



## Renewable Energy Site Assessment Request Form

(For Residential and Small Business PV, Wind, and Solar Domestic Hot Water Systems)

Please use this form to request a renewable energy site assessment for your home or small business. This form includes important information that you need to know before you request a site assessment. It also provides Focus on Energy with information that is needed to efficiently process your request. Carefully read and complete all sections of this request form.

### What is a renewable energy site assessment?

Renewable energy site assessments are designed to give home and small business owners site-specific information about how renewable energy systems (photovoltaics, wind and solar hot water) can help meet your energy needs. During the site assessment a renewable energy consultant will visit your home or facility to evaluate your site and answer your specific questions. You will also be provided with a written report from the assessment.

Information provided during the site visit will include:

- A basic analysis of your energy needs
- An evaluation of the renewable energy resource at your site
- Recommendations for energy efficiency
- Recommendations for a renewable energy system to meet your energy needs
- Estimated output of system, based on resource estimate
- Information on the best place to site your system
- A general cost estimate for the system
- The next steps you need to take to make your system a reality

While a site assessment may provide estimated costs and recommended components for a renewable energy system, it is not a bid nor does it provide a system design. In some cases energy efficiency measures may also be recommended, although the assessment is not an energy audit.

### How much does a renewable energy site assessment cost?

Site assessment fees vary, and are determined by each individual assessor. Cost estimates are based on the type of renewable energy system(s) being covered in the assessment, the size of the system, and travel costs. Please discuss your expectations with your assessor prior to the site visit, so that she or he can give you an accurate cost estimate.

Focus on Energy is offering a **60 percent discount** on site assessments for solar electric, wind electric, and solar water heating systems on homes and small businesses. Small business systems are defined as: wind and PV systems sized at 20kW or less, or businesses with solar hot water usage less than 5,000 therms per year. For information on site assessments for larger commercial buildings, contact 800.762.7077.

### Who is eligible for the Focus on Energy 60 percent discount on site assessments?

To qualify for the discount you must

- 1) Purchase your electricity or gas from one of the following utilities (gas customers qualify for solar hot water system incentives only):

Alliant Energy  
Argyle Electric & Water Utility  
Benton Electric & Water Utility  
Bloomer Electric & Water Utility  
Cadott Light & Water Dept.  
Cashton Light & Water  
Centuria Municipal Electric Utility  
Consolidated Water & Power Co.  
Cornell Municipal Light Department  
Cumberland Municipal Utility  
Dahlberg Light & Power Co.  
Gresham Water & Electric Plant  
La Farge Municipal Utilities  
Madison Gas & Electric  
North Central Power Co.  
Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Co.  
Pardeeville Public Utilities  
Pioneer Power & Light Co.  
Princeton Light & Water Department  
Shullsburg Electric Utility  
Spooner Municipal Electric Utility  
Stratford Water & Electric Department  
Superior Water, Light & Power Co.  
Viola Municipal Electric Utility  
We Energies  
Westfield Electric Company  
Wisconsin Public Service Corp.  
Wonewoc Water & Light Department  
Xcel Energy

- 2) Complete this form, and return it to the address indicated.
- 3) Participate in an initial telephone or email screening with a Focus on Energy representative to discuss your site assessment needs and to make sure you qualify for the discount.
- 4) Use an assessor from the list of certified Renewable Energy Site Assessors. The list will be mailed to you along with your 60 percent off coupon, following the screening.

**Renewable Energy System Information**

Before you request a site assessment you should know the following information about renewable energy systems in Wisconsin:

**Energy Efficiency** – For every dollar you spend on energy efficiency you will save up to three dollars on the cost of your renewable energy system. This is due to the fact that the more efficient your home is, the smaller the system can be to meet your energy needs.

**Incentives and Grants** – Focus on Energy offers incentives to homeowners and businesses that install renewable energy systems. Cash-Back Rewards will pay between 25 percent and 35 percent of the cost of the system, based on the projected output and system type. The rewards are paid upon completion of a system that is paid in full.

Grants are one-time only awards available for a number of purposes. Each offers its own eligibility requirements and maximum award amount. Contact Focus on Energy at 800.762.7077 or focusonenergy.com for more information.

**Photovoltaic Systems** – Photovoltaic systems use the sun’s energy to create electricity. A simple photovoltaic system that generates 2,000 kWh per year will cost about \$15,000 installed. The average residential dwelling in Wisconsin consumes roughly 8,750 kWh per year. A photovoltaic system that meets 100 percent of a home’s electrical requirements would cost over \$60,000. A very energy efficient home could be powered by a system that costs \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Photovoltaic systems need to be located in an area that has full sun. To generate 2,000 kWh per year you will need an area of 150 to 300 square feet to mount the panels.

**Wind Systems** – Wind turbines perform best in naturally windy, open, high locations. To get above obstructions tall towers may be needed. The bottom of the turbine’s blades should be at least 30 feet above the highest object within 500 feet of the tower. These requirements often make siting turbines in urban or forested locations very difficult. Tower heights of 80 feet to 120 feet are typical, with the cost of the tower often exceeding the expense of the actual wind generator.

Home-sized wind turbines vary in size from about 1kW to 20kW. A wind turbine will, depending on actual wind speed, generate about 1,300 kWh per year per kW of installed turbine capacity. Typical home-sized systems start at about \$12,500 and range up to \$55,000.

Wind systems also require annual maintenance.

**Solar Hot Water Systems** – Solar hot water systems can be used to heat water for homes or businesses. A properly sized solar domestic hot water system will reduce a home’s water heating bill by approximately 50 percent by preheating the water that enters your existing gas, propane or electric water heater.

A typical two-panel system will cost approximately \$5,000 – \$8,000; however, Focus on Energy Cash-Back Rewards may pay up to 25 percent of a solar domestic hot water system or up to 50 percent of the cost of repairing an existing system. Solar hot water systems need full sun to operate. A two-panel system requires roughly 100 square feet of area.

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I have carefully read this form. Please contact me about a renewable energy site assessment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address City State Zip County

Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address City State Zip County

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

When is the best time to contact you?  
 M-F 9am – 5pm Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 M-F 5pm – 7pm Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturdays 9am-3pm Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the system(s) you are interest in: Photovoltaic Wind Solar Hot Water

Electrical Utility at Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Gas Utility at Site: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please indicate the utilities that service the area where the site is located, even if there are no utilities at the site.)

**Mail this form to: Kurt Nelson, Focus on Energy Site Assessments, PO Box 309, Cornucopia, WI 54827**  
You will be contacted within a week of receipt to discuss your specific site assessment needs.