



HELPS PV

PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

General Information

HELPS PV is a program provided by SHELD to assist customers with understanding and installing photovoltaic (PV) energy systems on their homes and businesses. As of the fall of 2011, the installed cost of a residential PV system is about \$6.00/watt. If you install a five kilowatt system that cost is 5,000 watts (5kw) times \$6.00 or \$30,000. Federal tax credit is 30% of the total cost and the SHELD rebate is up to \$5,000. Massachusetts has a \$1,000 tax credit. Customers can earn additional reimbursement by participating in the Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) program.

Program Parameters

HELPS PV is a residential program and customers are eligible to receive a one-time incentive payment for the installation of a PV system connected to the electrical system in their homes.

HELPS PV/SHELD provides a base rebate of \$1.50 per watt installed and depending upon the equipment used in your installation an additional \$0.50 for US Made equipment.

Customer installed systems are not eligible for a rebate unless the customer is a Massachusetts licensed electrician with PV installation experience. Proof of license and experience must accompany an application.

Installers cannot, by law offer a Power Sales Agreement (PSA) or Purchased Power Agreement (PPA) to a customer served by municipal light departments. Neither is a lease arrangement that is based upon the kilowatt-hours produced.

HELPS PV participants may choose their own qualified PV installer. A list of installers can be found at <http://www.sebane.org/> or see the Installer list on the HELPS web page.

Process

1. Customer should research PV costs and benefits prior to engaging either HELPS or contracting with an installer. There are good on-line resources such as:
<http://www.getsolar.com/> - a good general resource
<http://www.findsolar.com/> - another good general resource
<http://www.solarbuzz.com/> - has up-to-date panel and inverter pricing and trends
<http://maps.google.com/maps> - enter your address and do a self-assessment
2. Customer may either request a home energy audit and orientation assessment from HELPS if they need more general information or;
3. Contact installers for a site assessment and quote. See the contractor list under the main SHELD PV web page for suggestions. (FYI - Some installers charge upfront for assessments, some do not.)
4. Customer submits project application for review and approval by HELPS.

5. Project approval packet sent to customer. Includes letter of approval, amount of rebate and the Customer Agreement.
6. Customer signs and returns the Customer Agreement. This is crucial to receiving SREC payments in the future.
7. Project installation by installer.
8. Project completion form signed by electrical inspector and light department sent to HELPS along with all required attachments.
9. HELPS mails rebate to customer.
10. Contact Program Manager at (413)-308-1369 with questions on process or application.