



# DZAWADA'ENUXW FIRST NATION KINGCOME INLET

## SOLAR HOT WATER PROJECT 2010 – 2012

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# DZAWADA'ENUXW FIRST NATION



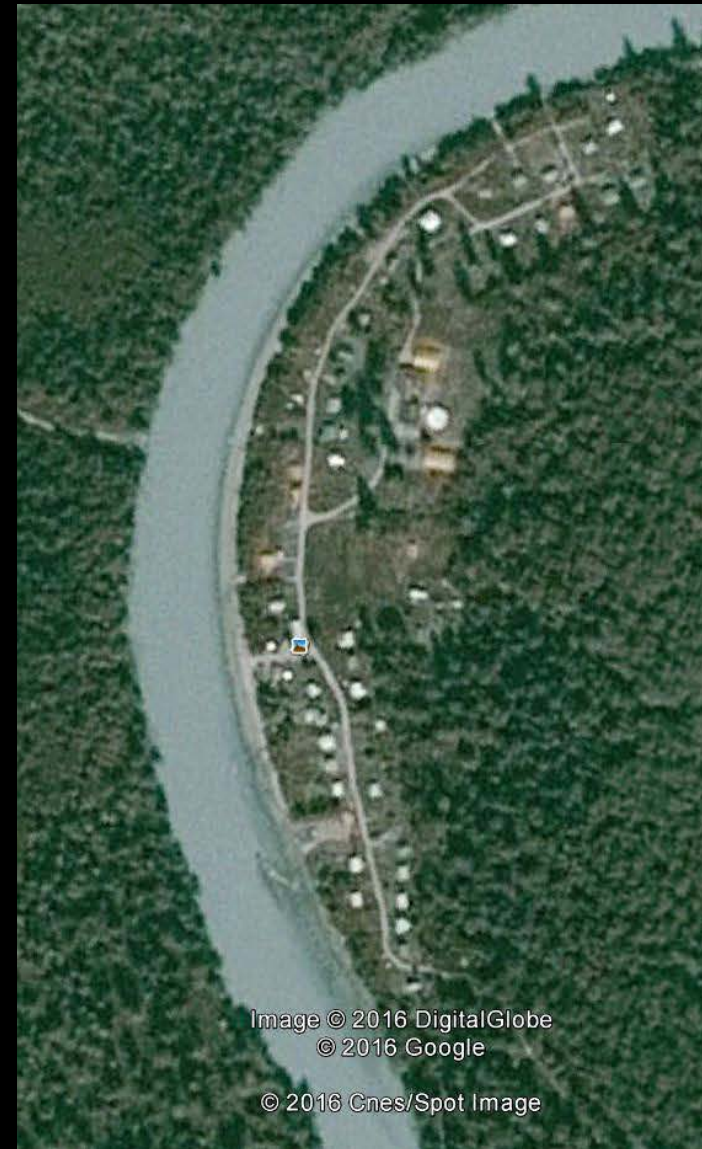
The Dzawada'enuxw First Nation is a member of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Tribal Council.

# GWAYI VILLAGE

The only year round village site in the DFN traditional territory is located at Gwayi Village; which is on the right bank of the Kingcome River approximately 6 km upstream from the mouth at Kingcome Inlet. The village is located in a flood plain.

The community is a remote isolated community where travel to and from is by seaplane, helicopter or boat only and all is dependent on the weather. A plane ride from Campbell River or Port McNeill can be from 35 min to 2 hours depending on the number of stops and a boat ride from Port McNeill or Alert Bay is approximately 2 hours. You can also get up the river on a smaller river boat which can be from 10 minutes to 30 minutes depending on the boat.

**The current population is 85 people and rises to approximately 100 people during eulachon season and summer.**



# VILLAGE PROFILE

## The Buildings: Dependency on Electricity %

- Band Office / Finance Office – 100%
- 11,000 sq. ft. School / Gymnasium – 99.9% ; other source is propane for cooking only
- 4,000 sq. ft. Health Centre – 100%
- Land & Resource Building – 99.9%
- Old and New Big House – minimal, lighting only when needed
- Church – 100% only when in use during cold weather
- 46 Homes including a duplex and single unit Teacherage 75%; other sources of energy include: propane, wood burning and solar energy
- Well house – minimal -100%
- Telus Building – minimal – 100%



# POWER / CONSUMPTION

**POWER:** The Dzawada'enuxw First Nation worked towards electrification in the late 70's; Power was introduced through a small generator in the early 80's when it was just half the size it is today; A hydro system was introduced in the late 80's through the mid 90's. From 1987 – 1995 15 more homes were added.

In the late 90's the village had a large expansion with a new school/community centre; health centre; well system; other new buildings; 6 new homes; new Generator Building / system with 4 new generators. At that same time there was a feasibility study being done to look at a new larger hydro project – it was eventually deemed unfeasible by INAC due to the high cost of construction.

**Annual Energy Consumption in 2010:** Annual Electricity Production: 5 GWh; Average Winter Demand: (Jan-Mar): 250kW; Peak Winter Demand: 315kW; Average Summer Demand: (Jul-Sept): 150kW

**At the moment the DFN is seriously in a deficit financially due to the operation of the diesel generators; which started in 2000. So we have been desperately looking at alternative energy sources and options. Including on going feasibility studies for run of river.**



# MOVE TO SOLAR ENERGY

**My village is situated on a North / South direction therefore taking advantage of Solar Energy is possible.**

The first time the DFN applied for RCI (Remote Community Implementation) funding was in 2009, we were not successful. The company we were introduced to at the time didn't yet have a solid foundation with their product.

Through workshops and seeing the TSou-ke Nation Solar project, I was amazed at what they had accomplished. From there I was in communications with a province rep and she further got me in touch with Solar BC.

In mid 2010 Danielle Myles from the province and Nitya Harris of Solar BC and I were communicating about a possible project. Nitya actually visited our community and did a quick assessment and gave some feedback of what the possibilities were.

In late 2010 I signed onto a Solar Mentorship program through Solar BC. My mentor was George Colgate of the Xeni Gwet'in who had previously done similar work at his community.



# MENTORSHIP



One of the requirements for the mentorship program was attending a Mentorship workshop that was done right at T'Souke Nation. Again I was in awe of what they had accomplished.

I also attended an Energy Conference in Vancouver that George was at, so we were able to meet and discuss the work that needed to be done.

George and I further communicated through phone and email. He shared forms or gave feedback on what I worked on.

Going forward with the project was certainly made easier with the help of George as well as Danielle and Nitya and of course Tanya from the Fraser Basin Council.

# OLICIES

olicies should have been in place that address strategic placement of the units; especially if it's a demonstration project; considering all the factors.

I decided myself that to get the best use of these systems, that they should be placed where the biggest families were located; logically the bigger families use more hot water than singles or couples; another factor in the equation was that we wanted to install a monitoring system as part of the project; so we did go with four big families, however one declined. For monitoring purposes the one unit selected was placed at my house.





# PROCEDURES

Once locations were decided, the space for the units had to be made, so additional work included removing 4 old oil furnaces.

Working on Applications;

Advocating for all the funding which also came from the band

Getting funding approvals from several sources

Budget put in place

Terms of reference for the proposed work;

Call for proposals from industry;

Negotiating the work and signing contracts.

Drawbacks: the weather of course for a place like Kingcome can be a factor in making or breaking your budget.

Not sure enough the day the guys arrived with the equipment, we were actually in flood preparation mode. Luckily the contractors were down to earth and accepted the situation, it could have easily gone sideways and cost a lot more.

## • REVENUE

- Fraser Basin Council
- Solar BC
- DFN - SDA TESI, Other
- EcoEnergy Action Plan Solar Hot Water
- Live Smart BC - Solar Hot Water

## EXPENSES

- Administration
- Contractor
- Training
- Sun Reports Monitor
- Electrician
- Energy Audit

# CONSTRUCTION - TRAINING

part of the project included capacity building – training band members for future work and to help reduce maintenance costs.

Unfortunately lack of human resources became a problem. I did post for volunteers however no one came forward until the last minute and they didn't get to the training, we were supposed to include our village maintenance worker – but for some reason he couldn't attend. We weren't able to fully train anyone.



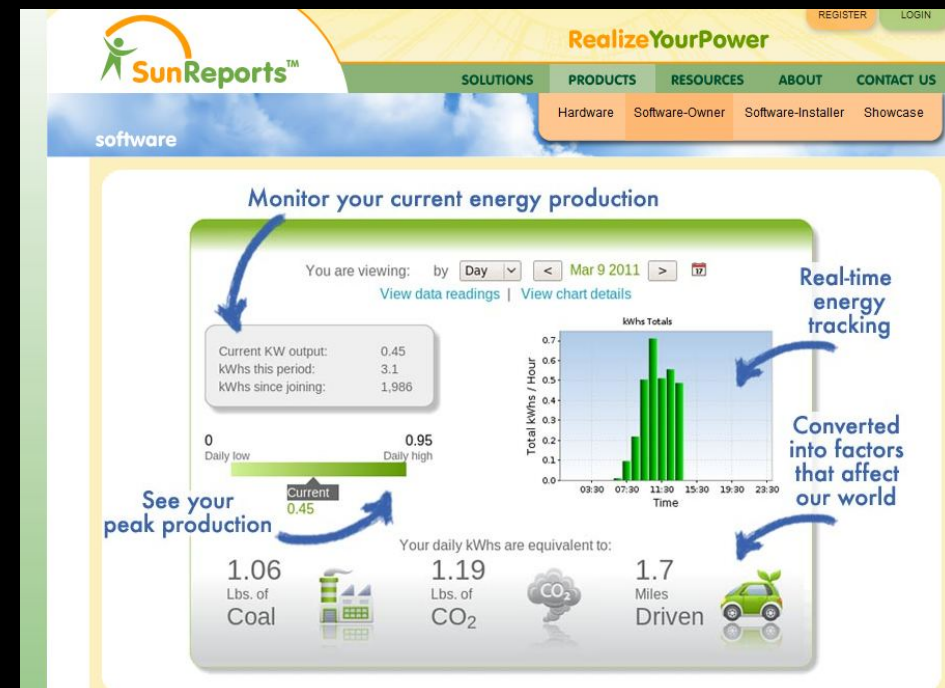
# SUN REPORTS

Because we wanted to monitor how the system worked in our valley, to collect data for future projects, we added Sun Reports to the system.

A great product for determining how much energy the system produces and how much energy you save.

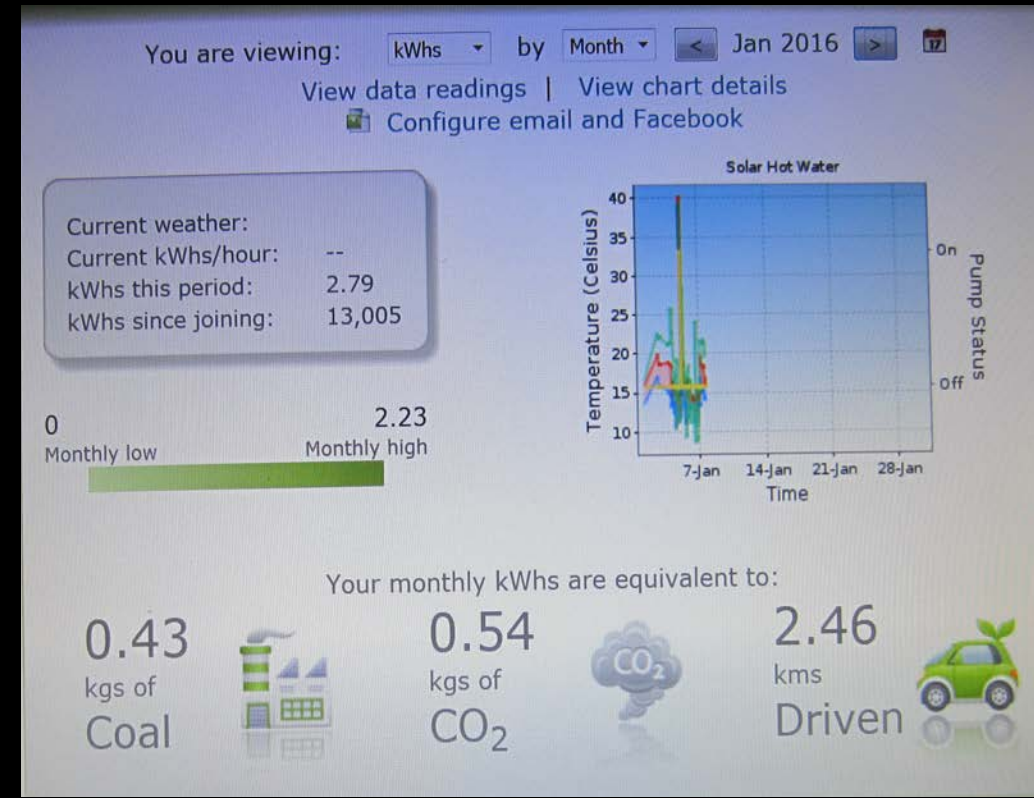
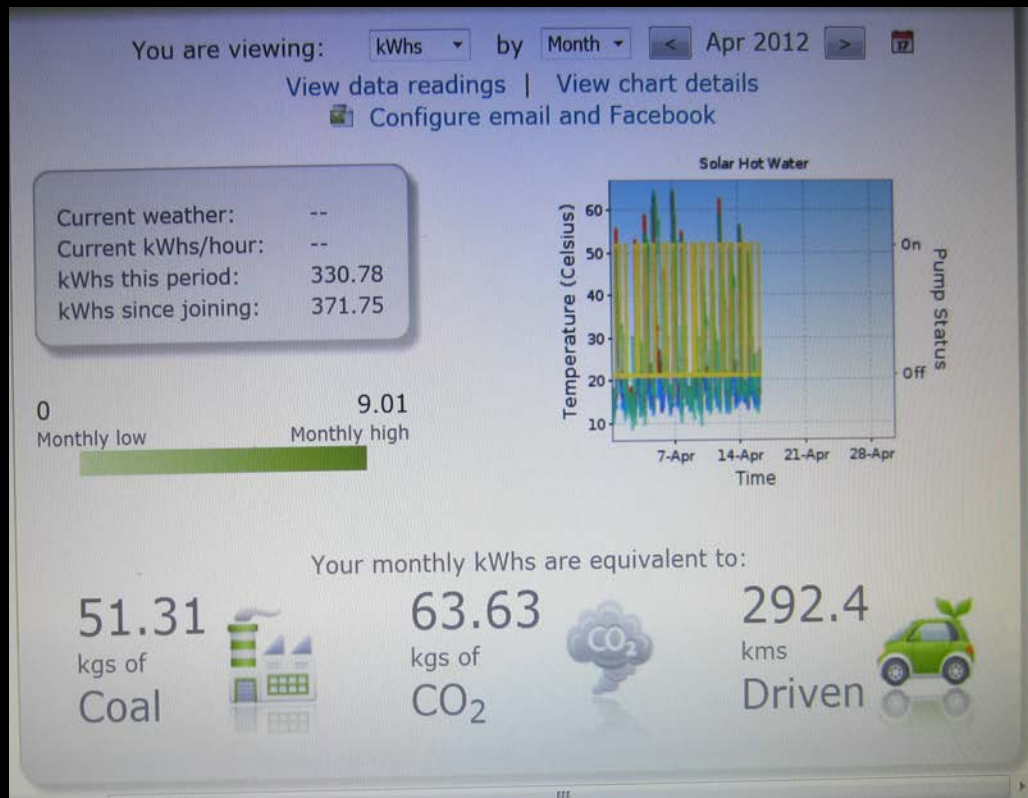
From the pictures in my presentation you can see that we have a wall panel and roof panels. From the initial data collected, it shows that the wall panel actually produced more energy, even though there is more shade.

We weren't actually able to install them until the beginning of 2012, so the figures shown on the next page aren't accurate.



# MONITORING – 2012 / 2015

When reviewing the community energy use annually, the average home uses 15000 Kwh/year. The systems produce about 4000 kwh's / year. That's a pretty good savings. (the 13,000kwh shown below is low due to internet interruption on the monitor. The actual dollars saved are \$6,240 for the one home being monitored @ \$0.48/kwh (actual operating cost). **Would be great to have them on all the homes.**



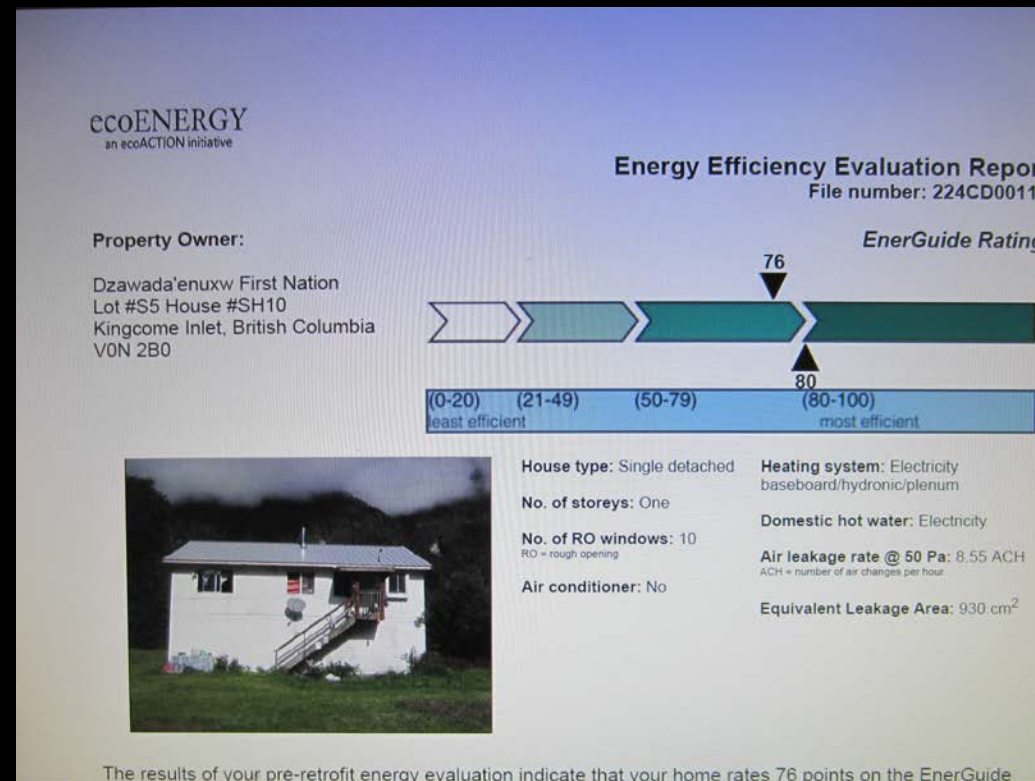
# ENERGY AUDIT / REBATES

Not finished: more work was required to get all the revenue for the project. The requirement to get any Rebate is to get Energy Audits done at each home.

Both the Province and the Federal Government have Rebates for Energy Saving Retrofits to your home.

Quite a task in itself especially for Kingcome; in order to save money you really have to shop around. I was given some assistance from the province with names and I did searches on the internet.

The end result was receiving over \$7,000 in Rebates.



# FUTURE WORK

We are still monitoring the system, believe we purchased 5 years from SunReports. One thing for certain Solar Energy does work here.

The best thing about these systems is they work even when it's cloudy with showers, so long as it's still bright.

In working with Koho Power for the past couple of years, we've managed to reduce our power consumption further as reported by our Generator Maintenance personnel by doing demand side management work.

We've further submitted an application for another pilot project that we really want to see happen. The project involves a Solar / Wood Stove Hot Water Heating system.

If anyone has other ideas please share them with us.

This concludes my presentation; I'm sure I've missed a few things as it's been over 4 years since the systems were installed.



## **Lilawagela School**

We're hoping for a future project for Solar Energy & Geo Exchange Heating.



**ANY QUESTIONS?**

01/03/2013