Don't miss Atlantic Eco-Expo 2010

In today's world, everything is "going green", from small businesses and large corporations to entire industries — manufacturing, transportation, construction and more. They are changing how they do business to enhance their operations and help preserve the world around them.

The upcoming Atlantic Eco-Expo 2010, September 17 to 19, will bring together businesses and organizations that are eager to share their eco-friendly products, services and initiatives with individuals interested in living a greener life and creating a greener workplace. The main event will be held at the Halifax Cunard Centre from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Learn green tips from dynamic guest speakers, browse products and services from a variety of eco-friendly exhibitors, learn about fashionable yet sustainable clothing at the eco-fashion show, entertain the kids in the green kids corner, enjoy the flavours of local eco-cuisine, and more.

New this year is the Green Gala Reception that will take place from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on September 17. The gala will offer a great networking opportunity complemented by a panel discussion of green business leaders from across Canada. The goal is to ignite conversation and education to help business leaders in attendance create change throughout their organization.

For more information, check out www.atlanticeco expo.com

Green solutions for your business...

Solar Heating Systems

Looking to save a few dollars on your heating or water bills? EnCom Alternative Energy Solutions (www.encomgroup.com) can make it happen, while reducing your carbon footprint at the same time.

EnCom specializes in providing green or renewable energy products and services to private homes and businesses. One of the company's key products is its solar heating systems. EnCom can provide complete package solar heating systems that integrate into a home or business' domestic hot water as well as its space heating or pool.

Encom features its own advanced solar heating technology called evacuated tubes. These evacuated tubes sit up on your roof facing south and they generate hot water year round. Encom's solar hot water tanks capture that energy, store it and supply it as a pre-heat to your existing hot water heaters. EnCom can also install energy-efficient automatic generators that run off of clean fuel or natural gas. These can back up a home or office with supplementary energy if the power goes out.

Bottle-less Water Coolers

It's a common office pet peeve. No... not those dirty microwaves — water cooler headaches.

Remember when water use to be so simple. Now there are deliveries, heavy bottles, and yes, empty bottles when you need water the most. Not to mention, those bottles aren't filled across the street, they travel hundreds of miles just to get to you. All that transportation leaves a hefty carbon footprint.

What if you could eliminate all those hassles and be eco-friendly? Well there's good news. Alpine Water Systems has a solution — plumbed-in filtered water coolers. The concept might sound strange, but the savings are obvious from day one. These water coolers require no deliveries, no bottle storage, no heavy lifting, and they usually cost about 75 per cent less than bottled water.

Alpine Water Systems has an eco-calculator on its website (www.alpinewater.ca) to help you compare not only the financial cost of bottled water, but the environmental cost as well. For example, an office consuming approximately 15 bottles per month and getting weekly deliveries will contribute around 2,100 pounds of greenhouse gases to the environment per year. This same office will pay around 39 cents per litre for its bottled water, whereas an Alpine Water System would cost about 10 cents per litre.

While we may still have to put up with those dirty microwaves at the office, it's nice to know your next glass of water could be eco-friendly and help your bottom line.