



There is a better way to heat and cool your home!

Ed Wiltse shares his Sustainable Homes Rochester experience.

Ed installed a ducted air-source heat pump system and heat pump hot water heater.

“The heat pump HVAC system cost about the same as a replacement gas furnace plus a new central air install. The water heater was a bit more than a gas model would cost, but there were good NYS rebates for both units, and of course both are more energy efficient, so we'll save money over time. We also improved our basement and attic insulation -- small investments now that will save us money in the long run.”

“Our 2,000 square-foot, 1941 house had a gas furnace since we moved in, and no AC other than a window unit we'd install in the bedroom for the hottest nights of summer.

When we decided to upgrade to central air, we thought it might be time to replace the furnace with a more efficient one. That's when we learned about heat pump technology, so we went all in and swapped our gas water heater for a heat pump model. Since we're buying our electricity from SunCommon, the whole house now runs on sunshine!”

*“As for comfort, it's all been great. Because of the heat pump's efficiency it actually saves energy *not* to turn the thermostat down as much at night as we used to, so in the winter the house is at a more consistent temperature. Having AC to cut the heat and especially the humidity is really nice.”*





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Chris Holmes shares his feedback with Sustainable Homes Rochester.

Chris installed a ground-source (geothermal) heat pump and hot water heater (runs off geothermal) and made energy efficiency improvements.

How did you heat your home before installing a heat pump?

"Our home was heated with a gas powered boiler. At some time in the past, there was an oil powered boiler as the tank is still in our basement!"



What motivated you to consider heat pumps as a home heating option?

"Some time ago, I became aware of geothermal heating and thought it was very interesting and basically the way to go forward with heating a home. We got solar panels on our home last year and then we thought wouldn't it be great to do away with all gas and go all electric?"

How did the option compare with other options and what drove you to decide on a heat pump in the end?

"The other options were to keep using gas but upgrade to a much more efficient boiler. There is a dual system that has a tankless water heater that seemed good but was very expensive. I should mention that we were also at the end of expected life for our hot water heater and the geothermal system replaced that as well."

How did you learn about SHR?

"I heard of SHR by visiting the RPCC website and seeing an update."

Which SHR contractor performed your upgrade? "Geotherm"

How did you select that contractor?

"There aren't too many companies doing home geothermal installations. There weren't many choices and Geotherm was very forward and clear about their costs and what would take place."

Was the application process easy overall?

"Geotherm is very connected with all of the rebates and offers available with this sort of upgrade so they made it very easy."

Would you recommend the program to a friend? "Yes!"

Chris Holmes shares his feedback with SHR continued...



Have you noticed any differences in your monthly energy bill?

"The billing is interesting, especially coupled with a solar collector. Basically we overproduce in the summer so we don't pay much (except for delivery charges) and accrue credits on our bill. In the winter, we use more electricity and thus start using up the credits gained in the summer. We haven't had the system long enough to really see the effects but just last summer (August was when the solar collector was up and running) we started over producing and that paid for some of the geothermal use. So far this spring, we have produced more from the solar than we did last year so I expect so see almost an even production and thus very little expense for running the system. It really is amazing having the two systems.

Even without the solar collector, the cost is lower to run than fueling our old boiler. The upfront cost of the solar and geothermal systems was a bunch but with all of the rebates, grants, and tax credits available it became very obvious that this is the time to pursue these upgrades. The process was very manageable and we love the outcome. The companies we went with (Geotherm and Greenspark for solar) walked us through the process and were very helpful."



Has the technology improved your quality of life in terms of quality and consistent heating and cooling?

"The heating provided is much more consistent, even with radiators. With the way geothermal works, you should keep the thermostat on the same level all the time. In the past, we were used to dropping the temperature down at night. I should point out that having traditional radiators does not mean you cannot get geothermal heating!"



Does it feel good to know that you are reducing your home's impact on climate change?

"Absolutely, that's one reason we did all these upgrades!"