

## GET READY FOR SOLAR!!!

On June 17, 2008, Mayor and Council unanimously voted to require all new residences to be solar ready for electric (PV) and hot water. Starting March 1, 2009, all new single family homes or duplexes must include in the plans either a solar hot water system or a stub out for later installation of a solar hot water system in order to receive a building permit.

These new rules are part of Tucson's effort to promote solar energy and reduce the amount of greenhouse gases produced by the City and its residents. Saving gas and electricity by using the sun to heat your water saves you money and helps the environment at the same time!

The code changes for solar hot water are now in place. They're simple and easy and may even entitle you to \$75.00!!

Here's what the new rules require:

- Install a complete solar hot water system (see below for more information) or
- Stub out for solar hot water by either:
  - Option 1) installing two insulated pipes and a suitably sized conduit (for two pairs monitoring and control wires) that run from the water heater area through the roof and are capped
  - OR
  - Option 2) installing a sleeve or conduit of sufficient size to hold the two insulated pipes and wires.
- **NOTE: OPTION #2 IS ONLY AVAILABLE IF THE SLEEVE OR CONDUIT CAN RUN FROM THE WATER HEATER AREA TO THE ROOF WITHOUT BENDS OR ANGLES!**

- Whichever option you choose, your water heater area must contain a 120 volt electrical receptacle with at least a 15 amp breaker. The water heater area must have sufficient room for:
  - An 80 gallon water heater
  - An expansion tank
  - A heat exchanger

Now for the \$75.00. The Arizona Code allows a tax rebate of actual cost or \$75.00 for each solar stub-out that is installed which meets the requirements of the law. Check Arizona Tax Form 319 and Instructions for details. Option #1 above complies with the tax rebate rules; Option #2 does not. If you install the full solar system, you could get an even bigger rebate as well as money from TEP.

Check with the City of Tucson for rules on Photovoltaic (PV) solar readiness.

Websites you may find helpful:

General information about solar water heating:

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your\\_home/water\\_heating/index.cfm/mytopic=12850/](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/water_heating/index.cfm/mytopic=12850/)

Tax and utility incentives: <http://www.dsireusa.org/>

TEP rebates: <http://www.tucsonelectric.com/Green/>