



Arkansas Energy Office

Renewable Technology Rebate Fund – Thermal Systems

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The Arkansas Energy Office of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is administering a rebate fund for the installation of renewable energy systems in the form of small-scale solar water heating. This rebate is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with funding coming from the U.S. Department of Energy Award Number DE-EE0000179 as part of State Energy Program Funding.

Eligibility Requirements

- Small-scale solar water heating systems located on or associated with buildings in Arkansas as follows:
 - Must be appropriately sized.
 - For residences or small commercial buildings, only.
 - Cannot be used for solar thermal space heating.
 - All equipment must be new and commercially available. Additionally, systems must meet any applicable UL, IEEE, NEC, and/or SRCC standards.
- All systems must be installed by qualified individuals in accordance with the standards specified by the equipment manufacturers and in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal building, fire, and safety codes and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, obtaining all necessary permits and inspections, and complying with zoning requirements and homeowner association covenants.
- All systems must be installed or inspected by a licensed plumber.
- Non-residential systems must be installed by a state-approved contractor. This list can be found at www.arkansasenergy.org.
- Systems may not be used for casinos or other gambling establishments, aquariums, zoos, golf courses, swimming pools, or mobile homes that are not on a foundation.
- All locations must be reviewed for potential impacts to historic buildings and/or sites, as well as potential environmental impacts, which could affect eligibility.
- Those small cities and counties receiving funds for systems through the Arkansas Energy Office's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program are not eligible to participate in this rebate program.
- Applicants with residential systems eligible for participation must be installed after March 22, 2010.
- Applicants with non-residential systems eligible for participation must delay installation until the list of state-approved contractors has been released.

Terms and Conditions

- The application form for the Renewable Technology Rebate Fund for Thermal Systems must be filled out truthfully and in its entirety, and must be followed by copies of all permits and relevant receipts and invoices for the purchase and installation of the system, the licensed plumber review form, as well as a color photograph of the installed system.

- The application form is available online and must be submitted with a color photograph of the location where the system is to be installed and a completed ES-1 form (environmental questionnaire).
- All receipts and invoices must contain adequate information in order to identify the contractor and the equipment or services paid for, which should include brand and model numbers of equipment and descriptions of services rendered.
- Copies of all permits and relevant receipts and invoices for the purchase and installation of the system, the licensed plumber review form, as well as a color photograph of the installed system, must be submitted to the Arkansas Energy Office either electronically to RenewableRebate@ArkansasEDC.com, by fax 501-682-7499, or by mail: Renewable Technology Rebate Fund, Arkansas Energy Office, AEDC, 900 W. Capitol, Suite 400, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.
- The rebate amount for small-scale solar water heating equipment will be based on the square feet of thermal collector area used for the system:

System Type	Systems ≤ 320 square feet	Systems > 320 square feet
Solar Thermal	\$30/square foot	\$15/square foot

- Random site inspections may be conducted to confirm the system’s specifications. If a random site inspection identifies discrepancies in eligibility, participation in the rebate program can be terminated immediately.
- By participating in this program, applicants give the Arkansas Energy Office permission to use any information from the application and reporting materials, as well as images of the applicants’ systems on its website and in its publications and presentations. The information used will not identify individuals or specific addresses, but will identify systems by the city in which they are located.
- Rebates will be available through March 31, 2012 or when the funds for this program are depleted, whichever occurs first. Additionally, awards will be based on the discretion of the Arkansas Energy Office in order to ensure all sectors are adequately represented and that funds are fully depleted.

Procedural Timeline

- Applicants should complete and submit an application form for participation in the program prior to installation. (Applicants can submit a complete application after installation has occurred, however, there is no guarantee that these projects will be accepted in the program due to certain eligibility criteria and the limited amount of funds that are available.) The application form should be accompanied by a color photograph of the location where the system is to be installed and a completed ES-1 form.
- Application forms will be reviewed and applicants will be notified of their preliminary approval status within approximately 20 business days of receipt.
- Those applicants receiving preliminary approval status will be given a guarantee that funds corresponding to the applicable rebate rate given in the previous table times the area of the thermal collector will be reserved for the applicant.
 - Funds will be reserved for up to 90 days. If the full application is not complete within 90 days (i.e., all relevant documentation has been submitted), the funds will no longer be reserved and the applicant will have to reapply to the program.

- Upon preliminary approval, the applicant should then proceed with the installation of their small-scale solar water heating system and then submit copies of all permits and relevant receipts and invoices for the purchase and installation of the system, licensed plumber review form as well as a color photograph of the installed system in order to finalize the application.
- Permits, receipts, forms, W-9s, invoices, and photographs will be reviewed and applicants will be notified of their final status.
 - Unsuccessful applicants will be notified within approximately 10 business days of receipt.
 - Successful applicants' rebate checks will be mailed out within approximately 30 business days of receipt.

Buyer Beware

- Applicants shall hold the State of Arkansas harmless from any and all claims, demands, and actions based upon or arising out of any purchases of goods or services performed by the applicant or by applicant's agents.
- Applicants agree to assume all risks of loss and to indemnify and hold the Arkansas Energy Office, the State of Arkansas, and its officers, agents, and employees, harmless from and against any and all liabilities thereto, for injuries or death to persons and for loss of, damage to, or destruction of property because of the applicant's negligence, intentional acts, or omissions.
- Applicants should be sure to maximize the energy efficiency of their property prior to considering a renewable energy system; typically, energy-efficiency measures have a much better return on investment. Additionally, reducing the overall energy needs of the property helps decrease the size of the renewable energy system needed, thereby, reducing overall cost of the renewable energy system.
- It is of the utmost importance that applicants thoroughly research the vendors and/or installers of their systems. Here are a few resources and tips for planning a project:
 - A list of known solar contractors is available here: www.arkansasenergy.org/solar-wind-bioenergy/solar/locate-contractors.aspx
 - Note that this list of contractors is not an endorsement of contractors, but merely a reference to help applicants get started.
 - As with any home-improvement project, applicants are encouraged to get multiple bids for projects and to ask potential contractors for references.
- Rebates received are not considered to be taxable income by the State of Arkansas. However, rebate recipients should consult tax professionals for final tax advice and preparation.