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# Information Memorandum

## January 2026

**Geothermal Energy Development for the Amsterdam Region**

# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Background information about the partnership</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Permit & partnership	3
1.2	Objectives & Next Steps	4
1.3	Communication & Stakeholder Engagement	5
1.4	About the current partners and future partnership	5
<b>2</b>	<b>Subsurface data of the Amsterdam region</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Historical subsurface data	5
2.2	The SCAN project	5
2.3	Recent SCAN research in the Amsterdam region (nlog.nl/scan)	6
2.4	Future seismic research plans	10
<b>3</b>	<b>District heating grids and geothermal heat</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	Current heating networks in the Amsterdam region	10
3.2	Anticipated geothermal capacity in current heat grids	11
3.3	Geothermal demand: The first ~30MW	11
3.4	Temperatures in the heat grid & the need for high temperature heat pumps	14
3.5	Geothermal growth after the initial 30MW	15
3.6	Heat transition ambitions Amsterdam	15
<b>4</b>	<b>Geothermal energy development in the Netherlands</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1	Geothermal production in the Netherlands	16
4.2	Relevant legislation	16
4.3	Typical challenges with respect to the development of geothermal energy in The Netherlands	17

# 1 Background information about the partnership

## 1.1 Permit & partnership

The “Toewijzing Zoekgebied Aardwarmte Amsterdam-Amstelveen I” (the permit that allows geothermal exploration) was granted on 13 January 2023 to the Municipality of Amsterdam, Vattenfall Power Generation B.V. (Vattenfall), Eneco, and the Province of North Holland ([Mijnbouwvergunningen](#)). The permit has a validity of 5 years, until 25 February 2028, with the possibility to extend this validity with 1 year. Within this validity period a “Startvergunning” (a follow-up permit that allows drilling and initial operations up to a maximum of 3 years) must be applied for.

In August 2024, the Municipality of Amsterdam and Vattenfall entered into a partnership agreement with EBN to assess and potentially develop geothermal sources within the permit area, including an evaluation of their feasibility (see figure 1). At the same time the other permit holders (Eneco and Province of North Holland) agreed to no longer exercise their rights under the permit.

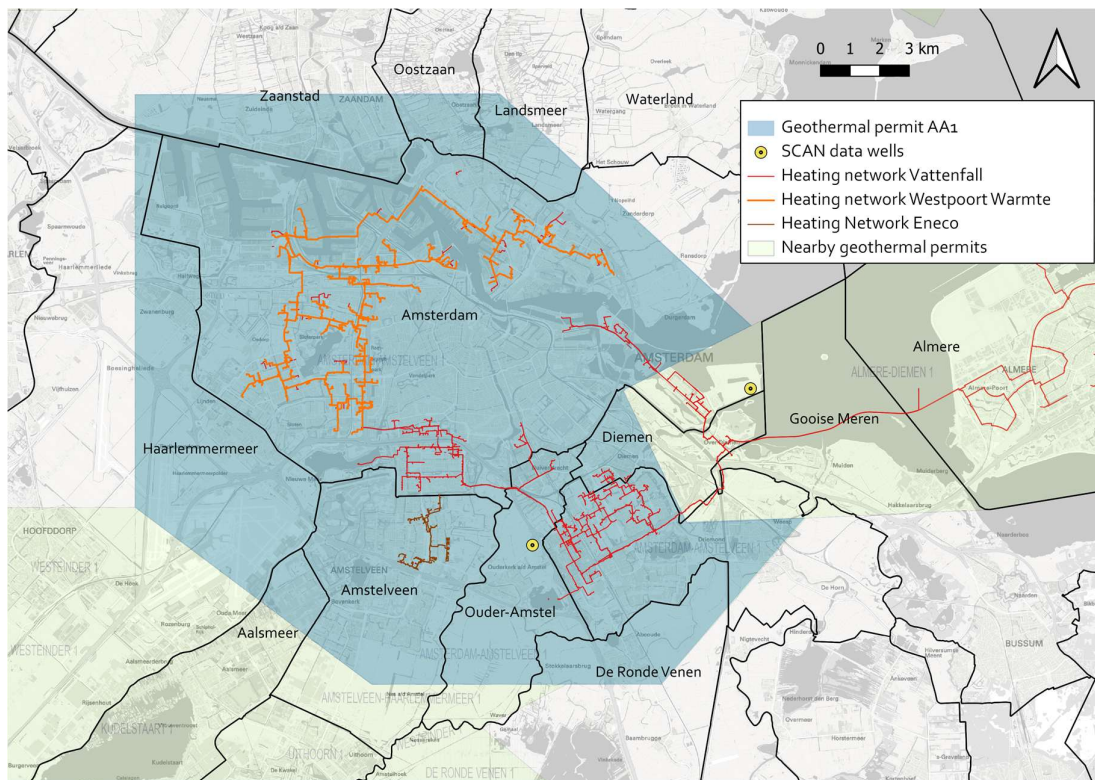


Figure 1. Map of the Amsterdam-Amstelveen 1 permit area showing the delineation of the geothermal permit area and the current district heating grids.

## 1.2 Objectives & Next Steps

The aim of the partnership is to develop geothermal sources to supply sustainable heat to the district heating networks in the Amsterdam region to lower the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with heat delivery. Considering the available subsurface data (seismic and well data), the anticipated geological suitability, and the regional heat demand, the ongoing feasibility study is currently focused on the south-eastern part of the permit area, specifically the ‘Amstelland’ subregion. The project is currently in the feasibility phase, which will continue alongside and after the operator's selection and onboarding. The phasing of a project as well as the decision making around moving to the next project phase are detailed in the future partnership agreement (see 1.4) including the decision-making procedures thereto.

Once suitable production location(s) are identified and feasibility has been confirmed, concrete steps can be taken toward developing geothermal sources. To facilitate this, a Special Purpose Vehicle will be established most likely in the form of a project company. Initially, the focus is on realizing the first ~30MW of geothermal heat in the Amstelland subarea. The high-level project timeline (figure 2) shows that the first geothermal source in this subarea is expected to be operational by 2031. Looking beyond the current initial focus, the aim will be to assess the feasibility of developing an additional approximately 30 MW of geothermal heat within the Amstelland subarea and to assess the feasibility for developing geothermal sources in other subareas within the exploration area (under the Partnership Agreement).

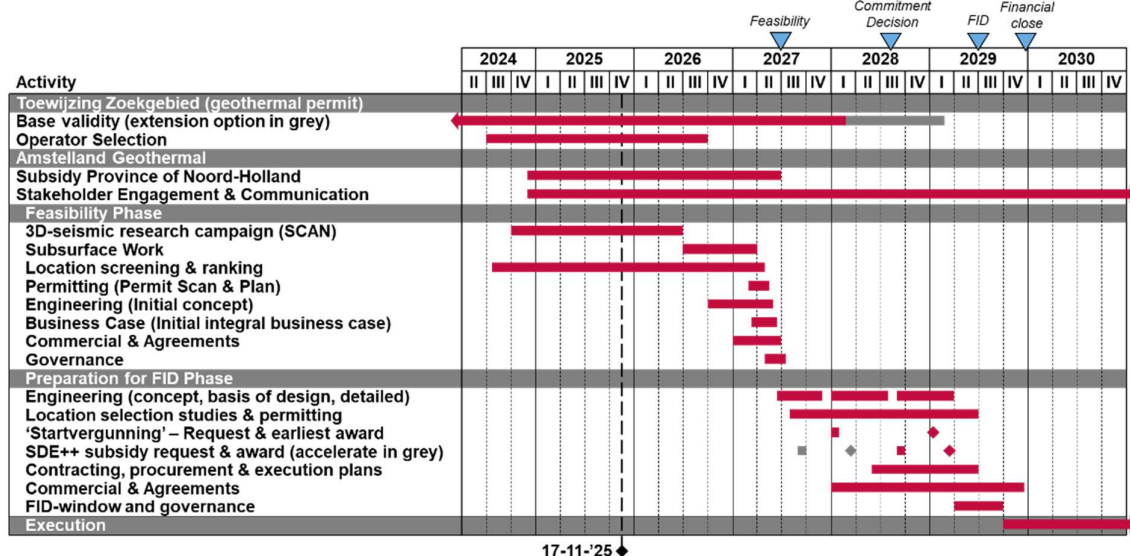


Figure 2. High level current timeline for the “Amstelland” project.

The 3D seismic data in Amstelland represents a key step toward developing geothermal energy within the permit area. The primary objective is to map subsurface structures in greater detail, enabling a more accurate estimation of geothermal potential and the planning of doublets. The data acquisition (2025) and subsequent processing (2026) are carried out under the SCAN4 program. The first 3D seismic processing products are currently expected to be available by mid-2026.

### 1.3 Communication & Stakeholder Engagement

A dedicated website, [www.aardwarmteregioamsterdam.nl](http://www.aardwarmteregioamsterdam.nl), has been launched to provide regular updates and information about the geothermal initiative. Stakeholders and other interested parties are encouraged to visit the website for the latest news, developments, and background materials.

### 1.4 About the current partners and future partnership

- **Municipality of Amsterdam** aims for a sustainable and affordable energy supply and regards geothermal energy as a future-proof heat source.
- **Vattenfall** is an energy company committed to a future in which our energy supply is less dependent on the use of fossil fuels. Its affiliate Vattenfall Power Generation BV is co-holder of the exploitation permit and its affiliate Vattenfall Warmte N.V. is foreseen as off-taker of the geothermal heat in the Amstelland subarea.
- **Energie Beheer Nederland (EBN)** is a policy participation of the Dutch State and, as a co-investor in geothermal projects, pursues the public interest by strengthening and accelerating geothermal energy in the Netherlands. EBN does this through the dissemination and safeguarding of knowledge, the deployment of manpower and expertise, and by increasing the capital base of geothermal projects.

Details about the intended future partnership with the operator, can be found in the document “Samenwerkingsovereenkomst Toewijzing Zoekgebied Amsterdam-Amstelveen I”, which is included in the Selection Documents. This document covers the development until a final investment decision is taken on a specific project and also includes termsheets and similar documents for various future contracts, i.e. for a shareholders agreement, a heat sales agreement and a service provision agreement.

## 2 Subsurface data of the Amsterdam region

### 2.1 Historical subsurface data

In the Amsterdam region, historically only limited seismic data were acquired, and few wells were drilled due to the lack of oil and gas potential. Consequently, prior to the SCAN project, subsurface data availability in the region was limited. However, in recent years, two geothermal data-acquisition boreholes have been drilled, and various seismic surveys and studies have been conducted specifically to enhance understanding of the area’s geothermal potential.

### 2.2 The SCAN project

The SCAN (Seismische Campagne Aardwarmte Nederland) project is a national program funded by the Dutch Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth. SCAN is executed by Energie Beheer Nederland (EBN) in collaboration with TNO. EBN is a state-owned facilitator in the energy transition and implements part of the climate and energy policies of the Ministry of

Climate Policy and Green Growth. EBN has extensive knowledge of the Dutch subsurface. TNO, the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research, works with knowledge institutions, companies and government to accelerate the energy transition.

The objective of SCAN is to gather information on the geothermal potential of the subsurface of the Netherlands in areas where historically limited seismic data was acquired and few wells were drilled. The data collected will enable a more complete and more accurate picture of the subsurface of these areas, especially those with high heat demand, thereby accelerating geothermal development.

The first phase of the SCAN project consisted of the acquisition of new seismic data and reprocessing existing data. The second phase of the project consisted of a drilling campaign, resulting in eight data-acquisition boreholes drilled across the Netherlands. Currently, SCAN acquires more detailed 2D and 3D seismic data to further reduce geological uncertainty in promising areas where data remains sparse, ensuring a comprehensive subsurface dataset for optimal and safe development of geothermal projects.

All data and research results of the SCAN project are available from the open access website [nlog.nl](https://nlog.nl).

More information on the SCAN program: <https://scanaardwarmte.nl/english/>

### **2.3 Recent SCAN research in the Amsterdam region (nlog.nl/scan)**

The geothermal permit Amsterdam-Amstelveen-1 covers three different geological structural domains. From north to south these are the 'Central Netherlands Bekken', the 'Zandvoort Hoog' and the 'West Netherlands Bekken' (see figure 3). Structurally, the Zandvoort Hoog represents a complex series of highs that delineate the boundary between the West Netherlands Bekken and Central Netherlands Bekken. Compared to the adjacent basins, the Zandvoort Hoog area experienced a relatively quiescent tectonic history, with modest burial and limited later inversion. Because of their distinct geological development, it is expected that each of the geological domains has a different geothermal potential. SCAN conducted research within all three geological domains (see figure 4).





Figure 3: The three geological structural domains within the area of the geothermal permit 'Amsterdam-Amstelveen 1'. From north to south these are the 'Central Netherlands Bekken', 'Zandvoort Hoog' and the 'West Netherlands Bekken'.

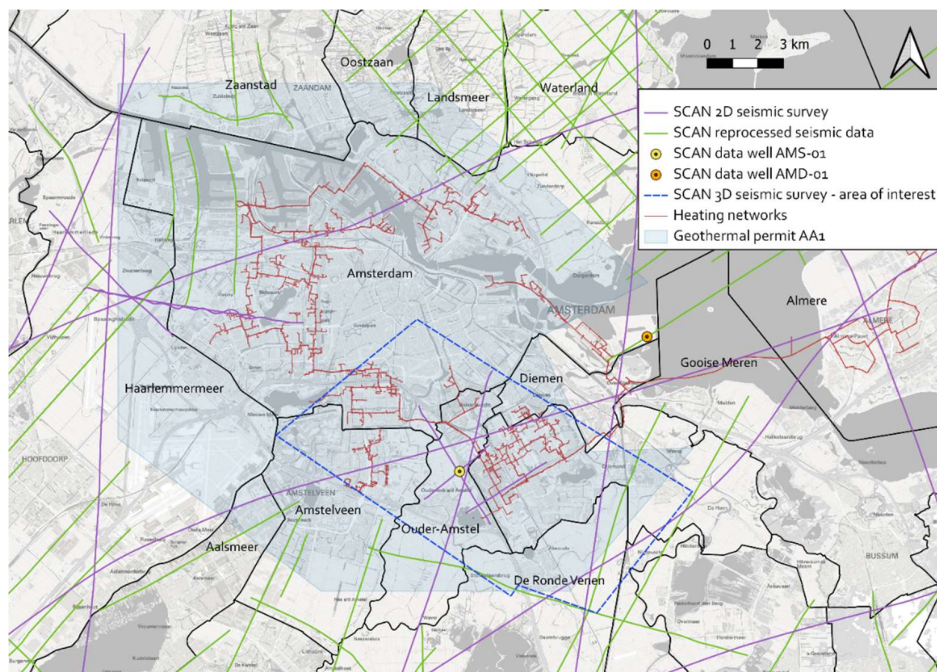


Figure 4: Recent SCAN research in the Amsterdam region, heating networks and the geothermal permit AA1.

### Research: 2019 / 2022

Between 2019 and 2022, SCAN conducted a national seismic campaign during which new 2D seismic data was collected and existing data was reprocessed. As part of this campaign, four regional 2D seismic lines, were recorded in the Amsterdam region (see figure 4).

Commissioned by the provinces of North Holland and Flevoland, and EBN, IF Technology assessed the geothermal potential in these regions using SCAN seismic data and available well data. The resulting report is publicly available: [Potentieonderzoek aardwarmte Noord-Holland & Flevoland - EBN](#). The study concluded that:

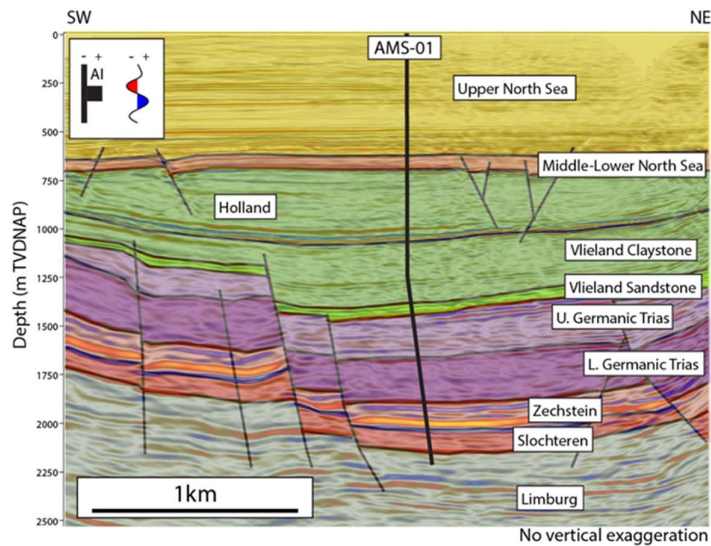
- The subsurface of North Holland and Flevoland contains three distinct reservoir intervals that may be suitable for geothermal energy: the Permian Slochteren Formation Sandstone, Early Cretaceous Rijnland/Schieland Group sandstone and the Eocene Brussels Sand Member in the northeast of the study area.
- For the Amsterdam region specifically, the study concluded that the geology is complex and that data density is relatively low, which increased the uncertainty in the subsurface assessment. Estimates for the geothermal potential of the Slochteren Formation were modest, while suitable reservoir sandstones from the Rijnland-Schieland Group might be present. However, data was insufficient to confirm its occurrence or geothermal potential. Additional data acquisition would significantly reduce these uncertainties.

### Research 2023

In 2023, SCAN drilled the data acquisition well 'Amstelland-01' (AMS-01) in the municipality of Ouder-Amstel (see figure 5). The primary objective of the AMS-01 well was to prove reservoir presence and determine the reservoir properties of the Slochteren Formation, in the 'Zandvoort Hoog' structural domain.

- The results of the Slochteren Formation (Rotliegend Group) are promising (see [SCAN – locatie Ouder Amstel](#)): the subsurface data shows a more than 110 meters thick aeolian sandstone with an average effective permeability of 120 mD. The temperature of the formation water is approximately 82°C. The formation is located at a depth of approximately 2.100 meters.
- The Vlieland Sandstone Formation of the Rijnland Group (at a depth of approximately 1400 m) and Krijtkalk Group carbonates (at a depth of approximately 700 m) were also investigated. However, neither of these formations is deemed suitable for geothermal purposes. Only a very thin Krijtkalk Group was present, while the Rijnland Group was insufficiently permeable.
- More detailed results and data from the AMS-01 data-acquisition well can be found here: [SCAN – locatie Ouder Amstel](#), [SCAN – workshop boring AMS01](#) and here: [nlog – Mapviewer – Well Amstelland-01](#)





*Figure 5: The drilling trajectory and stratigraphy encountered by the AMS-01 data-acquisition well. The Slochteren Formation and Vlieland Sandstone Formation are indicated.*

### Research 2025

In September 2025, SCAN started with the acquisition of a large-scale 3D seismic survey in the Amsterdam region. Building on insights from the AMS-01 data-acquisition well, this survey aims to refine the assessment of geothermal potential in the Slochteren Formation and provide a foundation for planning future geothermal wells. More information on the seismic survey can be found here: [SCAN – seismisch onderzoek metropoolregio Amsterdam](#).

- The survey took place in parts of nine municipalities: Amstelveen, Amsterdam, Diemen, Ouder-Amstel, De Ronde Venen, Wijdmeren, Stichtse Vecht, Gooise Meren and Haarlemmermeer (see figure 4).
- The partners EBN, Vattenfall, and the Municipality of Amsterdam are providing financial contributions to the survey, while the Province of Noord-Holland is supporting the initiative through a granted subsidy.
- The survey was successfully concluded in December 2025, and processed data are scheduled to become available during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2026.

In September 2025, SCAN started drilling the ‘Amsterdam-01’ (ASD-01) data-acquisition well in the municipality of Amsterdam ([SCAN – updates](#)). The primary objective of the ASD-01 well was to determine the reservoir properties of the Slochteren Formation. Additionally, the presence and properties of reservoir sandstones within the Breda Formation were investigated. Unlike AMS-01, this data-acquisition well is located in the ‘Central Netherlands Bekken’ domain, and the collected data will primarily improve understanding of geothermal potential in the northern and eastern parts of the region (figure 3).

- Preliminary results indicate that the Slochteren Formation is 152 meter thick. The reservoir transmissivity is estimated at 6.0-6.5 Dm, corresponding to an average effective permeability of approximately 40-45 mD. The temperature of the produced water was

measured at 66°C. The formation is located at a depth of approximately 1800 meters. Potential reservoirs sands were also encountered in the Breda Formation.

- More detailed results and data from the ASD-01 data-acquisition well can be found here: [Onderzoeksbooring op Strandeiland Amsterdam - SCAN aardwarmte](#) and here: [nlog – Mapviewer – Well Amstelland-01](#).

## 2.4 Future seismic research plans

Together with SCAN, the current partners are preparing to conduct a 2D seismic survey in the western part of Amsterdam in 2026. The objective is to improve understanding of the westward extension of the Slochteren Formation and to develop a clearer picture of the geothermal potential in this subarea for future developments (primarily for the heating network of Westpoort Warmte, see the next chapter).

# 3 District heating grids and geothermal heat

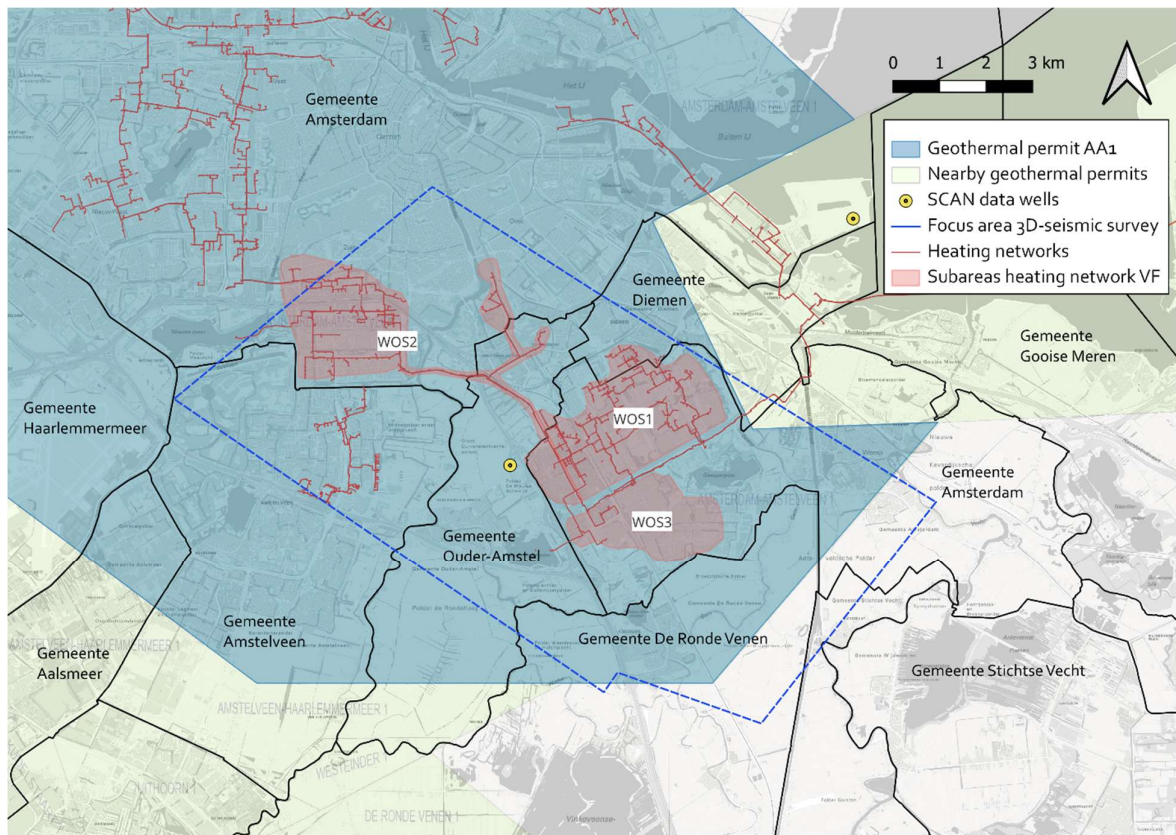
## 3.1 Current heating networks in the Amsterdam region

In the Amsterdam region, there are two main district heating networks that supply heat to homes and other buildings: the Westpoort Warmte heating network and the Diemen-Almere heating network (see Figure 6).

The Diemen-Almere heating network of Vattenfall Warmte N.V. (Vattenfall Heat) supplies heat to approximately 140,000 housing equivalents in parts of Amsterdam, Almere and a small part of Ouder-Amstel and Diemen. The heat demand throughout the year is currently largely met with extraction heat from the combined heat-and-power plant (CHP) in Diemen. The grid faces an urgent need to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reliance on gas-fired CHPs, requiring multiple new renewable heat sources, while ensuring affordability and long-term security of supply to deliver reliable heating for customers. Vattenfall is working on various projects and earlier stage developments to fulfil this need. The primary sources foreseen for baseload heat demand are residual heat from datacentres and geothermal energy. The first heat sources need to come online as soon as possible.

Vattenfall and the municipality of Amsterdam are joint shareholders of the district heating company Westpoort Warmte (WPW), which supplies heat to approximately 50,000 housing equivalents in Amsterdam North, Nieuw-West, and the Sluisbuurt. Currently, the waste incineration plants of Afval Energie Bedrijf (AEB) are the primary sources for this heating network. Geothermal heat is part of the future heat source strategy for WPW.





*Figure 7: The district heating grid in the Amstelland region in relation to the geological and seismic research conducted.*

The graphs below show the expected heat demand in 2030 throughout the year (in blue) as well as the expected heat demand duration curve in 2030 (in orange), that depicts the number of hours per year that a certain heat demand exists. Figure 8 shows this for the entire Diemen-Almere heating network and Figure 9 shows this for the specific sub-region “Amstelland”. These graphs provide a perspective on the potential for the utilization of baseload green heat sources.



### Diemen+Almere 2030 - heat profile and duration curve

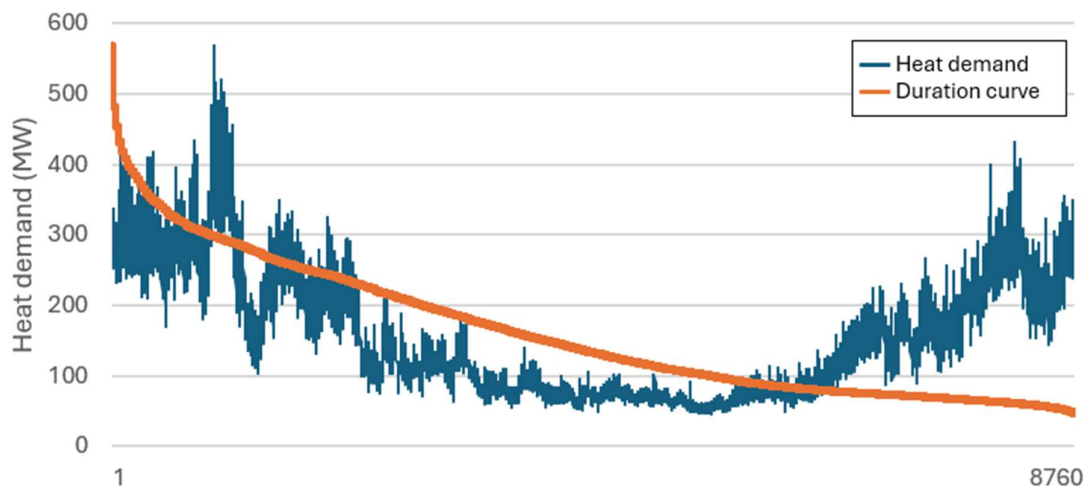


Figure 8: The expected heat demand and duration curve in 2030 for the entire Diemen-Almere heating network. \*

### Amstelland 2030 - heat profile and duration curve

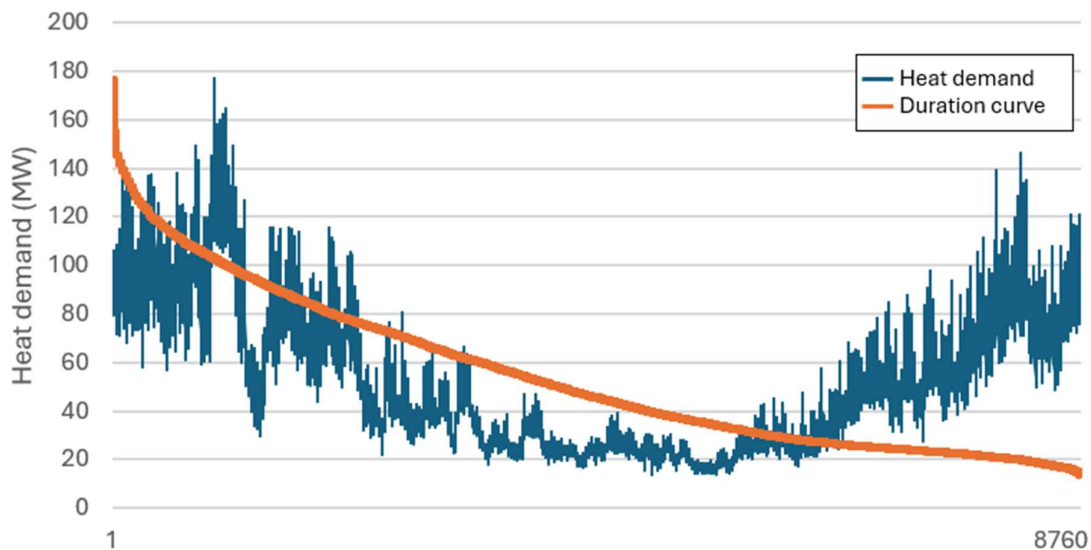


Figure 9: The expected heat demand and duration curve in 2030 for the 'Amstelland' subregion, including WOS 1 & 2. WOS 3 is not included in this graph, due to its limited heat offtake. \*

\* These graphs show the heat profile without potential growth in existing build.



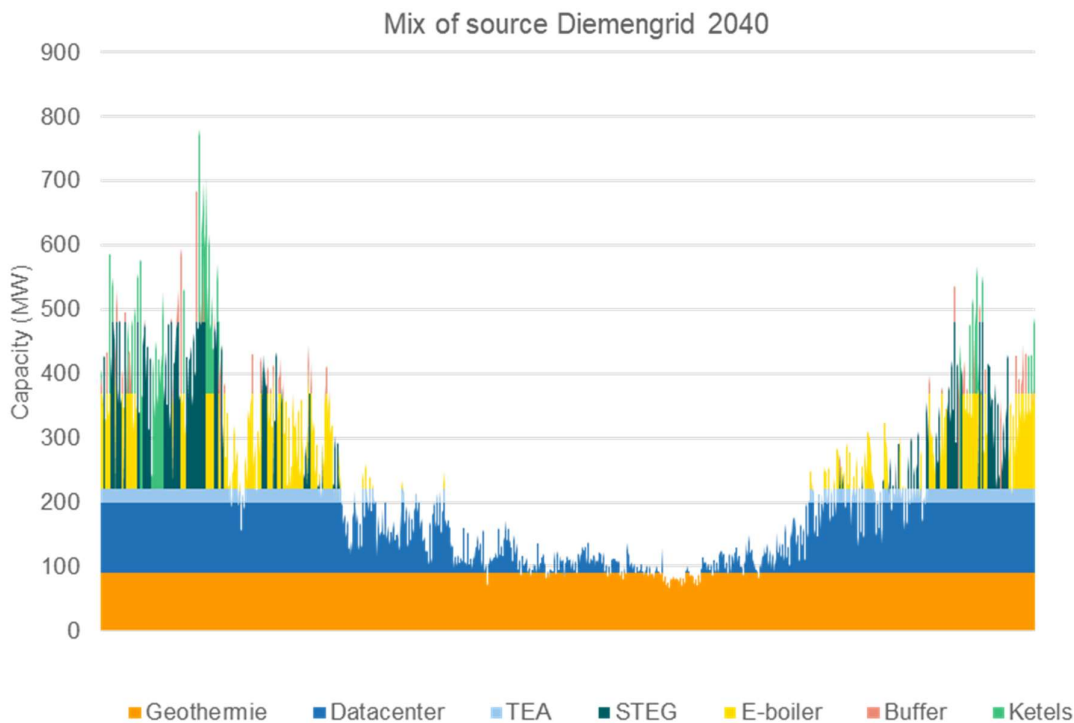


Figure 10: The intended mix of heat sources of the Diemengrid in 2040, where geothermal provides baseload capacity.

Geothermal will serve as a baseload in the intended future mix of heat sources (see Figure 10). Baseload is considered as at least 6.000 full load equivalent operating hours as per existing subsidy regime (SDE++). In order to meet the heat demand, Vattenfall Warmte N.V. intends to procure geothermal heat throughout the year (outside any maintenance period), through a long-term heat supply agreement (HSA), see the *Termsheet HSA Geothermal* document.

A first 30MW geothermal baseload can be connected to a single sub-network of the Diemen-Almere heating grid. Such a large capacity of heat can only be supplied to the grid by tying into the main transmission pipelines.

### 3.4 Temperatures in the heat grid & the need for high temperature heat pumps

The existing network operates at a supply temperature range of approximately 85–120°C, and return temperatures in the range of 52 - 57 °C, depending on the heat demand, which means the geothermal source will need to be supplemented with a high-temperature heat pump to meet supply temperatures. The heat pumps will also serve to extract heat from the geosource beyond the return temperature of the heating grid; i.e. further cooling down the return of the geosource. Vattenfall intends to develop these heat pumps in parallel with the geothermal project, in close collaboration with the operator, ensuring technical and operational compatibility. Concept choices and operational details will be further investigated in the partnership as part of the concept selection and detailed design workstreams.

### 3.5 Geothermal growth after the initial 30MW

From a Vattenfall perspective, the focus of geothermal development is to meet both (anticipated) legal sustainability targets as well as Vattenfall committed Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) targets and net-zero goal for 2040, and to secure the affordability and security of the heat supply to the customers of the current district heating grid with some growth in new build.

An additional 30 MW could be developed in the Amstelland region, contingent on the realization of specific interconnections between sub-networks and the feasibility of tie-in options. These options are subject to spatial constraints both above and below ground with tie-ins to be planned along the main transmission pipelines. This would bring the total geothermal baseload capacity in Amstelland to about 60 MW, which would be complemented by residual heat from datacenters. This additional capacity in the Amstelland region also depends on cost competitiveness with other sustainable (baseload) sources, primarily residual heat from datacentres.

Should geothermal prove unfeasible in the Almere region, capacity in the Amstelland region could potentially supply the Almere region as well. This would require extensive heating grid modifications which have not yet been investigated.

As a result of the uncertainty around the future ownership (see section 4.2: Collective Heat Act) Vattenfall is evaluating the ownership of its district heating business. Vattenfall's heat demand projections (Figures 8 & 9) currently do not include large-scale area developments of existing buildings, the inclusion of which would significantly increase the heat demand in the Diemen-Almere grid.

From another perspective, particularly that of the municipality of Amsterdam and EBN, the ambitions regarding district heating as a cornerstone of the energy transition are substantial. Further details on this are provided in the next section.

### 3.6 Heat transition ambitions Amsterdam

In 2020 the city council of Amsterdam approved the "Transitievisie Warmte". This plan outlined the first steps to make buildings in the city free of natural gas. Every five years this plan will be updated to incorporate new insights. The next update is called the "Warmteprogramma (Heat Program)". The Heat Program outlines in which neighbourhoods and when the municipality plans to take action, how this will be organized together with residents, and which sustainable alternatives to natural gas are best suited for different neighbourhoods and homes. These alternatives can range from collective (heat network) solutions to fully electric systems.

Legally, the decarbonization of the heating networks is the responsibility of the heating companies. The Collective Heat Act ([Wcw](#)) includes legally binding CO<sub>2</sub> intensity targets for the heat delivered to customers until 2035, which decline year by year, and states that heat networks must be climate-neutral by 2050. Which means that the supply of heat must not result in any net greenhouse gas emissions. Amsterdam aims to accelerate the sustainability of

(existing) heat networks and is involved in this process in various roles. For the ‘Almere-Diemen’ heating district (also referred to as: “Diemenwarmtenet”), the municipality of Amsterdam signed the cooperation agreement “Verduurzaming Diemenwarmtenet”, together with the Municipalities of Almere, Diemen, Ouder-Amstel, Amstelveen, the provinces of North-Holland and Flevoland and Vattenfall. This agreement includes a heat source mix up to 2040, with geothermal energy playing a key role in the baseload, in line with figure 10 above. In the case of Westpoort Warmte, Amsterdam is steering towards the goal of a fully CO<sub>2</sub> free heat supply by 2040 as a co-shareholder.

## 4 Geothermal energy development in the Netherlands

### 4.1 Geothermal production in the Netherlands

Each year TNO publishes a report on the growth of geothermal energy and its challenges (for 2024: [TNO – newsroom – Growth geothermal energy](#)) and the full report: [Aardwarmte in Nederland](#) (in Dutch).

For the purpose of this memorandum, some key items are outlined below.

### 4.2 Relevant legislation

#### Mining legislation in the Netherlands (Mijnbouwwet)

In the Netherlands, geothermal energy falls under mining legislation. The Ministry of Climate and Green Growth grants the permits required for mining activities. For geothermal energy this includes all activities deeper than 500 meters. The complete legal text can be found here: [wetten.nl - Regeling - Mijnbouwwet - BWBR0014168](#) (in Dutch). It is specified that EBN and the holder of a Toewijzing Zoekgebied Aardarmte must conclude an agreement aimed at EBN's participation in the proposed activities for the exploration and extraction of geothermal energy.

#### Environment and Planning Act (Omgevingswet)

The Environment and Planning Act applies to the above-ground aspects of the geothermal installation. These include:

- the extraction site,
- the buildings,
- the surroundings of the extraction location.

The Environment and Planning Act covers aspects such as construction requirements, environmental impacts, and spatial integration. Before seismic research or drilling a well begins, the operator must obtain all relevant permits.

### Collective Heat Act (Wet Collectieve Warmte)

The Dutch House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer) approved the draft Collective Heat Act (Wcw) on July 3, 2025. The Dutch Senate (Eerste Kamer) passed the Collective Heat Act on December 9, 2025. The anticipated effective date is 1 January 2027.

The Collective Heat Act replaces the current Heat Act (Warmtewet). The Collective Heat Act aims to promote and safeguard the transition to collective heat systems (such as district heating).

The main objectives of the Collective Heat Act are to ensure sustainable and reliable heat supply and to better protect consumers from high energy costs.

One of the aspects of the Collective Heat Act is that it mandates that designated heat companies must be more than 50% owned by public entities. This does not apply to heat sources.

## **4.3 Typical challenges with respect to the development of geothermal energy in The Netherlands**

The partners are aware that there are several challenges with respect to geothermal development that the project has limited influence over, which could negatively impact the timeline and consequently the business case. It is therefore important to remain aware of these challenges, include scenarios in project plans and closely monitor any developments with respect to these challenges. A few of these key challenges are mentioned below.

### Grid congestion (netcongestie)

In the Amsterdam region (and much of the Netherlands) the electricity grid is experiencing significant congestion, as shown by the [capacity maps](#) of the regional (Liander) and national (Tennet) transmission system operators. It is therefore expected that without further action there will not be electricity supply available before 2031 for new large-scale developments such as geothermal energy. Electricity is essential for constructing the production site and facilities, powering the ESPs in the wells, and operating the industrial heatpump that raises the temperature of the produced water from approximately 80 °C to 90 – 120 °C for supply into the heating grid. The cooperation aims to engage with Liander as soon as a more concrete view of potential suitable surface locations becomes available, to explore possibilities around timely securing an electricity supply.

### Sustainable Energy Production and Climate Transition Incentive Scheme (SDE++, Stimulerend Duurzame Energieproductie en Klimaattransitie)

The SDE++ is a Dutch government program that stimulates the production of renewable energy and technologies that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (see: [Stimulation of sustainable energy production and climate transition \(SDE++\) | RVO.nl](#)). It does this by compensating the “unprofitable component” of sustainable projects, making them financially viable compared to fossil fuel-based energy production.

The SDE++ is an operating subsidy, meaning it is granted for assets during their operational phase and depends on actual energy output. For most geothermal projects, this support is essential to establish a viable business case.

The SDE++ scheme is organized into funding categories aligned with asset types and technologies, each with specific subsidy levels, based on their potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions cost-effectively. The scheme currently includes a category for geothermal energy combined with high temperature heat pumps, which is the category applicable to the geothermal developments foreseen for the Amsterdam heating grids.

The challenge is that SDE subsidy is granted through a competitive process, so obtaining the subsidy is in part dependent on the amount and nature of other applications as well as on the available annual budget which changes from year to year.

The [SDE projecten Dashboard](#) shows all geothermal projects in the Netherlands supported by the SDE from 2012 till present.

Nitrogen problem Due to excessive nitrogen deposition in the Netherlands, authorities rarely grant environmental permits for activities that increase nitrogen emissions above certain thresholds. Consequently, industrial and construction projects face a challenge in minimizing nitrogen emissions during both construction and operational phases, e.g. by utilizing electrical equipment during construction, to assure that additional nitrogen deposition on protected areas is kept below the threshold. For more information, see [Nitrogen | RIVM](#).