



THE CALIFORNIA MILLION SOLAR ROOFS INITIATIVE

SUMMARY

The Million Solar Roofs bill (SB1) is the most ambitious solar energy policy ever introduced in the United States. Co-sponsored by State Senators Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles) and John Campbell (R-Costa Mesa), the legislation would provide ten years of incentives to help Californians install one million solar energy systems on homes and businesses throughout the state by 2017. The result would be 3000 Megawatts of new solar energy which is roughly equivalent to 40 peaking power plants. The bill would do the following:

- 1) Establish 10 years of Incentives for Solar Energy - Requires the California Public Utilities Commission to open a proceeding by 2/1/06 to implement a program to invest in solar energy systems with the goal of installing 1,000,000 solar systems in California by the end of 2018.
- 2) Lead to a Self-Sufficient Solar Industry – Solar rebates will decline by 7% per year as the solar industry matures and cuts costs to become competitive with fossil fuel generated electricity.
- 3) Make Solar Energy a Standard Offer of All New Housing Developments – SB 1 would require all homebuilders of developments of 50 homes or more to offer solar power to all buyers by 2010, with the goal that 50% of all new homes would be built with solar systems in 13 years.
- 4) Raise the Net Metering Cap – A key component of making solar power cost effective is the ability to send surplus solar electricity back to the electric grid via net metering. SB 1 would raise the current net metering cap to accommodate the 3000 MW of solar that SB 1 will generate.
- 5) Provide Additional Incentives for Affordable Housing – Ten percent of the funds are targeted for low income and affordable housing solar installations, along with technical and financial assistance.
- 6) Focus on Energy Efficient Buildings – SB 1 provides higher rebates for super energy efficient buildings and Zero-Energy buildings to capitalize on the benefits of combining solar and energy efficiency.
- 7) Order Publicly Owned Utilities to Participate – SB 1 requires that all utilities throughout the state offer rebates for solar systems, allowing all Californian's to participate in the program.

BENEFITS

- **Reduces Air Pollution & Global Warming Emissions** – by reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 50 million tons over the lifetime of the installed solar systems
- **Makes Solar Affordable** – by creating the economies of scale needed to bring solar energy's costs down
- **Reduces Reliance on Fossil Fuels** – such as imports of natural gas that were partially responsible for the 2000-2001 energy crisis
- **Creates Jobs** – by creating a strong solar job market and keeping energy money within the California economy
- **Strengthens Electric Grid** – by producing power in the place where it is consumed