

# WHITE PAPER FROM MABEP AND INSOURCE RENEWABLES

## Summary Bullets

### Costs of residential solar systems:

- For a three-person household, a solar water heating systems typically costs between \$8,000 and \$12,000. Payback is generally 9-14 years for owners who qualify for the 30% federal income tax credit.
- Transpired air heaters are the most promising solar space heating system with a payback of 3-6 years when installed on existing buildings.
- Based on figures from Efficiency Maine, the average installed cost for a 3-6kW system is roughly \$3.50 per watt. For residential customers who qualify for a federal income tax credit, this translates into a payback period of roughly 12-14 years.

### The solar market:

- Between 2011 and 2012 the *national* solar industry saw an increase in installed capacity of 80% and job growth of 13% (emphasis added).
- The Solar Foundation estimates that there are 44 companies in Maine engaged in solar energy systems. These companies are estimated to employ 270 full-time workers.
- In FY 2012, Efficiency Maine distributed approximately \$658,000 of ARRA funds through the Solar & Wind Rebate Program (leveraging nearly \$7,000,000 in private investment). Estimated aggregate annual energy savings in 10,000 MMBTU (2,930,000kWh)
- Efficiency Maine reports that the installations included 230 solar heating systems, 176 solar photovoltaic systems and 3 wind projects.
- A report by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) estimates that the cumulative capacity of installed PV capacity in Maine is 2.8 MW(dc) Of that amount, 1.7MW(dc) was estimated to have been installed in 2012. For reference, there was .3 MW(dc) of capacity at the end of 2009.
- Please see charts on page 6 of the white paper for solar jobs, electric rate, installed capacity and solar resource comparisons for northeast states.

### *From the letter from counsel to the Interstate Renewable Energy Council*

- Installed prices for PV systems dropped by at least 12% in 2012 (compared to 2011) and have fallen 33% since 2009.
- Maine is the only state that does not provide “solar incentives.” See chart on last page of letter.