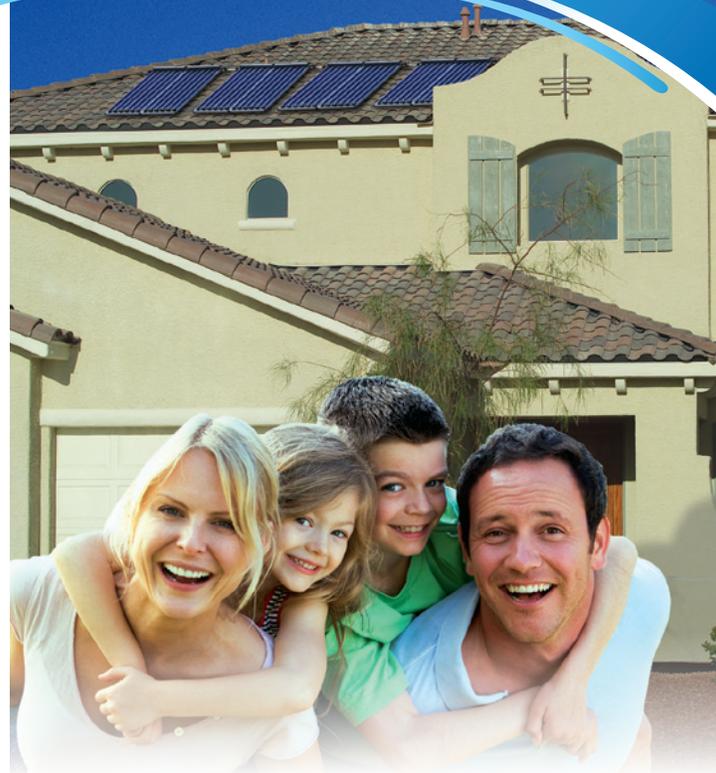


# Solar Hot Water

## Fact Sheet—



### Saving with Solar Hot Water

NV Energy and Southwest Gas Solar Hot Water Programs offer incentives to customers who install eligible solar water heating systems. Using the sun's energy to heat water can save you energy, lower your hot water bills, and reduce your carbon footprint.

### Things to Consider

While a solar water heating system may initially cost more than a conventional heater or boiler, it will more than pay for itself over time through energy savings. Since you are using the sun's free energy for heating your water, rather than the more conventional gas or electric fuel sources, you'll be protected from increasing energy costs for years to come.

### Energy Efficiency First

Before beginning any renewable energy project, first make sure your home is as energy-efficient as possible. To get the most out of your solar water heating system's performance, you should first install items such as low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators to reduce your overall hot water demand.

Visit [www.swgas.com](http://www.swgas.com) or [www.NVEnergy.com](http://www.NVEnergy.com) for energy saving tips and information on programs available to increase home efficiency.



**SOUTHWEST GAS**  
smarter > greener > better™



### How does the sun heat water?

Using the sun for water heating is a natural way to conserve resources, protect the environment, save energy and reduce monthly utility bills. The concept behind solar water heating is simple:

- In a solar hot water system, water is circulated through solar collectors where it is heated by the sun's energy. Typically, a tank located next to the water heater is used to store the water that has been heated by the sun.
- When the water temperature in the water heater drops, that water is replaced with the hot water in the thermal storage tank and pumped to the collectors to be heated by the sun. Only when the hot water in your water heater and the thermal storage tank is exhausted will your conventional water heater be utilized.
- The result is a significant increase in efficiency because the free and renewable energy from the sun is replacing much of the energy needed from electricity, natural gas, or other fuels.



# Solar Hot Water

## Fact Sheet—

### Program Incentives For NV Energy or Southwest Gas Customers

For NV Energy or Southwest Gas natural gas customers, rebates will be in the form of a one-time payment based on displacement rating in therms of the solar water heating system. Incentive amounts vary per therm displaced for each program category and step.

For NV Energy electric customers, rebates will be in the form of a one-time flat rate incentive for solar water heating systems offsetting a minimum of 1,800 kWh/year for Northern Nevada customers, and 1,500 kWh/year for Southern Nevada customers.

**Rebates are subject to change and available on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding is expended.**

### Other Financial Incentives

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides a 30% federal tax credit for qualified residential solar hot water systems. The act also contains the Business Energy Investment Tax Credit (ITC), which provides a 30% federal tax credit for commercial, industrial, utility, and agricultural solar hot water systems. These incentives can be combined with utility rebates to help offset the total installation and system costs. Consult your tax professional for more information.

### Eligible Contractors

Solar Hot Water Program participants are required to use a program eligible Nevada contractor to install their solar water heating system. Eligible contractors hold the appropriate Nevada State Contractor licenses, have successfully completed an NV Energy and/or Southwest Gas training, and have submitted the required program documentation. Understanding how much a system may cost, what equipment is needed, where it will go, what permits will be necessary, and how the system may perform are some of the questions an eligible contractor can help answer.

**For a list of eligible contractors or to learn how to become eligible, visit:**

—**NV ENERGY**  
nvenergy.com/renewablegenerations  
or call 1-866-786-3823.

—**SOUTHWEST GAS**  
solarwaterheatingrebate.com  
or call 1-855-743-1603.

### Tips for Choosing a Contractor

- Consult with several contractors and get written quotes, just as you would when making any major home repairs or improvements.
- Verify that the contractor's license is current and active at [www.nvcontractorsboard.com](http://www.nvcontractorsboard.com).
- Ensure all quotes are in writing and only sign after fully understanding the terms and costs are within reason.
- Never provide more than 10 percent of the system's cost for an up-front deposit and do not make final payment until the system is installed and operating properly.
- Ask the contractor questions about their business, the system, or anything you don't understand.
- Request references from previous customers and review past installations to ensure the costs were reasonable, the customers were satisfied and the systems are performing properly.

