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Ontarians get the green light for 700 rooftop solar projects

Popular new program attracts more than 2,200 applications

Toronto, ON, December 16, 2009 - Seven hundred Ontarians from Ottawa to Windsor to Thunder Bay – including a member of the popular band Barenaked Ladies – will be celebrating a green holiday season after being the first to receive offers to generate renewable electricity under the province's new feed-in tariff program.

The new microFIT program encourages the development of small-scale renewable energy (10 kilowatts or less) from a diverse range of producers, including homeowners, schools, farmers and small businesses. It is part of a broader Ontario feed-in tariff program (FIT), the most comprehensive program of its kind in North America. FIT is also aimed at encouraging community-owned and aboriginal-led projects.

"It's a thrill to be able to power my own lights while at the same time contributing to my city's electrical needs," said Jim Creeggan, bassist for the band Barenaked Ladies. "Now that the microFIT program is up and running, it makes solar a realistic option for more households. With enough homeowners on board, communities will have a greater impact on where our power is coming from. I'm glad solar power is getting out of the fringe and into the mainstream."

The FIT program, one of the cornerstones of the Green Energy Act, provides stable, guaranteed pricing to renewable energy producers of all sizes. It supports the province's commitment to eliminate dirty coal-fired generation by the end of 2014 — the single largest climate change initiative in Canada. FIT and other initiatives under the Green Energy Act will support the creation of 50,000 "green collar" jobs.

"The new microFIT program literally brings power to the people," said Gerry Phillips, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. "It allows homeowners, farmers, schools and Mom and Pop businesses to help power our future and get paid for it, while investing in a new era of 'green collar' jobs and expertise."

"The tremendous initial response to the feed-in tariff signals a strong future for renewable energy in Ontario," said Ontario Power Authority CEO Colin Andersen. "We've cut the red tape and made it simpler for ordinary Ontarians to become electricity producers and they've raced to embrace green energy."

The Ontario Power Authority has received nearly 1,200 microFIT applications since the program began accepting applications on October 1, mostly for residential roof-top solar power systems. These proposed projects have a combined capacity of about 8.6 megawatts (MW), enough to power about 1,000 average homes.

Between October 1 when the program launched and December 1, the Ontario Power Authority also received about 1,000 applications for projects over 10 kilowatts (kW). This large number of applications ensures there will be more than enough high-quality projects to deliver the 2,500 MW of renewable energy earmarked for the first round of the FIT program. These larger scale FIT applications are still being assessed.

The Ontario Power Authority estimates that the first FIT projects will generate in excess of \$5 billion in investments in manufacturing, design, construction and engineering and lead to the creation of thousands of new jobs.

The Ontario Power Authority is responsible for ensuring a reliable, sustainable supply of electricity for Ontario. Its four key areas of focus are: planning the power system for the long term, leading and co-ordinating conservation initiatives across the province, ensuring development of needed generation resources, and supporting the continued evolution of the electricity sector.

Ontario's Feed-In Tariff program backgrounder

Toronto, ON, December 16, 2009

- Ontario's Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program for renewable energy generation is a cornerstone of the province's Green Energy Act. The provincial government launched the program in September 2009, and the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) started accepting applications October 1, 2009. It is North America's first comprehensive feed-in tariff program for renewable energy.
- The program includes a stream called microFIT which is designed to encourage homeowners, businesses and others to generate renewable energy with projects of 10 kilowatts (kW) or less. MicroFIT is designed to make it simpler and faster to get small-scale renewable projects installed and producing power.
- Prices paid for renewable energy generation under FIT and microFIT vary by energy source and take into account the capital investment required to get a project up and running:

Type	Price
Solar PV	- 80.2¢/kWh
Windpower	- 13.5¢/kWh
Waterpower	- 13.1¢/kW
Biomass	- 13.8¢/kWh
Biogas	- 16.0¢/kWh
Landfill gas	- 11.1¢/kWh

- Under the program, participants are paid a fixed-price for the electricity they generate. FIT and microFIT contracts are for 20 years, with the exception of waterpower, which has a 40-year FIT contract.
- Domestic content requirements for both FIT and microFIT projects are intended to help support the creation of 50,000 new green jobs in Ontario. MicroFIT projects will help create new local businesses and green jobs as demand rises for technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines, biomass and electricity storage systems, and for Ontarians who can design, build, install, operate and maintain these technologies.
- The first round of contracts awarded under the FIT program will produce 2500 megawatts (MW) of electricity and will generate in excess of \$5 billion in investments in manufacturing, design, construction and installation and create thousands of new green jobs.
- Currently, approximately 1,275 MW of renewable electricity are in operation in Ontario, excluding large-scale hydro. Since 2003, Ontario has gone from being a lagging jurisdiction on renewable energy to being among one of the North American leaders. *
- Ontario is Canada's leader in wind power and solar photovoltaic capacity. The province is home to both Canada's largest wind and solar farms. Ontario is already among the top 10 solar jurisdictions in Canada and the United States, ranked even higher than sunny places like Florida and Texas.

microFIT Applications

- As of December 1, 2009, the Ontario Power Authority received 1,193 microFIT applications. Ontario Power Authority is continuing to review and verify these applications.
- Breakdown of microFIT applications received as of December 1, 2009 :

Energy Source	Number of Applications	Capacity (kW)
Renewable biomass	4	40
Solar Photovoltaic (PV)	1166	8382
Water	1	2
Wind	22	187
Total	1193	8611

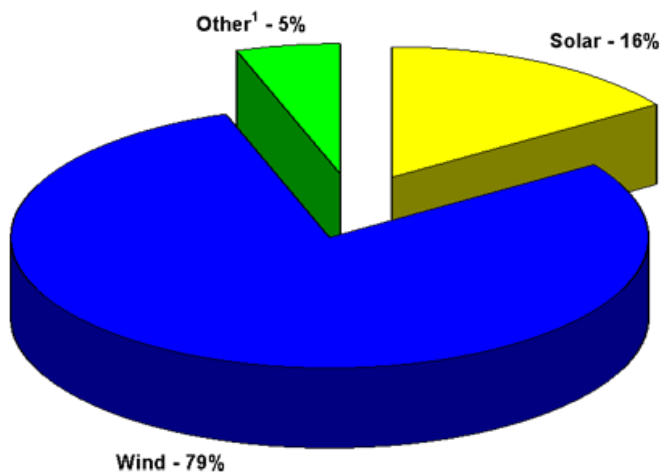
- The week of December 14, 2009, the Ontario Power Authority started sending conditional offers to the first 700 microFIT applicants subject to applicants obtaining approval to connect to the electricity grid from their local distribution company (LDC).
- Once the connection offer is obtained from the LDC and a contract is signed, the length of time it will take for microFIT applicants to start generating electricity will vary depending on the readiness of individual projects.

- People whose microFIT applications were submitted by December 1, 2009 and who have not yet received a conditional offer should hear from the Ontario Power Authority by Jan. 15, 2010. *
- MicroFIT is an ongoing program with applications being accepted on a continual basis. Once the current applications have been processed, the Ontario Power Authority anticipates a 30-day turnaround for microFIT applications. *

FIT Applications

- For these FIT projects, the Ontario Power Authority has estimated that there is approximately 2,500 megawatts of available transmission connection capacity. As of December 1, 2009 the Ontario Power Authority received 1,022 FIT applications with about 8,000 MW of potential electricity generation. This translates into about three megawatts of potential generation for every megawatt of connection capacity available. The Ontario Power Authority is continuing to review and verify these applications and will give priority to "shovel-ready" projects.
- Unlike microFIT applications, which must simply meet certain requirements to qualify for a contract, the first round of FIT applications are prioritized based on specific criteria to determine the most viable and "shovel-ready" projects that can be in operation soonest. FIT applications require a much more extensive review by the Ontario Power Authority, local distribution companies, transmitters and the Independent Electricity System Operator. Given the tremendous number of applications, the Ontario Power Authority has redeployed resources to complete the review.
- In February, the Ontario Power Authority will start offering FIT contracts beginning with Capacity Allocation Exempt projects (500 kW or less), and continuing in March with all of the rest of the FIT projects.
- The 1,000 FIT applications have an estimated 8,000 megawatts (MW) of potential electricity generation:

FIT Launch Applications - Under Review



1 – Biogas, Biogas (On Farm), Biomass, Landfill Gas, Water

- Economically viable projects that do not receive contracts will be considered once more transmission connection capacity is available or approved. The Ontario Power Authority will determine viability through an Economic Connection Test. The Ontario Power Authority will carry out this test every six months on a rotating basis throughout the province. The schedule for the test will be developed as part of the review process.

Transmission Expansion

- 1,500 MW of additional transmission capacity will be delivered through the Bruce to Milton transmission project that Hydro One currently has underway.
- Ontario is undertaking an ambitious program of expansion and renewal of the province's transmission facilities. Twenty transmission projects as well as investments into the distribution network were announced last September to ensure there is enough capability for renewable generation resulting from the FIT and the Green Energy Act. The projects represent an investment of about \$2.3 billion over the next three years, and are expected to result in about 20,000 jobs. They include core lines, which form the backbone of the transmission system, and enabler lines. Hydro One Networks is leading these transmission expansion initiatives.
- Planning for six core transmission network upgrades are moving forward, including North-South lines from Sudbury to Barrie and Barrie to the Greater Toronto Area and an East-West line from Nipigon to Wawa. In addition to bringing more renewable power online, these significant upgrades will strengthen the reliability of Ontario's transmission system and increase energy transfer across the province.

September 24, 2009 - green energy rules make Ontario a North American leader

New regulations introduced today will create thousands of jobs in the new green economy under Ontario's Green Energy Act.

Ontario's new regulations provide a stable investment environment where companies know what the rules are -- giving them the confidence to invest in Ontario, hire workers, and produce and sell renewable energy.

The major components of [Ontario's Green Energy Act](#) include:

- A Feed-In-Tariff program, which allows individuals and companies to sell renewable energy -- like solar, wind, water, biomass, biogas and landfill gas -- into the grid at set rates.
- Domestic content requirements, which would ensure at least 25 per cent of wind projects and 50 per cent of solar projects be produced in Ontario -- requirements for solar will increase by January 1, 2011 and wind will increase by January 1, 2012.
- A streamlined approvals process and a service guarantee to bring developers greater certainty.
- Regulations for setting wind turbines certain distances from houses, roadways and property lines.
- A new Ontario Renewable Energy Facilitation Office -- a one-stop shop to help renewable energy projects get off the ground faster.

More than 50,000 direct and indirect jobs will be created under the Act. Investments in new renewable energy projects already in place or under construction in Ontario since 2003 exceed \$4 billion.

QUICK FACTS

- * Ontario is Canada's leading province in wind power, producing enough electricity to power more than 300,000 homes -- or a city the size of Markham.
- * The Green Energy Act will aid Ontario's commitment to eliminate coal-fired power by 2014 -- the single largest climate change initiative in Canada.
- * Ontario has gone from 10 turbines in 2003, to more than 670 spinning today and will have 975 by 2012.

LEARN MORE

- * [Read more about the major components of Ontario's Green Energy Act](#)
- * [See Ontario's Ten Steps to Green Energy](#)
- * [Find out how Ontario is helping Aboriginal communities get involved in green energy.](#)

"Ontario has taken the lead in Canada and set the ground rules for doing green business. Now investors, renewable energy companies and skilled workers can really move our green economy forward."

– **Dalton McGuinty**

Premier of Ontario

"Ontario wants green energy business. These regulations will help ensure industry and municipalities that jobs will be created, investment is committed and that the renewable energy industry grows across the province."

– **George Smitherman**

Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure

"These changes not only give us an economic advantage, they will protect our environment, combat climate change and create a healthier future for Ontarians."

– **John Gerretsen**

Minister of the Environment

September 24, 2009 - Ontario makes it easier, faster to grow green energy

September 24, 2009 9:51 AM

Ontario has launched a series of bold measures to attract new investment in renewable energy projects and build a green economy that will promote the creation of 50,000 jobs over the next three years. Today's announcement completes the final four steps of Ontario's momentous "Ten Steps to Green Energy," which will create green jobs and open green energy investment opportunities throughout the province.

STEP 7: Ontario has established the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO), a one-window access point to assist developers, communities and municipalities obtain information on developing renewable energy projects in Ontario, and help them navigate through the regulatory approvals necessary to bring their projects to life.

STEP 8: Establishing minimum setbacks for wind turbine projects, as part of the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process, which became law on Sept. 24, 2009. The REA is designed to ensure that renewable energy projects are developed in a way that is protective of human health, the environment, and Ontario's cultural and natural heritage.

STEP 9: Ontario develops domestic content requirements which would ensure at least 25 per cent of wind project costs and 50 per cent of large solar project costs come from Ontario goods and labour. Requirements for solar will increase on Jan. 1, 2011 and requirements for wind will increase on Jan. 1, 2012.

STEP 10: The Green Energy Act introduces North America's first comprehensive feed-in tariff program that guarantees specific rates for energy generated from renewable sources. It is designed to encourage the development of renewable energy projects by a range of generators including Aboriginal communities, homeowners, farmers, schools, stores, factories, co-ops, offices and larger-scale commercial generators.

With certainty in the rules and regulations, guarantees in prices for energy generated from renewable sources and domestic content requirements in support of the growth of new "green collar" jobs, companies will have the confidence to invest in Ontario, hire workers, and produce and sell renewable energy.

Feed-in Tariff Program

The Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program offers long-term price guarantees for renewable electricity generators, which will increase investor confidence and make it easier to finance projects. Ontario's FIT program will encourage billions of dollars in investment to help Ontario's energy supply mix become one of the cleanest in North America. The FIT has several key features:

- allows all sizes of generators, from homeowners to large developers to participate;
- has prices that are intended to cover total project costs and provide a reasonable rate of return over a 20-year contract (40 years for waterpower);
- is open to various renewable energy technologies: biogas, biomass, landfill gas, solar photovoltaic (PV), wind and waterpower;
- provides incentives for Aboriginal projects;
- provides incentives for community-based projects;
- provides a straightforward way to obtain a contract for renewable electricity generation;
- has different prices for different technologies and different project sizes; and
- includes domestic content requirements.

FIT payments can range from 10.3 cents per kilowatt-hour (c/kWh) for landfill gas projects larger than 10 MW to 80.2 c/kWh for residential solar rooftop projects 10 kW or smaller. The FIT also includes a "price adder" for Aboriginal and community projects to encourage participation.

Domestic Content

Developers will be required to have a certain percentage of their project costs come from Ontario goods and labour at the time they reach commercial operation.

For wind, the requirement will start at 25% and increase to 50% on Jan. 1, 2012.

For micro solar PV (10 kW or smaller), the requirement will start at 40% and increase to 60% on Jan. 1, 2011.

For larger solar PV, the requirement will start at 50% and increase to 60% on Jan. 1, 2011.

The domestic content regulations will encourage investment, green manufacturing, construction and installation jobs in Ontario.

The Ontario Power Authority will begin accepting FIT applications on Oct. 1, 2009 and expects to sign the first contracts in early December.

Ontario will direct the OPA that there is to be no ground-mounted solar procurement above 100 kilowatts on class 1 and 2 or Specialty Crop Areas to provide continued protection of such lands. Some ground-mounted solar procurement, up to 500 megawatts, will be allowed on Class 3 lands, allocated on a regional basis.

Renewable Energy Approval (REA)

The Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process becomes law today, Sept. 24, 2009, and is designed to ensure that renewable energy projects are developed in a way that is protective of human health, the environment, and Ontario's cultural and natural heritage. While the FIT program simplifies the contracts and pricing for new projects, a

streamlined approvals process makes it easier to bring renewable energy projects to life.

The REA:

- Takes a cautious approach to setbacks and noise limits by establishing the largest setback requirements in Canada, the United States and eight European countries -- a minimum setback of 550 metres for one to five wind turbines, with setbacks increasing with the number and the sound level rating of turbines
- Integrates environmental approvals, providing clear provincial rules and requirements, transparent decision-making and certainty for stakeholders and proponents.
- Integrates the former regulatory approval requirements, including: municipal planning approvals, Environmental Assessments, Certificates of Approval, Permissions to Take Water and other provincial approvals and permits.
- Establishes consultation processes for municipalities and communities in relation to project site requirements and local infrastructure.
- Encourages Aboriginal consultation early in the process with communities identified by the Crown.
- Is coordinated with other provincial approvals to ensure a streamlined approach, providing a six-month service guarantee per project.

Renewable Energy Facilitation Office

The newly created Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO) is a one-window access point for information on renewable energy project requirements, and can connect Ontarians with the appropriate resources to assist them in navigating through the approvals and Feed-in Tariff processes.

The REFO functions as a source of information for renewable energy developers, communities, and municipalities, and can act as a liaison between these parties and Ontario's ministries and agencies. The REFO can assist in setting up a coordinated orientation meeting to discuss your project's requirements. This meeting can help clarify various requirements related to your renewable energy project.

As an umbrella body with no regulatory responsibilities, REFO has a unique understanding of the renewable energy regime and serves to educate all its parties based on its understanding.

September 24, 2009 - Ontario's ten steps to green energy

September 24, 2009 10:00 AM

Throughout September the Ontario government took ten steps to bring the Green Energy Act to life. These milestones helped transition the province to more electricity generated from green energy, which will create 50,000 jobs over the next three years, open investment opportunities in Ontario's green economy and establish the province as North America's leader in renewable energy.

The steps include:

1. Ontario makes landmark progress on Canada's largest climate change initiative as the province prepares to close four coal-fuelled power units in 2010 - four years ahead of the 2014 target. The announcement advances the province's transition to electricity generated from green energy which will open investment and opportunities in Ontario's green economy.
2. Ontario launches an Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program. This initiative will build capacity and participation through support for community energy plans, funding for feasibility studies and the development of an Aboriginal Renewable Energy Network.
3. Ontario announces the \$250 million Aboriginal Loan Guarantee program (ALGP). Under the program, Aboriginal communities will be eligible for loan guarantees to take on equity participation in renewable generation and transmission projects. The AGLP will facilitate Aboriginal participation in energy projects by providing loan guarantees for up to 75% of an Aboriginal corporation's equity in an eligible project.
4. In a historic move, Ontario gives the go-ahead to Hydro One to begin work on 20 transmission projects that are expected to create about 20,000 jobs and spur green economic development across the province over the next three years. Six core transmission network upgrades are moving forward, including North-South lines from Sudbury to Barrie and Barrie to the Greater Toronto Area and an East-West line from Nipigon to Wawa. Another series of core-supporting transmission projects and distribution upgrades are also moving ahead.
5. Ontario makes it easier for communities in Ontario, including farmers, co-ops and non-profit organizations, to bring green energy projects to life. Through the Community Energy Partnerships Program the province will provide one-time support to community groups to assist with the "soft" or developmental costs associated with new renewable energy projects.
6. Ontario makes it easier for municipalities to bring green energy projects to their communities. Through the Municipal Renewable Energy Program, the province will provide support to municipalities for costs associated with new renewable energy projects. While many of these costs are, and will continue to be, appropriately charged to the developers themselves, it is expected some additional costs may arise.
7. Ontario establishes the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO), a one-window access point to assist developers, communities and municipalities obtain information on developing renewable energy projects in Ontario, and help them navigate through the regulatory approvals necessary to bring their projects to life.
8. The Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process becomes law and is designed to ensure that renewable energy projects are developed in a way that is protective of human health, the environment, and Ontario's cultural and natural heritage.
9. Ontario develops domestic content requirements which would ensure at least 25 per cent of wind projects and 50 per cent of large solar projects be produced in Ontario. Requirements for solar will increase on Jan. 1, 2011 and requirements for wind will increase on Jan. 1, 2012.
10. The Green Energy Act introduces North America's first comprehensive feed-in tariff program that guarantees specific rates for energy generated from renewable sources. It is designed to encourage the development of renewable energy projects by a range of generators including First Nations and Métis communities, homeowners, farmers, schools, stores, factories, co-ops, offices and larger-scale commercial generators.

Amy Tang, Minister's Office, 416-327-6747

Eric Pelletier, Communications Branch 416-325-1810

April 22, 2009 - renewable energy supply survey results

Background

The Ontario Power Authority has recently conducted a renewable energy supply survey to better understand the near-term development potential of renewable projects. This survey will provide the OPA with preliminary indications as to the potential overall program uptake, geographic distribution, and distribution between fuel and technology type.

Developers were requested to complete a survey for projects greater than 10 kW that are in the planning or development stages. Projects currently holding a RESOP contract were excluded.

General information was requested e.g. name, location, technology, capacity, LDC, connection point, transformer station, CIA/SIA status, financing status, level of site control and expected in-service date.

The survey was distributed to the following groups:

- RESOP email news subscribers
- Renewable energy developers through industry associations
- Developers that have requested CIAs or SIAs (through Hydro One)
- Current RESOP contract holders

Results

The OPA received responses from approximately 150 developers representing 381 projects under various stages of development. The survey results indicated a potential of **15,128MW** of renewable energy supply, this figure also includes information gathered from recent OPA procurement initiatives. This level of interest highlights the significant need for new transmission and distribution infrastructure investments to bring potential new supply onto the grid.

- 46 Projects between 10 kW to 999 kW (16 MW in total)
- 220 Projects between 1 MW to 10 MW (1,641 MW in total)
- 115 Projects between 10.1MW to 600 MW (13,470 MW in total)

Breakdown of Projects by Fuel Type

Fuel Type	Number of Projects	Aggregate Capacity (MW)
Wind	164	13,382
Water	58	374
SolarPV	121	1,213
Bio-Energy	38	159
Total	381	15,128

Location

Development of renewable energy projects are mainly concentrated in Southern Ontario. There is significant development interest in Central and Northern Ontario.