



GEOHERMAL RISING

Candidates for Board of Directors Applicant Form 2027-2029 3 Year Term

Personal Information

Name

Matt Garlick

Phone Number



Organization and Title (optional)

The GreyEdge Group, CEO

Please provide a brief candidate biography and statement describing your background and qualifications for serving on the Board (maximum 750 words).

I'm Matt Garlick, CEM, CCP, BEMP- an energy nerd, a communicator and unapologetic evangelist for heat pumps and district systems. The goal of my career is simple: advocate for better technologies and help get the word out about how awesome heat pumps are. I'm running for the Heat Pump seat because Geothermal Rising shares these goals and sitting on this Board offers an opportunity to enlarge the tent and advance the industry.

I came up on the buildings side of this industry as an energy modeler and commissioning agent. From this unique background I learned the conceptual and practical sides of HVAC systems as well as the most important lesson of all- that good designs only get implemented when aligned with the client's budget and ambitions. Telling the right story, one that acknowledges what's really important, is what I'll bring to this board position.

Today I lead The GreyEdge Group, a consulting engineering firm specializing in district-scale geothermal and ambient temperature loop systems. I'm fortunate to work alongside some of the pioneers who built the ground-source industry, but this candidacy isn't about my firm's resume. It's about the role I play personally, which is best described as translator and connector. I'm equally comfortable talking with a city council about the economic benefits of thermal energy networks, with a driller about rate of penetration, and with an engineer about the virtues of hybrid system architectures. Different rooms, different vocabularies, same mission. My job is to bring the right people to the conversation, speak their language and help align them toward our common goals. I'd argue that's the core job of a board member, too.

My work as a communicator has taken me deep into the Thermal Energy Network conversations happening across the nation. TENs are having their moment: pilots are becoming utility programs, states are writing enabling legislation, and communities that never gave geothermal a second thought are suddenly asking good questions. I've spent the last several years helping towns, utilities, hospitals, and campuses move from "what's a TEN?" to funded feasibility work and real designs. I'm actively and intentionally crafting a message that lands with audiences far outside our usual circles including the Department of Defense, regional sustainability coalitions and international geothermal technology showcases.

What I'd bring to the Board:

A foot in both worlds. Geothermal Rising is strongest when the power-generation community and the heat pump community pull together, and I work actively in both. I recently presented on how advanced geothermal power installations can integrate with thermal energy networks (IGSHPA 2025 Conference) by cascading heat through generation and on to lower temp applications which is, to me, one of the single most exciting stories our industry has to tell. It brings both sides of GR's mission into one system and I'm uniquely qualified to tell it.

Practitioner-grade policy fluency. I work daily with the mechanisms that determine whether heat pump projects get built: the investment tax credits, energy community bonuses, utility tariffs, and the growing body of state TEN legislation. When GR advocates, I can back the message with real project numbers, real community stories and hard-earned experience.

Operating experience. I run a firm, build budgets, negotiate agreements, and answer to my own board of directors. I know the difference between a strategic plan and a wish list, and I know that board service is mostly the unglamorous work between meetings. I understand the work and why it's so important to step up and push the ball down the field. The industry needs what GR offers!

Genuine enthusiasm. I got into this because heat pumps are, honestly, a marvel. My guiding star has always been what I call "engineering elegance" - making one decision that achieves multiple goals. Heat Pumps offer the potential to support a cleaner energy profile AND cost effectively reduce operating costs. Who doesn't love that? I've never lost the excitement of watching a skeptical audience have that "wait, really?" moment. That enthusiasm is renewable, and I'll put it to work for GR's members.

I'd be honored to earn your vote, and then to earn it again through the work.

Your Personal Geothermal Rising Involvement statement (Maximum 500 words).

For the past two years, I've been a member of GR and on a short list of subject matter experts for heat pumps and district thermal systems. GR leadership reached out to me when the thermal side of the industry needed a voice. It's a role I love because it's exactly what I feel I have a talent for- telling compelling stories tuned to the audience. My involvement has included invitations to present at the last two Thermal Energy Network Symposiums, where I've had the chance to speak to one of the fastest-growing conversations in our industry. In addition to speaking on a panel at this year's TENs Symposium, I also worked on the planning group for a panel discussion bringing together industry experts to speak on moving beyond the feasibility study and getting the project done. As you can see, I'm not afraid to jump in and get involved! The event was a great success, and I was very happy to do my part to support it. What I learned from this year's process was how important it is to tap into our collective sets of contacts and knowledge when it comes to planning and engagement. My understanding and network are only so big, but engaging the community was what really opened the door to the right introductions and conversations. It was a lesson I'll not soon forget and one that will be put to full use if I'm elected to the heat pump seat.

My advocacy doesn't stop at GR's borders, either. Over the last two years I've presented at more than two dozen conferences, workshops, symposiums, webinars and town council meetings carrying the heat pump and TEN message to the International District Energy Association, the Department of Defense, utility conferences like RMUE, regional sustainability coalitions across the Mountain West (MT2030, CC4CA, CAST, CLEER), DOE Onsite TAP webinars, IGSHPA Conferences, ITAC Working Groups and two inter-country geothermal technology showcases. I see all this as one mission- the more rooms this story gets told in, the more projects get built.

Statement of your personal plan if elected (Maximum 500 words).

If elected to the Heat Pump seat, here's what I'll strive to do-

1. Make heat pump practitioners fully at home in Geothermal Rising. By installed count and workforce, heat pumps are the biggest part of geothermal in America but plenty of designers, drillers, installers, and energy modelers still see GR as "the power-gen organization." I want to fix that. That means strong heat pump and TEN content at every major GR event, deliberate outreach into the HVAC design and installer communities, and genuine coordination with IGSHPA and the district energy world rather than parallel play. The next wave of GR's membership growth should come from this community, because that's where the people are.

2. Tell the cascading-use story loudly. The most exciting projects emerging today refuse to pick a side. Geothermal power generation paired with beneficial use of heat through thermal energy networks is a story I've already started telling and would be eager to advance. I've presented on exactly this integration, and I'll keep pushing it into GR's programming, policy positions, and public narratives because when GR speaks to Congress, governors, or the press, the message should be the whole value of the resource including electrons and thermal energy together.

3. Defend the policy foundation with practitioner ammunition. Heat pump and TEN economics currently ride on investment tax credits, energy community bonuses, and a young body of state TEN legislation with all of it facing sunsets, phase-outs, and political weather. I work with these mechanisms every day, and I'll back GR's policy team with what moves decision-makers like real project numbers and real community stories from towns where a tax credit is the difference between a built project and a shelved study.

4. Widen the tent. Over the last two years I've carried the geothermal message to the DoD, utility

conferences, regional sustainability coalitions, DOE programs, and international showcases and I've learned that our best growth markets have never attended a geothermal conference. I'll help GR build bridges into those adjacent worlds systematically, not just when a speaker invitation happens to arrive. Every city council member, base energy manager, and co-op director who "gets it" becomes a project champion we didn't have before.

Beyond the four points above, I'll do board service the way it should be done. Show up prepared. Read the materials. Respect the staff. Treat the organization's resources like the member dues they are. I will strive to represent the people who elected me, the heat pump community, every time I'm in the room.

Upload your Personal Bio Photo



Date Wednesday, August 26, 2026

If you have any questions regarding the election process, Board service, or candidate materials, please feel free to reach out directly to Caity Smith, Chair of the Governance & Nominations Committee, at csmith@xgsenergy.com.