

Article

# Heat Integration of a Boiler and Its Corresponding Environmental Study in an Oleochemical Production Plant: An Industry Case Study in Malaysia

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**Abstract:** The growing demands for oleochemical products are expected to reach approximately RM 157.59 billion by 2026 due to an increased drive from the food and beverages, chemicals, and pharmaceutical industries. However, this will lead to an increase in energy consumption and subsequent flue gas emission. Proper utilization of waste gas recovery systems is thus a major research area, focusing on reducing fuel consumption and emissions of greenhouse gases without affecting process performance. In this paper, a palm oil-based oleochemical plant is studied. The fuel consumption and emission of flue gas from a thermal oil boiler were measured and the feasibility of implementation of a waste heat recovery system and its environmental impact study. The results show that the implementation of such a system can reduce natural fuel gas consumption by 17.29% and approximately 149.29 t per annum of carbon dioxide gas (CO<sub>2</sub>). Moreover, the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> released into highly-populated communities is estimated through a Gaussian Plume Model at different wind speed conditions. The preliminary results show that the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at two locations—an apartment and a local school located within 1.5 km of the plant—is well below the concentration limit of 1.938 g/m<sup>3</sup> recommended by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Services.

**Keywords:** waste heat recovery system; Gaussian Plume model; environmental impact; carbon footprint

## 1. Introduction

Oleochemical products can be derived from animal fats or vegetable oils. Since vegetable oils account for nearly 80% of the total fat and oil production, it is also the main source for oleochemical production, especially from palm, coconut, soybean, and sunflower [1,2]. The oil extracted from the flesh of the oil palm fruit (species *Elaeis Guineensis* Jacq.), in its native setting, is generally a vibrant orange colour. Originating in South Africa, this fine vegetation was introduced to Malaysia in the early 1870s by the British and was planted commercially in 1917 [3]. Being the world's second-largest palm oil exporter (after its neighbouring country, Indonesia), Malaysia accounts for 39% and 44% of the global production and exportation, respectively. Most of the oleochemical products in Malaysia are largely derived from palm oil [4,5]. With the global oleochemical market showed increase in demand since 2014 owing to increasing petrochemical prices and rising environmental concerns [6], the energy demand for the production process in Malaysia is expected to follow suit [7,8]—chemical manufacturing accounted for 12% of the country's total energy consumption in 2016. Malaysia is, therefore, expected to experience an increasing demand for energy consumption and a subsequent rise in carbon dioxide gas emission [9]. Faced with global warming and increasing fuel prices, manufacturing industries

are constantly looking for ways to reduce greenhouse gases and fuel consumption caused by their processes. Proper utilization of waste gas recovery systems has, therefore, become a major research area for this industry, focusing on reducing environmental impacts without affecting process performance.

Heat integration (HI) is an industrial technique used to minimize energy consumption and maximize thermal energy recovery. Albeit the technique was first introduced by Linnhoff and Flower to maximize utility cost-saving through waste heat recovery in the 1970s, systematic methods to optimize heat recovery, cost-saving and greenhouse gas emissions are still studied today [10,11]. The development of the HI technique over the past 40 years through pinch analysis and mathematical programming was reviewed by Klemeš et al. in 2012 [12]. They concluded that recent overviews of HI focus on the sustainability of the technique in current operating processes [12]. HI is currently streamlined into two approaches: HI within individual process (waste heat recovery system), also referred to as intra-plant HI; and total site HI system, which is also known as inter-plant HI.

Largely practiced at plants, total site heat integration (TSHI) incorporates a multitude of processes that are linked to a central utility system, tying together services and production deliverables [13]. Amir H. Tarighaleslami et. al. studied different approaches to TSHI and compared two methods—conventional total site targeting (CTST) and unified total site targeting (UTST). The latter utilizes total process-level utility targets as the basis for total site utility targets, whereas CTST is similar to pinch analysis, where excess heat is produced (surplus) or absorbed (deficit) by the process. Table 1 shows a comparison of both techniques: It was found that the recovery targets in the UTST method are slightly lower compared to CTST; however, they have more realistic expectations [14]. Although TSHI reduces energy consumption and resolves waste heat-caused conflicts, the operability of such a system should be further discussed, as the costs and energy produced are highly dependent on retrofitting functions (operability and implementation of a heat exchanger network). Sofie Marton et. al. dissected the operability of heat integration into four subsequent categories: flexibility, controllability, start-up and shutdown procedures, and reliability of the system. Such implementations have required certain changes in operations, resulting in additional constraints in system design [15]. Therefore, such systems require decisive planning and careful consideration upon implementation. Peng et. al. have extensively studied comprehensive planning and framework design for TSHI. Owing to their efforts, the factors that have a direct impact on the feasibility of integrating industrial clusters with renewable energy have been identified and discussed; they include economic feasibility and system reliability. The economy is a major defining factor for project feasibility; heavily influenced by the price of fossil fuel, it has a direct impact on payback time in investments. The advancement of new technology is expected to reduce the cost of implementation of this current broadly-accepted technology. Subsequently, the period of implementation is of paramount importance in defining the feasibility of a project from an economic perspective. In addition, the life cycle of key operating units such as boilers and heat exchangers should be further studied to minimise the impacts of equipment breakdown on production, simultaneously maximising the reliability of the TSHI system [16].

**Table 1.** Comparison between UTST and CTST methods [14].

TSHI APPROACHES	UTST	CTST
Matching of Utility Heat Exchanger	Series	Series and Parallel
Drawback of System	Slightly lower heat recovery targets	Dependency on separate processes, resulting in complications with regards to operation and control.

Meanwhile, with the rapid growth of industrial development, it is essential to keep air quality in check to avoid adverse impacts on human health and biodiversity. Therefore, the Department of Environment (DOE) Malaysia has been entrusted with the task of monitoring air quality nationwide and controlling new industry development projects through the Environmental Impact Assessment Order (1987). Under this order, DOE requires the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports of prescribed industrial activities to be submitted for approval before a project is implemented. The

reports will be assessed based on the Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulation 1978 enforced by DOE in limiting and controlling the air pollutant emissions. The regulation lists factors of air pollution including the location of industrial facilities adjacent to residential areas, waste burning, and emission of dark smoke and air pollutants, which serve as a guideline for DOE and industries in order to protect air quality and reduce air pollution.

Currently, most oleochemical plants in Malaysia use boilers as a heat source. The technical standards for boilers used in heat and power generation as set by the Federal Government Gazette Malaysia are shown in Table A1, whereas the standards set for stack gas emissions under the Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulation 1978 are as listed in Table A2. One disadvantage of boiler use is continuous emission of flue gas during the combustion process. Hence, it is important to conduct an air quality assessment to minimise its impact on the environment. A few steps are required in an air quality assessment. Firstly, a site survey is conducted to assess the impact of nearby existing industrial activities on air quality. Therefore, a careful layout of monitoring points is required to effectively assess existing air pollution sources near the proposed development. The data required to evaluate the cumulative impact of air pollutant emissions such as air pollutant source inventory, stack emission data and ambient air quality can be obtained directly from the surrounding industrial concerns or through DOE. After the collection of data, modelling of air quality is carried out to assess the air pollutant concentration emitted during the industrial activity. There are several factors to be considered, such as stack height and emission rate, meteorological conditions, topographic consideration and population consideration. Based on the results, an impact assessment is conducted and mitigating measures are recommended to reduce the environmental impacts below a level of significance [17].

As shown in Figure 1, there are three air quality models: deterministic models, statistical models, and physical models. Deterministic models deal with different types of numerical approximations in the solution, representing relevant atmospheric dispersion physical processes and are highly favourable for long-term plans. On the other hand, statistical models utilise an established statistical relationship between meteorological and other limitations to calculate the ambient air concentration, and these are most favourable for the short-term forecast of concentrations. In physical models, a physical experiment is carried out on a smaller scale to mimic the important features of the original process. Although the variables are easily controlled, physical models tend to incur higher costs compared to the other two models [18]. This paper focuses on deterministic models. There are two types of deterministic models: steady state and time dependent. Unlike time-dependent models, steady state models are independent of time variables. Research performed by Lutman ER et. al. compared the prediction of particle dispersion between the Gaussian plume model and the Lagrangian particle dispersion model. Studies have shown that the differences in modelling results between these two models are insignificant. While the Lagrangian model yields more realistic results, the Gaussian model appears to be a more appropriate tool for environmental assessment as it is more user friendly, though the results tend to be marginally over-estimated [19].

Gaussian plume model is one of the most popular air pollution dispersion models and it is the basis for most of the air pollution modelling software distributed by the EPA [20]. Many researchers have developed advanced Gaussian plume models such as AERMOD, CTDM or ADMS to provide more accurate air quality forecasts [21–25]. Researchers in the University of Messina and University of Catania, Italy carried out a study on the implementation of theoretical Gaussian plume model on a small scale. The results reveal that the error of the Gaussian plume model is consistently below 7% in all configurations, showing a positive compliance amongst the measured and modelled data. Therefore, it can be concluded that the near real-time nature of the Gaussian plume model makes it a powerful tool to analyse and predict the dispersion of pollutants for regulatory purposes [26,27].

This study presents an innovative heat integration approach to a boiler in an oleochemical production plant, as shown in Figure 2b. To harvest waste heat released from the boiler exhaust, an air preheater is proposed to be installed on the thermal oil boiler to allow heat transfer between hot flue gas and fresh air. The main objective of the study is to perform a numerical study on the economic and

environmental benefits of implementing waste heat recovery around a thermal oil boiler. The dew point of flue gas is also determined to prevent gas species condensation as it can result in stack wall corrosion [28]. Another desired outcome of this approach is a lower level of carbon dioxide emission to the surrounding neighbourhood.

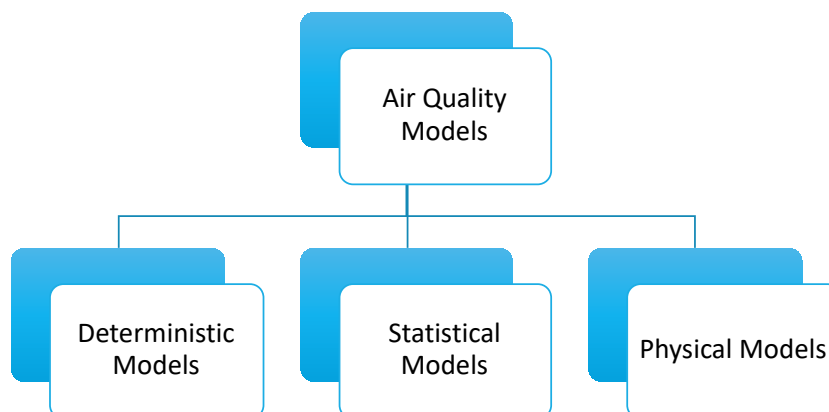


Figure 1. Classification of Air Quality Models [18].

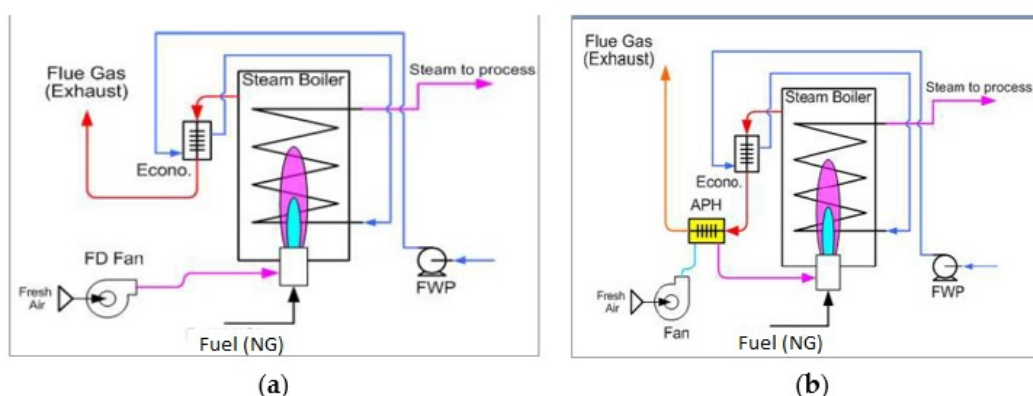


Figure 2. Heat integration approach to the production plant boiler system. (a). The common setup of a boiler system for a palm oil processing plant; (b) proposed addition of an air preheater (APH) for heat exchange between hot flue gas and fresh air.

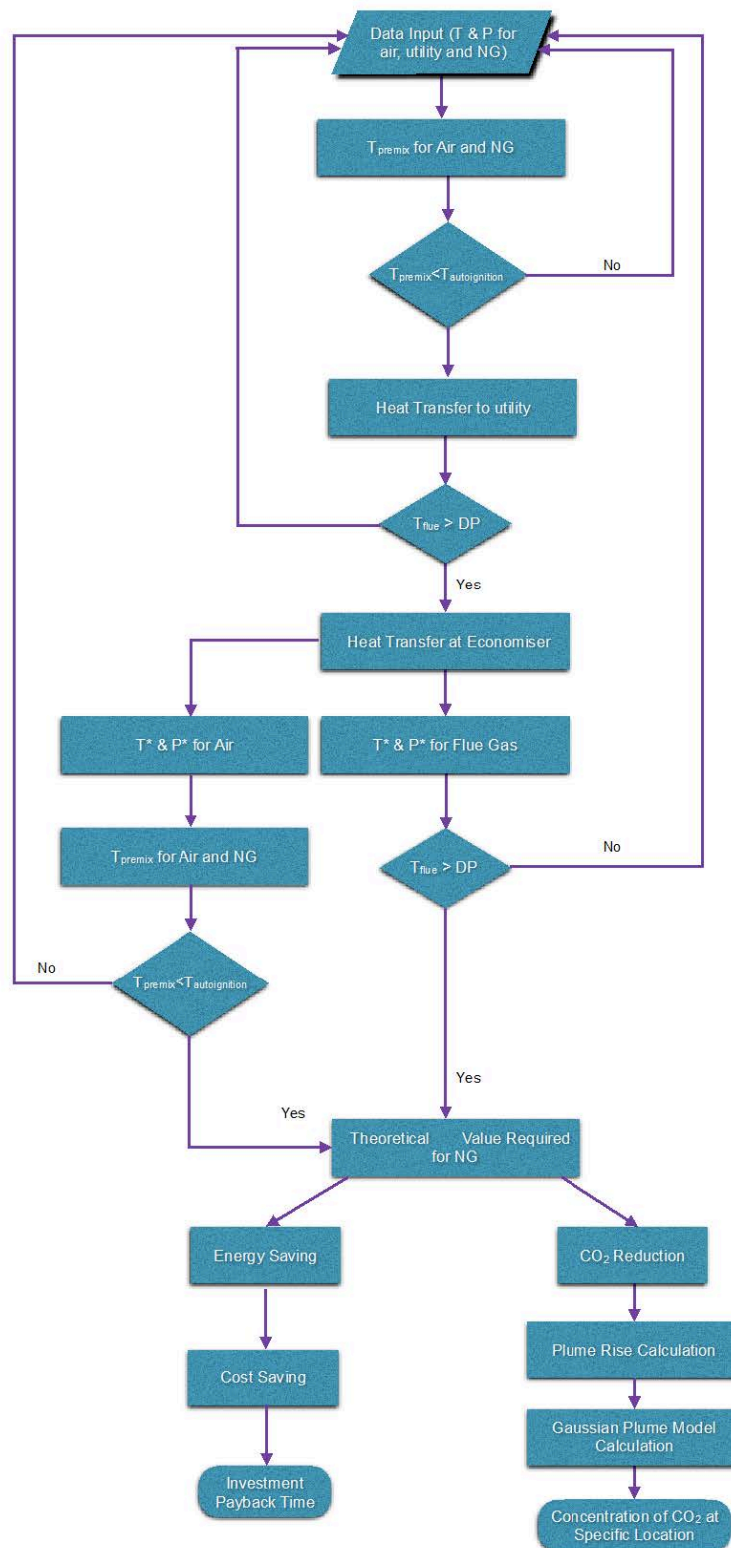
## 2. Materials and Methods

The information used in this research is provided by the industry partner or obtained from HYSYS software, AspenTech Locations, Bedford, MA, USA. As this is a collaboration work with an industry partner, Microsoft Excel is used as the calculation tool.

### 2.1. Boiler System Heat Integration

Figure 3 shows the workflow diagram of the boiler system heat integration process, which begins with an input of the boiler data provided by the industry partner: mass flowrate, pressure (P), temperature (T), and the composition of air and natural gas fuel (NG). After inserting the given information and the preferred conditions for the flue gas outlet stream into an Excel spreadsheet, the premix temperature ( $T_{\text{premix}}$ ) and the pressure of both air and NG is determined using enthalpy balance between the two feed streams. The flue gas temperature obtained from the operating data of the industry is then compared to the dew point (DP) of flue gas calculated using the auto goal-seek function in Visual Basic code as shown in Figure A1. As shown in Figure A2, a warning sign will pop out when the temperature of flue gas exceeds the theoretical DP of the flue gas. It is important

to ensure that the flue gas temperature is well above the theoretical DP to prevent the formation of corrosion in the boiler stack as a result of flue gas condensation.



**Figure 3.** Methodology overview. The heat integration calculation will be obtained prior to carbon dioxide calculation. The flue gas temperature has to be above the dew point before it is used as an input in Gaussian plume model calculation.

After heat has been exchanged at the economizer (Figure 2b), the revised temperature and pressure of air and flue gas ( $T^*$  and  $P^*$ ) are determined. The energy and cost savings resulting from the newly conditioned flue gas are calculated through a comparison with the amount of natural gas fuel used before the system is implemented. After obtaining the data for cost saving, the payback time for the investment made in implementing the waste heat recovery system can also be calculated using Equations (1) and (2):

$$ROR = \frac{\text{Cost saving per year}}{\text{Original investment}} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

ROR = Rate of return

$$PBT = \frac{100\%}{ROR} \quad (2)$$

PBT = Payback period

## 2.2. Gaussian Plume Model

Gaussian plume model can be generated by inputting the data provided by the industry source, including the estimated flow rate of carbon dioxide gas released during the heat integration calculation, diameter of the flare stack, gas emission temperature, referential temperature, wind speed, distance between the specific location and the flare stack, and elevation temperature. Then, plume rise calculation under different scenarios, as shown in Figure A3, is carried out. After plume rise and effective stack height are determined, the concentration of carbon dioxide gas released is calculated using Equation (3).

Gaussian Dispersion Equation

$$C(x, y, z) = \frac{Q}{2\pi u \sigma_y \sigma_z} \left[ e^{\frac{-(z-h)^2}{2\sigma_z^2}} + e^{\frac{-(z+h)^2}{2\sigma_z^2}} \right] \left[ e^{\frac{-(y)^2}{2\sigma_y^2}} \right] \quad (3)$$

where:

Q = emission rate of carbon dioxide gas from boiler

u = the direction x, defined by the wind speed

y = the direction of the wind of which is perpendicular to horizontal distance

z = vertical direction

h = effective height of plume

$\sigma_y$  and  $\sigma_z$  = dispersion coefficients with respect to the directions in y and z

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. A Case Study on Thermal Oil Boiler (B01)

B01 is a thermal oil boiler with a thermal capacity of 2.5 MW that operates with a load percentage of 80%, and the excess air percentages are set at 8% to ensure complete combustion of fuel. Using the HYSYS simulation result, the boiler has an efficiency of  $\approx 81\%$  and the air preheater used in waste heat recovery has an efficiency of  $\approx 76\%$  based on the information given by the industry partner. Moreover, B01 is targeted to supply enough thermal energy to increase the temperature of thermal oil fluid by  $15^\circ\text{C}$ , which is the set condition of the production plant. The composition of natural gas fuel (NG) fed into the boiler and the flue gas released upon the combustion of fuel were obtained through data provided by the industry partner and from literature reviews. The dew point of flue gas with such a composition was found to be  $52.46^\circ\text{C}$  using the Excel spreadsheet mentioned in Section 2.1 while the autoignition temperature of NG was found to be  $537^\circ\text{C}$ . Autoignition temperature was obtained for boiler system safety precaution. All the information of thermal oil boiler B01 as aforementioned are listed in Table 2. The table also shows the fuel consumption and the flue gas emission temperature of B01 before the implementation of the waste heat recovery system to be approximately 326 t per annum



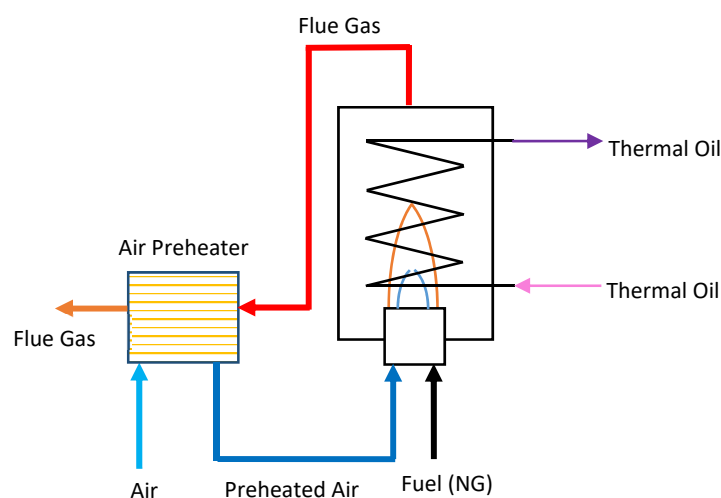
and 300 °C respectively. Due to the high consumption of fuel and flue gas emission temperature, a feasibility study on the implementation of waste heat recovery system on B01 was carried out and the results are shown in the following section.

**Table 2.** Summary of B01 working conditions.

B01 Working Conditions	
Thermal Capacity	2.5 MW
Load Percentage	80%
Air Excess Percentage	8%
Utility Temperature Difference	15 °C
Flue Gas Dew Point	52.46 °C
Autoignition Temperature	537 °C
Fuel Consumption	326.26 T/Year
Flue Gas Emission Temperature	300 °C

### 3.1.1. Waste Heat Recovery

With the implementation of waste heat recovery as shown in Figure 4, a total of 17.29% fuel saving was achieved with the outlet flue gas temperature set at 90°C. It was estimated to yield a saving of around RM 85,000 per annum with fuel price at RM 1.18 per cubic metre. Besides that, with an investment cost between RM 300,000 to RM 600,000 that includes capital cost, installation fee, and commissioning cost, the breakeven point can be achieved within approximately 43 to 85 months from the time the investment is made. In terms of environmental benefits, carbon dioxide gas emission is expected to be reduced by 149.29 t per annum due to the reduction in natural gas fuel consumption. According to a global greenhouse gases monitoring division in United States, the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air has increased around 4 ppm and global temperature has increased by 0.8°C from 2018 to 2019 [29,30]. To deal with this problem, in 2017, Malaysia has signed the Paris Agreement, a Multilateral Environmental Agreement aiming to strengthen global response to climate change threats. The energy efficiency action plan aims to reduce 13.113 million t of CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 2030 [31]. If the waste heat recovery system is implemented in thermal oil boiler B01 by 2019, the cumulative reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is expected to be 1642.19 t, contributing to 0.01% of the targeted reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It should be noted that this contribution is merely from 1 of 13 boilers in the oleochemical complex. If the same technique is applied to all boilers in the complex, the cumulative reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be significant. The impact of waste heat recovery on B01 is summarized in Table 3.



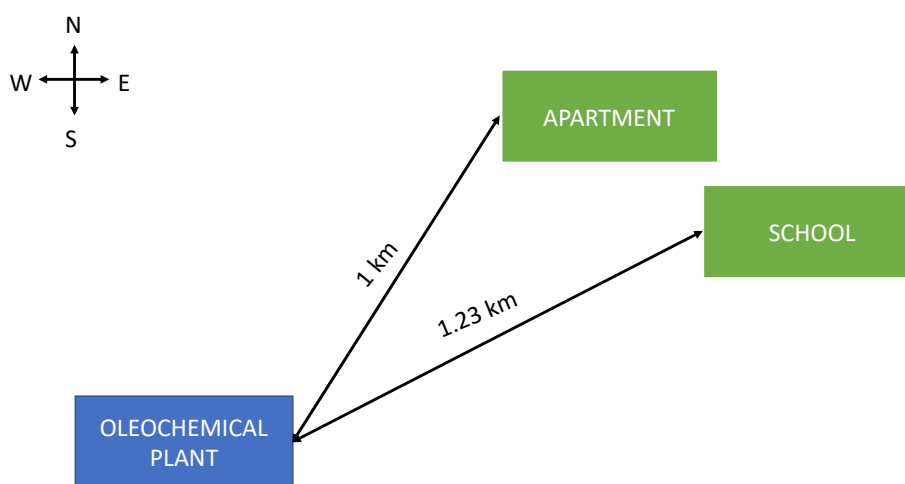
**Figure 4.** Thermal oil boiler with waste heat recovery system.

**Table 3.** Impacts of Implementation of Waste Heat Recovery on B01.

RESULTS	
Fuel Saving	17.29%
Cost Saving	56.41 T/Year
Payback Time	RM 85k/Year
CO <sub>2</sub> Reduction	85.16 Months
	149.29 T/Year

### 3.1.2. Gaussian Plume Model

Flue gas emission is always problematic as a high concentration of flue gas will not only cause an environmental impact but also health issues to the residents living around the industrial area. As shown in Figure 5, the oleochemical plant studied is located approximately 1 km away from a residential apartment and 1.23 km away from a public school. Therefore, a Gaussian plume model is used as a reference to study the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) released at these two locations before and after the heat integration (waste heat recovery) was carried out.

**Figure 5.** Schematic drawing of location studied.

The study includes three scenarios of different wind speed: minimum wind speed of 3 km/h, average wind speed of 7.6 km/h, and maximum wind speed of 14.8 km/h. The data on wind speed is obtained from the local meteorological department. CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is found to be highest under calm conditions, where the wind speed is less than 1 m/s. On the other hand, under crosswind conditions, where the wind is blown perpendicularly to the direction of particle travel, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is found to be lowest in all three scenarios due to a high dispersion and dilution rate. This paper focuses solely on case studies under calm conditions with minimum wind speed as shown in Figure 6 because these cases yield the most significant environmental impact on the neighbourhood. With the implementation of waste heat recovery between flue gas and inlet air, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at the residential apartment is reduced from 87.77 mg/m<sup>3</sup> to 62.80 mg/m<sup>3</sup> under calm conditions at minimum wind speed [32]. Meanwhile, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration generated at the public school is much lower than the concentration at the residential area. This is expected as the school is located at a greater distance from the oleochemical plant compared to the distance between the residential apartment and the plant. As presented, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at the school is reduced from 31.51 mg/m<sup>3</sup> to 23.32 mg/m<sup>3</sup> after the application of waste heat recovery. Taking into account the 785 mg/m<sup>3</sup> of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration already in the air, it was found that the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at both the residential and school areas are 847.8 mg/m<sup>3</sup> and 808.32 mg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively. These concentrations are much lower than the concentration limit of 1938 mg/m<sup>3</sup> set by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Services, which is classified as poor air quality where complaints of drowsiness are received [33].



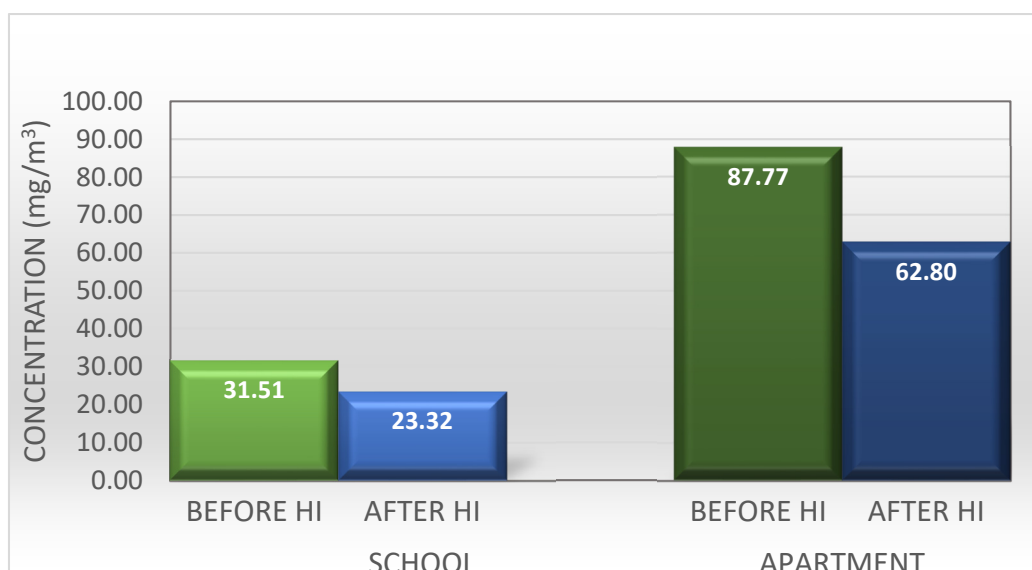


Figure 6. CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration under calm conditions.

### 3.2. Feasibility Study on Thermal Oil Boiler (B01)

A study on the impact of two parameters—excess air percentage in air-fuel ratio and boiler load percentage—on natural gas fuel saving percentage and annual reduction in carbon dioxide gas emissions is carried out. Both parameters are manipulated with the aim of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

#### 3.2.1. Excess Air Percentages

Figure 7 shows the impact of different excess air percentages on natural gas fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. At a fixed excess air percentage, variations in both air and fuel flowrates have different effects on the overall fuel savings and annual reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. Therefore, two separate sets of calculations were done for each excess air percentage, i.e., the first condition limits the variation of air flowrate while the second set limits the variation of fuel flowrate.

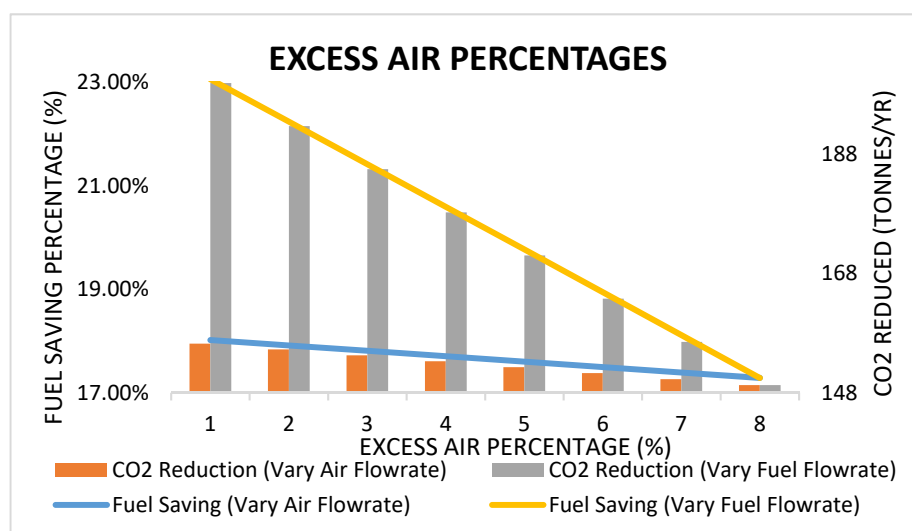


Figure 7. Fuel-Saving Percentage and CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction under Different Excess Air Percentages.

For both sets of calculations, fuel-saving percentage is shown to be reduced with the increase in excess air percentage. This is because when the air-fuel ratio is increased, a lower temperature is achieved for the preheated stream due to the insufficient energy provided by the fuel stream. As a

result, more fuel is consumed to provide sufficient energy to the utility stream, resulting in a decrease in the fuel-saving percentage. Under the same excess air percentage, the calculation set with a variation in fuel flowrate has a higher fuel-saving percentage than the one with fixed fuel flowrate. Fuel plays a more critical role in air–fuel ratio because the carbon atom structure within the fuel is the main source of carbon dioxide. As the excess air percentage is set from 1% to 8%, correspondingly, an increase in fuel consumption is expected, leading to a decrease of carbon dioxide saving. Both lines representing fuel-saving percentages for both sets of calculations eventually meet at 8% of excess air due to the same amount of fuel and air flowrates provided to the boiler.

It is also shown in both sets of calculations that the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emission decreases with the increase of excess air percentage because of the increase in fuel consumption. CO<sub>2</sub> emission is impacted directly by the flowrate of fuel consumed due to the presence of carbon atom in the fuel. CO<sub>2</sub> emission is inversely proportional to fuel consumption. CO<sub>2</sub> emission will increase as more fuel is consumed. The bars show the decrease in the annual reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for both sets of calculations, and they eventually reach the same amount of reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at 8% of excess air.

### 3.2.2. Boiler Load Percentage

The impact on the fuel-saving ratio and reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under different load percentages was analysed to study the feasibility of implementing the waste heat recovery system. This study is carried out by altering the load percentage of the boiler while fixing other parameters such as excess air percentage at 8%, utility temperature difference at 15 °C and boiler thermal capacity at 2.5 MW. As shown in Figure 8, the variation in boiler load percentage does not impact the fuel-saving ratio. For example, a boiler with a load percentage of 50% and excess air percentages of 8% consumes 203.91 t per annum of natural gas fuel to provide thermal energy to the utility stream. With the implementation of the waste heat recovery system, the fuel consumption can be reduced by 35.25 t per annum, which is around 17.29% of previous fuel consumption. When the load percentage of the boiler is adjusted to 80% and the excess air percentage is fixed at 8%, the fuel consumption is estimated to be 326.26 t per annum. The consumption of fuel is found to be reduced by 56.41 t per annum, which is also 17.29% of fuel consumption. Besides this, the reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions also increases with the increase of boiler load percentage. Although the fuel-saving ratio is constant across different boiler loads, more fuel is consumed as the boiler load percentage increases and thus more fuel is saved with the implementation of the waste heat recovery system despite its constant fuel-saving ratio. This also results in increasing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction per annum due to the increasing amount of fuel saving.

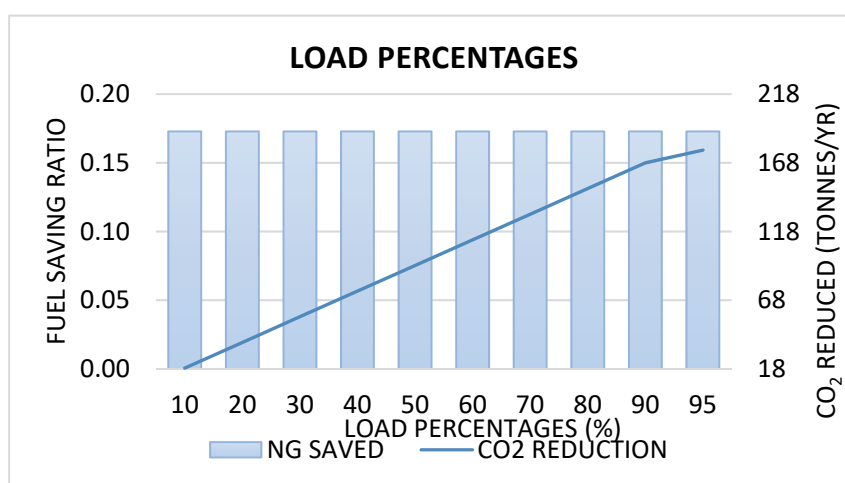


Figure 8. Fuel-Saving Ratio and CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction under Different Load Percentages.

#### 4. Conclusions

In conclusion, the implementation of the waste heat recovery system is feasible from both economic and environmental perspectives. The implementation of the waste heat recovery system on thermal oil boiler B01 can reduce fuel consumption by 56.41 t per annum and carbon dioxide emission by 149.29 t per annum while the payback time of the investment is estimated to be around 85 months. A payback time of approximately 7 years makes this study feasible for a plant with a typical lifespan of 30 years. Additionally, implementing this system on B01 in year 2019 can contribute to 0.01% of the targeted reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Paris Climate Agreement. Although this contribution may seem insignificant, it should be noted that this is the contribution from a boiler with an exact thermal capacity of 2.5 MW. It is also shown in the case study that the concentration levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted to nearby communities with high population density are well below the CO<sub>2</sub> exposure limit set by Wisconsin Department of Health and Services. With the implementation of the waste heat recovery system, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration levels at both the residential apartment and school area are further reduced, thus improving the air quality.

While this manuscript describes a conceptual study, proper physical setup as well as monitoring are needed in order to realise the physical reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> as well as energy conservation. In order to further reduce the energy consumption and environmental impact of the plant, it is recommended that the plant invests in a combined heat power system to harvest waste heat for power production. Additionally, since the current postulation focuses only on the utility site, a suggestion is also made to implement total site heat integration to further reduce the energy consumption of the plant.

**Author Contributions:** K.S.K. and V.S.C. proposed the main idea. S.J.C. performed the calculation as well as generated the excel generator and respective results. C.M.C. and V.S.C. supervised the project and provided useful discussion along the project. K.S.K. and S.J.C. validated the final result and wrote the manuscript.

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#### Abbreviations

<i>APH</i>	Air Preheater
<i>CO<sub>2</sub></i>	Carbon Dioxide Gas
<i>CTST</i>	Conventional Total Site Targeting
<i>DOE</i>	Department of Environment Malaysia
<i>DP</i>	Dew Point
<i>EPA</i>	United States Environmental Protection Agency
<i>HI</i>	Heat Integration
<i>LNG</i>	Liquefied Natural Gas
<i>NG</i>	Natural Gas Fuel
<i>P</i>	Pressure
<i>P*</i>	Newly Conditioned Flue Gas Pressure
<i>PBT</i>	Payback Period
<i>ROR</i>	Rate of Return
<i>T</i>	Temperature
<i>T*</i>	Newly Conditioned Flue Gas Temperature
<i>T<sub>premix</sub></i>	Premix Temperature
<i>TSHI</i>	Total Site Heat Integration
<i>UTST</i>	Unified Total Site Targeting

## Appendix A

Table A1. Limit values and technical standards for boiler [34].

FUEL TYPE	POLLUTANT	CAPACITY	LIMIT VALUE	MONITORING
Solid and Liquid Fuels	Sum of SO <sub>2</sub> and SO <sub>3</sub> , expressed of SO <sub>2</sub>	>10 MW <sub>e</sub>	500 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Continuous *
	Sum of NO <sub>2</sub> and NO <sub>3</sub> , expressed of NO <sub>2</sub>	>10 MW <sub>e</sub>	500 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Continuous *
	Hydrogen Chloride (HCl)	10 < C < 100 MW <sub>e</sub>	200 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Periodic
	Hydrogen Chloride (HCl)	≥100 MW <sub>e</sub>	100 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Periodic
	Hydrogen Fluoride (HF)	10 < C < 100 MW <sub>e</sub>	30 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Periodic
	Hydrogen Fluoride (HF)	≥100 MW <sub>e</sub>	15 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Periodic
	Carbon Monoxide (CO)	>10 MW <sub>e</sub>	200 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Continuous *
	Total PM	>10 MW <sub>e</sub>	50 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Continuous *
	Mercury (Hg)	>10 MW <sub>e</sub>	0.03 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Periodic
	PCDD/PCDF	>10 MW <sub>e</sub>	0.1 ng TEQ/m <sup>3</sup>	Periodic
Gaseous Fuels	Sum of NO <sub>2</sub> and NO <sub>3</sub> , expressed of NO <sub>2</sub>	>10 MW <sub>e</sub>	350 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Continuous *
	Carbon Monoxide (CO)	>10 MW <sub>e</sub>	50 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Continuous *
	Total PM	>10 MW <sub>e</sub>	5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Periodic

\* Averaging time for continuous monitoring is 30 min.

Table A2. Stack gas emission standards [35].

POLLUTION	EMISSION SOURCES	STANDARDS	
1. Dark Smoke	1.1. Solid Fuel Equipment to Facilities	Ringlemann Chart No.2	
	1.2. Equipment Using Other Types of Fuel	Ringlemann Chart No.1	
2. Dust	2.1. Facilities Used for the Heating of Metal Other Than Cold Blast Foundry Cupola	0.2 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>	
	2.2. Facilities Discharging Dust Containing Asbestos and Free Silica	0.12 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>	
	2.3. Portland Cement Manufacturing:		
	2.3.1. Kiln	0.2 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>	
	2.3.2. Clinker, Cooler, Grinder, Others	0.1 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>	
3. Metal and Metallic Compound	2.4. Asphalt Concrete/Bituminous Mixing Plant:		
	2.4.1. Stationary Plant	0.3 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>	
	2.4.2. Mobile Plant	0.4 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>	
	2.5. Other Sources	0.4 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>	
	3.1. Mercury	Industry	0.01 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>
	3.2. Cadmium	Industry	0.015 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>
	3.3. Lead	Industry	0.025 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>
4. Gases	3.4. Antimony	Industry	0.025 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>
	3.5. Arsenic	Industry	0.025 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>
	3.6. Zinc	Industry	0.1 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>
	3.7. Copper	Industry	0.1 gm/Nm <sup>3</sup>
	4.1. Acid Gases	Sulphuric Acid Manufacturing	3.5 gm of SO <sub>3</sub> /Nm <sup>3</sup> and No Persistent Mist
	4.2. Sulphuric Acid Mist or SO <sub>3</sub>	Any Sources Other Than 4.1.	0.2 gm of SO <sub>3</sub> /Nm <sup>3</sup> and No Persistent Mist
	4.3. Chlorine Gas	Any Source	0.2 gm of HCl/Nm <sup>3</sup>
	4.4. HCl	Any Source	0.2 gm of HCl/Nm <sup>3</sup>
	4.5. Fluorine, Hydrofluoric Acid, Inorganic Compound	Aluminium Manufacturing from Alumina	0.2 gm of Hydrofluoric Acid/Nm <sup>3</sup>
	4.6. - do -	Any Sources Other Than 4.5.	0.1 gm of Hydrofluoric Acid/Nm <sup>3</sup>
4.7. Hydrogen Sulphide	Any Source	5 ppm (Vol%)	
	4.8. NO <sub>x</sub>	Acid Nitric Manufacturing	1.7 gm of SO <sub>3</sub> /Nm <sup>3</sup> and Substantially Colourless
	4.9. SO <sub>x</sub>	Any Sources Other Than 4.8.	2.0 gm SO <sub>3</sub> /Nm <sup>3</sup>

```

Sub Worksheet_Calculate()
    GoalSeek
    CHECK
End Sub

Sub GoalSeek()
    Static Working As Boolean

    With Sheet4
        If (.Range("G32")) <> 1 And Not Working Then
            Working = True
            .Range("G32").GoalSeek Goal:=1, ChangingCell:=.Range("H24")
            Working = False
        End If
        If (.Range("G47")) <> 1 And Not Working Then
            Working = True
            .Range("G47").GoalSeek Goal:=1, ChangingCell:=.Range("H39")
            Working = False
        End If
        If (.Range("T65")) <> 0 And Not Working Then
            Working = True
            .Range("T65").GoalSeek Goal:=0, ChangingCell:=.Range("T67")
            Working = False
        End If
    End With
End Sub

Sub CHECK()
    If Range("F5") <= Range("H39") Then
        MsgBox ("WARNINKK:Condensation Occurred in Stream 2")
    End If
    If Range("F7") <= Range("H24") Then
        MsgBox ("WARNING: Condensation Occurred in Stream 4")
    End If
    If Range("U72") <= Range("T67") Then
        MsgBox ("WARNING: Autoignition of Natural Gas Occurred")
    End If
End Sub

```

Figure A1. Auto goal-seek function in Visual Basic.

The auto goal-seek function that is set here is meant to read the data range given by insertion of temperature input. It will then perform a proper calculation to define the work phase of the temperature output from the flue gas after economizer. If there is potential condensation, a warning sign will pop up to warn the user.

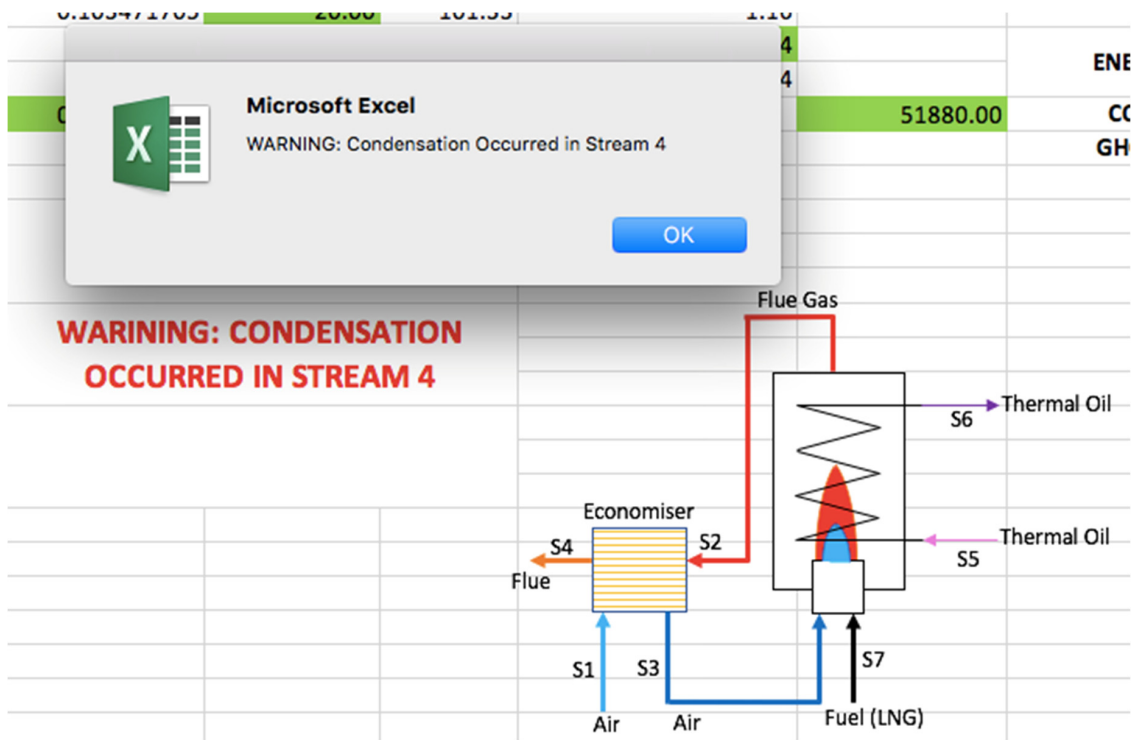


Figure A2. Warning when condensation of Flue Gas occurred.



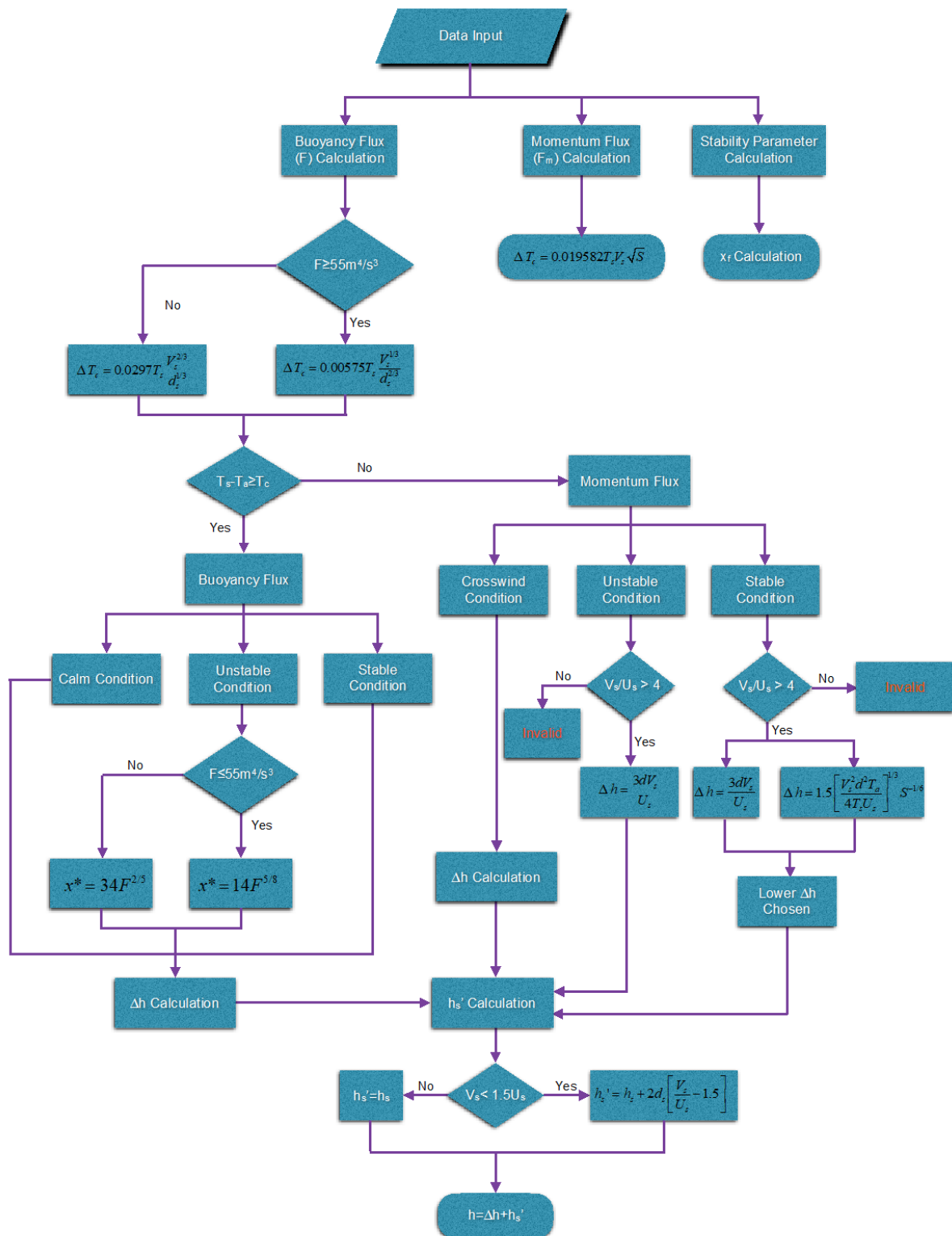


Figure A3. Flow Chart for Detailed Algorithm used in Calculation of Plume Rise Calculation.

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