



Solar Rebate Program – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Solar Rebate Program?

The Solar Rebate Program, implemented by ordinance, provides a partial sales and use tax rebate on qualified photovoltaic (PV) or solar thermal (hot water) systems installed within the city of Boulder.

2. How do I qualify and apply for the rebate?

The rebate is available to residents or businesses who install a photovoltaic (PV) or solar thermal (hot water) system in the city of Boulder after December 14, 2006. Rebates are based on city of Boulder tax paid on materials and/or permits on or after December 14, 2006. To apply for the rebate, fill out the rebate application form and provide the appropriate documentation, proof of city of Boulder tax paid on the solar system. The form can be found at the Planning and Development Services permit office, 1739 Broadway, 3rd floor or by visiting the following websites:

www.environmentalaffairs.com, Energy and Climate

www.bouldercolorado.gov, Planning and Development Services

3. When does the rebate go into effect?

The rebate is for city of Boulder sales and use tax paid on qualifying solar systems on or after December 14, 2006

4. How much is the rebate?

The rebate is approximately 15% of the city sales tax paid.

5. Are taxes paid to another taxing district subject to the rebate?

No, taxes paid to other taxing entities are not eligible to be rebated. Only the City of Boulder sales or use taxes are eligible to be rebated. In no instance will a rebate exceed the amount of City taxes paid.

6. What is the Renewable Energy Fund

The Renewable Energy Fund is a portion of the city of Boulder's general unrestricted sales and use taxes collected on eligible solar system installations. Per council direction, a portion of the renewable energy fund will be used to provide rebates on installation of qualifying systems. The remainder of the renewable energy fund will be dedicated to rehabilitation or installation of renewable energy systems – especially focusing on low or moderate-income housing and site-based non-profit organizations.

7. Why is the city offering this program?

The city instated this program for economic, social, and environmental reasons. Economically, the rebate program promotes local economic vitality by encouraging Boulder residents to conduct business with Boulder-based businesses. Socially, a portion of the renewable energy fund will be dedicated to rehabilitate and install renewable energy systems, focusing on low or moderate-income housing and site-based non-profit organizations. Environmentally, through the Climate Action Plan, the city strongly supports the use of renewable energy and efforts that result in a reduction in the city's greenhouse gas emissions. The rebate program acknowledges and rewards individuals for installing PV or solar thermal systems.

8. Is the rebate retroactive on systems permitted before December 14th, 2006?

The rebate is not retroactive on systems in which tax was paid to the city of Boulder prior to December 14th, 2006.

9. Can a solar contractor apply for and receive the rebate check on behalf of their customer?

Yes, on the rebate application the owner can specify the check to be sent directly to the contractor. The supporting documentation should include an itemized invoice or receipt clearly showing that the rebate savings has been passed on to the customer.