

Notes for USDA presentation on tools for photovoltaic (PV) projects

*Paul Gilman, May 17 2011
paulgilman@earthlink.net*

Should I consider installing a PV system on my land?

Key questions:

- Is there enough sun?
- How much electricity would a system generate?
- How big of a system could I install?
- How much would it cost to install and maintain?
- What incentives would I qualify for?
- Who could install the system?
- Are there other systems nearby?

Is there enough sun?

- Solar Prospector: <http://maps.nrel.gov/prospector>

How much electricity would a system generate?

- PVWatts: <http://www.nrel.gov/rredc/pvwatts/version2.html>

How big of a system could I install?

- IMBY: <http://mercator.nrel.gov/imby/> (also runs PVWatts)

How much would it cost?

- Solarbuzz: <http://solarbuzz.com/>
- OpenPV: <http://openpv.nrel.gov/>

What incentives would I qualify for?

- DSIRE: <http://www.dsireusa.org/>

Who could install the system?

- Find Solar: <http://www.findsolar.com/>
- NABCEP Certified Locator: <http://www.nabcep.org/installer-locator>

Are there other systems nearby?

- OpenPV: <http://openpv.nrel.gov/>

Free Computer Simulation Models

SAM: <https://www.nrel.gov/analysis/sam/>

RETSscreen: <http://www.retscreen.net/ang/home.php>