

SOLAR THERMAL PROGRAM

“The new solar water heating rebate program was a big part of our decision to replace the older system that was on our home. We get all the hot water we need for the three of us, and the natural gas portion of our utility bill is minimal. The gas water heater only switches on a couple of days a year.”

- Dale Sweetnam, Resident, San Diego

The CPUC initiated a program of incentives for solar water heating in 2010 with the goal of an additional 200,000 solar thermal systems in the state by 2018. The new program draws heavily from the previous experiences of the CSI Solar Water Heating Pilot Program directed by CCSE, which was limited to customers in the SDG&E territory.

CCSE's CSI-Thermal Program launched its single-family residential program in May and the multifamily/commercial program in October. The team conducted a series of homeowner workshops about solar water heating and provided training for installers, qualifying 186 local contractors for the program.

The CCSE CSI-Thermal team also administers a solar water heating program for the City of Palo Alto Utilities that incentivized nine projects for a total of \$28,141 during 2010.

Among the first San Diegans to take advantage of the CSI-Thermal rebate program, Dale Sweetnam is not a newcomer to solar water heating. His previous home in Lodi, Calif., had solar water heating, and when he moved to San Diego in 2004, the house he bought had a 30-year-old system getting near replacement. When the rebate program got under way, he saw an opportunity to get a new system and increase the value of his home.

Dale Sweetnam
Resident
San Diego