

## **Remote Community Electrification Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Remote Community Electrification program?**

The Remote Community Electrification (RCE) program helps remote communities receive off-grid electricity service from BC Hydro.

### **Who is eligible for the RCE program?**

To be eligible for the program, a community must have at least ten residences that are occupied year-round.

### **How many communities are eligible for the RCE program?**

BC Hydro has identified 34 remote communities that are potentially eligible for electrification through the RCE program.

### **Why the RCE program?**

There are approximately 5,000 people in remote communities in B.C. who have limited electricity service or none at all. These communities often face challenges in securing reliable, adequate and affordable electricity to meet their social and economic needs. In order for remote communities to have the same opportunity to receive reliable and affordable electricity as other British Columbians, the provincial government directed BC Hydro to establish a program to provide electric utility service to remote communities.

### **What are the benefits of the RCE program?**

Reliable, adequate and affordable electricity will provide opportunities for community and economic development, and improve the overall quality of life in remote communities. The RCE program may also provide opportunities to integrate renewable energy technologies to offset the use of diesel generators.

### **How can I find out more about the RCE program and whether my community is eligible?**

For more information or to suggest a community for the program, contact us by email at [rce@bchydro.com](mailto:rce@bchydro.com) or by phone at 1-866-901-8808.

**BC Hydro**

Remote Community Electrification Program

Seymour Arm

August 19, 2010

- Explain what the program offers and how it works
- Discussion and questions



- Designed to assist remote communities:
  - With unreliable electricity systems
  - Too far from the grid to connect economically
- BC Hydro directed by government through 2007 BC Energy Plan
- Legislated through the Remote Communities Regulation
- Different from Un-Economic Assistance (UEA) because
  - Considers local (off-grid) solutions
  - Different funding model

- Assists eligible remote communities in B.C. to receive service from BC Hydro
  - approximately 30 eligible communities including Seymour Arm
- Typically RCE communities receive off-grid service
- Provides funding and in-kind services (community engagement, technical & business expertise, project management for community electricity planning and implementation)
- 50% renewable energy target





- Cost effective energy solution
- Substantial community support
- For off-grid communities, BC Hydro pays for the capital costs of the generation system, the sustaining capital and the operating costs
- Customers pay for and construct the distribution line around the community, house wiring upgrades and customer connections

# How Does the Program Work?

- Community introduction to RCE program
- Community provides Letter of Intent to BC Hydro
- BC Hydro and the community develop Community Electricity Plan (looks at everything from a local solution to a grid connection)
- BC Hydro determines cost and funding requirements
- BC Hydro and community sign Memorandum of Understanding
- BC Hydro prepares project plan and detailed design
- First Nation consultation, regulatory and environmental approvals





## Thank You!

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