

## Generate and Sell Your Energy

Your solar PV or wind installer will set up your system to feed excess power into the grid. Then you can get paid for your clean power and, in addition, sell Renewable Energy Certificates!

**Net Metering:** your excess power up to 100kW will be credited at market rates against future electric bills.

**Sell RECs:** Downeast Solar Co-op's "Solar Cents" program will help you sell solar-generated RECs, generating additional revenue from your renewable energy system. For details, visit [www.renewmaine.org/solar/SolarCents.html](http://www.renewmaine.org/solar/SolarCents.html).



Visit [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org) for a complete and up-to-date list of incentives for producing and selling clean energy in ME.



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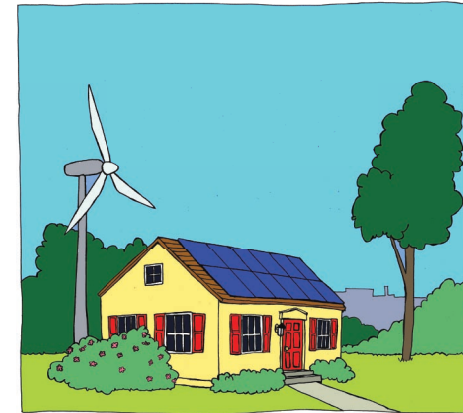
This Guide was prepared for informational purposes only. The Guide does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Use of the Guide does not create an attorney-client relationship between you and Harvard Law School's Environmental Law and Policy Clinic. Because of the rapid pace of change in this area of the law, the Guide should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice from a licensed professional attorney in your state.

Financial estimates are based on typical Northeastern household energy usage and prices at the time of preparation. The Guide provides general information about your state that may not be applicable to your specific locale. Information on tax incentives, utility services, rebate programs, and other policies is subject to change.

Illustrations by Aurora Andrews and Amy Lien.

## SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE MONEY & THE ENVIRONMENT

**Practical Tips on Energy Use from the  
Harvard Environmental Law & Policy Clinic.**



**MAINE**

## Support Clean Power: It's Cheap & Easy

Buying energy from renewable sources reduces air pollution, fights global warming, and builds the ME economy. Switching takes just minutes and costs only about \$5-10/month.

### Switch to Clean Power

If your electric utility is Central Maine Power (CMP) or Bangor Hydro Electric (BHE), you can switch to clean power from MEIPL. All you will need is your utility bill.

- Three clean power pricing options are available.
- Sign up at [www.energymaine.com/mresignup/signup.php](http://www.energymaine.com/mresignup/signup.php) or call 1-866-408-4591.

You will still receive a monthly electric bill from your current electric utility. No interruption of service will occur.

### Support Renewable Energy

You can also support clean power with a tax-deductible donation to the **Voluntary Renewable Resources Fund**.

- You have the option of donating to the fund on your utility bill each month.
- Your **tax-deductible** contribution helps Maine schools and towns fund clean energy projects.

### Offset Your Energy Use

You can also offset the environmental impact of your energy use by buying Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

- Match your power use with RECs to offset your energy impact and to support clean energy generation.
- Choose a certified REC provider here: [www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/markets/certificates.shtml?page=1](http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/markets/certificates.shtml?page=1).



## Conserve Energy & Save Money

Big savings are in your power! Reducing energy use can save you hundreds of dollars each year. It's also the easiest and best way you can fight global warming.

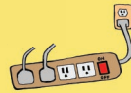
### Upgrade!

- Use compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). CFLs waste 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs and last 10 times as long, saving \$50-100 over their lifetime.
- Buy efficient **Energy Star** electronics and appliances. They can lower your bill up to 30%! Learn more about home efficiency savings at [www.carbonfreehomes.org](http://www.carbonfreehomes.org).



### Pull the Plug!

Plugged-in electronics use power even when turned off. This "Phantom Load" could account for over 10% of your electric bill.

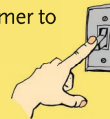


**Tip:** Connect electronics to a power strip. When you aren't using them, turn off the power strip to eliminate the phantom load.

### Turn it Off!

The less you use, the less you pay. So always turn off lights, TVs, computers, and other electronics when not in use.

**Bonus Tip:** Set your thermostat to 68° in winter and 78° in summer to save 10-15% on heating and cooling costs.



### HELP IS AVAILABLE

Whether you rent or own your home, these **FREE** services can help you save.

#### Efficiency Maine & Maine Home Performance

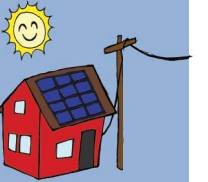
Visit [www.energymaine.com](http://www.energymaine.com) or 1-866-376-2463 for rebate information and helpful energy solutions. Visit [www.mainehomeperformance.org](http://www.mainehomeperformance.org) (or 1-800-695-1484) to save hundreds of dollars through home efficiency.

#### Maine Housing – low-income assistance for heating and upgrades

Eligible residents can receive help paying bills and free efficiency upgrades. Visit [www.mainehousing.org](http://www.mainehousing.org) (click on "Energy") or call 1-800-452-4668.

## Create, Use, & Sell Clean Power

Become energy independent! Renewable power generation can offer homeowners significant long-term savings and even net income. Moreover, incentive programs will help pay upfront costs.



### Getting Started

Installing a solar or wind power system is easier and more affordable than you may think. To learn more about your options, visit [www.energymaine.com/renewable\\_programs.htm](http://www.energymaine.com/renewable_programs.htm).

### Rebates and Tax Breaks

Many tax breaks and cash rebates are available to help you cover upfront costs. Your tax preparer, utility, and contractor can help you make the most of these incentive programs.

#### Federal Tax Credits: for Solar PV

- 30% of costs, up to \$2000. Program expires December 31, 2008. Use IRS Form 5695.
- Watch Congress for future tax credits for wind and for an extended PV credit.

#### Federal Mortgage: for Solar PV

- For details, visit [www.resnet.us/ratings/mortgages/default.htm](http://www.resnet.us/ratings/mortgages/default.htm).

#### State Loan Program: for Geothermal, Biomass, Home Efficiency

The Maine Home Energy Loan Program can help you finance home heating systems and energy efficiency upgrades. Visit [www.mainehousing.org/PROGRAMSHelp.aspx?ProgramID=32](http://www.mainehousing.org/PROGRAMSHelp.aspx?ProgramID=32).

#### State Rebate Program: for Solar and Wind

Recoup upfront costs with these rebate programs. The size of your rebate depends on the type and size of your system.

- For solar PV, basic rebates cover up to \$2,000 (\$2/W).
- For solar thermal, up to \$2,500-\$3,000 (30-35% of costs).
- Visit [www.energymaine.com/renewable\\_programs\\_solar.htm](http://www.energymaine.com/renewable_programs_solar.htm)

*Due to its popularity, the rebate program has no more funding for 2008. New projects will be accepted again in 2009!*



(Continues on reverse)