WHAT ARE THESE OVERSIZED WATER HEATERS THAT THROW OFF COOL DRY AIR?

These are Stiebel Eltron Accelera 300 - Air to Water Heat Pumps.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

"Eltron" is the German word for electric and "Stiebel" is the gentleman's name who started the company. Despite being an ostensibly German company, this unit is manufactured and distributed by Stibel Eltron's West Hatfield, MA location right here in the U.S. of A.

OKAY, BUT WHAT IS AN AIR TO WATER HEAT PUMP?

It is essentially an air conditioner/dehumidifier that uses the heat from the air to heat your shower water. A typical electric hot water heater produces at best 1 watt of heat for every watt of electrical energy input. This unit, however, produces 3-5 watts of heat for every 1 watt of electrical energy input for your shower water depending on the ambient air temperature. Not to mention the free air conditioning and dehumidification it provides. Notice the condensate running out of the unit when it is operating.

BUT I LIKED THE OLD SYSTEM!

The old system was terrible. It was powered by steam produced from the power house. This upgrade alone is saving Star Island around 20 gallons of diesel a day and keeping our shower facilities dryer and less prone to mildew.

AWESOME! WHAT CAN I DO TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THIS UNIT AND BETTER STAR ISLAND AND THE WORLD?

How thoughtful of you to ask! Though these units are ultra efficient, they have a slower recovery rate than a typical hot water heater. To compensate they have a backup electric heating element that will trigger if the water temperature drops below a certain point. When this happens, the unit is no longer ultra efficient and becomes like a standard water heater. So for the sake of having a nice hot shower, and for the betterment of Star Island and the world:

PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO STAGGER SHOWER TRAFFIC! - YFP

Do you have questions about the Green Gosport Initiative? Visit the Front Desk and ask to speak to the Sustainability Pelican or the Island Manager. And look forward to an even more sustainable Star in the future.

Star Island Department of Public Works • Shower Division