

Green Energy Resources

Green energy is growing in Ohio and that is, in a large part, thanks to the bipartisan energy bill which was introduced into law on May 1, 2008. This law—S.B. 221—creates a “robust market ramping up to require at least 12.5% of Ohio’s electricity from solar, wind, biomass and other clean energy sources by 2025.” I know this because I was able to attend the Governor’s Gala for the kick-off of Green Energy Ohio’s 2008 Solar Tour (hey, it was free and open to the public—why not?) By the way, the Governor’s Residence, in Bexley, was one of the first governor’s residences in the country to install a solar array.

“Ohio is leading by example,” says Bill Spratley, the executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO) states. He says, “Ohio is demonstrating at the grassroots level that sustainable energy works (and can put Ohioans to work).” Interesting thought—a new opportunity for “green” collar jobs in Ohio.

The Solar Tour was in its 6th year and had more than 150 sites. I didn’t get to any over the weekend, unfortunately, but I did get some info from various alternative energy providers around the state to share with you. If you are interested, here is a list of vendors that can help you with your green energy questions:

- Geo Source One, Inc. (for the WaterFurnace)—heating and cooling your home with geothermal system using clean, free, renewable energy found just below the earth’s surface. To learn more, check out www.geosourceone.com or call 614-761-9042 (Plain City).
- Solar Usage Now—solar thermal renewable energy distributor based in Ohio for solar hot water, space heating and space cooling. Check out www.solarusagenow.com or call 614-759-7242.
- Ecohouse—conducts home energy audits. Call 614-805-5776 to learn more or check out www.ecohouseohio.com.
- Dovetail Solar and Wind—does professional design and installation of solar electric, wind and solar thermal for commercial and residential buildings (including non-profits). Call 614-937-4486 or go to www.dovetailsolar.com.
- Third Sun Solar & Wind Power—installs clean energy products which can be installed on almost any house or business. Call 740-597-3111 or go to www.third-sun.com.

These are some of the vendors in the state that could service our area if you are thinking about incorporating green energy in your home. The best resource is Green Energy Ohio—if you visit their website, you will have access to a directory of professionals working in Ohio in the industry, as well as utility contacts, information about incentives and support for Ohioans and other online tools and resources. You can become a member for \$20 a year and receive *GEO News Magazine*, a bumper sticker and 20% off any GEO events. Check it out at www.GreenEnergyOhio.org. No, I’m not a member, but I think I’ve just talked myself into it!

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