

April 17, 2018

Mayor Hnatiw and Sturgeon County Council
9613-100 Street
Morinville, Alberta
T8R 1L9

RE: Introduction to North Parkland Power REA Ltd.

As you may or may not be aware, North Parkland Power REA Ltd. is a cooperative value-based business that has been operating in Sturgeon County for over 25 years.


North Parkland Power is a proud rural electric service provider with a highly skilled team of professionals. Our understanding and knowledge of the industry along with the impacts to the area in which we operate provides our members, many of whom are your ratepayers, with the assurance that their wants are being heard and their needs are being met. Being an active business in the region allows us to support local community groups and businesses, which in turn nurtures Sturgeon County's quality of life and rural economy.

As a self operating, member owned, not for profit organization, we own and maintain the power poles and lines in the county; our entire operating area stretches as far south west as Morinville and as far north east as Lac La Biche. This equates to over 2,200 miles of line and approximately 40,000 power poles.

Given our vast knowledge in the industry and the opportunities we see arising, we would like to extend an offer to work with Sturgeon County, and businesses within, to further develop or analyze these opportunities for feasibility. Partnering to explore and capitalize on the potential opportunities (e.g. Renewable energy projects that reduce costs or provide additional revenue streams, broadband development, waste heat initiatives) makes sense and further promotes growth locally.

Finally, we are requesting a delegation with Council to provide a face to face introduction, expand on opportunity potential, and answer any questions that Council may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Newell", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Charles Newell, Chairman
On behalf of
North Parkland Power REA Ltd. Board of Directors

2018
January



BUILDING COMMUNITY OWNED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN ALBERTA

Submitted by:

Alberta Community & Co-operative Association, Alberta Co-operative Energy, Alberta Green Economy Network, Alberta Solar Co-operative, Alberta Federation of REAs, EQUS, Federation of Alberta Gas Co-operatives, Momentum, Mount Royal University Institute for Community Prosperity, North Parkland Power, Rocky REA, and Starland County.

OVERVIEW

The Alberta Government's renewable energy strategy promises to provide real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while creating jobs and economic diversification. This provides a **once-in-a-generation opportunity to create energy policy that includes community-based options** that will benefit a broad range of Albertans.

Alberta co-operatives and community economic development stakeholders believe substantial economic growth, environmental and social benefits can be achieved through the development of community-owned Renewable Energy. Such projects are mostly locally owned and operated, and designed to provide local employment and services building capacity for small town Alberta.

We are pleased to learn of the Government's intention to design a community-owned renewable energy program as we have estimated that as many as 100 projects could be initiated by the end of 2018, representing some 300MW of new renewables. This would represent up to \$750 million of stimulus to rural and community economic development.

Community based organizations already play a significant role in Alberta's energy system. Alberta's REAs serve more than 47,000 members collectively, saving their members \$19 million per year. Natural gas is distributed in part by 53 rural gas co-operatives. Alberta is also home to the fourth and fifth largest co-operatives in Canada; the United Farmers of Alberta and the Calgary Co-op Association, comprised of 120,000 and 440,000 members respectively. In addition, the province is home to 31 Credit Unions, with total system assets of more than \$23 billion and 637,000 members.

All of these organizations are locally owned and **managed under the principles of self-help, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity.**



GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA CONSIDERATIONS

Should the Government of Alberta determine that locally-owned and operated renewable energy is a part of the climate change and energy transition plans for this province, the Government will need to address to following key areas to lay the groundwork:

1.

Determine a mechanism to ensure price stability

Success in establishing a fruitful and thriving community and co-operative renewable energy sector, requires projects to be seen as good investments by average Albertans. Because of the significant value added by community energy, a level of price stability that delivers reasonable returns on investments in the sector is justified. We recommend the Government enter into a collaborative process with the community energy sector to develop an effective and fair pricing mechanism.

2.

Credit options

A critical barrier for the community and co-operative sector to compete in this market is likely to be the ability to raise capital. Investment capital will be bolstered with an effective pricing mechanism. On the debt capital side, we propose that the Government, in consultation with locally owned financial institutions, take initiative to create a credit facility to enable financing of up to two-thirds of project costs.

3.

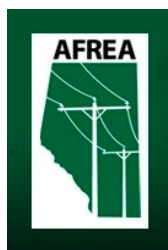
Remove regulatory and systems barriers

A number of regulatory and system barriers currently exist to building a successful community-owned, renewable energy program, including the current procurement and queue systems. Finding the right balance of diligence and ease around regulatory approvals and access to the grid will be key for these projects.

SOCIAL AND LOCAL ECONOMIC VALUE OF COMMUNITY OWNED RENEWABLE ENERGY

- ❖ Increases control for local communities
- ❖ Strengthens the local economy
- ❖ Promotes energy literacy among citizens
- ❖ Provides competition to large providers
- ❖ Lets average Albertans invest their long-term savings at home
- ❖ Mobilizes local capital in addition to global capital markets
- ❖ Offers opportunity for climate action to Albertans
- ❖ Builds local energy resilience and is more energy efficient than conventional large-scale projects
- ❖ Provides new impulses to Alberta's energy co-op sector and opportunity for new entrants into this market

MEMBERS OF THE COALITION



Institute for
Community Prosperity





© Mar 14, 2018



Investing in diverse, sustainable communities

The Alberta government is supporting municipalities by investing in new programs that will save communities money and help diversify local economies.

The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) will use \$54 million in funding from the Climate Leadership Plan to deliver multi-year programs for small-scale community generation, energy-efficiency upgrades for buildings, solar energy for schools and more.

"From solar panels on schools to energy-efficient hockey arenas, this grant invests carbon levy revenues into programs that will empower municipal leaders and their organizations to make life better for Albertans. Our government is proud to continue supporting municipalities as we work together to advance clean technology, create jobs, save money and reduce emissions."

- Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks and Minister responsible for the Climate Change Office

MCCAC provides funding, technical assistance and education to help Alberta municipalities address climate change. It is a collaboration between the Government of Alberta, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

"I know first-hand that many municipalities share our government's commitment to advancing Alberta's climate leadership goals. The MCCAC is an example of the strong, collaborative relationship that exists between the Government of Alberta, the AUMA and

the AAMDC. I think this is a great investment into programs that will affect all Albertans in meaningful, lasting ways.”



- Shaye Anderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs

The grant builds on MCCAC’s current programs, which fund solar panel installations, energy-efficiency audits and retrofits, as well as climate change resilience workshops.

The new funding will help ensure that the buildings Albertans rely on, including community arenas, recreational centres and swimming pools, are more energy-efficient and sustainable for the long term.

“The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties is encouraged by this new injection of funding into the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre. We believe that the magnitude of this new funding is an important recognition of the role municipalities play in addressing climate change. For almost 10 years, the AAMDC has worked with municipal partners and the MCCAC to support clean energy investments in municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Alberta. We look forward to continuing to work with the MCCAC to get this new funding flowing to local projects throughout Alberta’s rural communities.”

- Al Kemmere, president, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties

“AUMA has always advocated for a collaborative partnership to address climate change. We recognize the Alberta government’s commitment to MCCAC, a successful municipal-provincial collaboration that demonstrates all levels of governments working together to address climate change. This funding enables municipalities to continue to build climate change resilience, improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases. We look forward to this investment to support local climate change initiatives in our communities.”

- Barry Morishita, president, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association

Grant details

- \$16.5 million for Renewable Energy and Community Generation, supporting smaller-scale renewables projects in municipalities across the province.
- \$17.5 million for Community Infrastructure Greening, helping municipalities reduce greenhouse gas emissions by retrofitting existing municipal buildings such as community rinks, arenas, swimming pools, and more.
- \$5 million for Municipal Fleet Greening, which would target the testing of electric busing in municipalities with a view to sharing the knowledge and experience broadly across the AUMA and AAMDC.

- \$15 million for Renewable Energy for Schools, providing funding to school authorities to install solar technology systems on existing school facilities.



MCCAC's Alberta Municipal Solar Program has supported about 85 jobs since March 2016. In 2016-17, the existing municipal solar program supported 36 projects, representing 23 municipalities, resulting in combined annual savings to municipalities of close to \$500,000 on power bills.

Related information

Municipal Climate Change Action Centre

Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association

Climate Leadership Plan

Media inquiries

✉ **Matt Dykstra**

☎ 587-985-9441

Press Secretary, Environment and Parks



SkyFireEnergy
Solar Energy Systems



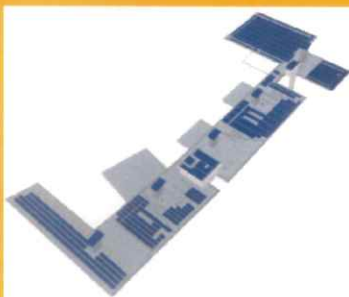
Hundreds of solar systems designed and installed since 2001!

Plug into the Sun with SkyFire Energy!

WHY INVEST IN SOLAR?

- ✓ Earn stable long term financial returns
- ✓ Save on electricity costs
- ✓ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Showcase it as a highly visible Corporate Social Responsibility initiative
- ✓ Hedge against increases in future energy costs and reduce long term risk

INTEGRATED DESIGN



Every system SkyFire Energy installs is engineered to fit your building, your budget and your goals.

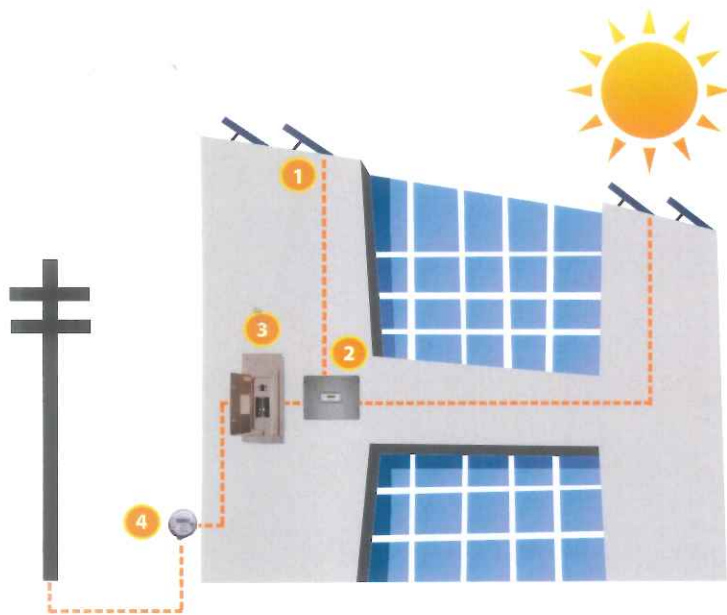
3D rendering of the proposed system is provided in order to determine aesthetics and roof layout.

Contact us for a site assessment or involve us during the design stage for optimized cost, performance and building integration.

www.SkyFireEnergy.com

1-87-SKYFIRE-1 or email info@skyfireenergy.com

HOW DOES IT WORK?



- 1 Photovoltaic (PV) modules convert sunlight into direct current (DC) power.
- 2 The inverter(s) convert DC electricity from the solar array to the AC electricity found in the building.
- 3 The inverter backfeeds electricity into the electrical distribution system.
- 4 The bidirectional meter which is supplied free of charge by the utility, keeps track of both the energy imported from the grid and the energy exported to the grid. Savings and export credits are reflected on your electricity bill.



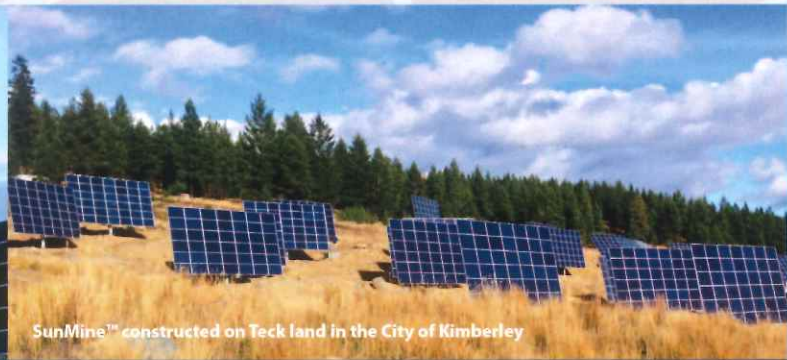
Green Acres Colony 2 MW grid-tied PV BASSANO, AB

- Largest solar PV system in Western Canada
- First utility-scale solar PV system in Alberta
- Sized to meet 100% of the colony's electricity needs



Okanagan College 260kW grid-tied PV PENTICTON, BC

- Supplies building with majority of its electrical requirements and also used as a hands-on teaching tool



SunMine™ constructed on Teck land in the City of Kimberley

SunMine™
1 MW grid-tied PV
KIMBERLEY, BC

- Largest solar PV system in BC
- First large-scale project in Western Canada to use solar trackers



NWT Power Corporation
104 kW grid-tied PV
FORT SIMPSON, NT

- Largest direct utility tied system in the Northwest Territories
- Installed in 2 Phases: 60.6kW in 2012 & 43.4kW expansion in 2013
- Designed and installed ahead of schedule despite difficult environmental conditions



Child Development Centre
43kW grid-tied PV
CALGARY, AB

- Integrated awning structure design provides shading inside while maximizing solar potential at the height of the day
- Achieved LEED® Platinum certification; first in the world to do so in a cold climate



Telus Garden
70.6kW grid-tied PV
VANCOUVER, BC

- Largest solar PV system in Vancouver
- Translucent solar canopy hangs over the edge of the building
- Provides power for the Telus Garden Office building



Alberta Dairy Farm
18.9 kW grid-tied PV
DIDSBURY, AB

- System installed as part of Growing Forward 2 program

WHY SKYFIRE ENERGY?

- ⚙️ Western Canada's leading solar EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) firm
- ⚙️ SkyFire Energy team consists of professional engineers, certified photovoltaic technicians & CSA certified construction electricians (Solar PV Systems Certified)
- ⚙️ Since 2001, we have designed and installed many of the largest photovoltaic systems in Western Canada as well as hundreds of solar PV systems in 8 provinces/territories:

> **33%** of all grid
tied solar in Alberta

> **30%** of all grid
tied solar in BC

- ⚙️ SkyFire Energy's management team has more than 55 years of combined Alberta solar experience:

David Kelly (P. Eng.) - CEO & Founder
Chair of CansIA
Registered with APEGA and APEGBC

Tim Schulhauser (MBA, P. Eng.) - President
Light Up The World board of directors
Registered with APEGA

David Vonesch (P. Eng.) - COO
Board chair of Alberta Renewable Energy Co-operative (SPARK)
Registered with APEGA

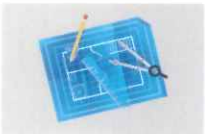
HOW TO GET STARTED?



Contact us for your personalized estimate and solar investment evaluation.



SkyFire Energy performs solar site assessment to determine space allocation and electrical connection.



Customized PV system will be designed and formal quote will be provided.



Upon acceptance of the quote and design, permitting will be completed.



Solar electric system will be installed and commissioned.
Your building will now be powered by the Sun!

www.SkyFireEnergy.com

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