


TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: FEED IN TARIFF, COUNCIL SUPPORT RESOLUTION

**PREPARED BY AND
KEY CONTACT:** B. THOMPSON C.E.T., C.E.M. ³⁰
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SUBMITTED BY: K. BRADLEY B.A., M.L.A. ^{KB}
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND TRANSIT

**GENERAL MANAGER
APPROVAL:** R. FORWARD, MBA, M.Sc, P. Eng. 
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH
MANAGEMENT

**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 3.0 across the City of Barrie, subject to review by staff in the Facilities and Transit 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 the protocol outlined in Appendix "A" of Staff Report FT02-13 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 3.0.
4. That the Municipal Council Support Blanket Resolution, Municipal Council Support Resolution or Municipal Council Support Resolution Confirmation attached as Appendix "B", "C" and "D" to Staff Report FT02-13 be provided to proponents of 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 3.0, where such projects meet the criteria identified in the Protocol and are deemed satisfactory by Director of Facilities and Transit or his or her designate, and the Director be delegated the authority to execute such blanket resolution on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Barrie.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

5. The purpose of this Staff Report is to gain council support for applications the City may receive under the Provincial Small Feed in Tariff program from proponents of roof top solar renewable energy projects greater than 10 kW and less than 500 kW that request a Council support resolution.
6. On October 22, 2012 council passed motion 12-G-260 Feed in Tariff Council Support Resolution.
 - a) That the City of Barrie support the construction and operation of rooftop solar generation projects in non-residential areas in the Provinces Feed in Tariff (FIT) Program version 2 across the City of Barrie, subject to review by staff in engineering Department.

- b) 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.
 - c) That this support shall expire twelve (12) months after adoption of this motion by City Council.
 - d) That the procedures outlined in Appendix "A" of Staff Report ENG033-12 be adopted in order to process requests for obtaining support for non-residential solar rooftop energy projects for the Province's Feed in Tariff (FIT) Program version 2.
 - e) 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.
 - f) 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.
7. As more than twelve months have passed since this motion was passed and the Province has opened a new Window for applications a new motion must be passed in order to provide supporting resolutions.
 8. The Province opened a window for applications of small FIT projects between December 14, 2012 and January 18, 2013. A second FIT application window has been announced by the Province for November 4, 2013 until December 13, 2013. The Province has updated the priority points and some other conditions within the application process. Municipal Councils now have three resolution options to support the projects known as a Municipal Council Support Resolution, a Municipal Council Blanket Support Resolution, or a Municipal Council Support Resolution Confirmation which is used only for applications that were submitted under the previous window but not approved by the Province. The Municipal Council Support Resolution must be approved 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 a Municipal Council Support Resolution or the Municipal Council Support Resolution Confirmation if the application received a supporting resolution under the previous FIT application window.
 9. The municipal Council support resolution, support resolution confirmation and blanket support resolution templates are attached as Appendix "B".

ANALYSIS

10. 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.
11. Renewable green energy projects are not subject to the Planning Act. As such, the Official Plan and Zoning By-law do not apply.
12. Council is not obligated to provide a supporting resolution to proposed Small FIT projects and can choose to not deal with any requests.
13. 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
Municipal or Public Sector Entity Participation Project	3
NON-PROJECT TYPE	PRIORITY POINTS
Municipal Council Support	2
Aboriginal Support	2
Municipal Site Host or Public Sector Entity Site Host	2
System Benefit	1

As project type points cannot be combined a total of 10 points are available to be awarded of which the Council support resolution represents two.

14. For projects in industrial, commercial, and institutional areas, that meet the protocol requirements set out in Appendix A it is proposed the Director of Facilities and Transit approve these projects.
15. 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.
16. As of October 21, 2013, the City has received three requests for a Council resolution supporting roof top solar projects; These represent projects that were submitted in the previous application window and received supporting resolutions from Barrie, staff is also aware that Power Stream will be making application for some projects on city facilities.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. Should staff wish to pursue any renewable energy projects at City Facilities these projects will be brought to Council for support before applying to the FIT program.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

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

ALTERNATIVES

23. There is an Alternative available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1

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.

FINANCIAL

24. The current fee associated with the submission of an application is \$100. The 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. In the previous window staff received 61 applications and \$4300 in Fees (PowerStream and City applications did not pay a review fee). The expectation is that there will be fewer submittals as the Provincial approval rate is extremely low and not very transparent leading many to be frustrated with the process. The fees received will be placed in the Facilities and Transit 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

25. 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 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 support Council resolution is the Director of Facilities and Transit 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.

5. Municipal Council Support Resolution

5.1 Where an application is deemed to meet the criteria identified in Section 3 of this policy and is satisfactory in the sole discretion of the Director of Facilities and Transit or his or her designate, the Director may execute a Municipal Council Support Resolution or a Municipal Council Support Resolution Confirmation on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Barrie.

APPENDIX "B"

**TEMPLATE: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BLANKET SUPPORT RESOLUTION
(Section 5.1(g)(i) of the FIT Rules, Version 3.0)**

OPARP/f-FIT-011r2

Resolution NO: _____ Date: _____

[WHEREAS] capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the FIT Rules, Version 3.0.

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

_____ generation projects (the
"Projects");

[AND WHEREAS] one or more Projects may be constructed and operated in
;

[AND WHEREAS], pursuant to the FIT Rules, Version 3.0, 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 _____ supports the
construction and operation of the Projects anywhere in

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.

Title:

Title:

FIT reference number: _____

(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.)

APPENDIX "C"

**PRESCRIBED FORM/TEMPLATE: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SUPPORT RESOLUTION
(Section 5.1(g)(i) of the FIT Rules, Version 3.0)**

OPARP/f-FIT-012r2

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

Resolution NO: _____ Date: _____

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

(the "Project") on _____

(the "Lands") in _____ under the
Province's FIT Program;

AND WHEREAS the Applicant has requested that Council of _____
_____ 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 _____ 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.

K. Bradley, Director of Facilities & Transit

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

APPENDIX "D"

The Prescribed Form may be completed and provided to the OPA by an Applicant that had received a FIT Rules, Version 2.1 Template: Municipal Council Support Resolution (that was not a blanket support resolution) that was issued by the Local Municipality prior to October 1, 2013 in relation to the Applicant and the Project. The Prescribed Form: Municipal Council Support Resolution Confirmation may not be used as a substitute for a Template: Municipal Council Support Resolution where no Template: Municipal Council Support Resolution was used for the Project previously.

Capitalized terms not defined in this form have the meanings ascribed thereto in the FIT Rules, Version 3.0.

1. I am the/an: _____ of the _____ (the "Municipality"),

and have the delegated authority to provide this confirmation on behalf of the Municipality and without personal liability.

2. _____ (the "Applicant")
(This must be the same Applicant (i.e. same name) as stated in the Municipal Council Support Resolution originally provided as attached)

proposes to construct and operate a _____
(This must be the same description as stated in the Municipal Council Support Resolution originally provided as attached)

(the "Project") on _____
(This must be the same description as the Lands in the Municipal Council Support Resolution originally provided as attached)

(the "Lands") in the Municipality under the Provinces FIT Program.

3. The Council of the Municipality (the "Council") had previously provided the Municipal Council Support Resolution attached as Exhibit "A" for the Project indicating by resolution the Council's support for the construction and operation of the Project on the Property.

4. I have confirmed that the Project being proposed by the Applicant under the Province's FIT Program is the same Project on the same Lands as the Project that was the subject of the Municipal Council Support Resolution attached as Exhibit "A".

5. I confirm that the Municipal Council Support Resolution attached as Exhibit "A" is still in effect and that the Council has not rescinded, revoked or repealed such resolution and confirm that the Municipality supports the construction and operation of the Project on the Lands.

DATE: _____

Signature: _____

Signature:
Name:
Title:

FIT reference number: _____
<i>(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.)</i>