

HOW TO GO SOLAR

Go Solar
POWER FROM ABOVE

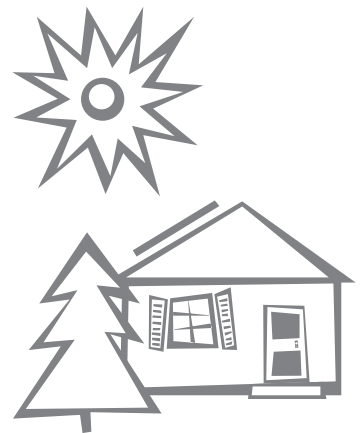
CONDUCT A SOLAR AUDIT OF YOUR HOME.

Many homes are suitable or can be made suitable for solar technologies. To know whether your home is solar-ready, you need to answer a number of questions, such as:

- Will your roof soon need repair or re-shingling?
- Is at least part of your roof south-facing?
- Do trees or other structure shade some of your house during sunny hours?
- Is there space for an additional water tank in the basement (solar water heater) or do you have 10m² of roof space available for photovoltaic (PV) panels?

You can conduct an audit of your home yourself, or consider contacting a local vendor for a no obligation site visit at your home.

Web Resource: *West Toronto Initiative for Solar Energy Solar Site Assessment:*
<http://wise.ourpower.ca/userfiles/file/Do-It-Yourself%20Site%20Assessment.doc>



PERFORM AN ECOENERGY HOME ENERGY AUDIT.



Reducing the energy your home draws from the grid is the first step in getting the most out of any home solar energy system.

Nega-watts, or the energy your home does not use, is the cheapest and easiest way to cut your energy bill and help the environment. Once you have achieved a “conserver-household,” you are ready to Go Solar. To get an energy audit of your household and recommendations on how to make rebate-eligible energy efficiency upgrades to your home, call local ecoENERGY certified auditors to receive and compare quotes.

Web Resource: *Natural Resources Canada ecoENERGY Auditor Search:*
<http://www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/residential/personal/new-home-improvement/contact-advisors.cfm?attr=4>

CALCULATE YOUR HOUSEHOLD ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND COSTS OF A SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM.

Once you have made the decision to Go Solar, you will need to better understand how your household uses energy in order to size and cost your system or calculate potential greenhouse gas emission reductions. At this stage, it may be helpful to explore financing mechanisms such as mortgage re-advances, leasing and zero-interest renewable energy home improvement loans.

Web Resource: *Enerworks Household Water Calculator.*
http://www.enerworks.com/flash/solar_calculator.swf

RetScreen is a calculation tool developed by Natural Resources Canada
<http://www.retscreen.net/ang/home.php>

Financing information can be found on the Go Solar website: www.gosolarontario.ca

START ASKING QUESTIONS AND OBTAINING APPROVALS

It is wise to talk to other individuals in your neighbourhood or town that have solar energy systems before deciding to install solar equipment yourself or contacting an installer. There are also a number of bulk buying solar initiatives that can be accessed throughout Ontario where residents are organizing to solicit company bids for group purchase rates and services.

You will need to obtain necessary approvals from the local utility (PV), a building permit from the local municipality (PV and solar water heater) and Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) inspection (PV). Installers will often help with obtaining these approvals; however, it is important to know your legal obligations for insurance and liability purposes.

Web Resource: *Canadian Solar Industry Association Industry/Member Directory:*
<http://www.cansia.ca/directory/>

Find Solar, an online catalogue of Canadian Installers, searchable by Province:
<http://www.findsolar.com/index.php?page=findacontractor>



SELECT AND INSTALL A SOLAR SYSTEM

Before selecting and installing a solar energy system, a number of decisions will have to be made. Deciding to go with a solar water heater, a 1-3 kW photovoltaic (PV) system or both, will depend on household energy consumption, finances, roof space, a number of approvals and personal preferences. You can discuss available CSA-approved (or equivalent federally approved) components and collectors with a local solar contractor or retailer. Once your solar energy system is up on the roof, you can start producing electricity for your home, solar heating your water or sending electricity back to the grid.

Web Resource: *CanSIA's Directory of Solar Hot Water Products and Information*
<http://www.cansia.ca/CanadianDirectoryOfSolarHotWaterProducts.asp>

OSEA Solar Thermal Community Action Manual and Guidebooks
<http://www.ontario-sea.org/OSEApublications.php>

COLLECT INCENTIVES, REBATES OR PAYMENTS

If you have conducted an audit of your primary residence and installed a solar energy system in Ontario, you are eligible for incentives of up to \$1,300 on a solar water heating system. An auditor will conduct a verification audit to ensure you have installed an approved system and then submit the paperwork for your rebate on your behalf. To receive a PST refund, you will need to submit a Retail Sales Tax form to the Canadian Revenue Agency.

If you have installed a PV system, you will need to submit an application to the Ontario Power Authority (installers may do this on your behalf) and then create an account with the utility to sell power back to the grid. Pending approvals, you will be paid 42 cents/kWh for the clean, green, solar power generated and sent back to the grid.

Web Resource: *Ontario's Standard Offer Program for Solar*
<http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/SOP/Page.asp?PageID=751&SiteNodeID=252>

Go Solar Incentives and Rebates Page (including link to RST form)
<http://www.gosolarontario.ca/>



BECOME A SOLAR ADVOCATE

Invite family and friends over to see your new solar energy system and tell them how they too can GO SOLAR!

www.gosolarontario.ca

Phone: 416-642-2896
Toll Free: 1-866-922-2896

 Go Solar

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