

## Invest in Solar Now!



### Greening our corner of the world



We live in a time of global warming and are witnessing the beginnings of environmental changes which may soon be irreversible, putting our survival and that of other life forms on our planet in peril. The evidence is now overwhelming that the burning of non-renewable hydrocarbon fuels is at the root of this impending crisis.

As members of the Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation, we have a responsibility to help resolve these problems, as we are able. Fortunately, the government of Ontario has recently increased its subsidies for power generated from renewable sources. This makes it feasible for us to generate electricity from solar panels on the roof of our church.

We also intend to conserve energy by insulating the roof of our building, retrofitting our lighting and electrical controls and taking other measures to reduce consumption.

By doing these things, we can create a model for other organizations to follow, contribute to the greening of our local economy, and put into practice our 7th Unitarian Universalist Principle: "To promote and affirm the interconnected web of existence of which we are a part."



### The Neighbourhood Solar Project



We will be installing a photovoltaic (PV) system with a total power capacity of 20.91 kW on the south-facing roof of our church.

There will be 100 Sanyo PV modules, with a capacity of 200 watts each, grid tie inverters to link the system to the electronic grid, and SolarVu software to monitor the operation and output of the solar array. The electricity produced will be sold at the renewable energy feed-in-tariff (FIT) rate of 71.2 cents per kilowatt hour, guaranteed by the Ontario Power Authority under a 20-year contract. (We will continue to buy power for our own use at the standard rate, currently about 12 cents per kWh).

The solar array can be expanded to 43 kilowatts in the future, if desired. The modules are guaranteed for 25 years, but could last as long as 50. Solar photovoltaic energy systems require little or no maintenance other than an annual inspection and cleaning.

Total installed cost will be about \$220,000.

## Invest – Here's How!

### Reducing our ecological footprint



A project producing 32 megawatt hours of clean power a year (a little larger than our present one) would reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by the equivalent of 27.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually by replacing dirty power from a coal-fired generating plant. \*



The effect would be the same as that of 23.5 acres of forest absorbing carbon from the air.

Insulation of the roof and upgrades to our lighting and electrical systems (to be financed separately) will reduce emissions by another 41 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

\* (Calculated using RETScreen clean energy project analysis software)

The **Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation (NUUC)** is a liberal religious community of more than 100 families and individual members serving the Riverdale and Beach areas of Toronto since 1997. For more information, visit our website at [www.nuuc.ca](http://www.nuuc.ca), call us at (416) 686-6809 or come by our church at 79 Hiawatha Road west of Coxwell Avenue between Gerrard and Dundas Streets. We are affiliated with the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

### Each of us can play a part!



You can help to ensure the success of this ground-breaking initiative with your donations and investments.

Half of the \$220,000 cost of the installation will be covered by an interest-free loan from the City of Toronto. The other half will be raised through donations and the issuing of debentures to friends and supporters.

We are issuing 110 debentures for \$1000 each at 5% interest paid annually. They can be held for up to 20 years, but NUUC reserves the right to redeem them at any time prior to maturity by paying the principal back to the holder, together with any interest owing.

If you wish to further support our solar initiative, you may also choose to donate the \$1000 principal to NUUC at some time prior to maturity in return for a receipt which will qualify you for an income tax credit. With the interest you will already have received, and the income tax credit you will receive for donating the principal, you can give \$1000 of support to this project at little or no cost to yourself.

Loans and debentures will be paid back from the proceeds of our sales of solar electricity to the grid.

*To make a donation, purchase debentures or get more information, contact our church office at 79 Hiawatha Road, Toronto ON M4L 2X7, (416) 686-6809 or [office@nuuc.ca](mailto:office@nuuc.ca); or talk with the Chair of our Greening Committee, Rick Salay, at (416) 686-4173 or [rsalay@sympatico.ca](mailto:rsalay@sympatico.ca).*

Global warming is a huge problem, but it is not insurmountable. This is an opportunity to take concrete action right now in y our community!



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