Solar hot water systems may have an abbreviated window of time to collect valuable energy from the sun, but that doesn't mean they can't be applied toward high temperature and/or high volume applications. Two Roads Brewing Company in Stratford, CT, is a perfect example.

The brewery’s 70-panel solar hot water system is quite capable of producing the high temperature water needed to serve the brewery’s hot water demand. But a 3000-gallon, cement-lined storage tank from Hubbell helps ensure that the brewery makes the most of every solar generated Btu.

Breweries use a lot of hot water, so being able to capitalize on free energy from the sun can add up to huge fuel savings. That said, a solar collector’s ability to capture this energy is subject to much variation depending on time of day, season, weather, and geographic location. For example, the average daily amount of solar radiation in Connecticut varies from over five hours in the summer to less than two hours in the winter. Fortunately, the sun can heat a lot of water in a short period of time, so storage is typically an essential component in solar hot water applications.
The solar heating system at Two Roads consists of a series of evacuated tube solar collectors which convert sunlight into energy that is then used to heat the domestic hot water stored inside the 3000-gallon storage tank. A circulation pump continuously transfers this heat from the collectors to the storage tank, so there is always a ready supply of 140°F water for barrel washing, brewing equipment clean-up, and more. This ability to capture and save the sun’s energy ultimately saved Two Roads from having to purchase any additional water heaters.

**The Right Tank for the Job**

The Hubbell SH3000SL ASME stamped storage tank chosen for Two Roads is particularly well-suited for heating process water in demanding commercial applications, like breweries. First, the tank comes standard as a fully packaged system ready for installation. More important, the tank is lined with Hydrastone cement, providing superior protection that extends the life of the tank and helps the owner avoid both scheduled and unscheduled downtime.

This lining provides a seamless barrier between the steel tank and the highly corrosive effects of hot water. The inherent durability of Hydrastone cement eliminates the need for sacrificial anode rods that are required in glass-lined tanks. Anode rods are used to draw the corrosive elements typically found in water away from the steel surface of the tank should cracks occur in the glass lining, as they commonly do. Over time anode rods get depleted and must be replaced periodically, subjecting owners to unwanted costs and downtime. By choosing cement-lined tanks, owners can avoid the maintenance and premature failure often associated with other tank linings.

High volume and/or process hot water users like breweries have much to gain from the increased durability and longevity of these cement-lined tanks. Two Roads supplies their craft beers to thousands of restaurants and retail outlets throughout NY and New England states, so any hot water downtime (due to equipment failure or routine service) can have a profound impact on production.

“A brewer is actually protecting its profitability by selecting a cement-lined storage tank or water heater. These units are designed to provide the longest possible life cycle, which is a huge priority for these types of applications,” said Sean Clarke, Vice President of Sales for Hubbell.

Hubbell water heaters help aid in the transition from brewing and distilling in small batches, to high volume breweries and distilleries that have the ability to produce greater quantities with increased efficiency. Our products are commercial grade, offer high efficiency ratings, and are NSF5, NS61 approved.

**About Hubbell**

Hubbell is a leading manufacturer of water heaters used in a variety of applications including Industrial, Commercial, Food Service, and Offshore/Marine markets. Whatever the application, fuel source, or industry, Hubbell can provide a solution to your water heating needs. For more information on our water heaters and water heating systems please visit us at: [www.hubbellheaters.com](http://www.hubbellheaters.com)