



# IDEA2022

## Building Connections

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INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT ENERGY  
ASSOCIATION

# ***Natural refrigerant heat pumps for district energy systems***

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# The Challenge

- Blatchford airport redevelopment
- 30,000 residents
- 1.5 million m<sup>2</sup>
- Target to be a sustainable, net-zero carbon community powered by 100% renewable energy



# From this.... To this



# The Plan...District Energy sharing system

## 5<sup>th</sup> Generation Ambient DESS

- Heating
- Cooling
- Hot water heating

Planned Heating Cap:35MW (119MMbtu)

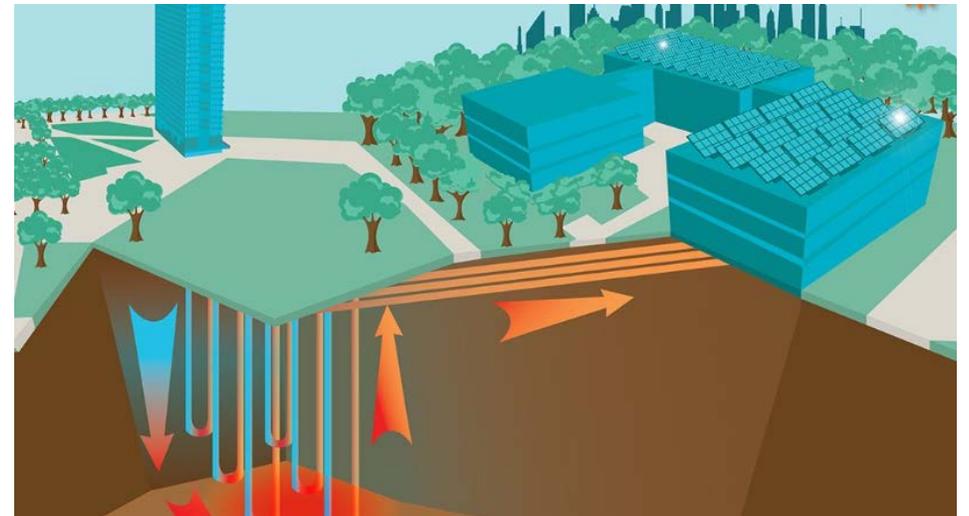
Planned Cooling Cap:46MW (157MMbtu)

## Energy Source

- Geoexchange Borefield
- Peaking Boilers
- Sewer Heat Recovery

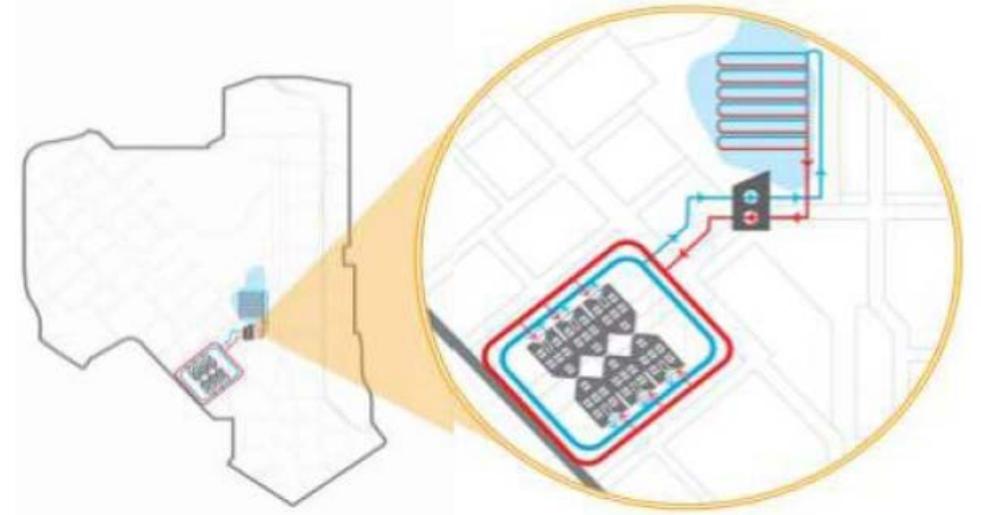
## Energy Recovery

- Sharing of heating and cooling
- Investigating Recovery from ice Arenas, Adjacent District Heating Plants, Transit Electrical Rooms



# Solutions (Case Study)

- 1 x Ammonia Heat Pump (1MW/300TR) +2 future
- Geoexchange glycol Borefield
- 2 pipe water distribution loop
- Point of use residential equipment
- Target 1.5 Te of CO2 reduction per household



# Solutions (Case Study)

## GEOEXCHAGNE BOREFIELD

- 570 boreholes
- 150m(500ft) deep
- Installed under storm water lake

## SITE DISTRIBUTION

- Uninsulated HDPE
- 10-25C (55-77F) operating temp
- Water distribution system
- HDPE reduces cost and simplified installation vs 4 pipe steep system
- Burial depth 3m(10ft) for freeze protection



# Solutions (Case Study)

## Typical Hybrid Utility ownership Model

- Utility owns energy generation and distribution
- Utility owns service connection and energy meters

## Small building customer owns HP

- Difficulty accessing equipment in customer space
- More flexibility for builder/homeowner
- Lower first cost

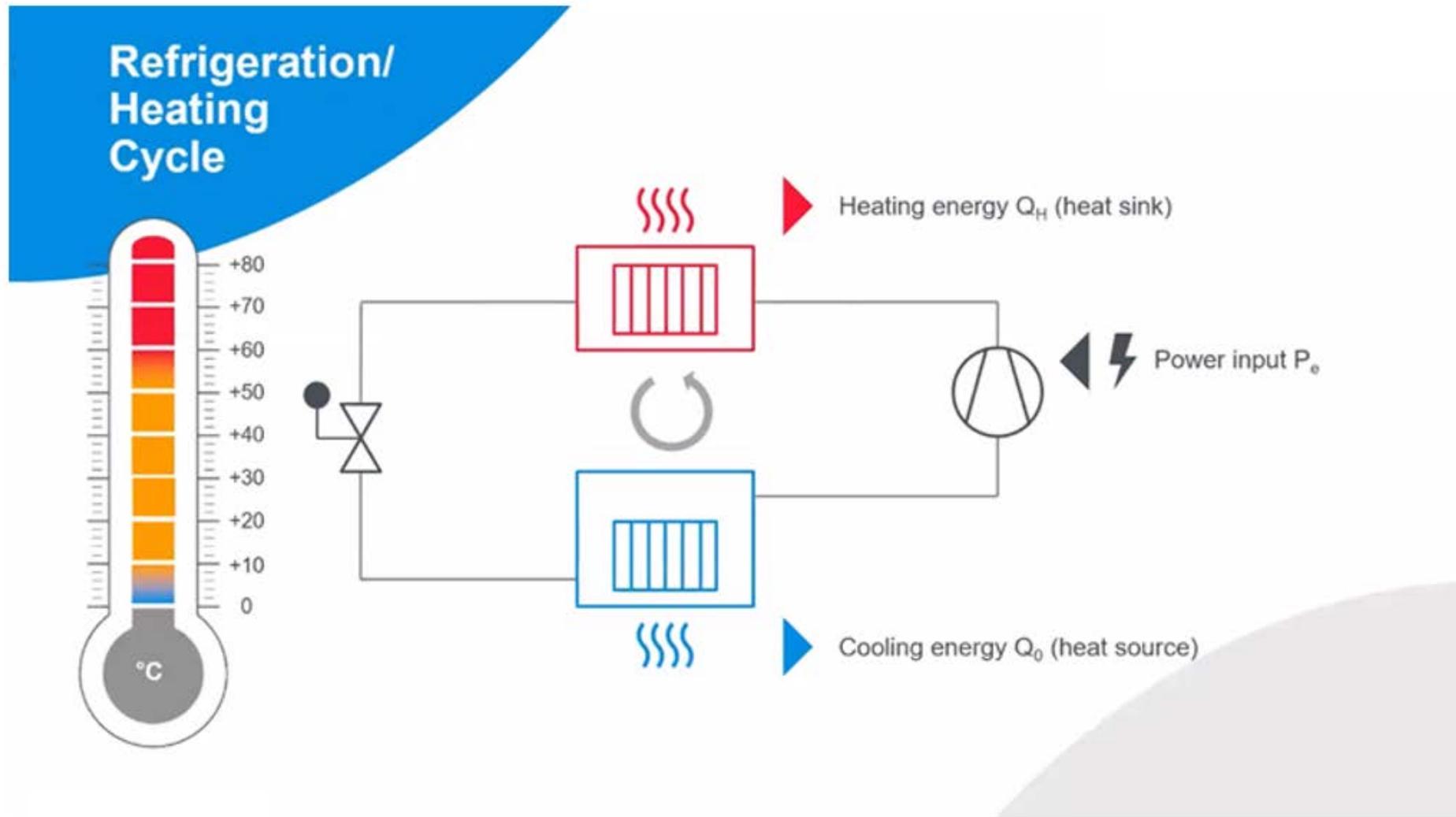
## Large building utility owns ETS HP

- Ensure quality system design & performance
- Utility responsible for design, operation and maintenance
- Reduce customer responsibility
- Better access for utility staff

Energy Transfer Station & qualified operating staff



# Solutions (Case Study)



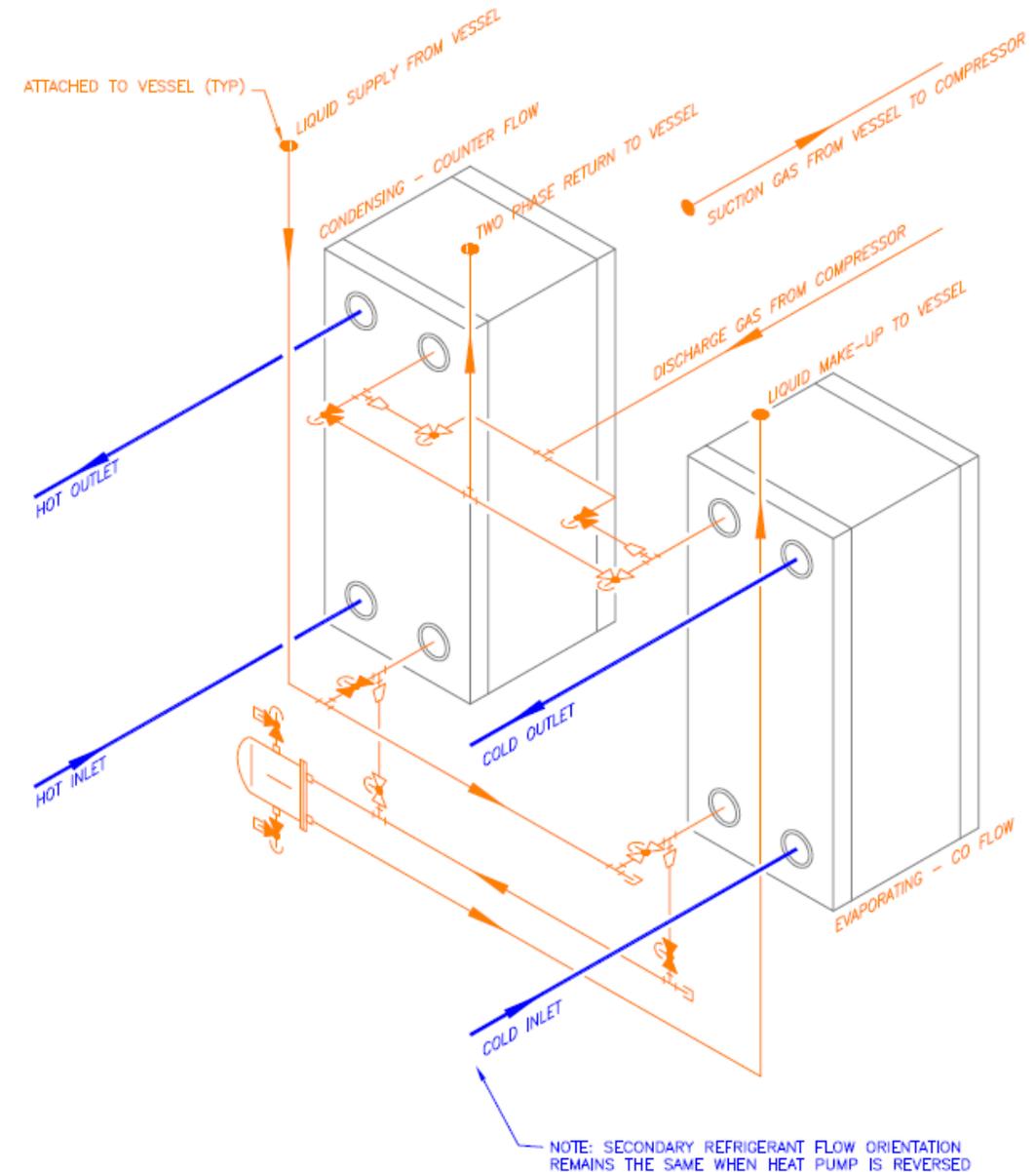
# The Ammonia Heat Pump

- Natural refrigerant GWP=0
- Fully welded steel construction
- Major components are serviceable
- Not subject to regulatory phase out
- 25+ year service life
- Easily rationalized total cost of ownership
- Very high COP



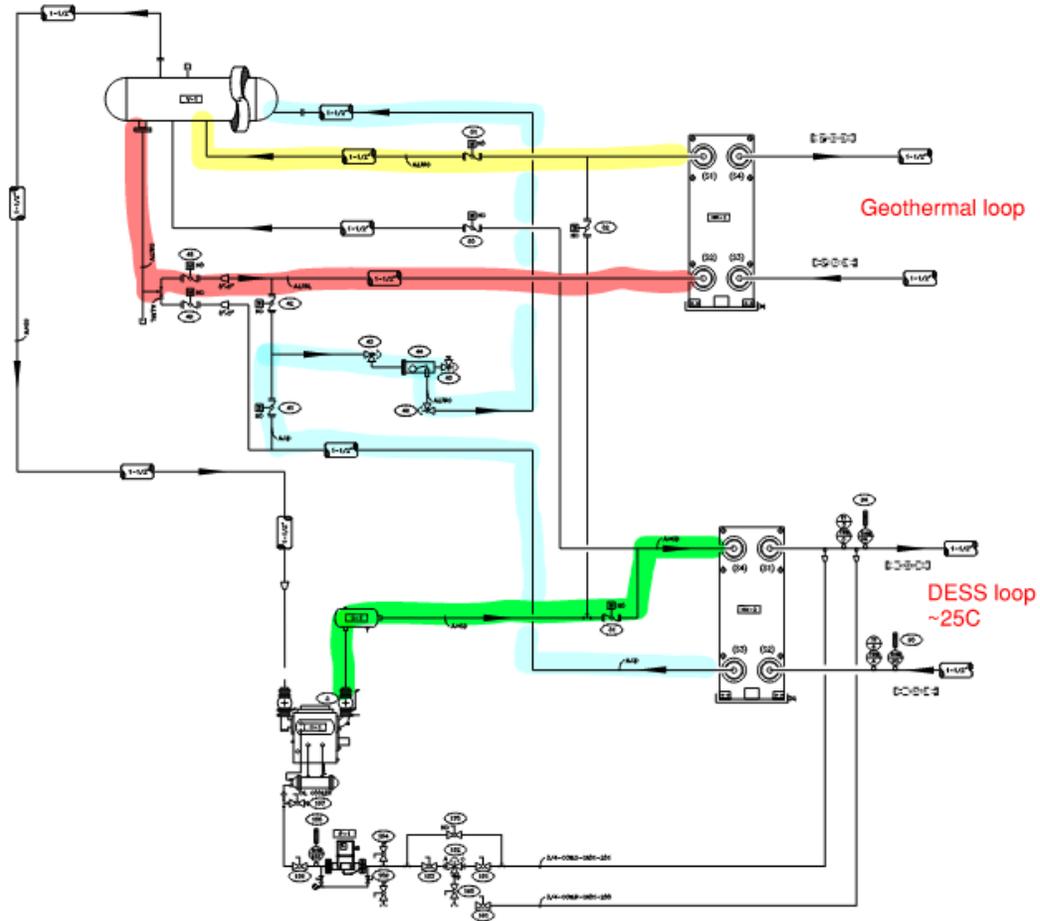
# Seasonal operating conditions

1. The Heat Pump is reversible it provides Cooling in Summer and Heating in Winter.
2. In Winter The System is designed for 250 TR using Geo Thermal Ground Loop for Chilling and supply 10 C Fluid Source to the Housing Development to operating individual small scale residential heat pumps.
3. In Summer Ground Source Geo Thermal to providing 25C Circuit for Summer Air Conditioning up to 350 TR.
4. Ammonia flow is reversible from Plate to Plate changing from Chiller to Condenser. It eliminates any Brine/or Water Flow Changes in the Plate and any concern with Flow Rates.

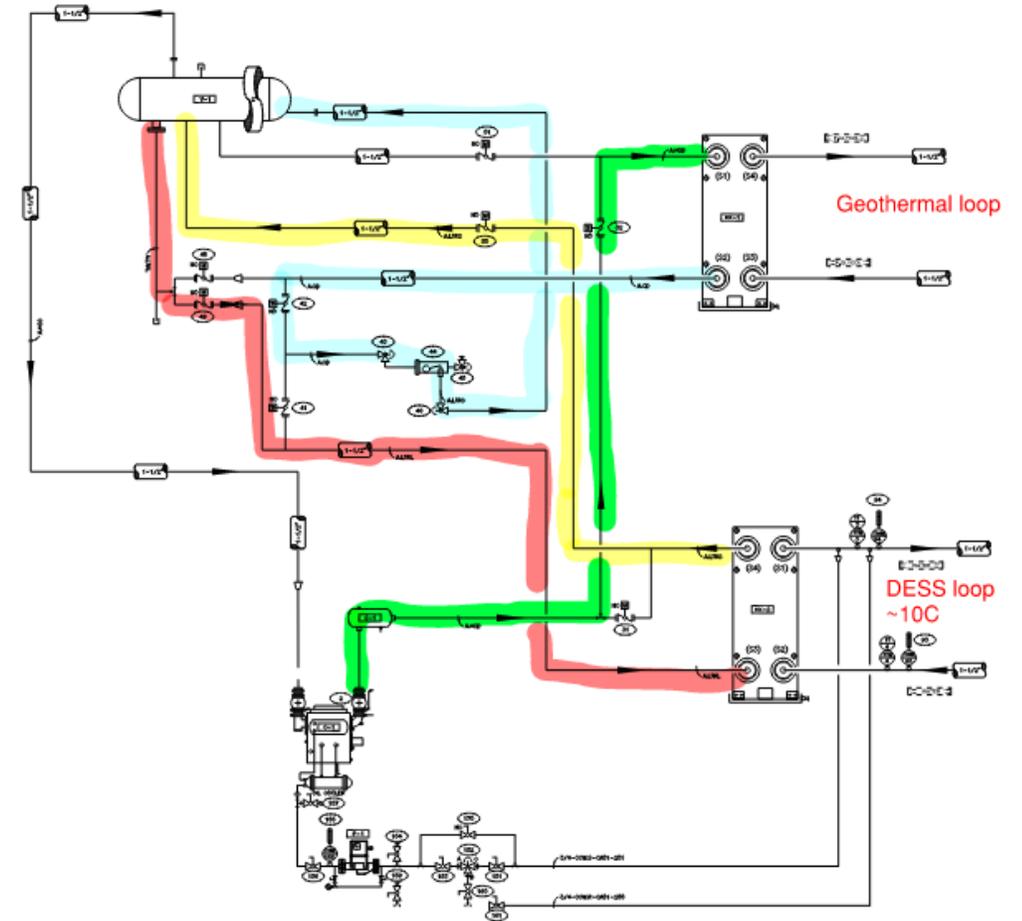


# Solutions (Case Study)

MOTORIZED VALVE POSITIONS SHOWN IN DISTRICT HEATING MODE



MOTORIZED VALVE POSITIONS SHOWN IN DISTRICT COOLING MODE



# Performance & Energy

- For both winter and Summer conditions COP ranged from 8.62-10.8
- Just the heat pump compressor circuit
- COP's achieved due to very low compression lift
- Summer 45 to 98 PSIA (2.17:1)
- Winter 108 to 196 PSIA (1.84:1)

MODEL	N8MII	Water-cooled						
		Heating					Cooling	
COOLING CAPACITY	[kBTU/H]	3300.7	2475.5	1650.3	825.2	463.1	3720.2	
COOLING CAPACITY	[TR]	275.1	206.3	137.5	68.8	38.6	310	
ABSORBED POWER	[HP]	144.9	110.0	75.2	40.4	20.0	134.8	
HEAT REJECTION	[kBTU/H]	3669	2755	1842	928	514	4063	
SPEED	[Rpm]	1451	1451	1451	1451	800	1475	
LOAD	[%]	100	75	50	25	13.8	50	
CONDENSING TEMP.	[F]	55	55	55	55	55	95	
EVAPORATIVE TEMP.	[F]	17	17	17	17	17	60	
SUCTION PRES.	[PSIA]	45.1	45.1	45.1	45.1	45.1	108	
DISCHARGE PRES.	[PSIA]	98.1	98.1	98.1	98.1	98.1	196	
DISCHARGE TEMP.	[F]	132	133	134	145	153	148	
REFRIG. FLOW RATE (SUC.)	[CFM]	677	508	338	169	95	357	
REFRIG. FLOW RATE (DIS.)	[CFM]	385	289	193	98.9	56.3	229	
COP (COOLING)	[-]	8.95	8.84	8.62	8.03	9.08	10.8	
COP (HEATING)	[-]	10.0	9.8	9.6	9.0	10.1		

# Why Ammonia?

Performance of refrigerant on a perfect refrigeration cycle

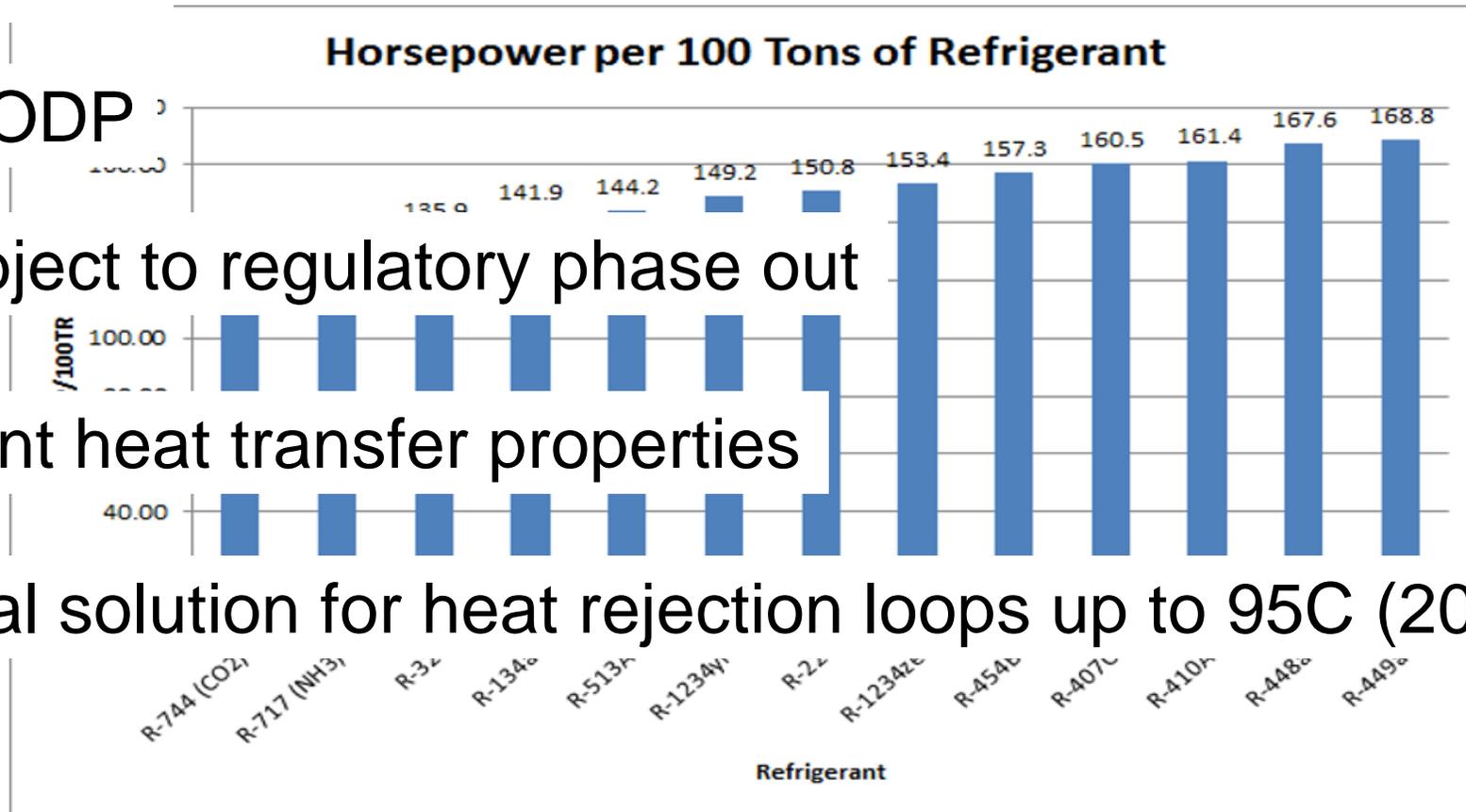
ZERO GWP

ZERO ODP

Not subject to regulatory phase out

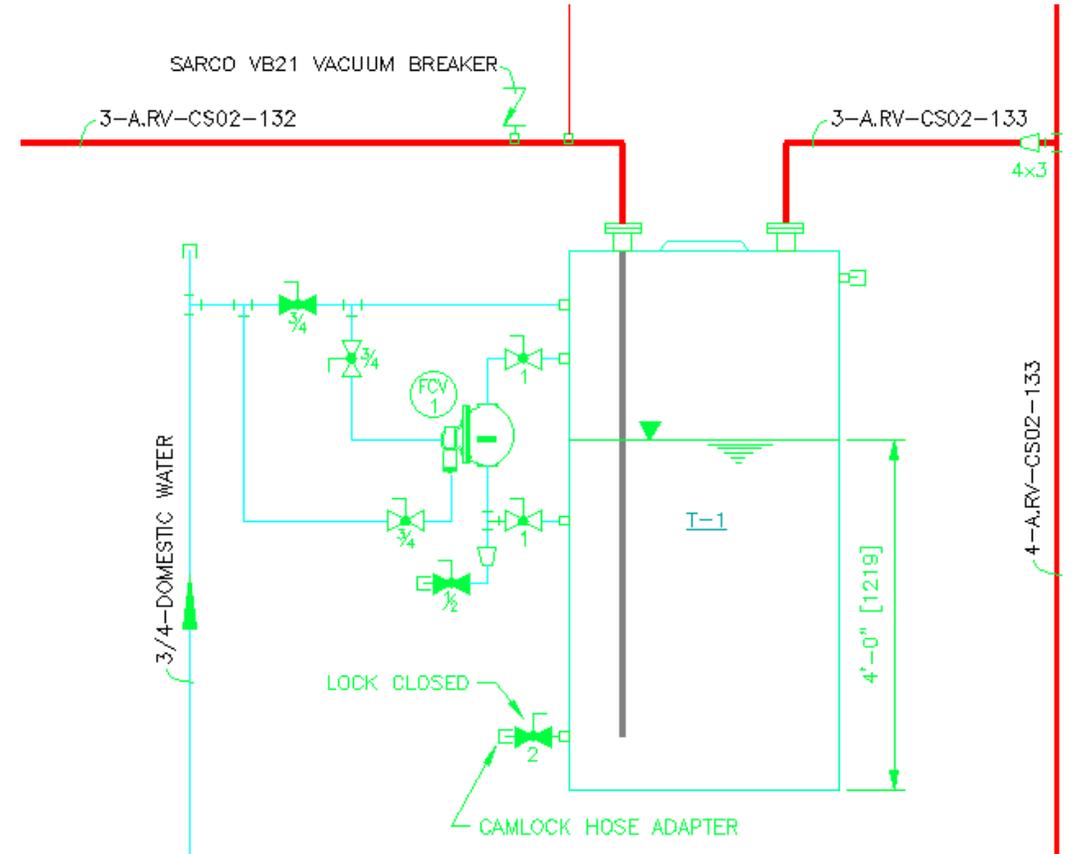
Excellent heat transfer properties

Practical solution for heat rejection loops up to 95C (200F)



# Safety

- Plate HX result in low ammonia charge, less than 350lbs
- Inclusion of water/ammonia dilution tank for emergency relief system



# Solutions (Case Study)

## Major components

### Compressors

- Used in this application 30bar/435psi MAWP
- Products with 50bar/725psi MAWP available

### Plate heat exchangers

- Used in this application 21bar/300psi MAWP
- Products with 62bar/900psi MAWP

Achievable Ammonia saturated condensing temperature ~100C/212F



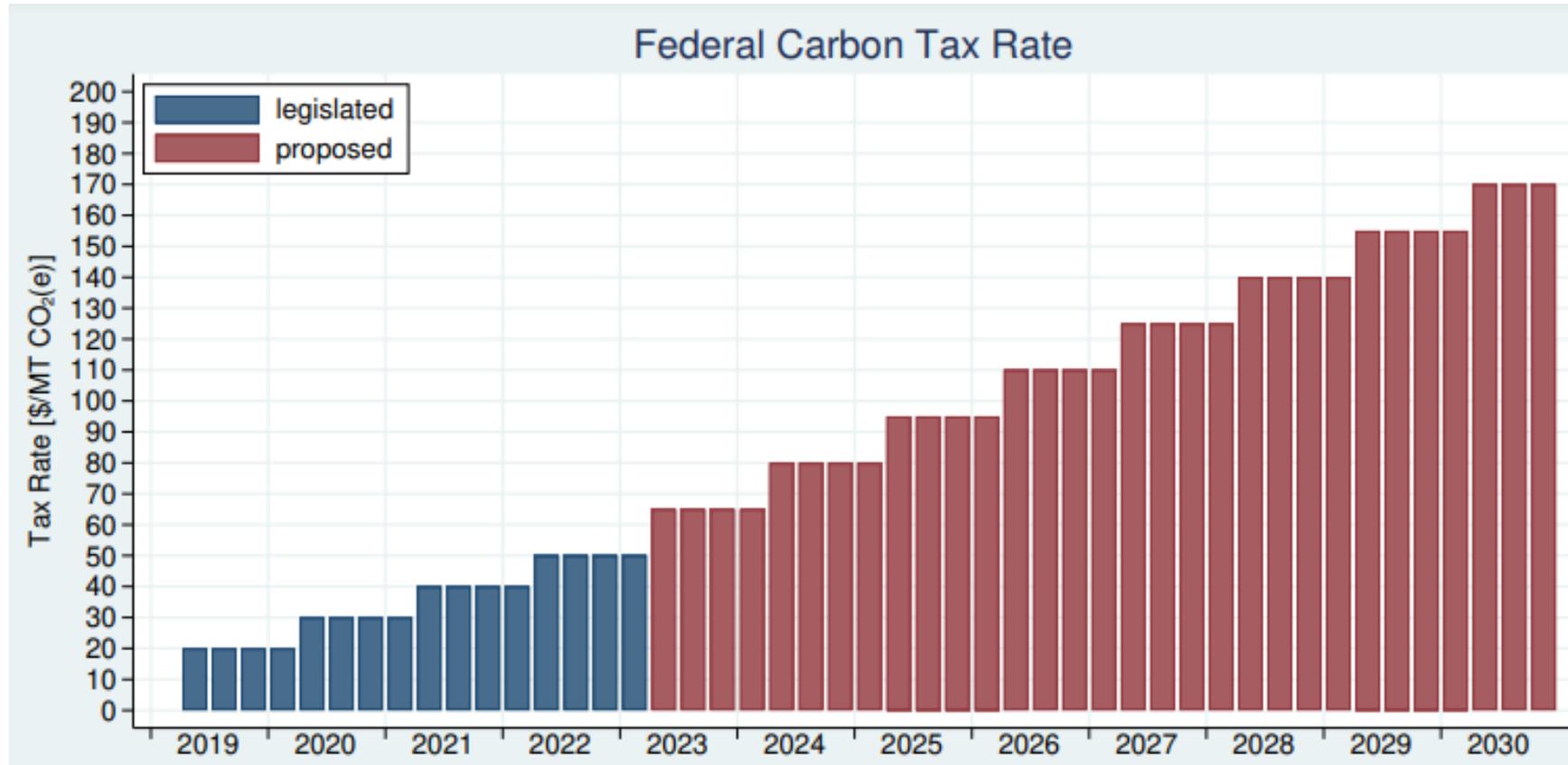
# Solutions (Case Study)

## Future residential options

- HC and CO2 technology
- Currently available in European and Asian markets
- Highly efficient if applied correctly
- GWP 0 to 1
- Not subject to regulatory phase out
- Mass production/adoption will improve price point



# Solutions (Case Study)

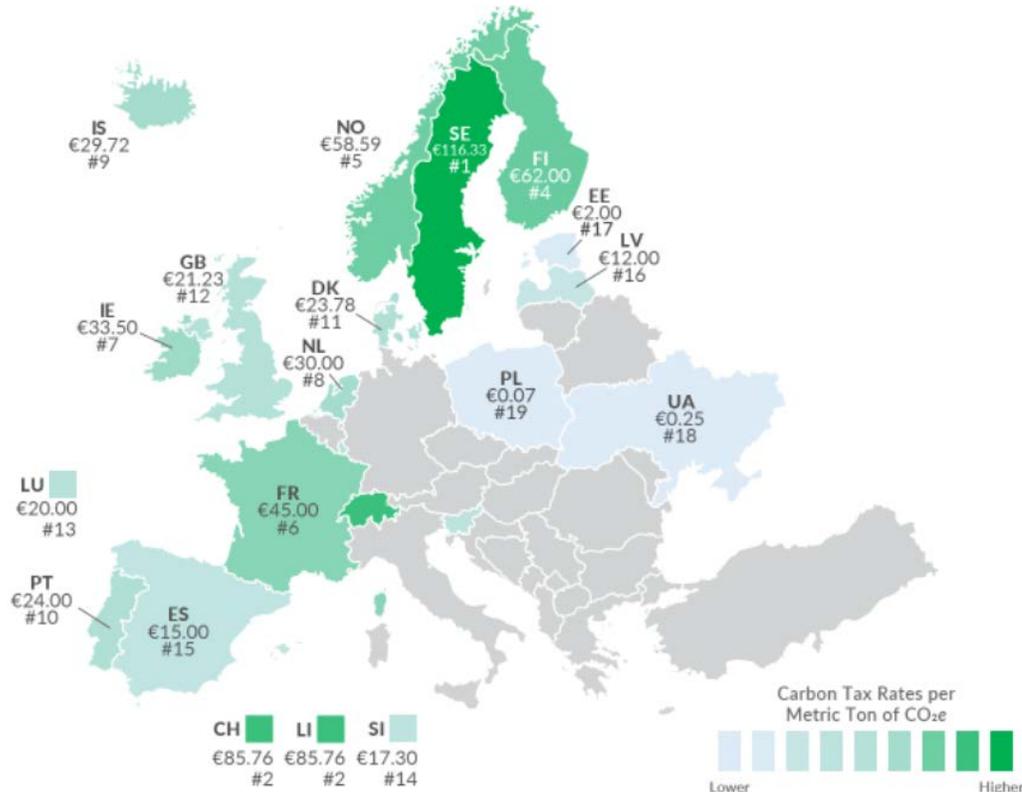


Source <https://wernerantweiler.ca/blog.php?item=2020-12-14>

# Solutions (Case Study)

## Carbon Taxes in Europe

Carbon Tax Rates per Metric Ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e, as of April 1, 2021



Note: The carbon tax rates were converted using the EUR-USD currency conversion rate as of April 1, 2021.  
Source: World Bank, "Carbon Pricing Dashboard."

TAX FOUNDATION

@TaxFoundation

European Countries (as of April 1, 2021)

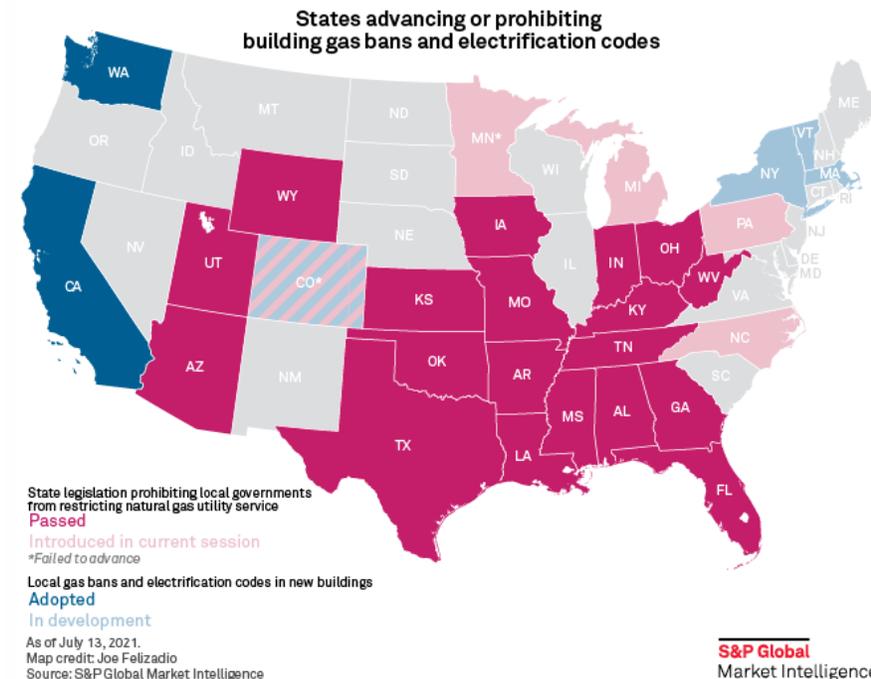
	Carbon Tax Rate (per ton of CO <sub>2</sub> e)		Share of Jurisdiction's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Covered	Year of Implementation
	Euros	US Dollars		
Denmark (DK)	€23.78	\$28.00	35%	1992
Estonia (EE)	€ 2.00	\$2.36	6%	2000
Finland (FI)	€62.00	\$73.02	36%	1990
France (FR)	€45.00	\$53.00	35%	2014
Iceland (IS)	€29.72	\$35.00	55%	2010
Ireland (IE)	€33.50	\$39.45	49%	2010
Latvia (LV)	€12.00	\$14.13	3%	2004
Liechtenstein (LI)	€85.76	\$101.00	26%	2008
Luxembourg (LU)	€20.00	\$23.55	65%	2021
Netherlands (NL)	€30.00	\$35.33	12%	2021
Norway (NO)	€58.59	\$69.00	66%	1991
Poland (PL)	€0.07	\$0.08	4%	1990
Portugal (PT)*	€24.00	\$28.26	29%	2015
Slovenia (SI)	€17.30	\$20.37	50%	1996
Spain (ES)	€15.00	\$17.67	3%	2014
Sweden (SE)	€116.33	\$137.00	40%	1991
Switzerland	€85.76	\$101.00	33%	2008

Source: <https://taxfoundation.org/carbon-taxes-in-europe-2021/>

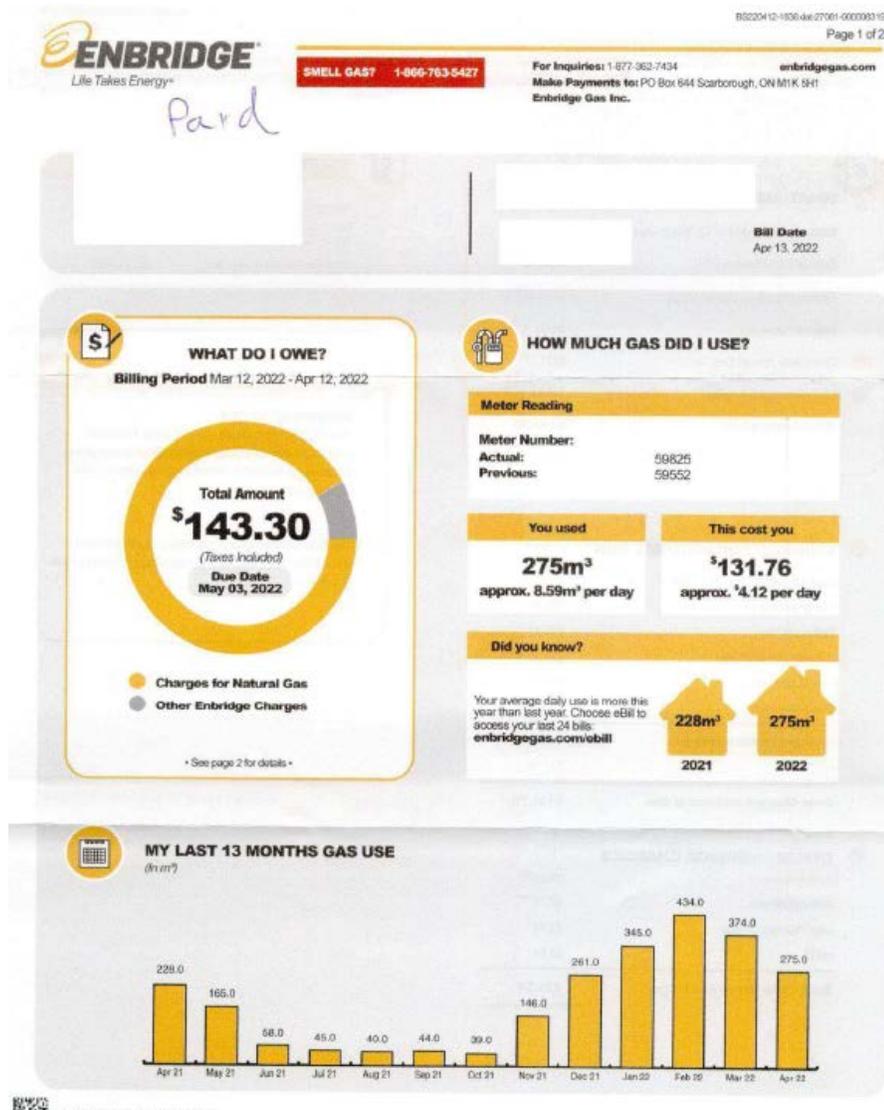
# Solutions (Case Study)

## USA natural gas Bans

- More than 50 cities have banned natural gas infrastructure in new buildings
- At federal level government plans to transition 300,000 buildings to “carbon pollution free electricity” by 2032

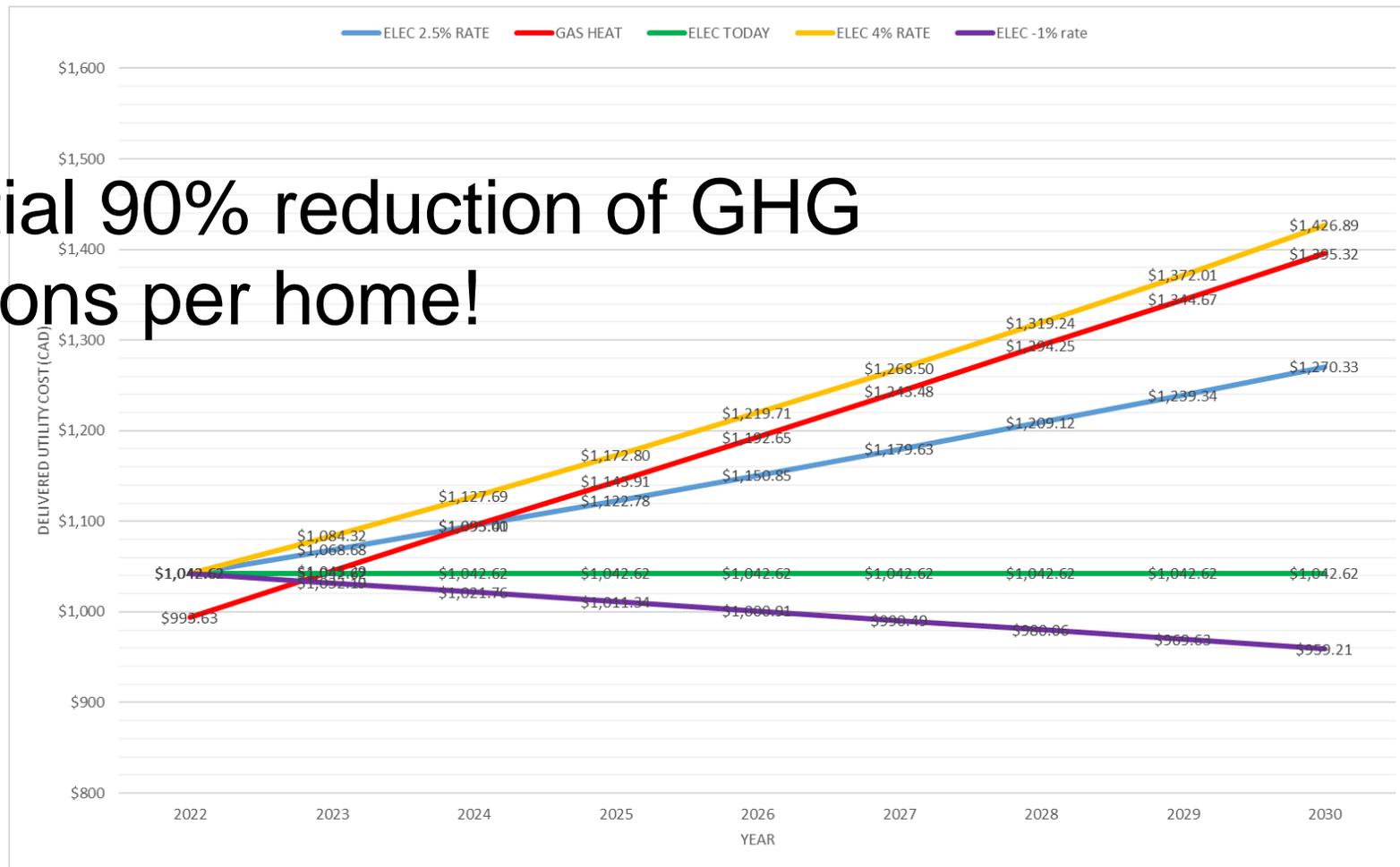


# Net-zero but at what cost \$\$\$



# Net-zero but at what cost \$\$\$

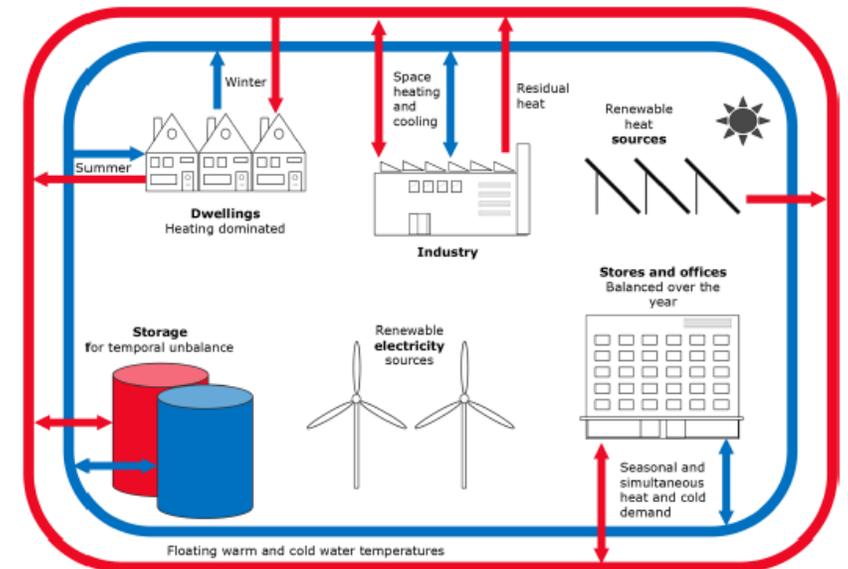
Potential 90% reduction of GHG emissions per home!



- Costs are delivered less HST (tax)
- DESS HVAC systems COP ~4.75, Natural gas furnace COP ~.92
- My utility cost rate gas vs electric
- Projection of carbon tax till 2030
- Assumed electrical rate inflation at 2.5% and 4% per year
- Initial equipment cost neglected
- Heating only
- Annual service fee for DESS connection not included

# Practical Challenges

- This concept not easily retro-fitted to existing communities.
- Requires co-operation between many parties to design and implement.
- Common perception that this concept is not financially viable.
- Availability of Clean and cheap electrical power.
- Need for electrical grid upgrade/expansion to support the concept of electrification on a large scale.
- Feasibility of access to heat source/sink





# Thank you!

- Community of Blatchford
- Andrew Byrnes  
P.Eng, Pinchin  
Ltd

# Q&A



# Thank You!

- Jonathan Berney P.Eng
- CIMCO Refrigeration
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