



MA Resident Taps Disaster Relief Funds to Rebuild with Solar

February 13, 2012

Wilton, CT, February 13, 2012 – Less than a year ago, Russ Bressette's Monson, Massachusetts home was destroyed by a devastating tornado. With the help of Real Goods Solar and a \$1.00 per watt Disaster Relief rebate from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), he is including solar on his highly-insulated, super efficient new home.

Mr. Bressette is focused on making his home as efficient and environmentally friendly as possible. "I'm rebuilding green and I'm also talking to my neighbors about rebuilding green and going solar because I just think it's the way to go in the future to save yourself money. If you don't like the price of energy, do something about it – go green!"

The MassCEC Natural Disaster Relief Adder is an addition to the Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Program for homeowners who incorporate solar into their rebuilding process. A total of \$1M is available in the communities of Brimfield, Charlton, Hampden, Monson, Palmer, Southbridge, Springfield, Sturbridge, West Springfield, Westfield and Wilbraham.

Andreas Schmid, the Solar Specialist from Real Goods Solar that worked with Mr. Bressette, feels that getting up to \$5,000 more on the state solar rebate makes solar energy not only affordable, but a way for eligible homeowners to save a huge amount of money on their electric bill. "Ultimately this adder will help people to get back on their feet and recover more quickly while saving money in the long-run."

For its part, the MassCEC is pleased to see homeowners take advantage of the funds allocated to those affected by the tornadoes. MassCEC Senior Director for Renewable Energy, Andy Brydges said, "Everyone rebuilding after the tornado should look into the possibility of solar hot water or solar electric as a way to reduce or even erase their monthly utility bill, and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels."