BACKGROUND
The Toronto Parking Authority chose to install a 21 kW photovoltaic system at its St. Lawrence Parking Garage to reduce costs and to showcase their environmental leadership. Installed in August 2009, the project was designed to take advantage of the Ontario Power Authority’s Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program.

MONITORING
The system is being monitored by a Fat Spaniel monitoring system. Monitored parameters include on-site radiation, cell and ambient temperature, wind speed and direction. Energy production is monitored via three inverters.

FINANCIAL
The project was funded primarily by the Toronto Parking Authority with the Toronto Environment Office contributing to monitoring and reporting expenses. The system will pay for itself in approximately 16.6 years and continue generating clean electricity for years after.

STATUS
Grid connection has been delayed due to changes in FIT metering requirements. The necessary changes have been completed and the project is awaiting final FIT contract approval, which is anticipated in early 2012.

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*based on FIT rate of 71.3 ¢/kWh
**based on 0.187 kg eCO₂/kWh

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