

Summary

Alternative Energy Source: Geothermal power

Stakeholder: Geologist

California generates 824 megawatts of power at its Geysers facility, which more electricity than any other geothermal field in the world. The geothermal field provides enough electricity to power 1 million Northern California households.

Alternative Energy Source: Geothermal power

Stakeholder: Geologist

I am Gail Wiggett and I am a geologist for the California Energy Commission. California generates 824 megawatts of power at its Geysers facility, which more electricity than any other geothermal field in the world. This geothermal field alone provides enough electricity to power 1 million Northern California households. Each 110 megawatts we produce at Geysers eliminate the need to burn approximately 1,000,000 barrels of oil. In addition, the Geysers facilities recycle treated waste water back to the steam reservoir, thereby decreasing the consumption of water to produce steam. We plan to drill six new wells at an existing facility in the geyser field and this will provide more energy to the residents in Sonoma County. Geothermal energy is one way of helping to alleviate the global climate crisis caused by burning of fossil fuels: it is environmentally sound, it has low operating costs, and plants are less costly to build. In recent years, geothermal energy has skyrocketed to 3858 gigawatt hours/year and in the western United States, hundreds of buildings are heated individually and through district heating projects.