



**RESIDENTIAL CASE STUDY**  
CUSTOMER KEVIN VIRKLER  
LOWVILLE, NY



## NORTH COUNTRY HOMEOWNER FINDS COOL WAY TO HEAT HOT WATER

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*Solar panels capture the sun's energy, which is then used to heat your water.*

***“It was a quick project... a quick process.”***

Kevin Virkler is a forester who lives in a one-story ranch in Lowville, a rural community northwest of the Adirondacks. His home is a wood-stick structure originally built in the 1960s. About seven years ago, Virkler doubled the home's size by building his own addition.

Determined to make the home more energy efficient, he tightly insulated it and added a solar hot water system with financial and technical assistance from NYSERDA. Like most residential systems, Virkler's comprises three rooftop solar collectors, plus a tank, a regulating pump and a meter system to control everything.

“The installation process was outstanding,” Virkler recalls. “There was a crew on the roof and a crew in the cellar. When you think about a major conversion like this, you're thinking you might not get any hot water for a few days, but it wasn't like that. It was a quick project...a quick process.”

### **Incentives and results**

Virkler's positive experience with NYSERDA has made him a loyal solar hot water enthusiast.

**THINK YOU'RE READY TO GET INTO HOT WATER?**

To learn more call 1-866-NYSERDA or visit [solarhotwater.nysERDA.ny.gov](http://solarhotwater.nysERDA.ny.gov)

He is delighted with the efficiency his solar hot water system delivers. He was also pleased that the NYSERDA financial incentives and tax credits covered nearly half



*Water heated by the sun's energy is stored in a storage tank.*

of the system's costs. The system heats water for showers and dishwashing year-round—even during the harsh North Country winters. In fact, his solar hot water system works so well that he didn't

even turn on the breaker for his electric backup system until the nights started getting colder in the fall.

For more information, visit [www.nyserderda.ny.gov/Programs/Renewables/Solar-Technologies.aspx](http://www.nyserderda.ny.gov/Programs/Renewables/Solar-Technologies.aspx)

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