

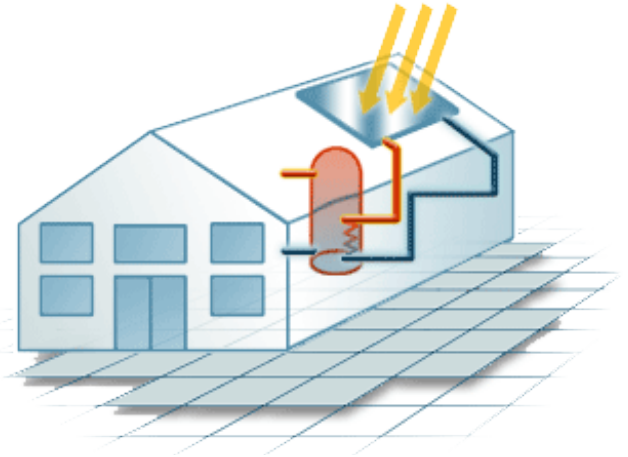


Solar Thermal Incentive Program

For domestic hot water systems in residential or nonresidential facilities

What Is a Solar Thermal System?

A solar thermal system is one that generates heat from sunlight. Solar thermal systems may be used to heat tap or swimming pool water or provide space heating. A solar thermal system typically consists of solar collectors, or panels, which are roof-mounted, and piping, which carries heated liquid (usually an anti-freeze solution) from the collectors to a heat exchanger, which generates hot water or warmed air.



Benefits of Owning a Solar Thermal System

Investing in a solar thermal system benefits you, your community and our planet in a number of ways.

- Solar thermal systems are appealing because they are technically simple and tend to be less expensive than other types of renewable energy systems for most applications.
- By using solar thermal systems instead of electricity, gas or oil to heat your water or home, you can reduce your fuel bills significantly. Although the capital cost of installing a solar thermal system is higher than that of installing a conventional water heater, the fuel savings can pay back the cost of the system in approximately 6 to 10 years, with federal and state incentives.
- The planet benefits from reduced greenhouse gas emissions and preservation of finite fossil-fuel resources for future generations. A typical home solar thermal system supplies about 70% of a home's hot water, saving 7.7 barrels of oil per year and avoiding the production of almost 3.5 tons of carbon dioxide!
- The local community benefits from improved air quality, greater independence from fossil fuels, and jobs created by the installation of these systems.

Incentives Available to Help Pay for Solar Thermal Systems

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) offers grants, through designated participating installers, to all residential and nonresidential hot water heating customers in Connecticut who wish to install solar thermal systems. Funds will be restricted to domestic hot water systems only; space heating and pool heating systems will not be eligible. Developers of new residential or nonresidential facilities in Connecticut may also apply for the incentives.

A complete list of eligible installers is available at www.ctcleanenergy.com/solarthermal.

The grants are intended to support systems that will supply between 50% and 80% of a customer's annual domestic hot water needs.

How Are Incentives Calculated?

Solar thermal incentives are in the form of grants based on system output (Btu production) as predicted by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC) and industry standard software. To encourage installations that maximize system output in the winter months, the incentive is based upon the

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How Are Incentives Calculated? (continued)

predicted output (in millions of Btus – “MMBtu”) for the months of October through March. The size of individual incentives for residential systems is also directly related to the number of persons or bedrooms in the household. CCEF applies the parameters noted below in calculating incentives:

Residential Installations

- \$500 per MMBtu of predicted system output for October through March
- Maximum incentive awarded per installation:
 - 1-2 person household - \$2,400
 - 3-4 person household - \$3,600
 - 5-6 person household - \$4,800

Non-Residential Installations

- For-profit commercial projects:
 - \$500 per MMBtu of predicted system output for October through March
 - Maximum incentive awarded per installation - \$50,000
- Not-for-profit and governmental projects:
 - \$900 per MMBtu of predicted system output for October through March
 - Maximum incentive awarded per installation - \$82,500

Applicants for incentives under the CCEF Solar Thermal Incentive Program are strongly encouraged to participate in Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund programs, which typically offer a rapid payback on the cost of conservation and load management measures. See <http://www.ctsavesenergy.org/>.

How Do I Get Started?

Prospective applicants who are interested in the Solar Thermal Incentive Program are encouraged to visit the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund’s website at www.ctcleanenergy.com/solarthermal or contact an eligible solar thermal installer from the list found on the website. These installers will review your project with you, provide information on solar thermal systems and assist you with CCEF’s incentive program. As with any significant purchase, you should shop around when considering a solar thermal system, check references, seek as much information as possible and obtain more than one quote.

Special Note

Funding for this program is being provided through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 and is expected to support approximately 600 residential and 120 non-residential projects. Assuming that the program is successful, CCEF will strive to identify additional program resources to continue the program after the federal funds are depleted.

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund was created by the Connecticut General Assembly and is administered by Connecticut Innovations, a quasi-public organization. CCEF promotes the development and commercialization of clean energy technologies and stimulates markets for electricity from clean renewable sources. CCEF’s funding comes from a surcharge on electric ratepayers’ utility bills.

CCEF’s main goals are to:

- create clean energy supply for Connecticut;
- accelerate the development of clean energy technologies; and
- educate Connecticut consumers about the benefits and availability of clean energy.



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