Build Back Better IS Better for Geothermal!—Last week we reported on provisions of the federal Build Back Better bill—some are positive, but some would have been devastating for geothermal installers. On the positive side, the language includes long-sought parity in commercial tax credits with solar PV. The 30% “direct pay” credit is expected to encourage 3rd party ownership of geo-exchange loops, which could substantially reduce the up-front cost of geothermal installations to homeowners and provide a significant stimulus to the market. The bill also extends residential tax credits for ten years, a big plus since they are currently scheduled to expire at the end of 2024. The latest draft of the bill reflects hard work on the part of allies in Congress, the national Geothermal Exchange Organization (GEO), NY-GEO, Dandelion Energy and others. The residential geothermal tax credits have been moved back into Section 25D of the law, removing restrictions on new construction and making the credits refundable. We wish the bill a quick passage!
Kavanagh / Gallagher All-Electric Buildings Bill Gets a Jump-Start - By Samantha Maldonado – THE CITY – A “landmark bill introduced in May by Sen. Brian Kavanagh (D-Manhattan, Brooklyn) and Assemblymember Emily Gallagher (D-Brooklyn), was amended in late October to accelerate timelines… (It) would require new buildings across the state to be all-electric by 2024.” Speaking a NYC press conference on the bill, NY-GEO Director of Operations John Rath said “Without the type of clear writing on the wall provided by this fantastic bill, it is not clear that any amount of cost cutting or education will move the construction industry away from climate wrecking fossil fuels. NY-GEO has seen cost competitive geothermal proposals rejected simply because the contractors were more comfortable and familiar with fossil fuel heating. Senator Kavanagh’s bill gives the strong market signal needed to get builders in sync with NY’s climate goals.” [Full article here](#), and the [press release here](#).
Ithaca Council Unanimously Votes to Decarbonize its Buildings by 2030 – “The city of about 30,000 people consists of some 6,000 homes and buildings. Decarbonization would involve looking at everything from how a building is heated to what appliances it uses, with the aim of moving away from the consumption of fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas… researchers are working on modeling to help inform what buildings to tackle first. But the program is broadly slated to unfold in two phases — the first covering 1,600 buildings and then another 4,400.”” Washington Post article here. Here’s a more in-depth article from the Ithaca Voice. Thanks to many folks who passed this item along.

Luis Aguirre-Torres, City of Ithaca Sustainability Director
**Geothermal Opportunity** – “**Metro IAF** and **BlocPower** are seeking HVAC partners for clean-energy demonstration projects in community institutions in New York. With financial incentives from NYSERDA, and financing from BlocPower, we are carrying out 35 retrofit projects involving the replacement of fossil-fuel heating systems with heat-pump heating and cooling systems. Deadline: Nov. 23. We have immediate need for heat-pump contractors in New York City and the following counties: Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Nassau, Suffolk and Tomkins. As this effort expands, we will have projects in additional counties. Typical projects will involve designing and installing air-source heat-pump systems in religious congregations or public libraries. Some projects may involve ground-source heat pumps. These demonstration projects will be used to publicly highlight the benefits and feasibility of electrification retrofits. As a condition of receiving NYSERDA subsidy (in addition to Clean Heat subsidy), these projects must also meet research and workforce development program requirements. **Please fill out this form to respond to our request for proposals**”

*Donnel Baird, CEO of BlocPower*
RESPECT – Reforming Energy System Planning for Equity and Climate Transformation - Acadia Center’s RESPECT proposal outlines key reforms to utility planning processes to ensure that utility investments and decision-making are aligned with state goals to address climate pollution, further environmental justice, and lower consumer costs. RESPECT focuses on achieving change at the scale and speed of the climate crisis by putting public policy decisions squarely on the shoulders of state decision-makers and re-focusing the role of the utility on what it does best—operating a reliable power and heat system and serving customers. Click here to download the report.

“UK Wants To Be The First Major Economy To Require Companies To Reveal Climate Risks • The UK is pushing ahead with legislation that will make more than 1,300 of its largest companies to disclose climate risks. The UK government said it plans to be the first major economy to require corporations to report climate-related risks and opportunities. [CNN] ” (from 2021 10 30 Green Energy Times)
Heat Pump Rebates Across North America – The Buildwithrise website has a Rebate Finder page that allows users to explore heat pump rebates for both air and ground source heat pumps across the U.S. and Canada. We can’t vouch for the data accuracy but thought readers would find this resource to be of interest. Thank you to Green Builder for this tip.

2021 11 09 – THIS TUESDAY - ICF Webinar on Geothermal Rebate Applications – 8:30-10:00 AM - ICF is the contractor the utilities have hired to process applications under the Clean Heat program. They have started outreach webinars to communicate with contractors on applications for Clean Heat projects. “Key Points to be Covered:

• How to calculate rebate incentives for GSHP rebate projects
• What documents are necessary to submit a rebate application
• How to easily select the heat pump’s capacity on the AHRI
• Interactive Test Project Walk-Through from start to finish
• How to easily move an application through processing and avoid stalling due to flaws
• How to add a GSHP HPWH to an application” Register here

Energy Efficiency Instead of Long-term Storage – This interesting article from the American Solar Energy Society cites an NREL study showing energy efficiency is generally less expensive than energy storage to make sure renewables can meet
electricity demand. What this article, and so many others like it don’t grasp, is that there is currently a technology active in the electricity sector that does both – geothermal heat pumps. They are far and away the most energy efficient form of heating and the ground loops are an excellent long-term storage mechanism. Electric system analysts need to move out of silo thinking and bring geothermal into the big picture they’re considering.

**Big Cuts to Methane Emissions at COP26** - By Tina Gerhardt 2021 11 02 for Sierra: The Magazine of the Sierra Club – “Today, at COP26, the European Union and the United States officially launched the Global Methane Pledge. Countries that join the pledge will commit to reducing global methane emissions by at least 30 percent of 2020 levels by 2030, with a particular focus on high emission sources. Historically, climate negotiations like COP26 focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (ghgs). Greenhouse gas emissions include carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N20). Carbon emissions typically get most of the attention, since they make up 76 percent of global emissions. But over the past year, attention has been shifting to methane, and for good reason. Methane is 80 times more powerful than CO2 emissions when it comes to trapping heat in the atmosphere, which contributes to global warming.”

[Full article here.](#)

**Oklahoma Proposes Letting Gas Utility Charge A $1,400 ‘Exit Fee’ To Go Electric** - *The fee could give the fossil fuel industry a new tool to slow the energy transition.* By Alexander C. Kaufman – Huff Post – “Oklahoma’s biggest natural gas utility could soon charge customers who switch to electric stoves and heating systems an “exit fee” of nearly $1,400 to disconnect service, HuffPost has learned, setting a precedent that
BlocPower Talks Healthy Homes, Heat Pumps With VP Kamala Harris Ahead of COP26 - November 1, 2021 – Alex Apter – Full article from Bloc Power website here

“Vice President Kamala Harris and Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm met with BlocPower co-founders Keith Kinch and Donnel Baird, who showcased how BlocPower is already putting President Biden’s Build Back Better climate framework in action. BlocPower’s Baird and Kinch have been greening urban buildings in 26 cities, using all electric heating and cooling systems, solar installations and other energy-saving technologies to complete more than 1,200 retrofits.” Bloc Power is presently electrifying buildings with air source heat pumps. We encourage NY-GEO members to fill out Bloc Power’s survey and explore the use of ground source heat pumps in their package of financing, installation and service. https://www.blocpower.io/. (718) 924-2873

From left: Secretary Granholm, Vice President Harris, Civilian Climate Corps Member Joshua Krupa and BlocPower CEO Donnel Baird
“Proposed US EV Incentives Have Created A Storm Of International Outrage • The current EV rebate proposal (which has not passed either of the houses of Congress) would make the rebate higher for an EV made in America by American workers, and higher still if those workers are part of a labor union. Other countries are not happy. [CleanTechnica] ” (from 2021 11 01 Green Energy Times)

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.

“After Widespread Flooding, No Relief Yet For The DC Metro Area As 14 Million People Remain Under Alerts • Heavy flooding inundated communities across the Maryland-Virginia area on Friday, with forecasters expecting the rain to continue. Nearly 14 million people were under a coastal flooding warning Saturday, the National Weather Service said. [CNN]” (from 2021 10 31 Green Energy Times)

Canary Media Covers COP 26 - The ultimate goal is to wrangle the many nations of this planet into changing their behavior so that climate change doesn’t wreck the world as we know it. At the last major climate summit, COP21 in Paris in 2015, nations committed to keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius, with an aspiration to stay below 1.5 degrees… There are two problems here: Countries aren't doing the work
to deliver on the climate pledges they have already made. And even if they fulfilled their promises, it still wouldn’t be enough to keep warming below 1.5 degrees...” Full article from Canary Media here. Don’t know about you but the graph below is scarier than anything that happened on Halloween in my neighborhood.

**Current climate action is falling far short**

Countries must choose more ambitious climate policies to keep warming below 1.5°

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0
10
20
30
40
50
60

Historical emissions

Global emissions/year
in GtCO2e
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1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080 2090 2100
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“**Saving Us By Katharine Hayhoe Review** • To say that Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World is one of the more important books about climate change is not an exaggeration. This book by Katharine Hayhoe, a renowned climate scientist, could result in a massive expansion of interest in the subject. [The Guardian] ” (from 2021 11 01Green Energy Times)
Buffalo as a Climate Refuge - “Places like Buffalo have been labeled potential climate refuges due to the abundant supply of freshwater, a temperate climate, available land and a relatively low cost of living. Some Great Lakes cities, like Duluth, Minnesota, have started to discuss climate migration, tying this planning to other initiatives that address existing problems. Cities like Buffalo have the ability to do the same, and should engage in such planning” according to Nicholas Rajkovich, associate professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Buffalo, Full article here.

Thanks to Renee Ruffino for this tip.

BUFFALO IS AMONG THE GREAT LAKES COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE DESTINATIONS FOR CLIMATE MIGRANTS AND CLIMATE REFUGEES. PHOTO: DOUGLAS LEVERE

“US Oil Giants Top List Of Lobby Offenders Holding Back Climate Action • ExxonMobil and Chevron are the world’s most obstructive organisations when it comes to governments setting climate policies, according to research into the "prolific and highly sophisticated" lobbying ploys used by the fossil fuel industry. Toyota is number three. [The Guardian] ” (from 2021 11 05 Green Energy Times)
A study by an Australian university focused on the Great Barrier Reef and global warming. If global warming is kept to 1.5°C, the mix of corals on the Barrier Reef will change but it could still thrive, according to the study’s lead author, Professor Terry Hughes. [CNN]  

Healthy coral in the Great Barrier Reef in 2010 (Toby Hudson, CC-BY-SA 3.0)
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