

Florida Solar Rebates *Frequently Asked Questions*

General Solar Rebate Information

What is the Florida Solar Energy System Incentives Program?

The Florida Solar Energy System Incentives Program provides a set dollar amount rebate for the purchase and installation of solar domestic water heating and solar thermal swimming pool heating systems. Photovoltaic (solar electric) systems and commercial solar water heating system rebates are based upon system size and performance.

What is a rebate?

A rebate means a cash payment after the purchase of a qualified solar system. The expense of purchasing and installing the system is the responsibility of the rebate applicant.

Can I apply for more than one rebate?

Rebates are limited to one solar water heater, one solar pool heater and one photovoltaic system per resident.

Do I have to report my rebate as income on my federal tax return?

No, the rebate is not considered taxable income, but you will need to deduct it from the cost of the system when you are calculating your federal solar energy tax credit. You should consult for financial advisor for assistance.

Amount of Solar Rebates

How much are the rebates?

- Solar thermal swimming pool heaters are eligible for a \$100 rebate per system
- Solar domestic water heaters are eligible for a \$500 rebate per system
- Commercial solar water heating systems are eligible for a rebate of \$15 per 1,000 Btu, with a maximum rebate amount of \$5,000
- Photovoltaic systems of 2 kilowatts (kW) or larger can qualify for a rebate based on the manufacturer's power output rating of the system. The amount is \$4 per Watt with a residential cap of \$20,000 and a \$100,000 cap for commercial, publicly-owned, or private non-profit organizations.

How many rebates will the State of Florida issue this year?

The Florida Legislature appropriated \$3.5 million for solar rebates this year (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008). These rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To check the amount of rebate funds remaining for this year, please visit www.dep.state.fl.us/energy and click on "Incentives".

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Solar Rebate Application Requirements

What is the deadline for submitting a rebate application?

Rebate applications must be received within 90 days of system purchase. This means that the application must be received in our office within 90 days of the purchase. Be sure to follow the instructions on the rebate application carefully and be sure to submit the required attachments.

How do I submit a rebate application?

Rebate applications may be submitted via certified mail or by hand delivery to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Rebate applications must be received within 90 days of the system purchase.

What documents are required to receive a rebate?

The following documents must be received, within 90 days of the system purchase, to be considered for a solar rebate:

- A completed Florida Solar Energy System Incentives Program Rebate Application Form;
- A photocopy of the original signed purchase agreement showing the installation date, system cost, payment received and system location; and
- A photograph of the installed system.

Solar System Installation Requirements

Can I install the solar equipment myself?

Florida Law requires systems to be installed by a contractor. Systems that are not installed by an appropriately licensed contractor are not eligible for a rebate. In addition, the system must be certified as operational by the contractor that installs it and must meet any applicable local building codes.

For solar water heating systems, the contractor must have a valid solar or plumbing license. Solar pool heaters must be installed by a licensed solar, swimming pool or plumbing contractor. For photovoltaic systems, the contractor must have a valid state certified solar contractor (CV) or electrical license. A solar contractor with a CW license is not authorized to install a photovoltaic system.

What local building requirements do I have to meet?

To find out if your local government has building codes related to the installation of solar equipment, contact your City or County Code Compliance Office. Your installing contractor should also be familiar with local building permit requirements.

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Locating Qualified Contractors

Who do I contact to purchase and install a system?

To locate a licensed contractor:

- Check your phone book under “solar” for a licensed contractor.
- You can also visit the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association’s website at www.flaseia.org to identify a solar firm that serves your area.

Contact Information

Who can I contact for additional information on the Florida Solar Energy Incentives Program?

For additional information on solar rebates, please contact the Florida Energy Office at:

Department of Environmental Protection
ATTN: Solar Energy System Incentives Program
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS-21
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
Phone: (850) 245-8002