



Province Supports Green Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool Project

The Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Branch of the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour partnered with the three regional Beetle Action Coalitions, the Federal Rural Secretariat, and Columbia Basin Trust to develop and implement Green Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool Project. The focus of the project is:

- i. To work directly with a number of small rural interior communities and First Nations in the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic zone to assist them in furthering their proposed green energy development projects and concepts.
- ii. To create and circulate a variety of green energy information resources and analysis tools to rural communities and First Nations throughout B.C. to assist them with the identification and development of green energy development opportunities in their respective communities.
- iii. To work with green energy industry development organizations and green energy businesses to identify and implement actions that would increase rural community benefits from the green energy sector development in the interior of B.C.
- iv. To organize and deliver a series of regional outreach and knowledge extension activities throughout the rural interior region of B.C.

A major component of this project was the May 2012 launch of the website www.ruralbcgreenenergy.ca. All project materials will be posted on the website as they are completed. Samples of the types of information that can be found on the website are:

- i. Green Energy Information Resource Guide.
- ii. Green Energy Project Case Studies.
- iii. Green Energy Fact Sheets.
- iv. Videos of Existing Green Energy Projects.
- v. A guidebook titled *“Investing in Green Energy Projects and Utilities: Investment & Governance Options for BC Local Governments & First Nations”*.

Another major component of the project is to provide green energy expertise and consulting services to several communities in the MPB epidemic zone in order to assist those communities with green energy opportunity pre-feasibility analysis. These feasibility studies are also available on the website.