

Just imagine if a company came along that was willing to pay all the upfront costs of installing a solar thermal heating system for a Canadian hospital. What if they were willing to eliminate maintenance costs? What if the hospital could know today what the cost of the energy will be for the next 10 to 20 years so they could budget accordingly? What if the hospital then only had to pay that set price for energy actually used? Sounds incredible, but this is no fairy tale.

[Mondial Energy](#), in Toronto, **finances solar thermal projects for commercial and multi-unit residential projects**. One of their current projects has them working with SickKids Hospital in Toronto to install 92 solar panels along with 480 gallons of storage volume. This will provide the hospital with hot water for domestic use. The system will collect the sun's energy when the sun is shining and store that energy. The hospital will then have the hot water available for use when they need it most, even if the sun isn't shining. This project only provides hot water to the hospital at this time, but it demonstrates what can be done.

For every project, Mondial Energy **monitors the amount of energy used and green house gases avoided**. On [their website](#), you can look at each project individually and see how much energy is being generated now, how much energy has been generated historically and the amount of greenhouse gases avoided.

Currently, Mondial looks for projects that use large amounts of hot water, which limits it to commercial and multi-unit residential buildings; are financially sound; and can commit to a 20 year project. This has been a challenge in Canada's manufacturing sector where 20 years is a huge commitment. In order to proceed with the project a building permit must be acquired so all the necessary inspections take place. If you need a new roof, this project is not for you.

Organizations, that meet the criteria and want to move into the future, will actually be using a technology that was first patented in 1890s, when Clarence Kemp patented and then sold solar thermal systems to almost one third of the homes in Pasadena, California. Somewhere between then and now, gas and oil became our main source for heating water. Today with prices rising and our increasing understanding of how our behaviours affect our world, more people and organizations are willing to **reconsider our energy sources**.

With Mondial Energy, everyone wins. Mondial Energy provides the financing and takes on the risk, but earns a profit in the long run. Professional solar designers and installers provide the solar system and work on large-scale difficult to finance projects. SickKids Hospital has a competitive and stable price for hot water, at a time when rising energy prices threaten precious and ever more scarce health care dollars. The community lives in a cleaner environment with a reduction in greenhouse gases. A happily ever after story if I ever heard one.

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