



Energy Independent Communities: 25x25 Plan Grants Pilot Presentations 3rd Quarter Report

Mayor Larry MacDonald
Chequamegon Bay Region
Eau Claire, WI
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Overview

- **Energy Independence Team Members**
 - Individual Members
 - Reasons for including certain members
 - Team Meetings
- **Challenges/Opportunities**
 - Obstacles to share for future Energy Independence Teams
 - Beneficial information that has been gathered
- **Potential Projects**
 - Targets for funding (i.e. EECBG & others)
- **Renewable Energy Sources & Feedstocks**
 - Wind, solar, biogas, biomass, hydro, other



Chequamegon Bay Region Energy Independence Team

Energy Independence Team Members:

Mayor Larry MacDonald & Clerk Billie Hoopman - City of Bayfield
Scott Kluver, City Administrator - City of Washburn
Steve Sharp, Facilities Manager - City of Ashland
Larry Bean, Alternative Energy Committee Chair - Town of La Pointe
Tracey Ledder, Environmental Programs Manager &
Don Corbine, Grants Administrator/Planner - Red Cliff Tribe
Tom Wojciechowski, UW-Extension CNRED Educator - Ashland County
Tim Kane, UW-Extension CRD Educator - Bayfield County
Mark Abeles-Allison, County Administrator - Bayfield County
Bill Ferraro, Town Board Supervisor - Town of Bayfield
Jennifer Stenman, Asst. Manager - Bay Area Rural Transit (BART)
Bobbi Rongstad, Energy Advisor - Focus on Energy
Kelly Westlund - Assistant Director, Alliance for Sustainability

Team Meetings – Monthly for 1-2 hours, except during final rounds of data entry, when Kelly met individually with each community partner (2-5 hours each).





Chequamegon Bay Region Energy Independence Team

Challenges/Opportunities

Obstacles to share for future Energy Independence Teams

- Gathering information from multiple energy providers for multiple communities – ask for ALL accounts (including metered & non-metered lights, propane accounts) as early as possible. Many utility companies list all accounts on coversheets with regularly monthly bills.
- Additional team member staff time dedicated to gathering information was not included in 2009 municipal budgets.
- Lack of centralized record-keeping for some partners – grant-funded programs kept utility records separate from government records.
- Inaccurate building/use descriptions on utility bills required some “deciphering” of data.

Beneficial information that has been gathered

- **Insurance schedules are a great source for basic information on all facilities and fleet equipment.**
- In many situations, we identified incorrect information in records and billing, which allowed for immediate reductions in operating costs.
- Updated records – addresses, new structures, new uses for existing structures, costs of operation, etc. will assist in ongoing tracking efforts.
- Process helped identify what communities SHOULD be tracking for future fuel & energy management efforts. Some partners have already changed internal operations to incorporate ongoing data tracking.
- Regular meetings provided opportunity for updates on ongoing energy-related projects of each individual partner community.



Chequamegon Bay Region Energy Independence Team

Potential Projects

- **Weatherization & energy efficiency upgrades for government buildings**
 - EECBG Funding is a possibility most partners will pursue. Focus on Energy rebates will also be an option.
- **Improved fuel efficiency & conservation**
 - Purchasing/Policy changes, other ARRA funding?
- **Economic development**
 - Attracting green jobs/industries, enlisting current local manufacturers in efforts, reducing operating costs
- **Education on efficiency & conservation practices**
 - Government employees, as well as community members
- **Investigation & integration of renewable energy options**
 - Ongoing wind assessments in several communities
 - Further development of newly established Chequamegon Bay Regional Wind Energy Consortium
 - Regional approach to biodiesel
 - Feasibility studies for solar/geothermal in specific buildings
 - Biomass research project – AERC, Xcel Energy, OEI, DNR
 - Major utility providers offering renewable energy credit options



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Renewable Energy Sources & Feedstocks

Wind – Pursuing/ongoing/completed assessment studies at Madeline Island, Bayfield County (2 locations), Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Red Cliff Reservation & Bad River Reservation. Established a Regional Wind Energy Consortium to coordinate and amplify intergovernmental efforts.

Solar – Solar thermal in place at Bayfield County Jail, other sites to be investigated.

Biogas (landfill, agriculturally-based) & **Hydro** – Possibilities, but nothing yet.

Biomass (wood, prairie grasses, other) – Xcel Energy is already operating on a mix of biomass & coal. They've partnered with a local organization (AERC) to use a former UW Ag Research Station to develop more efficient sources locally. Several area schools/businesses already rely on woody biomass for heat/energy.

Biodiesel – Regional purchasing/storage approach could potentially solve some logistical problems. Definite interest in pursuing biodiesel as an alternative for municipal fleets.



Chequamegon Bay Region Energy Independence Team

Additional Comments, Observations, Recommendations

Compare past utility records from the provider with records kept by the municipality. Many inconsistencies in cost or consumption were results of Excel spreadsheet errors or human errors.



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