REHVA Task Force “Nearly Zero Energy Buildings” nZEB

Energy boundaries and scientific definition of nZEB based on the results of REHVA Task Force

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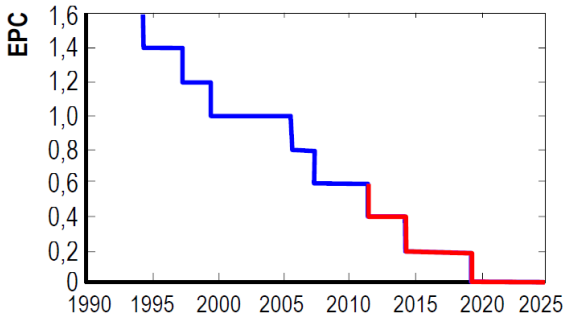
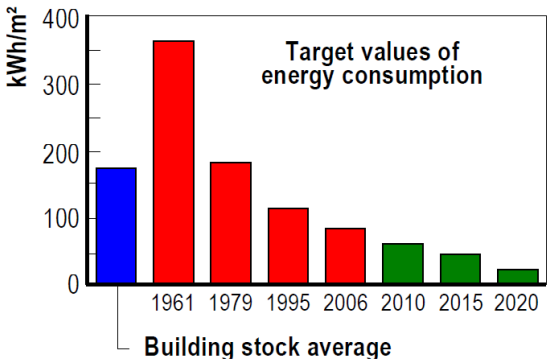
Towards nZEB:

- **Roadmap of some countries towards nearly zero energy buildings to improve energy performance of new buildings**
- **Many countries have prepared long term roadmaps with detailed targets**
- **Helps industry to prepare/commit to the targets**

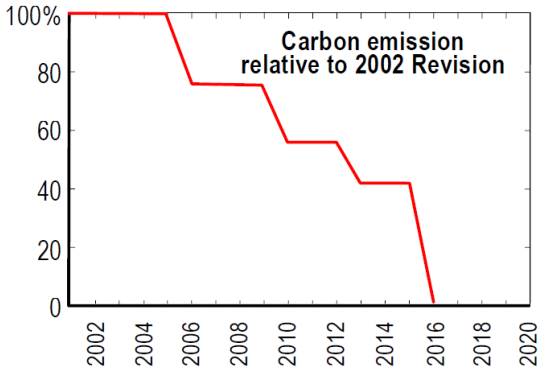
The Netherlands



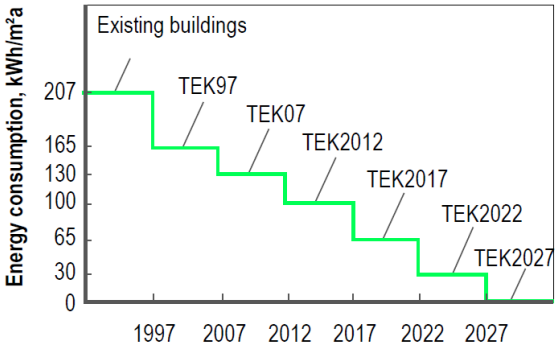
Denmark



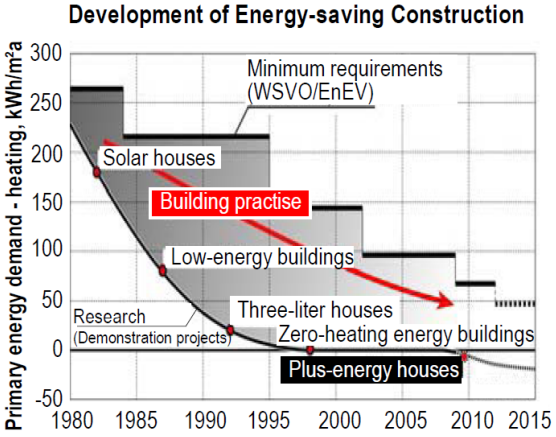
United Kingdom



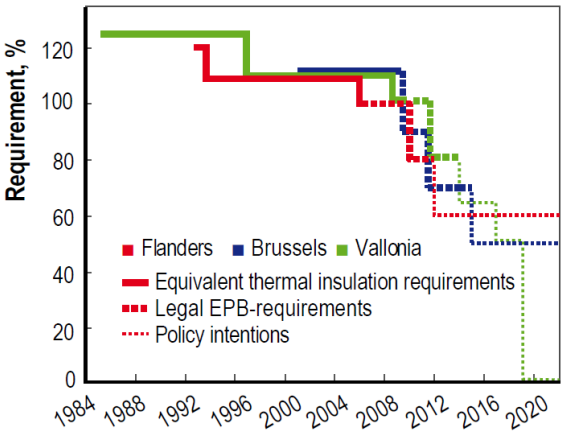
Norway



Germany



Belgium



Why nZEB definition is needed?

- EPBD recast requires nearly zero energy buildings, but does not give minimum or maximum harmonized requirements – it will be up to the Member States to define what nZEB for them exactly constitute

REHVA nZEB Task Force:

- Intended to help the experts in the Member States in defining the nearly zero energy buildings in a uniform way – so that local conditions are taken into account, but the uniform methodology used
- Proposes a technical definition for nZEB buildings
- Provides energy calculation framework and system boundaries associated with the definition to specify which energy flows are taken into account

EPBD recast – major changes

Article 9 **Nearly zero energy buildings**

- By 31 Dec 2020, all new buildings are **nearly zero energy** buildings
- After 31 Dec 2018, public authorities that occupy and own a new building shall ensure that the building is a nearly zero energy building

Articles 4 & 5 Setting of energy performance requirements

- Setting of minimum energy performance requirements based on calculation of **cost-optimal** levels with the methodology referred to in Article 3.
- The calculation of cost-optimal levels shall be performed in accordance with the methodology developed by the Commission (so called comparative methodology Annex III)
- Primary energy target values have to be set in kWh/m^2
- The Commission shall establish by 30 June 2011 a comparative methodology framework

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ%3AL%3A2010%3A153%3ASM%3AEN%3AHTML

The laws and regulations shall be adopted and published in Member States by 9 July 2012.

EPBD recast – Nearly zero energy buildings nZEB

- In the directive 'nearly zero-energy building' means a building that has a very high energy performance. The nearly zero or very low amount of energy required should be covered to a very significant extent by energy from renewable sources, including energy from renewable sources produced on-site or nearby.

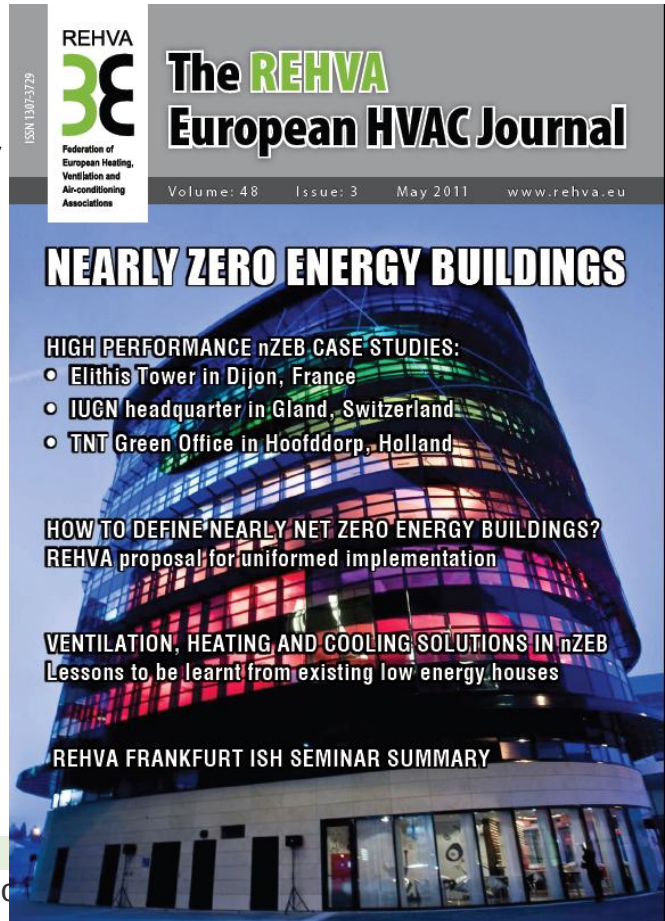
⇒ **nZEB = very high energy performance + on-site renewables**

- Definition of "a very high energy performance" and "significant extent of renewables" let for Member States

nZEB in practice

- Energy demand/delivered energy use is reduced as much as reasonable achievable (insulation, heat recovery, heat pumps etc.)
- On site renewables most commonly solar PV and thermal, district heat from renewables and renewable fuels
- Annual balance of delivered and exported primary energy nearly 0
- Typically a grid connected building exporting energy in summer and using delivered energy in winter

- See special issue of REHVA Journal 3/2011 on ZEB, nZEB case studies:
  - Elithis Tower in Dijon, France
  - IUCN headquarter in Gland, Switzerland
  - TNT Green Office in Hoofddorp, Holland



To define nZEB it was needed

In order to propose a general definition, it was needed to clarify:

- which energy flows shall be included – **ALL energy used in buildings**
- the use of **primary energy factors** for primary energy indicator
- system boundary definition with **inclusion of active solar and wind**
- the technical meaning of “nearby” in EPBD recast – district heating or cooling networks or any other technical system serving a group of buildings

- Energy performance definition of EPBD recast was followed so that appliances (households and outlets) were included, i.e. all energy used in buildings would be accounted
- For the system boundary definition, a general form modified from the one of EN 15603:2008 is proposed

Proposed nZEB definitions

net zero energy building (nZEB)
energy use of 0 kWh/(m^2 a) primary energy

nZEB has exact performance level of 0 kWh/(m^2 a) primary energy use

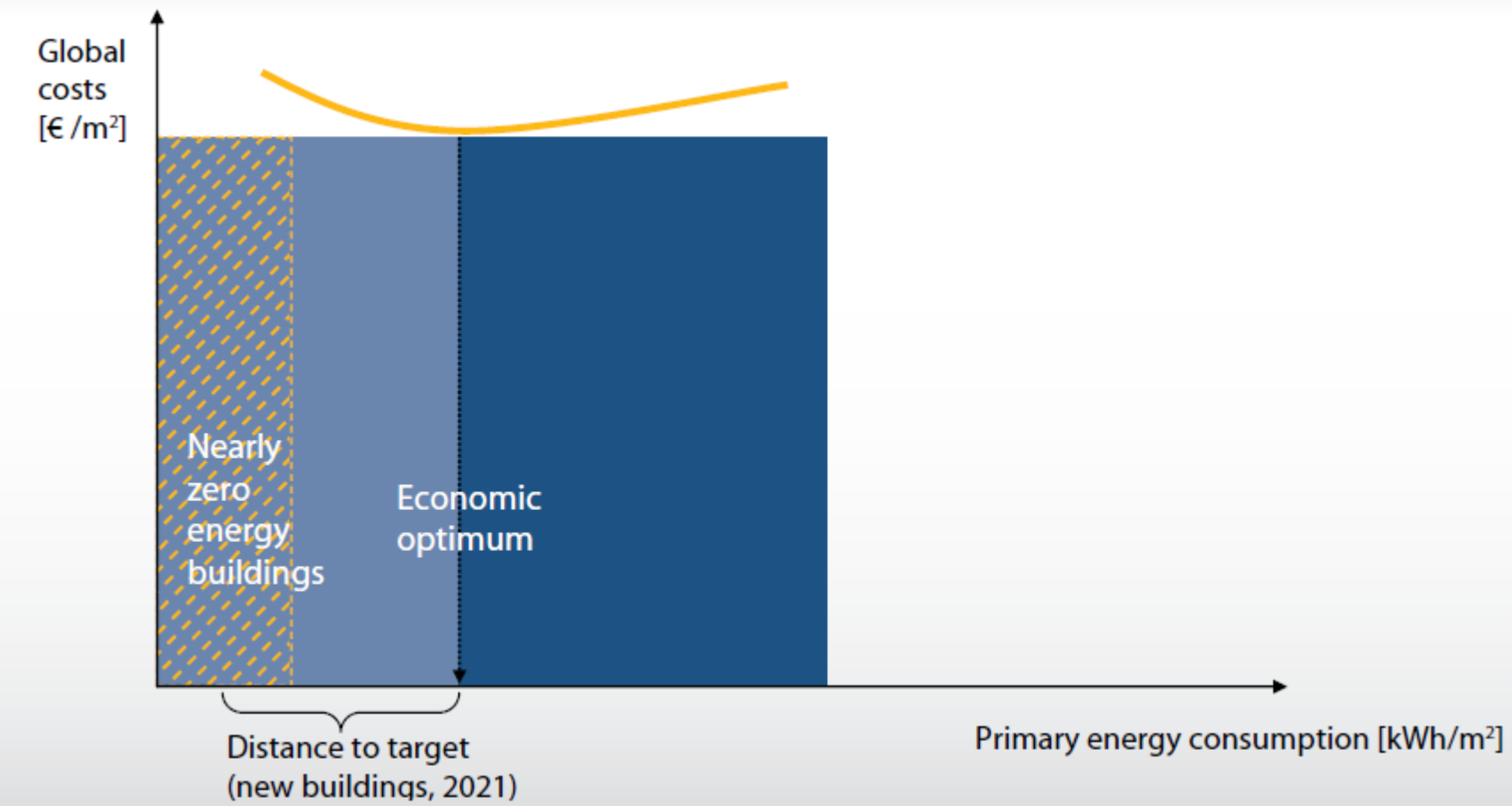
NOTE 1 A nZEB is typically a grid connected building with very high energy performance. nZEB balances its primary energy use so that the primary energy feed-in to the grid or other energy network equals to the primary energy delivered to nZEB from energy networks. Annual balance of 0 kWh/(m^2 a) primary energy use typically leads to the situation where significant amount of the on-site energy generation will be exchanged with the grid. Therefore a nZEB produces energy when conditions are suitable, and uses delivered energy during rest of the time.

nearly net zero energy building (nnZEB)
national cost optimal energy use of > 0 kWh/(m^2 a) primary energy

NOTE 1 The Commission shall establish by 30 June 2011 a comparative methodology framework for calculation of cost-optimal levels (EPBD recast).
NOTE 2. Not all renewable energy technologies needed for nearly zero energy building have to be cost-effective, if appropriate financial incentives are not available.

nnZEB depends on national conditions

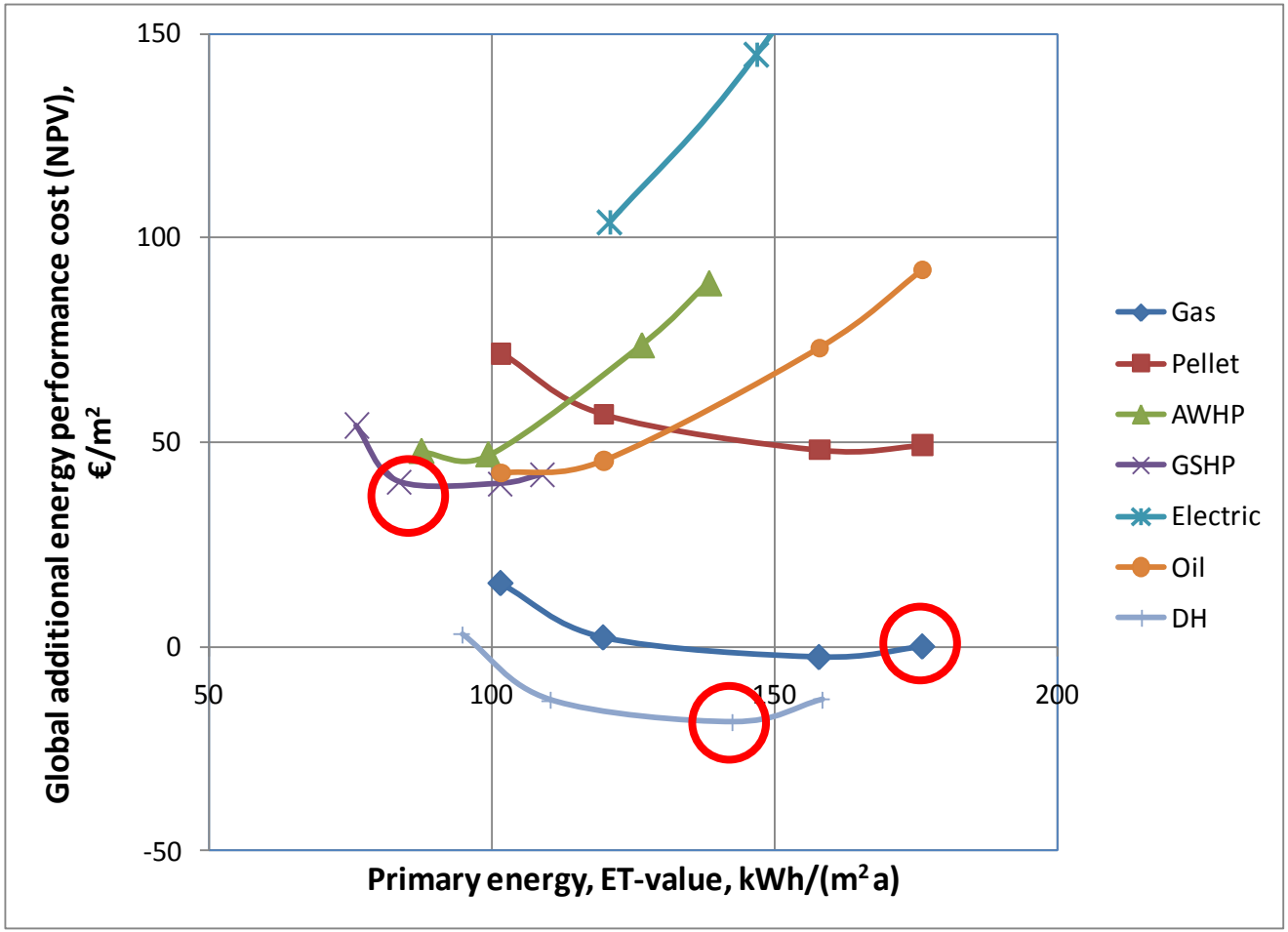
Cost optimal performance levels vs. nZEB



Source: The Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE): http://dl.dropbox.com/u/4399528/BPIE/BPIE_costoptimality_publication2010.pdf

Example of cost optimal calculation

(Source: Estonian ongoing study funded by Climate and Energy Agency KENA)



The ref. detached house 179 m², 3% interest rate, 3% escalation, 30 years, PV not included (AWHP – air to water heat pump, GSHP – ground source heat pump, DH – district heating)

Cost optimal of 140 or 90 depending on the availability of cheap energy source vs. BAU of 180

Distance to nZEB 31 000 € investment cost (175 €/m²) – primary energy of 40, from which improved insulation and heat recovery 6 400 € and solar PV 25 000 €

How to integrate nZEB into energy certificate scale?

nZEB as technically reasonable achievable

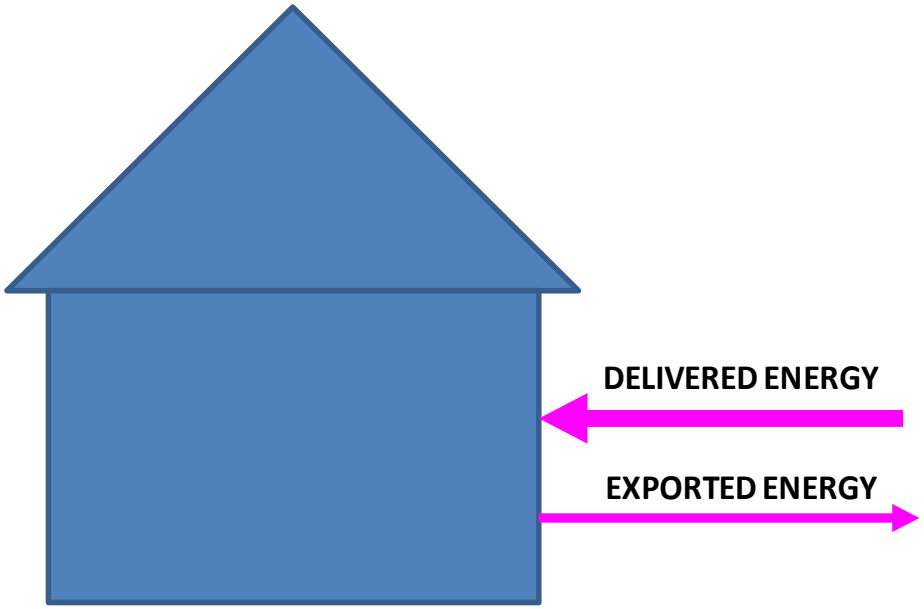
cost optimal for new buildings, category B or C

req. for new buildings (typically not cost optimal yet)

Revision of certificates scales needed:

- Cost optimal requirements for new buildings cannot be any more in D category, as calculated for 30 years period with 3% interest rate
- Existing A may be split (A+, A++) or changed

REHVA TF nZEB – system boundary



$$E = \sum_i \left(E_{del,i} - E_{\exp,i} \right) f_i$$

System boundary for nearly net zero energy building definition, connecting a building to energy networks. Net delivered energy is delivered $E_{del,i}$ minus exported energy $E_{exp,i}$ accounted separately for each energy carrier *i*. Primary energy *E* is calculated with primary energy factors f_i (simplified equation with the same factors for delivered and exported energy carriers)

Primary energy: total or non-renewable?

Many countries have adopted in their regulations PRIMARY ENERGY and NON-RENEWABLE primary energy factors (e.g. 1.1 for oil and 0.5 for wood)

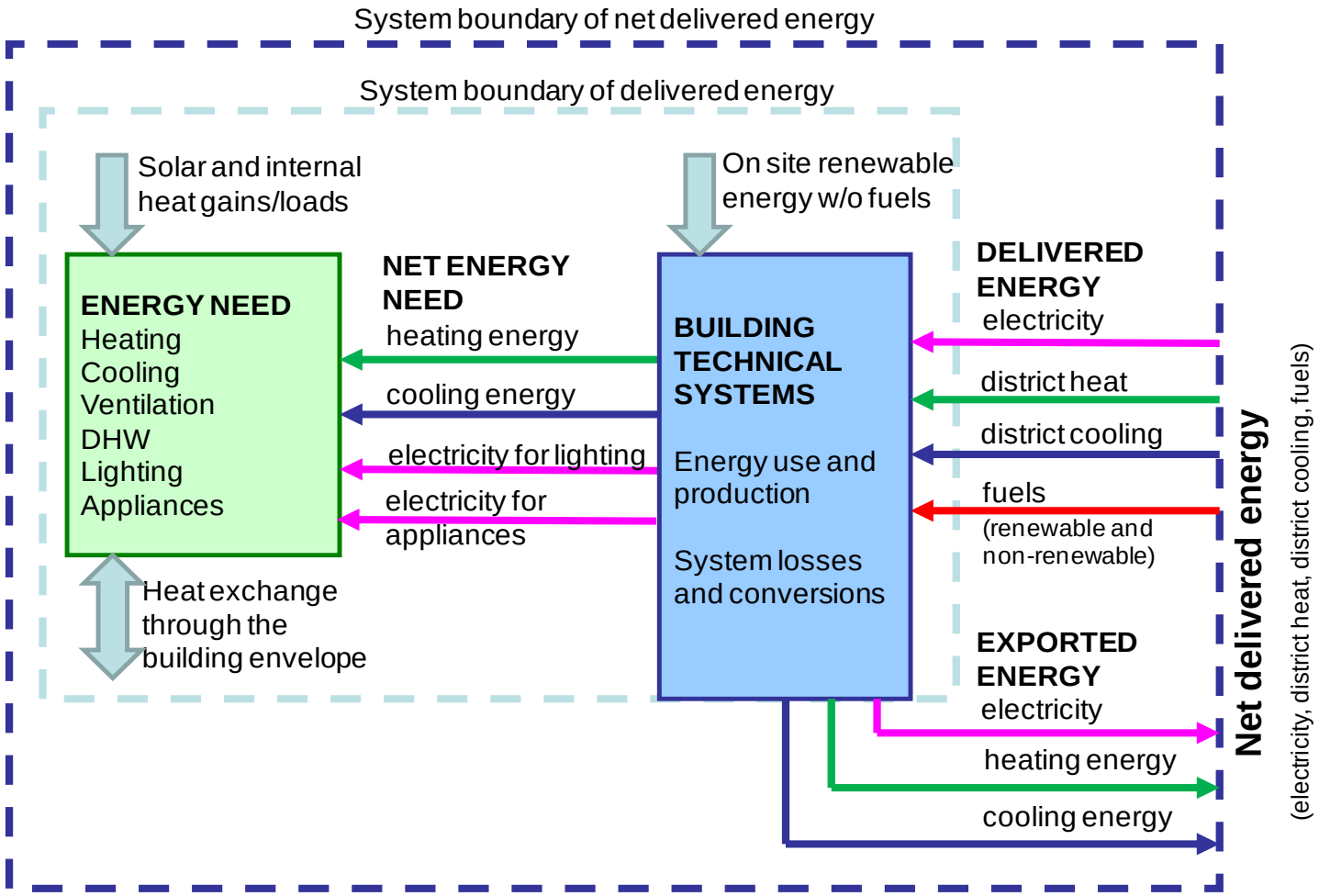
EPBD recast defines primary energy as: ”energy from **renewable and non-renewable sources** which has not undergone any conversion or transformation process”

⇒ TOTAL primary energy and TOTAL primary energy factors shall be used according to EPBD (meaning that there is no difference between bio or fossil fuel and the **factor always exceeds unity**)

Another detail are primary energy factors for delivered and exported energy carriers, which **may or may not be equal**, depending on national definition, i.e. both equations can be used:

$$E = \sum_i \left(E_{del,i} - E_{\exp,i} \right) f_i \quad \text{or} \quad E = \sum_i \left(E_{del,i} f_{del,i} \right) - \sum_i \left(E_{\exp,i} f_{\exp,i} \right)$$

nZEB – detailed system boundary



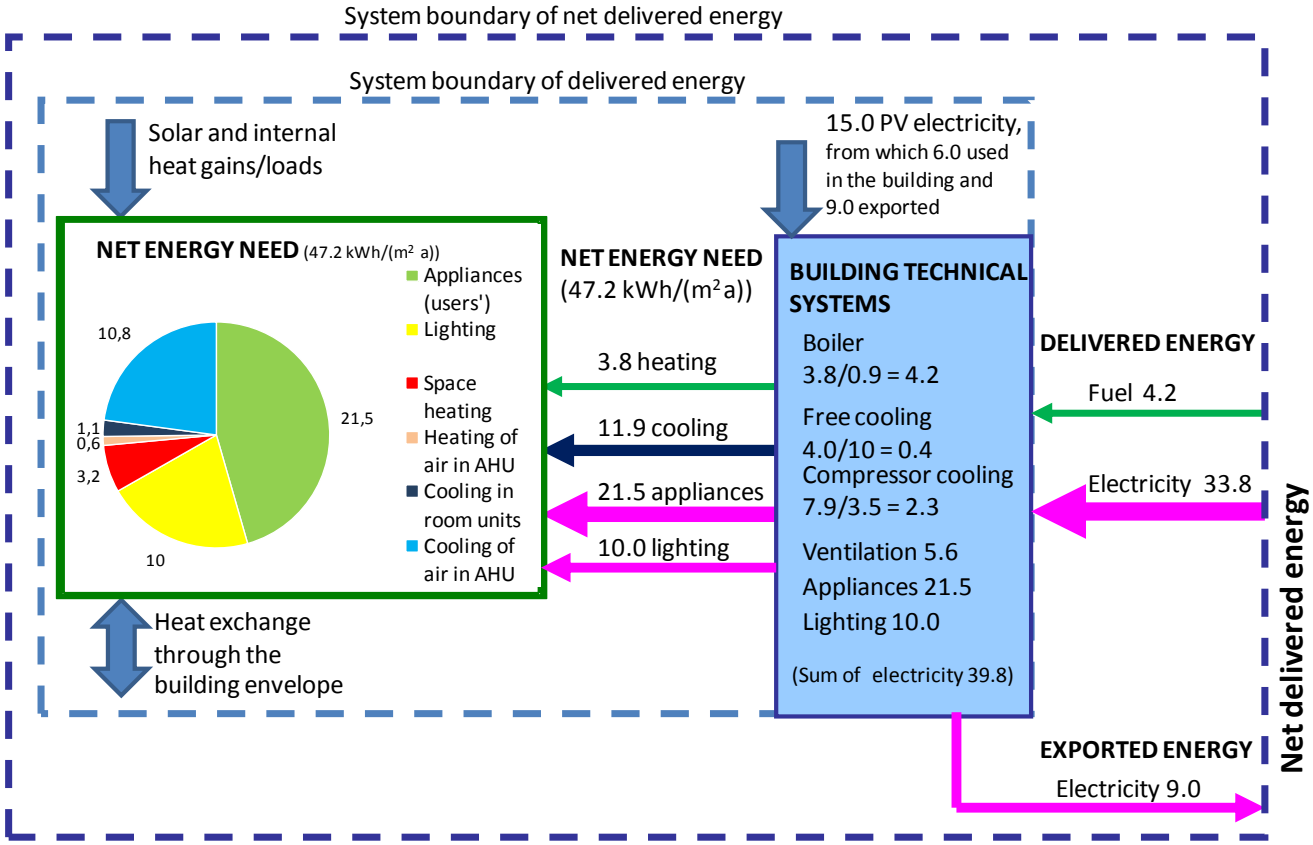
Energy boundary of net delivered energy. The box of "Energy need" refers to rooms in a building and both system boundary lines may be interpreted as the building site boundary.

Example – nZEB Office building

- a gas boiler for heating with seasonal efficiency of 90%
- free cooling from boreholes (about 1/3 of the need) is used and the rest is covered with mechanical cooling
- for borehole cooling, seasonal energy efficiency ratio of 10 is used and for mechanical cooling 3.5
- Ventilation system with specific fan power of 1.2 kW/(m^3/s) will use 5.6 kWh/(m^2 a) fan energy.

- a solar PV system providing 15.0 kWh/(m^2 a), from which 6.0 is utilized in the building and 9.0 is exported to the grid.

Example – nZEB Office building



Primary energy:
4.2*1.0 + (33.8-9.0)*2.5 = 66 kWh/(m² a)

- Electricity use of cooling, ventilation, lighting and appliances is 39.8 kWh/(m² a)
- Solar electricity of 15.0 kWh/(m² a) reduces the net delivered electricity to 24.8 kWh/(m² a)
- Net delivered fuel energy (caloric value of delivered natural gas) is 4.2 kWh/(m² a) and primary energy is 66 kWh/(m² a)

Conclusions

General definition format is proposed to clarify the exact technical meaning of EPBD recast requirements in order to support national implementation

It is proposed to the Member States to use the system boundary shown in Figure 3 and primary energy definition given by Equation 1 in defining the performance levels of nZEB buildings (REHVA J 3/2011)

The definition through the net zero energy building proposed:

- net nZEB has exact performance level of 0 kWh/(m^2 a) primary energy use
- nearly net zero energy use depends on national conditions

The proposed definition allows MS to take local conditions into account, but to use the uniform methodology

Published in REHVA Journal 3/2011 and a full version as REHVA report