



**Essex Region  
Conservation Authority**

*Working With You For Our Environment... Our Future*



## What Is Net Metering?

Ontario's net metering regulation allows you to send electricity generated from renewable sources to the electrical grid for a credit toward your energy costs.

Here's how it works. Your utility will subtract the value of electricity you supply to the grid from the value of what you take from the grid. What you'll see on your bill is the "net" difference between those two amounts.

If you supply power that is worth more than what you take from the grid over the billing period, you'll receive a credit that can help lower future energy bills. The more electricity you produce, the greater your savings.



## THE FOUR MAIN TYPES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY ARE:

### WIND

In Ontario, most small-scale wind turbine owners are likely to use most of the energy generated themselves, with maybe only a little left over to send back to the electricity grid under the Province's net metering program. Larger-scale wind turbines, however, provide more power than can be used by a single home or group of homes. Instead, large-scale turbines sell their electricity to the Ontario power grid, similar to other traditional generators. With proper planning and consideration for wildlife, wind turbines can produce emission free electricity with minimal environmental effects.

### BIOMASS

(AGRICULTURAL) Biomass is the process that uses plant material that is burned to produce electricity or allowed to decompose, and the gasses are collected and used to create electricity. This form of electricity generation is considered renewable because the source of electricity (plants) is renewable. Often, the plant material used is a manufacturing waste product i.e. waste wood from a sawmill.

### SOLAR

Solar power can be harvested both passively and actively. Passive solar use typically involves designing buildings to capture the greatest amount of sunlight possible through positioning and window design. Active solar use involves heating up water using the sun's radiant heat or through the use of photovoltaic cells that create electricity. These photovoltaic cells are generating a clean source of electricity at Hillman Marsh Nature Centre every day.

### HYDRO

Small scale river or tidal generation has been and will continue to generate electricity for generations of Ontarians. This form of electrical generation can provide a reliable source of electricity day and night. With proper planning, small scale hydro-electric projects have minimal negative environmental effects.

*Photovoltaic cells are generating a clean source of electricity at Hillman Marsh Nature Centre every day!*

## Renewable Energy

Unlike traditional forms of energy production like natural gas, nuclear and coal, renewable energy sources do not emit pollutants into our atmosphere that lead to climate change. For this reason, renewable energy production is a cleaner and healthier choice not only for people, but for our environment as well.

SPONSORED BY

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**Learn more about net metering and how you can better manage your energy costs. For more information visit us at [www.erca.org](http://www.erca.org)**