

# NEWS

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## Advocates Praise Legislature for Renewing Commitment to Successful Solar Energy Rebate Program

*Budget Agreement Provides Funding Increase and  
Keeps Solar Rebate Promise Made to Florida Consumers*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Solar energy advocates praised Florida lawmakers today after legislative negotiators put the finishing touches on a budget allocating \$5 million toward the Florida Solar Energy System Incentives Program – a \$1.5 million increase over last year’s budget. With this funding the state provides rebates to homeowners and businesses on the purchase of solar energy equipment.

The funding, contingent on HB 7135 or similar legislation becoming law, will ensure that the state will keep its promise to more than 1,700 Floridians who have already invested in solar energy systems but have sat on a waiting list for promised rebates since the program ran out of its \$3.5 million in funding last year due to high demand for the efficient and environmentally friendly technology. Under the budget agreement, the program will begin the fiscal year with funding necessary to meet \$3.1 million in rebates already committed to consumers on the waiting list.

“In a tough year when lawmakers have billions of dollars less to work with, we appreciate the Legislature for renewing Florida’s commitment to this environmentally responsible and energy-independent resource and keeping the solar energy rebate promise made to the consumers currently on the waiting list,” said Bruce Kershner of the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association. “Continuing this popular program will help the Sunshine State on its path to becoming a global solar energy leader and will help promote economic growth by helping to create clean, green jobs for our citizens.”

The rebate program helps subsidize the purchase and installation of solar equipment for homes and businesses. Under the program:

- Solar thermal swimming pool heaters are eligible for a \$100 rebate per system.
- Solar domestic water heaters are eligible for a \$500 rebate per system. Commercial solar water heating systems are eligible for a rebate of \$15 per 1,000 Btu, with a maximum rebate amount of \$5,000.
- Photovoltaic systems of 2 kilowatts or larger can qualify for a rebate based on the manufacturer’s power output rating of the system. The amount is \$4 per watt, with a residential cap of \$20,000 and a \$100,000 cap for commercial, publicly owned, or private non-profit organizations.

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In March of this year, a statewide poll by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research found that 85 percent of those Floridians believe the Legislature should act to encourage investment in solar energy, and 81 percent said they would support that investment even if it cost them an extra dollar per month on their utility bills.

For more information on solar energy in Florida, please visit the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association Web site at [www.flaseia.org](http://www.flaseia.org) and The Vote Solar Initiative Web site at <http://www.votesolar.org/state-initiatives/florida.html>.

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