

Green Energy Act Positions Ontario to Become a Leader in Renewable Energy

Golden Horseshoe Area Well Positioned to Benefit from Green Jobs

Hamilton/St. Catharines (February 27, 2009) --- Horizon Utilities Corporation praises Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Honourable George Smitherman, Ontario Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, for taking visionary, decisive action to put legislation in place that will remove barriers to renewable energy, and will help Ontario become a world leader in developing and attracting green technologies and industries.

Bill 150, the Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009, is designed to fast track a broad range of new renewable generation facilities, to establish a new feed-in tariff system to help spark new investment in renewable energy generation, and to accelerate energy conservation initiatives.

The Green Energy Act will permit electricity distribution companies like Horizon Utilities to increase their electricity conservation efforts and, now, initiate renewable energy generation projects. "We are very excited that the Green Energy Act will provide us with the tools to develop sustainable energy facilities and design sustainable energy solutions for our customers and communities," said Max Cananzi, President and CEO of Horizon Utilities Corporation. "Community energy plans will now become part of a much bigger solution and we look forward eagerly to engaging our customers and communities in discussions to promote conservation and renewable generation."

The McGuinty government has stated the Green Energy and Economy Act, which includes domestic content provisions, will create 50,000 green jobs in Ontario. "I believe that is true," commented Cananzi. "There are still a lot of unknowns but it is clear the impact of the Green Energy Act on the utility industry alone will result in new jobs for people with an interest in pursuing a career path in renewable technologies, energy conservation and the smart grids that tie these initiatives together."

Germany's Renewable Energy Sources Act 2000, which provided subsidies for renewable electricity fed into the national grid, touched off a boom in jobs in that country. By 2007, Germany's thriving renewable energy sector employed more than 250,000 people in research and development, manufacturing, project planning, installation and maintenance. "With McMaster University and Brock University resident within our communities, manufacturing capabilities, natural resources suited for bio-energy, and our proximity to major transportation routes, I believe the Golden Horseshoe area is well positioned to benefit from the anticipated influx of investment and the creation of green jobs," said Cananzi.

Horizon Utilities Corporation is one of the largest municipally owned electricity distribution companies in Ontario, providing electricity and related utility services to more than 233,000 residential and commercial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines, its shareholders' municipalities. The company operates out of facilities in Hamilton, St. Catharines, and Stoney Creek.

Horizon's employees are committed to delivering a safe and reliable supply of electricity, providing unparalleled customer value and helping to create a culture of energy conservation in Ontario.

For more information, please contact:

Sandy Manners

Director of Corporate Communications

Horizon Utilities Corporation

Tel: 905-317-4707 Cell: 905-308-1473

Email: sandy.manners@horizonutilities.com

Website: www.horizonutilities.com