

The Benefits of having a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP)

A Community Energy and Emission Plan (sometimes called a Climate Action Plan, Climate and Energy Action Plan or a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan) is a document that outlines the actions and activities a community will take to reduce its emissions in accordance with provincial, national and international targets.

A well-designed and implemented CEEP can bring many benefits to a community:



1) SAVE MONEY

Energy is expensive, and getting even more costly thanks to volatile global prices. A CEEP can serve as a step-by-step guide for communities and their residents to save energy and reduce emissions through efficiency, renewables and best practices.

CASE EXAMPLE

In just its first year, the [Switch program](#), operated in Charlottetown, PEI, Stratford, PEI and Wolfville, NS, enabled over 300 homeowners to access interest-free loans for a wide range of energy-efficient retrofits. The results: \$565,000 in annual energy savings and annual emission reductions of 1,062 tonnes!



2) KEEP MONEY IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY

The vast majority of what New Brunswickers spend on energy doesn't stay in our local economy; it leaves our community (or even our province) and supports economies elsewhere. A CEEP can offer a roadmap to efficiency and conservation, helping everyone spend less money on energy and keep more of it in our own pockets.

DID YOU KNOW

In 2022-23, NB Power spent [\\$2 million per day](#) on imported fuel and electricity! Imagine the possibilities if we could keep that (or even just a part of it) in our local economy.



3) MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is real, it's serious and it's happening fast. New Brunswick is getting warmer, wetter and stormier, and rising sea levels are a concern for many coastal communities. The only sure way to prevent its worst impacts is to do our part and reduce emissions as quickly as possible. A CEEP can define a path to net-zero for a community and its residents.

CASE EXAMPLE

The [City of Fredericton](#), a member of Partners for Climate Protection Program since 2001, aims to reduce emissions to 50% below 2004 levels by 2030 and attain net-zero emissions by 2050.



4) ENABLE GREEN ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES

The road to net-zero offers the promise of new jobs and new business opportunities, in everything from solar installation to innovative transportation solutions to building retrofits to smart grid technologies. A CEEP can lay the groundwork for opportunity by establishing the direction, programs and policies that will attract sustainability jobs and businesses.

DID YOU KNOW

According to [ECO Canada](#), over 50,000 Canadian energy efficiency goods and services firms generated over \$80 billion in operating revenues in 2018.

According to [Clean Energy Canada](#), employment in Canada's clean energy sector is growing by seven per cent a year; in 2050, there will be 2.2 million more clean energy jobs than there are today.



5) BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

In the future, extreme climate events will require communities and their residents to prepare, respond and

recover. A CEEP can help inform key elements of climate adaptation planning such as identifying vulnerabilities, prioritizing infrastructure needs, defining operational processes and procedures, and establishing public communication and awareness strategies.

DID YOU KNOW

Climate change is defined as a priority in [Quispamsis' new strategic plan](#), and will be considered in future decisions relating to infrastructure, transportation and land use planning.



6) PROMOTE GREATER SELF-RELIANCE AND ENERGY SECURITY

Reducing dependence on external energy sources saves money and insulates a community from price shocks and other factors outside its control. A CEEP can encourage greater energy efficiency and more local renewables, creating long-term energy security and prosperity.

CASE EXAMPLE

The [Village of Southern Victoria](#) (formerly Perth-Andover) is installing a 129 kilowatt solar array that will feed electricity generated by the sun directly into the local power grid!



7) IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH

Cleaner air, more green spaces and better infrastructure for active transportation like walking and bicycling can encourage healthier lifestyles, and improve the mental and physical health of citizens. A CEEP can envision a well-planned, healthy community, and outline the steps to make that a reality.

CASE EXAMPLE

To help promote more active and healthy lifestyles, the Town of Saint Andrews is expanding its network of walking and biking trails, and is planting more native shade trees in green spaces and along trails.



8) ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Protected areas, green spaces and undisturbed natural areas preserve local biodiversity and contribute to cleaner air, water and soil. A CEEP can show how sustainability measures are embedded into policies,

bylaws and land use plans to ensure permanence of commitment and protections.

CASE EXAMPLE

'[Le Village en haut du Ruisseau](#)' is a high-density subdivision in Dieppe – yet thanks to its sustainable design, over 50% of the subdivision's area is undisturbed natural area!



9) ATTRACT NEW RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

In an era of mobility and remote work, many people are choosing to live in communities that are compatible with their lifestyles and values. Many businesses seeking to reduce their environmental impacts are choosing communities committed to sustainability. A CEEP can help attract new people and businesses by demonstrating how the community offers an appealing, competitive, eco-friendly environment.

DID YOU KNOW

[Summerside, PEI](#), showcases its credentials as one of Canada's most progressive and sustainable communities to attract new residents and businesses.



10) ACCESS FUNDING MORE EASILY

Financing sustainability initiatives can be one of a community's greatest challenges. Fortunately, considerable funding is available through federal and provincial government programs, and from some non-governmental organizations. A CEEP can help a community successfully access funding by demonstrating:

- Alignment with goals and priorities of funding programs
 - A long-term commitment to sustainability
 - A willingness to engage and partner
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By offering clear objectives and measurable outcomes, a CEEP can instill confidence in funding organizations, increasing the likelihood that a community's application will be accepted.

CEEPs can bring enormous benefits to a community. If your community doesn't have one yet, why not get started today?