

ENERGY MATTERS

Bringing Rising Energy Costs Back To Earth

(NAPSA)—Energy prices are on the rise, reflecting an increase in gasoline prices and a jump in the cost of home heating oil. The impact on home cooling expenses has homeowners searching for ways to conserve energy and reduce utility bills.

Geothermal heating and cooling systems can bring rising energy costs back to Earth, literally and figuratively. Geothermal systems capitalize on the solar energy stored year-round just beneath the Earth's surface. This free geothermal energy is an unlimited, renewable source that is captured from the Earth by using a series of pipes (an Earth loop) buried in the ground. An environmentally friendly mixture of alcohol and water solution transfers the heat energy from the ground to the fluid and then to the home, providing both heating and cooling comfort to the structure. As a bonus, a geothermal unit can provide some or all of your hot water for more energy savings.

According to the experts at WaterFurnace, a geothermal system, like the Envision series by WaterFurnace, operates more efficiently than ordinary heating and air-conditioning systems, delivering an astounding four units of energy for every one unit of electrical energy used. That translates to a 500 percent efficiency rating and savings of up to 70 percent for heating, cooling and hot water costs.

Geothermal systems can be built into new homes or added to existing ones. For new homebuyers, the cost of the system can usually be tied into monthly mort-



GET INTO HOT WATER: A geothermal system can help homeowners save energy and money.

gage payments. Monthly savings from the system will generally cover the additional amount added to the mortgage payment, resulting in an immediate positive cash flow. In an existing home, tax advantages and rebates can offset the initial investment. With low-interest financing, a homeowner can quickly see positive cash flow in a replacement application.

While the geothermal system is reducing the cost of home heating and cooling, it's also improving the environment. The system emits no carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide or other greenhouse gases that are considered major contributors to environmental air pollution. In addition, the lower peak demands for geothermal systems help postpone the need to build more expensive electric-generating plants and reduce the need for natural resources such as coal or gas to generate electricity.

To learn more about the benefits of geothermal systems like the WaterFurnace Envision series, visit www.waterfurnace.com or call (800) GEO-SAVE.