Geo Loop Program

Program helps utility customers make the move to a Geothermal Heat Pump system

Would you like to lower your monthly energy bill? Are you interested in using renewable and efficient energy sources? Do you hope to ward off home maintenance costs?

Installing a geothermal heat pump has become one of the most popular ways to accomplish all of these. Useful for either residential or commercial customers, the geothermal heat pump system is a cost-effective way to both heat and cool a home or building by taking advantage of the natural temperature of the earth.

Unfortunately, too many customers are deterred from such a system by the up-front installation costs associated with it. To remedy that problem, Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA) has introduced its Geo Loop Program, which allows customers to work with participating member cities to finance the installation of the loops in geothermal heat pump systems.

How The Program Works

Cities are responsible for setting up their own program for how they assist customers. There are typically two types of programs participating cities will offer.

One example would be for the city to arrange and pay for the drilling of the geothermal wells and installation of the ground-loop heat exchanger, then have the customer pay a monthly fee on their utility bill.

Another example could involve the city loaning the money for the installation of the loops to the customer, who can then choose their own contractor for the project, before repaying the loan through their utility bills.

In either case, the customer would be responsible for all costs associated with completing the remainder of the geothermal heat pump system.

Contact your city to find out if they participate and to learn more about their chosen method for working with the Geo Loop Program.

Geothermal Heat Pumps

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has referred to geothermal heat pumps, also known as ground source heat pumps, as the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean and cost-effective space conditioning systems available.

They work in summer months by extracting heat from a building and transferring it into the ground, using the earth as a heat sink. They typically use water or antifreeze circulated through looped pipe buried in the ground to act as a heat exchanger.

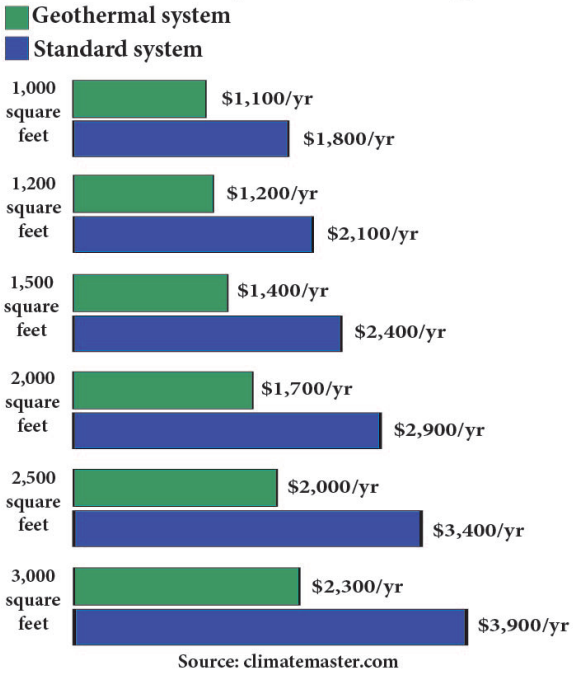
In the winter, the systems work in reverse, providing heat by collecting it from the ground and transferring it to the building.

Financial Sense

There are a number of ways in which geothermal heat pump systems can be a wise financial investment. They include:

• Reduced energy costs. Geothermal systems can lower utility bills by 40 to 60 percent. This allows the customer to recoup the costs of installation in 2 to 10 years on average, depending on the size of the system and other variables.

Utility Savings



Source: climatemaster.com

• Durability. The lifetime of a heat pump system can be 18 to 23 years, which is almost double that of a conventional system. In addition, the underground piping associated with the system can last at least 50 years, and often includes a warranty of at least 25 years.

• Rebates and tax credits. OMPA and member cities offer customers incentives through the WISE Rebate program, which could offset some installation costs. The WISE rebate currently amounts to $800 per ton for qualifying geothermal heat pumps that meet set standards. Additionally, federal tax credits of up to 30 percent of the total cost can be obtained for residential geothermal heat pumps that meet guidelines. Those credits can be applied to both existing homes and new construction.

For more information on the Geo Loop Program, contact:

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OMPA
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For utility customers