

COMMUNITY ENERGY AND EMISSIONS PLANNING

VALUE TO COMMUNITIES

THE NEED FOR A COMMUNITY ENERGY AND EMISSIONS PLAN

Energy is a basic human need. It can impact the economics, security, environment, and health of societies both positively and negatively. It is essential to understand how energy use affects the quality of life. Canadian cities, towns and villages influence over approximately 60% of energy consumption and over half of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Canada¹. Consequently, communities have the potential to make significant contributions in addressing Canada's current and future energy and climate challenges. Therefore, a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) is essential. CEEP's provide strategic direction to move towards a more sustainable energy future. It drives local economic development and stronger asset and environmental management by:



INCREASING LOCAL AND RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION



REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS



REDUCING ENERGY USE AND COSTS



CREATING LOCAL JOBS



KEEPING ENERGY DOLLARS LOCAL



IMPROVING HEALTH CONDITIONS

THE BENEFITS OF A COMMUNITY ENERGY AND EMISSIONS PLAN

Given the uncertainties about future energy prices and the vulnerabilities of centralized power generation, a community energy and emissions plan is fundamental to addressing these issues. It allows self-sufficiency, helps stabilize energy supplies, reduces energy costs, and is far more resilient. Below are some of the benefits you can expect to receive by engaging in community energy and emissions planning^{2,3,4}.

Environmental	Economy	Social	Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved air, water, and soil quality Help limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C Healthier ecosystems and more protected green spaces Reduced greenhouse gas emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct savings on energy bills Maintain local economy Reduces health care costs Increases employment opportunities A new source of income for the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases energy security Improved housing conditions with energy retrofits Opportunities for more public transport and transportation options More affordable living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved physical health from more active living Better mental health for more sustainable and green infrastructure Increased energy resilience to extent power outages mitigating risks to public health

¹ QUEST Canada. (2016). Community Energy Planning: The Value Proposition. Retrieved from: <https://bit.ly/3IUeyuF>

² Ibid

³ Federation of Canadian Municipalities (2020). GMF Municipal Energy Roadmap. Retrieved from: <https://bit.ly/36InHJw>

⁴ City of Brampton. (2020). Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan. Retrieved from: <https://bit.ly/3Lu9MWe>