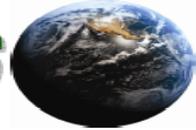




Solar—Wind—Geothermal—Bio Energy—Hydropower—Hydrogen and fuel cells

RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP SERIES



The second edition of renewable energy workshop on Solar Energy organized by EnvironFocus Incorporated took place at Fronius Canada Ltd, 2875 Argentia Road, Units 3 - 6, Mississauga, Ontario on August 25, 2012. The objective was to increase awareness of solar energy as a renewable energy option in a way that is understood by the public and to link existing businesses to an interested audience (Residents and businesses). The main points discussed were solar energy and its applications; insights to the micro-fit program and its benefits; net metering as an alternative to micro-fit and end user feedback on the micro-fit program.

Speakers and business representatives that made the event a success include:

- Bernard Fleet Ph.D., D Sc., FRSC Adjunct Professor, School of Environmental Applied Science & Management, Ryerson University.
- Lia VanBaalen, Marketing Assistant, Fronius Canada Ltd
- Malcolm Wallace BEng MCIBSE LC, Consultant, Building Services Engineering, Arup
- Jenn McArthur (PEng) Associate at Arup
- Jeremy Day, Sales Manager, Frankensolar Americas Inc.
- Jim Jaeger, Partner, Dynamic Solar Tech
- David Biderman, Partner, Dynamic Solar Tech

Other participating businesses include Oluchi Group International and Whole Woman Network. The following information was discussed:

- Drivers of renewable energy - economics, increasing energy demand and the changing climate; the Pacula and Socolow Wedge Scenario referring to the Stabilization of GHG Emissions at 350 - 450 ppm ; Solar energy technologies and the critical need to develop affordable solar; the solar industry and industrial scale solar applications; and challenges facing renewable Incremental energy demand
- Off-grid systems used when the grid is inaccessible or costly; Grid-tied Net metering – connection of renewable energy generated via solar to the grid to offset hydro usage and spin connecting meter backwards; Grid-tied Micro-Fit - hydro company pays a premium for all solar energy fed directly to grid; Building integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) exterior - building products integrated with PV material; partnering with Local Distribution Companies (LDCs); and Electricity pricing forecast
- History of Solar; battery charging systems; welding technology; solar electronic and inverters
- Excellent rates associated with Fit program providing ROI of >10% for most FIT applicants; The FIT programs in relation to net metering and LDCs; the FIT program as a job creator and tax revenue generator; challenges associated with political uncertainty creating issues for the Ontario's PV workforce until grid parity is reached; Ontario's energy mix and the cheapness of Ontario's electricity; Ontario's solar market in relation to the international market; needs of solar installers and their end users; the need for long-term relationships and partnerships amongst organizations; and lack of public knowledge as a drawback requiring more conversation to create awareness.

- Positive end –user testimonial resulting from the installation of solar panels on residential property under the Micro-Fit program.

Participation at the workshop was excellent. The content of the workshop enabled Participants leave with a clearer understanding of solar energy from its conception - production - application - end usage. Feedback from participants was excellent. The workshop met its objective and more sustainable partnerships were developed. An awareness of the necessity for organizations to participate in sustainable development of communities and to promote clean technology was planted and the understanding that actions that are taken need not be done singly but as a group was promoted. Special thanks go to Fronius Canada for providing the venue for the event. Presentations from each speaker have been made available at <http://environfocus.com/document/> or view by clicking [here](#).

The next renewable energy workshop will be on Biomass/Biofuels and is scheduled to take place October 27, 2012 at Holiday Inn Express & Suites Toronto – Mississauga, 40 Admiral Blvd, Mississauga, ON. More information is available at http://www.ontario-sea.org/Page.asp?PageID=1209&ContentID=4080&SiteNodeID=218&BL_ExpandID= or <http://environfocus.com/environbuzz-events/2012/10/renewable-energy-workshop-series/>