



MEDIA
RELEASE



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Mapleward Renewable Generating Station Inaugurated

Thunder Bay, ON – Thunder Bay Hydro Renewable Power Incorporated has inaugurated the first project under its' SEED Initiative (Sustainable Electric Energy Development) – a 3.2-megawatt electricity generating station that will take harmful methane gas that has been removed from the local landfill and will produce enough electricity to power approximately 3,000 homes annually.

The **Mapleward Renewable Generating Station** was presented to invited guests and the media in a ribbon cutting ceremony today. Free tours for the general public will be available at three times during this afternoon.

The generating station will annually harness the power of 263 million cubic feet of methane gas which would otherwise be released into the environment. This gas is produced from decaying organic material in the landfill. The project is under contract with the Ontario Power Authority's "Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program" which promotes the production of renewable and green energy sources.

The project is the first of its kind in Northwestern Ontario.

The SEED Initiative is part of an overall strategy by Thunder Bay Hydro to develop renewable energy generation in the community and to add value for the company shareholder.

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For More Information -
Eileen Dias
Communications and Events Coordinator
Thunder Bay Hydro
(807) 343-1141

Background/FAQ to follow

FAQ

How is Electricity Generated?

The landfill has been drilled to collect gas through a series of well connected to an extensive piping system.

The Generating Station was put in place to preclude the burning of landfill gas and turn it into electricity. The station allows for the diversion of gas to a Conditioning Room where moisture is removed and it is prepared for the generators. Electricity is then generated by low emission Caterpillar engines. The engines are similar to car engines in that they work on the principal of internal combustion.

How Does the Process Benefit the Environment?

Removing methane from the landfill will avoid the potential for greenhouse gas emissions, in-ground combustion and even unpleasant smells.

Moving toward sources of renewable energy helps reduce the province's dependence on fossil fuels.

Why Is Thunder Bay Hydro Going Into The Renewable Energy Business?

Thunder Bay Hydro is pursuing ways to ensure that its business grows in value for its Shareholder, the City of Thunder Bay. The Province of Ontario, through the Green Energy Act, has created a business environment which is conducive to investments in renewable electricity generation. The field of renewable energy is a natural fit for the expertise that we have within the company. Our 'SEED initiative' (Sustainable Electric Energy Development) is an initiative to develop renewable energy generation within the city of Thunder Bay.

Who Paid For This Project? Will This Project Impact My Hydro Bill? Will Hydro Bills Be Lowered Based On Income From These Projects?

The development of commercial electricity generation is a competitive business activity. It is financed through Infrastructure Ontario. By regulation, the investment and operating costs associated with this initiative must be segregated from the regulated electricity distribution business.

As such, the project is being developed by a separate company than the electrical distribution company. There is no financial relationship between the two. No direct impact will be seen by the ratepayers.

As the sole Shareholder of Thunder Bay Hydro Corporation, the City of Thunder Bay will determine how future financial proceeds of this initiative are utilized. It is expected that City Council will establish an appropriate dividend policy in the future.