

This goal of this document is to highlight key lessons for municipalities which emerged from a research project conducted in January-April 2011 on the 2009, Green Energy and Green Economy Act. This research used a mixed-methods qualitative basket based on document and media review, as well as twelve key informant interviews in Mid western Ontario, including five staff or council members of municipalities having adopted a renewable energy project.

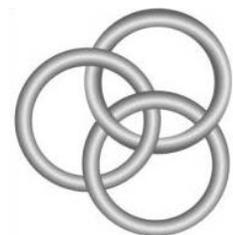
Implementing Bill 150: Key lessons for municipalities

Prepared for the
Midwestern Ontario
Regional Green Jobs
Strategy

Wayne Caldwell, MITACS Project Director
Émanuèle Lapierre-Fortin, MITACS Intern
University of Guelph
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Strategy



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Document and Media Review	Interviewees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Ontario has brought in more than 1400 MW of renewable energy online since 2003 partly because it lowers barriers to participation (Hamilton, 2011). <li>✦ The <i>Green Energy Act</i> has allowed municipalities to generate up to 10 MW of electricity, which they were prohibited from doing before Bill 150 was enacted, and even get reimbursed for some of their costs through the Municipal Renewable Energy Program <li>✦ Feed-In Tariff (FIT) Programs are the most effective type of policy to encourage renewable energy according to Mazza (2008) <li>✦ “One-window, one permit” approach to approvals” (Hamilton, 2009) <li>✦ The price add-on for community and aboriginal projects <li>✦ Job creation bound to increase due to increasing domestic content requirements <li>✦ Opportunity to strengthen implementation of the energy conservation mandate of the <i>GEA</i> <li>✦ Opportunity to stimulate renewable heating technologies (e.g. geothermal, co-generation, District Heating Systems) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ The Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program is very encouraging for solar <li>✦ The <i>GEA</i> is a good public relations move and created thousands of new jobs in Ontario <li>✦ Municipalities have choices; they can enter the field of renewable energy production through ownership, lease or a joint venture with a private partner <li>✦ The <i>GEA</i> increased awareness of energy conservation within municipal corporations <li>✦ The FIT program renders certain programs such as waste treatment plants with a biogas facility economically feasible

Interviewees made a number of suggestions concerning how the *GEA* implementation could be improved. The following three are relevant to municipalities:

- ✚ Incorporate more discussion and planning with stakeholders
- ✚ Provide incentives for businesses who are pioneers/early adopters of new renewable technologies
- ✚ Making home energy evaluations and labelling common practice to improve on the energy conservation front

This research highlighted the following needs, which point to areas for reform in the *GEA* implementation:

- ✚ A need for an increased focus on facilitating community-owned renewable energy projects, a policy review of community ownership models and a policy review of public participations processes due to the urgency expressed by key informants and the public for heightened participation and ownership with regards to the *GEA*;
- ✚ A need for capacity building at all levels of the provincial and municipal governments to ensure the mandate of the *GEA* is enacted in practice and.
- ✚ A need for the establishment of a neutral conflict resolution body to facilitate dialog between renewable energy stakeholders

References

- Hamilton, T. (2009, February 21). Province to fast-track wind turbine projects. *The Toronto Star*.
- Hamilton, T. (2011, March 10). Ontario solar program getting too hot to handle. *The Toronto Star*.
- Mazza, P. (2008). *Community Wind 101: A Primer for Policymakers*. San Francisco: The Energy Foundation.