

Connecting with Air Source Heat Pump Customers

Alexis Troschinetz Energy Design Conference February 2022

Agenda

Introductions

Customer Perspectives

Customer Educational Tools

Partners Spurring ccASHP adoption

Electrified Lifestyle



Introductions

Alexis Troschinetz CERTs Behavioral Science and Evaluation Manager University of Minnesota Extension **Regional Sustainable Development** Partnerships atroschi@umn.edu 612-626-0455



Helping Minnesotans build clean energy

CERTS MISSION We connect individuals and their communities to the resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects



How does CERTs help?



Hands-on assistance

For cities, counties, utilities, farmers, businesses, and other organizations looking to make a change

1	
2	



Practical steps to clean energy

Resources for getting started, moving forward, and completing projects

Learning opportunities

We host events, create resources, and highlight clean energy stories and jobs

CERTs Partners







www.CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org

Heat and Cool with

Air Source Heat Pumps

Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) use electricity to heat and cool.

- ASHPs work like air conditioners to cool, and work in reverse to move warmth from outside air into your home to heat.
- ASHPs heat homes up to three times more efficiently than forced air and electric resistance heating systems.

Two Setups: Ductless or Central WHICH IS THE BEST FIT FOR YOUR MINNESOTA HOME?



OUTDOOR UNIT

above snow depth

DUCTLESS / MINI-SPLITS

Ductless ASHPs don't require ductwork in your home. There is one outdoor condenser connected to one or more indoor air distribution units. Indoor units are typically mounted on the wall, floor or ceiling. The individually-controlled indoor units allow for zoned heating and cooling and maximize energy savings and comfort.



INSTALLED COST: \$2,500 - \$8,500

GOOD FIT WHEN:

 Already heating with radiators, in-floor, or electric baseboard Getting rid of window A/C units or adding home cooling



above snow depth

CENTRAL / DUCTED

Central ASHPs use existing ductwork to distribute heated and cooled air throughout your home. The outdoor condenser is connected to the indoor furnace's fan. Unlike central A/C units, central ASHPs provide both heating and cooling in a single system.

INSTALLED COST: \$4,000 - \$8,000

GOOD FIT WHEN:

- Already heating with forced air (with ductwork in place)
- Replacing central A/C or adding it for the first time



Efficiently Heat and Cool with Air Source Heat Pumps

WHAT LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE DO YOU NEED IN MINNESOTA?

HEATING WITH ASHPs

performance factor).

to create heat, and you can even extract heat

from really cold air!

If you want an ASHP to be your primary heating system, you'll need a cold climate ASHP (ccASHP) and a back-up heating system. While ccASHPs are more expensive upfront than ASHPs, there is a potential for heating fuel cost savings if you already heat with electricity or propane. ASHP's heating performance is noted with its HSPF (heating season

COOLING WITH ASHPs

ASHPs and ccASHPs offer the same cooling benefit as an air conditioner (A/C). ASHP's cooling performance is noted with its SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio), same as you would see for A/C units. Look for SEER 15 or higher for improved energy efficiency.

DID YOU KNOW? It takes far less energy to move heat than it does

Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)	Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump (ccASHP)
Meets cooling and some heating needs	Meets cooling and most heating needs
Highly efficient down to 32 °F	Highly efficient down to 5 °F
Look for HSPF 8.5 or higher	Look for HSPF 9 for Central or HSPF 10 for Ductless

ESSENTIAL TIP: Before investing in a new heating system, get a home energy audit and improve your home's insulation and air sealing. Learn more at cleanenergy resource teams.org/assessment

2



Determine which setup is right for you Use the info on this sheet and a comparison table on our website to see whether a ductless or central ASHP will work best with your existing heating system.

Check with your electric utility

See what equipment they rebate and whether they require using one of their participating or qualified contractors.

3) Find a few certified contractors

If your utility has no requirements, find NATE-Certified technicians at cleanenergyresourceteams.org/hvac-help.

4 Ask contractors the right questions

Does the company have a state license for HVAC? • Are they insured?

- How long have they been in business?
- Can they send a NATE-Certified or other technician with education credits or experience on ASHPs to my home?
- Tell the contractor your needs (cooling, heating, both). If heating through winter, ask for a "cold climate ASHP."

FIND COSTS, COMPARISONS & MORE

CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org/ASHP

HEATING SEASON

HOW IT WORKS







Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) are electric appliances that are used for both heating and cooling. They work like an air conditioner to cool, and work in reverse to move warm air into your home to heat.

Contractor Intro to Heating

with Air Source Heat Pumps

ASHPs: a win-win for you and your customers

Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) are now a proven energy-saving technology for heating, tested through years of practical application and multiple studies.



J.

GET TRAINING

CERTS

RESOURCE TEAMS

Provide customers with a proven energy-saving technology

 ASHPs offer cost-effective heating for customers heating with electricity or propane.

- Heat homes up to three times more efficiently than forced air and electric resistance heating
- Works for homes with and without ductwork.
- Set it and forget it. ASHPs operate most efficiently without thermostat setbacks.
- Great option when adding or upgrading air conditioning.

the efficiency of these units is way better than electric or propane.

CONSUMER BENEFITS

& SATISFACTION



MINNESOTA Energy Stories



Finding success with air source heat pumps in cold climates Another home-owner/air source heat pump love story!



<u>A family's journey to decarbonize their home</u> We're sneaking in a story published at the tail-end of 2020, because you loved it so darn much! A heart-warming how-to on decarbonizing a century-old home.

cleanenergyresourceteams.org/stories

Engaging Electric Utilities

- Customized guides
- Sessions for utilities to learn from one another on ASHP marketing and programming



Partnering with Others





COOK COUNTY LOCAL ENERGY PROJECT





• Who's here?

• Access Mentimeter

Customer Perspectives

Gathering Perspectives

- Storytelling
- Direct technical assistance

Customers need technical reassurance



Saginaw, MN – Repeat, satisfied customer



cleanenergyresourceteams.org/finding-success-air-source-heat-pumps-cold-climates

Northern Minnesota: Prime for ccASHPs

Cost savings when already heating with electric or propane
Much of northern MN heats with electric or propane



St. Paul, MN - All-Electric Retrofit



cleanenergyresourceteams.org/familys-journey-decarbonize-their-home

Natural Gas Conversions

- It depends, but natural gas for home heating is still most economical
- Make certain customer is aware of financial impact
- Provide operating cost estimates to demonstrate



From the customer perspective... Barriers

- Contractor availability and cold-climate specific skills
- High upfront costs
- Uncertainty of bill impacts
- Tying multiple systems together
- Electric panel capacity

Benefits

- Lower bills (usually)
- Dehumidification in spring and summer
- Steady comfort
- Efficiency (decarbonize)
- Quiet operation
- Big utility rebates

From the customer perspective... Common Points of Confusion

- No temperature setbacks for best efficiency
- *Heat* pumps can provide cooling; Mini-splits can provide heating
- COP vs SEER & HSPF
- Moves heat versus makes heat



Savvy Customers...

- Tighten up and insulate homes before ASHPs
- Want heat load calculations done for proper sizing
- Know bills are going to be affected and want to know by how much

"They provided important facts and data I needed to make an informed decision and gave me evidence of their competency."

 Metro area customer, going all-electric

Partner & Discuss

- Which of the barriers or benefits to getting an ASHP have you heard from customers?
- Any other reasons you've heard first hand?

Polls

- What reasons are you hearing for:
 - Avoiding an ASHP? (multiple choice, write-in)
 - Getting an ASHP? (multiple choice, write-in)
- Access Mentimeter

Customer Educational Tools

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🛰 Mind-blowing fact #1 👌



HOW IT WORKS

HEATING



HEAT PUMP

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Coefficient of Performance (COP): Still heats lower than 5°F,	

not just yet, but probably soon

just not as efficiently.

Next Gen: -13°F

DID YOU KNOW?

It takes far less energy to move heat than it does to create heat, and you can even extract heat from really cold air!







Home Energy Audits

ESSENTIAL TIP: Before investing in a new heating system, get a home energy audit and improve your home's insulation and air sealing. Learn more at cleanenergyresourceteams.org/assessment

- Utility offerings
- Cost of audit
- Additional service by your company?

- MN Power: Free

OTP: Limited, Free (Transformer) & Online (Analyzer)

Minnesota Energy Resources: \$50 copay, free for low-income households

- Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative: Free



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FIND COSTS, COMPARISONS & MORE

CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org/ASHP

View resources on CERTs website www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/ashp

Additional Customer Educational Tools

- Resources for Homeowners and Contractors
- A joint effort between a nonprofit and 5 MN utilities to accelerate market adoption of heat pumps



www.mnashp.org/for-homeowners

FAQ for Homeowners

- 4-pages, 13 Q&A
- Basics & Homeowner
 Experience
- Costs & Installation
- Operation & Maintenance

For Homeowners



Basics and Homeowner Experience

1. Why choose a heat pump?

a. A heat pump provides multiple benefits in one heating and cooling system. It can provide cooling at twice the efficiency of common window unit air conditioners and can save between 30% and 55% on heating costs compared to other electric and propane heating types. This provides better energy savings, more comfort, and lower carbon emissions.

2. How does it work?

a. A heat pump works by gathering and transferring heat energy from the outside air. Like an air conditioner or a refrigerator, heat pumps use electricity to move heat from one place to another. Heat pumps are special because they can provide heating, in addition to cooling, by running in reverse.



Operating Cost Comparison Chart MN Power Standard Electric and Propane Rates



Installation Guide (for contractors)

Installation Guide



Air Source Heat Pumps Best Practices Installation Guide

Spec

This

Companion Guide to the Minnesota ASHP Collaborative's Design Guide

Introduction

High quality installation of air source heat pumps (ASHPs) improves system performance and efficienzona cy, optimizing heating down to colder temperatures. Heat This performance improvement can ensure customer train satisfaction and comfort, which in turn reduces spec callbacks, generates referrals, and increases sales. appli This guide outlines the best practices for all ASHP shou installations, as well as guidance on homeowner insta education to help keep customers happy and ASHPs efficient in cold climates. For guidance on equipment guida selection, system sizing, and proper design, see our in on ASHP Design Guide, which provides information on

Installation Requirements and Best P

Line Set

- · Installers should follow the manufacturer's instructions for and maximum line set length and height change.
- Line set must meet the manufacturer's specification for the unit - adaptations to the outdoor portion can be made if ne
- Insulation must cover the entire line set length (i.e., both pip avoid condensation and energy loss. Once insulated, the out portion of the line set should be protected with a rigid cover insulation damage. Note: It is important to also insulate flan to stop liquid or frost from developing under the flare nut, w cause cracks.
- UV-resistant tape or other mechanical protection should be as needed to protect any remaining exposed insulation. UVinsulation products meet this requirement.
- Line set penetration through the building enclosure should protected from rodents (e.g., with a PVC sleeve and cap dril size of the refrigerant lines, metal-wool stuffing, or similar
- · All penetrations through the shell of the home should be se insulating sealant/spray foam. Any aspects of the insulation by installed line set should be returned to proper condition.

 Prevent partial kinks in line sets. Partial kinks can cause sit and performance in cold temperatures. Kinks typically occu to 7/8* in diameter. Follow these steps to check for partial k

1. Remove line set covers.

- 2. Set the machine to its most powerful mode so it heats
- 3. Feel along the entire length of the line set for hot spol any partial kinks are located.

REQUIRED TOOLS: Ratchet flaring tool, programmable refrige gauge and hose set, vacuum pump (not pictured)



Refrigerant Tubing

· Create new flare fittings using a ratchet flaring tool and me refrigerant and in accordance with the manufacturer's instr each flare.

· Connect tubing with the appropriate nuts (supplied by manu manufacturer's torque specifications.

 Once used, DO NOT REUSE manufacturer-provided tubing fl. flare fittings that were not provided by the manufacturer.

Any brazed connections should be completed with dry nitro

Refrigerant Charge

Pressure test the line set using dry nitrogen and triple vacuum pump evacuation per manufacturer's instructions.

The vacuum should be held at 500 microns or less for a

Condensate Drain

The drain should slope downhill. It can be routed with line set and run to a suitable termination point - away from crawl spaces, walkways, and outdoor equipment.

Alternately, use an external condensate pump when required.

Outdoor Unit Installation

 Outdoor units should be placed to allow for free air flow. Fol manufacturer's guidance on clearance from obstructions, in walls, overhangs, protrusions, and other features. Ensure th outdoor units do not interfere with windows or doors.

Install outdoor units in a location protected from the wind possible. Wind chill can affect heat pump performance, and into the wind can push freezing rain or snow into the sys this cannot be avoided, install a wind baffle from the man to protect the system.

 The customer should always approve the location of outdoor The units should be located in inconspicuous places for aest and noise considerations (e.g., behind the building).

Locate outdoor units away from bedrooms and other quit

 Follow manufacturer-allowed clearances when placing mult units. Multiple units should not be installed above each other outdoor fan outlet flow pointing directly at another unit (exci explicitly recommended by manufacturer).

 Ensure adequate clearance above historical average maxim snow depth, typically 14" in Minnesota. Secure outdoor units risers, or the surface they sit on using a factory-approved sl bolts or adhesive. Ensure that any ground-mounted unit is or is well drained and will not heave with frost. The outdoor un be level both side-to-side and front-to-back. Best practice: brackets designed for attachment to foundation wall, when g clearance allows.

Installations can also use wall mounts or brackets design attachment to foundation wall. In these cases, use double vibration absorbers to prevent both noise transfer throug wall and premature failure of the attachments.

Each evacuation shou alternated with nitrog under pressure.

Test refrigerant lines (pressures lower than the rating of service valves

· Avoid proximity to walkways or other areas where re-freezing defrost meltwater might cause a slip-and-fall hazard.

When possible, avoid installing outdoor units directly under any drip line from the roof or other overhang that would subject them to falling snowmelt, ice, or concentrated rain runoff.

When this is unavoidable and a functioning gutter is not present, outdoor units should be installed with drip caps or shields approved by the manufacturer.

 Install surge suppressors at service disconnect to protect sensitive electronics. Alternatively, suppressors may be installed at circuit breaker box if device is approved for such application. Follow manufacturer's instructions and all applicable codes and standards.

 Drain pan heaters are strongly recommended for cold-climate ASHPs that operate below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. These are not generally needed for non-cold-climate systems in situations where meltwater clearance and protection from precipitation are adequate.

Homeowner Education

Ductless systems may have limited horizontal

vertical lift before a continuous downward slope.

or vertical lift built in. Do not exceed the

manufacturer's specifications for allowable

· Provide a copy of the manufacturer's owner manual to the homeowner

 Take the time to demonstrate basic controls and operations to homeowners. Review maintenance schedule and other activities with them

Additional Resources

- U.S. Department of Energy Building America Solution Center (HVAC-Heating Equipment) - basc.pnnl.gov
- ENERGY STAR[®]-Verified HVAC Installation (ESVI) Program energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=hvac_install_hvac_install_index
- · ACCA Standard 5 (ANSI/ACCA 5 QI-2015); HVAC Quality Installation Specification acca.org/standards/guality



Proper outdoor placement, showcasing a drip cap/snow shield.





View resources on MN ASHP website www.mnashp.org

Who you gonna call?

- For now, direct folks to use contractors listed in FAQs or NATE-certified or similarly credentialed technician
- Suggest bids from 2-3 different companies
- Just Launched Preferred Contractor Network:
 - Listed publicly by an unbiased, thirdparty as having the knowledge and capabilities for quality ASHP installations in MN for heating



mnashp.org/preferred-contractor-network

Knowing is half the battle!

- Simply educating customers isn't the only tool in our toolbox
- Learnings from field of behavioral science apply too





Technology Co-Adoption

- Looked at adoption of:
 - Smart thermostats
 - Efficient HVAC
 - Solar
- Adopting smart thermostat first led to quicker and more likely adoption of solar or efficient HVAC



Study: University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs, Vivek Shastry

Today's customers – Foundation to ASHP future

- Social diffusion happens
- Best advertising is word of mouth
- Negativity bias is real



Image source: The Noun Project

Group Discussion

- Tools you use to educate your customers
- Sources of info customers are referring to when they come to you (if any)

Group Discussion

What additional needs for educational tools could be helpful to your customers?

Partners spurring ccASHP adoption

Customizing CERTs ASHP guide

- Utility
- City
- County
- Weatherization Providers
- Contractor Association

Keep it 3rd party to your firm



Replacing central A/C or adding it for the first time

Cook County Local Energy Project (CCLEP)

Non-profit

Coordinate & catalyze collaborative projects with partner organizations

Promoting & facilitating increased use of

- renewable energy
- energy efficient practices & technologies



COOK COUNTY LOCAL ENERGY PROJECT

Developing CCLEP Contractors List

- List contractors on their website for customers to know which contractors can serve Cook County
- Promote ASHPs to homeowners and businesses

- CERTs surveyed about 100 contractors within 200 miles
- 10 interested and getting MN-specific cold-climate ASHP training

Plains Institute Eden Prairie, Great of City Sources:

City Climate Action Plans



Eden Prairie Climate Action Plan Factsheet Fuel Switching: Electrification

JUNE 2021

The City of Eden Prairie adopted a climate action plan in 2020. Part of the plan looks to reduce emissions from residential and commercial building energy use. The City's goal is to have zero emissions by 2050. Through business and residential electrification, it is estimated that Eden Prairie can attain an emissions reduction of 86,344 tonnes of CO2e by 2050, which is approximately 8.6% of all emissions in Eden Prairie. To meet the city's goals, the plan calls for the electrification of hot water and space heating in city buildings as well as residential and commercial buildings.

As electricity generation becomes cleaner, switching from natural gas to electric appliances will have climate benefits as well as health benefits from improved indoor air quality. This factsheet helps residents and business owners better understand what fuel switching is, how it can be beneficial to them, and what resources are available to help make the switch.

Fuel Switching

Different fuels provide the energy people need to move through daily life. This can mean the fuel that goes into our vehicles (gasoline and diesel), fuel to heat our homes (natural gas, propane, etc.), and fuel used to generate electricity (coal, natural gas, wind, solar). As the fuels used to generate electricity shift to deaner sources, it makes sense to begin to shift other carbon-intensive fuels to low- or no-carbon fuels. For the purpose of this factsheet, fuel-switching refers to switching space and water heating appliances from natural gas to electricity generated from clean fuels.

Electrification of space heating can come from electric baseboard heat or air source heat pump technology. These technologies are 100% efficient in that all of the electricity is converted to heat. However, electric baseboard heat requires more electricity to produce the same amount of heat as air source heat pumps (ASHP). ASHPs have seen advances in technology that allow them to be viable and cost-effective in northern climates.

Air source heat pumps use electricity to both heat and cool your home. The technology pumps one-and-a-half to three times more heat energy to a home than the electricity it consumes — even in temperatures below zero. It can do this because it transfers heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems.¹



Graphic Source: Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams

GREAT PLAINS INSTITUTE Better Energy. Better World.

Communities Energy Xcel Winona Of City Sources:

Energy Action Plans





- Since 2017, made much progress
- Currently, co-hosting contractor training for ASHP installers through the MN ASHP Collaborative

Winona's Energy Action Plan

Winona has set a bold goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. This Energy Action Plan represents an important first step that will ultimately lead to an estimated 34 percent reduction in the city's energyrelated greenhouse gas emissions.

In adopting this plan, the City of Winona hopes to spur interest and motivation among community and business leaders. There has been significant effort over the last two years to build momentum around energy and its relationship to climate change. The goals and strategies outlined in this plan will accelerate that momentum and generate some important and tangible results,

Winona's Energy Vision

Winona will be a leader in efforts to reduce energy consumption and produce renewable energy, in pursuit of long-term environmental sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint. These efforts will be available to all, will maintain our high quality of life and vibrant economy, and will not limit growth.

Winona's Energy Goals

Winona aims to:

- Reduce energy use 10 percent by 2025.
- Achieve a 100 percent reduction in energyrelated greenhouse emissions (carbon neutrality) by 2050.

How Will We Get There?

To achieve these results, Winona outlined a set of goals and strategies in four focus areas:



Electrified Lifestyle

Energy Conservation & Optimization (ECO) Act

- Modernizes the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP)
- Fuel neutral framework



Beneficial Electrification



www.michaelsenergy.com/electrification-action-plan/



Contractors' potential role

- Be ready for this broader electrification conversation
- Learn more about your customers' goals and look out for their best interests
- Consider expanding your services or building a referral network among different trades



Group Discussion

This electrified frontier...

- What excites you about it?
- What are you seeing as potential downfalls?

Want to Follow-up?



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