2021 10 04  Just In!

Check Out Upcoming Educational Events to Advance Building Electrification
If you want to be part of the solution, definitely attend some of the great content in future heat pump industry events and trainings. For more information and registration see our Events Section below.

2021 10 05 - Next Generation Thermal Infrastructure: Ambient Loops for Buildings & District Systems
2021 10 06 - HeatSmart Tompkins "Webinar Wednesdays" Fall 2021 Lunchtime Webinar Series
2021 10 13 - Overview of Community Heat Pump Systems Currently in Operation Globally
2021 10 27 - Community Heat Pump System Planning Challenges

Columbia U - All Future Campus Construction Will Be Fossil Free - September 20, 2021 – “Columbia University announced today that it will no longer install new fossil fuel connections in any new construction, refresh, or renovation projects. To support this transition, the university will evaluate how to fully electrify the campus by replacing the onsite combustion of fossil fuels with clean, renewable energy sources. The university will continue to enhance its planning, design, and construction practices to expedite the end of fossil fuel combustion on campus. These steps are essential if Columbia is to remain within maximum cumulative emissions targets on the way to becoming net zero by 2050, and, second, exceed the requirements of Local Law 97 in New York City. Full article here. Thanks to NY-GEO member Bob Wyman for this tip.
**Geothermal Opportunity - Seeking Commercial Geothermal Projects for GeoEnsure Monitoring Pilot** – “We are looking for 2-3 existing commercial vertical borehole system projects to beta test GeoEnsure. GeoEnsure is a commercial geothermal ground loop energy meter that sends performance data directly to our cloud-based, GLD software powered predictive analytics platform. GeoEnsure that the system is performing well now and in the future. The ideal beta test loopfield has between 10-200 boreholes with a single main supply-return runout. If interested in getting a no-cost GeoEnsure beta up and running in your client site, reach out to Dan Bernstein at admin@geofease.com or text/call (202) 431-2984. Welcome to Dan and GeoFease as NY-GEO’s newest Professional Member, and first member from Hawaii!

**Gas appliances removed from Energy Star Most Efficient recognition** – EPA announced the 2022 ENERGY STAR Most Efficient standards... they have withdrawn the proposed gas appliance standards and adopted a fully-electric set of standards! – from an email from Denise Garb of the RMI Carbon-Free Buildings Institute. See the 4th item - **Gas Dryers, Furnaces and Boilers here**

**Recommendation for 2024 All-Electric Building Code** – The New Buildings Institute and RMI have developed a [series of recommendations](#) for the International Energy Conservation Code, and are seeking endorsements for the recommendations, which include a 2024 all-electric requirement for new buildings.
Gas infrastructure investments: too costly for consumers and environment – 2021 09 27 Baltimore Sun Op Ed from Maryland People’s Counsel David S. Lapp – “While climate-induced natural disasters strike worldwide, Maryland utilities are investing more than a billion dollars in new fossil-fuel infrastructure...Gas utilities have a tremendous incentive to build new gas infrastructure, despite the changing climate. More capital investments — such as natural gas infrastructure — mean greater shareholder returns...State and federal climate change policy will affect the viability of these investments long before they are paid off.... In a competitive market, investors would think twice before betting on fossil fuel infrastructure that requires 30 years for payoff...It is inexcusable to proceed with these investments without considering the implications of inevitable changes in climate policy...At the very least, the PSC should clarify going forward who — customers or investors — will be responsible for new natural gas investments when they are no longer useful... ” Full article here Thanks to David Smedick of the Sierra Club for this tip. He says: “As a side note, Maryland passed a law in 2021 requiring the Office of People’s Counsel to advocate for environmental and climate considerations in addition to rates. There’s a similar law in Washington D.C. and now we’re starting to see the consumer advocate offices weigh in with caution and opposition to additional gas infrastructure investments. That’s a powerful ally!”
Video on Geo & Schools – In this 54 second video, Jack DiEnna of the Geothermal National & International Initiative stresses geothermal as the solution for the 36,000 schools across the country that need new HVAC systems, many of which don’t currently provide air conditioning.
Encinitas just banned natural gas in new buildings – By Rob Nikolewski – San Diego Union Tribute - The Encinitas City Council passed a sweeping building electrification ordinance that, with just a few exceptions, will eliminate installing natural gas infrastructure on new residential and commercial construction within the city limits. The ordinance, which passed on a 5-0 vote late Wednesday, is similar to other measures adopted by 49 other communities in California in the past couple of years but most of those municipalities are located in Northern California. The Encinitas ordinance is the most comprehensive ordinance passed by a community in San Diego County. Full article here. Thanks to Kristen L. Van Hooreweghe of the Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee Finger Lakes Region for this tip.
IGSHPA Newsletter – The International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) puts together an informative newsletter. The latest edition can be found here and includes a summary of recent NY-GEO activity.

PennEast becomes the latest to scuttle a natural gas pipeline project – Reuters - By Scott Disavino - PennEast Pipeline said on Monday it would stop developing a proposed pipeline from Pennsylvania to New Jersey…The project was one of several
started in recent years to draw gas from the fast-growing Appalachian region, only to run into local or environmental opposition to more fossil-fuel infrastructure. Gas prices have surged in Europe and Asia due to rising demand and lack of supply, and that has boosted U.S. gas prices to seven-year highs. With the cancellation of PennEast and other pipelines, the industry is becoming more concerned that additional production from the key Marcellus/Utica shale in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia will become trapped in the basin. The article, rated a 3 minute read, can be found here.


REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson

“Illinois Passes the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act - Nick Dreher -September 17, 2021 - After nearly three years of policy development and a year of debate and negotiation, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (SB 2408) and Governor Pritzker signed it into law on September 15. This nearly 1,000-page bill sets Illinois on a pathway toward power sector decarbonization by 2045, creates equitable clean energy workforce development pathways and expands state commitments to energy efficiency, renewable energy and electric vehicles.” As New York had done a few years ago, the law permits “fuel switching” so utilities can incentivize electric appliances to replace or supplant fossil fuel appliances such as furnaces, boilers, stoves, etc. and count the energy savings toward mandated targets. Full article here. Thanks to Jens Ponikau of Buffalo Geothermal for this tip.
Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker

Home heating sticker shock: The cost of natural gas is up 180% - New York (CNN Business) Americans should brace for sticker shock on home heating costs as temperatures drop this fall and winter. Prices for natural gas, the most common way to heat homes and a leading fuel source for generating electricity, have surged more than 180% over the past 12 months to $5.90 per million British thermal units. Natural gas hasn't been this expensive since February 2014. Full article here. Thanks to John Ciovacco of Aztech Geothermal for this tip.

An expensive winter
Prices for natural gas, the most common way to heat homes and a major fuel source for electricity in the United States, have surged more than 180% over the past 12 months to $5.90 per million British thermal units.

Note: Data as of Sept. 28, 2021, 9:30 a.m. ET
Source: Refinitiv
Graphic: Tal Yellin, CNN
Empire State Plaza energy system needs revamping, audit looks for green options – Sara Rizzo - Albany, N.Y. (NEWS10) — The Empire State Plaza — a site for tours, fitness events and ice skating — is in need of a modernized energy system to support the 13,000 state employees who work there. A comprehensive energy audit has begun to evaluate green energy options for the plaza....

The goals of the audit include:

- Develop a path toward significantly reducing the plaza’s dependence on fossil fuels, including an investigation of geothermal and surface water as an energy source
- Reducing the impact of the Empire State Plaza facilities on the local community and environment
- Maintain and improve the energy resiliency of the plaza.

Full article here. Thanks to NY-GEO members Paul Coons for this tip.

Has Your Perspective Changed? Thoughts From a Former Environmental Manager - This thought provoking article titled “Tell Me What You See” was recently published in the Yorktown News; written by Robert DeAngelis, retired executive in the environmental department at IBM. Visit https://yorktown100.cure100.org/ to see how a local, all volunteer, grassroots group is working to educate citizens about decarbonization. Yorktown, NY is a northern Westchester county community impacted by the gas moratorium.

“Renewables vs Nuclear: 256-0 • The World Nuclear Industry Status Report shows the world’s operational nuclear capacity grew by just 0.4 GW in 2020, and generation fell 4%. Renewables grew by 256 GW and production rose by 13%. ‘Nuclear power is irrelevant in today’s electricity capacity market,’ the report’s main author said. ” [pv magazine India] (from 2021 09 30 Green Energy Times)
Five Reasons to Be Concerned About Green Hydrogen - Green hydrogen has generated a lot of interest as a zero-carbon or low-carbon fuel...However, despite all the hype surrounding green hydrogen, Clean Energy Group has found that there are several reasons to be concerned about its use, particularly in power plants. While hydrogen might have a valid role to play in deep decarbonization of the heavy transport or industrial sectors, runaway plans to use it extensively in the power sector have the potential to jeopardize the health of environmental justice communities, not to mention renewable energy goals. This fact sheet outlines five reasons to be concerned about green hydrogen. Read the full report here. Thanks to the Clean Energy Group’s Resilient power newsletter for this tip.

Con Ed Study on Commercial Kitchen Energy Savings – Con Edison has filed a study done by Guidehouse on its commercial kitchen program results. Among the
conclusions: “There is ample room for marketing induction equipment as a gas alternative, and a potential for market transformation should attitudes shift. Induction equipment has several non-energy benefits despite initial reluctance. Induction cooking is faster cooking product (with speed being critical for production), cooler with less waste heat, cleaner, safer and cheaper than gas alternatives. In addition, there are no combustion byproducts, leading to a healthier kitchen environment.”

Have you heard of induction cooking equipment? If so, are you interested in it?

- Have not heard of
- Have heard of and interested
- Have heard of but not interested
- Other

Climate Updates

There are many reasons our customers prefer geothermal heat pumps – saving money, superior comfort, health and safety. Their impact in totally eliminating greenhouse gas emissions is also a key benefit for many customers, and a key reason New York State is providing incentives and attempting to rev up the heat pump market. **Just In!** provides a limited number of important climate updates most weeks to keep you in the know on this crucial topic that is important to so many New Yorkers.
“We Must Treat Climate Change Like a Public Health Emergency - by Dr. Mary Beth Bennett – Seattle - Sep 22, 2021 – “June 28 will stick with me forever. Over 1,000 people landed in emergency rooms across the region with heat-related illness when temperatures reached an unprecedented 108 degrees. Over 100 Washingtonians died as a result of that first record-breaking heat wave of the summer. It’s the deadliest weather event in Washington’s recorded history…While there is no silver bullet to prevent climate change-driven illness and death, much to my surprise, homes and buildings turn out to be both a problem source and an opportunity for solutions. Homes and commercial buildings are the fastest growing source of climate-altering pollution in Washington state, putting more greenhouse gases into the air in some of our cities than cars.” [Full article here](https://example.com). Thanks to Chloe Zilliac from Sunstone Communication for this tip.

![Caduceus](image.jpg)

*The Caduceus, symbol of the medical profession*

“Vanuatu Will Seek International Court Of Justice Opinion On Climate Protection • The Pacific island nation of Vanuatu wants the International Court of Justice to weigh in on the rights of the nation’s current and future residents to protection from climate change. Vanuatu is the home of nearly 250,000 residents, all threatened by the climate crisis. [CNN](https://www.cnn.com) (from 2021 09 28 – City & State First Read)
As close as Vanuatu gets to a motel (Monika MG, Unsplash)

Frequent Sources for Just In!:
Green Energy Times
City & State First Read
POLITICO Weekly NY & NJ Energy email)
Bill McKibben’s weekly New Yorker Climate Crisis Column
Canary Media
Sage Welch - National Building Electrification Network & Sunstone Strategies
The Guardian