

SUMMARY FROM SOLAR WATER HEATING INFORMATION MEETING
(Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 7:00 pm, Pender Community Hall Lounge)

As a follow-up to Pender Community Transition's first annual [November 12, 2011 Energy Action Day](#) and previous Energy Group Meetings, we scheduled this additional **Solar Water Heating Information Meeting**. Anyone was welcome to come receive and share info, including the 16 Pender homeowners at that time considering installations by Certified Installer James Smyth of Pacific Solar Smart (**before the March 31, 2012 federal rebate deadline for all work to be completed and evaluated**).

The November 22, 2012 meeting was also for those exploring various other options (e.g. do-it-yourself). PCT forwarded additional info from James Smyth about flat plate systems (just before the meeting). Also, new Thermomax vacuum tube info was provided. The Penderites who came out on November 22 had a very frank and useful discussion about various installers and options for solar water heating, including prices (e.g. rebate-eligible, solar water heating installations by certified installers potentially costing net \$6,000 or more, after the \$1,750 federal and provincial rebates). There are also less expensive, non-rebate-eligible, plumber-installed systems available, plus do-it-yourself options **subject to many cautions**. See the references at www.pendercommunitytransition.ca/energy-references-tips-and-skills for more.

Ultimately, it didn't look like we'd have the minimum 10 systems installed by one certified professional to get the \$500 bulk-buying discount that we'd negotiated. This was because the Penderites most interested in solar water heating either could not afford a \$6,000 certified install (after rebate) and didn't have do-it-yourself capability, or they didn't need the larger system required for a rebate, or they had a home evaluation and solar survey, verifying that their treed island lot in a rainy BC coast climate did not have sufficient sun for solar water heating (the case with many of us). However, some Penderites were benefitting from a bulk-buying discount on **professional home energy evaluations** (because the Energy Action Day had led them to book these at the same time). Home evaluations are still great to learn about energy conservation options, even if you don't have any rebate-eligible home refits done.

Penderites interested in solar water heating also expressed a desire for future networking to support do-it-yourself installations of these systems, and other energy-saving projects. In the meantime, anyone who hadn't completed their rebate-eligible solar water heating installation by a certified installer as of January, 2012 was out-of-luck, because that was when the federal government cancelled their related energy rebates (2 months before the announced deadline). Note that the provincial LiveSmart BC energy rebates are supposed to continue until March 31, 2013, including a modest rebate for solar water heating, and a rebate that makes a professional home energy evaluation \$150 cheaper (e.g. \$175 instead of over \$300, plus travel).

Please check out www.pendercommunitytransition.ca/energy-references-tips-and-skills for more useful information about solar water heating. Thanks to all the Penderites who really tried and are continuing to try to explore solar water heating and other energy conservation and energy transition possibilities (to renewable, perpetual energy). This includes the keen Pender do-it-yourselfers who will likely be sharing information and cooperating on this in future!