



Newsroom 2012

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The OPA is pleased to move forward with the revised FIT Program, which incorporates the results of the two-year FIT Program review. The objective of the review was to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program.

[March 22, 2012 - Results of Two-Year FIT Review announced](#)

Ontario is moving ahead with its clean energy program, taking immediate steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of renewable energy while creating more jobs, lowering prices and giving communities a greater say.

Following the first review of Ontario's signature Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) Program, the government will act quickly to implement all the recommendations

[February 7, 2012 - Update on FIT Program review from Deputy Minister Fareed Amin](#)

The FIT Program review was announced on October 31. Consultations will continue until December 14, 2011. More information can be [found here](#).

During this period, FIT applications will continue to be accepted and time-stamped, but they will not be processed until the new version of the Rules and pricing schedule are available. Please [click here](#) for more information.

December 14, 2012: Small FIT Version 2 application window now open

December 14, 2012: Small FIT Application Window Now Open

Welcome to Version 2 of the FIT Program. The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is now accepting Small FIT applications for renewable energy projects with a proposed capacity of more than 10 kilowatts and up to 500 kilowatts (defined in the FIT Rules as Small FIT Projects). The OPA will award up to 200 megawatts (MW) worth of contracts (the Procurement Target) as a result of applications received during this small FIT application window.

The small FIT Application Start Date is December 14, 2012, and the Application End Date is **January 18, 2013**. The timing for the Large FIT project application window will be communicated once details are finalized.

Please note that the FIT Rules, Contract and other program documents have been revised as a result of the November 23, 2012, and December 11, 2012, directives. Before submitting your application, please carefully review the latest versions of the program documents (version 2.1 - please see the Key Documents menu on the right side) to ensure you understand how the FIT Program has changed. These versions are in effect as of December 14, 2012.

Applying to the FIT Program

Application Review

Contract Capacity Set-Asides

Applying to the FIT Program

Applications are welcome from both new and pre-existing applicants. Pre-existing FIT applicants with Small FIT projects (formerly CAE applications) who wish to be considered under the updated FIT Program can maintain their original time stamp if they submit an eligible revised application between December 14, 2012, and January 18, 2013.

Pre-existing FIT applications may be modified to be eligible under the new Rules, but the legal applicant name and site location must stay the same to retain the original time stamp. Applicants are only permitted to change the legal applicant name in very limited cases permitted in the FIT Rules, such as to add participation of 15 percent or more from an Aboriginal or local community, school, college, university, hospital or long-term care home.

Applications cannot be revised after they have been submitted, and you cannot reapply for the same project in the same application window. Please ensure your application is complete and accurate before you submit it.

For those submitting Small FIT applications:

Applicants are required to submit hard-copy application materials and payment to the OPA's offices within five business days of submitting an electronic application.

Application Review

As outlined in the Rules, all applications will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility. If an application is incomplete or ineligible, it will be terminated. Complete and eligible applications will then be ranked by priority and time stamp in order to be tested for transmission and distribution availability.

Any pre-existing Small FIT application (previously known as a CAE application) that is not resubmitted within this initial Small FIT application window will be terminated and the application fee returned.

[Click here](#) for FAQs on changes to the program as a result of the November 23, 2012, and December 11, 2012, directives.

Questions about the Small FIT application window can be directed to the OPA's customer service centre at 1-888-387-3403 or sent by email to FIT@powerauthority.on.ca. Questions submitted through any other channel may not receive a response.

Contract Capacity Set-Asides

The following are the Contract Capacity Set-Asides (CCSA) for the 200 MW Procurement Target established for the initial Small FIT Application Period:

- Community CCSA: 25 MW
- Aboriginal CCSA: 25 MW (this will be subdivided between the First Nation CCSA and the Métis CCSA)
 - First Nation CCSA: 16.7 MW
 - Métis CCSA: 8.3 MW

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August 10, 2012: Final FIT 2.0 Program Documents Posted

August 10, 2012: Documents for Version 2 of the FIT Program now available

Documents for Version 2 of the FIT Program are now available. The Version 2.0 Rules, Contract and Standard Definitions can be found in the [Document Archives](#) section of this website.

Anyone interested in the FIT Program may review the posted documents and prepare themselves for the opening of the Application Period but shall be solely responsible for all costs, expenses and liabilities incurred in this regard and the OPA assumes no responsibility or liability, whether or not the Application Period is opened or not opened and whether or not the FIT Program is suspended, revoked, amended or revised. Under no circumstances whatsoever shall the OPA be liable for any claims for compensation or damages, including any indirect, punitive or consequential damages associated with the preparation of an application in anticipation of the opening of the Application Period.

Price Schedule

[FIT Price Schedule Version 2.0](#)

Program FAQs

[Program FAQs](#)

Transmission Availability Table

[Transmission Availability Table - April 5, 2012](#)

[Transmission Availability Table FAQs - April 5, 2012](#)

[FIT 2.0 Transmission Area Map](#)

Directives

[July 11, 2012](#)

[April 5, 2012](#)

Results of the FIT Program review now available

April 5, 2012

The OPA is pleased to move forward with the revised FIT Program, which incorporates the results of the two-year FIT Program review. The objective of the review was to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program.

The FIT Program has been very successful to date, with about 2,000 signed FIT contracts across the province. We believe the program changes strike a balance between the interests of ratepayers and the need to continue building on the success of the clean energy economy.

During the consultation period, more than 3,000 Ontarians contributed their views on the way forward for the FIT and microFIT programs. We appreciate your contributions to the consultation process. The changes to these programs reflect the input gathered through this consultation process.

Key changes to the FIT Program include:

- As a first step, the FIT and microFIT program rules will provide for the awarding of 50 MW of microFIT and 200 MW of small FIT contracts as soon as possible.
- FIT applications will now be accepted only during an application window, rather than on an ongoing basis.
- Small project FIT applicants will now need to submit application security if they wish to apply or re-apply under the new program rules.
- Applications will be prioritized with points awarded based on applicant type, municipal support, Aboriginal support, project readiness and electricity system benefit.
- Solar rooftop projects must reach commercial operation within 18 months of receiving a contract, compared with three years previously.
- Ground-mounted solar projects need to be located on lands that are not used for residential purposes and also cannot be adjacent to lands that are used for residential purposes.
- Ground-mounted solar projects are permitted on commercial and industrial lands as long as it is the secondary use of the property. However, if the project is the only use of the property, it will be ineligible.
- In addition, ground-mounted solar projects can be located only on property that does not contain any Class 1, 2 or 3 soils, organic or specialty crop soils, regardless of zoning, or any mixed soils that contain Class 1, 2 or 3 soils.
- For projects other than rooftop solar that receive prioritization points related to the type of applicant, there are new restrictions on changes that would reduce the equity held by a community, Aboriginal group or health or education entity below the level that enabled the project to qualify for such prioritization points during the entire term. For rooftop solar projects that receive prioritization points related to the type of applicant, such restrictions apply from the contract date until five years after the commercial operation date.

[Click here](#) for the Ministry of Energy news release.

[Click here](#) for the FIT Program Two-Year Review Report.

[Click here](#) for the April 5, 2012, FIT Program directive.

[Click here](#) for the new FIT pricing schedule.

[Click here](#) for the Transmission Availability Table.

The OPA has posted draft FIT Program Rules and a draft FIT contract for comments, which are being accepted until April 27, 2012. For more information on how to provide feedback, [click here](#).

Instructions for current contract holders and for new and existing FIT applicants can be [found here](#).

Archived News Release

Moving Clean Energy Forward, Creating Jobs

McGuinty Government Takes Steps to Ensure Successful Renewable Energy Program

March 22, 2012 9:20 A.M. | [Ministry of Energy](#)

Ontario is moving ahead with its clean energy program, taking immediate steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of renewable energy while creating more jobs, lowering prices and giving communities a greater say.

Following the first review of Ontario's signature Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) Program, the government will act quickly to implement all the recommendations, which include:

- Creating more jobs sooner by streamlining the regulatory approvals process for projects while maintaining the highest environmental protection standards.
- Reducing prices - for solar projects by more than 20 per cent and wind projects by approximately 15 per cent.
- Encouraging greater community and Aboriginal participation through a new priority point system, which will also prioritize projects with municipal support.
- Reserving 10 per cent of remaining capacity for projects with significant participation from local or Aboriginal communities.
- Developing a Clean Energy Economic Development Strategy to leverage Ontario's significant expertise and strengths to become a global leader in the sector.

Ontario's clean energy strategy has attracted significant renewable energy development, leveraging more than \$27 billion in new investment and economic opportunities. More than 20,000 clean energy jobs have been created and the province is on track to create 50,000 jobs, while helping build a healthier future

This document was published on March 22, 2012 and is provided for archival and research purposes.

for all Ontarians.

Building a clean energy system is part of the McGuinty government's plan to create and support jobs for Ontario families while ensuring we have the electricity we need to power our homes, schools, hospitals and our economy.

Have a question about clean energy projects in your community; contact the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO), 1-877-440-7336 (REFO).

Background Information

- [Moving Clean Energy Forward](#)
- [Support For McGuinty Government's FIT Recommendations](#)

Additional Resources

- [Read the Two-Year Review](#)
- [Read Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan](#)
- [Learn more about renewable energy in Ontario](#)

Quotes

“Having a clean energy strategy that supports healthier families, a healthier environment and a healthier economy is part of our plan to create and support jobs today and tomorrow. I want to thank Ontarians for the thoughtful feedback and insight they provided to help us move forward. It's clear Ontario's clean energy sector is evolving and the province is positioned to become a global leader in clean energy knowledge and products.”

Chris Bentley

Energy Minister

Update on FIT Program review from Deputy Minister Fareed Amin

February 7, 2012:

FIT Review Recommendations in Development

Ontario's clean energy industry is strengthening our economy by attracting new investment and creating new jobs. As you know, Ontario is currently completing the scheduled two year review of the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT).

The purpose of the review is to ensure the continued success and sustainability of the FIT program.

I worked closely with the Ministry of Energy and the Ontario Power Authority to conduct the review. Recommendations are being developed to protect the interests of ratepayers and encourage investments in new clean energy in Ontario. The expectation is that the recommendations, once accepted, will be implemented as quickly as possible.

Consultation has been central to the review process. Between October 31 and December 14, 2011, nearly 2,900 online surveys were completed and over 150 written submissions were received, and the province met with more than 80 stakeholders. This contribution has been invaluable as we move forward in developing changes to the FIT program to ensure its continued success.

I am working with the OPA and Ministry staff to analyze the written submissions and comments we heard through the face-to-face meetings.

I expect to submit my recommendations to the Minister in the near future.

– Fareed Amin
Deputy Minister

Feed-In Tariff Program Two-Year Review

Ontario's Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program was launched in 2009 to create new clean energy industries and jobs, boost economic activity and the development of renewable energy technology, and to improve air quality by phasing out coal-fired generation by 2014.

It's been a great success, and to ensure continued success of the FIT Program in the long-term, the McGuinty Government launched its scheduled two-year review of the FIT Program in October, 2011.

The review confirmed that the FIT Program has been key to making Ontario a leader in clean energy production and manufacturing. The more than 2,500 small and large FIT projects approved to date will produce enough electricity to power 1.2 million homes. FIT has also attracted more than \$27 billion in private sector investment, welcomed more than 30 clean energy companies to the province, created more than 20,000 jobs and is on track to create 50,000 jobs.

After tracking the program's progress, consulting within the sector, researching developments in other jurisdictions and providing recommendations for improvements, the report contains recommendations in six strategic areas:

- Continue commitment to clean energy.
- Streamline processes and create jobs.
- Encourage greater community and Aboriginal participation. Improve municipal engagement.
- Reduce price to reflect lower costs.
- Grow Ontario's clean energy economy.

The McGuinty Government has accepted the FIT Review recommendations, and through them, the program will continue to contribute the province's economic and environmental objectives and ensure it provides good value for Ontario families.

- Learn more about the [FIT Two Year Review](#) Find out more
- about the [key recommendations](#) Learn more about the [FIT Program](#)
- [Connection Impact Assessment \(CIA\) guidelines and best practices](#)

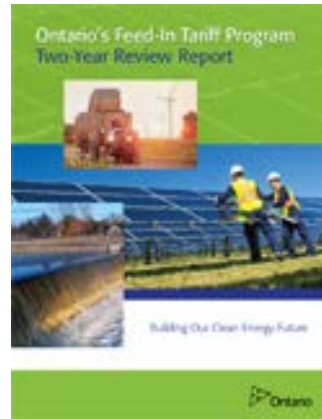


Ontario's Feed-in Tariff Program Two-Year Review Report

[Download Ontario's Feed-in Tariff Program Two-Year Review Report \[PDF 2 MB\]](#) 

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FIT Program review under way

Ontario is moving forward with its commitment to review the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) Program.

The review will consider a range of issues, including but not limited to:

- FIT price reduction
- ensuring the long-term sustainability of clean energy procurement
- continuing to build on the success of Ontario-based manufacturing and clean energy job creation
- consideration of new technologies and fuel sources
- local consultations and the renewable approval process (REA).

As a result of this review, new prices and rules for FIT contracts will be carefully developed to balance the interests of ratepayers with the need to encourage investments in new clean energy in Ontario.

Ontarians can provide feedback by answering an online survey or making a written submission at www.Ontario.ca/FITreview until December 14, 2011. The OPA hosted a webinar on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 to discuss the FIT Program Review. [View the session archive.](#)

New FIT applications will continue to be accepted and time-stamped, but they will not be processed until the new version of the Program Rules and pricing schedule are available once the review is complete. They will then be subject to the new FIT Rules and pricing schedule.

Existing FIT applications (those that were submitted prior to the announcement of the FIT Program review on October 31 and have not yet received a contract) will be processed under the new FIT Rules and pricing schedule once the FIT Program review is complete.

While not normally refundable, the OPA will refund the FIT application fee for applicants who wish to withdraw their application as a result of the program review announcement.

The FIT Program review will not affect existing contracts. Projects should proceed according to their existing contract terms and obligations.

FIT contract holders that have reached commercial operation	Not affected	Existing Rules and contract
FIT contract holders that have not yet reached commercial operation	Not affected	Existing Rules and contract
FIT applicants on the priority ranking list	Subject to the new Rules and pricing	Awaiting available transmission or distribution capacity

FIT CAR applicants submitted June 5, 2010 or later	Subject to the new Rules and pricing	To be processed under new Rules, subject to available transmission or distribution capacity
FIT CAE applicants submitted December 8, 2010 or later	Subject to the new Rules and pricing	To be processed under new Rules, subject to screen for available transmission or distribution capacity
New FIT applicants	Subject to the new Rules and pricing	Will be time-stamped, to be processed under new Rules, subject to available transmission or distribution capacity