

First 3 Steps

1. Evaluate Your Site

Determine an appropriate site for your proposed installation. Select a renewable energy technology most suited to your proposed site or facility and with the highest potential energy production.

Example: Most organizations have a facility rooftop suitable for solar photovoltaic installations.

2. Put Together Your Project Team

Identify key individuals for the project within your organization with legal, accounting, engineering and project management skills etc. to form a subcommittee. Where needed, hire project managers/consultants to lead key aspects of the project.

Example: Individuals with a special interest in solar projects will often come forward to volunteer as a community service.

3. Do Your Research

Each project is different. You'll need to understand the legal and regulatory requirements, secure financing and conduct studies for your energy project. Your organization will need to communicate with a number of local and Government agencies in order to be successful.

Example: A subcommittee member may contact a bank/lender to investigate financing options.

Benefits of the CEPP Grant

- **Generate a source of unrestricted funds**
With a FIT contract for renewable energy production, organizations can generate a new, unrestricted revenue stream, guaranteed for 20 years.
- **Good use of endowment resources**
The guaranteed pricing structure of the FIT program promises a reasonable return on your organization's investment while preserving the environment.
- **CEPP grant as a public engagement tool**
Grant funds provided by CEPP can help to select an ownership/investment model that offers an opportunity for the larger community to participate in your renewable energy project.

Case Study

Buckhorn Community Centre

The Buckhorn Community Centre (BCC) started as a small community centre to serve the needs of residents of the Buckhorn Area. Maintaining the BCC "beehive" of activity requires extensive annual fundraising campaigns, a significant draw on volunteer resources. In 2011, the centre decided to consider solar as a long-term (20 year) investment by becoming solar electricity producers under Ontario's Feed-In-Tariff program. CEPP also assisted the centre in reaching out to the larger community for support, the same way the community centre was originally build 34 years ago. A Sponsor-A-Panel campaign, a solar fundraising campaign is underway to raise \$350,000 to cover the cost of the solar equipment. The 73 kW project is scheduled to be commissioned in July, 2011.

