BACKGROUND
The Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation (NUUC) chose to install a 25 kW roof-mounted photovoltaic system on site. The objectives of this project included reducing the church’s ecological footprint, educating the public about renewable energy, and generating revenue through the Ontario Power Authority’s Feed-in Tariff program. The PV system has been producing clean energy since September 2010, and showcases the NUUC’s commitment to sustainability and environmental leadership.

MONITORING
Energy yield data is collected from each of the system’s micro inverters. Solar radiation and ambient temperature are not monitored on site.

FINANCIAL
The system was installed at a cost of $220,000, and was funded by a combination of government grants and community support. Half of the cost was obtained through an interest-free loan from the City of Toronto’s Green Energy Fund, while the other half was raised through donations and the issuing of debentures to friends and supporters of the NUUC. The system will pay for itself in approximately 13 years and continue operating for years after.

STATUS
The PV system is connected to the grid and has been generating FIT revenue since September 30, 2010. However, payments have not yet been received due to delays at the Ontario Power Authority. Over the one year monitoring period, the system performed approximately 10% below expectations based on local irradiance and temperature data. The array is situated within close proximity to tall trees, so shading is the likely cause of the lower than expected yield.

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