

Updates to the Solar Water Heater Variance Application Process

Aloha!

To improve accuracy, consistency, and fairness in the Solar Water Heater Variance (SWHV) review process, the following updates have been implemented:

- **New Life Cycle Cost Comparison (LCCC) Workbook**
 - The new LCCC workbook is available on the Solar Water Heater Variance website at [Solar Water Heat Variance - Hawai'i State Energy Office](#).
 - The input field for “**Number of people in household**” has been replaced with “**Number of BEDROOMS**” to provide a more objective and verifiable measure of household size.
 - **Default installation costs** have been updated to better reflect current market conditions.
- **Floor Plan Requirement**
 - Applicants **shall submit a FLOOR PLAN in PDF format that clearly identifies the number of bedrooms** to verify the information entered in the LCCC workbook.
 - When submitting a SWHV request through the Solar Water Heater Variance **online application**, the **floor plan in PDF format** shall be **attached to the LCCC**. **Both documents must then be uploaded together** using the **SELECT FILES** button.
 - If the SWHV request is **mailed or emailed**, the **floor plan** shall be **included with the LCCC** in the same submission packet.
- **Price Quotes Requirement**
 - If requested, applicants shall submit **separate price quotes from different licensed contractors** for each water heating technology under consideration.
 - For example, one contractor must provide a quote for a solar water heater installation, and a different contractor must provide a quote for a heat pump installation.
 - **A single contractor may not provide both quotes**. This requirement ensures competitive and unbiased cost comparisons between technologies.

Transition Period

- The **October 2025 edition** of the Life Cycle Cost Comparison (LCCC) workbook is now available on the Solar Water Heater Variance website and may be used **immediately** for submissions.
- However, to allow for a smooth transition, the **January 2024 edition** of the LCCC workbook will continue to be accepted **through November 15, 2025**.
- Starting **November 16, 2025**, only LCCC editions dated **October 2025 or later** will be accepted.
- Please note:
 - The **January 2024 edition is no longer available for download** from the Solar Water Heater Variance website.
 - Applicants who wish to continue using the January 2024 edition until November 15, 2025, must use a previously saved copy.
 - If you no longer have access to the January 2024 edition and need to submit before November 16, 2025, you may use the October 2025 edition.
 - Whenever the October 2025 edition is used for a SWHV application, a **floor plan in PDF format** that clearly identifies the number of bedrooms must be submitted along with the workbook, regardless of the submission date.

Questions or Support

If you have any questions or experience issues with the new workbook, please contact the Hawai'i State Energy Office at DBEDT.SWH-Variance@hawaii.gov.