

The First Facility Management Blog

« [Update On Cash Grants For PV Systems In 2011](#)
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December 14th, 2010

Tips on Making the Holiday Season More Sustainable

Stephen Ashkin, president of [The Ashkin Group](#), has just released his tips on making this a more sustainable holiday season.

“The tip sheet covers everything from the packaging used to wrap holiday gifts to the types of gifts themselves,” says Ashkin. “The goal is to give as we always do, but just do it in a more environmentally responsible and sustainable way.”

With that said, Ashkin offers the following sustainable holiday suggestions:

1. **Wrap gifts using recycled paper or reusable items.** About 42 million tons of gift wrapping are used this time of year in the United States. Consider using recycled gift wrap or placing gifts in reusable baskets or fabric bags.
2. **If you want a tree, select a live holiday tree.** Most artificial holiday trees are made from materials that cannot be recycled. Freshly cut trees often come from farms where new trees will be planted.
3. **Use LED (light-emitting diode) lighting.** LED lamps consume less than a quarter of the electricity used by a typical light bulb, come in a variety of shapes and colors, last longer, and are far safer.
4. **Purchase gifts from local vendors.** Some retailers cater to local companies, and purchasing their products can mean fewer carbon emissions are released in transportation.
5. **Give a gift of service.** Instead of a product, consider a gift of service such as tickets to a show, a free home cleaning, or dinner and a night at a local hotel.
6. **Give a gift of time.** Freeing up someone’s time by making a home-cooked meal or offering to baby-sit can prove to be a meaningful gift to the right person.
7. **Give sustainable lifestyle gifts.** Giving a free monthly bus pass or paying for a year’s worth of curbside recycling can put someone on the road to becoming a more environmentally responsible citizen.

“There are lots of ways to make this a more sustainable holiday season,” says Ashkin. “And just remember, every sustainable gift we give is also a gift honoring our planet.”

LABELS [Ashkin_Group](#), [Recycling](#), [holidays](#), [sustainability](#)

Written by: Heidi on Tuesday, December 14th, 2010 at 10:33 am

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December 13th, 2010

Update On Cash Grants For PV Systems In 2011

Commercial businesses can still apply for the 30% cash grant next year for renewable energy. The Recovery Act allows taxpayers to receive cash assistance from the Treasury Department in lieu of tax credits.

According to the guidance from the Treasury department, commercial businesses can still apply for the 30% cash grant next year if they incur 5% of the cost of a renewable energy (solar) plant in 2010. This means if a purchase order is signed and a deposit paid by the end of this year, a solar PV system is eligible for the 30% cash grant.

What can be done to reduce the short and long term costs of commercial energy? Until the end of 2010, qualified businesses can participate in the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) which provides a cash rebate of 30% of the cost of a solar-produced (renewable) energy system. The rebate generally comes within 60 days following completion of the system installation.

Benefits of solar produced energy include:

- Significantly reducing overall energy cost;
- Converting power costs from variable to fixed;
- Creating a highly reliable and low maintenance power system; and
- Becoming a truly green and sustainable business.

A PV solar energy system can take advantage of the ARRA Program before it expires on December 31, 2010.

LABELS [ARRA](#), [Alternative Energy](#), [Solar Energy](#)

Written by: Heidi on Monday, December 13th, 2010 at 1:00 pm

One Response to “Update On Cash Grants For PV Systems In 2011”

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[...] a compromise tax-cut bill that includes an extension for a Treasury grant program that ...Update On Cash Grants For PV Systems In 2011TFM (blog)Guest Contributor by Chris Paris: Deadline to qualify for clean-tech ...North Bay [...]

[Solar Trade Group Urging Passage of Tax-Cut Compromise Bill in Congress – Solar Home & Business Journal](#) « [Charlotte Insurance](#), December 13th, 2010 at 3:09 pm

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NEW PRODUCT FLASH: sportSchwank By Schwank Group

The [Schwank Group](#) is a maker of infrared heating solutions that focus on energy efficiency in operation. One of the company's gas fired infrared heaters is the sportSchwank, designed to provide outdoor comfort heat to spectators in open air stadiums.

The product is engineered to meet the exacting heating requirements of stadiums, sports arenas, and outdoor venues. In addition, sportSchwank can be installed up to 180' high for added comfort without affecting spectators view or range of movement.



The technology has been used for many years by in Europe in several open air soccer stadium projects. To date, two projects have been completed in the United States — Rutgers club seating in New Jersey and the Kansas City Power and Light Live! outdoor venue project in Missouri.

The product features a weather protection enclosure (specially designed to meet the needs and conditions of stadiums and outdoor venues); high radiant heat output (good for high distance suspension heights up to 180', and occupants enjoy 64°F comfort on a 46°F day); and there are four input sizes (firing rates) to satisfy specific site requirements.



LABELS [2008 Economic Recovery Package](#), [Energy](#), [Exteriors](#), [New Product Flash](#), [sports facilities](#)

Written by: Anne on Tuesday, December 14th, 2010 at 11:22 am

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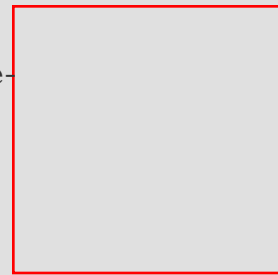
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