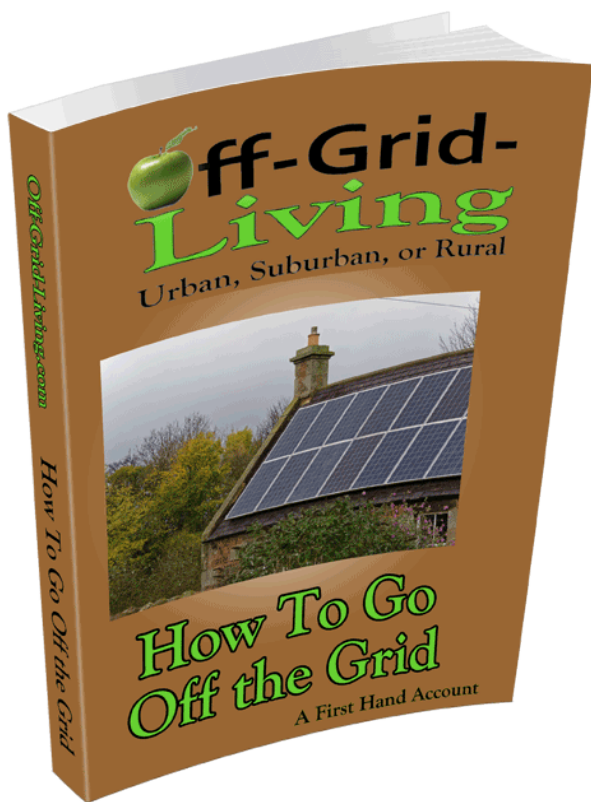




ff-Grid-Living

In An Urban and Suburban World



Lesson #4 ...

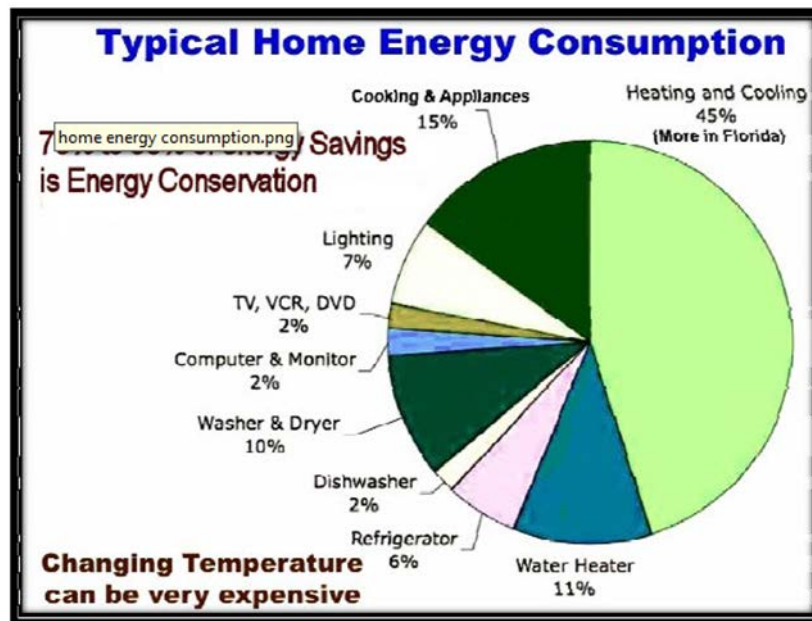
Government Help

Hi, this is David Sieg from Off-Grid-living.com The most important thing to take away from this lesson is..

If you do your homework you can find government and utility grants, interest-free loans, and a ton of rebates if you want to explore this avenue. With the info in your hands, many will pay for the entire cost of the system.

Energy Secret # 1.

You're being lied to by the solar industry.



If today you go and search for a solar or wind generating system you're going to say "What??!! Are you kidding me??" The prices are still incredibly high. Why? Because they want you to buy energy system based on your PRESENT level of energy consumption. We use an unrealistic level of energy in the USA. From 'phantom loads' to appliances that never turn off. Unrealistic is unrealistic. Which means it leads to an unrealistic level of solar energy system needed.

We need to be more realistic. But it takes looking at the energy we take for granted in an entirely different way. There is no reason you have to sacrifice comfort. You'll need to look at energy in a different way, and change a few habits. That's all.

Energy secret # 2.

The state and federal US government (and many others as well) as well as many states offer grants, rebates, credits, and many other things to help you get on your way. Right now, these are not well known. But they will pay you to install these systems thereby taking the onus of producing energy from them.



I'm going to give you a list of "grants" and zero interest loans right here, from every state in the US. This is FREE money.

<http://www.dsireusa.org/>

Don't worry. The link above is also available in the .pdf download attached to this course.

Don't underestimate the power of these programs. Some are paying up to \$50,000 for you to relieve the state and federal government of the responsibility.

A quick check of my own state revealed a \$5000 personal tax credit, and up to \$20,000 for a commercial system. That would be more than enough to a very sizable home system.

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Programs Overview Summary Maps Summary Tables News

Solar Energy Systems Tax Credit (Personal)

Last Updated July 2, 2015

Program Overview

Implementing Sector:	State
Category:	Financial Incentive
State:	Iowa
Incentive Type:	Personal Tax Credit
Web Site:	https://tax.iowa.gov/solar-energy-system-tax-credits
Administrator:	Iowa Department of Revenue
Budget:	\$5,000,000 cumulative limit per year (personal and corporate)
Start Date:	01/01/2012
Expiration Date:	12/31/2016
Eligible Renewable/Other Technologies:	Solar Water Heat, Solar Photovoltaics
Applicable Sectors:	Commercial, Residential, Agricultural
Incentive Amount:	18%
Maximum Incentive:	\$5,000
Carryover Provisions:	Excess credit may be taken for up to 10 years

Win/win/win

Another quick check in California revealed well over a 100 grants offered by the state and the utilities.

Well that's San Francisco you say. True enough. What about other places less solar enlightened?

How about Illinois? Here's a rebate offering up to \$450,000 and 100% of the cost of your system.

The screenshot displays the DSIRE (Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency) website. The header includes the DSIRE logo, the U.S. Department of Energy logo, and the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy logo. A navigation bar contains links for Home, Glossary, Links, FAQs, Contact, and About. The main content area is titled "ILLINOIS Incentives/Policies for Energy Efficiency" and features a "Printable Version" icon. A sidebar on the left lists "Resources" such as RPS Data, Summary Maps, Summary Tables, Library, What's New?, and Search. The main content area is titled "Efficient Living Energy Grant" and includes a "Last DSIRE Review: 10/20/2014" date. The "Program Overview" section lists the following details:

- State:** Illinois
- Incentive Type:** State Grant Program
- Eligible Efficiency Technologies:** Clothes Washers, Refrigerators, Water Heaters, Lighting, Lighting Controls/Sensors, Furnaces, Boilers, Heat pumps, Central Air conditioners, Programmable Thermostats, Motor VFDs, Led Exit Signs, Room Air Conditioners, Vending Machine Controls, LED Lighting, Ceiling Fans with Lighting
- Eligible Renewable/Other Technologies:** Geothermal Heat Pumps
- Applicable Sectors:** Low-income Residential
- Amount:** Varies by technology
- Maximum Incentive:** \$450,000 and cannot exceed 100 percent of the total project cost
- Web Site:** <http://www.ilpha.org/>

The "Summary" section provides additional context: "The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Energy and Recycling Office through Illinois Energy Now is offering grants for public housing authorities (PHAs) and their residents for the implementation of energy efficiency measures in existing buildings. Applicants must be serviced by Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas, or North Shore Gas. Targeted PHAs include residential households at or below 30% of Average Median Income (AMI), 50% AMI, or 80% AMI. Funding is limited to \$450,000 per applicant and grant costs cannot exceed 100% of the total project costs. Funding varies by technology, and custom incentive projects are available. Applications are available on the program web site and will be accepted until all available funding has been obligated. Funding may be used in both residential and common areas for interior and exterior lighting improvement, vending..."

The truth is, there are state, federal, and utility grants available in every state and city. They all have their own quirks, regulations and restrictions. It's up to you to find them and use them.

Where these will help you the most is in reducing your energy consumption, buying energy star appliances, as well as hiring contractors and electricians for mounting your solar panels on the roof as well as hooking them up to a home power system.

What You Can Do Starting Today

Go to the website <http://www.dsireusa.org/>

- **And find out if there any state of federal grants available for your situation.** If the government is willing to pay you to help solve their problem, why not take advantage of it? After all, these are your tax dollar. Spend them!
- **Start by taking stock of where you expend the most energy in your lifestyle.** What part of your life is causing you the most “pain.” Is it heating and cooling? Is it electricity usage?
- **What are the most “Energy Intensive” aspect of your life?** There are 3 areas that are common to most people...heating and/or cooling, and transportation. All three are solvable.
- **Examine your utility bills.** Most utility bills have a section that show when your most energy intensive months are spread out over the course of a year. Is it heating, or cooling? If you see any months outside of these conventional areas, it's time to get curious.

PS...Don't forget you can get personalized coaching at Off-Grid-Living.com/
For some this is the ideal way to get hands on experience as well as personal attention needed to make this work for you.

Coming Up Next ...

Lesson #5: “How Small Solar Systems Work”

In the next lesson we'll be understanding wind energy and turbines and whether this is a realistic option for your renewable energy projects.