

Solar Water Heating Program

Oncor is a regulated electric distribution and transmission utility that provides electricity delivery to consumers. As part of its Take A Load Off, Texas initiative, Oncor is offering a cash incentive for the purchase and installation of residential solar water heating systems. Interested homeowners, renters, developers, and builders can participate by working with a solar water heating installer ("Service Provider").

What is a solar water heating (SWH) system and why should I install one?

A SWH system uses the sun's energy to supplement a home's hot water supply for dishwashing, laundry, showers, etc. SWH installations make sense for new and existing single-family homes and low- and high-rise multi-family housing. While a SWH system cannot replace a home's electric water heater, it will drastically reduce the electricity required for hot water needs, typically by 40% to 85%. The sun's energy is free and can cut your electricity consumption in an environmentally-friendly way. Learn more about this technology on the following page.

How much does a system cost and how much is the incentive?

New, professionally-installed SWH systems typically cost a few to several thousand dollars, depending on the type of system installed. Incentives are paid to Service Providers; your bill from the Service Provider will show the incentive as a deduction from the installation cost. Oncor's incentive reduces an installed system's costs by \$600 to \$1,500, based on the system's predicted performance. (Oncor is offering a limited number of low-income incentives covering 95% of system costs up to \$3,800—visit www.takealoadofftexas.com to learn more.)

A SWH system really becomes an affordable investment when you combine Oncor's incentive with additional federal tax credits that may be available to you.

How do I participate?

Homeowners, renters, developers, and builders can apply through their Service Provider. View the list of participating Service Providers at www.takealoadofftexas.com or ask your Service Provider to e-mail texasolarwaterheating@icfi.com. Please note that solar pool heaters do not qualify for the incentive.

TAKE A LOAD OFF, TEXAS

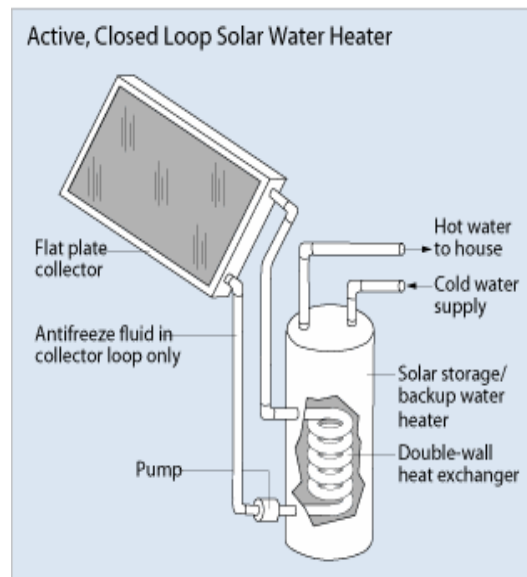
Eligible homes

- Homes must receive electric service from Oncor.
- Homes may be single-family or individually-metered multi-family properties.
- Homes may be new construction or existing properties.
- Existing homes must currently use electric water heating systems. Existing homes with gas water heating are ineligible.
- New construction must be without gas service to be eligible.

How does solar water heating work?

SWH systems typically include one or more solar collector modules, mounted on a roof or similar surface, and one or two well-insulated hot water storage tank(s). The solar collector(s) absorbs the sun's energy to preheat water before it is further heated by the electric water heater, thus cutting down on the amount of electricity needed to heat a home's water. In order to install an effective solar water heating system, you will need sufficient roof, land, parking structure, or other area to place the solar collector(s). An ideal location to install a SWH system is an area with southern sun exposure and no shading from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Here is an example diagram of a common solar water heating system:



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

For more information about solar water heating technology:

- *U.S. Department of Energy Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*
http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/water_heating/index.cfm/mytopic=12850
- *U. S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Program*
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/sh_basics_water.html