

Dear Council members,

It has come to our attention that the upcoming three year plan is looking to diminish or phase out Solar Hot Water incentives. We are writing to urge for that aspect to be reconsidered.

We live in Warren, MA and had our Solar Hot Water tank (80 gallons coupled with 3 Solar Panels) professionally installed in 2018. In the 20 months that we have been living here, we estimate that we have had the electric (ie, the resistive) portion of the hot water tank activated for less than 30 hours IN TOTAL. This represents a huge operational savings for us. All of this was done with generous rebates and incentives from MassSave and CEC.

We love our Solar Hot Water system. Starting in the morning, just after sunrise, we actively watch the collector temperature, watch the tank temperature and anticipate when the Sun's energy makes its contribution to the tank. It's almost a game for us during the dull time of winter. We have set our SHW tank to 170 degrees, so it is a great battery, slowly releasing heat to the rest of the house during the chilly months. We routinely review the recent activity via the online logging capability.

We plan our showers, baths, dishwashing and other hot water needs around the availability of Hot Water in the tank. We pay attention to the sunniness expected over the next several hours so we can optimize our use. When the day is cloudy, then we limit our use of hot water, to extend its availability. The bottom line is that having SHW is silent, reliable and completely *engages our attention* so as to allow us to remain very economical, which is a 'green' activity that should be encouraged with incentives.

Note that we would not have been able to obtain the same SHW experience had we instead chosen to use Solar PV to generate energy to offset our electric water heater. We would have had less overall engagement and would have felt less virtuous, this being merely an economic sleight-of-hand with the utility. Also, our roof orientation would not have permitted enough space for Solar PV panels, but there *was* enough space for three SHW panels. Importantly, SHW does not suffer from the demerits of Solar PV (causing conducted EMI (electromagnetic interference) on the building wiring, among other concerns about the environmental penalties in the panels' manufacture and eventual retirement).

It pleases us to not be dependent on utility power for more than the miniscule amount needed for pumping to the panels. An engaged consumer is going to be a greener consumer who thinks about living within their means, planning

carefully and conscientiously husbanding their energy resources. We feel that our SHW has more broadly affected our relationship with the incoming electric power such that we now actually shut off the breakers for rooms that are not being used. Such are the ripple effects of a successful 'green' heating system.

Regards,
Ken Gartner & Sonia Shapiro