"Towards Zero Carbon: A
Comprehensive Evaluation of
Conventional Renovation Strategies
for Terraced Houses, Using Life Cycle
Analysis (LCA) and Life Cycle Costing
(LCC) to Enhance Decision-Making
Support – accompanied by the design
of a tool."

SUPPORT FOR SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM DECISION-MAKING IN RENOVATION

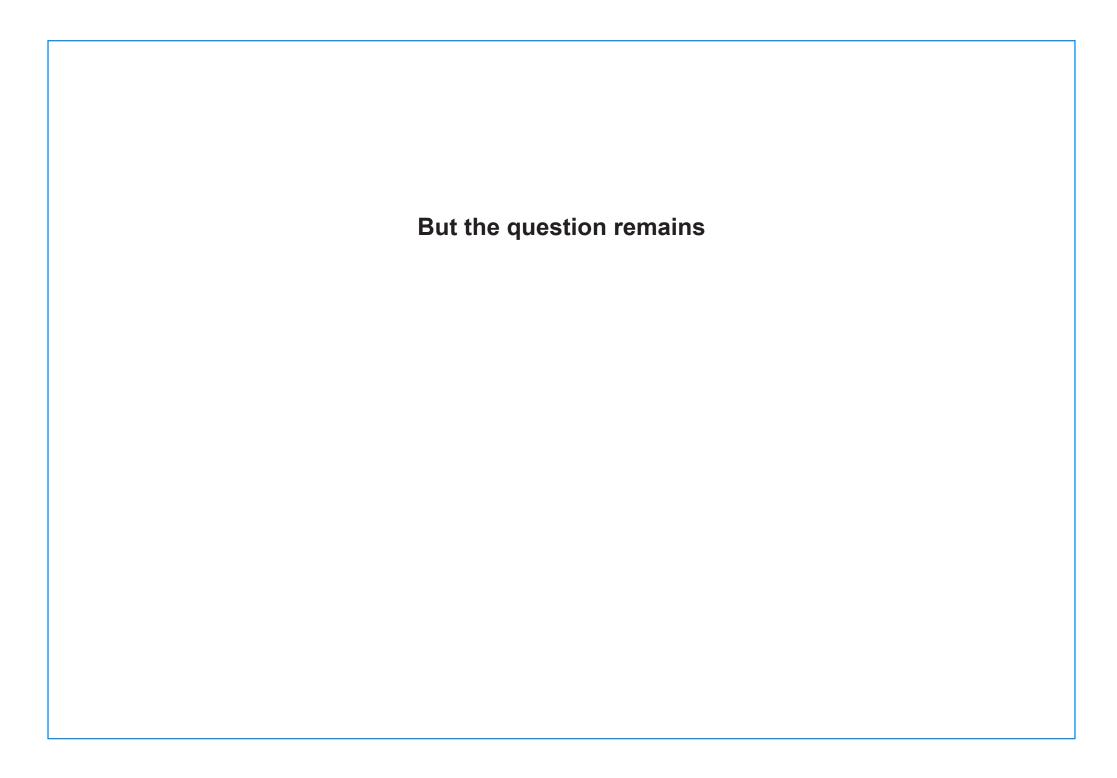
TOWARDS A ZERO CARBON EXISTING BUILDING STOCK

MADEVI SEWNATH - MASTER THESIS



Ever wondered How will energy transition develop?

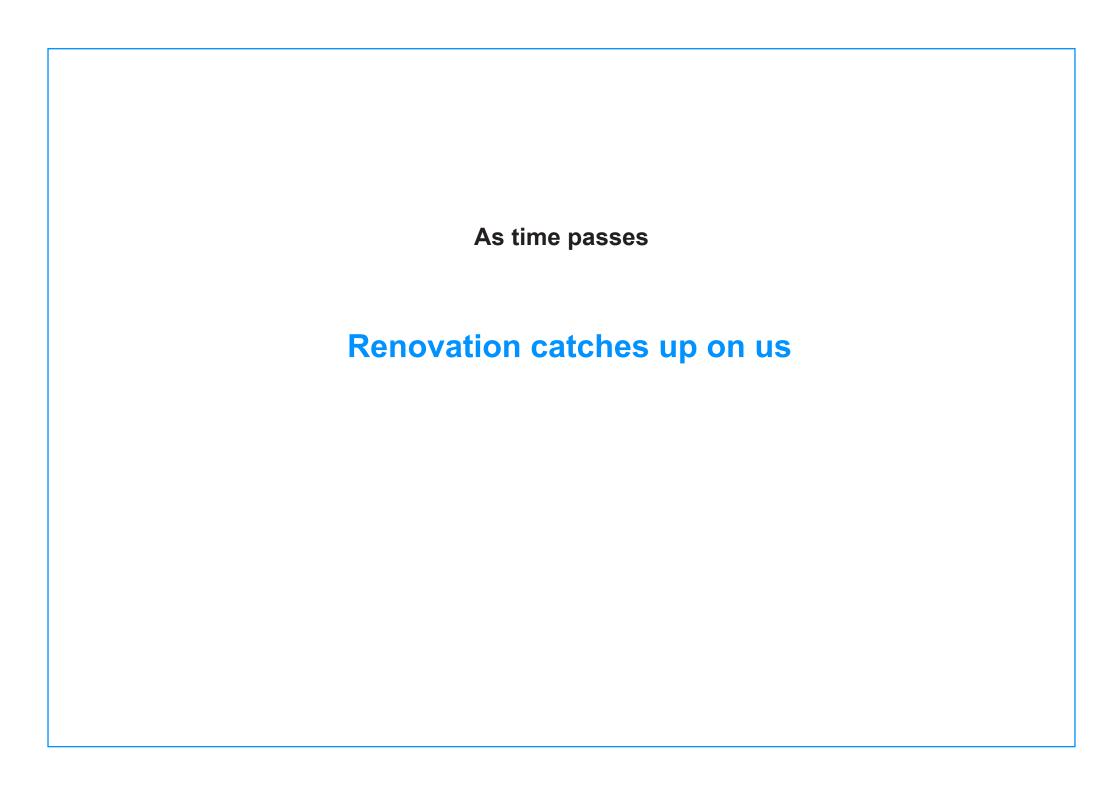




But the question remains

What is the best choice for me?







The thesis aims to provide insight in the holistic performance of a renovation

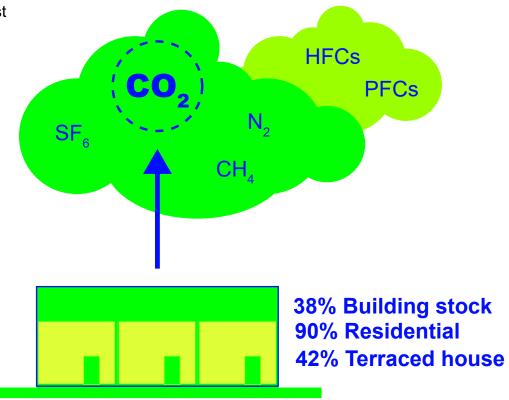


Research background

The global climate challenge

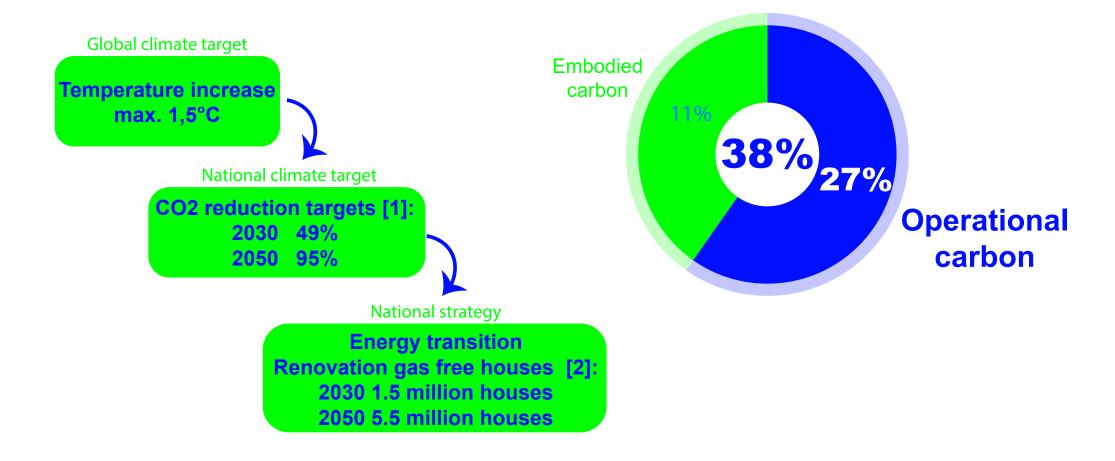
- Max. temperature increase 1,5 °C
- Reduce emissions green house gasses (GHG)
- CO₂ highest impact.
- Buildings responsible for 38% of CO₂ emissions.
- Residential buildings contribute the most





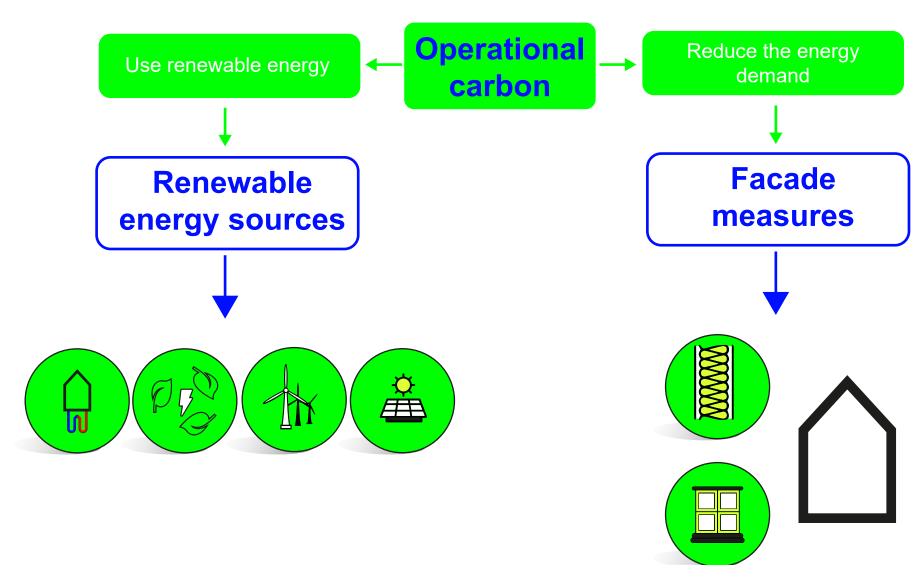
Strategy on a national scale

- Reducing operational carbon
- By renovating residential buildings



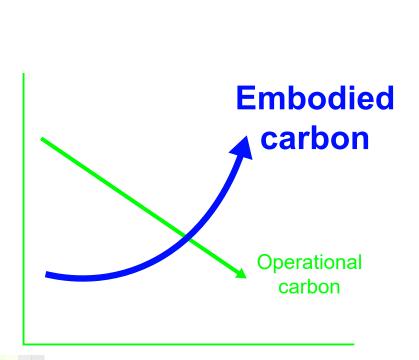
Strategy on a building scale

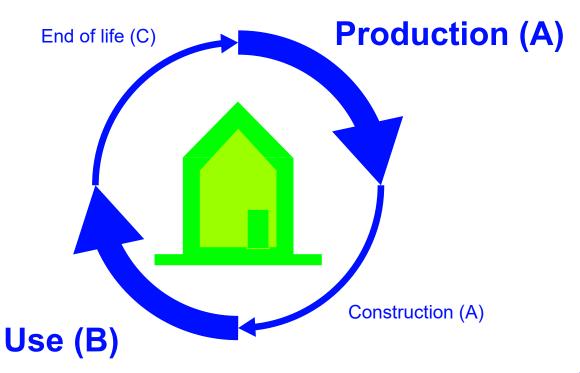
- Reducing operational carbon
- By renovating residential buildings



Importance to reduce the Embodied carbon

- Strategies should consider embodied and operational emissions
- Procedure for assessing embodied carbon is incomplete
- Current strategies are not selected on complete spectrum of carbon emissions
- · Risk, overall lower carbon reduction than expected

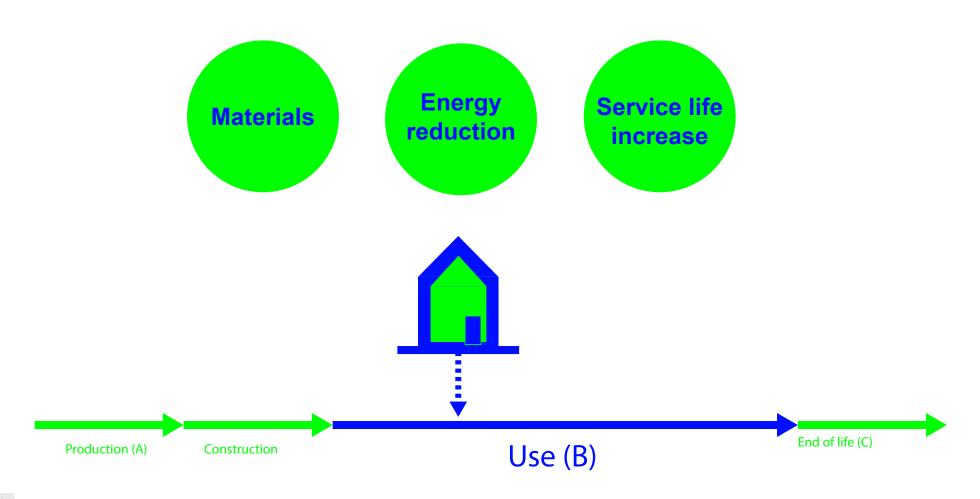




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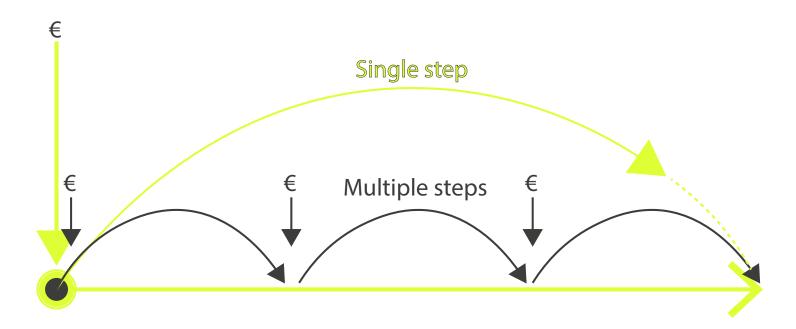
The need for a life cycle approach

- Renovation influences the service life of a building: Increase service life
 The use of materials
 And achieved energy reduction
- Service life planning determines overall carbon reduction



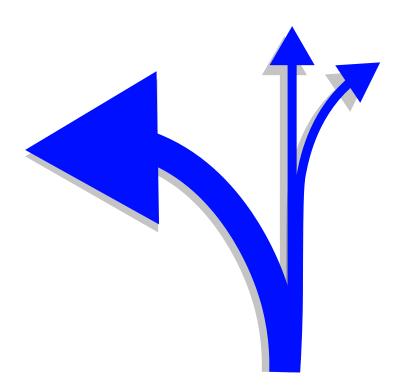
Life cycle planning

- Additionally carbon emissions are influenced by execution of renovation
- Due to limited budget renovation is often performed in steps,
- This influences emissions on the long term
- Compared to when renovation is performed in one go



Support in decision making

- · Design decisions based on multiple criteria
- · Designs are specific for each building
- Performance assessment is time consuming
- The decision-making process could benefit from a long-term perspective
- Support for managing large portfolios is lacking



Problem statement

As the operational carbon decreases the share of embodied carbon increases. However the procedure for assessing the embodied carbon is incomplete. Therefore current renovation strategies are not assessed on total carbon emissions.

Assessing total carbon emissions

Secondly, renovation influences the service life of a building and future emissions. Therefore, service life planning is crucial to estimate emissions on the long-term.

Life cycle planning, long term emissions

Thirdly, the assessment of designs for renovation on multiple criteria is time consuming.

Assessment time

At last, deep renovations are often not performed in a single go due to a lack of budget. Assessment of steps on the long term performance of a building are often not considered.

Assessment of steps, and long term performance

Research question

How can decision-making for renovation strategies take into account carbon emissions over the life cycle of a building, in the Netherlands?

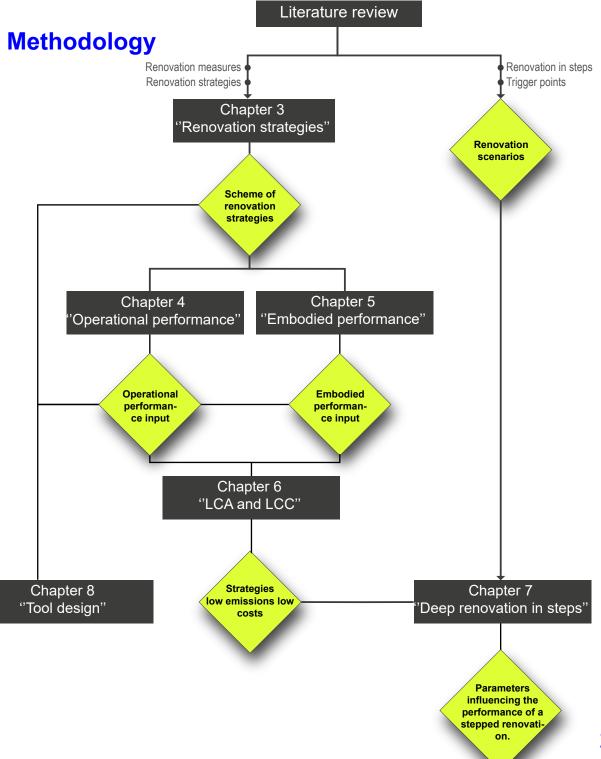
Sub questions

- 1. How can renovation strategies be created and which renovation measures should be included in the strategies regarding carbon emissions?
- 2. How do the renovation strategies influence the operational performance of a building?
 - 3. How do the renovation strategies influence the buildings embodied performance?
 - 4. How do the renovation strategies influence the buildings life cycle performance?
 - 5. What renovation scenarios for a terraced house can be defined considering a buildings life cycle in the Netherlands?
 - 6. How can decision making be supported with the results, through a design?

Renovation scenarioRenovation strategyRenovation measuresExecution of renovation proachAim of renovation approachPossible measures

Main approach consist of 4 steps

- 1. Renovation strategies
- 2. Performance assessment
- 3. Performance assessment, steps
- 4. Design of a tool



Defining renovation strategies, with conventional measures.

Boundary "a typical terraced house"

In the Netherlands, the building stock consist of: 7 million residential buildings

Dominant housing typology: Terraced houses (42%)

Building year:

1965-1985, also referred to as 60s terraced house



General data		Source
Building type	Single family house	
Building year	1966	
Surface Area	129 m2	
Volume	438 m3	
Internal heat gain	4,5 W/m2	
Structure		
Inner load bearing	100mm bricks-40mm cavi-	(AVANES et al.,
walls	ty-100mm bricks	2018)
Outer load bearing	100mm bricks-80mm cavi-	
walls	ty–100mm bricks	
Ground floor	150mm concrete	
Separating floors	150mm concrete	
Roof	Wooden structure, 18mm wood-	
	en beams	
Envelope performance	•	
External walls	Uninsulated	(WoonWijzerWinkel,
Windows	Single glass	2023)
Roof	Uninsulated	
Ground floor	Uninsulated	
Infiltration (AC/h)	0,6	See chapter 2.5
HVAC systems		
Ventilation system	Ventilation system A, AC/h= 0,6	See chapter 2.5
Heating system	Gas boiler	(WoonWijzerWinkel,
Domestic hot tap water	Gas boiler	2023)
Heat distribution sys-	Hot water radiators	
tem		
Heating supply tem-	70-90 °C	
perature	04.00	
Temperature (heating)	21 °C	

Boundary "a typical terraced house"

The original state as starting point:

Uninsulated depth 6.5-8 meters width 6 meters large windows Gable

shared walls
Gas boiler as heating system



Similar volumes roof size

&

Energy consumption

2 main renovation strategies can be distinguished

DEEP RENOVATION STRATEGIES

SHALLOW RENOVATION STRATEGIES

Energy saving >60%

Strategy aims to establish a high energy saving.

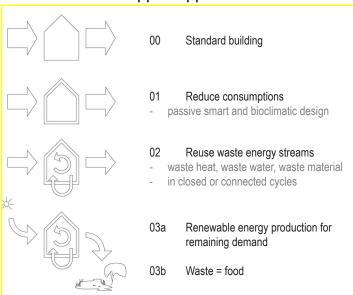
Energy saving 3-30%

Strategy that aims to reduce energy use at low costs, cost effective measures.

Different selection procedures for deep and shallow renovation strategies

Deep renovation, aim carbon neutral

Stepped approach



(adapted from Tillie et al., 2009)

Shallow renovation, aim cost effective

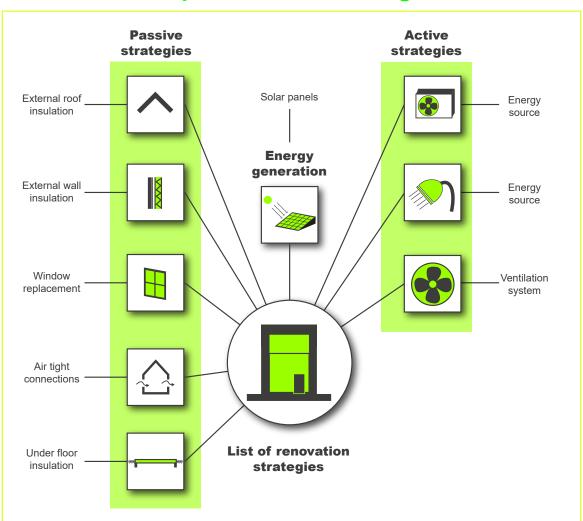


costs and energy saving

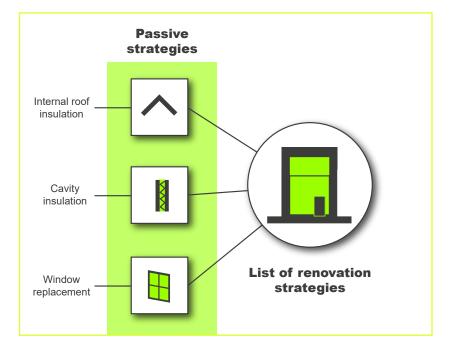
Desire of house owners

Most impactfull parameters

Deep renovation strategies



Shallow renovation strategies



Strategies translated into renovation measures

- Variety in performance is key to find optimal solutions
- Assessing multiple renovation measures

		_		
Shallow renovation mea				
Envelope measures	Insulation in Rc value (m²K/W) and windows in U value (W/m²K)			
Reference code:	Level 0,1C	Level 0,1R	Level 0,1W	Level 0,1
	Cavity ins.	Roof ins.	Window replace- ment	All measures
Roof		3,5		3,5
External walls	1,86			1,86
Windows			1,2	1,2
Infiltration (AC/h)	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,4
Deep renovation measur	res			
Envelope measures		ation in Rc value (m²k		,
Reference code:	Level 1 "minimum"		Level 2 moder- ate	Level 3 high
	70-90 °C (1)	50 °C (1.1)	'new build"	'streefwaarden"
Roof	2	3,5	6	8
External walls	1,3	1,7	4,5	6
Windows	1,2	1,2	1,2	1
Ground floor	2,5	3,5	3,5	3,5
Source	Building code	(WoonWijzerWin- kel, 2023)	(Standaard En Streefwaarden Voor Woningiso- latie, n.d.)	(Standaard En Streef- waarden Voor Wonin- gisolatie, n.d.)
Infiltration (AC/h)	0,6	0,6	0,3	0,2
HVAC measures				
Ventilation				
Ventilation system A	1	Natural supply and exh	naust through window	vs AC/h = 0,6
Ventilation system C		With CO2 senso	ors at windows, AC/h	= 1,05
Ventilation system D	With heat recovery efficiency 80%, AC/h = 1,05			
Heating and tap water system				
Option 1: Heatpump	COP 3			
Option 2: electric boiler	COP 1			
Energy generation				
Building scale option 1	Photovoltaic (PV) panels Orienta- tion east-west, 100% covered roof			
Building scale option 2	Photovoltaic (PV) panels Orientation south-north, 100% covered roof			

Photovoltaic (PV) panels Orientation south, 50% covered roof

Building scale option 3

Renovation strategies deep renovation

Baseline

Current state renovation strategies

Current state

Elec.
Boiler
Gas boiler
A
2 strategies

Shallow renovation strategies, consider single measures

Shallow renovation strategies

Single measures

Passive measures, envelope

Cavity Roof Windows

Gas boiler A A A

3 strategies

Shallow renovation strategies, consider combining measures

Combined measures				
Passive measures, envelope				
	Cavity + Roof + Windows			
Elec. Boiler	A/C/D			
Gas boiler	A/C/D			

6 strategies

			•	4		
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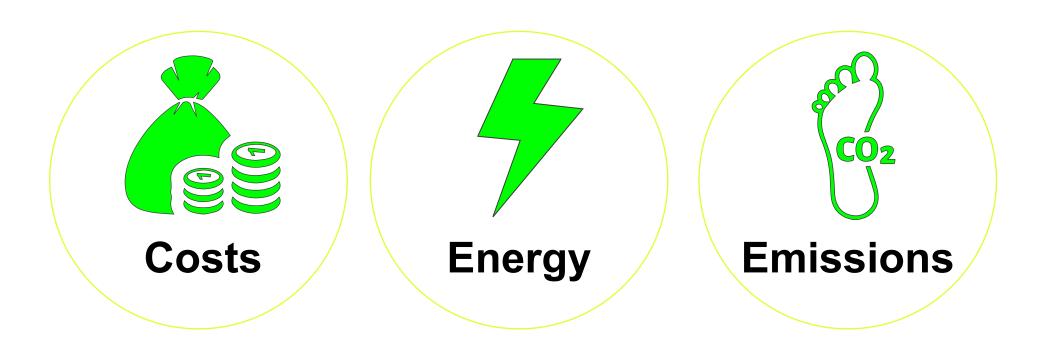
Deep renovation strategies				
Passive measures, envelope				
	level 1	level 2	level 3	
Heat pump Elec.	A/C/D	A/C/D	A/C/D	
Boiler	A/C/D	A/C/D	A/C/D	
Gas boiler	A/C/D	A/C/D	A/C/D	

27 strategies

How can the performance of renovation strategies be assessed?

Main criteria in decision-making

Assessment on 3 criteria



Holistic performance of renovation strategies can be obtained through assessing costs, energy and emissions.

Performance estimated with software and manual calculations



Requires
the use of
multiple
software and
a high level
of data.







One Click LCA

Manual calculation







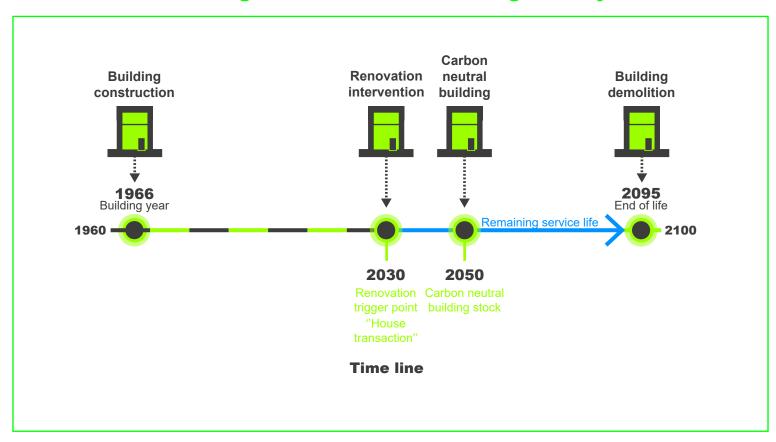
HEATING DEMAND

TAPWATER

	One Click LCA	Design Builder	Excel (mannual calculation)
Heating demand		X	
DHW			X
Embodied carbon	Х		
Operational carbon			X
Energy saving			X
Recurrent embod- ied carbon	Х		Х
Costs			X
Recurrent costs			X
Building life cycle			X
Energy generation			X

Assessment period

Taking into account a buildings life cycle



Performance of renovations strategies

Reference code

The reference number for the level of insulation are (also presented in table 9):

1 minimum insulation;

1.1 minimum insulation in case of a heat pump;

moderate insulation;high insulation;

Current state absence of insulation measures

The reference for the ventilation systems are:

A system A natural ventilation;

C system C, mechanical exhaust and natural supply;

D system D mechanical with heat recovery.

The reference for the energy systems are:

EB electric boiler;

HP heat pump;

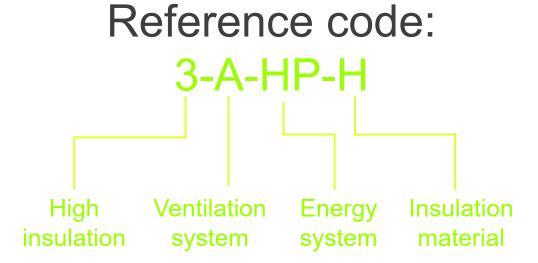
GB gas boiler.

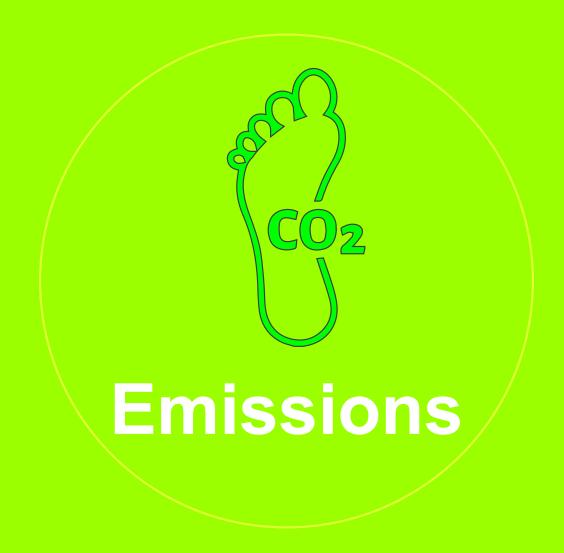
The reference for the different insulation materials are:

H Hard insulation, EPS;

S Soft insulation, glass wool;

O Organic insulation, cellulose.





Operational carbon performance Deep renovation strategies

Annual operational carbon

emissions saving for Gas boiler strategies

<u>64</u>%

3-A

3-D

67%

66%

65%

64%

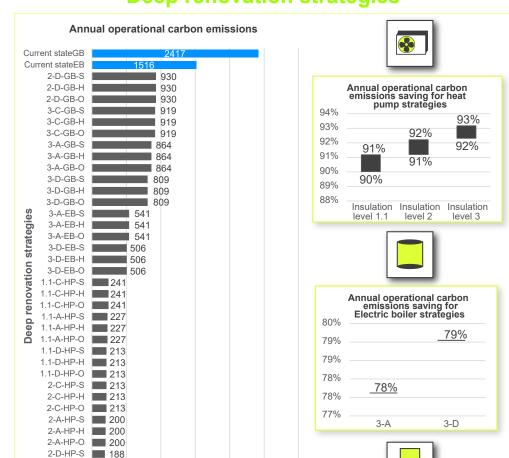
63%

62%

61%

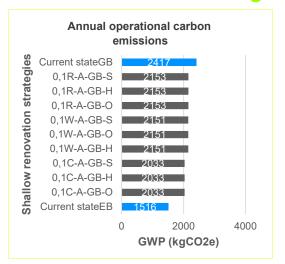
62%

2-D & 3-C



- Operational carbon factor (electricity and gas) influences the results the most.
 - Relation between energy system and operational carbon emissions
 - Measure (DEEP) that leads to a low operational carbon performance is
 - a heat pump
 - Measure (Shallow) that leads to a low operational carbon performance is cavity insulation
- Due to a reduction in energy consumption

Shallow renovation strategies





37

2-D-HP-H

2-D-HP-O

3-C-HP-S

3-C-HP-H

3-C-HP-O

3-A-HP-H

3-A-HP-O

3-D-HP-S

3-A-HP-S 175

3-D-HP-H 165

3-D-HP-O 165

188

186

186

175

165

1500

GWP (kg CO2e)

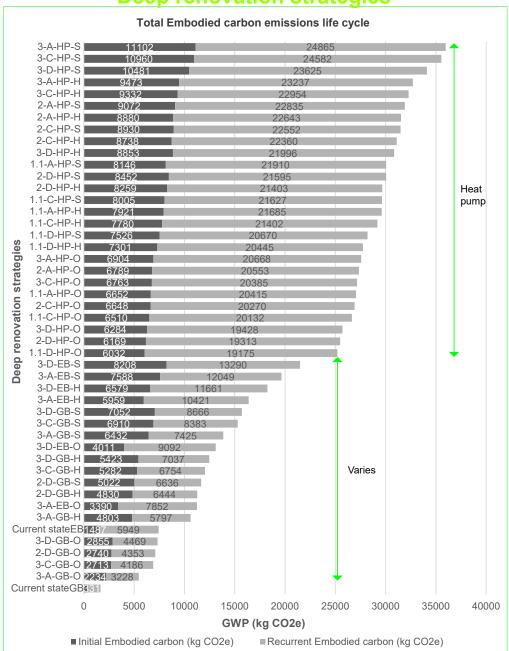
2000

2500

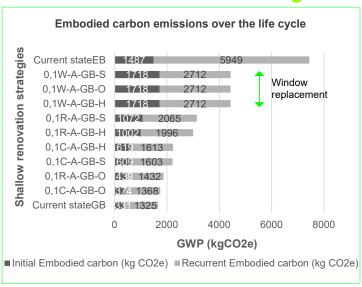
3000

Embodied performance

Deep renovation strategies



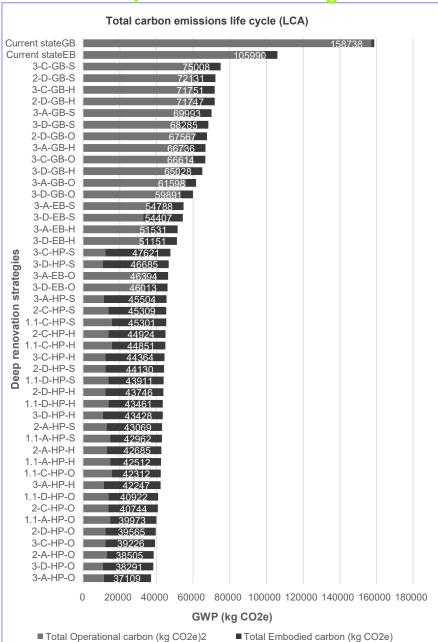
- Embodied carbon is mainly determined by the recurrent embodied carbon (in a building life span of 65 years).
- Services are responsible for the majority of emissions, due to their short life span (15 years)
- Measure (deep) that leads to highest emissions is a heat pump
- Measure (shallow) that leads to highest emissions is window replacement



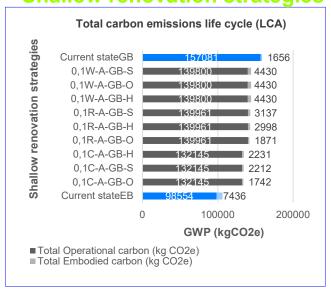


Operational and embodied performance (LCA)

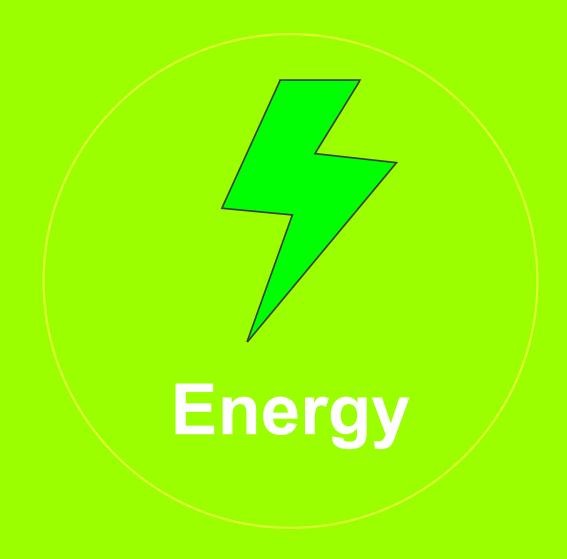
Deep renovation strategies



- Operational carbon acts as a representative for total emissions, in shallow renovations
- In deep renovations, the importance to assess the embodied carbon grows. Especially strategies that consider a heat pump show high embodied emissions.
- The embodied emissions can be influences by increasing the service life of services or reducing the emissions related to the production

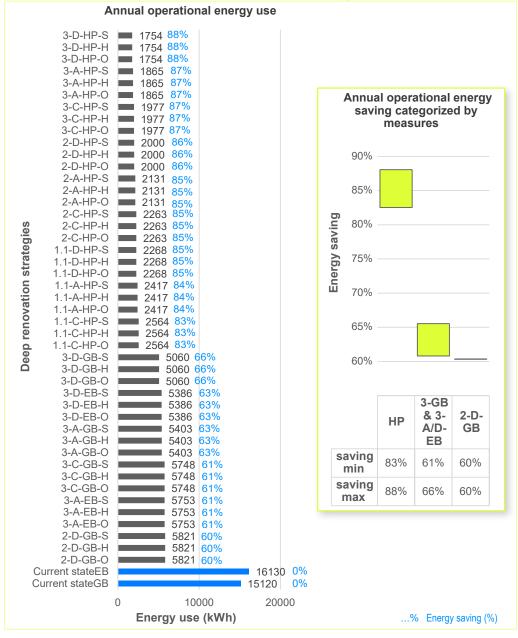




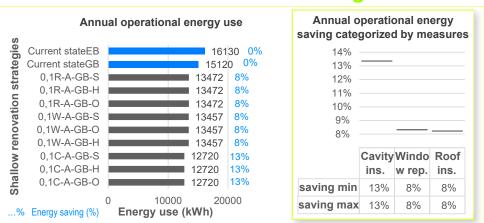


Operational energy performance

Deep renovation strategies



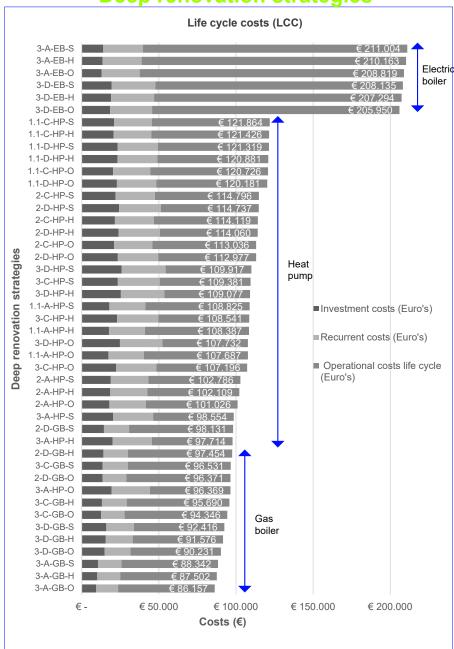
- Deep strategies considering a heat pump result in the highest (83%-88%) energy saving.
- A shallow renovation is achieved by executing a single measure or two measures, From all measures cavity insulation results in the highest energy reduction (13% energy saving)



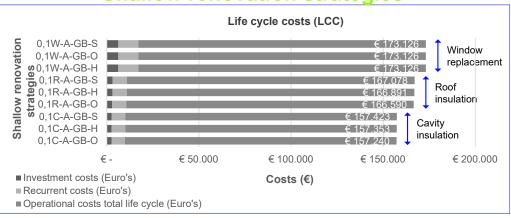


Life cycle costs

Deep renovation strategies



- LCC is mainly influenced by operational costs
- Which is higher for energy systems that use electricity, and highest for strategies that consider an electric boiler.
- cavity insulation results in lowest LCC due to a high energy saving.



Holistic performance



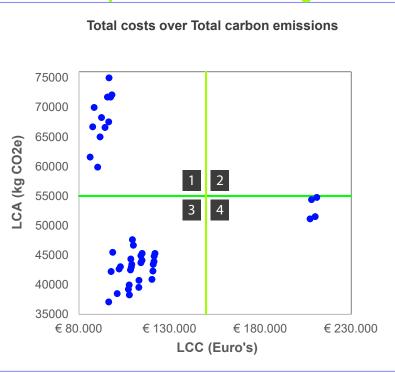
Holistic performance - Scatter plot LCA and LCC

LCA =
OPERATIONAL
CARBON +
EMBODIED
CARBON

Holistic performance

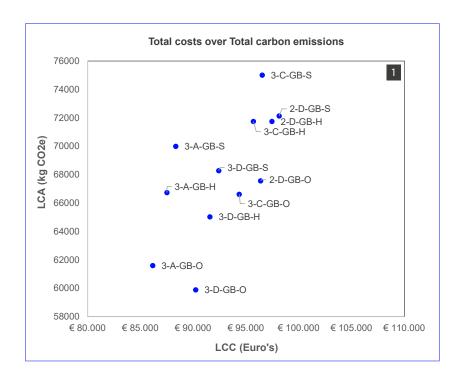
LCC =
OPERATIONAL
COSTS+
REPLACEMENT
MATERIALS +
INVESTMENT
MATERIALS

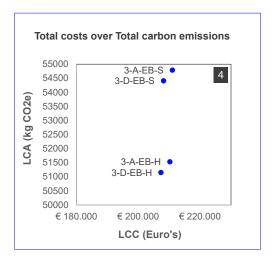
Deep renovation strategies

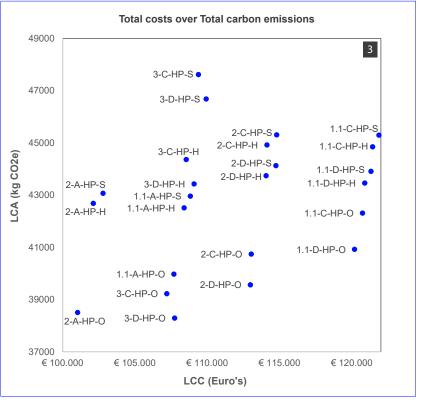


Scatter plot DEEP renovation strategies, LCA and LCC

- Strategies that result in low carbon emissions and low costs, al contained a heat pump.
- High emissions and low costs relate to gas boilers.
- High costs and moderate carbon emissions related to electric boilers, costs is influenced by the energy price.







Zero carbon

Similar roof angle

Generation potential dependent on:

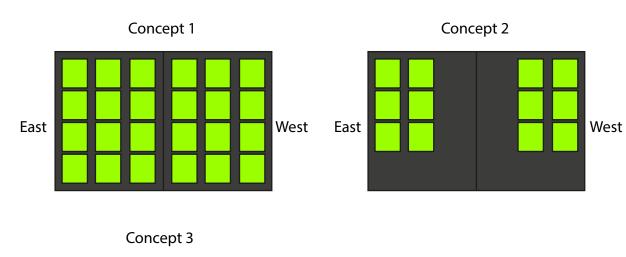
- Surface area
- orientation
- PV type

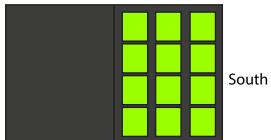
Concept 1 can compensate for strategies that consider:

- heat pump
- high insulation, D or A ventilation

Concept 2 and 3 can compensate for strategies that consider:

heat pump





But what happens to the life cycle performance if renovation is performed in steps?

Renovation scenarios

The deployment of renovation is influenced by 3 factors:

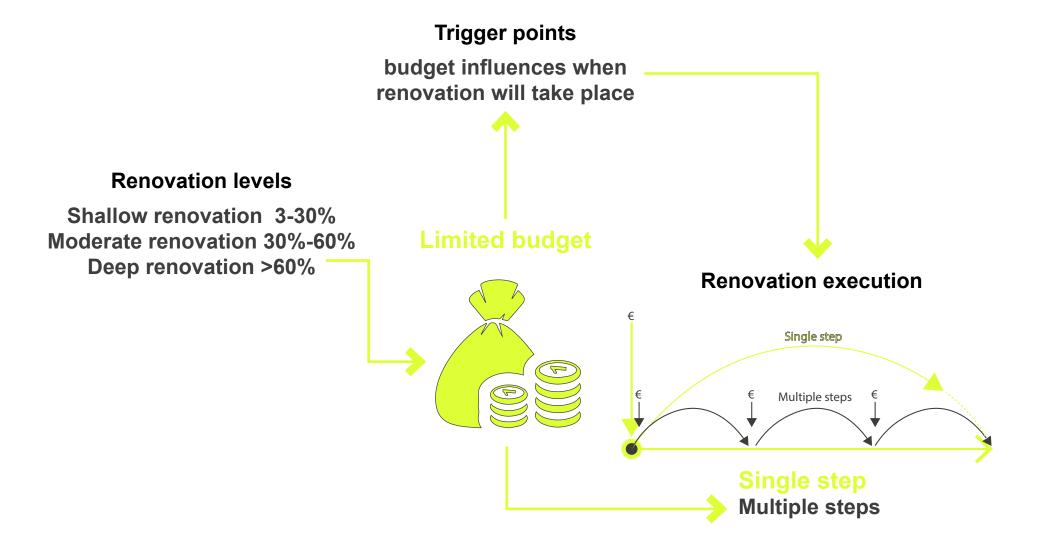
Renovation level Renovation execution Trigger points

Resulting in various possible renovation scenarios

"Renovation scenarios refer to alternative situations to evaluate their potential to meet renovation objectives"

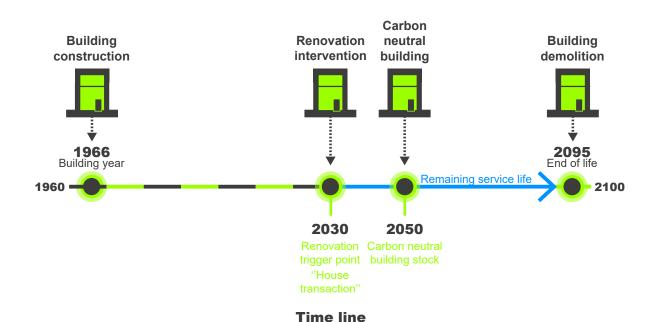
Where situations refer to the deployment of renovation

Stepped renovation



Life cycle planning

1. Determine the remaining life span of the building



2. Predict when renovation interventions occure

Trigger points	Year
Change of tenancy House transactions Lifetime of infrastructure Lifetime of heating appliances	2038 2030 2015 2033

Trigger points for the majority of residential buildings in Europe

(Kruit et al., 2020)

Stepped renovation assessment

scenarios

Life cycle prediction, houses EU

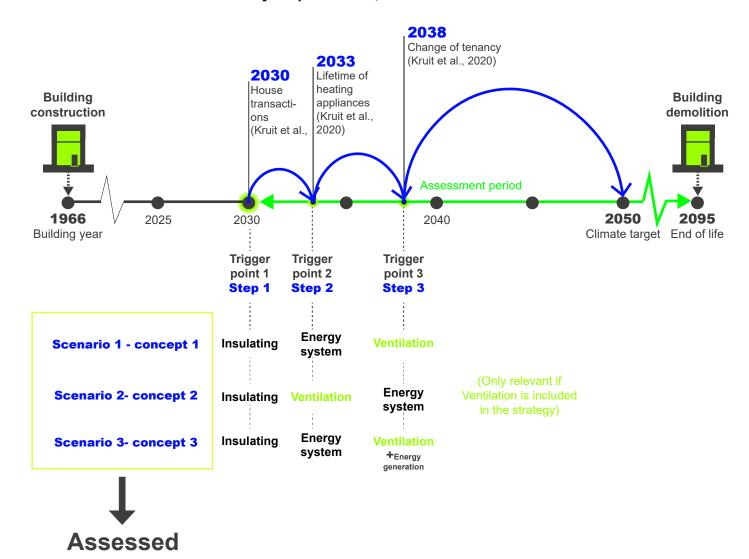
Assessed strategies



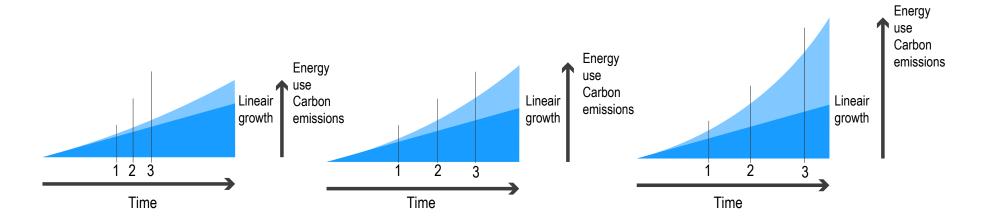
1.1 - A - HP -O

3 - D - HP - O

3 - D - EB - H



Steps in relation to performance



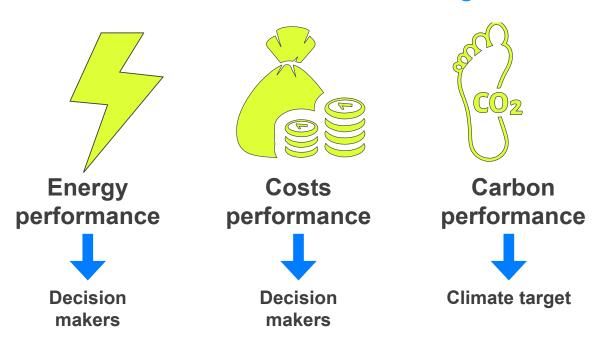
Renovation in steps Renovation single go How can design contribute to decision making in renovation?

Decision making in renovation

Decision-making in renovation can be supported by:

Providing insight in the performance of renovation strategies

Main criteria in decision-making?



Decision makers and decision making process

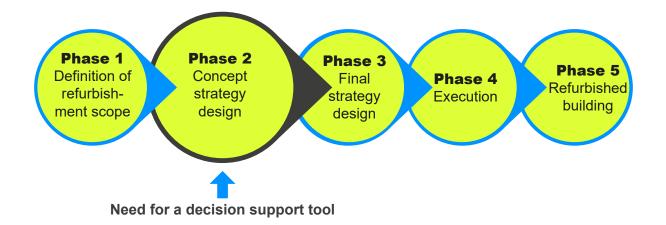
Who benefits from support in decision-making?



Single decision maker

Multiple decision makers

Decision makers with large portfolios in particular need support in long term decision-making.



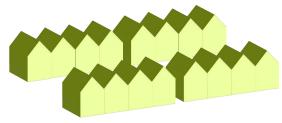
What is needed?

There is a need for decision support tools, that provide insight in the performance of a renovation on energy use, carbon emissions and costs.

Design principles

Support tools for decision making should not be time consuming.

Tools that consider longterm strategies, for partial refurbishment. To support long term financial planning in renovation.



Decision makers with a large building portfolio

Uncertainty in tool

DATA

Data on carbon emissions and costs fluctuates

Representative outcomes

A simplefied assessment does not represent the real performance

TOOL Setup

Excel worksheets

R results

O overview

S simulation

D data

Intro INPUT Uncertainties R-1 STEP R-3 STEP S-recurrent cost O-strategies O-S1step O-D1step D-dhw D-costs D-pv

Tool setup:

Input and uncertainties > case specific data required from decision maker

Performance assessment results overview

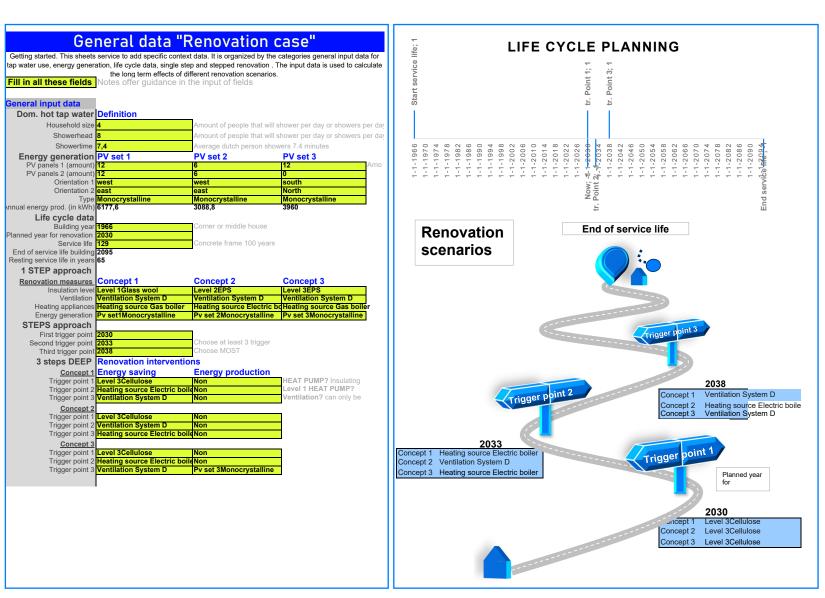
Recurrent costs, overview costs over time for budget planning

Overview of the strategies

Data, overview of the data

TOOL Design

- Simple interface, minimum input fields
- Option for one step or steps renovation
- Graphical representation of the input values



Life cycle path by input values

TOOL Design

- Results are significantly influences by data on carbon emissions and costs. And are case specific.
- factors that influence costs and emissions the most are included in the tab.
- Uncertainty tab
 reduces uncertainty in data
- Allows use of case specific data
- Or updated data

Change the operational carbon emissions for electricity and natural gas
Change the costs for materials and services



Change the carbon emissions for services



Uncertainty "Reducing data uncertainty"

Getting started. This sheet offers the possibility to reduce uncertainties related to the data used in the tool. It is organized by the categorize general input data for the renovation, the building, and the objectives of the renovation. Then the selection of renovation scenario follows and at last the life cycle data is used to calculate the long term effects of different renovation scenarios.

Fill in all these fields

Notes offer guidance in the input of fields

(€)
(€)
(€)
(€)
(€)

259 197

1387

1405

Monocrystalline

Double glazed windows (HR++)

Triple glazed windows (HR+++

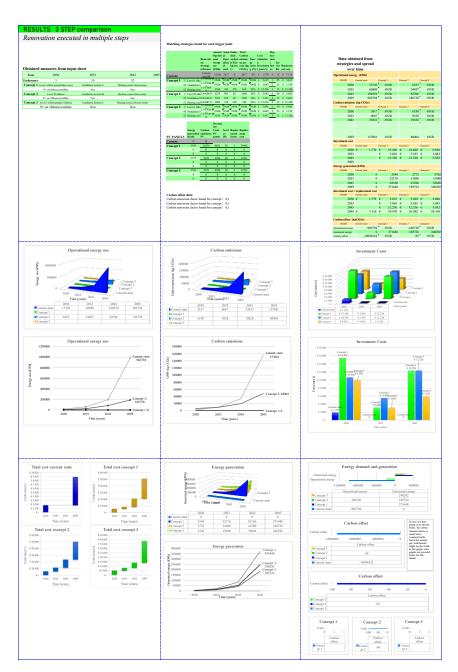
Polycrystalline

TOOL Design

Performance results renovation in steps

- Automatically finds corresponding data
- Generates a report
- Represents the data in values and graphs
- · Takes into account time

Tab R-3 step



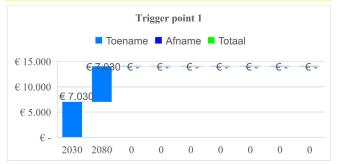
Recurrent costs

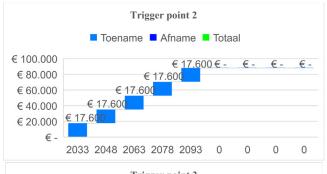
Costs over time

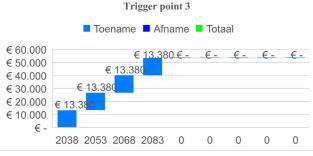
- Automatically finds corresponding data
- Generates a report
- Represents the data in values and graphs
- Takes into account time

Tab S-recurrent, costs

Year	T 1		Year	T2		Year	Т3	
2030	€	7.030	2033	€	17.600	2038	€	13.380
2080	€	7.030	2048	€	17.600	2053	€	13.380
0	€	-	2063	€	17.600	2068	€	13.380
0	€	-	2078	€	17.600	2083	€	13.380
0	€	-	2093	€	17.600	0	€	-
0	€	-	0	€	-	0	€	-
0	€	-	0	€	-	0	€	-
0	€	-	0	€	-	0	€	-
0	€	-	0	€	-	0	€	-







Design limitations

- Simple interface, minimum input fields
- Ventilation not assessed as a single step
- Insulation measures are combined in one step
- Doesn't use dynamic data, for example for the operational carbon or costs
 - Recurrent costs, only for the 3 step option
- Not all carbon emissions are included, only assesses
 the insulation, and units for services
 - Does not take into account the current state
 - Can similute up to 3 concepts

Alternative

It is possible to manually add the performance of the assessed building

Matching strategies found for each trigger point

Change the performance of the current state here!



			Renovati on strategy reference	Annual Operati onal energy use (kWh)	al Oper	died carbon (CO2e kg/yea	Total Carbon emissio ns per year (kg CO2e/y	gy savin	n Inv	imatio ⁄estmen				
Current			Current stateGB	15120	2417	0	2417	-3%	ϵ	1.779	4	15	€	7.116
Concept 1	3	Level 1 (He	1.1-A-GB-	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B		5.615	1	55	€	5.615
	10	Ventilation S	1.1-C-GB-	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	€	3.043	2	25	€	1.154
	52	Heating sou	1.1-С-нР-	2564	241	378	619	83%	€	12.236	3	15	€	13.380
Concept 2	3	Level 2Cellu	2-A-GB-O	6225	995	65	1060	58%	€	5.692	1	50	€	5.692
	10	Ventilation S	2-D-GB-O	5821	930	90	1020	60%	€	5.453	2	25	€	2.600
	52	Heating sou			188	360	548	86%	€	12.236	3	15	€	13.380
Concept 3	3	Level 1 (He	1.1-A-GB-	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	€	5.046	1	50	€	5.046
	10	Ventilation S	1.1-C-GB-	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	€	3.043	2	25	€	1.154
	52	Heating sou	1.1-С-ЕВ-	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	#N/B	ϵ	5.852	3	15	€	13.200

PV PANELS	Energy generation (Kwh)	Carbon emissions PV	Investm ent Costs PV panels	Servi ce life	-	Replace ment cost
Current	0	0				
Concept 1	5544	10258	9821	20	3	29462
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concept 2	2772	5129	4910	20	3	14731
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concept 3	3762	5129	4910	20	3	14731
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0

Conclusion

How can renovation strategies support decision-making, in reducing the total carbon emissions over a buildings life cycle, in the Netherlands?

Total carbon emissions

Total carbon emissions can be reduced by reducing energy consumption first.

Or generating energy.

The second step is to reduce the embodied carbon. Especially in building that already perform well in terms of energy consumption.

The embodied carbon is reduced by using services with a high service life or with low carbon emissions.

Life cycle planning

Furthermore, the selection of renovation measures is dependent on budget for renovation and influences total carbon emissions.

Therefore the life cycle of a building should be planned.

This can be done by determining when budget for renovation is high, trigger points.

Support tool

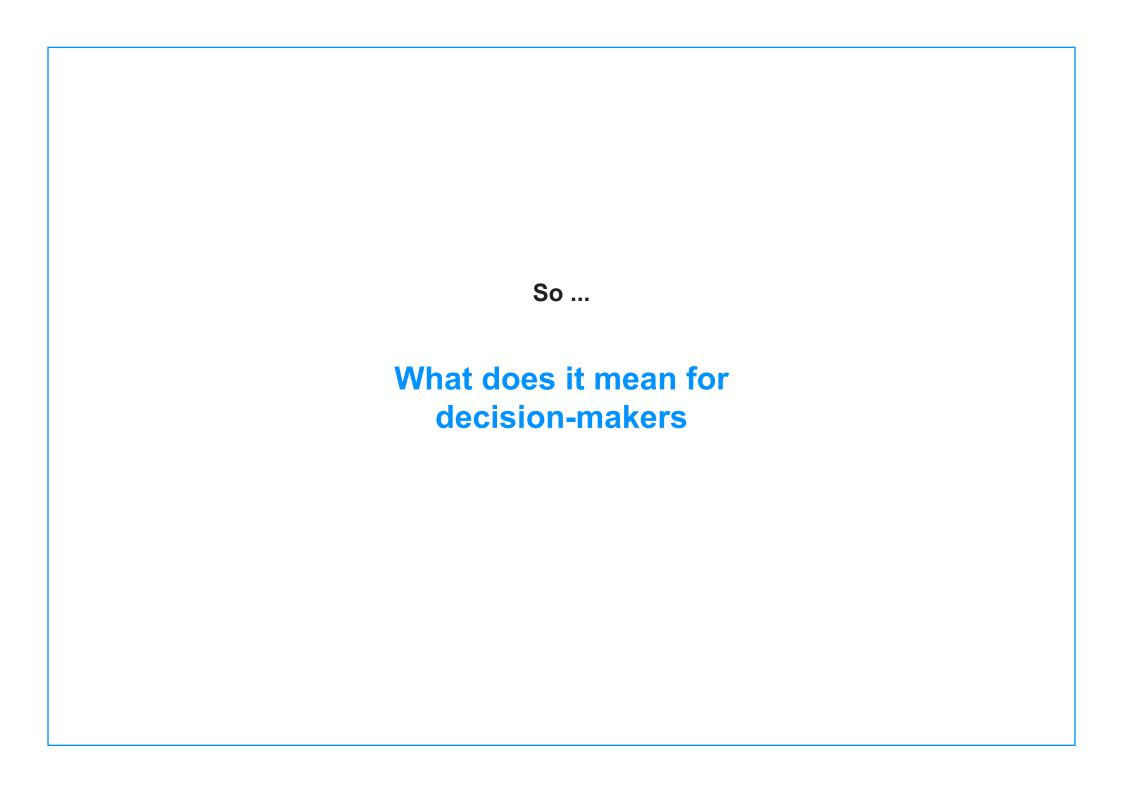
Decision makers can be supported by making the performance of renovation strategies on multiple criteria accessible

By using a simplified assessment method of renovation strategies

That provides insight in total carbon emissions and takes into account life cycle planning.

Due to data uncertainty, the method should provide flexibility to adapt to new data, without losing its simplicity.





Small investments go a long way...

Is there a chance to renovate do it,

it will save emissions in the end, compared to waiting

Should I wait to invest in future energy systems, that provide higher energy saving?

It's an option, but the longer renovation is avoided, the harder it becomes to compensate for emissions now

How can I gain insight in the carbon emissions of strategies?

By first planning the life cycle of a building, to determine the budget for renovation and possible renovation measures

Then selecting measures on their energy saving, and last choosing products with long life spans or low carbon emissions.

TOWARDS A ZERO CARBON EXISTING BUILDING STOCK

MADEVI SEWNATH - MASTER THESIS

P5 | 16-01-2023

