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Maryland Energy Administration Will Continue Accepting Applications for Solar Energy Grants for all of 2007 and into 2008.

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is pleased to announce that it will continue accepting applications for solar energy grants under the Solar Energy Grant Program. Grant applications have been accepted on an ongoing basis since June 1, 2006. The program's budget has been approved and is funded through June of 2008.

The grants are available to residents, business, and local governments and can be used to offset a portion of the cost of either photovoltaic (solar electricity generation) or solar water heating projects. Solar energy is a zero emissions, abundant and local source of power that is an alternative to using finite energy resources.

The grants are for 20 percent of your system cost in three categories, each of which has a maximum allowable grant amount:

- Solar Water Heating (SWH) grants can be up to \$2000;
- Residential Photovoltaic (PV) Solar grants can be up to \$3000; and
- Nonresidential Photovoltaic Solar grants can be up to \$5000.

"We have seen significant growth in the number of Maryland citizens deciding that the time is right to make use of clean, renewable resources such as solar energy.", said Tim LaRonde, MEA's Solar Program Manager. "Not only does solar help reduce costs but it offsets generation that would come from conventional resources. The benefits of renewable solar energy affect air, land and water quality; healthcare; volatility of energy supplies and costs; economic development; and national security."

Applicants are encouraged to become familiar with the program terms and conditions and eligibility criteria prior to applying. There is a significant amount of supporting documentation required along with the application forms. For more information on solar energy opportunities, visit the Maryland Energy Administration's Solar Energy Grant Program Web site at www.energy.maryland.gov/programs/renewable/solargrant, call 1-800-723-6374 or email meainfo@energy.state.md.us.

\$1000 grants are also available for geothermal (ground-source) heat pumps. Details can be found at: <http://www.energy.state.md.us/programs/renewable/geothermalgrant/index.html>