

## Montana's Financial Opportunities and Resources

### State Resources

#### **Governor's Office of Economic Development**

([www.business.mt.gov/govsenergypage.asp](http://www.business.mt.gov/govsenergypage.asp))

Use the featured link to the "Governor's Energy Page" for an overview of what Montana is doing.

#### **Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) ([www.deq.state.mt.us](http://www.deq.state.mt.us))**

##### Montana Incentives for Renewable Energy

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/energy/Renewable/TaxIncentRenew.asp#15-32-401>

This is a great website. It lists of all the incentives, tax and otherwise, that Montana law offers for renewable energy development. Some are just for individuals; some are just for businesses; many are for both. The site gives a brief description of what is available and contact information.

##### Alternative Fuel Business Tax Credit for Motor Vehicle Conversions

(<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/Energy/eebusiness/TaxIncentBus.asp>)

A state tax credit is available to businesses to convert motor vehicles licensed in Montana to operate on alternative fuels. The amount of tax credit allowed is as much as 50 percent of the costs of equipment and labor for the conversion of a motor vehicle. Qualifying alternative fuel systems use natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied natural gas, hydrogen, electricity or any fuel that contains at least 20 percent vegetable oil, animal oil, or a derivative of them. Alternative fueled vehicles that operate on least 85 percent methanol, ethanol or other alcohol, ether, or combination of them are also eligible for this tax credit.

##### Energy Conservation Tax Credit for Business

(<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/Energy/eebusiness/TaxIncentBus.asp>)

Businesses are entitled to a state tax benefit for energy conservation investments in buildings in Montana. A business may claim 5 percent of its investment as a tax credit on state income tax owned, up to a maximum of \$300 for commercial, industrial or agricultural buildings.

##### Energize Montana (<http://deq.mt.gov/energy>)

An overall energy website from DEQ that provides information provides information for citizens, schools, businesses, agriculture, and government on a variety of energy topics. This includes conservation, renewable energy, production of energy in Montana, publications, events and contacts at DEQ.

#### **Montana Department of Commerce ([www.commerce.mt.gov/energy/incentives.asp](http://www.commerce.mt.gov/energy/incentives.asp))**

The Energy Promotion and Development Division was created in 2007 to help implement Governor Schweitzer's commitment to 'clean and green' energy development in Montana. This website has a section specifically enumerating "Taxes and Incentives".

#### **Montana Department of Labor and Industries (<http://dli.mt.gov/wired/>)**

Montana's WIRED effort, Montana's Agro-Energy Plan, acts as a catalyst to transform the rural Ag-economy. Through committed partnerships with Montana's citizens, state

agencies, private businesses, investors, academic institutions, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and Tribal leaders we aim to create a globally competitive bio-energy and bio products cluster in central and eastern Montana. The website explains the WIRED program and gives case studies of successful projects.

### **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.

### **Nonprofit Resources**

#### **Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)** (<http://www.mtco-ops.com>)

The Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) developed and adopted a model Interconnection of Small Customer Generation Facilities policy in 2001. Under the model policy, customers who generate electricity using a renewable source including, but not limited to, wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, or fuel cells are eligible for net metering.

#### **The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA)**

(<http://www.medamembers.org/>)

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) is an association of economic development professionals. We are professional “lead” economic developers, business specialists, government employees, and staff members of affiliated non-profit organizations which promote and foster economic development activities in Montana. MEDA has an energy group that is linked into everything going on in Montana.

### **Utilities and Rural Cooperatives Resources**

#### **NorthWestern Energy**

([http://www.northwesternenergy.com/display.aspx?Page=Renewable\\_Energy\\_Program](http://www.northwesternenergy.com/display.aspx?Page=Renewable_Energy_Program))

NorthWestern Energy (NWE), formerly Montana Power Company, periodically provides funding to its customers for renewable energy projects.

#### **USB Renewable Energy Fund**

([http://www.northwesternenergy.com/display.aspx?Page=Renewable\\_Energy\\_Program](http://www.northwesternenergy.com/display.aspx?Page=Renewable_Energy_Program))

In 1997, Montana established the Universal System Benefits (USB) Program. The USB requires all electric and gas utilities to establish USB funds for low-income energy assistance, weatherization, energy efficiency activities, and development of renewable energy resources. To participate in this program you must submit a Request for Proposal (RFP). Download our guide to funding your renewable energy project — [Bright Ideas in Renewable Energy](#).

E+ Business Partners Program

([http://www.northwesternenergy.com/display.aspx?Page=Business\\_Partners\\_MT](http://www.northwesternenergy.com/display.aspx?Page=Business_Partners_MT))

The E+ Business Partners Program offers funding for local energy conservation and load management projects in new and retrofit applications including commercial, institutional, industrial, agricultural, and multi-family residential facilities/systems. NorthWestern Energy solicits proposals for this program through customers, architects, engineers and other energy efficiency trade allies.

**Black Hills Power** (<http://www.blackhillspower.com>)

Commercial/Industrial Energy Efficiency Programs

Black Hills Power offers their commercial customers rebates for energy efficient heat pumps and water heaters as well as a variety of technical assistance programs.

**Flathead Electric Cooperative** (<http://www.flatheadelectric.com>)

Commercial Lighting Retro-Fit Rebate Program

This program offers rebates on energy efficient lighting equipment.