



SUBJECT: FIT (Feed-in Tariff) Support Resolution for Rooftop Solar Projects

TO: Development and Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Capital Works

Report Number: CW-46-16

Wards Affected: all

File Numbers: 160-03

Date to Committee: September 13, 2016

Date to Council: October 3, 2016

Recommendation:

Approve the municipal blanket support resolution for rooftop solar FIT (Feed-in Tariff) projects attached as Appendix A to Capital Works Report CW-46-16.

Purpose:

Supports the strategic plan through:

A Healthy and Greener City

- Environmental and Energy Leadership

Background and Discussion:

Ontario's Green Energy Act (GEA) was created in 2009 to expand renewable energy generation, encourage energy conservation and promote the creation of clean energy jobs. It is under this legislation that the government introduced the FIT (Feed-in Tariff) and microFIT programs to help stimulate renewable energy projects in the province by entering into contracts with homeowners, businesses and community groups to buy back the green energy produced by these projects.

Proponents of FIT renewable energy projects receive priority points if they receive municipal support through a council resolution. Burlington City Council has approved municipal blanket support resolutions for rooftop solar projects for the last three FIT application periods (see reports CSI-17-12, CSI-26-113 and CW-14-15).

Information provided in report CW-13-16 earlier this year noted that Burlington had just under 6 MW of installed renewable energy (mainly solar), enough to power just under 1,000 households (this number is dependent on hours of sunlight and average household electricity consumption). This is an increase from 4 MW reported last year.

It is expected that the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) will open the FIT program (FIT 5) to new applications for renewable energy projects in November 2016 and the window for applications is usually time sensitive. The wording of municipal support resolutions must match the wording provided in the template provided by the IESO. The City of Burlington's previous resolution expired in May 2016. Therefore, staff are recommending approval of the attached resolution in Appendix A for the FIT 5 application process for rooftop solar projects only.

This municipal resolution does not, however, negate the requirement for the proponent to obtain a building permit, ensuring conformity with the Ontario Building Code.

Other types of green energy projects such as ground mounted solar panels greater than 10 kW would require a municipal resolution on a case by case basis, requiring a staff review in order to be awarded municipal support under the FIT application process. During the FIT 2, 3 and 4 application processes, there were no requests for a municipal resolution outside the scope of the blanket resolution approved by the City of Burlington, such as ground mounted solar projects.

Strategy/process

If approved by council, the municipal support resolution will be posted on-line at www.burlington.ca/environment to be downloaded by renewable energy proponents to include in their FIT applications to the IESO (Independent Electricity System Operator).

Financial Matters:

There are no financial implications to the City of Burlington by approving the municipal blanket support resolution supporting rooftop solar projects in Burlington.

Connections:

Approving the attached municipal resolution supports the following goal in Burlington's Community Energy Plan: Increase sustainable local energy generation in Burlington and enhance supply security, in ways that support Burlington's economic competitiveness.

Public Engagement Matters:

Information related to this initiative will be posted on the city's website.

Conclusion:

The approval of the attached municipal resolution for rooftop solar panel installations in Burlington provides proponents the ability to achieve priority points from the IESO for their green energy project. It supports actions in the city's Strategic Plan as well as the Community Energy Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Robichaud

Sr. Sustainability Coordinator

905-335-7600 x7931

Appendices:

- a. Municipal Council Blanket Support Resolution

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.

APPENDIX A



City Hall, 426 Brant Street, P.O. Box 5013
Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z6

TEMPLATE: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BLANKET SUPPORT RESOLUTION

(Section 5.1(g)(i) of the FIT Rules, Version 5.0)

IESOMRD/f-FIT-011r1

Resolution No. _____

FIT reference number: _____

Date Resolution was passed: _____

(The reference number must be inserted by the Applicant in order for the resolution to comply with the FIT rules, even where Local Municipal letterhead is used. This is not to be inserted by the Local Municipality.)

Whereas capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the FIT Rules, Version 5.0.

AND WHEREAS the Province's FIT Program encourages the construction and operation of **rooftop solar** generation projects (the "Projects");

AND WHEREAS one or more Projects may be constructed and operated in **the City of Burlington**;

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to the FIT Rules, Version 5.0, 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 **City of Burlington** supports the construction and operation of the Projects anywhere in the **City of Burlington**.

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.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Signature lines for elected representatives. At least one signature required.