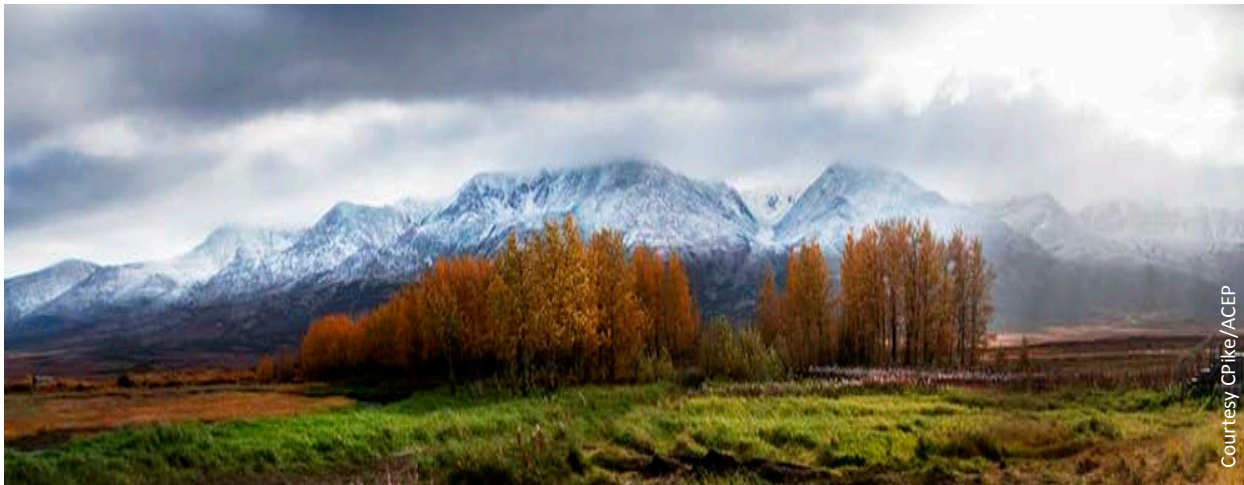


# Geothermal Technologies Office



Courtesy NREL



Courtesy CPipe/ACEP



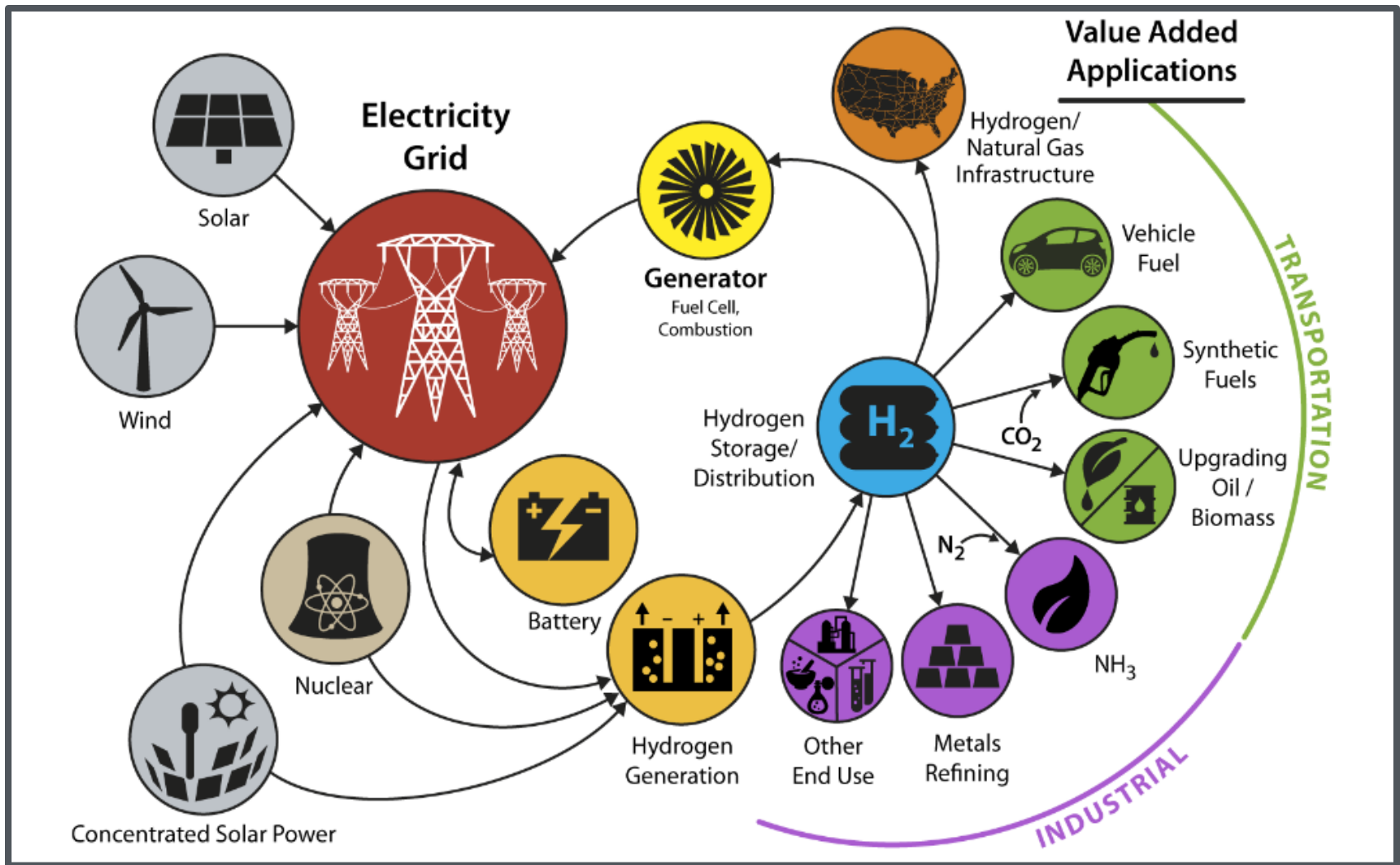
Courtesy RAM Power

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy

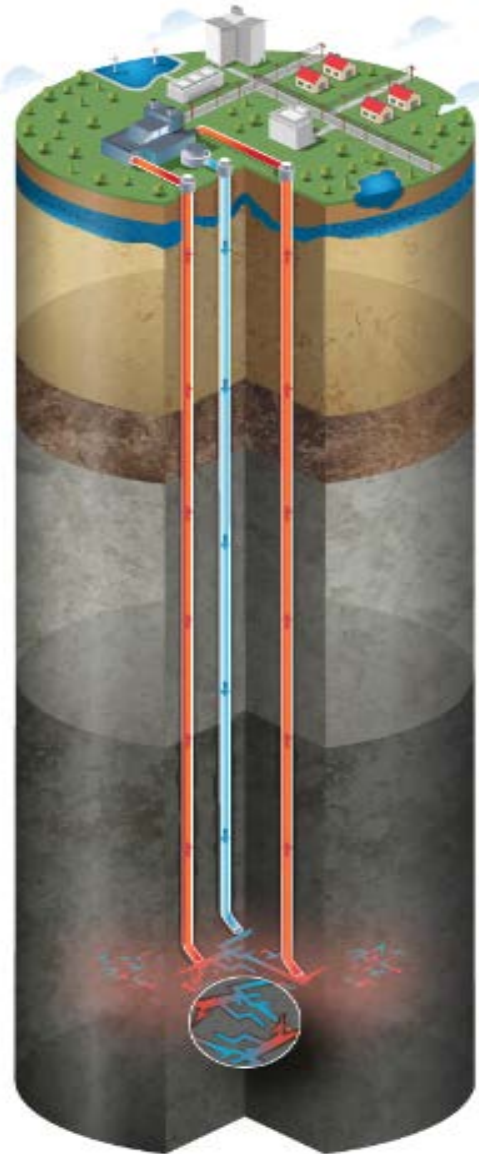
**Geothermal Energy -  
'Plugging Into The Planet'**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY | Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



From the RFI: The key challenges are clean, low cost hydrogen production and efficient utilization/systems integration.





To generate electric power from natural geothermal systems, you need:



Fluid to carry heat  
from the rocks

+



Small pathways to  
conduct fluid  
through the hot  
rocks

+



Abundant heat  
found in rocks at  
depth

With these conditions naturally in place, **hot fluids** are pumped to the **surface**, where they drive turbines and generate electricity in a power plant.

Those **fluids** are typically reinjected into the subsurface for later power production.

# Why spend money on geothermal technology development?

## ENERGY THAT *Works* AROUND THE CLOCK

Geothermal is a reliable, baseload energy source. It can provide power **24** hours a day, **365** days a year, independent of weather conditions and with the flexibility to meet consumer demand.



## GREEN TECHNOLOGY FOR A *Greener* WORLD

Power plants built for geothermal emit ***very*** little CO<sub>2</sub> over their lifetime.

CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

**0.05 kg**

Geothermal Binary  
Closed Loop Plant\*  
Life Cycle of  
**30 years<sup>1</sup>**

**8.91 kg**

Using 1 Gallon of  
Motor Gasoline<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> & <sup>2</sup> For more information about the references visit: [energy.gov/FORGE/Information-resources](https://energy.gov/FORGE/Information-resources)

\* A plant using moderately heated geothermal and secondary fluid that pass through a heat exchanger. The geothermal fluid causes the secondary fluid to flash to vapor driving turbines to power generators.

# What is Geothermal?



## **Geothermal Heat Pumps/ Ground Source Heat Pumps**

Use relatively constant temperature of the earth as heat sink for commercial and residential heating and cooling

- Near ambient temperatures (~40-80°F)
- Shallow depths - trenches to wells hundreds of feet deep



## **Direct Use Geothermal**

Use thermal energy (heat) from the earth directly for heating/cooling buildings, greenhouses, aquaculture, pools, spas, etc.

- Moderate temperatures (100-300°F)
- Wells hundreds to thousands of feet deep



## **Geothermal Power (Electricity Generation)**

Use thermal energy (heat) from the earth to generate electricity

- High temperatures (>300°F) as well as low temperatures (<300°F)
- Wells up to many thousands of feet deep
- Baseload generation value proposition

The U.S. is the **world leader** in installed geothermal electric power production with 3.7GW of operating nameplate capacity

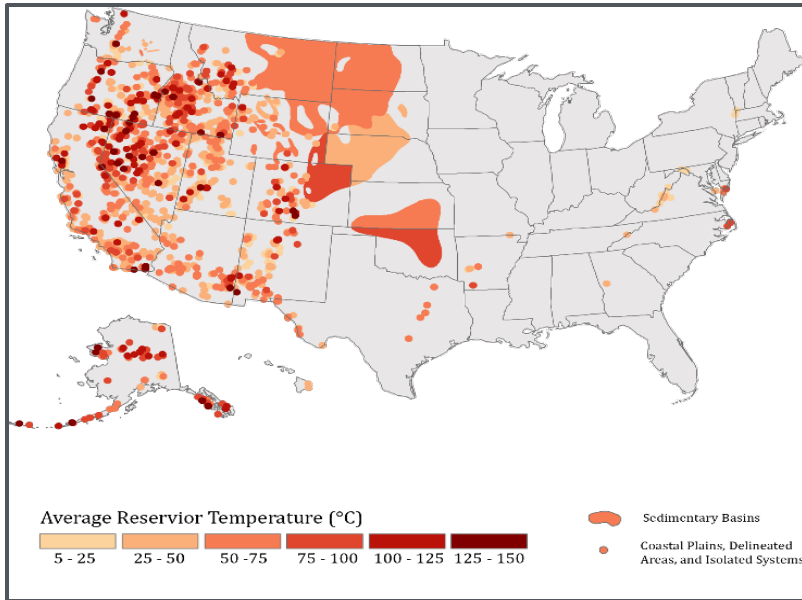
Since 2015 the U.S. has brought online an additional 70 MW of electric power production

The U.S. has 1,250 MW of geothermal electric power under development among 80 projects nationwide

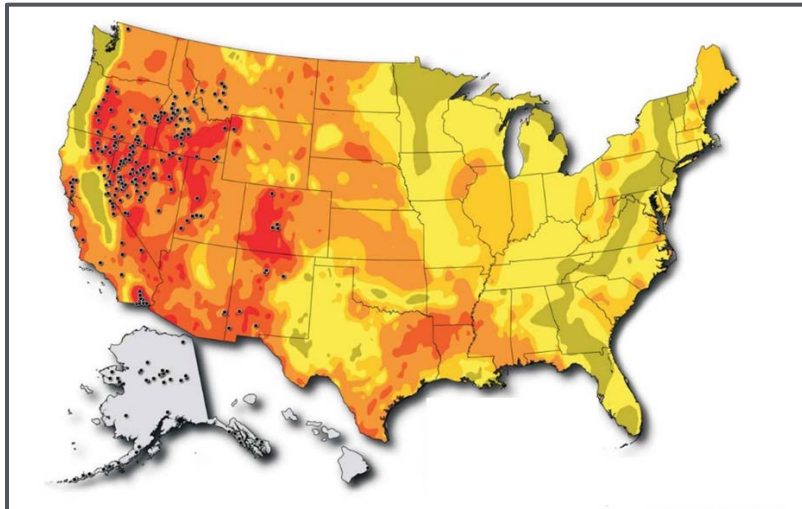
GTO invests in activities to facilitate growth of installed electrical capacity and utilization of thermal energy along a spectrum of technology readiness

**US - the world's largest for geothermal power production and geothermal reserves**





➤ **Hydrothermal (high temperature)  
Resources in the US**



➤ **Enhanced Geothermal and  
Deep Direct Use US Resources**

## EGS

- **Accelerate EGS**
  - Build upon R&D and demonstration project successes
  - EGS Integrated R&D FOA
  - Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) FOA kicked off

## Hydrothermal

- **New Geothermal Opportunities**
  - Play Fairway Analysis
  - Pathway to next-step drilling validation
- **Subsurface Engineering Crosscut**
  - Intra-DOE efforts to address common subsurface challenges and better leverage RD&D

## SALT

- **Additive Value**
  - Low Temperature Mineral Recovery
  - Hybrid systems and Desalination
- **Looking Forward**
  - GeoVision Study



## FORGE GOALS

### Promote DIVERSE & TRANSFORMATIONAL research to:

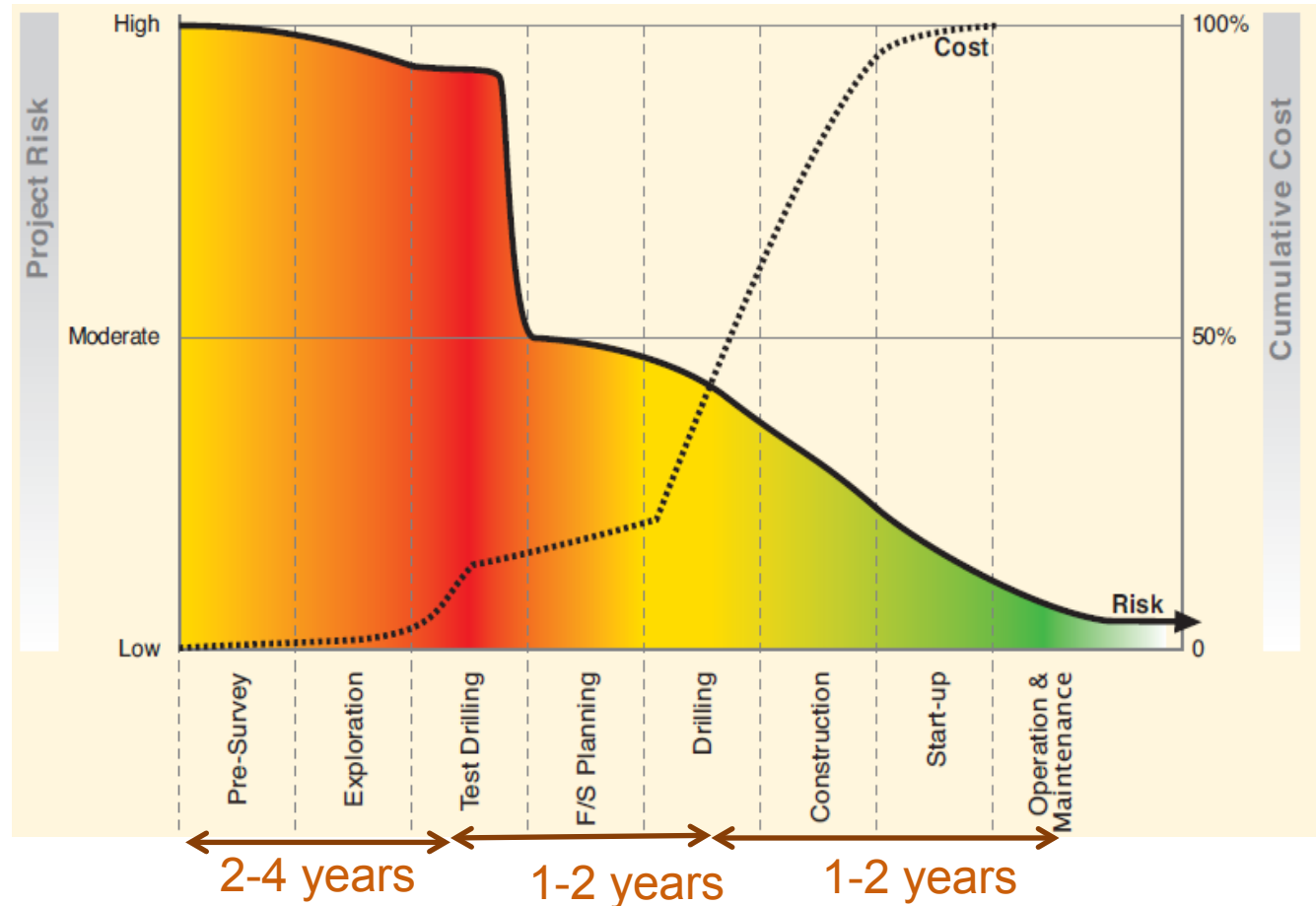
- **Validate** and **optimize** enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) technology
- Perfect access to and creation of **productive and sustainable reservoirs**
- **Develop, test** and **improve** new fundamental and techniques in an ideal EGS environment.
- **Capture** and **disseminate** high fidelity *data* in real-time to the community
- Ensure **reproducibility for commercial scale-up**

### Federal Role:

- Test technologies/take technical risks not possible in private sector
- Work under aggressive timeframe
- Enable access to enormous renewable resource



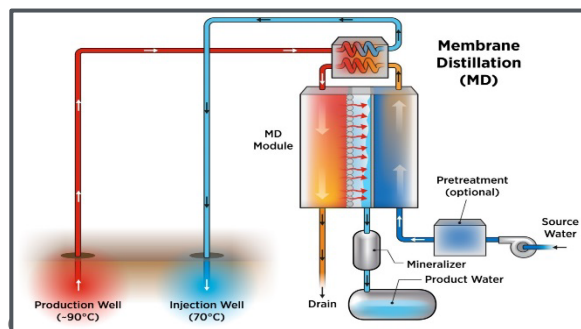
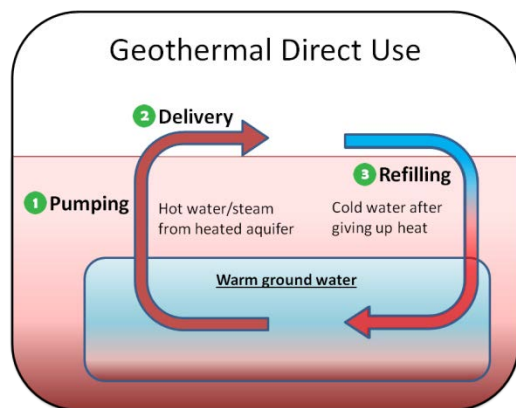
- Combination of early higher risk, higher costs, and regulatory uncertainty can impair projects
- Reinforces GTO focus on areas such as drilling cost, success probability, and new technologies



Adapted from ESMAP, 2012 Geothermal Handbook: Planning and Financing Power Generation

# Moderate and Low Temperature

*Adding Value - Materials Extraction, Direct-Use, Hybrid Systems & Thermal Desalination*



- **Low-Temperature Mineral Extraction** - Resource assessment and feasibility (ongoing)
- **Large-scale Direct Use**: where does it make technical and commercial sense?
  - ✓ Use geothermal hot fluids for heating and cooling
  - ✓ Potential displacement of traditional baseload generation on site-by-site basis
- **Targeted RD&D** on innovative energy conversion, additional **revenue-stream creation (e.g., hybrid systems & thermal desalination)**, and further development of power generation cycles

**Energy Policy & Systems Analysis**

- Advisement: Secretary of Energy
- Policy: low-carbon and secure energy economy
- Technical assistance: States and local entities

**Nuclear Energy**

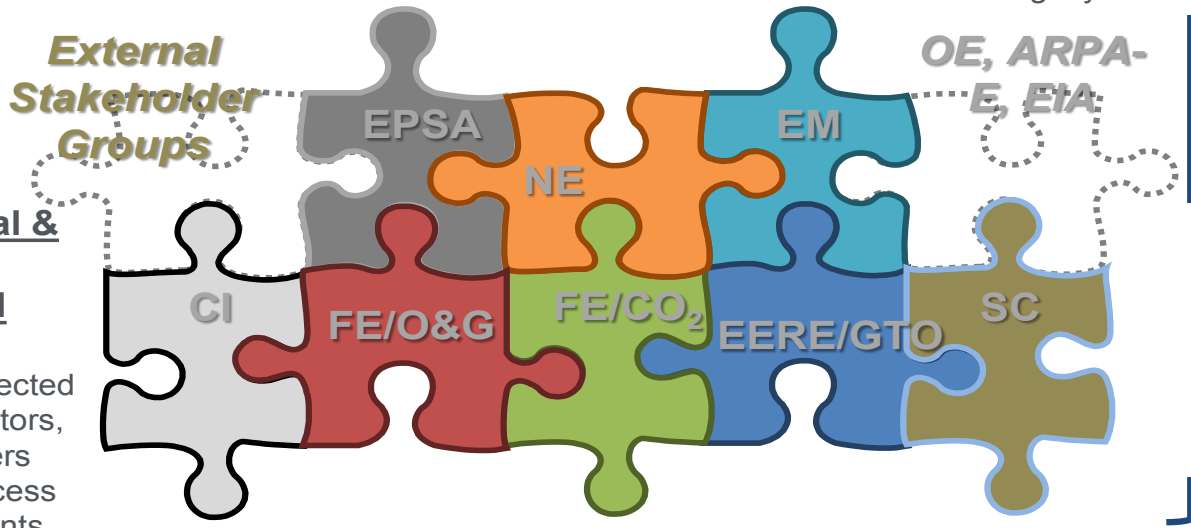
- Policy and technology: disposition of used nuclear fuel and waste
- R&D: deep borehole disposal concept

**Environmental Management**

- Modeling and tools: subsurface evaluation and characterization
- Cleanup: nuclear weapons legacy

**Congressional & Inter-governmental Affairs**

- Interactions: elected officials, regulators, and stakeholders
- Information access for change agents



**Science**

- Basic research: geology, geophysics, and biogeochemistry
- Expertise: subsurface chemistry, complex fluid flow

**Fossil Energy/Oil & Gas**

- R&D and access: clean, affordable traditional fuel sources
- R&D: drilling, well construction and integrity, and hydraulic fracturing technologies

**Fossil Energy/Carbon Storage**

- Policy and technology: challenges of CO<sub>2</sub> storage to inform regulators, industry, and the public
- R&D: CO<sub>2</sub> offshore and onshore storage



DOE seeks to develop credible analysis jointly with the geothermal community that:

- Articulates clear **strategies** across different sectors and has a cohesive plan to attain the goals;
- Discusses **geothermal growth scenarios through 2050** backed by robust data, modeling and analysis;
- **Addresses all market segments:** existing and potential hydrothermal, electrical and non-electrical usages, new EGS sector, and other value streams;
- Supported by **objective and peer-reviewed industry data** and **available to decision-makers**; and
- Is **aspirational** and **inspirational**

