

The Downtown West Solar Energy Project

together with

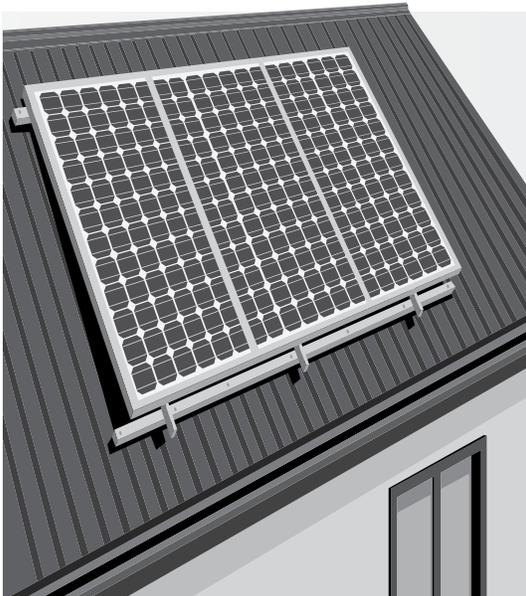
Harbord Village Residents' Association,
Ontario Sustainable Energy Association,
Neighbours of St. Alban's Park,
Palmerston Area Residents' Association,
Seaton Village Residents' Association,
Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone,
and Councillor Adam Vaughan
*invite you to attend any of four upcoming
public meetings to talk about:*

*If you rent your home, please forward this
notice to the landlord so that she/he will know
about this opportunity.*

如閣下需要關於這個項目的更多資料請電
Jim Ng (416)918-3273

Per parlare con qualcuno in italiano di
questo progetto, chiamare Cristina al
(416)925-8570.

Se deseja mais informação sobre este
projecto, chame Ana Silva (416)922-7615.



Solar Energy on your Home's Rooftop

The all-volunteer **Downtown West Solar Energy Project**

has spent the last eight months organizing a bulk purchase of solar water-heating and solar electricity-generating systems for homes. At four public meetings this Spring, speakers will describe the costs and benefits of installing solar energy systems, answer questions and indicate the deadline for homeowners to sign up to take advantage of the bulk purchase agreement that will be negotiated with one or more solar companies. We'll also present the financing options that we have negotiated for participating households.



Photo Credit: **Ron McKay**

To learn more, please attend any of the following meetings:

Annex

Thursday May 10th, 7:00-10:00 pm: Walmer Road Baptist Church
188 Lowther Avenue, at Walmer

Seaton Village

Sunday May 13th, 1:00-4:00 pm: St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club
843 Palmerston Avenue, south of Dupont

Dundas West

Thursday May 17th, 6:30-9:00 pm: St. Christopher's House
248 Ossington Avenue, at Dundas

Harbord Village/Kensington

Wednesday May 23rd, 7:00-10:00 pm, St. Stephens in the Fields Church
103 Bellevue Avenue, at College

See the back of this flyer for more details. For more information, visit www.ourpower.ca, call David Booz at (416)806-2669 or e-mail Tim Grant at tim@greenteacher.com.



Why Participate in a Bulk Solar Purchase?

The potential for solar energy in the Toronto area is greater than many people expect. In fact, we receive more annual solar radiation than leading solar energy nations Germany and Japan. Because solar radiation is highest during Ontario's peak period for energy consumption—hot, sunny summer afternoons—heating water and producing electricity using solar panels has a number of community benefits. Cleaner air is just one of those.

Solar energy has the potential to be a major energy source, especially in urban environments. At the moment, the Canadian solar industry is small and system costs are high. Adding solar panels to your rooftop sends an important message to politicians that they need to develop policies to make it easier for people to capture the sun's energy.

The Downtown West Solar Energy Project is a group of volunteers who have spent the past eight months organizing a bulk purchase of solar energy systems for downtown homes. The electricity generated by solar electric systems would be sold to the province for 43 cents per kilowatt-hour under the new Standard Offer Contract program. The hot water from solar water heating systems would be used in each household.

Early this Spring, a Request for Proposals was sent to solar vendors, and by the time you read this, we will have selected one or more companies to supply the solar electric and solar hot water heating systems. At the series of public meetings in May (see opposite side of this flyer for dates and locations), we will introduce the vendors, describe the details and costs of each solar energy system, discuss various financing options, answer questions, and indicate the deadline for signing up. After the deadline has passed, the solar vendor(s) will visit your home to

confirm that your rooftop is suitable and discuss any variations that may be necessary. Once all of your questions are answered, individual homeowners will purchase their systems directly from the selected vendors at the bulk prices that we have negotiated. The vendors will be responsible for the supply, installation and warranty of the complete solar system, including solar panels, required peripheral equipment, installation, testing, commissioning, and warranty support.

Costs?

The costs of each system will depend on the number of participants and the bulk prices that we have been able to negotiate. Solar water heating systems cost \$4,000 to \$7,000 and can have a payback of 5-7 years, depending on the amount of hot water used in the household. By contrast, solar electricity-generating systems can cost \$12,000 for a basic 1-kilowatt system and \$18,000 for a 2-kilowatt system, with an expected payback of 15-20 years. Once your investment is paid off, a solar electric system will continue to earn money, and solar water-heating systems will be producing hot water long into the future.

Please keep in mind that investing in energy efficiency and conservation is more cost-effective than adding a solar energy system on your roof. Whether you replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents, seal the cracks around your doors and windows, upgrade your attic insulation or install high efficiency windows, these initiatives should always be the first step in your energy program. Once completed, that's the time to consider adding solar energy to your home. The world will be a better place if you do.

Our public meetings are
being supported by:  ONTARIO SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY ASSOCIATION

For more information, visit www.ourpower.ca, call David Booz at (416)806-2669 or e-mail Tim Grant at tim@greenteacher.com.

Please note that a second group of volunteers—the Downtown West Multi-Unit Solar Energy Project—is working to bring solar energy systems to the rooftops of multi-unit residential buildings. If you know someone who might be interested in this initiative, please ask them to contact David or Tim.