Angela Keller-Herzog
Executive Director, CAFES Ottawa
akellerherzog@cafesottawa.ca

Dear Angela Keller-Herzog,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share my experience over the past couple of years in electrifying my home, with a particular focus on the installation and performance of our cold climate heat pump system.

Based on the climate crisis and my knowledge of home electrification as well as HVAC systems, I decided to transition my home to a far more sustainable and energy-efficient setup. This journey centred around the installation of a cold climate air source heat pump in December 2022, which was a pivotal component in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve significant cost savings.

I am a professional HVAC and Energy Engineer. I've worked for a major HVAC manufacturer, my own engineering design and energy auditing firm, and am currently employed by a large Ottawa based engineering, architectural and planning firm. At the time of the renovation and addition of the heat pump, I was working for my firm, Good Habets Inc, and used my expertise in residential HVAC and energy use to plan this renovation. This level of experience is not required to get a reliable heat pump system.

As I wrote in my article "5 Tons Annual GHG Saving Journey & $2750 Savings," the heat pump has been instrumental in reducing our annual greenhouse gas emissions by approximately five tons overall annually. This impressive reduction not only contributes to a greener environment but also translates to substantial financial savings, amounting to $2750 annually. The heat pump alone is responsible for almost two-thirds of a ton of GHG emissions annually.

I did not choose to install any kind of backup heat in my home – using the heat pump as the only source of heat. This means no methane, propane, electric resistance heat or wood stove. I did this with full confidence in the cold climate heat pump to perform at the coldest temperatures Ottawa experiences. The Enbridge gas line to my home was shut off less than a month after installing the heat pump in December 2022.

However, the true test of the heat pump's performance came during an exceptionally cold night during February 2023 , as detailed in another article I wrote, "Our Heat Pump on that DAMN COLD Night." Despite the extreme temperatures of -32.2 degrees Celsius (***not*** including wind chill, which does ***not*** affect the performance of a heat pump), the heat pump maintained a comfortable indoor climate, demonstrating its reliability and efficiency even under harsh conditions. This experience has reinforced my confidence in the heat pump's capability to provide consistent heating throughout the winter months across the province of Ontario.

In conclusion, the decision to electrify my home and install a heat pump has been highly rewarding. The huge environmental benefits, coupled with the financial savings and reliable performance,

make it a worthwhile investment. I am pleased to share this positive experience and hope it may inspire others to consider similar sustainable solutions for their homes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or require further details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chris Habets
[redacted]

Links for reference:

5 tons annual GHG Saving Journey - $2,750 Annual Savings | LinkedIn

Our Heat Pump on that DAMN COLD Night | LinkedIn