



Solar Water Heating Grant Program Application

Instructions: Please complete this application along with appropriate supporting documentation (i.e. invoices and equipment specifications) and email to grants@delaware.coop

Alternatively, you may mail applications to:

Delaware Electric Cooperative
ATTN: Lucas Zlock, Manager of Energy Services
14198 Sussex Highway
Greenwood, DE 19950

GENERAL INFORMATION

Delaware Electric Cooperative is offering grant funding for the installation or replacement of solar water heating systems.

Subject to availability of funds, the Renewable Resource Program offers grants for solar water heating systems installed by qualified contractors and member-owners up to 20% of the total installed cost. Grants will not exceed \$2,000 per Class A systems and \$3,500 per Class B systems.

Solar water heating systems integrated into a radiant heating application are eligible for a grant up to 20% of the installed cost of the solar energy portion of the system. Grants will not exceed \$2,500 per Class A systems and \$3,500 per Class B systems.

“Class A” means the class or classes of member-owners with an average monthly peak demand of less than 50 kW over the prior twelve months. Class A may include residential, lighting, small-commercial, irrigation and poultry accounts. “Class B” means all classes of member-owners with an average monthly peak demand of 50 kW or greater over the prior twelve months. Class B may include large-commercial, primary metered accounts and some poultry accounts. Please check with the Cooperative if you are unsure whether you qualify for Class A or Class B.

“Solar Water Heating” means the heating of water by use of the sun’s energy rather than electricity or gas or some other means. A solar water heating system must be designed to reduce or eliminate the need for electric or gas heated water.

All qualifying Class A solar water heating systems must be certified to meet the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation's (SRCC) OG-300, Operating Guidelines and Minimum Standards for Certifying Solar Water Heating Systems: An Optional Solar Water Heating System Certification and Rating Program and have a Freeze Tolerance Limit of minus 21 degrees Fahrenheit without electrical power.

All qualifying Class B solar water heating systems and solar energy systems integrated into a radiant heating application must utilize collectors certified to meet the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation's (SRCC) OG-100, Operating Guidelines for Certifying Solar Collectors only.

Class B solar water heating systems will be required to submit a detailed system design and a predicted performance calculation verified by a Professional Engineer (P.E.)

Solar water heating systems integrated into solar pool heating systems for any reason will not be eligible for funding.

Funding is limited: For calendar year 2025, grants will be made first to existing systems that meet the conditions for grants and any monies left over will be used for systems yet to be installed. Grants will be paid on a rolling basis throughout the year in the order that completed applications are received. Under no circumstances will grants be issued for land acquisition in association with any project proposed in the Renewable Resource Program.

Once DEC has awarded grants equal to the total estimated 2025 fund allocation, no further grants will be awarded for calendar year 2025. Applications not awarded a grant for 2025 will not be held until the next year. Grant funding and amounts may change from year to year and are not guaranteed.

The Solar Water Heating Grant Program is available to member-owners of the Cooperative receiving distribution delivery and energy supply service from the Cooperative. All eligible equipment and products must be installed in Delaware on an active Cooperative electric account and used solely for the energy requirements of Cooperative member-owners. Grants will not be provided for energy requirements in excess of a member-owners average annual consumption. In determining the average annual consumption, the Cooperative will average the prior two years of consumption for the account applicant. Should the account applicant be a new service or have had service for less than two years, a comparable account may be used as a substitute for quantifying the average annual consumption.

All qualifying systems receiving a Solar Water Heating Grant must have a full 5-year warranty against component failure, malfunction and premature output degradation. The warranty must cover all components for which the program incentive is granted and cover the full cost of repair and replacement of all components of the system. For professionally installed systems, the warranty must cover the labor to remove and replace defective components and systems.

Member-owners and contractors applying for a solar water heating grant must provide the following information to the Cooperative:

1. Completed Grant Application Form signed by both member-owner and contractor
2. The type of qualifying system
3. Copy of final sales invoice must include: final paid costs, itemized list of installed major system components and costs, labor cost, permits and fees costs, system size (kW for wind, square feet and gallons for solar hot water, tons for geothermal), and state the five (5) year parts and labor warranty (invoice must include actual price paid, itemized list of components, labor, permit fees, method of payment).

Upon receipt of the Grant Approval Request and supporting documents, the Cooperative will review and approve, as funding allows, the project described in the Grant Approval Request. The Cooperative will issue an approval letter to the applicant via mail or email. If all documents are not provided, the grant request may be delayed or denied. Grant requests that do not meet program requirements and those submitted in excess of available funds will be returned to the applicant with a denial letter via mail or email.

In the event grants cannot be paid immediately, each completed grant package will be placed in queue for payment by the Cooperative. As new funds are collected, the next approved package will be paid out. The contractor and member-owner are fully responsible for insuring that all forms and documentation have been supplied and the system meets all program requirements. The Cooperative may inspect the system(s) prior to final grant approval.

The Cooperative will ordinarily process the payment to the applicant; however, if the applicant so requests in writing and documentation reflects the installation cost to the applicant was reduced directly from the purchase price, the Cooperative will process the payment to the retailer, or installing contractor.

To receive grant funding, projects must be installed by a Delaware DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy approved contractor. A list of approved contractors can be found here:

<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/renewable/participating-contractors/>

The Program funds are limited. The Participating Contractor shall follow program guidelines to insure approval of funds. The contractor will also inform their existing customers of any and all changes to the Renewable Resource Fund program within seven (7) days of programmatic changes. If it is found that contractors are using unethical tactics to sell renewable energy systems, based on false or misleading information or claims about renewable energy systems or the Renewable Resource Program, the Cooperative may impose sanctions, up to and including suspension, as a participating contractor. If grant funds are not available for payment at the time of completion, completed projects will be placed in a queue.

Grant funds may be awarded to applicants that choose to act as the general contractor (self installation) for the installation of their renewable energy system. Member-owners who install their own systems or act as the general contractor shall adhere to any and all requirements as established by the Cooperative to be eligible for grants. Applicants must submit a signed warranty statement by the applicant stating that the workmanship is self-warranted for 5 years. The applicant must also submit the product warranties showing coverage for at least 5 years on the major components.

All qualifying systems must be installed in accordance with the standards and specifications of the manufacturers of the components in the system, in compliance with all applicable local electric and building codes, local ordinances and these guidelines. Where discrepancies, if any, exist with these guidelines and local codes, local codes shall govern.

Optimum collector array orientation is a 180° true bearing. However, the program accepts solar collectors oriented between South of due East and South of due West or between 80° and 260° true bearing. Systems installed between 260° and 80° true bearing or North of due East and North of due West are not eligible for a Renewable Resource Program Grant.

Optimum collector tilt is equal to the latitude at the installation site. However, the program accepts collector tilt parameters as specified by the collector manufacturer, which may allow for tilts greater than and less than latitude.

All collectors shall be installed such that the collector array has a minimum of six (6) hours of unobstructed sunshine daily inclusive of solar noon. A "solar window" of eight (8) hours of unobstructed sunshine is preferred.

The installing contractor is responsible for insuring that the system is free from shading. The installing contractor shall perform a "Solar Shade Analysis" on all installations and provide documentation for each grant application to ensure the array meets the minimum daily sunshine requirements. Results of the solar shade analysis must determine that 70% of the annual solar path's area is shade free to be considered for a grant.

SYSTEM COSTS

MATERIALS: \$ _____

LABOR: \$ _____

PERMITS/FEES: \$ _____

ENGINEERING/DESIGN: \$ _____

OTHER: \$ _____

TOTAL COST: \$ _____

Attach Copy of Project Estimate, Purchase Order or Letter of Intent

GRANT CALCULATION

1. TOTAL SYSTEM COSTS.....\$ _____

2. INELIGIBLE COSTS.....(\$ _____)

3. OTHER INCENTIVES (source: _____).....(\$ _____)

4. SUM OF REDUCTIONS (add line 2 and 3).....\$ _____

5. TOTAL COSTS (line 1 minus line 4).....\$ _____

6. REBATE MULTIPLIER x 20%

7. LESS PRIOR GRANTS AWARDED/RECEIVED.....\$ _____

8. AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED.....\$ _____

MAXIMUM GRANT:

Water Heater Only: Class A = \$2,000, Class B = \$3,500

Integrated Heating: Class A = \$2,500, Class B = \$3,500

Declaration

I understand and agree that: 1) the information provided in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, 2) the site of installation is interconnected to the DEC electric system, 3) DEC and its agents provide no warranty for system components, installation, performance, or operation, 4) all warranties are provided by manufacturer's and installing contractor, and 5) the purchaser has received a copy of this form.

Member-Owner

Installation Contractor

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Payment Preference

Please indicate whether you would like to receive payment via mailed check or direct deposit. If direct deposit is chosen, then please complete the ACH Authorization Agreement on the next page.

Mailed Check _____

Direct Deposit _____

