



Reference: Report No. - Re: CS-21-10 - Renewable Energy Projects for Regional Lands and Facilities

A & F Committee meeting of March 24, 2010

Chair, Members of the Administration and Finance Committee,

Our originally planned delegation regarding the wording of CS-21-10 was discussed in a meeting with Chair Carr and Shawn Crawford, Corporate Services yesterday. At this meeting, we were assured that our concern regarding the assigning of single source provider status to the Halton Utilities Group precluding a Community Renewable Energy Cooperative Project was not valid. However, Chair Carr suggested we proceed with our delegation as an opportunity to update the committee on BurlingtonGreen's vision for a community co-op project.

A Community Renewable Energy Cooperative (CREC) project is a community power initiative spearheaded by the BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association. CREC's goal is to realize the benefits offered by the province's new Green Energy and Green Economy Act (GEA) and bring the benefits to the citizens of Burlington (initially) and Halton. We will do this by developing local renewable energy projects and offering all community citizens the opportunity to participate in ownership of a renewable energy project through the purchase of shares in a renewable energy co-operative.

BurlingtonGreen is working with GridSmartCity, an affiliate of Burlington Hydro, to develop a Burlington renewable photovoltaic energy project that meets each partner's mutual needs. GridSmartCity will provide the technical and utility related resources required to build and connect the project to the province's electricity grid. BurlingtonGreen will deliver the vital grass roots community participation that will make the project an authentic community power initiative. The end result will be an opportunity for all Burlington citizens to participate in, and directly benefit from, what is called the most attractive incentive to develop renewable generation in the world – the Ontario Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) program.

We agreed yesterday that BurlingtonGreen, in association with other Halton environmental organizations POWER, Oakville Green and Milton Green, would work with the Region to identify regional renewable energy projects as well.

The FIT program pays attractive rates for power generated from renewable projects but significant property and capital resources are required. Community power projects like CREC enables people who don't own suitable property or who don't have significant funds available to participate in renewable energy generation. The Renewable Energy Co-op could be selling shares in the project for as little as \$10, enabling citizens of all ages and economic levels to have part ownership and earn income from the project.

CREC will initially develop up to a 500 KW solar powered project on a suitable space in Halton. It will create a renewable energy co-operative to own 50% or more of the project with the Halton Utilities Group or another utility owning the balance. The project ideally will be located in a highly visible site

that will serve to demonstrate to all citizens the opportunity to make Halton a leader in renewable energy, as well as showing the success of community participation.

CREC's proposal would include working with the Region to select a suitable location and develop the project to the point of attaining a FIT contract. At this point, CREC will begin to market, communicate and sell shares in the project to the citizens of Halton.

CREC's goal is to develop a project with a projected in-service date prior to the end of 2010. Once the project is in-service, CREC will move to develop the next community power project with a goal of bringing several more projects online in 2011 under the community ownership model. BurlingtonGreen believes that community participation in the advancement of renewable energy to provide a more sustainable future for all of us and for future generations to come, is essential. We hope that you agree and will support this "go forward" initiative.

Thank you for your attention

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