



# Increasing the energy efficiency of the rolling stock of SBB: goals, challenges and opportunities

**ESReC**  
 Energy Storage Research Center

Msc. Ueli Kramer, Prof. Dr. Andrea Vezzini  
 BFH-CSEM Energy Storage Research Center ESReC, Institute for Energy and Mobility Research  
 Bern University of Applied Sciences, Quellgasse 21, CH-2501 Biel, Switzerland  
[ueli.kramer@sbb.ch](mailto:ueli.kramer@sbb.ch); [andrea.vezzini@bfh.ch](mailto:andrea.vezzini@bfh.ch)



### Objective

The Swiss Federal Railways SBB have the ambitious target to save 600 GWh/a by 2025. The objective of the project was to analyse the energy consumption of the rolling stock of SBB. The output of this work is a catalogue of potential projects and a systematic analysis procedure to develop and evaluate new energy saving project ideas.

### Second: Classification of Consumers

Understanding the energy flow is crucial for prioritization of different optimization approaches. The result is a detailed analysis summarized in a structured matrix sorted by the type of rolling stock (locomotives, coaches, multi-unit train coaches) and systems like HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning), traction and auxiliary systems as well as comfort systems. A detailed classification was developed by dividing it into four main subject groups:

- Consequent shut-off of devices while rolling stock is not in service
- Energy optimized controlling while rolling stock is in service
- Energy efficient components
- Optimized driving resistance

	Locomotives	Multi Unit Train Coaches	Carriages
Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation			
Traction & auxiliary systems Compressor, Transformer, Converter, Pumps, ...			
Comfort-Systems Passenger Information, Systems, Lighting, ...			

### Fourth: Modeling and Projection on Fleet

A bottom-up approach from the system view to the different type of rolling stock lead to a model for each coach and locomotive in which all the projects have been consolidated. The methodology of the energy saving potential has been done in a model for each vehicle separately.

general fleet information  
 detailed information of the vehicle like:  
 - average occupation  
 - energy consumption  
 - number of seats  
 - Etc.  
 remaining lifetime information vs. number of vehicles per year

### First: Energy Flow Identification

Energy-flow diagrams help identify energy saving potentials in any given system by giving a quantitative overview of the different energy consumers in the system.

#### Energyflow of a multi-unit-train-coach (DTZ-RABe514)

1 x DTZ-RABe514 = 420 x ...

Total Energy 1.7 GWh/a per train

- Traction 48%
- Heating and Air Conditioning 27%
- Ventilation 7%
- auxiliary systems for Traction 18%
- Lighting, Passenger-Information-Systems-, 3G-Repeater 1%

#### Energyflow of a multi-unit-train-coach (ICN – RABDe 500)

1 x ICN – RABDe 500 = 700 x ...

Total Energy 2.8 GWh/a per train

- Traction 49%
- Heating and Air Conditioning 25%
- Ventilation 6%
- auxiliary systems for Traction 18%
- Lighting, Passenger-Information-Systems-, 3G-Repeater 2%

Branches reflecting high energy consumption do not necessarily indicate high energy reduction potential, as there are many other factors that need to be considered.

### Third: Gathering and Summarizing Information

Each project idea contains information such as economic calculations, energy saving potential calculations and a general overview (factsheet) where all details of the project are summarized.

#### Factsheet of energy efficiency potentiality

SBB-Experience with Technology

- Potentially accepted as realistic
- First tests on SBB rolling stock or on other EVU
- Standard on all vehicles of at least one fleet
- Standard on all vehicles of three or more fleets

### Projects and Outlook

Numerous project ideas showing a positive economic impact have already been started, such as:

- New battery pack development (BFH)
- Traction optimization of the Re460
- General optimization of the FLIRT
- Optimized lightning system
- Traction optimization for the ICN
- Remote controlling of HVAC

System optimization through energy usage optimization is a highly important task which should be part of the main activities of each company. Integrating this into the SBB will be a further long-term task. The gathered experience from this work should be taken into account for the procurement of new rolling stock.