

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET
THE WHITE HOUSE SOLAR SYSTEM

The White House solar hot water heating system was completed at the end of April 1979. It is located on the roof of the West Wing of the White House, over the Cabinet Room. The solar panels can be seen from Pennsylvania Avenue.

The primary user of the hot water in the West Wing is the kitchen of the Staff Mess, which is in the basement. As is normal in such installations, the solar system preheats water before it enters the regular hot water heater, thereby reducing the energy required. The amount of energy saved in any given system will depend upon the weather, incoming water temperature and water use.

The energy provided by the White House solar system will replace approximately \$1,000 per year of steam, at present prices. As energy costs increase in the future, so will savings.

Technical details are as follows:

- 32 panels in 4 rows of 8;
- total collector area: 611 square feet;
- orientation: due south, 33° tilt;
- 600 gallons water storage;
- heating fluid: 50 gallons glycol;
- flow rate: 10 gallons per minute;
- system output: 75 - 130M BTU/yr;
- back-up system: steam.

