

Official Plan Update Issue Sheet Series

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Purpose of Issue Sheet Series

To inform the public about major aspects of the Township's Official Plan, how the existing Official Plan addresses the issue, and how the issue is affected by Provincial Planning Policies.

Who to Contact to Comment or Learn More?

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Issue 7: Alternative Energy

What is Alternative Energy?

- Commonly defined as the production of electrical power from an energy source that is renewed by natural processes including, but not limited to, wind, water, a biomass resource or product, or solar and geothermal energy

Provincial Legislation

- The Provincial Policy Statement includes a specific sub section on Alternative Energy and Renewable Energy Systems (Section 1.8)
- These systems shall be permitted in settlement areas, rural areas and prime agricultural areas in accordance with Provincial and Federal requirements.

Proposed Provincial Legislation

- The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure tabled Bill 150: The Green Energy Act in February 2009
- As proposed, this legislation would exempt alternative energy projects from municipal review through a specific exemption in the Planning Act
- Review of land use planning issues related to alternative energy would be reviewed through Provincial approval processes only

Existing Official Plan Policies?

- The existing Official Plan contains no alternative energy policies
- The 1997 Provincial Policy Statement in place at the time of the Plan's adoption in 2004 did not include alternative energy policies
- The Township's current Zoning Bylaw permits alternative energy uses in all areas of the Township

Issues to Consider During Review of Official Plan

- The Township is obligated through the PPS to permit alternative energy projects in most areas of the Township. The PPS also includes policies to protect environmental features, cultural heritage features and to ensure incompatible land uses are properly separated. How should these competing objectives be addressed from a policy perspective?
- Should basic guidelines for reviewing alternative energy projects be included in the Official Plan to help the Province understand how the Township would like future projects reviewed

Information Sources

- Provincial Policy Statement <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Asset1421.aspx>
- Official Plan 2004 <http://www.twprideaulakes.on.ca/development/official-plan.html>
- Green Energy Act 2009 http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2145