

West Central Telephone

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Minnesota-Made Solar Air Furnace Receives Highest Efficiency Rating in North America

25% Minnesota Solar Rebate Available for Limited Time

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Sebeka—With the unseasonably warm weather we've enjoyed this spring, it might be easy to forget about high winter heating bills, but smart Minnesotans will act quickly to “make hay while the sun shines” and take advantage of a new Solar Rebate being offered by the state of Minnesota. The rebate covers up to 25% of the cost of installing an innovative furnace that uses the clean, free power of the sun to heat a home or business.

Monica Quaschnick of Zenergy by West Central explains, “These panels look similar to regular solar panels, but instead of going on the roof, you put them on the south side of your house. The sun heats the panels, and a thermostatically controlled fan blows the warm air into your living space. The panels we use are so efficient that two 4' by 8' panels can offset 40% of a modest home's heating requirements.”

The panels are manufactured right up the road in Pine River, Minnesota by the non-profit organization RREAL, which has been installing other brands of solar air furnaces for years. The group saw many areas for improvement on the panels, and set to work on designing their own model, which they unveiled in 2008. RREAL's panels have been tested and certified by the SRCC (Solar Rating Certification Corporation) which is based in North America.

Quaschnick added, “Based on Zenergy's own testing we knew the panels were going to prove to be very efficient, but we're thrilled to learn they received the highest rating in North America. We have been

anxiously waiting for the certification so that we could begin offering these to our customers, and now with the Minnesota Solar Rebate there couldn't be a better time to install them." Zenergy is a certified dealer and installer of the panels, and a portion of the cost of the panels is used by RREAL to address fuel poverty in America.

The Minnesota Solar Rebate program has allocated only \$500,000 for both the solar thermal air and water heater programs, and applications are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis, so interested parties should act quickly to get their applications in before the funds are fully reserved. The rebate covers 25% of the cost or \$25/square foot of panel space up to \$2,000 for single-family dwellings or \$4,000 for multi-family dwellings. Businesses are also eligible, and in addition to the solar rebate can receive a 30% federal tax credit. More information can be found at the Zenergy website www.zenergyguide.com or by calling 1-888-Zen-RG4U (1-888-936-7448).

Zenergy by West Central is a service provided by West Central Telephone Association (WCTA) to bring renewable energy technologies to the region. Installation services available include small wind, solar electricity, solar thermal air and water, back-up battery and generator systems, and energy efficient lighting and equipment.

WCTA is a full service FTTH telecommunications company providing local and long distance services, advanced telephone, high-speed Internet, business phone systems, and much more.

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