



## **microFIT PROGRAM**

**Program Overview**  
*Version 4.1*

**January 1, 2017**

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## INTRODUCTION

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The microFIT Program was launched in 2009 as part of the Ontario government's efforts to increase renewable energy in the province. The program provides Eligible Participants with the opportunity to develop a "micro" renewable electricity generation project (10 kilowatts or less in size) on their property.

Under this program, you will be paid a fixed price over a 20-year term (40 years for waterpower projects) for the electricity you produce and deliver to the province's electricity grid.

The purpose of this overview is to introduce interested participants to the microFIT Program and to provide a high-level description of the microFIT Rules that govern the program. You will learn about the process for developing a renewable energy project, eligibility criteria for Applicants and the price your project will receive. Please refer to the microFIT Registration Instructions and the microFIT Application Instructions available on the [microFIT Program website](#) for further information on how to register and apply to the program.

## DOCUMENT USAGE

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This document has been prepared to provide a general overview of the microFIT Program and application process. Applicants must refer to the microFIT Rules, Eligible Participant Schedule and Contract for the detailed rules and requirements for participating in the microFIT Program. In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the microFIT Rules, Eligible Participant Schedule and/or Contract, the microFIT Rules, Eligible Participant Schedule and Contract will govern.

Please be reminded that the IESO shall not be liable or responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Applicant under any circumstances including in the event of termination of any or all Applications or requests or in the event of the cancellation, suspension or change of the microFIT Program at any time. It is the exclusive responsibility of the Applicant, and third parties who act on behalf of the Applicant, to be fully aware of the applicable microFIT Rules, policies, eligibility criteria and timelines. The IESO does not mitigate issues between Applicants and third parties as the use of third party services is at the discretion of the Applicant.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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You are strongly encouraged to review the [microFIT Rules](#), [Eligible Participant Schedule](#) and [microFIT Contract](#) to determine whether you meet the eligibility requirements. You must ensure that your proposed project complies with the microFIT Rules before you start developing your project.

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To be eligible for the microFIT Program, a project must:

1. Use one of the following Renewable Fuel types:
  - Biogas
  - Renewable Biomass
  - Landfill gas
  - Solar Photovoltaic
    - Rooftop solar facility
    - Non-rooftop solar facility
  - Waterpower
  - Wind
2. Be located in Ontario.
3. Not have an existing IESO or Ontario Power Authority contract.
4. Not have a Nameplate Capacity that is greater than 10 kW and in the case of a Rooftop Facility with a project size tranche of less than or equal to 6 kW, not have a Nameplate Capacity that is greater than 6 kW. A maximum Nameplate Capacity of 10 kW of the same Renewable Fuel type can be developed on any one property however, where the Renewable Fuel is solar (PV) in a Rooftop Solar Facility or solar (PV) in a Non-Rooftop Solar Facility, a maximum of one solar (PV) microFIT Project is permitted. Note that this limitation applies to a “Deemed Single Property” (defined in the microFIT Rules), which generally means that projects developed by the same person using the same Renewable Fuel totalling more than 10 kW may not be located on properties that are right next to each other.
  - In the case of a solar (PV) facility, Nameplate Capacity means the lesser of: (i) the manufacturer’s total installed rated capacity of the solar panels, and (ii) the manufacturer’s specified maximum power output of the inverter(s), neither of which may be greater than 10 kW and neither of which may be greater than 6 kW in the case of a Rooftop Solar Facility with a project size tranche of less than or equal to 6 kW.
5. Be connected, directly or indirectly, to the IESO-controlled grid through your local distribution company’s (LDC) distribution system. For more information on acceptable connection configurations, please refer to the microFIT Rules.
6. Have a separate meter, as specified by your LDC, suitable for data collection and payment calculation. All microFIT Projects require a separate generation meter so that the amount of electricity produced by the Project can be accurately measured.
7. Have an Eligible Participant as the Applicant. The IESO has developed an Eligible Participant Schedule to identify who is able to submit an Application to the microFIT

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Program and the requirements applicable to each Eligible Participant type. The Eligible Participant Schedule may be updated at the discretion of the IESO at any time.

8. Have the same person or entity as both the Applicant and the person or entity that maintains the microFIT Project's Generator Account. This must also be the person or entity who signs the Connection Agreement for the microFIT Project.
9. Individuals and farmers may only have one microFIT Project and may not have multiple Applications active at one time. If an individual or farmer has a microFIT Project under an earlier version of the microFIT Rules, the individual or farmer is not eligible for another microFIT Project.
10. A proposed microFIT Project that is either: (i) a wind Renewable Generating Facility that has a Nameplate Capacity of 3 kW or less, or (ii) a Non-Rooftop Solar Facility:
  - i. may not be located on a property on which residential use is a Lawfully Permitted Use; and
  - ii. 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 Lawfully Permitted Use is agricultural, a wind Renewable Generating Facility that has a Nameplate Capacity of 3 kW or less, or a Non-Rooftop Solar Facility, is permitted on such property or on property that abuts such property if residential use is permitted as ancillary to the agricultural use.

If a Non-Rooftop Solar Facility is proposed to be located on a property on which commercial use or industrial use is a Lawfully Permitted Use, the proposed Non-Rooftop Solar Facility may not be the main, primary or only purpose for which the property is used.

For further clarification on Lawfully Permitted Use, please see Section 8, Definitions of the microFIT Rules.

11. A proposed microFIT Project that is a Rooftop Solar Facility:
  - Must be built on **existing permanent buildings** that have walls, a roof and a permanent foundation.
  - To qualify as a rooftop facility, the IESO must be satisfied that the building on which the solar PV project is located is an appropriate type of building. For more details, please refer to the definition of Rooftop Solar Facility in the microFIT Rules.

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## PRICE SCHEDULE AND AUDITING

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Once you have entered into a microFIT Contract, you will receive a fixed price for the electricity your project produces over the term of the Contract.

Please refer to the IESO's [FIT/microFIT Price Schedule](#). The IESO will review the FIT/microFIT Price Schedule on an annual basis, or more frequently if necessary.

During the term of the microFIT Contract, the IESO reserves the right to audit and inspect the Facility and request copies of all Generation Payment statements, meter readings, LDC invoices, and any information related to the Contract or the Facility.

The IESO may audit a number of items including, but not limited to: inverter ratings and solar array ratings (including nominal maximum power ratings and flash test ratings).

The IESO may also assess Generation Payments/meter readings against standard benchmarks to ensure that systems are not over-generating.

## PROCESS

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When applying to participate in the microFIT Program, Applicants should be aware of several key steps before planning for the development of a project, and before submitting an Application. Most importantly, Applicants are solely responsible for monitoring the status of their Application carefully through their [My microFIT Home Page](#) and for ensuring they meet all deadlines. The microFIT Rules provide detailed information about the requirements at each step in the process.

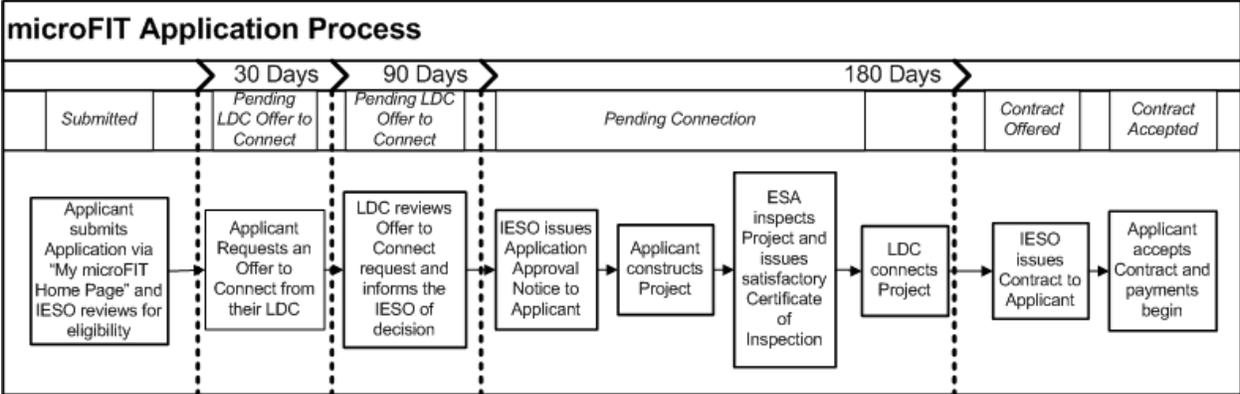
The following is a summary of these steps:

1. An Eligible Participant must first [register](#) for the microFIT Program online in order to prepare and submit an Application. Registered participants will create their own unique user name and password. Please be sure to keep a copy of this information as it will be needed throughout the Application (and Contract) period to access an Applicant's information.
2. Once registered, an Applicant will submit an Application online through the Applicant's [My microFIT Home Page](#) and will be issued a Reference Number when an Application is submitted. The Application status at this step is "Submitted".
3. The IESO will perform a review of the Application to confirm that it is complete and that all required information has been provided.
4. If an Application passes the completeness review, the IESO will confirm whether sufficient capacity remains within the Annual Procurement Target. If there is sufficient capacity, the Application's status will be set to "Pending LDC Offer to Connect".

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5. At this stage, the Applicant must submit a Connection Request to the applicable LDC within 30 days of the Application status being set to “Pending LDC Offer to Connect” by the IESO. If the LDC does not notify the IESO within 30 days that the Applicant has requested a Connection Request, the Application will be terminated. No extensions will be granted.
  6. Within 90 days of the LDC receiving the Connection Request from the Applicant, the Applicant must obtain an Offer to Connect for the connection of its microFIT Project.
  7. If the LDC has issued an Offer to Connect within the required 90-day period and all other microFIT Program eligibility requirements have been met, the IESO will issue an Application Approval Notice. Once the Application Approval Notice has been issued, the status will be set to “Pending Connection.” An Application will be terminated if the LDC denies a request for an Offer to Connect or if the Offer to Connect is not obtained in the required 90-day period.
  8. If an Application receives an Application Approval Notice, 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. The Application Approval Notice will expire and the Application will be terminated if the LDC does not provide connection details of the Applicant’s microFIT Project to the IESO within 180 days of the issuance of the Application Approval Notice.
  9. When the Applicant’s microFIT Project is connected to the LDC’s distribution system, the LDC will provide the IESO with the connection details, including project-specific information and the date the microFIT Project was physically connected to the distribution system. The LDC must provide this information to the IESO within 180 days of the issuance of the Application Approval Notice.
  10. The IESO will offer the Applicant a microFIT Contract once the LDC has notified the IESO of the connection of the microFIT Project to its distribution system and the other conditions contained in the Application Approval Notice are satisfied. Once a microFIT Contract is offered, the Application’s status on the My microFIT Home Page will be set to “Contract Offered”. The Applicant must accept the Contract offer on the Applicant’s My microFIT Home Page.
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## PROGRAM REVIEW

The IESO intends to review and amend the microFIT Program at regular intervals. The IESO may also amend the program at any time in response to government direction, changes in laws and regulations, significant changes in market conditions or other circumstances. Program amendments will not affect existing microFIT Contracts.

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## CONTACT US

General questions about the microFIT Program	1-888-387-3403 or <a href="mailto:microFIT@ieso.ca">microFIT@ieso.ca</a>
Questions specific to your microFIT Application	<a href="mailto:microFIT@ieso.ca">microFIT@ieso.ca</a>
Questions specific to your microFIT Contract	<a href="mailto:microFIT.contract@ieso.ca">microFIT.contract@ieso.ca</a>
For problems with the website or technical support	<a href="mailto:webmaster@ieso.ca">webmaster@ieso.ca</a>
IESO mailing address	Independent Electricity System Operator c/o microFIT Program Suite 1600 120 Adelaide Street West Toronto, ON M5H 1T1 Toll-free: 1-888-387-3403 <a href="http://www.ieso.ca">www.ieso.ca</a> <a href="mailto:info@ieso.ca">info@ieso.ca</a>