

## Projects

The member companies and scientific institutions work on various projects in the field of geothermal energy. Here are a few examples:

### Potential Study on Geothermal Engineering

To obtain an exact overview of the possible uses of near-surface geothermal energy and deep geothermal energy, the Geological Service of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia has drawn up potential studies for North Rhine-Westphalia. The Geological Service's most recent project is the "Traffic Lights Map". Further information can be found on the Internet at:  
[www.gd.nrw.de](http://www.gd.nrw.de)

### 117 Heat Pumps in a Project

In the new "Am Scharpenacken" housing area in Wuppertal a heat pump estate is being constructed comprising a total of 117 single-family houses. On the former barracks site the buildings are supplied with heat/cold by heat pumps in an environmentally friendly and energy-efficient way. Further information at:  
[www.vaillant.de](http://www.vaillant.de)



### SuperC of RWTH Aachen University

SuperC is the functional study centre of RWTH Aachen University and it houses most services for students under one roof. The new building will be heated with geothermal heat rendered usable with a 2,500 m deep borehole as part of an EU demonstration project funded by the state of NRW and conducted by the Faculty of Geo-resources and Material Technology.

Geothermal energy is also useful in the summer: it can ensure the maintenance of pleasant temperatures when an adsorption refrigerating machine is connected.

Further information at:  
[www.rwth-aachen.de](http://www.rwth-aachen.de)

### Heat Pump Marketplace NRW

To boost the utilisation of near-surface geothermal energy, the Heat Pump Marketplace NRW was founded in Düsseldorf in 2001. Its function is to provide end customers with impartial information and to enhance general familiarity with heat pump technology. A number of brochures on the subject have already been published. Up-to-date information and notices of events can be found at:

[www.waermepumpen-marktplatz-nrw.de](http://www.waermepumpen-marktplatz-nrw.de)

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### EnergyRegion.NRW

With its mixture of multinational corporations, medium-sized companies and research institutions the Cluster EnergyRegion.NRW has at its disposal a unique concentration of energy economy expertise. There are eight networks in the Clusters EnergyRegion.NRW and they encompass companies, associations, universities and institutes along the whole value chain. The Cluster's activities are supported by the cluster policy of the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia and funded through the European Union's NRW-Target-2 Programme. The EnergyAgency.NRW is responsible for managing the Cluster EnergyRegion.NRW.



## Geothermal Energy Network NRW Tapping new resources

## The Geothermal Energy Network

The Geothermal Energy Network was established at the end of 2009 by the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia. It encompasses the activities in North Rhine-Westphalia connected with geothermal energy. The Geothermal Energy Network is integrated in the structure of the EnergyEconomy Cluster EnergyRegion.NRW.

The EnergyAgency.NRW is responsible for the management of both the Cluster EnergyRegion.NRW and of the Cluster EnergyResearch.NRW (CEF.NRW). Their networks and partners will therefore continue in future to provide the basis for the cluster work and its adequate co-ordination.

The existing Geothermal Energy Working Group, with about 520 members, and the Office for Geothermal Energy of the EnergyAgency.NRW (a co-operative venture with the Geothermal Centre Bochum (GZB), the city of Bochum, the Bochum University of Applied Sciences and the economic development agency Wirtschaftsförderung metropoluhr) form the basis for Geothermal Energy Network's activities. Its members include companies, institutions of science and research, and bodies in public administration.



## Objectives

Geothermal energy represents an almost inexhaustible source for heating buildings and generating power. The technical possibilities for the utilisation of geothermal heat range from supplying individual single-family houses with energy using near-surface geothermal heat through to the utilisation of temperatures far above 100 °C from depths down to 5,000 metres to supply large energy consumers with heat and power from deep geothermal sources.

The Network's objectives are as follows:

- Strategy development for the announcement and development of geothermal energy
- Exchange of information to enable ideas to be jointly developed further
- Initiation of projects
- Expansion of competence in the geothermal sector
- Opening up of new markets
- Safeguarding and sustainable creation of jobs
- Settlement of companies
- Intensification of national and international collaboration

## Structure and Players

The Network is accompanied in its work by a steering group with high-ranking membership comprising representatives of industry, science and research and of administration. More than 500 experts and specialists along the value chain work in various working parties on strategies and solutions for innovative geothermal installations.

- "Licensing and Planning Management" Working Party
- "Energy Economy and Contracting" Working Party
- "Near-Surface Geothermal Energy" Working Party (interface to the Heat Pump Working Group and the Heat Pump Market Place.NRW)
- "Deep Geothermal Energy" Working Party
- "Mining Infrastructure and Mine Water" Working Party
- "Research and Development" Working Party
- "Basic and Continuous Training" Working Party

## Tasks

The prerequisite for the use of geothermal technologies and the extraction of geothermal heat is a close collaboration between geo-scientists, process engineers and general engineers.

The tasks taken up by the Network include the following:

- identification and processing of future trends and questions
- co-ordination of knowledge and technology transfer
- initiation of projects
- interface between industry, policy-makers and administration
- public relations
- internationalisation

The Network provides this sector with a platform on which specialists and experts can exchange information relating to specific topics with a view to finding solutions.

