

## Specifications

### Tree Planting Program

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is an Ontario based company whose principal business is the generation and sale of electricity in Ontario. OPG currently employs approximately 12,000 staff throughout the province. Our focus is on the efficient production and sale of electricity from our generation assets, while operating in a safe, open and environmentally responsible manner. OPG generates electricity at nuclear, hydroelectric, and fossil-fuelled (coal, gas and oil) generating stations and from two wind generating stations.

At OPG, our commitment to safety, our people, our work environment and the world around us is paramount. Our people are a vital ingredient in our success. Our people are what keep us focused on taking care of the environment, both inside and outside our business, and on continuing to work safely while making a difference to the world in which we live and work.

Ontario Power Generation is committed to both the protection of woodlands and the planting of genetically appropriate native trees and shrubs in areas of strategic conservation value in southern Ontario. This biodiversity management program strategically focuses on efforts that will contribute to the protection and restoration of a natural heritage (greenway) system of habitat cores and corridors across southern Ontario. This biodiversity program is also a component of OPG's greenhouse gas management plan to address global climate change, both in terms of mitigation as a carbon offset and climate change adaptation, by enhancing the resiliency of woodland ecosystems to withstand the effects of climate change.

#### **Geographical Focus:**

#### **Southern Ontario, South and East of The Shield**

#### Program Requirements:

- Program must be in southern Ontario (south and east of the Canadian Shield) and use regionally and genetically appropriate native plant stock, matched to local site conditions;
- Program must be linked to a natural heritage plan, such as the Big Picture, Big Picture 2002, or a regional or local enhancement of the same, that addresses habitat conservation needs for species at risk, or species threatened by woodland habitat loss and fragmentation;
- Programs addressing key provincial or regional conservation priorities will be favoured over local scale priorities;
- Program must identify biodiversity conservation objectives and measures that can be tracked and measured;
- Program must assure permanence, that is, the protection of land base to ensure woodland maturation for both carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation goals (i.e. through public land ownership, or private lands held in trust, or otherwise protected for conservation purposes). Signed 15 year management agreements to maintain trees on private lands are required;

- Program must also assure criteria of additionality (more trees are being planted because of the Program than would have occurred without it) and prevention of leakage (assurance that forest is not being cut elsewhere, to compensate for new forest created by the Program);
- Program must have a site plan covering management activities, including site preparation, planting, tending and monitoring to measure and audit carbon sequestered and to determine survivorship and success relative to biodiversity conservation goals. This information will be maintained and made available to OPG upon request. Formal reporting will occur over the monitoring cycle of years 1, 2, 3,5,10 and 15 of the Program life cycle.
- Program will measure, or estimate carbon sequestered in both the tree and shrub biomass, underground root biomass and soil carbon associated with the system;
- Georeferenced data on the area planted, and associated data on planting mix, will be maintained and made available for GIS monitoring purposes;
- Program will use an adaptive management framework to optimize probability of success (learn and adapt);
- Program should include opportunities for local stewardship involvement, “ownership” and education;
- Program will include opportunities for recognition and profile to OPG;
- Program results will be conveyed through annual status reports;
- Programs, which leverage OPG funding with the funding of other partners, will be favoured.
- Multi-year Programs will be considered.

**Applicants should demonstrate:**

- at least five years experience and success at tree planting and woodland habitat restoration;
- use of proper arboriculture practices for tree storage, transport, planting and health assessment;
- well developed selection criteria for appropriate planting sites and appropriate species;
- proven capacity and expertise to ensure both short and long-term objectives are achieved;
- specific benefits resulting from their Program;
- a marketing/promotions plan for their Program;
- realistic timeline and well articulated deliverables.

**Program Coordinator:**

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