Feel the energy of the Andes

What is Chile's geothermal potential?

Chile is thought to be one of the of the world's largest, untapped geothermal nations. The country knows so little about its geothermal resources for three reasons: geothermal exploration companies do not share their information; the number of geothermal researchers is small; and Chilean national investment in this matter remains very low.

CEGA is a public Chilean institution with complete access to information for 3 geothermal areas and almost complete access for another 6. Using these data, we have created the following diagram to estimate our nation's geothermal potential. As you can see in the triangle below, the true potential is much higher.

Symbols

- Production well
- Exploratory well
- Geological exploration
- Geophysical exploration
- Geochemistry

Type of public data available on each area

659 MWe

3 areas with full data

6 areas with almost full data

8 areas with little data

EQUIVALENT ENERGY TO MEET

2.215.017* home demands

equivalent to

47.5 %

home energy consumption in Chile

**with a 0.95 plant factor*

?

No informed exploration data available

57 areas with high geothermal potential

POTENTIAL

There are over 300 hot springs in Chile. These are surface expressions of underground geothermal systems.
We believe that at least 57 of these are worth exploring to learn their potential for electrical generation.

Did you know?

In 2017 Cerro Pabellón will start operating in Chile, becoming the first South American geothermal power plant. Its geothermal system has no surface manifestations. This motivates us to believe that there are many more geothermal reservoirs to discover and explore in the Chilean Andes than meet the eye.

GREAT GEOTHERMAL POTENTIAL

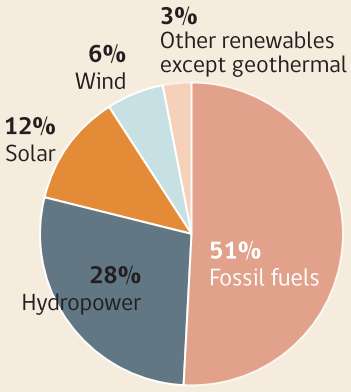
The potential of the **9 highlighted areas** is equivalent to **4% of our current electric** installed capacity in Chile, which presently has no geothermal input.

Chilean central grid installed capacity 4%

TOTAL **16.215 MW**

Potential input of geothermal energy for the 9 areas with full data 659 MW

CURRENT SCENARIO IN CHILE



Reference: Aravena, D., Muñoz, M., Morata, D., Lahsen, A., Parada, M. Á., & Dobson, P. (2016). Assessment of high enthalpy geothermal resources and promising areas of Chile. Geothermics, 59, 1-13.

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CEGA
CENTRO DE EXCELENCIA EN GEOTERMIA DE LOS ANDES

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