What is claimed is:

1. A well system comprising:

a wellbore that penetrates a subterranean formation; and

a downhole tool comprising a sealing element, wherein the sealing element comprises:

an elastomer matrix; and

a substance embedded within the elastomer matrix, wherein the substance expands at a phase change temperature , wherein the substance expands with a decrease in temperature at or below the phase change temperature, and wherein the substance is a metal-based substance consisting of pure metals or metal alloy selected from bismuth, gallium, antimony, tin, lead, cadmium. indium, thallium, mercury, potassium, or combinations thereof.

2. The well system according to Claim 1, wherein the downhole tool is selected from a sleeve, a valve, a sensor, an actuator, a telemetry tool, a pressure balancing seal, a packer assembly, a plug, or a liner hanger.

3. The well system according to Claims 1 or 2, wherein the sealing element creates a seal between components of the downhole tool, and wherein the sealing element is an 0-ring, gland seal, stack seal, or gasket.

4. The well system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sealing element creates a seal between an outside of a mandrel of the downhole tool and the inside of a wall of the wellbore or the inside of a tubing string, and wherein the downhole tool is a packer assembly, a liner hanger, or a plug.

5. The well system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the elastomer of the elastomer matrix is a non-reactive polymer, a degradable polymer, or a polymer that swells in the presence of a fluid.

6. The well system according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a second substance, and wherein the second substance expands with an increase in temperature at or above the phase change temperature.

7. The well system according to Claim 6, wherein the second substance is an organic-based substance.

8. The well system according to Claim 7, wherein the organic-based substance is selected from the group consisting of: a polymeric plastic; a thermoplastic comprising acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, polypropylene, nylon 6/6, acetal, polycarbonate, or polyester; a semi-crystalline organic-based substance; or a wax comprising paraffin or stearic acid.

9. The well system according to Claim 7, wherein the sealing element further comprises a second organic-based substance, wherein the second organic-based substance has a different phase change temperature than the organic-based substance.

10. The well system according to Claim 7, wherein the organic-based substance is in the form of particles, and wherein the particles are encapsulated in a shell.

11. The well system according to Claim 1, wherein the sealing element further comprises a second metal-based substance, wherein the second metal-based substance has a different phase change temperature than the metal-based substance.

12. The well system according to Claim 1, wherein the substance is selected such that the substance expands at least 1% in volume.

13. The well system according to Claim 1, wherein the substance is in the form of particles having a particle size in the range of 10 millimeters to 1,000 nanometers.

14. The well system according to Claim 13, wherein the particles are interspersed throughout the elastomer matrix.

15. A method of creating a seal within a wellbore comprising:

introducing a downhole tool into the wellbore, wherein the downhole tool comprises a sealing element, wherein the sealing element comprises:

an elastomer matrix; and

a substance embedded within the elastomer matrix, wherein the substance expands at a phase change temperature, wherein the substance expands with a decrease in temperature at or below the phase change temperature, and wherein the substance is a metal-based substance consisting of pure metals or metal alloy selected from

bismuth, gallium, antimony, tin, lead, cadmium, indium, thallium, mercury, potassium, or combinations thereof; and

causing or allowing the sealing element to create the seal within the wellbore.

16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein the sealing element further comprises a second metal-based substance, wherein the second metal-based substance has a different phase change temperature than the metal-based substance.

17. The method according to Claim 15 or 16, further comprising a second substance, and wherein the second substance expands with an increase in temperature at or above the phase change temperature.

18. A downhole tool comprising:

a mandrel; and

a sealing element located adjacent to the mandrel, wherein the sealing element comprises:

an elastomer matrix; and

a substance embedded within the elastomer matrix, wherein the substance expands at a phase change temperature, wherein the substance expands with a decrease in temperature at or below the phase change temperature, and wherein the substance is a metal-based substance consists of pure metals or metal alloy selected from bismuth, gallium, antimony, tin, lead, cadmium, indium, thallium, mercury, potassium, or combinations thereof.

19. The downhole tool according to Claim 18, wherein the sealing element further comprises a second metal-based substance, wherein the second metal-based substance has a different phase change temperature than the metal-based substance.

20. The downhole tool according to Claim 18 or 19, further comprising a second substance, and wherein the second substance expands with an increase in temperature at or above the phase change temperature.