



PROJECT OVERVIEW

TITLE: *Green Clean Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool*

Date: April 2010

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This multi region, multi agency project has two major objectives: (i) to identify rural business development and labour force opportunities associated with Green Clean Energy development in the interior and (ii) to assist at least three small MPB “at-risk” communities to develop a full Business Plan to take implement a Green Clean Energy project in their region. The overall project cost is estimated at \$300,000. The OBAC will participate on the steering committee and in the implementation of the Burns Lake demonstration project.

RATIONALE:

This proposal is consistent with the Coalition’s Alternative Energy Strategy. Growth of the alternative energy sector is a strategic priority for the province and the region. The options, feasibility, technologies and programs impacting the development of the industry are varied and complex. A number of government and non-government organizations are active in the sector. In this region, the bioenergy sub-sector is particularly active because of the connection to utilization of beetle-killed timber.

PARTNERS:

Three regional Beetle Action Coalitions, Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Division of Ministry of Community and Rural Development, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Community Energy Association of BC, BC Bioenergy Network, GreenHeat Initiative (Quesnel), Independent Power Producers Association of BC, Canadian Wind Energy Association, BC Climate Change Exchange, Columbia Basin Trust, All Nations Trust, Community Futures Development Association of BC, Premier’s Technology Council, RuralBC Secretariat of Ministry of Community & Rural Development, Ministry of Environment - Climate Change Secretariat, Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development, BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation, Three Development Initiative Trusts, Western Economic Diversification Canada. (some proposed)

TIMELINES:

The objective will be to complete the project by May 2012.

RESOURCES:

OBAC will contribute \$25,000 in funding toward the total project budget .

REGIONAL STRATEGIES: *Alternative Energy/Future Forest and Fiber Use*

ACTIVITY

- *Identify, develop and implement actions that would increase ... “Green Clean” energy development.*

OUTPUTS

- *Work with the Burns Lake Energy Working Group to develop full business plans for community investment in “Green Clean” energy.*

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

- *Increase the levels of rural community support and economic benefits from the development of Green Clean Energy*

OUTCOMES

- *Increased business growth and viability in the sector*
- *Economic growth and diversification*