

Community Energy Planning Fact Sheet

What is Community Energy Planning?

Community energy planning involves the consideration of energy supply and demand in regional, urban and neighbourhood design and development. It involves efficiency in land use, transportation, site planning, building design, retrofits and infrastructure design.

The plan typically:

- evaluates land use and community design for the more efficient use of energy;
- complements the legislative authority under the Official Plan;
- prioritizes efficiency of energy and energy systems;
- incorporates full-cost pricing to factor in effects on the environment and
- set targets to work towards achieving the vision and reach ambitions.

Benefits of Community Energy Planning

- Increase in community sustainability
- Select and schedule development in a sustainable manner.
- Environmental protection
- Enhanced quality of life (e.g. focus on efficient use of local or sustainable energy systems to lower cost of living)
- Invest in community and local employment opportunities
- Ability to plan for the impact of climate change and ecosystem degradation through long-term contingencies, energy security, community expansion and economic downturn.
- Adopt mechanisms that will help the community to adapt and minimize the impact on the wealth of the community.

POINTS TO PONDER

Climate change is an inevitable and urgent global challenge with long-term implications for the sustainable development of all countries.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Without a change in human behaviour to significantly reduce the emissions of Green House Gasses, the earth's surface temperature will continue to increase.

NRCan 2007

It is estimated that half of Canada's Green House Gas emissions is under the control or influence of Municipal Governments.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2011

Municipalities that are prepared to deal with mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change will be in a better position to deal with potential environmental, economic and social damage.

The energy industry is one of the leading contributors to climate change.

Municipalities that tackle energy planning will be in a better position to curb their overall Green House Gas emissions.

Local and international markets growing needs are dependent upon limited energy resources.

What the future will look like and how it will be reached is decided by the community.

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For business, employment and municipal resources please visit www.WorkGreen.ca.

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Types of Community Energy Plans

There are three types of energy plans:

1. Single Issue Energy Plan

Focuses on a specific issue that occurs within the community (e.g. a new subdivision) with the aim of developing specific actions within a short timeframe.

2. Comprehensive Energy Plan

Focuses on the long-term energy direction of the community or region while addressing energy consumption (cost of living) as it incorporates all aspects of community design.

The Community Energy Plan is a comprehensive energy plan and supersedes single-issue plans in scope and co-ordinates their development and implementation based on a single vision.

3. Local Action Plan

Focuses on one objective over the long-term while addressing a range of activities. (E.g. lower Green House Gasses, transportation, building heating costs, deforestation, investing in renewable energy, etc.)

Contents of Community Energy Plans

- I. Visioning
- II. Inventory
 - a. Establish Baselines
 - b. Research and Document All Energy Consumed including vehicle fleets, buildings, outdoor lighting, water/sewer, waste disposal and employee commutes. This type of information can usually be obtained through the finance department and local utility.
 - c. Inventory amounts and sources of Green House Gas Emissions and Air Pollutants attributable to the existence and operations of an institution.
- III. Analysis
- IV. Identify Goals & Opportunities
- V. Develop Action Plan
- VI. Implementation
 - a. Retrofit Available Technology – weatherization, conservation, efficiency.
 - b. Consider Renewable Energy – solar, biomass, wind, geothermal, alternative fuels, small-scale hydro.
 - c. Computer Use – One desktop PC left on for one year creates 1500 lbs of CO₂ emissions which will take 100 to 500 trees to offset the effects.
 - d. Green Your Fleets
- VII. Evaluation
 - a. Assess Progress → Baselines and Benchmarks
 - b. Revise if Needed

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