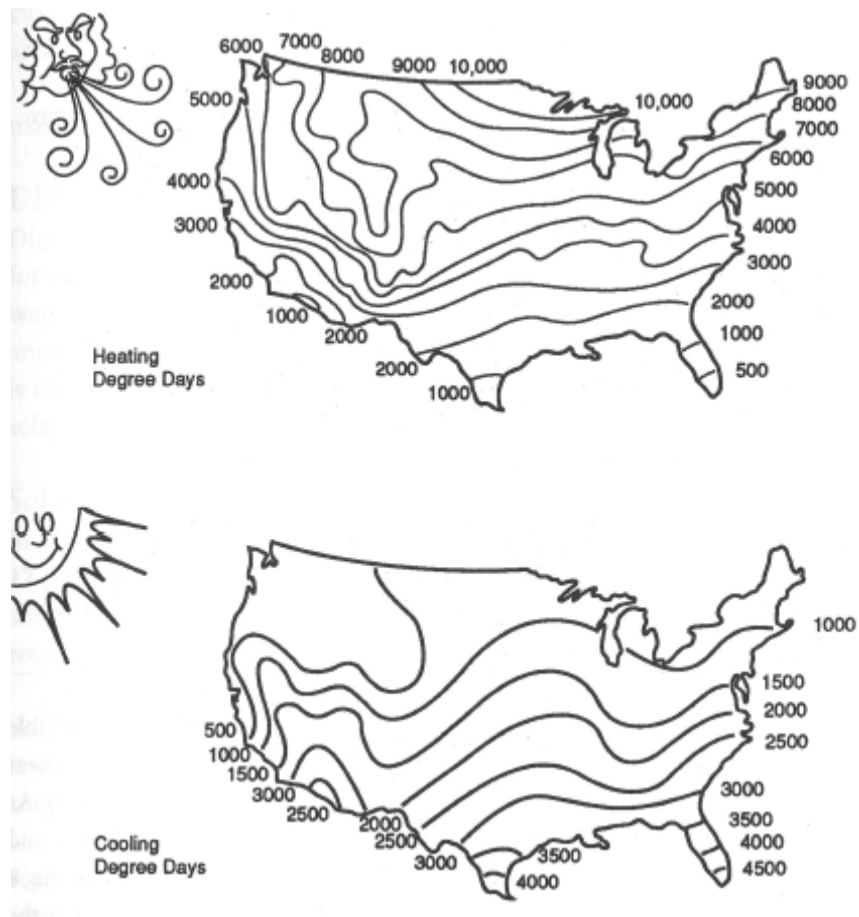


Summit County, Colorado: A Cool, Arid Mountain Climate

Summit County is in Climate Zone 1 (see http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cbecs/climate_zones.html for more information), meaning that we have less than 2000 Cooling Degree Days and over 7000 Heating Degree Days. In other words, we live in a cold mountain climate and our buildings should be designed to keep the heat inside during our predominantly cool days.

Degree Days: By taking the amount of degrees it takes to take the outside temperature up to 65 degrees multiplied by the amount of days that temperature exists, you will get the heating degree days.

What's magic about 65 degrees? It has been determined that when the outdoor temperature is 65 degrees F, then all internal heat sources (lightbulbs, people, appliances) and solar gain in non-solar homes will result in an internal temperature of around 70 degrees F (a comfortable indoor temperature). This is without any added heat from intentional solar gain or a conventional heat source (broiler, RFH, wood stove). So, when the temperature drops below 65 degrees outside, you need to heat your home.



Information from Solar Energy International (www.solarenergy.org)