

Minnesota Solar Photovoltaic Module Rebate Program and Manufacturer Investment Considerations

- Minnesota has installed capacity of 1 MW (US installed solar is 8,775 MW).
- Minnesota's solar resources (insolation factors) are better than Germany (#1 in solar installation) and comparable to some Sun Belt areas (Houston).
- State rebate needs to be high enough so that payback period is 5 – 6 years. \$5/watt inclusive of other existing state or utility rebates achieves that goal.
- Silicon Energy, a Washington State manufacturer, has a robust PV panel design that is uniquely attractive for the Minnesota market.
- Rebate established in HF 30333 is for Minnesota Manufactured panels only.
- Manufacturing line will be capable of producing up to 12 MW of panels.
- Employment: 17 employees for first shift, 7 (each) for second and third shift. 5 additional employees needed for financing operations.
- Silicon Energy will source glass and framing materials from local providers.
- Silicon Energy will create jobs in construction/installation as well as operations/maintenance – college training and certification programs will be utilized.
- Newport Partners, LLC, owner of Silicon Energy, has been doing business in Minnesota for 7 years – sale of biomass contract to Virginia and Hibbing utilities, First Discovery CBED Wind Project.

\$17.4 million at \$5/watt = 3.45 MW!

Xcel Energy: \$2.34/watt	\$3,000,000
MP: \$2.00/watt	\$400,000
MN State Subsidy (ARRA): \$2.00/watt	\$3,000,000
MN State Buildings:	\$3,000,000
MN Schools and Local Subdivisions:	\$3,000,000
Proposed MN Manufacturer Subsidy:	\$5,000,000
Total:	\$17,400,000

HF 3033 establishes a robust rebate program that delivers directly to consumers an attractive payback period to encourage investment in renewable solar energy. The consumer rebates in HF 3033 also establish the incentives to attract renewable manufacturing facilities in Minnesota.