

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON

POLICY – SOLAR ENERGY

The Anglican Diocese of Huron, in support of the Fifth Mark of Mission, supports the initiatives of parishes in demonstrating leadership in sustainable solar energy production.

PROCEDURE – SOLAR ENERGY

Appropriate steps to be taken by a church entertaining installation of solar equipment.

1. Obtain Parish approval at a vestry meeting to strike a committee to investigate acquiring a solar system and make recommendations.
2. Advise the Secretary-Treasurer of the Diocese, acting on behalf of the Bishop, of the intent to investigate solar energy. The Bishop may choose to name one or more individuals to be the Bishop's non-voting representatives on the Parish Solar Negotiating Team.
3. Conduct negotiations with Solar Vendor. Get three quotes. Get at least two positive, unrelated references from the Solar vendor.
4. Develop a funding proposal – identify sources of funding and options.
5. Consider adequacy of the return of investment over the term of current Federal or Provincial funding programs (i.e. microFIT and OPA contract) given the actual cost of the contract with the Solar Vendor, connection charges, and realistic maintenance estimates.
6. Investigate with an accountant or tax advisor whether there is any risk of losing charitable registration if the income earned from the solar panels is considered an unrelated business by the Income Tax Act. (The level of risk is low as a church would need a solar farm's worth of income.)
7. Obtain a letter from the Diocesan insurance broker (AON) indicating appropriate costs and coverage. Insurance implications need to be reviewed by Diocesan Insurance Administrator.
8. Agree upon terms of a proposed contract "subject to approval by vestry and the concurrence of the Bishop". There shall be **NO CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE** which would exclude either the Bishop, the Bishop's advisors, or Diocesan Council.

9. Obtain approval in principle of the Land and Property Committee of the Diocese of Huron.
10. Obtain Professional Engineering drawings indicating that the roof will last the lifetime of the contract and support the weight of the installation, or, have an Approved Site Plan that will meet requirements for a Building Permit.
11. Obtain an architect's and/or engineer's advice regarding aesthetics, structural integrity, potential for vibration and noise and potential for interference with the parish's present or contemplated equipment. (e.g. electronics or hearing systems)
12. Ensure that there are no compliance issues due to local by-laws.
13. Ensure that volunteer local fire departments are trained to put out fires in buildings with solar panels on the roof.
14. Obtain approval by a majority of the congregation at a Special Vestry Meeting called in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese. (Canon 18)
15. Have the contract with the Solar Vendor reviewed by the Diocesan Chancellor.
16. Advise the Secretary-Treasurer of the Diocese of the resolution passed at the Special Vestry meeting and obtain concurrence of the Bishop and Diocesan Council.
17. If a funding program exists complete and submit the most current application to the program. This may be the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) i.e. microFIT program (or other).
18. If an application to a funding program is successful, sign the contract with the Solar Vendor conditional upon acceptance of the system under the i.e. microFIT program (or other).
19. Where appropriate, advise and where required obtain permission of adjacent neighbours/property owners.
20. Consider future development that may compromise the collection of solar energy.
21. Obtain building permits as required by the Municipality.
22. Obtain notification from the Chancellor confirming review and acceptance of all contracts and notification of any concerns.

Approved by Diocesan Council on October 18, 2014