



August 3, 2009

All previous newsletters can now be found at <http://www.shelbysolarandwind.com/newsletter.html>.

More information on EARP from the previous newsletter. Consumers Energy will begin accepting formal applications for the Experimental Advanced Renewable Energy Program ("EARP") on August 3rd, 2009 (today).

*The program offers the following rates for energy produced by qualifying Solar Photovoltaic systems:*

*For residential systems available in 2009, the approved rate is \$0.65/kWh. For residential systems available in 2010, the approved rate is \$0.525/kWh.*

*For nonresidential systems available in 2009, the approved rate is \$0.45/kWh. For nonresidential systems available in 2010, the approved rate is \$0.375/kWh.*

*The rates paid to participant systems will be fixed under contract for up to 12 years. Residential systems must have a name plate capacity of at least 1 kW, with a maximum capacity of 20 kW. Commercial systems must have a minimum nameplate capacity of 20 kW, with a maximum capacity of 150 kW. Systems equipped with a battery back up system or other energy storage system will not be allowed to participate under the EARP pilot. Energy produced by the solar energy system must be metered separately from the customers existing electric service, and the utility will own any Renewable Energy Credits and Capacity associated with the system. Any energy consumed by the system during periods of non-operation will be billed at the customer's normal retail rate, with all associated taxes and fees. Participants will also be assessed a System Access Charge equivalent to the existing distribution account used to qualify for the program to cover metering costs.*

*To qualify for the program, the solar PV system must be owned by the Consumers Energy account holder and must be installed on the premises of the existing account or on an adjacent property owned or leased by the account holder. Installed systems must be manufactured in Michigan or constructed by a Michigan Work force to qualify.*

*Customers that have reserved space in the Experimental Advanced Renewable Program must formally apply to the program to maintain their position in the EARP Queue. Applications from customers with reservations must be received no later than close of business on Monday, August 17th, 2009.*

Here is an example of what you could do with this program (assuming you have Consumers as your utility, sign up for and get accepted into the program).

I can install a 2.1kw Solar system at your residence for around \$17,000 (see <http://www.shelbysolarandwind.com/pricing.html> for some examples).

You will receive a 30% tax credit on your next tax return (that's \$5,100)! You will also receive a check from Consumers Energy every month adding up to about \$1800 a year every year for 12 years (that's \$21,600)! After that you keep the equipment and you will be switched to standard net metering, the energy you produce will be netted against what you use and you'll be billed for the balance. During the 12 years of your contract you will still pay your full normal utility bill. A 2.1kw system is 12 solar panels that will produce an average of 231kWh a month. You could go with a 4kw system instead (for

example), get a \$10,200 tax credit and receive \$3600 (approximately) a year from Consumers Energy for 12 years. See the Consumers information for all the limits.

As noted above, the minimum for business installations is a 20kw system. That is a sizable installation with correspondingly greater tax credits and monthly checks. Contact Shelby Solar and Wind if you are interested in participating in this program (before it gets full).

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I received the following information yesterday so I'm passing it along:

#### ENERGY TIDBITS – August 2009

Appliance Rebate Program has been announced by DOE. Approximately \$9.6 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be available to the Bureau of Energy Systems, DELEG for rebate programs for consumer purchases of new ENERGY STAR home appliances. Michigan must first file an initial application expressing their intent to participate by August 15, followed by a full application by October 15. The Michigan Appliance Rebate Program will be designed to maximize energy and cost savings for Michigan consumers, complement the new utility energy optimization programs, and minimize administrative expenses.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant solicitation will be issued in August by the Bureau of Energy Systems to incorporated local governments not eligible for the direct entitlement grants from DOE. Check [www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice) for additional information and the Request for Proposals.

\$15 Million Clean Energy Manufacturing Request for Proposals has been issued by the Bureau of Energy Systems. DELEG is offering small manufacturing companies, currently located in Michigan, financial assistance to diversify into high-growth clean energy sectors and invest in advanced manufacturing of renewable energy systems and components (i.e. wind turbine systems, solar technology, bio-energy equipment, geothermal heating and cooling systems). Due date is August 14. [www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice)

Governor's Residence is getting greener and now has a wind turbine and soon solar panels. The wind turbine is a 30 ft Mariah Power Windspire built by MasTech in Manistee. The solar panels will be from another Michigan company United Solar Ovonic. A new sprinkler system saves water by taking into account the weather and what's planted and the garage roof has a green roof covered with sedum plants and a special membrane to keep it cool. Fluorescent and LED lights have been installed and a programmable thermostat controls heating and cooling.

Green Energy package of bills was unveiled in Lansing by a coalition of House Democrats, business leaders and clean energy advocates. The plan would require that 30% of the state's electricity come from renewable sources by 2025. The existing requirement is 10% by 2015. The package also would require utilities to work with their customers to decrease energy use by 2% per year, and require upgrades in building energy codes. The package includes 11 bills that will be introduced over the next several weeks.

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For the past few weeks the Shelby Solar and Wind web site has been undergoing a series of updates, changes, and additions. These are ongoing so feel free to visit and see what's new.

<http://www.shelbysolarandwind.com>

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