



# SUCCESS STORIES

The goal of the Million Solar Roofs Initiative is to install one million solar energy systems on U.S. buildings by 2010. President Clinton announced the Initiative on June 26, 1997 in a speech before the United Nations Session on Environment and Development. The Initiative focuses on two types of solar energy technology — photovoltaics that produce electricity from sunlight, and solar thermal systems that produce heat for domestic hot water, space heating or heating swimming pools. The U.S. Department of Energy leads this effort in partnership with the building industry, other federal agencies, utilities, the solar energy industry, financial institutions, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations. These partnerships concentrate on removing market barriers and developing and strengthening demand for solar energy products and applications. As progress is made toward the goal of one million solar roofs, greenhouse gases and other harmful emissions will be reduced, high tech jobs will be created, and the U.S. solar energy industry will retain its competitive edge.



**Project:** Parade of Homes Solar Installation

**Type:** Solar hot water installations

**Location:** Denver, Colorado

**Background:** Kurowski Development Company president, John Kurowski, founder of the Green Builder Program in Colorado, has been building energy efficient homes since 1974. He was instrumental in making energy efficiency a part of the 1994 Parade of Homes. Keeping with this tradition, every home in the 1998 Parade of Homes was built to reflect environmentally friendly and energy efficient techniques, including solar energy systems.

Over the next several years, builders and developers plan to build and/or retrofit ten thousand “green” homes in Colorado. Among the techniques/technologies included will be the use of recycled concrete and solar technologies.

**System Description:** In 1998, the Denver annual Parade of Homes featured homes with solar hot water heating and PV systems. For the purposes of this case study we will focus on the solar hot water systems. The homes constructed by Kurowski builders and Windham Custom Homes featured solar hot water heating systems manufactured by Heliodyne. The closed loop systems use anti-freeze and each system has one 4 by 10 foot collector and a 65 gallon tank. The Windham built homes also featured a closed-loop drainback system manufactured by Radco. These systems were comprised of two 4 by 8 panels and an 80 gallon storage tank. The systems were designed to provide approximately 60% of the hot water needs of each household.



**Financing information:** Each of the Heliodyne systems cost approximately \$4,400 and the Radco systems cost about \$4,100 (installed cost). All of the systems were paid for by the Colorado Office of Energy Conservation. As a condition of the purchase of these systems, each of the homebuilders agreed to offer solar as an optional feature of their new homes.

**Climate:** The systems will be operating in Denver, Colorado, which has good solar radiation.

**Total Installed Cost:** \$4,400 per Heliodyne system; \$4,100 per Radco system.

**Optimum Maintenance Costs:** \$40- \$50 per year per system. This cost is based on a system check by a technician once every three years (\$80 each) and having one major repair, such as replacing a pump, once every 10 years. The estimated total repair costs are approximately \$400 over ten years.

**Environmental Benefits:** The hot water systems installed on the Parade of Homes in Denver should displace about 3,760 kWh of electricity annually for a family of four. This is assuming that the system could provide about 60% of the hot water for an average family of four. This would translate to about 5,170 pounds of carbon dioxide displaced (assuming 1.375 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh).

**Contact:** This project was coordinated by the Governor's Office of Energy Conservation and the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver.

Governor's Office of Energy Conservation. email: oec@csn.net  
Hotline: 800-OEC-6662

Home Builders Association of Metro Denver. email:  
hbakim@aol.com (303) 778-1400.



## DOE Regional Support Offices

### Atlanta Regional Support Office

**Steve Hortin**, 404/347-0239  
730 Peachtree, NE, Suite 876  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
fax: 404/347-3098  
Southeast Region: FL, GA, SC, NC, AL, MS, KY,  
TN, AR, USVI, PR

### Boston Regional Support Office

**Richard Michaud**, 617/565-9713  
One Congress Street  
Room 1101  
Boston, MA 02114-2021  
fax: (617)656-9723  
Northeast Region: CT, ME, MA, NH,  
NY, VT, RI

### Chicago Regional Support Office

**Mark Burger**, 312/886-8583  
**Julie Pollit**, 312/886-8571  
One South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606  
fax: 312/886-8561  
Region: IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI

### Denver Regional Support Office

**Steve Sargent**, 303/275-4820  
1617 Cole Blvd.  
Golden, CO 80401-2266  
fax: 303/275-4830  
Region: CO, KS, LA, MT, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD,  
TX, UT, WY

### Philadelphia Regional Support Office

**Susan Guard**, 215/656-6965  
1880 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
Suite 501  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7483  
fax: 215/656-6981  
Region: DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV

### Seattle Regional Support Office

**Curtis Framel**, 206/553-7841  
Michael Lottier, 206/553-2156  
800 Fifth Ave., Suite 3950  
Seattle, Washington 98104-3122  
fax: 206/553-2200  
Northwest Region: AK, WA, ID, OR, CA, NV,  
AZ, HI, Pacific Territories

Hawaii only:

**Eileen Yoshinaka**, 808/541-2564  
300 Ala Moana Blvd.  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
fax: 808/541-2562

#### For more information:

##### By phone:

Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse (EREC)  
1-800-DOE-EREC (363-3732)

##### On the Internet:

Million Solar Roofs Website  
[www.MillionSolarRoofs.org](http://www.MillionSolarRoofs.org)