

**How to Create a Community Energy and Emissions Plan that Considers Economic  
Development: A Brief Guide<sup>i</sup>**

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## About CERG

CERG, the Clean Energy Research Group, is based out of Simon Fraser University. You can find our website at <https://www.sfu.ca/politics/CERG.html>, which includes a contact page.

CERG is a non-profit group that offers free advice to communities and policymakers on how to prepare for climate change, focusing on the promotion and realization of renewable energy projects. CERG seeks funding from public and foundational sources in order to offset costs for

system. A CEEP plan can help communities to create coordination around a shared energy system. A CEEP can also be a very helpful document for a community to gain outside funding for its projects.

BC Hydro provides a quick start template for communities up to 75,000 to start to develop a plan (<https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/business/programs/sustainable-communities/ceep/quickstart.html>) and start gathering data. BC Hydro provides funding of up to \$20,000 for the development of a community plan including the gathering of data and the hiring of experts to help with it for communities of at least 75,000.<sup>1</sup> It includes certain required elements which parallel those discussed below.

## II. What Goes Into a CEEP?

***Stage 1: Defining the Scope:*** *Who is the document for, what is the appropriate scope, and who should be on the team?*

The first question a community should consider is, who is the plan for? Is it for leadership, the community as a whole, or for outside partners and potential funders? The authors of the plan may need to consider having different modular versions of the plan so that the document reaches its intended audience.

The community also needs to consider what will be the scope of the plan. Will it only cover electricity, or all aspects of energy, such as heating, transport, and efficiency? Will it include other environmental goals, particularly water and air quality, and waste management as well? Should it include land use and planning and/or building codes? Will it include economic development goals, such as local employment and/or training? Does it include food security and agricultural development? The scope should consider what factors the community really has the ability to influence. A city in a dense region, for example, would need to coordinate with proximate municipalities to reach sound energy supply, transport and emissions plans. On the other hand, a more isolated community should consider how this exercise can help them to create a more holistic development plan with the potential for energy self-sufficiency.

A planning team should be created, one that has a mix of people familiar with energy and community affairs and potentially including citizen representatives of different parts of the community. While the committee should be expertise-driven, having some representation will reinforce information during the process.

### ***Stage 2: Using the Plan to Create a Long-term Vision***

There will be different considerations based upon the timeframe that a community needs to consider. The effects of climate change will become more severe over time. The payoff period for a renewable energy project may be at least a decade or more. Creating 5 and 10 year funding of up to

community is at the early stages and seeking new projects. The degree of stability in decision-making will also play a role. The goal should be to develop a CEEP that has enough consensus that it can be fairly consistent over long periods of time.

### ***Stage 3: Defining Goals Around Community Values***

In order to create a CEEP, a community has to start by considering the short-, medium-, and long-term objectives. A lot of the planning process requires tradeoffs. For example, how important is emissions reduction vs. job creation, etc.? These require a period of deliberation by leadership in consultation with the community. There are a number of ways to set up community consultations to get input

The third step is to look to comparable cases. For example, a set of nearby communities who made similar choices but are farther along could provide powerful examples and answer many what if scenario questions, including experience with certain partners.

Once these three steps are completed, the CEEP authors should turn to examining potential renewable energy sources in the community. The potential sources can be examined to see the extent to which they provide technically feasible and affordable alternatives to the status quo, which ial

change should be considered (Tozer 2013)ould be c

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