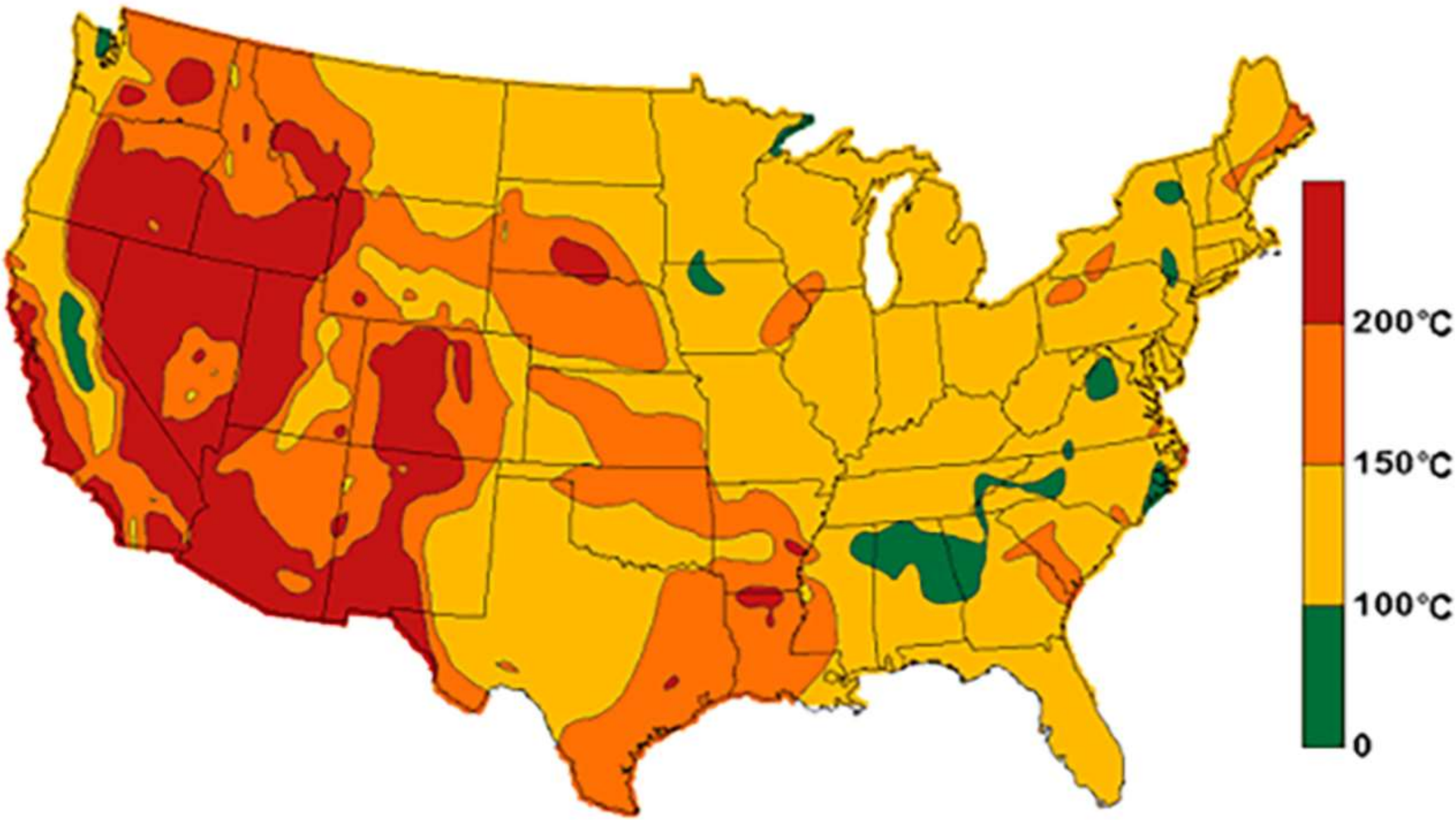
Geothermal Power

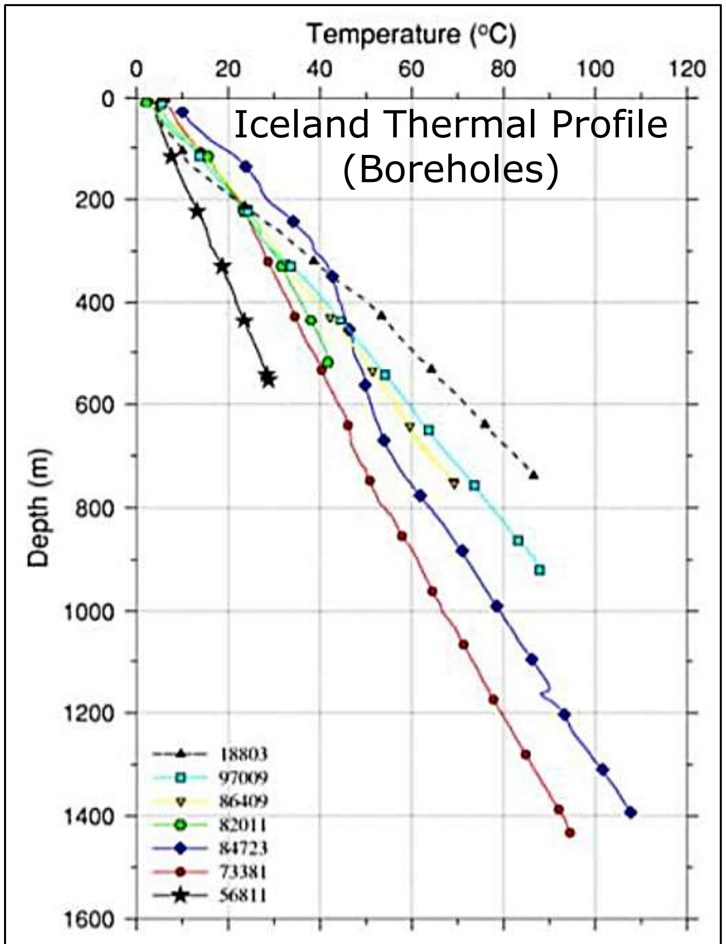
U.S. Geothermal Resources



Most of the geothermal power plants in the United States are in western states and Hawaii, where geothermal energy resources are close to the earth's surface. California generates the most electricity from geothermal energy. The Geysers dry steam reservoir in Northern California is the largest known dry steam field in the world and has been producing electricity since 1960.

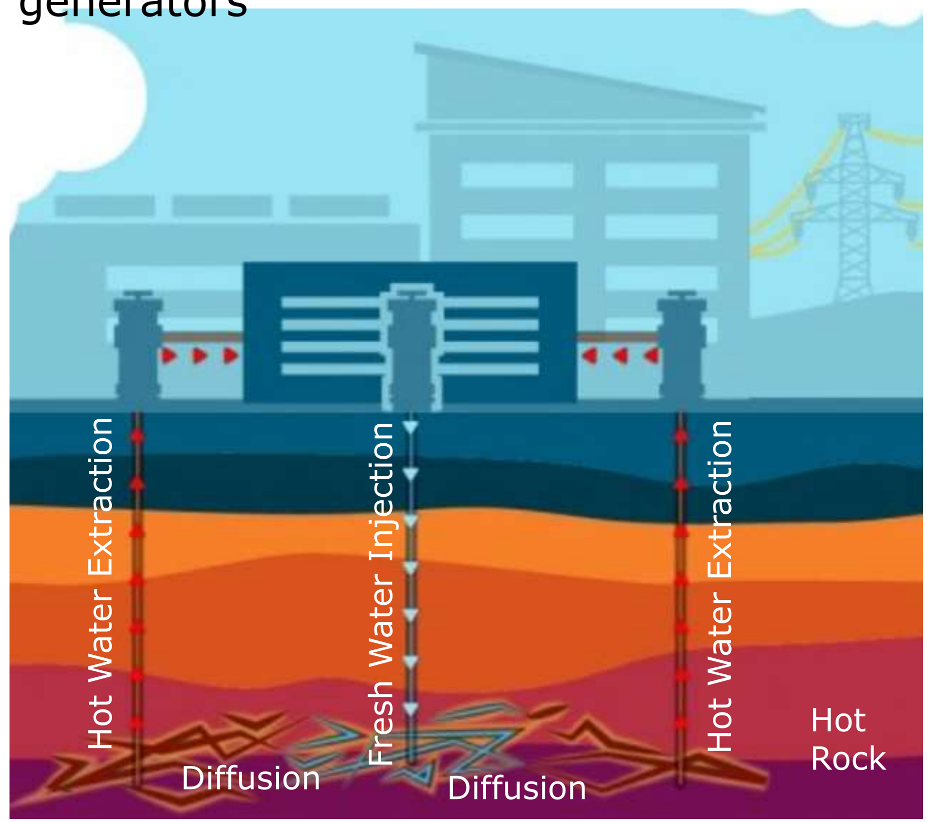
Geothermal Depth Profile

Worldwide simplest (conventional/ancient) direct use: building/district heating.
Utility: Geothermal electrical power plants, Residential: geothermal heat pumps, A/C

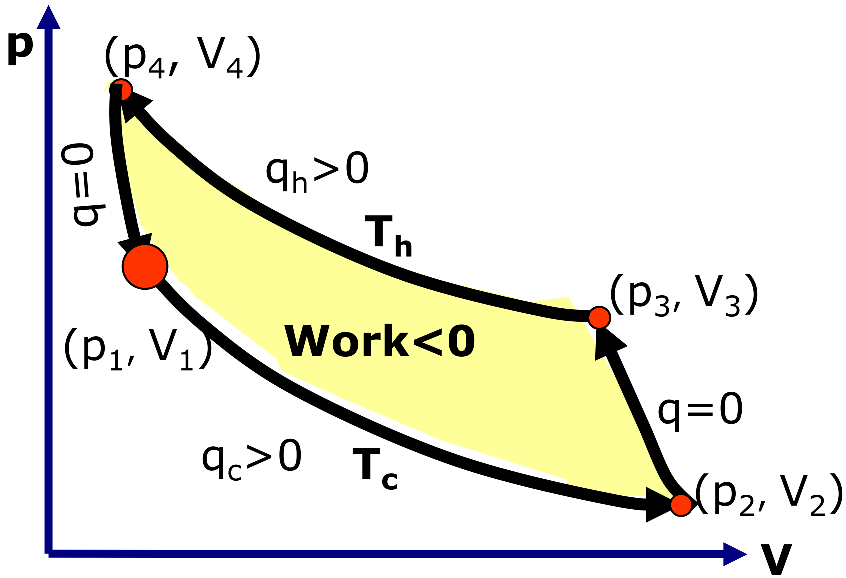


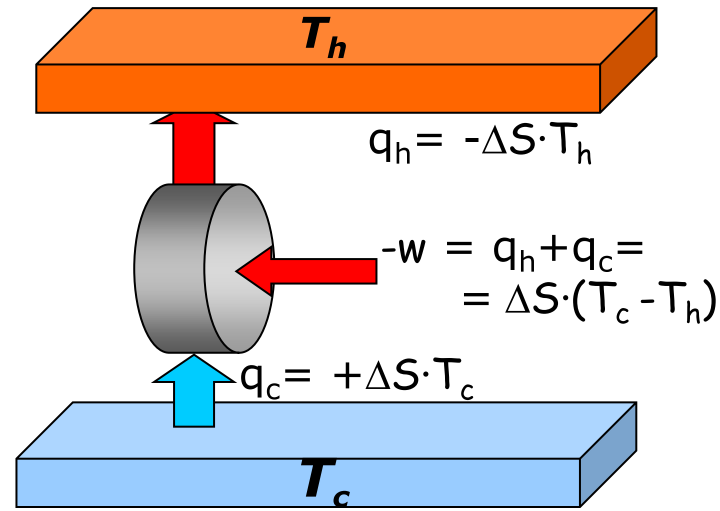
From H. Kennedy, 2020; citing Augustsson & Flovenz, 2--4

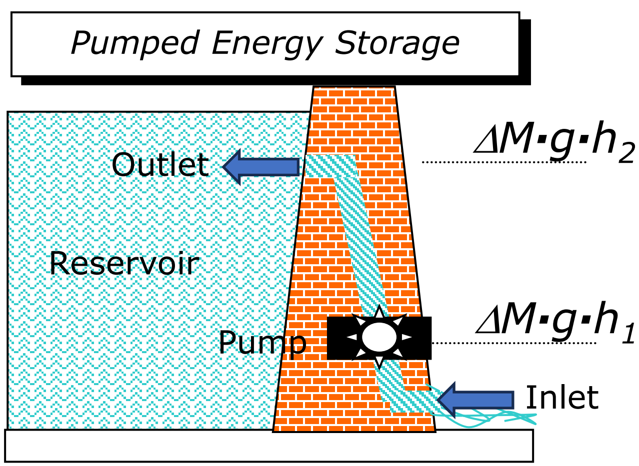
Generating technology: Inject fresh water (hydro fracturing), extract hot water → steam → drive steam turbines & electric generators



Entropy and Heat Flow in Reverse Carnot Process





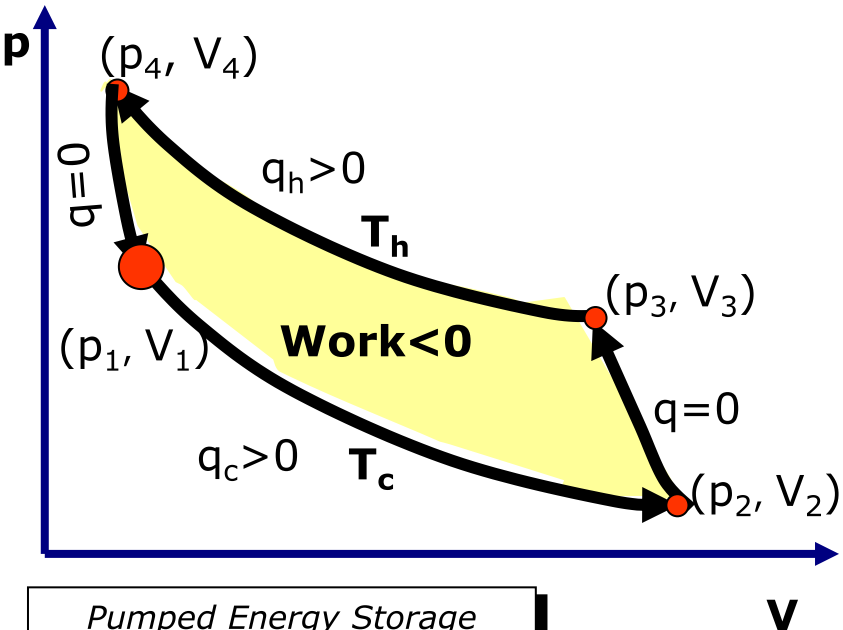


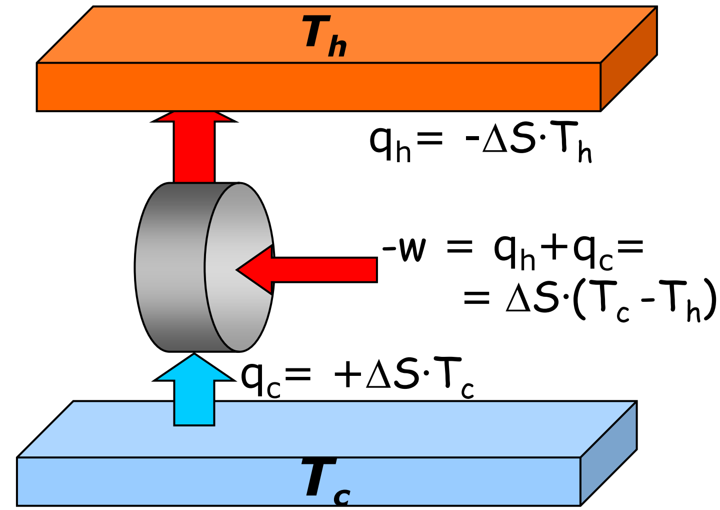
Maximum efficiency $\boxed{\eta_C = 1 - \varepsilon_C = \frac{q_c}{q_h} = \frac{T_c}{T_h}}$

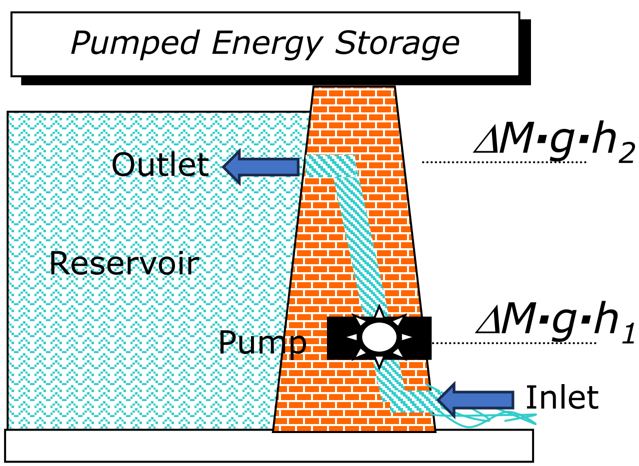
Entropy **Δ*S*** with heat $\boldsymbol{q_c = \Delta S \cdot T_c}$ from the $\boldsymbol{T_c}$ reservoir preheats the colder ($\boldsymbol{T_h}$) working fluid/gas, which enters an externally powered compressor. The compressor **does work** on the fluid, raising its temperature to $\boldsymbol{T_h}$. Heat energy $\boldsymbol{\Delta S \cdot T_h}$ is then transferred to the $\boldsymbol{T_h}$ heat reservoir.

Analog: Stream of water Δ*M* from a river carries energy $\Delta M \cdot g \cdot h_1$, enters an externally powered pump that lifts Δ*M* by $(h_2 - h_1)$ to the reservoir head at energy $\Delta M \cdot g \cdot h_2 > \Delta M \cdot g \cdot h_1$.

Entropy and Heat Flow in Reverse Carnot Process



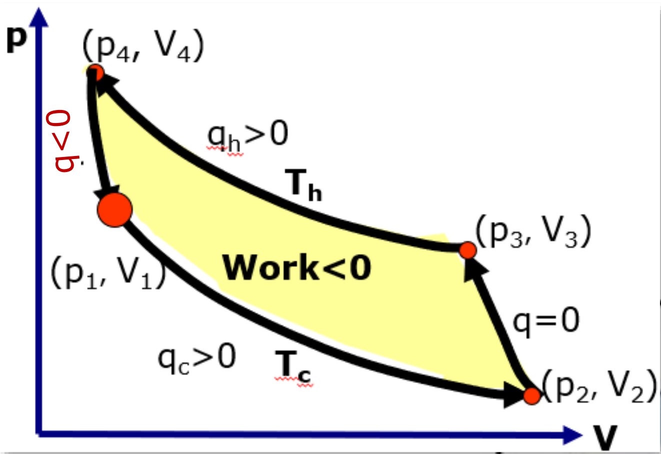




Entropy **ΔS** with a heat energy of **ΔS·*T*** $\boldsymbol{\Delta S \cdot T_c}$ from the $\boldsymbol{T_c}$ reservoir warms the colder working fluid, which enters an externally powered compressor. The compressor **does work** on the fluid, raising its temperature to $\boldsymbol{T_h}$. The heat energy of $\boldsymbol{\Delta S \cdot T_h}$ can then be transferred to the heat reservoir.

Analog: Stream of water ΔM from a river carries energy $\Delta M \cdot g \cdot h_1$, enters an externally powered pump that lifts ΔM by $(h_2 - h_1)$ to the reservoir head at energy $\Delta M \cdot g \cdot h_2 > \Delta M \cdot g \cdot h_1$.

Residential Heat Pump

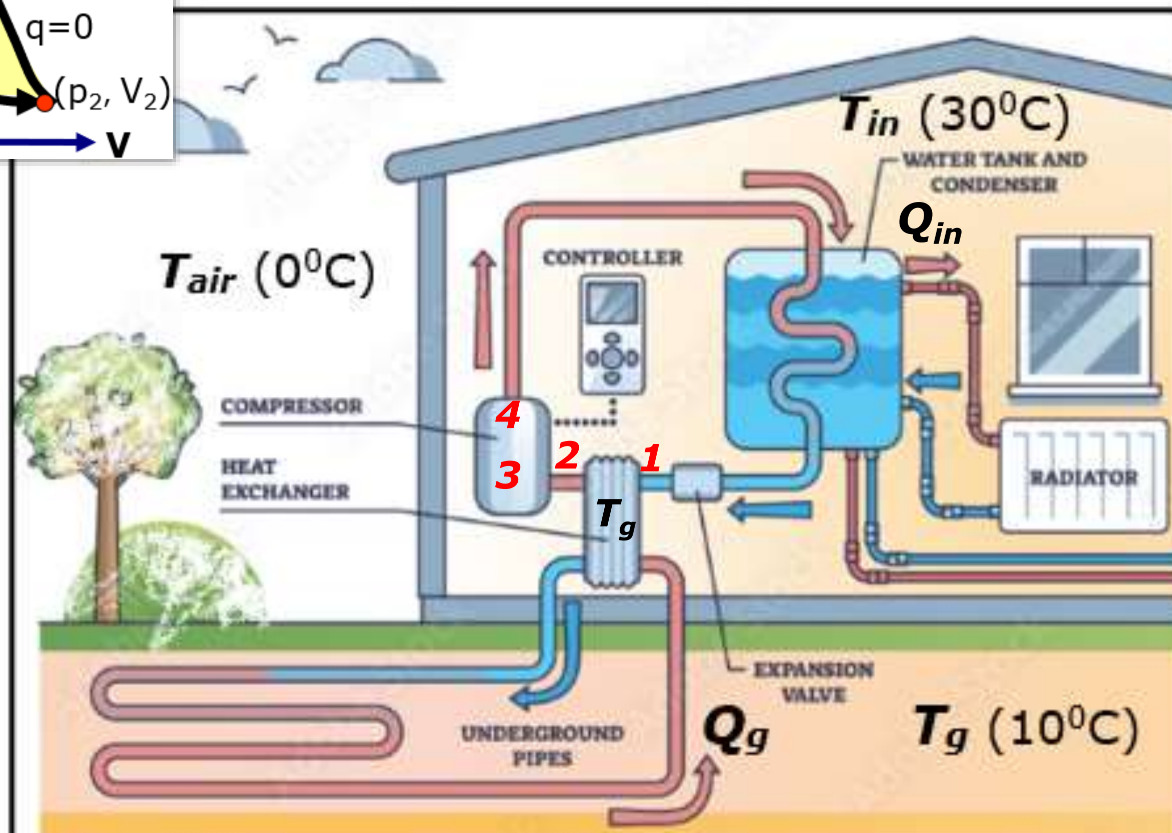


Carnot heating: In-ground heat pump absorbs heat energy $\boldsymbol{Q_g \approx \Delta S \cdot T_g}$ from under ground $\boldsymbol{T_g}$ heat bath to preheat expanded work fluid/gas. Compressor provides differential heat $\boldsymbol{Q_{in} \approx -\Delta S \cdot T_{in}}$ required for sustaining temperature $\boldsymbol{T_{in}}$.

Work fluid transfers heat $\boldsymbol{Q_{in} < 0}$ to tank and interior. Iso-thermal expansion after expansion nozzle in ground loop heat exchanger.

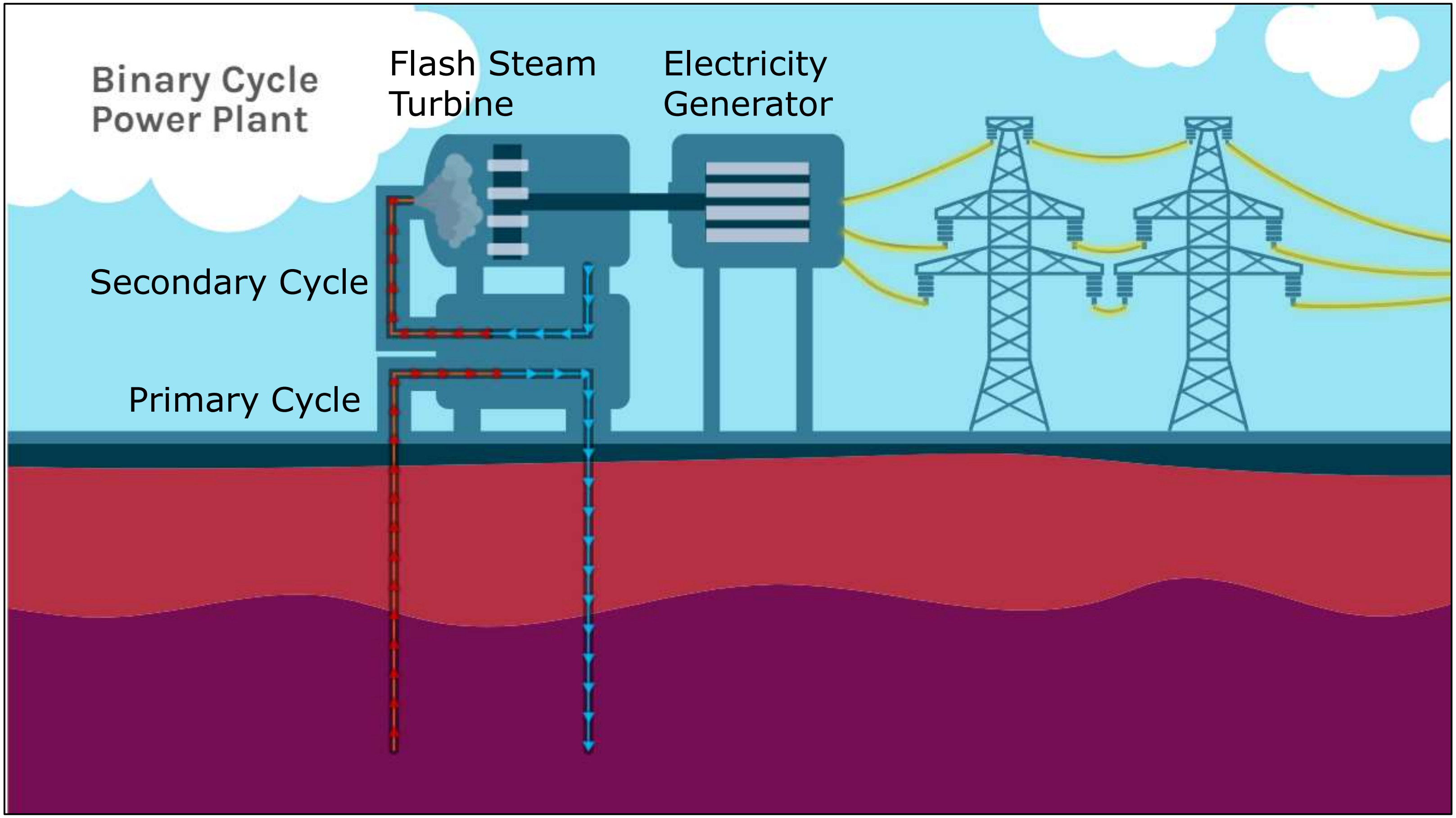
Req. compressor work

$$w = C_{air} \cdot \left(T_{in} - T_{air}\right) - \left|Q_g\right|$$



Flash-Steam Power Plant

https://www.energy.gov/eere/geothermal/electricity-generation



U.S. Geothermal Power Electricity Generation 2022

	State share of total U.S. geothermal electricity generation	Geothermal share of total state electricity generation
California	69.5%	5.8%
Nevada	24.2%	9.6%
Utah	2.7%	1.2%
Hawaii	1.8%	3.2%
Oregon	1.2%	0.3%
Idaho	0.5%	0.5%
New Mexico	0.3%	0.1%

2022: US produced about 17 TWh (17 billion kWh) = 0.4% of total U.S. utility-scale electricity generation.
(Utility-scale power plants: capacity ≥ 1 megawatt ($1MW_e$) of electricity generation)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RENEWABLE ENERGY

GEOTHERMAL TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE

Fiscal Years 2022–2026

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM PLAN

Strategic Goal 1: Drive toward a carbon-free electricity grid by supplying 60 gigawatts (GW) of Enhanced Geothermal Systems and hydrothermal resource deployment by 2050.

Strategic Goal 2: Decarbonize building heating and cooling loads by capturing the economic potential for 17,500 Geothermal district Heating installations and by installing GHPs in 28 million households nationwide by 2050.

Strategic Goal 3: Deliver economic, environmental, and social justice advancements through increased geothermal technology deployment.