

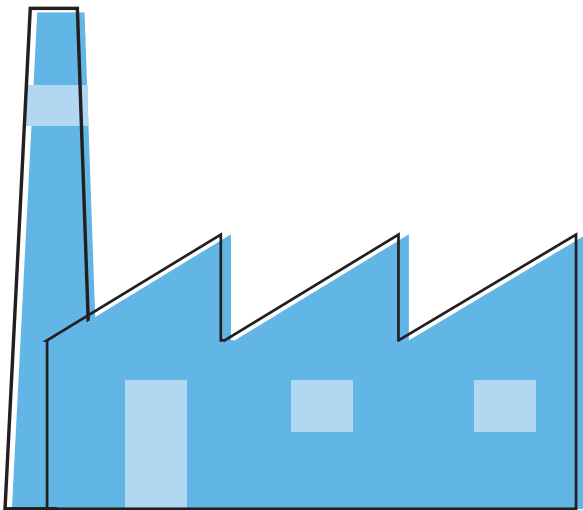
Kempen 2020

Working together to tap geothermal energy in the Kempen region

A Covenant of Mayors 2015 Case Study

Kempen 2020 in a nutshell

Kempen2020 is a regional initiative aiming at implementing the objective of 20% emission reduction in the 29 municipalities of the Kempen region. It is currently getting involved in a pioneering project on deep geothermal energy that would allow to reduce drastically local CO₂ emissions if implemented at a large scale.



Background

The 29 municipalities represented in the Kempen 2020 initiative are all signatories of the Covenant of Mayors. They represent a total of 514,893 inhabitants. Their CO₂ reduction target is set at minus 20% in 2020 compared to 2011 levels. The local partnership of Kempen 2020 is coordinated by IOK, the Intermunicipal Development for Kempen (Intercommunale Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij voor de Kempen) and involves the Flemish Institute for technological research (VITO), grid operators and the Province of Antwerp.

Kempen 2020 activities

Kempen 2020 implements a wide range of actions to support the 29 municipalities in reducing their emissions and enhancing citizen's participation in sustainable energy actions. For example, they inform citizens about fundings available for energy-saving renovation works and available technologies such as heat pumps, solar water heaters, ventilation, insulation, etc. They also organize collective purchasing for house insulation materials.

The deep geothermal project kick-off

The Kempen area, in the east of the province of Antwerp, was identified as a very attractive area to tap deep geothermal energy. A pioneering project was kicked off in 2014 to search underground for sustainable ways of heating Flemish homes and businesses.

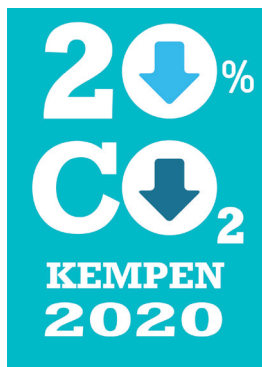
The first drilling is currently taking place in the Kempen region. A gigantic rig is gradually drilling up to about 4 kilometers under the soil. The result of this exploratory drilling will be available in 2016. If the previsions are correct, hot water will be found at a depth of about 3.5 km, at a temperature of more than 120 degree Celsius. According to the project manager, this would allow to convert the heat into electricity. A second drilling is planned next year. The objective is first to provide energy to heat the headquarters of the research centre by 2017 and to spread progressively this approach to supply energy to the whole region by 2050.

A co-managed project

The project is executed by IOK, the Flemish Institute for technological research (VITO) and the Flanders' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VOKA). IOK takes care of the increase of the support among citizens and authorities involved, while VITO provides the technological research and VOKA liaises with businesses in the region.

An economic boost for the Kempen area

The exploratory drilling project, costing €7 million, is funded by VITO and the government of Flanders, which contributed €2 million. The construction of about 100 power plants is expected to require an investment of about €6 billion and could directly create about 2,000 new jobs.

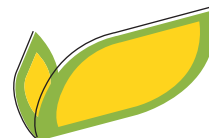


“This technique is a key action in the action plan for the Kempen and a potential new economic boost for the region.”

Tinne Rombouts, Mayor of Hoogstraten, one of the 29 municipalities of the Kempen area

For more information on the Kempen 2020 project, please contact:
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Project numbers

Project start: **2014 - ongoing**

€7 million invested into first drilling

100 power plants to be built

€6 billion to be invested into the plants

2000 new jobs to be created

What is deep geothermal energy?

Geothermal energy is stored underground and originates from the formation of the planet, the decay of materials in the Earth's crust or the friction from tectonic plates. If it is deeper than 500 metres below the soil, it's known as deep geothermal energy.

