

## DC PHOTOVOLTAIC INCENTIVES

### Frequently Asked Questions

Effective October 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, the incentive amounts offered by the Renewable Energy Incentive Program are:

- \$1.50 for each of the first 3,000 installed Watts of capacity (direct current)
- \$1 for each of the next 7,000 installed Watts of capacity (direct current)
- \$0.50 for each of the next 43,000 installed Watts of capacity (direct current)

These tier levels reflect the lowered costs of equipment and installation, the availability of additional financing options and the size of the District of Columbia incentive relative to neighboring jurisdictions. Additionally, at this level, more applicants can take advantage of the offering through the program. More information is available in the [DDOE Tier Structure for FY12](#).

Frequently asked questions and comments submitted to DDOE regarding incentives are aggregated below:

**Q: What amount of funding is available to the REIP in fiscal year 2012?**

**A:** The Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008 authorizes \$2 million annually for the Renewable Energy Incentive Program through fiscal year 2012.

**Q: Are the incentives based on household income?**

**A:** REIP incentives are not income based. DDOE does offer a variety of programs to District residents and businesses that meet certain income thresholds. For more information, please visit [www.green.dc.gov](http://www.green.dc.gov) for more information.

**Q: What can we do about installing renewable energy in a historic building?**

**A:** There may be localized issues regarding the installation of exterior appliances on historic structures. Because a renewable energy system may alter the appearance of your building, consideration must be given to neighborhood ordinances and community associations. Your contractor/installer likely has experience with resolving these issues. The District government is supportive of retrofits that promote the implementation of renewable technologies into historic structures where viable.

**Q: What is the deadline on the use of the funds?**

**A:** The funds must be used within six (6) months from the date of receipt of funds. Projects may not exceed one (1) year including all provisions for extensions. If for any reason an installation cannot be completed in the allotted time, the Applicant forfeits all rights to the rebate and must return the funds to the District of Columbia. Failure to do so will result in the placement of a lien against the Applicant's real property to secure payment.

**Q: What is the time limit for completion of a project?**

**A:** A total of one year (12 months) from the date of initial monetary disbursement (and including all project extensions) is given to complete an installation. Projects will be monitored as per the award agreement.

**Q: What if the total cost of the system is more after implementation than was estimated?**

**A:** Additional funds will not be added to the amount of the rebate already allocated toward the Applicant's original Prequalification request.

**Q: Does DC offer tax incentives for renewable energy?**

**A:** Not at this time. The Federal government does offer tax credits for renewable energy. These credits can be used in conjunction with REIP incentives.

**Q: Do the systems need to be approved by Pepco?**

**A:** Pepco needs to be contacted for meters to be used for interconnected net metering.

**Q: Can you have multiple partners in a project?**

**A:** Yes, you may have multiple partners and partnerships are encouraged. Supporting documentation is required at the time of application.

**Q: How large does a project have to be?**

**A:** Projects can be any size that positively impacts the facility where the project is located or the surrounding community. Per interconnection guidelines, any electricity generating installation cannot greatly exceed the expected consumption of the facility where it is located. All incentives are capped at \$16,500 for a 20 kilowatt/kilowatt equivalent or larger generation system.

**Q: When is the Solar Homes Tour held?**

**A:** The Solar Homes Tour is usually held the first weekend of October each year.

**Q: What happens to REIP after fiscal year 2012?**

**A:** DDOE is currently exploring a variety of options for government-administered renewable energy incentives beyond 2012.

**Q: I have questions about the application. Who do I contact?**

**A:** Please contact the Renewable Energy Incentive Program staff via the Energy Office Hotline - 202.673.6750 or [greenenergy@dc.gov](mailto:greenenergy@dc.gov)