

## **Workshop: Intro to Solar PV**

We will discuss solar energy in general, and then focus on photovoltaics (PV). We'll look at how solar electricity works, its magic and its limitations. We'll demonstrate some simple PV systems so you can experience them in action.

Topics covered will include basic types of systems (off-grid, grid-tie, grid-tie with battery back-up), what are the pros and cons of each, and which type might work for you. We will identify the main system components and their functions and we'll feature many examples.

Next we will learn about doing a load assessment and a site assessment as the foundation of designing your own PV system. We'll look at choosing efficient appliances - and which appliances not to choose. Other hands-on activities will include working with a Solar Pathfinder, touring the Nolalu EcoCentre system, and seeing various types of components available. At the end of the day participants will leave with a good basic knowledge of the wondrous world of photovoltaics.

### Bio for Frank Ilczyszyn

Frank Ilczyszyn (pronounced "Elchesin") is the Owner Operator of Frank's Alternate Energy, specializing in custom design and professional installation of "off-the-grid" solar and solar/wind hybrid systems for cottages and homes since 1994. He lives and works entirely "off-grid", generating power through a substantial solar & wind system by his own design. Frank has taught numerous Renewable Energy courses with Jane Oldale, and loves to give attention to detail in all aspects of his work. Frank still gets his kicks from the knowledge that each new system he puts in is another step towards a cleaner, better future.

When not busy detailing system installations for his clients, Frank enjoys watching the metering on his own RE system and is in tune with how it responds to the weather. Frank grew up on a small farm in the Slate River Valley and is a connoisseur of fine locally grown organic garlic.

### Bio for Jane Oldale

Jane lives off the grid in a solar and wind powered house in South Gillies, and has taught numerous courses in Renewable Energy with Frank of Frank's Alternate Energy. She works in environmental outreach/education for EcoSuperior Environmental Programs, and promotes conservation and energy efficiency as the cornerstone for all renewable energy projects. Jane spends her spare time cutting wood and growing a vegetable garden (organic of course!), and has three mottos to live by:

Live simply that others may simply live (Mahatma Gandhi)

Life is uncertain ... eat dessert first

Life's too short for a full-time job.