# **Funding Sustainability:** The Inflation Reduction Act *Demystified*

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## **A nationwide and Michigan firm**

## Our Michigan presence

- 114 team members
- 11 partners
- Named "Metro Detroit Best and Brightest Company to Work For" for the 8th consecutive year

-Municipal advisory services

-Investment advisory services

-Tax compliance services

Inflation Reduction Act ("IRA") 179D Tax Deductions

-Energy consulting services division



## **The Right Match for All Your Geothermal Needs**

- Unrivaled Experience: a proven track record spanning over 25 years and 160 successful geothermal projects
- **Expansive Network** of Geo Industry Professionals
- **Trusted Certifications:** a team comprised of skilled Professional Engineers, and Certified Geothermal Designers, Installers, and Inspectors

# Our experienced team is fully equipped to deliver comprehensive services throughout every phase of your project



**FEASIBILITY** Studies • FTC Testing • Life Cycle

Cost Analysis • Conceptual Site Plan • Economic Analysis



DESIGN

MEP & Geo Engineering • Geo Consulting • Energy Modeling • Ground Source Heat Exchanger Design



#### CONSTRUCTION

MEP & Geo Commissioning • Site Observation • Quality Control • Pressure Testing • System Flushing/Purging



#### FORENSICS

Field Testing • Peer Review • Retro-Commissioning • Systems Simulations



POST-OCCUPANCY Monitoring • Reporting • Monitor-Based & Continuous Commissioning

## **Inflation Reduction Act**

Referred to as "Act" or IRA/IRA 2022



Per the Congressional Budget Office – September 7, 2022

#### TAX CREDITS

## "Direct pay" tax credits

- For the first time, a segment of public sector energy project owners will have access to "direct pay" tax credits
  - Owner(s) can simply use the tax credit against their own tax liability
  - If the owner(s) don't have tax liability or taxable income, they can now sell/transfer the credit to another taxpayer
- Public sector owners can receive a "direct payment" as a cash payment from the IRS.



#### TAX CREDITS

## **Direct pay tax credits**

"Base credit" + "Bonus criteria" is the overriding theme of the new credit regime



## IRA tax credit project funding illustration



Solar		Geothermal		Thermal Energy Storage Tanks	
Project cost: 30% tax credit	\$1,000,000 <u>30%</u>	Project cost: 30% tax credit	\$5,000,000 <u>30%</u>	Project cost: 30% tax credit	\$1,600,000 <u>30%</u>
Dollar amount	<u>\$300,000</u>	Dollar amount	<u>\$1,500,000</u>	Dollar amount	<u>\$480,000</u>

## **How Geothermal HVAC Works:**



## **Geothermal Versus Conventional**



DX Condensing Unit



**Air Cooled Chiller** 









ENDU

## **Geothermal Versus Conventional**



Unit Ventilator with DX Cooling with Hydronic Heating Unit Ventilator with Water Source Heat Pump

RTU with Water Source Heat Pump

RTU with DX Cooling and Hydronic or Gas Heating





## **Benefits**

25





MANAGED BY UT-BATTELLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



## **Benefits**

FUEL COST COMPARISON PER MMBTU USEABLE HEAT



## **Educational Opportunities**

Placing the geothermal manifold and pumping system behind glass allows students to better learn about the system serving their school.





## **Economics**

Geothermal HVAC System		Conventional HVAC System	
130,000	Building Size (sq-ft)	130,000	
\$73	HVAC Cost (\$/sq-ft)	\$55	
\$9,490,000	HVAC Cost	\$7,150,000	
\$2,340,000	Geo Premium Cost		
34%	IRA Direct Pay Credit		
\$3,226,600	IRA Direct Pay Credit		
\$6,263,400	Net Cost	\$7,150,000	
	Net Premium Cost	\$886,600	

## **Process and overview**

#### Phase 1

#### **Estimates and options**

In the beginning stage, government officials work with construction and tax consultants to evaluate the project eligibility and estimated dollars available through the IRA.

- Construction professionals provide key information regarding construction costs, timing and differences in future operating expenses upon project completion.
- Tax consultants review the design, timing, size, location, financing and other considerations to estimate the potential IRA dollars available. With key construction and tax information, school district officials can evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the energy project along with different routes on how to proceed.
- Remember that direct pay tax credit dollars are not received until after project completion. Part of the planning process includes identifying funding and how IRA tax credit dollars will be utilized once received after project completion.

#### Phase 2

#### Planning, bidding, and construction

Once a project begins, collaboration between the working group is imperative. Many government projects include eligible and non-eligible IRA costs.

- A planning meeting should occur between the construction team and tax consultant regarding the best way to bid the projects in conformity with IRA tax rules.
- In addition, if the project is over 1 megawatt and will be subject to the IRA prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements, project bid documents must include the appropriate language and a system must be identified to track payroll and apprenticeship requirements during construction.
- Errors in any of these areas can result in a bad start that potentially jeopardizes IRA tax credit dollars.

#### Phase 3

#### Workpapers and tax credit filing

Several steps occur once the project is nearing and achieving completion.

- Projects approaching completion need to be filed in the IRS pre-registration portal.
- Next, workpapers including invoice copies
  identifying IRA eligible and non-eligible costs need
  to be organized for documentation.
- Reports presenting the IRA eligible project size and applicable tax credit percentage are needed. For projects subject to prevailing wage and apprenticeship rules, payroll records along with apprenticeship ratio documentation need substantiation.
- Once the project is complete and all workpapers organized, final filing and registration with the IRS is initiated to receive the funds. These steps coincide with the school district's fiscal year.

When hiring an "IRA consultant" make sure you are hiring a tax consultant. The consultant should take responsibility for the advice being given, have IRS tax credit filing experience, assist with workpapers and IRS filings, and will support you in the event of IRS audit of tax credit.

## Disclosure

The information provided here is of a general nature and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any individual or entity. In specific circumstances, the services of a professional should be sought.

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# Questions?

Anything you would like further clarification on?



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