

The potential of

WASTE WATER HEAT RECOVERY (WWHR) SYSTEMS

in reducing the energy need for water heating in the EU in a cost-efficient way



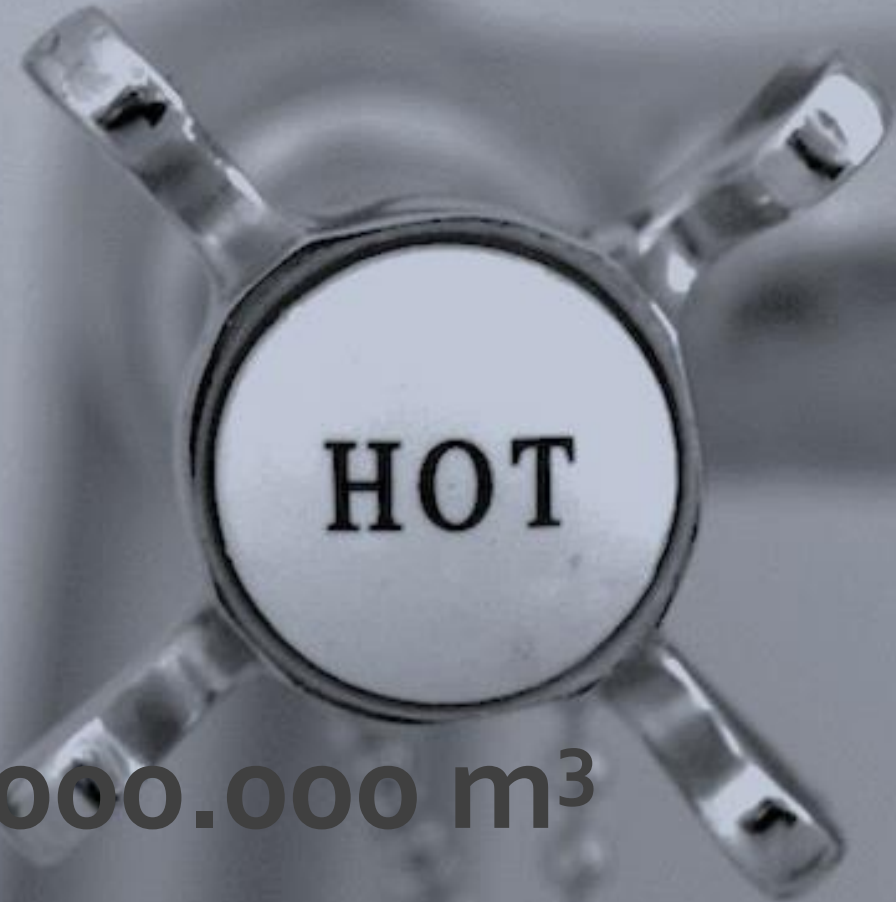
40% Energy

36% CO₂



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36% CO₂



22.000.000 m³

HOT WATER

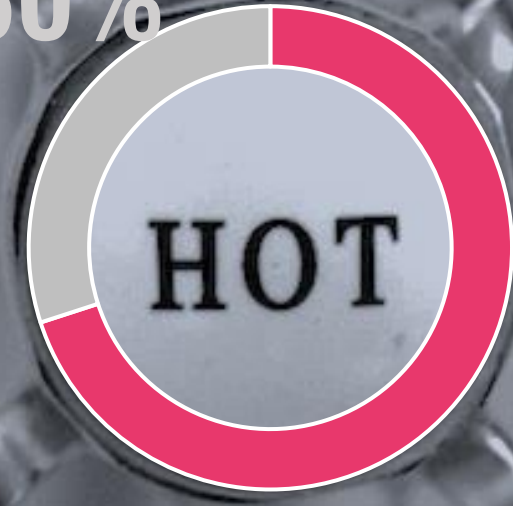
flows daily into the sewers in the EU

40% Energy

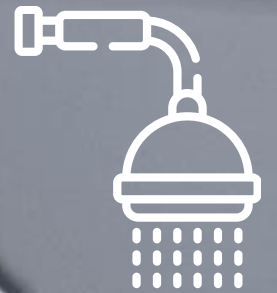
36% CO₂



18-30%



70-82%

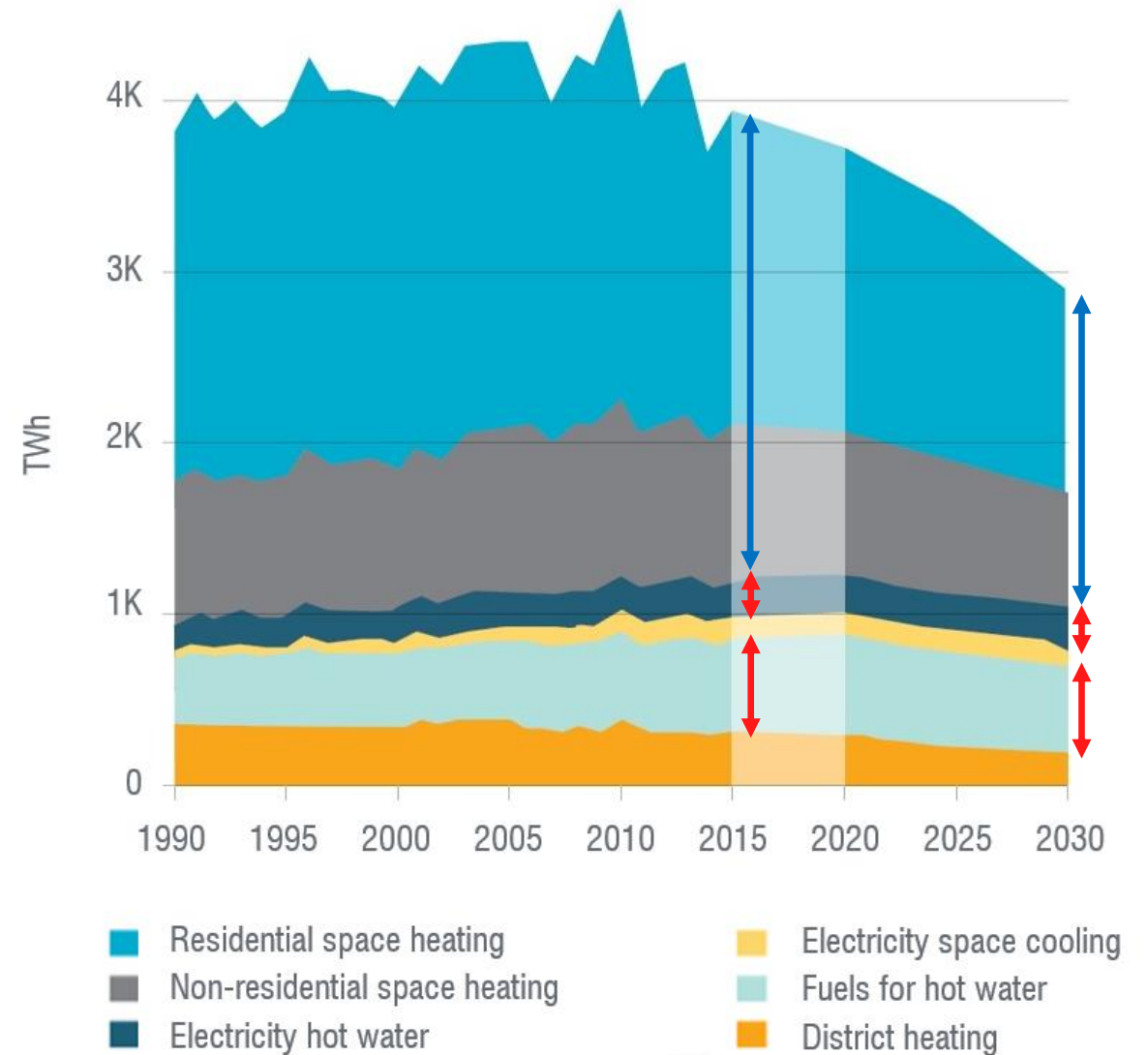


22.000.000 m³

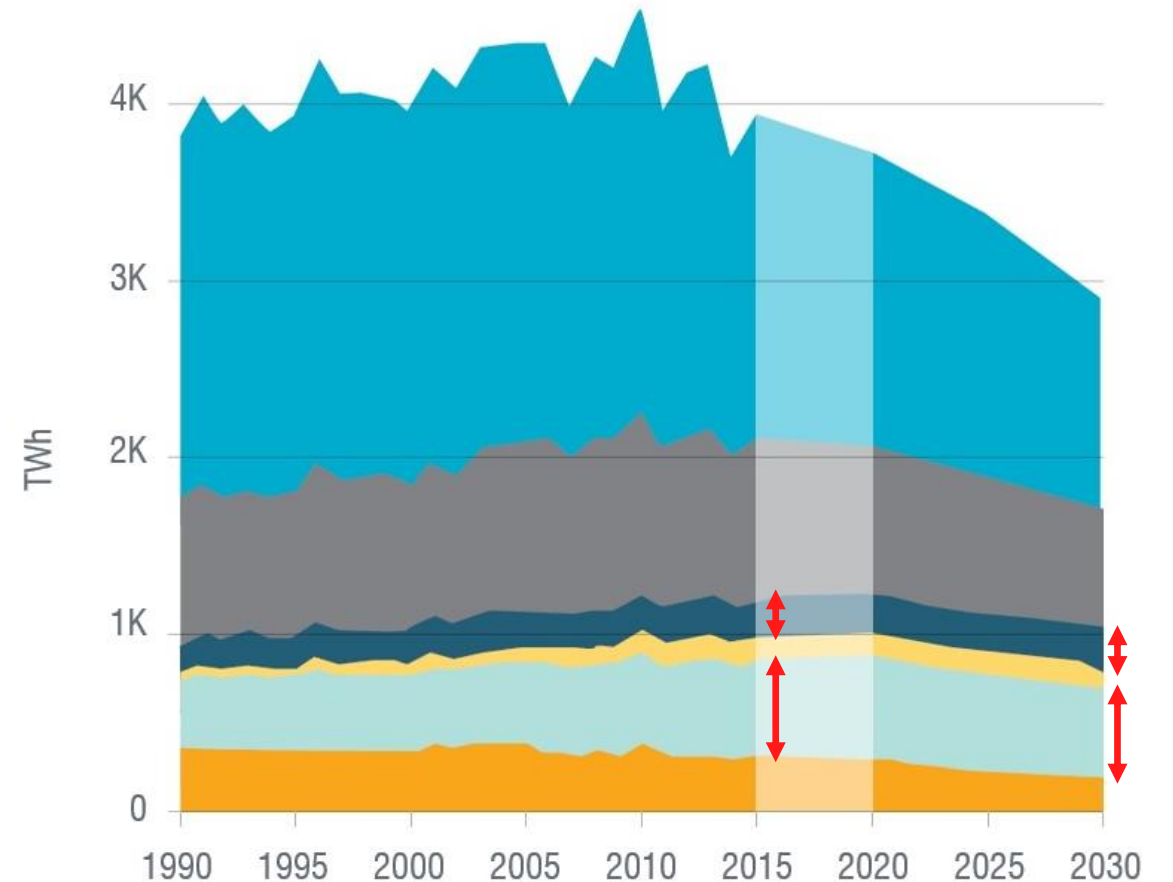
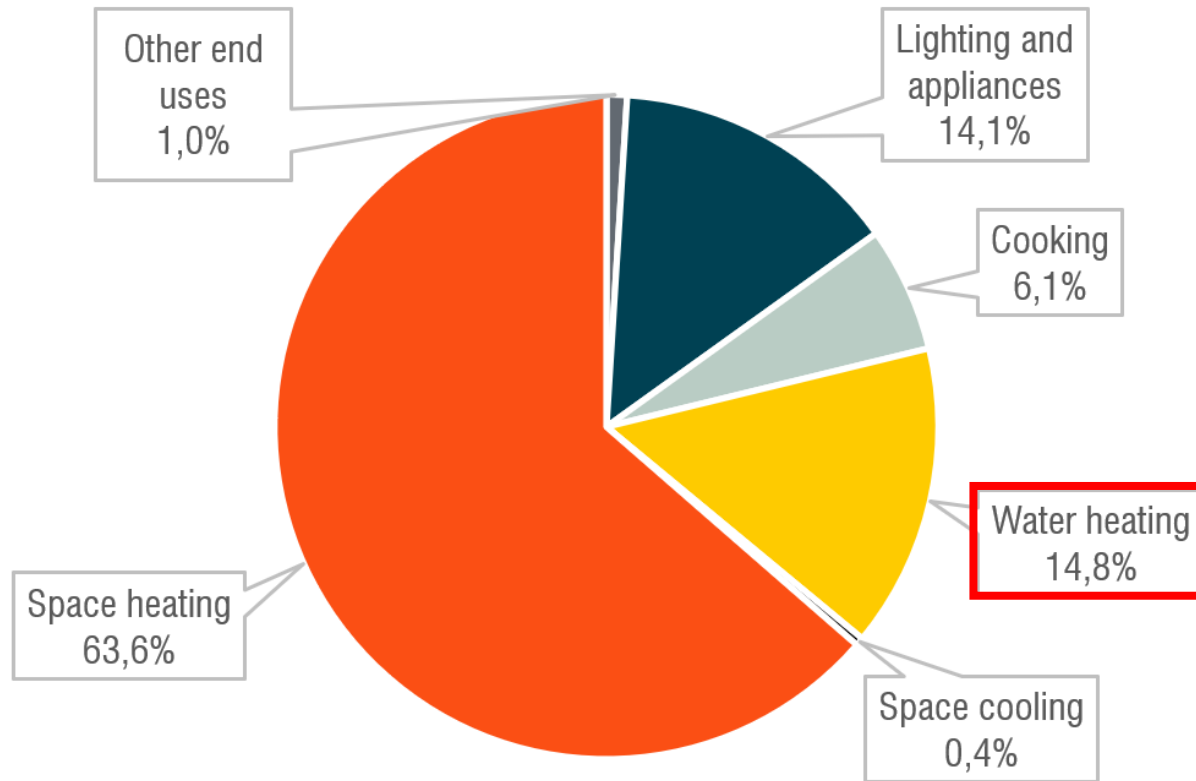
HOT WATER

flows daily into the sewers in the EU

Distribution of final energy demand

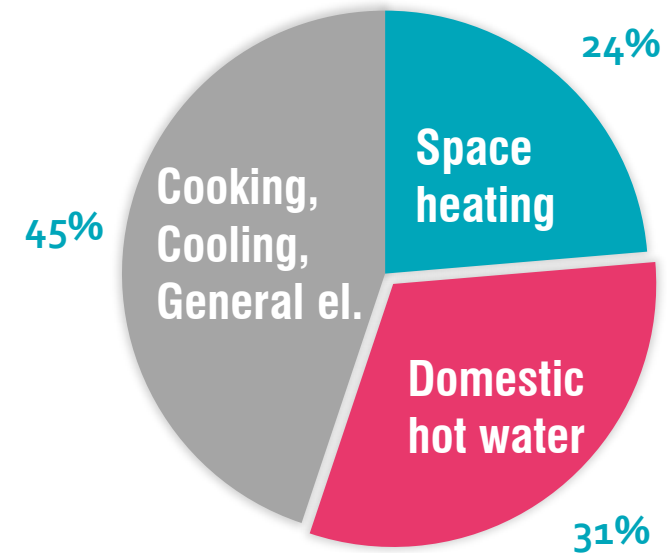


Distribution of final energy demand



Distribution of final energy demand

MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING 2010 INNSBRUCK, AT (PASSIVE-HOUSE)



Drain water, the last systematic thermal bridge?

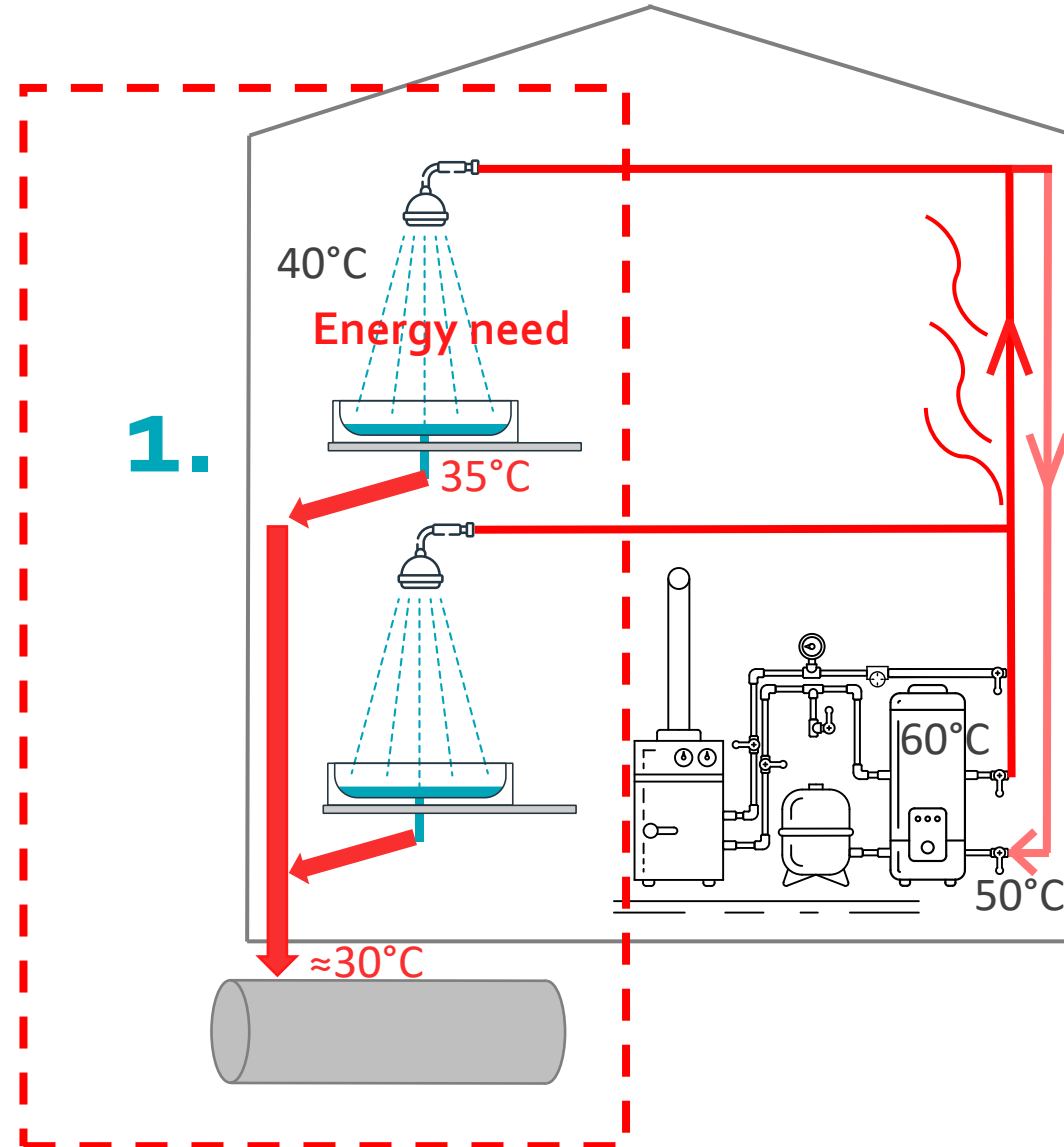
Past

Present

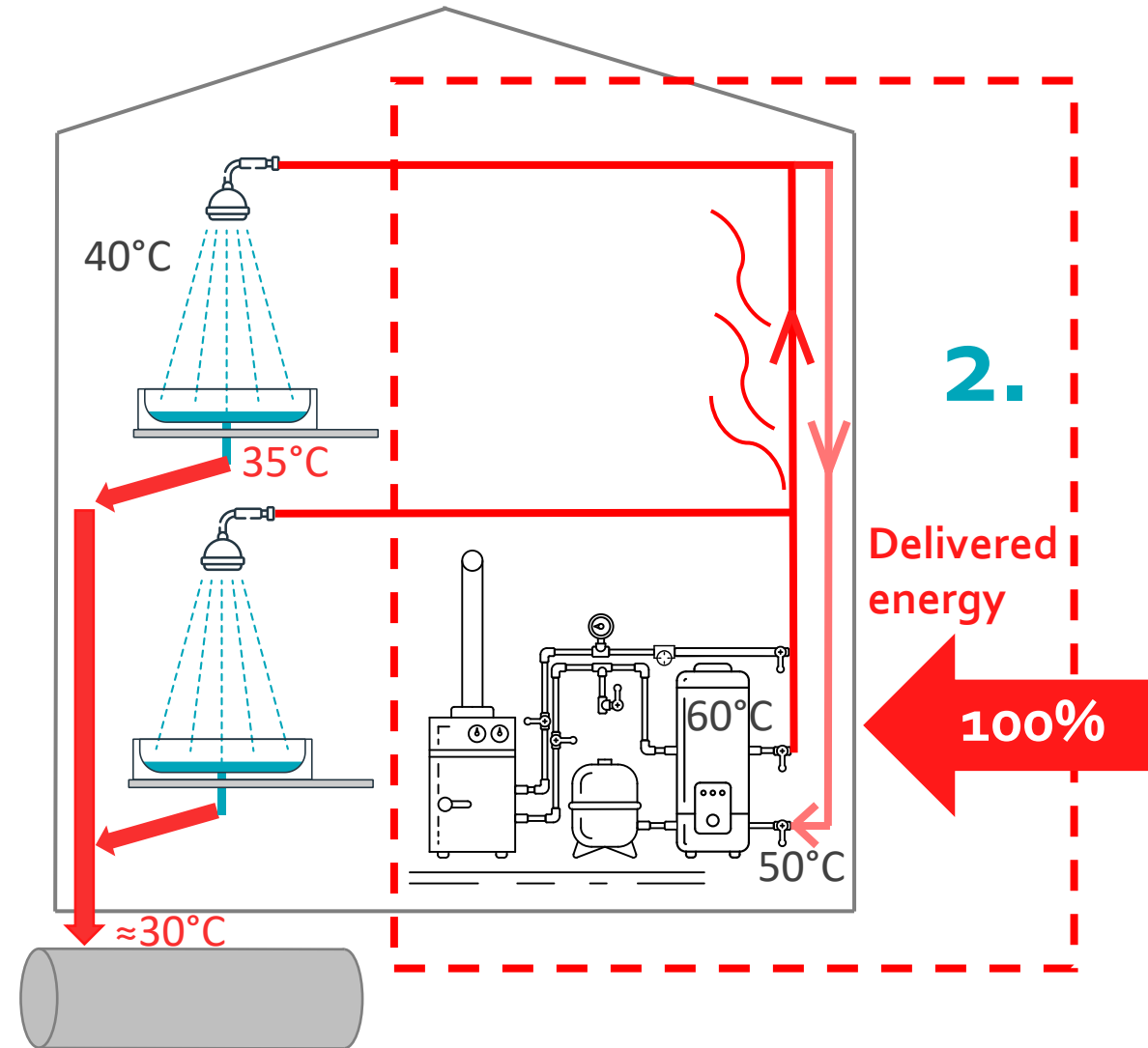
Future



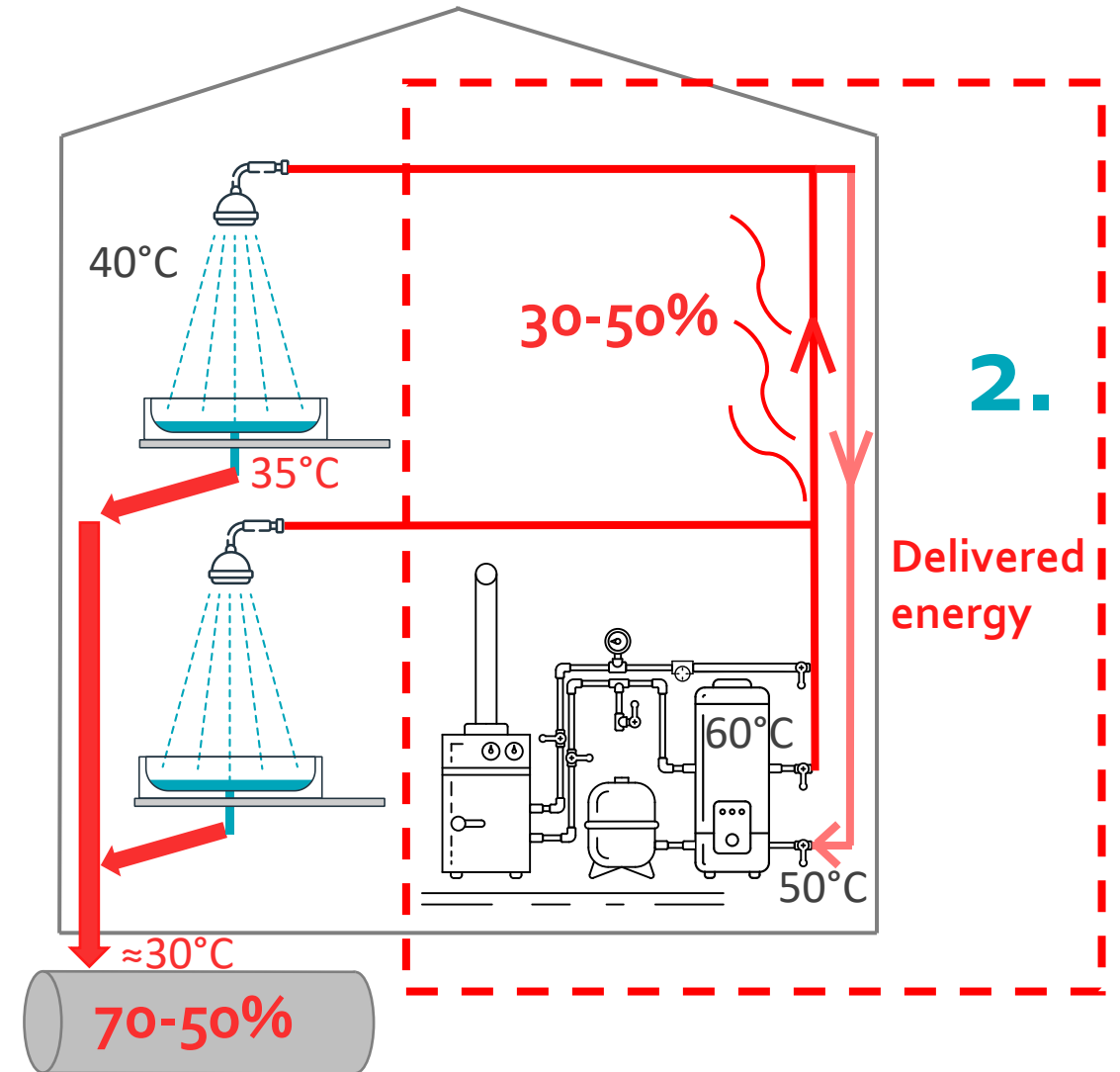
Energy need vs. delivered energy



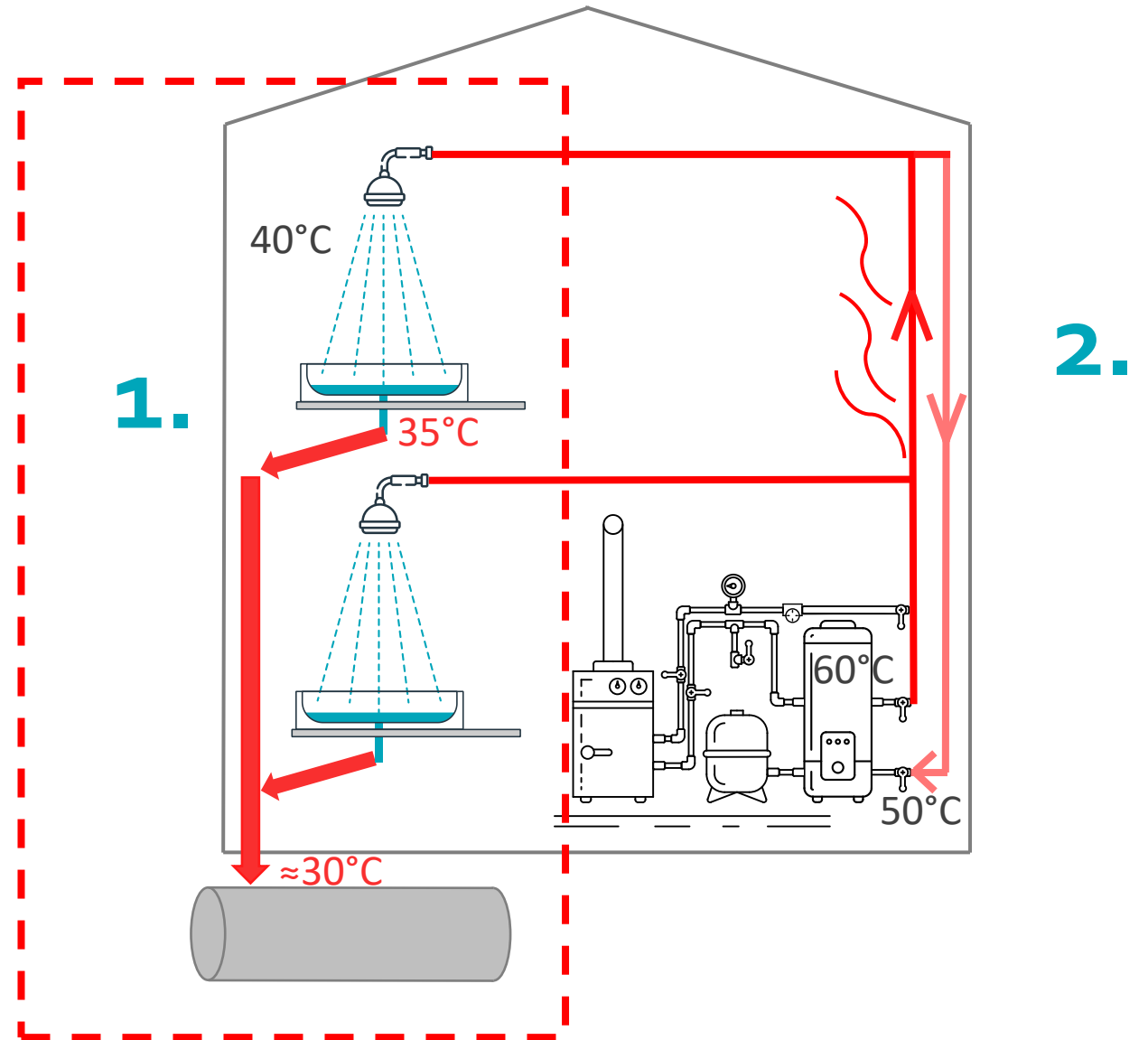
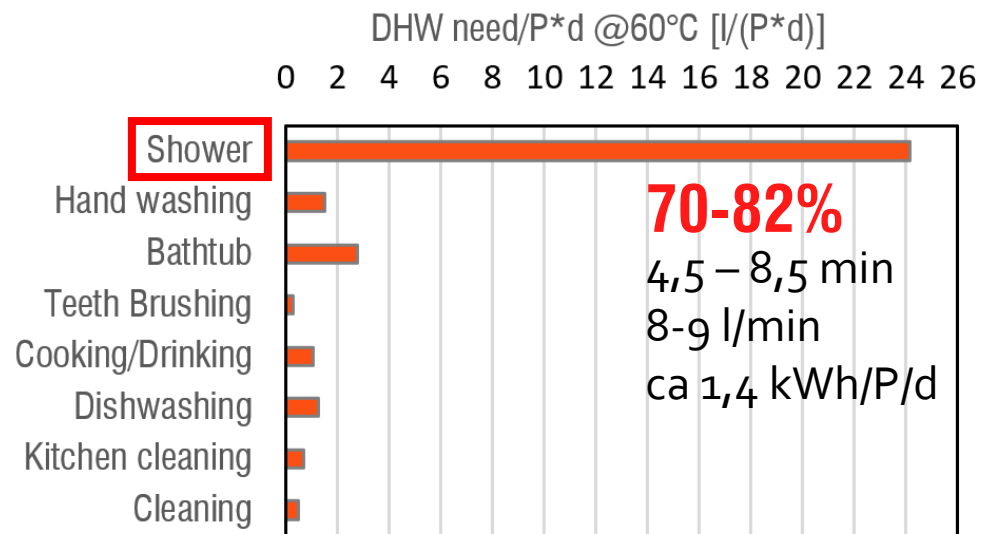
Energy need vs. delivered energy



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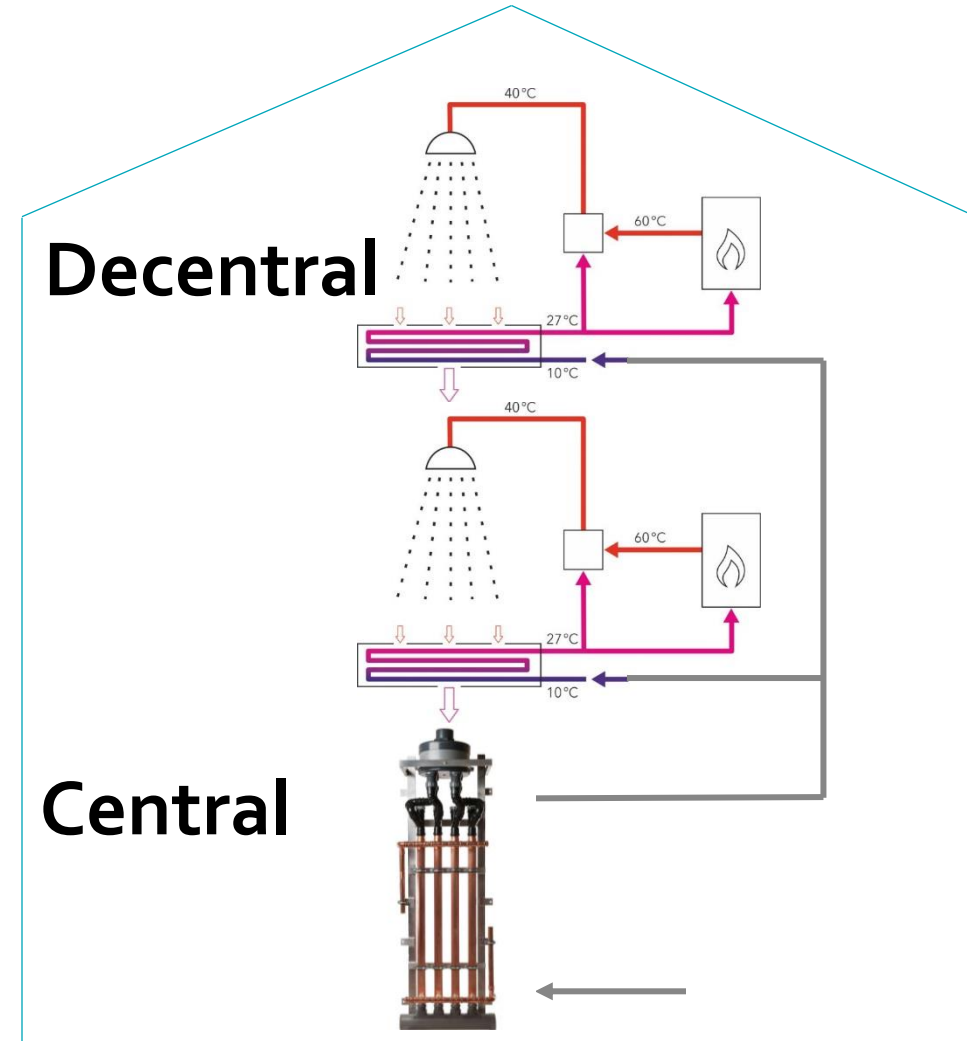


Energy need vs. delivered energy



Types of WWHR

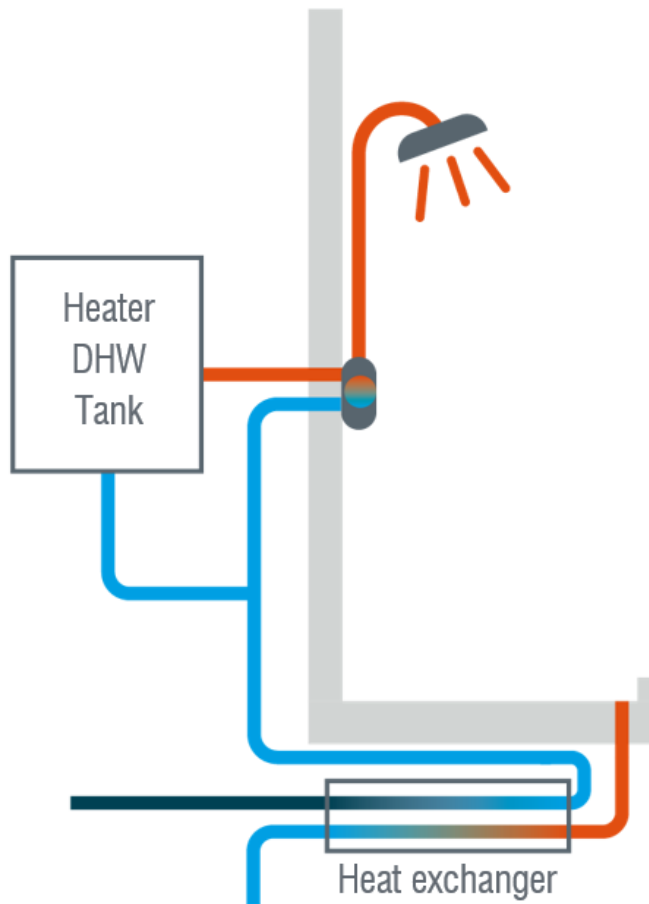
City-level



Decentral WWHR

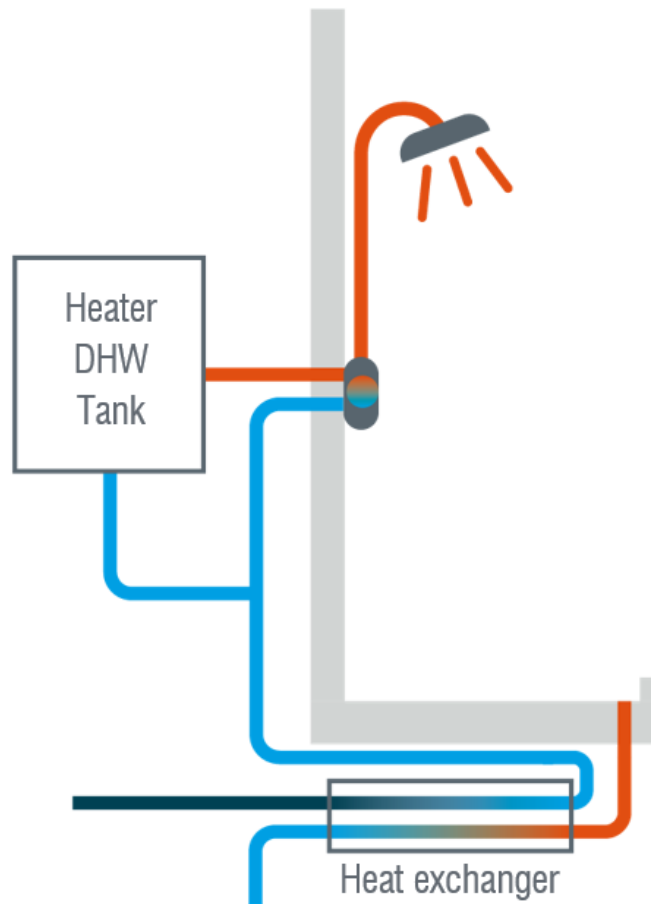


Hydraulic connections of WWHR

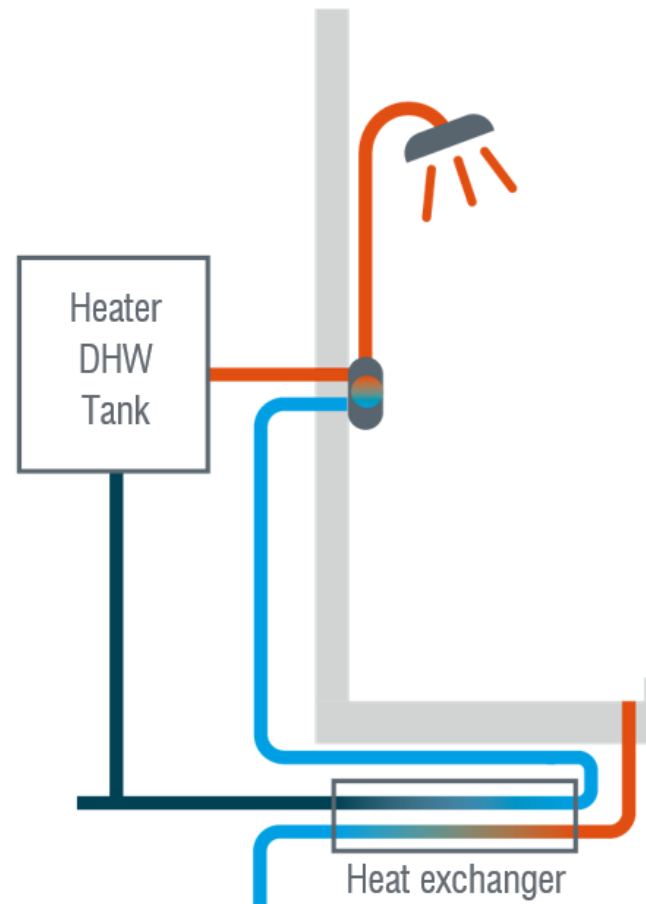


A) **Preheating** for “cold and warm” water
(balanced volume flow-rate)

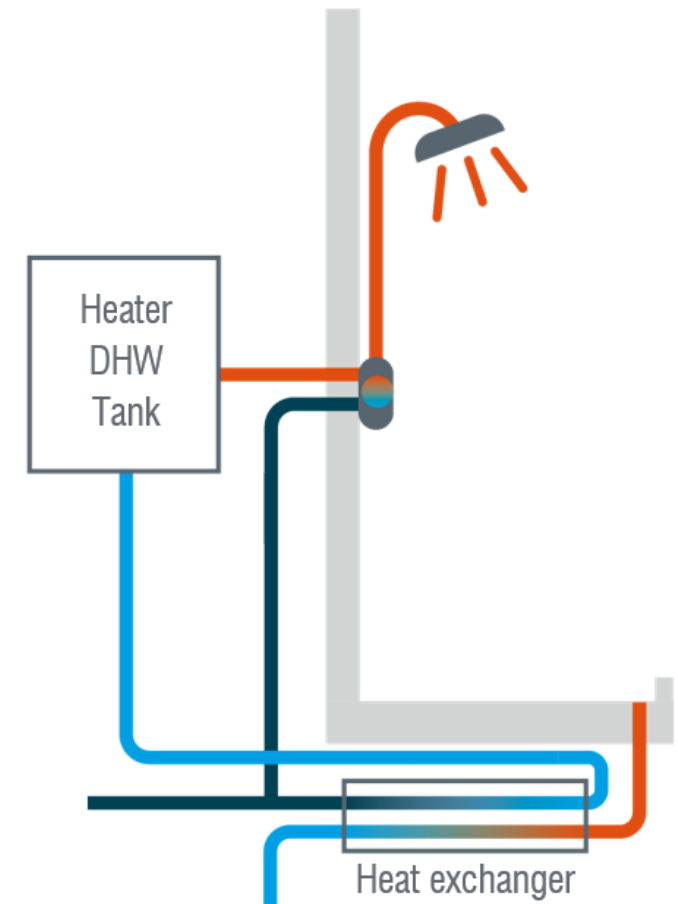
Hydraulic connections of WWHR



A) **Preheating** for “**cold** and **warm**” water
(*balanced volume flow-rate*)

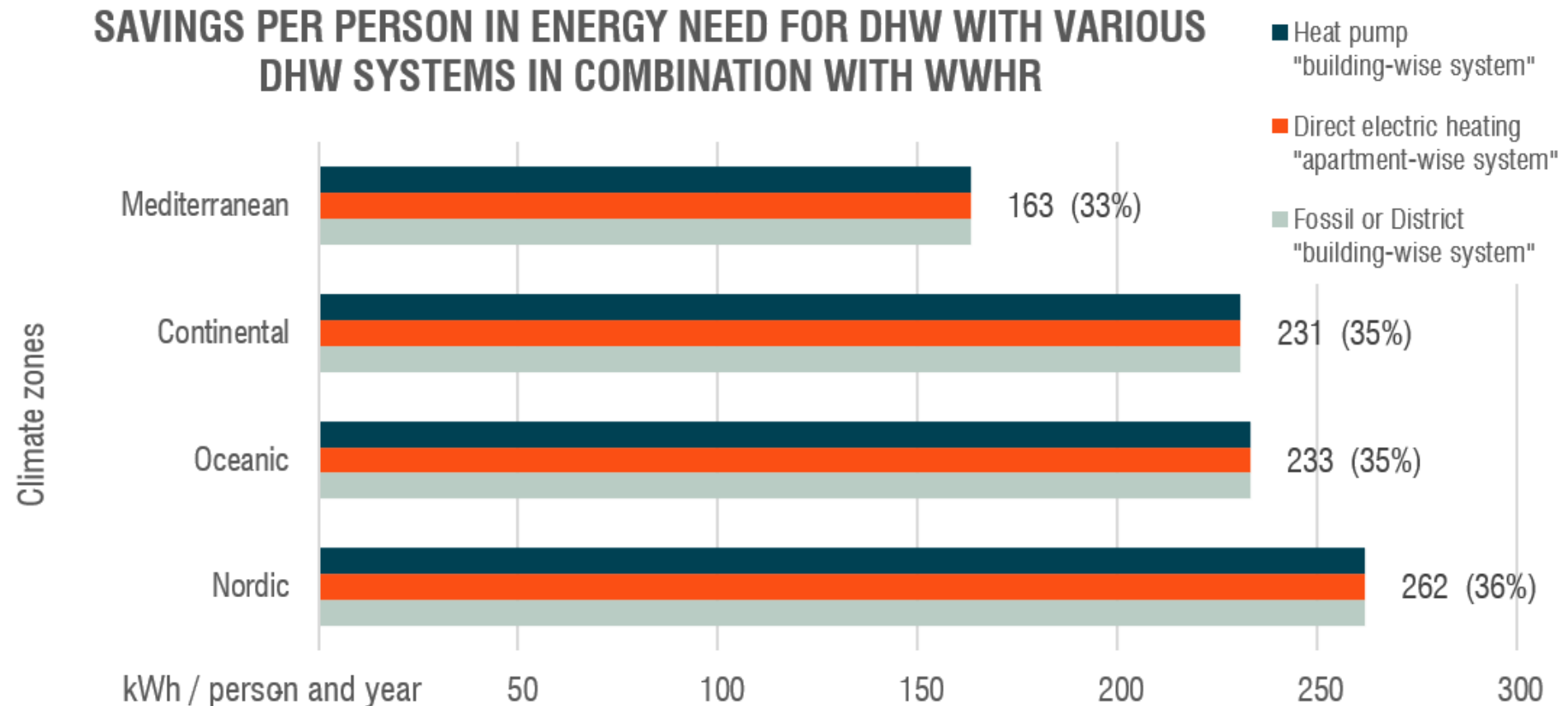


B) **Preheating** for “**cold** water”
(*dis-balanced volume flow-rate*)

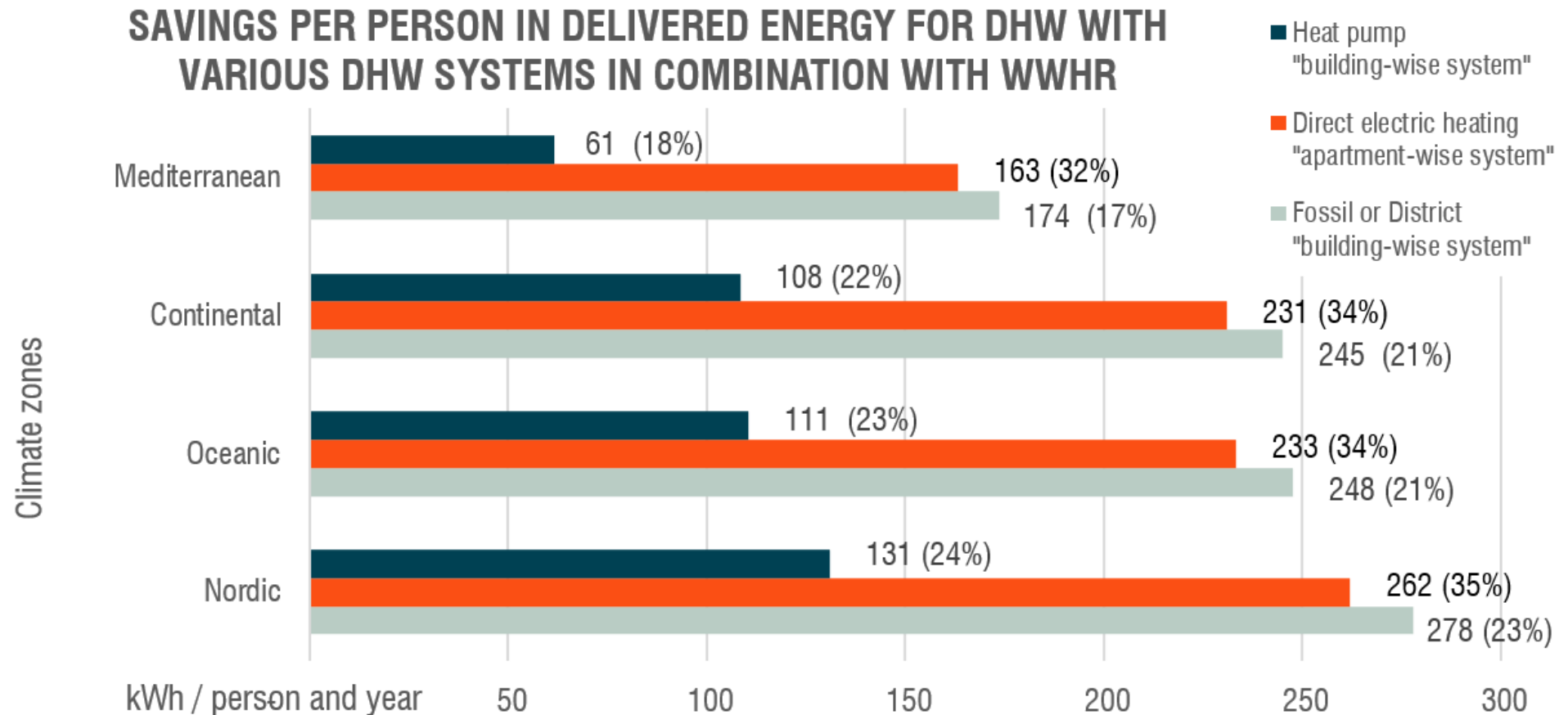


C) **Preheating** for “**warm** water”
(*dis-balanced volume flow-rate*)

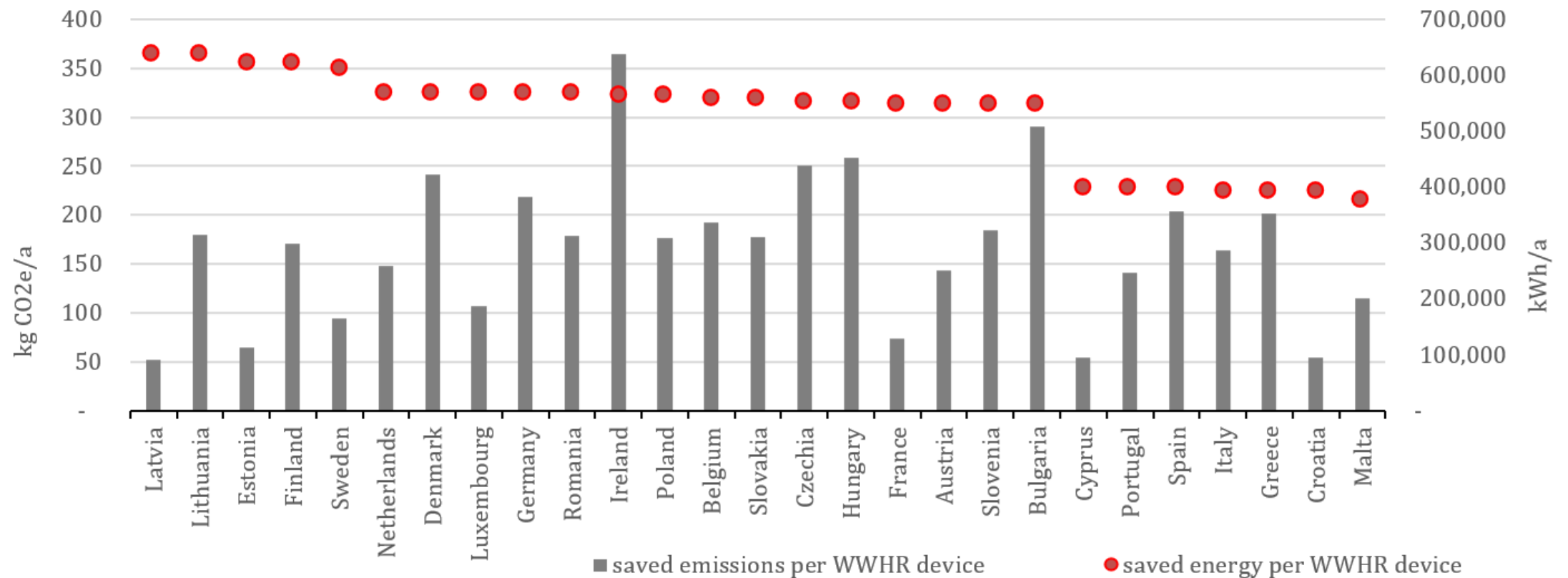
Savings of energy need in combination with various hot water systems (per person)



Savings of delivered energy in combination with various hot water systems (per person)

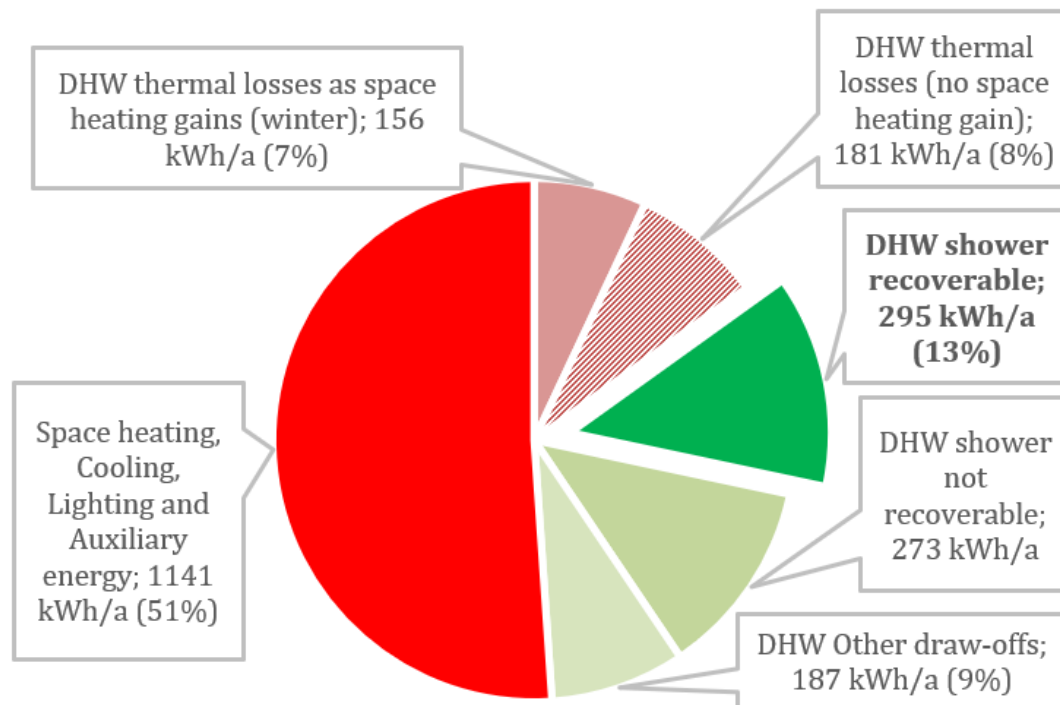


Annual energy and emission savings per WWHR device per country

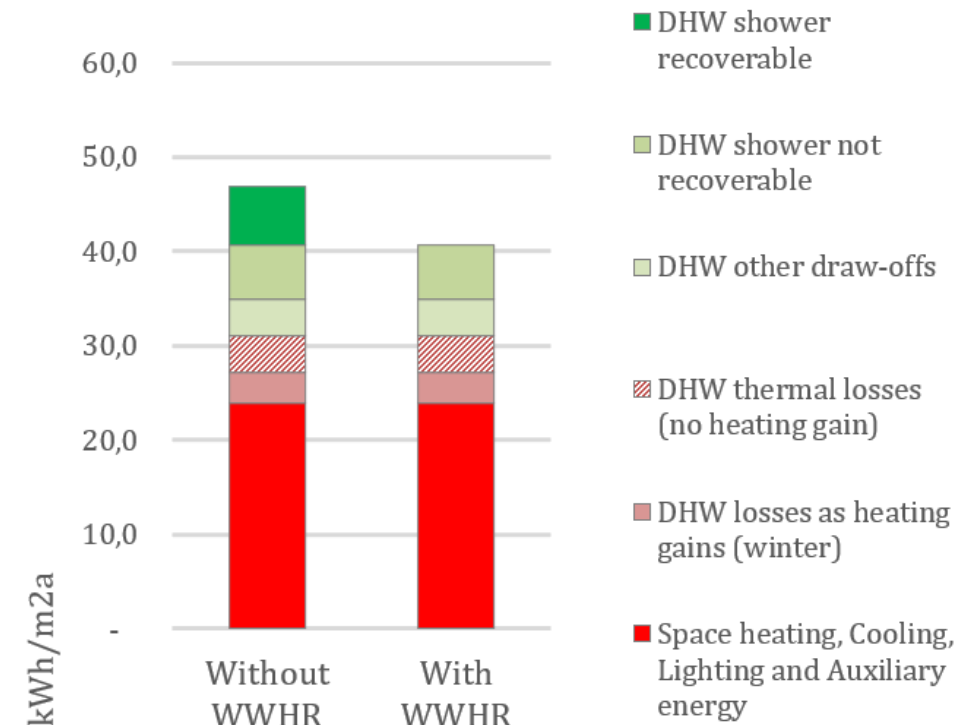


With WWHR, recoverable share of delivered energy in a "ZEB"* single-family house

Balance of delivered electricity in an example "zeb" single-family house with heat pump

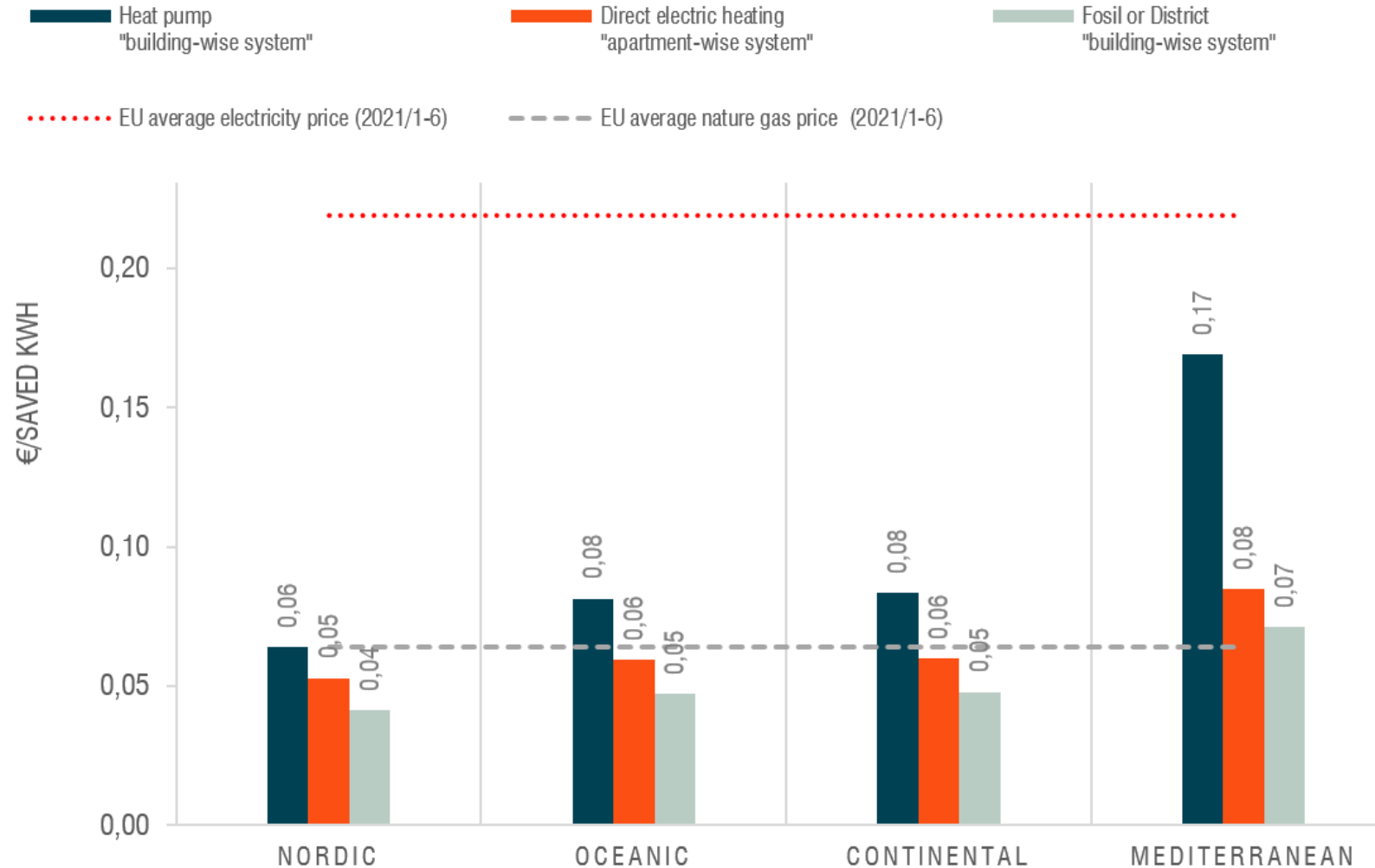


Total annual primary energy

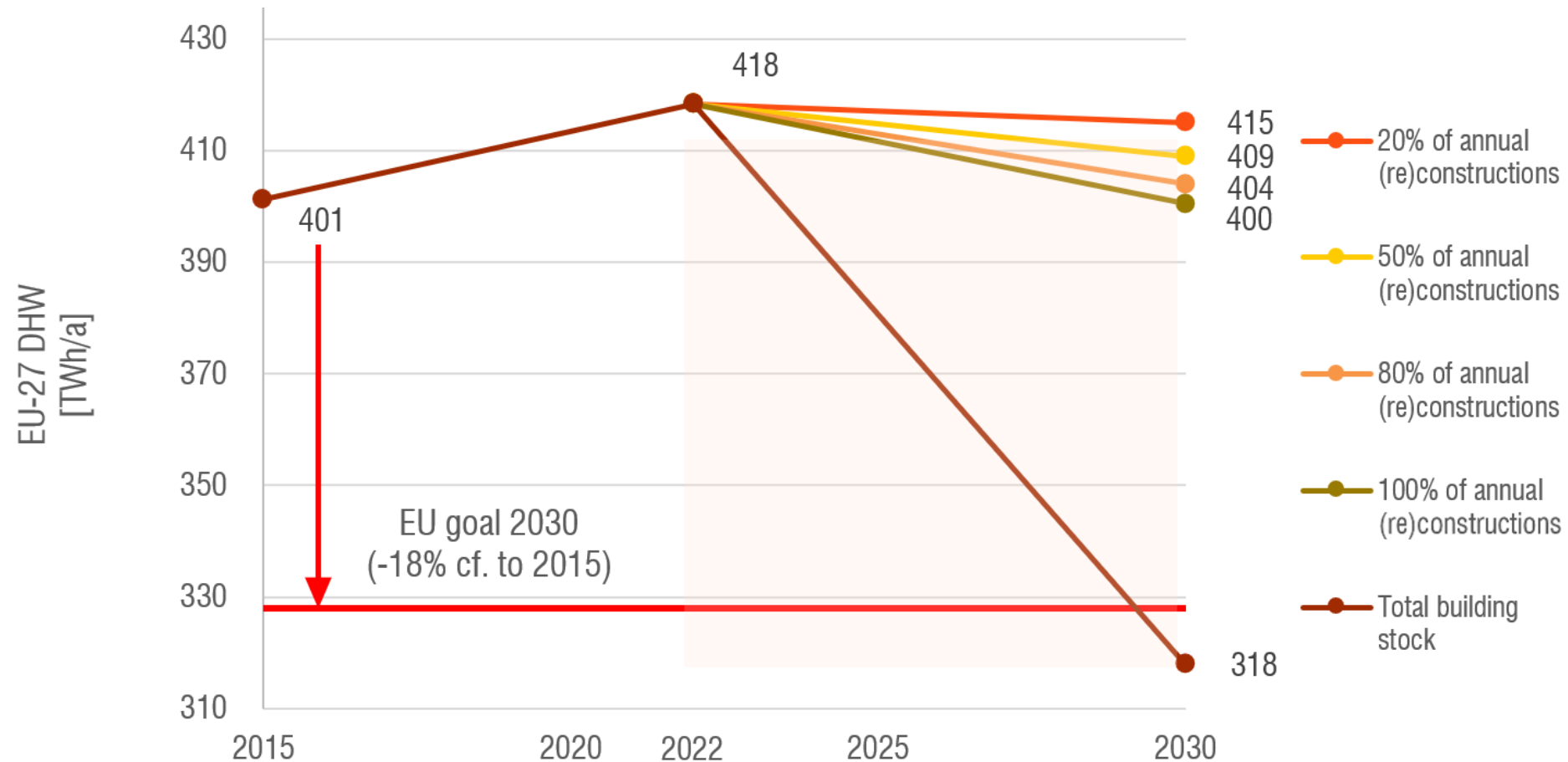


*near-zero energy buildings" (nZEB), which will be replaced by the "zero emission building" (ZEB) standard in 2030

Cost of the saved energy with WWHR [€/kWh]



EU-27 (Fit for 55) Energy demand for DHW in 2030* depending on application rate of WWHR



*total of 35 million renovated and 15 million newly built buildings between 2022 and 2030

Conclusion

- **“As a passive system with no moving parts and no maintenance, and with a lifespan as long as the water pipe system itself, this is a unique feature for an energy-saving technology without loss of comfort.”** (Dr.-Phys. Jürgen Schnieders)
- **40% of of delivered energy can be saved** by DHW system with optimized distribution, storage and circulation losses.
- **The economy is particularly good in sport facilities, businesses and hotels (more than a 100 €/a per family) & climates with colder ground water.**
- **Ecological footprint is balanced already during the first year of its operation.**
WWHR has a **high level of recyclability**; the **life-cycle of WWHR devices (>20 years)**

Conclusion

- **HVAC** has a renovation rate about **three times higher than the building stock** (currently below 1%* in the EU). With **WWHR, decarbonisation** can thus be achieved **more rapidly than with regular energy-saving** measures such as insulation of the building envelope.
- **WWHR can exceed the EC targets (by 24 % & 100 TWh/a)** for reducing energy consumption for water heating at European level.
- **Missing European norms & Eco-design Directive for WWHR.**
- **WWHR may be included in the EU's toolbox**
- **Training of professionals is needed**

More content



- Full study:
<https://diglib.uibk.ac.at/7640369>



- Short paper:
<https://proceedings.open.tudelft.nl/clima2022/article/view/439/419>



