

Solar Thermal (Hot Water) Program

7 MYTHS ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY AND SOLAR HOT WATER

MYTH
#1

Solar energy is unproven and unreliable.

PROVEN
RELIABLE

REALITY: Solar energy is the oldest and most reliable form of renewable energy.

And the savings it generates are very, very real. While solar electric systems (those that rely on the sun's light to create electricity) are more prevalent right now, solar hot water (or solar thermal) is catching up in popularity for homeowners and business owners in northern climates. That's because the systems are affordable and can work reliably even on cloudy days.



Solar Hot Water systems are not practical for the New York region.

MYTH
#2

REALITY: Solar Hot Water systems are well suited to New York's climate.

When the sun is out — whether you can see it or not — a solar hot water system works. They can even produce hot water in the winter!

MYTH
#3

Solar Hot Water savings are overstated.

20%  

REALITY: Solar Hot Water savings are real and well documented.

The facts are clear and indisputable — if you heat your domestic hot water with a solar hot water system, you can cut the energy portion of your electric bill by up to 20 percent.

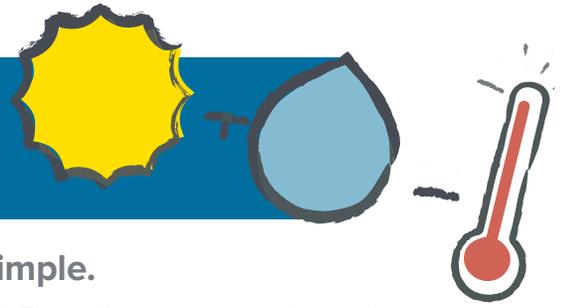
Connect with a NYSERDA-eligible installer
at solarhotwater.nysERDA.ny.gov or call 1-866-NYSERDA.



NYSERDA

MYTH
#4

Solar Hot Water systems are too complex.



REALITY: Solar Hot Water systems are quite simple.

They heat water for your home via rooftop solar collectors (panels). The collectors capture the sun's heat, and then transfer that heat to the water in the collectors, which is then piped to a storage tank. Controls in the system monitor performance and flow. If your solar hot water system cannot keep up with demand on any given day, your conventional water heater will provide supplemental hot water.



Solar Hot Water systems are still too expensive.

MYTH
#5

REALITY: Solar Hot Water systems are actually really affordable.

The combination of NYSERDA support and federal and state tax credits, as well as the savings you will see on your energy bill, make solar hot water systems very affordable and cost effective.

MYTH
#6

Applying for tax credits is too complicated.



REALITY: It's simple, really.

When you are ready to install a solar hot water system, one of NYSERDA's eligible installers can help identify the proper forms and paperwork you need to complete in order to take advantage of available tax credits. To ensure you get the full value of any tax credits, it is recommended that you consult an accountant.



All Solar Hot Water system installers are created equal.

MYTH
#7

REALITY: As with any residential or commercial installation, the quality and credibility of the installer is key.

That's why NYSERDA provides a list of eligible installers on its website to get you started. Visit nyserdera.ny.gov/find-SHW-installer to find an installer near you.



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To learn more call 1 866 NYSERDA or visit solarhotwater.nyserdera.ny.gov

*Home and Business owners may qualify for up to 30% federal tax credits. An additional 25% in New York State tax credits (up to \$5,000) are available for primary residences. (Always consult with your qualified tax professional or accountant to determine your eligibility for tax credits.)



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