



# Wisconsin Geothermal Association

April  
2008  
Issue

A Message from the President

## Wisconsin Geothermal Association Annual Report



Jan Stranz, WGA Board  
President

For the second year in a row, the WGA held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Iowa Heat Pump Association's (IHPA) Annual Midwest Geothermal Heat Pump Conference in Dubuque, IA on March 19 and 20, 2008. About 30 members of the WGA attended and participated in the well organized, educationally sound conference.

(Thanks, Iowa!)

During the conference, WGA members had the opportunity to conduct the Association's annual business meeting. 2007 President Leo Udee provided an overview of the activities of the past year, as well as updates on current association projects:

- The Energy Center of Wisconsin (ECW) has become the administrative contractor for the WGA. In that role, ECW provides day-to-day monitoring of incoming requests, responds to member questions, maintains membership lists and updates the website.
- The WGA assisted in getting an electric heat bill passed in the State Legislature. (Read more about this topic, and its implications to the geothermal industry, on page 4.)
- In conjunction with the ECW, WGA members Manus McDevitt and Leo Udee conducted "Lunch & Learn" sessions on geothermal applications. Attendance was good at these

sessions and provided a modest revenue stream to the WGA.

- Galen Betz reported that the WGA board is seeking a contractor to redesign the association's website. A total of at least four possible contractors will be interviewed. The goal is to fund the site redesign through advertising, and possibly through grants.
- With Alliant Energy, WGA members provided information and workshops at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association's annual fair in Custer, WI. The 2008 event will take place from June 20-22. Volunteers are needed to help. (Again, read more about this in this newsletter.)
- Dan Carroll reported on membership activity. Renewals and dues are sent directly to the ECW. The association is anticipating more membership as the value of being a member is recognized.
- Dan Green reported that the 2007 GEO-Ride (or...open air vehicle tour) was a success. The 2008 event is scheduled for Friday, June 6. (Yup...look on page 3 in this publication for details.)
- Jan Stranz indicated that Pam Langlay is now the WGA's contracted newsletter writer. Pam will manage paid advertising copy as well as the organizing, printing and mailing of the newsletter. She also provides an electronic copy to the ECW for distribution to members via email.
- Dr. Harold Olsen, UW-Extension, reported that a research project is being conducted concerning geothermal projects. WGA members can participate.

*continued on page 2*



## Geothermal - In Schools and the News

Wisconsin schools are proving to be a growing market for geothermal heating and cooling systems. Already there are systems up and running in Evansville, Fond duLac, Fort Atkinson, Sun Prairie and Verona school districts. This year alone will see several more schools come on line with geothermal including Monona Grove, Madison, as well as additional schools in Fort Atkinson and Sun Prairie. This growth has not escaped the attention of the media. In February alone WKOW-TV serving Madison did a nice piece on geothermal for schools (<http://wkow.madison.com/News/index.php?ID=18425>) and the Wisconsin State Journal also had an article on the same topic in the front page of their Local section

(<http://www.madison.com/wsj/home/local/index.php?ntid=268072>). These media pieces appear to be representative of the general trend



among newspapers and television stations in Wisconsin carrying of more and more stories on energy conservation and green technologies. The media has quickly realized why geothermal systems are so popular. What other

technology can reduce energy costs simply by using energy stored directly under your feet?

Geothermal schools are a great medium for promoting geothermal as a green technology into the future in that the kids can learn how energy is being conserved in the same building they attend throughout the school year. As the younger population moves beyond their schooling they can carry the knowledge of geothermal with them into the workplace as well as their homes. In several of the “geothermal” schools we are already seeing science teachers incorporate the system into their curriculum. We can only expect further appreciation of this energy-saving technology by all sorts of media types.

*Written by Manus McDevitt P.E., Sustainable Engineering Group, Madison WI*

*Annual Mtg Report continued from page 1*

- Mike Stevens reported on a suggestion to provide WGA logo clothing for members. Some of the board members were wearing samples of available logo items. It was decided that the association will go ahead with offering a couple of options soon, with more items (like decals, window clings and other items) available in the future.

Two main orders of business were conducted at the meeting. The first was the action to split

the board Secretary/Treasurer position into two separate areas of board responsibility. A motion to make this change was made by Galen Betz, seconded by Jerry Brown, and passed on voice vote.

The second order of business was the election of board members. Board members whose terms expired at this annual meeting are Leo Udee, Jan Stranz and Dan Carroll. All three were candidates for re-election. They were challenged by Brian Urlaub and Eric Legreid. Voting resulted in Udee and Stranz being re-elected, along with newcomer Brian Urlaub. The full list of

directors, along with the 2008 officer positions (as the result of a subsequent board meeting) are: Jan Stranz - President, Brian Urlaub - Vice President, Leo Udee - Secretary, Dave Mitchell - Treasurer, Dan Green, Manus McDevitt, Mike Alf, Galen Betz and Mike Stevens. I want say thank you to Dan Carroll for his past service on the WGA board.

To all who attended and participated in this year's event, I hope you enjoyed it. Thanks for coming and let's try for an even bigger Wisconsin contingency next year.



# The 3rd Annual GEO Ride Is On



It's time again for the annual geothermal ride! Mark your calendars, reserve the date, make any necessary excuses or justifications, but do not miss it!

Everyone will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at Al Muth Harley Davidson in Black River Falls, WI. It is located on County Road A, which parallels I-94 on the West side, about 1 mile North of the Hwy 12 exit.

Riders will be leaving at 9:30 a.m. for visits to two commercial geothermal job sites, both within a mile of the Harley Shop. One is a 66-ton system at Jackson Electric Cooperative's

new building and the other is a 38-ton retrofit at the Skyline Golf Course.

Then we will leave for about a two-hour ride through the absolutely beautiful hill country of Jackson and Trempealeau Counties. If you need to meet up or drop off, we will be stopping at Hanson's Hideout for lunch about 12:30 to 1:00. Hanson's is located 5 miles West of Arcadia on Hwy 95 at the top of the ridge.

After lunch we will meander

through the hills to Buffalo County with a stop at Beuna Vista Park in Alma and then up to Nelson Cheese Factory in Nelson for an ice cream stop.

If you have questions or want more information about the third annual GEO ride contact,

*Dan Green*

*WaterSource Heating & Cooling*

*715-833-9001*

*gwhp@aol.com*

So come on your bike, convertible, hardtop with the windows down, or buggy with a real fast horse. Everyone is welcome.

Don't miss it; the long range forecast looks like 74° and sunny!





## Superinsulation Wording Removed From Uniform Dwelling Code

The following memo is from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to all UDC inspectors. It goes to show what a few years of hard work and grassroots lobbying can do. Several people from the WGA, utilities and business people from around the state have worked diligently in getting the message to our state legislators that the “superinsulation rule” was unfair to the electric heat industry.

The problem was that in the Uniform Dwelling Code, there was a rule that if a home was going to be heated using electricity as a heat source, then the home had to be built to higher standards than if using any other type of heat source, including that it must be “superinsulated”. The code, however, did not define what superinsulated meant.

“The Wisconsin statutory mandate for superinsulation of one- and two-family dwellings heated by electricity was rescinded by 2007 Wisconsin Act 67. The act, passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, says: “The department may not promulgate or enforce a rule that requires that any one-family or two-family dwelling that uses electricity for space heating be superinsulated.”

S&B will be developing rules in the future removing the current Comm 22.21 (2) regulations, which are not now enforceable.

How does this affect plan

reviews and inspections of one- and two-family dwellings covered by the UDC?

Effective March 26 2008 these are the most important points:

-Comm 22.21 (2). For electrically heated dwellings--new, additions, or alterations--[UDC inspectors] will apply the Uo or R values in Table 22.21 under the column headed “Non-electrically Heated”. The “Electrically Heated” column may no longer be used.

-REScheck. For electrically heated dwellings--new, additions, or alterations--[UDC inspectors will] enter equipment type “Furnace, 78% efficient forced hot air.”

This affects dwellings permitted on or after March 26, 2008. However, the situation also allows a builder to modify their already-permitted dwelling project to use the insulation amounts for a non-electrically heated dwelling for an electrically heated dwelling. As this would be a revision to the originally approved plans, inspectors may request fees and revised plans for the change.

The department will be following up with rules that will reflect the new 2007 Wisconsin Act 67. A copy of the Act may be downloaded from the webpage: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/acts/07Act67.pdf>.”

*Question: It's great the Superinsulation requirement for new electrically powered Geothermal homes has gone away but, why is a Geo system toggled into the REScheck software as a 78% efficient furnace when, as we know, Geo is the most efficient heating and cooling system available today?*

Answer: The 78% selection for the REScheck software is not a Wisconsin Department of Commerce controlled item. The software is developed by Batelle labs for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

REScheck does not currently include Geothermal Heat pumps in it's heating selections. Air Source Heat Pumps would not be a good selection due to the heating potential limited by air outdoor temperatures. WGA has made requests to the Wisconsin code officials and the GHPC to ask GHPC to direct their lobbying efforts to DOE/Batelle to get the proper Geo inclusions. In the interim, the 78% furnace selection may mean that the Geo consumer and their builder will have to either increase their insulation levels somewhat or reduce the window glass area in their plan submittals.



# WGA is Going to the Fair and we need your help

The Midwest Renewable Energy Conference and Fair will be held this year on June 20, 21 & 22. Your Wisconsin Geo Association has been in attendance for each of the past 10 years. Alliant Energy's Geo-1 mobile learning lab will be there again with the WGA booth right next to it for a great weekend of Geo conversation amongst a well informed public. Spare moments provide good Geo industry networking too.

Typically, the past years have seen approximately 2200 people tour the Geo-1 mobile display. Many more who didn't get inside have just stopped at your WGA's booth to learn more about Geothermal Heat Pump systems.

A number of member contractors have been at this event and do return to help out when possible. Each bring their business cards and find themselves meeting Geo interested attendees from their own home territory. This event has been a great opportunity to plug Geothermal into the Renewable Energy and Green products "Mecca" of Wisconsin.

Dress is casual, no Ties but you can wear Tie-Dye. The weather is typically great with some attendees using the "shoes optional" accessibility to the grounds. It's also a good opportunity for your family to explore the display area and for the kids to collect material for next year's science project.

This event has done well to help the growth of geothermal heat pump system sales in Wisconsin.

We will need the help of 2 additional people for a few hours during each of the three event days from 11:00am to 2:00pm and from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

Please call or e-mail Leo Udee at 920-322-6606 or [leoudee@alliantenergy.com](mailto:leoudee@alliantenergy.com).

The dates & times to volunteer for are:

Fri June 20<sup>th</sup> 11:00- 2:00 or 2:00 - 5:00

Sat. June 21<sup>st</sup> 11:00- 2:00 or 2:00 - 5:00

Sun. June 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 - 2:30 or 2:30 - 5:00

Thank you in advance for volunteering.

## Wisconsin Geothermal Association Clothing Available Soon!

Polo Shirts and Wind Shirts with the WGA logo (shown at right) will be available for purchase. We will also be offering decals, clings and other small items.



Watch your email for order forms and pricing.



## Calendar of Events

April 22 Cutting Edge Framing and Air Sealing, Madison WI  
([www.ecw.org/framing](http://www.ecw.org/framing))

April 23 Cutting Edge Framing and Air Sealing, Rockford, IL  
([www.ecw.org/framing](http://www.ecw.org/framing))

April 24 WGA board meeting at WaterSource Heating & Cooling, Eau Claire, WI  
10 AM - 2 PM (All members are welcome.)

April 29 Cutting Edge Framing and Air Sealing, Eau Claire, WI  
([www.ecw.org/framing](http://www.ecw.org/framing))

April 29 Lunch & Learn: Energy Efficient Buildings, Green Bay WI  
([www.ecw.org/wps/lunchlearn](http://www.ecw.org/wps/lunchlearn))

May 6 High Performance Building Tours: Marshall Erdmann & Associates Headquarters, Madison WI

May 7 Boiler Efficiency and Performance, Eau Claire, WI ([www.ecw.org/boiler](http://www.ecw.org/boiler))

May 14 Cold Climate Houses: Getting To Zero Defects, Dubuque IA  
([www.ecw.org/coldclimate](http://www.ecw.org/coldclimate))

June 6 3rd Annual Geo Ride - Leaving Al Muth Harley Davidson, Black River Falls at 9:30 AM. For more information see the article on page 3.

June 19 High Performance Building Tours: River Crest Elementary School, Hudson WI

June 20-22 Midwest Renewable Energy Fair, Custer, WI (Volunteers are needed, see article on page 5)

October 6-8 Geothermal Systems for Water Source Heat Pumps and Central Systems, Madison WI  
(<http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/webJ426>)

For information on any event in the calendar of events, contact the Energy Center of Wisconsin, 866-436-7757, or visit the website listed.

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**Get More Information or Enroll:**

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**608-262-2403 or 800-462-0876**

**<http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/webJ426>**