Arkansas Energy Office

Renewable Technology Rebate Fund – Electric 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 small-scale renewable energy systems that generate electricity. 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 renewable energy systems located on or associated with buildings or facilities as follows:
  - Photovoltaics – appropriately sized units on existing rooftops and parking shade structures; or 60 kW systems or smaller installed on the ground within the boundaries of an existing facility
  - Wind turbines – 20 kW or smaller (larger wind turbines will require additional environmental review and may be considered on a case-by-case basis)
  - All equipment must be new and commercially available. Additionally, systems must meet any applicable UL, IEEE, and/or NEC 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.
- Non-residential systems must be installed by a state-approved contractor (this list is currently under development and will be available soon).
- Applicants must obtain an interconnection agreement with their electric utility and participate in the net-metering program. The Arkansas Public Service Commission's Net Metering Rules are available at: www.apscservices.info/Rules/net_metering_rules.pdf. These rules define a "Net metering facility" as:
  - "A facility for the production of electrical energy that:
    - Uses solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, or biomass resources to generate electricity including, but not limited to, fuel cells and micro turbines that generate electricity if the fuel source is entirely derived from renewable resources; and,
    - Has a generating capacity of not more than twenty-five (25) kilowatts for residential use or three hundred (300) kilowatts for any other use; and,
    - Is located in Arkansas; and,
    - Can operate in parallel with an electric utility's existing transmission and distribution facilities; and,
    - Is intended primarily to offset part or all of the net-metering customer requirements for electricity; or,
    - Is designated by the Commission as eligible for net metering service pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. 23-18-604(b)(4)."
- 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 interconnected after March 22, 2010.
- Applicants with non-residential systems eligible for participation must delay installation and interconnection until the list of state-approved contractors has been released.
- Applicants are allowed one application for the Renewable Technology Rebate Fund for Electric Systems per building or facility. Applicants are also permitted one application for the Renewable Technology Rebate Fund for Thermal Systems per building or facility.

Terms and Conditions

- The application form for the Renewable Technology Rebate Fund for Electric Systems must be filled out truthfully and in its entirety, and must be followed by copies of all relevant receipts and invoices for the purchase and installation of the system, the system's interconnection agreement, a signed IRS W-9 Form, and 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 relevant receipts and invoices for the purchase and installation of the system, the system's interconnection agreement, a signed IRS W-9 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 electricity-generating equipment will be based on one full year's actual electric production as follows:

System Type	Residential 25 kW or less	Non-Residential 25 kW or less	Non-Residential More than 25 kW
Solar Photovoltaic	$1.50/kWh	$1.50/kWh	$0.75/kWh

System Type	20 kW or less	More than 20 kW*
Wind	$1.25/kWh	$0.625/kWh
*Provided proper environmental approvals are granted.		

- All applicants must report the electricity produced by their system on a monthly basis for twelve complete, consecutive months in order to receive the full potential value of their rebate. This reporting 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.

- Random site inspections may be conducted to confirm the system's specifications and electric production. If a random site inspection identifies discrepancies in eligibility or electric-production reporting, 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 and interconnection. (Applicants can submit a complete application after installation and interconnection 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 estimated annual electric production reported on the application form will be reserved for the applicant (e.g., while funds are reserved based on the estimated production, payments will be made based on actual production).
    - 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 and interconnection of their renewable energy system and then submit copies of all relevant receipts and invoices for the purchase and installation of the system, the system's interconnection agreement, a signed IRS W-9 Form, and a color photograph of the installed system in order to finalize the application.
- Receipts, invoices, photographs, W-9s and interconnection agreements will be reviewed and applicants will be notified of their final status within approximately 10 business days of receipt.
- Applicants receiving final approval must report electric production for twelve complete, consecutive months following the interconnection of their system in order to receive their rebate payments. This reporting must be completed within the first five days of the following month. For example, the number of kilowatt hours produced from September 1st through September 30th must be reported to the Arkansas Energy Office by October 5th.
    - If production cannot be tracked using the inverter, a separate meter may be required at the expense of the applicant.

- Additionally, for those systems adding production capacity to an existing system, a separate meter will be required to track the electricity produced by the new equipment.

- Rebate checks will be mailed out on a quarterly basis as follows:

Quarter	Months Included	Payment will be mailed by end of:
1st	January, February, and March	April
2nd	April, May, and June	July
3rd	July, August, and September	October
4th	October, November, and December	January

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.
- Because this incentive program is based on the actual performance of the systems installed, 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
    - A list of known wind contractors is available here: www.arkansasenergy.org/solar-wind-bioenergy/wind/locate-contractors.aspx
    - Note that these lists of contractors are not endorsements of contractors, but merely a reference to help applicants get started.
    - Note that because this is an emerging field, third-party verification of equipment and certification of contractors may not be available for all technology types.
    - As with any home-improvement project, applicants are encouraged to get multiple bids for projects and to ask potential contractors for references.
    - Profiles of installed systems will be posted on the Arkansas Energy Office website and will include the estimated and actual production data; make sure contractors know this so that they can more accurately estimate the average annual amounts of electricity their systems are expected to produce.