

# 10 Million Solar Roofs & 10 Million Gallons of Solar Hot Water Act ([S. 2993](#) & [H.R. 4597](#))

Sponsors: Sen. Bernie Sanders (VT) & Rep. Steven Cohen (TN)

## Background

The *10 Million Solar Roofs & 10 Million Gallons of Solar Hot Water Act* would address rising energy costs, global warming and America's dependence on foreign energy sources and create tens of thousands of new green-collar jobs and billions of dollars in new investment. The legislation would spur the installation of [photovoltaic](#) (PV) and [solar water heating](#) (SWH) technology across the country by providing direct rebates to consumers. Analysis by SEIA shows that there is sufficient roof space in the United States to provide 20% of total electricity demand using PV panels. A [report by the New Rules Project](#) shows that 38 U.S. states could generate 20% or more of their electricity from in-state resources using rooftop PV alone.



Despite the title of the bill, small-scale ground mounted systems – such as this PV system at the Spa Hot Springs Motel in Montana – would also qualify for the rebate (Left: Photo - National Center for Appropriate Technology)

Workers install a solar system on a zero-energy home. The system has both photovoltaics and solar thermal collectors and will provide enough electricity and hot water to meet all the occupants' needs. (Right: Photo—Pete Beverly)



## Key Provisions

- Provides a direct rebate to the purchasers of solar PV or solar thermal systems in the United States. The maximum rebate for PV systems would begin at \$1.75/watt and would decline to \$0.50/watt in 2018. The maximum solar thermal rebate would be \$1/watt.
- The Secretary of Energy determines the actual rebate level, with the goal of deploying 10 million new distributed PV systems and 200,000 new solar hot water systems over the next ten years.
- Eligible recipients include homeowners, businesses, non-profit entities and state or local governments. The properties on which the solar systems are installed must be located within the United States and must meet energy efficiency criteria designated by the Secretary of Energy. The solar systems must also be no larger than 2 megawatts.
- The total rebate may not exceed 50% of the net installed system cost after factoring in other rebates, tax credits and incentives.

## Why a National Solar Roofs Program?

- Solar is an economic engine, creating manufacturing and installations jobs across the country, spurring investment and saving consumers money on their utility bills. Each megawatt of distributed solar installed annually in the U.S. supports 24 jobs. The solar industry as a whole supports over 70,000 jobs in the United States (direct, indirect & induced).
- Solar helps provide energy security by generating clean power and reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy.
- Solar systems generate the most energy during periods of peak electricity use and reduce the need for expensive generation from gas-fired power plants.
- Solar produces clean, renewable thermal and electrical energy with zero emissions and is a key technology in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming.

Learn more about the economic benefits of solar from SEIA's web site at [www.SEIA.org](http://www.SEIA.org).



Solar installation workers mount PV panels on a private home. These panels generate clean, pollution-free electricity and can reduce or eliminate monthly electricity bills. In 2009, over 20,000 residential systems were installed, with an average size of around 5 kilowatts (kW). (Photo – NREL)

## About the Solar Energy Industries Association

Established in 1974, the Solar Energy Industries Association is the national trade association of the U.S. solar energy industry. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works with its 1,000 member companies to make solar a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy.

For a referenced version of this factsheet and more information, please visit [www.seia.org](http://www.seia.org).