



The Corporation of the Township of  
**NORTH STORMONT**

**Policy No.  
PD-01-2016**

**Department:  
Planning**

**Section:**  
Renewable Energy Protocol

<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 25, 2016
<b>Revision Date:</b>	N/A
<b>Subject:</b>	Renewable Energy Protocol
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Amy Martin, Community Planner
<b>Approved by:</b>	Marc Chénier, Chief Administrative Officer

## **Section 1: Background and Context**

The *Green Energy Act* came into effect in 2009. It was created to expand renewable energy generation, encourage energy conservation and promote the creation of green energy jobs. Under the Act, sources of renewable energy include: solar photovoltaic, on-shore wind, waterpower, biogas, biomass and landfill gas.

The Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) administers three programs for renewable energy projects based on kilowatts (kW) of electricity generated.

### **Large Renewable Procurement – Greater than 500 kW**

The Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) process is targeted at projects that generate more than 500 kW of energy. The LRP process is a competitive bid process that encourages the procurement of renewable energy sources at the lowest price possible. Unlike the microFit and Fit process, the LRP process is a highly competitive process compared to the MicroFit and Fit processes. Municipal support is a factor in the process.

### **FIT (Feed-in-Tariff) – Greater than 10 kW less than 500 kW**

The Feed-in-Tariff program offers long-term contracts at a stable price for renewable energy sources. The program includes a point system for evaluating projects. A portion of these points can be earned from the municipality through a Council support resolution. *Planning Act* approvals do not apply and Council does not have the ability to refuse or approve a project. Refusing to pass a resolution of support could affect a project's ability to obtain a FIT contract.

### **microFIT – Less than 10 kW**

The micro Feed-In-Tariff program is a streamlined program for small renewable energy projects under the FIT program. Municipalities do not have any involvement within the microFIT program except for a zoning certificate/opinion.



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## **Section 2: Purpose of Protocol**

This protocol provides a framework for processing requests for resolutions of Council support for all types of renewable energy projects under the FIT Program. The protocol has been designed to be efficient and effective, limiting the need for all projects to be considered by Council on an individual basis, while encouraging renewable energy projects in a manner consistent with the Township's policies and procedures. The protocol also establishes submission requirements, fees and review processes.

## **Section 3: Limitations**

The review of FIT projects by Township staff is limited to forming recommendations for Council consideration or for streamlined Council endorsement. The review of proposed projects will include:

- a) Project Location
- b) Project Type
- c) Project size (kW of energy generated)
- d) How the project may impact surrounding residents and businesses
- e) Land use and design considerations
- f) How will the project benefit the community

The review of FIT projects will not include an endorsement of:

- a) Technical feasibility
- b) Building capacity (for roof mounted projects)
- c) Project viability
- d) Safety Considerations

While a Building Permit from the Township may be required, the Province is the approval authority for FIT project. This protocol does not apply to the microFIT program. A separate protocol will be created to address the LRP process if required.



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#### **Section 4: Protocol**

All requests under the FIT program will be subject to a detailed staff review. The detailed review will serve to provide additional analysis and information for Council's consideration as FIT projects are likely to be larger in scope and/or more complex in nature. Each request will be considered on an individual basis. The following criteria will be considered, but not limited, during the detailed review:

- a) Source of renewable fuel (i.e. solar, wind, water or bioenergy)
- b) Potential for Nuisance (odour, noise, visual, public health)
- c) Land Use Considerations (Compatibility with surrounding uses, Official Plan Designation and Zoning Permissions, Heritage, community/urban design).
- d) Community Benefit (opportunities to offset potential nuisances)
- e) Potential traffic impacts (e.g. fuel to be brought to site or available at source)
- f) Potential waste and disposal
- g) Fire Impacts
- h) Building impacts
- i) Other considerations

Note: Council support will be valid for one year but can be renewed upon request as long as the information in regard to the project has not changed.

#### **Section 5: Process**

To facilitate staff review, proponents of FIT projects will be asked to complete a form providing general project details. Based on the information provided, staff will verify the information in the form. After receipt of the application fee, staff will undertake a review of the proposal. The review will include consideration of the criteria listed in Section 4 and will be presented in a report to Council. Council will consider the staff report and determine if they support the project. If council supports the Project, the IESO's prescribed form will be signed and provided to the proponent.



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### **Section 6: Submission Requirements**

The following information must be submitted for all requests for support:

1. A complete application form and processing fee
2. Site photos or renderings
3. Plans and drawings
4. Letter of Acknowledgment from the property owner
5. Any applicable Fire Department conditions/comments
5. Description of proposed screening measures (if applicable)
6. Details on the use of anti-reflective coating (for solar projects)
7. Details on proposed tree removal
8. Soil classification (for solar projects)
9. Previous submission material if the project has already been considered by Council.

Note: Additional information may be required (technical studies, description of community benefits etc.).

### **Section 8: Fees**

For cost recovery purposes, a fee of \$300 per project will be charged.

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**Dennis Fife**  
**Mayor**

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**Marc Chénier**  
**Chief Administrative Officer /Clerk**