

## Solar Hot Water Site Assessment Information Sheet

The information provided in this sheet will help you determine if a solar hot water system might fit your energy needs, site, and budget, and if a site assessment is the right next step. If after carefully reading and considering this information sheet you wish to request a site assessment, please follow the steps outlined at the end of this document.

### What is a solar hot water site assessment?

Solar hot water site assessments are designed to provide customers with site-specific information about how solar water heating systems can help meet their energy needs. During the site assessment a certified solar energy site assessor will visit your location and/or review your building plans. The site assessor will evaluate your location, answer your questions and summarize their findings in a written report that will include:

- A review of your goals for having a solar hot water system
- A review of how solar water heating systems work
- A basic analysis of your energy needs
- An evaluation of the solar resource at your site
- Recommendations for a solar hot water system size and siting to meet your energy goals
- Estimate of a solar hot water system's production
- A rough cost estimate for the system
- An overview of the incentives for which the system is eligible
- Preliminary economic analysis of the system
- The next steps you need to take to make your system a reality

A site assessment is not a bid nor does it provide a system design.

### How much does a site assessment cost?

Site assessment fees vary, and are determined by each individual site assessor. Average assessment costs are outlined in the following chart.

System Type	Typical cost	Focus on Energy incentive
Residential	\$300 to \$400	\$100
Non-residential	\$400 to \$600	\$100

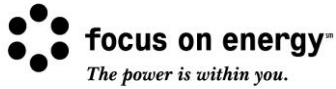
Please discuss costs and system expectations with your solar consultant prior to the site visit.

### Solar Hot Water System Information

Before you request a site assessment you should know the following information about solar hot water systems in Wisconsin.

#### Energy Efficiency

Where energy savings for a building or facility is involved, every dollar you spend on energy efficiency will save three to six dollars on the cost of your renewable energy system. This is because the more efficient your building or facility is, the smaller the renewable energy system can be to meet your energy needs.



### **Solar Hot Water System Overview**

Solar hot water systems use the sun's energy to heat water for home and business needs. These systems need full sun to operate.

*Residential systems* are sized to reduce a home's water heating bill by approximately 50 percent by preheating the water that enters your existing natural gas or electric water heater. Costs vary greatly for a typical two-panel residential system, so we recommend you solicit at least three bids for your project. A Focus on Energy installation incentive may pay up to 25 percent of the cost of a solar domestic hot water system. Other incentives from the federal government and your electric utility may be available. A two-panel system requires roughly 100 square feet of area.

*Non-residential systems* are sized to contribute to the annual water heating load and often provide 50 percent of that load. Large systems often cost less per square foot of collector than residential systems. Focus on Energy installation incentives may pay up to 25 percent of the cost of a non-residential system, or up to 50 percent of the cost of repairing an existing system. Incentives for nonprofit or local government projects may be approved for up to 35 percent.

### **How to apply for the Focus on Energy Solar Hot Water Site Assessment incentive:**

- 1) To qualify for the incentive you must currently have a natural gas or electric water heater. In addition, if you have a natural gas water heater, you must purchase natural gas from a participating provider, and if you have an electric water heater you must purchase your electricity from a participating electricity provider. To view a listing of the participating utilities, visit [focusonenergy.com/utilities](http://focusonenergy.com/utilities) or call 800.762.7077.
- 2) Contact a qualified site assessor to schedule and perform your assessment. Visit [focusonenergy.com/siteassessments](http://focusonenergy.com/siteassessments) for a directory of Focus on Energy recognized site assessor certifications and assessor listings.
- 3) Following the completion of your site assessment, fill out and submit the appropriate reimbursement application, along with a copy of your invoice and proof of payment. Visit [focusonenergy.com/siteassessments](http://focusonenergy.com/siteassessments) for the reimbursement form with complete instructions.

***For more information please visit: [focusonenergy.com/siteassessments](http://focusonenergy.com/siteassessments).***