

News Release - 24 October 2012

Alberta's Cities Tackle Tough Issues of Energy, Urban Form, Transportation, Water and Waste.

National energy leaders and community builders are meeting in Calgary to address Canada's energy infrastructure challenges and contribute to creating healthy, and energy efficient communities.

Calgary – Community builders from the energy industry, environment, government, academia and the consulting community are meeting today and tomorrow in Calgary, AB to tackle how Integrated Community Energy Solutions (ICES) can help communities achieve sustained economic recovery; create quality sustainable jobs; and actively achieve reduced energy use through integrated community energy planning and demand management activities.

“A significant portion of our energy use and over fifty percent of urban emissions in Canada is associated with our urban, rural and remote communities,” said Michael Harcourt, Former Premier of British Columbia and Chair and CEO of QUEST “taking an integrated approach to our decisions about land use and built form in our communities and their energy, transportation, water and waste management infrastructures can significantly reduce costs to Canadians for decades to come.” continued Harcourt.

“ICES is all about investing in the establishment of smart communities across Canada by wisely planning for and using energy, including notable Alberta examples such as Strathcona County's Center In The Park a multi-use development, and imagineCALGARY, a blue print for long range urban sustainability plan for the city of Calgary,” said Brent Gilmour, Executive Director of QUEST. “The activities of QUEST and our partners are focused on advancing ICES as part of a coordinated approach to planning, development and servicing community energy needs.” said Brent

The QUEST V *Integrated Community Energy Solutions: Building Tomorrow's Communities* conference is jointly supported by Platinum sponsor ATCO Gas, Gold sponsor, Suncor Energy Foundation and Silver sponsor Enbridge. QUEST's core funders include the Imperial Oil Foundation, Suncor Energy Foundation, the Canadian Gas Association, Fortis BC, Union Gas Limited, Natural Resources Canada, the Canadian Electricity Association and the Government of Nova Scotia.

QUEST (Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow) – is a national non-profit organization advancing education and research for integrated community energy systems (linking energy with land-use, buildings, transportation, waste, water and wastewater at a community, neighbourhood or site level) to develop and support sustainable communities in Canada. QUEST does research, policy analysis, outreach, and capacity building to assist communities, utilities, and the broader community-building sector.

QUEST is responding to the national energy infrastructure and investment challenge faced by 5400 rural, remote and urban communities by advancing six energy decision-making principles as part of an integrated planning, development and servicing approach. The principles are:

- Improve efficiency – reduce the energy input required for a given level of service;
- Optimize “exergy” – avoid using high-quality energy in low-quality applications;
- Manage heat – capture all feasible thermal energy and use it, rather than exhaust it;
- Reduce waste – use all available resources, such as landfill gas, gas pressure drops and municipal, agricultural, industrial and forestry wastes;

- Use renewable resources – tap into local biomass, geothermal, solar and wind energy; and,
- Use grids (power, gas, heat) strategically – optimize use of grid energy as a resource to optimize the overall system and ensure reliability.

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