



Solar Thermal Incentive Program Program Opportunity Notice (PON) 3221

**Solar Thermal (ST) Incentive Project Applications and Solar Thermal Installer/Contractor Applications Accepted March 1, 2016 through December 30, 2016
By 5:00 PM Eastern Time***

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) requests applications from qualified Solar Thermal (ST) Installers/Contractors to participate in the Solar Thermal (Hot Water) Incentive Program (Program). Qualified Solar Thermal system installers/contractors are required to submit participation applications to become eligible installers/contractors. Participation applications will be accepted at any time while the program is open.

Funding available through PON 3221 is \$2,900,000.00

NYSERDA may at its discretion elect to extend and/or add funds to any project funded through this solicitation.

To be considered for participation in the Program, ST installer/contractor applicants must submit one [1] clearly labeled, completed and signed application package as detailed in the *Solar Thermal Installer/Contractor Eligibility Application Instructions and Application* to NYSEDA. The application package can be emailed to STForms@nyserda.ny.gov or may be mailed to the address provided below.

After receiving notification of approval from NYSEDA, an Eligible installer/contractor can submit projects to the Program for consideration of incentives. Program incentives are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Program offers the following incentive for eligible projects:

- *Displaced kWh incentive:* Incentive applied to the total project cost based on displaced electric energy associated with the production of domestic hot water (either exclusively or as part of a combination system), expressed in kWhs. The full value of the incentive must be credited to the total project cost (cost of project before incentives).

To access incentives, Eligible Installer/Contractor must submit a completed and signed incentive application package into PowerClerk as detailed in Program Manual for each project.

**Solar Thermal Installer/Contractor Application PON 3221
NYS Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399**

Installer/Contractor applicant questions should be directed to (518) 862-1090, ext. 3056 or stforms@nyserda.ny.gov.

Please indicate that you are calling in reference to PON 3221.

*Late, incomplete, or unsigned applications will be returned. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. Applications will not be accepted at any other NYSEDA location other than the address above. If changes are made to this solicitation, notification will be posted on NYSEDA's website at www.nyserda.ny.gov.

I. INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE SOLAR THERMAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM?

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) provides financial incentives for the installation of new Solar Thermal (ST) systems that displace electrically heated domestic hot water (DHW). Incentive funding for ST systems that displace electrically heated DHW has been allocated by the New York State Public Service Commission through the Clean Energy Fund (CEF), and is available only for ST systems within the service territories of the State's investor-owned utilities. Incentives funded through the CEF will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis, and applications will be accepted through December 31, 2016, or until funds are fully committed, whichever comes first.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Financial incentives are available for qualified customers who wish to install Solar Thermal (Hot Water) systems through applications submitted by a Participating Contractor. A Participating Contractor has demonstrated technical competence in the Solar Thermal field and agrees to follow all Program terms and conditions, including the Participation Agreement with NYSERDA. Incentives are paid directly to the Contractor, and must be applied, in full, to the cost of the Solar Thermal (ST) system, thereby reducing the customer's out-of-pocket cost.

The Eligible Installer (individuals who have demonstrated technical competence in the ST (Hot Water) field) or Contractor is responsible for preparing and submitting all necessary project application and incentive paperwork to NYSERDA. To become an eligible installer, an individual must fulfill one of the following credentialing requirements.

1. Hold the NABCEP Certification (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) Solar Heating Installer Certification
2. Journeyman who has completed an approved NYS DOL Apprenticeship Program through the United Association of Plumbers, Fitters, Welders, and HVAC Service Techs Apprentice Program including UA approved solar thermal training.
3. Completed a Solar Thermal Manufacturer's certification which includes 18 hours of manufacturer's specific training and demonstration of equivalent experience.

More information on how to become an Eligible Installer/Contractor can be found in the ST *Installer/Contractor Application and Instructions Package*.

In addition to financing that may be offered by an Installer/Contractor, the Program currently offers financing through Green Jobs-Green New York (GJGNY). Availability and conditions of GJGNY financing is subject to change. Information on financing options, terms and qualification criteria can be found on NYSERDA's web site at the following link:

<http://www.nyserd.ny.gov/About/Green-Jobs-Green-New-York>

II. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Projects must identify the method used for establishing the existing thermal load, and displaced electric energy usage calculated in kWh. System offset cannot exceed 80% of existing DHW load.

Installers must calculate all potential system output losses per direction in the Program Manual (kWh generated after all losses associated with shading, system orientation, tilt angle, etc. are applied)

System must be installed in accordance with the design and solar hot water system components submitted in the application and approved by NYSERDA

Incentive highlights:

Incentive Rates (effective 3/1/2016)

- Residential installations: \$1.00/kWh offset per year up to \$5,000.
- Commercial/Industrial: \$0.30/kWh offset per year up to \$75,000.
- Agricultural/Not-for-Profit/Government: \$0.40 per kWh offset per year up to \$75,000.

Incentives may be adjusted in the future, based on market uptake, system costs and funding availability. NYSERDA may at its discretion elect to extend and/or add funds to any project funded through this solicitation.

- Incentives are paid directly to the Contractor and must be passed on in the full amount to the customer. Incentives are not provided directly to customers purchasing or installing ST Systems.
- Incentives are only available for new equipment and ST Systems that have not been installed (partially or completely) prior to NYSERDA receiving a project application.
- Incentives are calculated based upon estimated displaced electric kWh usage. Incentives are available to residential (single and multifamily), commercial, agricultural and non-profit customers who use a Contractor participating in the Solar Thermal Program. Equipment and systems must be certified by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC). Incentives are based on SRCC output calculations for OG 300 systems. For systems that do not have an OG 300 rating, a system performance estimate based on Solar Pathfinder Thermal, RETScreen or other approved methods are acceptable. As a typical Solar Thermal system displaces between 50-80% of a site's DHW load, the Program does not incentivize systems that are designed to offset more than 80% of the DHW load.
- NYSERDA reserves the right to establish and enforce a monthly capacity limit on Eligible Installers and Contractors. Should a monthly capacity limit be established, applications received after a limit is reached will not be accepted.

Limitation - This solicitation does not commit NYSERDA to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in preparing any application. NYSERDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, and to cancel in part or in its entirety the solicitation when it is in NYSERDA's best interest.

III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ATTACHMENTS

Associated Documents

Program Manual – Solar Thermal
Participation Agreement – Solar Thermal
Customer Guide

Existing Installer/Contractor Forms

Incentive Request Form
Change Request Form
Addendum to Agreement

How to Become an Eligible Installer / Contractor

Installer / Contractor Application Package
Field Inspection Guidelines Solar-Heating Systems

GJGNY

[Green Jobs - Green New York Financing Contractor Application Process](#) (link)

ProForma Tools
Residential
Non-Residential
Building Owner Release Form