RESIDENTIAL CASE STUDY
CUSTOMER KEVIN VIRKLER
LOWVILLE, NY

SOLAR HOT WATER IS SO HOT

NORTH COUNTRY HOMEOWNER FINDS COOL WAY TO HEAT HOT WATER

Solar panels capture the sun's energy, which is then used to heat your water.

"It was a quick project… a quick process."

Kevin Virkler is a forester who lives in a one-story ranch in Lowville, a rural community northwest of the Adirondacks. His home is a wood-stick structure originally built in the 1960s. About seven years ago, Virkler doubled the home's size by building his own addition.

Determined to make the home more energy efficient, he tightly insulated it and added a solar hot water system with financial and technical assistance from NYSERDA. Like most residential systems, Virkler's comprises three rooftop solar collectors, plus a tank, a regulating pump and a meter system to control everything.

"The installation process was outstanding," Virkler recalls. "There was a crew on the roof and a crew in the cellar. When you think about a major conversion like this, you're thinking you might not get any hot water for a few days, but it wasn't like that. It was a quick project…a quick process."

THINK YOU'RE READY TO GET INTO HOT WATER?
To learn more call 1-866-NYSERDA or visit solarhotwater.nyserda.ny.gov

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Water heated by the sun's energy is stored in a storage tank.

Results

Virkler's positive experience with NYSERDA has made him a loyal solar hot water enthusiast.

He is delighted with the efficiency his solar hot water system delivers. He was also pleased that the NYSERDA support and tax credits covered nearly half of the system's costs. The system heats water for showers and dishwashing year-round — even during the harsh North Country winters. In fact, his solar hot water system works so well that he didn't even turn on the breaker for his electric backup system until the nights started getting colder in the fall.

For more information, visit nyserda.ny.gov/solar-hot-water

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NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect our environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York since 1975.

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NYSERDA support is currently only available for customers that heat their hot water with electricity.

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