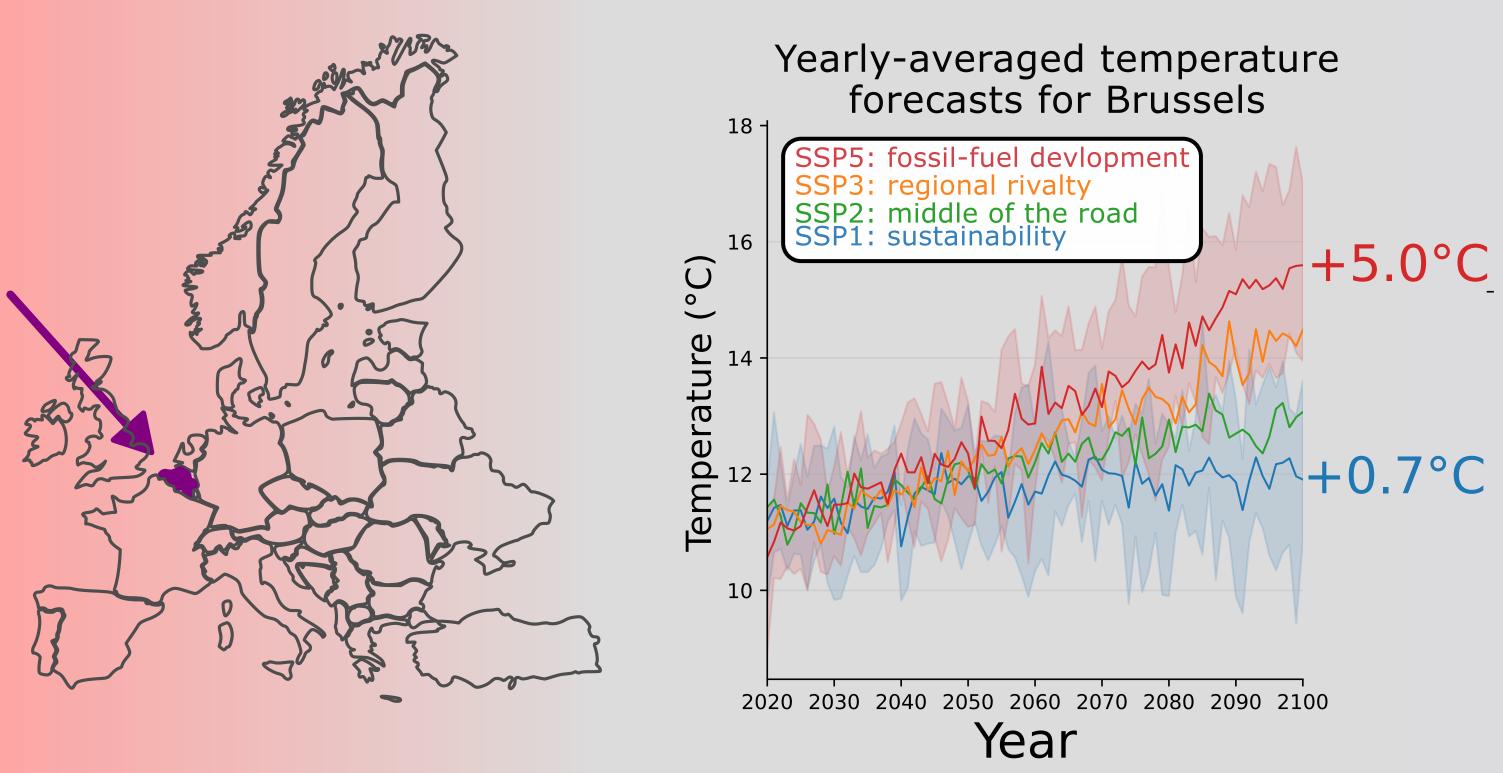
Planning heating and cooling supply for a warming century

Advanced Decision-Making for Net-zero Energy Systems Graz University of Technology 27-28 Nov 2025

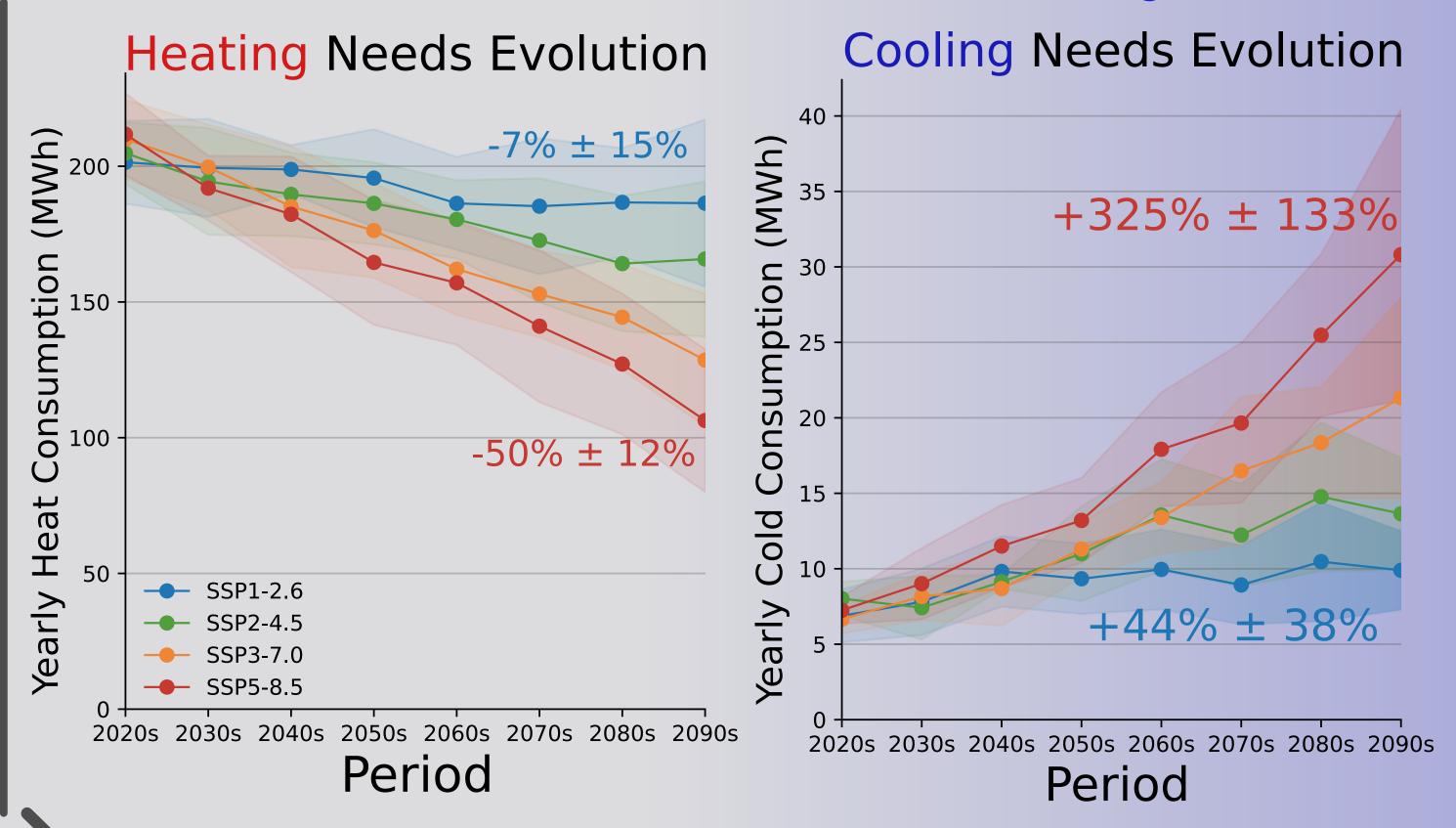
Jonathan Hachez, Nicolas Ghilain, Ali Kök, Diederik Coppitters

Our case study is based in Brussels, Belgium. To obtain the climatic forecast we considered 6 Global Circulation Model (GCM)



However, uncertainties in the temperature projections are significative and driven by choices we make nowadays: which shared socio-economic pathway (SSP) are we gonna take?

Due to climate change, by the century's end, my campus could use 50% less heat but 4x more cooling.



We need a **strategy** to determine how to size our assets.

We considered four different assets to keep the campus at an acceptable temperature level.



Natural gas boiler (NG boiler)



Air-source heat pump (ASHP)

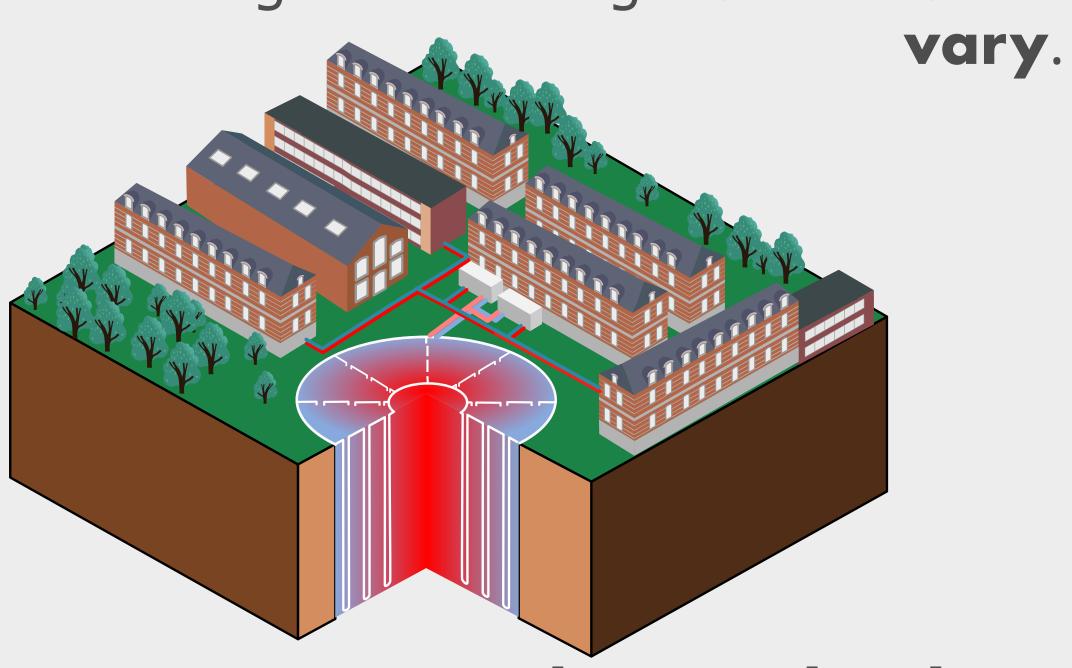


Ground-source heat pump (GSHP)



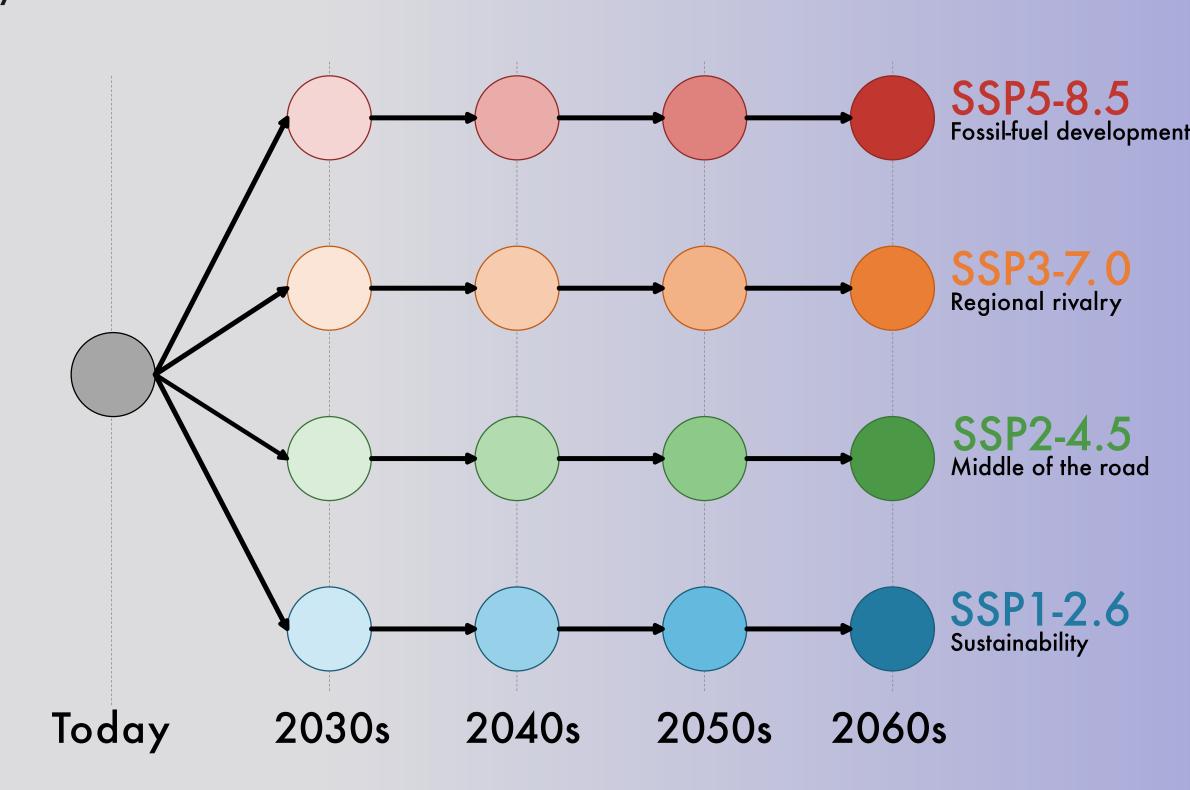
Boreholes capacity

Boreholes are challenging to size because we are not sure how our heating and cooling demands will



However, they are a robust technology as they can supply efficiently cooling and heating under various conditions.

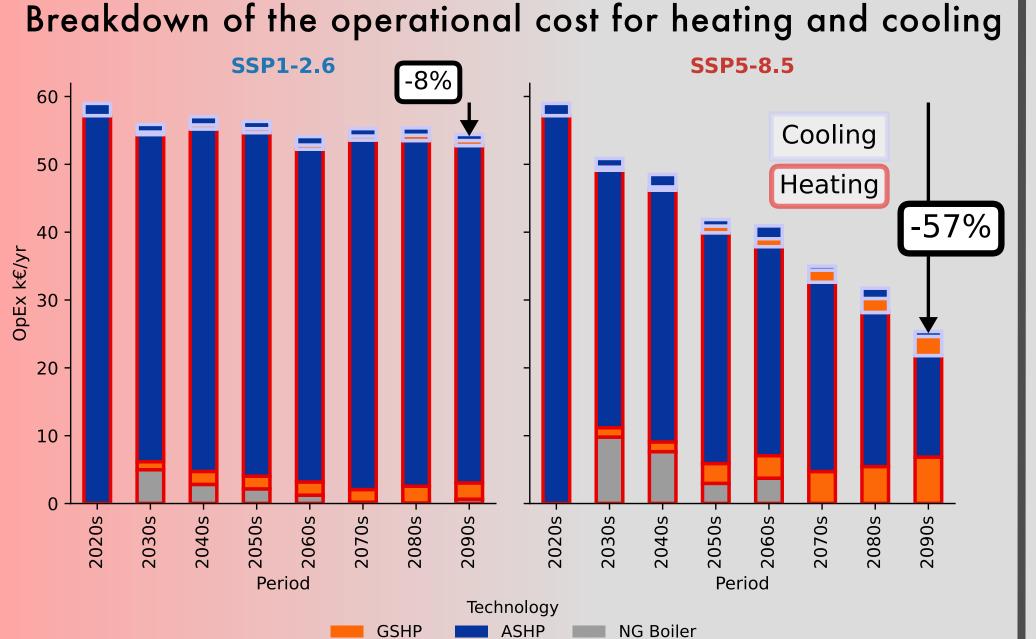
To size the assets, we suggest a stochastic multi-stage formulation, where we can adapt our design every 10 years to minimize our costs.



We can use stochastic dual dynamic programming as an algorithm, enhancing convergence. We used JuDGE.il.



In a system dominated by heating demand, global warming could lead to a cost decrease between -8 and -57% of operational costs by 2090.



In particular, the free cooling with the boreholes allows to reduce the energy used for cooling, making the increase in cooling costs insignificant.





The share of **GSHP** in the system can reach up to 33% of the heating demand and cover the entire cooling demand.

Heating and cooling supply per technology

ASHP cover most of the demand, due to high carbon price (cost driven) or favorable conditions (efficiency driven).

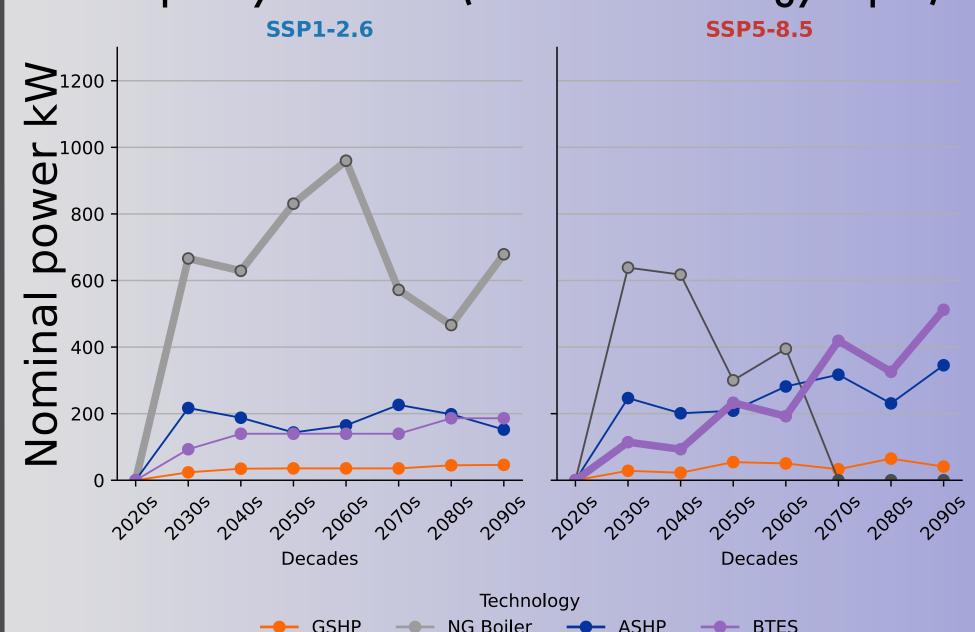


Adaptation of the capacity is possible due to the slow evolution of climate change.

Natural gas boiler keep being a reserve for low-carbon emissions scenarios due to the persistance of harsh winter conditions.



Capacity installed (in terms of energy input)





The installed capacity of geothermal is linked to the cooling demand and evolve strongly in high emission scenarios.



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Climate-driven load shifts and the optimal design of district heating and cooling systems: planning energy supply for a warming century

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