



20/06/2014

# Step-up Coaching: Trajectory 1 Dynamic District Developments

Workshop Presentation



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# 1. Background

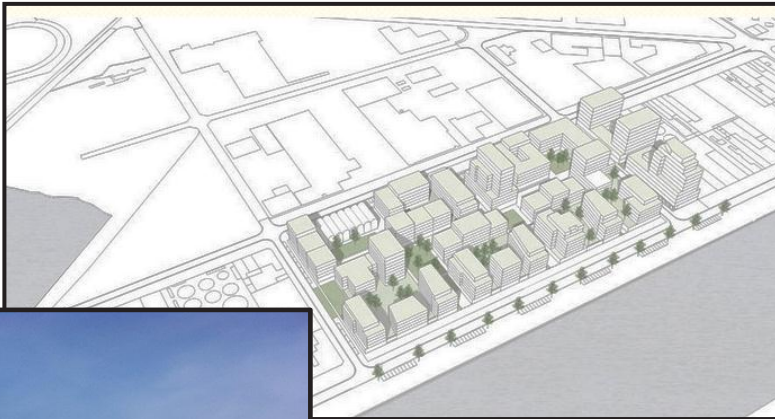
- » Heating grid Oostende: feasibility study POM West-Vlaanderen
- » New residential development project 'Oosteroever'



# 1. Background



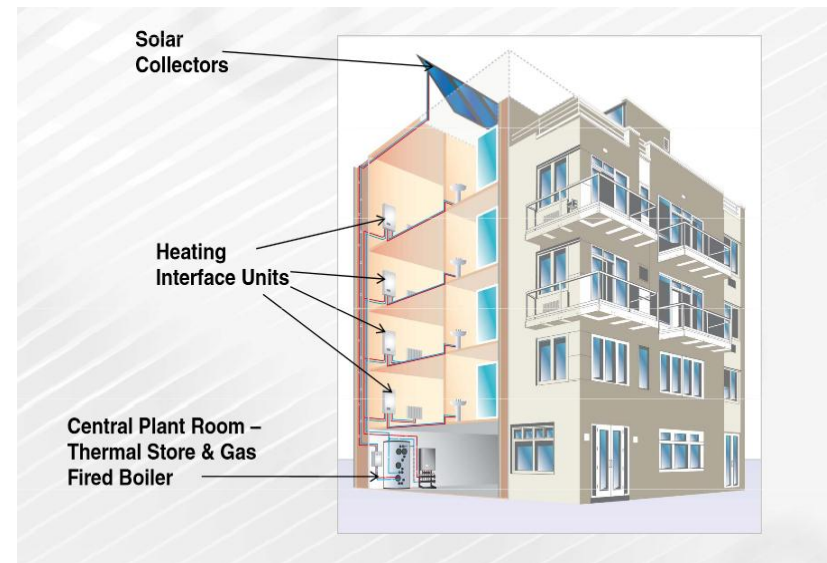
- » 'Oosteroever'
- » Residential/commercial project (already submitted, first works started)
  - Individual Boilers, No renewables



## 2. Barriers

- » Common practice in residential buildings = Individual boiler for each home unit
- » Missing out on opportunities!  
Communal heating allows for:

- Easy integration of renewable energy sources, ex:
  - Central biomass fired boiler, CHP
  - Combinations with solar PV and thermal collectors
- Integration of nearby waste heat streams
- Connection to future heating grids
- Reduced Installation capacity (kW) compared to individual boilers
- Flatter combined load, maximising full load time, minimising start/stop
- No additional room ventilation and flue gas requirements
- Higher Thermal production efficiency
- Minimal maintenance
- No risk of CO-poisoning



EPB  
10 kWh/year/m<sup>2</sup>  
Renewable Energy

## 2. Barriers

- » **Biases counteract Communal (central) heating, for example:**
  - “Individual boiler = cheaper”
  - “Individual boiler = luxury”
  - “High distribution losses”
  - “EPB”
  - “Buyers want independence”
  - ...
- **Barrier/bottleneck = collaboration of project investors/developers**
- **Hard for smaller cities to enforce heating grids and/or sustainable energy demands in local policies or master plan.**
- **Need for knowledge to persuade investors and buyers!**  
**(Benefits? Economic feasibility? Prestige/Image?)**

# 3. Coaching Project

## Casestudy: Baelskaai

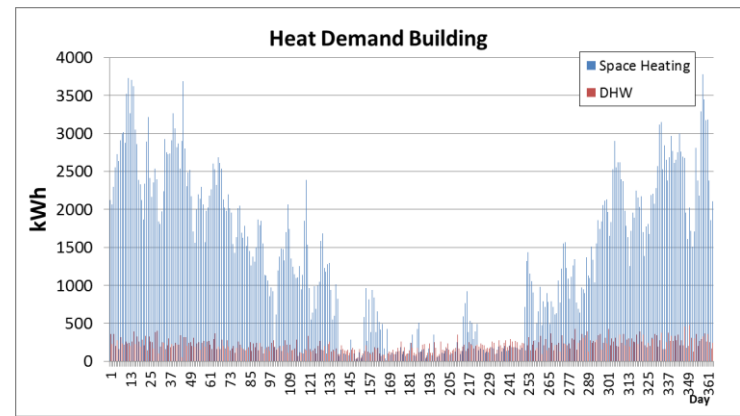
- » Building: “Baelskaai 20”
  - » 37 apartments, 8 levels (“8 story building”)
  - » 111 residents (estimate)
  - » Roof surface +- 290 m<sup>2</sup>
  - » High level of thermal insulation
  - » No Renewables, Individual Boilers



→ Study to evaluate economic feasibility of Communal Heating:  
in general + applied to Baelskaai



# 4. Calculations



## » Detailed evaluation:

- » Hourly energy profiles for Space Heating, DHW and Solar Thermal gains
- » Calculations on an hourly basis
  - State-of-charge thermal storage, boiler efficiency, loss in piping/buffer/circulation pumps, ...
- » Economic calculations (detailed costs and/or pricing curves for components, discounting, inflation, NPV)

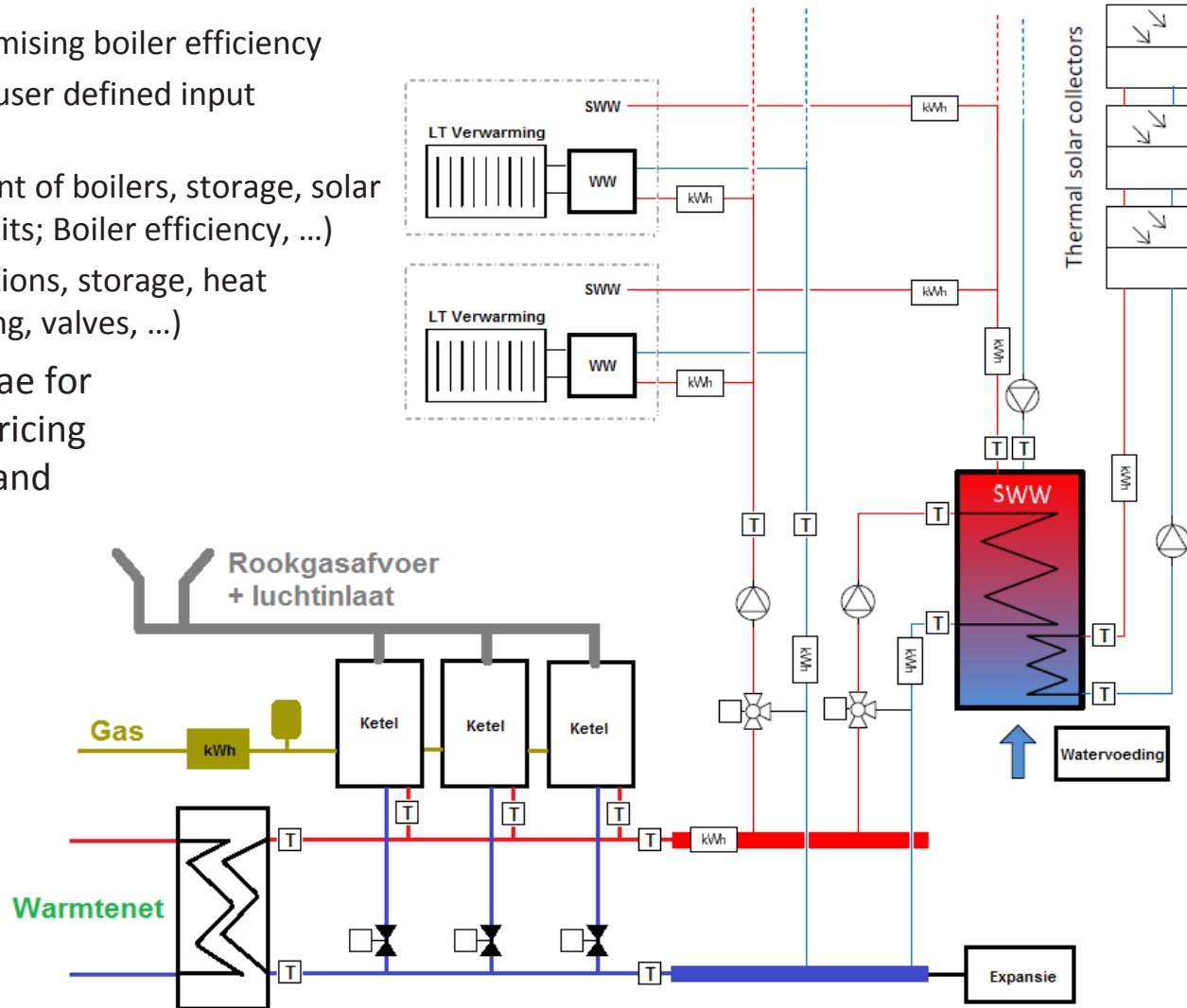
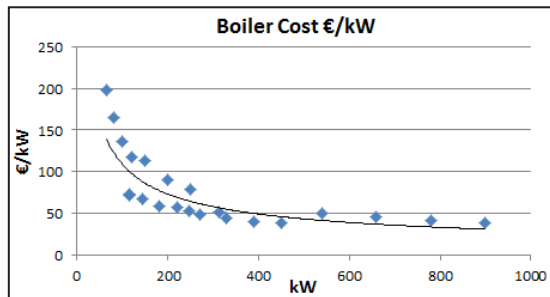
## » Output: Present Value of Total Costs for 5 scenarios:

1. Individual Boilers (reference case)
2. Central Boilers
3. Heating Grid
4. Central Boilers + Heating Grid Ready (switch to Heating Grid at time 'x')
5. Central Boilers + Future switch to Heating Grid (not yet HG ready, switch at time 'x')

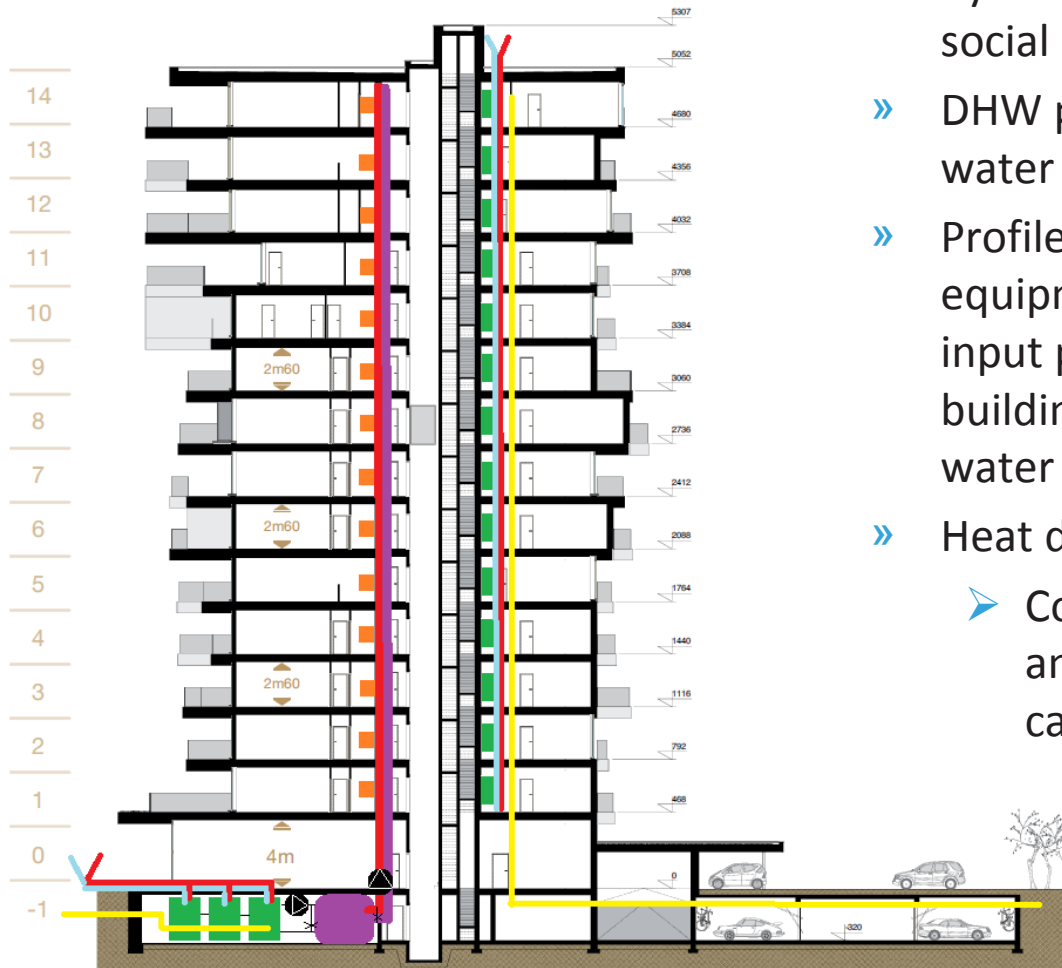


# 4. Calculations

- » **Hydraulic scheme**
- » Separation of Space Heating (30/40°C) and DHW network (60/80°C)
  - Minimising Heat loss, maximising boiler efficiency
- » Calculation is shaped by several user defined input parameters, influencing:
  - **Technical** (sizing and amount of boilers, storage, solar collectors; temperature limits; Boiler efficiency, ...)
  - **Economic** (costs of installations, storage, heat exchangers, piping, metering, valves, ...)
- » **Costs:** prices and price formulae for every component, based on pricing catalogues, contractor offers and standardized pricing booklets (excl. VAT; incl. installation cost)



# 4. Calculations



- » **Flexible calculation**, for buildings of all sizes
- » Space Heating profiles: rescaled from dynamic simulation of heat demand for social housing project (source VITO)
- » DHW profiles: rescaled from measured water usage profile (source VITO)
- » Profiles + Lengths of piping, other equipment, ... are all rescaled by a set of input parameters (#apartments, height of building, #persons, daily average personal water usage, heat loss)
- » Heat delivery system in apartment:
  - Considered equal for both the individual and central boiler cases, no influence on calculations

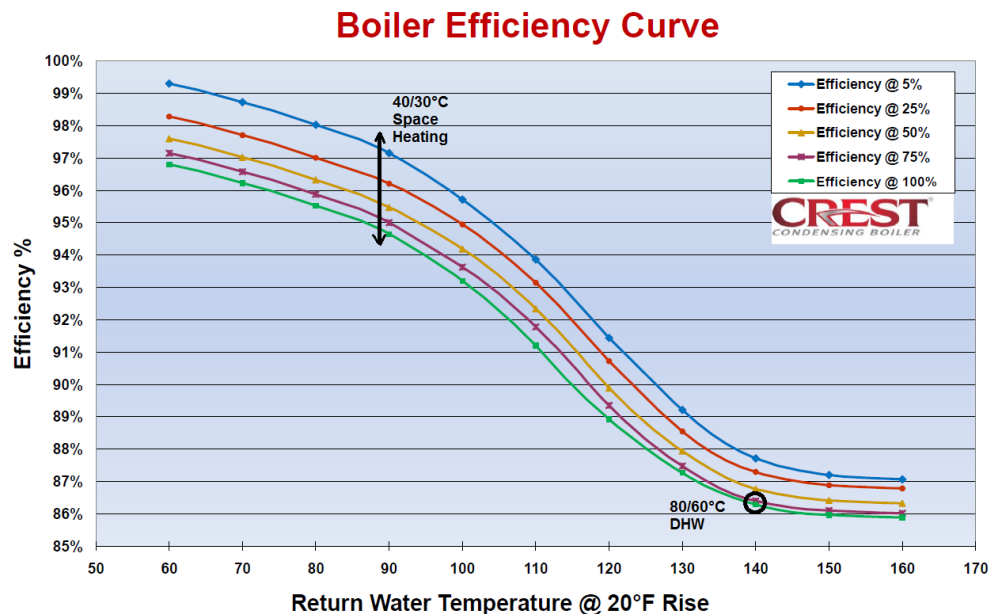
# 4. Calculations

## » System losses

- » Electricity consumption of variable flow pumps (60% pump efficiency; consumption is calculated according to heat demand and head)
- » Heat loss of DHW buffer (calculated each hour for any given storage size 0,1 – 100 m<sup>3</sup>, with variable  $\Delta T$  according to storage temperature, wrt surrounding environment 15°C)
- » Heat loss in piping (fixed  $\Delta T$  regime for space heating and variable  $\Delta T$  according to storage temperature for DHW pipes, wrt surrounding environment 15°C)

## » Boiler efficiency

- » Boiler curves are included to provide the effects of partial load and temperature regime on the boiler efficiency. The efficiency is calculated each hour.
- » Load dependant curve for space Heating (@30°C return) and fixed full-load efficiency for DHW (@60°C return)



# 5. Setup

## Economic Parameters (general)

### » Energy Prices

- Gas Price single apartment = 60 €/MWh
- Gas Price building = 48 €/MWh
- Electricity Price building = 180 €/MWh

### » Economic Parameters (yearly)

- Discount rate = 5%
- Inflation = 2%
- Increasing energy prices = 2%
- Price ratio District Heat/Natural Gas = 1

➤ **Gas Price = Heating Grid Price**

# 5. Setup

## Economic Parameters (specified costs)

### » Maintenance

- Single apartment = 100 €/year
- Building = 1400 €/year

### » Grid connection

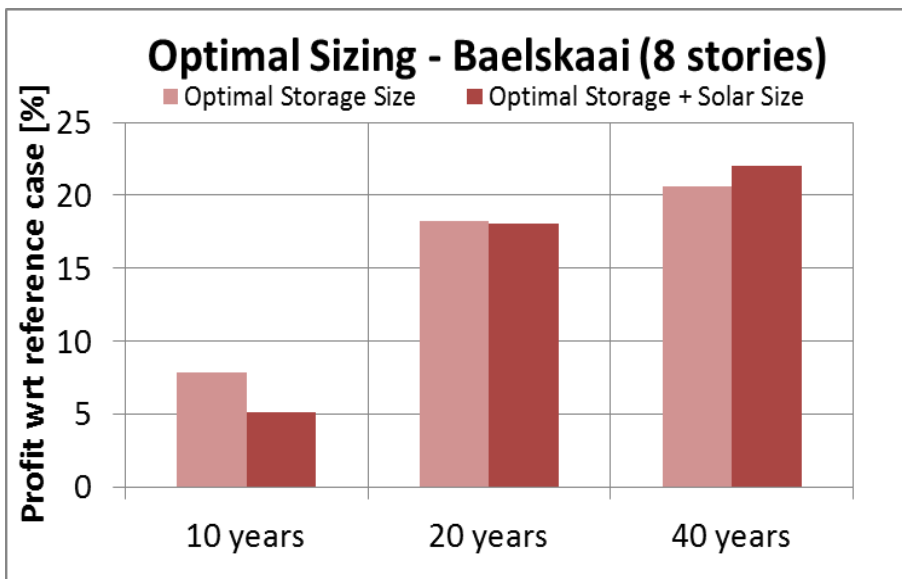
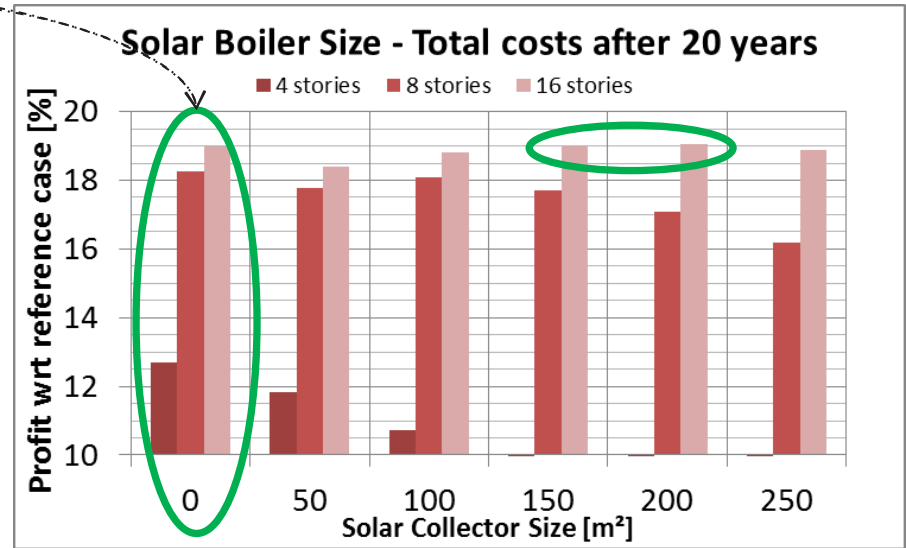
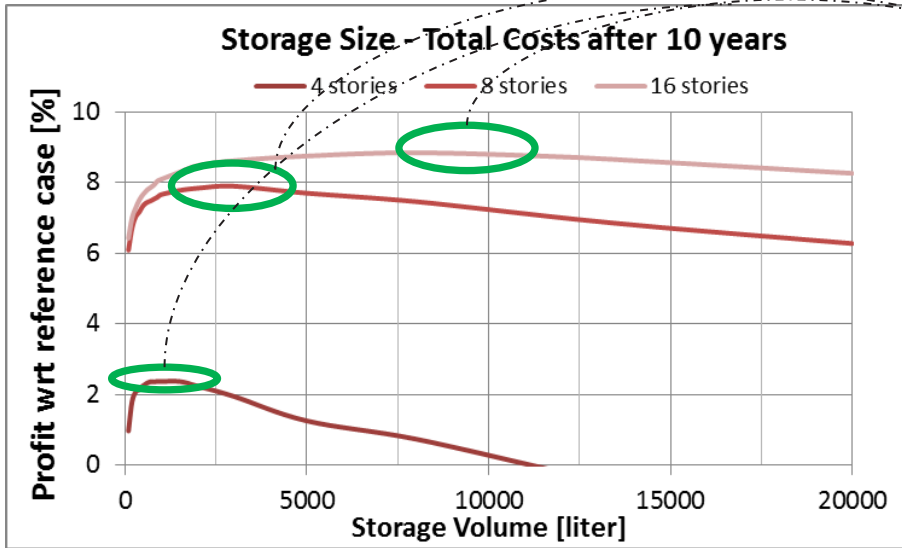
- Gas connectivity single apartment = 200 €
- Gas connectivity general (building) = 1200 €
- Heating grid connectivity (building) = 1200 €

### » Fixed distribution grid fee (for building)

- Natural gas: 350 €/year
- Heating grid: 350 €/year

# 5. Setup - Installation Sizing

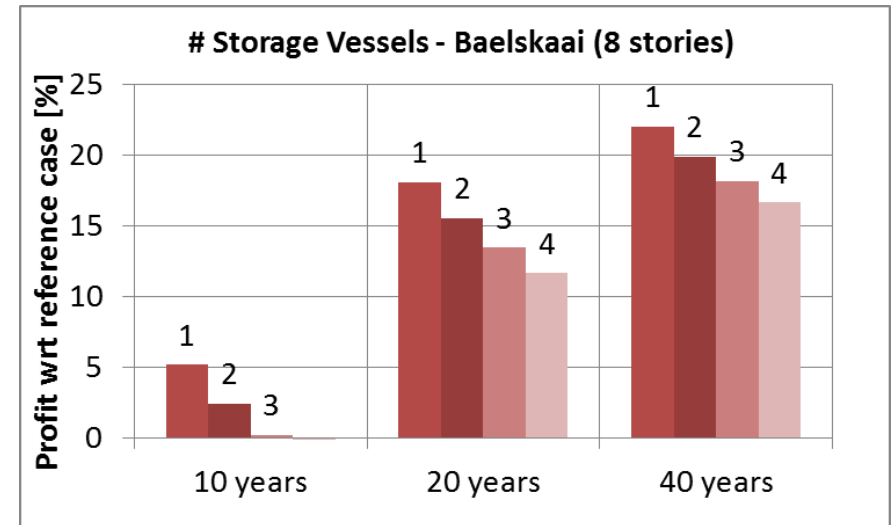
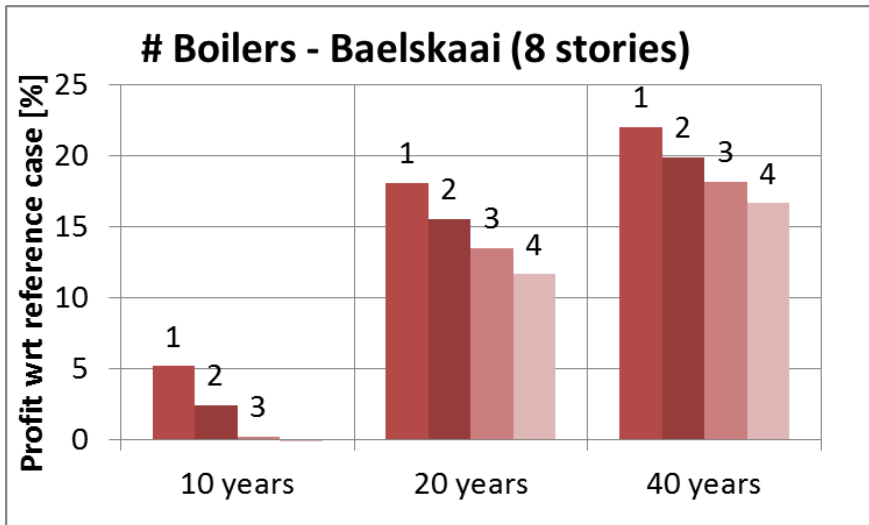
Results displayed: Present Value of Total Costs with respect to Reference Case (= Individual Boilers)



- Optima in Storage and Solar Boiler sizing
- Higher profits wrt reference for **larger buildings!**
- Solar collectors not beneficial when building is too small
- High payback time for solar collectors
- Optimal sizing Baelskaai:
  - 3000 liter storage (no solar)
  - 5000 liter storage, 100 m<sup>2</sup> solar collectors

# 5. Setup - Installation Sizing

Results displayed: Present Value of Total Costs with respect to **Reference Case (= Individual Boilers)**



- Calculations above, made with Baelskaai setup: 5000 litres storage, 100 m<sup>2</sup> solar collectors
- Economy of scale!
- Choosing 1 Boiler/buffer unit is economically optimal
- However:
  - Separating the capacity over several boilers improves system redundancy

# 6. Results

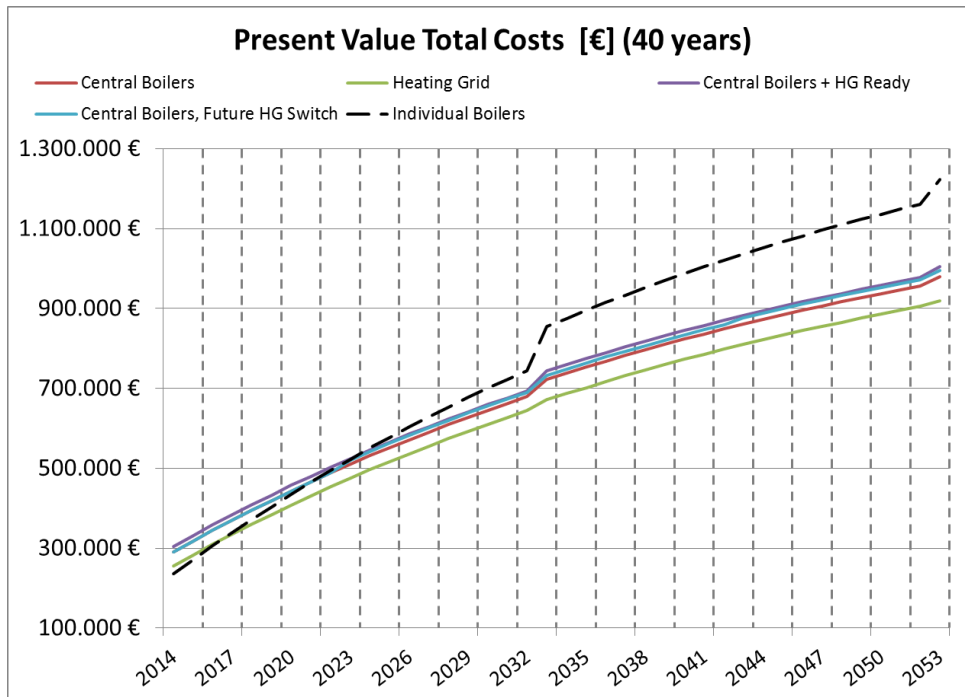
## Final setup and calculation results for Building Baelskaai (= Base Case)

- » 8 story building, 37 apartments, 111 residents
- » Yearly heat demand incl. losses: 90 MWh (DHW) + 502 MWh (Space Heating)
- » 2 x 300 kW Boilers (improved system redundancy)
- » 5000 liter DHW Storage Vessel
- » 100 m<sup>2</sup> Solar Collectors (potential production 55 MWh)
  - **Covering 52% of DHW demand** (47 MWh is used efficiently; 8 MWh overproduction)  
= 8% of total heat demand (space heating + DHW)
- » After 20 years reinvestment of crucial components
  - » Gas Boilers
  - » Heat exchangers (solar collectors, heating grid)
  - » Control Software and utilities
- » Switch to Heating Grid after 10 years

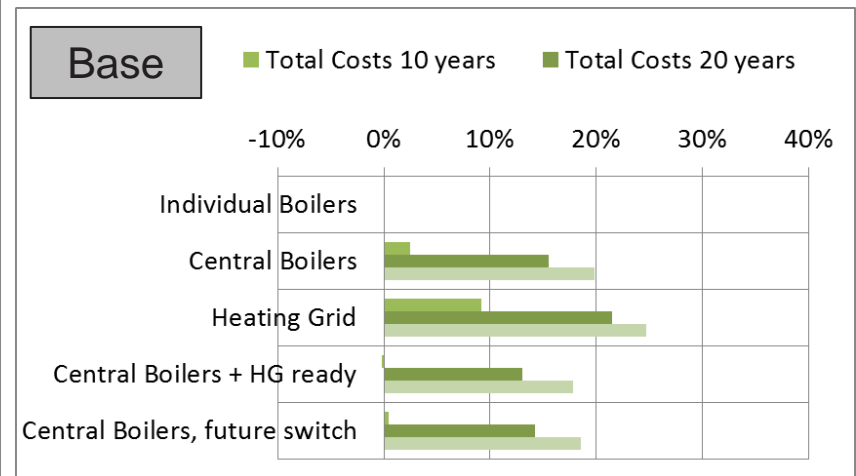


Base

		Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Scenario 5
		Individual Boilers	Central Boilers	Heating Grid	Central Boilers + HG ready	Central Boilers, future switch
<u>Investment</u>	Payback Time [years]		8	3	10	8
<u>Exploitation costs</u>	Yearly cost Single apartment [€]	997	761	761		
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		236	236		
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		24%	24%		
<u>Total Costs 10 years</u>	Total Cost [€]	522.992	510.200	475.167	524.098	520.907
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		12.792	47.825	-1.106	2.085
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		2%	9%	0%	0%
<u>Total Costs 20 years</u>	Total Cost [€]	854.754	721.987	671.163	743.206	732.694
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		132.767	183.591	111.548	122.060
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		16%	21%	13%	14%
<u>Total Costs 40 years</u>	Total Cost [€]	1.222.424	979.428	919.759	1.004.747	995.613
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		242.996	302.664	217.677	226.810
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		20%	25%	18%	19%



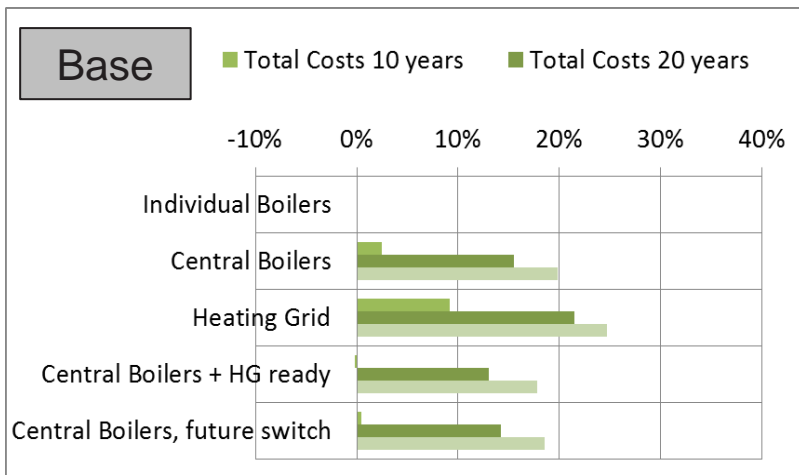
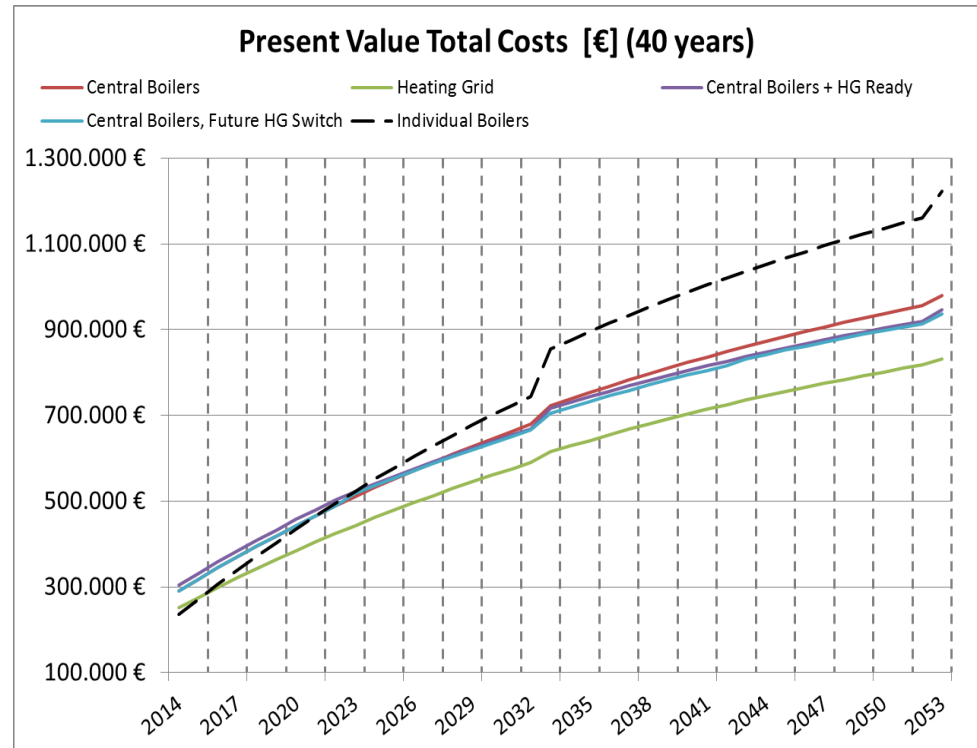
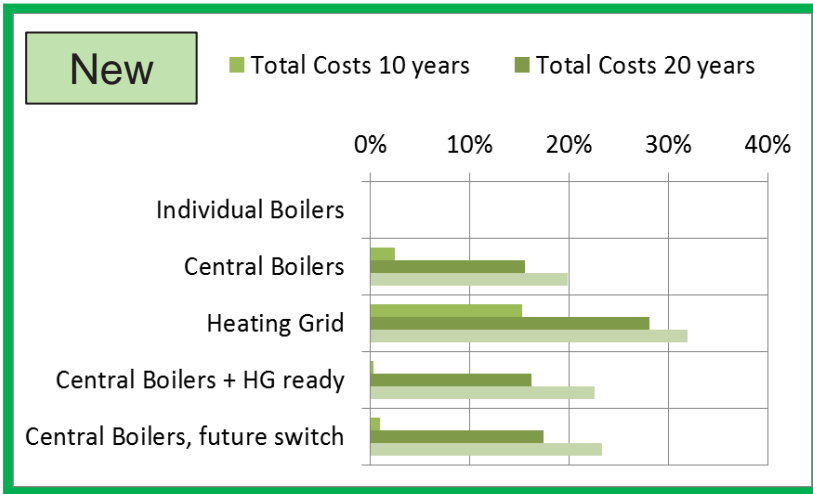
Payback Time = 3 - 8 years  
 Yearly savings/apartm. = 236 €



# 6. Results

## Impact: Heating Grid Price Benefit? (stimulation, subsidising)

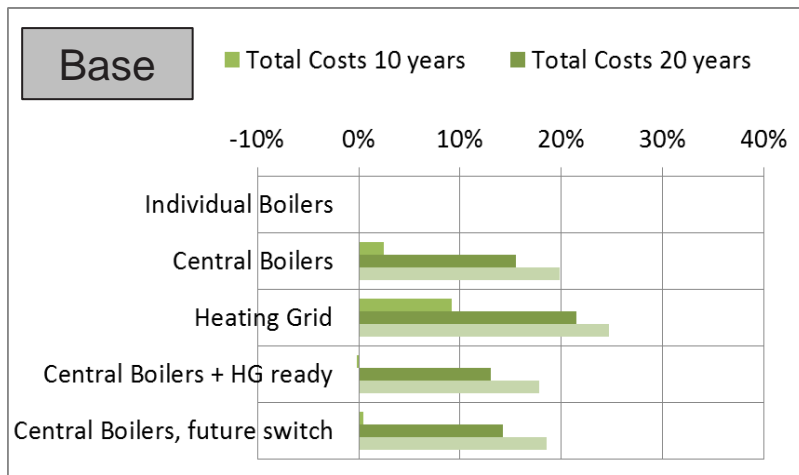
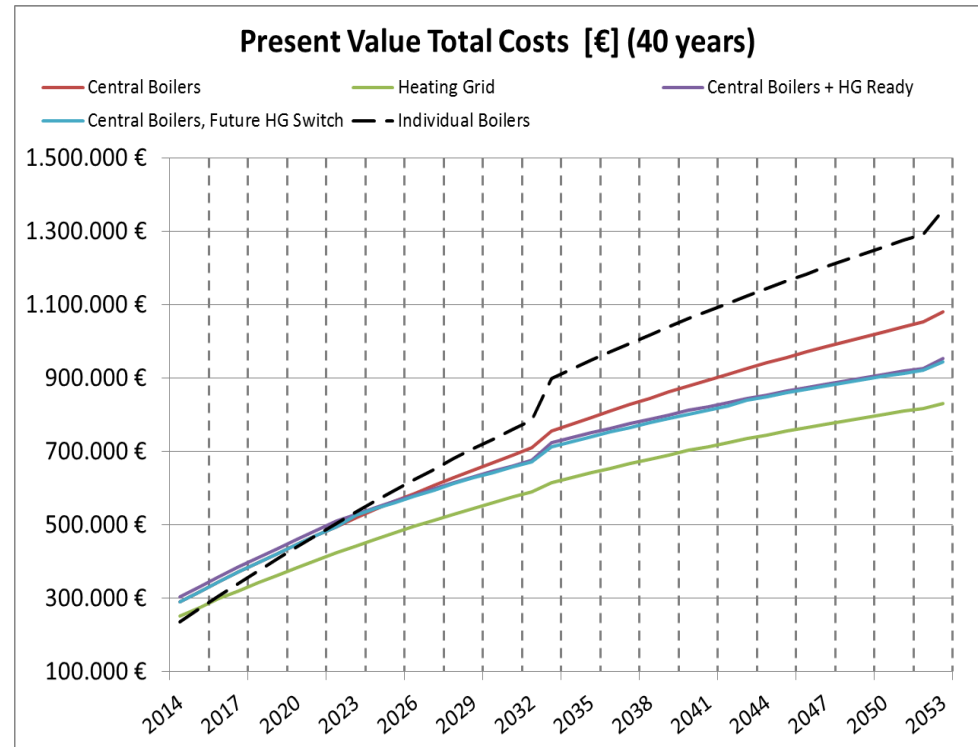
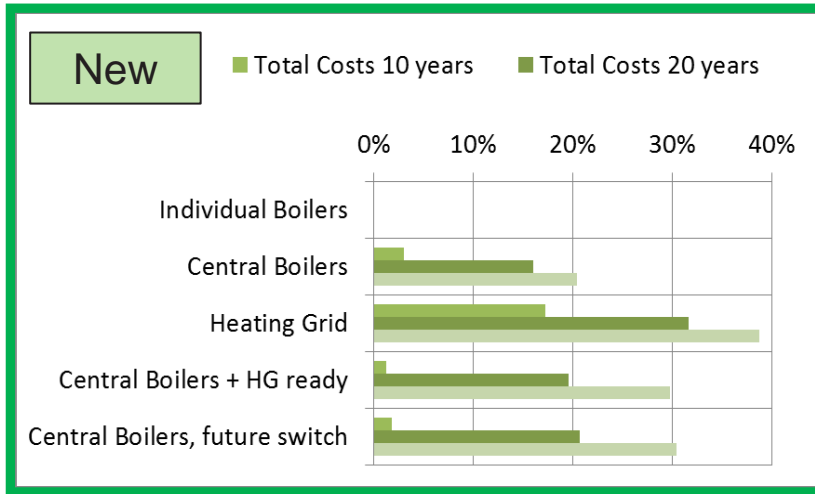
Price ratio HG/gas 1 --> 0,85



# 6. Results

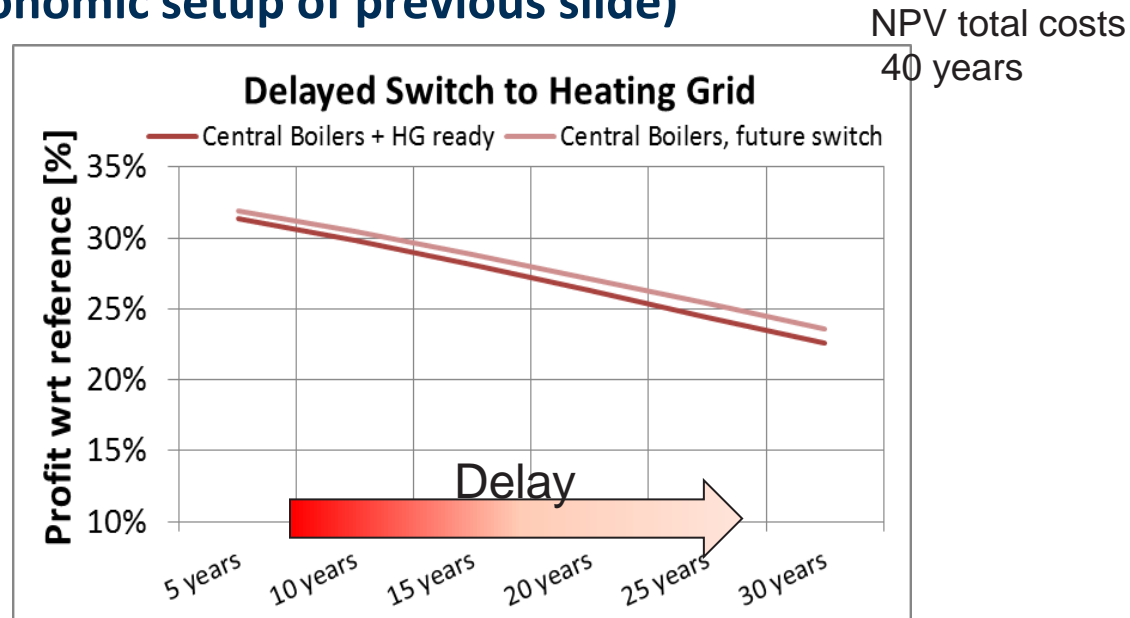
Impact: gasprice + price benefit?

Yearly Increase gasprice 2% --> 3%; Price ratio HG/gas 1 --> 0,85



# 6. Results

## Impact: time of switching to Heating Grid? (following the economic setup of previous slide)

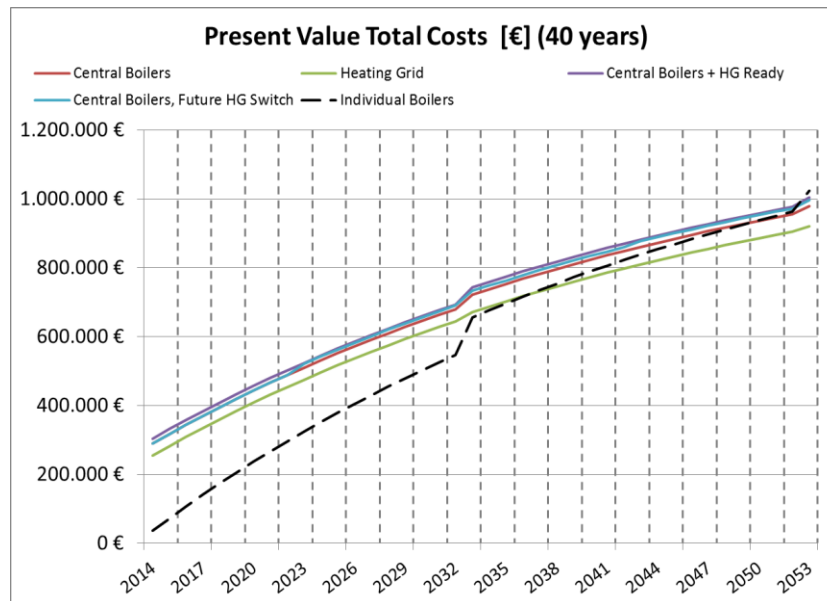


- » **In both cases scenario 4 + 5, postponing the switch to future heating grids = losing money**
- » Slight advantage for scenario 5: Installing the Heating Grid equipment at year 1 (scenario 4, heat exchanger alongside the central gas fired boilers), without connection it to a heating grid, is economically less beneficial than postponing the investment needed for conversion, till the time of switching in the future (scenario 5)
  - Installation cost will be relatively lower after a period of time (due to inflation and benefits from other investment opportunities that can be made in the meantime)

# 6. Results

Is it feasible to convert existing buildings to Communal Heating?  
 (at a time when individual boilers are **NOT** in need for replacement)

		Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Scenario 5
		Individual Boilers	Central Boilers	Heating Grid	Central Boilers + HG ready	Central Boilers, future switch
<b>Investment</b>	Payback Time [years]		36	23	39	39
<b>Exploitation costs</b>	Yearly cost Single apartment [€]	997	761	761		
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		236	236		
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		<b>24%</b>	<b>24%</b>		
<b>Total Costs 10 years</b>	Total Cost [€]	324.746	510.200	475.167	524.098	520.907
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		-185.454	-150.421	-199.352	-196.161
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		<b>-57%</b>	<b>-46%</b>	<b>-61%</b>	<b>-60%</b>
<b>Total Costs 20 years</b>	Total Cost [€]	656.508	721.987	671.163	743.206	732.694
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		-65.479	-14.655	-86.698	-76.186
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		<b>-10%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>Total Costs 40 years</b>	Total Cost [€]	1.024.178	979.428	919.759	1.004.747	995.613
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		44.750	104.418	19.431	28.564
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		<b>4%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>

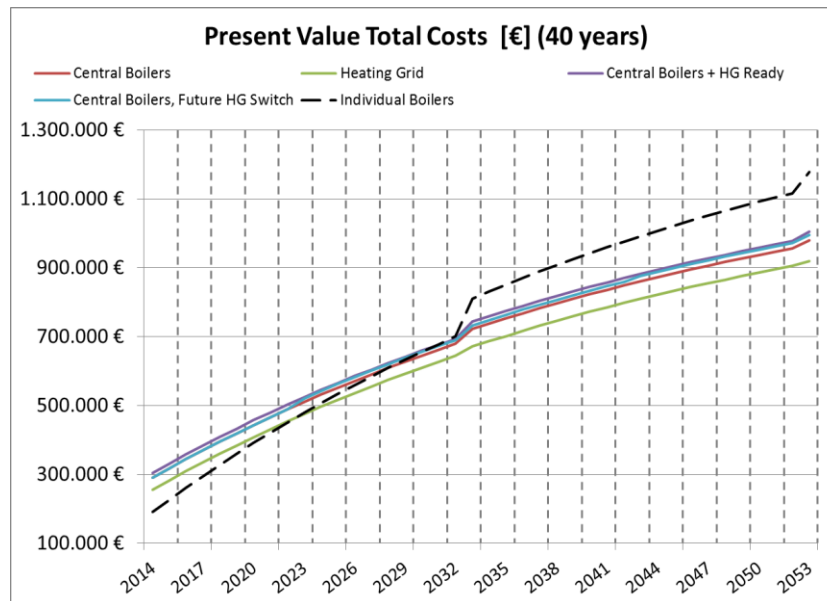


**No, very large payback times  
 Implementing Individual Boilers  
 = Lock-In!**

# 6. Results

Is it feasible to convert existing buildings to Communal Heating?  
(at a time when old individual boilers are in need for replacement)

		Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Scenario 5
		Individual Boilers	Central Boilers	Heating Grid	Central Boilers + HG ready	Central Boilers, future switch
<u>Investment</u>	Payback Time [years]		15	9	17	17
<u>Exploitation costs</u>	Yearly cost Single apartment [€]	997	761	761		
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		236	236		
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		24%	24%		
<u>Total Costs 10 years</u>	Total Cost [€]	478.666	510.200	475.167	524.098	520.907
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		-31.534	3.499	-45.432	-42.241
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		-7%	1%	-9%	-9%
<u>Total Costs 20 years</u>	Total Cost [€]	810.428	721.987	671.163	743.206	732.694
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		88.441	139.265	67.222	77.734
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		11%	17%	8%	10%
<u>Total Costs 40 years</u>	Total Cost [€]	1.178.098	979.428	919.759	1.004.747	995.613
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		198.670	258.338	173.351	182.484
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		17%	22%	15%	15%



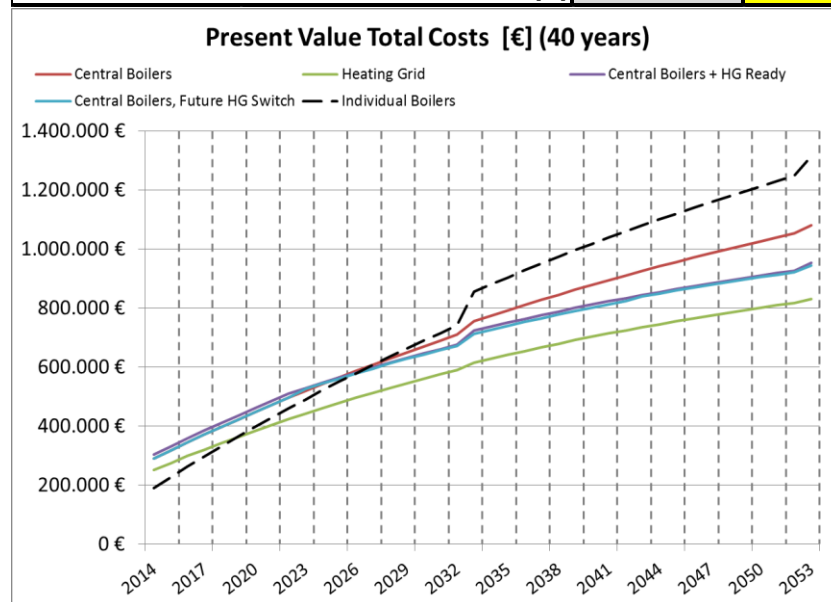
... Large Payback times  
Implementing Individual Boilers  
= **Lock-In!**

# 6. Results

Is it feasible to convert existing buildings to Communal Heating?  
 (at a time when old individual boilers are in need for replacement

... and in case of economic stimulation Heating Grids + Gas Inflation? Setup according to slide 19)

		Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Scenario 5
		Individual Boilers	Central Boilers	Heating Grid	Central Boilers + HG ready	Central Boilers, future switch
<u>Investment</u>	Payback Time [years]		14	5	13	12
<u>Exploitation costs</u>	Yearly cost Single apartment [€]	997	761	662		
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		236	335		
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		<b>24%</b>	<b>34%</b>		
<u>Total Costs 10 years</u>	Total Cost [€]	491.055	519.427	442.872	528.772	525.581
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		-28.372	48.183	-37.718	-34.526
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		<b>-6%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<u>Total Costs 20 years</u>	Total Cost [€]	855.208	755.339	614.699	723.712	713.200
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		99.869	240.509	131.496	142.008
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		<b>12%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<u>Total Costs 40 years</u>	Total Cost [€]	1.314.345	1.080.903	831.675	953.631	944.498
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [€]		233.442	482.670	360.714	369.847
	Difference wrt scenario 1 [%]		<b>18%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>



... **Yes**

- Feasible for connections to heating grids
- Reasonable payback time

# 7. Conclusions

- » Individual Boilers = Lock-in!
- » Communal Heating with centralised gas boilers
  - payback time 8 years, apartment owners yearly save 236€ on energy and maintenance costs
  - Preparing for future solutions in heating grids and sustainable energy
  - Combination with Solar Heat or PV = complying with new EPB
- » Lessons learned
  - Economy of scale, optimisation opportunities!
  - Best scenario → immediate connection to heating grid
  - Second best → Central Boilers / future switch to heating grid (delayed investment)
  - Third best → future switch to heating grid (immediate investment)
  - Worst scenario → Individual Boilers



# 7. Conclusions

- » Cities should consider enforcing Communal heating in their policies and vision for future project developments
  - Economically profitable
  - Easy integration of renewables (benefit towards EPB)
  - Clear benefits for buyers:
    - Lower energy bill
    - No worries about maintenance
    - No worries about installation reinvestment
    - Same comfort in terms of heat supply
    - No gas-related dangers
    - Green image, Modern building, Connected City

# 8. Questions? Input?

- » Other input parameters? (technical, economical?)
  - » Other cases to examine?
  - » Some notes:
    - Temporal occupancy of coastal apartments in Oosteroever may be problematic for communal heating profitability
    - Base scenario equals the price of Heating Grid heat to the Gas Price. Therefore, the profitability of communal heat will only get stronger by:
      - Acquisition of cheaper waste heat from nearby plants
      - Subsidising mechanisms for green Heat
      - Solar PV to cover system electricity consumption
      - Lower gas prices for operator of large Heating Grid
- ...