



SCEC District 7 Director Fran Klatt poses in front of his 1951 John Deere tractor. Klatt owns 19 tractors, "most of them John Deere," which have won him numerous awards at local tractor shows.

Meet Your Director: Francis Klatt, District 7

## Klatt nears 40 years serving Dist. 7

When the Spring 2016 director elections roll around, Francis "Fran" Klatt will have 39 years of experience on the St. Croix Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. The District 7 Director joined the Board in 1977, replacing William Kelm. Klatt is the longest-standing (and possibly the tallest) director in the 78-year history of the Cooperative with former Dist. 8 Director William Hoffman holding the next longest term at 33 years (1976-2009).

"As long as I still feel I can be of service to the Cooperative, I want to stay," Klatt said.

Joining the Board at the age of 27 was no easy task for the father of four. But, after attending a "young couples" conference on cooperatives with his wife, Sue, Fran said it "sparked an interest" that led him to accept Kelm's recommendation to run for the Board. For each of the 13 elections he's participated in, Klatt has always had a challenger for the seat.

In addition to his responsibilities representing the members of Dist. 7,

Klatt also serves on the Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Board of Directors. DPC is a generation and transmission cooperative (also known as a "G&T"), which means it produces the power and sends it over high-voltage transmission lines to SCEC's substations for SCEC to distribute to members. Klatt's role on the DPC Board is to make sure the concerns of SCEC and its members are heard with representatives both from DPC, as well as legislators. In this capacity, he was among a group of directors who met with law makers in Madison last year to raise concerns about railroad inefficiencies that led to extreme coal shortages at some of the DPC generation plants. The action by DPC and its directors helped spur letters by lawmakers from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa to the Surface Transportation Board to work with BNSF railroad to resolve the issue.

see "Klatt" on page 5

## Geothermal? Solar?

*Renewable energy systems vary. Is the one you want ideal for your home?*

Say "renewable energy," and the picture that comes to mind is usually a solar array or a wind turbine. We want to encourage you to add "geothermal" to the list. Geothermal systems heat and cool your home using the constant ground temperature a few yards below the surface (52 degrees).

Several St. Croix Electric Cooperative members already enjoy geothermal units at their homes, and that number is growing. In addition to rebates offered by SCEC for qualifying units, geothermal heat pumps along with solar (PV) installations and small wind systems qualify for a 30 percent tax credit (through Dec. 31, 2016). Because of the rebates and credits, interest has been on the rise for solar and geothermal.

Unfortunately, the addition of geothermal to the renewable mix has spawned a large number of sellers who have little knowledge in proper installations and requirements for connection.

"Members need to do their homework to determine which system is best for their needs and then find a qualified

see "Geothermal vs. Solar" on page 7

*Equipment upgrades are on the horizon. See pg. 4 for more details.*



	Geothermal	Solar
Energy production	24 hours a day	When the sun shines; sensitive to cloud cover. Will not produce energy at night.
Warranties	In-house unit: 25 years; in-ground coils: 100+ years	Panels: 25-years; inverters: 5 to 10 years
Installation specs	Nearly any piece of property works	Access to south-facing sun; minimal shadows. May have to be approved by HOA/insurance company (rooftop).
"Make it for me"	Unit sized and calibrated to members' needs and desired comfort levels within the home	Unit designed to meet the power needs of the home, or just under. Member is credited for excess power generated.

SCEC recommends the homeowner verifies the certifications and qualifications of each contractor they select.

## Geothermal vs. Solar

*continued from page 1*

contractor to install it," said SCEC Member Services Manager Jerry Van Someren. "We have some local contractors who are very good and others we would caution members about. The HVAC system is a major part of the infrastructure of your home. Members depend on it every day to keep comfortable, so the cheapest option may not be the best one.

"SCEC members deserve quality, reliability and service that will continue after the installation, so choose a contractor who is a certified installer and outlines the costs and steps to complete the project," Van Someren said.

### Will Solar Panels Work for You?

- Solar panels work best when your roof faces south.
- If your roof receives a fair amount of shade, solar panels are not a good option for renewable energy.
- Your roof must be able to support the weight of solar panels, plus the weight of other loads, such as wind and snow.

There are many factors to consider before installing solar panels on your roof, so talk to the energy experts at your local electric co-op first.



America's Electric Cooperatives

### Geothermal

Estimated payback for HVAC system (without inflation factor):

	Geothermal (4-ton unit)	Conventional system (98% eff. propane + 21 SEER AC)
Initial cost:	\$25,000	\$8,500
Tax Credit/Rebates:	\$ 8,700	\$ 500
Net Price:	\$16,300	\$8,000
Est. Annual Fuel Cost:	\$ 1,557	\$2,848
Operating Savings:	\$ 1,291	
Payback Term:	12.6 years	

After 12.6 years, the \$1,291 operating savings/year continues.

### Solar

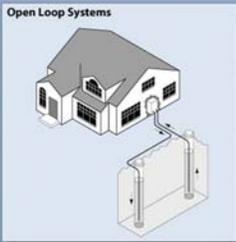
(statistics gathered from similar arrays installed on SCEC member properties)

- 7 kW system: \$33,500
- Initial purchase price: \$33,500
- Tax Credit/Rebates: \$10,050
- Net Price: \$23,450
- Est. Ann. Production: 7,000 kWh
- Est. Revenue: \$700 (avg. \$0.10/kWh)
- Est. Payback Term: 33.5 yrs  
(w/o inflation factor or O&M)

#### Types of Geothermal Heat Pump Systems

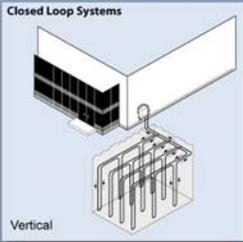
There are four basic configurations for geothermal heat pump ground loops. Three are "closed-loop systems," where a water and antifreeze solution is continually moved through pipes; the fourth is an "open-loop system," where groundwater or well water is used.

**Open Loop Systems**



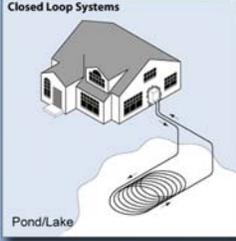
**Closed Loop Systems**

Vertical



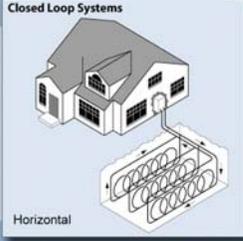
**Closed Loop Systems**

Pond/Lake



**Closed Loop Systems**

Horizontal



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

So, what fits best into your renewable portfolio? Regardless of a member's choice of system, research is crucial to ensure a positive outcome. Members interested in learning more about geothermal or solar can contact Van Someren at 715-796-7000 or jerryvs@scecnet.net.

*"Almost every area of the country can take advantage of renewable energy technologies, but some technologies are better suited for particular areas than others. Knowing the resources of a region, state, city or neighborhood is critical to renewable energy planning and siting."* ~National Renewable Energy Laboratory



**Constant Care  
Even When You're  
Not There**







Call 800-924-3407  
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