



ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL RICHARD
DIRECTOR

June 8, 2004

MEA to Offer Financial Incentives for Solar Energy

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. and Michael Richard, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, are pleased to announce that MEA will be offering grants for homeowners and certain building owners who install solar energy systems in 2005 through the Solar Energy Grant Program.

Over the next few months, MEA will be developing eligibility criteria, regulations and terms and conditions for administering this new program, so please continue to check MEA's Web site – www.energy.state.md.us – as details develop.

Grants will be provided for:

Solar Water Heating.....20% of system cost up to \$2,000
Residential Photovoltaic.....20% of system cost up to \$3,000
Nonresidential Photovoltaic.....20% of system cost up to \$5,000

- ✦ Through Dec. 31, 2004, homeowners and businesses can still take advantage of residential solar tax credits offered through the Maryland Clean Energy Incentive Act. It allows for a personal or corporate income tax credit of 15% of the total system cost up to \$2,000 for PV and up to \$1,000 for solar water heating property.
- ✦ The **Net Energy Metering** law allows consumers who produce photovoltaic solar electricity to feed excess electricity back onto the electric grid, helping to reduce their monthly electric bills.

For more information on a variety of useful solar energy information, go to MEA's Web site as well as the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network (EREN: www.eere.energy.gov) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL: www.nrel.gov).

For more information about State programs contact: MEA's Tim LaRonde at 410-260-7539 or 1-800-72-ENERGY (1-800-723-6374); Email at tlaronde@energy.state.md.us.

For more information on local solar installers, consultants, etc. contact local trade organizations such as the Maryland, D.C., Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association (MDV-SEIA) or the Potomac Region Solar Energy Association (PRSEA).

MDV-SEIA

Peter Lowenthal, Director
Maryland, DC, Virginia-Solar
Energy Industries Association
4707 Elmhurst Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814-3954
Phone/fax: 301-530-5343
Email: ploenthal@seia.org;
Web site: www.mdv-seia.org

PRSEA

Dan Lunceford, Chairman
Potomac Region Solar Energy Association
P.O. Box 252
Churchton, MD 20733
Phone: 301-434-9363
Email: daystar@his.com;
Web site: www.prsea.org

1623 Forest Drive, Suite 300 · Annapolis, MD 21403
Tel: 410-260-7655 · Toll Free: 1-800-72-ENERGY · Fax: 410-974-2250
meainfo@energy.state.md.us · www.energy.state.md.us