



Berkeley Climate Action Plan: Tracking our Progress Building Energy Use – Solar Thermal



Goal: Increase residential and commercial renewable energy use

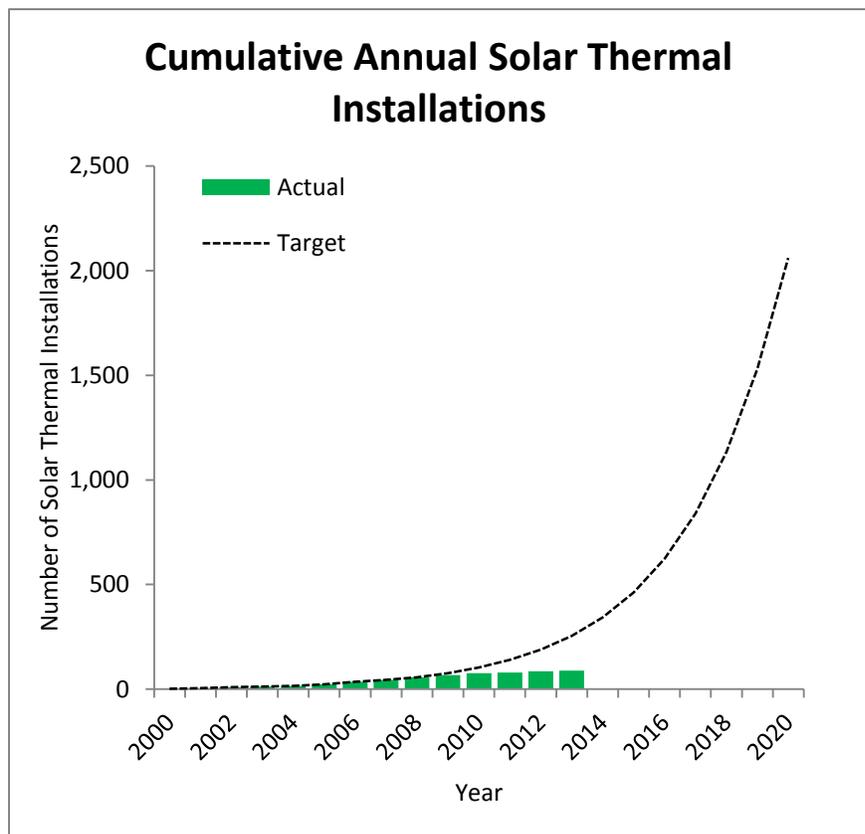
Performance metric: Annual solar thermal installations

Target: Achieve a cumulative total of 2,060 solar thermal systems installed between 2000 and 2020. This translates to an estimated annual reduction of 367,000 therms, annual energy bill savings of \$376,000 and estimated annual GHG reductions of 1,300 metric tons.

Status: 88 solar thermal systems were installed in Berkeley between 2000 and 2013. This is below the desired 2013 target of 254 installations. The City is currently at 4% of its 2020 target of 2,060 installations.

Why is this metric important?

Tracking solar thermal installation trends illustrates the annual amount of energy saved (therms) due to total units installed in Berkeley. It is an important metric because natural gas is a fossil fuel that emits greenhouse gases when burned. Solar thermal installations offset natural gas consumption in homes and businesses. Emissions that result from natural gas consumption in Berkeley buildings are more than double the emissions that result from electricity consumption. A solar thermal installation can eliminate or greatly reduce the natural gas consumed to heat water and building space.



Resources and assistance for community members

SmartSolar (<http://ebenergy.org/smart-solar-program/>) Provides free, independent energy education and site-specific project advice to help Berkeley residents and businesses go solar.

Berkeley Solar Map (www.CityofBerkeley.info/solarmap) An interactive tool for viewing locations of existing solar installations in Berkeley. It also allows one to calculate the benefits of going solar by determining the potential size and cost for solar PV or solar thermal on any rooftop within the City of Berkeley.

Data sources and technical notes

Solar thermal data is based on number of permits issued for solar thermal installations in the City of Berkeley.

Tracking our progress: Review other Climate Action Plan performance metrics at www.cityofberkeley.info/climate