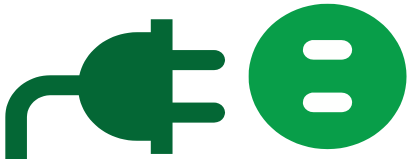


Promising Practices



Energy Cooperatives

Sustainable Ottawa shines with numerous solar projects

Sustainable Ottawa, a community-based, non-profit co-operative, works to develop projects that promote renewable energy technologies. Projects have been both independent and in collaboration with other organizations, companies, and government agencies. With a concern for the quality of life of the National Capital Region (NCR) residents, Sustainable Ottawa creates and works on projects that make sustainable technologies, products, and services more accessible and economically viable.¹



Sustainable Ottawa has made numerous partnerships with green businesses in the NCR. Members of the co-op are offered discounts on products and services provided by these business partners.

Many community partnerships have been established, as well. Sustainable Ottawa supports and collaborates with other community-based organizations such as: Tucker Renewal House Centre, Ecology Ottawa, Sustainable Living Ottawa East and West (SLOE and SLOWest), Kanata Environmental Network, and National Capital Environmental Network.

Sustainable Ottawa and its partners have coordinated many effective initiatives in the Ottawa area.

Solar H2Ottawa was a three-year initiative developed by Sustainable Ottawa and Seventh Generation Community Projects, a program of Tucker House Renewal Centre. The project aimed to increase the uptake of **solar water heating systems** by lowering costs and informing the public of its benefits. Made possible by the funding from the Ottawa Trillium Foundation and Natural Resources Canada's ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat program, Solar H2Ottawa provided free monthly seminars on solar hot water systems in the Ottawa region. In addition to the provincial and federal rebates for solar hot water systems (which amounted to over \$2,100), Solar H2Ottawa also offered a rebate of \$1,200. The project also negotiated preferential pricing from solar hot water installers.

Select Solar H2Ottawa participants received monitoring before and after the installation of their new solar hot water systems, which was offered through a partnership with Enbridge Gas. The information gathered from these anonymous evaluations was to be made available to the public in hopes of promoting transparency about the benefits and drawbacks of solar hot water systems. The goal of Solar H2Ottawa was to have 250 systems installed by October 2010. The project has now come to a close and results will soon be posted in Sustainable Ottawa's website in the news section.²

An initiative aimed at promoting the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems is **Solar PV – FIT for YOU**, developed by Sustainable Ottawa, Ecology Ottawa, and Tucker House Renewal Centre. Ontario's Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) and MicroFIT programs allow Ontario residents and businesses to make a reasonable return by selling power generated by renewable electricity technologies to the grid. Solar PV – FIT for YOU is aimed at increasing solar installations under the microFIT Program (for systems under 10 kilowatts). It does so by providing step-by-step guides and fact sheets to assist potential participants through the process.³

The **Ottawa Renewable Energy Cooperative** (OREC) is a new entity created by Sustainable Ottawa. OREC plans to build and operate solar PV systems in the NCR. This cooperative benefits those who wish to invest in renewable electricity generation but lack the space, financial ability, or technical ability to do so alone. By renting or leasing rooftop space and pooling investments from members, OREC will generate clean, renewable electricity for the Ottawa region.

In collaboration with other Ottawa organizations, Sustainable Ottawa has set a goal of promoting the creation of 1,000 solar rooftops in the City of Ottawa by the end of 2012. The **1000 Solar Rooftops** team is working on 10 solar case studies intended to promote solar PV systems and display the benefits of the FIT and microFIT programs. 1000 Solar Rooftops also hosted Ottawa's first Solar Fair at which people across Ottawa learned about solar energy, talked to installers and financiers, and took a tour to see installed systems. The fair took place on April 30, 2011, at Ottawa City Hall.

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This Promising Practice was brought to you by Ecology Ottawa on behalf of the **Community Energy Network of Eastern Ontario** Encouraging the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives

www.community-energy.ca



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