

Techno-Economic and Environmental Analysis of Energy Efficiency and Geothermal Cooling of Communication Company Offices and Data Centers

Jeff Tester and Max Zhang

In this project, you shall investigate the technical, environmental and economic performance of geothermal heat pumps used for cooling of large-scale data centers. Based on energy data from a large scale commercial data center, you shall propose the design of a geothermal heat pump system using industry standard methods to replace currently employed absorption chillers and/or vapor compression refrigeration machines. Specifically, the design includes sizing of heat pumps and boreholes, and estimating capital and operating costs and full life cycle cost. Also a comparison of the environmental impacts and benefits with current cooling systems should be made that includes tradeoffs in terms of energy consumption, costs, and CO₂ and other emissions.