

Grants, Loans and Tax Incentives for Conservation & Renewable Energy

A combination of tax incentives, rebates, grants and loan programs can make investing in energy conservation measures or a renewable energy system much cheaper than the upfront cost. It is often possible to qualify for multiple incentives.

Montana Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Program:

www.energizemontana.com (click: **Alternative Energy Loan)**

Contact: Kathi Montgomery, Montana DEQ (406) 841-5243

The alternative energy revolving loan program offers **low-interest loans for up to \$40,000** with repayment up to ten years. The loans are for the purpose of installing alternative energy systems that generate energy for the building occupant's own use or for net metering. Energy conservation measures may also be financed along with the alternative energy project.

Montana Conservation and Renewable Energy Incentives:

www.energizemontana.com (click: **Tax and other incentives)**

This is a thorough list of all the **loans, grants and tax incentives** available for conservation and renewable energy projects in Montana. Incentives cover businesses, farms and residences.

Northwestern Energy E+ Programs:

www.northwesternenergy.com

Contact: John Campbell, (406) 497-3364 or 1-888-700-6878

Northwestern Energy provides a variety of services to its **residential** and **business** electric and gas customers including **grants** for renewable energy systems, **rebates** for insulation, programmable thermostats or lighting fixture upgrades, **home energy audits** and a **Green Energy** buying program.

Comprehensive Database of State and Federal Incentives:

www.dsireusa.org

This website, hosted by the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, will allow you to find incentives for any state in the nation. You may also use this site to search for current **federal incentives**.

USDA Rural Development Loans and Grants:

www.rurdev.usda.gov/Energy.html

USDA offers both loans and grants to help finance wind, solar, and other renewable energy improvements for rural homes and businesses.

Useful Informational Resources

This list of internet resources is a good place to start when looking for tips on how to save energy or get started with a green building project.

Alternative Energy Resources Organization:

www.aeromt.org, (406) 443-7272

At the AERO website you can keep up to date on tours and other programs or call if you have a question. Also, visit the AERO website to find **Conservation Tip Sheets** on a variety of specific subjects and to learn more about our **Community Energy Planning**.

Montana Green Power:

www.montanagreenpower.com

In addition to offering information on planning and designing your own solar, wind and micro-hydro systems, this site lists renewable energy **dealers** and **installers** in Montana.

NorthWestern Energy:

www.northwesternenergy.org

Visit the NorthWestern Energy home page for up-to-date information on **rebates** and **incentives**. You'll also find **instructional videos** documenting how to do basic weatherization projects, very detailed home **energy calculators**, your account history and **energy saving tips**.

Federal Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency:

www.energystar.gov

This federal Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency website has information about **Energy Star rated houses** and is a good reference to use when shopping for **new appliances**.

MT Department of Environmental Quality:

www.energizemontana.com

This Montana DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) site has good **Montana-specific energy conservation tips**, details about the Alternative Energy Loan Program and information about state tax credits and conservation in public buildings.

National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT):

www.ncat.org

NCAT is a non-profit organization based in Butte that works on sustainable agriculture and energy issues with a special focus on the cross-over areas between **energy and agriculture**.

Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA):

<http://www.montanagreenpower.com/mrea>

MREA is a statewide non-profit that promotes renewable energy development.