

Questions for a Renewable Energy Contractor

This is a list of questions one should ask a Renewable Energy Contractor before committing to buy a Solar Electric, Wind Electric or Solar Thermal System. Additionally I have listed appropriate responses one should look for. The reason for these questions is to protect the end-user from potential hazards and liabilities associated with having a Renewable Energy System installed on their building or home.

What qualifications do you or your employees have that ensures a quality install?

Nationally recognized Installer Certifications (i.e. NABCEP, UL)

Prior documented experience with system(s) desired

Contracting License, Liability Insurance

How long they have been in the Renewable Energy business

For Solar Electric or Wind Turbines, does your company hold an Electrical Contracting License or do you hire out?

Provide name of Licensee and type of license

For Solar Thermal Systems, does your company hold a Plumbing Contracting License and do you have a State Licensed Plumber on staff?

Provide name of Contracting Licensee and Licensed Plumber

Will installing this system void any roof warranties associated with my building?

List of precautions taken, products used and statements from manufacture's compliance with roofing standards

What is the expected output and who is responsible if expectations are not met?

Output predictions based on site conditions and statement regarding liability

What is the warranty period of this install?

Product warranty information and construction warranty documents

Who is responsible for the Interconnection and Incentive Documents for this system?

Name of person of staff who will prepare these and other incentive paperwork

For a Solar Electric System, what is the Dollar per Installed Watt on this proposal?

Some incentive programs have caps based on Dollars per Installed Watt.

After these questions are answered to your satisfaction, be sure to mention that no work shall begin until the permit is on site and all documentation has been delivered and reviewed. If pre-payment is requested, hold the final amount until all expectations have been met.

The purpose of this document is for your protection and to ensure Quality Renewable Energy Installations in our area.