

Solving global challenges needs subsurface knowledge

Prof. Dr. Christoph Hilgers, ThinkTank Industrial Resources Strategies at KIT

The energy transition is a raw material transition. Supply chains will be provided by fewer *and* different countries while global demand of energy will continue to rise. Recycling cannot fully cover demand of an increasing global population with increasing welfare, nor the volumes for raw material-intense renewable energy plants.

The subsurface offers geothermal energy, storage space for fluctuating green energy, hydrogen from natural gas (and solid carbon) and eventually natural occurrences of hydrogen, which will or may play an important role to cover and manage energy demand.

Considering volumes of future energy, storage and raw materials, innovative and eventually disruptive methods and technologies are required to ensure resilient supply. The energy transition can only become a success story with subsurface knowledge.