

Indigenous Energy Support Programs Funding

Indigenous Communities and Organizations

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has approved 47 Indigenous communities and organizations for funding across four different programs known as the Energy Support Programs. Since the inception of the Energy Support Programs in 2009, the IESO has provided \$64 million in funding to 170 Indigenous communities and organizations. The IESO closed its most recent application window on June 30, 2022 with the successful applicants to be announced later this year.

Community Energy Champion (CEC) Program

The following Indigenous communities and organizations have received funding to hire a Community Energy Champion for three years to support energy initiatives:

- Couchiching First Nation
- Eagle Lake First Nation
- Lac Seul First Nation
- M'Chigeeng First Nation
- Mishkosiminiziibiing (Big Grassy River) First Nation
- Missanabie Cree First Nation
- Mississauga First Nation
- Mitaanjigamiing First Nation
- NDC LP (Naicatchewenin First Nation)
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)
- Opiikapawiin Services LP (OSLP)
- Sheshegwaning First Nation
- Wikwemikong Development Commission

Education and Capacity Building (ECB) Program

The following Indigenous communities and organizations have received funding to support awareness, education, skills and capacity-building initiatives.

- **Atikameksheng Anishnawbek:** This project will support youth science camps delivered by Elephant Thoughts, aimed to engage participants and community members. Topics will include energy use, design and generation, and climate change.
- **Garden River First Nation:** Members will be able to attend energy-related conferences and participate in training aimed to increase knowledge and capacity on waste-to-energy.
- **Indigenous Clean Energy Social Enterprise:** Funding will support the Catalyst 20/20 program, which incorporates practical and applied learning in renewable energy technologies, community energy planning, energy efficiency, conservation and advanced energy systems technology.
- **Kasabonika Lake First Nation:** Funding will support training and salaries for four community members to install, maintain and operate a 300 kilowatt (kW) wood chip boiler system.
- **Michipicoten First Nation:** This project aims to increase overall community energy awareness and literacy through community and youth-specific workshops. It will also provide funding for the Community Energy Champion to participate in the Canadian Institute for Energy Training program.
- **Sagamok Anishnawbek:** The project will increase knowledge on renewable energy, and implement Relay hands-on workshops (wind and solar) for youth. Relay Education works with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to co-develop tailored education and skills building programs.
- **Six Nations of the Grand River:** This community will offer training, capacity building and educational initiatives for staff, leadership and community members.
- **Temagami First Nation:** Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP) will offer a six-week training program for youth, tailored to meet the needs of the local community.
- **Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc.:** Funding will be invested in the development of an Innovation Centre, part of the Northeast Superior Regional Energy Strategy. Programs will enhance awareness and knowledge about energy-related issues and build internal organizational capacity.
- **Wataynikaneyap Power LP:** This project will provide mentorship and skills training to prepare the community to participate in, develop and manage energy projects. The goal is to encourage youth to pursue technical post-secondary programs and careers with the Wataynikaneyap Power Project.

Indigenous Community Energy Plan (ICEP) Program

The following Indigenous communities and organizations have received funding to create or update a Community Energy Plan:

Creation of a Community Energy Plan

- Caldwell First Nation
- Matachewan First Nation
- Missanabie Cree First Nation

Update to an Existing Community Energy Plan

- Constance Lake First Nation
- M'Chigeeng First Nation
- Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation
- Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation
- Six Nations of the Grand River
- Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation

Indigenous Energy Projects (IEP) Program

The following Indigenous communities and organizations have received support for a variety of supply solutions that contribute to cleaner, more reliable and affordable energy systems:

- **Atikameksheng Anishnawbek:** This community will conduct a feasibility study to determine which renewable source is best suited for an energy distribution system to serve community members and lower electricity costs.
- **Beausoleil First Nation:** An aging single-phase submarine cable currently supplying power to their island will be replaced with reliable three-phase power.
- **Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek:** Funding will allow this community to implement a pilot consisting of installing solar charging stations for battery electric vehicles. Lessons learned will be shared with other northern communities like Cat Lake First Nation.
- **Garden River First Nation:** This community will conduct a feasibility study and energy audit to assess the viability of using solar PV panels to meet the energy requirements of a band-owned facility in Ojibway Park. Approximately 140 kW of solar will be installed to offset energy costs.
- **M'Chigeeng First Nation:** The funding will allow this community to conduct a technical feasibility study and legal due diligence assessment of a potential partnership with cement company Lafarge to explore a renewable project to offset diesel use on Manitoulin Island.

- **Mishkeegogamang First Nation:** The funding will allow to conduct a feasibility study to install fixed ground-mounted solar panels on a newly constructed 10-unit Seniors' Residence to reduce energy consumption.
- **Mishkosimiziibiing (Big Grassy River) First Nation:** This community will assess the feasibility of building a solar PV system on the roof of the school and community centre to offset high energy costs.
- **Nipissing First Nation:** Funding will help the community adopt the use of battery electric vehicles by installing charging stations in the community and subsidizing the cost of stations in members' homes.
- **Northwest Angle 33 First Nation:** The community will assess the feasibility of building a rooftop solar PV system on a to-be-identified community building to offset high energy costs.
- **Red Rock Indian Band:** Funding will help assess the feasibility of renewable energy options to allow the construction of a renewable micro generation facility in the community.
- **Shawanaga First Nation:** This community will install 46 kW solar PV panels on the community Healing Centre to offset energy costs.
- **Sheshegwaning First Nation:** Sheshegwaning will install 20 kW net-metered solar systems on two band buildings to reduce energy costs and reinvest savings back into community infrastructure.
- **Southwind Corporate Development Inc.:** Southwind Corporate Development Inc., wholly owned by Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, will explore and establish economic partnerships with licensed transmitters, local distribution companies and other First Nations in southern Ontario to strengthen alignments in the energy sector and provide the community with its own source revenue streams.
- **Temagami First Nation:** This community will install solar street lighting (powered by an 80 W solar panel on each pole) around the community to reduce existing operations and maintenance costs and increase safety at night.
- **Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation:** Funding will allow the community to assess the feasibility of building a rooftop solar PV system on a to-be-identified community building to offset high energy costs.