

Comment from Jeff Brown, California Solar Energy Industries Association
Via Email to Bill Pennington, California Energy Commission

From: Jeff Brown <solarman@sbcglobal.net>
To: <bpenning@energy.state.ca.us>
Date: 7/6/02 12:29PM
Subject: Solar DHW and Title 24

Dear Mr. Pennington,

Greetings,

Having been in the solar industry for 21 years now, and sit on the Board of Directors for the California Solar Energy Industries Association(CalSEIA). I am very curious to see if the 2005 Title 24 code is going to favor solar hot water heating.

I do not know if you have looked at it this way yet, but the way we look at the California energy market is that energy is energy. Now with all the Natural gas that is burning to generate electricity, we have to look at how much solar hot water heating generates as well. If you take a typical two collector, 80 gallon solar hot water heating system, doing the math, it converts to about 12kw worth of energy, on new construction this would cost about \$3000-\$3500. A typical Solar hot water heating system can provide on average 75+% of the hot water needs for the typical home. Thus resulting in 75+% savings in energy costs to the homeowner. With solar hot water heating the typical family needs minimal or no natural gas at all during the summer months, thus giving more for electrical generation at the power plants. If we had less gas water heaters firing up during the summer here in California, look into what it could do for our air as well.

The manufacture I represent is the worlds largest supplier of solar hot water heating systems, they are in over 70 countries and this next year, they celebrate their 50th year of manufacturing solar hot water heaters. The now average over 20,000 systems per month. There are parts of the world that over 50% of all water heaters in the area are solar hot water heaters. Yet, here in sunny California, I would dare to say, installs less that 1500 new solar hot water heating systems per year.

Thanks for your time in reading this email, I just wanted to provoke some thought.....

Sincerely,

Jeff D. Brown