



## CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

Web: [www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org)

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### Contacts:

David Konkle,  
City of Ann Arbor  
Energy Coordinator

734.996.3150

e-mail: [DKonkle@a2gov.org](mailto:DKonkle@a2gov.org)

Julie Ruggiero  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Public Affairs  
202.586.4940

#### For Immediate Release

### Ann Arbor Wins Solar America City Designation

ANN ARBOR, Mich., July 17, 2007 — The U.S. Department of Energy has selected Ann Arbor as one of 13 cities to serve as models for the integration of solar energy throughout the community. The City of Ann Arbor will receive \$200,000 in federal funds to implement a \$432,000 community-wide program to promote renewable, solar energy in Ann Arbor. In 2006, Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje and City Council established a goal of 20 percent renewable energy for the whole community by 2015. “This award is another indication that Ann Arbor is serious about achieving our renewable energy goals and continuing our leadership in sustainable energy for our community,” stated Mayor Hieftje.

Ann Arbor competed with other cities across the U.S. with populations over 100,000 to receive the Solar America Designation. DOE will provide a total of \$2.5 million in financial assistance to the 13 competitively selected, cost-shared, two-year projects. Additionally, DOE will provide hands-on assistance from technical and policy experts to help cities integrate solar technologies into city energy planning, zoning and facilities; to streamline city-level regulations and practices that affect solar adoption by residents and local businesses; and promote solar technology among residents and local businesses through outreach, curriculum development, and incentive programs.

Solar Cities is part of President Bush’s Solar America Initiative (SAI), which seeks to make solar energy cost-competitive with conventional sources of electricity by 2015. “We believe these projects will stimulate activity in the marketplace and create a ripple effect that will boost the use of solar energy across the country,” U.S. DOE Secretary Samuel W. Bodman said. “Harnessing more of the sun’s power is central to reaching the President’s goal of increasing our nation’s energy security by pushing forward clean, renewable technologies that will allow us to become less reliant on imported sources of energy.”

(more)

The City of Ann Arbor Energy Office has developed a comprehensive plan, called the **Ann Arbor Solar City Partnership**, to address public education; solar installer training; product research and development; demonstration projects; market incentives; and regulatory support. The plan is a wide-ranging collaborative, featuring the governor's office and four major state divisions, two major renewable energy research institutions, the state's largest solar manufacturer, city and county government, the University of Michigan, the Downtown Development Authority and numerous not-for-profits including the Clean Energy Coalition, Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association, the Ann Arbor District Library, the Ecology Center and the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum.

A special event this fall will bring these agencies together to formally introduce the Ann Arbor Solar City Partnership. Details of the event will be shared at a later date. In the meantime, highlights of this initiative will include:

- Workshops for consumers and solar energy installers
- Implementation of a community-based marketing campaign
- Incentives and rebates offered to residential and commercial consumers
- A contest to win solar hot water heating and photovoltaic energy systems
- Technical assistance provided for new major commercial solar installations
- And much more

“As more and more communities across the country look for answers to rising energy costs, unstable energy supplies, reducing global-warming impacts and boosting local economies, programs like the Ann Arbor Solar Partnership will serve as a very practical model for the mainstream adoption this important energy resource,” noted city Energy Coordinator David Konkle. The city's Energy Office has more than two decades worth of experience in implementing innovative energy projects and has managed over \$1 million in federal funds on over 30 projects. For additional details, visit the city's Web site at [www.a2gov.org/energy](http://www.a2gov.org/energy).

Cities were selected based on their plan and commitment to a comprehensive, citywide approach to the deployment of solar technologies. Additional cities selected to receive Solar America Cities grants include: Austin, Texas; Berkeley, Calif.; Boston, Mass.; Madison, Wis.; New Orleans, La.; New York, N.Y.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Portland, Ore.; Salt Lake City, Utah; San Diego, Calif.; San Francisco, Calif.; and Tucson, Ariz. For more information on DOE initiatives, visit: [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov).

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*Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named one of the top 25 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2006, as well as the third smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.*