

## Why Install a Renewable Energy Project?

- 1. Draw the community together around a project**
  - The various stages of planning and implementing a project can serve to galvanize groups of individuals and attract youth interested in environmental initiatives.
- 2. Increase awareness about renewable energy**
  - Faith-based community leadership can inspire community members to embrace environmental values or stewardship of the land in their own lives and as part of their spiritual practice.
- 3. Serve to reduce your organization's carbon footprint**
  - By installing a renewable energy system on your facility or property, your community benefits directly from the carbon emissions offset by the clean energy you are generating.
- 4. Provides a source of income**
  - The project can generate a new, unrestricted revenue stream, guaranteed for 20 years with a Feed-In-Tariff contract or lease agreement. Capital costs can be offset through fundraising.
- 5. A CEPP Grant will help get you started**
  - Faith communities are often registered charities or not-for-profit organizations eligible for support toward project development.

## Enlisting the Support of the Faith Community

### 1. Introduce the Project

Informing your community about the economic, social and environmental benefits of your project and enabling them to participate will strengthen your project's social mission.

### 2. Recruit Community Leaders

Where interest exists, the first step to moving forward will be to find a few champions within the community interested in volunteering to work on it.

### 3. Engage the Community

There will be plenty of opportunities for community volunteers to contribute to the evolution of a project. Media and fundraising campaigns are needed for building awareness.

## Case Study- Ignatius Jesuit Centre/Guelph Solar Co-operative

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre is a place of prayer, a retreat centre and community farm. The Guelph Solar Community Co-operative, working with The Ignatius Board of Directors, has recently received a CEPP grant for \$53,658 to add 110 kW of solar PV generation to the buildings on the Ignatius property. Made possible by partnering with the Guelph Solar Co-operative, the Centre will lease their roof for 20 years. The Co-operative is working with Options for Green Energy to raise community investment capital for the project. Once installed, the Centre will be the proud host of this community solar investment while earning revenue from their lease agreement. This project demonstrates the viability of community organizations working in partnership toward a shared vision for clean, renewable energy generation for the larger Guelph community.

