

Green Energy from black water – The HAMBURG WATER Cycle® in the settlement "Jenfelder Au"



Dr. Franziska Meinzinger Brussels, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014

## Conventional water management in urban areas





## New demands on water management

- HAMBURG WASSER wastewater: ~ 150 Mio. m³/a,
   energy demand for treatment: ~ 165 Mio kWh/a
- → Higher energy efficiency gains more importance

#### **Boundary conditions:**

 Increasing number of inhabitants but decreasing water consumption

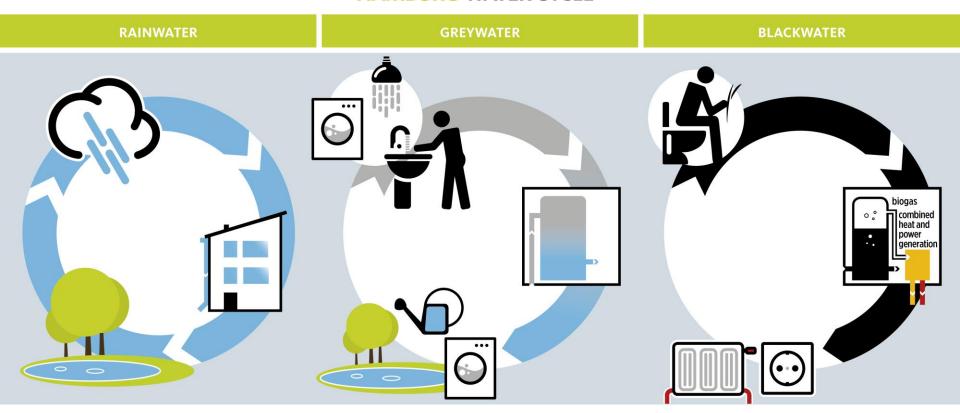
## Important steps:

- Optimization of processes & extension of services
- Fundamental question: Are we optimizing the right system?
- → Execution of large-scale pilot projects
- → HAMBURG WATER Cycle®

# The HAMBURG WATER Cycle® – an integrated solution



#### **HAMBURG WATER CYCLE®**

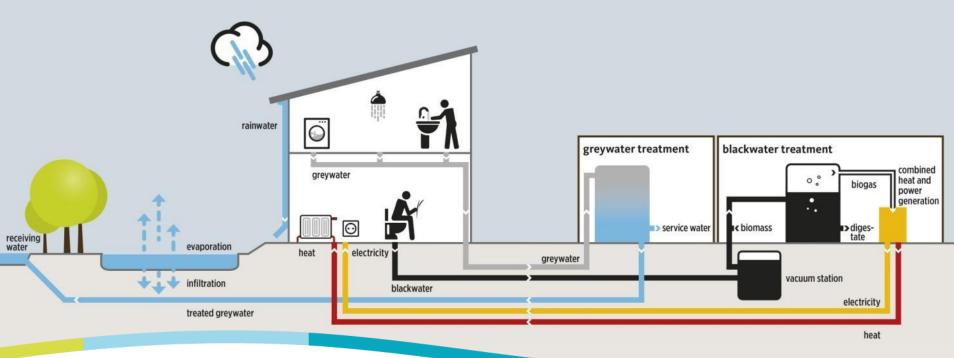


Source separation as a basis for an urban wastewater and energy project

## HWC - flagship project Jenfelder Au

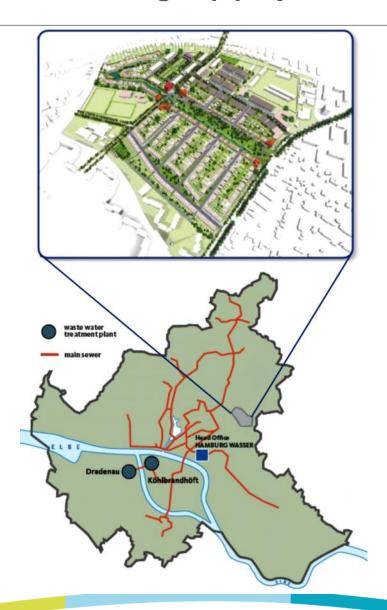


- Separate collection of blackwater, greywater and rainwater
- Transportation of the blackwater by use of vacuum technology
- Blackwater recycling allows fermentation with other biomass and therefore a renewable energy extraction on site
- → residential heat and power supply!



## HWC - flagship project Jenfelder Au





## Situation and geography

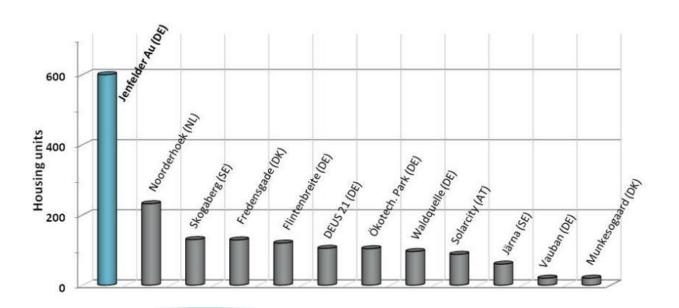
- Revitalization of former military barracks into a new urban district
- Realization: 2011 2017
- more than 600 housing units with about 2.000 residents
- Low energy and passive houses
- Integration of the innovative concept HAMBURG WATER Cycle®

## HWC - flagship project Jenfelder Au



## International classification and support

- Largest separating sanitation system throughout Europe
- Professional operation by HAMBURG WASSER
- Realisation is supported by two German Ministries and the European Commission



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#### Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages



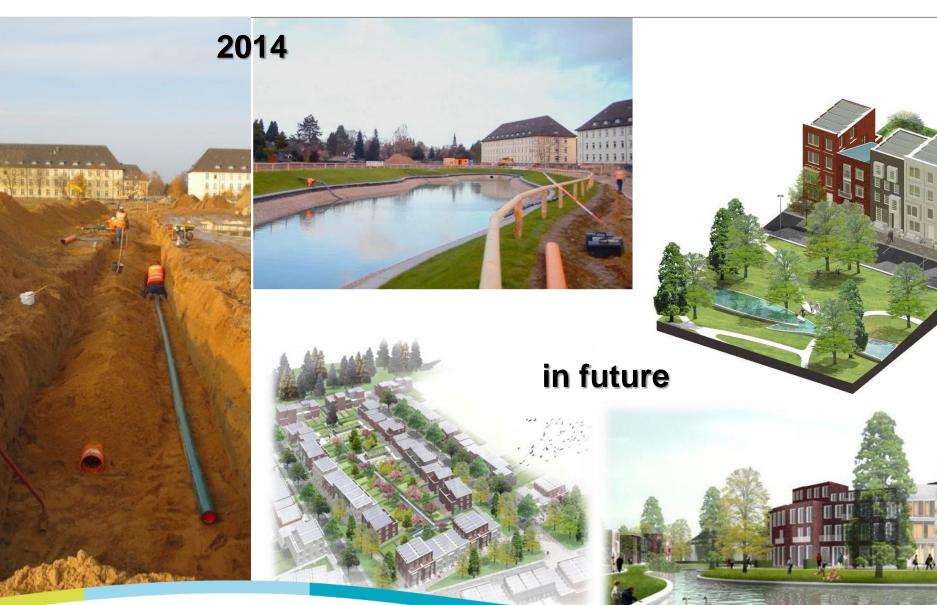
# **HWC** – impressions of the construction





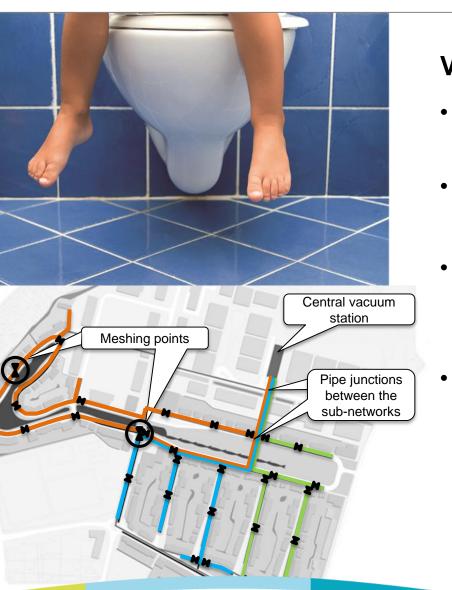
# **HWC** – impressions of the construction





## Technical challenges: Vacuum system





#### Vacuum toilet

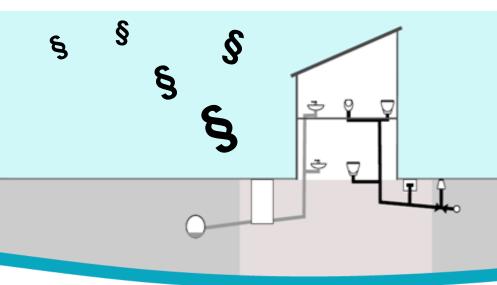
- Central part of the HWC: concentrated blackwater for fermentation
- Reducing drinking water demand: only 0.5 - 1.0 Liter per flush
- Low dilution as a pre-condition for efficient biogas generation and potential nutrient recovery
- Ambition to construct a highly reliable, customer friendly, large-scale blackwater vacuum network

# Legal challenges: Source separation and vacuum system



## Adaption of policy framework:

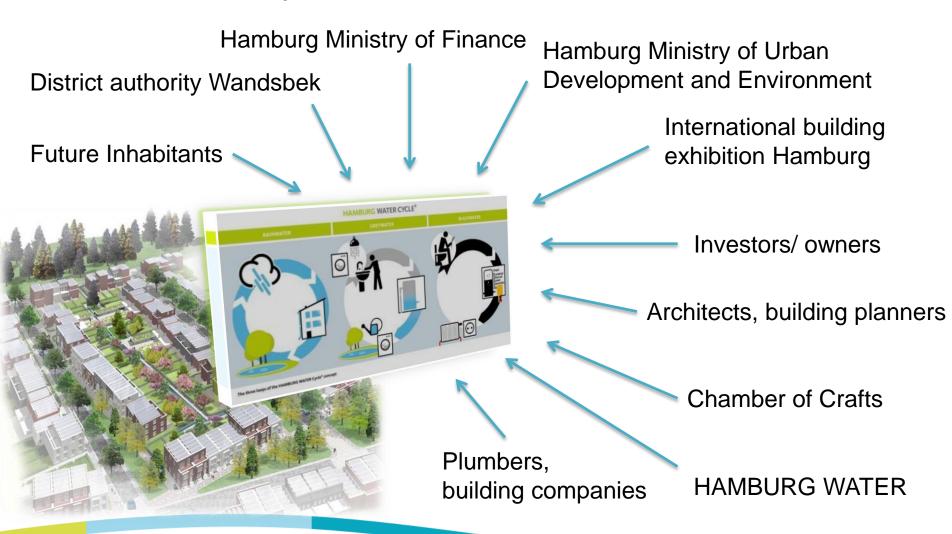
- HAMBURG WASSER:
  - → responsibility ends at boundary between public and private ground
  - → interest in smooth & efficient operation including in-house components
  - → revision chamber, leakage tests, ...
- Wastewater law in Hamburg (HmbAbwG) covers so far drainage based on gravity flow sewers and pressure
  - → for HWC change of law necessary, this process is in progress since 2010



## Organisational challenges: Numerous stakeholders



## Stakeholder analysis



## Summary: Project HWC Jenfelder Au



## The HAMBURG WATER Cycle:

- Combination of supply and disposal
- Intelligent integration of wastewater management based on source control with energy generation

## **Advantages:**

- Energy potential & nutrients of blackwater become reusable
- Climate neutral biogas CO<sub>2</sub> neutral local heat supply
- About 30% water savings

## **Special challenges:**

- Many stakeholders with different interests
- Legal framework and organisational boundaries need to be adapted







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