Short-Term Solutions

Reduce Water Consumption

- Reduce the amount of hot water used by installing low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators
- Older showerheads deliver four to five gallons of water per minute. A new, two-and-a-half-gallon-per-minute showerhead will reduce your water consumption by 30% to 50%
- Low-flow showerhead, can save the average household up to 6,600 gallons of water per year and annual savings of just over $450
- A top-quality, low-flow showerhead will cost $10 to $20 and pay for itself in energy saved within four months

Short-Term Solutions

Reduce Water Consumption

- Aerators for bathroom and kitchen faucets can save the average household up to 2,640 gallons per year! Close to three truck loads of water…almost a $200 savings.
- Some aerators come with shut-off valves that allow you to stop the flow of water without affecting the temperature

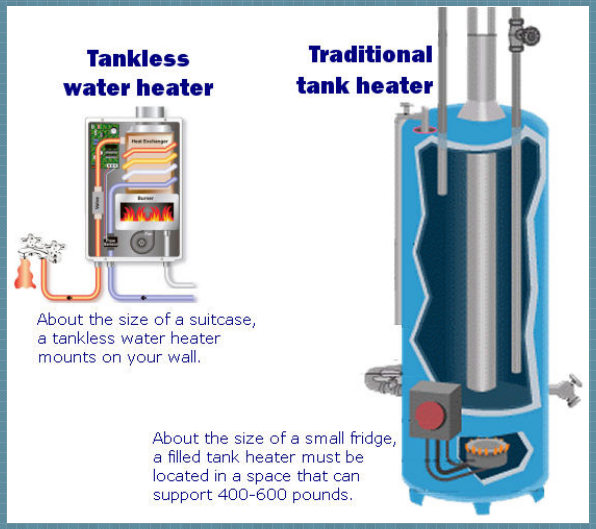
Short-Term Solutions

Improving Domestic Water Heating

- By installing a timer that turns your electric water heater off during the times you don't use hot water - can save an additional 5%–12% of energy
- Timers aren't as cost effective or useful on gas water heaters because of their pilot lights.
- Up to 90% of the cost of operating washing machines (and dishwashers) is associated with the energy needed to heat the water
- For dishwashers, try to avoid using drying settings when possible
- Reduce the amount of hot water used by washing clothes in warm or cold water
- Washing only full loads will also reduce hot-water consumption.

Short-Term Solutions

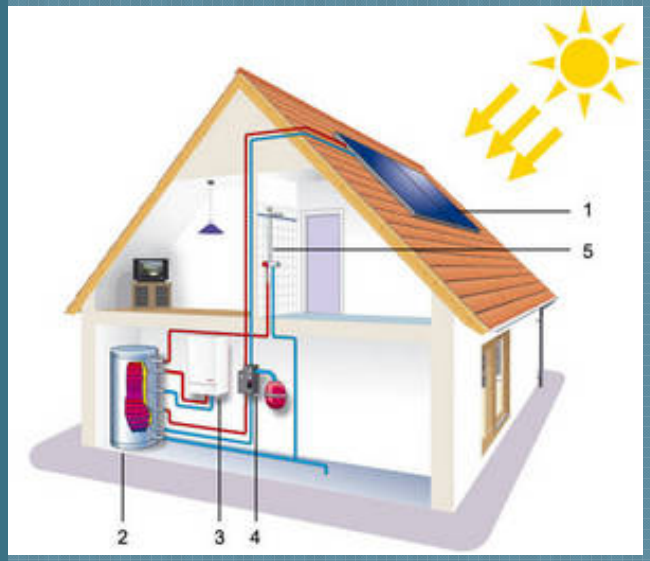
Improving Domestic Water Heating

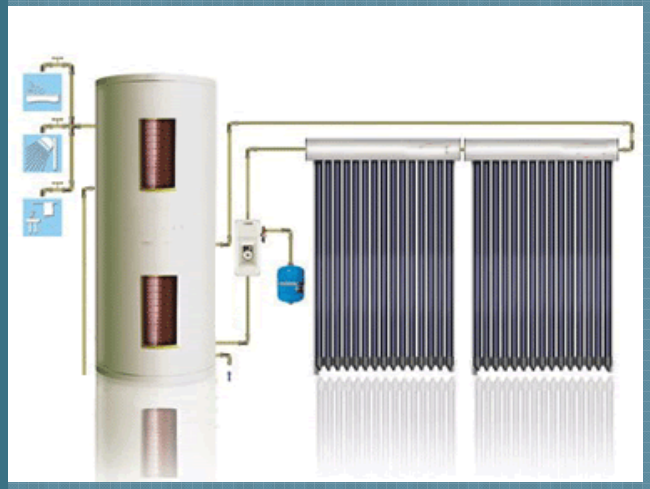


- Tankless water heaters - also known as “on demand” units heat water only when you turn on the faucet - use 30% to 50% less energy than units with tanks
- Eliminate the extra cost of keeping 40 to 50 gallons of water hot in a storage tank
- They offer a continuous supply of hot water
- They’re more compact than a standard water heater and mount on a wall.

Short-Term Solutions

Improving Domestic Water Heating





- Solar water heating systems use heat from the sun to work alongside your conventional water heater
- Solar water heating can provide you with about a third of your hot water needs.
- Solar water heating can be used in the home or for larger applications, such as swimming pools
- The average domestic system reduces reduce carbon emissions
- Choosing a system suitable to your needs requires consideration of a range of factors, including the area of south facing roof, the existing water heating system and your budget

Short-Term Solutions

Offsetting Community Electricity Demand

- Solar outdoor lights look like regular outdoor lights, but they are anything but ordinary
- PV panels collect energy and store it in a deep-cycle, maintenance-free, gel-cell battery.
- The battery powers the lights at night and can store enough energy to run the lights for 5-7 consecutive days without sun.
- A small microprocessor enables the panel to act as a photocell, turning the light on at dusk and off at dawn. It also regulates battery charging.

Short-Term Solutions

Offsetting Community Electricity Demand

- As self-contained units, solar outdoor lights are very dependable
- During Hurricane Andrew in Dade County, Florida, solar street lights withstood 165 mph winds and continued to perform flawlessly while surrounding grid- connected lights were down for two weeks
- Solar street lights require minimal maintenance, trenching, and road repairs -- as well as no wiring, metering or electric bill.
- When all of these cost savings are factored into the lighting decision, choosing non-polluting solar street lights is often a sound purchasing decision

Short-Term Solutions

Offsetting Domestic Electricity Demand

- Solar PV can create electricity to run appliances and lighting to offset monthly electric bill
- PV requires only daylight, not direct sunlight to generate electricity and so can still generate some power on a cloudy day.
- PV systems produce no greenhouse gases. A typical domestic system can save approximately 1.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, adding up to almost 30 tonnes over a system's lifetime
- You can use PV systems for a building with a roof or wall that faces within 90 degrees of south, as long as no other buildings or large trees overshadow it