



## Media Release

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### **Reindeer Better Watch Out for Rooftop Solar Installations**

*Solar photovoltaic panels installed on roof of Guelph Hydro building*

**(GUELPH, ON) December 16, 2010**– Guelph Hydro Inc. has sent a message to the North Pole to advise Santa and his reindeer about the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Guelph Hydro facility at 395 Southgate Drive.

Once operational, these solar panels will generate 100 kilowatts of clean, renewable electricity that will be fed into the Ontario electricity grid. Guelph Hydro will receive payment for the electricity generated from the solar panels on a 20-year contract from the Ontario Power Authority under Ontario's Green Energy Act Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program.

"Guelph Hydro is committed to developing cleaner energy sources in Guelph, so we felt it was important to lead by example and be one of the first organizations in the community to install a rooftop solar renewable energy system under Ontario's Feed-in Tariff program," says Barry Chuddy, Chief Executive Officer of Guelph Hydro Inc. "Guelph's Community Energy Initiative calls for the implementation of 1,000 solar roofs, some of which will be City properties which Guelph Hydro is leasing for solar photovoltaic installations." The company is actively involved in leasing other industrial, commercial and institutional rooftops in the community for solar panel installations.

Solar energy is emission-free, silent and delivers its maximum output during peak load hours, making it an ideal addition to Ontario's portfolio of energy sources. Installed by AECON, the Guelph Hydro solar project consists of 60 arrays of photovoltaic modules manufactured by Canadian Solar Inc., the parent company of Canadian Solar Solutions Inc., who recently announced it is opening a 200-megawatt solar photovoltaic facility in the City of Guelph in the first quarter of 2011.

"Canadian Solar Solutions applauds Guelph Hydro for their continued commitment to being a municipal marketplace leader in sustainable energy," said Milfred Hammerbacher, President, Canadian Solar Solutions Inc, a subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc. "We look forward to creating more solar photovoltaic (PV) solutions in Guelph and throughout Ontario to help as many Ontarians as possible become participants in renewable energy solutions like solar PV."

“We are very excited to be embarking on our first rooftop solar project. This initiative, combined with the geothermal heating/cooling system in the Guelph Hydro facility, demonstrates our leadership in the fields of renewable energy and green buildings,” says Chuddy.

With the Ontario Power Authority reporting that more than 1,000 contracts have been executed for photovoltaic installations this year, reindeer will have to be careful when landing Santa’s sleigh on Ontario roofs this Christmas. In the Guelph community alone, Guelph Hydro has already connected approximately 20 homes that have installed solar panels on their roofs under the province’s MicroFIT program.

The North Pole is reported to have responded to Guelph Hydro’s note saying they are delighted with the company’s efforts to be “good” and help curb climate change through their year-round energy conservation programs, their donation of energy-efficient LED holiday lights to the St. Joseph’s Health Centre Foundation’s Festival of Lights, and their rooftop solar installation.

“That’s the type of ‘green’ Christmas Santa likes to see!” says the note.

#### **Quick Facts**

- Solar energy is a renewable resource that is free, environmentally friendly and readily available.
- Sunlight is converted to electricity using photovoltaic (PV) solar cells. PV cells are usually bundled together in modules or panels to produce higher voltages and increased power.
- The cells are semiconductor devices, usually made of silicon, which contain no liquids, corrosive chemicals or moving parts.
- Photovoltaic panels require little maintenance, do not pollute, and operate silently, making photovoltaic energy a very clean and safe method of power generation.

#### **About Guelph Hydro Inc.**

Guelph Hydro Inc. is actively developing sustainable energy projects as a key implementer of the City of Guelph’s Community Energy Initiative. The company is actively involved in leasing industrial, commercial and institutional rooftops in the community for solar panel installations.

Guelph Hydro Inc. is the holding company for Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc, the local electricity distribution company serving 50,000 customers in Guelph and Rockwood, Ontario, and for Ecotricity Guelph Inc., an alternative energy company, also located in Guelph.

For more information, visit: [www.guelphhydroinc.com](http://www.guelphhydroinc.com)

#### **About Canadian Solar Inc.**

Canadian Solar Inc. is one of the world's largest solar companies. As a leading vertically integrated provider of ingot, wafer, solar cell, solar module and other solar applications, Canadian Solar designs, manufactures and delivers solar products and solar system solutions for on-grid and off-grid use to customers worldwide. With operations in North America, Europe and Asia, Canadian Solar provides premium quality, cost-effective and environmentally-friendly solar solutions to support global, sustainable development.

For more information, visit [www.canadiansolar.com](http://www.canadiansolar.com).

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