April 20th, 2021

Heating Electrification Strategies to Decarbonize BU's Charles River Campus: Phase 2 Focus on Decreasing Peak Electrical Demand

- 1. Context & Phase 2 Focus
- 2. Strategies to Minimize Peak Loads & Avoid Electrical Service Upgrades
- 3. Financial Analysis of Alternative Electric Heating Strategies
- 4. Cost of Reducing Carbon Emissions

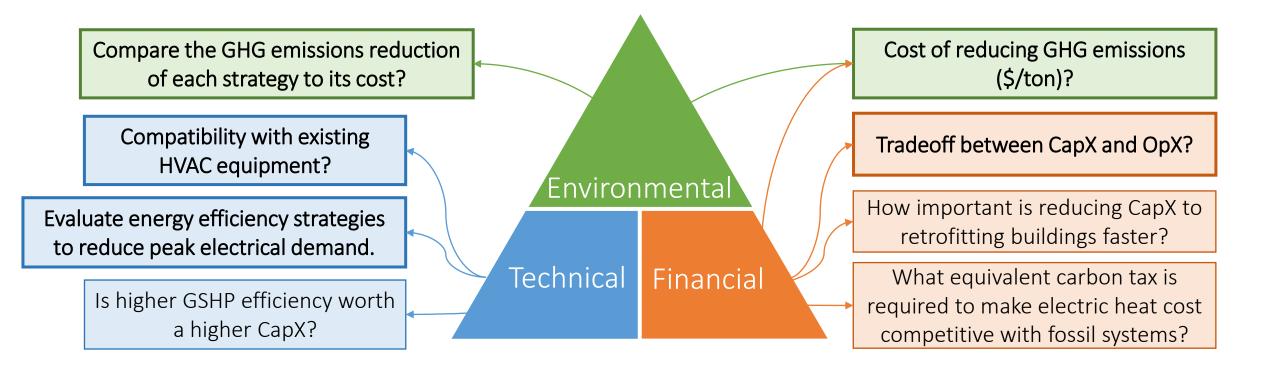
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### Context & Phase 2 Focus

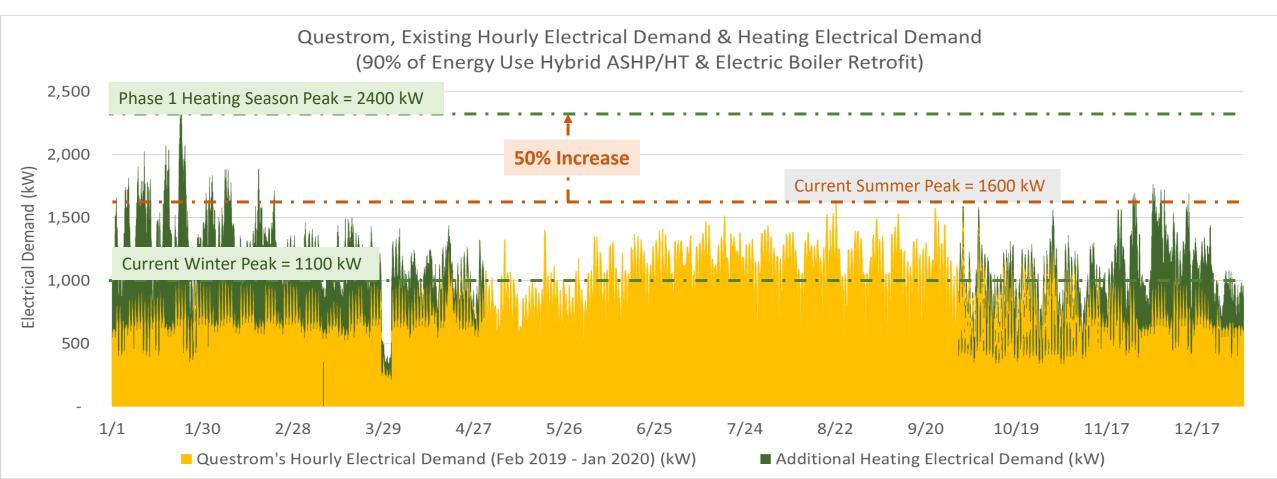
Driving Question: How can we electrify the greatest % of BU's fossil heating systems in the shortest time given limited capital and operating budgets?

- <u>Phase 1 Results</u>: Hybrid systems of heat pumps and electric boilers significantly reduce CapX and NPV
- <u>MEP Review</u>: Do proposed electric heating retrofits require upgrading a building's electrical service?
- **<u>Phase 2 Focus</u>**: How can BU electrify its heating systems without exceeding installed electrical capacity?



### Problem: Phase 1 Result Exceeds Max Electrical Capacity

- <u>Phase 1 Result</u>: Use a Hybrid ASHP/HT & Electric Boiler system to minimize CapX
  - Peak Electrical Demand exceeds existing capacity on coldest days by 50%
  - When outside temp <40F, greater heating demand & lower ASHP's COP/heating capacity



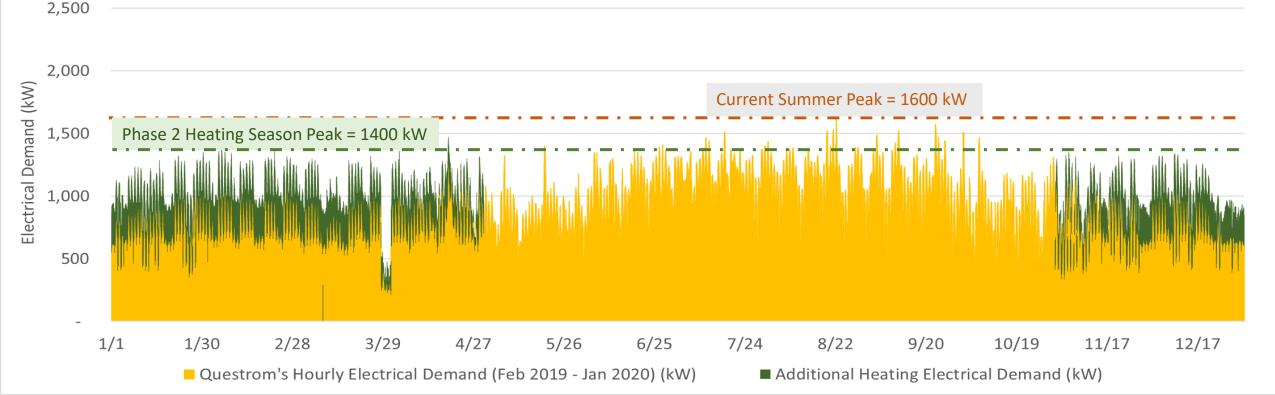
### Phase 2: Strategies to Avoid Electrical Service Upgrades

- Decrease peak heating load with EE measures (airflow optimization)
- Use existing fossil-fuel boilers (NG) for supplemental heat on coldest days (only 10% of energy use)

ightarrow NG boilers also provides backup heating capacity

• Lower thermal operating temps (130F) enable more efficient electric heating equipment: low temp ASHPs

Questrom, Existing Hourly Electrical Demand & Heating Electrical Demand (90% of Energy Use Hybrid ASHP/LT & NG Boiler Retrofit)



### Financial Analysis of Alternative Electrification Strategies

- Validated financial model with Shaun Finn (BU's VP of Budget, Planning, & Business Affairs)
  Capital limitations → strategies that minimize CapX important
- Consider impact of proposed BERDO ACP cost on GHG emissions (\$234/MTon)
- <u>Recommendation</u>: ASHP/LT & NG Boiler Hybrid requires lowest CapX and NPV

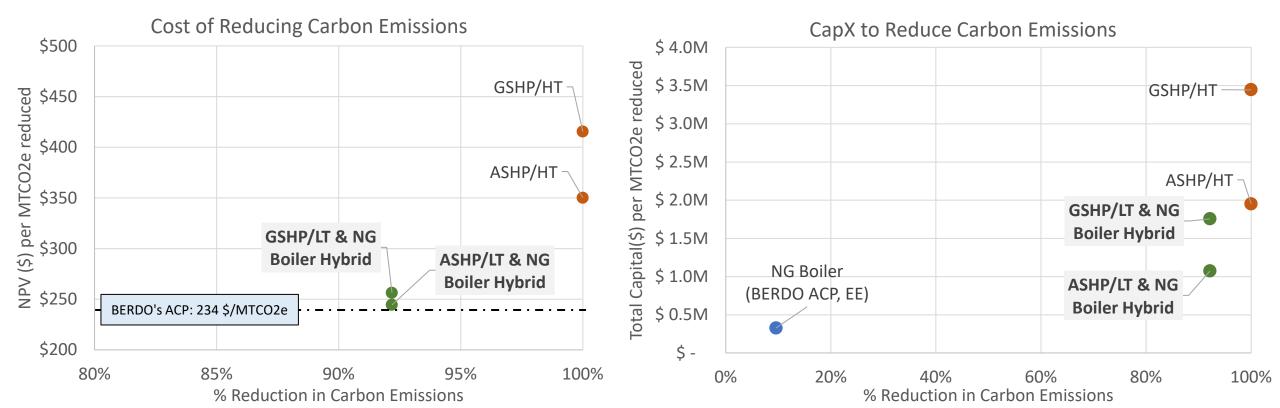


Comparing OpX, OpX, and NPV of Total Expenses (20 yrs, 4.5% interest rate)

## Cost of Reducing Carbon Emissions

- Boston BERDO's Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP): \$234/MTCO2e
  - Corresponds to 2.2X NG price (1.07/therm  $\rightarrow$  2.31/therm)
- Insight: Cost-competitive for BU to invest in hybrid electric heating systems vs pay BERDO's ACP
- <u>Question</u>: Is a 90% carbon emissions reduction acceptable for a lower capX retrofit?

Or: Are we willing to pay 2x the CapX for the last 10% of GHG reduction?



# Retrofit Roadmap: Electrify 14 Key Buildings

- 12 yr plan: Electrify 3.8M GSF to reduce 46% of BU CRC's heating fossil fuel use
  - Designed for learning and validating performance
- CapX: \$2.0M/yr (\$24.9M investment) | Annual OpX: \$5.5M/yr
  - Post-Electrification OpX will be 36% less than NG system with BERDO ACP

Projected Implementation Plan for Top 15 Key Buildings & Pilots



# Next Steps

- 1. <u>Steam Loop</u>: Evaluate opportunities to electrify buildings on the steam loop (37% of fossil use)
  - Building-by-building evaluation of whether steam loop buildings require high temperature fluids (>212F) [12 bldgs]
  - <u>Good news</u>: preliminary investigation indicates that several buildings on steam loop are compatible with lower temp fluids
- 2. Energy Efficiency Options that reduce peak loads, CapX, & GHG emissions
  - Identify & quantify impact of EE measures that are technically/economically feasible
- 3. Evaluate need for high temp fluid output for AHUs & perimeter heat
  - <u>Importance</u>: High-Temp Heat pumps (160F) have lower COP than Low-Temp Heat Pumps (130F) & thus result in higher peak electrical demand and heating energy costs
  - Develop experimental program for facilities to determine required fluid temp to meet thermal performance requirements
- 4. <u>Continue BU Management & Industry Review</u>: Cannon Design, Salas O'Brien, BR+A
- 5. Prepare for <u>2-Day Heating Electrification conference</u> with ISE in Fall 2021

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### Estimating Costs & Financing Large CapX Projects

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Shaun Finn	Assistant VP of Budget, Planning & Business Affairs,
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#### Understanding Boston University's Project Planning & Implementation

Paul Rinaldi	Assistant VP for Planning, Boston University
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#### **Understanding Building HVAC Design & Heat Pumps**

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