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# Clean Energy for Indigenous, Rural and Remote Communities Program: BioHeat Stream

Wood Pellet Association of Canada

2023 Conference

Jeff Knapp, Program Officer

# Agenda

- Reducing fossil fuel consumption in Indigenous, Rural and Remote communities
- Evolving policy, governance and design in renewable energy funding opportunities
- CERRC BioHeat overview and results to date
- What's next for CERRC BioHeat
- Opportunities for wood pellet industry support
- Additional Resources (Annexes)



# Reducing Fossil Fuel Consumption in Indigenous, Rural, and Remote Communities

## Policy Context

- Federal Commitments: reconciliation, Indigenous Climate Leadership, Net-Zero by 2050
- Strengthened Climate Plan: \$300M starting 2021-22 to CERRC & Northern REACHE

## Federal Programs

1. Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative (IODI) (NRCan)
2. Northern Responsible Energy Approach for Community Heat & Electricity (Northern REACHE) (CIRNAC)
3. Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities (CERRC) (NRCan)
  - BioHeat Stream
  - Deployment Stream (including Capacity Building)
  - Research, Development and Demonstration Stream



# Governance in Renewable Energy Programming: the Wah-ila-toos Approach

- Single-window Hub
- Distinctions-based Indigenous Council
- Governing Board (Indigenous Council and federal government reps)
- Federal interdepartmental collaboration



Meet you where you're at



Remove barriers & increase access



Engagement & dialogue



Community-centred approach

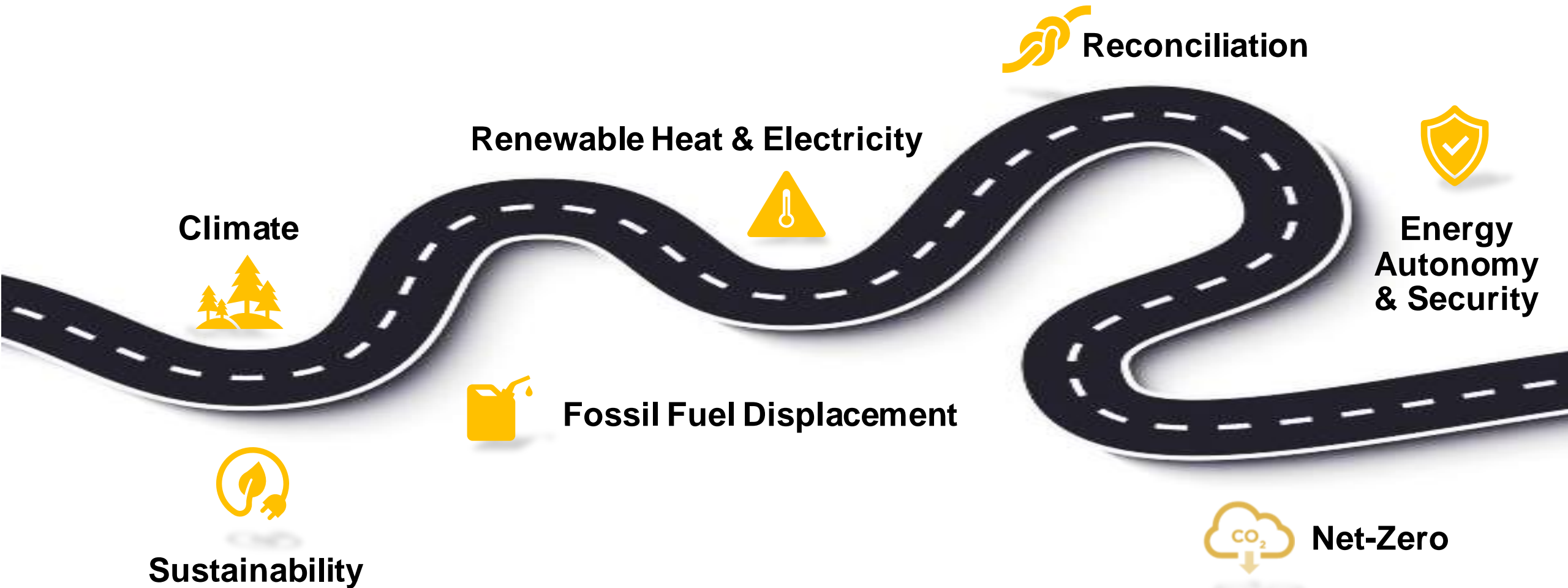


Flexible timelines



Hands on support

# How Wah-ila-toos Aligns with Federal Climate Priorities:





# Community Impact:

# Biomass for Heat and Electricity



Renewable energy source that can be locally sourced



Reliable source of heat and power



Can be more cost-effective than diesel or fossil fuel in the long term



Local jobs and economic opportunities



Reduced environmental and health impacts



Supports energy security, reconciliation and self-determination



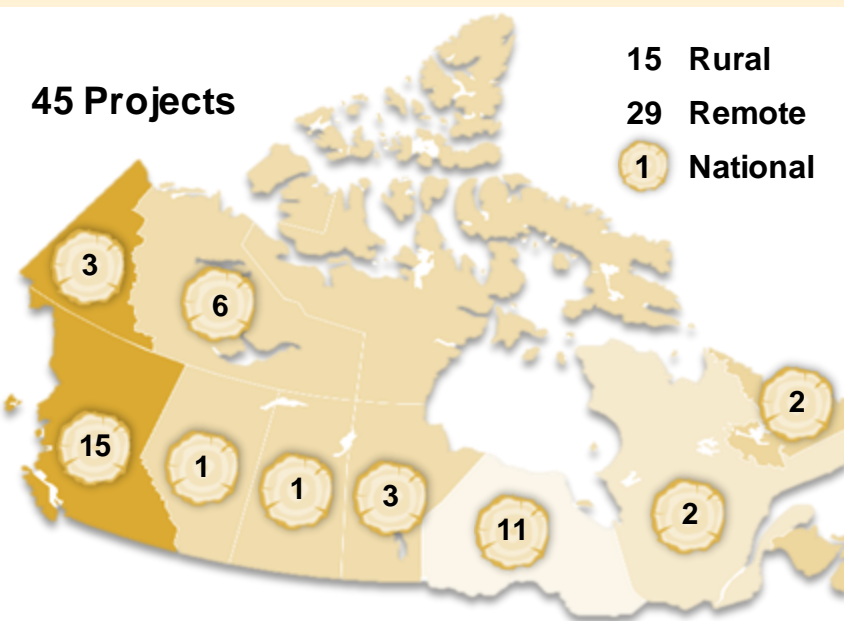
# CERRC BioHeat Stream

- \$96.4M over 8 years through 2027.
- Supports feasibility studies, capacity building and the installation of proven biomass heating, district heating and combined heat and power systems that displace diesel and/or other fossil fuels used for heating.
- Since 2018: \$43M towards 45 projects in over 60 Indigenous communities across Canada.

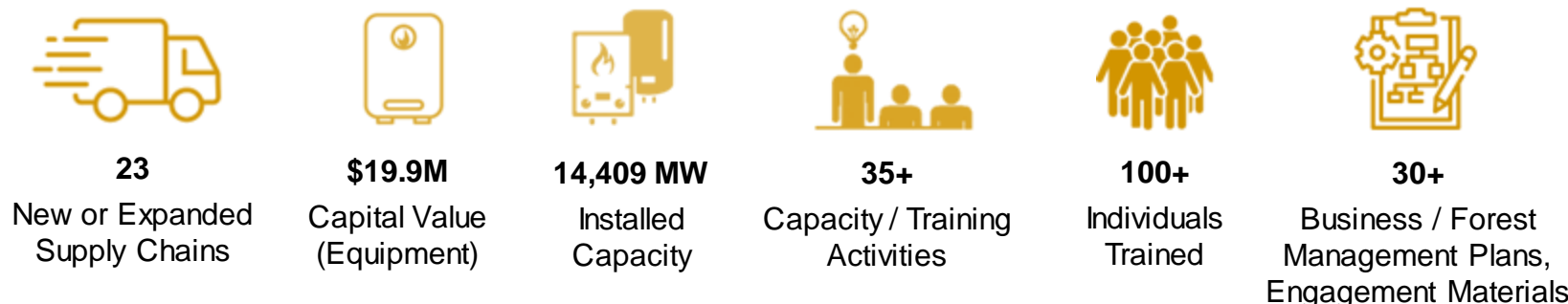


# BioHeat Anticipated Results: Reflecting Funded Projects to Date

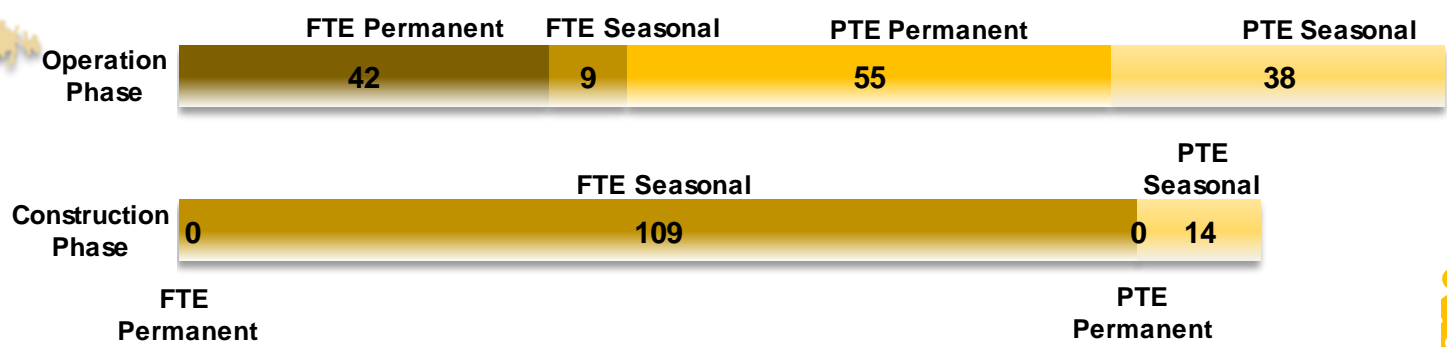
## Regional Distribution



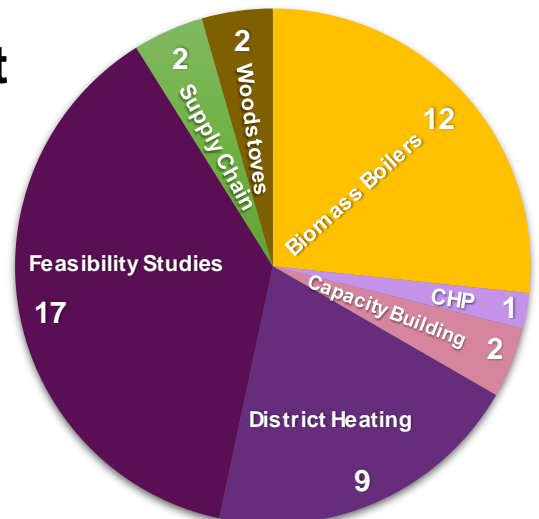
## Anticipated Key Takeaways



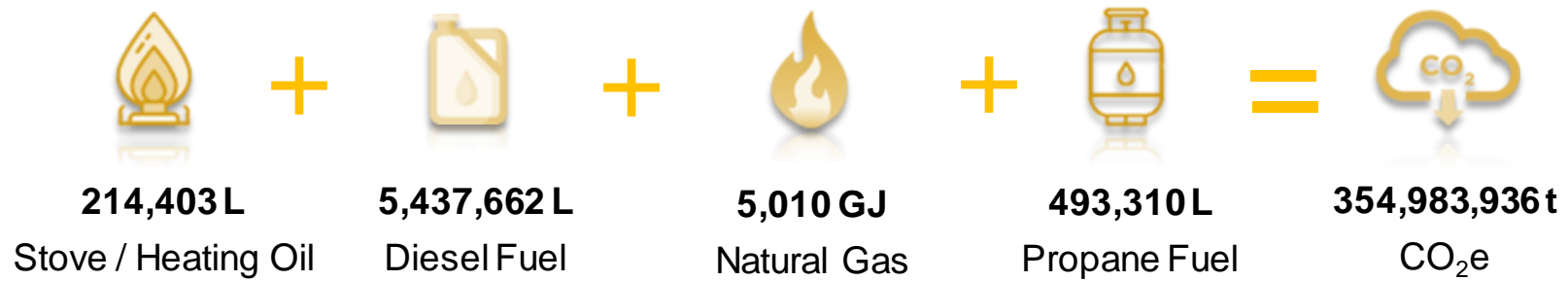
## 267 Jobs Created



## Project Types



## Anticipated Annual Fossil Fuel & GHG Reduction





**CERRC  
BioHeat:**

**Wood Pellet  
Project  
Successes**



# Wiwemikong Development Commission's Wood Pellet Heating and Infrastructure Project

- **\$2.7M** from CERRC BioHeat to demonstrate the effectiveness of forest-based biomass as an efficient residential heating source in Wiwemikong Unceded Territory, Ontario.
- **Objective:** advance the Community Energy Plan's objective to move away from fossil fuels consumption by installing 89 wood pellet stoves, 40 wood pellet furnaces, 2 residential boilers, 1 biomass boiler for a community building, and 2 wood pellet silos.



Image Source: Wiwemikong Development Commission, ON. Pellet truck and silos.

# Converting Gitxsan Wet'suwet'en Education Society College (GWESC) to Bioheat

- **\$539,000** from CERRC BioHeat to convert GWESC's heating system from propane to bioheat in Gitxsan Nation, British Columbia.
- Construction of a pellet / wood chip bin and installation of 2 Froling T4 150kW biomass boilers.
- **Result:** annual heating cost savings of 50%, 5 jobs, and reduced fossil fuel consumption by 150,000L annually.



Image Source: Gitxsan Energy Inc., BC.

# Where We're Headed: Deeper Reductions in Indigenous, Rural and Remote Communities



2018 – 2023



2023 – 2027

- Pre-feasibility and Feasibility Studies
- Capacity Building Initiatives
- Small-to-mid-size BioHeat implementation projects



- Past feasibility and capacity building project partners returning for support for shovel-ready, large-scale diesel reduction projects
- Indigenous Council supportive of funding larger projects that create more meaningful, deeper diesel reductions in communities



- CERRC BioHeat design change to increase maximum program funding per project from \$10M to \$20M
- Review and approvals in progress for large-scale diesel reduction initiatives

# Opportunities for Wood Pellet Industry Support



**\$34M available**  
for BioHeat projects until  
March 2027.



Proposals accepted  
through continuous  
intake.



**To learn more or to find out how to apply, please visit our  
website:**

<https://natural-resources.canada.ca/reducingdiesel>

**Connect with the CERRC team:**

[nrcan.remoteenergy-energieadistance.nrcan@canada.ca](mailto:nrcan.remoteenergy-energieadistance.nrcan@canada.ca)