



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
101 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PO Box 802
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0802

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

CHARLES A. RICHMAN
Acting Commissioner

December 2, 2009

Dear Construction Official:

On February 4, 2009, I sent you a letter concerning P.L. 2008, c.90, a law which offers property tax relief for the installation of renewal energy systems. Under this statute, a property owner who installs a renewable energy system in accordance with all applicable rules, standards and manufacturer's instructions can apply for approval to the local enforcing agency and, if the renewable energy system is approved, to the tax assessor.

I advised you in February that, in order for the program to be implemented, the Division of Taxation would first have to adopt an application form. That form has now been adopted. It may be found online at http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other_forms/lpt/cres.pdf.

The form provides a place for the construction official to certify that the application has been approved. The form may be presented to you by the applicant at the time of permit application or prior to final inspection. Once you have signed the form, it should be forwarded to the tax assessor.

We will be meeting with the Board of Public Utilities to determine what standards exist that are applicable to renewable energy systems and should be incorporated into the Uniform Construction Code (UCC.) In the interim, the UCC already provides for the use of the manufacturer's installation instructions. (See N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.6(b)) Item #5 on the form requires the applicant to supply copies of all applicable manufacturer's instructions and standards. These should be used for plan review and inspection of renewable energy systems. The application may be approved provided that the system, as installed, conforms to these standards.

If you have any questions regarding the implementation of this law, please call the Code Assistance Unit at (609)984-7607.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Wilk
Director

Division of Codes and Standards



APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM(S)
Pursuant to P.L. 2008, c.90

County: _____ Municipality _____

Section 1

Owners Name: _____ Email Address _____
Property Address: _____ Phone # _____ Fax # _____
Block _____ Lot _____

Section 2

Installer's Name: _____ Email Address _____
Property Address: _____ Phone # _____ Fax # _____

Section 3

We, the owner and installer, respectively, of a renewable energy system installed, or to be installed, at the above property, hereby certify as follows:

1. A renewable energy system meeting the requirements set forth in P.L. 2008, c.90 and complying with all applicable subcodes of the State Uniform Construction Code, all applicable testing standards, and all manufacturers' instructions, has been installed, or shall be installed, in accordance with all such subcodes, standards and instructions, at a structure located at the above property.
2. The said renewable energy system produces, or when installed shall produce, renewable energy onsite sufficient to provide all or a portion of the electrical, heating, cooling, or general energy needs of that structure.
3. The source of the renewable energy is designed to be as follows (at least one line must be checked):
 - (a) If electrical, the renewable energy system at the above location is designed to produce energy from the following source:
 - _____ Solar technologies (other than photo-voltaic)
 - _____ Photo-voltaic technologies
 - _____ Wind energy
 - _____ Fuel cells
 - _____ Geothermal technologies
 - _____ Wave or tidal action
 - _____ Methane gas from landfills
 - _____ Resource recovery facility (DEP determination attached)
 - _____ Hydropower facility (DEP determination attached)
 - _____ Biomass facility involving biomass cultivated and harvested in a sustainable manner (DEP determination attached)
 - (b) If non-electrical, the renewable energy system at the above location is designed to produce energy from the following source:
 - _____ Solar thermal technologies
 - _____ Geothermal technologies
4. If the renewable energy system produces energy from a resource recovery, hydropower or biomass facility, we have attached to this application proof of a determination by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection that the facility meets the highest environmental standards and minimizes any impacts to the environment and local communities.
5. We have attached to this application a list identifying all applicable testing standards and manufacturer's instructions governing the design or installation of the renewable energy system and shall provide copies of any such standards and/or instructions to the enforcing agency if so required. We understand that any such documentation, if required, shall be deemed to be supplemental to this application, and that the application shall not be deemed to be complete unless and until they are submitted to the enforcing agency.
6. The (____ actual)/(____ estimated) cost of the renewable energy system is \$_____.

Section 4

Date: _____
Property owner

Date: _____
Installer, or authorized representative

To the Tax Assessor:
I hereby certify this application has been:
 Approved
 Disapproved

Date: _____
Construction Official

I have reviewed the application/certification and accept / reject this claim for exemption.

Date: _____
Assessor

Definitions – N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.113a

1. As used in this act:

“Renewable energy” means: (1) electric energy produced from solar technologies, photovoltaic technologies, wind energy, fuel cells, geothermal technologies, wave or tidal action, methane gas from landfills, a resource recovery facility, a hydropower facility or a biomass facility, provided that the biomass is cultivated and harvested in a sustainable manner, and provided further that the Commissioner of Environmental Protection has determined that the resource recovery facility, hydropower facility or biomass facility, as appropriate, meets the highest environmental standards and minimizes any impacts to the environment and local communities; and (2) energy produced from solar thermal or geothermal technologies.

“Renewable energy system” means any equipment that is part of, or added to, a residential, commercial, industrial, or mixed use building as an accessory use, and that produces renewable energy onsite to provide all or a portion of the electrical, heating, cooling, or general energy needs of that building.

“Local enforcing agency” means the enforcing agency in any municipality provided for under the “State Uniform Construction Code Act,” P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-119 et seq.) and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

Calculation - N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.113b

2. Property that has been certified by a local enforcing agency as a renewable energy system shall be exempt from taxation under chapter 4 of Title 54 of the Revised Statutes. The owner of real property which is equipped with a certified renewable energy system may have exempted annually from the assessed valuation of the real property a sum equal to the assessed valuation of the real property with the renewable energy system included, minus the assessed valuation of the real property without the renewable energy system included.

Right to Inspect - N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.113c

3. The local enforcing agency may at any time inquire into the right of a claimant to the exemption, and for that purpose the local enforcing agency may require the filing of a new application or the submission of such proof as the local enforcing agency shall deem necessary to determine the right of the claimant to the continuance of the exemption.

Effective Date of Exemption - N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.113d

4. The exemption from taxation for the renewable energy system shall become effective for the tax year following the year in which certification has been granted and thereafter during its use primarily for such purposes.

Appeal Information - N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.113f

5a. Any person aggrieved by any action of the local enforcing agency may seek review before the board of appeals.

b. Any person aggrieved by any action of the assessor may seek a review of such action at the county board of taxation or directly to the State Tax Court where the value in dispute is \$750,000 or more annually on or before April 1. The judgment of the county board of taxation may be further appealed to the Tax Court of New Jersey by filing a complaint with the Tax Court Management Office within 45 days from the date of the service of the judgment (date of mailing). Contact information for the county tax boards can be found at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/lpt/cboards.shtml>. The Tax Court of New Jersey is located at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, 25 Market Street, Trenton, New Jersey. Mailing address: PO Box 972, Trenton, NJ 08625-0972. Telephone number: (609) 815-2922, Press Option 1.