

microFIT – Questions to Ask

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Note: This document is intended to provide a list of sample questions only; it is not an all-inclusive list.

YOUR INSTALLER / THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDER

- Do you have experience installing small renewable energy projects in Ontario or other jurisdictions? Can you provide a list of past customers who would be willing to provide references?
- Are your installers qualified to install the project? Do they meet all necessary safety regulations, licensing and certification requirements?
- Are you registered with the Better Business Bureau?
- Do you provide warranties on your labour and products?
- Do you have general liability insurance to cover property damage or injury?
- Do you have any pending or active legal judgments against your company?
- In addition to the installation, what other services do you provide? What are the costs of these services?
- Will you assess my property to ensure that the system is installed at an optimal location? For example, will you ensure that my solar photovoltaic (PV) system is not in a shaded area? Or, will you ensure that my site has appropriate wind for a micro-wind turbine?
- Will you order all the required equipment for the project? What is the full cost of the total installation?
- What are the ongoing operating and maintenance activities and costs I can expect and who will be responsible for them?
- What is the projected revenue from the 20-year microFIT contract, and how did you come up with this estimate?
- [For companies offering free solar PV equipment] How is the system being paid for? How much of the projected revenue from the 20-year microFIT contract will go to each party?
- Will you arrange for all necessary approvals and permits? This includes:
 - building permits
 - authorization to connect from the Electrical Safety Authority

- renewable energy approval, , or any other approvals that may beif required.
- Will you work with my local distribution company to arrange for connection to the grid?
This includes:
 - preparing the connection configuration diagrams
 - arranging for payment of the connection costs
 - helping prepare the connection agreement with the local distribution company
 - arranging for installation and testing of the meter.
- Will you help me prepare my microFIT Program application? Do you charge a fee for this service? If so, how much is it and what does it cover?
- If I need to repair my roof, will there be a cost associated with this?
- In the event that I move, what happens to my leasing arrangement with you?
 - I am buying a home with solar panels on my roof. The previous home owner had a leasing arrangement with a third-party service provider. What does this mean for me?

YOUR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION COMPANY

- What are the costs associated with connecting my microFIT project to the grid?
- What are the ongoing account fees or metering charges that will be associated with my microFIT project?
- What can I expect in terms of timing to connect my project?
- Are there any technical or equipment requirements for connecting my project safely to the grid?
- What information do you require on your connection request?

ABOUT APPROVALS AND PERMITS

The Electrical Safety Authority

- What are the safety standards that apply to my microFIT project?
- What is involved in a safety inspection?
- What is the cost of a safety inspection?
- What can I expect in terms of timing for my safety inspection?

Your municipality

- Will my microFIT project require a building permit?
- What are the costs of obtaining a building permit?
- What can I expect in terms of timing to obtain my building permit?
- Are there any municipal drainage works regulated under the Drainage Act that would be affected by my project?
- How do I get a land use opinion or certification for my project?
- Will my microFIT project affect my property taxes? If so, how?

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

- Does my wind, bioenergy or waterpower project require a renewable energy approval or other environmental assessment?
- What steps are required to obtain a renewable energy approval?
- What are the typical costs of obtaining a renewable energy approval?
- What can I expect in terms of timing to obtain a renewable energy approval?

Ministry of Transportation

- Does my project require permits from Ministry of Transportation (for projects near a provincial highway)?

ABOUT TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Your accountant, tax advisor or the Canada Revenue Agency

- Am I required to become a harmonized services tax (HST) registrant and to collect and remit HST for the revenue attributed to my project?
- How do I become an HST registrant?
- What are the costs associated with becoming an HST registrant?
- What can I expect in terms of timing to obtain an HST registration number?
- How do I remit HST?
- Am I required to declare the revenue paid to me under the microFIT contract as income? Personal income or business income?
- What deductions am I entitled to if I must declare the income?