



Background on the RET Program

RET Program

Through the Government of Ontario's renewable energy technology ("**RET**") initiative (the "**RET Program**"), Ontario is investing \$120 million in infrastructure stimulus funding to install renewable energy technologies in schools and social housing to reduce energy costs by heating, cooling or generating electricity. The five technologies ("**RET**") that are eligible for the RET Program are solar photovoltaic; solar water [heating]; solar air [heating]; geo-thermal; and small wind.

The funding will be available through the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the "**Host Ministries**") for Ontario's 72 school boards and 47 social housing municipal service managers. The stimulus funding must be committed by the Host Ministries by March 31, 2011.

School boards and social housing municipal service managers receiving stimulus funding (the "**Project Owners**") will procure the products and services needed to implement individual RET projects using their own procurement processes.

In support of the RET Program, the Ontario Power Authority (the "**OPA**") has established a website through which prospective vendors ("**Applicants**") of RET Technologies may apply to be included on a list of vendors (the "**Vendor List**"). The Vendor List will be made available to Project Owners that have received infrastructure stimulus funding from the Host Ministries. Project Owners will be required to use their own procurement process to select vendors on the Vendor List ("**Listed Vendors**") based on the specific requirements of the RET project approved by the relevant Host Ministry.

There are four organizations involved in implementing the different components of the RET Program as follows:

1. The OPA, on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure ("**MEI**"), will manage the website through which Applicants apply to become Listed Vendors (the "**Vendor List Application Website**"), manage the application process during the application period, play a lead role in the processing of applications, plus provide on-going management of the Vendor List and the secure website through which the Vendor List is made available (the "**Vendor List Catalogue**"). The OPA will not be involved in the procurement of Listed Vendors by Project Owners.
2. The MEI has responsibility for oversight of the government's capital planning process, ensuring approval of the design and development of this initiative, and developing the eligibility criteria for the Vendor List.



3. The Host Ministries will play a lead role in working with Project Owners in formulating, organizing and approving project proposals, overseeing the general management of the projects and playing a lead role in the monitoring and reporting of results. The Host Ministries have also worked closely with MEI on program design.
4. The Project Owners are responsible for developing project proposals from within their organizations. There are 72 school boards representing almost 5,000 schools and 47 social housing municipal service managers representing approximately 127,000 residential housing units across the province. These organizations will have the hands-on responsibility for soliciting and establishing requirements for projects, evaluating project proposals and performing due diligence on Listed Vendors that submit project proposals, selecting and awarding projects to Listed Vendors, and overseeing project implementation, including all aspects of project monitoring, reporting and any subsequent follow-up that may be necessary.