

# Are you ready to Join GGT's Solar Buying Group (SBG)?



## Timeline (Phases of Process)



### KEY DECISIONS THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE:

<i>Is my site suitable? How much will it cost me? Do I have access to the necessary funds?</i>	<i>Do I want to join a SBG and apply to the MicroFit program?</i>	<i>Who do we want to get proposals from?</i>	<i>Which installer do we select and when do we do so? Is the installer's price acceptable?</i>	<i>Will I sign the contracts?</i>
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#### MicroFit Program

Where and when do you register with MicroFit?

What is the guaranteed price per kWh?

How long is the contract?

#### Technology

What is the difference between off-grid and on-grid systems?

What is an inverter?

What changes/additions to my house are required?

#### Site/Location

What is the orientation of the site?

Is shade a factor?

Is the roof in good condition?

Does the roof have a sufficient load-bearing capacity?

What is the surface area of the site?

What size system can be installed in this surface area?

#### SBG

What is the reason for forming a Solar Buying Group?

How is a SBG organized?

How often does the SBG meet?

What are the responsibilities of the members of the SBG?

Where and when do you apply to the MicroFit program?

When do we do pre-screening site assessments?

#### Installers

How do we pre-qualify installers?

#### Proposals

How many quotes do we get?

What criteria do we use to compare quotes?

When are installer site assessments done?

How is the volume discount determined?

#### Contract

What contracts need to be signed?

In what order are the contracts signed?

#### Hookup

When does the installation take place?

Who contacts the local utility to connect the system to the grid?

How and when do I receive the money?

# Reference Charts

**Table A Financial Considerations**

Costs	Financing
<p><b>Capital Costs:</b> What will my system cost? (See Table B)</p> <p><b>Process Costs:</b> What is the cost to join the SBG? What is the cost of the local utility hookup? What are the estimated annual maintenance costs for the system?</p> <p><b>Return On Investment</b> What is a reasonable rate of return on my investment? (See Table C)</p>	<p>Do I have access to sufficient funds? Do I have access to a home equity line of credit? Does my bank have a solar financing program? What costs can be deducted for tax purposes?</p>

**Table B Rooftop Surface Area & Estimated System Installation Cost**

Kilowatts	Area required (Approximate)	Cost* (Exc. HST)
1.8kW	170-200 sq. ft.	\$14,956
2.88kW	255-300 sq. ft.	\$20,120
4.86kW	425-500 sq. ft.	\$30,940
6.48kW	595-700 sq. ft.	\$37,834
7.92kW	765-900 sq. ft.	\$44,248
10.8kW	935-1100 sq. ft.	\$58,319

\* Second Solar Buying Group

**Table B1 Ground Mounted: Estimated System Installation Costs**

Kilowatts	Cost* (Exc. HST)
5.4kW	\$37,467
7.92kW	\$53,805
10.9kW	\$65,885

\* Second Solar Buying Group

**Table C Comparative Rate of Return \* (\$20,000 Solar Investment)**

Low Risk Products	Rate of return	Annual Pre-Tax Income
High Interest Savings Account	3.17%	\$630
3 Yr. Non-Cashable GIC	3.40%	\$680
Low-Cost Savings Bond	4.20%	\$840
2kW Solar Rooftop PV System	6.4%	\$1717

\* Yearly returns on solar are 8.5% but the system depreciates so the average return is corrected to 6.4%. ([www.ourpower.ca/solar\\_benefits](http://www.ourpower.ca/solar_benefits))

**Table C1 Rate of Return on two Rooftop & two Ground Mounted Systems**

System Size	Rate of return	Annual pre-Tax Income
2.88kW (rooftop)	12.6%	\$2541
4.86 kW (Rooftop)	14.5%	\$4287
5.4kW (Ground Mounted)	6.19%	\$3679
10.9kW (Ground Mounted)	8.5%	\$7600

