



**The Corporation of the City of Cornwall**  
**Environment and Climate Change Committee (ECCC)**  
**Report**

Department: Infrastructure and Municipal Works  
Division: Environment  
Report Number: 2024-28-Infrastructure and Municipal Works  
Prepared By: Angela Parker, Coordinator, Sustainability Project  
Meeting Date: April 15, 2024  
Subject: Solar Panels

**Purpose**

To provide an update to the Committee regarding Actions #1.1 and #1.9 in the City's Climate Action Plan.

**Recommendation**

- a. That the Committee receive this report for information purposes.

**Strategic Priority Implications**

Pillar 3: Achieve Net Zero by 2050

1. Continuous strategic investments to reduce the City's greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint.
2. Respond to emerging environmental/climate impacts and adaptation needs with supportive and forward-thinking policies and procedures.

**Background / Discussion**

The City's Climate Action Plan addresses the barriers for the installation of solar panels.

Action #1.1



*Engage with Cornwall Electric and Ontario Energy Board to address significant barriers to the installation of solar panels and the lack of financial incentives for energy efficiency and low-carbon retrofits available elsewhere in Ontario.*

Action #1.9

*Engage with Cornwall Electric to obtain information about the electrical grid capacity and potential constraints across the community.*

Cornwall Electric (CE) is now offering a Net Metering Program to private residences. CE has limited capacity for the Net Metering Program and has notified customers that applications to this program will be reviewed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis, until its maximum net metering capacity is allocated.

Applicants will need to meet the requirements of [Ontario's Net Metering Regulation](#) (O.Reg 541/05). Through CE's Net Metering Program, successful applicants will be able to generate electricity to offset their electricity consumption and send surplus electricity to the distribution system for a credit. It was also noted to customers that excess generation credits can be carried over for a maximum of 12 consecutive months and are subject to other conditions under O.Reg 541/05. Non-variable charges on customers' electricity bills will not be eligible to be offset through generation, pursuant to O.Reg 541/05.

On a corporate level, the City has been engaged with Cornwall Electric and the Ontario Energy Board and has been advocating for net metering for both public and private buildings. The City will provide an update regarding corporate solar panel usage to the Committee in the near future.