



BERKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM
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Protecting the environment for wildlife in support of the natural world that sustains us all.

Network Geothermal

Right now if you use natural gas to heat your home, you are burning a fossil fuel, which is damaging to the environment, expensive, and contributes to climate change.

But there is a better option. It is already working in Framingham, MA, and we believe that Berkshire Gas should offer it here too.

What is Network Geothermal?

The temperature underground remains at about 55°F year-round regardless of how warm or cold it gets above ground. Network geothermal makes use of that steady underground temperature to heat up or cool down your building in the summer and winter respectively.

A network of pipes run below ground in your neighborhood and connect to your home via heat pumps, which are highly efficient machines used to transfer heat, rather than generate it with burning fuel.

There is no gas, combustion, or pollution involved.

How it works

1. An underground pipe network exists within the neighborhood, filled with water.
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2. During winters, the water in the pipes absorbs heat from the warm ground and transfers it into your home.
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3. A heat pump inside your home then concentrates the warmth and distributes it through your heating system.
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4. During summer, the entire process is reversed and heat is extracted from your home and transferred back into the cooler ground.

It's Already Working

Eversource introduced the very first utility-owned geothermal system in the USA in 2024. This system is located in Framingham, MA, and serves 36 households, apartments, and even schools without using gas as fuel.

Eversource built the underground pipes for free and also offered heat pumps at no charge for those who agreed to use this innovative technology. Residential customers can enjoy this system by paying a flat rate of \$10 monthly.

The project has received \$8.6 million from the government to expand the Framingham network further in other parts of the city.

Why It Matters for the Berkshires

If Eversource can do this in Framingham, so can Berkshire Gas in our city. Their parent company, Avangrid, already is working on network geothermal pilot projects in New York.

A network geothermal system in Pittsfield will:

- ✓ Get rid of gas bills and reduce energy costs
- ✓ Improve air quality in Environmental Justice communities
- ✓ Generate Jobs for installing and maintaining the technology
- ✓ Help the Commonwealth in achieving climate goals

Network geothermal is an established technology that is proven, clean, and efficient.

Therefore we are calling on Berkshire Gas to follow in the footsteps of its sister company and commit to deploying network geothermal in Pittsfield.