Municipal Policy Toolkit – A Collaborative Initiative (QUEST Ontario)

PROGRESS & RESULTS TO DATE

JUNE 18, 2010

Ontario Power Authority

QUEST

Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow

Canadian URBAN Institute

20 years as Canada's applied urban policy institute.

ans à titre d'Institut de la politique urbaine appliquée.

QUEST & QUEST Ontario – Who Is It?

- Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST)
  - QUEST is a collaborative of key players from industry, the environmental sector, governments, academia, and the consulting community united by a mission to foster a community based integrated approach to land, energy, transportation, waste and water-use in an effort to reduce GHGs, air pollutants, and waste. www.questcanada.org
  - QUEST IV Halifax October 12-15,2010
- QUEST Ontario
  - Formed in 2009, QUEST Ontario serves to help facilitate the implementation of initiatives that support the mission of QUEST.
    - Scan conducted to identify key activities of need in Ontario in 2009.
    - Focus on development of policy framework in Ontario that enables the wide-scale adoption of ICES to meet the QUEST 2050 vision
      - Scan and analysis of provincial and municipal policies (excluding rate payer & government incentive programs) to enable the implementation of ICES; creation of an on-line tool for use by provincial and municipal governments
      - Demonstration and evaluation of new or innovative policy in an Ontario municipality

Project Details

- Partnerships: Ontario Power Authority (OPA), Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) & the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)
- Purpose
  - build a practical policy toolkit
  - Target audience: municipal and provincial policymakers (Ontario specific)
  - End goal: enabling the wide-scale implementation of integrated community energy systems

- **Guiding Research Question:** What do municipal staff and council, who are interested in energy reduction and efficiency need to know about achieving an ICES action.

Integrated Community Energy Solutions (ICES)

- **ICES:** An approach that offers holistic solutions for reducing GHG emissions and addressing climate change by evaluating how energy is supplied and consumed across sectors. ICES capitalizes on cross-cutting opportunities and synergies available at the community level by integrating physical components from multiple sectors, including energy supply and distribution; transportation; housing and buildings; industry; water, waste management and other local community services; and land use and community form **(**Natural Resources Canada, 2009).

- **Endorsing Smart Growth Principles**
- **Improving Efficiency**
- **optimizing "exergy"**
- **Managing Heat**
- **Reducing Waste**
- **Using Renewable Resources**
- **Strategic Use of the Grid** (Quest, 2009)

Toolkit Structure

- The Case for ICES
  - Canada: urbanization and oil
  - Why Canadian communities may be unsustainable
    - GHG emissions
    - Water consumption
    - Municipal waste generation
    - Peak oil?
- Discussion of policy instrument choice and policy creation
- Incentive Programs for ICES
- Description of existing regulatory landscape in Ontario
- The body of the toolkit: The case studies (17 in total)

Process & Methodology

- **Research Process:**
- **Toolkit Interviews**
  - Conducted interviews with toolkit creators to learn about the process of creating a toolkit as well as municipal policy makers to learn about what makes a toolkit effective
  - Select research findings

- **Policy Interviews:**

  Policies have been identified and organized under the 7 following broad headings:
  - Land use
  - Transportation
  - Buildings
  - Infrastructure
  - Waste
  - Water
  - Planning

- **Methodology :**
  - **Starting point:** the Council of Energy Ministers document entitled “Integrated Community Energy Solutions: A Roadmap for Action”
  - **Problems encountered**
  - **Revising our strategy**

	Land Use	Transportation	Buildings	Infrastructure	Waste	Water	Planning
Ontario							
East Gwillimbury, Ontario			Energy Star Policy for Residential Developments				
City of Toronto, Ontario			The Toronto Green Standard			Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan	
Guelph, Ontario							Energy density mapping
St. Catharines, Ontario	Community Improvement Plans for Brownfield redevelopment and intensification						
York Region, Ontario						Water Policy	Community Energy Plans
Canada							
City of Dawson Creek, British Columbia		Green Vehicle Policy					
Whistler, British Columbia							Carbon Neutral Operations Plan/Carbon Tax Rebate Policy
Victoria, British Columbia				Revitalization Tax Exemption (Green Power Facilities) Bylaw			
The City of North Vancouver, British Columbia				Hydronic Heat Energy Service Bylaw			
Whitehorse, Yukon Territory	Zoning to Allow Secondary Suites						
City of Iqaluit, Nunavut			Green Building Standards for New Subdivisions				
International							
Portland, USA				Regulatory Improvement Code Amendment Package 5 "The Green Bundle"			
Stockholm, Sweden					Stockholm Strategic Waste Management Plan		
Amsterdam, Netherlands		Amsterdam's Mobility Policies					
London, United Kingdom		Congestion Charge					

Focus Group Results – May 5, 2010

- Goals:
  - Determine applicability of the policy in Ontario if the policy is outside of Ontario
  - Determine the effectiveness of the policy
  - Determine the applicability of the policy to small, medium and large municipalities
  - Identify other policies effective at advancing ICES
- Focus Group Process:
  - Roughly 20 members of QUEST's Ontario caucus participated
  - Participants were seated at tables of five and given four policy case studies to analyse
  - Groups filled out surveys to rank the policies' applicability to Ontario
  - A collective group session was held to talk about the most effective policies, in addition to regulatory obstacles and opportunities at the provincial and municipal level

Sample of Results

The Province and Standards:

- The Provincial Policy Statement needs to integrate energy and make it a mandatory component of Official Plans
- The province and municipalities need to come together to compare tools, goals, gaps, and get a common conversation and language established
- The Province needs to create a level playing field by creating standards, indicators and protocol

Incentives:

- We need to consider how energy manifests in communities and what is going to provide the biggest bang for the buck to achieve the goals of energy reduction
- Capacity building is a major factor
- Implementation needs to be considered when creating policies
- You need law, the “sticks” but it’s also important to have those supplemented by “carrots” for example, to help fund CEPs

Next Steps

- Rough 100 page draft completed, in editing stages
- To be released in print format end of 2010
- Activities presented as part of QUEST Ontario activities at QUEST Annual Conference October 12th-14th, 2010
- For successful application of resource – QUEST Ontario wants to partner to roll-out results (CaGBC, TRCA, AMO etc.)
  - Potential to be released in web format or wiki page format to encourage an evolving source of policy information
  - In partnership, QUEST Ontario would like to:
    - market it for wide-spread uptake
    - offer training programs to assist with ICES policy creation and barrier removal