

## ALTERNATIVE ENERGY



**GEOTHERMAL:** Capture geothermal heat from the ground via heat transfer through a circuit of plastic tubing connected to a buried ground source heat pump. There are various configurations of underground heat exchangers.

*Earth Energy Society of Canada* offers information on geothermal energy providers in Canada. [www.earthenergy.ca](http://www.earthenergy.ca)

The *Canadian GeoExchange Coalition* promotes the use of geothermal systems in Canada. [www.geo-exchange.ca](http://www.geo-exchange.ca)



**SOLAR PANELS:** There are two types. The photovoltaics provide electricity (yield: 15%), and the thermal panels provide hot water (yield: 50%).

The *Solar and Sustainable Energy Society of Canada* is an organization of professionals, researchers and individuals with a common vision for promoting solar energy use in Canada.

[www.sesci.ca](http://www.sesci.ca)



**WIND TURBINES:** Small wind turbines (less than 300 kW) capture energy from the wind to make electricity. For churches in a windy area, this option can be very interesting.

The *Canadian Wind Energy Association* provides the information and decision-making tools you need to learn about small wind energy systems.

[www.canwea.ca](http://www.canwea.ca)



## TRANSPORTATION

In the old days, the church was in the middle of town so it was easily accessible to all. It was normal for people to come to church on foot. Today, the car seems to have replaced the good old “Sunday Walk”. What other options are available to a 21st century pilgrim?

- Install a **bike rack** near the entrance of the church. This courtesy is very popular with cyclists and will encourage others to take up the cycling option.



- Sunday carpooling is a stimulating idea, since members of your community are all going to the same destination: the church. Offer a Pairing Service for the drivers and passengers. Some call this concept: “Carpooling for Christ”. It also offers seniors and others without transportation a way to attend church.

- Find the number of the **bus** route (or **subway** station) that passes closest to your church and print it in your church bulletin and website. Also leave a few bus schedules near the church entrance.



- Celebrate *Car Free Day* by closing off a part of the church’s parking lot on the Sunday closest to **September 22**. This really make us aware of demonstrates our dependence on cars. During the service, invite the Sunday School children to make chalk drawings on the asphalt. Everyone can admire their artwork after the service.
- Encourage car sharing by lending a few parking spaces to a car sharing company. Contact them with this offer, they will be thrilled! To find the carsharing companies in your city, go to [www.carsharing.ca](http://www.carsharing.ca) .
- Improve air quality, reduce noise and help people save money by installing a panel that encourages people to turn off their engine when they are not driving. Your municipality might offer such panels. If they don’t, you can download the sign “**Idle Free Zone**” and install it near parking. These posters are designed by Natural Resources Canada.

