

**Collaboration:  
Better Together**

# **2021 Annual Report**

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# messages from the board chair & executive director

Climate action is often described through numbers: years, tonnes, percentages, etc. Doing so is important because they convey the reality of the situation in a dispassionate way. Simply put, we need to reduce carbon emissions. Now. In our homes. In our communities.

Numbers can also be important for conveying the impact of organizations such as CEA. We can talk about staffing levels, projects, funding, participation in peer networks, people reached through training and webinars, etc. In each of these areas, in fact, CEA performed at levels in 2021 that it simply had never achieved before. The numbers don't lie: we're making a difference.

And, honestly, what better place than an annual report to provide numbers?

Numbers, however, only tell part of the story. Words can also be important: conviction, passion, dedication, service. In fact, they help to tell the story of CEA's impact over the past year as much as any number.

When I look back at 2021, no number matches the importance of the people involved with CEA. The members, funders, government officials, partners, mayors, councillors, planners, CEOs, and CAOs. You make CEA's work relevant and meaningful.

But the real engine of CEA is the staff. You'll find more information about our staff on page 7 and 8. One thing you won't see mentioned on those pages is our 2021 staff retreat. We were lucky to hold it before the omicron wave and it marked the first time that many of our staff had met each other in person. For me, it was the highlight of the year. Not because of some great breakthrough in our strategic planning, but because of the sheer excitement I remember feeling about working with this group of people. They possess a

special kind of thoughtfulness and sense of purpose, informed by their diverse careers and life experiences. They define CEA, the work we do, and the way we approach it. This is the climate decade and we can't wait to work with every local government that needs help on the path to net zero.

*Dale Littlejohn*

Executive Director, Community Energy Association



If 2020 marked the start of the climate decade - ten years that MUST put us on the path to net zero by 2050 - then 2021 saw CEA grow stronger than ever in order to provide the increased support needed by local governments.

At times, the net zero challenge can seem completely overwhelming, and it certainly won't be easy. But I see signs of progress every day in my own community and I strongly believe in the power of CEA to bring expertise and passion to topics that can accelerate the transition for every community.

After four years as Chair of the CEA Board of Directors, and five years as a member of the Board, this is my last message in the Annual Report. As such, I'll take the opportunity for some parting comments:

To my colleagues on the Board, thank you for your service. It has been a gift to work with others who share a commitment to local climate action and I learned so much from you. Approving CEA's Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation in 2021 (see page 4 for the full text) was certainly a highlight.

To Dale and the staff, I'm in awe of the perspectives, connections, and expertise that you bring to your work. Keep doing what you're doing: it's tremendously valued by communities far and wide! I'm very proud to say that in my time as Chair, CEA grew from a dozen employees to 28.

To CEA's members, now numbering 46 including 32 local governments: your participation and support is the foundation for CEA's reach and influence. I find the quarterly member meetings alone to be worth the cost of membership. Hearing about trends and projects from CEA staff while also getting updates from our members around the province is more info about local climate action in BC than I get from any other single source!

So, we're making progress but we still have lots of work to do. In this regard, the theme of this annual report is perfect: it WILL take collaboration for local governments to succeed in realizing our collective climate goals. Luckily, we have CEA as a partner.

*Patrick Johnstone*

Chair of the Board, Community Energy Association

Councillor, City of New Westminster



# about CEA

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CEA recognizes that communities play a critical role in addressing climate change and as a not-for-profit organization, we do what it takes to help local governments accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, resilient future. This includes identifying the sources of local greenhouse gas emissions, planning how to reduce emissions, and implementing the best solutions - all in ways that build local capacity and foster collaboration among governments, Indigenous communities, energy providers, and citizens.

CEA grew from a committee established by the Government of BC and the Union of BC Municipalities in 1995. Today, the reach and relevance of CEA's work on local climate and energy is strengthened by our members and staff who are geographically distributed in communities large and small. Our collective passion, expertise, and experience guide communities in deploying big moves for climate action, such as zero-emission transportation and buildings, and closing the loop on waste.

Building Capacity  
& Fostering  
Collaboration





# CEA impact

*"The numbers don't lie:  
we're making a difference."*

**1000+** attendees from throughout the province attended webinars in 2021, for Building a Legacy North

CEA leveraged the initial financial contribution from participating municipalities in Retrofit Assist, to grow the program by

**16 x**



BCMCLC steering committee of  
**13** members distributed across BC

**395** subscribers to the monthly CEA Newsletter saw growth of

**21%**



**10**

Community Climate Plans impacting

**129,800+** British Columbians

**2**

Corporate Climate Plans

**4**

Inventories for Yukon Territories

**600+**

peer network members distributed between **3** networks

Due to the success of the \$1.5 million Accelerate Kootenays projects, an additional

**\$1 million**

of funding will be invested into EV infrastructure in the Kootenays.

We helped **25** homeowners

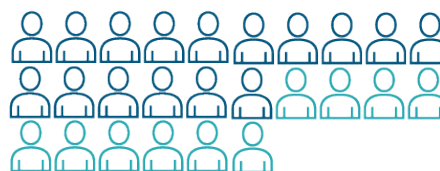


in the Columbia Valley Region with their Energuide Home Energy Evaluations

Kootenay Clean Energy Transition secured

**\$500,000.00**

funding for next 3 years of capacity building work.



**10** new staff

**38%** staff growth

# our commitment to truth & reconciliation

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The Community Energy Association (CEA) commits to the principles of Truth and Reconciliation. As an organization, we support the Calls to Action released by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and recognize the importance of the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Through all the work we do to help communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve energy and support community energy resilience, CEA will:

- Acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples have suffered under colonization and that the intergenerational trauma of unjust colonial policies and practices continues to impact Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- Commit to learn and understand the history of Indigenous and settler relationships in this place we call Canada and ensure that those learnings inform CEA's actions so that we can build new, stronger relationships rooted in mutual understanding.
- Commit to seeking meaningful and sustained relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations based on good faith, shared goals, mutual respect, and equitable processes, plans, actions and partnerships.
- Invite Indigenous Communities to become members of CEA and commit to recruiting staff who identify as Indigenous.
- Commit to ensuring our work in Indigenous territories is respectful of those territories, as well as the peoples and traditions that have historically preserved them, since time immemorial.
- Invite CEA's members and CEA's project partners in government, industry, education, the non-profit sector, and in the communities where we work, to join us in working to end the systemic inequities faced by Indigenous communities.

*We gratefully use the "Every Child Matters" design created by Andy Everson, and have made a donation to the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society (IRSSS) to ensure the artist's original intention to raise awareness and funds for residential school survivors is met.*

# our board

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Top row, left to right: Chastity Davis, Principal/Lead Consultant, Chastity Davis Consulting; John Madden, Director, Sustainability and Engineering, UBC; Marylyn Chiang, Senior Policy Analyst, UBCM; Nicholas Heap, Sustainability Project Manager, City of Richmond; Arjun Singh, Councillor, City of Kamloops;  
Bottom row, left to right: Scott Sinclair, President and CEO, SES Consulting Inc.; Richard White, President, RWPAS Ltd.; Robyn Wark, Team Lead, Sustainable Communities, BC Hydro; Patrick Johnstone, Councillor, City of New Westminster; Robert Stupka, Program Manager, Climate Action Partners, FortisBC.

# our members

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## PUBLIC SECTOR

- BC Hydro
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- University of British Columbia
  - BC Transit
- Province of BC

## PRIVATE SECTOR

- SES Consulting
- Chastity Davis Consulting
- FLO/AddEnergie
- FortisBC

## ASSOCIATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

- Engineers and Geoscientists BC
- Urban Development Institute
  - Planning Institute of BC
- Union of BC Municipalities
- Real Estate Foundation of BC





# our team

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CEO/Executive Director



Director of Strategic  
Initiatives



Director of Capacity  
Development



Director of Finance



Resilience Specialist



Strategy & Collaboration  
Lead



Climate Planning Specialist



Director of Climate  
Leadership



Communications Lead



Finance Lead



Director of Climate  
Planning & Research



Network Activation  
Specialist



Engagement Lead



Operations Coordinator



Sustainable Communities  
Specialist



Climate Solutions Specialist

# our team

We welcomed 10 new staff to CEA in 2021.

These new rockstars join from the communities of Prince George, Duncan, Penticton, Fernie, Fauquier, Victoria, Whistler, Vancouver, Kamloops and Ottawa.

We know that having perspectives from diverse communities will help us provide better service.

**CEA has staff in  
16 communities**



## The Powerful Generation

Indigenous leadership is an essential part of Canada's clean energy transition. To get there, CEA is helping to nurture the leadership potential of Indigenous youth by participating in Indigenous Clean Energy's Generation Power program. The program matches young people with internships in positions that expose them to the diverse range of energy-related skills and careers.

Ceirra Sarazin, pictured at right, is CEA's Generation Power intern. Ceirra is based in Ottawa and is a member of the Pikwakanagan community. Since joining CEA in October, Ceirra has been involved with CEA administration and supporting outreach and research for various CEA projects. Says Ceirra: *"Having the chance to combat climate change with CEA is what inspired me to join them on this journey. Now, after being involved with different projects, working in clean energy is certainly what I want to pursue as a career."*



Tami  
Senior Community Energy Manager



Emma  
Operations Coordinator



Sally  
Graphic Communicator



Jessica  
Climate Initiatives Specialist (KCET)



Robyn  
Climate Planning Specialist



Rob  
Director of External Relations



Ceirra  
Climate Initiatives Intern



Elisabeth  
Senior Community Energy Manager



Marianne  
Operations Coordinator



Amanda  
Operations Coordinator

# insights on collaboration from CEA staff

Our team has been thinking a lot over the past few years about how strategic collaborations are critical to amplifying impact of climate actions. There are many examples of how collaboration has been imperative to achieving deep emissions reductions, so we asked a few of our staff to offer some perspectives on how stakeholders can work together in different ways.

## Benefits of a collaborative approach to low carbon new buildings

*By Elisabeth Baudinaud, Senior Community Energy Manager and specialist in Embodied Emissions*

Decarbonizing buildings is one of the complex problems that can perhaps best be addressed through enhanced collaboration.

### 1. reduces emissions

When the main parties are involved early on, it encourages focus on project outcomes versus individual goals. Sustainability and energy efficiency targets affect the design team, contractor, structural engineer, energy advisor, mechanical contractor, insulator and other trades. When those stakeholders discuss their common target at the beginning of the process, the end goal and the part they play in reaching that goal becomes clear. It keeps people accountable along the process.

### 2. stimulates innovation

Decarbonizing buildings requires us to think unconventionally. The way we have been building in the past is not the way we need to build for a low-carbon future. Collaboration allows teams to find and exploit new ideas

and opportunities in order to respond to the climate crisis. Building practices are changing and evolving quickly. By joining forces, we learn from each other, improve our techniques, and break new ground.

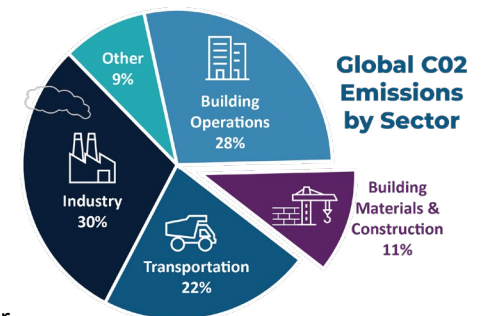
### 3. saves time

Historically, the conventional design and construction process involved a series of hand-offs from client to architect to builder to trades. Today, sustainability and energy efficiency targets make this process obsolete.

One modification called for by the energy advisor might require structural approval, which might imply revisions from the architect. It might take weeks or even months before all parties approve the final design. Getting everybody in the same room early with a discovery meeting prevents the lengthy back and forth. It allows each team to put forward their individual design and construction requirements to find consensus more quickly.

### 4. saves money

Everyone wants to build better buildings more efficiently at less cost, particularly the end client. We often hear that energy efficient buildings cost more to build. Studies have shown that it is not necessarily true. Costs decrease as the experience of the builder increases – meaning they learn from their mistakes along the process. The greatest opportunity for making changes to a design at the least cost happens early on in the design process. When a collaborative approach is used, it is easier to identify goals, potential issues and their solutions before expensive and disruptive changes need to be made during construction.





# insights on collaboration from CEA staff

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## Charting a course for the future....together!

*By Peter Robinson, Director of Climate Planning & Research*

Before you can implement climate solutions, you need to prioritize actions. Before you can prioritize, you need to know your options. Before you can identify the best options, you need to understand the local context for emissions – neatly captured in a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP). To date, CEA has produced nearly 100 of these plans, and every one of them involves collaboration with local governments and other stakeholders.

### 2021 Community Energy and Emission Plans:

- View Royal
- Colwood
- Penticton
- Pemberton
- Cranbrook
- Peachland
- Bowen Island
- Revelstoke
- Esquimalt
- Ogemawahj Tribal Council

*These plans cover a total population of nearly 130,000.*

The Penticton plan, approved by Council in November, included public engagement that produced the strongest interest in climate action that CEA staff had ever seen in a municipal energy and emissions planning process.

About 1,000 residents – including 500 school-aged children – participated, with strong interest in emission-reduction targets that were even more ambitious than what was initially proposed!

CEEPs and other planning activities also provide an excellent opportunity to engage and educate staff, elected officials, and stakeholders in the community.





# insights on collaboration from CEA staff

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## Collaboration for dollars and sense

*By Megan Lohmann, Director of Strategic Initiatives*

As CEA staff worked with the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council back in 2019 to formalize the BC Climate Leaders Playbook ([bcclimateleaders.ca/playbook](https://bcclimateleaders.ca/playbook)) and the associated Big Moves, one of the questions that kept coming up was, “how can we help elected officials address the climate emergency when everything they deal with at Council is a priority?” As 2020 rolled around, this became even more poignant; how do you deal with layers of competing priorities and delivering basic local government services, on top of a global pandemic?!

Huge challenges like climate change are complex and no government can deal with it alone. Collaborating can be challenging, though, and requires time and energy to do well. It’s a skill our team has cultivated over the past several years after seeing how much more effective and how much deeper the impact is when local governments work together.

It has been a privilege to support local government leaders in collaborating across jurisdictional boundaries. The collaborations have been so impactful for the simple reason that, together, communities can leverage their resources, capacity and time to achieve greater impact than would be possible on their own.

By fostering collaboration among local governments, we are also able to leverage investments to secure the capital to move an initiative forward. A few examples of how we have leveraged early investments to grow a program:

Accelerate Kootenays EV network: \$90,000 seed funding became \$1.89 million project value

Retrofit Assist: \$30,000 seed funding became \$480,000

Charge North Level 2 network: \$290,000 investment from communities became \$1.26 million project value

Peaks To Prairies EV network: \$210,000 seed funding became \$2.16 million project value

Projects like these were designed to be replicable and have the potential to realize dramatic reductions in emissions while simultaneously building well-being, justice and resilience in communities. Our team of experts fundamentally understand how to bring partners together to realize individual and shared goals. Even across public, private and administrative boundaries, we can hone in where expertise exists to make positive, big impact.

How does CEA do this?

Experience - CEA has over 25 years of experience building relationships and deeply understanding how to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges

Relationships – CEA is connected to people and communities across Canada at all levels of government, in the public and private sectors, and in communities large and small.

People – our team has deep knowledge (of science, technology, policy, governance and engagement) and diverse experiences (in municipalities, utilities, businesses, universities, non-profits)

Our message for those who want to be a part of big, bold change is also an invitation: work together. The science is clear that we need to act now and local governments are uniquely positioned lead solutions. As a non-profit, CEA will do what it takes to help you and your neighbours.

# collaboration in action

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## Collaborating to Build a Legacy in the North

Progress towards improved energy-efficiency of new construction has been defined in BC by the BC Energy Step Code, which outlines steps for buildings to become progressively more energy-efficient over the next decade.

2022 is the year that all new construction will have to be 20% more efficient than current building code requirements, but by 2021 many local governments in BC had taken the opportunity to accelerate adoption of the Step Code as a way of helping industry transition to the new standards. Early adoption hadn't happened anywhere in Northern BC. Sometimes for good reason: local governments were concerned about the lack of energy advisors who would certify the performance of new homes and builders were concerned that changing their process and building materials would increase their costs.

In early 2021, CEA and the Northern BC chapter of the Canadian Home Builders' Association addressed the issue head-on. Together, and through the COVID-19 pandemic, they delivered webinar after webinar, featuring builders who were already building at higher steps than was required through energy modeling and working with an energy advisor. Province-wide, well over 1,000 builders, building officials, energy advisors, and suppliers attended the webinars to learn the fundamentals of Step Code's "Performance Pathway" approach and to welcome the adoption of the Step Code.



*Solar panels on new homes in Prince George*

For more information about the "Building a Legacy – North" program, and recordings of all of the webinars, [CLICK HERE](#)

**The program has contributed to a doubling in the number of energy advisors in Northern BC.**

# collaboration in action

## Gene

*In 2021, CEA became the proud owner of Canada's largest Mobile Electric Battery, which we have named Gene. Gene the e-generator will visit East Kootenay communities to power mountain adventures and experiences with BC's clean energy.*

Gene is technically the Voltstack E-Generator made by the Vancouver-based company, Portable Electric. Practically speaking it is a clean energy alternative to diesel or gasoline powered generators, being both noise and emissions free. Gene provides an opportunity to explore how we might apply innovative, clean technology solutions to the transition to a low carbon future

Gene is on a trailer meaning we can bring it to demonstrate off-grid charging for e-snowmobiles, EVs, e-bikes and more!

Funded by Teck and built by Portable Electric, the applications of this unit are diverse. It can power food trucks at community festivals, sound and lighting equipment, electric vehicles, e-bikes, and more.

To learn more about Gene, visit <https://www.communityenergy.ca/canadas-largest-mobile-ev-charger-launches-in-the-east-kootenays/>



PortableElectric®  
THE FUTURE OF POWER, TODAY.

gene

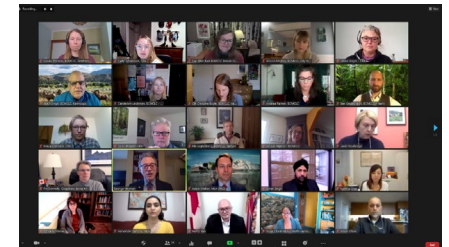
Teck

## BC's Climate Leaders

*CEA facilitates the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council (BCMCLC) and BC Climate Leaders programming, which supports elected officials to step up to effective climate leadership. In 2021, the BCMCLC Steering Committee consisted of thirteen members distributed across BC.*

2021 Highlights:

- BCMCLC underwent a strategic planning process to define priorities across three BCMCLC functions: network, program and government relations. The group also explored ways to collaborate with other organizations in the local government climate action context, including Climate Caucus and the Union of BC Municipalities.
- BCMCLC facilitated a Local Government Climate Action Meet and Greet with Provincial MLAs and Ministers. The event created an opportunity for MLAs to meet with BCMCLC members to discuss how the Province and local governments can work together to meet climate goals. Minister Heyman and Minister Osborne both spoke at the event, as well as MLA Sonia Furstenau and MLA Elis Ross, all contributing to a multiparty dialogue.
- The BC Climate Leaders programming includes the Climate Leaders Playbook, a coaching offer, and the Climate Leaders Institute (CLI). Planning for the first post-pandemic CLI started in 2021.



**Thank you to BCMCLC sponsors: BC Hydro and Real Estate Foundation of BC.**

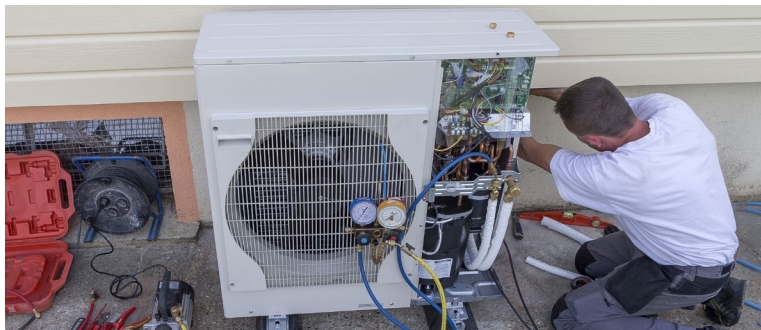
*Hon. Minister George Heyman joined a BCMCLC Dialogue on January 27, 2021*

# collaboration in action

## Communities working together to support heat pump adoption

Decarbonizing the existing building stock remains one of the biggest challenges to local governments working to meet emissions reduction targets. Luckily incentives offered through Clean BC and Canada Greener Homes are making heat pumps more affordable for residents. And yet the process for homeowners trying to figure out how to find the right heat pump and how to work with federal and provincial programs isn't straightforward. That's why we are so excited about the concierge service called **Retrofit Assist** we are developing in collaboration with the municipalities of Whistler, Squamish and New Westminster and technical advisor Ecolighten Energy Solutions.

This program is a great example of local governments working across boundaries to amplify success and leverage individual resources. Over the course of 2021, we completed detailed program design for Retrofit Assist. Key outcomes included analyzing and refining administrative processes and the customer journey experience.

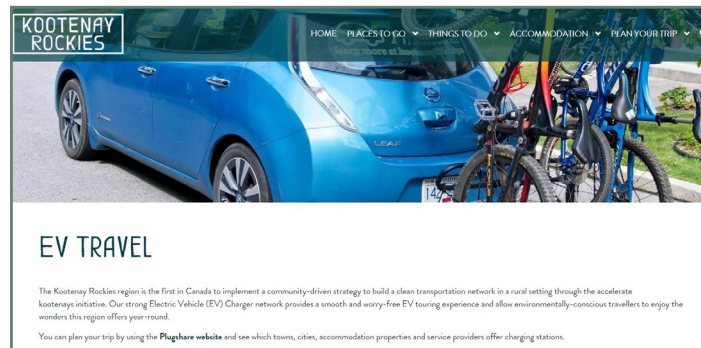


***Retrofit Assist has one clear objective:  
To support local governments in achieving significant  
reductions in their community's GHG emissions***

## Supporting EV tourism

Kootenay Rockies Tourism (KRT) was recently awarded funding through the StrongerBC Plan Targeted Regional Tourism Initiative (TRTI) to support a variety of initiatives, including the expansion of Destination Level 2 charging infrastructure. KRT has partnered with Community Energy Association (CEA), to support the initiative. CEA has managed the deployment of over 70 Level 2 chargers and 32 DC Fast Chargers in Western Canada.

Building off the existing EV Road Trip itineraries, this project seeks to grow the network of EV charging infrastructure through installation of charging stations at key tourism assets that are municipally, Indigenous or non-profit owned. Strengthening the network will provide an opportunity for the up-and-coming EV consumer market to tour the region and access the many of the signature experiences including hot springs, golf courses, Nordic clubs, museums and campgrounds.



<https://www.kootenayrockies.com/ev-travel/>

This project will contribute to market diversification, namely attracting an urban market from BC, Alberta and the Pacific Northwest, which will support the tourism region's COVID recovery.



# collaboration in action

Since 2016, CEA has been at the forefront of collaborating with rural regions to plan, design and install EV charging networks. The growth in EV charging options will help rural regions and small communities realize economic and environmental co-benefits.

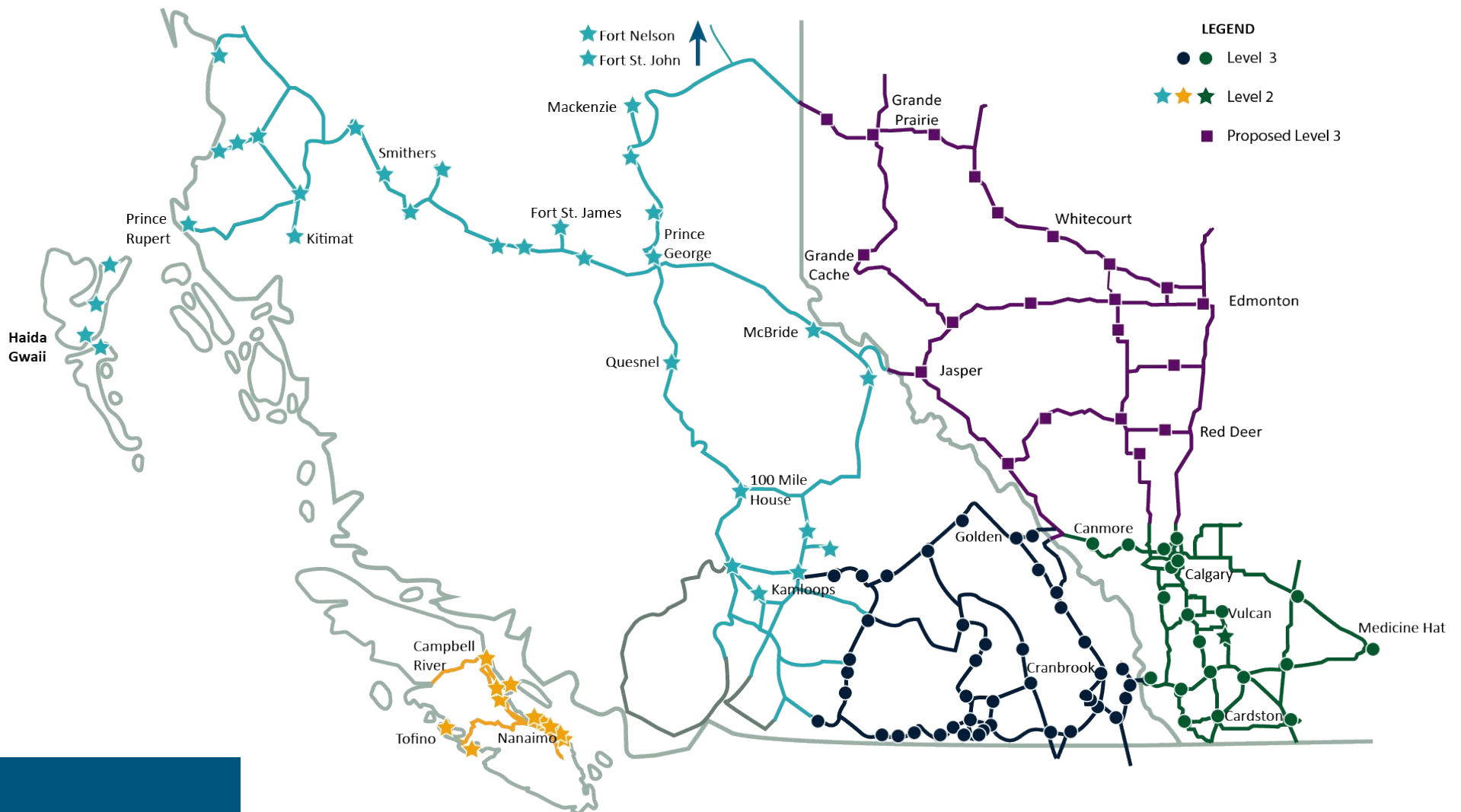
**Mid-Island**  
28 Level 2 Stations

**Charge North**  
58 Level 2 Stations  
2,780 km of highway

**Eventure Northwest Alberta**  
20 + DCFC/Level 2 Combined Stations:  
PROPOSED

**Peaks To Prairies**  
20 DCFC/level 2 combined stations  
2020 network complete  
1,800km of highway

**Accelerate Kootenays**  
13 DCFC / 40 Level 2's  
2018 DCFC network complete  
1,800km of highway



# collaboration in action

## Peer Networks

Municipal and regional government staff and elected officials are increasingly looking for effective ways to discuss technical and policy issues related to climate action big moves with their peers. There is a deep understanding that discussions and peer learning around specific topics allow communities to amplify impact and learn from past successes and challenges - both of these are key to accelerating local climate action.

Through 2021, CEA expanded its role as facilitator and convener of peer networks that support local government staff and elected officials.

### CEA supports peer networks:

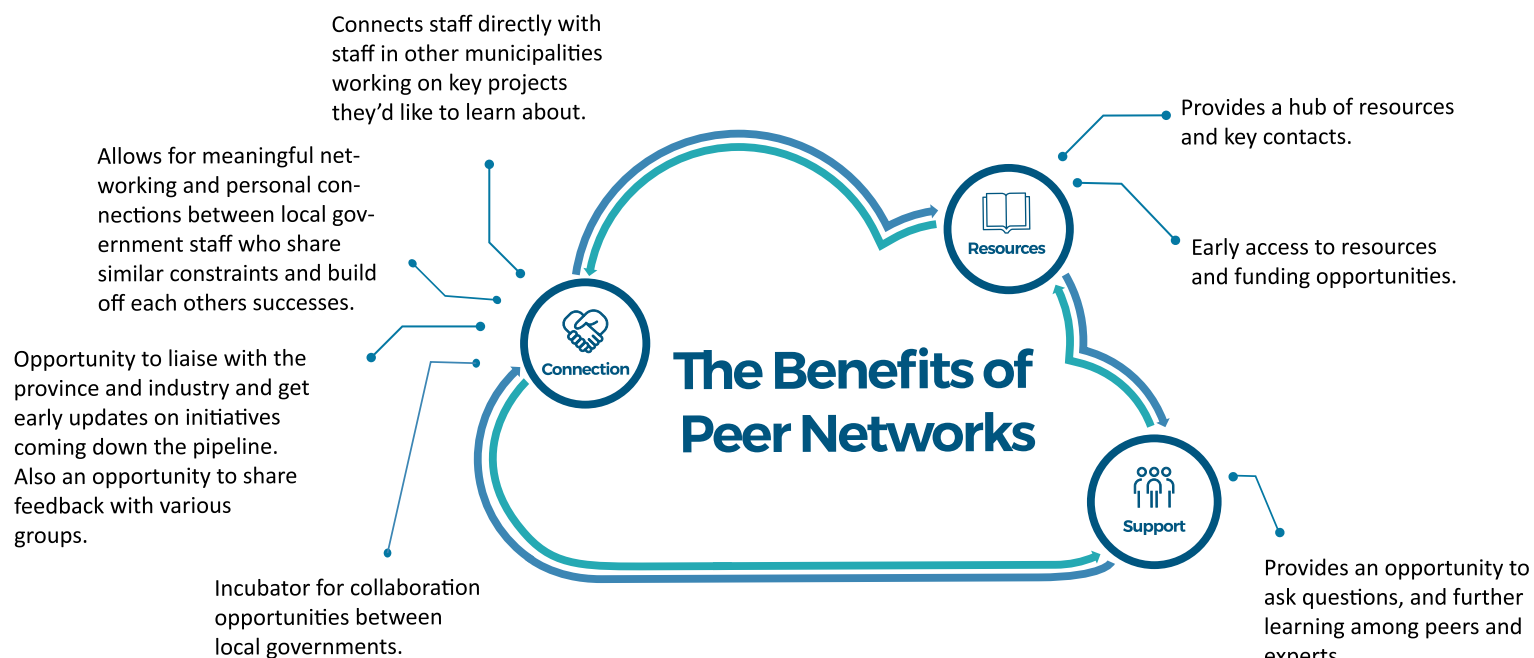
#### By topic, for local government staff:

- Electric Vehicles
- BC Energy Step Code
- Building Retrofits

#### Across topics, for elected officials:

- BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council (BCMCLC)

In 2022, CEA will be developing new networks and is especially excited to explore how regionally-focused networks can bring diverse stakeholders together to create bold change.



Community Energy Association  
Statement of Financial Position  
For the period Ended December 31, 2021

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

Cash	1,959,100
Accounts Receivable	169,233
Work In Progress	128,916
GST Receivable	14,656
Prepaid Expenses	7,815

**Total Current Assets** \$ 2,279,720

**Capital Assets**

Office Equipment	257,796
Accum.. Amort. Equipment	(25,707)

**Total Capital Assets** \$ 232,089

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$ 2,511,808

**LIABILITIES AND ASSOCIATION EQUITY**

**Current Liabilities**

Deferred Contribution	1,202,945
Accounts Payable	40,546
Vacation & Payroll Payable	15,002
Due to Receiver General	1,396

**Total Current Liabilities** \$ 1,259,888

**Special Purpose Fund**

Reserve Fund	206,184
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**Total Special Purpose Fund** \$ 206,184

**ASSOCIATION EQUITY** \$ 1,045,736

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** \$ 2,511,808

# financial statements

Community Energy Association  
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets  
For the period Ended December 31, 2021

**Revenue**

Implementation	758,696
Planning	419,830
Coaching	500,049
Membership Revenue	97,800
Interest and miscellaneous	4,464
	\$ <u>1,780,838</u>

**Expenses**

Direct project costs	976,950
Personnel	630,062
General and administrative	128,100
Direct program expenses	35,577
Organizational expenses	3,125
	\$ <u>1,773,814</u>

**Income (Deficit)** 7,024

Association Equity beginning of year \$ 1,038,712

**Association Equity end of period** \$ 1,045,736