

Many energy sources are better than one

Why Toronto Hydro's FIT Team is facilitating solar panel installations to help to diversify Ontario's energy supply mix

CASE STUDY Toronto Hydro

Asset Management Feed-in-Tariff Program

Toronto Hydro receives 11 per cent of all applications in Ontario related to the installation of solar panels in residential and commercial locations. A dedicated team of service professionals handles everything from Connection Impact Assessments to the verification of technical standards and safety requirements, to installation and final connections.

Program results to date:

- **Connections to date:**
Toronto Hydro's FIT Team has connected over 400 Toronto homes and small businesses (under 10 kilowatts) and 75 commercial projects to the municipal electricity grid, with a total capacity of 15 megawatts (MW) per year.
- **Connections under review:**
Based on current expressions of interest, there are approximately 250 MW of new capacity across the city.

How the FIT Team works:

Toronto Hydro's FIT Team helps customers to meet the technical standards set out by the Electrical Safety Authority and also ensures that proposed connection plans conform to Ontario Power Authority standards and to the utility's own stringent standards for safety.



Toronto Hydro's Asset Management division is working to add distributed generation such as solar panel installations to the grid to help diversify Ontario's energy supply mix, as part of the company's commitment to increased reliability and stability of the provincial electricity grid. Here's why:

Greater diversification means greater reliability for customers

Electricity generated by solar panels helps to reduce the amount of electricity that is generated from fossil-fuel fired generators during peak hours. This levelling of peak demand improves overall system reliability.

Toronto Hydro processes 11 per cent of all applications in Ontario related to the installation of solar panels in residential and commercial locations. Each customer's needs are unique. The FIT Team evaluates customers' technical and safety needs and facilitates any remedial action before powering up the connection. Two recent examples demonstrate the Team's expertise:

- **Metropolitan Tea Company** — A 500 kilowatt (kW) of solar generation project in southwest Toronto. The FIT Team reviewed the site and found that three overhead 100 kVA transformers would not be sufficient to accommodate the proposed solar array. Toronto Hydro installed a new 500 kVA padmount transformer and removed the old transformers from the pole before connecting the project to the distribution grid.
- **RESCo Energy Inc.** — RESCo Energy provides engineering, procurement, and construction services as well as commissioning, operations and maintenance, for solar developers and building owners in Ontario. In the past four years, it has connected over 1.3 MW of solar energy to Toronto Hydro's distribution grid. An additional 3 MW of construction ready projects will also be connected.



“ Toronto Hydro’s FIT Team is one of the best groups to deal with in the province. They are helpful, collaborative, and reasonable. The level of support we receive is excellent. ”

— Fidel Reijerse, President, RESCo Energy Inc.



About Toronto Hydro

Established in 1911, Toronto Hydro is the largest municipal electricity distribution company in Canada. The utility serves approximately 712,000 customers in Toronto, a city with a population of more than 2.5 million. It distributes approximately 18 per cent of the electricity consumed in the province of Ontario.

Toronto Hydro’s distribution system is serviced from:

- 35 transformer stations
- 19,800 primary switches
- 60,600 distribution transformers
- 170 in-service municipal substations
- Over 15,100 kilometres of overhead wires supported by 140,600 poles and over 10,900 kilometres of underground wires
- 1 Control Centre

Benefits of calling Toronto Hydro’s FIT Team

- Skilled, trained electrical trades people with in-depth knowledge of Electrical Safety Authority standards, Ontario Power Authority standards, and internal standards and policies for safety
- Seamless transaction for customers who receive help to navigate the entire process from application to installation to connection
- Commitment to a greener Toronto and to a reliable, safe and secure electricity distribution grid



Questions? Comments?

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