

Turn your roof into a power source! Using solar integrated roofing systems saves energy

by Wayne Pfisterer, Pfister Roofing

The time has come...solar integrated roofing systems are now here.

Recent developments in technologies have enabled building owners to generate their own energy. With rebates from both State and Federal governments, as well as tax credits, these systems have now become practical. The State of New Jersey offers rebates of up to 60% of the total cost of installation. Solar integrated roofing systems will qualify for both rebates of the system, as well as, a portion of the roofing installation. In addition, private and public utility companies are required to purchase renewable energy certificates ("RECs") that the system will produce. The entire installation is exempt from state and federal sales tax. RECs are points awarded for power generated. These RECs are then auctioned off to both utility companies and private enterprises that are required to accumulate RECs by the Federal government. With both the initial rebate, tax credits, RECs paybacks, as well as the energy saved by the solar system itself, integrated solar roofing systems can pay for themselves in as little as ten years. With installations being warranted and a life expectancy of 20 years, building owners can take a traditional loss and now turn it into a positive. With the demand for electricity continuing to grow and the earth's fossil fuel resources continuing to diminish, rolling blackouts and continued rise in energy costs will only continue. The most renewable energy resource on earth is the sun. Man has been harnessing the power of the sun for thousands of years to provide a more pleasant living environment. In the last 30 years, significant technology advances have been made to harness this power.

With many types of solar energy systems available on the market today, from thin filmed to hard panel systems, almost any building can be integrated to work with both



the building roof's design, as well as, the customer's needs. Choosing solar energy means contributing to the environment by choosing clean energy, and cost savings on day-to-day energy needs and increasing independency from utility suppliers. We, at Pfister, have been at the forefront of bringing this technology to the tri-state area, and have also been working closely with others in lighting, HVAC and environmental control. In many cases this turnkey approach to energy savings both by generating power on the roofs and controlling and eliminating costs internally in the building. Dramatic reductions in overhead can be realized with the installation of solar integrated roofing systems.

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It takes less time to do a thing right than it does to explain why you did it wrong.

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

People may forget how fast you did a job, but they will remember how well you did it.

- Anonymous