



## Geothermal Energy

Jordens varme

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FolkeUniversitetet

November 12, 2019

# **GEO THERMAL ENERGY**

# **JORDENS VARME**

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**Section Geology and Geotechnics**  
**DTU Civil Engineering**

# Plan of the presentation

## Theoretical overview

- Planet Earth
- The origin of geothermal energy
- How hot is the Earth

## Brief History of the use of geothermal energy

## The basic principles behind the geothermal utilization

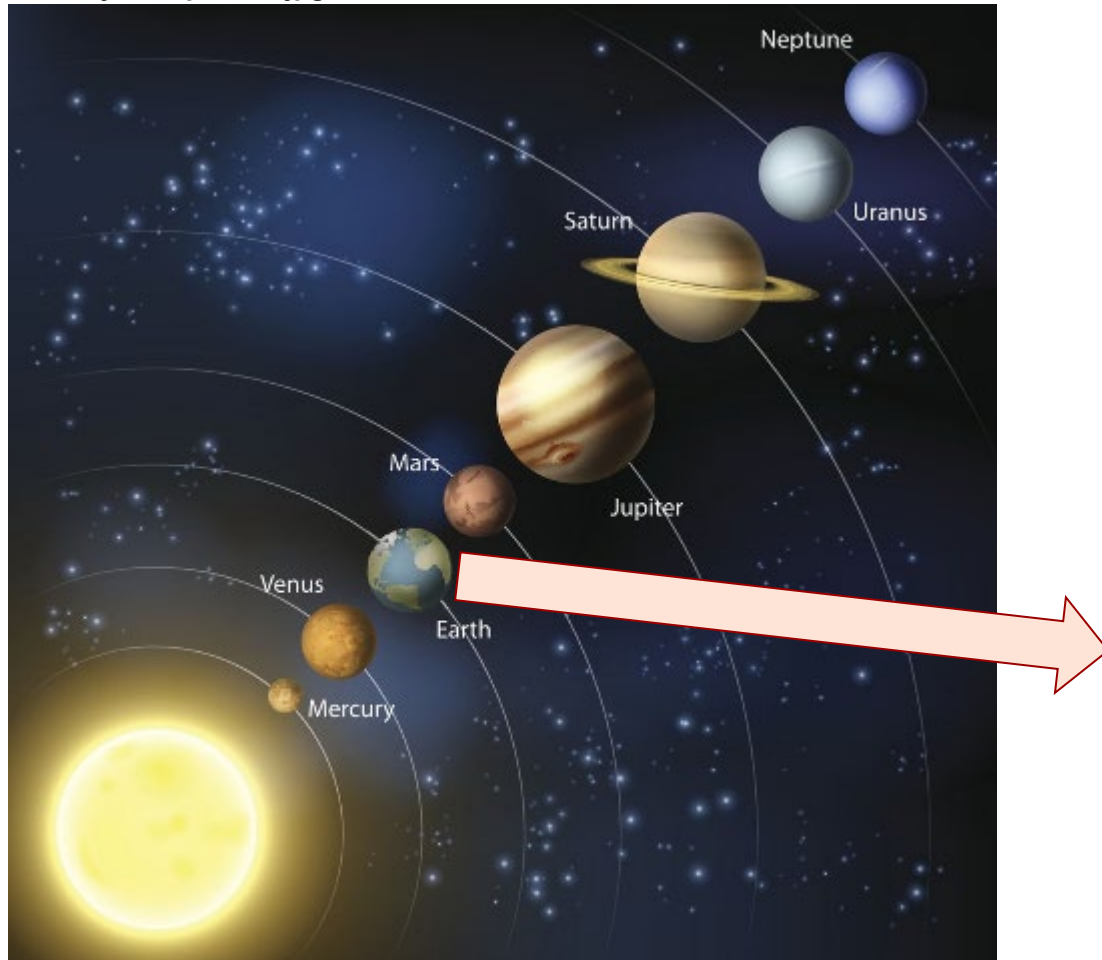
- Direct and indirect use
- Geothermal energy systems:
  - Heat storage systems
  - Producing electricity systems

## Geothermal usage in the world, Europe, Iceland, Denmark

# The Planet Earth

The 3<sup>rd</sup> rock from the Sun -☺ Created appr. 4.5 milliard years ago

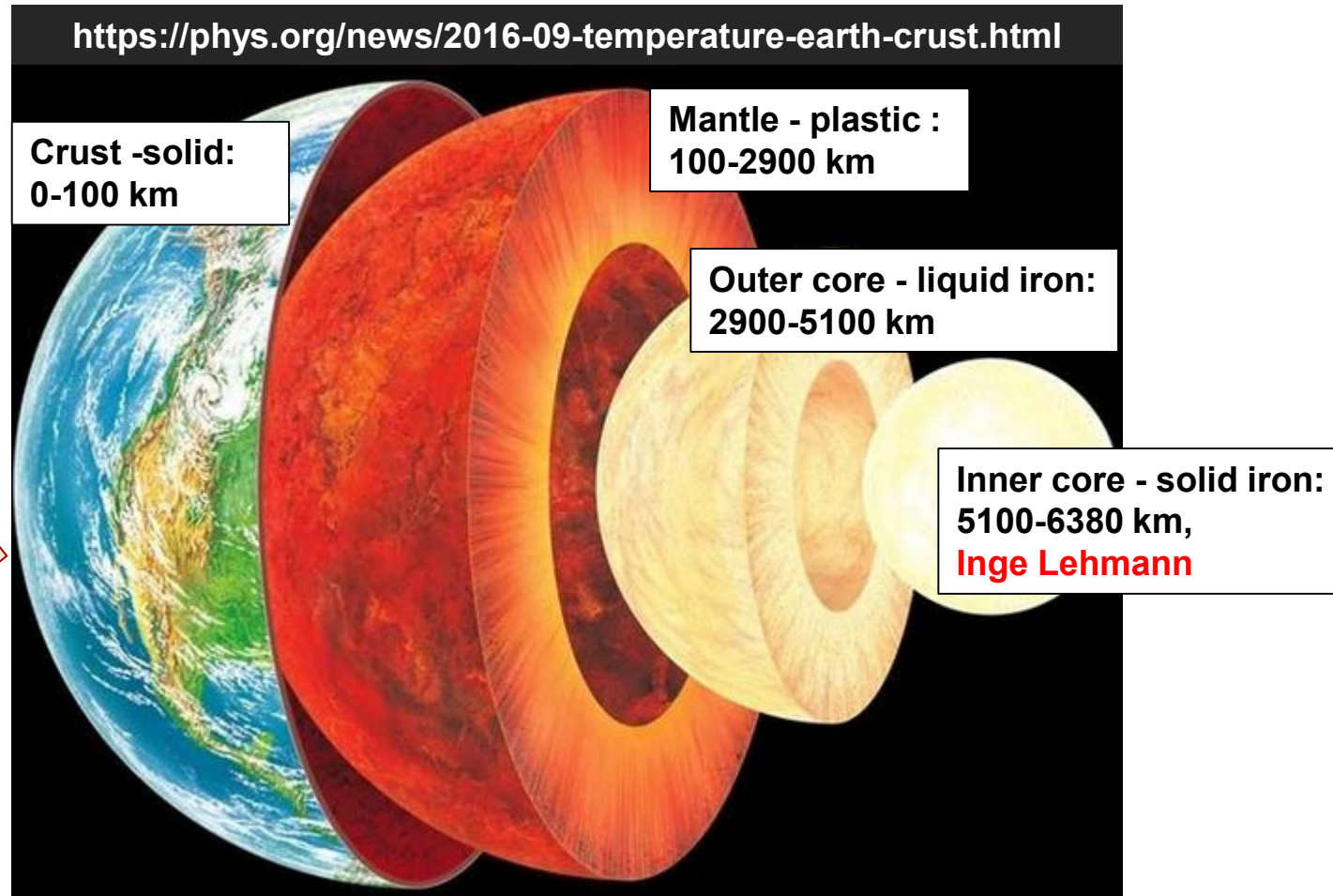
<https://pixfeeds.com/images/astronomy/solar-system/1280-1200-520442503-solar-system-planets.jpg>



## Layered structure

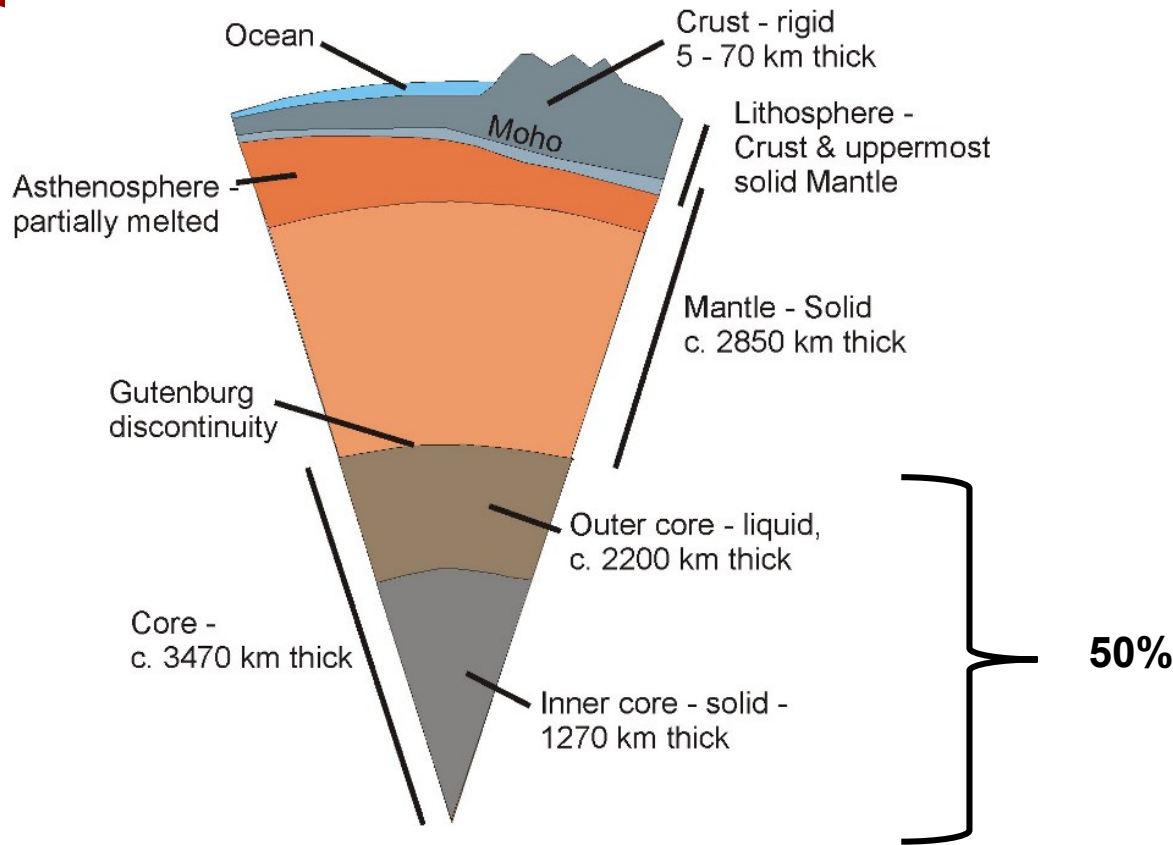
Crust and mantle: silicates  
Core: mostly iron (with a bit of nickel)

<https://phys.org/news/2016-09-temperature-earth-crust.html>



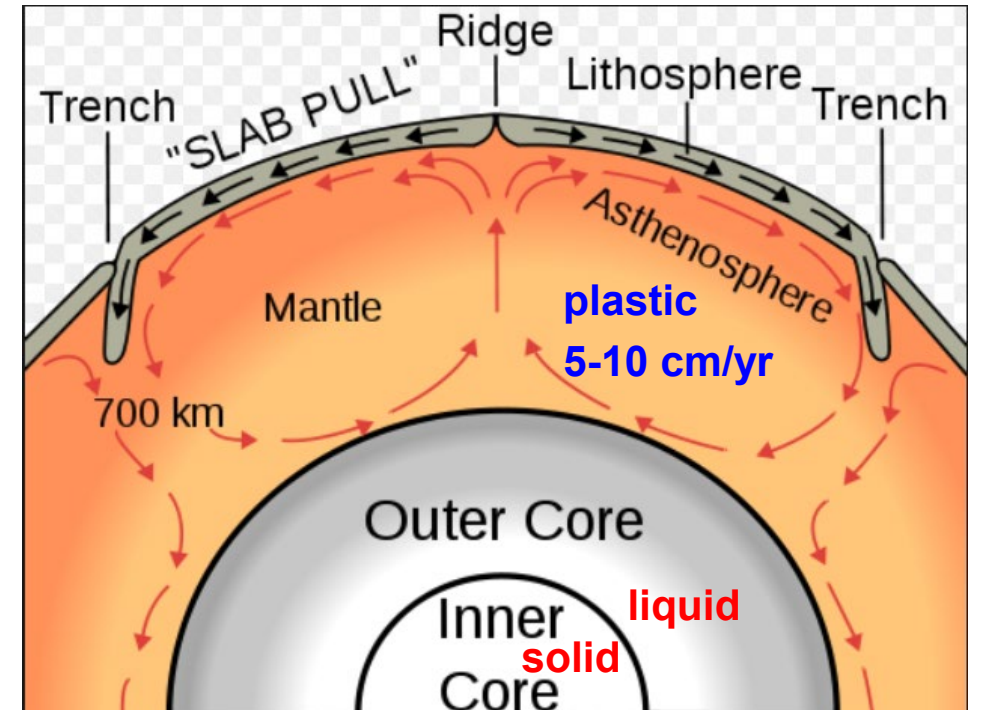
# The Planet Earth: layered structure

## Ever changing and evolving



All the parts are in constant motion:

- Rotation around the Sun
- Convection (Mantle, Core)
- Tidal waves
- Plate tectonics (Crust, Mantle)



**Radius: appr. 6380 km**

	Size /thickness (km)	% of total
Crust/Litho	100	1.6%
Mantle	2800	43.9%
Outer core	2200	34.5%
Inner core	1280	20.0%

# Sources / Origin of Geothermal Energy

## Internal: Physical and Chemical Processes

## External: the Sun



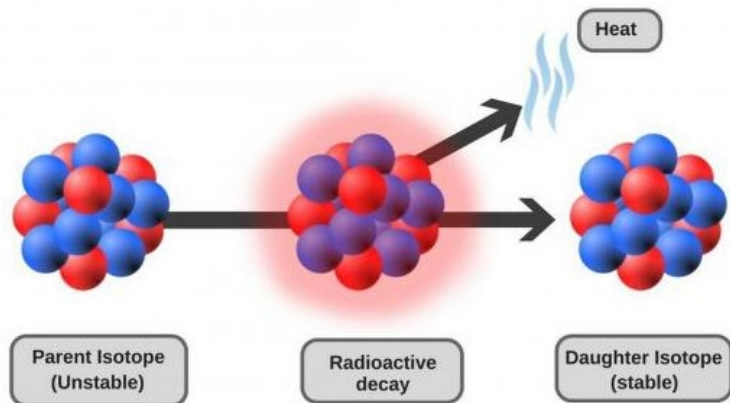
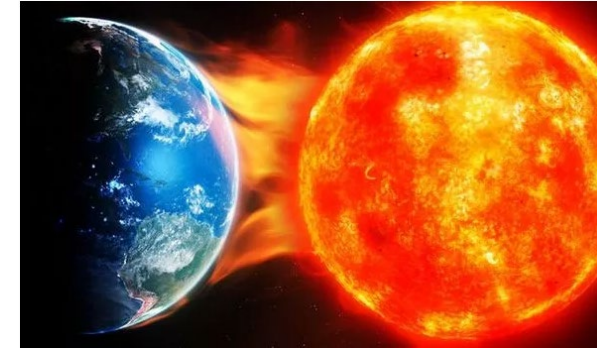
Formation of the planet

Gravitation and Rotation → friction

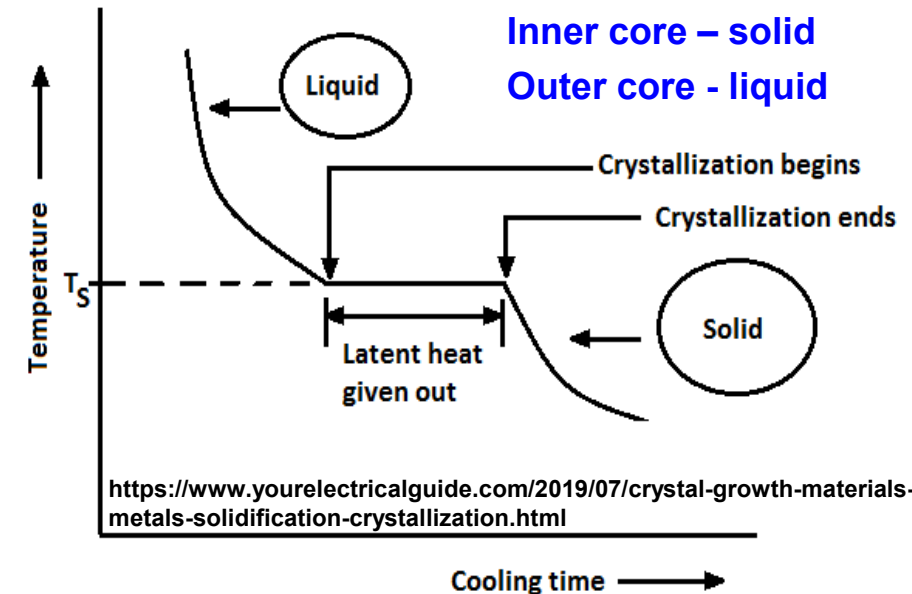
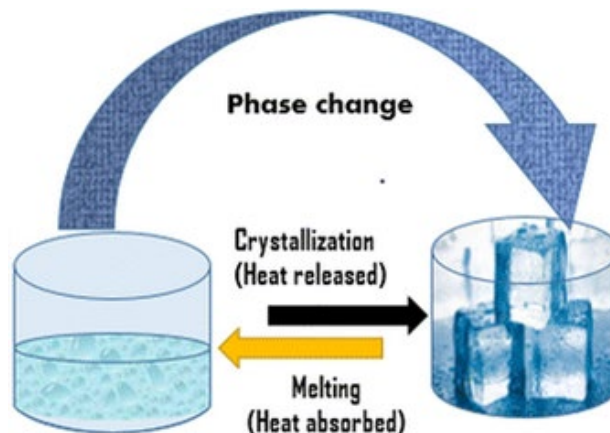
Radioactive – decay of isotopes

Chemical & physical reactions due to high pressure and high temperature: mineral transitions → release heat

Latent crystallization: outer/inner core → transition liquid to solid – releases heat



<https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school>



## BASIC TERMS - BEGREBER

## Temperature:

- Daily life: Celsius (SI): 0 °C – freezing water, 100 °C – boiling water  
Fahrenheit: 0 °F (original) – freezing of brine (equal parts water, salt, ice)
- Science (Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, etc.): Kelvin – the absolute temperature (absolute 0)  
0 °K = -273.15 °C = -459.67 °F – the lowest possible temperature in our universe

**Outer space/ interplanetary temperature – appr. 2.7 °K**

**Enthalpy, Entropy:** refer to the energy contained/stored in a system

**The absolute zero (0 °K) – temperature at which the enthalpy / entropy of an ideal gas are at minimum** -273.15 - 0

**Geothermal potential** – the possible energy (in Watt or Joule) that can be extracted from geothermal sources

Sometimes, geothermal potential is expressed in enthalpy

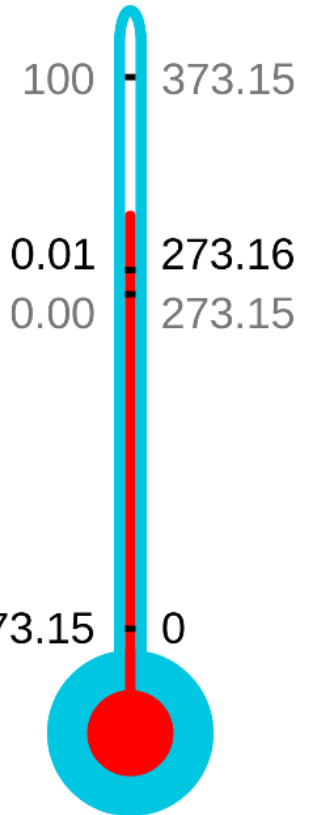
**Thermal conductivity** – the ability to conduct heat (similar to electrical conductivity)

**Geothermal gradient** – change of temperature in depth

Celsius Kelvin

° C

K



# How hot is the Earth?

## Temperatures in the Earth's interior are not measured directly

- Lab experiments on melting of basalt, iron under extreme pressures (100-200 GPa), 1 Gpa =10000 atm.

## Temperature in the mantle – more or less “fixed”

~2-400 °C to ~4000 °C

## The temperature in, especially the inner core – still debated

Large uncertainty in the experimental set ups to detect material conditions at the centre of the Earth

## Experiments in early 1990's (1993, Nature)

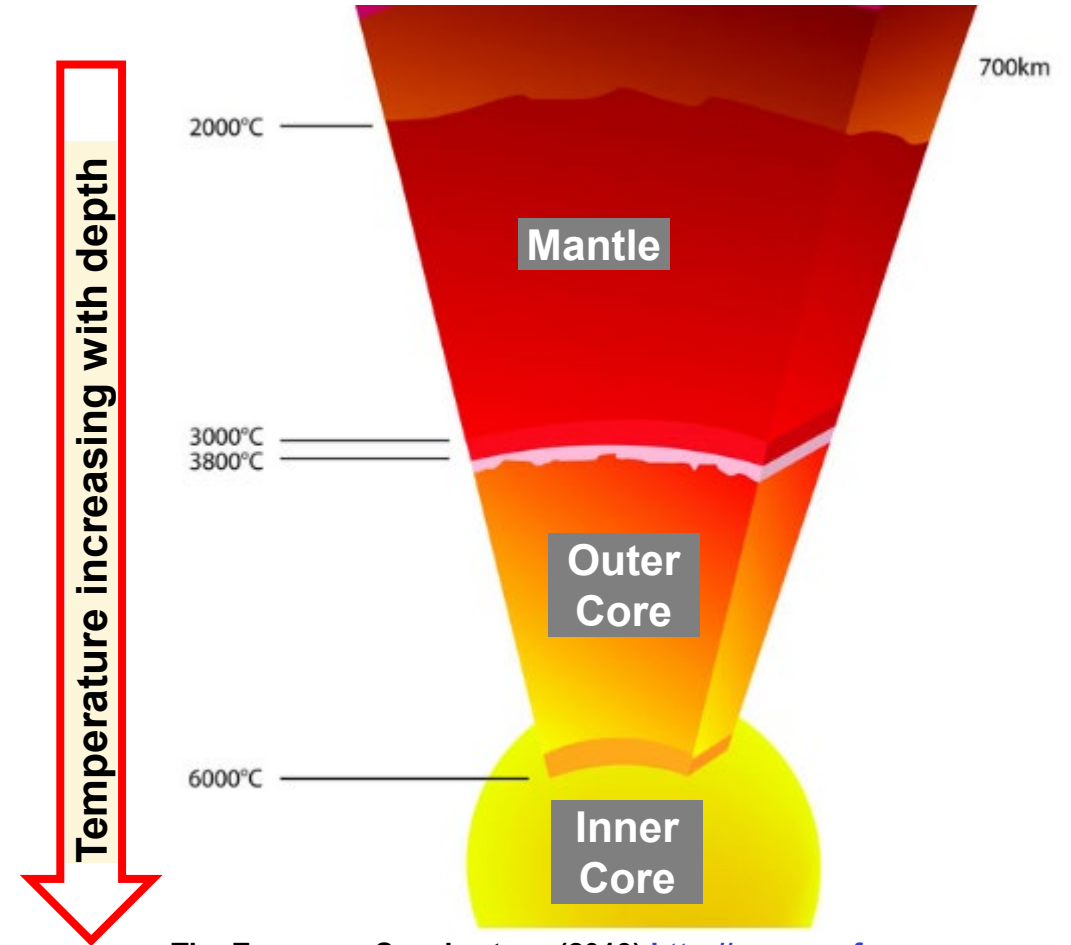
- 1993: ~ 5000 °C @ Pressure ~ 200 GPa

## Experiments at the European Synchrotron (ESRF), published in Science:

- 2013: > 6000 °C @ Pressure ~ 200 GPa
- 2015: ~ 3090 °K @ Pressure = 103 GPa

## Temperature scala:

- Celsius (°C), Fahrenheit (°F) – daily life
- Kelvin (°K) – planetary sciences
- 0 °C = + 273.15 °K; 0 °K = - 273.15 °C



The European Synchrotron (2013) <http://www.esrf.eu>  
<https://www.esrf.eu/news/general/Earth-Center-Hotter>



# How hot is the Earth?

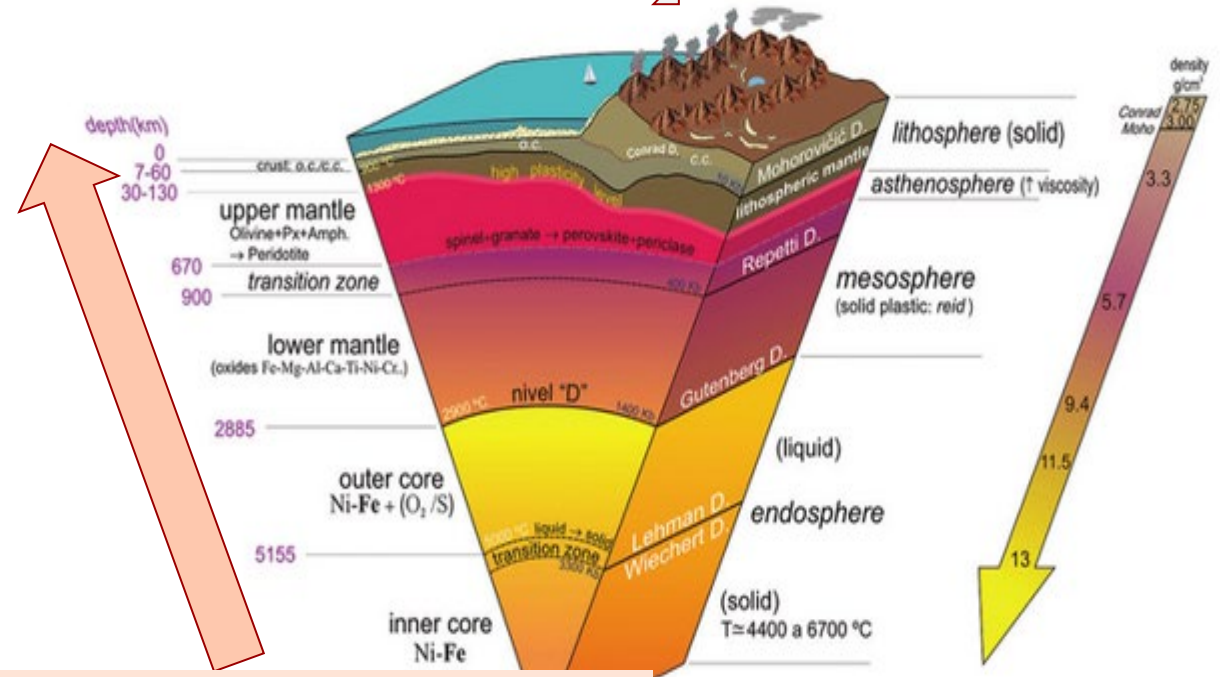
Average surface ground temperature (global): ~ 15 °C  
(2017 data, [www.space.com](http://www.space.com))

## Direct Temperature measurements in the crust

- North Sea (wells): ~ 150-160 °C at 5 km
- Amager (wells): ~ 73 °C at 2.5 km
- S. Africa (gold mine): ~ 55 °C at 3.9 km
- Volcanos (lava): ~ 700-1200 °C

Temperature at the Crust/Mantle boundary:  
From 2-400 to ~8-900 °C

Direct measurements:  
only in the upper 5-10 km  
(wells, mines)

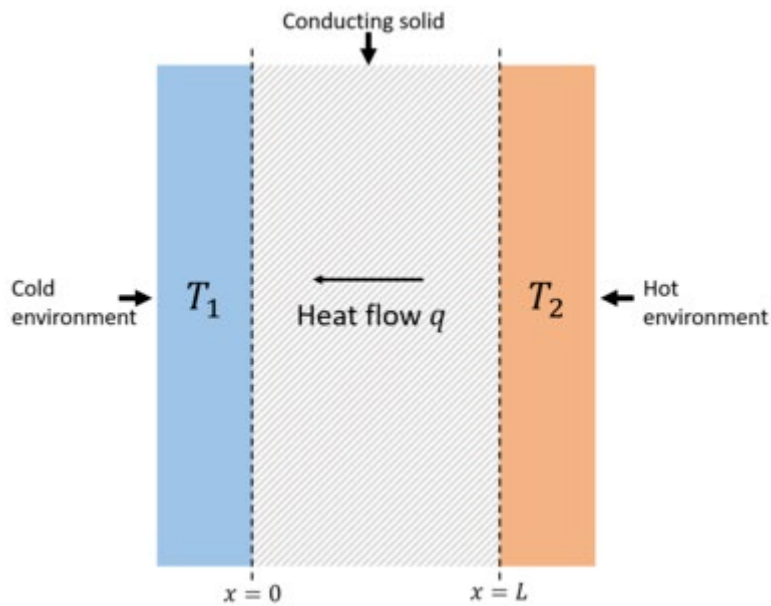


Heat is “transmitted” from the interior of the planet outwards → “Thermal conductivity”

# GEOHERMAL ENERGY USAGE: 2 basic parametrs

**Thermal conductivity:** The ability to conduct/transfer heat (e.g. from the Earth's core to surface)

**Geothermal gradient:** By how much the temperature changes per unit of depth, fx 1 m , or 1 km

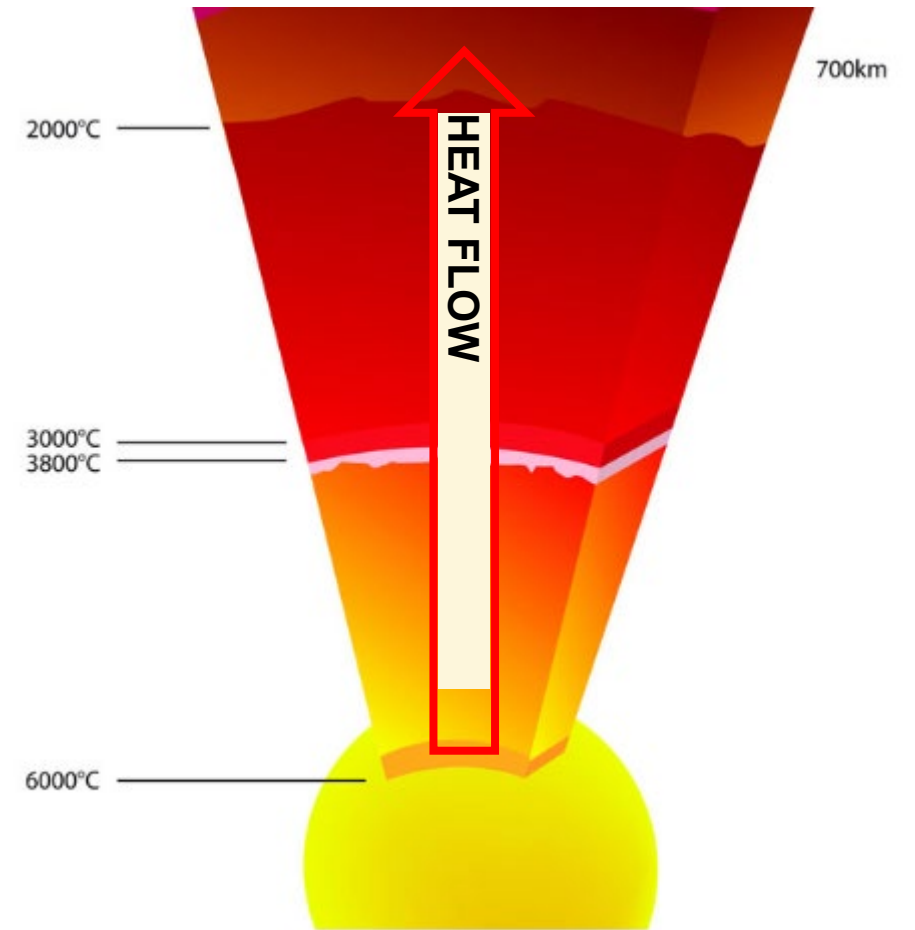


Heat Flow:  $Q = -k(T_2 - T_1)/L$  ,  
 $k$  – thermal conductivity;

Heat transfer coefficient,  $C = k/L$

**Geothermal Gradient =**  

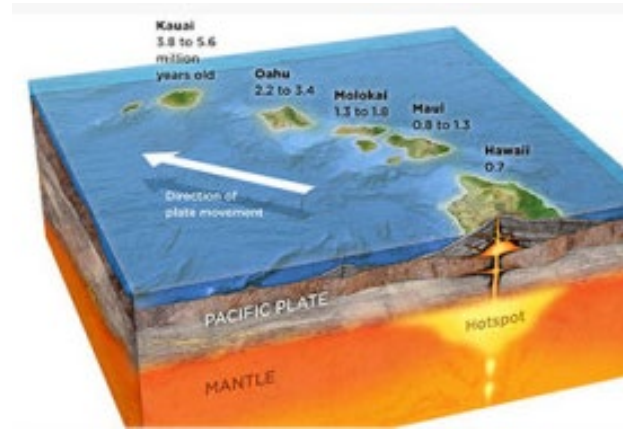
$$\frac{\text{Temp at Depth2} - \text{Temp at Depth1}}{\text{Depth2} - \text{Depth1}}$$



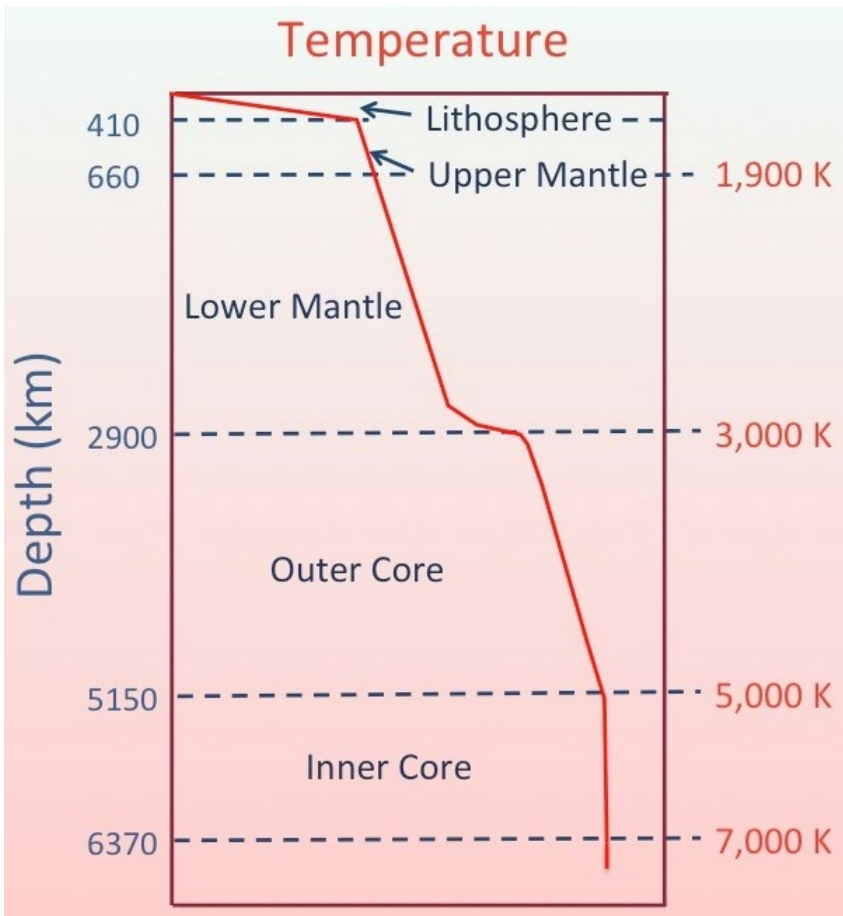
# GEOHERMAL ENERGY USAGE: 2 basic parametrs

The geothermal gradient is different in the different parts of the planet:

- largest in the crust (the part we use)



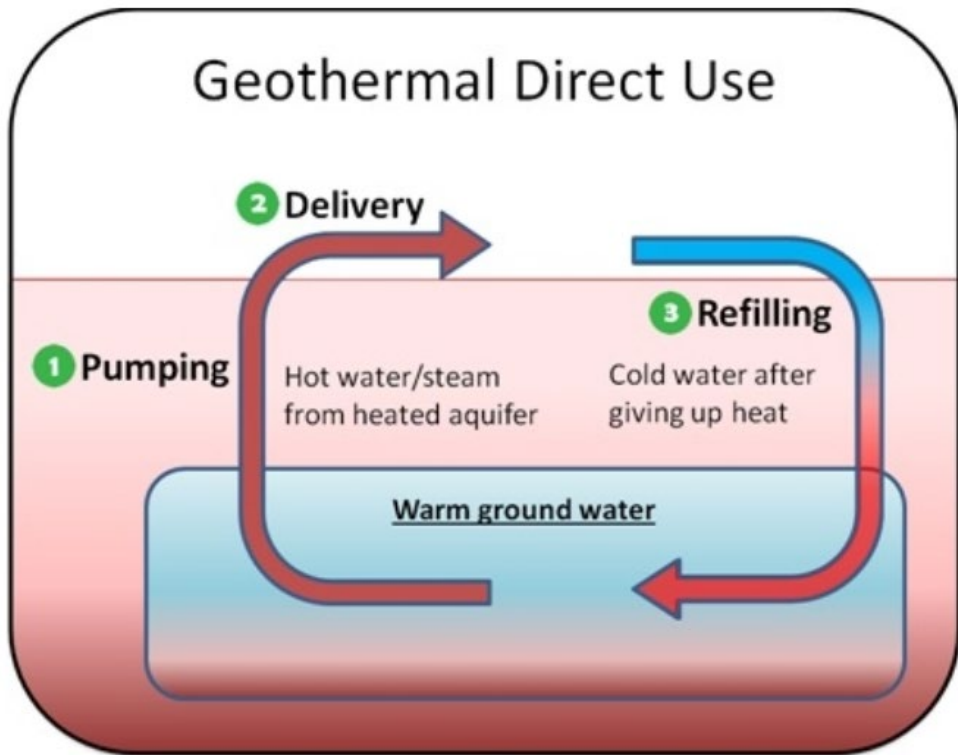
In the crust, the geothermal gradient ( $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{km}$ ) depends by how far way is the heat source and by the thermal conductivity of the rocks/soils



	Region	Geothermal Gradient ( $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{km}$ )
“Normal”	North Europe / DK	25.0-30.0
Hot Spot, Volcano	Iceland, Hawaii	$\geq 100.0$
Active tectonics	California	$> 50.0$
Old crust	Fennoscandia	$\leq 20.0$
Young crust	Mediterranean	$\geq 40.0$
<b>Average</b>	<b>World</b>	<b>33.0</b>

# HOW TO USE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

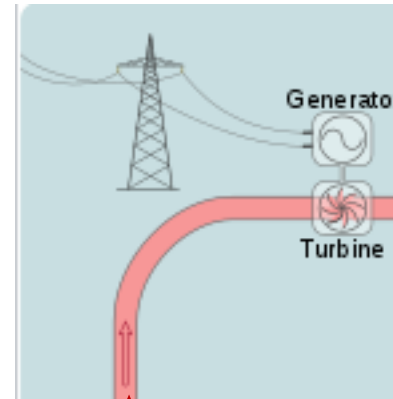
## DIRECT USE: HEATING



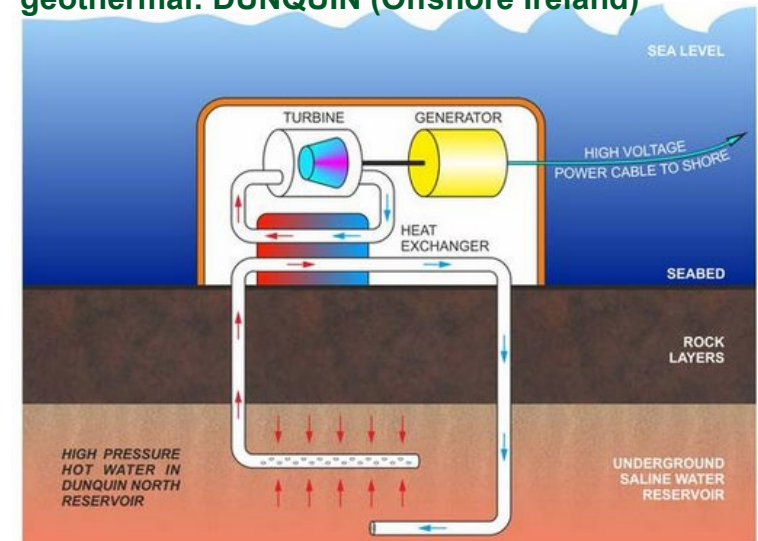
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/heat-beneath-ground-working-advance-deep-direct-use-geothermal>

## INDIRECT: TURN IT INTO POWER

**Very simple principle:** heat is used to turn a turbine of a generator to produce electricity or movement or other kinds of mechanical energy



Even offshore oil fields can be transformed to geothermal: **DUNQUIN (Offshore Ireland)**



<https://www.independent.ie/business/irish/oil-explorer-could-strike-it-rich-after-finding-hot-water-in-sea-37628149.html>

# DIRECT USE OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

## DIRECT USE: HEATING/COOLING – ATEs (Aquifer Thermal Energy System)

In addition to the “classic” hot water/steam usage:

### ATES: Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage

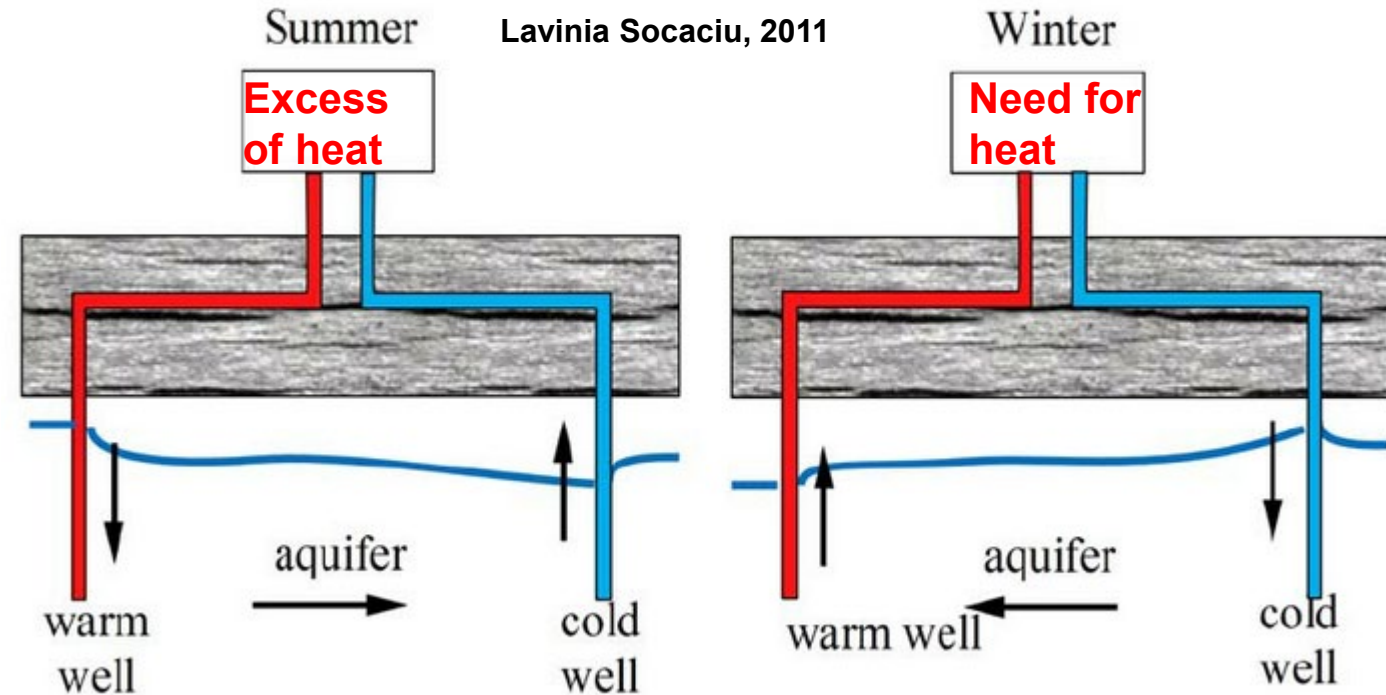
- uses the low thermal conductivity of the rocks to store heat
- uses temperature differences
- works with low temperatures (20-50 °C)

During summer – excess of heat/warm water  
(solar, wind, but also IT datacentres, servers etc.)  
→ pump it and store it underground

During winter – need for heat/warm water  
→ pump the water from the underground


**Needs a reservoir** – porous rock (aquifer)  
where to put the water with low thermal  
conductivity to keep the warmth

Example - Stenlille



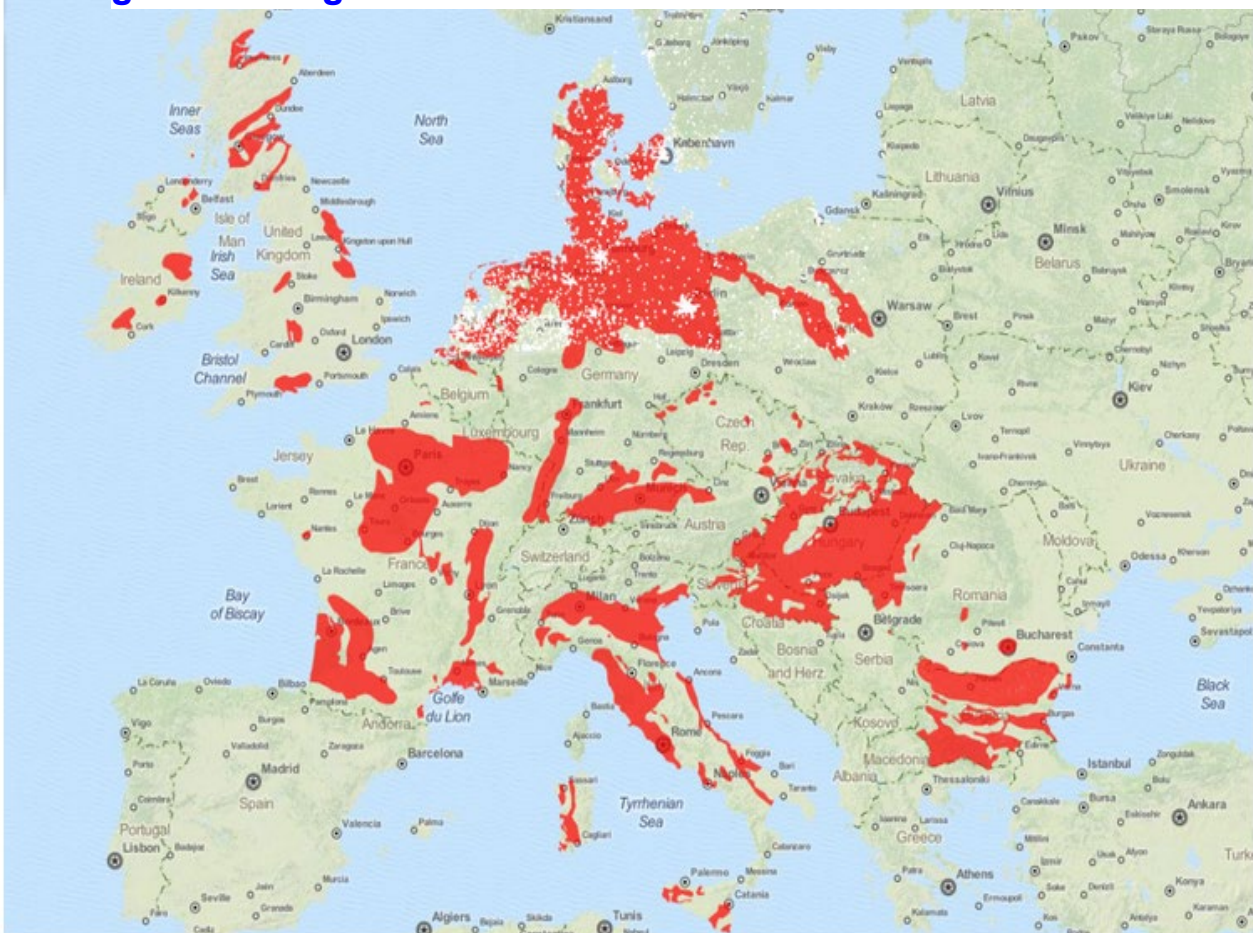
**NB. Similar mechanism can be used for underground CO<sub>2</sub> storage**

# DTU GEOTHERMAL HEATING POTENTIAL IN EUROPE

 This map shows where in Europe the geological conditions (aquifer / porous rocks with suitable thickness and thermal conductivity) are favourable for producing geothermal heat.

Stratego

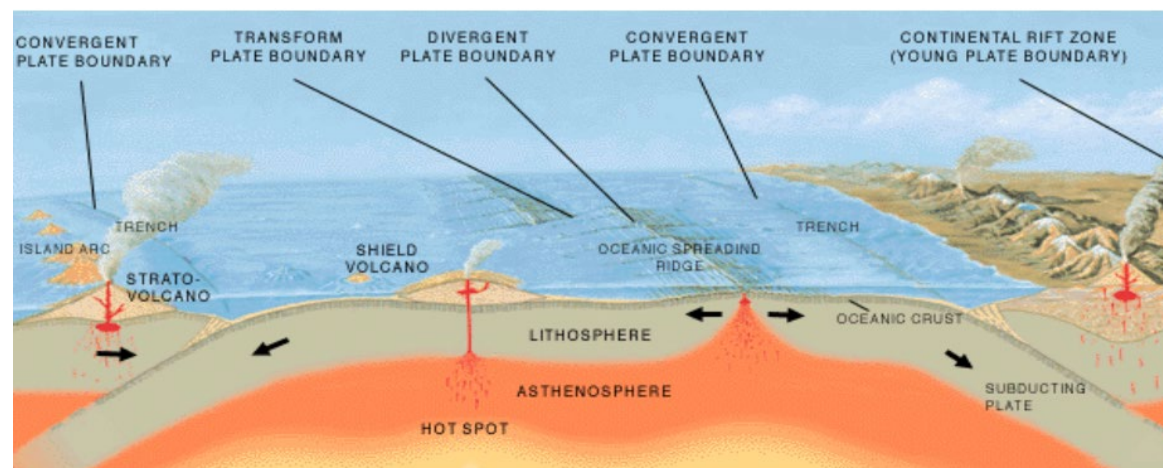
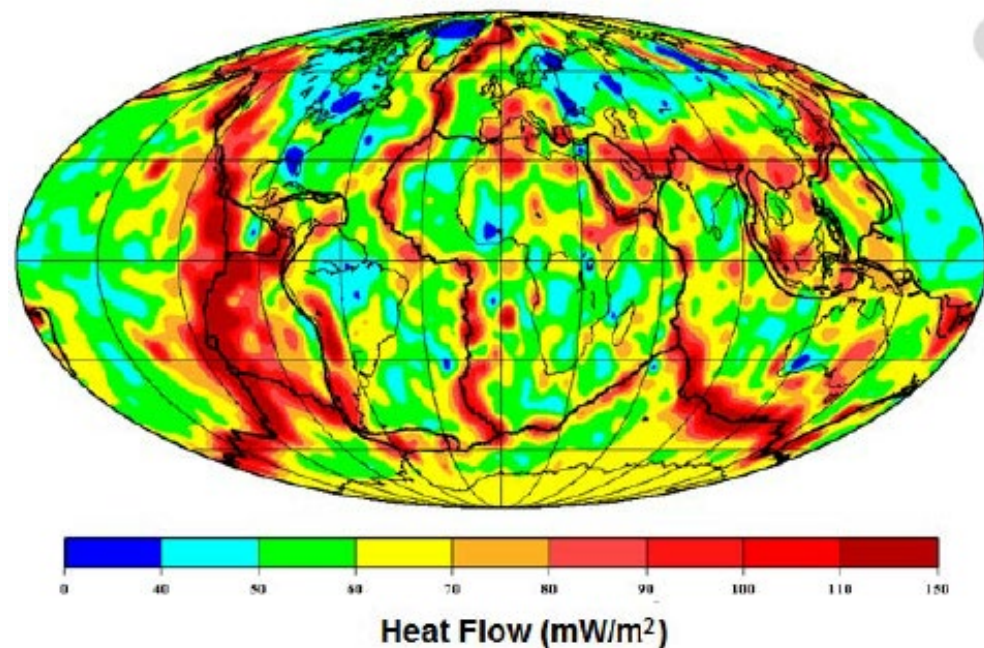
**NB. The map does not show the temperature of the rocks or the geothermal gradient.**



Pan-European Thermal Atlas/ Heat Roadmap Europe 20150 (source: heatroadmap.eu)

# HEAT FLOW IN THE WORLD

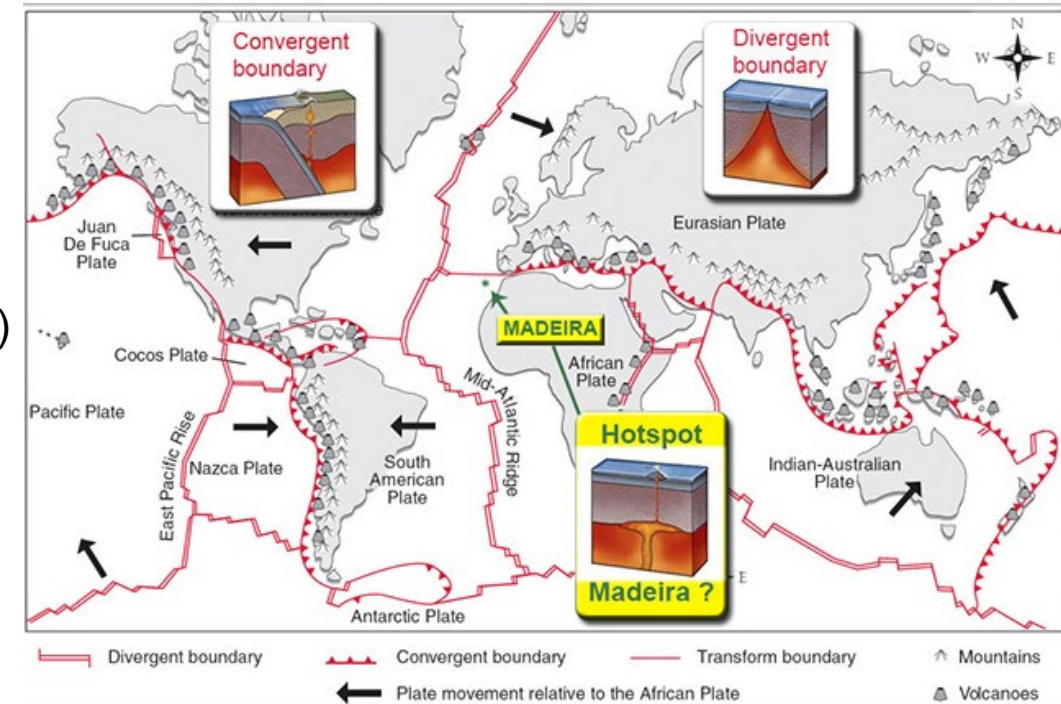
The hottest areas are the plate boundary regions



- Underground steam (temperature  $\geq 100$  °C)  $\rightarrow$  the first industrial usage (Italy)  
Where: Italy, Japan, USA, Iceland, S. Europe, etc.
- High-temperature ( $\geq 60$  °C) hydrothermal shallow sources ( $\leq 1$  km depth)  
Where: volcanic regions: Iceland, Italy, USA, Turkey, Japan, etc.
- Low-temperature (20 - 60 °C) aquifer (porous rock layers)–,  
Where: Many places, Denmark, Germany, Poland, S. Europe, etc.
- Hot rocks layers – **everywhere in the world**  
 $\geq 100$  °C at appr. 3 km depth (deep) – North Sea (150°C at 5 km)  
 $\geq 200$  °C at appr. 5-6 km depth (ultra deep) – Finland (6km well, 2018)
- Magma – volcano and/or hot spot regions, plate boundaries  
Where: Iceland, Italy, Hawaii, Japan, USA, etc.



Krafla, Iceland



## USAGE / HVORDAN MAN BRUGE GEOTERMISK ENEGRI

- Well being: Thermal baths & spa (“**Salute Per Acqua**” – “Helbred fra Vand”) : used since the Paleolithic, oldest China, 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C.
- Heating –public buildings (antiquity), district heating / fjernvarme
- Pavement /Road – de-icing (Iceland);
- Agriculture – greenhouses;
- Chemical (boric acid, Italy); aluminium (Iceland) or other substances production;
- Electricity/power production – Italy , Iceland, USA, Turkey, etc.;
- Cooling, etc.





## TOSCANA, ITALY – First in the world and the only one until 1958

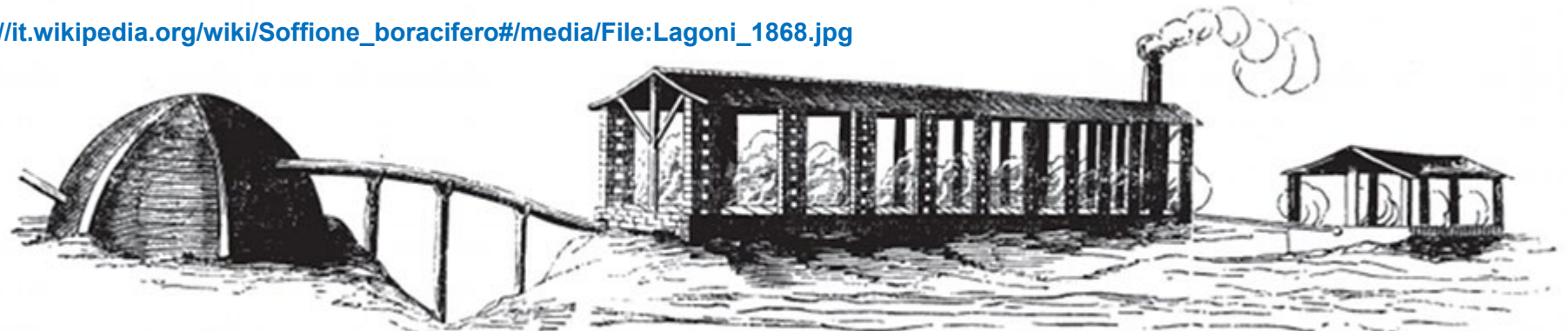
- **1827** – Francesco de Larderel (France, Italy): invented the “Lagone coperto” – capturing the geothermal vapour from natural vents.
  - First Geothermal plant at Larderello (close to Pisa) to produce boric acid



Steam temperature: 202 °C

NB. Not a volcano!

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soffione\\_boracifero#/media/File:Lagoni\\_1868.jpg](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soffione_boracifero#/media/File:Lagoni_1868.jpg)



Capture of the vapour

Pipeline

Evaporation tanks

Final product (boric acid)

- **1904** – Electricity production (5 light bulbs), Prince Piero Ginori Conti (Firenze, Italy; married to the granddaughter of de Larderel): building upon the invention of de Lardarel
- **1911** – First geothermal power plant
- **1916** - produced 2750 kW
- Today: Italy is still among the top 10 producers of geothermal electricity in the world

- 1911 – First geothermal power plant – uses steam to rotate a turbine → generates electricity
- 1958 – New Zealand – the Waikareii station → the first flash steam technology (details follow). Problems with subsidence
- 1960 – USA – The Geysers in California
- 1967 – USSR: developed the binary cycle power plant - more details later
- 1970's (Oil crisis) – geothermal power production accelerates
- 1977 – USA – R&D 1st demo project on Deep Geothermal Systems (details later)
- 1981 – USA introduces the binary cycle power technology
- 2006 – Alaska – producing electricity from only 56 °C hot water
- 2007 – Australia – a large research funding to Enhanced/Engineered Geothermal Systems **EGS – a game changer**

## EGS projects worldwide

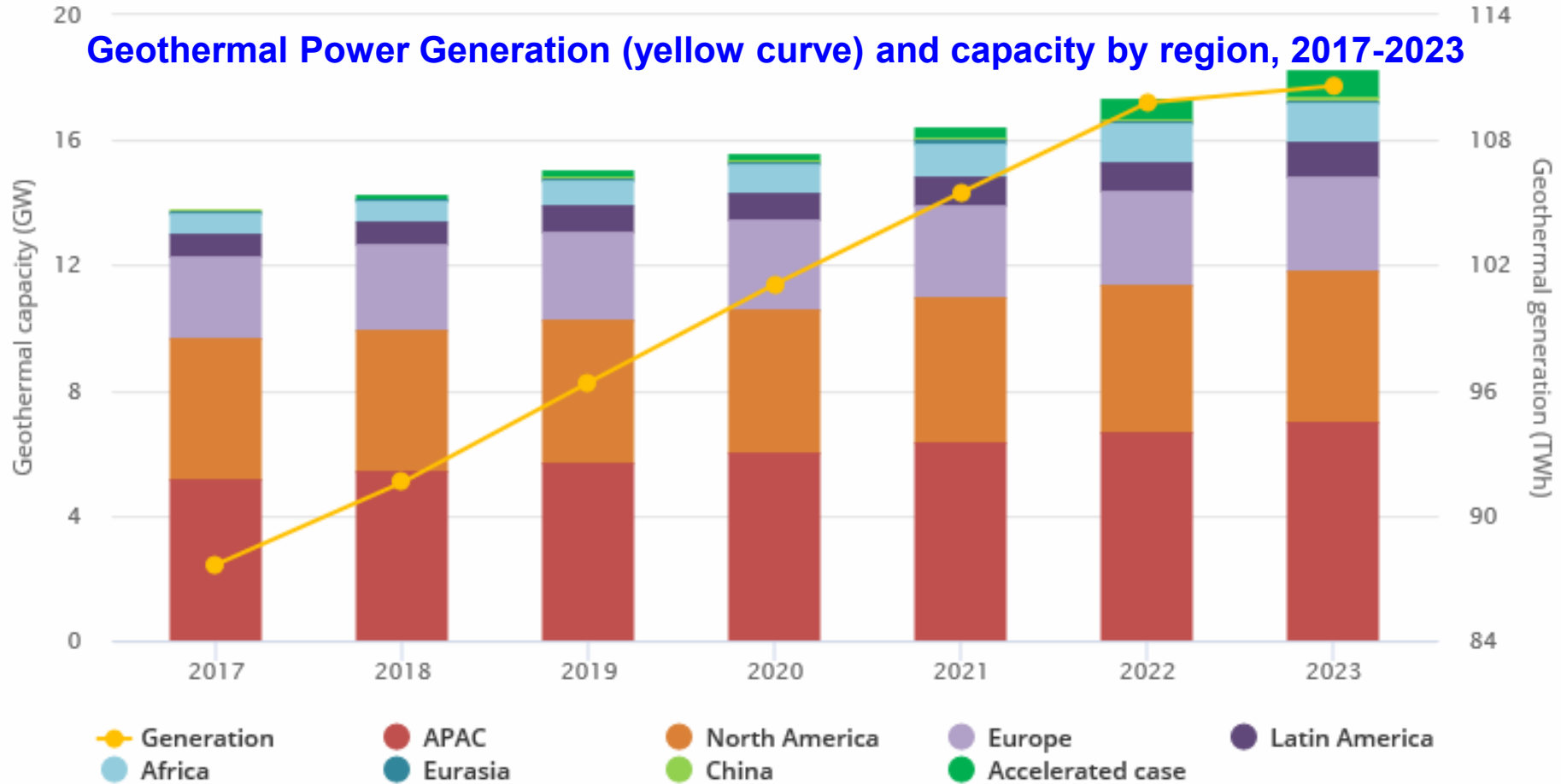
- Landau-Pfalz (Germany)
- Soultz-sous-Forets (France) – produces 1.5MW
- Basel, Switzerland – terminated (suspected possible induced earthquake)
- Australia, USA, UK, Finland, Sweden, etc.

**Still to improve:** **Efficiency** - low 10-13% (compare to wind, solar) → constantly improving

**Best in class:** **Capacity factor** (For a given time period: Produced electricity/Maximum possible electricity production)  
**very large 74.5% (2008), demonstrated that can be up to 96%**

# GLOBAL GEOTHERMAL ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION

International Energy Agency (IEA)  
<https://www.iea.org/topics/renewables/geothermal/>

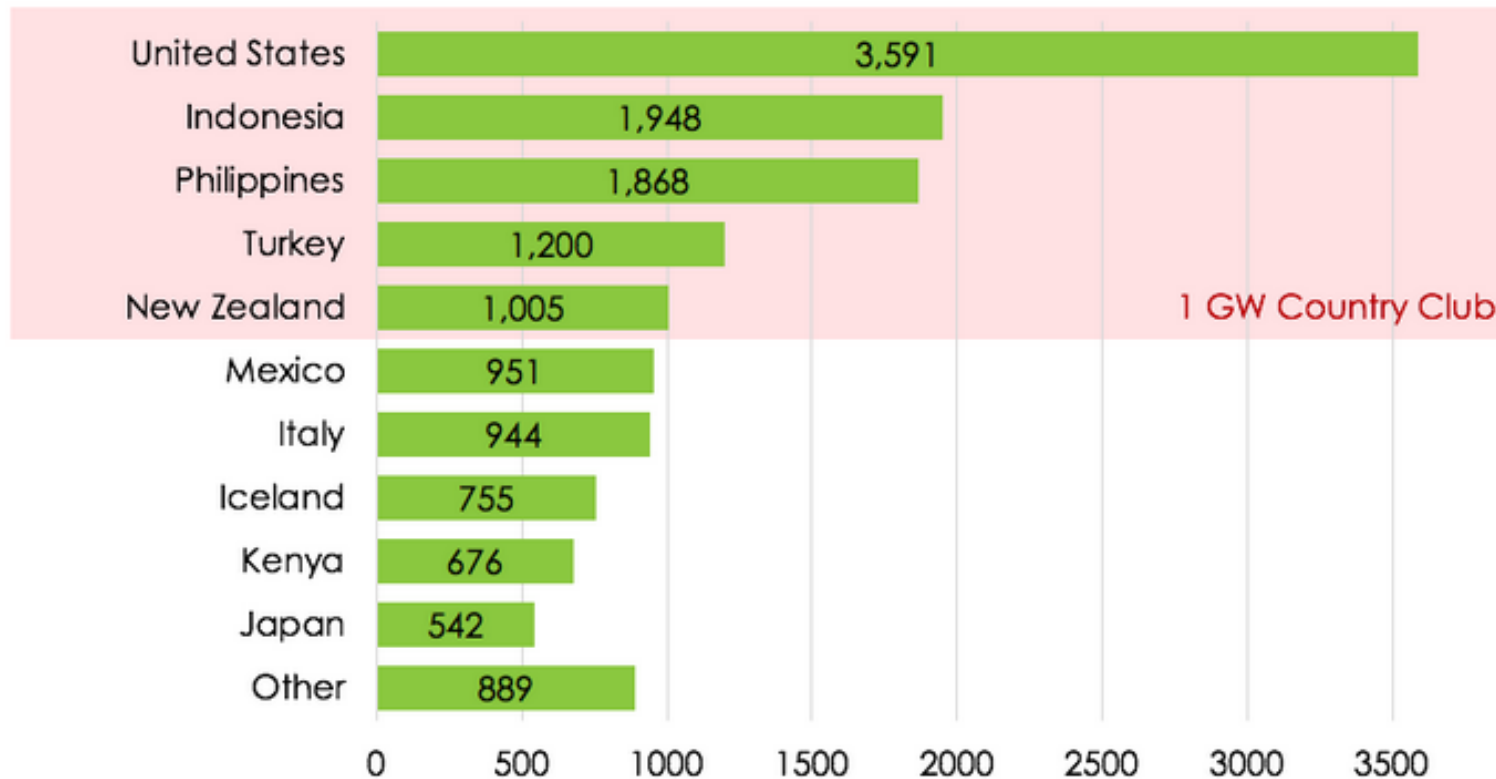


IEA. All rights reserved.

# INSTALLED GEOTHERMAL ELECTRICAL CAPACITY

## TOP 10 GEOTHERMAL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD - 2018, Global Capacity (2018): 14,369 MW

<http://www.thinkgeoenergy.com/global-geothermal-capacity-reaches-14369-mw-top-10-geothermal-countries-oct-2018/>



Source: TGE Research (2018), GEA (2016), IGA (2015), JESDER (2018)

## Dry steam power station

### Dry steam power stations:

- The oldest (Italy), simplest and most efficient
- Uses directly geothermal energy

### Produces only steam

### Needed:

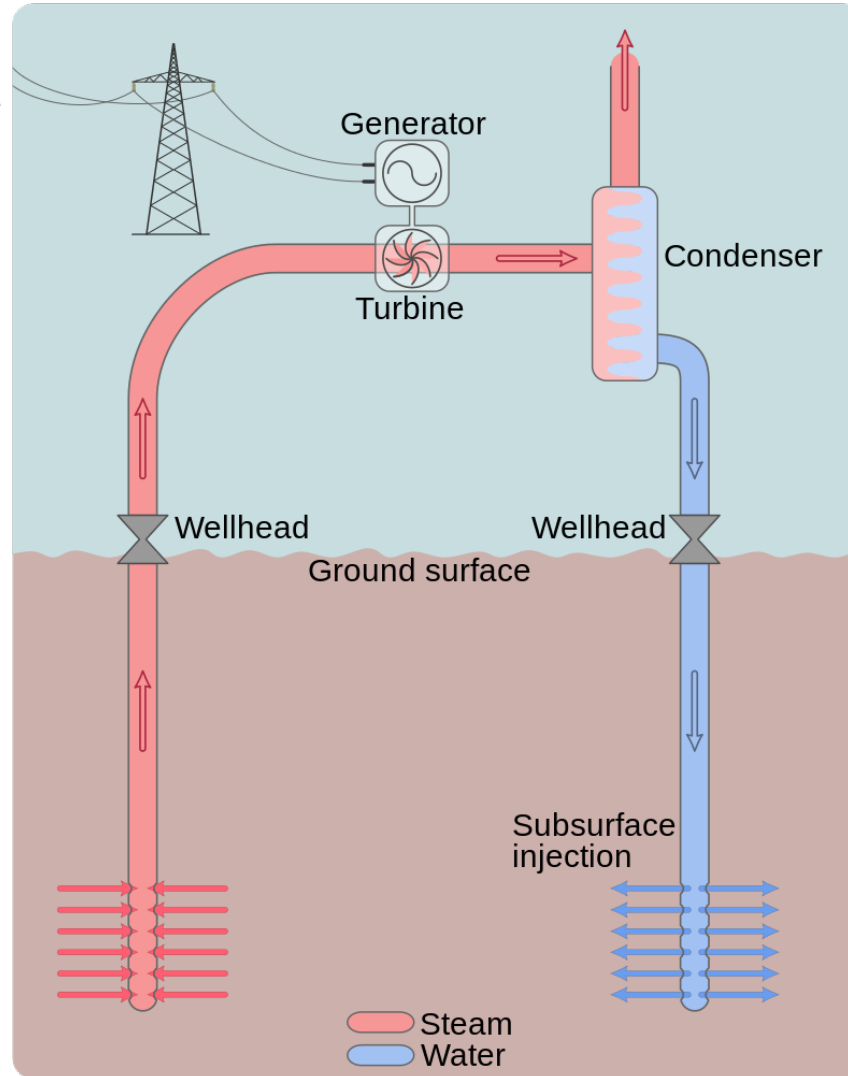
- Steam  $\geq 150$  °C, which requires a source of very hot water underground ( $> 200$  °C)

### Used in very limited places:

- Italy, Iceland, Japan, USA

Reservoir depletion (The Geysers, CA)

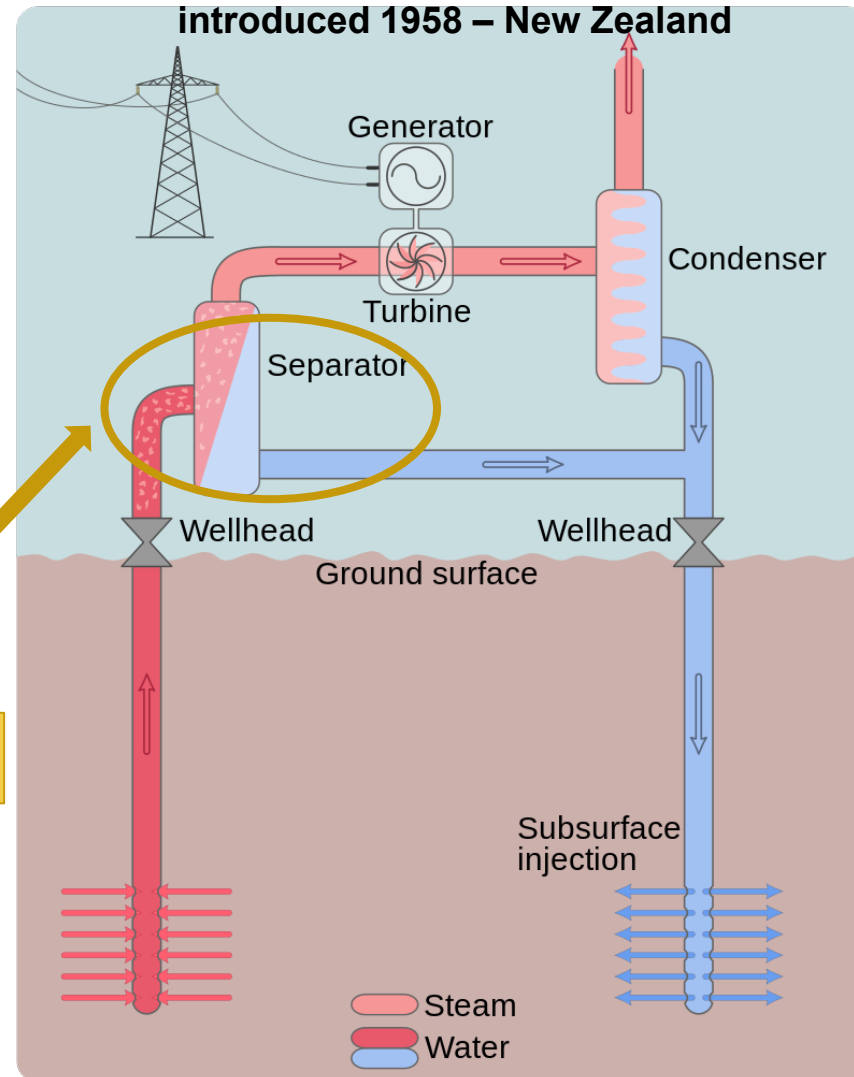
Not suitable for the most of the world



### How it works:

- Well or pipes bring the steam to the turbine
- The steam turns the turbine and generates electricity
- The steam is conducted to the condenser where it cools and goes back to water
- From the condenser the water can be released into a water stream/lake/pool (the Blue Laguna in Iceland) or re-injected into the subsurface by another well

## Flash steam power station



### Flash steam power stations:

- The most common today

### Produces hot water and turns it to steam

### Needed:

- Deep hot water reservoirs with  $\geq 180$  °C, high pressures

Difference with the dry steam station

Most used today

Sustainable: re-charge the reservoir

### How it works:

- Well accessing the hot water reservoir and brings the hot water at surface
- The pressure decreases and part of the water is turned into steam
- The steam is separated by the water
- The steam turns the turbine and generates electricity
- The steam is conducted to the condenser where it cools and go back to water
- **Sustainability:** The leftover water and condensed steam may be injected back into reservoir

## Binary cycle power station

developed 1967 – USSR

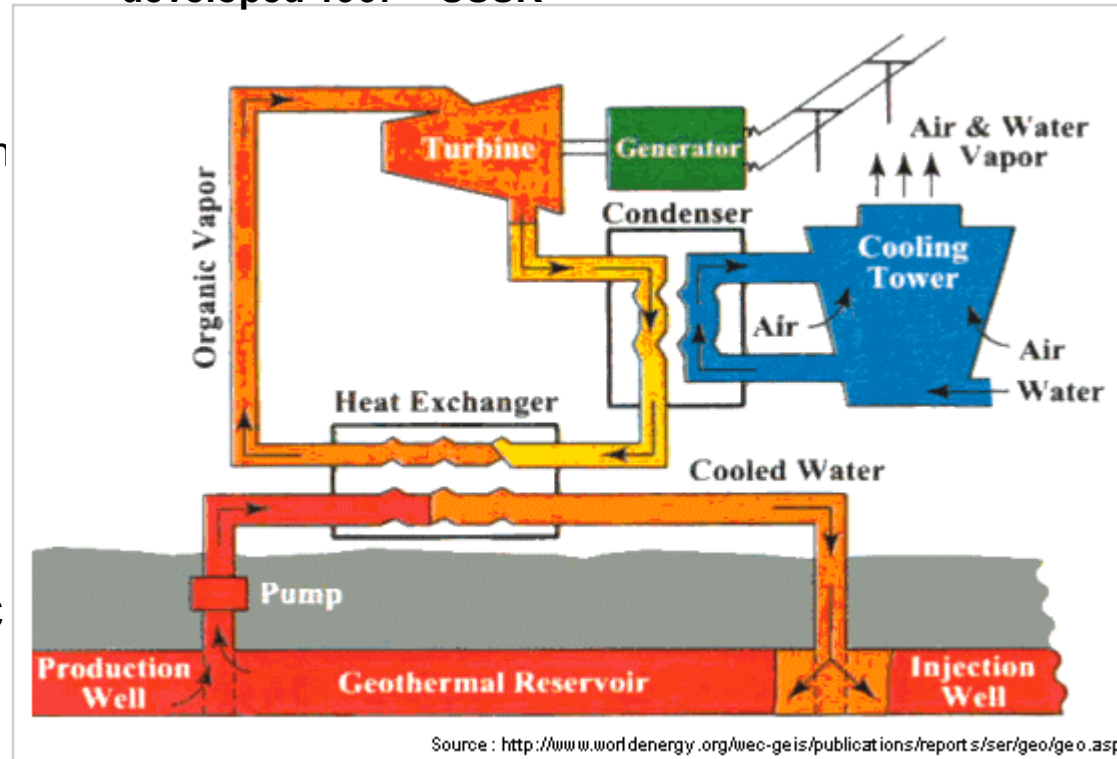
### Binary cycle power stations:

- The most recent development
- Power cycle – combination of high and low temperatures

**Produces hot water and transfer the heat to a secondary fluid with much lower boiling point**

### Needed:

- Moderately hot water with  $\geq 55\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



### How it works:

- Moderately hot water is pumped to surface
- In the heat exchanger the water is in contact with a fluid with low boiling point
- The fluid vaporize and turns the turbine and generates electricity
- The vapour is conducted to the condenser where it cools and goes back to the exchanger
- The water may be injected back into reservoir or led to streams/lakes/pools

Most common station to **build** today, Can be used many places

**Low efficiency: 10-13%**

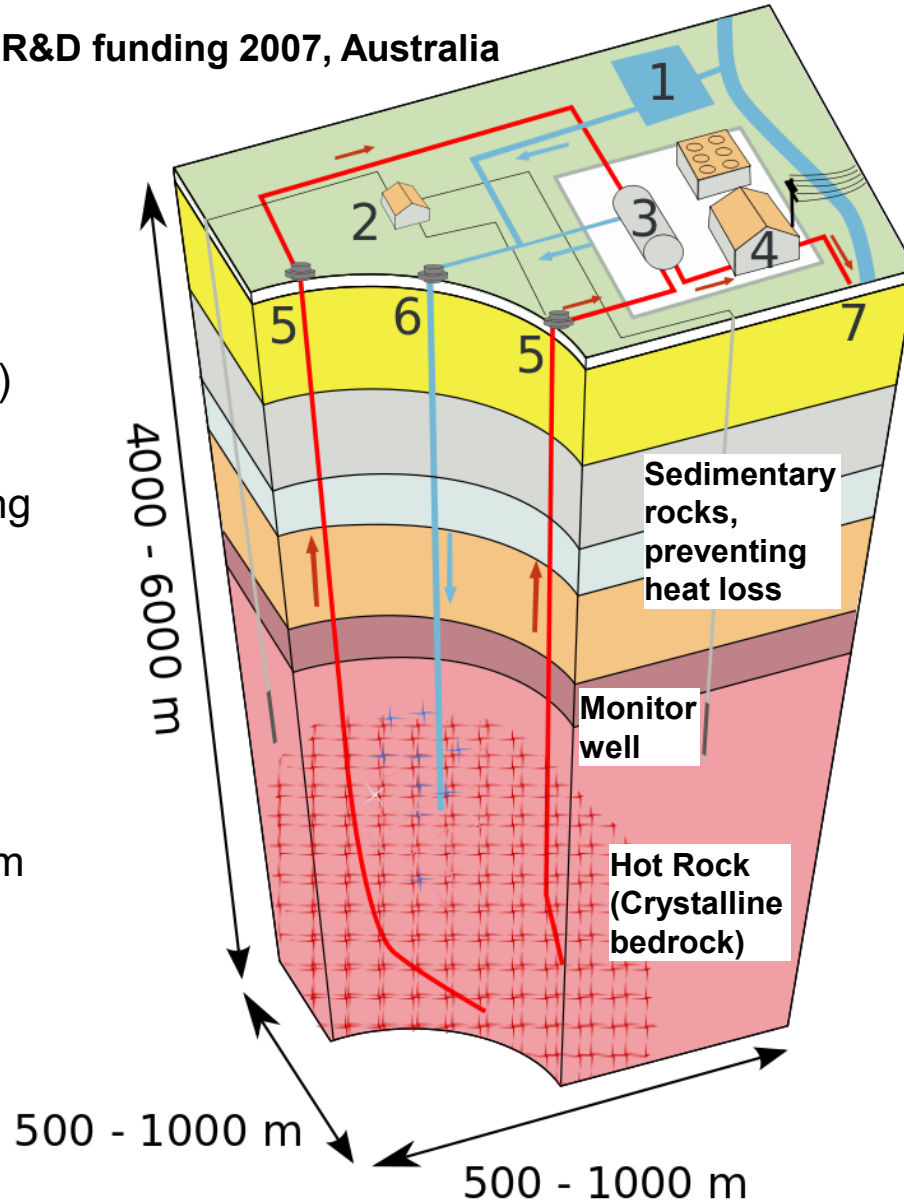
# ENHANCED (or ENGINEERED) GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM (EGS)

R&D funding 2007, Australia

1. Cold water reservoir
2. Pumps
3. Heat Exchanger
4. Turbine
5. Production well (producer)
6. Injecting well (injector)
7. Hot water to district heating

### Where/ When it is useful:

- No shallow source of high temperature water or steam
- Low water pressure
- Dry, impermeable rocks



### Advantages:

- Can be used everywhere in the world
- Does not need hydrothermal or steam resources
- Provides inexhaustible source of hot water
- Very low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

### Disadvantages

- Cost of drilling
- Cost of maintenance – pumps, tubing
- Water chemistry – corrosion, scaling, erosion
- Induced seismicity



# ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION BY DEEP GEOTHERMAL

Further technology development:

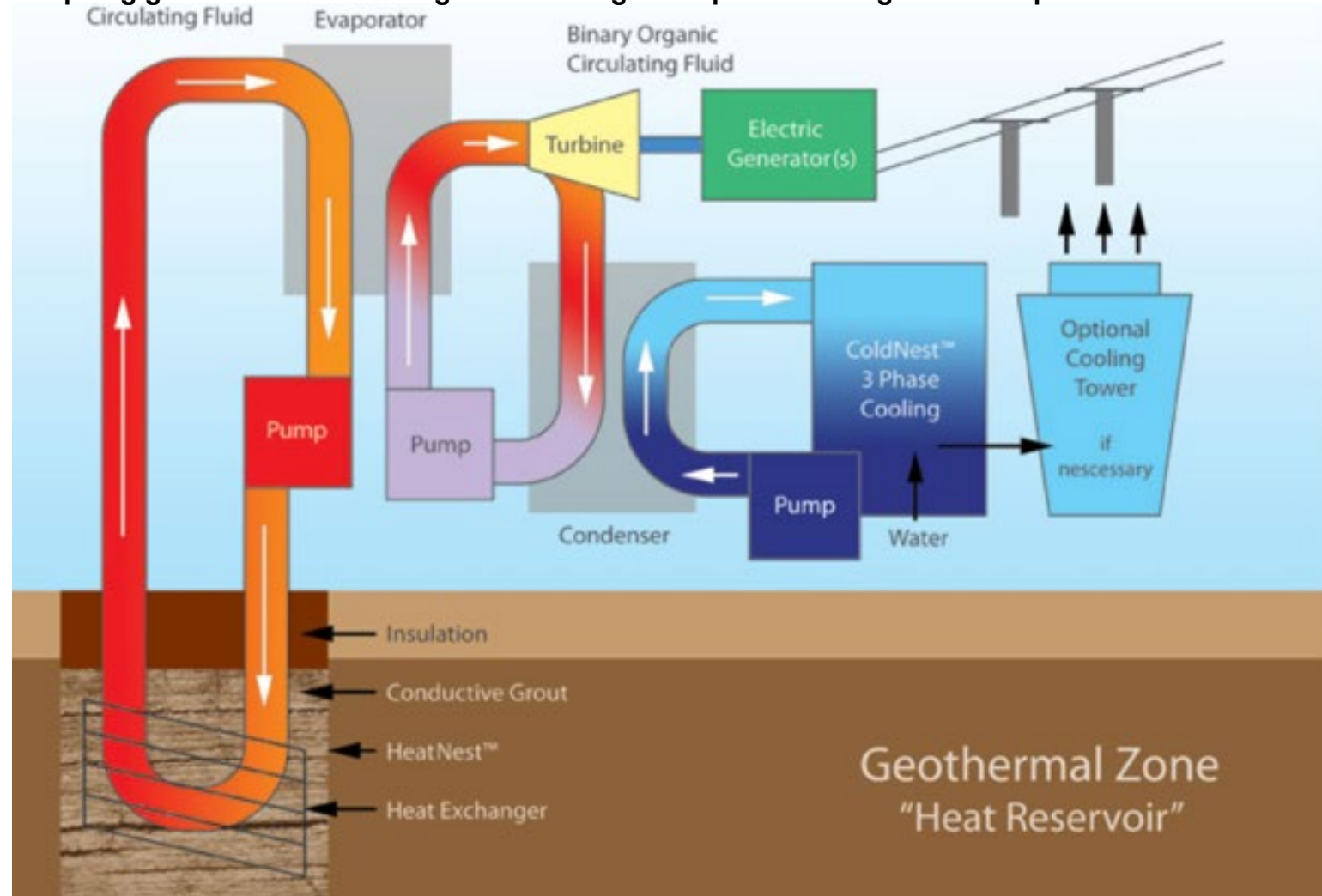
## MOVING HEAT INSTEAD OF WATER

A nest of horizontal wells underground

The heat exchanger is underground

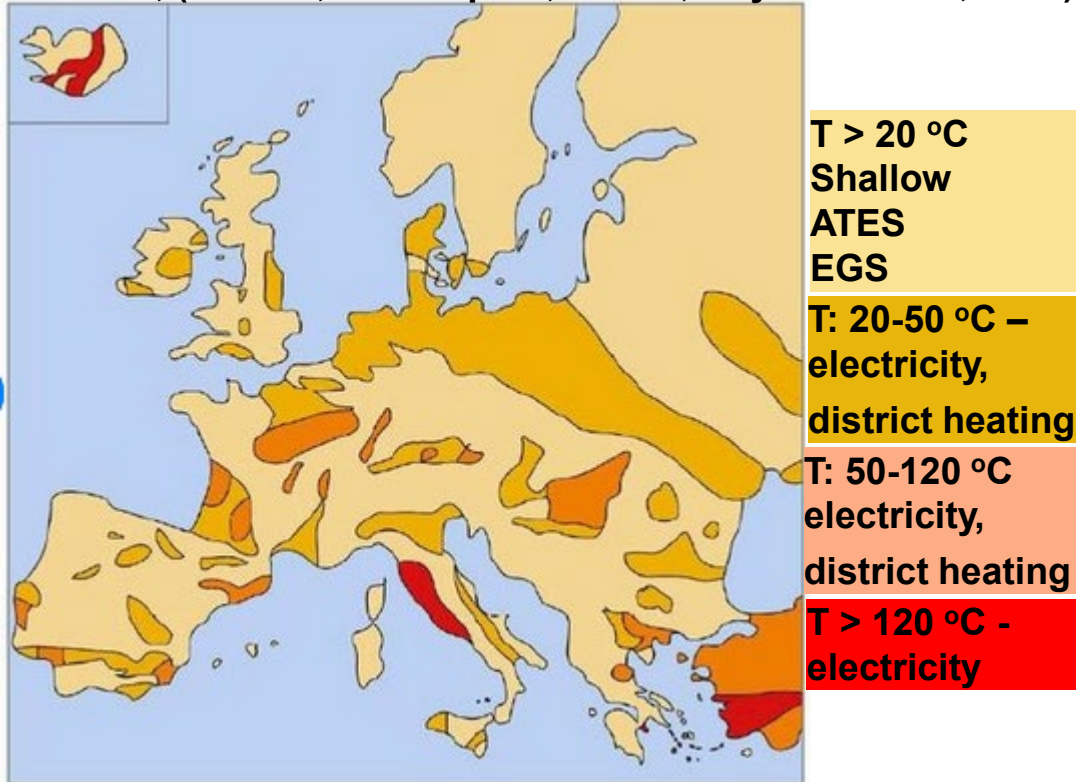
Combing EGS with Binary cycle (Duratherm fluid) – no fracking

<https://gigaom.com/2011/05/26/gtherm-cutting-cost-quakes-from-geothermal-power/>



# POTENTIAL FOR GEOTHERMAL USE IN EUROPE

Modified, (Grosse, Christopher, Stefan, Geyer & Robbi, 2017)



T [°C]	Depth [m]	Usage	Denmark
20-50	Shallow 300 – 1500	Store and produce heat ATES, HT-ATES* HTC: Heat and Cold Storage	Yes, ~1000 ATES (hospitals, hotels)  <b>Bispebjerg Hospital - 2019</b>
50-120	Deep 1500-4000	House heating, greenhouses	Yes, 3 installations Thisted Amager Søndeborg
> 120	Ultra-deep 4000-8000, EGS**	Industry (steam), Electricity,	No (for the moment)

HT-ATES = High Temperature Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage

EGS = Enhanced or Engineered Geothermal Systems

**Major economics issue** – the need to drill wells (dublets, triplets)

Depending on how deep the well is – the cost can be up to 10 Million USD

- District heating in Bavaria: estimated drilling cost 1 Million Euro per MW

Always risks – do not find a suitable reservoir

The cost of pumps, pipes, maintenance

Depending on water chemistry – erosion, scaling, corrosion

When all these costs are paid – **the cheapest heating (Thisted)**

## Geothermal power plants

- **Use much less energy and fresh water than coal, oil & gas, nuclear**
- **Emit MUCH less CO<sub>2</sub>**
- **Do not need batteries to store excessive energy**

## Some environmental issues

- Drilling
- Underground gasses and fluids at surface
  - H<sub>2</sub>S, sulphur, methane, ammonia, CO<sub>2</sub>
  - traces of mercury, arsenic, boron, antimony
- When pumps are used – need for energy from polluting sources
- Reservoir depletion – alternation of natural resources
- Subsidence – New Zealand etc.
- In case of EGS – possible induced seismicity (Basel, Switzerland)

## When we know the risks – solutions/alternatives are (or can be) found:

- Better/cheaper drilling methods;
- Filters/utilization of the underground gasses and fluids -
  - > **The Italians are dealing with this since 1830**
- More efficient pumps
- Re-injection
- Etc., etc., etc.

# EXAMPLE: GEOTHERMAL IN ICELAND

- 200 volcanos,
- 600 hot springs
- Started to use geothermal in 1907,
- Very intensively since the 1970's (the oil crisis)
- Combined potential ~ 10-13 TWh/y (2003)



In total (incl. hydropower) 99.96% renewable energy supply

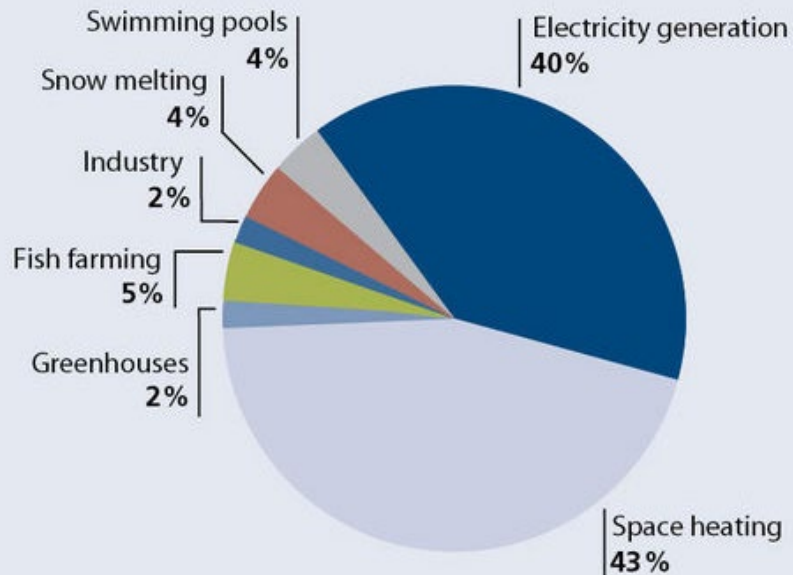
## 7 major geothermal plants

- Total production 5245 GWh (2013)
- 25-29% of the electricity supply
- 66% of the housing heating

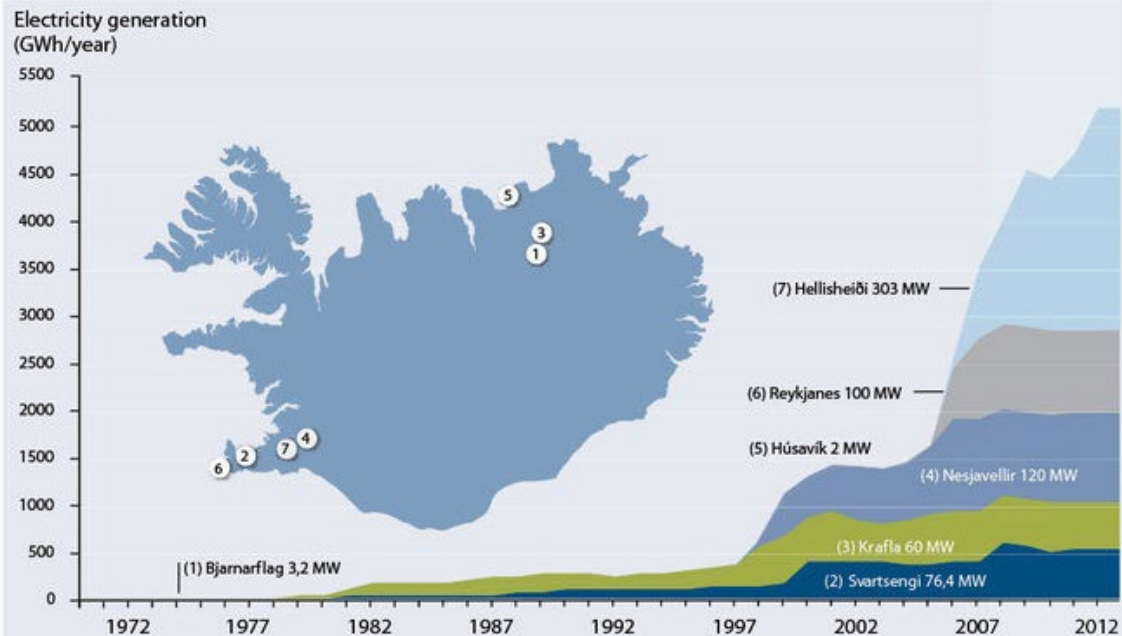


## Utilisation of geothermal energy 2013

<https://nea.is/geothermal/electricity-generation/>

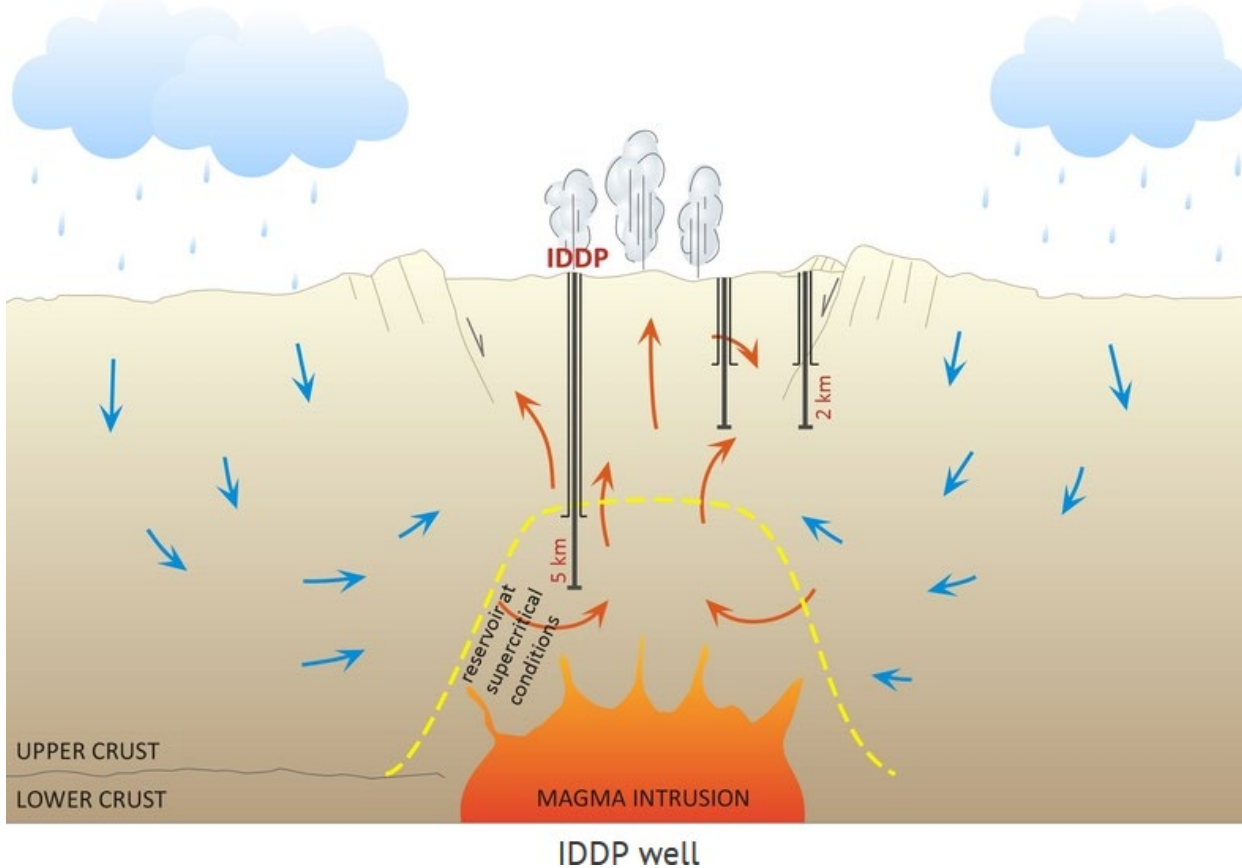


## Generation of electricity – geothermal energy



# The Iceland Deep Drilling Project (IDDP)

<https://nea.is/geothermal/the-iceland-deep-drilling-project>



Long-term study of high-temperature hydrothermal systems (HTHS) to test if deep geothermal fluids can improve economics of geothermal power production

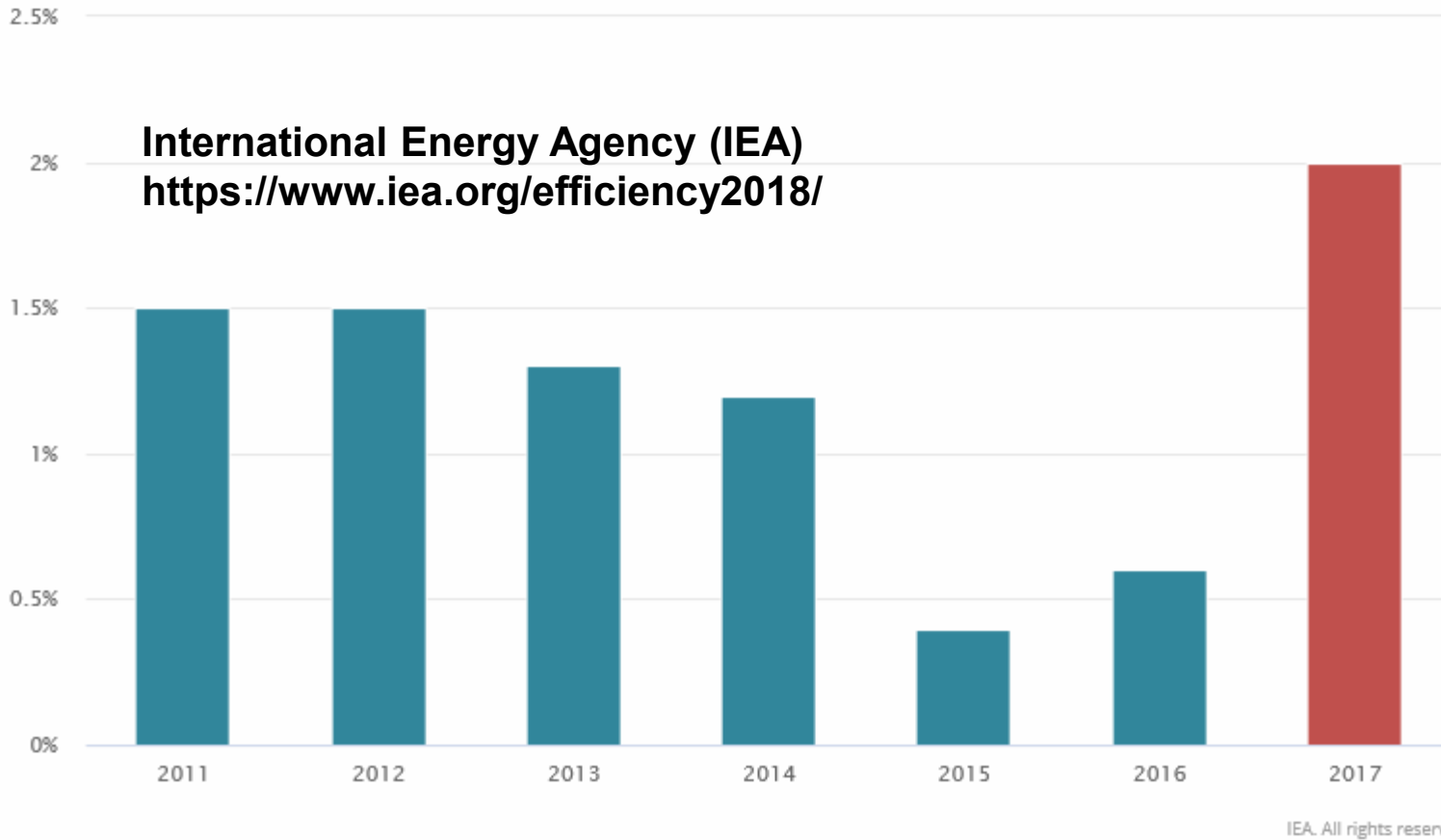
Temperatures ~450-600 °C at 5 km depth

Geothermal well at 2.5 km ~ 5MWe (2003)

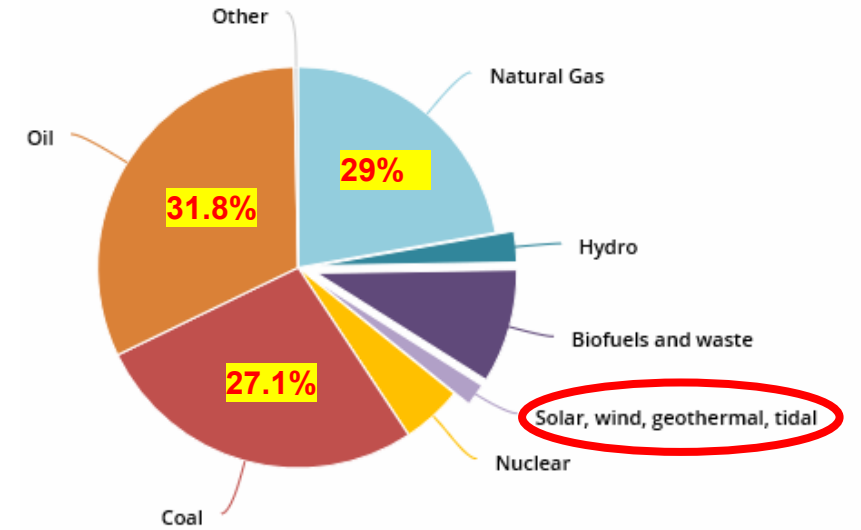
Why it is needed:

- Energy demand is increasing
- Cost efficiency
- Environmental impact of present day utilization of hydro-power & geothermal fields

## Growth in primary energy demand 2011-2017



## World's Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) by source of energy in 2017



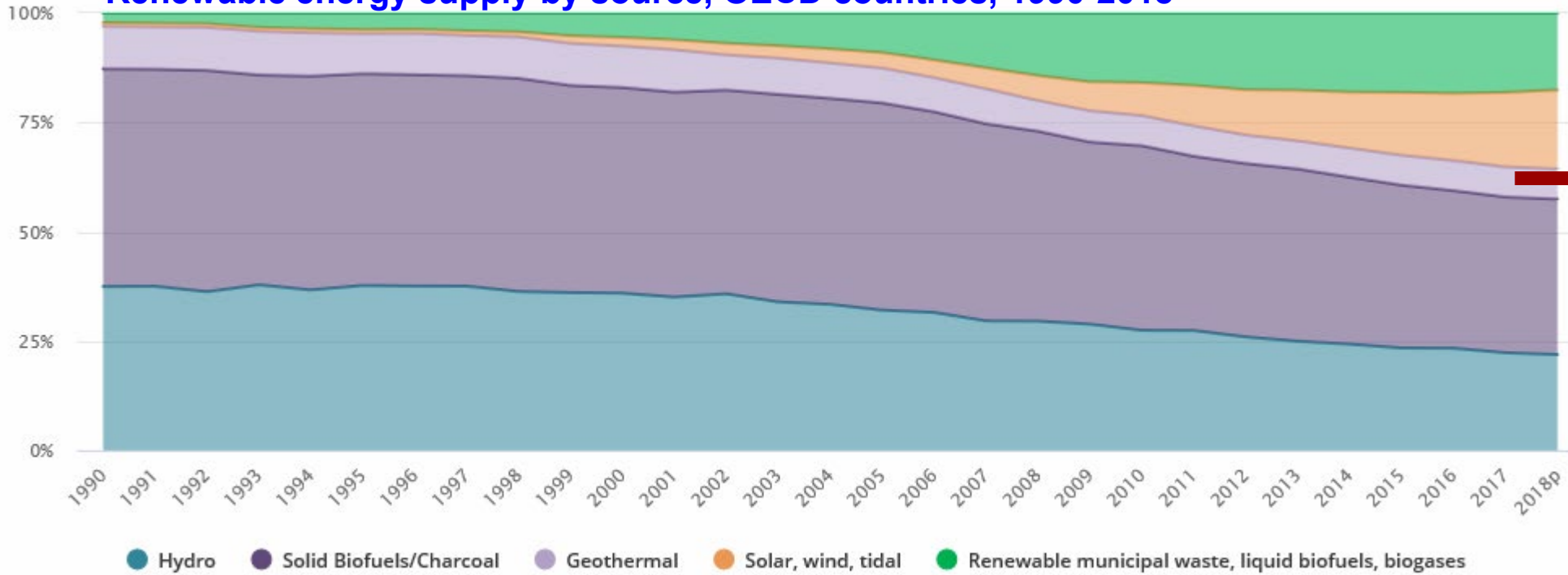
2017: TPES = 13 972 Mtoe (Mega Ton Oil Equivalent)

Renewables (hydro, biofuels & waste, solar, wind, geothermal and tidal) in total: 13.5%

Huge potential

International Energy Agency (IEA)  
<https://www.iea.org/statistics/renewables>

Renewable energy supply by source, OECD countries, 1990-2018

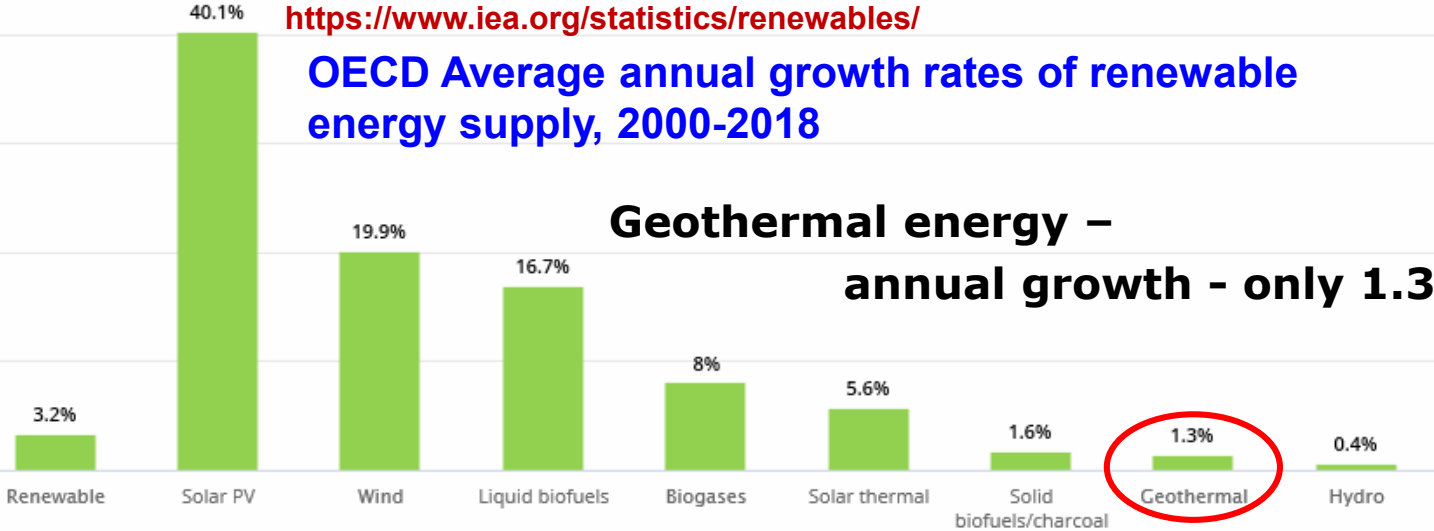


Geothermal –  
 very “modest” supply

IEA. All rights reserved.

<https://www.iea.org/statistics/renewables/>

## OECD Average annual growth rates of renewable energy supply, 2000-2018

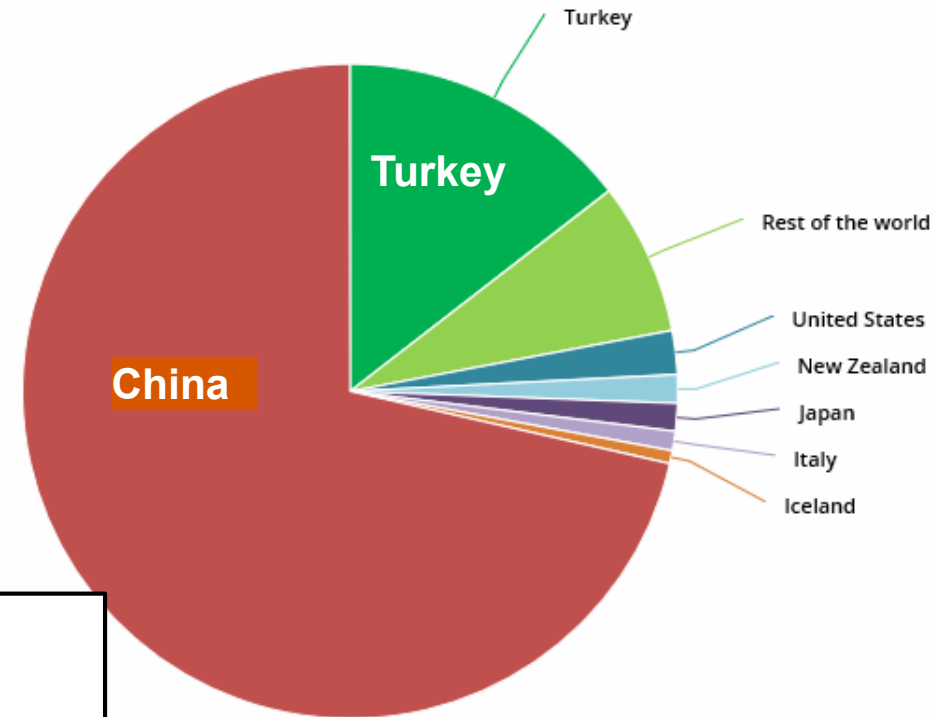


### Geothermal energy – annual growth - only 1.3%

IEA. All rights reserved.

## Use of geothermal energy, 2016

<https://www.iea.org/topics/renewables/geothermal/>



**EU: in 2017, 9 new geothermal plants put in operation**  
**France, Italy and the Netherlands**  
**Mainly – district heating (fjernvarme)**

## Why so little geothermal?

### Geology/Technical

- Availability Geothermal
- Risk
- Depth
- Energy efficiency
- Equipment
- Etc.

### Economics/Cost

- Drilling & related risks
- Maintenance
- Consumer willingness/possibility to pay
- Competing technologies
- Etc.

### Organizational/Legislation

- Who is doing what?
- Responsibility
- Legislation
- State support (taxes, incentives)
- **Public opinion: NIMBY – Not In My Back Yard)**

**Example: Turkey – the state is covering the drilling cost and risk – huge increase in geothermal projects (more than 5 times in 5 years)**





64% of all households in Denmark use district heating (fjernvarme) – huge potential for geothermal energy usage

## GEUS

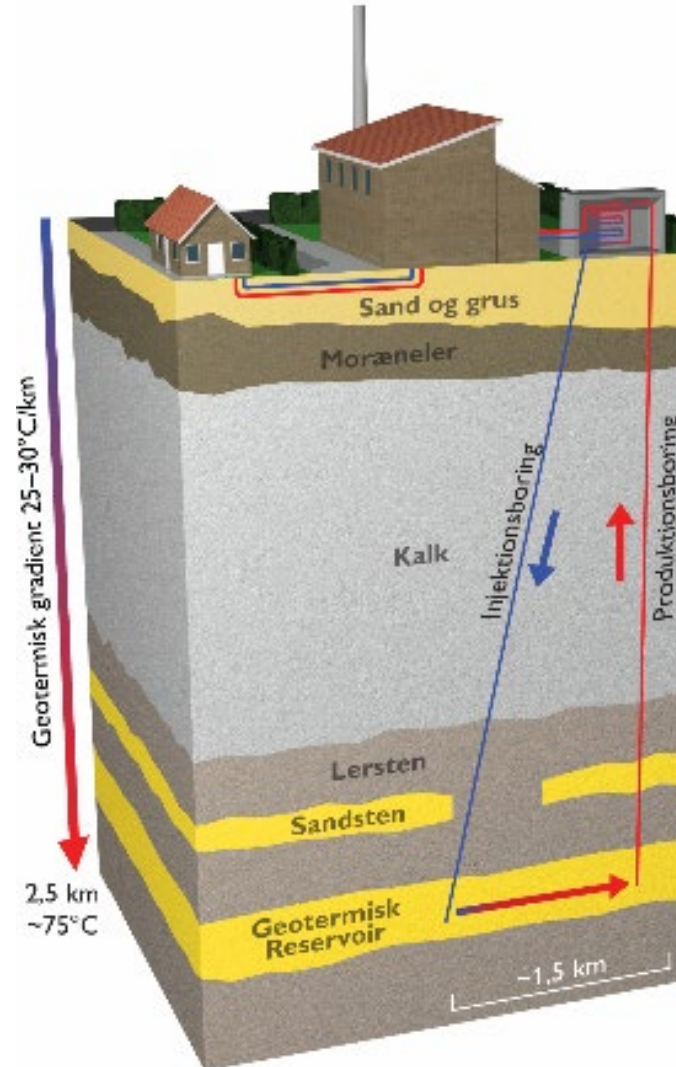
Geothemisk vindue: 800 – 3000 m

Geologiske “krav”:

- Sandstone – permeable (Gassum)
- Thickness > 25 m
- Good lateral permeability and conductivity

### Barrierer:

- Geologiske/tekniske
- Økonomiske
- Organizational/lovgivning



## ATES

jordvarme (ikke geotermi)

Hot geothermal water can be transported at approximately max 2 km from the facility – too much heat losses on the way

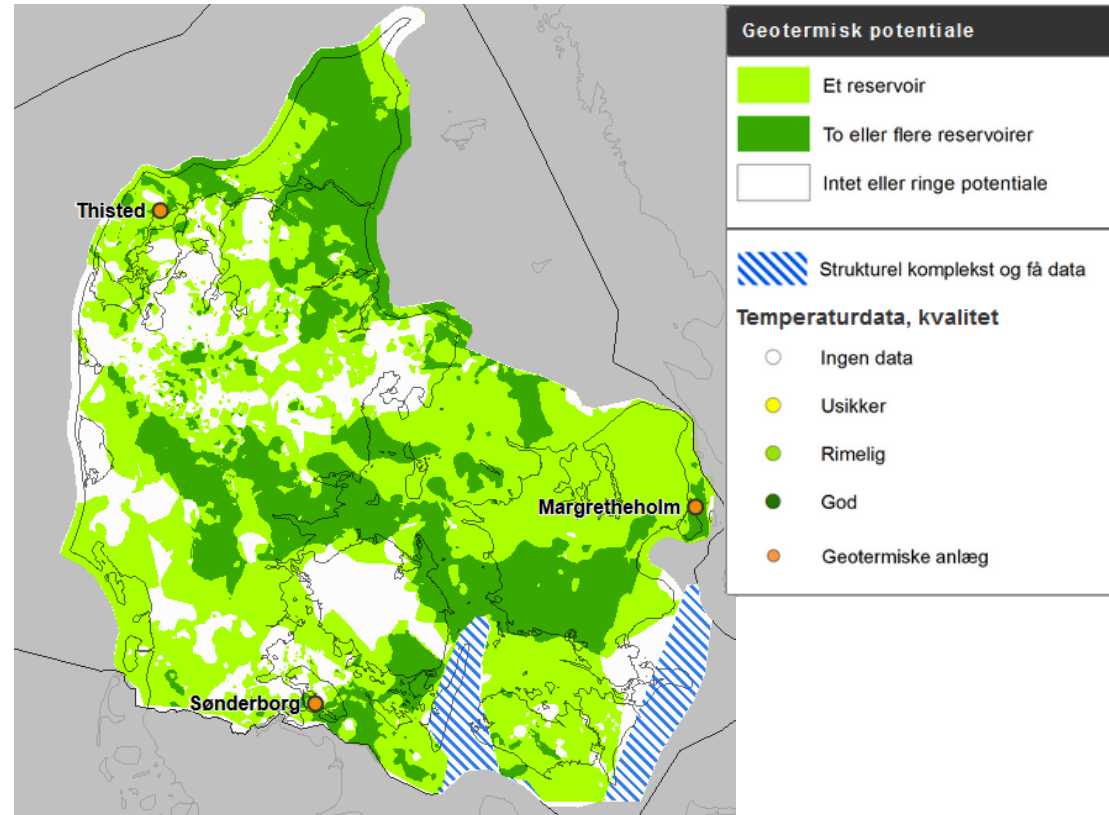
Deep geothermal wells

Only hot water

**No electricity production**

64% of all households in Denmark use district heating (fjernvarme) – huge potential for geothermal energy usage

<http://data.geus.dk/geoterm/>



Ca. 1000 ATES Anlæg I Danmark

- Størrest – Bispebjerg Hospital, Mart 2019
- Tre fjernvarme anlæg med geotermi
  - Thisted – 1984, 45 °C, 1200 m: 2000 husstandes årlig varmeforburg
  - Margretheholm (Amager) – 2005 (pt lukket), 73 °C, 2600 m, ca. 4600 husstandes årlig varmeforburg
  - Sønderborg – 2013, 48 °C, 1200 m, 2400 husstandes årlig varmeforburg

<https://www.geus.dk/energi/geotermi-og-jordvarme/>



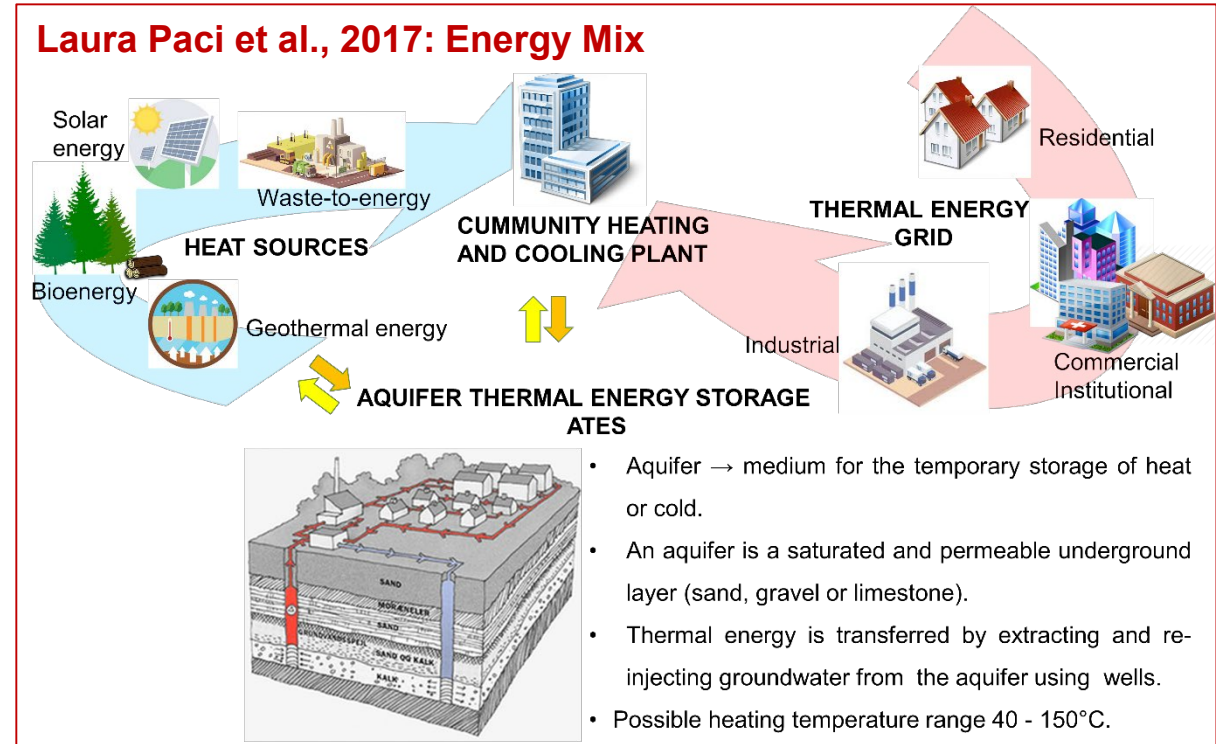
## Goals:

- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> by 70%,
- Reduce fossil fuels,
- Fossil free by 2050,
- etc. etc. etc.

**The energy systems of the future:** a mix of various types of energy: solar, wind, geothermal etc.

## NEED FOR MORE RESEARCH!

- Improve energy efficiency
- Risk Mitigation,
- New and/or cheaper drilling methods,
- New geological mapping (existing– aimed at the O&G industry),
- New emerging technologies to address corrosion, erosion, scaling
- etc.



# GEOHERMAL ENERGY SUMMARY

THERE IS HUGE POTENTIAL IN THE USE OF GEOHERMAL ENERGY  
**IT MUST BE PART OF THE ENERGY MIX OF THE FUTURE**

**It is most suitable for:**

- Heating/cooling of buildings and other infrastructure - **DENMARK**
- Agriculture – green houses
- Recreation/well being
- Electricity production
- Industry – chemicals/aluminium etc. production

**ADVANTAGES (among many):**

- Stable and reliable – 24/7
- In principle – inexhaustible
- Small/discrete installations
- No storage need
- Low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Relatively cheap (main cost – drilling)
- Sustainable
- No use of fuels

DISADVANTAGES	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Not everywhere is easy to access it – North Europe / Denmark	ATES/EGS, new developments
Drilling – cost, risk, pollution	State Investment (examples: wind energy, Turkey,) Improving technology
Cannot be transported at long distance – district heating – max 1.5 km	Improving technology, new insulating materials
Deep underground chemicals and gasses at surface Corrosion, scaling, water chemistry	Already in place: Filters, capture and utilization (Italy) New materials
Reservoir depletion → Subsidence	Improved reservoir management – lessons from the O&G sector
Low efficiency	New research and technology solutions