



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., *Governor*
Frederick G. Davis, *Director*

1623 Forest Drive, Suite 300
Annapolis, MD 21403
p.410.260.7655
800.72.ENERGY
f.410.974.2250
www.energy.state.md.us

Incentives for Solar Energy in Maryland

Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)
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MEA is pleased to announce that the **Maryland Solar Energy Grant Program** has received a record amount of funding for Fiscal Year 2007. MEA re-opened the program and began accepting applications again on June 1, 2006. There is still plenty of money available and MEA continues to accept applications. For additional information, please check MEA's Web site www.energy.state.md.us or the solar grants page www.energy.state.md.us/programs/renewable/solargrant. After reviewing the information, if you have any questions, contact MEA, Solar Energy Grant Program:

Phone: 1-800-72-ENERGY (1-800-723-6374), or Email: meainfo@energy.state.md.us.

Grants will be available to individuals, businesses and local governments in the following 3 categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Maximum Grant Amount</u>
Solar Water Heating Property:	20% of system cost up to \$2000.
Residential Photovoltaic Property:	20% of system cost up to \$3000.
Nonresidential Photovoltaic Property:	20% of system cost up to \$5000.

An additional solar incentive available in Maryland is the **Net Energy Metering** law which allows electric customers who generate photovoltaic solar (and/or other renewable) electricity to interconnect and feed excess electricity onto the electric grid. This helps to further reduce monthly electric bills.

Federal incentives for solar projects are also available. The **Energy Policy Act of 2005** provides a 30% solar tax credit for individuals (up to \$2000) and businesses (no cap) in 2006 and 2007. The Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE: www.dsireusa.org) provides information on federal and state incentives.

Additional solar information can be found on MEA's Web site and other Web sites such U.S. DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network (EERE: www.eere.energy.gov/solar).

Local Solar Industry Contacts.

For information on local solar designers, installers, consultants, etc. check with local trade organizations such as the Maryland, DC, Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association (MDV-SEIA):

Peter Lowenthal, Director
MDV-SEIA
Phone/fax: 301-530-5343
Email: info@mdv-seia.org
Web site: www.mdv-seia.org

On the MDV-SEIA home page click on the "Services" button at the top for a list of local solar contractors.

Another resource for a listing of local solar contractors is Find Solar www.findsolar.com.