BACKGROUND
The City of Toronto chose to install a 52 kW photovoltaic system at its 9 Hanna Police Services Garage to reduce electricity costs and to showcase the City’s environmental leadership. Installed in November 2009, the project was designed to take advantage of the Ontario Power Authority’s Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program.

FINANCIAL
The project was funded primarily by the City of Toronto with the Toronto Atmospheric Fund contributing to monitoring and reporting expenses. The system will pay for itself in approximately 15 years and continue generating electricity for years after. The existing mounting structure need to be reinforced which significantly increased the project cost.

STATUS
The project experienced significant delays in securing a Feed-in Tariff contract due to changes in the contract’s grid connection rules. After the system was installed, the City of Toronto was informed that in order to qualify for a FIT contract, the system had to be connected to the grid in parallel – a significant change from the previous in series connection requirement. The grid connection change added unexpected costs and delayed the start date of the Feed-in Tariff contract and associated revenue.

For more information, contact:
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*based on FIT rate of 71.3 ¢/kWh
**based on 0.187 kg eCO₂/kWh