

Solar power offered on Island

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cannot be the national leader in the production of alternative energy. With these measured steps, we can begin to achieve three important goals: addressing global climate change, promoting Florida agriculture and weaning our country from reliance on foreign oil."

Florida offers a rebate for outfitting buildings to produce solar energy, as does FPL. A federal tax credit also is available. All together, the Lillies will reclaim about \$30,000 of their \$50,000 investment in the solar panels through rebates and credits.

And at year's end, the couple may also be reimbursed by FPL for electricity generated at their home and used elsewhere.

Rebates and credits helped fuel the use of alternative energies in other states. New Jersey's incentive program, for example, promoted environmentally friendly energy use and made installing solar panels more affordable for average customers. In five years, solar installations have risen by 300 percent.

"There are tremendous incentives now for solar electrical systems," Harriman said.

The rebates provided some incentive, Larry Lillie said, but he emphasized that his motive is to use alternative energy. The Sierra Club has reported that 82 percent of necessary reductions in carbon emissions can come from wind, solar and increased energy efficiency.

"I'm upset about the oil situation," the retired Chicago firefighter said. "The sooner we cut back on using oil the better. That's what it all started from."