

Solar Makes Sense:

"On average, if you install a Solar Water Heater, your water heating bills should drop 50-80%. Also, because the sun is free, you will be protected from future fuel shortages and price hikes."

—Source: US Dept. Of Energy EERE Consumer's Guide

Solar is Economical, Reliable & Sustainable

Economical

- Increases the value of your home immediately and offers a competitive advantage down the road when it is time to sell
- Can lower your monthly utility bills and decrease electricity costs by \$3489 over 10 years (based on current energy prices)
- Insulates your family from increasing energy costs

Reliable

- NC has abundant sunshine
- System should have a back-up electric heating element to ensure you will never be without hot water
- System should be certified by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC)
- System should be installed by a NABCEP certified installer (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners)

Sustainable

- Clean, renewable energy does not contribute to greenhouse gases
- Reduces your family's energy purchases
- Reduces your family's environmental impact

Want to Know More?

If you would like to discuss this solar water heating rebate program with Piedmont Electric please contact us by phone or e-mail as indicated below.

For more information, contact the Cooperative's Marketing Department at 919.732.2123, or email one of our marketing and energy specialists:

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**Piedmont Electric
Membership Corporation**

Hillsborough • Caswell County • Roxboro

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Solar Water Heating

Rebate Program

*A Program from
Piedmont Electric
for Those Interested
in Solar Water Heating*



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Membership Corporation**

Phone: 919.732.2123 • 800.222.3107

Is Solar Water Heating for You?

Piedmont Electric is offering a special rebate to residential members who install a quality solar water heating system.

The Cooperative is working with several local well-respected energy efficiency and renewable energy businesses.

We have developed a program to assist those interested in installing a solar water heating system. Additionally, Piedmont Electric is offering a \$500 rebate for those who install a solar water heating system.

Solar water heating systems average around \$7,000 installed, depending on the type of system and the installation. In addition to Piedmont Electric's rebate, state and federal tax credits can reduce your purchase costs.

A 30% federal (up to \$2,000) and a 35% North Carolina tax credit (up to \$1,400) is available. The effect of the rebate and tax credits can come close to reducing your out-of-pocket expense by 50%. (See below.)

Solar Water Heating System Cost Example**

System Cost	\$7,000.00
Rebate***	- \$ 500.00
State Tax Credit	- \$1,400.00
Federal Tax Credit	- \$2,000.00
Taxes on State Credit*	\$ 392.00
Net Cost	\$3,492.00

* assuming a 28% tax bracket, Consult your tax professional for applicability.

** Piedmont Electric also offers an Energy Efficiency Loan Program where qualified members can borrow up to \$5,000 for five years at 5% interest.

*** Member must sign a Renewable Energy Certificate Agreement that assigns any renewable energy credits generated by your solar water heating system to Piedmont Electric in order to receive the Cooperative's rebate.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much can I save?

A lot. Homeowners typically see an average of 65% savings on their water heating bills, depending on the size of their system and amount of hot water needed on a daily basis.

How long does it take to pay for itself?

Depending on the solar system you install, your solar water heating system will pay for itself through the savings it generates! Your pay-back period will depend on the cost of the system and your hot water use.

What steps are involved to take advantage of the tax credits?

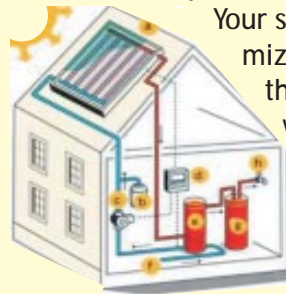
Taking advantage of the state and federal tax credits for your new solar system should be done at your next tax filing. Forms and instructions are conveniently available on the NC Solar Center website: www.ncsc.ncsu.edu and at www.dsireusa.org.

Do I have to change my habits to use a solar water heater?

No. Solar water heaters are always installed with a backup heating system in the storage tank to ensure hot water is available at all times.

What size solar system do I need?

The size of your solar water heating system will depend on your use requirements. Your system design is optimized for production, aesthetics and added home value.



Site Requirements

These are the requirements that need to be met in order for solar water heating to be the right choice for your home.

1 You need a 9ft x 9ft area on the roof that is south facing, or within 30 degrees of South.

2 There is minimal, and preferably no, tree shading at your location. Does the proposed area get at least 4 hours of sun exposure a day?

3 A pitched roof is best. The roofing material must allow lag screws to be driven into the rafters below. Standing seam roofs are usually acceptable. A flat roof adds additional costs to the installation.

4 There has to be access from the water heater area to the roof to run pipes.

5 You will need an electrical hook-up and space for the solar storage units in the same locations as the existing water heater.

For a one tank option, which replaces your current water heater, you will need a 240-volt, 30-amp circuit. You will also need space for the tank which is approximately the same size as an 80-gallon water heater.

For a two tank option, which preheats into your current water heater, you will need a 120-volt outlet. You will also need space for the tank, in addition to the existing water heater, which is approximately the same size as an 80-gallon water heater.

6 A proper drain line is installed or the possibility of running a drain line (to meet plumbing code) from the proposed tank location. (Newer houses will have this because it is code, but older houses may not have a drain line installed. For older houses, a drain line must be run.)