

Alberta context

What is 'community energy'? And, what are possible projects and programs?

Pembina Institute | People Power Planet
Partnership | Calgary Economic Development

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Agenda

- **Define community energy & scope**
- **Ownership models in practice**
- **Legal & business “jargon”**
- **Community energy benefits**

Followed by Judith Lipp on Canadian community energy perspective

Definition & Scope

- Community has **material influence** on definition, management & execution of energy project.
 - Shared ownership by community (minimum %)
 - Benefits directed to local economy & for social benefit
- Energy is **renewable & locally-sourced**
- **All types** (heat, electricity and biofuels)
- **All sectors** (First Nations, farmers, towns & cities)

Ownership models in practice

1. Local partnerships

Utility partnership & virtual net-metering

Co-operative & neighborhood projects

2. Public institution

Local government (municipality or county)

University and/or school board

Hospitals and health care facilities

Housing (low income and/or affordable housing)

3. Revenue/benefits sharing

Commercial partnership with project developer

Local investment funds

Energy retailer

Legal & Business “jargon”

- **Non-Profit / For-Profit co-operative**
 - For-profit = profits to share holders
 - Non-profit = profits to public benefit
- **Bonds and Equity shares**
 - Bonds = not tied to energy generation
 - Equity = for-profit co-op pays dividends
- **Equity Investment Funds** (financing)
- **Joint venture** (developer “partnerships”)

Projects in Alberta (highlights)

- **Predominantly ‘Public institution’**
 - Electricity & (district) heat projects
 - Local production incentives
- **Community solar farms**
 - Green Acres — Hutterite colony (2MW)
 - Lubicon Solar — First Nation (20 kW)
- **Municipal programs & projects**
 - Banff Feed-in Tariff, Calgary & Medicine Hat municipal green power purchase contracts
 - Towns of Devon & Vulcan solar projects
- **Benefit sharing (energy retail)**
 - Alberta Co-operative Energy (SPARK)
 - Enmax & ‘Centre in the Park’ district heat

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#ABCommunityEnergy

<http://www.pembina.org/blog/alberta-community-energy-workshop>

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Benefits of community energy

- **Spin-off economic benefits**
 - Re-invest returns into local economy
 - Create local jobs (installation & operations)
- **Indigenous communities**
 - Empower & engage community
 - Re-invest in infrastructure, health & education
- **Local decision-making (choices)**
 - Wealth creation & types of clean energy
- **Enable complete citizenry involvement**
 - Zero-carbon energy systems needs all facilities
 - Social license for RE resource development

Types of Ownership

- **Split ownership** — physical ownership split of assets (by module, or by turbine) with some assets (e.g. grid connection) shared
- **Joint venture** — % of all assets shared by a developer and community organization
- **Shared revenue** — developer owns all assets, but community has % right to revenue