

MEDIA RELEASE
Saskatchewan's Largest Solar Hot Water System
Installed by Suncatcher Solar Homes

For immediate release
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Saskatoon, SK – The Confederation Inn Saskatoon is leading the way in renewable energy with the largest commercial solar hot water system in Saskatchewan, and one of the largest in Canada. The \$120,000 system, installed by Suncatcher Solar Homes, received 50% combined funding from the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada.

The funding was provided through Saskatchewan's Solar Heating Initiative for Today (SHIFT) and Natural Resources Canada's ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat program, both of which encourage the use of solar hot water systems on commercial, industrial and institutional buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Forty solar hot water collectors have been installed on the roof of the hotel to help supply the hot water for the guest rooms, restaurant, beverage room and indoor pool. The system provides about half of the required energy and is expected to have a payback period of 6 years for equipment with a minimum twenty-five year expected lifetime.

"We are proud of the success of our ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat Initiative, which is helping to provide clean renewable energy in Saskatchewan and across our country," said Carol Skelton, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar, on behalf of the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources. "Investing and partnering in projects like this demonstrates our government's commitment to ensuring that clean, renewable power from the sun, the wind and the tides will form an increasingly important part of our future energy mix."

"The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to have a role in this project. It clearly shows how effective solar power can be," said Nancy Heppner, Saskatchewan Minister of Environment. "This demonstrates the province's commitment to work with industry, stakeholders and other governments to develop alternate energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Grant McVicar, Director of Energy Conservation at the Saskatchewan Research Council which administers the SHIFT program says, "Solar water heating equipment installations such as these are dramatic proof that we have the technology to cost effectively assist the commercial business sector to make greater use of renewable sources of energy."

The solar hot water collector and controller technology is engineered by EnerWorks, a Canadian company that develops and manufactures renewable energy appliances. The

Confederation Inn system features the first of their new integrated Solar Energy Units (SEU) which won the 2007 Temple W. Harris Innovative Product and Technology award.

Graham Smith, VP and General Manager EnerWorks, Commercial & Industrial Division says, “Our success in these ventures has been due to EnerWorks’ high quality, reliable products, and our comprehensive systems approach designed around an operating life of 25+ years. It is through our appliance methodology, providing complete, integrated units rather than a variety of components, that we differentiate ourselves in the marketplace.”

EnerWorks technology provided solar thermal solutions for the successful solar community of Drake Landing at Okotoks, Alberta just south of Calgary. The new SEU is part of other large projects in various stages of completion at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children; William Fremd High School in Palatine, Illinois; Les Jardins Lebourgneuf retirement home in Quebec City, Quebec; Green Phoenix’s Phoenix Place affordable condominiums in Toronto, Ontario; and Confederation Inn in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Brian Sawatzky, owner of Confederation Inn, invites people interested in renewable energy to a presentation which will provide detailed information on the Confederation Inn initiatives, on commercial solar applications and on available funding for these projects. Suncatcher Solar Homes will host this upcoming comprehensive presentation:

“Green Your Business with Solar Energy and Government Funding”
1:00 – 4:00 pm, March 20, 2008
Confederation Inn, 3330 Fairlight Drive, Saskatoon

More information is available at www.suncatchersolar.com.

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About Suncatcher Solar Homes:

Suncatcher Solar Homes is a leading Saskatchewan solar engineering company providing renewable energy solutions for commercial and residential customers.

About ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat:

The ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat program is a four-year, \$36 million investment to increase the use of renewable thermal energy by industry, commercial businesses and institutions. Incentives are offered to install active energy-efficient solar air and/or water heating systems. www.ecoaction.gc.ca/heat

Contact:

Angelika Ortlepp, M.Sc., P. Eng.
Owner, Suncatcher Solar Homes
Phone: (306) 341-1151
Email: info@suncatchersolarhomes.com
www.suncatchersolar.com

Louise Girouard
Director of Communications
Office of the Minister
Natural Resources Canada
Ottawa
613-996-2007

Wanda Nyirfa
Marketing Services
Saskatchewan Research Council
Phone: (306) 933-6666
Email: nyirfa@src.sk.ca

Art Jones
Communications Consultant
Ministry of Environment
(306) 787-5796
Email: art.jones@gov.sk.ca