

# Agro Energie Schwyz AG

How to build and integrate a district heating network -  
success story with hurdles

IEA Bioenergy - Baden, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dr. Urs Rhyner



# Programm

1. **Motivation**
2. AGRO Energie Schwyz AG
3. Biomass power plant
4. District heating
5. Economics
6. Heat accumulator
7. Agro Energie Rigi
8. Agro Energie Ausserschwyz
9. Non-technical barriers

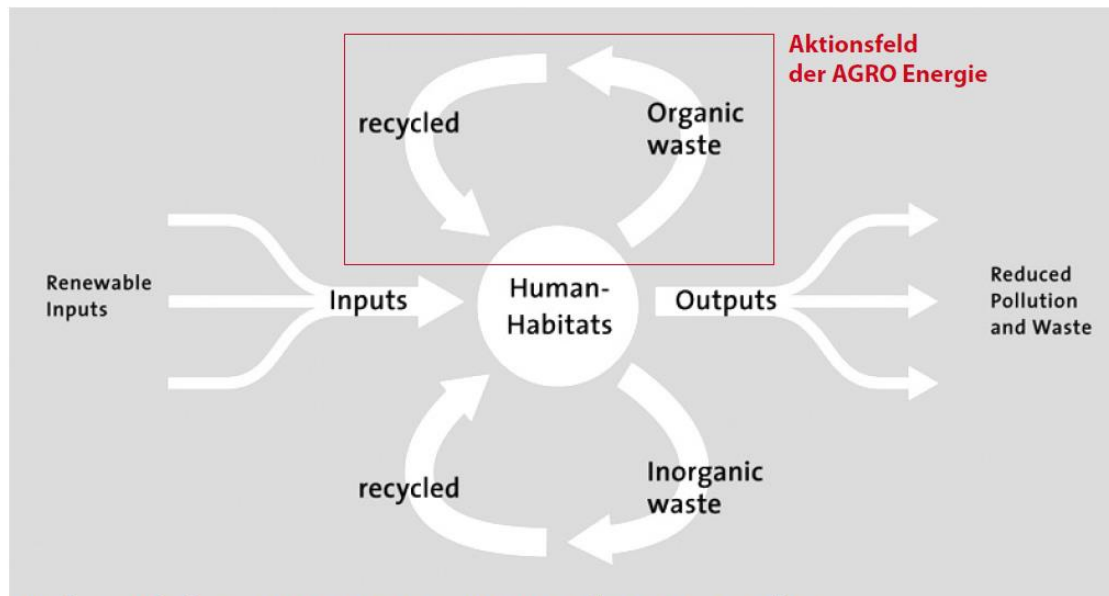
# Swiss Farm – Manure Production



# Sustainability – think global, act local



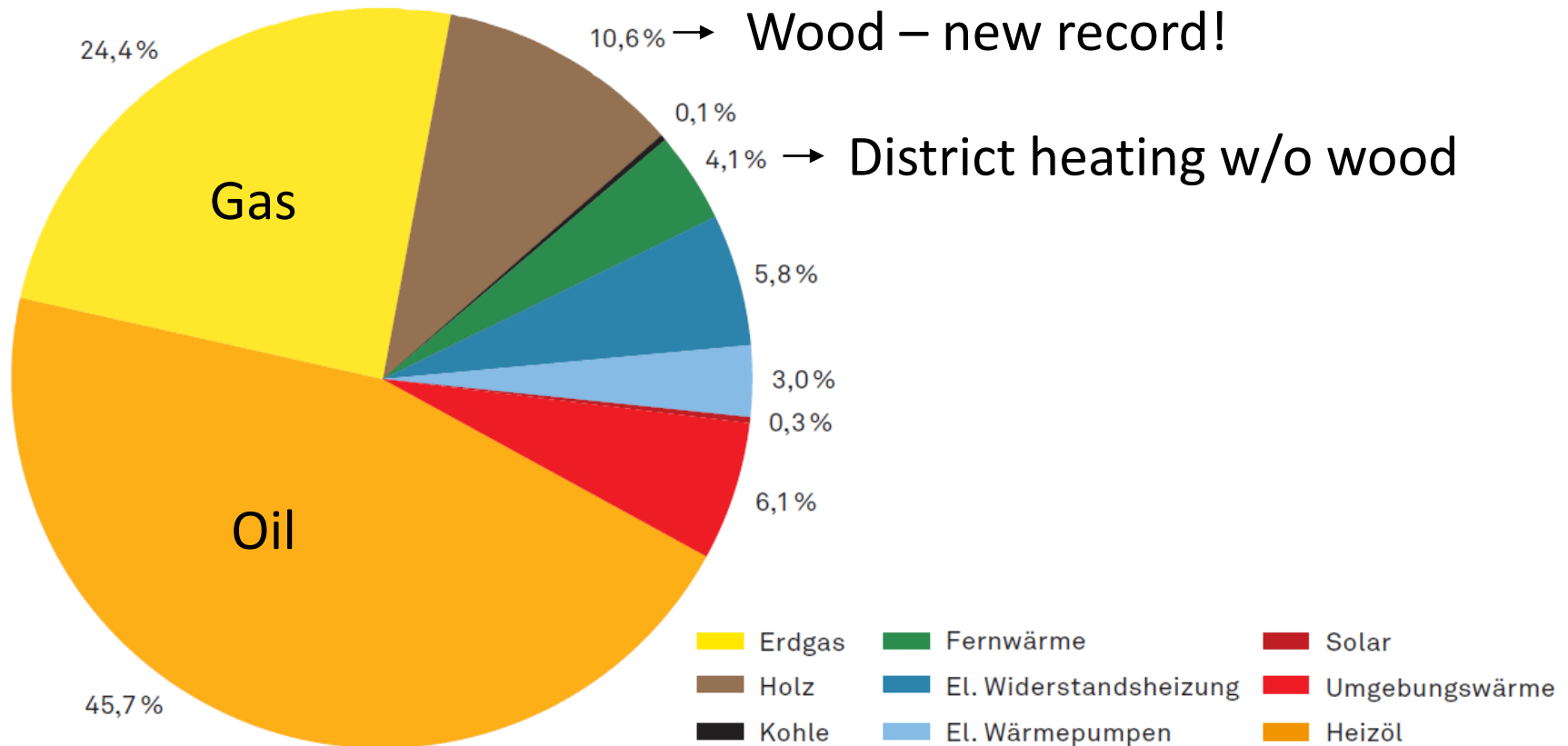
Linear metabolism – cities consume and pollute at a high rate



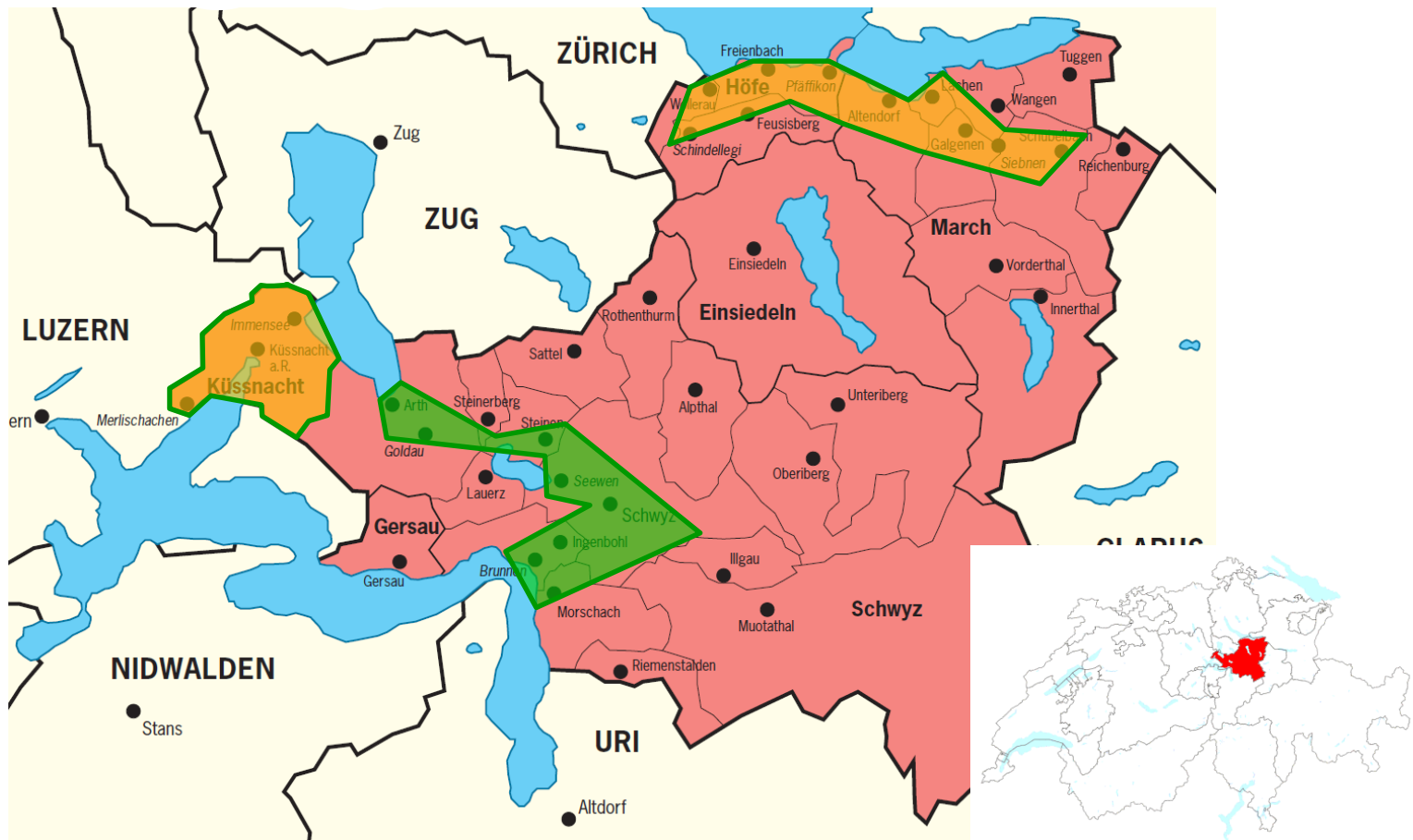
Circular metabolism – cities minimise new inputs and maximise recycling

Richard Rogers, *Cities for a Small Planet*, 1996

# Swiss heat production



# Agro Energie DH in the canton of Schwyz



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## Who is Agro Energie Schwyz AG?

AGRO Energie Schwyz AG provides heat and power to the region of Schwyz by using renewable and local resources in doing so fostering the region by increasing its independence, adding value, facilitating jobs and promoting sustainability.





## Company

- 2006 founding of AGRO Energie Schwyz AG
- 2009 commissioning of the plant
- Founding shareholders  
semi-public: OAK, EBS, Genossame Schwyz  
private: Baptist Reichmuth, Georges Schelbert
- Shareholders since 2016: pension fund (Profond  
Vorsorgeeinrichtung), Genossame Schwyz, Baptist  
Reichmuth, Georges Schelbert

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# Biomass Power Plant



## 20 MW<sub>th</sub> wood-fired boilers

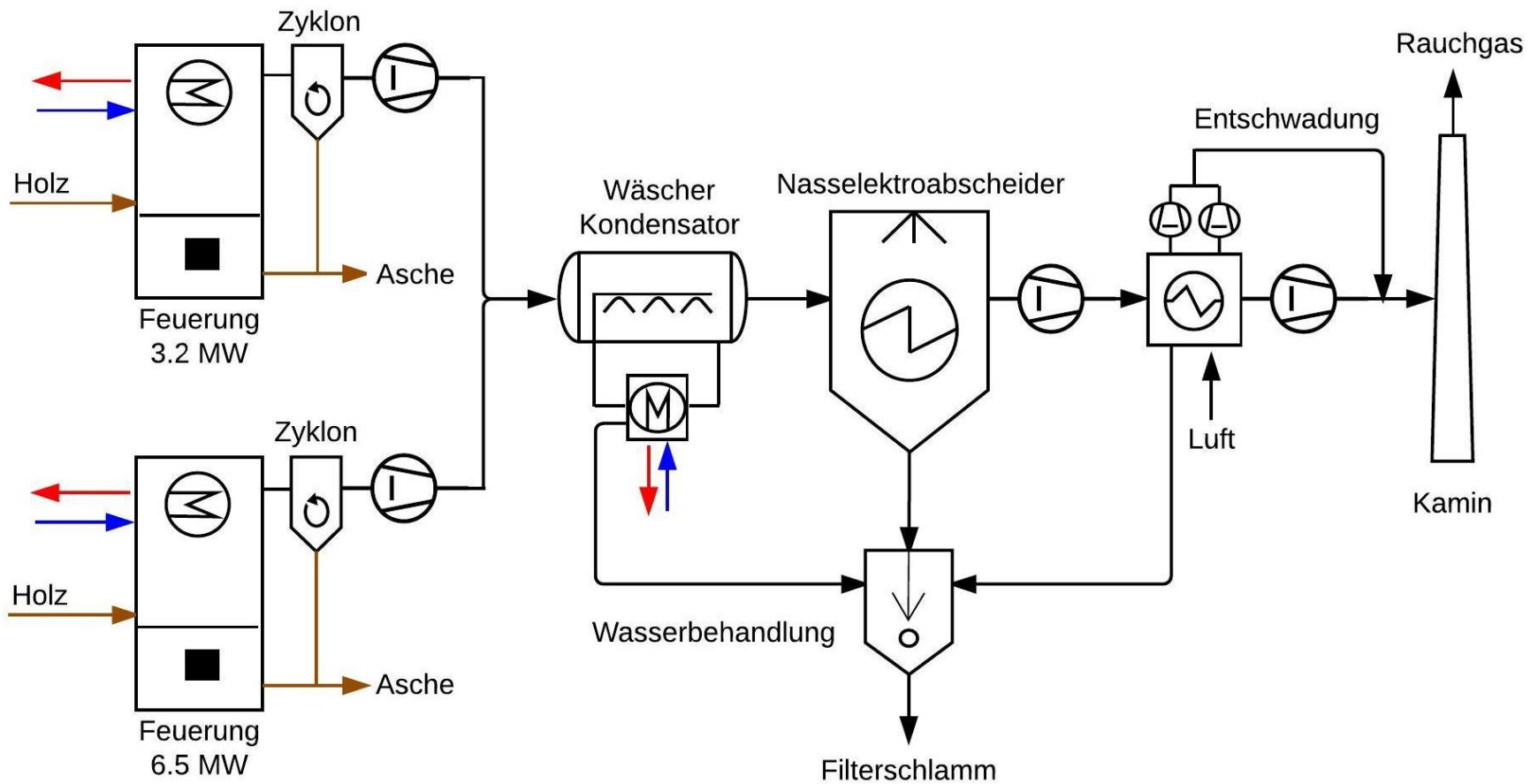


# Biogas fermentation plant



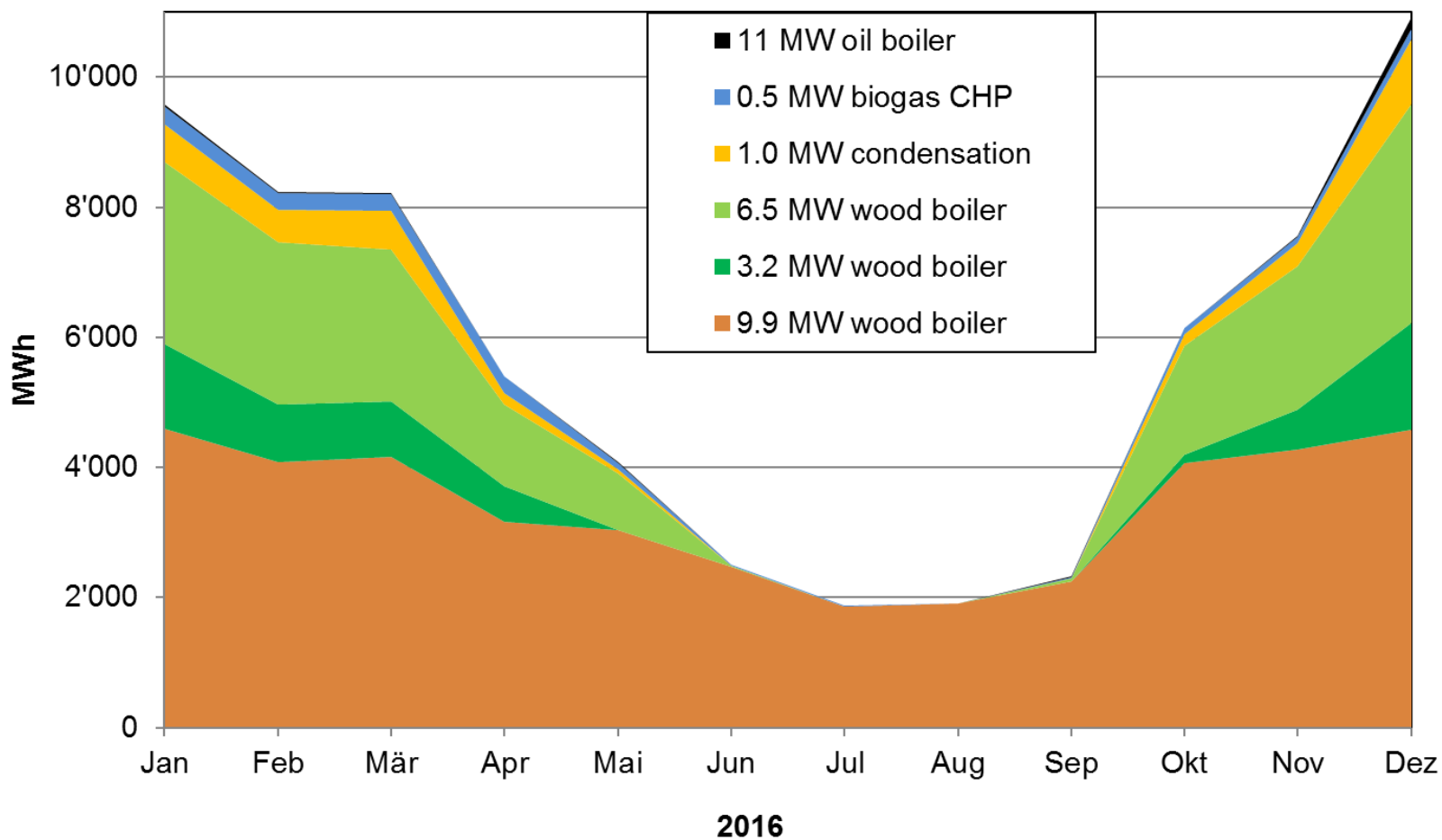
anaerobic fermentation, 26'500 t/a, 526 kW<sub>e</sub>l CHP

# Flue gas treatment





# Heat demand 2016





## Resources



2016	weight
	[t]
wood chips (wet)	3'400
urban waste wood (dry)	19'800
<b>Total wood</b>	<b>23'200</b>
solid digestate	2'700
wet digestate	24'100
<b>total digestate</b>	<b>26'800</b>

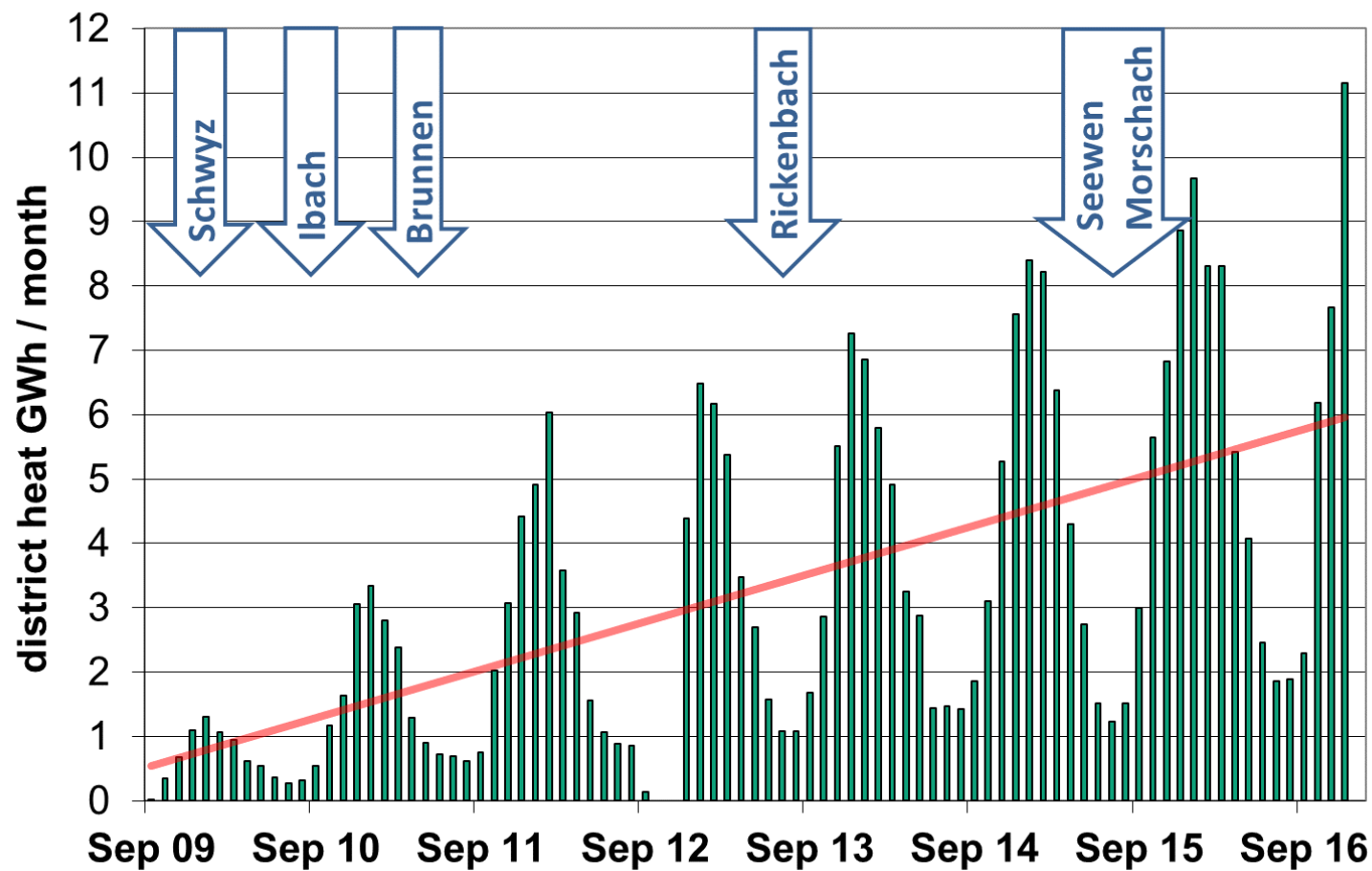
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## 26 MW district heating



## Success story



## Key clients

Spital Schwyz  
850 kW



Swiss Holiday  
Park,  
Morschach  
1700 kW

Kollegium  
Schwyz  
700 kW



Kloster  
Ingenbohl  
1100 kW



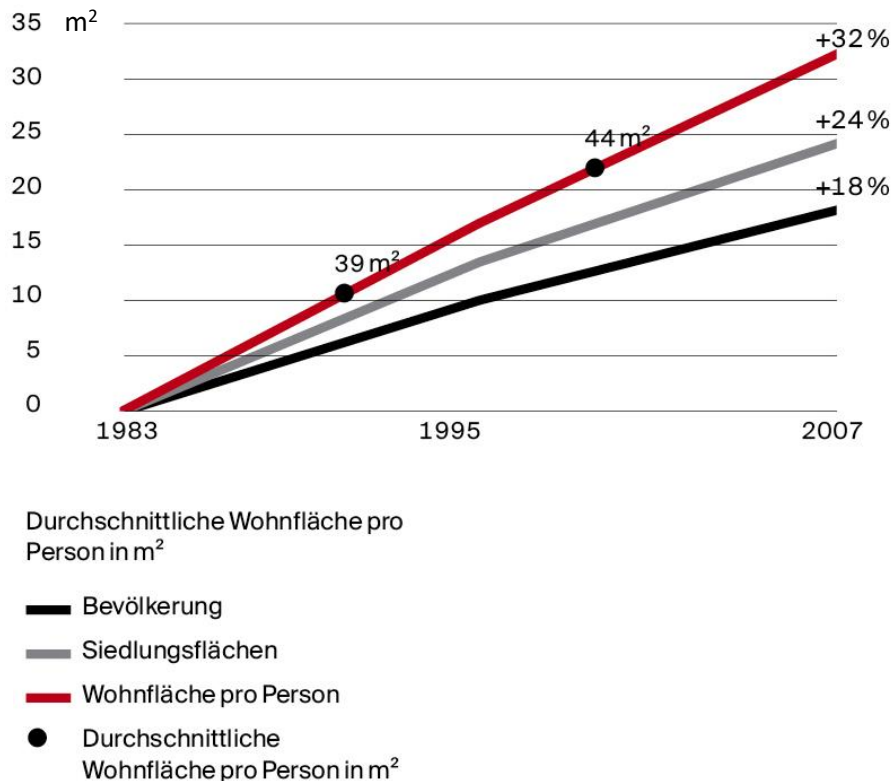
supply 95°C

return 50°C

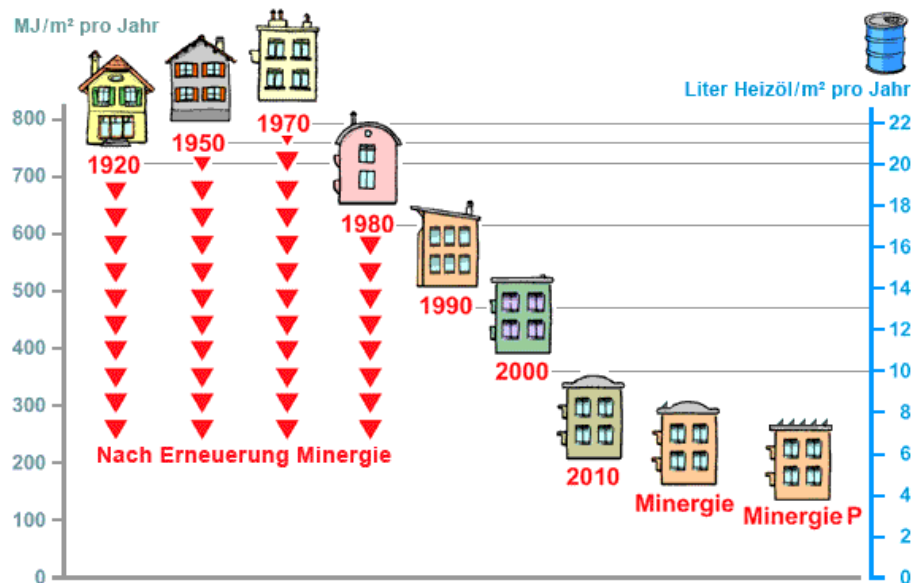
leak monitoring  
pipe isolation cat III

# Future heat demand?

Increasing living area m<sup>2</sup> per person!



Retrofitting rate of 0.8 % per year in Switzerland!



[www.energie-umwelt.ch/haus/renovation-und-heizung/gebaeudeplanung/waermebedarf-und-geak](http://www.energie-umwelt.ch/haus/renovation-und-heizung/gebaeudeplanung/waermebedarf-und-geak)

Increasing room temperature, living room > 23°C

## Renewable energy production 2016

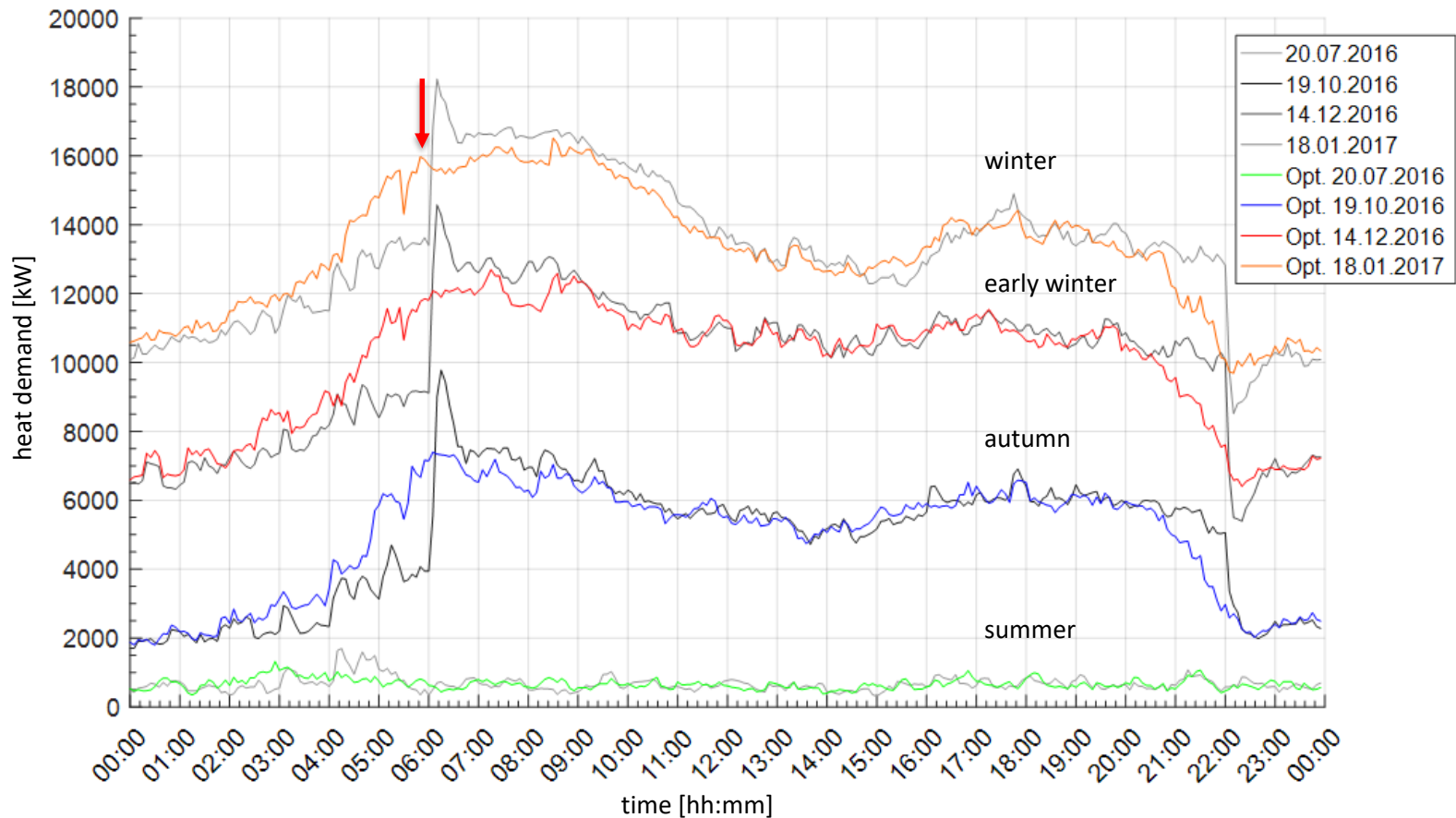
- Heat production: 80 GWh (8000 average households)
- Power production: 13 GWh (3250 average households)





# Optimisation of heat consumers

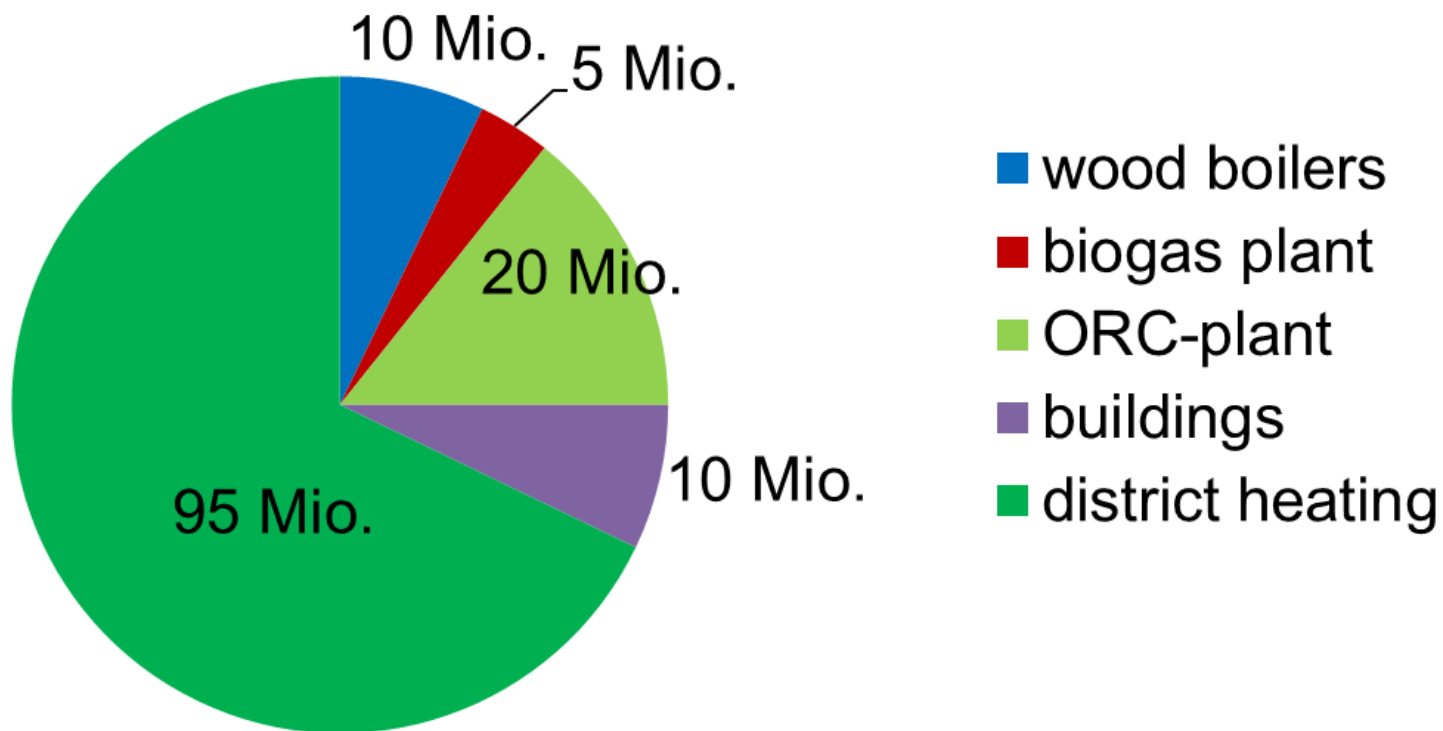
Simulation: peak reduction by time shifting of consumers and interruption of floor heatings



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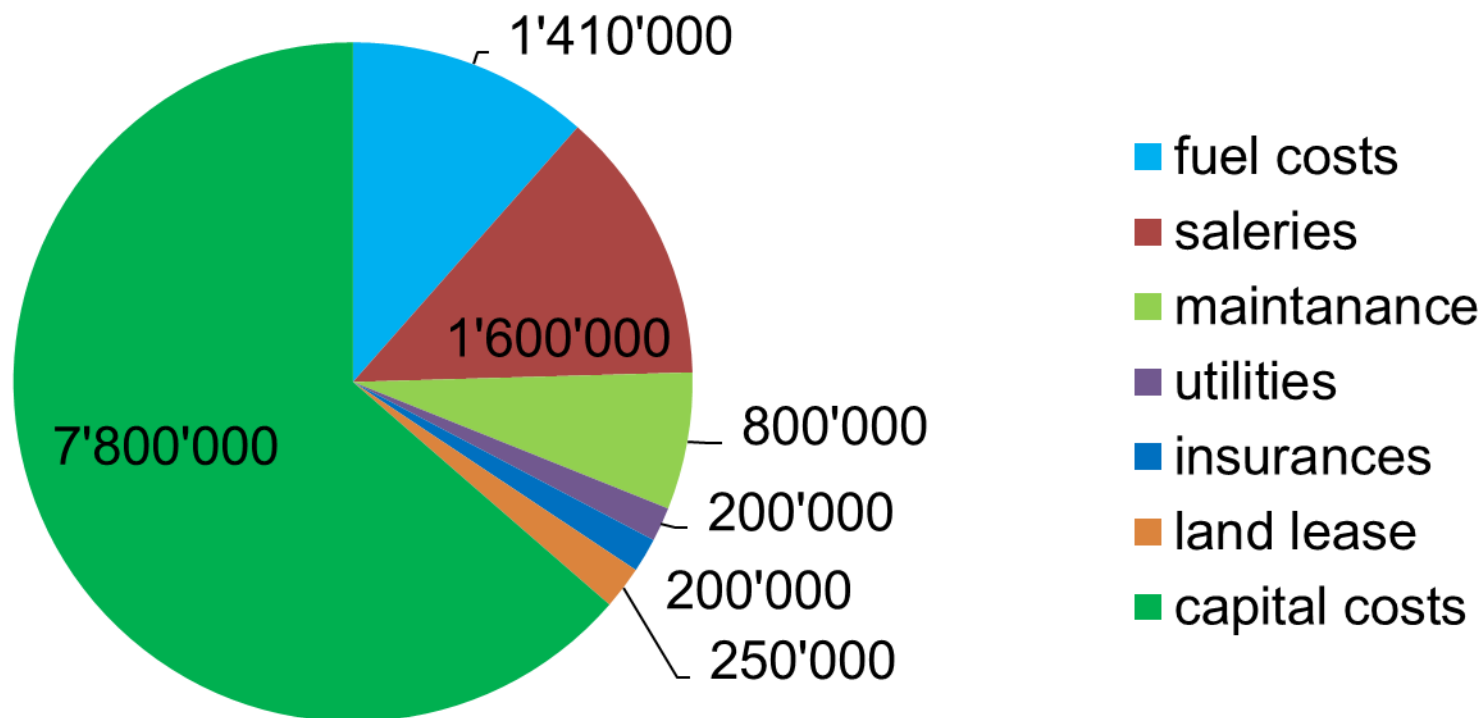
## Investments [CHF]



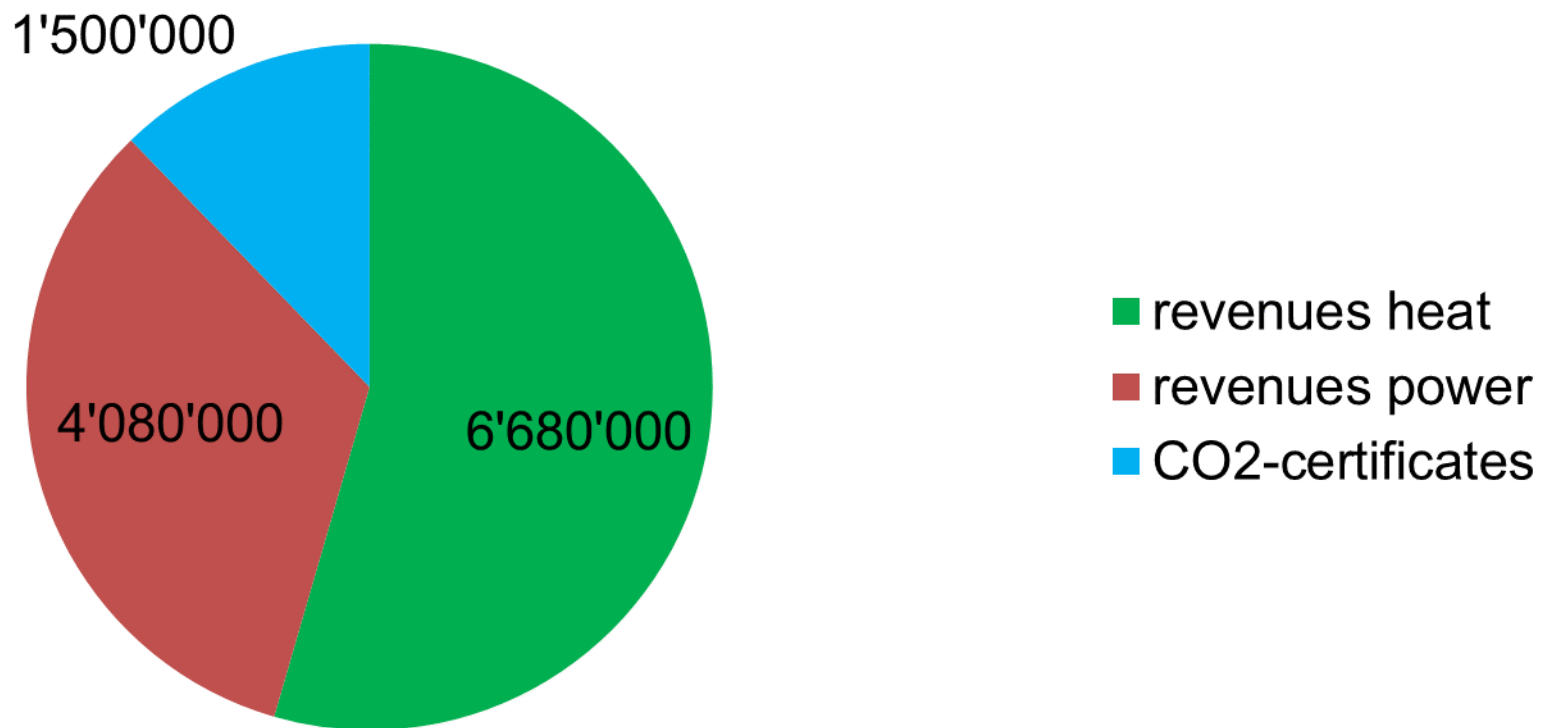
**Total: CHF >140 Mio.**

1 EUR = 1.15 CHF

## Operating costs [CHF]



## Revenues [CHF]



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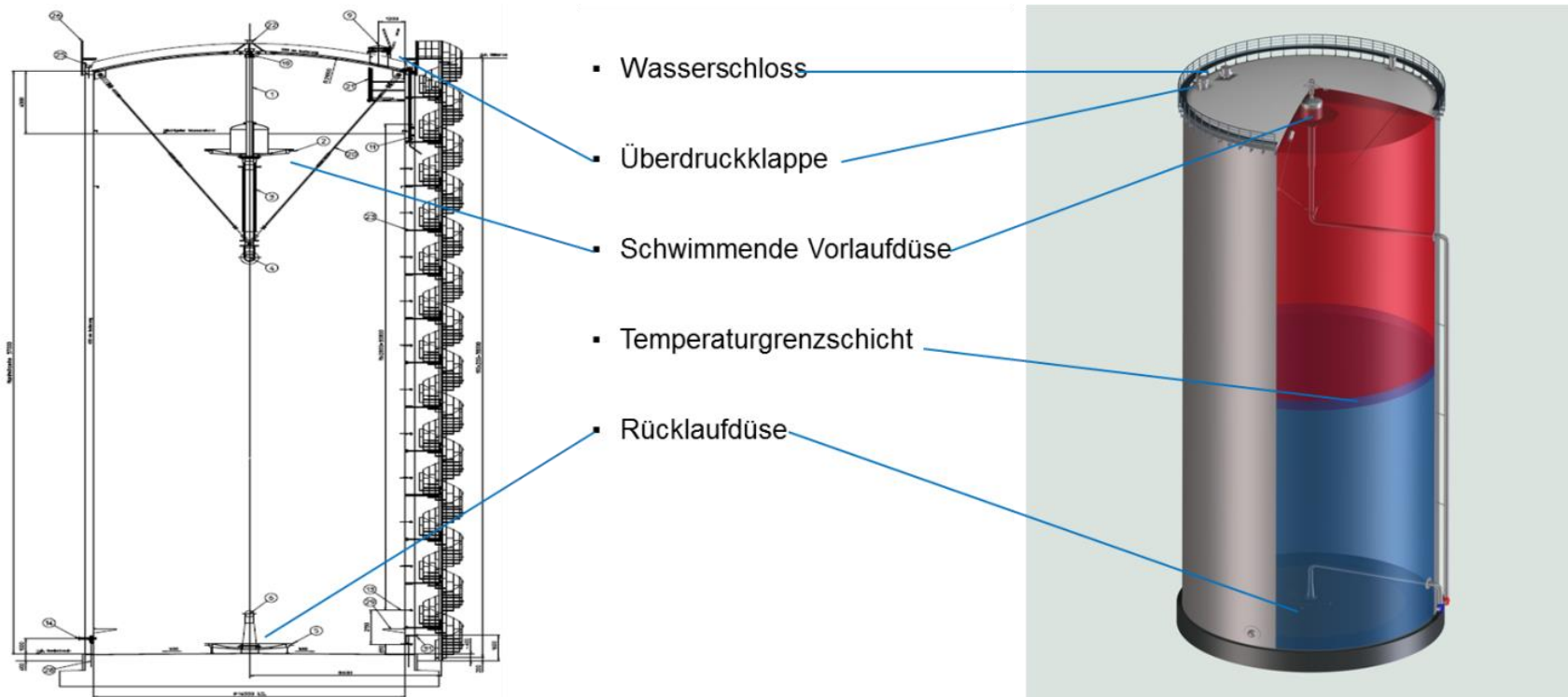
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## Heat accumulator as key technology

- Security of supply
- Decoupling of heat and power production from heat consumption
- Liberalisation of power market
- Efficiency increase (emissions, pressure maintenance)
- competitive pricing position



# Sensible heat accumulator technology



height: 50 m, diameter: 30 m, volume: 28'000 m<sup>3</sup>, isolation: 0.5 m, storage medium: water, capacity: 1300 MWh (95/55 °C)



# Visualisation



## Project update – permission process

- ✓ 2012 first project attempt → rejected 2013
- ✓ 2013 second project attempt
- ✓ 2014/2015 round table discussions with stakeholders
- ✓ 2016 start of permission process → objection
- ✓ 2017 objection solved
  - 2017 13th Dec: community assembly
  - 2018 4th March: voting for new building law
  - 2018 summer: land development plan → permission in autumn
  - 2018 winter: building application
  - 2019 spring: building permission
  - 2019 start construction
  - 2020 commissioning

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# AGRO Energie Rigi – 20 MW<sub>th</sub>



## Wood power plant next to a saw mill

Synergies in regards of:

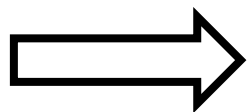
- Supply / demand of wood and bark
- Transportation of wood chips / urban waste wood
- Heat production / consumption
- Saw dust disposal / wood pellets production



## Input

### Wood resources

- 51 % saw mill residues
- 41 % urban waste wood
- 8 % wood chips



### Saw dust

- 100 % Restholz

## Power plant

### Wood fired power station

- 20 MW<sub>th</sub> boiler
- 4.5 MW steam turbine
- flue gas cleaning
- Heat accumulator



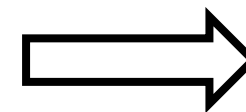
### Wood pellet plant

- Conveyor drier

## Output

### Energy

- 32 GWh power  
= 8000 households
- 64 GWh heat  
= 6000 households



### Wood pellets

- 40'000 m<sup>3</sup>/a

## Environment-friendly


Saving:

12.5 Mio. liter oil

33'000 t CO<sub>2</sub>


Heating oil

45.8 UBP




Natural gas

34.0 UBP



Heat pump

25.5 UBP



AGRO Energie Rigi AG

8.1 UBP



Die Umweltbelastung verschiedener Heizsysteme im Vergleich

Umweltbelastungspunkte (UBP/MJ Wärme)

Quelle: ESU-services Ltd. Zürich





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# AGRO Energie Ausserschwyz – 12 MW<sub>th</sub>



Input: 12 MW<sub>th</sub> (wood chips, urban waste wood)

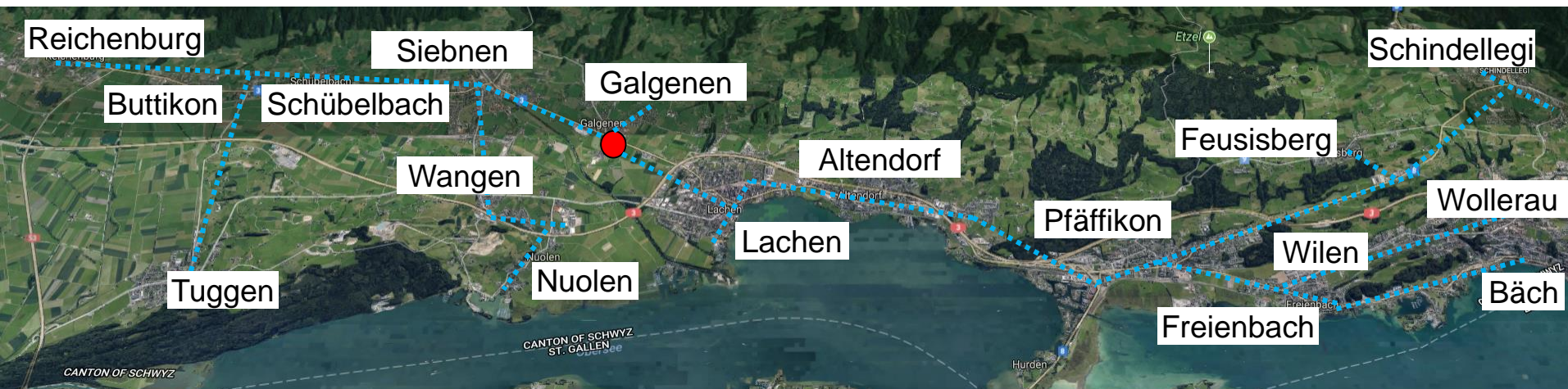
Output: 8 MW<sub>th</sub>, 1.8 MW<sub>el</sub>

Power: 3200 households

Heat: 6400 households

Savings: 8 Mio. liter oil, 21'200 t CO<sub>2</sub>

# District heating Ausserschwyz



- **Inhabitants: 80'000**
- **Households: 25'000**

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## Non-technical barriers

- Financing
- Building permit
- Competition
- Regulation / subsidies
- Individual energy concepts



**Thank you for  
your attention!**

