

DAVID ORAZIETTI MPP

[HOME](#)
 [BIOGRAPHY](#)
 [MULTI-MEDIA](#)
 [KEY LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS](#)
 [QUEEN'S PARK](#)
 [SERVICES](#)
 [CONTACT](#)

MEDIA

Releases

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ORAZIETTI ANNOUNCES SAULT STE. MARIE TO BUILD ONE OF CANADA'S LARGEST SOLAR FARMS

McGuinty Government's Energy Initiatives Increasing Energy Supply and Creating a Greener Healthier Ontario

SAULT STE. MARIE — Ontario's electricity grid will soon get a boost from two new solar farms in Sault Ste. Marie capable of delivering 20 megawatts of renewable electricity, David Orazietti MPP announced today.

"As a result of our government's efforts to bring cleaner renewable energy to Ontarians, today's announcement is creating a whole new industry in Sault Ste. Marie," said Orazietti. "We are building the electricity system Ontarians need and deserve, while at the same time finding innovative ways to keep the Northern Ontario economy moving forward."

This project will be comprised of two solar farms and will contribute 20 megawatts to the Ontario grid — enough to supply electricity for 3000 homes. It is the second largest solar farm in Canada, after the 40-megawatt project in the Sarnia area announced earlier this year. This project is expected to create 45 construction jobs and additional permanent jobs in Sault Ste. Marie and will represent another \$120 million investment in our local economy.

Glen Martin, President and COO of Pod Generating Group and a native of Sault Ste. Marie added, "Pod Generating Group is looking forward to working with the City of Sault Ste. Marie, the Government of Ontario, and PUC Distribution to create a widely distributed power generation network that will substantially lower carbon emissions and establish a renewable energy industrial base in the Province of Ontario."

The new solar farm is just the latest in a series of energy projects that have been made possible through the Ontario government's new innovative energy purchase agreements which are resulting in significant investments in the economy of Sault Ste Marie:

- Brookfield Power Wind Farm - Canada's largest wind installation creating 189MW is a \$400 million investment
- Algoma Steel Inc. Co-generation plant – a 63MW high efficiency energy project is a \$135 million investment and is currently under construction

Today's announcement brings the total number of projects awarded under the Standard Offer Program since February to 140. Taken together, these projects will generate 595 megawatts of renewable energy.

Today's announcement also builds on the McGuinty government's solar power strategy which includes:

- Setting a target of installing 100,000 solar roofs across the province
- Launch of "Go Solar" – a one stop information shop for Ontarians interested installing solar energy systems to heat water or generate electricity
- Extending the retail sales tax rebate on qualifying solar equipment, as well as wind, micro-hydro, and geothermal systems, to January 1, 2010.

"This exciting development for our city demonstrates a strategy that is meeting Ontario's electricity needs while minimizing our ecological footprint," said Orazietti.

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