



Media Release

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Ready for the summer sun: Guelph Hydro rooftop solar panels generating electricity for Ontario

GUELPH, ON, June 24, 2011 – Just in time to take advantage of the summer sun, the solar panels installed on the roof of Guelph Hydro’s facility at 395 Southgate Drive are up and running, generating power for Ontarians under the Ontario Power Authority’s Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program.

The 504 photovoltaic solar panels, manufactured by Canadian Solar Inc., can generate up to 100 kilowatts of clean, renewable electricity that will be fed into the Ontario electricity grid.

Guelph Hydro Inc. was awarded a 20-year Feed-in Tariff (FIT) contract by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) under Ontario’s Green Energy and Economy Act. The system is expected to generate approximately 115,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year – enough clean energy to power approximately 11 homes.

The Guelph Hydro Inc. rooftop solar installation was the first solar project developed under the City of Guelph Community Energy Initiative which calls for the implementation of 1,000 solar rooftops. Guelph Hydro Inc. is currently offering commercial, industrial and institutional building owners the opportunity to lease their under-utilized rooftops for large-scale solar photovoltaic installations that can then be connected to the electricity grid. The company is also developing ground-mounted solar projects within the Guelph community.

In mid-June, the Ontario Power Authority reported it had executed contracts for more than 1,000 FIT projects and 5,000 small-scale microFIT projects. (Source: <http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/>)

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. Solar energy is free, environmentally friendly and a readily available resource.

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Quotes

“Guelph Hydro is committed to developing cleaner energy sources within our community. 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 the Ontario’s Feed-in Tariff program.”

Barry Chuddy, Chief Executive Officer, Guelph Hydro Inc.

“Guelph has a goal of 1,000 solar rooftops. With the Guelph Hydro solar installation up and running and generating electricity, we have 999 to go.”

Ron Collins, Vice President Business Development and Partnerships, Guelph Hydro Inc.

“We are pleased to be partnering with Guelph Hydro. We are both committed to the Community Energy Initiative in Guelph and setting a leading example for other municipalities across the province. This partnership is an example of how different organizations can work closely together to make a positive impact in their local community and build a positive legacy for future generations. The widely-recognized Canadian Solar brand, along with our commitment to innovation, competitive pricing and service positions us well with other leaders such as Guelph Hydro.”

Carlos Fernandez, Chief Operating Officer of Canadian Solar Solutions

"The level of activity related to solar photovoltaics in the City of Guelph is no less than astonishing. We are already approaching the halfway mark of our 2031 targets under the Community Energy Initiative. We applaud all of those who are helping us get there."

Karen Farbridge, Mayor of Guelph

Quick Facts

- Sunshine 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.

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About Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.

Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. delivers a safe and reliable supply of electricity to approximately 50,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Guelph and Rockwood. The company is owned by Guelph Hydro Inc., which is actively developing sustainable energy projects as a key implementer of the City of Guelph’s Community Energy Initiative.

For more information, visit www.guelphhydrinc.com

About Canadian Solar Inc.

Canadian Solar Inc. is one of the world’s largest solar companies. As a leading vertical 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 quality, cost-effective and environmentally-friendly solar solutions to support global, sustainable development.
For more information, visit www.canadiansolar.com

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