



SOLAR WATER HEATER

Program Description

Solar water heaters are a cost-effective and environmentally responsible alternative to conventional methods of producing domestic hot water. In response to its aggressive renewable power generation goals, Austin Energy (AE) offers a rebate or a 0% interest loan to its customers as incentives to install solar water heaters. Customers benefit from solar technology through utility bill savings and sound environmental stewardship; AE benefits by reducing its peak demand and reliance on power production from fossil fuels.

QUALIFICATIONS/GUIDELINES

- All Austin Energy residential, commercial and municipal customers are eligible to participate. This includes current and new construction.
- Solar water heater collectors must be SRCC (Solar Rating Certification Corporation) certified.
- Commercial grade systems will receive a custom rebate determined on a case by case basis.
- Austin Energy offers customers the opportunity to receive a one time rebate of \$2,000 per system installed for existing homes and \$1,500 per system installed for new homes. Or, customers living in an existing home can apply for a 0% loan to help finance the installation.
- All installations must adhere to the City of Austin building permit process and new equipment must be installed by licensed contractors.
- All installations must meet all applicable City of Austin codes.
- Customer will have 90 days (from receipt date of application) to install solar water heating system.
- The solar water heater must preheat water for an *electric* water heater that is permanently installed at the structure. Gas water heaters do not qualify for this program at this time.
- The solar water heater installer is responsible for determining the optimal location of the solar collectors. The proposed location must provide maximum benefits.
- Manufacturer must provide a minimum five (5) year warranty on major components. Additionally, the system shall be designed for frost protection and scale elimination or remediation.
- Installed solar water heating system must be new. Rebates will not be offered retroactively (on systems already installed).
- Use of existing tanks will be allowed if the tank is less than five years old at the time of inspection. Tanks over 4 years old must be flushed prior to system activation..

- A licensed electrician contracted by Austin Energy will install a free Cycle Saver water heater timer after system verification.
- Storage tank must be 80 gallons at minimum. Collectors should be sized according to manufacturer recommendation to meet requirements of tank size.
- The rebate application must be submitted before system is installed. The application must be accompanied by SRCC rating data, warranty information and a site sketch showing solar collector location(s).

Participation Process

Step 1

Contact the Austin Energy's Customer Information Center (512-482-5346). They can provide the documents required for applying for available rebates (including a list of Participating Solar Contractors).

Step 2

Contact a Participating Solar Contractor in your area. Austin Energy recommends that you solicit at least three bids for comparative purposes.

Step 3

Complete and submit the Solar Water Heater Application and the Renewable Energy Credit Assignment Agreement. In addition to your signature, the rebate application must also be signed by the installer. The rebate application must be accompanied by the manufacturer's rating and warranty information.

Step 4

Austin Energy will review all Solar Water Heater Applications. After approval, applicant will be notified to begin the solar water heater system installation.

Step 5

Contractor will obtain all necessary City permits and completes equipment installation.

Step 6

Contact Austin Energy (512-482-5369) to schedule a system verification of your installation.

Step 7

A Cycle Saver water heater timer will be installed by a licensed electrician contracted by Austin Energy.

Step 8

Austin Energy will process your rebate. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks from the date of the final inspection before you receive your rebate check.

Rebate Option

Existing Homes	\$2,000 per System
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New Homes

\$1,500 per System

Loan Option

Up to \$5,000 Single Family; \$10,000 for Duplexes

Term 3, 5, 7 or 10 years; Solar Water Heating Systems

Type of Loan	Minimum Loan	3 year	5 year	7 year	10 year
Home Improvement*	\$1500	0% APR	0% APR	0% APR	0% APR
Personal Loan*	\$500	2.0% APR	2.0% APR	N/A	N/A

*Two percent interest will be added to all rates if the credit score is 639 or below.

Loan Approval Process

Step 1

Call 469-7060, or toll free at 1-800-933-2029 (option 3), for over the phone credit screening.

Step 2

Complete the steps in the "Participation Process"

Step 3

Your bid must be reviewed by Austin Energy.

Step 4

You may then fax your loan application to Velocity Credit Union at 225-9205. The company doing your work may be able to help speed up the approval process and can help you fill out your loan application, if needed. Your contractor will receive your loan documents and deliver them to you, or you may request to receive the documents by mail from Velocity.

Velocity Credit Union
P.O. Box 1089
Austin Tx 78767-1089

Participating Customer Responsibilities

- Customer agrees to maintain the installed solar water heating system in proper working condition for a minimum period of five (5) years. Failure to do so may constitute a repayment of a prorated portion of the rebate that shall become due and payable to AE.
- Customer agrees to allow AE to perform equipment inspection(s).

Renewable Energy Credits

A Renewable Energy Credit (REC) represents one megawatt hour (MWh) of renewable energy that is physically metered and verified in Texas. A REC is the commodity used by electric providers in Texas to account for their participation the State's renewal energy goals program. Customers requesting available rebates for solar water heating system installations must sign AE's REC Assignment Agreement form; by doing so they are agreeing to assign the RECs generated by their solar water heating system to Austin Energy in consideration for receipt of a rebate.

The Austin Energy guidelines and rebate levels are subject to change at any time, without notice.

Austin Energy – Power Saver™ Program – Commercial Rebate
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