

The influence of low-energy buildings on the future Danish energy system

David Drysdale, PhD fellow

Aalborg University

Sustainable Energy Planning Research Group

Outline of the presentation

- Overview of the study
- The methodology of the study
- Analysis
- Results
- Main points
- Future work
- Questions and comments



Overview of the study

- ✓ I assessed the **impacts** of new low-energy buildings (nZEBs) in a **future highly-renewable energy system in 2050**
- I did not investigate the impacts in a **shorter time span**, i.e. in the next 10-15 years



Method

Defining the projected changes

1. The Danish **building stock** from today to 2050
2. The potential **future highly-renewable energy system** of Denmark in 2050

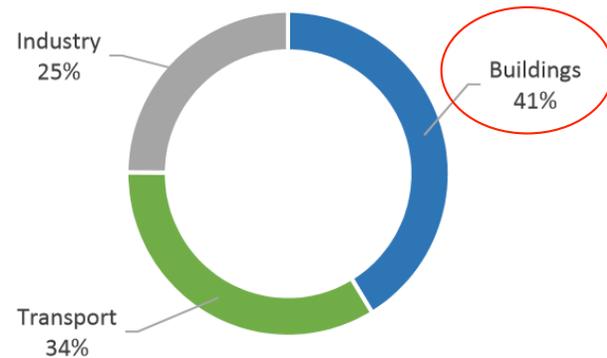
Analysis procedure

3. I tested different **heat demand levels** in the new buildings to understand their impact in the highly-renewable energy system in the year 2050

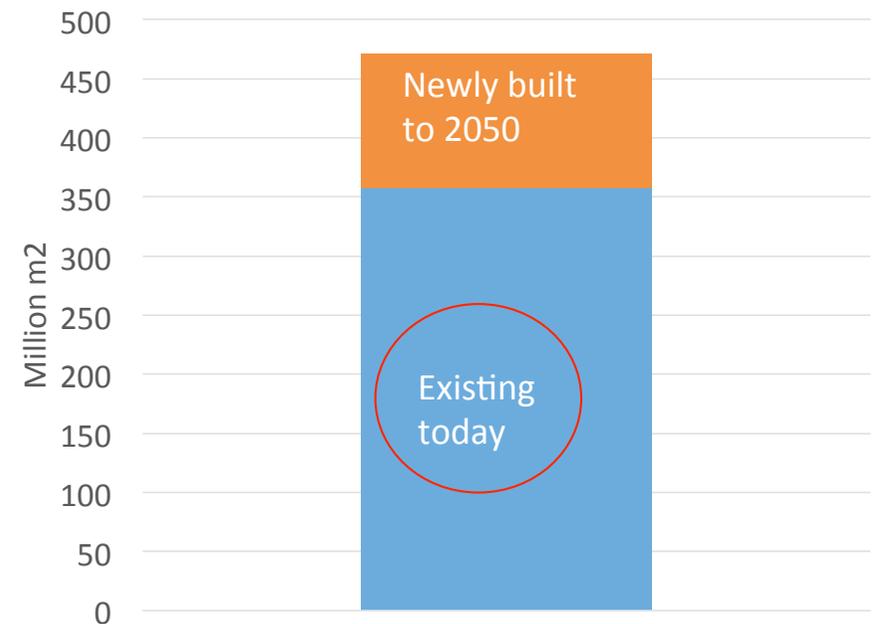


1) Projected changes in the building stock from today to 2050

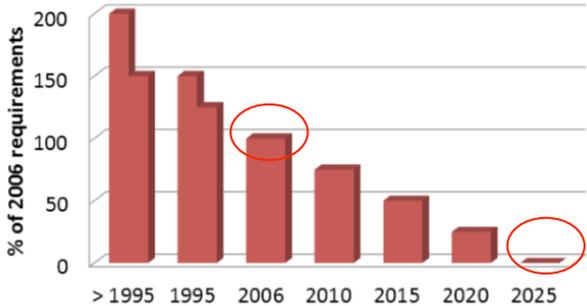
Primary energy demand today (2015)



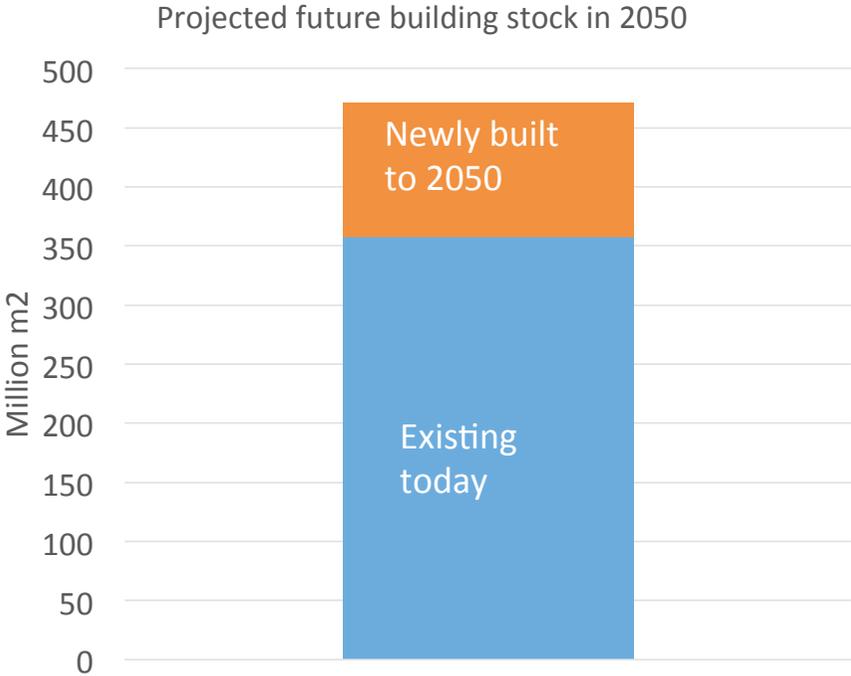
Projected future building stock in 2050



Danish new building requirements

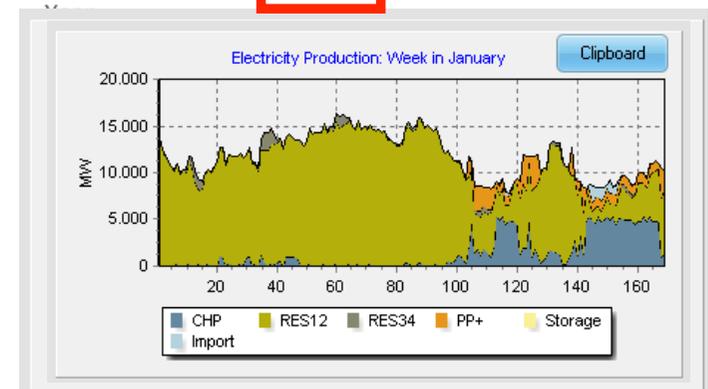
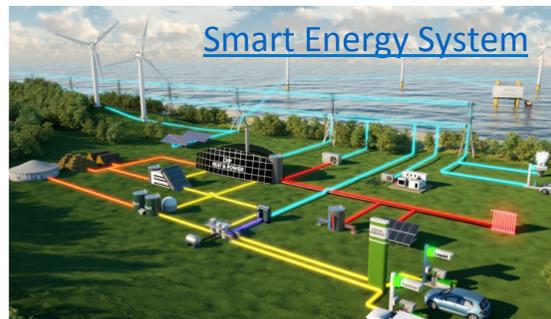
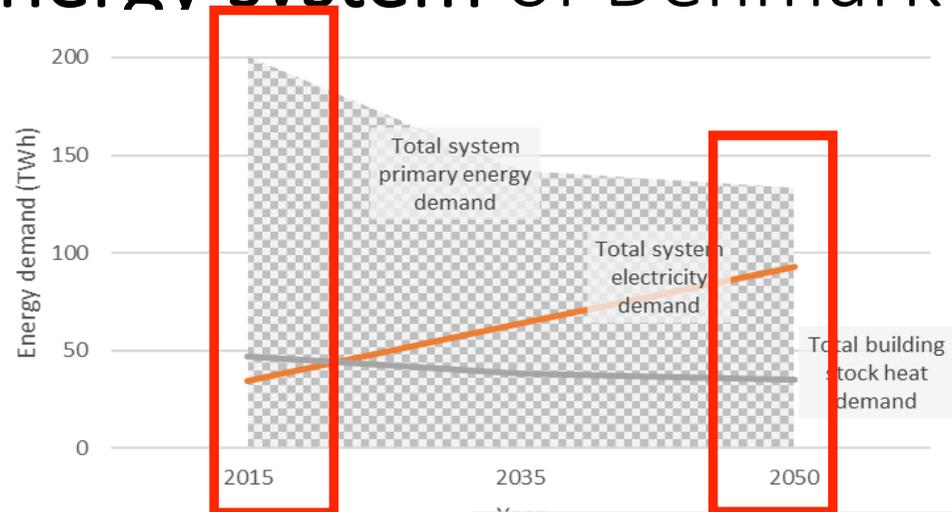


	New residential buildings (kWh/m ² y)	New non-residential buildings (kWh/m ² y)
2015	30 + 1000 / (heated gross floor area)	41+1000 / (heated gross floor area)
2020	20	25
2025	0	0



2) Projected changes in the potential future highly-renewable energy system of Denmark

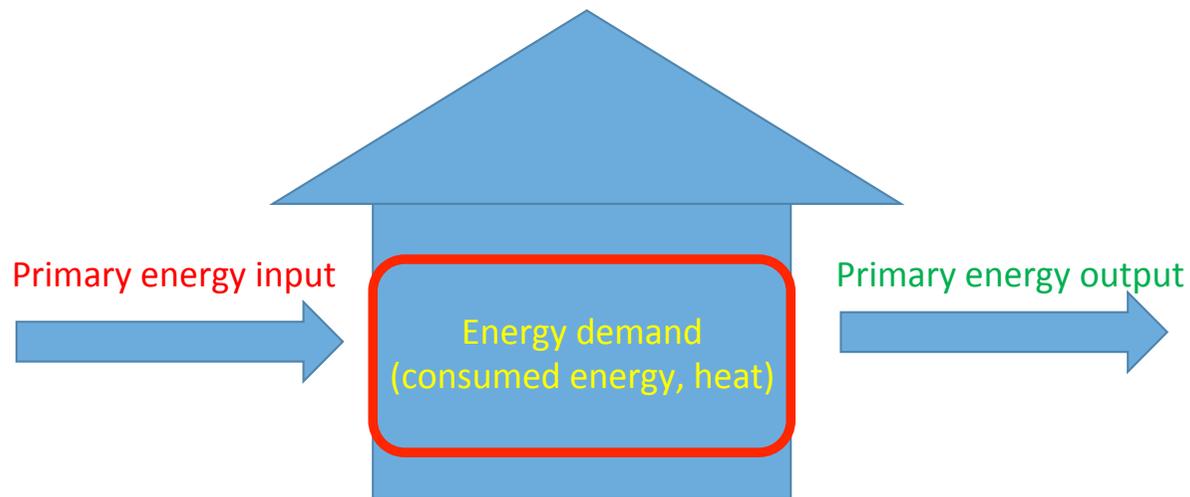
- Today (2015)
 - 70% fossil fuels
 - Over 50% heat supplied by district heating
- Future (2050)
 - 0% fossil fuels
 - Large amount of offshore wind
 - Sector-sector integration to reduce biomass demand & cost
 - End-use demand has a lower primary energy demand



3) Analysis of different heat demand levels in the new buildings

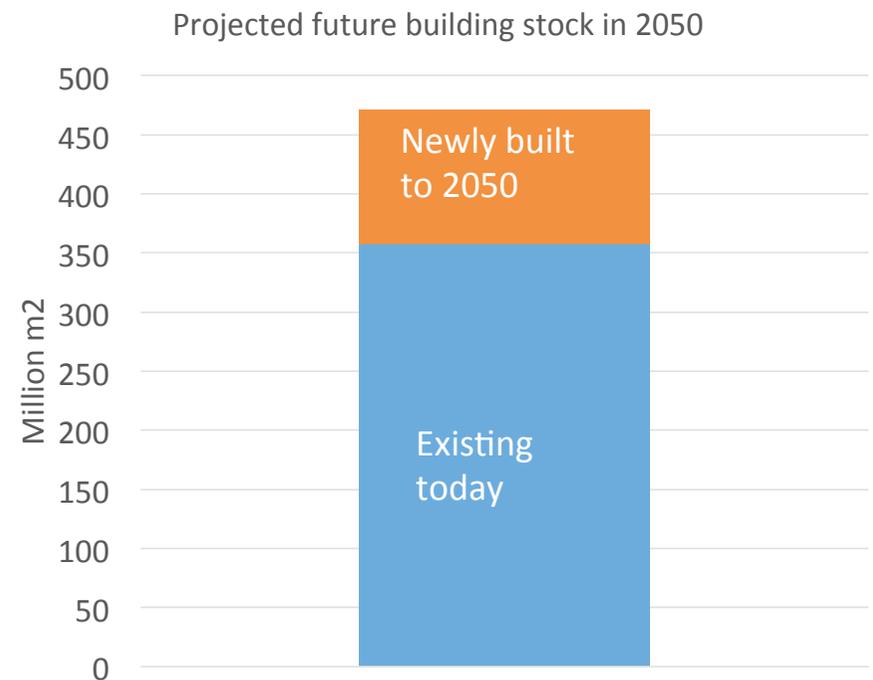
nZEB

Net primary energy demand = Primary energy in – Primary energy out

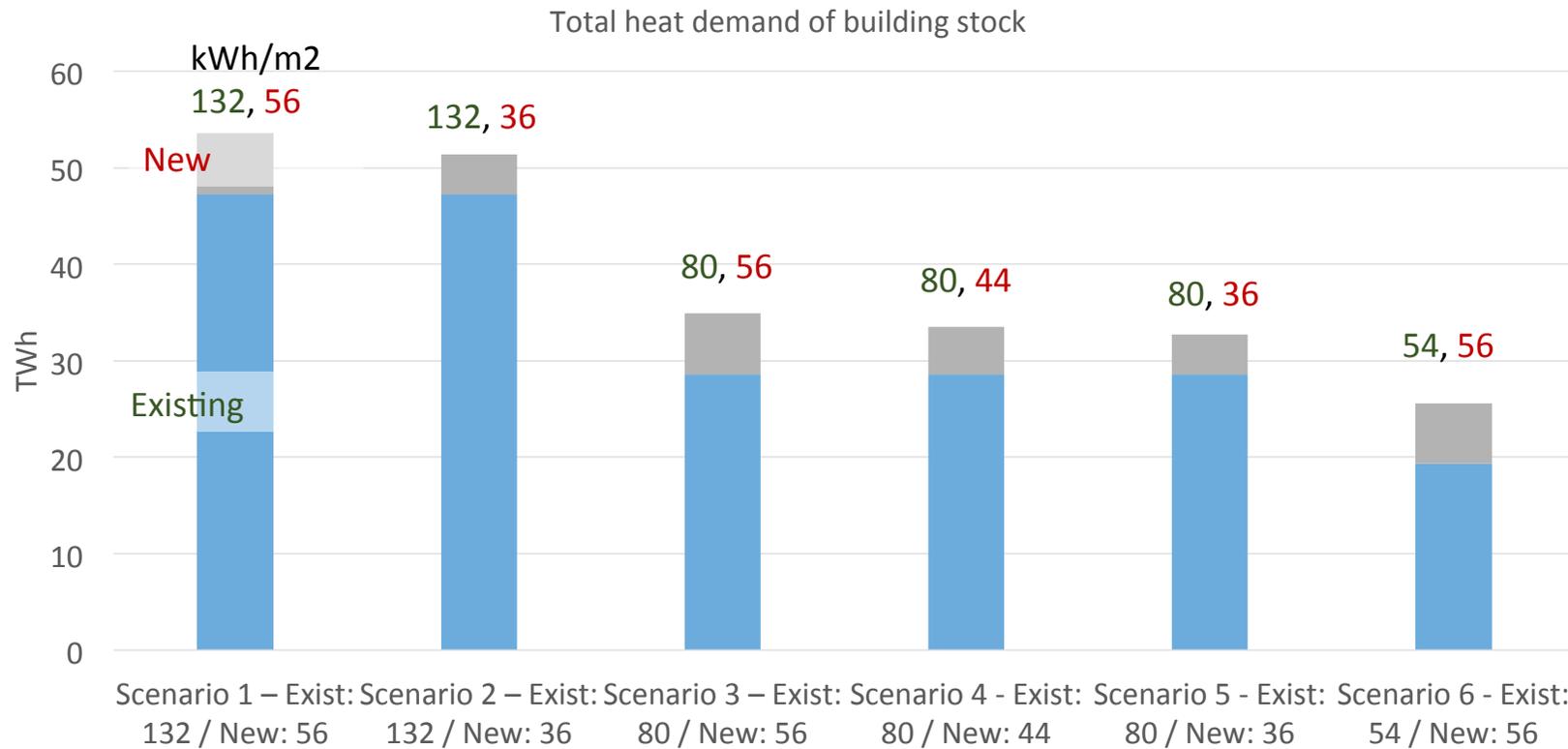


3) Analysis of different heat demand levels in the new buildings

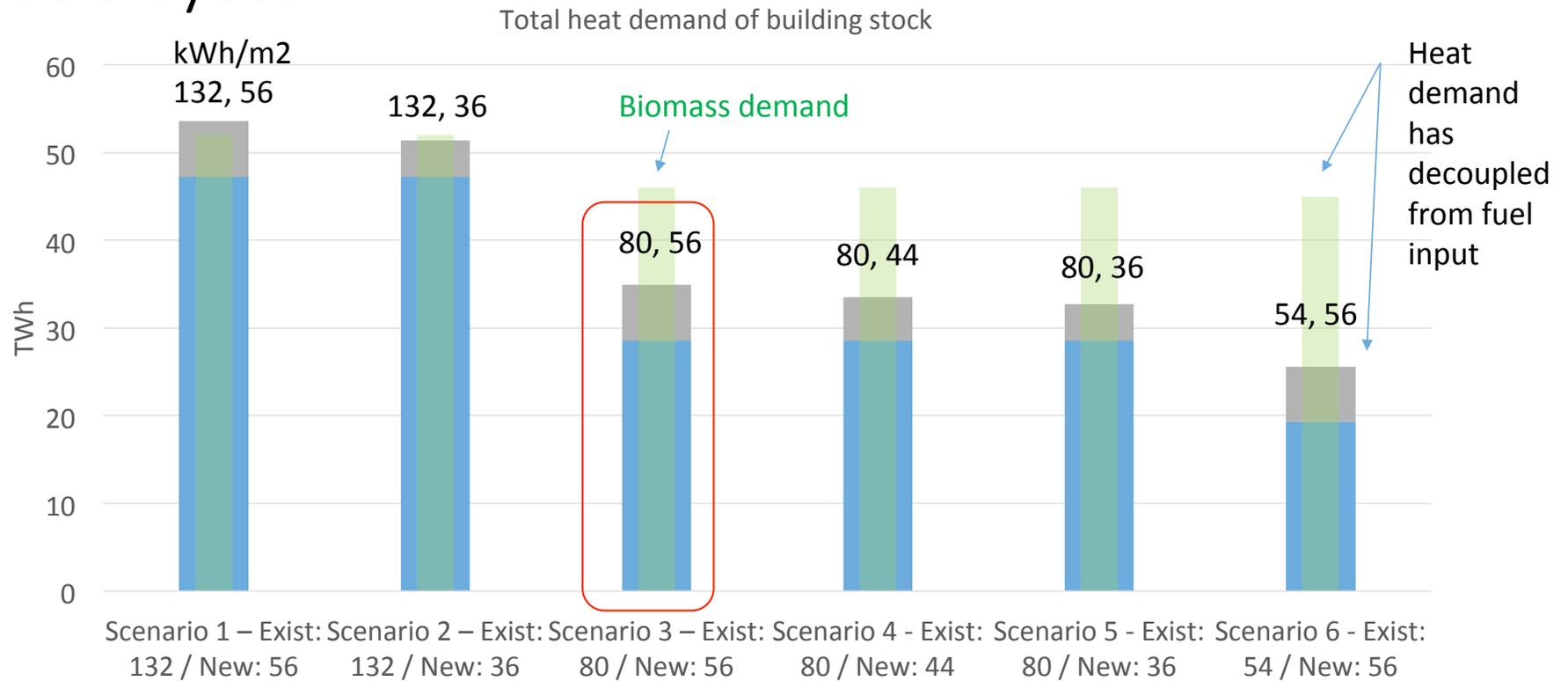
- New buildings
 - 56 kWh/m²
 - 44 kWh/m²
 - 36 kWh/m²
- Existing buildings
 - 132 kWh/m² (same as today)
 - 80 kWh/m² (retrofitting)
- Six scenarios
- E.g. 132 & 56 kWh/m²
- E.g. 44 & 80 kWh/m²



Results - Total heat demand in a 2050 system



Results – Biomass is the limiting factor in a 2050 system



Main points

- Existing building stock in Denmark is large and will remain large in the future
- Energy demand of new buildings will not be too problematic in the future energy system
- The district heating system provides an opportunity to decarbonise the energy system
- Energy can be reduced significantly with system level solutions, i.e. district heating
- European countries should understand their balance between individual and system level solutions, e.g. district heating



Further research

- Include all the energy production units of nZEBs
- Investigate the benefits of low-energy nZEBs in the short term to e.g. 2030
- Investigate the total private costs of nZEBs versus cost of energy supply, e.g. district heat supply
- Investigate the change and influence of primary energy factors on the nZEB calculation





Thank you

Questions and comments