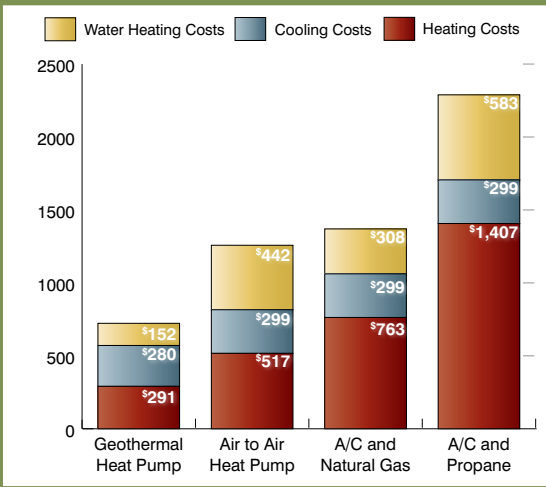


Annual Cost Comparison



Costs based on 2,500 sq. ft. house with average insulation. Fuel costs: \$.065/kWh heating; \$.11/kWh cooling electricity; \$1.17/therm natural gas; \$2.04/gallon propane.

Safe, comfortable, clean and cost efficient!

You can see for yourself how geothermal systems and other heating and cooling options compare. Whether you're replacing a gas or propane system, or upgrading to a higher-efficiency electric system, geothermal heat pump technology is the right move for you. With the systems available today, you can heat and cool any size home effectively and cost-efficiently with even, consistent temperature room to room, every season of the year.

And recent newspaper headlines are all the proof you need that natural gas and propane prices are on the rise with no end in sight. That's why geothermal technology makes sense now.

Contact your electric cooperative for up-to-date HVAC system cost comparisons and more information about the benefits of installing a geothermal heat pump.

Making the most of your geothermal HVAC system

Most people think that replacing their existing heating/cooling system is the only answer to lowering their electric bills. They don't realize that air leaks could also be contributing to their high utility bills.

Air leaks can occur in a host of places, such as floors, walls, ceilings, fireplaces, plumbing penetrations, windows, doors, outlets and vents. The biggest culprit, however, lies in your ductwork, especially if it's located in an attic, crawlspace or garage. Leaky ducts can lead to a variety of problems including poor air quality, comfort issues, uneven heating and cooling throughout your home and unexplained high bills.

Making sure your home structural shell and ducts are sealed as tightly as possible will ensure that you'll receive the maximum performance from your HVAC system, enjoy greater comfort and experience the lowest heating and cooling costs possible.

Geothermal Alliance of Illinois

Illinois electric cooperatives have been leading the charge in helping to advance geothermal technology statewide. In their quest to improve standards in the geothermal industry, the co-ops have taken a leadership role in forming the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois (GAI). The goal of the organization is to promote the usage of geothermal technology and provide education to improve the quality and continuity of work performed by geothermal service providers, including dealers, installers, designers and engineers. Only those geothermal professionals who become certified under the GAI program standards are promoted by the organization. Log on at www.geothermalallianceofillinois.org to learn more about geothermal heating and cooling, locate a certified GAI-certified professional, and catch the latest industry news.

Going Green With Geothermal Heat Pump Systems



[Co-op Logo]



Today's geothermal systems offer so many advantages:

- Environmentally clean and friendly
- Four times more efficient than gas furnaces
- Use a limitless source of heating and cooling
- No noisy, unsightly outside unit
- Need very little regular maintenance
- No dangerous gases
- Located indoors, not exposed to outside elements
- Can lower hot water costs
- Offer whisper quiet operation
- Save 30 – 70 percent on heating/cooling bills

Heat and cool affordably, with help from the Earth.

Geothermal Q&A:

How does a geothermal system work?

The earth absorbs solar energy and just a few feet underground it stays a relatively constant 55 F all year long. Rather than generating energy, which requires more electricity, geothermal systems extract the earth's existing energy to heat and cool your home for a fraction of the cost of other heating and cooling methods. In winter, fluid-filled polyethylene loops move the energy from the earth to geothermal equipment where it is compressed to a higher temperature and transferred as warm air to the indoor system for distribution throughout your home. In the summer the process is reversed, and heat is removed from your home and transferred through the loop system to the earth's cooler temperature.

Do I need a separate furnace or air conditioner?

No. Geothermal systems provide both heating and cooling, and even some hot water. That is why they are so economical.

How much does a geothermal system cost?

Although you'll pay more initially for a geothermal heat pump system, considering its reduced operating costs, energy savings will quickly offset the initial difference in its purchase price. And there has never been a better time to look into geothermal technology as an option for your home. Through 2016, homeowners who install a geothermal system are eligible for a 30 percent tax credit on it, with no capped dollar



incentive. For more information about the tax credit contact your tax professional or visit www.dsireusa.org.

Can a geothermal heat pump be installed in an older home?

Yes. They use your home's existing ductwork, so conversion is easy. To minimize the impact to your yard's appearance, contractors use special equipment to install the piping.