

## Ministry of Natural Resources Info Sheet

### MNR Roles in Renewable Energy

*Ontario has placed a priority on expanding the amount of energy produced from renewable energy sources. Renewable energy development is a cornerstone of the province's future prosperity and its commitment to protecting the environment.*

The Government of Ontario adopted the Green Energy Act (GEA) to help fight climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable energy generation and conservation and create green jobs in Ontario.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) supports the GEA by managing Crown land, supporting regulatory processes and administering legislation affecting private and Crown lands.



#### Crown Land

Renewable energy projects contribute to the environmental, social and economic well being of Ontario. They help reduce the impacts of climate change and provide sustainable sources of energy to Ontario. To support the government's green energy initiative, the ministry makes Crown land available for renewable energy development including: waterpower, wind power, solar power and bio-energy.



# Renewable Energy



## Approvals and Permits

To manage Ontario's natural resources, MNR issues approvals and permits for renewable energy projects on both Crown and private land. These approvals and permits help protect Ontario's biodiversity, while enabling the development of renewable sources of energy. The authority to issue these approvals and permits (including the opportunity to issue site specific conditions) is contained in various pieces of legislation including the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, Public Lands Act and Endangered Species Act.



## Regulatory Processes

MNR supports the Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process. MNR provides advice and recommendations to support decisions made under the REA regulation. MNR plays an important role in providing confirmation that applicants have satisfied the natural heritage assessment requirements of the REA regulation.

MNR also provides technical and expert advice to support decisions made under the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Waterpower Projects. The Class EA addresses environmental impacts and includes opportunities for consultation.

For more information, please visit the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO):  
[http://www.mei.gov.on.ca/en/energy/renewable/index.php?page=refo\\_office](http://www.mei.gov.on.ca/en/energy/renewable/index.php?page=refo_office)

REFO can be reached via email at: [REFO@ontario.ca](mailto:REFO@ontario.ca) or toll-free at 1-877-440-REFO (7336)

For more information about MNR's role in renewable energy, visit  
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Renewable/index.html>