

10 Million Solar Roofs & 10 Million Gallons of Solar Hot Water Act

Introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Background

The *10 Million Solar Roofs & 10 Million Gallons of Solar Hot Water Act* would address rising energy costs, global warming and America's dependence on foreign energy sources and create tens of thousands of new green-collar jobs and billions of dollars in new investment. The legislation would spur the installation of [photovoltaic](#) (PV) and [solar water heating](#) (SWH) technology across the country by providing direct rebates to consumers. Analysis by SEIA shows that there is sufficient roof space in the United States to provide 20% of total electricity demand using PV panels.

Key Provisions

- Provides a direct rebate to the purchasers of solar PV or solar thermal systems in the United States. The maximum rebate for PV systems would begin at \$1.75/watt and would decline to \$0.50/watt in 2018. The maximum solar thermal rebate would be \$1/watt.
- Eligible recipients include homeowners, businesses, non-profit entities and state or local governments. The properties on which the solar systems are installed must be located within the United States and must meet energy efficiency criteria designated by the Secretary of Energy. The solar systems must also be no larger than 2 megawatts.
- The total rebate may not exceed 50% of the net installed system cost after factoring in other rebates, tax credits and incentives.



Workers install a solar system on a zero-energy home. The system has both photovoltaics and solar thermal collectors and will provide enough electricity and hot water to meet all the occupants' needs. (Photo—Pete Beverly)

Why a National Solar Roofs Program?

- Solar is an economic engine, creating manufacturing and installations jobs across the country, spurring investment and saving consumers money on their utility bills. Each megawatt of distributed solar installed annually in the U.S. supports 25 jobs. The solar industry as a whole supports over 60,000 jobs in the United States.
- Solar helps provide energy security by generating clean power and reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy.
- Solar systems generate the most energy during periods of peak electricity use and reduce the need for expensive generation from gas-fired power plants.
- Solar produces clean, renewable thermal and electrical energy with zero emissions and is a key technology in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming.

Learn more about the economic benefits of solar from SEIA's web site at www.SEIA.org.