

Game Changer Climate Action Implementation Capacity Grants

Climate Action Pathways
and
Call for Expressions of
Interest



***We want to help you do
that one big idea you've
been thinking about.
Let's make it happen!***



The Decade of Climate Action

The last two decades have seen local governments build capacity, develop proven climate action pathways and make progress to implementation. **We are here now, in the 2020s: the decade of climate action.**

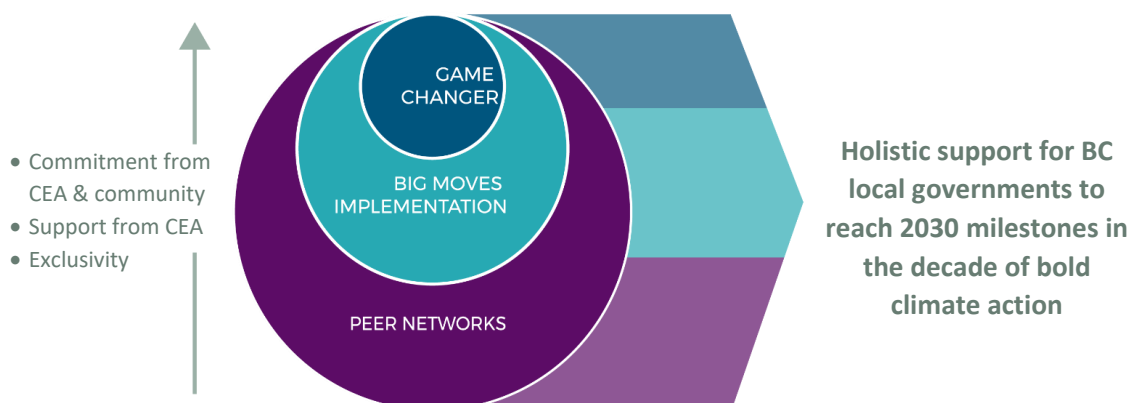
We know many of the high impact solutions and some BC communities are ready to push the boundaries of what is possible. Even more exciting for this decade: there is broad provincial and federal support to implement both tested and experimental strategies.

The challenge of this decade for local governments across BC – small and large, rural and urban, north and south – is to implement the policies, infrastructure, outreach, and collaborations that will get us to our ambitious 2030 targets.

This won't be easy, but the good news we know many of the high impact solutions: [The Big Moves](#) are suites of actions that local governments can implement to enable reductions in community greenhouse gas emissions. Some Big Move strategies are becoming more common and have clear implementation pathways (eg. Energy Step Code with a low carbon approach), while some are still in the early days of research and pilot projects (eg. decarbonizing commercial medium and heavy-duty vehicles).

This is where the expertise and experience of CEA comes in. At this exciting and critical time, we are ready to support local governments at all stages of implementation, taking your current needs and local context into account. We are offering three pathways of community climate action implementation support.

Participation in these programs is **FREE OF CHARGE to local governments**, though in-kind staff time and elected official commitment is required.



Which pathway is right for you?

The **peer networks** are the most inclusive, offering all BC local governments a chance to discuss tested implementation solutions, share lessons learned, get the latest research, and connect with partners. The **Big Moves community of practice** goes deeper, allowing communities to dive into finalizing details for implementing established solutions. The **Game-Changer** pathway is the most exclusive as it moves forward an innovative policy, program or infrastructure project that pushes the boundaries of local government climate action in BC and results in deep emissions reductions.

 Peer Network	 Big Moves Implementation	 Game-Changer
<i>"I want to connect with peers in other local governments on specific topics to learn from each other"</i> Quarterly call, information sharing, guest presentations, network facilitation, latest research, discussion of top issues. Networks for: • Energy Step Code • Electric Vehicles • Retrofits • BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council (elected officials)	<i>"I want to get traction on implementing proven climate actions in my community."</i> A Community of Practice offering focused support to implement an action from a recent (within 5 years) CEEP in one community or a cluster of communities. Up to 60 hours of consulting support to: • Develop detailed workplan • Support council approval • Secure funding	<i>"We are ready to be a leader and want more capacity to push the boundaries of the possible."</i> 500 to 2,000 hours of senior, dedicated capacity from CEA staff to work with your community to blaze a trail for others to follow. Comprehensive strategy for integrating policy, infrastructure and programming to change the art of the possible in climate action for local governments.
Open to all local governments in BC.	Accepting 5-10 small and mid-sized communities in BC Hydro service area.	Accepting EOI, then coaching through full application.

Local governments can choose to participate in just one pathway, or maybe have capacity and motivation to apply to all three! For more details about Peer Network and Big Moves Implementation, visit communityenergy.ca. To learn more about the Game-Changer Call for Expressions of Interest, read on.

"This is the decade of accelerated climate actions and results. BC local governments have worked hard to get here and we want to help bold leaders create and implement boundary-pushing and innovative solutions never before seen in BC."

*~Dale Littlejohn,
CEA Executive Director*

CEA's Game-Changer Capacity Grants

About CEA

CEA is a non-profit organization working since 1995 at the community level to reduce emissions, conserve energy and progressively transition to a low carbon, resilient economy. We donate 100% of profit to further community climate action.

With any of the pathways, you have the opportunity to access our passion and over 160 person-years of experience helping communities like yours advance climate action. But successful participants in the Game-Changer program will benefit from significant consulting support from CEA staff.



We have the passion, technical capability, experience and capacity to guide communities through bold and globally impactful action.

Our solutions are relentlessly pragmatic and designed to meet communities where they are. As a trusted independent advisor to local governments, CEA facilitates coaching and education for individuals and institutions as well as researches, plans and implements climate solutions.

"CEA has traversed the arc of climate action alongside local governments since 1995. What we know is that there is power in collaboration. Strategic networking and knowledge sharing can ensure each community is investing in solutions that are right for them while effectively reducing emissions while meeting other community priorities."

~Maya Chorobik,
CEA Senior Community Energy Manager

Game Changer Eligibility & Funding Available

CEA is wholly funding the Game Changer Capacity Grants as part of our commitment to **donate 100% of profits** back into community climate action.

Through the Game-Changer Capacity Grants, CEA will provide **up to 2,000 hours** of senior level capacity to the successful proponent(s), **valued at \$280,000**. Eligible activities include research and analysis, engagement, policy development, grant writing support, procurement management, and program management. CEA may award this to one project or split the hours among several projects.

Individual or groups of local governments and First Nations of any size or location in BC, Yukon and Alberta are eligible to apply. Communities that successfully move through the Expression of Interest stage will receive support with the final application from CEA. The program start date is expected to be October 1, 2021.

Eligible Activities

The following table lists activities are eligible for funding under this grant and ones that are not. For ineligible activities, further grants may be developed through the 'fundraising' eligible activity.

Eligible Activities	Ineligible Activities
• Program and financial management ○ Contract management ○ Vendor management ○ Project risk assessment and mitigation ○ Multi-community/multi-region coordination ○ Fundraising and proposal development • Program design and delivery ○ Detailed program scoping and design ○ Research ○ Policy development ○ Community, stakeholder, staff and locally elected official engagement ○ Program delivery • Marketing and Communications ○ Marketing design and delivery ○ Communications design and delivery ○ Website structure and content development ○ Report and guide writing and publishing ○ Communications material	• Engineering • Local government staff time • Consulting services not provided by CEA • Incentives or rebates • Capital costs • Printing and/or mailing of collateral • Translation • Legal services or advice • Catering • Venue rental for in-person meetings

What Is a Game Changer?

The 2020's are a decade of climate action and local governments play a leading role in enabling residents and businesses to save energy and emissions. Many local governments have ambitious science-informed climate targets. Local governments face wicked problems, vexing challenges, and opportunities to re-imagine the possible.

A game-changer project is one that addresses a specific challenging sector with a new approach that could be replicated in other communities. Ideally, it also integrates policy, internal capacity, engagement, and infrastructure to maximize the impact.

Proposed activities must be completed within two (2) years, though extensions are possible based on successful fundraising.

Communities have changed the game through EV-ready bylaws; using step code requirements to strongly encourage low carbon energy systems; and innovative approaches to LIC's that get to PACE.

CEA has changed the game through co-leading a common corporate emissions process for 30+ local governments in 2009; managing the first local government-led deployment of EV fast chargers which shifted how utilities engage with fast charging across BC (and in Alberta); and creating a self-serve CEEP tool.

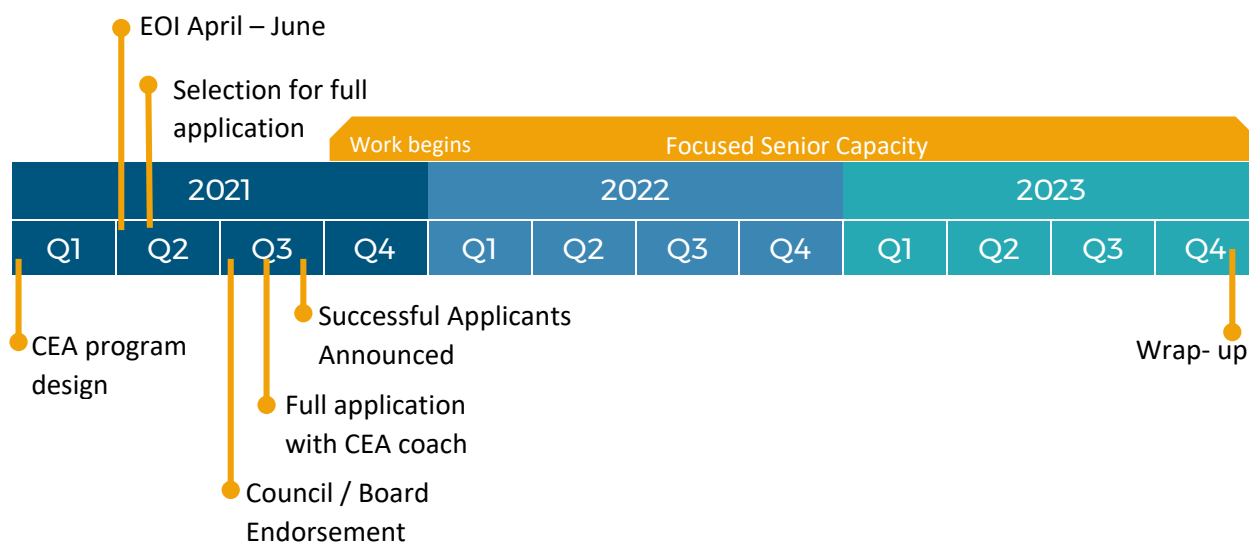
Examples of eligible initiatives

There are **many types of projects** that could push the boundaries of the possible with community climate action. The following examples are provided for **inspiration**.

- 1) **Low Carbon Delivery Zones:** Medium duty commercial vehicles are a rapidly growing emissions source and a difficult sector for local governments to address. The implementation of a low carbon delivery zone with increasingly stringent requirements over time could provide local governments with a new tool to address one part of the medium duty commercial sector.
- 2) **Low Embodied Emissions Incentives:** Embodied emissions aren't included in most inventories but are an important source of emissions globally. Local governments are beginning to investigate options for addressing embodied emissions. Incentives and regulations to encourage or require the reduction of embodied emissions in buildings, vehicles, or infrastructure could provide new pathways for local governments to address this important emerging area.
- 3) **Retrofitting to Renewable Heat:** Program design and launch to move 5-10% of existing homes heated by fossil fuels (gas, propane, heating oil) to renewables through heat pump retrofits or long-term locked in renewable gas while also providing deep retrofits to low income housing. The scale could be an entire small municipality, a neighborhood in a large urban community or an indigenous community that retrofits buildings and/or replaces diesel generation with renewables.
- 4) **Indigenous led partnerships for sequestration:** New and innovative approaches to achieving local priorities for caring for the land while keeping carbon in trees and the earth. Municipalities will need to find opportunities to sequester carbon that they can't avoid to meet 2030 targets and this may require new and innovative relationships to preserve land in BC.

Timing & Applications

The following table outlines the application milestones and timeframe. Dates are subject to change at CEA's discretion.



Step	Date
EOI Opens	April 20 2021
EOI Submission Deadline	June 21 2021
Invitation to Submit Full Application	June 28 2021
Application Deadline	August 23, 2021
Successful Applicants Notified	September 10, 2021
Work Begins	October 2021
Project Completion Deadline	November 2023

Evaluation criteria

The following selection criteria will be used to evaluate responses to this Expression of Interest.

Relevant: Significantly increases the ability of a local government (through an innovative policy, unique infrastructure deployment, novel community engagement or other approach) to address emissions in a challenging sector (such as existing buildings, commercial vehicles or others)

Replicable: Other local governments could adopt this

Additional: Has not been done before in the province / territory

Readiness: The local government has committed capacity through to implementation (2+ years)

Potential: GHG emissions reduction potential that can be measured or estimated

Integration: Aligns with local government plans, strategies and targets

Partnerships: Builds partnerships and increases external capacity (other orders of government, private sector, educational institutions, etc)

Indigenous: Projects led by or partnering with indigenous communities

Expression of Interest Deadline

Responses to the EOI are due on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 9 a.m. pacific time. Questions and submissions should be directed to info@communityenergy.bc.ca.

Submissions should be provided in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format in English.

EOI Response Template

Please use the following structure for your responses. This can be adapted into your own format.

Section	Approx. Pages
Community profile and contact details	1
Initiative Overview	1
Outline of initiative: Detailed description of desired outcome - Which local government tools will be leveraged – policy / regulation, incentives, engagement, collaboration, infrastructure - Which sector is addressed and what audience specifically - How will emissions reductions be achieved and how quickly - Partners / stakeholders involved - Work to be completed	4
Local government (could be municipal or regional district or economic development region or indigenous governments) commitment - Alignment with existing plans / programs / targets - Staff capacity available to advance the project - Council/board decisions / endorsements or plan / timing to obtain one (a council endorsement of the project will be required as part of the full application before CEA application coaching support is provided)	2
Authorization (signature of senior management or a council / board resolution)	1