



Summer 1982

Solar Diffusion and Public Incentives, Seymour Warkov and Judith W. Meyer

John V. Zuckerman

Recommended Citation

John V. Zuckerman, *Solar Diffusion and Public Incentives, Seymour Warkov and Judith W. Meyer*, 22 Nat. Resources J. 724 (1982).

Available at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nrj/vol22/iss3/20>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Natural Resources Journal by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu, lsloane@salud.unm.edu, sahrk@unm.edu.

SOLAR DIFFUSION AND PUBLIC INCENTIVES

SEYMOUR WARKOV and JUDITH W. MEYER
Lexington: D. C. Heath and Company, Lexington Books.
1982. Pp. 157. \$19.95

This is the final report of a study which monitored and evaluated a segment of the Solar Domestic Hot Water Grant Program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and also studied solar dealers and installers in Connecticut from 1977–1979. The work was supported by the State of Connecticut, the Northeast Solar Energy Center, and the University of Connecticut Research Foundation, as well as other offices of the University of Connecticut. Much of the work was previously reported in various conference presentations over the past several years, but some original materials are included.

The book will be most useful to researchers engaged in sociological studies of energy utilization. Two chapters containing a number of hypotheses which were verified by survey research should be of aid to those concerned with barriers to and incentives for the development of solar energy as a viable commercial supplement or alternative for fossil fuels. Chapter 3, "Solar Incentives and Public Interest" relates the amount of public interest in the HUD Solar Domestic Hot Water Grant Program in Connecticut to characteristics of urban and suburban regions: size of population, social composition, status of communities, and patterns of household consumption behavior. Chapter 5, "Barriers and Incentives: Near Adopters' Perceptions" will be of particular usefulness to those who are engaged in the practical tasks of overcoming the barriers. Hypotheses verified by survey research included those related to such factors as price, bureaucratic red tape, expectations concerning new technology, and difficulties in obtaining financing.

Chapter 7, "Epilogue: Overview and Issues," provides a summary of the issues surrounding the actual pace of solar diffusion since 1973, and lists the concerns which should occupy the attention of those engaged directly in commercializing solar energy in residential heating and cooling applications. While there are many other sources of information on incentives and barriers to the adoption of solar energy—for instance, legal sources are not much utilized in this book—there is a bibliography. Newer sources need to be consulted, as the references are generally from earlier than 1981. This book is worth the attention of the specialist.

JOHN V. ZUCKERMAN
College of Business Administration
University of Houston Central Campus