When you install a solar water heating system for your business, you'll use less energy, which keeps your monthly utility bill down and your profits up.

Add in current rebates of up to $800,000 and heating water with the sun can be a sound investment.

Find out more about solar water heating
For more information and a directory of eligible, local contractors who can get you started visit energycenter.org/hotwater

California Solar Initiative (CSI) – Thermal Program

The CSI-Thermal Program is funded by California investor-owned utility customers and is administered by regional Program Administrators under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

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Solar collectors, typically mounted on your property’s roof, absorb the sun’s thermal energy. A pump circulates a heat transfer fluid from the collectors through a heat exchanger in your solar storage tank. The heat exchanger transfers the sun’s warmth to your water supply. Hot water flows to your existing boiler or water heater, which provides backup heating when the sun isn’t shining.

Hot water 24/7.
A solar water heating system captures the thermal energy of the sun and uses it to heat water for your commercial needs. Unlike solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that collect sunlight and convert it into electricity, solar water heating systems simply absorb the sun’s heat.

On cloudy days and at night, the system works with your existing boiler or water heater so that your property has hot water 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

How does it work?
1. Solar collectors, typically mounted on your property’s roof, absorb the sun’s thermal energy.
2. A pump circulates a heat transfer fluid from the collectors through a heat exchanger in your solar storage tank.
3. The heat exchanger transfers the sun’s warmth to your water supply.
4. Hot water flows to your existing boiler or water heater, which provides backup heating when the sun isn’t shining.

Warm more than tap water.
Hotels, gyms, restaurants, process plants and other businesses can use solar thermal in a variety of ways:
• Pool and spa heating
• Domestic hot water for bathing, dishwashing, laundry, etc.
• Space heating and cooling
• Process heat

Why heat water with the sun?
• It reduces energy use and lowers your monthly utility bill
• The savings over time can be substantial, making it a good investment
• It captures free, clean energy from the sun
• It makes your property more sustainable by reducing its carbon footprint

Get a rebate when you install solar water heating.
Up to $800,000 per site is available for eligible natural gas-displacing systems.
You may also qualify for a federal tax credit up to 30% of system costs and accelerated depreciation when you install a qualifying solar water heating system.¹

Who is eligible?
The CSI-Thermal Program offers cash rebates to business owners who
• Currently heat water with natural gas
• Install a qualifying solar water heating system²
• Are customers of SDG&E®, SoCalGas® or PG&E

¹ Consult your tax professional for specific details about the federal tax credit.
² Restrictions, requirements and qualifications apply.
³ Center for Sustainable Energy™ (CSE) is the program administrator in the SDG&E® service territory.

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