

COUNCIL POLICY

NAME: Geothermal Heat Exchangers in Saanich Freshwater Ecosystems	
ISSUED: November 24, 2008	INDEX REFERENCE:
AMENDED:	COUNCIL REFERENCE: 08/283

POLICY

The use of geothermal heat exchangers (GHX) in Saanich freshwater ecosystems such as ponds, rivers and lakes, will not be approved until Council is satisfied that the cumulative environmental impacts of these systems have been sufficiently studied and determined to be negligible.

BACKGROUND

GHX systems use alternative energy for heating purposes, and as such may have some environmental benefits; however, there is no information currently available on the cumulative impact this technology could have on water quality and invasive species growth. Furthermore, GHX technology is typically used in marine ecosystems, not freshwater ecosystems.

The Provincial government refers applications to install GHX systems within Saanich to the municipality for comment. In the absence of a policy, staff has the opportunity to comment only on adherence to bylaws. This policy establishes Council's position on the use of GHX systems and directs that applications for GHX systems in Saanich freshwater ecosystems be rejected, until sufficient study of their cumulative environmental impacts has been undertaken.

See Also:
