

Are you a small or medium-sized (SME) Ontario manufacturer with an innovative and environmentally-preferred home improvement product or technology?

Are you passionate about working with Canada's leading home improvement retailer to bring your product to market?

## THE HOME DEPOT WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

***Innovation for Sustainability*** is a two year project that brings together The Home Depot and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to bring innovative products and technologies to market. The Home Depot and MEDT will host the first of four 'Meet the Buyer' events in **London on December 13<sup>th</sup>**, designed to connect small manufacturers with The Home Depot buyers to profile innovative environmental home improvement products. If a product is selected after meeting the buyer, it will be stocked at three Home Depot stores in London, Ontario. Following the trial in the London stores, a decision will be made on whether there is an opportunity to scale up and distribute to a larger portion of the Canadian market.

Small and medium-sized Ontario manufacturers may submit information by **November 19th, 2010** about their innovative home improvement product or technology at [www.homedepot.ca/innovationforsustainability](http://www.homedepot.ca/innovationforsustainability) to try to qualify to take part in the project. Companies selected by a merchandising team from The Home Depot will have the opportunity to attend the Meet the Buyer event and subsequently to become a supplier for the large retailer.

By creating an incubator, Innovation for Sustainability provides the optimal conditions for success, enabling qualified small companies to build the capability and capacity needed to do business with a retailer of The Home Depot's scale. Conversely, it builds knowledge within The Home Depot on how to identify, nurture and grow high-potential vendors of innovative products.

The Home Depot is looking to stock innovative and eco-friendly indoor/outdoor building materials, supplies and tools. Home improvement products of key interest include the following **but are not limited to:**

- siding, cement and lumber
- lawn and garden products
- shelving, storage and organizing merchandize
- plumbing,
- paints and painting materials
- hardware, electrical, and power equipment
- outdoor furniture, lawn mowers
- kitchen and bath
- appliances
- window treatments (blinds, shutters)
- flooring (tile, carpet, hardwood)
- sheds
- décor
- heating and cooling systems and supplies
- safety and security
- lighting and fans
- cleaning and janitorial products.

If you need assistance registering for the event or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime. Please let me know if you are interested and are submitting your product for evaluation by Home Depot. [www.homedepot.ca/innovationforsustainability](http://www.homedepot.ca/innovationforsustainability)

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MEDTWebsite: [www.ontario.ca/economy](http://www.ontario.ca/economy)

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