

Looking to go solar?

Find out how at PAG's Sustainability and Energy Expo 2009

Until recently, the use of solar photovoltaic panels was limited to locations where running power to a remote site was simply too expensive. In the last decade, however, the use of solar panels to power buildings has become far more common – if not yet commonplace – and solar panels represent a significant source of energy.

In 2007, the City of Tucson received a grant from the U. S. Department of Energy to be one of the first Solar America Cities, working to promote the use of solar by residents and the installation of solar on public property.

This grant, along with the Oct. 3 extension of the renewable energy tax credits through the economic rescue bill, is pushing Tucson further along in the solar arena. The extension includes a 30 percent tax credit (taken after all other incentives have been applied), an elimination of the \$2,000 cap for residential installations and allowing utilities to claim a tax credit for solar investment.

Find out more about solar photovoltaics or hot water systems at the Sustainability and Energy Expo on March 6-7, 2009, at the Tucson Convention Center. A panel on how to get started will be held at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, March 7. Many local solar installers will be available in Hall A to answer any questions. Among the installers are The Solar Store, Expert Solar Systems, GeoInnovation and Technicians for Sustainability.

Find out more at www.TucsonAltEnergyExpo.com or at www.PAGnet.org and click on the Solar Partnership link.