



# SUNMINE

## City of Kimberley

### FACTS



**Population:** 6,652 (2011 Census)  
**Location:** Kootenay B.C.

### SYNOPSIS

#### What To Do With More Than 300 Days of Sunshine Each Year

SunMine is a community-owned one megawatt peak production solar facility constructed on reclaimed mine land in the City of Kimberley. The facility features 4,032 photovoltaic panels mounted on 96 solar trackers that track the sun in two dimensions and produces power for 200 to 300 homes. The power is sold to BC Hydro through a 25 year contract.



### THE CHALLENGE

#### Diversification is the Key

How can a community such as Kimberley, with its pioneering history and commitment to a diversified economy, leverage its resourcefulness and resilience to make good use of an old mining site?

### THE SOLUTION

#### Eternal Sunshine Thanks to Citizen Support

The SunMine concept was introduced by Michel de Spot of the Vancouver-based EcoSmart Foundation in 2008. In 2011, 76% of Kimberley voters were in favour of the City borrowing \$2 million toward the project. After a competitive process to select the prime contractor, the decision to proceed with construction was made April 2014. SunMine began commercial operation June 22, 2015.

The project is 100% owned and operated by the City of Kimberley and was built with a total budget of \$5.35 million. There were a number of contributions: \$2 million from the City; \$2 million from Teck Resources; \$1 million from the Province of B.C.; \$300,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust; and \$50,000 from the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust.



## BENEFITS

### The Sun Continues to Shine

The SunMine project has created new clean power, raised awareness of Kimberley, and resulted in new employment and regional investment.

Subsequently, there have been a number of benefits since SunMine broke ground in July 2014:



- The City of Cranbrook has signed an agreement with P2 Solar for a 25 year lease of 2 hectares of City lands.
- Two large pieces of crown land east of Kimberley, north of Cranbrook have been tenured for solar development.
- The City of Kimberley is in discussions with half dozen qualified investors about SunMine expansion and siting in Kimberley.
- Fortis BC is actively evaluating solar investments in the region.

## LESSONS LEARNED

### Sunny Ways



Kimberley's pioneering spirit makes possible the transition from mining to tourism and now to clean energy.



Citizen support is critical for significant projects like SunMine.



SunMine achieved its purpose of raising the community's profile as a sunny, innovative community.



Kimberley continues to spread the word: in Fall 2015, Mayor McCormick was a feature presenter on SunMine at the CivX Lower Mainland Local Government Conference.

## OUTCOMES

### Making Hay While the Sun Shines

#### Commercial Energy Production (Jun 2015 – Apr 2016)



- 1,500 megawatt hours of energy generated
- \$166,710 in revenue
- \$30,400 operating cost
- \$90,500 placed in capital reserve

#### Awards

- 2015 Community of the Year Award by Clean Energy BC
- 2015 Community Excellence Award for Leadership and Innovation in Green Initiatives from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)
- 2016 Sustainability Award from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
- 2016 National Award for an Engineering Project or Achievement from Engineers Canada.
- 2017 Clean 50 Award for Top 15 Sustainability-Oriented Project

#### Public Relations and Awareness of Kimberley

- 600+ people toured the facility
- 150+ media articles and blogs
- 8,500+ unique visitors to sunmine.ca

#### Employment

- 29 locals were hired for 7.5 weeks of full-time employment during construction
- Incremental 610 hours of annual cleaning and commissioning work
- Incremental 1,000 hours annually or ½ FTE for ongoing monitoring and operating by city electricians

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information: [gov.bc.ca/economicdevelopment](http://gov.bc.ca/economicdevelopment)