



REVIEW OF DIFFERENT WASTE HEAT RECOVERY DEVICES IN PROCESS INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

As a result of depleting reserves of fossil fuels, conventional energy sources are becoming less available. In spite of this, energy is still being wasted, especially in the form of heat. The energy efficiency of process sites (defined as useful energy output per unit of energy input) may be increased through waste heat utilisation, thereby resulting in primary energy savings. In this work, waste heat is defined and a methodology developed to identify the potential for waste heat recovery in process sites; considering the temperature and quantity of waste heat sources from the site processes and the site utility system (including fired heaters and, the cogeneration, cooling and refrigeration systems). Benefits of waste heat recovery systems are discussed, furthermore salient points required for development of waste heat recovery system. Review of different waste heat recovery devices is taken, along with different case example. The review work also shows that combining technologies into a system creates greater potential to exploit the available waste heat in process sites

Keywords- Heat Pipes, Heat Wheels, Recuperators, Regenerators, Waste Heat.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Waste heat utilisation has received interest in recent years due to energy sources becoming less available and there is potential in waste heat to improve the energy efficiency of process sites. Waste heat loss is Quality- Depending upon the type of process, waste heat can be rejected at virtually any temperature from that of chilled cooling water to high temperature waste gases from an industrial furnace or kiln. Usually higher the temperature, higher the quality and more cost effective is the heat recovery. In any study of waste heat recovery, it is absolutely necessary that there should be some use for the recovered heat. Typical examples of use would be preheating of combustion air, space heating, or pre-heating boiler feed water or process water. With high temperature heat recovery, a cascade system of waste heat recovery may be practiced to ensure that the maximum amount of heat is recovered at the highest potential. An example of this technique of waste heat recovery would be where the high temperature stage was used for air pre-heating and the low temperature stage used for process feed water heating or steam raising. Quantity- In any heat recovery situation it is essential to know the amount of heat recoverable and also how it can be used.



1.2 Classification & Application

In considering the potential for heat recovery, it is useful to note all the possibilities, and grade the waste heat in terms of potential value as shown in the following Table 1.

High Temperature WHR

The following Table 2 gives temperatures of waste gases from industrial process equipment in the high temperature range. All of these results from direct fuel fired processes [5].

Medium Temperature WHR

The following Table 2 gives the temperatures of waste gases from process equipment in the medium temperature range. Most of the waste heat in this temperature range comes from the exhaust of directly fired process units.[5]

Table 1 Waste Source & Quality

No.	Source	Quality
1.	Heat in flue gases.	high temperature, greater potential value for heat recovery
2.	Heat in vapour streams.	As above but when condensed latent heat also recoverable.
3.	Convective & radiant heat lost from exterior of equipment	Low grade – if collected may be used for space heating/air preheats.
4.	Heat losses in cooling water.	Low grade – useful gains if heat is exchanged with incoming fresh water
5.	Heat losses in providing chilled water or in the disposal of chilled water	a) High grade if it can be utilized to reduce demand for refrigeration. b) Low grade if refrigeration unit used as a form of heat pump.

Table 2 Temperatures of Waste Gases from Process Equipment

High Temp. Range	
Types of Device	Temperature, °C
Nickel refining furnace	1370–1650
Aluminium refining furnace	650–760
Cement kiln (Dry process)	620–730
Glass melting furnace	1000–1550
Hydrogen plants	650–1000
Medium Temp. Range	
Steam boiler exhausts	230–480
Gas turbine exhausts	370–540
Heat treating furnaces	425–650
Drying and baking ovens	230–600
Annealing furnace cooling systems	425–650
Low Temp. Range	
Process steam condensate	55–88
Bearings	32–88



Welding machines	32–88
Injection moulding machines	32–88
Internal combustion engines	66–120
Air conditioning and refrigeration condensers	32–43

Low Temperature WHR

The following Table 2 lists some heat sources in the low temperature range. In this range it is usually not practical to extract work from the source, though steam production may not be completely excluded if there is a need for low-pressure steam. Low temperature waste heat may be useful in a supplementary way for preheating purposes.[5]

1.3. Benefits of WHR

Direct Benefits:

Recovery of waste heat has a direct effect on the efficiency of the process. This is reflected by reduction in the utility consumption & costs, and process cost.

Indirect Benefits:

- a) **Reduction in pollution:** A number of toxic combustible wastes such as carbon monoxide gas, sour gas, carbon black off gases, oil sludge, Acrylonitrile and other plastic chemicals etc, releasing to atmosphere if/when burnt in the incinerators serves dual purpose i.e. recovers heat and reduces the environmental pollution levels.
- b) **Reduction in equipment sizes:** Waste heat recovery reduces the fuel consumption, which leads to reduction in the flue gas produced. This results in reduction in equipment sizes of all flue gas handling equipments such as fans, stacks, ducts, burners, etc.
- c) **Reduction in auxiliary energy consumption:** Reduction in equipment sizes gives additional benefits in the form of reduction in auxiliary energy consumption like electricity for fans, pumps etc..

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

F. Fathieh et al. [3] discussed determination of the effectiveness of large heat wheels using standard measured data and test conditions can be very expensive and time consuming. The main contribution of this paper is that it tests heat wheel components rather than the wheel itself. In addition, this paper deals directly with the question of what accuracy can be achieved for the determination of sensible energy effectiveness by using a transient step change method for the exchanger matrix materials in a test cell.

Tongcai Wang et al. [4] used new type of open-cell metal foam-filled plate heat exchanger based thermoelectric generator system (HE-TEG) & proposed to utilize low grade waste heat. Several improving methods have been proposed and experimented, including adjustment of the cold water flow rate, enhancement of the heated air inlet temperature and increase of the number of TE couples. The performances of heat exchanger (HE) and thermoelectric generator (TEG) are discussed, respectively

Sarah Brückner et al. [5] investigated the potential of industrial waste heat for heating and cooling applications. Therefore, heat transformation technologies are presented and their technical and economic potential are

discussed. First, different industrial processes and their operating temperatures are presented as possible waste heat sources as well as low temperature processes, which can be supplied with waste heat

T Gbemi Oluleye et al. [6] illustrated methodology for an existing process site using a case study of a petroleum refinery. The energy efficiency of the site increases by 10% as a result of waste heat recovery. If there is an infinite demand for recovered energy (i.e. all the recoverable waste heat sources are exploited), the site energy efficiency could increase by 33%. The methodology also shows that combining technologies into a system creates greater potential to exploit the available waste heat in process sites.

Hongting Ma et al. [7] discussed a great amount of hot waste liquids and gases are discharged into environment during many steelmaking processes. These waste liquids and gases have crucial energy saving potential, especially for steel slag cooling process. It could be possible to provide energy saving by employing a waste heat recovery system (WHRS).

A.B. Etemoglu [8] have presented performance analysis of an industrial waste heat-based combined heat and power systems (WHCHP) completely uses energy and exergy efficiency parameters. The effect of waste water mass flow rate, pressure and temperature, organic fluid types on both energy and exergy efficiencies and economical profit of the system is investigated by a computer simulation. The first step of the analysis is the selection of the suitable working fluid. After that, in order to get the performance indicators, different scenarios are run by computer simulation for WHCHP.

III. COMMERCIAL WHR DEVICES

Recuperators- Heat exchange takes place between the flue gases and the air through metallic or ceramic walls. Duct or tubes carry the air for combustion to be pre-heated, the other side contains the waste heat stream. A recuperator for recovering waste heat from flue gases is shown in fig 1. The simplest configuration for a recuperator is the metallic radiation recuperator, which consists of two concentric lengths of metal tubing as shown in fig. 2.

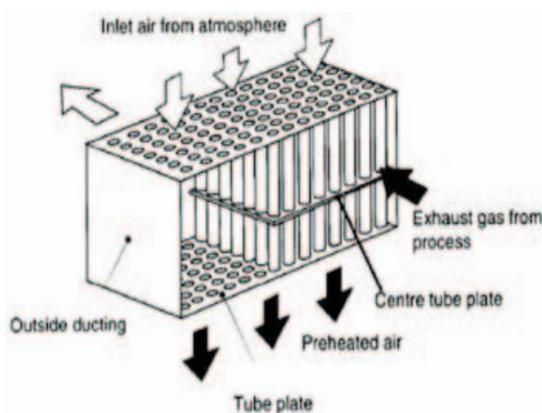


Fig. 1 WHR using Recuperator

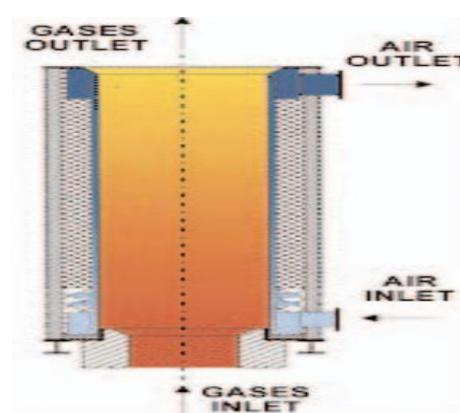


Fig. 2 Metallic Radiation Recuperator

A second common configuration for recuperators is called the tube type or convective recuperator.

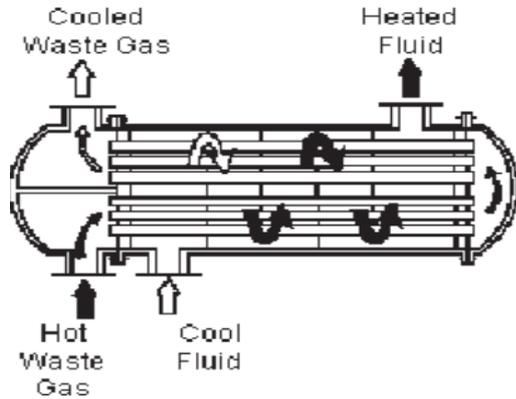


Fig. 3 Convective Recuperator

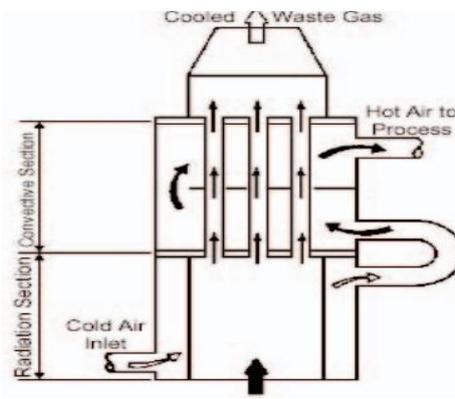


Fig. 4 Convective Radiative Recuperator

As seen in the fig. 3, the hotgases are carried through a number of parallels small diameter tubes, while the incoming air to be heated enters a shell surrounding the tubes and passes over the hot tubes one or more times in a direction normal to their axes.

Radiation/Convective Hybrid Recuperator- For maximum effectiveness of heat transfer, combinations of radiation and convective designs are used, with the high-temperature radiation recuperator being first followed by convection type. These are more expensive than simple metallic radiation recuperators, but are less bulky. A Convective/ radiative Hybrid recuperator is shown in fig. 4

Regenerator-The Regeneration which is preferable for large capacities has been very widely used in glass and steel melting furnaces. Important relations exist between the size of the regenerator, time between reversals, thickness of brick, conductivity of brick and heat storage ratio of the brick. In a regenerator, the time between the reversals is an important aspect. Long periods would mean higher thermal storage and hence higher cost. Also long periods of reversal result in lower average temperature of preheat and consequently reduce fuel economy.

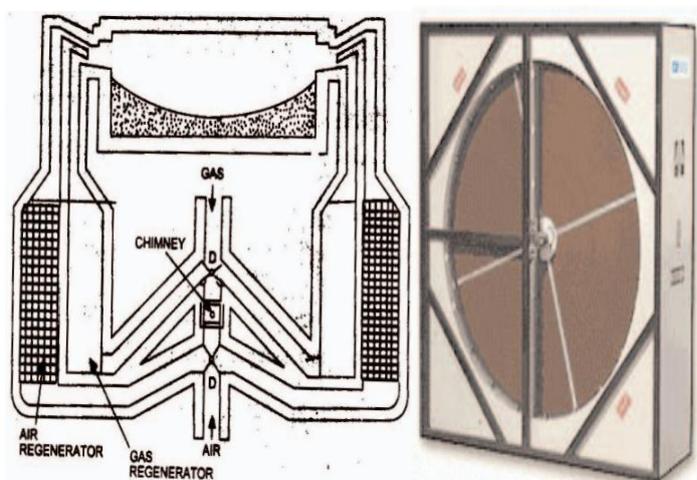


Fig. 5 Regenerator

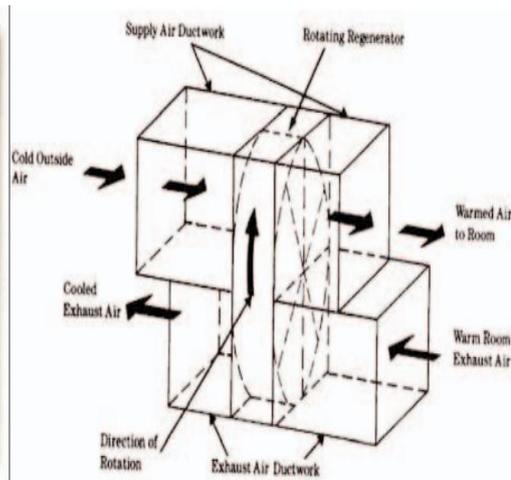


Fig. 6 Heat Wheel

(Fig. 5). Accumulation of dust and slagging on the surfaces reduce efficiency of the heat transfer as the furnace becomes old. Heat losses from the walls of the regenerator and air in leaks during the gas period and outleaks during air period also reduces the heat transfer.

Heat Wheels-It is finding increasing applications in low to medium temperature waste heat recovery systems. Fig. 6 is a sketch illustrating the application of a heat wheel. Its main area of application is where heat exchange between large masses of air having small temperature differences is required. Heating and ventilation systems and recovery of heat from dryer exhaust air are typical applications. [3]

Heat Pipe - A heat pipe can transfer up to 100 times more thermal energy than copper, the best known conductor. In other words, heat pipe is a thermal energy absorbing and transferring system and has no moving parts and hence require minimum maintenance. Heat pipe is shown in fig. 7 [7]

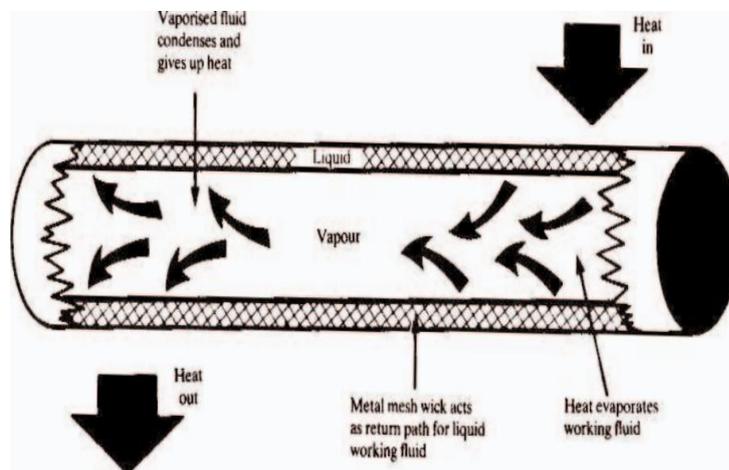


Figure 7 Heat Pipe

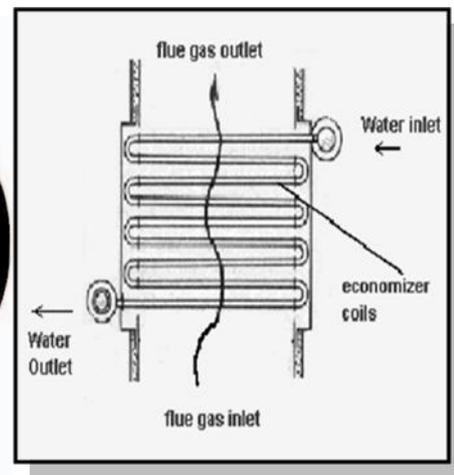


Fig. 8 Economiser

Typical Application

- a. Process to Space Heating: The heat pipe heat exchanger transfers the thermal energy from process exhaust for building heating. The preheated air can be blended if required
- b. Process to Process: The heat pipe heat exchangers recover waste thermal energy from the process exhaust and transfer this energy to the incoming process air. The incoming air thus becomes warm and can be used for the same process/other processes and reduces process energy consumption.
- c. HVAC Applications: Cooling: Heat pipe heat exchangers precool the building make up air in summer and thus reduces the total tons of refrigeration, apart from the operational saving of the cooling system.

Economiser -In case of boiler system, economizer can be provided to utilize the flue gas heat for preheating the boiler feed water. On the other hand, in an air pre-heater, the waste heat is used to heat combustion air. In both the cases, there is a corresponding reduction in the fuel requirements of the boiler. Economizer is shown in fig. 8.

Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger- When the medium containing waste heat is a liquid or a vapour which heats another liquid, then the shell and tube heat exchanger must be used since both paths must be sealed to contain the pressures of their respective fluids. A shell and tube heat exchanger is illustrated in fig. 9.

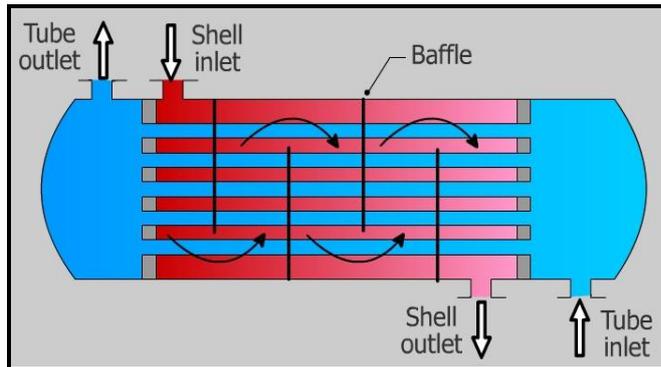


Fig. 9 Shell & Tube Heat Exchanger

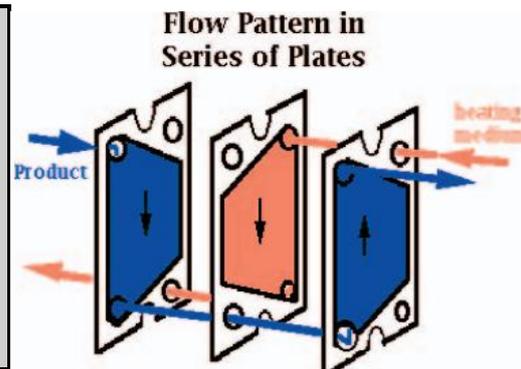


Fig. 10 Plate Heat Exchanger

Typical applications of shell and tube heat exchangers include heating liquids with the heat contained by condensates from refrigeration and air-conditioning systems; condensate from process steam; coolants from furnace doors, grates, and pipe supports; coolants from engines, air compressors, bearings, and lubricants; and the condensates from distillation processes.

Plate heat exchanger- The cost of heat exchange surfaces is a major cost factor when the temperature differences are not large. A plate heat exchanger is shown in fig10.[4] Typical industrial applications are Pasteurisation section in milk packaging plant, Evaporation plants in food industry.

Waste Heat Boilers -Waste heat boilers are ordinarily water tube boilers in which the hot exhaust gases from gas turbines, incinerators, etc., pass over a number of parallel tubes containing water. Waste heat boilers are built in capacities from 25 m³ almost 30,000 m³ / min. of exhaust gas. Typical applications of waste heat boilers are to recover energy from the exhausts of gas turbines, reciprocating engines, incinerators, and furnaces.

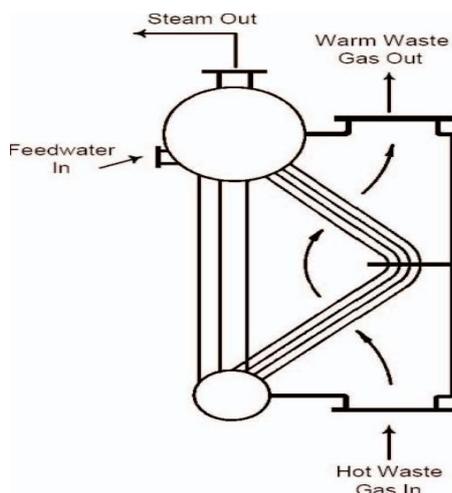


Fig. 11 Two-Pass Water Tube WHR Boiler

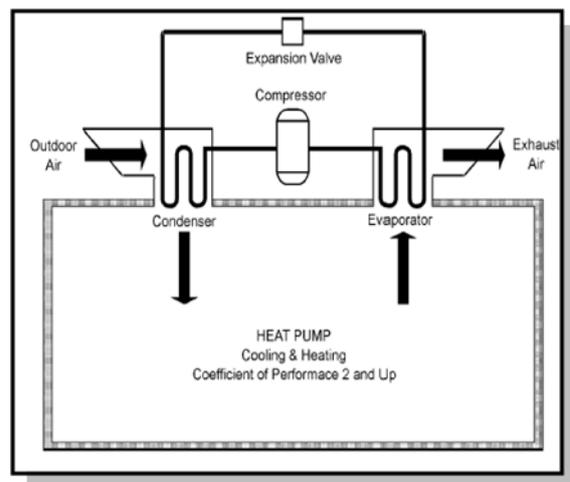


Fig. 12 Heat Pump Arrangement

Heat Pumps-In the various commercial options previously discussed, we find waste heat being transferred from a hot fluid to a fluid at a lower temperature. Heat must flow spontaneously "downhill", that is from a system at high temperature to one at a lower temperature. When energy is repeatedly transferred or transformed, it

becomes less and less available for use. Eventually that energy has such low intensity (resides in a medium at such low temperature) that it is no longer available at all to perform a useful function. Heat pump applications are most promising when both the heating and cooling capabilities can be used in combination. One such example of this is a plastics factory where chilled water from a heat pump is used to cool injection-moulding machines whilst the heat output from the heat pump is used to provide factory or office heating. Other examples of heat pump installation include product drying, maintaining dry atmosphere for storage and drying compressed air.

Thermo-compressor-In many cases, very low pressure steam are reused as water after condensation for lack of any better option of reuse. In many cases it becomes feasible to compress this low pressure steam by very high pressure steam and reuse it as a medium pressure steam. The major energy in steam, is in its latent heat value and thus thermo-compressing would give a large improvement in waste heat recovery. Thermo-compressor is shown in fig. 13

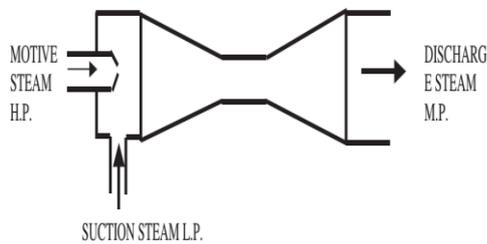


Fig.13 Thermo-compressor

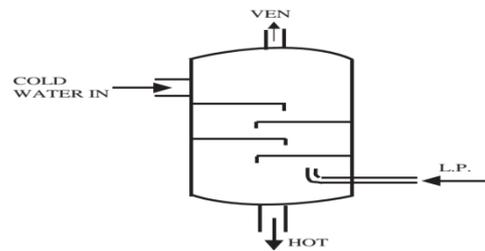


Fig. 14 Direct Contact Condenser

It is typically used in evaporators where the boiling steam is recompressed and used as heating steam.

Direct Contact Heat Exchanger-Low pressure steam may also be used to preheat the feed water or some other fluid where miscibility is acceptable. This principle is used in Direct Contact Heat Exchanger and finds wide use in a steam generating station. Direct contact heat exchanger is shown in fig.14. Typical application is in the deaerator of a steam generation station.

IV. CASE EXAMPLES

1. A rotary heat regenerator was installed on a two colour printing press to recover some of the heat, which had been previously dissipated to the atmosphere, and used for drying stage of the process. The outlet exhaust temperature before heat recovery was often in excess of 100°C. After heat recovery the temperature was 35°C. Percentage heat recovery was 55% and payback on the investment was estimated to be about 18 months. Cross contamination of the fresh air from the solvent in the exhaust gases was at a very acceptable level.
2. A ceramic firm installed a heat wheel on the preheating zone of a tunnel kiln where 7500 m³/hour of hot gas at 300°C was being rejected to the atmosphere. The result was that the flue gas temperature was reduced to 150°C and the fresh air drawn from the top of the kiln was preheated to 155°C. The burner previously used for providing the preheated air was no longer required. The capital cost of the equipment was recovered in less than 12 months. [3]

3. Savings in Hospital Cooling Systems

Volume 140- m³/min Exhaust

Recovered heat- 28225 kCal/hr

Plant capacity reduction- 9.33 TR

Electricity cost (operation)- Rs. 268/Million kCal (based on 0.8 kW/TR)

Plant capacity reduction cost (Capital)- Rs.12,000/TR

Capital cost savings- Rs. 1,12,000/-

Payback period- 16570 hours

4. Gases leaving a carbon black plant rich in carbon monoxide which are vented to the atmosphere.

Equipment Suggested	CO incinerator along with waste heat boiler & steam turbine
Estimated equipment cost	Rs.350 Lakhs
New boiler efficiency	80%
Savings	Rs.160 Lakhs /annum
Indirect benefits	Reduction in pollution levels

5. Exhaust steam from evaporator in a fruit juice concentrator plant was condensed in a precondenser operation on cooling water upstream of a steam jet vacuum ejector

Equipment Suggested	Alt-1 Thermo-compressor Alt-2 shell & tube exchanger
Cost of thermo-compressor	Rs.1.5 Lakhs
Savings of jacket steam due to recompression of vapour	Rs.5.0 Lakhs per annum
Cost of shell & tube exchanger to preheat feed water	Rs.75,000/-
Savings in fuel cost	Rs.4.5 Lakhs per annum

V. RESULTS

The rising cost of energy, combined with increasingly stringent legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is driving process industries towards increasing energy efficiency. Significant gains can be made in this sector by recovering low-grade waste heat as up to (4% of total energy use) of the Indian process industries' energy consumption is lost as recoverable waste heat. Substantial recovery of this would have economic benefits and environmental benefits of 100s of thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year. A similar situation is envisaged in other industrialised countries.

This work describes the development of a knowledge-based system for the selection and preliminary design of equipment for waste heat recovery in the process industries. The system processes commonly available plant data to select the most appropriate technology for waste heat recovery from a range of programmed options. Case-study testing shows that the system can successfully select and design viable solutions for waste heat recovery from a range of options, producing designs which are economically, environmentally and technically feasible.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

Waste heat is heat, which is generated in a process by way of fuel combustion or chemical reaction, and then "dumped" into the environment even though it could still be reused for some useful and economic purpose. The

essential quality of heat is not the amount but rather its “value”. The strategy of how to recover this heat depends in part on the temperature of the waste heat gases and the economics involved. Large quantity of hot flue gases is generated from Boilers, Kilns, Ovens and Furnaces. If some of this waste heat could be recovered, a considerable amount of primary fuel could be saved. The energy lost in waste gases cannot be fully recovered. However, much of the heat could be recovered and loss minimized by combining above devices at certain point in process industry.

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