

We would like to request that Mass Save create a rebate program for solar hot water systems. There is a great need, and solar hot water is one of the cheapest, easiest, and most effective ways to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel consumption.

As our state of Massachusetts seeks to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint, solar hot water fills a key niche in reducing the emissions related to domestic water heating. Solar hot water excels well beyond any other existing alternatives. It produces 3 - 4 times more energy per square foot than solar electric. Also, since it only uses a small pump to collect energy, it has a co-efficiency of performance (COP) of 20, which is many times better than heat pump hot water heaters. Furthermore, solar hot water has a 40 plus year proven track record, so we know the benefits will last for decades to come.

Solar hot water creates huge economic savings for Massachusetts rate payers as well. Of course there are dollars saved by not burning fuels.

Depending on the type of fuel being offset, a household of 4 could save up to \$1200 annually.

Furthermore, solar hot water reduces upgrade costs to the grid. In our collective effort to stop burning fossil fuels, Massachusetts is pushing to electrify all loads. That means major upgrade costs to handle the additional loads. The wonderful thing about solar hot water is that, similar to insulation, it reduces the energy demand at the source, so there is less stress on the grid and lower upgrade costs.

Unfortunately, current incentives like the Massachusetts CEC rebate are either expiring or dwindling, leaving the solar hot water industry in a precarious state at best. Installation rates of solar hot water are much lower than PV, so there is a lot of room for a big reduction in carbon footprint.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jon Magee