



EV READINESS IMPLEMENTATION COHORT

2023 CEA Electric Vehicle Peer Network

Summary Report



Table of Contents

Acknowledgements pg. 3

Executive Summary pg. 4

Introduction pg.5

 Cohort Overview pg.5

 Goals and Objectives pg.6

Key Learnings and Takeaways pg.7

Next Steps pg.9

Acknowledgements

The EV Ready Implementation Cohort was born from the Community Energy Association (CEA) Local Government Peer Networks need for more direct policy implementation support.

BC Hydro provided funding to CEA to support with the design and delivery of this pilot model as a building block to a replicable framework to drive implementation cohorts across CEA's Networks ecosystem.

Many thanks to:

- Robyn Webb, BC Hydro for support in design and presenting updates to the cohort.
- Brendan McEwan, Dunskey for stepping into the role of Technical Expert during these sessions.

Community Energy Association would like to thank our Cohort Members for their participation in this program and for supporting coordination on EV Readiness bylaws across British Columbia.

Executive Summary

The EV Ready Implementation Cohort was a pilot approach to support CEA's Peer Networks in further advancing climate action in their communities. Implementation Cohorts are topical specific cohorts focused on the implementation of one shared priority where there is an existing commitment to adopt and implement.

This Implementation Cohort consisted of 12 members of the Electric Vehicle Peer Network (EVPN) who had existing Council direction to advance EV Ready Requirements in their municipalities in 2023. Through partnership with BC Hydro to deliver this Cohort, Brendan McEwan of Dunsky was contracted to provide technical expertise and guidance to members of the cohort as they work to update and advance EV Ready bylaws in their communities.

Collectively, this cohort was able to develop a robust resource list containing key messages, draft bylaw and technical language, as well as reference several existing costing studies to be used as reference in Council reports and updating bylaws. Over this six months program, several of the cohort members hosted their own industry and community engagement events and were able to share learnings and materials back with the group. These resources are available to members of the EVPN.

Based on the comments and feedback we have heard throughout the cohort, CEA understands the value and support this program model has provided Peer Network members to achieve their electrification targets. This process has supported the creation of a model and framework that will be replicated across other networks and policy topics to build capacity amongst network members to implement key policies.

Implementation Cohort Process Overview

The EV Ready Bylaws Cohort was hosted between March and October 2023. Over the duration of this program, the cohort members attended four (4) structured learning and working sessions. Each session was designed to enable open discussion, sharing of key resources and policy status updates. A detailed summary of each session, including recording, presentation slides and key materials are available on CEA’s Peer Networks website for Local Government staff to access. As local governments work to update and adopt new EV ready bylaws for largely non residential buildings, this process was focused on highlighting EV ready best practices and developing a standard set of resources that should be referenced in updated bylaws and council reports.

The high level session details and objectives are below:



Online – March 14, 2023 10 Local Government Staff	Online – April 26, 2023 9 Local Government Staff	Online – June 14, 2023 12 Local Government Staff	Online – October 11, 2023 9 Local Government Staff
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting with the cohort members • Building a baseline understanding of EV readiness • Assessing the current state – understanding adoption/implementation timelines 	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the technical requirements for EV readiness (performance requirements and load sharing) • Understand residential and non residential optimal requirements including futureproofing new construction • Learn about EV Readiness updates from BC Hydro • Hear cohort member policy status updates 	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort member policy updates • Understand steps to getting your Councils EV ready • Stakeholder engagement strategy insights 	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review status of bylaw adoption • Understanding best practices for future adoption • Reviewing continued collaboration opportunities to streamline outcomes and limit duplication of efforts • Debrief the Cohort Process

Cohort Goals and Objectives

This Implementation Cohort set out to achieve the following objectives:

Identify shared priorities and find collaboration opportunities.

This cohort was designed to bring together EVPN members who were ready to update and adopt EV Ready Bylaws. At the onset of the cohort, a survey was conducted to better understand the current status of each municipalities EV readiness and better understand the specific needs of the cohort. These priorities and needs were the foundation and focus of the learning sessions. Through group discussions and regular updates from the group, cohort members were able to connect and better coordinate opportunities to collaborate.

Bring together local governments working on like policy to support one another in implementing their policy and limit duplication of work.

Through structured coordination and sharing of resources, cohort members had access to the tools needed to update their bylaws. Through sharing of resources, and openly discussing their approach and process to adoption, cohort members are able to reduce the duplication of work and can focus on implementation. Further, coordinated efforts support a unified approach to EV readiness, which, as we've heard in some regions, further support the adoption and implementation of these policies.

Support collaborative efforts and ensure they are being shared among the cohort.

As key priorities and needs were identified within the cohort, a goal was to ensure that resources, learnings and best practices are readily being shared to further support policy adoption. This cohort was able to contribute to the creation of a resources list outlining key technical language, data points and relevant costing studies that should be referenced in bylaws and council reports. This list is enhanced through shared case studies, best practice guidelines and tools shared by Brendan McEwen. Lastly, several cohort members hosted Industry Engagement events where learnings, materials and references were shared among the group, further enhancing access to relevant materials needed to support policy adoption.

Act as leaders in a specific policy area, creating a replicable framework for others when seeking to implement policies in their communities.

As the pilot cohort for the Implementation Cohort program being rolled out across CEA's Local Government Networks, these learnings directly feed into the process for developing and updating the program model. These learnings have been rolled into the process structure and this report helps to document this process for reference as we scale this process. Having a replicable framework enables CEA to connect more Local Governments with the tools and resources they need to implement their policies in a timely manner and because of the connection to the Networks ecosystem, are able to have a good pulse on key policy priorities that local governments have on their workplans.

Key Learnings and Takeaways

This six month Implementation Cohort pilot program has highlighted several key learnings and opportunities as the program scales across the Local Government Networks ecosystem at CEA.

There is an appetite for additional focused learning and capacity building opportunities hosted through CEA's Peer Networks when the outcomes are directly related to Council directives and pressing workplan items.

The model of the Implementation Cohorts are designed for local government staff who are already working on and intending to adopt and/or implement the topical policy over the duration of the program, or shortly thereafter. This creates meaningful learning moments for staff to collaboratively develop draft bylaws or language for council reports together. One of the takeaways, as noted by many of the cohort participants, was the ability to learn what and how other municipalities are approaching implementation of their policies.

Municipalities face unique challenges when implementing their EV requirements.

With this context, we also heard from cohort members that having direct access to a technical expert in this open format was a useful tool and a great place for understanding the applied technical aspects of EV Ready bylaws. This provides an opportunity for

cohort members to ask specific questions for their context, while learning directly from their peers about different approaches to adoption.

Best practice resources and draft materials are a necessary tool to limit the duplication of work.

As a deliverable of this cohort, there is a set of resources and draft materials available to support other local government staff in updating their EV bylaws. We do know there are specific contexts, as stated above, but that having a draft bylaw to build from and apply within that specific context support streamlined and unified electrification language across the province and is especially useful in smaller regional contexts where regional clusters are looking to move forward with the adoption and implementation of policies on similar timelines.

There are further opportunities amongst this cohort to share and review draft bylaw language and materials together.

This need is highlighted by the nuance in Council direction and implementation timelines noted by the cohort participants. This also takes into account the dynamic landscape of local government where several key priorities are being implemented. Within the structured program sessions, we seek to build in time to specifically review materials that staff are developing, and create more opportunities to collaborate on developing those together.

There is a need to better understand the policy implementation timeline within each cohort.

As CEA scales the Implementation Cohort model across our Peer and Regional networks, there is a need to have regular touch points to follow up with past cohort members to monitor their progress towards implementation. Building out this process enhances alignment with CEA's overall impact and mission and better positions our networks to coordinate on key policies.

What's Next for the Implementation Cohorts

Through completion of the EV Readiness Bylaws Cohort, CEA is able to model these learnings and apply them into the development of future cohort programs. Through 2024, Local Government Network members will have opportunities to participate in relevant Implementation Cohorts within each of the Peer Networks. Materials and resources produced from each cohort are available to all Peer Network Members, should the policy implementation timelines not align with the timing of a given cohort. Implementation Cohort opportunities will be presented at relevant Network meetings.

Should you have further questions about the Implementation Cohorts available at CEA, please connect with our team via peernetworks@communityenergy.ca