

David Suzuki Foundation

# Community Renewable Energy Project

Ontario Climate Symposium

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# Overview

- Climate change mitigation a priority for David Suzuki Foundation.
- One key initiative is Community Renewables Project (CRP).
- CRP based on experience in Germany where RE build-out facilitated by local ownership of wind and solar arrays.
- Goal is to create grassroots culture that embraces renewables – so they're not vulnerable to whims of government.

# How DSF supports local renewable energy

- Meetings with gov't to highlight RE's popularity, cost-effectiveness and ability to create jobs. Note: Enviro arguments are not central!
- Developing partnerships with local RE projects such as Solar Share, Green Timiskaming, Beach Community Energy Co-op, Oxford County.
- Showcasing RE projects' stories – to inspire others to embrace RE.



# Green Timiskaming Solar Array

(credit: Endura Energy)

# Case study: Oxford County, Ontario

- Oxford has goal of 100 per cent renewable by 2050.
- Just opened Gunn's Hill Wind Farm powering almost 7,000 homes. Also building solar panels on barn roofs.
- Oxford has fantastic story about clean air, job creation but needs help telling it – to build pro-renewables culture.
- DSF helps broadcast stories on social media (486K FB likes) and assists with strategy ("What are you doing for Earth Day? What about energy co-op membership drive?").

Gunn's Hill  
Wind Farm  
powers 6,700  
homes



# Case study: Oxford County, Ontario

- Oxford wants to do solar "net metering" demonstration project but needs Ontario gov't permission.
- It would allow Oxford to generate power where there's lots of space for solar panels (rural areas) and use energy where there's little space (e.g., downtown Woodstock).
- DSF arranges gov't meetings where Oxford can pitch their project directly to ministers' advisers.

# Conclusion

- DSF assists local renewable projects by:
  - Strategizing on media
  - Broadcasting their stories
  - Arranging for them to meet with government

THANK YOU!