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**1** Theoretical overview of heating power and necessary heating supply

2 temperatures in typical Danish single-family houses from the 1900s

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## 7 Abstract

8 As existing buildings are renovated and energy-efficiency measures are implemented to meet requirements 9 for reduced energy consumption, it becomes easier to heat our homes with low-temperature heating. This study set out to investigate how much the heating system supply temperature can be reduced in typical 10 11 Danish single-family houses constructed in the 1900s. The study provides a simplified theoretical overview 12 of typical building constructions and standards for the calculation of design heat loss and design heating power in Denmark in the 1900s. The heating power and heating demand in six typical Danish single-family 13 14 houses constructed in the 1900s were estimated based on simple steady-state calculations. We found that 15 the radiators in existing single-family houses should not necessarily be expected to be over-dimensioned compared to current design heat loss. However, there is considerable potential for using low-temperature 16 17 space heating in existing single-family houses in typical operation conditions. Older houses were not always 18 found to require higher heating system temperatures than newer houses. We found that when these 19 houses have gone through reasonable energy renovations, most of them can be heated with a supply 20 temperature below 50 °C for more than 97% of the year.

Keywords: Low-temperature district heating, low-temperature heating, single-family houses, design heat
 loss, design heating power, radiator over-dimensioning,

## 23 **1. Introduction**

Single-family houses account for approximately 60% of the heated residential sector in Denmark [1]. When
 reductions in the heat consumption of Danish homes are planned, single-family houses are therefore very

important. In Denmark, approximately 40% of single-family houses are heated by district heating [1], which
makes modern 4<sup>th</sup> generation district heating, with its low-temperature operation, a promising solution for
improving the energy efficiency of the heat supply in areas with single-family houses [2,3]. The aim with 4<sup>th</sup>
generation district heating is to get supply and return temperatures down to 55 °C and 25 °C, respectively.
Such lowering of district heating temperatures will increase the efficiency of heat production and reduce
the heat loss from the pipe systems. This is of great importance in low-density building areas, where the
relative heat losses from district heating pipes are often high.

33 Earlier studies have investigated the possibility of supplying energy-efficient buildings areas with low-34 temperature district heating (LTDH) [4,5] and described how LTDH networks can be designed [6]. However, 35 only a few studies have investigated the possibility of heating existing houses with LTDH. These include 36 investigations into the potential for using LTDH in a number of single-family houses from the 1970s, in an 37 area of single-family houses with floor heating from the 1980s, and in an old apartment building in 38 Copenhagen [7–11]. The use of low-temperature heating has also been studied in buildings supplied by 39 natural gas or by heat pumps [12–15], but such studies may not provide good references for investigations 40 on LTDH, because other heat sources do not necessarily require a similar focus on achieving low return 41 temperatures.

42 Most of these investigations on low-temperature district heating were case studies. While case studies can 43 provide good references, they are not necessarily representative of the general building mass. The aim of 44 this study was therefore to provide new knowledge about the potential for the use of LTDH in existing 45 single-family houses in general. The results of the study provide a new theoretical foundation for future 46 discussions on the potential of low-temperature district heating.

47 **1.1 Over-dimensioning of radiators** 

48 It is of great importance to ensure that occupant comfort is not compromised if district heating
49 temperatures are lowered. This implies that the radiators must be able cover the heating demands in the

existing houses with a lower temperature set than the current one. For this to be possible, the radiators
must be over-dimensioned compared to the current heat demand in the buildings. Four main facts suggest
that the existing radiators could be over-dimensioned to an extent that allows the heating system

53 temperatures to be lowered for large parts of the year:

54 1. The radiators were dimensioned for a very low outdoor temperature that almost never occurs

55 2. Internal heat gains from electrical equipment has increased

3. Radiator dimensions are often larger than required because they come in a limited number of sizes
4. The energy demands of many existing buildings have been reduced due to energy renovation.

58 Over-dimensioning of radiators has been investigated in a number of studies. In Denmark, the effects of 59 operating district heating networks with lower temperatures have been tested in various studies since the 60 late 80s [16–20]. Based on measurements of supply and return temperatures in the networks, the studies 61 conclude that it is technically possible to provide space heating in existing buildings with supply 62 temperatures as low as 60-65 °C even in cold periods. This indicates that the radiators in the buildings 63 investigated were over-dimensioned, because the radiators were originally dimensioned for higher supply temperatures. These findings have been supported by more recent studies of a number of district heating 64 65 networks where the annual supply temperatures were successfully reduced through continuous 66 temperature optimization and improved building installations [8,10,21]. In Sweden, a number of field 67 studies have investigated and improved the heating system operation in typical multifamily buildings [22– 24]. The studies found that the heating system temperatures in the multifamily buildings investigated were 68 around 50 °C/30 °C and 45 °C/35 °C even at outdoor temperatures around 0 °C [23,24]. These findings 69 70 indicate that traditional dimensioning of radiators according to the temperature set 80 °C/60 °C often 71 caused radiator sizes to be large enough for the buildings to be heated by low-temperature heating for 72 large parts of the year.

In this study, we investigated over-dimensioning of radiators from two different perspectives. First, the
 design heating power in the typical Danish single-family houses was compared to the current design heat

loss to evaluate whether the installed radiators are over-dimensioned compared to current design standards. Secondly, the heating system temperatures necessary to cover the heat demand in the houses at typical outdoor temperatures were calculated. The design conditions were compared to the temperature requirements during a typical year to evaluate whether the radiators are over-dimensioned for the actual operation requirements. Based on these analyses, the study would provide new insights on the definition of over-dimensioned radiators. Furthermore, the study provided new knowledge on the condition of heating systems in typical existing-single-family houses.

## 82 2. Danish single-family houses and district heating

Typical single-family houses that represent the Danish building mass were identified in the TABULA project, which was aimed at developing typical building typologies for a number of European countries [25,26]. In the Danish contribution to the project, Danish homes were divided into categories depending on their construction period, changes in the building code requirements, and shifts in building traditions. The study looked at single-family houses constructed from before 1850 and down to 2011.

Not all categories of single-family houses are of equal interest for a study on low-temperature district
heating. As Figure 1 shows, the single-family houses constructed after 2000 only form a small percentage of
the total single-family houses in Denmark. Furthermore, only a small percentage of the single-family houses
from before 1900 and after 2000 are heated with district heating. This study therefore focuses on typical
Danish single-family houses constructed during the 1900s.



94 **Figure 1.** Danish single-family houses by year of construction and heating source [1]

95 In the TABULA project, the houses constructed in the 1900s were divided into six categories of typical

96 single-family houses. Each category was exemplified by an actual house representing the typical

97 architecture, geometry, and construction of the given time period. The investigations reported in this paper

98 were based on these actual houses. Key data describing the houses are given in Table 1. Basements are

99 assumed not to be heated, and basement temperatures are assumed to be equal to dimensioning ground

100 temperatures.

101 Table 1 Key data for TABULA houses from 1850 to 1998 [25]. All areas are given with external measures.

	1850-1930	1931-1950	1951-1960	1961-1972	1973-1978	1979-1998
Heated area [m <sup>2</sup> ]	112	140	106	180	138	143
Roof area [m <sup>2</sup> ]	94	89	106	180	150	143
Wall area [m <sup>2</sup> ]	98	109	101	121	97	124
Floor area [m <sup>2</sup> ]	66	88	106	180	138	143
Window area [m <sup>2</sup> ]	15	22	28	34	22	25
Floors	2	2	1	1	1	1
Basement	Full	Full	Full	None	None	None
Ventilation	Natural	Natural	Natural	Natural	Natural	Natural

#### 102 **3. Method**

- 103 **3.1 Methods for the calculation of design heat loss**
- 104 The design heating power in each of the representative single-family houses was estimated based on the
- 105 design heat loss of the house at the time of construction. The procedure for calculating the design heat loss
- 106 changed during the 1900s. The first Danish guideline for the calculation of dimensioning heat loss in
- 107 buildings was published in 1953 by the Danish Engineering Association [27]. In the following years, it was
- 108 printed in several editions, but the only major changes occurred in the version that was published in 1965
- 109 [28]. This guideline remained the main standard for the calculation of dimensioning heat losses in buildings
- 110 until 1977 when the first version of Danish standard DS 418 was published. New versions of this standard
- 111 were published in 1986, 2002 and 2011 [29,30].
- 112 Common for all the published standards is that the design heat loss of a building is calculated as the sum of
- transmission heat loss through the building components and ventilation heat loss. In the current standard,
- the transmission and ventilation heat losses are calculated using Equations (1) and (2) respectively.

$$\Phi_{trans} = \Sigma U \cdot A \cdot (T_i - T_e) + \Sigma \Psi \cdot l \cdot (T_i - T_e)$$
 Eq. (1)

115 where

- 116  $\Phi_{trans}$  is the transmission heat loss
- 117 *U is the U-value of the building component*
- 118 A is the external area of the building component
- 119  $\Psi$  is the linear heat loss coefficient for windows and foundations
- 120 *I is the length of connections around windows and foundations*
- 121  $T_i$  is the indoor temperature (20 °C)
- 122  $T_e$  is the external temperature (-12 °C for air and 10 °C for ground).

$$\Phi_{vent} = c \cdot \rho \cdot \frac{q_a}{1000} \cdot A \cdot (T_i - T_e)$$
 Eq. (2)

123 where

- 124  $\Phi_{vent}$  is the ventilation heat loss
- 125 c is the heat capacity of air (1005 J/kg K)
- 126  $\rho$  is the air density (1.205 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)
- 127  $q_a$  is the air change rate (0.3 l/s pr. m<sup>2</sup> heated floor area)
- 128 *A is the heated floor area.*

The calculation procedure was modified slightly from the publication of the first standard to the current. 129

130 The old guidelines applied dimensioning temperatures of 18-22 °C indoors and −15 °C outdoors, while more

131 recent standards prescribe an indoor temperature of 20 °C and an outdoor temperature of -12 °C.

Furthermore, the areas of building components were based on internal measurements in the old standards, 132

133 while more recent standards mainly apply external measurements. In the old guidelines additional heat

- 134 losses were included for rooms with several building elements facing the external air or for roof
- 135 constructions that were affected by heat radiation to the sky. Linear heat losses were not included in the

older standards. Equation (3) shows the procedure for the calculation of transmission heat loss from a 136

137 building according to the oldest standard from 1953.

$$\Phi_{trans} = f_1 \cdot \Sigma U \cdot A \cdot (T_i - T_e) \cdot f_2 \qquad \qquad \text{Eq. (3)}$$

138 where

- 139  $\Phi_{trans}$  is the transmission heat loss
- 140 U is the U-value of the building component
- A is the internal area of the building component 141
- 142  $T_i$  is the indoor temperature (18-22 °C)

143  $T_e$  is the external temperature (-15 °C and 8 °C for ground)

144  $f_1$  is a factor adding 3% to the heat loss for each additional cold surface (in this study assumed to be 1.075

145 for houses with 1 floor and 1.045 for houses with two floors)

146  $f_2$  is a factor which is 1.15 for roofs and 1.0 for other constructions.

The procedure for the calculation of ventilation heat losses has changed completely since the first standard. 147

148 At that time, the ventilation heat loss was calculated on the basis of the length of connections around

149 windows/doors and their frames. The calculation was carried out by estimating the lengths of connections

between each window and the window frames as well as between the window frame and the external wall. 150

151 The length of the connections was multiplied by a typical heat loss coefficient depending on the expected

- 152 wind profile of the area where the building was situated. The calculation was based on Equation (4). Figure
- 2 shows the procedure for estimating the length of the connections. 153

$$\Phi_{vent} = f_3 \cdot f_4 \cdot \Sigma F \cdot L \cdot (T_i - T_e)$$
 Eq. (4)

154 where

155  $\Phi_{vent}$  is the ventilation heat loss

- 156  $f_3$  is a factor between 0.75-1.0 reducing heat loss in rooms where windows have different orientations (here
- 157 assumed to be 0.75)
- 158  $f_4$  is a factor between 1.0-1.3 depending on the orientation of the windows (here assumed 1.15)
- 159 *F* is the heat loss pr. *m* connection length (1.2)
- 160 L is the length of connections
- 161  $T_i$  is the indoor temperature (18-22 °C)
- 162  $T_e$  is the external temperature (-15 °C).



- 164 Figure 2 Length of connections between windows/doors and wall
- 165 Figure 3 gives a summary of the changes in the calculation procedures on the publication of new standards.



- 167 **Figure 3** Timeline showing the changes in the methods for the calculation of design heat loss in Danish standards.
- 168 **3.2 Building constructions**
- 169 The constructions of the original houses were determined based on information from the TABULA project
- 170 [25] as well as Danish building regulation requirements and guidelines on typical constructions in old
- 171 Danish buildings [31,32]. The constructions and insulation levels applied in the calculation of the original
- design heat loss in the houses are given in Table 2. The estimated U-values of the constructions are shown
- in Figure 4.

Table 2 Typical components, insulation levels, and window types in Danish single-family houses constructed in
 different time periods.

CONSTRUCTIONS	1900-1930	1931-1950	1951-1960	1961-1972	1973-1978	1979-1998
Roof insulation	None	25mm	100mm	100mm	100mm	200mm
Floor insulation	Clay	Clay	Clay	Singles	50mm	150mm
Wall type and	Cavity wall	Cavity wall	Cavity wall	Cavity wall	Brick/LWC	Brick/LWC
insulation thickness	0mm	0mm	0mm	80mm	80mm	120mm

window type I layer some double merino merino merino
--

#### **3.3 Design heating temperatures**

177 The heating systems in the houses were assumed to consist of two-string radiator-systems which is the 178 most common Danish heating system. The radiators were assumed to be dimensioned in accordance with 179 the design heat loss of each house as calculated according to the original constructions and the standards 180 at the time of construction. The radiators were assumed to be over-dimensioned by 5% due to limitations 181 in radiator sizes available. The design heating power of the radiators depends on the heating source and 182 the design heating temperatures at the time when the radiators were installed in the houses. For instance, 183 some houses were originally heated by an oil boiler, whereas they are now equipped with district heating. 184 When the first hydraulic heating systems with radiators were introduced in the 1920s, the heating was 185 typically delivered from stoves supplied by coal or coke. Oil-burners became more typical in the 1950s at 186 the same time as district heating expanded rapidly. Natural gas was introduced in the 1980s [33,34].

187 For the oldest houses, we assumed the design temperatures were 90 °C/70 °C, because Danish radiators 188 were tested for this temperature set until the new European norm DS/EN 442 was published in the mid-189 1990s [35]. Heating systems supplied by natural gas may have been designed according to this temperature 190 set at first, but from the mid-1980s, it became common to use a temperature set of 80 °C/60 °C [36,37]. 191 Since the mid-1990s the building code has required gas-fired heating systems to be dimensioned according 192 to a mean temperature of 55 °C (corresponding to a temperature set of 62.5 °C/47.5 °C) [38]. The same 193 building code required that heating systems supplied by direct and indirect district heating systems should 194 be designed for temperature sets of 70 °C/40 °C and 65 °C/35 °C respectively. Earlier heating systems 195 supplied by district heating were typically designed for a temperature set of 80 °C/60 °C [31] or 80 °C/40 °C 196 [32].

197 The dimensioning temperature sets that were used for the dimensioning of the radiators in the TABULA198 houses investigated are shown in Table 3.

199	Table 3 Design heating system	temperatures applied for t	the calculation of design	heating power
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	1851-1930	1931-1950	1951-1960	1961-1972	1973-1978	1979-1998
Dimensioning temperatures [°C]	90/70	90/70	90/70	80/60	80/40	70/40

#### 200 **3.4 Design heating power**

201 The design heating power installed in the houses was estimated based on the calculated design heat loss in 202 the original houses at the time of construction. The design heat loss of each of the six single-family houses 203 was calculated for the original building constructions as shown in Table 2 and in accordance with the 204 calculation standard at the time of construction. The design heating power was calculated on the basis of 205 the design heating temperatures at the time of construction as given in Table 3. An additional 5% heating 206 power was added to the calculated design heating power to take into account over-dimensioning of the 207 radiators due to limitations in radiator sizes available. The heating powers with the original temperature 208 sets were converted to the temperature set 60 °C/40 °C, which is the currently required temperature set 209 for houses supplied by district heating in Denmark. The conversion was carried out using Equations (5) and 210 (6). The radiator exponent was given the standard value of n = 1.3.

$$\phi = \left(\frac{\Delta T}{\Delta T_0}\right)^n \cdot \phi_0$$
 Eq. (5)

211 where

#### 212 $\Phi_0$ is the design heating power of the radiators in the house at the original temperature set

- 213  $\Phi$  is the heating power of the radiators at the temperature set 60 °C/40 °C
- $\Delta T$  is the logarithmic mean temperature the temperature set 60 °C/40 °C

 $\Delta T_0$  is the logarithmic mean temperature difference at the dimensioning temperatures

216 *n is the radiator exponent.* 

$$\Delta T = \frac{T_s - T_r}{\ln\left(\frac{T_s - T_i}{T_r - T_i}\right)}$$
 Eq. (6)

217 where

218 *T<sub>s</sub>* is the supply temperature

219 *T<sub>r</sub>* is the return temperature

220 *T<sub>i</sub>* is the indoor temperature.

#### 221 **3.5 Current design heat loss**

222 The current design heat loss of the houses depends on the renovations carried out since the construction of

the houses. As a minimum, the houses from the first half of the 1900s were expected to have gone through

general maintenance. This was assumed to correspond to a renovation where old windows were replaced by thermo windows and roofs were equipped with a minimum of 50mm insulation. A large proportion of the houses constructed during the 1900s have been renovated to a further extent, adding insulation to the cavity walls or bringing windows or roof insulation to comply with modern standards. The design heat loss in the houses was calculated for two different stages of refurbishment corresponding to either general maintenance of the houses or a thorough energy refurbishment. The U-values of the constructions in the two scenarios are shown in Figure 4 along with the original U-values of the constructions.



Figure 4. U-values of the constructions in the TABULA houses in their original state, after general maintenance, and
 after thorough energy renovation.

234 The design heat loss calculations were carried out in accordance with the current calculation standard. The

235 design heat loss was compared to the design heating power in the houses, so that we could evaluate

whether the existing radiators are over-dimensioned compared to the current design heat loss and current

237 design heating temperatures.

### 238 **3.6 Actual heating demand**

The actual heat demands in the houses at typical outdoor temperatures were calculated using stationary calculations. It was assumed that the indoor temperature in the houses was kept at 21 °C. Transmission and ventilation heat losses were calculated according to Equations (1) and (2) and applying the key data for each house given in Table 1 and renovated constructions as shown in Figure 4. Internal heat gains from occupants and equipment were included in the calculations and assumed to be a constant 5 W/m<sup>2</sup> as suggested in the Danish standards [39]. Heat gains from the Sun and extra heat losses due to high wind velocities were ignored, and no dynamic behaviour was included in the calculations.

246 The total heating demands in the houses were given as the sum of the transmission heat loss and the 247 ventilation heat loss at each given outdoor temperature. The heating supply temperature necessary to cover the heat loss at the given outdoor temperature was calculated in accordance with the design heating 248 249 power in the houses using Equations (5) and (6). The cooling of the heating system was assumed to be 20 250 °C corresponding to the temperature difference between the supply and return temperature in the current 251 design temperature set 60 °C/40 °C. The radiator exponent was assumed to be n = 1.1, because a recent 252 study has shown that the radiator exponent describing heat emissions from typical Danish radiators during 253 low-temperature operation is well below 1.3 [40]. The results were visualised in graphs (see Figures 7 - 9 254 below) showing how large a percentage of the year a given supply temperature is sufficient to heat each of 255 the houses.

### 256 4. Results and discussion

#### 257 4.1 Estimated heating power and design heat loss in the TABULA houses

Figure 5 shows the calculated design heat loss in typical Danish houses at the time of construction and in the current situation after either general maintenance or energy renovation. The design heating power of the radiators in the houses with a temperature set of 60 °C/40 °C is also included in the figure.



Figure 5 Heating power and design heat loss of the houses after general maintenance and after energy renovation The figure shows that the heating power covers approximately 50% of the original design heat loss in the older houses, when the current design heating temperatures are taken into account. However, the design heat losses of the old houses are reduced greatly when the current standard and general maintenance of the houses is taken into account. Figure 6 shows the radiator over-dimensioning in the houses according to the design calculations. The displayed minimum and maximum over-dimensioning correspond to the two scenarios of general maintenance and energy renovation of the houses, respectively.





261

270 Figure 6 Minimum and maximum over-dimensioning of design heating power of radiators versus design heat loss

271 The figure shows that the radiator systems in most of the houses from the 1900s are under-dimensioned in

272 relation to the design temperature set if the houses have only gone through general maintenance. The

273 heating systems in houses constructed between 1931 and 1972 can be under-dimensioned by as much as

274 30% in relation to the current design temperature set. The 1961-1972 house represents a case where there 275 was a reasonable level of insulation in the original house and where the heating system was designed for 276 high temperatures. The results show that the design heating power in this type of house can be expected to 277 be lower than the design heat loss with the current design temperature set, even after energy renovation. 278 However, the figure also shows that the heating systems in most of the houses from the 1900s can be 279 expected to be over-dimensioned by 20-50% compared to current standards when the houses have gone 280 through reasonable energy renovations.

#### 281

#### 4.2 Required heating system temperatures

282 Figures 7 - 9 show the supply temperatures that are necessary to cover the calculated actual heat demand 283 in the current houses. The figures are based on a return temperature that is 20 °C lower than the supply 284 temperature. The outdoor temperatures have been converted to annual percentages in proportion to the 285 occurrence of the temperatures in the weather data set for the design reference year in Copenhagen 2001-286 2010. The upper line of the areas marked corresponds to the situation where the house has gone through 287 only general maintenance, while the lower line corresponds to the situation where the house was subject 288 to an energy renovation. The areas marked between the lines visualise the expected supply temperatures 289 necessary to cover the heating demands in typical existing Danish single-family houses at various levels of 290 refurbishment. Figure 7, for example, shows that a Danish single-family house constructed between 1900 291 and 1930 that has gone through general maintenance requires a heating supply temperature above 55 °C 292 for approximately 5% of the year in order to maintain a 21 °C indoor temperature. The figures are based on 293 a 20 °C cooling in the heating system.





Figure 7 Comparison between design heating power of the radiators in the TABULA houses calculated according to the old methods and the current stationary heating demand of the houses at different outdoor temperatures.



Figure 8 Comparison between design heating power of the radiators in the TABULA houses calculated according to the old methods and the future stationary heating demand of the houses at different outdoor temperatures.



301

302 Figure 9 Comparison between design heating power of the radiators in the TABULA houses calculated according to 303 the old methods and the future stationary heating demand of the houses at different outdoor temperatures. 304 Figure 9 shows that typical Danish single-family houses that were constructed after 1973 can be heated 305 with a supply temperature of 55 °C for more than 97% of the year. Most of the houses built before 1973 306 can be heated with supply temperatures below 55 °C for the majority of the year as well. This means that 307 there is not necessarily a correlation between the age of the house and the supply temperature required to 308 heat the house. However, the old houses form a less uniform mass. In some cases, there is a difference of 309 more than 10 °C between the supply temperatures required in an energy renovated house and those required in a house that has only gone through general maintenance. 310 311 The results show that the houses can be heated with a supply temperature below 60 °C for 97% of the year, 312 even in a case where the heating system in a house is under-dimensioned by 25% compared to the current 313 design heat loss. If all existing single-family houses go through reasonable energy renovation measures, a 314 supply temperature below 54 °C was found to be sufficient to heat the houses for more than 97% of the 315 year. In this respect, it could be argued that it is likely that the existing radiators in typical single-family 316 houses from the 1900s are over-dimensioned for the actual heating demands in the houses. However, this would indirectly suggest that heating systems are generally over-dimensioned when current design 317

318 methods are applied.

#### 319 **5. Uncertainties and assumptions**

320 The results presented in this paper are subject to a number of uncertainties, because the study conducted 321 was largely theoretical. The results should only be used therefore as an overall indication of tendencies in 322 the existing Danish building stock. The houses investigated were typical Danish single-family houses 323 identified in the TABULA project [25], so they do not represent all existing Danish single-family houses. 324 Original building constructions may differ from the constructions analysed in this study, as may the design 325 heating system temperatures and the energy renovation measures that might be considered reasonable to 326 carry out. These parameters have a large influence on the results, and the focus on a few representative 327 houses means that a number of other building constructions were not analysed. However, the typical 328 houses analysed in this study show a wide range of different types of construction and design heating 329 system temperatures. This means that they may be used to draw some general conclusions on the 330 potential for using low-temperature district heating in existing single-family houses.

331 The estimated heating powers available in the existing houses were based on calculations of design heat 332 loss. This method does not necessarily provide a reasonable estimate of the actual radiator heating power 333 in existing houses. It can be expected that radiators were sometimes dimensioned according to the rule of 334 thumb, engineering experience, or practical considerations, such as fitting the radiator into the available 335 area under a given window or using similar radiators in all rooms of a house. Such design methods may have met the building regulations at the given time, but probably added to the over-dimensioning of the 336 337 radiators in some houses and rooms. This means that radiators may be over-dimensioned to a larger extent 338 than is illustrated in this study.

Because the study was based on a simplified analysis of data from the TABULA project, the building constructions and ventilation losses were not known or analysed in detail. The calculations carried out were simple stationary calculations, in which dynamic properties were not taken into account. This means that the results only provide an indication of the possibility of heating existing houses with low-temperature

heating. A detailed analysis should include the dynamic properties of, for example, heating systems,
thermal building mass, and heat gains from direct sunlight.

345 To heat existing single-family houses with low-temperature heating as suggested in this study, the heating 346 systems in the houses must function well and the heating power must be distributed evenly in the houses. 347 The study does not take into account room partitions. This may be an important factor because radiator 348 sizes may differ from room to room, or occupants may have changed or removed some radiators during 349 refurbishment of their houses. If the radiators in some rooms are greatly under-dimensioned for the 350 heating demand in a given room, it may be necessary to increase the supply temperature to maintain a 21 351 °C indoor temperature in all rooms. It can therefore be expected that it will be necessary to replace a few 352 critical radiators in some houses to be able to use the low supply temperatures suggested in this study.

This study should be seen as a theoretical investigation of a number of standard houses that can serve as background knowledge about radiator dimensions in existing single-family houses. Furthermore, the study provides a reference for future investigations and an indication of the overall tendencies in the heating systems and heating demands of typical Danish single-family houses from the 1900s.

**6.** Conclusion

The results of this study indicate that it is not always accurate to assume that the radiators in typical Danish single-family houses from the 1900s are over-dimensioned compared to the design heat loss. On the other hand, the radiators might often be considered to be "over-dimensioned" for the current heat demands in the single-family houses.

The study found that typical existing Danish single-family houses can be heated with low-temperature heating with supply and return temperatures below 55 °C/35 °C for large parts of the year. Houses that have gone through reasonable energy renovations can often be heated with a supply temperature below 50 °C for more than 97% of the year. The results of the study indicate that the houses constructed in the beginning of the 1900s are not more difficult to heat with low-temperature heating than houses

367	constructed in the latter half of the 1900s. However, there is a larger span between the heating system					
368	temperatures required in older houses, depending on the renovation measures that have been					
369	implemented in the houses. Typical house constructions after 1973 were found to have rather similar					
370	heating system temperature requirements.					
371	Ackno	owledgement				
372	The work presented in this article was a result of the research activities of the Strategic Research Centre for					
373	4th Generation District Heating (4DH), which received funding from the Innovation Fund Denmark.					
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