

Green infrastructure and Nature based Solutions on Buildings:

Benefits and Co-benefits of green roofs and walls to the urban climate and energy efficiency



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<https://efb-greenbuildings.eu>



soGreen
REGULAR ORGANIZATION OF GREAT GREEN
GREENER CITIES
IN EUROPE



ABOUT THE EFB:

European Federation of Green Roof and Wall associations (NPO established 1997)

17 National Associations

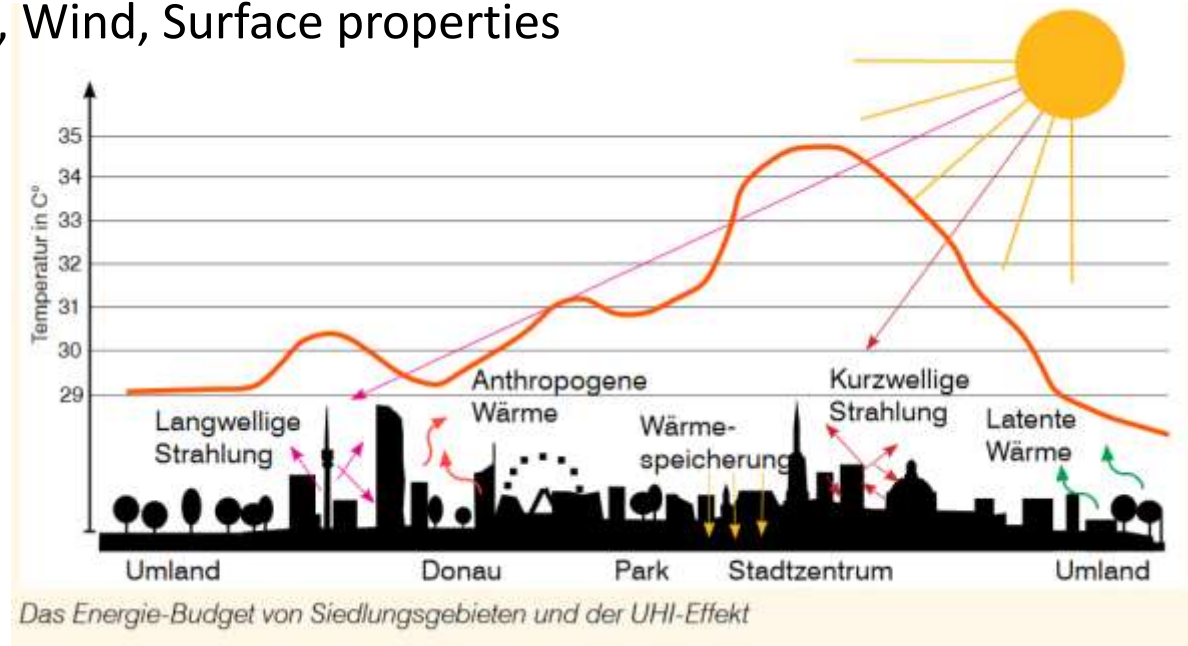
- Green Roof and Wall suppliers
- Green Roof and Wall manufacturers
- Green Roof and Wall contractors
- +Value Chain: Planners/Engineers, Municipalities, RTO's, Universities, etc.
- +Extended Networks: WGIN, ELCA, IFLA, etc.

The Urban Heat Island effect- a question of Energy balance.

Radiation, Wind, Surface properties

Reasons:

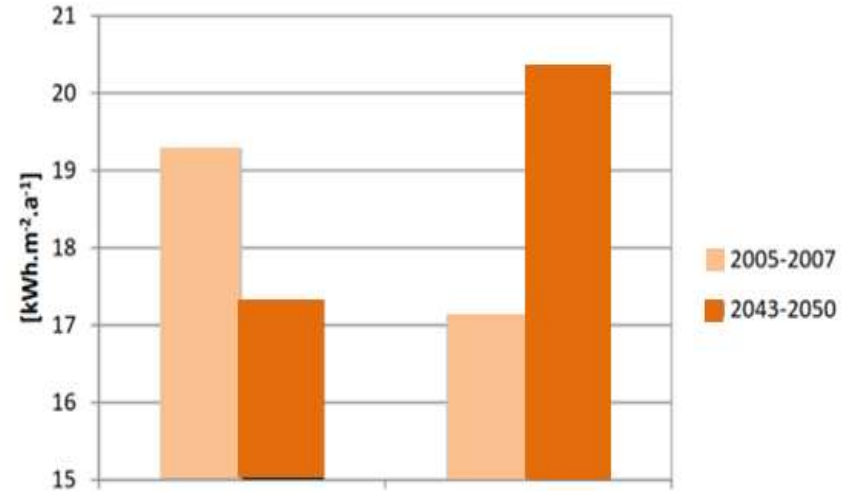
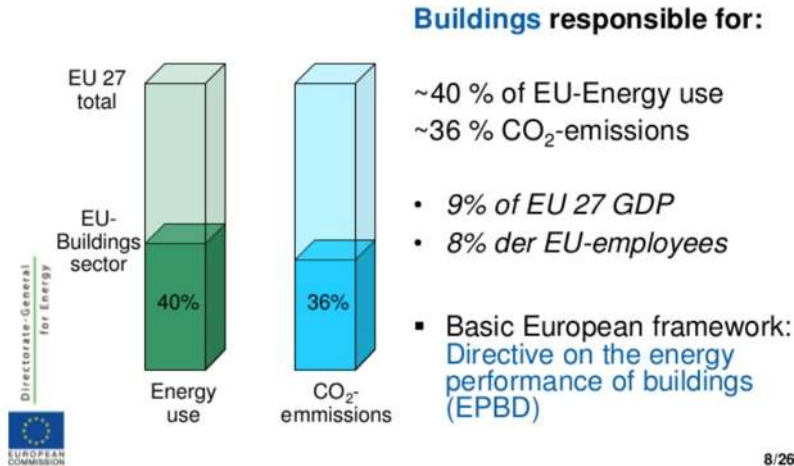
- **Sealed surfaces** (Evaporation/Water missing)
- **Storing surfaces** (Energy storage and heat transmission)
- **Ventilation** (limited natural wind cooling)



source: Urban Heat Island guideline, city of Vienna

2024 **45** Heat days in Vienna, 2015 a record of **46** and in average 1981-2010 only **21**.

Building sector and increasing energy demands







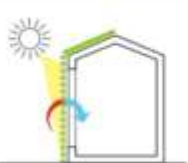








Average HEATING Average COOLING

Building energy demand EU (source: EC)

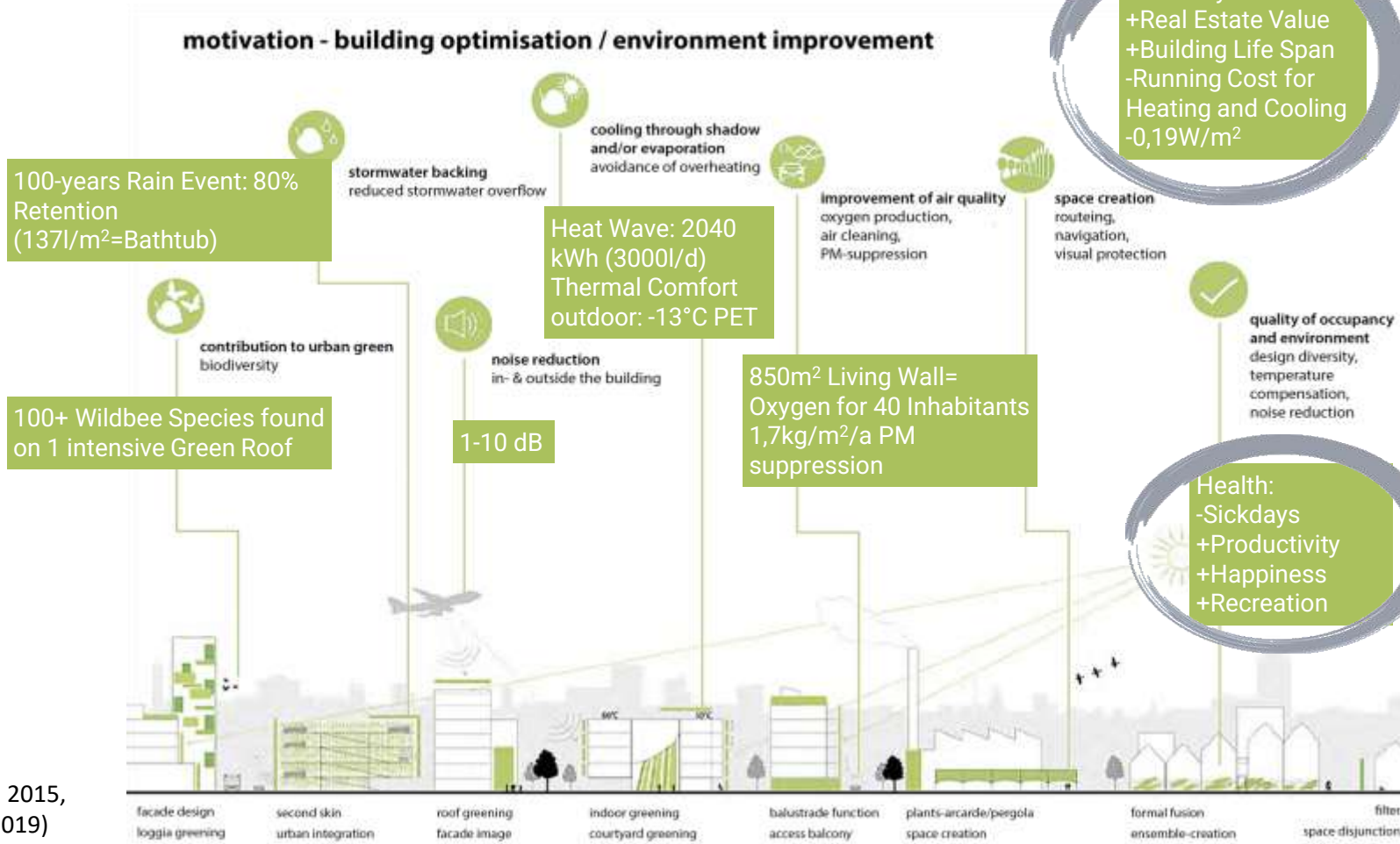
Prognosis of heating and cooling need (source: AIT)

Buildings owners and users: the private perspective

| NEED |  Temperature |  Light |  Ventilation |  Energy Production |  Water |  Material, LCA | |
|-----------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| METHOD |  adiabatic cooling |  Insulation, buffer |  External sunshading |  Preconditioning Natural/controlled ventilation |  Environmental energy |  Greywater use/filtering |  CO ₂ balance |
| Benefits of NBS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + less overheating of surfaces through shading/evapo-transpiration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + reduction heat loss +reduction windspeed +less humidity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + anti glare +green technical shading +translucent by plant species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + air purification +air humidity +air cooling summer +air buffer winter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +increased production rates +supporting passive and active energy production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +water savings +water cooling +pollutants filter +aesthetic value | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +CO₂ storage +O₂ production +less energy need +material protection +enhanced LC |
| | Reduction of cooling costs | Reduction of heat transfer | Reduction of primary energy, substitution of technical systems | Support/substitution of technical airconditioning | Increased productivity PV, cooling energy savings, Biomass production | Savings depend on systematic approach | Substitution of roofing/facade materials, lifesoan extension |

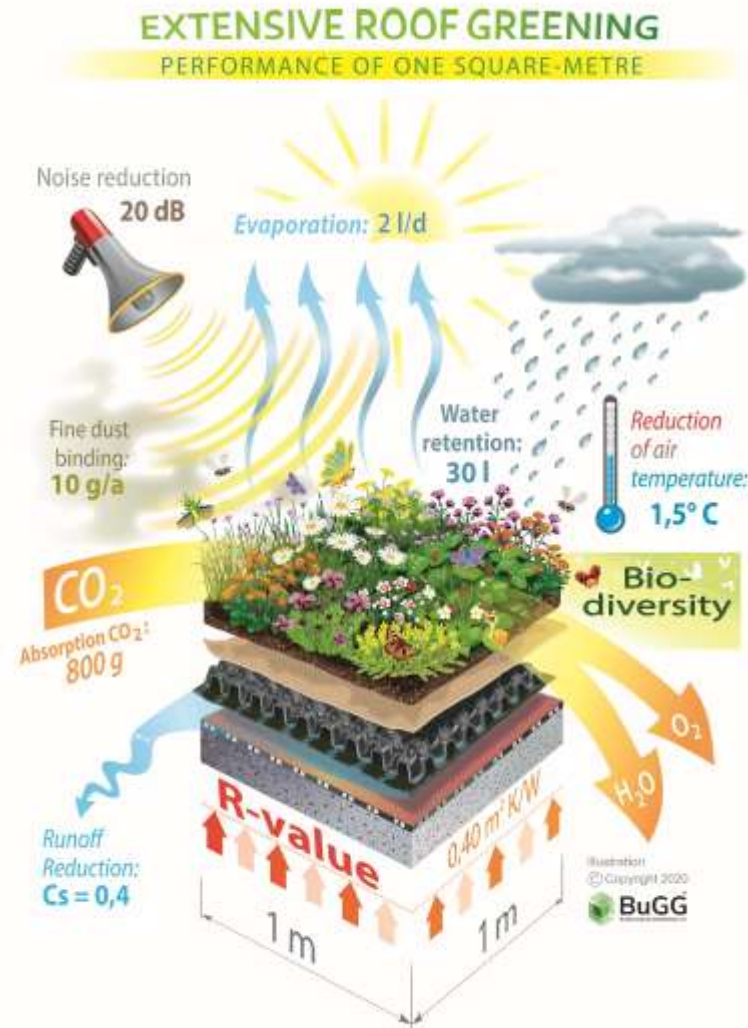


The scaling areal Impact from a city quarter perspective:



(© Pfoser, Jakobs AG 2015, edited by Vera Enzi 2019)

What is the **minimum** performance of green roofs with changing seasons and weather conditions (MVP: extensive, 1m²)?



GREENER CITIES
IN EUROPE





**..older than you think.
150+ years tradition!**

Measurable performance of green roofs



© EFB; SZUZ, Dostal

- **Surface-temperatures** (*reduction up to 17°C*)
- **Evaporation** (*41%-48% (90% Retention) of the annual precipitation*)
- **Heat-island-effect** (*-3°C air temperature on extreme heat-days*)
- **Humidity** (*20-40% higher rel. air humidity in summer*)

Measurable performance of green roofs



© Verband für Bauwerksbegrünung; Bauder

- **biomass** (*extensive: energy value 13 MWh/ha a, intensive: energy value up to 23 MWh/ha a*)
- **Air purification/pollutant containment** (*0,5kg/m²/year carbon-absorption, 10-20% higher filter functionality compared to conventional roofs*)
- **Insulation** (*3-10% heat loss reduction*)
- **Noise protection** (*noise from above reduced by 8dB(dry)-18dB(wet), noise from side reduced max. 6dB*)

Measurable performance of green roofs



© Verband für Bauwerksbegrünung; Optigrün

- **Sun protection** (*dependent on vegetation up to 50% absorption and 30% reflection of solar rays, extending life expectancy of roof sealing 10-20 years*)
- **Biodiversity** (*birds, insects (bees) take profits*)
- **economic viability** (*5.000 m² multifunctional green roof can reduce electricity bill up to 6.000€/year by using rainwater to cool the building*)
- **Enhanced PV performance** (*3-5%*)

A photograph of a green roof installation. The roof is covered with a variety of plants, including clusters of pink and yellow flowers, and tall, thin grasses. The roof is adjacent to a building with a white facade and a dark roof. The text "The built-up matters!" is overlaid in white, italicized font in the upper left corner.

The built-up matters!

USE OF SYNERGIES

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BUSINESS, PRODUCTION

USE 3

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PUBLIC, RESEARCH



EUROPEAN
FEDERATION
GREEN ROOFS
& WALLS

Forms of Green Walls

Statics, soil & rootspace availability, facade surface material/built-up, targeted performance, building & city architecture

TECHNICAL STANDARDS examples:

- AT ÖNORM L1136
- DE FLL Guideline Green walls 2018
- AT Green Wall guideline City of Vienna (2019)



Measurable performance of green facades



© UNIQA; Enzi

- **Surface-temperatures** (*reduction between 8- 19°C*)
- **Evaporation** (*280 kWh/day/250m²*)
- **Heat-island-effect** (*-5°C air temperature on extreme heat-days*)
- **Humidity** (*20-40% higher rel. air humidity in summer, 2-8% in winter*)

Measurable performance of green facades



© BuGG

- **biomass** (*leaf fall ground-based twiners (climbing plants) energy value 23 MWh/ha*)
- **Air purification/pollutant containment** (2,3 kg CO₂/m²a 2 t CO₂ per year containment by ivy, 1,7 kg O₂/m²a oxygen, 4-6g/m² contained fine particulates after 1 vegetation period=71% respirable substances)
- **Insulation** (*system-dependent: +7°C BVS, +3°C ivy, heat flow reduced by 50%- MA 48*)
- **Noise protection** (*2,7-5 dB from ivy and boston ivy (parthenocissus tricuspidata), 4-9 dB from facade-based (integrated) systems*)

Measurable performance of green facades



© Dachgrün, Oberbichler; Enzi

- **Sun protection/shading/economic viability** (40-80% solar radiation absorbed or reflected, shading rate from deciduous climbing plants 70-95%, cooling cost savings 43%, primary energy savings 26% compared to konv. sun protection)
- **Biodiversity** (bats, birds and insects take profits, focus: ivy)
- **acceptance** (84% of the residents of green buildings and 68% of non-green buildings have a positive view on green facades, local identity, conscious of nature, remembrance of nature)

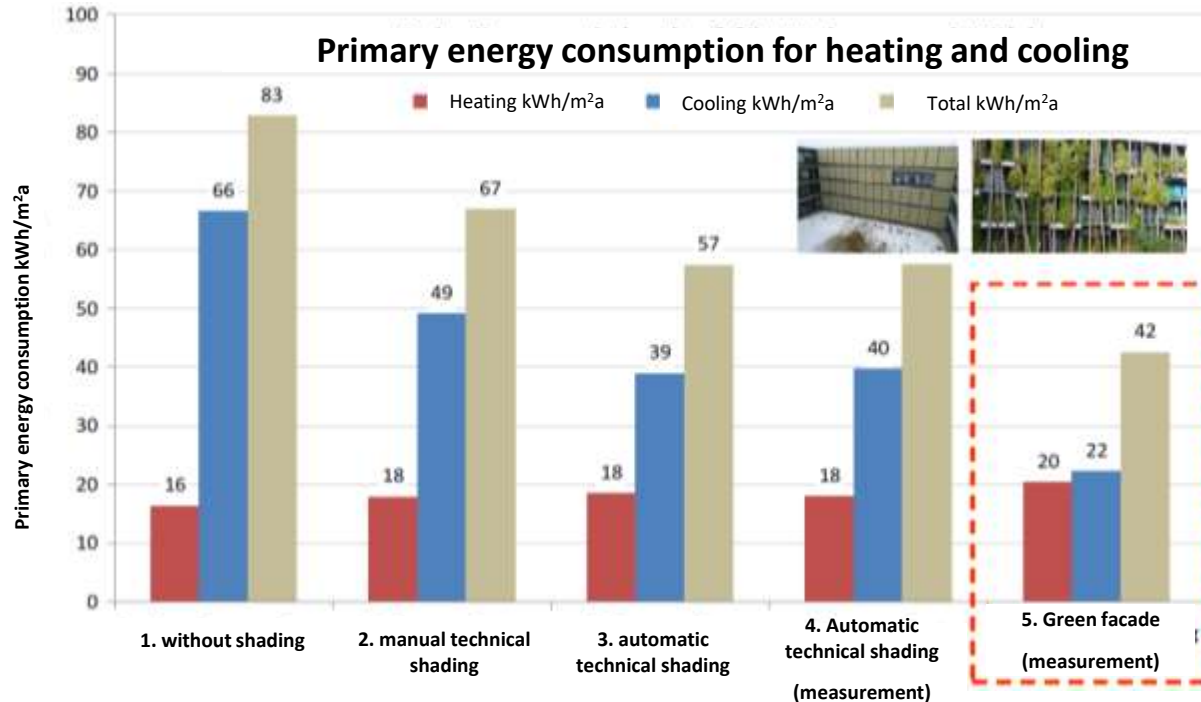
EXAMPLE TU BERLIN ADLERSHOF, INSTITUTE of PHYSICS



PROJECT TARGETS:

- **Rainwatermanagement**
100% on own property
- **Using rainwater harvest for cooling of buildings**
(adiabate cooling and green facades)
- **Reduction of running cost**
in comparison to traditional shading
- **comparisons** (over 10 green facades in different expositions)

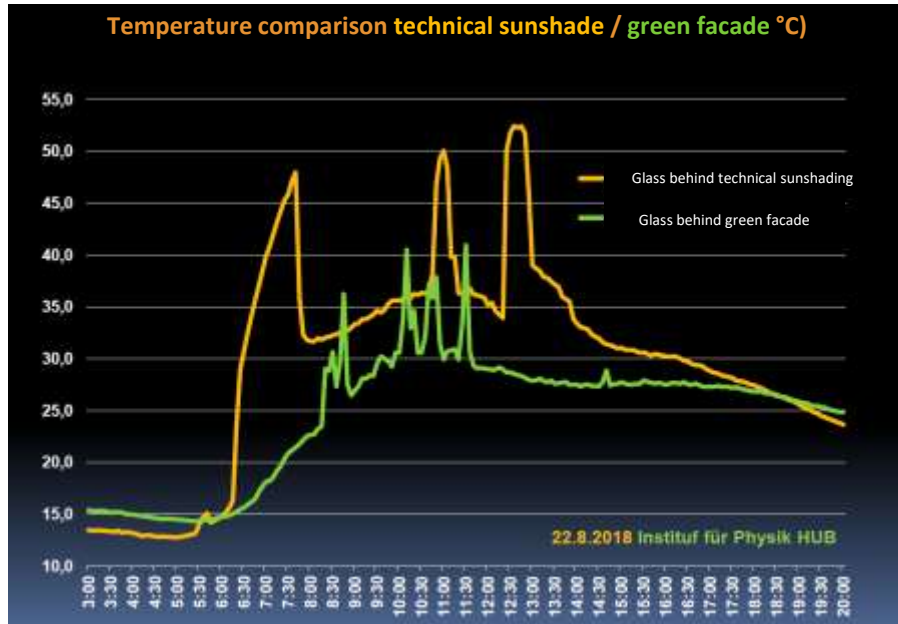
PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION HEATING/COOLING



- Impact of technical vs. Green sunshading on the primary energy consumption for heating and cooling south-oriented offices (IBP:18599) in kWh/m²/year
- Measurement frame: 10.7.2007- 9.7.2013, 1536 days

COMPARISON standard sunshading versus facade greening

- INDOOR



Calculation IBP:18599:

Static assumption, equilibration indoor & outdoor temperature

Not included: evapotranspirative cooling and atmospheric counter radiation

| | tech. | green |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| 06:00 - 18:00 h | 34,5 °C | 27,0 °C |
| Diff to 26°C Target | 8,5 K | 1,0 K |



OPERATIONAL COST



- Difference factor: 12

**RESULT: Win – Win – Win -
Win**

- Less investment cost
- Less operational cost
- Better performance for building
- Better for the environment



EXTENSIVE = LIVING WALL

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PUBLIC



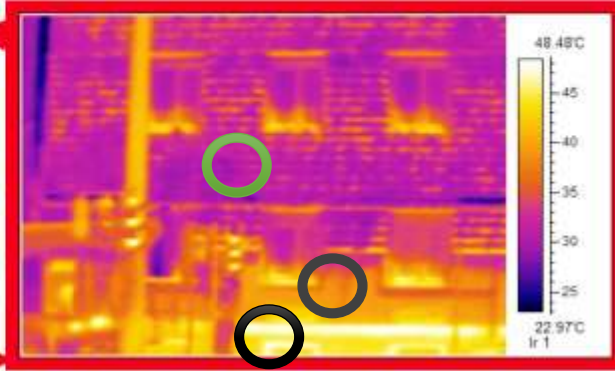
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SPRING



WINTER



45

38

28



AUTUMN

MA 48

Public Building

2010

Built in

850m²

Living Wall

SUMMER



PROJECT RESULTS:

- Heat Loss in Winter **Reduction up to 50% (Cost savings)**
- **Summer Cooling rate comparable to 57 Aircondition Units (3000 Watt, 8 Hours per Day), Water consumption Heat Wave: 3000l/day (2040 kWh)**
- Evapotranspiration Performance = **4 100-year old FAGUS TREES**
- Surface Temperature **up to -15°C, individually experienced temperature reduced by 13°C PET (human)**

QnA



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Main Sources:
BuGG summary of Studies:
https://www.gebaeudegruen.info/fileadmin/website/downloads/bugg-fachinfos/PositiveWirkungen/BuGG-Fachinfo-Positive_Wirkungen_Gebaeudebegruenung_20230604.pdf
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