# HGA

# AVOIDING COMMON PITFALLS WITH HEAT RECOVERY CHILLER APPLICATION

February 13, 2025



- Are heating devices that produce useful cooling as they provide heating energy
- Key strategy available to help meet decarbonization and efficiency goals
- Have the potential to offset 75-100% of gas used for heating in Midwest
- In the process reduce heating input energy by 50-85%
- Fail to meet installed objectives 85%\* of the time

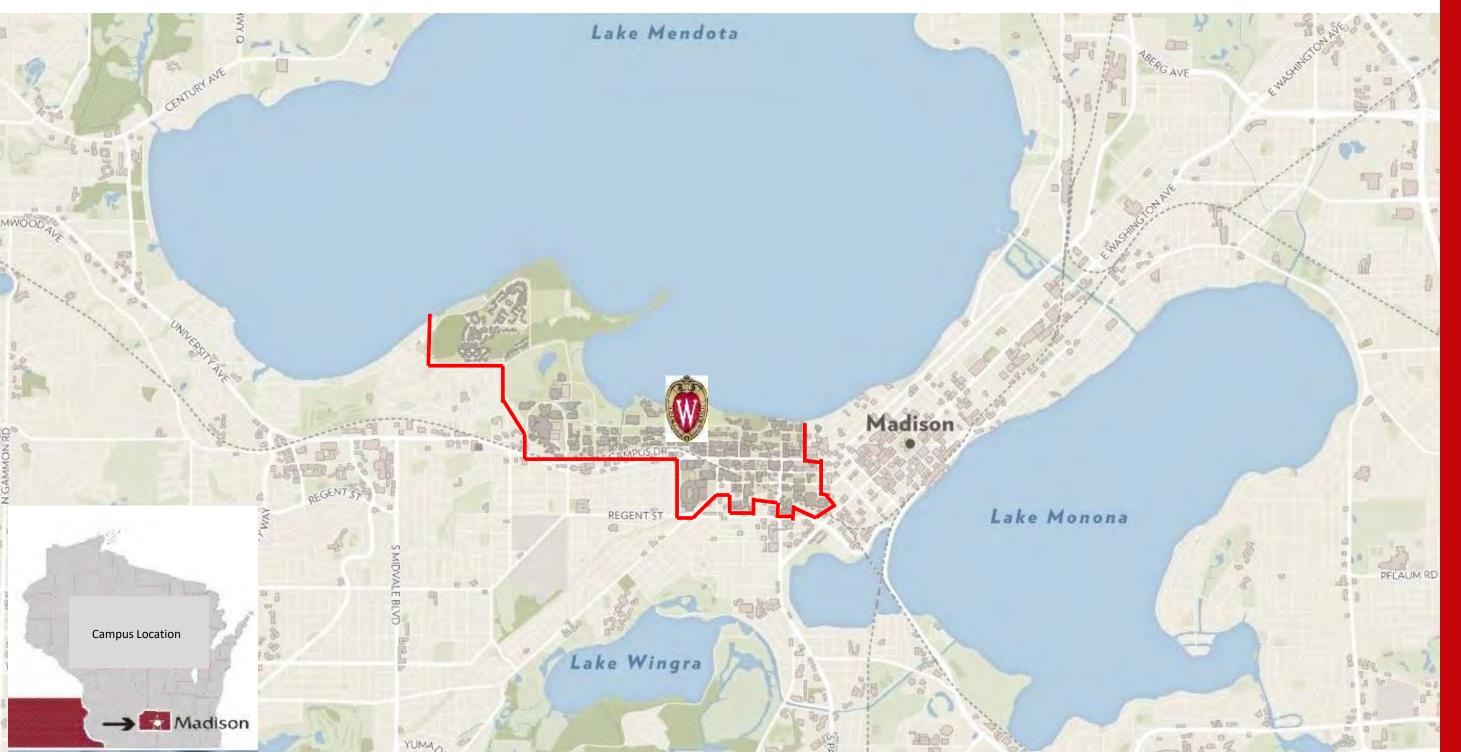


- 2013 UVA North Grounds Mechanical Plant
- After First year of Operation Recorded savings (Cheryl Gomez Quote 48% reduction in energy use)
  - Cond boilers, Predictively Optimized New Chiller Plant and Heat recovery chillers
  - Success depended on the coincidentality of Native heating and cooling loads
  - Introduced the fundamental concepts of Condenser Ratio, Engageable Load Ratio, Achievable Load ratio and ELR efficiency
- MetroHealth Cleveland Ohio
  - First project where FHRE was designed into the campus from the start
- After First Year of Operation...

- At UW 2019-2022
- Used Predictive Optimization Process No Capital projects
- Reduced Costs by \$1,400,000 annual normalized to 2018 loading
  - Not every recommendation was fully implemented
  - Benefitted from Utility cost increases

# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON LOCATION





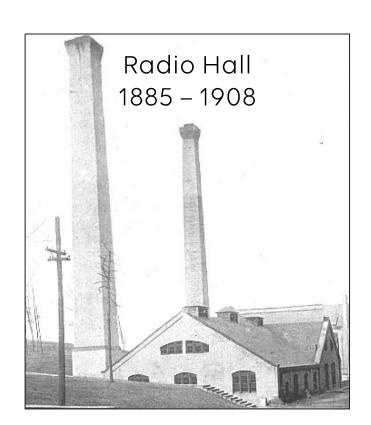
# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

- Founded in 1848 as Wisconsin's land-grant University
- 939-acre main campus (including 300-acre Lakeshore Nature Preserve)
- Largest landowner on Lake Mendota with 4 miles of lakefront
- 9,649 acres statewide including agricultural research stations, experimental farms, arboretum lands and other off-campus properties
- Over 52,097 students, 26,755 faculty & staff (78,852 total), 490,780 living alumni
- \$4.0 billion annual operating budget
- Ranked 6th nationally in research funding (\$1.7 billion)
- Over 24 million GSF of conditioned space, increased 19.8% from 2005
- State Energy Report Energy Reduction using 2005 (base year) to 2023 data
  - Campus Energy (BTU/GSF) Reduction of 29.9% (Thermal Reduction=37.1%, Electric Reduction=6.1%)
  - Campus CO2e Emission (lb/GSF) Reduction of 51.7% (Coal → NG Conversion in 2013)



# UW-MADISON UTILITY PLANT EVOLUTION

- Radio Hall
- Ag Bulletin
- Service Building Annex
- Charter Street H&C Plant (Cooling 1966)
- Walnut Street H&C Plant
- West Campus Cogeneration Plant





1885 - 1908

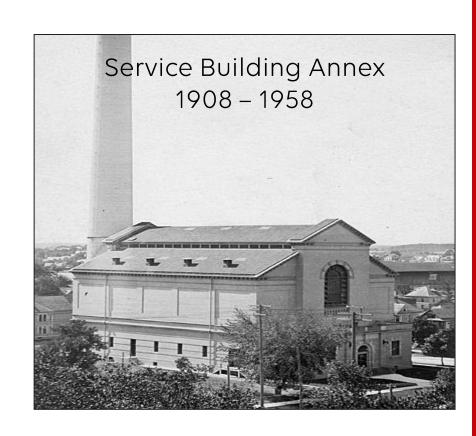
1899 - 1937

1908 - 1958

1958 - Present

1975 - Present

2005 - Present



# UW-MADISON CAMPUS UTILITY SUMMARY



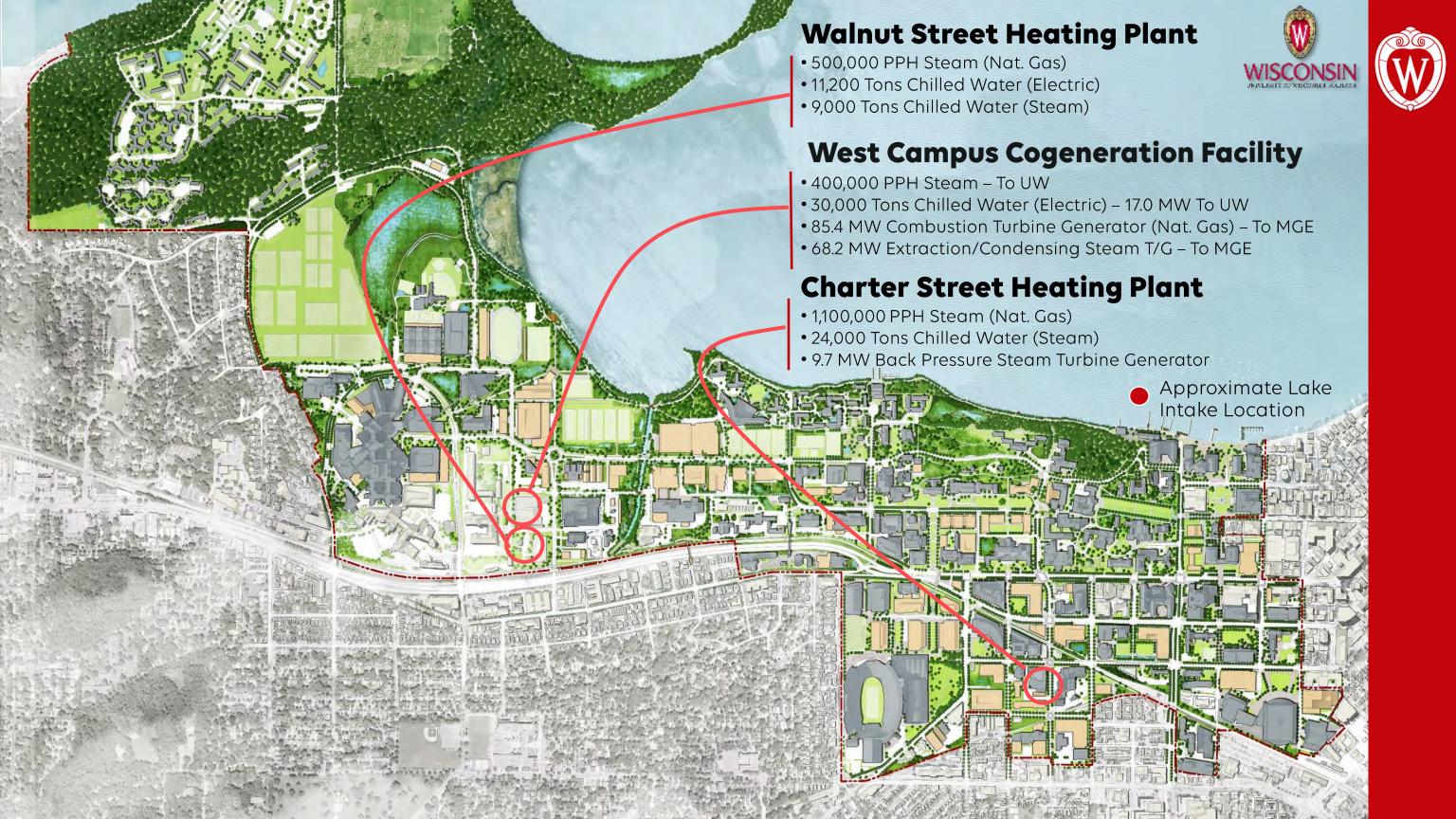
- Steam
  - 2,100,000 PPH Total (Installed)
  - 1,800,000 PPH Firm (Less Largest Unit)
  - 1,316,000 PPH Peak (Historical Max)
  - 879,000 PPH Peak (Jan 2019)
- Chilled Water
  - 74,000 Tons Total (Installed)
  - 66,000 Tons Firm (Less Largest Unit)
  - 64,000+ Tons Peak (Historical Max)
  - **62,250 Tons Peak** (Aug 2023)
- Electrical
  - 88.7 MW Peak (Aug 2013 Max)
  - 82.6 MW Peak (Sep 2016)
  - 84.2 MW Peak (Aug 2023)



Charter St H&C Plant

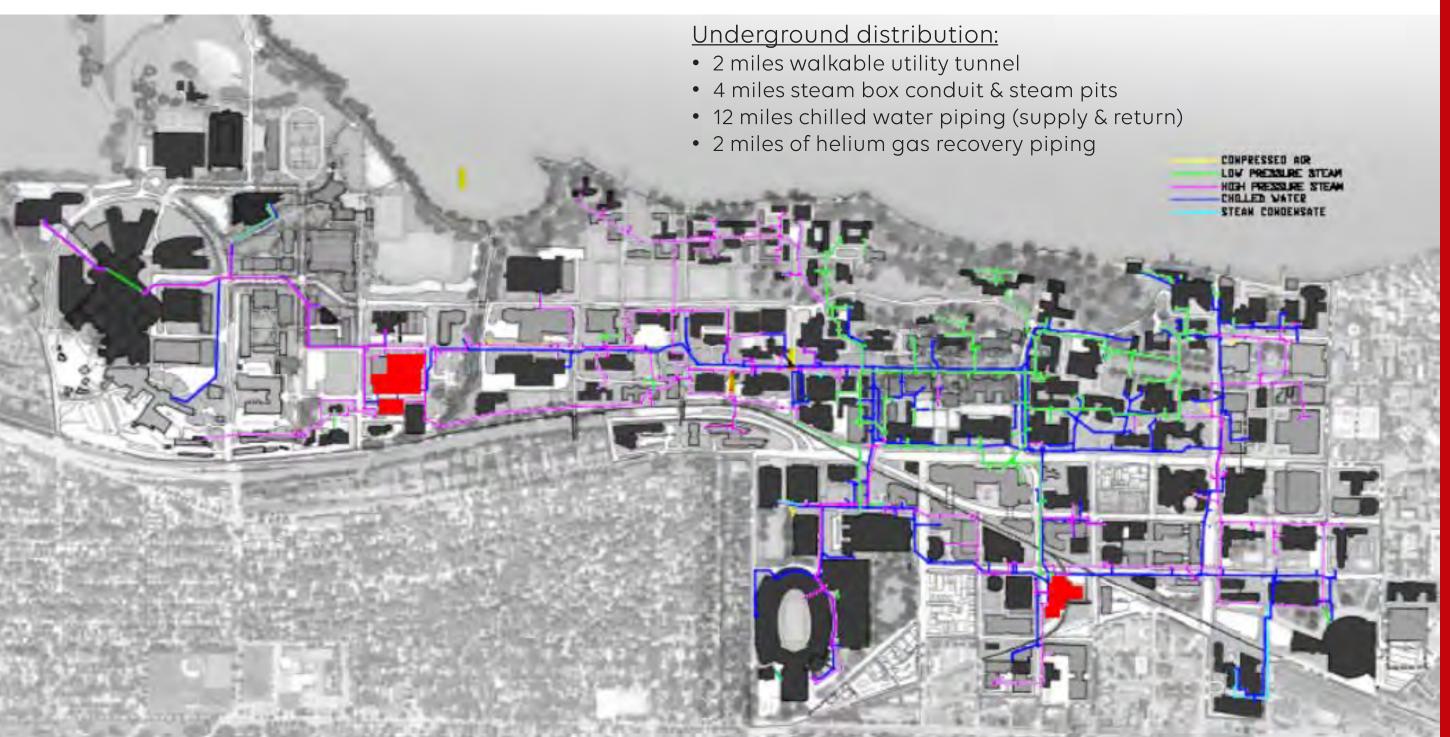
Walnut St H&C Plant

West Campus Cogeneration Facility



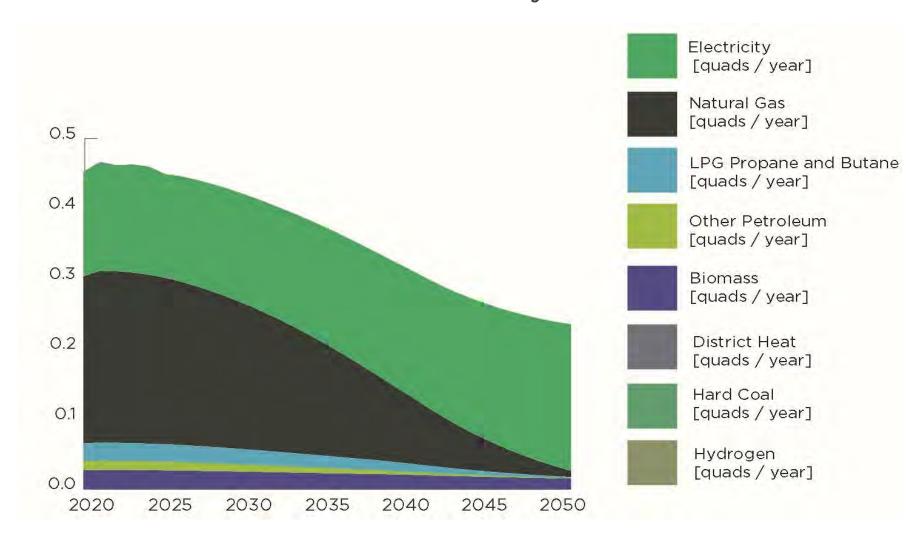
# UW-MADISON COMPOSITE UTILITY DISTRIBUTION





# DECARBONIZATION GOALS

State of Wisconsin Energy Plan – Carbon Free by 2050 UW-Madison - Net-zero by 2048 and 100% Renewable Electric by 2030 MGE - 80% Renewable Goal by 2030, 100% Net-zero by 2050





- 1. UW spent the last 100 years centralizing our steam and chilled water systems to meet Campus Mission Statement of centralized utilities
- 2. Campus maximizes the overall system efficiencies as it relates to budget & manpower issues
- 3. HRC systems are more complicated to maintenance staff
- 4. Limited budgets affect aging building infrastructure and finite amount of maintenance staff
- 5. The people making commitments (design stage) do not understand what it takes to execute them (operational stage)
- 6. Maintenance staff is less technical than in past to do the work and maintain systems
- 7. Add maintenance equipment, trucks, tools and vehicles for service runs
- 8. Proprietary controls for chiller and buildings, who will diagnose during issues
- 9. Chillers and pumps bring noise into the buildings
- 10. Existing buildings have minimal "extra" space for new equipment
- 11. Building electrical infrastructure may not be able to handle the load
- 12. Continuous running equipment shortens the life of the chiller when operating at machine limits
- 13. We have tried HRCH in the past and each one has been a failure  $\rightarrow$  we have "shut them down"

- 15. Infrastructure, Operational and budget issues
- 16. Distributed maintenance and costs are system user, if not a whole building HRC. Facilities operates, utilities maintains, user installs and (hopefully) replaces
- 17. Replacement cost of chillers
- 18. Buildings are designed for steam convertors 180°F supply water, HRC is 140°F (highest)
- 19. Midwest seasons affect run time and operation (controls, increasing ELR efficiency)
- 20. Redundancy required for research buildings no interruptions of utility service expected
- 21. Required redundancy has connection to campus thermal piping when do we switch over?
- 22. Control sequences are not consistent between the installed systems
- 23. Automation and who is in "control" (building maintenance or campus facilities, local overrides of controls) (operational and controls)
- 24. AE firms design the systems with different heat rejection ideas (geothermal, CHW system, air-air)

#### 26. Improper tie into CHW system (building and campus)

- 27. Turndown issues (equipment is oversized by AE)
- 28. Pumping issues
- 29. Building heating and cooling loads do not match or align to equipment output
- 30. Seasons affect duration of heating and cooling requirements
- 31. Limited mechanical room available area for equipment
- 32. Limited equipment use shortens equipment life
- 33. Commercial-grade equipment (scrolls)
- 34. Number of compressors
- 35. Compressors operate near the critical temperature/pressure
- 36. Noise and vibration to building
- 37. Temperature limitations
- 38. Vibration failures of screws



These challenges can be broken out into five categories:

- 1. Organizational and Budget –Universities
- 2. Maintenance Universities and Equipment Manufacturers
- 3. Building Selection Universities and Engineers
- 4. Equipment Selection & System Design Engineers
- 5. Controls Engineers, University, Equipment Manufacturers, Installers

# ORGANIZATIONAL AND BUDGET

#### Universities

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- 2. Campus maximizes the overall system efficiencies as it relates to budget & manpower issues
- 3. Distributed maintenance and costs are system user, if not a whole building HRC. Facilities operates, utilities maintains, user installs and (hopefully) replaces
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- 7. AE firms design the systems with different heat rejection ideas (geothermal, CHW system, airair)
- 8. We have tried HRCH in the past and each one has been a failure  $\rightarrow$  we have "shut them down"

### MAINTENANCE

#### Universities & Equipment Manufacturers

- 9. HRC systems are more complicated to maintenance staff
- 10. Limited budgets affect aging building infrastructure and finite amount of maintenance staff
- 11. The people making commitments (design stage) do not understand what it takes to execute them (operational stage)
- 12. Maintenance staff is less technical than in past to do the work and maintain systems
- 13. Add maintenance equipment, trucks, tools and vehicles for service runs
- 14. Proprietary controls for chiller and buildings, who will diagnose during issues

# **BUILDING SELECTION**

#### Universities and Engineers

- 15. Chillers and pumps bring noise into the buildings
- 16. Existing buildings have minimal "extra" space for new equipment
- 17. Building electrical infrastructure may not be able to handle the load
- 18. Research buildings require redundancy for resiliency and happy customer
- 19. Redundancy required for research buildings no interruptions of utility service expected
- 20. Building heating and cooling loads do not match or align to equipment output
- 21. Limited mechanical room available area for equipment
- 22. Noise and vibration to building
- 23. Electrical building infrastructure needs

# EQUIPMENT SELECTION AND SYSTEM DESIGN

#### Engineers

- 24. Continuous running equipment shortens the life of the chiller when operating at machine limits
- 25. Improper tie into CHW system (building and campus)
- 26. Turndown issues (equipment is oversized by AE)
- 27. Pumping issues
- 28. Seasons affect duration of heating and cooling requirements
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# CONTROLS

Engineers, University, Equipment Manufacturers, Installers

- 35. Buildings are designed for steam convertors 180°F supply water, HRC is 140°F (highest) (selection and controls)
- 36. Midwest seasons affect run time and operation (controls, increasing ELR efficiency)
- 37. Control sequences are not consistent between the installed systems
- 38. Required redundancy has connection to campus thermal piping when do we switch over?

# ENGAGEABLE LOAD RATIO

Function of Building & AHU Systems

Engageable Load Ratio (ELR) = <u>Engageable Thermal Load</u>
Total Thermal Load

Heating Engageable Load Ratio = <u>Engageable Heating Load</u>
Total Heating Load

Cooling Engageable Load Ratio = <u>Engageable Cooling Load</u>
Total Cooling Load

# ACHIEVABLE LOAD RATIO

Function of Equipment

Achievable Load Ratio (ALR) = <u>Achievable Engaged Thermal Load</u>

Total Thermal Load

Heating Achievable Load Ratio (ALRh)= <u>Achievable Engaged Heating Load</u>

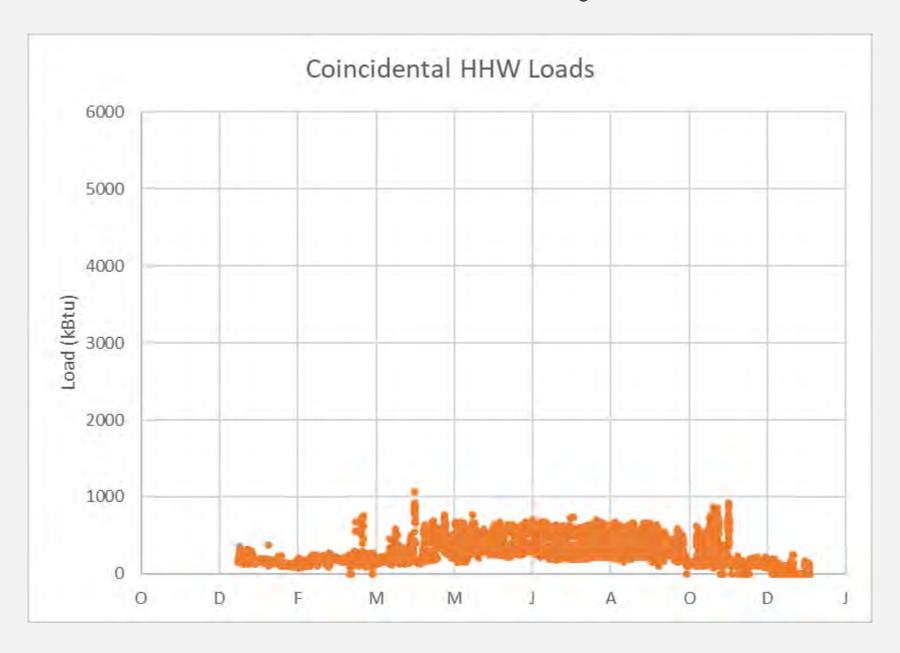
Total Heating Load

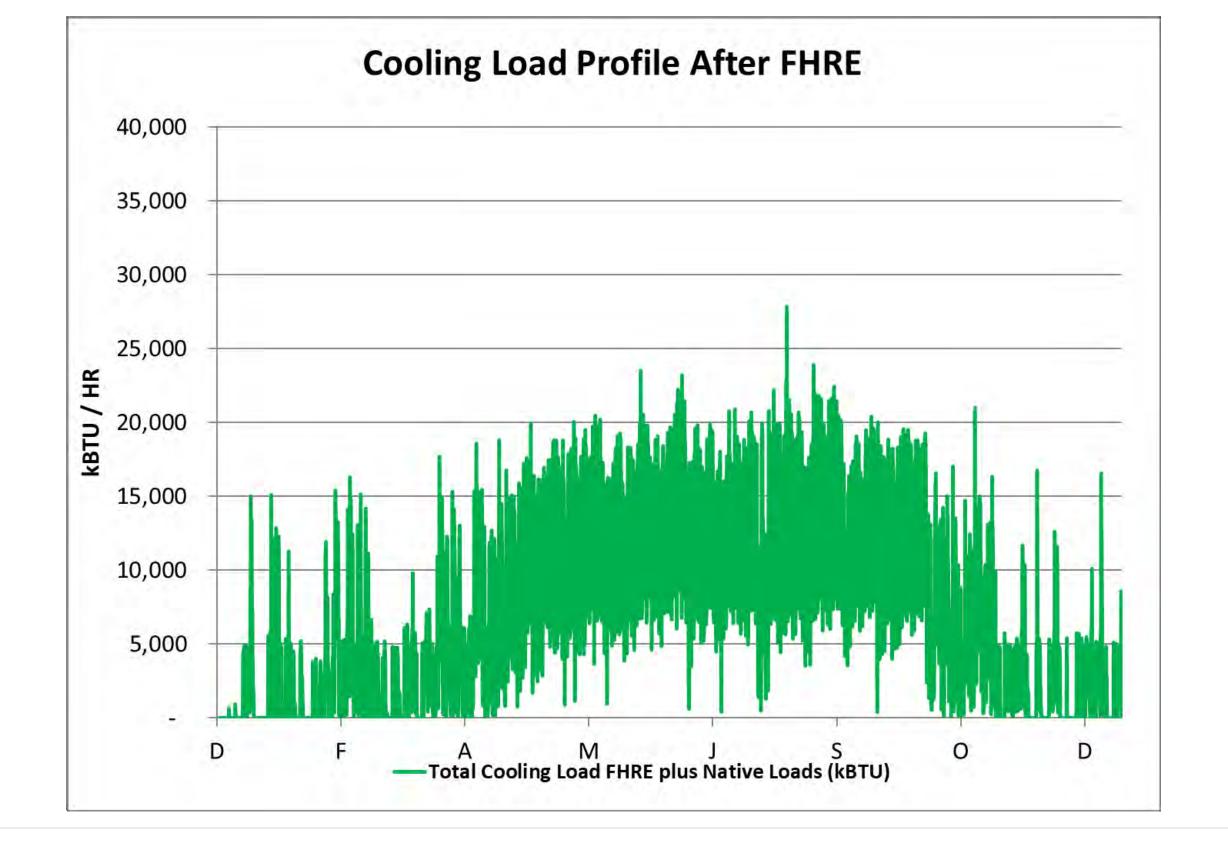
Cooling Achievable Load Ratio (ALRc) = <u>Achievable Engaged Cooling Load</u>

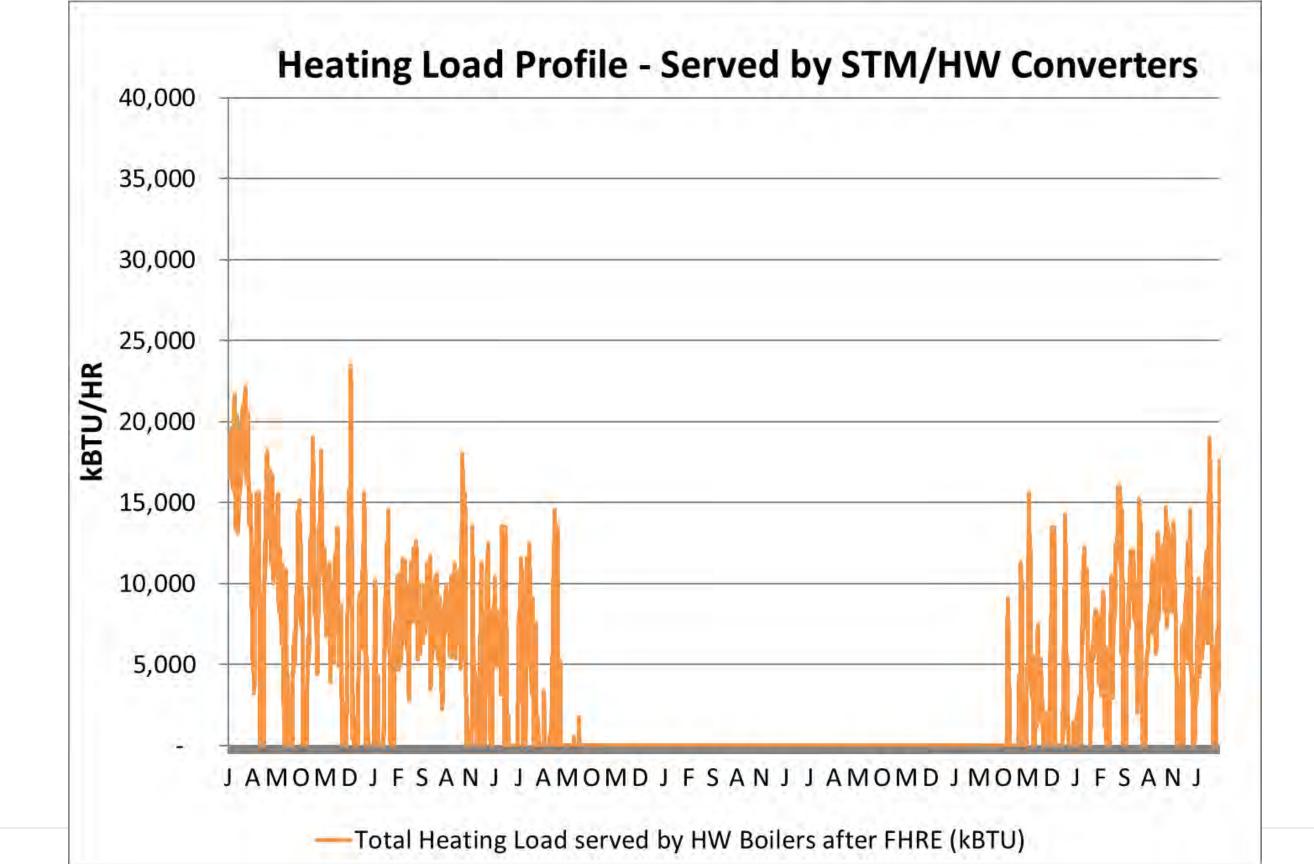
Total Cooling Load

# BUILDING SELECTION

# Coincidentality

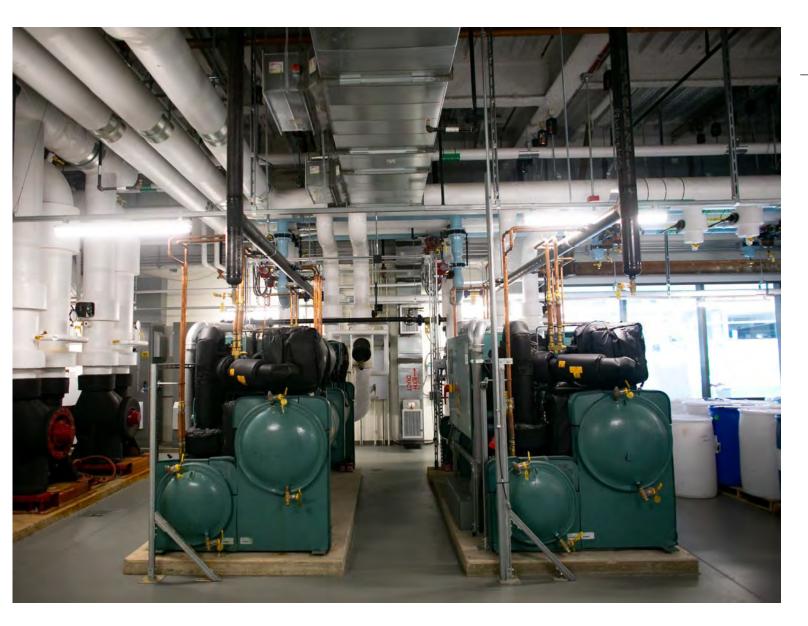








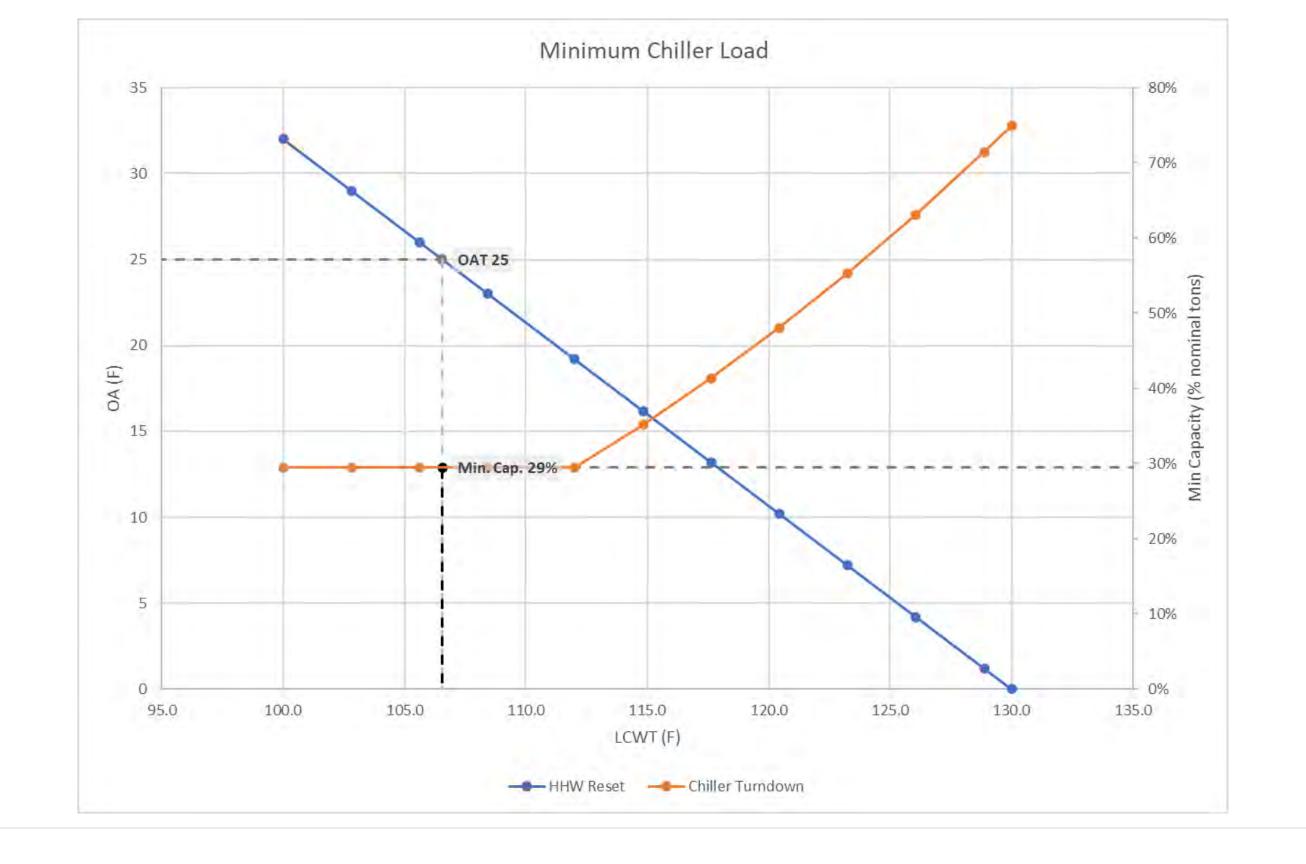
- Modular Scroll
  - Staged turndown
    - o Pro: Can handle low loads
    - o Con: Temperature cycling
  - R-410A / R-454B
    - High Pressure
      - o  $140^{\circ}F = 540 \text{psig}$

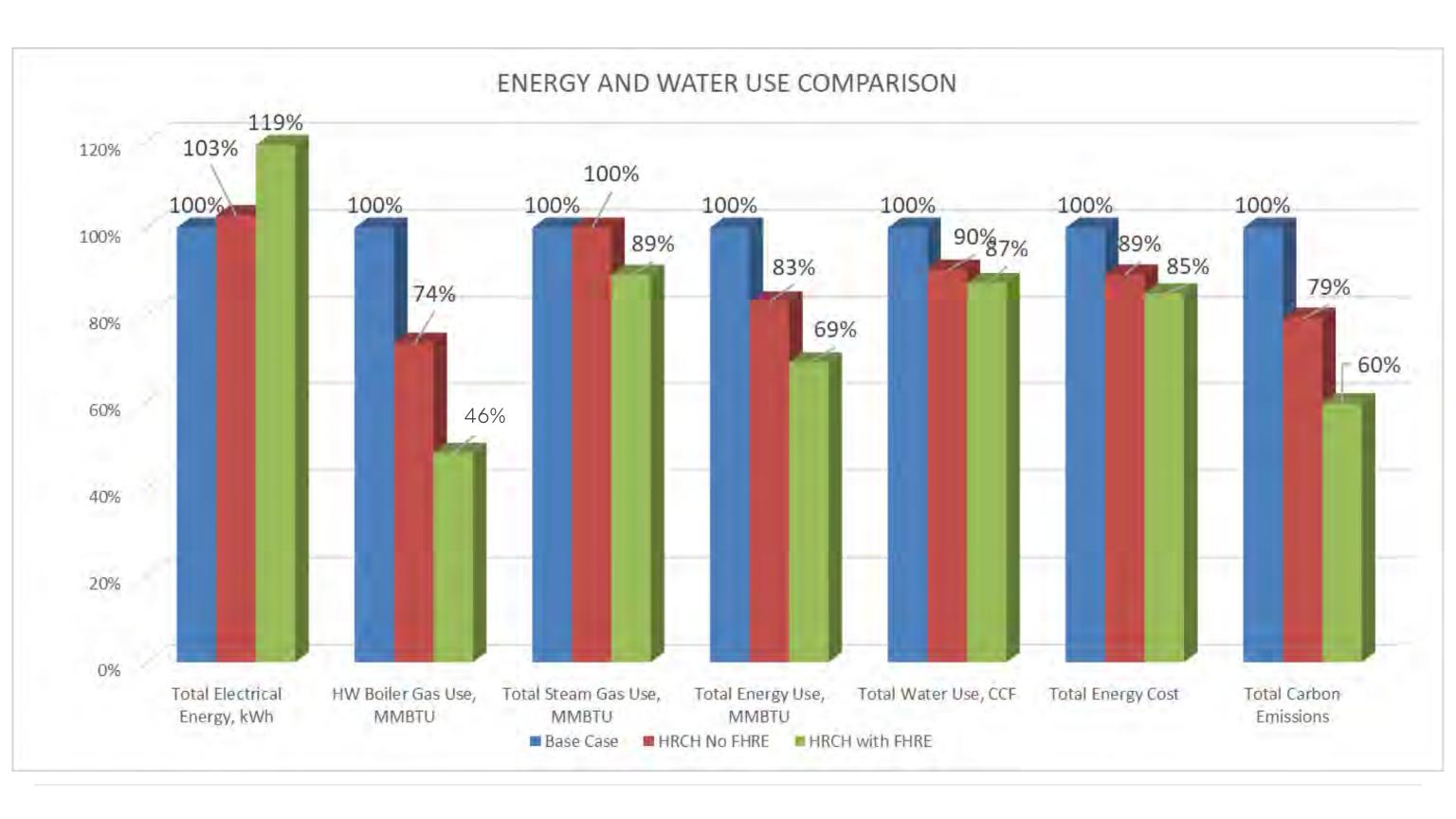


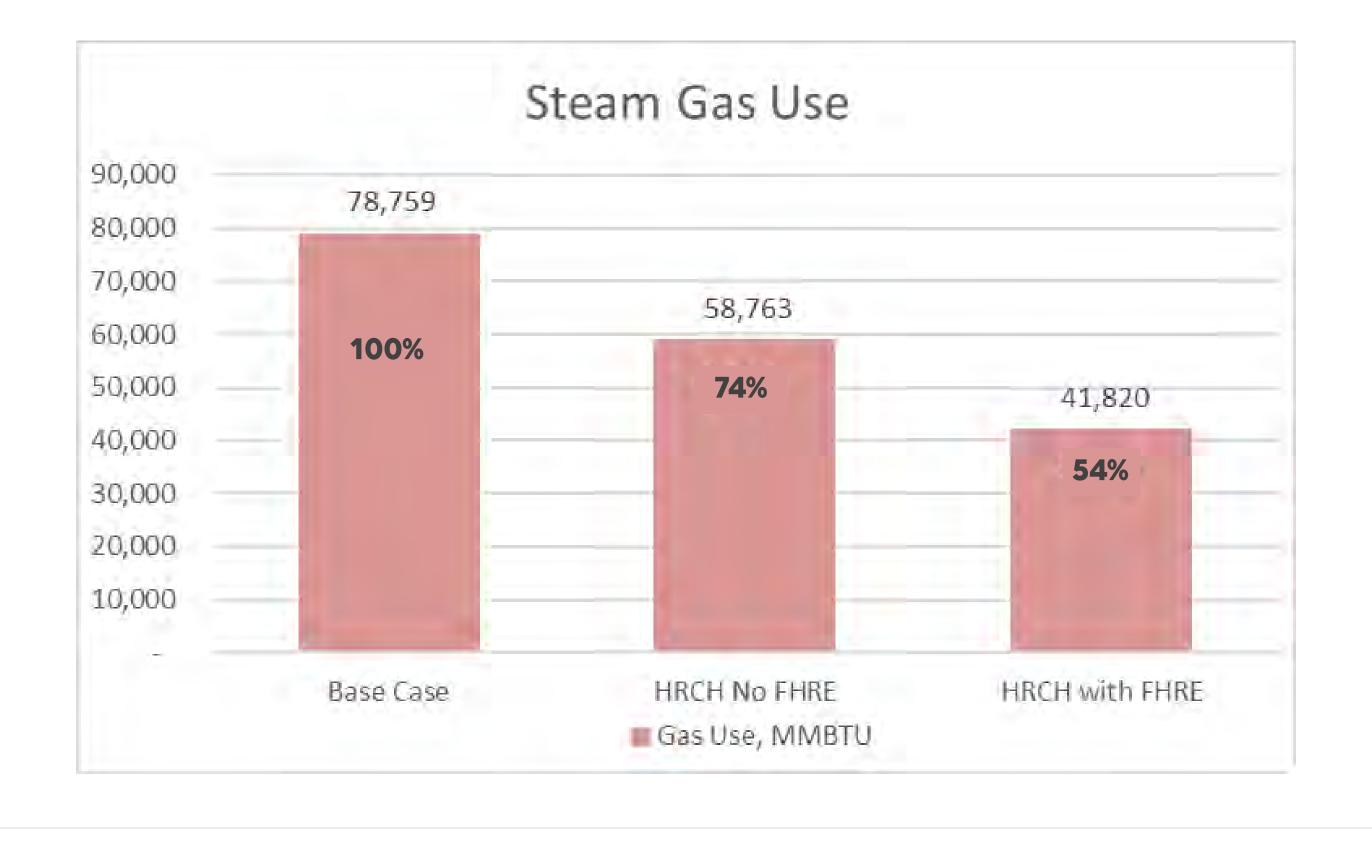
- Screw
  - Temperature capabilities from 145°F up to 170°F
  - Turndown to ~50%
  - Vibration
    - o Noise
    - o Component Failure
  - R-134a / R-513a



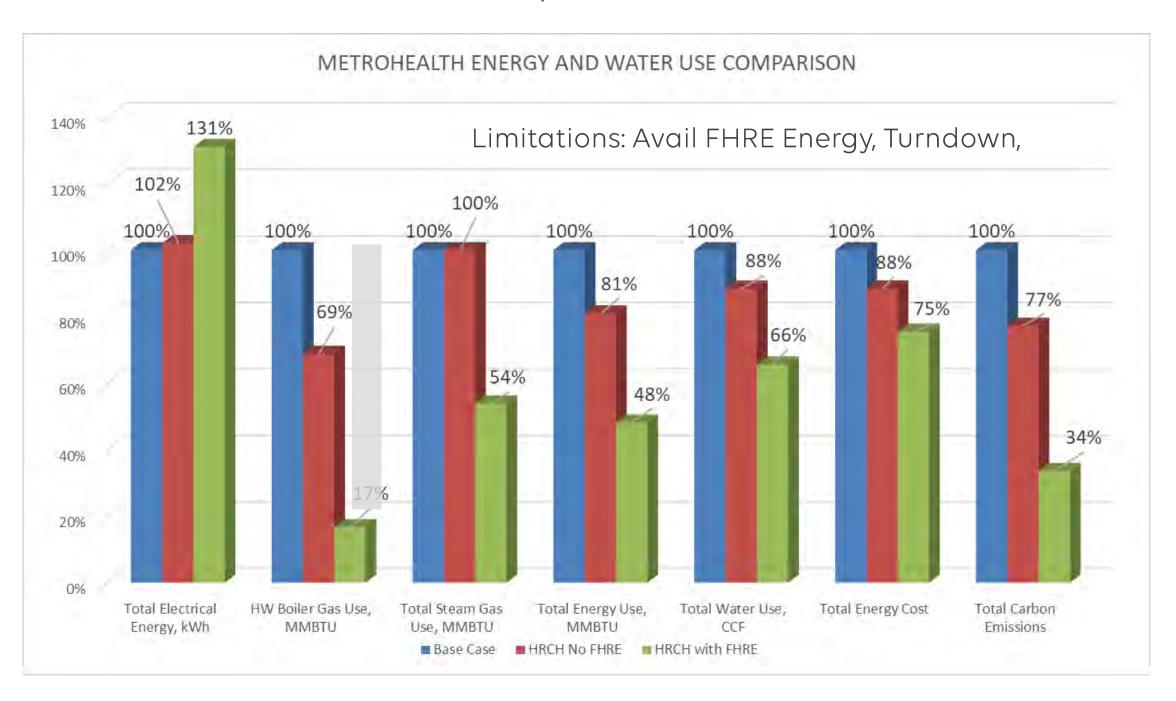
- Centrifugal
  - Low Lift (Max Temp ~120°F)
    - Can be installed/sold in series
  - Quieter & efficient operation
  - Poor turndown example below
  - R-123 / R-1233zd



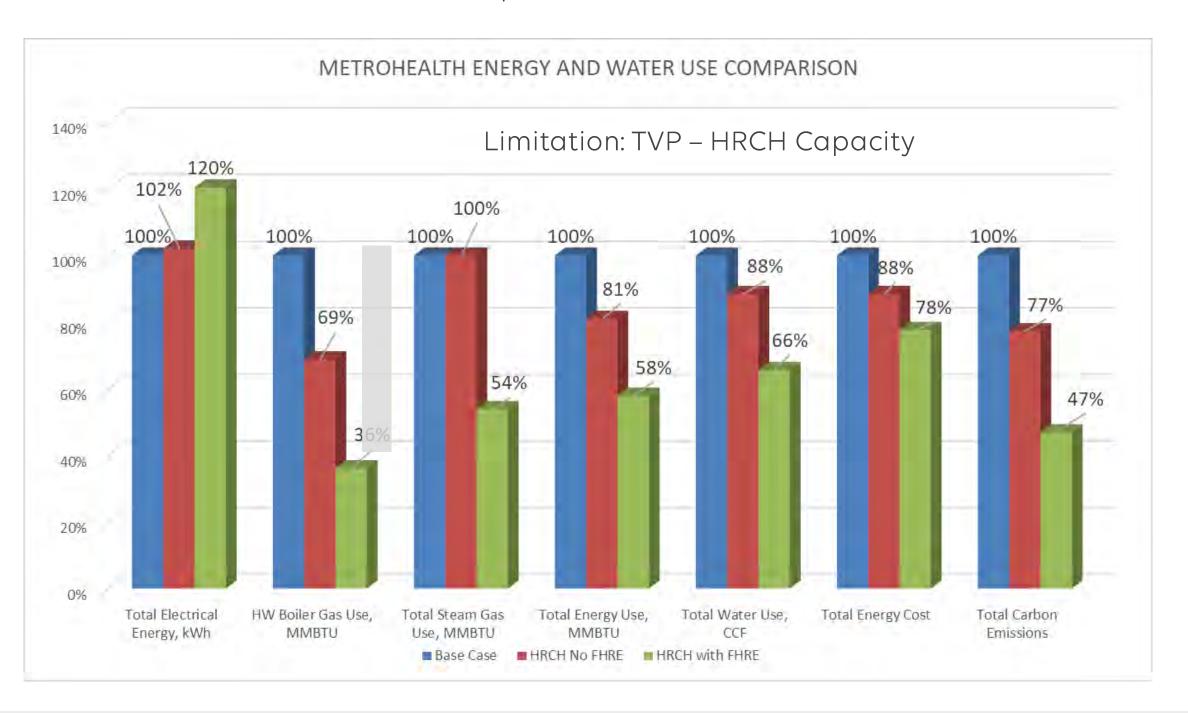




# INTENDED ACHIEVABLE HEATING LOAD RATIO:83% $\eta \, \text{ELR= 92\%}$



# ACTUAL ACHIEVABLE HEATING LOAD RATIO: 64% ηELR =71.1%



# COMMON PITFALLS

- The number of HRCH systems abandoned or underperforming is a very significant percentage of the Systems involved. Designs reveal not well understood by designers or engineers - Several reasons for this:
- Running equipment outside its previous design range.
- High lift application limits turndown on all equipment Smaller eq, can get better turndown at the expense of reliability and temperature capability and temperature control
- Competing approaches:
  - Focusing on building- making equipment meet Building needs or shut it down,
     OR
  - 2. Design system to meet limitations of Equipment (CYA)

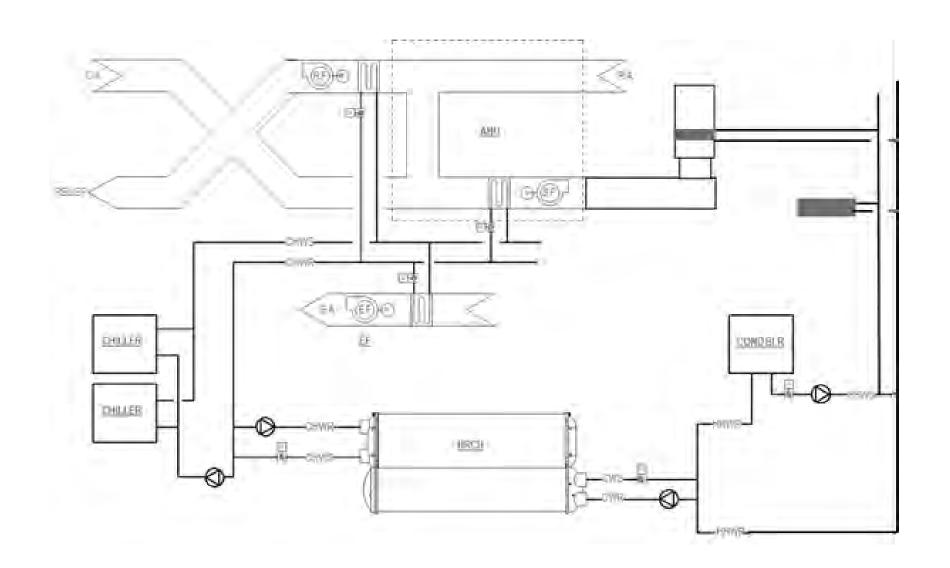
# COMMON PITFALLS

- OR System is designed to try to make HRCH work
- Two stage compressors restrict the operating map, result in operating a system to make the chiller run well- a backwards, but sometimes necessary approach
- Resistance by owners, operators considering HRCH as cooling devices
- Good Design of HRCH systems requires understanding of the Equipment limitations- This is why we developed the idea of ALR and ELR efficiency
- HRCH must run proportionately loaded on Condenser and Evap. side (Condenser Ratio)
- The CR changes as function of temperatures and flows
- Machine is limited by lowest load presented (Cooling or Heating and Eq Capacity)
- Failure to respect these limits will cycle off, trip out or damage machine
- This results in stopping and starting, inefficient operation

## FULL HEAT RECOVERY ENGAGEMENT (FHRE)

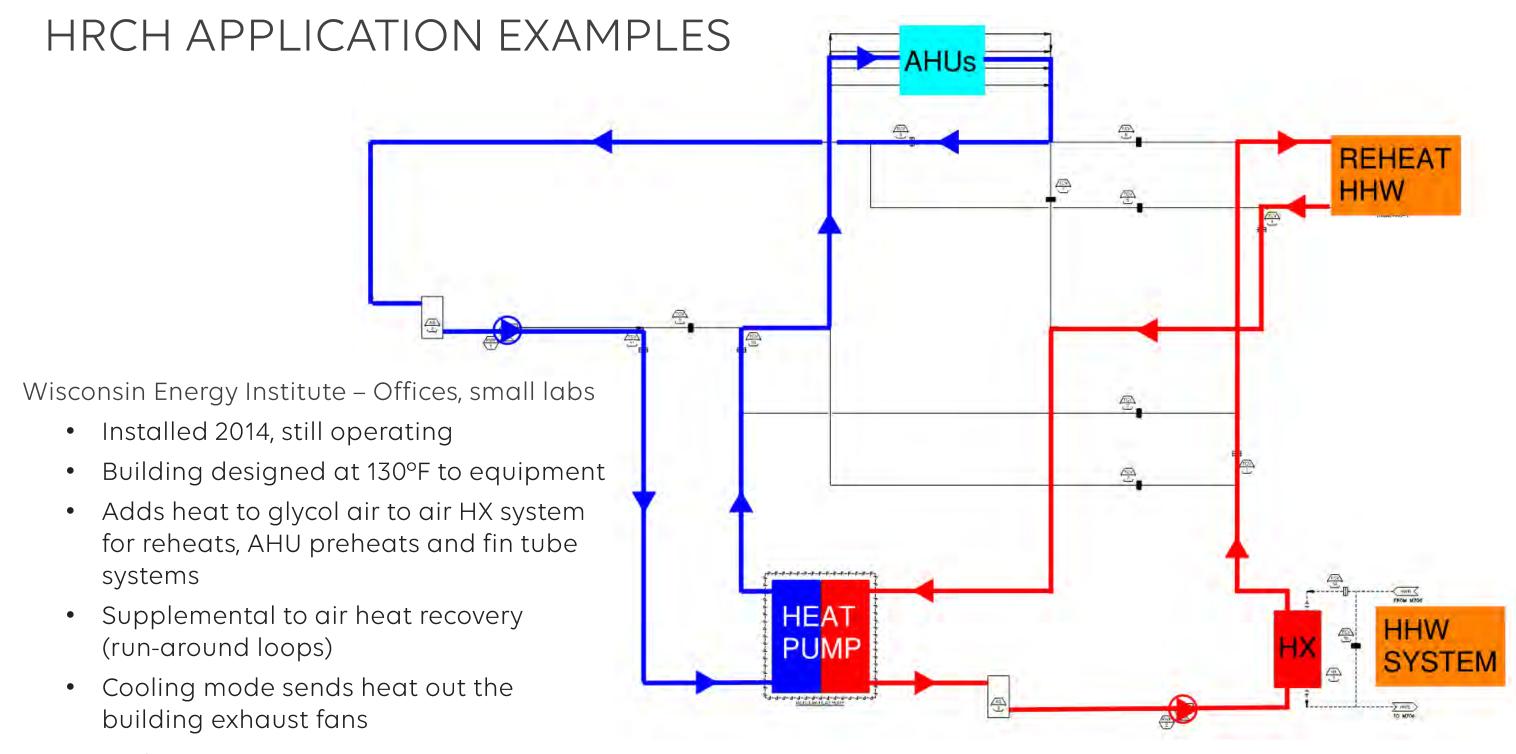
Integrate control of buildings and plant

- Two-way communication between plant and AHUs
- Coordinated control of plant and buildings



### CHALLENGES OF APPLYING HRCH

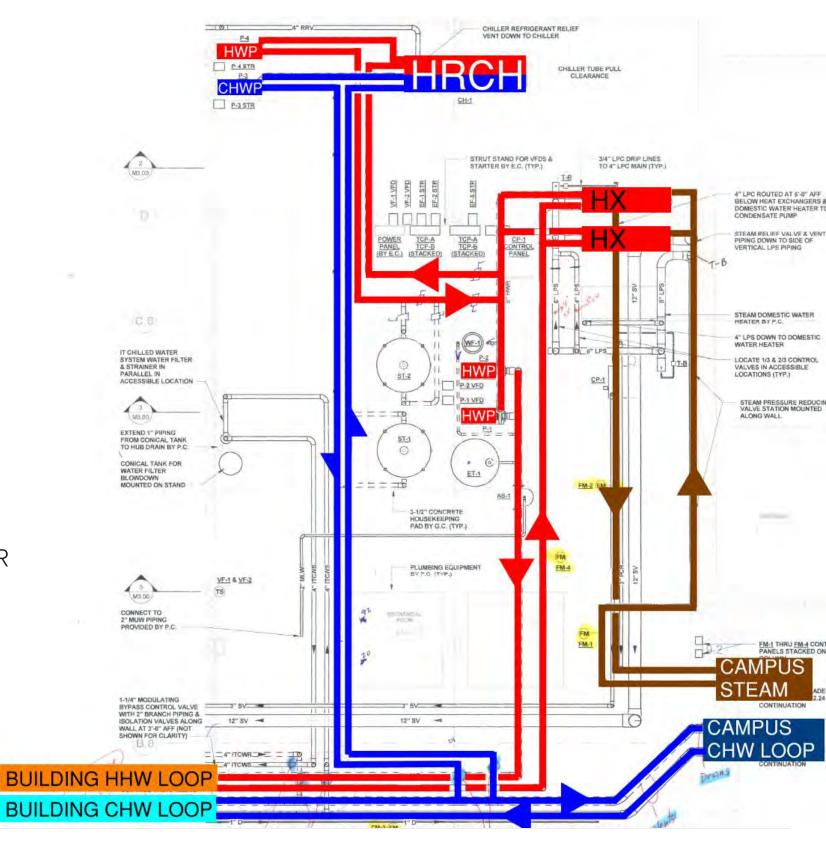
- 1. Running equipment outside its previous design range.
- 2. High lift application limits turndown on all equipment
- 3. Competing approaches: Designing to equipment vs buildings
- 4. Resistance by owners, operators considering HRCH as cooling devices
- 5. Good Design of HRCH systems requires understanding of the Equipment limitations- This is why we developed the idea of ALR and ELR efficiency



No longer operating

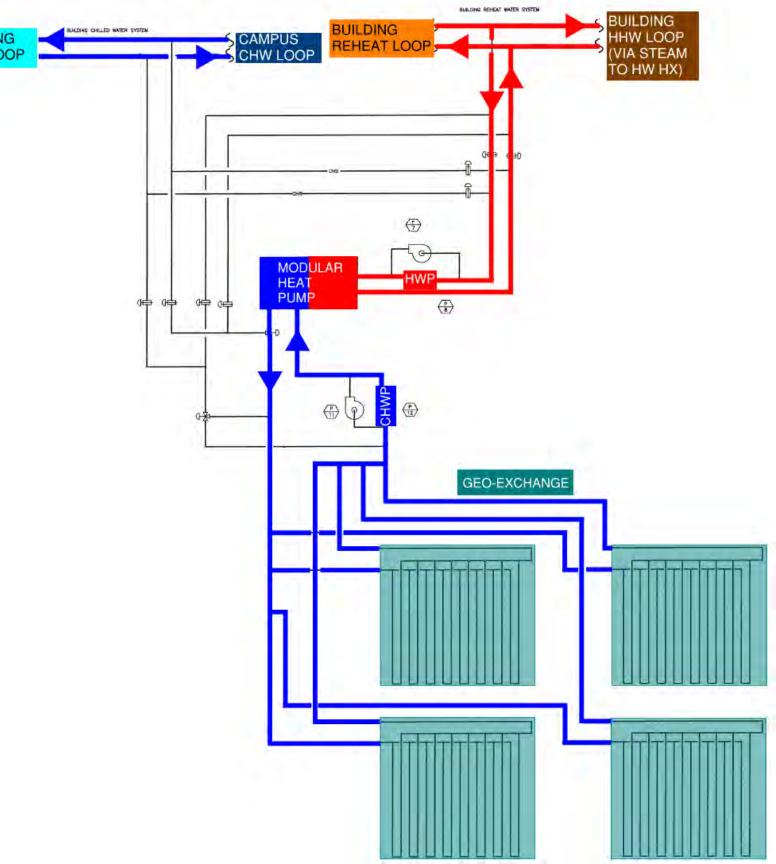
School of Nursing – Classroom, small labs dedicated heat recovery

- Installed fall 2014, taken out of service in spring 2016
- Building designed at 140°F for the reheats,
   AHU preheats and fin tube systems
- 58 ton Chiller LWT of 140°F, JCI/York 410A scroll chiller
- Served portion of the building heating load, evaporator connection is to/from campus CHR system only
- High number of start/stops due to changes in the load profile



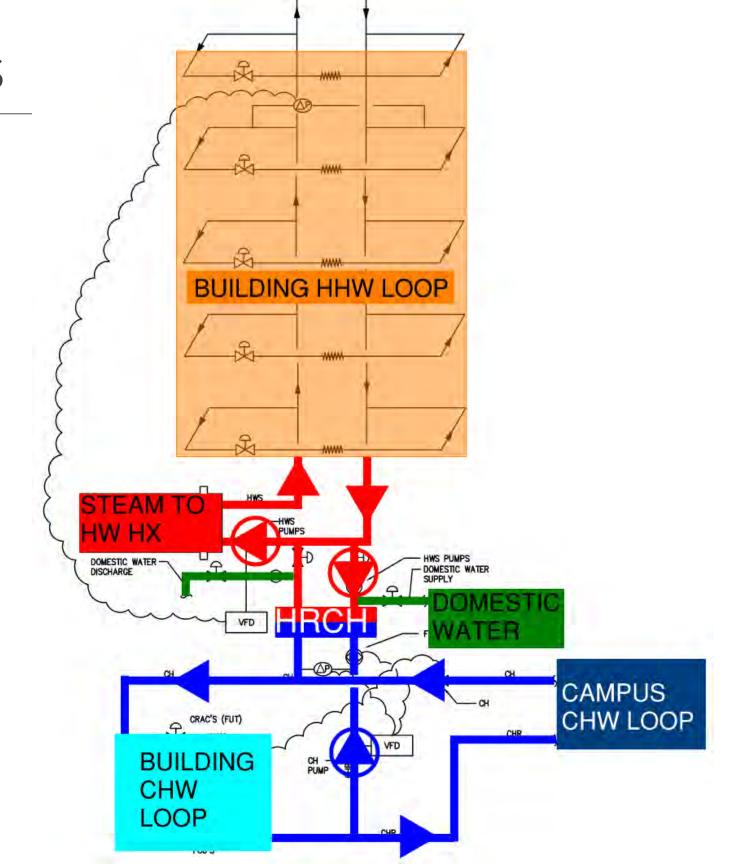
Wisconsin Institute of Discovery – Labs and classroom

- Installed in 2010, taken out of service in 2014
- Uses Geothermal Wells for Heat input/output
- Not used with simultaneous heating and cooling loads, used as geothermal for a singl mode – heated wells & ground only
- Design and Value Engineering issues with pipe size, different elevations of equipment, geothermal well leakage, etc
- Unbalanced well design
- 16% for a week of full-out for a few hours
- System completely shut down



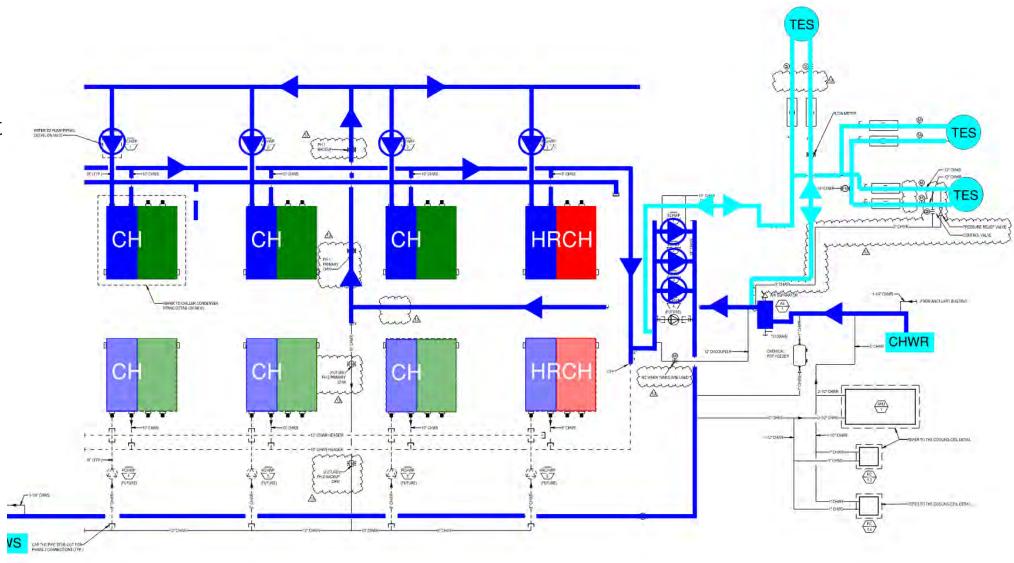
#### MFCB - Office Building

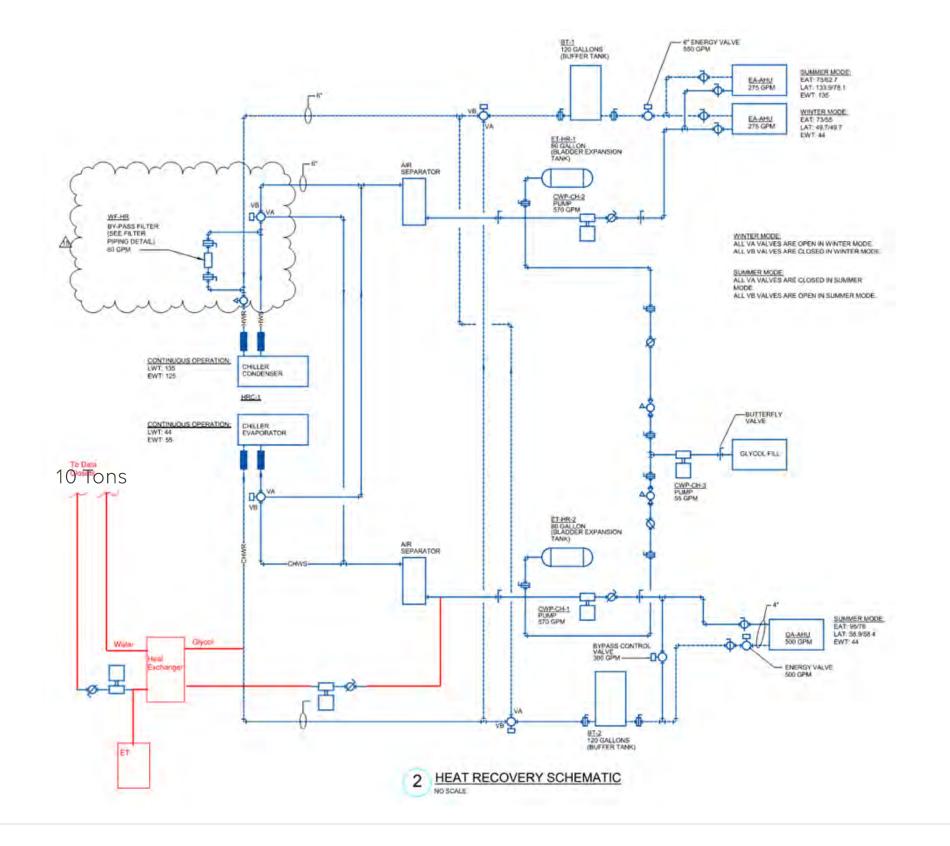
- Originally installed in 2010, taken out of full service in 2013
- 136k GSF Office Building Building designed at 140°F for the reheats, AHU preheats and fin tube systems
- 93 tons 4 Multistack scroll compressors
- At 140°F condenser LWT from chiller
- Added City water to condenser side for cooling only unit for IT room. Steady need for CHW due to IT server space
- Currently, HRC used as a backup, if campus CHW system is down
- Evaporator connected to building CHW
- Double deadband (system and equipment); throws off load matching and may trip out equipment, leading to full load going back to steam
- Equipment capacities/steps can lead to frequent loading and unloading



### Confidential Project

- Designed for 20 °F dT, fully loaded system
- Pumping heads and equipment flows minimized to save energy
- Piped HRCH in parallel with Centrifugal chillers- forcing always to operate at Tchws set.
- No means to turn down HRCHno means to meet minimum loads on chillers
- Blending in primary secondary system to get load turndown (can't meet lift)
- Relying on HHW and CHW TES to provide loads for HRCH





### **Detailed Performance Summary For CHR-1**

Project: Childrens NW Tower

Prepared By:

10/08/2024 02:11PM

#### Load Line

Unit Performance				-						(1)
Percent Full Load Heating Capacity, %	100.00	90.00	80.00	70.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	30.00	20.00	10.00
Percent of Full Load Power, %	100.00	89.73	79.46	70.06	61.41	53.08	48.35	46,60	24.33	14.83
Unloading Sequence	Default									
Cooling Capacity, Tons	180.6	162.7	144.8	126.4	107,4	88.22	66.64	45,06	35.37	17.69
Heating Capacity, Tons	247.5	222.7	198.0	173.2	148.5	123,7	98,98	74.24	49.49	24.75
Total Unit Power, kW	258.6	232.0	205.5	181.1	158.8	137.2	125.0	120.5	62.90	38.35
Cooling Efficiency (EER), BTU/Wh	8.380	8.414	8.458	8.370	8.116	7.713	6.397	4.487	6.749	5,535
Cooling Efficiency, kW/Ton	1.432	1.426	1.419	1.434	1.479	1,556	1.876	2.674	1.778	2.168
Heating Efficiency (COPH), kW/kW	3,366	3.376	3.389	3,363	3.289	3.171	2.785	2,167	2.767	2.270
Evaporator Data			1 2 4	1						
Fluid Entering Temperature, "F	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00
Fluid Leaving Temperature, *F	45,93	46.83	47.73	48.65	49.60	50.57	51.65	52.74	50.51	50.51
Fluid Flow Rate, gpm	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0
Fouling Factor, (hr-sgft-F)/BTU	0.000100	0.000100	0.000100	0.000100	0,000100	0.000100	0.000100	0.000100	0.000100	0.000100
Condenser Data	-									
Fluid Entering Temperature, "F	120.00	121.53	123.03	124.52	126.02	127.52	129.01	130.51	127.43	127.43
Fluid Leaving Temperature, "F	135:00	135.00	135.09	135.00	135.00	135.00	135.00	135.00	135 00	135.00
Fluid Flow Rate, gpm	416.5	416.5	416.5	416.5	416.5	416.5	416.5	416.5	416.5	416.5
Fouling Factor, (hr-sqft-F)/BTU	0.000250	0.000250	0.000250	0.000250	0.000250	0.000250	0.000250	0.000250	0.000250	0.000250

(1) Minimum load control is required. Performance is an approximation.

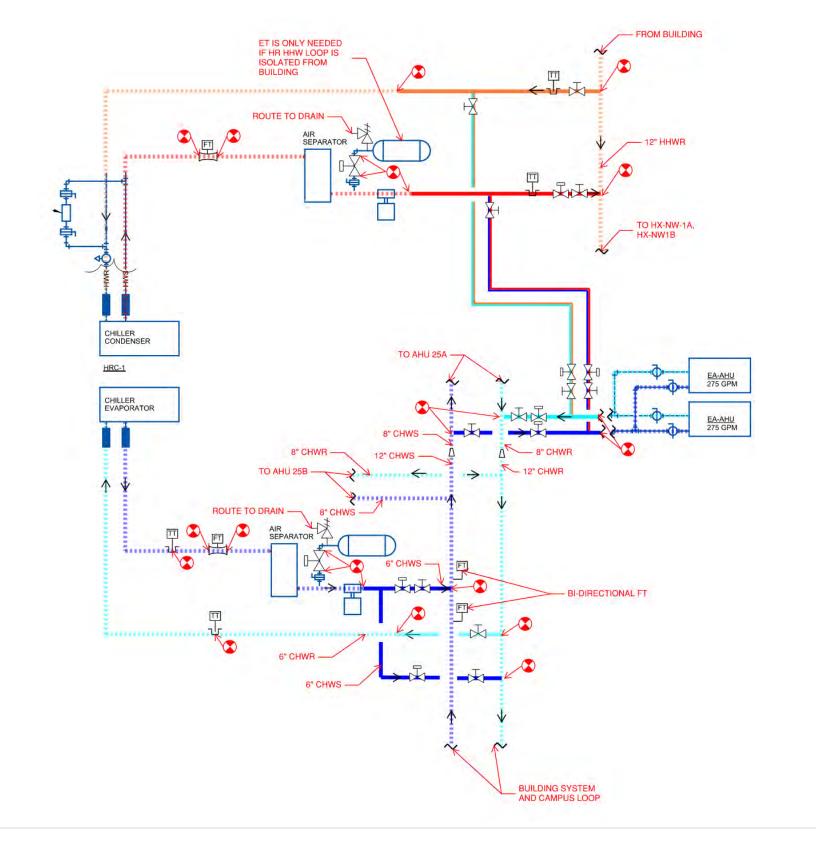
Note: Performance is at nominal voltage. Chiller may unload if job site voltage is lower than 380 volts.

Sound pressure level data used to develop this program was determined in accordance with AHRI Standard 575-2008 for water chillers in a free field.

Outside the scope of AHRI Water-Cooled Water-Chilling and Heat Pump Water-Heating Packages Certification Program, but is rated in accordance with AHRI Standard 550/590 (I-P) and AHRI Standard 551/591 (SI).

## HOSPITAL EXAMPLE - ORIGINAL DESIGN

Summary of Phase I System		
Chiller Capacity	180	tons
HRCH kW/Ton at 135°F / 45.9°F	1.432	kW/ton
Chiller Full Load Demand	257.8	KW
Ton hours Served	185,137	ton-hrs
	287,881	kWh
Electrical Use charge	\$ 20,847	
Demand Charges	\$ 41,366	
Total Electrical Charge	\$ 62,213	
Estimated Annual Maintenance Cost	\$ 10,000	
Chiller Run Hours (cooling)	1786	Hours
Chiller Run Hours (Heat Recovery)	0	Hours
MRMCT Equivalent Cooling Cost	\$ 102,677	
APPARENT SAVINGS IN OPERATING COSTS	\$ 30,464	

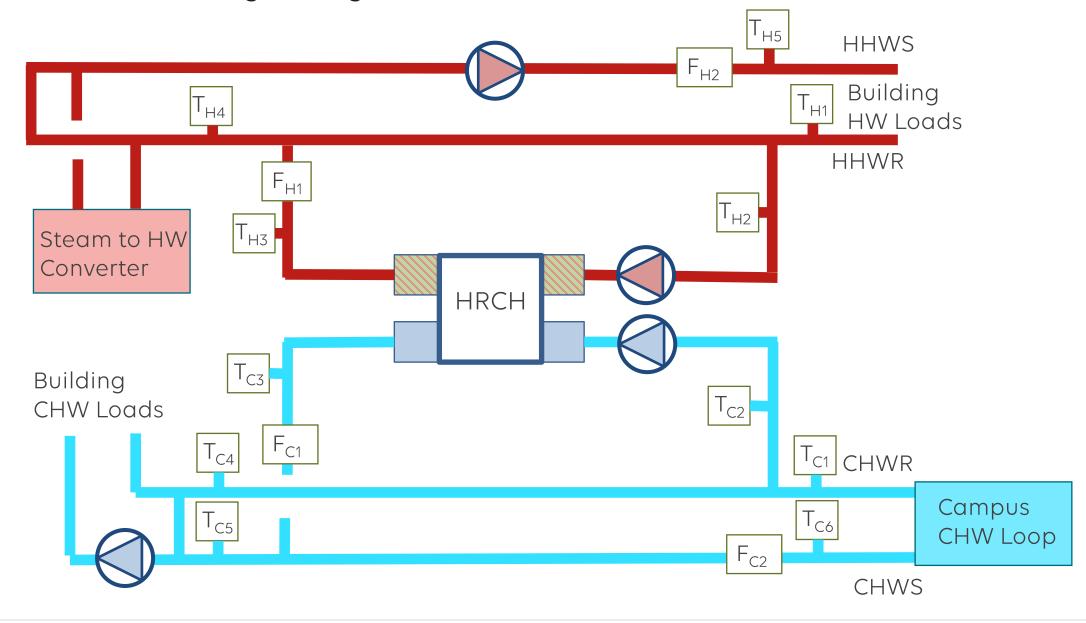


## HOSPITAL EXAMPLE - MODIFIED DESIGN

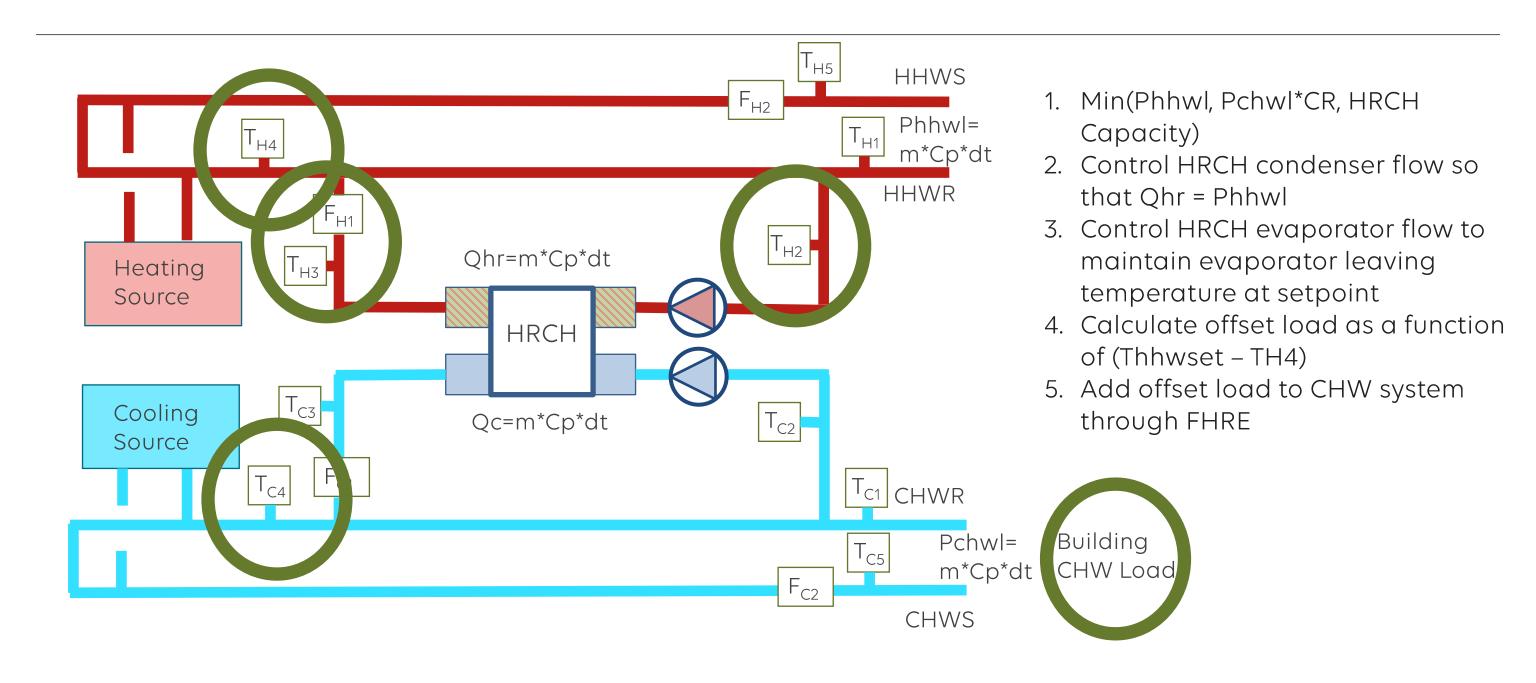
Summary of Phase 2B Performance							
HRCH Chiller Capacity		180	tons				
HRCH kW/Ton at 135°F / 45.9°F		1.432	kW/ton				
Chiller Full Load Demand		257.8	KW				
Native Ton hours Served		127,590	ton-hrs				
HRCH kWh		289,029	kWh				
Electrical Use charge	\$	20,930					
Demand Charges	\$	25,544					
Total Electrical Charge	\$	46,474					
Heating Load Served		2,517,352	МВН				
Pounds of Steam Offset			x1000 lbm Steam				
Steam Charge Avoided	\$	102,124					
Est. Annual Maintenance Cost	\$	10,000					
Chiller Run Hours (cooling)		0	Hours				
Chiller Run Hours (Heat Recovery)		944	Hours				
MRMCT Equivalent Cooling Cost Avoided		70,761					
APPARENT SAVINGS IN OPERATING COSTS	\$	116,411					

## CONTROLS FOR A DISTRICT STEAM & CHW SYSTEM

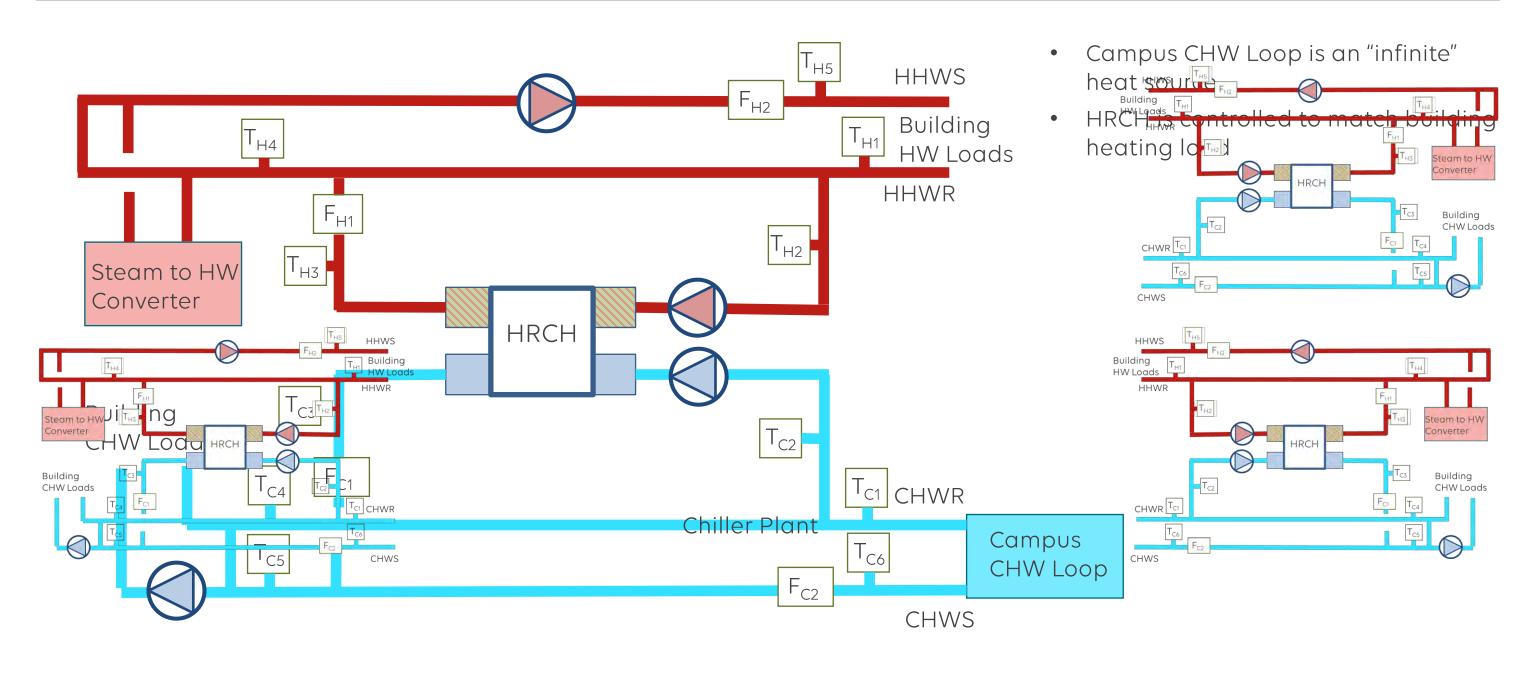
- Campus CHW Loop is an "infinite" heat source
- HRCH is controlled to match building heating load



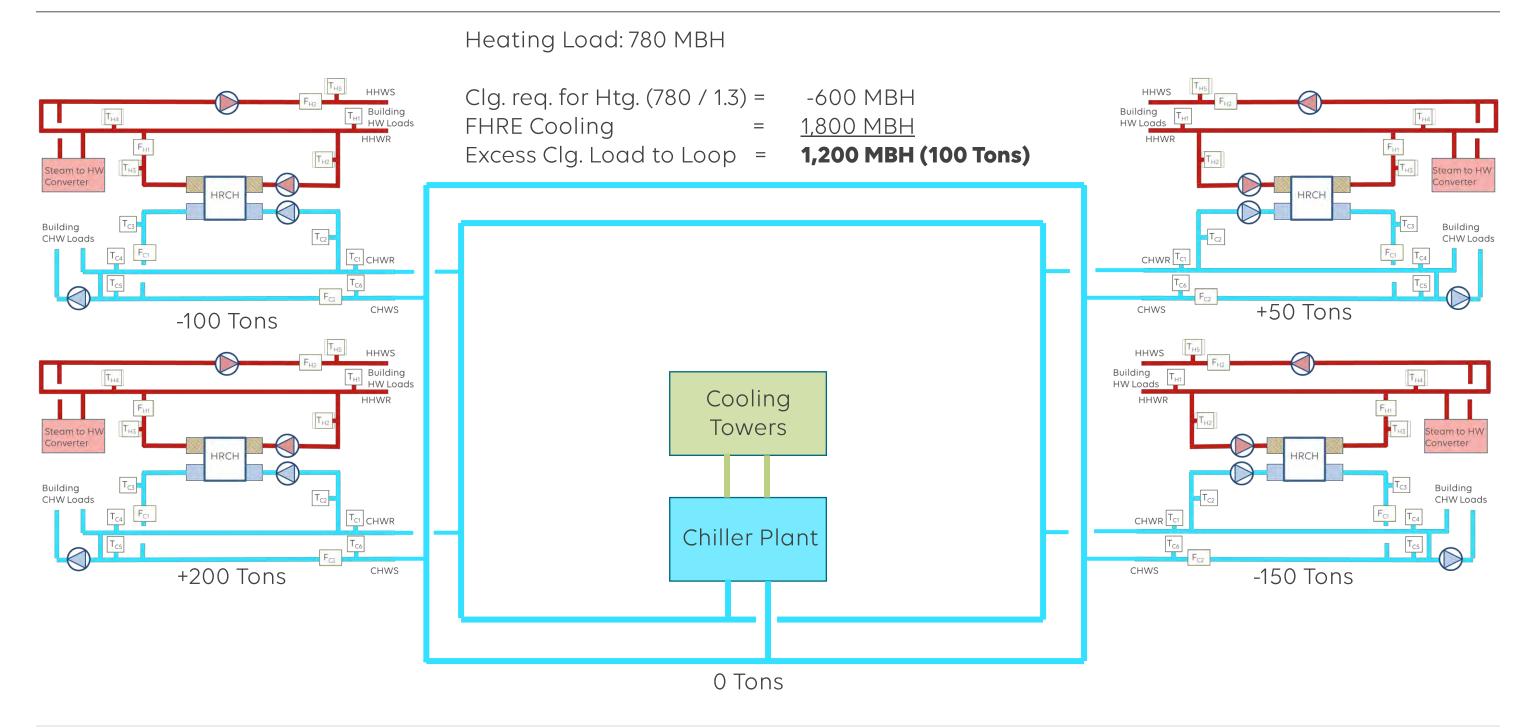
## CONTROLS FOR A SINGLE BUILDING



## CONTROLS FOR A DISTRICT STEAM & CHW SYSTEM



## FHRE LOAD SHARING



SUMMARY OF DESIGN PARAMETERS	UPMC	МН	MH Actual
Building Area, SF	875,960	723,000	
Major AHUs CFM	1,067,000	745,000	
AHUs with A/A ER. CFM	0	505,000	
HRU Exhaus Savings ~ \$400,	000,000	80,000	
Centrifugal	1000	7000	
Centrifugal HRCH Capc 42 - 64% Emissio	ns kea	uctions	
HRCH Capc Shift 50 - 75% go	ns to al	actricit	
			<b>y</b>
Total Coolin Cost Savings 15	<b>- 25%</b> 00	7,634,000	7,354,000
	111		64,206
ELR-H WITH FHRE ~ SP	P = 2.0 -	<b>3.5</b> 90%	
ALR-H	54%	64%	79.5%
η-ELR-H	81%	71%	88.3%
Total Energy Savings, MMBTU	38,981	60,442	71,589
Projected Savings	\$442,000	\$ 434,500	\$ 483,000
Emissions Reduction, MTECD	1,995	3,562	4,200
Emissions Reduction, %	42%	64%	

HGA