

M'Chigeeng First Nation Community Energy Plan

Through the second year of the Ontario Power Authority's (OPA) Aboriginal Community Energy Plan Program, M'Chigeeng First Nation has received funding approval on April 15, 2014 to create a "Community Energy Plan". The funding received through the program will be used to create a long term plan to improve energy efficiency, reduce electricity consumption and consider the further integration of renewable sources of energy. Housing and Band buildings are the largest sources of energy use and will be the focus of data collection to develop the community energy plan. This data will be collected through a series of home energy audits.

Program Schedule

April 15, 2014	Funding Awarded by the OPA
August 21 2014	Community Information Session
Fall 2014	Posting /Hiring Band Community Energy Auditors (4) Training MFN Energy Auditors Home Energy Audits begin
Winter 2014/15	Home Energy Audits Continue
Spring 2015	Final Report
Summer 2015	Project Follow-up

Benefits of the Program

The aim of the program is to **identify** improvements that could be made to houses and buildings on reserve land. If completed, these improvements could either reduce the amount of energy required to maintain a comfortable temperature in the house and/or the fuel used for heating. The end result of such renovations could potentially be a reduction in energy costs for the home owners and renters and an improvement in indoor air quality.

What will happen?

To facilitate this process the Band is hiring 4 entrepreneurial individuals to assist in this process. These individuals will be trained in the process of home energy audits. Once trained, they will perform audits of homes on the reserve and community buildings to identify how to help people and our community save money on heating and electricity costs.

In the fall of 2014 we will be asking you to allow employees of the Community Energy Plan Program into your home in order to perform home energy audits at no cost to the owner. Details on the audit will be provided during our planned community information session set for August 21 2014. This will allow the Band to characterize renovations that could be made to houses on the reserve to reduce the energy needed for heating and the amount of electricity used. The process will take approximately 2 hours and will involve inspecting the structural elements of the building and the heating system.

Reporting

Quarterly reports will be provided to the OPA to inform them of our progress and how the money is being spent. A final report that is the Community Energy Plan will be produced at the end of the program set for July 2015. The plan will consist of a needs assessment for electricity, benchmark data for energy consumption in homes and buildings, priorities for energy conservation and efficiency improvements and a means to implement the plan in order to achieve the goals.

Next Steps

In order to make this work, we need your help! We want to know what issues you have with heating your home and using electricity efficiently. This process will start with a community meeting.

Community Information Session – Watch for Upcoming Date