Summer 2021

Heating Electrification Strategy Update for Decarbonizing BU's Charles River Campus: Building-by-Building & Steam Loop Analysis

- . Review of Previous Results: Hybrid LT ASHP & Cost of Carbon Removal
- 2. Issues Addressed: Steam Loop Buildings, Effectiveness of Low-Temp ASHPs, Building Electrical Capacity, Detailed Building Analysis
- 3. Next Steps

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Summary of Previous Findings

- Heating represents 40% of BU CRC GHG emissions
- Low-temperature ASHP hybrid strategy can achieve 90% GHG emission reduction and minimize CapEx for expensive ASHPs
 - Use existing NG boilers and steam loops for supplemental heat for coldest days of year (<30F) & will only be 10% of fuel use/emissions & will provide backup
- Incremental cost for BU to invest in hybrid heating is ~\$100/MTCO2e vs Boston BERDO's ACP of \$234/MTCO2e



Scope of Summer Work

<u>Overview</u>

- Conducted building-by-building analysis to tailor retrofit strategy to individual buildings on campus
 - Which buildings on the campus steam loops can be electrified?
 - Are low-temperature ASHPs a viable option for buildings designed for high-temperature heating hot water?
 - Do the key buildings have sufficient electrical supply and capacity?

<u>Outreach</u>

- Presented preliminary technical, financial, and environmental recommendations to BU Facilities Management & Operations for discussion and feedback (June 2021)
- Outreach with Ecosystem Energy and CannonDesign

<u>Impact</u>

- 21 Buildings (15 Key Buildings + 6 Possible Pilot Buildings) make up 54% of CRC Heating/Fossil GHG Emissions (26,400 MTCO2e of Emissions) and 48% of CRC Total Building Area
 - **Residences:** Warren Towers, West Dorms, StuVi-1, StuVi-2
 - Labs: Photonics, CILSE, LSE, Metcalf, Physics Research Building
 - Recreational & Activity Centers: Yawkey, Agganis Arena, FitRec
 - Offices & Classrooms: Questrom, Mugar Library, School of Law (Redstone)

Which Buildings on the Steam Loops can be Electrified?

- Key buildings on the West and Central Steam Loop have steam-to-hot water (180F) converters, making them viable candidates for heating electrification
 - <u>Older dorms:</u> West Campus (Claflin, Sleeper & Rich Hall) and Warren Towers
 - <u>Newer dorms:</u> StuVi-1 and StuVi-2
 - Evaluate space, cost, and technical challenges of adding heat exchangers
- **Operation:** Similar to hybrid strategy for buildings with NG boilers, we propose using steam loops as supplemental heating on coldest days of the year
- Will there be a problem with operating the steam distribution system on partial loads? No — confirmed by industry experts

StuVi-1 Heat Exchanger



Claflin Hall Heat Exchanger

Are Low-Temperature ASHPs a Viable Option for Buildings Designed for High-Temperature Hot Water?

Key Question: How well will low-temperature ASHPs (130F) perform during winter in existing high-temperature (170-190F) hot water heat exchangers (perimeter heat, VAV, AHU)? (13 of 15 key buildings*)

<u>Rationale:</u>

- Our engineering analysis (air-water heat balance) shows that 130F hot water provides required heat when outside air temps are >= 31F. (Provides ~50% of the heating power relative to 180F hot water supply)**
- For remaining heating power (when temp <31F), use NG boilers/steam for supplemental heating and for higher temperature working fluid

Conclusion:

- Low-temp ASHP hybrid strategy will meet heating needs
- Enables 90% carbon emissions reduction, since only ~10% of the heating energy use occurs when temp are <31F



*CILSE and Yawkey had low-temperature water

** Verified by Sterling HS application manuals

Is There Enough Electrical Capacity in Buildings to Add Electric ASHPs?

- In previous phases, one major feedback we received is that our electrification strategy may exceed the electrical capacity of the buildings
- Found that 13 of our 15 key buildings receive 13.6 MW (13.8 kV, 600 A, 3-phase) of electrical capacity, both from utility supply & in building hardware
 - Current peak is 1.6MW while expected heat pump peak will be 2MW
- Need to conduct further analysis, but existing electrical capacity should be sufficient in at least 13 of our 15 key buildings

Next Steps

- <u>Buildings on Steam Loops</u>: Investigate feasibility and cost of implementing and configuring additional heat exchangers in buildings
- <u>Summer Reheat:</u> Investigate how we can meet this load (5% of total annual heating load) and evaluate the use of waste heat recovery for summer reheat
- <u>Analyze Energy Efficiency Measures</u>: Estimate potential additional energy savings from measures to reduce electrical loads
- <u>Continue Assessment of Buildings' Electrical Capacity</u>
 - Evaluate constraints of building electrical supply and potential additional costs to extend capacity of transformer unit substations
 - Building-by-building analysis to determine impact of electrification on existing loads
- <u>Continued Discussion</u>
 - Further outreach with BU Facilities Management & Operations and MEP companies
 - Prepare for Heating Electrification Seminars with ISE
 - Publish and present work to BU community and other organizations

Acknowledgements

We'd like to sincerely thank the following individuals for their insight & time:

Boston University Student Researchers

Author of "BU CRC Electrification" Analysis (Jan 2018)

David Staller (ME '18)

Authors of "Energy Efficiency Opportunities on CRC" Analysis (May 2017)

Gabriella Henkels, Charles Bradley Miller, Ryan Peters, Carly Baracco, Anthony Graziano, Cole Ashman Paul Chiampa Jr., Jessica Gimbel, Cristian Morales

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	Founding Partner, First Fuel Software;
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Understanding Boston University's Planning, HVAC Implementation, & Budget

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Understanding Building HVAC Design & Heat Pumps

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Geothermal: Heating & District Heating

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