

A photograph of a wind turbine's hub and blades against a night sky over a city. The city lights are visible in the background. The image is overlaid with a blue gradient and white geometric shapes (squares and lines).

# Renewable Energy Approvals

**Air & Waste Management Association**

**October 2010**

## Today's Presentation

### **Ontario as a Renewable Energy Leader**

1. Context
2. Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program
3. Regulatory Process
4. The Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO)

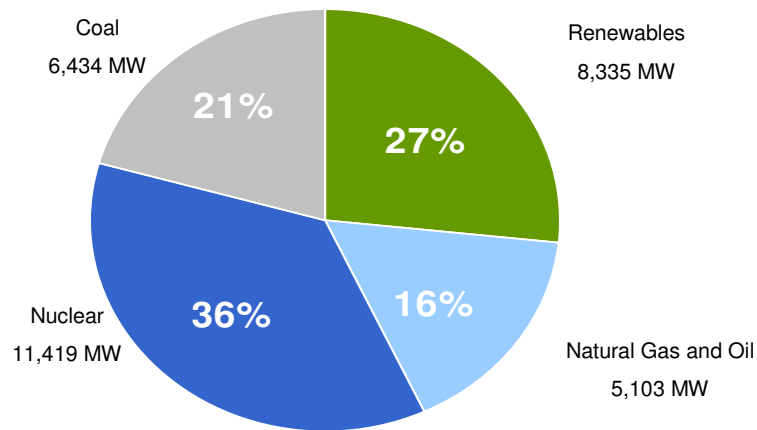
## Context: Ontario's Green Energy Act

The *Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009* (GEA) was enacted to:

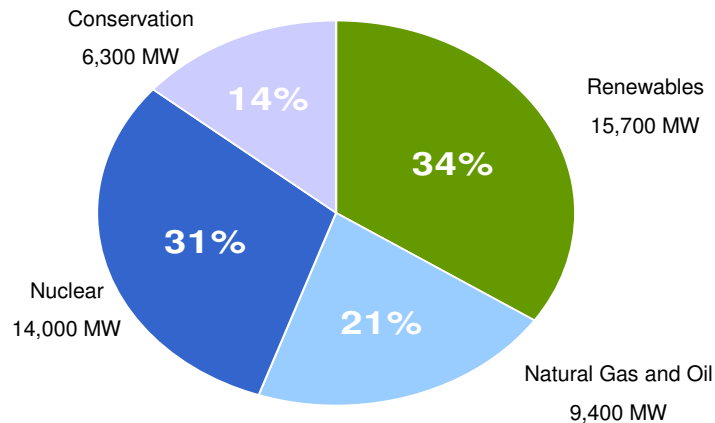
- 1. Make Ontario a Renewable Energy Leader**
- 2. Encourage Investment and Create Jobs** (50,000 jobs in the first three years)
- 3. Foster a Culture of Conservation**

# Ontario's Commitment to Renewable Energy

**2007 Supply Mix**



**2025 Supply Mix**



The province of Ontario is committed to substantially raise the proportion of renewable energy in the province's supply mix, by encouraging the production of alternative energy throughout the province.

Ontario's goals for the adoption of alternative energy include:

- Phase out coal-fired generation by 2014, or earlier
- 48% of Ontario's electricity supply to come from conservation and renewable sources, by 2025

## Ontario as a Renewable Energy Leader: FIT

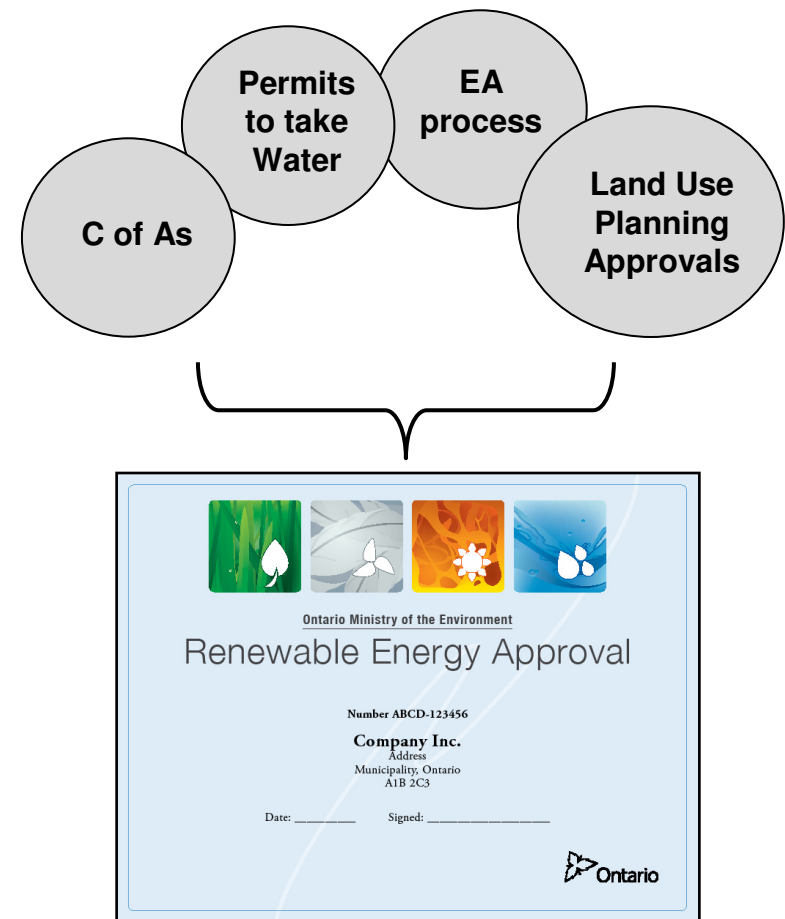
- FIT program is administered by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), an agency of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MEI)
- Feed in Tariff (FIT) – Standard prices for 20 years (40 years for waterpower) to promote the development of community-based and large commercial renewable energy (electricity) projects
- FIT prices vary by technology, and are designed to cover project costs and provide a reasonable rate of return to developers
- The microFIT program is available for projects 10 kilowatts (kW) and less
- The OPA will review the FIT program every two years

# Ontario as Renewable Energy Leader: Regulatory Process

## Renewable Energy Approval (REA)

The Ministry of the Environment's REA is a single new approval that integrates the environmental and health and safety matters traditionally dealt with through the following requirements:

- existing land use planning (municipal government level)
- environmental assessment (EA)
- environmental approvals (Certificates of Approval)
- water takings (Permit to Take Water)



# Ontario as Renewable Energy Leader: Regulatory Process

## Renewable Energy Approval Process - What's In, What's Out

### Wind Facilities

- Over 3kW but less than 50kW (streamlined requirements)
- Over 50kW (including setbacks)
- All off-shore wind projects

### Solar Facilities

- Ground mounted over 10kW
- No approval required for rooftop or wall mounted of any size
- Prime agricultural land restrictions within the FIT contract

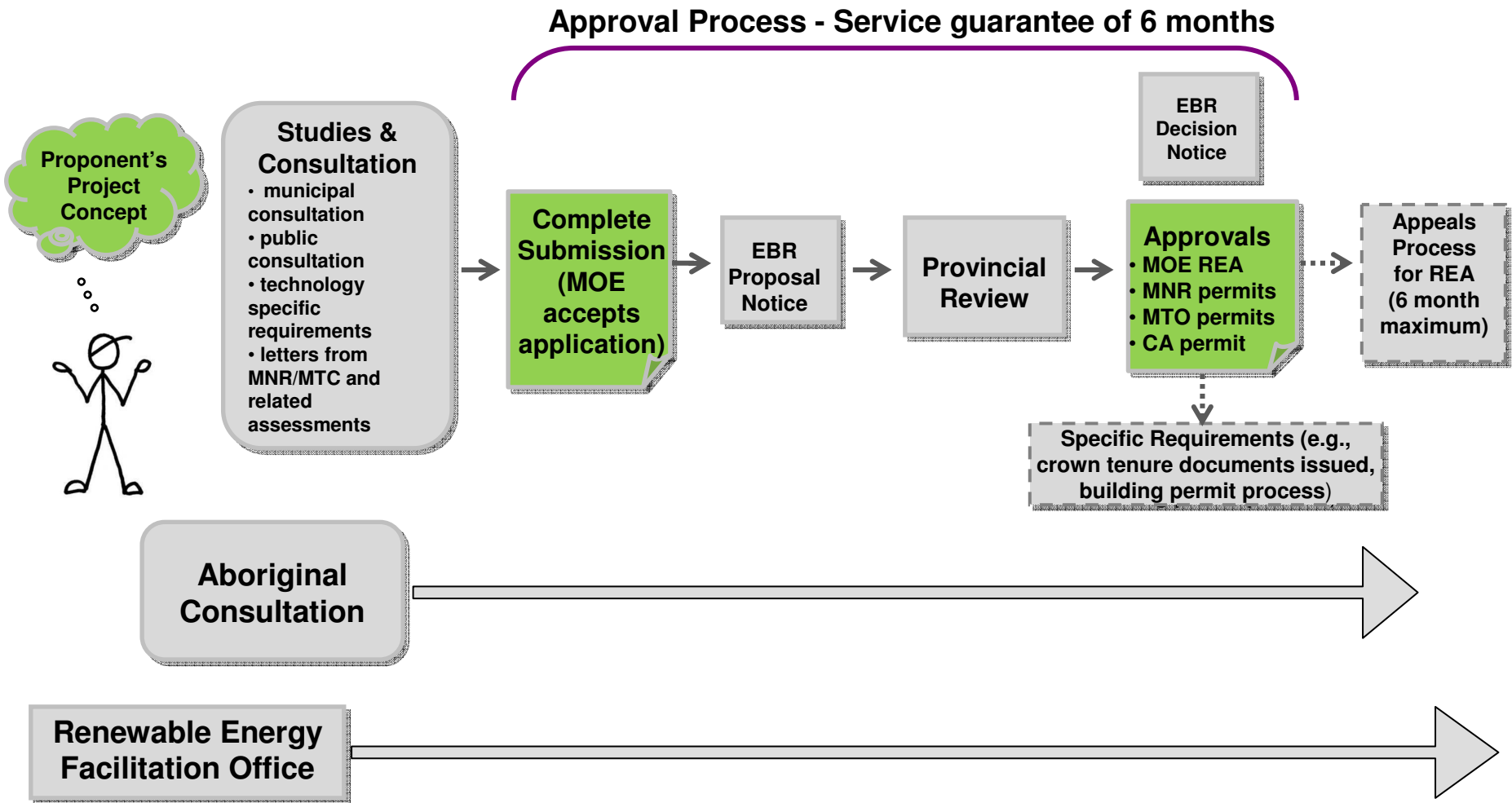
### Bio-energy Facilities

- Defined in the Green Energy Act as biomass, biogas or bio-fuel
- Can be anaerobic digestion or thermal treatment facilities
- No approval required for farm-based operations addressed under the Nutrient Management Act

### Waterpower Facilities

- Does not require an REA; existing Class EA and Ministry of Environment (MOE) / Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) approvals still apply

# Ontario as Renewable Energy Leader: Regulatory Process





## Ontario as Renewable Energy Leader: Regulatory Process

### Consultation with Municipalities and Local Authorities

- Proponents will be required by regulation to circulate the consultation form to the clerk of every municipality where the project location is situated
- Proponents must also circulate the consultation form to Local Roads Board and Local Service Board
- Municipal Consultation Form shall be in a format approved of by the Director
- Municipal Consultation Form will address matters relating to municipal or local infrastructure and servicing
- Proponents must show how they addressed municipal or local authority concerns or why they were unable to do so

## Ontario as Renewable Energy Leader: Regulatory Process

### Consultation with the Public

Public consultation:

- At least two community meetings are required for each municipality
- The project developer will also provide documentation of all community consultation efforts and explain how issues raised during the community consultation were addressed
- Studies and reports must be made publicly available 60 days before final public meeting. Municipality will receive 90 days before final public meeting
- Through guidance, province encourages early and often consultation with local community and municipality

## Ontario as Renewable Energy Leader: Regulatory Process

### Aboriginal Consultation

#### Aboriginal Consultation

- Project developer must demonstrate that they have contacted all potentially impacted Aboriginal communities and distributed the consultation form to address adverse impacts on constitutionally protected aboriginal or treaty rights.

#### Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)

- Posted on Registry for a minimum of 30 days.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> parties can appeal decisions within 15 days.

# Ontario as Renewable Energy Leader: Regulatory Process

## Resource Assessments and Requirements

Natural features and water bodies:

- Includes a records review and site investigation
- Assessments and report requirements when proposing to construct where otherwise prohibited
- Confirmation from MNR for significant natural features

Archaeological and heritage resources:

- Includes self assessment identifying resources
- Where facility is likely to impact resources full assessment and report requirements
- Written comments from Ministry of Tourism and Culture

Natural Heritage Summary	Ministry of Natural Resources
Water Bodies Summary	Ministry of Environment
Archaeological Heritage Summary	Ministry of Tourism and Culture
Provincial Policy Plan Requirements	Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, Greenbelt, Lake Simcoe

## Ontario as a Renewable Energy Leader: Renewable Energy Facilitation Office

The province has established, the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO) in the Ministry of Energy

to:

- Act as a one-window access point for information to assist renewable energy project proponents (developers, communities and municipalities)
- Work with their partners at MOE, MNR and OPA, to monitor projects from inception to construction to help proponents monitor their projects and keep them on track
- Advise proponents of potential requirements imposed by the Government of Canada such as triggers for approvals from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- Through information obtained from proponents, provide feedback to the Ministry on the overall efficiency of the new policies and identify areas for improvement

## Contact information

Renewable Energy Facilitation Office

Tel: 416-212-6582 or **1-877-440-REFO (7336)**

Email: **REFO@ontario.ca**

Website: [www.ontario.ca/renewableenergyprojects](http://www.ontario.ca/renewableenergyprojects)

Renewable Energy Information Centre website:

[www.ontario.ca/renewableenergy](http://www.ontario.ca/renewableenergy)