



## Science Buzz Cafe # 563

Monday 6 PM • February 23rd, 2026

### The HopMonk 'Abbey'

230 Petaluma Ave. Sebastopol, CA

Host, Daniel Osmer ([daniel@economicbuzzcafe.com](mailto:daniel@economicbuzzcafe.com))

6 PM • Come Early for Food & Drink • RSVP \$7 • DOOR \$10

## Advanced Geothermal Energy for California Science, Status and Challenges

### Woody Hastings, The Climate Center

**Geo means Earth, thermal means heat. The heat within the Earth is inexhaustible on human timescales, estimated to last for billions of years into the future.**

All indications are that advances in drilling technology, mostly developed for or by the oil and gas industry, have placed geothermal energy (the kind that generates electricity) on the cusp of major new opportunities. Historically limited to geographic locations where hot rock and water are relatively near the surface, the new drilling and subsurface engineering techniques open the possibility of tapping the heat beneath our feet just about anywhere on Earth to generate 24/7/365 clean energy.

As California and the rest of the world phases out polluting fossil fuels, the question is often asked, especially by workers in the oil and gas industry, what are we going to phase in? Advanced Geothermal may well be a big part of the answer to that question. Join us to learn about this hot topic!

Woody Hastings' interest in geology stretches back to his youth in Pennsylvania and Illinois when he was an avid rock and fossil collector. He was fortunate that his college biology teacher mother shared an office with a geologist who took Woody on several college geology field trips before high school. Geology, paleontology, and Earth Sciences in general have remained a lifelong passion.

Today, **Woody is the Phase Out Polluting Fuels Program Director** for The Climate Center, a statewide California policy nonprofit advocating climate and clean energy policy in Sacramento. He is an energy and environmental policy analyst, strategic planner, and community organizer with over thirty-five years of experience in the non-profit, governmental, and private sectors. Woody has been with The Climate Center since 2010 when he was hired to help lead the formation of Sonoma Clean Power, host of the GeoZone Project that will serve as a proving ground for innovative advanced geothermal technologies.

Woody received his bachelor's degree in environmental studies from San Francisco State University with an emphasis on sustainability and social justice. He is also a Fellow of the Leadership Institute for Just and Resilient Communities.