



Call for Expressions of Interest

Advancing Smart Energy Community Planning in Rural Alberta through Community Energy Mapping

QUEST is looking for five small or rural partner municipalities in Alberta to collaborate on a project advancing Smart Energy Community Planning in Alberta.

Project overview

In a changing energy landscape, municipalities in Alberta are facing multiple challenges and opportunities. On one hand, about [one in six households live in energy poverty](#). On the other, the deployment of distributed generation, energy efficiency and smart technologies have the potential to disrupt Alberta's energy system, as recognised by the [Alberta Utilities Commission \(AUC\)'s ongoing Distribution Inquiry](#). Homeowners, farmers, and municipalities have the opportunity to become "prosumers" and address both energy poverty and environmental issues.

Despite enabling bylaws and land-use powers, municipalities cannot do much without the strong support of key community players. This project offers to bring together farmers, building owners, renters, businesses, utilities and municipal staff in five rural communities to collaboratively explore barriers and solutions to the deployment of distributed energy and energy efficiency in rural Alberta, using QUEST's Community Energy Mapping methods. Findings from the five workshops will be presented in a Primer on the State of Smart Energy Communities in rural Alberta.

Benefits for partner municipalities

Participating municipalities will benefit from:

- One-day facilitated and customised Community Energy Mapping workshop bringing together farmers, building owners, renters, businesses, utilities and municipal staff
- A tailored report about Energy Planning in your community
- Recommendations for continuing advancing an IntegratedCommunity Energy Plan
- Enhanced collaboration amongst key stakeholders
- Visibility brought by this innovative project (logo on final reports, mentions in social media posts)
- Free printed copies of the Primer

Requirement for partner municipalities

To participate in this project, municipalities should commit to dedicating time and resources to support the project over the one-year and a half (1.5) period with the following contributions:

- Express interest in developing a Community Energy Plan
- Appoint a designated staff to work with QUEST
- Provide facilities and resources to support a one (1) day workshop with cash and/or in-kind contributions of \$500 for facilities (venue + AV resources)

- Staff time equivalent to approximately two (2) to three (3) days and equivalent to \$5,000 of in-kind contributions to assist in identifying local relevant stakeholders, and participate in the workshop and relevant meetings

About QUEST

QUEST is a national non-government organization that works to accelerate the adoption of efficient and integrated community-scale energy systems in Canada by informing, inspiring, and connecting decision-makers. QUEST undertakes research, communicates best practices, convenes government, utility, private-sector and community leaders, and works directly with local authorities to implement on-the-ground solutions. QUEST recognizes communities that have embraced these principles by referring to them as Smart Energy Communities.

QUEST has executed our Community Energy Planning workshops with over 100 clients in communities ranging from a few thousand to nearly 100,000. QUEST also two staff members based in Calgary, equipped with a sound understanding of Alberta's culture, history, and energy context. QUEST is already conducting projects with a nearly a dozen communities in Alberta.

What makes this project innovative?

- Tailoring QUEST's Community Energy Mapping workshops to the context rural communities in Alberta by integrating local programs and issues (i.e. energy poverty).
- Creation of an Alberta network engaging multiple stakeholders of five rural communities including farmers, building owners, renters, businesses, utilities and municipal staff
- A cutting-edge report on Community Energy Planning in rural Alberta informed by local, on-the-ground knowledge and expertise and presenting various stakeholders' perspective, their respective financial, technical, governance, and operational barriers; and examining collaborative solutions

Contact

For any questions or if interested contact or are interested in this project contact Aida Nciri ASAP and before Aug 13th:

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