**Energy supply in Iceland**

66% from geothermal (Underground reservoirs of steam and hot water can be tapped to generate electricity or to heat and cool buildings directly) and 15% from HEP- the rest comes from fossil fuels but these need to be used for cars etc

Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, has the largest district heating system across the globe, and 90 percent of all households in Iceland are connected to a district heating system. District heating is pipes under Reykjavik to heat homes, water and melt snow.

**Advantages**

Clean/ non polluting

Once set up- It’s also relatively inexpensive; savings from direct use can be as much as 80 percent over fossil fuels.

Creates an energy surplus- e is a proposal to construct a 600-mile power line between Iceland and the United Kingdom to export Iceland's abundant geothermal power. If countries like Iceland are able to successful export their supply of renewable energy to other regions throughout the world, then geothermal energy might prove to be a giant step toward mitigating global climate change.

geothermal energy can be generated consistently throughout the 24-hour day

**Disadvantages**

Expensive to set up power stations- Require high investments in machinery. Hellisheidi Power Station decided last October that a number of turbines will be added, along with 90MW – these amounts to $197 million. Construction of a plant & well drilling costs ~ €2-5 million per generated MW of electricity.

Power stations ugly

Confined to certain geographical locations

release of hydrogen sulfide, a gas that smells like rotten egg at low concentrations. Another concern is the disposal of some geothermal fluids, which may contain low levels of toxic materials.

If not done with adequate care enhanced geothermal systems can trigger earthquakes, thus severely affecting land stability & putting nearby areas at risk – potential threat to settlements.