



California Solar Initiative (CSI) Thermal Program FAQs

The latest version of the [California Solar Initiative Thermal Program Handbook](#) contains all the program rules and requirements. Below is a list of frequently asked questions.

How much is the incentive for installing solar water heating?

The California Solar Initiative (CSI)-Thermal Program provides incentives of \$20.19 per therm displaced for commercial and multifamily solar thermal projects and \$29.85 per therm displaced for residential projects. For non-residential pool projects, at a rate of \$5.00 per therm displaced.

Who is eligible for the CSI-Thermal Program?

Customers who heat their water with gas service provided by PG&E and install a qualifying solar water heating system.

Are incentives available for solar pool heating?

The CSI-Thermal Program offers incentives for non-residential solar pool heating at a rate of \$5.00 per therm displaced.



Can I use my solar water heating system for heating or cooling?

Currently, residential solar water heating incentives are only available for domestic hot water use, such as for drinking, food preparation, sanitation and personal hygiene. While the program does not offer incentives specifically for radiant floor heating, it permits such systems to be plumbed to the domestic hot water heater. But the incentive is based only on the domestic hot water heating that the system is designed to offset and is based on the OG-300 system selected.

For non-residential customers, the program offers incentives for space heating at the standard commercial rate of \$20.19 per therm displaced.

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What are the contractor participation requirements?

Contractors must have an active A, B, C4, C36, C46 or C53 license from the California Contractor State License Board (CSLB). The license holder must also attend the mandatory CSI-Thermal Program Workshop pge.com/solarclasses.

What is the application process for the rebate?

In general, contractors will be responsible for completing and submitting the rebate application with all applicable paperwork through the online application database at csithermal.com. Upon submission of an application, PG&E will review the information and communicate directly with the contractor about next steps.

What can I do to prepare my installation team?

Attendance at the CSI-Thermal Program Workshop is mandatory for both contractors and self-installers. Contractors are introduced to the program, taught how to fill out an application and are given the “key” to access csithermal.com. PG&E strongly encourages contractors to also become familiar with the [California Solar Initiative Thermal Program Handbook](#), which has all applicable program rules and requirements. It also is strongly recommended that contractors read the [Solar Rating & Certification Corporation \(SRCC\) installation guidelines](#) and seek training from their solar water heating equipment manufacturers.

How can I learn more?

Please visit PG&E’s [solar classes](#) for a list of solar water heating-related classes offered by PG&E. For specific program or application inquiries not addressed, please email solar@pge.com.