

Hybrid Swimming Pool Heating Act

This article shall be known, and may be cited, as the Hybrid Swimming Pool Heating Act

As used in this article, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) "Energy Commission" means the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission.
- (b) "FSEC" means the Florida Solar Energy Center
- (c) "Hybrid Solar-Gas Swimming Pool Heating System" means a solar swimming pool heating collector in combination with a propane gas or natural gas swimming pool heater that has the primary purpose of providing heat to a swimming pool while reducing demand for propane gas or natural gas consumption in residential, multifamily residential, commercial, municipal, governmental or educational swimming pool installations in the state.
- (d) "New Solar Homes Partnership" means the 10-year program, administered by the Energy Commission, encouraging solar energy systems in new home construction.
- (e) "Solar Swimming Pool Heating Collector" means a device or system that is used to collect or capture heat from the sun and that is generally, but need not be, located on a roof.
- (f) "SRCC" means the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation.
- (g) "Swimming Pool Gas Customer" includes both propane gas and natural gas customers who either desire to or who currently heat their swimming pool by either propane gas or natural gas with or without being in combination with a solar swimming pool heating collector.

The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) California is heavily dependent on natural gas, importing more than 80 percent of the natural gas it consumes.
- (b) Rising worldwide demand for natural gas and a shrinking supply create rising and unstable prices that can harm California consumers and the economy.
- (c) Propane gas and natural gas are fossil fuels and a major source of global warming pollution and the pollutants that cause air pollution, including smog.
- (d) California's growing population and economy will put a strain on energy supplies and threaten the ability of the state to meet its global warming goals unless specific steps are taken to reduce demand and generate energy cleanly and efficiently.
- (e) Swimming pool heating of swimming pools in the state using propane gas or natural gas accounts for a significant percentage of the state's propane gas and natural gas consumption.
- (f) Hybrid solar-gas swimming pool heating systems represent a large untapped propane gas and natural gas saving potential remaining in California.
- (g) In addition to financial and energy savings, hybrid solar-gas swimming pool heating systems can help protect against future gas and electricity shortages and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.
- (h) Hybrid solar-gas swimming pool heating systems can also help preserve the

environment and protect public health by reducing air pollution, including carbon dioxide, a leading global warming gas, and nitrogen oxide, a precursor to smog.

(i) Growing demand for these technologies will create jobs in California as well as promote greater energy independence, protect consumers from rising energy costs and result in cleaner air.

(j) It is in the interest of the State of California to promote hybrid solar-gas swimming pool heating systems and other technologies that directly reduce demand for propane gas or natural gas in the state.

(k) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote a mainstream market for hybrid solar-gas swimming pool heating systems that directly reduces demand for propane gas or natural gas in residential, multifamily residential, commercial, municipal, governmental or educational swimming pool installations in the state.

(l) It is the intent of the Legislature that the hybrid solar-gas swimming pool heating system requirements created by the act should be a cost-effective investment by swimming pool gas customers. Swimming pool gas customers will recoup the cost of their investment through lower prices as a result of avoiding purchases of natural gas, and benefit from additional system stability and pollution reduction benefits.

(2) The program shall be administered by propane gas or natural gas corporations or third-party administrators, as determined by the commission, and subject to the supervision of the commission.

(3) The commission shall coordinate the program with the Energy Commission's New Solar Homes Partnership to achieve the goal of building zero-energy homes.

(a) The Energy Commission shall establish eligibility criteria for new and existing swimming pool gas customers. The criteria shall require all of the following:

(1) To be eligible to become a swimming pool gas customer or to remain as an existing swimming pool gas customer, the swimming pool gas customer is required to have a hybrid solar-gas swimming pool heating system on their swimming pool by equipping the swimming pool with solar swimming pool heating collectors equivalent in area to a minimum of 25% of the surface area of the swimming pool or capable of providing a minimum of 25% of the btu heating demand of the swimming pool. Solar swimming pool collectors used in systems for multifamily residential, commercial, municipal, governmental or educational swimming pool installations in the state shall, at a minimum, have an SRCC or FSEC Solar Pool Heating System Certification.

(2) Require that solar water heating systems are installed in conformity with the manufacturer's specifications and all applicable codes and standards.

(3) Appropriate siting and high-quality installation of the solar swimming pool heating collector based on installation guidelines that maximize the performance of the system and prevent qualified systems from being inefficiently or inappropriately installed. The conditions shall not impact housing designs or densities presently authorized by a city, county, or city and county. The goal of this paragraph is to achieve efficient installation of hybrid solar-gas swimming pool heating systems and promote the greatest energy production or displacement per swimming pool gas customer dollar.

(4) To qualify for an exemption from the requirement to provide a hybrid solar-gas swimming pool heating system on a swimming pool by equipping it with a solar

swimming pool heating collector in order to remain as or become a swimming pool gas customer, a present or prospective swimming pool gas customer must provide a signed and sworn statement from a state licensed solar contractor attesting to the physical inability of the specific location to meet either of the minimum 25% sizing requirements pertaining to solar swimming pool heating collectors under this act.

(5) The requirements of this act shall also apply to hot tubs or spas that share a swimming pool heater that uses propane gas or natural gas.