

Idaho's Financial Opportunities and Resources

State Resources

Idaho Department of Agriculture (www.agr.id.gov)

The Idaho Department of Agriculture has a complete listing and links to all federal and state loans and grants available. Follow the quick link "Marketing and Development" to "Marketing" and then to "Financial Assistance".

Idaho Office of Energy Resources (www.energy.idaho.gov)

The Office of Energy Resources "Financial Assistance" program includes tax deductions and tax credits as well as loans and grants.

Tax deductions are available for installing insulation and alternative energy systems.

Renewable Energy Equipment Sales Tax Refund

This program provides a 100-percent tax rebate to taxpayers who purchase qualifying equipment and machinery used to generate electricity from landfill gas, fuel cells, low-impact hydropower, wind, geothermal resources, biomass, cogeneration, and solar energy. To be eligible for the rebate, purchasers must use the equipment to develop a facility or project capable of producing at least 25 kilowatts of electricity.

Biofuel Infrastructure Investment Tax Credit and Grant

This program helps businesses place property into use to sell biofuels.

Low-Interest Energy Loans

Low-interest energy loans are available up to \$100,000 for agricultural, renewable energy and commercial projects. The loans have a 4 percent interest rate and are repayable in 5 years.

Also under "Financial Assistance" program is a chart of Idaho's rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. This chart gives phone numbers and in some cases links to websites. Each cooperative and municipal utility has its own set of financial incentives.

Idaho Energy Resources Authority (www.iera.info)

The "Renewable Energy Project Bond" program allows independent (non-utility) developers of renewable energy projects (solar, thermal electric, photovoltaics, landfill gas, wind, biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal electric, fuel cells, CHP/Cogeneration) in Idaho to apply for financing from the Idaho Energy Resources Authority,

Regional Resources

Northwest Solar Cooperative - Green Tag Purchase (<http://www.solaroregon.org/get-involved/northwest-solar-coop>)

The Northwest Solar Cooperative* (NWSC) offers to purchase the rights to the environmental attributes or "Green Tags" derived from grid-connected photovoltaic (PV) or wind energy at a rate of \$0.02 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) through December 31, 2009. Residential and non-residential owners of PV and wind-energy systems installed after

June 1, 2002, in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana are eligible to participate in the Green Tag Purchase Program.

Utility and Rural Cooperatives Resources

Avista (www.avistautilities.com)

Avista Utilities offers a variety of energy management tools and services for commercial and industrial customers who receive retail electric and natural gas distribution from them. Services include technical assistance, design review and cash incentives. Contact your account executive and ask about "Site-Specific Incentives". This program tailors their work to your project.

Avista customers generating renewable energy may interconnect their renewable energy system to Avista's electric grid. Idaho customers may also qualify for a one-time energy efficiency incentive. Information about this incentive is under the "Services and Pricing" section and "Renewable Energy Generation".

Idaho Power (www.idahopower.com/energycenter/energyefficiency)

Idaho Power offers a variety of programs for agriculture, businesses and communities.

Energy Efficiency in Irrigation

This program is designed especially for irrigators. Irrigators can receive financial and technical assistance as well as credit for turning off their pumps June 15 to July 31.

Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers may qualify for: Easy Upgrades for Simple Retrofits, Building Efficiency for Construction Projects, and Custom Efficiency programs depending on their rate class.

Net Metering Program

The Net Metering program allows customers to install small-scale, renewable generation projects on their property and connect to Idaho Power's grid system through generator interconnection. The program enables customers to offset their energy use. Customers generating more electricity than they use can earn a credit on their Idaho Power bill. The Net Metering Program works with people generating less than 100 KW, up to 20 MW and above 20 MW.

Idaho Power administers two funds to support energy efficiency in the community. The Small Projects Fund is for demonstration, research, and other direct kilowatt or kilowatt-hour savings projects that are otherwise not included in larger energy efficiency programs. The Education Fund is for training, education or promotion that, similarly, is not part of a larger program.

Rocky Mountain Power (a subsidiary of PacifiCorp)

(www.rockymountainpower.net)

Rocky Mountain Power offers a variety of programs for commercial, industrial and agricultural customers.

Under "For Your Business" four different programs are listed:

FinAnswer Express

Commercial and industrial customers may receive pre-calculated incentives for high-efficiency lighting, premium efficiency motors and HVAC equipment. Custom incentives may be available for other types of equipment. This program is for retrofits and new construction.

Energy FinAnswer

We offer technical expertise and cash incentives to help you upgrade the energy efficiency of your commercial or industrial heating, cooling, refrigeration, compressed air, lighting, pumping or industrial processes. Both retrofit and new construction/major renovation projects are eligible.

Irrigation Load Control

With this program, irrigators agree to curtail their electricity use during certain periods of time and receive a credit for participating. Customers specify which sites they wish to include in the program and choose the best load control option to meet their needs. Please call our irrigation hotline at 1-800-715-9238 or use our online inquiry form to learn more.

Irrigation Energy Savers

Irrigation customers may receive new nozzles, gasket and drains in place of worn equipment, cash incentives for pivot system equipment upgrades, on site pump check and water management consultation, pump tests, engineering and incentives for comprehensive irrigation system upgrades. Please call 1-888-928-3751 for more information or use our online inquiry form.

Learn how communities and individuals can install renewable energy projects under “For Your Home” section. The “Blue Sky Community-Based Renewable Energy Projects” offers financial assistance to locally-owned commercial-scale projects that produce less than 10 megawatts of electricity.