
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

CLEAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM SUPPORTS 62 COMMUNITIES

PENTICTON – A total of \$175,000 will support 10 communities selected to join the expanding Community Action on Energy and Emissions (CAEE) program, announced Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Barry Penner, Minister of Environment, and Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development.

“This year brings us to a total of 62 local governments and First Nations participating in the CAEE programs, exceeding our Energy Plan goal of having 50 communities by 2010,” said Neufeld. “These communities are leaders in energy efficiency and conservation and will help us to meet B.C.’s future clean energy needs and achieve electricity self-sufficiency.”

“As the evidence of climate change grows, efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions have become more important than ever,” said Penner. “The CAEE program makes it easier for local governments and First Nations to play a larger role in reducing our collective environmental footprint, while ensuring a healthier, greener future for all British Columbians.”

The new CAEE communities include:

- Town of Gibsons
- Kwakwaka’wak First Nation
- Seabird Island Band
- Adams Lake Indian Band
- West Moberly First Nation
- District of Elkford
- City of Kimberley
- Fraser Valley Regional District

Existing CAEE communities that have made new, significant energy and emissions commitments include:

- District of Squamish
- District of Saanich

Each community will receive a funding allocation of between \$10,000 to \$20,000 to reflect the community’s commitment to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and undertake unique policy approaches.

Government funding comes from:

- Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources - \$90,000
- Ministry of Environment - \$85,000

Originally named Community Action on Energy Efficiency, the CAEE program emphasizes local government leadership on energy efficiency for new and existing buildings. CAEE has expanded to address clean and renewable energy supplies, transportation energy use and the range of related greenhouse gas and local air quality emissions.

The CAEE program is a collaboration among the provincial ministries of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Environment and Community Development, the Fraser Basin Council, Community Energy Association, BC Hydro, FortisBC, Terasen Gas and the Union of BC Municipalities.

“Supporting local governments to create greener, more energy-efficient and sustainable communities through programs such as CAEE is a priority for the Province,” said Community Development Minister Blair Lekstrom. “Working together, we’re developing innovative solutions to environmental challenges to ensure that the decisions we make today will have a positive impact on the future of British Columbia.”

A “CAEE Gold” call is planned for this fall, which will be available to all B.C. communities that have taken their conservation and efficiency activities to a higher level through innovation and implementation. The winning Gold communities will be announced in early 2009.

CAEE is administered on behalf of the Province by the Fraser Basin Council, a non-profit organization with a mandate to create a more sustainable future – economically, socially and environmentally. For more information, visit www.caee.ca.

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