

Essex Power moving ahead with rooftop installations

Bob Stewart
Staff reporter

Essex Power and their subsidiary Essex Energy Corporation are moving ahead with a plan to turn the roof of the Tecumseh Arena into one of the largest photovoltaic energy systems in Canada.

At a cost of \$400,000 to the Town of Tecumseh, the project will generate 590 kilowatts of power each year from the 2,170 photovoltaic (solar) panels that will be installed in coming months on the arena roof.

"We've partnered with a local company who will make the solar panels in Oldcastle," Tecumseh Mayor Gary McNamara said at the project announcement, which was held in the arena lobby in front of an audience of students from St. Pius Elementary School. "The arena will have

energy efficient lighting, better heating and cooling efficiency, and a total energy reduction of fifty per cent," he said.

Spending about \$1 million a year in energy, Tecumseh stands to make about \$150,000 per year selling energy back into the power grid.

LaSalle and Amherstburg aren't far behind in their preparations for their own roof-mounted photovoltaic systems.

Essex Power president and CEO Ray Tracey said tapping into solar power and giving the Town of Tecumseh the opportunity to earn dividends by selling power back into the grid, is nothing more than "tapping into a power source that's been around since the beginning of time."

The Town of Tecumseh would have to plant some 490 acres of trees to

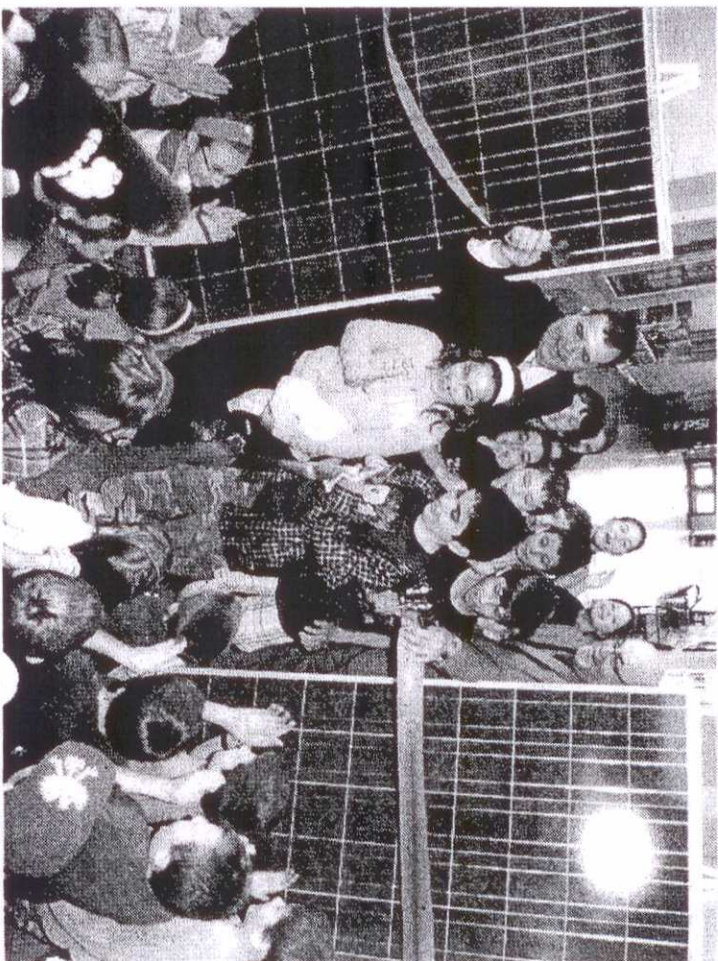
Equivalent energy savers & carbon sinks

The following actions would remove the same amount of energy, or remove the same amount of carbon from the environment as Tecumseh's soon-to-be installed, 590 megawatt roof-mounted photovoltaic system.

- 170 cars and light trucks off the road
- 1,190 lightbulbs turned off for a year
- 490 acres of forest absorbing carbon dioxide
- Not burning 2.337 million litres of gasoline
- 550 people reducing power by 2 per cent

remove the same amount or carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the new system.

"Some say we shouldn't be spending this money right now," Windsor-Tecumseh MPP Dwight Duncan said. "We don't



Lakeshore News photo: Bob Stewart

Windsor-Tecumseh MPP Dwight Duncan and Tecumseh Mayor Gary McNamara help a group of students from St. Pius Elementary School cut the ribbon on a pair of solar panels that will be mounted on the roof of Tecumseh Arena.

agree. We think this is about a better future... and we think this is good for Ontario families."

Essex's Natasha Penny to



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