

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Small Co-op Pitches Big Investors at the TSX

**Toronto, Sep 19, 2013** – The sun is shining on the TSX today. After a successful launch event this morning at the Toronto Stock Exchange, SolarShare Co-operative, a non-profit Toronto-based organization now has improved access to capital from over 100 impact investors.

The new Social Venture Exchange (SVX), a Restricted Market Dealer under the Ontario Securities Commission, connects impact investors with organizations in need of capital. The online portal allows investors who wish to generate positive social and environmental impact to connect privately with ventures including SolarShare.

Historically it has been challenging for newly established social ventures like SolarShare to source debt and equity without a regulated platform. Today's launch of the SVX created by MaRS Discovery District in collaboration with TMX Group Inc offers the co-op the opportunity to operate with a higher level of credibility under the appropriate securities regulations.

The timing of the launch couldn't be better as SolarShare gears up to build thirteen new rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) projects in 2014, building on 20 existing operational solar installations to bring SolarShare's total project portfolio to \$30 million. "The sky is the limit," SolarShare President Mike Brigham said. "SolarShare is proud to be one of the original members of the SVX, developed by a group of very like-minded people who believe that one's investments can return not just financial returns by environmental and socio-economic returns too."

Since SolarShare launched its Community Bond offer in August 2011, its 500 members have collectively raised \$2.4 million to finance 20 fully operational solar projects across the province, generating 1,900 Megawatt hours of clean electricity thus far. Community Solar bonds are securities that pay five per cent per year for five years and are registered on title. Using the 'community power' model, SolarShare engages citizens, offering members a financial stake in the projects and the pride and energy awareness that comes with co-op membership.

**About SolarShare** ([www.solarbonds.ca](http://www.solarbonds.ca))

A success story of the Green Energy Act, SolarShare Co-operative is a leading community power co-op in Ontario that develops projects across the province in order to provide citizens with an opportunity to invest in and benefit from local solar development. Its 500 members have collectively raised \$2.4 million to finance 20 projects representing 880 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.

**Media Contact:**

Julie Leach, Sales & Marketing Coordinator  
SolarShare Co-operative  
[Julie@trec.on.ca](mailto:Julie@trec.on.ca)  
401 Richmond St W, Suite 405, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8  
(416) 977-5093 x2360  
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SolarShare members tour their new installation in Etobicoke, ON