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Subsurface Heat Storage Potential of the UK

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The Challenge

1st of March Cold Weather Event 3.5 times the daily energy demand of electricity



Data are from National Grid, Elexon and BEIS. Charts are licensed under an Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International license Charts can be downloaded from http://bit.ly/energycharts



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Demand and Supply



Heat demand





Need to be capable of storing and transmitting water



The Geothermal gradient





UK temperatures at 1km below ground from Busby et al. (2011).

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Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage



Source: Drijver and A. Willemsen 2001



Storengy ATES Geothermal at Issy Coeur Ville

- An EcoQuarter with 95% Geothermal for Heating and Cooling - 5.2 GWh
- 40,000m² office space, 627 apartments, cinema and school
- 4 reversible wells 30m deep 16°C water
- Wells currently under construction, comissioning in 2021







Mine Energy Storage



Hawthorn Shaft







Findings and next steps

- The subsurface has a valuable role in large scale energy storage and supply
- Available to most nations
- Capital cost of development means it is likely best suited to baseload generation
- Continuing work with CESI colleagues to integrate geothermal resource
- Test/model different storage configurations with respect to technical, economic and environmental performance



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