

---

Indicators in  
Community  
Energy  
Planning:

---



---

Author  
Ana Stuermer

School of Urban and Regional Planning,  
Yμ v [• h v] À Œ • ] š Ç  
April 2011

---

With increasing public concern over environmental degradation and Climate Change, community energy planning is now emerging as a new task for planners. Community energy planning are practices that foster energy sustainability, protect or restore the natural environment, avoid harm in relation to social and health indicators, result in a more equitable distribution of benefits, are economic to maintain over the long



Five key recommendations are made based on the results from the analysis of the GEGEA. Each one is intended to strengthen the ability of the Act to become more effective at the local planning level.

- 1. CONTINUE TO PROMOTE ENERGY MAPPING AND REPORTING AND EXTEND ENERGY LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO THE BUILT-ENVIRONMENT**

Despite extensively discussing energy mapping and reporting of household and institutional facilities, the GEGEA should encourage labeling practices beyond its narrow scope. Performance label schemes represent one of the best practices in community energy planning (CEA, 2010) and are extremely helpful in displaying reliable and standard energy information that can inform decisionmaking.
  
- 2. UTILIZE PUBLIC TRANSIT RIDERSHIP AS AN INSTRUMENT TO ENCOURAGE ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY**

Public transit ridership is an important indicator because it helps to assess the physical structure of the local energy system (Nevasd Leal, 2010). In other words, this indicator reflects the need to develop urban patterns that support compact, mixed use developments, optimizing efficient use of energy.
  
- 3. CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN ENERGY RELATED PROJECTS**

to foster the growth of renewable energy projects while ensuring that communities, local groups and aboriginal peoples have an opportunity to express their concerns and participate in the decisionmaking process. The GEGEA clearly states the importance of a transparent energy consultation process.
  
- 4. EXTEND THE REQUIREMENTS TO DEVELOP ENERGY PLANS OR MAKE ENERGY CONSIDERATIONS TO THE LOCAL MUNICIPAL LEVEL**

As the development of a dedicated energy plan attests to a community's sustainability and willingness to look at opportunities to include greener and cleaner energy generation technologies (FCM, 2009) the GEGEA should extend the provincial requirements to develop energy plans to municipalities. Furthermore, the promotion of supportive energy policies can provide important and foundational elements to encourage the development of energy conservation and efficiency in a community (CEA, 2010).
  
- 5. USE FIT COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER LOCALLY AVAILABLE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS**

Locally available financial incentives, administered by municipal employees, should be encouraged by the Act and implemented collaboratively with Feed-in-Tariffs (FIT) in order to achieve significant energy conservation and encourage the development of renewable energy undertakings.