

A simple tool for the economic evaluation of thermal energy storages



Christoph Rathgeber
Stefan Hiebler
Eberhard Lävemann
Andreas Hauer



A simple tool for the economic evaluation of thermal energy storages



- Motivation
- Top-Down approach
- Bottom-Up approach
- Summary

Introduction

Motivation: Cost uncertainty!

Assumption:

Costs of energy supplied by the storage

\leq

Costs of energy from the market

Introduction



Motivation: Cost uncertainty!

Assumption:

Annual payment for storage investment

\leq

Annual savings of reference energy costs

Methods

Top-Down approach:

Maximum acceptable storage capacity costs

How much may (thermal) energy storage cost?

Bottom-up approach:

Realised storage capacity costs

How much do existing storages cost?

Top-Down approach

Top-Down approach

Annuity factor ANF

$ANF \cdot investment\ costs = Annual\ payment\ for\ storage\ investment$



Top-Down approach

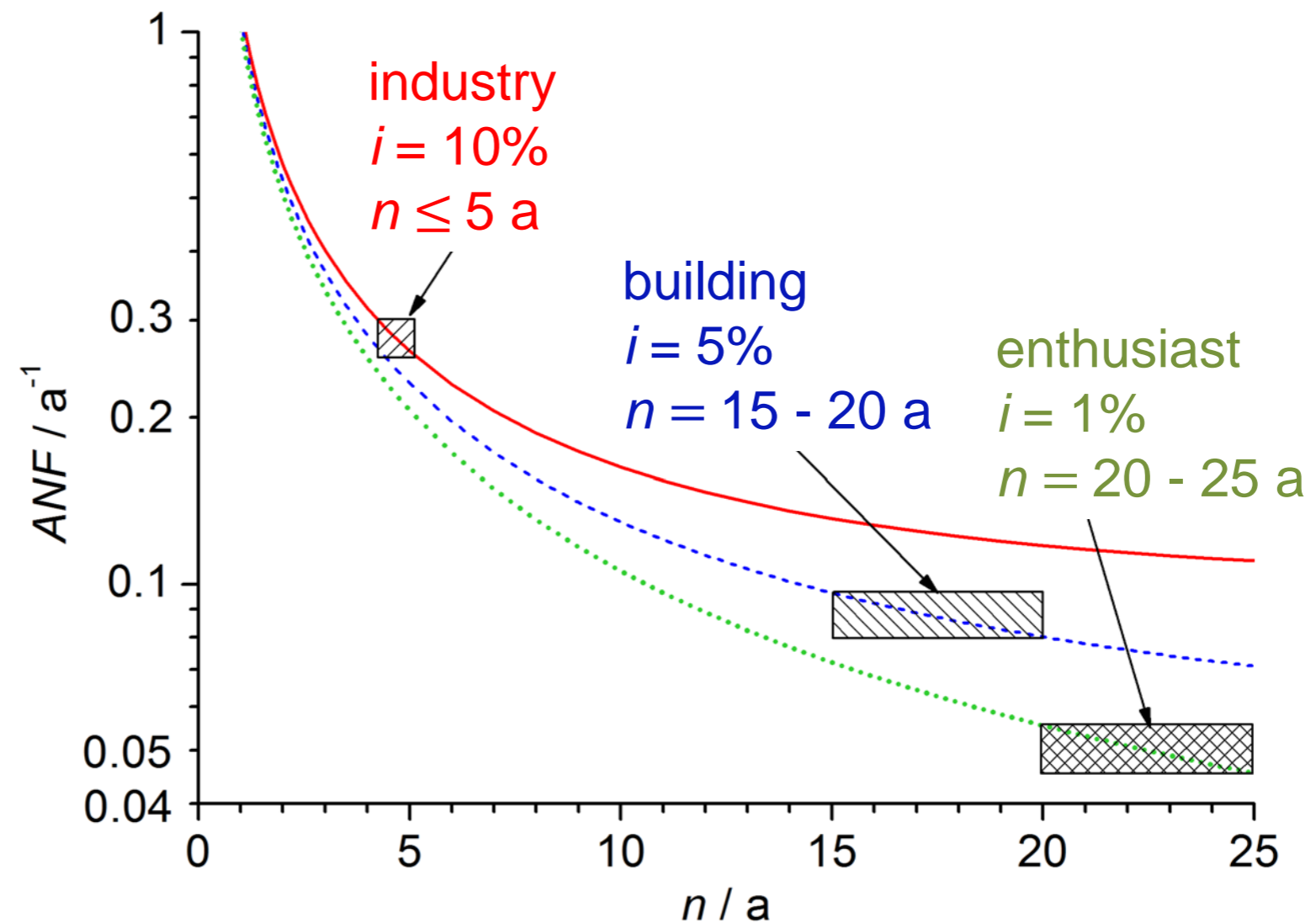
Annuity factor ANF

$ANF \cdot investment\ costs = Annual\ payment\ for\ storage\ investment$

$$ANF = \frac{(1 + i)^n \cdot i}{(1 + i)^n - 1}$$

i = interest rate

n = payback period



Top-Down approach

Maximum acceptable storage capacity costs SCC_{acc}



Assumption:

Annual payment for storage investment

= Annual savings of reference energy costs

Top-Down approach

Maximum acceptable storage capacity costs SCC_{acc}

Annual payment for storage investment

= Annual savings of reference energy costs

$$SCC_{acc} \cdot ANF = REC \cdot N_{cycle}$$

REC = reference energy costs
(heat / cold supply)

N_{cycle} = storage cycles / year

ANF = annuity factor

$$SCC_{acc} = \frac{REC \cdot N_{cycle}}{ANF}$$

Top-Down approach

Maximum acceptable storage capacity costs SCC_{acc}

$$SCC_{acc} = \frac{REC \cdot N_{cycle}}{ANF}$$

REC = reference energy costs
(heat / cold supply)

N_{cycle} = storage cycles / year

ANF = annuity factor

User class	$REC / \text{€kWh}_{en}^{-1}$		ANF / a^{-1}	
	min.	max.	min.	max.
Industry	0.02	0.04	0.25	0.30
Building	0.06	0.10	0.07	0.10
Enthusiast	0.12	0.16	0.04	0.06

SCC_{acc} (upper limit)

Top-Down approach

Maximum acceptable storage capacity costs SCC_{acc}

$$SCC_{acc} = \frac{REC \cdot N_{cycle}}{ANF}$$

REC = reference energy costs
(heat / cold supply)

N_{cycle} = storage cycles / year

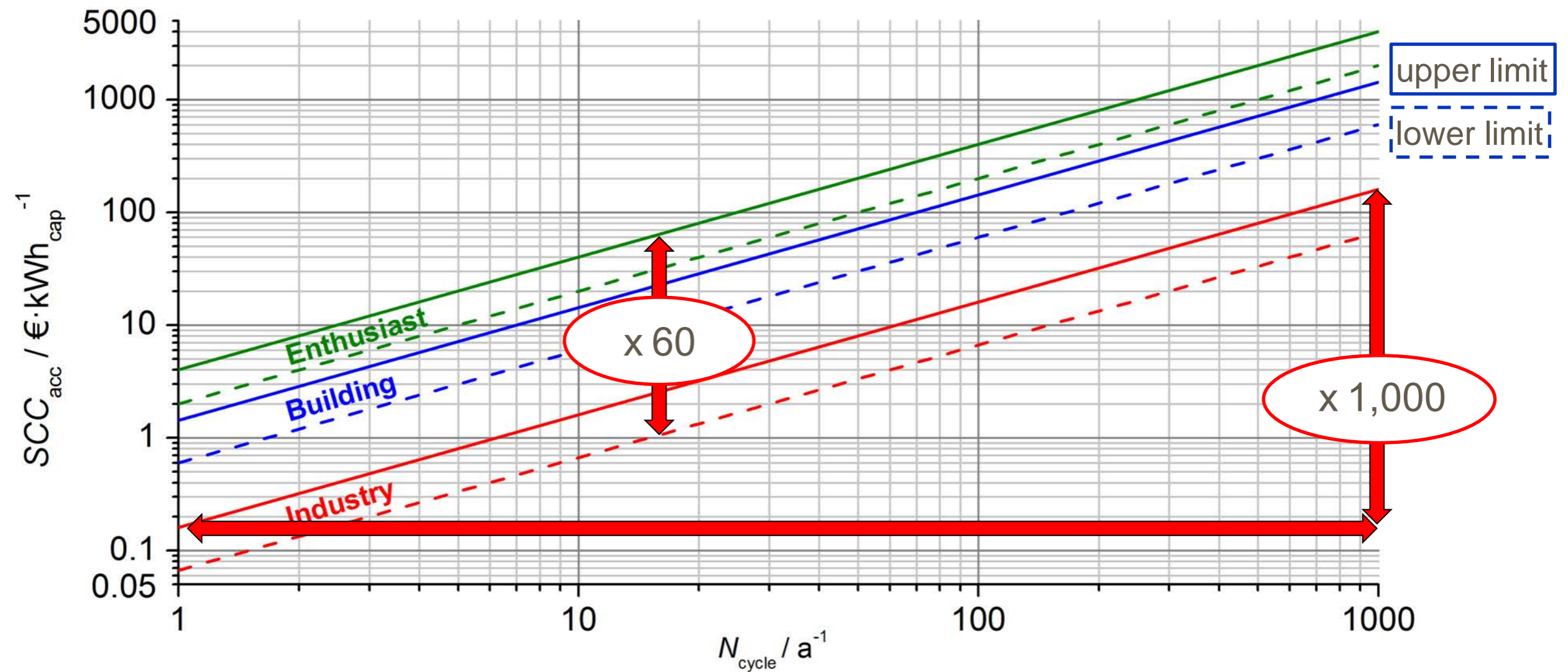
ANF = annuity factor

User class	$REC / \text{€kWh}_{en}^{-1}$		ANF / a^{-1}	
	min.	max.	min.	max.
Industry	0.02	0.04	0.25	0.30
Building	0.06	0.10	0.07	0.10
Enthusiast	0.12	0.16	0.04	0.06

SCC_{acc} (lower limit)

Top-Down approach

Maximum acceptable storage capacity costs SCC_{acc}



→ Short-term storages allow much higher SCC_{acc} than long-term storages!

Bottom-Up approach

Bottom-Up approach

Realised storage capacity costs SCC_{real}



Questionary within IEA SHC Task 42 / ECES Annex 29

IEA SHC / ECES Task 42 / 29 "Compact Thermal Energy Storage – Material Development and System Integration" WG C: Economical Evaluation → What are the costs of Thermal Energy Storages?						
1	Title of application					
2	Keywords (max. 3 words)					
3	Name					
4	Affiliation					
5	Address					
6	Phone					
6	Fax					
6	e-mail					
7	Institution(s) involved					
8	Industrial partner(s) involved					
9	Funded by					
10	Type of TES (mark the appropriate)					
11	Sensible					
11	PCM					
12	TCM					
13	Other (specify)					
14	Description of storage and application (max. 250 words)					
15	Storage material					
16	Heat transfer medium (HTM)					
17	HTM mass flow (kg/s)					
18	Min.					
18	Max.					
19	Nominal					
19	Temperature (°C)					
20	Supply to storage					
20	Min.					
20	Max.					
20	Nominal					
21	Power (kW)					
21	Max.					
21	Average					
21	Nominal					
22	HTM mass flow (kg/s)					
22	Min.					
22	Max.					
22	Nominal					
23	Temperature (°C)					
23	Supply to storage					
23	Min.					
23	Max.					
23	Nominal					
24	Return from storage					
24	Min.					
24	Max.					
24	Nominal					
25	Power (kW)					
25	Max.					
25	Average					
25	Nominal					
27	Nominal storage capacity (kWh)					
28	Full cycles per year					
29	Cycles during lifetime					
30	Storage volume (m³)					
30	Gross volume					
30	Storage material					
31	Storage mass (kg)					
31	Gross mass					
31	Storage material					

Cost evaluation on the basis of (mark the appropriate)		Estimation	Existing prototype	Commercially available system
		Actual values	Expected values	
32-38	Investment costs	TES material	€	€
		Storage bin	€	€
		Charging device	€	€
		Discharging device	€	€
		Total	€	€
39	Nominal operation costs (specify)	€ / cycle)	€ / cycle	€ / cycle
40	Additional costs (specify)	€	€	€
41	Comments			

Comments line by line:

- 14 Briefly describe the purpose of the thermal energy storage. If available, please include pictures or a scheme.
- 17,22 Please use values for the mass flow rate as it is more clearly than the volume flow.
- 17-26 *Min., Max.:* typical temperature range during operation
Nominal: nominal values correspond to the standard charging respectively discharging cycle
- 27 storage capacity that corresponds to the nominal operation mode
- 30-31 *gross volume/mass:* including charging and discharging devices, heat exchangers etc.
- 32 What is the basis for the cost evaluation?
- 33 Please give values for the actual costs and reasonable values for costs that can be realised in the near future.
- 38 = sum of line 34 to 37
- 39 e.g. service costs, auxiliary energy
- 40 e.g. engineering costs
- 41 Add comments that might be helpful to facilitate comprehension or add necessary information.

$$SCC_{real} = \frac{INC}{SC}$$

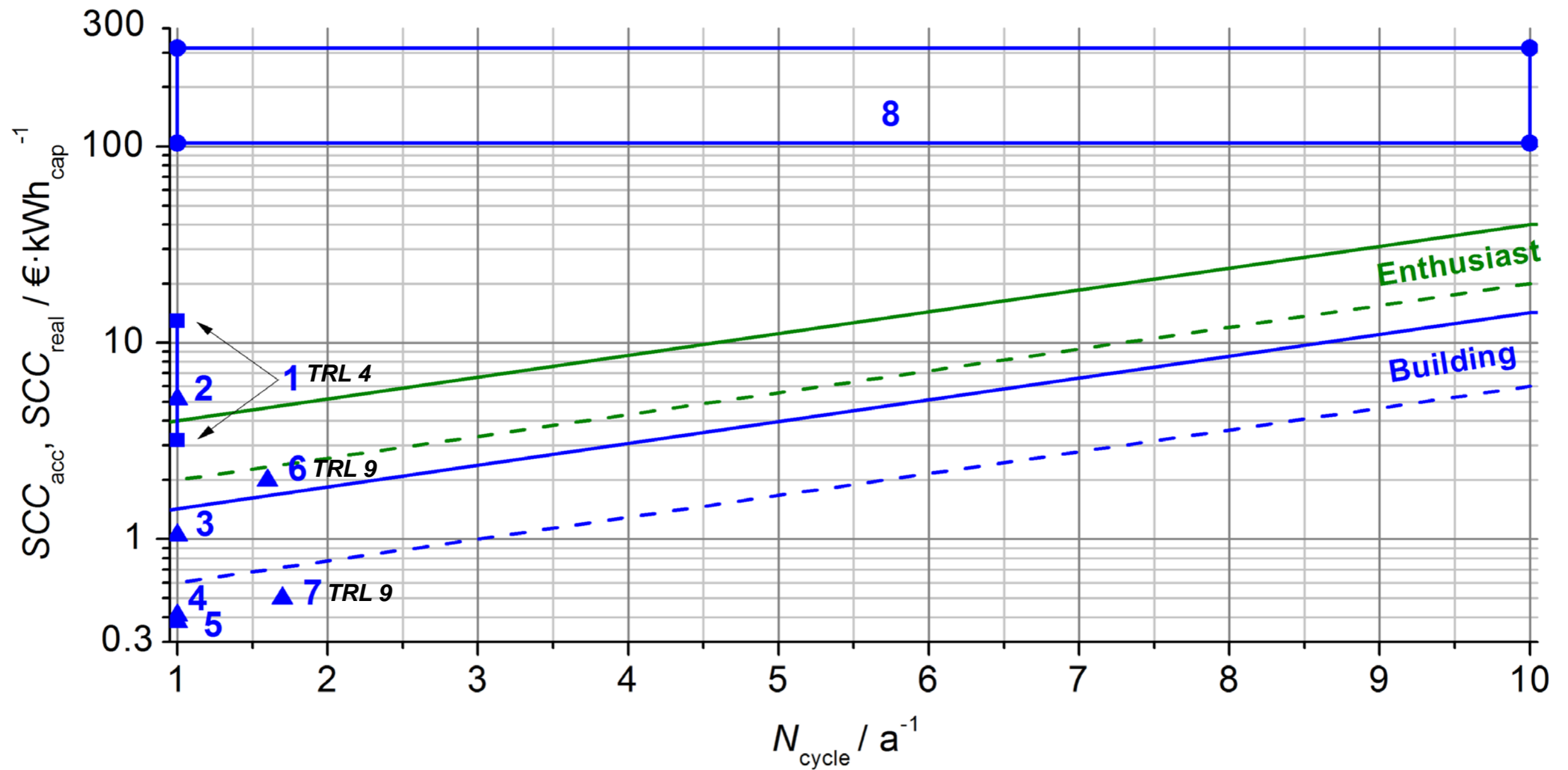
INC = investment costs
(material
+ storage container / reactor
+ charging/discharging device)

SC = installed storage capacity

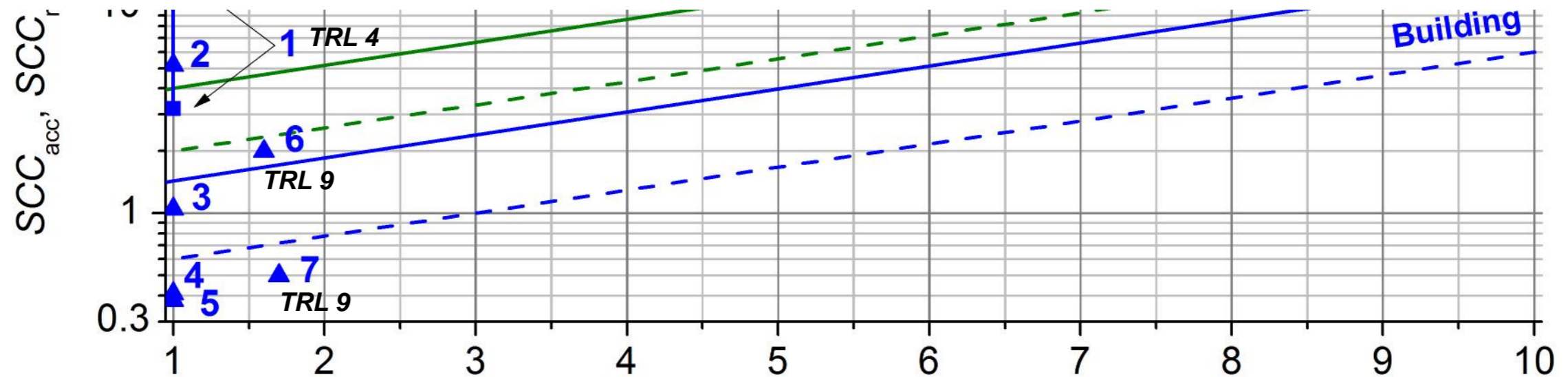
Top-Down & Bottom-Up approach

Long-term storages for building applications

▲ = sensible ● = PCM ■ = TCM

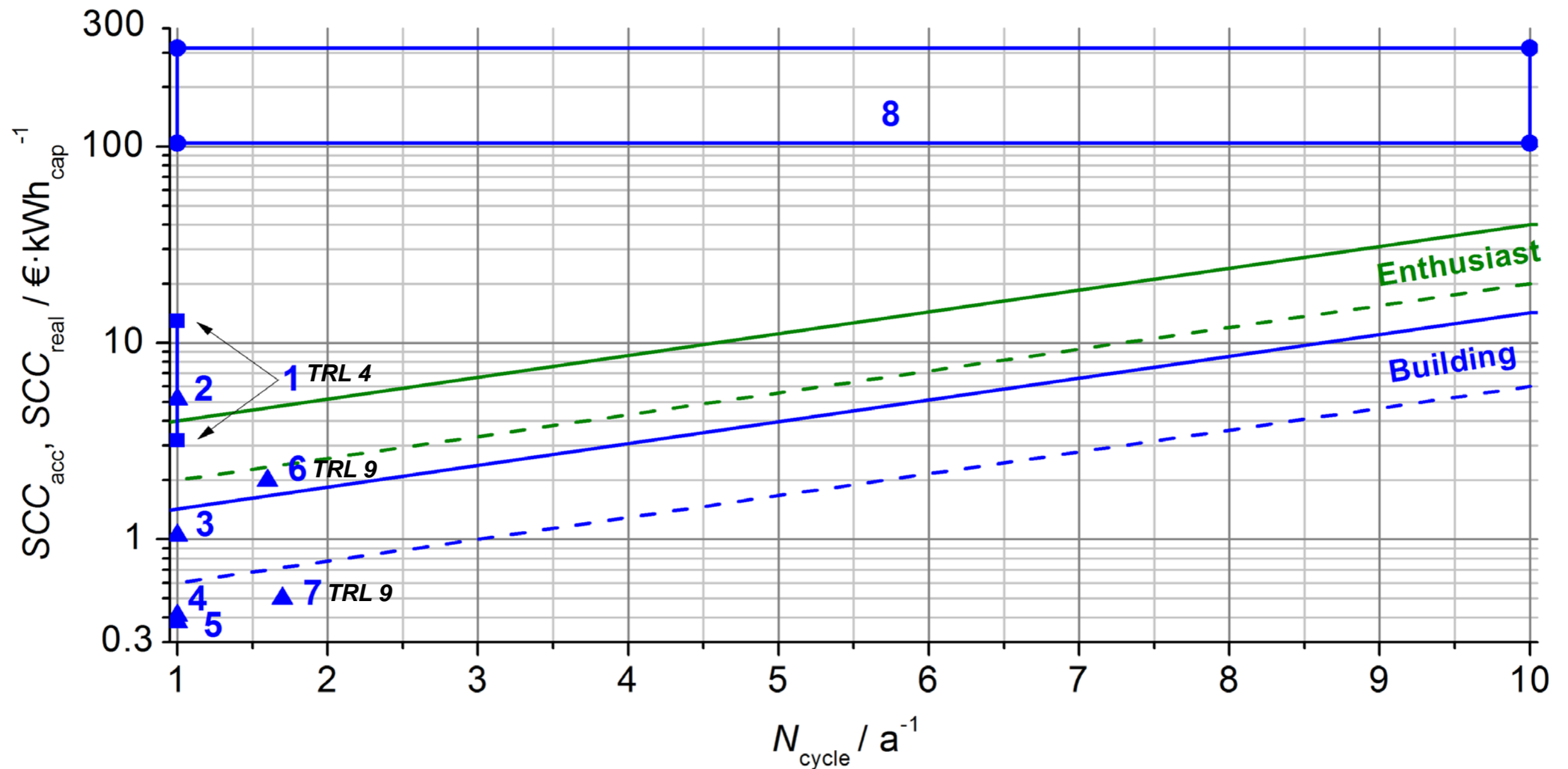


Long-term storages for building applications



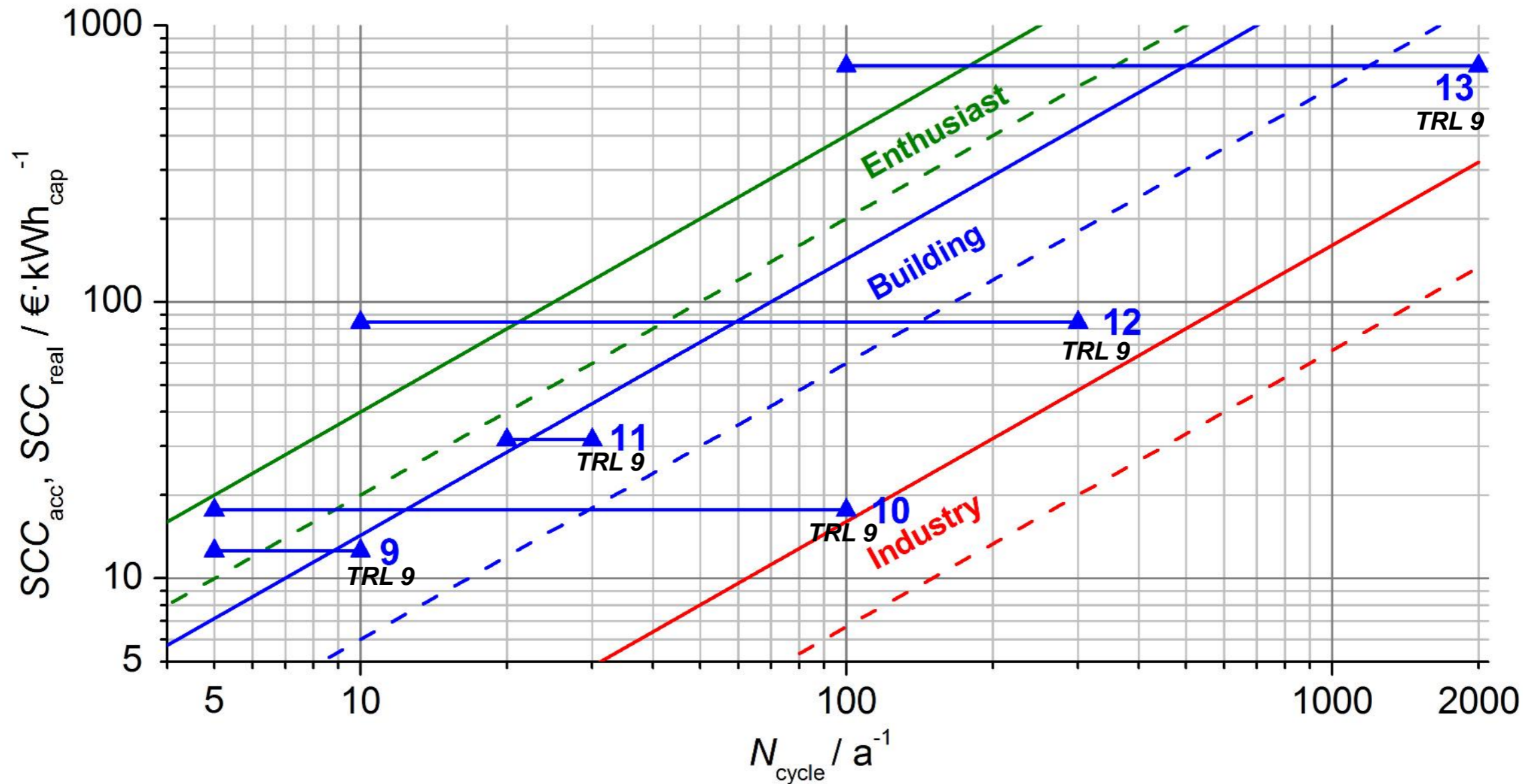
storage	description	$N_{\text{cycle}} / \text{a}^{-1}$	$INC / \text{€}$	$SC / \text{kWh}_{\text{cap}}$	$SCC_{\text{real}} / \text{€} \cdot \text{kWh}_{\text{cap}}^{-1}$
1: NaOH storage (EMPA)	Seasonal heat storage based on closed NaOH sorption	1	8,000 – 32,400	2,500	3.20 – 13.0
2: Ottrupgård, 1995	Hot water; 1,500 m ³ ; 35 – 60 °C	1	225,500	43,500	5.18
3: Sunstore 2, 2003	10,000 m ³ water; 35 – 90 °C	1	671,100	638,000	1.05
4: Sunstore 3, 2013	60,000 m ³ water; 10 – 90 °C	1	2,281,900	5,570,000	0.38
5: Sunstore 4, 2012 (PlanEnergi)	75,000 m ³ water; 10 – 90 °C	1	2,671,100	6,960,000	0.41
6: Ackermannbogen (ZAE Bayern)	6,000 m ³ water; 20 – 90 °C	1.6	942,400	472,400	1.99
7: Attenkirchen (ZAE Bayern)	Hot water + borehole heat exchanger; \approx 7,000 m ³ ; 10 – 90 °C	1.7	327,300	654,600	0.50
8: SAT storage (DTU, Univ. of Graz)	Seasonal heat storage, super-cooled sodium acetate trihydrate	1 – 10	2,700 – 4,120	13 – 26	104 - 317

Long-term storages for building applications



→ Seasonal storage only economical via large hot water storages (at present)

Hot water storages < 30 m³

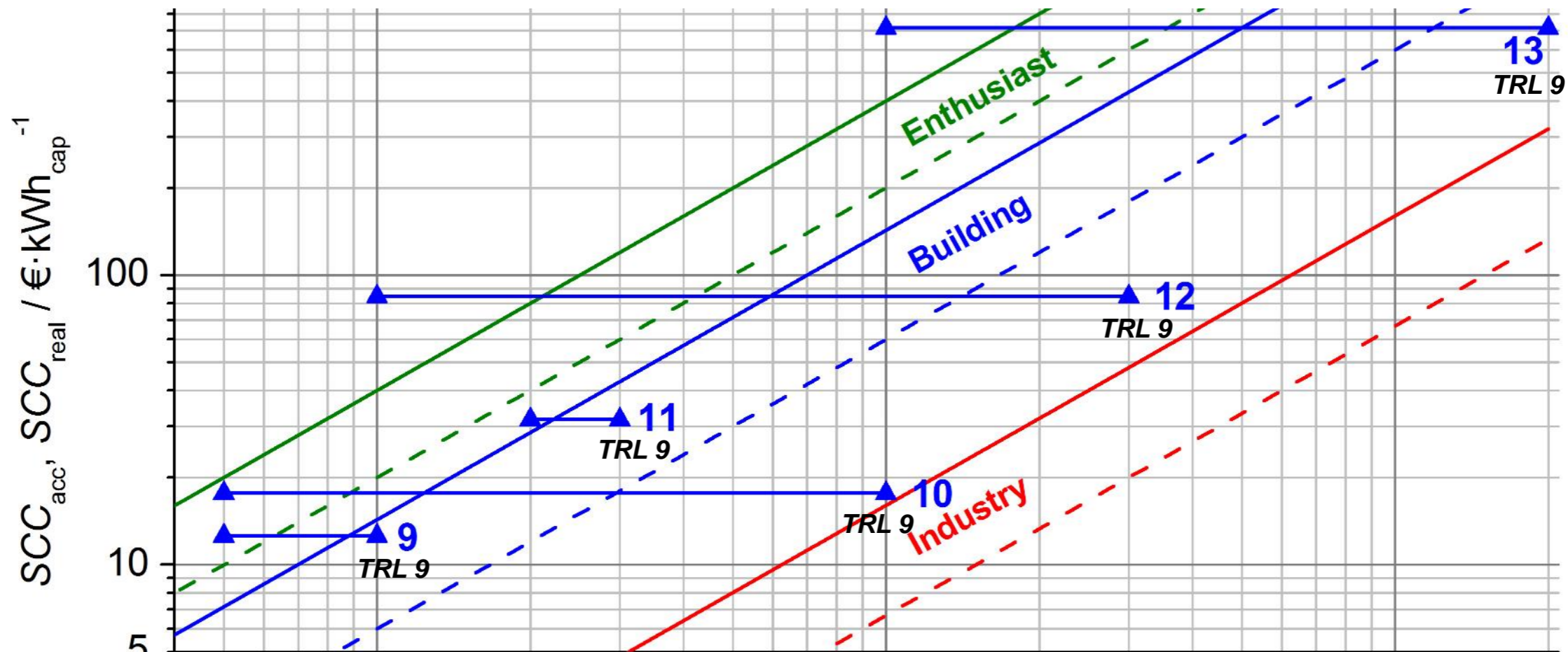


→ Storages can be integrated in a variety of systems with different N_{cycle}

Hot water storages < 30 m³

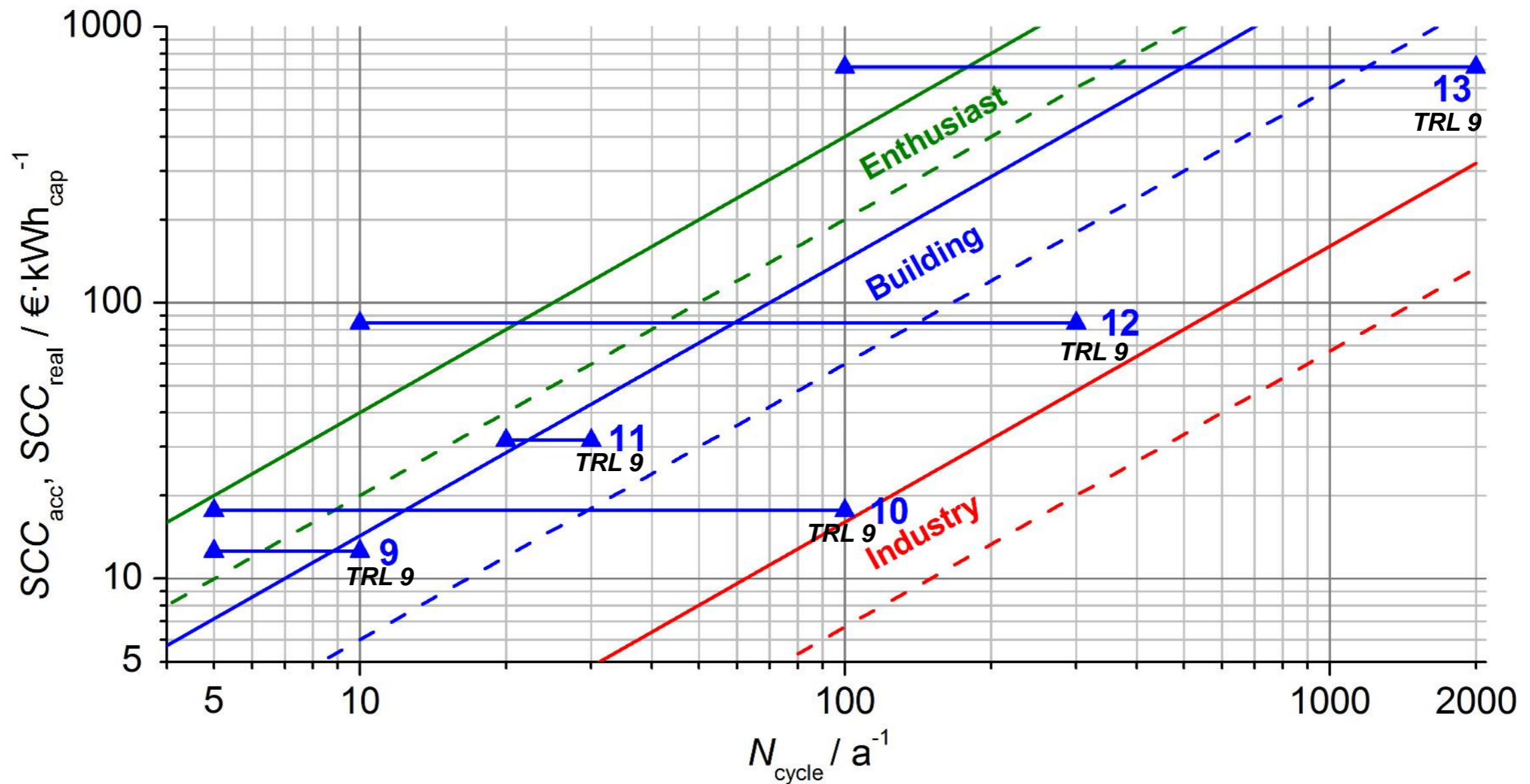


ZAE BAYERN



storage	description	$N_{\text{cycle}} / \text{a}^{-1}$	$INC / \text{€}$	$SC / \text{kWh}_{\text{cap}}$	$SCC_{\text{real}} / \text{€} \cdot \text{kWh}_{\text{cap}}^{-1}$
9: VSI – 30 m ³ (ZAE, Hummelsberger)	Vacuum super insulated water storage; 30 m ³ ; 5 – 95 °C	5 – 10	37,888	3.020	12.5
10: allSTOR VPS/3 2000/3-7 (Vaillant)	2,000 l water; 5 – 95 °C	5 – 100	3,559	202	17.6
11: VSI – 5 m ³ (ZAE, Hummelsberger)	Vacuum super insulated water storage; 5 m ³ ; 5 – 95 °C	20 – 30	15,962	504	31.7
12: actoSTOR VIH RL 500-60 (Vaillant)	500 l water; 5 – 110 °C	10 – 300	4,953	58.7	84.4
13: actoSTOR VIH CL 20 S (Vaillant)	20 l potable water; 10 – 70 °C	100 – 2000	965	1.35	715

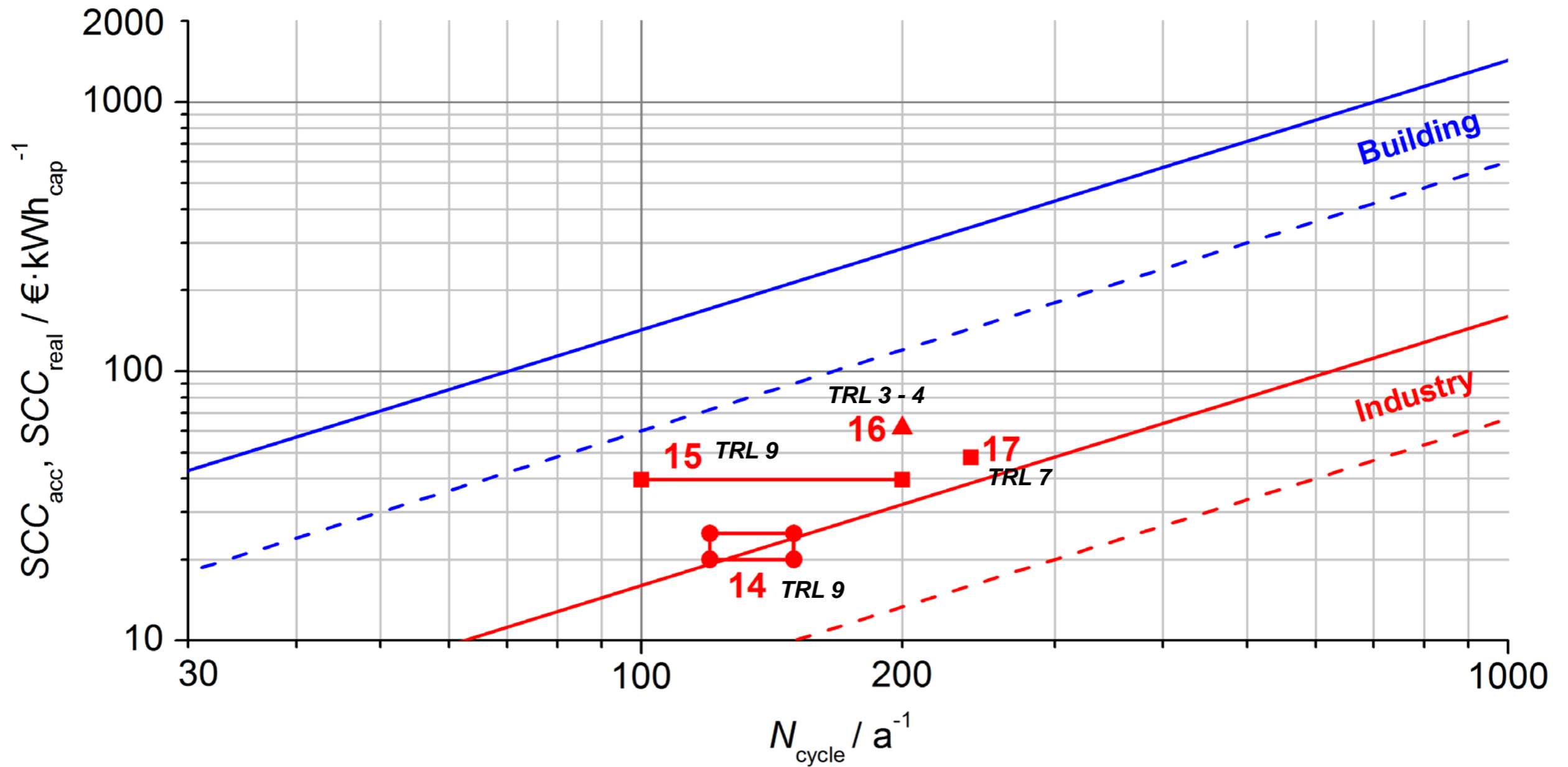
Hot water storages < 30 m³



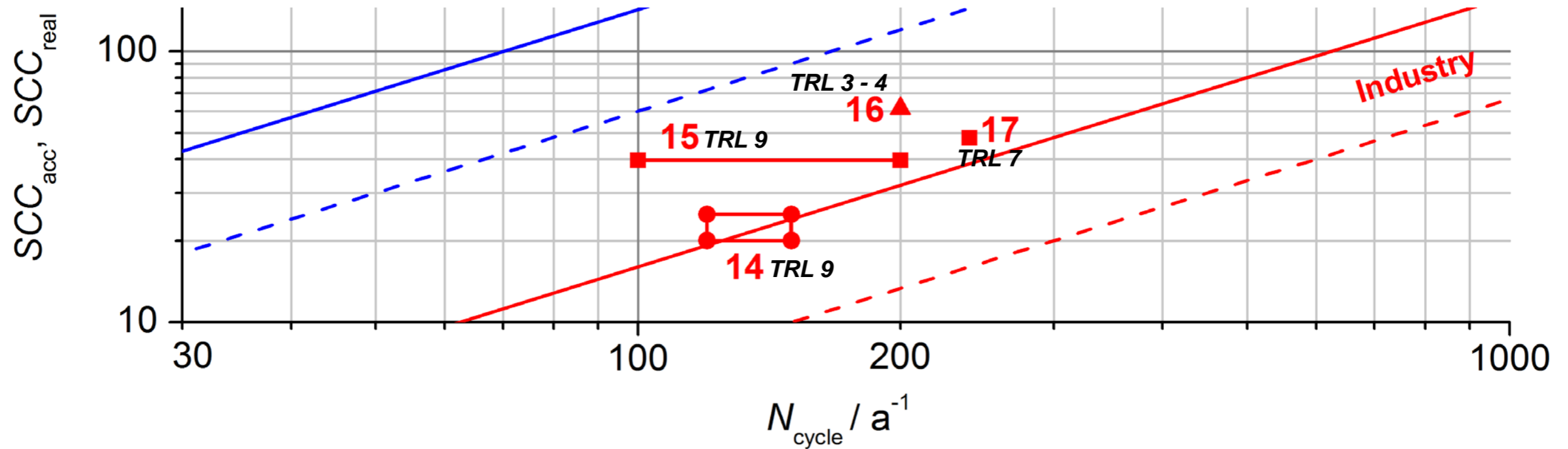
→ Attractive for industrial applications if N_{cycle} is high

Short-term storages for industrial applications

▲ = sensible ● = PCM ■ = TCM

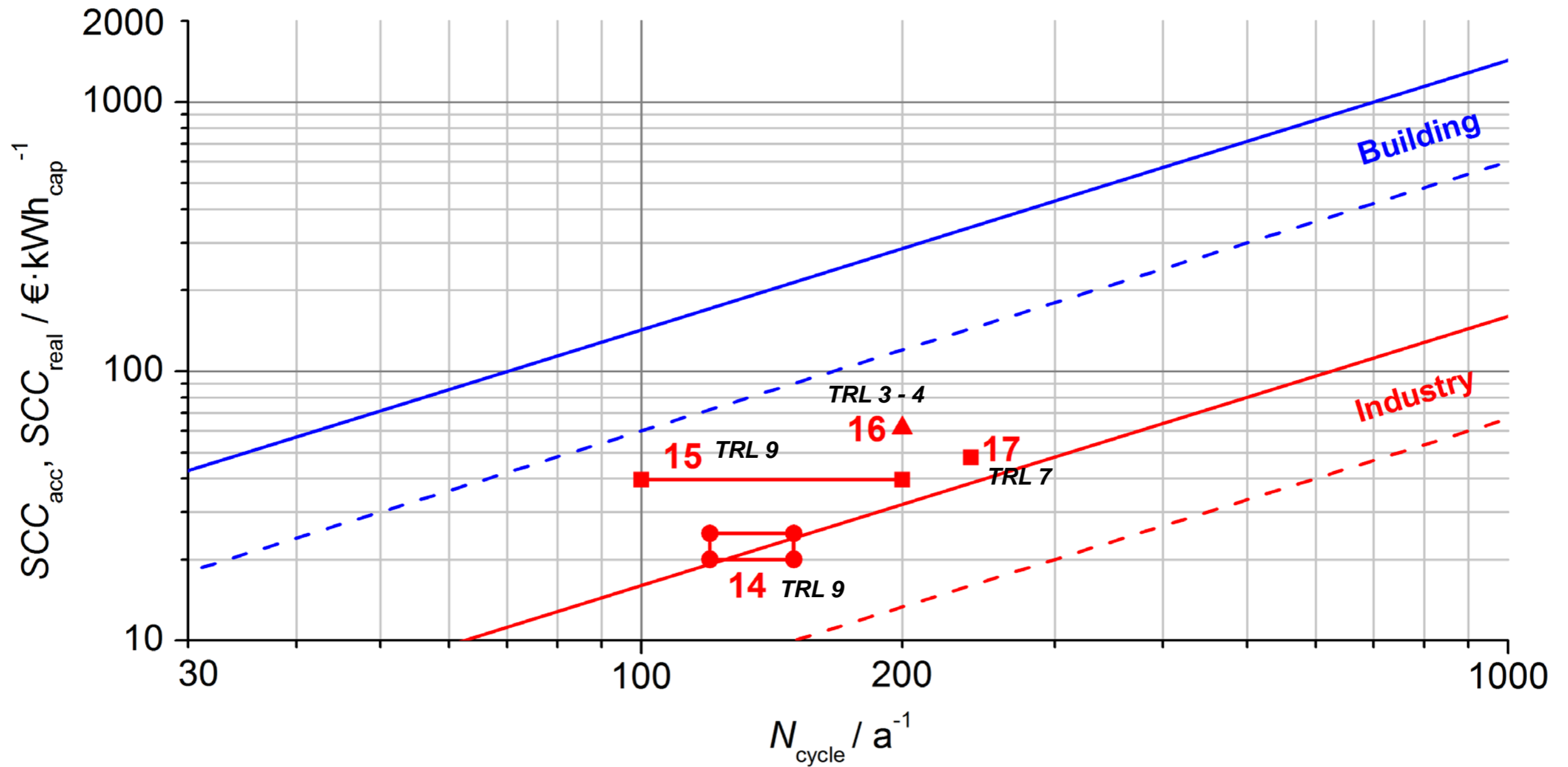


Short-term storages for industrial applications



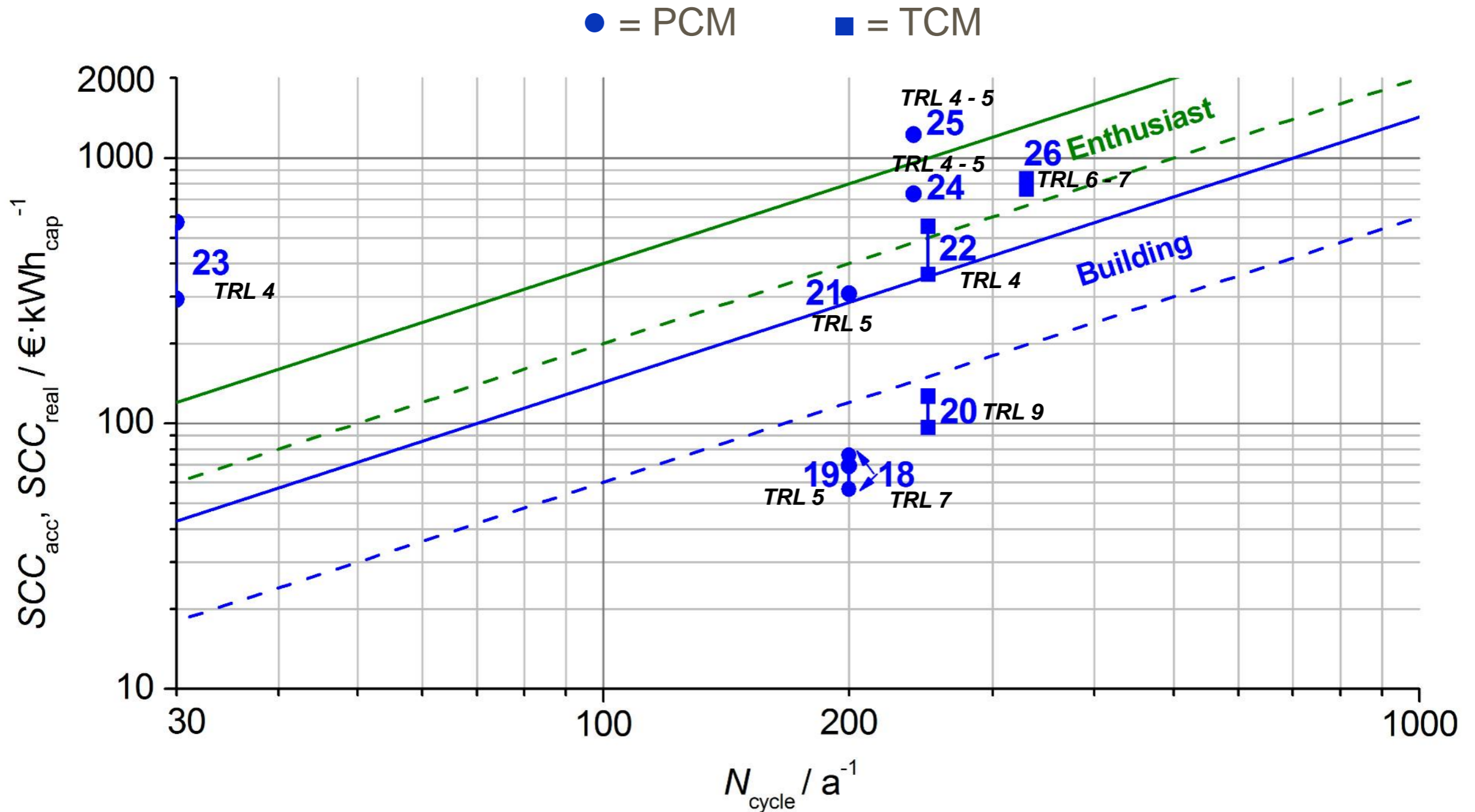
storage	description	$N_{\text{cycle}} / \text{a}^{-1}$	$INC / \text{€}$	$SC / \text{kWh}_{\text{cap}}$	$SCC_{\text{real}} / \text{€} \cdot \text{kWh}_{\text{cap}}^{-1}$
14: Ice storages (Cristopia)	Storages with spherical nodules filled with water / ice	120 – 150	-	5,000 – 10,000	20 – 25
15: SAT mobile storage (Univ. Bayreuth, LaTherm)	Mobile PCM storage (sodium acetate trihydrate); 40 – 90 °C	100 – 200	99,000	2,500	39.6
16: Dual media storage (ZAE Bayern, Gießerei Heunisch)	Sensible storage; stone + heat transfer oil; up to 300 °C	200	400,000	6,500	61.5
17: Mobile sorption heat storage (ZAE Bayern)	2 x 14 t zeolite, industrial waste heat recovery	240	440,000	9,200	47.8

Short-term storages for industrial applications



→ Ice storages cost effective, other technologies within reach

Short-term PCM & TCM storages for building applications

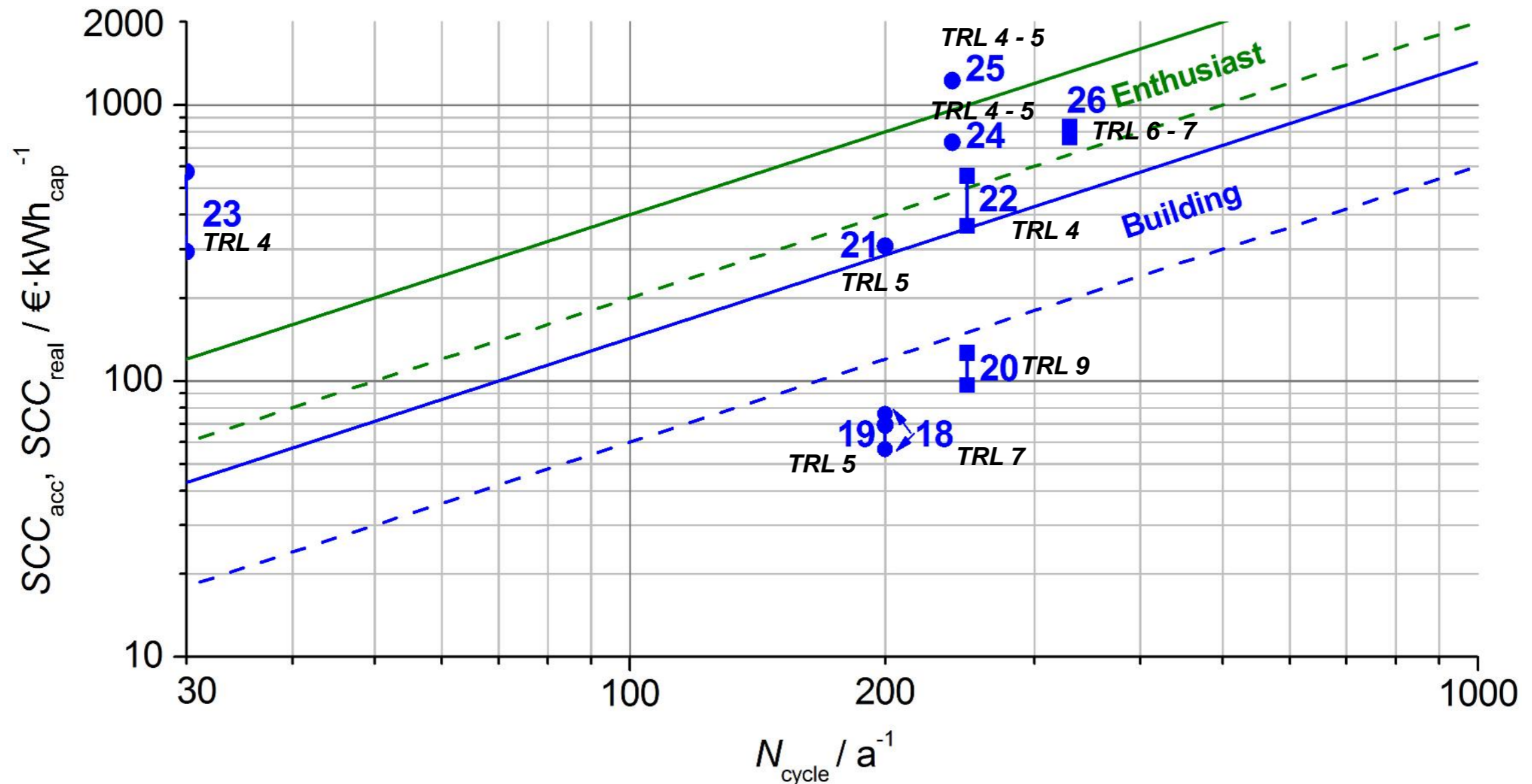


Short-term PCM & TCM storages for building applications



storage	Description	$N_{\text{cycle}} / \text{a}^{-1}$	$INC / \text{€}$	$SC / \text{kWh}_{\text{cap}}$	$SCC_{\text{real}} / \text{€} \cdot \text{kWh}_{\text{cap}}^{-1}$
18: SolarHeatCool+ PCM (ZAE Bayern)	1 m ³ PCM storage (CaCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O); 22 – 36 °C	200	4,700 – 6,300	83	56.6 – 75.9
19: TubeICE (VITO)	PCM tubes (salt hydrate + graphite); 30 – 70 °C	200	900	13	69.2
20: Dishwasher (ZAE Bayern)	Dishwasher, sorption drying (1.5 kg zeolite)	250	29 – 38	0.3	96.7 – 127
21: RT58 storage (VITO)	0.2 m ³ PCM storage (RT58); 30 – 70 °C	200	1,850	6	308
22: LiBr storage (ZAE Bayern)	Sorption storage (aqueous LiBr); domestic appl.	250	31,000 – 47,000	85	365 – 553
23: PCM-Air (Univ. Zaragoza)	Free-cooling; PCM-Air heat exchanger; RT27	30	2,000 - 3,900	6.8	294 – 574
24: VDSF (Univ. Lleida)	Free cooling; ventilated double skin facade + PCM (SP21)	240	5,133	7	733
25: Hydroquinone storage (Univ. Lleida)	Solar applications; hydroquinone as PCM; 145 – 187 °C	240	16,768	13.7	1,223
26: RT60 storage (Univ. Basque Country)	Plate based PCM storage (RT60); domestic micro-CHP installation	330	5,500 – 6,000	7.2	764 – 833

Short-term PCM & TCM storages for building applications



→ Some storages already cost effective,
others at lower TRL with higher investment costs

What are the major influencing factors on the cost effectiveness?

Top-Down Approach

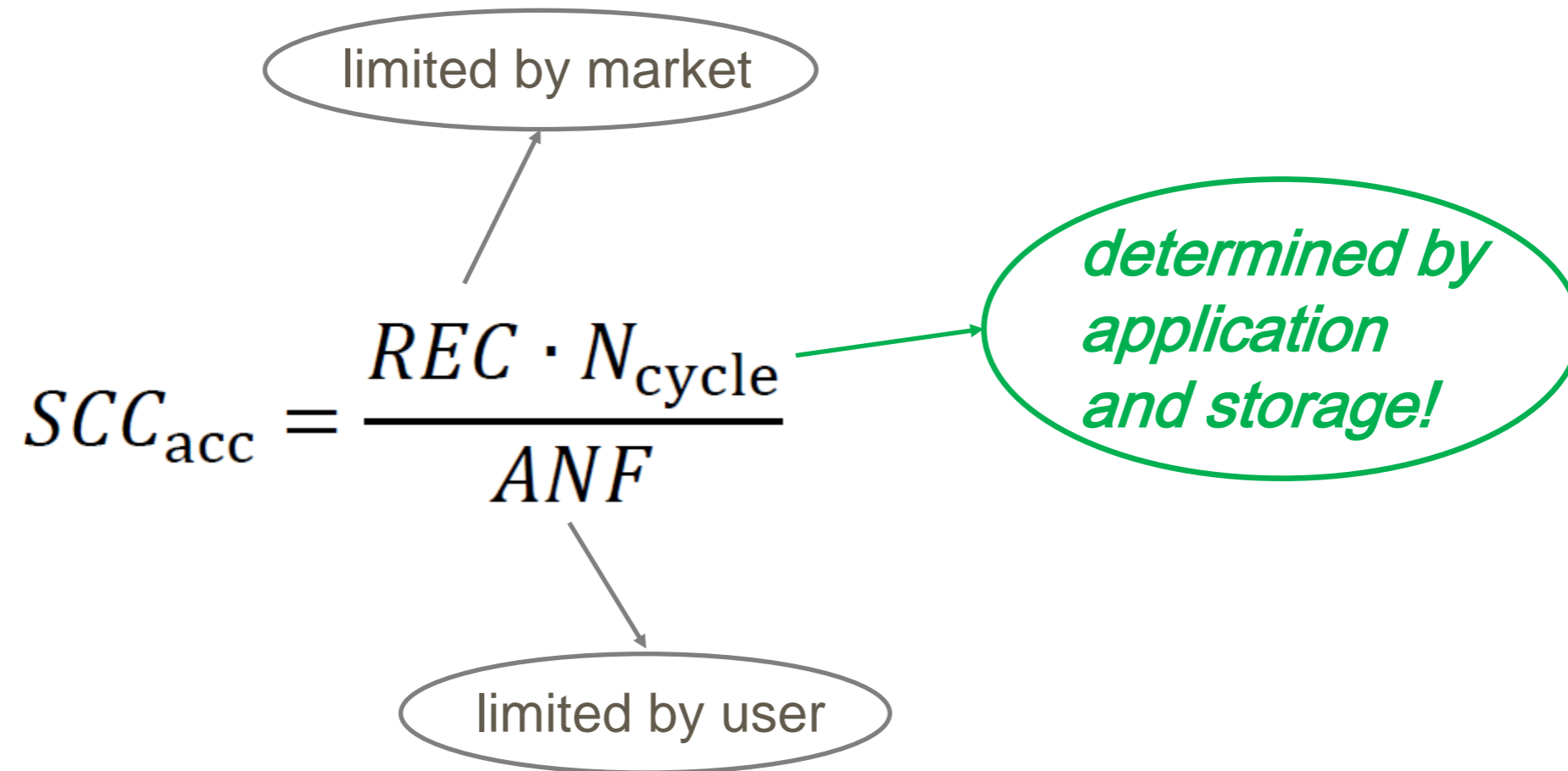
Maximum acceptable storage capacity costs SCC_{acc}

$$SCC_{acc} = \frac{REC \cdot N_{cycle}}{ANF}$$

limited by market

determined by application and storage!

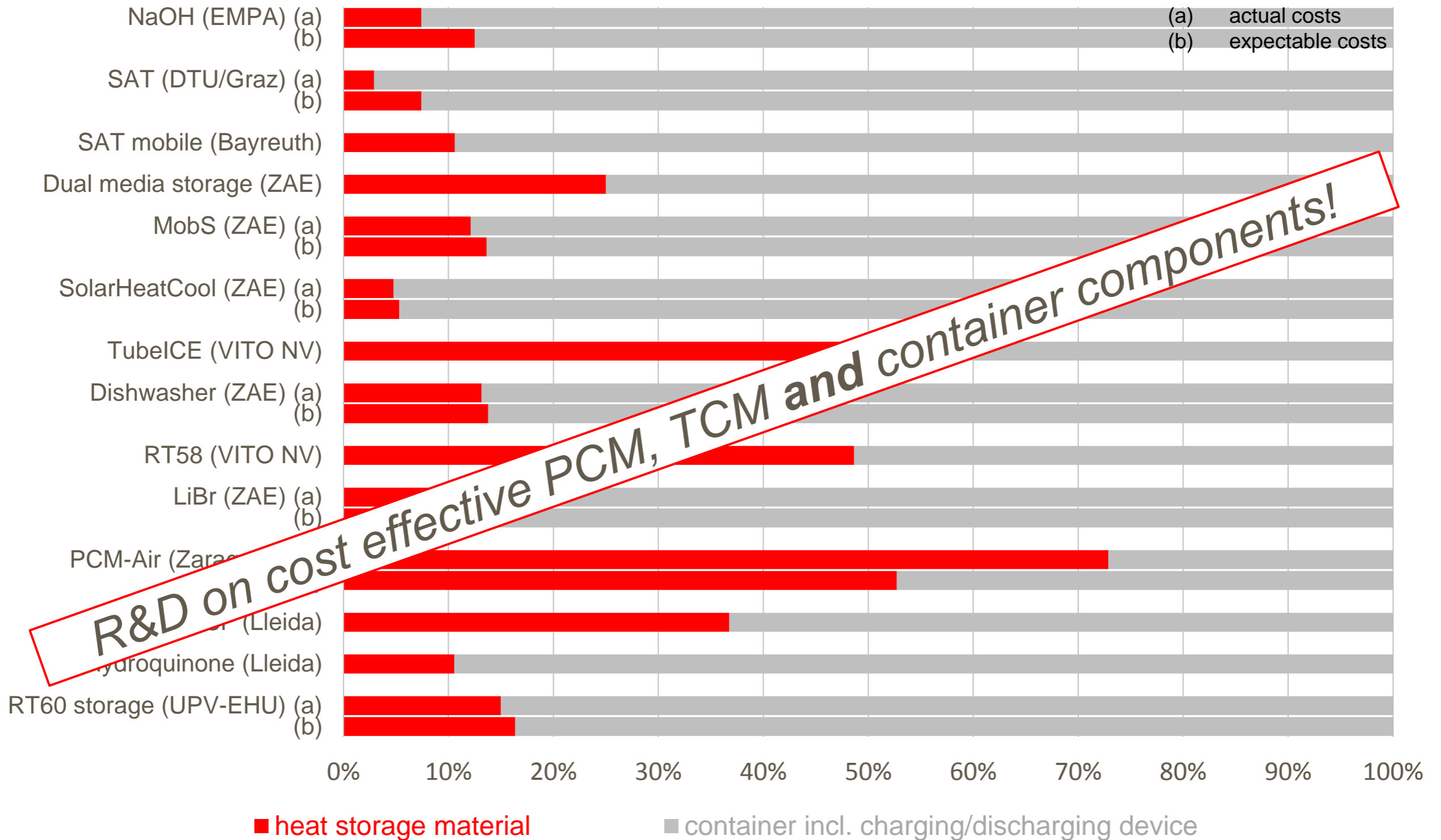
limited by user



Bottom-Up Approach

Investment cost *INC* distribution

$$SCC_{\text{real}} = \frac{INC}{SC}$$



Summary

A simple tool for the economic evaluation of thermal energy storages

Top-down & Bottom-up approach:

Annual payment for storage investment

$\leq !$

Annual savings of reference energy costs

A simple tool for the economic evaluation of thermal energy storages

Top-down & Bottom-up approach:

$$SCC_{\text{real}} = \frac{INC}{SC} < \frac{REC \cdot N_{\text{cycle}}}{ANF}$$

Most influencing: **Annual number of storage cycles** N_{cycle}

Applications with high N_{cycle} :

- All storage technologies can be economical
- Systems should be compared regarding physical and technical attributes (and TRL)

Thermal energy storages with additional benefits

- „Power“ storages (e.g. DHW storages)
- Stand-alone systems (e.g. self-sufficient solar energy supply)
- Comfort applications (e.g. PCM in textiles / transport boxes, self-cooling beer barrel with zeolite)
- Increasing flexibility (e.g. CHP + district heating/cooling + TES: decoupling of electricity and heat/cold production → higher electricity sales)

Contributors and publications



Rathgeber, C., Hiebler, S., Lävemann, E., Dolado, P., Lazaro, A., Gasia, J., de Gracia, A., Miró, L., Cabeza, L.F., König-Haagen, A., Brüggemann, D., Campos-Celador, Á., Franquet, E., Fumey, B., Dannemand, M., Badenhop, T., Diriken, J., Nielsen, J.E., Hauer, A.

IEA SHC Task 42 / ECES Annex 29 open access papers:

[Energy Procedia Volume 91, Pages 197-217 & 226-245](#)

[Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Solar Heating and Cooling for Buildings and Industry \(SHC 2015\)](#)

New phase 2017 – 2019

Task/Annex 58/33

PCM

TCM

Subtask 1: “Development of Improved TES Materials”

Subtask 1P

Subtask 1T

Stefan Gschwander (ISE, DE)

Alenka Ristic (NIC, SI)

Subtask 2: “Material Testing under Application Conditions”

Subtask 2P

Subtask 2T

Christoph Rathgeber (ZAE, DE)

Daniel Lager (AIT, AT)

Subtask 3: “Component Design for Innovative Materials”

Subtask 3P

Subtask 3T

Ana Lázaro (Uni Zaragoza, ES)

Benjamin Fumey (EMPA, CH)

Subtask 4: “Energy Relevant Applications for an Application-oriented Development of Improved Storage Materials”

Andreas Hauer (ZAE, DE) and Wim van Helden (AEE INTEC, AT)

→ Kick-off meeting: April 5-7, Lyon

Thank you for your attention!

Christoph Rathgeber

ZAE Bayern
Bavarian Center for Applied Energy Research
Division: Energy Storage

Walther-Meissner-Str. 6
D-85748 Garching

Tel.: +49 89 329442-88
Fax: +49 89 329442-12

christoph.rathgeber@zae-bayern.de
<http://www.zae-bayern.de>

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Energy

on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

ENERGIESPEICHER
Forschungsinitiative der Bundesregierung

Grant number **03ESP138A**



ZAE BAYERN