



Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) Program V3.0

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Community Energy Plan and why should my community do one?

A community energy plan is a comprehensive long-term plan to improve energy efficiency, reduce electricity consumption and assess opportunities for green energy solutions. A community energy plan can help communities develop a long-term plan that can include ways to use less electricity, manage energy costs, explore new opportunities, and help the environment. The plan can also promote a greater interest, awareness and understanding about energy planning in your community that will encourage community members to become involved in developing and implementing the plan.

2. What is the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) Program?

The ACEP Program is a proposal-based program where an Aboriginal community or organization may submit a proposal for funding to develop or update an existing Aboriginal community energy plan. The Program Rules and Proposal Templates are available on the website (www.aboriginalenergy.ca/acep) or from ACEP Program staff at 416-969-6317, or ACEP@ieso.ca.

3. Who is eligible to apply to the ACEP Program?

The Aboriginal Community Energy Plan Program is available to:

- (A) *First Nations and Métis communities in the province of Ontario that fall within one of the following criteria:*
 - (i) *A First Nation that is a "Band" as defined in the Indian Act, RSC 1985, c I-5;*
 - (ii) *The Métis Nation of Ontario or any of its active Chartered Community Councils; or*
 - (iii) *A community of Aboriginal natural Persons that has been previously determined by the Government of Ontario to meet the eligibility for the FIT Program; or*
- (B) *A Person or existing organization, other than a natural person, that is determined by the Government of Ontario for the purposes of ACEP to represent the collective interests of one or more Communities that is composed of Aboriginal natural persons in Ontario.*

Please see the ACEP Program Rules for more details about eligibility.

4. How much funding is available under the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan Program?

Proponents can qualify for the maximum funding amount: (A) up to \$90,000.00 per community for the development of a new community energy plan; or (B) up to \$25,000.00 per community to undertake updates to an existing community energy plan.

Funding under ACEP will be provided for costs directly related and reasonably necessary to complete the work, activities, and deliverables outlined in an approved proposal up to the Maximum Funding Amount (as outlined in the ACEP Program Rules).

Please see the ACEP Program Rules for more information about funding amounts.

5. Is there additional funding available for Remote Communities?

Yes, remote communities are eligible for up to \$5,000 in additional funding for developing a new community energy plan or updating an existing community energy plan.

Please see the ACEP Program Rules for more information about Remote Community eligibility.



6. If my Community submitted a Proposal to the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan Program, can we also apply for other funds and grants to develop a community energy plan?

Yes, your Community may leverage other funds for costs that may not be covered by the ACEP Program; however, the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan Program will not cover costs that have already been fully funded by other funding sources.

7. What kinds of costs are eligible for funding under the ACEP?

The ACEP Program will fund the development or updates of a community energy plan that include (but are not limited to) activities such as:

- costs incurred for community involvement through presentation or communication on educational and implementation aspects of the energy plan to the community;*
- development of a community profile for the purposes of energy planning;*
- acquiring energy related records for the purpose of energy planning (utility bills, fuel deliveries, vehicle logs, housing stock etc.);*
- acquiring energy auditing records (engineering, screening level, heating season/winter, etc.);*
- acquiring growth projections data (load, population, etc.); and*
- costs incurred for community energy plan implementation strategies.*

Note: work that was completed prior to making an application to the ACEP Program is not eligible for funding. While previous work may assist in the development of the final plan, no funding will be provided for work that has been already been completed.

Please see the ACEP Program Rules for more details on eligible costs.

8. Are there any differences in the eligible expenses for updating a community energy plan versus a developing a new energy plan?

No, there is no difference between the eligible expenses for updating a community energy plan versus developing a new energy plan.

9. My Community has already completed an energy plan or some components of an energy plan. Are we able to use this material in developing a new energy plan?

It is possible for previous work undertaken to be incorporated into a new community energy plan for the community through the ACEP Program. Please note that while previous work can assist in the development of the final plan, no funding will be provided for work that has been already been completed. Communities that choose to incorporate work already carried out should see the ACEP Program Rules and contact ACEP Program staff for more information.

10. How much time does my Community have to complete the Plan once accepted?

Successful proponents who have requested funds for the development of a new community energy plan will have up to two years from the execution date of their funding agreement to complete their Plan.

Successful proponents who have requested support funds for the update of an existing community energy plan will have up to 12 months from the execution date of their funding agreement to complete their updated Plan.



11. Can we hire a consultant to do the work required for the ACEP Program?

Yes, you may choose to utilize people from within your community or have an external consultant carry out the work related to developing the plan.

12. How will the Proposals be evaluated?

Proposals will be evaluated on the quality and detail of the work plan including; the budget, project management plan and project team, level of community support and involvement, implementation plan and the general organization of the proposal. For proponents requesting funds to update an existing plan, additional requirements will need to be provided for evaluation including: a description of the existing plan, when it was completed, who completed it and how it is currently being used by the community.

Please see the ACEP Program Rules for more details. ACEP Program staff are also available at 416.969.6317 or email at ACEP@ieso.ca to answer any questions.

13. What is a Funding Agreement?

If the proposal is approved, the IESO will enter into a Funding Agreement with the proponent. The funding agreement outlines the schedule for the reporting and deliverables that the proponent will need to carry out and provide to the IESO. The funding agreement will also specify timing for payment from the IESO.

14. Is the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) Program related to the IESO's conservation programs or regional planning initiatives?

The ACEP Program is designed to work in conjunction with the IESO's conservation programs and regional planning initiatives, including the Aboriginal Conservation Program.

15. How do we submit a proposal to the ACEP Program?

The Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) Program is an open program and will accept proposals throughout the year. The proposal templates and instructions are available at <http://www.aboriginalenergy.ca/acep>.

The proposal must outline the components of the plan that the community will undertake.

While the ACEP Program is flexible to accommodate a broad range of components, there are a few components that the plan must include. These are:

- *Community baseline study which addresses: annual energy usage in the community, a breakdown of energy consumption, occupancy data that includes vacancy rates, space used and operating schedules and building asset data;*
- *Assessment of the community's current and future forecasted energy needs;*
- *Determination of the community's priorities related to energy use and generation; and*
- *Implementation plan*

Please see the ACEP Program Rules for detailed information about the proposal requirements.

16. Who can I contact for more information about the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) Program?

For inquiries about any aspect of the Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program, including the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) Program, please contact the IESO at 416-969-6317 or email us at ACEP@ieso.ca. You can also visit www.aboriginalenergy.ca/acep for more information.