

Town of Germantown

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Germantown Announces Heat Pump Upgrades at Town Activity Building *Upgrading the heating and cooling will increase comfort, save money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

The Town of Germantown upgraded the heating and cooling system at the Kellner Community Youth and Activity Building with two high efficiency Fujitsu heat pumps. For the first time, the building will have cooling for the summer, which is important for the town's summer camp, and other summer use of the building.

According to Supervisor Beaury, "the Town Board of Germantown has been a leader in advocating for protecting the environment, and this is another step forward that we can be proud of." Germantown's <u>Climate Smart Communities</u> Taskforce Coordinator Christina Bohnsack noted that "efficiency upgrades are an important part of the Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities programs. The heat pumps will help save the town money, provide comfort and move us a step closer to providing a cooling station during future heat emergencies."

Previously, using propane for heat, the Kellner Youth and Activity Building annually emitted about 10 metric tons of CO₂e per year, which is about a fifth of the total GHG emissions of all town buildings, according to the Germantown CSC's Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory. With the new heat pumps, the town expects the GHG emissions at Kellner to be significantly reduced.

Germantown's first energy investment at Kellner was in 2010, when a 15 kW array of solar panels was added to the pavilion roof. In the eleven years they have been generating clean energy, the panels have produced over 130 thousand kWh of energy. Based on current pricing in the neighborhood of \$0.15 per kWh, Germantown has saved approximately \$20,000 dollars, while reducing GHG emissions by about 15 metric tons of CO₂e.