

**Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel
Technical Stakeholder Workshop – Indigenous Communities
October 2016**

Final Key Message Cards

- Individual vs. Nation funding, need both streams.
- Education programs
 - Culturally relevant, we use all our resources responsibly
 - Success stories (BC example)
- Lack of reporting and grant writing burden (First Nations asked to write and report on too many grants – needs to be simplified).
- Fund band offices/buildings that are energy efficient – solar, geothermal, wind-powered.
- Need a centralized website custom to First Nations that show
 - Programs – educational (youth, families)
 - Success stories, e.g. Sooke, BC
 - Grants
 - Energy consumption guide and details on how to save, e.g. times to do laundry, turn off lights, LED lights etc.
- Facebook page needed.
- Alleviate overcrowding of homes on First Nations reserves.
- Good luck!!!
- More funding is needed in housing to help address energy efficiency.
- Houses are the largest asset on any First Nation and upgrading these units would help with energy efficiency as well as the health and safety of the occupants.
- Tribes need funds to renovate homes so they can be energy efficient.
- All communities have varying knowledge, resources, wants and needs, and these variances need to be considered in all future discussions to help us succeed!
- Needs to be more education to all First Nation communities on energy efficiency.
- Consult all First Nation reserves.
- It would be nice to have an idea on what the average cost would be to convert one house into an energy efficient home, one that is outfitted with all the necessary technology that is available or being made available today, e.g. calculate using house size, 2 or 3 bedroom home with full basement approx. 1400 sf with (1) renovation – 3 bedrooms; (2) without full basement (no rooms).
- We currently have ### homes in our Nation, all varying sizes and ages – face a housing shortage and have overcrowding issues.
- With the grant money that is to be available, it's probably not even going to be enough to do more than two homes overall.
- Question on rebates: Who would be the beneficiary, the Band or the homeowner?
Consideration needs to be made to the individual homeowner who pays their own utility bills
- Inclusion of traditional knowledge – include Elders and traditional knowledge holders.
- If education programs are going to be developed, need to be developed with First Nations and grassroots people from communities/Nations.
- A residential program for retrofitting is needed! Also education/awareness on energy efficiency in the home.

- Band buildings – awareness for maintenance people who need to be educated. They take care of buildings, boilers.
- Have \$ available for energy audits – community as a whole and residential. Maybe done on a home and give/provide feedback on energy wasting. It will give homeowners a better picture.
- It is easy to talk about energy efficiency, high energy furnaces, but with 100% of the homes and Reserve building envelopes being set up for energy efficiency, this creates a significant obstacle to moving towards energy efficiency because of the associated cost.
- It would have been good for the Panel to obtain greater input by having workshops across the province allowing input from a greater cross-section of the individuals impacted as well as the Elders in the various communities.
- The final 45 minutes was more informative about Panel priorities for Indigenous communities. First two hours was off topic.
- In my opinion, energy efficiency improvements to homes will be more beneficial to Indigenous communities.
- Cost sharing with GoA and INAC, to provide funds for ability to make homes more energy efficient, without loss of current funding dollars.
- Bring in more invested stakeholders of First Nations communities. Unit existing programs, from each level of government, such as social development, housing, capital infrastructure, education to develop ways to promote adoption of energy efficient practices.
- The energy bill for a band office on a monthly basis is averaged at \$x,xxx. This is for one building alone! Housing on First Nations is not included so there is a gap in the amount of the grant, \$200K, and the actual cost of energy to the home. The companies like Atco should be presenting on how much is charged in each First Nation. What are the real actual costs of starting energy efficiency? \$9.6 million is estimated as revenue in the first year and the First Nation portion is not enough.
- The cost of power poles alone is \$8-12K and these costs are not included but First Nations have to pay unlike people who buy homes from a housing developer. Our realities are vastly different!
- Learn from the Elders / knowledge-keepers.
- Including a residential solar panel program on-reserve would empower people to understand and use alternative energy services.
- The cumulative effects of environmental impacts are dearly needed. Gas lines are breaking on trap lines, logging is decimated the caribou and other fur-bearing animals' habitat.
- Educating people about the ability of solar panels shall be demonstrated. The Alberta Legislature invites the public via radio, social media, to view movies using a solar panel, so this demonstration of technology must be brought to the Northern reserves.
- The training of energy assessments and provision of efficiency energy must be developed and delivered within the Public Works and Housing Departments.
- The federal government must not claw back any savings to band offices and/or individual residences.
- INAC must provide written confirmation to not claw back energy efficient programs / services on reserve.
- More input from all Alberta First Nations.
- Talk about other sources of energy other than solar.
- Home insulation programs.
- Window, exterior door replacement.

- That there will be a mechanism for direct fiscal transfer to the First Nations after year one so that First Nations have real ownership over successes.
- That there be flexible long-term planning monies allocated to First Nations rather than only annual planning/applications.
- That there be ongoing communication/education strategies in place from both GoA and First Nations on opportunities/challenges in implementation of the plans ... addressing climate change.
- Training/education opportunities
 - Specific to First Nation youth to become involved in the sciences and technological advances of in green energy initiatives
 - Rebate program needs to be really looked at to address real life situations
 - More incentives needed
- Always acknowledge the Creator, Mother Earth and our Big Brother the Sun. Acknowledge through Protocol and Prayer.
- Shine the light on First Nations who already have “best practices” and share their experience and expertise.
- Potential business, joint ventures for this new wave of economic opportunity; how many First Nations already in these types of businesses? This will help with First Nations employment.
- More incentives such as e.g. Home Hardware gives away energy efficient lightbulbs on certain dates.
- More inter-agency organizations or departments e.g. Economic Development Schools (info to students to take home); each department can play a role.
- Fight for more government-industry dollars for more projects, e.g. solar, retrofitting existing aging facilities.
- You have a tough job ahead of you!! Keep positive, keep working hard!!
- Youth and Elders Panel.
- Overhead for capacity (admin supports at Nation levels).
- In order for First Nations to participate fairly in the renewable energy market, the province must first address the privatized market.
- We need resources to address energy efficient homes.
- Ensure to hold the community’s, the people’s best interests at the core of decisions made.
- Involve us in every component / capacity so we can have input and learn with you.