



Memo in Support  
NYSERDA Fuel Switching Grant Program Authorization  
A8595 (Zebrowski)/ S8504 (Harckham)

The New York Geothermal Energy Organization (NY-GEO) supports this legislation that would authorize the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to administer a program that provides grants, loans, and other services for costs related to fuel-switching, via clean energy measures, energy-efficiency measures, resiliency measures, and more. Such a program would enable residents stuck with expensive propane or fuel-oil heating systems to upgrade to energy efficient heat pumps, save money on energy bills, and improve home comfort and reliability.

Approximately 1.8 million New York households use delivered fuels, including fuel oil and propane, for their furnaces and water heaters. The residents of New York State consume more heating oil than any other state in the country. The average fuel oil or propane user would save \$868 annually by upgrading to a medium-efficiency heat pump - and even more if they weatherized or upgraded to a geothermal heat pump. Transitioning homes on delivered fuels to electrified ones will yield significant economic, health, and environmental benefits.

Heating and cooling our New York State buildings using our current fossil fuel methods account for about 34% of our greenhouse gases. To transition to a carbon-free form of heating and cooling we need to encourage building owners to replace their fossil fuel systems with an all-electric system, such as geothermal. Currently, NYSERDA's ability to provide energy efficiency and electrification incentives is limited by its funding source. This legislation will provide NYSERDA broader authorization to provide grants and services to assist delivered fuel households in transitioning away from fossil fuel

There is a generational opportunity for our state to improve the standard of living for all New Yorkers while making a positive impact on our climate future. This legislation would help maximize investments made to date at the state and federal levels. New Yorkers deserve the upgrade.

In areas of New York where gas infrastructure is less developed, such as rural counties and parts of Long Island, residents heating with delivered fuel oil or propane can benefit significantly from switching to energy-efficient heat pumps. It is important to note, that a heat pump system will deliver both heating and cooling and added benefits and reasons to transition away from a fossil fuel system.

This legislation directs NYSERDA to establish a program that affords the 1.8 million New York households that rely on delivered fuels the opportunity to switch to more efficient and climate-friendly heating and cooling systems using heat pump technology. This transition will contribute to the successful implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, reduce energy costs, and spur economic growth.

New York has some of the oldest housing stock in the United States. This bill will allow residents the means to transition their homes from delivered fuels to heat pump systems by providing grants, loans, and other services for costs related to preparing their homes for a new all-electric, heat pump heating and cooling system.

About NY-GEO:

New York Geothermal Energy Organization (NY-GEO), a not-for-profit trade association, representing the geothermal heat pump (GHP) industry in New York State, is dedicated to promoting geothermal heating and cooling. Our members include geothermal system designers, installers, drillers, general contractors, engineers, manufacturers, distributors, renewable energy consultants and industry stakeholders who install and advocate for the use of ground-source heat pumps to heat and cool buildings throughout New York State.