



A Solar Stock Tank Keeps the Horses Hydrated and Rachel & Kevin Stress-Free

A HOLY CROSS ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUCCESS STORY

SOLAR STOCK TANK

Project Cost Summary

Initial Cost: \$530
Less Holy Cross Rebate: \$250
Final Cost: \$280

Payback Calculations

Final Cost: \$280
Total Annual Cost Savings: \$170

Payback

Less than two winter seasons

Rachel Marble and Kevin White used to run an electric stock tank heater 8-12 hours per day so that their horses would always have water available. Last year they replaced their 1,000 watt stock tank heater with a new 25 gallon solar stock tank. With their new solar stock tank, they are saving 240-360 kilowatt-hours and about \$23-\$34 per month on their electric bill.

“We saw about \$170 in savings in the first year.”

“We also have less anxiety about our horses having access to water because we used to have issues with the breaker switch tripping sometimes when the old 1,000 watt heater was running. Now that’s not a problem.”

In fact, Rachel reported that despite the very cold temperatures last winter in Carbondale, she only had to pour hot water on the lid of the heater a couple of times, just to melt a tiny bit of ice that formed on the very edge of the lid overnight. The water inside the tank never froze.

“Proper placement of the solar tank heater is important. Ours is shaded after about 1:00 PM. If we had full sun until 4:00 or so, I might not have had any problems at all with the lid freezing.”

Rachel said it took no time for the horses to figure out the tank, and it is easy for them to push the lid down to get to the water. Because the tank is covered, there is no algae growth and cleaning is minimal.

Solar stock tanks are available at Roaring Fork Valley Co-op in Carbondale, and you can also find several different models online. The average cost is about \$500, but you can also build your own. Rachel and Kevin showed their stock tank heater to the Residential Energy Auditor during a complimentary energy assessment last year. After a brief discussion about the performance of the heater and the resulting energy savings, Holy Cross Energy created a rebate for solar tank heaters.

Now you can get a rebate of 50% of the cost up to \$250!



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