

Planning Topic - Planning Objectives:

Q4. Tell us why you ranked them the way you did...

"We are an isolated community and require better ways of supporting our Nation on reserve. The longer term plan needs to include sufficient reliable capacity to house up to 150 more residents and supporting buildings."

"The need to reconcile with Indigenous groups is a must for past infringements on historical impacts to be addressed. Bettering relations between the two groups is key to consent."

"Reconciliation is at the forefront of our nation due to the lack of consultation in the past. Although we see site C as a complete lack of consultation and respect of the indigenous community of treaty 8 we hope moving forward BC hydro will have more consideration of the land they want to conduct their business on."

"Our Nation is in process of developing a brand new community from bare land. Our membership wants Council to ensure the engineering and development provide a clean and green sustainable community for their future."

"Let's fix the governance issues first and foremost and listen to the Indigenous people for development of the land/resources of BC - together, let's reduce GHGs through diversified projects and support resiliency/growth of BC's economy, which in turn will keep costs (financial and non-financial) down for customers of BC Hydro."

"BC Hydro is about making money above other priorities"

"If we do not look after our land and water now, we will not be able to look after ourselves in the future. We have a spiritual connection with the water and land. We must look after it for us and our children and our children's children. We want access to clean, efficient power that everyone can afford, not just the wealthy."

"Supporting reconciliation with Indigenous Nations, for the reason that Indigenous have inherit rights and say what happens on their territory and resources. Reconciliation to me is about trust, accountability and relationship building. Reconciliation should have been a priority long ago, however we recognize the efforts that non-Indigenous Industry are taking to bridge this relationship. As for the rest I believe are natural consequences of having Indigenous voice and input."

"Its just how I feel personally. We need to take care of our land for future generations. because First Nations are never 1st on anyones list but these resources come from our lands. Our communities pay astronomical prices for hydro as well."

"Limiting land and water impacts should be a priority, less damage and keeping costs down."

"Over 50% of the power for BC comes from detrimental damming in our territory. Time to include First Nation communities in the energy economy instead of just continuing the provincial and canadian tradition of taking whatever you like to profit the crown. Our territories have been used for crown corporation profits, it's time to include a procurement program that targets first nation community power projects that are not just specific to just damming (ie. solar, wind, geo, tidal)."

“Land impacts are huge”

“It is not the ratepayers fault that costs are high. If BCH looked after the assets, we would not have to put so much money into the upgrades that are needed. Site C is going to cost a lot. Why build a new facility if the old ones are neglected.”

“The uses of the land and are important to me and have uniqueness. Development changes to First Nation cultural uses to the land for the wilderness effect. It is not only the structures themselves but also the new roadways and future developments. There is no areas untouched that First Nation can go to so cultural and traditional uses of the land have to occur farther away. That being said there are strategies that First Nations have to consult with the many other tenures and activities for Crown lands to protect these areas. I realize upfront costs may be higher for a short period but not contributing to clean energy is wrong. Growth is good but I look at sustainability of areas foremost. Some resources and areas are depleting and to not factor this into growth is necessary. For example water is a limited resource and an area can only sustain so much. Should growth continue in these populated area?”

“First, it's past time for reconciliation with Indigenous Nations. Second, climate change is extremely important at this time. Third, as a First Nation, I am still using the land and water for my sustenance of game, fish and wild birds.”

“We need to get off fossil fuels including compressed natural gas and the fracking that goes along with it.”

“Land and water are integral to our survival and the survival of other flora and fauna on the planet Indigenous Nations have millennia of experience as successful natural resource managers, improving relationships with them can only help everyone Customers need to feel safe and secure financially Clean electricity impacts reduction in future cumulative effects BCs economy is important, but without the rest, it wouldn't function”

“We ranked them in order of the priorities expressed by members of the First Nations Major Projects Coalition.”

“Protection of ██████ Nation's land and resources is number one. ██████ Nation must prepare for the future generations to come and have land and resources for the grandchildren.”

“we need to grow with other parties unevolved, hydro so expensive, caring for the environment”

“Tribes do not have the capacity to help themselves so it is necessary to help rebuild the tribes in a good and positive way so that with capacity comes informed decisions. Life goes on and expert help and guidance is needed.”

Q5. Is there another priority that is important to you that is not listed here?

“Reliability of service to remote locations - As the Nations needs grow, there needs to be a concerted effort in the size of the back up generator as well as the transmission line delivery to serve the community. Because we traditionally trap and berrypick, we rely on the consistency of power to keep freezers going for our safe food initiatives”

“Revenue sharing with Indigenous groups and dam footprint issues. (dams with no fish passage).”

“Procurement, job training and opportunity for the territory that you are conducting your business.”

“Our members are interested in having solar and wind power as an option”

“none at this time”

“Definition of 'clean electricity' is too broad - narrow it down a bit please”

“Keeping power at home, not selling it off”

“Safety - for people and animals. We need safe, reliable power.”

“not at this time”

“Not off the top of my head”

“Cutting the costs for First Nations communities”

“None I can think of.”

“A specific First Nations Energy Purchase Agreement Program, it's not even listed and is by far the most important. #1 (reconciliation) would be a sub-category of a First Nations EPA program.”

“Yes. The IPP industry makes economical sense to indigenous nations. BCH needs to make the EPA process work for us.”

“Providing all residents of B.C. With Hydro at a reasonable cost no matter where they live in B.C. Energy efficiency and zero waste.”

“Reducing consumption by government, commercially, privately etc...”

“Yes, supporting First Nation ownership of electricity infrastructure.”

“cost living, jobs in areas”

Planning Topic - Future Choices 2020-2030

Efficiency Programs:

Q8. Is there anything else you'd like to add about what's important to you?

"Education in how best to know what to do and formally meet with versus read about, the programs and measures as well as incentives to save the nation money in operation. We also need to deal with old accounts and homes on reserve."

"No"

"Diversify into less damaging practices".

"I've been hearing about BC Hydro being able to decide when to do things like charge household electric cars, to defer the charging until off hours. I do not like that idea at all. I pay for the power and I need it to be available for when I need it, not when someone else decides I need it. Perhaps people can have a timer on their vehicle outlet to decide for themselves when their car charges, whether overnight or immediately."

"Reaching out to Rural communities more"

"We would like a proper survey of all the impacted areas of all the poles and right a-way's on band land etc."

"Energy Purchase Programs specific to First Nations"

"no"

"Education for industry, government, business and private individuals regarding reduction of energy. Reduction of consumption of goods (purchasing items) also reduces energy used."

"no"

Time Varying Rates:

Q11. Is there anything else you'd like to add about what's important to you as we build our Plan?

"If there is a way to support additional efforts (if clients add solar and bio) to their homes is there an incentive reduction for the community?"

"No"

"The idea of choice is important to me. If someone needs to go with lowest cost in order to afford reliable electricity, then they can opt in. Forcing people to deal with inconvenience, rather than letting them choose to opt in or out, is only going to create more distrust of BC Hydro all around."

"Energy Purchase Agreement Programs specific to First Nations through Land Reconciliation"

“no”

“People need to change their behaviours. A plan needs to be made that reflects those that are conserving energy to those that have every appliance plugged in, gaming, and other high energy activities. If we do not change our mindset to conservation and reward those that do, we will have more people that will continue to see and use power as a never ending supply. A tiered approach.”

“Encouraging people to put their heaters on timers so they are on and off during different times of the day and different days of the week...free timers?”

“No”

Smarty Home Technology:

Q14. Is there anything else you'd like to add about what's important to you?

“No”

“getting more people to install led lighting”

“The "smart technology" tends to be hacked easily. If there were better ways to ensure the security of my smart devices, I'd be much more likely to invest in them to make my life a little more convenient.”

“Energy Purchase Agreement Programs specific to First Nations.”

“No”

“Commercial products should have a certification standard or labelling of electronics that identify how much energy this uses per hour. Companies will be more conscious of consumer choice and make products that use less energy. This will keep at the forefront that energy is a factor when making purchases, as most don't and perhaps they should.”

“Many 'older' people are not comfortable with smart technologies. Encouraging timers and digital thermostats as well as 'smart' technology would be helpful.”

“BC Hydro should look to equity partnerships with First Nations as a way to reduce capital cost on new infrastructure by creating room for First Nations to become investors”

Expiring EPA Renewals with IPP Producers:

Q16. Is there anything else you'd like to add about what's important to you?

“I would prefer that Canada be an exporter of energy, not be relying on imports if at all possible. However, these customers we export energy to must 1) pay their bills 2) should not be paying less for our energy than we have to pay.”

“Energy Purchase Agreement Programs are very important for long-term revenue generation for First Nation Communities, especially rural economic development areas. We have a 30MW solar project ready to go and have no ability to obtain an EPA.”

“yes, bch needs to quit acting like they own this industry. small towns or communities might benefit more by having IPPs in their backyard. look at wheeling energy to towns and still charging them for the power. especially if you feel like you dont want to renew the existing contracts. BCH is not a great example of looking after aging assets.. You are destroying our environment.”

“We can look at this many ways. The needs of the province impacts the areas of smaller communities. Communities and companies see opportunities as endless supply to build. At some point conservation and management plans are the better approach before we discuss build it. Of course people want lower costs but I would need to know if these IPPs are costs benefit. Perhaps if the power was more local rather than trying to connect to an entire grid structure. Would then say City of Vancouver limit growth. If they had to power their own area and build a structure accordingly would this prompt the municipalities to think differently.”

“BC Hydro should create room for First Nations to become equity participants in electricity infrastructure”

Small plants reaching end of life:

Q18. Is there anything else you'd like to add about what's important to you?

“Getting fish back again to their historical range.”

“I am torn between reclamation of the sites and the option to keep them as a backup for when we need the power in the future. One one hand, the site and surroundings have already been cleared, etc to build the site in the first place. But, reclaiming the site would mean more opportunity for nature to have more habitat returned for use by plants, animals, birds, etc.”

“EPA Programs specific to First Nation communities”

“Decommissioning is the right thing to do”

“Again difficult question to answer. Decommission a larger facility in comparison to how many smaller plants. The old one is already been impacted and the environment habitat has adjusted. This would depend on how many new sites and what their impacts are. Advanced technology is a consideration to be included. Can a phased in facility be build in front of the old site rather than maintain the old one.”

“Decommission only those installations that have major environmental impact. We need to maintain decentralized power generation as we should be learning from the fires in California etc. Diversity in supply is strength.”

“1%, in the big picture, is actually quite a lot. However, environmental factors are also important. Repairing relationship with Indigenous Nations is very important. Their insight is invaluable with a holistic approach over time.”

Planning Topic – Future Choices 2030-2040

Greater Conservation and Customer Involvement:

Q20. Tell us why you chose this level of support

"This will depend in large part on the costs of delivery and the size of savings to a remote community with income challenges"

"If there are ways to reduce environmental impacts from hydro electric facilities this needs to be at forefront. I believe we must be in conservation mode but also incorporate new technologies for energy extraction."

"New job opportunities, and enviro impact"

"Giving people a chance to participate in the generation and conservation of energy is always a good thing."

"It matters to me and affects us all."

"to many opinions for customer involvement. Same thing happens when you have to many Chiefs at the table"

"I don't see BC people being conservative in their energy conservation efforts. The young want to be energy conscious yet they have the most technology. So awareness to conservation is key."

"We waste a lot of resources throughout B.C.. Including our energy."

"reduction in use is key in sustainability...initiatives are key in implementing education and reduction"

"Working with the customers gives them an opportunity to establish an economic base for themselves, thus being able to contribute to the local economy."

Local Power Sources (batteries and pumped storage):

Q23. Tell us why you chose these levels of support

"I often wonder how much archaeology evidence is covered due to water storage."

"new battery storage capabilities has improved greatly"

"conservation of fish and water is important to me."

"Recycling gets little attention, so we end up with peoples crap everywhere. I would not support anything that impacts our aquatics"

"The long term battery storage will have long term effects on the environment because of disposal. The water is held in storage and is still useable. Water in so many other areas is gold. I would want to make the choice that least affects water. Now having said that the number of streams and the whether the impacts on aquatic habitat and surrounding wildlife has to be taken into consideration."

"I have strong support for batteries as they last a very long time. I understand that the first batteries installed for battery storage are still in use."

"Energy storage is the weak point in the alternative energy system we need to explore all forms of energy storage at this point in time."

"Concerns about the production of batteries, ecologically and their 'shelf life' Concerns about environmental impacts when water levels are raised and lowered"

"Certainty."

Upgrading Our System:

Q25. Tell us why you chose these levels of support

"We understand that the Revelstoke dam was pinned as a contingency project. A certificate was issued by the EAO and additional water license was granted by the Water comptroller for Revelstoke dam. All this effort went into getting all the necessary processes done but in the end nothing is being done to install sixth generator. Its our understanding that there's currently no energy demand for the extra additional 500 MW into the system. At this time its not feasible to finish this but the province is moving ahead to build site C (former Premier Christy Clark). A lot of these projects don't make sense because of political influences to make particular projects happen even if interests groups such as Indigenous groups oppose."

"Although upgrades are likely critical, it is unclear how those upgrade may impact our Nation - we have had some communication challenges with BC Hydro over the last year (pole replacements, etc) that had severe negative impacts on projects and for our community members (i.e.: those who had medical equipment at home who had delayed and long power outages that were not expected)"

"Not sure if the benefit better or worse in the long run. I would need more information to determine how to answer this correctly"

"The need is there"

"I feel sufficiency may be better with a new systems"

"lower cost"

"I see the impacts everyday and will experience them while you upgrade the units here. you are wrong when you say would have Some environmental impacts. be honest when you speak of the environment. your statement is misleading"

"This is an existing system and by adding another generating unit the logic says it would have less impact than building a new one. The sixth unit will share the weight of the other five units during operations and prolong the life of the dam."

"If there is already capacity for a sixth generating unit at the Revelstoke Generating Station, it would be more cost-effective than almost any other option."

"I think that it is very important to explore new sources of energy. Don't put all our eggs in one basket."

"[REDACTED] has concerns about cultural heritage and environmental impacts of Rev-6"

"Common sense says that keeping your equipment up-to-date is cost effective"

Planning for uncertainties: What if demand is lower or higher?

Q27. Is there anything you'd like to add about what's important to you as we prepare for lower demand?

"Healthy customer service, better communication strategies with clients, ongoing energy efficiency projects for newer homes (as well as old)"

"BC is at a state of upgrading infrastructure. factor that into your costing as it may be better to decommission some facilities. an example is the forest industry. most areas are harvested and need time to regrow. Really take a look at what mills or value added facilities will be needing power."

"Getting the demand and supply is a balancing act. If you build and demand isn't available than planning has gone astray and your left holding the costs. If you already have IPP sites built and back out of renewal I would question the stability and trust of a working relationship with BC Hydro. There is a lot of investment not only in the infrastructure but the surrounding communities to were impacted to build this site. Would BC approve of outsourcing energy if demand is low? I would no be as I would like to see BC green and not have infrastructures everywhere just to get as much power and sell off to get cheaper rates. I would proceed as if BC Hydro did not have a monopoly, if the answer to the question is no you would lose customers then the answer would be don't proceed."

"Scrap Site C and save farmland that will be invaluable in the near future."

"Time varying rates are incentive to get customers thinking about planning to reduce hydro use. Reducing costs helps keep rates down and leaves more funding more infrastructure. Reconciliation with Indigenous Nations creates improved partnerships and important natural resource management support and to aid in a better understanding of how their rights have been impacted by hydro electric construction projects thru the decades."

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to add about what's important to you as we prepare for higher demand?

"im surprised that there is not a middle ground here. both choices end up with your customers footing the bill."

“EPA Programs specific to First Nation communities”

“The cost and timelines is a factor. How long before demand exceeds supply? Are we fixing the entire Province's demand issue or is it specific areas of the Province. Is the monitoring of power usage factored this way. Some municipalities are light up like Christmas all year around. I suggest looking at California as rolling blackouts is an alternative to building. The connectivity will have adjusted accordingly from commercial to domestic grid areas. Planning this around say mild summer weather where more people are outside and not in the house can be options.”

“Design, planning, consultation etc are important to prepare for the future that we will live in.”

Closing Comments:

Is there anything else you'd like to share that you think is important for us to consider as we build our Plan?

“Lets ensure that the remote factor is considered in these discussions. End of line reliability and support to convert old technology into addressing unique and specific location challenges is of value.”

“No”

“We require individual consultation and meeting with legal and Chief and Council”

“First Nation[s] are preparing to move in the 21st century and have interest in clean energy, working with them is important.”

“be the company that truly incorporates First Nations values into their plans, dont just give us lip service.”

“Not at this time”

“use common sense”

“To get out of the mindset that building is the only solution. When asking people if they conserve energy most BC people would say yes. In reality when asked how many appliances and devices are plugging in, can they name this. Do they need x many lights on. Do they value our wilderness and would trade the building of more energy plants over people unplugging.”

“Scrap site C it's a boondoggle and class 1 agricultural land is more important than excess power. You can't eat electricity.”

“These opinions are from one employee of [REDACTED], who is not Indigenous. I can only speak so much for the band. Some kind of information session and interviews with the community, other employees, Chief & Council, etc would be imperative to get a balanced view of their views on these issues.”

“When common folk have access to making revenue on a continued basis, can and will bring in more of that revenue to the local economy.”