

OPTIONS FOR GREEN ENERGY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

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Newsletter

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www.optionsforgreenenergy.ca

*Provincial Election Expected to be Close.
Vote for Renewable Power!*

Renewable Energy Future at Stake

Editorial by Judith Lipp, President of the
Federation of Community Power Co-operatives



Tomorrow we have the opportunity to exercise our democratic right to elect our government representatives. While it's easy to take voting for granted and feel cynical about the options, we must remember we have democratic privileges millions of people around the world are still fighting for. And so as you head to the polling stations tomorrow we from the Federation of Community Power Co-operatives want to remind you how important this political race is and why getting out to vote tomorrow may be the single most impactful

environmental and social activity you undertake this year.

We examine political issues through the climate change/renewable energy lens and we think there is lot at stake with this election which is why we are reaching out to you. Over the past five years, renewable energy and community investment models have demonstrated what a new economy can look like in Ontario. These sectors have struck a balance between economy and environment, and have opened-up employment opportunities and ushered in a new foundation for energy decision-making that includes citizens.

Blaming all our province's economic problems on renewable energy has been irrational - the soundbites that media outlets eat-up and propagate refuse to the acknowledge the benefits the Feed-in-Tariff has brought and the jobs, opportunities and

sustainable system that will be lost should we move away from a renewables-focused energy system.

On June 12, we have to make a choice between continuing with this path or reverting back to old practices that have led to many of our problems today. We have to choose whether we believe in the promise of a new and sustainable energy economy or default back to century-old principles of large, polluting, centralized approaches. If you are in support of clean energy and a community power sector please consider the following.

1. Vote – voting is the single best way to demonstrate your support of these innovative sectors. Though advanced polls are closed, taking the time on 12 June to cast your ballot is essential to our collective success. More information about where to vote and how to vote are available here: <http://wemakevotingeasy.ca/en/home.aspx>

2. Share our story – we are trying to get our message out via social media, to encourage people to learn more about renewables and vote. Please access our social media resources here: <http://www.vote4renewablepower.ca/what-you-can-do.php> and be sure to share it with your family, friends and networks

3. Volunteer and canvas – all the parties have explained their platforms on renewable energy and community power. Ultimately, it is important to talk to voters personally about the stakes in green energy

and why the benefits are essential to the success of communities across the province. Contact your local MPP candidate's office to discover how you can help canvas and get the local vote out.

In this election, given the stakes, it has become more essential than ever for us to participate and affect the policies around us. Please share this e-mail with your networks and encourage them to do the same.

FIT 3.0 Applications on Hold

The results of the FIT 3.0 application process were expected to be released by the end of May. However, when the provincial election was called on May 14, the applications in the queue, including 20 applications from Options for Green Energy co-operatives, were put on hold, pending the results of the election. As these contracts have not yet been issued, a new government would be able to cancel all FIT 3.0 applications without recourse, should it choose to do so.



Annual General Meeting Held

The Annual General Meeting of Queen Street Solar was held on June 3rd via a webinar interface to allow members, who come from various locations across Ontario, to attend.

At the meeting, the president of Queen Street Solar, Andrew Simpson, gave a brief synopsis of the progress that the Co-operative has achieved to date - including the securing of two FIT 2.1 contracts, the preliminary approval of two FIT 3.0 contracts, and the receipting of a renewed Offering Statement from the Financial Services Commission of Ontario.

Participants were also provided updates of the Midland and Claremont projects and the progress around the preparations for issuing Community Bonds.

Minutes of the meeting are available upon request to marcvanb@optionsforhomes.ca

Claremont Project Update

The Claremont Project, a 99 kW system to be installed on the roof of the Claremont Community Centre in Durham has successfully completed its Connection Impact Assessment (CIA). The EPC (engineering, procurement, construction) work will be done by Solera Sustainable Energies, one of Queen Street Solar's partners in the project. Solera has secured long term debt financing for the project. An application for Notice to Proceed (NTP), the

final step for approval from the OPA, has been submitted.

Provided that NTP is received, the project should begin construction sometime this summer. Community Bonds in support of the project will be offered first to co-op members who are residents of Claremont once NTP has been received.

Midland Project Update

The Midland Project, a 425 kW system to be installed on the roof of the arena on Len Self Blvd. in Midland has yet to attract suitable long term debt financing through Nautilus Solar, our partner on this project. This is a challenge that all "one-off" co-operative projects have faced. Financiers generally are charging due diligence and financing fees that make single projects prohibitive.

We are working with our other contacts to obtain financing. We will be in touch with QSS members in the next few weeks with new developments on this project.



Green Timiskaming Co-op

Green Timiskaming Co-operative submitted nineteen applications into the FIT 3.0

window. In April, the OPA provided confirmation that eighteen of these applications passed the vetting process for application completeness. The applications have since moved on to the TAT/DAT (Transmission/Distribution) stage to confirm that there is available grid capacity. The TAT/DAT stage has been put on hold for the pending the outcome of the provincial election campaign.



Airpark Project Update

The Airpark Project, a 105 kW development to be installed on the roof 2 Airpark Place, has received Notice to Proceed from the OPA.

Silvercreek Project Update

Guelph Hydro has informed Icarus Power and GSCC that, at present, there is insufficient grid capacity to support connecting the 250 kW project on the shopping mall at 218 Silvercreek Parkway North. Icarus is working with Guelph Hydro to determine if an alternate connection or system upgrade is feasible.

An announcement will be made soon to GSCC members regarding the Community

Bonds to be sold in support of these projects.



The non-profit board that owns the property on Gordon Street is currently deliberating the future of the site.

Do you own a rooftop or land suitable to host a commercial scale solar project?

We are seeking projects in Guelph, Wellington, Toronto, Durham, Timiskaming, Simcoe, Kingston, Frontenac, and Lennox & Addington.

If you have 30,000 square feet of rooftop or 8 acres of Class IV+ or land, contact Marc at marcvanb@optionsforhomes.ca. 461 867-1501 x 229