

# **SOLAR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SOLAR INCENTIVE?**

Simply log on to our web site [www.maine.gov/msep/programs\\_solar.htm](http://www.maine.gov/msep/programs_solar.htm) Click on the application form link and print it. Fill out the required information and mail to Energy Federation Incorporated (EFI), 40 Washington Street Suite 3000, Westborough MA 01581-1012. Within two to three weeks you will receive a reservation number for your project. The reservation number essentially says there is money available for your project; you have 120 days to complete. You may request a 120 day extensions if needed. Once the project has been completed, fill out appendix "A" (prints off with the application) and mail with the appropriate signatures, equipment information, and a copy of all the receipts. Submittals will be examined for completeness, and incentive checks will be processed in the next payment cycle (monthly). If you do not have access to the web, we will mail the application to you.

## **ARE ALL OF THE PHOTVOLTAIC FUNDS USED?**

The PV money has all been reserved through the end of the program in 2008. There is however, \$62,500 of funds that was not originally identified and will be made available. We will be re-opening the PV solar incentive on applications submitted after January 1, 2008 on a first come first serve basis until all remaining funds have been reserved. Applications received before January 1, 2008 will be returned.

## **WHAT ARE THE REBATE INCENTIVE AMOUNTS?**

Photovoltaic incentives are \$3.00 per watt for the first 2,000 watts and \$1.00 for the next 1,000 watts. Thermal incentives are 25 percent of the project cost or \$1250 whichever is less. NOTE: The Legislature has given the Public Utilities Commission authority to modify incentive levels to better reflect market conditions. We will be entering into a rule making and public hearing process to solicit input from Maine Citizens. Keep an eye toward our web site for times and places [www.maine.gov/msep/programs\\_solar.htm](http://www.maine.gov/msep/programs_solar.htm)

## **WHAT IS MENT BY GRID-TIED OR GRID-CONNECTED?**

A grid connected system is a solar (electrical or thermal) attached to a building that receives its electricity from a utility. In order to receive an incentive, being grid tied is required.

## **CAN I RECEIVE AN INCENTIVE IF MY SOLAR SYSTEM IS A COMBINATION?**

As solar systems mature, newer and different mythologies are being developed. For example geothermal heating systems are being assisted by solar panels; solar thermal systems are now being incorporated into air-to-water, water-to-water, and heat pumps for heat distribution in radiant floor heat. These solar applications are all authentic solar applications.

## **I AM FRUSTRATED BY THE NUMBER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLAR INSTALLERS, WHY CAN'T I USE MY PLUMBER OR ELECTRICIAN?**

The Legislation that created the solar incentive built in a measure of quality control to help ensure Maine solar incentive recipients receive quality products that are installed to the highest standards. For that reason, Thermal installers must be Master licensed Plumber who have been trained by the Maine Public Utilities Commission or working with an individual who has been trained. Photovoltaic installers must be Master Licensed Electricians and be North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) certified.

**I NOTICE THAT YOU'VE HAVE A LIST OF CERTIFIED SOLAR INSTALLERS ON YOUR WEB SITE. CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOMEONE?**

We do not recommend specific installers, but do recommend that you visit our web site often and speak with several installers in your area to obtain competitive price quotes as well as getting the correct system for your needs.

**HOW IS THE LISTS OF PROJECTS QUALIFIED TO RECEIVE REBATES GOING TO BE MAINTAINED?**

We have contracted with Energy Federation Incorporated (EFI) in Massachusetts to provide our solar administrative services. Applications are submitted directly to EFI who will review all material for completeness, records the application, provides a reservation number and tracks the project through completion electronically. At least month, often bi-monthly, EFI updates our records electronically. If you call us after applying but before we have been updated, we may not have your information. We may need time to follow up with EFI.

**WHEN DO THE INCENTIVES END?**

The current solar program ends on December 31, 2008. The 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session has extended and the Governor has signed a bill extending the solar program to 2010. As mentioned above, incentive levels will most likely be changing.

**I HAVE READ YOUR WEB SITE REGARDING REBATES FOR SOLAR SYSTEMS; ARE THERE ANY PROGRAMS THAT OFFER GRANTS FOR SENIORS AND/OR DISABLED RESIDENCES?**

At this time there are no known grants available for specific markets segments.

**May I APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE REBATE?**

The legislation does not prohibit anyone from installing all three types of systems (Photovoltaic, Thermal hot water and Thermal hot air) and applying for and receiving rebates on all three.

**WHAT ABOUT THE FEDERAL SOLAR REBATE?**

The federal tax incentive information can be found at [www.energytaxincentives.org](http://www.energytaxincentives.org)

**HOW DO I BECOME A TRAINED OR CERTIFIED INSTALLER?**

To qualify for our training one must hold a professional license and fill out and submit an enrollment form and payment. All training being offered is listed on our web site and is usually under constant change. Currently, PV certification is provided through the Fairfield Community Collage and through IBEW at their Fairfield Maine office. We contract through the North Carolina Solar Institute to provide training for solar thermal classes periodically throughout the State.

**WHERE DO I FIND ANSWERS TO QUSTIONS NOT FOUND HERE?**

Please call Richard (Dick) Fortier the Solar Program Manager at 207-287-3319 or email him at [Richard.Fortier@maine.gov](mailto:Richard.Fortier@maine.gov)