



New York State Promotes Solar Energy

The state of New York has recently contracted with three photovoltaic manufacturers to promote the state's solar energy tax credit. Homeowners are being assured proper access to the utility grid so they can sell excess power to their local electric utility company.

With \$1.25 million being provided by the state in addition to the three leading manufacturers, more than \$5 million will be spent to encourage the use of solar energy systems in New York.

"New York has been a leader in developing the renewable and clean energy sources that we need for our future," said New York Governor George Pataki. "Now it is time to use our resources to get these technologies into homes by offering homeowners income tax credits, reduced equipment costs, increased sales and service through dealer networks, and proper access to the utility grid."

The three companies, SunWize Technologies of Kingston, Four Season Solar Products of Long Island and AstroPower, Inc. in conjunction with Pace Energy Project in New York City, have made competitive proposals covering marketing strategies, reduced equipment costs, and community education in New York. Governor Pataki said that aside from giving homeowners access to the utility grid, he aims to reduce utility costs for homes and small businesses.

New York's Energy Smart Program is funded by five of the state's utility companies and is available in the service areas of ConEd, Orange and Rockland, Central Hudson, Niagra Mohawk and NYSEG.