

Scenario

You need to buy a new high efficiency furnace. You have the following three options: geothermal, natural gas, and electric. Calculate the cost of each system after 1 year, 5 years, 10 years, and 25 years. Then answer the questions with a partner or your group.

Heating System	Geothermal	Natural Gas	Electric
Purchase price	\$17,500	\$4,500	\$2,500
Operating costs over 1 year	\$544	\$634	\$1,361
Price + 1 year (\$)			
Price + 5 years (\$)			
Price + 10 years (\$)			
Price + 25 years (\$)			

N.B. The table figures are based on average values and vary depending on the household.

5. If Manitoba Hydro pays a \$12,000 subsidy on the purchase price of a geothermal system, after how many years will it become the best of the three options?
6. Based on your choice of home, name three potential energy improvements to check before buying. Give one advantage of each energy improvement. Other than installing a new heating system, name and describe three energy improvements that you can make to lower your heating bill.

Energy Improvement	Description

Did you know?

*Rule of thumb for thermostat savings:
For each degree you lower your thermostat in winter,
you can save about 3% on your heating bill.*