



COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF CLEAN ENERGY

Canada and the world are beginning a major transition to an economy based on renewable energy and decentralized electricity generation. Community ownership — by co-operatives, Indigenous communities, municipal utilities, community development funds and other forms of social enterprise — can play a major role in this transition, financing local grid development and keeping the control and benefits of energy production and use in local hands.

Investment by ordinary citizens in community-owned energy in Canada and around the world has shown that there is a huge opportunity to mobilize local savings for investment in clean energy. This will lead to secure local jobs, workplace democracy, local resiliency, new skills,

agricultural opportunities, and fixed pricing for energy. Local ownership also leads to greater awareness and support for climate change initiatives.

The federal government can play a key role in leveraging and unlocking this community capital by providing loan guarantees, debt financing, tax credits, and other support for community ownership of clean energy through existing small business and economic development programs such as the Community Futures Development Corporations.

Contact

Stephen Hazell
Director of Conservation and Legal Counsel
Nature Canada
shazell@naturecanada.ca



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