



COMMUNITY  
ENERGY PLANNING  
**GETTING TO  
IMPLEMENTATION**  
IN CANADA

# Project Update

DECEMBER 2014

[www.gettingtoimplementation.ca](http://www.gettingtoimplementation.ca)



# Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Project Overview</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Infographic</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Update #1</b><br>Canadian Compendium<br>of Community Energy<br>Plan Legislation | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Update #2</b><br>National Report on<br>Community Energy<br>Plan Implementation  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Update #3</b><br>Getting to<br>Implementation<br>in 2015                        | <b>12</b> |



Visit our website  
to learn more about  
the *Getting to  
Implementation*  
initiative.



Communities have a key role to play in energy. While many communities in Canada are advancing plans to define priorities around energy, all communities need help getting from plans and ideas to implementation.

*Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation* is a collaborative initiative spearheaded by the Community Energy Association, QUEST - Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow, and Sustainable Prosperity.

The initiative aims to help communities implement their Community Energy Plans in order to improve efficiency, cut emissions, and drive economic development.

### Objectives of this Initiative

- Identifying barriers and opportunities for integrated and principle-based community energy planning
- Defining business models for government agencies, utilities, real estate professionals and other community energy stakeholders
- Developing tools and resources for an integrated and principle-based approach to community energy planning such as step-by-step guides and best practice examples
- Increasing understanding and awareness of integrated and principle-based community energy planning across Canada
- Improving capacity among Canadian CEP practitioners to provide support for integrated community energy planning

### Key Outcomes

- A National Report of Community Energy Plan Implementation
- A Canadian Compendium of CEP Legislation, Regulations and Policies
- A series of national workshops and an Innovation Symposium
- The development of a Community Energy Implementation Framework
- A pilot application of the Framework to three test communities
- Training modules to support the delivery of the Framework



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To learn more about this research initiative contact:

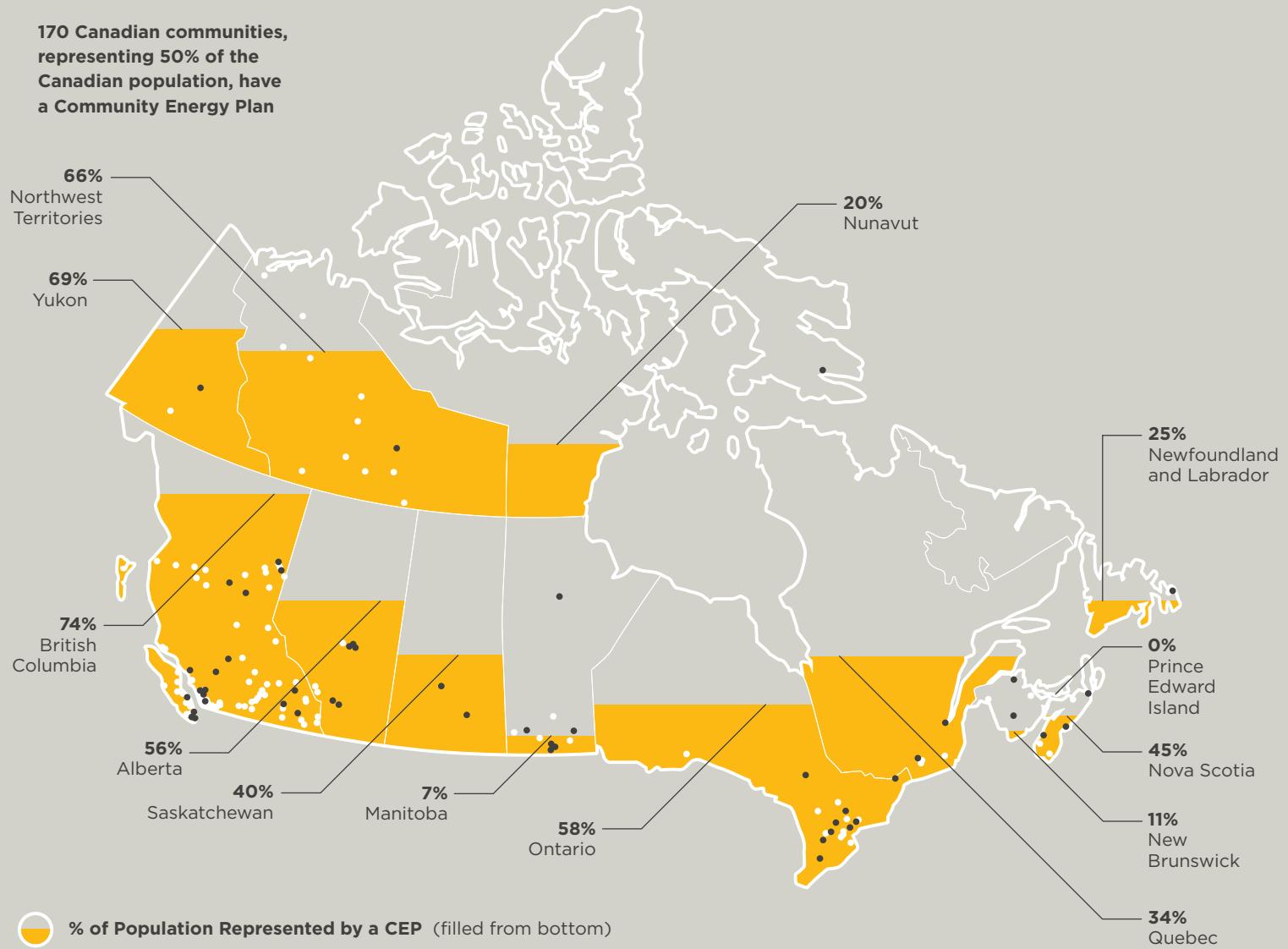
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**Across Canada, at least 170 communities, representing 50% of the Canadian population, have developed a Community Energy Plan (CEP).**

**A CEP is a tool that helps define community priorities around energy with a view to improving efficiency, cutting emissions, and driving economic development.**

**The following infographic illustrates CEP progress by province and territory.**

**170 Canadian communities,  
representing 50% of the  
Canadian population, have  
a Community Energy Plan**



As the infographic above shows, many communities have developed plans and policies to meet energy related economic, environmental and social objects. Research to date, however, suggests that few CEPs have been fully implemented.

The *Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada* initiative will identify local, provincial and territorial success factors and barriers for CEP implementation and create resources that will help communities navigate these challenges, helping them with *Getting to Implementation*.

What follows in this update is an overview of what to the *Getting to Implementation* research has revealed so far. Update #1 outlines how provincial and territorial governments are supporting community energy planning. Update #2 describes local factors supporting or impeding CEP implementation, and provides a preliminary list of recommendations that will help achieve successful implementation of CEPs.

Update #1

# Canadian Compendium of Community Energy Plan Legislation

The previous infographic shows that the proportion of the population represented by CEPs varies from province to province. Recognizing that provincial and territorial governments have a key role to play in enabling local governments to implement CEPs, the *Getting to Implementation* initiative has identified which legislative, regulatory and policy approaches are being pursued by higher levels of government across Canada to support community energy initiatives. The results show how the various strategies used by provincial and territorial governments have led to a diversity of policies and projects at the local level.

The Canadian Compendium of Community Energy Planning Legislation, which will be released in early 2015, will outline what provincial and territorial governments are doing to incent, require and enable community energy initiatives, including support for:

- Inventories and planning,
- Energy efficiency,
- Renewable electricity,
- Renewable heat,
- Thermal policy, and
- Low carbon transportation, among others.

The research will also highlight tools used by provincial and territorial governments to accelerate local initiatives, including:

- Funding,
- Research,
- Education and capacity building, and
- Partnerships.

The map below illustrates an example of a policy focus in each province and territory based on initial research. The subsequent table highlights a selection of policy areas explored in the research and includes examples from each provincial and territorial government across Canada.



## Selection of Policy Examples from Governments Across Canada

I Inventory / Planning

F Funding

E Energy Efficiency

C Low Carbon Transportation

T Thermal / Renewable Heat Policy

R Renewable Electricity

## British Columbia I F

Since 2007, BC's provincially generated Community Energy and Emissions Inventory has provided all BC municipalities with community energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions data every two years. Most BC communities have also committed to planning for compact and energy-efficient communities and achieving operational carbon neutrality by signing the Climate Action Charter. The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program provides funding to Charter signatories that is equivalent to the carbon taxes they have paid. This funding supports local gas emissions and move forward on achieving their Charter goals.

## Alberta C F

The Green Transit Incentives program (GreenTRIP) provides \$2 billion in community funding over the life of the program for sustainable public transit, including purchase of transit vehicles and expansion of light rail transit services.

## Saskatchewan E

SaskEnergy's Build Smart Registration Program for Home Builders encourages builders to construct new homes that are either ENERGY STAR® qualified, R-2000 certified or have an EnerGuide for New Homes rating.

## Manitoba F T

The Manitoba Geothermal Energy Incentive Program supports geothermal heating systems by providing loans, a green energy equipment tax credit, and community geothermal district heating grants.

## Ontario I F

The Ontario Ministry of Energy has developed the Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) program which offers funding for communities to develop a CEP. The MEP program builds on the Green Energy Act's Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plans regulation (O.Reg. 397/11) requiring the broader public service, including municipalities, to report on their energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions annually and to develop and implement a five-year energy conservation and demand management plan.

## Québec C F

The Drive Electric program offers a purchase/lease rebate between \$4,000 to \$8,000 for individuals, businesses and Québec municipalities purchasing electric or hybrid vehicles. Financial assistance for the purchase and installation of a home-based 240 volt charging station is also available.

## New Brunswick F E

Efficiency New Brunswick has invested \$58.6 million to help make homes and businesses more energy efficient, preventing the release of 326,000 tonnes of GHG per year, and generating \$50.8 million per year in energy cost savings.

## Prince Edward Island T R

PEI implemented a Wind Energy Strategy and Ten Point Plan and is now generating 20% of its electricity needs from the wind. Biomass heating, which is supported by PEI's energy and climate change strategies, is now installed in seven provincial facilities (schools, hospitals, etc.) across the province.

## Nova Scotia R

Nova Scotia's Renewable Energy Community Based Feed-in Tariffs (or COMFITs) allow a variety of communities and band councils to sell power from wind, biomass combined heat and power, tidal arrays and run-of-the-river hydro to the electrical grid.

## Newfoundland & Labrador F E T C

The \$25 million Newfoundland and Labrador Green Fund supports businesses, institutions, environmental groups, or individuals in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including projects around energy efficiency, transportation and district heating.

## Yukon E T R

The Energy Solutions Centre and the Yukon Housing Corporation have completed pilot projects demonstrating energy efficiency and new heating technology in cold climates including heat pumps, district and biomass heating, solar photovoltaic system implementation and the use of innovative building insulation techniques and design.

## Northwest Territories I F

As part of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) process, all communities in the NWT were required to complete a Community Energy Plan in order to access federal Gas Tax funding. Thirty-three of these communities worked with the Arctic Energy Alliance to complete their plans.

## Nunavut T R

Qulliq Energy Corporation is advancing economically viable renewable energy opportunities by investigating hydroelectric power generation, wind, and hydrogen plants and using residual heat from the diesel electric generator sets to provide district heating.

# National Report on Community Energy Plan Implementation

In addition to examining the diversity of approaches being pursued by provincial and territorial governments to support community energy planning, the *Getting to Implementation* initiative is developing a National Report on CEP Implementation which will focus on local success factors and barriers for implementation. The report, to be released in early 2015, will include an analysis of a representative sample of 50 CEPs and 33 community interviews. This research will also determine the role of key stakeholders in advancing CEPs.

## Selection of Communities for Review

The communities were selected to form a representative sample from across Canada based on:

- Geography,
- Population size,
- Growth rate,
- Economic base,
- CEP publication year, and
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection milestone level achieved.

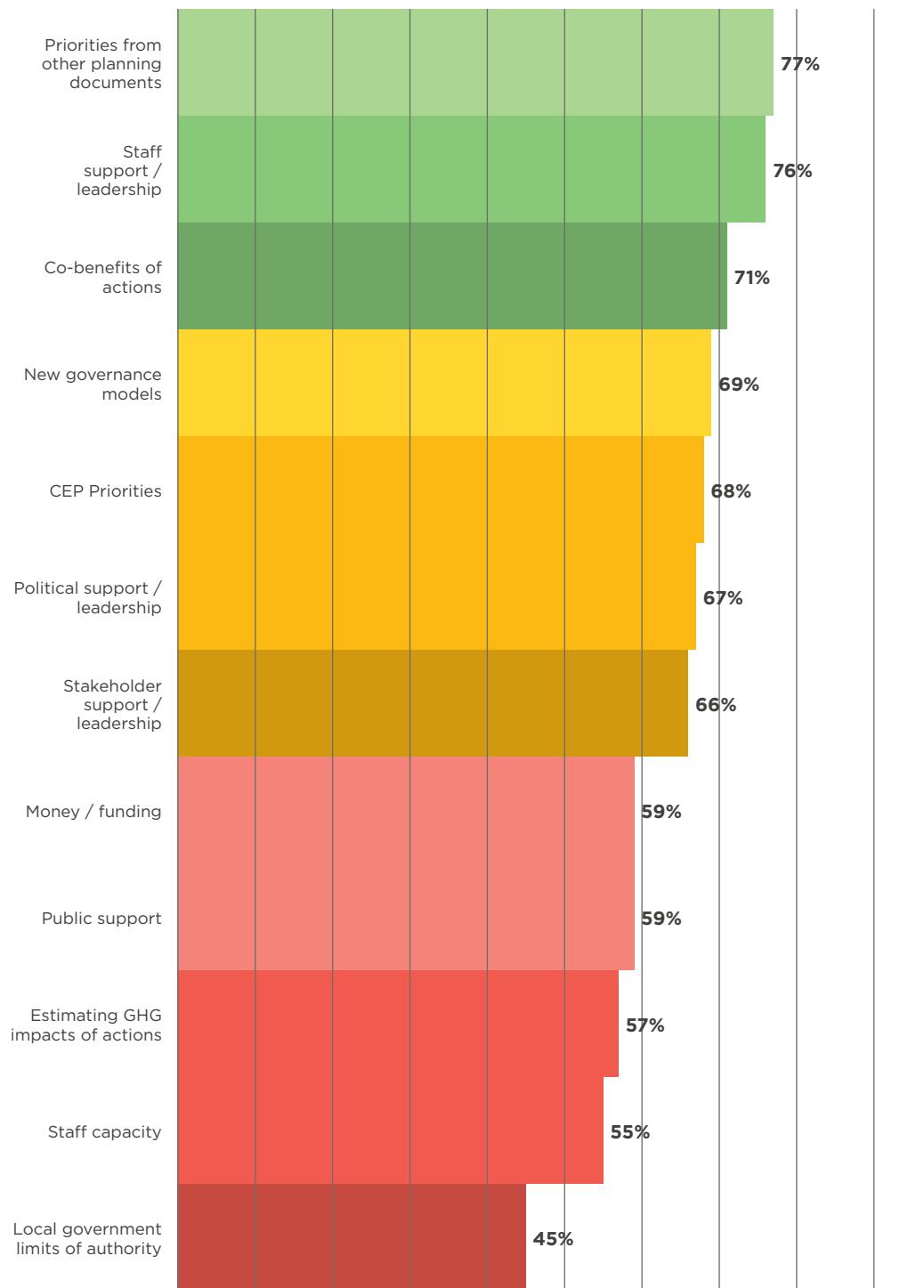
Of the 50 CEPs analyzed in this research:

- 90% have a community emissions reduction target,
- The average number of actions is 35 and the median is 27, and
- Most include actions related to energy efficiency in existing buildings, planning and policy, transportation (including transit and active transportation), low carbon vehicles, stakeholder outreach, solid waste and landfill gas, renewable energy and district energy.

## Analysis of Community Energy Plan Implementation

Of the 50 CEPs analyzed, 33 communities from across Canada were interviewed to identify implementation successes and challenges at the local level. The following chart illustrates success factors and barriers to implementation across Canada, based on interviews conducted with these communities. The factors ranking the highest can be considered the most supportive toward implementation, while the lowest ranking factors are more likely to act as barriers to implementation.

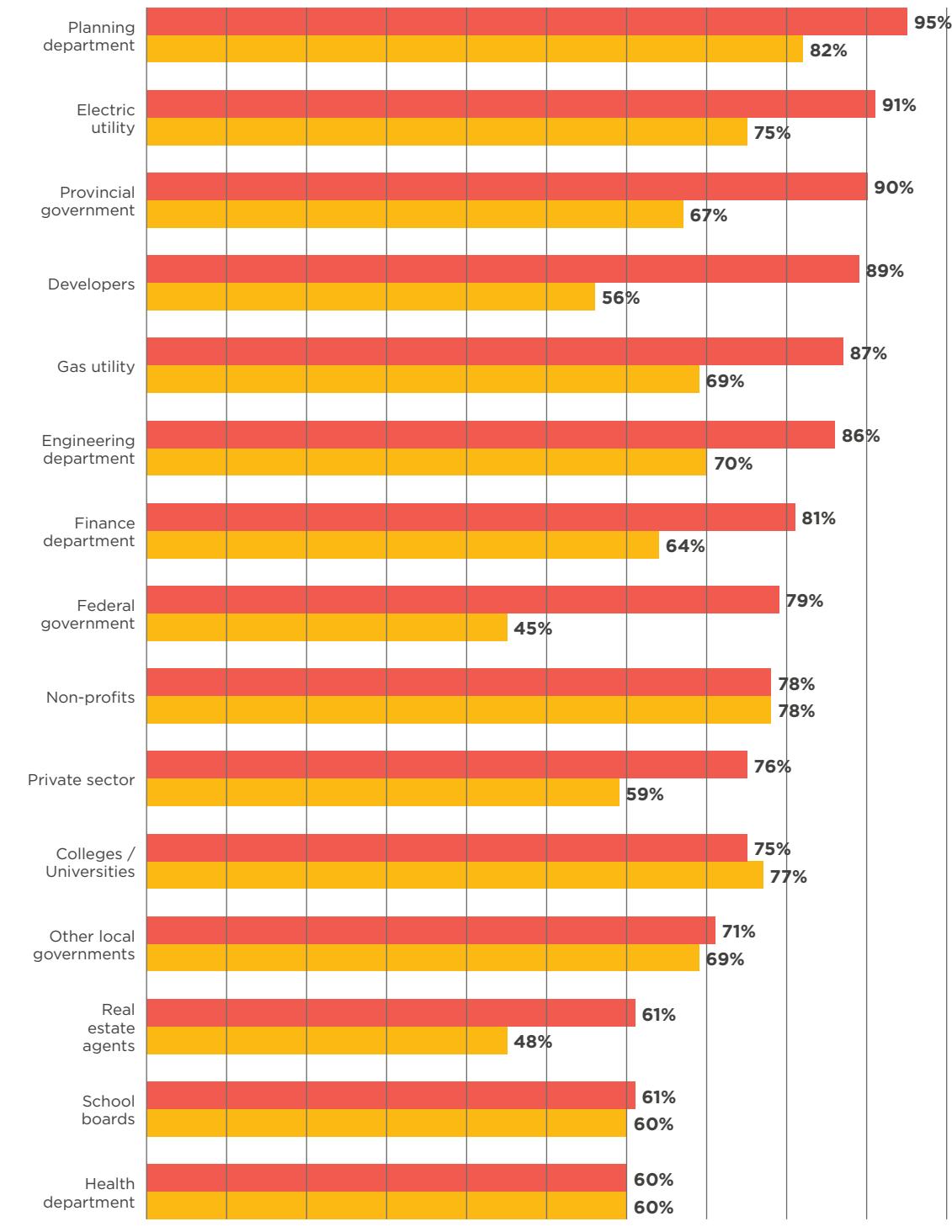
## Factors Supporting CEP Implementation



In addition to understanding how factors like political and staff support, co-benefits and internal resources are driving CEP implementation, the project is focused on collaborative models for implementation. The following chart illustrates how supportive and how important various community stakeholders are perceived to be for CEP implementation. With regard to support, a higher ranking implies that a particular stakeholder has been

generally more supportive in advancing CEPs and a lower ranking implies that this particular stakeholder group has acted as a barrier to implementation. With regard to importance, a higher ranking implies that the stakeholder group is considered more important for the implementation of the CEP while a lower ranking implies they are less important in implementing the CEP.

### **Stakeholder Support and Importance in CEP Implementation**



● Importance

● Supportiveness

## Recommendations for Implementation

The following table, based on an initial analysis of the research interviews, identifies some of the most common challenges and includes preliminary recommendations for CEP implementation.

| Challenges   | Recommendations  |
|--|--|
| A lack of political or staff support at the local government level   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify and develop staff or political champions</li><li>Focus on co-benefits, especially economic co-benefits, to broaden the appeal of the CEP</li><li>Have early successes, big or small, you can celebrate</li></ul>                                      |
| The CEP loses priority over time                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Make specific staff / stakeholders accountable for actions</li><li>Incorporate tracking and monitoring of CEP implementation into local government processes, e.g. annual reporting, annual budget processes</li><li>Have sufficient staff resources</li></ul> |
| Local government limits of authority                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Incentives or encouragement for CEP implementation from provincial and territorial governments</li></ul>   |
| Lack of collaboration with the private sector and real estate sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Finding actions that work from the perspective of the private and real estate sectors</li><li>Involving them early in discussions</li></ul>  |
| Making deeper reductions after picking the low hanging fruit         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Although detailed, specific advice is required for each community, rigorous energy and emissions data for the community can support decision making.</li></ul>   |

Update #3

# Getting to Implementation in 2015

There are many ways to get involved in the *Getting to Implementation* initiative in 2015. The project research will be released, there will be several workshops hosted across Canada and the Community Energy Implementation Framework will be developed.

## Getting to Implementation Research

The Canadian Compendium of CEP Legislation and the National Report of CEP Implementation will be released formally in early 2015. The table to the right includes a summary of what these research reports will cover.

| Canadian Compendium of CEP Legislation  | National Report of CEP Implementation   |
|---|---|
| A comprehensive overview of legislation, policies and programs being pursued by provincial and territorial governments.                 | An analysis of 50 CEPs across Canada, including scope, energy and emission reduction targets and considerations for implementation. |
| A high level assessment of the impact of these policies/programs may have had in facilitating successful implementation of CEPs.        | A summary of success factors and challenges to advancing implementation based on interviews with 33 communities.                    |
| An analysis of CEP activities in the United States and Europe that provide models for high level policy support for CEP implementation. | Recommendations to advance community energy planning tailored to communities at various stages of the CEP process.                  |

## Getting to Implementation Workshops

Get involved in the initiative during one of our workshops being hosted in the following locations:

| Location                    | Event                                   | Date               |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Vancouver, British Columbia | QUEST2014                               | December 3, 2015   |
| Kamloops, British Columbia  | Fresh Outlook Foundation Innovation Lab | February 3, 2015   |
| London, Ontario             | FCM Sustainable Cities Conference       | February 10, 2015  |
| Halifax, Nova Scotia        |   | March, 2015 [TBC]  |
| Whitehorse, Yukon           |   | April, 2015 [TBC]  |
| Edmonton, Alberta           |   | May, 2015 [TBC]    |
| Montréal, Quebec            |   | June, 2015 [TBC]   |
| Toronto, Ontario            |   | August, 2015 [TBC] |

## **Community Energy Implementation Framework**

The Community Energy Implementation Framework will be an interactive tool to identify the role of the key stakeholders to advance various community energy technologies and policies. The Framework will be developed collaboratively and released in the fall of 2015.

## **Get Engaged**

GTI is open source! The initiative will engage stakeholders to profile the key lessons, observations, and stories from communities across Canada. Share your story, tap into cross-Canada expertise, and help us build the national Community Energy Implementation Framework. To get involved in the *Getting to Implementation* initiative or to learn more visit us online at [www.gettingtoimplementation.ca](http://www.gettingtoimplementation.ca)