

# ABOUT QUEST

## Who We are

QUEST is a national non-government organization that works to accelerate the adoption of efficient and integrated community-scale energy systems in Canada by informing, inspiring, and connecting decision-makers. QUEST undertakes research, communicates best practices, convenes government, utility, private-sector and community leaders, and works directly with local authorities to implement on-the-ground solutions. QUEST grounds all its activities in the “Smart Energy Community”—a concept that encapsulates the ideal end state of the organization’s work.

## Mission, Vision, Values, & Focus Areas

### Mission

QUEST is a non-profit organization that conducts research, engagement, and advocacy to advance Smart Energy Communities in Canada by working with government, utilities, the energy industry, the real-estate sector, economic regulators, and the product and professional service sector.

### Vision

Every community in Canada is a Smart Energy Community by 2030.

Getting to this end-state will require that 75% of Canadian are represented by a community energy plan (CEP) by 2018, reaching 100% by 2025, and that 100% of communities are focusing on becoming Smart Energy Communities by 2030.

### Brand Attributes

- Objective: Independent, non-partisan and committed to the public interest.
- Informative: Trusted, credible and balanced information on Smart Energy Communities.
- Collaborative: Respectful and inclusive of the QUEST network.
- Innovative: Inspiring Smart Energy Communities policy and transformation.

### Focus Areas

- **Research (Educate):** Deliver research and market intelligence on community energy planning and Smart Energy Communities.
- **Engagement (Connect):** Create programs and services that grow the QUEST Network and marketplace for Smart Energy Communities.
- **Advocacy (Influence):** Influence decision-makers to set policy and take actions that advance Smart Energy Communities.

## Our Services

### Subscriber & Event Services

#### Subscriber Services



##### Basic Subscriber Services

QUEST Subscribers enjoy hot-line access to tools and services that position them for success in the Smart Energy Communities marketplace.

As a QUEST Subscriber, organizations are entitled to:

- Access to QUEST's growing network across Canada, with participants from municipal, provincial and federal Governments; utilities and energy service providers, buildings and development sector leaders; among many others
- Participation in our growing list of regional and national working groups including Municipal, Buildings, Combined Heat and Power, District Energy, and Distributed Energy Resources
- Company profile in the updated Smart Energy Communities Catalogue
- Real-time access to market intelligence and emerging policy issues
- 20% discount to events presented by QUEST and our partners

##### PLUS Level Subscriber Services

Canada's most influential decision makers in the smart energy industry.

PLUS includes all the benefits of QUEST Subscriber Services, in addition to:

- Access to the Smart Energy Leaders' Dialogue - Canada's only executive forum for Smart Energy Communities
- Automatic recognition as a supporter at QUEST's regional events across Canada
- Half-page advertisement in the 2018 Smart Energy Communities Catalogue or equivalent publication
- Recognition as a champion implementer of Smart Energy Communities

##### Working Groups

QUEST Working Groups are a place for our Subscribers to collaborate, learn from one another, and evaluate how to implement on the ground solutions.

QUEST has nine Working Groups established across Canada with more under development including:

1. **Nova Scotia Municipal Energy Learning Group** - Launched in 2016, the Municipal Energy Learning Group (MELG) is a resource for municipalities engaged in community energy planning,

partnership-building, and Smart Energy projects to share their experiences, lessons learned, and transfer knowledge about best practices.

2. **Nova Scotia Buildings Working Group** - The objective of the Nova Scotia Buildings Working Group is to advance energy and environmental performance of buildings, while considering integration with other systems such as transportation, land use planning and renewable energy, to create Smart Energy Communities.
3. **New Brunswick - Prince Edward Island Municipal Working Group** - Launched in 2012, the NB-PEI Municipal Working Group is a resource for municipalities engaged in community energy planning, partnership-building, and Smart Energy projects to share their experiences, lessons learned, and transfer knowledge about best practices.
4. **Ontario Combined Heat and Power Consortium** - The Ontario Combined Heat & Power (CHP) Consortium works to broaden debate around and deepen understanding of combined heat and power. Representatives from industry, LDC's, gas utilities, the public institutional sector, and technology & service providers lead the Consortium. Participation is exclusive to QUEST Subscribers.
5. **Ontario Community Energy Planning Implementation Network** - The Ontario Community Energy Planning Implementation Network (CEPIN) brings together municipalities, utilities, academia, and other stakeholders to build capacity and share best practices among practitioners to further community energy planning. By implementing Community Energy Plans (CEPs) and using energy more efficiently, a community can keep dollars circulating longer in its economy, generate opportunities for local energy projects and jobs, and help manage risks from increasing energy prices and a changing climate. In Ontario, the number of communities implementing a CEP is growing each year.
6. **Alberta Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Working Group** - The Alberta CHP Working Group is a diverse collaborative of stakeholders from gas, electric and thermal utilities, technology and service providers, government, NGOs, and the MUSH (Municipalities, Universities, Schools, and Hospitals) sector working to advance CHP in Alberta.
7. **National District Energy Working Group** - The District Energy (DE) Network works to position DE for a diversifying energy system and low carbon economy, and facilitate project implementation. The QUEST DE Network operates, in part, under a Memorandum of Understanding between QUEST and Natural Resources Canada. Participation is exclusive to QUEST Subscribers.
8. **National Smart Energy Leaders' Dialogue** - The Smart Energy Leaders' Dialogue (LD) is a forum for senior executives and decision-makers from the Canadian energy industry, government, and related sectors to formulate common understanding and develop critical insight on how we use, move and produce energy in communities across Canada with a focus on the development of Smart Energy Communities.
9. **National Distributed Energy Resources Working Group** - Distributed Energy Resources is a national working group with a regional focus on sources of energy that are connected at the community level to a distribution system. The working group has been established to engage and connect relevant industry stakeholders in discussions about how we influence positive change as our energy systems evolve.

## Events



QUEST*talks* - Disruption and the Smart Energy Solution brings together leading-edge experts from governments, utilities & energy service providers, the real-estate sector, and the product

and professional service sector, among others to examine the issues disrupting your market and community. Register to prepare your business to adapt to the changing energy and infrastructure marketplace. Visit [www.questcanada.org/questtalks](http://www.questcanada.org/questtalks) to find an event near you.

## Projects & Advisory Services

### Major Projects

#### Atlantic Canada Energy Data Roadmap

The Roadmap provides a guide to changing the way we collect, manage, use, and think about energy and greenhouse gas emissions data in a world of overwhelmingly large amounts of data. While the focus of the report is on Atlantic Canada, the applications and learnings are applicable to the entire country.

#### IESO Planning Alignment

Planning for energy at a localized level is practiced at several scales in Ontario: The IESO undertakes Regional Planning; Local Distribution Companies and Natural Gas utilities undertake conservation planning, asset management planning, and distribution planning; and Municipalities and Indigenous Communities are increasingly engaging in community energy planning. Though these planning efforts vary in scope, timing, and primary objectives, within each lies significant overlap and dependencies. Through interviews, facilitated workshops and stakeholder collaboration, the Planning Alignment Project is creating a dialogue to identify opportunities for improved alignment - to achieve desired outcomes, foster greater trust, reduce implementation delays, and enhance multi-jurisdictional collaboration.

#### FCM Partners for Climate Protection

QUEST is FCM's Atlantic Regional climate advisors. Environmental experts offering one-on-one advice, training and knowledge-sharing activities tailored specifically to provide members of the FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection program (PCP) with local expertise, resources and support to help municipalities reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### FCM & NRCan Resilience

QUEST will be working with 12 municipalities across two mirrored projects (6 funded by FCM and 6 funded by NRCan) to strengthen their resilience and adaptation to climate change and become SECs. In combination with the municipalities, QUEST is engaging key stakeholders, including the utilities, Emergency Measures Organization, and the provincial Department of Environment in each province to participate in the project. The projects reach across municipalities in AB, NB, PEI, and MB.

QUEST was selected by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and NRCan through the Climate Change Adaptation Program to work with these municipalities and their utilities to align their

approaches for community adaptation and resilience planning as part of QUEST's Municipalities and Utilities Partnering for Community Resilience initiative.

### **Smart Energy Communities Scorecard**

The Smart Energy Communities Scorecard will be the first tool of its kind to apply a systems thinking approach to evaluate how the policies and processes of multiple sectors, including local governments, utilities, and the real estate sector, are advancing the Smart Energy Communities approach.

The Scorecard will provide local governments, utilities, the real estate sector (owners, operators, and developers), and others with:

- A suite of qualitative performance indicators that evaluate how multiple sectors in a community are contributing to Smart Energy Communities
- A Scorecard Report that profiles the scores of the nine pilot communities, and the methodology for evaluating Smart Energy Communities
- A web-based dashboard that illustrates a roadmap for action for the featured communities, to advance along the pathway to becoming a Smart Energy Community

### **Accelerating Implementation of Renewable Energy**

QUEST has been granted funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to work with five municipalities across Canada to help them reach significant carbon emission reduction targets. The grant is part of Transition 2050, an initiative offered through FCM's Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP). Participating municipalities will undertake commitments to deep emissions reductions through peer learning, strategic planning and operational implementation, while leveraging lessons learned from communities facing similar challenges. Transition 2050 is available through MCIP, delivered by FCM and funded by the Government of Canada.

### **Advisory Services**

QUEST supports governments, utilities & energy providers, the real-estate sector, and solution providers to grow the Smart Energy Communities marketplace with custom, trusted, and independent services.

QUEST's advisory services fall into four categories: Energy Mapping Workshops, Community Energy Planning Support, Custom Services, and Resilience Workshops. All of our services are customizable and designed to help you evolve your business model to succeed in the Smart Energy Communities marketplace.