GHP Market Status, Barriers, and Methods to Overcome the Barriers

Geothermal Heat Pump Technologies Webinar

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Report ORNL/TM-2008/232

- Sponsor
 - DOE Geothermal Technologies Program
- Question posed
 - Have policymakers mistakenly overlooked GHPs as a component of national energy/climate strategy?
- Where can I get report?
 - www.zebralliance.com

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Geothermal (Ground-Source) Heat Pumps: Market Status, Barriers to Adoption, and Actions to Overcome Barriers

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Scope

- Determine status of global GHP markets
 - Domestic GHP markets, industry, and technology
- Assemble previous estimates of GHP energy savings potential and other benefits
- Identify key barriers to application of GHPs
- Identifying actions that could accelerate market adoption of GHPs
- Document findings in a report

Status of Global GHP Markets

- U.S. was once the world leader in GHP technology and market development
 - Today domestic markets absorb ~60,000 units/yr
 - 50-60% residential (new exceeding retrofit by 3 to 1)
 - 40-50% commercial
 - U.S. still has the largest installed base
 - Per capita, many European countries are ahead
- European markets are now 2-3 times the U.S.
 - ~135,000 to 190,000 units/yr
- Growth rates in Europe, parts of Asia (China, S. Korea), and Canada exceed U.S.

Domestic GHP Markets, Industry, Technology

Markets

- Who buys and why
 - Institutional customers who take the life-cycle view
 - Homeowners with wherewithal to finance and plans to occupy a long time
- Value proposition
 - Simple payback: retrofit 8-12 yr, new is better but >5yr still common
- Industry
 - Profitably serving a small niche
 - Spotty design and installation infrastructure
 - Too fragmented and resource-constrained to grow rapidly on own
 - With policy-level assistance on barriers could grow rapidly
- Technology
 - Simple, reliable, but not advancing (no R&D program)

Potential GHP Benefits Appear Significant[†]

- Primary energy savings by 2030
 - 3.4 to 3.9 quads annually (buildings today consume about 40 quads)
 - Residential about 60%
 - Of that ~20% new, ~80% retrofit
 - Commercial about 40%
 - Of that ~33% new, 67% retrofit
 - 35 to 40% of savings needed to keep buildings in 2030 at 2008 energy use level (per EIA projections)
- Deferred electric generation capacity 2030
 - 91 to 105 GW
 - 42 to 48% of net new capacity additions by 2030 (per EIA projections)
- Utility bill reductions in 2030
 - \$33 to 38 billion/yr (assuming rates in 2030 = rates in 2006)

[†]Based on previous analyses by others for existing building retrofits, updated using current data, and supplemented with new construction savings estimate.

Key Barriers to Rapid Deployment of GHPs[†]

- Tier 1
 - High first-cost of GHP systems to consumers
- Tier 2
 - Lack of consumer knowledge and/or trust in benefits
 - Lack of policymaker/regulator knowledge and/or trust in benefits
 - GHP design and business model infrastructure limitations
 - GHP installation infrastructure limitations
- Tier 3
 - Lack of new technologies and techniques to improve GHP system cost/performance

[†]Based on the sense of a group of GHP industry experts.

Actions To Accelerate Market Adoption of GHPs[†]

- Tier 1
 - Assemble independent, hard data on costs and benefits
 - Independently access the national benefits of GHP deployment
- Tier 2
 - Streamline/deploy REC programs to provide GHP infrastructure
 - Universal access to GHP infrastructure via loop-leasing

– Develop data, models, tools enabling lowest LCC GHP infrastructure

Requires applied R&D

- Tier 3
 - Expand areas where high-quality GHP design infrastructure exists
 - Expand areas where high-quality installation infrastructure exists

†Based on the sense of a group of GHP industry experts.

Primary Market Failure – Expecting Building Owners to Finance the 'GHP Infrastructure'

- 'GHP infrastructure' is the outside-the-building part of the GHP system
 - Can be half or more of the overall GHP system cost
 - Rest of system about the same cost as conventional
 - Could be less in volume production
- 'GHP infrastructure' is like utility plant
 - It moves energy
 - It outlives the building and many generations of heat pumps
- Why do we expect building owners to finance 'GHP infrastructure' on their own credit?
 - When we bring central station renewable energy to market the transmission lines will not be financed on building owner credit
 - Instead, as consumers of 72% of the nation's electricity, building owners will pay for these transmission lines in their utility bills



Central Station Solar Power



Central Station Geothermal Power



Temperatures at 6 km (3.75 mile) depth





Buildings Use 72% of Electricity



GHP Infrastructure (Ground Heat Exchanger)

Heating Mode Efficiency – Today's Technology

1 kWh of energy
from the gridYields:4-6 kWh of energy
for the buildingPlus:3-5 kWh of energy

from the earth

Another form of utility plant for delivering renewable energy supplies to the load





The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

- The conference agreement includes
 - \$400,000,000 for geothermal activities and projects
- Whether any of this resource is applied to the advancement of the geothermal (ground-source) heat pump industry is at the discretion of DOE
- ARRA funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) are planned to be issued over the next few months
- FOAs for the DOE Geothermal Technologies Program are issued by the DOE Golden Field Office
 - Watch for posting at url:

https://e-center.doe.gov/iips/faopor.nsf/ViewMenu?ReadForm



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