

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Investment in Caledon Solar

CALEDON, Ontario (Jan 30, 2013) SolarShare Co-operative Inc -

After running out of roof space for more solar panels, local Palgrave dentist Richard Ehrlich still wanted to invest in renewable energy. So he bought a Community Solar Bond.

Community-based solar systems are growing in popularity in Ontario and North America as more citizens want to generate clean power but often don't have the right rooftop or the needed start-up capital. It also helps that the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) has made community investment a priority in the new rules of its incentive program.

The OPA offers 20-year fixed price contracts to renewable energy generators, and in the past large multi-national energy companies have dominated the industry. This is changing now that there isn't enough room on the electricity grid for all of the project demand and the OPA has given renewable energy co-ops priority access ahead of other developers. This has created many opportunities for individuals to join co-ops so that they can invest in local, commercial-scale solar energy projects.

Dr. Richard Ehrlich became the first Caledon resident to join SolarShare, an active co-op that is looking to develop new solar energy projects across Peel, York and Toronto. Ehrlich was one of 35 Caledon residents who joined the co-op and sponsored SolarShare to secure contracts to develop solar in Peel region. Their participation also helps to fulfill the co-op's mandate of including local support and investment in the projects.

"I was interested because I am already a supporter of solar power, but can't get any more panels on my office or home," said Ehrlich this fall at Farm Stock. "It's a great investment as well, far better than most bonds in my RRSP, but I'm also putting my money into local clean air and renewable energy." His SolarShare bonds earn him 5% per year for a 5-year term, and allows him to participate actively in the co-op. SolarShare continues to host events and information sessions for interested residents and will have announcements soon about which projects can be developed under the OPA's program.

About SolarShare

SolarShare develops solar power projects across Ontario and offers securities in the form of bonds to Ontario residents and businesses to invest in a solar project portfolio. SolarShare currently has 19 projects representing over 725 kW of installed solar power generation capacity. Incorporated in January 2010, SolarShare is a not-for-profit co-

operative formed by TREC Renewable Energy Co-operative. www.solarbonds.ca

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