

## A New Neighborhood Attraction

### The Building

49 Granville Road. This is a two-family home built in late 1800's and has been converted to two condominiums.

### The Project

One of the condominium owners is motivated to make a difference in the battle to fight the effects of climate change on our earth. She shifted careers a few years ago from consulting in the building industry for over 20 years to work in the renewable energy field. She joined a Somerville-based startup SunBug Solar, and with three partners began putting solar on homes, schools and businesses around the state. In their 4<sup>th</sup> year, the owner turned to her own home to look for the opportunity to demonstrate to her neighborhood, Huron Village, that solar works.



Our home was the first in the neighborhood to have solar hot water. People walk and drive by and stop to look at the Big Boy. Now they see the panels on the roof and the dialogue shifts to “Cool, solar energy...”



The system is a Schuco, German manufactured, solar collectors with a 60 gallon storage tank in the basement that feeds water heated from the sun to their existing gas fired hot water heater. The solar collectors will generate 40-60% of their hot water needs and save them money on their gas bill each month.

The owner was able to use a state rebate from the Clean Energy Center as well as a rebate program specifically for solar hot water provided by the City of Cambridge.

In addition they were able to get a 30% federal tax credit. The system cost \$11,375 but after rebates and tax credits, the cost was less than \$5,000. The home owner is ecstatic that she can bring solar to her community and make it work for her family too.

“Our home was the first in the neighborhood to have solar hot water. People walk and drive by and stop to look at the Big Boy. Now they see the panels on the roof and the dialogue shifts to ‘Cool, solar energy...’”