

## The Seasonality Challenge: How to Maximize the Early Fall

Peter Troast, Founder & CEO

Energy Circle Webinar Series

October 25, 2017



#### The Shift to HTTPS



By Maurine Anderson | October 3, 2017

You've probably seen recent stories in the news about online data breaches, even among big players like Equifax. A data breach is dangerous for any business, and it can be especially dangerous for you as an HVAC, home performance or solar contractor. If your site uses forms to collect leads or client information, then it could be vulnerable to data breaches involving customer data. One basic step you can take to protect your business from this type of problem is to implement HTTPS on your site.

Why are we writing about this? Well, a major change to how Google Chrome and other browsers handle HTTP sites is just around the corner. If your business' website hasn't yet made the shift from HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) to HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure), it could be harder for potential clients to reach starting this month.

#### What Does HTTPS Do?

HTTPS emerged several years ago as a means for protecting sensitive information, such as payment information, being transferred over the web. In the past decade or so, more and more websites have been adopting HTTPS in order to make all communications through their site secure — that is, safe from hackers attempting to steal that information upon transfer from the client's computer browser to the web server. Switching from HTTP to HTTPS offers a number of benefits for website owners:

- Helps to prevent data from being intercepted, modified, or corrupted by hackers
- Builds user trust users will see the lock icon and trust your website



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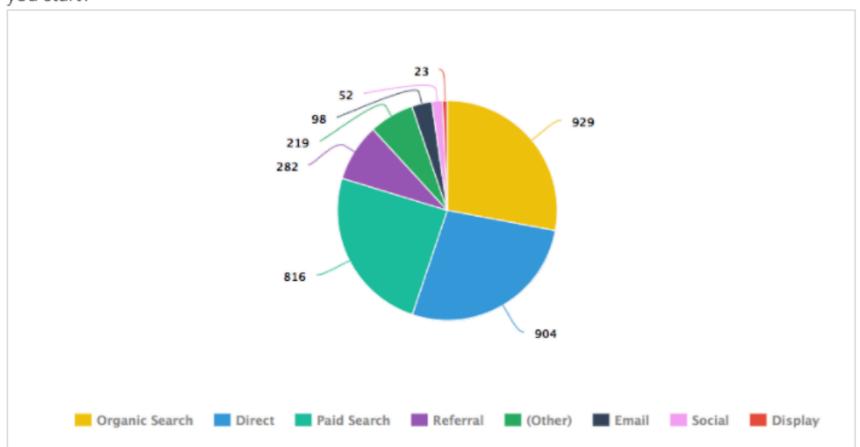
## How to Allocate Your Marketing Budget — For Contractors



By Anna Adamczyk | October 11, 2017

As a contractor, you know that marketing is important. Maybe you've already invested in print advertising or TV spots in the past, or purchased leads through various services, but what was the return on that investment? Kind of hard to know exactly, right?

Well, with digital marketing it's much easier to track the results of your investments. But where do you start?



#### Why You Shouldn't Buy Email Lists and What You Should Do Instead



aurine Anderson | October 20, 2017

With email still reigning as one of the most effective ways to convert people into customers, it's essential to put some serious focus on email marketing for your HVAC, home performance or solar business. But before you go out and buy an email list to jumpstart your email marketing campaigns, you should know a thing or two about the hidden dangers of third-party email lists.

#### The Pitfalls of Purchased Email Lists

If you're a contractor looking to generate leads quickly, purchasing an email list may sound enticing. With one purchase, you could have access to thousands of potential local leads — and all you have to do to convert them into customers is send out a mass marketing email. Unfortunately, the story with third-party email lists is not that simple.

#### There are regulations.

Did you know there are laws against sending out unsolicited bulk email? Sending out commercial emails using a purchased email list won't necessarily get you in trouble; however, you could face fines of up to \$16,000 per email if any email addresses on the list were harvested illegally or if recipients on the list have already opted out of receiving email from your company. In addition to these legal restrictions, many email service providers like MailChimp explicitly prohibit the use of third-party email lists under their Terms and Conditions. Whenever you send out unsolicited emails, you also run the risk of getting your IP address or domain blacklisted, which will cause email providers to start blocking your emails. This could keep your emails from reaching your recipients for years. In short, the only way to send out commercial emails without running into

#### The Most Important Page on the Internet for Contractors



By Dan Paradee | October 24, 2017

What's the most important page on the internet? For some, it might be their Twitter feed, a certain news site or even their fantasy football team's page.

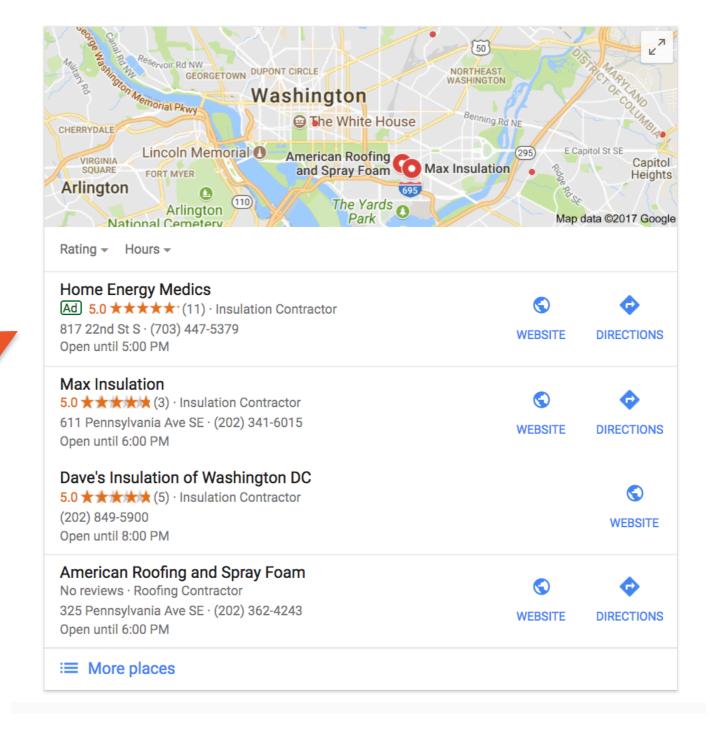
For service area businesses, the most important page on the internet is their brand name search on Google. You might think that your homepage is the most important, but I'd say it finishes second compared to your brand's search engine result page (SERP). Here's why: your brand search on Google is most likely the single largest driver of traffic to your site, and depending on how your company looks on that page can have a big effect on how people interact with your website.

The Google SERP is made up of lots of different moving parts, some of which you have total control over and others that require lots of work to change. In life, the serenity prayer is a good motto and asks for the ability to "accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." However, for your brand's SERP, this just rings of laziness — if there is something negative on your brand's SERP page you should be doing everything in your power to change or remove it.

#### Why is this SERP page so important?

When you do any kind of advertising, online or off, brand recognition is almost always one of the main goals. You want people to remember your name when their furnace breaks down, or the room over their garage is freezing, or they are ready to install solar panels. (Kind of how that one

#### In the Wild: Paid Ads in Local Pack





#### **Energy Circle On The Road**

09/12 - 09/14: Contractor Leadership Live | Cleveland, OH

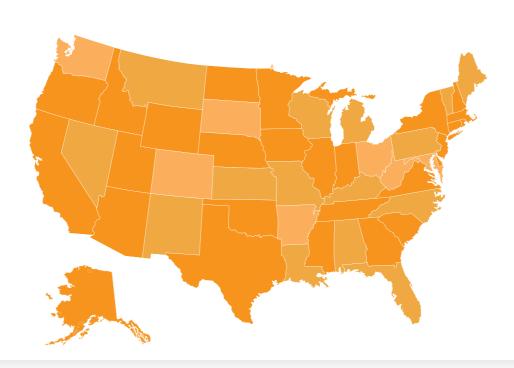
09/27 - 10/01: PHIUS Annual Conference | Seattle, WA

09/07 -11/14: Home Performance Coalition Business Workshops | Columbus & Long Beach

10/19 10/20: Home Performance Coalition SE Southeast Regional | Greenville, SC

11/14 - 11/15: Home Performance Coalition CA | Long Beach, CA

11/14: **Home Performance Coalition Business Workshops** | Long Beach

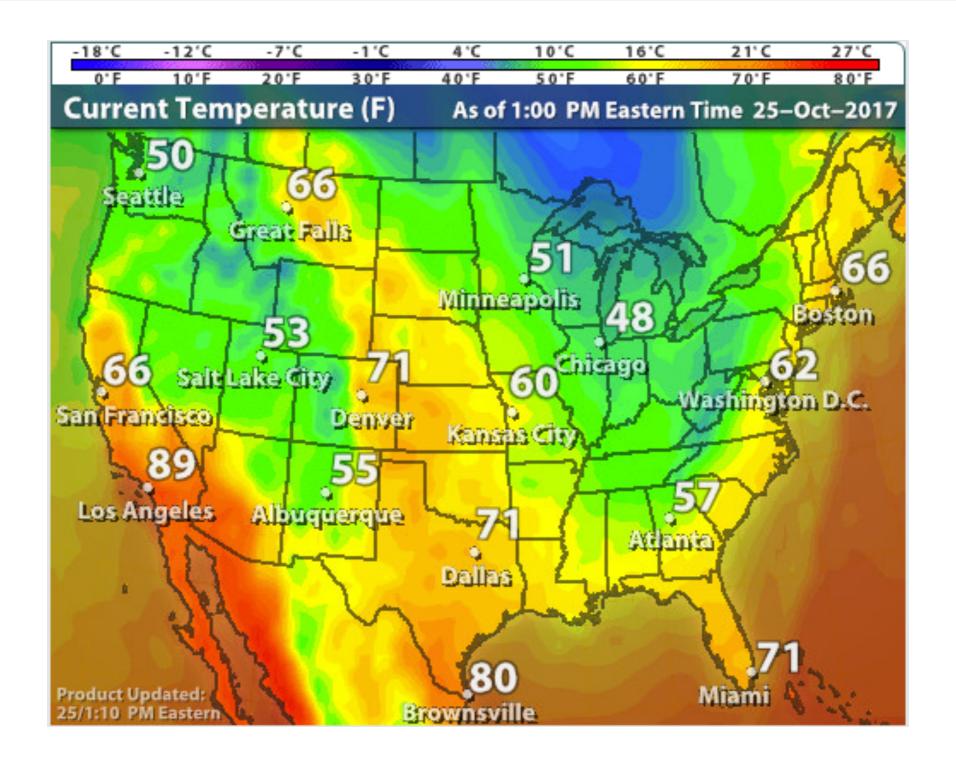




#### What We'll Discuss

- 1 Seasonality Triggers—What the Data Says
- 2 The Compressed Fall Calendar
  - —Made Worse by Mild Temperatures
- 3 Fundamental Tactics for Fall Marketing
- 4) Aggressive Tactics When Temperatures Stay Mild
  - —That Can Be Implemented Quickly

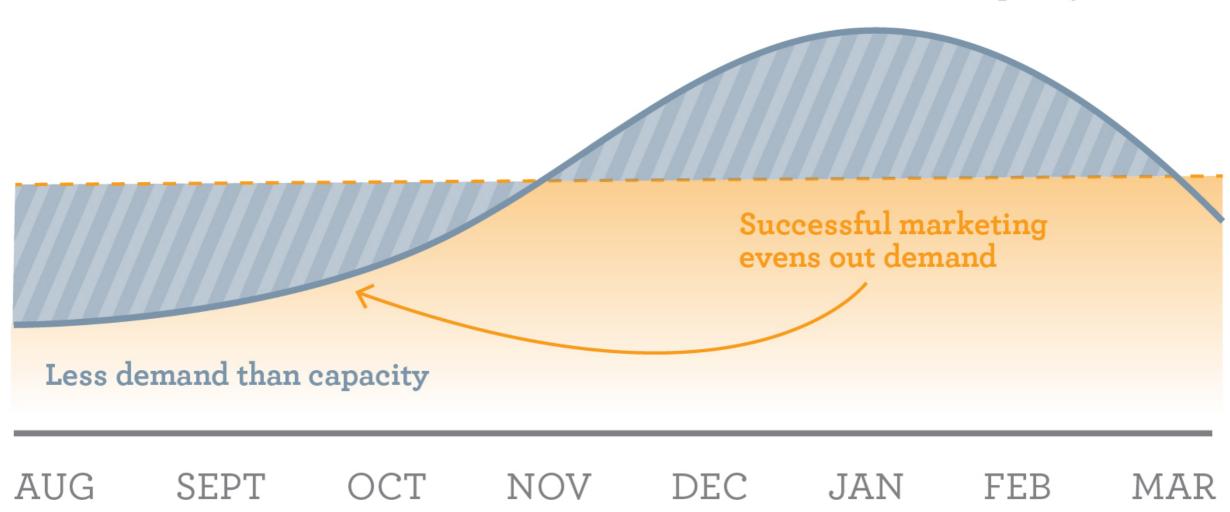
#### It's October 25th.



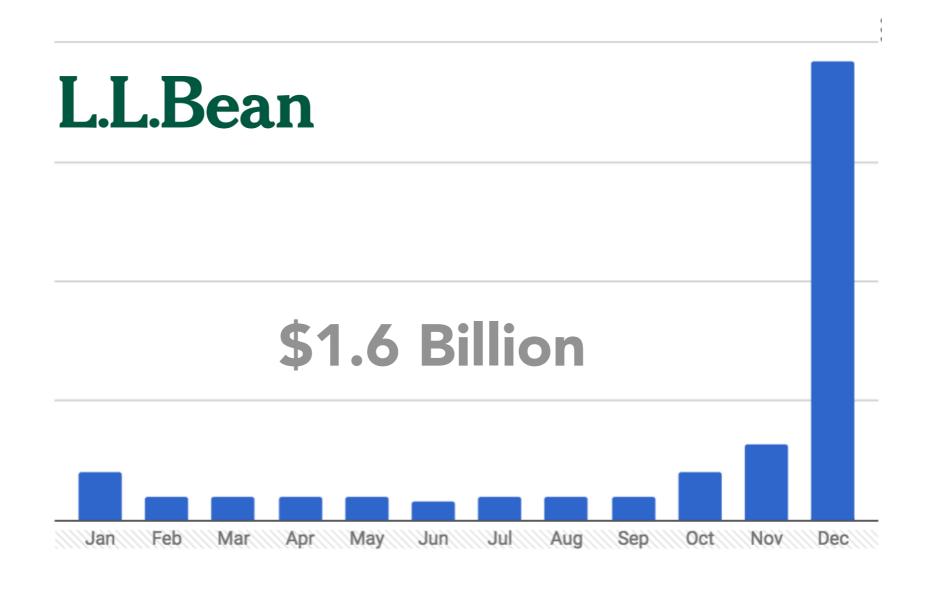


#### FALL / WINTER DEMAND TRENDS

More demand than capacity



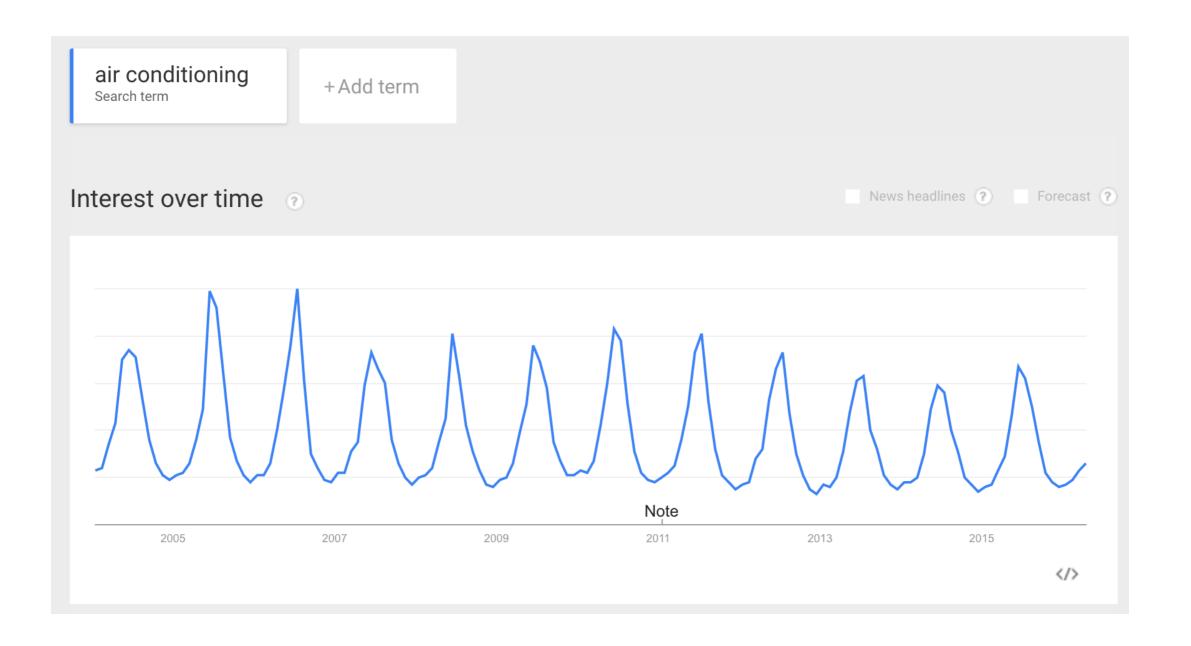
## Think We've Got it Bad?





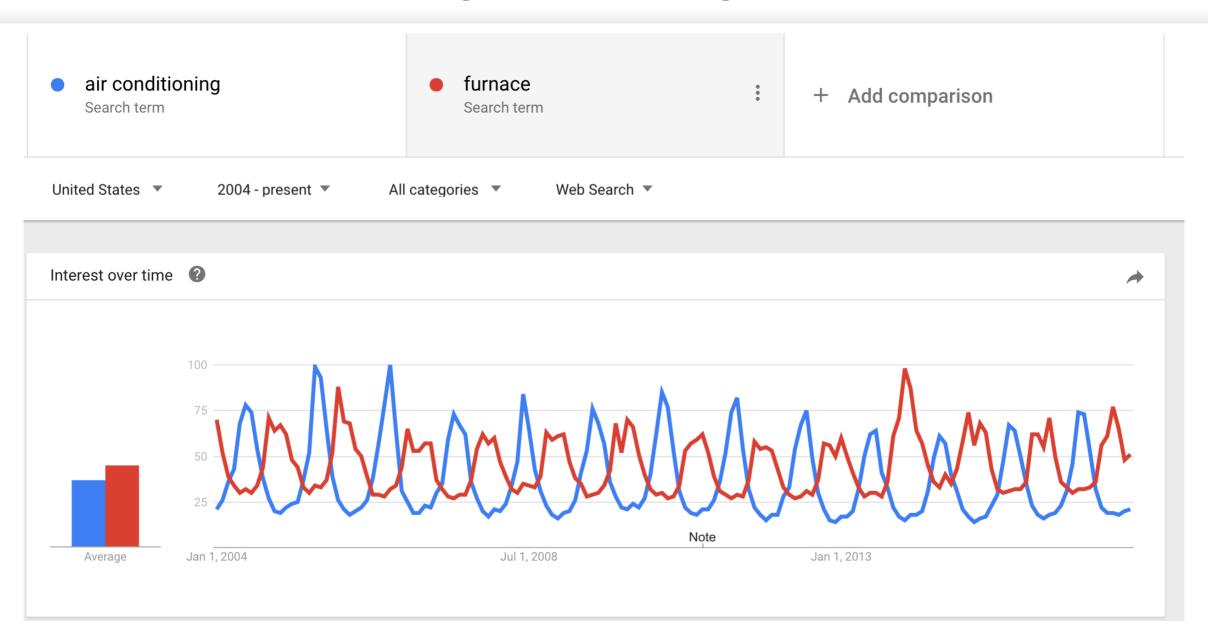
# DATA ON SEASONAL TRIGGERS (National)

## Air Conditioning



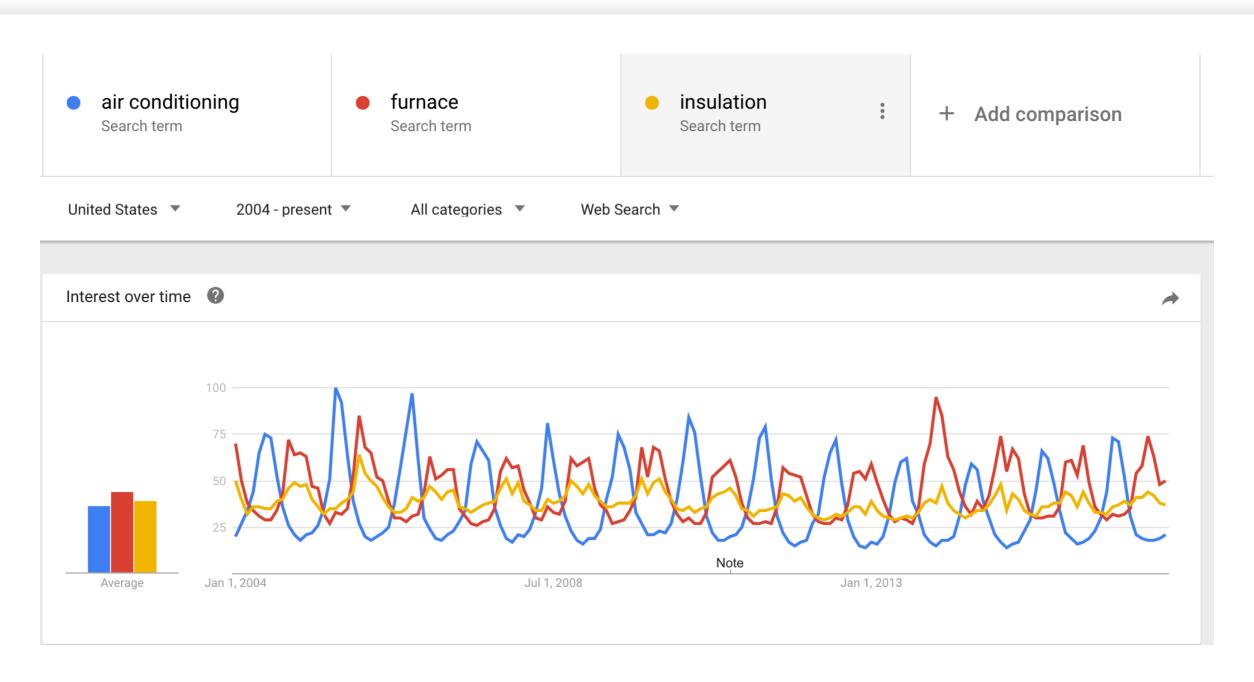


#### 13 Years of Heating & Cooling



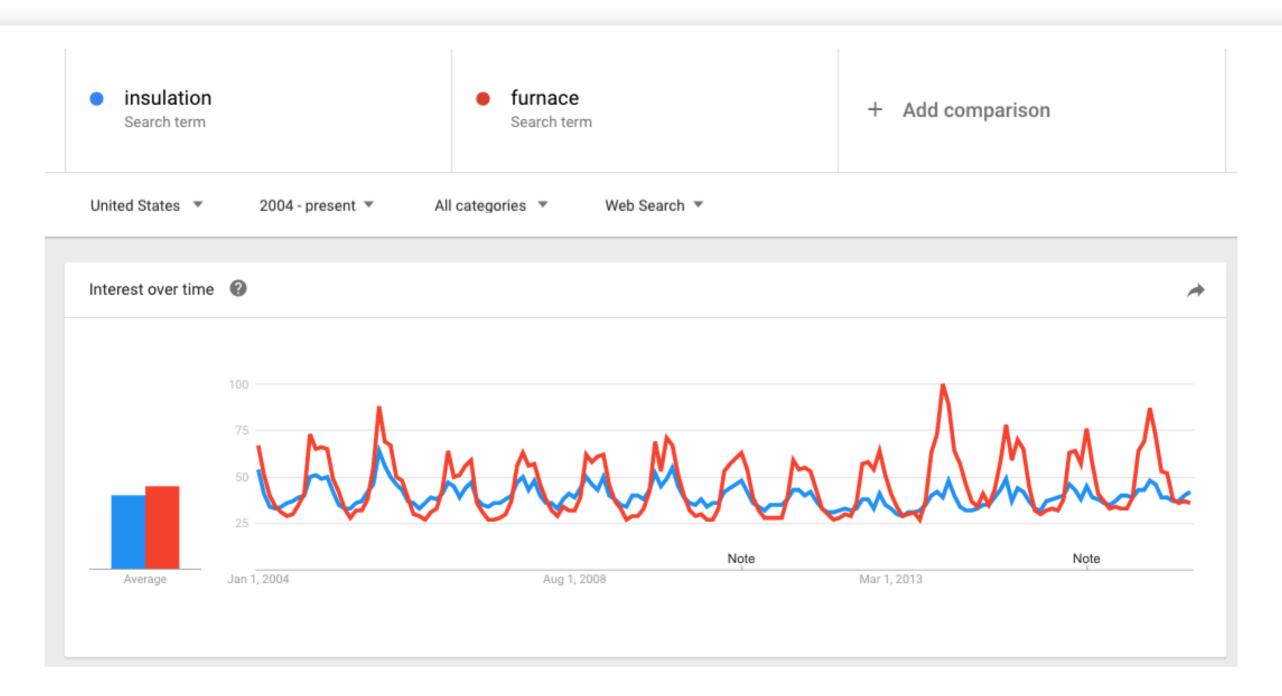


## 13 Years of Heating, Cooling & Insulation



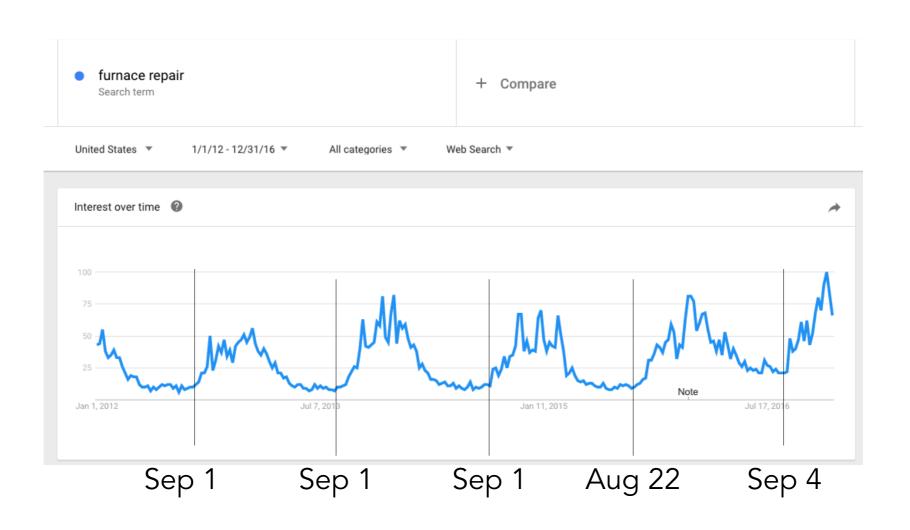


#### The Notch in the Peak



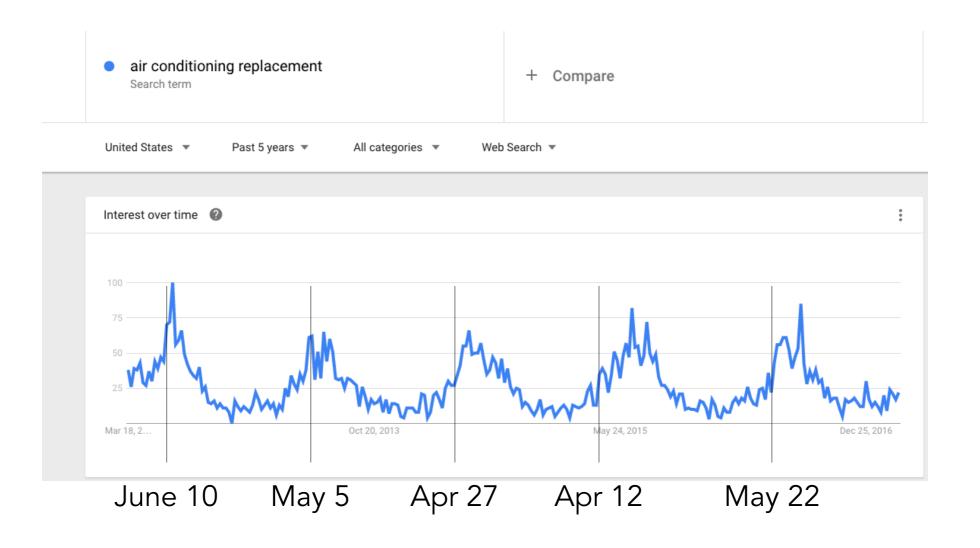


#### Remarkable Consistency—Furnace Repair



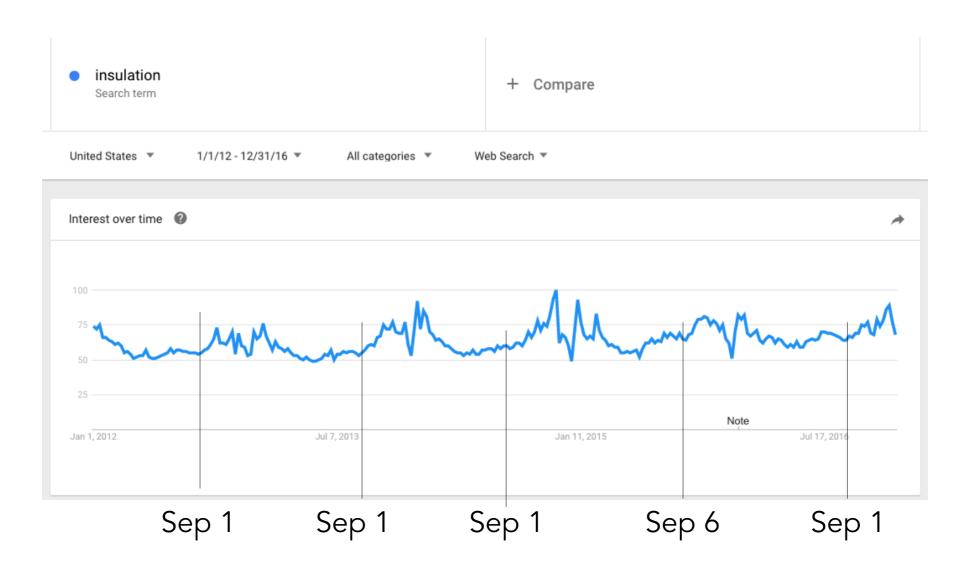


#### Air Conditioning is More Variable



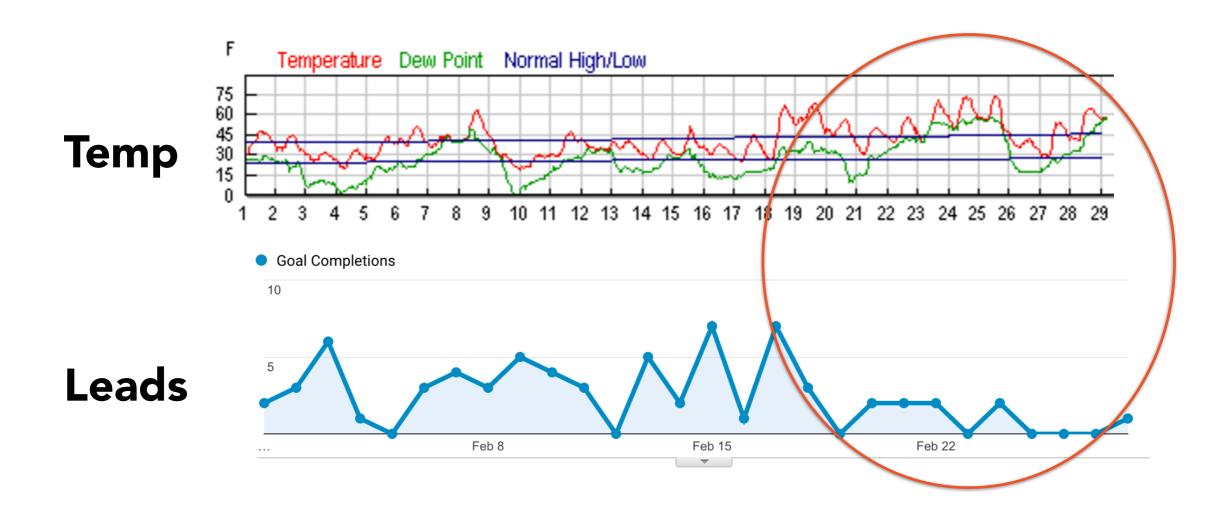


## Remarkable Consistency—Insulation

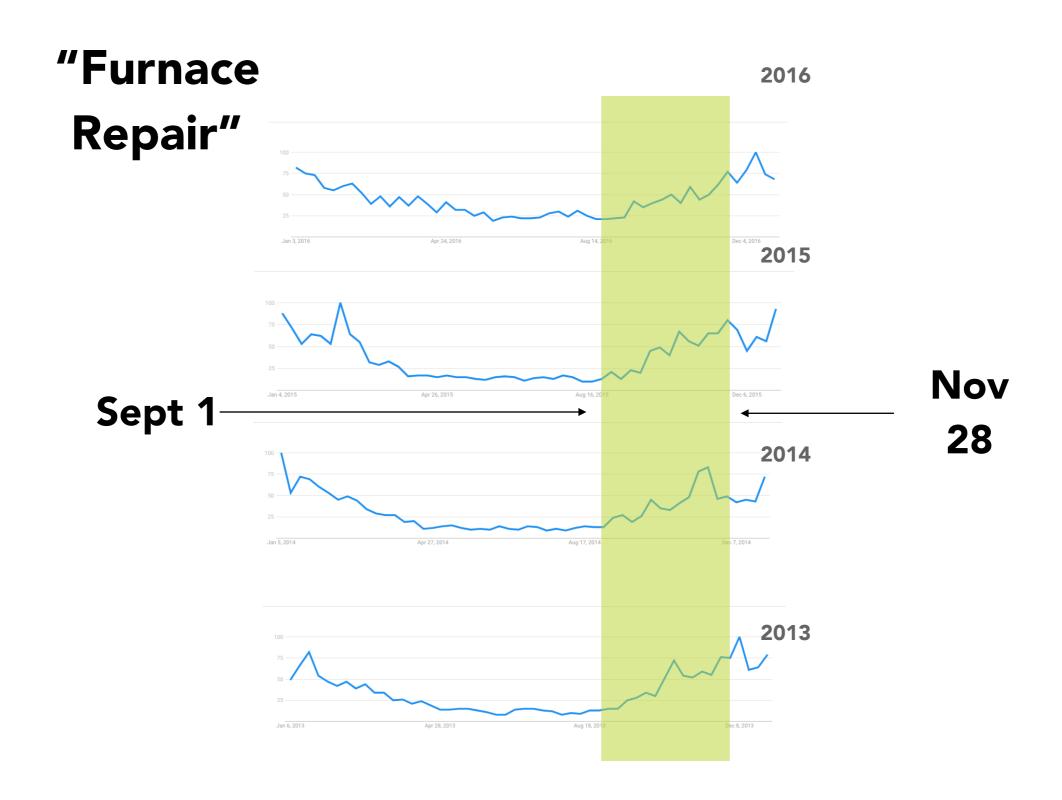


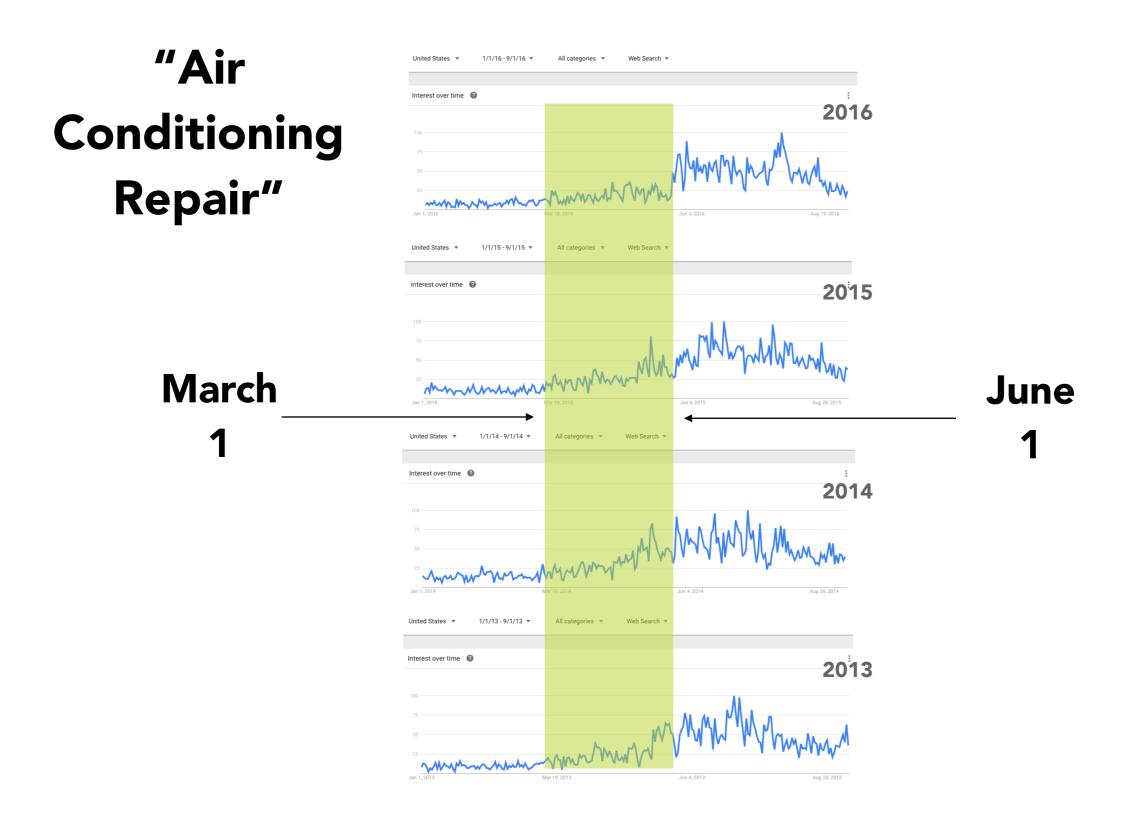


#### Insulation's Temperature Correlation

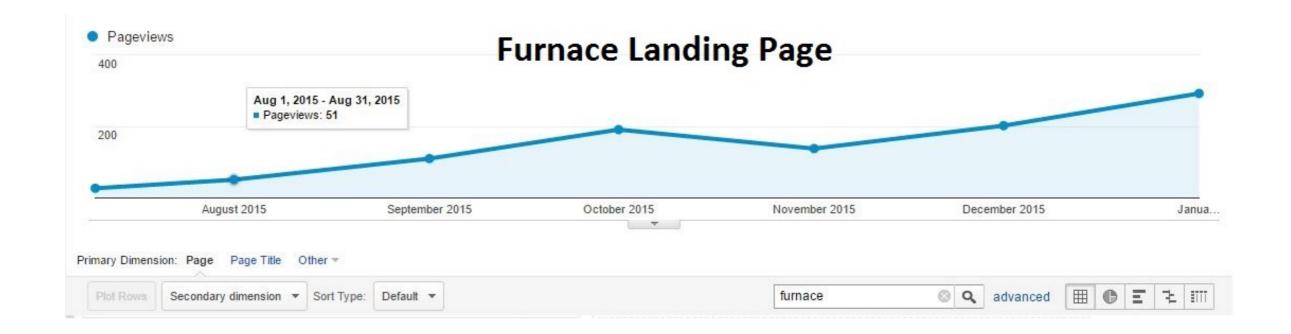




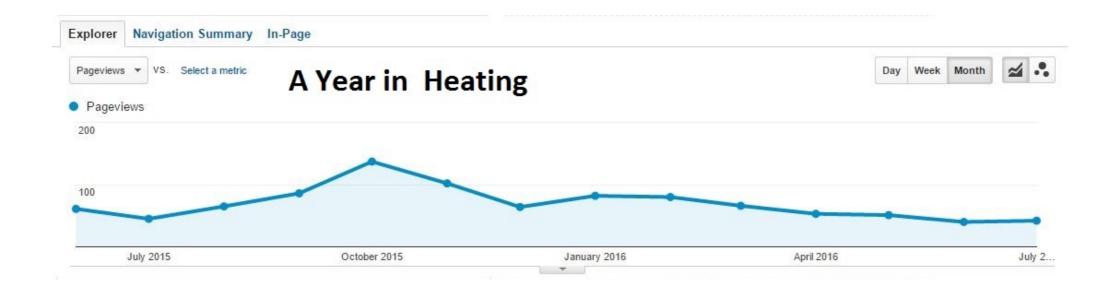




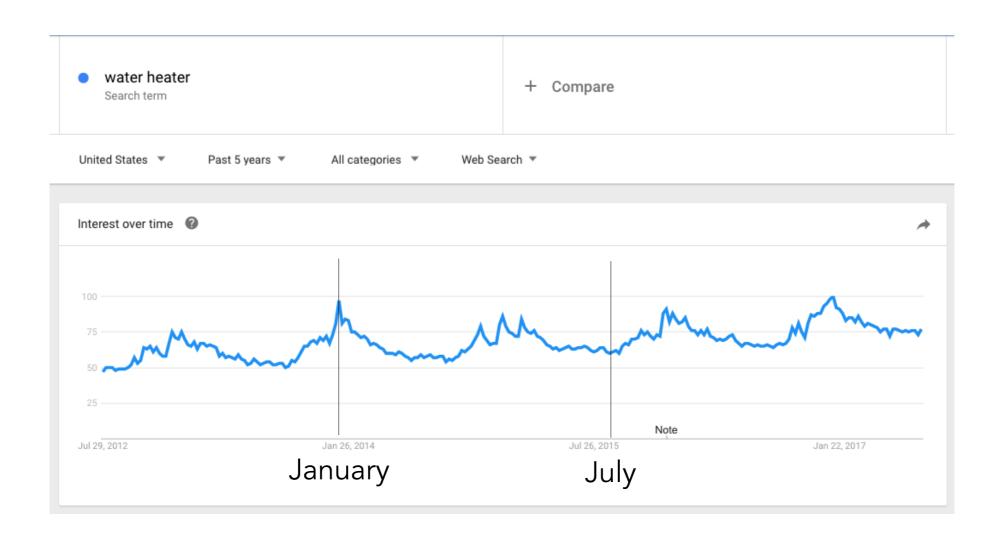
#### People Start Looking Early



#### Heating Peaks in Past Years

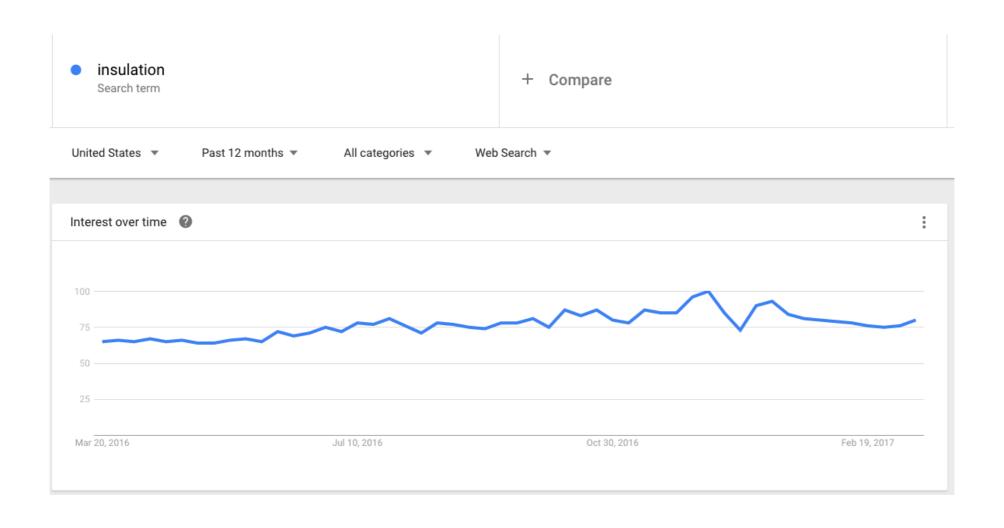


#### Why is Water Heater Seasonal?



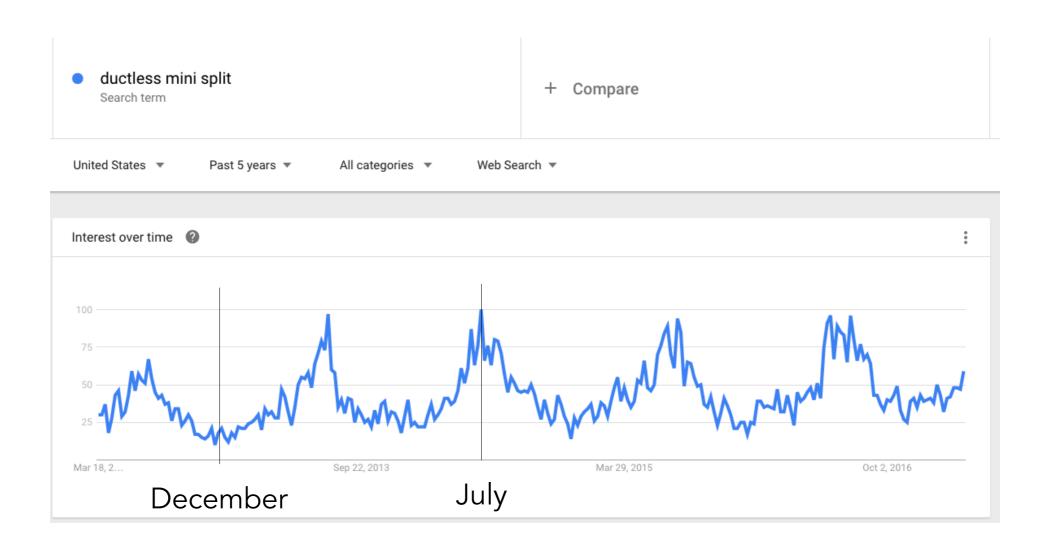


## Insulation: Surprisingly Unseasonal?



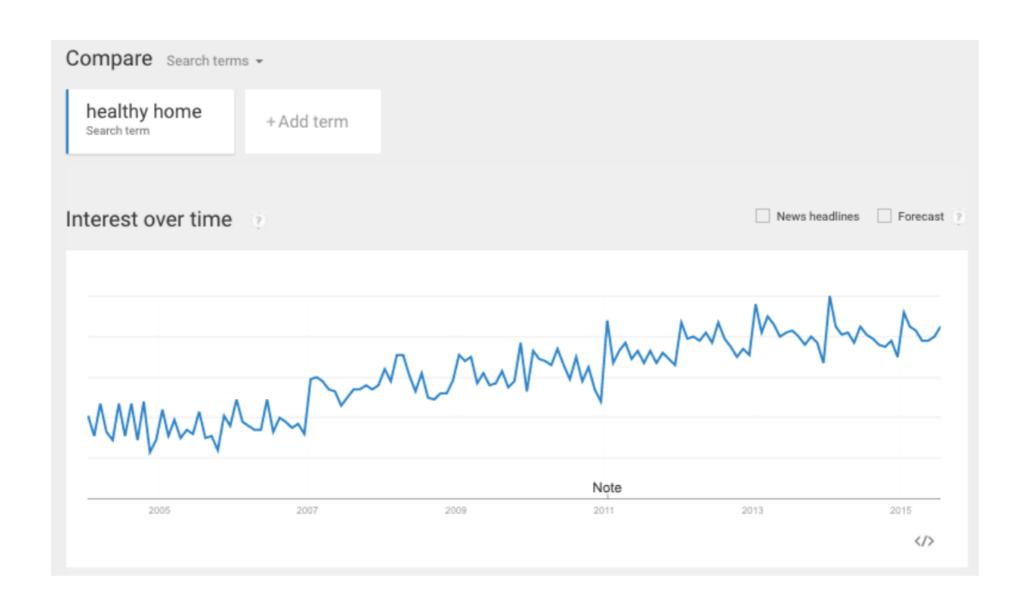


#### Ductless Mini Split



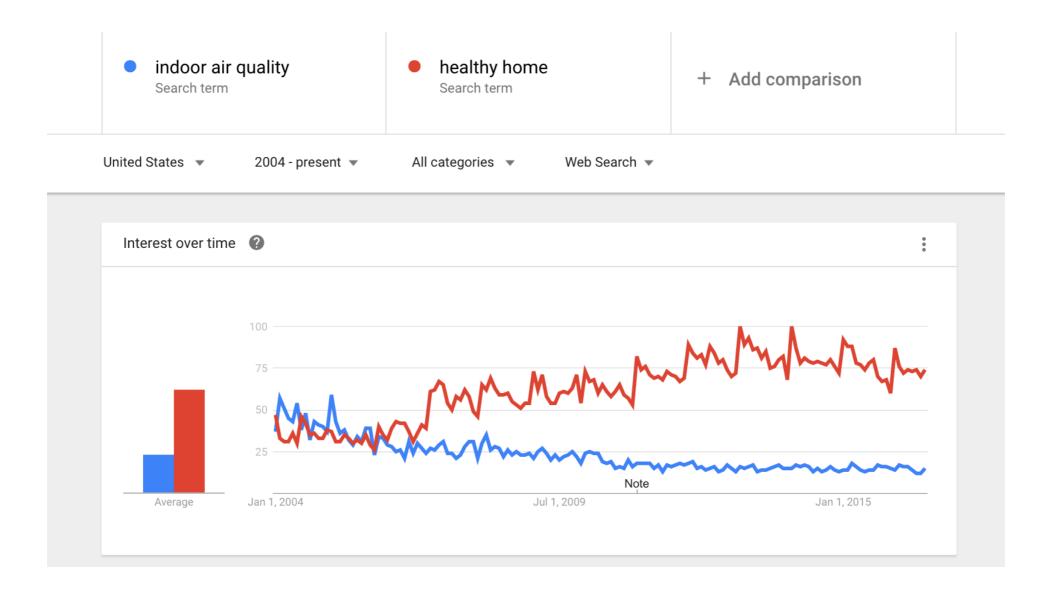


#### "skate to where the puck is going to be"



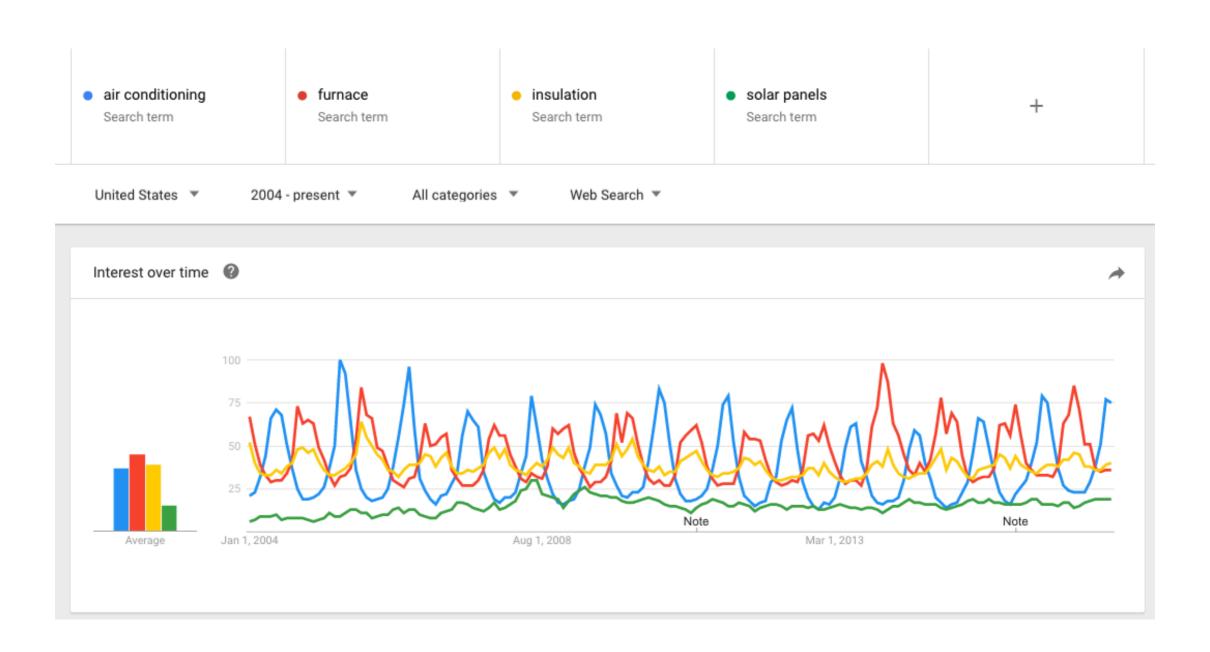


#### Healthy Home vs IAQ





#### Beauty of the Whole House Business Model





#### Key Dates & Events in Fall/Winter









DATE March/April: We'll Make it til Spring (very climate zone specific)

#### Time is Tight...with Interruptions

	September							October							November							December						
S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	
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~70 Marketing Days Sept—Year End Without Sept & Oct = 30 (-57%)

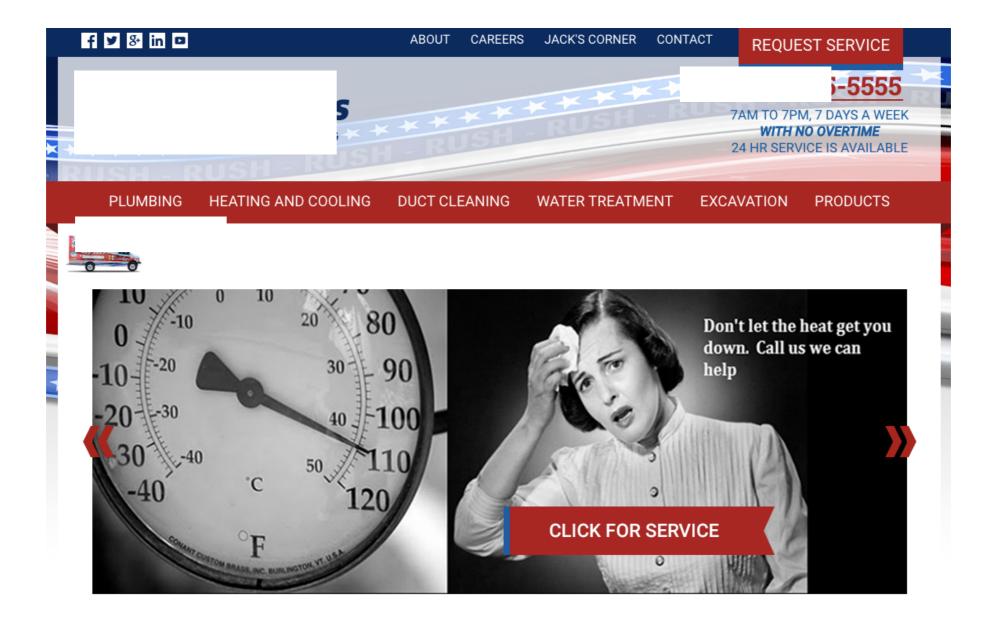




# MAXIMIZE THE SEASON

#### Manage the Seasonal Transition

Not
Good on
Day of
First
Frost

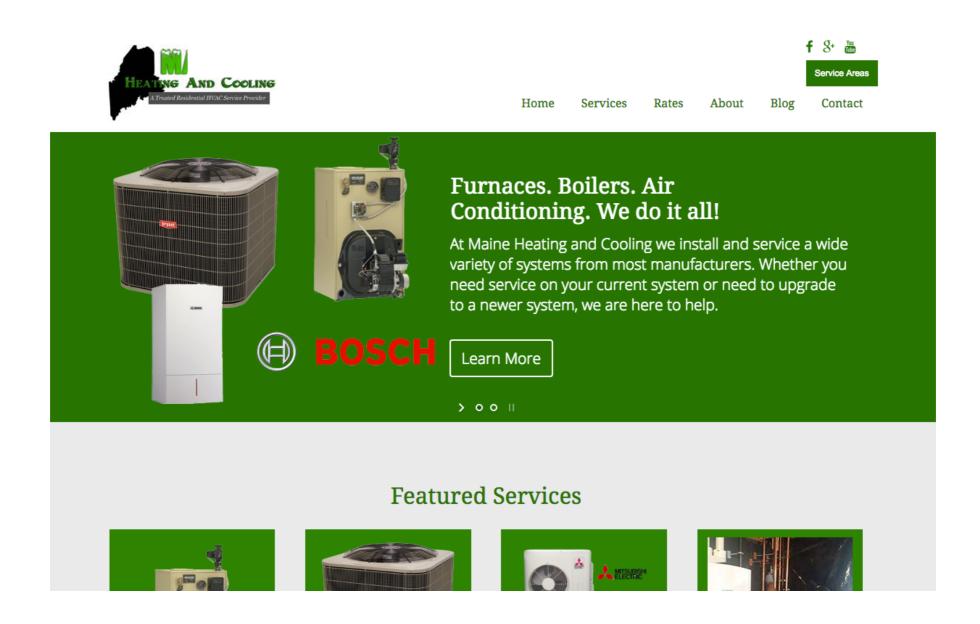




#### Not Suitable for...Fall & Winter



#### Generic "Services" Navigation





## No Separation = Thin Content



#### Heating and Cooling Services

#### Grand Rapids, MI, needs local EXPERTS!

has been serving the greater Grand Rapids area for over 105 years. We know our heating and cooling systems and everything in between. Our philosophy is simple--we will take care of your home like it's our own. From a service call to the installation of a new system, we will ensure that you have a positive experience with us. For quality heating and AC repair in the greater Grand Rapids, MI area, homeowners should choose Schaafsma Heating and Cooling. Customers depend on us for the following:





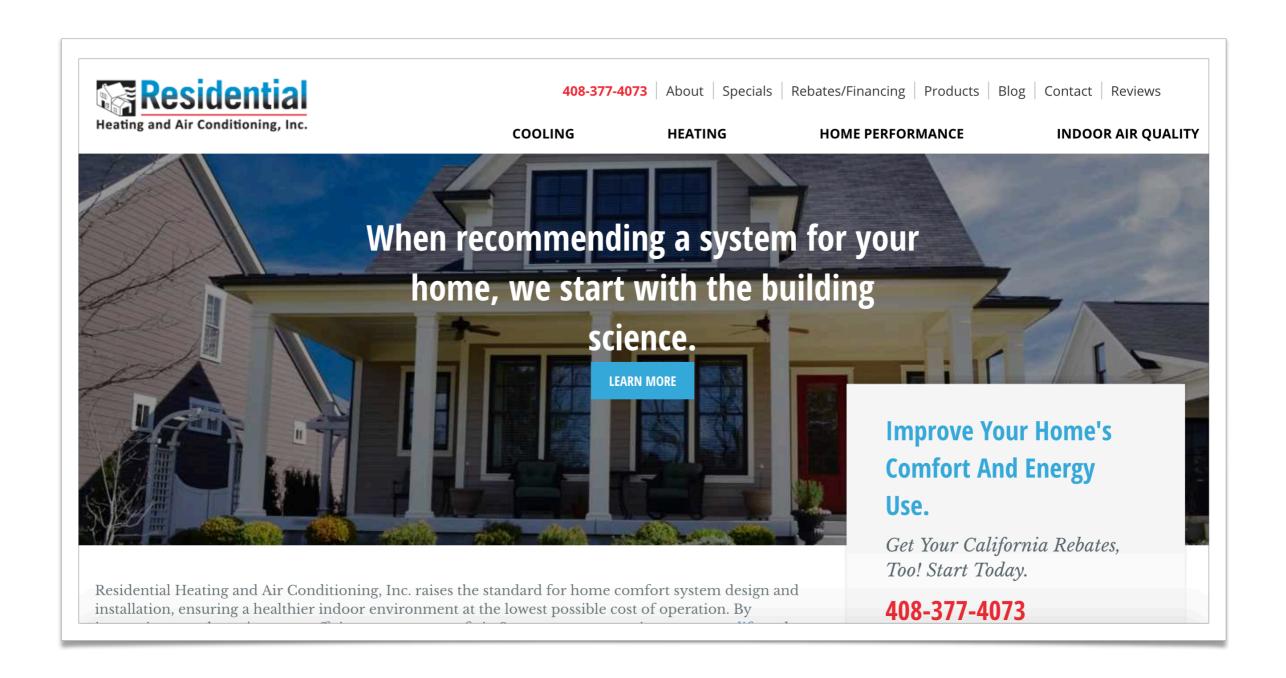
- NATE certified technicians
- 100% Money Back Guarantee
- We care about your home-we use drop clothes and wear protective booties
- Free quotes on new equipment
- Better Business Bureau Member
- Fully Licensed and insured
- We provide a Quality Inspection and Precision Start Up for your new equipment
- 24/7 Emergency Service Available-we're here when you need us!
- · We serve residential, commercial and industrial customers.

#### Services

Furnaces \* Geothermal \* Radiant Floor Heating \* Boilers \*Water Heaters \* Central Air Conditioners \* Unico Air Conditioning \* Ductless Air Conditioning \* Zoning Systems \* Customer Design \* Indoor Air Quality Products \* Carbon Monoxide Detectors \* Duct Sealing\* Duct Cleaning \* Insulation \* Service ALL makes & models of equipment



# Separate Seasonal Services!





# Deepening Your Fall/Winter Content

#### **Furnace Repair Services**

#### **Furnace Installation Services**

Oil to Gas Conversion

#### **Heating Products**

**Heat Pumps** 

**Gas Furnaces** 

#### Insulation

Cellulose

Spray Foam

Air Sealing

#### **Frequently Asked Heating Questions**

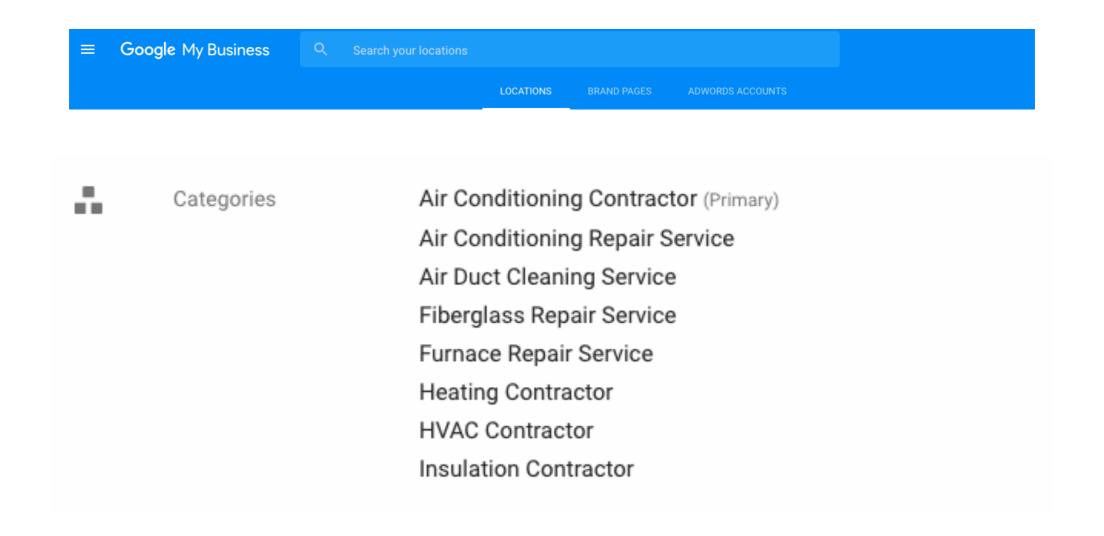


## **Blog Content Ideas**

- 4 Reasons It's Not Too Early for Heating Maintenance
- Why It's Not Too Early to Start Thinking About Your Heating System
- 5 Reasons Why Heating Maintenance is KEY
- Making Sure your Boiler is Ready for Winter
- Is Your Furnace Ready for Winter?
- Infographic: Our Heating System Maintenance Checklist
- Promotion: \$50 off a fall energy audit/furnace tune-up
- Newsletter: Strategies to Save on Heating this Fall
- Infographic: Is Your Home Ready for Winter?
- Newsletter: 5 Benefits of Scheduling Heating Maintenance Today
- 3 Ways to Winterize Your Home That You May Not Have Thought Of



# Change Up Your Google Categories



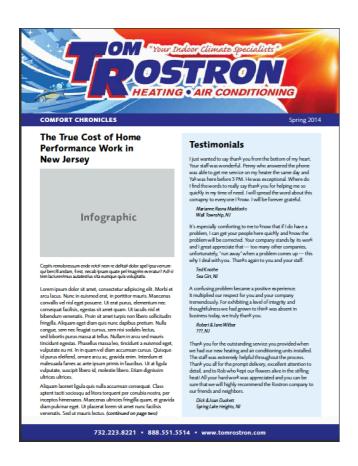


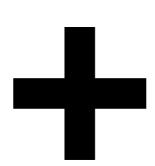
# Fall Newsletter (Mail & Email)





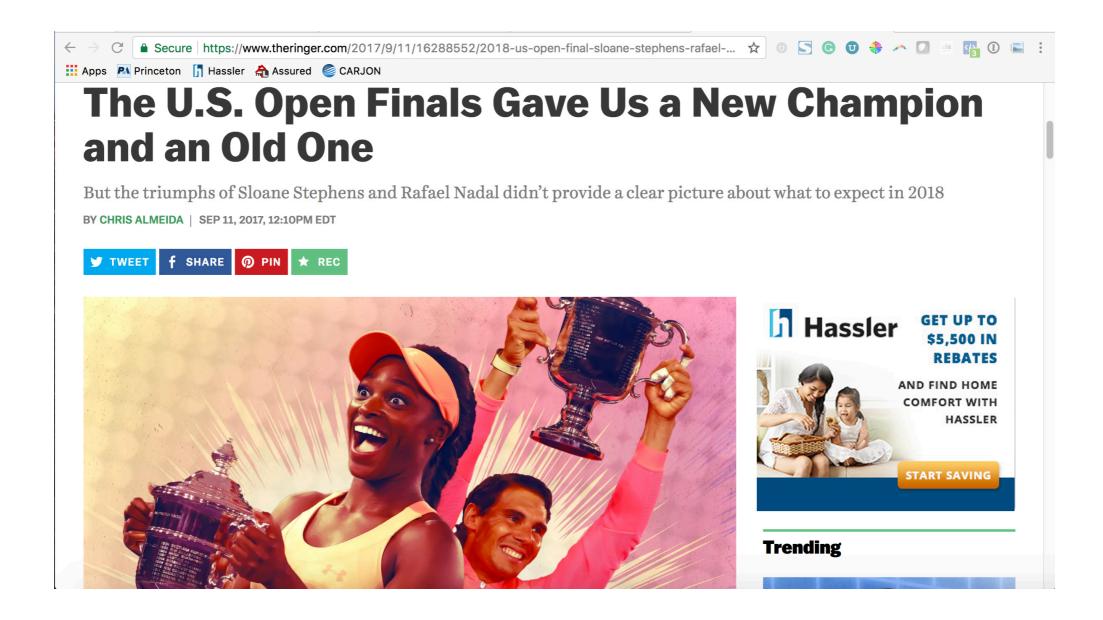
# Fall Newsletter Amped by Social



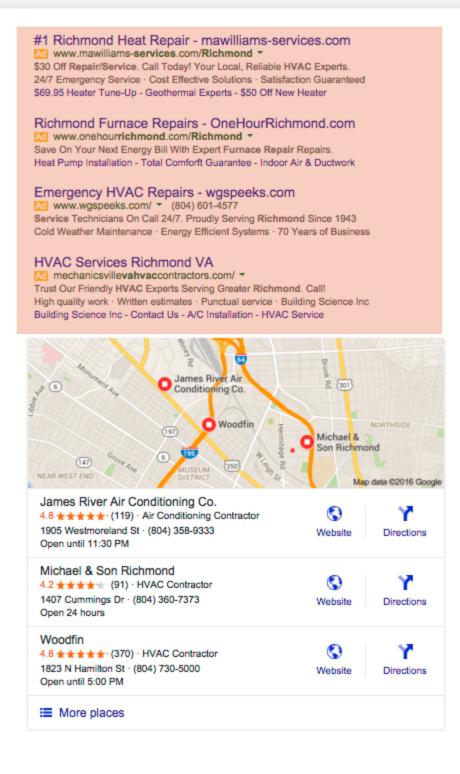




# Retargeting: Annoying but Effective



# Paid Search (PPC)—Google Adwords





## No Clicks No Cost

#1 Richmond Heat Repair - mawilliams-services.com **Paying \$7.49** Mi www.mawilliams-services.com/Richmond ▼ \$30 Off Repair/Service. Call Today! Your Local, Reliable HVAC Experts. 24/7 Emergency Service · Cost Effective Solutions · Satisfaction Guaranteed \$69.95 Heater Tune-Up - Geothermal Experts - \$50 Off New Heater **Paying \$6.20** Richmond Furnace Repairs - OneHourRichmond.com Modern Strategie August 1988 August 19 Save On Your Next Energy Bill With Expert Furnace Repair Repairs. Heat Pump Installation - Total Comforft Guarantee - Indoor Air & Ductwork Emergency HVAC Repairs - wgspeeks.com Ad www.wgspeeks.com/ ▼ (804) 601-4577 **Paying \$3.17** Service Technicians On Call 24/7. Proudly Serving Richmond Since 1943 Cold Weather Maintenance · Energy Efficient Systems · 70 Years of Business HVAC Services Richmond VA **Paying \$2.76** Modern Market Marke Trust Our Friendly HVAC Experts Serving Greater Richmond. Call! High quality work · Written estimates · Punctual service · Building Science Inc Building Science Inc - Contact Us - A/C Installation - HVAC Service





# AGGRESSIVE TACTICS THAT CAN MOVE THE NEEDLE FAST

# Choosing Quick-to-Market Tactics

- Short Lead Times
- Significant Reach—Fast
- Less Dependent on Demand
   Paid search depends on search volume
- Target Audiences that Can Act Quickly
   Existing Customers
   Aging Quotes
- Doesn't Blow Budget



# MESSAGING IDEAS WHEN FALL HASN'T ARRIVED

# Ideas for Aggressive Messaging

#### **READINESS**

- Winter is Coming!
- Is Your House Ready for Cold Temperatures?
- Cooler Temps on the Way
- Don't Wait til the Last Minute

#### **URGENCY**

- Act now
- Free \_\_\_\_\_ before November 15

#### **A DEAL**

- Promotions
- Flash Sale with Deadline

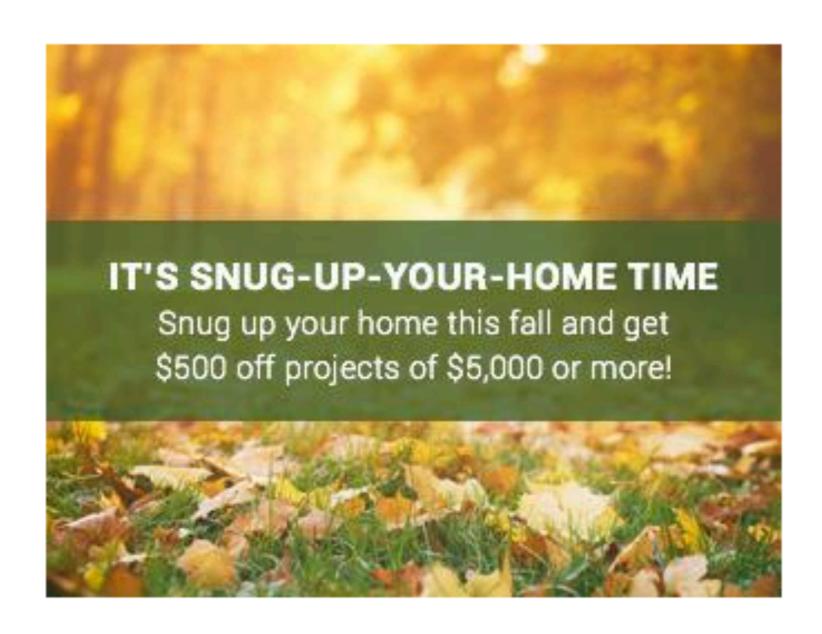
#### **FEAR**

- Get Your Generator Before You Need It
- Avoid the Cold Shower

# NON-TEMPERATURE/COMFORT OPPORTUNITIES

- Healthy Home
- Smart Thermostats
- Efficient Water Heaters







# MAXIMIZE YOUR PROMOTIONS

#### Get Rebates Of Up To \$1,600 On A Qualifying Lennox Home Comfort System!

The Dave Lennox Signature® Collection is the ultimate expression of Lennox® innovation, and that makes it the perfect choice for your home



## GET REBATES OF UP TO \$1,600\* ON A QUALIFYING LENNOX® HOME COMFORT SYSTEM.

Find the Lennox® home air conditioner, furnace or system that ideally suits your needs. All of our options are designed for energy savings and comfort, and are built to last. And as best friends do, let us offer you two times the offer with REBATES UP TO \$1,600\* AND LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT FINANCING.



#### START WITH UP TO \$1,300 IN REBATES.

Save on a complete qualifying Lennox® home comfort system that includes air conditioner or heat pump, gas furnace or air handler and thermostat.



# Don't miss out on this limited time offer! Our team is here to help The local guys and gals \* Name Phone Email \* City How can we help you?

#### SPECIALS

Free Second Opinion Manufacturer Rebates Fall Lennox Promotion

GET UP TO A \$100 REBATE ON A WI-FI THERMOSTAT.

# Create Deadlines (sometimes artificial)

# FREE INSULATION QUOTE BY NOVEMBER 15

Strategy:

**Urgency play** 

**Actually a standard offer** 

**Builds insulation awareness** 

Possible Mediums:

**Facebook** 

**Paid Search** 

Website

**Direct Mail** 



# **Preparatory Services**

## **PUSH ENERGY AUDITS**

Strategy:

Take advantage of winter skew

Discount only if you have to

**Emphasize Preparedness** 

Possible Mediums:

**Facebook** 

**Referrals** 

Website

**Paid Search** 

**Email** 



## Flash Sales with Deadlines

## FREE GIVEAWAY WITH NOVEMBER INSTALL

Strategy:

Limited time offer

Acceptable cost/acquisition

Possible Mediums:

Website

**Direct Mail** 

**Facebook** 





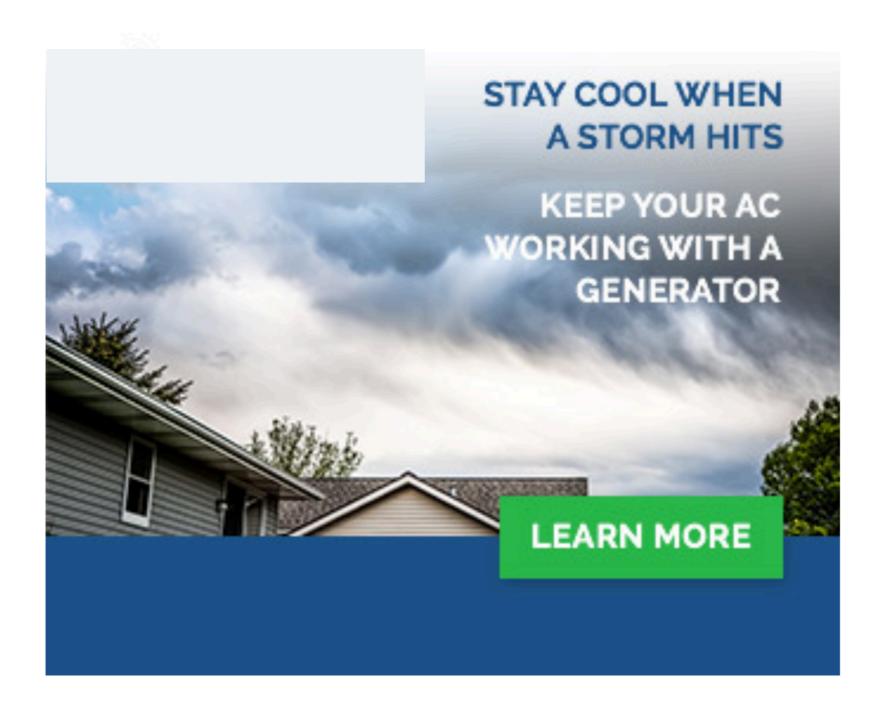


# **TUNE YOUR MESSAGING**

# Are You Ready for Ice Dam Season?



# **Emphasize Preparedness**







# TACTICS WITH INSTANT REACH & POTENTIAL FOR QUICK ACTION

# Tactics that are Fast to Deploy & Deliver Reach

- Email to Existing Customer Lists
- Paid Facebook Advertising
- Display Advertising
- Direct Mail (if you are production ready)
- Paid Search Adjustments

Increase geographic reach

Increase bids

More aggressive competitor campaigns

Modest Investment



# THANK YOU! QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

peter@energycircle.com