

All-Seasons Comfort and Savings



The All-Seasons Comfort Home brings together all the elements of quality construction and insulation and combines them with geothermal heating and cooling.

As an added bonus, participating co-ops offer a rebate of up to \$1,000 to consumers who build an All-Seasons Home.

The All-Seasons Comfort Home - one of the Comfortable Alternatives from your rural electric cooperative.

Landscaping Out the Sun

Landscaping can play a big role in heating the summer heat. A properly sited home on a well-landscaped lot can increase both energy efficiency and comfort.

Since the location of your home on the lot is often limited, landscaping can significantly reduce the need for summertime cooling and, just as important, it can increase the resale value of your home.

The southern exposure of your home is useful for maximizing the benefits of solar heat during winter. Plants can be used as air conditioners when you don't want the heat.

Shading along the southern wall of a home can be achieved by planting fast-growing shrubs, vines, or trees. Plants can be used to reflect,

abstract and filter solar radiation before or after the sun's rays strike the surface. How much temperatures are reduced depends on which plants are used. For example, trellised vines, cool surface temperatures by providing direct shade on the walls. Blocking the sun is most effective with a canopy of dense foliage in multiple layers using trees such as maples, oaks and beeches. In addition, shrubs, groundcovers, and lawns also moderate air temperatures near the ground and against buildings.

Your county extension agent has information on these and other energy topics about which you might want to know. (Courtesy University of Kentucky Cooperative Education.)

For more information on using landscaping to improve the energy efficiency of your home, contact your local cooperative extension office and ask about publication HO-62, *Landscaping Design With Plants, Creating Outdoor Rooms*.

Comparison shopping for home heating and cooling systems

One of the most promising devices to hit the home energy market is the geothermal heating and cooling system. It uses the constant temperature of the earth to heat and cool your home.

Working much like a conventional heat pump, the geothermal system draws warmth from the earth in winter and transfers it to your house. Since the temperature of the earth is a constant 55 degrees, the air coming into your home is warmer - about 10 degrees warmer than a conventional heat pump. In summer, the process reverses, moving hot air out of your house into the earth below.

The geothermal system makes a strong case for paying a little more up-front in order to enjoy long-term savings.

As the chart below illustrates, the geothermal system pays for itself in a very short time because of annual savings for heating and cooling. If you are building a new house or planning to replace your worn-out heating and cooling system, you owe it to yourself to consider geothermal heating and cooling. It's clean, safe, efficient and it'll save you money for a long, long time.

Want to know more about it? Call your local rural electric cooperative.

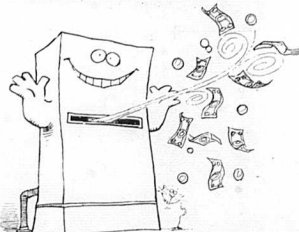
Annual operating expense

	Electricity @ \$5/kw per kWh
Geothermal heating and cooling system	\$517
Conventional heat pump	\$859
Payback in years	7.0
Geothermal heating and cooling system	\$517
Electric furnace w/ Central Air	\$1463
Payback in years	2.9

Some cooperatives may not be included. Effectiveness of equipment. Actual cost will depend on the type system you have and the energy rate paid.

Geothermal Heating

It's almost like making your own money!



How? Glad you asked.

Geothermal heating is 300 percent efficient. That means for every dollar you spend to operate the system, you get three dollars worth of heat. If you're spending \$900 a year to heat with an electric furnace, baseboard or ceiling cable, you'll only have to spend \$300 a year with a geothermal system.

In addition, you get whole-house cooling in summer at the lowest possible cost and up to half your hot water heated free!

Geothermal heating and cooling...one of the comfortable alternatives from your rural electric cooperative.

The Many Faces of All-Seasons Comfort

An All-Seasons Comfort Home can come in virtually any size or architectural style. The program doesn't limit you to certain floorplans. All that's required is that a few common sense insulation standards be met and that a geothermal system be installed. Do that and you'll enjoy year-round comfort, year-round savings and you'll get \$1,000 from participating electric cooperatives.

