



The role of the City of Ottawa in encouraging community solar power

Plug into the power of communities.



Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-op

Presentation to City of Ottawa
Environmental Stewardship
Advisory Committee

Solar electricity and community solar power fit into City priorities

- Term of Council Priority *Environmental Stewardship* (reduce environmental footprint, use green technology)
- Term of Council Priority *Economic Prosperity* (developing and retaining local firms)
- Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan (*recognizes growing trend and role of generating renewable energy locally*)
- Investment strategy for Sustainable Economic Prosperity (*strategic objective: The City will strive to balance business prosperity with social equity, environmental responsibility and cultural expression*)
- Choosing our Future report, in particular the *Energy and Emissions Plan*, a sub-plan of the *Sustainability and Resilience Plan*, focuses on increasing renewable energy and reducing energy demand; lastly,
- ‘Partnerships for Prosperity’ proposes that the City take an even more aggressive funding role in the local social enterprises sector.

Things the City is doing well

- **Council resolutions in support of roof-top solar projects**
 - Gives projects priority points under program rules (FIT 2 , FIT 3 and more)

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 Resolution	2
Aboriginal Support Resolution	2
Municipal Site Host or Public Sector Entity Site Host	2
System Benefit	1

Things the City could do better (as an owner of buildings)

- refrain from being overly cautious
 - Community associations proposing rooftop projects on city owned buildings thwarted by concerns over liability
- In the next few months Energy Ottawa will develop rooftop projects on 20 large city owned community buildings (e.g. sports and recreation complexes. This is an admirable step but it does not allow for residents to fully participate in these projects. The City could consider encouraging community ownership vehicles like the Ottawa Renewable Energy Cooperative as a partner in these projects.

Things the City could do better : (permitting and approvals)

- **Avoid unnecessary requirements when processing building permits for solar collector systems**
 - **Why anti-seismic roof anchors required in Ottawa but not elsewhere?**

Things the City could do better : (as a revenue collector)

- **Consider using local improvement charges to finance residents to generate renewable electricity**
 - City has regulatory ability to use tax system to loan residents capital to finance energy retrofits
 - Examples exist in Halifax, Toronto, Vancouver
 - Ottawa could use in similar fashion or explore ability to finance residents investment in solar electricity projects

Things the City could do better : (as a revenue collector)

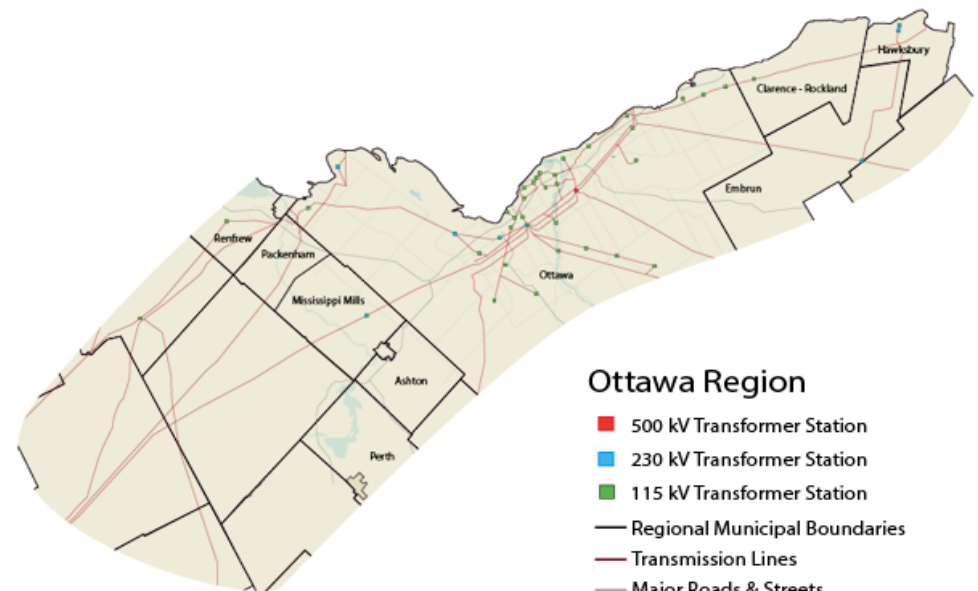
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Ensure Hydro Ottawa is supportive

- How does Hydro Ottawa compare to other municipal utilities when approving solar projects?
- Anecdotally, the impression is of unnecessary burdens (e.g. loss of phase protection required only in Ottawa)
- A review of Hydro Ottawa's performance against local distribution companies is suggested

Things the City could do better : (regional energy policy)

- Advocate for local renewables in regional energy planning
 - Integrated Regional Resource Planning currently lead by OPA



Main Recommendations

- 1. Continue to support through municipal resolutions**
- 2. Leverage role as building owner to increase resident participation in rooftop solar**
- 3. Avoid unnecessary requirements when issuing building permits**