

# Northern Rural and Remote Communities Green Heat Initiative

Natural gas is the energy source of choice for most of British Columbia. In Northern British Columbia, natural gas distribution networks follow the main transportation corridors of Highway 97 and Highway 16. Unfortunately, many Northern communities are not within range of this network and are unable to access natural gas. As a result, these communities rely on costly oil, propane or hydro as a source of heat energy for commercial and institutional buildings.

This situation contrasts sharply with European communities, where wood fibre is predominantly used as a green, renewable source of heat energy. Wood pellets and chips are used extensively to provide heat to shared district energy systems as well as to a variety of independent applications.

In British Columbia, the inability of rural and remote communities to access natural gas, combined with local access to wood fibre provides a natural market development opportunity for green heat technologies.

With this in mind, and in an effort to promote economic development in the region, Community Futures of North Cariboo has put forth a new biomass heating proposal, **Northern Rural and Remote Communities Green Heat Initiative**, whereby Green Heat (primarily wood chips and pellets) is used as an alternative to fossil fuel.

Although, the economic fundamentals for Green Heat already exist in Northern British Columbia, the knowledge and experience required for communities and industries to fully adopt existing technologies are insufficient. This project supports capacity development, relationships and demonstration projects required for the Green Heat energy sector to initially develop and continue to grow once the project is completed.

**Northern Rural and Remote Communities Green Heat Initiative** supports self-reliance and employment in rural and remote communities, as well as carbon reduction by development of an environmentally safe alternative to heating fuels.



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Also, Green Heat Energy:

- Provides an alternative use for Mountain Pine Beetle killed timber
- Allows communities to extract more value from lower-quality timber
- Provides communities with cost savings that can be directed to other needs (N.B. 70% of the money spent on bio-mass stays in the local community – unlike oil, for which only 10% remains in the local economy)

The delivery of this initiative will be undertaken by a contracted Project Coordinator under the supervision of a Steering Committee including industry, Community Futures and First Nations. The Coordinator will act as a facilitator to the Green Heat sector in Northern British Columbia

**For further details, please contact David Dubois, Project Coordinator, at 250 457 7319, or email at [david@cfquesnel.com](mailto:david@cfquesnel.com)**

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