

## **Message from Natural Resources Canada:**

### **Solar Grants from ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes**

Following consultation with CanSIA and other industry groups, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has recently made changes to the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program to clarify the eligibility for its solar domestic hot water (SDHW) systems grant.

If an energy advisor certified by Natural Resources Canada performs the pre-retrofit evaluation before April 1, 2010, SDHW systems in single family homes and eligible low-rise multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs) can have an energy contribution less than 6 gigajoules per year (GJ/yr) as long as the system includes solar collectors that meet the Canadian Standards Association (CAN/CSA) F378 standard or equivalent. For a list of eligible solar collectors, see the 'Glazed Water Heating Solar Collectors – Flat Plate Collectors' and 'Glazed Water Heating Solar Collectors – Evacuated Tube and Concentrating Collectors' sections of the List of Accepted Solar Collectors found at the ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat Web site. Systems in CanmetENERGY's Performance Directory of Solar Domestic Hot Water Systems (Table 1 or 2) are also eligible.

For single family homes, if the pre-retrofit evaluation is performed on or after April 1, 2010, the SDHW system must provide a minimum energy contribution of 6 GJ/yr and be certified or in the process of becoming certified to the CAN/CSA F379 standard. Eligible systems must appear in CanmetENERGY's Performance Directory of Solar Domestic Hot Water Systems (Table 1 or 2). This Web page also explains the requirements for adding systems to the directory. The SDHW grant in a single family home is \$1250.

For eligible low-rise MURBs, if the pre-retrofit evaluation is performed on or after April 1, 2010, the SDHW system must provide a minimum energy contribution of 3 GJ/yr per residential unit and have solar collectors that meet the CAN/CSA F378 standard or equivalent. System installers can receive more details and a Microsoft Excel-based calculator by completing a short form on the Office of Energy Efficiency Web site. If the collectors are not listed in the calculator, the installer must provide the system capacity using the standard day test defined in CAN/CSA F379 (150 litres per day per residential unit) by generating a TRNSYS simulation. The SDHW grant can range from \$1250 for the installation of a system that provides 6 GJ/yr in a two-unit MURB up to a maximum of \$12,500 in a 20-unit MURB.

Installers must supply the following information on the invoice: the manufacturer's name and model number; description of the system and number of collectors installed; and system total capacity in megajoules.

To be eligible for ecoENERGY Retrofit - Homes, applicants must arrange a pre-retrofit evaluation, perform the work and have a post retrofit evaluation prior to March 31, 2011. The payment of grants is subject to the availability of funding.

Owners of larger MURBs (greater than 3 storeys or 600 square metre footprint, etc.) are not eligible for ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes, but may be eligible for either the ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat incentive or the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Small and Medium Organizations incentive.

For more information on the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program, visit <http://ecoaction.gc.ca/homes> or call 1-800-O-Canada. You can also visit <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/retrofit/homes/solar> to find the Web links described above.