



Township of West Lincoln

MEDIA RELEASE

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Approval of green energy projects rest with province

WEST LINCOLN – Proponents of green energy projects in West Lincoln will get approvals from provincial authorities not the Township. Earlier this year, the Province released a number of technical papers on the implementation of the Green Energy and Green Economy Act, including guidelines for consultation with the public.

“We had hoped the legislation would allow for meaningful input from local Council on renewable energy projects,” said West Lincoln Mayor Katie Trombetta, “as it stands today, the province will have the final say on green energy applications in our community.”

The Township has been working with Niagara Region since the fall of 2006 to draft policies for large, medium and small-scale green energy systems. Although originally targeted to wind energy projects, the draft policies were expanded in 2008 to include all types of renewable energy systems including solar, biomass, biogas and others.

In July 2008, West Lincoln staff presented comprehensive Township Official Plan policies and Zoning By-law regulations for green energy projects in the community. In October 2008, staff followed up with a report setting out clear policies for renewable energy facilities in West Lincoln; Township Council approved the amendments.

The Green Energy and Green Economy Act was passed by the provincial government in May 2009 and, with its accompanying regulations, placed the authority for approval of renewable energy projects throughout Ontario in the hands of the Ministry of Environment. Nearly two-dozen reports have been filed with West Lincoln and Niagara Councils on green energy policies and the Township has made several representations to provincial authorities on the Green Energy and Green Economy Act.

“We have worked very hard to convince provincial officials that local needs must be included in the approval process for renewable energy projects in West Lincoln,” said Trombetta, “however, the final decision rests with the Ministry of Environment.”

A chronology of the Township’s involvement in this issue will be included as an insert in local media or, for more information about the Green Energy and Green Economy Act or to view the chronology on-line, please visit www.westlincoln.ca.

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