Yukon Community Energy Planning: Recent Experiences and Observations

Getting to Implementation Workshop
Whitehorse, YT
20 May 2015
Yukon Energy Planning:

- First energy plan finished in 1987 (Beaver Creek).
- Next energy plan finished in 2002 (Old Crow).
- Determining Priorities project, 2015.
- Old Crow Energy Plan (*ongoing*).
- Kluane First Nation energy planning (*ongoing*).
- Haines Junction energy planning (*ongoing*).
Yukon government’s energy plan program:

Provide energy planning services and support to 1-2 communities per year:

• Project design;
• Baseline assessment;
• Consumption and cost projections;
• Planning; and
• Community engagement.

Program design is evolving to meet our understanding of community needs.
**Observation 1:** There is a clear demand for energy planning
- All communities are aware of and interest in managing energy.
- Technical support is critical to managing energy.
- Many inter-related concerns related to energy.

*Energy planning is an opportunity to strategically respond to a number of community needs at the same time.*
Observation 2: Energy planning must not strain community capacity
• Product and timelines must meet community needs.
• Recommendations must fit within scheduled operations – especially in the short-term.
• Community engagement must be appropriate and effective.
• Focus on the needs of local government and the residential sector.

Energy planning is only valuable if it provides a net-benefit.
Observation 3: Planning needs to be community specific.

- All communities want to save money and create jobs.
- Many other concerns will exist (e.g. food security) and need to be effectively identified.
- That said – *don’t forget the importance of energy efficiency.*

*Project design should occur in advance with lots of community input.*
Observation 4: Communities will need support with implementation.
• Administrations are willing to lead with their resources but these are limited.
• Funding exists at the territorial and federal levels and need to be identified in planning.
• Partnerships are important (and will continue to be).
• Number of action items need to be kept manageable.
• Setbacks will happen and communities will need support to get past them.

*Implementation is challenging – but not insurmountable.*
Thoughts on Implementation:
• Keep actions specific to communities – ensure buy-in from administrations and residents.
• Manage recommendations to ensure they reflect available resources (*small projects are okay*).
• Keep it simple – make sure a benefit is obvious and projects are not overly technical.
• Follow-up is important to follow-through.