

WATER HEATING THE SOLAR ADVANTAGE

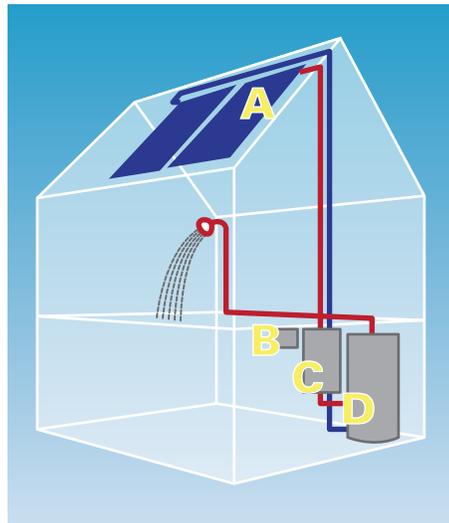
CALIFORNIA LEADING THE WAY IN SOLAR ENERGY

The California Solar Initiative (CSI) Thermal Program offers cash rebates to customers who install solar water heating systems on their homes or businesses, now making it more affordable to Go Solar!

HEAT WATER WITH THE SUN: HOW IT WORKS

Using the sun for water heating is a natural way to conserve resources, protect our environment and save energy on monthly utility bills.

- A. The sun heats a fluid on the roof
- B. The controller turns on the pumps when it detects the solar-heated fluid
- C. The solar-heated fluid is pumped into a storage tank
- D. The conventional water heater draws the hot water out of the solar storage tank when there is a demand for hot water. If needed, the conventional water heater may boost the temperature of the solar-heated water before sending it through the home



THINGS TO CONSIDER

When compared to other water heating options like a conventional natural gas or electric water heater or boiler, a solar water heating system may cost more upfront, but can eventually save you money for years to come. Solar water heating systems can also help protect you from increases in energy rates over the system's lifespan. What's more, these systems can be used wherever there is access to the sun, even if you live in an area that is not always sunny.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FIRST

To get the most out of your solar water heating system's performance, think of energy efficiency as a first step toward saving money. Installing low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators are simple and inexpensive ways to reduce your overall hot water demand. Visit your Program Administrator's Web site to take a free online energy efficiency audit prior to sizing and installing your solar water heating system. You will also find more energy-saving tips and information on programs that can help you get started.



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION IS EASY

1. Customer Eligibility

A customer who receives natural gas water heating in an existing home, business or a newly constructed home from:

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E),
 - San Diego Gas & Electric® (SDG&E®), or
 - Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®)
- OR

A customer who receives electric water heating in an existing home or business from:

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E),
- San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), or
- Southern California Edison (SCE)

2. Technology Eligibility

- Solar water heating systems must be rated by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC) www.solar-rating.org:
 - Single Family Residential technologies must have SRCC-OG 300 certification
 - Commercial/Multifamily technologies must have SRCC-OG 100 certification
- Pool and spa heating systems are not eligible

3. Contractor Eligibility

- Contractors must have one of the following active licenses issued by the California State License Board: A, B, C-4, C36 or C46
- Attendance at a no-cost, one-day training offered by the Program Administrators is mandatory. A list of eligible contractors will be available publicly on the GoSolar California Web site or contact your Program Administrator for more information

INCENTIVE STRUCTURE

Rebates will be in the form of a one-time payment based on how much energy is displaced by the solar water heating system. Incentive amounts will start at \$12.82 per therm displaced for customers with natural gas water heaters and \$0.37 per kWh displaced for customers with electric water heaters. The average incentive for a residential system with electric water heating is \$1010 and with natural gas water heating is \$1500. Rebates will decline over time independently in each service territory as more systems are installed for each customer class (e.g., residential, multi-family, or commercial).

Get the most money at the start of the program when rebates are the highest. Act now to find a contractor and apply!

OTHER FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs allow local governments to offer financing for solar water heating systems through an annual assessment on their property taxes
- Investment Tax Credit (ITC) is a 30 percent federal tax credit. Please consult with your tax advisor for additional information

TIPS FOR CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR

- Interview a minimum of three potential contractors and obtain written bids from each one for comparison
- Verify that the contractor's license is current and active at www.cslb.ca.gov. The contractor must hold an A, B, C-4, C36 or C46 license
- Ensure all quotes for the project are in writing and only sign after fully understanding the terms and making sure the costs are within reason
- Never provide more than 10 percent of the system's cost for an up-front deposit and do not make final payment until the system is installed and operating properly
- Do not hesitate to ask the contractor questions about his business, the system or anything you may not understand
- Request references from previous customers and review past installations to ensure the costs were reasonable, the customers were satisfied and the systems are performing properly

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the program, how to apply and to find a contractor, visit California's one-stop shop for all solar rebates and installation information at www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov.



CSI-THERMAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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This fact sheet is intended to be an overview and introduction to the CSI-Thermal Program. The California investor-owned utilities and Program Administrators do not guarantee the quality or performance of any contractor and are not responsible for any goods or services selected. Please see the most recent version of the CSI-Thermal Handbook for the most up-to-date information at www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov/solarwater.

The CSI-Thermal Program is funded by California investor-owned utility customers and is administered by regional Program Administrators under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

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