



**bcuc**  
British Columbia  
Utilities Commission

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Sent via email/eFile

<b>BCUC REVIEW OF TES REGULATORY FRAMEWORK GUIDELINES EXHIBIT A-4</b>
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**Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission – Review of Thermal Energy Systems Regulatory Framework  
Guidelines – Project No. 1599043 – TES Information Sheet**

Further to British Columbia Utilities Commission Exhibit A-3, enclosed please find an additional information sheet regarding Thermal Energy Systems.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

Patrick Wruck  
Commission Secretary

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Enclosure



## What are Thermal Energy Systems?

Thermal energy is heating or cooling, which can be generated from sources such as biomass, solar, geothermal and natural gas.

Thermal Energy Systems (TES) are comprised of a heat source and all the equipment necessary for the production, generation, transmission and delivery of heat or cooling.

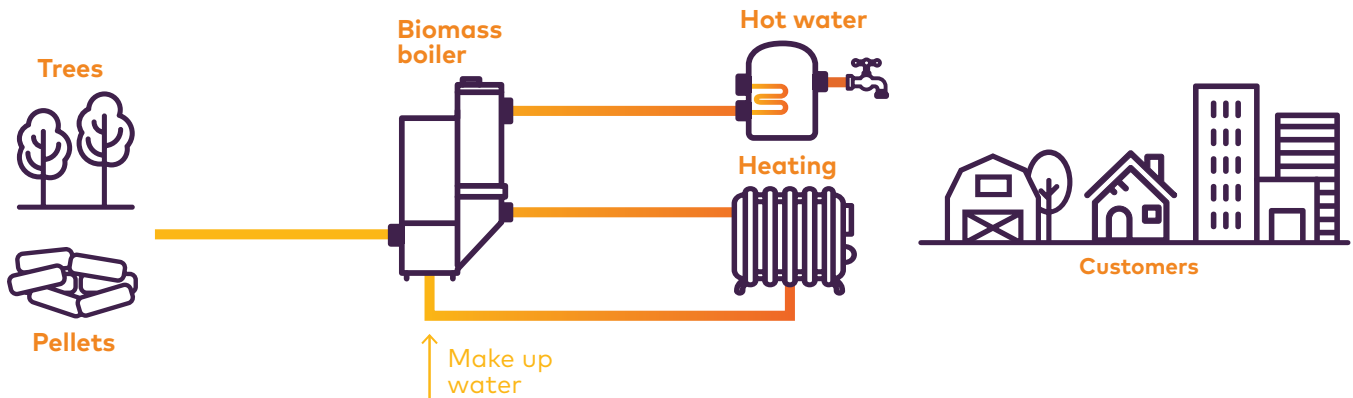
In accordance with the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), a TES provider that sells heating and cooling for compensation is considered a public utility and is regulated by the British Columbia Utilities Commission.

In 2014, certain TES providers – mainly systems under the cost of \$15 million – were granted exemptions from certain provisions of the UCA. This allowed for a lighter regulatory approach for low cost systems, reducing the additional burden of costs associated with full scale regulation.

In BC, popular TES are gas boilers, geoexchange systems and air source heat pumps for heating and cooling.

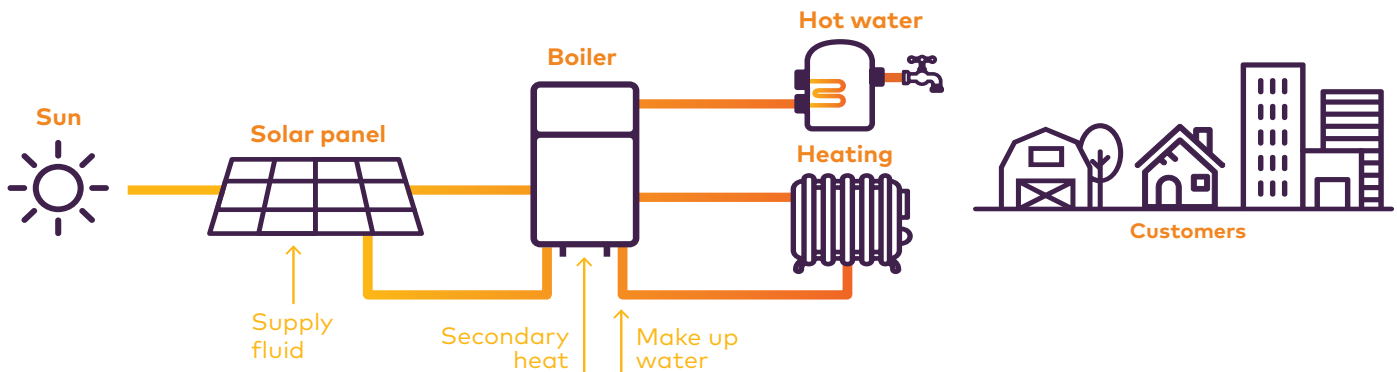
### Biomass

Biomass is burned to heat oil or water for use as space heating and/or domestic hot water.



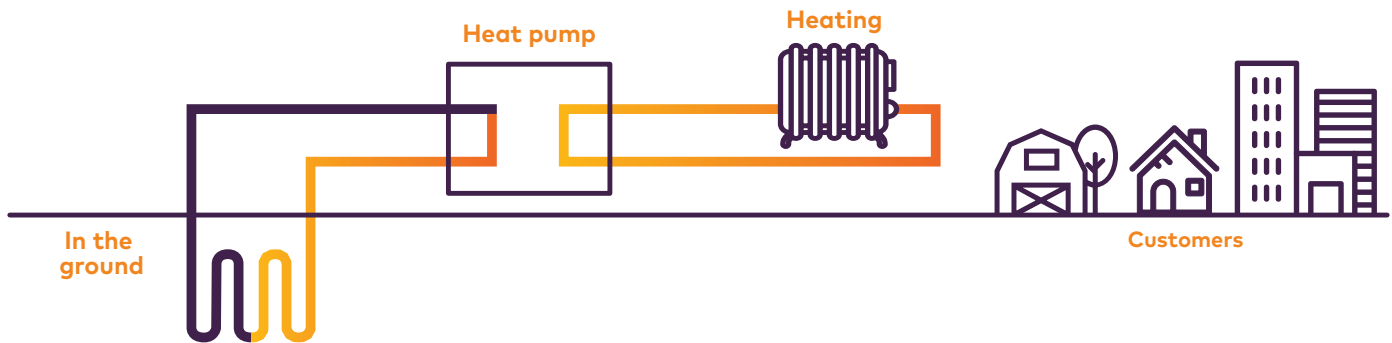
### Solar Thermal

Solar thermal uses the sun's energy to heat a fluid for use as space heating and/or domestic hot water.



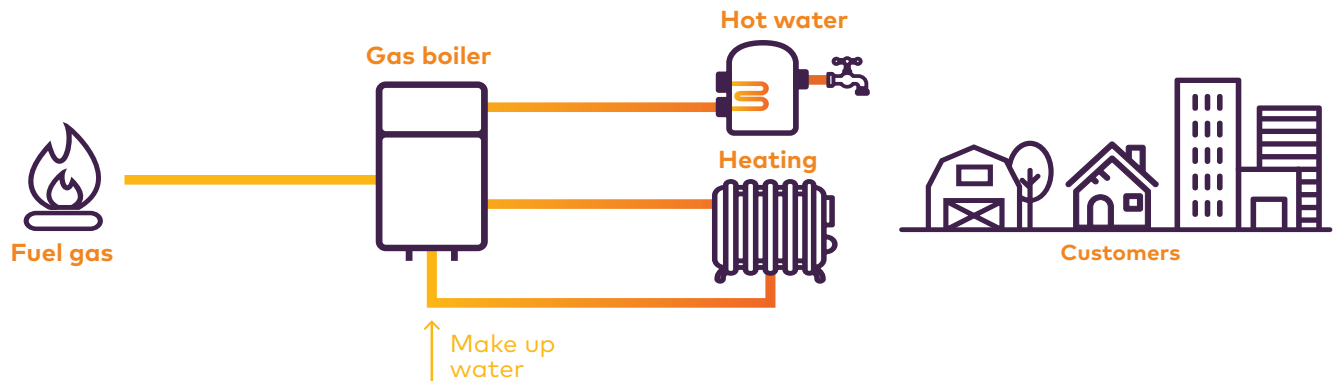
## Geoexchange

A geoexchange system uses the ground temperature to heat buildings in cold weather and to cool buildings in warm weather.



## Natural Gas

Gas is burned to heat water for use as space heating and/or domestic hot water.



## About the BCUC

The BCUC is a regulatory agency responsible for oversight of energy utilities and compulsory auto insurance in the province of British Columbia. It is the BCUC's role to balance the interests of customers with the interests of the businesses we regulate. The BCUC carries out fair and transparent reviews of matters within its jurisdiction and considers public input where public interest is impacted.

### British Columbia Utilities Commission

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