

AWARD

Indigenous Solar Project | Cowessess First Nation

NOMINEE

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Summary:

Set out a brief synopsis of the initiative (i.e. project, technology, service). This summary may be used during the event promotion.

The Cowessess Renewable Energy Storage Facility is the first large scale project in Canada (to our knowledge) that incorporates wind, battery storage and solar. This First Nation owned project represents the future of community and First Nation owned distributed generation.

Description:

Please provide as much detail as you can to describe the initiative. Simply provide a description of the project, technology, service, etc. being considered. Do not address here how it was done or what it achieved.

A 340kW solar PV system was added to the the existing wind and battery storage site consisting of a 800 kW Enercon E-53 Wind Turbine and and 400 kWh, 744 kWh Saft Lithium Ion battery storage system installed in 2013. An additional 57kW Net-Metering system (397 kW total) was added to a separate interconnection to offset 100% of the electrical and heating loads in the operations and maintenance building making it a fully Net-Zero Energy initiative.

1. Innovative Approach:

25/100 points

Please describe which kind of innovation and creative approach that was used to achieve outstanding results. In what way has the initiative pushed the envelope of current norms, traditional results and standard approaches?

The Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) sponsored project combining lithium ion batteries and a large scale wind turbine has proven to be a successful combination since it's installation in 2013.. The leadership of the Cowessess First Nation to add an additional 340 kW of solar to this site in 2018 creates an inspirational project that is leading the way nationally for the integration of greater levels of wind and solar power. The Cowessess First Nation with partners SkyFire Energy and the Saskatchewan Research Council are proving the case for solar to play a major role in Canada's transition to 100% renewable energy.

2. Economic Benefit:

25/100 points

Highlight the benefits, with a sense of financial benefit, cost savings, emission reductions or other directly attributable benefits of the initiative. Did this initiative deliver or exceed anticipated value, results and returns? If you include confidential and commercially sensitive information, it will be treated as such. Please ensure you note the following - do not publicize.

This Cowessess First Nation owned project was supported through funding from Western Economic Diversification and Indigenous Services Canada and financed in part by the First Nations Bank of Canada. The project is expected to have a payback of less than 7 years for the Cowessess First Nation and with assistance from project partner SkyFire Energy has increased solar development and installation capacity within the Cowessess First Nation.

3. Engagement:

25/100 points

In what way(s) did the nominee undergo meaningful stakeholder/customer engagement and how has it been incorporated into the design and execution of the initiative? Highlight the manner in which the initiative was communicated to promote the importance and benefits of solar energy while achieving business and stakeholder/client objectives. Demonstrate how the proponent listened to its audience and acted on the advice.

The development of this project was driven through a team approach with the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), SaskPower, McNair Business partners, and many others. In addition, the Cowessess First Nation with engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) partner SkyFire Energy were able to engage Cowessess band members in both the electrical and mechanical construction of this project. Following completion, SkyFire Energy has continued to employ Cowessess band members in both indigenous and non-indigenous solar PV projects following.

4. Corporate and Sustainable Responsibility:

25/100 points

Describe the environmentally conscientious approach during the design and execution of the initiative. Give concrete examples of how your initiative has benefited the environment (ex: saved X amount of CO2 emissions, reduced X amount of GHG, etc.) Explain the ways and manners by which this initiative was undertaken with the intent of demonstrating true corporate responsibility.

This project is leading the way towards meaningful integration of large scale renewables into traditional coal and natural gas fired electricity grids. Climate Change is THE challenge of our generation and the Cowessess First Nation in recognition of this has shown their leadership in driving forward this project. The Truth and Reconciliation committees 92nd Call to Action relates to business and First Nations. SkyFire Energy worked hard to engage meaningfully with the Cowessess First Nation through a collaborative approach to the system design and development and through training and employment of members to the maximum extent possible.

PHOTOS

