



## First Time Home Buyers Energy Efficiency Workshop - **Helpful Resources**

### **Informational Resources**

*This list of internet resources is a good place to start when looking for tips on how to save energy or get started with a green building project.*

#### **Alternative Energy Resources Organization:**

**[www.aeromt.org](http://www.aeromt.org)**

At the AERO website you can keep up to date on tours and other programs or call if you have a question. Also, visit the AERO website to find **Conservation Tip Sheets** on a variety of specific subjects.

#### **Montana Green Power:**

**[www.montanagreenpower.com](http://www.montanagreenpower.com)**

In addition to offering information on planning and designing your own solar, wind and micro-hydro systems, this site lists **renewable energy dealers and installers** in Montana.

#### **Federal Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency:**

**[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)**

This federal Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency website has information about **Energy Star rated houses** and is a good reference to use when shopping for **new appliances**.

#### **MT Department of Environmental Quality:**

**[www.energizemontana.com](http://www.energizemontana.com)**

This Montana DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) site has good **Montana-specific energy conservation tips**.

#### **National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT):**

**[www.ncat.org](http://www.ncat.org)**

NCAT is a non-profit organization based in Butte that works on sustainable agriculture and energy issues with a special focus on the cross-over areas between **energy and agriculture**.

#### **Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA):**

**AERO: Linking People, Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Solutions**

Alternative Energy Resources Organization

432 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601 • (406) 443-7272 • [www.aeromt.org](http://www.aeromt.org)



<http://www.montanagreenpower.com/mrea/>

MREA is a statewide non-profit that promotes renewable energy development.

## **Grants, Loans and Tax Incentives for Conservation & Renewable Energy**

*A combination of tax incentives, rebates, grants and loan programs can make investing in energy conservation measures or a renewable energy system much cheaper than the upfront cost. It is often possible to qualify for multiple incentives.*

### **Montana Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Program:**

[www.energizemontana.com](http://www.energizemontana.com) (click: **Alternative Energy Loan**)

**Contact: Kathi Montgomery, Montana DEQ (406) 841-5243**

The alternative energy revolving loan program offers **low-interest loans for up to \$40,000** with repayment up to ten years. The loans are for the purpose of installing alternative energy systems that generate energy for the building occupant's own use or for net metering. Energy conservation measures may also be financed along with the alternative energy project.

### **Montana Conservation and Renewable Energy Incentives:**

[www.energizemontana.com](http://www.energizemontana.com) (click: **Tax and other incentives**)

This is a thorough list of all the **loans, grants and tax incentives** available for conservation and renewable energy projects in Montana. Incentives cover businesses, farms and residences.

### **Northwestern Energy E+ Programs:**

[www.northwesternenergy.com](http://www.northwesternenergy.com)

**Contact: Danie Williams, (406) 497-3364 or 1-888-700-6878**

Northwestern Energy provides a variety of services to its **residential** and **business** electric and gas customers including **grants** for renewable energy systems, **rebates** for insulation, programmable thermostats or lighting fixture upgrades, **home energy audits** and a **Green Energy** buying program.

### **Comprehensive Database of State and Federal Incentives:**

[www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)

This website, hosted by the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, will allow you to find incentives for any state in the nation. You may also use this site to search for current **federal incentives**.

**AERO: Linking People, Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Solutions**

Alternative Energy Resources Organization

432 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601 • (406) 443-7272 • [www.aeromt.org](http://www.aeromt.org)



**USDA Rural Development Loans and Grants:**

**[www.rurdev.usda.gov/Energy.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Energy.html)**

USDA offers both loans and grants to help finance wind, solar, and other renewable energy improvements for rural homes and businesses.

## **Finding Assistance**

*These resources can help get you on your way to home energy efficiency.*

**LIEAP – Low Income Energy Assistance Program:**

**<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/programsservices/energyassistance/index.shtml>**

The **Weatherization Program** helps participants to improve the heating efficiency of their homes and thus reduce their energy consumption. The **Low Income Energy Assistance Program** (LIEAP) pays part of winter energy bills for eligible people. Most utilities offer LIEAP recipients discounts on their bills.

**Energy Share of Montana**

**[www.energysharemt.com](http://www.energysharemt.com)**

Information about weatherization programs, furnace safety, repair, and maintenance

**AERO: Linking People, Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Solutions**

Alternative Energy Resources Organization

432 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601 • (406) 443-7272 • [www.aeromt.org](http://www.aeromt.org)