



Arctic Energy
Alliance

Funding Opportunities and Capacity Building Support in Northern Communities for Clean Energy Projects

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January 28, 2026

The Northern Energy Landscape

- **Current Context:** Heavy reliance on diesel for heat and power in remote communities. Twenty-Seven separate, isolated grids in the NWT.
- **Transition Goals:** Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing energy sovereignty.
- **Key Drivers:** Indigenous-led initiatives and federal GHG reduction commitments.

Federal Funding Opportunities

- **Wah-ila-toos (Clean Energy Hub):** A single-window service for Indigenous, rural, and remote communities to access clean energy resources.
- **Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities (CERRC):**
 - Targeted at reducing diesel reliance via innovative technology.
 - Support for both deployment (construction) and demonstration (testing/characterization).

Federal Funding Opportunities (cont'd)

- **Northern REACHE Program:** Focused on feasibility and planning for hydroelectricity and grid interconnection.
- **Strategic Partnerships Initiative (SPI):** Provides roughly \$12 million annually for regional clean energy initiatives through 2027.
- **Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund:** Stream 2 (Shovel Ready Projects) still open for funding until March

Case Study – Acho Dene Koe Geothermal (Fort Liard NT)

- **Project Profile:** A 100% Acho Dene Koe First Nation-owned initiative led by **ADK Holdings Ltd.**
- **Phase 1 Funding (2021-2024)**
 - **Investment:** Approx. \$300,000 federal contribution via CERCC.
 - **Scope:** Identifying resource, community appetite and acceptance, capacity building for community members.
- **Phase 2 Funding (2024–2026):**
 - **Investment:** \$1.95M – \$2M federal contribution via CERRC.
 - **Scope:** Identifying Business case and Resource end-use.

Case Study – Acho Dene Koe Geothermal (Fort Liard NT) cont'd

- **Phase 3 Funding (Post 2026)**
 - Implementing plan developed in Phase 2
 - Significant levels of funding will be required when the project moves beyond Phase 2
- **Socio-Economic Impacts:**
 - **Energy Security:** Potential for geothermal heat and power to replace diesel.
 - **Economic Diversification:** Support for local greenhouses (food security), ecotourism, and poultry farming.

Community Capacity Building

- Project Managed by the Barkley Project Group with significant input and oversight by AEA Holdings staff.
- Three Energy Champion/ Community Liaison positions created, providing employment for local residents.
- Contract opportunities for First Nation and community owned businesses.
- Constructive community engagement designed to highlight strengths and inspire ideas.

How the Arctic Energy Alliance can Help Communities

Arctic Energy Alliance – Community Energy Planning

- The Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) can provide funding and services to help your community or Indigenous government develop and implement a community energy plan (CEP).
- This plan can help your community understand its current energy use, identify local energy priorities, and create practical strategies for reducing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions, improving efficiency and transitioning to more sustainable energy systems.

<https://aea.nt.ca/program/community-energy-planning/>

Arctic Energy Alliance – Community Energy Planning Information

- Community governments and Indigenous governments in the NWT can apply on behalf of their entire community
- AEA can help with:
 - Coordinating community engagement
 - Providing funding to hire and mentor a local Community Energy Champion
- Writing the community energy plan in partnership with the Energy Champion
- Identifying projects or strategies from the CEP that can be initiated within the next year and sourcing potential funding to support this initiative

Final Thoughts

- Multiple streams of federal funding available for community-led clean energy projects
- ADKFN Geothermal Energy Project is a successful example of how communities can access funding and build a successful project
- AEA is here to help

The most successful projects are the ones identified, designed, driven and implemented by the communities themselves.

Thank you

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Questions?



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