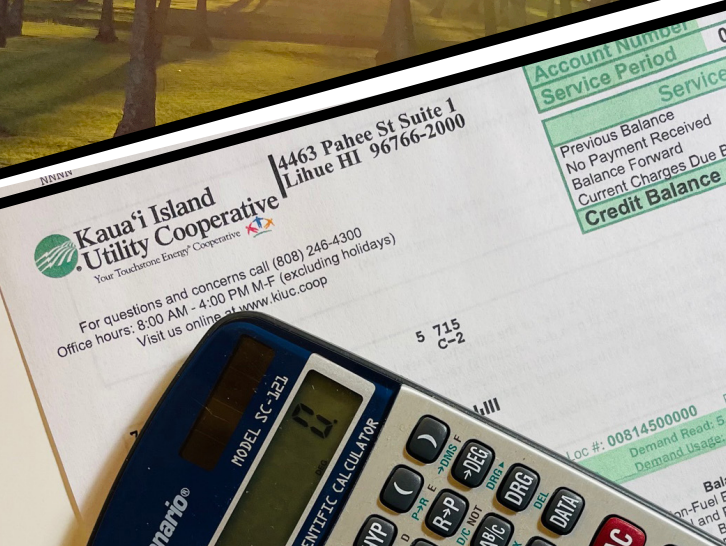


Solar Water Heating Benefits
Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative
members and the environment.
Each year, the average solar water
heater on Kaua'i saves:

- An average of \$680 a year on participating members' electric bills.
- 50-85% on water heating costs.
- Approximately 1940 kWh/year.
- 50 tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the heater.



KIUC's Energy Wise Guys
Kyle Cremer & Makani Taniguchi

To learn more about our Energy Saving Tips,
visit our website at
www.kiuc.coop

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Pahee Street, Suite 1
Lihue, HI 96766-2000
www.kiuc.coop
808.246.4300



Makani and Kyle
KIUC Energy
Wise Guys



Solar Water Heating Facts

- About 18 percent of your electric bill can come from heating water.
- Solar water heating can supply up to 90 percent of your hot water needs.
- Even on cloudy days, solar water heaters provide hot water.
- Solar water heaters are reliable, dependable and can last up to 20 years on Kaua'i.
- More than one third of the homes on Kaua'i have solar water heating.

Tips to Save Energy and Money

- ✓ Maximize use from your solar water heater by using hot water efficiently and eliminating waste.
- ✓ Repair leaky faucets and pipes—especially on the hot water side—since hot water leaks elevate your household electric use and waste energy.
- ✓ Wash clothes in cold water; new washers are more efficient and do a better job cleaning clothes, so hot or warm water is unnecessary.
- ✓ Set the thermostat on the storage tank no higher than 120° F.
- ✓ Use hot water provided by the sun; install a timer to control use of the heating elements on the storage tank.
- ✓ If your solar system is sized properly, turn off the backup heating elements during long periods of sunny weather; depending on your area, you may be able to leave them off at all times.
- ✓ Your system heats your water during daylight hours, so minimize hot water use at this time.
- ✓ Use most hot water early in the day so the sun has time to re-heat water instead of using backup heating elements.
- ✓ If you must use hot water late in the day, turn off the electricity to your storage tank and allow the sun to heat water for your household the next day.
- ✓ Since your system is designed based on household size, if you have company or permanently add to your household, your system may not be able to provide enough hot water using just the sun; your heating elements will be used more, which can increase your use and your electric bill.



Annual Solar Water Heater Maintenance

- ✓ Hire a solar contractor to check your system if you suspect a malfunction.
- ✓ Replace malfunctioning devices, pressure release valves, circulating pumps and pump controllers; malfunctions lead to extended use of backup elements and higher electric use.
- ✓ Drain one to two gallons from the bottom of your solar water heater storage tank each year to prevent excess mineral deposits that can accumulate, limiting capacity and leading to corrosion, which may cause premature tank failure.
- ✓ Clean your solar panels by wiping them with a damp cloth or hosing them down; this will prolong the life of your panels by preventing build up of corrosion-causing dirt and mold.



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