Clippers Complex solar panel plans on hold - for now

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There will be no solar panels on the Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex roof – for now.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Community Energy Co-operative's application to the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) was denied because of an incomplete application, according to Harry French, president of the local co-operative.

"Needless to say we were upset," Mr. French told councillors last week.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's application was not the only one denied. Mr. French said 87 per cent of the more than 4,000 applications did not meet requirements.

The local co-op was seeking approval from the OPA's Feed-in Tariff program to build a 250 kw solar project on the arena's roof.

If approved, in return, the town would have received $14,000 a year in rent for 20 years.

"The town remains interested in continuing in this role and remains hopeful that the co-op is successful in a future FIT application," Dave Cash, the municipality's CAO, told The Sun-Tribune via e-mail.

The energy co-op has decided it will re-apply when the next program is announced, which Mr. French said is expected to be this fall.

"OPA will put us through the hoops again," Mr. French said.

TOUR ECO HOMES

The energy co-op is hosting an Eco Homes Tour Sept. 21.

Four Stouffville homes are on the tour. They utilize renewable technology for heating and cooling of space, water and the generation of energy.

Visitors will learn how the homeowners have installed equipment for solar water heating, radiant heated floors and geothermal heating.

Following the tour, there will be a dinner of local food and wine, followed by a speaker from Eden Mills, an Ontario village working towards becoming carbon neutral.

For more information, go to www.energycooperative.ca