

## Application for Tax Refund

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel/Project #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

List Renewable Energy Fixtures installed & date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List total cost for each Renewable Energy Fixture:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total Ouray County Sales Tax Paid for fixtures:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Receipts showing Ouray County sales tax paid must be attached**

For Ouray County Administrative Use:

Refund Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Refund Processed: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Refund: \_\_\_\_\_



## Renewable Energy Basics



The United States currently relies heavily on coal, oil, and natural gas for its energy. Fossil fuels are *nonrenewable*, that is, they draw on finite resources that will eventually dwindle, becoming too expensive or too environmentally damaging to retrieve. In contrast, *renewable energy* resources—such as wind and solar energy—are constantly replenished and will never run out.

### Solar

Most renewable energy comes either directly or indirectly from the sun. Sunlight, or solar energy, can be used directly for heating and lighting homes and other buildings, for generating electricity, and for hot water heating, solar cooling, and a variety of commercial and industrial uses.

### Photovoltaic

Solar cells, also called photovoltaics (PV) convert sunlight directly into electricity. They are made of semiconducting materials similar to those used in computer chips. The process of converting light (photons) to electricity (voltage) is called the *photovoltaic (PV) effect*.

### Wind

The sun's heat also drives the winds, whose energy is captured with wind turbines. Wind turbines can be used as stand-alone applications, or they can be connected to a utility power grid or even combined with a photovoltaic (solar cell) system.

### Biomass

As a renewable energy source, biomass refers to living and recently dead biological material (plants, dead trees, branches, yard clippings & wood chips) that can be used as fuel. Biomass can be used to produce electricity, transportation fuels, or chemicals. The use of biomass for any of these purposes is called biomass energy.

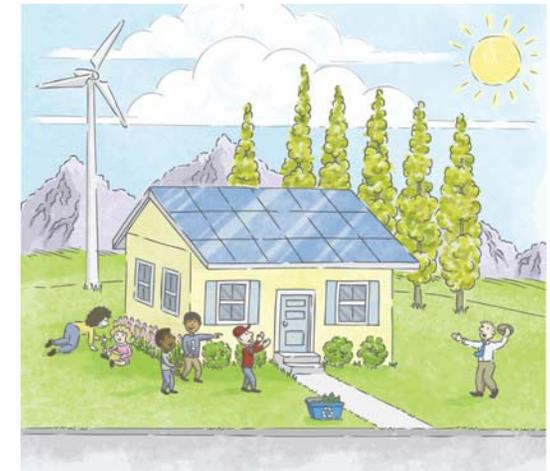
### Geothermal

Geothermal energy taps the Earth's internal heat for a variety of uses, including electric power production, and the heating and cooling of buildings. This heat can be drawn from several sources: hot water or steam reservoirs deep in the earth that are accessed by drilling; geothermal reservoirs located near the earth's surface; and the shallow ground near the Earth's surface that maintains a relatively constant temperature of 50°-60° F.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory



## Incentives for Installation of Renewable Energy Fixtures



Land Use Department  
111 Mall Road • PO Box 28  
Ridgway, CO 81432-0028

(970) 626-9775

[www.ouraycountyco.gov](http://www.ouraycountyco.gov)

[landuse@ouraycountyco.gov](mailto:landuse@ouraycountyco.gov)

## Application for Permit Refund

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel/Project #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

List Renewable Energy Fixtures installed & date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Refund being requested, up to \$350 and excluding Plan Check Fees:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**A copy of your Building Permit Receipt, Certificate of Completion and invoice for the product installed must be attached.**

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For Ouray County Administrative Use:

Refund Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Refund Processed: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Refund: \_\_\_\_\_

## Renewable Energy Fixture Refund Information

During the 2007 session, the Colorado Legislature adopted SB 07-145 known as the *Renewable Energy Incentives Act*.

In 2009, the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County, Colorado adopted Resolution 2009-011 which allows for two avenues of possible refunds to those who install qualified renewable energy fixtures in their homes or business - whether new construction or remodeling of existing structures.

A qualified renewable energy fixture includes those energy efficient improvements actually installed on a property and that utilize renewable energy technologies (a) to heat and cool structures or heat water, such as geothermal heat pumps, biomass stoves and solar thermal systems; or (b) to generate all or part of the electrical needs of a residential or commercial property such as photovoltaic systems, small wind systems and fuel cell systems.

The Ouray County Commissioners believe it is in the interest of the citizens of Ouray County to reduce their carbon footprint while reducing energy costs.

Along with the renewable energy fixtures described in this brochure, other energy saving measures can dramatically and immediately affect heating, cooling, electric, and gas bills.

## Two Types of Refunds

### Sales Tax Refund

Qualified renewable energy fixtures which are installed on Commercial or Residential properties in Ouray County may receive a refund of the County sales tax paid by the property owner.

### Building Permit Fee Refund

A refund of up to \$350 is available to those who install a renewable energy fixture requiring a building permit from Ouray County. The refund will include only the permit fee and will not affect any plan check fees.

## Other Incentives & Info

Local Electric Cooperative, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), also offers several rebates for renewable energy projects including:

- Solar Photovoltaic
- Small Wind Residential
- Solar Domestic Hot Water

See <http://www.smpa.com/content/renewable-rebates> for more information.

Also, learn about interconnecting your renewable system with SMPA's service at <http://www.smpa.com/content/net-metering>

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### Other Helpful Websites:

- [American Solar Energy Society](http://www.ases.org) [www.ases.org](http://www.ases.org)
- [American Wind Energy Assoc.](http://www.awea.org) [www.awea.org](http://www.awea.org)
- [Building Green](http://www.buildinggreen.com) [www.buildinggreen.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com)
- [Energy Star](http://www.energystar.gov) [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
- [U.S. Green Building Council](http://www.usgbc.org) [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)