



CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Case Study: Arnprior Solar Project



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For over 30 years, EDF Renewables (EDFR) has dedicated its efforts to creating a sustainable energy economy. We've done that by building and operating solar and wind energy generating projects across North America.

What helps to define us is our commitment to the communities in which we operate. At the core of every EDFR project is sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Our CSR efforts do not happen in isolation. They are part of our corporate DNA. We believe that the world of energy is changing, and customers are becoming more involved in all aspects of the business. Transparency and engaging with community stakeholders is an integral part of the process.

As a responsible electricity company that champions low-carbon growth, we have adopted a number of CSR goals that reflect our commitment to working closely with our customers and the communities in which we operate.

EDF Renewables CSR GOALS



CLIMATE CHANGE

Go beyond the requirements of the 2°C trajectory set by COP21 by drastically reducing our CO₂ emissions.



PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT

Adopt industrial groups' best practices in people development: health and safety, gender diversity and social advancement.



FUEL POVERTY

Offer all vulnerable people information about and support with energy use and energy benefits.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Innovate through digital energy efficiency solutions to enable all customers to use energy better.



DIALOGUE & CONSULTATION

Systematically organize a process of transparent and open dialogue and consultation for every new project around the world.



BIODIVERSITY

Launch a positive approach to biodiversity, not limited to understanding and reducing the impact of our activities in the long run but having a positive effect on biodiversity.

CASE STUDY: ARNPRIOR SOLAR PROJECT

Ottawa, Ontario / 23.4 MWp

Pioneering the use of solar renewable energy in Canada, EDFR doubled the grid-connected solar PV capacity in the country by building the Arnprior Solar Project in 2009. The Arnprior Solar Project continues to evolve and inspires every renewable energy project we build.

Comprised of two adjacent sites west of the city of Ottawa, the project provides 23.4 MWp of clean, safe and sustainable energy, meeting the peak energy demands of about 7,000 homes.

Like all of our renewable energy projects, the pioneering spirit of the Arnprior Solar Project began with the development planning and continues to this day with long-term biodiversity initiatives.



ARNPRIOR SOLAR PROJECT

Ottawa, Ontario

23.4 MWp

2009

Providing power for
7,000 homes



Commitment to biodiversity through the project life cycle

Since construction of the Arnprior Solar Project was completed, a number of biodiversity and environmental features have been added to the project by our asset management team – all within the footprint of the project. They include a **monarch butterfly conservation project**, a **bee and honey project**, and a **natural weed abatement pilot project**.

These initiatives are emblematic of our mission to lead the transition to a sustainable energy future. We collaborate with the communities in which we work to generate environmentally-friendly and sustainable low-carbon energy.



The Arnprior roots

The biodiversity and environmental initiatives at the Arnprior Solar Project took root in 2015 when Diane Egan, owner of one of the two parcels of land leased by EDFR for the project, spoke with our asset management team about eventually returning her land to agricultural use after decommissioning. She also wanted to incorporate biodiversity features and eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides on the site. Our asset management team began to think outside the box and worked with Diane to enhance the site.

Knowing that many honey bee colonies were being reduced at an alarming rate, the EDFR team reached out to Marianne and Matt Gee from Gees Bees Honey Company and launched the Sunny and Honey Project.

In July of 2016, the company installed two hives on the Arnprior site and now manages five hives, each producing roughly 60 jars of honey a year.

At the urging of the landowner, the EDFR team developed a second biodiversity project: a complete habitat for monarch butterflies, another endangered species. The habitat was designed to help provide the butterflies with food and breeding space along their migration path.

EDFR applied to the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP SAR) from the Government of Canada, and in July 2017, it was awarded \$4,900 – a first for any solar project in Canada.

To further support the initiative, EDFR formed a partnership with Victoria Wojcik and Kathleen Law from Pollinator Partnership – the world's largest non-profit organization working exclusively on pollinator issues. Pollinator Partnership visited the site and worked with the EDFR team to propose a seeding plan with native wild flowers and milkweed. The Partnership also trained the team on the monarch butterfly and its migration patterns. In August of 2017, the butterflies began to appear.



Biodiversity benefits

The first response to the request to eliminate the use of all chemicals was to begin weeding by hand. This was followed by another pilot project initiated by EDFR: sheep grazing for natural weed abatement. Currently, the Arnprior project has approximately 50 grazing sheep onsite, helping EDFR save around \$30,000 annually on the cost of maintaining weed growth on the site.

The herder, who has loaned his flock of sheep to EDFR along with his trusty dog Dutch, also benefits by having a cost-free source of food for his animals.

During the design, engineering and construction phase, the Arnprior Solar Project employed approximately 150 local community trades, resulting

in over \$20 million in local procurement of materials, equipment and services.

Through the biodiversity initiatives with Pollinator Partnership and the Sunny and Honey Project, the project has spurred additional biodiversity benefits that help ensure healthy ecosystems and food security. It's a win-win situation that EDFR continues to build upon.

Innovative approaches such as these give an entirely new meaning to the economic benefits of renewable energy projects.

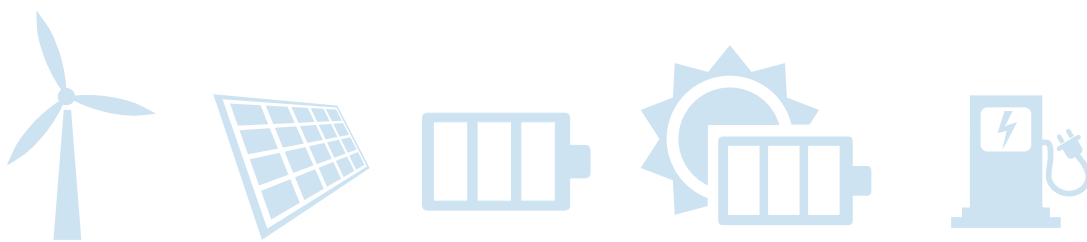


Ongoing engagement

For EDF Renewables, meaningful engagement is about listening and empowering our people. That means giving our team members the freedom to turn good ideas from landowners and community members into reality. Whether it's a visual mitigation measure, a property setback, or lending a hand when we have extra construction materials, engaging the community in an open dialog during development through operation is crucial.

Letting our stakeholders know that their feedback and vision can lead to real change is key to a mutually beneficial partnership. The Anrprior Solar Project is a prime example of how EDFR is able to build trust with communities and achieve this end.





ABOUT EDF RENEWABLES

EDF Renewables North America is a market-leading independent power producer and service provider with over 30 years of expertise in renewable energy. The Company delivers **grid-scale power**: wind (onshore and offshore), solar photovoltaic, and storage projects; **distributed solutions**: solar, solar+storage, EV charging and energy management; and **asset optimization**: technical, operational and commercial skills to maximize performance of generating projects. EDF Renewables' North American portfolio consists of 16 GW of developed projects and 10 GW under service contracts. EDF Renewables North America is a subsidiary of EDF Renewables, the dedicated renewable energy affiliate of the EDF Group.



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