

Hello Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council members,

As a fortunate owner of a solar hot water system now for about a dozen years, we would like to recommend that the Mass Save program create or continue a CEC rebate program for solar hot water systems. Our solar hot water system has proven that electric customers can get up to 70% of their hot water needs taken care of by such systems like we have. The return on investment and the avoided fossil fuels costs are great, but our system fulfills Massachusetts' goals for a fossil fuel free future!

Solar hot water systems' advantages are thus very much in line with the rebate programs offered for solar electric PV systems. With respect to carbon emissions, solar hot water systems stand out above other existing alternatives. For example, it produces 3 - 4 times more energy per square foot than solar electricity.

Sadly, current incentives like the Massachusetts CEC rebate are either expiring or being phased out which leaves many homeowners unable to afford a system similar to ours. If these rebates dry up, the Massachusetts solar hot water industry may do so as well, leaving us all in a precarious state. For these many reasons, we urge that Mass Save keep solar hot water rebates in their 2022-24 three year plan!

Thank you for your consideration,
-Fran Fortino