

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 23, 2009

New clean & green energy technologies--coming to a city near you!

VICTORIA, B.C.. The City of Colwood has joined forces with Horizon Technologies to showcase clean energy and Smart Grid technologies in partnership with the T'Sou-ke First Nation, environmental and energy associations, two local universities, and local high-tech businesses and experts.

The joint project will see new clean energy applications such home heating from geexchange sources, solar hot water, electric-powered vehicles, and sale of surplus power back to the electricity grid. These will be controlled and integrated for maximum efficiency by Smart Grid digital technologies, dubbed "The Internet of Energy."

"There are big benefits to this -- homes and businesses will achieve new levels of energy efficiency and utility bills will be lower, our carbon footprint will be reduced, and we'll have greater energy security," said Colwood Mayor David Saunders. "Colwood is an ideal location to test and learn from Smart Grid technologies, the T'Sou-ke First Nation is already 'the most solar community in Canada', and the other partners will bring vital technical expertise and additional opportunities for innovation."

Colwood plans to install solar and geexchange (ground-source heating and cooling) technologies in new and existing buildings, and has applied to the federal Clean Energy Fund to support this work. Horizon Technologies has submitted a proposal to the same fund to deploy a "Vancouver Island Regional Smart Grid". The collaboration unites these efforts, and the partners hope that this will make them ideal candidates for funding.

"We'll be showing the way to smarter, cleaner energy, not just here on the Island, but across Canada," said Ludo Bertsch, president of Horizon Technologies. "Smart Grid technologies are taking off in North America, thanks to \$3.4 billion awarded by U.S. President Obama. They will play a key role at the 2009 United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen, where a last ditch effort will be made to significantly and rapidly reduce carbon emissions. Our local partnership will help Canada lead in developing Smart Grid applications here at the same time, not reacting sometime down the road."

"Colwood's goal is to be an energy positive, carbon neutral, water smart, and green learning city," said Mayor Saunders. "This project will put us at the leading edge in every one of these areas."

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Note: BACKGROUNDER ATTACHED

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BACKGROUND

What is Smart Grid?

The 'Smart Grid' enhances our existing electrical grid, making it work more efficiently by smoothing out the usage peaks and troughs (similar to managing traffic congestion so that traffic flows smoothly all day). Part of this is achieved by having a grid system that can communicate with your house—it might alert your system to turn off unnecessary appliances during peak hours, or it might temporarily borrow power from your electric vehicle as it sits in your garage. And smart phones can monitor home energy usage or turn down your thermostat. Consumers save money (by using electricity when it is cheapest) and it expands the capacity of our electrical system without having to build new dams or transmission lines. Other energy and utility uses (gas, water, and sewage) can also be integrated, monitored and controlled.

The Canadian Clean Energy Fund

In May 2009, the federal government announced a \$1-billion Clean Energy Fund to invest \$850 million in technology development and demonstration with \$650 million earmarked for large-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration projects and \$200 million for smaller-scale demonstration projects of renewable and alternative energy technologies. The program will also support Canada's work with the US under the Canada-US Clean Energy dialogue.

A request for proposals was issued at the same time, and awards are expected to be made shortly.

Partners

City of Colwood is one of the lead project applicants. With a population of 15,000, Colwood is a thriving community in British Columbia's Capital region.

Horizon Technologies is the other lead project applicant. The award-winning company and its driving force, Ludo Bertsch, P.Eng. designs, develops, integrates and consults on Smart Grid and energy-efficiency related systems for prominent manufacturers, utilities, government agencies, developers, architects, and builders.

The T'Sou-ke Nation occupies two reserves at the southern end of Vancouver Island and is showing leadership in renewable energy, with several demonstration solar thermal and solar photo-voltaic technologies already uploading power to the BC Hydro grid .

The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, based at the University of Victoria, will help identify research programs in line with its mandate to develop innovative climate change solutions and lead the way to a low-carbon economy.

Royal Roads University, located in Colwood, will play a key role in the monitoring, reporting and sharing data from the projects.

"Net Zero" home expert, Chris Mattock, and former Power Smart Home Improvements Manager, Jay Lewis, will help provide technical foundation for addressing climate change benefits.

The Energy Solutions for Vancouver Island Society will support energy responsibility in the projects and IslandTransformations.org will encourage the project's economically sustainable principles.