

# LEADING EDGE

business briefs

(Compiled by David Gee)

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( OPENING NOTES )



The geothermal well field was installed under the existing athletic center parking lot and consists of more than 6500 feet of vertical boreholes

## St. Cloud Municipal Athletic Complex goes green to save some green

▶ St. Paul-based contractor Harris Companies recently completed the installation of a geoexchange system for the St. Cloud Municipal Athletic Complex. With this sustainable technology, the MAC is able to maintain the ice in their arena and heat their building by using the power of the earth.

With the system, the publicly-owned facility will **reduce gas usage by 95 percent and electric usage by 30 percent.** Additionally, nearly four million gallons of water usage will be eliminated along with the yearly elimination of 300,000 pounds of green house gases.

It's not only the earth that will get a break though, but also the budget of the athletic complex. Harris Companies claims the project will **pay for itself within 15 years** and create a **positive cash flow by year seven.** Apparently there are other ice arena facilities that use geothermal, but this is the only one that captures the waste heat that is generated and reuses it instead of releases it.

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