

# IN THE LOOP

The latest news and updates from the Ontario Geothermal Association

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## Great Holiday News!

In this December issue, the OGA along with its trusted industry associates have very good things to share: 1. The IESO and GreenON have unveiled the long awaited Low Carbon Incentive Program, featuring rebates for geothermal systems. 2. Mark your calendars for the OGA Conference (OGA2018) slated for February 27 – 28, 2018 at The Westin Airport Toronto Hotel. We are at work fine-tuning an incredible agenda. Take the time to celebrate all your hard work and achievements over the year. Here's to a well-deserved holiday and a promising new year! All the best for the holidays!



Jim Bolger, President, OGA



# OGA Applauds GreenON Low Carbon Initiative

by Martin Luymes, HRAI

The Ontario Geothermal Association (OGA) is applauding the announcement made on December 13th by Ontario's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Chris Ballard, about a new program of financial support for Ontario households interested in improving their energy efficiency and lowering the carbon footprint of their homes. The announcement was made formal in a press conference at the MaRS Centre in Toronto, Ontario.

The Low Carbon Technology Incentives program is designed to encourage homeowners to invest in building envelope and HVAC upgrades. The primary focus will be on existing detached, semi-detached, and row town houses with rebate values covering 50-75% of the installed costs. Measures include insulation for exterior walls, attics and basements, air sealing, windows (ENERGY STAR® Most Efficient) and heat pumps—air source and ground source.

of Canada (HRAI) and will build upon the SaveONenergy contractor database and management processes which are managed by HRAI on behalf of Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). There will be specific training and certification requirements for contractors to be registered to offer each of the different program measures.

"We are very pleased with the Ontario Government's commitment to combatting climate change through investments in low carbon heating and cooling technologies," said OGA Chair Jim Bolger, President of Waterloo Energy Products, Maryhill, ON. "Geothermal heat pump systems are the most energy efficient way to heat and cool homes and buildings and, in jurisdictions like Ontario, where electricity is mostly generated without burning hydrocarbon fuels, it also represents a significant way for Ontarians to reduce their carbon footprint. This technology, in

**"We are very pleased with the Ontario Government's commitment to combatting climate change through investments in low carbon heating and cooling technologies."** *Jim Bolger, OGA Chair*

Rebates for air source heat pumps will range from \$1,900 for ductless air source heat pumps to \$5,500 for ducted cold climate units. Rebates for geothermal systems will be \$2,000 per loop ton for horizontal loop systems and \$3,000 per loop ton for vertical loop systems, with additional incentives for adding de-superheaters (\$750), domestic water heating (\$1,500) and for systems that meet higher efficiency levels (an additional \$1,500). Rebates for geothermal will be capped at \$15,000 for horizontal systems and \$20,000 for vertical loop systems. Additional rebates of \$750 per loop ton will be available for replacing existing geothermal heat pumps for more efficient systems.

Contractor registration for the program will be administered by the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute

in conjunction with investments in home insulation and air sealing, will not only lower energy bills and minimize greenhouse gas emissions, but it will also improve the indoor comfort of homes."

The OGA, in partnership with HRAI, is preparing the heating and air conditioning industry in the province to answer questions people might have and to respond to demand for geothermal systems that will be generated by the rebates program. These organizations are committed to ensuring systems are installed by fully trained and qualified contractors, backed by appropriate warranties and support from equipment manufacturers. This technology has been widely deployed with great success in other parts of the world.

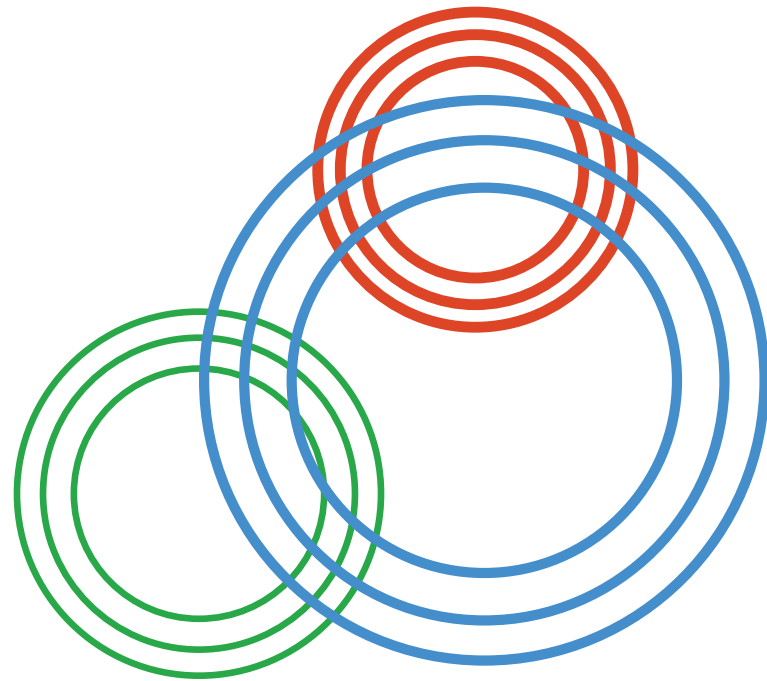
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Acknowledging that this new rebates program is limited to home retrofits, the OGA is also exploring the potential for introducing geothermal systems into the new home market: “OGA is pleased to be working with Enbridge Gas Distribution in the development of innovative utility models for the geothermal loop assets, which will further increase adoption of the technology,” said Bolger.

While pleased with the announcement and what the program could mean for the health of the geothermal industry in Ontario, the OGA also urges members and others in the industry to be patient as the program rolls out. While more time would have to be helpful to finalize details concerning product eligibility, contractor training and accreditation requirements, and the full quality assurance system, there were also compelling reasons to announce the program on the 13th, prior to the holiday season.

The OGA encourages members to cooperate with HRAI and the OGA as they work with IESO and GreenON to maximize the success of this exciting new program.



## Training & Certification

by Jeff Hunter, Redmond/Williams

As the Chair of the OGA Training and Certification Committee, I am pleased that the new GreenON incentives program is up and running at long last. Our committee and the OGA Board, with the support of HRAI, have been working diligently on behalf of the geothermal industry over the course of the last two years to encourage the Ontario Government, as part of its Climate Change Action Plan, to promote and provide incentives to encourage people to install Geothermal Systems.

As of the announcement made on Wednesday, December 13th, 2017, we are now in a position to promote and participate in one of the most generous incentive programs in the history of our industry.

Part of the OGA's and HRAI's commitment to the IESO, GreenON and the Ontario Ministry of Environment & Climate Change was that we would ensure that all contractors would be required to take part in a meaningful and current training program, regardless of their past experience in the industry. This was a specific condition of their support to our industry and one we are obliged to fulfill under the new program.

The training required in the program is not meant to create an undue burden on contractors, but rather to provide a comfort level to GreenON, IESO, and MOECC – and the people of Ontario -- that we take very seriously having our personnel up-to-date on training and providing quality assurance when we are installing geothermal systems. Training dates will be announced in the new year.

Participation in any incentive program of this sort is obviously not mandatory, but I am confident that all participants in the new GreenON incentive program will benefit. It is not an unreasonable expectation of participants who benefit from such a program that they would commit to having their installers and designers trained to current industry standards.

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I encourage you to participate in the program and to obtain all the necessary training you will need to qualify. If you have any questions or concerns, let us know. In the months ahead there will be opportunities to tweak aspects of the program to increase effectiveness, but in the short-term please work with us to ensure our industry fully meets the expectations of our funding partners.

Your cooperation in this regard will be greatly appreciated!

# OGA2018



# Featured Project

In an effort to raise the profile of the Ontario geothermal sector, the OGA is creating a library of unique and forward-thinking projects. This section will continuously present profiles of projects of interest including details, specifications and interviews where required to highlight the project's ingenuity. The OGA invites contractors to submit projects for consideration to be featured in this section. Please e-mail the below details to [office@ontariogeothermal.com](mailto:office@ontariogeothermal.com):

- Project Name
- Company Name
- Location of Project (City; State/Province/Territory; Country)
- Description of Project (approx. 100-200 words)
- Relevant links
- High Resolution Photographs (.eps)

## What's Trending?

- [US Report contradicts Trump Team: Warming Mostly Man Made](#)
- [MEG Installs First Utility Based Community Geothermal System in N.Y. for National Grid](#)
- [OGA2018 + Event Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

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Take advantage of member benefits such as province and nation-wide recognition on HRAI's online contractor locator, discounted OGA conference rates, exclusive industry deals & HRAI news updates. Learn more [here](#) or get in touch by contacting 1-(800) 267-2231 or [sales@hrai.ca](mailto:sales@hrai.ca).

### New & Current Members

Check out our list of current OGA member companies and brand new member recruits [here](#).

### Board Members

Get to know the OGA Board of Directors [here](#).

### More Information

Contact [office@ontariogeothermal.ca](mailto:office@ontariogeothermal.ca) for more information on the Ontario Geothermal Association.

### Association Partner

