

## **GSHP Systems**Fundamentals of Commercial Applications

January 20, 2011 Pikes Peak ASHRAE

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GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications
Colorado Geo Energy Heat Pump Association – shameless plug



- Colorado Geo Energy Heat Pump Association (CoGEHPA) – www.gogeonow.org
  - State heat pump industry association, private sector member-driven
    - Mechanical, excavation and drilling contractors
    - Vendors
    - Architects, Engineers
  - Providing value to membership continuing education, legislative and regulatory voice, industry events, referrals
  - "Non-denominational" resource for end-users, utilities, schools and government



Heat Pumps – Outline

- Introduction history of GSHP technology and how it works
- Types of heat pumps, efficiency
- Heat pump and loop configurations, residential and commercial
- Design methodology
- Quality control
- Rocky Mountain examples

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#### **GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications**





- What is a heat pump?
  - According to the second law of thermodynamics heat cannot spontaneously flow from a colder location to a hotter area
  - Any mechanical device that moves energy from one space to another is considered a 'heat pump'
  - Modern heat pumps rely on refrigerants that easily change phase from liquid to gas and back to achieve heat transfer
- Examples:
  - Brine plants used to make ice
  - Ice rink plants
  - Refrigerators
  - Air conditioners
  - Reversing air conditioners air source heat pumps
  - Ground source heat pumps

## GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications Heat Pumps: Advantages

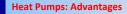


GSHP systems offer other advantages in addition to energy efficiency

- No externally exposed mechanical equipment
  - No external noise
  - No impact from weather, vandalism
- Less mechanical room space, reduced infrastructure
- May reduce structural components
- May increase zoning and comfort at little additional cost
- Reduced controls complexity
- Reduced maintenance

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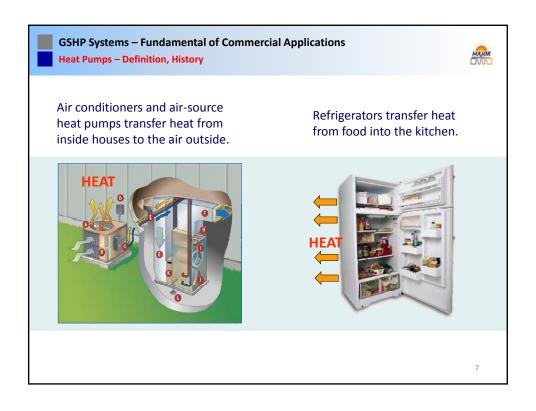
#### **GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications**

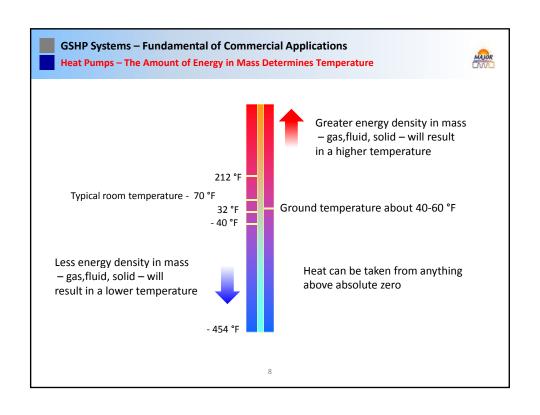


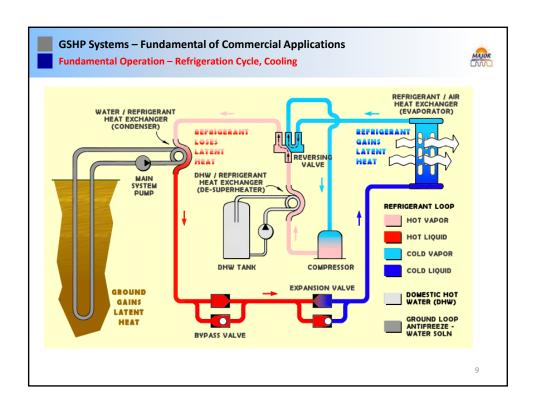


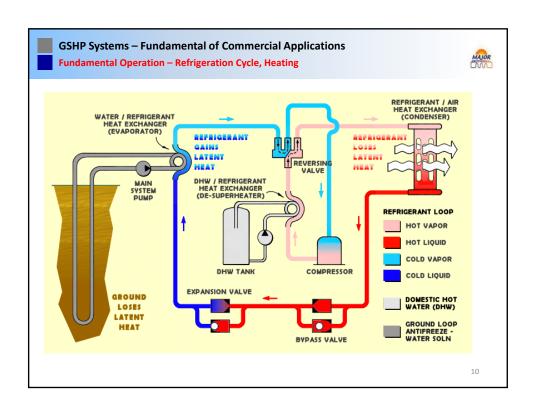
#### LEED, green advantages

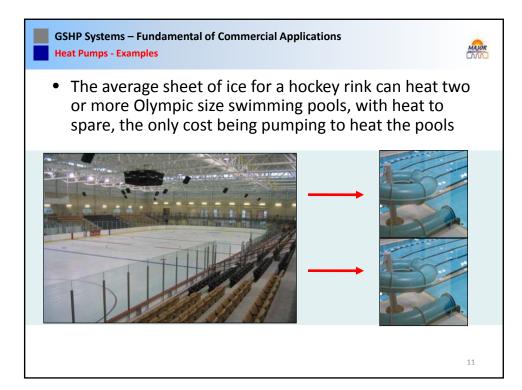
- 2 to 8 energy points typical of most LEED projects using GSHP systems
- Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, even considering point source of electrical power
- No noise pollution from external equipment (eliminated)
- Load sharing

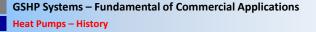






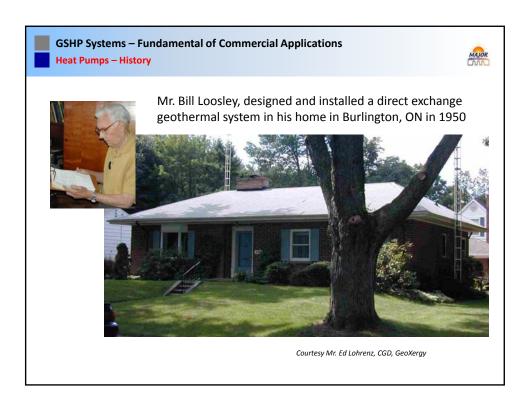


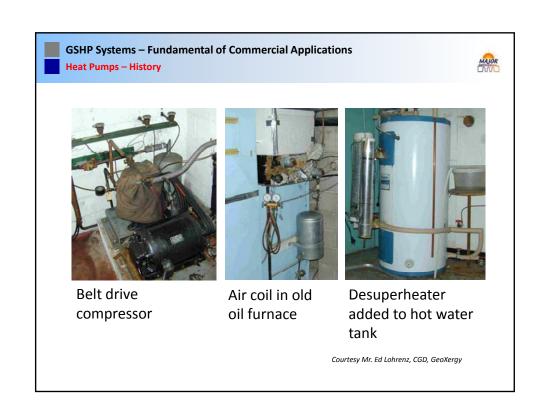


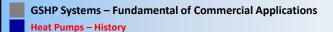




- Heat pumps are not new -
  - 1748: William Cullen demonstrates artificial refrigeration
  - 1834: Jacob Perkins builds a practical refrigerator with diethyl ether
  - 1852: Lord Kelvin describes heat pump theory
  - 1855–1857: Peter Ritter von Rittinger develops and builds the first heat pump
  - Ice-making ammonia brine plants were in use in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century











Compressor was initially powered by hand crank diesel motor... changed to electric motor (still being used!!) in 1953 when his wife couldn't start it.

Courtesy Mr. Ed Lohrenz, CGD, GeoXergy

#### GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications



- Heat Pumps Outline
  - Introduction history of GSHP technology and how it works
  - Types of heat pumps, efficiency
  - Heat pump and loop configurations, residential and commercial
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  - Quality control
  - Rocky Mountain examples



Heat Pumps – Earth Coupled

- Ground source heat pumps are tied to the earth for better efficiency, regardless of climate
  - Most GSHPs rely on water to carry energy to and from the earth instead of exchanging heat with the air
  - Some GSHP units utilize direct exchange (DX) by placing metallic lines in the earth to carry the refrigerant to achieve a phase change directly
  - The amount of energy consumed to heat or cool with this technology is far less than any conventional mechanical system
- Transferring energy
  - Acquiring heat space heating is a renewable cycle, as GSHPs capture energy from near-surface solar gain and natural thermal gradient
  - Rejecting heat space cooling utilizes the nearly unlimited capacity of the earth to dissipate energy, and in some situations, permit a GSHP system to store energy to be reclaimed later

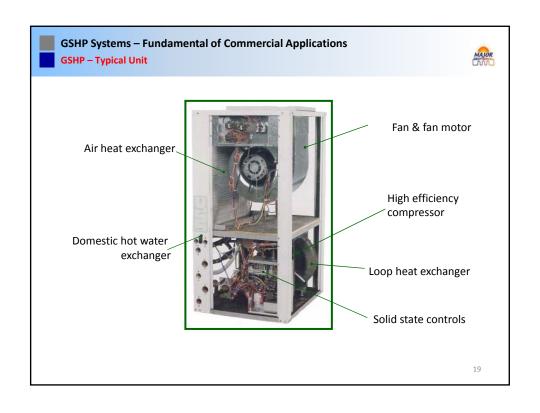
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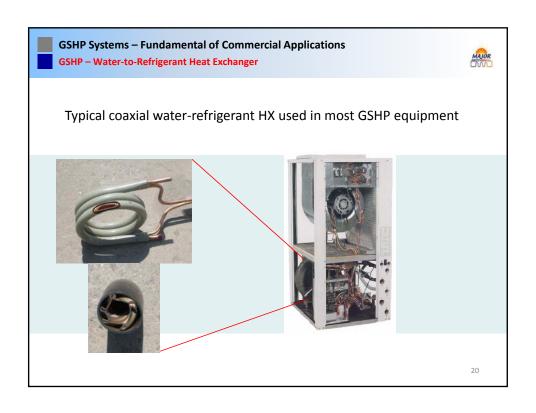
**GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications** 





- Conventional WSHP equipment will only tolerate EWT ranges of 50°F to 80°F – this product is commonly used in commercial applications using a boiler and chiller
- GSHP equipment is designed to accept a wide range of EWT, typically an extended range of 20°F to 120°F
  - This wider temperature bandwidth capability allows for the economic installation of closed loop ground heat exchangers









Most energy ratings or calculations describe:

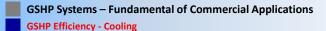
# What you pay for vs. What you get

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## GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications GSHP Efficiency - Heating



- GSHP systems routinely operate at efficiencies exceeding 300% in the heating mode, regardless of altitude or outside climate conditions
- For a comparison, the best conventional furnaces and boilers operate at 90% efficiency, at sea level
- Heating performance is usually rated by a ratio expressed as COP (coefficient of performance):
   COP = Btuh delivered / Btuh consumed





- GSHP systems routinely operate at efficiencies exceeding 15 EER in the cooling mode, regardless of altitude or outside climate conditions
  - EER = Energy Efficient Ratio, orEER = Cooling Btuh capacity / Watts
- For a comparison, the best conventional air conditioners operate at 14 to 15 SEER, but are dependent upon outside air temperature for efficiency
  - SEER = Seasonal Energy Efficient Ratio, orSEER = Seasonal Cooling Energy (Btu) removed / WattsHr
- EER and SEER are not the same!

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## GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications GSHP Efficiency – Residential Examples

GSHP efficiency, the real world:



- - 3,200 ft² residence, Montrose, Colorado, \$325 per year to heat and cool – forced air, water-air HP, new construction
  - 3,600 ft² residence, Gunnison, Colorado, \$250 per year to heat – radiant floor, water-water HP, new construction
  - 2,700 ft² residence, Golden, Colorado, \$355 per year to heat, cool & make 100% of the domestic hot water – forced air, water-air/water HP, retrofit of 25+ year old home
- Each of these examples use separate power meters to monitor the electricity consumed for the GSHP system

**Heat Pumps – Mechanical System Comparisons** 



## Example analysis – 70,000 ft<sup>2</sup> assisted living facility:

Annual Costs (\$)

	Geothermal	Air-cooled Chiller / Boiler	. Savings
Total Power:	11,960.56	27,032.18	15,071.62
CO2 Emissions:	1.14	2.53	1.39
CO2 (tons):	<u>114.0</u>	<u>253.0</u>	<u>139.0</u>
Water:	0.00	1,295.45	1,295.45
Water (Gallons):	<u>0.0</u>	<u>518,181.0</u>	<u>518,181.0</u>
Maintenance:	5,600.00	31,500.00	25,900.00
Mechanical Room Lease:	0.00	3,125.00	1,875.00
TOTAL:	18,811.70	62,955.16	44,143.46

A "professional" energy evaluation service predicted the GSHP system would cost double the conventional system operating cost, yet later admitted they did not understand how to model the GSHP option on their eQuest software; consider also that the client paid a substantial amount for this evaluation. Client compared the conventional operating cost with a similar sized building with equivalent use/occupancy and confirmed our estimate to be more accurate.

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#### **GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications**

Heat Pumps – Mechanical System Comparisons



### Example analysis – 70,000 ft<sup>2</sup> assisted living facility:

NPV Lifecycle Costs (\$) - 25 years

	Geothermal	Air-cooled Chiller / Boi	ler Savings
Total Power:	269,402.02	608,877.95	339,475.93
CO2 Emissions:	19.15	42.66	23.51
CO2 (tons):	<u>2,850.0</u>	<u>6,325.0</u>	<u>3,475.0</u>
Water:	0.00	32,386.31	32,386.31
Water (Gallons):	<u>0.0</u>	<u>12,954,525.0</u>	<u>12,954,525.0</u>
Maintenance:	94,398.31	530,990.51	436,592.20
Mechanical Room Lease:	21,071.05	52,677.63	31,606.58
Installation:	1,280,000.00	1,835,000.00	555,000.00
Tax Incentives:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Salvage:	0.00	(1,638.51)	(1,638.51)
TOTAL:	1,664,890.54	3,058,336.56	1,393,446.02

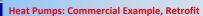


**GSHP** –Commercial Applications – Costing

- Typical operating cost ranges, commercial closed loop systems
  - \$0.15 to \$0.50 per ft<sup>2</sup> per year operating cost
  - \$0.05 to \$0.15 per ft<sup>2</sup> per year maintenance
- Typical installation (1<sup>st</sup> cost) ranges, commercial
  - \$15 to \$20 per ft², 2-pipe system, packaged heat pumps, with ground loop
  - \$18 to \$25 per ft², 4-pipe system with hydronic fan coils, central water-water heat pumps, with ground loop
- These install costs are often within the same ranges as conventional mechanical applications. GSHP systems may be competitive on a 1<sup>st</sup> cost basis for larger commercial applications!

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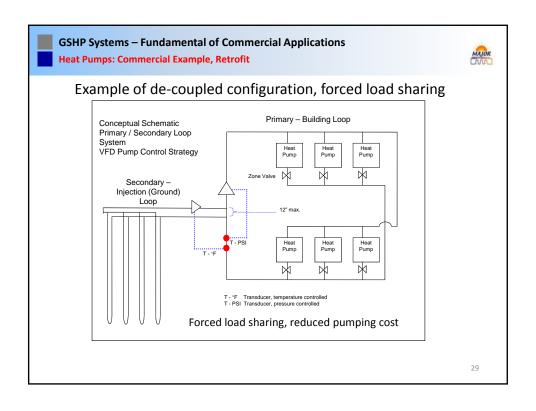
#### **GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications**





Example – Hirschfeld Towers, Denver Housing Authority

- Originally built in 1960's, remodeled in 2008
- DHA architect wanted **no** external mechanical equipment
  - Neighbors complained for 20+ years about condenser noise
- Original system very high maintenance (low bid design, low bid installation – highest operating and service cost after employee overhead!)
- Pre-modeling determined that 100% loop driven system would be a wash with loop+combined chiller hybrid; hybrid system also added back more maintenance, op. cost, controls and infrastructure (ESCO wanted this option but was reminded by client that outside equipment was unacceptable!)
- Optimum system decoupled GSHP design







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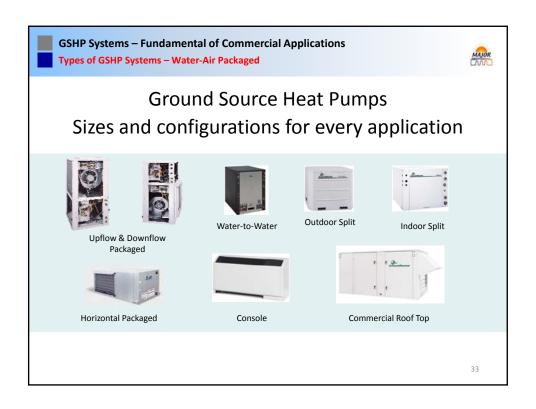
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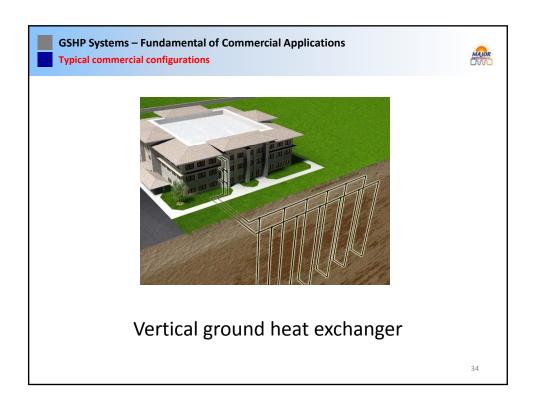
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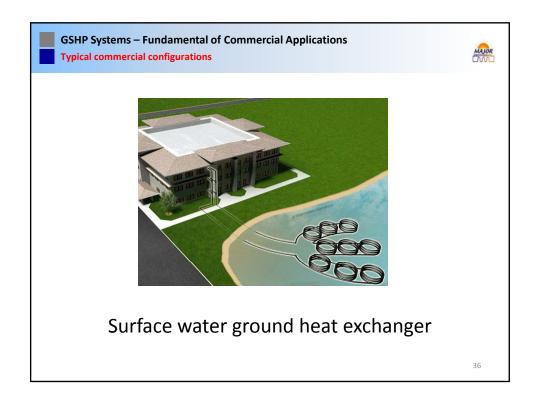


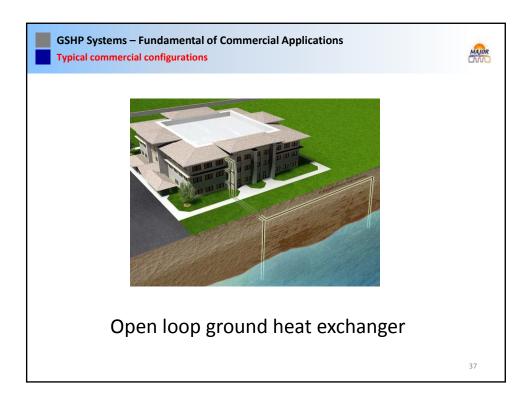
- Water-to-Air
  - Forced air space heating and cooling
- Water-to-Water
  - Forced air heating & cooling using hydronic fan coils
  - Radiant floor heat, baseboard, radiators
  - Domestic hot water
  - Process water conditioning
  - Specialized ice sheet conditioning, thermal energy storage, other
- Direct Exchange
  - DX-to-Air
  - DX-to-Water

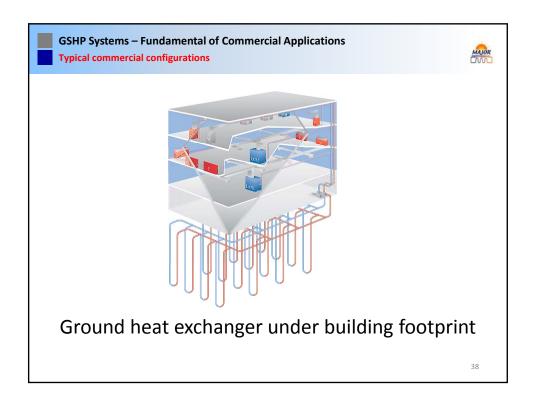


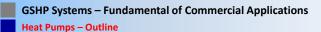














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GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications



- GSHP Systems Design Methodology
- GSHP Systems require the following determinations for sizing:
  - Load calculations for the application how much energy is required for heating and cooling to meet setpoint
  - Match the HP equipment to the load and application specifics
  - Ground loop
    - Closed loop sufficient closed loop heat exchanger design
    - Open loop sufficient water flow rate to meet HP and load requirements





GSHP Systems – Design Methodology

- Note: Closed loop ground heat exchangers require that the ground loop have sufficient capacity to maintain a specific range of EWT to the equipment to operate indefinitely – they cannot be treated as an unlimited pipeline of energy
- Most closed loop systems are designed to feed GSHP equipment with an EWT range from 30°F to 90°F, although most equipment will tolerate extreme EWT ranges of 20°F to 120°F if sufficient fluid flow is maintained
- Closed loop design require calculations involving loads, equipment performance and knowledge of the host geology
- One size does not fit all rule of thumb methods cannot be used for the design of these systems!

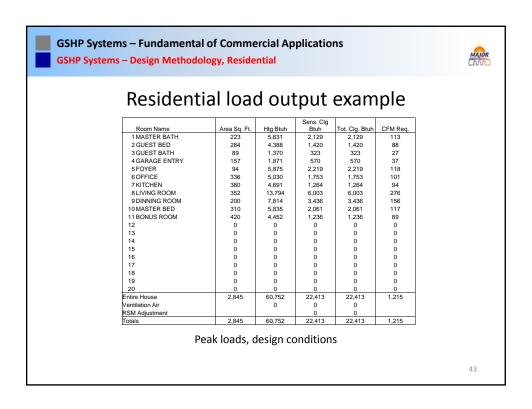
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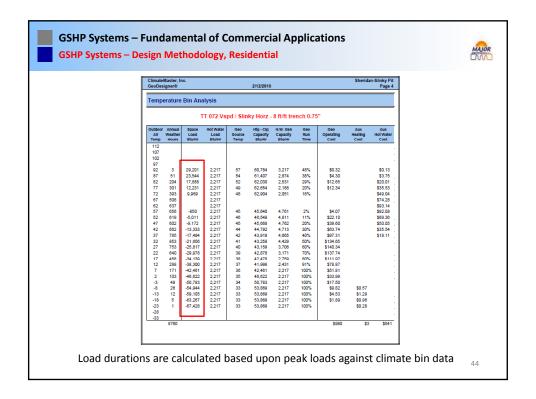
#### GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications





- Load Calculations Residential
  - Usually a load that is driven by climate
  - Peak heat loss and heat gain are typically sufficient
  - Load durations for ground loop calculations are determined by seasonal durations
- Load Calculations Commercial
  - Typically defined as internally driven
    - For example, most commercial buildings and schools are cooling dominated, even in winter
  - Requires a monthly energy load calculation

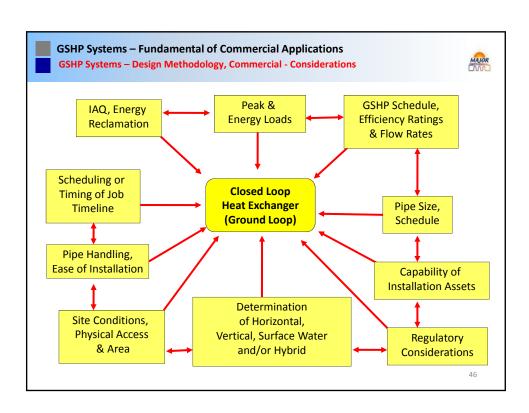


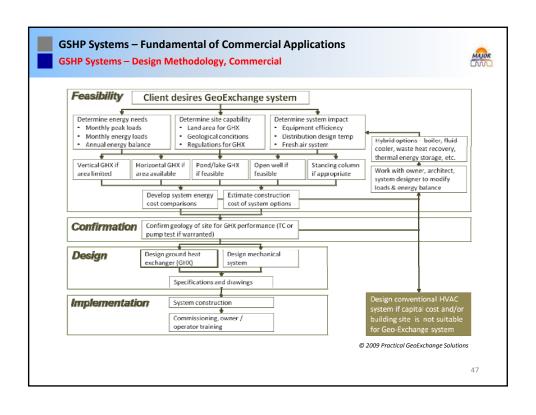


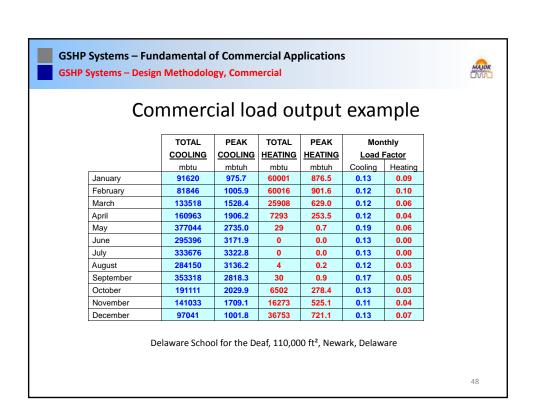
GSHP Systems - Design Methodology, Commercial



- Common mistakes with commercial "design" efforts
  - Operating and LCA calculations completed by people with no design experience, no competence with defining or identifying variables
  - Loop design completed by asking looping contractor how many holes will be needed (looping contractor responds with hard number without even asking for the loads, equipment flow rate, etc.)
  - Number of circuits and depth based on rule of thumb "design"; ie, one hole per ton....
  - Run TC test without knowing anything about the building (loads, equipment) or consideration of drilling parameters (depth, pipe size)
- A ground loop is a key part of the mechanical system budgeting, evaluation, design and testing efforts are the last things that should be based on rule-of-thumb assumptions and guess-work by unqualified assets!



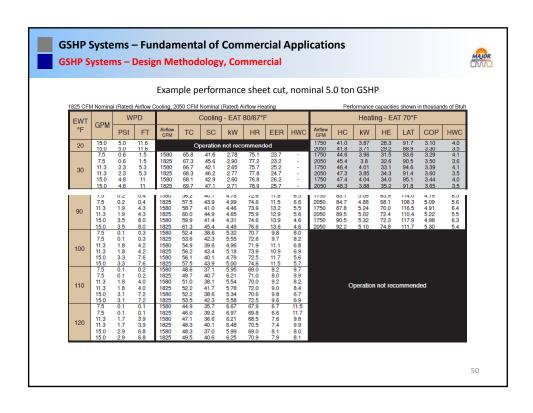




## GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications GSHP Systems – Design Methodology, Commercial



- Heat Pump Selection
- Must be sized to meet peak heating and cooling load of the application
- Load performance is balanced between Delivery variables of the system (ducting, radiant tubing, controls, other)
- Water flow rate
- EWT range



## GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications GSHP Systems – Design Methodology, Commercial



#### Closed Loop Design

- Starts with understanding the site and system requirements
- Load calculations, HP equipment schedule
- Required flow rate of the HP equipment
  - Number and size of circuits is a balance between flow resistance (pressure drop) and turbulence (Reynolds #)
  - The Reynolds number is significant for heat transfer for heating dominated loads
  - Pressure drop and Reynolds # are directly effected by temperature and fluid type pure water, water with antifreeze (type and %)
- The length of the ground loop circuits is determined by:
  - Load duration
  - Thermal performance of the geology that the loop is installed in. Three key values are required to determine thermal performance:
    - Undisturbed temperature °F
    - Thermal conductivity Btuh/ft/°F
    - Diffusivity ft²/day
- Thermal conductivity test <u>IS NOT</u> done until pre-design effort is complete to select best test parameters
- Final design once all variables are accounted for

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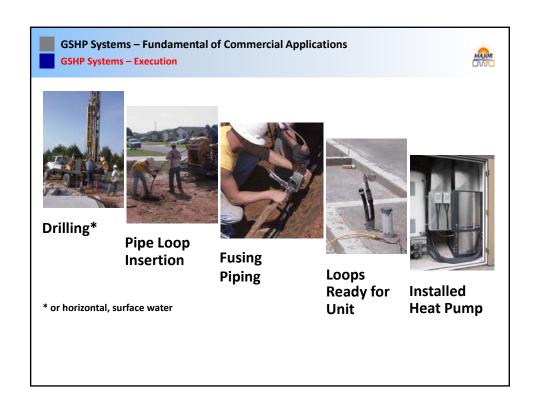
#### GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications



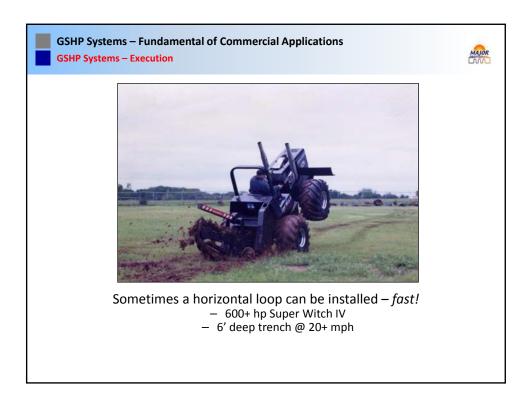


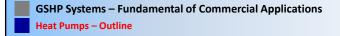
#### **Open Loop Design**

- Starts with the required flow rate of the HP equipment
  - Water source must meet the minimum equipment flow rates
  - An open loop system design assumes a relatively constant water temperature
- Requires that the water be returned to the source aquifer in most cases
  - Most states and provinces have strict regulations for the implementation of these types of heat exchangers
  - Some jurisdictions permit the water to be returned to streams or lakes











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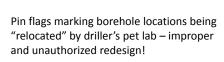
GSHP Systems – Quality Control



As the primary representative of the Client, insist on quality control of the loop and mechanical installation!



Contaminated header lines – Imagine what else might be in the rest of the ground loop!





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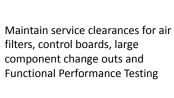
#### **GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications**

**GSHP Systems – Quality Control** 





Pressure/temperature ports critical for testing, service efforts – they must remain accessible!









Completion of your project - consider functional performance testing (FPT) of the heat pump system:

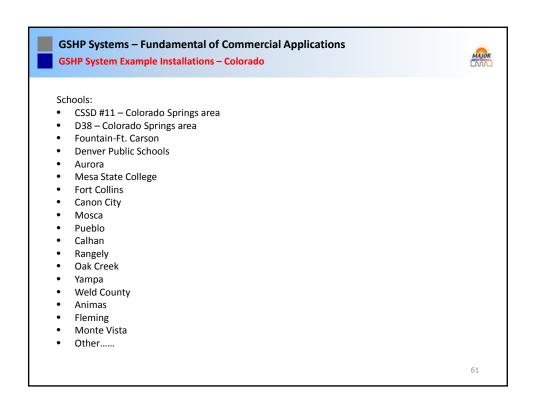
- Confirms system is operating as designed and as per equipment manufacturer's specs
- May be a warranty requirement!
- Establishes a service baseline
- Often reveals 'hiccups' that could become issues with the client!
- Eliminates conflicts and finger pointing between design team and contractors!

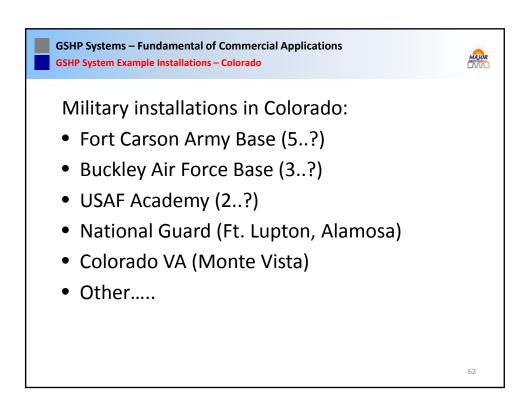
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## GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications GSHP System Example Installations – Colorado



Other commercial in Colorado:

- Lakewood FD (4 installations current)
- · Arvada FD (1 installation pending)
- United Power (Brighton)
- Windsor PD
- Pikes Peak Library District (Falcon)
- Mt. View Electric (Falcon)
- Salud Clinic (Ft. Morgan)
- Maple Leaf Medial Clinic (Pueblo West)
- Citizenship & Immigration (Centennial)
- National Renewal Laboratories (Golden)
- University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (Boulder)
- Doerr-Hosier Events Center, Aspen Institute (Aspen)
- Water Treatment Admin. Facility (Glenwood Springs)
- Observatory (Gunnison)
- Senior Recreation Facility (Brighton)

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#### GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications





Other commercial in Colorado:

- Water Treatment Admin. Facility (Aspen)
- Conoco/Wendys (Frisco)
- Auto Museum (Gateway)
- Homeless Shelter (Boulder)
- Salud Clinic (Commerce City)
- Hirschfeld Towers (Denver)
- Pioneer Museum (Hotchkiss)
- Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Wheat Ridge)
- Larimer County Waste Management (Ft. Collins)
- Water Treatment Admin. Facility (Rifle)
- M & M Ranch, Elk Processing Barn (Steamboat Springs)
- Green Mountain Events Center (Golden)
- Condominiums Complex (Snowmass Village)
- Golf Clubhouse (Snowmass Village)
- Western Dynamics (Golden)
- Paepke Center, Aspen Institute (Aspen)

**GSHP System Example Installations – Colorado** 



#### Other commercial in Colorado:

- Eureka Lodge (Silverton)
- Major Geothermal (Wheat Ridge)
- Housing Authority (Boulder)
- Midland Center (Glenwood Springs)
- Vitamin Cottage (Thornton)
- Art Museum (Carbondale)
- City Hall (Montrose)
- Bowling Alley (Nucla)
- Monkey House, Zoo (Pueblo)
- Ft. Lupton FD
- Candelas Community Center (Arvada)
- Swanbrat Professional Center (Littleton)
- Housing Authority (Loveland)
- Fairmont FD (Arvada)
- IKEA 420,000 ft² (Centennial)
- Other.....

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#### GSHP Systems – Fundamental of Commercial Applications

GSHP System Example Installations – West Metro Fire Station #10, Lakewood, CO



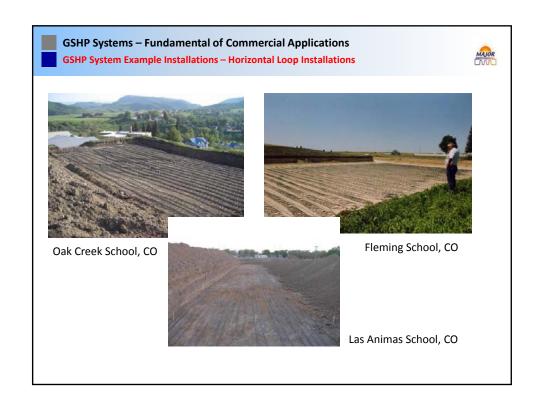




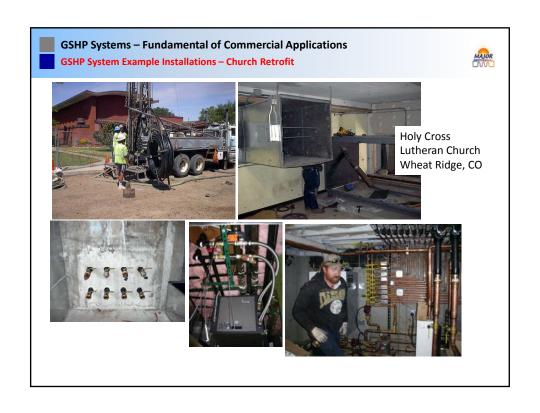


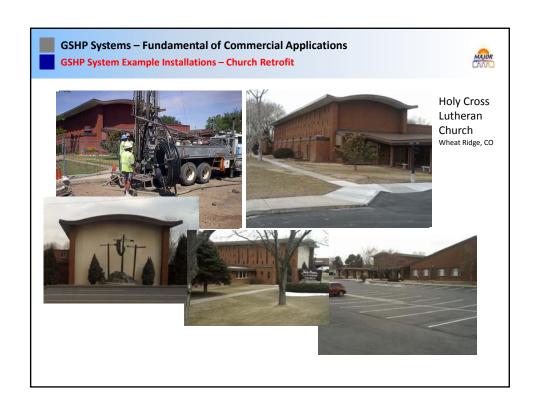
Ground loop sited under driveway and landscaping





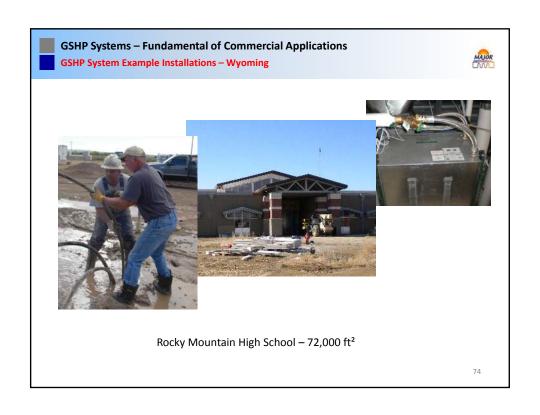


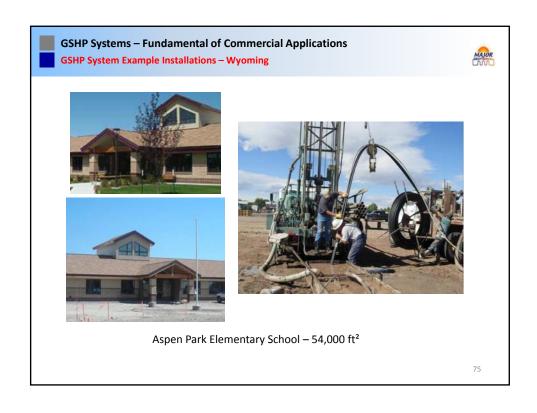


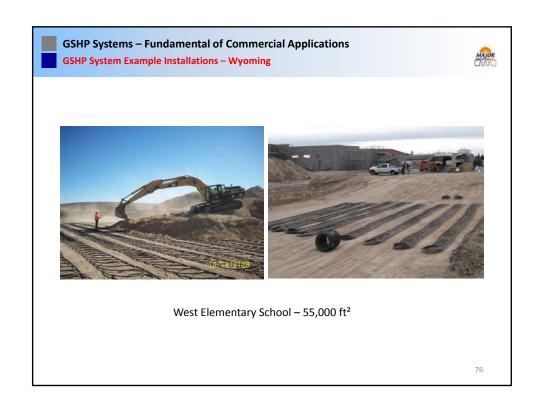
























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