

2025 Iowa Geothermal Course Descriptions
“Geothermal – Digging Deeper, Powering Smarter”

January 20-22, 2025
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

General Session Education Opportunities

Geothermal Incentives

Get a quick briefing on how you can take advantage of incentives for the installation of geothermal heat pump systems offered through state and federal programs. Speakers from Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and USDA – Rural Development will give you the basics you need to know.

DNR Update

Hear the latest from the Erik Day, DNR Sr. Environmental Specialist, on rules, programs and upcoming issues that impact the geothermal industry. This is also your chance to ask questions specific to the work that you do. *1 HR DNR Well Contractor CEU*

CEU Track

Residential Geothermal System Design, Pump Systems Components

Tom Wyer with Geo-Flo will share his expertise on designing a residential geothermal system.
4 CEU trade sheet metal; 1 CEU trade hydronics

Excavation - Safety

Jason Thorson with Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative will share with you what to do and more importantly, what not to do, to remain safe when doing excavation. *2 HR PMSB CEU; 2 HR DNR Well Contractor*

Hydronics Part 1 & 3

Learn the basic hydronics in geothermal systems and boilers, including pipe sizing, flow rates, head loss, radiant panels and other components. Two experts in the field will deliver these courses – Mark Falkena with Fred’s Heating & Plumbing and Cody Mack, training manager for Caleffi Manufacturing, specializing in hydronic components.

Hydronics Part 1: *1 HR– Mechanical Code; 1 HR – Mechanical Discipline*

Hydronics Part 3: *(max 2CEUs) 2 HR– Mechanical Discipline; 2 HR– Hydronics ; 2 HR - HVAC/R Discipline*

Section 608 EPA Technician Certification for Refrigerants

EPA requires that technicians who maintain, service, repair, or dispose of equipment that could release refrigerants into the atmosphere must be certified. Technicians are required to pass an EPA-approved proctored exam to earn the Section 608 Technician Certification. Tom Knight with Johnstone Controls is an EPA-approved instructor will present the course and administer the exam.

What’s Practical for Me in the UPC

Lee Maier with the CEU Authority will share the latest news in the plumbing code and what you need to know. *2 HR PMSB CEU*

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Non-CEU Track: Best for nonprofits and utilities

Cutting Edge Innovations in Geothermal Heat Pump Technology: *The Future of Sustainable Heating & Cooling*

Tom Rutkowski with E & J Geothermal will give you a rundown the latest innovations in the geothermal industry. He will share his expertise on what some of the latest trends are and how it benefits the customer. Note: this is not a sales pitch for one specific company.

Geothermal 101: *Understanding the Basics & Benefits*

In this session, you will learn about the basics of geothermal energy and how it could benefit your customers. You will get an overview of geothermal heat pump technology, components, operation, domestic hot water features, desuperheaters, loop options, and geothermal applications. Chance Wahl from Mort’s Plumbing & Heating is in Sales and System Design. Chance is GeoComfort factory-trained as well as accredited with IGSHPA. *2 HR DNR well contractor CEU*

How Geo is Better

Convincing your customers that an investment in geothermal systems is worth it means you need the information on how geothermal is better than traditional heating options and other renewable energy options. Mark Falkena is the owner of Fred’s Plumbing & Heating. His company is Iowa’s largest dealer of WaterFurnace geothermal heat pumps. Tom Rutkowski is the Director of Business Development and Senior Project Manager for E&J Geothermal and Electric Inc. He has over 13 years’ experience in HVAC/Geothermal Service, Installation, Sales, Design, and management. Rick Rockacy, Water Furnace International will provide his perspective on reliable renewables.

Maximizing Savings: *Tax Credits, Rebates & Incentives Explained*

Navigating the world of tax credits, rebates and incentives for geothermal systems can be confusing. Our two experts, Rick Rockacy with Water Furnace International and Jeremiah Stroud, Director of Cooperative Engagement for the Geothermal Exchange Organization will break these down for you to better equip you to work with your customers.

Tax Credits & Rebates in Layman’s Terms

Navigating the world of tax credits and rebates for geothermal systems can be confusing. Our two experts, Jeremiah Stroud, Director of Cooperative Engagement for the Geothermal Exchange Organization and Stephanie Wiese, Assistant Manager for WIPCO, will break these down for you to better equip you to work with your customers.

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Troubleshooting Common Geothermal Heat Pump Issues: *Tips & Solutions*

This session will provide attendees with the answers to some of the most common questions to troubleshoot problems with geothermal systems. It is designed to help you answer your customers’ questions before referring them on to more expertise. Dylan DeJong with Baxter Comfort Solutions and Keegan Leliefeld with Geothermal Eco Options have a combined 15 years of experience working with geothermal systems.