




TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: FEED IN TARIFF, COUNCIL SUPPORT RESOLUTION

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: B. THOMPSON C.E.T., C.E.M.
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER (Ext. 4557) 

SUBMITTED BY: R. S. KAHLE, M. Eng., P. Eng.
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING 

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: R. W. MCARTHUR, P. Eng. 
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: C. LADD
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the City of Barrie support the construction and operation of rooftop solar generation projects in industrial, commercial, and institutional areas in the Province's Feed in Tariff (FIT) Program Version 2 across the City of Barrie, subject to review by staff in the Engineering Department.
2. That the purpose of this support is to enable the participants in the FIT Program to receive priority points under the FIT Program and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of municipal approval in relation to the Application or Projects or any other purpose.
3. That this support shall expire twelve (12) months after adoption of this Motion by City Council.
4. That the procedures outlined in Appendix "A" of Staff Report ENG033-12 be adopted in order to process requests for obtaining support for solar rooftop energy projects in industrial, commercial, and institutional areas for the Province's Feed in Tariff (FIT) Program Version 2.
5. That the City of Barrie Fees By-law 2012-035 be amended to add the administration fee of \$100 for the review of roof top solar energy projects for the FIT Program.
6. That a Municipal Council Support Resolution under section 6.1 (d)(i) – Feed in Tariff rules Version 2 for the application to the Small FIT program be provided for the co-generation units located at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

7. The purpose of this Staff Report is to inform Council about, and to establish a procedure for applications the City may receive under the Provincial Small Feed in Tariff (FIT) program from proponents of roof top solar renewable energy projects greater than 10 kW and less than 500 kW that request a Council project support resolution. This Staff Report also seeks a Municipal Council Support Resolution for the co-generation units at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.
8. On March 21, 2012, the results of the FIT review were posted on the Ministry of Energy website for comment and the final regulations were posted on August 10, 2012. As part of the regulation changes announced on August 10, 2012, municipal Councils in the community where a Small FIT project is located may be solicited by the proponents of the FIT project to pass a resolution supporting the project. The resolution's sole purpose is to enable the Applicant to receive priority points under the Small FIT program and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of municipal approval in relation to the application. Projects will likely not proceed without a FIT contract as most projects are not economically viable without incentives. These priority points are

awarded if the municipal Council endorses the project with a resolution and may result in the Applicant being offered a FIT Contract prior to other persons applying for FIT Contracts. Municipal Councils can choose to support the projects through two resolutions known as a municipal Council support resolution or a municipal Council blanket support resolution. The municipal Council support resolution must be approved by Council for each individual application. The municipal Council blanket support resolution would be used to support all applications for a particular technology that the Council deems appropriate. This Staff Report is recommending that Council endorse all applications for roof top solar power between 10 kW and 500 kW in industrial, commercial, and institutional areas that meet all the conditions established in the protocol attached in Appendix "A", and that any applications under this technology would receive the Council blanket support resolution.

9. The municipal Council support resolution and blanket support resolution templates are attached as Appendix "B".
10. Council through Motion 10-G-253 agreed to enter into lease agreements with PowerStream Inc. for the installation of solar panels on City facility rooftops at seven City facilities.
11. Council approved through Motion 10-G-001 city staff to apply to the FIT program for the Co-gen units located at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WwTF). Staff applied to the FIT program for the co-generation units but the project was never reviewed by the Province, and the City must now reapply under the new rules of the FIT program.

ANALYSIS

19. A Council support resolution is not a mandatory requirement under the FIT program. Proponents of eligible projects may not necessarily seek a Council support resolution.
20. Renewable green energy projects are not subject to the Planning Act. As such, the Official Plan and Zoning By-law do not apply.
21. Council is not obligated to provide a supporting resolution to proposed Small FIT projects and can choose to not deal with any requests.
22. There are a number of priority points now available for projects proposed under the Small FIT program.

Priority Points Table

PROJECT TYPE	PRIORITY POINTS
Community Participation Project	3
Aboriginal Participation Project	3
Education or Health Participation Project	2
NON-PROJECT TYPE	PRIORITY POINTS
Municipal Council Support	2
Aboriginal Support	2
Project Readiness	1
Pre-existing Application Time Stamp is on or prior to July 4, 2011	1
Pre-existing Application Time Stamp is on or after July 5, 2011	0.5
Education or Health Host	2
System Benefit	1

A total of 17.5 points are available to be awarded of which the Council support resolution represents two.

23. The Province had originally proposed a window of opportunity for previous projects to reapply, between October 1, 2012 and November 30, 2012. The Province announced on September 26, 2012 that the window has been delayed. The City will continue to monitor Ministry of Energy websites for an announcement on a new window.
24. The City of Barrie intends to reapply to the Small FIT program for the Cogeneration units at the WwTF, and a Council Support Resolution is being sought in order to receive the priority points.
25. For projects in industrial, commercial, and institutional areas, having limited impact on other city residents, Council could pass a blanket Council support resolution and have the Director of Engineering approve these projects.
26. Rooftop solar projects in industrial, commercial, and institutional areas have minimal impact on surrounding properties and these projects provide all of the benefits of renewable power installations while utilizing currently unused space.
27. As of September 18, 2012, the City has received two (2) requests for a Council resolution supporting roof top solar projects; from ES Tache Investments, and Dommelvalley Green Power. The recommended motion would allow staff to address these and any subsequent requests.
28. While it is impossible to know all of the types of projects that may be proposed in Barrie under the Small FIT program, technologies such as wind, land based solar in residential areas, bio gas plants, and small hydro plants are eligible and have a much higher likelihood of some level of concern for neighbouring properties. If the proponents choose to ask for Council support, then these types of projects should be discussed at Council to ensure that it fully understands all of the implications of the project.
29. A protocol for proponents of roof top solar projects in industrial, commercial, and institutional areas (Appendix "A") has been developed. This protocol outlines the expectations of the City and the timelines and cost for the proponent in order to receive a municipal Council support resolution for roof top solar projects. A process and protocols for other renewable energy technologies will be developed and brought to Council at a later date.
30. Staff have researched protocols from five other municipalities. Of the five reviewed, four have implemented blanket resolutions for roof top solar projects and all are subject to a review by staff.
31. In order to ensure priority points are awarded to a proponent of a Small FIT application, it is recommended that the wording of the Provincial Template resolution be kept.
32. Should PowerStream Inc. elect to install future rooftop solar projects on City of Barrie facilities it is anticipated they will wish to receive the priority points being awarded by the Province and will seek a municipal Council support resolution. Since Council has signed a Lease Agreement with PowerStream Inc. for rooftop solar, these projects are already supported by Council. Council has also already delegated authority to staff to approve new leases for city roof tops on buildings not included in the original submission by PowerStream Inc. provided the lease conditions remain the same. Should PowerStream Inc. propose any renewable energy projects using a technology other than roof top solar, these projects will be brought to Council for consideration.
33. Should staff wish to pursue any other renewable energy projects at City Facilities these projects will be brought to Council for support before applying to the FIT program.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

34. The following environmental matters have been considered in the development of the recommendation:
- a) By providing a blanket supporting resolution Council aids these renewable energy projects in gaining Provincial contracts and therefore being implemented in Barrie.

ALTERNATIVES

35. There are three Alternatives available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General committee could choose to not add a new fee structure of \$100.00 to the Fees By-law.

This Alternative is not recommended as the fee would enable a cost recovery for staff time attributed to the service provided.

Alternative #2 General Committee could choose to not give delegated authority to Engineering Department staff to endorse any roof top solar installations in industrial, commercial, and institutional areas that meet the protocol as established in Appendix "A" for proponents of roof top solar projects in Barrie that are applying to the Small Fit program.

This Alternative is not recommended as it would mean that all applications would have to be brought to Council individually under separate Staff Reports. This would require staff resources to undertake the preparation of the Staff Report, and Council time to consider each request. This would inevitably extend the time required for receipt of the resolution thereby putting the chances of FIT approval for the applicant at risk.

Alternative #3 General Committee could choose to not provide a Municipal Council Support Resolution to the City of Barrie for the application of the Small FIT program for the Co-gen units located at the WwTF.

This Alternative is not recommended as it could make it less likely that the City's application to the FIT program be accepted as this project would have fewer priority points and the chances for FIT approval would be lessened as compared with similar projects elsewhere in the Province.

FINANCIAL

36. Staff have recommended a fee of \$100.00 be associated with the submission of an application. The recommended fee is based on a total of approximately one (1) hour of time required for a Level 8 Union Pay Scale and Level 17 Non Union Pay Scale plus benefits and corporate overheads. It is estimated this fee would have generated \$1,000.00 this year if the original window for applications from October 1 to November 30, 2012 had occurred. Future application numbers are unknown as the Province has not indicated future plans for the Small FIT program and as such the program may or may not be continued. The fees received will be placed in the Engineering Operating Budget. This fee will be reviewed periodically by staff to ensure that it is in line with the costs incurred by the City in processing these types of applications.

LINKAGE TO 2010 – 2014 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

37. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report are not specifically related to the goals identified in the 2010-2014 City Council Strategic Plan.

APPENDIX "A"

**Protocol for Obtaining A Supporting Council Blanket Resolution
for Solar Rooftop Energy Projects In Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Areas**

1. Purpose and Background

The purpose of the Renewable Energy support resolution protocol is to detail the review process for an application to obtain a staff delegated blanket support Council resolution for a proposed renewable energy project.

This protocol applies only to industrial, commercial, and institutional roof top solar applications and not any other type of renewable energy application. Any other type of renewable energy application will have to go before Council in order to obtain a supporting resolution.

2. Process Requirements

- 2.1 The designated contact for the City of Barrie for proponents of solar rooftop renewable energy projects in Barrie who would like to obtain a blanket support Council resolution is the Director of Engineering or his/her designate.
- 2.2 The Director shall review with the proponent the following matters:
 - Review site location and solar panel layout
 - Documentation indicating property owner has been contacted and has agreed to the installation

3. City Location Policy

- 3.1 Solar rooftop installations over 10 kW and less than 500 kW which is the criteria for this protocol must be located in institutional, industrial or commercial zoned areas.
- 3.2 Installation of panels shall respect and not detract from the preservation of historic sites, districts and neighbourhoods or tourist attractions.

4. Application Requirements

- 4.1 The following information must be submitted:
 - Site plan drawing
 - Proposed solar layout and size
 - Documentation showing owner of property is in agreement with proposed project
- 4.2 The City will review and forward a decision to the proponent within five working days for roof top solar applications.
- 4.3 The recommended fee for the review is \$100.
- 4.4 Projects proposed by PowerStream and the City of Barrie will be exempt from this fee.

APPENDIX "B"



120 Adelaide Street West, Suite 1600
Toronto, Ontario M5H 1T1
T 416-967-7474
F 416-967-1947
www.powerauthority.on.ca

PRESCRIBED FORM/TEMPLATE: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BLANKET SUPPORT RESOLUTION

Section 6.1(d)(i) - FIT Rules, Version 2.0

OPAR9/F-FIT-014r1

Capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings ascribed thereto in the FIT Rules, Version 2.0.

Resolution NO: _____

Date: _____

WHEREAS the Province's FIT Program encourages the construction and operation of

_____ e.g. rooftop solar, ground mount solar, bioenergy, on-shore wind _____ generation projects (the "Projects");

AND WHEREAS one or more Projects may be constructed and operated in _____ insert the name of the Local Municipality _____;

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to the rules governing the FIT Program (the "FIT Rules"), Applications whose Projects receive the formal support of Local Municipalities will be awarded Priority Points, which may result in these Applicants being offered a FIT Contract prior to other persons applying for FIT Contracts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council of the _____ insert the name of the Local Municipality _____ supports without reservation the construction and operation of the Projects anywhere in _____ insert the name of the Local Municipality _____.

This resolution's sole purpose is to enable the participants in the FIT Program to receive priority points under the FIT Program and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of municipal approval in relation to the Application or Projects or any other purpose.

This resolution shall expire twelve (12) months after its adoption by Council.

(Note: signature lines for councilors or other representatives, as appropriate)

FIT reference number: _____
(Note: Must be inserted by Applicant to complete Application)



120 Adelaide Street West, Suite 1600
Toronto, Ontario M5H 1T1
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PRESCRIBED FORM/TEMPLATE: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SUPPORT RESOLUTION

Section 6.1(d)(i) - FIT Rules, Version 2.0

OPARP/1-FIT-015r1

Capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings ascribed thereto in the FIT Rules, Version 2.0.

Resolution NO: _____

Date: _____

WHEREAS _____ insert name of "Applicant" (the "Applicant") proposes to construct and operate a

_____ insert description of type of project (e.g. rooftop solar, ground mount solar, bioenergy, on-shore wind)

(the "Project") on _____ insert description of the lands or building (the "Lands") in

_____ insert the name of the Local Municipality

_____ under the Province's FIT Program;

AND WHEREAS the Applicant has requested that Council of _____ insert the name of the Local Municipality

indicate by resolution Council's support for the construction and operation of the Project on the Property;

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to the rules governing the FIT Program (the "FIT Rules"), Applications whose Projects receive the formal support of Local Municipalities will be awarded Priority Points, which may result in the Applicant being offered a FIT Contract prior to other persons applying for FIT Contracts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council of the _____ insert the name of the Local Municipality supports without reservation the construction and operation of the Project on the Lands.

This resolution's sole purpose is to enable the Applicant to receive Priority Points under the FIT Program and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of municipal approval in relation to the Application or Project or any other purpose.

(Note: signature lines for councilors or other representatives, as appropriate)

FIT reference number: _____
(Note: Must be inserted by Applicant to complete Application)