

Air-Source Heat Pumps: Fast Facts for Ontario Homeowners

What is an Air-Source Heat Pump?

An air-source heat pump (ASHP) looks like an air-conditioning (A/C) unit and most connect to a home in the same way as A/C. An ASHP offers **both cooling and heating**. It replaces A/C and can also replace, or supplement, a traditional heating system. They're popular in other cold-climate regions (for example, in Scandinavia). They've been used in Ontario for several decades. Advancements over the past two decades have improved the cold temperature performance in some models.



Benefits

The cost of traditional heating fuels is rising. ASHPs use electricity and are much **more efficient** than traditional options. There are ASHP options that can **reduce your heating bills** while also being much **more eco-friendly** because they produce fewer harmful carbon emissions. ASHPs also frequently provide improved features like **quiet operation and improved indoor comfort**.

Upfront Cost

The Enbridge HER+ Program in Ontario offers up to \$6,500 in **rebates** for qualifying ASHPs. **No-interest financing** is available through the Canada Greener Homes Loan. Additional rebates are available for eligible participants with electric or oil heating. Costs vary with the brand, model, and features. For those on a budget, there are ASHP options for most

homes that are **cost competitive with traditional systems** (or even lower cost) after incentives.

Compatibility

There are ASHP options **suitable for most homes**. Some cold-climate ASHP models operate in outdoor temperatures as cold as -30°C. Back-up heating (electric or fossil fuel) can help ensure you are always comfortable, even in the depths of winter. Depending on the ASHP sizing and selection, the back-up may rarely need to turn on.

Homeowner Experience in Ontario

Through case studies, formal surveys and pilot projects, we've documented the experience of many homeowners that have installed ASHPs in Southern Ontario. They are happy with their ASHPs and many have reduced their utility bills. Learn more about their stories in our **homeowner video series**, and other resources, available at smarterhomeheating.ca.

Next Steps

If your home heating and cooling system is getting older, don't wait until it breaks down. Make an appointment with a Registered Energy Advisor. Consider other home energy upgrades like reducing air leaks and adding insulation. Start discussions with contractors. Get multiple quotes, check references, find qualified contractors, and explore options that best meet your needs. Our *Quick Tips* document offers additional suggestions.

Learn More

Visit smarterhomeheating.ca for case studies, homeowner testimonial videos, other resources, and to contact us with any ASHP questions.

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 **Sustainable Technologies**
EVALUATION PROGRAM

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