

May 25, 2010

Campbell River Celebrates Solar Days with Solar Home Tour and Solar Hot Water Workshop

Free information session on solar hot water heating

As part of International Solar Days (May 28 to 31), the City of Campbell River is hosting a free solar home tour and solar hot water workshop.

The solar events will take place on Monday, May 31 beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the tour of a local home powered by solar energy, followed by a workshop on solar hot water from experts in the field. Terratek Energy Solutions, a firm specializing in harnessing renewable energy, will offer the workshop at the Sportsplex from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Community members will have the opportunity to learn about the potential for solar hot water to assist in meeting their home's hot water demands.

Solar Hot Water Heating systems are currently the most cost-effective means of utilizing solar power in the home. The workshop will explain solar hot water heating and focus on energy savings, incentive programs, and provide tools for attendees to determine the utility of solar hot water systems in their homes.

In partnership with Solar BC, the City of Campbell River is participating in Solar Days, a BC-wide program promoting solar power and encouraging communities, builders, and home owners to explore its potential. Along with the workshop, a Solar Kids Contest will be organized through participating local media.

Despite the common belief that solar power only works in very sunny, hot climates, solar energy is a renewable energy source widely utilized on a household scale in countries such as Germany, which receives fewer annual sunshine hours than Campbell River.

The City's embrace of solar energy was a move directed by Mayor and Council's Green City Strategy, a commitment to support renewable energy and environmental responsibility.

"The City is exploring opportunities to promote solar power and we are currently assessing the feasibility of solar hot water for our municipal buildings," says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. "We have already installed 12 solar powered crosswalk lights and have plans to install another two shortly, and perhaps one more before the end of the year."

In addition to the solar crosswalk lights, the City also recently installed two solar radar recorders. These black boxes are mounted on the side of a roadway to count vehicle volume, speed, and length (car versus truck versus semi-trailer). As well, School District 72 is in the process of raising funds for a solar hot water installation at Timberline Secondary School.

To register for the Solar Days workshop on May 31, contact Brad Densmore at 250-286-5700.

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Media Contact: Amber Zirnhelt, Sustainability Manager 250-286-5700

Re: Solar Kids Contest: The City wishes to partner with interested media to challenge children to submit creative uses for solar power in Campbell River. The City will provide a solar powered toy car as a prize.