

MEDIA RELEASE

August 3, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hudson's Hope Saves Money with Solar

A small, rural community in northeast British Columbia is leading the way when it comes to municipal-scale solar power. As some 1500 solar panels go up this summer, the District of Hudson's Hope electrical bills will go down, down, down.

"We calculate that the District's electricity costs will be reduced by about \$70,000 per year," explains District CAO Tom Matus. "If we allow for future rate increases, we'll save close to \$3 million over the next 30 years."

Over this summer and fall, some 500 kilowatts of grid-tied solar will be installed on the roofs of five Hudson's Hope municipal buildings, including their curling rink, their arena, District Office, public works shop and tourist information centre.

Several of the buildings to be outfitted with solar will be electrically "net zero" meaning the solar array will produce all the power the building needs each year, reducing the cost of electricity for that building to almost zero. This will be a big savings for the District of Hudson's Hope.

"When completed, this will be the largest municipal solar array in BC," says Mayor Gwen Johansson. "We are proud to be a leader in electricity self-generation, and appreciate the BC Hydro net-metering initiative that helps us achieve it."

Hudson's Hope received a \$1.35 million grant from the Strategic Priorities Fund / Federal Gas Tax Fund through the Union of BC Municipalities for their solar project.

Peace Energy Renewable Energy Cooperative and Moch Electric Ltd., both experienced solar designers and installers based in nearby Dawson Creek, were selected to build the solar power systems.

For the District, local hiring, training and education are important parts of their solar project, economic benefits beyond money saved on electrical bills. Students from Hudson's Hope High School have been hired for the summer to help with the solar installation, and other education and training opportunities will be offered in the community during construction. District personnel will also be trained to monitor, operate and maintain the solar power systems over the long term.

"This project will reduce our Municipal District electrical costs for these buildings by an average of about 75 percent," comments Mayor Johansson. "It will also be a source of community pride and contribute to our long-term economic development. We are thrilled by the benefits that come with our move to a clean energy future."

"30"

For more information, call Hudson's Hope District Office at 250-783-9901

visit our website or join us on Facebook

<http://hudsonshope.ca>

<https://m.facebook.com/hudsons.hope.bc>





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RESOURCES:

District of Hudson's Hope:

<http://hudsonshope.ca/>
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BC Hydro net metering:

www.bchydro.com/net-metering

SOLAR QUICK FACTS:

- Solar power is the fastest growing energy source in the world.
- The International Energy Agency predicts that within 30 years solar will be the world's biggest single source of electricity.
- The cost of solar power has decreased by more than 80% over the last 8 years.
- The cost of solar continues to decline and will be cost competitive with all other sources of electricity within just three years.
- Solar modules convert sunlight directly into electricity with no moving parts, no fuel, no noise and no pollution. They come with 25-year warranties and will operate with little or no maintenance for at least 50 years.
- In 2015, the world added more capacity for renewable energy (mostly solar and wind) than coal, oil, gas and nuclear combined.