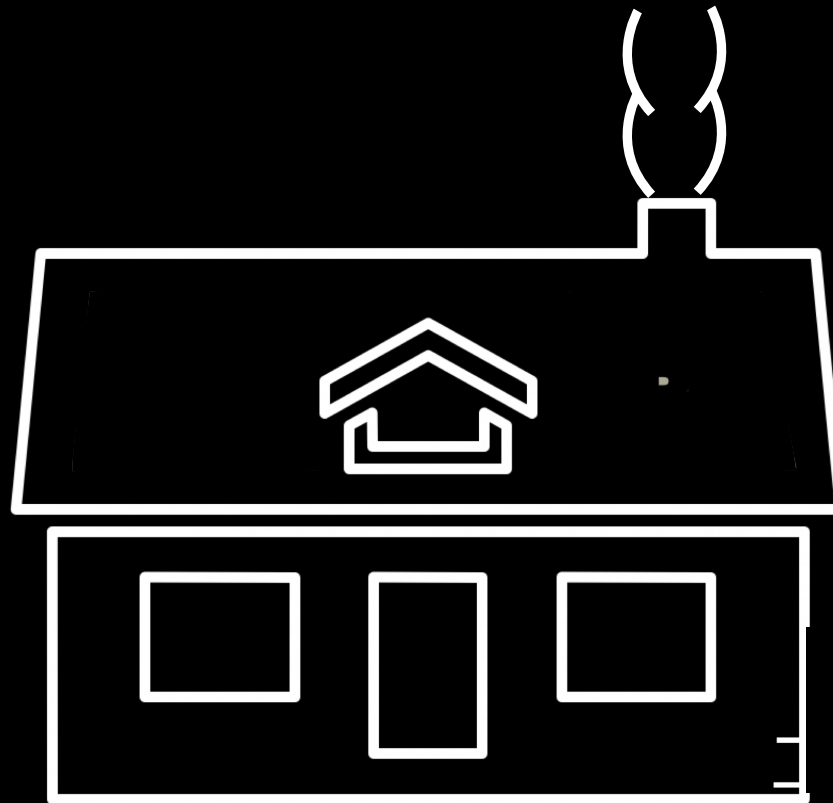
CHF/month/100 m²

Energy (Oil)

140 CHF/month/100 m²
in which 105 CHF/month/100 m²
achat

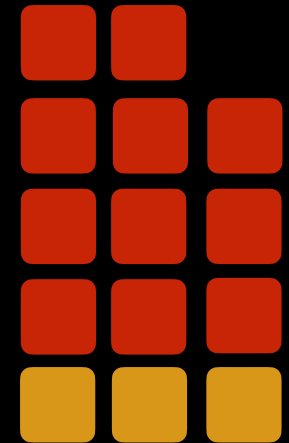
Boiler

30 CHF/month/100 m²



3.8

tons **CO₂**/year/100 m²
35 CHF/month/100 m²



EPFL Life cycle assessment : emissions before the use

15 to 40% of the CO2 emissions have been made to prepare the fossil fuels

		Natural gas	Wood	Gasoline	Diesel
	kg/Nm ³	0.7	240	0.8	0.8
LHV	MJ/kg	50	17.8	44.4	43.4
	GJ/Nm ³	0.0359	5.3-9.6	35.5	34.7
CO ₂	g CO ₂ /MJ	49.3	0	67	72
supply eq CO ₂	g CO ₂ /MJ	11.6	1.4-1.8 (production) 0.19 (20 MW) <u>-1.1 (320 MW)</u> 1.6 - 2.9	16.7	13.4
	g CO ₂ /MJ	60.9	1.6-2.9	83.7	85.4
		19%	-	20%	16%
Cost	cts/kWh	10	3 - 7.5	18.6	19.2
industry	cts/kWh	3.4			

EPFL Environmental impact of the use of combustion

5

■ Importance of the life cycle



- Extraction



- Conditioning



- Transport



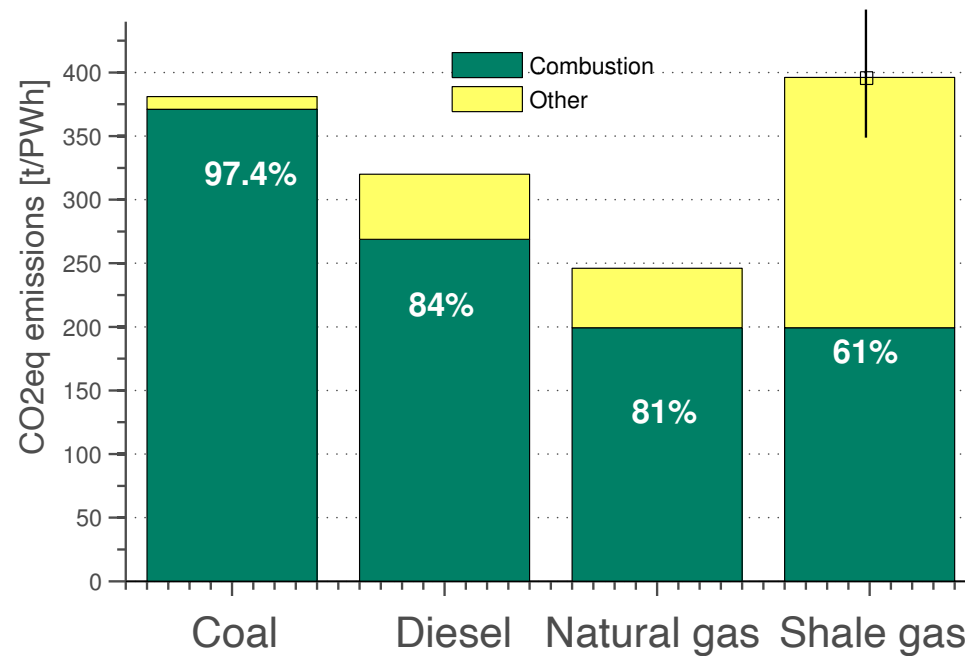
- Refining



- Distribution

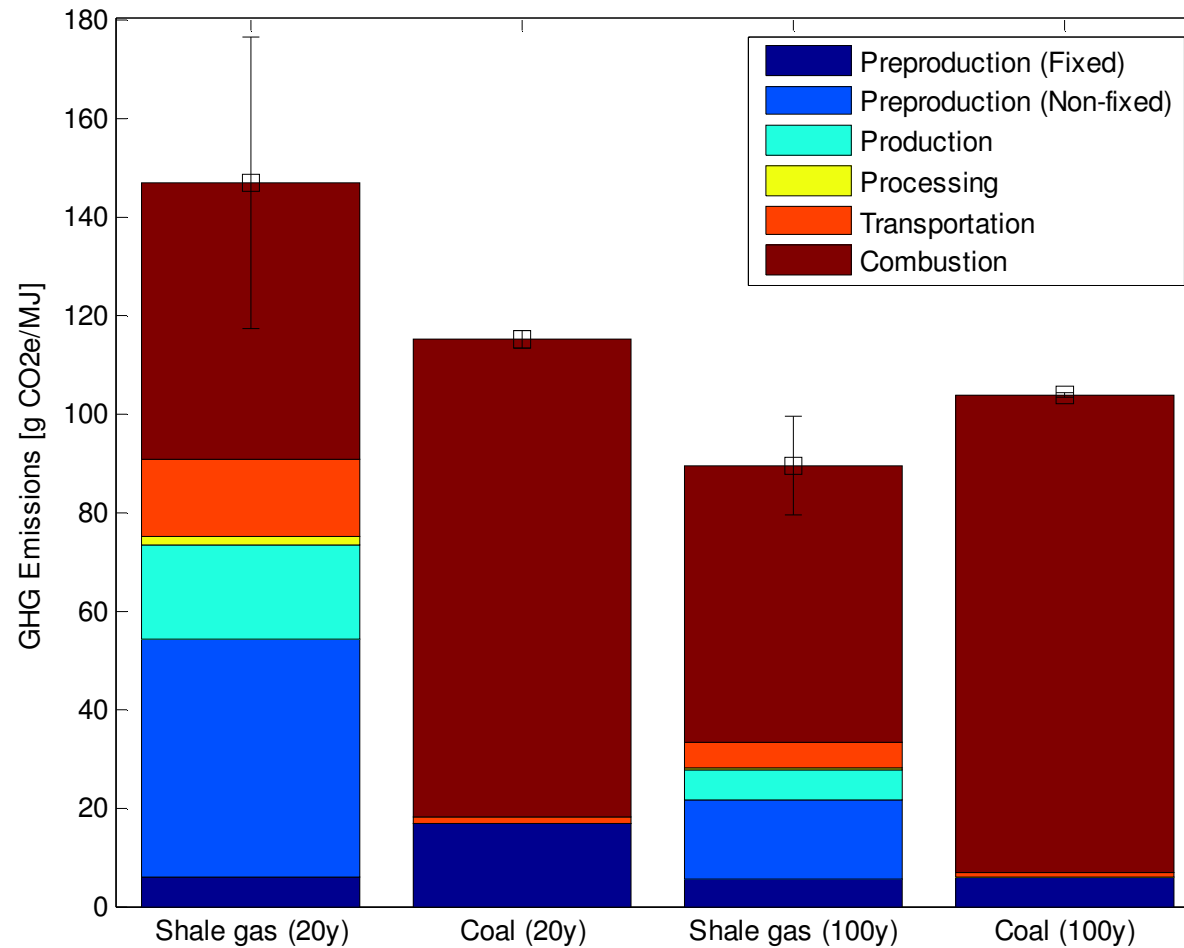


- Combustion



CO₂ eq : is a measure of the global warming potential of the emissions over the overall conversion chain up to combustion. The global warming potential is considering not only the CO₂ but also other emissions like CH₄ (that has a GWP of 20 CO₂ eq), NO_x and other gases in the complete life cycle chain.

Shale gas vs coal for heat production



EPFL Uncertainty in the evaluation of the impact

7

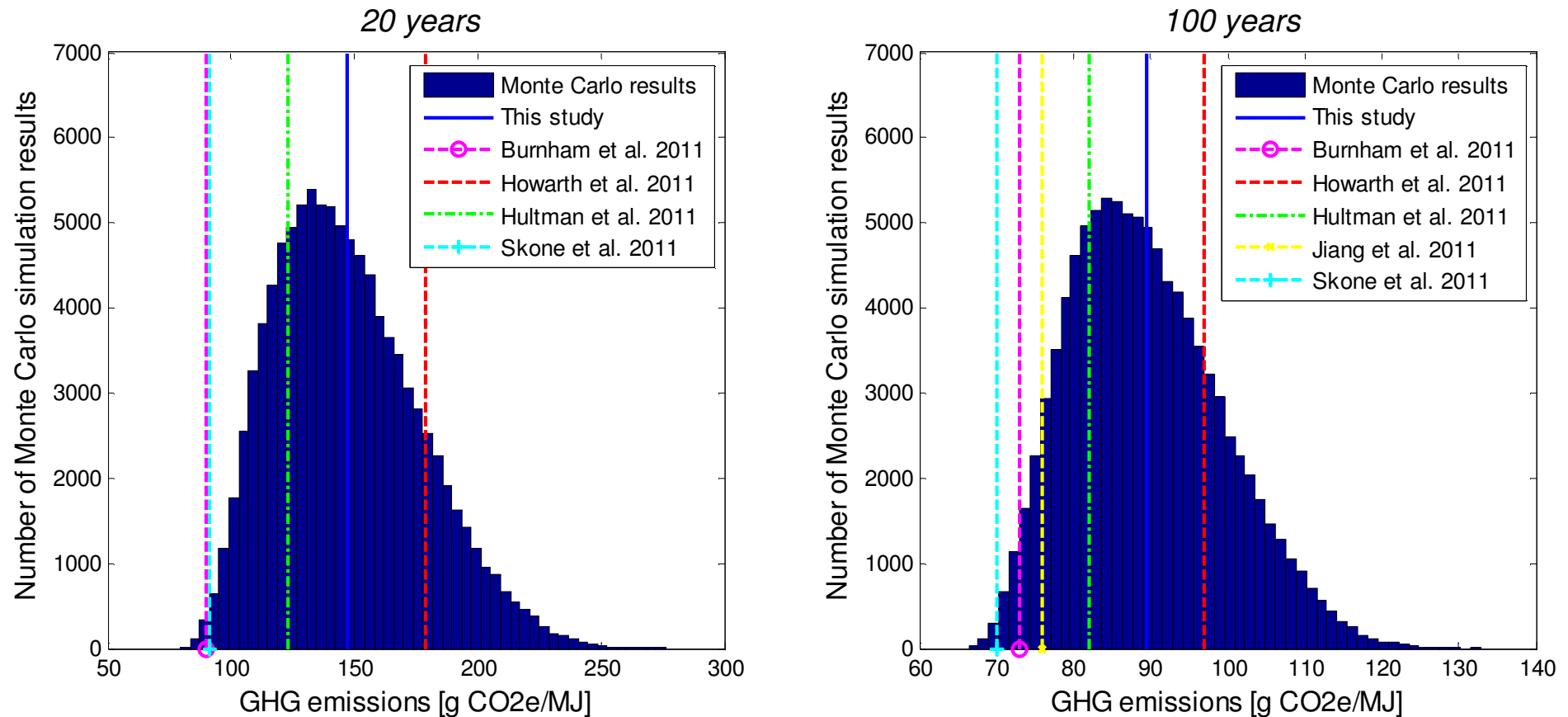


Figure 27 Comparison with other studies considering heat production

EPFL Shale gas vs coal for electricity production

8

- Efficiency of conversion
 - Natural gas : 60%
 - Coal : 38%

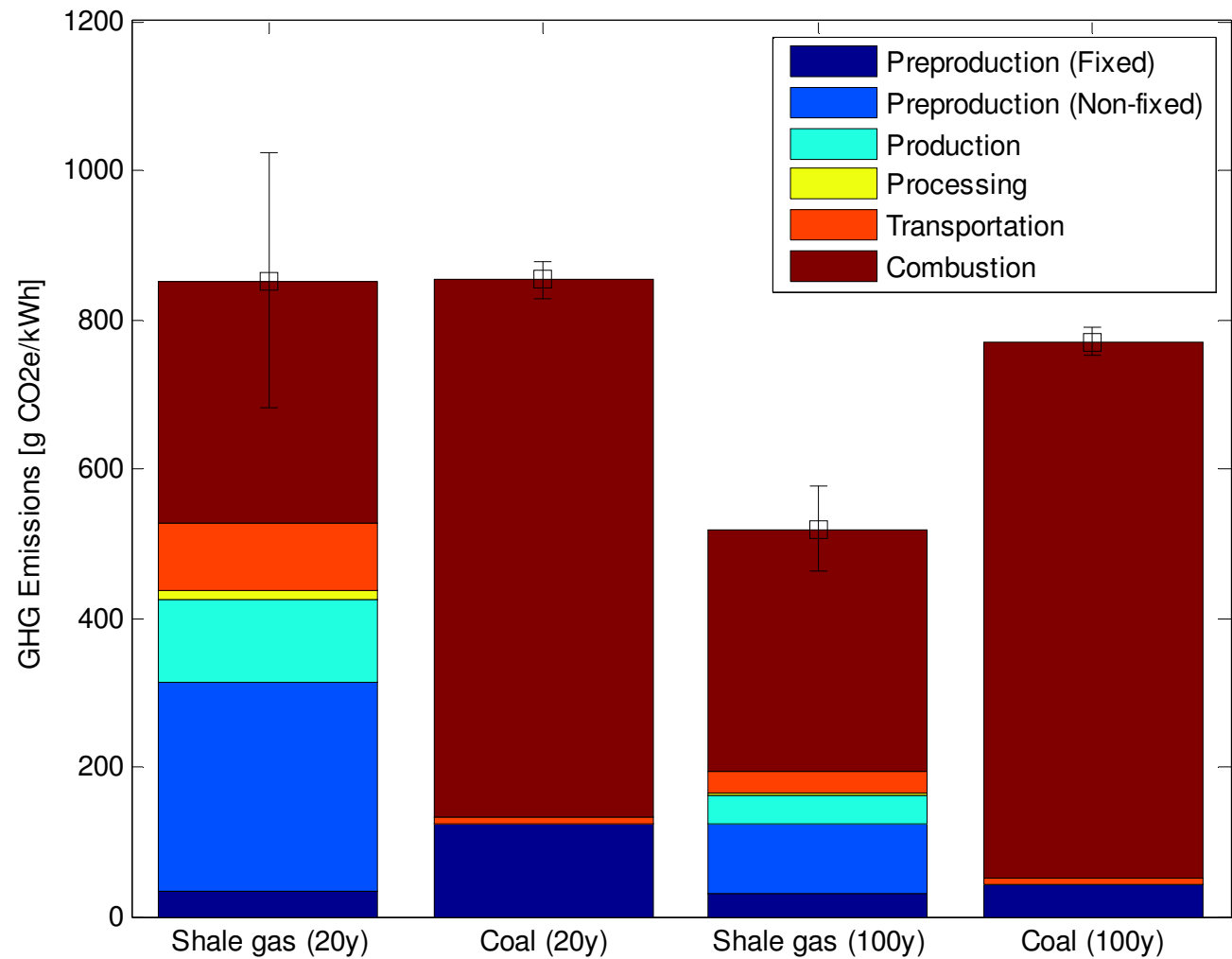


Figure 26 GHG emissions of the different phases of shale gas and coal life cycles

EPFL LCA shows actions to mitigate emissions

- Measure 1
 - Flaring of off gases
- Measure 2
 - Green completion : send back
- Measure 3
 - Tracking fugitive emissions

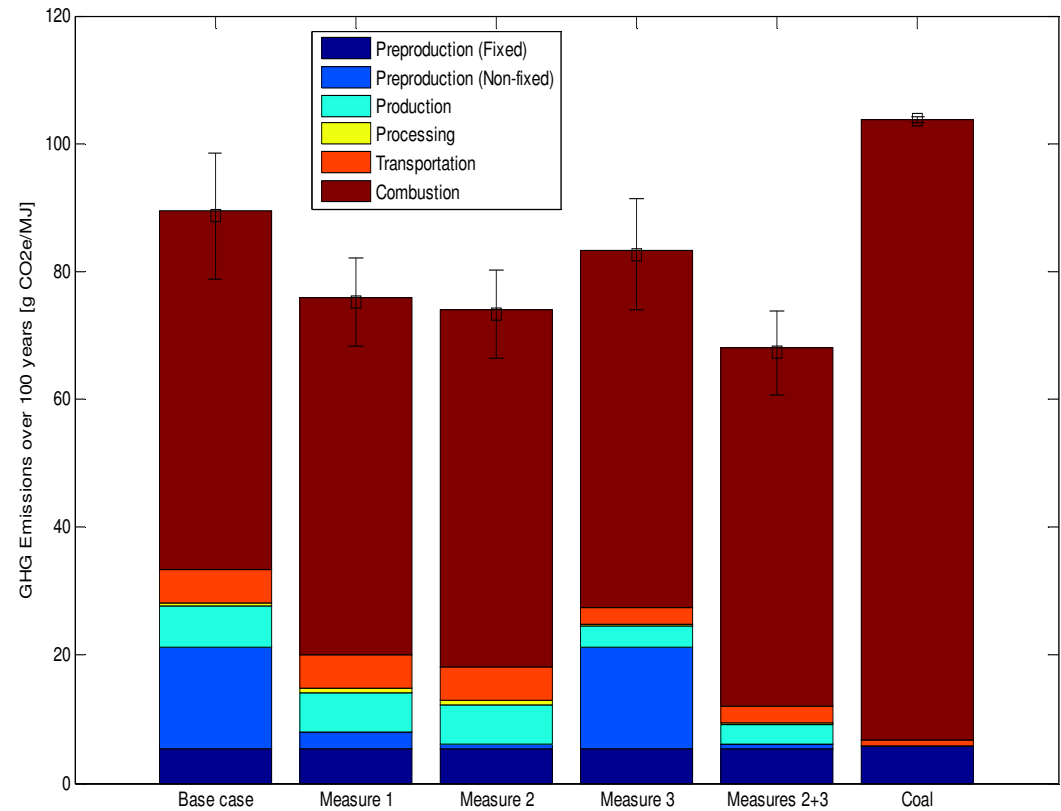
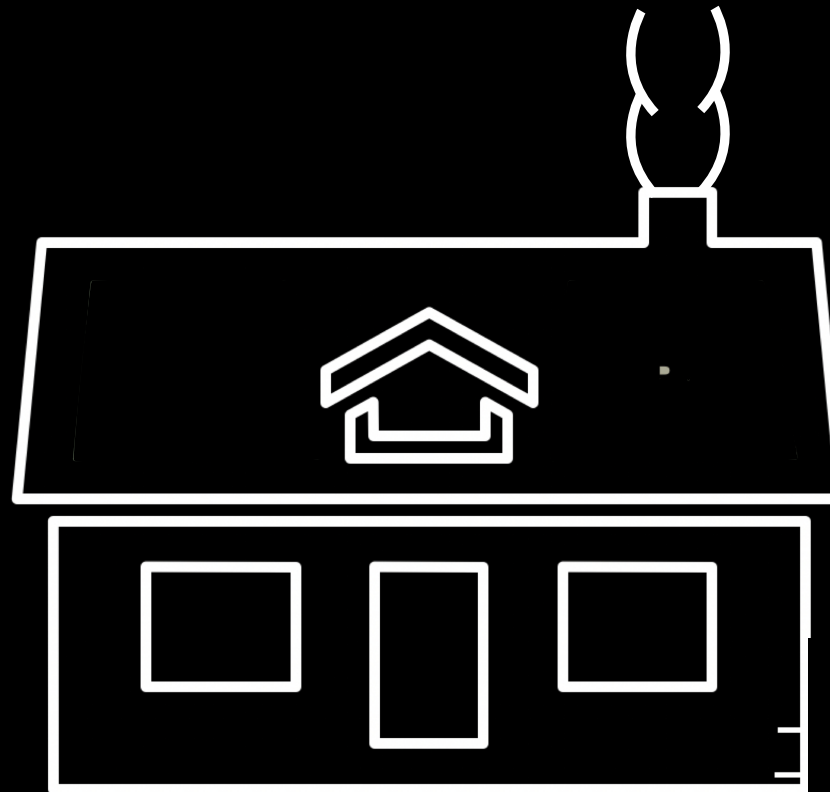
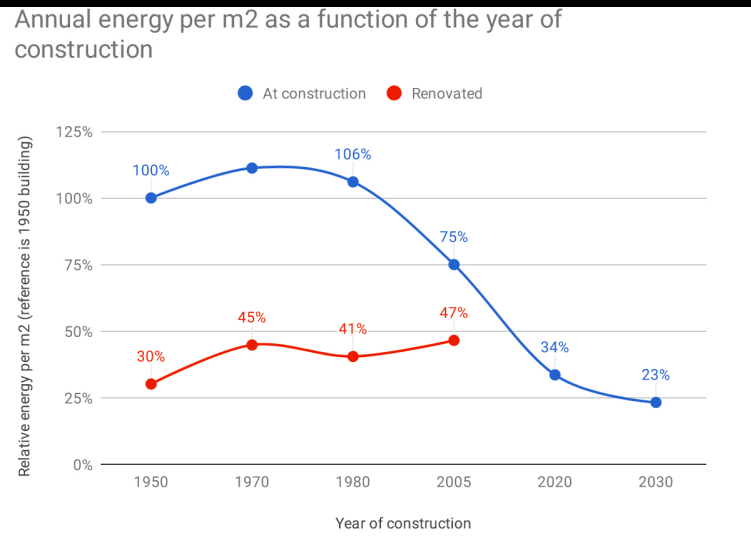


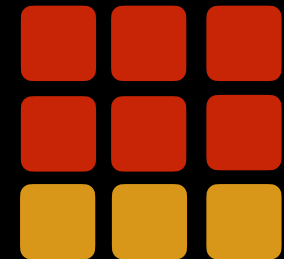
Figure 33 hale gas life cycle GHG emissions according to different potential mitigation measures over the 100 year timeframe

RENOVATING BUILDINGS



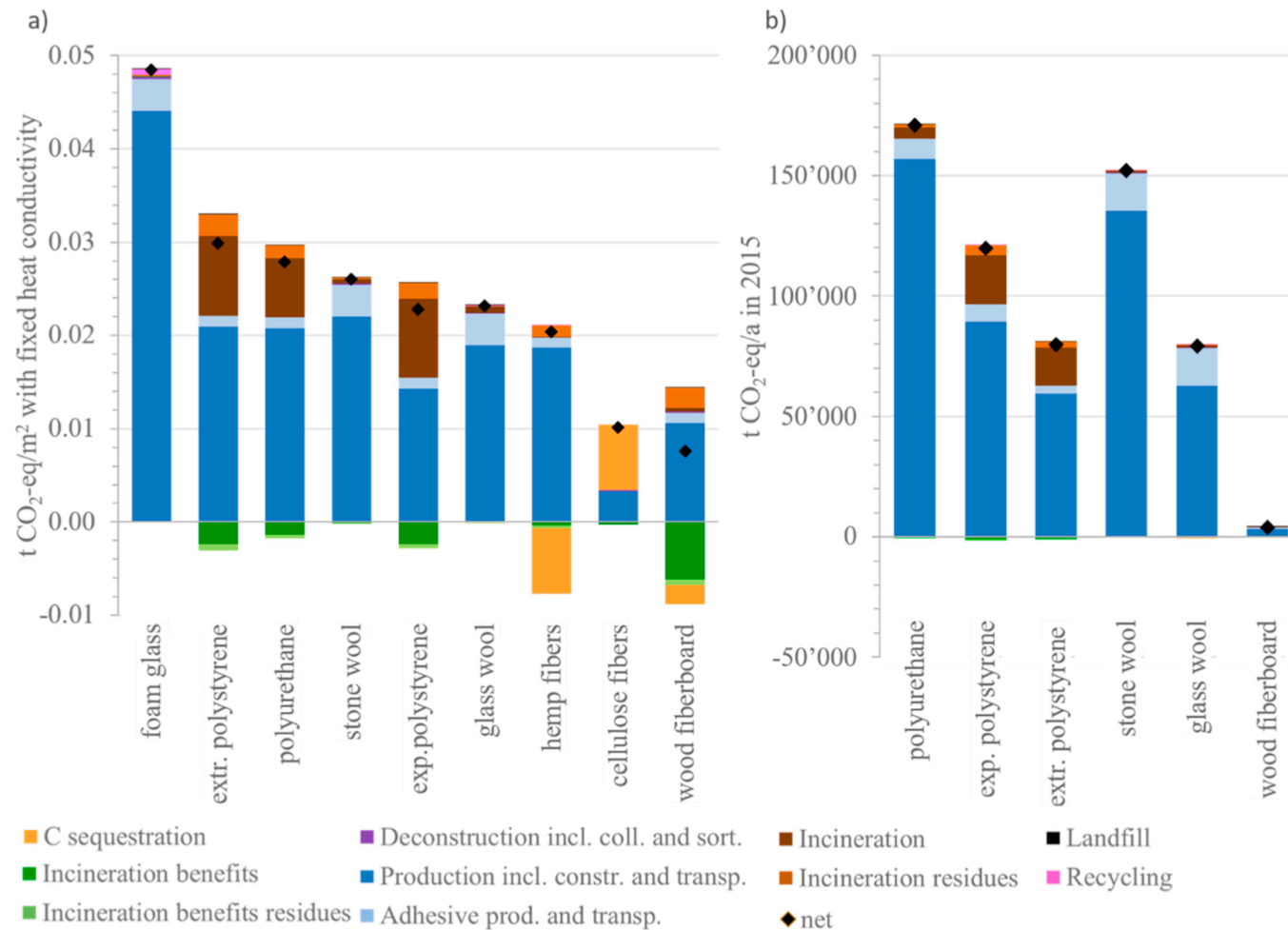
3.8

tons **CO₂** /year/100 m²
35 CHF/month/100 m²



EPFL LCA of insulating materials

11



Life cycle for the insulation materials

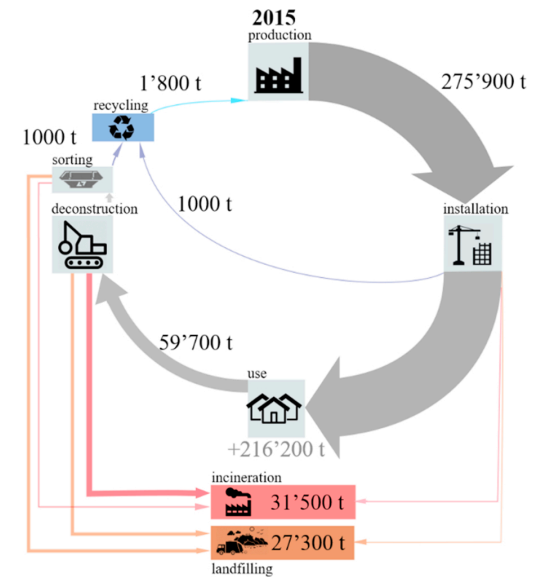
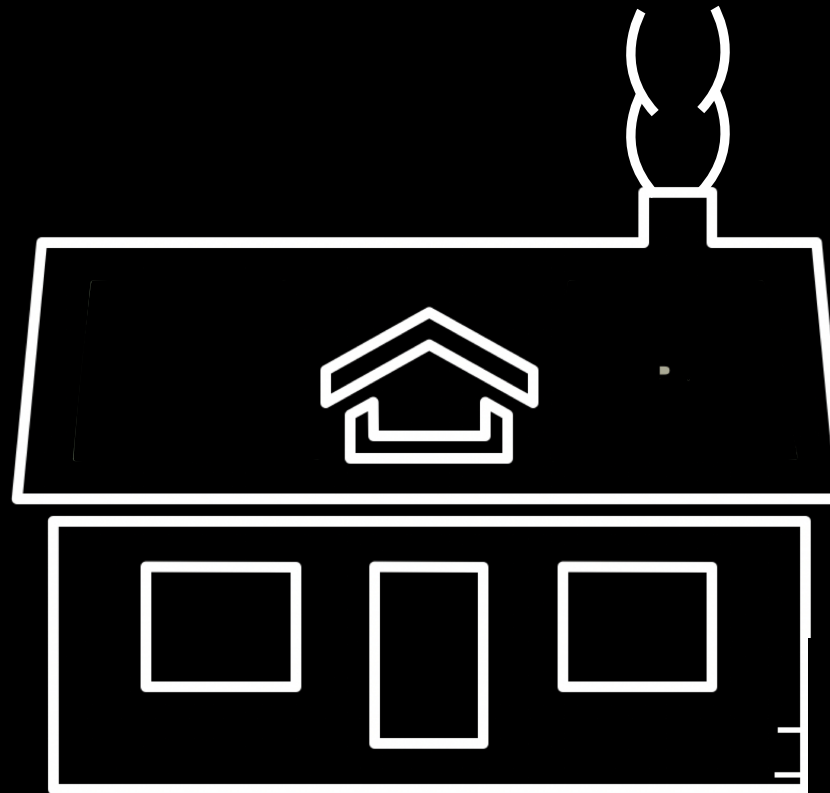
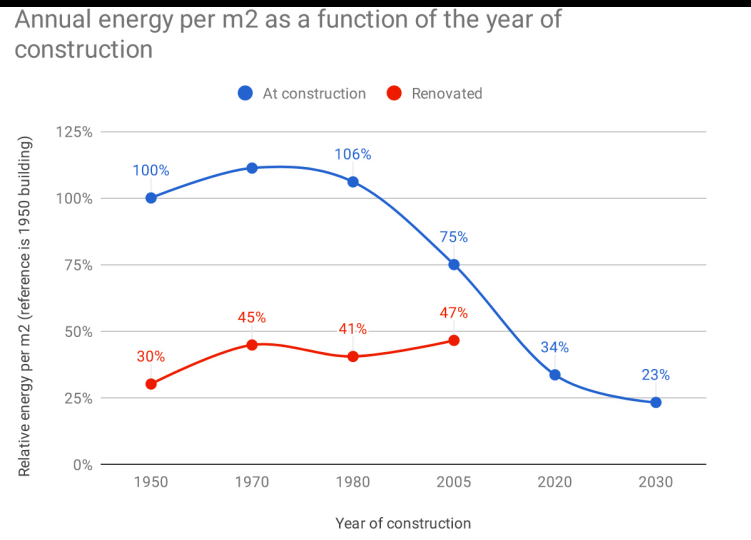


Fig. 2. Material flows of thermal insulation materials, without contaminants or residues, added to, and deconstructed from, Swiss residential buildings in 2015.

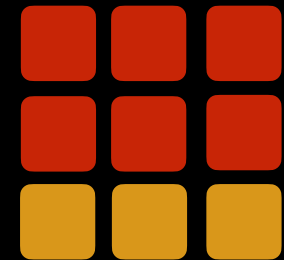
Fig. 3. Impacts on climate change (a) for different insulation materials per m² with fixed heat conductivity and (b) for the total thermal insulation system, added to, and deconstructed from, Swiss residential buildings in 2015. Insulation material added to, and deconstructed from Swiss residential buildings in 2015. exp. = expanded, extr. = extruded.

RENOVATING BUILDINGS



2.0

tons **CO₂** /year/100 m²
35 CHF/month/100 m²



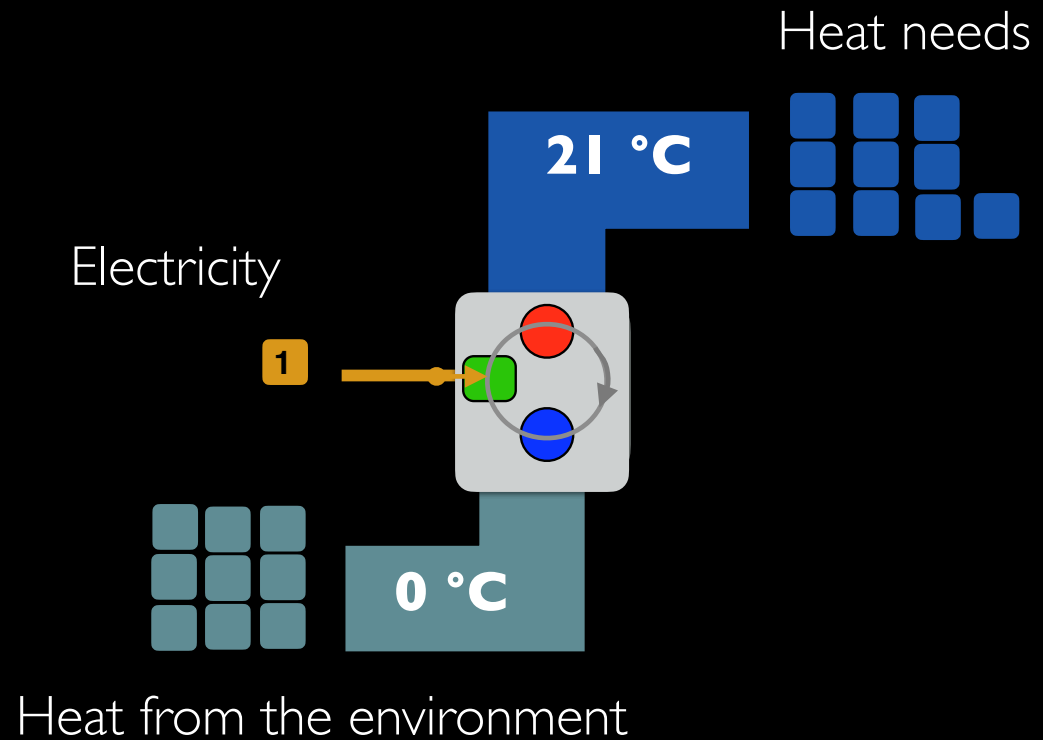
HOW DO WE SUPPLY HEAT TO A BUILDING ASK THERMODYNAMICS

1 units of electricity supplies 10 units of heat with 9 units of the environment

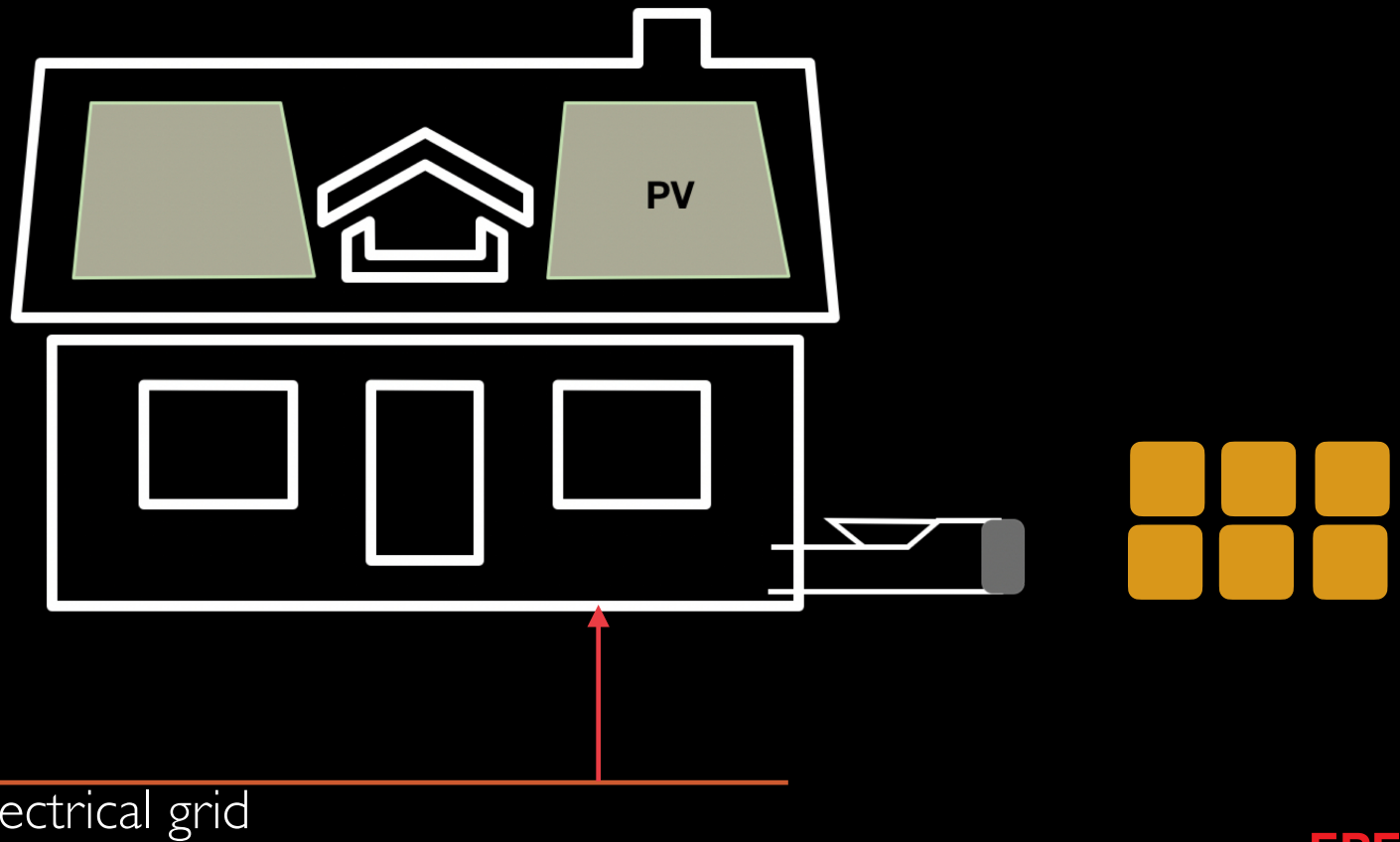


Nicolas Léonard Sadi CARNOT (F)
1796 - 1832

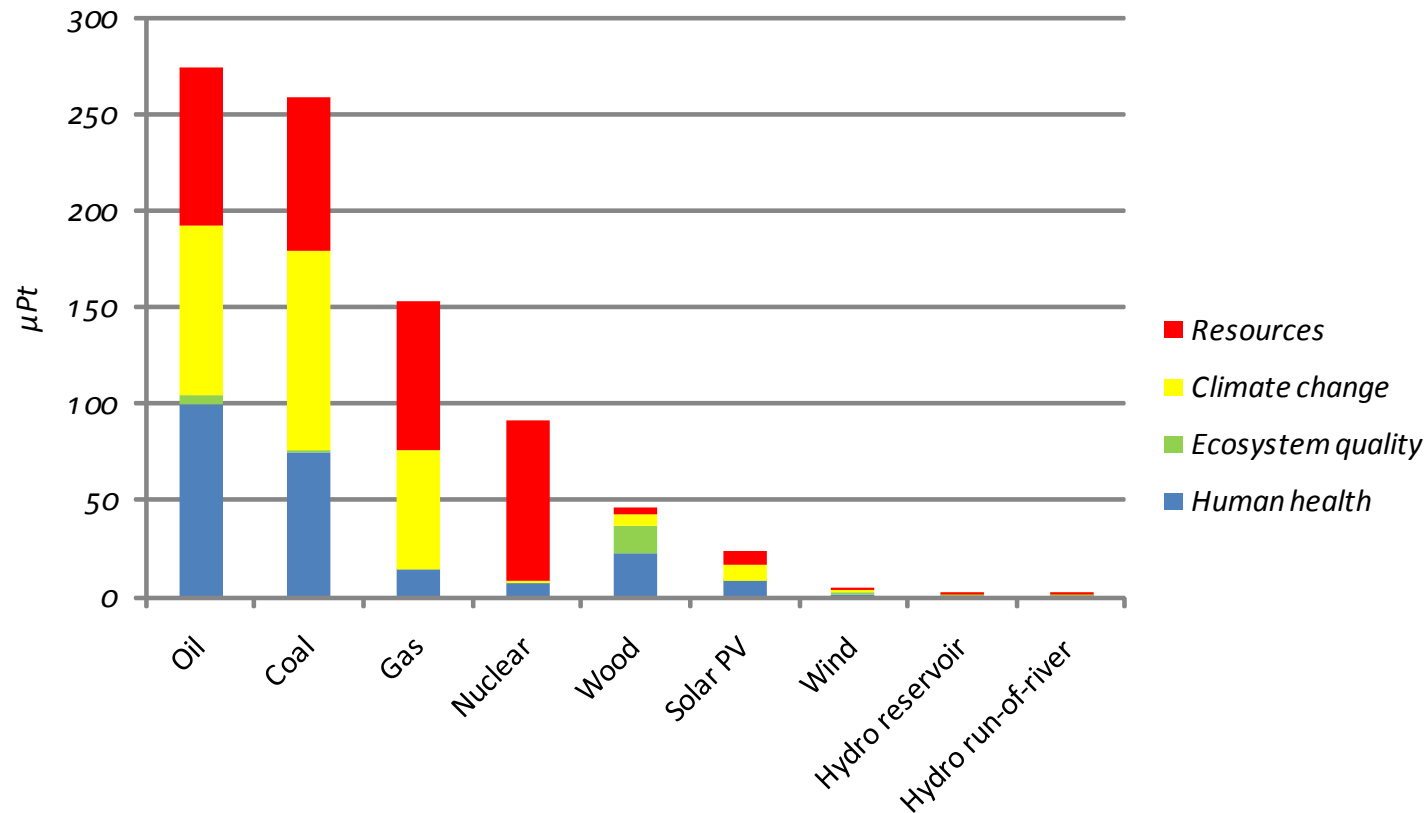
$$\dot{E} = \dot{Q} \left(1 - \frac{T_{cold}}{T_{hot}} \right)$$



HEAT PUMP INTEGRATION IN A BUILDING



The potential impacts of electricity generation



Inventory : ecoinvent 2.2 (European averages)
LCIA method : IMPACT 2002+ (single score)

EU electricity mix

Current electricity mix

Coal	Oil	Gas	Nuclear	Wind	Solar	Hydro	Geothermal	Biomass	Other fossils	Other renewables
17%	0.7%	21%	29%	14%	4.4%	9.4%	0.2%	3.8%	0.3%	0.2%
772*	32*	953*	1317*	636*	200*	423*	9*	173*	14*	9*

* Values in TWh

VS

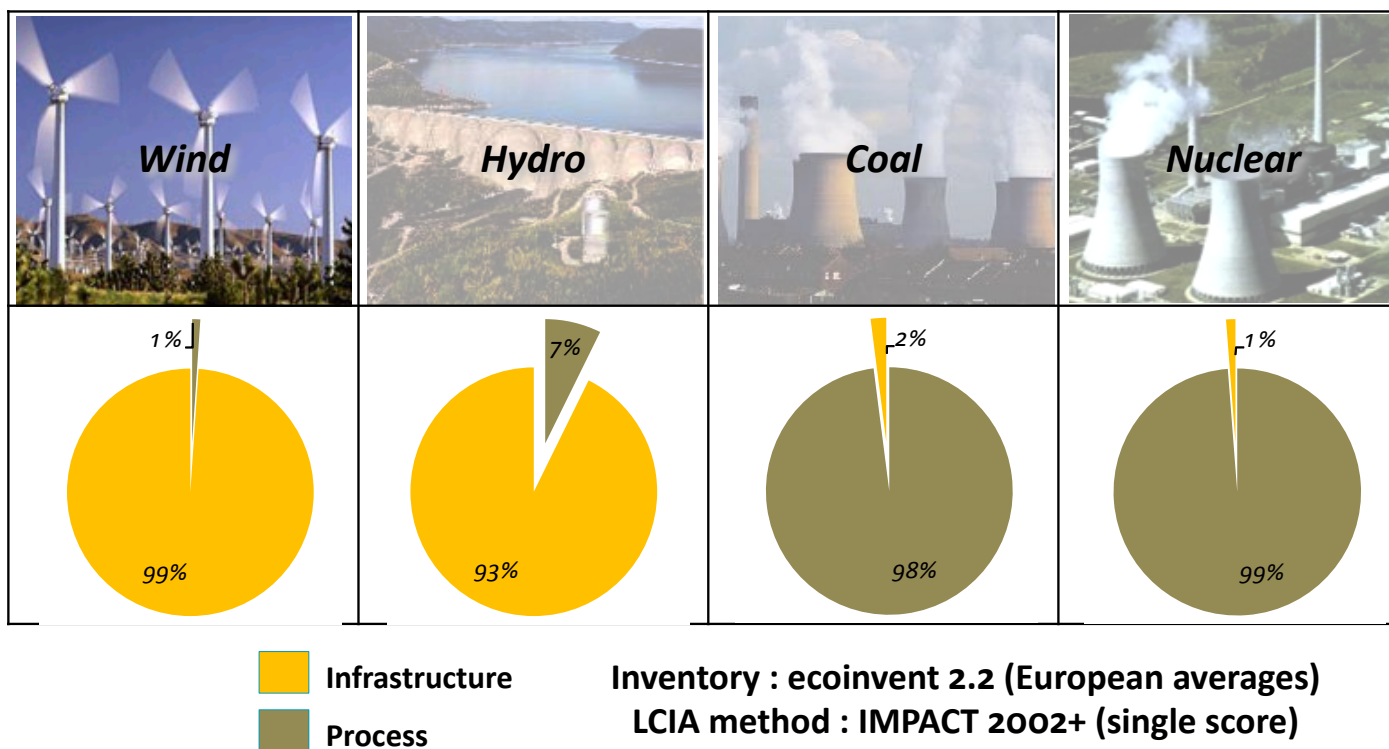
Renewable electricity mix

Wind onshore	Wind offshore	Solar	Hydro run-of-river
51%	4%	17%	28%
2547*	200*	849*	1398*

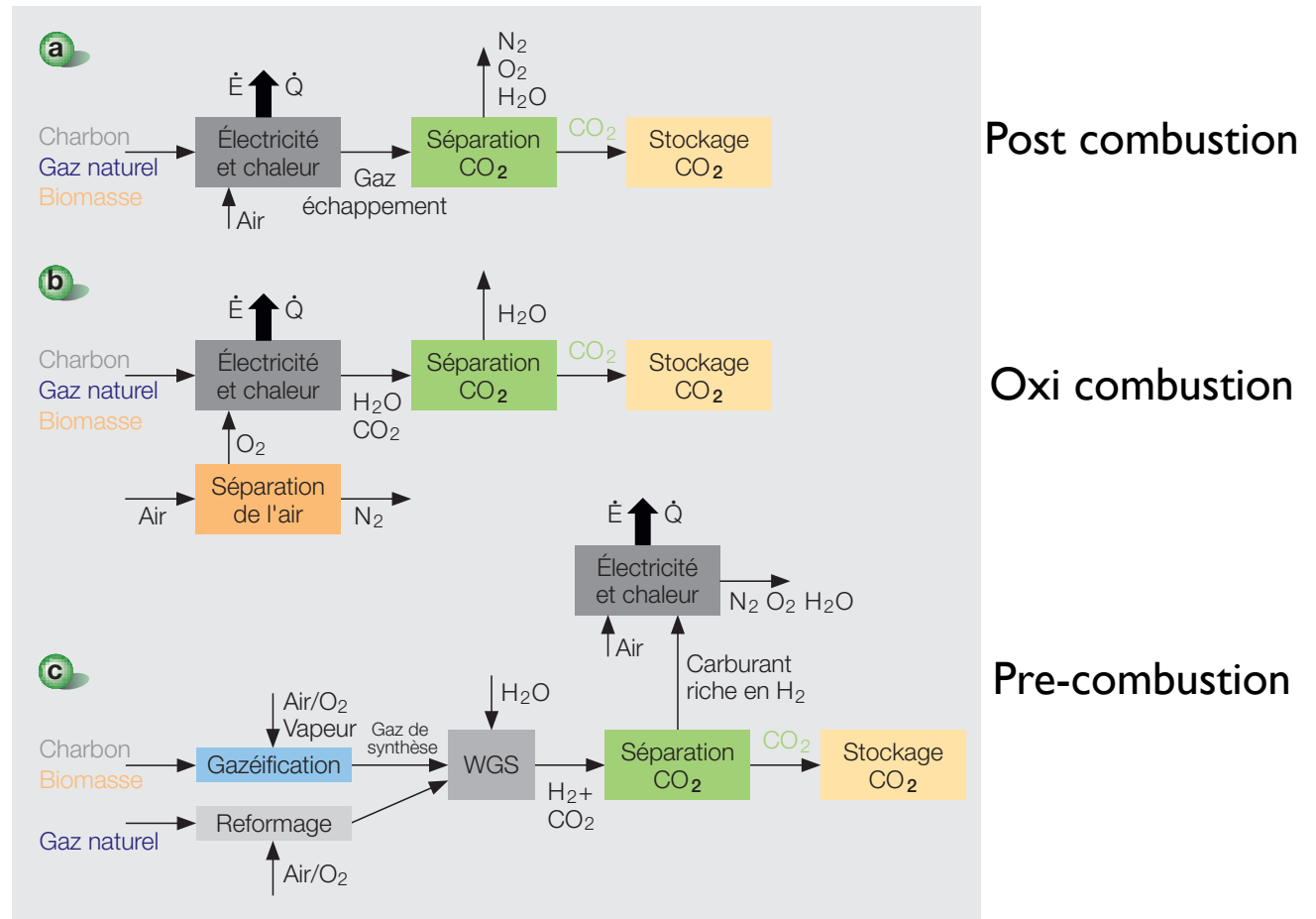
* Values in TWh

Total yearly electricity generation with deep electrification: 4540 TWh (current mix) and 4994 (renewable mix)

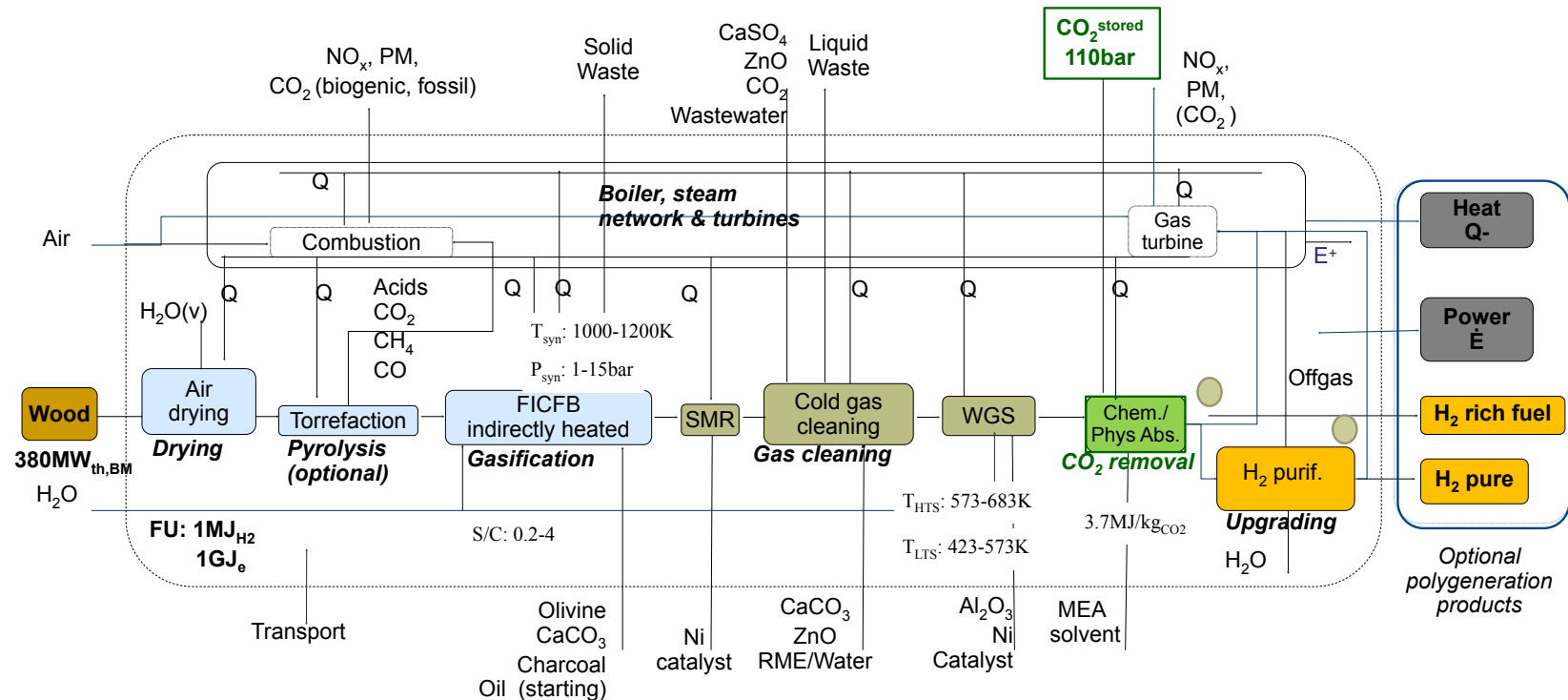
The relative importance of the Infrastructure



- Energy Penalty
 - Compression
 - 2% (LHV)
 - Capture :
 - 4-7% (LHV)
 - Total
 - 6 à 9% (LHV)
- Investment
 - + 30%



Electricity production with CO2 capture from biomass



➤ Configurations (380MW_{th,BM})

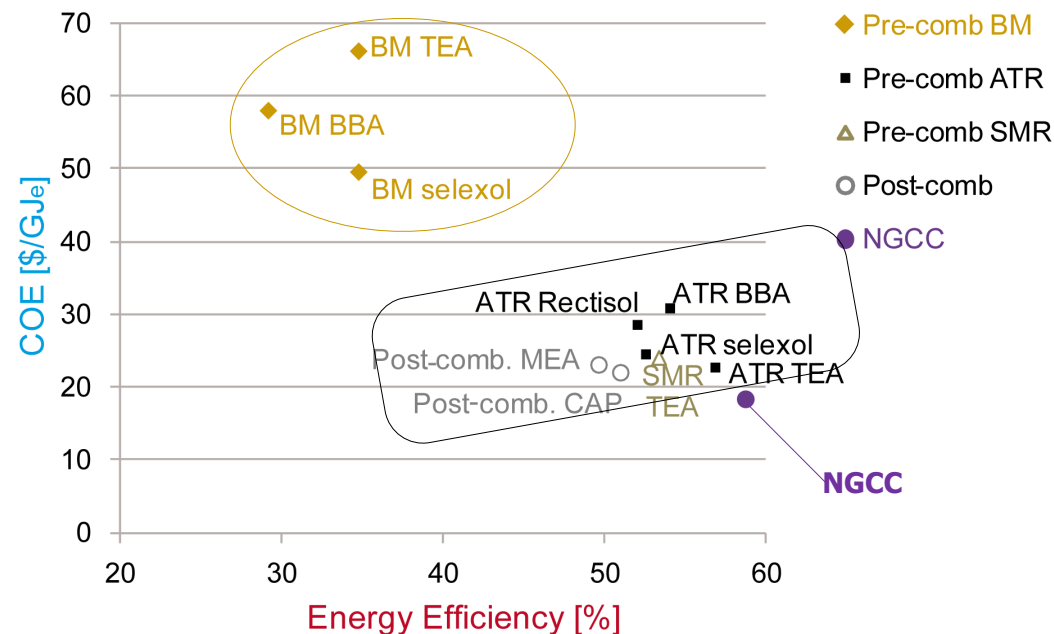
- Without/with CO₂ capture (compression to 110bar)
- H₂ process with $\dot{E}$ import or self-sufficient or $\dot{E}$ generation

CO₂ capture options comparison

◆ CO₂ capture energy and cost penalty

➤ Different process configurations

- Natural gas fed processes 90% CO₂ capture, biomass 60%



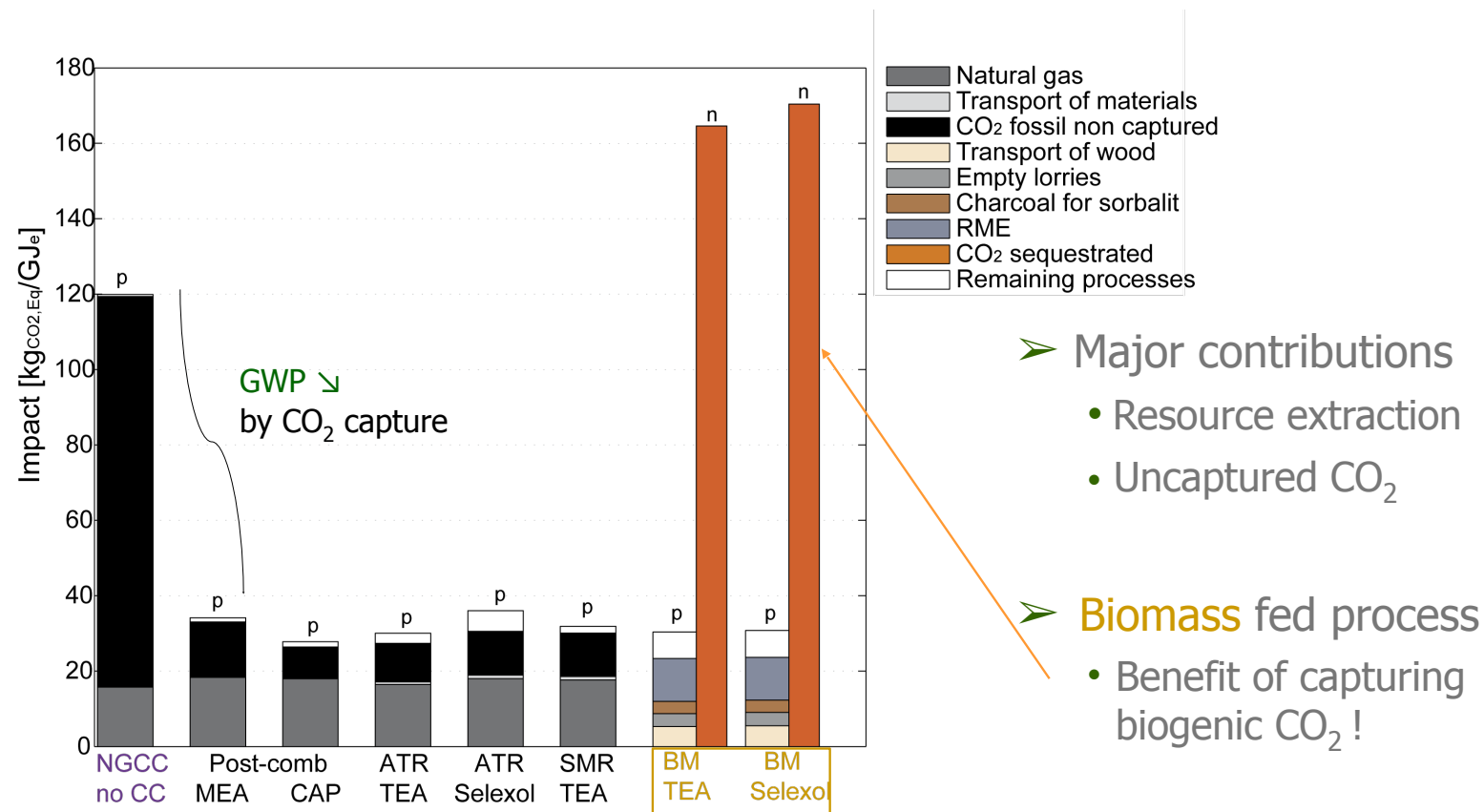
➤ Competition between post- and pre-combustion

Economic scenario base: 9.7\$/GJ_{res}, 7500h/y, 25y, 6%ir

CO₂ capture options comparison

◆ CO₂ capture environmental performance

- IPCC 07: Global warming potential (FU=1GJe)



Decision-making

◆ Most economically competitive process configurations

System	NGCC	Post-comb	ATR	BM
Performance	no CC	MEA	Selexol	Selexol
Feed [MW_{th}]	559	582	725	380
CO ₂ capture [%]	0	82.9	78.6	69.9
ϵ_{tot} [%]	58.75	50.6	53.5	35.4
Net electricity [MW_e]	328	295	383	135
[$kg_{CO_2, local}/GJ_e$]	105	13.9	22.2	-198.1
COE incl. tax[\$/ GJ_e]	18.2-28.8	9-40	12.8-42	15-69
Avoid. Costs incl. tax [\$/ $t_{CO_2, avoided}$]	-	-63-121	-49-127	0-253

➤ CO₂ capture penalty

- **Efficiency** ⚡: 6-10%-pts (CO_2 compression ~2%-pts)
- **COE** ⬆: 20-25%

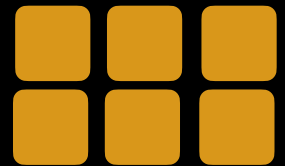
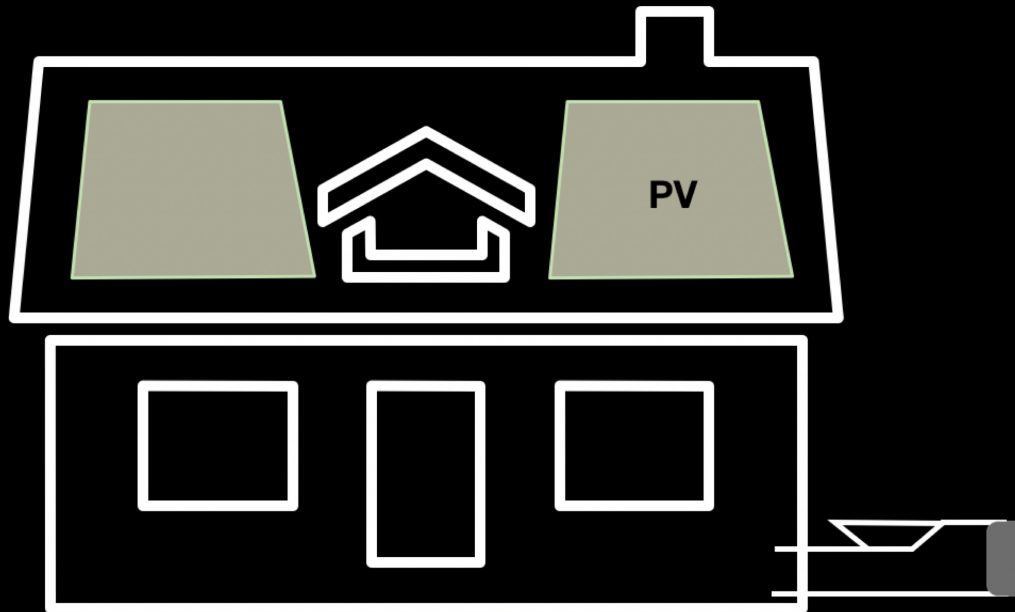
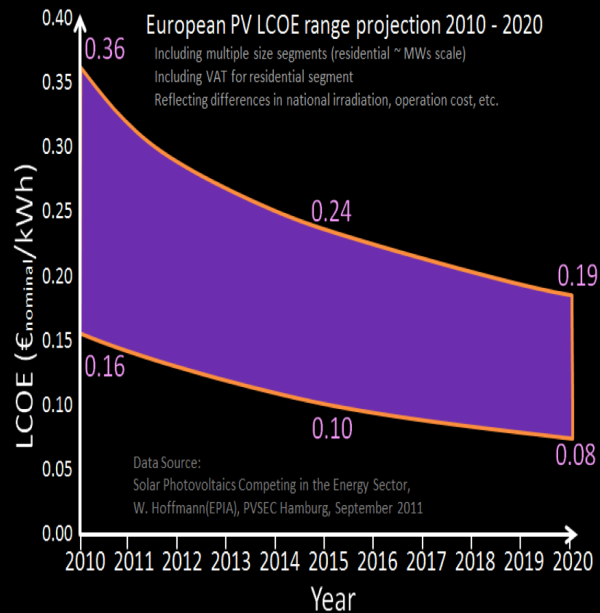
➤ Best performing process

- **Efficiency**: Nat gas. pre-comb.
- **Economic**: Nat gas. post-comb.
- **Environmental**: Biomass pre-comb.

➤ Competition between processes and objectives!

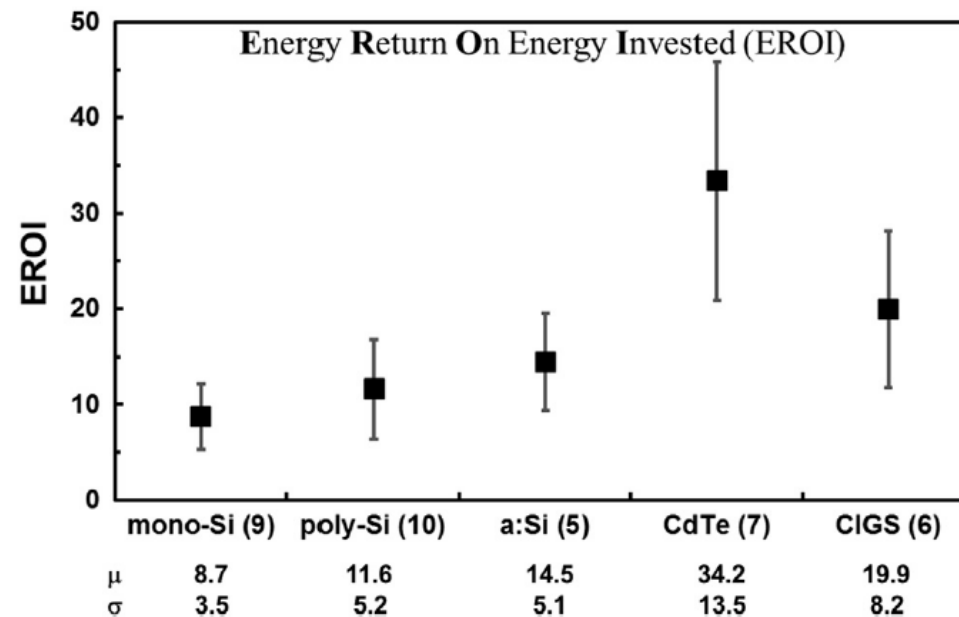
HEAT PUMP INTEGRATION IN A BUILDING

PV costs projections



<http://www.toitsolaire.ch>

Energy return on energy invested



$$EROI = \frac{\text{Electricity produced}}{\text{Energy for panel production}}$$

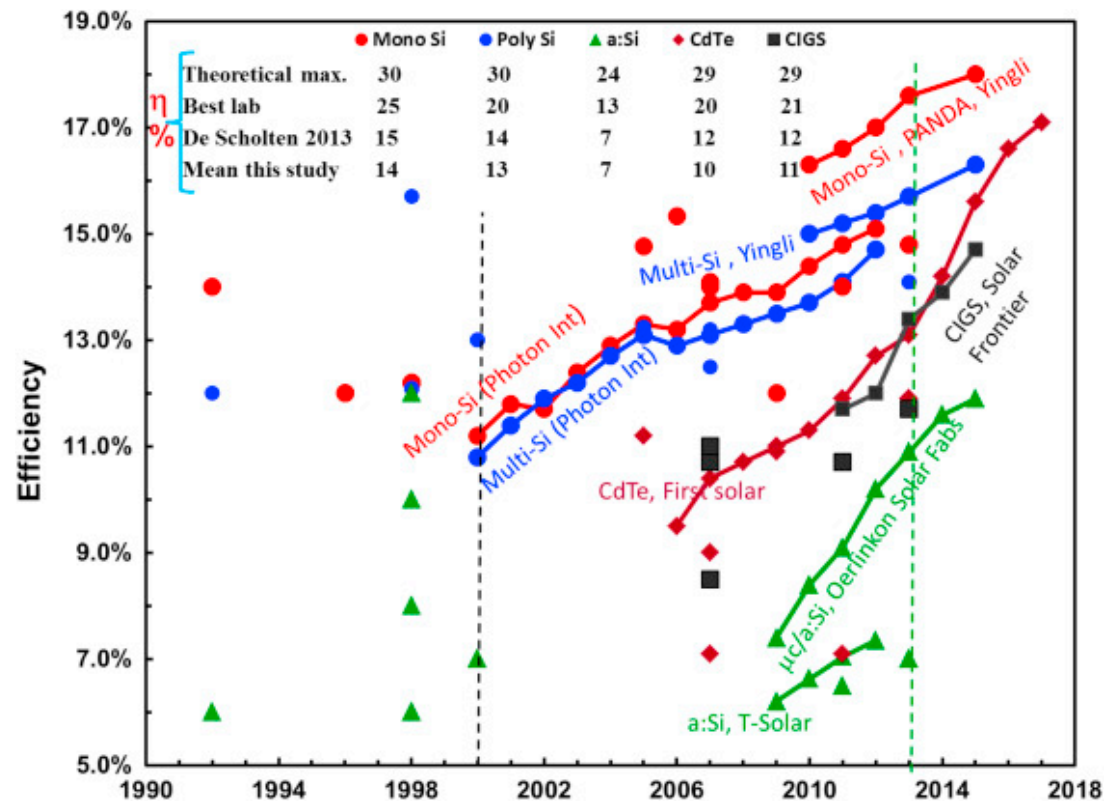
« variation in embedded energy was greater than the variation in efficiency ... suggesting that the relative ranking of the EPBT of different PV technology today and in the future depends primarily on the embedded energy and not the efficiency »

Energy pay-back time of Photovoltaics systems (meta-analysis)

Photovoltaic pannel (# studies)	Median (years)	Standard deviation
Mono-SI (9)	4.1	2.0
Poly-SI (10)	3.1	1.3
a:SI (5)	2.3	0.7
CIGS (4)	1.7	0.7
CdTe (7)	1.0	0.4

(Bhandari, K. P., Collier, J. M., Ellingson, R. J., & Apul, D. S. (2015). Energy payback time (EPBT) and energy return on energy invested (EROI) of solar photovoltaic systems: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 47 133-141.)

PV efficiency



(Bhandari, et.a.. (2015).. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 47 133-141)

Energy pay back period (years)

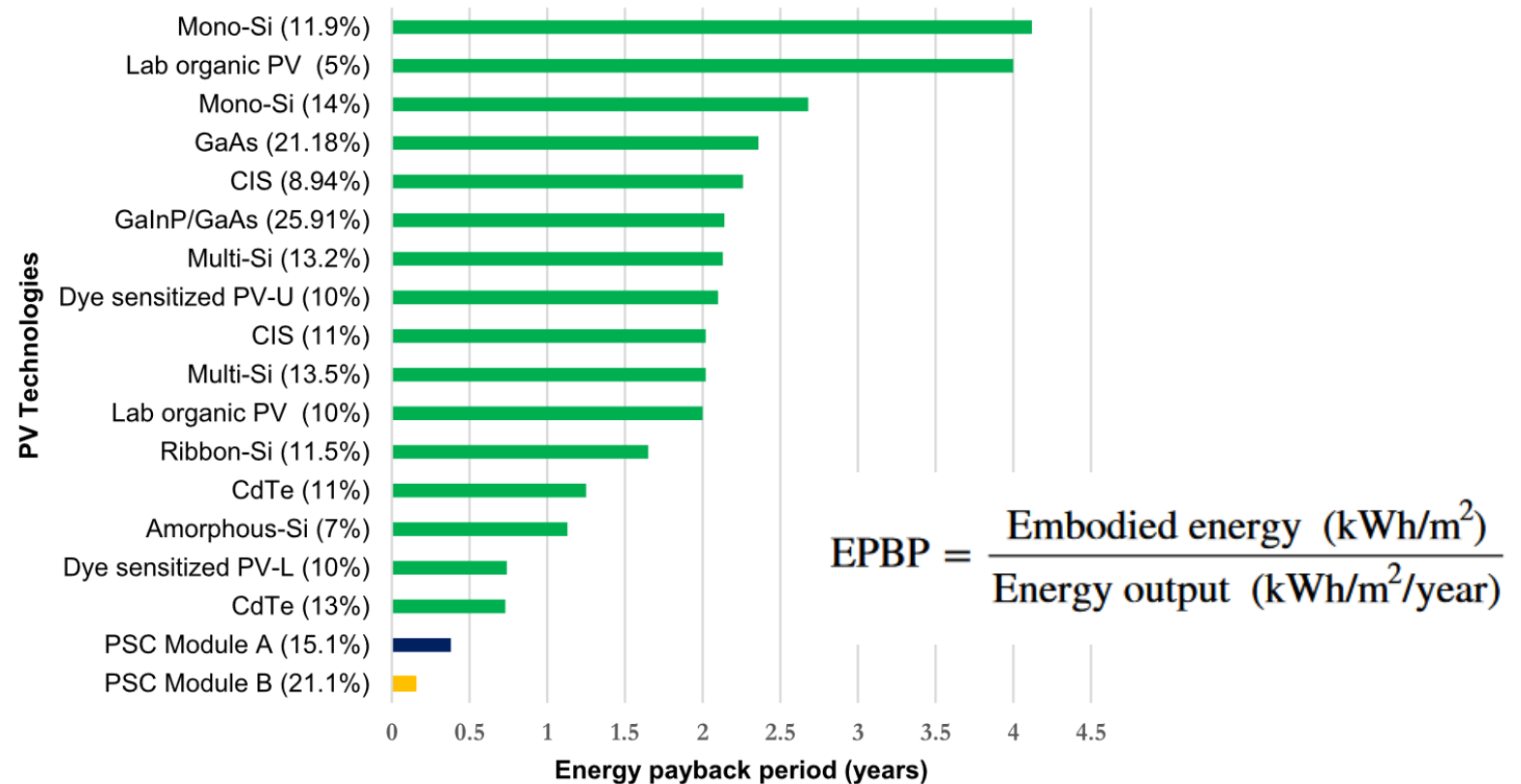


Fig. 16. Comparison of EPBP of existing PV technologies with PSC. Data for other PV technologies are obtained from García-Valverde et al. [10].

Comparison of Environmental impacts indicators for different solar cells

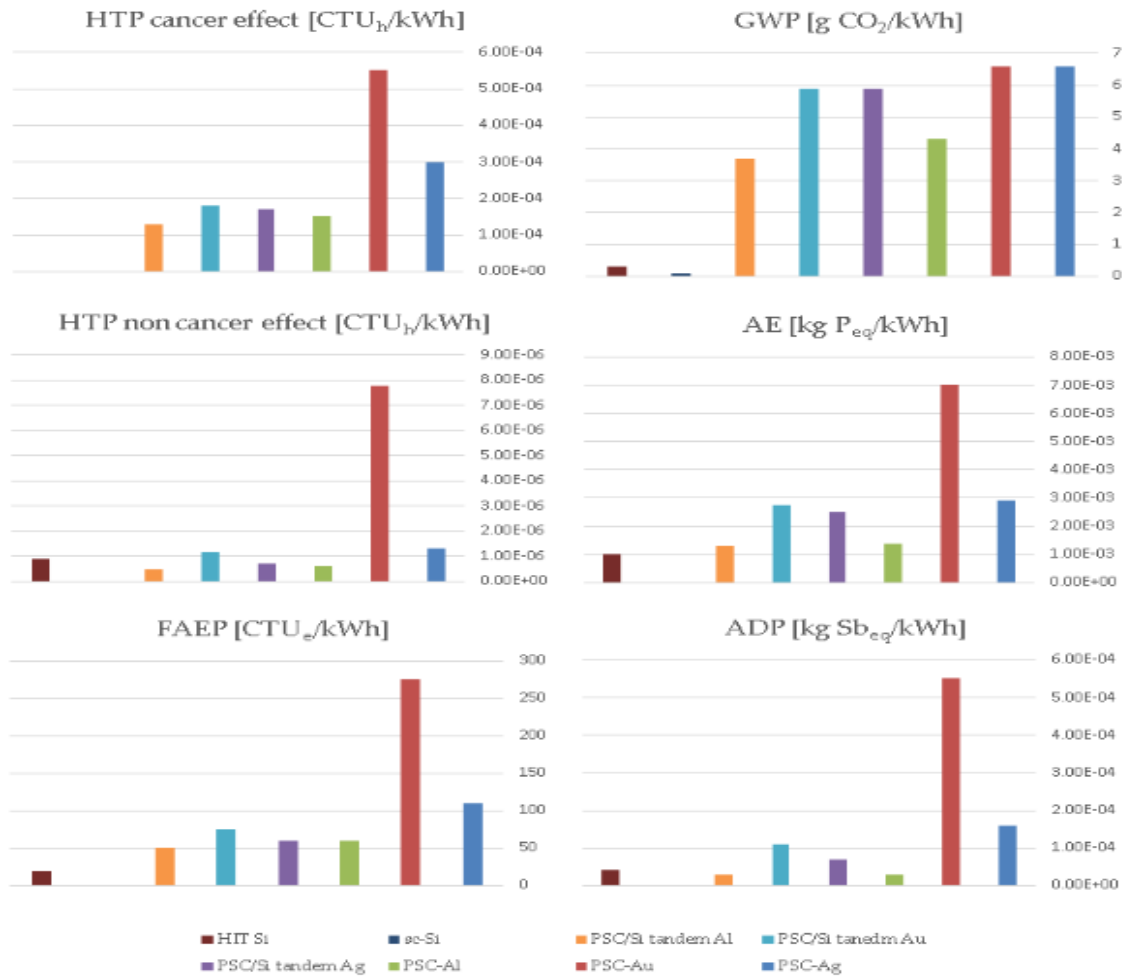
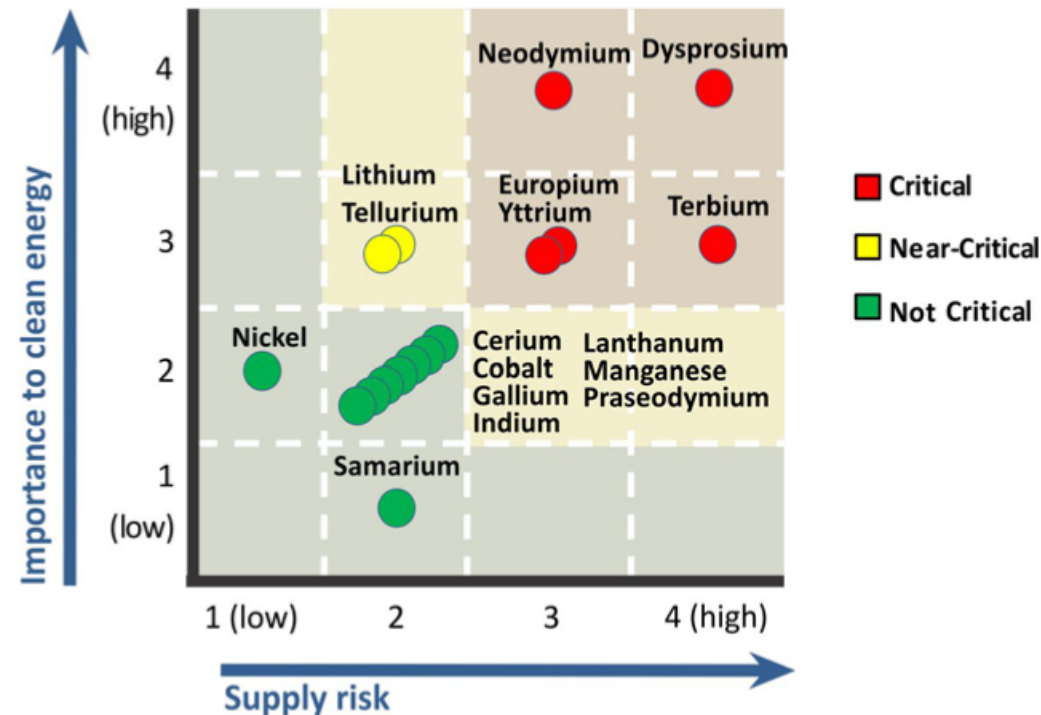


Figure 2. Environmental impacts of different solar cells [66].

(Muteri et al. 2020. Review on Life Cycle Assessment of Solar Photovoltaic Panels. Energies, 13, 252-?)

Medium term material criticality in (U.S. Dep of Energy)

Innovation is needed in the long term to contribute reducing the quantity of critical metals used in energy technologies



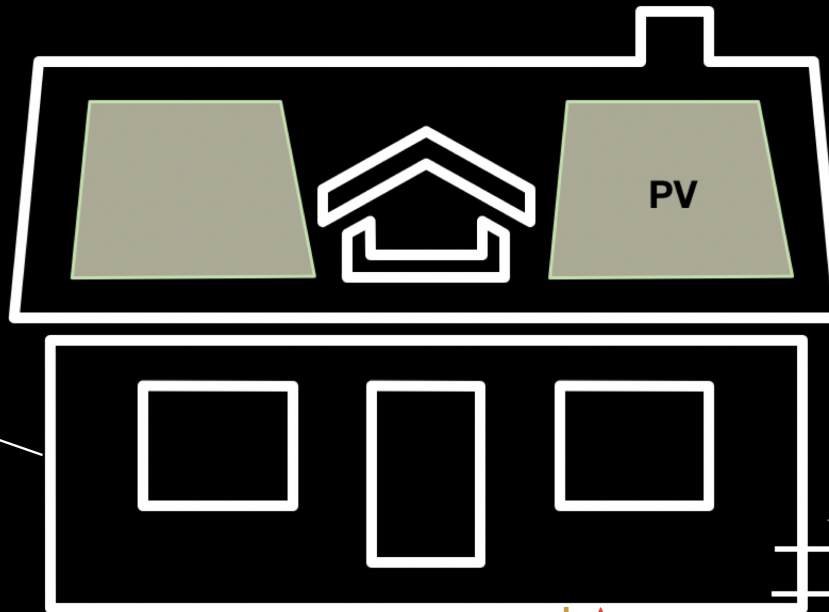
(U.S. Dep of Energy. 2011. Critical Material Strategy)

HOUSING SECTOR



Big data

Predictive control



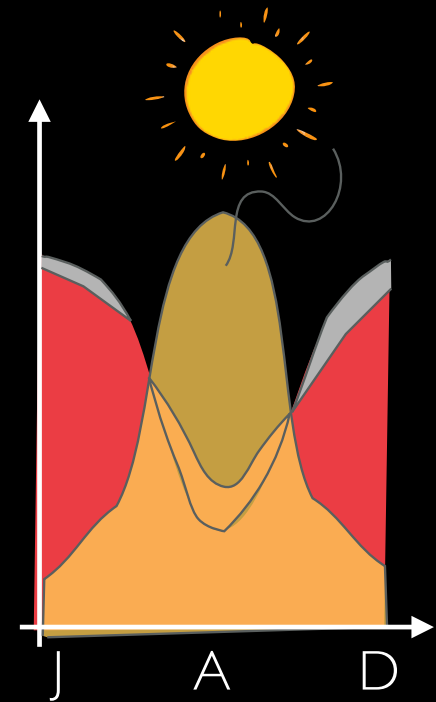
Batteries

Hot water tanks

Heat pumps

Peaks

Electrical grid



FROM FOSSIL FUEL TO RENEWABLES

3.8

tons CO₂ /year/100 m²



170

CHF/month/100 m²

Energy : **140** CHF/month/100 m²

Investment : **30** CHF/month/100 m²



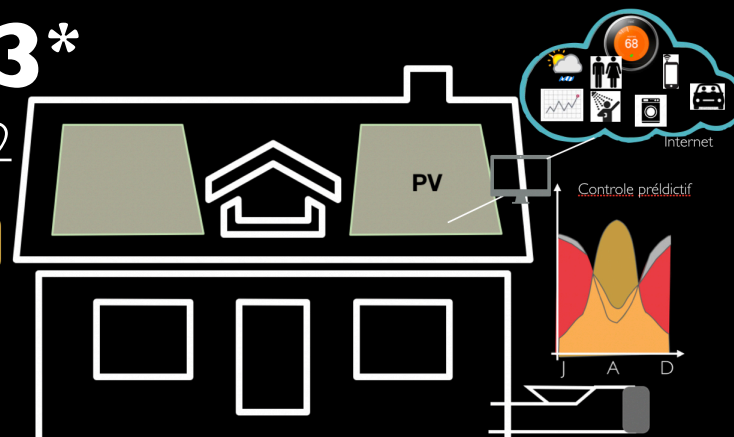
0.18-0.07*

tons CO₂ /year/100 m²

0.4-0.3*

m²PV/m²

Direct
Achat
Vente



*renovation

163

CHF/month/100 m²

Energy : **50** CHF/month/100 m²

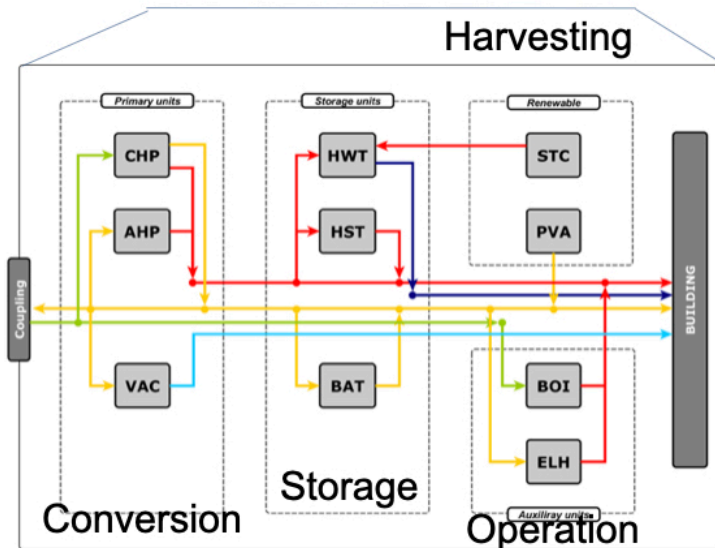
Investment : **113** CHF/month/100 m²



EPFL Energy services to buildings

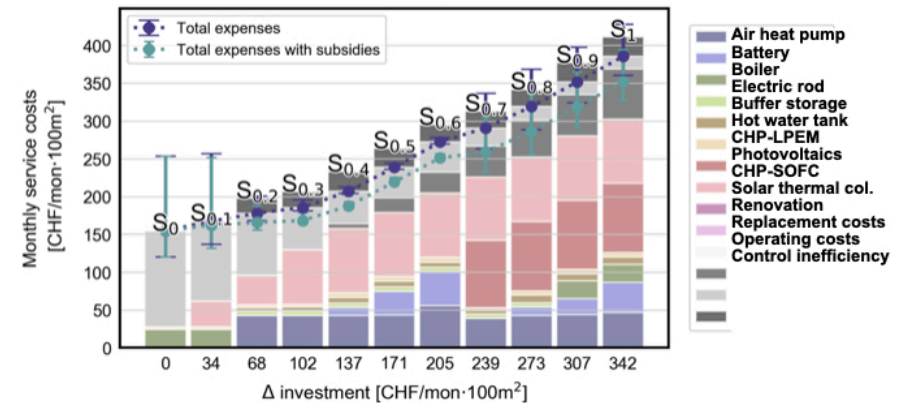
32

Integrating biomass in building energy systems : project in collaboration with gaznat

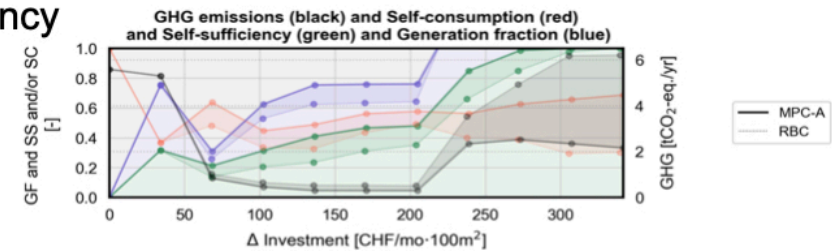


31 Types of buildings
7 Climatic zones
6 typical communes

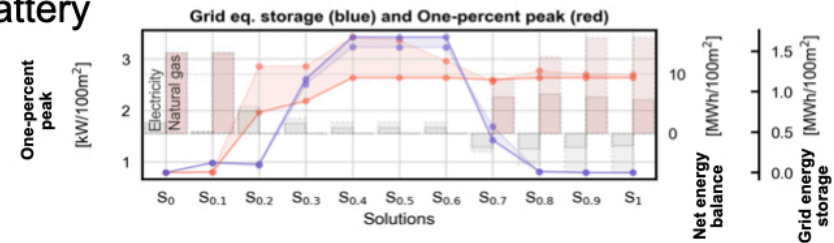
List of energy conversion solutions



Self sufficiency



Hidden battery



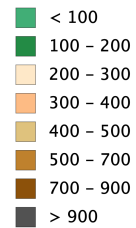
Dynamic LCA - real time emissions



26th January 2020 12:00

**GWP100a associated to
electricity generation**

IPCC 2013 climate change -
GWP100a [gCO₂-eq./KWh]



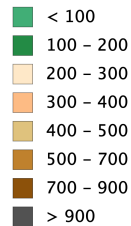
Dynamic LCA - effect of exchanges



26th January 2020 12:00

**GWP100a associated to
electricity consumption**

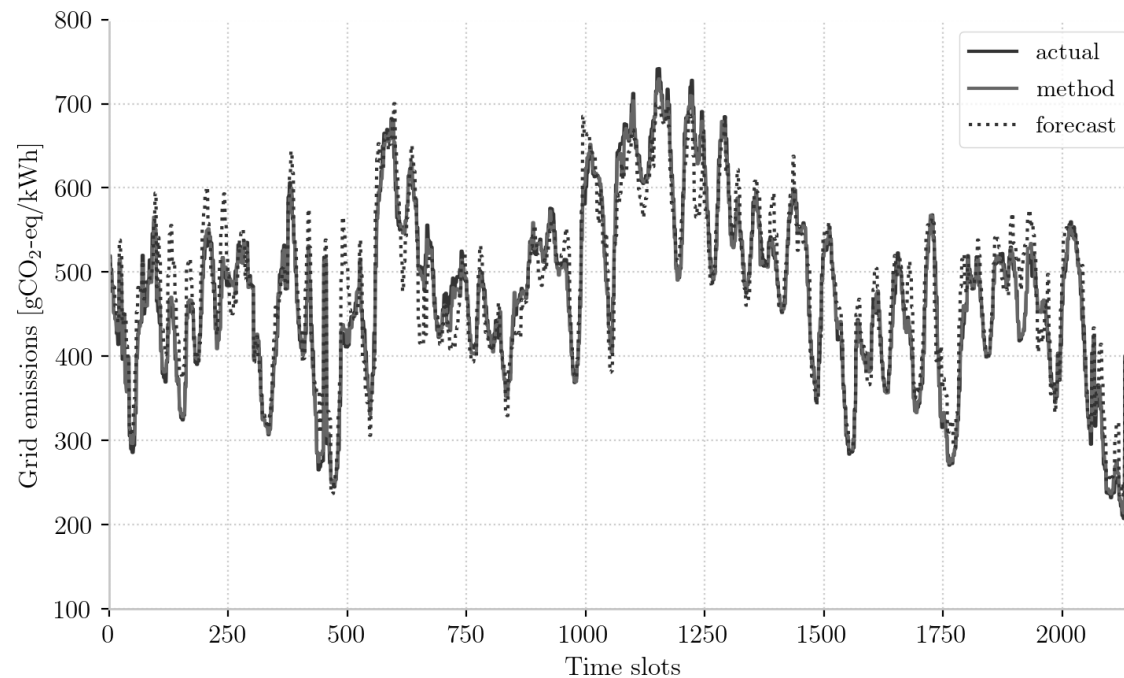
IPCC 2013 climate change –
GWP100a [gCO₂-eq./KWh]



Predictions - data driven models



Germany (April 2018) - **Random Forest regressor**



Trained over 17,322 data
split in train and test sets

R^2 train: 0.996

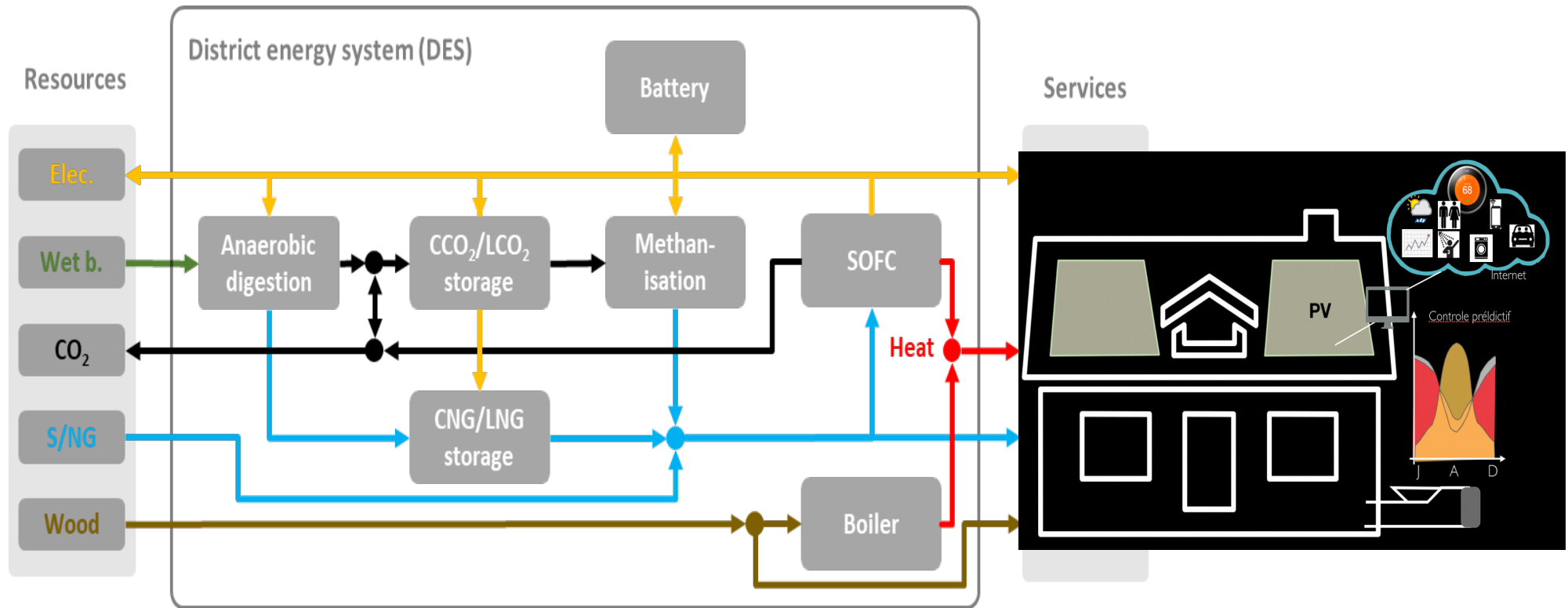
R^2 test: 0.943

Reproduced trend:

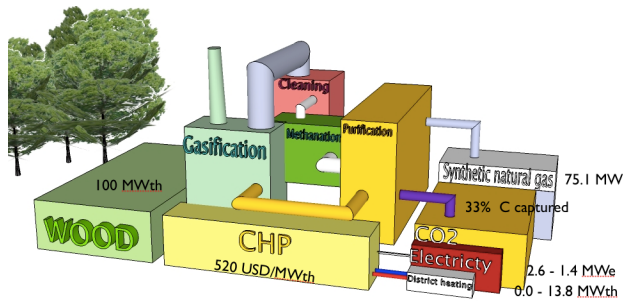
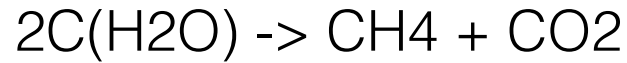
R^2 method: 0.989

R^2 forecast: **0.931**

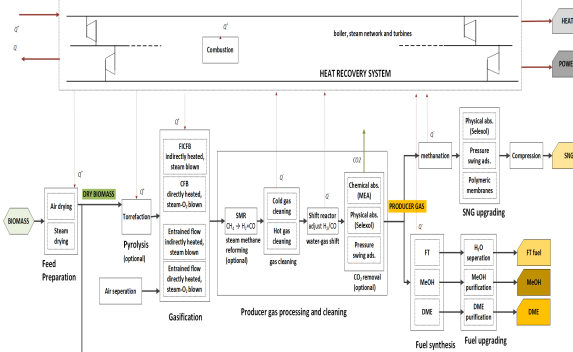
EPFL Integrating biomass in district systems



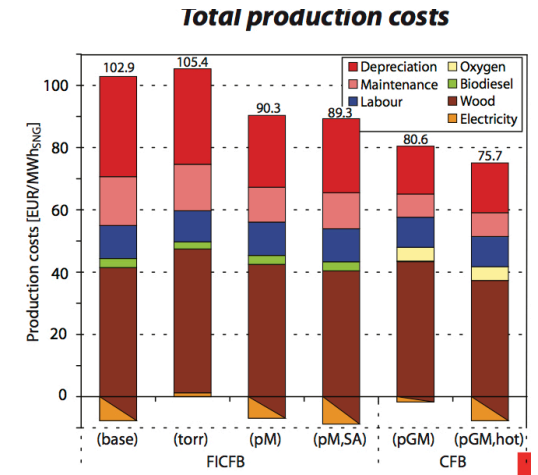
Systematic method for process system design options



Process superstructure

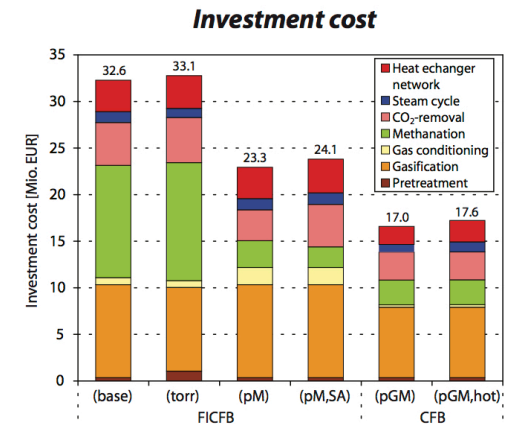
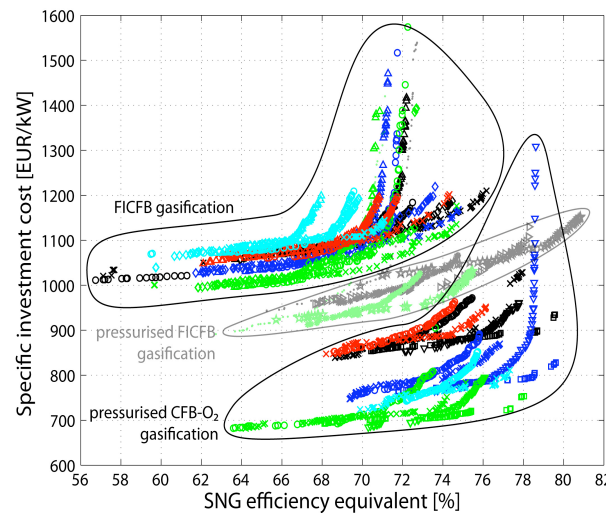


Comparing options

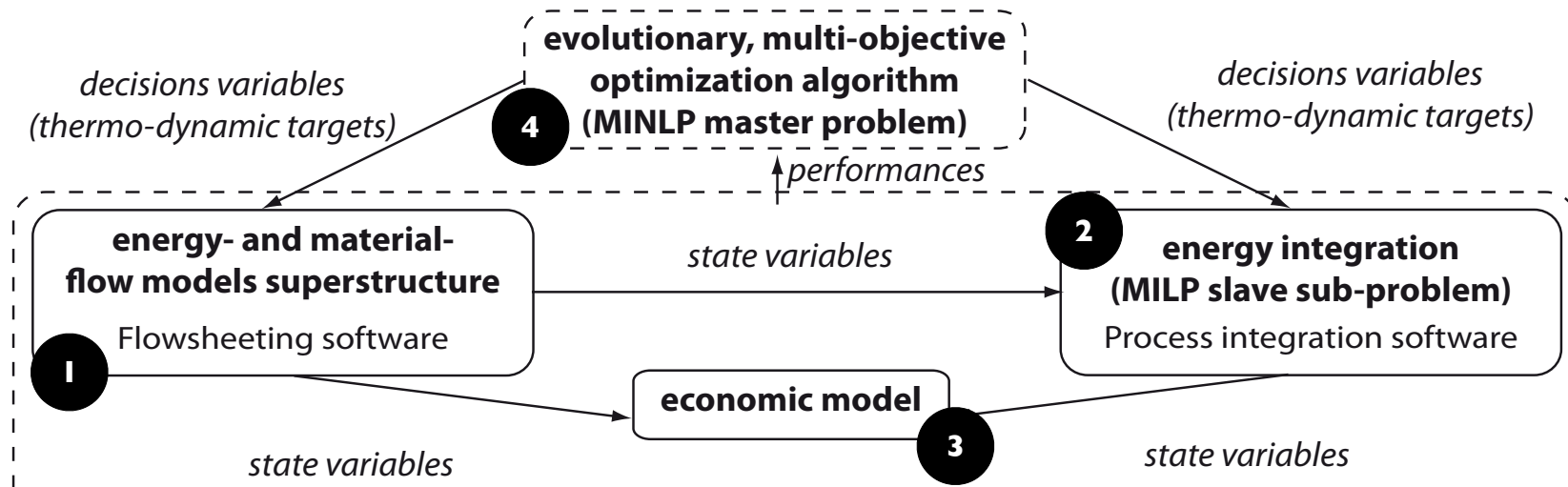


Systematic generation

- Gasification:**
- FICFB
 - air drying
 - △ + torrefaction
 - × steam drying
 - ◇ + torrefaction
 - pressurised FICFB
 - air drying
 - air drying, gas turbine
 - ▷ steam drying, gas turbine
 - ★ + hot gas cleaning
 - CFB-O₂
 - air drying
 - ▽ + hot gas cleaning
 - × steam drying
 - + hot gas cleaning
- Separation:**
- PSA
 - downstream
 - upstream of methanation
 - Phys. abs.
 - downstream
 - upstream of methanation
 - Membranes
 - downstream of methanation



Using optimisation to extract solutions



Gerber, Léda, Martin Gassner, and François Maréchal. "Systematic Integration of LCA in Process Systems Design: Application to Combined Fuel and Electricity Production from Lignocellulosic Biomass." *Computers & Chemical Engineering* 35, no. 7 (December 9, 2010): 1265–1280. <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0098135410003595>.



Thermo-economic optimisation

DOF of the system = $N_{\{\text{state variables}\}} - N_{\{\text{Flowsheet model equations}\}}$

$N_{\{\text{Decision variables}\}} = \text{DOF} - N_{\{\text{Context specifications}\}}$

- Degree of freedom for which I do not have any rationale to fix the value
- I only know the possible range $X_{d,min} \leq X_d \leq X_{d,max}$
- I would like to fix the value of X_d so that it minimise an objective function

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 \min_{X_{state}} & CT(X_{state}) & \\
 \text{Subject to} & F(X_{state}) = 0 & \text{Flowsheet model} \\
 & S(X_{state}) = 0 & \text{Context specifications} \\
 & G(X_{state}) \geq 0 & \text{Inequality constraints} \\
 & X_{state} = \{X_{flows}, X_{Parameters}, Y_{decision}\} & Y_{decision} \in \{Yes(1), No(0)\}
 \end{array}$$

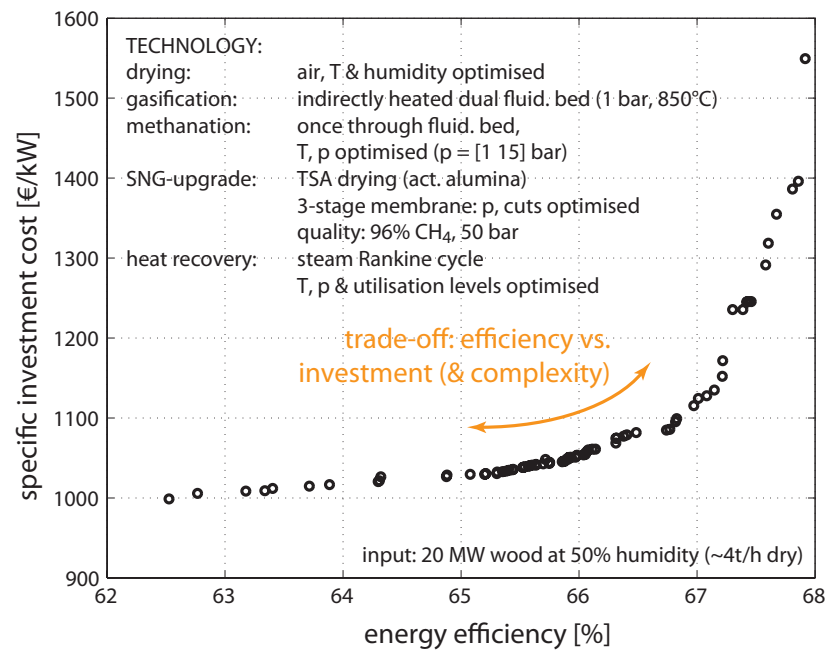
Y_d, X_d is a subset of X_{state}

Y_d, X_d defines the process configuration from the superstructure

Thermo-economic optimisation

Trade-offs: efficiency and scale vs. investment

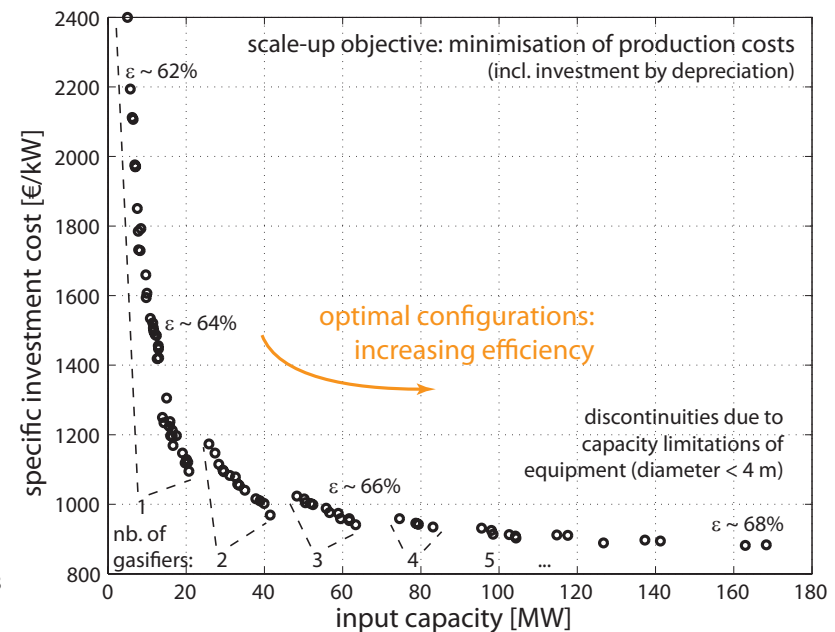
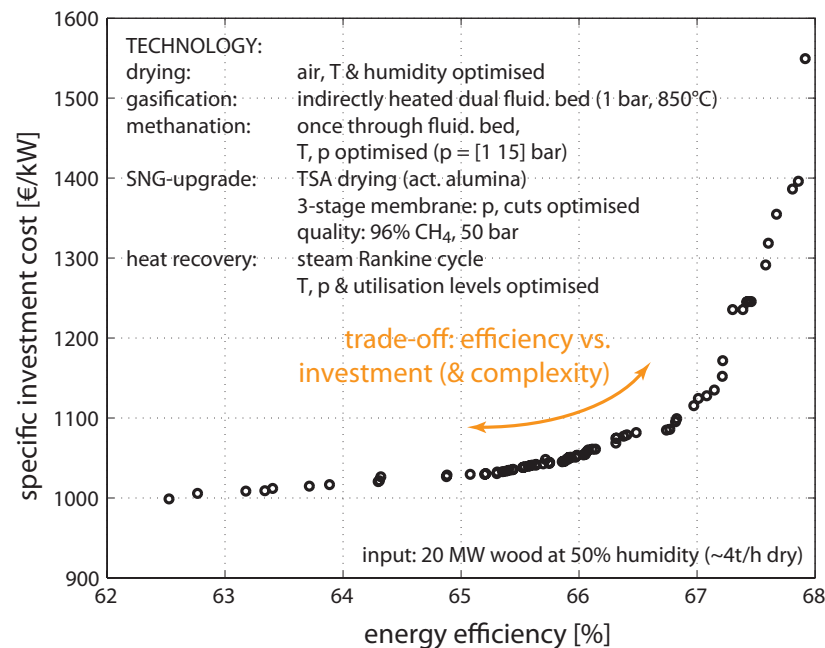
Efficiency vs. investment:



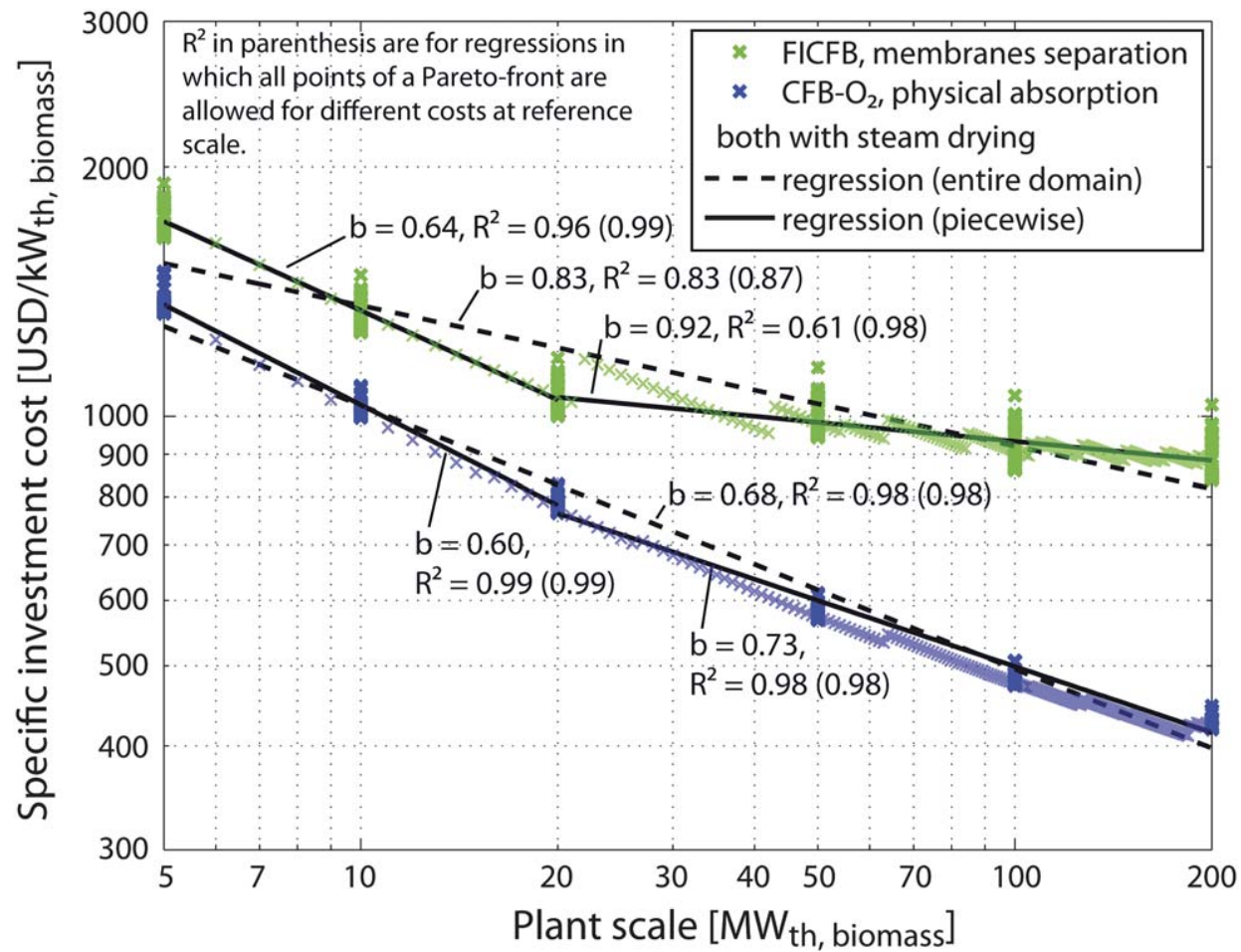
Thermo-economic optimisation

Trade-offs: efficiency and scale vs. investment

Efficiency vs. investment and optimal scale-up:



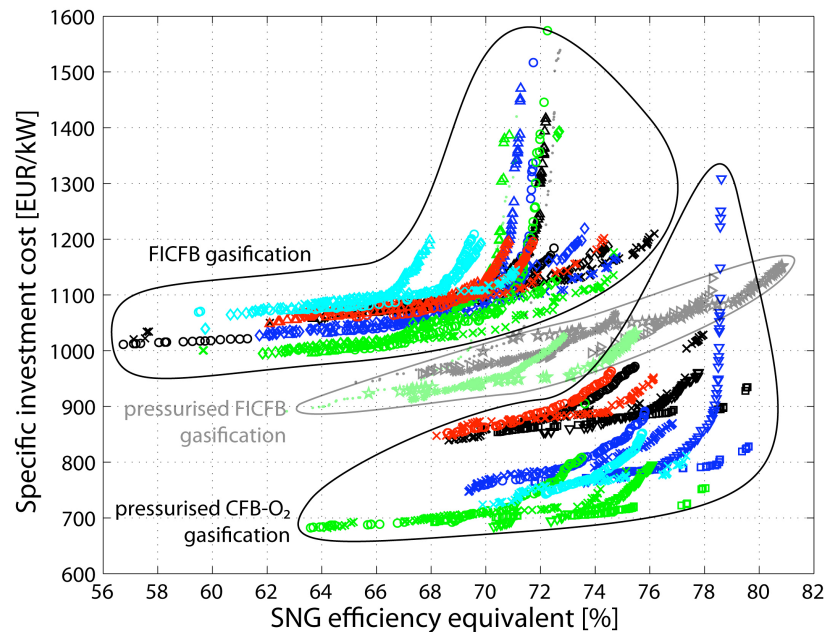
Investment as a function of biomass feed



8. Analysing the results

• Each point of the Pareto is a process design

Thermo-economic Pareto front
(cost vs efficiency):



Gasification:

FICFB

- air drying
- △ + torrefaction
- × steam drying
- ◇ + torrefaction

pressurised FICFB

- air drying
- * air drying, gas turbine
- ▷ steam drying, gas turbine
- ★ + hot gas cleaning

CFB-O₂

- air drying
- ▽ + hot gas cleaning
- × steam drying
- + hot gas cleaning

Separation:

PSA

- downstream
- upstream
- of methanation

Phys. abs.

- downstream
- upstream
- of methanation

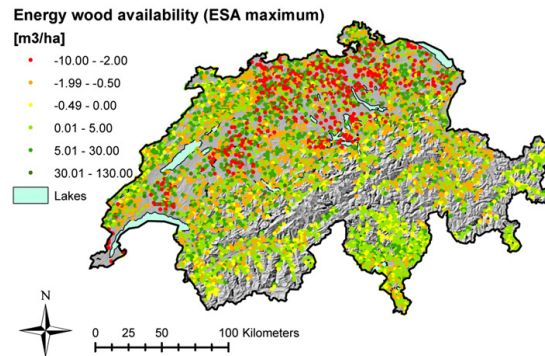
Membranes

- downstream
- of methanation

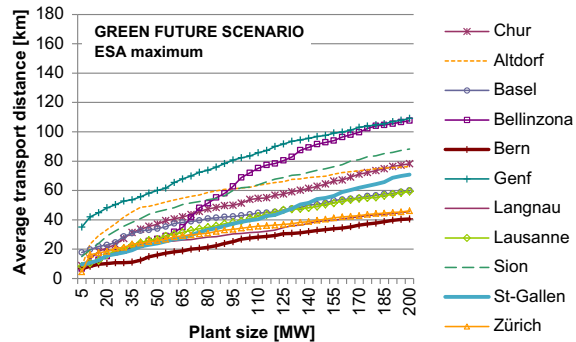
→ *The best solution is the pressurised directly heated gasifier*

Plant location

Area = 40 km²

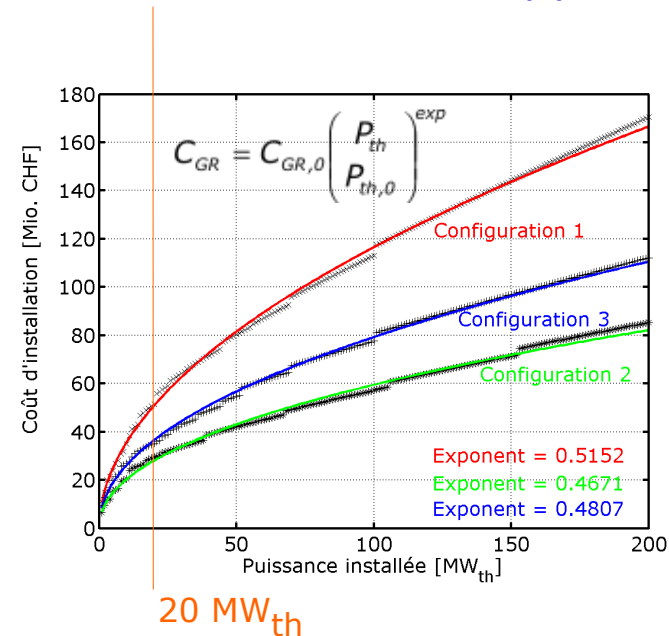


Transport = 10 % of the energy



Process Size => Investment

- 20 MW_{th}:
- 51.4 Mio. CHF (1)
 - 29.5 Mio. CHF (2)
 - 35.4 Mio. CHF (3)

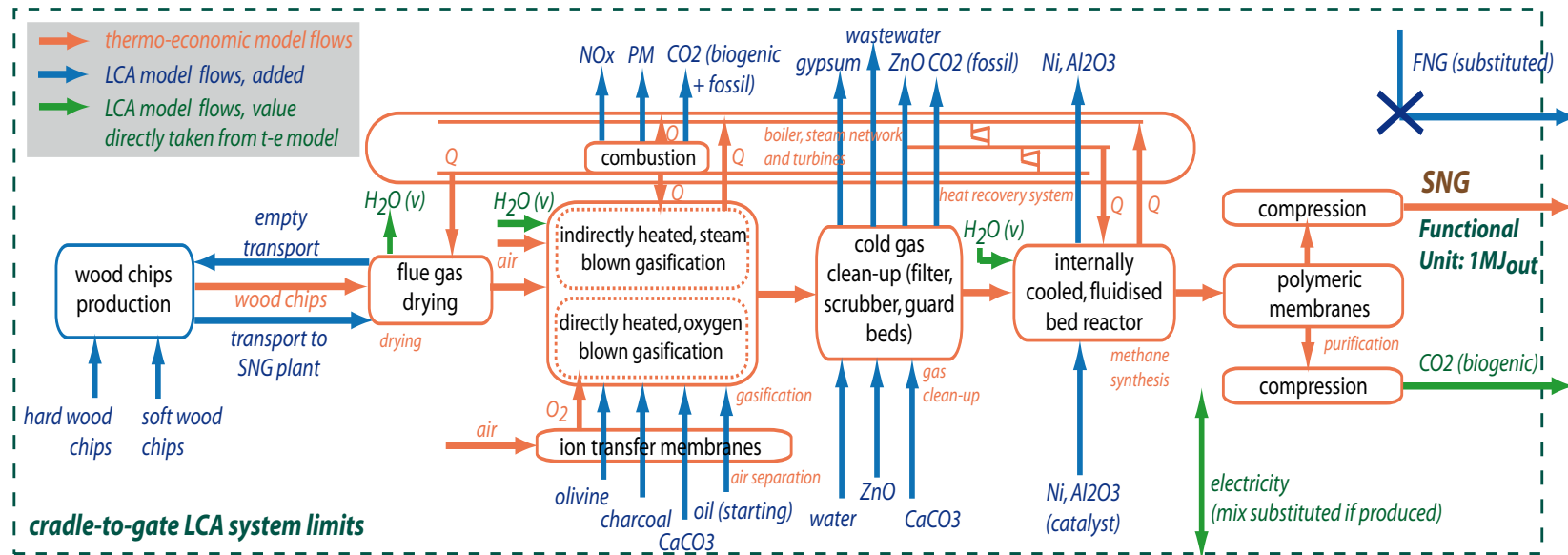


Efficiency : 5000 Wyear/year/ha

Environmental Process performance indicators

Identification of Life Cycle Inventory elements

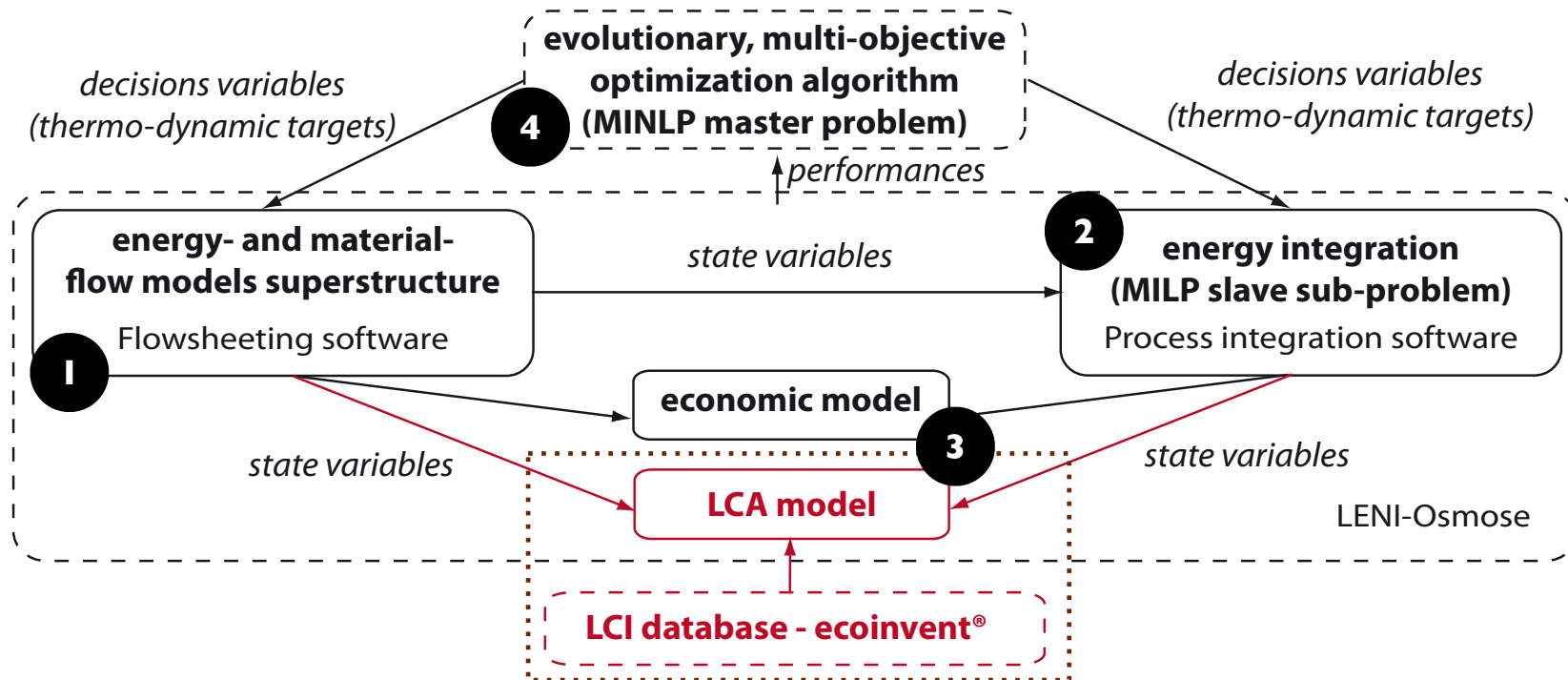
• Process superstructure, extended with LCI



➔ use of ecoinvent emission database (1) for each LCI element, to take into account off-site emissions

(1)

Computational framework



Gerber, Léda, Martin Gassner, and François Maréchal. "Systematic Integration of LCA in Process Systems Design: Application to Combined Fuel and Electricity Production from Lignocellulosic Biomass." *Computers & Chemical Engineering* 35, no. 7 (December 9, 2010): 1265–1280. <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0098135410003595>.



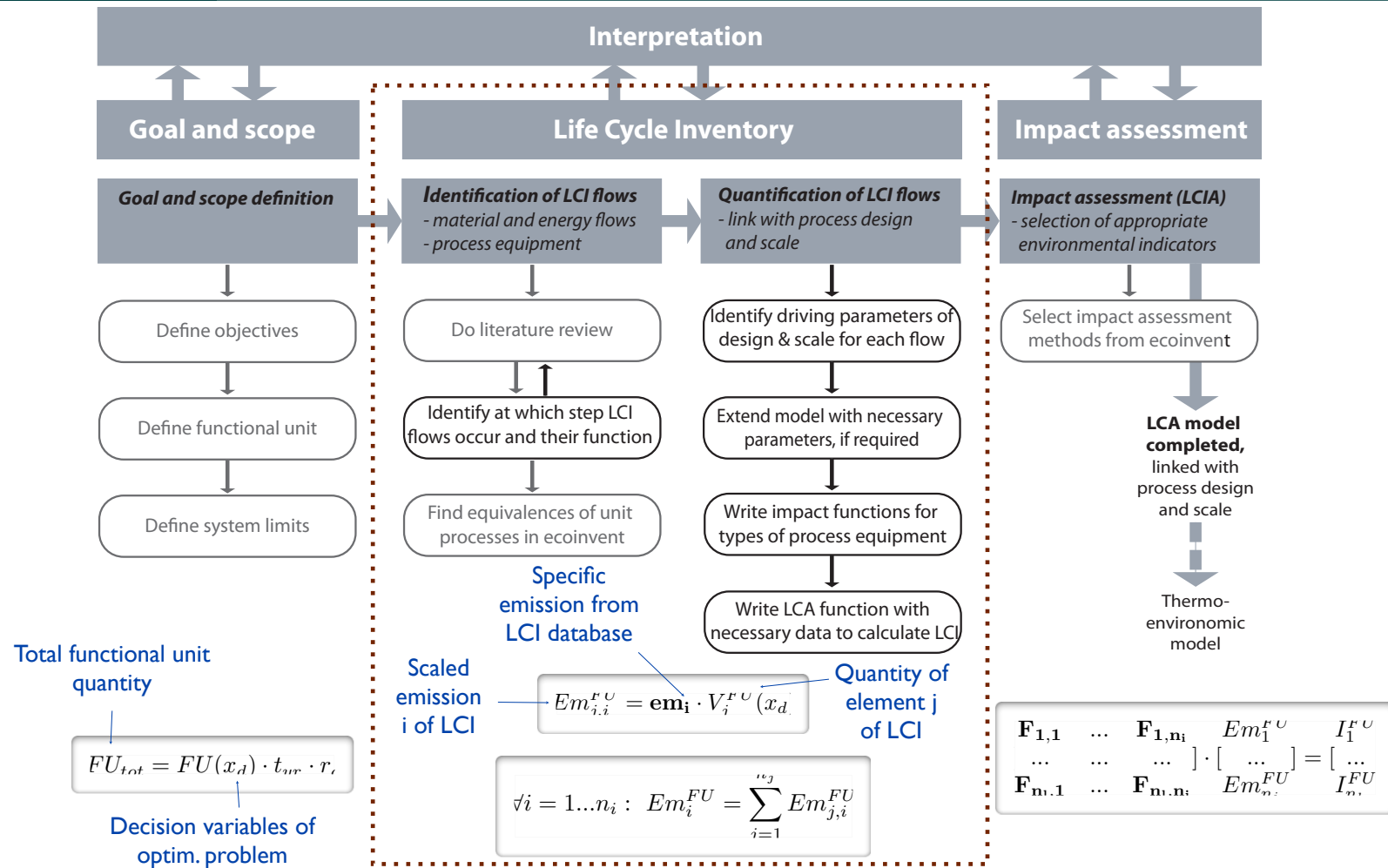
LCA in Osmose

- 3 elements type can be declared in the LCI:

	Components	Unit processes	Elementary flows
Definition	corresponds to a piece of process equipment	contains the cumulated life cycle inventory emissions and extractions	a single emission (or extraction) generated by the model
Database equivalence	in the «components» database, listed in EnergyTechnologies documentation	in the «unit processes» category	in the «elementary flows» category

In multi-model: pay attention to the risk of double-counting (ex: electricity balance) or intermediate flows (ex: logistics)

Guidelines for LCA model



LCI scaling of process equipment

- Analogy with economies of scale for equipment investment estimation

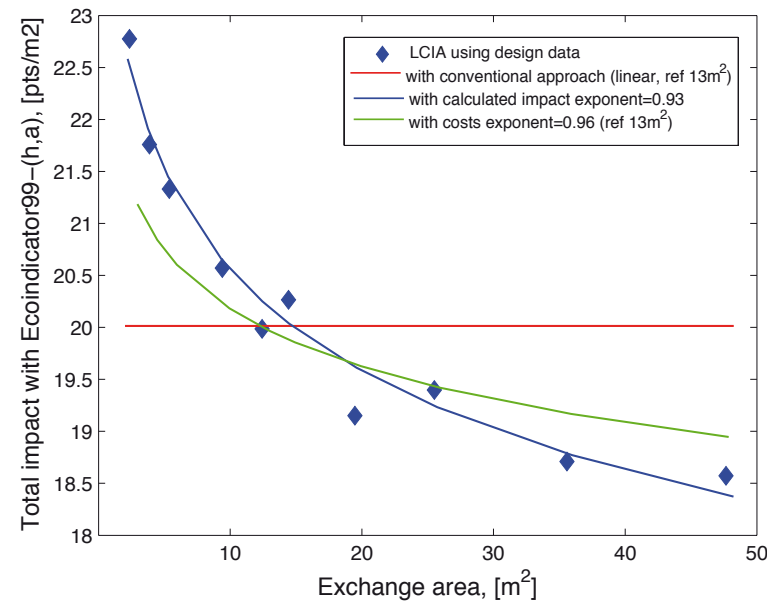
$$\frac{Em_{j,i}}{Em_{i,ref,i}} = n \cdot \left(\frac{A_j(x_d)}{n \cdot A_{i,ref}} \right)^{k_{j,i}} \cdot c_j, A_j \in [A_{j,min}; A_{j,max}]$$

Scaled emission of element j of LCI
 Functional parameter of element j
 Impact exponent
 Correction factor if necessary
 Reference emission of element j
 Decision variables of MOO problem

$$n = \left[\text{int} \left(\frac{A_j}{A_{i,max}} \right) + 1 \right]$$

- Example of heat exchanger

- ▶ shell and tube heat exchanger
- ▶ functional parameter: exchange area, in m²



LCI scaling of process flowsheet and auxiliary flows

• Process flowsheet

Quantity directly calculated
by the process flowsheet,
varies as a function of d.v. of MOO problem

$$V_j^{FU} = \frac{V_j(x_d) \cdot t_{yr} \cdot r_c}{FU_{tot}(x_d)}$$

• Example: quantity of RME for scrubbing at gas cleaning

► *volumetric flow rate from gasification...*

► *...gasification pressure (d.v.)*

• Auxiliary flows

► *No systematic formulation but in general:*

• Example: auxiliary flows for reactors (olivine, charcoal, ...)

$$V_i^{FU} \sim V_{j,init}(x_d), \dot{\alpha}_j, t_{yr}, r_c$$

Initial quantity

Turnover

$$\dot{m}_{i, reac} = V_{reac}(x_d) \cdot \dot{v}_{i, reac}$$

reactor volume, scaled
non-linearly

specific mass
consumption rate of
material per unit volume

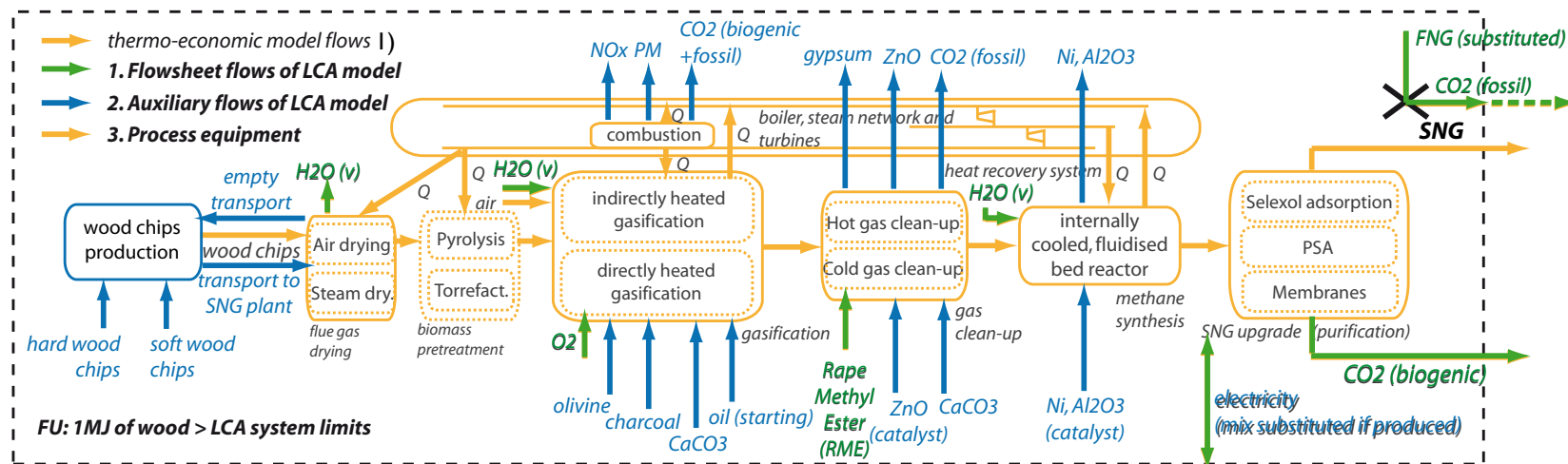
► *Method better than conventional LCA?*



Multi-objective optimisation

- Residual wood for combined Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) and electricity production:

functional unit is the wood processed at plant entry

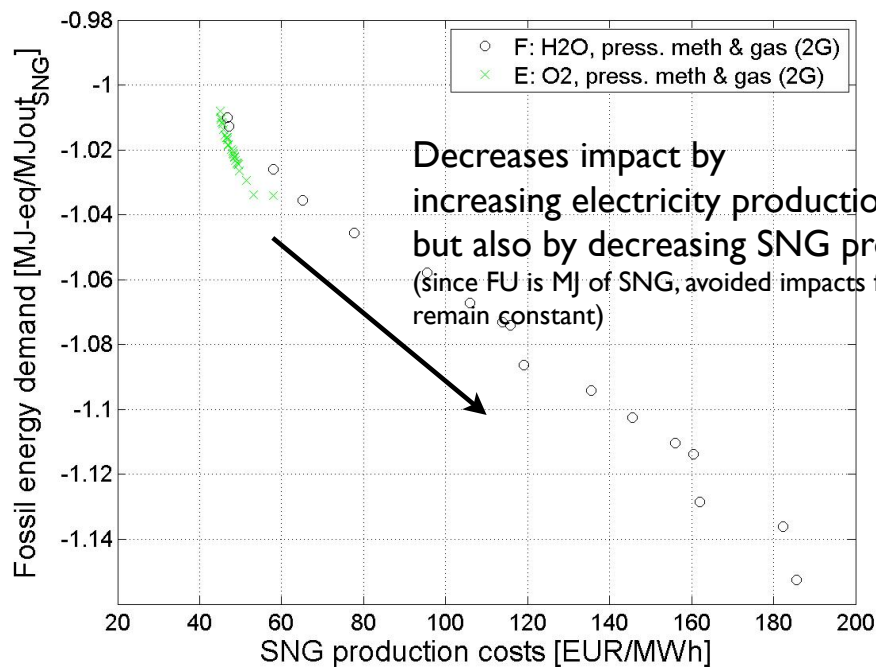


- Wood processing benefit
 - Environmental impact
 - Size of the plant
- ## Objectives



LCI: a few traps to avoid

- Definition of system function and thus FU
 - Example: for SNG production, FU taken was first the MJ of SNG

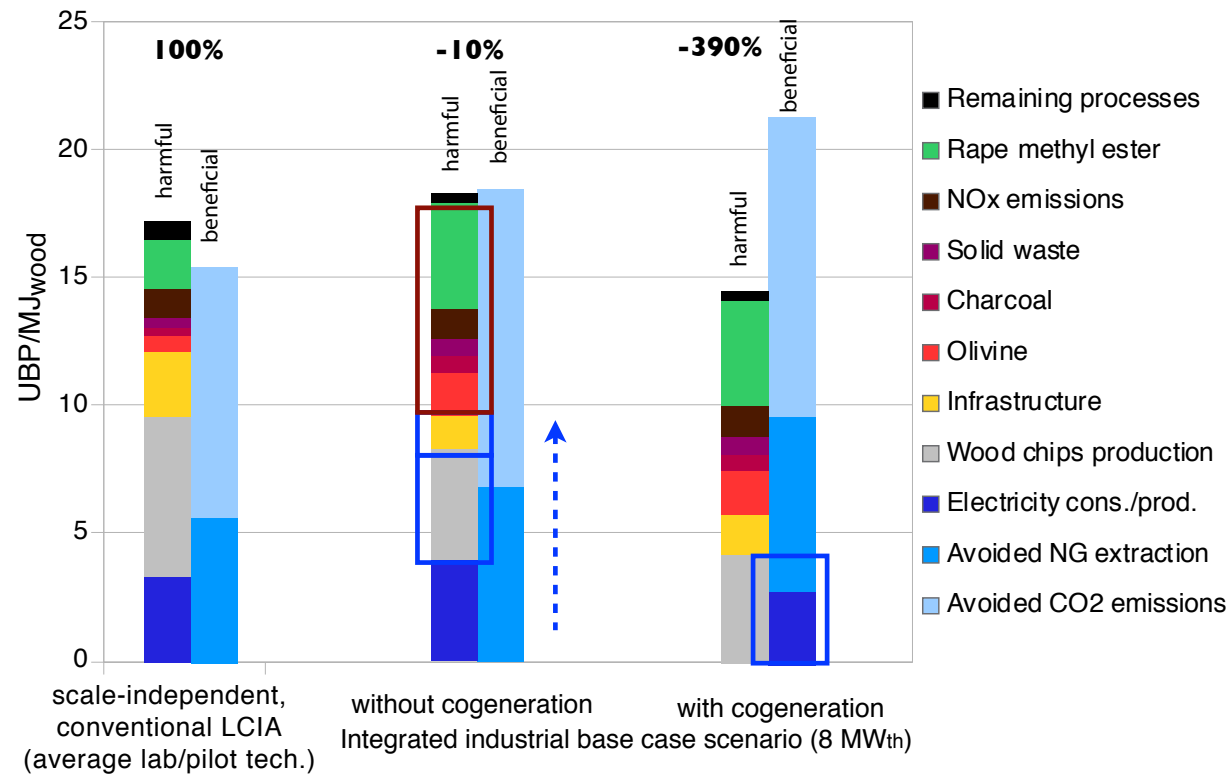


Decreases impact by
increasing electricity production ...
but also by decreasing SNG production!
(since FU is MJ of SNG, avoided impacts from SNG
remain constant)

Function of the process
is actually to convert biomass in
multiple energy services!
► new FU: MJ of wood!

Comparison with conventional LCA

- pilot-scale vs integrated process for wood conversion to SNG & electricity (Ecoscarcity06)



- ▶ Significant differences due to developed methodology
- ▶ Generation of optimal scenarios?

Multi-objective optimization

- Environomic optimal process design

➔ 2 objectives

- economic — *Biomass profitability*

Ecoscarcity06 (Single score)

- environmental

Ecoindicator99-(h,a) (Single score)

- Effect of technology and scale

- 6 technological alternatives (clusters)

- 19-21 decisions variables

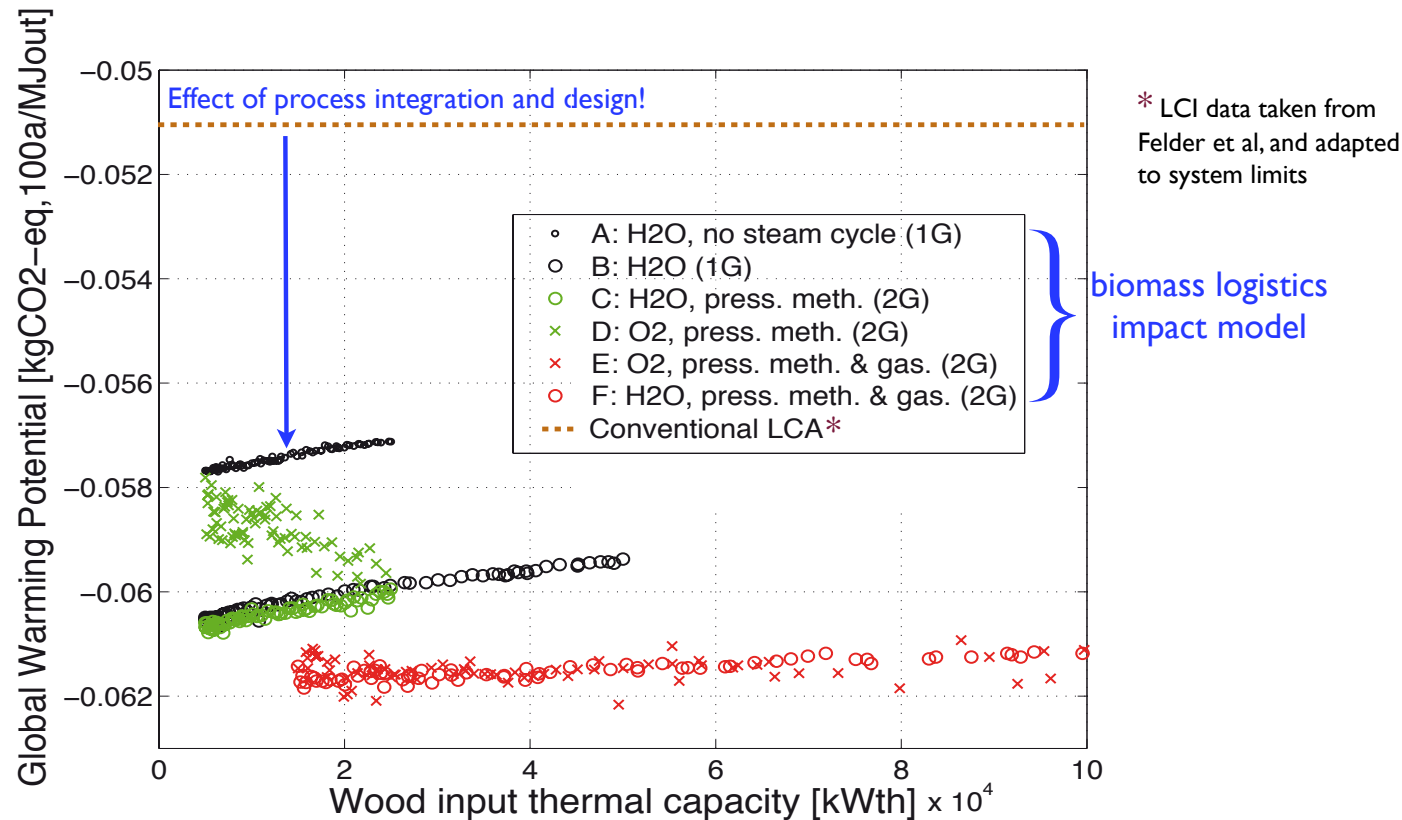
- process scale [5-200 MWth]
- operating conditions



Integration of LCIA in the methodology

Perspective: plant scale-up vs. biomass logistics

The biomass Logistics has an influence on the plant impact

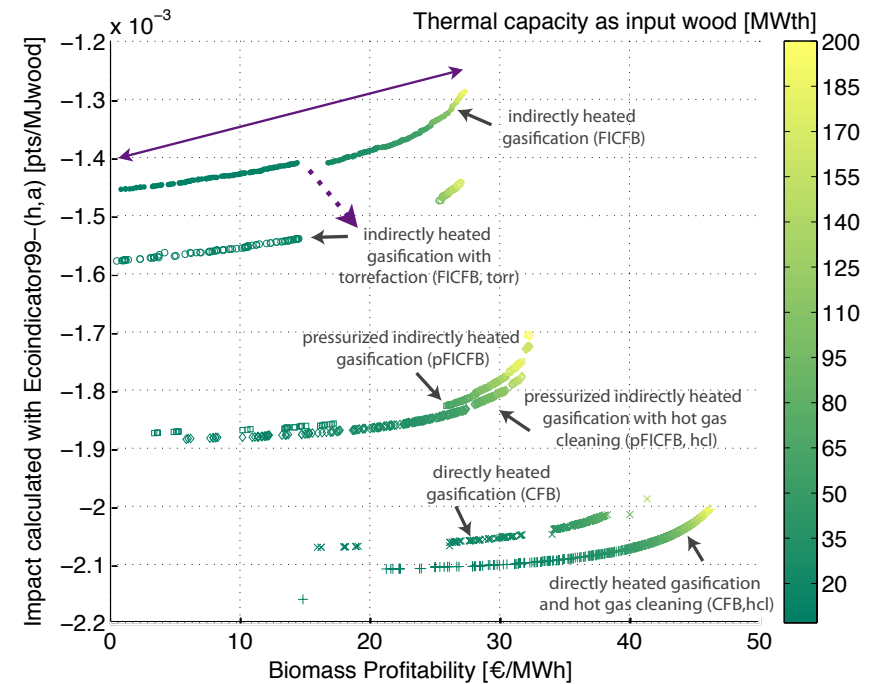
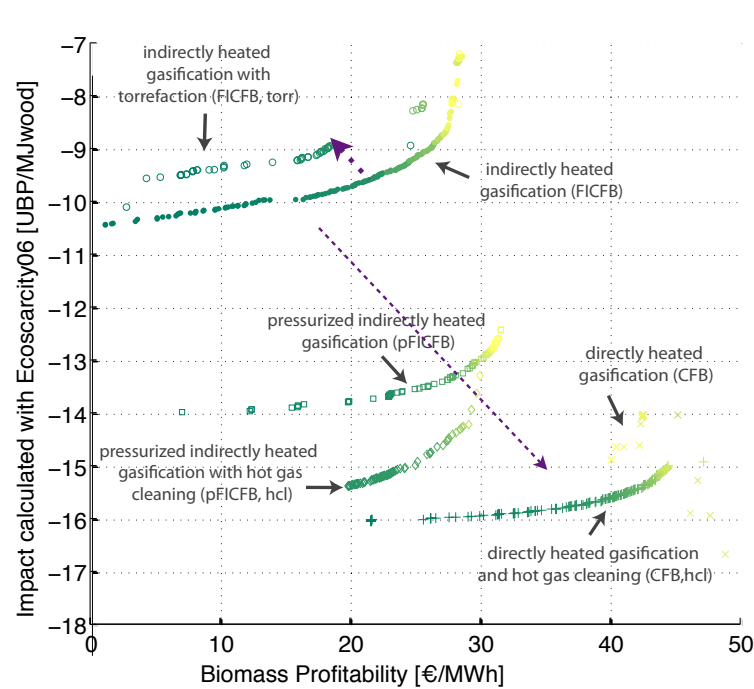


→ *Optimal plant size with respect to biomass logistics*

Gerber, Léda, Martin Gassner, and François Marechal. "Integration of LCA in the optimal design of energy conversion systems: The example of SNG production from lignocellulosic biomass." *Comput .Chem. Eng.* In press (2011).

Multi-objective optimization results

Optimal configurations



1. Process scale

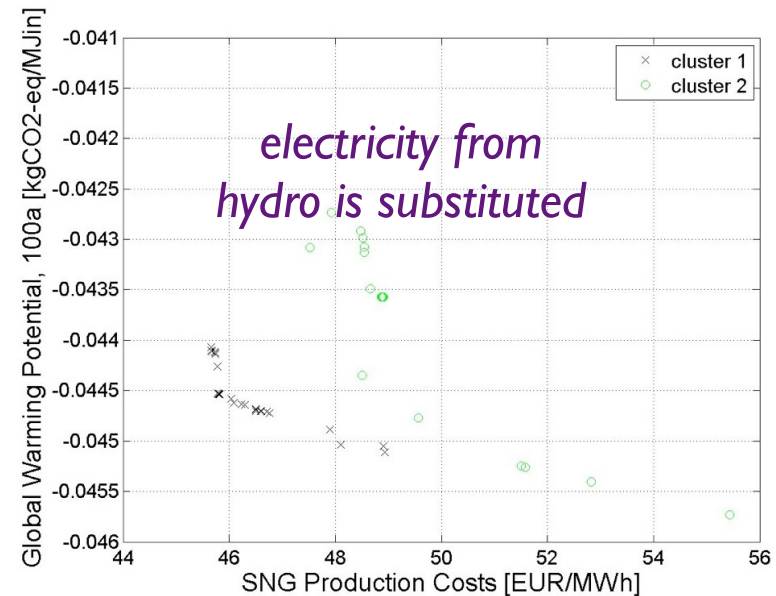
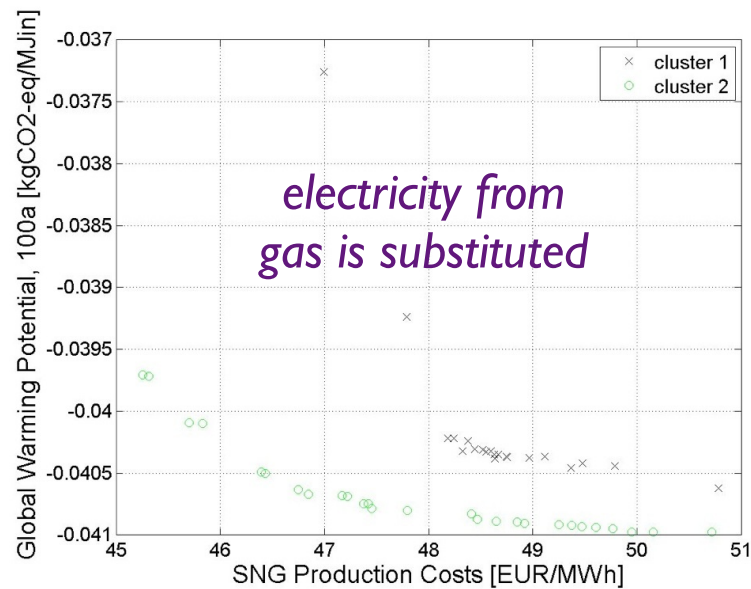
2. Technology evolution

3. Environmental objective function



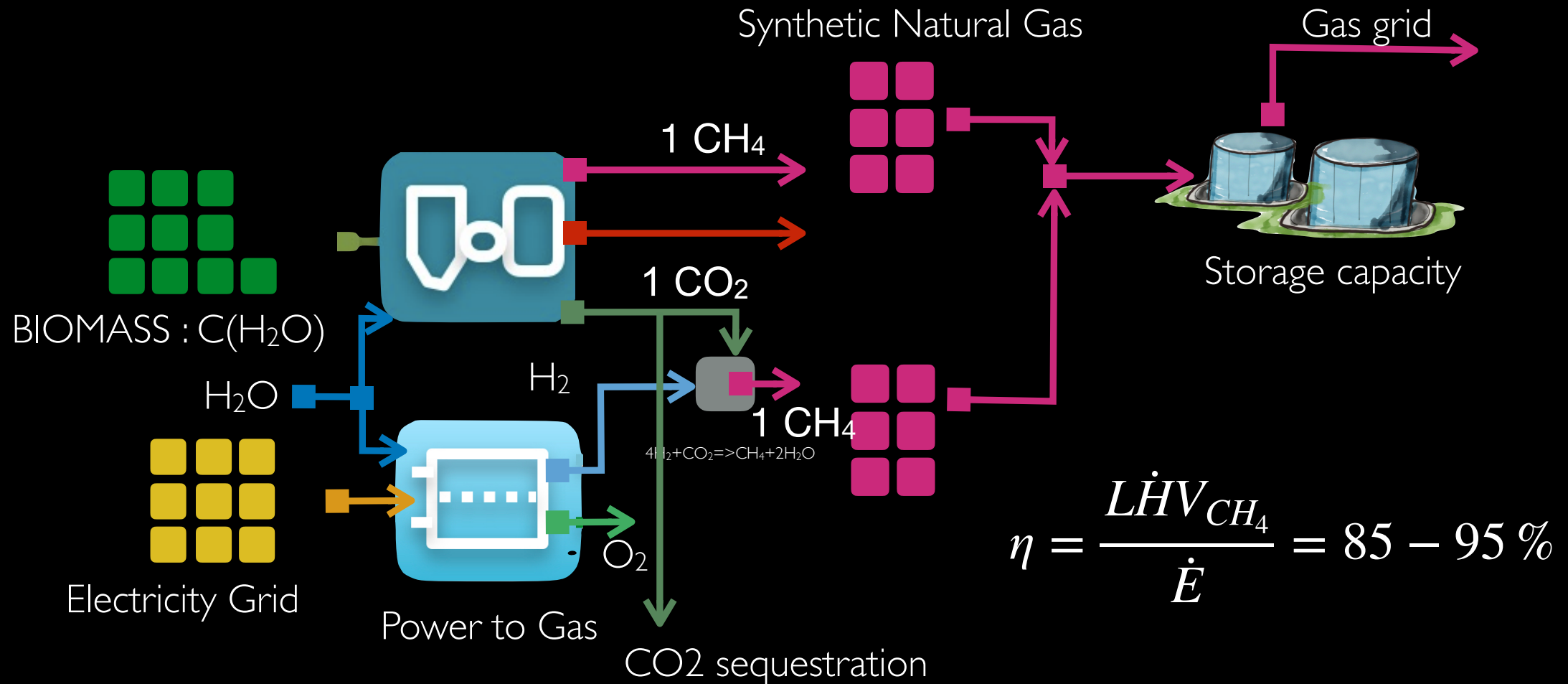
LCl: a few traps to avoid

- Assumptions regarding the mix greatly influence on the decision making...

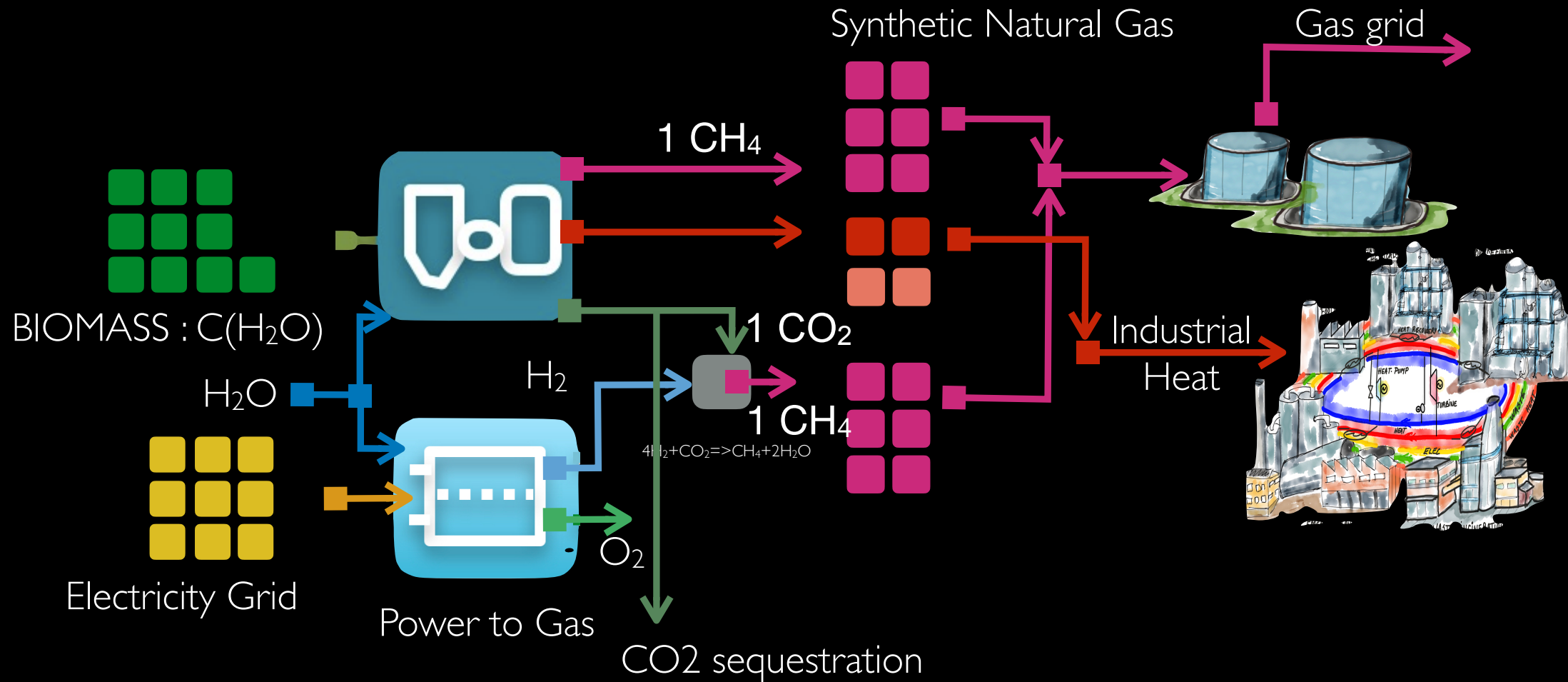


Best technology changes in function of avoided impacts!

ON THE USE OF BIOMASS AS AN ENERGY MANAGEMENT DEVICE



EFFICIENCY IS A SOURCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

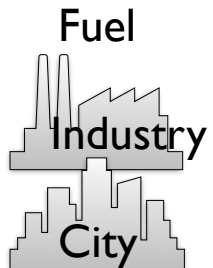
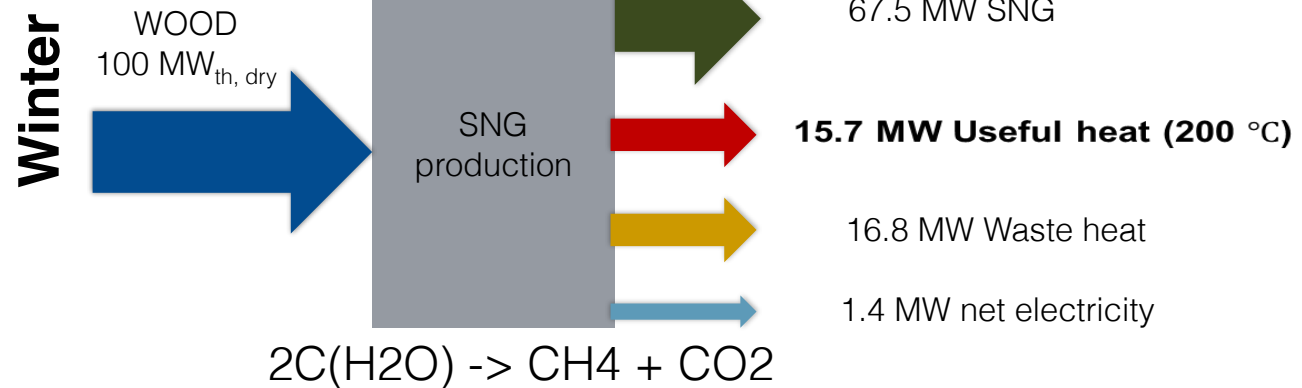
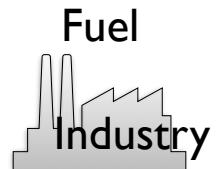
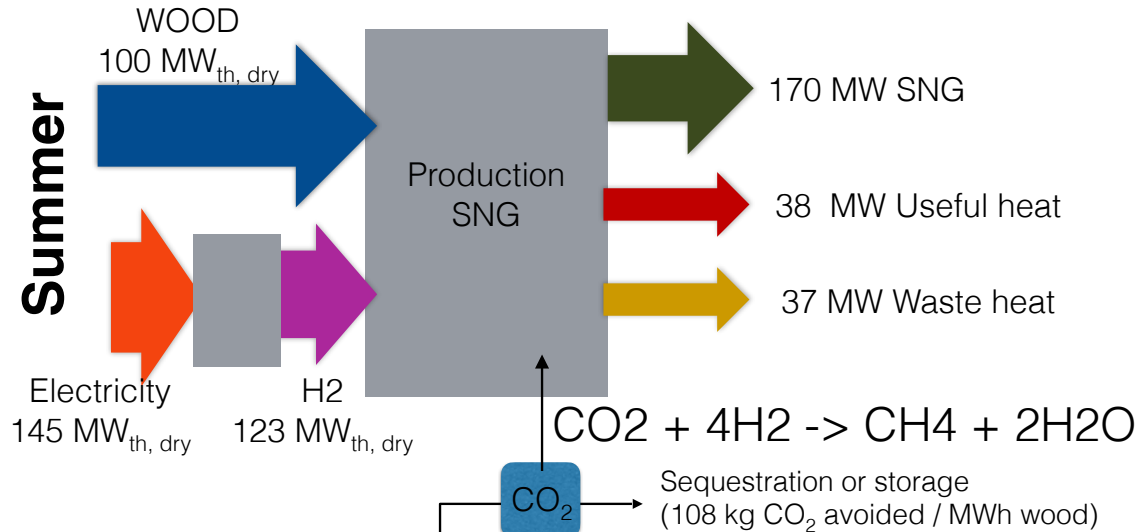
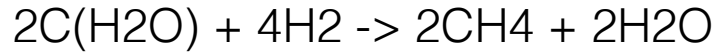
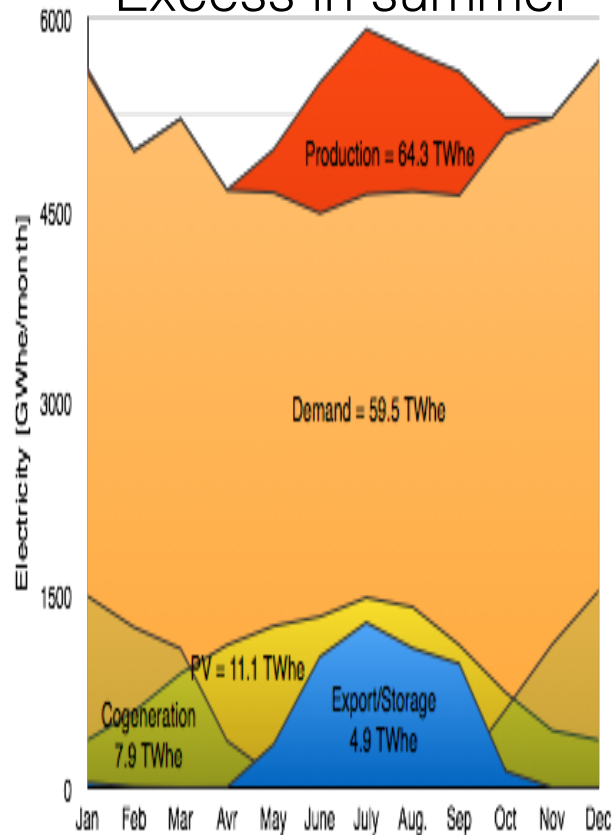


Combined heat, fuel and storage from biomass

Swiss Energy System

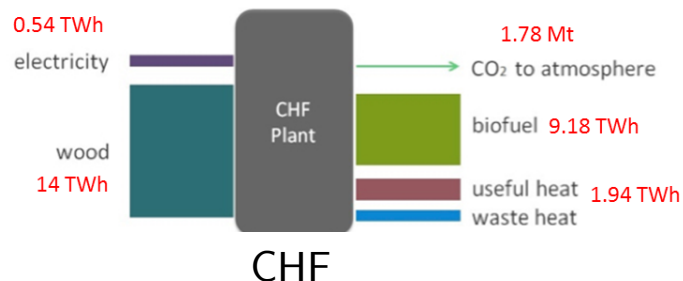
Storage Cogeneration Photovoltaic Demand Total Production

Excess in summer

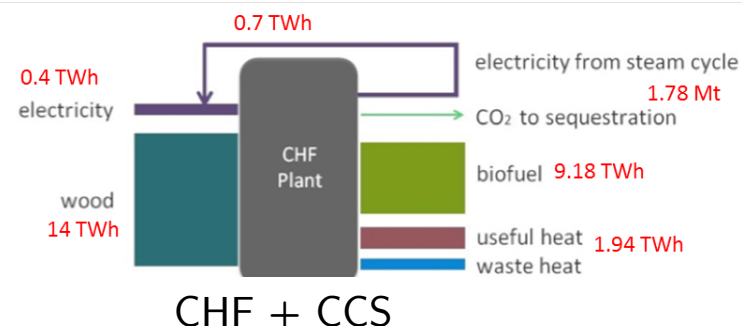


Combined Heat and Fuel (CHF) production Substituted fossil carbon per unit of biogenic carbon in wood

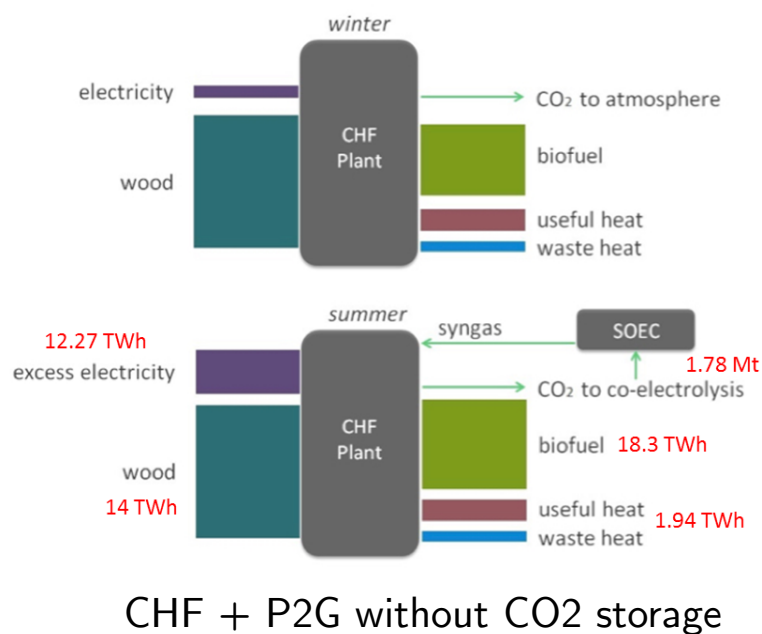
1.6
wood boiler



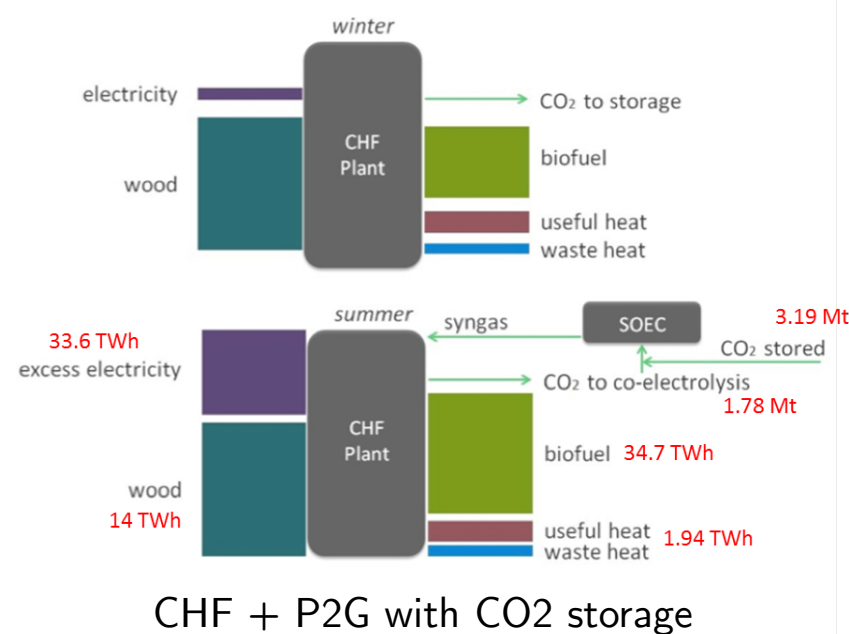
2.8
wood boiler



2.1
wood boiler



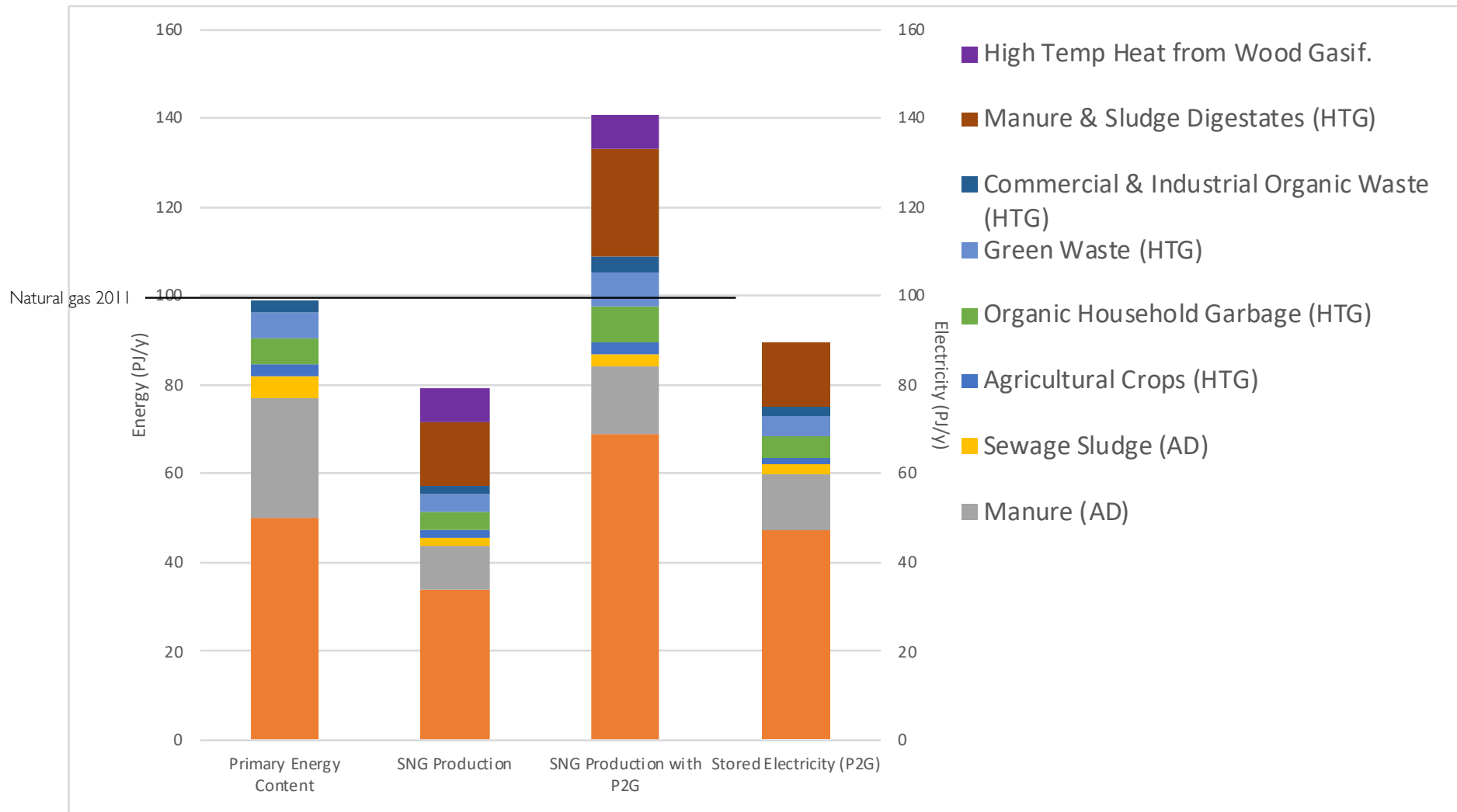
3.0
wood boiler



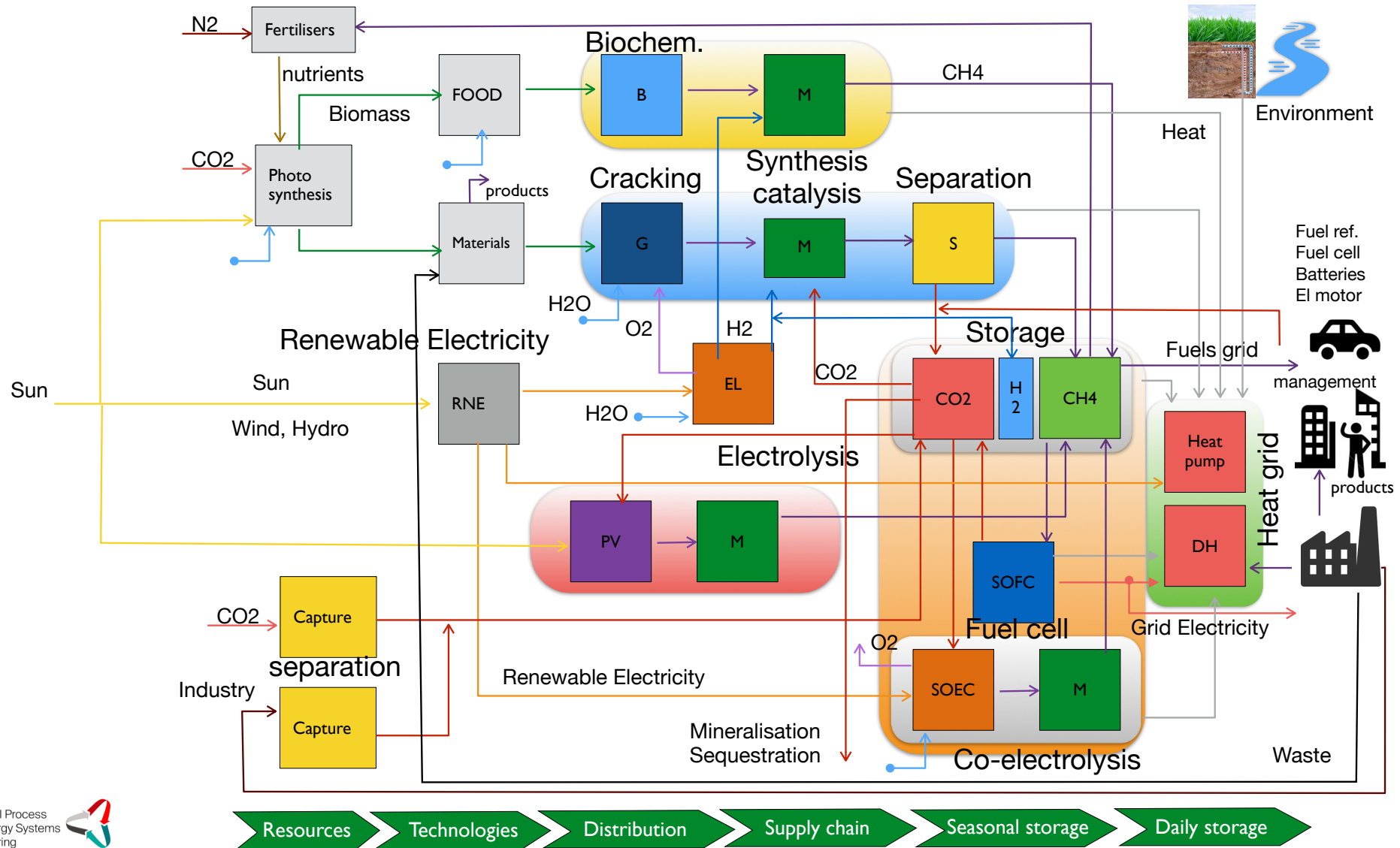
For wood boiler (WB) 0.3 kg of fossil carbon are substituted per kg of biogenic carbon

Celebi, et al. Chemical Engineering Science 204 (2019): 59-75.

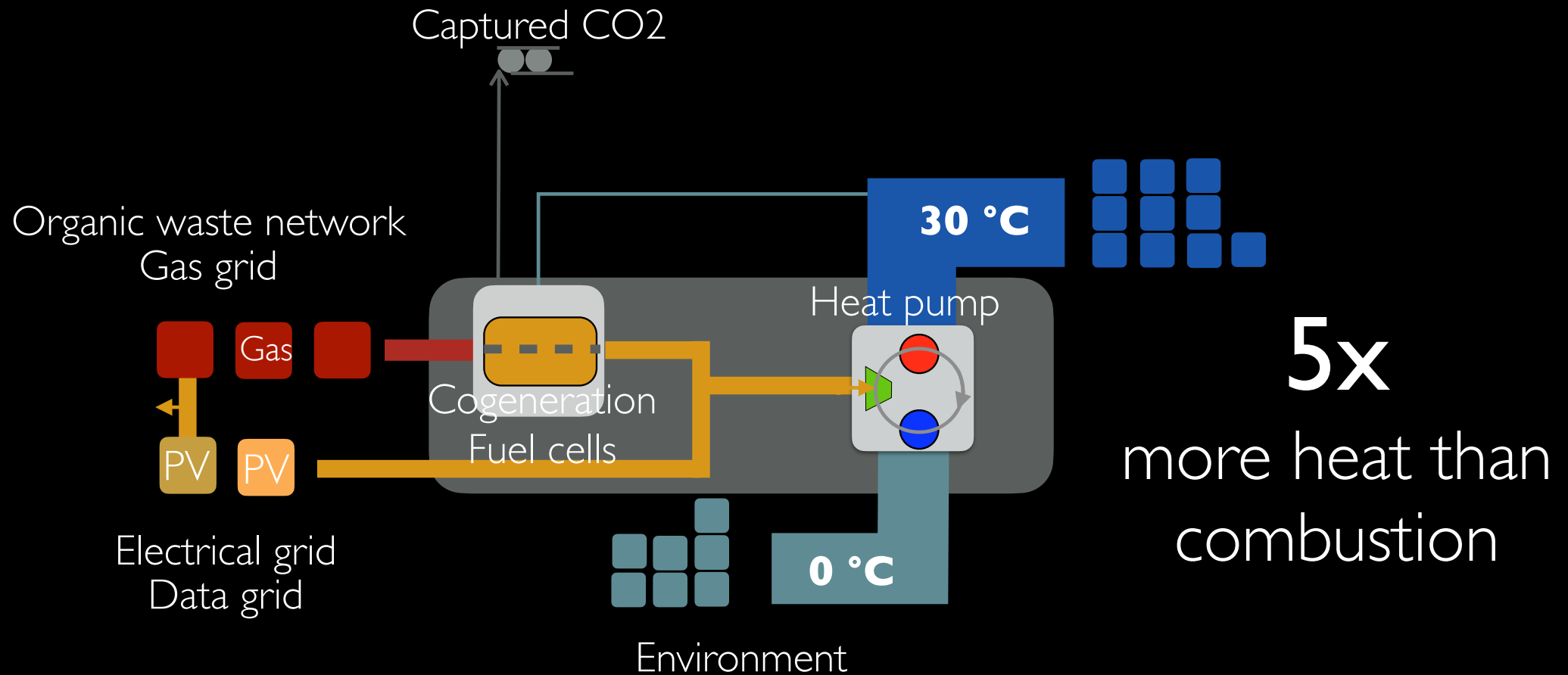
SNG from biomass potential in Switzerland



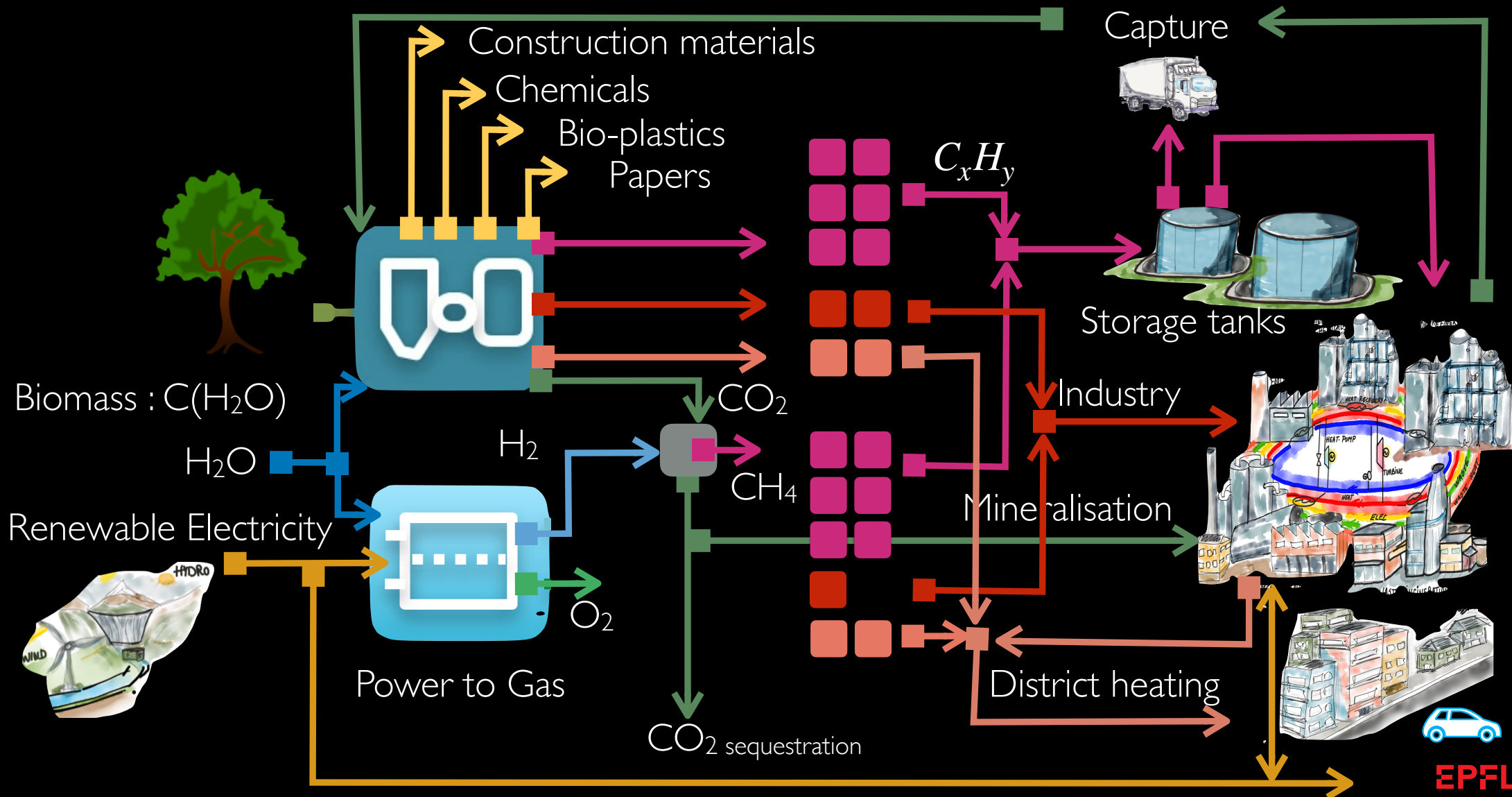
The integrated energy system design : sizes and smart operation



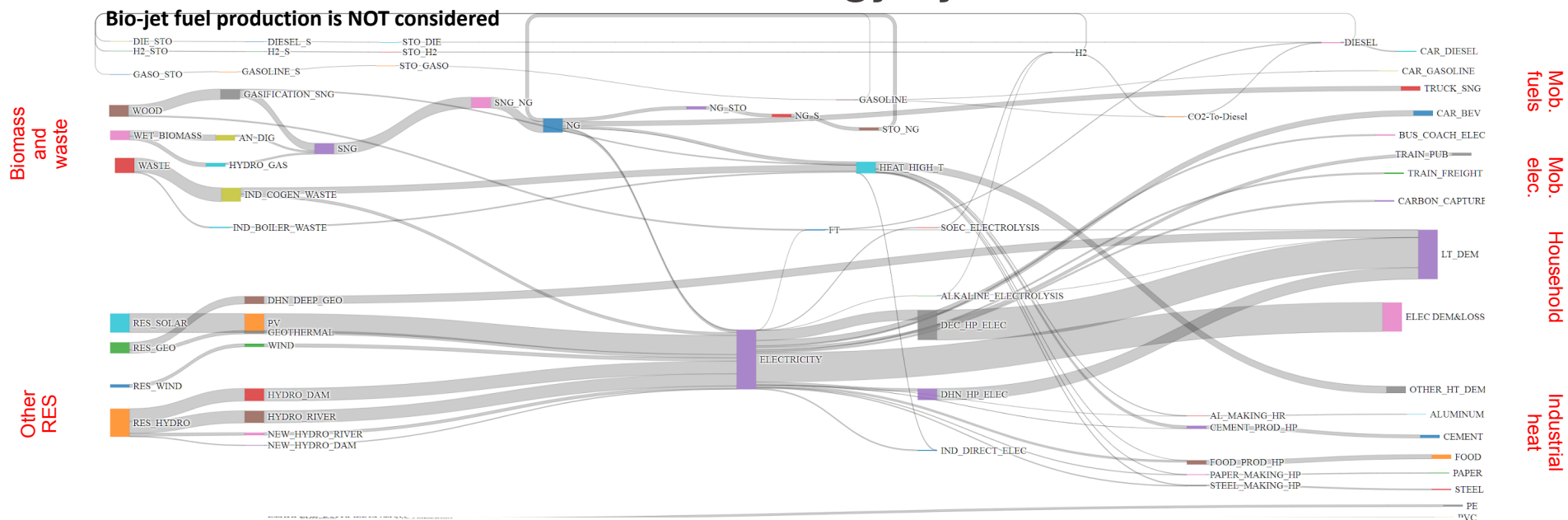
A NEW GAS BOILER



CARBON CAPTURE - REUSE - SEQUESTRATION



Decarbonization of the Swiss Energy System



Total system cost : **16.10** bCHF/y **1.610** kCHF/y/cap

CO₂ sequestered : **11.3** Mt/y **1.1** ton/y/cap

Energy flows (TWh/y)

Other Renewables: 70.7

Hydro: 37

Wind: 4.3

PV: 25

Geothermal: 4.4

Electricity: 74.8

Biomass / waste: 47.5

Wood: 15.3

Wet biomass: 12.5

Waste: 19.7

HT Heat: 10.9

biomass conversion: 1.3 (12%)

Biofuels: 15.9

bio-SNG: 14.5

bio-H₂: 0

bio-gasoline: 0.2

bio-diesel: 1.2

electrolysis:

H₂: 0.73

Fuel storage (*10³ m³):

bio-SNG: 6053

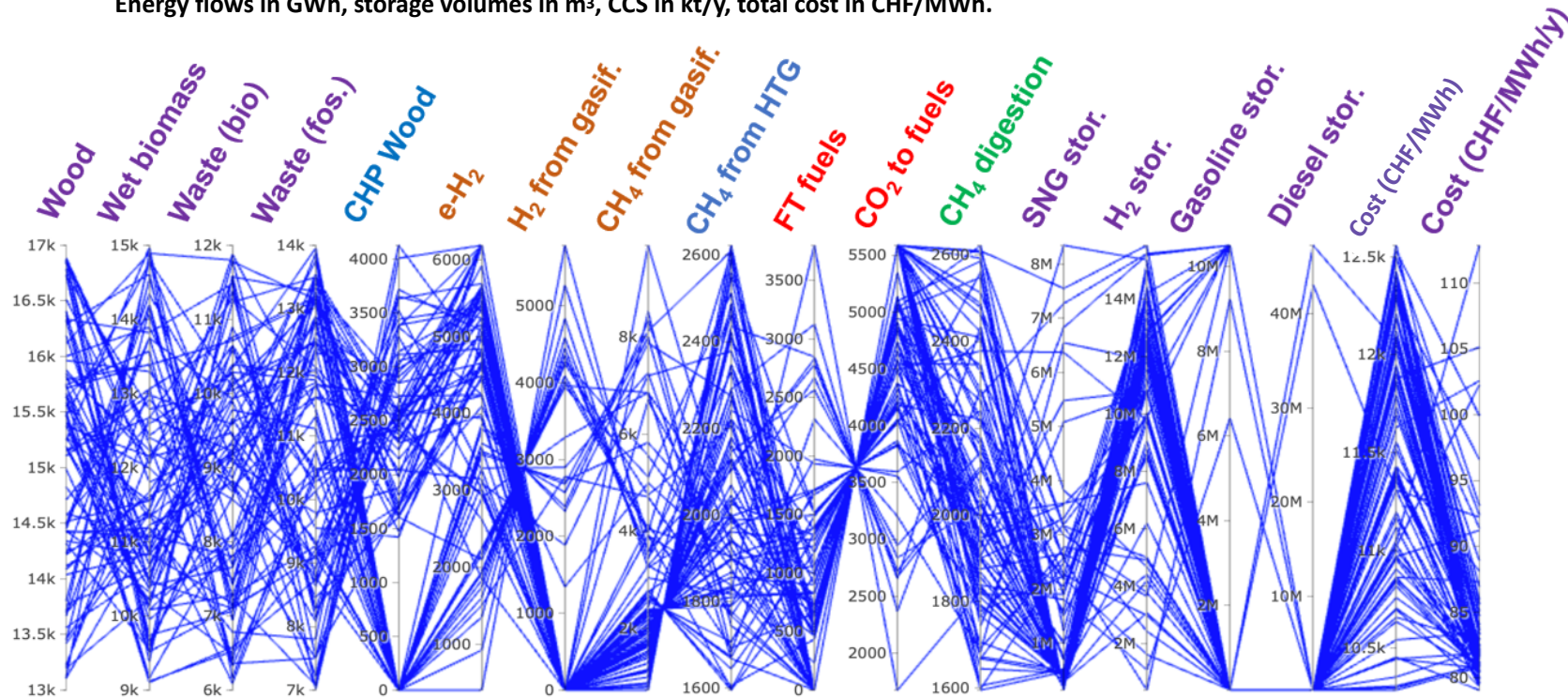
H₂: 2711

bio-gasoline: 0.8

bio-diesel: 5.3

EPFL Multiple solutions for the energy systems : Net zero CO2 Switzerland : collection of options

Energy flows in GWh, storage volumes in m³, CCS in kt/y, total cost in CHF/MWh.



Total System Costs

79 - 112

CHF/MWh

~

1570 - 2250

CHF/y/cap

~

82 - 117 %

of today's energy system

CO₂ Sequestered

1.05 - 1.26

t/y/cap

Li, X., Damartzis, T., Stadler, Z., Moret, S., Meier, B., Friedl, M., & Maréchal, F. (2020). Decarbonization in complex energy systems: a study on the feasibility of carbon neutrality for Switzerland in 2050. *Frontiers in Energy Research*, 8, 274.

EPFL Take home message

- Impact is not only local emissions
- Renewable energy means harvesting
 - Impact is associated to investment
- People define the needs
 - functional unit definition
- Efficiency define the energy consumption
 - Investment in efficiency creates impact
- The energy system is used to produce the investment
 - Solar panels will be created by renewable based energy mix