



COMMUNITY
ENERGY PLANNING
**GETTING TO
IMPLEMENTATION**
IN CANADA

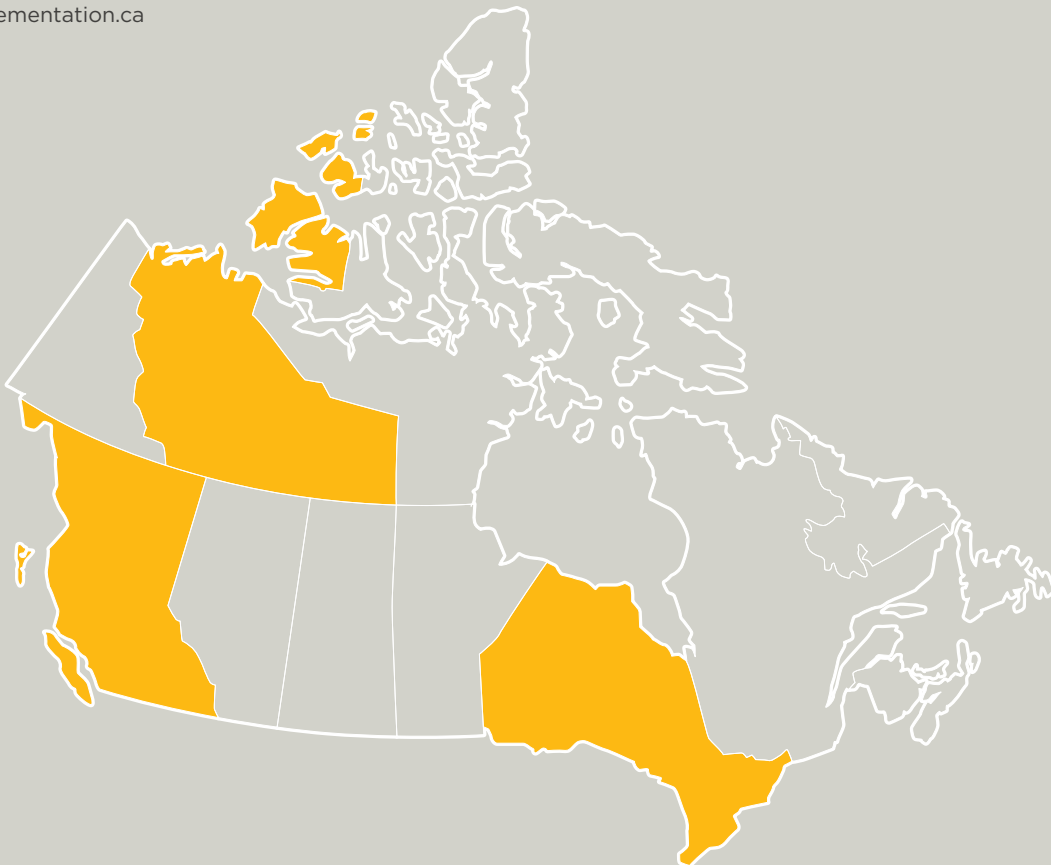
Policies to Accelerate Community Energy Plans:

An analysis of British Columbia, Ontario and
the Northwest Territories

Executive Summary

JULY 2016

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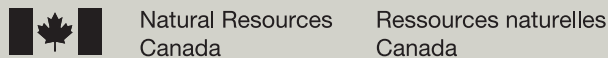
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Executive Summary

Across Canada, over 200 communities, representing more than 50 percent of the population, have a Community Energy Plan (CEP).

A CEP is a tool that enables communities to drive local energy priorities with a view to increasing energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and driving local economic development.

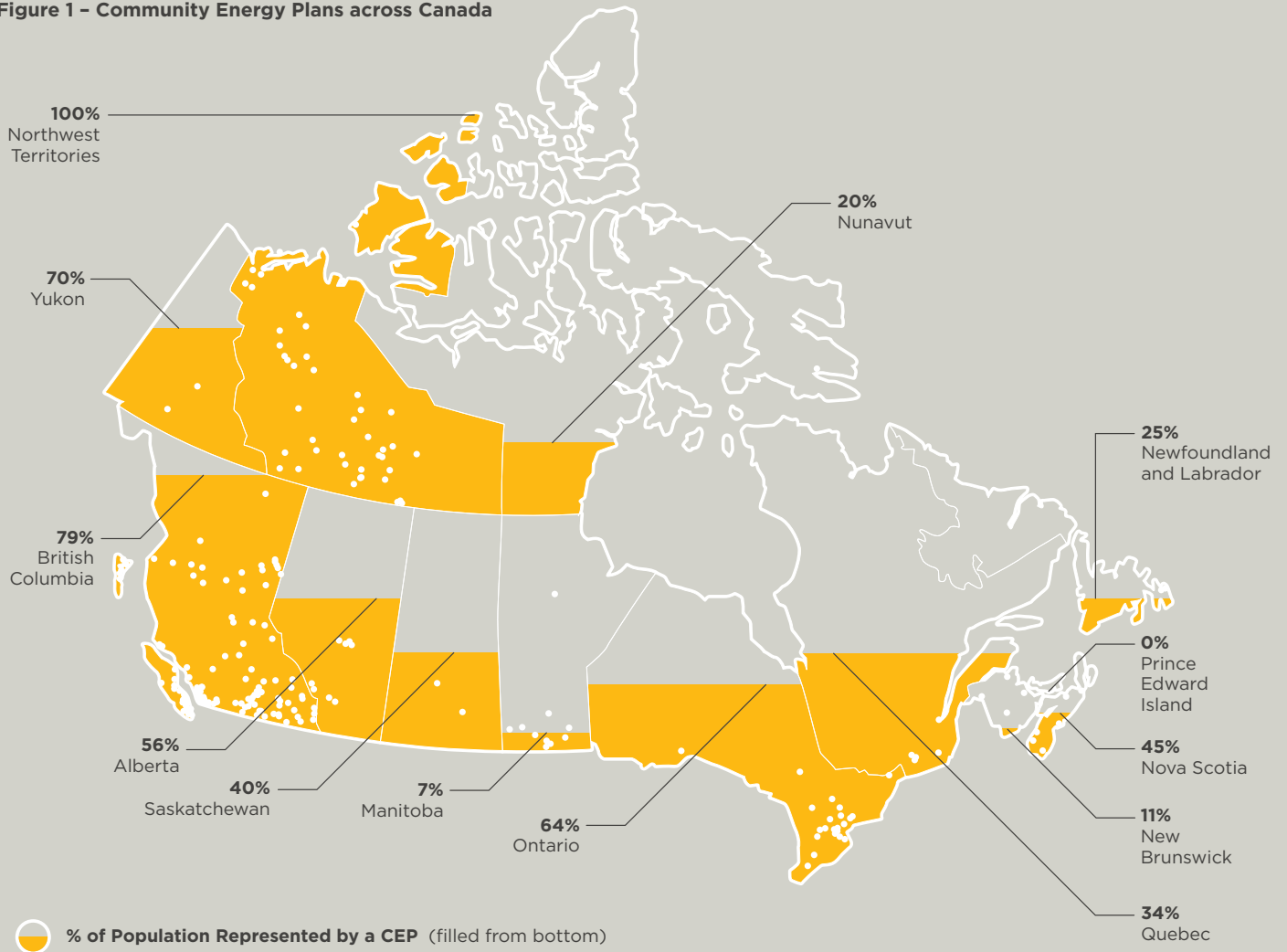
Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of CEPs across Canada and the proportion of the population covered by a CEP in each province and territory.

Communities influence over 60 percent of energy used in Canada and over half of all GHG emissions. By accelerating CEP implementation, provincial and territorial governments can more effectively:

- Reach energy conservation and GHG emissions reduction targets
- Drive economic development and diversification
- Accelerate alternative energy resource development
- Achieve local energy affordability, security and resilience
- Foster innovation and clean-technology development
- Improve the integration of energy planning among provincial and territorial and local stakeholders

This report identifies the effectiveness of provincial and territorial policies aimed at achieving widespread CEP development at the local level. The term policies is used throughout this report in reference to various policy approaches available to provincial and territorial governments to support CEP development. Policies include legislation, regulations, programs and financial incentives. While policies in all provinces and territories were reviewed, the focus of this report is on the jurisdictions that have seen the highest rates of CEP development as measured by the number of CEPs and percentage of population covered by a CEP, including British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Ontario.

Figure 1 – Community Energy Plans across Canada



The policy interventions available to provincial and territorial policymakers are illustrated in Figure 2. Policy approaches range from low impact policy approaches, such as encouraging local governments to voluntarily develop and implement a CEP, to high impact policy approaches, such as requiring communities to develop a CEP, or providing resources to local governments, whether financial, staff or data, to develop a CEP. Figure 2 also highlights successful policy approaches applied in the Province of British Columbia, the Province of Ontario and the Northwest Territories, all of which have effectively accelerated CEP development in their respective jurisdictions.

Figure 2 - Policy Approaches to Accelerate CEP Development

Low Impact Policies		High Impact Policies		
Talk and Hope	Encourage	Support / Enable	Require	Provide
Increase awareness (e.g. media releases) without enabling policies and mechanisms	Adjust policies that prevent / discourage CEP development and introduce policies that encourage CEP development	Support CEP development through incentives or enabling policies	Mandate energy conservation and GHG emission targets and actions in local plans and policies	Provide communities with components of the plan (e.g. energy and GHG data/inventories etc.)
Province of British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Climate Action Charter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARIP Program Infrastructure Planning Grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Communities Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEEI Inventory
Province of Ontario		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEP Program Aboriginal CEP Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Regulation 397/11 	
Northwest Territories		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Gas Tax Agreement CEP requirement to access funding 		

Table 1 summarizes the outcomes of the most successful policy approaches to encourage CEP development by jurisdiction.

Table 1 – Provincial and Territorial Policy Approaches Encouraging Community Energy Plan Development

Jurisdiction	Summary of Objectives of Policies Supporting CEP Development	Policy Approaches Supporting CEP Development	Outcomes
Province of British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Energy conservation and GHG emissions reductions · Economic development and diversification · Innovation and clean-technology development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide community-wide energy and emissions inventories · Require energy and GHG emissions reduction targets and actions to achieve targets · Encourage voluntary commitment to climate action · Support/enable through financial incentives and carbon tax rebates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 121 CEPs¹ · 79% population covered by a CEP · 63% of communities have a CEP
Province of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Energy conservation and GHG emissions reductions · Improved integration of energy planning at the local level · Innovation and clean-technology development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Require corporate energy inventories and energy and GHG reduction targets and actions to achieve targets · Support/enable CEP development with financial incentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 23 CEPs² · 64% population covered by a CEP · 5% of communities have a CEP
Northwest Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Energy conservation and GHG emissions reductions · Alternative energy resource development · Local energy affordability, security and resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Require CEP development to access funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 33 CEPs · 100% population covered by a CEP · 100% of communities have a CEP

The experience in the Province of British Columbia, the Province of Ontario and the Northwest Territories affirms that provincial and territorial policymakers wishing to accelerate CEP development should consider introducing a policy or a suite of policies that:

- Go beyond encouraging voluntary action at the local level
- Enable CEP development
- Require commitment from local governments

CEP development can be further accelerated when provinces and territories provide components of the plan, such as energy inventories and/or staff resources.

¹ There are currently 121 completed CEPs and 3 CEPs under development.

² There are currently 23 completed CEPs and 74 CEPs under development.

Communities have a key role to play in energy. While many communities in Canada are advancing plans to define priorities around energy, all communities need help getting from plans and ideas to implementation.

Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada is a collaborative initiative spearheaded by the Community Energy Association, QUEST – Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow, and Sustainable Prosperity.

The initiative aims to help communities implement their Community Energy Plans (CEP) in order to improve efficiency, cut emissions, and drive economic development.

Objectives of this Initiative

- Identify barriers for integrated approaches to community energy planning
- Define business models for local governments, provincial and federal governments, utilities, the real estate sector and other stakeholders
- Develop tools for an integrated approach to community energy planning
- Increase awareness of integrated approaches to community energy planning across Canada
- Enhance the capacity of CEP practitioners to implement CEPs

Key Outcomes

- The National Report on Community Energy Plan Implementation
- The National Report on Policies Supporting Community Energy Plan Implementation
- Community Energy Planning: The Value Proposition
- A series of national workshops and an Innovation Symposium
- A Community Energy Implementation Framework
- The pilot application of the Framework to three test communities
- Training modules to support the delivery of the Framework



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