



# Promising Practices

## Eastern Ontario leads the way in executed FIT contracts

It is inspiring to note that the leader in renewable energy uptake, since the establishment of the Feed in Tariff (FIT), is Eastern Ontario, according to the Ontario Power Authority.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, rural and urban Eastern Ontarians are seeking alternatives to fossil fuels and are using the FIT and microFIT Programs en masse to produce green energy for the grid.

FIT REGIONAL BREAKDOWN Sum of Executed Contracts (MW)	
Region in Ontario	Contract Executed
Bruce	766
Central	591
<b>East</b>	<b>1,150</b>
GTA	140
Niagara	939
Northeast	398
Northwest	101
West of London	577
<b>Total Sum (MW)</b>	<b>4,662</b>

Source: Bi-weekly FIT and microFIT Report, data as of August 7, 2012

The renewable energy being added to the grid in Eastern Ontario is from hydroelectric, wind, solar, and biogas projects. In Eastern Ontario there are seven fairly new energy projects of the hydroelectric variety, which include: Trent Rapids Hydroelectric Station (8 megawatts capacity), Glen Miller Hydroelectric Project (8 MW), McLeod Dam (950 KW), Eganville Generation Corporation (840 KW),

Douglas New GS (81,165 KW), Almonte Lower Falls Re-Development (4.6 MW) and Chaudière Grinder Sluiceway Generation (0.709 MW). These hydroelectric projects are producing a total capacity of 104.264 megawatts (MW) annually.

The large wind energy development on Wolfe Island is very significant, with a capacity of 197.8 MW. Three large solar projects in Eastern Ontario have a total capacity of 39 MW and the projects include: Arnprior solar project, 1st Light Solar Energy Park, and Parker's Corners' Solar Farm. Finally, biogas production across Eastern Ontario is growing with six projects that have a total capacity of 12.577 MW; these include; Donnandale Farms, Ledgecroft Farms, Trail Road Landfill Gas Generating Station, Trail Road Landfill Gas Generating Station, Terryland Farms and WM Ottawa Landfill Gas to Energy.<sup>2</sup>

### *Landowners, property owners and farmers help drive clean energy evolution*

Many players are contributing to Eastern Ontario's leadership position, both urban and rural dwellers, as well as many area farmers and landowners. One family farm in Almonte, called Dunbrae Farms, has been dedicated to cleaner energy since 2010 when their solar panels were installed through the microFIT program.<sup>3</sup> Dunbrae Farms has been in the Duncan family since 1822 and is also certified organic by EcoCert Canada. At Dunbrae Farm, Janet and her husband Bruce raise grass-fed Red Poll dual purpose cattle (a heritage and rare breed) for organic beef production as well as producing grains for bulk sale for organic flours and feeds.<sup>4</sup>

The Duncan's took their farm to the next level when Janet read about the microFIT program. She decided that "the program fit into what Dunbrae Farms was all about" and began the process to attain solar panels to contribute to renewable energy generation. The system Janet chose was immobile solar panels due to the risk of wind damage. She has estimated that in six to seven years the initial cost of the solar

panels and their installation will be paid off. The system currently produces approximately \$10,000 per year in revenue for Dunbrae Farms.<sup>5</sup>

Another family farm that is contributing to Eastern Ontario's success with renewable energy is Laver Farms. The owner of Laver Farms, Don Laver, is a cash farmer who owns Warkworth Solar near Belleville. His company supplies and installs solar panels. Warkworth Solar has installed approximately 300 units in both rural and urban areas across Ontario. The majority of the units have been of the microFIT variety, 10 kilowatts or less. Mr. Laver said the FIT program is "a good system, enabling people to earn extra income..." while contributing to renewable energy production.<sup>6</sup>

Overall, rural Eastern Ontario is setting the bar high for renewable energy uptake and should be used as an example for the rest of the province to get started on renewable energy projects whether they are big or small. Family farms, such as Dunbrae Farms and Laver Farms, are demonstrating leadership on clean, renewable energy, leadership that should be emulated by many more rural property owners across the region and the province.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Janet Duncan, Farm Owner  
Dunbrae Farms  
Phone: 613-256-2933  
Email: [dunbrae@sympatico.ca](mailto:dunbrae@sympatico.ca)

This Promising Practice was brought to you by Ecology Ottawa on behalf of the **Community Energy Network of Eastern Ontario** *Encouraging the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives*  
[www.community-energy.ca](http://www.community-energy.ca)



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**References:**

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- <sup>2</sup> Ontario Ministry of Energy. "New Energy Projects." Website text. 2012. [www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/ontarios-electricity-system/new-energy-projects](http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/ontarios-electricity-system/new-energy-projects). Accessed October 2012.
- <sup>3</sup> Duncan, J. Dunbrae Farms. Phone interview. 17 May 2012.
- <sup>4</sup> Canadian Organic Growers-Ottawa Chapter. "Feast of Fields." 2007.  
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- <sup>5</sup> Supra note 3.
- <sup>6</sup> Campbell, J. "Trent Hills councillor 'thrilled' with change in green energy rules - Province to prohibit ground-mount solar projects in residential areas." Northumberland News. 2 April 2012.  
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