

# Solar Thermal Energy Technology and Market Trends

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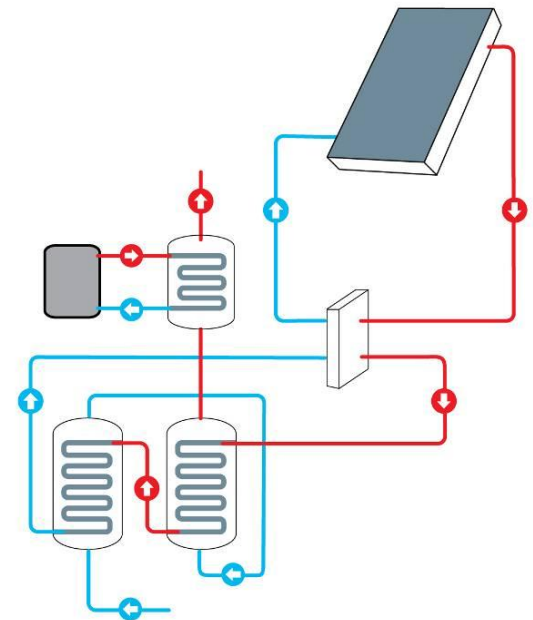
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# Topics



- Discussion of current market shaping trends affecting solar thermal industry: energy prices, environmental concerns, public awareness, incentives and information on where to find them, certification issues
- Types of solar thermal collectors and systems now used, pros/cons of evacuated tubes and flat plate collectors
- Examples of various residential and commercial system designs

# Market Transformation

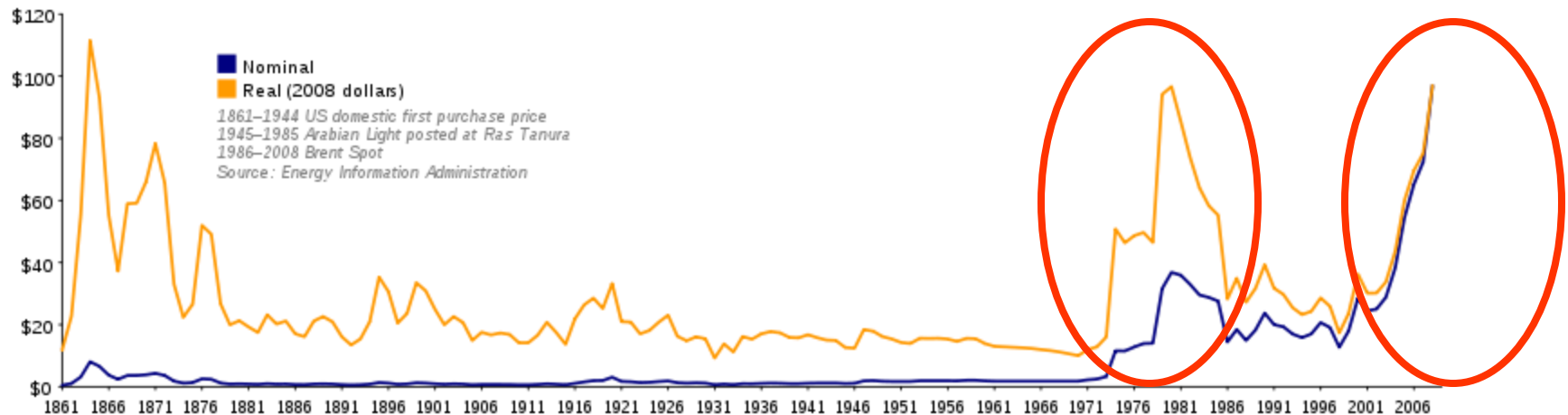
## ● Primary Drivers for Change

- Increase in conventional energy costs as global demand for resources heats up
  - U.S. desire for energy independence
- Need for U.S. job creation
  - Great Recession of 2009
- Global Pressure to reduce carbon emissions
  - Global Warming
  - Green Initiative

# Market Transformation

## ● 1970's vs. Today

- In the 1970's prices spiked due to geo-political pressures...The Arab Oil embargo.



- Today, Supply & Demand Pressures are driving prices...Growth of Emerging Markets (China, India, Brazil) and Global Warming Concerns

# Market Transformation



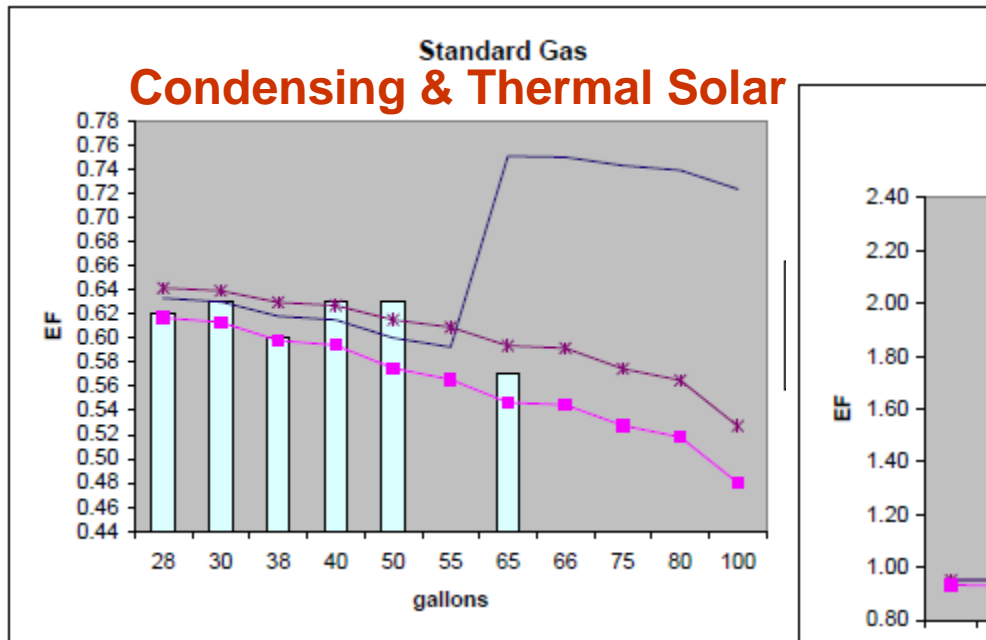
## ● Incentives for Change

- State Renewable & Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards
- DOE Standards and New Construction Requirements
- Federal & State Government incentive programs for the end-user

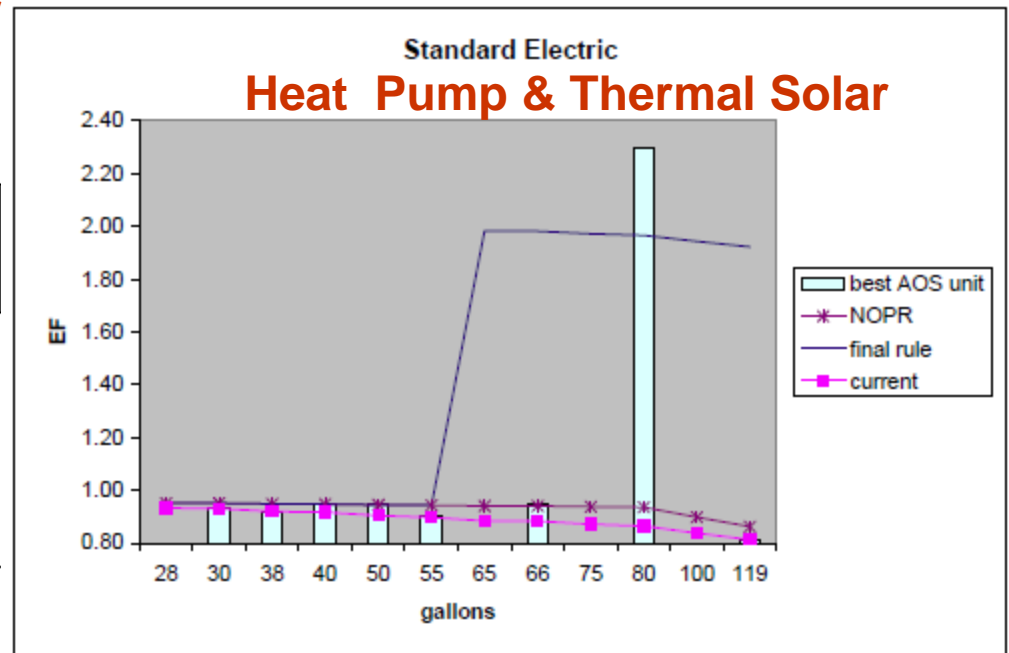


# Market Transformation

## DOE NAECA III – Final



2009: Units over 55 gal. 145,000



2009: Units over 55 gal. 355,000

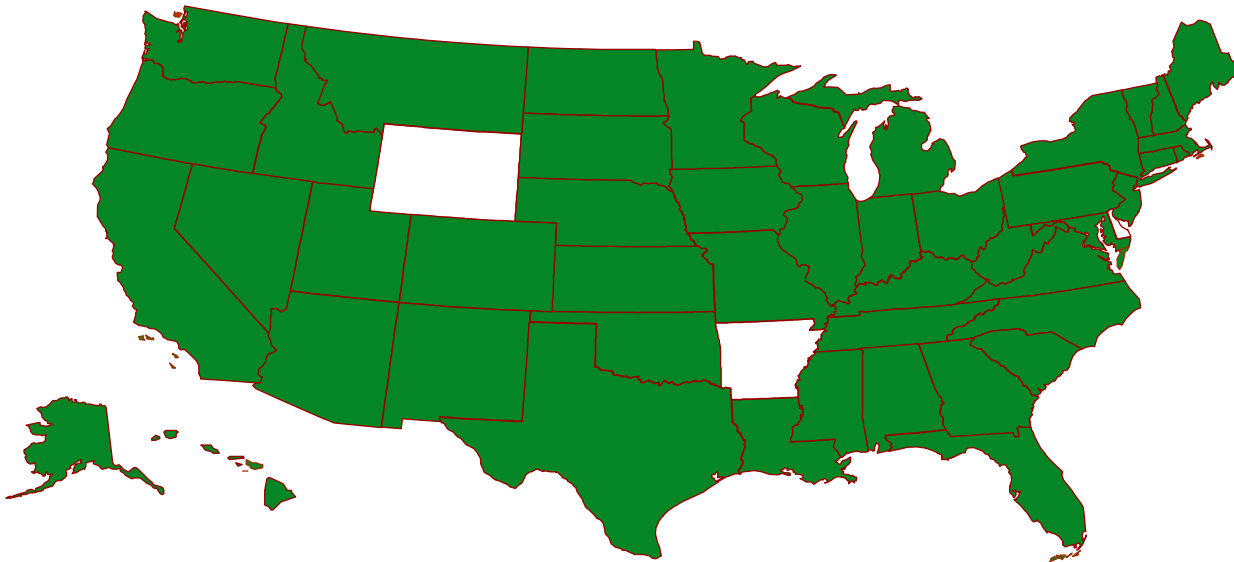
Gas tankless heater minimum set at 0.82 EF

**Effective date will be in April, 2015**

# Market Transformation

## ● Federal Incentives

- Energy-Efficient Mortgages (FHA or VA)
- Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit 30%



[www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)

## ■ State Incentives

- Personal Tax Credit, State Rebate Programs, Utility Programs, Sales Tax exemption, Property Tax Incentives, Grant Programs, Loan Programs, Public Benefit Funds



# Market Transformation

## U.S. Incentives

- Federal Tax rebate – equal to 30% of the systems cost, provided that installation is by Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.
- State incentives – over half of states provide an additional incentive of 500\$ and more.



Ohio: Green Energy Ohio - GEO Solar Thermal  
Rebate Program Amount: \$30 per kBtu/day,  
Maximum Incentive: \$2,400

# Market Transformation


## ● Solar Rating and Certification Corporation



- The corporation is an independent third-party certification entity. It is unique in that it is the only national certification program established solely for solar thermal energy collectors and systems
- It is also the **only** national certification organization whose programs are the direct result of combined efforts of state organizations involved in the administration of standards and an industry association.
- Six to Eight months required for **system certification** and confirmation of the Solar Energy Factor (**SEF**)

# Market Transformation

## Sample SRCC OG100 Certificate

<p>SOLAR COLLECTOR CERTIFICATION AND RATING</p>  <p>SRCC OG-100</p>	<p><b>CERTIFIED SOLAR COLLECTOR</b></p> <p>SUPPLIER:</p> <p>MODEL:</p> <p>COLLECTOR TYPE:</p> <p>CERTIFICATION#:</p>
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### COLLECTOR THERMAL PERFORMANCE RATING

Megajoules Per Panel Per Day				Thousands of BTU Per Panel Per Day			
CATEGORY (Ti-Ta)	CLEAR DAY	MILDLY CLOUDY	CLOUDY DAY	CATEGORY (Ti-Ta)	CLEAR DAY	MILDLY CLOUDY	CLOUDY DAY
A (-5 °C)	54.9	41.6	28.4	A (-9 °F)	52.0	39.4	26.9
B (5 °C)	49.2	35.9	22.7	B (9 °F)	46.6	34.0	21.5
C (20 °C)	40.8	27.8	15.0	C (36 °F)	38.7	26.4	14.2
D (50 °C)	25.4	13.7	3.1	D (90 °F)	24.0	13.0	2.9
E (80 °C)	11.8	2.4	0.0	E (144 °F)	11.2	2.2	0.0

A- Pool Heating (Warm Climate) B- Pool Heating (Cool Climate) C- Water Heating (Warm Climate) D- Water Heating (Cool Climate) E- Air Conditioning

Original Certification Date: 24-APR-09

### COLLECTOR SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Gross Area:</b>	3.710 m <sup>2</sup>	39.93 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>Net Aperture Area:</b>	3.44 m <sup>2</sup>	37.03 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>Dry Weight:</b>	67.0 kg	148. lb	<b>Fluid Capacity:</b>	6.3 liter	1.7 gal
<b>Test Pressure:</b>	551. KPa	80. psg			

# Market Transformation

- Arizona (**OG-300**)
  - Tucson Electric Power (**OG-300**)
- Georgia (**OG-300**)
- California
  - Sacramento Municipal Utility District (**OG-300**)
  - City of Thousand Oaks (OG-300)
  - California Energy Commission (OG-100 and OG-300)
  - Title 24
- Colorado (OG-300)
- Delaware (OG100 and OG300)
- Guam
- Hawaii
  - Hawaiian Electric (OG-100)
  - Hawaii Electric Light (OG-100)
  - Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (OG 100)
  - Maui Electric (OG-100)
- HUD (OG-300)
- Illinois (OG-300)
- Louisiana (OG-100 and OG-300 recommended)
- Maryland (OG-100 and OG-300)
- Minnesota (OG-100 and OG-300)
- Montana
  - National Center for Appropriate Technology
- Nevada
  - Public Utilities Commission (OG-300)
- New Mexico (OG-100 and OG-300)
- North Carolina (OG-100 and OG-300 highly recommended)
- Oregon (OG-300)
  - Eugene Water and Electric Board (OG-300)
  - City of Ashland
- Pennsylvania
  - Allegheny Power (OG-100)
  - GPU (OG-100)
  - PECO Energy (OG-100)
  - PPL (OG-100)
- Texas
  - Oncor (OG-300)
- Utah
  - Questar Gas (OG-100)
- Vermont (OG-100)
- Wisconsin (OG-100 and OG-300)
- Washington, D.C. (OG-100 and OG-300)
- Wyoming
  - Questar Gas (OG-100)

# Market Transformation

What is SEF and how do I calculate Pay Back?

- "Solar Energy Factor" defined as the energy delivered by the system divided by the electrical or gas energy put into the system.
- The higher the number, the more energy efficient the system is. Solar energy factors range from 1.0 to 11. Systems with solar energy factors of 2 or 3 are the most common.

# Market Transformation

## ● Solar Gas Value Proposition – Payback?

Examples: (Assume that gas costs **\$1.60/therm**)

1. TYPICAL GAS WATER HEATER (**EF = 0.6**)

Annual Operating Costs =  $365 \times 0.4105 / 0.6 \times 1.60 = \$399.55$

2. TYPICAL SOLAR SYSTEM (**SEF = 1.7**)

Annual Operating Costs =  $365 \times 0.4105 / 1.7 \times 1.60 = \$141.02$

– Solar system saves \$258.53 per year.

– Payback (SEF 1.7 System):

- Gas Solar system installed \$6,000
- 40 Gallon Gas installed price \$800
- Payback is with in **16 to 33 years**

Note: Does not account for escalation of energy cost or Incentives

# Market Transformation

## ● Solar Electric Value Proposition – Payback?

Examples: (Assume that electricity costs **\$0.12/kWh**)

1. TYPICAL ELECTRIC WATER HEATER (**EF = 0.90**)

Annual Operating Costs =  $365 * 12.03 / 0.90 * 0.12 = \$585.46$

2. TYPICAL SOLAR SYSTEM (**SEF = 2.5**)

Annual Operating Costs =  $365 * 12.03 / 2.0 * 0.12 = \$210.77$

– Solar system saves \$374.69 per year.

– Payback (SEF 2.5):

- Electric Solar System install \$5,500
- 52 Electric installed cost \$700
- **Hawaii 7 years...Idaho 21 years**

Note: Does not account for escalation of energy cost or Incentives

# Market Transformation

## ● Solar Electric Value Payback with Incentives

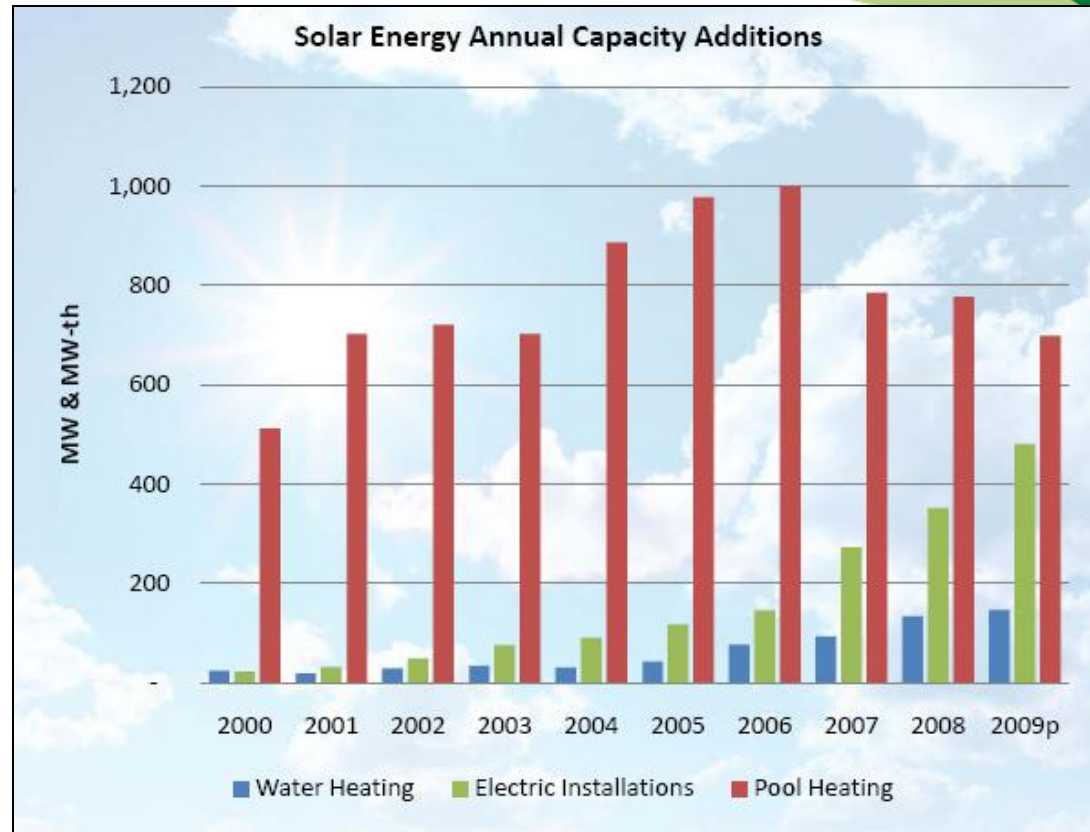
State	Cost Std. Solar System Installed	Federal Tax Credit	State personal Tax Credit	State Rebate	Sales Tax	Utility Rebate	Net Cost Solar System	Cost Std Electric 52 + \$400 Install	Diff,	Pay Back Years
New York	\$8,000	\$1,650	\$2,000		\$0	\$1,200	\$3,150	\$700	\$2,450	4.5
Rhode Island	\$8,000	\$1,650	\$2,000		\$560	\$1,200	\$2,590	\$700	\$1,890	4.1
Hawaii	\$8,000	\$1,650	\$2,800			\$1	\$3,549	\$700	\$2,849	4.2
*Maryland	\$8,000	\$1,650		\$2,800	\$0		\$3,550	\$700	\$2,850	6.2
Massachusetts	\$8,000	\$1,650	\$1,200		\$0	\$1,200	\$3,950	\$700	\$3,250	6.0
*Pennsylvania	\$8,000	\$1,650	\$1,200	\$2,400		\$1	\$2,749	\$700	\$2,049	5.5
Louisiana	\$8,000	\$1,650	\$4,000				\$2,350	\$700	\$1,650	6.1
*New Hampshire	\$8,000	\$1,650				\$1,600	\$4,750	\$700	\$4,050	8.0
Connecticut	\$8,000	\$1,650			\$400		\$5,950	\$700	\$5,250	8.2
California	\$8,000	\$1,650		\$1,500		\$1	\$4,849	\$700	\$4,149	8.9
North Carolina	\$8,000	\$1,650	\$2,800			\$1	\$3,549	\$700	\$2,849	9.0
Georgia	\$8,000	\$1,650	\$2,800			\$1	\$3,549	\$700	\$2,849	9.2
*Oregon	\$8,000	\$1,650	\$1,500	\$1,500		\$1	\$3,349	\$700	\$2,649	9.7

Note: Includes annual solar savings...does not include escalation of energy costs



# Market Transformation

- Solar water heating installations grew by approximately 10%
- Pool Heating installations declined by 10% over 2008
- Annual electric installations grew by approximately 37%

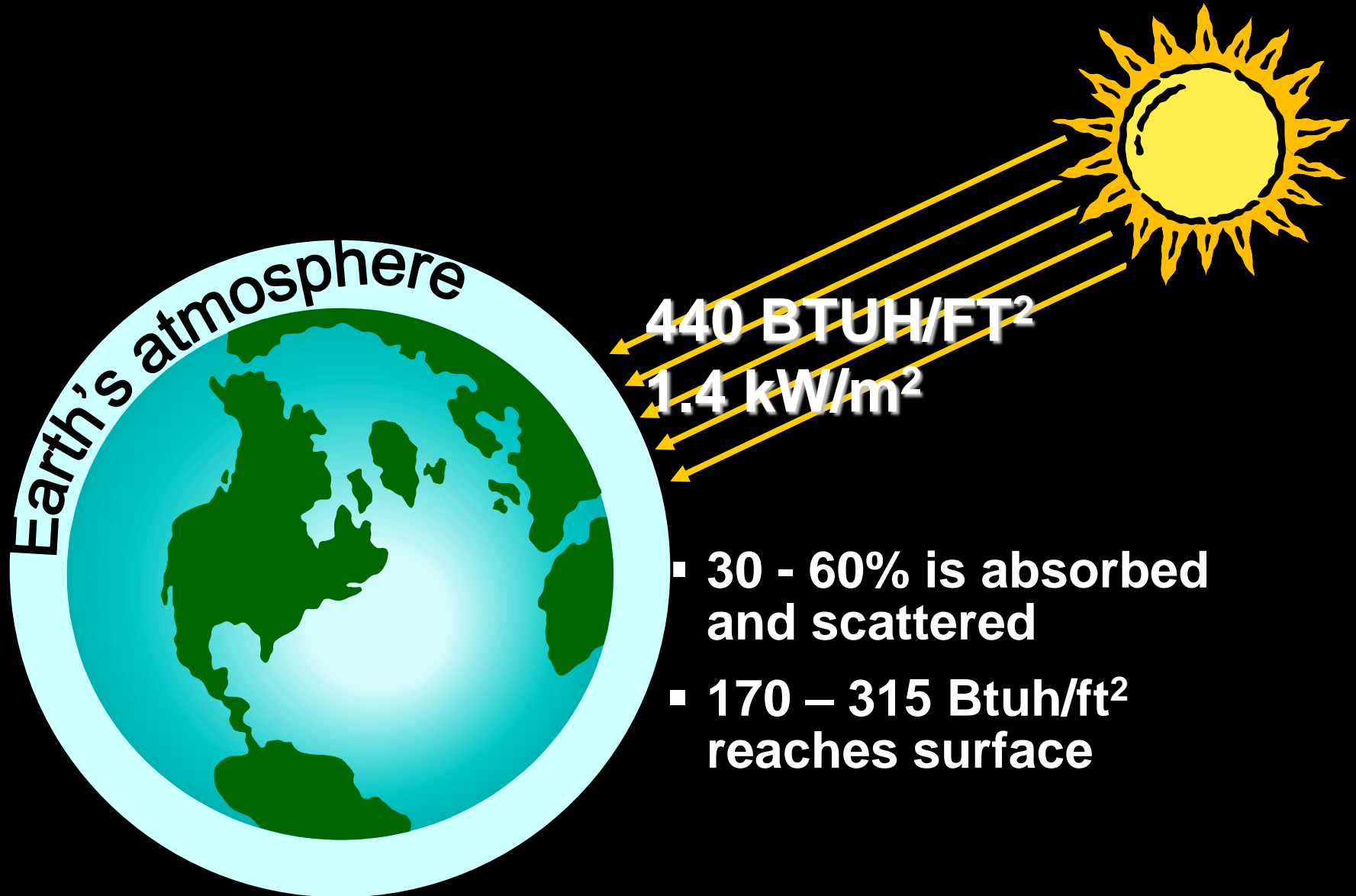


Source: Solar Energy Industries Association



# **Solar Solutions and Collectors/Panels**

# THE SOLAR CONSTANT



# Energy

Energy is measured in many ways.

- One of the basic measuring blocks is called a Btu. This stands for British thermal unit and was invented by, of course, the English.
- Btu is the amount of heat energy it takes to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit, at sea level.  
**8.34 BTU's are required to raise 1 gallon of water 1 degree F.**
- One Btu equals about one blue-tip kitchen match.
- One thousand Btus roughly equals: One average candy bar or 4/5 of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.
- It takes about 2,000 Btus to make a pot of coffee.

# Not all solar is created equal.

## SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS (PV)

- Converts radiant solar energy into DC electricity.
- Efficiencies: 16% for mono-crystalline silicon, 12% for polycrystalline, 4-7% for amorphous silicon cells.

## SOLAR WATER HEATING

Converts radiant solar energy into heat energy for fluid heating applications. Efficiencies range from 50% to 80%

### Advantages of Solar Water Heating:

- *More efficient than solar PV*
- *Less costly to install*
- *Faster payback period (ROI) than PV*

# Solar Electric or PV ?

- Most expensive entry into residential solar energy without significant government incentive programs



Technology	Collector or Module Efficiency	System Efficiency	Cost	System Cost Per KWH*
<b>SHW: 64 sq. ft. of collectors + 80 gal. water heater</b>	50%–70%	35%–50%	\$8,000	\$0.09
<b>Grid-tied PV: 2 KW</b>	5%–19%	4%–13%	20,000	0.27

Source: *Home Power*,  
Oct/Nov 2008 issue

\*Over 30 yrs. in Richmond, Virginia; maintenance costs not included

# Solar SHW vs. Conventional Heating

What is the difference between Solar Hot Water and “standard” gas or electric hot water system?

- **The Basics:**

Solar Hot Water Heating uses simple principles and components to capture incoming solar radiation (sunlight) and transform it heat energy – providing the hot water needed for domestic, commercial, industrial, and other uses. Solar Hot Water Heating Systems have been around decades.

# Water Heating Facts



- The average household with an electric water heater spends about 25% of its home energy costs on heating water  
[Source: Florida Solar Energy Center].
- Solar can save as much as 50-85% annually on the water heating portion of your utility bill (compared to electric water heaters).  
[Source: US Dept. of Energy]



# Americans Want Solar!

- 79% feel that homebuilders should offer solar power as an option for all new homes
- 64% are willing to pay more for a home with solar. For every utility-bill dollar saved annually property value can increase \$10 - \$20. Reducing an annual electric bill by \$1,000 through a solar power investment, can result in \$10,000 to \$20,000 rise in home value. [Source: CNNMoney.com October 2006 ]
- 73% believe that solar energy technology is more important today than ever
- 42% say that saving money on monthly utility bills is the most compelling argument for installing solar power. Others indicated it was to decrease the nation's dependence on oil (31%) or reduce environmental pollution (18%)

*source: Roper survey commissioned by Sharp Electronics Corporation 2006*

# Does solar make sense?

- **YES** if you want to...
- Save money on energy from day 1
- Add re-sale value to your home/business a home's value is increased by \$20,000 for every \$1,000 reduction in annual operating costs from energy efficiency.”
- Be more independent
- Protect our environment
- and can accept longer-term ROI's

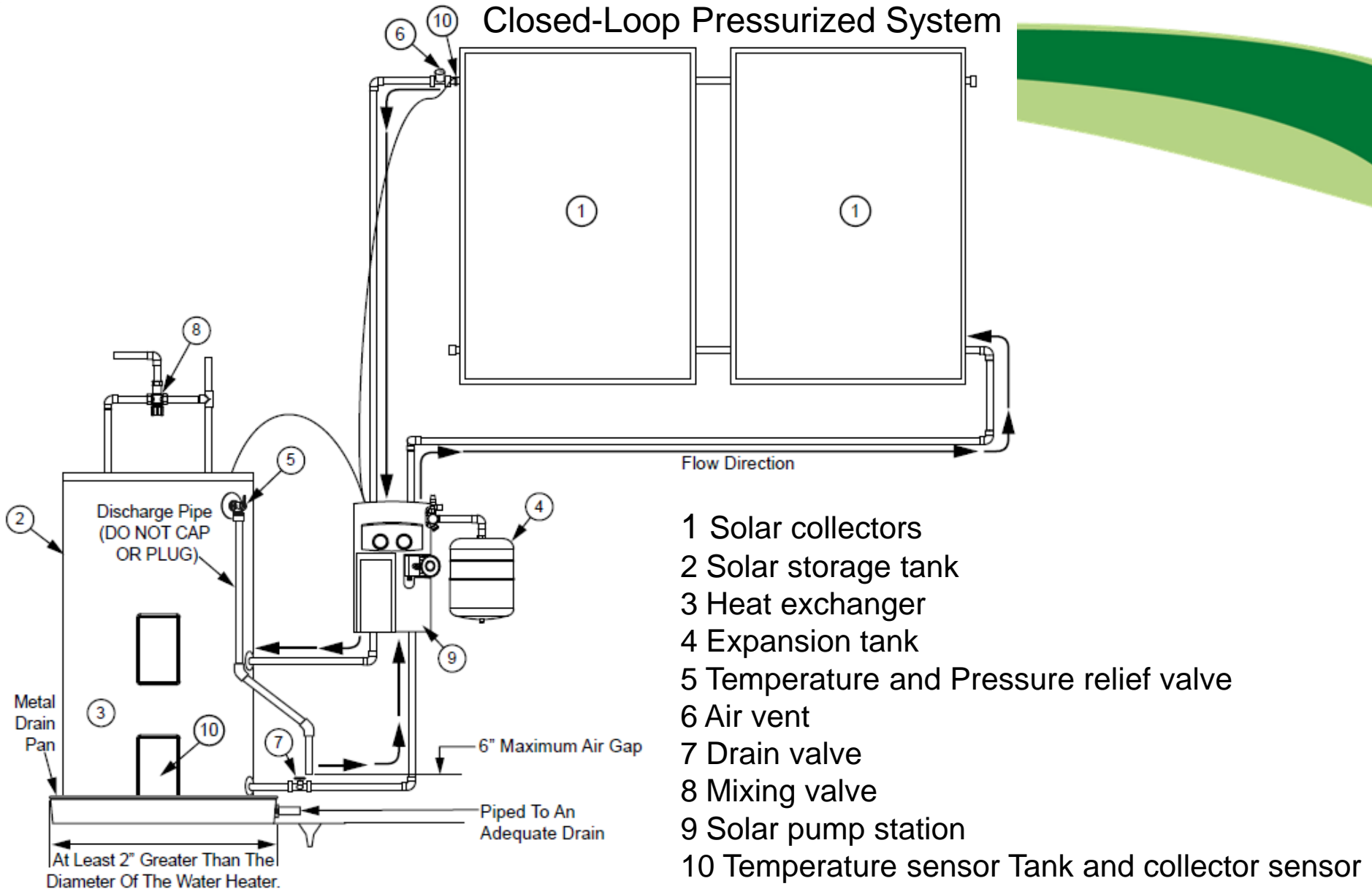
# Solar Thermal Applications



**Solar DHW Solution**

- **Simplest, least expensive entry into solar energy for the home**

# Residential Solar – Packaged Systems

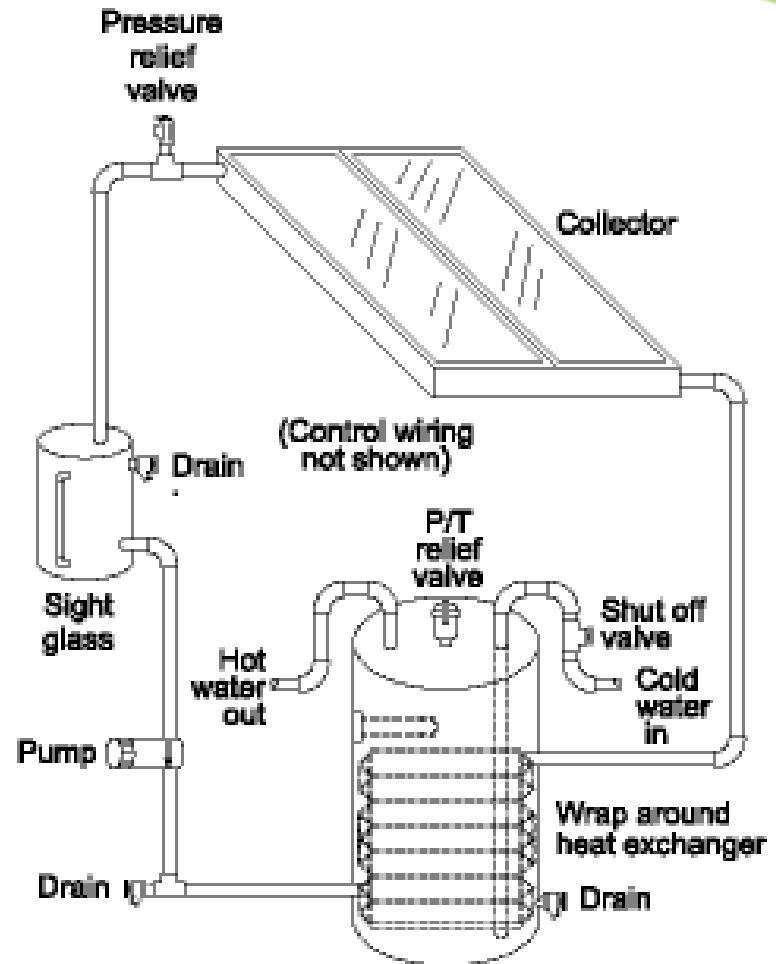


- 1 Solar collectors
- 2 Solar storage tank
- 3 Heat exchanger
- 4 Expansion tank
- 5 Temperature and Pressure relief valve
- 6 Air vent
- 7 Drain valve
- 8 Mixing valve
- 9 Solar pump station
- 10 Temperature sensor Tank and collector sensor

# Drain Back Systems

## What is the advantage of Drain Back?

- Better thermal efficiency since you can run just water through the panels (or a lower concentration of glycol)
- Allows the system to shut down at any time the tank temperature reaches set point, avoiding the "boiling" or "frying" of a glycol water solution.

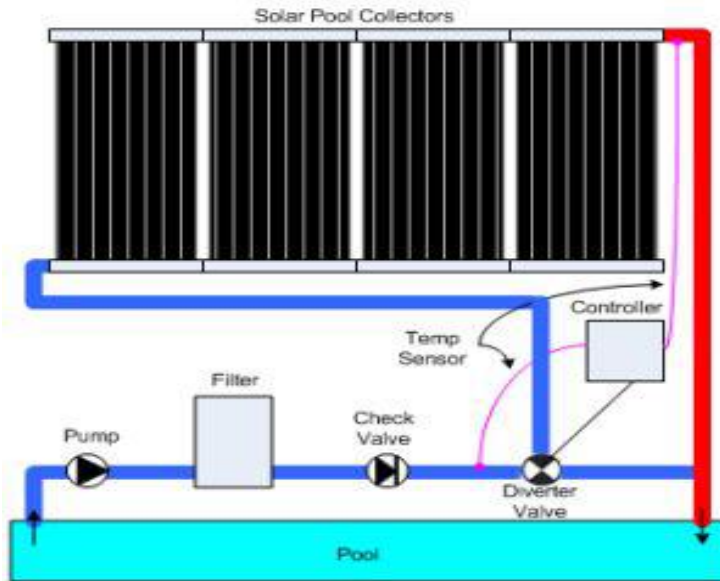


# Drain Back Systems

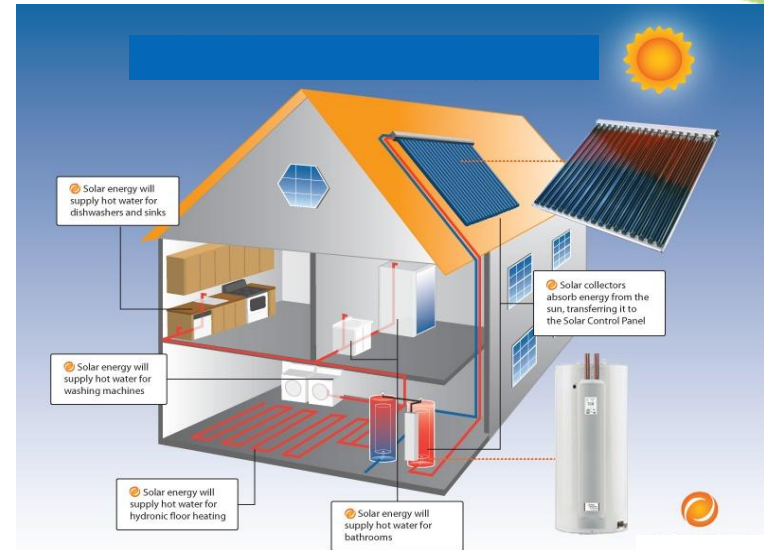
## What are the disadvantages of Drain Back?

- Disadvantages include increased installation costs and difficulties installing properly pitched supply/return lines.
- Drainage and filling cycles are typically noisy and pump needs to be sized for lifting.

# Solar Thermal Applications



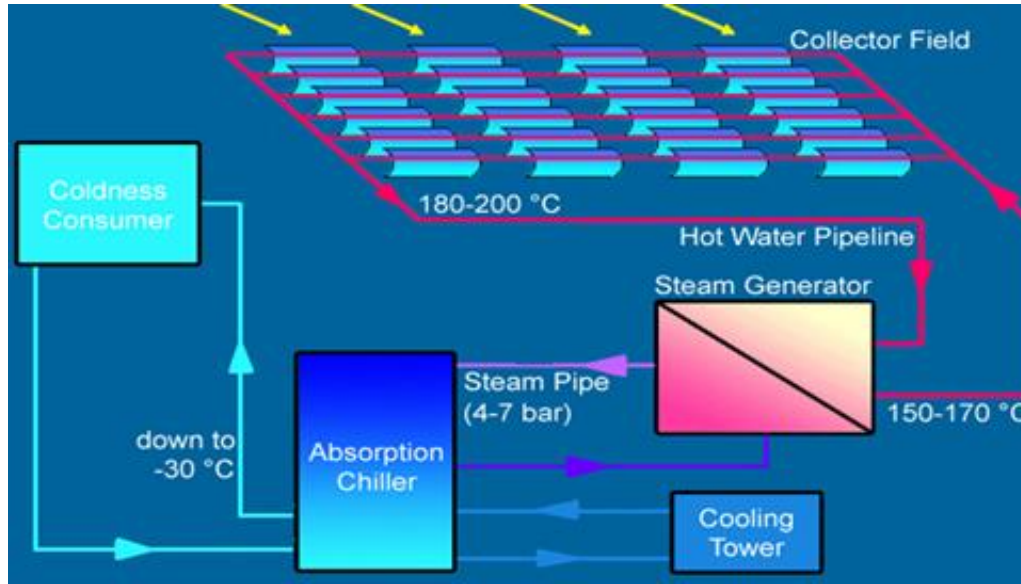
**Solar Pool Heating Applications**



**Solar Hydronic Systems**

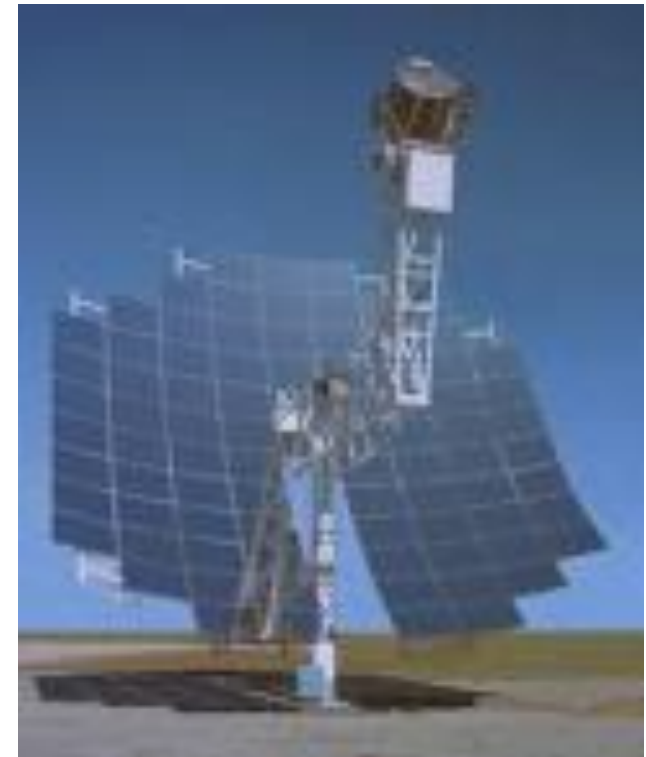
- Indoor / Outdoor pools
- Combi-Systems
- Space Heating Support

# Solar Thermal Applications



**Solar Cooling Applications**

- **LiBr single effect absorption chillers**

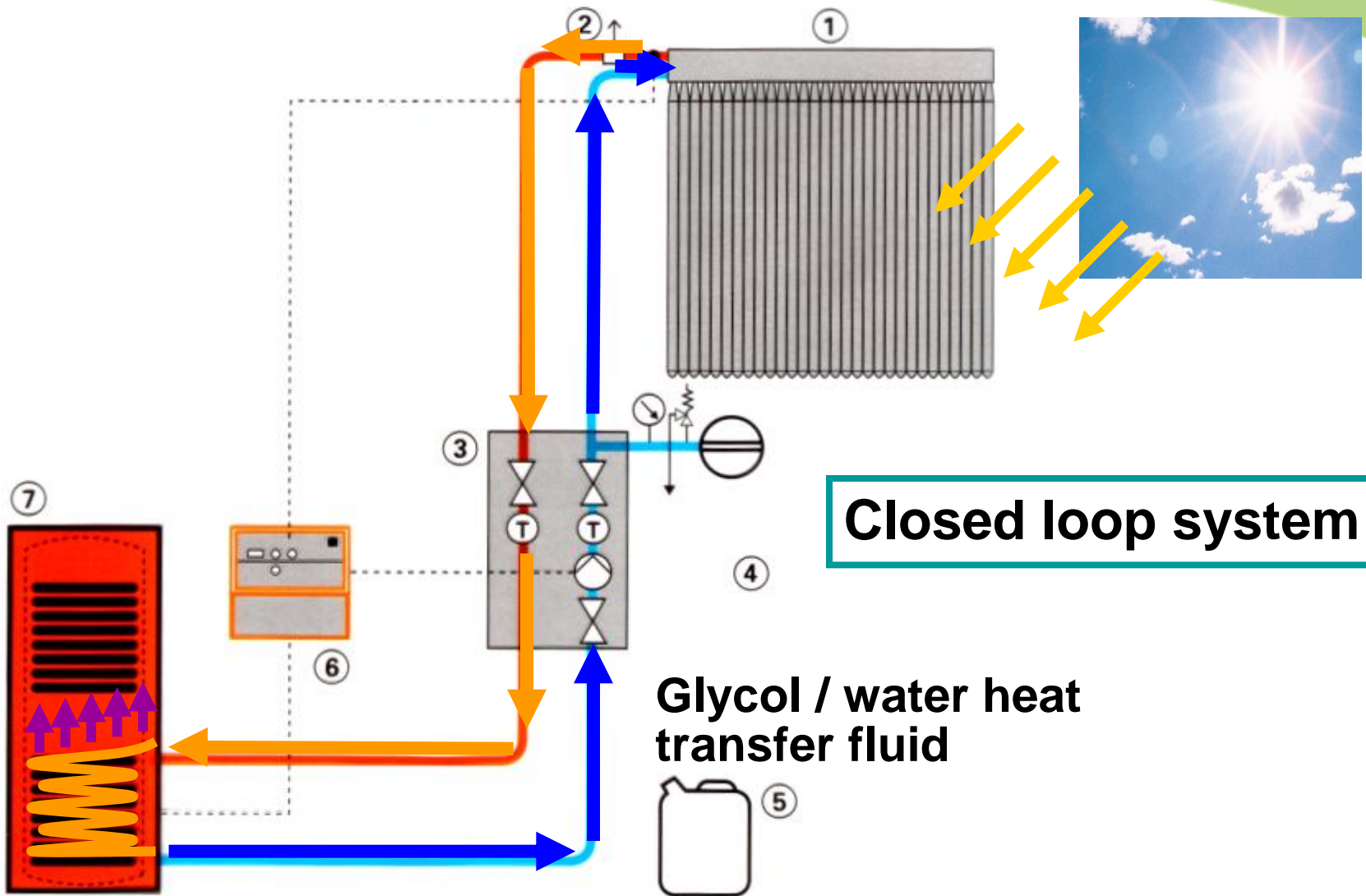


**Solar Electric Power Plants**

- **Concentrating solar arrays**



# SOLAR THERMAL SYSTEMS



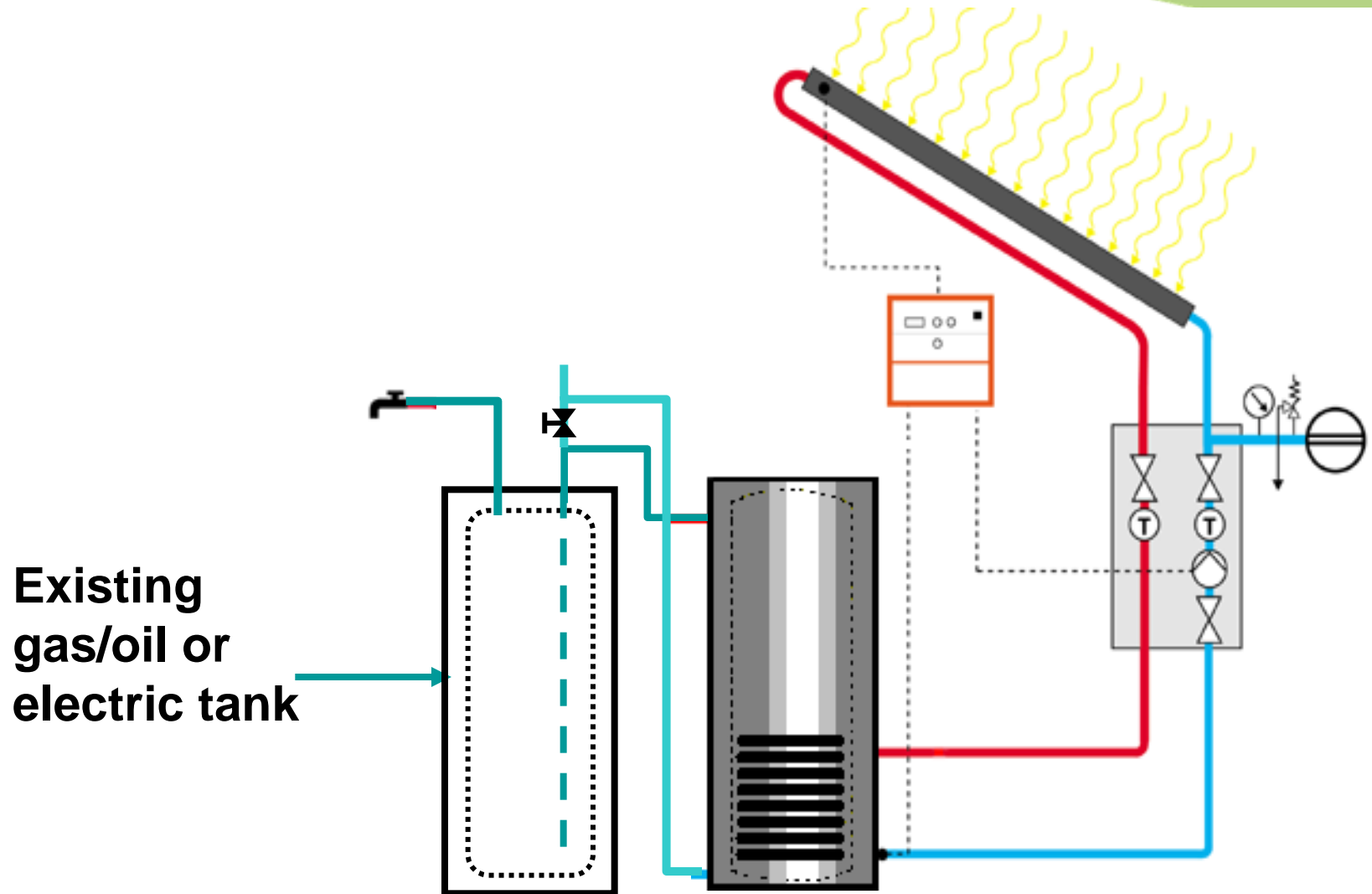
**Closed loop system**

**Glycol / water heat transfer fluid**



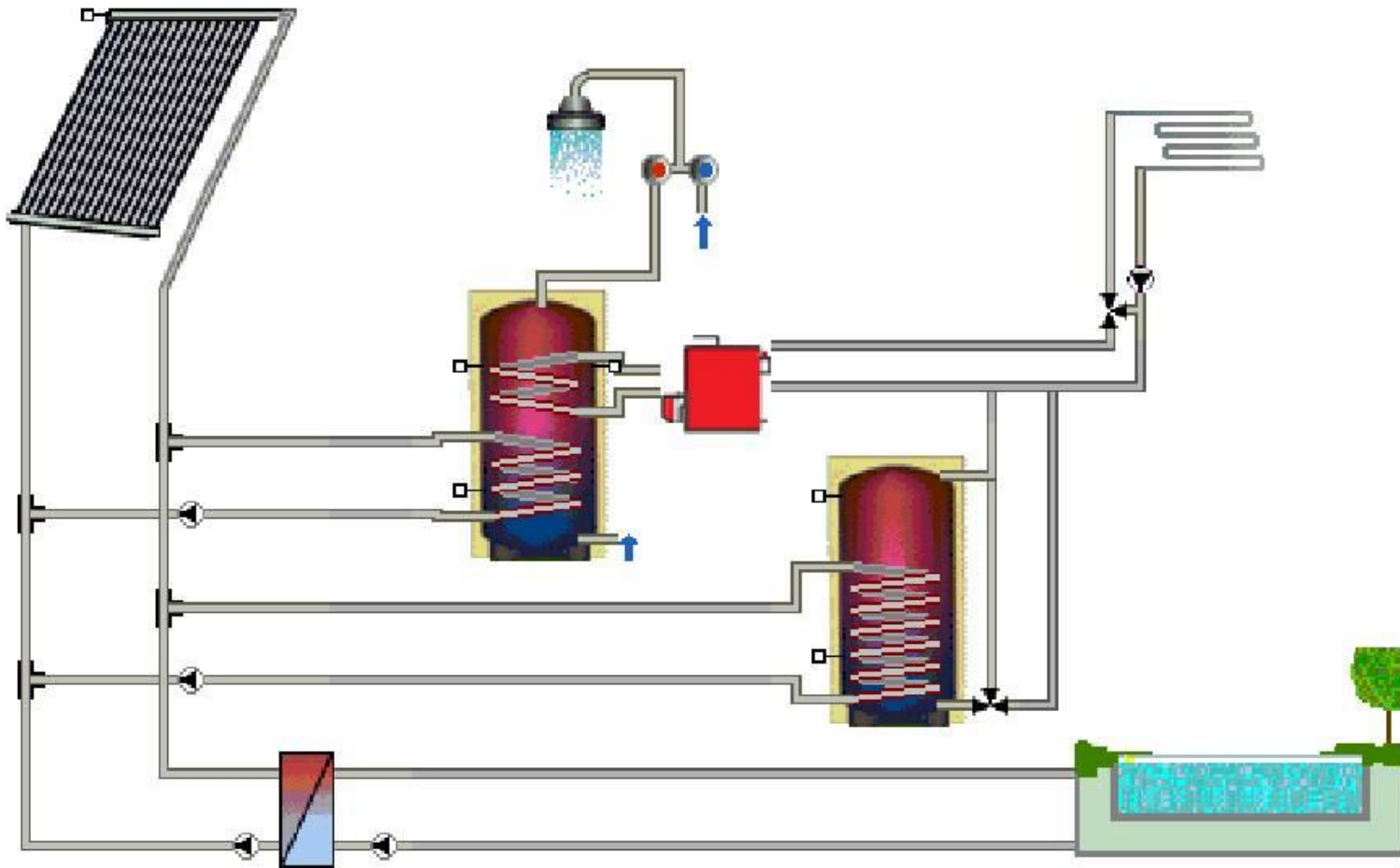
# SOLAR DHW HEATING SYSTEM

## Retrofit / Preheat system



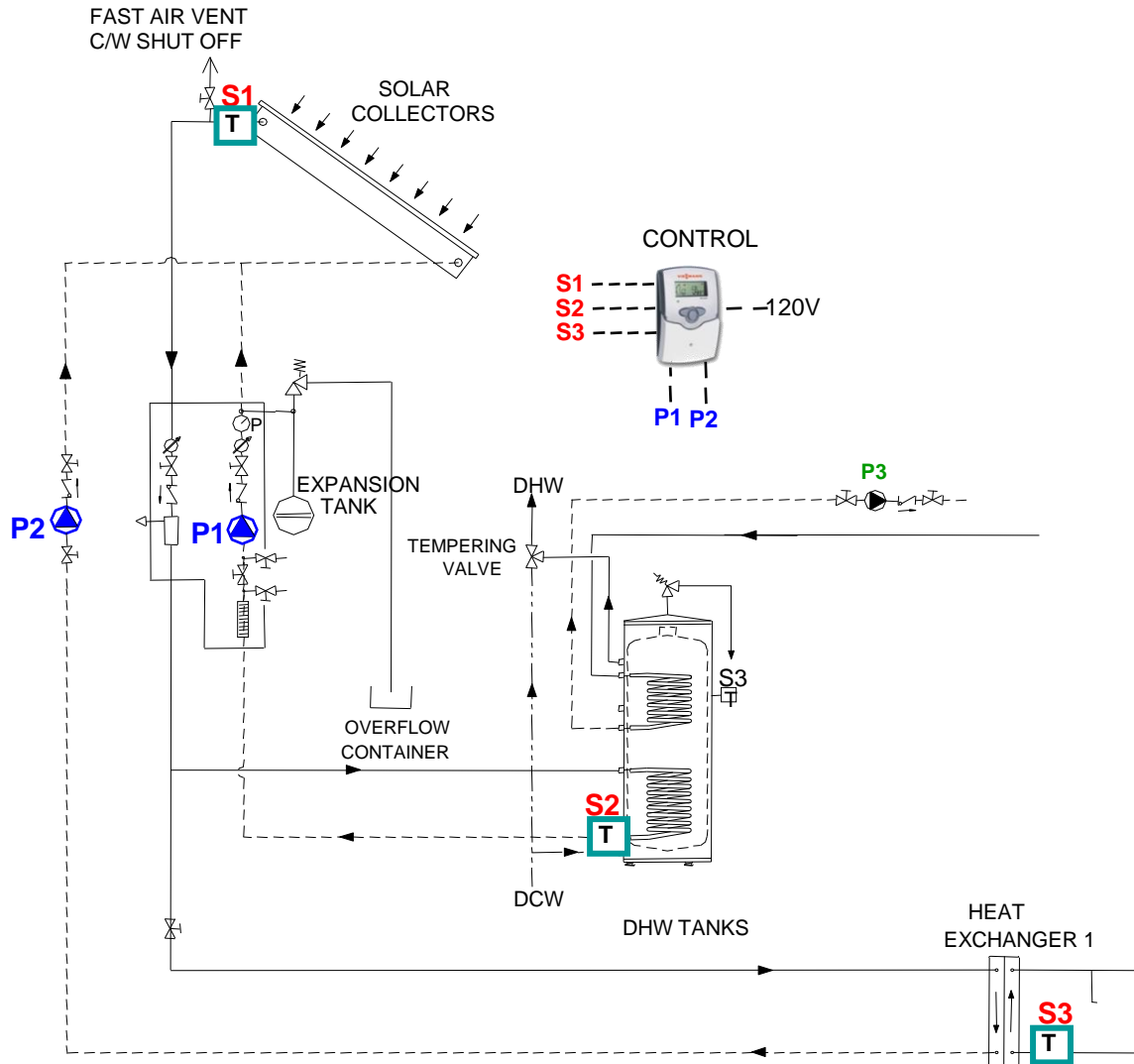


# Generic Combi-System



# SOLAR DHW - POOL HEATING SYSTEM

## DHW + Pool heating supplement



# Collectors/Panels

- **There are (4) proven commercially available technologies for solar water heating. Which one is right depends on the application and the location and climate.**
  - **Flat Plate Collectors**
  - **Plastic, Non-Insulated Collectors**
  - **Evacuated Tube Collectors**
  - **Concentrating Collectors**

# Concentrating Collectors

**Much higher temperatures than flat-plate collectors or evacuated tubes (steam generation possible)**

**Focuses direct solar radiation, hence poor performance on hazy or cloudy days**

**Most practical in areas with high insolation (exposure to the sun's rays), such as those close to the equator and in the desert southwest United States**

**Systems may use tracking mechanisms to move the collectors during the day to keep them focused on the sun**

**High installation and maintenance costs**

**Used primarily for large-scale electric power generation using steam powered turbines**



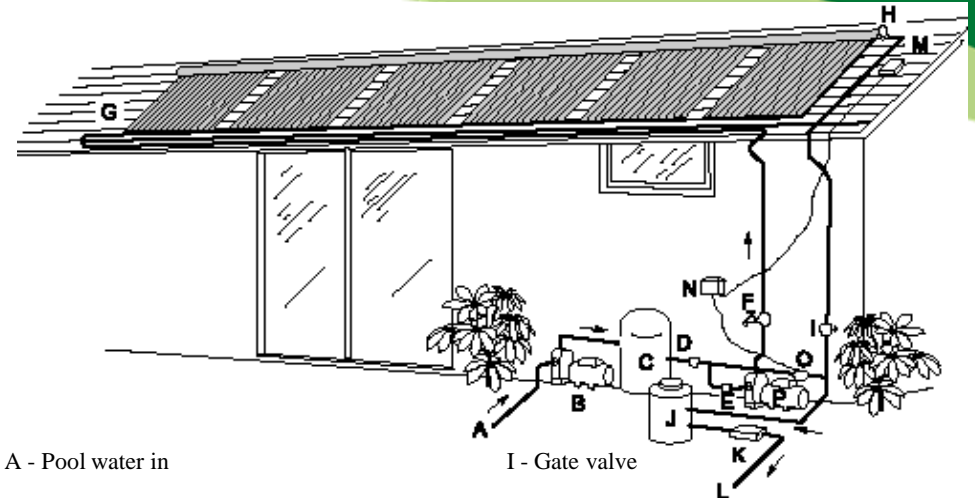
# Plastic Collectors



**Pool Heating Only  
collector area = 75% to 100%  
of the exposed pool area**

**Seasonal use**

**Low cost – not for DHW**



A - Pool water in

B - Pump

C - Filter

D - Check valve

E - Gate valve 1

F - Drain valve

G - Solar collectors

H - Vacuum breaker and auto air relief

I - Gate valve

J - Fossil fuel heater (if existing)

K - Chlorinator (if existing)

L - Warm water returns to pool

M - Sensor

N - Automatic control box

O - Electric or constriction valve (collector bypass)

P - Booster pump

**Typical solar pool heating system with automatic control**  
[Source: Florida Solar Energy Center]

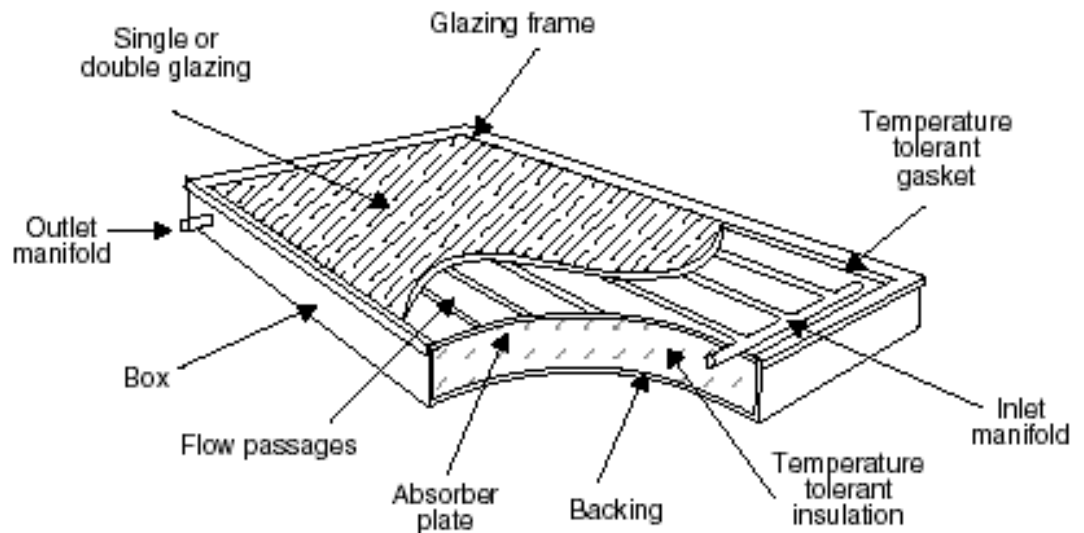


# Flat Plate Collectors

Residential & Commercial water heating applications

Medium Cost, robust proven performance, all climates, tempered glass

Common Sizes:  
3'x7', 4'x8', and 4'x10'



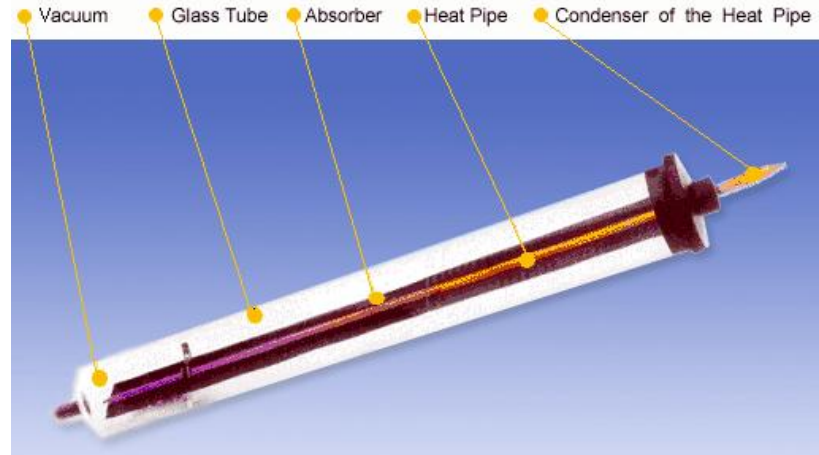
Rule of thumb for sizing (DHW):

20 ft<sup>2</sup> (2 m<sup>2</sup>) of collector area for each of the first two family members

8 square feet (0.7 square meter) for each additional family member in the Sun Belt.

12 - 14 additional square feet (1.1-1.3 m<sup>2</sup>) per person in the northern US [US DEPT OF ENERGY]

# Evacuated Tube Collectors



**Residential & commercial water heating applications**

**Medium to High Cost (16, 20, and 30 tube collectors common), all climates, non-tempered glass, snow melt problems with shallow incline angle**

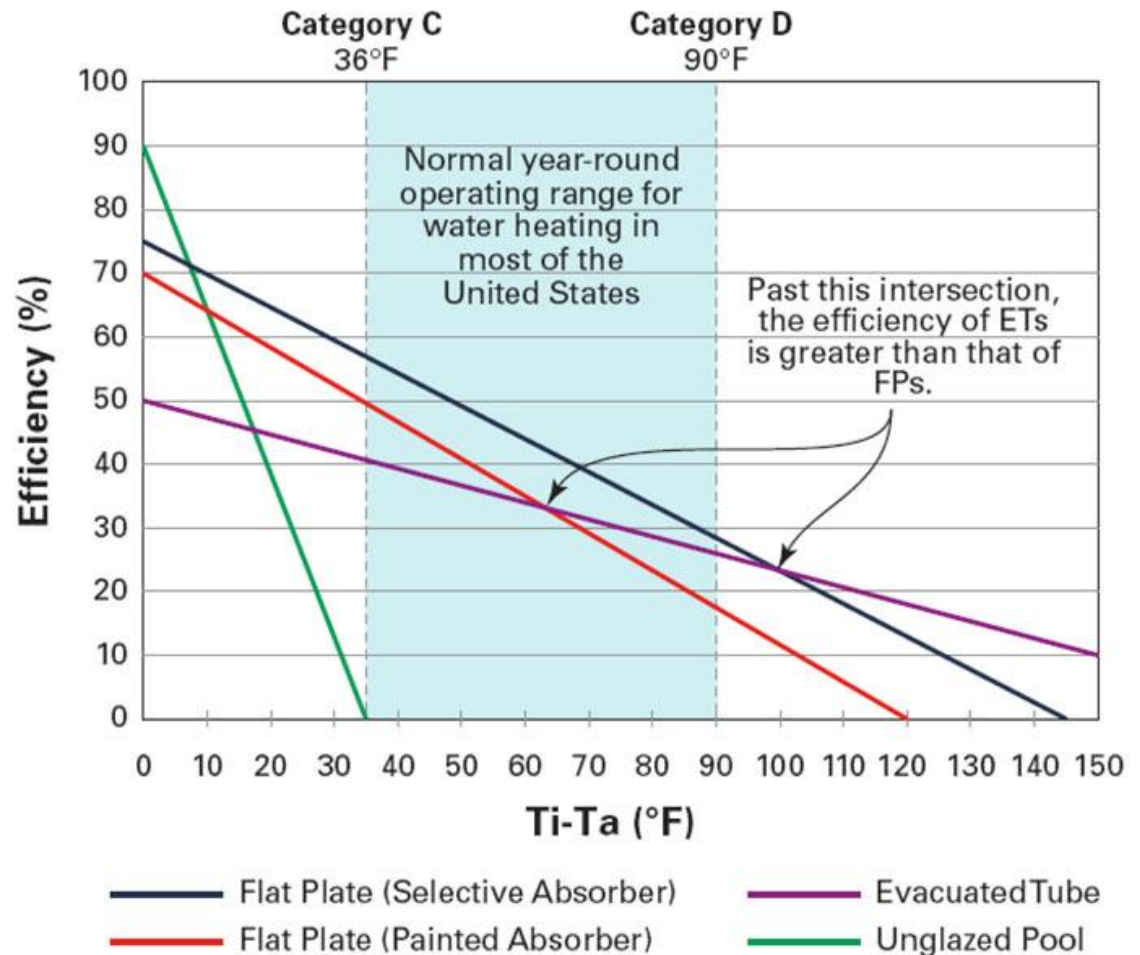
**Rule of thumb for sizing (DHW):**

**4-10 tubes per person depending on tube diameters and lengths, or 7.5 square feet (0.7 square meter) per person. Typical family of 4 DHW system would use 16 to 30 tubes and an 80 gal storage tank.**

# Flat Plate vs. Evacuated Tube

Flat-plate collectors are the most cost effective technology for applications where the temperature rise above ambient is less than about 50°C (90°F)

## Collector Efficiency

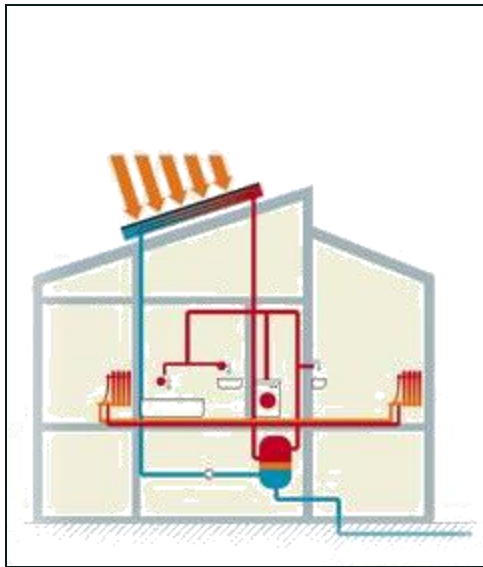


# Flat Plate vs. Evacuated Tube

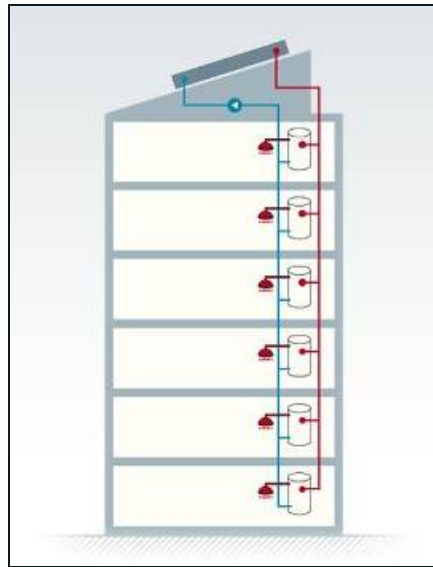
- Flat plates use tempered safety glass while evacuated tubes use borosilicate or soda-lime glass, which breaks into shards
- Evacuated tubes are only efficient as long as the vacuum seals are in-tact. No vacuum loss issues with flat plates
- Flat plates are able to shed snow more easily compared to tubes, resulting in possibly more heat production in the winter
- Flat plates can be used to regulate excessive tank temperatures by emitting heat in reverse control cycle – not possible with tubes

# Solutions for any application

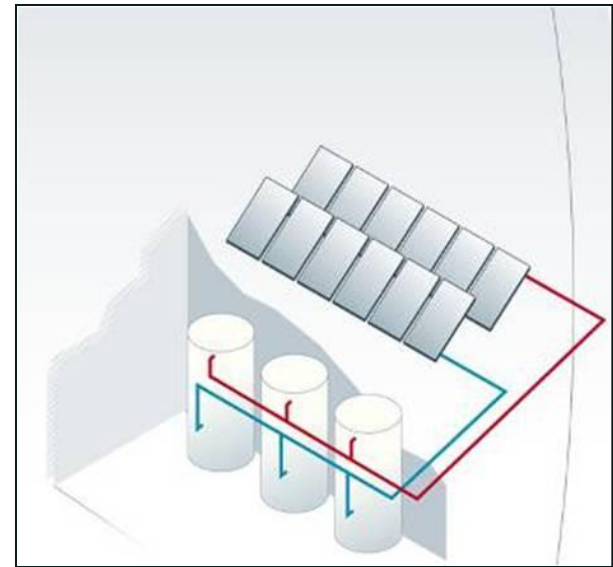
## Typical Applications



Single homes



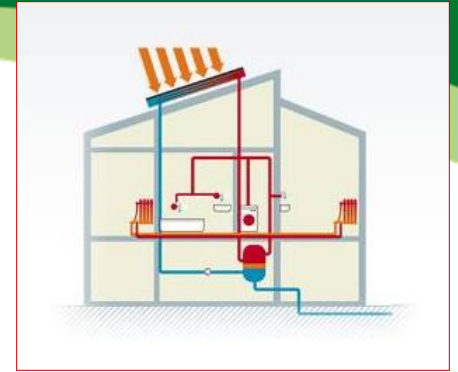
Apartment  
buildings



Industrial / Commercial

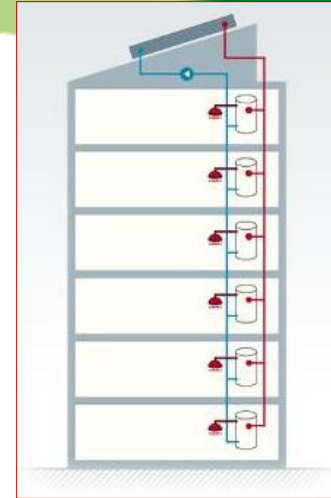
# Single homes

## Individual Home Systems



From left to right - North Carolina, Florida and Maine

# Apartment buildings

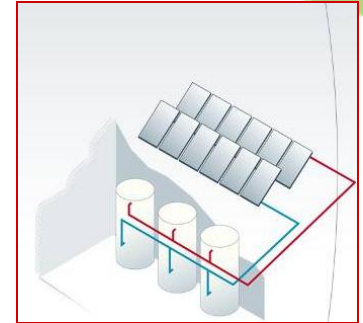


## Central Systems



# Industrial/Commercial

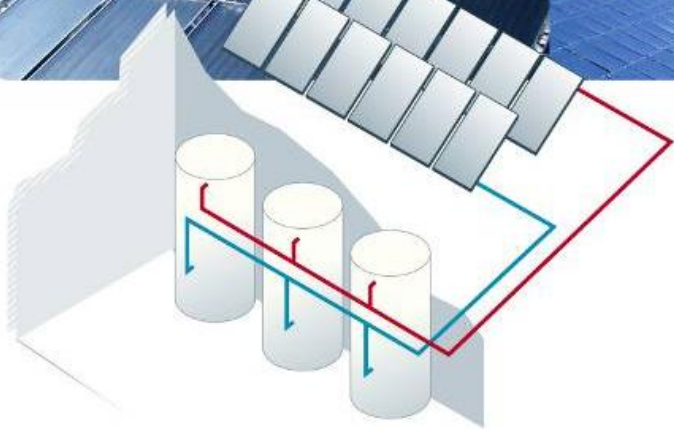
Mega solutions





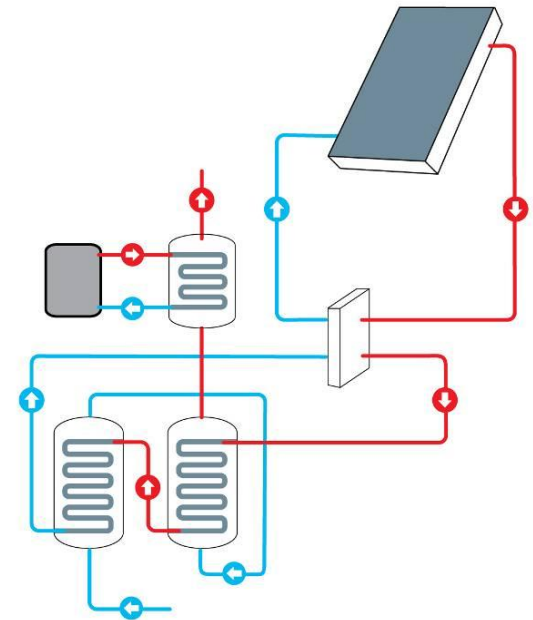
# Industrial / Commercial

## Mega Systems



# Commercial Project Sequence

- Complete questionnaire or review RFP
- Analyze questionnaire or RFP and climate data
- System design, performance modeling and ROI – PolySun, T-SOL, F-Chart, RET Screen simulation software
- Quotation
- Purchase Order
- Detailed system design
- System delivery
- Installation and supervision
- After sale support



# Swimming Pools

- Exposed surface area?
- Average depth of water?
- Desired pool water temperature?
- Indoor or outdoor pool?
- If indoor – what is the room ambient temperature and relative humidity?
- Hours of use per day?
- Seasonal use? If yes, auxiliary heat dumps available?
- Cover used?
- Back-up heating system information?
- Yearly energy needed and cost of back-up energy?
- Solar panel installation location specifics – orientation to South, type of mounting proposed, distance from panels to pool mechanical equipment?

# Sport Facilities

Spain



Chile



Mexico



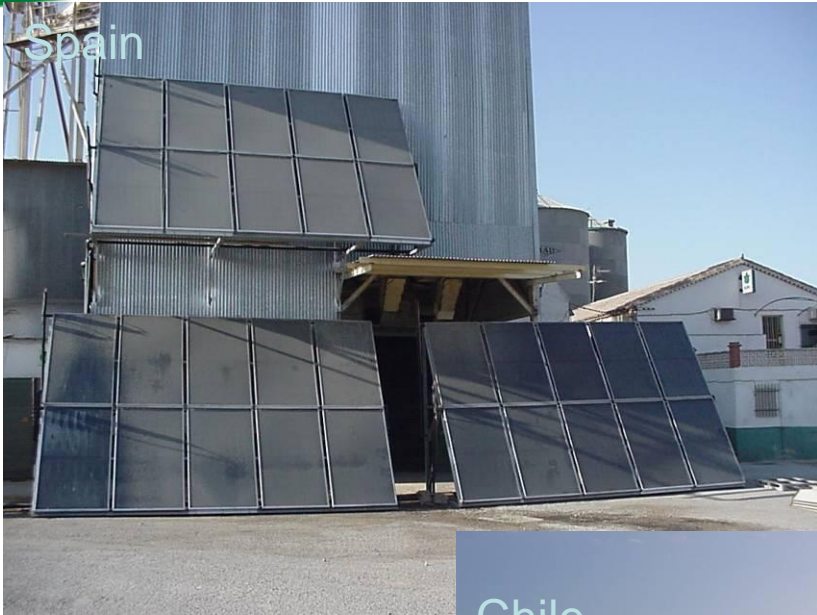
# Apartment Buildings



# Hospitals



# Factories



# Schools



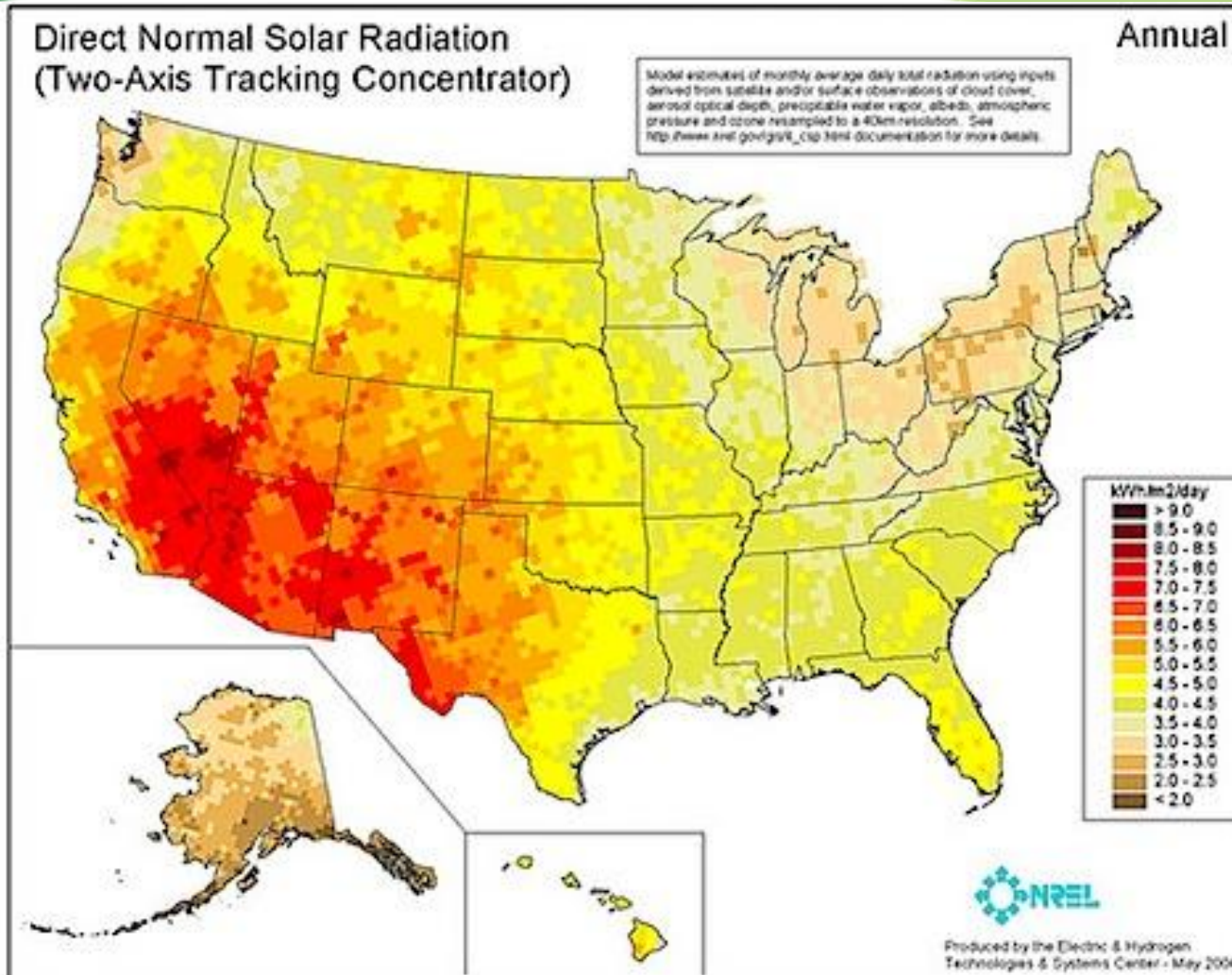


# Solar in USA ?



- Ideal climate for Solar in the sun belt as well as most areas of the country using the right panel and design
- **"Green"** awareness
- Volatile Energy prices
- 30% Federal tax rebate & local, state, utility incentives
- Feasible Return On Investment
- Accessible room for large arrays of collectors

# USA Radiation Map



# Can solar work in New England ?

## Examples of Insolation Data (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>)

- The following is a table of insolation data for Boston, Massachusetts
- Jan 1.66
- Feb 2.50
- Mar 3.51
- April 4.13
- May 5.11
- June 5.47
- July 5.44
- Aug 5.05
- Sept 4.12
- Oct 2.84
- Nov 1.74
- Dec 1.40
- Daily Average: 3.58 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (1135 Btu/ft<sup>2</sup>)
- Total for year: 1,307 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (414,317 Btu/ft<sup>2</sup>)

Munich, Germany ... which has a higher latitude than Boston has a level of 1,088. In other words Boston gets about 20% more sunlight than Munich.

# SOLAR INSTALLATION

- SITE SELECTION
- PANEL INSTALLATION
- TANK INSTALLATION & PUMP STATION INSTALLATION
- CHARGING WITH HEAT TRANSFER FLUID

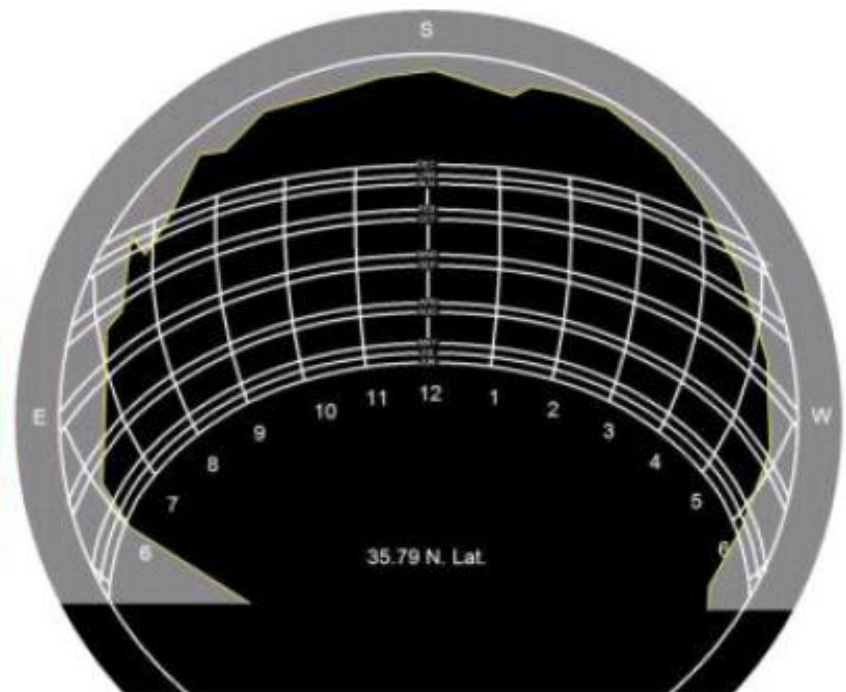
# SITE SELECTION IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!



## **Software Programs Available:**

SOLAR PATHFINDER, Bing™ Map  
RETScreen & POLYSUN

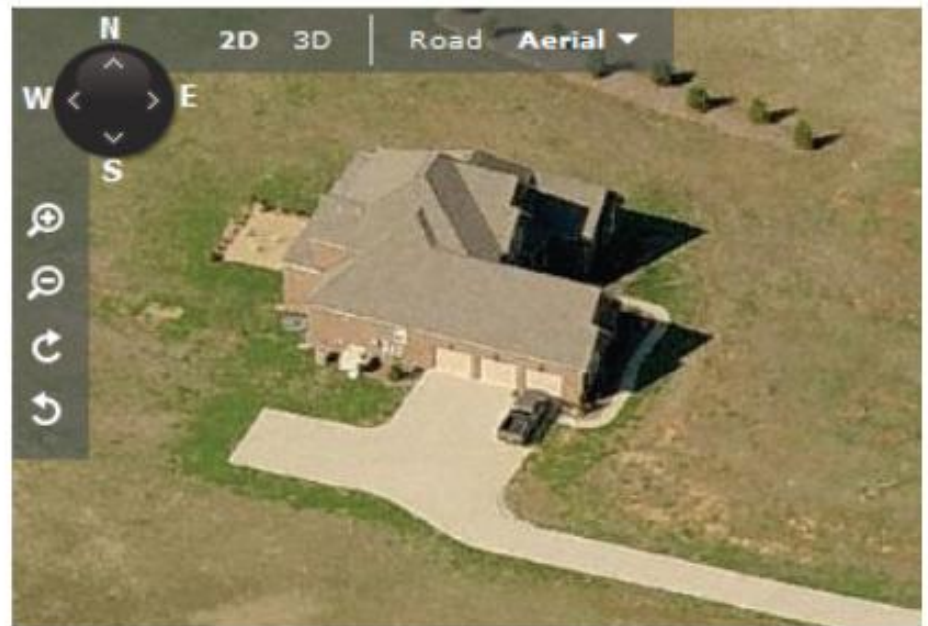
# SOLAR PATHFINDER™



# BING™ MAP

**Solar Site Analysis**  
6209 Lampkins Bridge Rd  
College Grove, TN 37046

**Aerial View**  
*Notice the South Facing Direction*



# SOLAR SITE

CHROMAGEN CR 110  
Solar Collectors to be  
installed here.



**Summary:**

Excellent Solar Site!. Very few solar obstructions as indicated by Solar Pathfinder analysis of 97.87%.



# SOLAR PATHFINDER™

<b>Report Name</b>	6209 Lampkins Bridge Rd.
<b>Report Date</b>	3/26/2010 11:15:42 AM
<b>Declination</b>	-3d 04m
<b>Location</b>	COLLEGE GROVE, TN 37046
<b>Lat/Long</b>	35.791 / -86.726
<b>Weather Station</b>	Nashville Intl AP, TN, Elevation: 581 Feet, (36.117/-86.683)
<b>Site distance</b>	23 Miles
<b>Report Type</b>	Thermal
<b>Array Type</b>	Fixed
<b>Tilt Angle</b>	35.79 deg
<b>Ideal Tilt Angle</b>	35.79 deg
<b>Azimuth</b>	180.00 deg
<b>Ideal Azimuth</b>	180.00 deg

# SOLAR PATHFINDER™

<b>Collector Make</b>	
<b>Collector Model</b>	
<b>Collector Area</b>	23.1 Sq. Feet
<b>Collector Count</b>	3
<b>Total Collector Area</b>	69.4 Sq. Feet
<b>Solar Fraction</b>	0.74
<b>Annual Production</b>	10.10 Million BTU
<b>Electricity Saved</b>	3,218.0 KWH
<b>Annual Savings</b>	\$321.80
<b>Collector Fluid</b>	Glycol
<b>Layout Configuration</b>	SinglePicture
<b>Layout Point Count</b>	1

# SOLAR PATHFINDER™

Layout Type      Single Picture  
Layout Point Count 1



## Energy Source Used to Heat Water

<b>Energy Source</b>	Electricity
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	100.0 %
<b>Energy Cost</b>	\$0.10 per KWH
<b>Total Electricity Saved</b>	3,218.0 KWH

# SOLAR PATHFINDER™

## Estimated Average Daily Hot Water Usage

January	60.0
February	60.0
March	60.0
April	60.0
May	60.0
June	60.0
July	60.0
August	60.0
September	60.0
October	60.0
November	60.0
December	60.0

## Other Assumptions

Tank Temperature	120.0 °F
Water Supply Temperature	55.0 °F
Main Tank Volume	120.0 Gallons
Secondary Tank Volume	0.0 Gallons
Heat Exchanger Efficiency	70.00 %

# SOLAR PATHFINDER™

## Estimated Monthly Savings

<b>January</b>	\$16.08
<b>February</b>	\$21.23
<b>March</b>	\$27.92
<b>April</b>	\$30.19
<b>May</b>	\$31.06
<b>June</b>	\$32.87
<b>July</b>	\$33.03
<b>August</b>	\$33.50
<b>September</b>	\$28.63
<b>October</b>	\$29.18
<b>November</b>	\$20.78
<b>December</b>	\$17.33
<b>Annual Savings</b>	\$321.80

# SOLAR PATHFINDER™

## Solar Obstruction Data

Month	Unshaded % of Ideal Site Azimuth=180 Tilt=35.79	Actual Solar Rad w/ Shading Azimuth=180.0 Tilt=35.79 KWH/m <sup>2</sup> /day	Solar Hot Water Actual Cost Savings Electricity \$0.10/KWH	Solar Hot Water Solar Fraction Azimuth=180.0 Tilt=35.79	Solar Hot Water Produced Azimuth=180.0 Tilt=35.79 MMBTU	Solar Hot Water Demand Azimuth=180.0 Tilt=35.79 MMBTU
January	94.84%	2.95	\$16.08	0.44	0.50	1.16
February	97.65%	4.15	\$21.23	0.64	0.67	1.05
March	98.78%	4.82	\$27.92	0.76	0.88	1.16
April	98.89%	5.45	\$30.19	0.84	0.95	1.12
May	98.38%	5.32	\$31.06	0.84	0.98	1.16
June	98.89%	5.90	\$32.87	0.92	1.03	1.12
July	98.88%	5.64	\$33.03	0.89	1.04	1.16
August	99.15%	5.76	\$33.50	0.91	1.05	1.16
September	98.32%	4.97	\$28.63	0.80	0.90	1.12
October	97.19%	5.00	\$29.18	0.79	0.92	1.16
November	96.56%	3.66	\$20.78	0.58	0.65	1.12
December	95.16%	3.09	\$17.33	0.47	0.54	1.16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97.72%</b>	<b>56.70</b>	<b>\$321.80</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>10.10</b>	<b>13.65</b>
	<b>Unweighted Yearly Avg</b>	<b>Effect: 97.66% Sun Hrs: 4.73</b>				

# PANEL INSTALLATION

- The best orientation is achieved when the collectors are facing due south  $\pm 45^\circ$
- Should be tilted at an angle from the horizontal equal to the latitude of the location  $+ 10^\circ$ .
- The  $+ 10^\circ$  tilt gives better winter performance



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## UNDER ROOF





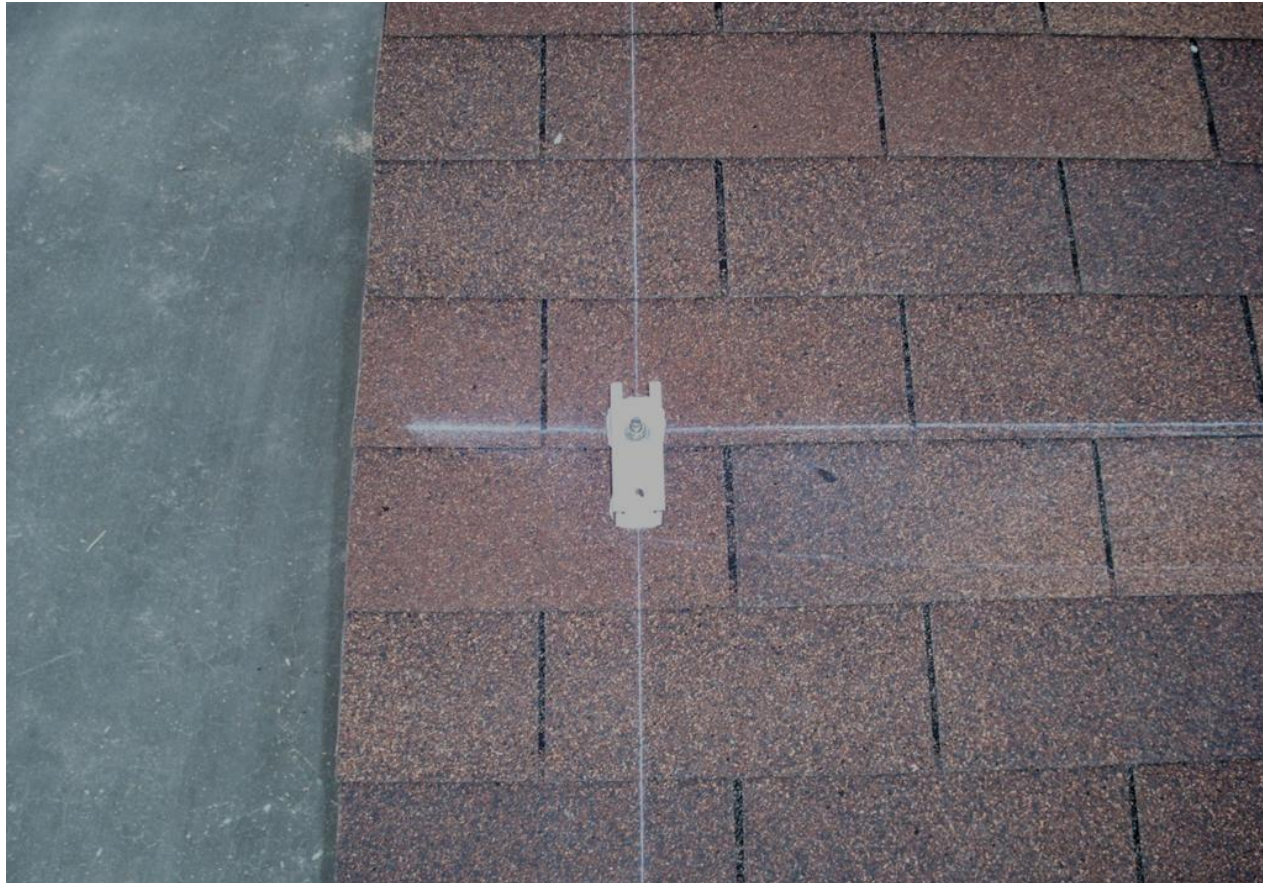
# PANEL INSTALLATION

## APPLY SEALANT



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## MARKING FOR MOUNTING



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## MOUNTING HARDWARE



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## FIRST PANEL



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## MOUNTING CLIP DETAIL



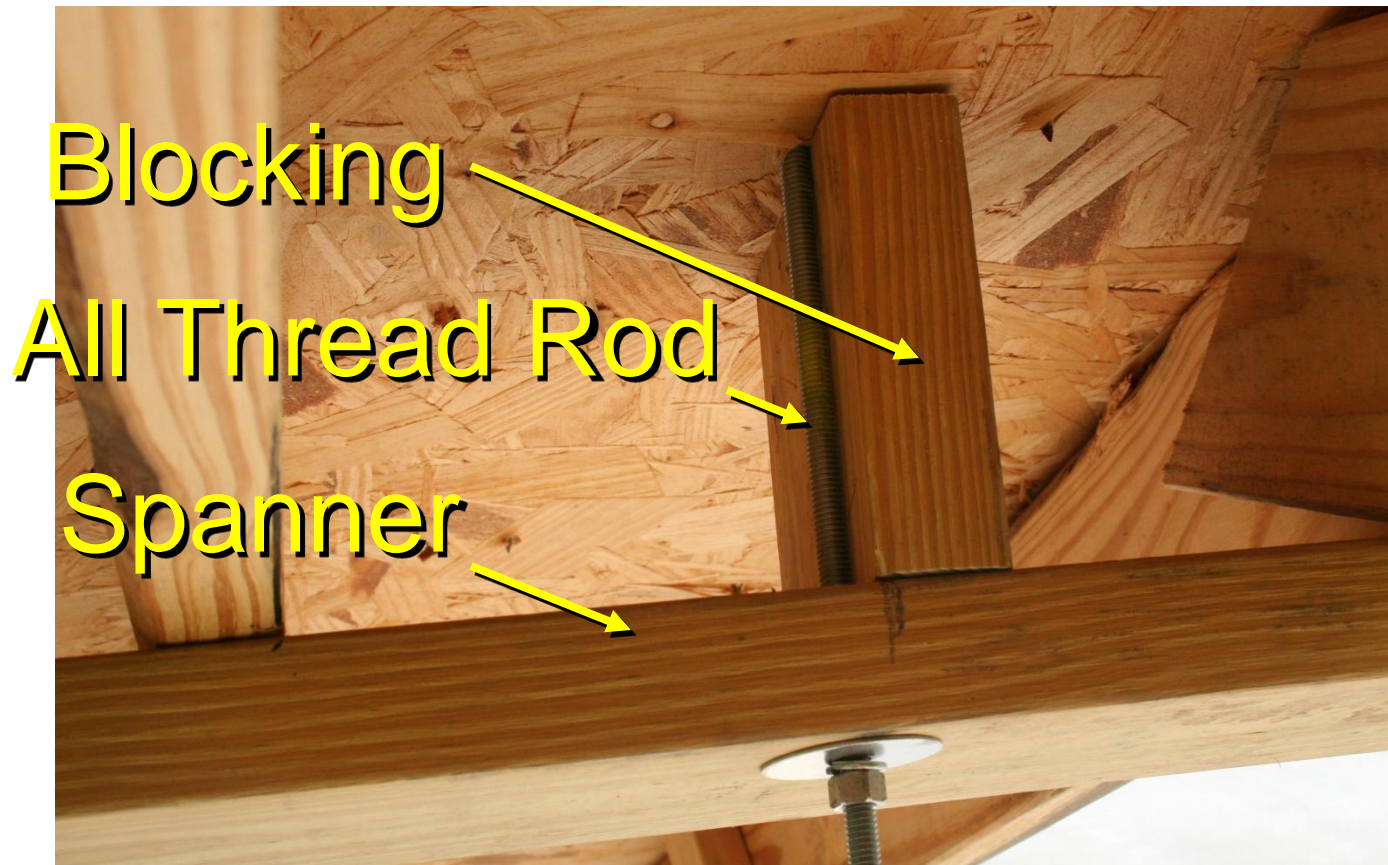
# PANEL INSTALLATION

## MOUNTING CLIP DETAIL



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## PANEL SUPPORTS



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## LAG BOLTS GONE WRONG!





# PANEL INSTALLATION

## UNION INSTALLED



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## UNION CONNECTED



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## Panels Installed



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## Can collectors be placed horizontally on the roof?

- On closed loop pressurized systems yes, but it complicates the plumbing and raises installation costs.
- Also, panels will not drain well during servicing in this configuration when the risers are running the long axis of the panel.
- Panel vents will trap moisture unless they are plugged.



# PANEL INSTALLATION

## PIPE INSULATION



**PIPE INSULATION**  
**3/4" MIN. WALL THICKNESS**

# Tank & Pump Station Installation

Mixing Valve

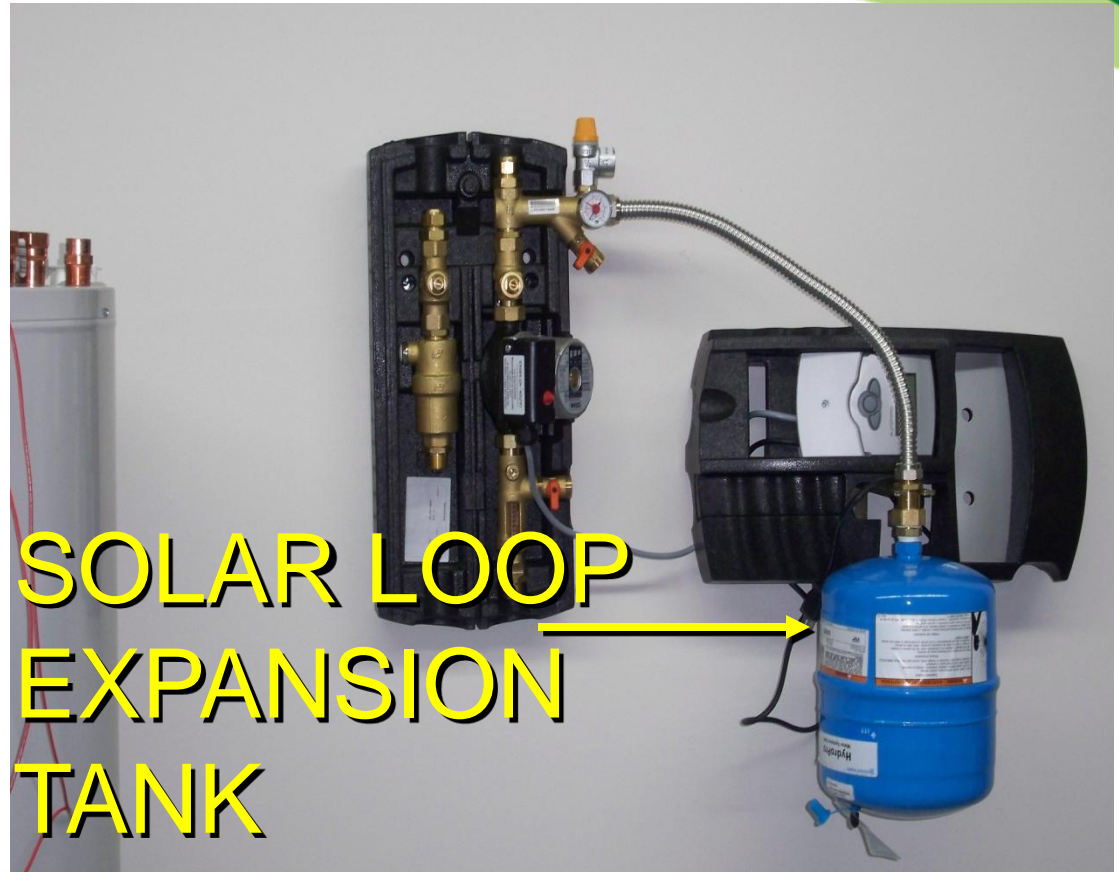


Pump and  
Control Station

Connection to  
Heat Exchanger

# SOLAR LOOP EXPANSION TANK

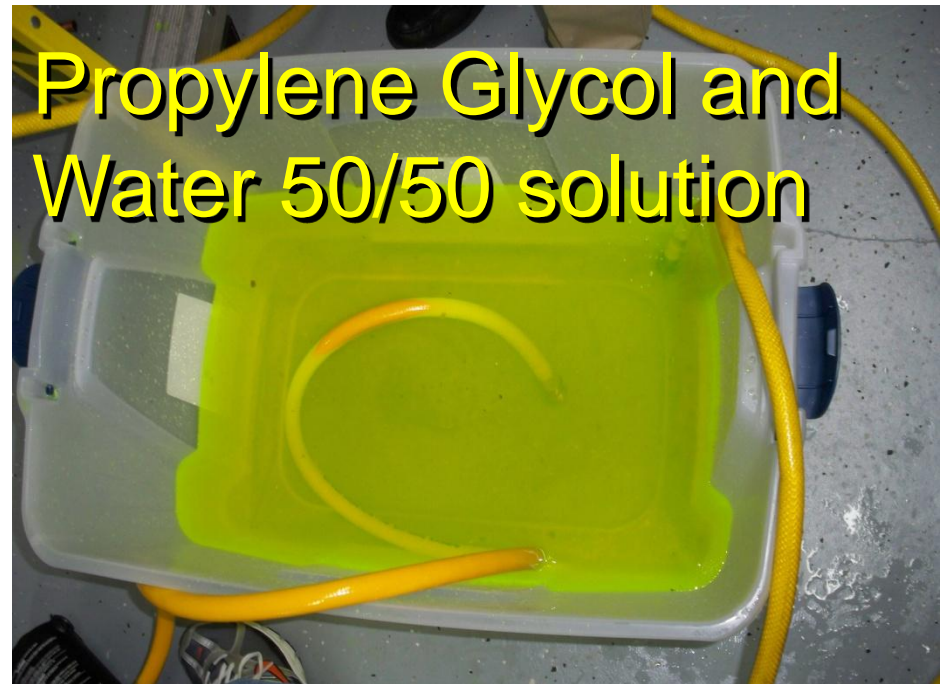
- Relieve pressure if more than 25 PSI.
- If it is lower than 25 PSI use a bicycle pump or air compressor to set the charge pressure to 25 PSI.



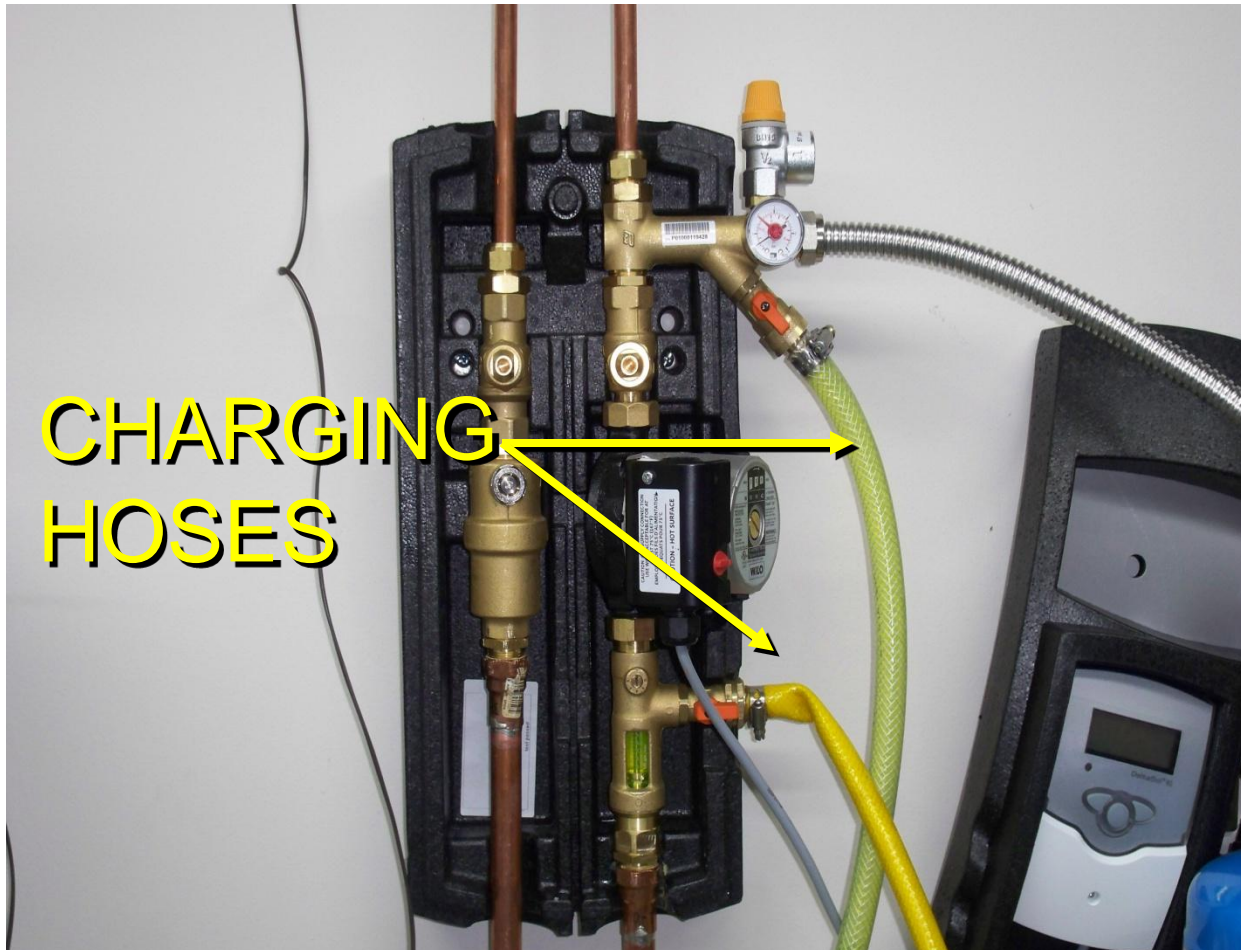


# Glycol solution (PLASTIC TUB)

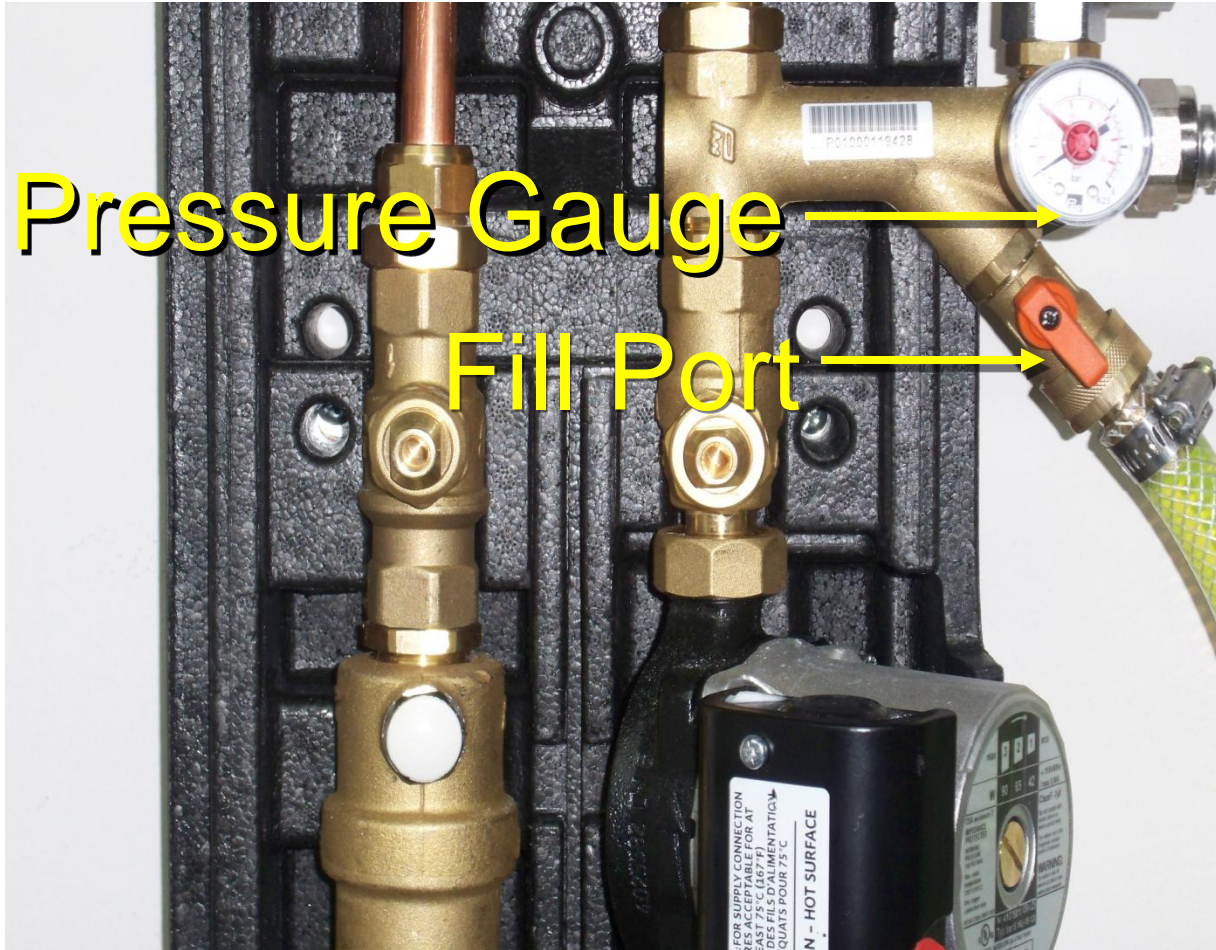
- The use of regular tap water as a mixing agent is prohibited.
- Distilled, de-ionized, or de-mineralized water is often available from grocery stores and drugstores.
- This solution provides freeze protection down to  $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$  and burst protection down to  $-60^{\circ}\text{F}$



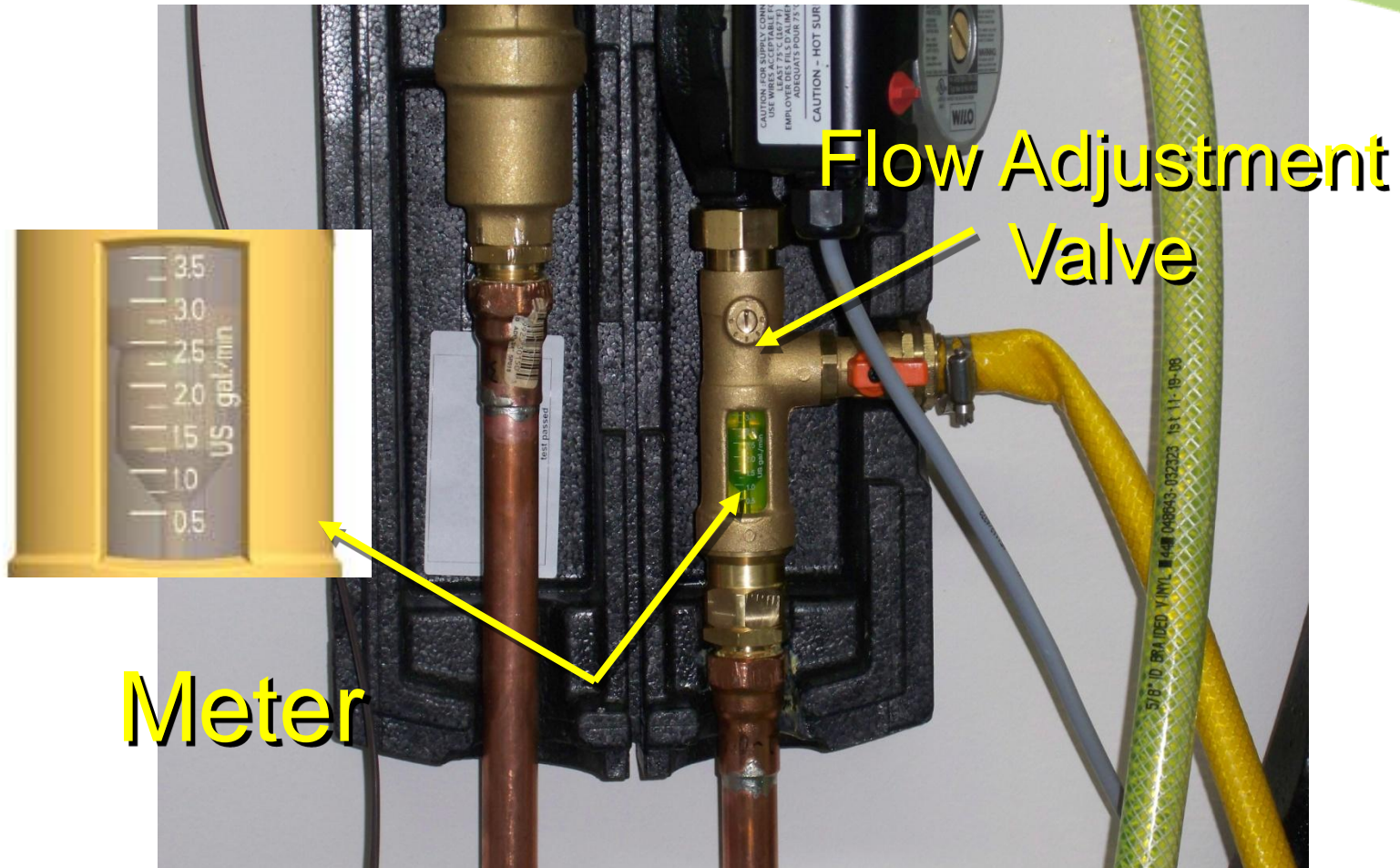
# GLYCOL CHARGE



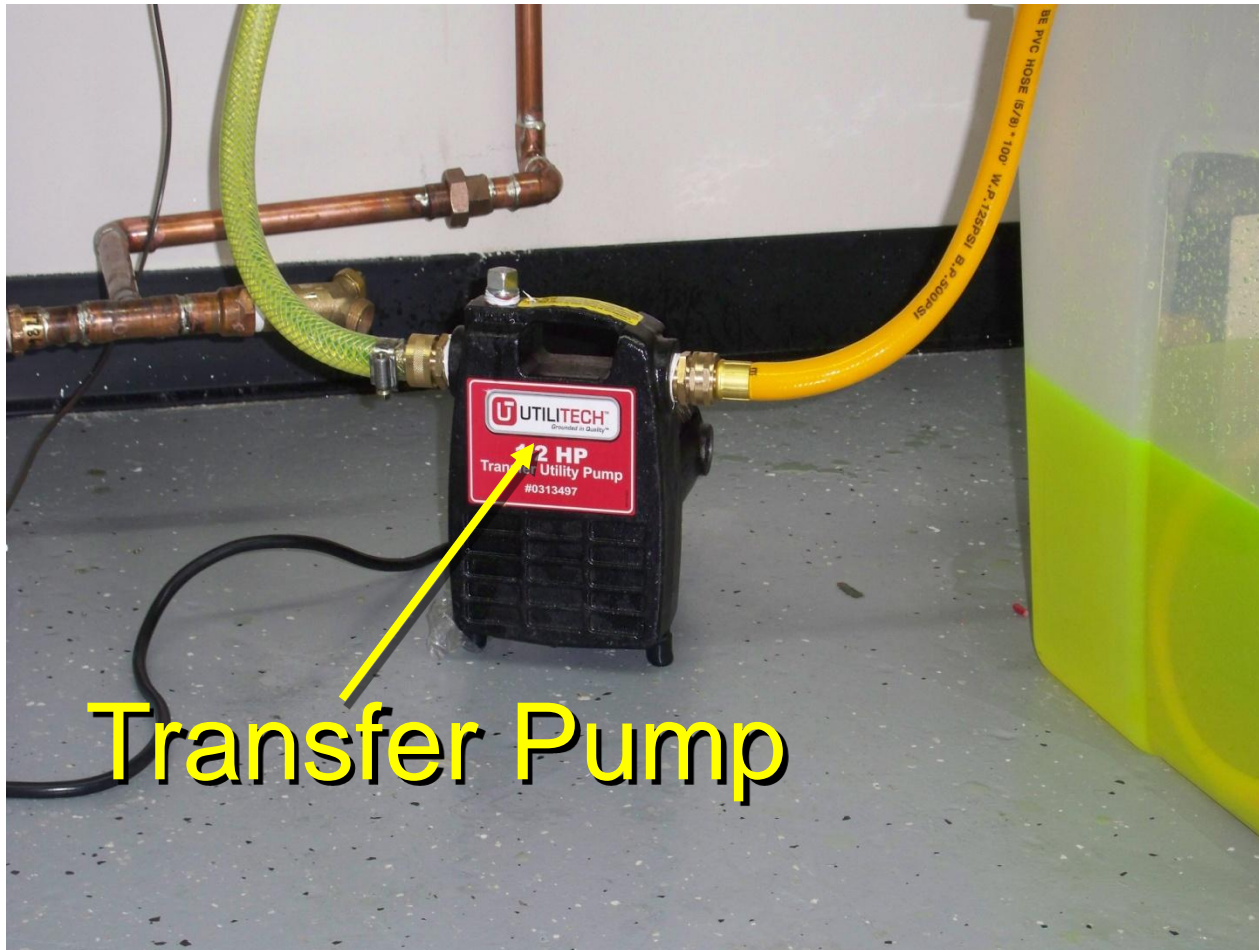
# GLYCOL FILL PORT



# FLOW ADJUSTMENT

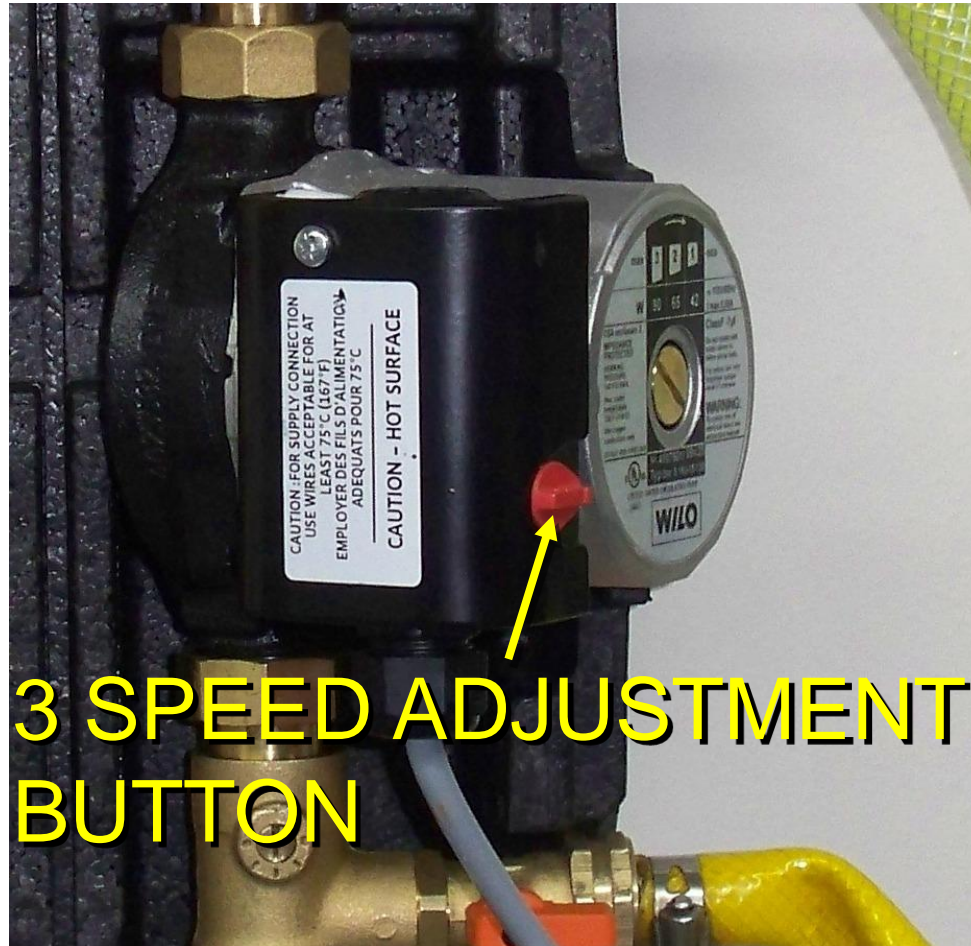


# GLYCOL CHARGING PUMP

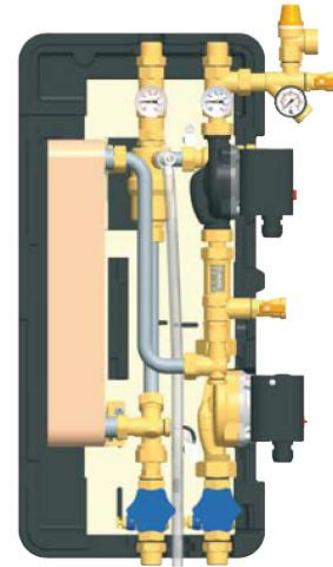


Transfer Pump

# PUMP SPEED ADJUSTMENT



# FINISHED TANK INSTALL



**External Plate Heat  
Exchanger Version**

# MAINTENANCE

- Check the system pressure every 6 months.
- Pressure loss might indicate the existence of a leak. The pressure should remain above 30 PSI. If necessary, pressurize the system again and check for leaks.
- Flush a bit of water through the pressure relief valve on the tank every 6 months to ensure proper operation.
- Wash the glass on the collectors once a year; more often if dirty.



# MAINTENANCE

## How often should the glycol be replaced in the system?

- Every three years or -
- When the results of a pH and refractometer tests indicate it is necessary - check annually
- The pH should be 8.0+. At 7.0 and below, replace fluid.
- Refractometer (calibrated for propylene glycol) shows frost protection level of the solution. If it drops below that level re-charge the loop.

# MAINTENANCE

## Digital Refractometer

- \$300+
- Show glycol %
- Analog version \$60



# MAINTENANCE

Analog Refractometer

- \$60+
- Automotive for glycol



Automotive Glycol Tester

\$13.99



Pool pH Test Kit

\$8.99





# Questions