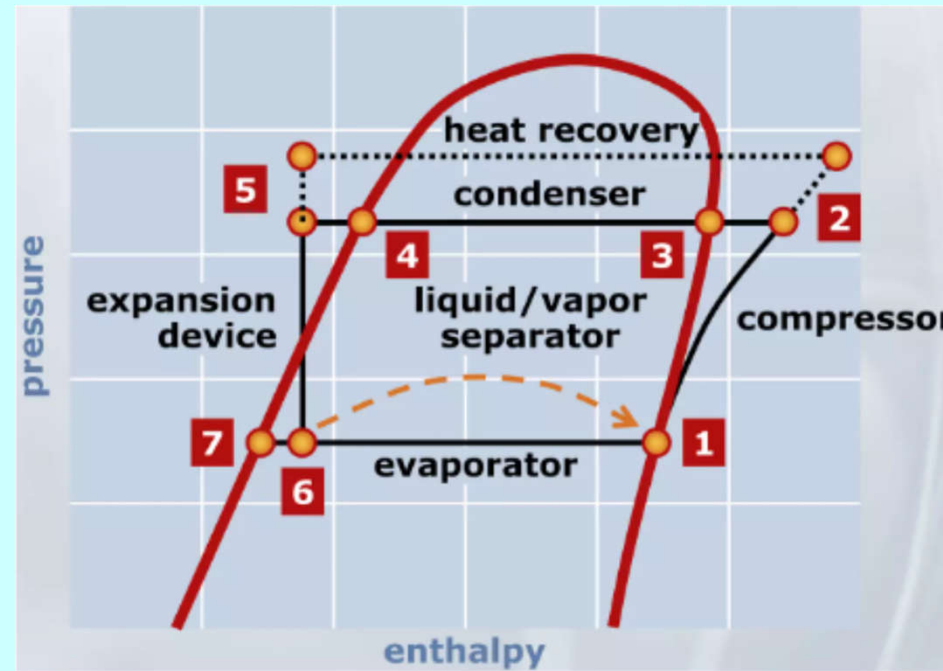


# MEBS7014 Advanced HVAC applications

<http://ibse.hk/MEBS7014/>



## Heat Recovery Systems II



*Ir Dr. Sam C. M. Hui*

Department of Mechanical Engineering

The University of Hong Kong

E-mail: [cmhui@hku.hk](mailto:cmhui@hku.hk)

Jan 2023

# Contents



- Basic principles
- Applied heat pumps
- Heat recovery chillers
- Wastewater heat recovery



# Basic principles

- Balanced heat recovery:
  - Occurs when internal heat gain equals recovered heat and no external heat is introduced to the conditioned space
  - Maintaining balance may require raising the temperature of recovered heat
  - Many, if not most, systems do not have balanced heat recovery over time (e.g., during unoccupied periods or extreme cold) and require supplemental heat to overcome heat losses



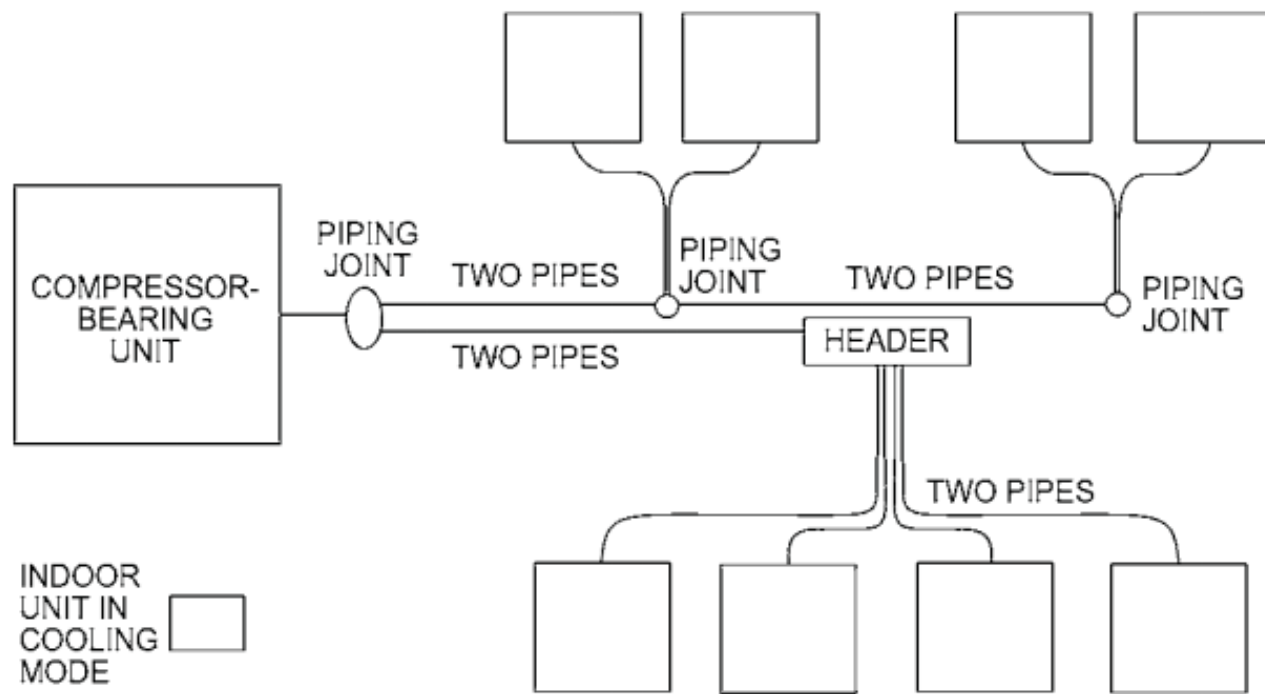
# Basic principles

- HVAC heat recovery systems
  - Can be assembled by combining a number of systems to enable heat recovery functionality, e.g.
    - Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) systems that enable recovery of energy between cooling and heating
    - Reverse cycle water-to-air heat pumps on a common water loop that allows recovery of energy between units rejecting heat and those requiring heat
    - Heat recovery/reclaim chillers that simultaneously provide heating and cooling (with single or double bundle/condenser)

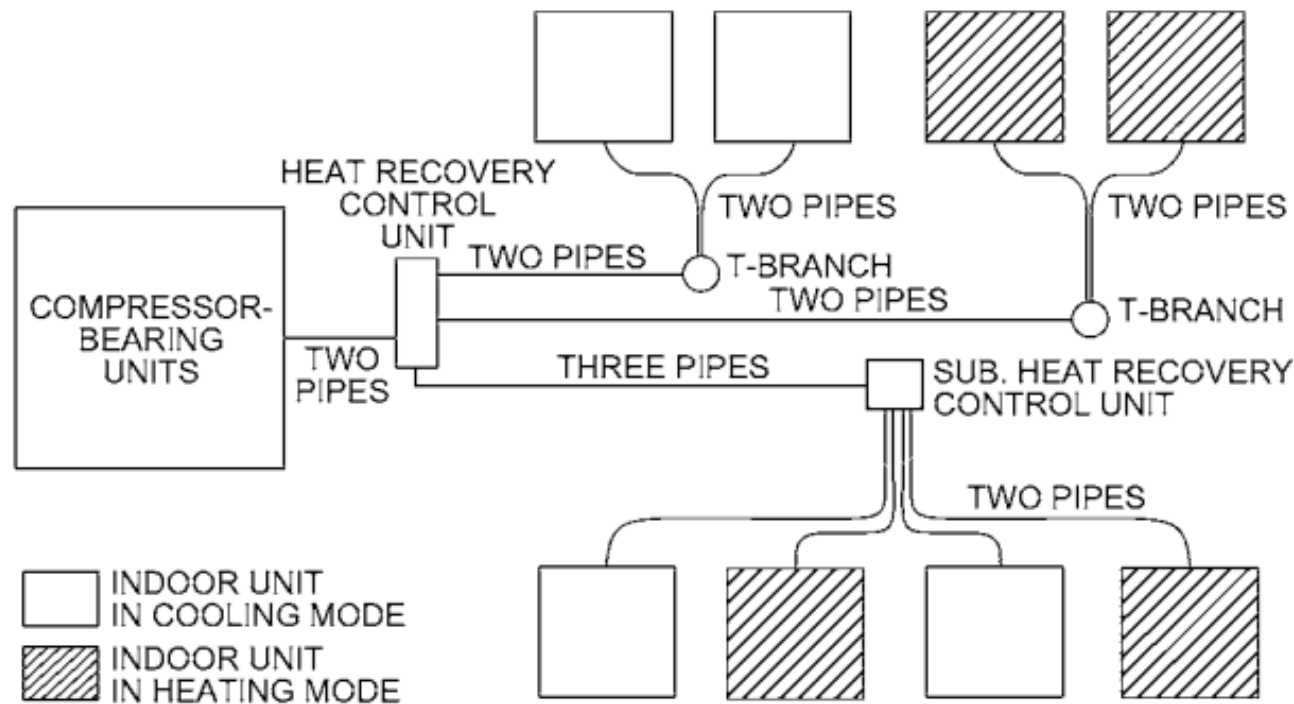


# Basic principles

- Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) systems\*
  - Direct expansion (DX), similar to **multi-split** systems; widely used in Japan and Europe
  - Able to control the amount of **refrigerant** flowing to the **multiple evaporators** (indoor units), enabling the use of many evaporators of differing capacities and configurations connected to a single condensing unit
  - Provides an **individualized** comfort control, and **simultaneous cooling & heating** in different zones



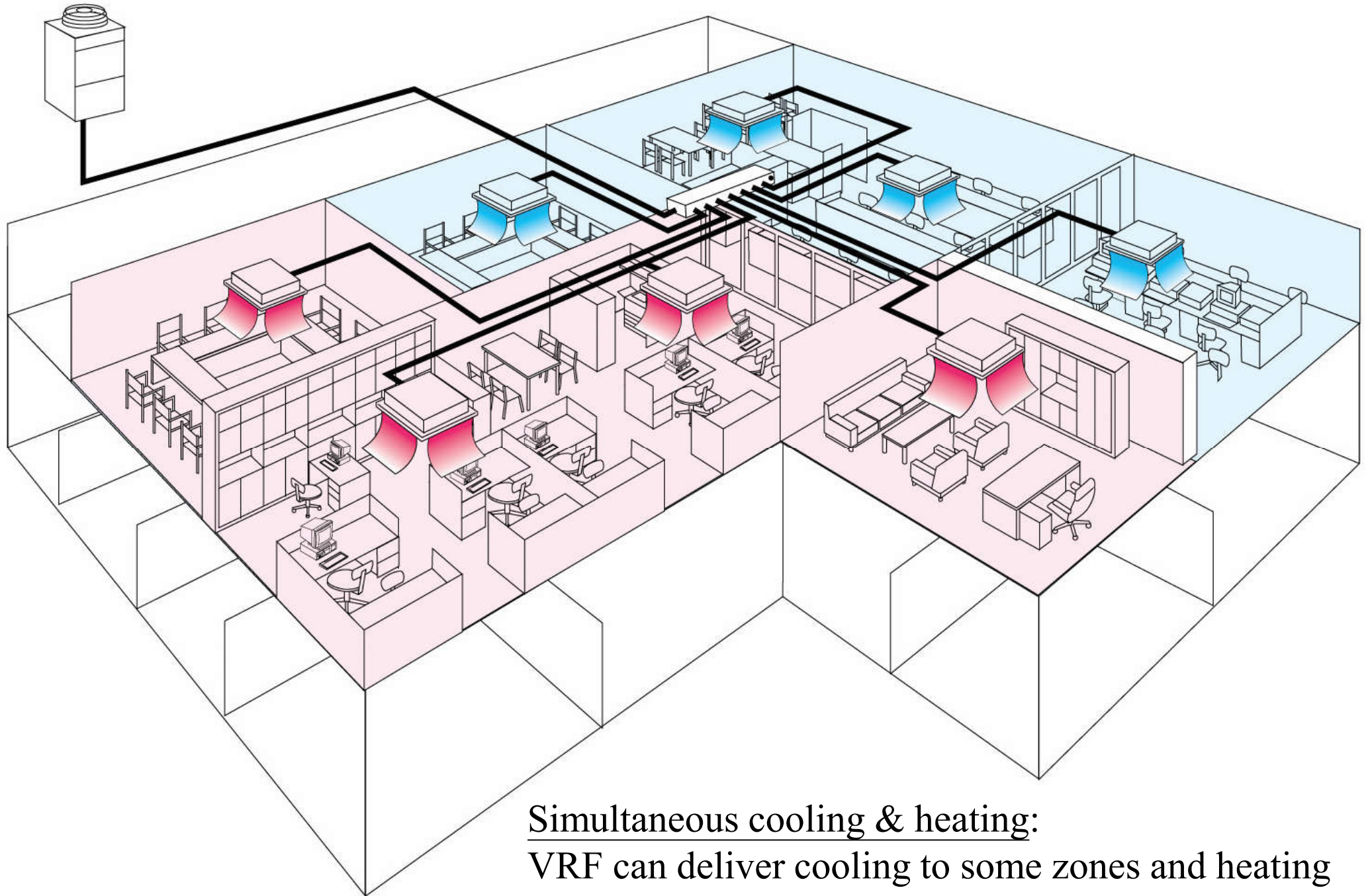
Cooling-only and heat pump VRF system



Two-pipe heat recovery VRF system

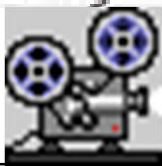
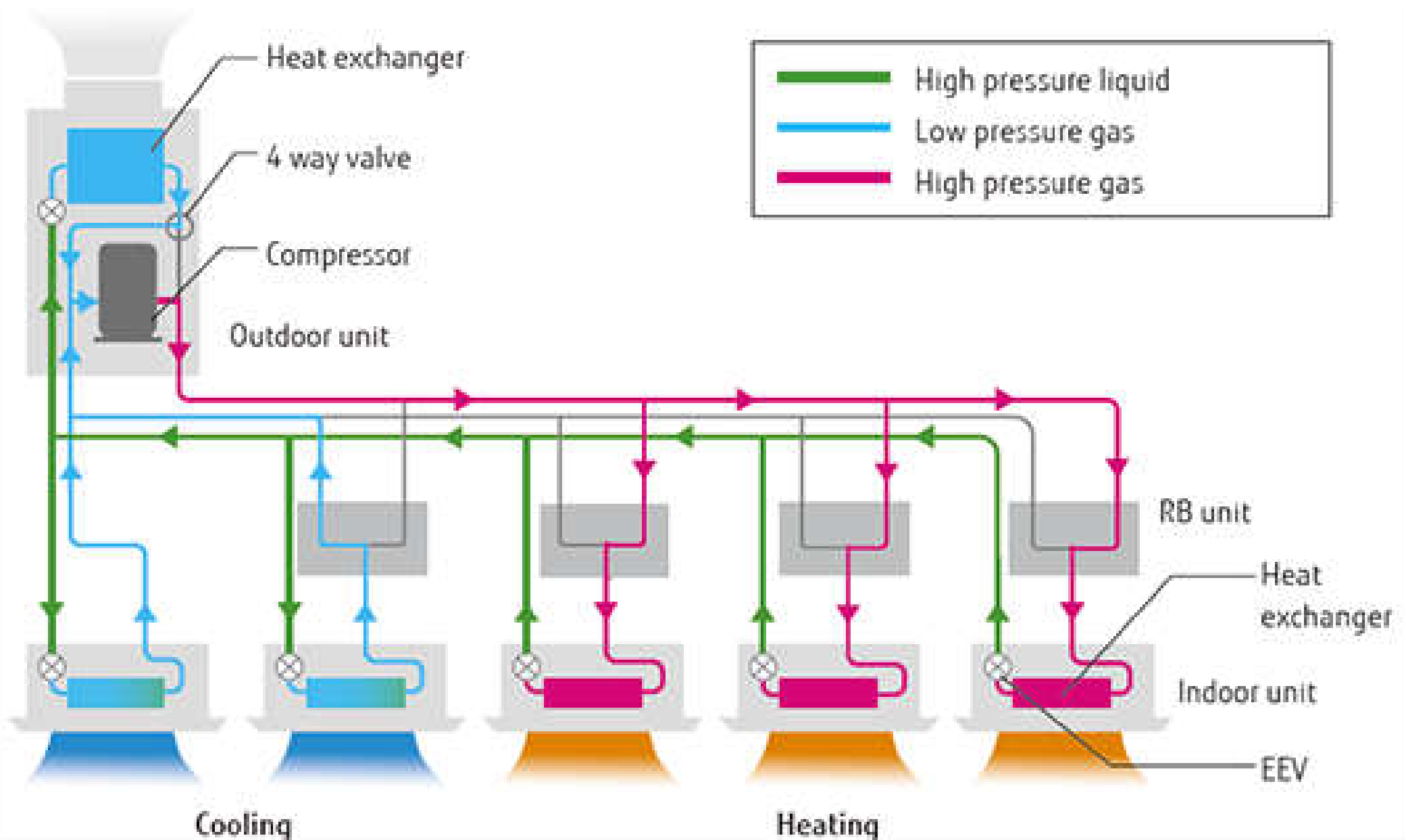


# Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system with heat recovery



Simultaneous cooling & heating:  
VRF can deliver cooling to some zones and heating to others, with no reheat needed.

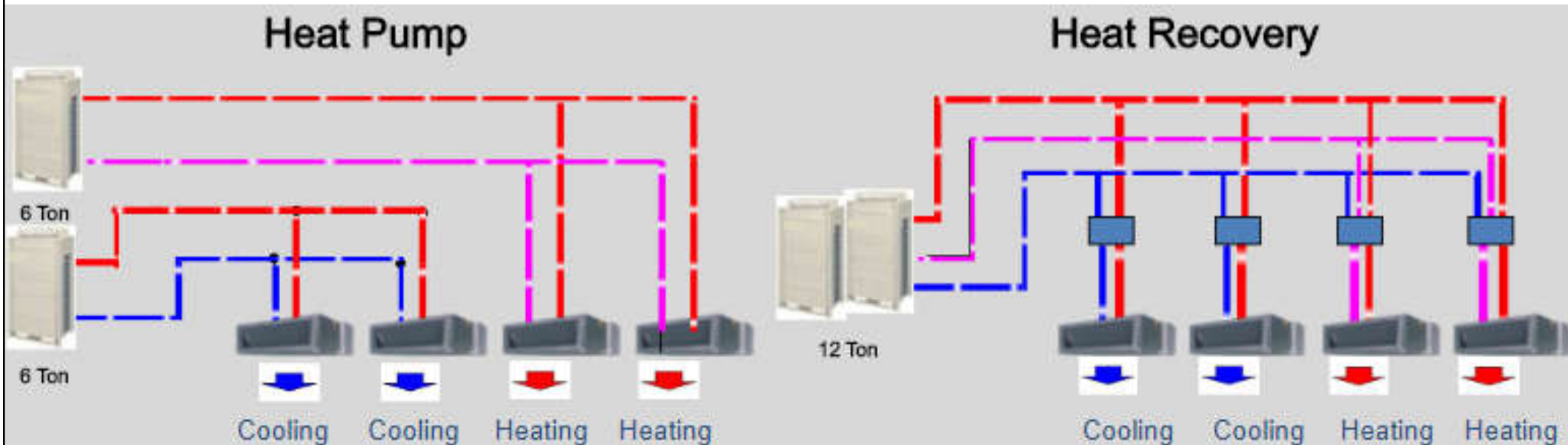
# Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system with simultaneous cooling & heating (by heat recovery)



Video: Heat Recovery VRF System - How it Works (3:26) <https://youtu.be/r-NQEOpidX8>



# Heat pump and heat recovery VRF systems



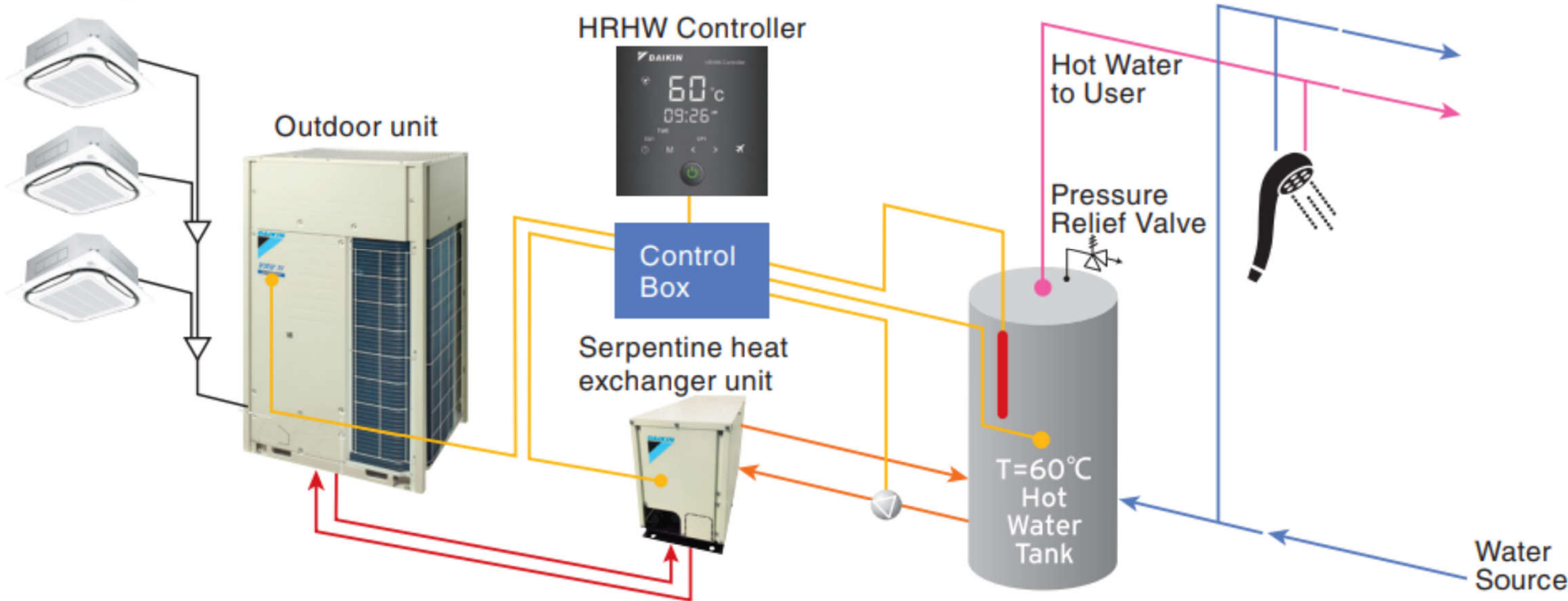
## Heat pump VRF:

- 2-pipe system
- heat/cool changeover

## Heat recovery VRF:

- 3-pipe system
- Can provide simultaneous cooling & heating
- Extra heat exchangers in distribution boxes are used to transfer some reject heat from superheated refrigerant existing the cooling zone to the refrigerant going to the heating zone

# Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) heat recovery hot water system for residential application



\*Remarks: Electric heater is used for anti-bacterial mode as well as backup heater.

Legend	Refrigerant Line	Hot Gas Line	Control Wiring	Hot Water	Hot Water to User	Water Source	Refnet Joint	Circulating Pump

(Source: Daikin)

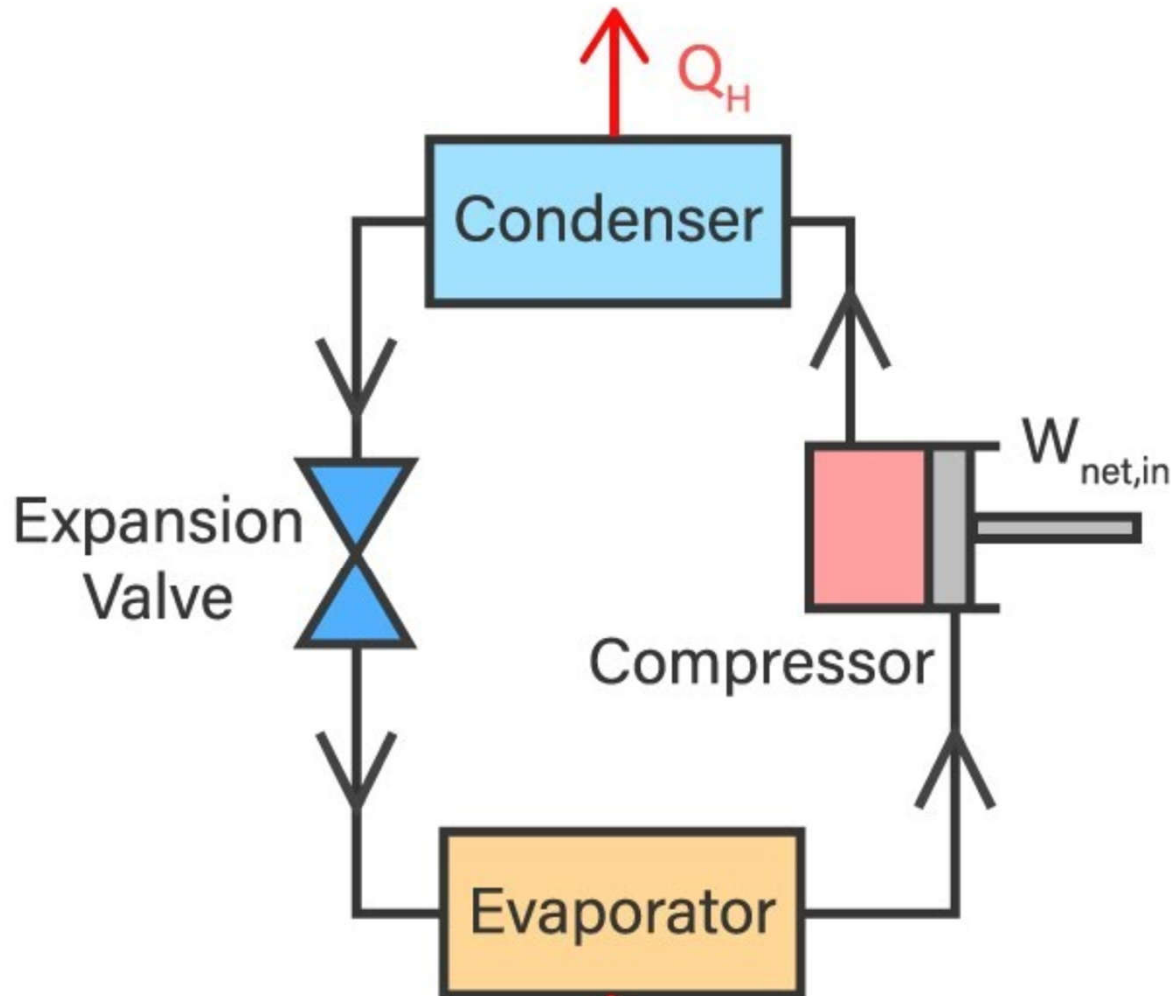


# Basic principles

- Heat pump – designed to **heat** water
  - Provides 100% of heat as hot water
  - Capacity controlled by leaving condenser water temp.
  - Evaporator fluid temperatures uncontrolled
- Heat recovery chiller – designed to **chill** water
  - Provides a percentage of heat as warm water
  - Capacity controlled by leaving chilled water temp.
  - Condensing temperature is uncontrolled
  - Additional condenser bundle used to capture cooling tower heat rejection typically at temperatures 35-46 °C

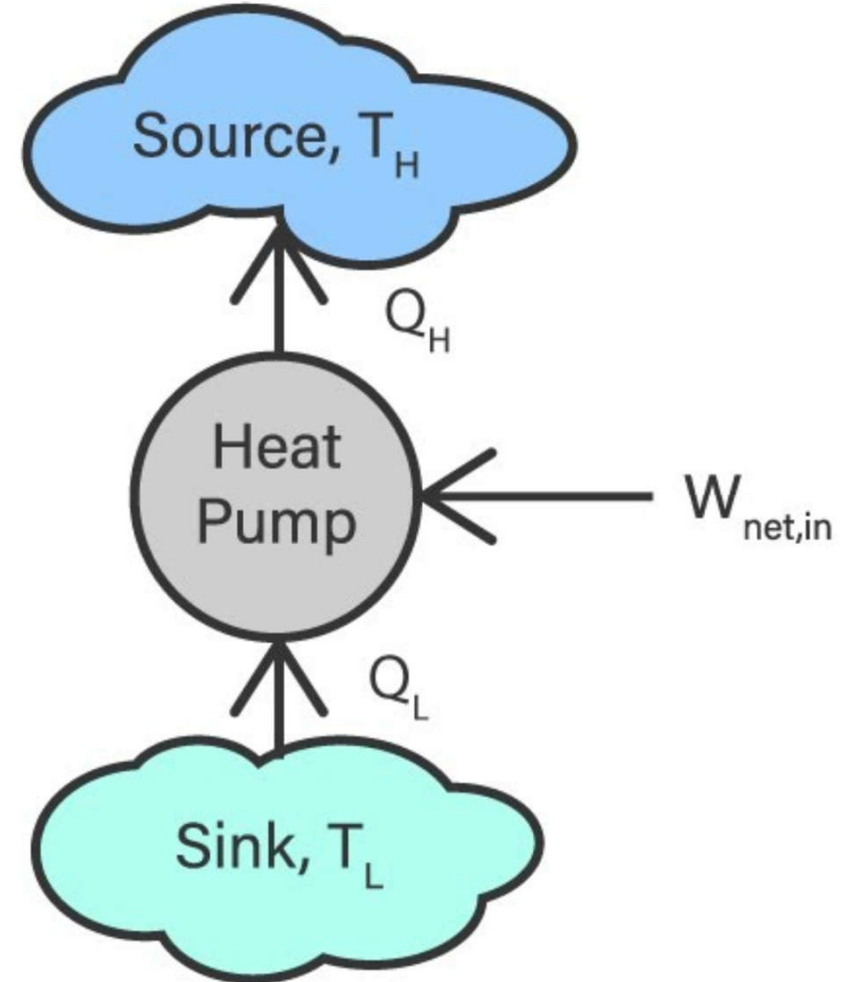
# Basic concepts of refrigeration and heat pump cycles

## Refrigeration cycle



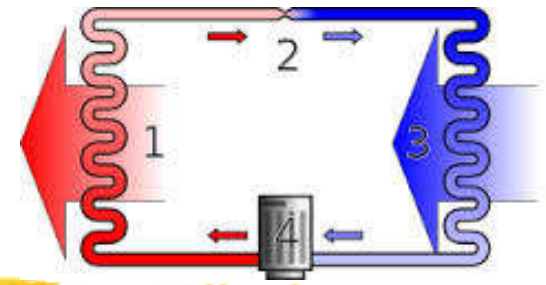
$$\text{COP}_R = \frac{\text{Cooling Effect}}{\text{Work Input}} = \frac{Q_L}{W_{\text{net,in}}}$$

## Heat pump cycle

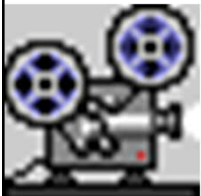


$$\begin{aligned} \text{COP}_{\text{HP}} &= \frac{\text{Heating Effect}}{\text{Work Input}} = \frac{|Q_H|}{W_{\text{net,in}}} \\ &= \frac{W_{\text{net,in}} + Q_L}{W_{\text{net,in}}} = 1 + \frac{Q_L}{W_{\text{net,in}}} \end{aligned}$$

# Applied heat pumps

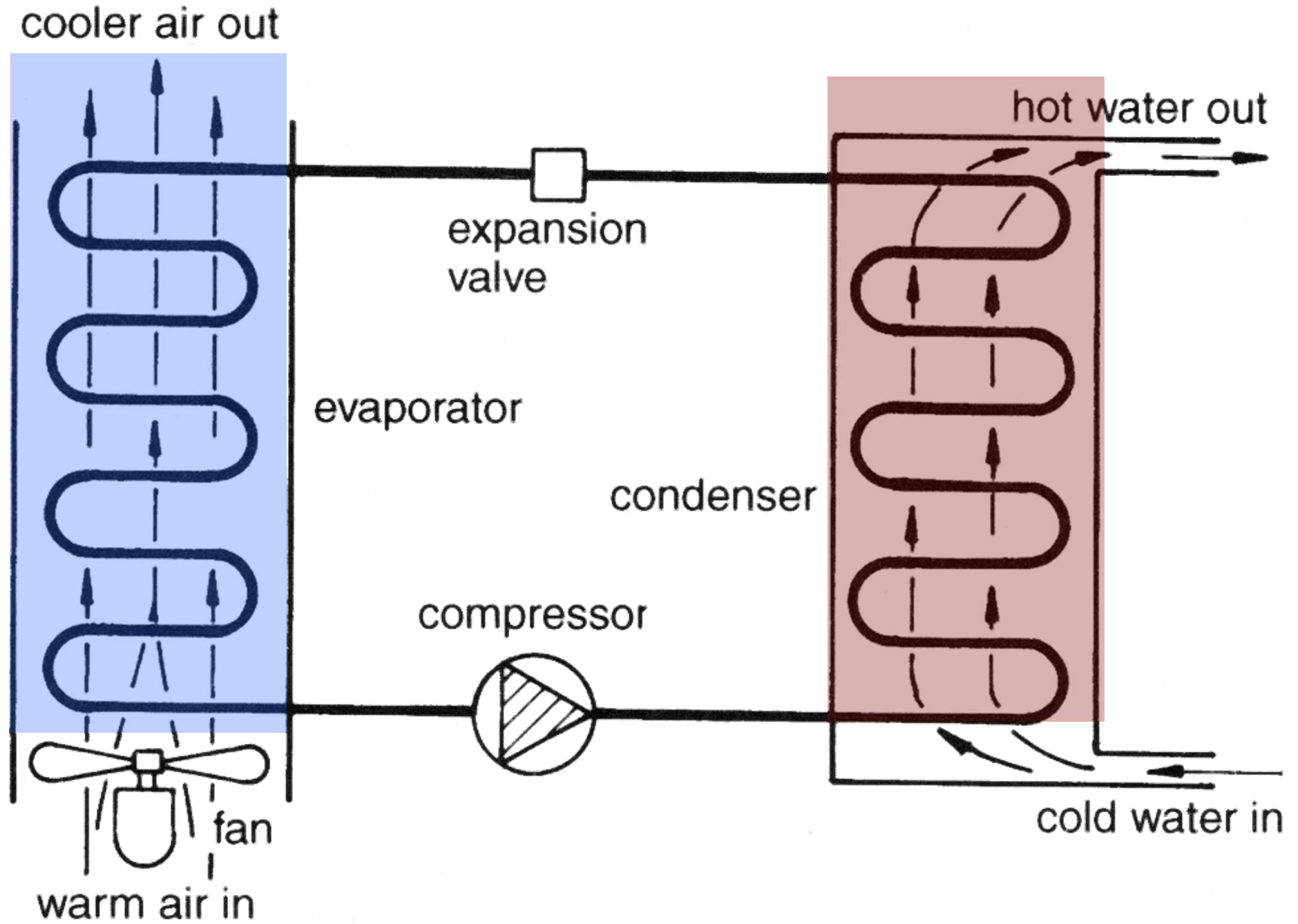


- A **heat pump** extracts heat from a source and transfers it to a sink at a higher temperature
- Heat pump sources and sinks
  - Air (outdoor ambient, exhaust)
  - Water (well, surface, tap, condensing, closed loops, waste)
  - Ground (ground-coupled, direct expansion)
  - Solar energy (direct or heated water)
  - Industrial process (process heat or exhaust)



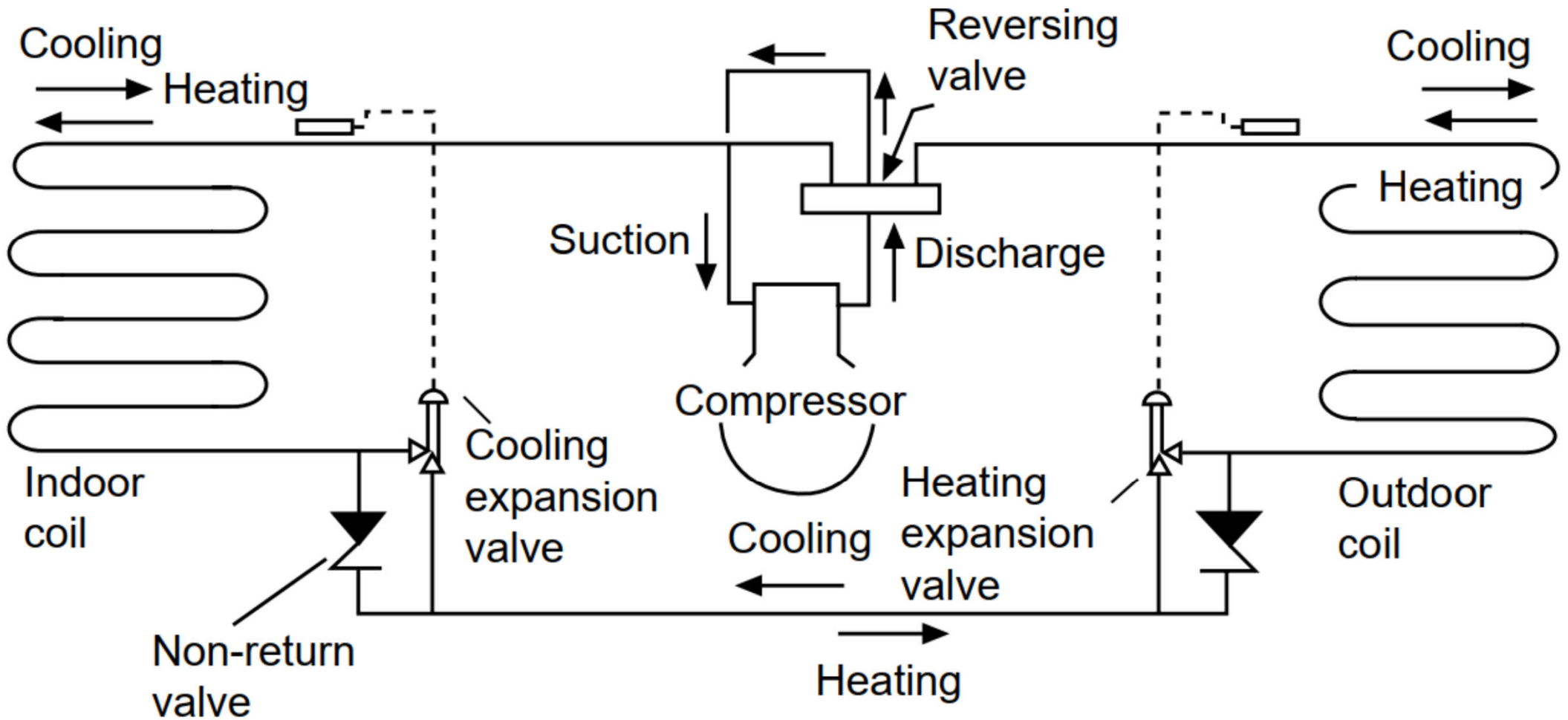
(Video: How A Heat Pump Works (11:32) <http://youtu.be/G53tTKoakcY>)

# Basic principles of heat pump

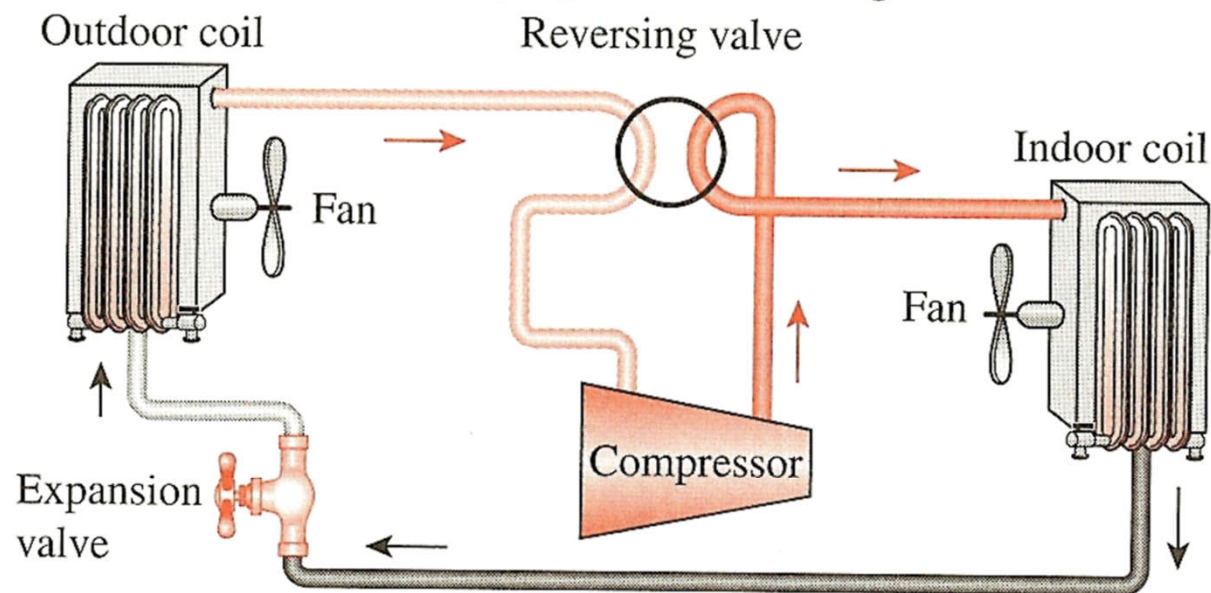








# Piping arrangement for reversible flow circuit of heat pump air conditioner

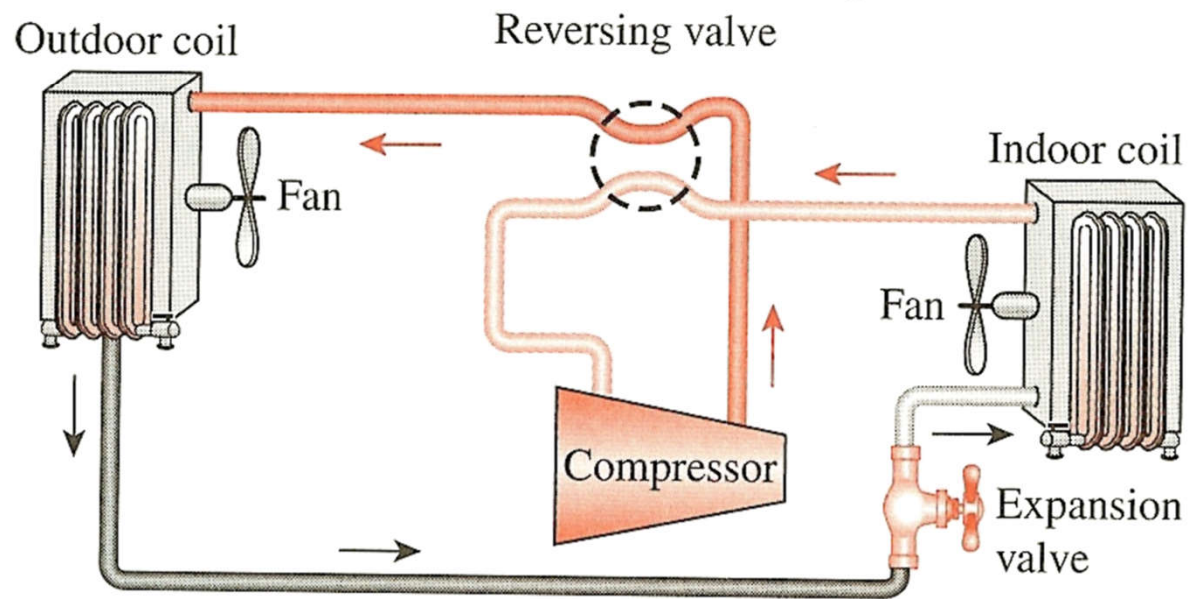


### Heat Pump Operation—Heating Mode



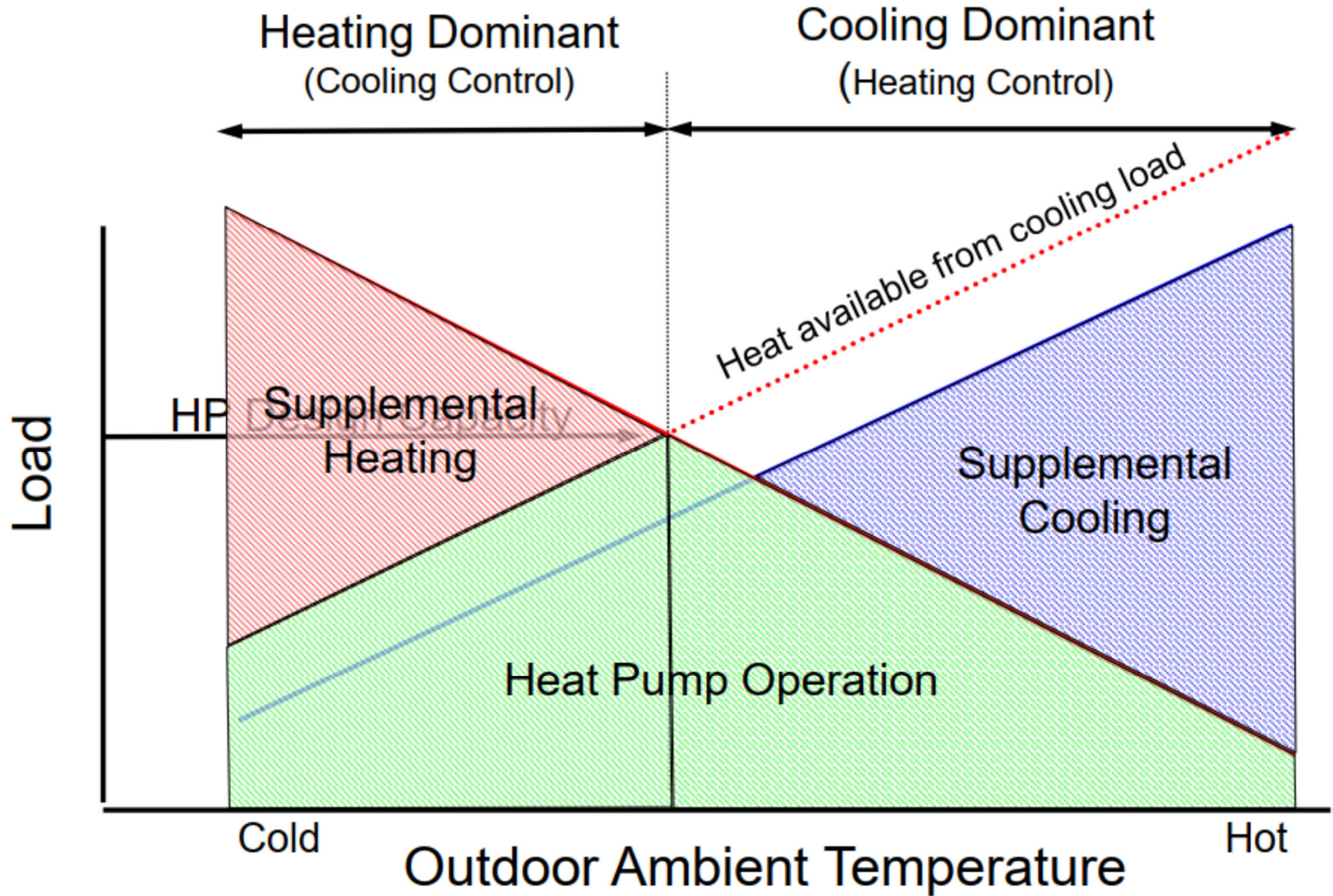
-  High-pressure liquid
-  Low-pressure liquid-vapor
-  Low-pressure vapor
-  High-pressure vapor

### Heat Pump Operation—Cooling Mode

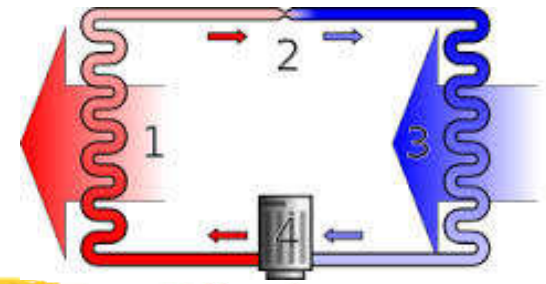




# Heat pump sizing and control



# Applied heat pumps



- Common types of heat pumps
  - Air-to-air heat pump
  - Water-to-air heat pump
    - Ground water, surface water, internal-source, solar-assisted, wastewater-source
  - Water-to-water heat pump
  - Ground-coupled heat pump
  - Air-to-water heat pump
    - Also called heat pump water heater

# Heat pump types

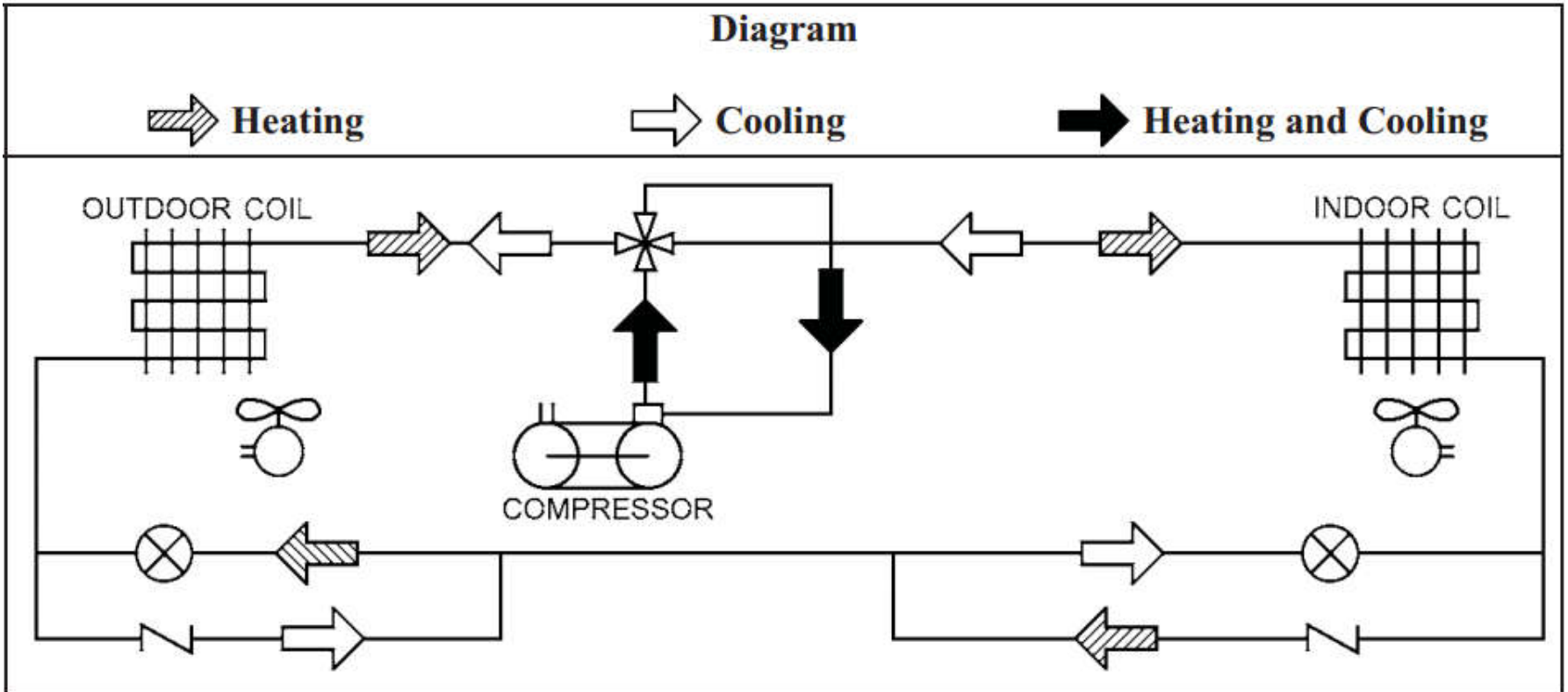
Diagram

➔ Heating

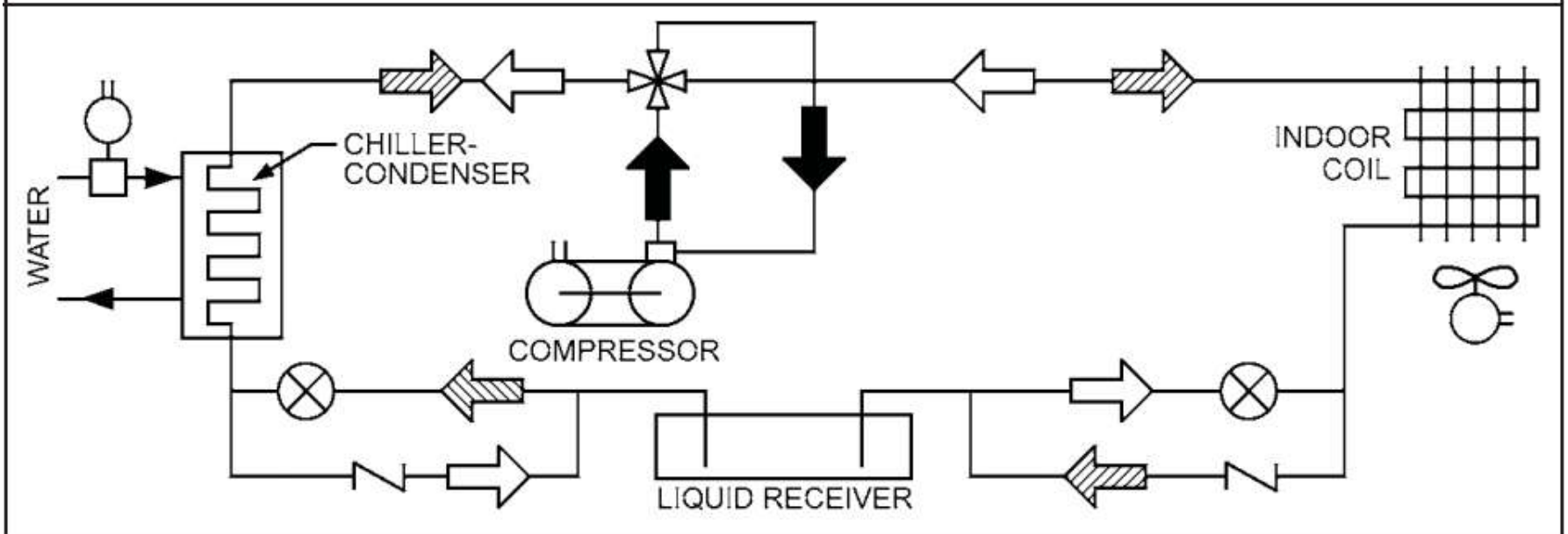
➔ Cooling

➔ Heating and Cooling

Air-to-air  
heat pump



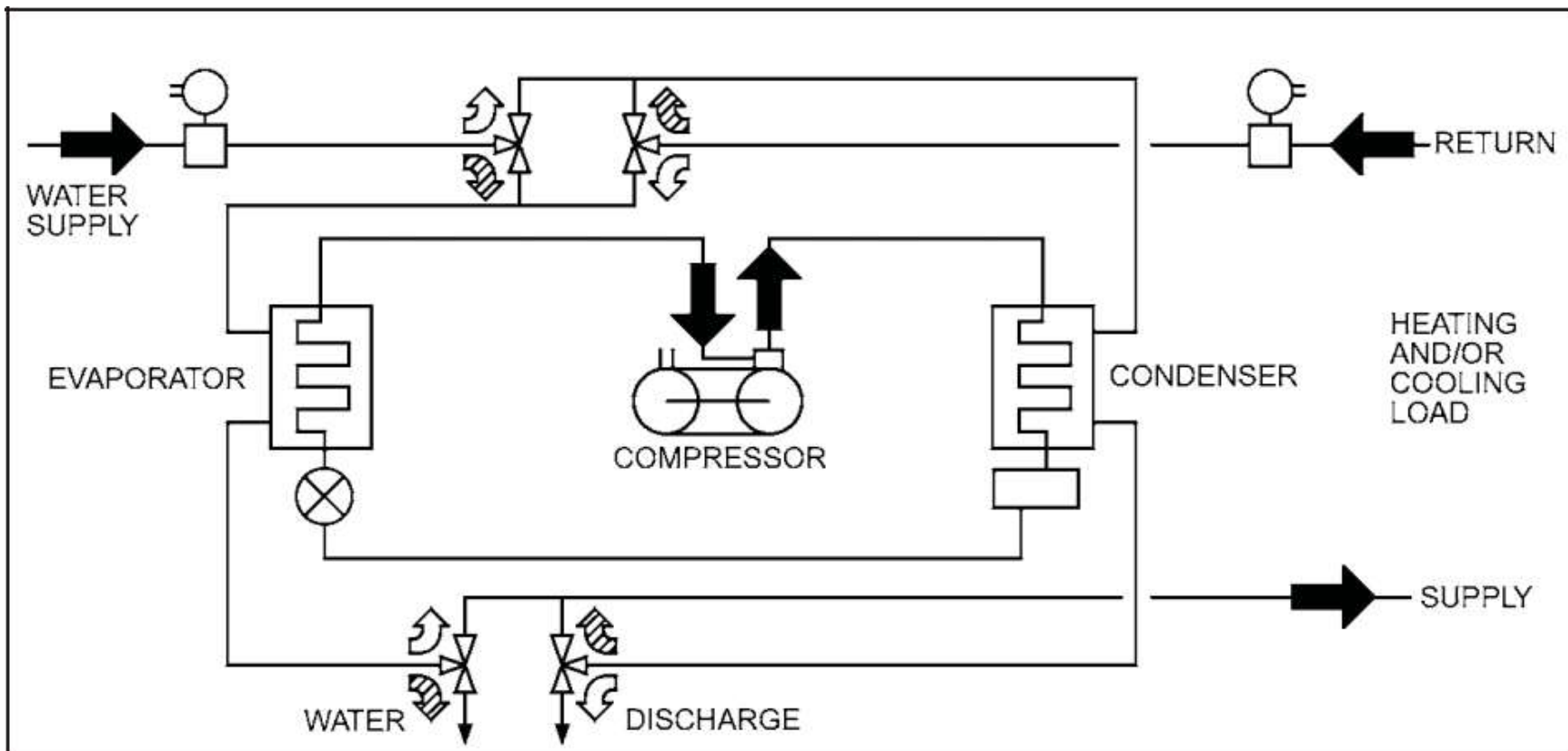
Water-to-  
air heat  
pump



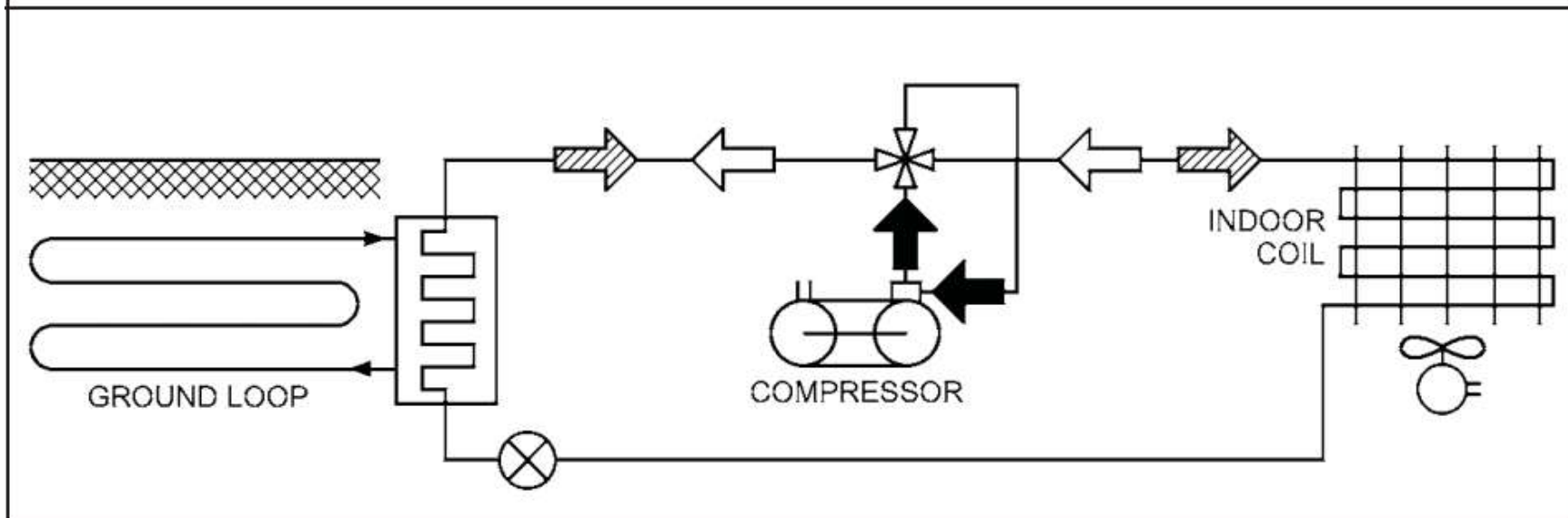


# Heat pump types

Water-to-water heat pump

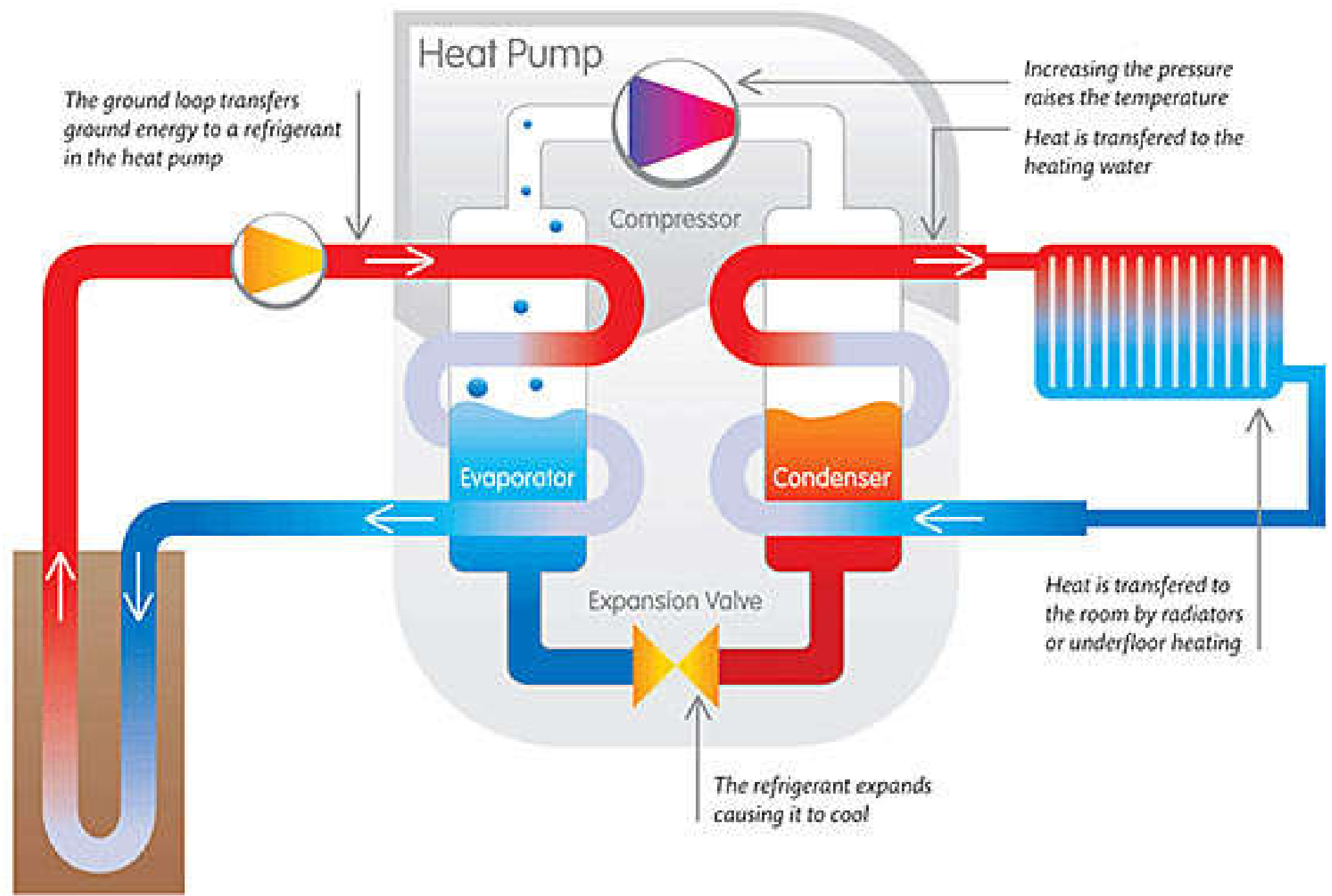


Ground-coupled heat pump

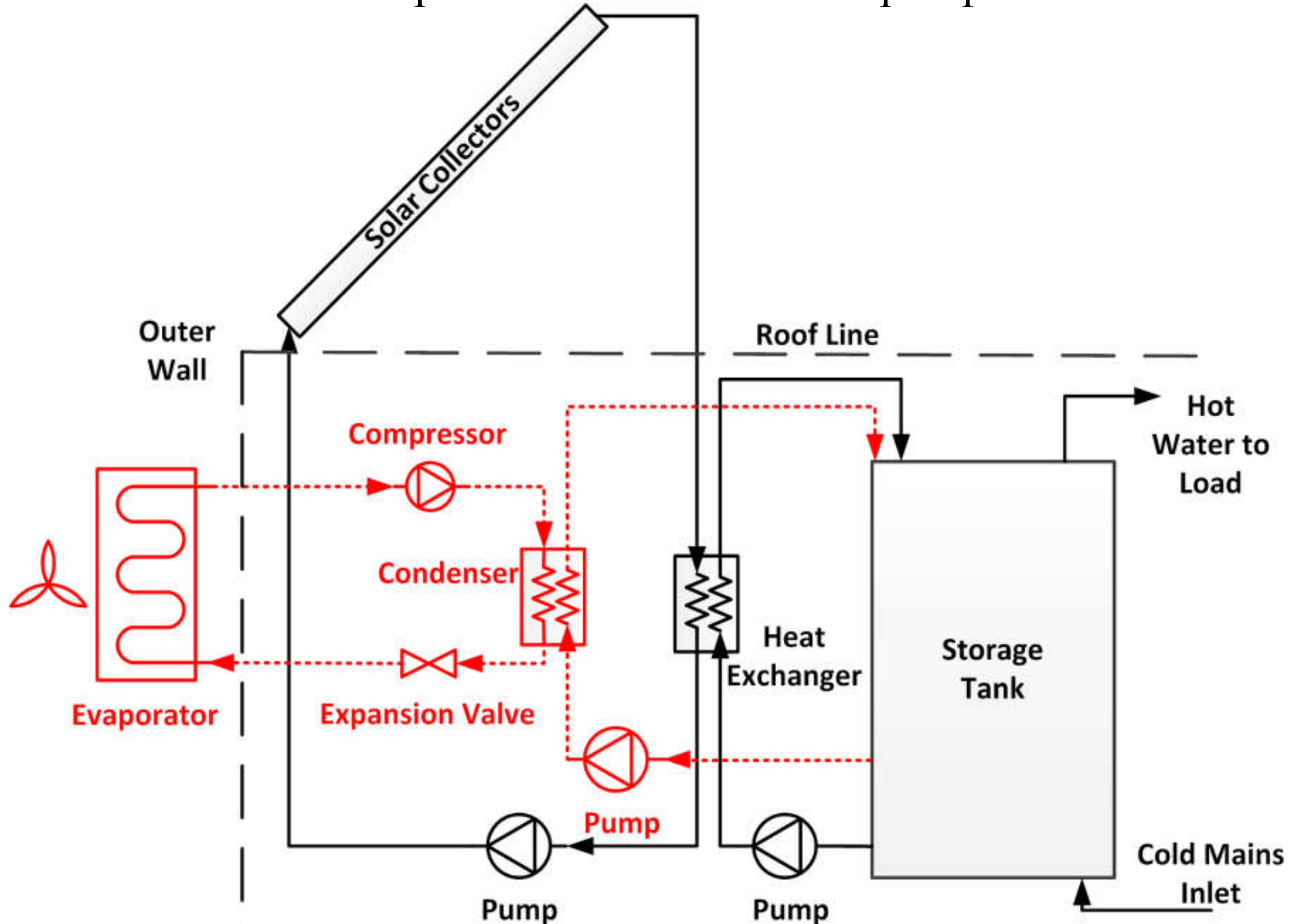




# Principles of ground source heat pump

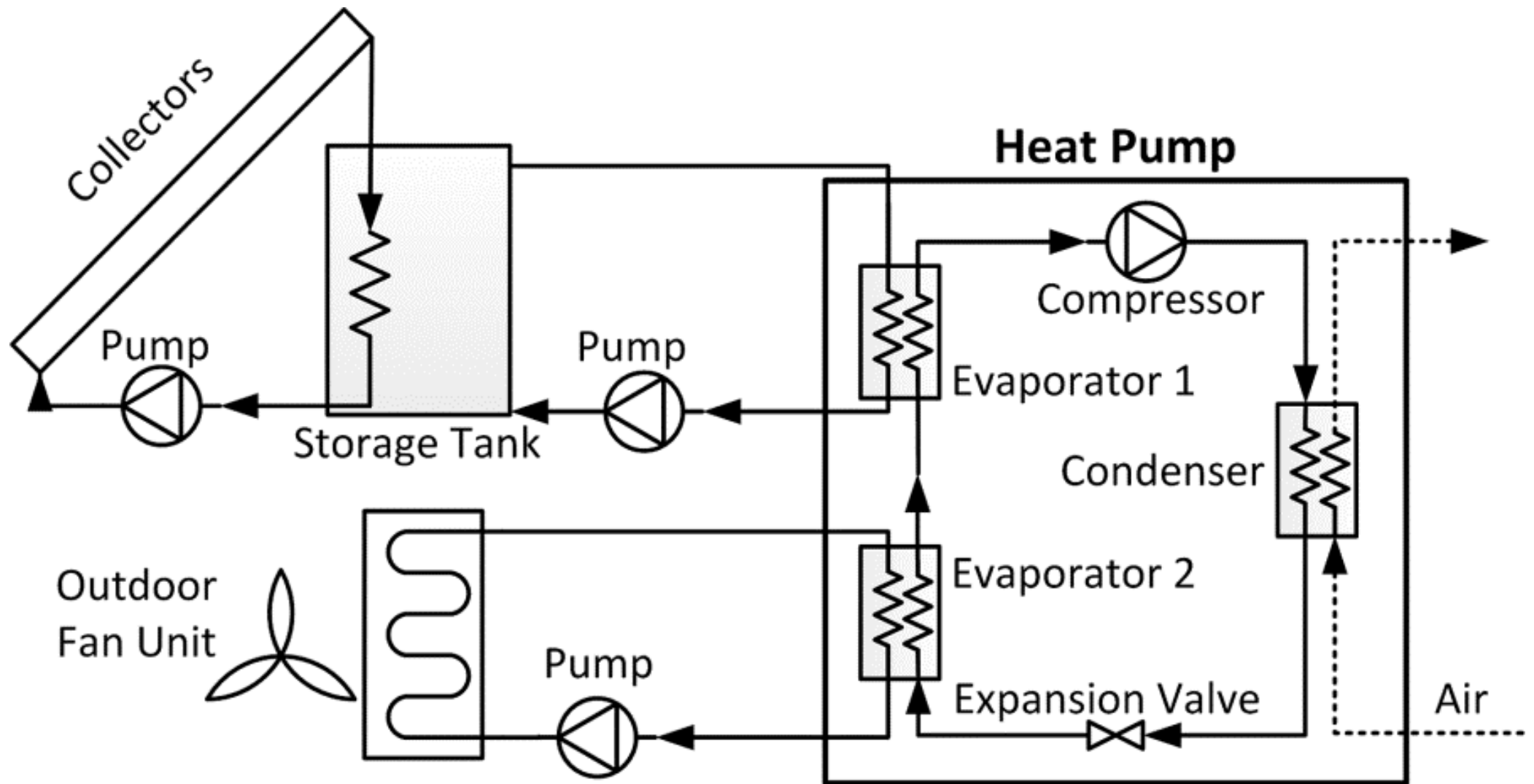


# Example of solar-assisted heat pump



(Source: Chu J. & Cruickshank C. A., 2014. Solar-assisted heat pump systems: a review of existing studies and their applicability to the Canadian residential sector, *Journal of Solar Energy Engineering*, 136 (4) 041013. <https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4027735>)

## Example of solar-assisted heat pump (cont'd)



# Worked example of heat pump calculations

**6-54** Refrigerant-134a flows through the condenser of a residential heat pump unit. For a given compressor power consumption the COP of the heat pump and the rate of heat absorbed from the outside air are to be determined.

**Assumptions 1** The heat pump operates steadily.  
**2** The kinetic and potential energy changes are zero.

**Properties** The enthalpies of R-134a at the condenser inlet and exit are

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} P_1 = 800 \text{ kPa} \\ T_1 = 35^\circ\text{C} \end{array} \right\} h_1 = 271.22 \text{ kJ/kg}$$
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} P_2 = 800 \text{ kPa} \\ x_2 = 0 \end{array} \right\} h_2 = 95.47 \text{ kJ/kg}$$

**Analysis (a)** An energy balance on the condenser gives the heat rejected in the condenser

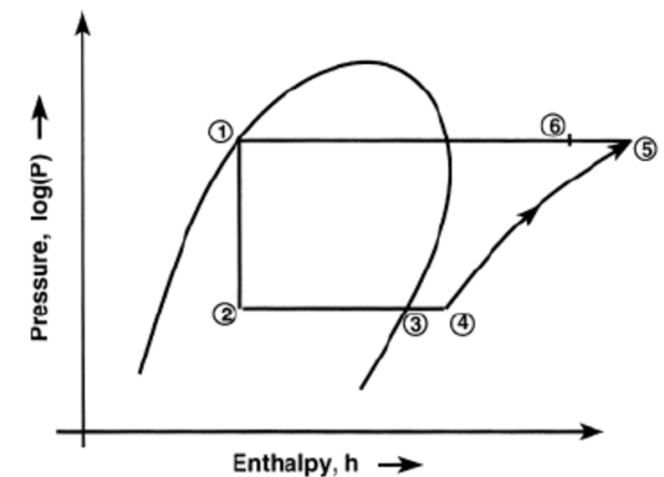
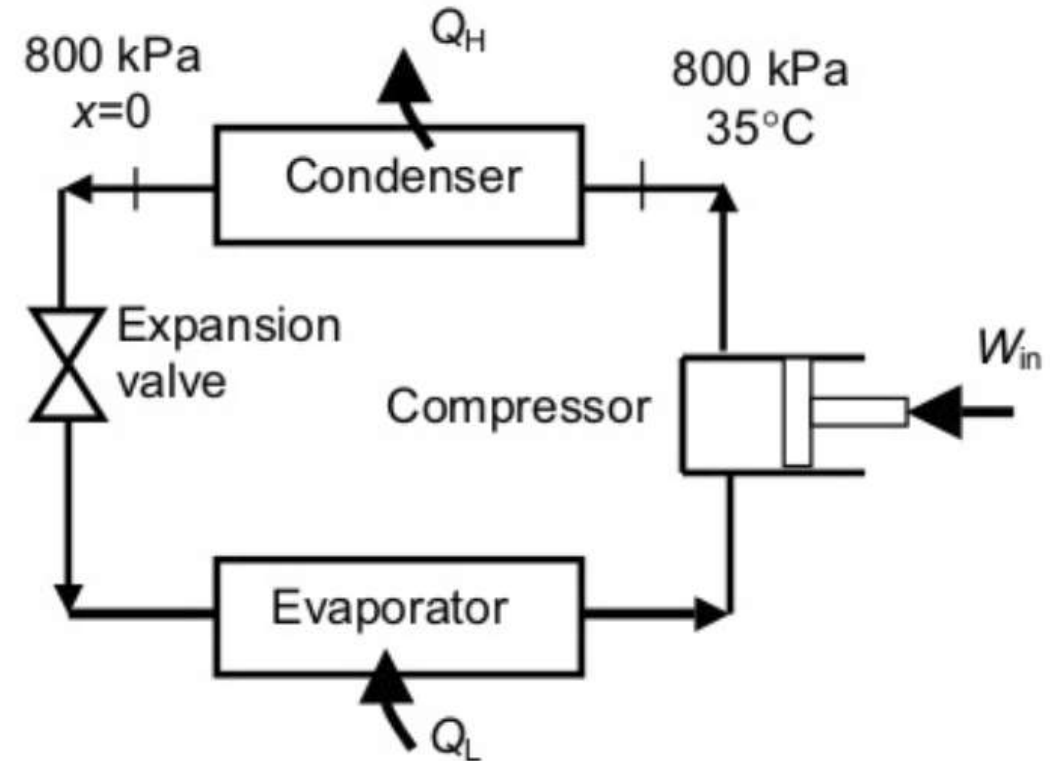
$$\dot{Q}_H = \dot{m}(h_1 - h_2) = (0.018 \text{ kg/s})(271.22 - 95.47) \text{ kJ/kg} = 3.164 \text{ kW}$$

The COP of the heat pump is

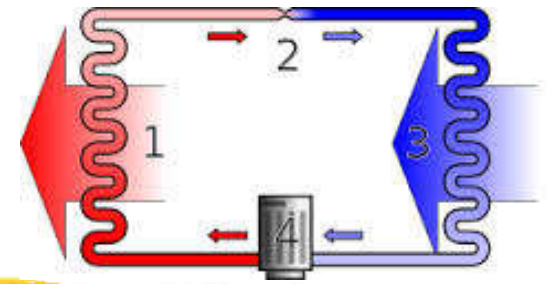
$$\text{COP} = \frac{\dot{Q}_H}{\dot{W}_{\text{in}}} = \frac{3.164 \text{ kW}}{1.2 \text{ kW}} = \mathbf{2.64}$$

**(b)** The rate of heat absorbed from the outside air

$$\dot{Q}_L = \dot{Q}_H - \dot{W}_{\text{in}} = 3.164 - 1.2 = \mathbf{1.96 \text{ kW}}$$

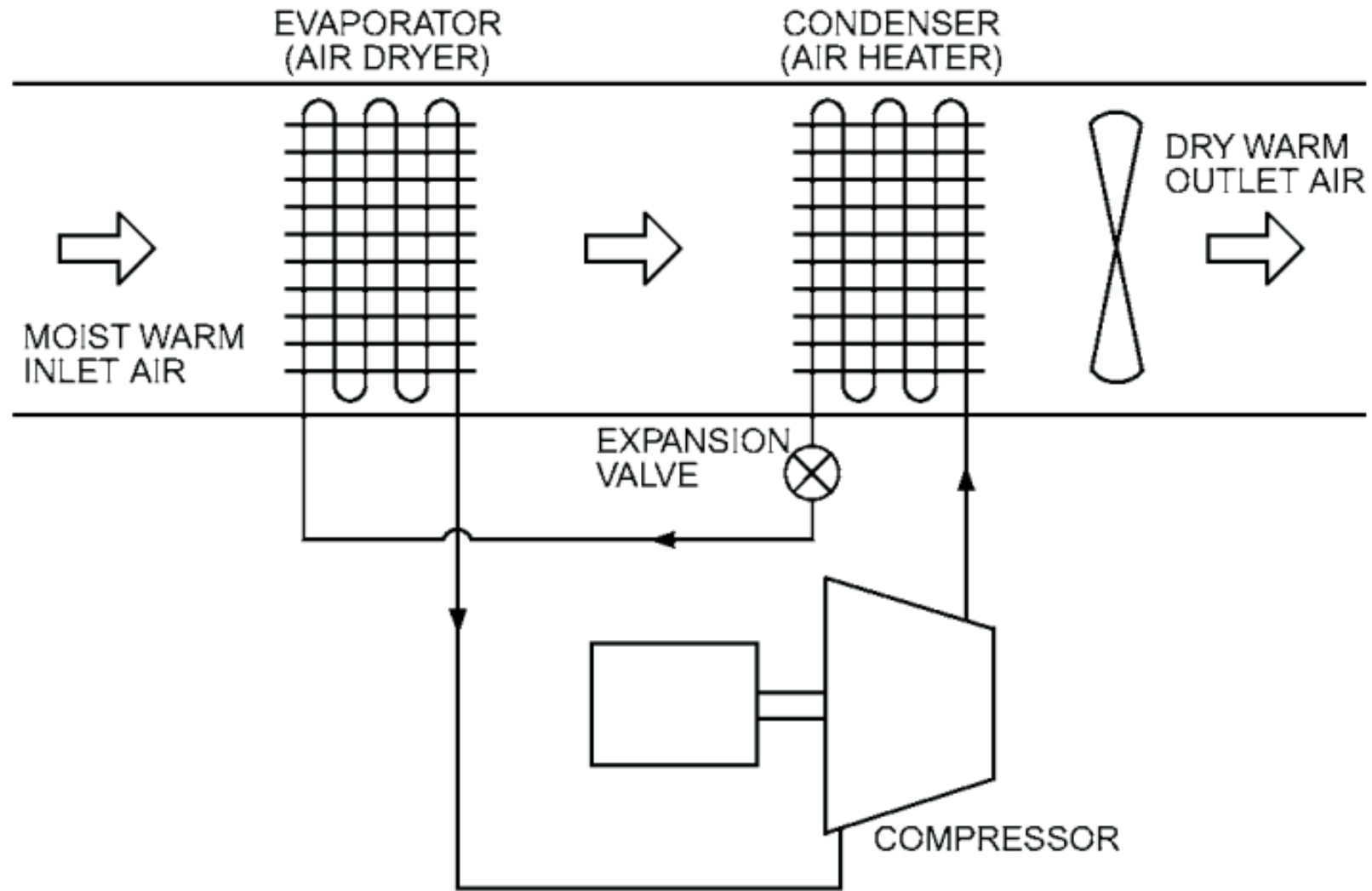


# Applied heat pumps



- **Heat recovery heat pump (HRHP) systems**
  - Such as industrial heat pump systems
  - Translate low grade (low temperature) rejected heat to usable heat in a process
  - Two major types:
    - **Closed-cycle systems**
      - Use a suitable working fluid, usually a refrigerant in a sealed system; can use either absorption or vapour compression
    - **Open-cycle (and semi-open-cycle) systems**
      - Use process fluid to raise the temperature of available heat energy by vapour compression (to produce steam)

# Air-to-air or dehumidification heat pumps (closed-cycle)

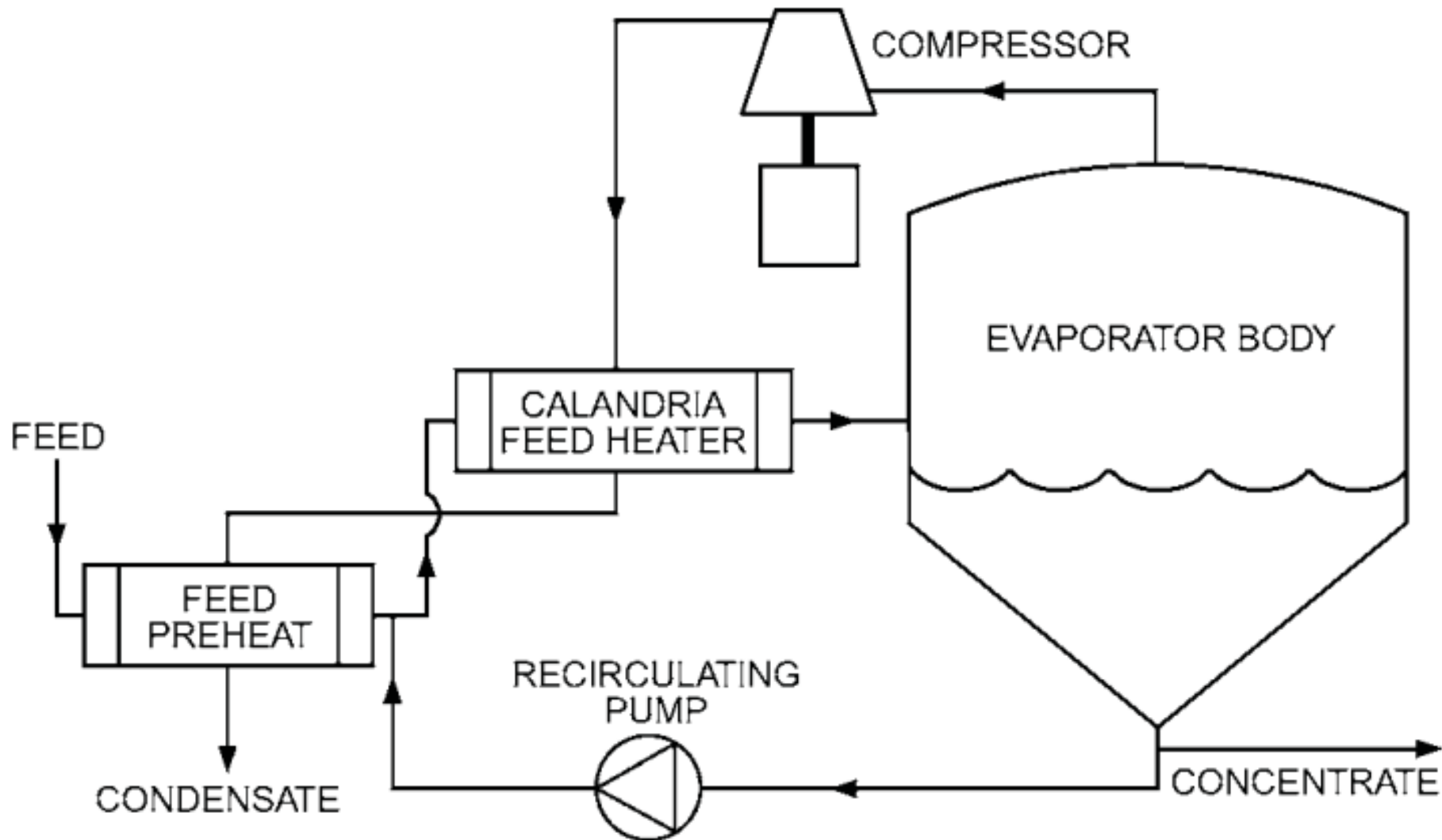


Most frequently used in industrial operations to dry or cure products. For example, dehumidification kilns are used to dry lumber to improve its value (lumber can be dried at a lower temperature, which reduces warping, cracking, checking, and discoloration). Can also be used to dry agricultural products; poultry, fish, and meat; textiles; and other products.



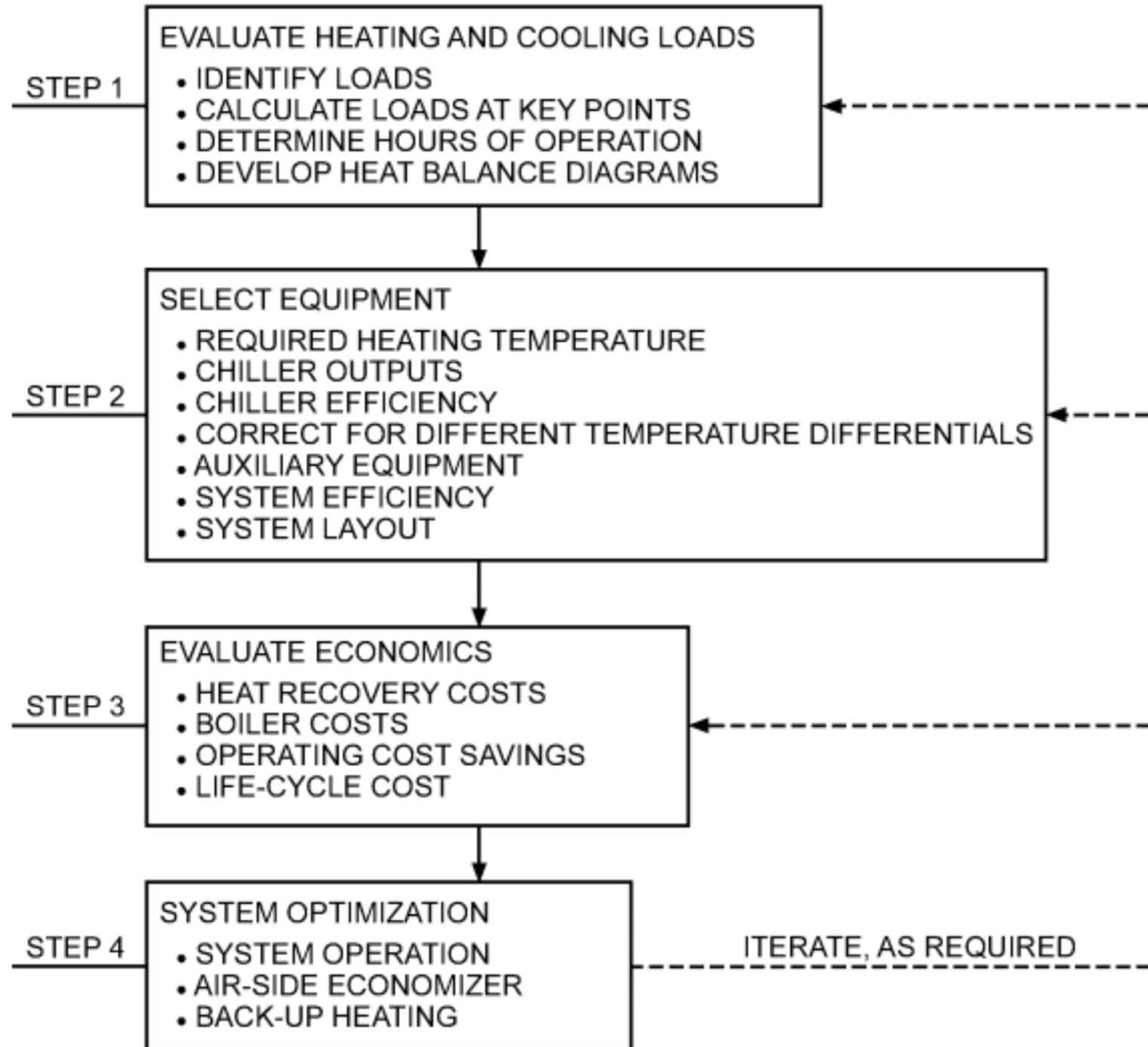
# Single-effect heat pump evaporator (**open-cycle**)

(For separating small volumes of water and solid, e.g. in food and dairy industries)

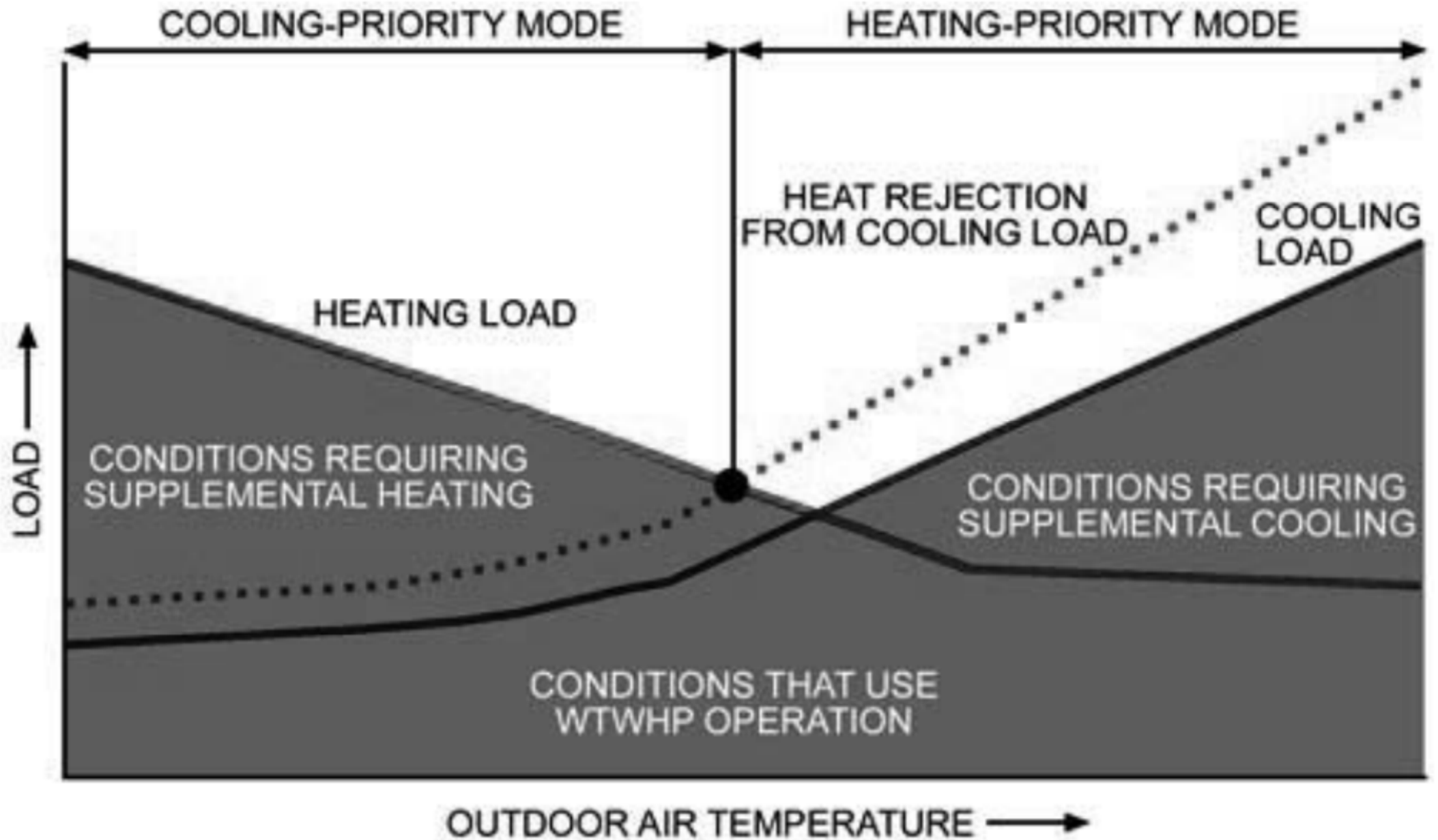


The overhead vapours of the evaporator are compressed, and thus heated, and piped to the system heater (i.e. calandria). The heat is transferred to the dilute solution, which is then piped to the evaporator body. Flashing occurs upon entry to the evaporator body, sending concentrate to the bottom and vapours to the top.

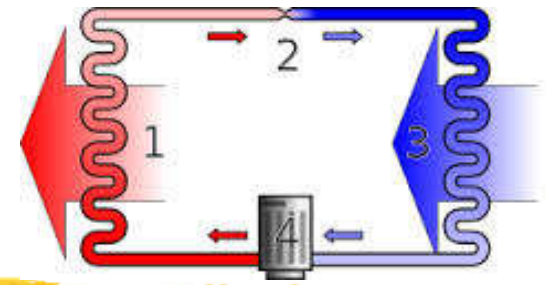
# Heat recovery heat pump (HRHP) application flowchart



# Operating areas for simultaneous heat recovery heat pump (HRHP)

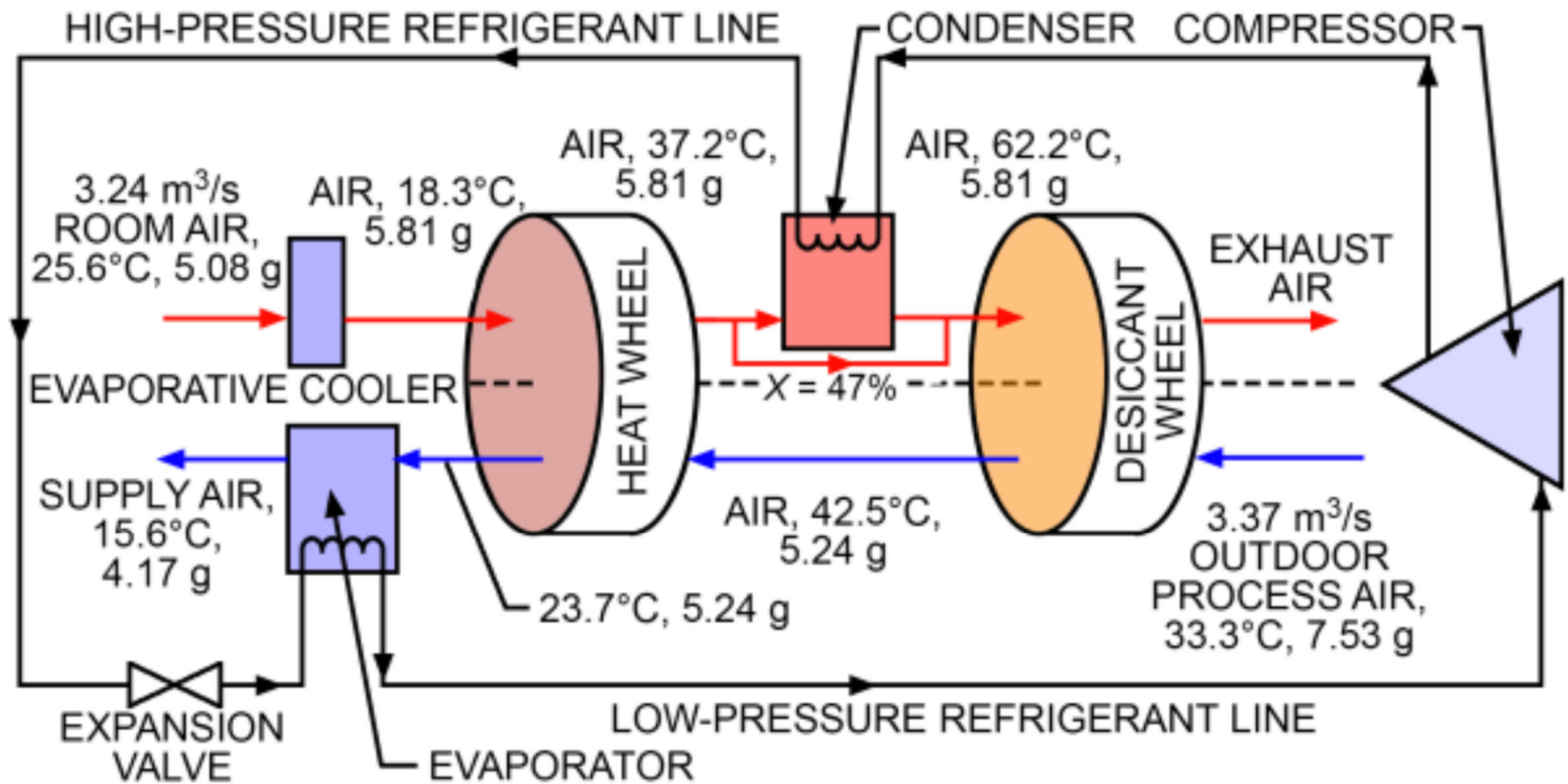


# Applied heat pumps



- Systems with multiple energy recovery exchangers, e.g. desiccant wheel + heat wheel
  - The first exchanger reduces the cooling capacity by recovery exhaust energy
  - The second exchanger improves latent cooling and reduces sensible cooling delivered by the system
- The heat dissipated in the condenser of a heat pump can be used to regenerate the desiccant wheel

# Heat pump augmented by heat and desiccant wheels (multiple energy recovery exchangers in series mode)

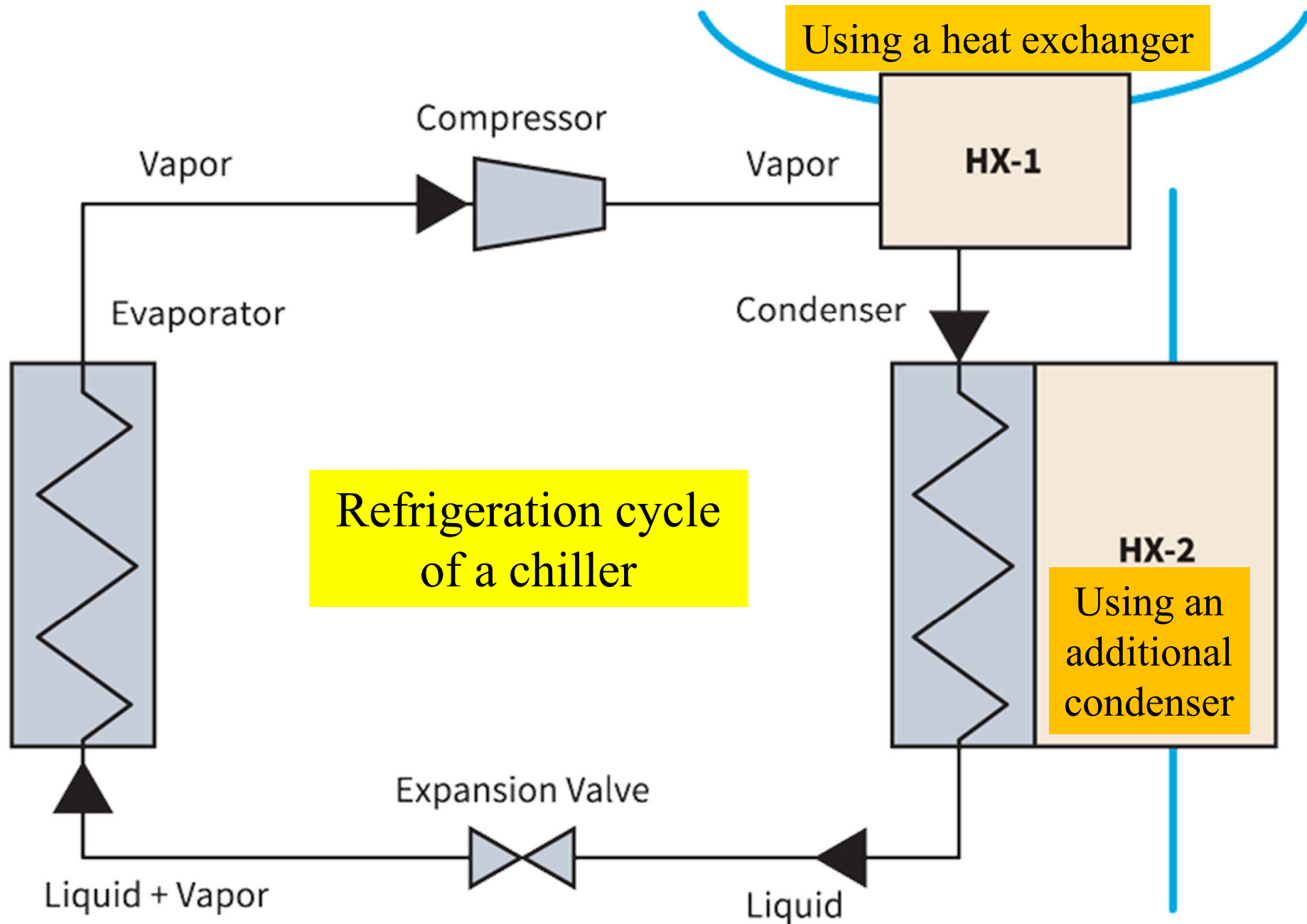


# Heat recovery chillers



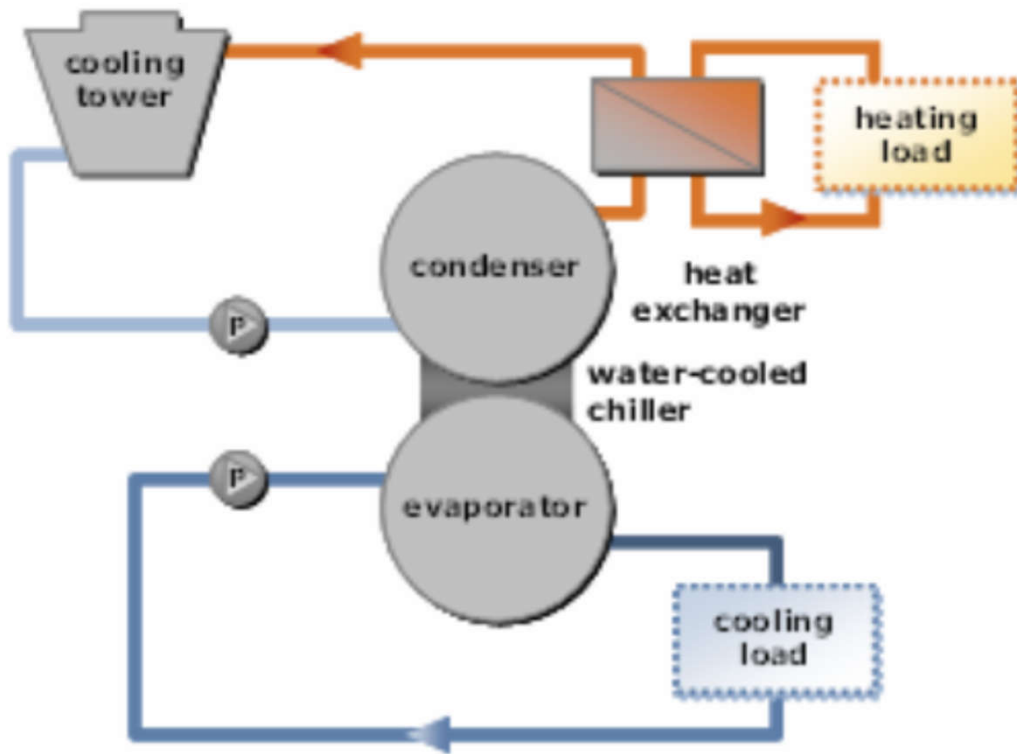
- How It Works: (for water or air-cooled chillers)
  - When there is a simultaneous need for chilled water and hot water, these chillers have the capability to operate in heat recovery mode
  - The recovered heat can be redirected for various heating applications, which saves energy while maintaining conditions
    - Building space heating
    - Service water pre-heating (e.g. laundry, dish washing)
    - Process hot water (e.g. swimming pool heating)

# Basic principles of a heat recovery chiller

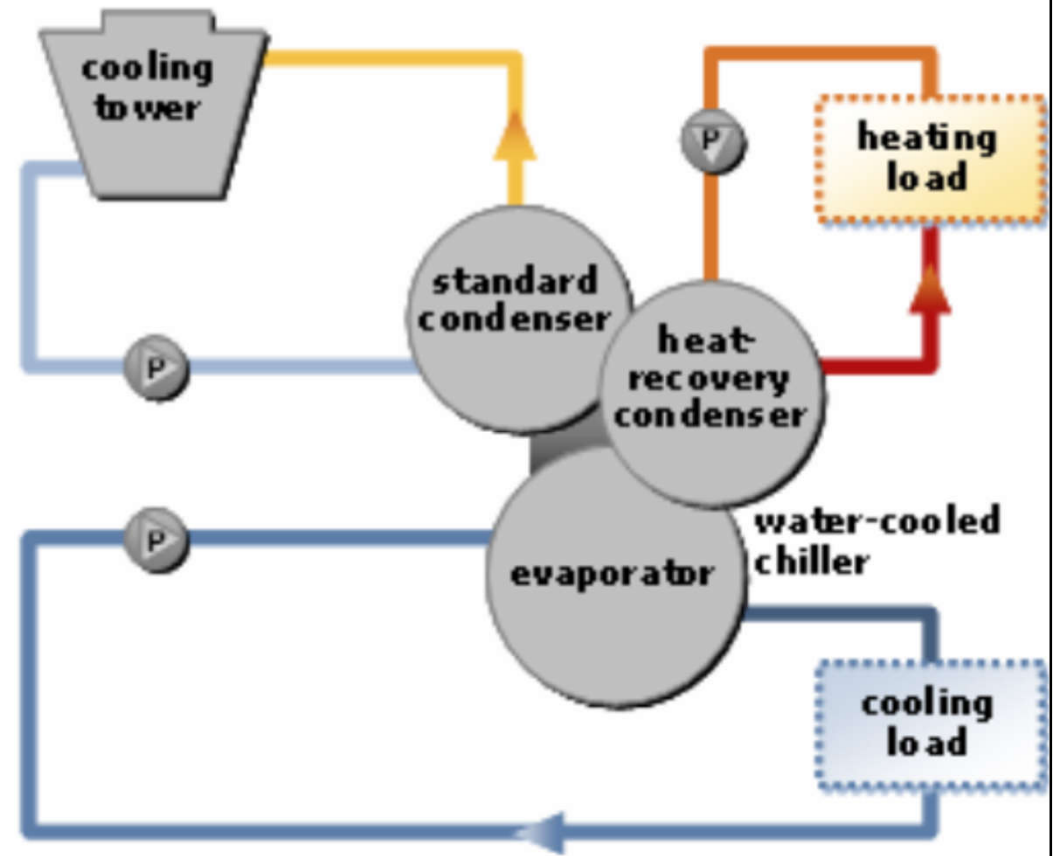




# Heat recovery chiller and water system design

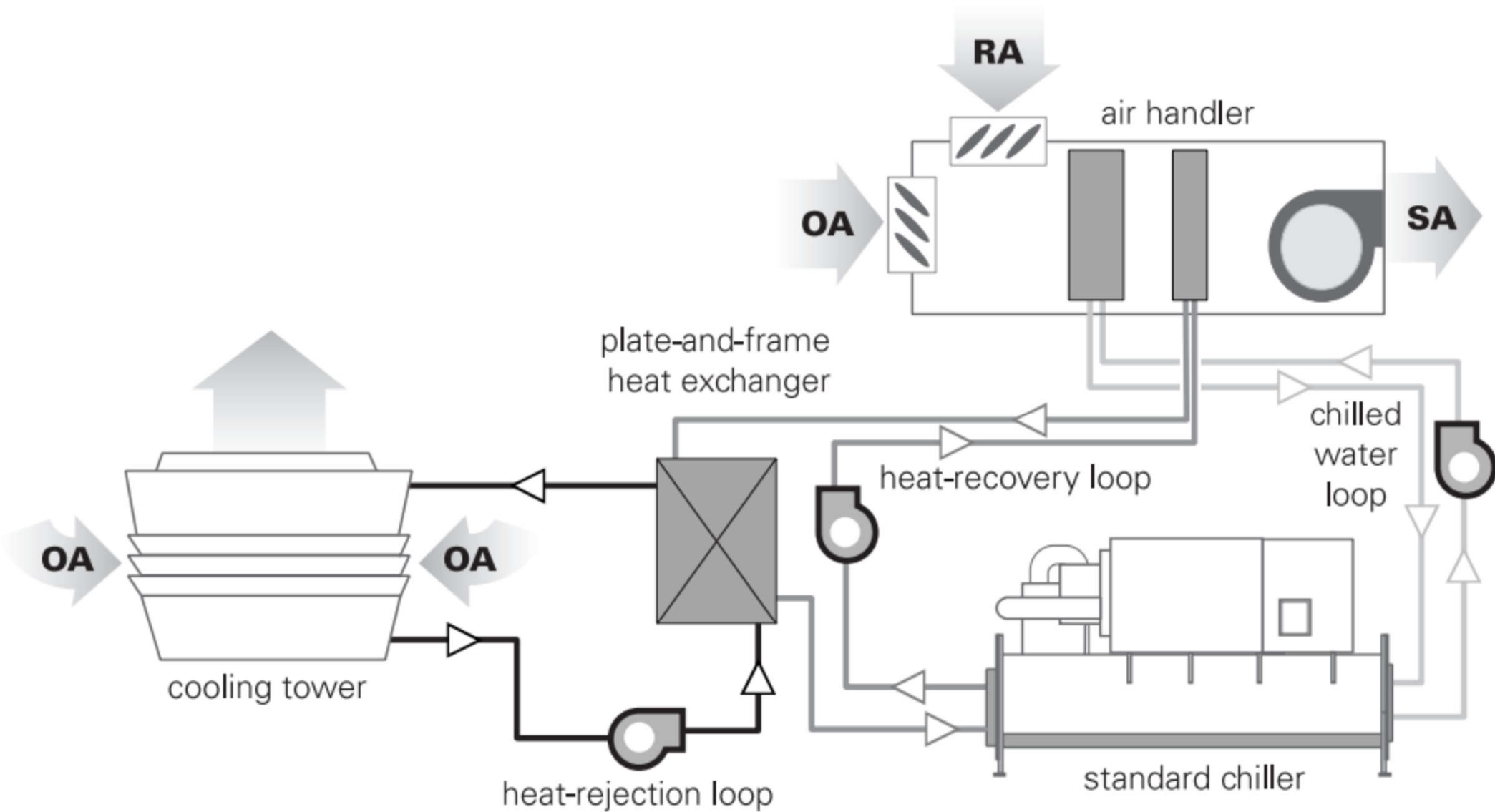


Heat recovery using a heat exchanger

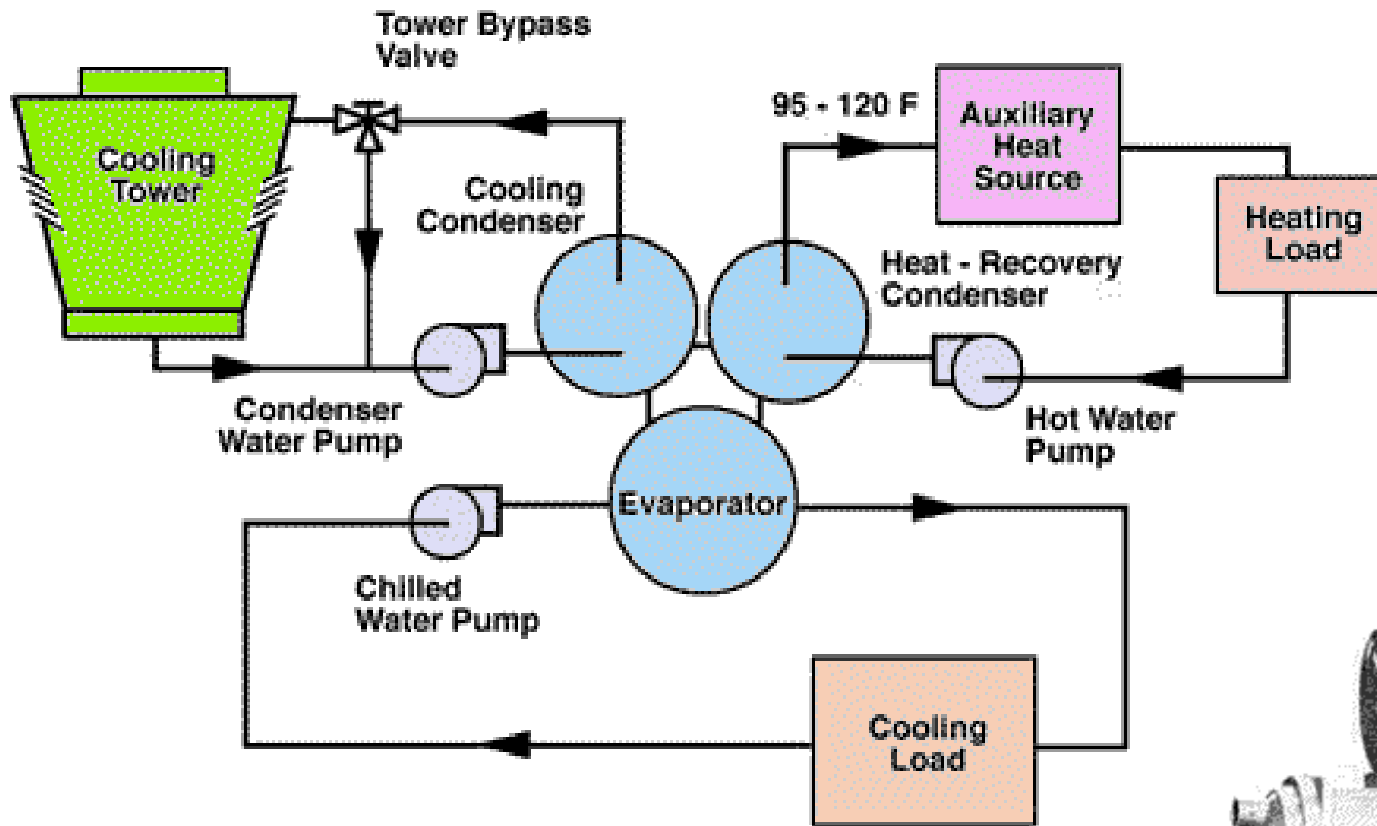


Heat recovery using an additional condenser

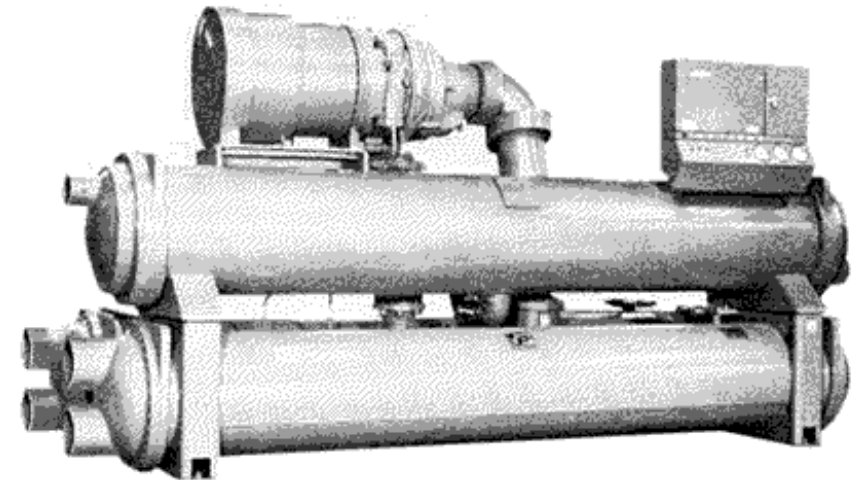
# Condenser-water heat recovery using a plate-and-frame heat exchanger



# Waste heat recovery – e.g. double bundle heat recovery chiller



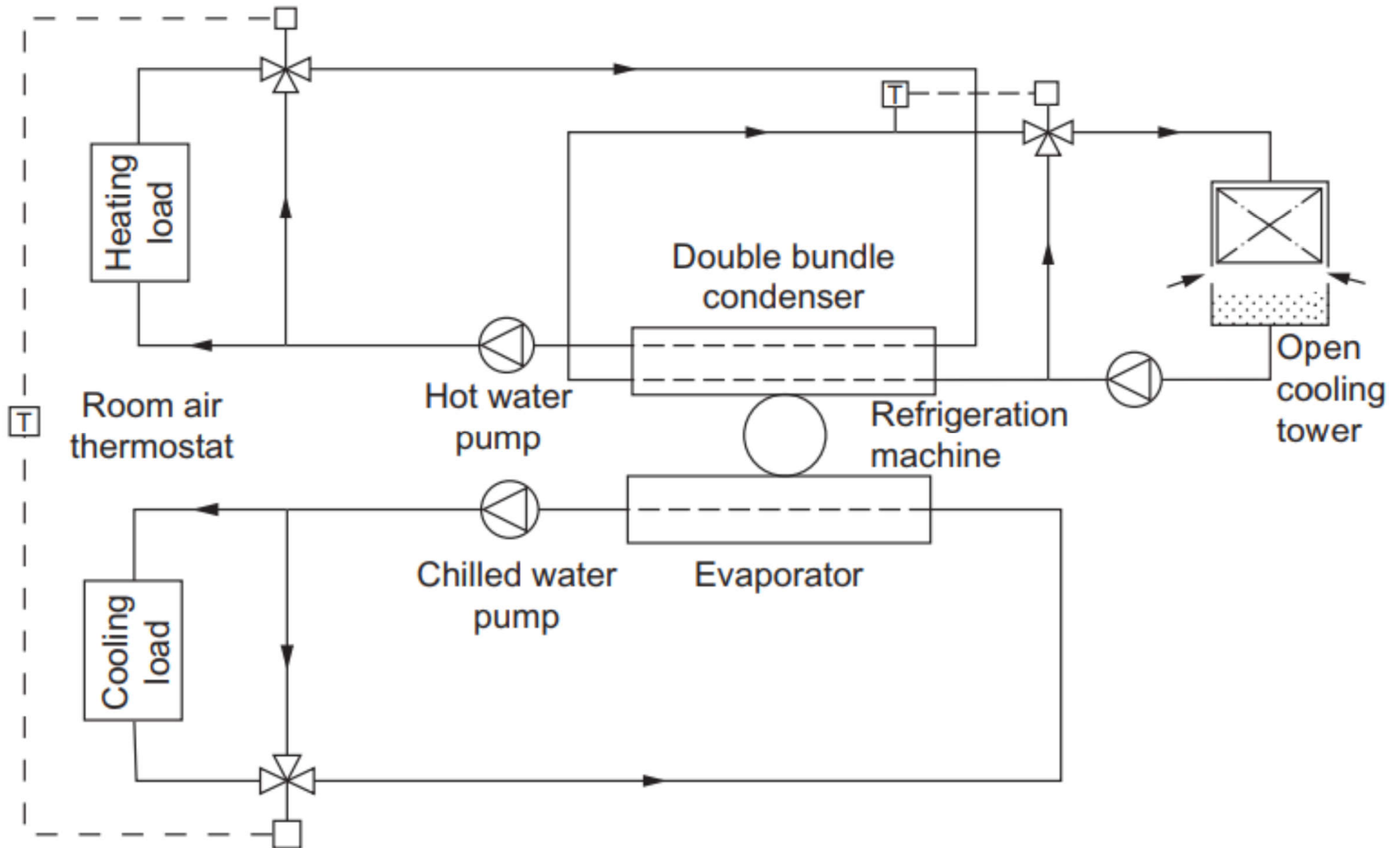
Make use of waste heat from condenser to produce warm/hot water or for heating the space.



Double bundle heat recovery chiller

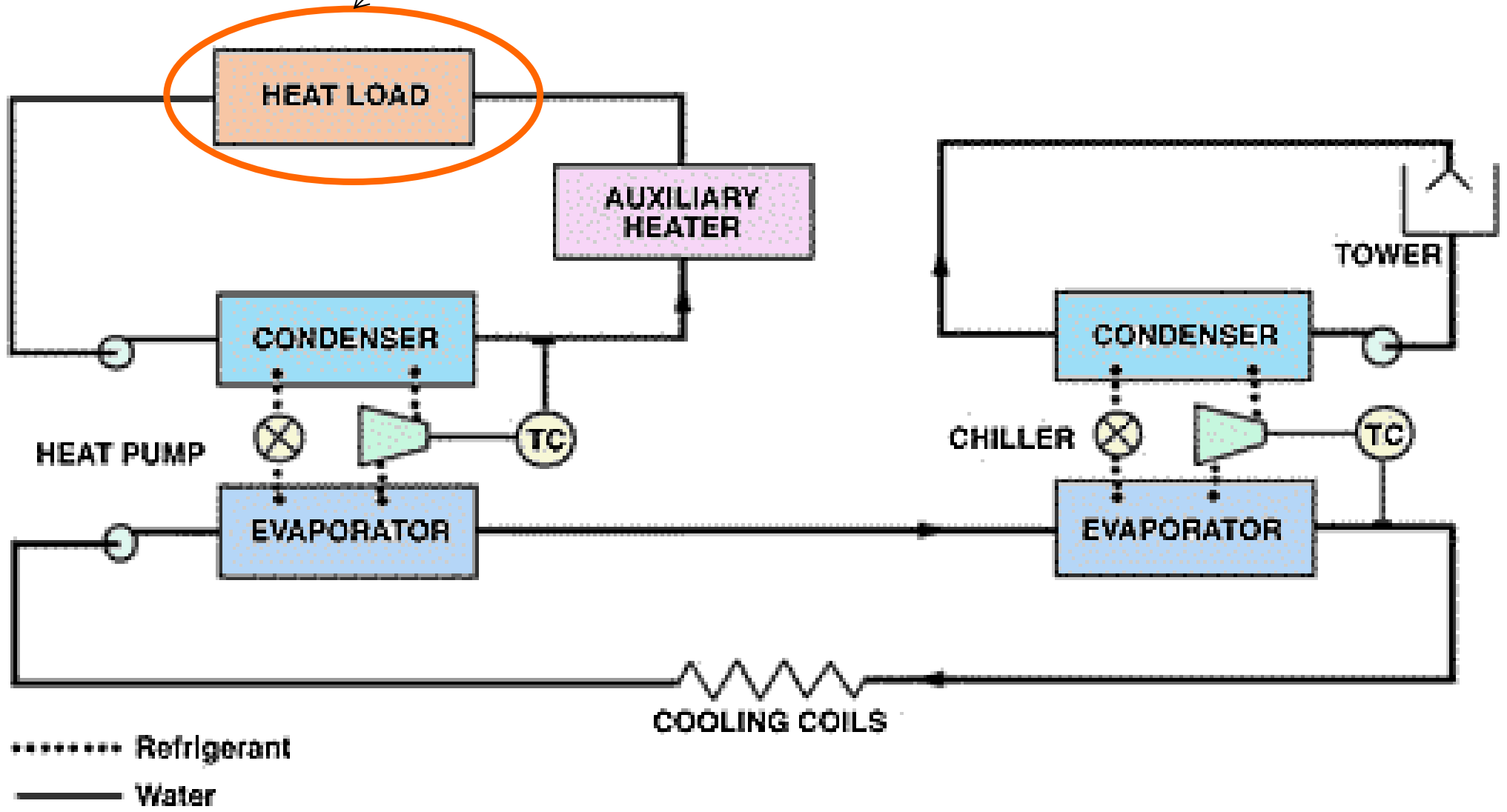
- Waste heat = “dumped” heat that can still be reused
- Waste heat recovery saves fuel

# Heat recovery system with double-bundle condenser



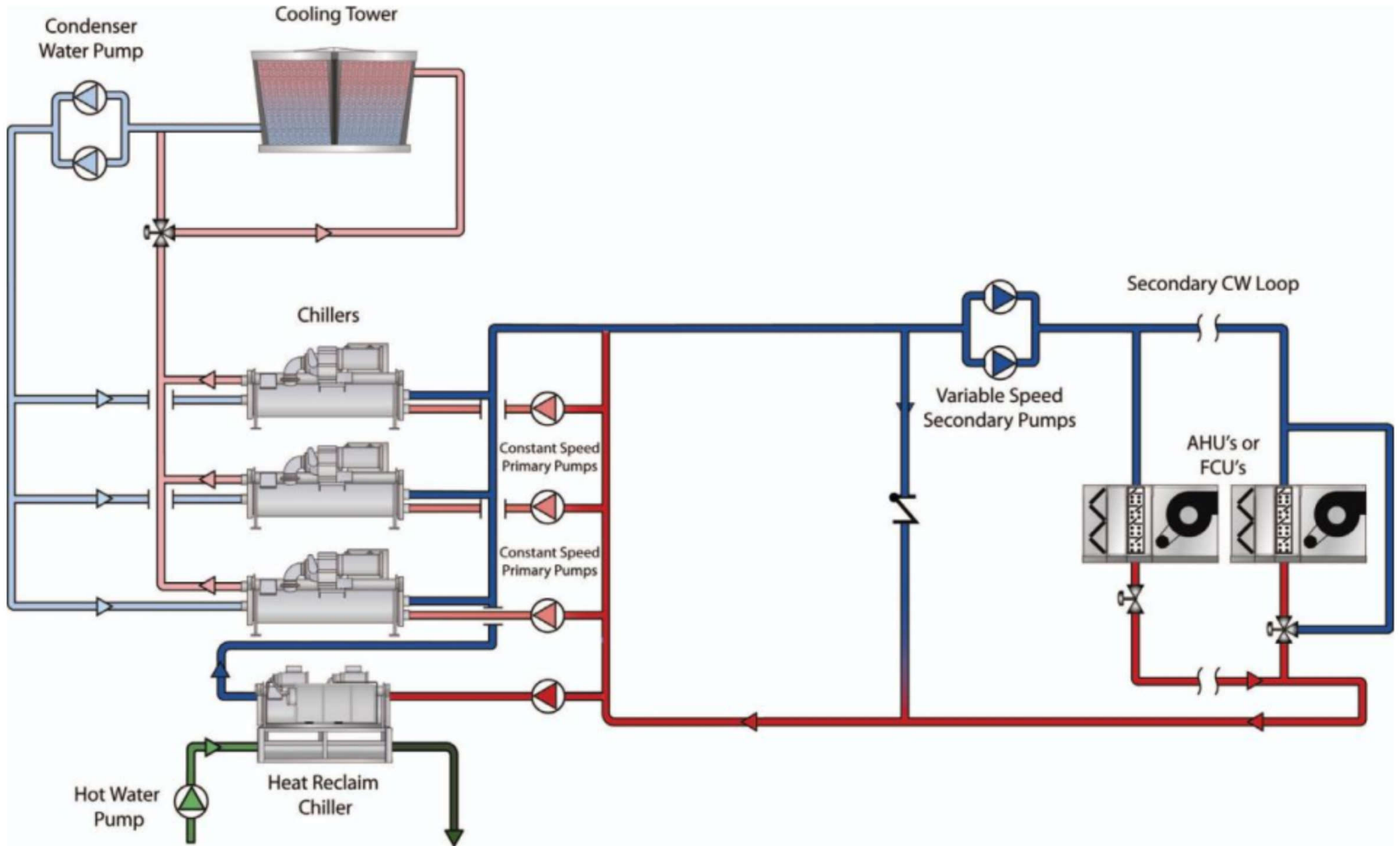
# Schematic diagram of waste heat recovery - heat pump + chiller

Using the waste heat for heating water or space air

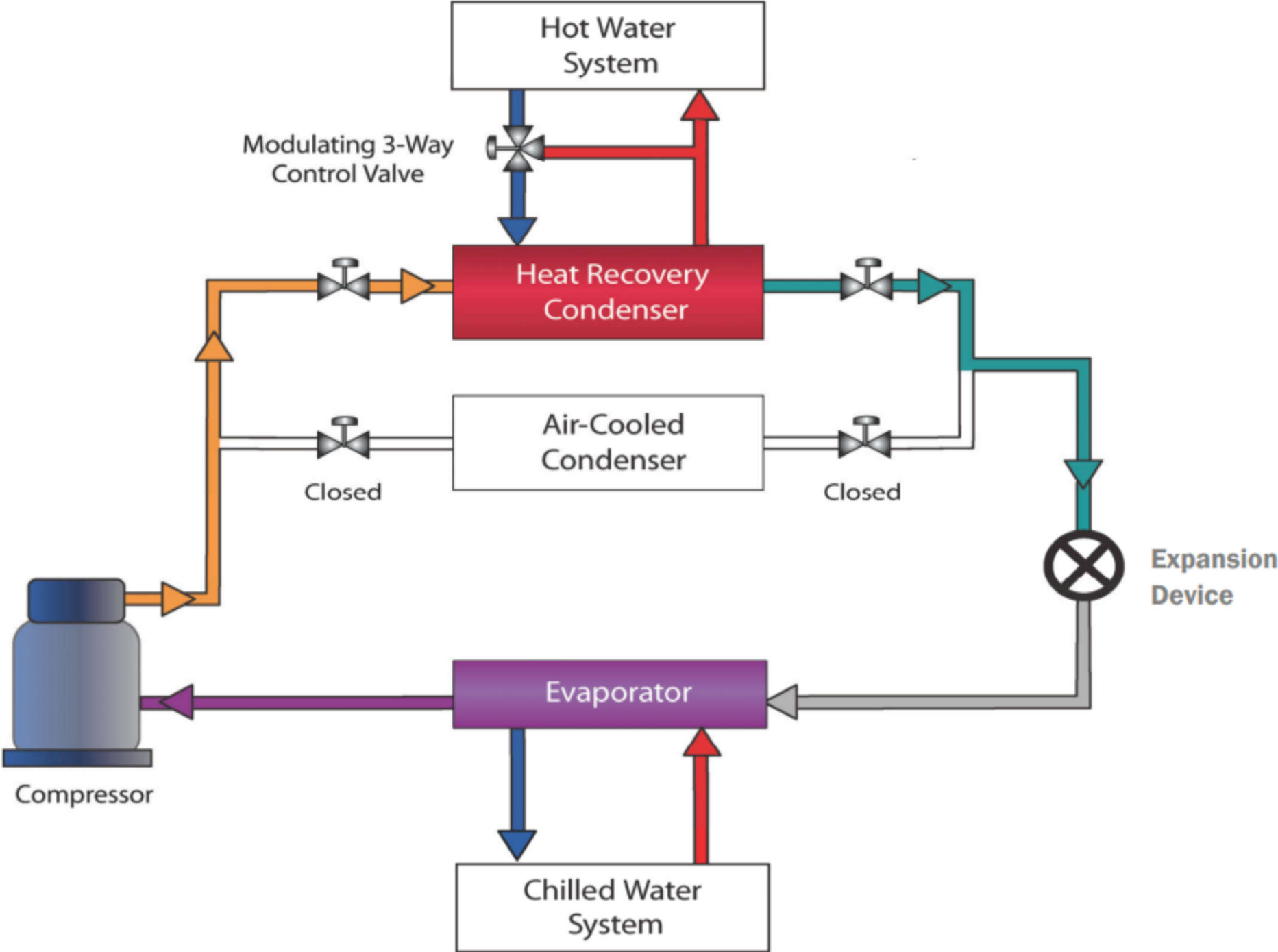




# Primary/Secondary chilled water system with heat recovery chiller

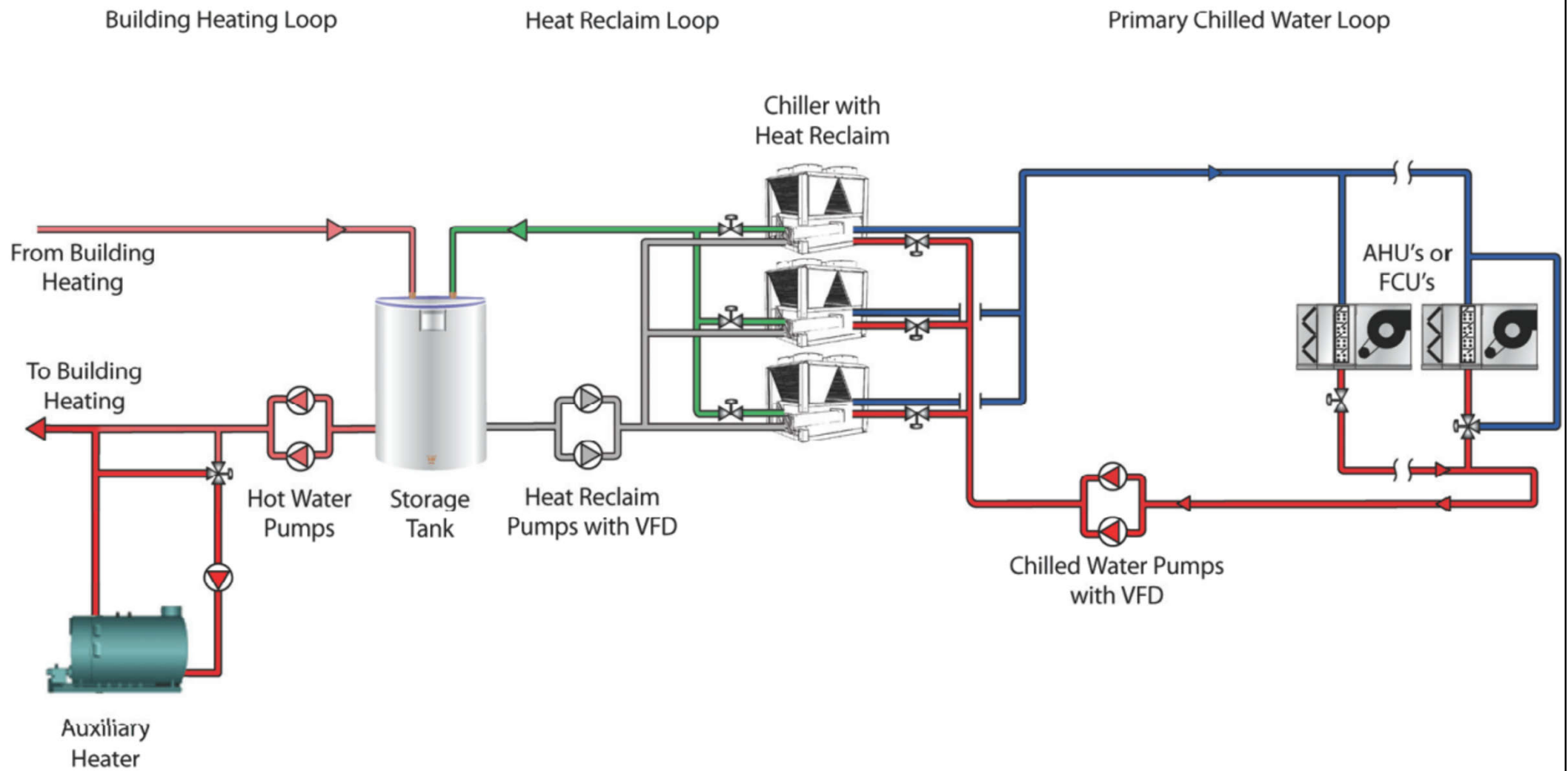


# Air-cooled chiller with heat reclaim capabilities: heat recovery mode

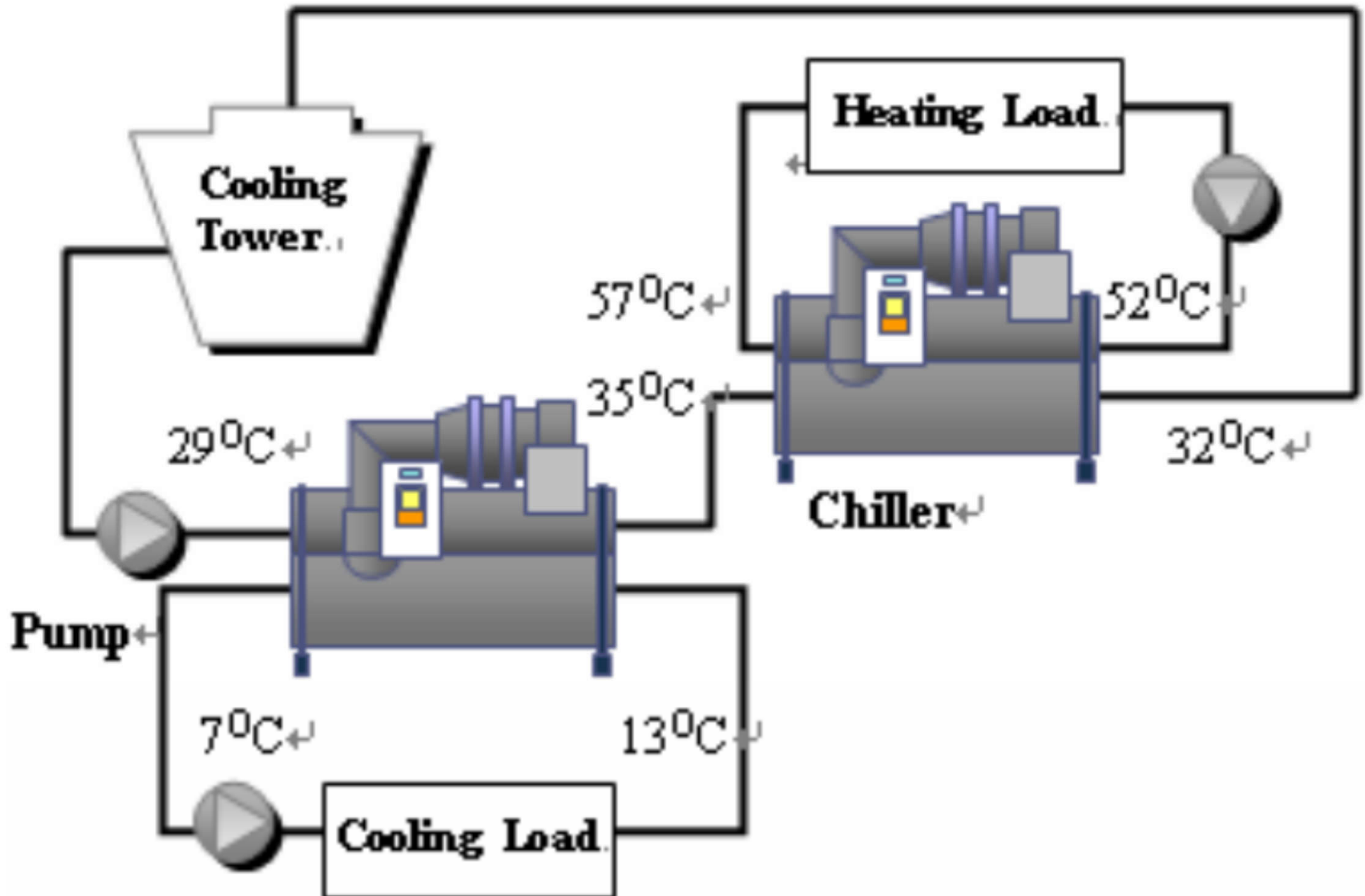


(Source: Carrier Corporation)

# Multiple air-cooled chiller system with heat reclaim for building heating



# Configuration of heat recovery chiller for higher water temperature



# Heat recovery chillers



- Design considerations
  - Building must have simultaneous cooling and heating to operate in heat-recovery mode
  - A backup source of heat is required if the heat recovered from the cooling load and compressor is not sufficient to satisfy the entire heating load
  - Recovery mode consumes more chiller energy than cooling-only mode (because the chiller operates at an elevated condensing pressure and temperature)

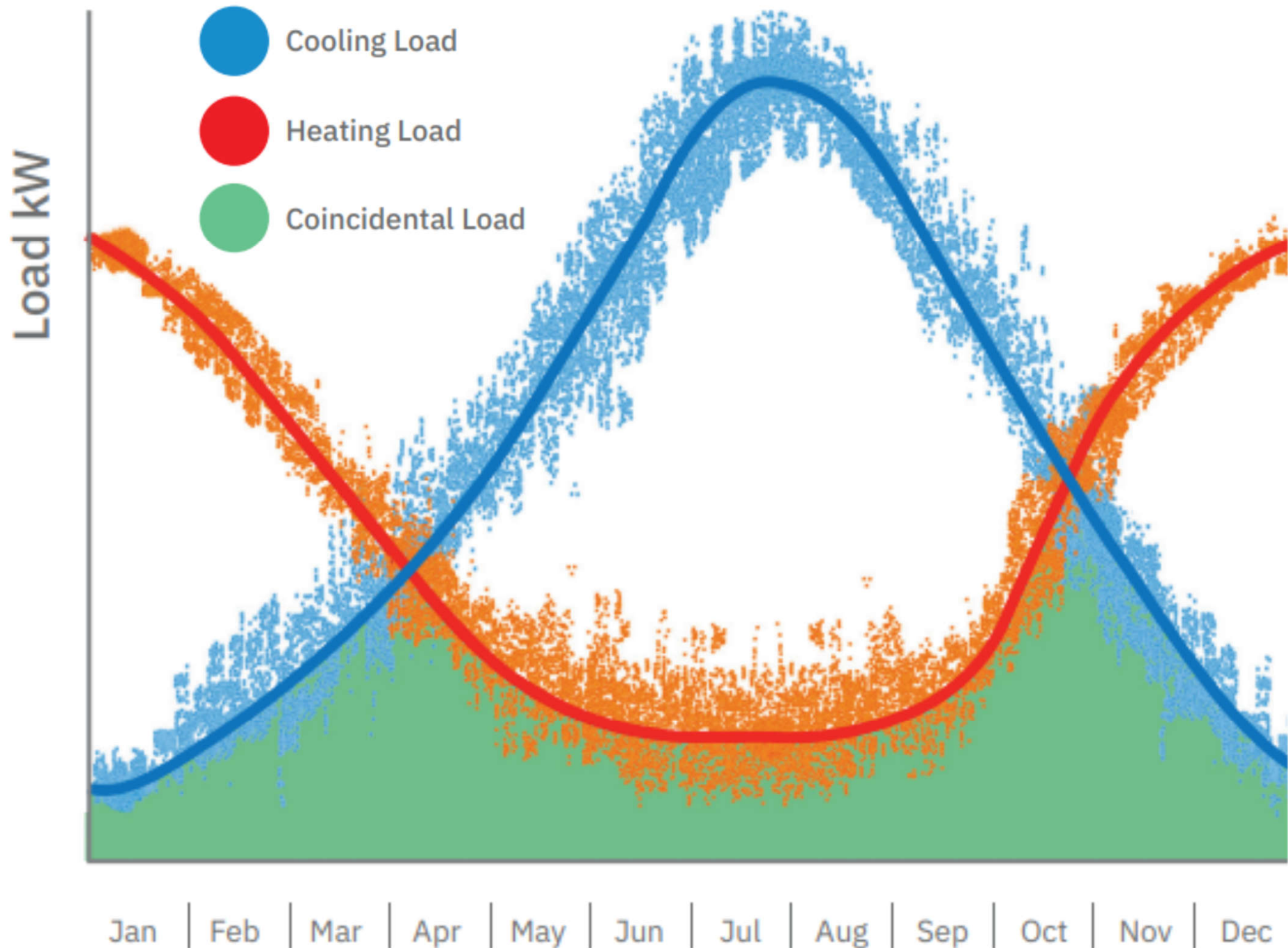


# Heat recovery chillers

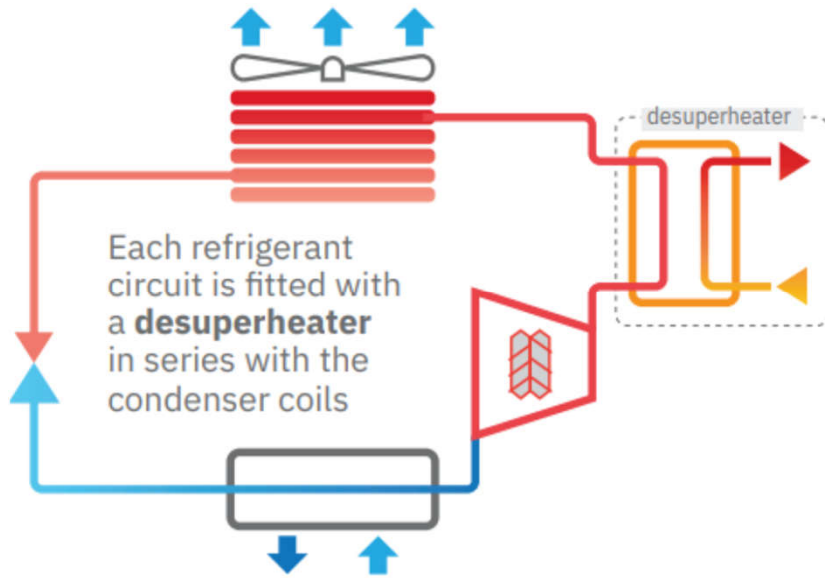


- Water-side energy recovery steps:
  - Simultaneous cooling and heating loads
  - Chiller heat recovery capacity = design HR load
  - Select lowest temperature that meets requirements
  - Select the proper chiller type
  - Analyse the system
  - Place the chiller in an appropriate location
  - Design system with proper connections/controls
  - Train the building operator for proper operation

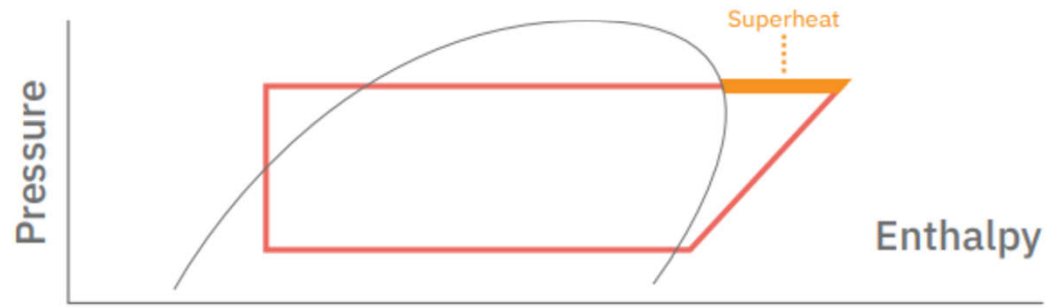
# Year-round cooling and heating load profile of a building



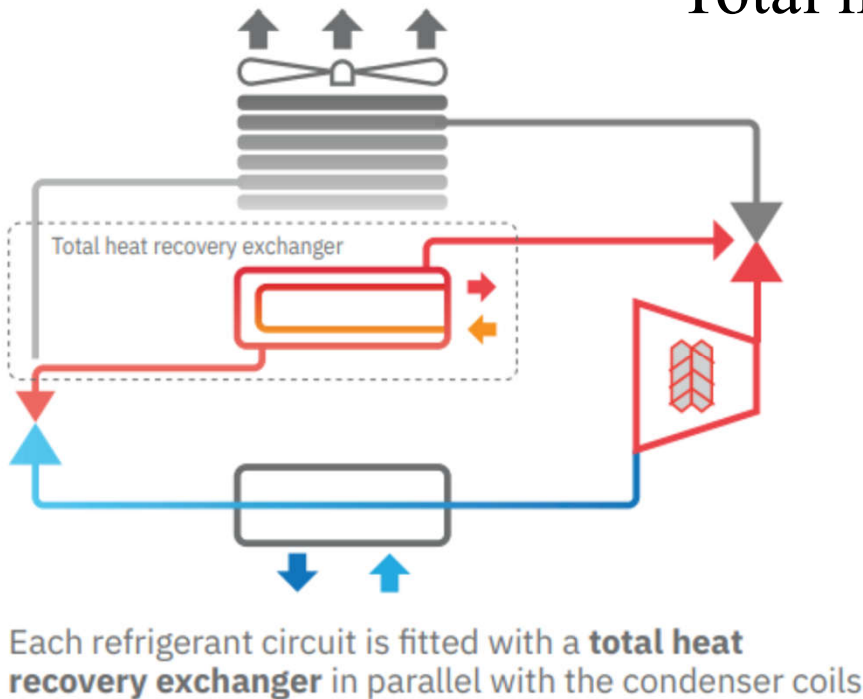
# Partial heat recovery (desuperheater)



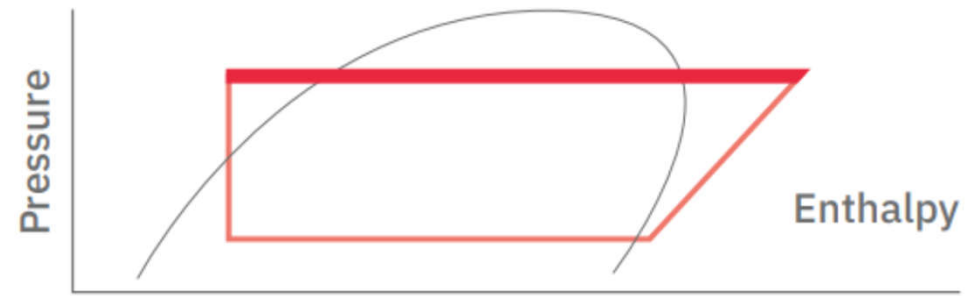
Approximately **20%** of the chiller's capacity | Up to **60°C** of outlet water temperature



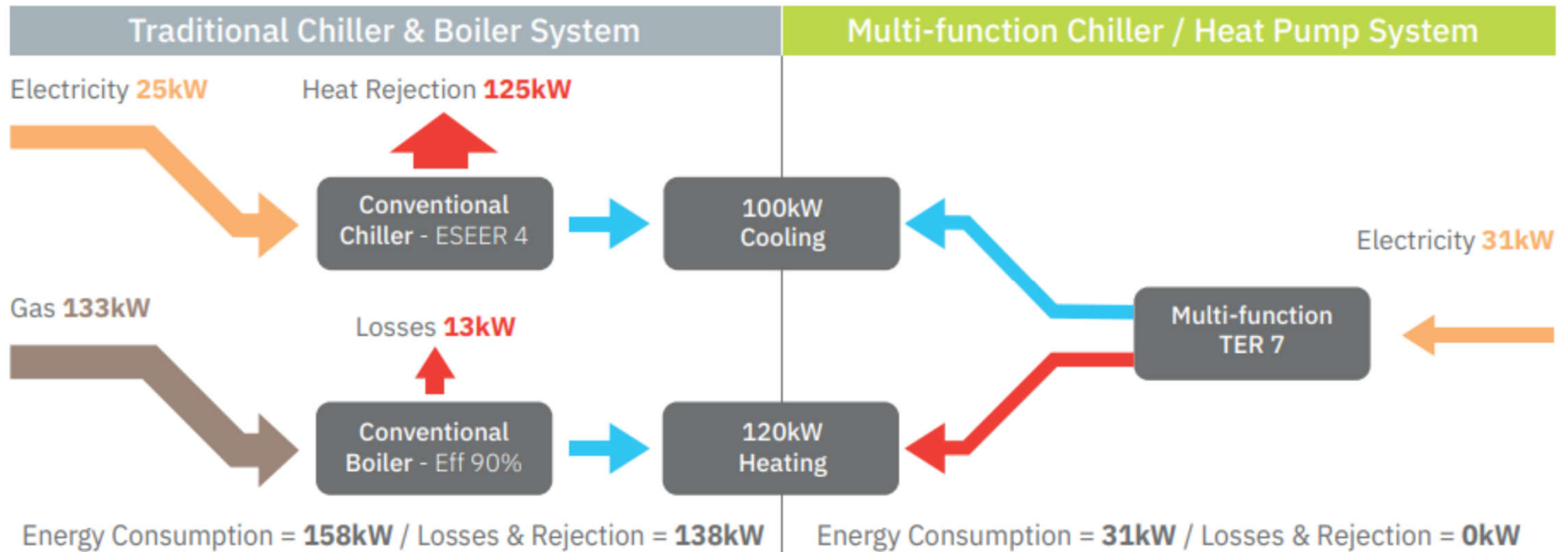
# Total heat recovery



Always **100%** of the chiller's capacity | Up to **60°C** of outlet water temperature



# Comparison of traditional chiller & boiler with heat recovery systems



## Dedicated heat recovery heat pump

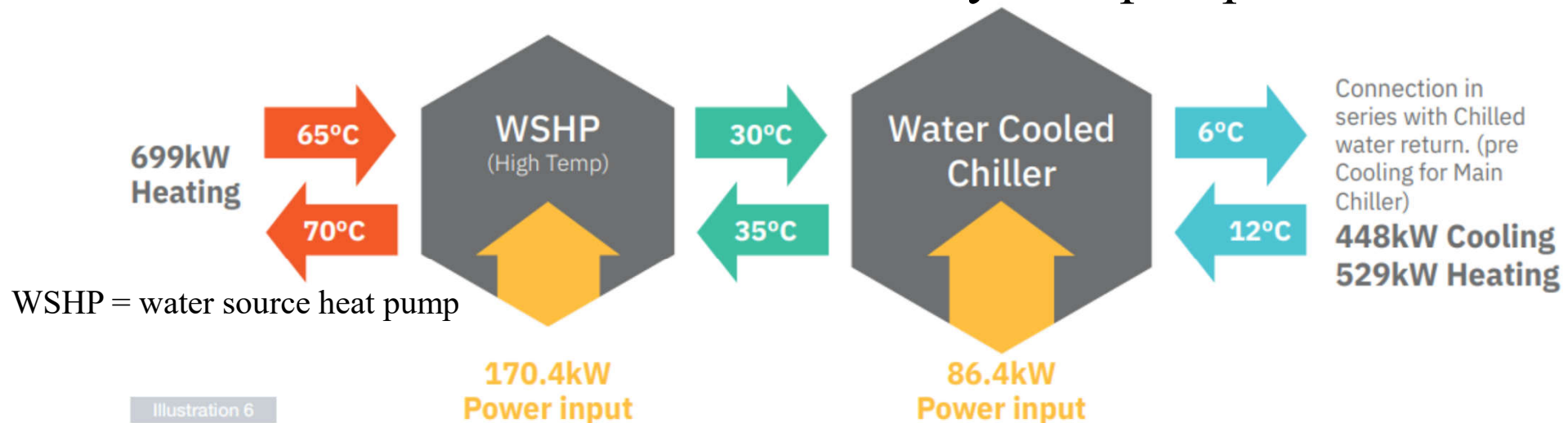
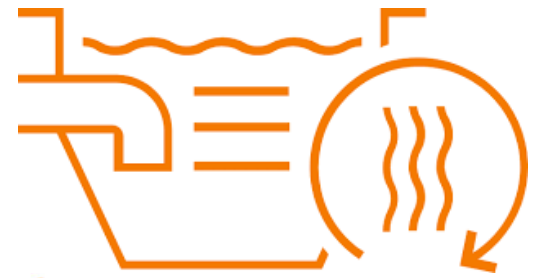


Illustration 6

Total Efficiency ratio = Cooling [448kW] + Heating [699kW] ÷ Power Input [86.4 + 170.4kW] = **4.46**

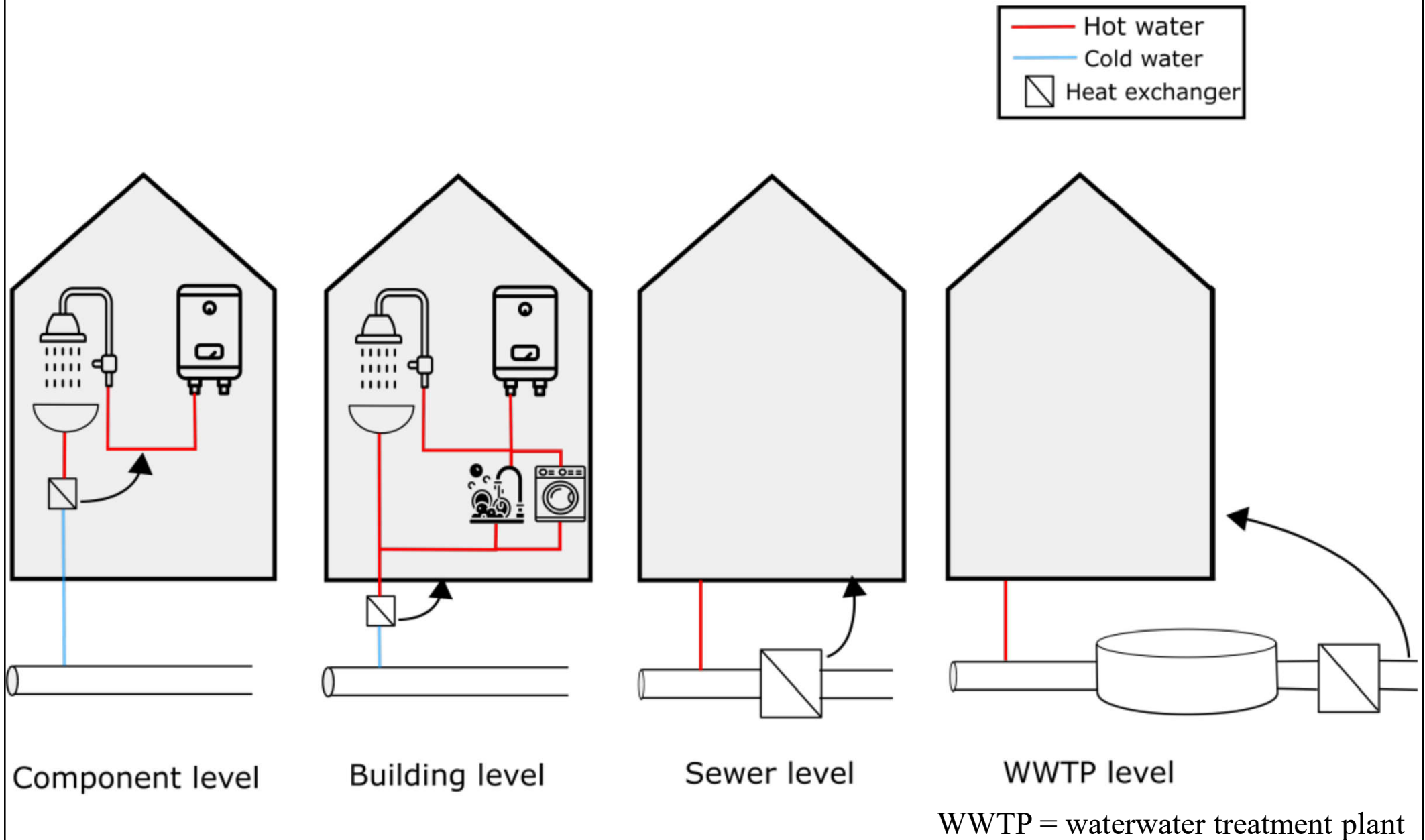
# Wastewater heat recovery



- Wastewater heat recovery (WWHR) system
  - Captures the heat from a wastewater discharge pipe and is used to preheat incoming water for the domestic hot water tanks or for space heating, e.g.
    - Drain wastewater (residential)(say, 10 to 25 °C)
    - Medium building wastewater (residential/commercial)
    - Trunk sewers (urban areas, sewage flow > 100 L/s)
      - Using external or in-sewer heat exchanger
    - Discharge effluent from the wastewater treatment plants
      - Recover heat in winter; reject heat in summer



# Possible options of heat recovery from wastewater



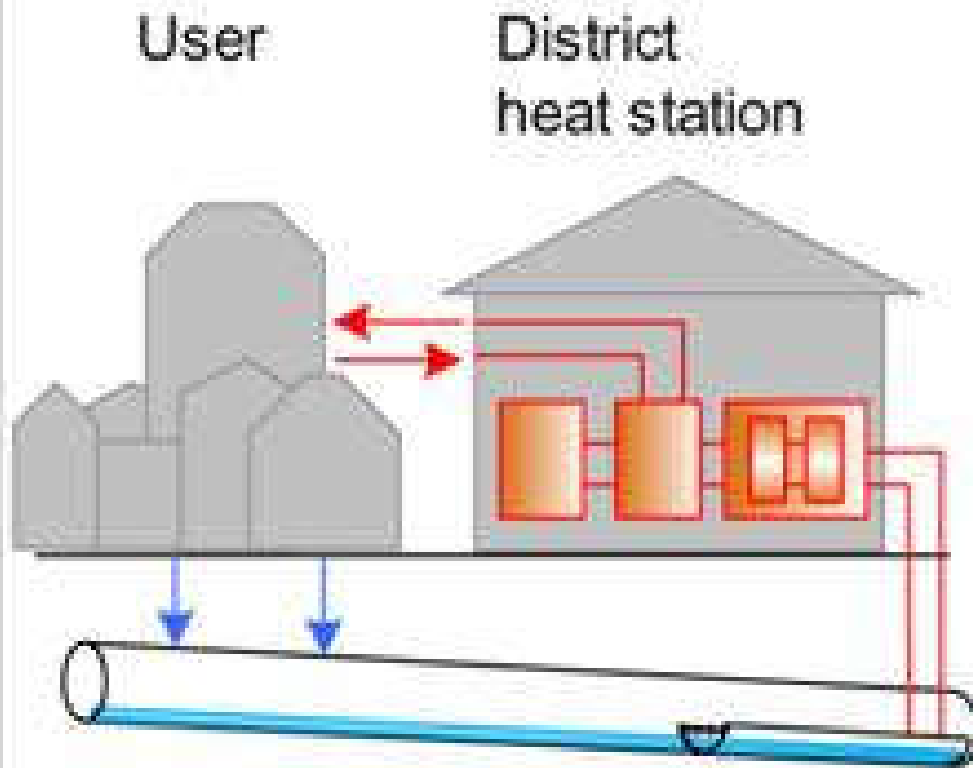
(Source: Nagpal H., Spriet J., Murali M. K. & McNabola A., 2021. Heat recovery from wastewater—a review of available resource, *Water*, 13 (9) 1274.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/w13091274>)



# Concepts of central and in-house wastewater heat recovery

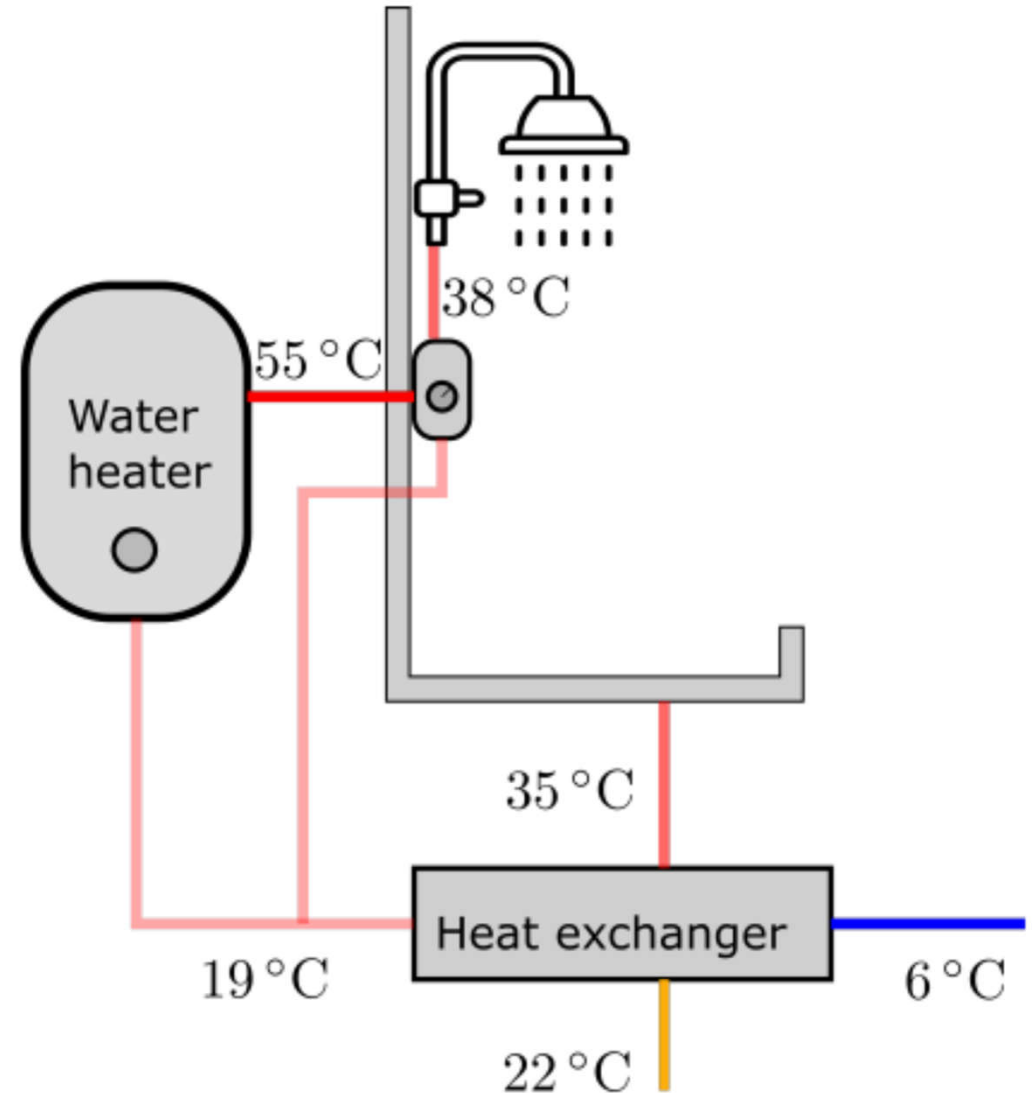
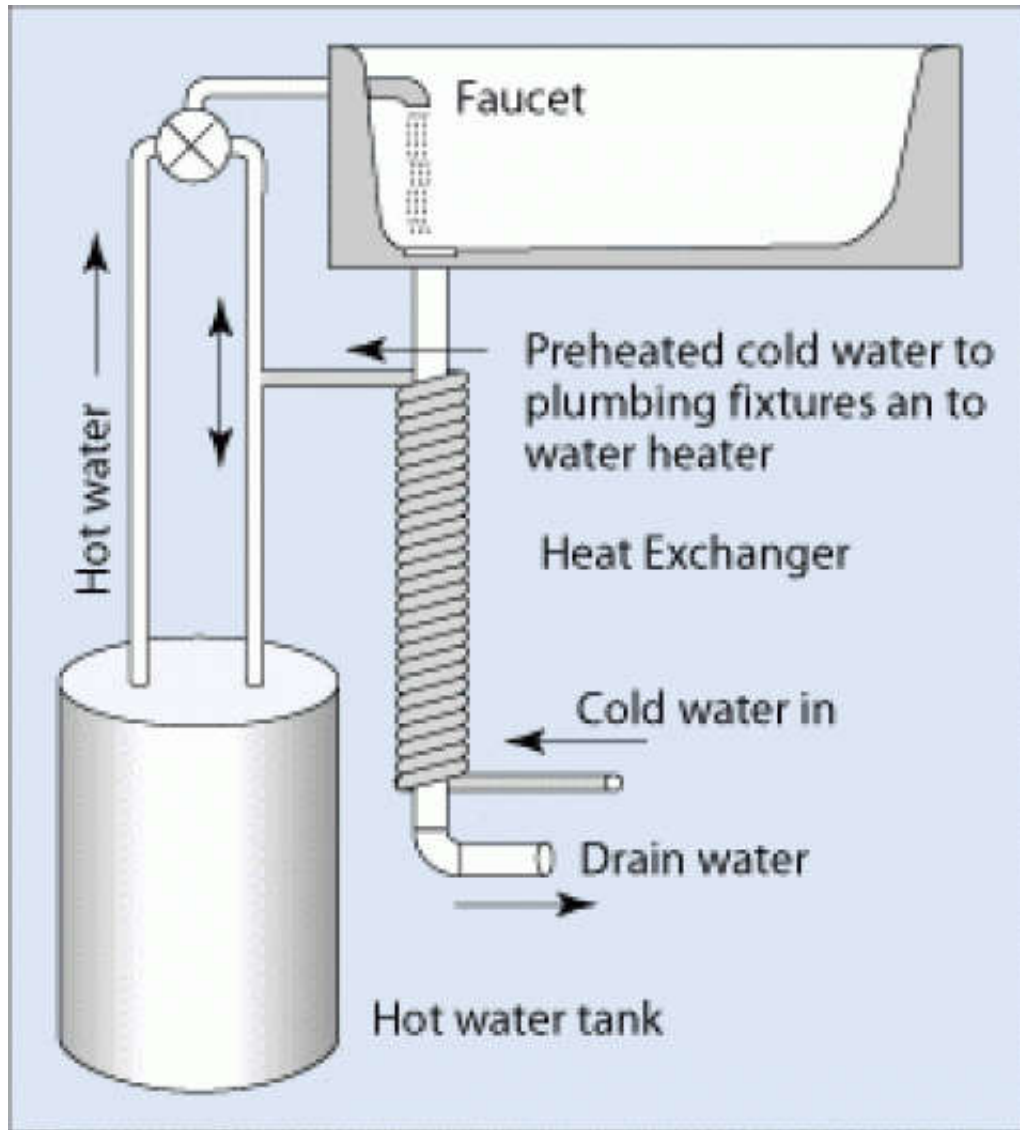
## Central



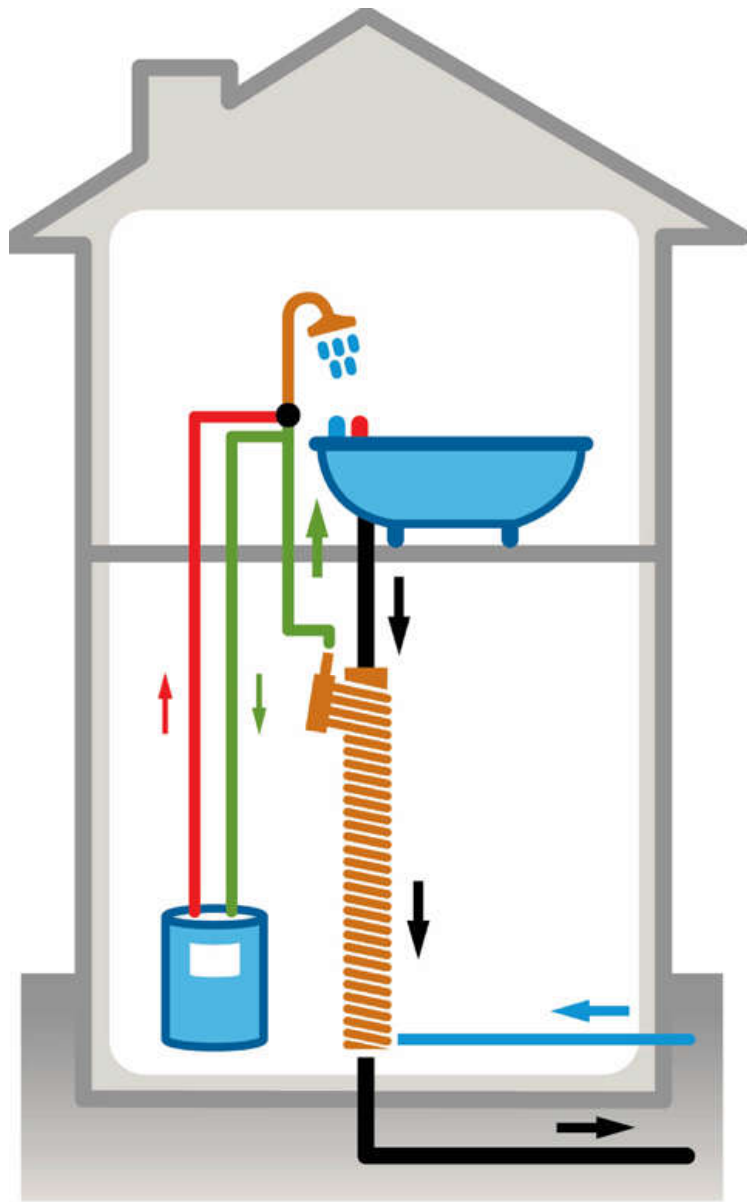
## In-house



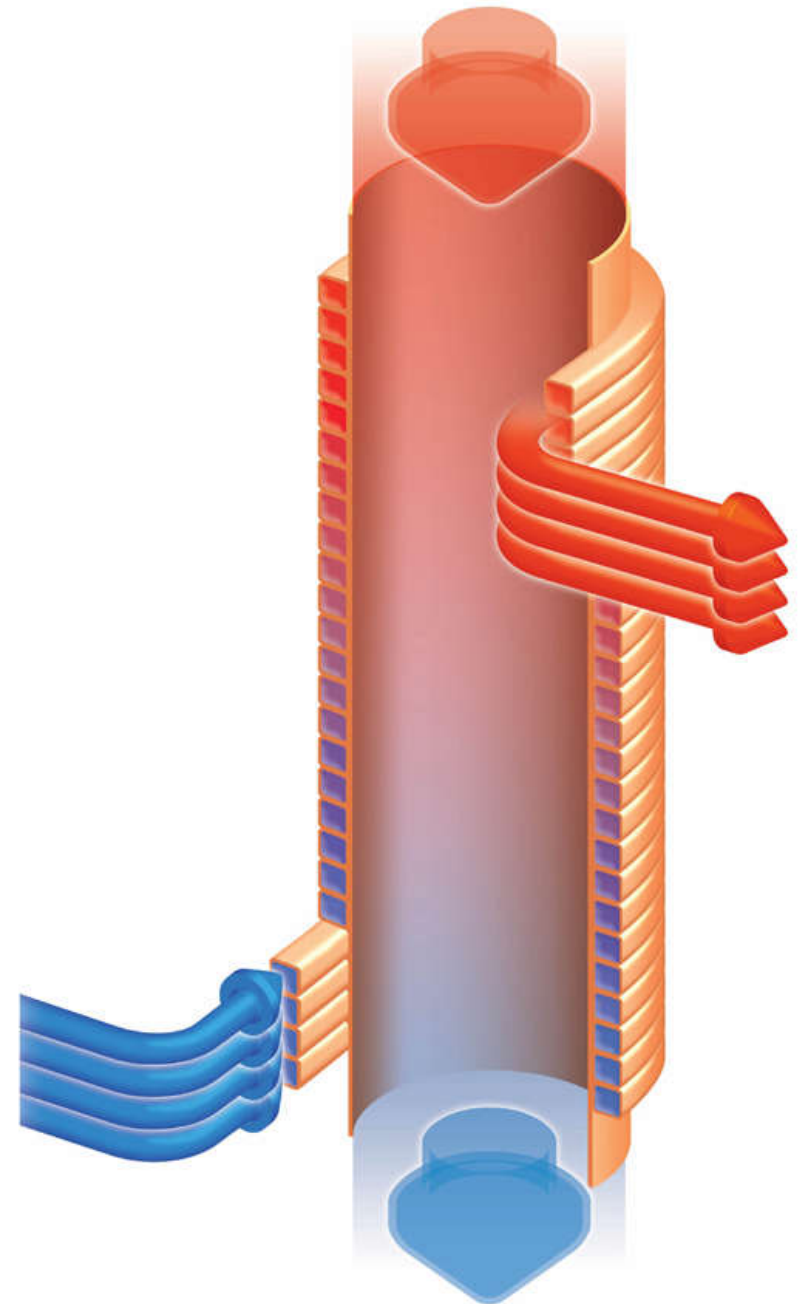
# Drain-water heat recovery (at component level)



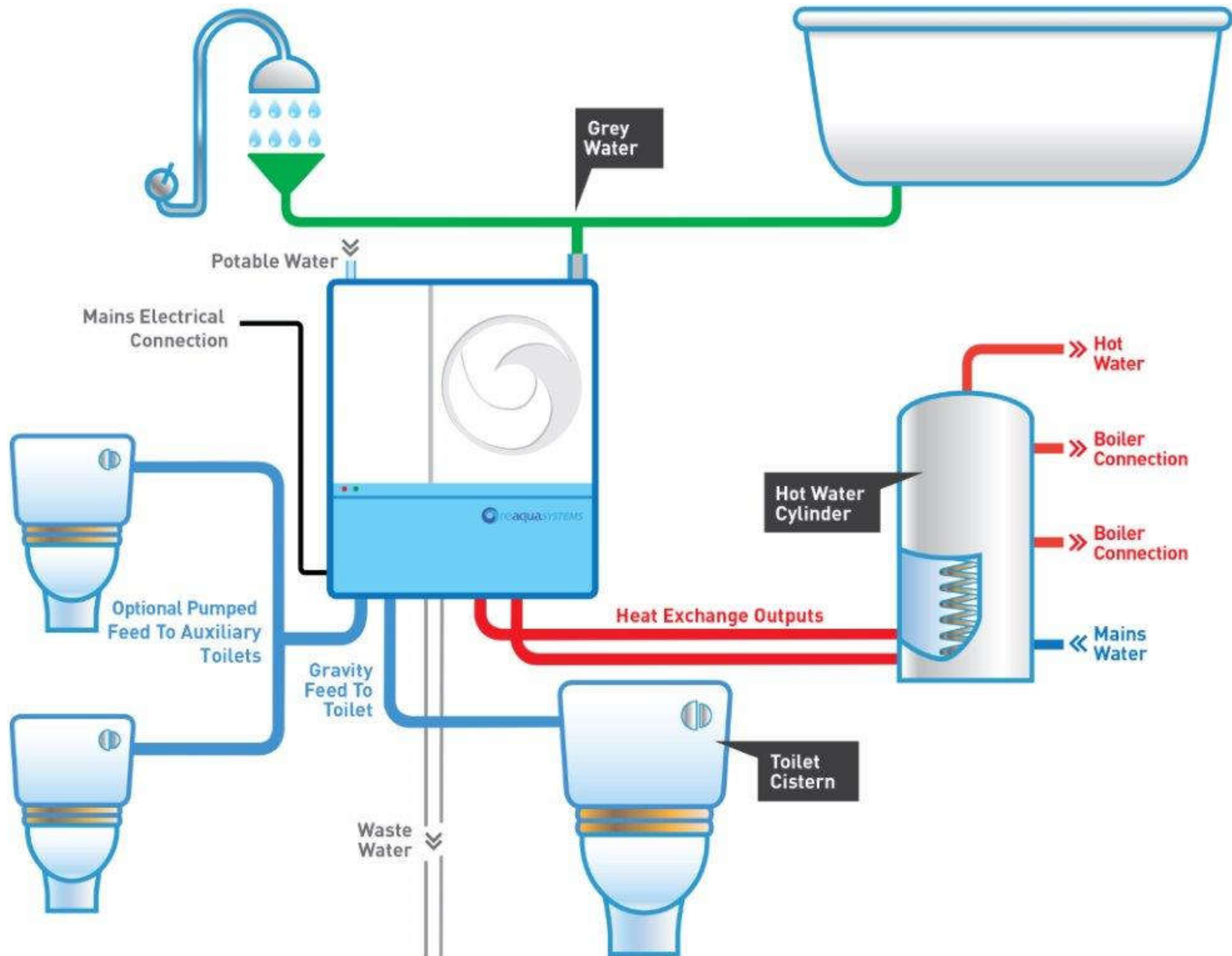
# An example of wastewater heat recovery device for residential building



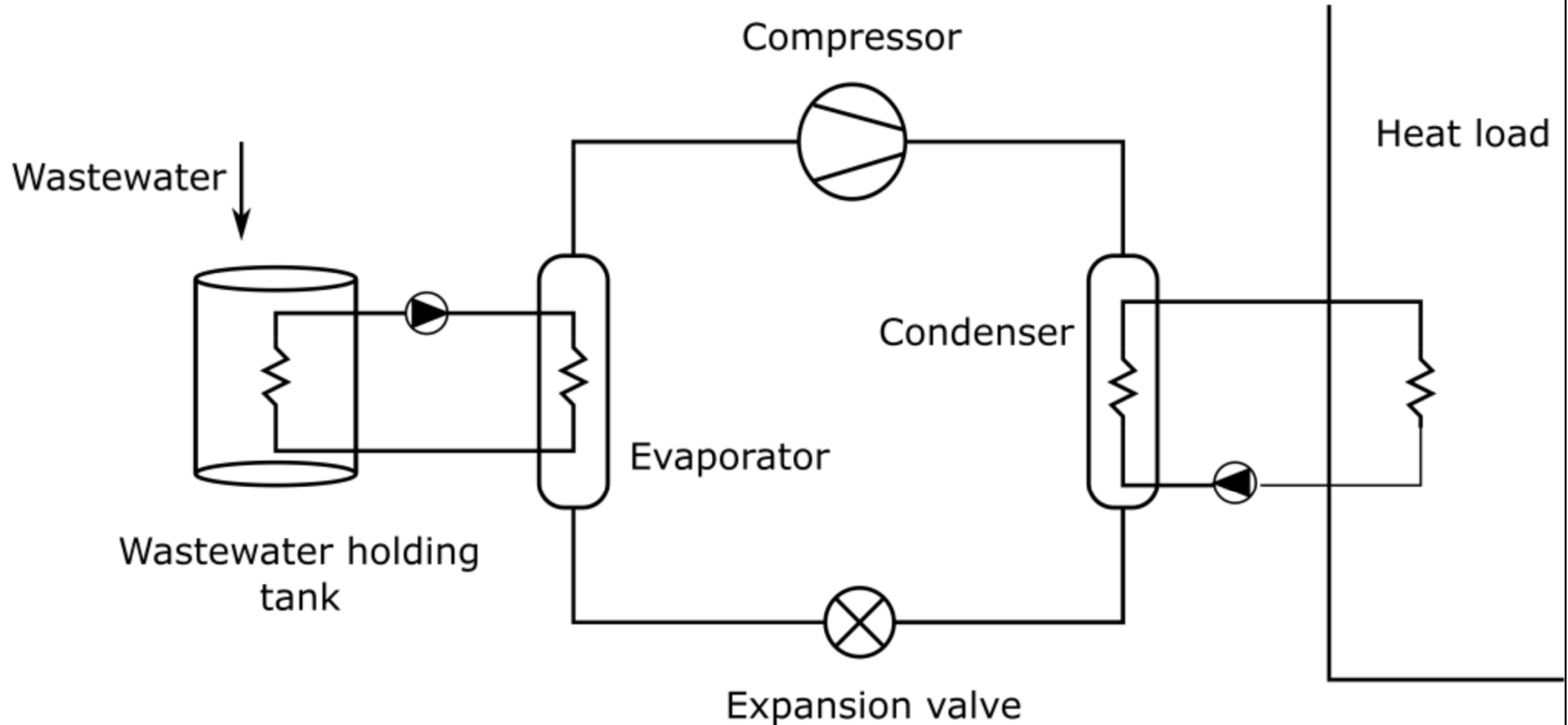
- Cold Water
- Pre-Heated Water
- Hot Water
- Drain Water



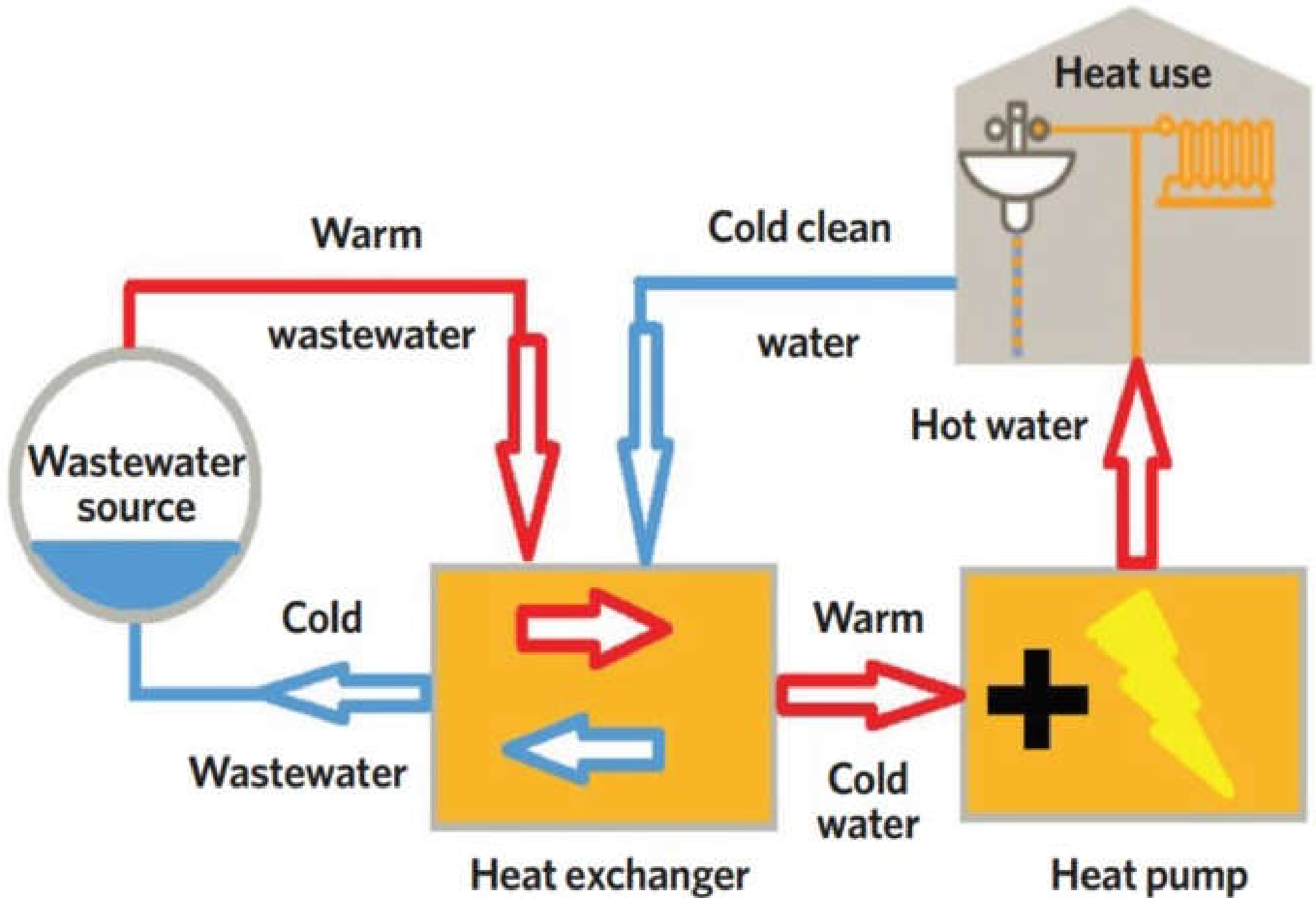
# Heat recovery system incorporated within a greywater recycling system



# Wastewater heat recovery with heat pump (at building level)

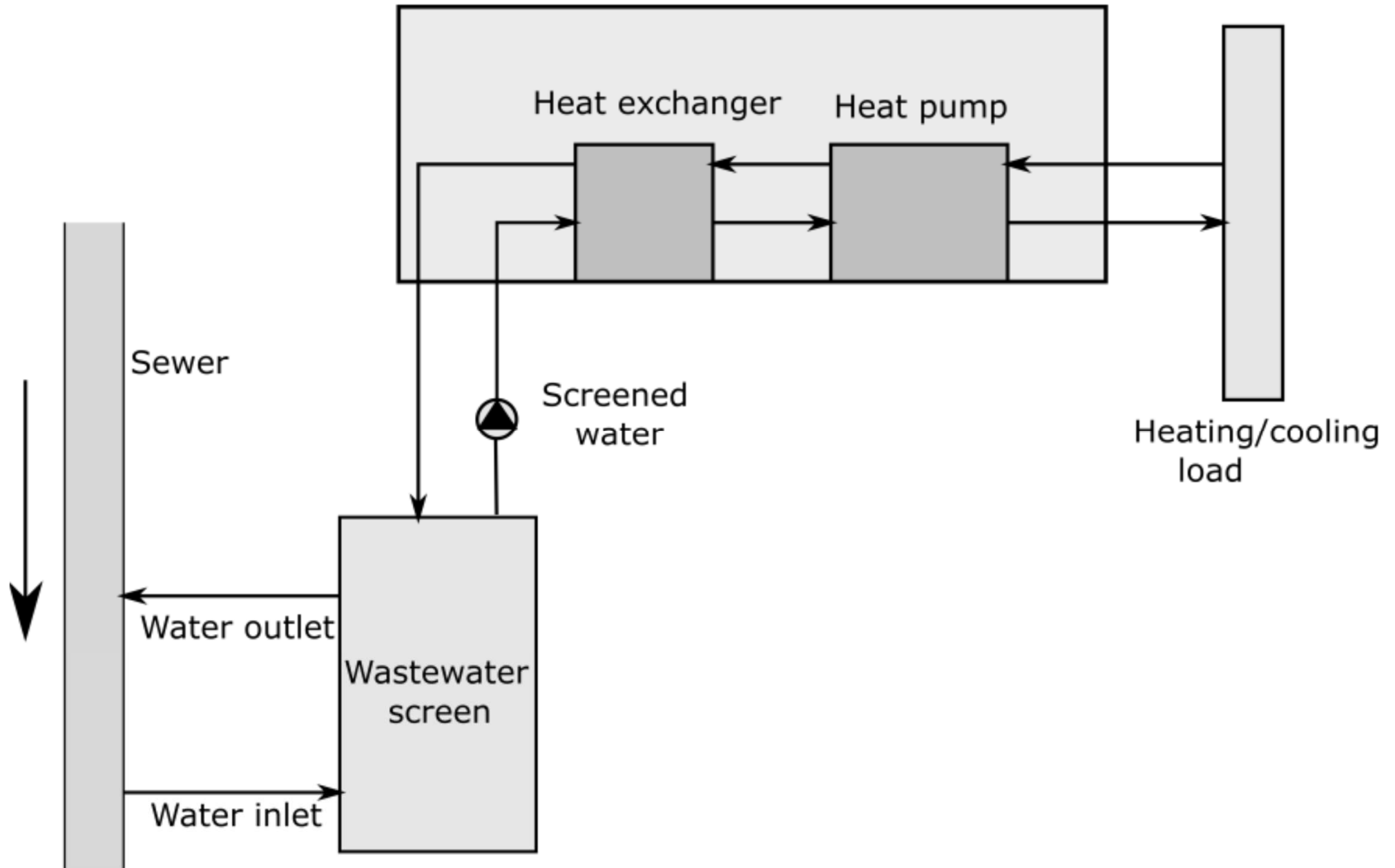


# Wastewater heat recovery process

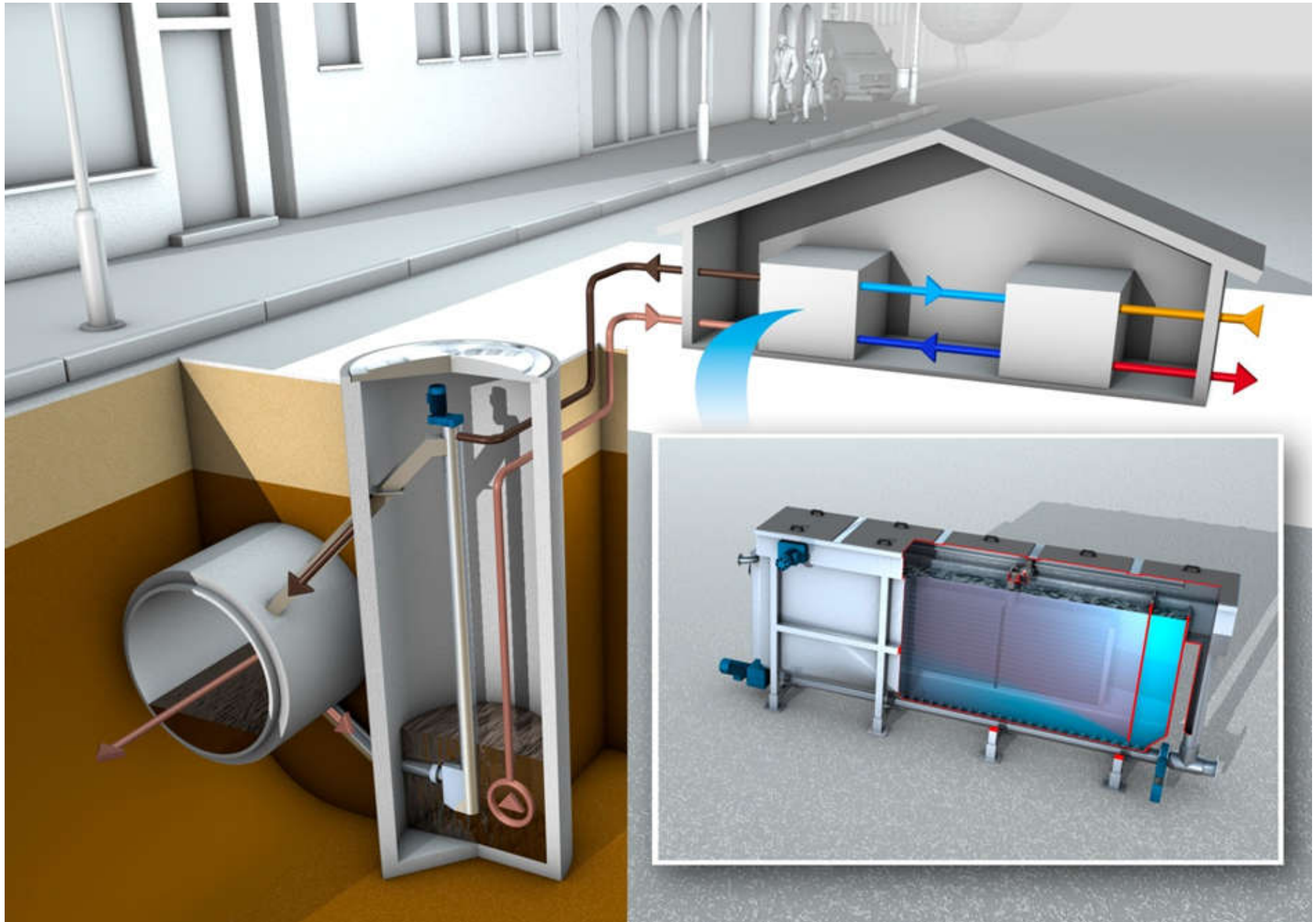




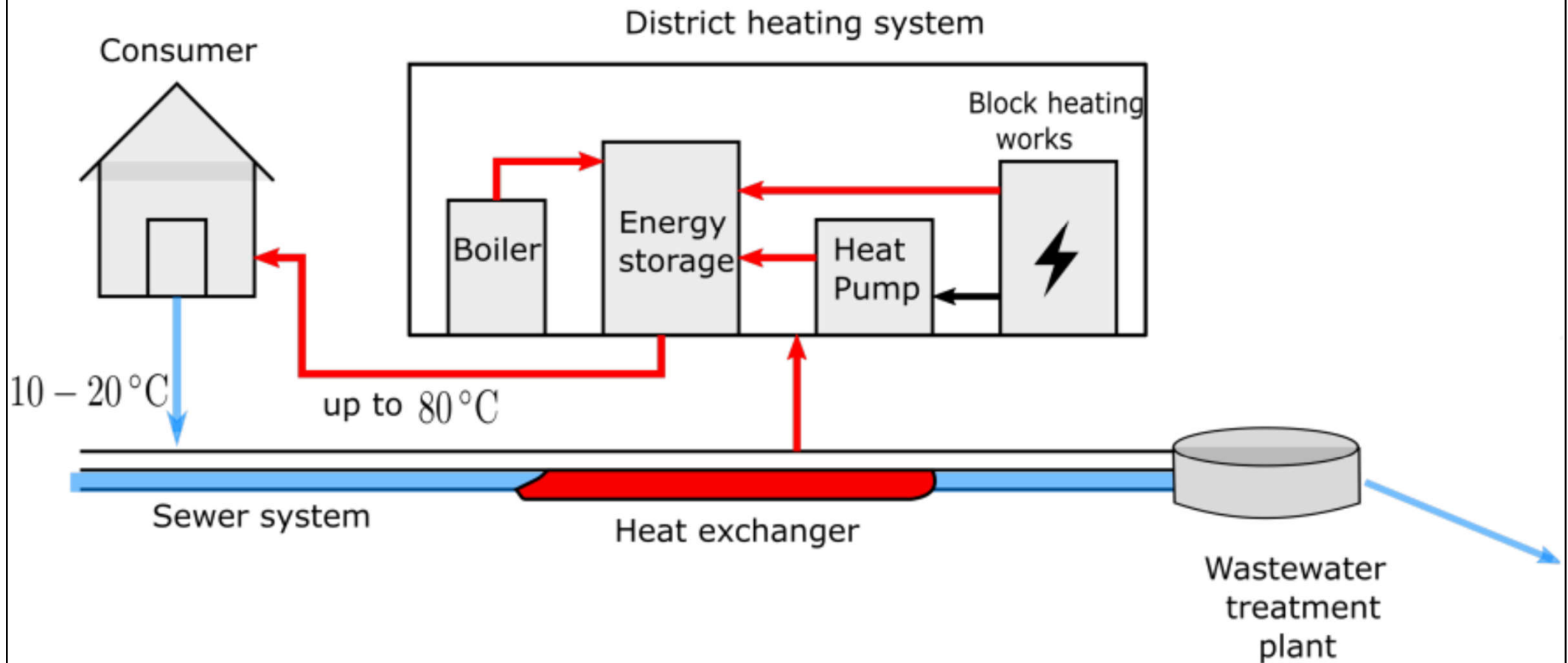
# Wastewater heat recovery with an external heat exchanger with upstream filtration (at sewer pipe network level)



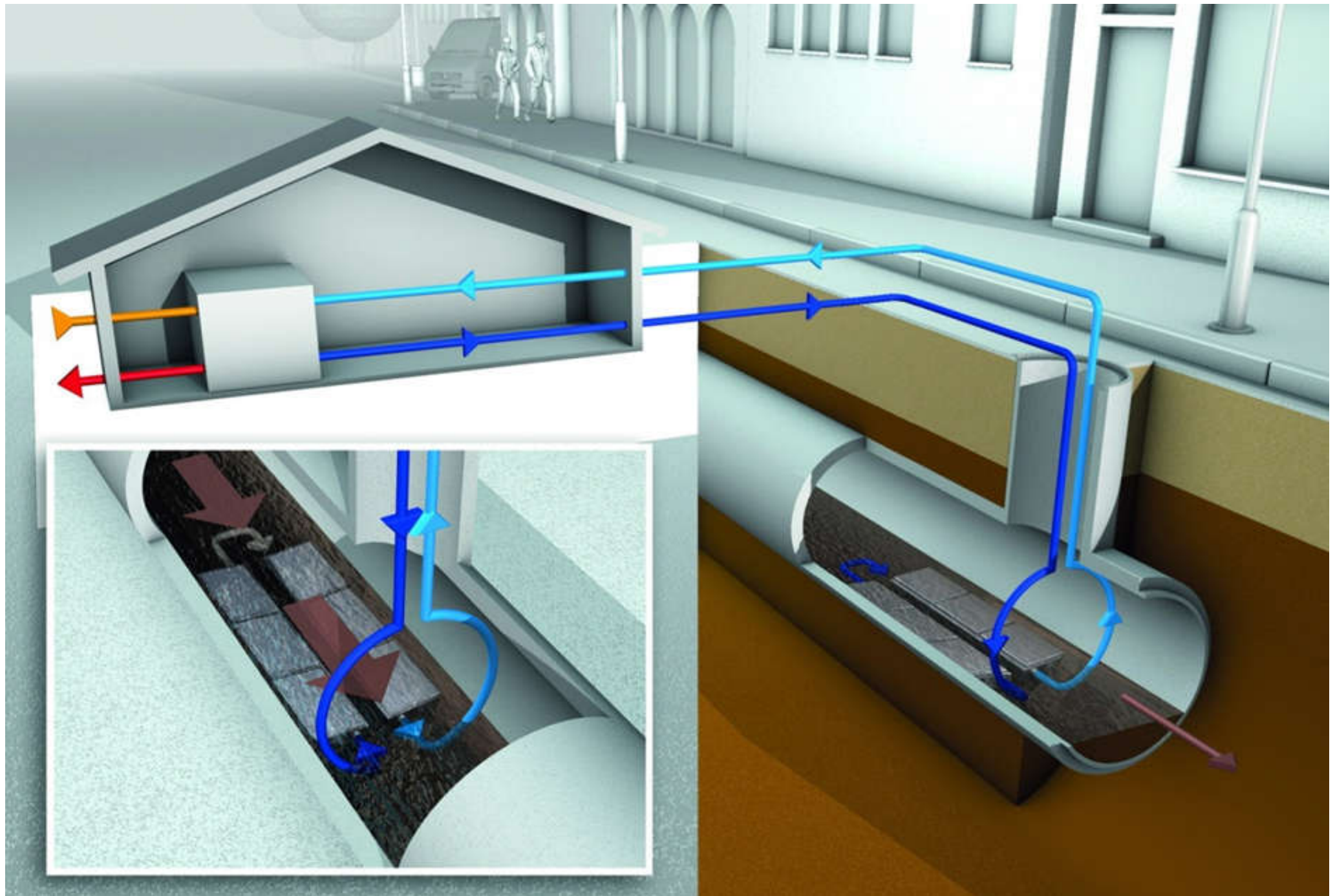
# An example of sewer heat recovery system (external heat exchanger)



# Wastewater heat recovery with an integrated heat exchanger in sewer bed (at sewer pipe network level)

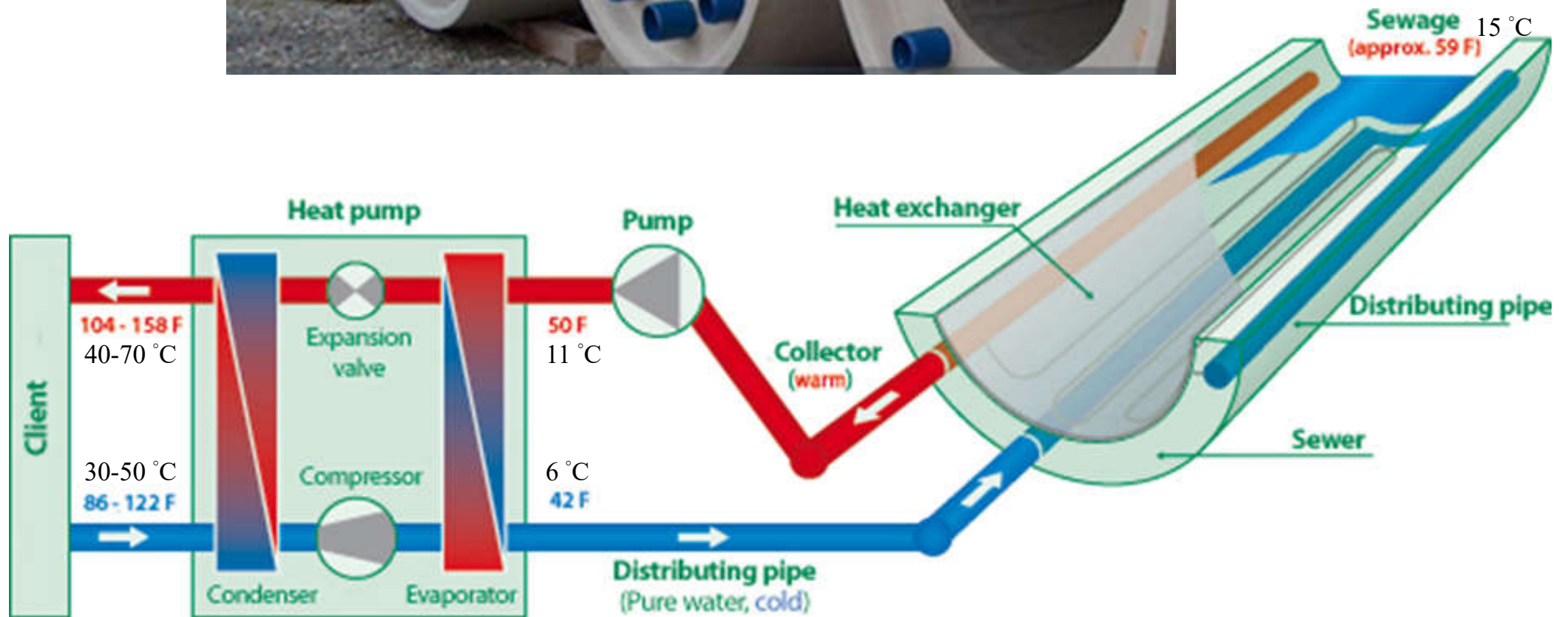


# An example of sewer heat recovery system (in-sewer heat exchanger)

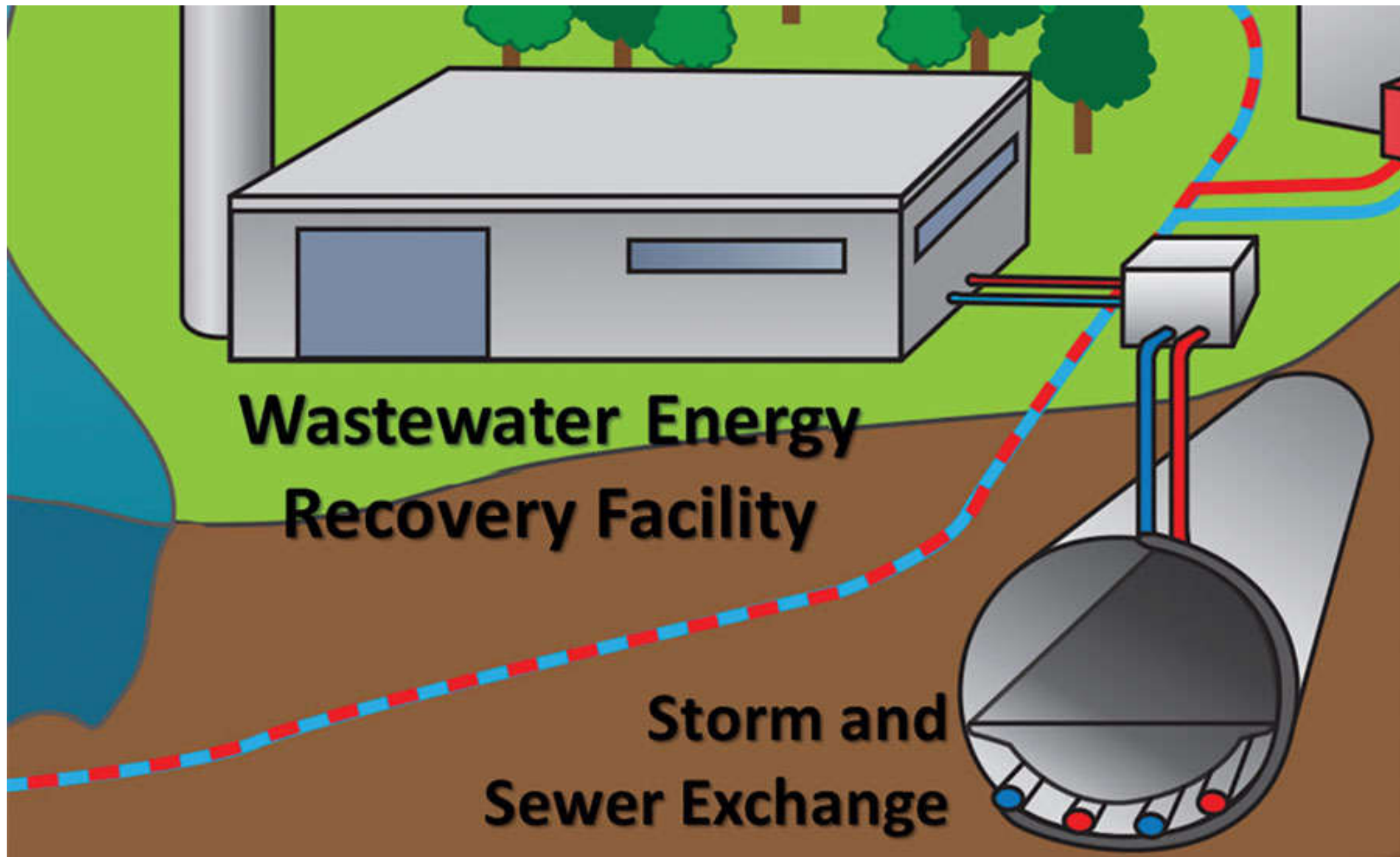




# Sewer heat recovery system in new sewers (in-sewer heat exchanger)



# Wastewater thermal extraction technology for energy recovery

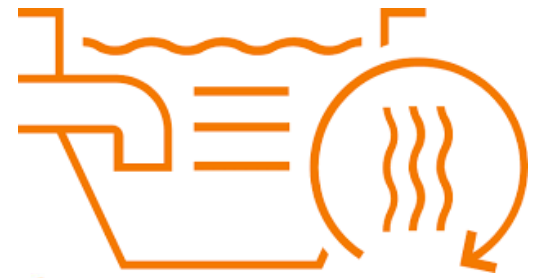




# Summary for wastewater heat recovery technologies

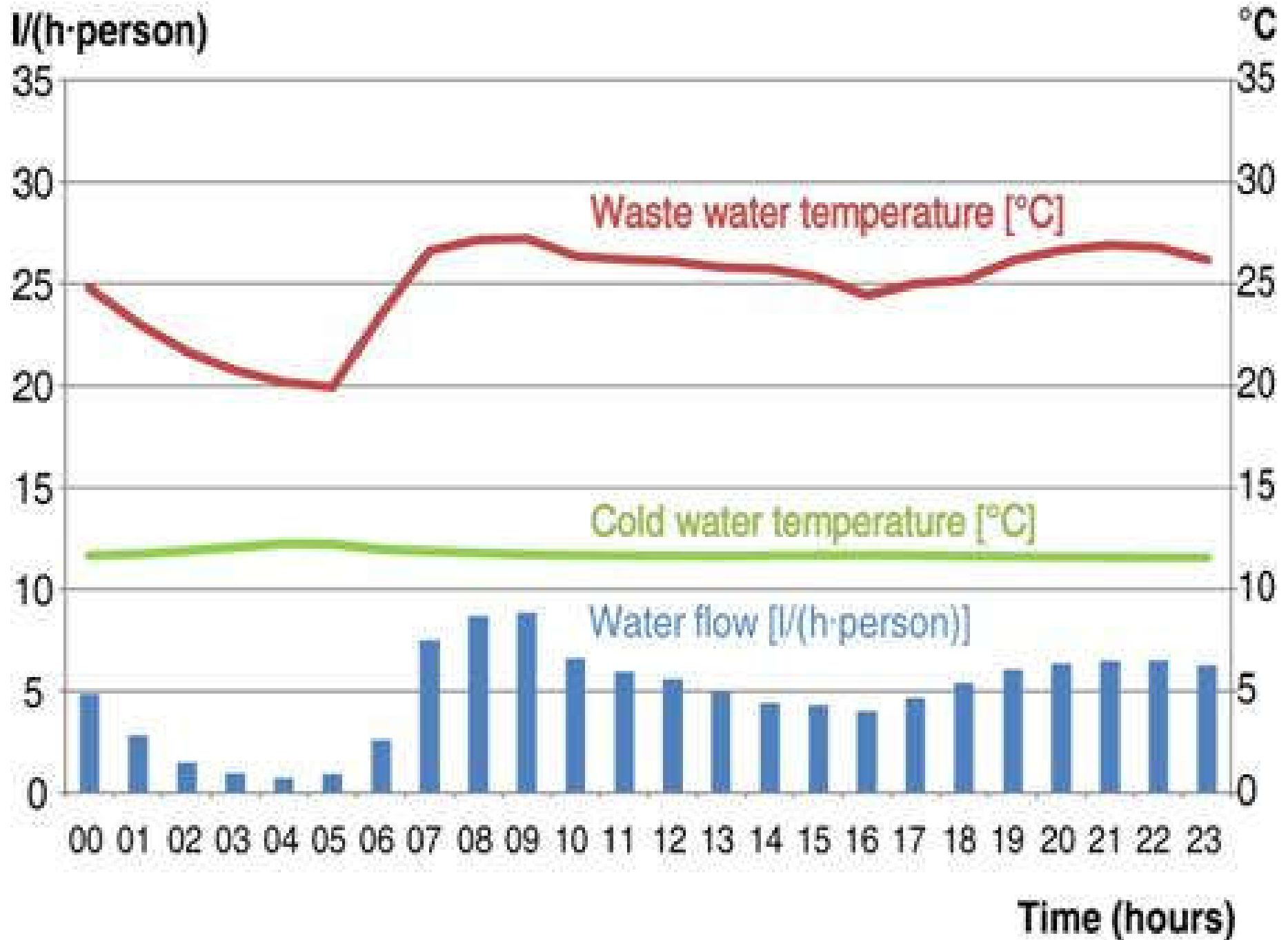
Technology	Scale	Characteristics
Vertical wastewater heat exchanger	Component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used for preheating shower water</li> <li>• Higher space requirements</li> <li>• Higher efficiency due to the higher contact surface area</li> </ul>
Horizontal wastewater heat exchanger	Component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for preheating shower water</li> <li>• Low space requirements</li> <li>• Less efficient due to the lower contact surface area</li> </ul>
Heat exchanger with wastewater storage tank	Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot water is stored in the storage tank</li> <li>• Higher cost of the device due to the additional storage tank</li> <li>• More feasible with a heat pump</li> </ul>
Heat pump with heat exchanger	Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher energy recovery</li> <li>• Less economic feasibility for individual dwellings</li> </ul>
Integrated heat exchanger in sewer pipes with heat pumps	Sewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heat exchanger in the sewer pipe bed</li> <li>• Need to meet technical specifications based upon sewer pipe parameters</li> <li>• No additional space requirements</li> <li>• More prone to fouling and demand regular maintenance</li> </ul>
External heat exchanger with heat pumps	Sewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewage is pumped out of the sewer pipe</li> <li>• Less prone to fouling due to pre-screening of wastewater</li> <li>• Independent of the sewer pipe and easy maintenance</li> <li>• Additional space requirements</li> </ul>

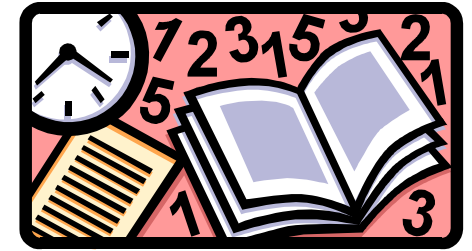
# Wastewater heat recovery



- Factors determining the efficiency of waste heat recovery from wastewater
  - Temperature difference ( $\Delta T$ ) between pre-heat water and cold tap water
  - The amount of pollutants (fouling) in wastewater
  - Design and type of heat exchanger used
  - Diameter of sewer pipes
  - Technical condition of the network and devices associated with it

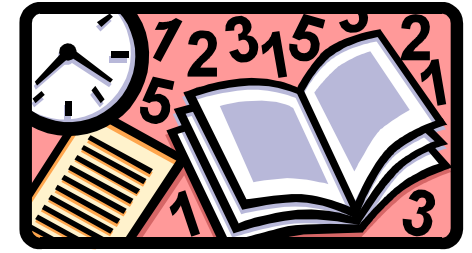
# Wastewater temperature and flow rate in a student residence





# Further Reading

- Heat Pump and Heat Recovery Technologies
  - <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/energy/files/hvac-factsheet-heat-pump-tech.pdf>
- Mitsubishi Electric Guide to Heat Recovery Chillers  
[https://library.mitsubishielectric.co.uk/pdf/book/67\\_HEAT\\_RECOVERY\\_CHILLERS](https://library.mitsubishielectric.co.uk/pdf/book/67_HEAT_RECOVERY_CHILLERS)
- Don't waste the waste water: Clean energy from sewage <https://celsiuscity.eu/clean-energy-from-sewage/>
- Heat Recovery from Wastewater  
<https://encyclopedia.pub/entry/11457>



# References

- ASHRAE, 2020. *ASHRAE Handbook 2020 HVAC Systems and Equipment*, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Inc., Atlanta, GA.
  - Chapter 9. Applied Heat Pump and Heat Recovery Systems
  - Chapter 18. Variable Refrigerant Flow
- Chu J. & Cruickshank C. A., 2014. Solar-assisted heat pump systems: a review of existing studies and their applicability to the Canadian residential sector, *Journal of Solar Energy Engineering*, 136 (4) 041013. <https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4027735>
- Cuce P. M. & Riffat S., 2015. A comprehensive review of heat recovery systems for building applications, *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 47: 665-682. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2015.03.087>
- Nagpal H., Spriet J., Murali M. K. & McNabola A., 2021. Heat recovery from wastewater—a review of available resource, *Water*, 13 (9) 1274. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w13091274>