

Rocky Ford couple benefits from SECPA solar incentive program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROCKY FORD – Calvin and Deanna Hostetler, who operate Hostetler Farms west of Rocky Ford, were the first recipients of a new solar incentive program put into place this summer by Southeast Colorado Power Association. For their energy-saving efforts, the Hostetlers recently received a \$6,000 incentive check from SECPA.

The Hostetlers installed 20 energy-saving solar panels on their barn in early October to take advantage of the area's sun. Hooked into the grid for about two weeks, the panels are producing about 20 kilowatt hours per day of electricity, Deanna Hostetler said, adding that this will cover almost all of their electricity needs for both the barn and their house.

According to Deanna, this region has the perfect climate for solar energy. "I have wanted to do this for several years," she said. When she learned about SECPA's incentive program, it seemed like the perfect time for the installation.

SECPA has partnered with the State of Colorado's Governor's Energy Office to develop the incentive program, which rewards SECPA's residential members with a one-time cash incentive for installing solar panels on their homes and hooking them into the grid.

Southeast initially planned to provide an incentive for solar power, but discovered their members could benefit even more if they partnered with the GEO. The program allows for members to receive a \$2 per watt incentive (\$1 from SECPA and \$1 match from the GEO), up to a maximum of 3,000 watts. This translates to up to \$3,000 from SECPA and a \$3,000 match from the GEO.

The Hostetlers received the full \$6,000 incentive and were presented with a check by SECPA Chief Operating Officer Jack Wolfe on Oct. 27.

Wolfe said SECPA is pleased to be able to offer incentives for residents who are interested in protecting the environment.

The solar incentive program is available on new installations that are connected to the SECPA grid. All funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Members who are interested in learning more about the solar incentive program – or SECPA's wind energy incentive program – are encouraged to visit the company's Web site at www.secpa.com/Sites/Renewableincentives.htm or to contact Wolfe at (719) 384-2551 or jackw@secpa.com.



PHOTO CAPTION: Jack Wolfe with Southeast Colorado Power Association, left, presents an incentive check to Deanna and Calvin Hostetler. Pictured behind the trio is the Hostetler's barn and the new solar panels they recently installed on it.

