

ICE Network CoLab Summary: The Arctic Community Energy Planning & Implementation (ACEPI) Toolkit

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Background and Community-Driven CEP Approach

The ACEPI Toolkit was conceived in 2016 by Grant Sullivan, who at the time was the executive director of Gwitch'in Council International, and Eryn Stewart, Director of the 20/20 Catalysts Program and Vice President of Lumos Clean Energy Advisors.

The ACEPI Toolkit is a print and web-based guide for communities to follow when developing and exercising community energy planning processes. This step-by-step toolkit will transfer knowledge using best practices, resource guides, case studies, worksheets, and templated pathways to help communities create and implement their energy visions. In addition, the Toolkit will increase energy literacy and capacity for community members, strengthen relationships within communities, build bridges between communities, agency officials, and subject matter experts; supporting a network of circumpolar community energy leaders.

Project Framework and Stages



Select Q&A with CoLab Participants and ACEPI Toolkit presenter Eryn Stewart

Q: Is it important to have a technical background in order to be a Community Energy Champion?

A: It is not a hard requirement, although some people in this situation can get "Clean Energy Paralysis" which leads them to talking about clean energy and the benefits, but these people don't necessarily have the pathways and tools to move clean energy projects forward. But there is so much work to be done in communities to create a Community Energy Plan which doesn't need technical leadership, that if that person is partnered with the right technical partners to support the CEP and energy education, they can still create a very good CEP that will lead to later partnerships with the people and consultants needed to actually implement the project(s).

Q: What is the best way to fund a Community Energy Champion kind of position?

A: If you're putting together a proposal for CEP funding, you should be including the cost of a Community Energy Champion right into that proposal. Also note that there are funding programs for you if your candidate is under 30 years of age there may be youth funding opportunities like NRCAN's Green Jobs Grant Program.

Q: How can technical consultants and advisors create partnerships with communities in order to do CEPs or clean energy projects?

A: We know that there are people want to be able to provide that support. Sometimes when technical advisors come to a community with the best of intentions but without the context of the multiple challenges that communities face every day, the energy file may not be in the forefront of the community's priorities and so they may not be receptive to investigating opportunities to work together. It is not for lack of good intentions, but communities will lead the beginnings of these engagements when the time is right. Further, there needs to be an acknowledgement of local knowledge and capacity so that the message is more aligned with "We are here to help with this work that you and your community can do", rather than "We are here because we want to do this project for you". Remember the importance of communicating the benefits of CEP to the communities and think about how your own services can provide opportunities, such as employment or training, to offer to the community.

Q: When is the best time to work on regulatory matters and actions that would require negotiating policy or regulatory changes?

A: One of the first steps to CEP is understanding your energy landscape, and this includes understanding how your local energy regulators and utilities work together with communities on energy projects. Further, when you do your energy assessment in Stage 5, you would have your technical resources do a more thorough policy and regulatory review to identify possible obstacles and opportunities based on the situation in your region. It's also in Stage 5 when you will have enough information from the energy assessment to determine what regulatory changes would be worth pursuing, based on the recommendations of your Energy Team.

Attendees: Jason Aitchison, Peter Allen, Ketan Bhalla, David Beauvais, Megan Bennett, Robert Bensin, Eric , Bjornson, Jordan Blake, François Boivin, Kimberley Brown, Daniel Brown, Megan Brunton, Sara Campbell, Chantelle Cardinal, Wade Carpenter, Paola Casillas, Jean Pierre Chabot, Jean Louis Chaumel, Jean-Guy Chouinard, Debra , Christiansen Stowe, Alan Clarke, Carine Clemente, Randy Cluff, Richard Cohen, Felix-Antoine Comeau, Rob Cooke, Curran Crawford, David Crombie, Paul Dockrill, Philip Duguay, AJ Esquega, Devlin Fernandes, Eryn Fitzgerald, Kevin Force, Brendan Frank, Curtis Gamache, Laurel Gardiner, Peter Gogolek, Joel Goldblatt, Barb Gray, Alexa Greig, Sergio Gualteros, Ali Gulgeze, Dylan Heerema, Kent Heinrich, Chris Henderson, Danny Higashi, Tom Jackman, Charlene Kippenhuck, Eric Little, Eric Labrecque, Gail Lawlor, Renée Lazarowich, Michael Lee, Cynthia Lee, Jessica Leis, Martha Lenio, Kathleen Lombardi, Dave Lovekin, Adam Lynes-Ford, Cheyenne MacDonald, Lachlan MacLean, Janessa Mann, Shawn McCallum, Katya McClintock, Melissa McDonald, Nicole McDonald, Andrew McFarlan, Alexia McKinnon, Felix Mercure, Sina Mohammadi, Roger Mollot, Terri Lynn Morrison, Kyle Mustard, Mitchell Niles, Terry Nother, Stephanie Pilfold, JP Pinard, Emma Power, Julia Purdy, Marvin Rhey Quitaras, Jasmin Raymond, Niamh Roche, Pierre Rivard, Guillaume Robert, Peter Robinson, Jimmy Royer, Arif Saeed, Ian Scholten, Heather Semotiuk, Minoo Shariat-zadeh, Michael Smith, Garry Spence, Clifford Starr, Larissa Stendie, Jay Storfer, Meli Stylianou, Yuya Taniura, Linda Todd, Eduardo Uranga, David Vandermeer, Bonnie Van Tassel, Coral Voss, Rae-Anna Whiteduck, Greg Whiting, Ericka Wicks, Leigh-Ann Williams-Jones, Mohamad Yaghi, Stephanie Zimmerling

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