

THE GEO-HEAT CENTER WEBSITE

Tonya "Toni" Boyd
Geo-Heat Center

The Geo-Heat Center, located at the Oregon Institute of Technology campus, (under U.S. Department of Energy sponsorship), has provided technical and information services to geothermal direct-use project developers since 1975. In keeping with the times, the Geo-Heat Center established a website (www.oit.edu/~geoheat or www.oit.edu/other/geoheat) on the Internet in early 1996.

The website has had numerous additions to its pages since it was first established. It contains a wide variety of menus to select from depending on your surfing needs. A listing of the menu includes:

- What is Geothermal?
- Services Offered
- Publications List
- Geo-Heat Center Quarterly Bulletin
- Where are Geothermal Resources Being Used?
- Where are Geothermal Resources?
- Geothermal Heat Pump Owner Information Survival Kit
- Directory of Consultants and Equipment Manufacturers
- Other Places of Interest

The What is Geothermal? section includes a brief introduction to geothermal. The "Services Offered" section includes information on what the Geo-Heat Center offers.

The Publications List section contains a listing of technical papers, research reports, and past bulletin articles which can be requested (though not transmitted electronically) over the Internet. Some new additions to this section includes a page where some publications can now be downloaded and the Outside the Loop Newsletter (a newsletter for geothermal heat pump designers and engineers) webpage.

The Geo-Heat Center Quarterly Bulletin section features the Quarterly Bulletin articles since October 1995. As of this writing, there are 13 issues on line with the latest issue being in a PDF (downloadable) format.

The Where are Geothermal Resources Being Used? section provides information on more than 440 individual geothermal direct-use sites. It has an interactive U.S. map (Figure 1) showing the direct-use sites and resource areas. There are several ways to use this map. You can click on an individual state to reveal a full screen of that state or click on the application icons located at the bottom of the map to get a complete listing for that project type (e.g., all aquaculture projects). The application icons include aquaculture, greenhouses, industrial, space heating, district heating, resorts and spas, power plants, and national labs.

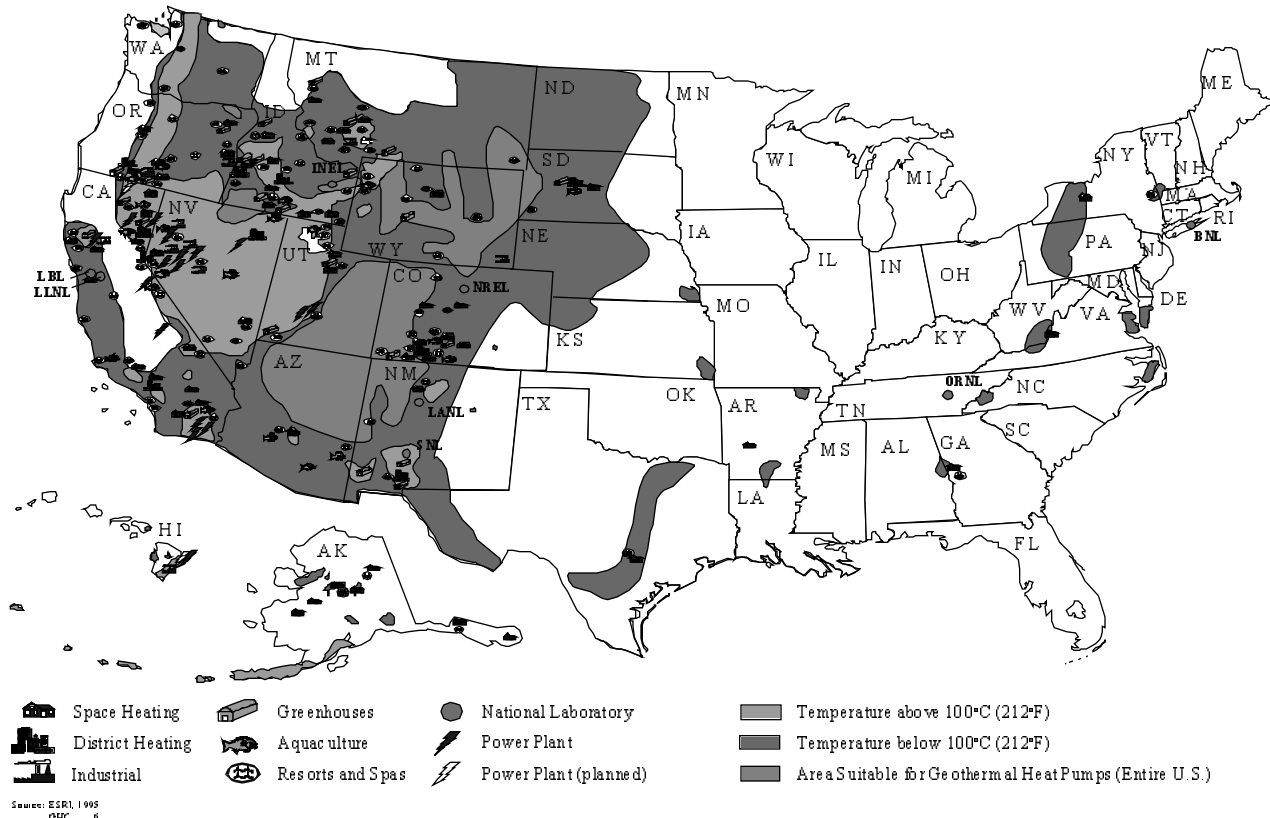


Figure 1. Interactive U.S. Geothermal Projects and Resource Areas map.

When you click on a state from the U.S. map, that state map (Oregon in this example) will be displayed with the application icons and resource areas shown (Figure 2). If you are interested in a particular direct-use site, click on the icon and a summary of what that icon represents will appear, or click anywhere else on the map to get a listing of the sites for that particular state, by application (Figure 3).

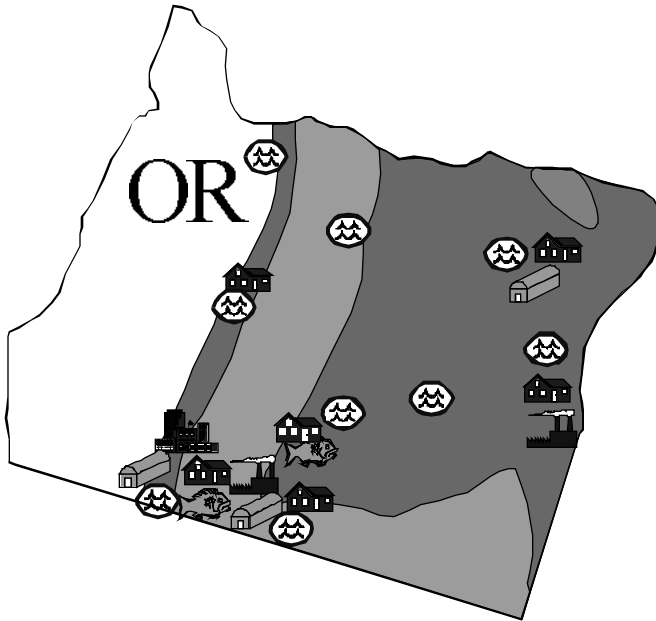


Figure 2. Oregon map showing direct-use icons and geothermal resource areas.

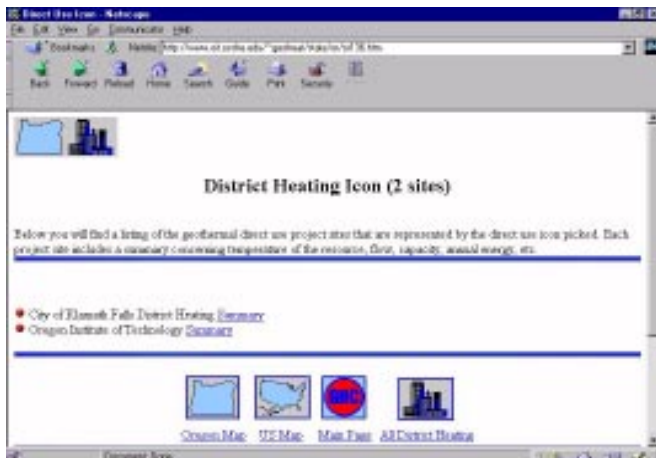


Figure 3. List that represents a district heating icon in Oregon.

To get more information concerning a particular site, follow the link to the summary. This next page (Figure 4) features information concerning the location, application, temperature of the resource, flow, capacity, contact information, etc. This information will be improved with the addition of project summaries, photographs, and website links for more information.



Figure 4. Summary of information for one of the direct-use sites.

Have you ever wondered if there are geothermal resources located close to your community? The Where are Geothermal Resources? section identifies 271 collocated communities, within the 10 western states, that could potentially utilize geothermal energy for district heating and other direct-use applications. The main page for this section contains a brief description of what a collocated resource is and provides links to the 10 western states. Following the link to each state will include a graphic of the state with the collocated locations shown, a brief description of the state and a listing of the communities by county. Information such as location, well depth, resource temperature, flow, and TDS is included.

The Directory of Consultants and Equipment Manufacturers section contains a listing of consultants and what they do. There is also a listing of equipment manufacturers for various types of geothermal equipment such as well pumps, heat exchangers, piping and heat pumps.

The Other Places to Visit section has several links to other websites including such sites as the Geothermal Technologies - USDOE, the Geothermal Education Office, the Geothermal Resources Council, and American Tilapia Association to mention a few.

The Geo-Heat Center website has much to offer and is always under continuous improvement. So come check us out at www.oit.edu/~geoheat or www.oit.edu/other/geoheat and feel free to e-mail us with your suggestions, comments or additions.