

Skygard: Build The Data Center Where The Energy Can Be Reused

● Energy First Real Estate | Kranløftet · 10th floor | 11:40–11:50 | 

Part of Gridlocked? Put Demand Where It Works



Oscar Thøgersen
CCO, Skygard

Put data centres in the city, where their heat can warm homes

Oscar Thøgersen (Skygard) argued that the cheapest site far from the city is not necessarily the smartest one, and that location must mean more than land and power. His case was OSL 1 at Ulven, Skygard's Oslo data centre next door to the summit: 20 MW, 25 000 m², PUE 1.2 and ERF 0.95. The power is used twice: servers turn renewable electricity into digital services and heat, which is captured from the cooling system and lifted by Hafslund Celsio to ~90 °C for district heating for ~12,000 Oslo homes. It is more expensive and complicated: urban plots cost far more, city grid capacity is scarce and must be planned years ahead, and heat reuse needs an offtaker and long-term agreements. In return, the heat goes where people live and the data centre becomes part of the city's energy system.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Treat the location of a data centre as an energy decision, not only a question of land and power.
- Heat reuse only works with an offtaker and long-term agreements in place.
- City grid capacity is scarce and must be planned years ahead.
- Put critical, low-latency workloads close to the city, and large flexible loads where land and power are abundant.
- Decide by system value: ask where the next megawatt does the most good.

~12,000

Oslo homes heated with reused heat from OSL 1