

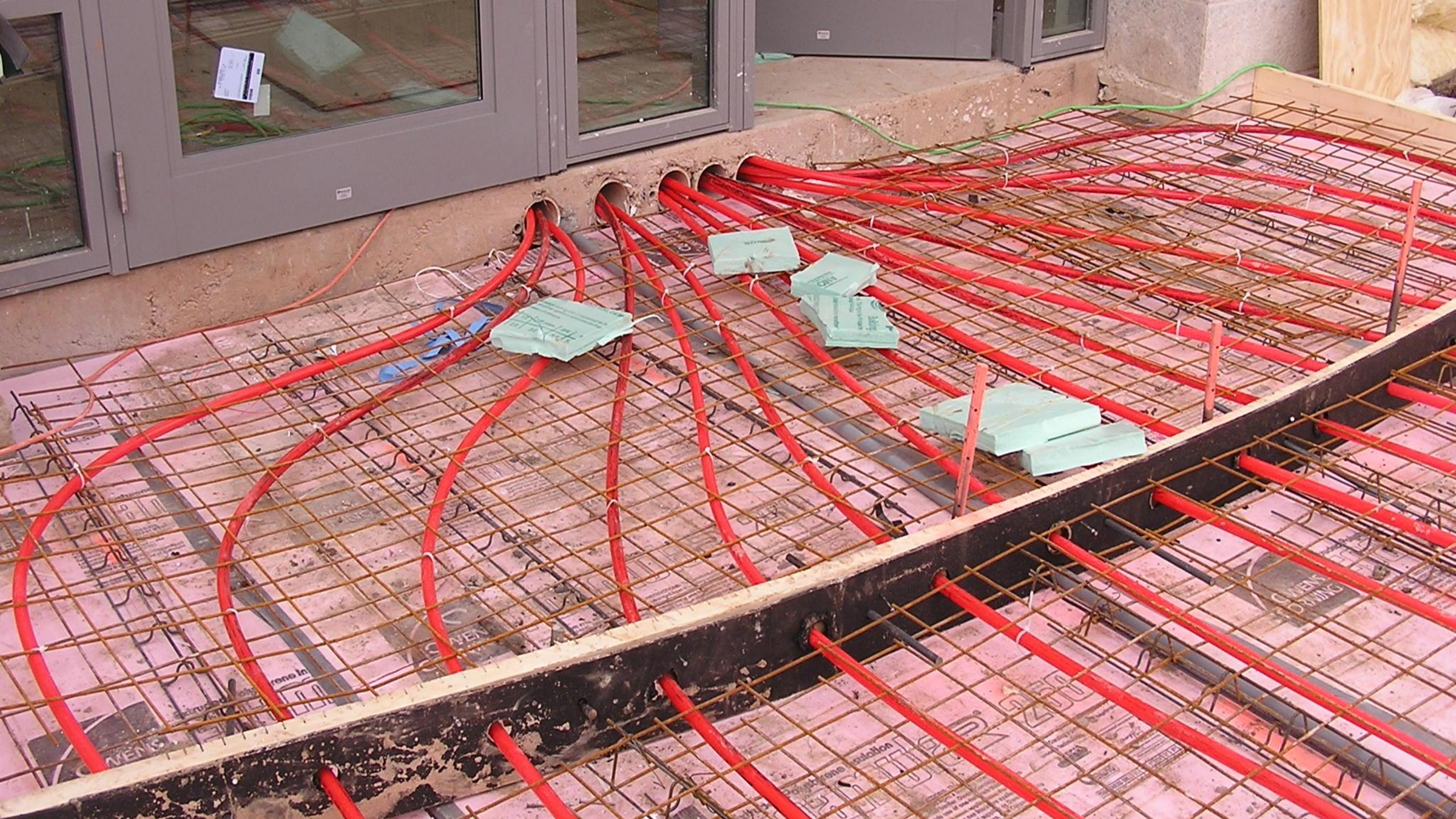


Energy and Decarbonization at Phipps

Climate Toolkit - October 2025
Richard V. Piacentini
Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Visitor Center





Greenhouses and Conservatory



Very Energy Efficient



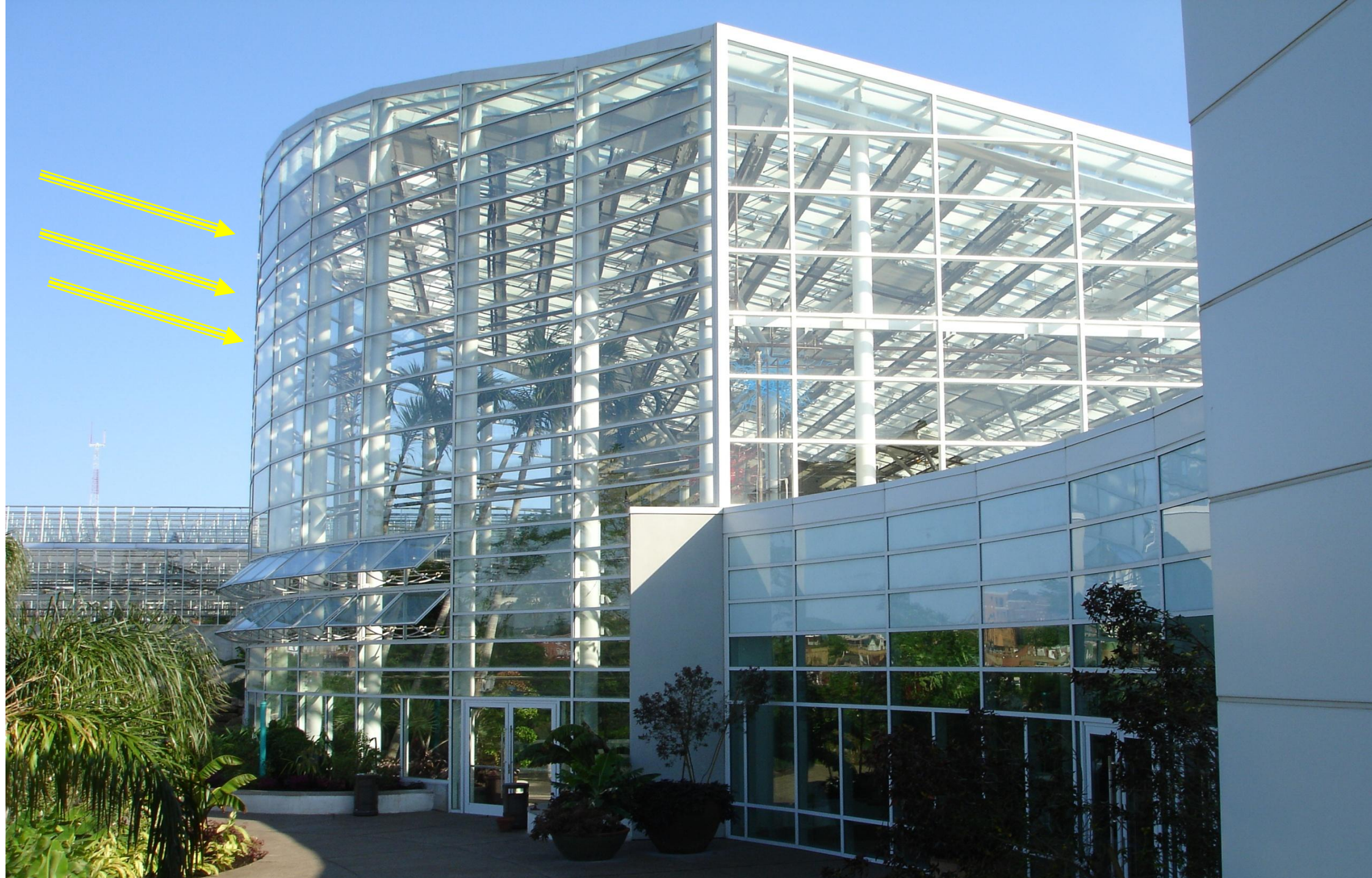
No Greenhouse Effect

State-of-the-Art Energy Efficient Greenhouses LEED Platinum EBOM







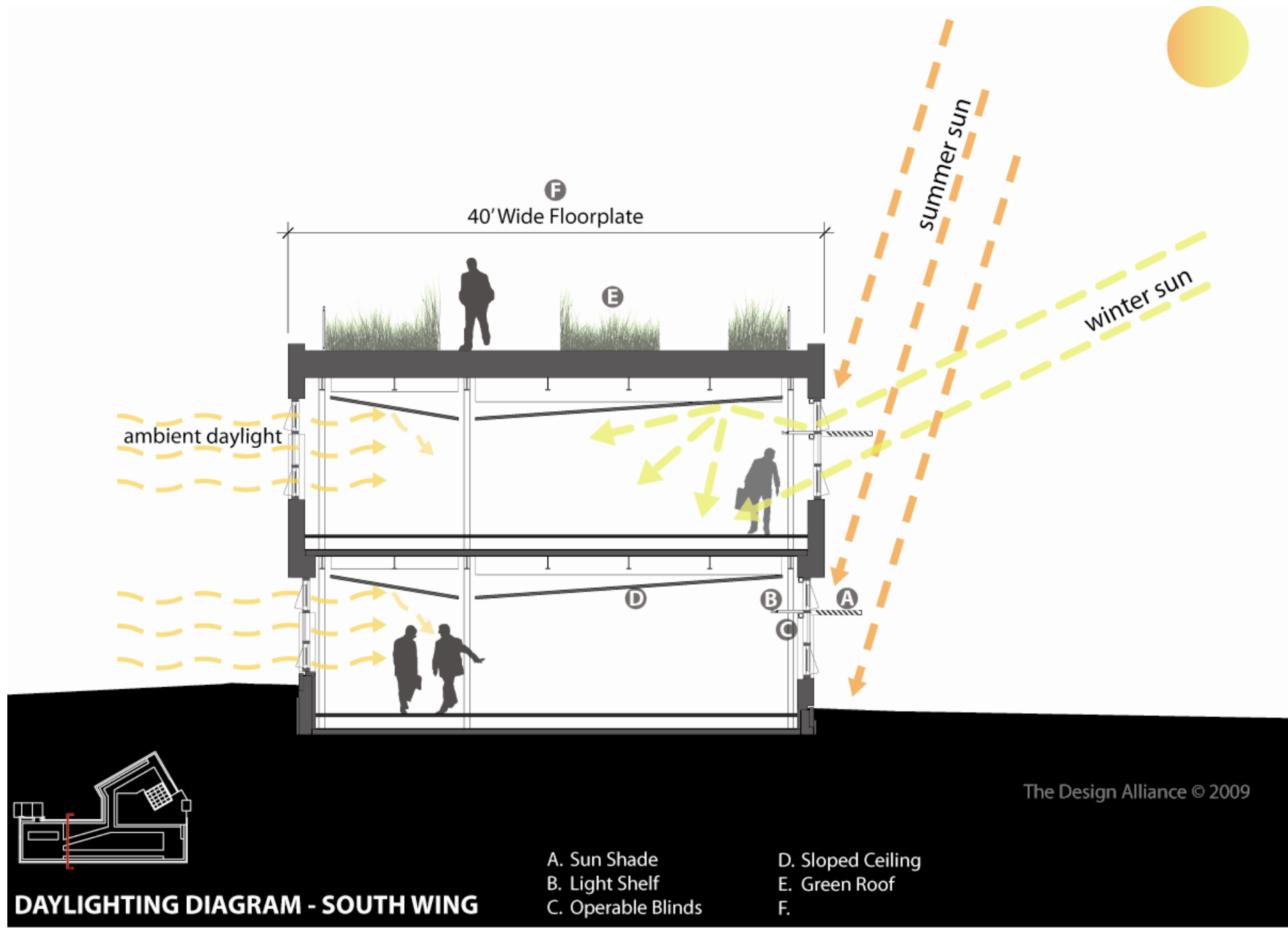




Center for Sustainable Landscapes (2012)

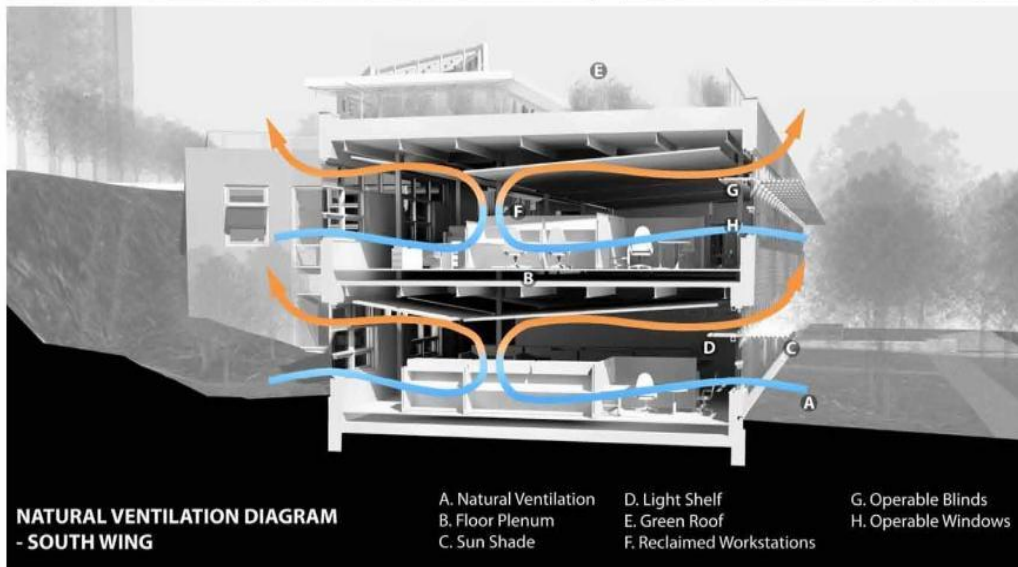
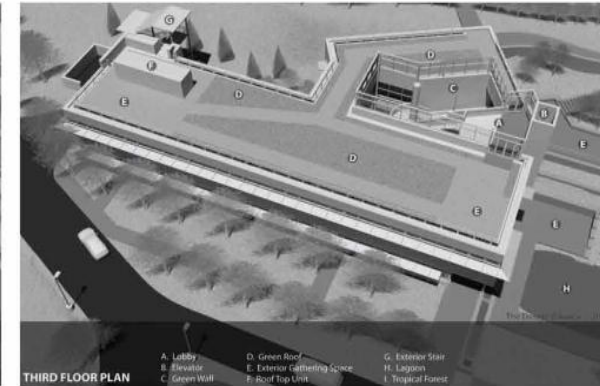
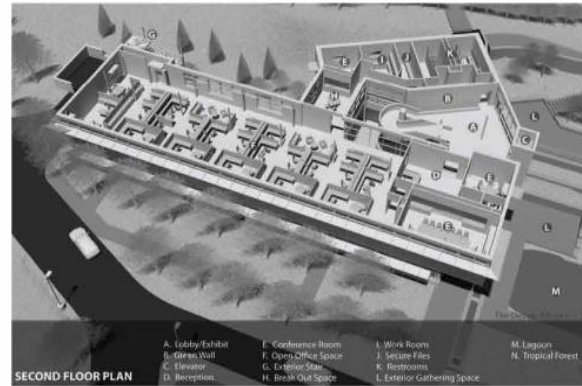
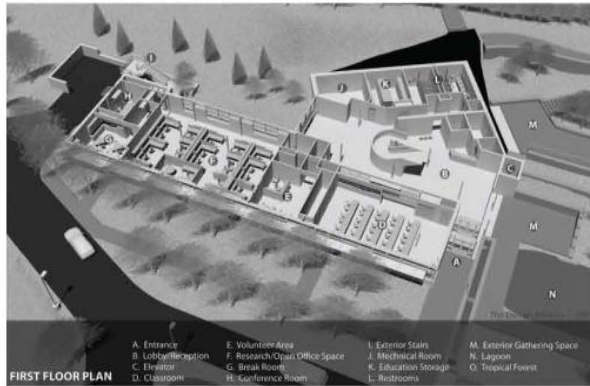


NET-ZERO ENERGY

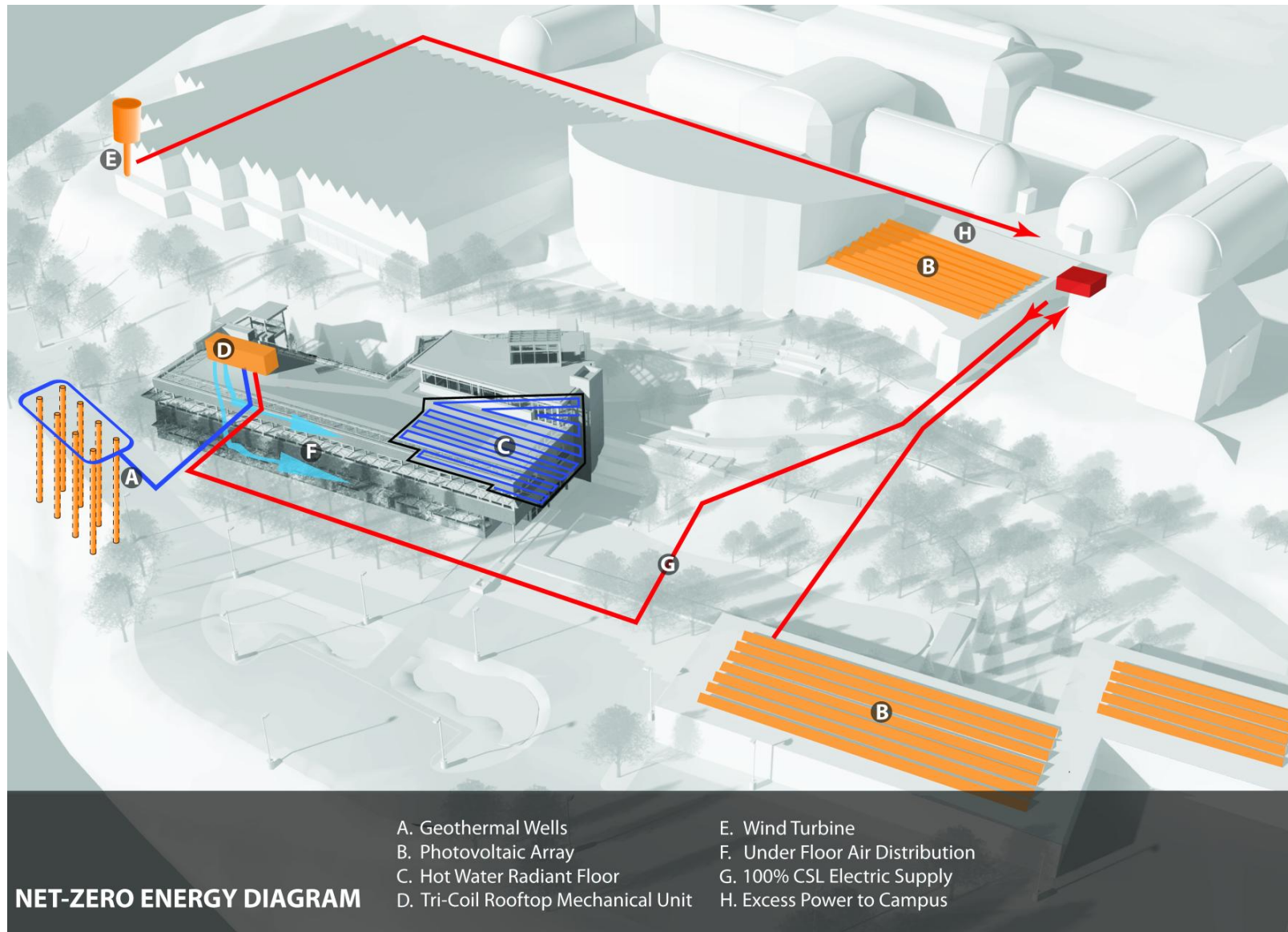




NATURAL VENTILATION



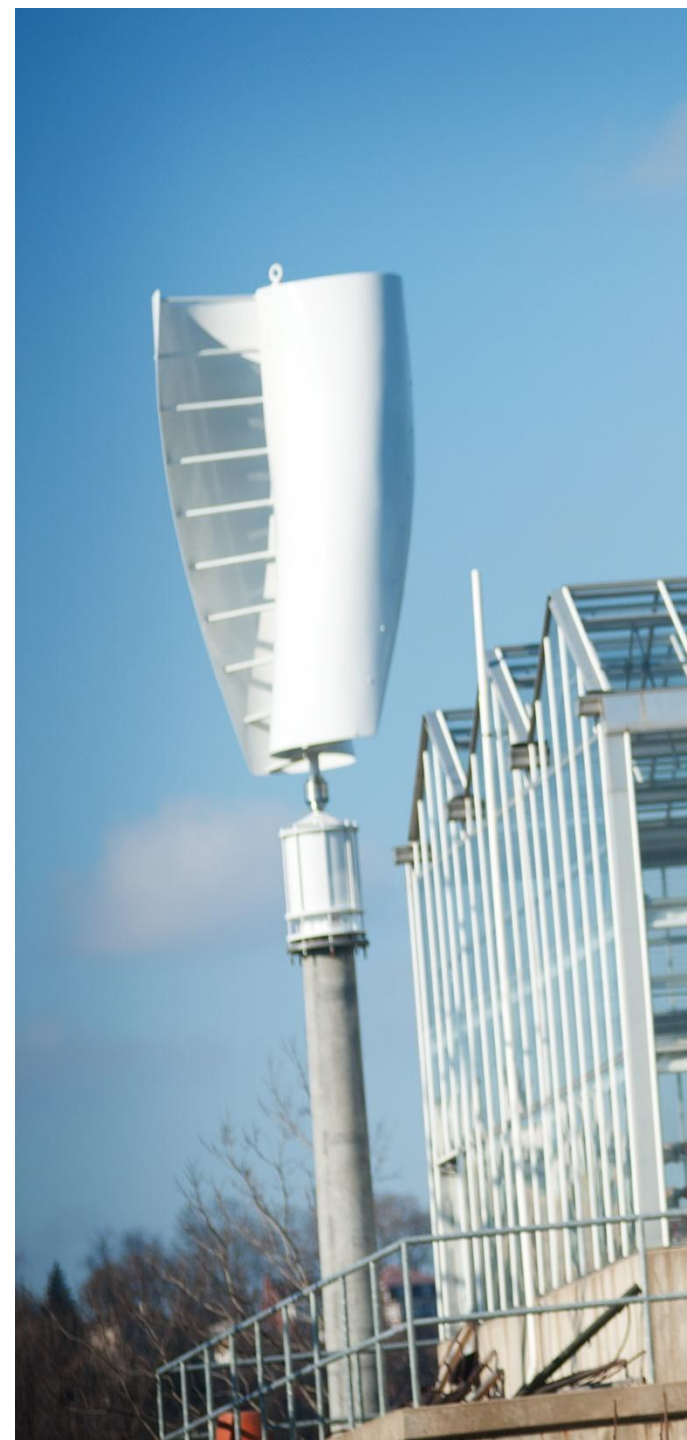




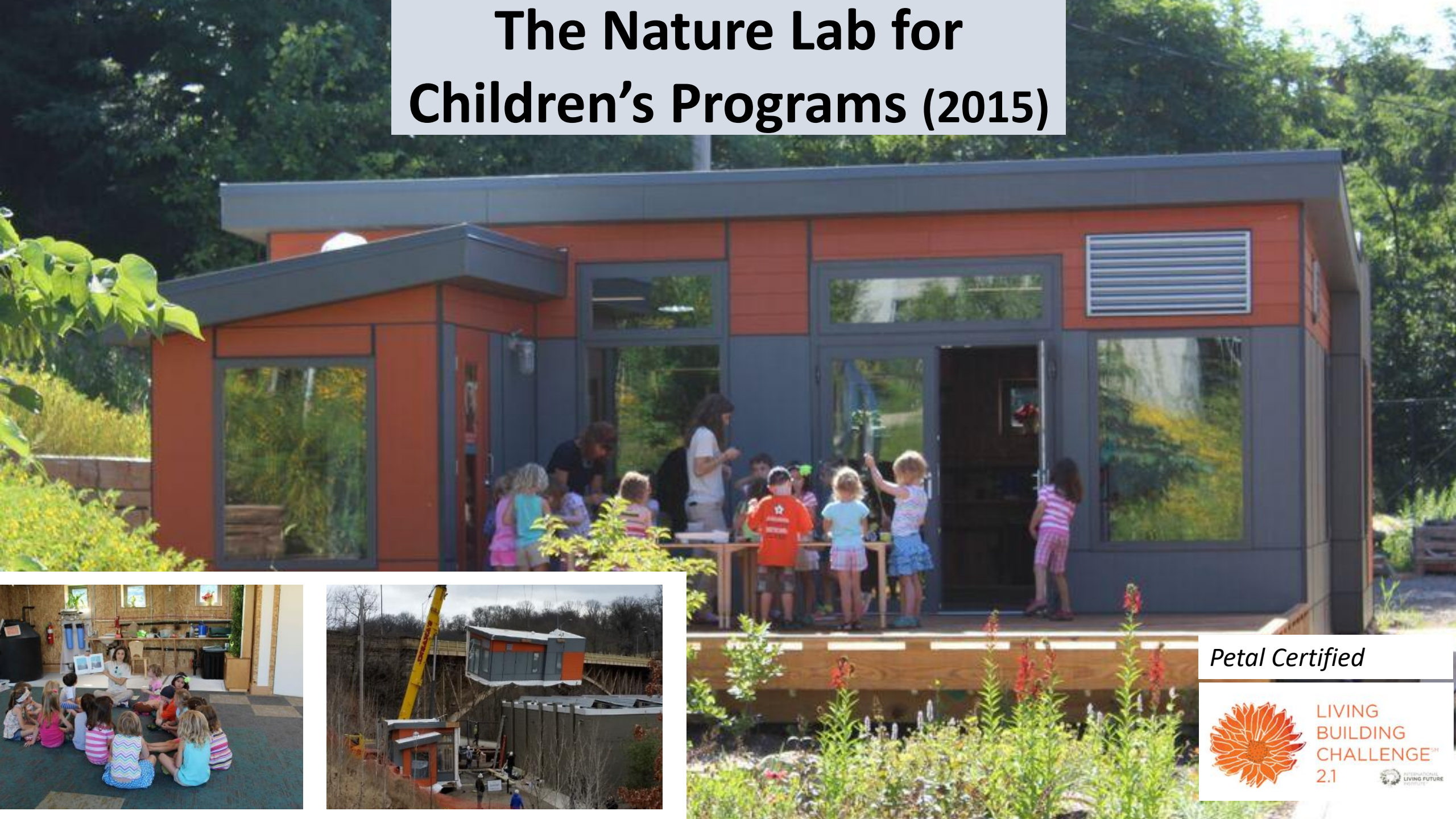
Net-Positive Energy



PV PANELS



The Nature Lab for Children's Programs (2015)



Petal Certified



LIVING
BUILDING
CHALLENGESM
2.1



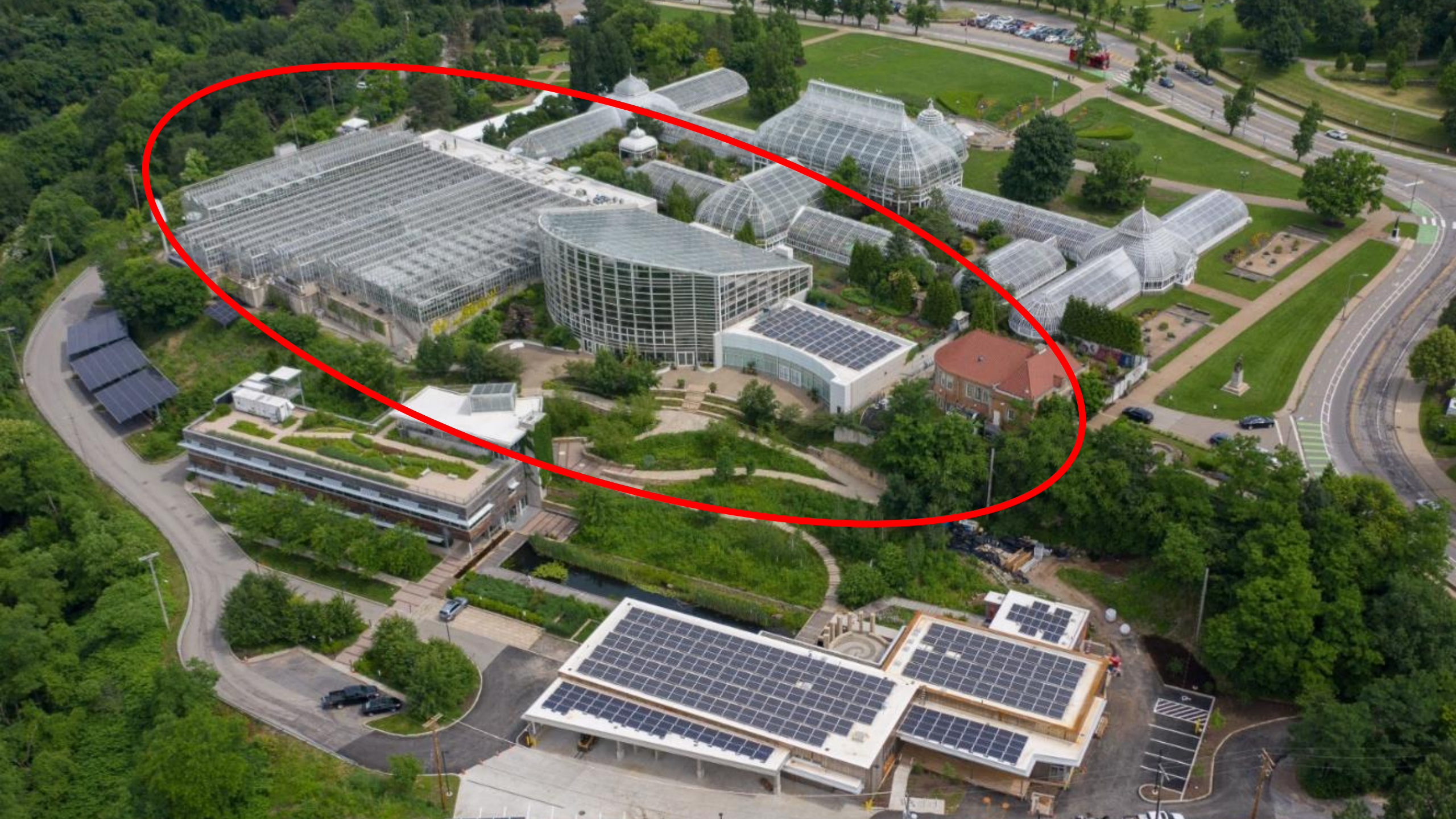
Exhibit Staging Center A Maintenance Facility (2018)



LIVING
BUILDING
CHALLENGE[™]
2.1



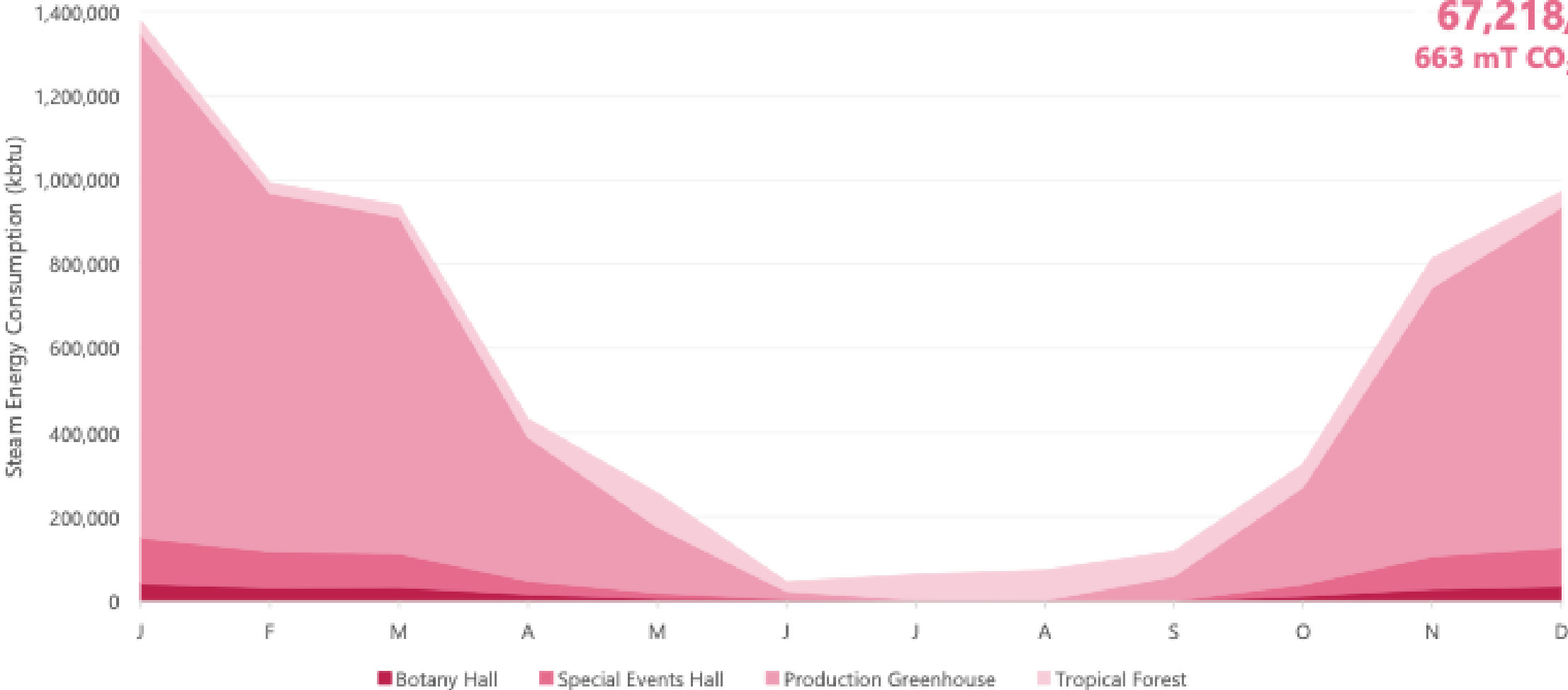




Understanding Current Demands | Steam Energy Consumption

6,402
mmbtu/year

67,218/year
663 mT CO₂e/year



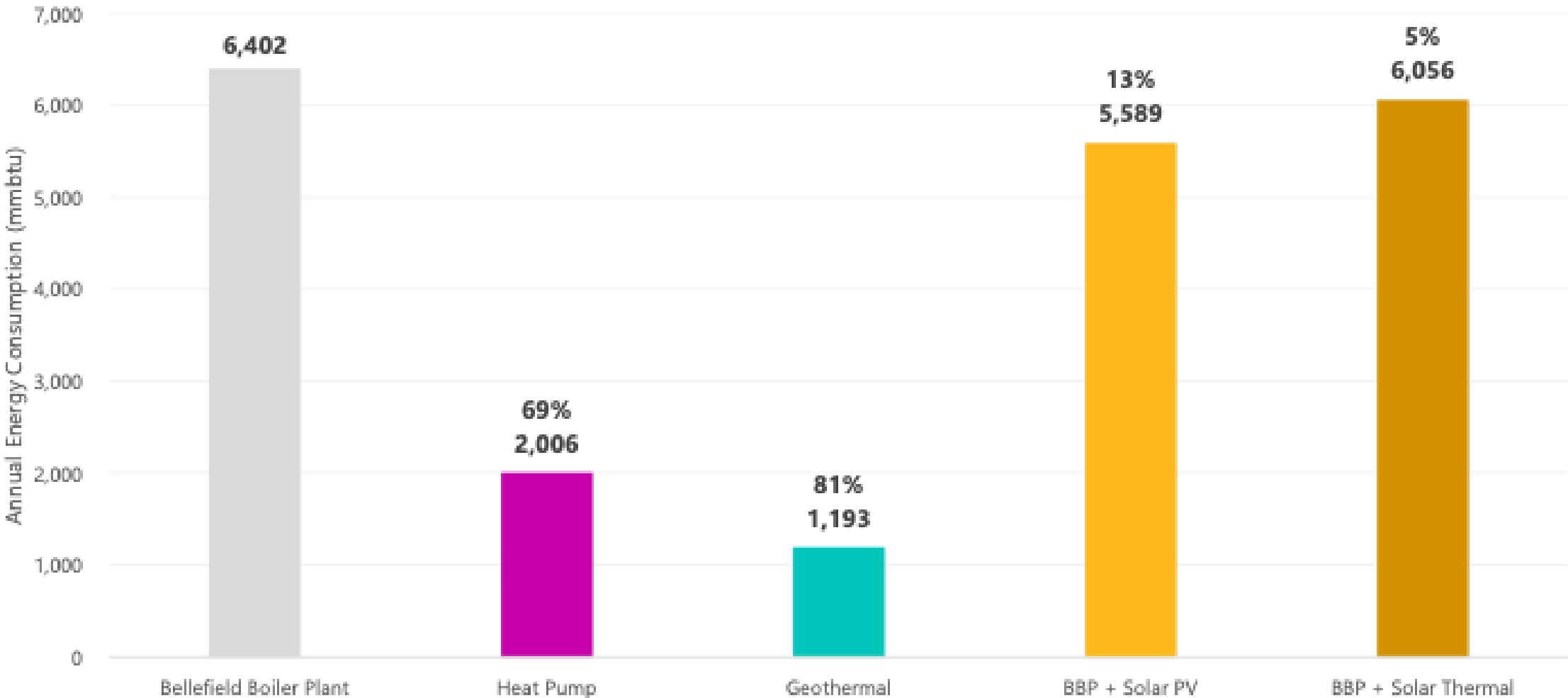
Study Parameters

	Bellefield Boiler Plant	Heat Pump	Geothermal	Solar PV	Solar Thermal
Scope	-	full conversion	full conversion	in lieu of electricity demand	in lieu of HW demand served by BBP
Equipment & Capacity	Peak Load: 7,425 MBH (620 RT)	4 70 ton and 7 50 ton (total 630 ton) Clima- Cool Modular Chiller Heaters with Cooling Towers with electric boiler back-up	84 wells totaling 255 tons with electric boiler back- up	196 kW Solar Photovoltaic Array	115 kW, 1000 kg/hr domestic hot water capacity, glycol fluid based
Timeline	Last replacement in 2006	ASAP or staged conversion	ASAP or staged addition	ASAP or staged addition	ASAP
Primary Fuel Source	Steam via Natural Gas	Electricity	Electricity	Steam solar PV to offset current electricity demand	Steam solar thermal production to offset current DHW demand
Approximate Capital Cost	\$100k	\$500-800k	\$2.4-2.8M	\$600-900k	\$200-350k
Space	-	~1,000 ft ²	~77,000 ft ²	~28,000 ft ²	~28,000 ft ²
Additional Considerations	outdated systems, possible surcharge in the future		sub-cooling of ground overtime without cooling requirement	Phipps can be a net- positive electricity producer in the summer	requires significant preventative maintenance

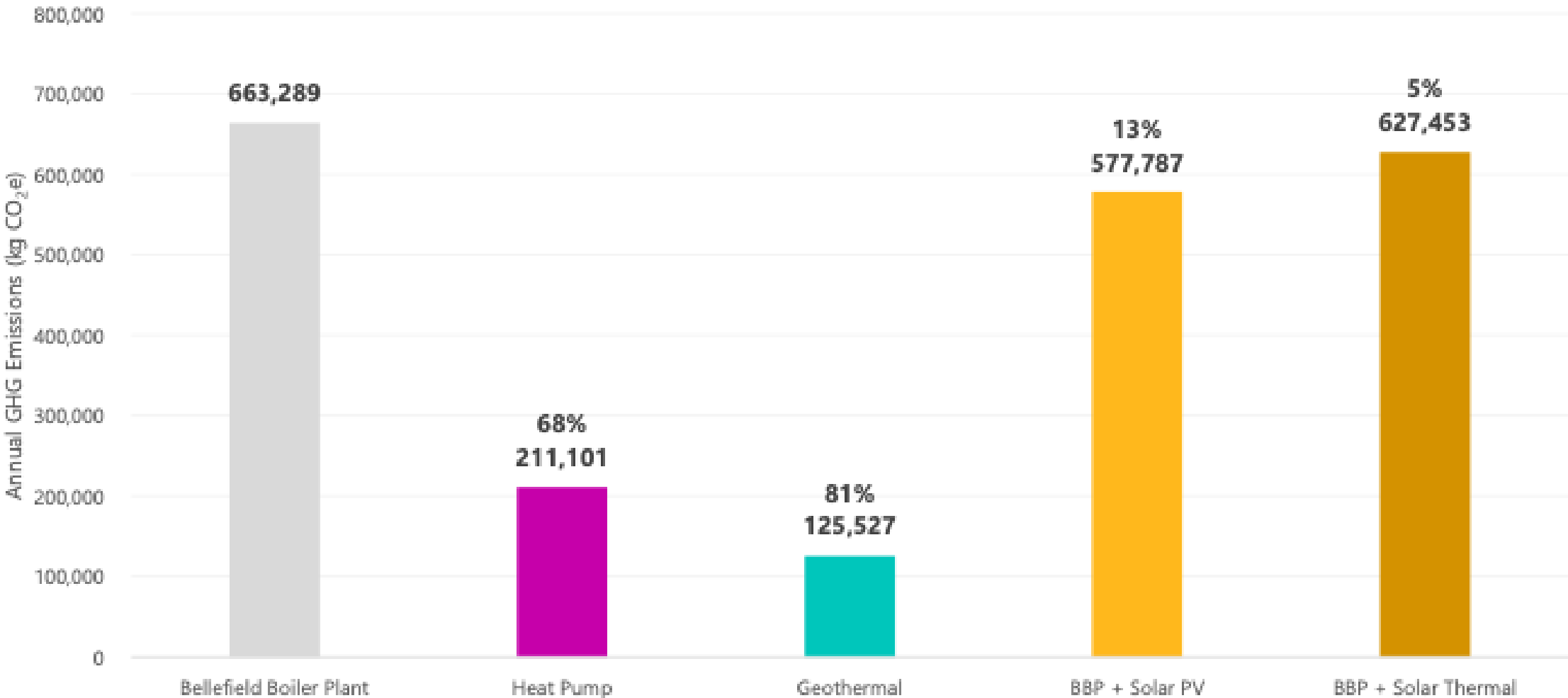
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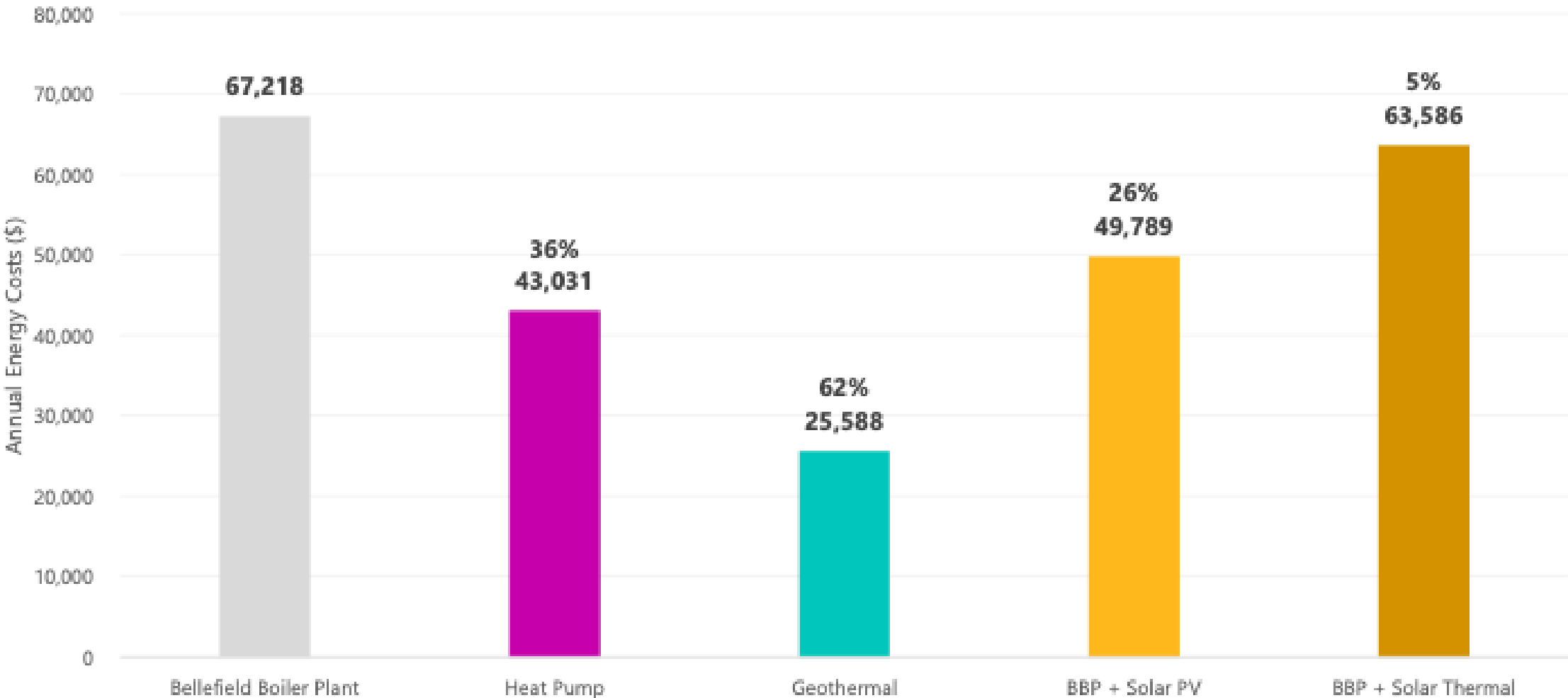
Summary – Year 1 Energy Performance



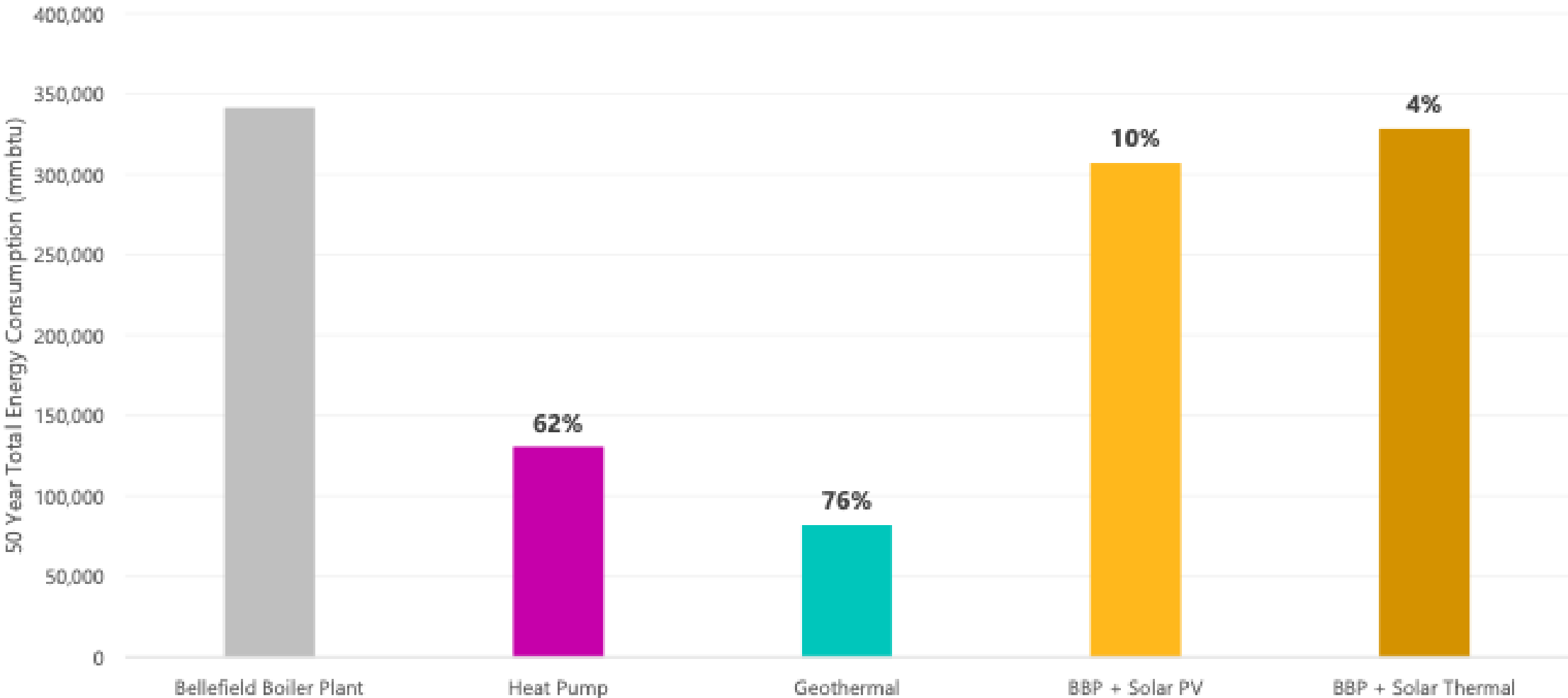
Summary – Year 1 Operational Emissions



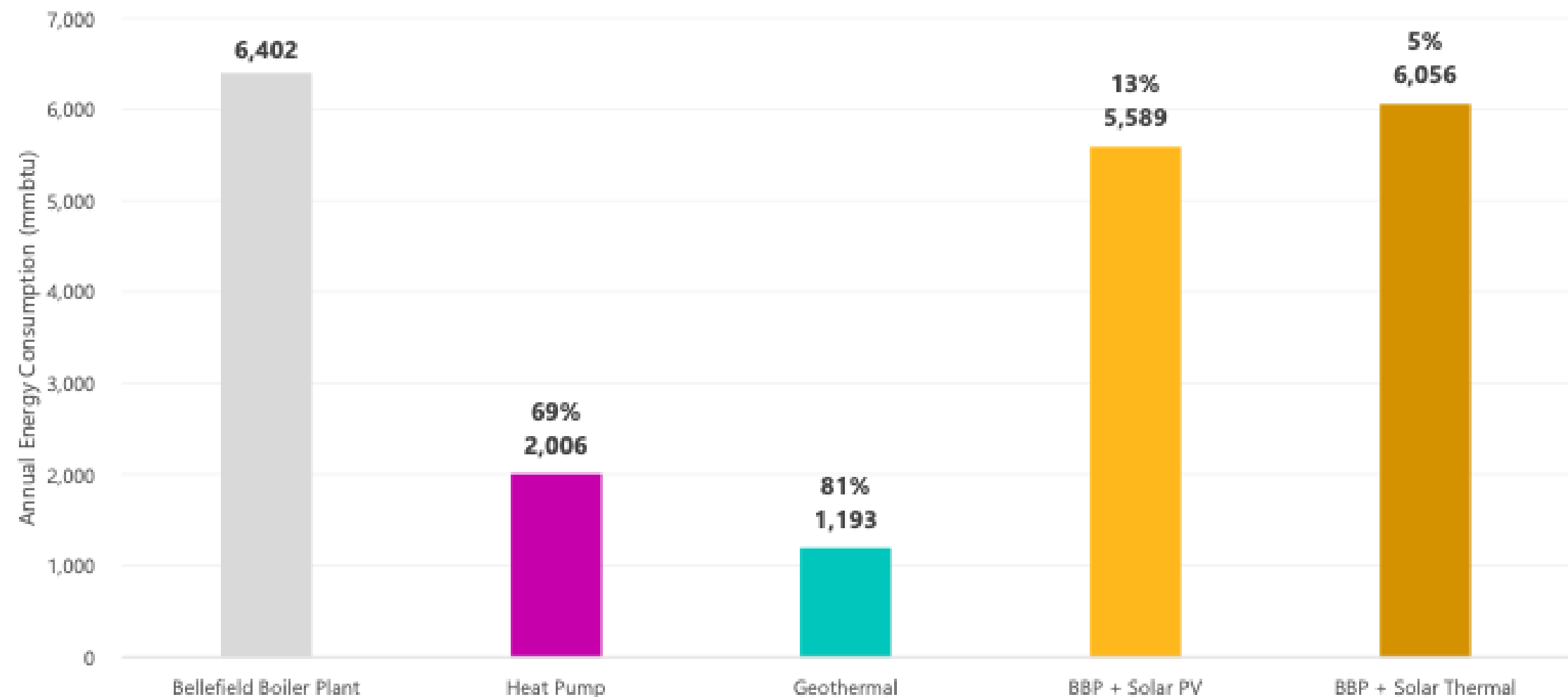
Summary – Year 1 Operational Costs



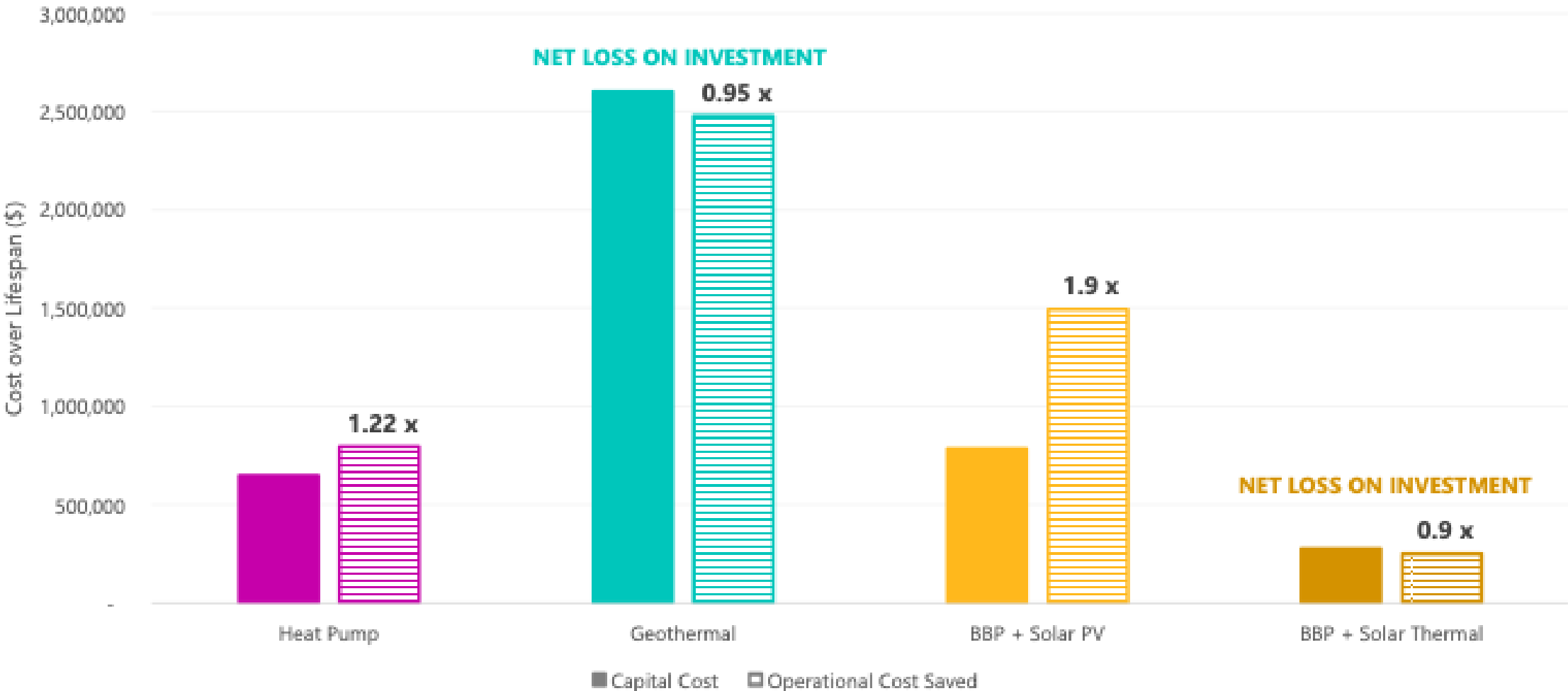
50 Year Energy Performance - Overall



Summary – Year 1 Energy Performance



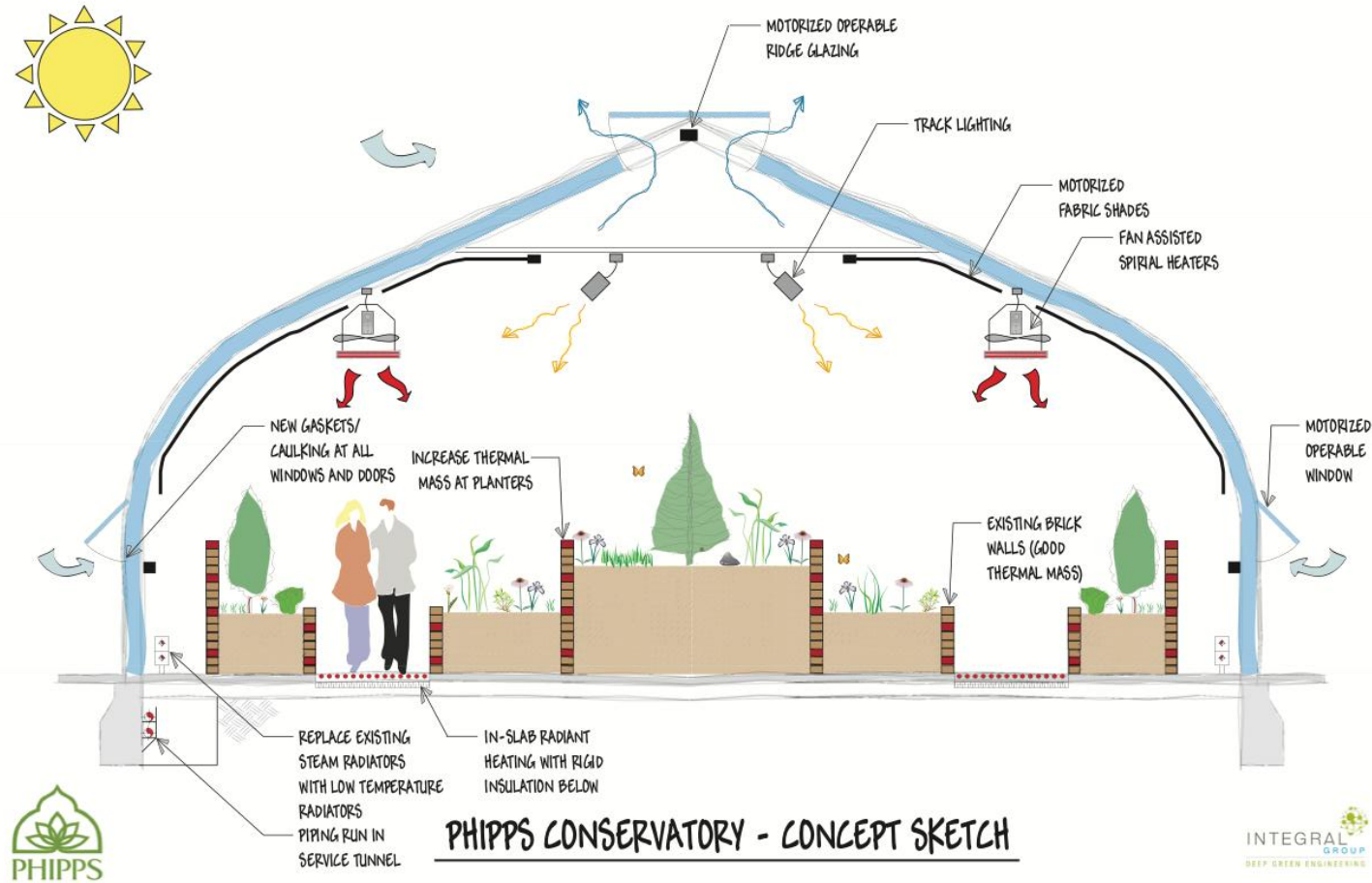
Capital Costs vs. Operational Costs Saved over Equipment Life Span



Key Takeaways

Heat Pump	Geothermal	Solar PV	Solar Thermal
+ Full electrification is possible. + When considering long-term costs and emissions, it performs at a similar level as supplementing with geothermal but has significantly lower upfront costs. + Greater flexibility in the long term to add modules buildings are added to the campus. - Requires the most frequent replacements (~3x in 50 years), embodied carbon impacts should be considered.	+ Full electrification is possible. + Shows the highest energy savings in the short and long-term. + Installing only a portion of the maximum number of wells feasible that can meet some of the load is a better strategy while keeping capital low. This can be paired with the Heat Pump strategy for increased energy and carbon savings. - Energy and emission wise, it performs at a similar level as the modular heat pumps but has ~4x the upfront costs. - Net loss on investment. - Long term environmental impacts for the all 84 wells need to be understood.	+ The most cost effective (~1.9x return on investment). + Can be paired with the electrified Heat Pump or Geothermal option. - Can only meet a small amount of annual demand and not when most needed.	- Net loss on investment. - Can meet a very small portion of the load.



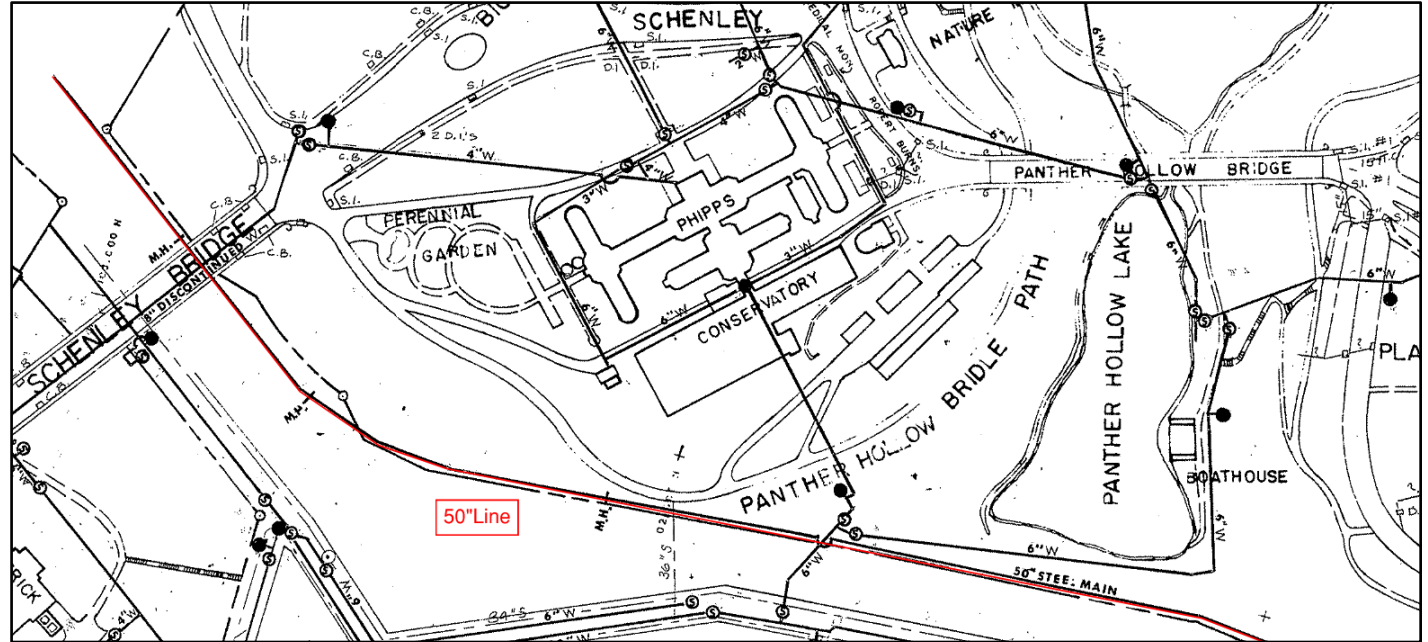


SITE MECHANICAL SYSTEM OPTIONS MATRIX

MECHANICAL SYSTEM OPTIONS MATRIX		OPTION 1		OPTION 2		OPTION 3					
		BASELINE		FULLY-ELECTRIFIED HIGH PERFORMANCE GEOTHERMAL		FULLY-ELECTRIFIED GEOTHERMAL		MOSTLY-ELECTRIFIED GEOTHERMAL		OTHER OPTIONS EVALUATED	
MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT				Primary: Secondary:		Primary: Secondary:		Primary: Secondary:			
SYSTEM DESCRIPTION		Existing state		Modern ground-source heating plant with supplemental electric boilers and high temp heat pumps		Geothermal loop with electric boiler for peak capacity		Geothermal loop with steam heating for 30% of peak capacity		Utilize waste heat from sewer line adjacent to Bellefield boiler plant	
FIRST COST		\$\$\$\$\$		\$\$\$\$\$		\$\$\$\$		\$\$\$		This system has the below hurdles/ limitations, but is still potentially viable and could be studied in the next phase of design:	
UTILITY COST		⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡		⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡		⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡		⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡		Scale - a larger scale is required to make this cost-effective. It could be an option for a district opportunity	
MAINTENANCE COST		🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧		🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧		🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧		🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧		Location - the large sewer main to the NW is relatively far away and down a significant hill	
IRA POTENTIAL				🏛️🏛️🏛️🏛️		🏛️🏛️🏛️		🏛️🏛️🏛️		Type - the sewer main is combined stormwater and wastewater, which is less ideal for heat recovery due to variable flow and temperatures	
EFFICIENCY / COP		0 0.85 4		0 3.47 4		0 3.32 4		0 3.29 4			
HEATING EUI		0 147 200+		0 34 200+		0 35 200+		0 36 200+			
CARBON EMISSIONS		🔥🔥🔥🔥🔥		🔥🔥🔥🔥		🔥🔥🔥🔥		🔥🔥🔥🔥			
RESILIENCY		✅✅✅		✅✅✅✅		✅✅✅✅✅		✅✅✅			
ADVANTAGES		- High load density delivery - Existing state- no modifications required		- Achieves full decarbonization - Highly resilient, efficient design		- Achieves full decarbonization - Highly resilient, efficient design		- Lower cost from utilizing existing steam infrastructure - Simpler system control			
DISADVANTAGES		- High energy cost - High carbon footprint		- Large borefield footprint. May not fit on Phipps property - Complex control system		- Large borefield footprint. May not fit on Phipps property - Additional electric demand charges		- Large borefield footprint. May not fit on Phipps property - Retains existing steam and carbon footprint			



Sewer Heat Recovery



- City-owned land?
- Combined sanitary/stormwater?

Solar Field for 100% of Energy Needs

**Electrification w/o
geothermal**

2.55MWdc Array



Thank You

