

# Scratching the Surface: Lessons from First-of-a-Kind Projects

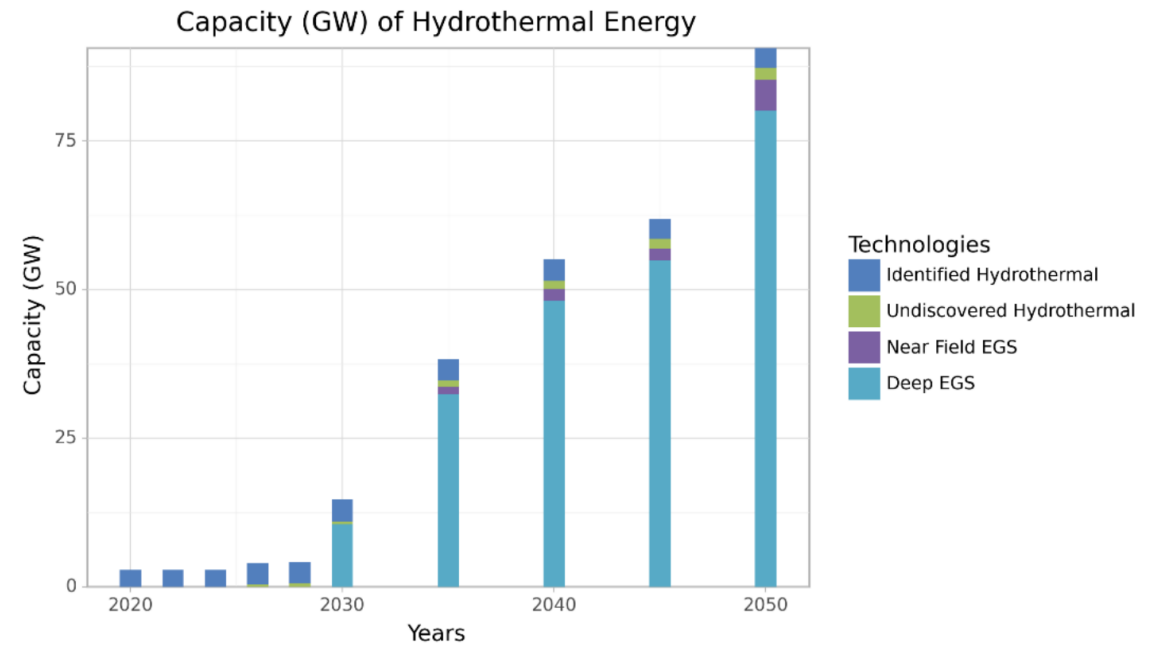
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## Why?

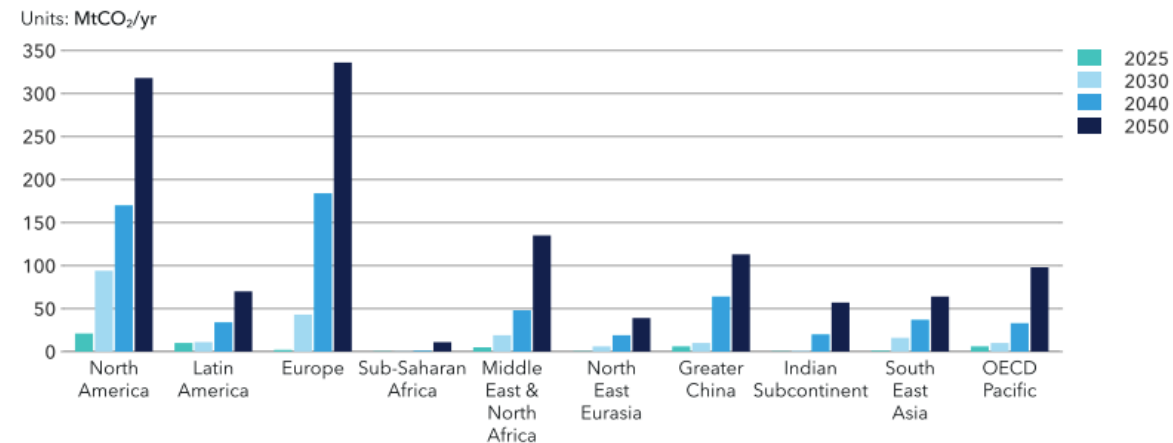
- Geothermal Support:
  - E.O. 14154, “Unleashing American Energy” [1]
  - DOE GeoVision/EGS EarthShot – >20x scale-up in geothermal power generation by 2050 (~3.9 GW<sub>e</sub> [2] → 60-90 GW<sub>e</sub> [3,4])
- CCS Support:
  - U.S. 45Q tax credit enables development
  - Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) growth supports new revenue streams (e.g., low carbon heat/power for DAC, VCM credits)
  - CCS/CDR demand projected to grow 30x through 2050<sup>[5]</sup>
- Demand for secure, reliable, sustainable energy and CCS for hard-to-abate industries & Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)



ReEDS model results for installed geothermal capacity by technology type for the Enhanced Geothermal Shot analysis (Source: Augustine et al., 2023)

FIGURE 5.9

### Regional carbon capture and storage



Regional projections of CCS/CDR capacity growth through 2050 (Source: DNV, 2025)

## How?

- Carbfix (Iceland)

- Hellisheidi

- ✓ First onshore CO<sub>2</sub> storage site permitted under EU CCS Directive<sup>[6]</sup>
    - ✓ 95% capture from a 303 MWe facility + DAC expansion (~100 ktpa CCS capacity)
      - ~40 ktpa DAC capacity (Orca + Mammoth)
    - ✓ 25 million tons of geothermal brine reinjection annually  
→ if optimized, sufficient to do 1 Mtpa CCS<sup>[7]</sup>

- Nesjavellir

- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> site in the Hengill geothermal system, currently capturing 3 ktpa<sup>[8]</sup> → Full-scale expected by 2030

- Fervo Energy (U.S.)

- Red Rocks DAC Hub

- ✓ P50 estimate of 1.9 GW<sub>e</sub> power generation capacity <sup>[9]</sup>
    - ✓ CAPEX reduction through co-utilization of shared infrastructure



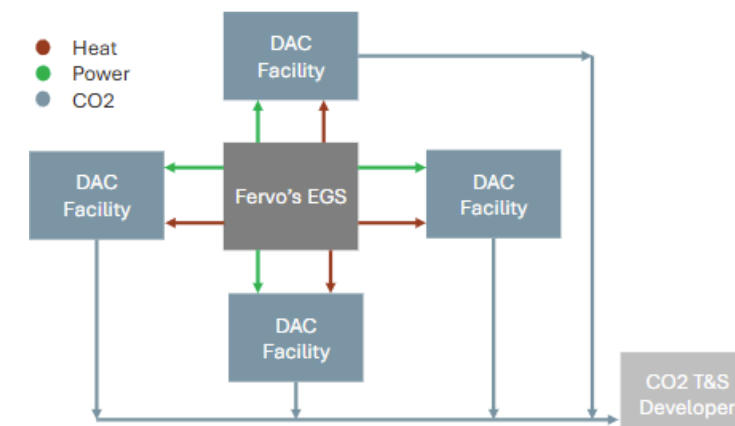
Hellisheiði Geothermal/CCS facility (Source: Carbfix.com)



Nesjavellir Geothermal/CCS facility (Source: Carbfix.com)



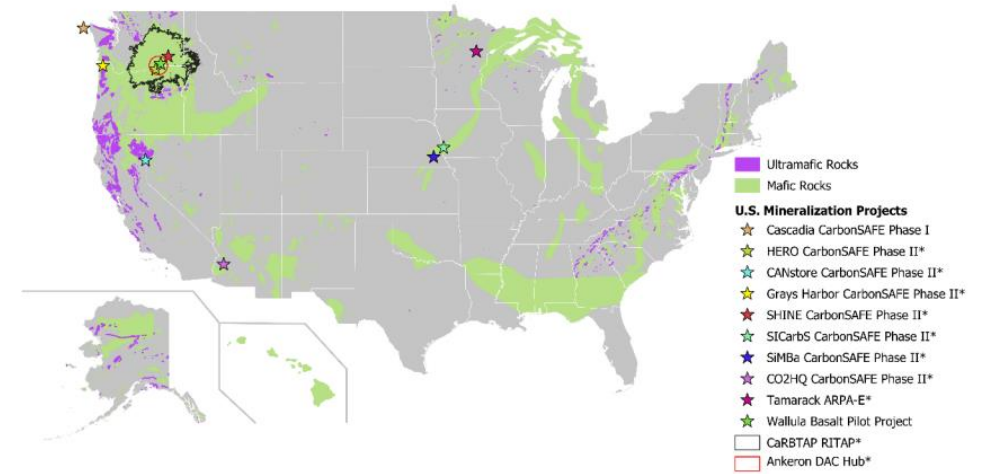
Climeworks-Carbfix Mammoth DAC Facility (Source: Carbfix.com)



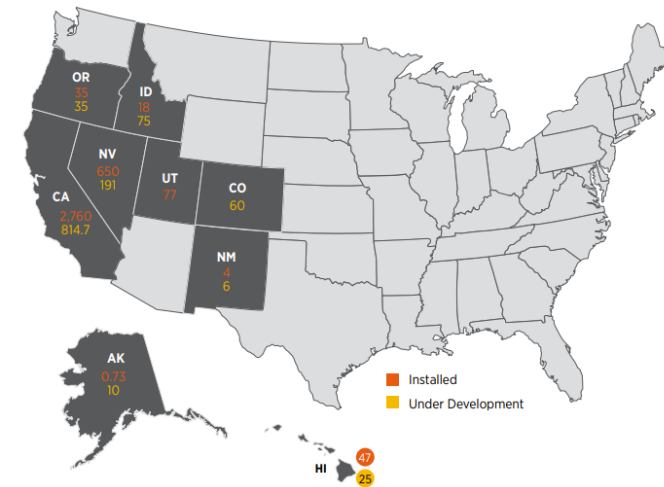
Fervo Red Rocks DAC Hub schematic diagram (Source: Fervo Energy<sup>[9]</sup>)

## Where?

- Opportunities for co-location of Geothermal energy generation and CCS (particularly for volcanic/mineralization reservoirs)<sup>[3,10]</sup>
  - Western U.S. has near-term opportunity
- Key subsurface requirements for permeability/caprock are relevant for both Geothermal/CCS<sup>[3]</sup>
  - De-risks exploration by splitting risk across end-uses
  - Synergistic exploration/resource characterization can support both subsurface uses (e.g., DOE CaRBTAP)<sup>[11]</sup>



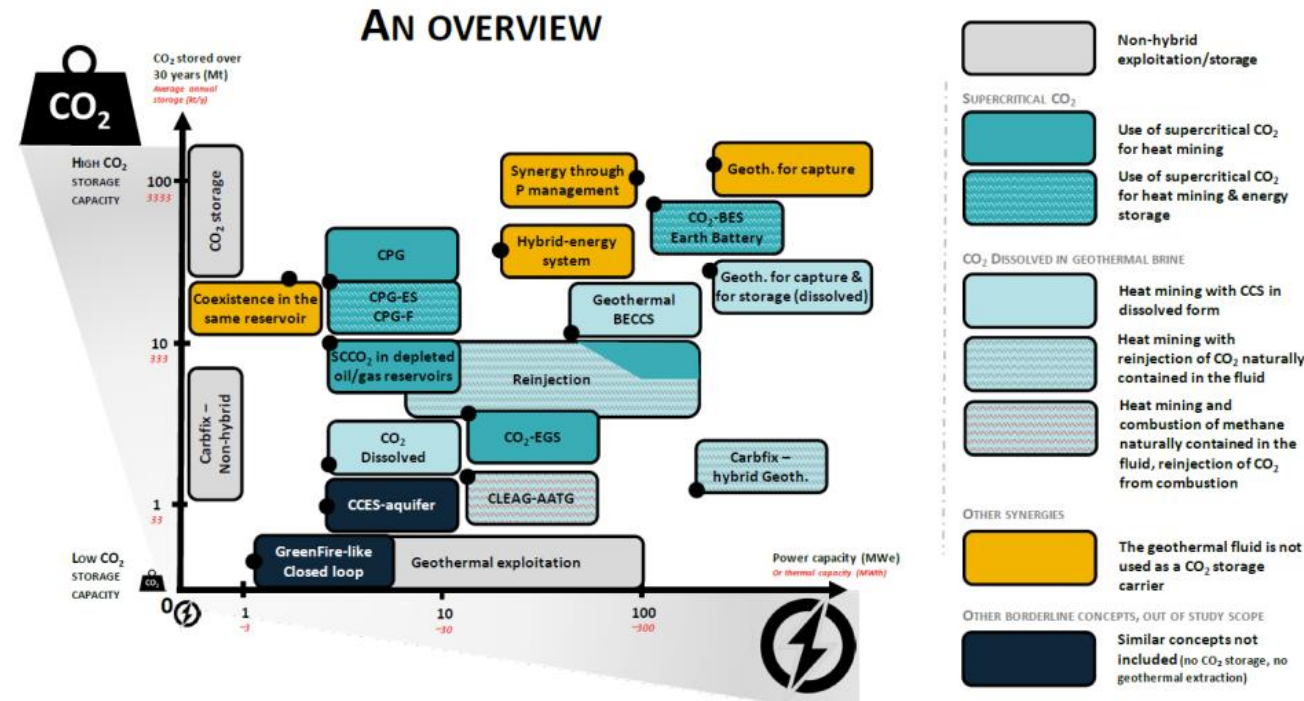
DOE-selected mineralization CCS projects in the U.S. and mafic/ultramafic rocks.  
\*83% of projects were awarded since 2020. (Source: DiRaddo et al., 2025)<sup>[10]</sup>



Existing and planned U.S. geothermal electricity generation capacity by state  
(Source: U.S. DOE GeoVision, 2019)<sup>[3]</sup>

## In Conclusion..

- Substantial synergies exist between Geothermal & CCS development
  - Subsurface & surface infrastructure co-utilization can reduce CAPEX/OPEX and upfront risk
  - Brine reinjection constitutes a potential low-hanging fruit for dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> injection in volcanic reservoirs
  - Diversifying revenue streams ensures long-term project stability and may support financing next-generation technologies (e.g., EGS)
- Barriers: Learning & awareness of opportunities; Financing demonstrations/FOAK projects



Other geothermal-CCS concepts considered in analysis by IEAGHG (Source: IEAGHG, 2023)<sup>[12]</sup>



Education & awareness of co-location opportunities is essential to operationalize these technologies. Capacity building through training, mentoring, and educating students/early career professionals is essential for both Geothermal & CCS. Here, Matt discusses the Carbfix technology for a group of college students as part of The GREEN Program study abroad. (Credit: The GREEN Program)

# References

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- [2] – International Geothermal Association, “*Geothermal Energy Database: United States of America*”. Accessed July 2025. <https://worldgeothermal.org/geothermal-data/geothermal-energy-database>
- [3] – U.S. DOE Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO), “*GeoVision: Harnessing the Heat Beneath Our Feet.*” 2019. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/geothermal/geovision>
- [4] – Augustine, Chad; Sarah Fisher, Jonathan Ho, Ian Warren, and Erik Witter. 2023. “*Enhanced Geothermal Shot Analysis for the Geothermal Technologies Office.*” Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-5700-84822. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy23osti/84822.pdf>.
- [5] – DNV, “*Energy Transition Outlook – CCS*”. June 12, 2025. <https://www.dnv.com/energy-transition-outlook/carbon-capture-storage/>
- [6] – Carbfix, “*Carbfix Secures Europe’s First Storage Permit for Onshore Geological Storage of CO<sub>2</sub>*”. May 07, 2025. <https://www.carbfix.com/newsmedia/carbfix-secures-europes-first-storage-permit-for-o>
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- [10] - DiRaddo, S., Villante, M., Baek, S., Polites, E., Lahiri, N., Stanfield, H., Miller, Q., Schaef, T., & Davidson, C. (2025). *Regulatory Considerations for Mineralization Storage SPE/AAPG/SEG Carbon, Capture, Utilization, and Storage Conference and Exhibition*, <https://doi.org/10.15530/ccus-2025-4175567>
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- [12] – IEAGHG, “*Prospective Integration of Geothermal Energy with Carbon Capture and Storage*”, 2023-02, August 2023. <https://ieaghg.org/publications/prospective-integration-of-geothermal-energy-with-carbon-capture-and-storage/>