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1201 MAIN STREET, SUITE 430
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
(803) 737-8030 (803) 737-9846 FAX

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RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INITIATIVE FOR EARTHCRAFT HOMES

REBATE CRITERIA

Revised 11/22/05

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The South Carolina Energy Office announces the Residential Solar Initiative (RSI) for EarthCraft Homes to document and demonstrate the technical, and economic, and practical advantages of residential solar water heating systems in South Carolina.

The purposes of the RSI for EarthCraft Homes are to:

1. Promote the installation of solar domestic hot water systems in EarthCraft designed homes, through a $1,000 cash award rebate to the builder for each home;
2. Establish 20 solar water heating systems installed in EarthCraft homes in the Greenville and Charleston areas, (10 in each area, if possible);
3. Promote residential solar technology, economics, energy efficiencies, and other advantages to South Carolina homeowners.
4. Document and promote South Carolina builders and contractors who have demonstrated success and technical expertise for installation, operation, and maintenance of solar water heating systems in South Carolina;
5. Promote the construction of EarthCraft Homes as a model for the residential solar initiative;
6. Identify and document key obstacles and solutions inherent in residential installation, and;
7. Determine the extent to which the South Carolina Energy Office should invest future personnel and financial resources in the promotion of solar water heating.

ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING

Homebuilders are eligible if they build an approved designed EarthCraft Home with a solar water heating system certified by the Solar Rating Certification Council (SRCC) or the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC). Eligibility is confirmed with an approved Rebate Application from the South Carolina Energy Office.

A maximum of $20,000 in total rebates has been allocated for this initiative. Twenty rebates of $1,000 each will be available to builders for each approved installation, and awarded at project completion.

REBATE APPLICATION

Rebate Applications will be accepted by the South Carolina Energy Office beginning January 4, 2005. All applications will be reviewed and approved by the South Carolina Energy Office, and returned to the applicant as contract confirmation.

Each solar installation should be completed within 180 days of application approval. The Rebate will be issued to the approved applicant within 30 days of installation verification by SCEO.

Rebate Applications will be considered for funding on the basis of:

1. Quality of the documentation supporting the application;
2. Timeliness of projected project completion;
3. Technical merit;
4. Geographic diversity;
5. Only new installations (completed after application approval) qualify.

HOMEBUILDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

To be considered for funding, the homebuilder must submit the "Rebate Application" with appropriate documentation of the proposed solar installation.

Homebuilders should:

1. Provide and install the solar water system
2. Show projected annual energy savings;
3. Provide on-site viewing for the SCEO representative;
4. Provide final inspection by SCEO following commissioning of system, before payment will be authorized;
5. Allow the installation to be listed on the SCEO website (www.energy.sc.gov);

Note: Applications, questions, and other communications relative to this program should be directed to the ECH Program Coordinator, Sonny DuBose, 803-737-9852, SDubose@gs.sc.gov. Postal Mail: S. Dubose, South Carolina Energy Office, 1201 Main St, Columbia, SC 29201.