



Energy and Comfort Solutions for Your Home

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PENDING TAX CREDITS AND REBATES FOR NEW MEXICO RESIDENTS

TAX CREDITS FOR SOLAR AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 is the first energy policy revision since 1992. The 1724 page law provides new tax incentives for solar and other energy efficiency measures. Among them are:

For New Homes:

- Highly efficient new homes which consume 50% less energy for heating and cooling than houses constructed in accordance with Chapter 4 of the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code (current NM code). See law for additional requirements.
- The tax credit goes to the "builder".
- Credit for new homes applies to qualified new energy efficient homes "acquired" after December 31, 2005.
- Certification is required. Certification is expected to be by HERS professional and possibly by other means.



Tax Credits for Existing Homes

- Improvements to existing homes including high efficiency air conditioners, furnaces and boilers, water heaters, building envelope components, reflective metal roofs, and windows.
- Also included are solar photovoltaic and solar water heating systems.

- I expect that this will include active solar space heating.
- Improvements to existing homes include residential fuel cell systems.

See <http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/EPAAct-05.htm#solar> for information on the expected tax credits.

The complete conference bill for the Energy Policy Act may be downloaded at <http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/072705confrpt.pdf> (2.5 MB PDF file). The solar and energy efficiency provisions are found in Title XIII, Subtitle C, beginning on page 1332 through page 1390 of the act.

PROPOSED PNM REBATES

Excerpt from PNM Press Release dated June 24, 2005

PNM evaluated a variety of potential programs and chose the following six based on cost effectiveness and likely appeal to residential customers. The programs, which are still subject to PRC approval, are:

- A \$10 rebate on the purchase of a water heater insulation blanket;
- A \$25 rebate on the purchase of an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat;
- A \$100 rebate on the purchase of an ENERGY STAR® washing machine;
- A 25 percent rebate, up to \$500, on participating contractor-installed insulation and weatherization measures, including attic insulation, wall insulation, ductwork leakage testing and sealing, and other services;
- Varying rebates for participating contractor-installed gas efficiency products, including ENERGY STAR® thermostats (\$40), hot water heater insulation blankets (\$15), hot water pipe insulation (\$5 for up to 10 feet), and low-flow showerheads (\$8); and
- Low-Income Weatherization Grants for the New Mexico Weatherization Assistance Program, administered by the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, to help weatherize the homes of low-income PNM customers.

End of PNM press release information.

Details have not been announced, but the building envelope leakage (blower door) test is under consideration as well as the duct leakage test as noted above.