

Energy Efficiency and Community Energy Systems  
 Indigenous Technical Session Discussion Summary

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Poplar Room, Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre

11633 - 100 Street, Grande Prairie

In what ways is energy efficiency an important topic to be discussing?	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need alternate ways of energy for reserve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified a number of large energy uses in community that are expensive.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generation at health centre (solar) at Lubicon creates additional concerns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned about transmission infrastructure and in Direct Energy paying for inputs of electricity into system.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are concerns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community heating homes with diesel and wood. “Wood heat is open to new initiatives.” Exploration of geothermal and wind energy (the GoA looked at wind for fire towers). Challenges for livelihoods in area and looking for green initiatives. Also interested in being independent (inclement weather preventing access to town, 96 hour outages).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lot of external concerns that may not have been thought of.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important because we could be using up all our energy, and we need to think of our children and grandchildren. There is a cost to getting energy when so much is free out there. What about impacts of wind farms (especially with bats)? Hunting in Tumbler Ridge area believed to be affected by wind turbines. Is this attributed to frequencies?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brings up the concept of energy security.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a sense of independence when energy is secure. (Pumps failing, connection to outside world.) Autonomy at whims of Mother Nature, especially in remote areas. Challenge to buy in, but when basic needs aren’t met, the concept of energy efficient is a non-concern. So, whether or not it is efficient may be secondary concern to just having it. Being self-sufficient is important.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be new challenges and competitions with introducing this, and possible bad impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When we didn’t have electricity and heat we had to go out and get heat. Provincial politics is affecting rights and impacts. Need to look at big picture. How can we go back and start again. Solar panels- they may be free electricity-but the intensity and technique is different from traditional ways. Earth can only go so far before it starts retaliating. Strange frequencies are being created by some of the new technologies and can pierce eardrums of animals—these can be damaging. When talking of sharing, don’t say it’s mine. We need to learn to share. A long time ago, if someone had something of value, they would share. How many laws and by-</li> </ul>

**Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel  
 Technical Session – Indigenous Communities – October 12, 2016**

<b>In what ways is energy efficiency an important topic to be discussing?</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
	<p>laws do we need to go through to bring something such as solar?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Want social and economic well-being to go along with this rather than people benefitting one way or another from this?</li> <li>• Be mindful of future generations when we are thinking about these current strategies?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There may be unforeseen impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When introducing new technologies, what are the additional impacts that aren't being considered?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because we may need to more fully think this topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our reliance is too strong. Because our mindset to this concept may be wrong.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important because community has done nothing for energy efficiency. Buildings costing too much money each year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Utility] is coming in to do an energy efficiency audit. Solar obstacles include financial—Nation does not have financial resources to initiate this.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brings up ideas of different concerns and different funding opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can't there be funding for things such as water wheels, etc.? Geothermal is a possible energy source, especially given oil and gas impacts that have been made. Also consider that some sources of energy may actually be a step toward reclamation. When you look at energy efficiency from several aspects—not just in terms of housing, etc., but also consider reclamation and funding in terms of other sources such as, is there money for emergency response programs, etc.?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It could help community centres, and powering facilities that could also serve as emergency centres.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There may be hidden costs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation costs and lifecycle may be higher in a remote community. When doing solar for monitoring stations, a challenge was that although the technology was exciting, and there was backing from EcDev, there was still a challenge to get money for repairs. Technology is exciting, but if communities are being treated as an experiment or lab, and the technology quickly becomes obsolete, this is a burden now. The optics may be good for efficient, but the legacies may be a problem, especially when the community can't pay for disposals and wastes.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting a discussion may lead to a discovery of what is already in place. It may lead to a discovery that there may be other ulterior motives in place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Someone else may benefit from offering a service to a First Nation when the funding can go to that organization, using the First Nation as a source. It may lead to a perceiving of the problem of words without actions. One of the biggest things to do was to get buy in.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brings attention to issue of proper engagement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare to consultation, where it is not good consultation unless there is not good engagement. A problem where the First Nation is not in control and can't say no. Need to make it</li> </ul>

**Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel  
 Technical Session – Indigenous Communities – October 12, 2016**

<b>In what ways is energy efficiency an important topic to be discussing?</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
	so nobody profits except for the community's energy needs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be other barriers that haven't been thought of.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The building standards haven't been updated enough to account for new things. The building codes may be a barrier to development.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is good to get the conversation going because it can lead to a discovery of what other Nations are doing, plus it can lead to a discovery of good and vetted vendors. If buying into current infrastructures or companies, it may lead to communities needing to figure out who is a good group to work with.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If seeking out First Nations or groups to help other Nations it may be good to get the Nations that are already good at this. Is it possible to avoid the profiting when sharing? Equality in access to resources. Lack of people to reach out to when getting these things going.</li> <li>• Some of these current companies have a less than respectful attitude. Can we have people come to see the community so people actually see the current situation before they try to start changing it? Such a range of different homes with different ages can make implementation difficult. Need a very good needs assessment even before there is an audit.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It may identify the lack of fair funding opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When we think too much about our needs, how can we find more of a road with no obstacles? Especially considering competition for resources.</li> </ul>

<b>What may support energy efficiency programming for First Nations people and communities? (i.e., opportunities)</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding may help to get these off the ground. What are critical funding opportunities? Anything that will save money will open up additional money. Partial funding is not useful if there is no money in the First Nation to make up the remainder. If something is done on a cost share, and it was funded 100%, maybe the payback could be part of the cost savings.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentives and regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More support on building codes, passive homes/energy sources, letting more flexible and creative uses of land, buildings, etc.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing ideology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If people's attitudes are trying to be changed but there is no societal support, because stores etc. are still promoting the same technologies and materials, then it is futile, so changing society may be more useful.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disincentives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There may be more energy efficiency if more disincentives are created on bad practices.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An agreement that we have may help things along. An agreement doesn't need to be in writing—it can be a statement that there is the desire to have a connection. An agreement to continue working together would be useful. Keeping the wheels greased, or keeping the circle strong would be beneficial. When we neglect the spiritual part of us, it is</li> </ul>

Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel  
 Technical Session – Indigenous Communities – October 12, 2016

<b>What may support energy efficiency programming for First Nations people and communities? (i.e., opportunities)</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
	negative. We don't put enough spirit into things. Having a road to follow would be great so that we could handle the obstacles, and have the right path. We would like to have results from this a desire to have this continue to move forward and grow, and have the next steps include what we've already started.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening is always good, because the government isn't always famous for this. Make it real, no more fakery.</li> </ul>

<b>What may get in the way of energy efficiency programming for First Nations people and communities? (i.e., challenges/obstacles)</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental differences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are different environmental variables when considering these technologies. Some may have different temperature ranges and snow load capabilities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profiting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies may be tempted to proceed with a lack of standards in order to profit from this.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering assessments can eat into a lot of the funding dollars. Keep implementation budgets separate from needs assessments budgets.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of being wronged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not want to see First Nations used as guinea pigs. First Nation homes do not require inspections, and INAC has never required inspection of First Nation homes. Should be no double standards, especially when using First Nation homes as studies for things that may not be otherwise regulated.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Chief and Council don't support something with a more modern attitude, it may be difficult to get it going.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge barriers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If an Elder can't read or write there needs to be listening to these Elders as opposed to only listening to what they put in writing. The roll out may need to be sensitive to the needs and challenges of the community. When you look at a tree, where does it start, it starts at the roots.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When using the idea of getting a geothermal activity going, the AER asked for them to take over the responsibility of the well. Some of the reclamation of this well would cost \$2-3 million. With 2,200 wells that are abandoned or capped, and using any of these requires taking over the responsibilities and the liability, this is very unappetizing. This extends or is inflamed by other consultation issues such as pipelines with bush cover around them that are not easily accessible in emergencies.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations on electricity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Utility] and [utility] are upset that they weren't involved with</li> </ul>

Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel  
 Technical Session – Indigenous Communities – October 12, 2016

<p><b>What may get in the way of energy efficiency programming for First Nations people and communities? (i.e., challenges/obstacles)</b></p>	<p><b>Rationale</b></p>
	<p>infrastructure development. In the southern region they are more open to renewable energies, but in north the companies aren't open to these ideas. First Nations think a co-op may be a good way forward, either as a way of dealing with a strong company or with developing their own initiatives. Want to have credits generated when more power is created than used.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When giving money for projects, there needs to be strong oversight to prevent the money from being used for other things other than energy efficiency and community energy. Need to have a way of making sure the projects aren't later manipulated too much from original choices. Money designated for infrastructure needs to be set funding not block funding. Needs to be a consideration of rates, and locked rates, less than ideal rates, especially when the contracts are tilted in certain directions, and someone else may be profiting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureaucracy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a one window approach would be good so that there are not many people who have to be gone through to get anything done.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some communities have less than ideal capacities. Is there funding for a person to be responsible for deliverables of a program? Want to have funding for an internal community champion, internal within the community. This program would also provide consistency because the Chief and Council may change. Would this be by Nation, or region? Also consider differences between the communities in terms of needs and infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discontinuity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there are representatives here who were on board now, but later there are different representatives who are engaged, how is continuity established so that all discussions remain informed by all previous discussions, and there is no loss of information? Continuity of engagement. A tracking application that could be used so that the engaged and those who are engaging are informing each other and others who are not in the room. Create an advisory committee for each area that is being engaged. Would a subcommittee be good that the First Nations could use to communicate with each other so that this is not dropped today, but that this discussion can keep going? An issue with government is that the relationship is always requiring re-establishing because there is a revolving door with some staff.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules and regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processes that are designed to create efficiencies can actually be barriers to implementing these goals. Especially consider</li> </ul>

Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel  
 Technical Session – Indigenous Communities – October 12, 2016

<b>What may get in the way of energy efficiency programming for First Nations people and communities? (i.e., challenges/obstacles)</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
	this in light of creating any organizational structure that is designed to move this process forward.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of clarity on some rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What about carbon-offset credits? If these are being gained or achieved, what are the rules on selling these credits? How many other rules or misunderstandings are there that need to be understood? Also many considerations in building codes and efficiency ratings on homes and how these are being controlled.</li> </ul>