



Now is a great time to go solar. Incentives have never been better and equipment prices have dropped. It is an exciting time for us in the renewables industry, and this newsletter is going out to our friends and customers to give you a glimpse into how much is really going on.

In Detroit, a former 320-acre Ford Motor plant is being purchased by a group of renewable energy companies to transform it into a manufacturing park for equipment such as thin-film solar panels and energy-storage and power-management systems for solar- and wind-powered systems.

Jennifer Kho, Contributor  
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Renewable portfolio mandates, favorable economics, federal tax credits and some creative thinking are leading utilities to add solar energy to their generating portfolios. SunPower Corp. is set to start work on a 250 MW solar photovoltaic power plant in California which will, when complete in 2012, provide electric power to Pacific Gas and Electric Co. The plant will dwarf the largest PV project currently in existence, a 17 MW facility at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, Nev.

by David Wagman, Chief Editor,  
Oklahoma, United States [Renewable  
Energy World North America  
Magazine]

November 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 1

## Newsletter

Eco Solar is a small, innovative contracting company devoted to the environmental welfare of the earth...

**Energy Trust has just announced a 50-cent per watt decrease to the Solar electric incentives that will become effective November 9, 2009. (They must receive applications no later than November 8th to take advantage of the current rate.) Consequently, Eco Solar's deadline to lock in the current rate is November 4th to allow for a site visit and system design.**

This incentive change is necessary for two reasons. First, the pace at which Energy Trust has been receiving new incentive applications has accelerated over the past six months and is no longer sustainable within their limited incentive budget. This increased activity has been driven largely by declining equipment costs and the elimination of the cap on the federal residential tax credit. Second, the commercial incentives have hit the maximum amount that Energy Trust is allowed under statute to pay (that is, the above market cost). Energy Trust must lower the incentive to stay within the mandate.

**If you are planning to take advantage of the higher incentive, don't miss out ~ Act Now.**

We are delighted to recommend Eco Solar to anyone seeking a solar application. In addition to first-class workmanship, Eric is creative in solving problems that may come up in planning or installation.

*Sincerely, Robert and Sharon*



Team Germany's winning "Cube House" featured silicon and thin-film solar panels on all visible sides of the house. The design's solar panel operates a toy on the front porch of the home.

*Credit: Stefano Paltera/U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon*

Rain usually spoils a solar power contest. But three days of showers — and thin-film photovoltaic technology — actually helped Team Germany win the 2009 U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon.

Team Germany's Cube House was one of the most technologically advanced among the 20 clean energy prototype designs on the National Mall. Every exposed face of the building was covered with power-generating panels.

On the roof : a 11.1-kW photovoltaic (PV) system of 40 monocrystalline silicon panels. On the sides: 250 thin-film panels that look like glossy clapboards. The thin films used copper-indium-gallium-diselenide layers, or CIGS.

The combination system was expected to produce 200 percent of the energy needed by the house. The thin film panels, while less efficient than conventional silicon, were projected to perform better in cloudy weather than silicon.

Team Germany got its proof on the competition's fifth day when skies turned slate gray and a cold rain splattered the solar village. By late afternoon, as federal commuters started streaming home and electricity demand throughout the city began climbing, the Team Germany house was producing 12.68 kW and consuming 12.33 kW, for a net export of .35 kW.

"Team Germany built a gingerbread house packed with solar panels," said Richard King, DOE Solar Decathlon director. "In the rain, the thin-film panels were making electricity. It made the difference."

Below is an example proposal for a 2.0 kW residential installation.

Site: Klamath Falls - Flush Rooftop Installation

Estimated kWh usage of customer ??? kWh  
(average annual daily)

Proposed system size:	2,100 watts
kWh avg annual daily production	9 kWh
Physical size of PV array:	10 panels
System Price:	\$16,500

### Incentives

Energy Trust of Oregon: \$2.00/watt 4,200  
installed (paid to contractor)

Out-of-pocket cost 12,300

Oregon Tax Credit (\$3.00\*/watt) 6,000

Federal Tax Credit (30%\*\*) 3,690

Net Cost \$ 2,610

Payback period: 11 years at current power rates

\* Maximum \$6,000 benefit taken over 4 years

\*\* Of eligible cost

All systems include a full 2-year warranty on parts, workmanship & performance.

Solar module warranty of 25 years.

Inverter warranty of 10 years.

Energy Trust to reduce incentive to \$1.50/watt on 11/9/09.

For more information or to set up a site visit, contact us at (541) 273-3200 or [ajjani@ecosolarnow.com](mailto:ajjani@ecosolarnow.com), or simply drop in and visit our office at 920 Oak Avenue in downtown K-Falls.



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