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# Loyalist Solar Project Newsletter No. 1

# Project Update

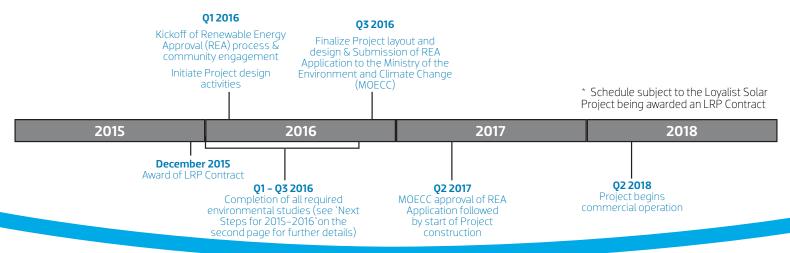
Over the past few months, BluEarth has been engaging the local community about the proposed Loyalist Solar Project. We held open houses on July 8 and August 24, 2015 to discuss the project with the local community and respond to questions. We also made a presentation to the Township of Stone Mills Council on July 21, 2015. We have received considerable feedback during this consultation process which was filed as part of our consultation summary. This summary is available on our website at www.bluearth.ca/loyalist.

Following the community engagement activities, Township of Stone Mills Council passed a Resolution of Support and entered into a Community Vibrancy Fund Agreement for the Loyalist Solar Project. Through the Vibrancy Fund Agreement, the Township of Stone Mills has set out several requirements for how the Project will be developed, including:

- · visual screening and setbacks;
- · storm water management and grading design review and hydrogeological study requirements;
- · establishment of a Technical Review Committee;
- Community Vibrancy Fund contributions to be used for community initiatives at the discretion of the Township; and,
- · financial security requirements for Project decommissioning;

Throughout the month of August, BluEarth also completed geotechnical investigations on the Properties currently being considered for solar panels. These geotechnical analyses were completed to get key information regarding the rock conditions throughout the site, allowing for subsequent Project design. We thank you for your cooperation while we completed this essential activity.

#### **Anticipated Project Schedule\***



### In this newsletter

At BluEarth we believe in keeping our neighbours and landowners informed about our projects. Whether it is face-to-face meetings, on our website or here, in our Loyalist Solar Project newsletter, we understand the importance of communicating with our stakeholders. In this newsletter you will find an update on the Loyalist Solar Project, including our recent submission to the Independent Electricity System Operator's Large Renewable Procurement Request for Proposals (LRP1RFP).



# Your questions answered!

#### How could the proposed project impact property values?

There is no evidence that solar facilities decrease property values of surrounding properties. Generally speaking, when new infrastructure projects are proposed, potential buyers may be hesitant until project construction is complete. With proper visual screening and reasonable setbacks from homes, we believe that the project will not have any long-term negative impact for adjacent landowners.

#### How are visual concerns addressed?

The ability to see the solar panels will be limited through several means, including setbacks from the roadways, leaving existing vegetation where possible and construction of visual screening with vegetation and berms. The Project has committed to meet the comprehensive visual screening requirements of the Township of Stone Mills as required in the Community Vibrancy Fund Agreement.

#### How are water resources being protected?

In accordance with Provincial and Township requirements, the Project will be completing a storm water management and grading plan to ensure proper management of surface water flows during construction and operation. Additionally, the Project has agreed to complete a hydrogeological assessment in accordance with the Community Vibrancy Fund Agreement executed with the Township of Stone Mills. Pre and post-construction well water monitoring will be also be undertaken by the Project. During operation, vegetation control is carried out using mechanical means, with herbicide application limited to localized spot-spraying. The rate of herbicide application for spot spraying is a fraction of that customarily used in conventional agricultural production.



## Next steps for 2015 and 2016

As planned, BluEarth submitted the Project into the LRP 1 RFP on September 1, 2015. It is anticipated that the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) will identify the successful projects in late 2015.

If the Project is awarded a contract, BluEarth will be required to obtain various approvals under the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process. This will include additional field and engineering studies including:

- · Vegetation assessments;
- Wildlife and habitat surveys, including surveys for endangered and threatened species;
- · Bird point counts;
- Hydrogeological studies and stormwater/ grading design works; and,
- Visual screening design and archeological assessments.

In addition to the extensive technical and environmental studies, the Project will also be completing further community engagement activities to keep our landowners, neighbors and other stakeholders informed about the Project and provide an opportunity for two-way dialogue, including: open houses, Project website, and community newsletters.

Based on the current anticipated schedule, these studies and community engagement activities would be conducted between spring and fall of 2016.

The completed studies, including the results of the stakeholder and community engagement activities will be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) in the Project's REA application. The REA application must be reviewed and approved by the MOECC prior to the commencement of Project construction.

#### **About BluEarth**

Headquartered in Calgary, BluEarth Renewables Inc. is a private independent renewable power producer, focused on the acquisition, development, construction and operation of wind, water, and solar projects. With the most experienced renewable energy development team in Canada, BluEarth's mission is to be the Canadian renewable energy leader by developing, building, and operating a portfolio that optimizes people, planet, and profit. BluEarth believes it has the power to change the future by demonstrating how to be sustainable and profitable, leaving the world a better place. The Loyalist Solar Project is being developed by Loyalist Solar LP, a subsidiary of BluEarth.

Visit www.bluearth.ca/loyalist Email projects@bluearth.ca Phone 1.844.214.2578

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