

## **Save The Earth With New England Geothermal Heat** **For Your Home Or Business**

Geothermal means *ground heat*, and sometimes people are surprised to learn that “geothermal” heat is available in the State of Maine. In fact, the geothermal heat for residences in Maine is provided predominantly by heat from the sun, which heats the ground. This solar heat, stored in the ground, is next recycled using a heat pump, coupled to the ground. The heat is then distributed to the building.

A big advantage of such “stored solar heat” is that it is always available, day and night, not just when the sun is shining. Other geothermal advantages include reduced environmental impact, reduced maintenance, and, very importantly, reduced heating bills. At today’s costs, geothermal heat in Maine is only about 35% of the cost of oil or 28% of the cost of propane heat. The substantially reduced running cost of geothermal in Maine also means that the payback time is very short, typically around 2 to 5 years.

Previously, initial cost for geothermal system installation was a hurdle for some people. This is no longer an issue, however, as the new Maine low interest loan program for geothermal system installation eliminates the problem of up-front costs.

The geothermal heat pump can provide both heating and cooling for those who want air conditioning. The same heating/cooling heat pump can also give domestic hot water in both the heating and cooling modes. This further reduces the time it takes for the geothermal system to break even with the combination of separate systems for fossil fuel heating, water heating, and air conditioning.

In Maine, the most convenient form of ground coupling uses a well, which may also be the well providing domestic water to the residence. This dual use of the one well further reduces the installation cost of the geothermal system. These cost savings make geothermal retrofits extremely worthwhile investments for homeowners with existing fossil fuel heating.

People, with existing domestic wells for both new construction and geothermal retrofits, may have already paid for half of their heating systems, right there in their own back yards. These existing wells give an added incentive to consider geothermal heating and cooling. Investing in renewable, sustainable, energy from a geothermal system may well be something to consider in your future.

*John Logan, will present be a seminar speaker at the Smart Home Owner Seminar Series. Please check the schedule for times. His contact information is:* John Logan, Regional Director, Maine, 15 Wawenock Road, Raymond, ME  
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