

# **DIRECT HEAT UTILIZATION OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY**

**John W. Lund**

**Director**

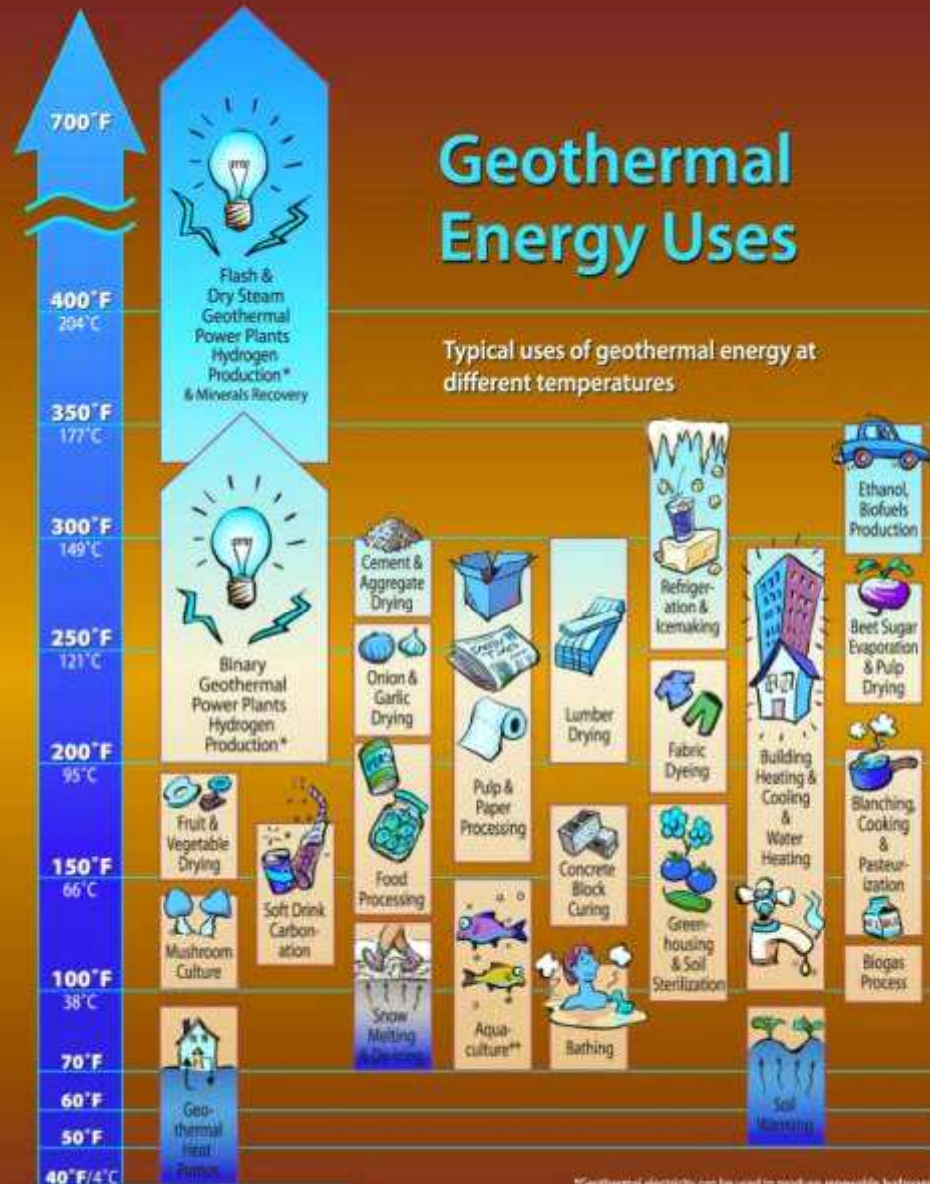
**Geo-Heat Center**

**Oregon Institute of Technology**

**Klamath Falls, Oregon, USA**

# Geothermal Energy Uses

Typical uses of geothermal energy at different temperatures



\*Geothermal electricity can be used to produce renewable hydrogen.  
 \*\*Cool water is added to make the temperature just right for the fish.

# World Wide Direct Utilization (1)

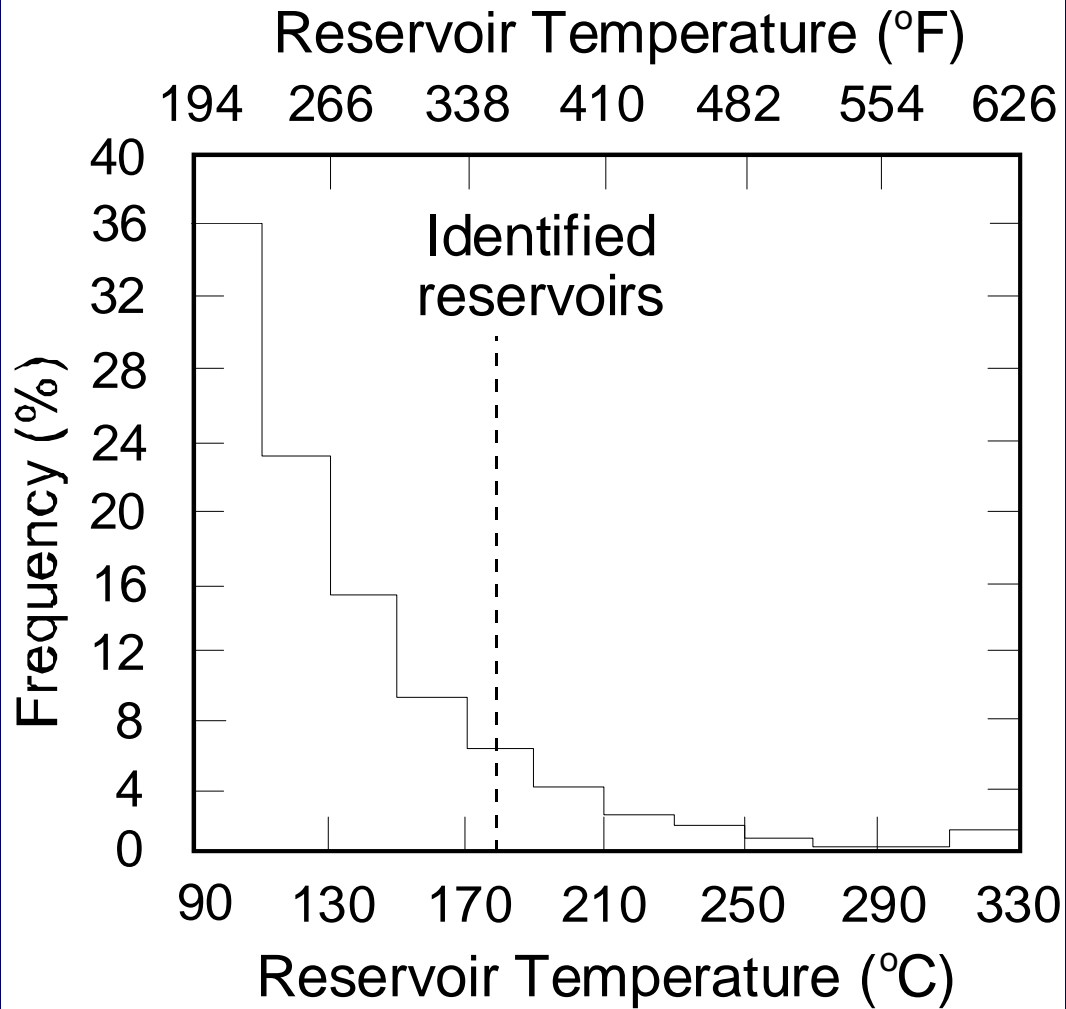
## World Wide

- Approximately 72 countries
- Installed capacity: 28,268 MWt
- Energy Use: 273,372 TJ/yr (75,943 GWh/yr)  
(enough to heat 3.4 million homes)
- Saving 129 million bbl (19.2 mill. tonnes) of oil per year
- Largest use: geothermal (ground-source) heat pumps used for both heating and cooling

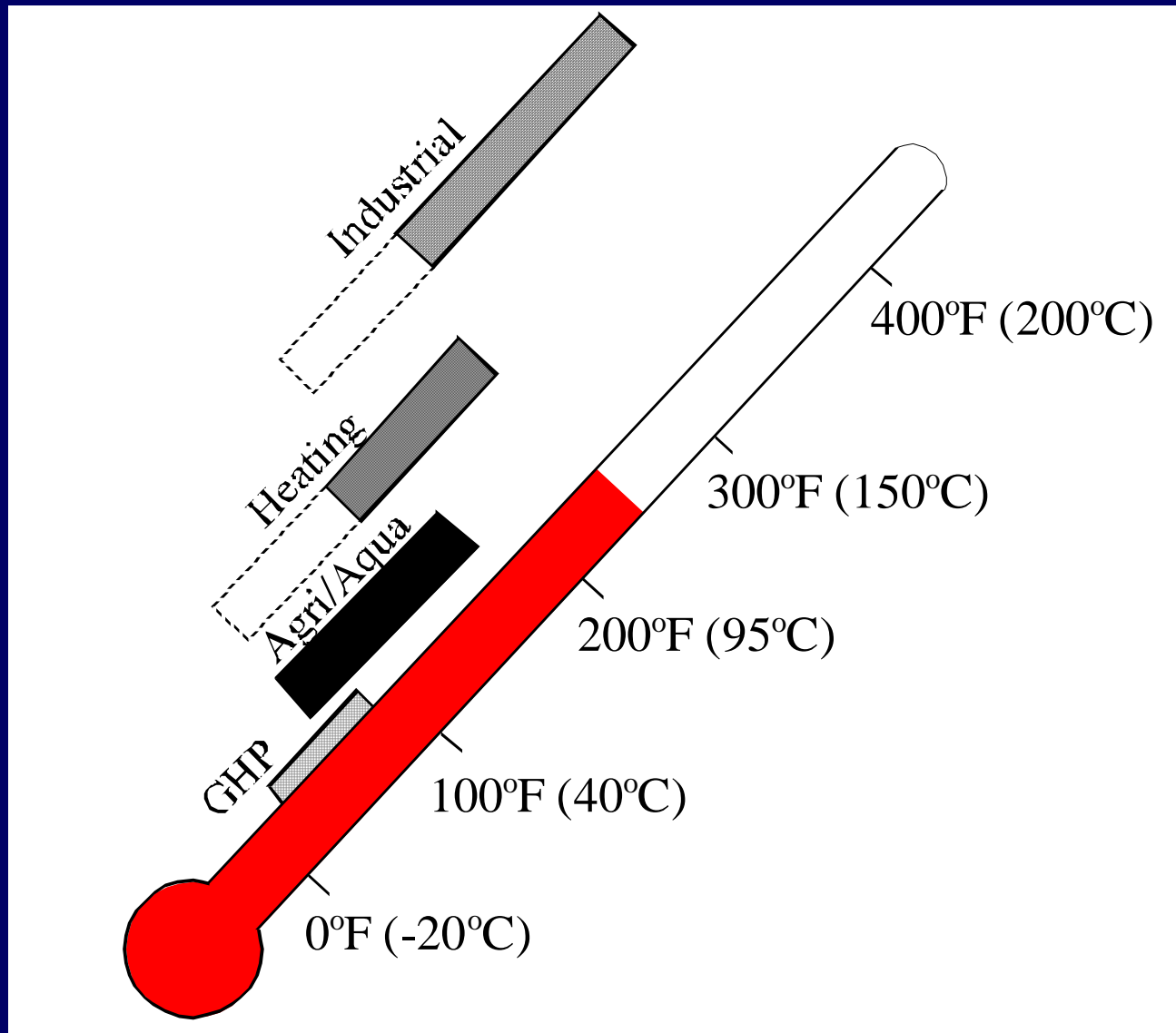
# What is Direct-Use: Heating and Cooling

- Swimming, bathing and balneology
- Space heating and cooling
  - Including district energy (heating/cooling) systems
- Agriculture applications
  - Greenhouse heating
- Aquaculture applications
  - Fish pond and raceway heating
- Industrial processes
  - Including food and grain drying
- Geothermal heat pumps

# Frequency vs Reservoir Temperature



Data taken from USGS Circular 790



Temperature use for direct use applications

# Advantages of Direct-Use of Geothermal Energy

- Can use low- to intermediate temperature resources (<150°C)
- These resources are more wide-spread (80 countries)
- Direct heat use (no conversion – high efficiency)
- Use conventional water-well drilling equipment
- Use conventional, off-the-shelf equipment
  - (allow for temperature and chemistry of fluid)
- Minimum start-up-time

# Advantages of Direct-Use of Geothermal Energy

- Can be used on a small scale (“mom and pop operation”)
  - Individual home
  - Single greenhouse
  - Single aquaculture pond
- Can also be large scale operation
  - District heating
  - Food, lumber and mineral ore drying





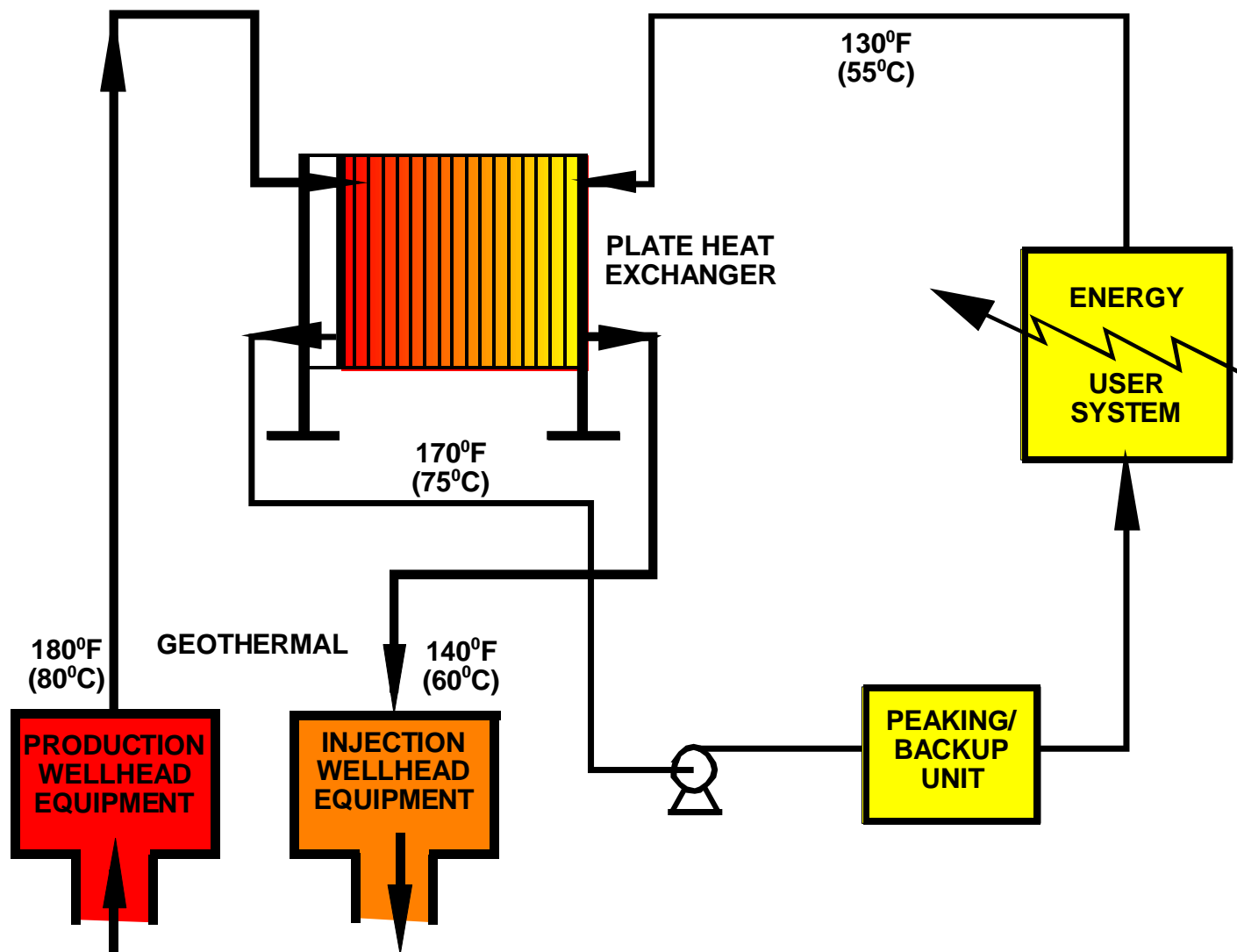
# Equipment (1)

- Often necessary to isolate geothermal fluid to prevent corrosion or scaling
- Care taken to prevent oxygen from entering system
- Dissolved gases and minerals (boron, arsenic, hydrogen sulfide, etc.) May be harmful to plants and animals

## Equipment (2)

Typical equipment includes:

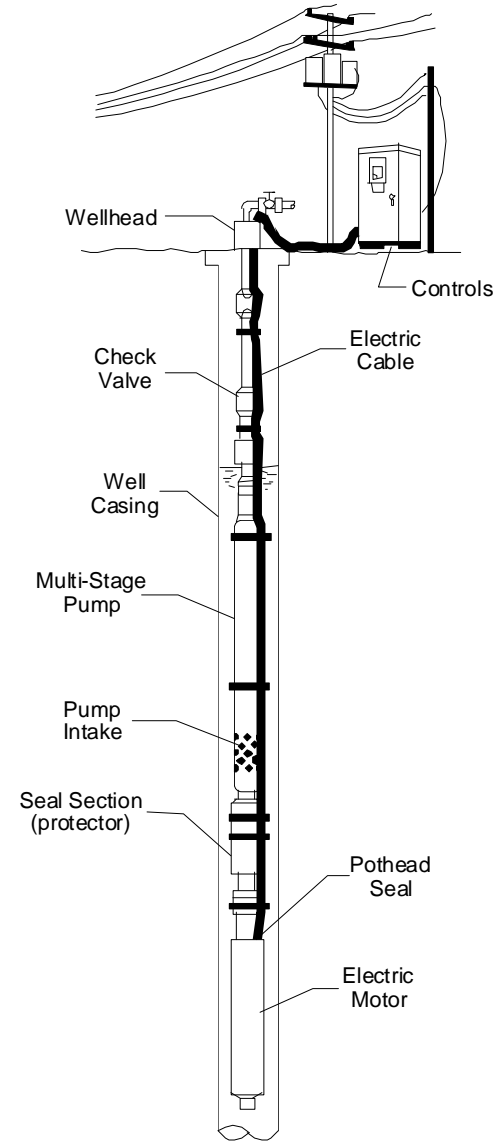
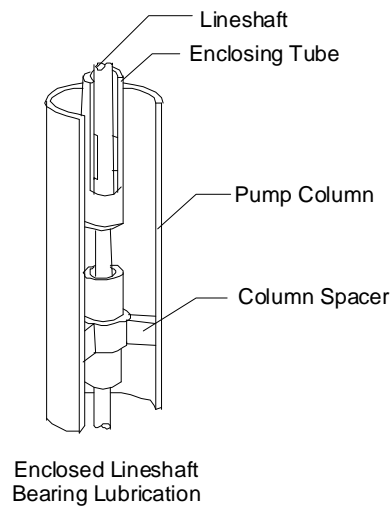
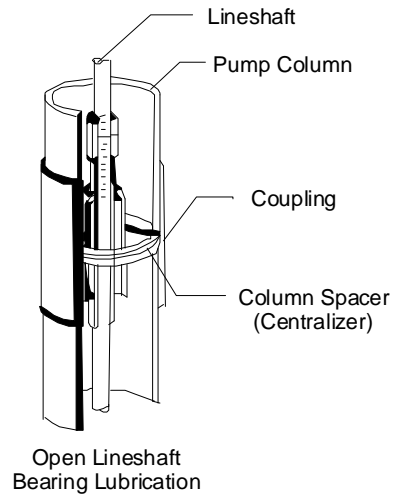
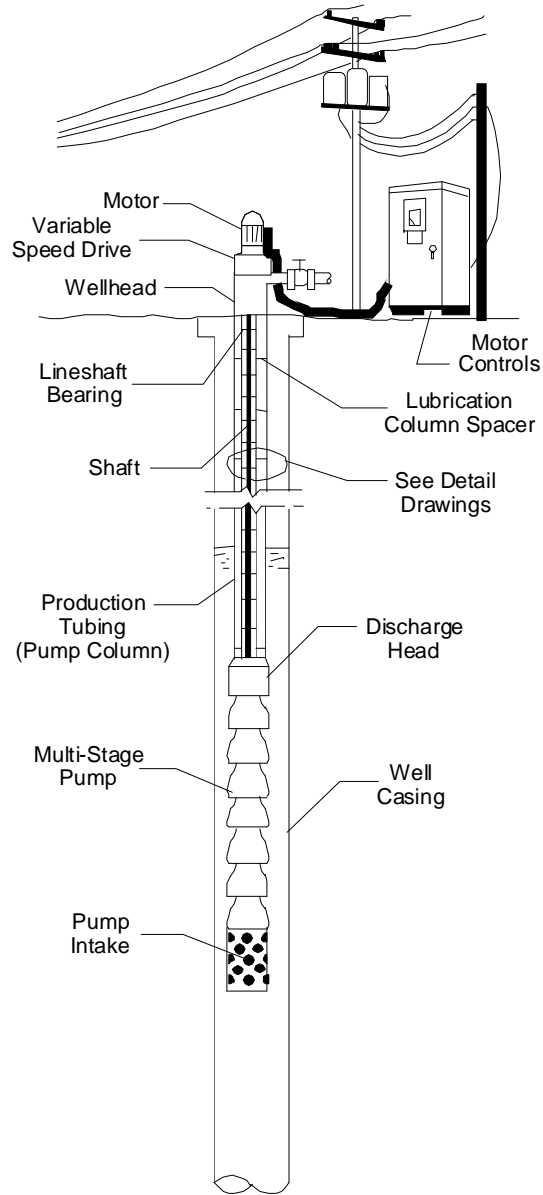
- Downhole and circulation pumps
- Heat exchangers
- Transmission and distribution pipelines
- Heat extraction equipment
- Peaking or back-up plants
- Fluid disposal system

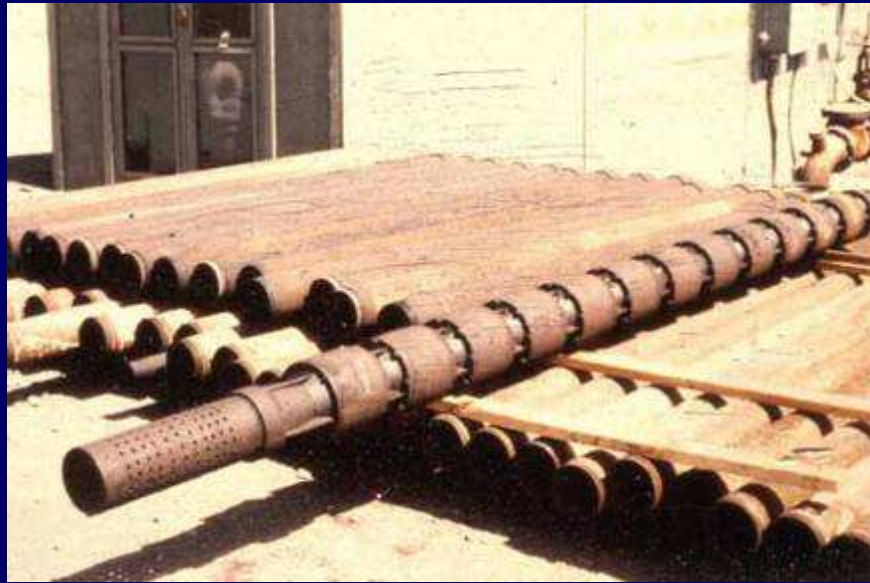


# Wells Pumps

Two types used:

- Lineshaft – motor on surface (most common in the US) (often used with variable frequency drive) <250 m
- Submersible – motor below water (most common in Europe)

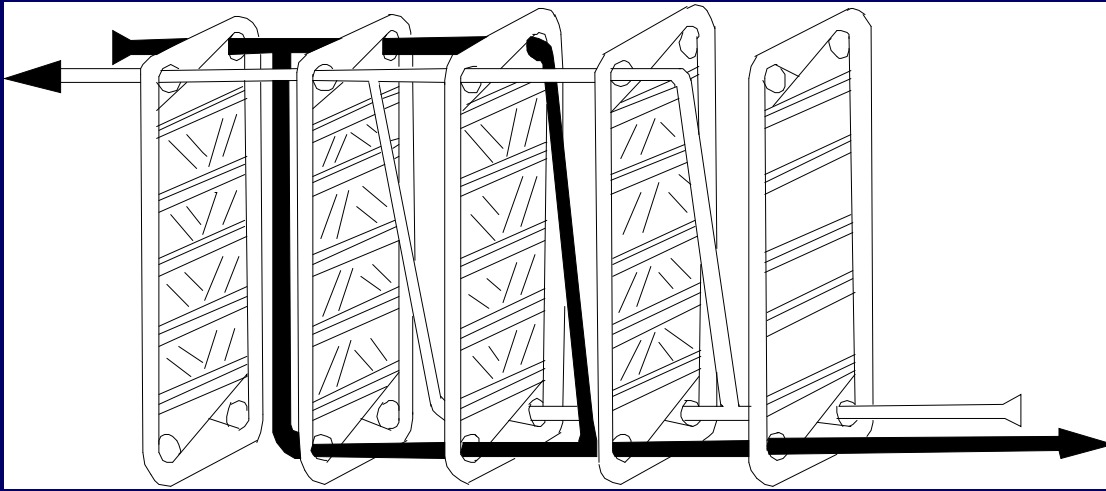




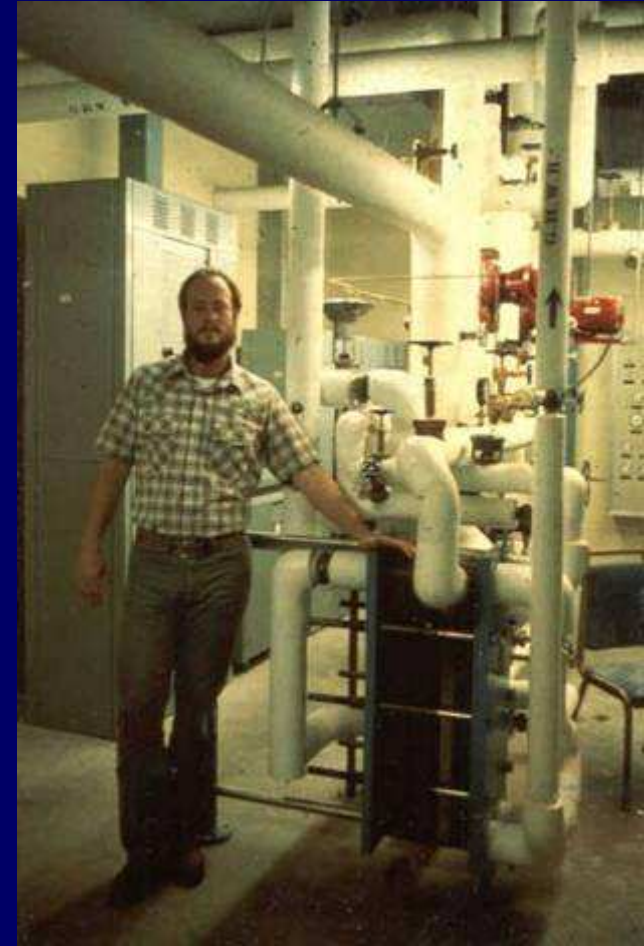
# Heat Exchangers

- Shell and tube
- Plate
- Downhole
- Room heat convectors

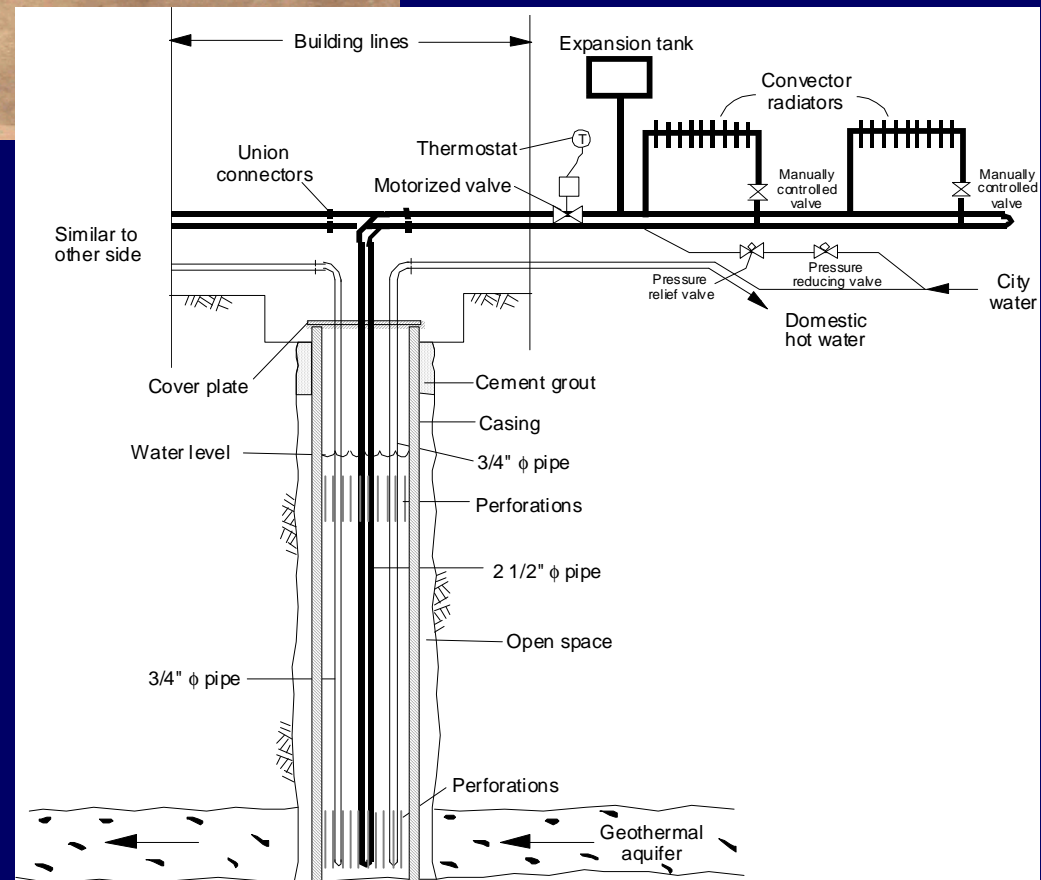
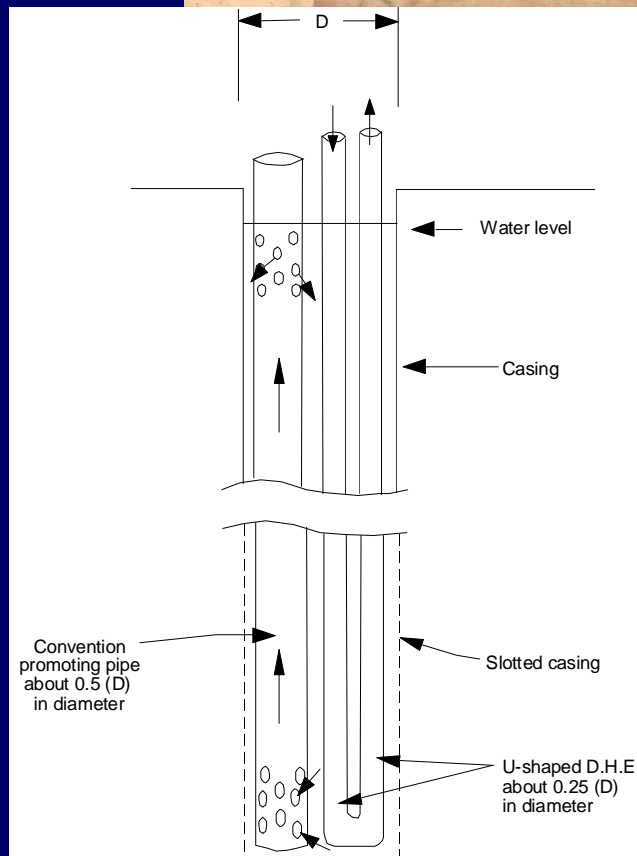
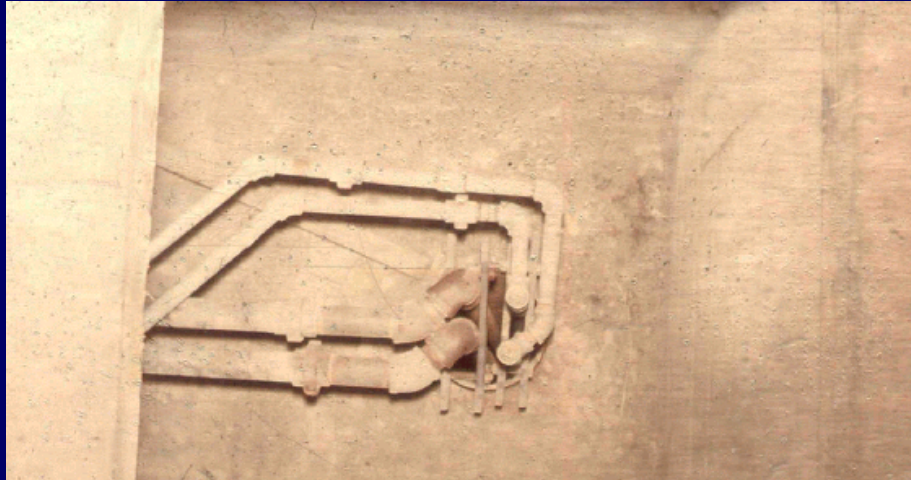


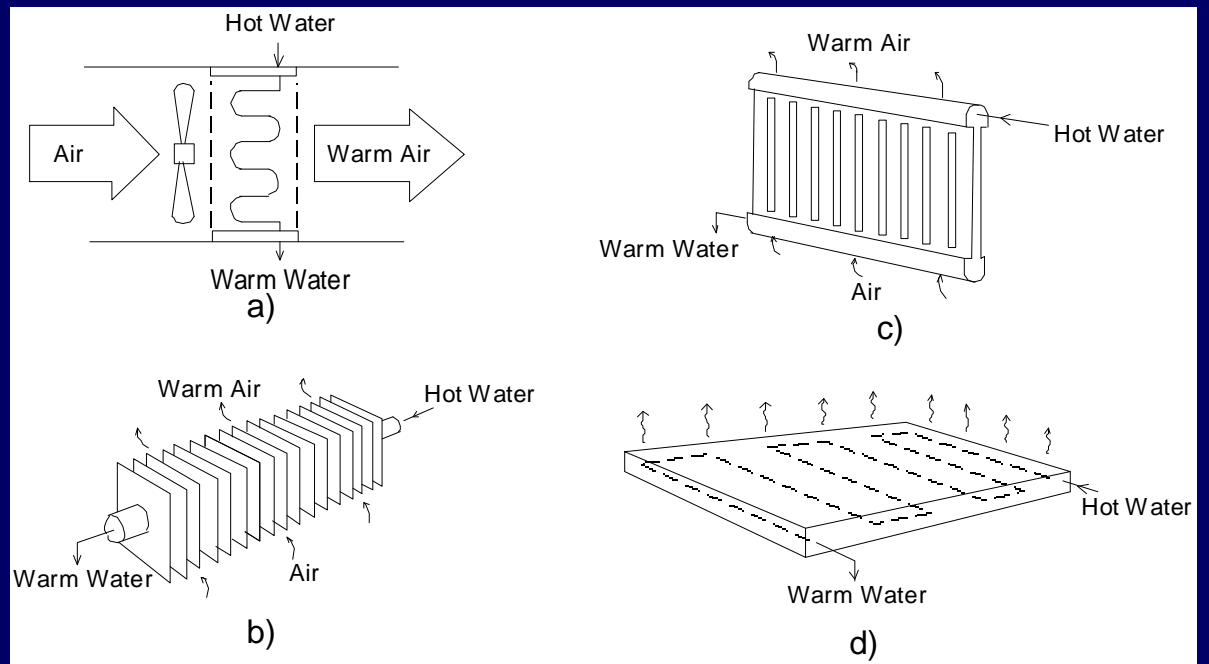


**Plate heat exchanger**



# Downhole heat exchanger





# Piping (1)

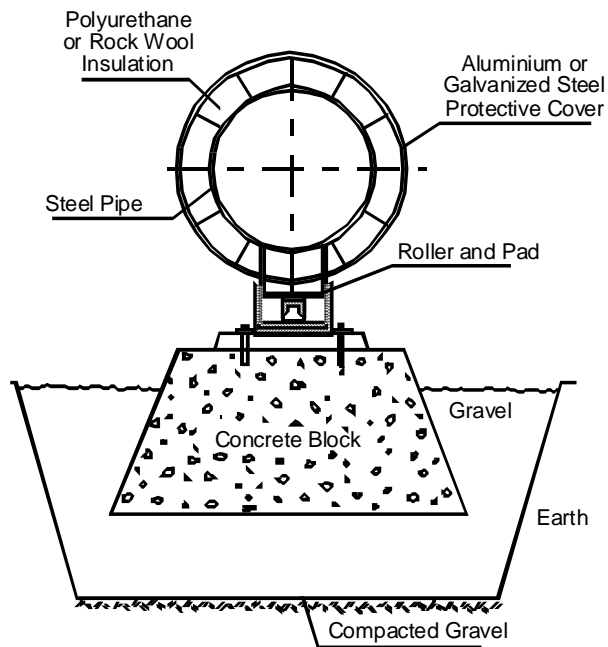
## Location

- Above ground
- Below ground
- Problems
  - Metallic - external corrosion – if direct buried
  - Non-metallic  $<100^{\circ}$  C

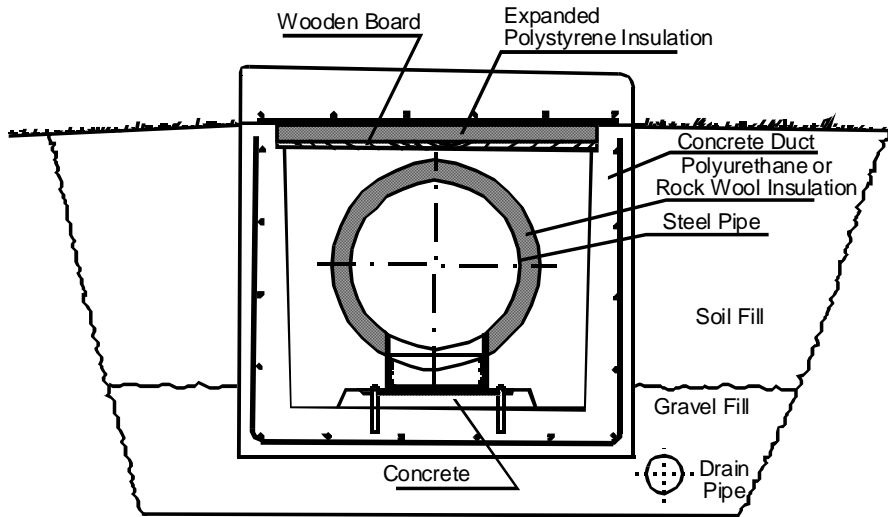
# Piping (2)

## Material

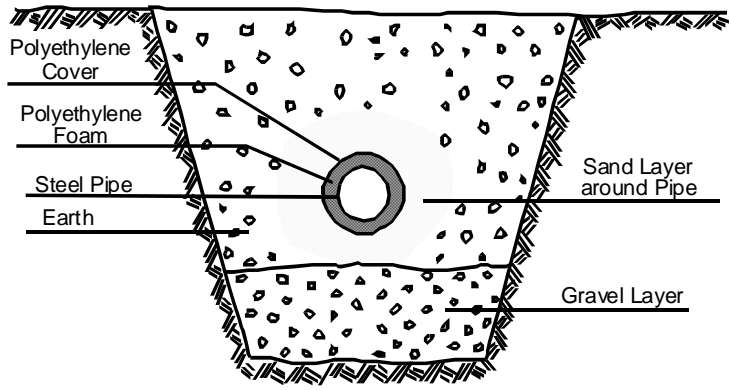
- Carbon steel  $>100^{\circ}\text{C}$ 
  - Expansion loops or bellows
- FRP or PVC  $<100^{\circ}\text{C}$  – Fiberglass reinforced plastic and polyvinylchloride
- AC – Asbestos cement
  - Environmental limitation
  - Longest = Deildartunga – Akranes, Iceland at 62 km
- Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) good to  $90^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 550 Pa (5.5 bar) – used for snow melting



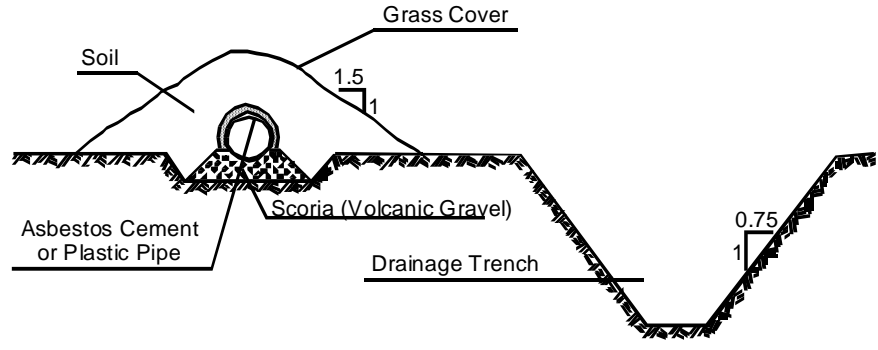
a)



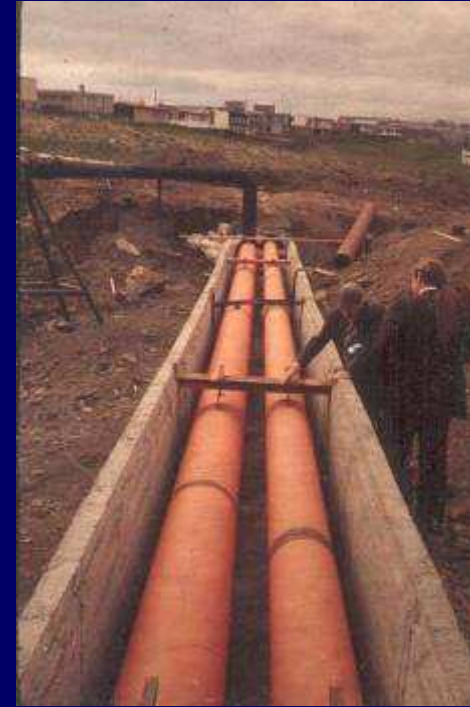
b)



c)



d)



# Swimming, Bathing and Balneology (1)

- Main Users (past and present)
  - Romans
  - Chinese
  - Ottomans (Turks)
  - Japanese
  - Central Europeans
  - American Indians (Mexico and USA regions)

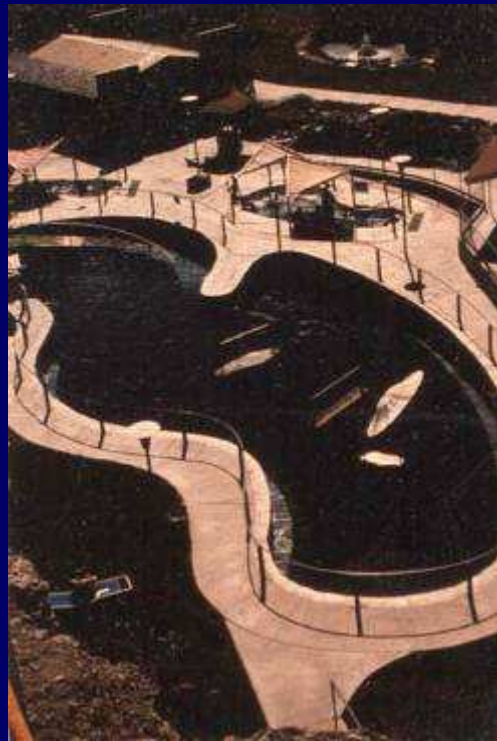


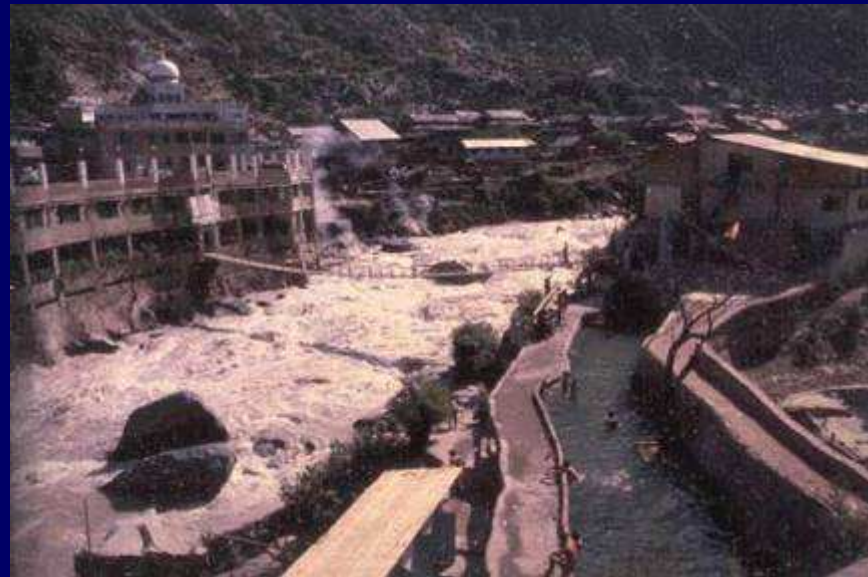
# Swimming, Bathing and Balneology (2)

- Spa, Belgium
  - Originator of the name
  - Resort town
- Japan
  - 2200 hot springs
  - 100 million guests per year
  - Beppu
    - Most famous hot springs city
- New Zealand – Rotorua
  - WWII – Queen Elizabeth Hospital

# Swimming, Bathing and Balneology (3)

- Former Czechoslovakia
  - 1000 years of use (Romans)
  - 60 resorts
  - 460,000 patients/year
- USA – used by Indians for 10,000 years
  - The “Great Spirit”
  - Neutral ground
  - Recuperated from battle
  - Today – 115 major geothermal spas
  - Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas









Glenwood Springs, Colorado

# Space Conditioning (1)

- Individual wells for a building or several buildings using pumps or downhole heat exchangers
- Klamath Falls, Oregon
- Reno, Nevada
- Rotorua, New Zealand
- Taupo, New Zealand
- Several Places in Turkey





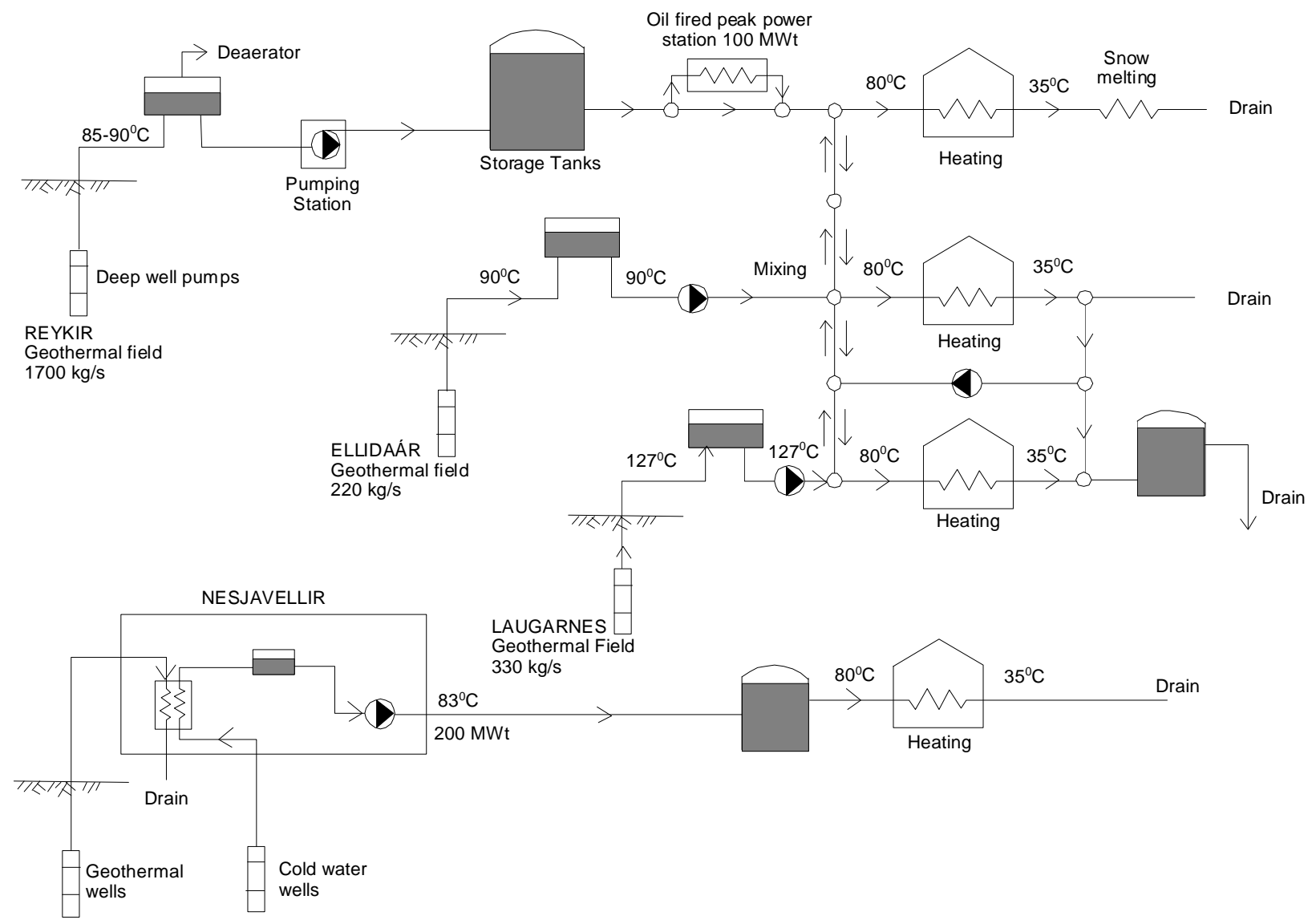
## Space Conditioning (2)

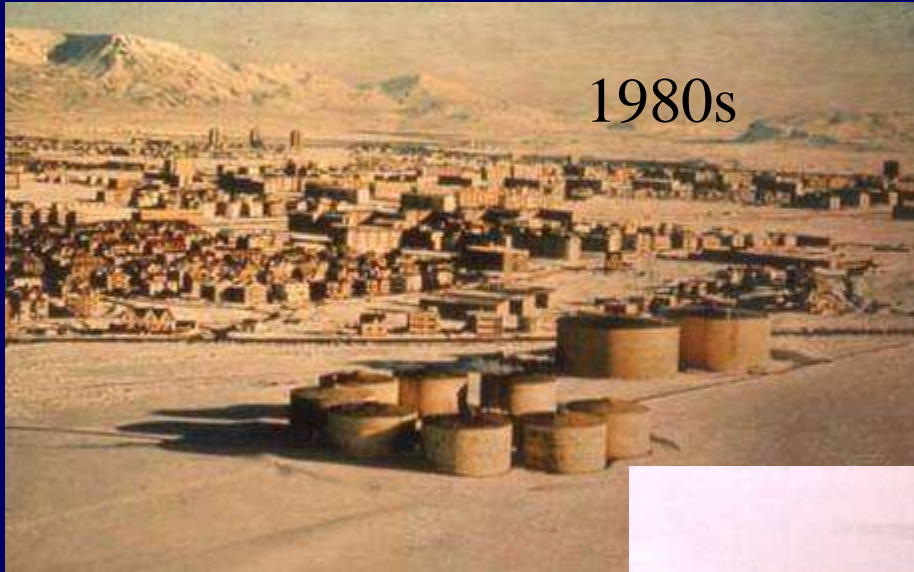
- District heating in at least 12 countries
- Piping system
  - Single pipe – once through system – disposal
    - Environmental problems
  - Two pipe – recirculation – residual heat conserved
    - 20 to 30% more expensive

# Examples of Geothermal District Heating System

## Hitaveita Reykjavíkur, Iceland (1930)

- 200,000 people
- 80 million m<sup>3</sup> of fluid/year – 91 wells
- 60,000 homes (58 X10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>)
- 80°C water supplied
- 3,846 km of pipelines
- 3850 GWh/yr (13,840 TJ/yr)
- 924 MWt peak power (1264 MWt capacity)
- 5258 L/s (peak) – 2332 L/s average)
- LF = 0.44

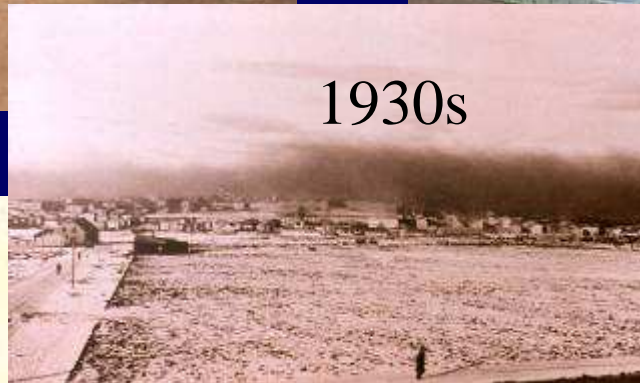




1980s



Today



1930s

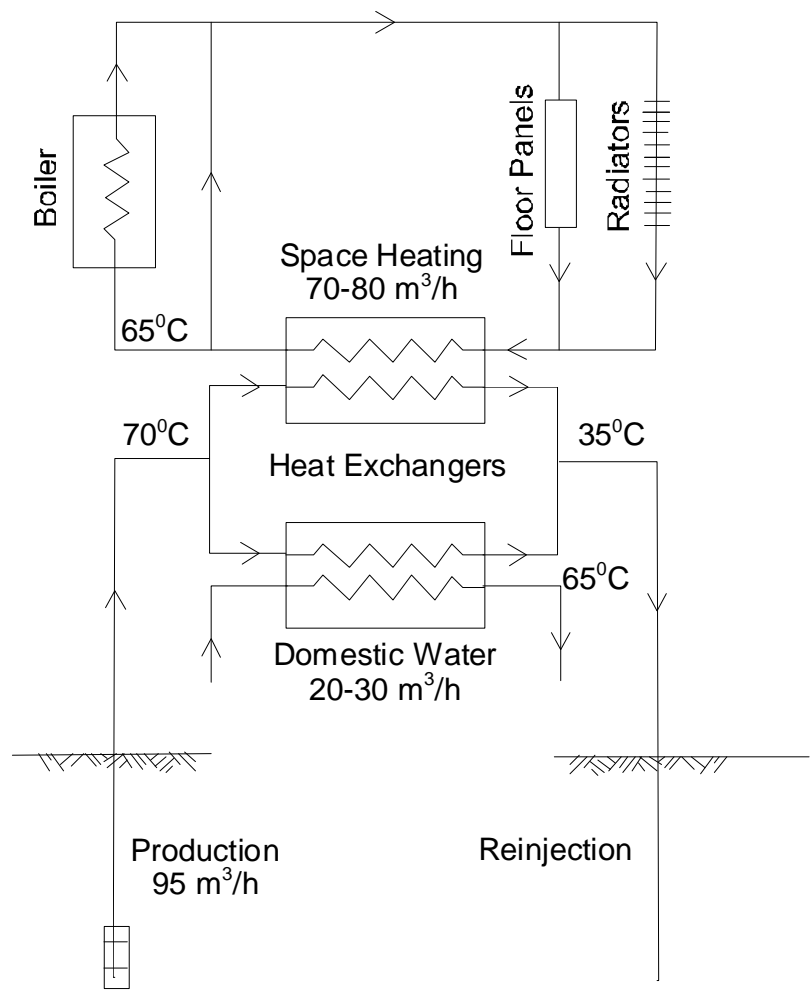


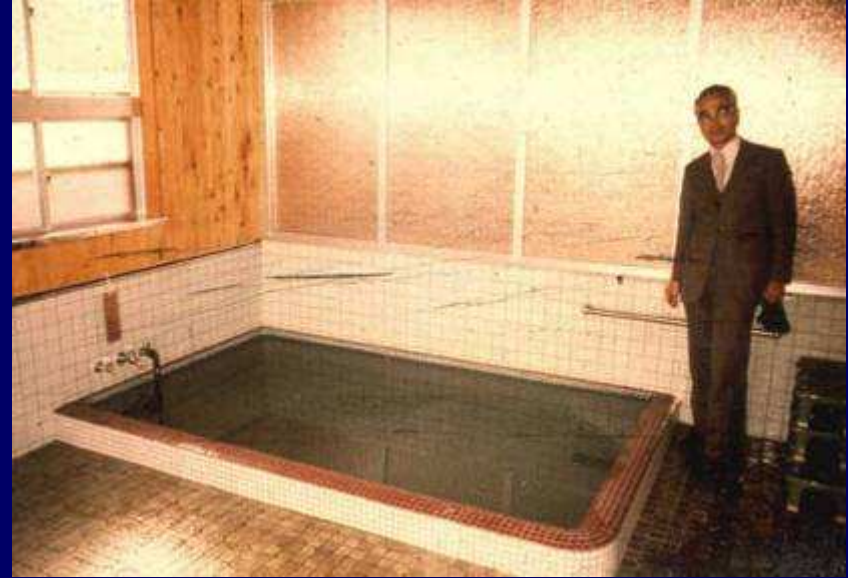
# District Heating – Examples (2)

Paris Basin (Melun), France

- 60° to 100°C
- Doublet wells 1,500 to 2,000 m deep
- 500,000 people – 40 projects
- Heat pumps and fossil fuel boilers assist to provide 70°C water to user

# AERIAL VIEW OF THE MELUN I'ALMONT DRILL SITE





Suwa, Japan



# Agribusiness Applications (1)

- Greenhouse heating (flowers, vegetables, tree seedlings)
  - Up to 35% savings due to heating costs
- Animal pen heating and cleaning
- Soil warming
- Crop irrigation
- Mushroom raising
- Soil and mulch sterilization
- Aquaculture
  - 50% increase in growth rate
  - Catfish, shrimp, tilapia, eels, tropical fish



# Agribusiness Applications (2)

- Must consider heavy metals, fluorides, chlorides, arsenic and boron in fluid
- Can produce CO<sub>2</sub> for greenhouses to improve growth
  - Iceland, New Zealand
- Wairakei, New Zealand
  - Malaysian prawns
  - 30 tonnes per year
  - Selling for US\$37 to 60/kg





Tianjin, China  
Peking Duck



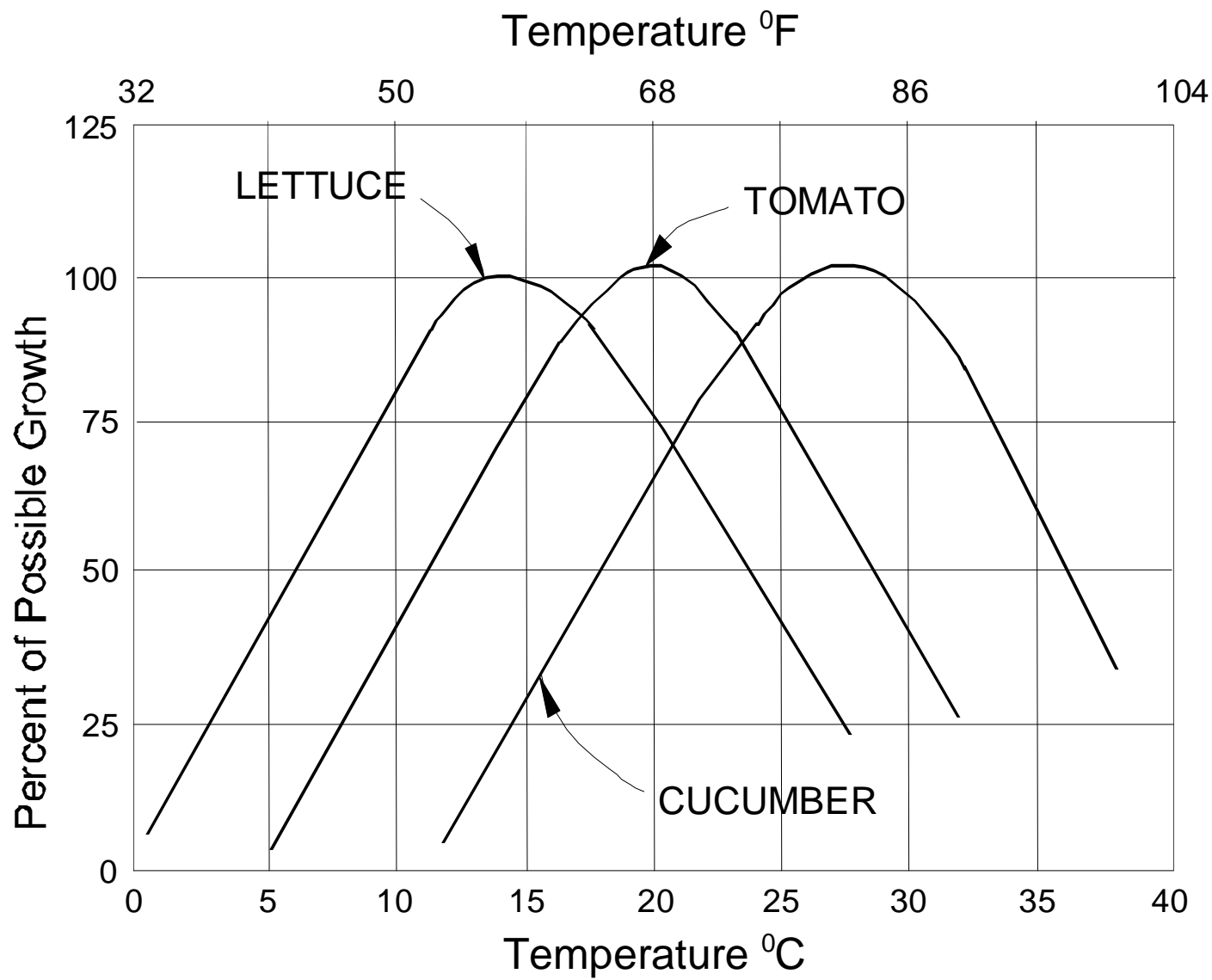
59°C  
geo.

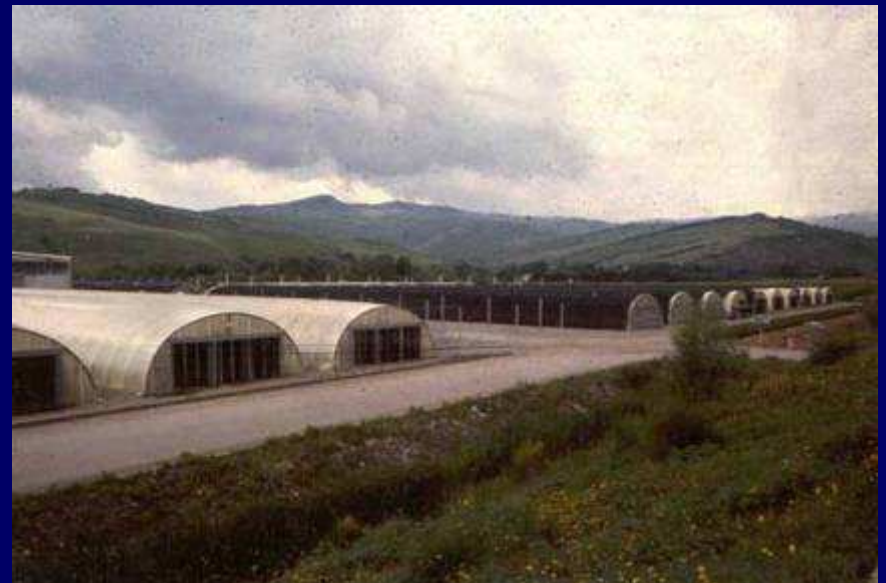
14 kg/h  
4 t/yr  
dried

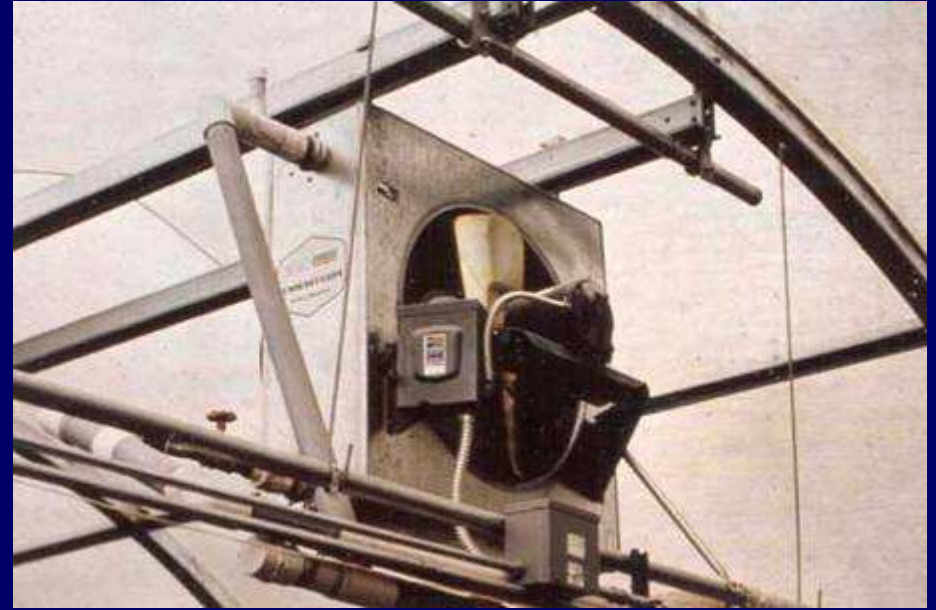


Tomato drying - Greece







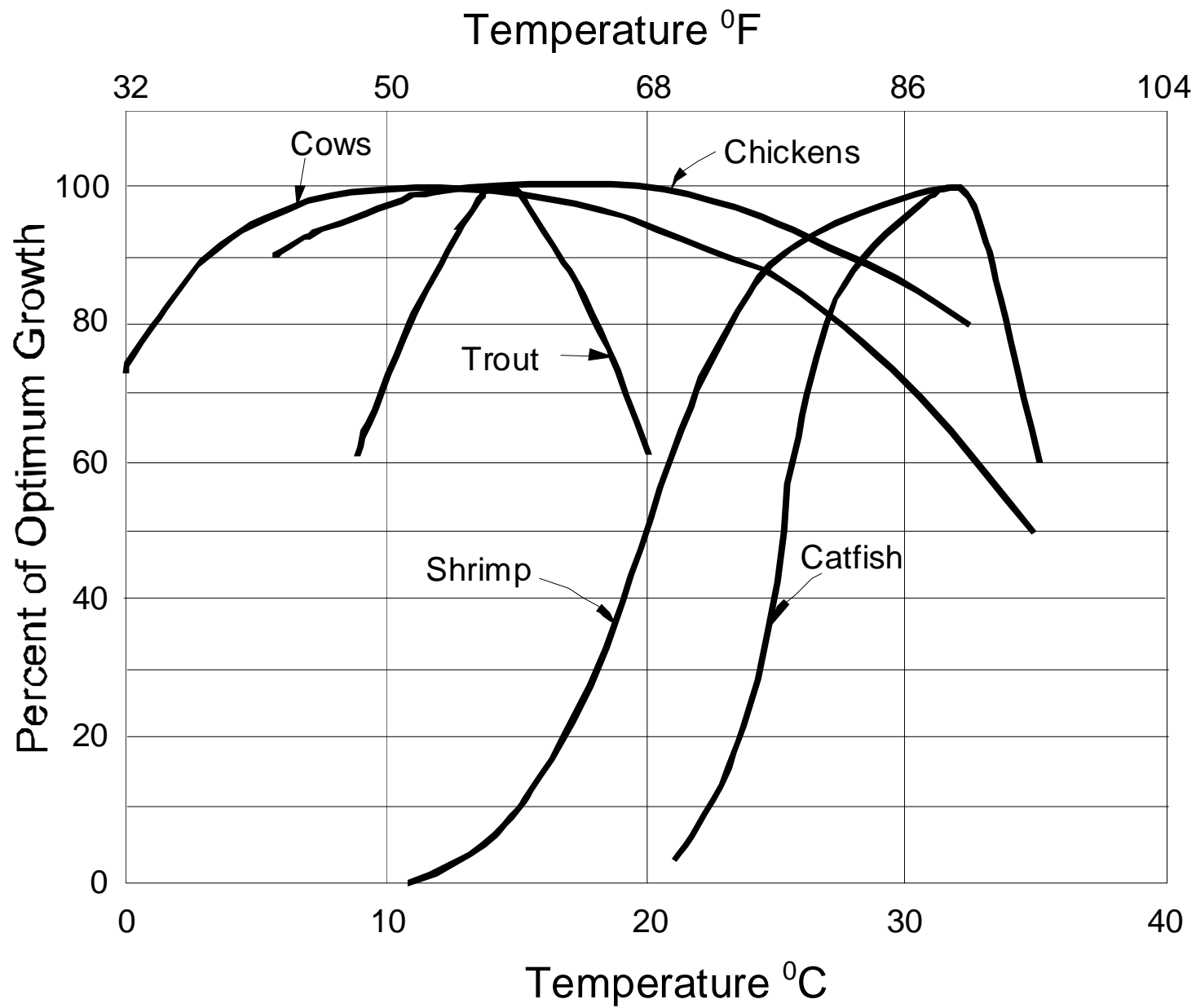


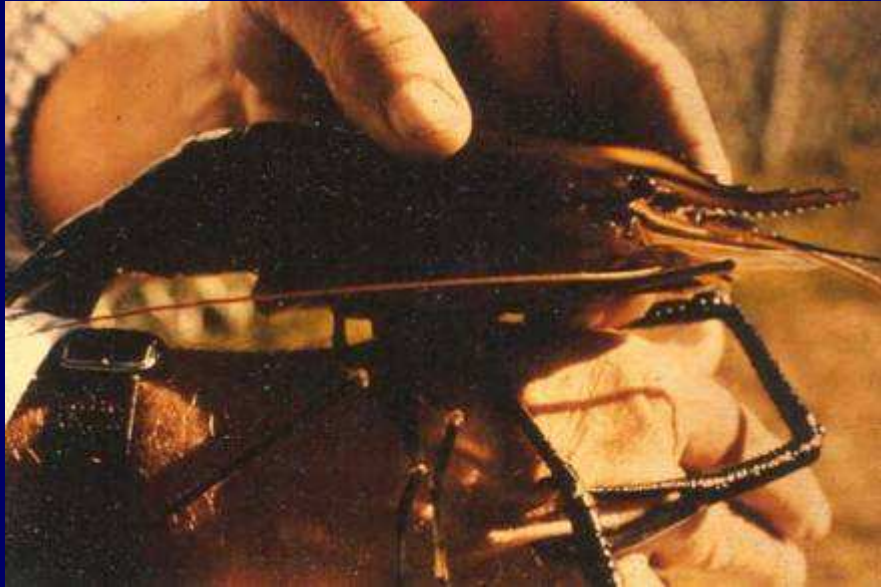




# Greenhouse in Greece







## Aquaculture examples



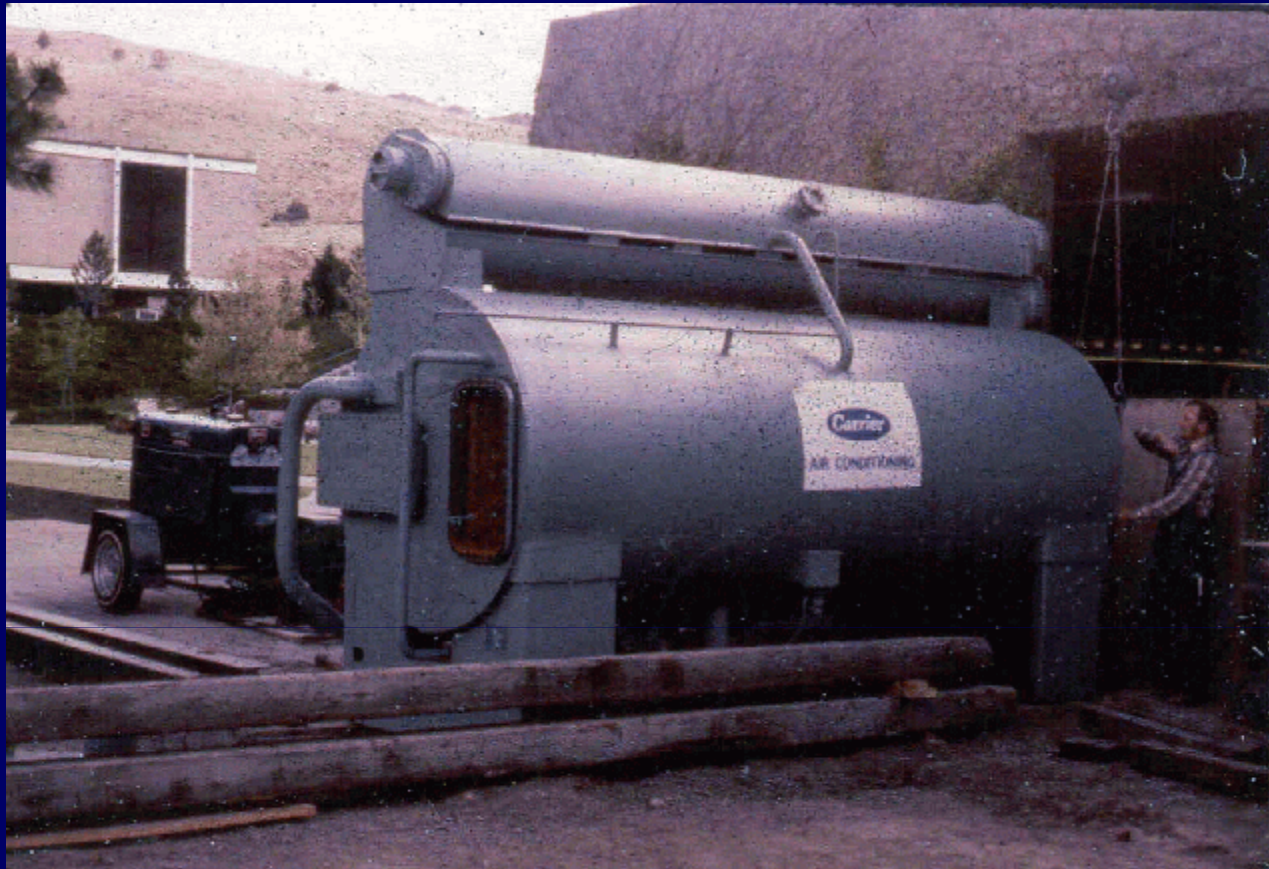
# Aquaculture – Example

## **Wairakei, New Zealand – freshwater prawns**

- 19 ponds – 0.2 to .35 ha – 1.0 to 1.2 m deep
- 24°C – effluent from power plant
- Produces 30 tonnes/yr
- Harvested after 9 months at 30 to 40/kg
- Sold for US\$37/kg wholesale and US\$60/kg retail
- 90% sold to restaurant on the property
- 25,000 tourists/yr
- Future expansion to 40 ha and will produce 400 tonnes/yr – income of US\$ 6.7 million

# Refrigeration

- Lithium bromide system (most common – uses water as the refrigerant)
  - Supplies chilled water for space and process cooling – above the freezing point
  - The higher temperature, the more efficient (can use geothermal fluids below 100°C – however, >115°C better for 100% efficiency)
- Ammonia absorption used for refrigeration below freezing normally large capacity and require geothermal temperatures above 120°C



Oregon Institute of Technology – chiller  
89°C producing 7°C chilled water @ 38 l/s  
1 MWt installed – 500 kW net

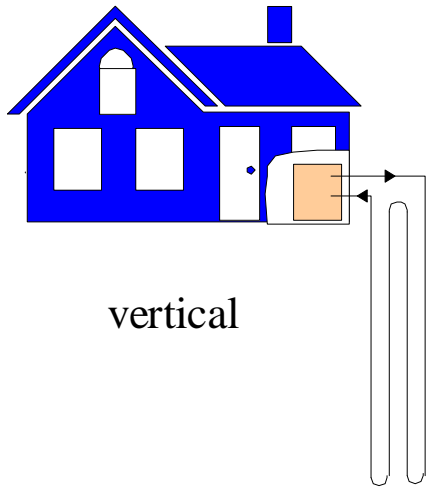
# Heat Pumps (1)

- Used for both heating and cooling
- Heated capacity of 3 kW to 1,500 kW
- 43 countries
- 2,800,000 units installed world-wide
- Growing at the rate 17 to 18 %/year
- COP of 4 (75% savings in electricity)

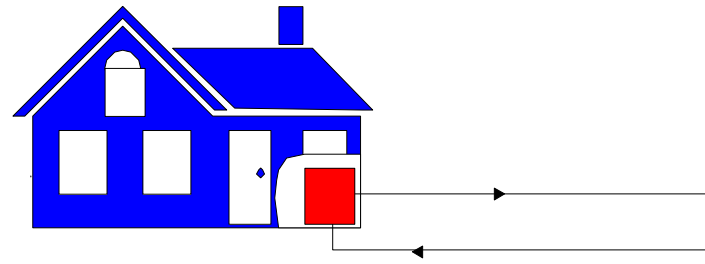
## Heat Pumps (2)

- Ground source and geothermal heat pumps (GSHP or GHP) – uses 5 to 30° C ground temperature
- 50 to 100% more efficient than air source, since uses constant temperature resource
- Ground coupled
  - Horizontal in trenches 1 – 3 m deep
  - Vertical in 10 cm diameter 50 – 60 m deep drillholes
  - Others
- Ground water
  - Using well water

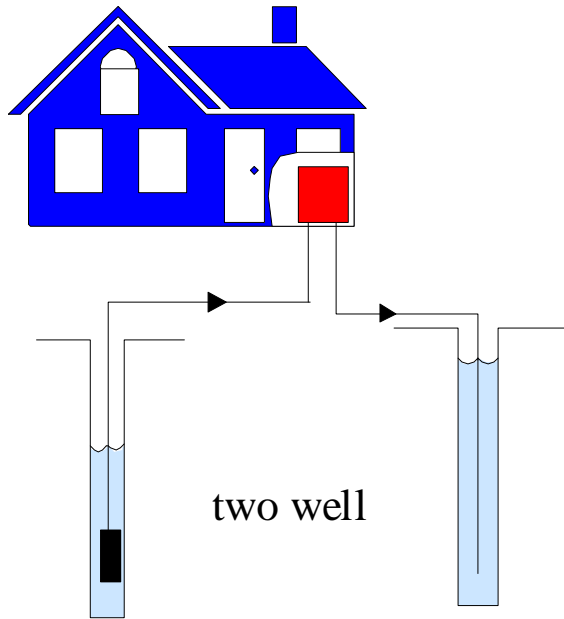




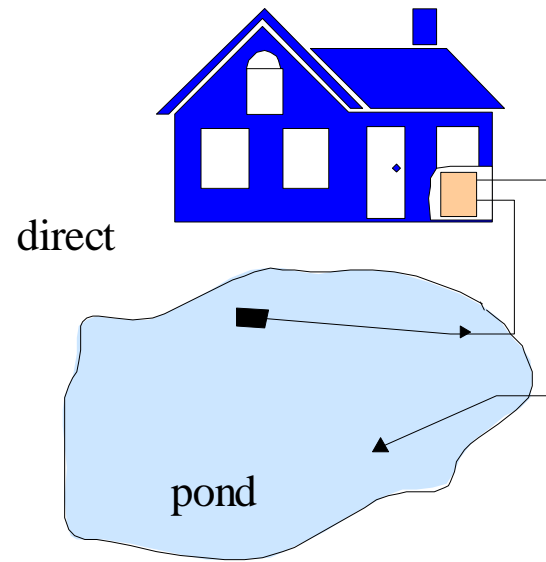
vertical



horizontal



two well



direct

pond

# Industrial Applications

- Oldest: Larderello, Italy – boric acid and borate compounds processed since 1790
- New Zealand: pulp, paper and wood processing at Kawerau
- Iceland: diatomaceous earth drying – Myvatn
- USA: vegetable dehydration (onion) – Nevada  
gold extraction (heap leaching) - Nevada

*The "Factory" in Larderello, 1850. Natural thermal energy was used to extract boric acid from nearby pools. Later the geothermal steam was used to produce electricity.*

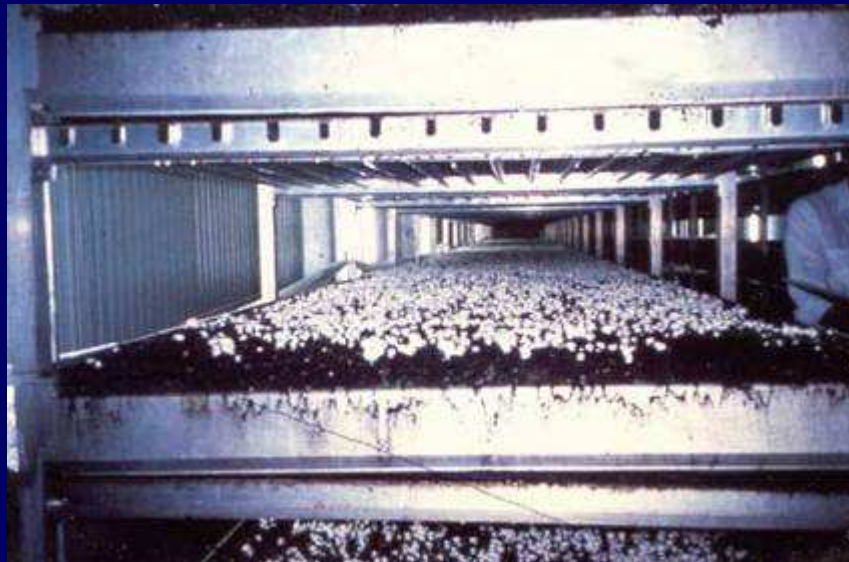


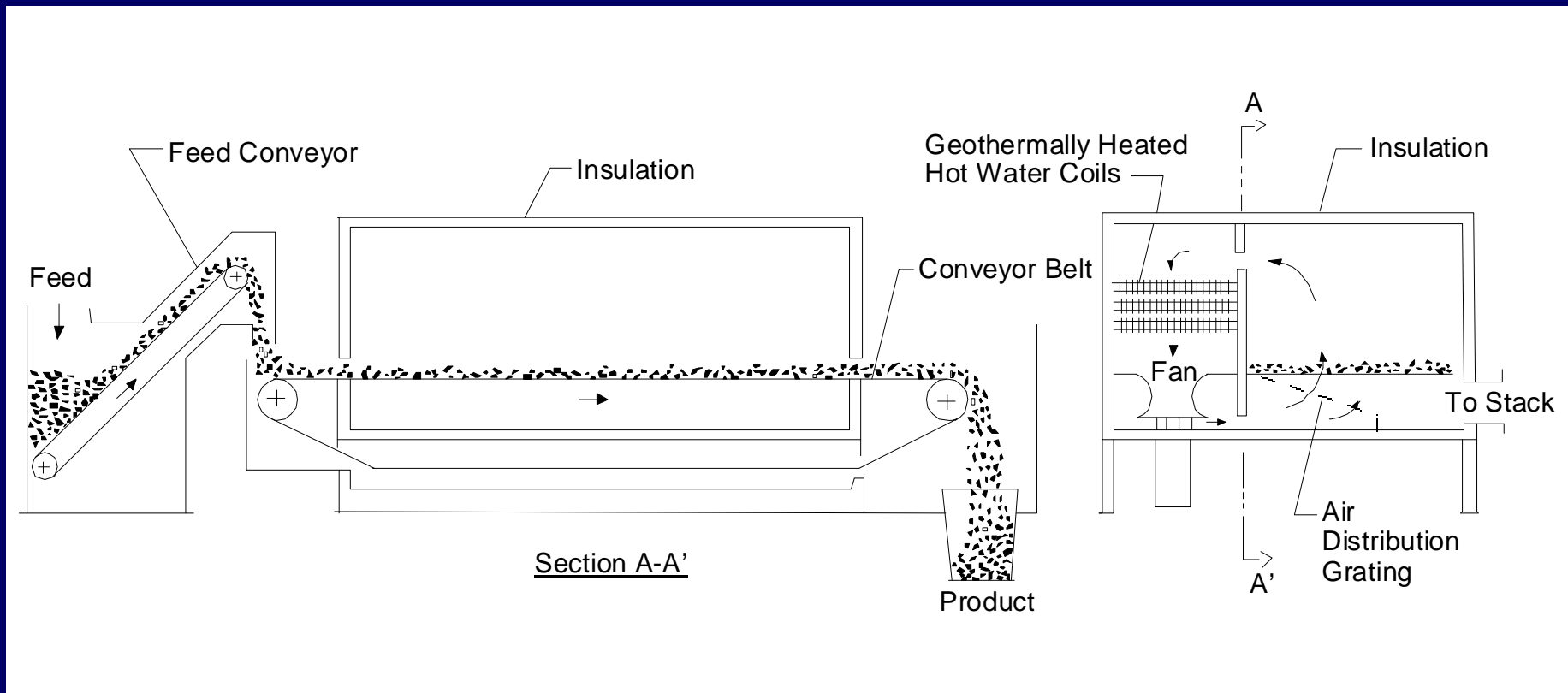
## Industrial application examples



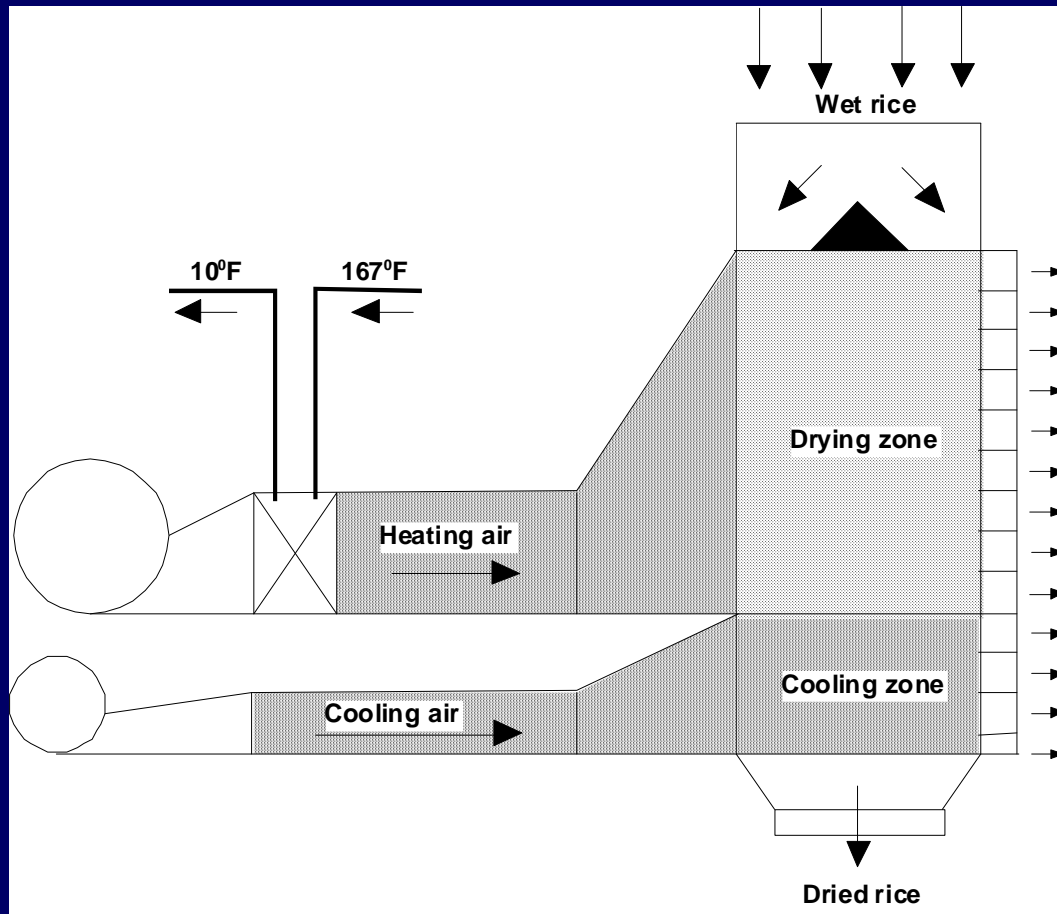


## More industrial application examples





Food dehydration belt dryer

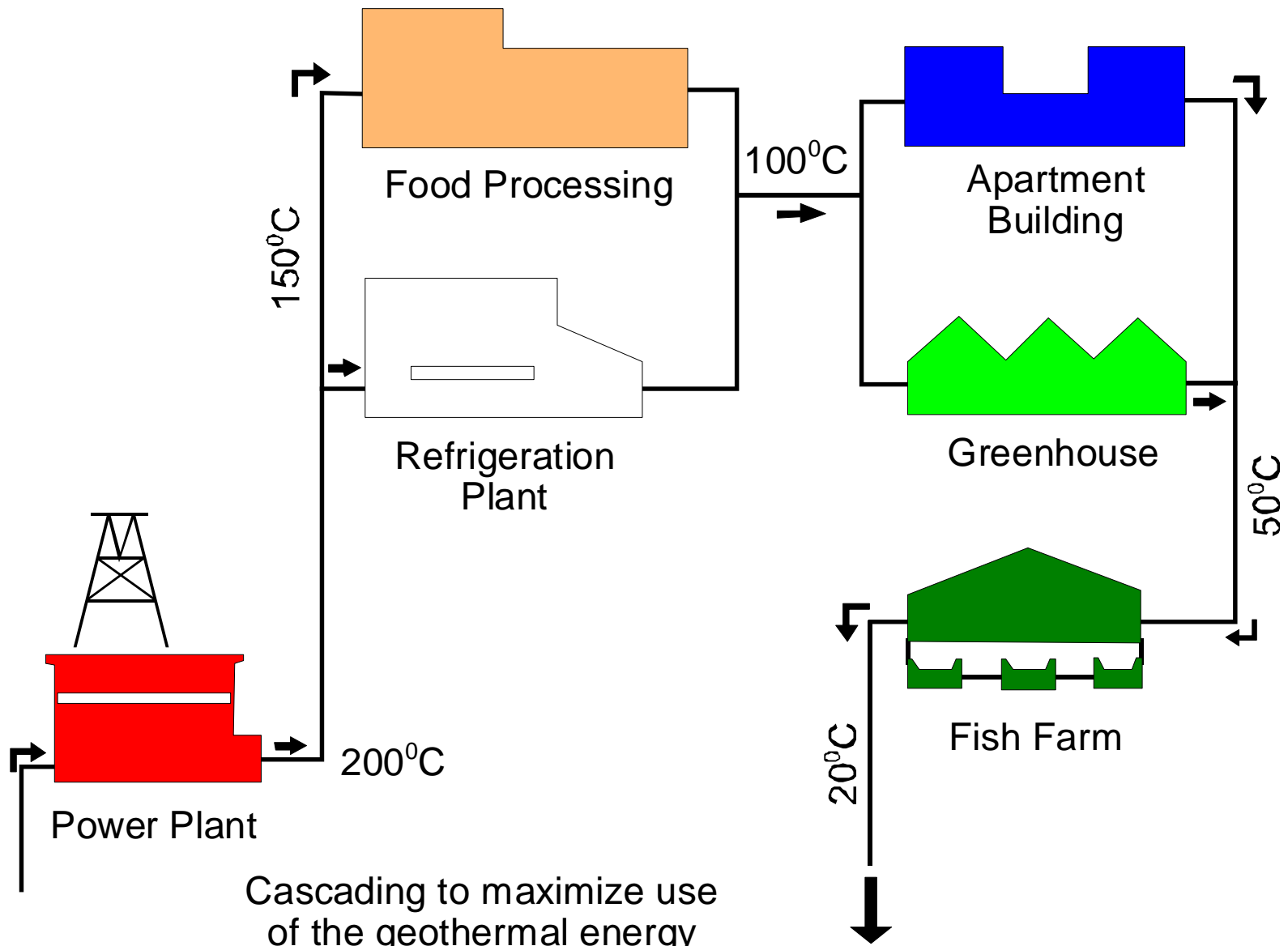


Rice dryer – Macedonia

75°C resource – 35°C air – 10 t/h – 1,360 kWt

# NEW TRENDS

- **COMBINED HEAT AND POWER PLANTS**
  - Low temperature resources used for binary power production and cascaded for direct use
  - Temperatures as low as 98°C are being used
  - Makes efficient use of the resources
  - Improves economics
- **See GHC Quarterly Bulletin 26/2 (June 05)**

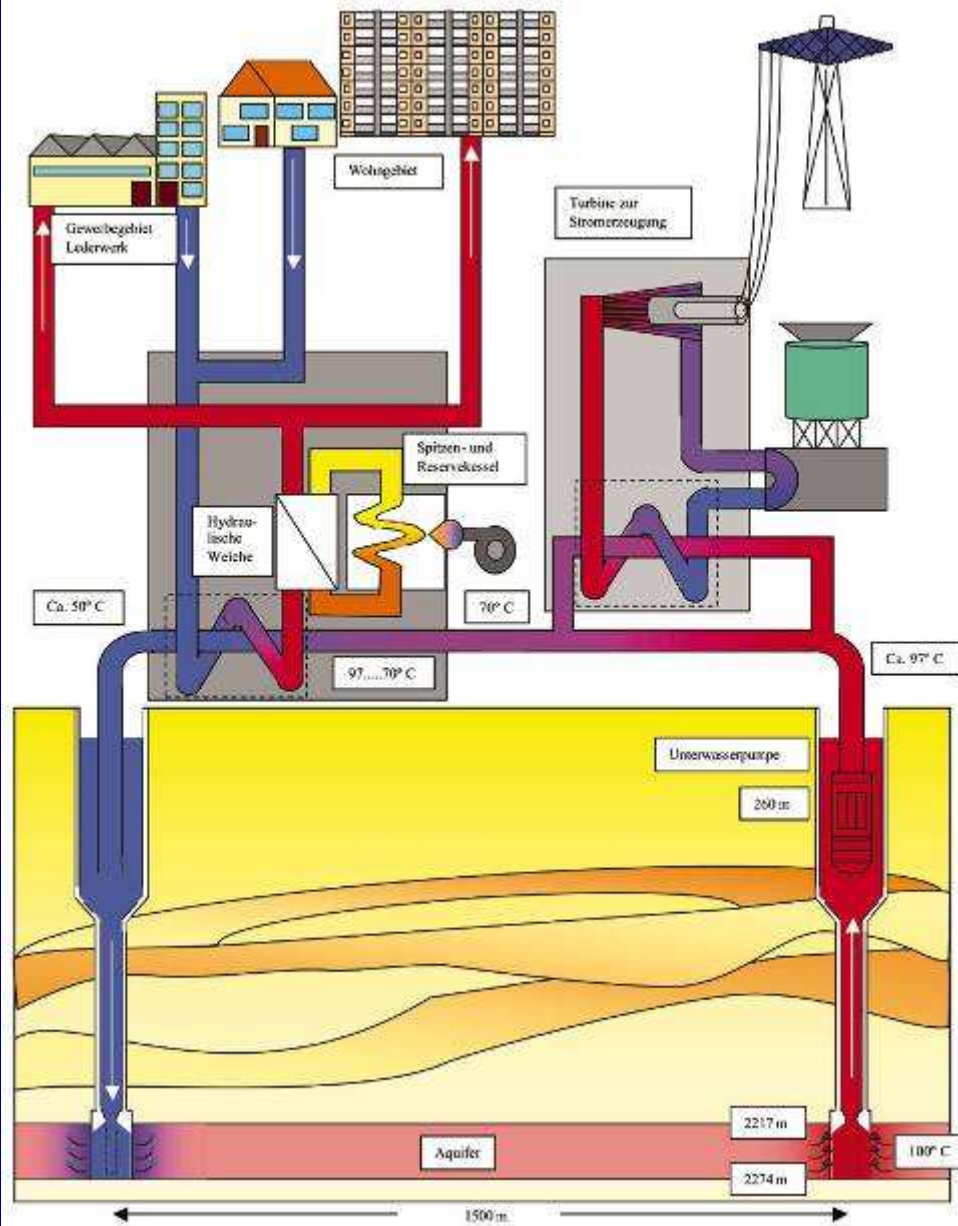




# **COMBINED GEOTHERMAL HEAT AND POWER PROJECT NEUSTADT GLEWE, GERMANY**

- **Wells drilled 1986 and 1989 – 2,300 m**
- **Geothermal water at 98°C – 1,700 l/s**
- **Heat plant provides basic load for district heating network – 11 MW (thermal)**
  - 6 MW geothermal – 95% of energy
- **210 kWe binary power plant added meeting the electricity demands for 500 households**

# Schema der Erdwärmenutzung in Neustadt-Glewe



# Future Developments

- Collocated resources and use
  - Within 8 km apart
- Sites with high heat and cooling load density
  - $> 37 \text{ MWt/km}^2$
- Food and grain dehydration
  - Especially in tropical areas where spoilage is common
- Greenhouses in colder climates
- Aquaculture
  - Optimize growth – even in warm climates
- Ground coupled and groundwater heat pumps
  - For both heating and cooling
- Combined heat and power projects - cascading



Thank You