Solar Concepts and monitoring results of buildings with high solar thermal fraction in Austria

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Content

Boundary conditions to reach high solar thermal fractions
  heat demand
  suitable areas
  storage capacity

system concepts for high solar thermal fractions

Monitoring results

Conclusion
Boundary conditions – heat demand

Optimisation before realisation!

Requirements for subsidy program:
Spec. Heating demand < 45 kWh/m²a

All buildings planned for at least 70% solar fraction of DHW and heating

Data basis: 37 single family houses with accompanying research
Boundary conditions – suitable solar active areas
Boundary conditions – storage capacity

Key component: thermal storage

readily available:
buffer storage (water) & TABS

Data basis: 37 single family houses with accompanying research
Two main system/storage concepts for buildings with high solar fraction

System concept „A“
Traditional large water storages
- 57 plants
- 19 plants with accompanying research
- Water Storage Volume
  - 3 to 90 m³
  - specific: 60 to 2600 l/m²

8 m³ water tank (95/30°C)

System concept „B“
Thermal activation of building mass (ceilings, foundation)
- 48 plants
- 21 with accompanying research
- Storage Volume (specific: 60 to 510 l/m²)
  - Water storage Volume
    0.8 to 2 m³
  - Concrete Storage Volume
    20 to 148 m³ (1.2 to 9 m³ water equ.)

120 m³ thermal activation of building mass (27/20°C), 1 m³ water tank (95/30°C)

Reduced water tank volume by utilising thermal activation of building mass
Principle of using building mass as storage

Advantages of TAB´s:

- Consequent reduction of the water storage volume
- Cost reduction (storage, enclosed space)
- Increased solar yields due to low temperatures (<40°C)
- Reduction of storage losses
- Use as heat delivery system
- Load management between building mass and auxiliary heating system reduces peak load
- Solar coverage ratios of between 50 and 90%.
System concepts to achieve high solar fraction
Thermal activated building masses

Direct connection with solar circuit
- No extra heat exchanger
- (very) low usable solar temperatures

At the expense of
- no auxiliary heating of the TABS
- Copper tubes recommended

Single family house
84% solar fraction
Monitoring results
operation temperatures
System concepts to achieve high solar fraction
Thermal activated building masses

**Indirect** connection with solar circuit
- System integration similar to floor heating
- Plastic tubes possible
- Heating and cooling

At the expense of
- Lower solar yield due to higher temperature differences (heat exchanger)

**Event hall**
97% solar thermal fraction, PV plant

**Sports hall**
55% solar thermal fraction
100 kWp

**Carpentry**
79% solar thermal fraction, 50 kWp PV
Monitoring results – single family houses heat demand

DHW demand **below** expected value in 90% of cases 
(Average DHW demand **-32%**)

While at the same time heating demand **above** expected value
Monitoring results
Room temperatures

**Single family houses**

Average measured room temperatures **23.3°C**

Simulation Temperature **20°C**
Conclusion

- A variety of hydraulic concepts are possible to achieve solar thermal fractions above 80%
- Big buffer storages are a known and reliable technology (disadvantage: space requirement)
- Through the use of TABS
  - the collector can be operated more efficiently
  - the buffer storage volume can be significantly reduced
  - Passive/free cooling becomes possible
- The storage capacity of TABS depends on the permitted temperature range
- The actual heat consumption is usually higher than the forecast
  increased consumption for space heating, reduced consumption for hot water
- Good understanding and knowledge of boundary conditions leads to successful projects