GeoNews

Geothermal
Innovative Energy LLC

Jackson Joins Innovative Energy Systems LLC

The newest employee, Jackson Waltman, joins Innovative Energy after graduating from UW-Madison.

Jackson Waltman, son of Innovative Energy's owners Jerry and Jacki Waltman, graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison in December of 2023. Jackson graduated with an individualized major that he had designed, focusing on *Sustainable and Renewable Energy*. This major was in the Biological Systems Engineering department within the College of Agriculture and Life Science.

Jackson is very excited to join Innovative Energy, working alongside his father in the field and his mother working on the administrative side.

After settling in and learning the basics from his parents, Jackson would like to someday move towards installing photovoltaic solar and geothermal. These two systems would work as a union with the solar powering the geothermal heat pump to heat/cool your home. Even further down the road, Jackson hopes to build a whole housing development run on all renewables.

Overall, Jackson is looking forward to meeting all the customers and expanding his knowledge in renewable energy, all while working in a family business.

Innovative Energy Systems LLC – (715) 410-3966

TAX CREDITS EXPLAINED

Currently, the federal government offers a 23% tax credit for installing a geothermal system.

Tax credits are a *dollar-for-dollar reduction of taxes owed*. Some credits offset income taxes; others offset employment taxes. Some credits are part of the general business credit and are subject to an annual limitation; others are fully refundable (they can be recouped more than what taxes are owed).

Service Work

Treating your heat pump right like your own body will treat you right.

Benefits of Annual Service

As geothermal heat pump installers, we recommend that if you own a heat pump, you should have service work done on the unit at least once per year. These service checks will ensure that your unit is running correctly and as efficiently as it should.

- ### Longer Lifecycle

Your geothermal heat pump has an expected lifecycle of 20-25 years, but that is with good service and checkups. These checkups will find any leaks, faults, or any issues that could be declining the life of your unit and will be patched up to keep your unit happy and everyone enjoying the heating/cooling that your unit provides. Lack of service work can significantly decrease the total lifetime of your unit.

- ### Efficiency and Savings

A geothermal heat pump is already a highly efficient machine that generates roughly 3threetimes as much heating/cooling as the energy needed. Without annual checkups, your unit can start working less and less efficiently, which will inevitably cause the unit to use more power to run. This would then increase the electricity bill of the unit. Loop flushes, pressure checks, and voltage measures will keep your heat pump working as efficiently as possible and continue to save you money.

- ### Maintaining Comfort

A geothermal heat pump is idolized for its quiet working but impressive distribution of heat/cooling throughout your home. Annual checks on your fan coil, blower fan, and filters will ensure that your heat pump maintains the desired temperature inside the house while working quietly.

Do-It-Yourself Service Checks

As a homeowner, you can do many things to help maintain your geothermal system's life, efficiency, and comfort. Here is a list of things you should do to keep your unit happy.

1. Check your filters!

One of the most significant issues people have with their geothermal heat pump is letting their filters go without changing or checking on them. The filter is there to help remove bacteria, dust, and odor from the air while circulating cleaner air throughout the home. These filters should be replaced or cleaned every 3-6 months. Cleaning these filters can be as simple as wiping them with a damp cloth or even soaking them in soapy water and set out to be dried. If a filter needs to be replaced, you can order them on your own or call Innovative Energy, where you can purchase your filters from us.

2. Clean Supply/Return Vents

The air ducts in your home are used to circulate air throughout your whole house. If these vents are filled with dust, dirt, and debris, you will not only breathe that in but also will your unit. The filters on the unit are there to catch that dust, but no filter is perfect. Cleaning your vents will help keep your air clean and the unit working as smoothly as possible.

3. Check Condensate Trap/Drain

Every geothermal heat pump has a condensate trap or drain. During the summer months, when your geothermal unit is cooling, it will extract water vapor from the humid air and discard the liquid water into a condensate trap. If these traps are filled or clogged, the unit cannot properly dispose of this water which causes some issues with the unit. Clean the condensate trap every couple of months to ensure your unit can condense the humid air as smoothly as possible. If you are unsure where or how to clean the condensate trap, give us a call, and we'll walk you through it.

4. Check Inside Unit

Doing your service check inside your unit can be very beneficial. Open up your heat pump's main panel door and look inside. You may be confused about what you are looking at, but you can check for any leakage, open/cut wires, or listen for any odd noises. If you come across anything that doesn't seem right, call us. And be sure to read through your manual before making any decisions.

Innovative Energy Fun Facts

- The first geothermal heat pump installed by Innovative Energy was installed in 2008.
- Since 2008, Innovative Energy has installed 131 new systems and services 33 other systems.
- In 2010, Jerry and Jacki Waltman were Innovative Energy's 4th customers.
- The northernmost Innovative Energy installed unit is in Winter, Wisconsin, while the furthest south installed unit is in Ellsworth, Wisconsin, which totals roughly 165 miles apart!
- In 2021, Jerry Waltman was awarded the Silver Dealer award from K&E Distributing inc. for the remarkable amount of ClimateMaster heat pumps he installed for Innovative Energy.