



November 5, 2009

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

More information from Consumers Energy on EARP (see the previous newsletters).

Customers are responding favorably to Consumers Energy's Experimental Advanced Renewable Program (EARP).

As of Oct. 16, the company has received applications for more than 6,300 kilowatts (kW) of capacity for participation in EARP. While the applications exceed the 2,000 kW allocated for the program, the company still is accepting applications for EARP. Applications that are currently outside the allocated capacity may be approved in the future if earlier applicants fail to move forward with their projects or withdraw their applications.

The application process will be closed once all 2,000 kW has been constructed or at the end of 2010, whichever comes first. Applications will be processed and placed in the EARP queue in the order in which they are received.

The company also is extending the installation deadline for systems to qualify for the \$0.65/kilowatt-hour (kWh) residential rate in 2009. This addresses concerns from solar photovoltaic system installers and developers regarding lead times for ordering equipment as well as concerns about winter weather conditions that could affect construction.

For residential systems, including those already approved for the program, the \$0.65 rate will be offered to new systems that are installed or existing systems that are modified to participate in EARP if the work is completed by May 1, 2010.

I wrote this next part before but there has been a price drop on solar panels so I'm sending it again with the new figures.

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 \$14,000 (see <http://www.shelbysolarandwind.com/pricing.html> for some examples).

You will receive a 30% tax credit on your next tax return (that's \$4,200)! 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 \$8,400 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 too gets full).

If you happen to live towards the eastern side of Michigan then you should know that Detroit Edison also has a feed-in solar electric tariff program that actually pays more than Consumers Energy up front and the contract lasts longer. Contact me if you would like details on this program.



For the past few months 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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