Solar Electric Generating technology to be installed on rooftop of City facility

HAMILTON, ON – July 26, 2012 – The City of Hamilton has signed an agreement with Horizon Energy Solutions Inc. (HESI) to install a new roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the City’s operations centre located at 330 Wentworth Street North. City Council reinforced its ongoing commitment to implementing clean and green initiatives by approving this renewable electricity pilot project in July 2010.

Since then, the City and HESI have reviewed a number of City facilities to evaluate the feasibility of installing solar technology on the roof tops. Through a comprehensive engineering review, most of the proposed roofs were identified as not being suitable for hosting a solar PV system. The 330 Wentworth Street site was an exception. The City will lease the roof space to HESI while they will manage the installation, operation and contracts with the Ontario Power Authority and the related Feed-in-Tariff program.

The project could yield well over $250,000 in revenue for the City over the 20-year life of the project, in addition to the significant energy production, cleaner air, and environmental benefits.

"This initiative further demonstrates Hamilton's commitment to implementing innovative, renewable energy projects while working with local partners to achieve targets set out in the Corporate Energy Policy and Vision 2020," said Mayor Bob Bratina.

City staff is continuing to focus on slightly smaller sites that may also be capable of a solar array. These include some of the new rinks, recreation facilities and smaller corporate sites. Should these new sites be capable of installing a solar array they will be then assessed for inclusion into the same leasing arrangement with HESI.

Mr. Max Cananzi, President and CEO of Horizon Energy Solutions, commented, “We are pleased to be partnering with the City of Hamilton and to have the opportunity to apply our experience and success in developing renewable energy projects. Our focus on electricity generation and conservation helps contribute to a sustainable environment while producing economic benefits to our city shareholders. This latest agreement builds on the considerable momentum we have across Ontario as we continue to pursue growth opportunities.”
This pilot project marks the third major renewable energy generation initiative the City has implemented in the last few years. In 2006, the City opened a 1.6 MW cogeneration facility at the Woodward Wastewater Treatment Plant which takes methane gas created by the wastewater treatment process and produces electricity and heat. In 2008, the City began operating a 3.2 MW cogeneration facility at the Glanbrook Landfill by collecting landfill gas to generate electricity. The City will continue to explore new renewable energy generation opportunities through Hamilton Renewable Power Inc. and through partnerships with Horizon that will reduce the City’s energy use and ecological footprint.

**About Horizon Energy Solutions Inc.**

Horizon Energy Solutions Inc. is a highly successful developer of renewable energy projects across Ontario and provides a suite of energy management, metering, sub-metering and conservation services to commercial clients and local distribution companies (LDCs). Horizon Energy Solutions Inc.’s significant investment in Ontario’s renewable power infrastructure will create jobs consistent with the objectives of the Green Energy Act and the clean energy produced will benefit the environment. Horizon Energy Solutions Inc. is wholly owned by Horizon Holdings Inc., an investment company owned by Hamilton Utilities Corporation and St. Catharines Hydro Inc. Horizon Holdings also owns Horizon Utilities Corporation, a local electric distribution utility serving 237,000 customers. For more information, please visit horizonenergysolutionsinc.com.

-30-

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