

# North Country Heat Smart

Hosted by the Saranac Lake Climate Smart Community Task Force



## Why heat pumps?

Installing modern HVAC technologies, including ground-source and air-source heat pump systems can reduce energy costs. Heat pump systems heat and cool your home or office using electricity. No on-site combustion means no risk of dangerous carbon monoxide gas.

Heating and cooling with heat pumps eliminate harmful greenhouse gas emissions when combined with renewable electricity

## How do heat pump heating and cooling systems work?

Unlike traditional heat-generating HVAC systems, heat pumps extract and concentrate heat from the ground or air outside, and distribute it inside your home or office. During warmer months, the process is reversed to provide cooling by pulling heat out of your interior space. These systems are highly efficient, and can provide up to 100% of your heating and cooling needs.

## What are the benefits?

- ✓ **Lower Energy Usage**
  - Heats and cools your home more efficiently than traditional HVAC systems like oil, propane, and electric resistance.
- ✓ **Increased comfort**
  - Get even heating and cooling throughout your home or business.
- ✓ **Low Maintenance & Long Lasting**
  - Heat pumps last longer than conventional furnaces and AC units, and require little maintenance.
- ✓ **Clean, health & safe**
  - No combustion of fossils fuels, no fuel storage, no emissions, and no risk of carbon

## Are utility rebates and tax credits available?

<https://cleanheat.ny.gov>

Yes, and they can be combined. The NYS Clean Heat Program provides a rebate in the range of \$500 to \$7,500 for a whole house system dependent on your custom installation. The system must be installed by a qualified participating contractor.

Starting in 2023, the new federal Inflation Reduction Act includes tax credits for both air-source and ground-source heat pumps. Check with a tax consultant to learn if you will qualify.

## Why is the Village of Saranac Lake invested in the installation of heat pumps?

The Village participates in two active programs that help to bring initiatives to New York State communities of our size: *Climate Smart Communities (CSC)* and *Clean Energy Communities (CEC)*. The CEC program recognizes municipalities' participation and actions that have been taken toward the overall goal, which is to foster a healthy and sustainable environment using clean energy solutions, by awarding grant money toward future clean energy projects.

<https://tinyurl.com/slheatsmart>

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## Common heat pump questions and tips

Purchasing a new heat pump is a way to enhance your comfort and improve your energy efficiency. It is important to choose a high-quality heat pump that will be installed by a certified contractor. To aid in ensuring your long-term satisfaction, the following questions are recommended in asking the prospective HVAC contractor when you request your quote.

### 1) What is the total cost of a new heat pump?

- Work with your certified contractor to understand the differences in the equipment
- With rebates available, the heat pump systems typically are comparable to other types of heating systems
- Be sure to ask the prospective contractor if they will apply for NYS and Federal rebates on your behalf

### 2) How much does it cost to operate a heat pump?

- It varies with locality and electric rates. Typically, overall cost will be less than existing systems. Heat pumps are extremely efficient, typically using 3 to 5 times less energy than the traditional appliances they replace. Your electricity use may rise, but your previous fuel purchases (oil, propane, etc.) will be reduced or even eliminated.

### 3) Do heat pumps work in cold climates like Upstate New York?

- Yes, very well! New technology allows heat pumps to meet 100% of winter heating needs even when outside temps fall as low as -10 to -20°F. At even lower temperatures, heat pumps still provide significant amounts of heat, but may need to be supplemented by an existing system. Heat pumps work at their most efficient capacity in weatherized homes.

### 4) Types of heat pumps

- *Ground source (also called Geothermal) heat pumps* concentrate heat from the ground and use it to warm water in a closed loop system. That water is pumped throughout your home to warm the air. This system is the most efficient type of heat pump and is usually used in whole-home applications.
- *Air-source heat pumps* extract heat from outside air which is then used to heat indoor spaces during colder months. They can also be used to extract heat from indoors and expel it outside to cool indoor spaces during the warmer months. Air-source heat pumps like a ductless mini-split can be used to heat and cool single rooms, or entire homes.

### 5) What is the key to your satisfaction with your heat pump?

- The key to your satisfaction is to select a prospective contractor with a best quote to ensure quality on your behalf
- The SL Climate Smart Communities task force recommends the following contractors:
  - ADK Solar 518-354-8446 [www.adk-solar.com](http://www.adk-solar.com)
  - High Peaks Heat Pumps 518-946-6066 [www.highpeaksheatpumps.com](http://www.highpeaksheatpumps.com)
  - Howl at the Moon Mechanicals (do not offer NYS Clean Heat rebates) 518-302-5211 [www.howlatthemoonmechanicals.com](http://www.howlatthemoonmechanicals.com)
  - Smith and Stender, LLC 518-891-2110 [sites.google.com/smithandstender.com/smithandstenderllc/home](https://sites.google.com/smithandstender.com/smithandstenderllc/home)