

TO	CHAIR AND MEMBERS PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 31, 2016
FROM:	GEORGE KOTSIFAS, P. Eng. MANAGING DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT & COMPLIANCE SERVICES AND CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL
SUBJECT:	LOCAL RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION PROJECTS SEEKING ONTARIO FEED-IN TARIFF CONTRACTS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BLANKET SUPPORT RESOLUTION LANDFILL GAS PROJECTS ON ACTIVE & CLOSED LANDFILL SITES FEED-IN-TARIFF (FIT) 5.0 PRESCRIBED FORMS

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Manager of Development Services and Planning Liaison, the following actions be taken with respect to landfill gas projects seeking contracts under Version 5.0 of the Ontario Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program:

- a) the Mayor and the City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign any requested Council Resolution using the Municipal Council Blanket Support Resolution attached hereto as Appendix “A”;

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

July 23, 2012 – Report to PEC on municipal support resolutions for local renewable electricity generation projects seeking Ontario Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) Contracts.

September 24, 2012 – Follow-up report to PEC on municipal support resolutions for local renewable electricity generation projects seeking Ontario FIT Contracts.

January 8, 2013 – Report to PEC on Planning Fees By-law CP-18, to implement fees for applications under the FIT Program.

October 29, 2013 – Report to PEC on projects seeking contracts under FIT Version 3.0.

June 1, 2015 – Report to PEC on projects seeking contracts under FIT Version 4.0.

July 20, 2015 – Report to PEC on program requirements for FIT 3.1 Contract holders.

July 18, 2016 – Report to PEC on projects seeking contracts under FIT Version 5.0.

October 4, 2016 – Report to CWC on Landfill Gas Utilization Update and Next Steps

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to recommend the adoption of a Municipal Council Blanket Support Resolution for landfill gas power plants, which will permit facilities in London to receive priority points under the Provincial Feed In Tariff (FIT 5.0) Program.

BACKGROUND

The Provincial Feed In Tariff (FIT) Program was launched in 2009 to encourage the development of renewable energy technology, attract investment and create new clean energy jobs in Ontario. Renewable energy projects that are supported through FIT include rooftop and ground mounted solar installations, wind turbines, biomass, biogas and landfill gas. The program allows homeowners, communities, business owners and private developers to generate renewable energy and sell it to the province at a guaranteed price for a fixed contract term. The program was previously administered by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and is now administered by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). The program is updated annually and projects are awarded on the basis of points that are assigned for a variety of attributes, including support from local municipal councils, which must be in the prescribed format.

The *Green Energy Act 2009*, as amended, permits renewable energy projects to be installed notwithstanding restrictions that might otherwise be imposed to prevent or restrict the activity by local municipal by-laws (i.e. Zoning). The purpose of municipal support resolutions is to enable applicants to receive priority points that can be applied under the FIT Program evaluation criteria and the resolutions do not apply to any other form of municipal approval in relation to the project. In order to receive priority points under the “Municipal Council Support” category, a project must have received the support of the local municipality in which the project is located in the form of a Municipal Council Support Resolution.

Staff presented a report to Planning and Environment Committee on July 18, 2016 to seek Council endorsement for projects in the FIT 5.0 application period, which is open from October 31st to November 18th of this year. A blanket support resolution was endorsed for Category 1 Projects involving rooftop solar panel installations. Under the criteria previously endorsed by Council, individual municipal support resolutions are required for Category 2 projects (all ground-mounted solar installations) and Category 3 projects (wind turbines, biomass and biogas installations at specific locations). The current breakdown of application Categories and associated fees is illustrated in Table 1 below:

Table 1:

Project Type	Description	File Handler	Process Requirements	Fee
Micro FIT	Renewable Electricity Generation Projects (10 kW or less)	Zoning Officer	Issuance of Compliance form	\$60
FIT - Category 1	All rooftop solar panel installations anywhere	Zoning Officer	Issuance of Compliance form	\$30
FIT - Category 2	All ground mounted solar panel installations at specific locations with little impact on adjacent properties	Development Services Staff	PEC Report for Municipal Support Resolution	\$300
FIT - Category 3	Wind turbines, biomass and biogas installations at specific locations	Development Services Staff	PEC Report for Municipal Support Resolution	\$1000

It is important to note that landfill gas, a distinct renewable energy fuel source under the IESO’s FIT program rules, was never categorized within the City of London’s processes for managing requests for municipal support resolutions. This is due to the fact the W12A Landfill is likely the only landfill in London that has sufficient landfill gas quantities to make a viable FIT project. All closed landfills in the City are expected to be too small and have been closed for too many years to generate enough landfill gas over the next 20 years to make an economically viable project.

The City of London plans to submit an application for a 500 kilowatt landfill gas power plant at W12A Landfill for the FIT 5.0 application period. A report describing the project including a

business case was submitted to Civic Works Committee on October 4, 2016 and Municipal Council on October 11, 2016.

Priority points are awarded under the FIT Program where a blanket resolution has been endorsed by the local Municipal Council for such facilities. The adoption of a blanket Municipal Council resolution for landfill gas installations is being recommended because it supports the use of a local, renewable energy sources on sites that have little or no alternative use.

The wording of the recommended Municipal Council Blanket Support Resolution, attached as Appendix “A”, is based on the template provided by the IESO. The blanket resolution for landfill gas facilities will not affect the requirement for other Category 2 and Category 3 FIT installations, which will continue to require a project specific support resolution in order to receive priority points.

CONCLUSION

Municipal Council is being requested to endorse a blanket resolution form for applications under the Provincial FIT 5.0 program involving landfill gas. The application period is open from October 31st to November 18th and the City of London is preparing an application for a landfill gas facility at the W12A Landfill site.

PREPARED & RECOMMENDED BY:	REVIEWED BY:
TERRY GRAWAY, MCIP RPP MANAGER, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES & PLANNING LIAISON	JENNIE RAMSAY, P. Eng. MANAGER, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES & ENGINEERING LIAISON
SUBMITTED BY:	
GEORGE KOTSIFAS, P. Eng. MANAGING DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT & COMPLIANCE SERVICES AND CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL	

APPENDIX “A”

Resolution Number: _____

FIT Reference Number: _____

Date Resolution was passed: November 8, 2016

WHEREAS capitalized terms not defined herein have the meaning ascribed to them in the FIT Rules, Version 5.0.

AND WHEREAS the Province’s FIT Program encourages the construction and operation of landfill gas generation projects (the “Projects”);

AND WHEREAS one or more Projects may be constructed and operated in London, Ontario;

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to the FIT rules Version 5.0, 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 Corporation of the City of London supports the construction and operation of the Projects anywhere in London, Ontario.

This resolution’s sole purpose is to enable 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 for any other purpose.

This resolution shall expire twelve (12) months after its adoption by Council.

Matt Brown
Mayor

Catharine Saunders
City Clerk