

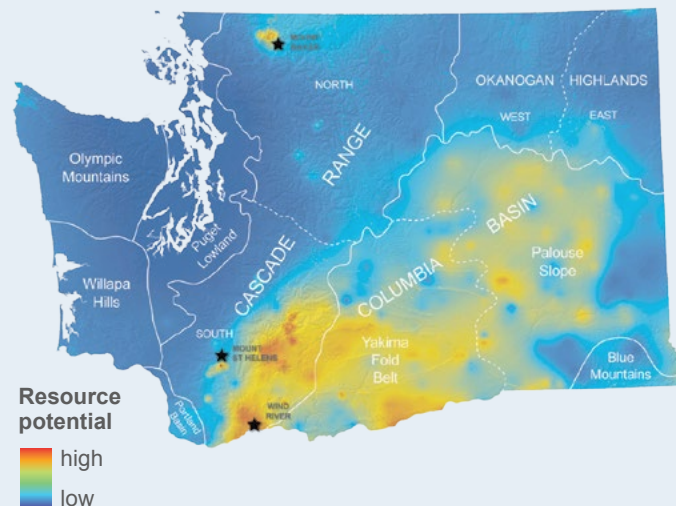
Geothermal energy in Washington:

A collaborative process

To support the state's transition to clean energy, the Washington Legislature directed the Department of Ecology to lead a collaborative process to identify risks and opportunities associated with developing geothermal energy resources in Washington.

Ecology is working with communities in three geographic areas in Washington identified by the state Department of Natural Resources as having high potential for geothermal energy resources: Mount Baker, Mount St. Helens and the Wind River valley south of Mount St. Helens. This collaborative process will also include statewide considerations, and our findings and recommendations will be shared with the governor and Washington Legislature in an update due June 30, 2026, and a final report due June 30, 2027.

While there are no geothermal energy projects currently proposed for development in Washington, the process provides an opportunity for early discussions about this potential clean energy source.



Geothermal energy refers to heat originating from beneath Earth's surface. That heat can be used for electricity generation and building heating and cooling.

Credit: The Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



Get involved

We will offer multiple opportunities to participate in our collaborative process. Your feedback will help us understand:

- ▲ Local priorities, needs and values
- ▲ Environmental and cultural considerations
- ▲ Opportunities and risks related to clean energy development

Share your thoughts

We want to hear from you. We'll have both in-person and virtual workshops this year as well as hold public comment periods for the legislative update due in June 2026 and the final report due in June 2027. We also welcome any questions or comments by email: Cleanenergy@ecy.wa.gov.

For more information, please scan the QR code on the left to visit Ecology's geothermal energy webpage.

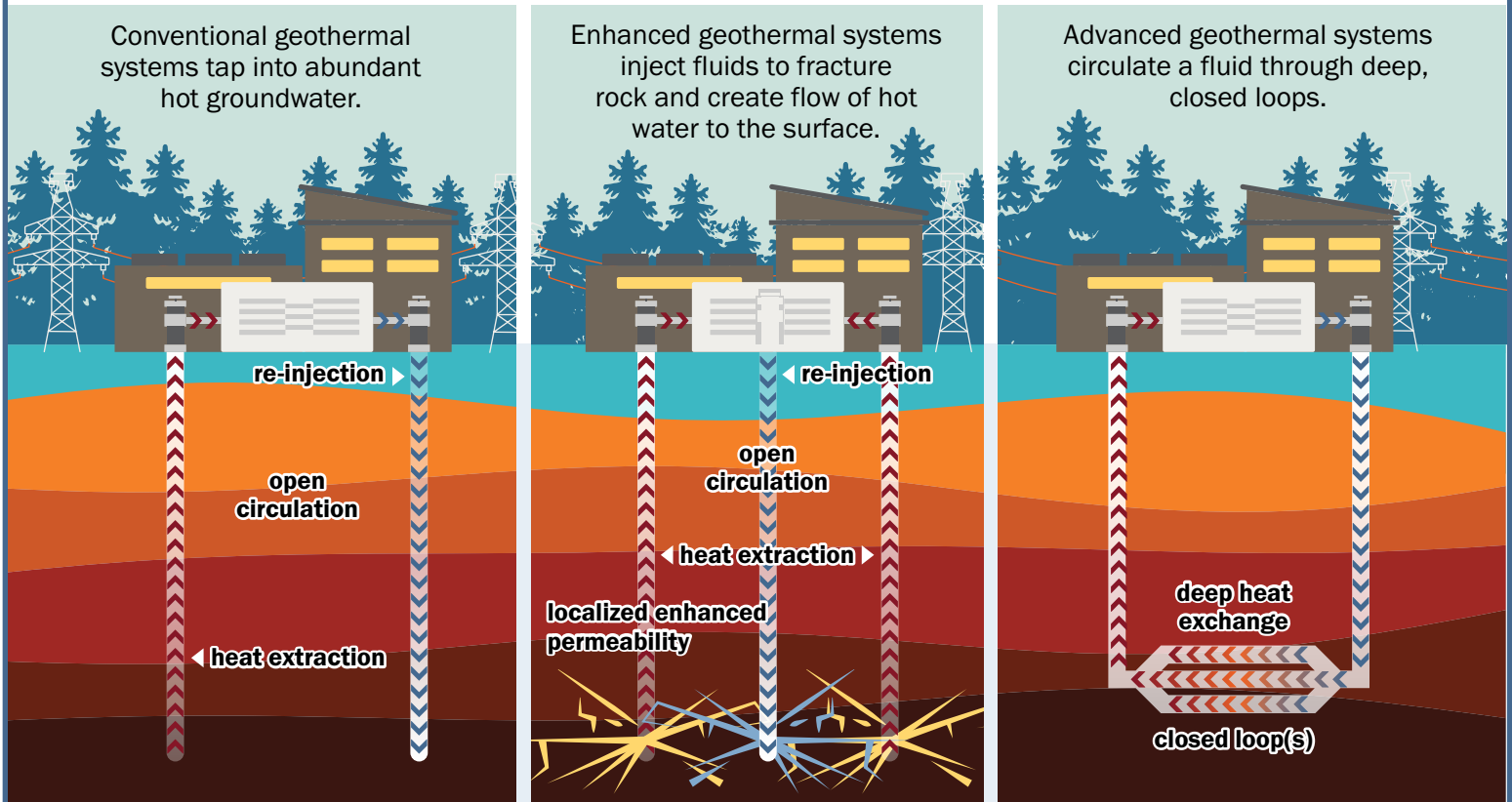
More about the Geothermal Energy Collaborative Process:

ecy.wa.gov/geothermal



What is geothermal energy?

Geothermal refers to heat beneath Earth's surface, where temperature increases with depth because the center of the Earth is very hot. Some locations have higher temperatures closer to the surface making it easier to access this energy source. Various technologies can convert geothermal energy into electricity and other uses, depending on the temperature of the resource.



Geothermal resources are a renewable, low-emission source of power that can operate 24 hours a day. Geothermal energy could support the goals of the state Climate Commitment Act and Clean Energy Transformation Act, which commit Washington to an electricity supply free of greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. The collaborative process considers several methods for generating power, including conventional, enhanced, and advanced geothermal, which require heat from deeper depths. These systems work by producing steam that spins turbines to generate electricity for the power grid.

During the collaborative process, we will share information about potential geothermal technologies. Developing geothermal resources may have impacts to communities, Tribes, and the environment. This process will explore the opportunities, risks, and siting factors to consider for future development of this clean energy resource.

To learn more about geothermal energy, see the state Department of Natural Resource's interactive Washington Geothermal Experience webpage at: bit.ly/WA-Geothermal-Experience.

**Explore the WA
Geothermal Experience:**

bit.ly/WA-Geothermal-Experience



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