



Newport's Famed Marble House Turns To Climate-Friendly Geothermal

An extensive geothermal climate-control system is being installed at Marble House, a National Historic Landmark museum that attracts nearly 150,000 visitors each year. The benefits of the new system include maintaining steady, mild temperatures and a 50 percent humidity level inside the house, helping to protect its contents, particularly textiles, leather, paintings, paper, and wooden objects. Another significant benefit will be fuel oil savings of up to 80 percent, which reduces the building's carbon footprint.

"Geothermal is a winning investment for our properties," said Trudy Cox, CEO and Executive Director of The Preservation Society of Newport County, which owns Marble House and nine other historic house museums. "These systems are expensive—the estimate for the Marble House project is \$1.5 million. But we are committed to reducing carbon and caring for our houses in a sustainable way, and the long-term benefits make the investment well worthwhile."

This new climate-control system is the Preservation Society's fifth geothermal installation. Similar projects have been successful

Installation at one of the most famous 19th century mansions soon will benefit from 21st century green-energy technology.

at Chepstow (installed in 2015), The Elms Carriage House (2016), The Breakers (2018), and Chateau-sur-Mer (2024).

Geothermal climate control draws upon the Earth's year-round subsurface temperature of about 55 degrees to warm the house in winter and cool it in summer. At Marble House, contractors have drilled 21 wells, each 425 feet deep, in the expansive backyard. A series of tubes will circulate water into the wells, where the liquid will be cooled or warmed to the underground temperature. The water will then be piped into the house to regulate the interior temperature through a system of electric heat pumps and air handlers.

The Preservation Society expects to complete the project in the late spring of 2026.

For more information, please visit NewportMansions.org. ★

