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GOING OFF THE GRID MAY BE CHEAPER THAN YOU THINK.

To encourage more installations of solar power, the City and County of San Francisco is offering incentives to City residents and businesses to install solar power on their properties.



Check out this incentive program at *A solar installation in the Inner Sunset neighborhood of San Francisco. Photo courtesy of the SF Dept. of the Environment*

GoSolarSF. When coupled with the California Solar Initiative (a rebate program sponsored by the State of California), and federal tax credits, added together **could pay half the cost or more** of a solar power system installed in San Francisco.

Who Is Eligible: Basically, anyone or any business that is on a meter and pays an electricity bill will be eligible for an incentive payment from the City. If you qualify to receive a rebate through the California Solar Initiative and your “Confirmed Reservation Notice” is dated on or after December 11, 2007, you will qualify for San Francisco’s incentive payment. For the first year, non-profit organizations can apply, and non-profit, multi-unit residences will be eligible for the program on a whole-building basis. If you’re a renter, you will need to follow the State’s rules and work with your landlord to install solar power.

How Much Can You Get: The city (through GoSolarSF) offers incentives ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,000 for residents and up to \$10,000 for businesses. Low-income residents can qualify for an additional \$5,000. For the first year of the program, non-profit organizations and multi-unit, non-profit residential buildings can also qualify for substantial payments. San Francisco incentive payments will not be more than the net cost of a solar installation after federal and state incentives. For information on Solar rebates Tax Credits and other incentives available to SF Residents see second attached PDF

How Much You Save: In San Francisco, a typical 2.5 kilowatt (kW) residential solar installation would cost about \$25,000. Depending on the level of incentive, the cost of this system could be cut in half. Low-income residents could save 60% - 70% and pay between \$7,000 and \$10,000 for solar power. Businesses and non-profits could save well more than half the cost of their systems.

Want to Find Out More? For more information about GoSolarSF and how you can qualify for a San Francisco solar incentive, visit www.sfwater.org/gosolarsf or email gosolarsf@sfwater.org. You can also call us at (415) 554-3289. For more information on the California Solar Initiative, visit <http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/>. For more information on solar activity in San Francisco, visit <http://www.sfsolarmap.org/>. To learn about the solar potential at your address, visit the SFPUC Power Enterprise’s [Solar Monitoring](#) page. For **HOW TO INSTALL** a Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) system see attached PDF.

CEC RELEASES SECOND DRAFT OF 2008 NON-RESIDENTIAL COMPLIANCE MANUAL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The second draft of the 2008 Title 24 Building Efficiency Nonresidential Compliance Manual has been posted to the Energy Commission's website. This draft version is to allow the public to preview and comment on the content of the document. The document can be downloaded from the CEC website at:

http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2008standards/rulemaking/documents/nonresidential_manual.html

This document is very large, so please follow download instructions in red on the linked page. For questions or comments on the draft, please contact Chris Gekas, 2008 Building Standards Contract Manager at gekas@energy.state.ca.us, or Mazi Shirakh, PE, 2008 Building Standards Project Manager at mshirakh@energy.state.ca.us.

TODAY'S TECHNICAL NOTE – RESIDENTIAL PV SOLAR GENERATION SYSTEMS and going off the grid:

HACKING YOUR WAY OFF THE UTILITY GRID: Brian McConnell retrofitted his home in San Francisco to generate most of its own energy (both heating and electric), with a goal of reducing the home's energy footprint by 80 to 90%. He told his story in December 2004 and it is posted online at:

www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2004/12/03/grid.html

CALIFORNIA REBATES & INCENTIVES: Information on all of California's solar rebates and incentives is available at Go Solar California! www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/Energy/solar/

HOME POWER RESOURCE BOOKS:

1. Smart Power: An Urban Guide to Renewable Energy and Efficiency by Wm H. Kemp (Aztext Press 2004), and
2. The Renewable Energy Handbook by William H. Kemp (Aztext Press 2005)
3. The Solar Living Source Book by John Schaeffer (New Society Publishers, 2005)

DESIGNS QUALIFY FOR GREEN POINTS just for using a CERTIFIED TITLE 24 AUTHOR:

That's right, having your Title 24 documentation modeled by us can qualify for up to 39 GreenPoints under **Section J - Building Performance**, of the Green Point-Rating (GPR) Checklist. This specific green measure calls for an **experienced and certified green building professional** (i.e. CEPE) to review the home's design for maximum efficiency and interaction of the building elements, to identify specific opportunities where measures that exceed Title 24 can be cost effective or may provide other significant benefits (such as improved comfort, indoor air quality, or durability). The plan reviewer (CEPE) models the home and can also identify additional green building opportunities for the project. Homes that exceed Title 24 by 15% or more may also be eligible for ENERGY STAR® certification.

So one of the easiest ways to pick up extra Green Points is to have your Title 24 documentation authored by Alan Huguenot, our Director of Energy Compliance at Mark English Architects. He is a *Certified Energy Plans Examiner* (CEPE). Many Northern California building departments are now specifically requiring that all Title 24 documentation is to be authored by a CEPE.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: Making sure that particular green measures work within the overall design concept and that the combination also satisfies Title 24 energy compliance, while also keeping you apprised of new developments in GREEN DESIGN is a full time job....which we do for you at GREEN COMPLIANCE PLUS...as your own, on call (24/7), Title 24, Green Energy Compliance Experts.

Once we computer model your project for Title 24 compliance (during your preliminary design), our project specific energy analysis based on that model can be tweaked as the design changes and we can point the way to that *Brighter Shade of Green* your clients are seeking.

Give Alan or Mark a call at *Green Compliance Plus* (415 391-0186) to discuss your Title 24 documentation needs or any Green Energy Subject.