



KERR WOOD LEIDAL
consulting engineers

metrovancover
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION



Seeking Heat in Sewage Systems

Mike Homenuke, P.Eng. and Genevieve Tokgoz, P.Eng.

evolving Energy – Vancouver, BC December 2015

Why is Sewer Heat Interesting?

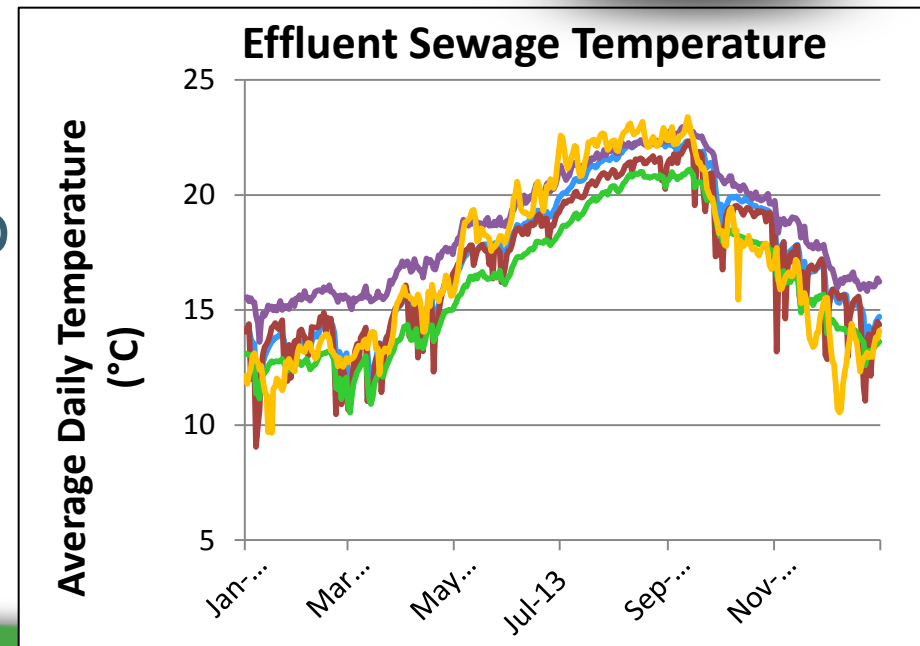
The Heat-Seeking Sewer Model

Opportunities and Applications

Sewage is a good source of energy

3

- Low carbon energy source
- Temperature: 10–25 ° C yearly range
10–15 ° C winter
- Flexible: Can provide heating & cooling
- Available throughout region (supply is close to demand)
- Lots of heat!
- Good public acceptance



Not a new concept

Europe

- Switzerland (70+)
- Oslo has an 18 MW plant
- Sweden, France, Germany

Asia

- China (12)
- Japan (1)

North America

- Vancouver (1) *



*Southeast False Creek
Neighbourhood Energy Utility*

Drivers for sewage recovery

5



Increasing &
unstable price
of energy

+

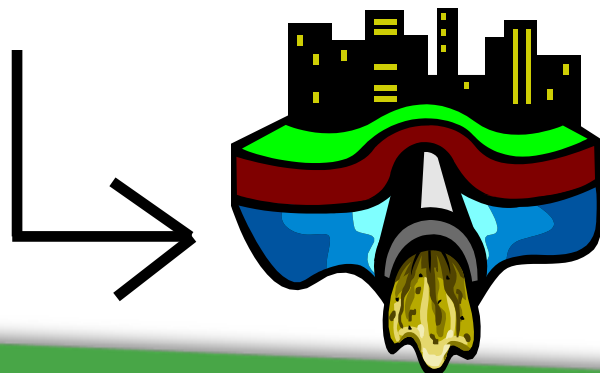


Urgency to switch
from fossil fuels

+



Provincial & Municipal
climate change and
energy goals



Increased requests for
access to sewage

think water rights on a river



Governance & Technical Implications

- ✓ **Metro Vancouver's Role:** MV only involved when projects are on MV infrastructure.
- ✓ **Allocation of Heat:** First-come first-served
- ✓ **Sewer Heat Users:** Anyone can enter into contracts
- ✓ **Rate Setting:** Cost recovery for tie-in, \$0 / m³ of sewage, long-term contracts to ensure financial stability
- ✓ **Boundaries of Responsibility:** Property line responsibility
- ✓ **Project Approval Criteria:** Projects must meet technical requirements. District cooling allowed.
- ✓ **GHG Benefits and Costs:** Allocated on case-by-case basis on the basis of financial costs incurred

Question 1

- How much energy can be recovered from Metro Vancouver's system?

Question 2

- Can a new upstream sewage heat project impact an existing downstream project (thereby preventing it from meeting their thermal demands)?

Question 3

- What would be the net change in influent temperature at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and would additional energy (natural gas or biogas) be needed to make up for the decreased influent temperature?

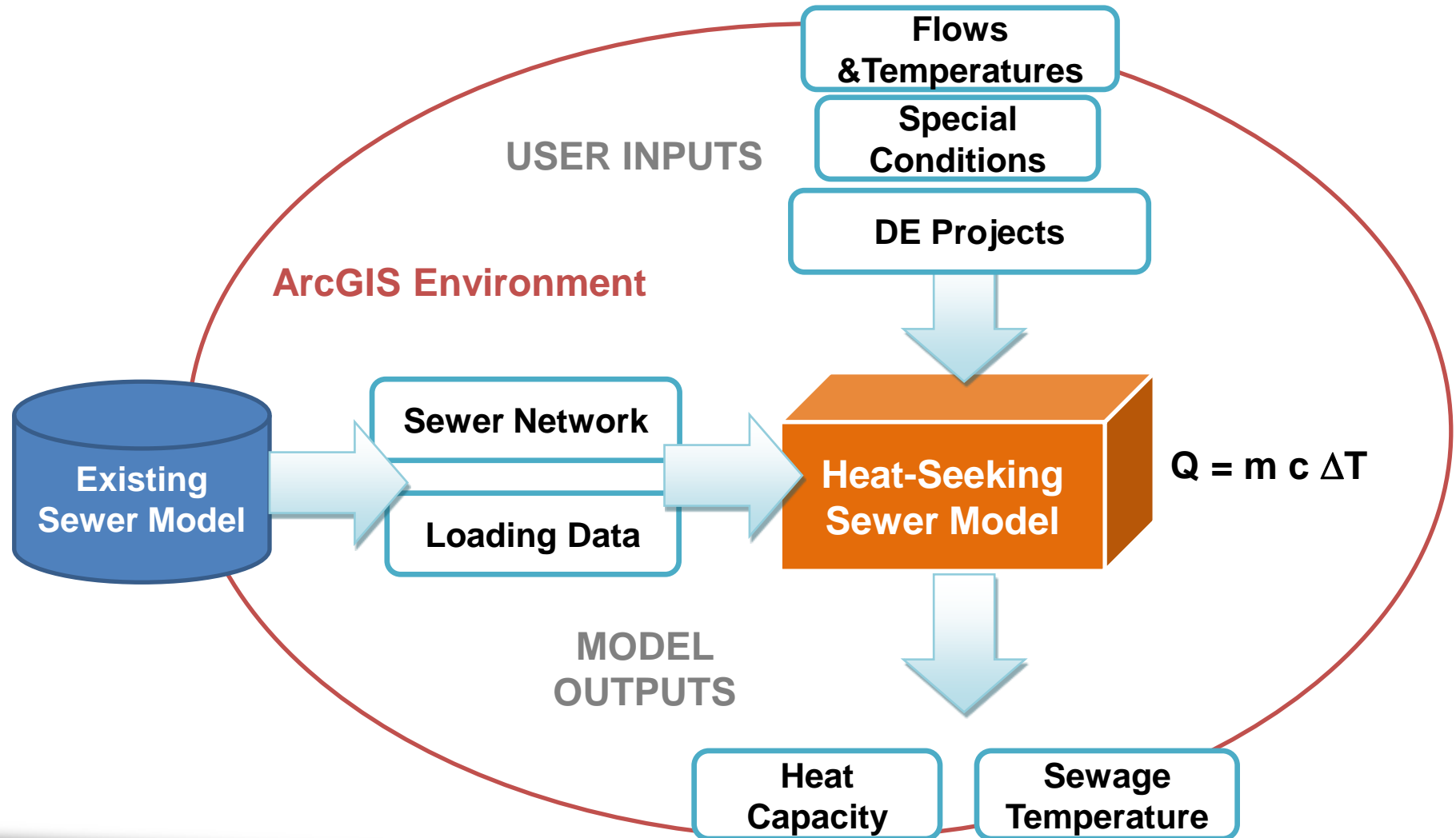
Question 4

- How do you equitably divide up the sewage heat within the sewer between municipalities, private developers, and other interested parties?

To answer these key questions (both now and in the future) the project team set out to develop the
Heat-Seeking Sewer Model

Heat-Seeking Sewer Model: How It Works

10



Sewer Flow & Temperatures (Metro Vancouver)

Residential

~15-25 °C

Diurnal Peak

Seasonal
variation in
temperature

Industrial Commercial Institutional

~15-25+ °C

Diurnal Peak

Industrial
areas could
have higher
temperatures

Groundwater Infiltration

~10 °C

Seasonal
variation in
flow

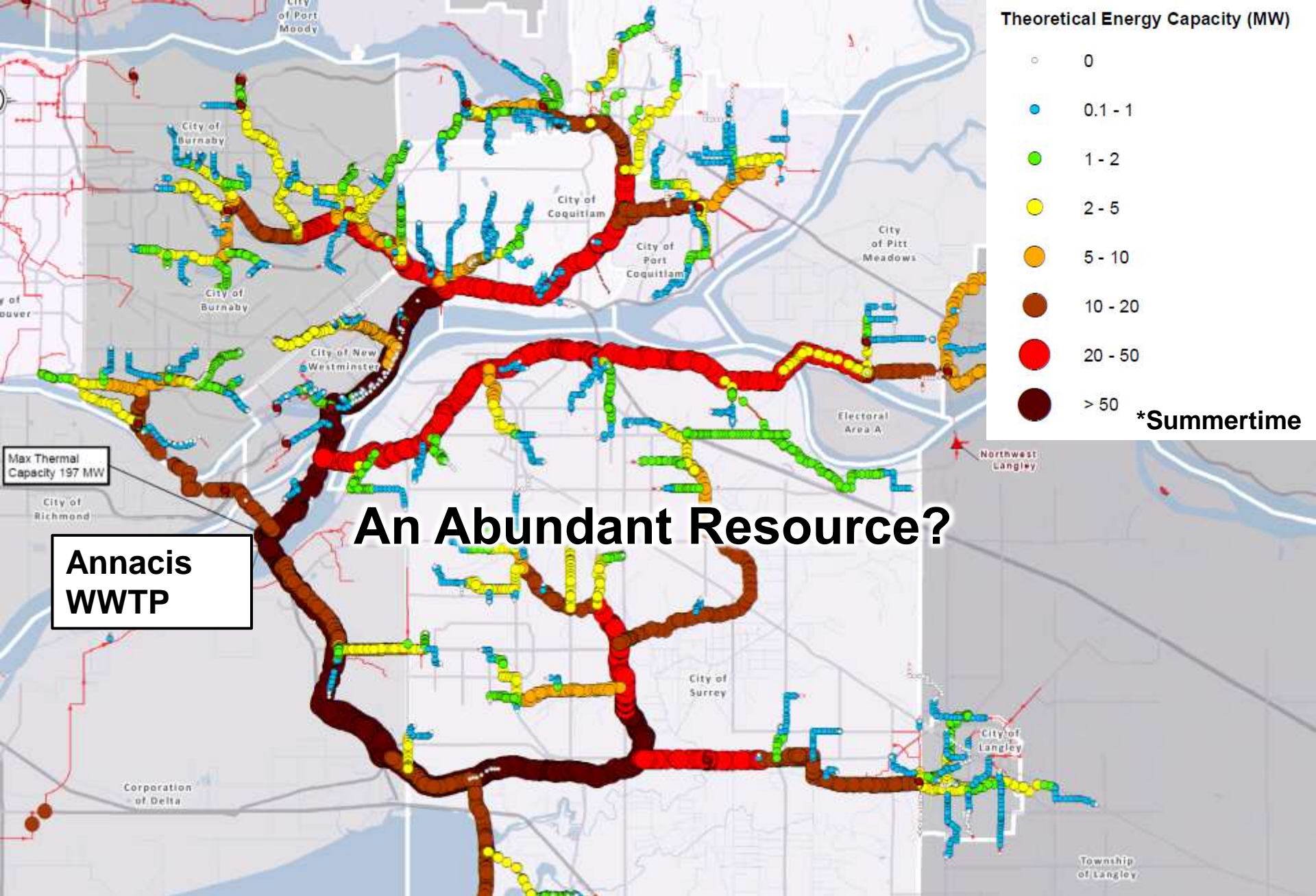
Steady
temperature

Rainwater / Snowmelt

~1 - 15 °C

Event-driven
flow and
temperature

Major issue
in combined
sewer
systems



11 °C

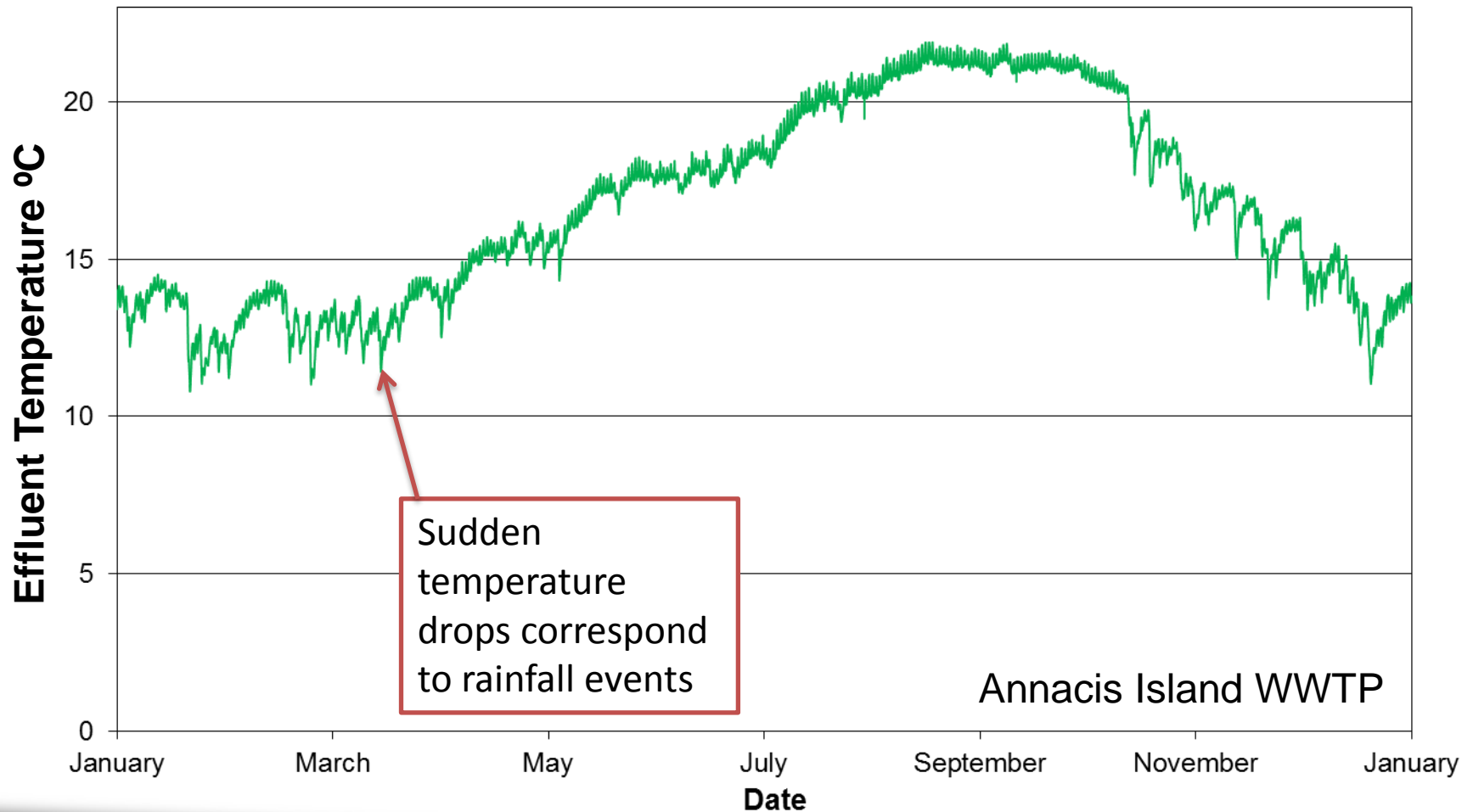
Sustained temperatures below 11 °C may reduce biological wastewater treatment process efficiency.

25 °C

Elevated wastewater temperature leads to bacterial growth causing odour and corrosion.

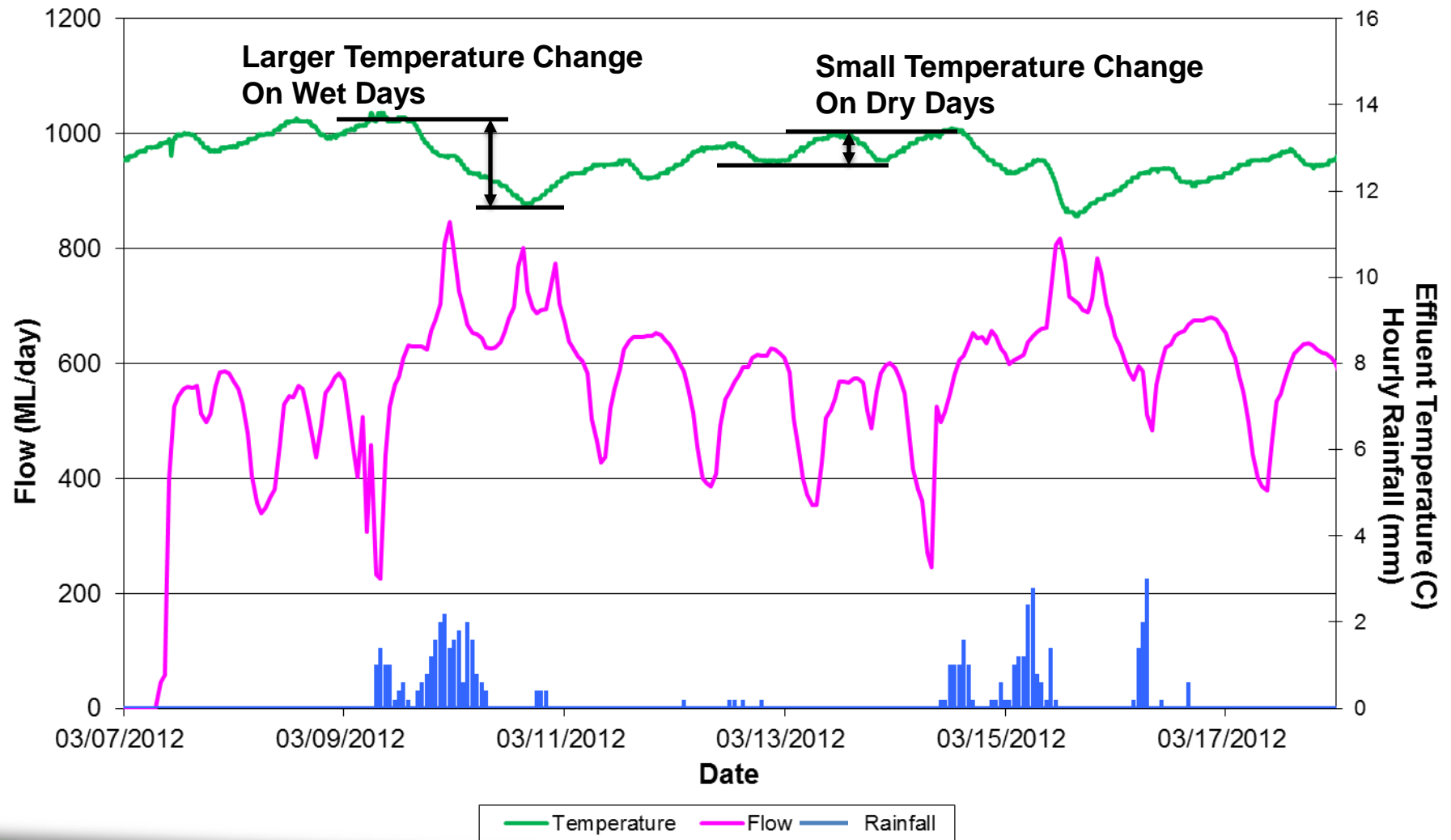
Annual Wastewater Temperature Profile

14



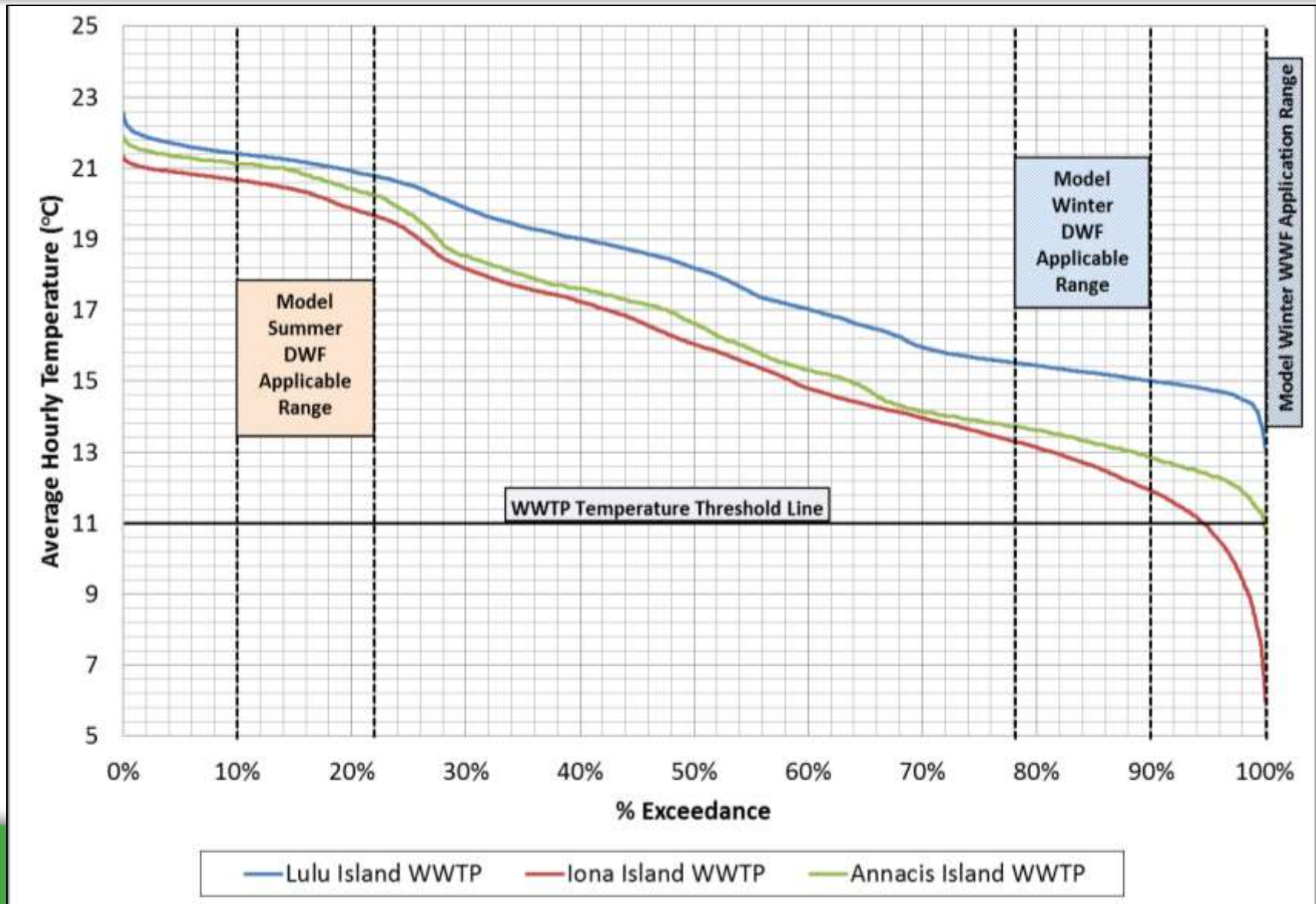
Daily Wastewater Temperature Profile

15

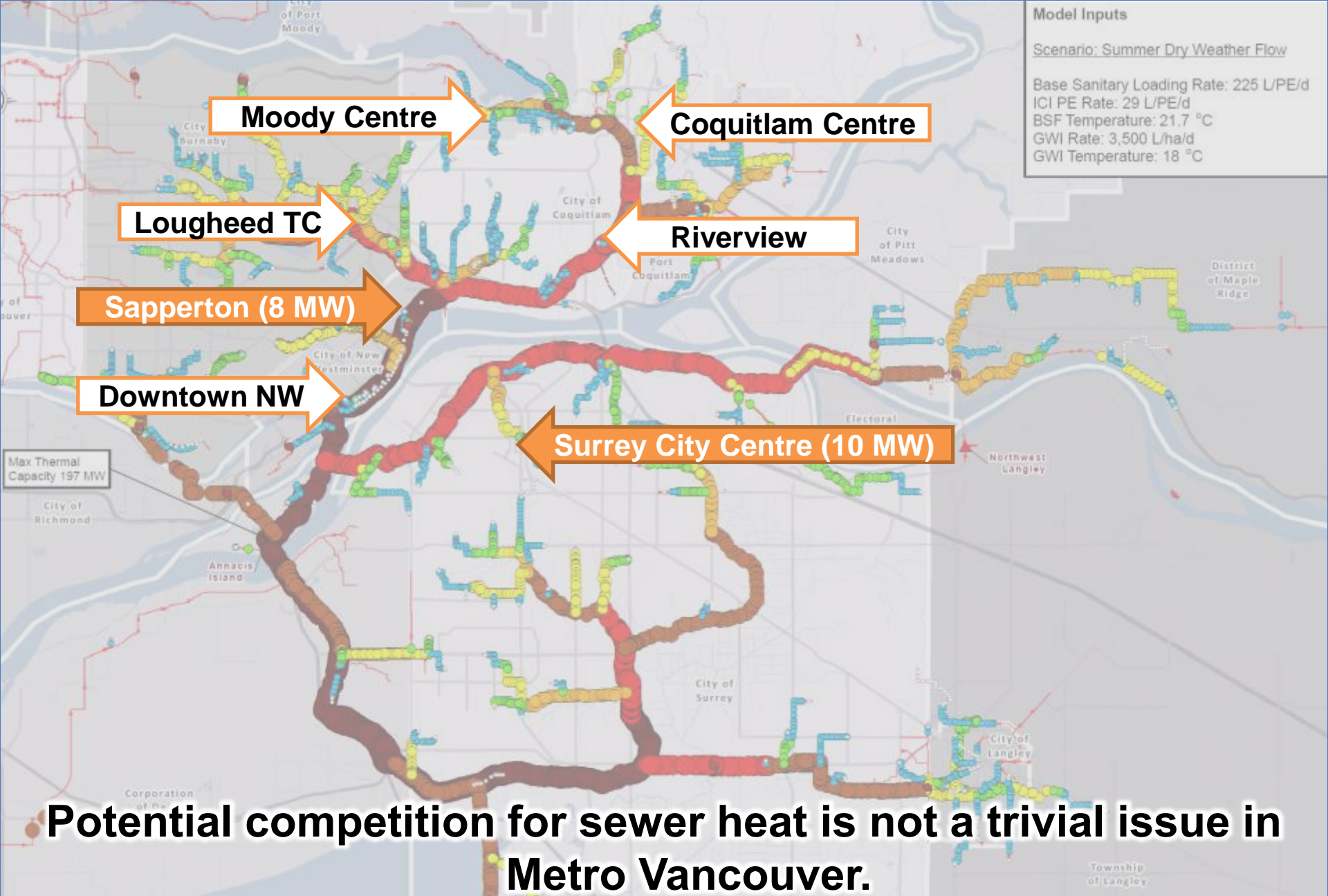


Wastewater Effluent Temperatures

16



Catchment	Flow Rate % Difference	Summer Temps. % Difference	Winter Temps % Difference
Lions Gate WWTP	0.6%	1.5%	3.2%
Iona Island WWTP	0.6%	-2.9%	-6.7%
Lulu Island WWTP	0.6%	0.3%	-0.7%
Annacis Island WWTP	1.6%	-0.2%	-7.0%
Northwest Langley WWTP	0.0%	-0.3%	0.9%



Model Inputs

Scenario: Summer Dry Weather Flow

Base Sanitary Loading Rate: 225 L/PE/d
ICI PE Rate: 29 L/PE/d
BSF Temperature: 21.7 °C
GWI Rate: 3,500 L/ha/d
GWI Temperature: 18 °C

Potential competition for sewer heat is not a trivial issue in Metro Vancouver.

100 MW Raw Sewage Heat Region-Wide

Heat up to 700 High-Rise Buildings

Avoid 200,000 tonnes CO₂e Annually

Why Sewer Heat Works in Metro Vancouver

20

- 1 -

2010 Olympics



Capital Assistance

- 2 -

**Cheap, Clean
Electricity**



Heat Pumps Make Sense

- 3 -

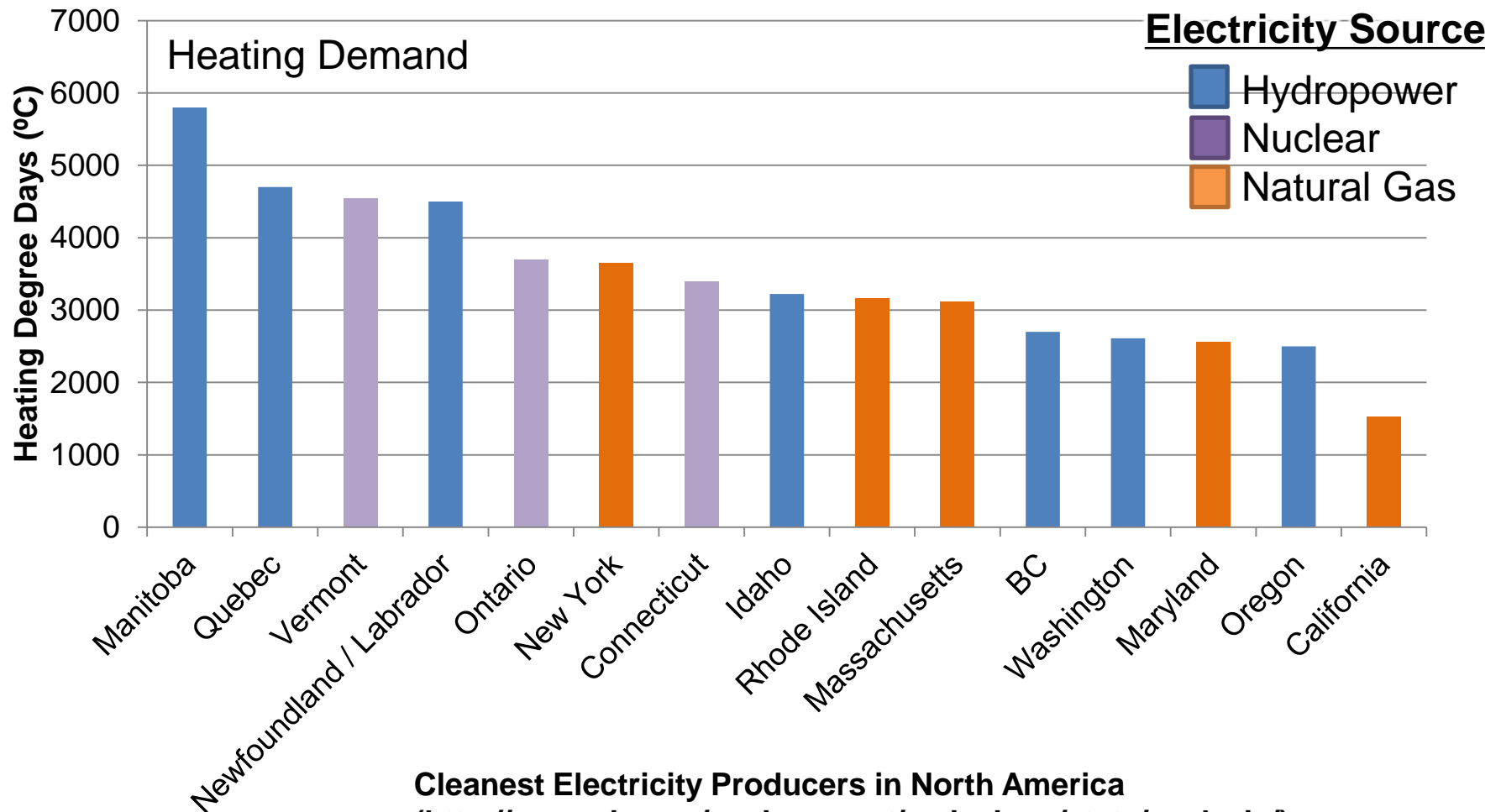
**High Density
Building Boom**



Demand

Where Else Might Sewer Heat Work?

21



Mike Homenuke, P.Eng.

Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd.

mhomenuke@kwl.ca

Genevieve Tokgoz, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.

Metro Vancouver

Genevieve.Tokgoz@metrovancover.org

