

# Geothermal Heat Pump Economics: *How the Numbers Really Work*

Demystifying the Costs & Benefits of  
Geothermal Heating & Cooling Systems

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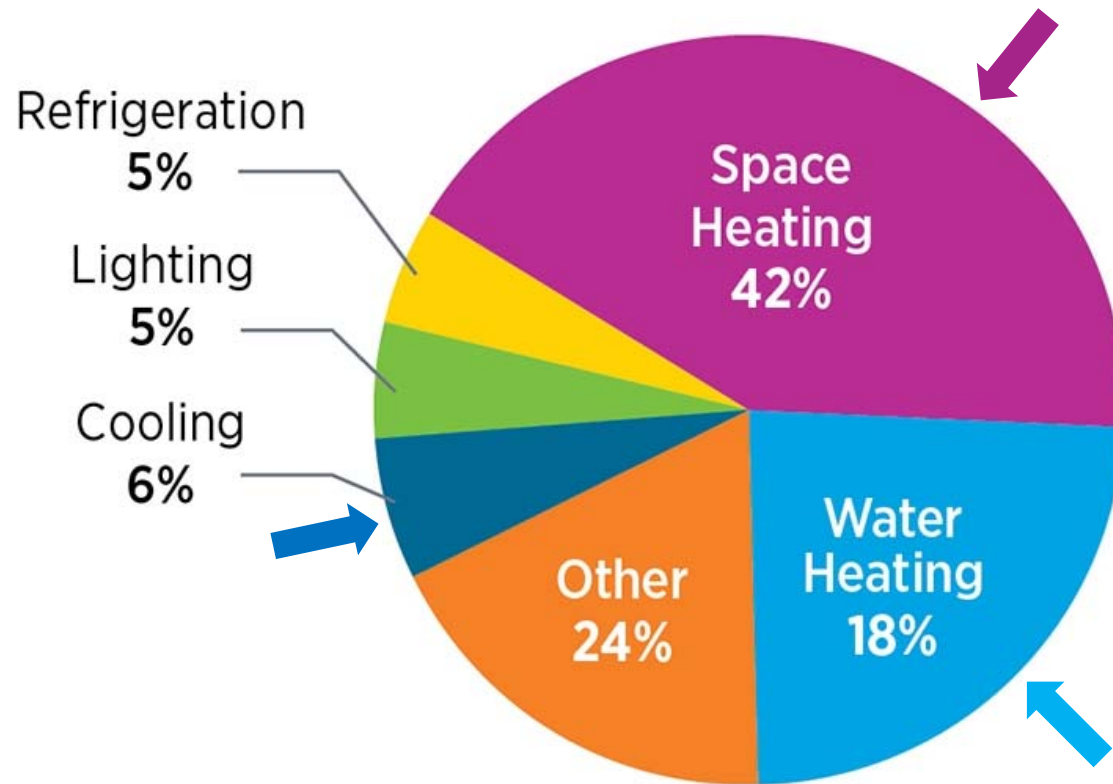
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# 1. The Geothermal Heat Pump Concept

The Simple Logic of a "Ground Source" Approach & Its Ultimate Benefit



How we use energy in our homes. Heating accounts for the biggest portion of your utility bills. Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, AEO2014.

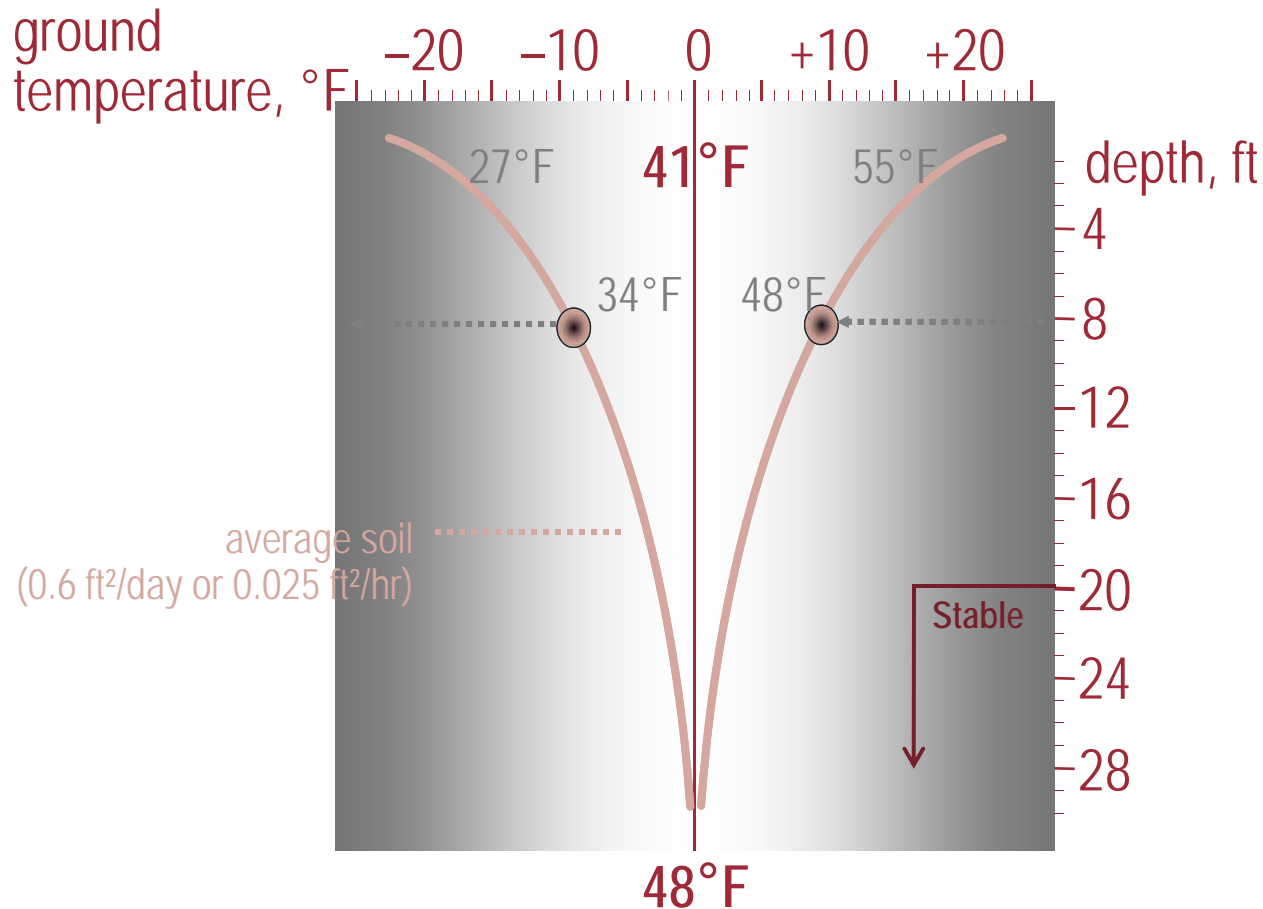
**Heating Remains #1 U.S. Home Energy Need!**



A *common air conditioner* is a simple Air-to-Air Heat Pump—exchanges 74°F indoor air with outdoor temperatures that fluctuate broadly and can often swing to over 100°F.



An *air source heat pump* adds Air-to-Air heating capability—it exchanges 70°F indoor air with outdoor temperatures that can swing well below 20°F (common ASHP operating range limit).



### DULUTH SOIL STATISTICS:

MEAN SURFACE TEMPERATURE 1 ft. = 41°F

ANNUAL SWING = 28°F

DAYS TO MINIMUM = 37

DEEP EARTH TEMPERATURE = 48°F

Where might we find temperatures nearby that are moderate and stable all year round?



**Heat pump technology logically goes...underground! (Video)**





**Heat pump technology logically goes...underground!**

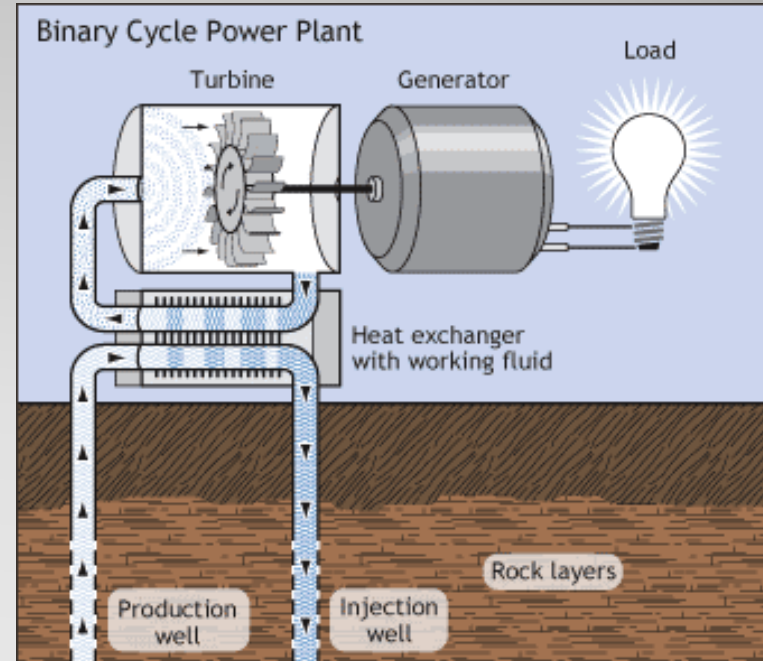


All GHP System Mechanical Equipment is Located Inside.

## Old Faithful Geyser



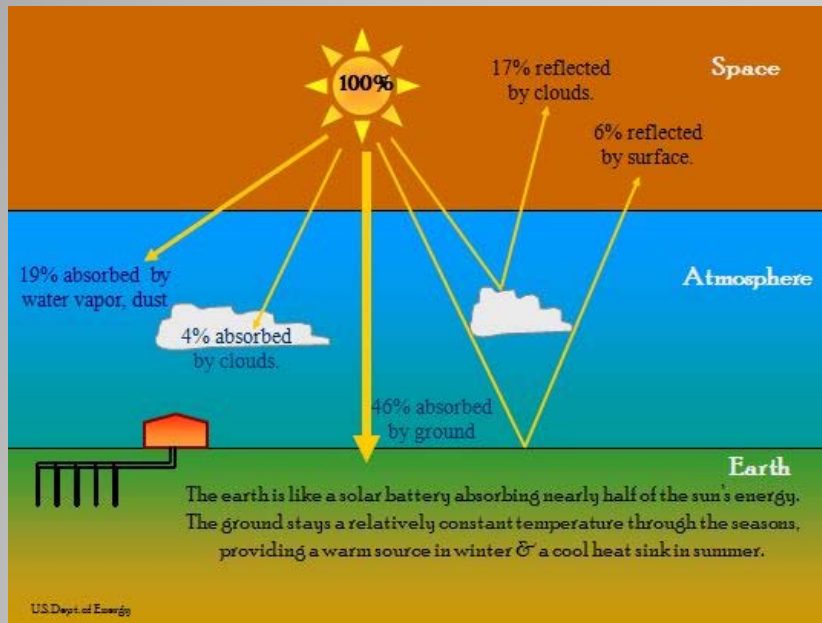
## "Hot Rocks" Power



High Grade Geothermal Energy

# "Solar" Geothermal

# GeoExchange Systems



# Low Grade Geothermal Energy

## Basic Concept: Geothermal Heating

*Lower* heat from the ground is "concentrated"



...into *higher* heat for distribution inside structure

...only a slight energy "penalty" to run the electric motors of a compressor, a couple small pumps and a blower.

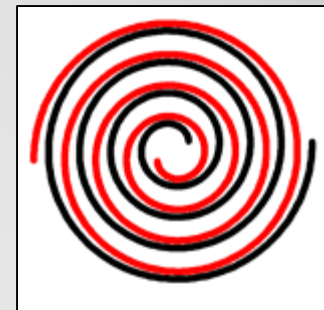


## Introducing: The Compressor

The Compressor is the GHP's **primary working unit** where gas is compressed, heated, and "pumped" to its heat exchange delivery point.

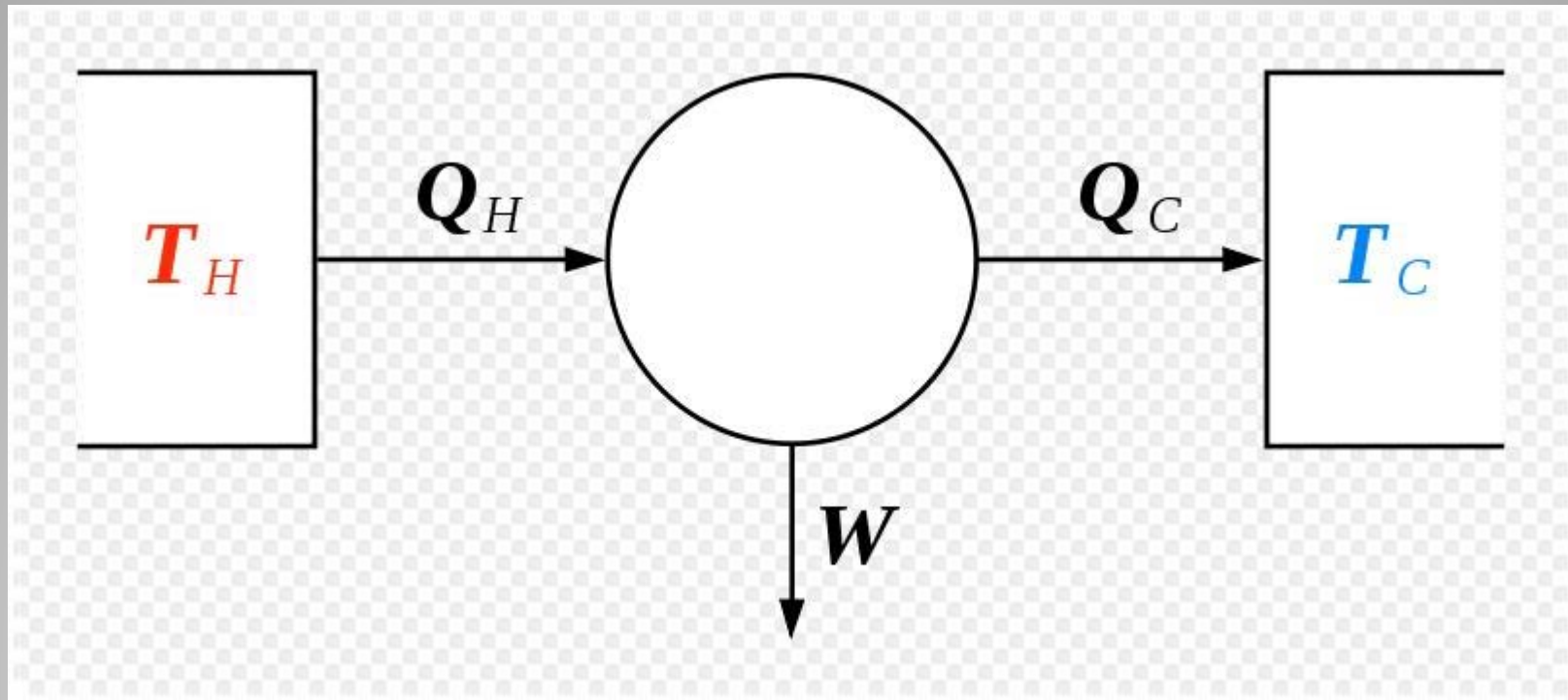
A **refrigerant** gas (with much better heat concentrating properties than air) is used.

SCROLL: TOP VIEW



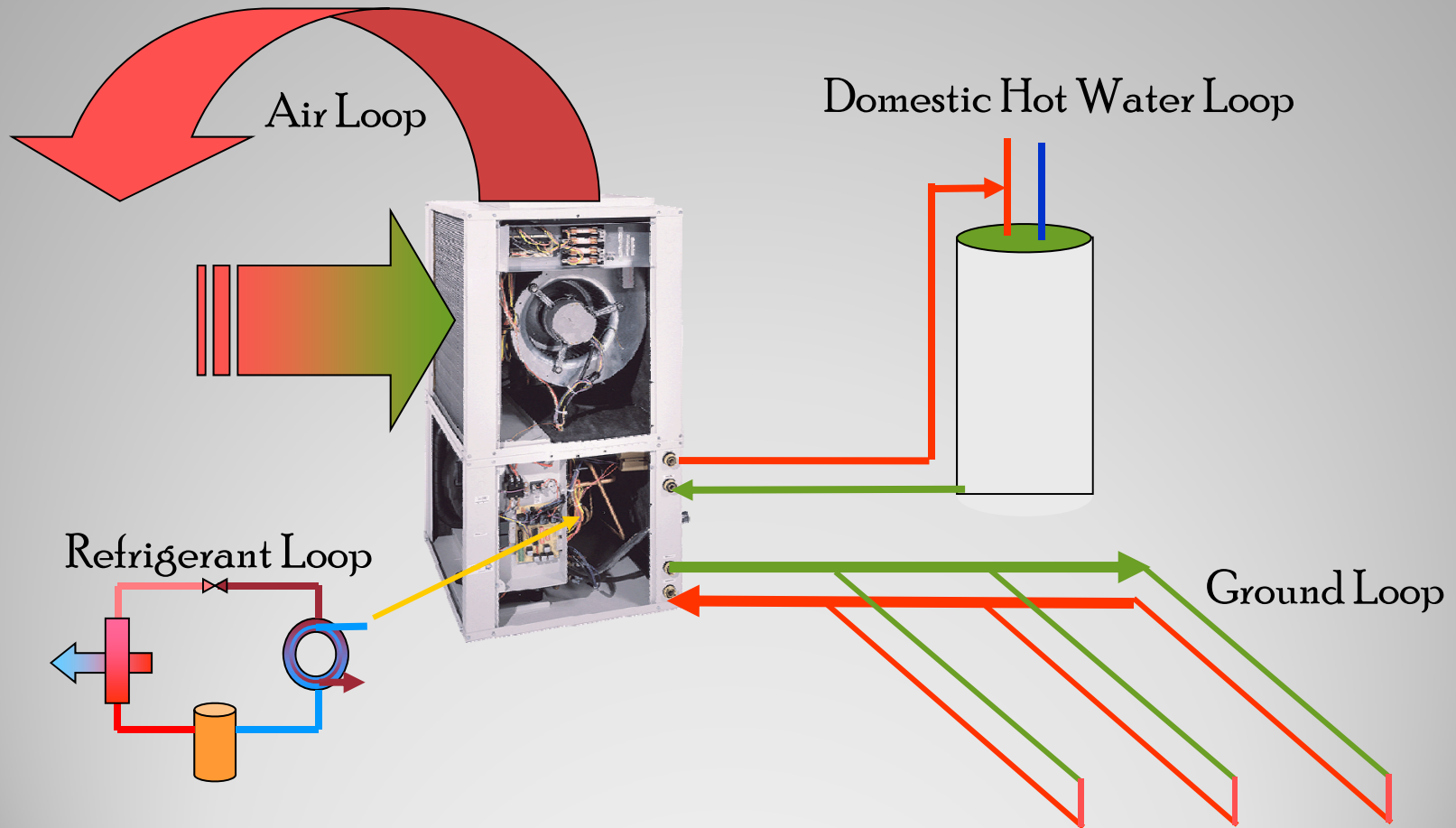
SCROLL  
COMPRESSOR

# Zeroth Law of Thermodynamics



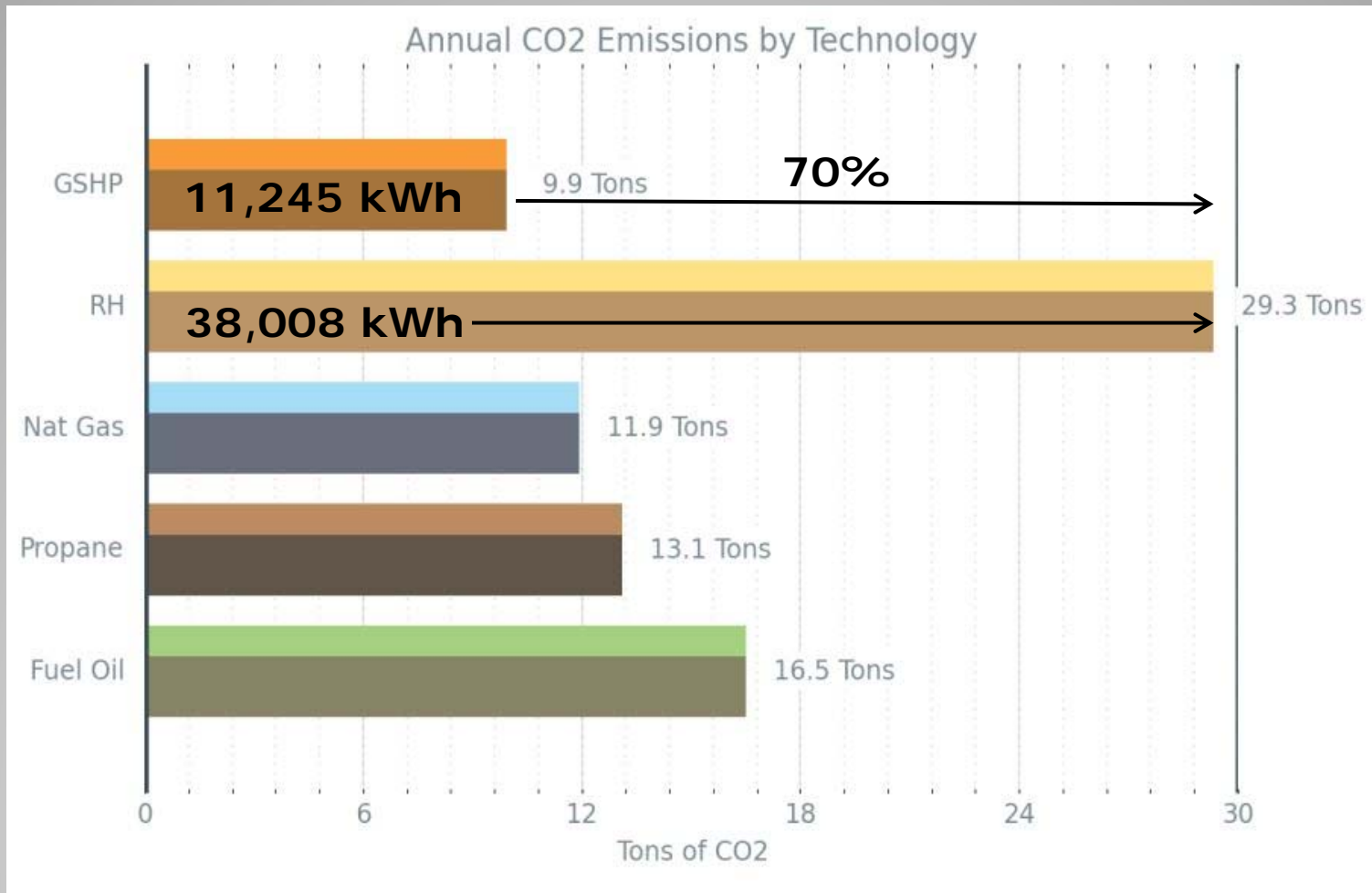
*WIKIPEDIA: When two systems...are brought in diathermic contact with each other they exchange heat to establish a thermal equilibrium between each other.*

**Heat moves to Cold...Always!**

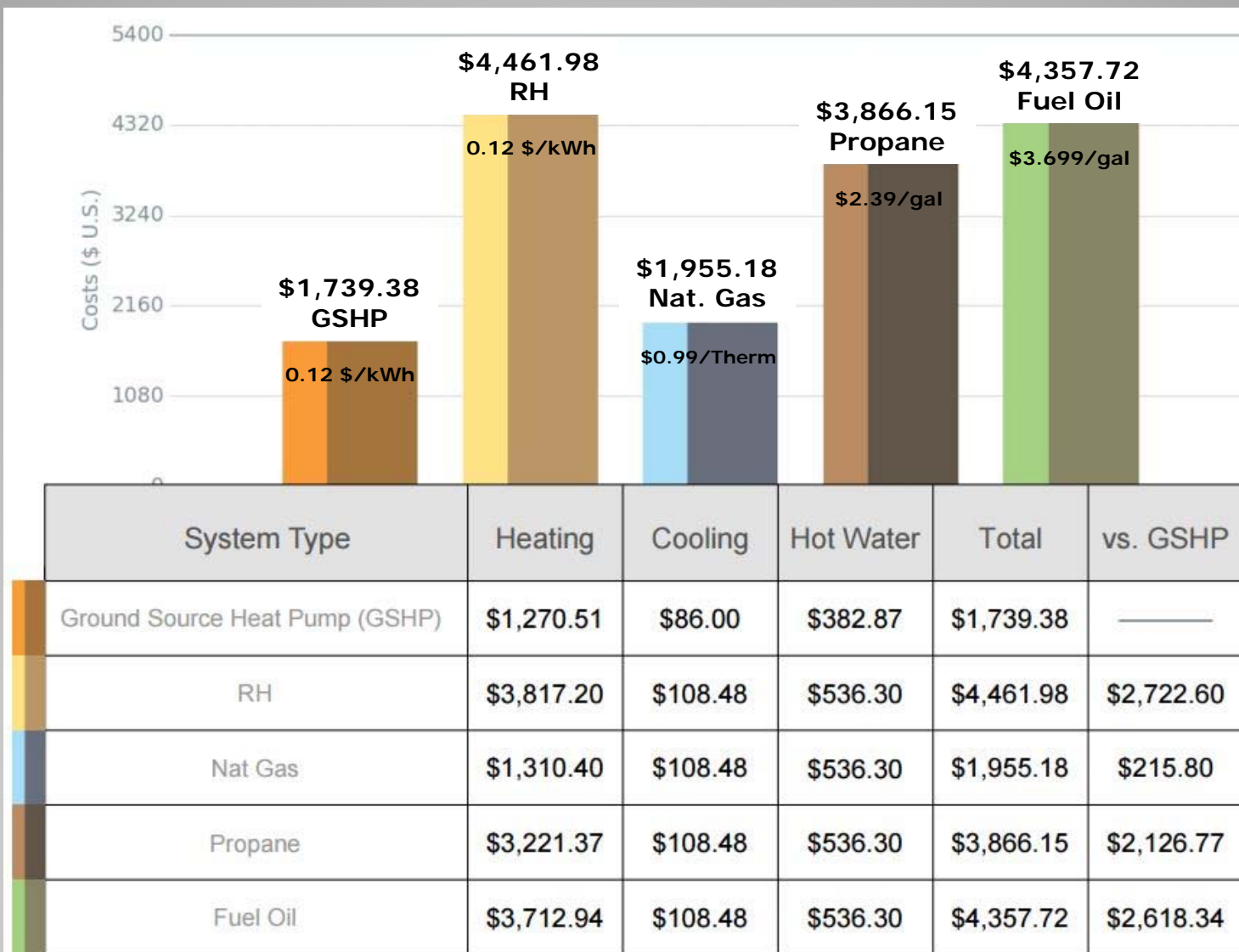


**Typical Forced Air GHP System**





**ULTIMATE BENEFIT: OVER 70% OF HEAT ENERGY IS FROM GROUND!**



**ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS FOR TYPICAL 4 TON HOME IN DULUTH**



## 2. What Does a Geothermal System Cost?

Examining the main factors that determine GHP system cost.

How much is a car?

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Examining the main factors that determine GHP system cost.

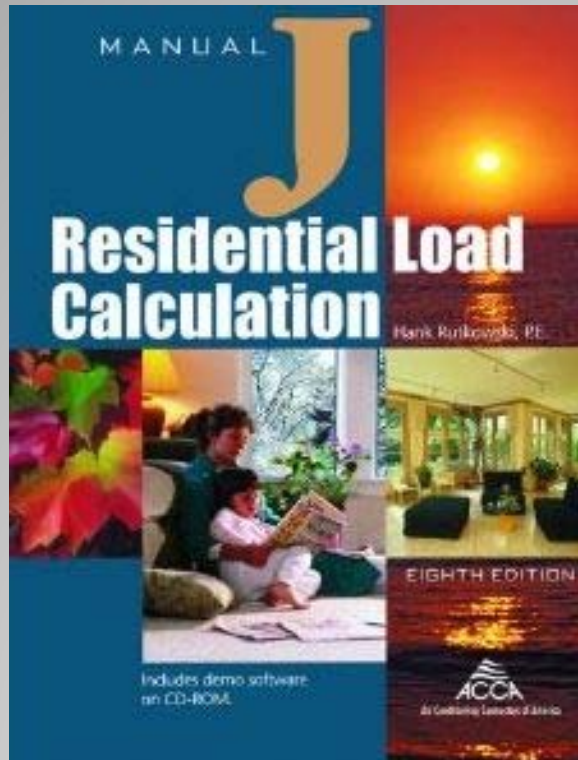


## GHP System Cost Factors

- **GHP System Sizing**
- **Site Geology & Conditions**
- **Delivery System Preferences**
- **GHP Configuration**
- **Electric Power Requirements**
- **Incentive Programs**
- **Quality of Equipment**
- **Quality of Installation**

## ➤ GHP System Sizing

- The first most critical step in establishing GHP system cost is accurate system sizing
- Proper sizing is achieved by first establishing the peak heating load of the structure (peak cooling load is used in South)
- As peak load increases, so does GHP system sizing requirement...and therefore cost.



Approx. Air Changes / Hr.:	0.2	Zone Length:	Zone Width:	Zone Height:	Total Cu. of Sq. Feet:
Air Infiltration Rate (CFM):	57	43.54	43.54	9.00	17,062
Approx. Zone Volume in Cubic Feet:	43.54	43.54	43.54		1,896
Approx. Zone Area in Square Feet:	174.16			9.00	1,567
Approx. Exposed Wall Area in Sq. Ft.:	68	Less Window Area:		75	
Indoor Dry-Bulb Design Temperature:	-27	Less Door Area:		22	
Outdoor Dry-Bulb Design Temperature:		Actual Wall Area:		1,470	
Design Temperature Difference:	95				

Structural Element	Structural Element Description	Area (Sq. Ft.)	Element U-Value	Temperature Difference	Total BTUH
Above-Grade Ext. Wall Info	2 x 4 (R-13)+		0.0718	95	0
	2 x 6 (R-19)+	349	0.0526	95	1,745
	ICF (R-24)+	1,121	0.0417	95	4,437
Window Information	Single Pane		0.5510	95	0
	Triple Pane (Opp.)		0.2400	95	0
	Triple Pane (Fixed)		0.1800	95	0
	Double Pane	75	0.3100	95	2,209
Exterior Door Information	Solid-Core Wood		0.2525	95	0
	1-3/4" 24 ga. Steel		0.1686	95	0
	1-3/4" 18 ga. Steel		0.2257	95	0
	Deluxe with Storm	22	0.3100	95	648
Roof / Ceiling Information	R-38+		0.0257	95	0
	R-40+		0.0244	95	0
	R-42+		0.0233	95	0
	R-44+		0.0223	95	0
	Other		0.0000	95	0
Above-Grade Exposed Floor (Crawl-Space)	2 x 8 (R-24)+		0.0401	95	0
	2 x 10 (R-28)+		0.0346	95	0
	2 x 12 (R-33)+		0.0295	95	0
	Other			95	0
Cement Slab	Slab on Grade		0.0538	95	0
Below-Grade Structural Elements	Structural Element Description	Area (Sq. Ft.)	BTUH Loss Factor		
	Floor Walls	1,896	3.00 BTUH per Sq. Ft. / 6.00 BTUH per Sq. Ft.		5,688 / 0
Air Losses	Air Loss Description	Air CFM	Loss Factor	Temperature Difference	
	Infiltration	57	1.1	95	5,955
	Ventilation & Make-Up	25	1.1	95	2,613
Duct Loss	Is Ductwork in an Unconditioned Space?	Yes/No	HL Factor	Subtotal:	23,296
		No	0.00	23,296	0
Total Heat Loss:					23,296
853 - 1137 CFM					64,989 BTUH

## Accepted Load Calculation Standard: Use "Manual J" Referenced Software

IN GENERAL: As heat requirement increases—GHP system sizing increases proportionately...along with the total system design and installation cost!

Heating Estimate Design Data		w/o Desuper	w/Desuper	
Estimated BTU/Hr Heat Loss:		50,000	50,000	
Heat Pump BTU/Hr Output:		45,500	41,405	
Number of Kw of Aux Ht Suggested:		2	3	
Heat Pump C.O.P.:		3.60	3.60	
Overall H.P. Heating System C.O.P.:		3.57	3.54	
Heating Degree Days:		9,789	9,789	
Temperature Difference:		100	100	
Correction Factor:		0.80	0.80	
KWH Rate for Heat Pump:		\$0.115	\$0.115	
KWH Rate For Aux. Electric Heat:		\$0.115	\$0.115	
KWH Rate for Furnace Fan:		\$0.115	\$0.115	
Conventional Source Table		Units	Efficiency	Cost
Other Fuel Source	1 Electric (Radiant)	KWH	100%	\$0.130
	2 Electric (Forced Air)	KWH	100%	\$0.130
	3 Fuel Oil	Gallon	80%	\$3.750
	4 L.P. Gas	Gallon	90%	\$1.899
	5 Natural Gas	Therm	90%	\$0.999
Conventional Source Selection		Heating		DHW
Number of Other Energy Source:		3		1
Other Source Efficiency:		80%		100%
Other Source Cost or Rate:		\$3.750		\$0.130



## Alternate Load Method (Retrofits): Based on Fuel/Electric Usage History



Estimated Energy Consumption			Heating		Cooling	DHW		Estimated Annual Totals	
			w/o	w/Desuper		w/Desuper	w/o Desuper	w/Desuper	
ECONAR GeoSource Heat Pump Kwh/yr			7,583	7,520	377	650	7,959	8,547	
Auxiliary Ht and Electric Water Htr Kwh/yr			237	464		1,965	237	2,429	
Other Fuel Source	1. Electric (Radiant) Kwh/yr		851 ←		691	4,549		4,549	
	2. Electric (Forced Air) Kwh/yr								
	3. Fuel Oil Gallons/yr								
	4. LP Gas Gallons/yr								
	5. Natural Gas Therms/yr								
							691	851	

Estimated Operating Costs			Heating		Cooling	DHW		Estimated Annual Totals	
			w/o	w/Desuper		w/Desuper	w/o Desuper	w/Desuper	
ECONAR GeoSource Heat Pump			\$871.99	\$864.76	\$47.11	\$74.77	\$919.09	\$986.63	
Auxiliary Ht and Electric Water Htr			\$27.28	\$53.30		\$226.00	\$27.28	\$279.31	
Other Fuel Source	1. Electric (Radiant)		\$3,322.23		\$86.36	\$591.32		\$591.32	
	2. Electric (Forced Air) *								
	3. Fuel Oil *								
	4. LP Gas *								
	5. Natural Gas *								
							\$86.36	\$3,322.23	

Estimated Cost Savings			Heating		Cooling	DHW		Estimated Annual Totals	
			w/o	w/Desuper		w/o	w/Desuper	w/o Desuper	w/Desuper
Conventional Heating, Cooling and DHW			\$3,322.23	\$3,322.23	\$86.36	\$591.32	\$591.32	\$3,999.91	\$3,999.91
ECONAR GeoSource Heat Pump			\$899.27	\$918.06	\$47.11	\$591.32	\$300.77	\$1,537.70	\$1,265.94
Savings Using ECONAR Heat Pump			\$2,422.96	\$2,404.16	\$39.25	\$0.00	\$290.56	\$2,462.21	\$2,733.98

## Alternate Load Method (Retrofits): Based on Fuel/Electric Usage History



**Duluth Home**  
**5,300 sq' = 70,000 BTUH**



**Finland Community Center**  
**10,000 sq' = 160,0,000 BTUH**

**Consider that GHP installation costs and benefits are *scalable!***



**Foxboro, WI = 60,000 BTUH**

**Babbitt, MN = 70,000 BTUH**

**A 6T home built in Foxboro, WI  
might be a 7T home in Babbitt, MN**

**1 Ton (British) = 12,000 BTUH**

**BUT...**

**A cold climate GHP system might  
have a design output of only  
10,000 BTUH/Ton**

**A "Ton" is a long-established  
British thermal unit we still use**

## **EXAMPLE 1:**

**5 Ton GHP (SM060)**

**60,300 BTUH Output @ 50°F EWT**

**48,000 BTUH Output @ 32°F EWT**

**The colder the fluid temperature from the loop...the lower the output of the GHP**

**GHP output depends on the fluid temperature entering from the loop**

## **EXAMPLE 2:**

Horizontally-trenched loop circuits for cold climate GHP systems:

1 Loop  $\approx$  8,000 to 10,000 BTUH<sub>PEAK TON</sub>

Approx. 1 loop circuit of sufficient length for every 10,000 BTUH of the peak heating load

**Loop Sizing Follows Peak Heating Load...Not Just GHP Capacity!**



**Peak heating Load = 49,537 BTUH  
(Future Insulation = 41,761 BTUH)**

**4.0<5T GHP (TVC048) @ 30°F EWT = 45,500 BTUH**

## ➤ Site Geology & Conditions

- One of the most limiting factors in determining GHP system cost is site geology and conditions
- A primary objective is to achieve maximum GHX performance benefit at minimal cost and impact to site
- Different kinds of loops come at different cost... and mostly achieve the same result



## **Common GHX Options by Increasing Cost:**

- Open Loop / Pump & Dump
- Existing Pond & Lake Loops
- Horizontally Trenched or Excavated
- Excavated Pond Loop
- Horizontally Drilled
- Vertically Bored in Deep Soil/Overburden
- Vertically Bored in Rock

**Common GHX/Loop Options**



Instead of a buried closed loop GHX, domestic water from house is simply pumped through the GHP coil then discharged somewhere outside. (Pictured is a simple shallow drain tile in sand.)



## Open Loop / Pump & Dump Systems

## Main Cost Factors:

- Well must have sufficient recovery rate
- Size of well pump might slightly increase
- Cycle-stop or variable speed pump often specified (driller advises)
- Flow control assembly required at GHP
- Discharge pipe trench & site drainage
- State water use limits may eliminate option (MN: 10K gal/day—1M gal/year)

**Open Loop / Pump & Dump Systems**



## Existing Pond & Lake Loops

## Main Cost Factors:

- Lake permits difficult to obtain, usually ruled out as option if other options exist
- Pond expansion sometimes required
- Less loop pipe but more labor and other materials for weighting and containment
- Ground loop excavation eliminated, but still requires a S/R pipe trench

**Existing Pond & Lake Loops**

**Closer Spacing = longer pipe requirement, smaller consolidated excavation footprint (500 ft<sup>2</sup>/T)**



**Wider Spacing = shorter pipe requirement, expanded excavation footprint (1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>/T)**



**Horizontally Excavated**

## Main Cost Factors:

- Excavation cost...per site conditions!
- Unknown or unforeseen encumbrances
- Loop size and configuration (at roughly 1 loop circuit per 10K BTUH of peak load)
- Largest footprint, greater impact to site
- Finished landscaping and vegetation (excavation is commonly rough-in only)

**Horizontally Excavated**

**Pond Heat Exchangers  
combine exceptional GSHP  
system performance...**

**With an aesthetic component  
you just can't get from a con-  
ventional earth loop.**



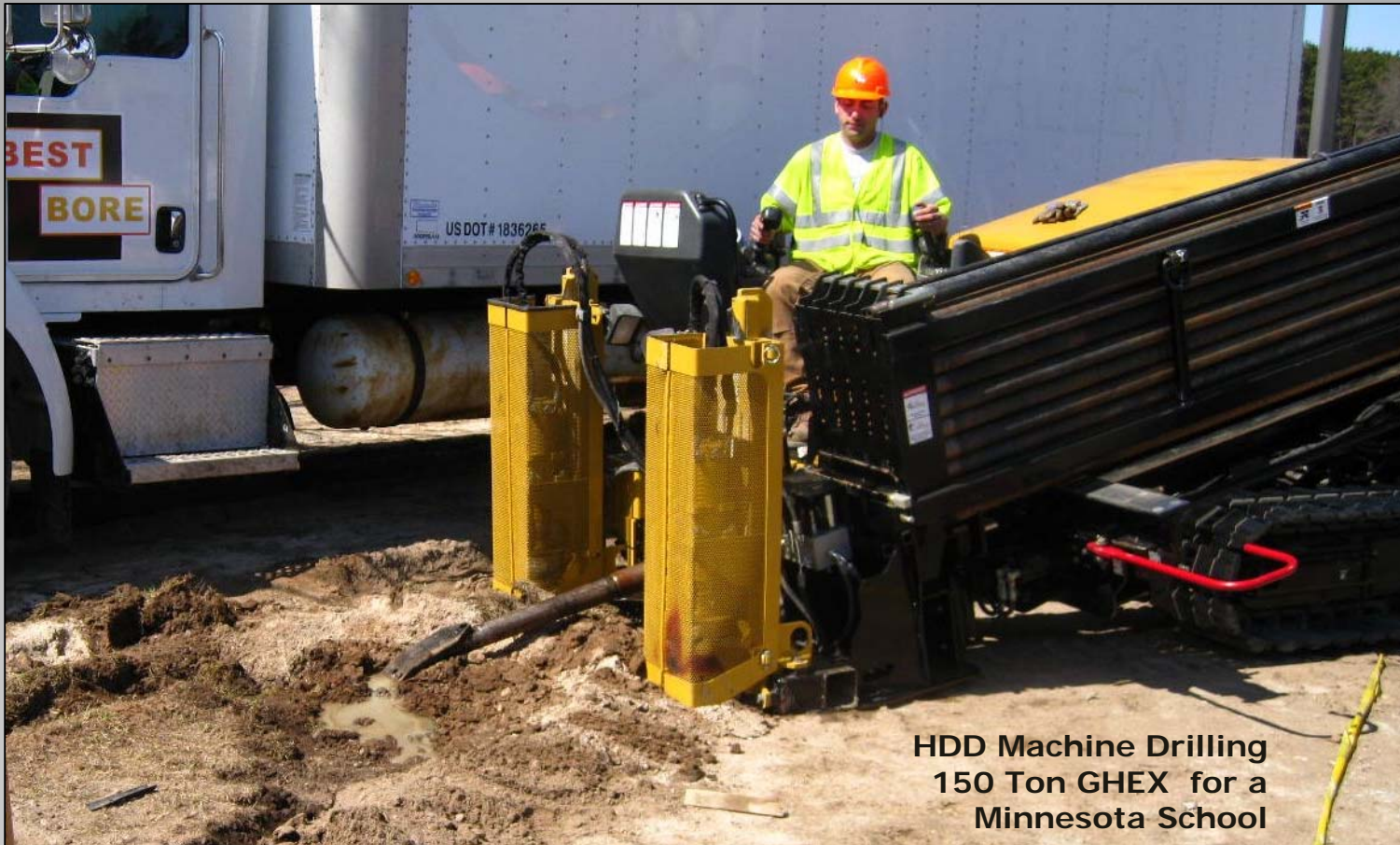
**Excavated Pond**



## Main Cost Factors:

- Possible wetland concerns
- Loop footprint roughly same as an excavated GHX
- Must deal with displaced soil material
- Additional containment materials or 1'-2' sand/gravel backfill required

**Excavated Pond**



HDD Machine Drilling  
150 Ton GHEX for a  
Minnesota School

**Horizontally Drilled**

## Main Cost Factors:

- HDD loops minimize site impact but usually cost more per design Ton than excavated loops (machine time & grout)
- Unknown or unforeseen encumbrances
- Loop size and configuration by qualified designer using design software
- Some excavation still required if manifold is buried (interior manifold also adds cost)

**Horizontally Drilled**



**Vertically Bored in Deep Soil**

## **Main Cost Factors:**

- Vertically bored ground loops may require less pipe than HDD but usually cost more for machine, crew and grout
- Depth of unconsolidated overburden
- Loop size and configuration by qualified designer using design software
- Excavation required to connect loops, impact determined by bore field footprint

**Vertically Bored in Deep Soil**



**Vertically Bored in Rock**

## Main Cost Factors:

- Drilling through dense rock requires heavier equipment than “mud” drilling, typically at higher cost (including grout)
- Depth of overburden for extracting casing
- Loop size and configuration by qualified designer using design software
- If header excavation is over shallow rock, a costly insulation detail may be required

**Vertically Bored in Rock**

## ➤ **Delivery System Preferences**

- Geothermal heating is inherently a low-temperature technology
- Heat delivery systems must conform to GHP temperatures not the other way around
- Combining hydronic radiant heating with forced air heating and/or cooling generally adds cost to the GHP system itself
- GHP system configuration follows delivery system preferences if they are compatible



## Supply Side (GSHP)

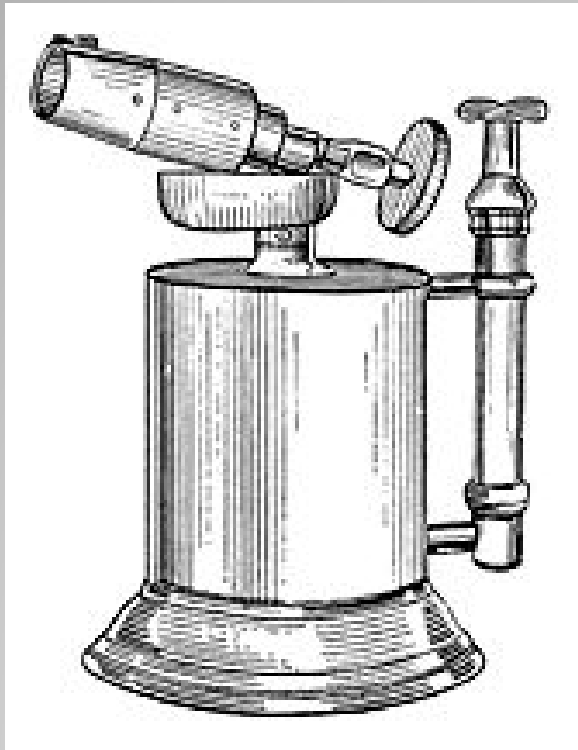
- Ground Heat Exchanger (GHX)
- Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP or GHP)
- Loop Pump or Flow Center
- Some Peripheral and Auxiliary Components (incl. Controls)

## Delivery Side (HVAC)

- Duct System (incl. Air Exchanger)
- Radiant Floor Tubing, Manifolds, Zone Pumps and Controls
- Radiant Baseboards, Panels, Radiators
- Plumbing/Piping Delivery Systems

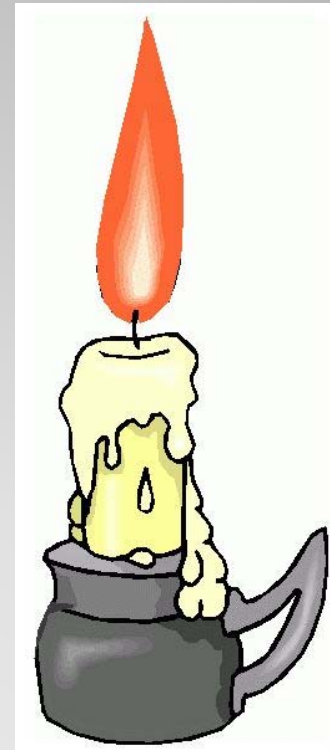
**The “geothermal system” is generally assigned to the “supply” side of heating/cooling functions.**

**High Temp @  
50,000 BTUH!**



**130°F - 180°F**

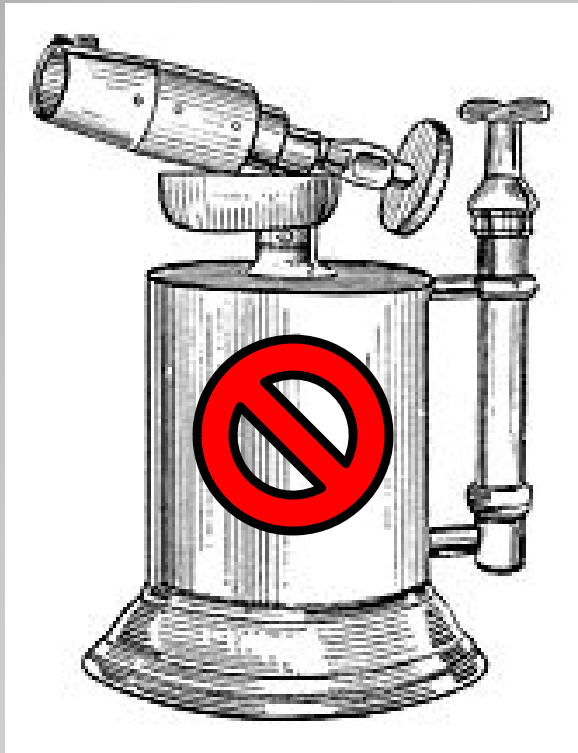
**Low Temp @  
50,000 BTUH!**



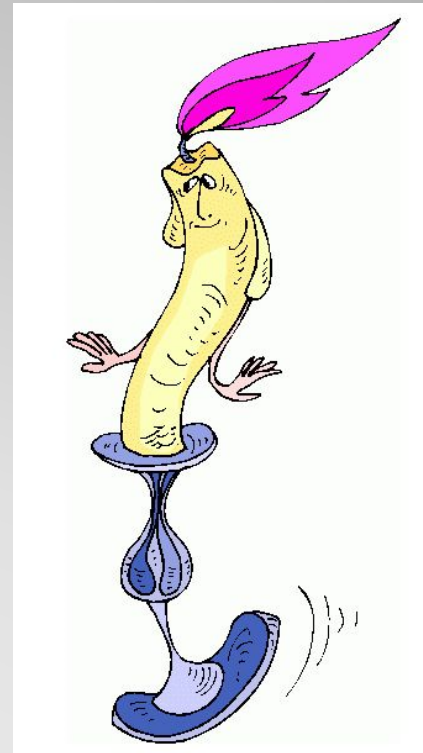
**85°F - 115°F**

**High Temp *versus* Low Temp?**

~~High Temp @~~  
50,000 BTUH!

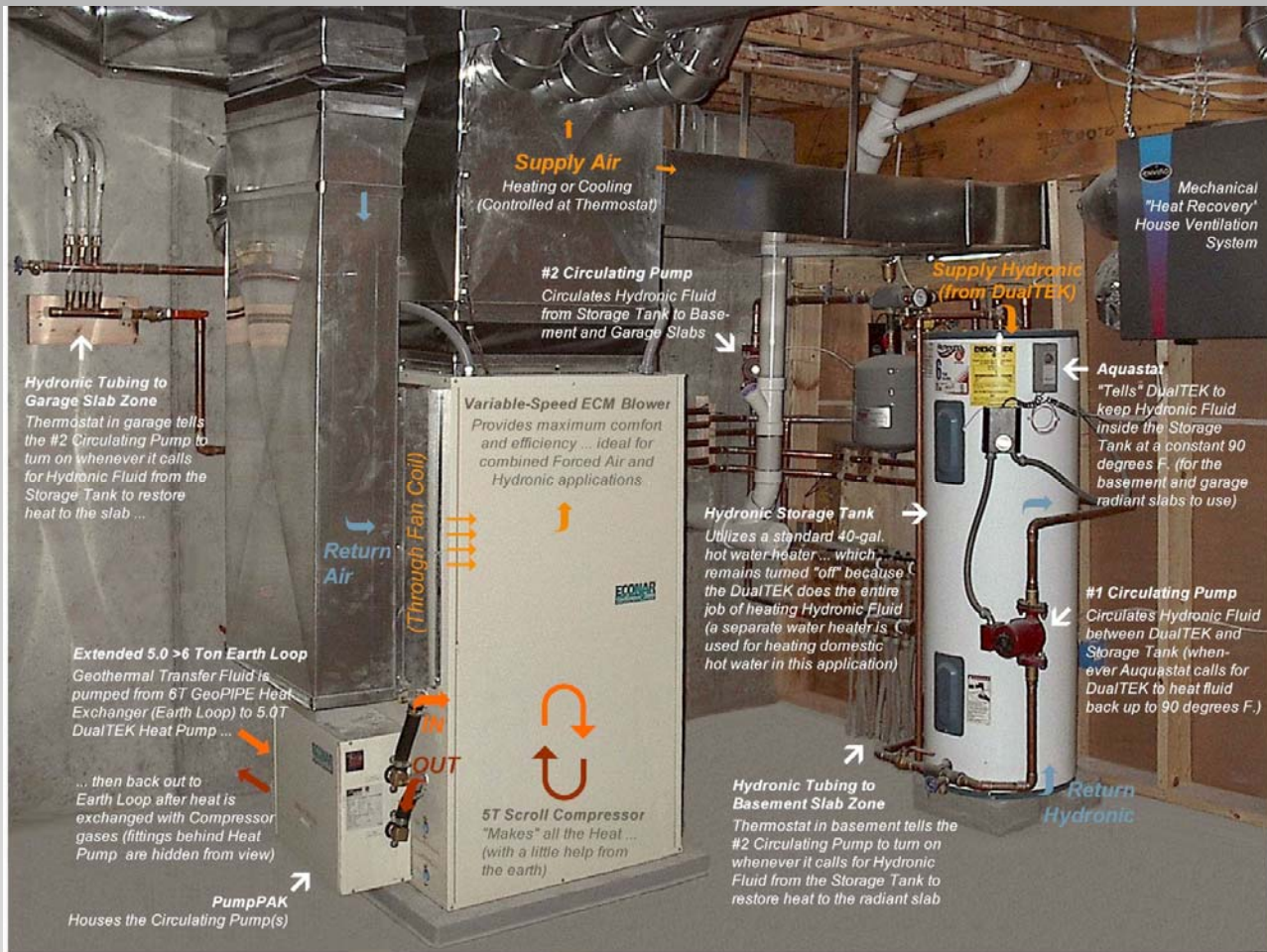


Low Temp @  
50,000 BTUH!



**GENERAL PREMISE: The Lower the Temperature—the Higher the Efficiency!**

# ➤ GHP Configuration



## ➤ GHP Configuration

**GHP SYSTEM COST OPTIONS—33,645 BTUH HOME:**  
(Not including any HVAC 'delivery' side costs)

### **3.0<4T Forced Air Heating & Cooling**

*Requires full house duct system only.*

\$18K GHP/GHX + Approx. \$3.5K Excavation = **\$21.5K**

### **3.0<4T Hydronic Heating Only**

*Requires radiant floor tubing only but some minimal ductwork for ventilation system.*

\$20K GHP/GHX + Approx. \$3.5K Excavation = **\$23.5K**

### **3.0<4T Hydronic Heating & Cooling (Split System)**

*Requires radiant floor tubing plus medium sized duct system.*

\$25K GHP/GHX + Approx. \$3.5K Excavation = **\$28.5K**

## ➤ GHP Configuration

### **GHP SYSTEM COST OPTIONS W/GARAGE ADDED** (Not including any HVAC 'delivery' side costs)

#### **5.0T Hydronic Heating Only**

*Requires radiant floor tubing only but some minimal ductwork for ventilation system.*

\$22K GHP/GHX + Approx. \$4K Excavation = **\$28K**

#### **5.0T Hydronic Heating & Cooling (Split System)**

*Requires radiant floor tubing plus medium sized duct system for house.*

\$27K GHP/GHX + Approx. \$4K Excavation = **\$31K**

## ➤ GHP Configuration

### **GHP SYSTEM COST OPTIONS W/GARAGE ADDED** (Not including any HVAC 'delivery' side costs)

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*Requires radiant floor tubing plus medium sized duct system for house.*

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**COST SCALES: \$21.5K > \$23.5K > \$28K > \$28.5K > \$31K**

**State-of-the-Art 2-Stage Forced Air GHP System Installation**



**Older Generation Stand-Alone Combined F/A & HYD GHP System**



**Stand-Alone Forced Air GHPs**



## Main Cost Factors:

- The higher the GHP Ton, the higher the fan velocity @ 400 CFM/Ton heating load!
- Ductwork sizing and expense increases proportionately by Forced Air GHP Ton

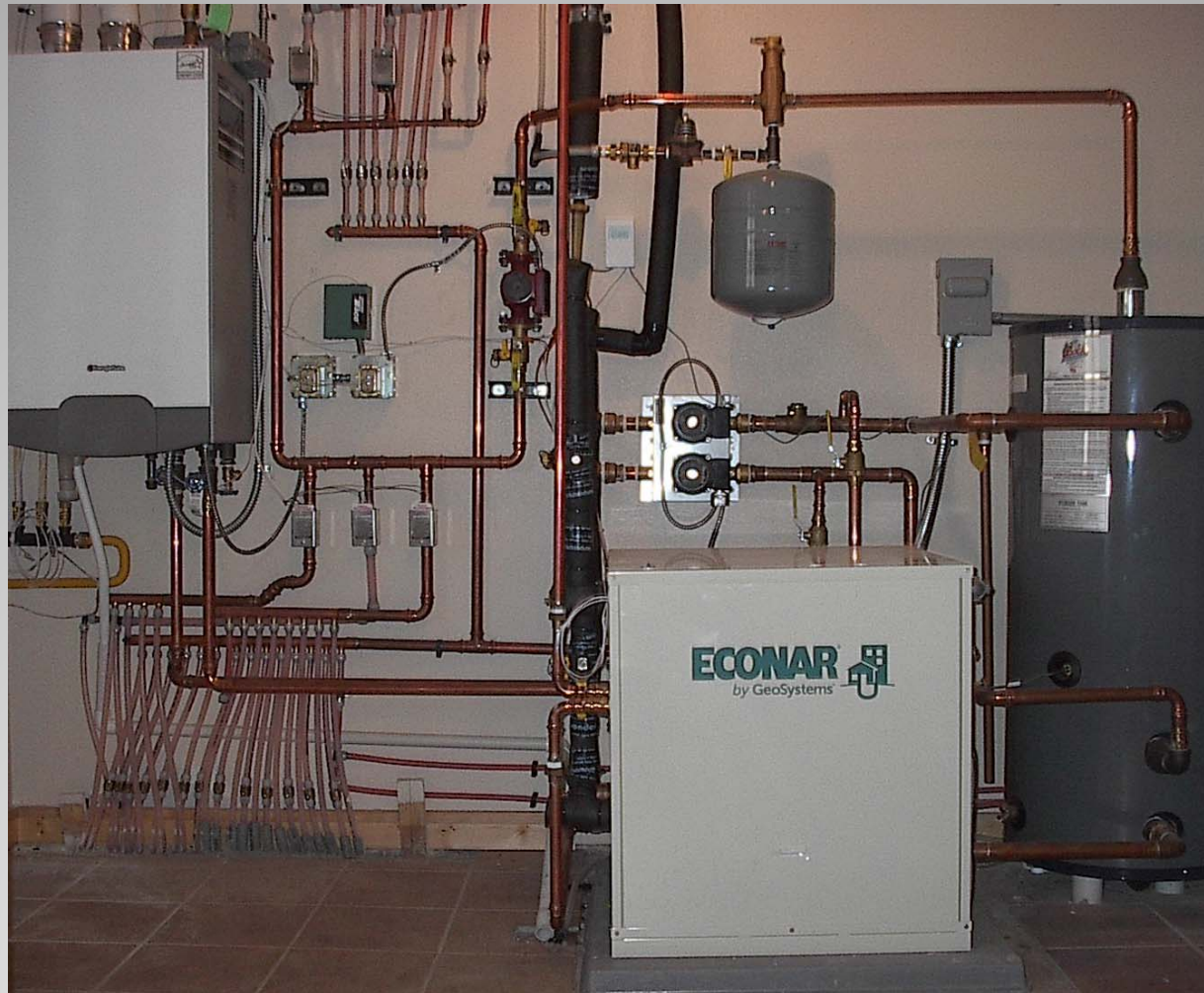
3 Ton GHP @ 400 CFM/Ton = 1,200 CFM

4 Ton GHP @ 400 CFM/Ton = 1,600 CFM

5 Ton GHP @ 400 CFM/Ton = 1,200 CFM

6 Ton GHP @ 400 CFM/Ton = 2,000 CFM

**Stand-Alone Forced Air GHPs**



**HYD Heat Only GHP System**

## Main Cost Factors:

- No ductwork, low-temp radiant heat only
- Cannot use baseboard, radiators, or staple-up tubing—must use slab, gypsum or some other top-of-floor assembly
- Added hydronic thermal storage (buffer) tank, GHP primary pump(s) and controls
- If Interruptible Dual Fuel (IDF) system, integrated sidearm gas boiler preferred

**HYD Heat Only GHP System**



**Split GHP System (DX)**

## Main Cost Factors:

- GHP includes DX A-coil for installing inside plenum of gas furnace or other air handler, which are bought separately
- Ductwork can often remain sized to furnace blower, typically only 1,200 CFM
- Eliminates need for outdoor AC/ASHP unit
- Works well for Dual Fuel, but GHP shuts off with any 2nd stage call for gas heat

## Split GHP System (DX)



**HYD Split GHP System**



**HYD Split GHP System**



**HYD Split GHP System**



## Main Cost Factors:

- Among the most advanced and versatile GHP configurations, but also more costly
- Hydronic air handler/fan coil and controls
- Stainless steel/foam pump packs and pipe insulation for chilled water cooling
- Works exceptionally well for Dual Fuel and 2<sup>nd</sup> stage with integrated sidearm boiler

**HYD Split GHP System**

## ➤ GHP Power Requirements

- The GHP compressor is basically a “small motor” and uses the most energy on the system—demand increases with GHP size
- Fluid pumps and blowers are secondary consumers on the GHP system
- Electrical infrastructure must meet the entire demand of the system including LRA!
- You can run a residential GHP on a small generator, but you can't start it

## ➤ GHP Power Requirements

Model	Voltage Code	60 Hz Power		Compressor		ECM Fan Motor FLA	HWG Pump FLA	Ext Pump FLA*	Total Unit FLA	Min Circuit AMPS	Max Fuse HACR	Min AWG	Max Ft
		Volts	Phase	LRA	RLA								
3 TON	1	208/230	1	104	21.2	6.8	0.3	4.0	32.0	37.3	50	8	80
	0	208/230	1	104	21.2	6.8	N/A	N/A	28.0	33.3	80	8	91
4 TON	1	208/230	1	152.9	27.1	6.8	0.3	5.5	39.7	46.5	70	6	102
	0	208/230	1	152.9	27.1	6.8	N/A	N/A	34.2	41.0	60	6	119
5 TON	1	208/230	1	179.2	29.7	9.1	0.3	5.5	44.6	52.0	80	6	91
	0	208/230	1	179.2	29.7	9.1	N/A	N/A	39.1	46.5	70	6	104

- Electric data for a specific GHP model or series is provided in the engineering manual of most manufacturers
- Data typically includes amperage for compressor, blower, external pump(s) and the desuperheater pump

## ➤ GHP Incentive Programs

- Utility Rebate Programs
- 30% Federal Tax Credit (through 2016)
- GHP Installation Financing Programs
- *Also consider that geothermal heating and cooling may still offer a good Return on Investment (ROI) even without these!*

# 2016 Geothermal Rebate Programs

- **Minnesota Power**

**\$200/T Closed Loop (\$100/T Open Loop) + \$200 ECM**

[Bonuses Frequently Offered: \$50/T GSHP + \$50 ECM or \$100/T & ECM for Triple-E Home]

<http://www.mnpower.com/EnergyConservation/GSHPIncentivePackage>

- **Great River Energy Affiliates:**

**\$400/T Closed or Open Loop (\$200/T from East Central Energy) + \$100 ECM**

*Cooperative Light & Power*

<http://www.clpower.com/pdfs/2013GSHP.pdf>

*Lake Country Power*

<http://www.lakecountrypower.coop/viewpage.php?pagename=ratesandrebates>

*East Central Energy*

<http://www.eastcentralenergy.com/PDFs/gshprebate2014.pdf>

*Arrowhead Electrical Cooperative*

<http://www.aecimn.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/GSHP-Geothermal-2013-Rebate.pdf>

- **Wisconsin Focus On Energy Program:**

**\$650 Flat Geothermal Rebate from Participating Utilities for Retrofits**

<http://www.focusonenergy.com/residential/renewable/geothermal-heat-pumps>

## Geothermal Heat Pump Residential Tax Incentives

### **Federal Income Tax Credit:**

- **30% of total geothermal system cost**
- **Credit capped at \$2,000 for 2008**
- **Credit unlimited for 2009 through 2016**
- **Can be used to offset AMT tax**
- **Can be combined with other tax credits**
- **Can be used in more than one year**

### **Eligibility:**

- **Home must be located in U.S.**
- **Includes houses, cooperatives, condos, mobile homes**
- **Does not have to be your main house**
- **GSHP must meet Energy Star requirements**
- **Must be placed in service between 1/1/2008-12/31/2016**

## Geothermal Heat Pump Business Tax Incentives

### **Federal Income Tax Credit:**

- **10% of total geothermal system cost**
- **Credit is not limited**
- **Can be used to offset AMT tax**
- **Can be used in combination with subsidized financing**
- **Can be used in more than one year**

### **Accelerated Depreciation:**

- **5 year MACR depreciation of entire system**
- **Eligible for bonus depreciation in 2009 (50% write-off in first year)**

### **Eligibility:**

- **Building must be located in U.S.**
- **Original use begins with taxpayer**
- **Must be placed in service between 10/3/2008-12/31/2016**
- **Can be used by regulated utilities**
- **Must be claimed by owner of property (effects non-taxable)**

# 2016 Geothermal Financing Programs

## Center for Energy and Environment (MN)

<http://mncee.org/Find-Programs/Geothermal-Financing/>

### **Loan Terms:**

- Loan amounts up to \$20,000
- 4.99% fixed interest rate (5.385% Annual Percentage Rate\*)
- No maximum income limit
- Terms up to 10 years
- This loan is secured by a mortgage on the property. Closing costs apply

### **Property Eligibility:**

- Single family, owner-occupied, primary residence
- Properties under construction or held in Trust are not eligible

### **Types of Improvements:**

- Eligible improvements include: ground source heat pumps that meet or exceed Energy Star 1 efficiency requirements; heat pump water heaters and air source heat pumps that are Energy Star qualified

\*APR is based on \$20,000 for 10 years.



# 2016 Geothermal Financing Programs

## CEE Loans Sponsored by Utility Partners

<http://www.mnbrighterideas.com/financing/cee.cfm>

### **Loan Terms:**

- Loan amounts up to \$7,500 and up to \$25,000 at...
- 0% - 2.9% financing respectively!
- No family income limits
- Terms up to 10 years
- Loans must be secured via a mortgage against the property not to exceed \$25,000 or up to 100 percent of the property value

### **Property Eligibility:**

- Dwelling must be a residential, one-unit, owner-occupied property
- Member must be in good standing with the utility

### **Types of Improvements:**

- Eligible improvements include: ground source heat pumps that meet or exceed Energy Star 1 efficiency requirements; heat pump water heaters and air source heat pumps that are Energy Star qualified; electric thermal storage (ETS) space and water heating systems with some restrictions.

## ➤ Quality of Equipment



## ➤ Quality of Installation





### 3. What Determines GHP System Benefit?

Examining the main factors that determine GHP economic benefit.

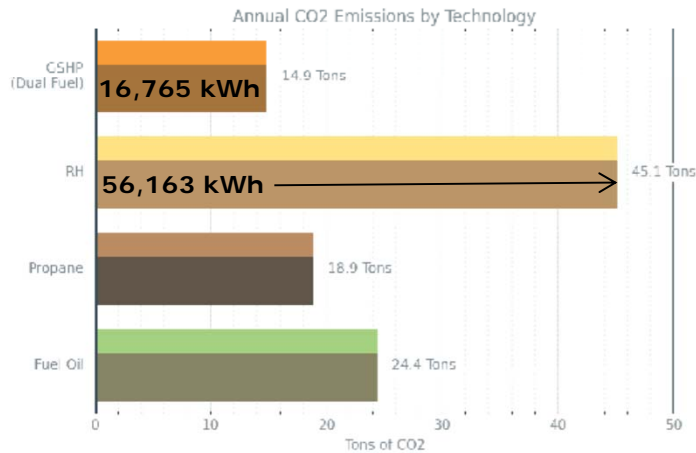
**Economics: Operating Cost Summary**

Annual CO2 Emissions by Technology

Geothermal heat pumps generate NO DIRECT EMISSIONS however, even "green" heating and cooling technologies like GSHPs produce "upstream" carbon emissions. The amount of these emissions depends on the power generation method in your area.

In areas where the primary power generation technology is nuclear, hydroelectric, wind turbine or solar, the upstream carbon emissions are minimal. However, the majority of the power in the United States is generated by coal fired power plants which emit a relatively higher volume of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The emissions shown in the graph below are adjusted based on the mix of power generation methods in your region. Note that for natural gas, propane and fuel oil, only the point of use carbon emissions from the combustion of the fuel is considered not the upstream emissions resulting from their production.



7 of 11

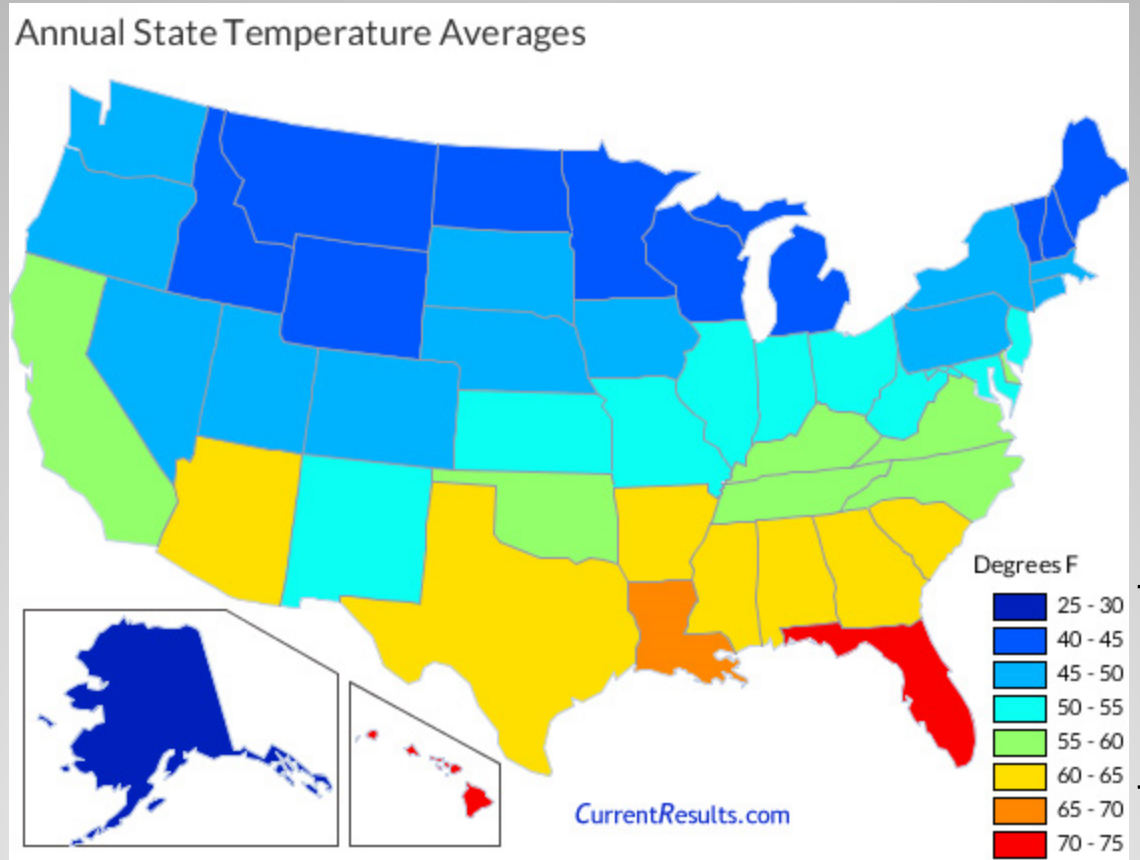
218-848-2889

1558 Stone Lk. Bridge Rd. | Brimson, Minnesota 55802-8032

## GHP Benefits Determined By:

- Climate (Moderate vs Extreme)
- Current Energy Rates & Inflation
- GHP Capacity to Peak Load
- Adequacy of HVAC Distribution
- System Life Cycle
- Warranty & Service Distance
- Alternative Equipment Cost
- Loan Interest
- GHP System Cost Recovery

# ➤ Climate Moderate vs Extreme



Source: U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

## ➤ Climate Moderate vs Extreme

STATE	AVERAGE TEMP (2014)	U.S. RANK (2014)
ALASKA	30.1° F	49
MINNESOTA	38.6° F	48
NORTH DAKOTA	39.0° F	47
WISCONSIN	40.2° F	46

How we use energy in our homes. Heating accounts for the biggest portion of your utility bills. Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, AEO2014.

## ➤ Climate Moderate vs Extreme

### **DULUTH INTL AP, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA USA**

Located at *about* 46.83°N 92.18°W. Height *about* 435m / 1427 feet above sea level.

**Source:** derived from [NCDC TD 9641 Clim 81 1961-1990 Normals](#). 30 years between 1961 and 1990.

### **Heating Degree Days 9,817**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
°C	998	820	699	440	247	94	33	62	182	366	610	898	5454
°F	1796	1476	1258	792	445	169	59	112	328	659	1098	1616	9817

### **Cooling Degree Days 180**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
°C	0	0	0	0	0	7	52	40	0	0	0	0	100
°F	0	0	0	0	0	13	94	72	0	0	0	0	180



## ➤ Current Energy Rates...

### Energy Prices (Heating Months)

---

Standard Electric Rate 0.050 \$/kWh

Natural Gas Rate 0.000 \$/ccf

ASHP Electric Rate 0.000 \$/kWh

Propane Rate 2.899 \$/gal

GSHP Electric Rate 0.060 \$/kWh

Fuel Oil Rate 3.899 \$/gal

### Energy Prices (Cooling Months)

---

Standard Electric Rate 0.130 \$/kWh

ASHP Electric Rate 0.000 \$/kWh

GSHP Electric Rate 0.130 \$/kWh

## ➤ ...and Inflation

FUEL PRICE INFLATION								
Fuel Type	Range in Years	Average Yearly Increase (EIA)	Average Yearly Increase (BLS)	Range in Years	Average Yearly Increase (BLS)	Starting price (EIA)	Ending Price (EIA)	Price per
Natural Gas	1967-2010	5.54%	N/A	1979-2011*	4.08%	\$1.04 (1967)	\$11.20 (2010)	1,000 cu ft
Electricity	1990-2009	2.05%	2.30%	1979-2010*	3.13%	\$0.078 (1990)	\$0.115 (2009)	KWH
Propane	1991-2010	5.60%	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0.92 (1991)	\$2.59 (2010)	gallon
#2 Heating Oil	1991-2010	5.54%	5.71%^	1979-2010*	4.59%	\$1.07 (1991)	\$3.00 (2010)	gallon
Unleaded Gas	1990-2010*	3.87%	4.46%	1976-2011*	5.12%	\$1.30 (1990)	\$2.78 (2010)	gallon
CPI**	1990-2011*	N/A	2.64%	1913-2011*	3.24%			

*Range in years determined by available data*

*Values for US residential average nation wide*

*Sources: EIA (U.S. Energy Information Administration), BLS (Bureau of Labor and Statistics)*

*\* 2011 data up to current available*

*\*\* CPI (Consumer price index)*

*^ #2 Fuel Oil*

## ➤ GHP Capacity to Peak Load



## ➤ GHP Capacity to Peak Load

**Heating** (Peak Load = 73,182 BTUH @ -20°F OAT / 70°F)

---

Heating Capacity 74,200 Btu/hr

% Sizing 101.4%

% Energy From Geo 96.3%

Installed COP 3.25

Balance Point Temp. -19.9 °F

## ➤ GHP Capacity to Peak Load

**Heating** (Peak Load = 73,182 BTUH @ -20°F OAT / 70°F)

---

Heat Pump Energy Use 15,003 kWh

Pumping Energy Use 529 kWh

Supplemental Energy Use 0 kWh

Dual Fuel Energy Use 79 gal

## ➤ GHP Capacity to Peak Load

### Heating (IDF @ 0.06 \$/kWh w/LP Backup @ \$2.899/gal)

---

HP Cost	\$900.23
Supplemental Cost	\$0.00
Dual Fuel Cost	\$232.29
Pumping Cost	\$31.74
<hr/>	
Total Cost	\$1,164.26

- Cooling-Dominant Derived Rule: *Do not size GHP heating capacity more than 25% above the cooling load (impractical?)*
- Manufacturer-Derived Rule: *Do not size GHP to less than 85% of the peak heating load (roughly 1 Ton undersizing)*
- Cold Climate Sizing Trend: *Size to perform 96-100% of all the heating (but consider sizing scale-back for honest "hardships")*

## **GSHP Sizing Rules of Thumb**



**4.0<7T Vertically Bored GHP System @ 62.2% GHP Sizing**



## ➤ GHP Capacity to Peak Load

**Heating** (Peak Load = 73,167 BTUH @ -20°F OAT / 70°F)

---

Heating Capacity 45,509 Btu/hr

% Sizing 62.2%

Installed COP 3.71

Balance Point Temp. 10.4 °F

## ➤ GHP Capacity to Peak Load

**Heating** (Peak Load = 73,167 BTUH @ -20°F OAT / 70°F)

---

Heat Pump Energy Use 12,504 kWh

Pumping Energy Use 847 kWh

Supplemental Energy Use 3,272 kWh

Dual Fuel Energy Use 0 gal

## ➤ GHP Capacity to Peak Load

### Heating (Full Residential Electric Rate @ 0.120 \$/kWh)

---

HP Cost	\$1,500.57
Supplemental Cost	\$392.66
Dual Fuel Cost	\$0.00
Pumping Cost	\$101.70

---

Total Cost \$1,994.93

## ➤ Adequacy of Distribution



## ➤ Adequacy of Distribution

- Low-temp GHP (refrigeration) technology likes to maintain system balance without being called on to perform extreme tasks
- Sufficient and adequately distributed air flow is vital for comfort, as well as proper air coil performance and heat exchange
- Continuous low speed ECM fan is extremely beneficial for air quality, efficiency and comfort!

## ➤ **System Life Cycle**

- **With the newer GHP technologies, most manufacturers now project a design life 25 to 30 years...if the GHP system is properly designed, installed and maintained**
- **EPA life cycle rating for geothermal HDPE pipe is 200 years**
- **Life cycle varies for secondary components, such as circulating pumps, blowers and some electrical parts**

## ➤ **Warranty & Service Distance**

- **To meet Energy Star Tier 3 standards, the EPA now requires GHP manufacturers to warranty all parts and labor for 5 years**
- **Many manufacturers also offer an additional 5 years for refrigeration parts only (without labor) and/or “lifetime” compressor**
- **Because GHP technology is specialized, non-warranty service work can cost more, and a qualified technician may not be close by**

## ➤ **Alternative Equipment Cost**

- **Alternative equipment is the heating and cooling equipment that would otherwise be installed at lesser cost (furnace, boiler, AC)**
- **Conventional HVAC equipment costs vary widely, but there is ultimately some net difference in cost to upgrade to geo'**
- **GHP system cost recovery calculations must consider alternative equipment costs for a true assessment of GHP economic benefit!**



## ➤ Alternative Equipment Cost



How much more is a GHP system compared to the alternative?

## ➤ Alternative Equipment Cost



### Resistance Heat w/ Central A/C

Installation Cost \$17,421.00

Incentives \$0.00

Actual Cost \$17,421.00

### GSHP

Installation Cost \$39,987.00

Incentives \$14,306.00

Actual Cost \$25,681.00

**Cost difference between RH Thermal Storage & 7T GHP system**

## ➤ Interest

### Resistance Heat w/ Central A/C

Installation Cost \$17,421.00

Incentives \$0.00

Actual Cost \$17,421.00

Loan Amount \$17,421.00

Loan Interest Rate 3.900%

Loan Term 20 years

Down Payment \$0.00

Monthly Payment \$104.65  
(P&I only)

### GSHP

Installation Cost \$39,987.00

Incentives \$14,306.00

Actual Cost \$25,681.00

Loan Amount \$25,681.00

Loan Interest Rate 3.900%

Loan Term 20 years

Down Payment \$0.00

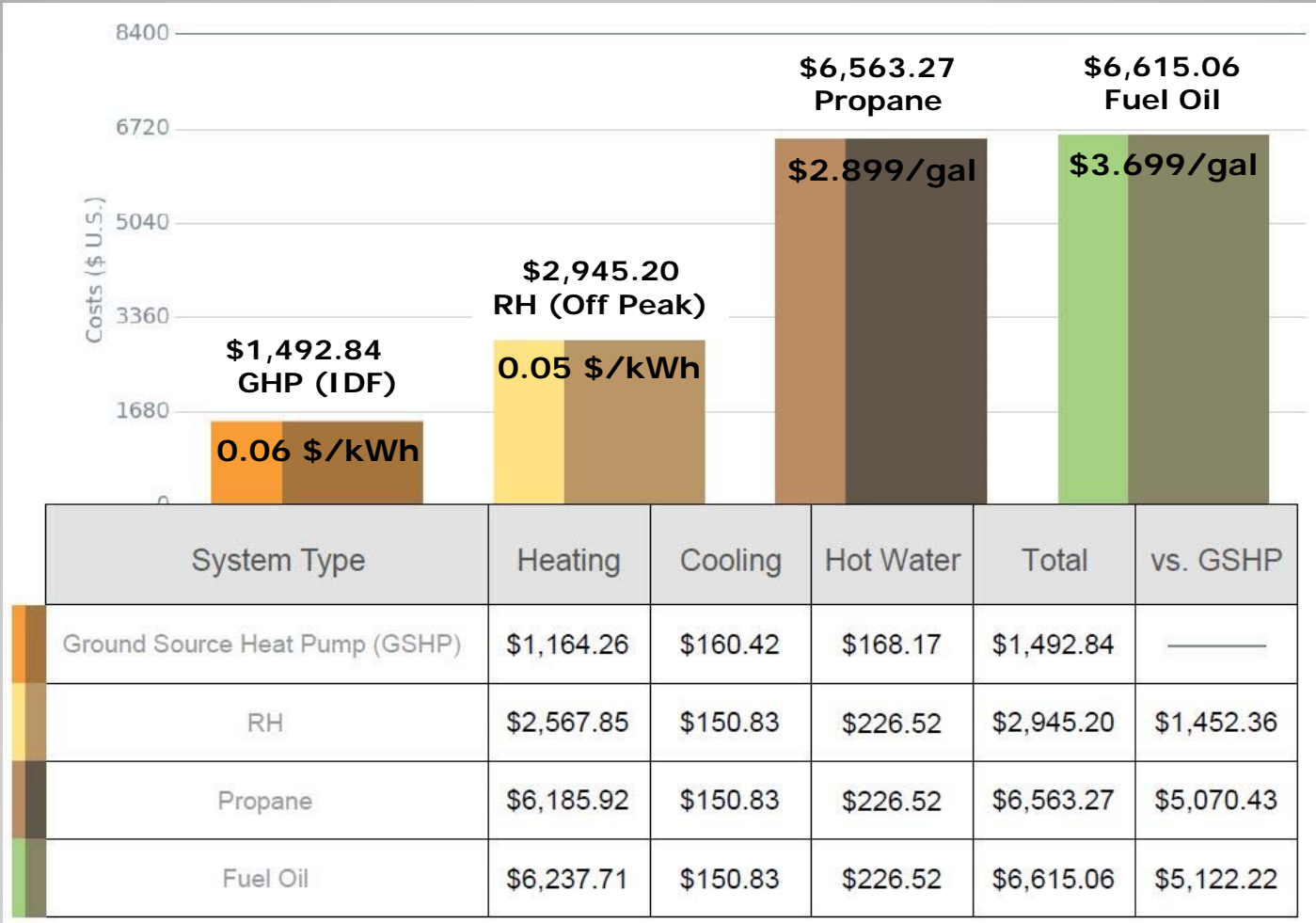
Monthly Payment \$154.27  
(P&I only)

**Cost difference between RH Thermal Storage & 7T GHP system**

## ➤ **GHP System Cost Recovery**

- **SIMPLE PAYBACK**—how long it takes for the net upgrade cost of the GHP system to be fully recovered using current energy rates
- **SHORT TERM SAVINGS**—snapshot of annual and monthly savings with incremental loan interest taken into account
- **30 YEAR SAVINGS**—difference in cost of ownership between a conventional HVAC system and GHP system over 30 years

# SIMPLE PAYBACK



# SIMPLE PAYBACK



## Simple Payback

GSHP Install Cost	\$25,681.00	Conventional Install Cost	\$17,421.00
Conventional Operating Cost	\$2,945.20	GSHP Operating Cost	\$1,492.84
$\Rightarrow \frac{\$8,260.00}{\$1,452.36}$		Simple Payback Period 5.7 years	

# SHORT TERM SAVINGS

## Short Term Savings

### Monthly Operating Savings

Conventional Op. Cost \$245.43

— GSHP Op. Cost \$124.40

Monthly Op. Savings \$121.03

Monthly Operating Savings \$121.03

— Monthly Savings w/ GSHP \$71.41

Monthly Savings w/ GSHP \$71.41

### Difference in Monthly Payment

Payment w/ GSHP \$154.27

— Payment w/ Conv. \$104.65

Incremental Payment \$49.62

— Incremental Payment \$49.62

× 12 — Annual Savings w/ GSHP \$856.92

# 30 YEAR SAVINGS

## 30 Year Savings

### Resistance Heat w/ Central A/C

---

Adjusted Install Price \$25,116.51

+ Adjusted Op. Cost \$140,119.11

---

Ownership Cost \$165,235.62

### GSHP

---

Adjusted Install Price \$37,025.26

+ Adjusted Op. Cost \$71,022.96

---

Ownership Cost \$108,048.22

Conventional Ownership Cost \$165,235.62 — GSHP Ownership Cost \$108,048.22

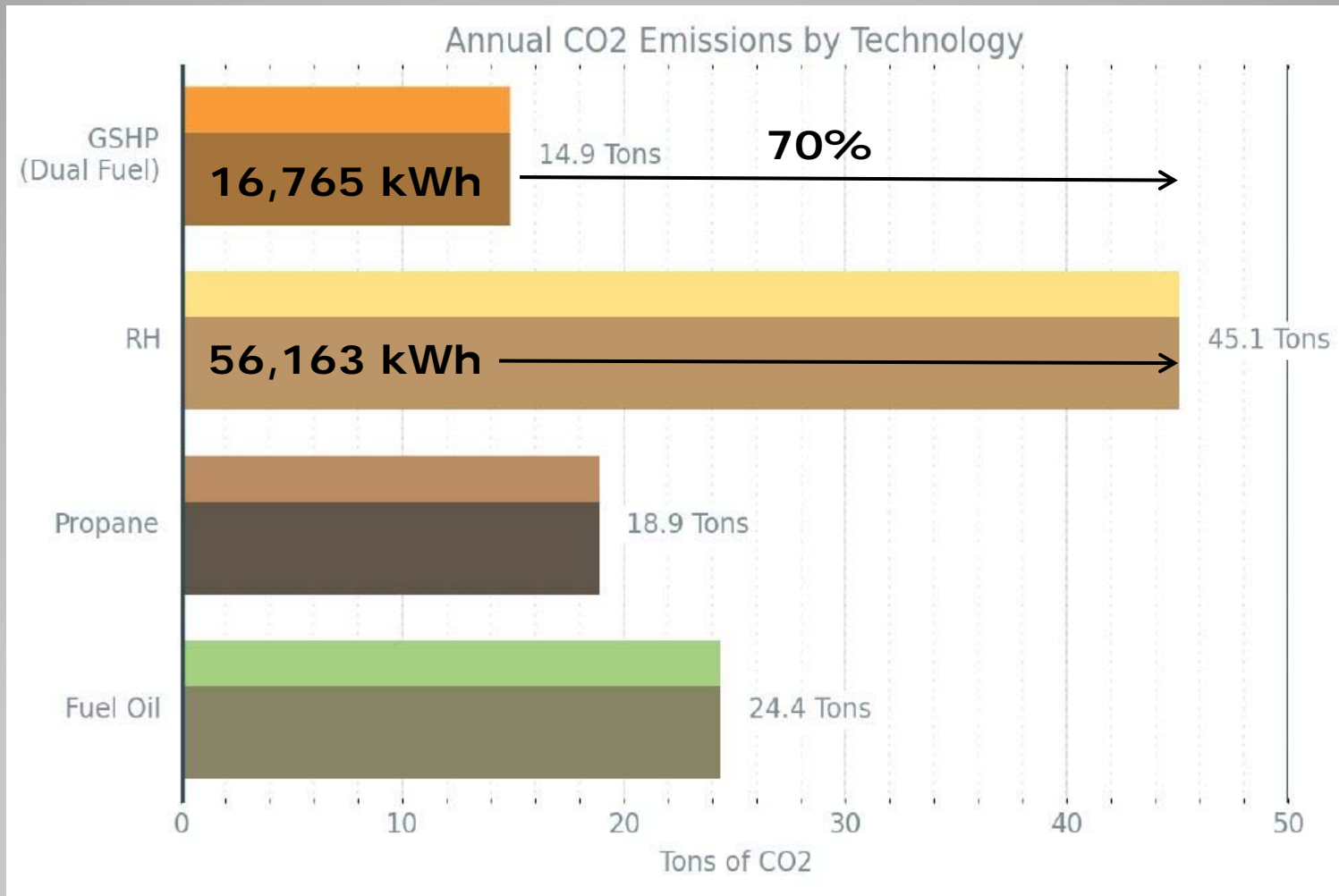
≡ 30 Year Savings \$57,187.40



# LIFETIME SAVINGS!



Over 70% of home's heating energy needs will be FREE forever.



**DON'T FORGET...ENVIRONMENTAL "SAVINGS"**

## RESOURCES:

- Northern GroundSource Inc.  
[www.ColdClimateGeothermal.com](http://www.ColdClimateGeothermal.com)
- International Ground Source Heat Pump Association  
[www.igshpa.okstate.edu](http://www.igshpa.okstate.edu)
- Minnesota Geothermal Heat Pump Association  
[www.MNGHPA.org](http://www.MNGHPA.org)
- Wisconsin Geothermal Association  
[www.wisgeo.org](http://www.wisgeo.org)
- GeoExchange  
[www.GeoExchange.org](http://www.GeoExchange.org)
- Association of Energy Engineers  
[www.aeecenter.org](http://www.aeecenter.org)

**END**