

CHAT TEXT FROM EARTH DAY SPEAKER PANEL, APRIL 22, 2021

19:11:26 From Karen Watkins : Bob, could a ducted air source heat pump use existing duct work from natural gas furnaces or existing AC ducts?

19:15:55 From Bob Zogg : Generally, one can use the existing ductwork, but there are exceptions.

19:12:42 From Lee Stevens : Bob: do you have recommended contractors for heat pumps?

19:16:30 From Bob Zogg : We can help clients connect with installers. Please get in touch with us. [Contact info in his presentation transcript]

19:13:37 From Karen Watkins : Question: Bob, do heat pump water heaters work for folks who have well water? Our water has to be treated because of high iron content. It is tough on the water heater!!

Don't see an answer to this one, but believe he said the same precautions apply to heat pump water heaters as normal electric [or gas] water heaters. - JB

19:14:03 From Carlisle Garden Club : Bob, can you describe your process of working with clients on these systems? How long does it take to work through?

19:17:31 From Bob Zogg : One-on-one coaching can be a single session or take place over an extended period. Evaluating heat pumps can take a few months, so please plan ahead.

19:16:20 From John Roberts : Bob: Is it possible to convert to a heat pump system from boiler-driven hot water baseboard heat? How does the efficiency compare with forced hot air systems?

19:19:09 From Bob Zogg : One can convert a hydronic system to use a heat pump, but one often has to add more baseboard, so it can be challenging. Also, cooling adds complications, but it can be done. We expect new products for this application in the next few months.

19:20:19 From Melinda Burri : Bob - we have a new gas powered heater with ducts. It is very efficient and we used the MassSave financing. Our A/C is over 20 years old and will surely die soon. Is it cost effective to replace our outside A/C with a central ducted heat pump?

19:22:21 From Bob Zogg : It might not be much more expensive compared to new A/C, and you can continue to use your gas furnace at low temperatures when it has the greatest cost benefit. So, it is possible, but if you value lowering carbon emissions, it will help justify the investment.

19:23:52 From Karen Watkins : Lexington just passed a bylaw to do all electric in new builds. And Concord and Acton both have similar bylaws at their Town Meetings in June!!

This is just a comment.

19:52:14 From Carlisle Garden Club : Andrew, how hot does your compost get? Do you take the temperature?

Don't see an answer to this, but my notes say he estimated 140-160 degrees F. I recall he mentioned seeing it steaming in the cold weather. -JB

19:58:34 From Carlisle Garden Club : Are any of the MassSave people familiar with Deck Houses?

20:00:43 From John Roberts : I live in a deck house and had MassSave evaluate and insulate.

19:58:52 Comment from Carlisle Garden Club : They [*Deck Houses?*] have peculiar insulation requirements.

20:00:28 From Dave Boettcher: Potentially. Feel free to email me at Dave@AbodeEM.com and I can try to point you towards a good resource.

20:02:52 From Stephen Smith : Nastasia, do you get to spend much time at sea?

Don't see an answer to this in the transcript. I believe she said not so far, but there might be opportunities in the future.

20:07:55 From Melinda Burri : How effective has the transfer station been in diverting food waste and creating compost?

Don't see an answer in the transcript, but hope you got a chance, Melinda, to collect the "free sample compost" that Launa Zimmaro asked Black Earth to donate last year at the Transfer Station. Instructions for purchasing Black Earth compost today are available [online!](#)

20:12:13 From John Roberts : Thank you all!

20:12:14 From Elizabeth Acquaviva : Thank you.

20:12:14 From Virginia Lamere : Thank you to all speakers!

20:12:22 From Beth Clarke : Thanks, Garden Club!!