



Harnessing Local Resources for Community Energy Solutions

W2 : Wednesday February 11th, 14:00 – 15:15 AT



FONDS
MUNICIPAL
VERT

GREEN
MUNICIPAL
FUND

Un programme de la



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land in which we gather today is the traditional unceded and unsurrendered territory of the Wəlastəkwiyyik/Wolastoqiyik (WOOL-ah-sto-gway) Peoples.

This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiyyik, Mi’kmaq and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725.

The Treaties did not deal with surrender of lands or resources but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between equal nations.

Community Energy Solutions

Session Overview

1. Welcome and hello's
2. GMFs Funding and Support
3. Cardston, AB Story
4. Mahone Bay, NS Story
5. Moderated Discussion
6. Q&A and Group Engagement





Join in the conversation!

Add your questions for the panelists at anytime using the QR code here or via the link:

Join at [slido.com #SCC2025CCD](https://slido.com/#SCC2025CCD)

Room: “Community energy solutions”



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Which of the following local renewable energy project benefits is most important to your community? Parmi les avantages suivants, les projets d'énergie renouvelable locaux, lequel est le plus important pour votre municipalité ?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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**Is renewable energy produced in your community?
Check all that apply. Des énergies renouvelables sont-elles produites dans votre communauté ? Sélectionnez toutes les réponses qui s'appliquent.**

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Community Energy Systems

Funding for your renewable energy
and district energy projects

Green municipal Fund (GMF)

A **\$2.4 billion** program funded by the Government of Canada and delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.



2.9 mil.

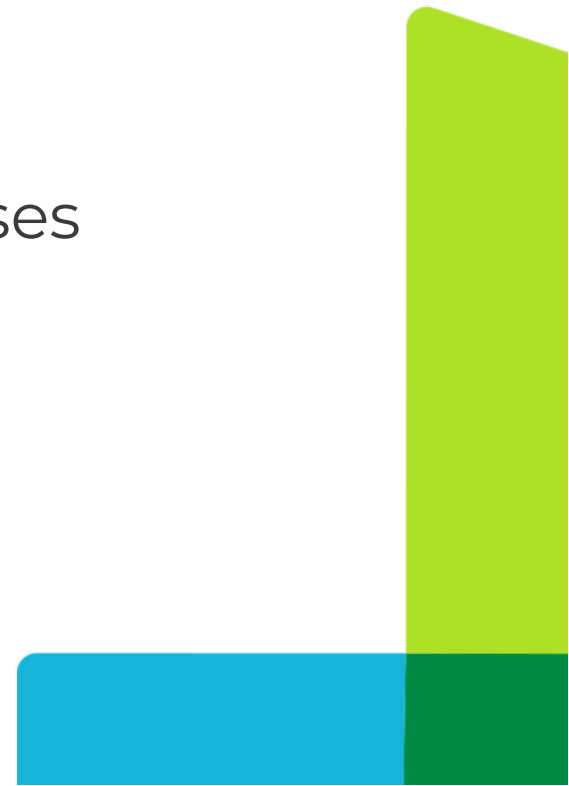
tonnes of greenhouse gases
avoided

2,336

projects approved

\$1.6 B

worth of approved projects



GMF's initiatives

Net-zero and multisolving



Sustainable Municipal Buildings



Community Energy Systems



Organic Waste to Energy



Municipal Fleet Electrification



Net Zero Transformation

Energy efficiency initiatives



Community Efficiency Financing



Community Buildings Retrofit



Sustainable Affordable Housing

Resilience and Climate Adaptation



Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation



Growing Canada's Community Canopies



Low-carbon community energy systems

District heating and cooling systems (e.g. thermal recovery)



(source: cdm2lightworks.com)

Sewage heat recovery expansion
Vancouver, BC: Southeast False Creek
Neighbourhood Energy Utility

Renewable energy generation (e.g. solar installations)



Community solar garden on closed landfill
County of Kings, NS: Meadowview Solar
Project

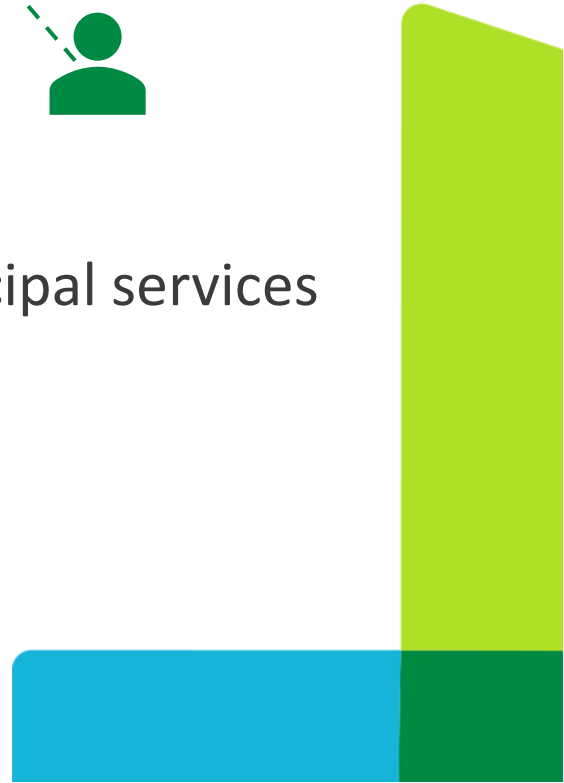


Applicant eligibility

1. Municipal governments

2. Municipal project partners

- Private sector entities
- Indigenous communities
- Municipally-owned corporations
- Regional, provincial, or territorial organizations offering municipal services
- Non-governmental or not-for-profit organizations
- Research institutions (e.g., universities)



Grant and loan funding

	Business Case	Feasibility Study	Capital Project
Grants	\$100,000	\$200,000	15% of loan 20% of loan if project includes brownfield remediation
Loans	-	-	\$10 million
% of eligible costs	50%*	50%*	80%

*80% of eligible project costs for communities under 10,000 pop, northern communities, and Indigenous communities. First time northern and Indigenous clients are eligible for 100% of eligible project costs.



Accelerating community energy systems

Pre-application deadline is **February 21**

Goal: Accelerate net-zero neighbourhoods through increased deployment and use of community energy systems (CES)

Offer will provide **study grants and capacity development** to help local governments create the enabling conditions for CES initiatives



Accelerating community energy systems

Pre-application deadline is **February 21**



Open to local governments, municipal corps and eligible Indigenous communities



Grants of up to \$200K, covering 50%* of eligible costs



Successful applicants participate in a two-year learning program



Learning program provides access to experts, best practices and peer learning

*Up to 80% for small, Northern or eligible Indigenous communities, or up to 100% for first-time Northern or eligible Indigenous applicants

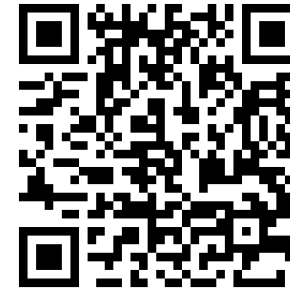


How to apply?

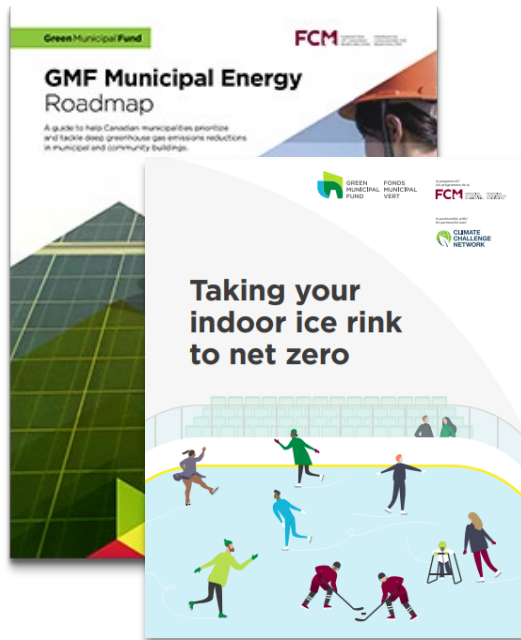
1. Review the webpage and application guide
2. Discuss your project with GMF staff
3. Complete the pre-application form and submit it to GMF
4. Eligible applicants will be invited to submit a **full application**



GMF Learning Centre



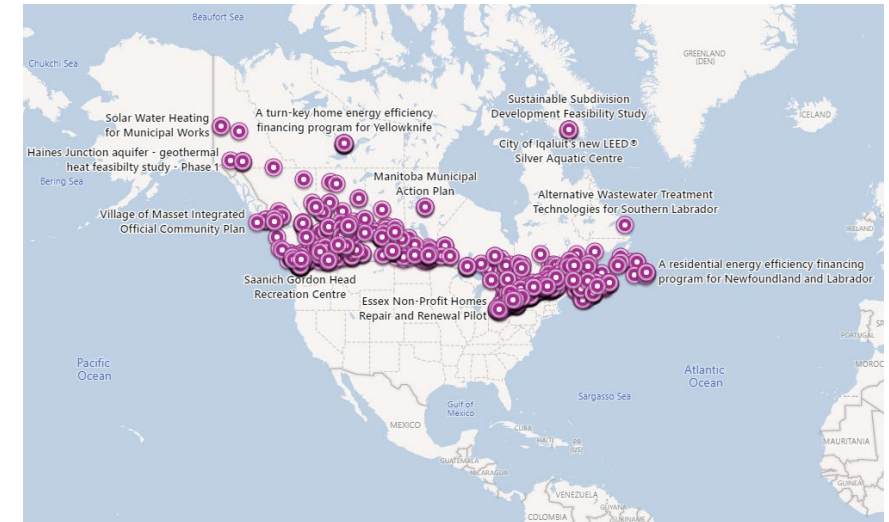
Resources



Events and training



GMF Project Database



Contact Us

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Advisor, Programs
Outreach

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613-907-6259

gmfinfo@fcm.ca
1-877-417-0550



Book a meeting with us

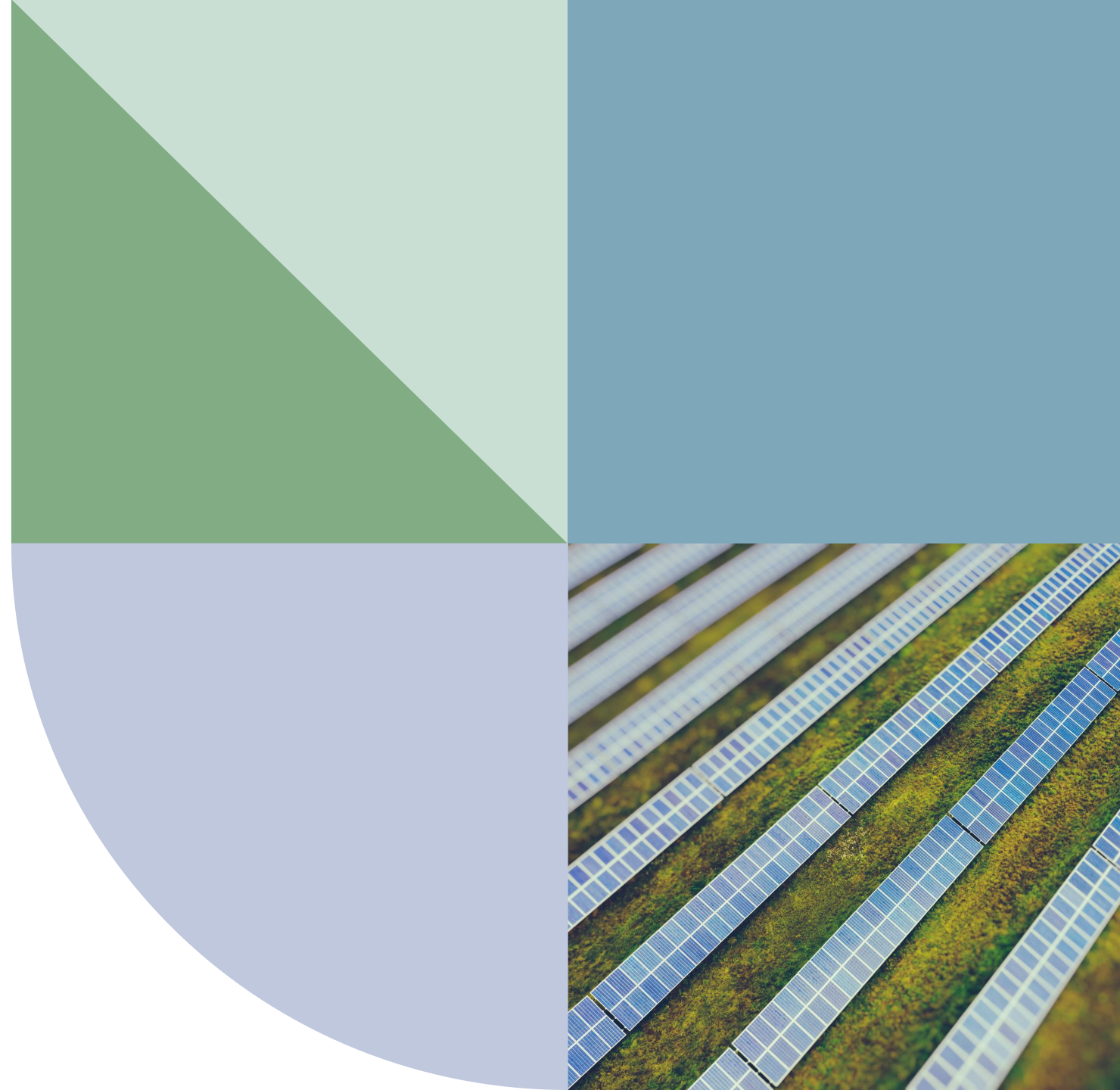
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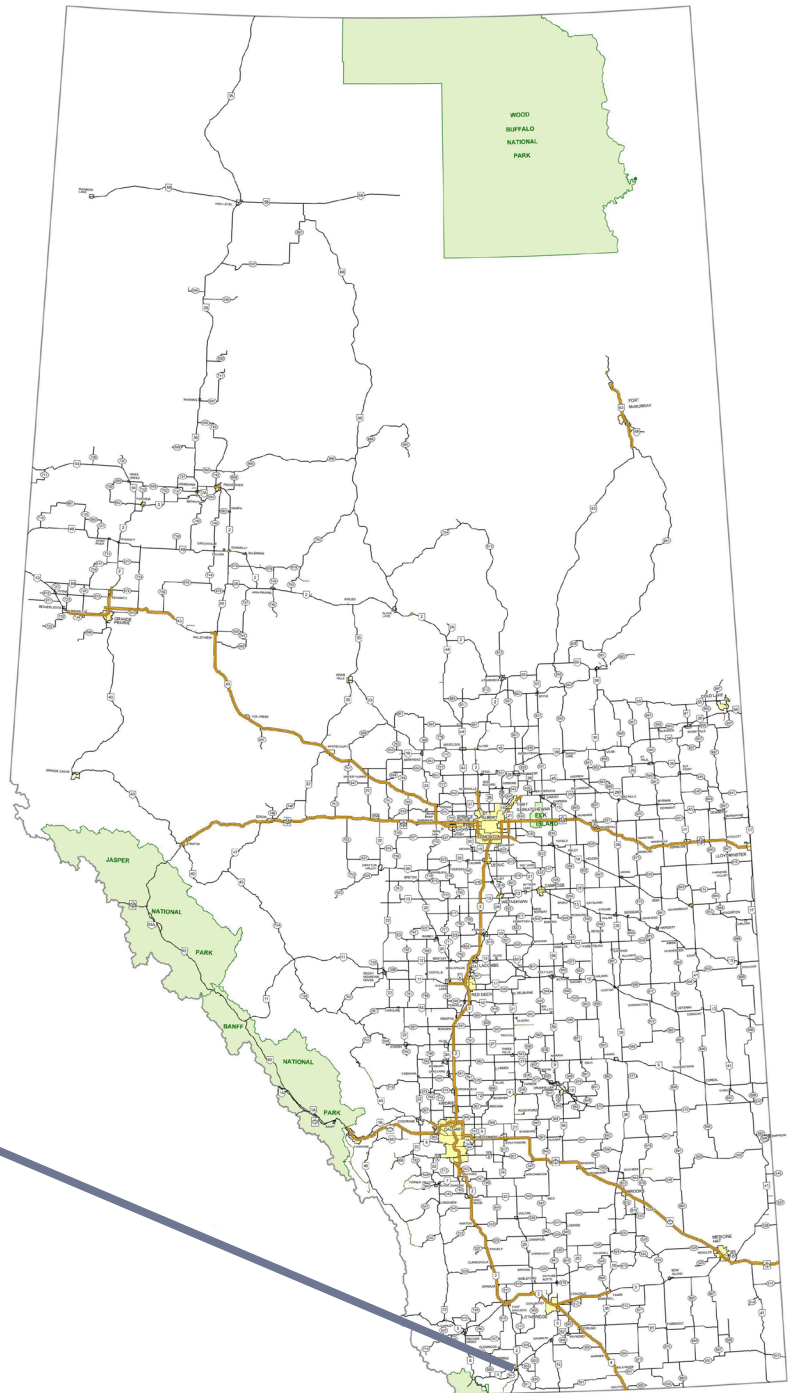


Energy as a Path to Municipal Sustainability

Jeff Shaw – CAO

Town of Cardston





Cardston
pop: 3724

Our energy story...

- The Town owns the electrical distribution system
- One of only 2 Towns in Alberta that still do. Major cities do under MCC
- 2017 - Renewable Power Centre proposal & NRCAN grant for Smart Grid Deployment
- 2019 Town builds large solar facility under micro-generation regulation

Story continued...

- Town begins efficiency measures at Ice rink, Town Hall, and currently working on Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Town attracts private sector investment renewable project
- This is creating challenges with large distributors
- New industry partners have emerged such as SunCycle Farms

Lesson we have learned and are learning...

- Difficult industry for a CAO to manage
- Regulated environment presents regulatory complexity
- Need outside expertise
- Pressure from other distribution and transmission companies

Lesson continued...

- The balance of risk of ownership and the benefit to the community is difficult
- Industry / technology changes may push out small operators
- Hold potential for competitive advantages and community benefit
- Hold potential for solving large scale challenges like distribution infrastructure
- Build the generation first, and the efficiency after

TOWN OF



Mahone Bay

**Prioritizing Sustainability:
Why we own our electric
utility?**

A Quick Introduction to Mahone Bay

Founded: 1754

Incorporated: 1919

Population (2021): 1,064

Size: 3.13 km²

Council Size: Mayor + 6 Council

Staff Complement: ~20 FTE

Municipal Budget (2024-25):

\$7.88 Million



Our Electrical Utility

Partnered with neighboring Riverport Electric Light Commission since 2012.

We share 3 PLTs and 3 utility vehicles, along with management and financial services.

Together we serve ~1,600 electrical customers.



History of the Mahone Bay Electric Utility

1919

Birth of Mahone Bay Electric Utility

1997

Creation of the Municipal Electric Utilities of Nova Scotia Cooperative (MEUNSC)

2014

Founding of the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) and the Ellershouse Wind farm

2019

Mahone Bay Declares Climate Emergency

2021

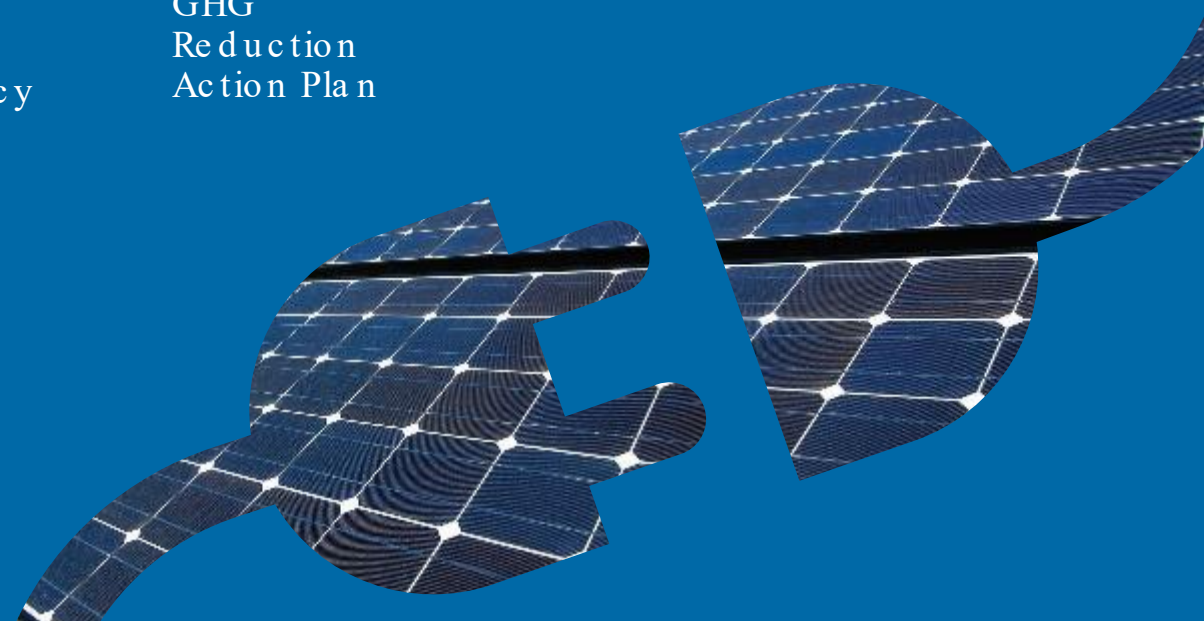
Town Council adopts Community GHG Reduction Action Plan

2021

Mahone Bay Community Solar Project breaks ground

2024

Maritime Municipal Electrical Utilities Alliance (MMEUA) formed



Prioritizing Sustainability

- Responding to community priorities – climate adaptation
- Making a priority of Sustainability
- Advancing sustainability priorities – CAO's perspective





Buying Local – Selling Local

- Investing in locally generated electricity

- Ellershouse Windfarm



- Community Solar Garden

- Ratemaking for renewables

Grid

Modernization

- Knowing ourselves better -
Mahone Bay's asset
management journey
- Planning ahead –
electrification and the road to
net zero.



THANK YOU



townofmahonebay.ca



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Audience Q&A

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What is one idea you are taking away from this workshop that has promise in your community? Quelle est l'idée que vous reprenez de cet atelier et qui est prometteuse pour votre communauté ?

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Learn more

Building on the learning today, here are a few resources for you

Read GMF's Community Energy Solutions Case Studies



GMF's Energy Road Map E-Course



COURSES AND TRAINING

E-learning courses: Tackling energy use in your municipal and community buildings

These four free online courses will help you increase the energy-efficiency of buildings in your municipality.

[See Event →](#)



All slide decks, worksheets and links are available to participants at bit.ly/scc-learning

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