# Leveraging Aquifers to Support Sustainable Energy Infrastructure





Ever-Green Energy leverages industry-leading expertise to study, develop, own, and operate resilient energy systems that integrate local, sustainable, and effective technology solutions





## The Changing Energy Industry

- Smarter buildings
- Smarter customers
- Technology advancements favoring decentralization
- Localization of energy sources
- Sustainability
  - Decarbonization
  - Reduced water consumption
- Low cost energy alternatives



Source: Black & Veatch



## Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage (ATES)

- Aquifer technology has existed for ~25 years
- Well-established in the Netherlands over 2,500 projects
- Optimal in climates with cold winters and hot summers
- Requires low groundwater velocity
- No groundwater consumed
  - Balanced injection and withdrawal rates
- Heat stored in the aquifer in the summer
- Heat extracted from the aquifer in the winter



An aquifer is a geological formation that stores groundwater – it looks much like a huge thermos!

Courtesy Swedavia Energy AB



#### ATES – How it Works

#### Summer Cooling

Winter Heating



### Ford Site Redevelopment (St. Paul)

- 135 acre site
- Roughly 5 million square feet of commercial, retail, and residential
- Net-zero carbon goals
- Coordinated discussions between City, land owner, developer, and local utilities





### Proposed District Energy System

- ~5,000 GPM aggregate flow
- Heating and cooling site buildings
- Fresh water district energy loop serves the buildings
- Focus on commercial and multi-family residential
- Potential of adding single-family homes
- Phased approach to coincide with site development
- Sets the foundation for net-zero carbon development



#### **Financial Benefits**

- Third-party financed 100% debt financing
- Equivalent first-installed costs for developers
- Lower life-cycle costs for building owners
  - Reduced maintenance
  - Reduced labor costs
  - Smaller building footprint
  - Simpler mechanical systems
- Lower tenant energy costs



#### **Environmental Benefits**

#### Xcel Current Profile - 881 lbs CO2/MWh

Scenario	EUI Basis	Tons of CO2	% Savings
Business as Usual	Code	9,261	270/
ATES	SB2030 - 80%	5,852	5770

#### Xcel 2030 Profile - 521 lbs CO2/MWh

Scenario	EUI Basis	Tons of CO2	% Savings
Business as Usual	Code	8,543	59%
ATES	SB2030 - 80%	3,461	



#### **Broader Site Energy Initiatives**

- Solar PV
- Electric vehicles
- Enhanced building design
- District energy & strategic electrification
- Zero energy homes
- Smart metering
- Monitoring, reporting, and recommissioning
- Energy integration plan
- Battery storage
- Microgrid opportunities



Image Courtesy of University of Minnesota Center for Sustainable Building Research



#### **Next Steps**

- Test wells
- Site design standards
- Detailed engineering
- Permitting
- Energy service agreements
- District energy business development
- Outreach & engagement





# Thank You

#### Michael Ahern SVP, System Development michael.ahern@ever-greenenergy.com

