



# RENEWABLE HEATING & HOT WATER TECHNOLOGIES

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[www.ecohotwater.co.nz](http://www.ecohotwater.co.nz)



The main logo for Apricus NZ eco-energy, featuring a stylized blue fern frond above the text "Apricus NZ" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with "eco-energy" in a smaller, lighter blue font below it.

Designers & suppliers of energy efficient, low carbon heating & hot water systems

Authorised system designers and New Zealand distributors for:

- Apricus evacuated tube solar hot water systems
- Reclaim Energy CO<sub>2</sub> hot water heat pumps
- OkoFEN wood pellet boilers
- Easypell wood pellet boilers



# WHY ARE FOSSIL FUELS NOT AN IDEAL HEATING FUEL?



|   | Fuel                            | CO2 emissions / kWh |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| - | Coal (Huntly peas)              | 0.268               |
| - | Diesel                          | 0.266               |
| - | LPG                             | 0.222               |
| - | Natural Gas                     | 0.195               |
| - | Electricity                     | 0.097               |
| - | Electricity + heat pump (COP 3) | 0.032               |
| - | Wood chip (ED15)                | 0.004               |
| - | Wood pellets                    | 0.003               |

Flooding in Gore,  
Southland,  
4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

# WHERE ARE FOSSIL FUELS USED IN BUILDINGS?

## Primarily heating systems

- Central heating boilers & domestic hot water systems burning natural gas, coal, diesel, LPG
- Diesel generators in buildings but use infrequently unless company is trying to avoid a peak power load for certain plant
- Also refrigerants lost from HVAC heating & cooling systems can have very high Greenhouse Gas Potential

Fires then floods, Australia  
February 2020

# HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

**Measure**      What is the demand?

**Minimise**      How can this be optimised / reduced?

**Eliminate**      Which renewable energy system /  
combination best suited to site?

# WHAT RENEWABLE HEATING SYSTEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS?

**Electricity** Domestic hot water (DHW)

**Solar thermal** DHW

**Heat pump** DHW & central heating

**Biomass** DHW & central heating

# APARTMENTS & COMMERCIAL DHW SYSTEMS

ELECTRICITY  
SOLAR THERMAL  
HOT WATER HEAT PUMPS

# TO CENTRALISE OR DECENTRALISE DHW?

**Question applies to all technologies, especially renewables because of high capital cost of implementation & generally requirement for centralisation of plant**

- Ownership & management of building = ability to centralise?
  - Multiple owners = apartments in single building
  - Body corporate or management company ability to bill owners individually from centralised system
- Number of apartments in single building = centralise or decentralise?
  - Energy efficiency benefit from centralised DHW system in buildings with 20> apartments
  - Cost benefit to developer with 85> apartments in Auckland
- Forecast daily DHW demand for other building typologies & consider options
  - High DHW use in hotels, sports facilities, medical & accommodation typologies = centralised
  - Offices – relatively low DHW, significantly increasing with end of trip showering & more active commuting = decentralised until demand increases significantly then centralise



# LOW CARBON CENTRALISED DHW TECHNOLOGIES

## Solar Hot Water

- Hot water storage required varies depending on DHW time of use during day
- Commercial buildings with daytime DHW use (e.g. medical) = less DHW storage
- Accommodation with evening & morning DHW use (e.g. apartments) = more DHW storage
  
- Heat & store hot water only during daylight hours
- Best performance during summer months
- Always requires boosting to cope with variable weather conditions
- Generally target 50% to 70% reduction in total DHW energy use
  
- Currently often boosted with gas water heaters
- Can boost with standard efficiency electric elements if DHW load not too large
- Larger loads can be boosted with hot water heat pumps but double capital cost and reduced payback on solar thermal because of higher heat pump COP



# HILLS APARTMENTS, HAMILTON



# HILLS APARTMENTS, HAMILTON

## Apricus solar hot water system with gas boost

- 19 apartments, 51 bedrooms, around 75 residents
  - Requires  $\sim 4,000\text{L}$  DHW per day =  $220\text{kWh}$  / day =  $80.5\text{ MWh}$  / year
  - Solar thermal modelled for 70% reduction in gas use, running costs & carbon emissions
  - 20 x Apricus 30 tube solar collectors (600 tubes) &  $3,000\text{L}$  solar hot water storage
  - 2 x gas instantaneous water heaters &  $1,500\text{L}$  cylinder for boosting (oversized cylinder to absorb additional solar energy)
- 
- Approximately  $\$100,000$  cost in addition to gas hot water system
  - Apartment building value at first round of sales =  $\$30+$  million
  - = 0.3% of initial building value for 75% reduction in biggest energy use for coming decades

# HILLS APARTMENTS, HAMILTON

## **How do we continue to implement these systems without fossil fuels?**

- Gas boosters are very small, low cost, easy to design and reliable
- Electric elements can be used for boosting but require a lot more storage because slower recovery
- Most feasible renewable alternative is solar thermal plus hot water heat pump boosting
- More expensive & complex to implement HWHP than gas boost
- More space required and potential noise / air movement issues with heat pumps

**Should we use modeled and actual carbon emissions of complete systems to inform policy and set incentives for most appropriate and practical outcome for projects?**

**Will higher carbon reduction options attract greater levels of support / subsidy to match higher implementation costs?**

# SOLAR THERMAL CASE STUDY

## LAKEVIEW HOLIDAY PARK, WANAKA

Average 7,000L hot water use per day – gas boost  
40% reduction in gas use with solar thermal



# LAKEVIEW HOLIDAY PARK, WANAKA



## **Lakeview campground system reviewed by Robert Tromop, Energy Efficiency International, 2018:**

- Apricus solar hot water system contributing 40% of total annual DHW, reducing LPG use
- 12% internal rate of return including depreciation, using discount rate of 6% (2.2% without depreciation)
- DHW continuity despite increasing guest numbers every year since installation
- System lifespan expected at 20 years
- 2020 updated total emissions reduction & cost savings

**27,756 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e**

**cost savings of \$17,660**

# COMMERCIAL SOLAR THERMAL SYSTEMS

DENTAL SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, AUCKLAND

1,150L of hot water per day – electric boost

72.5% reduction in electricity used for DHW



UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
**OTAGO**

*Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo*  
NEW ZEALAND

# COMMERCIAL SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEMS

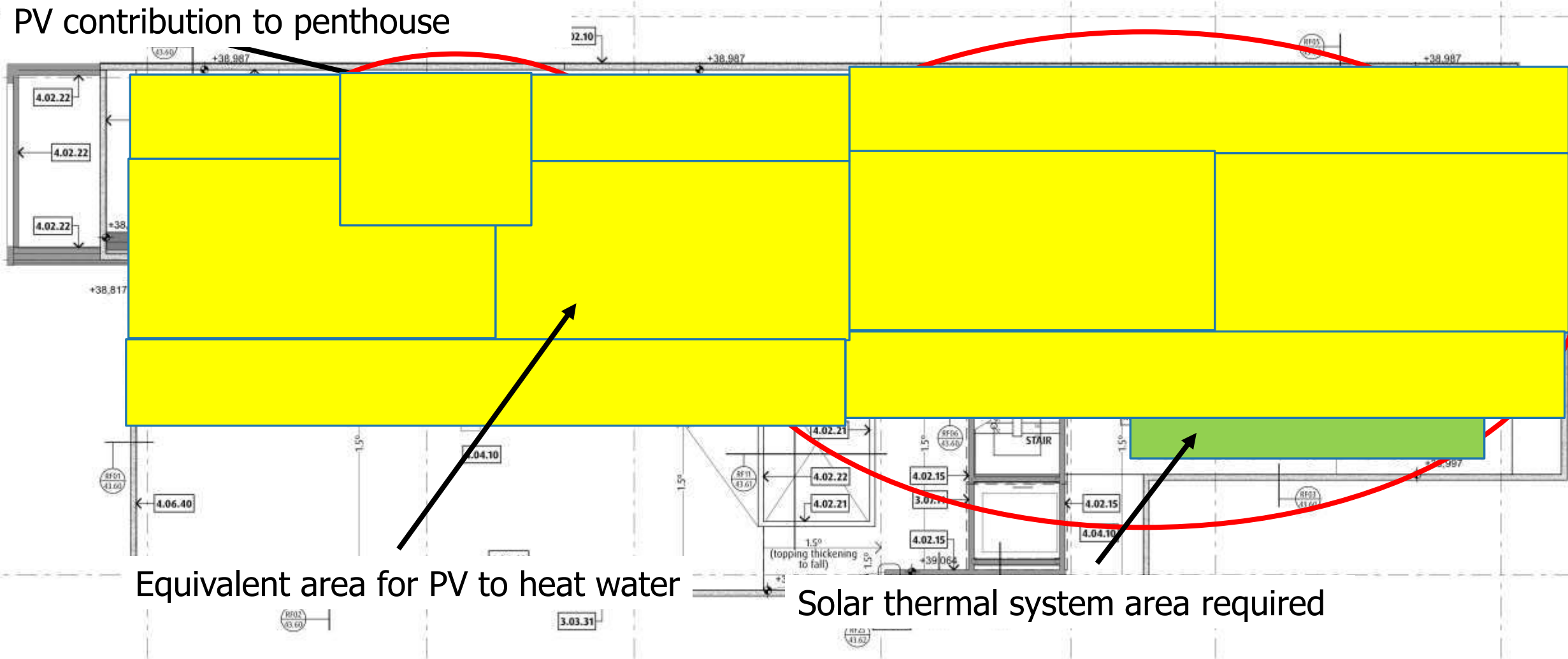
SUMMER GARDENS, TAKAPUNA

A modern multi-story commercial building with a glass facade and dark metal accents, situated in a landscaped area with trees and parked cars. The building features a prominent glass section on the right side, reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. The foreground shows a paved road with two cars parked, and a well-maintained garden area with various plants and trees. The sky is clear and blue.



# COMMERCIAL SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEMS

PV contribution to penthouse



Equivalent area for PV to heat water

Solar thermal system area required



**RECLAIM**  
ENERGY



# CO2 HOT WATER HEAT PUMPS

- Very high efficiency for domestic hot water (needs high temperature difference)
- 1 x Global Warming Potential of CO<sub>2</sub> as refrigerant
- Output & high COP maintained in colder conditions & higher temperatures required for DHW
- All heat pumps require reasonable amount of buffering, especially CO<sub>2</sub>
- Multiple units can be cascaded as loads increase
- Can be economic & provides redundancy to use multiple smaller units

# CO2 HOT WATER HEAT PUMPS

| CO <sub>2</sub> HWHP Size | Outdoor Air Temp (dry bulb) | Input Cold Water Temp | Output Hot Water Temp | COP |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 5kW                       | 19°C                        | 15°C                  | 63°C                  | 4.7 |
|                           | 1°C                         | 15°C                  | 63°C                  | 4.3 |
| 30kW                      | 16°C                        | 17°C                  | 65°C                  | 4.3 |
|                           | 7°C                         | 5°C                   | 90°C                  | 2.8 |

# SINGLE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR OR HWHP

## Why Use Solar or CO2 HWHP for Individual Homes DHW?

- Newly built homes use an average 46% energy on water heating (WELS Network lines company survey of 600 homes in 2017)
- Solar thermal / CO2 HWHP provides ~75% energy for hot water used
- Total household energy bills reduced by ~30%
- Huge on-going benefit to all, especially low income households
- Can be installed in parallel with solar PV for very low power use, esp HWHP with timed use for daytime generation

# SMALL COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL EXAMPLE

## Fire Emergency NZ

- June 2019 to July 2020 monitoring at FENZ Redwood, Christchurch
- 4 occupants 24/7 – sometimes very high DHW use
- Apricus solar thermal provided 75% of energy required across year
- Annual carbon emissions reduction of 418 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e vs electricity
  
- Easy and cost effective implementation in design & build
- All new build permanently occupied fire stations to include Apricus solar thermal



# QUICK SOLAR TOOLKIT FOR COMMERCIAL DHW



| Net Present Value            |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Annual Discount Rate         | 4.0%     |
| Net Present Value (15 years) | \$90,898 |
| Net Present Value (10 years) | \$20,037 |
| Net Present Value (5 years)  | -\$6,331 |

| Internal Rate of Return |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Year 5 IRR              | -20% |
| Year 10 IRR             | 1%   |
| Year 15 IRR             | 8%   |
| Year 20 IRR             | 16%  |

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Simple Payback in Years | 11.7 |
|-------------------------|------|

| Financial Constants         |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Annual Energy Cost Increase | 3% |
| Inflation                   | 0% |
| Yearly Maintenance          |    |

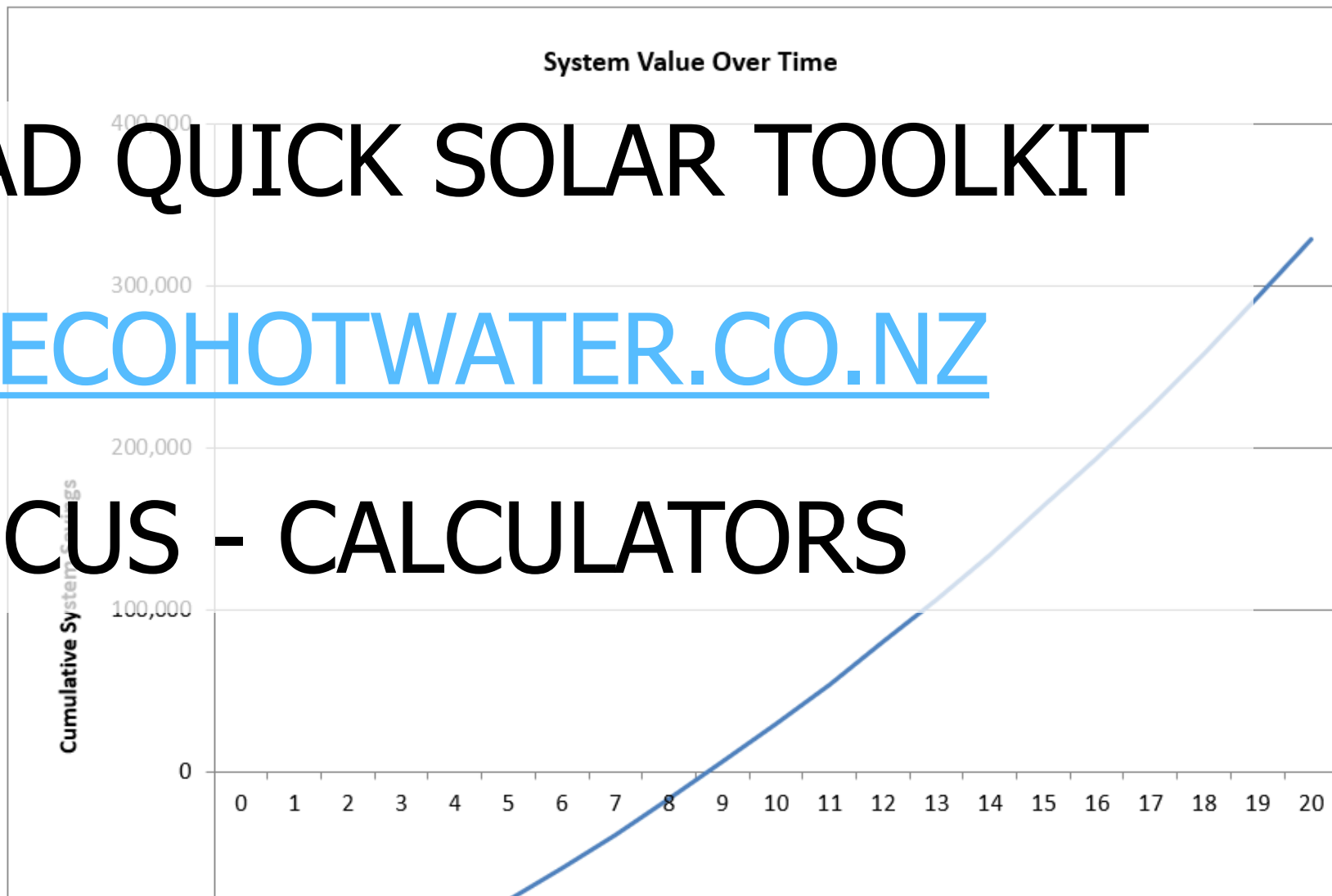
| Carbon Cost Inclusion                  |          |
|--|----------|
| Include cost of CO <sub>2</sub> ?      | Yes      |
| Cost CO <sub>2</sub> emissions / tonne | \$ 50.00 |

| System Information             |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Number of Collectors           | 45 ETC-30                       |
| Annual Efficiency Decrease     | 0.5%                            |
| Annual Energy Savings          | 161,923 kWh/year                |
| Annual CO <sub>2</sub> Savings | 31,575 kgCO <sub>2e</sub> /year |

## DOWNLOAD QUICK SOLAR TOOLKIT

[WWW.ECOHOTWATER.CO.NZ](http://WWW.ECOHOTWATER.CO.NZ)

## APRICUS - CALCULATORS





# BIOMASS FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

- Building heating almost all from two biomass fuels in NZ
  - wood pellets
  - wood chip
- Wood chip needs to be used close to production site otherwise uneconomic & high transport carbon emissions
- Wood chip better fit for larger loads & locations with dedicated on-site energy services personnel – e.g. hospitals, food processors
- Energy density and fuel performance varies depending on fuel contract
- Wood pellets have more easily defined fuel performance, easier handling attributes, more appropriate for sites without skilled personnel for energy needs – e.g. commercial & apartment buildings, aged care homes, schools
- Wood pellets have energy density close to coal = 19 GJ/tonne or 3.3 MWh/m<sup>3</sup>



# PELLETS — LOW CARBON, AFFORDABLE, CONVENIENT



| Heating technology | Fuel                | Reduction in CO2 emissions if replaced with pellets | Real world example for building with DHW use of 10,000L per day (204MWh/yr) |                                |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
|                    |                     |   | Annual CO2 emissions  | Calculated annual running cost |
| Pellet boiler      | Wood pellets        | Base case   | 599   | \$16,320                       |
| Heat pump          | Electricity (COP 3) | -91%  | 6,693   | \$11,560                       |
| Gas boiler         | Natural gas         | -98%  | 39,726  | \$22,440                       |
|                    | LPG                 | -99%  | 45,240  | \$36,720                       |
| Diesel boiler      | Diesel              | -99%  | 54,190  | \$20,400                       |

Costs / kWh - pellets \$0.08, electricity \$0.17, NG \$0.11, LPG \$0.18, diesel \$0.10

# PELLET BOILERS FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS



- Direct replacement for fossil fuel boilers
- All building heating loads & DHW demand levels
- Individual residential up to commercial buildings of any size
- Primary heating system – full peak load – doesn't require additional backup
- High temperatures for use on any heating system – radiators, air handlers, underfloor
- Multiple heat loads & temperatures easily managed:

**space heating**  
**+ DHW**  
**+ swimming pool**  
**+ spa**

# COMMERCIAL PELLET BOILERS



- Fully automated operation
- No manual handling of fuel
- Flexible fuel storage options
- Automatic fuel delivery to boiler & ash removal
- Highly reliable operation with decades of experience overseas
- BMS integration, remote connection for programming & fault finding – online & via smartphone app
- Deashing & fuel reordering reminders

# CASE STUDY - RETIREMENT VILLAGE



# ONE OF THE LEADING RETIREMENT VILLAGE OPERATORS

Latest development St Johns Street, Meadowbank, Auckland for 400 residents

Site offers full Continuum of Care = includes hospital and Memory Care Centre for dementia

Regular fossil fuel use **completely removed** from site

- ✓ ÖkoFEN pellet boilers – DHW in care area, swimming pool & spa heating
- ✓ Heat pump HVAC system
- ✓ Ozone commercial laundry system
- ✓ Induction hobs, electric ovens & fryers in commercial kitchen

Sixth storey

Boiler flue termination at roof

Eight storey building including two basement levels

20 metres

Ground floor

Pellet fuel deliveries by blower truck connects to fitting in service bay wall  
Fills bulk pellet fuel bags in sub basement

20 metres

Basement level 2

128kW pellet boiler with automatic vacuum fuel delivery from bulk fuel bags



Sub basement level 1



2 x 8 tonne bulk pellet fuel bags



Company internal business analysis undertook comprehensive financial & risk assessment

## **Reticulated natural gas boiler compared to OkoFEN pellet boilers**

- Benefits
  - How does this serve the hot water requirements of the buildings?
  - How is the wood pellet boiler different to gas
- Risks and mitigations
- Background – supplier company profile
- What is a pellet boiler – technology explained

## In service use of pellet boilers

Continuity of hot water critical =  
reliability of equipment is key

References from similar facilities with  
long in-service history – references from  
owners not from the supplier

Risk averse, no desire to be an  
innovation leader - not the first but the  
first of the building typology to take up  
the technology

Environmental benefits – emissions  
reduction, up-coming legislation

Increased cost of gas

## Risk analysis

- Supply of consumable / spare parts  
within NZ
- Supply of quality pellets
- Unforeseen event disrupting delivery
- Long term supply of fuel
- Fuel supply cost increases over time
- Real understanding of maintenance  
costs now and into the future.
- Reliability of the brand



## Financial analysis

Financial model developed to compare gas, pellet boiler buy, pellet boiler lease, pellet boiler lease then buy

Compared over a 50 year period

Includes Capex, Opex and carbon credits (converted into \$ savings)

Sensitivity analysis carried out to test various assumptions

Energy usage and fuel credits

Estimated useful life

Maintenance

End of life disposal and replacement

Energy loss and efficiency

## Financial conclusions

- Gas system capex \$120k for a comparable installation
- Pellet boiler capex \$230k inc installation
- Two pellet boilers included for resilience
- Gas boiler maintenance over 50 years is about double that of the pellet boiler
- Gas has approximately double the cost of fuel, excluding escalating carbon cost
- The gas install has a shorter life expectancy a factor that really tips the balance in the financials over time

## Benefits analysis

Financial benefit over the long term

Reduced carbon footprint

Brand benefit, marketing opportunities

Staying ahead of legislative changes

Less system replacements over the long term when compared to gas

Ability to roll out across multiple sites and potential to retrofit existing sites

## Final decision & outcomes

- ÖkoFEN pellet boilers to be used at St John Street, Auckland development
- Working with building services consultants on design for pellet boilers for new retirement village development for DHW & other heat loads
- On-going feasibility assessments at existing sites to replace gas boilers with pellet boilers for DHW and central heating

# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCHOOL BOILER REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME



- At least 90 schools to have coal boilers replaced in next 3 years
- Pellet boilers most appropriate technology in most cases
- Plant room or containerised installations
- Low cost of fuel and no manual handling required
- Fully automatic operation = very limited day to day maintenance
- Remote monitoring and smart phone control = expert oversight anywhere in country
  
- More frequent pellet fuel deliveries to almost all areas across country = aggregated deliveries for multiple sites improves freight efficiency & potentially reduces costs
- Much wider spread use of pellet boiler technologies and acceptance by key government Ministry will improve acceptance & uptake in other situations across NZ



# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCHOOL BOILER REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

Last month pellet boilers replaced coal & diesel in following schools for central heating



# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCHOOL BOILER REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME



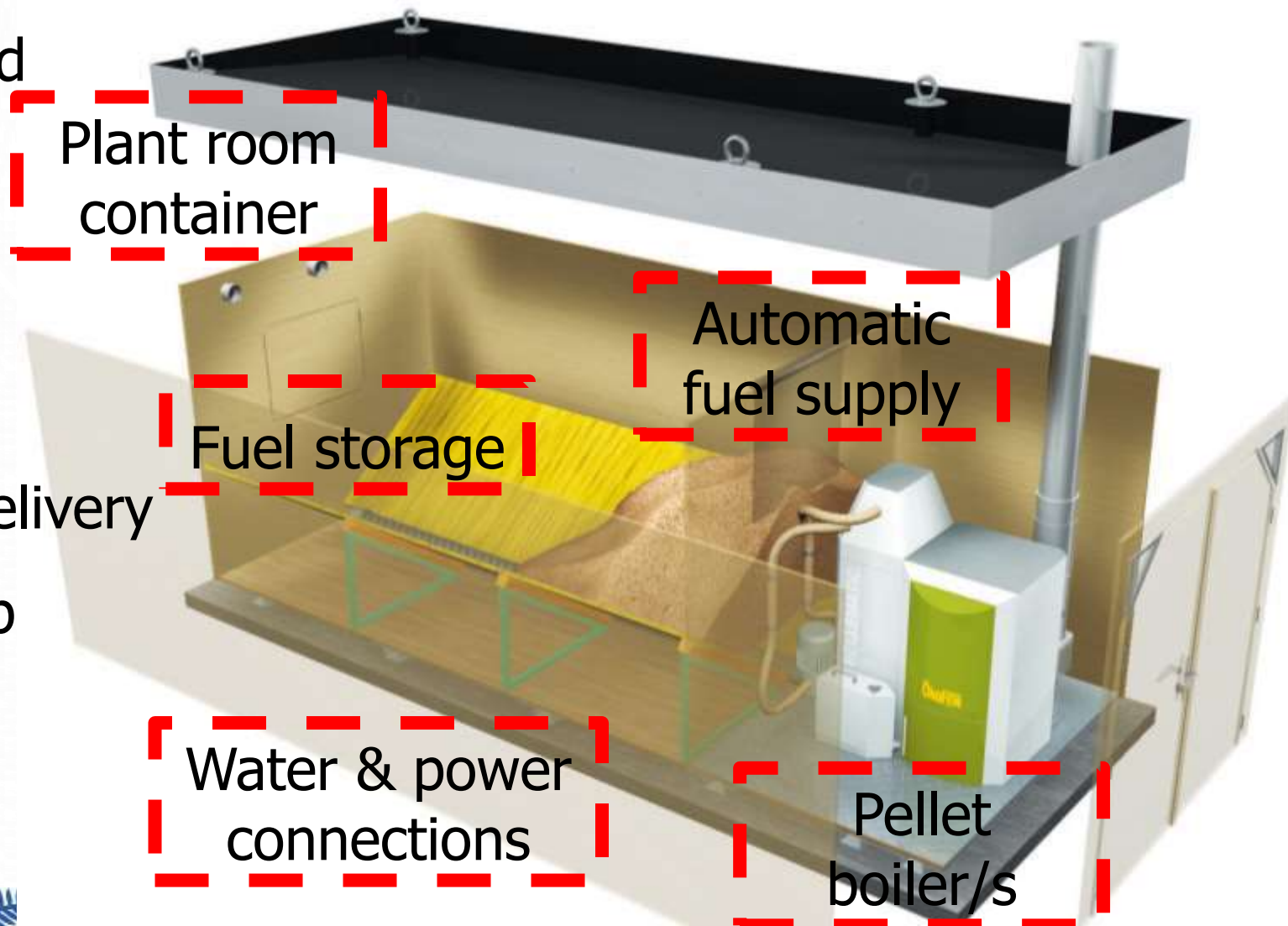
# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCHOOL BOILER REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

Before and after at Te Kura Kaupapa Motuhake o Tawhiuau, Murupara



# ALTERNATIVE DEPLOYMENT - CONTAINERISED PELLET BOILERS

- ✓ "Energy Box" containerised systems
- ✓ All components for pellet boiler system
- ✓ High level cost control
- ✓ Consistency of design & delivery
- ✓ Guarantee of workmanship
- ✓ Flexible site placement
- ✓ Modular and expandable



# EDUCATIONAL & MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES WITH CONTAINERISED SYSTEMS





Pellet boiler toolkit

# DOWNLOAD QUICK PELLET BOILER TOOLKIT

OkoFEN pellet boiler maintenance & service guidance

Cost per each single OkoFEN boiler

Does not include any labour or materials for servicing and other components of the system. e.g. travel, management oversight, heating system servicing and any consumables are not included.

NOTE - servicing required after 40 tonnes pellets or 3,000 hours, whichever sooner

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Number of OkoFEN boilers at site      | 4  |
| Total tonnes of pellets for site / yr | 94 |
| Number of services / boiler / yr      | 1  |

0.5875 Boiler annual servicing factor

|                                      |   |             |        |            |     |             |        |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|--------|------------|-----|-------------|--------|
| Hours per boiler (4 hours suggested) | 4 | Hourly rate | \$ 120 | Mark up on | 13% | Labour cost | \$ 480 |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|--------|------------|-----|-------------|--------|

Modify any figures in yellow to change total costs

[WWW.ECOHOTWATER.CO.NZ](http://WWW.ECOHOTWATER.CO.NZ)

STANDARD SITES - DHW NOT CRITICAL SERVICE

| Years   | Expected Visits | Labour   | Parts    | Total per boiler | Total for site | Total for site over period | 5 year maintenance costs estimated |  |
|---|-----------------|----------|----------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1-2   | 1               | \$ 480   | \$ -     | \$ 480           | \$ 1,920       | \$ 3,840                   | Years                              |  |
| 3-5   | 1.5             | \$ 720   | \$ 874   | \$ 1,594         | \$ 6,378       | \$ 19,133                  | \$ 22,973                          |  |
| 5-10  | 2               | \$ 960   | \$ 1,019 | \$ 1,979         | \$ 7,918       | \$ 39,589                  | \$ 39,589                          |  |
| 10-15   | 2.5             | \$ 1,200 | \$ 1,423 | \$ 2,623         | \$ 10,492      | \$ 52,461                  | \$ 52,461                          |  |
| Average annual maintenance costs for site over 15 years |                 |          |          |                  |                |                            | \$ 7,680                           |  |
| Per boiler over 15 years                                |                 |          |          |                  |                |                            | \$ 1,917                           |  |

All replaceable parts covered under warranty for first 2 years

## OKOFEN - CALCULATORS

SITES WITH DHW AS CRITICAL SERVICE - ONLY SERVICE 1 BOILER PER VISIT

| Years   | Expected Visits | Labour   | Parts    | Total per boiler | Total for site | Total for site over period | 5 year maintenance costs estimated |
|---|-----------------|----------|----------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1-2   | 2               | \$ 960   | \$ -     | \$ 960           | \$ 3,840       | \$ 7,680                   | Years                              |
| 3-5   | 3               | \$ 1,440 | \$ 874   | \$ 2,314         | \$ 9,258       | \$ 27,773                  | \$ 35,453                          |
| 5-10  | 4               | \$ 1,920 | \$ 1,019 | \$ 2,939         | \$ 11,758      | \$ 58,789                  | \$ 58,789                          |
| 10-15   | 5               | \$ 2,400 | \$ 1,423 | \$ 3,823         | \$ 15,292      | \$ 76,461                  | \$ 76,461                          |
| Average annual maintenance costs for site over 15 years |                 |          |          |                  |                | \$ 11,380                  |                                    |

2.0 additional time for repeat visits, i.e. not all boilers can be serviced on same day for redundancy reasons

65%



Designers and distributors of renewable heating & hot water systems

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