

# Bloom in Seaton in Pickering

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How much will I be reducing my home's carbon emissions?**

Bloom's GeoExchange heating and cooling system will improve your home's direct carbon emissions by 86%.

### **How much more efficient is GeoExchange technology than natural gas and what benefit does this bring to my home?**

With GeoExchange technology, you can expect your energy consumption to drop by 42%, by drawing from the earth's consistent temperature below the surface and right outside your door.

### **Does GeoExchange technology require natural gas?**

Given that GeoExchange heats and cools your home in Bloom in Seaton without any direct use of fossil fuels, there is actually no natural gas service in the entire community. This is just one of the ways Bloom in Seaton helps you lower your carbon footprint.

### **What equipment is required in my home to support the GeoExchange system?**

A quiet and compact ground source heat pump connected to underground components built into the Bloom in Seaton community will replace both a traditional interior furnace and an exterior central air conditioning unit in your home.

### **How deep underground are the pipes buried?**

The majority of the pipes that exchange thermal energy with the ground under the street are 200 metres underground, approximately twice the length of a football field.

### **How will this affect my electrical bill?**

Throughout the summer months, you may enjoy cost savings since cooling your home with the GeoExchange system is more energy-efficient than air conditioning. During the cooler months, your bill will likely remain consistent with what you pay through the rest of the year. Therefore, you can expect a relatively consistent electrical bill throughout the year compared to a traditional electrical bill being high in the summer and low in the winter.

### **What is the fluid that runs through the pipes?**

The pipes used in the GeoExchange system carry a mixture of water and natural glycol, a safe, non-toxic additive.

### **What happens if my heat pump or GeoExchange system is not functioning correctly and needs to be repaired?**

Your heat pump and GeoExchange System will be professionally managed and maintained throughout its useful life. You'll experience peace of mind knowing your heating and cooling technology is combined into a single, reliable unit.

### **Are GeoExchange utilities regulated by the Ontario Energy Board?**

The heating and cooling services and service levels being provided, as well as the rates charged to the consumer in Bloom in Seaton, are not regulated by the Ontario Energy Board or any other entity.

### **Is GeoExchange the same as geothermal energy?**

Both terms have been used to describe this technology. However, the technically correct term is GeoExchange since geothermal energy may also refer to different categories of heat energy from Earth's crust.

### **Where else has GeoExchange technology been implemented?**

The science behind GeoExchange technology is tried and tested. Over the past 15 years, GeoExchange technology has been installed and used in hospitals, universities, high-rise commercial buildings, airports and sustainable residential communities across North America.

### **Is GeoExchange safe?**

GeoExchange technology is considered safe, both technically and environmentally. Being that the unit is combustion-free, there is no flame, exhaust pipe, or risk of carbon monoxide, and the fluid within the system is a mixture of water and non-toxic, natural glycol.

### **Will my home insurance premiums be affected?**

Some insurance providers offer rebates or discounts to homeowners who have implemented energy-saving measures. You may be entitled to cost savings on your home insurance premiums depending on your provider.

### **What happens during a power outage?**

Similar to traditional homes, a disruption to heating or cooling will occur until electricity is restored.

### **If a buried pipe is cracked, clogged or burst, how long could my home be stuck without heating or cooling?**

The GeoExchange infrastructure in Bloom in Seaton is built with the same type of durable pipe that is used for gas distribution, making it a highly reliable system with an expected lifespan of 50 years. In the unlikely event a repair is required, you could expect a similar timeline to one associated with a comparable issue affecting a conventional natural gas line.

\*The above projections are a result of modelling exercises by a third-party engineering consultant comparing geothermally heated and cooled homes to those using a typical gas furnace and air conditioner. There can be no assurance that such projections will prove accurate and actual results could differ materially from such projections.

