



State of New Hampshire  
Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, NH 03301-2429



## SOLAR WATER HEATING INCENTIVE PROGRAM BASIC STEPS

*Thank you for your interest in the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's Solar Water Heating Incentive Program.*

Here are basic steps to help you determine if a solar water heating system is right for your residence.

**1. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) strongly recommends participants have an energy audit prior to installing a solar water heating system.** Energy efficiency and conservation are the first steps in any successful energy improvement plan. The less energy you use, the farther your renewable energy generation will go. You may contact your electric utility to determine if you qualify for an audit through their programs. For more information visit [nhsaves.com](http://nhsaves.com). To find a certified energy auditor visit the following websites:

- a. [New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association](#)
- b. [Northeast Sustainable Energy Association](#)
- c. [Residential Energy Performance Association](#) (REPA)

**2. Complete a site assessment.** The best way to determine if you have a good location for a solar energy system is to have a professional site assessment. To find a professional in the solar industry working in NH visit: [New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association](#)

- a. [Northeast Sustainable Energy Association](#)
- b. [FindSolar.com](#)
- c. [The North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners \(NABCEP\)](#)

A site assessment will

- a. provide information about the suitability of your site for solar;
- b. produce a shading analysis report;
- c. determine the best place to locate and orient your system;
- d. evaluate the solar resource available at your location; and,
- e. offer recommendations on solar applications that are appropriate for your site.

**It is highly recommended that you work either with a professional for a site assessment or work with a group such as the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI) for assistance if you are considering self-installing.**

**3. Secure Financing.** There are several ways to fund your renewable energy project including a home equity loan, mortgage refinancing, or a capital improvement loan. In addition to this incentive program please be sure to check the following: [Federal Tax Credits for Consumer Energy Efficiency](#) are available.

- a. A [Federal Tax Credits for Consumer Energy Efficiency](#) of 30% is available and includes installation costs.
- b. NH RSA [72:61-72](#) permits cities and towns to offer exemptions from local property taxes for certain renewable energy installations. These include solar thermal (for example, to heat water), solar photovoltaic (to generate electricity), wind (to generate electricity) and **central** wood-fired heating systems (not stoves or fireplaces).

**4. Apply for Step 1 of the two step Incentive Pre-Approval.** Pre-approval will reserve your place in the funding queue. Once the system has been installed at the owner's residence, the homeowner must then complete Step 2 by submitting a **final incentive request form**. The incentive pre-approval expires 12 months from the date this application is approved. Residents who choose to install systems prior to Commission pre-approval may still apply for this rebate, but the application is subject to Commission approval and availability of funds.

**Note that the additional rebate, outlined in Part B of this application must be completed in total by February 17, 2012.**

**5. Complete Part B (see page 9) if applicable to your project.**

**6. Make a copy of your incentive application materials for your own files and mail or deliver the originals to:**

Sustainable Energy Division  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

For questions regarding this rebate program, visit the Commission's [Questions and Answers on Rebates for Residential Renewable Energy Systems](#) \*\*\*\*\* web page or contact Barbara Bernstein at [barbara.bernstein@puc.nh.gov](mailto:barbara.bernstein@puc.nh.gov) or (603)271-6011.