



INFORMATION REPORT
TOWN OF NEWMARKET
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

www.newmarket.ca
info@newmarket.ca
905.895.5193

May 29, 2015

DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – INFORMATION REPORT # 2015-26

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
SLT/OLT

SUBJECT: Ontario's Feed-in Tariff Program
Request for Municipal Council Blanket Support Resolution
for Rooftop Solar Projects

ORIGIN: Development & Infrastructure Services

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion through the Clerk.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this information report is to advise Council that a blanket support resolution for rooftop solar projects will be included on the June 22, 2015 Council agenda relating to the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program.

COMMENTS

The Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program was developed by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) as part of the *Green Energy Act, 2009* for the Province of Ontario to encourage and promote greater use of renewable energy sources for electricity generating projects. The program allows public and private organizations to sell back energy greater than 10 kilowatts. Under this program rooftop solar photovoltaic projects are permitted.

On January 1, 2015 through amendments to the *Electricity Act*, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) merged operations. The amalgamated agencies now operate as IESO and administer the FIT Program.

Staff has been made aware that the Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) will be accepting applications starting in July 2015 under the FIT Program. In accordance with the rules of the program applicants are required to submit as part of their application a municipal support

resolution. Applications are prioritized based on a point system with points being awarded for municipal council support and are processed on a first come first serve basis.

Council in October 2013 previously adopted a blanket support resolution for rooftop solar projects up to 500 kW. The resolution was effective for 12 months and expired in October 2014. At this time it would be appropriate for Council to adopt a blanket resolution supporting rooftop solar installations up to 500 kW subject to other municipal requirements in accordance with the FIT Program.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

The adoption of a blanket resolution supports the Community Strategic Plan for Living *Well* by providing support for an initiative that increases environmental awareness through innovative solutions for energy creation.

HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

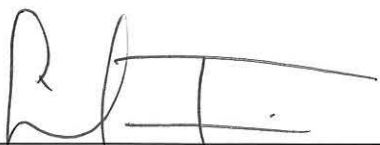
Not applicable to this Information Report.

BUDGET IMPACT

The recommendations contained in this report will have no direct impact on the operating or capital budgets.

CONTACT

For more information on this report, contact R. Nethery, Director of Planning & Building Services (rnethery@newmarket.ca), 905-953-5321, ext. 2451.



Senior Planner - Development



Director of Planning & Building Services



Commissioner of Development &
Infrastructure Services