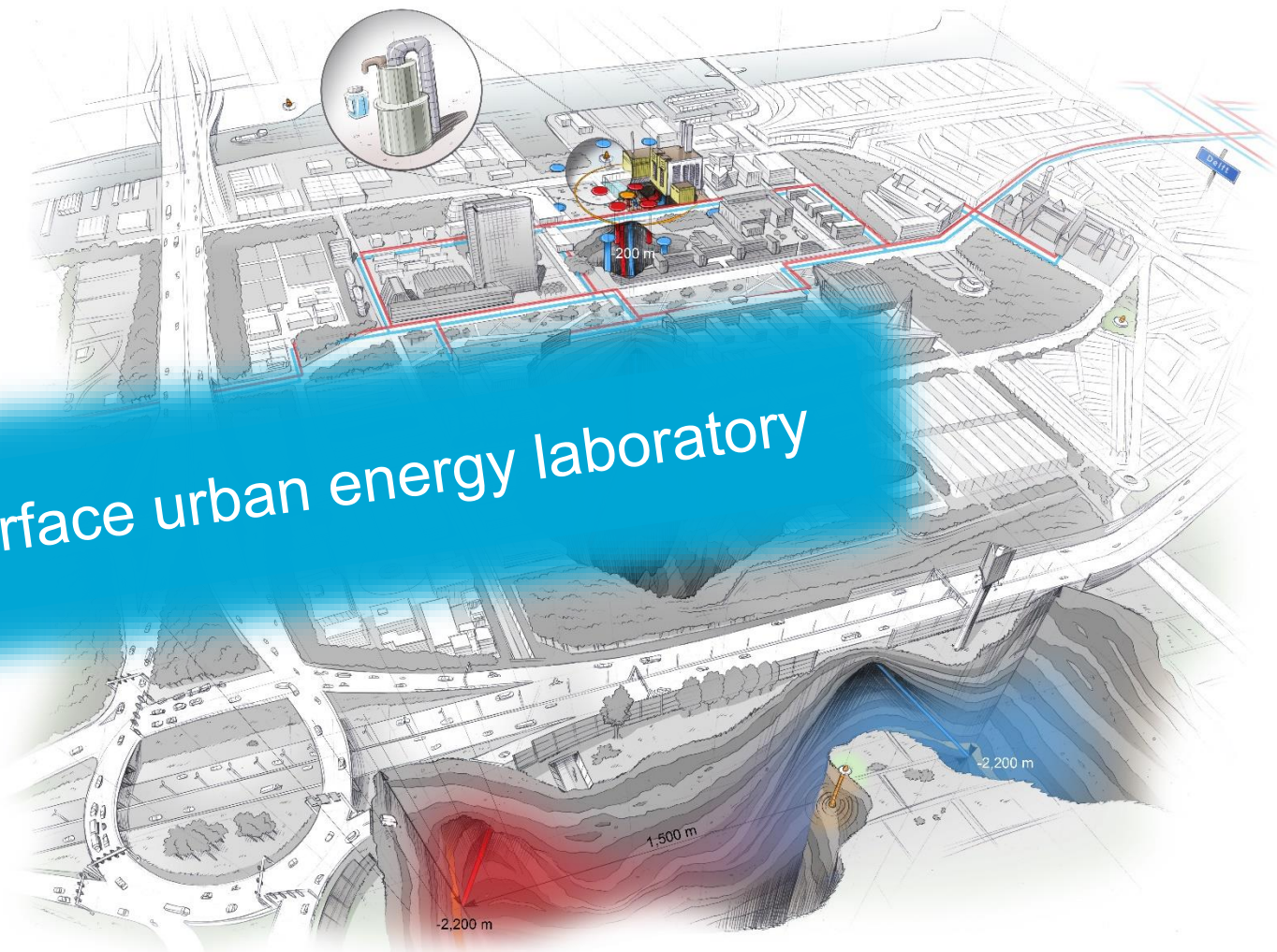


# TU Delft Subsurface urban energy lab Full-scale application and development of seasonal heat storage

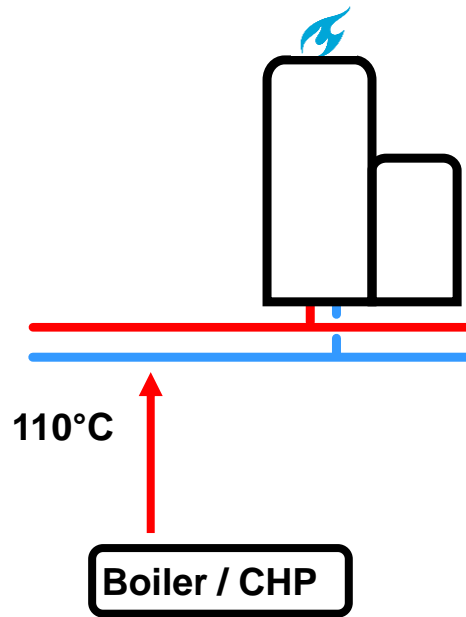
Dr.ir. M. Bloemendal  
2023-11-7  
[j.m.bloemendal@tudelft.nl](mailto:j.m.bloemendal@tudelft.nl)



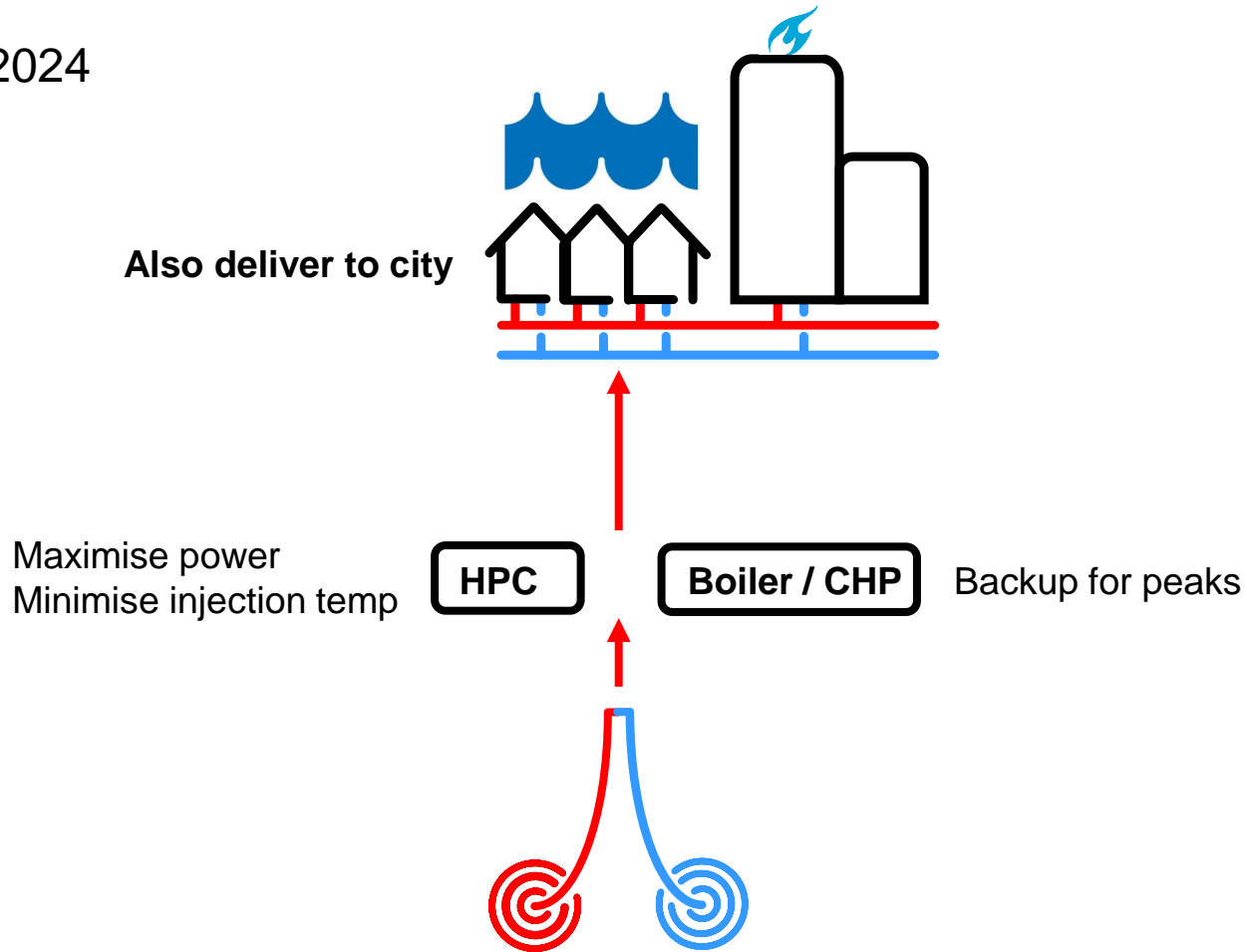
# Delft Subsurface urban energy laboratory

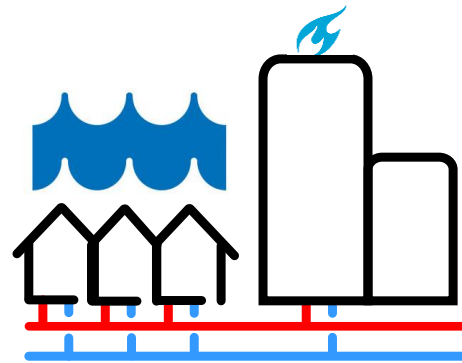
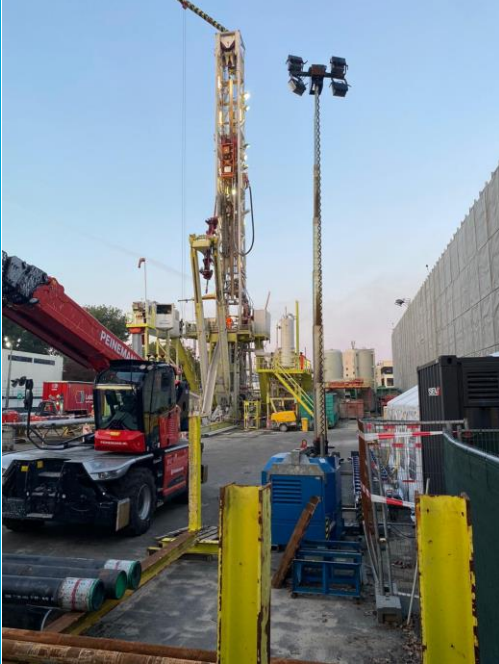


# Current



~2024

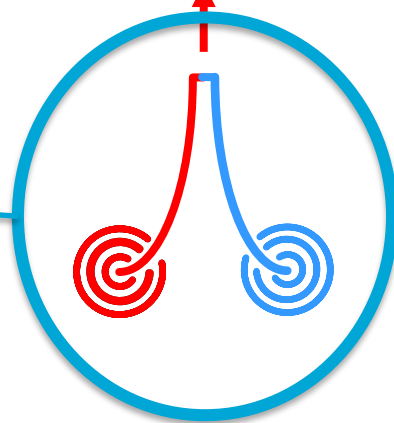




HPC

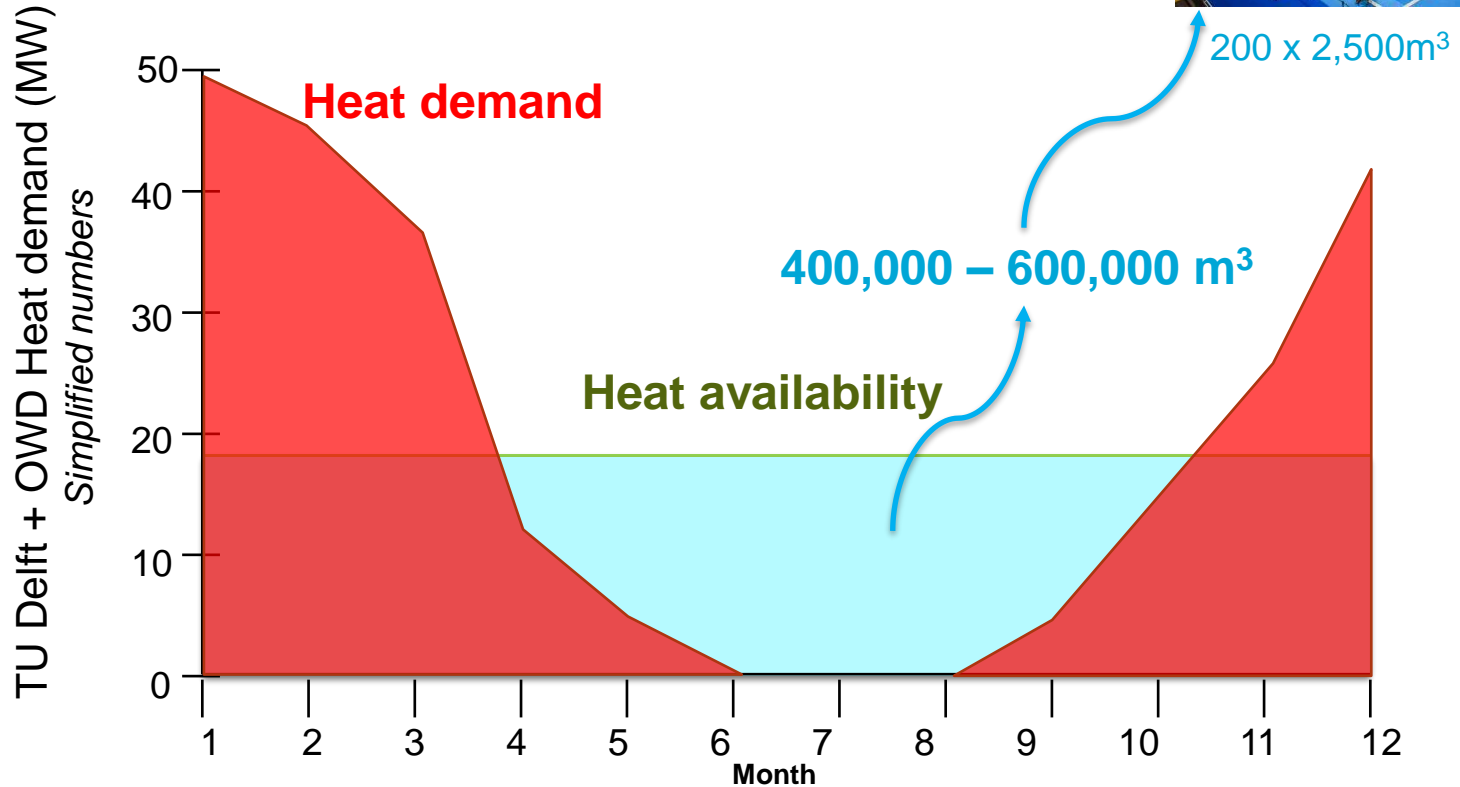
Boiler / CHP

Backup for peaks



EGW  
Nov.9 – 9:00

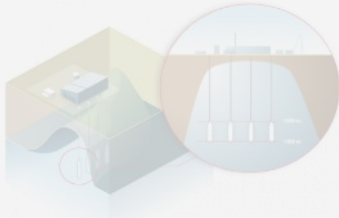
# The need for heat storage



# Large scale – seasonal heat storage ? →

## Sensible heat storage

### MINES/ CAVERNS

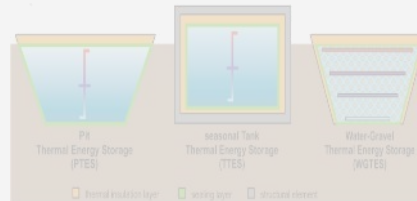


- Salt deposits in mines/caverns can be used to store energy.



- Availability is limited
- Losses can be high

### TANKS/PITS

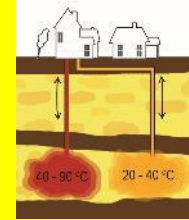


- Offers good insulation and flexibility



- Expensive & limited capacity
- Not always possible in dense urban settings

### Underground

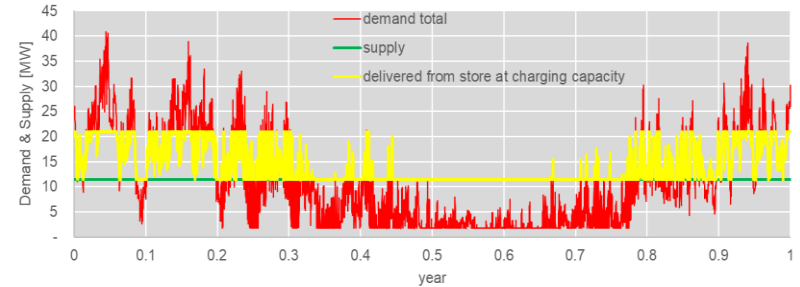
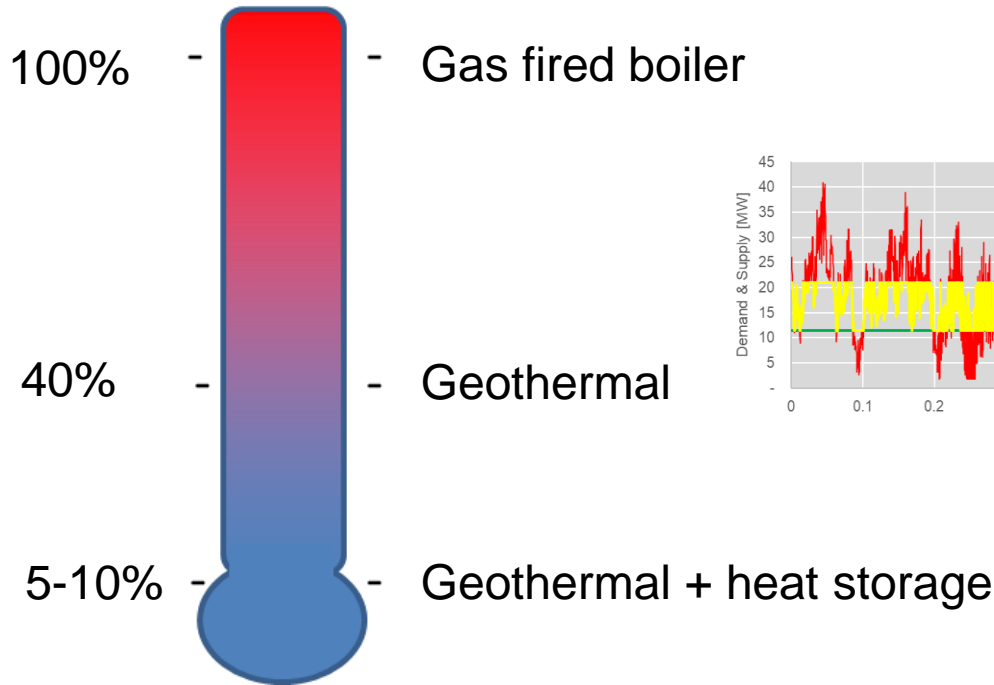


- No space requirement above ground
- Large capacities



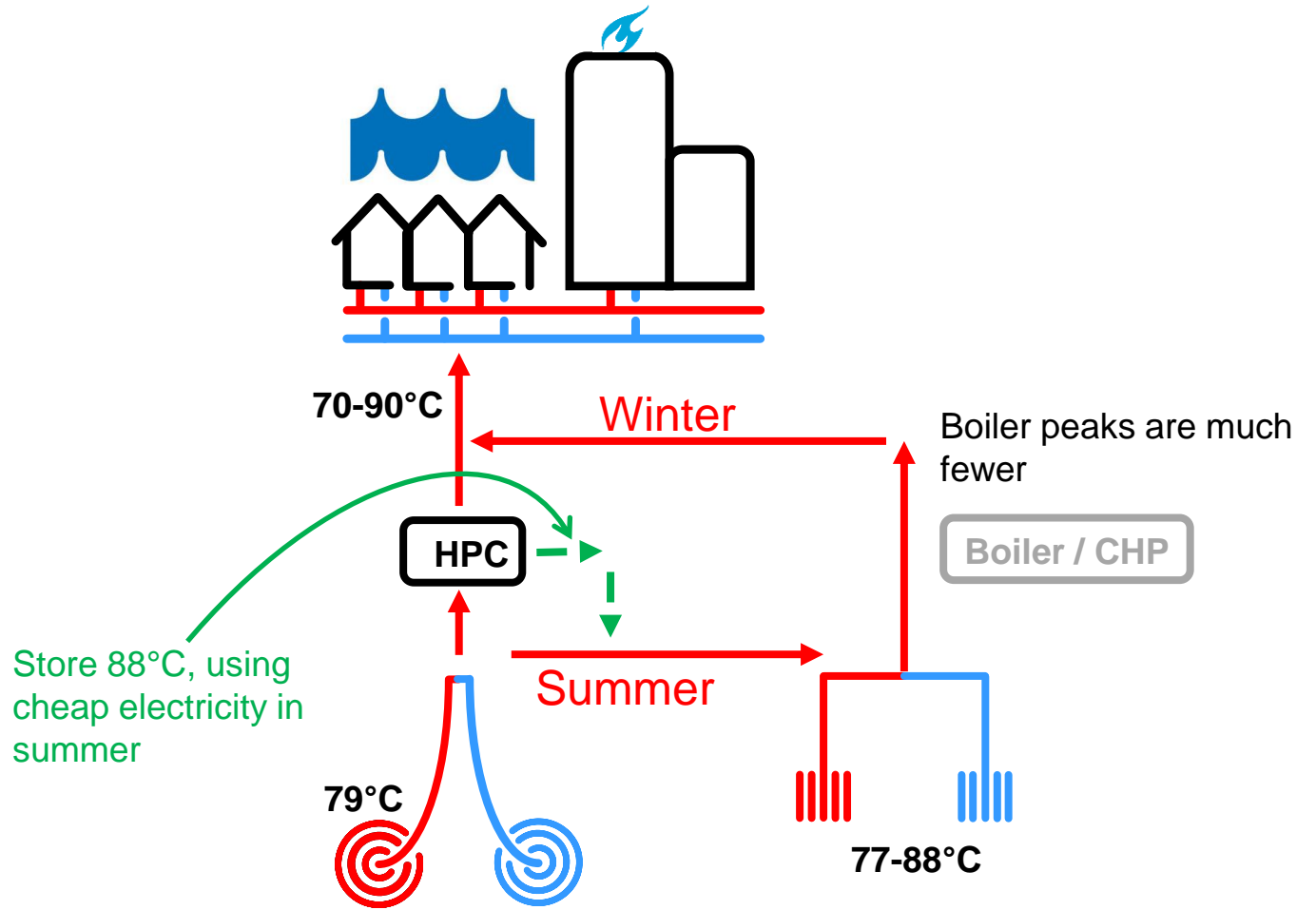
- Subsurface infrastructure needed
- Dependent on local geological conditions

# Fossil energy use in DHN

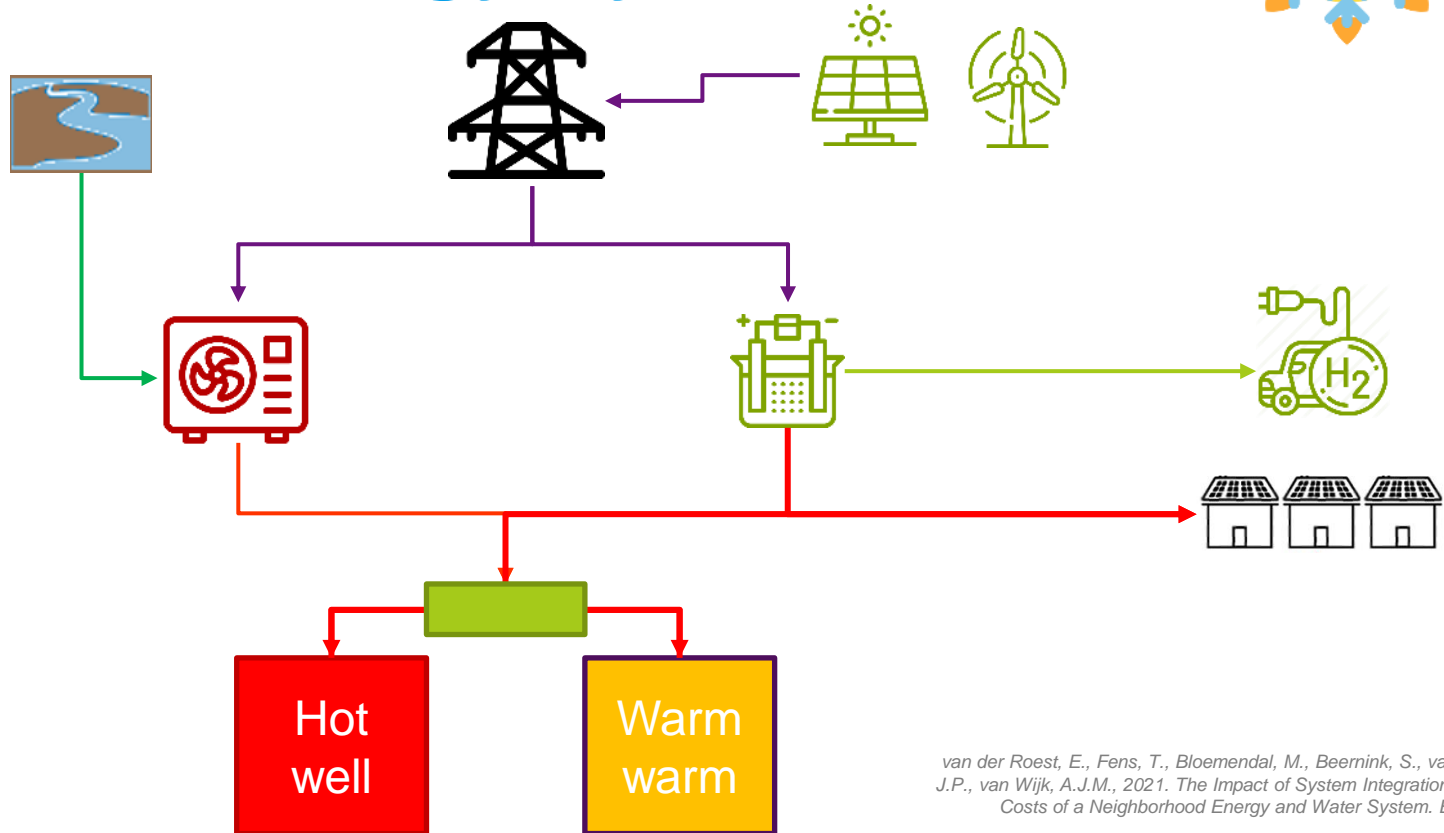




>2025



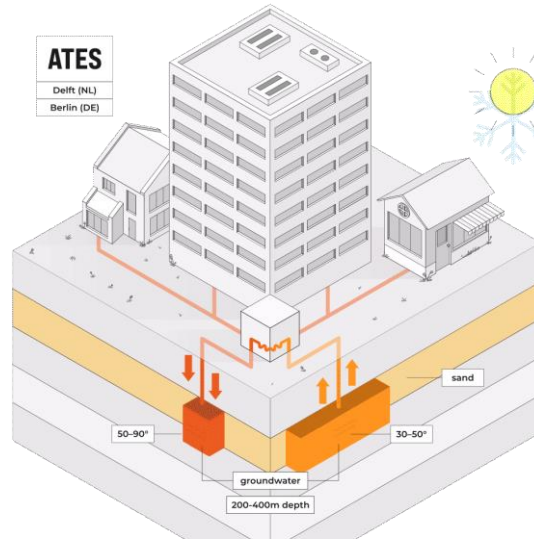
# Multi energy systems



van der Roest, E., Fens, T., Bloemendal, M., Beernink, S., van der Hoek, J.P., van Wijk, A.J.M., 2021. The Impact of System Integration on System Costs of a Neighborhood Energy and Water System. *Energies* 14.

# ATES legality

- $<25^{\circ}\text{C}$  standard regulatory framework
- $>25^{\circ}\text{C}$  Permitted by provincial board (GS)  
*currently as pilot / research projects*



PILOTING  
UNDERGROUND  
SEASONAL  
HEAT STORAGE

IN GEO-  
THERMAL RESERVOIRS



Social justice  
& regulation



Optimal system  
integration & control



Enhanced  
drilling & water  
quality control



- up-to 90°C
- In geothermal reservoirs
- ATES, BTES & MTES

Delft  
200-300m

Cornwall  
500m

Bochum  
120m

Litomerice  
100 - 500m

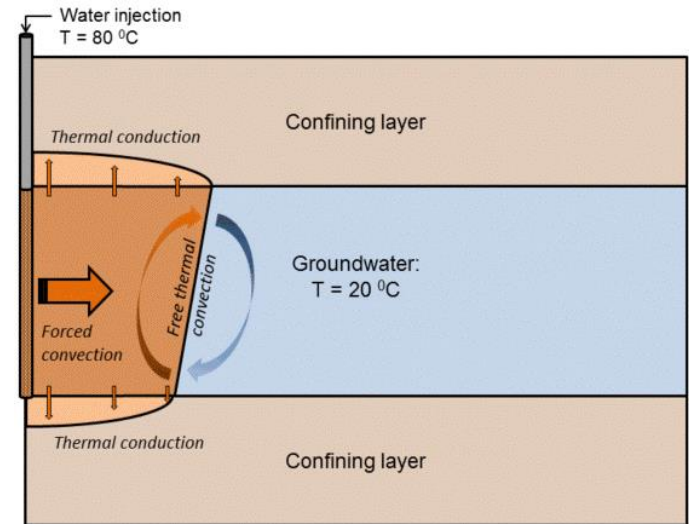
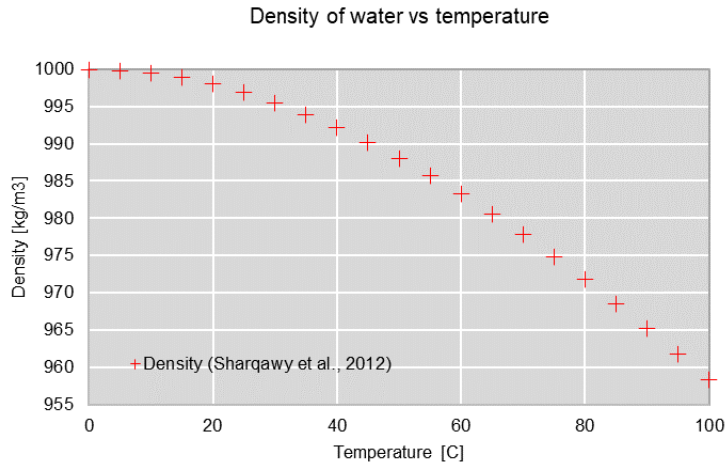
Darmstadt  
750m

Berlin  
400m

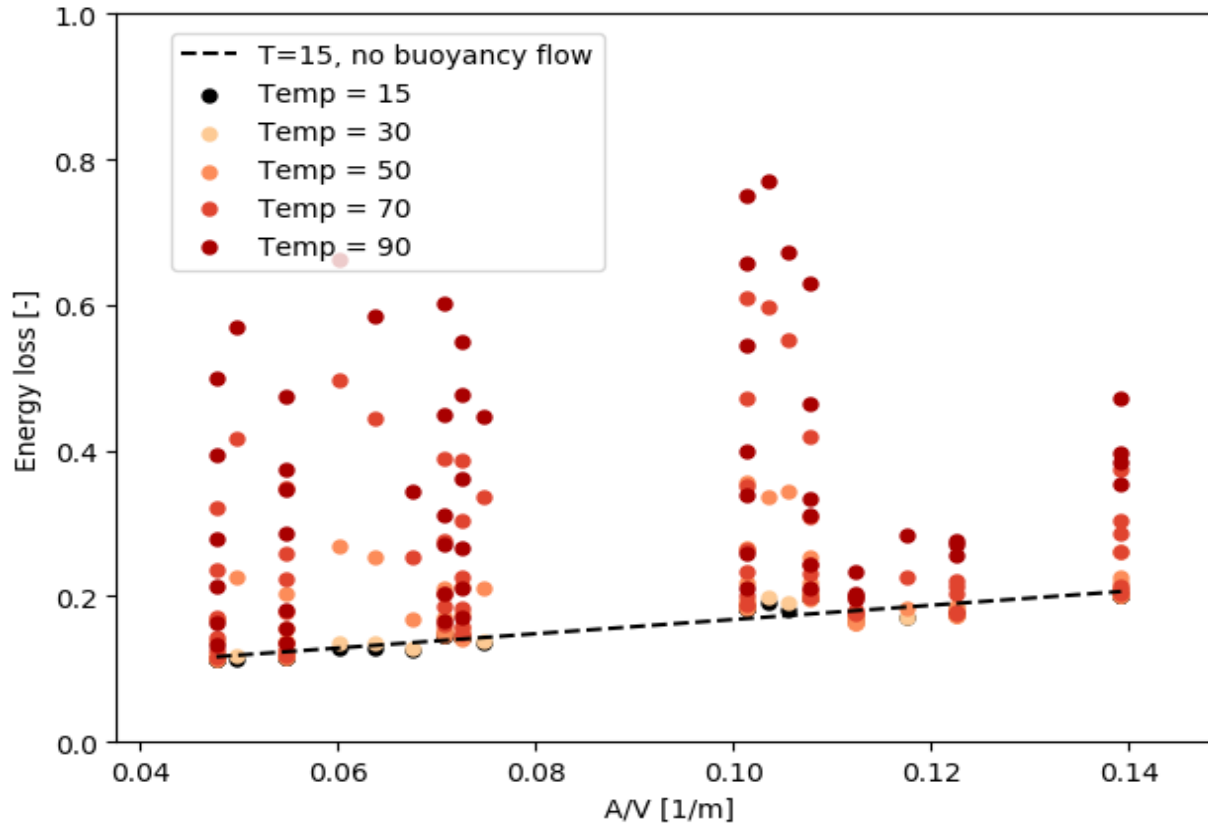


# Innovation Highlights

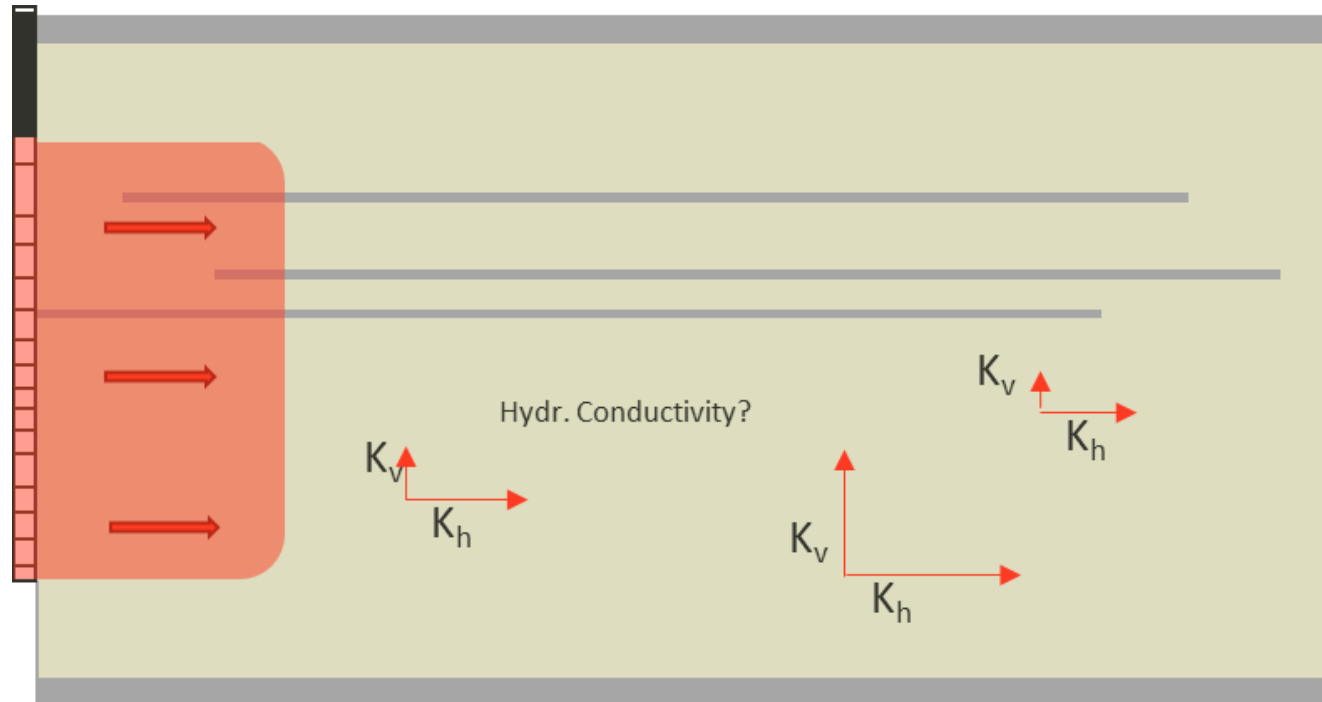
1. Impact & performance
  - Heat distribution / losses
  - Aquifer characterisation



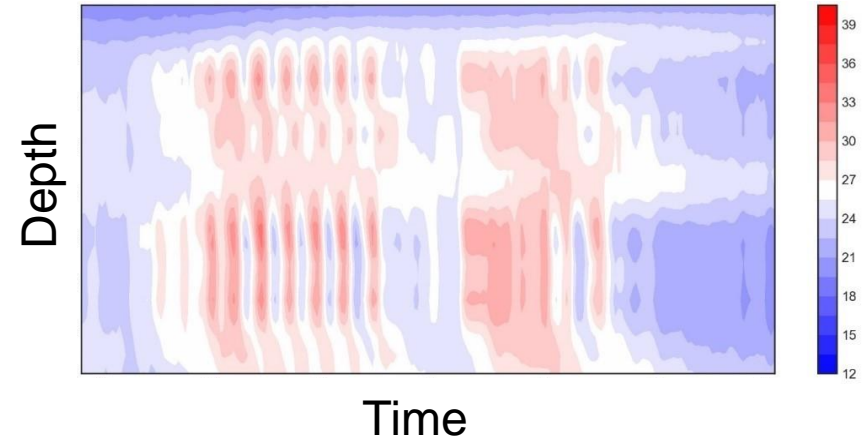
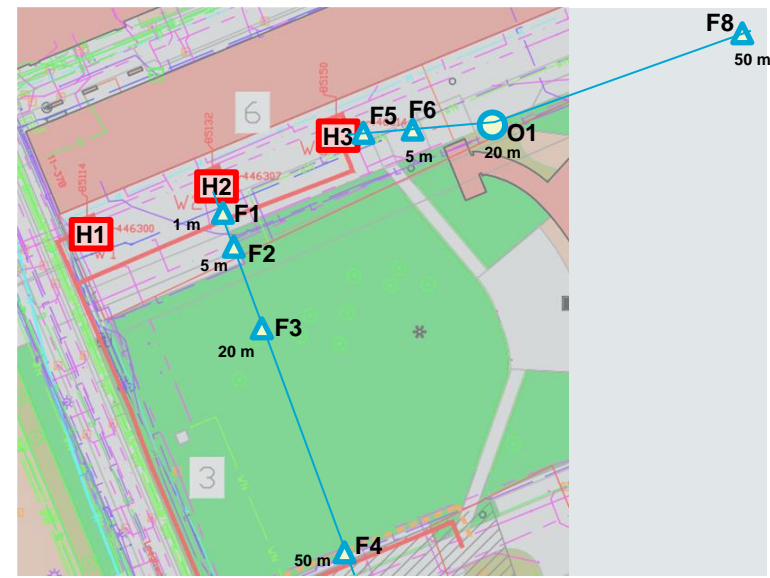
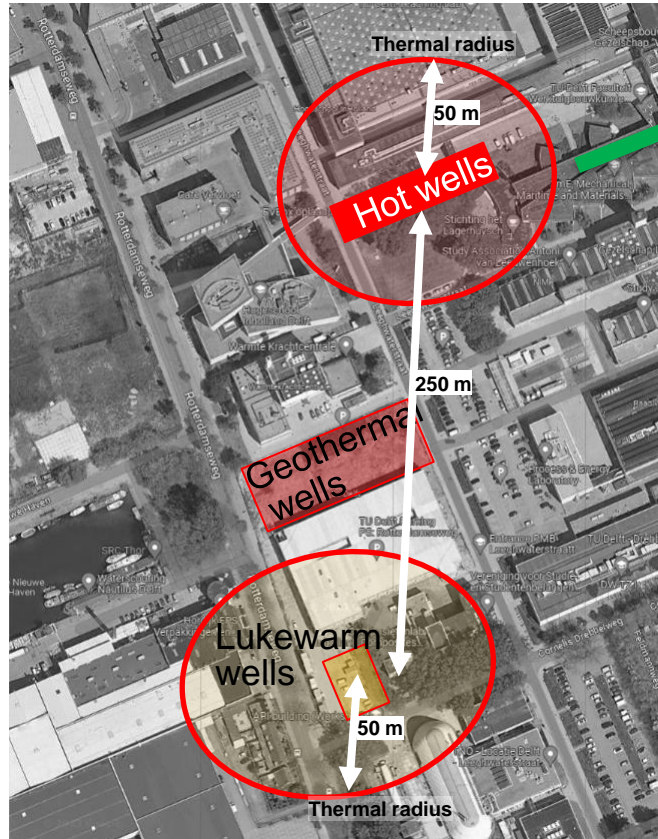
# Buoyancy and conduction losses



# HT-ATES → aquifer conditions



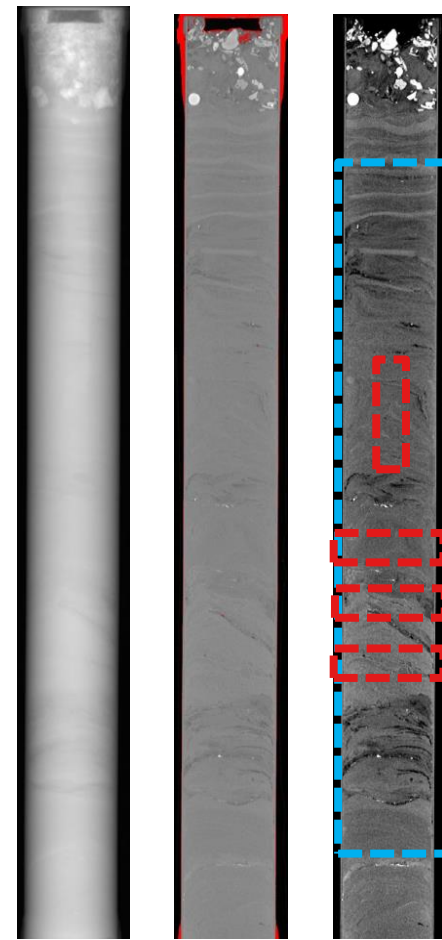
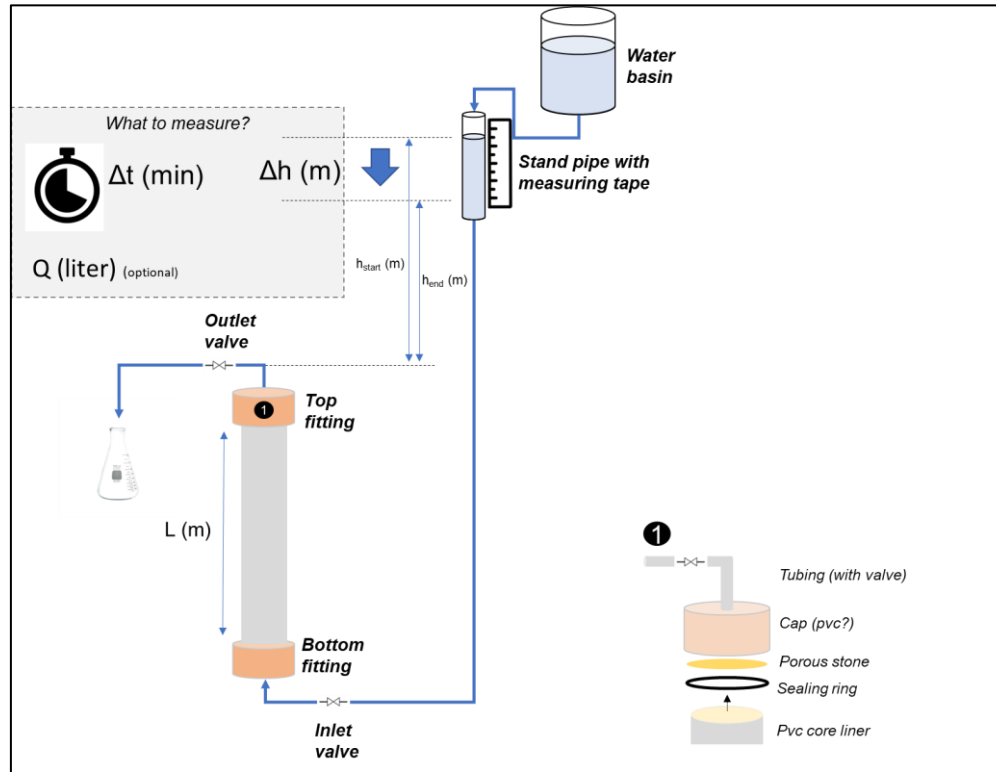
# Temperature distribution





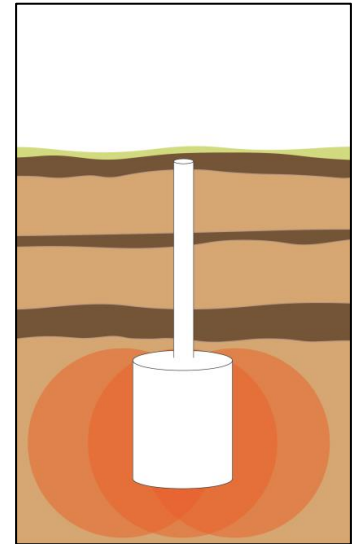


# Core analysis and tests



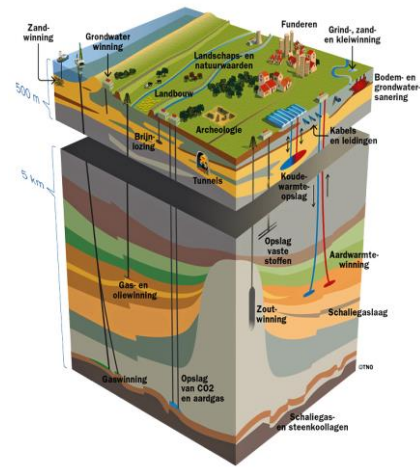
# Innovation Highlights

1. Impact & performance
  - Heat distribution / losses
  - Aquifer characterisation
2. Wells
  - Well design and Drilling method



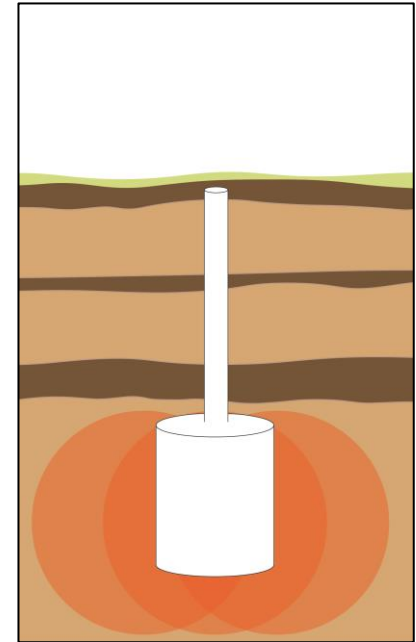
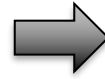
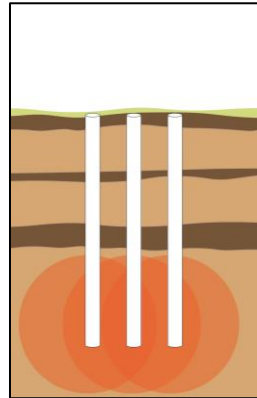
# Problem

- Busy in the underground
- Utilise more “challenging” aquifers i.e. thin, fine grained, deep
- Capacity, clogging and costs are an issue



# Expand borehole diameter at depth

- Potential benefits
  - Reduce drawdown i.e. pumping costs
  - Reduce mechanical clogging
  - Reduce drilling costs

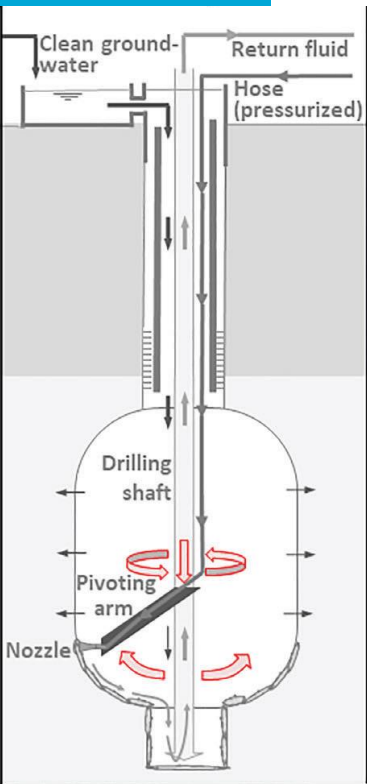


KWR

TU Delft

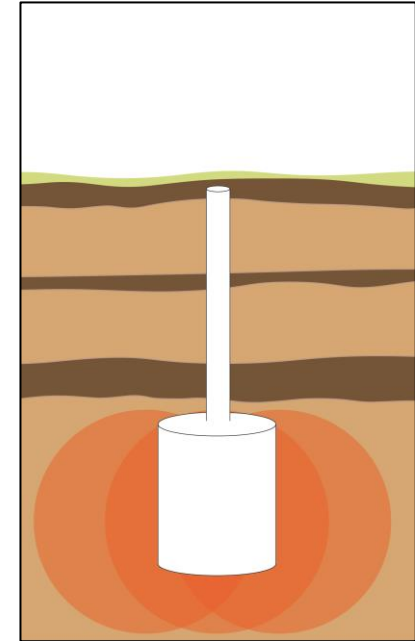
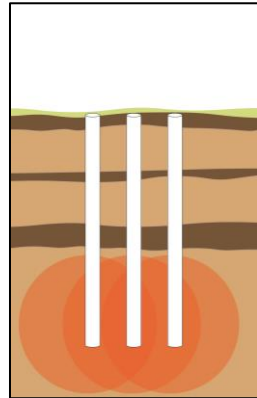
# Expand borehole diameter at depth

## Under reaming by Jetting



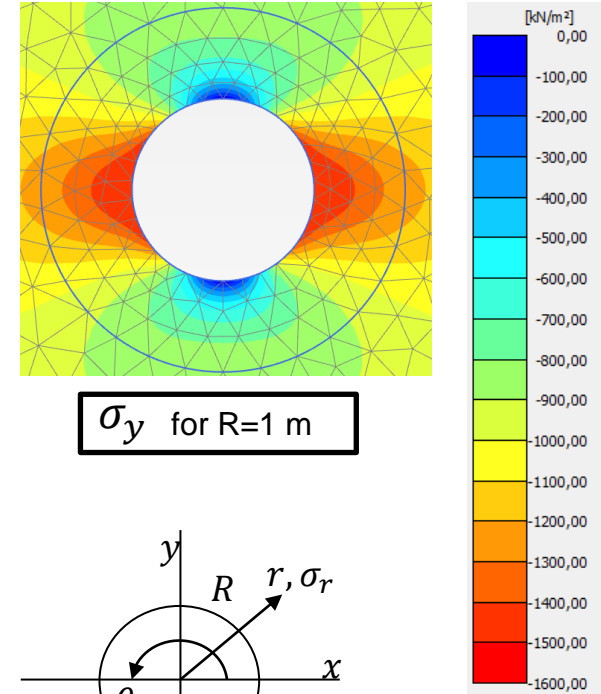
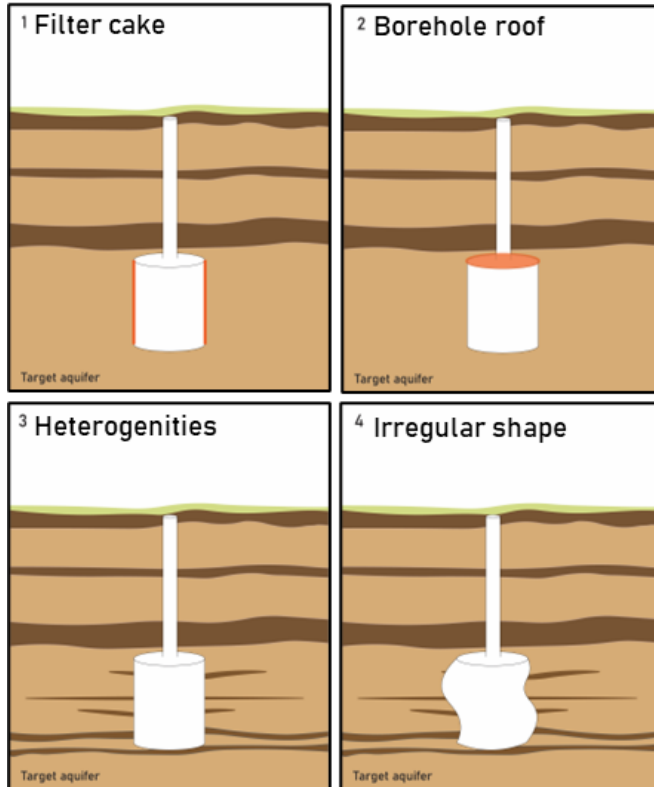
## Potential benefits

- Reduce drawdown i.e. pumping costs
- Reduce mechanical clogging
- Reduce drilling costs



Method suitable for  
Expansion of borehole in unconsolidated formations

# Expanded Diameter Gravel Well (EDGW) Principles and Challenges → wellbore stability

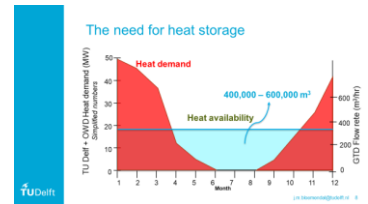


# Innovation Highlights

1. Impact & performance
2. Wells
3. System integration and control
4. Societal

# Take home

- Large scale seasonal heat storage is needed
- Underground accommodates capacity for seasonal storage



Large scale – seasonal heat storage ? →  
Sensible heat storage

**WATER STORAGE**

- Low capacity in urban environment due to space & water requirements
- Availability in winter
- Limited energy loss

**SENSIBLE**

- Offers great flexibility and scalability
- Expansion & retrofit possible
- Full capacity available in winter and summer months

**UNDERGROUND**

- No space requirement above ground = larger capacities
- Subsurface infrastructure needed
- Dependent on local geological conditions

**ATES legality**

- <25°C standard regulatory framework
- >25°C Permitted by provincial board (GS) often as pilot / research projects

- Via fundamental research at demos towards cheap and robust seasonal heat storage in the underground

**PUSH-IT**

- up-to 90°C
- In geothermal reservoirs
- i.e. ATES, BTES & MTES

**Expanded Diameter Gravel Well (EDGW) Principles and Challenges**

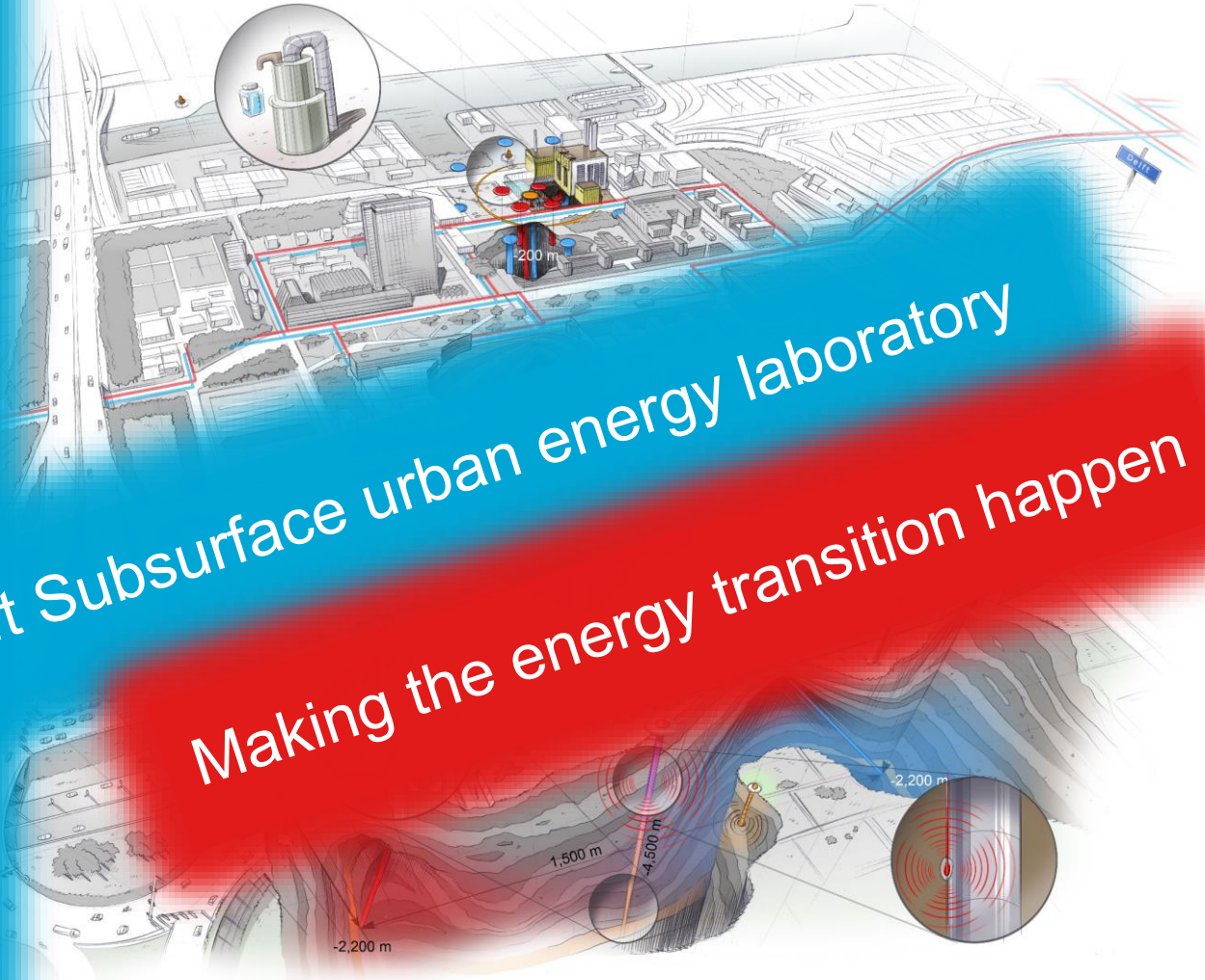


**Novel combination of  
geothermal & HT-ATES**

**World-wide unique  
research & education  
infrastructure**

**Delft Subsurface urban energy laboratory**

**Making the energy transition happen**





TU Delft Subsurface urban energy lab

# Full-scale application and development of seasonal heat storage

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2023-11-7

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Contributions from:

Tessel Grubben, Alexis Koulidis, Stijn Beernink, Martin v.d. Schans, Phil Vardon, Niels Hartog



Me in an ATES-well manhole, July 2020  
photo: Bram Saeys

Workshop in Utrecht

APPLICATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE



