

## Environment Committee Meeting Geothermal Energy

Geothermal energy uses the Earth's constant temperatures to efficiently moderate indoor temperatures. Renewable geothermal systems are low-impact and scalable. We know that residential energy accounts for 24% of greenhouse gas emissions in the region, and geothermal systems are an efficient choice to significantly reduce a home's carbon footprint.

**Topic:** Geothermal Energy

**Date:** Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 10-11:30 a.m.

**Register:** Please register in advance for the meeting with the link that was sent to the Committee.

At this upcoming meeting, we will hear from the [Geothermal Alliance of Illinois \(GAOI\)](#) about the benefits of geothermal, how these systems work, how they are installed, what factors make it easier or more difficult to install a geothermal system, the local government permitting process for these systems, and more. We'll see examples of residential installations and listen to one homeowner discuss his geothermal system and some of the installation challenges he faced.

We will also hear from the [Midwest Renewable Energy Association \(MREA\)](#) about a "group buy" geothermal heat pump program that will make the system more affordable and connect consumers with vetted companies. MREA is partnering with the [Citizens Utility Board \(CUB\)](#) and the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois on this program, which will be launched soon. The Environment Committee will also learn more about tax credits, incentives, and favorable financing that can make installing these systems more affordable, when combined with the group buy program.

[GRC](#) goal, objectives and strategy: Advance renewable energy. E13 - Support the adoption of renewable energy technologies in the community. E13b – Facilitate access to renewable energy systems through collaborative purchasing for residents and businesses. E12 – Install and operate renewable energy systems at municipal facilities.

[Climate Action Plan](#) objective and strategy: Decarbonize energy sources. Engage the community and policymakers to support existing clean energy and choose renewable clean energy through procurement, financing, and other collaborative programs.