

Solar Water Heating System (SWHS) Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a SWHS for purposes of the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Program?

Answer: It is the collection of radiant solar energy for the purpose of heating water for domestic use.

2. Can I use SWHS to heat a hot tub or swimming pool?

Answer: Yes, but systems that heat water for a hot tub or swimming pool do not qualify for the Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio program.

3. How is a residential SWHS measured?

Answer: A Residential SWHS shall use:

- a. The annual energy estimate provided by Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC) OG- 300 Water Heating System Rating; or
- b. The SRCC OG 100 Solar Collector Rating with a meter that satisfies the requirements of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) which measures the energy collected on the solar loop of the system.

4. How is a Non Residential or Commercial SWHS measured?

Answer: A Non Residential or Commercial system shall use the SRCC OG 100 Solar Collector Rating with a meter that satisfies the requirements of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).

5. How do I apply for a Renewable Energy Facility (REF) Certificate?

Answer: Follow the instructions on the Commission Approved EN74 Application Form that is available on the Electric/Renewable Energy area of the PSC web site which can be accessed at:

http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/intranet/ElectricInfo/home_new.cfm

6. What documents do I need to support the REF application?

Answer: To support your application for a Solar Water Heating System REF Certificate you will need:

- a. A completed copy of the EN74 application form;

- b. A copy of your local building permit with final approval;
- c. A Project Owner/Installer affidavit signed by both the applicant and Installer;
- d. A Solar Rating and Certification Corporation Specification sheet for:
 - Residential systems - SRCC OG300 Water Heating System Rating with the annual Energy estimate; or
 - Residential Systems – SRCC OG100 Solar Collector Rating with a meter that satisfies the requirements of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) which measures the energy collected on the solar loop of the system; or
 - Non Residential and Commercial systems - SRCC OG100 Solar Collector Rating with a meter that satisfies the requirements of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).
- e. If the System Owner is a business, a copy of the Certificate of Good Standing from the State in which the business is registered.
- f. If the Applicant/Certificate Owner is different than the Host Customer, a written assignment, signed by both parties, that assigns the RECs from the Host Customer to the Applicant/Certificate Owner.

7. Is there a maximum number of RECs a residential SWHS can produce in a year?

Answer: A residential SWHS may produce up to but not more than five (5) solar RECs in any calendar year.

8. How can I find the OG-300 Water Heating System Rating or OG 100 Solar Collector Rating of my system?

Answer:

- (a) Ask your installer or agent.
- (b) Visit the SRCC web site at www.Solar-Rating.Org and click on “Rating” for the OG300 & OG100 rating lists.

9. The EN74 instructions direct applicants to use the Solar Water Heating Certification Process System (SWHCPS) to apply for a REF Certificate. Who will be notified by system generated email that an application has been received, rejected or approved?

Answer: The registrant of the SWHCPS and the party listed in the additional Email field of the SWHPCS, and most applications are expected to be made by the system installer or agent of the Solar Water Heating System operator.

10. What is the significance of the Applicant field of the SWHPCS portal?

Answer: The Applicant field of the portal is a critical field that will be used to populate the applicants name in the Commission Letter Order. Please be careful to avoid typos and do use appropriate upper and lower case letters

11. Are all SHWSs eligible to participate in the Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio program?

Answer: No, only those systems commissioned on or after June 1, 2011 are eligible to participate in the program.

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