

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	19-ERDD-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Research Idea Exchange
<b>TN #:</b>	234604
<b>Document Title:</b>	California Energy Commission Comments - Staff Workshop on Research and Development Opportunities for Solar Thermal Water Heating in Commercial and Multifamily Buildings
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	9/8/2020 1:37:18 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	9/8/2020

*Comment Received From: California Energy Commission  
Submitted On: 9/8/2020  
Docket Number: 19-ERDD-01*

## **Staff Workshop on Research and Development Opportunities for Solar Thermal Water Heating in Commercial and Multifamily Buildings**

California Energy Commission (CEC) staff will host a remote-access workshop on October 15, 2020 to discuss research and development opportunities to address barriers for solar thermal applications in commercial and multifamily residential buildings. The workshop will seek public input on future research needs and pathways to accelerate adoption of emerging technologies in these sectors. Information and comments received could help inform future CEC research initiatives and solicitations.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)

CEC-70 (Revised 5/2020)

*IN THE MATTER OF:*

*Research and Development Opportunities for  
Solar Thermal Water Heating in Commercial  
and Multifamily Buildings*

Docket No. 19-ERDD-01

NOTICE OF REMOTE-ACCESS  
WORKSHOP

RE: Research and Development  
Opportunities for Solar Thermal Water  
Heating in Commercial and Multifamily  
Buildings

**Notice of Staff Workshop on Research and Development  
Opportunities for Solar Thermal Water Heating in Commercial  
and Multifamily Buildings  
October 15, 2020  
9:30 a.m.  
Remote Access Only**

California Energy Commission (CEC) staff will host a remote-access workshop to discuss research and development opportunities to address barriers for solar thermal applications in commercial and multifamily residential buildings. The workshop will seek public input on future research needs and pathways to accelerate adoption of emerging technologies in these sectors. Information and comments received could help inform future CEC research initiatives and solicitations.

The workshop will be held remotely, consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the recommendations from the California Department of Public Health to encourage physical distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. The public is able to participate in the workshop consistent with the direction in these Executive Orders. Instructions for remote participation via Zoom are below.

**Agenda**

The workshop will present previous solar thermal research funded by the CEC and seek public input on future research needs to accelerate adoption of solar thermal technologies in commercial and multifamily building sectors.

1. Overview of past and current solar water heating projects funded by the CEC and discussion of opportunities to deploy solar thermal technologies into multifamily buildings and future research needs of the industry
2. Panel discussion with researchers and representatives who have firsthand experience implementing and managing solar thermal systems
3. Panel discussion with community stakeholders to learn about the needs, preferences, and challenges happening in local communities to implement solar thermal systems and potential for collaborative efforts, especially in low-income and disadvantaged communities
4. Open discussion with workshop attendees on the highest priority solar thermal research needs that can support increased implementation of solar thermal systems in California
5. Overview of a proposed solicitation to fund demonstrations of solar water heating systems to be located in and benefiting low-income or disadvantaged communities

## **Background**

Water heating accounts for about 40 percent of natural gas used by California households and 32 percent by commercial buildings. There is a need to research low carbon pathways for water heating to meet California's aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals. Though electrification of building water heating systems is one option, another option could be solar thermal water heating. Solar water heating systems have the potential to significantly reduce natural gas consumption in the building sector. Low income and disadvantaged communities with larger energy burdens are identified by previous CEC funded research to be key subgroups that are more likely to adopt and receive benefits from solar thermal water heating.<sup>1</sup> However, additional research is needed to reduce the cost of solar thermal water heating systems and increase the likelihood of market adoption.

## **Public Comment**

### **Oral Comments:**

Staff will accept oral comments at the end of the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. If participating via Zoom's online platform, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. If you are participating by telephone, press \*9 to "raise your hand" and \*6 to mute/unmute. See detailed instructions below.

### **Written comments:**

Written comments may be submitted at any time prior to the workshop, and by **5:00 p.m. November 10, 2020**, following the workshop.

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<sup>1</sup> Moezzi, Mithra, Aaron Ingle, Sarah Outcault, Angela Sanguinetti, Loren Lutzenhiser, Hal Wilhite, James D. Lutz, Alan Meier, and Jennifer Kutzleb. 2019. Solar Water Heating Project: Understanding and Improving Effectiveness for California Households. California Energy Commission. Publication Number: CEC-500-2019-061.

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information, such as address, phone number, and email address, become part of the viewable public record. This information may also become available via any internet search engine.

The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the CEC [e-commenting system](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=19-ERDD-01) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=19-ERDD-01> to file a comment to [Docket Unit 19-ERDD-01](#).

At the "Add Comment" page, enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word (.doc, .docx) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf) file. Maximum file size is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 19-ERDD-01 and "Solar Thermal Workshop" in the subject line and email to [docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov).

If preferred, a paper copy may be submitted to:

California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. 19-ERDD-01  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

All written comments shall comply with the requirements of the 20 California Code of Regulations section 1208.1.

## **Public Advisor and Other CEC Contacts**

The CEC's Public Advisor's Office provides the public assistance in participating in CEC proceedings. For information on how to participate in this proceeding, or to request interpreting services or other reasonable accommodations, please contact the public advisor, Noemí O. Gallardo, at [publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov), or by phone at (916) 654-4489, toll free at (800) 822-6228, or by fax at (916) 654-4493. Requests for interpreting services and reasonable accommodations should be made at least five days in advance. The CEC will work diligently to accommodate late requests.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Media and Public Communications Office at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4989.

General and technical subject inquiries should be directed to Kaycee Chang at [kaycee.chang@energy.ca.gov](mailto:kaycee.chang@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 327-1509.

## **Remote Attendance**

Zoom™ is the CEC's online meeting service. When attending remotely, presentations will appear on your device screen and audio may be heard via the device or telephone. Please be aware that the Zoom meeting may be recorded.

The meeting may also be accessed at <https://join.zoom.us> by entering the unique Meeting ID and password for the session listed below. To comment, dial \*9 to "raise your hand." To participate by telephone, see instructions below.

**Join Via Computer:** Follow the link below and the instructions on your screen to join the Zoom Meeting.

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<https://energy.zoom.us/j/93626399926?pwd=WTNyRzFQVWFibzkycGlza2FLdVJXQT09>

Meeting ID: 936 2639 9926

Meeting password: energy

**Join Via Mobile Device:**

One-tap mobile

8778535257,,93626399926# US Toll-free

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**Join Via Telephone Only:** Use the numbers to join the Zoom Meeting by phone.

Dial by your location

(888) 475-4499 US Toll-free

(877) 853-5257 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 936 2639 9926

International numbers available: <https://energy.zoom.us/u/ad4hTukTeg>.

If you experience difficulties, you may contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the Public Advisor's Office via email or phone.

## **Availability of Documents**

Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at [Docket Unit 19-ERDD-01](#) found at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=19-ERDD-01>.

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