

microFIT FAQ

Version 4.1

July 14, 2017

Introduction

The microFIT program is a stream of the (FIT) Program for renewable energy in Ontario. It is intended to encourage the development of “micro-scale” renewable energy projects across the province. Owners of these projects are paid a fixed price for the electricity they produce. The program was enabled by the Green Energy Act of 2009. All information about the microFIT program is available through the IESO's [microFIT website](#). The registration, Application and contracting processes are web-based.

These FAQs have been developed for the purpose of assisting prospective Applicants and other interested parties in understanding the microFIT 4.1 Application and review process and the microFIT 4.1 Application materials. FAQs are generally organized by the applicable section in the microFIT Rules, Version 4.1. This document is expected to be updated as new questions are asked regarding the procurement.

After review of the information material, should you have additional questions, please email the microFIT Team at microFIT@ieso.ca.

Disclaimer

Reading these FAQs is NOT a substitute for reading and understanding the microFIT Rules and microFIT Contract or obtaining legal advice relating to your rights and obligations within the microFIT Program.

Applicants are advised to read and understand all of the microFIT Rules, Standard Definitions, and microFIT Contract, and to seek their own advice from the appropriate legal or technical advisors.

All capitalized terms not otherwise defined in these FAQs have the meanings ascribed to them in the microFIT Rules, Version 4.1.

These FAQs are not binding on the IESO and in no way vary or impact the interpretation of the microFIT Rules or microFIT Contract. In the event there is any conflict or inconsistency between this document and the microFIT Rules or microFIT Contract, the terms in the microFIT Rules and microFIT Contract govern.

Document Change History

Version	Reason for Change	Date
1	microFIT 4.0 FAQs posted	June 21, 2016
2	microFIT 4.1 FAQs added	January 1, 2017
3	microFIT year-end update added	July 14, 2017

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1. FAQs for New Potential Applicants

1.1 WHAT IS A FEED-IN-TARIFF (FIT) AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

A feed-in-tariff (or FIT) is a straightforward way to contract for renewable energy generation. It provides standardized program rules, prices and contracts. Feed-in tariffs refer to the specific prices paid to renewable energy suppliers for the electricity produced by the generating facility. The pricing structure provides a reasonable return on investment and is differentiated by project size and technology type.

Ontario's FIT Program, which launched on October 1, 2009, is the first of its kind in North America. While it incorporates lessons learned in several European countries and other jurisdictions, it has been specifically tailored to meet the unique needs of Ontario's electricity system and situation.

1.2 WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FIT PROGRAM AND THE MICROFIT PROGRAM?

The microFIT Program is a "stream" or component of the FIT Program, designed specifically to encourage the development of micro-scale renewable energy projects, such as residential solar photovoltaic (PV) installations and small wind power facilities. These are often referred to as "micro-generators".

The main differences are in the eligibility criteria, the contracting process and the rules. Projects eligible for microFIT must have a generating capacity of 10 kW or less. The contracting and application process is streamlined and the contract is simplified in the microFIT Program.

Projects with a generating capacity greater than 10 kW must apply to the FIT Program.

1.3 WHAT AREAS OF THE PROVINCE CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE FIT AND MICROFIT PROGRAMS?

All areas of the province connected to the IESO-controlled grid can participate, provided there is sufficient connection capacity to connect your project. This includes projects connected directly to the transmission system, to a distribution system connected to the IESO-controlled grid, or to a distribution system embedded within another distribution system. There are a few areas not connected to the Ontario grid that would not be able to participate in the FIT and microFIT Programs. These include Cornwall, which is connected to the Quebec grid, and remote communities in Northern Ontario.

1.4 DOES THE IESO HAVE A LIST OF RECOMMENDED REPRESENTATIVES / CONTRACTORS / VENDORS / INSTALLERS / RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION EQUIPMENT?

The IESO does not make recommendations for contractors, vendors, installers or renewable energy generation equipment. The IESO also does not maintain a certified or recommended list of microFIT vendors. No contractor, vendor or installer is in any way associated or affiliated with the IESO (or the Ontario Power Authority, which is a predecessor company of the IESO).

1.5 DOES THE IESO CONDUCT DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION TO PROMOTE THE MICROFIT PROGRAM OR HAVE AUTHORIZED VENDORS?

The IESO does not conduct door-to-door solicitation to promote its programs, including the microFIT Program. Neither does the IESO authorize third parties to represent the microFIT Program or issue approvals on its behalf.

All information regarding the microFIT Program can be found on this website. The IESO strongly recommends that interested participants review all documents posted here, including the microFIT Program Rules.

1.6 IS THERE A FEE ASSOCIATED WITH SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO THE IESO FOR THE MICROFIT PROGRAM?

There is no fee required by the IESO to submit an application to the microFIT Program. Any fees that are collected by a third-party service provider are not given to the IESO.

1.7 I HAVE GIVEN MONEY TO MY REPRESENTATIVE TO INSTALL A MICROFIT PROJECT. THE REPRESENTATIVE HAS NOT INSTALLED MY MICROFIT PROJECT. I WANT MY MONEY BACK. CAN YOU GIVE IT BACK TO ME OR HOW CAN I GET IT BACK?

The IESO does not mitigate issues between applicants or contract holders and third parties, as the use of third-party services is solely at the discretion of the applicant or contract holder.

If you are thinking of using a third-party service provider to facilitate your participation in the microFIT program, be sure to conduct your due diligence on the third-party service provider before you decide to do business with them.

If you believe you are a victim of fraudulent or other potentially illegal activity, please consider reporting the matter to the Better Business Bureau and, if needed, to the local police. If your third-party provider is a member of, or employed by a member of, the Canadian Solar Industries Association (“CanSIA”), you should also consider filing a complaint with CanSIA by emailing consumerprotection@cansia.ca. Please also send your concern to the IESO’s microFIT mailbox at microFIT@ieso.ca. You can also call the IESO Call Centre at 1-877-797-9473.

1.8 IF I AM WORKING WITH A THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDER TO SUBMIT MY APPLICATION, WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

If your application is being prepared and submitted by a representative, a Representative and Applicant Declaration package must be submitted together with your application. This package of documents can be found under [Program Documents](#). The Representative and Applicant Declaration package consists of the following documents: (i) Representative and Applicant Declarations, each of which must be signed in the presence of, and commissioned by, a notary public or a commissioner for taking affidavits, (ii) Using a Representative in the microFIT Program: Information for Applicants and Confirmation, which must be signed by Applicants and (iii) Representative Agreement, which must be executed by the representative.

The declarations to be made by the representative can be found in Section A of the Applicant and Representative Declaration and include the following:

1. The representative has provided the applicant with the username, password and microFIT registration ID number to enable them to access the "My microFIT Home Page" associated with their application.
2. The representative has reviewed and understood the version 4.1 microFIT Rules and Contract.
3. The representative has provided complete and accurate contact information for the representative and the applicant.

The declarations to be made by the applicant can be found in Section B of the Applicant and Representative Declaration and confirm many of the representative's declarations contained in the Section A.

Please view the Representative and Applicant Declaration package, which can be found on the [Program Documents](#) page, for additional information.

1.9 WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN APPLICANT TO THE MICROFIT PROGRAM?

If your application is **not** being prepared and submitted by a representative, you will be required to complete and submit an Applicant Declaration. Each additional Applicant must complete a separate Applicant Declaration. Please note that Applicant Declarations must be signed in the presence of, and commissioned by, a notary public or a commissioner for taking affidavits.

If your application is being prepared and submitted by a representative, a Representative and Applicant Declaration package must be submitted along with your application. This form can be found under [Program Documents](#). The Representative and Applicant Declaration package consists of the following documents: (i) Representative and Applicant Declarations, each of which must be signed in the presence of, and commissioned by, a notary public or a commissioner for taking affidavits, (ii) Using a Representative in the microFIT Program: Information for Applicants and Confirmation, which must be signed by Applicants and (iii) Representative Agreement, which must be executed by the representative.

The rights and responsibilities of an applicant when using a representative in preparing and/or submitting an application to the microFIT program can be found in the “Using a Representative in the microFIT Program: Information for Applicants and Confirmation” document. It is important to be aware of your rights and responsibilities as a participant in the microFIT Program.

A helpful checklist of questions to ask, found on the [Using Third-Party Service Providers](#) page, that you may find useful when you are developing your microFIT Project is now available. These questions will help you to make informed decisions before you invest in your microFIT Project.

1.10 WILL THE IESO REIMBURSE ME IF MY REPRESENTATIVE DOES NOT FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS IN INSTALLING MY PROPOSED MICROFIT PROJECT?

The IESO is not liable or responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by an applicant or contract holder under any circumstances, including in the event of termination of the application or contract.

It is the exclusive responsibility of the applicant, and third parties who act on behalf of the applicant, to be fully aware of the IESO’s microFIT Program Rules, microFIT Contract, policies and timelines. The IESO does not mitigate issues between applicants and third-party service providers as the use of third-party services is at the discretion of the applicant.

If you believe you are a victim of fraudulent or other illegal activity, please consider reporting the matter to the Better Business Bureau and, if needed, to the local police. If your third-party provider is a member of, or employed by a member of, the Canadian Solar Industries Association (“CanSIA”), you should also consider filing a complaint with CanSIA by emailing consumerprotection@cansia.ca. Please also send your concern to the IESO’s microFIT mailbox at microFIT@ieso.ca. You can also call the IESO Call Centre at 1-877-797-9473.

1.11 WHAT ARE THE IESO’S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE MICROFIT PROGRAM?

The IESO administers the microFIT Program. The IESO assesses applications to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria under the microFIT Rules. In addition, the IESO manages all microFIT contracts that have been awarded to successful applicants for the duration of the contract term, which is 20 years (and 40 years for waterpower projects).

1.12 I HAVE RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM THE IESO THAT I HAVE A NEW MICROFIT MESSAGE. HOW CAN I RETRIEVE THIS MESSAGE? I DO NOT HAVE THE LOGIN CREDENTIALS TO ACCESS THE MESSAGE.

All microFIT applications and contracts are linked to a unique registration ID that is created at the time of registration. If your Application was submitted by a representative acting on your behalf, the representative has a responsibility to provide you with the current username and password that is associated with your application. Once you have received these credentials, you can view your messages by logging onto the [My microFIT Home Page](#) and then clicking on the “My microFIT Messages” inbox.

If you do not have access to your [My microFIT Home Page](#) you must contact your representative directly. If your representative will not or cannot provide your login credentials to you, contact microFIT@ieso.ca.

1.13 HOW CAN I REPORT POTENTIAL FRAUD THAT HAS OCCURRED WITH MY MICROFIT APPLICATION OR CONTRACT?

If you believe you are a victim of fraudulent or illegal activity, please consider reporting the matter to the Better Business Bureau and, if needed, to the local police. If your third-party provider is a member of, or employed by a member of, the Canadian Solar Industries Association (“CanSIA”), you should also consider filing a complaint with CanSIA by emailing consumerprotection@cansia.ca. Please also send your concern to the IESO’s microFIT mailbox at microFIT@ieso.ca. You can also call the IESO Call Centre at 1-877-797-9473.

1.14 ARE SETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENTS WITH A THIRD-PARTY SOLAR PROVIDER PERMISSIBLE UNDER THE MICROFIT CONTRACT, AND WOULD SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT CONSTITUTE A PARTIAL ASSIGNMENT OF SETTLEMENT RIGHTS?

Depending on the terms of a settlement arrangement, a settlement arrangement that involves a redirection of microFIT generation payments may or may not constitute a partial assignment of settlement rights. A settlement arrangement that constitutes a partial assignment of settlement rights would be a breach of your microFIT contract. If you have any doubt as to whether your settlement arrangement is in compliance with your microFIT Contract, please obtain independent legal advice.

1.15 IT’S TAX SEASON. WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN APPLICANT OR CONTRACT HOLDER FOR THE MICROFIT PROGRAM FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES?

The IESO does not provide business and/or tax advice. The IESO strongly recommends that microFIT participants obtain independent professional business and/or tax advice.

Generation payments may be considered revenue by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Applicants and contract holders for the microFIT Program may wish to refer to the [Canada Revenue Agency \(CRA\) website](#) for additional information.

1.16 DO I NEED INSURANCE FOR MY MICROFIT PROJECT?

You should check with your insurance company to determine whether additional insurance coverage is required for your home or renewable generating facility. As a homeowner, you will likely be required to obtain additional insurance coverage. If this is the case, you should have your installation company discuss your project with your insurance company to ensure that the

insurance company understands the renewable energy technology associated with your project.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada has developed some [insurance tips for microFIT participants](#). The Insurance Bureau of Canada is also available to answer your questions at the following numbers:

Insurance Bureau of Canada
Ontario Consumer Information Centre
Tel: 416-362-9528
Toll-free: 1-800-387-2880

1.17 IF I INSTALL ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS, DOES THAT MEAN I'LL NEVER HAVE TO PAY ANOTHER ELECTRICITY BILL?

No. You will be paid for all of the electricity produced from your solar panels, but you will continue to pay for all of the electricity that you consume. Power generated under the microFIT Program is to be metered and accounted for separately from any electricity consumed by the load customer.

1.18 WILL MY PROPERTY TAXES GO UP IF I INSTALL A MICROFIT PROJECT ON MY PROPERTY?

The Canadian Revenue Agency has created a webpage with information regarding potential tax implications of owning a microFIT project: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/thrtpcs/nt-ft/q1-eng.html>.

The Ontario Ministry of Finance has also provided an update on property tax treatment of renewable energy installations: <http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2012/01/fact-sheet.html>.

If you have any questions about the potential tax implications of installing a microFIT project, we encourage you to consult an accountant or other tax specialist with knowledge about renewable energy projects. We also encourage you to contact your local municipality to discuss your project in the context of local taxation.

1.19 IS THERE A PENALTY IF I DECIDE I NO LONGER WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MICROFIT PROGRAM?

An applicant may terminate its microFIT application at any time without penalty, by providing written notice to the IESO.

A microFIT contract holder may terminate a contract with the consent of the IESO. There are no fees or penalties for terminating your microFIT contract with the IESO; however, you will no longer receive payments for power generated from your renewable energy system following termination. Also note that if your connection agreement with your LDC is terminated, your microFIT contract is terminated automatically. Please note that there may be fees or penalties associated with the termination of your connection agreement with the LDC and any

agreements you have entered into with other third parties.

2. microFIT version 4.1

2.1 WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CHANGES TO THE MICROFIT PROGRAM FOR VERSION 4.1?

On January 1, 2017, Version 4.1 of the microFIT Program came into effect. The only change made is the implementation of the 2017 FIT/microFIT Price Schedule; no other changes were made to the microFIT Program. All active applications that were not set to Pending Connection status prior to January 1, 2017 were automatically considered under version 4.1.

Version 4.1 rules, contract, eligible participant schedule, price schedule and prescribed forms can be found in the [Program Documents](#) section of the microFIT website.

2.2 WHEN DID THE IESO START ACCEPTING MICROFIT APPLICATIONS FOR VERSION 4.1?

Version 4.1 of the microFIT Program was launched on January 1, 2017. Applications will continue to be accepted towards the 2017 Procurement Target of 50 MW.

2.3 WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CHANGES TO THE MICROFIT PRESCRIBED FORMS FOR VERSION 4.1?

Version 4.1 prescribed forms have been updated to include only minor changes. The prescribed forms can be found in the [Program Documents](#) section of the microFIT website.

2.4 I AM NOT WORKING WITH A THIRD-PARTY REPRESENTATIVE, WHY DO I NEED TO PROVIDE AN APPLICANT DECLARATION?

For version 4.0 and 4.1, all applicants (whether or not they are working with a representative) are required to complete and submit an Applicant Declaration that is signed in the presence of, and commissioned by, a notary public or a commissioner for taking affidavits. This additional requirement has been implemented to help ensure that all applicants understand their rights and responsibilities under the microFIT program, have access to their My microFIT Home Page and understand and comply with the microFIT Rules.

2.5 I AM WORKING WITH A THIRD-PARTY REPRESENTATIVE. DO I NEED TO PROVIDE AN APPLICANT DECLARATION AS WELL AS A REPRESENTATIVE AND APPLICANT DECLARATION?

If you are working with a representative, you are required to complete and submit the Representative and Applicant Declaration package, which consists of the following documents: (i) Representative and Applicant Declarations, each of which must be signed in the presence of, and commissioned by, a notary public or a commissioner for taking affidavits, (ii) Using a Representative in the microFIT Program: Information for Applicants and Confirmation, which must be signed by Applicants and (iii) Representative Agreement, which must be executed by the representative.

2.6 I APPLIED UNDER VERSION 4.0, BUT I MY APPLICATION DID NOT RECEIVE AN APPLICATION APPROVAL NOTICE BEFORE THE LAUNCH OF VERSION 4.1. WILL MY APPLICATION AUTOMATICALLY BE CONSIDERED UNDER VERSION 4.1?

Yes. All active applications that were not set to Pending Connection status prior to January 1, 2017 were automatically considered under version 4.1.

2.7 WHAT IS THE PROCUREMENT TARGET FOR VERSION 4.1?

Applications submitted under version 4.1 of the microFIT program will continue to be accepted towards the 2017 Procurement Target of 50 MW.

2.8 WHEN WILL THE IESO CEASE ACCEPTING MICROFIT APPLICATIONS?

The IESO will accept applications under the microFIT Program up to and including Thursday, December 28, 2017, or until the 50 MW procurement target is reached. The IESO is required to stop accepting applications under the microFIT Program by December 31, 2017, as per the direction issued by the Minister of Energy on [April 5, 2016](#).

3. microFIT version 4.0

3.1 WHAT WERE THE MAJOR CHANGES TO THE MICROFIT PROGRAM FOR VERSION 4.0?

Key changes that have been introduced in version 4.0 of the microFIT program include the following:

- A new price for solar photovoltaic (PV) rooftop projects that are 6 kilowatts (kW) or smaller
- In-series metering is allowed if permitted by your local distribution company

- Projects must be built and connected and connection details must be reported to the IESO by your local distribution company within 180 days of the date of your Application Approval Notice
- New provisions have been introduced in the microFIT contract relating to (i) the suspension of generation payments if a supplier is found to be in breach of its microFIT contract and (ii) set off rights of the IESO.
- All applicants who are not working with a representative are now required to complete and submit an Applicant Declaration that is signed in the presence of, and commissioned by, a notary public or a commissioner for taking affidavits.
- All applicants that are working with a representative are now required to complete and submit a Representative and Applicant Declaration package, which consists of the following documents: (i) Representative and Applicant Declarations, each of which must be signed in the presence of, and commissioned by, a notary public or a commissioner for taking affidavits, (ii) Using a Representative in the microFIT Program: Information for Applicants and Confirmation, which must be signed by Applicants and (iii) Representative Agreement, which must be executed by the representative.
- The Eligible Participant Schedule has been expanded to allow for limited partnerships under the Aboriginal Community Eligible Participant type.

Version 4.0 rules, contract, eligible participant schedule, price schedule and prescribed forms can be found in the [Program Documents](#) section of the microFIT website.

3.2 WHEN DID THE IESO START ACCEPTING MICROFIT APPLICATIONS FOR VERSION 4.0?

Version 4.0 of the microFIT Program was launched on June 21, 2016.

3.3 WHY DID THE IESO STOP ACCEPTING MICROFIT APPLICATIONS FOR VERSION 3.3?

On April 25, 2016, following the discovery of a number of irregular and incomplete applications, the IESO announced that it would temporarily stop accepting applications while new program enhancements were developed for microFIT version 4.0. The decision to cease accepting applications was taken to protect microFIT participants and the integrity of the microFIT Program.

3.4 WILL THE NEW PRICE FOR SOLAR PV ROOFTOP PROJECTS THAT ARE 6 KW OR SMALLER BE AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PREVIOUS VERSIONS OF THE PROGRAM?

No. Any applications submitted under earlier versions of the microFIT Program will not be eligible for the new solar PV (rooftop) ≤6kW price. The contract price for your microFIT project will correspond to the applicable renewable fuel type and size tranche in the FIT/microFIT Price Schedule that is in effect on the date of your Application Approval Notice.

3.5 I APPLIED UNDER VERSION 3.3, BUT I MY APPLICATION DID NOT RECEIVE AN APPLICATION APPROVAL NOTICE BEFORE THE LAUNCH OF VERSION 4.0. WILL MY APPLICATION AUTOMATICALLY BE CONSIDERED UNDER VERSION 4.0?

No. Any active Applications that did not receive an Application Approval Notice prior to the launch of version 4.0 will be terminated.

If your Application is terminated and you would like to continue with your project, you may reapply under version 4.0. If you decide to reapply under version 4.0, you will be subject to the version 4.0 microFIT Rules and requirements, including the completion and submission of all applicable prescribed forms.

3.6 HOW HAVE THE 180 DAY APPLICATION APPROVAL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS CHANGED FROM VERSION 3.3?

Under version 4.0, if an Application is approved by the IESO, the Applicant must build its microFIT Project, upload a copy of its Electrical Safety Authority Connection Authorization to its My microFIT Home Page, and the LDC must provide connection details of the Applicant's microFIT Project to the IESO within 180 days of the date of the Application Approval Notice, failing which the Application will be terminated.

Applicants must work within their LDC's timelines in order to satisfy all of the requirements of the Application Approval Notice.

4. Project Eligibility Requirements

4.1 WHAT PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A MICROFIT CONTRACT?

You must be an Eligible Participant to participate in the microFIT Program. Please review the microFIT Rules and Eligible Participant Schedule to determine if you are eligible. These documents can be found on the [Program Documents](#) page.

The microFIT Program is available to very small renewable energy projects located in Ontario. Projects must have a generating capacity of 10 kW or less.

A project must be connected to the province's electricity distribution system through the local distribution company and must be separately metered for data collection and payment purposes.

4.2 WHAT RENEWABLE FUELS ARE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE UNDER THE MICROFIT PROGRAM?

Renewable fuels that are considered eligible include: wind, solar photovoltaic (PV) in a Rooftop Solar Facility, solar (PV) in a Non-Rooftop Solar Facility, Renewable Biomass, Biogas, landfill gas or waterpower. More information is available on the Types of Renewable Technologies page. The industry associations for the eligible technologies can provide additional information.

4.3 WHY CAN'T I HAVE MORE THAN ONE PROJECT?

Limiting microFIT projects to one per individual and one per farmer will enable more Ontarians to participate in the clean energy economy and help to maintain the intent and focus of the program.

4.4 CAN I HAVE MORE THAN ONE SOLAR (PV) PROJECT ON A DEEMED SINGLE PROPERTY?

Applicants cannot have more than one solar (PV) project on a Deemed Single Property. Solar (PV) projects include solar (PV) rooftop and solar (PV) non-rooftop.

For further information please refer to section 2.1 (e) of the microFIT Rules.

As a reminder, Applicants who are individuals or farmers cannot have more than one active microFIT Application or Contract at any time.

4.5 DO I NEED TO OWN THE LAND THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE LOCATED ON?

Individuals, farmers, LDC participants and faith-based organizations need to own the land on which their microFIT project will be located.

Applicants from municipalities, universities, schools, hospitals, long-term care homes, social or affordable housing and Aboriginal communities can submit applications on land that is either owned or leased by the applicant.

Renewable energy co-ops must locate their projects on property owned by the co-operative. Farm co-ops must locate their project on land that is owned by a member of the co-operative.

4.6 WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS FOR PROJECTS ON RESIDENTIAL LANDS?

The restrictions apply to:

- Non-rooftop solar PV projects
- Wind projects up to and including 3 kW (i.e., in the microFIT program; and noting that there are other restrictions for wind projects greater than 3 kW set out in the Renewable Energy Approval Regulation, O. Reg. 359/09)

The restrictions for residential land are:

- A project may not be located on a property on which residential use is a lawfully permitted use; and
- A project may not be located on a property that abuts another property on which residential use is a lawfully permitted use.
- However, for property where the primary lawfully permitted use is agricultural, the above projects are permitted on the property or on an abutting property if residential use is permitted as ancillary to the agricultural use.

To ensure compliance with the residential land restrictions, applicants will be required to obtain, using the [prescribed forms](#), either:

- A written opinion of a Land Use Planner or a director of planning or equivalent municipal official; or
- A written certification of a chief building official, municipal chief administrative officer, municipal clerk, or equivalent official of each municipality in which the project is located, in whole or in part.

4.7 WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS FOR PROJECTS ON COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LANDS?

Where a non-rooftop solar PV project is proposed on a property on which commercial use or industrial use is a lawfully permitted use, the proposed facility may not be the main, primary or only purpose for which the property is used.

These restrictions apply to non-rooftop solar PV projects (all sizes, in both the microFIT and FIT programs).

To ensure compliance with the commercial/industrial land restrictions, applicants will be required to obtain, using the [prescribed forms](#), either:

- A written opinion of a Land Use Planner or a director of planning or equivalent municipal official; or
- A written certification of a chief building official, municipal chief administrative officer, municipal clerk, or equivalent official of each municipality in which the project is located, in whole or in part.

5. Pricing and payment

5.1 WHAT PRICE WILL I RECEIVE?

The contract price for your microFIT project will correspond to the FIT price schedule in effect for the relevant technology on the date of your Application Approval Notice.

View the current price schedule.

5.2 HOW LONG ARE THE PRICES UNDER THE MICROFIT PROGRAM GUARANTEED?

Once a contract has been signed, the generator will receive the price specified in the contract over the 20-year term of the contract (40 years for waterpower). The price will not change for the generator once the contract has been signed except for applicable inflation adjustments. As stated in the microFIT Rules, prices will be reviewed annually.

5.3 IF I ENTER INTO A CONTRACT, HOW MUCH WILL I BE PAID FOR THE ELECTRICITY MY PROJECT PRODUCES?

A range of standardized prices has been established under the FIT and microFIT Programs based on the IESO's knowledge of typical project costs, stakeholder input and experience in other jurisdictions where FIT programs operate. These prices have been differentiated by project size and type of renewable energy technology being used in the project. They are intended to cover equipment, installation, and operation and maintenance costs over the term of the contract and to provide a reasonable rate of return on investment. The FIT Program price schedule is available [here](#).

You will be paid the FIT contract price multiplied by the amount of electricity produced (kWh).

5.4 WHY ARE THE PRICES DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES?

Prices differ by renewable fuel type and project size tranche because there are different capital, installation, building and maintenance costs associated with different renewable technologies and project sizes.

5.5 HOW ARE MICROFIT PAYMENTS CALCULATED?

Generators will be paid for all of the electricity produced by their project, whether it is connected directly to the distribution system or load embedded. The load customer (i.e., the consumer of electricity such as a home) will be billed separately for all of the power consumed. Therefore, payment equals electricity production (kWh) multiplied by the microFIT contract price.

Note that you will be responsible for paying for all ongoing account fees that are associated with your local distribution company and your generator account.

5.6 HOW ARE PAYMENTS MADE?

For projects connected to the distribution system – this includes all microFIT and some FIT Program projects – payments will be made by the local electricity distribution company (LDC) to the generator on a regular basis according to the LDC’s normal billing cycle. Payments will begin when a project is built, is in-service and has a contract.

6. Approvals, Regulations and Codes

6.1 ARE THERE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS, WIND TURBINES OR WIRES UNDER THE FIT OR MICROFIT PROGRAMS?

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry have established renewable energy approval processes as part of the implementation of the Green Energy Act. In general, micro-generators are exempt from the renewable energy approval process; however, there are some exceptions for certain wind projects. Please go to the Ministry of Energy's [Renewable Energy Facilitation page](#) for more information.

6.2 WILL ANY LOCAL PERMITS BE REQUIRED FOR A RENEWABLE PROJECT?

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry have developed the requirements for a permit called the renewable energy approval and are also responsible for granting this approval. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO) to find out more about the requirements and application processes. There may be local permits or approvals required for FIT and microFIT program projects. You should contact your local municipality and conservation authority for information about local permits or approvals they might require, including any building permits or other approvals.

6.3 ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MICROFIT WATERPOWER PROJECTS?

The issue of ownership interests and riparian rights for proposed waterpower microFIT Projects can be complex and those considering such projects are strongly encouraged to seek legal counsel before applying to the microFIT program.

6.4 DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT TO INSTALL SOLAR PANELS?

Municipal building permit requirements vary. Check with your municipal building permitting office to find out if a permit is required for installing solar panels.

6.5 ARE THERE ANY BYLAWS THAT MAY PREVENT THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS?

Municipal bylaw requirements vary. Check with your municipal bylaw office to find out if any bylaws affect the installation of solar panels.

7. Registration and Account Access

7.1 HOW DO I REGISTER?

Step by step instructions on how to register can be found in the microFIT Registration Instructions document found in the [Program Documents](#) section of the microFIT website.

7.2 I AM RECEIVING EMAILS THAT I HAVE A NEW MICROFIT MESSAGE. WHEN I CREATE A REGISTRATION ID, I DON'T SEE ANY MESSAGES IN MY INBOX. HOW CAN I RETRIEVE THEM?

Please see FAQ 1.9

7.3 I FORGOT MY PASSWORD. CAN YOU SEND ME MY PASSWORD?

You can reset your My microFIT Home Page password using the [forgot my password](#) link on the My microFIT Home Page. To reset a My microFIT Home Page password, the email address and username associated with the account will be required.

If your registration ID was created by a representative acting on your behalf, you must contact them directly to obtain the username and password that is associated with your Application. If your representative will not or cannot provide your login credentials to you, contact microFIT@ieso.ca.

7.4 WHAT IS MY USERNAME?

A username is created upon registration of a My microFIT Home Page. A username may be reset by using the [forgot my username](#) link on the My microFIT Home Page. To reset a My microFIT Home Page username, the email address associated with the account will be required.

If your registration ID was created by a representative acting on your behalf, you must contact them directly to obtain the username and password that is associated with your Application. If

your representative will not or cannot provide your login credentials to you, contact microFIT@ieso.ca.

8. Submitting a microFIT Application

8.1 HOW DO I APPLY TO THE MICROFIT PROGRAM?

Applying to the microFIT program consists of two steps:

1. Registration
2. Creating and submitting an application.

You must be registered to create and submit an application.

Once you have registered, a personalized page called "[My microFIT Home Page](#)" will be created for you. This page will be your access to all future applications, IESO correspondence and potential contracts, and will only be accessible through the username and password you create at the time of registration, so you will need to retain and protect your username and password.

You must apply to the microFIT Program using the online application form available on your "[My microFIT Home Page](#)". The microFIT Program currently does not accept applications in hard copy form. You will also need to track messages from the IESO through this page and through the contact email addresses you provide to the IESO on your application.

Step by step instructions on how to complete a microFIT application can be found in the microFIT Application Instructions document found in the [Program Documents](#) section of the microFIT website.

8.2 WHAT FORMS/DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO SUBMIT WITH MY APPLICATION?

For information about what documents are required to be submitted for each Eligible Participant Type, please review the List of Supporting Documents found in the [Program Documents](#) section of the microFIT website.

8.3 I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CLARIFY SOME PART OF MY APPLICATION. HOW DO I RESPOND?

Whenever you have a new microFIT message you will be informed via email. A notification will be sent to the primary contact's email address and, if applicable, to the representative's email address. You must then log in to your My microFIT Home Page to view the message. If you do not have login information for your My microFIT Home Page please see section 7.2 of the microFIT FAQs.

The clarification request will appear in your Messages section. Click on the subject of the message to read the full text. You must follow all instructions listed in the message and provide

the requested information by the date listed in the original clarification request. Any resubmissions must be done through the My microFIT Home Page. Submissions by fax, mail, or email will not be accepted.

If you fail to respond to the message by the date listed in the clarification request the application may be terminated by the IESO.

9. Connection Requests and Application Approval Notices

9.1 WHAT IS A CONNECTION REQUEST?

A Connection Request is the application to your local distribution company (LDC) to connect your microFIT project to the distribution system. You must use the LDC's current form of Connection Request. You must also submit your Connection Request form to your LDC and you must provide your microFIT reference number on the connection request form to the LDC. We recommend that you consult your LDC prior to submitting a Connection Request form to learn about potential fees and charges that might be applied under different connection configurations.

Applicants must submit a Connection Request to the applicable LDC for the connection of their microFIT Project within 30 days of their Application having been set to "Pending LDC Offer to Connect".

Applicants must obtain an offer to connect from the LDC within 90 days of the LDC receiving the Connection Request from the Applicant.

9.2 IS THERE A DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING AN OFFER TO CONNECT FOR MY MICROFIT PROJECT?

Yes, Applicants must receive an offer to connect from the LDC within 90 days of the LDC receiving the Connection Request from the Applicant. The 90 day deadline begins when your LDC received the Connection Request, not the day that the LDC reports the Connection Request date to the IESO.

9.3 MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN ISSUED AN APPLICATION APPROVAL NOTICE. DOES THIS MEAN I NOW HAVE A MICROFIT CONTRACT?

No, an Application Approval Notice (AAN) is not the microFIT contract. In order to be eligible to receive a microFIT contract from the IESO you must satisfy the requirements outlined in your AAN.

9.4 MY APPLICATION APPROVAL NOTICE IS VALID FOR 180 DAYS. WHEN DOES THIS 180 DAYS BEGIN?

When your application status is updated to Pending Connection, an Application Approval Notice has been issued. The 180-day timeframe begins on the date on which the Application Approval Notice was issued and the application status was set to Pending Connection.

As per the microFIT Rules, you are required to connect your microFIT project, upload a copy of your Electrical Safety Authority Connection Authorization and your LDC must notify the IESO of your connection details within 180 days of the date of your Application Approval Notice.

9.5 I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THE 180 DAY DEADLINE OUTLINED IN MY APPLICATION APPROVAL NOTICE, CAN I HAVE AN EXTENSION?

The IESO will not be offering extensions to the Application Approval Notices (AAN). All terms and conditions of the AAN must be satisfied by the stipulated timeline or the AAN will expire and your Application will be terminated.

10. Installation, Connection and Metering

10.1 WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING THE COST OF CONNECTING MY MICROFIT PROJECT TO THE GRID?

You are responsible for the connection costs associated with getting the electricity from your generation project to the distribution system.

10.2 HOW DO I GET MY MICROFIT PROJECT CONNECTED TO THE GRID?

Your local distribution company (LDC) is responsible for connecting and metering your microFIT project. You must submit a Connection Request to your LDC (with your microFIT Reference Number) and meet the requirements of your LDC to connect to the electricity grid before your LDC will install your generation meter. Your LDC will connect your project to the grid when you have:

1. received all necessary approvals including Connection Authorization to connect from the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA);
2. entered into a connection agreement with the LDC; and
3. paid the LDC for the connection and metering costs.

Each LDC has its own “Micro-Generator Connection Request Form”. You may be asked to wait 30 days from the time you submit a microFIT Application before submitting a Connection

Request to your LDC.

10.3 WHAT IS AN ESA CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION?

A Certificate of Inspection is issued by the Electrical Safety Authority to an Applicant once a project has been built and has passed a final inspection to verify compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC).

10.4 WHAT IS AN ESA CONNECTION AUTHORIZATION?

A Connection Authorization is issued when an inspection has been undertaken by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) to verify compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC). Once compliance with the OESC has been verified, the ESA will issue a Connection Authorization to the Local Distribution Company, which indicates that the renewable generation facility is safe to connect to the grid. The Connection Authorization does not indicate that the electrical work taking place at the site is complete.

10.5 WHY IS THE IESO REQUESTING THAT APPLICANTS SUBMIT A CONNECTION AUTHORIZATION FROM THE ESA?

The IESO requires a copy of the Connection Authorization issued by the ESA be uploaded to your application as evidence of your project's final installed capacity.

This evidence is required prior to the IESO issuing a microFIT Contract. Once a Connection Authorization has been obtained for a microFIT project, a copy of the Connection Authorization can be uploaded to the My Files section of the My microFIT Home Page.

10.6 HOW DO I OBTAIN A COPY OF THE CONNECTION AUTHORIZATION FOR MY PROJECT?

For more information regarding an ESA inspection please visit the ESA website at www.esasafe.com.

10.7 WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED TIMELINE FOR THE ESA TO ISSUE A CONNECTION AUTHORIZATION AFTER AN INSPECTION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED?

To determine when the next available inspection day is for your area, please refer to the schedules that can be found at www.esasafe.com. Emergency inspection work may also affect timelines. It is important that you review the inspection schedules in advance to ensure that you will be able to meet the 180 day timeline in your Application Approval Notice as no extensions will be granted.

10.8 ARE THERE ANY MICRO GENERATION SPECIFIC RULES IN THE ONTARIO ELECTRICAL SAFETY CODE THAT I SHOULD BE AWARE OF FOR MY PROJECT?

The Alternative Generation Safety section found at www.esasafe.com has detailed information about electrical guidelines, technical information and applying for an electrical inspection. The site also provides a guideline intended to simplify and provide basic advice to home, farm and business owners considering the installation of Inverter-Based Micro-Generating Facilities.

10.9 WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT CONNECTION CONFIGURATIONS TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM?

Your microFIT project can either be “directly connected” to the electricity distribution system or “indirectly connected”. A direct connection is where your project is connected to the grid separately from any other customer or building.

An indirect connection is where your project is connected to an existing building that is connected to the distribution system. Indirectly connected projects can only be connected to an existing load customer.

Please refer to the microFIT Rules to learn more about the different connection configurations. The microFIT Rules can be found on the [Program Documents](#) page.

10.10 WHAT IS A CONNECTION AGREEMENT?

For micro-scale projects no greater than 10 kW, a connection agreement refers to the “Micro-Embedded Generation Facility Connection Agreement” (as prescribed by the Ontario Energy Board’s Distribution System Code) between a local distribution company and the owner of the generation project. You must sign this agreement before your project can be connected to the distribution system. Also, the name on the connection agreement must be the same name that is on the local distribution company customer account and the microFIT contract.

10.11 HOW WILL MY RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT BE CONNECTED?

Your renewable energy project(s) will be connected to the grid through an electricity meter that will be different from the meter that measures your consumption. This meter will allow your local electricity distribution company to measure the electricity you generate and pay you accordingly.

10.12 SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT DAMAGE TO MY PROPERTY WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THIS RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION EQUIPMENT? WHO PAYS IF IT HAPPENS?

As with any other project or renovation, the renewable energy technology you propose using should be properly assessed to ensure that it can be safely installed on your property. In addition, as with other projects on your property, you – as the property owner – assume all

risks. To ensure proper installation, we strongly recommend that you hire a professional installer for your renewable energy project and that you discuss the installation with your insurance advisor.

All installations will require an inspection from the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) before they can be connected to the grid. You can contact the ESA at 1-877-372-7233 or learn more by visiting their website at www.esasafe.com.

Note that the IESO is not responsible for any damage that occurs to your building, property or person as a result of your renewable energy installation.

11. Contract Offer and Contract Acceptance

11.1 HOW LONG ARE THE PROGRAM CONTRACT TERMS?

Under the microFIT Program, contract terms are 20 years, with the exception of contracts for waterpower which have a 40-year term.

11.2 WHEN WILL I RECEIVE A MICROFIT CONTRACT?

The IESO will offer you a microFIT contract after your LDC has completed the connection of your microFIT project (and notified the IESO of the connection details) and the other conditions contained in the Application Approval Notice are satisfied, including compliance with the microFIT Rules.

You must accept or decline the contract offer within 45 business days or the contract offer will be terminated. Your microFIT contract will be executed once you have accepted the contract offer online through your My microFIT Home Page.

11.3 WHAT IS THE START DATE OF MY MICROFIT CONTRACT?

Your microFIT contract term will commence on the date of the Application Approval Notice or the date that your project is physically connected to your LDC's distribution system in compliance with the microFIT Rules - whichever is later.

11.4 I AM UNABLE TO ACCEPT MY OFFERED CONTRACT. WHEN I GO TO ACCEPT THE CONTRACT, THE ONLY OPTION IS TO REJECT IT.

The IESO requires applicants to confirm the kW rating on their inverter and solar array prior to accepting their microFIT contract. The solar array and inverter details that you report must correspond with the details reported to the IESO by your Local Distribution Company (LDC). If

you report a different rating or if you do not know your rating, you will not be able to accept your microFIT contract.

If the details provided by your LDC are incorrect, please indicate that the LDC must correct their reported inverter and solar array capacity information. Please follow up with your LDC to ensure the details are reported correctly.

If you do not know the rating of your inverter and solar array, you must contact your representative (if applicable), installer or other service provider to determine the specific details of your system. It is necessary that you communicate the correct capacity information to your LDC to ensure that the details on your microFIT Contract are accurate.

11.5 CAN I TERMINATE A MICROFIT CONTRACT?

For FAQs about microFIT contracts please review the [FAQs for contract holders](#).

11.6 WHAT IF I SELL MY HOUSE WHILE UNDER A MICROFIT CONTRACT?

For FAQs about microFIT contracts please review the [FAQs for contract holders](#).

12. Additional Information

12.1 WHERE CAN I GO IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

General questions about the microFIT program can be directed to microFIT@ieso.ca

12.2 WHAT IS THE GREEN ENERGY AND GREEN ECONOMY ACT?

Ontario's Legislature passed the landmark *Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009* on May 14, 2009. This sweeping legislation created a new stand-alone statute known as the *Green Energy Act*, and enabled amendments to 15 other statutes. These legislative changes included a range of measures designed to foster a culture of conservation and encourage the development of renewable energy projects. These measures were also designed to stimulate the green energy sector in Ontario – attracting new investment, creating green jobs and providing clean renewable power to Ontario.

Specific benefits include:

- sparking growth in renewable sources of energy such as biogas, biomass, landfill gas, solar, wind and waterpower in Ontario
- creating the potential for greater household savings by introducing new conservation measures across the province

- making a positive contribution towards provincial climate change objectives.

12.3 WHAT ARE THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE *GREEN ENERGY ACT*?

The primary goal of the *Green Energy Act* is to further enable and promote energy conservation and renewable energy development. The major components of the *Green Energy Act* include:

- the renewable energy Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program
- the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO)
- a streamlined environmental approval process
- aggressive new conservation targets

12.4 WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE *GREEN ENERGY ACT*?

The Ministry of Energy has information on its website about the *Green Energy Act* at www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/green-energy-act. View the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's [information about renewable energy approvals here](#).

12.5 HOW WILL THE RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITATION OFFICE HELP RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPERS, COMMUNITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES INVOLVED IN RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS?

The 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.

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. REFO can assist in setting up a coordinated orientation meeting to discuss your project's requirements. This meeting can help to 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.

Visit the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office at www.ontario.ca/renewableenergyprojects.