

Throw out old fridge, get efficient lightbulbs

The most visible way to cut back your energy consumption is to replace standard lightbulbs with energy efficient models and get rid of old fridges and freezers.

Put TVs, DVD players and VCRs on a power bar which can be turned off when they aren't in use.

While savings for any one appliance or gadget may seem small — a TV might cost \$6 per month to run — with several of them,

hydro costs can spiral upwards very quickly.

Old fridges, in particular, are power hogs. Any fridge more than 10 years old could use the same amount of power in one month that a new one uses in about a year, Steven Eng of Enviro-Energy Technologies Inc., said.

For more information on conservation strategies and available programs, seminars and workshops, log on to enviro-energytech.com/strategies

— Hannelore Volpe



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Sal Amenta with the solar panel control panels in his basement. At times, his home generates more power than it can use.

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FIBROMYALGIA

If you suffer from **FIBROMYALGIA** or **CHRONIC FATIGUE** then attending this free symposium may be the most important thing you do this year. You will discover the true cause of these conditions and natural solutions and options you can use right away. Many are now able to drive, take vacations, hold a job, go to school and socialize for the first time in years. Dr. Allen Turner is an international speaker and lecturer who has been featured on the *Dini Petty Show, National News and Canada AM*. He will present a free symposium on Thurs., March 15th at 7:30 pm at the Stouffville Health Centre.

Call 905-640-4440 for reservations.

Government asked to help solar producers

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megawatts or less in size.

Generating your own power doesn't come cheap. Mr. Amenta estimates he has invested around \$18,000 in the solar panels. He's wants the government to offer better incentives, such as low-interest or interest-free loans.

Mr. Amenta researched renewable power extensively before making the investment in solar. He expects to recover his costs in about 10 years.

With more homeowners, farmers and businesses producing power, everyone's dependence on the electricity grid and on energy sources such as nuclear energy would be lessened, he says.

"I am right on top of the moraine on a rural property," Mr. Amenta said, "I am committed to contributing in any way I can."

"We have to put our money where our mouth is," he said, "if we believe in protecting the environment and our children's inheritance. Otherwise, we lose it."

Three small solar projects have been approved under the program, together totalling just 22.9 kilowatts.

The payout for solar is a sign the government isn't paying enough, Deborah Doncaster, executive director of the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association, said.

"The price of 42 cents is not giving people the business case to do these projects, and it's half of what we asked for," Ms Doncaster said.

Solar is one of the most appealing renewable-energy technologies, she added, because it results in energy when we need it, during peak times.

Until Mr. Amenta receives the second meter, which will show the energy he produces and sells back to the grid, he currently enjoys seeing his hydro meter go backwards when the panels produce more power than his household uses.

The six solar panels installed on the south side of his roof more than a year ago produce a maximum of 1.15 kilowatt hours of power at any one time when the

sun is bright. So far, they have produced around 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity.

Before the battery-less solar panel system was installed by Steven Eng of Enviro-Energy Technologies Inc., and Vincent Tersigni of Tervan Electric, Mr. Eng went through the Amenta house to check where energy was being wasted unnecessarily.

Mr. Eng installed the first three solar power systems in Markham, Thornhill and Richmond Hill.

The first solar power system in all of Canada was installed in East Gwillimbury.

There's a lot more activity in this field, Mr. Eng said, because more people are aware of Al Gore, climate change and global warming.

Hydro bills at the Amenta household were cut in half after a number of conservation measures were implemented.

For information on the Ontario government's standard offer program, log on to powerauthority.on.ca

Important Notice to Employers

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Canada Summer Jobs is a new Government of Canada initiative that provides employers with wage subsidies to create high-quality summer jobs for students. The initiative is designed to meet the needs of students and takes into consideration Canada's currently strong labour market conditions. Not-for-profit, public sector and smaller private sector employers (50 or fewer employees) are invited to submit their application by **Friday, March 30, 2007**.

Employers can apply on-line at servicecanada.ca (under the *Employers and Business* section), by fax, by mail, or in person at any Service Canada Centre.

Applications will be assessed according to the initiative's eligibility criteria and priorities, which include creating jobs that would not otherwise be created, helping students who need it the most as a result of where they live and/or other barriers, the quality of the work experience being offered, and available funding.

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