Also, did you know about the...

State and Federal Income Tax Credits?

Montana state income tax credits are available to residents who invest in renewable energy and energy conservation measures installed in their homes and businesses.

- Up to $500 per individual taxpayer for installing an alternative energy system.
- Up to $1,500 for installing a geothermal heating system.
- Up to $500 per individual taxpayer for installing energy conservation measures.

Federal income tax credits are available through 2016 to taxpayers who invest in renewable energy systems.

- 30 percent of investment in solar, wind, or geothermal systems, residential no maximum.

Additional information is available electronically at:
www.energizemontana.com

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Energize Montana

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provides information for citizens, schools, businesses and government on a variety of energy topics. This includes conservation, renewable energy, production of energy in Montana, state tax incentives, publications, events and contacts at DEQ.

www.energizemontana.com

Montana Renewable Energy Association

MREA is a non-profit with a mission to expand the use of renewable energy in Montana. Members include businesses, individuals and organizations that support renewable energy. Visit the website for a list of member companies that install renewable energy systems, as well as information and links.

www.montanarenewables.org

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Data Base of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE)

Provides an excellent overview of federal and state tax credits and incentives.

www.dsireusa.org

The Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP)

Sponsored by a coalition of public interest nonprofit groups, government agencies, and other organizations in the energy efficiency field, the site is designed to give consumers and businesses information they need to make use of the federal income tax incentives for energy efficient products and technologies.

www.energytaxincentives.org

USDA Rural Development

USDA Rural Development works with agricultural producers and rural small businesses to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

www.rurdev.usda.gov/MT_Home.html

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Revolving Loan Program

3.25% for 2016

January 2016

DEQ
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Program

What is it?

The Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Program was established by the 2001 Legislature to provide a financing option to Montanans who wish to install alternative energy systems for their own use. Energy conservation measures that reduce the building's energy use may be financed along with an alternative energy project. The program is funded by air quality penalties collected by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and by Federal Recovery Funds.

What are Alternative Energy Systems?

Alternative energy systems are defined as "the generation system or equipment used to convert energy sources into usable sources..." Examples include geothermal, or ground-source heat pumps, low emission wood or biomass, wind, photo-voltaic, solar thermal, and small hydropower plants. The DEQ will provide technical review and approval of systems proposed for the loan program.

What are Energy Conservation Measures?

Loan proceeds may be used for energy conservation measures that reduce the size of the alternative energy system to be installed. Insulation, windows, doors, or more efficient appliances, are examples of measures that may be financed along with the alternative energy system, subject to DEQ approval.

How much can I borrow?

Loans can be made up to a maximum of $40,000 (*subject to available funds*), and must be repaid within ten years. Interest rates are set annually and are fixed for the term of the loan. The rate for 2016 is 3.25 percent. Check the website at **www.energizemontana.com** for the current rate, fund availability, and details on how to apply.

How does the process work?

The DEQ will accept and process loan applications throughout the year. Approval process includes technical and financial reviews. If funds are available, loans can usually be processed in about four weeks, longer for commercial or complex projects.

What happens if funds are not available?

The **www.energizemontana.com** website will post the ranking criteria that will be used to prioritize loans. DEQ will continually accept applications, and will evaluate applications each time funds become available during the year. Funds revolved back into the program from loan payments are available several times each year.

How can I get more information?

The Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Program is listed on the ***Energize Montana*** website **www.energizemontana.com**. You can download application materials or receive copies by contacting:

Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-6586 or (406) 444-6697
E-mail: **deqaltenergyloan@mt.gov**