

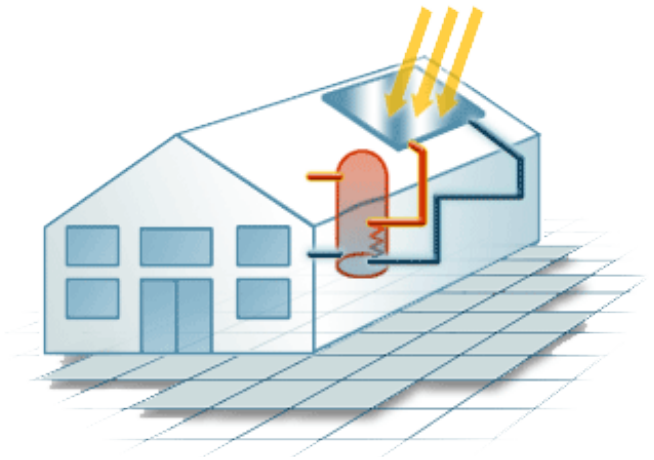


## Solar Thermal Incentive Program

For domestic hot water systems in residential or nonresidential facilities

### What Is a Solar Thermal System?

A solar thermal system generates heat from sunlight. Solar thermal systems may be used to heat water or air for space heating. In the United States, the most widespread application is for swimming pool heating. The most visible components of a solar thermal system typically are the solar collectors, or panels, which are usually roof-mounted. For water-heating systems, the rest of the system includes a tank, for storing the heated water, a pump and piping, to circulate the heated liquid (usually an anti-freeze solution) from the collectors to a heat exchanger in the tank, which generates hot water or warmed air, and a controller to automatically operate the pump.



### 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. Although solar thermal systems can be used instead of electricity, gas or oil to heat your water or home, the most cost-effective application in Connecticut is for domestic hot water (DHW) heating, particularly if it displaces electric water heating. While 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 any building owner or homeowner in Connecticut who wishes to install solar thermal systems. Funds will be restricted to domestic hot water and commercial process water systems only; space heating and pool heating systems will not be eligible. Grants are intended to support systems that will supply between 50% and 80% of a customer's annual domestic or process hot water needs. 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](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/solarthermal).

## 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 predicted output (in millions of Btus – “MMBtu”) for the months of October through March. The size of individual rebates 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. For a typical system, this ranges from 20% to 30% of the system’s total cost.

### 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

\*Program incentive levels are subject to change. Please visit [www.ctcleanenergy.com/solarthermal](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/solarthermal) for up-to-date program information.

Applicants for incentives under the 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 [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com).

## 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](http://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. Because it is federally funded, commercial projects must comply with the Davis-Bacon (prevailing wages) Act and the “Buy American” requirement for public buildings. 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. 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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