



FIRST NATIONS HOME ENERGYSAVE

Community Success Story

Journey towards energy self-sufficiency at Kanaka Bar

Community Context

Kanaka Bar Indian Band has a vision of building their community in a self-sufficient, sustainable and vibrant way. This vision is motivated by the commitment to ensure that there are adequate lands and resources available for the community today along with future generations. Kanaka Bar recognizes that with climate change and its impact on people, food, animals and the environment, it will be critical for their community to be prepared for the future economy and environment through increasing their self-sufficiency.

The band follows a four-pronged approach to self-sufficiency, including the categories of: employment and community readiness, food, energy, and financial. The energy category incorporates new builds, renovations, demand-side management, and production. In Kanaka Bar's Community Economic Development Plan, there is a goal to become 100% energy self-sufficient within 5 years of the CEDP launch and to have a stable, reliable and affordable energy supply. Kanaka Bar has invested in multiple renewable energy projects, such as the Kwoiek Creek Hydro Project, Band Office Solar PV Project, Health Office Solar PV Project, Gravel Pit Solar PV Project, and Maintenance Shed Solar PV Project. For more information on Kanaka Bar's progress, please visit www.kanakabarband.ca.

Project Description

In the past few years, Kanaka Bar has worked on constructing new energy efficient buildings, conducting renovations and retrofits to increase energy efficiency, and introducing membership to concepts on energy consumption. The band is in the process of rolling out a demand side management program, which will focus on community capacity development, youth engagement, and community-led action. Kanaka Bar's goal is to help community members understand where their energy



Photo Credit: Kanaka Bar Indian Band

Collaborators

- Kanaka Land and Holdings
- Kanaka Bar Employment Services
- Kanaka Bar Land and Resources
- Innergex
- Urban Systems
- Riverside Energy Systems
- InEnergy
- Com Com Services
- Horizon North
- Green Valley Power
- Community Power

Funding Providers

- Fraser Basin Council
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Bank of Montreal

Project Leads

Chief Patrick Michell
Kanaka Bar Indian Band

Zain Nayani
CEO
Kanaka Bar Indian Band



Photo Credit: Kanaka Bar Indian Band



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For more information about First Nations Home EnergySave visit: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca

Milestones

January 2014

COD on 50 mW Kwuiek Hydro Project.

March 2015

Kanaka Bar did a Land Use Plan that codified the housing challenge for the first time.

Late 2015

Council engaged Community Power to assess all existing residences, with the goal of renovating homes after consultation.

March 2016

Community Economic Development Plan was launched.

March 2016

Council approved a new Housing Policy after extensive engagement. Implementation was delegated to KBLR.

June 2016

Solar Pilot Project: installed two grid connected solar PV projects (6.2 kW and 4.2 kW) via BC Hydro's net metering program in partnership with Riverside Energy Systems.

August 2016

Installed 520 watt solar at the gravel pit in partnership with Com Com Systems..

December 2016

Kanaka Bar conducted assessments of 27 homes that identified energy-related deficiencies and opportunities to improve energy efficiency.

September 2017

Start of home renovations and retrofits to implement the recommendations from the assessment report.

November 2017

Kanaka Bar partners with Lantern Films to create a video series of their home retrofits.

March 2018

Kanaka Bar completed a 10-unit new energy efficient apartment complex with Horizon North.

May 2018

Kanaka Bar partnered with InEnergy to launch its fourth solar (and first tracker) project - 7.2 kW that powers the maintenance shed.

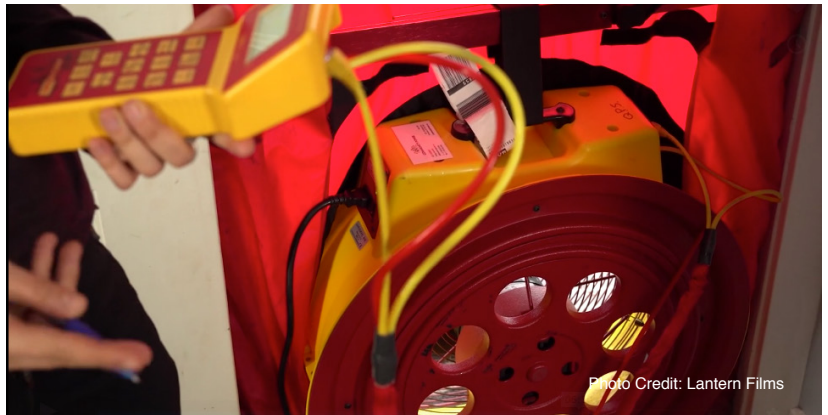


Photo Credit: Lantern Films

comes from, how to understand their energy bill, and how to reduce their energy use through awareness and simple steps all membership can do regardless of residency.

In December 2016, Kanaka Bar conducted 27 home energy assessments to identify energy-related deficiencies and opportunities to improve energy efficiency. The assessment also developed cost estimates for repairs and upgrades, priorities for work, an implementation plan and budget for the project, and opportunities to strengthen community capacity and skills. In 2017, the band launched the Home Renovations and Upgrade project that targeted priority health, safety, and energy efficiency issues. Retrofits that were completed included attic insulation, draft proofing, double-pane windows and air sealing. Two local workers received training on how to do the home retrofits. As a result of the renovations, blower door tests showed an average 42% reduction in air leakage. Residents remarked that their energy bills have gone down and they can feel that their homes are warmer.

For their next steps, Kanaka Bar will be working with certified electricians to fix items that are a safety or energy efficiency concern. Kanaka Bar will also be working with experts to implement structural upgrades on houses based on the 2017 assessment reports.

Lessons Learned

1. Collaboration is the key! Ask for guidance, expertise and assistance from professionals and support from funders, where needed.
2. Start small and build incrementally - this approach helps create success.
3. Engage community at all levels of the project life cycle and especially during the planning stages.
4. Work with people who are willing to teach and share knowledge and are respectful of cultural values.
5. Having a vision, an implementation plan and a solid team will see projects implemented successfully and stay on the path despite curveballs.
6. Connect all projects with the vision and communicate “why” the community is doing such projects, rather than focusing on the “what” or “how”.

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