

IN THE LOOP

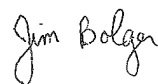
The latest news and updates from the Ontario Geothermal Association

IN THIS ISSUE

Government Relations	2-3
Training & Certification	2
Featured Project	4
What's Trending?	4

Welcome

Welcome to In The Loop—your monthly look inside the Ontario Geothermal sector. Is geoexchange on the provincial and federal government's current agenda? Which Ontario projects are leading the way? What are the local, national and international industry news items that will impact the industry? Get in the loop and stay connected as we source from reliable industry experts who are up close & personal to the latest, breaking news in the Ontario geoexchange sector. Stay tuned to the many ways the geoexchange landscape is heating up.



Jim Bolger, President, OGA



Government Relations

OGA quietly gets the job done.

by Martin Luymes, HRAI

During a summer that may have seemed a bit too sluggish for the Ontario geothermal industry, a great deal has been happening behind the scenes at the Ontario Geothermal Association to change that. The OGA has been active on three fronts: 1. securing of an incentive program with the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC); 2. Building a productive relationship with Enbridge as it plans to become a geothermal loop developer; and 3. Developing a strong Quality Assurance (QA) program that will meet the expectations of these key government and utility partners.

Funding Program

OGA members have been expecting some form of program from MOECC for almost two years, based on the positive messaging coming from MOECC and now retired Minister Glen Murray. Before a program could be developed, however, a number of things had to happen.

First, the government established its “cap and trade” system for raising the necessary funds (through the sale of carbon credits). The initial two auctions, held in April and June, raised \$976 million in funds – funds that, in accordance with Section 71 of the Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act, must be spent on initiatives dedicated to reducing carbon emissions.

Second, in February, the government established the “Ontario Climate Change Solutions Deployment Corporation,” which will create the programs to be funded through the proceeds of Cap and Trade. At the end of August, the new Minister of Environment and Climate Change Chris Ballard (who replaced Glen Murray) announced that the corporation would be

➤ *Continues on page 3*

Training & Certification

by Jeff Hunter, OGA Board Member

The training and certification committee has been meeting weekly for the last few months in an effort to prepare for prospective government programs. The committee is comprised of members representing manufacturers, distributors, installers and engineering/designers.

Early stages of committee meetings reviewed and assessed the suitability of available training programs. The committee successfully completed the review and recommendations were forwarded to the OGA Board of Directors.

Items concerning CSA C448-16, installation guidelines and technical fundamentals relating to installation quality were also reviewed. An inspection protocol for residential installations was developed from this review. Inspection is one component of a larger quality assurance plan the committee has proposed.

The committee met with the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT) in June to discuss future growth of the geothermal sector. In discussions with OCOT, committee members explained the types of work performed on geothermal systems, and the need for properly qualified individuals performing the work. It was also relayed that there currently does not exist a qualification that addresses all the types of work a technician might perform on a geothermal site. The committee and HRAI/OGA look forward to working with OCOT as the industry continues to grow.

◀ *Continued from page 2*

known to the public as “[GreenON](#)” and that a series of low-carbon programs would be forthcoming in the fall.

And third, because they were overseeing a new entity with a large budget but no personnel, the newly-appointed GreenON board decided early in the summer to secure a contract with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to manage any programs to be funded through GreenON, for at least the next year.

OGA has been in active discussions with the Ministry, GreenON and IESO throughout this crucial and difficult time of transition and, while it took some time for the dust to settle, rapid progress has been made in the last 2-3 weeks towards the development of a geothermal support program. The proposed rebate program, along with incentives for a variety of other low carbon measures, will be delivered on the platform of the current IESO (SaveONenergy) Heating and Cooling Incentive program currently managed by HRAI in partnership with Summerhill Group. News about the details of the program will be shared with OGA members as soon as they are available.

government rebates, the OGA in July secured the services of experienced consultant Jay Egg to develop and document a QA program in conjunction with the OGA training and certification committee. Egg has helped to develop programs of this type in other jurisdictions, most recently in New York State, with NYSERDA and NY-Geo.

By the end of August, a draft set of documents was developed and these are currently being reviewed by the OGA Board and T&C committee. The program includes a rigorous plan for pre-qualifying contractors, offering training to those who need it (via a partnership with IGSHPA), training municipal inspectors and inspectors funded through the anticipated rebate program, and requirements for quality inspections on a regular basis. The program as proposed appears to meet all the requirements of MOECC, GreenON and IESO, the latter of which is underwriting a vetting and review process through the Canadian Institute for Energy Training (CIET) which will be completed in the first week of September.

Details of the QA program will be announced in advance of the roll-out of the rebates program expected in the next month or so.

“OGA has been in active discussions with the Ministry, GreenON and IESO... **rapid progress** has been made in the last 2-3 weeks towards the development of a geothermal support program.”

Enbridge

OGA has held regular meetings with Enbridge to assist in the development of the company’s geothermal loop business for the residential new construction market and residential retrofit applications. Where the utility originally expected to require approvals from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for a regulated-rate based system, the company is now focused on obtaining a back-stopping of its loop financing through special arrangements with GreenON. Though Enbridge will be the pioneer for this type of arrangement in Ontario, it is expected that others will follow their lead and seek similar protections for long term investments in loop infrastructure.

Developing a QA Program

Essential to the success of any government program or utility initiative will be a rigorous quality assurance program comprised of contractor accreditation, training and certification and inspections.

Anticipating the need for such a program well in advance of

Other Matters

Some members may be wondering what has become of HRAI’s discussions with the Canadian Geo-Exchange Coalition (CGC). After five or six months of discussion, it became clear that an arrangement would not be feasible at this time, due primarily to differing views on what is needed. At the urging of industry (including the OGA leadership), HRAI sought an affiliation agreement that would work towards a single unified voice for the geothermal sector, leveraging the strength of the HVACR industry as represented by HRAI and the unique focus on geothermal offered by CGC. CGC expressed a preference to limit the discussion to securing an arrangement for training in Ontario. HRAI would not consider a training agreement of this type with CGC, except in context of a more comprehensive affiliation arrangement.

While an affiliation appears unlikely in the short-term, both HRAI and CGC have indicated an openness to further discussion when the time arises.

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:

- 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?

- [Google, Dandelion Geothermal, and the Thermal Energy IoT](#)
- [California Cap-and-Trade Program Extends to 2030](#)
- [Geothermal Energy: the Wave of the Future](#)

Free E-Newsletter Subscription

Keep up-to-date on changes to the industry. Sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter by e-mailing office@ontariogeothermal.ca.

OGA Membership

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.

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 for more information on the Ontario Geothermal Association.

Association Partner

