

Homeowners bask in their new solar water heating system

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"It's very impressive," says Vicki Burns, of the solar water heating system she and her husband John Gosselin installed in their home in River Heights.

"It just works amazingly well. Even in the dead of winter, on a sunny day, there has been a lot of heat arriving down in the basement by the fluid transfer system," says John.

John and Vicki read about Manitoba Hydro's Solar Water Heating Program and the Residential Earth Power Loan in a newsletter they received with their hydro bill.

They contacted a participating contractor for an initial assessment

and had their solar water heating system installed in January 2010. Their installer also explained that Manitoba Hydro offers a loan to help cover the cost of a solar water heating system.

"The rebate program, along with the opportunity to switch to using renewable energy is what triggered our interest in this program," says Vicki. "Also, the installation of the solar water heating system was a very painless process."

John and Vicki's new system uses two flat plate solar collectors that are mounted on their roof, to absorb the sun's heat and transfer that

energy into the home to preheat water entering the solar storage tank. When the hot water is needed the solar heated water will then flow from the solar storage tank to the existing hot water system.

"On a warm day, our roof radiates temperatures around 70 °C," says John. "It's exciting to know that our new solar water heating system enables us to take advantage of this natural resource to heat our water.

Jamie Hopkins, Marketing Specialist with Manitoba Hydro's Solar Water Heating Program says that a solar water heating system reduces a homeowner's energy bill and their impact on the environment because it decreases the amount of energy consumed by their hot water heater.

"The cost of heating water accounts for about 20 per cent of the energy that is used in most homes. Solar water heating systems are designed to supply an average household with 50 per cent of this energy," says Hopkins. Additional loads such as pools, hot tubs or hydronic

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heating systems can also tie into the solar system to offer additional savings and improve the payback of the investment.

He also points out that Manitoba has an abundance of solar energy and that systems can operate year round, typically raising water temperatures up to 27-38 C.

“We wanted to set an example for our friends and family that this can be done,” says Vicki. “Ultimately we’re going to save money and at the same time do the right thing for the environment, so it’s great to do both.”



John and Vicki are demonstrating environmental leadership in their community by installing a solar water heating system.

Residential Earth Power Loan

The Residential Earth Power Loan allows customers to finance up to \$7,500 towards the installation of a solar water heating system in their home. The loan can be repaid over a term of up to 15 years at a low competitive interest rate. The payments are conveniently made on monthly Manitoba Hydro energy bills.



For more information on the Solar Water Heating Program or the Residential Earth Power Loan visit our website at: http://www.hydro.mb.ca/your_home/solar_water_heating

