

COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING AND DATA

AN ASSESSMENT FOR SMALL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ONTARIO

Primer

June 2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Research and Writing Team

Richard Laszlo, QUEST
Brent Gilmour, QUEST
Sarah Marchionda, QUEST
Samira Drapeau, QUEST
Michael Lee, QUEST

Editors

Tonja Leach, QUEST
Cheryl Ratchford, QUEST

Design and Layout

Justin Aitcheson, JUST AN H

This report was supported through funding from the Ontario Ministry of Energy.

Copyright © QUEST – Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow, 2016.

These materials may be reproduced in whole or in part without charge or written permission, provided that appropriate source acknowledgements are made and that no changes are made to the contents. All other rights are reserved.

The analyses/views in these materials are those of QUEST, and these analyses/views do not necessarily reflect those of QUEST's affiliates (including supporters, funders, members, and other participants). QUEST's affiliates do not endorse or guarantee any parts or aspects of these materials, and QUEST's affiliates are not liable (either directly or indirectly) for any issues that may be related to these materials.

Front cover image

Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation, (2016).

Back cover image

Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation, (2016).



QUEST is a non-profit organization that conducts research, engagement and advocacy to advance Smart Energy Communities in Canada. Smart Energy Communities improve energy efficiency, enhance reliability, cut costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. With the help of 8 provincial and regional Caucuses, QUEST brings together key stakeholders from government, utilities and energy providers, the real estate sector, product and professional services, among others, to transform Canada's 5400 communities into Smart Energy Communities. More information is available at www.questcanada.org.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	Introduction
6	1.0 DATA FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING
9	2.0 OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO DATA COLLECTION
13	R.0 ENERGY PLANNING AND DATA RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

Local governments in Ontario, large and small, have taken a strong interest in community energy planning in recognition of the impact energy has on the local economy, health, infrastructure and community resilience. By developing a Community Energy Plan (CEP), a community can influence the way energy is managed and develop priorities around energy in order to achieve economic, environmental, health and community resilience objectives.¹

A CEP is a tool that helps define priorities with a view to improving efficiency, cutting emissions, and driving economic development.² CEPs offer a range of benefits, including lowering energy costs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), enhancing reliability and providing greater economic benefits for consumers, businesses and local governments (see Table 1 for a listing of the general benefits of CEPs). Although the process for developing a CEP is similar across jurisdictions, the key drivers for CEPs vary significantly depending on the community. As a result, the development of a CEP is generally context-specific and tailored to the needs of a community.

Table 1 – The Benefits of Community Energy Planning

Economic benefits	Environmental benefits	Health benefits	Social Resilience and Energy Security benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reduce energy spending for residents, businesses and local governments (resulting from energy efficiency and conservation projects, local distributed energy resources, reduced fuel usage, reduced waste, etc.) – Recirculate energy spending within the local economy – Create high quality local jobs – Increase property values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reduce greenhouse gas emissions – Foster healthy ecosystems – Use land and natural resources more efficiently – Set a common vision around energy in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improve indoor and outdoor air quality – Reduce obesity and diseases associated with sedentary lifestyles – Improve mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improve access to reliable sources of energy – Reduce exposure to energy price volatility – Assess and provide solutions for areas facing energy poverty – Assess and provide solutions for at-risk areas – Ensure local energy priorities are considered in supply planning

Source: Community Energy Planning – Getting to Implementation in Canada! FAQ section. Accessed March 31, 2016. Retrieved from: <http://gettingtoimplementation.ca/category/faqs/>

One of the first steps in developing a CEP is collecting data to develop a baseline study and energy map. For any community the data collection process can be time-intensive and challenging. For small and rural communities, there are unique challenges to gathering data. By understanding these challenges and applying best practices, small and rural communities can better prepare for the data requirements associated with community energy planning.

This primer addresses some of the issues facing small and rural communities in Ontario when gathering data for a CEP. The primer provides information on the type of data that small and rural communities should consider gathering, and identifies some of the common challenges to collecting data and how to overcome them.

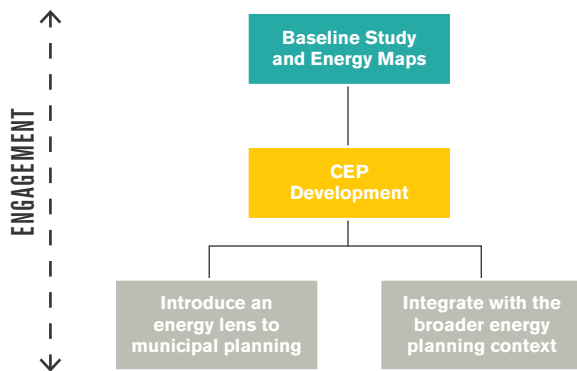
¹ The term “local government” refers to a specific level of government or municipality. The term “community” or “communities” refers to infrastructure and residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, transportation, utility, and agriculture activities within a given geographic (or municipal) boundary.
² A list of Community Energy Plans across Canada can be viewed by visiting: <http://www.questcanada.org/thesolution/atlas>

1.0 DATA FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING

The involvement of a local government starts early on for a CEP, especially as it relates to data collection. For instance, Ontario's Ministry of Energy *Municipal Energy Plan (MEP)* program encourages local governments to develop an energy map during the first or second phase of the program.

Figure 1 illustrates the core components of a CEP process. Data is critical to the successful development of a *Baseline Study and Energy Maps*.

Figure 1 – Community Energy Planning Process



A baseline study measures or estimates energy consumption and GHGs from residential, institutional and commercial buildings and from industrial buildings and processes. In some cases, data from transportation and solid waste is also collected. Baseline studies can be very detailed and can examine energy at a very granular level (e.g. building-level data) or at a coarser level (e.g. broader sector or community wide such as transportation energy use). Some common measurements in a baseline study include:

- Assessment of buildings according to use, size, year built, type of energy consumed and energy costs.
- Transportation modes for personal and commercial consumption, including type of vehicles, kilometers travelled, type of fuel used, and fuel costs.
- Emissions from solid waste disposal.

By measuring how much and where energy is used in a community, baseline studies identify opportunities for energy reduction and assist local governments to:

- **Understand** where and how much energy is supplied/used in a community, including alternative and renewable distributed energy;³
- **Quantify** energy used and resulting GHGs by sector (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, transportation, waste, and water) and identify trends over time; and,
- **Identify** and quantify opportunities for energy and GHG reductions.

Depending on the scope of a CEP, the baseline study may include a breakdown of energy use and GHGs by sector (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, transportation, waste, and water) as well as a breakdown of energy use and GHGs by fuel type.

To support a baseline study, a local government should establish benchmarks against which targets for energy and GHG reductions can be set and progress can be measured against. The baseline year may be chosen to align with provincial or federal targets or may be based on the historical year where the best data is available.⁴

³ Distributed energy sources (or systems) refers to all forms of alternative and renewable energy (biogas, biomass, wind, solar, hydrogen, geothermal etc.), waste heat capture, and combined heat and power.

⁴ The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Canada has developed a Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Milestone Tool as a resource to support PCP members in their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction activities. The milestone tool is useful for supporting some of the data collection needs for a CEP. <http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/partners-for-climate-protection/program-resources/the-pcp-milestone-tool.htm>

The basic steps involved in developing a baseline study are:

- A utility and/or an energy service provider is presented with a data request.
- The utility and/or energy service provider and local government work together to clarify and document what data is needed and how it will be used for a CEP.
- A Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) and privacy agreement is signed between the utility and local government as well as other parties associated with data collection for a CEP.⁵
 - NDA: Is generally developed by the local utility or energy service provider. A utility will often have this type of agreement on-hand for purposes related to Conservation Demand Management (CDM) and other program data reporting requirements.
 - Privacy agreement: Ensures recipients of data will not present data in a way that could inadvertently make available the private information of a customer (e.g. energy use, energy costs or the address of a customer).
- The data is then used to develop a baseline study and, potentially, an energy map, which will inform the actions for a CEP.

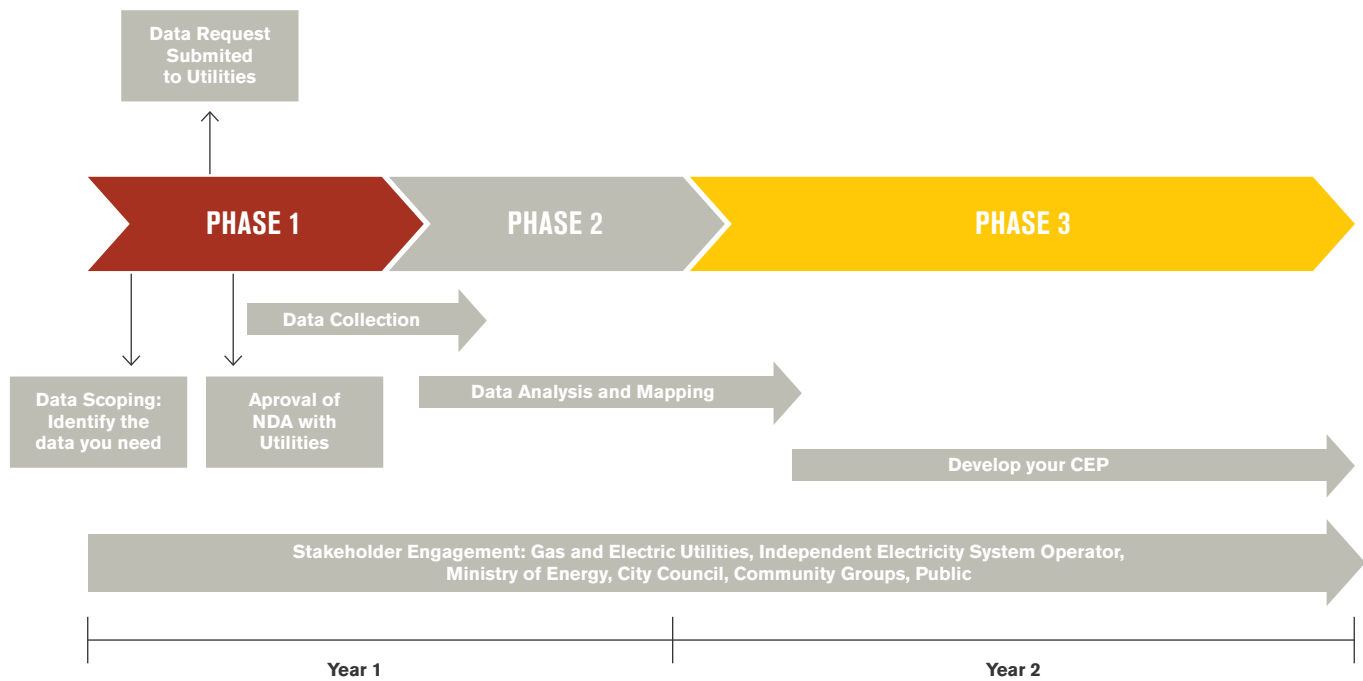
Energy mapping is a useful tool for local governments to identify opportunities for meeting community objectives related to energy use. The data a local government is able to collect can impact the rigour of the actions for a CEP, the quality of an energy map, as well as the ability to meet energy conservation objectives. A local government will typically collect data for natural gas, electricity and propane consumption, as well as fuel consumption for transportation. This information can be presented in the form of an energy map which spatially shows energy use in a community.

Energy mapping integrates detailed baseline data and visualizes it using geographic information systems (GIS), which allows a local government to:

- **Identify** spatial trends in the data.
- **Target** specific neighbourhoods, sectors and businesses for conservation and alternative/renewable distributed energy resources; and, where and how much energy is used across a community, in a neighbourhood, or at the individual block (street) level.
- **Communicate** to the public and decision makers visually where and how much energy is used across a community, in a neighbourhood, or at the individual block (street) level.

Figure 2 illustrates the steps for developing a baseline study and who should be engaged early on in the data collection process.

Figure 2 - Data Gathering Stages for a Community Energy Plan



⁵ When a local government is not a shareholder of a utility or does not have a prearrangement in place for the sharing of information with a utility or energy service provider, a process for data sharing may need to be established and could require a more comprehensive NDA.

Typical data required for an energy baseline study and energy map:⁶

- Electricity and natural gas data: In Ontario, natural gas and electricity data are available through the utility serving the community. For example, in much of rural Ontario, Hydro One is the electricity distributor, while Union Gas Limited is the natural gas distributor.
- Building data: Building data (e.g. type & age) is available through the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and is updated on a quarterly basis. MPAC data is used to calculate property values for tax purposes.
- Transportation data: Can be retrieved from sources, such as gasoline sales, transportation (vehicle) counts, vehicle ownership, and GIS data on vehicle trips.
- Other energy data: Small and rural communities are often dependent on a variety sources of energy, such as propane and home heating oil. Data for these energy sources is generally held by independent local energy service providers in a community.

The greatest level of effort and cost associated with the data collection process is dedicated to managing, cleansing and organizing data. There are approaches to mitigate the level of effort and cost when assessing the quality of the data used in a baseline study and energy map, and evolves evaluating the following:

- **Validity** – is the data that is available required?
- **Accuracy** – is the data from a verifiable source?
- **Integrity** – is the data consistent across all tables and databases? (e.g. formatting)
- **Timeliness** – is the data available when you need it?
- **Completeness** – is the data required to achieve the objectives for the community available?

Engaging the public early on in the community energy planning process can help a local government achieve buy-in for the Community Energy Plan (CEP). Energy maps are visual tools that can support a public engagement process and can provide the necessary context for the public to understand the purpose of and opportunity in developing a CEP. By building public buy-in early on, local governments can overcome the risk of resistance to actions identified in a CEP.

⁶ A comprehensive list of datasets that can be used for community energy planning purposes is included as part of the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) Lessons Learned Report: Integrated Energy Mapping for Ontario Communities. <http://www.canurb.org/waterenergy/>

2.0 OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO DATA COLLECTION

Small and rural communities face unique challenges with regards to the data collection phase of the community energy planning process. The following are some of the most often cited challenges associated with gathering and using data for the purposes of developing a CEP. Although there are often no perfect solutions to completely solve these challenges, best practices are identified along with pertinent examples to help address an identified challenge.

2.1 CHALLENGE: PRIVACY STANDARDS

There are common concerns with regards to maintaining data privacy integrity by utilities (both natural gas and electric utilities) and energy service providers. This is often due to the need to maintain a high standard for data privacy as established by federal and provincial regulations, and an unfamiliarity with the data collection process for a CEP which is outside of the core business activities for a utility or energy service provider. For instance, if the size and/or sector of the breakdown of a data request is too narrow, it may make it challenging to maintain data privacy. However, there are approaches which can ensure data privacy is upheld when undertaking a CEP. For example, in a small or rural community, the local government may have to aggregate data for a certain geographic area of a community where there is a large energy user, such as an industrial activity, hospital or university.

Best Practices:

Understand the privacy rules: Before approaching a utility with a data request, take the opportunity to become familiar with the data privacy requirements that a local utility might have to adhere to or adjust to in order to accommodate a request. An NDA often establishes the conditions for successfully sharing information in a manner that ensures data privacy is upheld when information is visualized, such as through charts or an energy map, and when it is analyzed for a CEP.

2.2 CHALLENGE: INTERNAL CAPACITY

In some instances, local governments may not be aware of the types of data required to develop a CEP and might not have the internal expertise or capacity to process large amounts of data. Also, some small and remote communities might have

overlapping or complicated geographic / riding boundaries due to the amalgamation of hamlets, villages, and counties, or have a combination of older and newer postal codes.⁷ As a result, a validation process might need to take place to ensure different data sources can be properly aligned to support energy mapping and an energy baseline study.⁸

Best Practices:

- **Conduct a data scoping exercise:** This approach can assist a local government to identify the data sources needed for an energy baseline. It is important to consider what questions need to be addressed and what data is needed to answer them before commencing the data collection process. This approach will support a local government remaining focused on collecting data that is essential for a CEP from the outset.
- **Get buy-in/support from the top down:** Ensure local government representatives on a utility board of directors are engaged and familiar with the importance and potential use of the energy data.
Example: Smart Energy Oxford is composed of community leaders from across Oxford County in Ontario, and has regular meetings to advance their vision of a smart energy Oxford.
- **Get help from the upper-tier municipality:** If a community is a lower-tier local government, engaging an upper-tier local government and having their support can bring the priorities of a community to the forefront.
Example: The Town of Caledon organized an event with the Region of Peel and the local utility providers in the region to establish working relationships early on in the development of a CEP.

- **Build capacity through peer networks:** Engage in networks that can provide capacity support through sharing knowledge, resources and tools to help overcome challenges.
Example: The QUEST Ontario Municipal Working Group is a network of over 30+ local governments at various stages of community energy planning that engage in regular peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and resource sharing opportunities.
- **Engage champions and experts:** Engage key stakeholders and leaders in a community and the local utilities as well as the energy service providers to champion the community energy planning efforts and to help guide the process. Having a champion within the utility, for example, can help facilitate the data collection process.
- **Internal assessment:** Before developing an energy baseline or energy map, set up meetings with data managers to discuss what information they collect and how the CEP inventory and analyses can also support their priorities and program needs.

⁷ Natural gas and electric utilities in Ontario do not use the same geographic/riding boundaries as a local government to track/record energy data from customers.

⁸ More information on validation processes and quality assurance checks can be found in the the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) Lessons Learned Report: Integrated Energy Mapping for Ontario Communities which is available at: <http://www.canurb.org/waterenergy/>

2.3 CHALLENGE: PROCESSING TIME

The collection of data can take time and delay the community energy planning timeline. There are recent examples where MPAC data or utility energy data requests took longer than four months to fulfill.

Best Practices:

- **Engage data providers early:** Engage the local utility and energy service providers early on in the data collection process in order for them to better understand the intent, requirement and final visualization and use of data.
- **Engage all data providers:** Engage all potential data providers, including energy service providers, transportation and land use planners, and other potential data providers early on in the CEP development process to understand their data sharing policies and processes.

2.4 CHALLENGE: GETTING THE RIGHT AND GOOD QUALITY DATA

A lot of work goes into transferring data from the way a utility or energy service provider provides the data to how a local government can apply it. Sometimes, the data requests of a local government will not match up with the way a utility or energy service provider collects and reports data. A utility or energy service provider that has never participated in a CEP process could require additional time, support and engagement from a local government.

Best Practices:

- **Make sure you are talking to the right person:** It is important to engage the right representative at the local utility or energy service provider to get the best results. Typically, this is a senior staff person working in conservation and demand management. Engaging the upper-tier municipality in the data gathering process can also be beneficial.
- **Communicate the utility value proposition:** CEPs can provide value to a local utility or energy service provider by helping to raise the profile of their conservation and demand management program(s). A local government can leverage its ability to support a utility or energy service provider to engage their customers to help them meet their conservation targets.

Obtaining data for propane, heating oil and other fuels for residential and commercial use can be challenging in small and rural communities. There are instances of multiple utility and energy service providers within a single community. For instance, in parts of rural Ontario, there are several or more companies delivering electricity, and sometimes natural gas, to the same community.

Best Practices:

- **Invite data providers to participate in a CEP Advisory Group:** Having data providers (utilities, energy service providers and others) engaged from the outset of a CEP process can make the data collection process easier. The willingness from a utility is almost always there, but it is often outside of their regular business activities to provide data for a CEP. This means that a local government is best served by offering a clear explanation of the “what, why, how” data will be used.
- **Bring all data providers together:** Work towards having all data providers for a CEP meeting together regularly through the CEP process. This allows all data providers to better understand each others’ process for providing data, consider how the data will be used in a CEP collectively, and be aware about how the data will be used to support decision-making and public engagement.

Agriculture can account for a significant share of a community's energy use; however, agricultural sector data is often not readily available. As a result, large sections of agricultural land could show up as white space on an energy map or show up as a gap in the energy baseline study.

Best Practices:

- **Reach out to farmers:** Engaging with the agricultural community, such as the Ontario Farmers’ Association (OFA), can reveal important information about the potential for energy projects using agricultural waste, such as for alternative and renewable distributed energy opportunities.

INSIGHTS ON DATA COLLECTION FOR A CEP: THE TOWN OF CALEDON

The Town of Caledon, located within the Regional Municipality of Peel, is a geographically diverse municipality covering 700 square kilometers. The Town is comprised of a unique amalgamation of small urban and rural communities and is currently faced with increasing growth pressure from its expanding urban cores. The Town's current population is expected to almost double, placing pressures on the existing energy infrastructure within the Town's boundaries. To help support this growth and mitigate the strain it will have on local energy systems, Caledon has begun the process of enhancing its Community Climate Change Action Plan through a residential energy mapping and forecasting study.

For the Town of Caledon, the goal of this study is to generate conversation with the local community and industry stakeholders to:

- Identify opportunities for collaborative partnerships;
- Increase energy literacy amongst decision makers and residents;
- Understand the impacts of project growth on local energy systems; and,
- Foster the integration of energy and land-use planning.

The Town received funding for this study from Ontario's Ministry of Energy Municipal Energy Plan program. The study will produce a series of energy maps that visually display the following:

- Electricity and natural gas consumption and energy use intensity at the postal code level; and,
- Forecasted energy consumption under a business as usual scenario, as well as an energy reduction scenario at the postal code level.

The energy forecast scenarios will help identify the mitigating actions that can be considered to help offset the projected energy demand on the local distribution system. Types of actions might include home energy retrofits and the development of local alternative and renewable distributed energy.

Stakeholder engagement meetings will be held throughout the study to solicit feedback on possible preferred actions to enhance the Community Climate Change Action Plan.

Lessons learned:

- Engage a utility early on in the process.
- Understand what data the community will require and how to request it from a utility or energy service provider.
- Communicate the value proposition of a CEP to each of the key stakeholders in a community.
- Build collaborative partnerships to leverage limited resources and to increase the profile of the CEP process.

Tips For Engaging a Utility in Energy Mapping

Make sure you are talking to the right person:

It is important to engage the right representative at the local utility or energy service provider to get the best results. Typically, this is a senior staff person working in conservation and demand management. Engaging the upper-tier municipality in the data gathering process can also be beneficial.

Communicate the utility value proposition:

CEPs can provide value to a local utility or energy service provider by helping to raise the profile of their conservation and demand management program(s). A local government can leverage its ability to support a utility or energy service provider to engage their customers to help them meet their conservation targets.

R.O ENERGY PLANNING AND DATA RESOURCES

R.1 RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN

Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada! (GTI)

GTI is a collaborative initiative spearheaded by the Community Energy Association, QUEST – Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow, and Sustainable Prosperity to support communities with implementing their Community Energy Plans. GTI has developed practical tools that have been tested and refined by communities implementing a CEP.

Available at: Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada! (GTI)
<http://www.gettingtoimplementation.ca/>

Integrated Energy Mapping for Ontario Communities: Lessons Learned

This study profiles the experiences of four municipalities, City of Barrie, City of London, City of Hamilton and City of Guelph, who participated in the Integrated Energy Mapping for Ontario Communities Initiative (IEMOC) exercise to identify opportunities to reduce energy use and GHGs, as well as support other location-specific objectives related to energy planning and management. The report documents challenges and lessons learned from the energy mapping process.

Available at: Canadian Urban Institute
<http://www.canurb.org/waterenergy/>

City of London Community Energy Strategy Workshop

As part of the Integrated Energy Mapping for Ontario Communities (IEMOC) initiative, the City of London held a Community Energy Strategy Workshop to engage key stakeholders in knowledge exchange and collaborative discussions around opportunities to reduce the City's energy use and GHGs. This report summarizes key themes that emerged from those conversations and demonstrates how an energy map can act as an engagement tool within a diverse stakeholder group.

Available at: QUEST
<http://www.questcanada.org/files/download/9a7c06f8ac13295>

Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Milestone Tool

The PCP Milestone program was designed to assist local governments with reducing GHGs through a 5-step framework. Milestone one (1) of the program requires local governments to develop a baseline energy and emissions inventory, preferably using the latest available data. To support these efforts, there are several resources and tools available on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) website to support local governments that engage in the program.

Available at: Federation of Canadian Municipalities
www.fcm.ca/home/programs/partners-for-climate-protection/program-resources/milestone-toolkit.htm

Advancing Integrated Community Energy Planning in Ontario – A Primer

This primer, developed with support from the Ontario Power Authority (now the Independent Electricity System Operator) and Ontario Ministry of Energy, provides a comprehensive overview of why local governments have a key role in energy planning in Ontario; outlines how local governments can get started planning an integrated energy future; and, presents how to engage local partners. It also provides an overview of how to get started with developing a baseline study and energy map for a CEP.

Available at: QUEST
www.questcanada.org/files/download/be7955f1d8ff501

R.2 UNDERSTANDING THE MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN & ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN PROGRAMS & THE BROADER PUBLIC SECTOR REPORTING REGULATION 397/11

Municipal Energy Plan Program

Launched in 2013, the Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) program is available to all Ontario local governments and applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

There are two streams of funding available through the program.

- The funding stream to develop a new MEP provides successful applicants with support of up to 50 percent of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$90,000 to develop energy plans, including community energy plans and climate action plans.
- The funding stream to enhance an existing energy plan provides successful applicants with 50 percent of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$25,000 to update or enhance an existing energy plan.

The MEP program is available to both upper-tier governments (regions, counties) and their lower-tier governments. In cases where both upper-tier and related lower-tier governments are applying to the MEP program, MEP applications need to demonstrate that:

- There will not be duplication of MEP-funded activities between an upper-tier MEP and a lower-tier MEP;
- Lower-tier government energy plans will be consistent and reflect regional planning decisions; and,
- Upper and lower-tier governments will maintain communication throughout the project.

More information about the MEP program as well as a current list of local governments that have received support through both funding streams can be found at: <http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/municipal-energy/> or by emailing MEP@ontario.ca.

Aboriginal Community Energy Plan Program

The Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) program is a program run by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) that provides financial support to assist Aboriginal Communities that can benefit from developing a CEP. By participating in the ACEP program, Aboriginal Communities can gain a greater awareness and understanding of the energy sector and community members can be encouraged to become involved.

Similar to the MEP program, ACEP has two streams of funding available.

- The funding stream to develop a new ACEP provides successful applicants with support of up to 50 percent of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$90,000 to develop energy plans, including community energy plans and climate action plans.
- The funding stream to update an existing ACEP provides successful applicants with 50 percent of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$25,000 to update or enhance an existing energy plan.

Through ACEP, remote communities are eligible for up to \$5,000 in additional funding.

More information on ACEP can be found at <http://aboriginalenergy.ca/aboriginal-community-energy-plans> or by emailing ACEP@ieso.ca.

Reporting Regulation 397/11

The Ministry of Energy developed Ontario Regulation 397/11 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plans to help public agencies (including local governments, municipal service boards, colleges, universities, hospitals and school boards) better understand how and where they use energy as it relates to corporate activities and facilities and to develop conservation plans to facilitate energy savings, and demonstrate leadership in the public sector.

Under Regulation 397/11 public agencies are required to:

- Report annually to the Ministry of Energy on their energy use and GHGs and publish the reports on their websites, starting July 1, 2013. Public agencies must update this consumption information on an annual basis; and,
- Develop and publish on their websites a conservation and demand management plan every five years, starting July 1, 2014.

There is no provincial requirement to develop a CEP. The Municipal Energy Plan program is designed to support local governments that are keen to better understand the overall energy use and cost in their community and develop priorities to increase efficiency, reduce emissions and drive economic development. The energy reporting required for Regulation 397/11 is useful information for a CEP.

R.3 FUNDING RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING

In addition to the financial support provided by the Ontario Ministry of Energy's Municipal Energy Plan Program, local governments can access financial support for the development of energy and climate action plans as well as for the implementation of actions by applying to the Green Municipal Fund and the New Building Canada Plan. Table 2 identifies sources of funding for the development and implementation of a CEP.

Table 2 – Funding Sources to Develop and Implement a Community Energy Plan

Type of Program	Relevance	Eligibility	Link
Federal Gas Tax Funds	Supports investment in sustainable infrastructure, such as public transit, drinking water, wastewater infrastructure, green energy, solid waste management, and local roads and bridges.	Local governments	http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/gtf-fte-eng.html http://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-Content/Gas-Tax/Canada-s-Gas-Tax-Fund.aspx
Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund	Some of the eligible projects include: – Public transit – Water and Wastewater – Solid waste management – Green energy – Innovation – Brownfield redevelopment	Local governments with fewer than 100,000 residents	http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/sc-cp-eng.html
Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund (GMF)	GMF supports initiatives that improve, air, water and soil quality, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Funding is available for local government plans that support sustainable community development, including energy and GHGs. *Programs may change – consult the FCM website for the latest information.	Local governments	http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/green-municipal-fund.htm
Other Government of Canada Funding, Grants and Incentive programs	– Current Funding Programs	Various	http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/science/programs-funding/2362
	– ecoENERGY for Renewable Power	Various	http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/ecoaction/14145
	– Grants and Financial Incentives	Various	http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/funding/efficiency/4947
	– Other Federal Sources	Various	http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/science/programs-funding/2368
	*Programs may change – consult the Federal government website for the latest information.		

Source: Community Energy Association

