

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

COMMUNITY PLANNING OFFER

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY PLAN?

A Community Plan sets policy, land use and infrastructure guidance at the neighbourhood (Local Area Plan) or community scale (Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw, Regional Growth Strategy, etc.). The community planning process produces policy directions and recommendations that can be implemented through land development or redevelopment. Generating buy-in and building support for these concepts can be achieved by involving diverse stakeholders in the process, including: municipal elected officials, municipal staff such as planners and engineers, local economic development representatives, regional transportation authorities, local builders and developers, large land holders, building owners, strata councils, property managers, tenants located within the planning area, and other community representatives.

Community planning processes have not typically considered energy. BC Hydro sees value in including energy considerations during these processes because:

- a) The planning process provides unique opportunities for energy efficiency, which are best explored when local governments are setting policy on land use and development, and;
- b) Community plans typically include a community and stakeholder consultation component, which provides opportunities for improving energy literacy, building support for energy efficient land use and demand-side management activities, and promoting of BC Hydro's Power Smart programs and incentives.

The Community Planning offer supports local governments in involving energy experts in the planning process to ensure that energy considerations are integrated into community plans at the neighbourhood, community or regional scale.

THE OFFER

BC Hydro will support up to 100 per cent of the cost of adding an energy component (must include electricity) to a community planning process to a maximum of \$20,000.

ELIGIBILITY

The Community Planning offer is open to local governments (municipalities and regional districts) within the BC Hydro service territory that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Population over 75,000 or champion community. (population over 20,000 with a Council-approved Community Energy and Emissions Plan and demonstrated leadership in electricity demand side management)
- Commitment to proceed with a Council-approved planning process.
- Commitment to incorporate an energy section in the plan.

Eligibility requirements apply unless otherwise agreed upon with BC Hydro.

ENERGY TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):

- Building siting to maximize passive design opportunities.
- Building and infrastructure design to minimize energy demand.
- Energy efficient land use patterns.
- Energy supply and infrastructure requirements.
- Recovery or reuse of waste heat resources.
- Renewable energy generation opportunities.
- Energy targets for the planning area. (e.g. energy use intensity, electricity savings, etc.)

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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following tasks represent the minimum required deliverables for the energy component of a community planning process, and should be completed within three to six months from project initiation:

- Collection and analysis of technical (energy) and area/site data, including compilation of baseline conditions and business-as-usual trends for electricity demand. (e.g. building types and age, typical heating fuels, major electricity users in the area, etc.)
- Identification of potential electricity savings opportunities within the planning area, including (in order of priority):
 1. Demand-side measures. (e.g. energy efficient building standards, efficient land use patterns, building orientation, dwelling unit size and mix, efficient technologies)
 2. Opportunities to re-use waste heat for space heating and hot water needs.
 3. Opportunities to use renewable heat sources for space heating and hot water needs.
 4. Opportunities for electricity generation from renewable sources.
- Support for stakeholder engagement. (e.g. development of maps, graphs or other schematics to convey energy data in a form that is accessible to stakeholders)
- Preparation of a draft and final report by the energy consultants, which must identify electricity savings separately and contain:
 - a) Documentation of the energy-related concepts that were considered in the planning process, including preferred concepts.
 - b) Quantification of potential electricity savings resulting from preferred concepts. Electricity savings estimates should be expressed relative to 'business-as-usual.'
 - c) Documentation of the detailed measures. (policies and actions) that will enable the local government to realize the estimated savings in the preferred concept (e.g. land use policy and bylaws, neighbourhood design guidelines, engineering standards, building energy efficiency and conservation measures, recovery or reuse of waste heat resources, renewable energy opportunities)
 - d) High level costing of the measures that will enable electricity savings.
 - e) Identification of opportunities for achieving electricity savings through the promotion and implementation of BC Hydro's Power Smart programs.
- Preparation of a written summary of the key knowledge gained and lessons learned by the local government throughout the project. This information may be shared with other local governments in B.C. via BC Hydro's Unplug this Blog!

TO APPLY

To explore how your community could receive financial support for a Community Plan, please contact your Key Account Manager or call 604 522 4713 in the Lower Mainland or 1 866 522 4713 elsewhere in British Columbia.