

I 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 well worth the investment. As a rural homeowner that has a solar hot water system installed on my roof by Co-op Power, I can say that it has not only saved me considerable money but that it is also an environmentally sound investment. My system is configured in such a way that if the water temperature in the solar hot water tank reaches a certain temperature, the electric hot water heater is turned off. This works very well with barely any maintenance costs.

As our state of Massachusetts seeks to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint, solar hot water is in a great position to help by filling a key niche in reducing the emissions related to domestic water heating. With respect to these carbon emissions, solar hot water excels well beyond any other existing alternatives. For example, it produces 3 - 4 times more energy per square foot than solar panels.

In our collective effort to stop burning fossil fuels, Massachusetts is pushing to electrify all loads. Undoubtedly, our grid is facing major upgrade costs to handle the additional loads. The wonderful thing about solar hot water is that, similar to insulation, it reduces the energy needed in the first place, so there will be less stress on the grid and lower upgrade costs. Another way to look at it: solar hot water, with its large storage tank, is the solar that comes with an "off-grid" battery.

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. We ask that Mass Save step up and do its best to renew these incentives.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Greenberg