

Energy Financial Incentives Available in Massachusetts

CET has compiled this outline of financial incentives available for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. Energy efficiency improvements are the most cost-effective way to reduce your energy usage, and should always be implemented first. Check with your utility company for updates, as changes frequently occur. This document is also at www.cetonline.org where links can be directly accessed.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Federal Residential Energy Efficiency Personal Tax Credits

30% of cost of qualified energy efficiency improvements purchased between 1/1/09 and 12/31/10 for the building envelope and for new high efficiency heating, cooling and water heating systems. Improvements and equipment must serve an existing residence owned and used by the taxpayer as a primary residence. The maximum credit for all improvements combined is \$1,500.

For more information: www.dsireusa.org

Home Energy Assessment and Efficient Improvements

MassSAVE, sponsored by electric and gas utilities, offers 75% savings (up to \$2000 depending on utility company service territory) on eligible home energy efficiency upgrades such as adding insulation and sealing air leaks. You may also qualify for a 0% interest loan up to \$15,000 for efficiency measures such as insulation, air sealing, high efficiency heating systems, solar hot water and more. Begin with a no-cost home energy audit.

For more information: Mass SAVE 1-866-527-7283 or www.masssave.com

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Commonwealth Solar II, Commonwealth Stimulus and Solar Credit Clearinghouse

Information about Commonwealth Solar II and Commonwealth Stimulus rebates for residential and commercial projects to help finance the installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems can be found at the web site below.

www.masstech.org/RenewableEnergy/commonwealth_solar/index.html or email: cs@masstech.org

Information about the Solar Credit Clearinghouse/Solar RPS Carve-Out can be found on the Massachusetts Department of Energy website at www.mass.gov/doer

Commonwealth Wind

Rebate, grant and loan funding initiatives for the installation of residential, community and public facilities. A commercial industrial wind component for multiple large turbines is being developed.

Micro Wind – rebates in 2 payments for projects that are up to 10 kilowatts, max. \$4/watt., based on capacity of system and first year production data

Community-Scale Wind – grants for projects with capacity of 100kW or greater including design, construction, technical and economic feasibility analysis.

For more information: www.masstech.org/IS/commonwealth_wind/index.html

(508) 870-0312 or email commwind@masstech.org

Disclaimer: This information is intended to serve as a guide. CET does not profess tax expertise. Always seek assistance from a qualified tax professional before taking any action.



Center for Ecological Technology / www.cetonline.org

112 Elm St., Pittsfield, MA 01201 / 413-445-4556 x25 / cynthiaq@cetonline.org

320 Riverside Drive, Florence, MA 01062 / 413-586-7350 / peggym@cetonline.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY Financial Incentives (Continued)

Statewide HEAT Loan Program

A gas and electric utility administered 0% interest financing program that includes solar hot water systems. Maximum loan amount is \$15,000.

For more information: Mass SAVE 1-866-527-7283 or www.masssave.com/about/heat_loan.php

Massachusetts State Tax Credit

Residential Renewable Energy Income Tax Credit - 15% credit

Up to \$1,000 credit against owed Mass. income tax for the cost of a solar hot water and space heating, photovoltaics, and wind energy systems installed on a primary residence *after* any grants are subtracted. Excess credit may be carried forward up to three years. Owners and tenants of residential properties are eligible.

Corporate Excise Tax Exemption/Deduction: 100% of tangible property portion of the excise tax (at \$2.60 per \$1,000 of the taxable net worth of the system) for solar and wind energy systems.

For more information: www.dsireusa.org and click on Massachusetts

Federal Tax Credits

Residential Renewable Energy - 30% Personal Income Tax Credit

Eligible technologies: Solar hot water, solar electric (including photovoltaics), wind, fuel cells, geothermal heat pumps.

Tax credits expire Dec. 31, 2016.

No maximum credit limit for all systems placed in service after 2008.

The home served by these systems must be in the U.S.

Equipment is placed in service when installation is complete.

Excess credit may be carried forward to the succeeding taxable year.

Some details vary by technology, as outlined below:

Solar electric (photovoltaics)

- Systems must be placed in service from January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2016.

Solar water heating

- Systems must be placed in service from January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2016.
- Equipment must be certified for performance by the Solar Rating Certification Corporation (SRCC) or a comparable entity endorsed by the government of the state in which the property is installed.
- At least half the energy used to heat the dwelling's water must be from solar in order to qualify.
- The tax credit does not apply to solar water heating property for swimming pools or hot tubs.

Frequently asked questions about federal solar energy incentives from the Solar Energy Industries Assoc.: seia.org/galleries/pdf/SEIATaxManual_v3-0_FAQ.pdf

Disclaimer: This information is intended to serve as a guide. CET does not profess tax expertise. Always seek assistance from a qualified tax professional before taking any action.



Center for Ecological Technology / www.cetonline.org

112 Elm St., Pittsfield, MA 01201 / 413-445-4556 x25 / cynthiaq@cetonline.org

320 Riverside Drive, Florence, MA 01062 / 413-586-7350 / peggym@cetonline.org