



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate  
Belt Energy  
Services

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### Pick the Best Value, Not the Lowest Price

It's human nature to select the least expensive option when making a decision. After all, nobody has money to burn. However, many decisions are made strictly about the initial cost with too little consideration for the long term cost. Albert Einstein was credited with the question that makes it a little clearer. He said "Would you prefer to have \$1 million cash right now or a penny that doubles every day for 30 days?" While a million dollars sounds great, if you chose the penny you would have well over \$5 million at the end of the 30 days. In my terms would you rather spend \$5000 on a furnace that will cost you \$4000 a year in fuel or \$8000 on a furnace that will cost you \$3000 in fuel? Most choose the least expensive initial option but if you do some math, you can see that in 5 years, the better furnace has paid for itself in savings and the savings just keep going as long as the system is in operation.

The decision always rests with the homeowner but ultimately the depletion of natural resources will make the cost of fuel prohibitive and who knows what the options will be then. I know that I will be worm food by then but I'm not blind to the fact that it's where we are heading. You can't save the planet by using a better furnace but helping yourself is also helping the planet. I have never talked to anyone who regretted having a high efficiency system installed. I have customers who are using the high efficiency heat pumps and are surprised how well they perform as compared to their old units which were just basic models. The 20 SEER inverter systems are now going to be what I offer first. Partly because they seem to qualify for the new Federal Tax credit. That credit alone can equalize the difference in cost between an average unit and a high efficiency one.

Many times if duct leakage is repaired at the same time a new system is installed, a smaller unit will perform as well as the older larger one because 25% of the energy is not being wasted. The duct repairs will add additional cost but it is well worth the investment. The inverter heat pumps also operate at variable speed to match the heat load and not always grinding away at 100%. So ask questions and do some research before picking the lowest initial cost on the table.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

## Shad

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received many donations and every single donation is greatly appreciated and has helped repair the building to its original condition. These repairs have ensured that the weather is kept outside instead of being inside the building.

The Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association was incorporated in 1977 for protecting the Delaware River and its tributaries to benefit the annual runs of the American Shad and other migratory fish. Another endeavor would be to keep the river free-flowing and free from obstacles for the passage of anadromous fish.

At one time, our club's membership numbered over one thousand members and the fishing was great from New Jersey to New York. Along the way, attempts were made to remove dams or add fish passages so these migratory species could get back to their spawning grounds. This had been an extremely difficult task because of opposition for the removal of these impasses for the fish. Experts agree the best solution for the fish is removal of these obstacles not a passage of some design. Millions of dollars were spent on the fish passage at Easton only to discover that the engineers proposed a passage system that does not work.

Currently, this club has a membership base of 173. We still have the same goals and struggles to improve conditions on the river and attempt to restore the quality of fishing. The club continues to monitor the passage way, more access, and water quality problems.

What does the club benefit from a ten dollar membership? Membership monies go towards the operating expenses for the year as well as the installation of a natural shad spawning tank. In 2013, the club installed the shad tank and pole building along the canal at Hugh Moore Park. This project supports our "Shad in Schools" program's goals: to educate students regarding the importance of the shad in our ecosystem as well as to assist with shad population numbers.

The program had some very successful years as well as unsuccessful years. Our volunteers are working with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission to generate ideas on improving the quality of eggs that are harvested from the tank. So while some years were not as successful as we hoped the students' educational experience was still a worthwhile endeavor. Not only did they learn their role in supporting the environment but they also learned they are our future.

Over the summer, several storms came through the area and one of the storms snapped a tree off and that tree missed our building. Subsequently, another tree's top portion came down and made direct contact with our building. As stated earlier, in 2013 the pole barn was erected on the property that was donated by the city of Easton for the purpose of hatching shad. There was a communication breakdown on who was directly responsible for the insurance on the building. The large tree caused approximately \$8,000.00 in damages. Having insurance on the contents of the building and not the building itself, this expense wiped out funds earmarked for other venues.

By becoming a member or by making a donation to this organization, you can help us achieve our goals and support our mission. Supporting the club is as simple as logging onto our website, [www.drsfa.org](http://www.drsfa.org), and choosing how you would like to help us keep the shad tank building in operation and support the "Shad in Schools" program.



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