

GEOCITY 1 — SMALLTOWN



MUNICIPALITY OVERVIEW

- * Population: 25 000
- * Several of its residents use oil to heat their home.
- * There is no drinking water distribution system. Residents get their drinking water from wells.
- * The population and city hall officials have already implemented environmentally responsible programs to reduce waste and energy consumption and are looking for new opportunities to reduce their environmental footprint.
- * Some residents have started to convert their oil heating systems to geothermal energy, which involves the installation of a ground loop in the ground.

CHALLENGES

- * City officials know that ground source heat pump systems represent the most energy efficient technology to heat and cool homes and buildings, and are pleased homeowners increasingly choose this technology to replace their oil heating systems. However they are concerned about potential leaks of heat transfer fluids in the watershed if the ground loops are not properly installed.

SOLUTIONS

- * City officials have decided to participate in *GeoCity*® by adopting a by-law to require that every residential ground source heat pump system installed on its territory be CGC certified. The CGC system certification ensures that individuals involved in the design and installation of the systems have received adequate training and, through their CGC accreditation, have agreed to follow the appropriate codes, standards and industry's best practices.
- * A resolution also encourages homeowners to undertake an *EnerGuide for Houses* home audit before conducting energy efficiency retrofit work on their homes in order to optimize the sizing of their ground source heat pump system.

RESULTS

- * As a *GeoCity*®, Smalltown is assured that ground source heat pump systems are now designed and installed in its citizens' homes by properly trained and accredited professionals according to current and state-of-the-art national standards.
- * City officials know that certified system designs have been reviewed by the CGC and that records are kept for future reference. Smalltown is now proud to show the *GeoCity*® logo and visual identity on its communication material.



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